

NCDHR Core Research Project, 2004-2009

The mission of the CDC-funded Rochester Prevention Research Center: National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) is health promotion and disease prevention with deaf people and their families through community-based participatory research (CBPR).

The Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC) is NCDHR's main interface with the Rochester Deaf community. DHCC members are involved in all aspects of the research.

The NCDHR Research Committee is a multidisciplinary team of deaf and hearing people, including faculty from National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

A challenge is that we have no baseline health data that we can use to identify and address health priorities with the Rochester Deaf community.

Existing public health surveys are inaccessible for deaf people who communicate with American Sign Language (ASL) for a number of reasons.

NCDHR's initial core research project is to collect baseline data by first adapting a health survey to be accessible and culturally & linguistically appropriate for use with deaf adult ASL-users.

- Translate the survey items into ASL and an English-based signing
- Video-record the survey items (ASL has no written form)
- Back-translate the survey items to check for accuracy
- Develop the computer-based survey interface
- Evaluate the computer-based survey interface (hardware & software) through beta-testing

In 6-months in 2008, 302 deaf adults took the survey in the Rochester region.

Our Monroe County comparison data is from the telephone Adult Health Survey conducted by the Monroe County Department of Public Health.

Survey topics include: health & healthcare, preventive services, diabetes, heart disease, weight, tobacco & alcohol, sex, violence and mental health.

In preliminary analyses, we identified some Deaf community strengths as well as areas for health concerns.

