

Thursday, Nov 19, 2015

## Professor presents participatory data analysis method at conference

Oakland University School of Health Sciences professor Rebecca Cheezum during a national conference presented on a process she created for participatory research analysis in community-based participatory studies.

Cheezum delivered her presentation – entitled “Use of a participatory data analysis process in a PhotoVoice project with tenants of a housing first permanent housing site” – at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in Chicago, Ill. Several students from the university’s Master of Public Health (MPH) program also attended the conference, and the MPH program had a booth informing attendees about Oakland University’s graduate program.

Cheezum, who in 2013 led a **research project** that focused on health and wellness issues for 17 formerly homeless residents of the historic Bell Building in Detroit. The study was a collaboration between the **Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO)**, Oakland University and staff at the Bell Building, which is a permanent, supportive housing site for adults who have experienced chronic homelessness.

The final product, called “Through Our Eyes: A PhotoVoice Exhibit,” was displayed on Oakland University’s campus and the Bell Building in 2014. The study put cameras in the hands of the 17 participants, who took photos of various factors that impacted their health and wellness.

During the three-month research period, study participants met with Cheezum and Master of Public Health students and discussed the photos. Those conversations, after being transcribed, served as the data for the project.

Cheezum said that while many studies use a community-based participatory research method, there aren’t many which have engaged study participants in the actual analysis of data.

“After discovering the dearth in the literature of examples of studies that have engaged participants in qualitative data analysis, I developed my own participatory qualitative research analysis process,” said Cheezum.

For information about the American Public Health Association, visit [apha.org](http://apha.org). To learn more about the School of Health Sciences, go to [oakland.edu/shs](http://oakland.edu/shs), and for the Master of Public Health Program, go to [oakland.edu/mph](http://oakland.edu/mph).



*One of 17 PhotoVoice participants stands with his photography. During the study, formerly homeless people took photos of various factors that impacted their health and wellness and then discussed those images with Dr. Cheezum and Master of Public Health students.*



School of Health Sciences professor  
Rebecca Cheezum