

Evaluating Complex Community Health Initiatives: Developing Innovative Participatory Synthesis Methods to Inform Learning about Community Transformation

Overview of SCALE

- Spreading Community Accelerators through Learning and Evaluation (SCALE) Initiative
 - Led by Institute for Health Improvement (IHI)
 - Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Provided communities with relationship building, leadership and quality improvement skills to transform health, well-being, and equity
 - 2015-2019
 - 18 nationwide communities

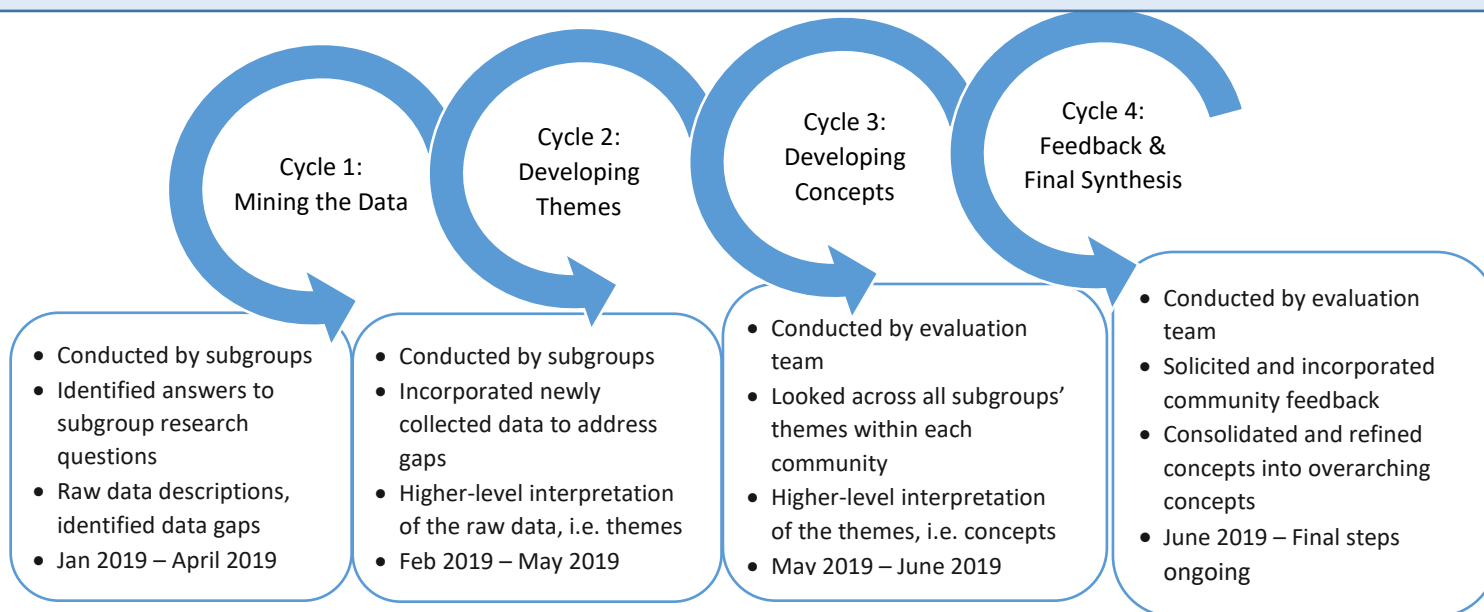
Key SCALE Stakeholders

- Implementation Team: From IHI, involved with implementing SCALE initiative
- Evaluation Team: From two universities (UNC and USC)
- Coaches: From communities and IHI, had specialized knowledge
- Community Coalitions: Community members involved in transformation efforts

Evaluation Approach: Participatory Action Synthesis & Meta-Ethnography

Five Subgroups Created to Answer Evaluation Questions Around the Following Themes:

- 1) Use of QI Methods
- 2) Adopting Community Skills and Behaviors
- 3) Spread and Scale-Up Approach
- 4) Engaging People with Lived Experience
- 5) Addressing Racism and Inequity



Example of the Synthesis Process

Raw Data	Themes	Community-Specific Concept & Definition	Overarching Concept & Definition
Working to take effective action to improve quality by utilizing relevant town data, create interview questions about racism and inequity, engage adults and youth in wellbeing survey	Engaging Youth	Inclusion of Community Members/People with Lived Experience (PLE)	The Sustained Engagement of Community Members/People with Lived Experience
Focusing on engaging youth, veterans, and people in recovery	Engaging Youth	Youth were utilized as PLE. The coalition worked to improve equity by engaging youth in wellbeing surveys, and in co-design and collecting data and feedback for programs. SCALE tools assisted the coalition in keeping PLE engaged in improvement efforts	The community engages people with lived experience in a number of roles, including community champions, project leaders, trainers, organizers, key informants, and participants throughout the course of the change process