In New York alone, crimes against Asians have increased 223 percent from 2020 to 2021.1 This has been associated with an increase in anxiety among Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs).2 This population has the lowest reported use of mental health care utilization.3 Intersection of minority identity compounds health risks due to exposure to racism, homophobia, and transphobia.4 There is an increased need to ensure LGBTQI APIs have resources tailored to address cultural and systematic barriers to adequate healthcare.

The Apicha Community Health Center serves the API LGBTQI population of New York City. Project Connect is an intervention program run through Apicha that serves this community to address primary care, mental, and sexual health needs. Program coordinator has maintained frequency of workshop and forum meetings therefore conserving program impacts this.

**Program of Study**
- The Apicha Community Health Center serves the API LGBTQI population of New York City.
- Project Connect is an intervention program run through Apicha that serves this community to address primary care, mental, and sexual health needs.
- Identify role models for younger generations of this culturally diverse population segment with the intention of building community and sharing experiences of navigating the world as an API LGBTQI person. Mentee pairing meet monthly in educational forums to discuss topics related to sexual and mental health as well as pride in LGBTQI API identity and career development.
- A Healthier Me! Skills Workshop is a series of one-off workshops that address similar topics and is open to anyone.

**Methods**
- Perform a program evaluation to determine how to improve program outcomes
- Create survey tool to measure program satisfaction and outcomes among participants

**Introduction**

**Inputs**
- STAFF Resources:
  - Jessica Works, project coordinator
  - Melanie Duffo, supervisor
  - Arun Chang, outreach specialist
- Program coordinators:
  - Apicha clinic, pharmacy, and ancillary staff
  - Mentors
  - Workshop leaders

**Activities**
- Intake forms:
  - Active engagement with mentors
- Demography of workshops held:
  - Attendance of forums indicating a decrease in fidelity and reach
- Participation rate of meetings with mentors:
- Interaction with social media posts

**Outputs**
- Reduced risky sexual behavior
- Increased adoption of coping mechanisms
- Increased utilization of mental health services
- Increased utilization of primary care services

**Discussion/Conclusion**

The program evaluation of Project Connect shows that both GAYME and A Healthier Me! Skills Workshop have distinct strengths and weaknesses that have been impacted by the current pandemic. For instance, while A Healthier Me! has been able to translate to online format with relative success and maintenance of fidelity and reach, it appears that the GAYME has suffered in terms of these metrics. Furthermore, the lack of measurement for outside meetings between mentors and mentees represents a huge threat to maintaining the program’s fidelity and reach. Both programs lack longitudinal measurement of each participant’s attendance, compromising the ability to measure dose.

Qualitative and quantitative measurements of Project Connect from participants of the previous cycle of GAYME have been mostly positive. It would be interesting to see how participants of A Healthier Me! Skills Workshop would respond to these questions. Future analysis should focus on how participants in a post-pandemic world operate within their sexual, romantic, and platonic relationships, as well as how participating in this program impacts this.

**Results**

- **Long-term**
  - Increased self-esteem
  - Increased leadership and solidarity
- **Short-term**
  - Reduced transmission of STDs, including HIV among API LGBTQI youth
  - Increased API LGBTQI youth engagement

**Program Coordinator**

- Maintain program goals
- Facilitate weekly meetings with mentors
- Help mentees overcome barriers to attending workshops and forums

**Impact**

- Reduced transmission of STDs, including HIV among API LGBTQI youth
- Increased API LGBTQI youth engagement
- Empowered resilience

- **Results**
  - **Program coordinator** has maintained frequency of workshop and forum meetings therefore conserving intended dose
  - **Marked decrease** in the number of mentor/mentee meetings and attendance of forums indicating a decrease in fidelity and reach
  - **Project Connect** has maintained its goal number referrals to primary, sexual, and mental health resources among participants throughout pandemic
  - **Newly created survey** for outcome measurement showed majority of participants of GAYME felt a sense of connection to others in the program
  - Qualitatively, participants noted they felt significant dissolution of bonds during pandemic
  - Most popular requests were for continued gatherings of previous cohorts

**Qualitative and Quantitative Measurements**

**In-Program Evaluation**

Program coordinator has maintained frequency of workshop and forum meetings therefore conserving program impacts this.

**Discussion/Conclusion**

The program evaluation of Project Connect shows that both GAYME and A Healthier Me! Skills Workshop have distinct strengths and weaknesses that have been impacted by the current pandemic. For instance, while A Healthier Me! has been able to translate to online format with relative success and maintenance of fidelity and reach, it appears that the GAYME has suffered in terms of these metrics. Furthermore, the lack of measurement for outside meetings between mentors and mentees represents a huge threat to maintaining the program’s fidelity and reach. Both programs lack longitudinal measurement of each participant’s attendance, compromising the ability to measure dose.

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**Bibliography**


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**Faculty Advisor**

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