

The Data Collection/Data Collection Center: Building a sustainable African-American church-based research network

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This presentation described the Carolina-Shaw Partnership for the Elimination of Health Disparities efforts to engage Black churches in a collaborative process to help reach African-Americans with proven strategies for reducing health disparities. Specifically, the sampling and recruitment strategies used, barriers encountered, and steps taken to develop a network of 25 African-American churches—the Data Collection/Data Distribution Center (DC2)—that is working with the partnership to develop sustainable health disparities research, education and intervention activities will be presented. The presentation will also highlight current strategies to make effective use of and sustain the network in a manner that is mutually beneficial will also be highlighted.

The development of a sustainable network of churches willing to engage in health disparities research, intervention and dissemination activities is a promising method that could lead to successful efforts toward the elimination of health disparities and related problems.