

Community-Based Capacity Building: Academic-Community Partnerships Using Participatory Action Research To Bridge across the US Affiliated Pacific Islands

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MĀNOA

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US Affiliated Pacific Islands

- Micronesia means 'small islands'
- Different languages
- Separate cultures
- Lower income and life expectancy
- Gateway to Asia for the US
- Travel to US without visa for health, education and employment



Continental/Continental Express/Continental Connection Route ----- Time zone boundary

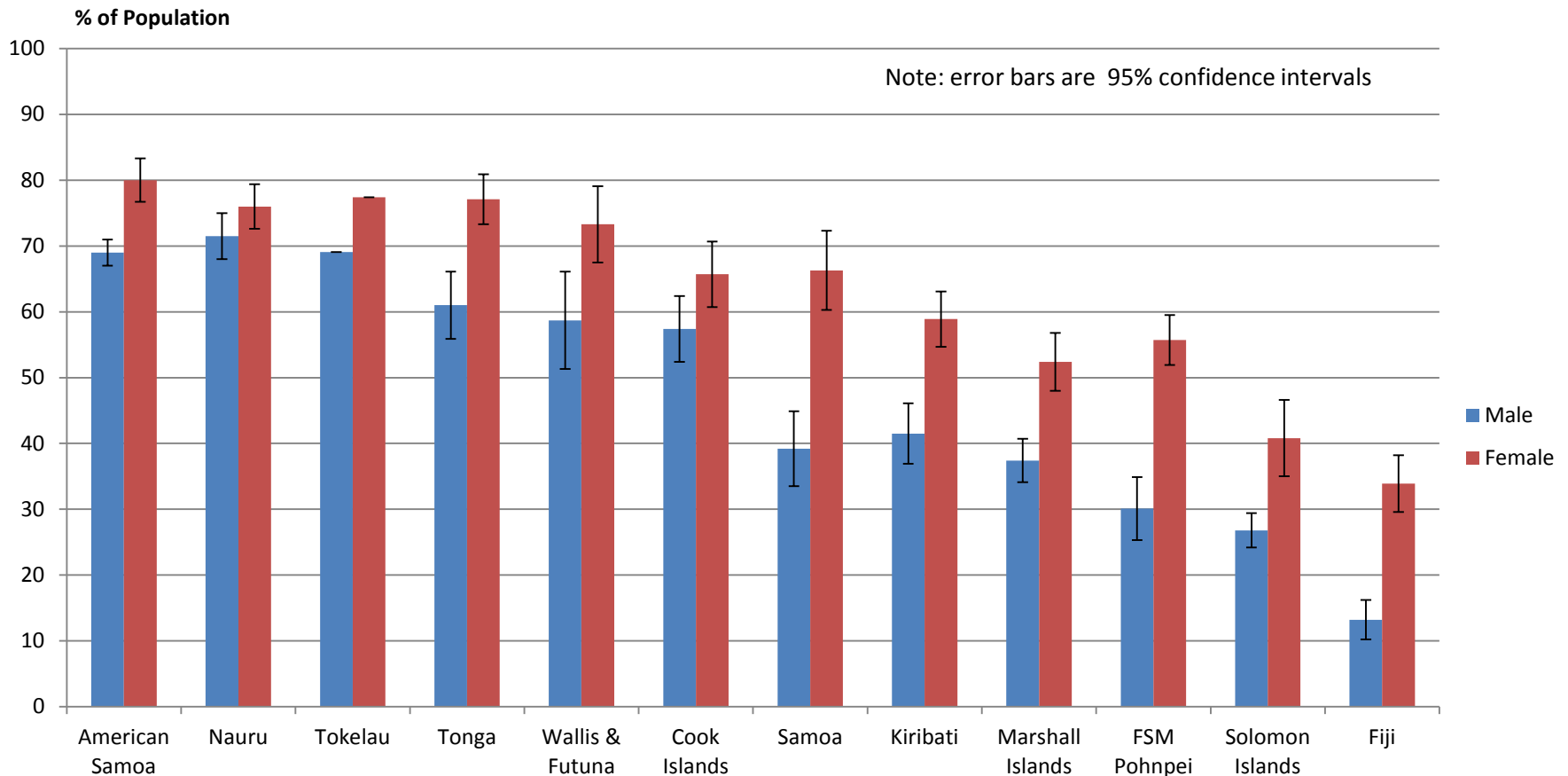


State of Health Emergency on Non Communicable Diseases

The islands have some of the highest rates of non-communicable disease in the world. Obesity, diabetes, heart diseases, strokes, cancer . . .

Highest Rates of Obesity

Obesity Age Standardised Population Aged 25-64



Source: PICT NCD risk factor STEPS reports, 2005-2010

Project Rationale

Life expectancy	9-12 yrs. shorter than US
Fertility rates	3.2 times that of US
Risk of death related to pregnancy	1/62 vs. 1/7300 in US
Youth Risk Behavior (2007 Survey)	80% of adolescents inadequate fruits & veg; 69% low levels of activity; 31% of children overweight or obese
Obesity and Diabetes	High prevalence Some islands 70% of adults BMI>30 and 50% have Type II DM

Nurses are connected to communities

- Most trusted profession
- Almost every family has a nurse
- Influence at the individual, community, business and policy levels

Aims of Project

- **Establish a partnership** for CBPR between the academic organizations and relevant organizations
- Identify, document and highlight **local health disparity conditions** in children and the community's view of its own health problems
- Form an **alignment between community organizations** and the applicant institution/ organization's research priorities for the conduct of CBPR



Key Partners

Academic (nursing programs)

- University of Guam
- College of the Marshall Islands
- College of Micronesia (Pohnpei campus)
- College of the Commonwealth of the N. Marianas
- Palau Community College

Pacific Organizations and Community

- American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council
- Pacific Island Health Officers Association
- Pacific Island Primary Care Association
- Chuuk Women's Council

World Health Organization

US Public Health Service

Schools at the University of Hawaii

- Nursing, Public Health, Medicine, CTAHR



Key Partners Navigate the Project

Collectivistic Approach

- Determine who should be at the table
- Devise strategy to frame priority health issue
- Collect data relative to children
- Identify assets to mitigate the issue
- Develop culturally responsive plan of action
- Pilot the plan



Identify Key Stakeholders

APNLC (chief nurse for hospital, public health, education and professional organization)

- Group brainstormed to identify key partners
- Consulted with others
- Snowball technique to widen the circle



Assess Community Priorities

- Reviewed the literature (done by academic partners)
- Spoke to key leaders (formal and informal)
- Attended meetings and conferences that focused on non-communicable diseases (NCD's) in the Pacific
- Individual meetings in participating jurisdictions, included nurses, directors of health, public health and key community leaders

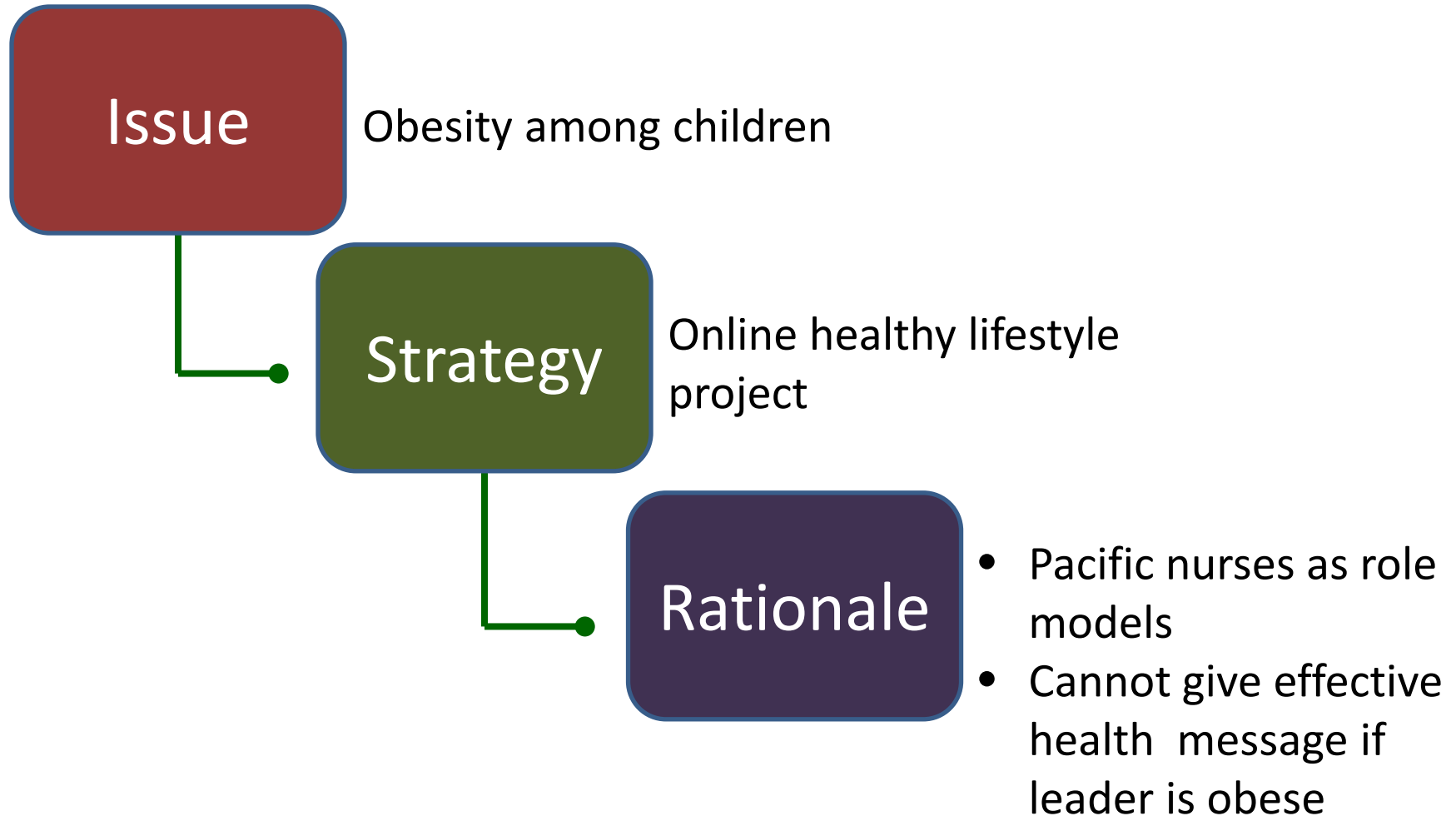


Outreach and Educational Events

- Presented at three APNLC Meetings
- Presented at two PIHOA Meetings
- Supported APNLC leaders to participate in the in PIHOA sponsored NCD strategy meeting
- Brought APNLC leaders to Honolulu for two work meetings and educational sessions
- Presented at the HRSA Women's Health meeting
- Individual travel to Pacific to meet with leaders/ community groups



Issue Identification and Strategy





AN APNLC PROJECT

Healthy Nurses & Healthy Children

IN THE PACIFIC

Website

Online blog

Photos

Stories



AN APNLC PROJECT

**Healthy Nurses
& Healthy Children**
IN THE PACIFIC

Participants

- Chuuk
- Guam
- Saipan
- RMI (Majuro)
- Palau
- Pohnpei
- Saipan

Weekly Activities

- Week 1. Meet and greet
- Week 2. Physical activity
- Week 3. Agricultural activity
- Week 4. Community service
- Week 5. Physical activity
- Week 6. Healthy food activity
- Week 7. Take the lead (policy and education)
- Week 8. Healthy Celebration

- Weekly nurse and child web posting
- Activity photos
- Stories, experiences and comments

Challenges in Building Partnerships

- Rivalry and conflict among different groups
- Players changed
 - APNLC President term ended, new leader elected
 - Other partners retired, moved or reassigned to a new position
 - Power differentials



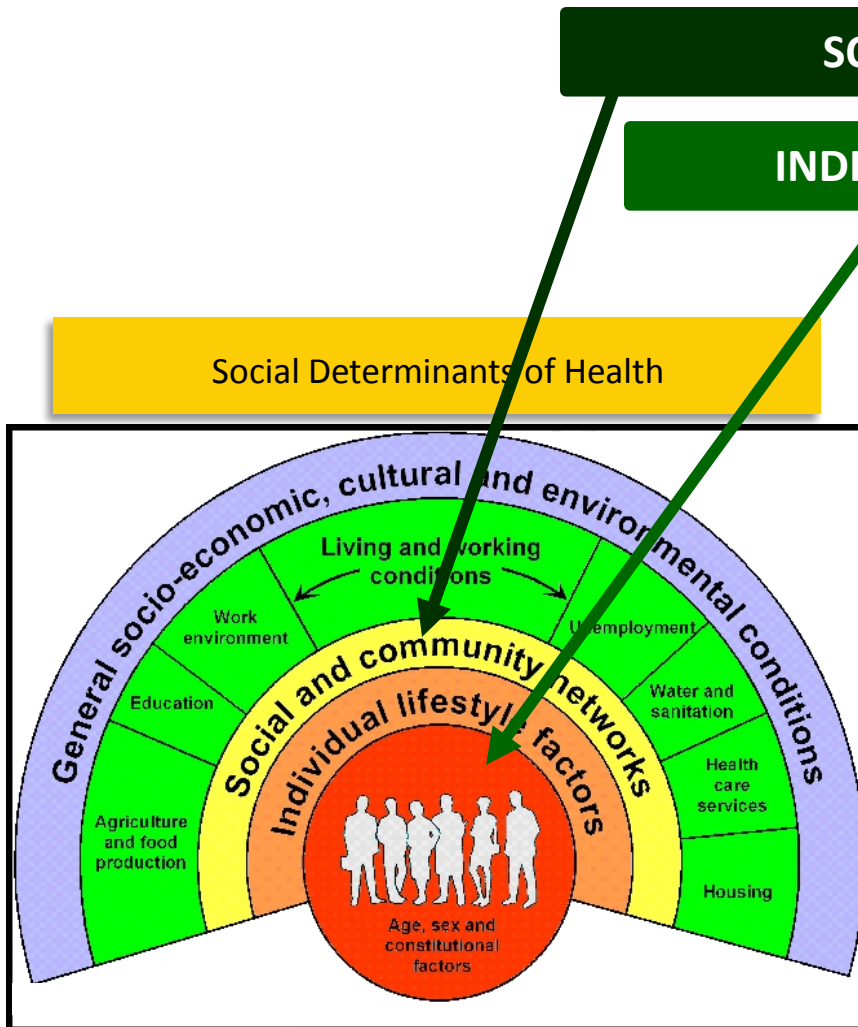
Lessons Learned

- Many issues related to obesity are not individual factors
- Most prominent factors
 - Built environment
 - Economics
 - Political policy

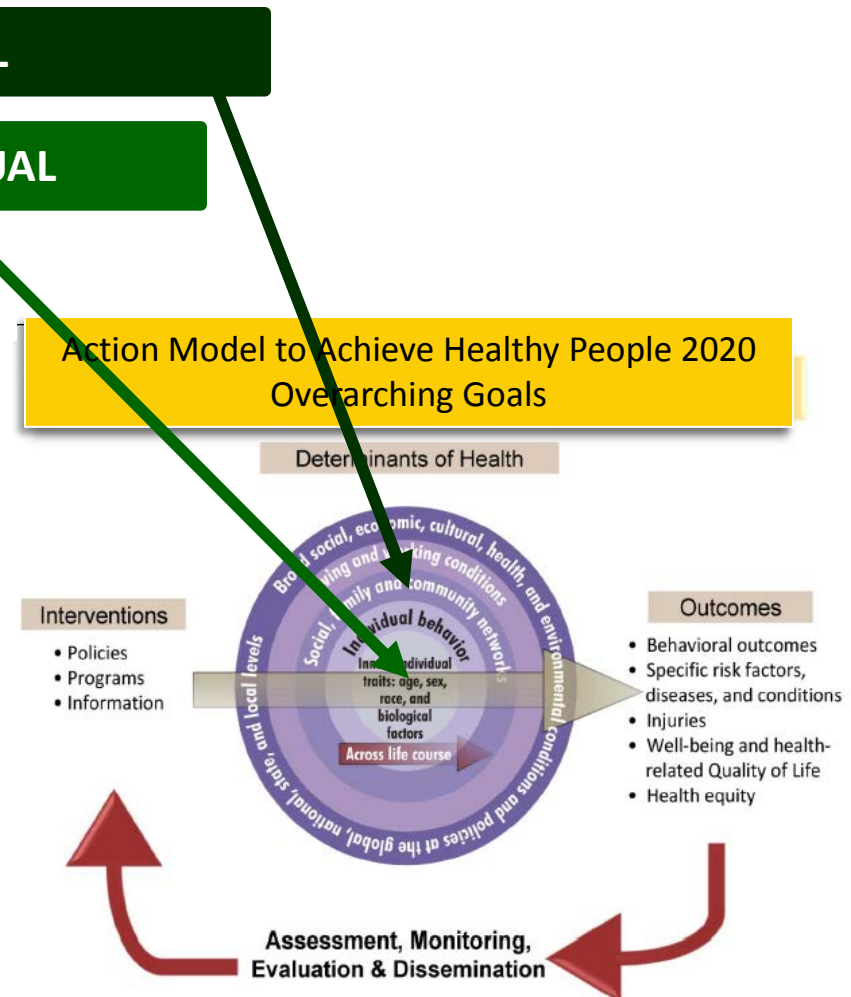


Original Focus

Individual and Social Determinants



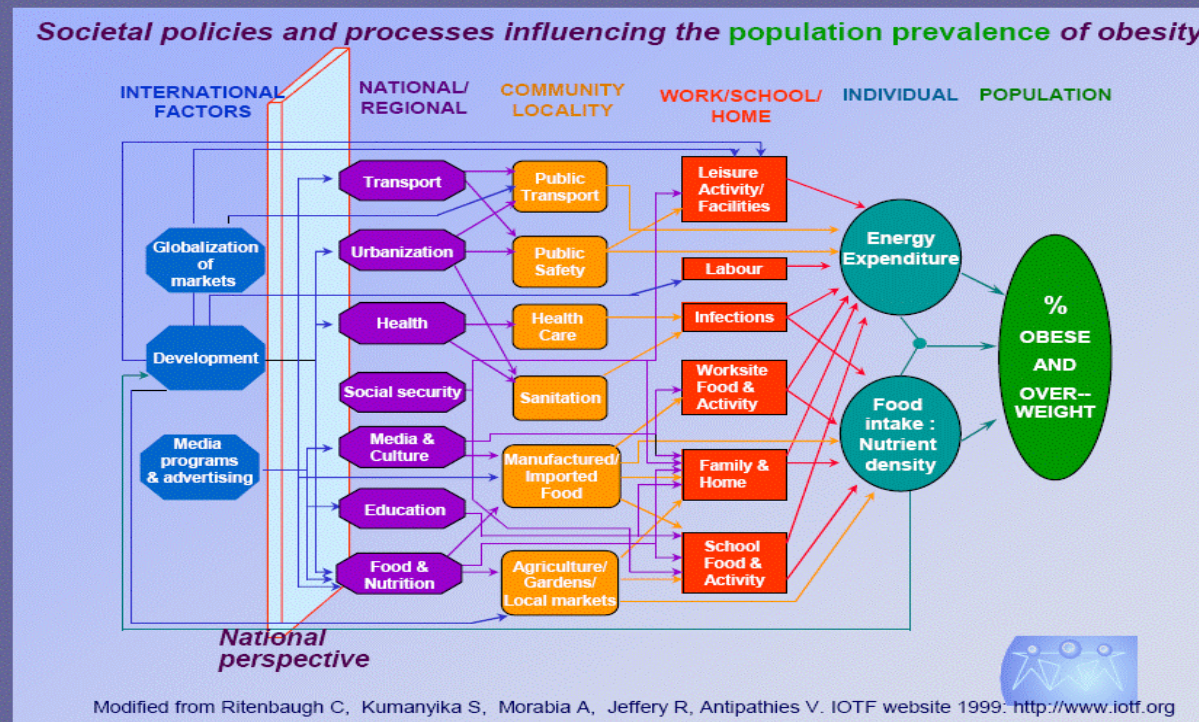
Dahlgren & Whitehead, 1991



Healthy People 2020

Expanded Focus

The International Obesity Task Force Model of The Social Determinants of Obesity



Future Directions

- Pilot project with expansion of focus
- Expand Pilot focus to include resources and power to affect built environment and supply of healthy food
 - Engage Pacific business
 - Engage political leaders



Mahalo Nui Loa

(Thank You Very Much)



