



# Measuring Community Environments: Incorporating Environmental Factors into Research

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Date: 4 June, 2002  
Time: 3:05 – 3:15 pm  
Presenter: Gale G. Whiteneck, PhD  
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Craig Hospital



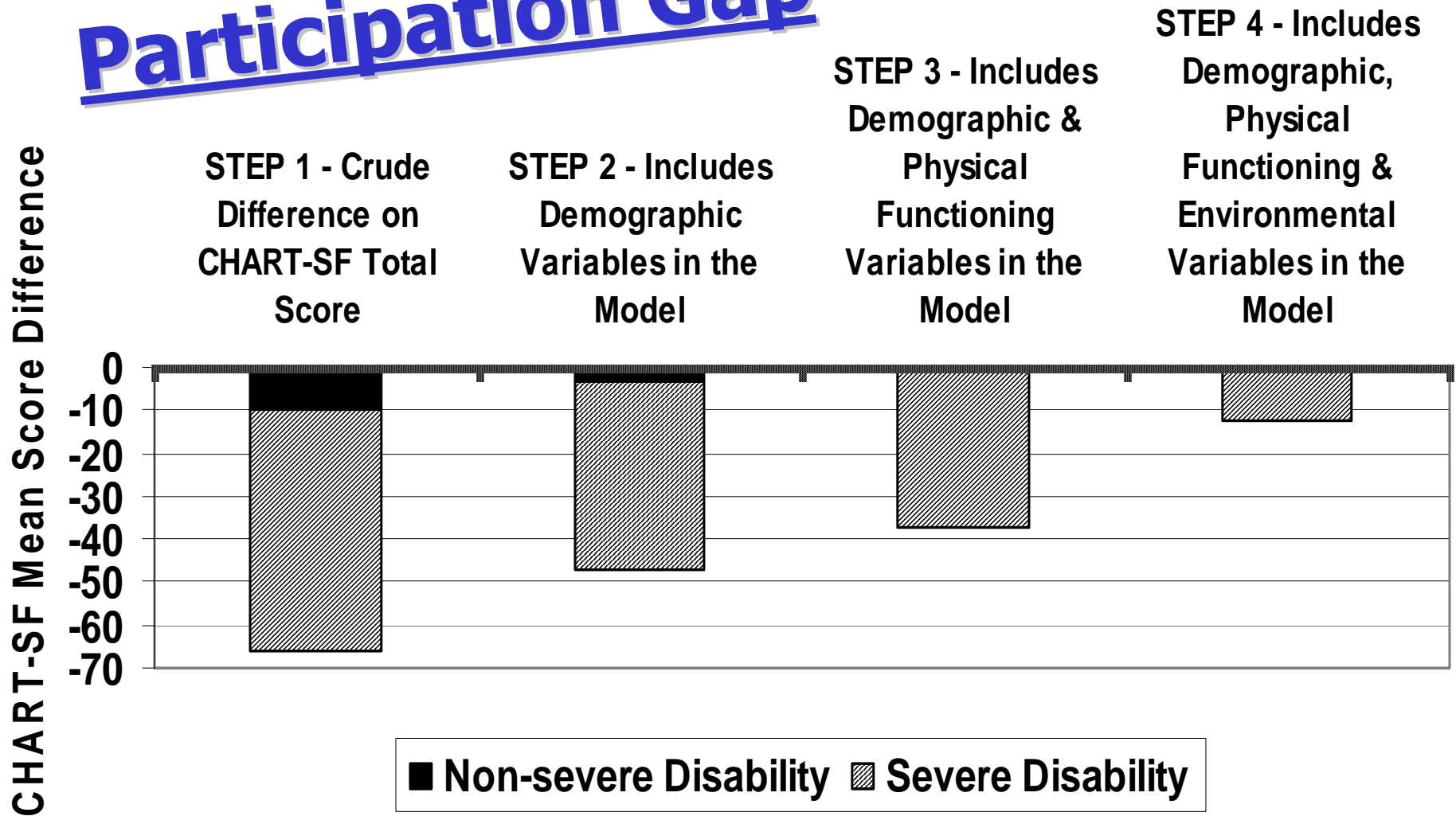
# At Previous NACC Meetings

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- A Measure of Participation:
  - Craig Handicap Assessment and Reporting Technique (CHART)
- A Measure of the Environment:
  - Craig Hospital Inventory of Environmental Factors (CHIEF)

Differences in Mean CHART-SF Total Scale Scores  
 Between Disability Groups  
 (with the no disability group as the reference group)

**Participation Gap**





# Current Environmental Research Strategies

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- Build on a Wealth of Quantitative and Qualitative Information from CHIEF
- Move from Subjective Perceptions to More Objective Measures
- Move from Individual Measurement to Community Measurement
- Move from a Single Methodology to Multiple Assessment Methodologies



# Multiple Methodologies for Environmental Assessment

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- Assessments of Physical Environment
  - Existing Available Indicators (e.g. Weather, Accessible Buildings, Health Care Resources, Public Transportation)
  - Key Informant Surveys for Factors Without Available Indicators
- Assessment of Community Attitudes
  - General Population Attitude Survey

# Attitude Questions

## Toward People with Disabilities

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- Most employers will hire a person with a disability if he or she is qualified for the job.
- There are too many handicapped parking spaces.
- People with disabilities receive too much special treatment under the law.
- You should not expect too much from people with disabilities.
- It is inappropriate for people with disabilities to have children.

# Attitude Questions

## Toward People with Disabilities

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- Most people would be willing to accept a person with a PHYSICAL/MENTAL disability as a close friend.
- Children with PHYSICAL/MENTAL disabilities should be integrated into regular classrooms.
- People in a restaurant are uncomfortable being seated near a person with a PHYSICAL/MENTAL disability.
- Most people would be willing to accept a group home for people with PHYSICAL/MENTAL disabilities in their neighborhood



# 13 Attitude Questions

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- Implemented in Colorado BRFSS in 2002
- Preliminary Rasch Analysis
  - Differences in Report of Attitudes of Self vs. Others, Positively vs. Negatively Worded Statements, Physical vs. Mental Disabilities
  - Identified 6 Questions with Best Fit for Scale (3 Pairs of Physical/Mental Questions)



# Sub-group Differences on Preliminary Attitude Scale

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- More Positive Attitudes Expressed by
  - Younger People
  - People with Higher Incomes
- No Significant Differences by
  - Gender
  - Minority Status
  - Disability Status



# For More Information

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- CHART and CHIEF
- New Environmental Measures and Findings (As They Become Available)
- Contact us:
  - Gale Whiteneck 303-789-8304  
([gale@craig-hospital.org](mailto:gale@craig-hospital.org))
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