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
 - 0 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

Cycle 4:

Feedback &

Final Synthesis

Evaluation Approach: Participatory Action Synthesis & Meta-Ethnography

Cycle 2:

Developing

Themes

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

Raw Data

Conducted by subgroups

Cycle 1:

Mining the Data

- Identified answers to subgroup research questions
- Raw data descriptions, identified data gaps
- Jan 2019 April 2019

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- Conducted by subgroups
- Incorporated newly collected data to address gaps
- Higher-level interpretation of the raw data, i.e. themes
- Feb 2019 May 2019

Conducted by evaluation team

Cycle 3:

Developing

Concepts

- Looked across all subgroups' themes within each community
- Higher-level interpretation of the themes, i.e. concepts
- May 2019 June 2019

- Conducted by evaluation team
- Solicited and incorporated community feedback
- Consolidated and refined concepts into overarching concepts
- June 2019 Final steps ongoing

Overarching Concept & Definition

Example of the Synthesis Process

Community-Specific Concept & Definition

Naw Dala	memes	Community-specific Concept & Demillion	Overarching Concept & Denintion
Working to take effective action to improve quality by utilizing relevant town data, create interview questions about racism and inequity,	Engaging Youth	Inclusion of Community Members/People with Lived Experience (PLE)	The Sustained Engagement of Community Members/People with Lived Experience
engage adults and youth in wellbeing survey 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