As it stretches into its second year, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected almost everyone in some way. At its height, the pandemic has allowed loved ones to come together more than ever, but families also faced financial strain on their families. The pandemic has also made everyone more aware of everyone’s mental, emotional, and physical health, at times, to too much extent. Many families have experienced these same feelings, such as families have a different story to tell. We know families in Pittsburgh are experiencing tremendous stresses, and we must find a way to talk about it.

Topics like mental health access and technology overload are overarching issues in these times. Of these issues existed before the pandemic and were only made worse during this uncertain time. COVID-19 has exposed how much we depend on each other as members of society and the foundation of society starts with the family. COVID-19 is an equal opportunity disease, and unfortunately it has affected everyone, regardless of their social status; COVID-19 doesn’t care what your job is or how much money you make. It impacts everyone.

Economic precarity—will offer a descriptive portrayal of the economic precarity families face and of the implications of that economic precarity for the well-being of their children during the pandemic. The second aim is to look at the implications of that economic precarity for family functioning and child health and well-being. We’re collecting measures of parents’ physical and mental health, parenting stress and parent–partner relationship interactions. We’re asking that families share data about how families are socioeconomically, racially and ethnically diverse facing the pandemic. Dr. Votruba-Drzal notes that there is a need to understand that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and families are often worse than what was initially thought. Therefore, a third aim of the Triple C study is to examine whether the pandemic has exacerbated racial and ethnic disparities and economic circumstances. “Economic precarity is important in shaping adult health and well-being, and COVID-19 will likely have long-lasting ramifications for children facing increased familial economic uncertainty and deprivation.”

— Dr. Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal

The Community Vaccine Collaborative (CVC) is an innovative community-academic partnership committed to mitigating the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black and Latinx communities, from increasing participation in vaccine trials to promoting trustworthiness of research and health care for all communities. The CVC is co-developed with four community organizations in Allegheny County (Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Project Enable, Casa San Jose) as well as research- and clinic-based settings across the city. The CVC’s partnerships with experts, community members, and organizations are to engage in these types of discussions, among others. Dr. Votruba-Drzal notes that these discussions are particularly pronounced for children facing increased familial economic uncertainty and deprivation. “Childhood is important in shaping adult health and well-being, and COVID-19 will likely have long-lasting ramifications for children facing increased familial economic uncertainty and deprivation,” says Dr. Votruba-Drzal. These discussions are likely particularly pronounced for children from households with lower socioeconomic status, as the virus’s health and economic effects have been more severe for people of color.” In the long-term, Dr. Votruba-Drzal and her colleagues hope to secure funding to follow up with parents who participated in this study to better understand how families are coping with the pandemic. “This think that families who experience violence and not face a lot of financial stress. Our longer-term vision is to use the data gathered from the data on children and families facing damage from the pandemic as a whole to the world. With the support of our fellow Pittsburgh neighbors, we can start to fight to be able to change the world. Pittsburgh will continue to be your advocate and supporter of our community.”

The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh will continue to be a partner in the fight against COVID-19. The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Health Department to engage in these types of discussions, among others. Dr. Votruba-Drzal notes that these discussions are particularly pronounced for children facing increased familial economic uncertainty and deprivation. “Childhood is important in shaping adult health and well-being, and COVID-19 will likely have long-lasting ramifications for children facing increased familial economic uncertainty and deprivation,” says Dr. Votruba-Drzal. These discussions are likely particularly pronounced for children from households with lower socioeconomic status, as the virus’s health and economic effects have been more severe for people of color.” In the long-term, Dr. Votruba-Drzal and her colleagues hope to secure funding to follow up with parents who participated in this study to better understand how families are coping with the pandemic. “This think that families who experience violence and not face a lot of financial stress. Our longer-term vision is to use the data gathered from the data on children and families facing damage from the pandemic as a whole to the world. With the support of our fellow Pittsburgh neighbors, we can start to fight to be able to change the world. Pittsburgh will continue to be your advocate and supporter of our community.”

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