

Introduction

- African immigrants face multiple challenges upon arrival in destination countries.
- These challenges include pre-migration stress, post-migration stress, racism, economic pressures, lack of sense of community, and loss of authority (Este & Tachble, 2008; Nilsson, Barazanji, Heintzelman, Siddiqi, & Shilla, 2012)
- These challenges have a potential to affect the parenting practices of African immigrants in destination countries.

Purpose

- The purpose of the study is to examine the parenting and mental health promotion practices of African immigrants as well as the challenges they face.
- The purpose of the WISEST internship was to help translate the knowledge gained from the project into policies and practices through a stakeholder engagement session.



Research Method

- Qualitative interviews were conducted
- Data collection included:
 - o 32 interviews with African immigrant parents
 - o 14 interviews with African community leaders
 - o 12 interviews with service providers / policy makers
- Based on these interviews, the project advisory committee recommended a stakeholder engagement session

Knowledge Translation

- Knowledge translation is very important to ensure research evidence and findings are used to inform policies and practices.
- Knowledge translation “is defined as a dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians, provide more effective health services and products and strengthen the health care system.” (Canadian Institute of Health Research, 2016).
- Stakeholder engagement is one form of integrated knowledge translation.

REFERENCES

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- Este, D., & Tachble, A. (2009). Fatherhood in the Canadian Context: Perceptions and Experiences of Sudanese Refugee Men. *Sex Roles* 60, 456-466. DOI:10.1007/s11199-008-9532-1
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WISEST Summer Intern Responsibilities

- Collaborated with the research team in organizing the stakeholder engagement workshop
- Completed a Tri-Council research ethics online course
- Attended research team meetings and took minutes of team meetings
- Assisted with developing invitation tools for stakeholders, including policy makers, service providers and African immigrant parents
- Assisted in developing evaluation tools
- Analyzed the evaluation data
- Assisted in registration, guiding guests to and from the event, and sign placement
- Assisted in creating a letter of attendance

Results

Total Number of Attendees: 123

Event was excellent overall

- # of Agree and Strongly Agree: 27
- # of Neutral: 2
- # of Disagree or Strongly Disagree: 1

What Participants Liked Most About Event

- “I learned a lot”
- “Great Presentations + Presenters”
- “That there was an attempt to bring Africans together.”
- “The focus on Research for change”
- Valuable panels and findings
- Accommodations satisfied needs

What Participants Liked Least About Event

- “Timing - there seemed to be too much information without enough time to present.”

Suggestions for Improvement

- “Ensure participation from youth.”
- Increase involvement of attendees and communities

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