

TRAINING CULTURALLY SENSITIVE DATA COLLECTORS:
THE USE OF A WORKSHOP AS A STRATEGY

Pia Prenevost, PhD, Gina Thames, RN, MSN,
Mary Lou Bond, RN, PhD, Carolyn Cason, RN, PhD
University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington, Texas 76019

Cecila Trinidad, RN, BSN, and Kimberly Garza, RN, BSN
University of Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Data Collection, Training

Purpose: The purpose of this poster is to describe a Data Collection Workshop as a strategy to train individuals to become research data collectors with culturally diverse populations. The project was funded by The Center for Hispanic Studies in Nursing and Health at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing and by the Bridges to the Doctorate Program, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Grant # 1R25 GM070 420-01.

Methods: This three day Data Collection Workshop focused on seven key principles for becoming a data collector who works with culturally diverse subjects. These principles included: 1) fundamental concepts in nursing research methods; 2) principles of working with human subjects; 3) collecting and maintaining data; 4) obtaining and confirming informed consent; 5) the purpose and process of Institutional Review Boards; 6) maintaining confidentiality; and 7) dealing with culturally diverse populations in research. Issues surrounding recruiting, communicating with, and protecting the rights of culturally diverse subjects were emphasized. The workshop is appropriate to participants from a variety of backgrounds and educational preparations. Participants completed two self-study modules on concepts in nursing research methodology and collecting data from human subjects. Teaching methods included lecture, discussion, and role-play, with workshop leaders experienced in multicultural research. Participants were assessed for both knowledge gained and course satisfaction.

Findings: A total of 11 participants completed the first pilot workshop in August, 2004. Participants came from a diverse range of education and experience, and included "Bridge Fellows," faculty from the University of Incarnate Word, graduate students from the University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health, and registered nurses from local healthcare agencies. Participant feedback indicated high satisfaction with the workshop. They provided comments such as "great hands-on experience" and "excellent overview with the right amount of specificity". Overall, the feedback suggested that participants found the workshop educational and a good foundation for engaging in data collection with culturally diverse populations.

Discussion: This workshop provided potential data collectors with the fundamental information necessary to become effective team members on research studies of culturally diverse populations. They are now prepared to serve as data collectors on investigations intended to reduce health disparities.