



Learning Sessions for Alliance's Annual
Conference
<https://www.allianceon.org/conference2024>



Poster Board 5:

Ethnic and Race-Based Data Collection and Use in Primary Health Care: Exploring the Experiences and Perceptions of Black African Immigrants in Ontario

Presenter:

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Description:

Over a third of Black Canadians were born in Africa. While disaggregated race-based data as a critical tool informs and guides future population needs while highlighting how systemic racism impacts Black African immigrants, limited ethnic race-based data impedes the measurement of health inequities and healthcare quality assurance for the population.

Poster Board objectives and learning outcomes:

- An introduction or expanded understanding of Afrocentric approaches to health.
- An enhanced understanding of why using Afrocentric approaches to data collection and use processes matters to this target population.
- Reinforcing the critical roles Primary Health Providers play in advancing health equity for this fast-growing population.

Full description:

Challenge:

Over a million people in Canada self-identify as Black, with nearly one-third of the Black population born in Africa and the majority residing in Ontario (Statistics Canada, 2022). Disaggregated race-based data as a critical tool informs and guides future population needs and highlights systemic racism (Canadian Institute for Health Information [CIHI], 2022). However, because researchers often categorize Black African immigrants as Black, there is a lack of evidence-based data specific to the group (Hassen et al., 2021). This gap creates an inadequate understanding of how African racial-ethnic differences impact health outcomes as ethnicity and language data help address inequities in health programming (CIHI, 2022; Williams & Sternthal, 2010).

Action:

This issue is crucial to me as a Black African immigrant woman. The proposed research aims to build an understanding of the experiences and perceptions around ethnic and race-based data collection and use for Black African immigrants in Ontario and identify ways to enhance their participation in the process. The research will use a three-phase research design: 1) a scoping review using JBI methodology to map existing literature, 2) a qualitative phenomenographic study with Black African immigrants aged 18 plus in Ontario, and 3) the creation of an Afrocentric PHC data collection and use guide through Nominal Group Technique which centers Black African immigrants as the ultimate experts of their lives.

Impact:

Africa is one of Canada's top two source regions of immigrants (Statistics Canada, 2022). Commonly used health assessment and measurement tools and standards are based on Western worldviews that may harm rather than help Black African immigrants (Mao et al., 2021). An adequate understanding of how this fast-growing population experiences data collection and use, plus an Afrocentric guide centring Black African immigrant voices, impacts research, policy, advocacy, and practice. An Integrated Knowledge Translation (IKT) Plan will raise awareness about research findings and promote action (CIHI, 2012).

Trajectory:

Following a successful thesis proposal defence in September 2024, the goal is to submit the research for ethics approval and start data collection by January 2025, with the thesis writing completed by the end of August 2026.

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