

CHWs in the Black Community in the Age of COVID-19: Frontline and Essential Responders

(from CDC CHW Day 9.10.20 & NACHW 11.20.20)

Durrell J. Fox - CHW Consultant
JSI Research & Training Institute – Atlanta Office

An Outline for Our Journey Today

- CHW scope of practice provides a strong foundation to address pandemics (HIV/AIDS example)
- A snapshot of the data related to COVID-19 in Black communities
- The need to support CHWs role in addressing Covid-19 in the Black community
- Examples of CHWs preventing and responding to COVID-19
- Closing Thoughts – CHW Self Care & Shout out to John Lewis



The disparities data is alarming, again! Why?

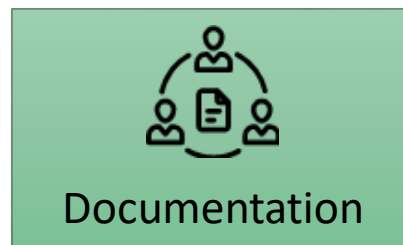
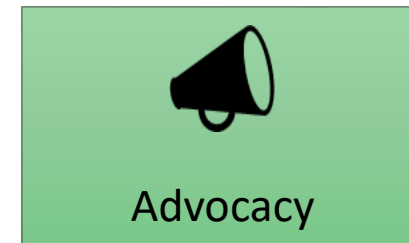
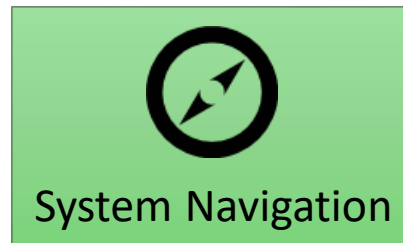
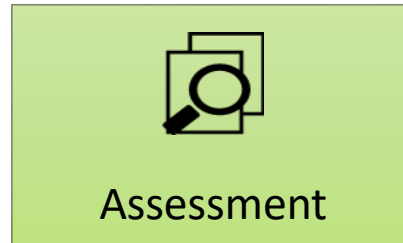
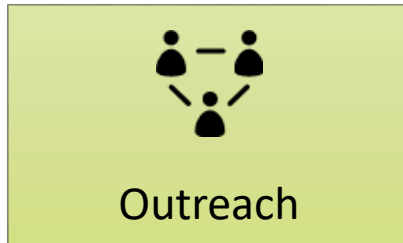
- CDC recent data shows that compared to whites, COVID-19 cases are 2.6 times higher -- Hospitalizations are 4.7 times higher -- Deaths are 2.1 times higher in Black -- African American – Non-Hispanic populations in the US
- According to research from Northwestern U. recent data reported by 40 US states shows that 1 in every 1,850 Blacks have died from COVID-19 (2.4 times higher than whites)
- According to the Louisiana Department of Health, over 50% of COVID-19 deaths in the state are Blacks, while only about 33% of the state's residents are Black (wider disparities in several states)



CHWs Have a Solid Foundational Core



CHW Core Competencies



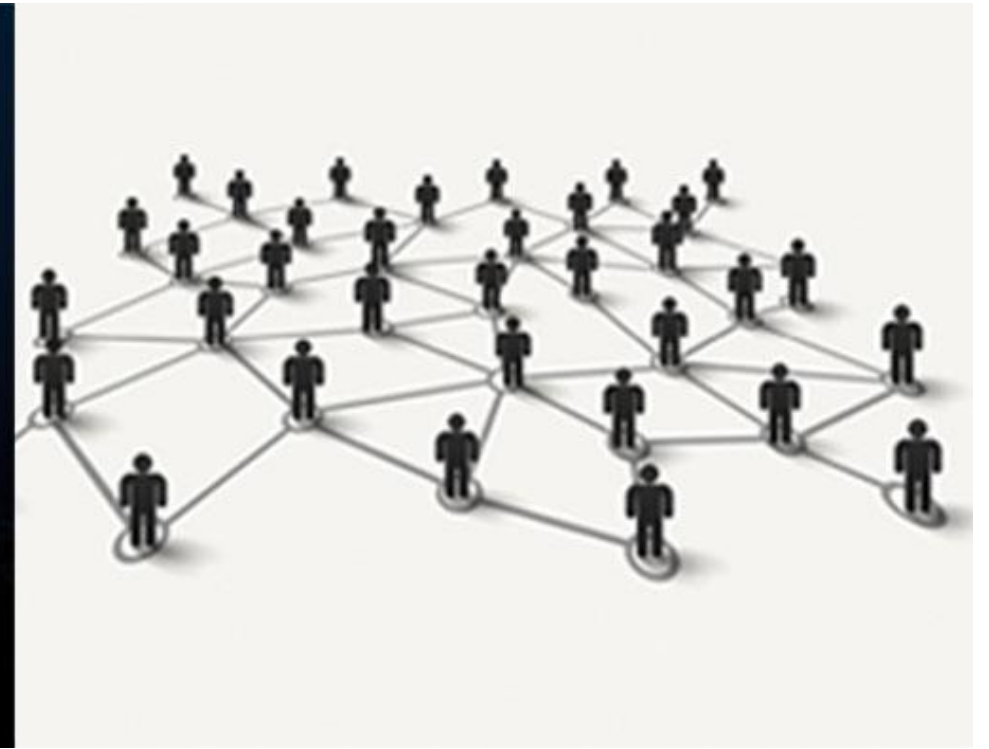
CHWs Role in Addressing the HIV Pandemic in Black Communities

- Developing advocacy and policy skills
- Continuous learning (expanding HIV/AIDS knowledge base)
- Heightening awareness across communities and generations
- Providing culturally appropriate HIV prevention education
- Engaging in community outreach
- Partnering and connecting with CBOs and faith communities
- Case finding

- ACT UP, AIDS Action(s), Black AIDS Institute, NMAC, Minority AIDS Initiative
- Expanded HIV/AIDS specialty area
- Integration on HIV care teams
- Case management - navigation
- HIV/STD Counseling and testing
- Disclosing HIV/STD status
- Partner notification



CHW Roles addressing underlying conditions in Black communities



Expanding CHW Skills and Knowledge Base

- Attending webinars, virtual training programs... about Covid-19
- (101 to advanced)
- Researching “new” resources to bridge the digital divide
- Researching COVID-19 testing sites, access
- Housing insecurity
- Food insecurity
- Behavioral health
- Mask making (culture), proper mask wearing and hand washing
- Enhancing emergency preparedness and readiness tools
- Addressing underlying illnesses and conditions



The Skin You're In: Coronavirus and Black America

- A social marketing campaign to dispel myths and raise awareness in the community about staying safe and healthy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Designed to be shared across a variety of channels including news broadcasts, social media, print and billboard advertisements, radio, partnerships with local organizations and businesses, and more.
- This campaign is directly involved with the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Force, which looks at how health inequities are affecting communities that are most impacted by the coronavirus.



Supporting CHW Self Care



Developed by Durrell Fox @ JSI R & T

Taking care of yourself so you can take care of others

- Dealing with Loss and Grief
- Compassion Fatigue
- Workload Burden (new technology)
- Lessons Learned from Others on the Front Lines
- Engage in virtual small group “support” discussions
- Share lived experiences with peers
- Reflect on strategies for recovery and resilience
- Hear from speakers with great insight from experiences during the early days of Covid-19
- Many other self-care strategies and techniques



The world is small we are all connected....



***When you see
something that is
not right, not fair,
not just, you have
to speak up. You
have to say
something; you
have to do
something.***

~ John Lewis

