

Speakers' Corner

Presentation Details

Please note: All live events are scheduled for Central Time

Abstract Title: Advancing equity together: Building scientific capacity and collaboration with community leaders through qualitative research training.

Abstract ID: 562755

Part of Session: 2204.2: [Data to enhance health equity II](#)

Date/Time: Sunday, October 27, 2024: 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. in Exhibit Hall BCD

Session Type: **Poster**

Program: [APHA Committee of Health Equity](#)

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ABSTRACT

Background

The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) uses community-based participatory research (CBPR) methods for public health assessment and evaluation. We learned during our Pierce County COVID-19 Health Equity Assessment, that collaborating with trusted community messengers is essential to understanding and addressing inequities. By co-designing culturally appropriate qualitative assessment with diverse communities, we can better identify the health priorities of marginalized and historically excluded communities.

Methods

In 2023, TPCHD partnered with the University of Washington Qualitative Research Core to design and implement qualitative data collection training for community leaders and health department staff. Three training sessions were held: two with community members (n= 58) and one with health department staff (n=26). The curriculum included facilitating focus groups and interviews, aiming to help community organizations in fulfill their goals and evaluate programs while advancing health equity.

A pre- post- survey measured participants' knowledge and skills and general feedback about the course. An additional follow-up-survey was implemented 6-12 months after the training, assessed the application of new skills and identified further training needs. Participants were incentivized with \$100 gift cards.

Results

Post survey results indicated improvements in knowledge about qualitative research (i.e. developing interview guides, avoiding bias, member checking) and increase in confidence in their ability to collect qualitative data (i.e. conduct interviews and focus groups). Ninety five percent of those who responded to the follow-up survey reported that they believe the skills learned in the training have benefited the communities they serve.

Participants were interested in future trainings to gain qualitative data analysis skills.