

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS & ASSET ASSESSMENT IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH HAITIAN RESIDENTS OF HARRIS COUNTY

BON SANTE ANSAN'M WORKSHOP REPORT

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships
(MAPP) Phase 3



“OUR DATA. OUR VOICE”

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About the Project

Houston Haitian Health Collaborative

Despite the growing Haitian/Haitian American community in Texas, data are limited on the health status and needs of this population. The purpose of the Houston Haitian Health Collaborative is to provide a collaborative space for under-represented communities such as, but not limited to, the Haitian community in Harris County to have a voice in public health data systems and solutions for the advancement of their health and quality of life. We're also fostering a spirit of cultural exchange and understanding with the broader Harris County community.

Thanks to financial support from the Episcopal Health Foundation, two workshops were implemented to get a better understanding of diabetes in the community. This event is a continuation of something we started building as a community. Last year, we came together with community members to dream about what healthier living (Bon Sante) could look like for our families and our neighbors. This year, we're turning that shared vision into action.



Event Summary

On July 18 and July 25, 2026, two community workshops brought together Haitian residents of Harris County to share their experiences, strengthen relationships, and envision a healthier future. These workshops were part of a broader effort to address a critical gap in public health data available on Haitians living in the United States, an immigrant population whose contributions and presence continue to grow yet remain underrepresented in health statistics.

The workshops also strengthened partnerships among Houston Haitians United, Haitian community members, and partner organizations, including Harris County Public Health and the Nourish Program at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health who curated a healthy recipe demonstration. Throughout both sessions, participants learned about primary and secondary diabetes prevention, connected with local diabetes-related resources, and worked together to co-design a culturally responsive diabetes prevention intervention that builds on the strengths and experiences already present within the Haitian community. Participants also received a small giveaway bag containing a healthy MyPlate mat, stress ball, educational materials, etc.

Facilitators & Partners

UTHealth Facilitation Team

Roldyne Dolcé, MPH (Houston)
Andrew Springer, DrPH (Austin)
Adelia Addo-Yobo, MPH Candidate & Intern
Carina Bell, MPH Candidate & Intern

Houston Haitians United

Nikki Dolcé
James Pierre
Jacksie Raymond

Additional Support

Melisa Danho, MPH, RDN, LD — Nourish Program
Mia Arredondo & Grace Owens — Dietetic Interns
Andrea Ponce & Emily Garcia — Harris County Public Health

Our Approach

MAPP Framework, Phase 3 — The Four Assessments

Guided by the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework, this project employed a community-engaged approach to inform the development of a culturally responsive, community-based diabetes intervention.

Following MAPP Phase 2 (Visioning), the project transitioned into Phase 3 (The Four MAPP Assessments) to better understand the health needs, community assets, strengths, and priorities of Houston's Haitian community. As part of Phase 3, two community workshops were conducted to engage participants, gather community perspectives, identify community strengths, and inform future intervention planning. Community feedback was collected through guided group discussions, participatory activities, and workshop evaluations.

On July 18, 13 Haitian residents participated at Yahweh Adoration Center, and on July 25, about 25 Haitian residents participated at First Haitian Church of God. Participants included Haitian faith leaders, community leaders, representatives from community organizations, elders, and families with children.

The workshops incorporated Appreciative Inquiry (AI) principles, engaging participants in identifying community strengths and encouraging collaborative dialogue about future diabetes prevention efforts. Consistent with a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach, AI emphasizes collaboration, community strengths, and shared decision-making throughout the planning process. Participants learned about primary and secondary diabetes prevention, shared their lived experiences, identified strengths already present within the Haitian community, connected with local diabetes-related resources, and collaboratively generated ideas to inform the development of a future culturally responsive diabetes prevention intervention. All activities were conducted in English and Haitian Creole, and catered by local Caribbean restaurants.



Initial Findings

Themes across both workshops

Across the July 18th and July 25th workshops, several consistent themes emerged related to physical activity, healthy eating, and diabetes prevention and management.

Physical Activity

Activities & Places

Walking and going to the gym were most enjoyed; home and parks were the most common places to be active.

Barriers

Time management and discipline; pain/ headaches, work-life balance, and gas prices.

Intervention Suggestions

More community resources, networking opportunities, group chats, and activity clubs.

Healthy Eating

Foods & Stores

Rice and chicken were commonly reported foods; HEB, Sam's Club, and Walmart were common grocery stores

Barriers

Cost; time, portion sizes/ingredients, limited awareness of resources/ education, and taste preferences.

Intervention Suggestions

Meal prep and planning, setting aside time to cook, better access to food resources, and partnerships with churches, community centers, food banks, hospitals, and community gardens.

Diabetes Prevention

Helpful Habits

Physical activity, healthy eating, a healthy mindset, and checking blood sugar.

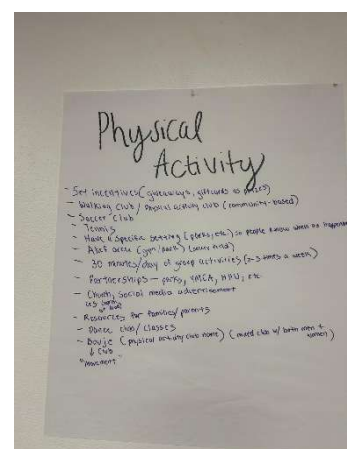
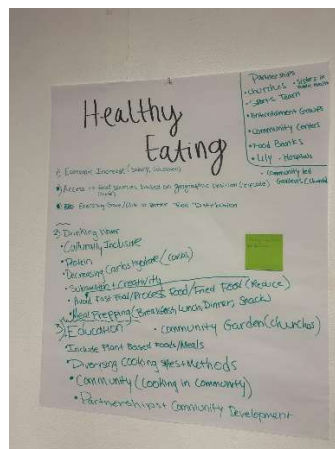
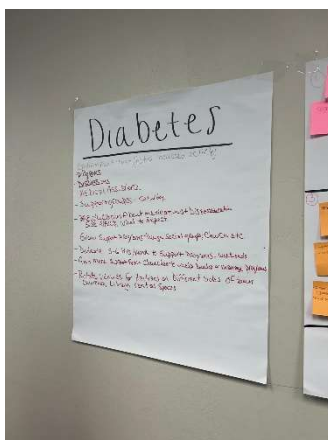
Resources & Challenges

Hospitals and primary care providers support screening, care, and information; challenges include completing activities on time and finding food alternatives.

Intervention Suggestions

Education programs in familiar community settings such as after-church activities, community involvement, and welcoming, broadly accessible venues.

Bringing the Themes to Life



Participant Feedback

Result of event evaluations

38

Attendees Across Both Events

16

Evaluations Completed

100%

Enjoyed the meeting

Evaluation Results

93.8%	strongly agree / agree that the "meeting purpose was clearly stated."
93.8%	strongly agree / agree that "all meeting participants were actively involved."
93.3%	strongly agree / agree that "I am satisfied with the opportunities for participation and sharing."
93.3%	strongly agree / agree that "meeting structure allowed for full participation."
87.5%	strongly agree / agree that the "meeting materials provided were informative and useful."
93.8%	strongly agree / agree that the "discussion was focused."
100.0%	strongly agree / agree that the "issues covered were important."
81.3%	strongly agree / agree that "we used our meeting time effectively."
93.3%	strongly agree / agree that the "time given to all agenda items was adequate."
93.8%	strongly agree / agree that "I enjoyed this meeting."

What Participants Said

"The group chats were very productive."

"Diabetes prevention, healthy eating and physical activity."

"Time management could be more effective."

I like the team bonding.

I love the closing activity.

The activities and engagement and the discussion of the topic of diabetes.

The activity portion as well as the yarn activity.

The meeting was so good.

This was very informative and would suggest maybe doing this quarterly.

All of it. Loved seeing everyone participate. # Haitians in action.

I loved everything about it. The presentation, discussion, and food. Well done!

How talked together!

