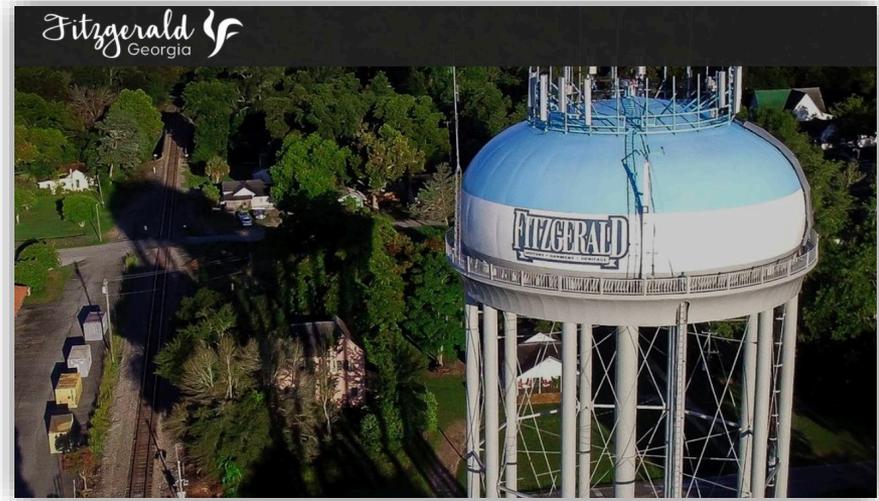


Exploring community and provider perspectives on barriers to the adoption of a free medical clinic model in Fitzgerald, Georgia:

A path to equitable access to preventive care

Kenya Murray, MPH, CPH
Doctoral Student
Epidemiology and Biostatistics
2021 Health Equity Fellow



Partner City: Fitzgerald, GA



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
College of Public Health

PURSUE UNDERSTANDING.
TAKE ACTION.

Overview

- **Define health equity**
- **Describe life in Fitzgerald, GA**
- **Review demographic profile**
- **Describe research study**
- **Discuss next steps**



Health Equity Definition

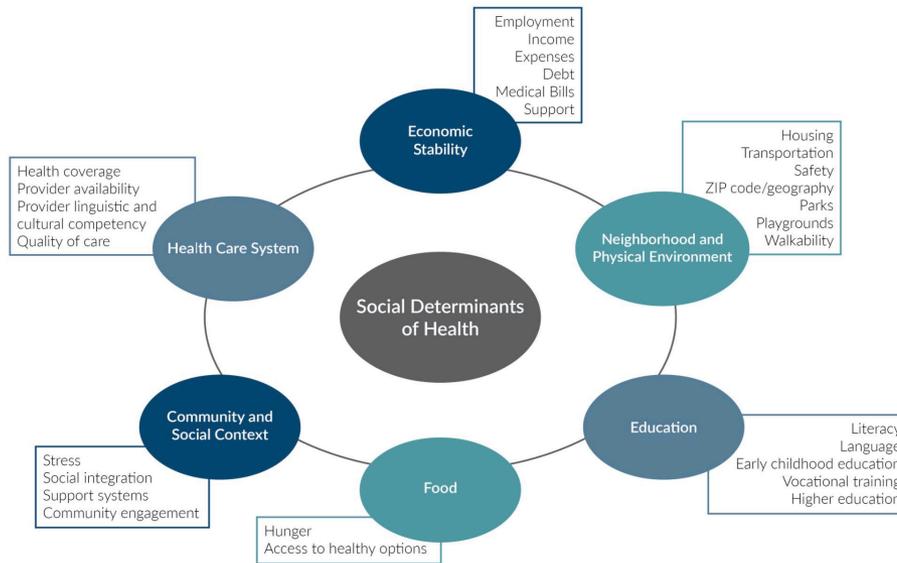
Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. To achieve this, we must remove obstacles to health — such as poverty, discrimination, and deep power imbalances — and their consequences, including lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care¹

¹Braveman P, Arkin E, Orleans T, Proctor D, and Plough A. What Is Health Equity? And What Difference Does a Definition Make? Princeton, NJ: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2017



Social Determinants of Health and Equity

Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Equity²

Wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life preventing marginalized communities from experiencing healthy lives

- Racism
- Sexism
- Ageism
- Classism
- Heterosexism
- Ableism

Achieve improvement in health outcomes

Must address both

Achieve social justice and eliminate health disparities

²Jones CP, Jones CY, Perry GS, Barclay G, Jones CA. Addressing the social determinants of children's health: a cliff analogy. Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved. 2009

Life in Fitzgerald

- Located in south central region of Georgia
- Only incorporated city in Ben Hill County
- Mayor: Jim Puckett
- Rich in community resources and social cohesion



**Wild Burmese Chicken
Festival**



Harmony Jubilee



Homecoming



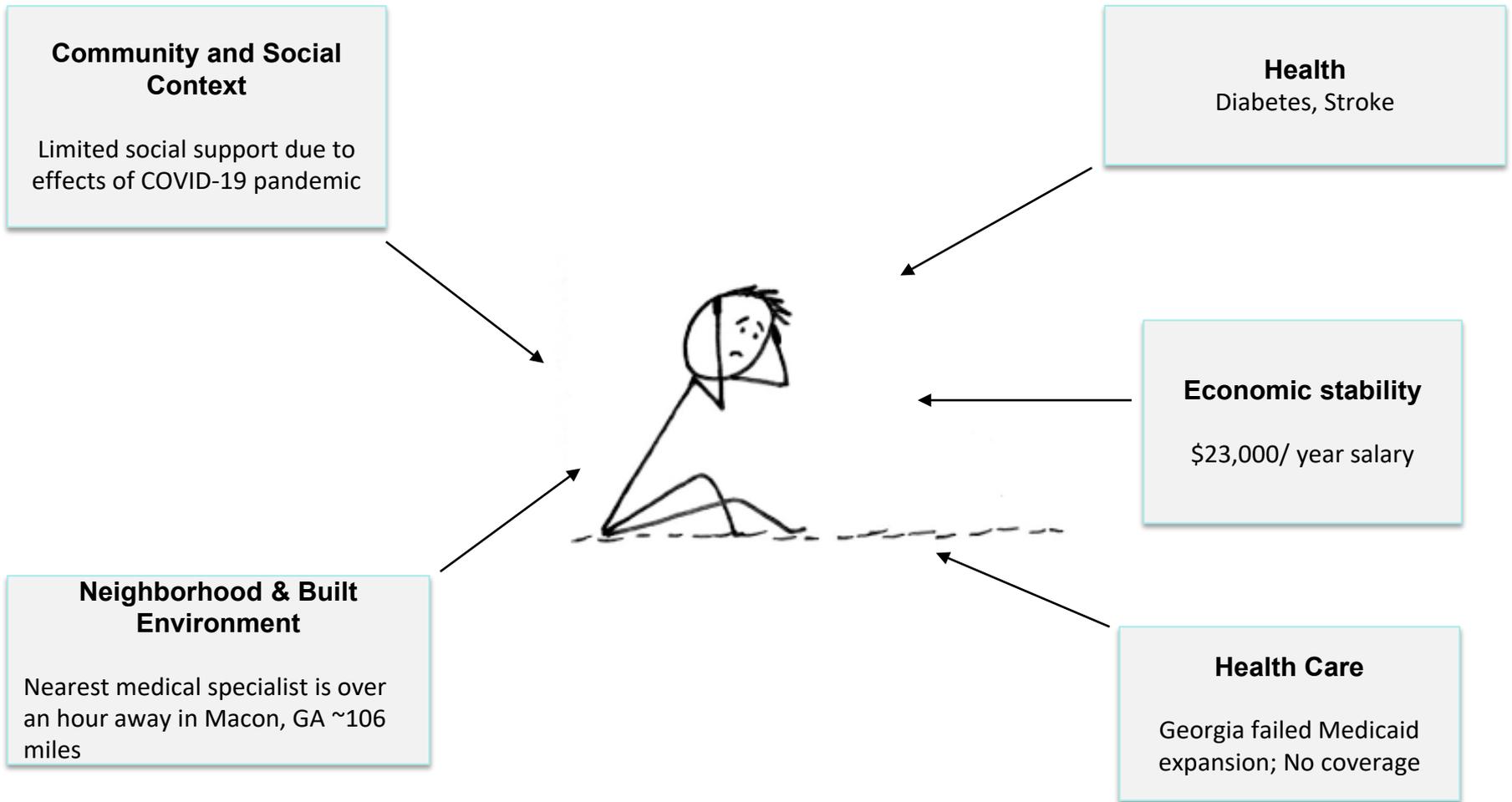
Demographic Profile Comparison³

	Fitzgerald	Ben Hill County	Georgia
Total Population	8,662	16,700	10,403,847
Median Household Income	\$24,885	\$32,229	\$58,700
Individuals in Poverty (%)	35.7%	22.8%	13.5%
Children in Poverty (%)	54%	49%	22%
Race/ethnicity			
Black	57%	37%	32%
White	39%	60%	60%
Hispanic	1%	6%	10%

³ US Census Bureau Quick Facts. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/GA.benhillcountygeorgia,fitzgeraldcitygeorgia/AGE295219>



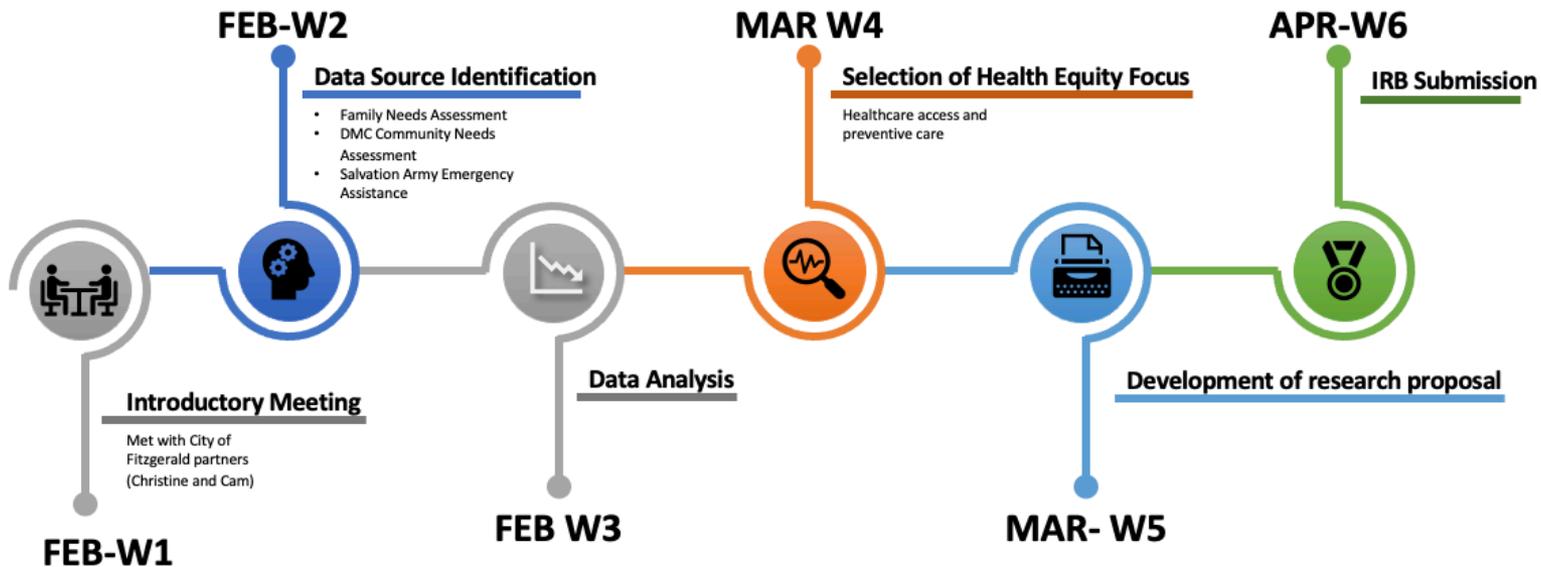
Life in Fitzgerald – The Other Story*



*Fictitious Story

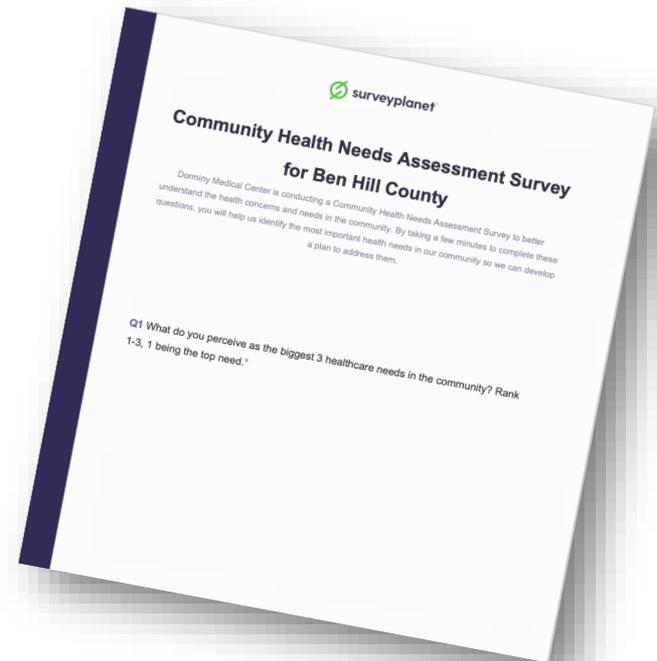


Our Approach– Fellowship Timeline



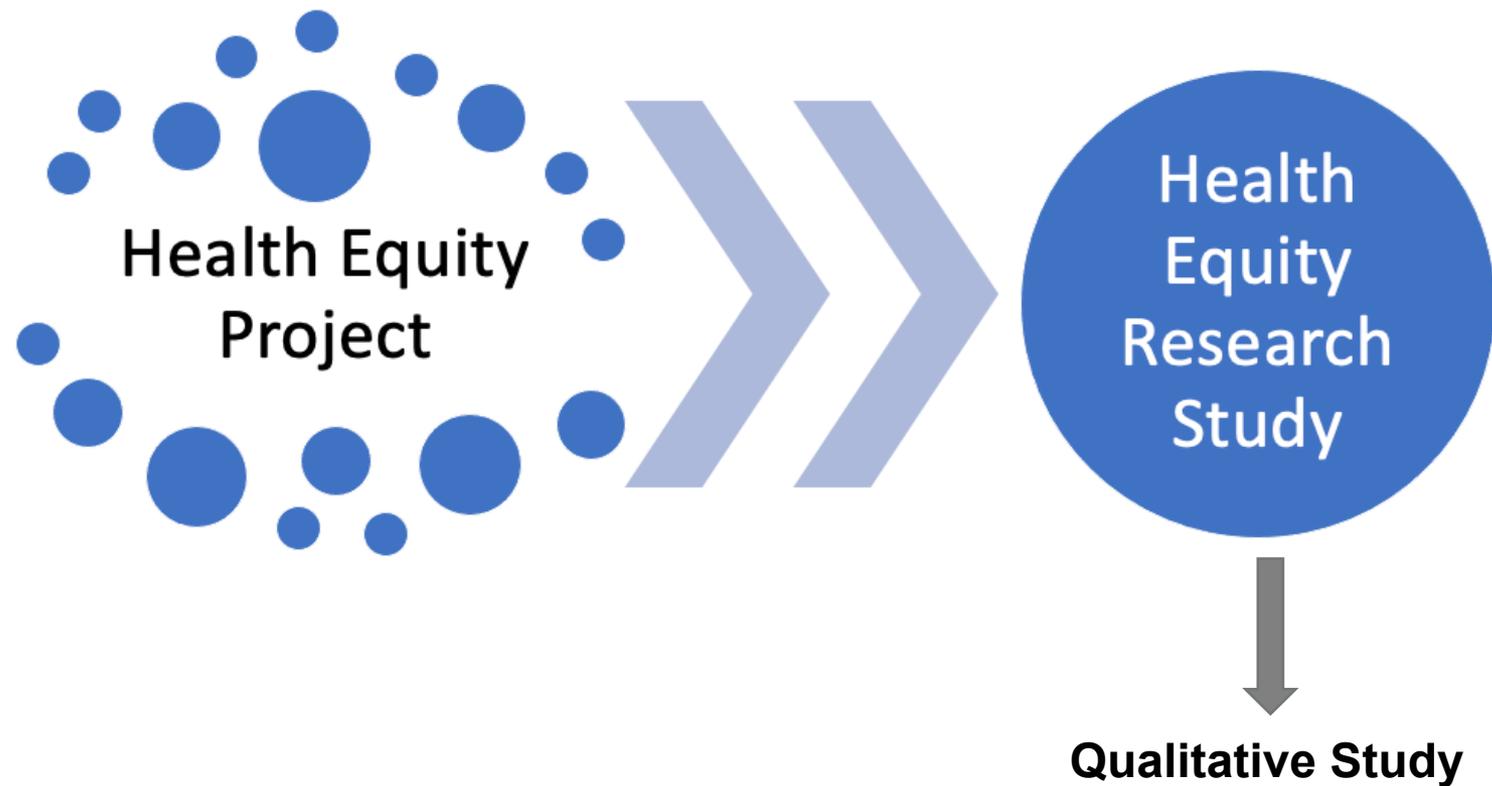
Data Analysis

- Number of respondents: 33
- Three major areas of healthcare needs:
 - Primary/Preventive Care
 - Obesity/Nutrition assistance
 - Chronic disease education
- Perceived barriers to care
 - Cost
 - Insurance coverage
 - Education



Health Equity Area of Focus

Preventive Care Access



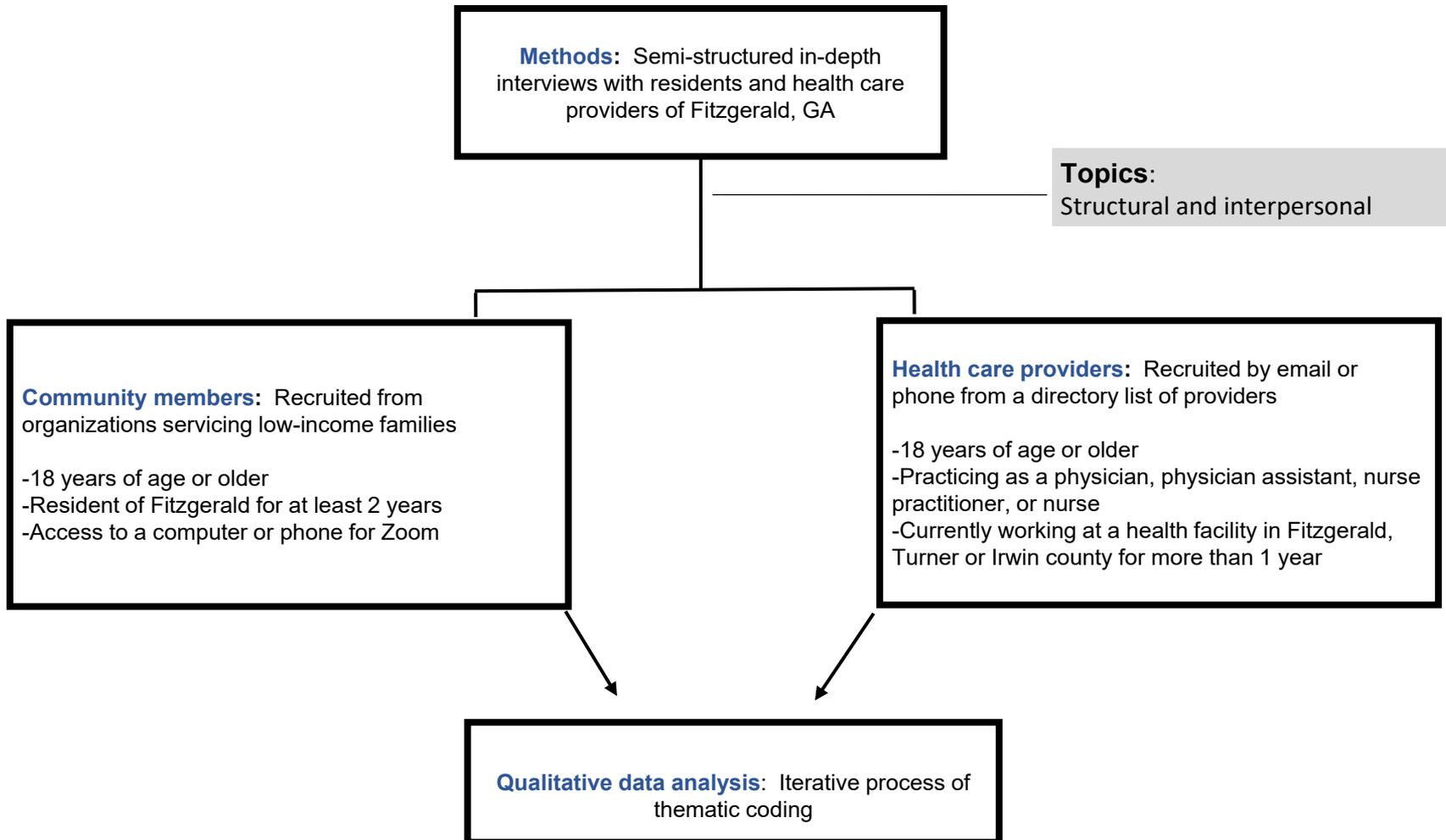
Research Question and Aims

What are the barriers and facilitators to the adoption of a free medical clinic model in Fitzgerald, Georgia: provider and community perspectives?

- **Aim 1:** To conduct and analyze qualitative in-depth interviews to understand perceived barriers that influence community members engagement with preventive care.
- **Aim 2:** To determine the feasibility of adopting a free medical clinic within Fitzgerald from the health providers' perspective.

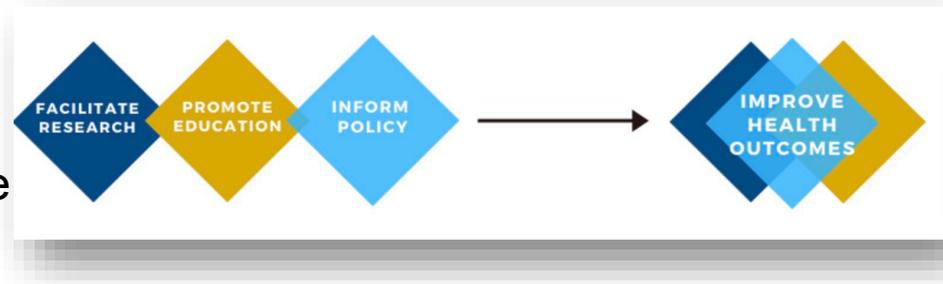


Study Flow Diagram



Now What?

- Public health requires effective knowledge translation to turn research into action
- Goal is to facilitate research, promote education, and inform policy about health and healthcare
- Realized through research synthesis and focused dissemination of research findings
- Continuing collaboration with the city of Fitzgerald
 - Data collection begins summer



Acknowledgements

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- Michelle Bardgett
- Dean Marsha Davis, Ph.D.

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Thank you!

Contact: Kenya.murray@uga.edu

