

Overview of the Communities Count Data Collection Partnership

The Data Collection Partnership (DCP) was part of the on-going Communities Count Social and Health Indicators Initiative in King County, Washington. Through partnerships with community-based organizations, 29 focus groups were held to collect information to complement a telephone survey and to provide deeper contextual understanding of the “Social Support” and “Neighborhood Social Cohesion” indicators. Six key population groups were chosen to include the voices of those who were under-represented in the phone survey: people with annual household incomes under \$25,000; people with less than a high school education; people who speak limited or no English, and members of some ethnic groups.

In April 2001 the Communities Count Steering Committee released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to find experienced community agency partners with strong existing relationships with key populations. The RFQ was developed through consultation with local community members and staff at agencies with relevant experience. Following recommendations from a proposal review panel, Public Health – Seattle & King County negotiated contracts with each lead agency.

Staff from eight local agencies participated in the DCP, reviewing and translating data collection tools, recruiting participants, facilitating focus groups, and helping to analyze the interview transcripts. Training and technical assistance were provided by Communities Count staff, and were tailored to each DCP agency. Between July 2001 and January 2002, DCP staff conducted 29 focus groups in five languages with 255 adult participants.

Partner Agencies:

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (Poverty Action Network)
Center for Multicultural Health
Center for Human Services
International Counseling and Community Services (Lutheran Community Services)
Somali Women and Children Skills for Change
Refugee Assistance Program (Archdiocesan Housing Authority)
Ruth Dykeman Children’s Center