



THE GREENSBORO EXPERIENCE: A PUBLIC HEALTH LENS ON REFUGEE HEALTH DISPARITY DURING A PANDEMIC

Event Summary
April 4, 2023

Key Takeaways



Refugee narratives and lived experiences are important data points to exploring and understanding ethnicity-specific refugee healthcare disparity.



The diaspora of ethnically diverse refugees experience a collective racialized displacement experience during COVID-19 that is worsened due to misinformation.



Lack of culturally appropriate information creates distrust between US healthcare systems and the refugee diaspora that disproportionately impacts refugee health access to COVID-19 resources.



Including ethnically-diverse refugee communities throughout public health planning and implementation is crucial in developing culturally appropriate COVID-19 research and programs.

Highlights from the Panelists



Censorship and Misinformation

"America is [not as safe] as Africa. America itself looks to me as if it's on fire . . . [a lot of reliable information] is based on TikTok today [and] that's why they wanna ban it."

- Juma Juma



Being Knowledgeable

"As a community health worker, people will come to you with all their problems, and you have to solve those problems bit by bit."

-Satta Sedi-Johnson



Aggressive Community Action

"We are assisted by [Health and Human Services] on providing PPE for our clients and community members, and we've been out there aggressively to make sure individuals have this information. They [aren't] ignored or forgotten."

- Million Mekonnen



Being Responsive

"I've been doing community-engaged work long enough to understand that you pivot. You pivot to the priorities."

- Sharon Morrison

Participants

70+ Community and Academic partners engaged in refugee resettlement and research.

Panelists



Sharon Morrison, PhD, MSPH
Professor of Public Health Education
at University of North Carolina Greensboro



Juma Juma
Community Leader
and Resident of Greensboro



Million Mekonnen, MA
Executive Director of the
North Carolina African Services Coalition



Satta Sedi-Johnson, BA
Community Health Worker
at the Montagnard Dega Association

Moderators

Chamu Shanmugam, MD, MPH Candidate 2023
Research and Evaluation Intern at CCPH

Kunga Denzongpa, PhD, MPH
Evaluation Specialist of CCPH

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgell1CrQZQ>

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