

# Research at the National Center for Deaf Health Research

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CTSI 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Fellow

Look at me please 😊

- Hi, my name is Heidi Thompson, and I am a medical student here, at the University of Rochester. Currently, I'm between my 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of medical school, doing research with the National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR)

# NCDHR

- CDC PRC doing CBPR (enough acronyms for you?)
- Goals: to improve health and prevent disease in the Deaf community
- Why Needed: we have NO baseline health data on the Deaf population
- Why Rochester: one of the largest, and most active Deaf communities in the country

# Deaf culture

- “Big D” Deaf: Cultural model
  - Cultural minority group that shares a common language and background
  - Not a disability group
- ASL: not simply a signed form of English
  - Own grammar and syntax
- Historically, a marginalized group
- NCDHR uses the cultural, not medical, model (hearing impairment)

# My Role at NCDHR



- My Qualitative side-Coordinator and Research Team member for the Rapid Assessment Procedure (RAP)
- My Quantitative side-Research Committee member for NCDHR's core project, the Deaf Health Survey



# Rapid review of RAP

- Background: Qualitative Anthropological Study
  - Looked at communication and cultural interactions at NCDHR
- Methods: Open-ended interviews with 23 Deaf, hearing, researchers and non-researchers with NCDHR
  - Transcribed and coded looking for themes
- Results: Many, many, many, but perhaps biggest was that communication gaps were most evident between researchers and non-researchers
  - Cultural unfamiliarity on for both research and Deaf cultures
- Follow-up: Consistent interpreters and orientation to Deaf and research culture for those new at NCDHR

# Small glimpse of NCDHR's core research: the Deaf Health Survey

- The first ever health survey accessible to the Deaf community to gather baseline data
- Adapted from YRBS, BRFSS and also new, Deaf specific questions
  - Translated into ASL and English-based sign
- Used with a touch screen computer
  - 6 sign models, multiple interface options for color, sizes, closed captions, etc.
- 1<sup>st</sup> IRB submission in June 2007... approved February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- 160 people have taken it so far
  - Goal is 300 Deaf adults from Rochester
  - When data collection is completed, I'll be analyzing the suicide questions



## Health Status



MaryBeth

CC

? Would you say that in general your health is:

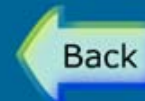
**A** Excellent

**B** Very Good

**C** Good

**D** Fair

**E** Poor



# Just a few things I gained during my CTSI year-out

- Appreciation for Deaf culture and communication
- Appreciation for CBPR
- Experience in the importance of communication
- Improved ASL skills and opportunity to take ASL classes- Vital!!
- Chance to coordinate the Deaf Health Pathway, and tie that work in with my upcoming Paul Ambrose Scholars Project
- Computer and tech skills I never dreamed I'd have
- A publication- Finally!!!... (hopefully)

# Thanks!!!

- CTSI for funding me
- Nancy Chin, PhD
- Steve Barnett, MD
- Matthew Starr, MPH
- Susan Demers, MS
- Deirdre Schlehofer, MPhil.

Questions???