Collaborating with Communities Using Data

Friday morning 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

The founding NNIP partners were motivated to adopt the NNIP mission so people in the neighborhoods that had been disinvested in would have data to support their advocacy and planning. Building on that tradition, one of NNIP's Goals to Improve the Use of Data in Advancing Racial Equity is that we strive to incorporate community voice and collaborate with residents on research design, data collection, interpretation, and dissemination.

Many projects have involved community members by listening to their informational needs when developing indicators or visualization techniques, gathering their perspectives through community surveys or focus groups, or sharing back data or research findings from an analysis. The two projects featured in this session go further, collaborating with residents as full partners throughout the initiatives - designing data collection, interpreting the results, and disseminating the findings. Community-engaged research and analysis can help ensure the project is asking relevant questions, ground-truthing conclusions, and generating solutions.

Collaborating with communities will differ across local contexts and institutional roles. Some NNIP Partners may engage directly; other partners may rely on allied local organizations with close community relationships. In any case, sharing the experiences of community-engaged efforts can provide inspiration and lessons for others seeking to ensure their data and research supports community agendas and leads to community change.

The purpose of this session is to learn about the benefits and challenges of partnering with community in data and analysis and hear advice for groups in other places.

Amy Carroll-Scott from the Philadelphia NNIP partner, Drexel University's Urban Health Collaborative, will moderate the session and share their general approach to collaborating with communities across the research process. Two organizations who conducted community surveys will give a ten-minute presentation introducing their approaches:

- Just Communities in Tucson: community survey about perspectives on public safety

  - Caroline Issacs – Chief Executive Officer
  - Rahul Jayaraman, Policy and Research Manager

- Urban Health Collaborative: West Philly Promise Neighborhood community survey

  - Erikka Gilliam Data Manager, West Philly Promise Neighborhood initiative
  - Christina Brown, Community Data Lead speaker
  - Rita Nelson and Hyden Terrell, Community Data Leads

We will then have a panel discussion facilitated by the moderator before shifting to audience questions.

Discussion: (40 minutes)

- How do you build relationships and trust with community members? What work do you think is important to do before hand to mitigate potential harms when large institutions or research organizations work directly with community members and those with lived experiences?

- How do you share the power with community members and organizations around data and research?

- How are you involving community members and sharing power in projects and initiatives at your organization?

References

Catalyst Program Request for Proposals – due December 2, 2022: https://urbn.is/3MoNE1o

The Barrio Centro Community Safety Participatory Research Project Report (2021)

Blog: Reimagining Public Safety in Tucson, Arizona (2022)