Spotlight: Jamie Chriqui

[John Anderton] Welcome to another Community Guide spotlight. I'm John Anderton and today I'm talking with Dr. Jamie Chriqui who joined the Community Preventive Services Task Force in 2016. She is a professor of health policy and administration in the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and also a fellow at the UIC Institute for Health Research and Policy, and co-lead of the Community Engagement Core for the Illinois Prevention Research Center. Dr. Chriqui is a nationally-recognized expert on the evaluation of laws and policies that affect communities, systems, and population health, and has a particular interest in chronic disease issues.

Dr. Chriqui, what are the real strengths and benefits of the Community Guide and Community Preventive Services Task Force?

[Jamie Chriqui] John, the findings from the Community Preventive Services Task Force are used by communities across the country. In Illinois for example, there is a recent Task Force finding that focused on enhanced school-based physical education. That Task Force finding actually served as the basis for new legislation that was enacted in the state and that's currently being implemented. In another example, states are using Community Guide-based evidence to guide the work that they're doing within their communities, across their state in terms of public health and crime disease population-based prevention issues.

[John Anderton] What do you see as the primary value of evidence-based decision-making?

[Jamie Chriqui] Decision makers at all levels whether you're talking about the federal, the state, or the local levels, need to know that the strategies that they are adopting or employing in their states or in their communities are grounded in evidence; that they know that they work. The value of a Task Force finding is it provides evidence-based information to inform those decision making processes and to lend some credence to the strategies that states and localities are employing throughout this country.

[John Anderton] Has your involvement with the Community Guide had any influence on how you would go about your work in public health?
[Jamie Chriqui] I don't know if my involvement in the Guide has actually influenced how I go about my work in public health as much as my involvement with the Community Guide is because I believe strongly public health is very much a population-based approach. And that's what the community guide is about. It's looking at population-level interventions heavily and

the role that they play in supporting the types of strategies that decision-makers at all levels may be trying to adopt to have a large impact on their constituents.

[John Anderton] If you could communicate directly with everyone from a particular audience about the Community Guide, who would you reach out to and what would you say?

[Jamie Chriqui] Well, John I actually can't just say I have one particular audience; there's probably three that I would really like to target with Community Guide recommendations. The first, as I alluded to you throughout our discussion, are policymakers. The Community Guide and the Task Force recommendations provide evidence that decision-makers of all levels will need to implement population-based public health strategies. The second are the implementers of policy, so public health agencies' staff and states and local governments who are often looking for new strategies that they can try and adopt within their states and localities. And then third, and from my perspective being a university professor, equally important are the next generation of public health practitioners. And so in my mind that would include public health students and universities teaching students in public health.

[John Anderton] Thank you, Dr. Chriqui.

[Jamie Chriqui] Thank you.

[John Anderton] You've been listening to a special Task Force member spotlight from The Community Guide. For more information about The Community Guide or the Community Preventive Services Task Force, visit www.thecommunityguide.org.