

Webinar to focus on culturally appropriate health advice

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Research indicates that a person's community and other cultural influences can affect their eating habits, activities and ultimately their body weight. (Photo from Thinkstock)

When working with communities to promote a healthy weight, researchers and advocates should integrate cultural values and consider factors that influence eating, activity and body weight — including those that may not appear directly related.

A national webinar focused on teaching this kind of approach is being sponsored next week by the [Tulane Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health](#) and the [Tulane Prevention Research Center](#), in partnership with the [American Public Health Association](#).

The two Tulane centers come together annually to host a webinar led by an expert in public health research and practice. This

year's speaker is Dr. Shiriki Kumanyika, founder and chair of the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN) and a research professor at the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health in the Department of Community Health and Prevention.

The webinar is Tuesday, May 24, noon–1 p.m. CDT, and is titled, “Health Equity Research and Practice: Using a Community-Centered View of Influences on Eating, Activity and Body Weight.” The webinar draws from a framework that can be used to facilitate discussions among community members, academically based researchers and their community research partners. Developed by AACORN, the framework can be used in both research and practice.

Kumanyika also is immediate past president of APHA and emeritus professor of epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine with a 15-year tenure on the faculty. Her research has focused on the development and evaluation of culturally appropriate lifestyle interventions for African-Americans and the influences of food and beverage marketing on African-Americans' food purchases and consumption.

Space is limited on the webinar. A group viewing will be held at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, 1440 Canal St., in the Usdin Family Conference Room, Room 1831A.

Anyone unable to attend the group viewing but interested in participating must [register here](#).

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