# 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

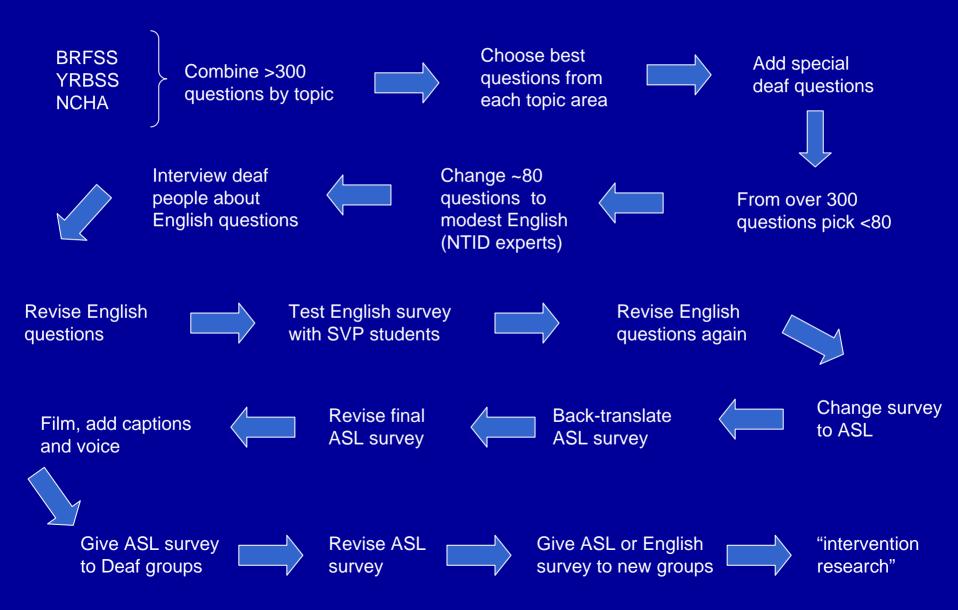
# Why Deaf people?

- 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

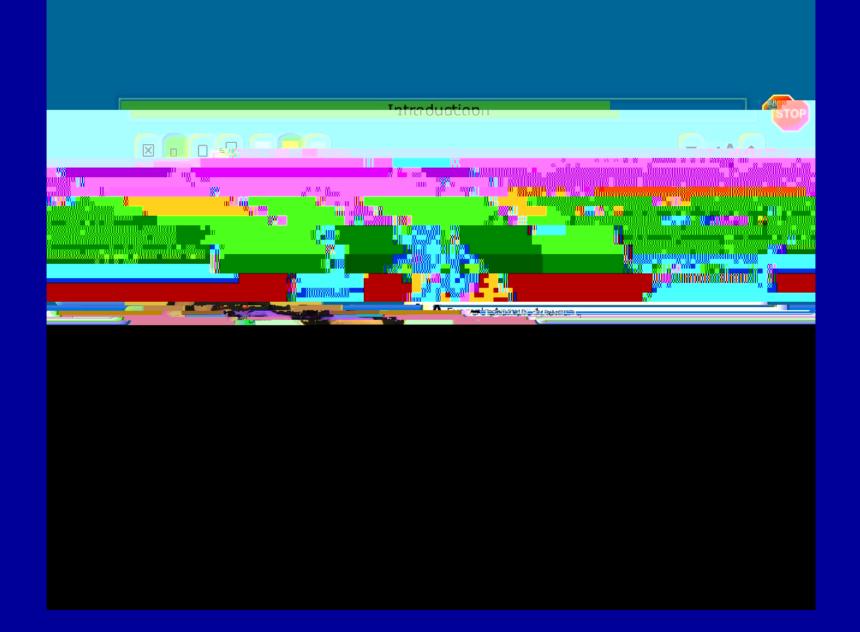
   Mammogram
- Consistent with purpose
  - Compare with other groups
  - Compare pre- & post- intervention

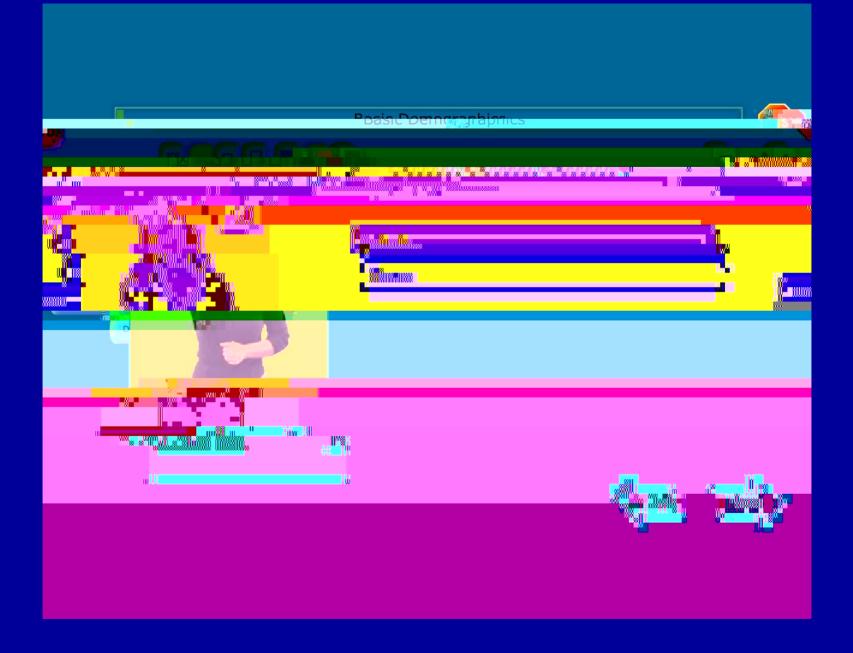
### Translations

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

# Interface design







# 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

#### Questions?

#### Feedback?

Prevention Research Centers Annual Program Meeting Atlanta March 25-27, 2008 NCDHR is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number U48 DP000031 from CDC. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

Steven Barnett is supported by grant K08 HS15700 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

This presentation briefly discusses a project made possible through a Cooperative Agreement between the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (ATPM), award number TS-0817. The presentation content is the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the CDC or ATPM.

Thank you to everyone who has worked with NCDHR.

Steven Barnett, MD Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine Co-Associate Director, National Center for Deaf Health Research University of Rochester

Family Medicine Research Programs 1381 South Avenue Rochester, NY 14620 tel: (585) 506-9484 ext 110 tty: (585) 461-4902 fax: (585) 473-2245 Steven\_Barnett@URMC.Rochester.edu

Presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual BRFSS Conference, Orlando (March 18, 2008).