Adapting the BRFSS to Survey Deaf Sign Language Users

Steven Barnett MD on behalf of the Rochester Prevention Research Center: National Center for Deaf Health Research University of Rochester

Learning Objectives

 Processes for adapting a survey for use with deaf sign language users

 Computer-based survey that allows the user to choose the best communication modality

Take Home Messages

- ASL is not English
- Deaf sign language users comprise understudied disparity populations
- Community-based participatory research is essential to the survey adaptation process

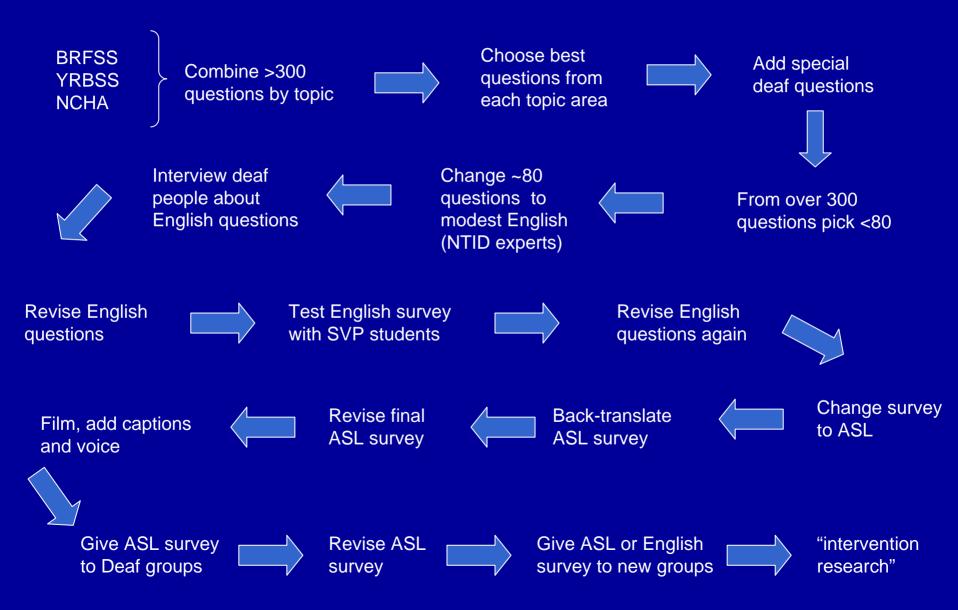
Why Deaf people?

- HP2010 objectives
- Disparities is access to research
 - Modality
 - Language
 - Literacy
- Disparities in health & healthcare

Rochester NY

- Many sign language users
- Rochester Deaf Health Task Force
- Rochester Prevention Research Center: National Center for Deaf Health Research
 - health promotion & disease prevention with deaf ASL-users and their families
 - Local & national

Core Project Steps



Adapt English

• Linguists reviewed original English

In-depth individual cognitive interviews
 - "... blood cholesterol tested ..."

Dictionary

- Addresses fund of information
- Similar in function to BRFSS explanations

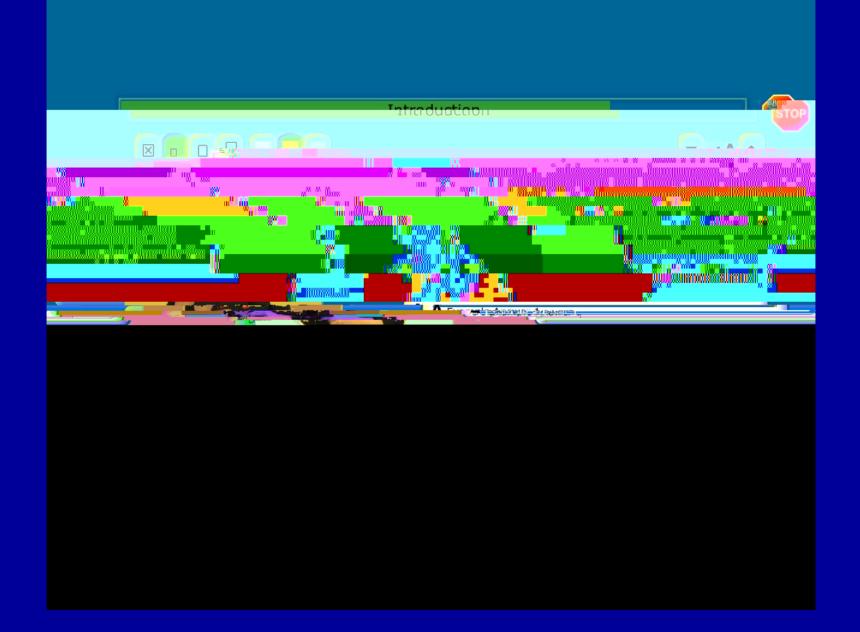
 Mammogram
- Consistent with purpose
 - Compare with other groups
 - Compare pre- & post- intervention

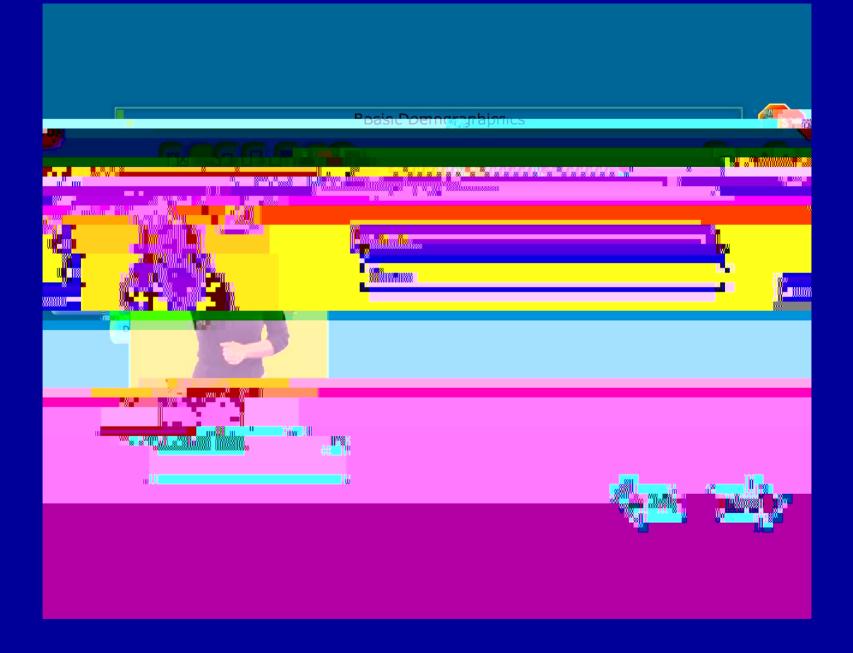
Translations

- Bilingual fluent community members & researchers
- Two teams
- Decision examples
 - Include question stem in response
 - Education level question -> 11 items

Interface design







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Questions?

Feedback?

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Thank you to everyone who has worked with NCDHR.

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