National Center for Deaf Health Research: Engaging the Deaf Community in Health Disparities Research

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Deaf 101 Reminders

- Prelingual vs. later-onset deafness
- ASL vs. English
- Literacy
- Fund of information

Health Disparity Risks

- Low English literacy
- Fund of information deficits
- Limited access to family medical history
- Limited access to healthcare
- Passive healthcare experiences
- Normalcy of partial comprehension

Deaf Health Collaborations

- Deaf Wellness Center
- Barnett & DWC
- Medical school, residency teaching
- PAH, MD
  - Deaf Strong Hospital
  - *My Body, My Responsibility*
- Strong Connections
- Deaf Health Task Force
- ASADV
- Deaf Awareness Week pilot study

CDC's PRC Opportunity

- Early conversations with Dr. Pearson
- PRC program
- SIPs
- Grant collaborators

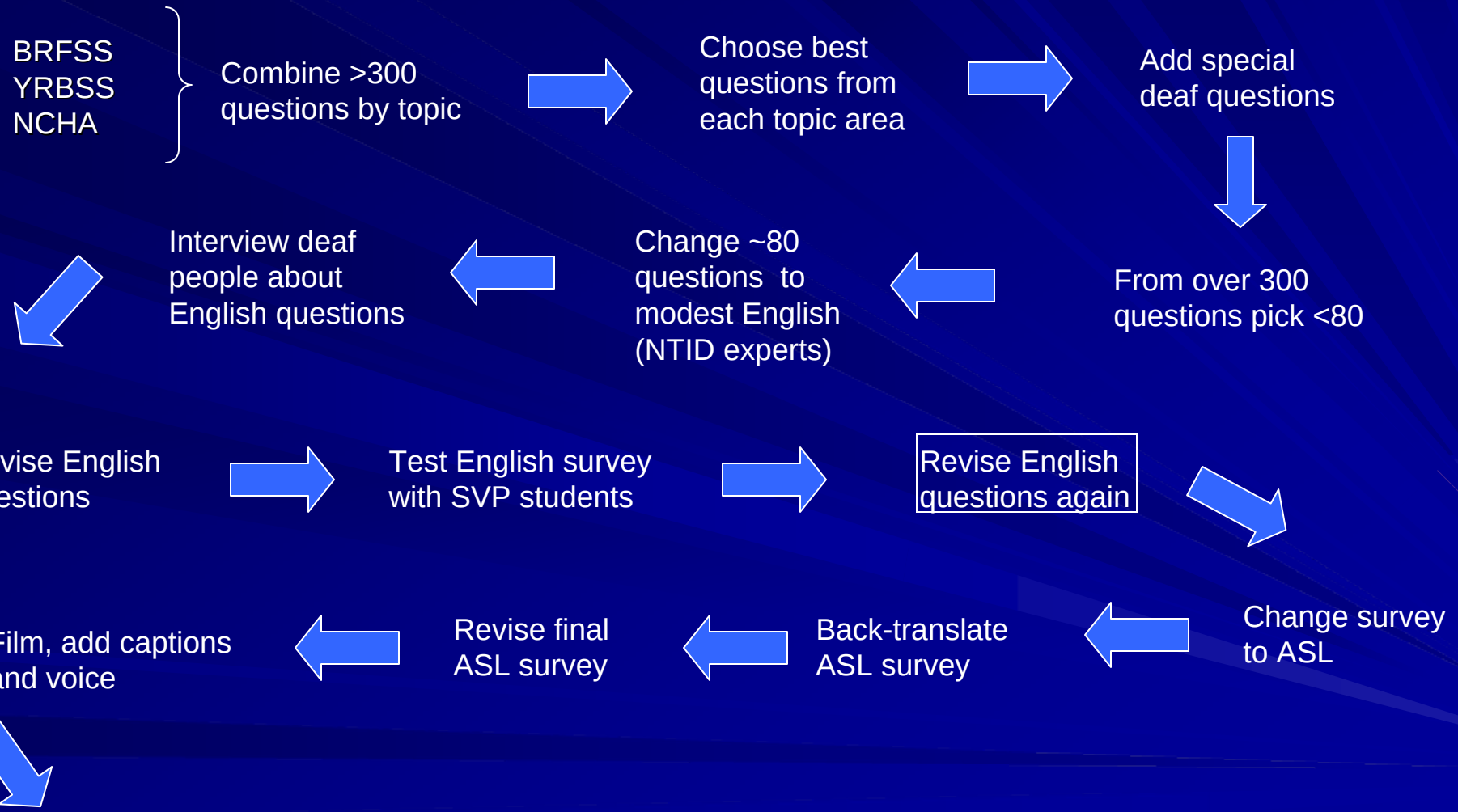
NCDHR

- Committee overview
- Deaf Health Community Committee
- Core research project

Preliminary Studies

- Metabolic syndrome pilot
- Health vocabulary pilot
- Focus groups on health services research

Core Project Steps



NCDHR Research Committee

- Community and Preventive Medicine
- Psychiatry (DWC)
- Family Medicine
- Pediatrics
- NTID
- School of Nursing
- Dentistry

Cross-Walk National Surveys

- BRFSS
- NCHA
- YRBS
- Committee preferences
- Spotlight college age topics
- Shelve older adult topics

Modifying the English

- DWC adjustments
- NTID adjustments

Deaf-Related Questions

- Existing questions were limited, offensive
- New questions created
- DHCC review

NTID/RIT Survey Topics

- Demographics
- Safety/Injury
- Substance use
- Sexual behavior
- BMI, nutrition, physical activity
- Mental health
- Health care and service utilization
- Hearing loss and communication

Cognitive Interviews

- 18 NTID students
- Varied reading levels
- Varied sign proficiencies
- Process
- Findings

Consent Videos

- ASL
- “Simultaneous Communication”

The Sticker

- Bilateral pure tone hearing loss averages
- California Reading Comprehension Test
- Michigan Language Test
- LCBQ (language-communication background questionnaire)

Completed Surveys

- 168 NTID freshmen (out of 190)
- 578 hearing RIT freshmen (out of 2200)
- 32 deaf/HOH RIT freshmen (out of 70)
- Analysis is proceeding

Concurrent Efforts

- ASL survey development
- Monroe County BRFSS
  - NCDHR adaptations
  - Identifying deaf household members
- Deaf questions on local YRBS
- Harris Interactive NCDHR adaptations
- Gallaudet Interpreting Department

Opportunities

- CDC Special Interest Projects (SIPs)
- NCDHR Pilot Funds
- Cross-cultural ethics curriculum

Thank you!

National Center for Deaf Health Research

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