



UW Medicine
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Designing and Conducting Research for Health Equity

Tumaini R. Coker, MD, MBA
Professor of Pediatrics
Division Chief, General Pediatrics

Disclosures

- I have nothing to disclose
- **This talk will assume the following prerequisite knowledge:**

Race is a social construct. Do not use race as a biological variable or factor in research, or in life.

The reason is “racism”, and not “race”. This takes practice and intention, particularly in writing and reviewing papers.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the ways in which we exclude Black, Brown, language-other than English (LOE), low-income, and LGBTQ people from research
- Learn how to design and conduct your research to increase health equity
- Learn how to effectively partner with community organizations for research

Health Equity and Disparities



Health equity: social justice in health (i.e., no one is denied the possibility to be healthy based on group status).



Health disparities are the **metric** we use to measure progress toward achieving health equity.



A reduction in health disparities is evidence that we are **moving toward greater health equity**.

Braveman P. What are health disparities and health equity? We need to be clear. Public Health Rep. 2014;129 Suppl 2(Suppl 2):5-8. doi:10.1177/00333549141291S203

Objective 1:

Identify the ways in which we exclude Black, Brown, LOE, low-income, and LGBTQ people from research

Examples of Who We Exclude from Research

- Limited English Proficiency (IRB approved)
- Race or Ethnicity (implicit bias and racism)
- Socioeconomic status (research design)
- Disabled individuals (by protocol)
- LGBTQ (exclusionary survey questions)



Why does it matter?

A rising tide lifts all boats, No.

Case Study: Improving Access to Diagnostic Assessments for Autism Spectrum Disorder Using an Arena Model



Comprehensive,
interdisciplinary model for ASD
diagnosis and treatment
planning

Phelps, RA Coker, TR. First, Do No Harm: Improving Access in Autism Diagnostic Assessments for Children Without Exacerbating Inequities in Care, Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, 2019

©2020 Proprietary and Confidential. All Rights Reserved.

Case Study: Improving Access to Diagnostic Assessments for Autism Spectrum Disorder Using an Arena Model



Reduced wait time to diagnosis from **139** days to **14** days

Drastic improvements in efficiency, time to evaluation and final diagnosis, parent and clinician satisfaction, and reduced costs of evaluation

Phelps, RA Coker, TR. First, Do No Harm: Improving Access in Autism Diagnostic Assessments for Children Without Exacerbating Inequities in Care, Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, 2019

©2020 Proprietary and Confidential. All Rights Reserved.

Case Study: Improving Access to Diagnostic Assessments for Autism Spectrum Disorder Using an Arena Model



Time to first visit: 122 to **85** days for usual care; intervention 122 to **19** days

Phelps, RA Coker, TR. First, Do No Harm: Improving Access in Autism Diagnostic Assessments for Children Without Exacerbating Inequities in Care, Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, 2019

©2020 Proprietary and Confidential. All Rights Reserved.

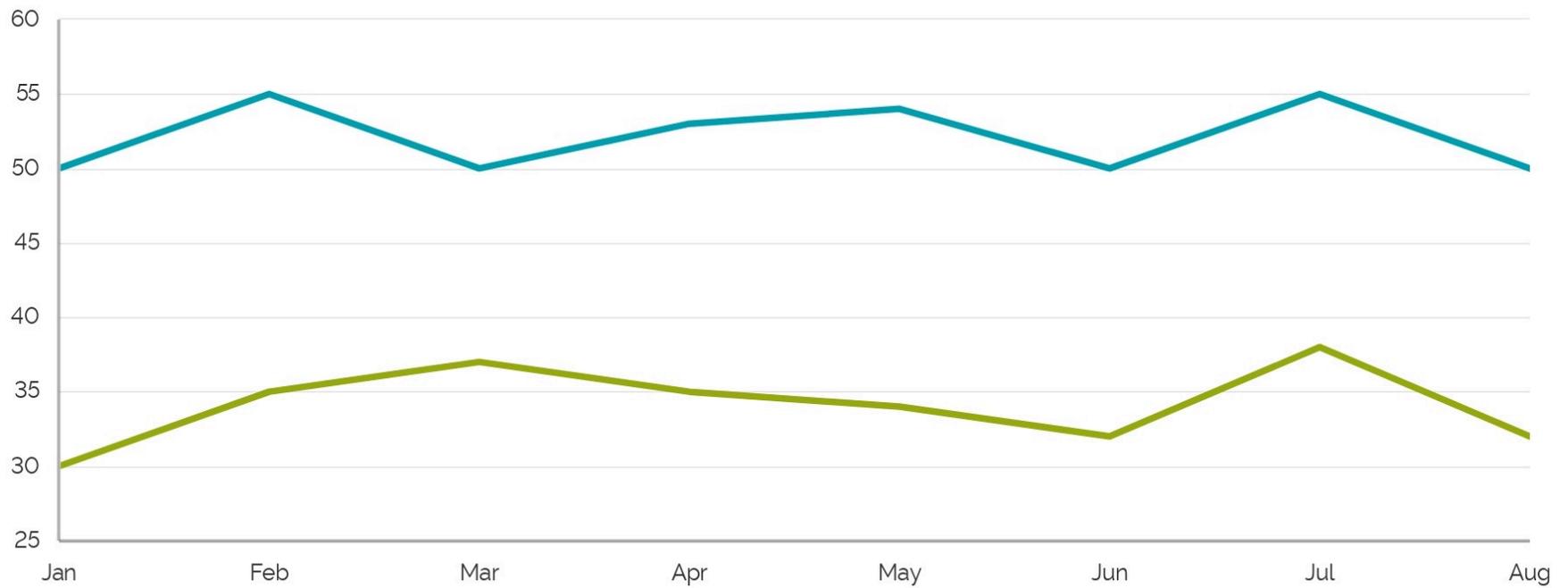
Objective 2:

Learn how to design and conduct your research to increase health equity

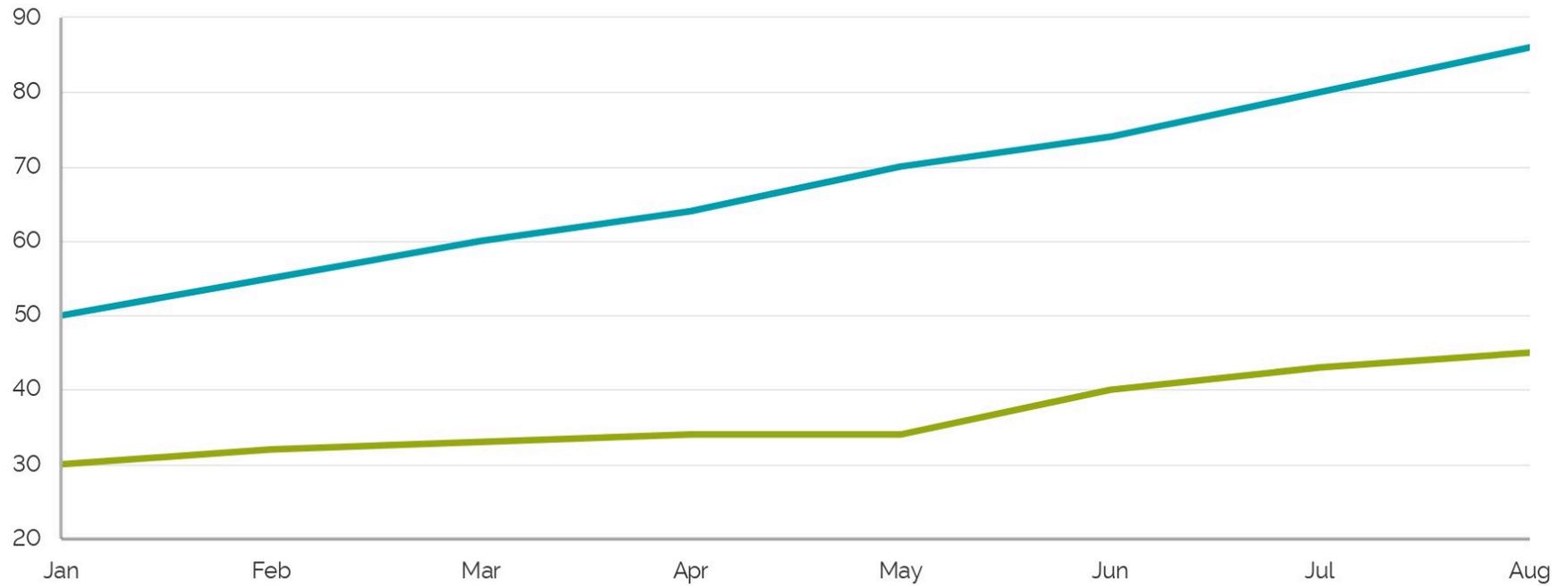
What Impact will you have?

- Maintain the Disparity
- Widen the Disparity
- **Reduce the Disparity**

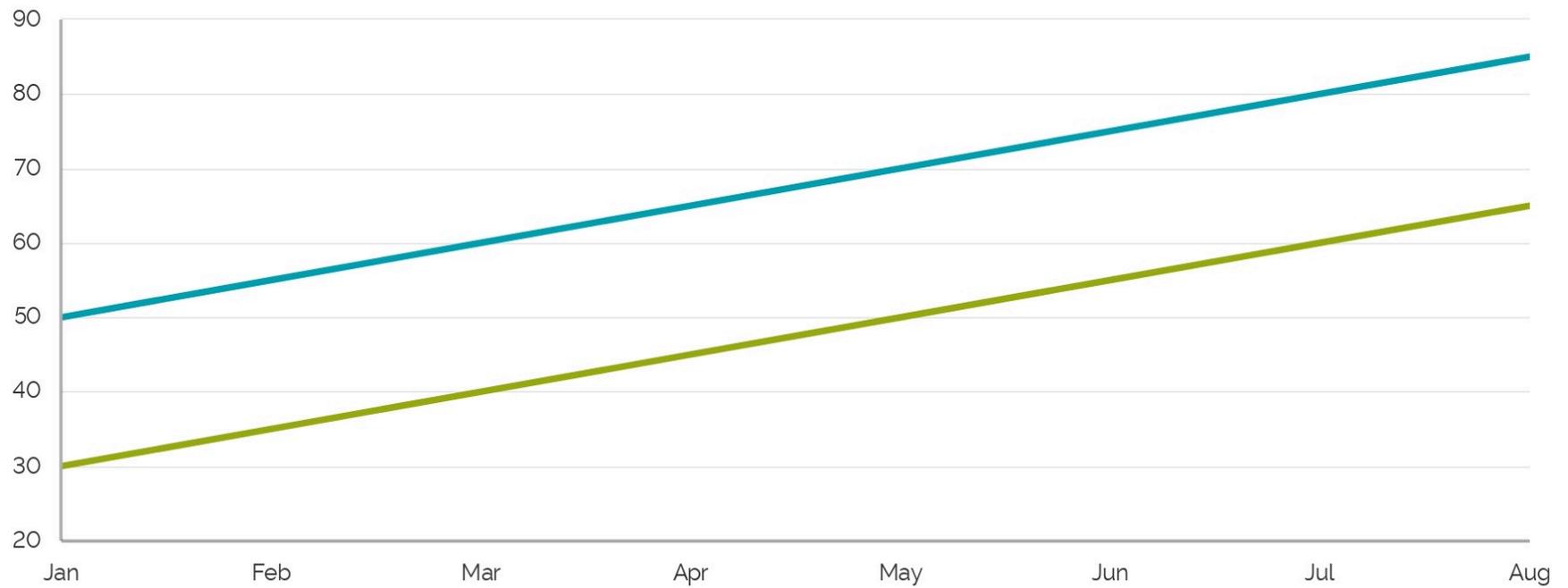
Baseline Disparity



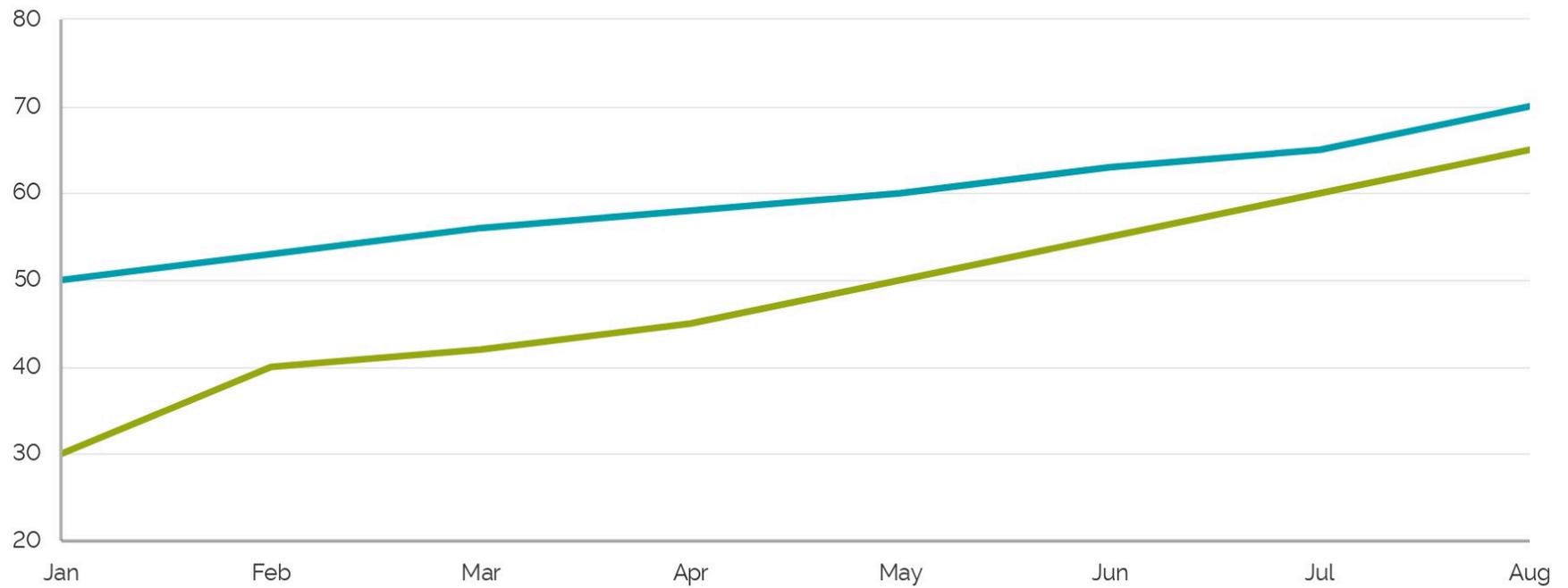
Widen the Disparity



Maintain the Disparity



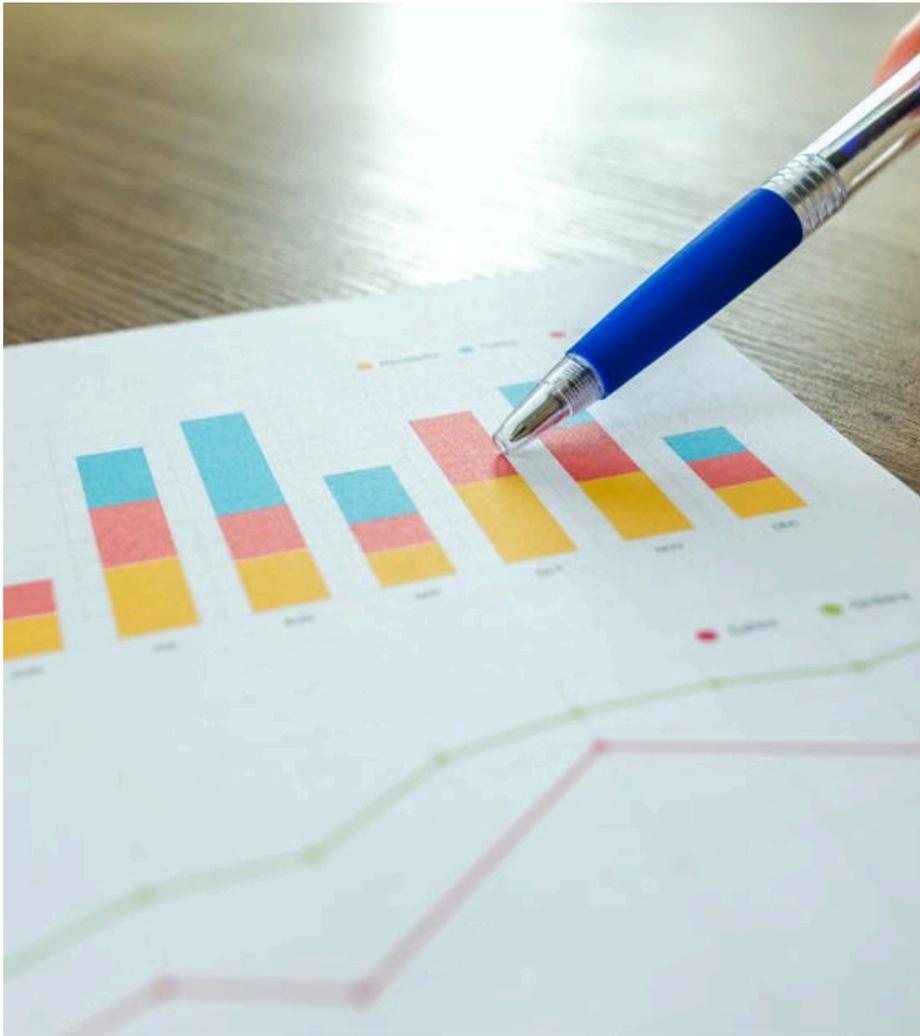
Narrow the Disparity





Focus

on groups experiencing the disparity



Identify

existing disparities and the impacted groups

Examine Your Data by REL

Race/Ethnicity

Language

Socioeconomic Proxies

insurance, zip code

Other Factors

Design

**research in partnership with
populations of focus**

Formative Work

Study Design

Interventions

Dissemination

Lion KC, Raphael JL. Partnering Health Disparities Research With
Quality Improvement Science in Pediatrics. Pediatrics. 2015.



Resources

ensure the research intervention and protocol fit the resources and capacity of the population of focus



Objective 3:

**Learn how to effectively partner
with communities for research**



Community Engagement

The process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests or similar situations to address issues affecting the wellbeing of those people. (CDC)

Community

any entity outside of an academic institution

Continuum of Engagement



Community-Engagement

- Identify and engage a partner
- Create policies, structures, and processes
- Use a Community Advisory Board or Council
- Don't forget the WIIFM-WIFU

Value Your Community Partners



Share the Funds!



Be Mindful of
Operational Costs



Consider utilizing
community resources
for staffing



Be transparent

Community Partnership Guide for Engaging with Academic Researchers

STEP
1

Screening
Questions



STEP
2

Plan Your
Engagement



STEP
3

Memorandum of
Understanding

Step 1: Decide which projects to learn more about

Step 2: Plan your Research Project Engagement

Step 3: Create a Memorandum of Understanding

<https://www.iths.org/community/partners/isp/>



Uptake

With bi-directional trust building and community-engagement, we can increase uptake of the research

EDI Research Consultation

Research Consultation Service

[HTTPS://WWW.ITHS.ORG/COMMUNITY/PARTNERS/ISP/](https://www.iths.org/community/partners/isp/)



Thank You

tumaini.coker@seattlechildrens.org