

POSTER 3

COALITION CAPACITY ASSESSMENT OF COLUMBIA COALITIONS FOR A HEALTHIER COLUMBIA (A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT)

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Introduction: Obesity is one of the leading public health concerns in the United States in adults and children. This qualitative study focused on five coalitions involved in addressing this issue in Columbia, MO. The coalitions are Playgrounds Without Borders Community Steering Committee, Columbia Action Network, Healthy Environment Policy Initiative, Grow Healthy Columbia/Boone County Partnership, and Move More Eat Smart.

Methods: Eligible coalition members were identified who attended at least two coalition meetings. Of 91 eligible, 60 participated (65.9% yield). Since some individuals participated in multiple coalitions, there were 128 total possible surveys, 100 were collected (78.1% yield). The data was collected via personal interviews with participants using the Coalition Capacity Assessment quantitative survey (Transtria LLC, St. Louis MO). We followed up responses to items that individuals scored as “0” or “1” (on a Likert scale for “strongly disagree” or “disagree,” respectively) using a structured interview qualitative approach. Median survey scales scores were compared across coalition using non-parametric analyses. We used a grounded theory approach to analyze qualitative data to identify emergent themes.

Results: Quantitative results suggest widely varying assessments of the different coalitions on a number of parameters. Qualitative themes suggested that these differences likely arose from the unique structure and function of each coalition, with varying perceived effectiveness by its members.

Discussion: The CDC suggests the need for strategies of obesity prevention that effectively target environment and policies to promote physical activity and a healthy diet. Potential strategies for community-based participatory research coalitions will be suggested in the presentation.