

# Building Strong Networks for Refugee Health Promotion

Sarah Levin-Lederer, MPH

*Community Preparedness Health Information Specialist*

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Division of Disease Control

Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness Program

# History

- 2014: Convened planning group
  - PDPH Library Refugee Planning Group
- November 2014: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Refugee and Immigrant Health Seminar
- 2015 and Beyond: Regular planning group meetings
  - Quarterly Health 101 workshops
  - Finding ways to engage attendees between events



# Planning Group

- Mission: To bring quality health information and resources to individuals and organizations who serve refugee and immigrant communities.
- Representatives from:
  - PDPH (Immunizations, Hepatitis, TB, Acute Communicable Diseases, BT-PHP)
  - NSC, HIAS
  - AFAHO
  - PHMC
  - Philadelphia Refugee Mental Health Collaborative
  - Philadelphia Office of Immigrant Affairs
  - Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services



# Health 101 for Refugee and Immigrant Communities

- 2015: 2 hours, monthly(ish)
  - January: Hepatitis
  - February: STDs
  - March: Immunizations
  - April: Food Safety and Nutrition
  - June: TB
  - September: Disaster Mental Health
- 2016: 3 hours, Quarterly
  - March: Diabetes and Heart Disease
  - June: Dental and Eye Care
  - September: Mental Health

# Refugee and Immigrant Health Seminars

- November 7, 2014: Stop the Spread! Infectious Diseases, Bedbugs, and Fire: A Public Health Preparedness Seminar for Libraries and Refugee Agencies
  - Presentations: Ebola Update, TB Control, Bedbug Control, Fire Safety, Expert panel including Hepatitis, Immunization, STD
- November 4, 2015: Road Map to Health: Navigating the Healthcare Landscape
  - Presentations: Refugee Mental Health Collaborative, Language Access, ACA and Health Choices, Patient Advocacy
- November 1, 2016: Women's Health
  - Proposed presentations: Zika update, Chronic Diseases, Maternal and Child Health, Self-Care for Care Givers

# Other Outreach Strategies

- Ongoing health information
  - PDPH Whole Community Blog  
([pdphwholecommunityblog.wordpress.com](http://pdphwholecommunityblog.wordpress.com))
    - Advertise events, highlight community resources and health multilingual health information
  - Emails to past attendees and contacts with useful community resources and health information
    - Ex: Community resources for free meals, Information on staying safe during an extreme heat warning

# Outcomes

- Increased self-reported knowledge of presented health topic
  - Avg. pre-presentation knowledge: 2.58 on a 5 point scale
  - Avg. post-presentation knowledge: 3.98
  - Avg. increase: 1.4 points
- Increased self-reported confidence in sharing presented health information with clients and friends
  - Avg. pre-presentation confidence: 2.83
  - Avg. post-presentation confidence: 3.99
  - Avg. increase: 1.17 points

# Outcomes-Expanding Network

- Increased attendance
  - 2015: Widely variable attendance
    - Lowest: STDs at 3
    - Highest: Disaster Mental Health at 46
    - Other 4 had an avg. attendance of 11
  - 2016: Workshop attendance stabilizing
    - Diabetes and Heart Disease-26 attendees, Dental and Eye Care-18 attendees, Mental Health-53 attendees
- Increased representation from different organizations
  - 2015: Attendees mainly represented organizations on the planning group
  - 2016: Attendees represent organizations serving geographically and demographically diverse communities



# Questions?

- Sarah Levin-Lederer
- 215-685-6801
- [Sarah.levin-lederer@phila.gov](mailto:Sarah.levin-lederer@phila.gov)