

HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH ENHANCED DATA?

BACKGROUND

Existing data collection and reporting efforts are inadequate to document, monitor, and identify the health needs of Asian Americans (AAs), Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (NHPIs).

The Health Equity through Enhanced Data (HEED) project is funded by the Office of Minority Health National Umbrella Cooperative Agreement (NUCA). The HEED project seeks to address the paucity of national health data for AAs and NHPIs.



PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

- Inconsistent reporting of data.
- Very little AA and NHPI specific data collected.
- Limited in-language surveys.



PURPOSE

Raise awareness about AA and NHPI health issues and the need for data collection and reporting. During the project, coalitions coordinated and led campaigns to improve the collection and reporting of health data for AAs and NHPIs in the following ways:



[Asian Services In Action, Inc., OH](#)

Improving community participation in collecting data.



[Center for Pan Asian Community Services, GA](#)

Improving data collection by conducting a study of health issues.



[Asian Pacific Community in Action, AZ](#)

Compilation of a data book to highlight health issues and available resources in Arizona.



[Houston Asian American Health Coalition, TX](#)

Collection of cancer data on AAs and NHPIs.



[Coalition of Asian Children & Families, NY](#)

Raising awareness about the need to collect disaggregated data through the legislative process.



IDENTIFIED BARRIERS

- Language (limited participation of communities in data collection efforts).
- Limited resources of coalitions.
- Differing degrees of community readiness to act.



BEST PRACTICES

- The importance of collaboration and building partnerships with groups outside the AA and NHPI community (state and local public health departments, elected officials, academic institutions).
- Community organizations building coalitions to raise awareness about data and to collect data on small populations.
- Utilize messaging to provide better understanding of AA and NHPI community and resources needed to improve AA and NHPI health.
- Key components of successful coalitions included: strong leadership, broad networks, and effective messaging.