

Gap Analysis: Preconception and Interconception Health and Health Care

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TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Project Description

A qualitative gap analysis about preconception health and health care (PCHHC) was conducted to inform the development of a strategic plan centered on improving preconception care in the state of Texas. This project will support the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Title V Maternal and Child Health Unit in addressing national priority measure one, the percent of women with a past year preventive medical visit.

Learning Objectives

- Solicit and collect input from key public health partners about barriers and opportunities for implementation of recommended PCHHC practices.
- Analyze and synthesize collected information to complete gap analysis.
- Communicate findings and recommendations about PCHHC to key decision makers and stakeholders.

Activities

- Review PCHHC literature and identify recommended best practices
- Identify and contact potential stakeholders
- Develop survey and supplemental materials
- Conduct, transcribe and code interviews
- Identify key themes for gap analysis
- Disseminate key findings

Outcomes

- 26 interviews with 37 participants were conducted
- Presentation on findings was delivered at DSHS office in Austin, TX
- Final report was constructed to inform strategic planning efforts

Recommendations

- Develop African American specific programming through community based participatory research efforts
- Adopt community health worker initiatives
- Develop collaborative relationships with African American organizations in Texas
- Implement One Key Question in Texas
- Develop universal messaging of PCHHC
- Implement use of non-traditional partnerships to address PCHHC
- Address mental health and substance use need

Lessons Learned

This internship highlighted the importance of communicating, coordinating and collaborating with a wide variety of stakeholders in order to leverage existing resources and address PCHHC at a systems level.

