



ARCHI's 2018 Health Equity Learning Journey

In December 2017, ARCHI's 90+ partner organizations committed to a yearlong exploration of the specific health inequities affecting Atlanta communities. This included a series of larger learning events paired with a smaller community of practice. The larger sessions were open to all ARCHI partners and any other community organizations, or community members they invited. The Community of Practice was an invited group of 15 professionals and community residents who attended the larger sessions and then met for an additional half-day dialogue to more deeply discuss the topics and the relevance for ARCHI's work.

The community wide learning series included a mix of breakfast meetings and day long learning sessions:

March 7, 2018 The Lasting Impacts of Housing Discrimination on the Health of Atlantans Part 1

ARCHI partners reviewed the history of housing discrimination in Atlanta. This included lending practices, zoning policies, fair housing violations and other pervasive practices that not only created a segregated but an unhealthy city. Discussion included a review of current housing policies and practices that are disproportionately impacting minorities and the ongoing work and litigation to stop these practices. Data linking housing discrimination with health impacts was explored.

Attendees: 120

April 25, 2018 Race and Place in Atlanta

ARCHI partners met to review the racial history of economic development and political power in Atlanta. Featuring both those whose expertise was developed from research and others whose expertise is from their lived experience, attendees considered how current health inequities in Atlanta stem from this pattern of public and private investment. Attendees also visited the exhibit at the Georgia State University Law School, "Health as a Human Right" <https://publichealth.gsu.edu/about/lectures-exhibits/health-exhibit/>

Attendees: 150

June 7, 2018 The Lasting Impacts of Housing Discrimination on the Health of Atlantans Part 2

There was such significant interest in exploring current manifestations of housing discrimination in Atlanta and their relationship to housing inequities from the March meeting, that this session continued the dialogue from March including a more extensive focus on the organizations working to combat discrimination and pending legislation.

Attendees: 120

June 20, 2018 Rides to Wellness

In partnership with the Atlanta transit authority—MARTA, ARCHI hosted a daylong meeting exploring the intersection of health and transportation in Atlanta. Experts shared the history of transportation investment and its disparate impacts on minority populations. Patients and Community Health Workers from the Grady Health System shared their experience with the project recently funded by the Federal Transit Administration to provide free transit rides to patients with chronic conditions that were having a hard time attending their scheduled appointments. Participants provided feedback to the transit authority on ways it could strengthen the connections between health and transportation in its current long term planning process.

Attendees: 200

September 5, 2018 The Health of Immigrants and Refugees in Atlanta

ARCHI partners focused on the specific health challenges facing immigrants and refugees in Atlanta. Local experts reviewed the changing demographics of the Atlanta region and the particular and distinct circumstances immigrants and refugees encounter when arriving in Atlanta, settling into Atlanta communities and seeking out health services, preventive or acute. Because of the adversity and trauma experienced by both of these populations, particular attention was paid to the lack of behavioral health services. The RWJF video telling the story of **Padam's and Purda's Path** was shared and followed by an in-depth discussion about how their stories and others like them are not yet part of the Atlanta narrative. Attendees discussed how important it is that they soon, become a full part of Atlanta's story.

Attendees: 120

Sept 26, 2018: The Physiology of Health Inequities

The learning series concluded with a daylong session in partnership with the Carter Center focused on the Physiology of Health Inequity. Dr Camara Jones and Dr. Shanta Dube presented on the impact of structural racism, adversity and trauma on health. Practitioners from with expertise in minority women's health, disability rights, immigrant health and victims of trauma shared their ongoing work in Atlanta, the challenges they face doing this work in Atlanta and the hopes they have for the future.

Mackenzie's Path in the RWJF Your Path to Our Health series was shared with attendees and in small groups they discussed how MacKenzie's Path included many of the concepts Drs Jones and Dube shared and the challenges and the opportunities his story poses for creating an Atlanta where everyone can thrive.

Attendees: 150

What's Next?

The ARCHI partnership will convene for a 3 hour session on December 5th to consider all that they have learned this year and provide input to the ARCHI Steering Committee as it develops a 2-3 year work plan to elevate health equity issues and concerns in Atlanta. This will likely include a commitment to continued learning, engagement with individuals and families in neighborhoods with high rates of health inequities and tools.