

National Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health.

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**Community Health Mobilization,
Sensitization, and Education among
African Refugees and Immigrants
in the United States: The Case of
Metro-Atlanta, Georgia.**

Situation Analysis

- GA state has the second largest refugee resettlement program
- Metro Atlanta is experiencing an increase in refugee and immigrant populations from Africa
- African refugees and immigrants are among the least served and hardest to reach

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- Recent communication has shown that the HIV virus is spreading fast among African immigrant populations
- These groups are not adequately tracked in the Ryan White program.
- Significant gaps still exist in HIV/AIDS knowledge, especially in the African immigrant population.

Community Mobilization / Sensitization on HIV/AIDS

- Community mobilization and sensitization for HIV prevention education and awareness
- Peculiar cultural beliefs and dynamics within these communities
- Innovative approaches are essential.

PECHE + Community

- PECHE: Prevention Effectiveness Consortium on Health and Education
- In collaboration with various community leaders and key people, the PECHE developed an extensive education campaign through the following activities:

Community Mobilization

- Prepare culturally appropriate HIV prevention education messages
- Translate messages in major languages of the African refugees and immigrants
- Community leaders to disseminate information through churches and mosques
- Caseworkers and volunteers for door-to-door dissemination.
- Local media and electronic media

Results:

- Community gate keepers are key to a successful community mobilization and sensitization
- Response is high when community members are involved in the planning and implementation
- Culturally appropriate programs are necessary to address information gap in the African refugee and immigrant

- Community involvement and ownership is key to sustaining programs and interventions in the**
- **African refugee and immigrant communities**

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