



Building Community Capacity for Policy, Systems and Environmental Change in AANHPI Communities

By Nina Ichikawa



SUMMARY

Asian Americans are at a higher risk of weight-related health issues at a lower body mass index than other ethnic groups. And, other health disparities persist: Asian Indians in Ohio have coronary artery disease prevalence rates four times that of the general U.S. population, for example. NAPNEHD leadership training prepares community leaders to identify trends like these, share them with constituents, and use them to improve the public health environment.

CHALLENGE

Among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities, there is often a lack of indigenous leadership for public health data gathering and advocacy. AANHPIs are under-represented in public health departments, nonprofit organizations, and advocacy groups. We need to both build our communities' capacity and press for equitable representation in multi-sector partnerships. It's often challenging for groups representing a diverse, multilingual AANHPI constituency, to mobilize forces and implement evidence-based strategies to combat non-communicable diseases on a large scale.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS KEY

To get involved with the work of NAPNEHD and APPEAL:

Attend a conference, meeting, or event held by APPEAL

Participate in a webinar sponsored by NAPNEHD and APPEAL

Join the APPEAL Network and receive our regular communications

Request informational and educational materials from APPEAL for your organization or for dissemination

To learn more about

NAPNEHD and APPEAL go to
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"Great job, quality summit. Very rich experience. I am looking forward to collaborating more intentionally with the AAPI and NH communities in my region. Thanks."

- SF Policy Summit 2013 Attendee



Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy & Leadership TOWARDS HEALTH PARITY AND JUSTICE

SOLUTION

The National Asian Pacific Network to Eliminate Health Disparities (NAPNEHD) was created to address these challenges, partially by building community capacity for long-term leadership in the public health arena. It follows the leadership training structure developed by the Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy & Leadership (APPEAL) in 1997. NAPNEHD focuses on building competencies in collaboration, advocacy, equity building, systems navigation, and healthy eating and active living content areas.

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SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

Lessons learned from the APPEAL Leadership Model include:

- 1) Leadership development can build community capacity to engage in tobacco control and other social justice and health equity issues;
- 2) Leadership development can result in powerful policy and systems change; and
- 3) Leadership trainings can be adapted to any social justice issue and any marginalized community including cross-cultural groups.

With the lessons learned and the successes of the different leadership trainings, NAPNEHD has developed valuable materials for dissemination to increase awareness around the disparities faced by AANHPI communities. To sustain the success, future funding will be needed to continue the work and partnerships established from NAPNEHD.

RESULTS

NAPNEHD has held multiple trainings from 2009 to 2014 to develop future and current leaders in AANHPI communities. The APPEAL Policy Summit, held in San Francisco, CA, in 2013, gave NAPNEHD the opportunity to present on Food Policy Considerations for AANHPI communities. Multiple partnerships and collaborations were formed to promote the “Good Eats Safe Streets” campaign during July 2014, a program to promote environmental change toward providing access to healthy food and active lifestyles for AANHPI communities. Informational and educational materials have been developed for dissemination among these communities and promoted through our partner organizations throughout the nation and the Pacific islands.



Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL) is a national health justice organization working to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other underserved communities.