

CNCS Research Summit

Focus on Evidence

The State of Our Field

A conversation with CNCS Program Directors
about research, evaluation and evidence

The State of Our Field

Moderated by

Dr. Mary Hyde, Director of Research and Evaluation

Panelists include

Bill Basl, Director, AmeriCorps State and National

Eileen Conoboy, Deputy Director, AmeriCorps VISTA

Gina Cross, Acting Director, AmeriCorps NCCC

Max Finberg, Director, AmeriCorps VISTA

Dr. Erwin Tan, Director, Senior Corps

Damian Thorman, Director, Social Innovation Fund

Research, Evaluation and Learning

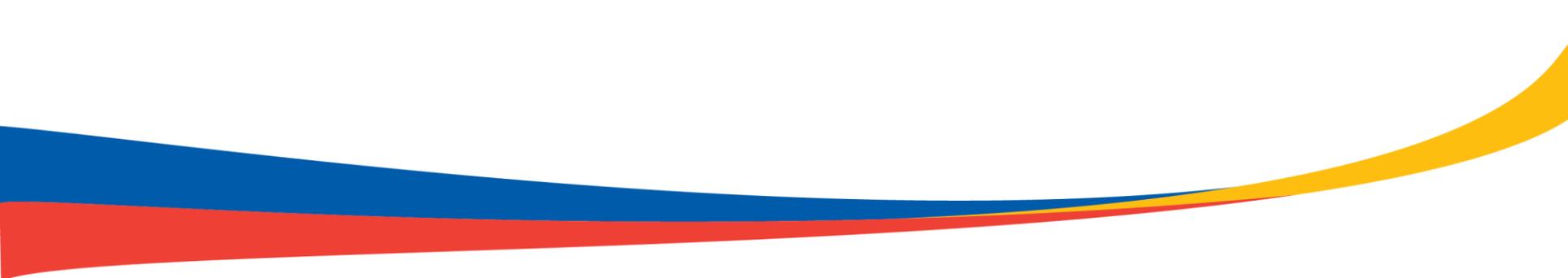
- What are our most important policy, program, and practice questions?
 - For Members & Volunteers?
 - For Program Participants?
 - For Funded Organizations?
 - For Communities?
- How do we as an agency address these questions using research & evaluation?

Learning Strategies

Research Learning Strategies	Evaluation Learning Strategies	Dissemination & Utilization Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member exit surveys (ACSN, NCCC, VISTA) Alumni survey (ACSN, NCCC, VISTA) Senior Corps Volunteers survey (FGP/SCP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting Strategic 3rd Party Program Evaluations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIF National Assessment SIF Pay For Success Evaluation School Turnaround AmeriCorps Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Exchange Evaluation Resource Page Evidence Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Grant Competition Exploratory/Pilot Research of Strategic Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operation AmeriCorps CPS supplement revision Service Locations Analyses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation Capacity Building (within the agency and among grantees) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing evidence criteria for NOFOs Reviewing levels of evidence for funding decisions Developing & Delivering Core Evaluation Curriculum (virtually & in-person) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1 Grantee Coaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing evaluation plans Reviewing interim and final evaluation reports Guided, Small-Group Evaluation Experience 	

Questions for the Panel

- How does each program use research and evaluation to inform program operations and practices?
- In what ways does a focus on evidence-based policymaking and programming...
 - Create opportunities for your program?
 - Create challenges for your program?
- Looking ahead, in what ways do you think evidence will be embedded in your program?



**How does each program use
research and evaluation to inform
program operations and practices?**

AmeriCorps State and National – Levels of Evidence for 2015 Grantees

Level of Evidence	Percent
Strong	7%
Moderate	12%
Preliminary	52%
Pre-Preliminary	19%
No Evidence	10%
Total	100%

Senior Corps 2013-2014 Study

Access to Volunteer
Opportunities and the Potential
Health Benefits of National
Service: FGP and SCP

Psychosocial Outcomes
Associated with National
Service Participation in Senior
Corps

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Donald J. Pratt, PhD²
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1. CNCS
2. JBS International, Inc.

Disclosure Slide

- No Conflicts of Interest

2013 - 2014 Senior Corps Study

First ever evaluation of all Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions to

- describe the population and
- examine the association between national service participation and
 1. self-rated health,
 2. mobility-associated disability
 3. life satisfaction

Data Collection

- Replicate 15 questions from the HRS
- Federal administrative data collection
 - Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. No. 96-511, 94 Stat. 2812, codified at 44 U.S.C. § 3501-3521)
 - Office of Management and Budget control # 3045-0146
- Data Collection completed September 17, 2013
- Grantees required to participate but participation is optional for all individual volunteers

Demographics

	FGP	SCP
Age	72	72
Age Range	55 to 101	55 to 104
Female	90%	83%
Male	9%	15%
White/ Caucasian	45%	45%
Black/ African American	41%	38%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%	2%
Asian Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	3%	3%
Other	4%	6%
More than one race selected	1%	1%
Hispanic or Latino	11%	13%

FGP/SCP vs. HRS

- 1. FGP/SCP random samples for comparative analyses*
 - FGP (n = 4,000)
 - SCP (n = 4,000)
- 2. HRS sample for comparative analysis*

under 200% poverty N = 4,169

 - Non-volunteers (n= 3,122)
 - Volunteers under 200% poverty (n = 1,014)

Self-Rated Health: FGP/ SCP vs HRS Volunteers

	Volunteers Below 200% Poverty		FGP Analytic Sample		
	n	%	n	%	p-value
Excellent/ Very Good Health	245	39	260	42	0.36
Good Health	224	36	271	44	0.005
Fair/Poor Health	152	24	90	14	<.0001
	Volunteers Below 200% Poverty		SCP Analytic Sample		
	n	%	n	%	p-value
Excellent/ Very Good Health	236	39	241	40	0.77
Good Health	216	36	286	47	<.0001
Fair/Poor Health	151	25	76	13	<.0001

Mobility Disability: FGP/ SCP vs HRS Volunteers

Problem walking 1 block	Volunteers Below 200% Poverty		FGP Analytic Sample		
	n	%	n	%	p-value
Yes or Can't	78	13	146	24	<.0001
No problem	543	87	439	71	<.0001
No response	--	--	36	6	

	Volunteers Below 200% Poverty		SCP Analytic Sample		
	n	%	n	%	p-value
Yes or Can't	74	12	147	24	<.0001
No problem	529	88	417	69	<.0001
No response	--	--	39	6	

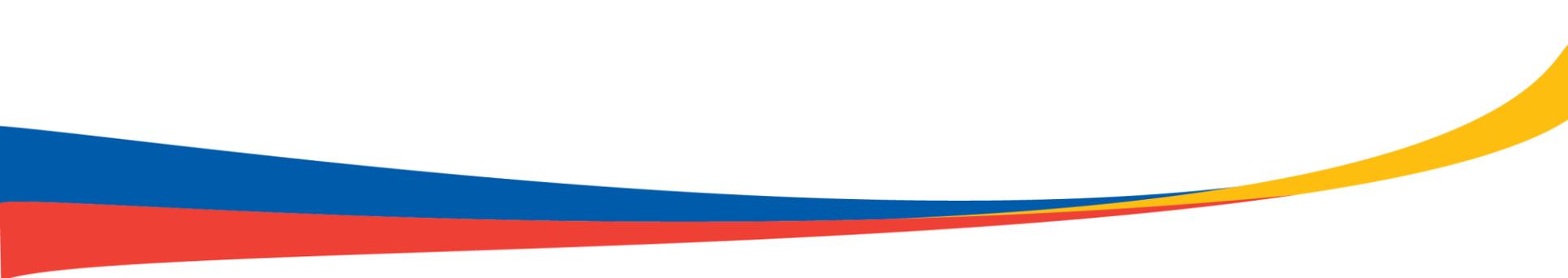
Life Satisfaction: FGP/ SCO vs HRS Volunteers

	Volunteers Below 200% Poverty		FGP Analytic Sample		
	n	%	n	%	p-value
Not at all satisfied	9	1	--	--	--
Somewhat/ Not very satisfied	184	30	118	19	<.0001
Completely/ Very satisfied	426	69	493	81	<.0001

	Volunteers Below 200% Poverty		FGP Analytic Sample		
	n	%	n	%	p-value
Not at all satisfied	10	2	--	--	--
Somewhat/ Not very satisfied	198	33	134	23	<.0001
Completely/ Very satisfied	393	65	461	77	<.0001

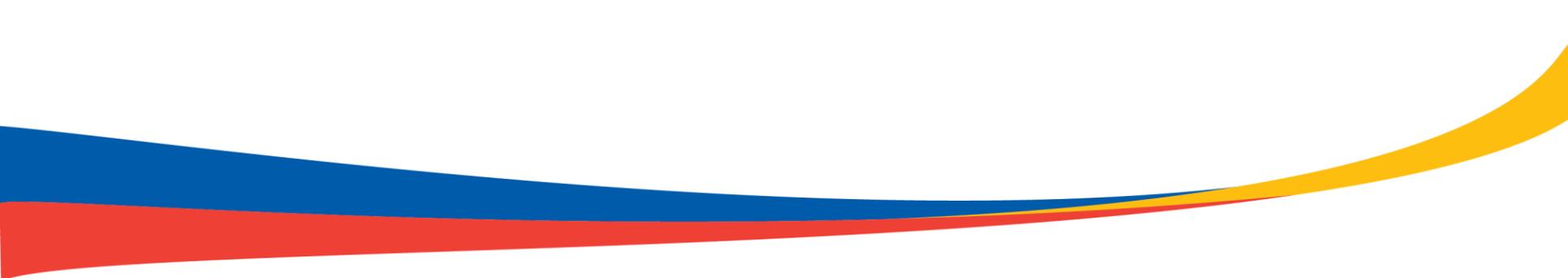
Discussion

- Diversity and Access
 - Majority Minority
 - Men Underrepresented
- Self-Rated Health
 - Less Poor Health as compared to volunteers
- Mobility Associated Disability
 - Access?
 - Greater Activity leading to greater report of disability?
- Life Satisfaction
 - Strong Association



In what ways does a focus on evidence-based policymaking and programming...

- Create opportunities for your program?**
- Create challenges for your program?**



Looking ahead, in what ways do you think evidence will be embedded in your program?

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To learn more about research,
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