

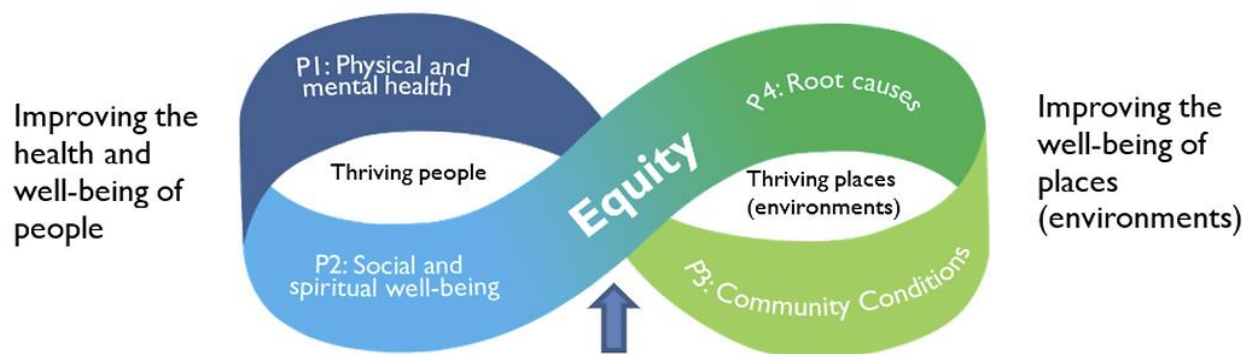


From Crisis to Equity

ARISE's Approach to Health Disparities

The Activating Relationships in Illinois for Systemic Equity (ARISE) initiative is a project led by the Illinois Department of Public Health and funded by the CDC. Its goal is to tackle health disparities made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in economically disadvantaged areas outside Cook County. Using the Pathways to Population Health Equity (P2PHE) framework and the Rural Road Map, ARISE works on improving health department capabilities, building partnerships, supporting community groups, and advancing health equity throughout Illinois.

ARISE focuses on four main areas: Physical/Mental Health, Social/Spiritual Wellbeing, Community Conditions, and Root Causes. The project emphasizes integrated care, managing chronic conditions, addressing social determinants of health, fostering community leadership, and influencing public policies to create healthier environments and ensure fair access to health services.



Transforming inequitable structures and systems together with those who experience inequities

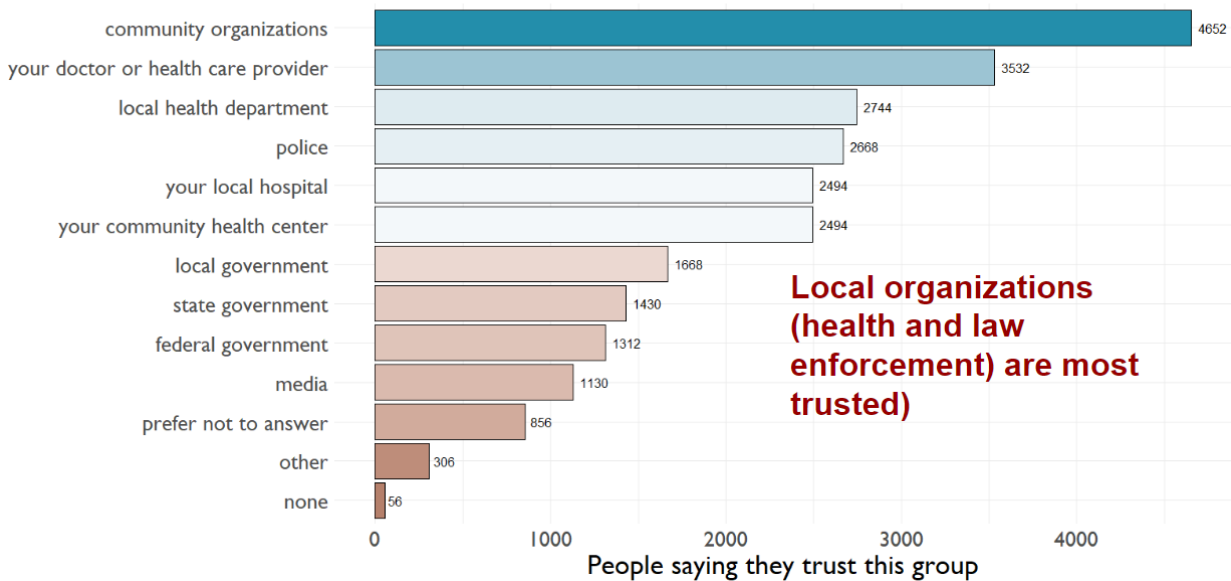
Evaluation Methods

To see how well ARISE is working, we used a mix of different methods. These included numbers (quantitative data), interviews with community members, and reviewing documents to measure the effectiveness of the project in areas like Trust and Knowledge, Civic Capacity, System Transformation, and Balanced Health Equity Strategy. This thorough approach not only checks progress but also gives deep insights into the impact on communities and health equity.

Quantitative Tools: We used customized instruments such as the Assessment for Advancing Community Transformation (AACT) and COMPASS to evaluate strategies being used to advance equity. We also used secondary data, such as the metrics from the CDC and the Edelman Trust.



What groups of people do you trust in your community?
ARISE communities



We gathered additional data during events like the Community Health Improvement and Leadership Academy (CHILA) and WIN Week. This included surveys to see increases in capacities and trust levels in communities.

Qualitative Data: We conducted dozens of Zoom interviews with community members to gather information about their progress, alignment with the P2PHE model, and plans for sustainability. Open-ended survey questions provided more insights into community perspectives.

Document Review: We analyzed community products like storyboards, equity action labs, stories, and monthly reports to see how systematically equity work was being applied.

Contribution to Stakeholder Knowledge

The evaluation methods in ARISE helped increase knowledge among stakeholders across several domains.

Trust and Knowledge:

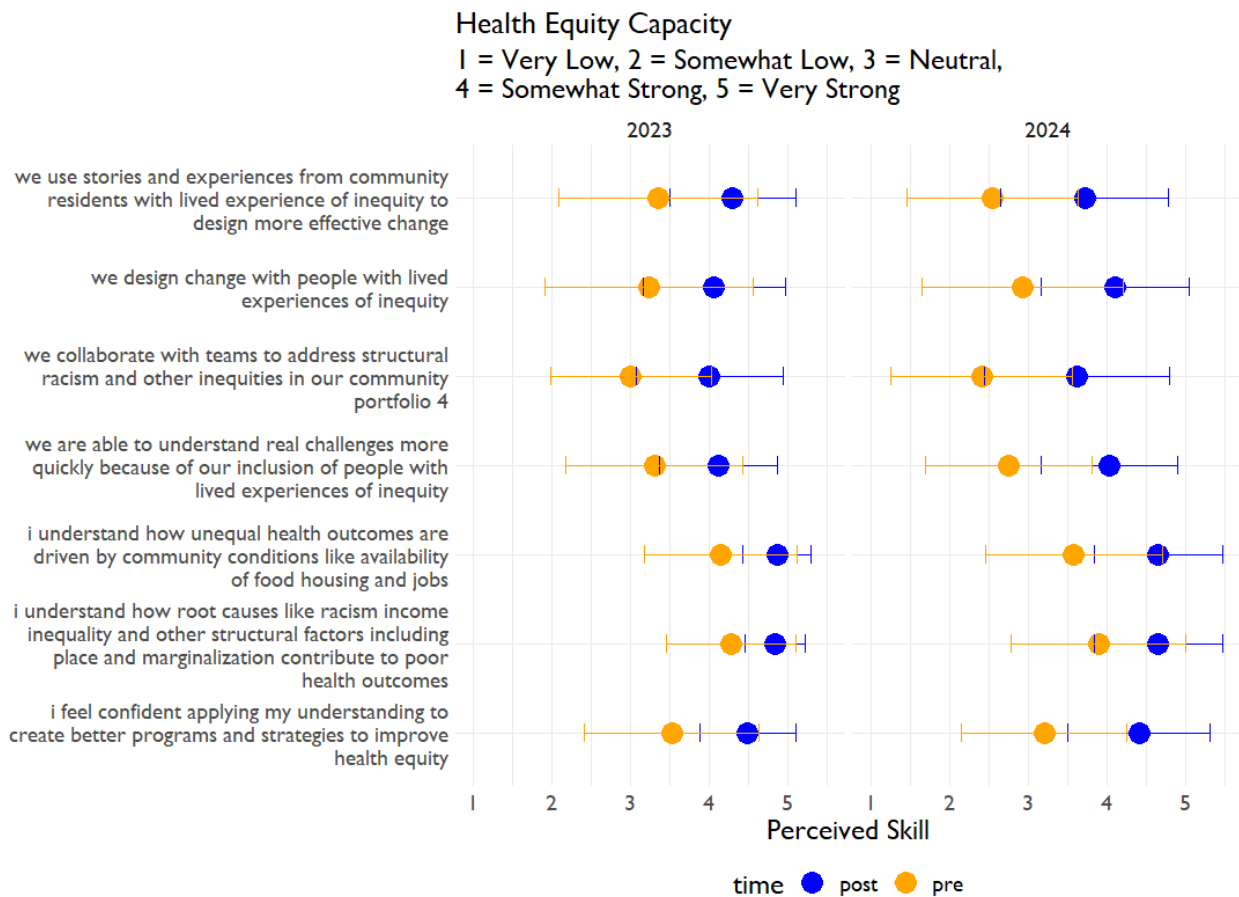
1. We built trust in the community through transparent communication and reliable information, using trusted local organizations.
2. Improved community engagement and dialogue, especially among marginalized groups, led to greater participation and health awareness.

Civic Capacity:

3. Strengthened civic capacity by connecting health departments with community leaders to improve information sharing and coordination.
4. Developed community leadership and strategic partnerships, leading to more inclusive and representative decision-making structures.

System Transformation:

1. Observed changes in policies and resource allocation, addressing the root causes of health inequities.
2. Empowered community health workers and leaders to advocate for and implement health equity strategies, fostering a lasting impact on community health.



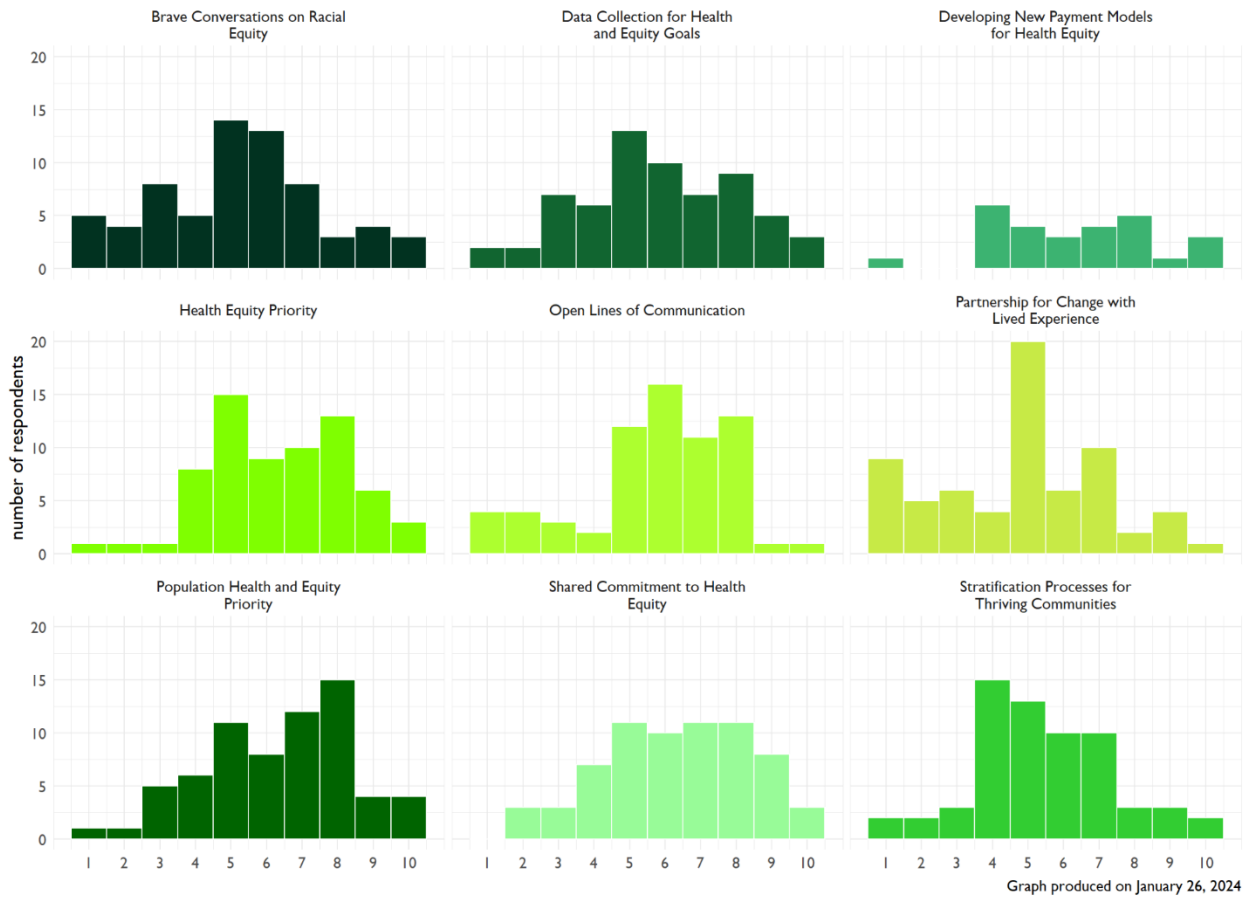
Graph produced on May 15, 2024

Balanced Health Equity Strategy:

3. Effectively implemented the P2PHE portfolios, addressing physical and mental health, social and spiritual wellbeing, community conditions, and root causes.
4. Used data-informed strategies to adapt and respond to community needs, ensuring long-term sustainability and growth of health equity improvements.



Distribution of Cross-Portfolio Skills on the Compass



Summary. The ARISE initiative, through its thorough and participatory evaluation approach, not only measured the impact of its health equity strategies but also fostered a deeper understanding and commitment to health equity among stakeholders. By enhancing trust, building civic capacity, transforming systems, and implementing balanced health equity strategies, ARISE made significant strides toward reducing health disparities and promoting sustainable, equitable health outcomes in Illinois.

Applying ARISE's Methods Across Different Evaluations

The comprehensive and participatory methods used in the ARISE initiative can be adapted to a variety of evaluations to promote health equity and community well-being. By employing a mixed-method approach that combines quantitative data, qualitative interviews, and document reviews, we can gain a well-rounded understanding of the impact of different programs. Tools like the AACT provide a structured way to measure community collaboration, equity, and progress towards health equity goals.



Implementing these methods allows for continuous improvement and ensures that interventions are tailored to meet the unique needs of each community. Regular evaluations not only measure success but also help in identifying areas for improvement, fostering transparency, and building trust within the community. Engaging community members through interviews and feedback sessions ensures that their voices are heard, and their needs are met, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

If you're interested in applying these proven methods to your own evaluations or want to learn more about how we can help enhance your programs, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us today at mel@dawnchorusgroup.com to discuss how we can work together to achieve impactful, data-driven change in your community.