# **Introductions (10 minutes)**

Welcome, teams! First, introduce yourselves by sharing the following:

* **Your name, position, and agency**
* **A key health disparity of concern that you see in your own community**

Before starting your activities, each team should assign a team member to each of the following roles:

1. **Time-keeper:** someone to keep an eye on the clock and make sure that the team is on task.
2. **Note-taker:** someone to make concise notes of the team summaries and to report share-out information to the full group.
3. **Leader:** a lead discussant who helps facilitate the conversation and makes sure everyone has the opportunity to participate and share ideas equally.

**Your team will always convene in this breakout room.**

Write your breakout room number here for future reference: # \_\_\_\_\_\_

# **Activity I: Putting Your Priorities in Order**

# **(15 minutes total)**

* **Goal:** This exercise is intended to help your team evaluate and compare population health data sources.

## **Scenario**

## You are members of a multi-agency task force, convened by the county council, that has assembled to address the *uptick in drug-related deaths during the COVID pandemic*.

In your first meeting, you hope to create a framework for prioritizing action to address this issue. Pulling from your own experience and knowledge of community-level interventions, you start by discussing a few key questions...

## **Part 1 of the Activity (10 minutes)**

* **Think about a time that you used data to make a community-level decision. What worked well? What didn’t work well?**
* **What are some potential data sources that you could use to address this issue (increase in drug-related deaths)?**
* **What are some potential biases that limit the data you have access to?**

## **Part 2 of the Activity (5 minutes)**

Respond to **one** (1) of the following prompts below with *a short, two-sentence summary* of your discussion.

1. **What were the key elements that worked well for using data to support community level decision-making?**
2. **In what ways do decisions look different when they are data-informed?**
3. **What does bias in the data look like?**

Record your response below. Prepare to share it with the larger group after the breakout.

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| --- |
|  |

# **Activity II: Enter the Matrix**

# **(30 minutes total)**

* **Goal:** This exercise is intended to provide you with one example of a tool to prioritize options for addressing social determinants that create health disparities.

## **Scenario**

Your task force has decided to dig deeper into the issue of *drug-related deaths during the COVID pandemic* by *using a prioritization matrix* to identify potential action steps. Use the criteria and weights that have been selected in your example to complete the matrix.

## **Part 1 of the Activity (15 minutes)**

To start, your team will use a Google sheets matrix (that has been assigned to your breakout room) with three weighted criteria to work with (see next page for reference). Using the matrix, complete the following:

Record a score from 1 to 3 for each box based on how well each criterion was thought to meet each Action Strategy.

* 1. **3 = criterion met well**
  2. **2 = criterion met**
  3. **1 = criterion not met**
* Each Action strategy will be multiplied by its criterion weight
* Each Action Strategy score will be calculated to show which has the highest Priority Score.

**Prioritization Matrix**

* Task force objective: Reduce drug-related deaths in our community by identifying your top Action Strategies

*Note: the table below is for reference. You may fill it out after completing your Google sheets matrix.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action Strategy** | **Criterion A**  ***Equity Impact***  Weight “3” | **Criterion B**  ***Feasibility***  Weight “2” | **Criterion C**  ***Cost/ROI***  Weight “1” | **Priority Score** |
| Open/expand syringe exchange program |  |  |  |  |
| Address opioid prescription drug rates |  |  |  |  |
| Expand Naloxone availability |  |  |  |  |
| Strengthen case management |  |  |  |  |
| Increase public awareness |  |  |  |  |
| Other action strategy (describe) |  |  |  |  |

## **Part 2 of the Activity (10 minutes)**

Such a matrix should be a ‘living document’ that can be updated with more information and input. But, in a world where scarce resources and politics make it easy to lose sight of our goals, a structured process that considers values and impact can support thoughtful decision-making.

In this quick exercise, discuss **one** (1) of the following questions:

1. **What data would have helped you in your prioritizing of actions above?**
2. **What data would help you with your next steps in carrying out your group’s identified strategy/strategies?**

## **Part 3 of the Activity (5 minutes)**

Identify 2-3 insights, takeaways, and/or further questions for the task force with *a short, two-sentence summary* of your discussion.

Record your response below. Prepare to share it with the larger group.

|  |
| --- |
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