

Capacity Bridging: Establishing Meaningful Collaboration between Peers and Academic Researchers in the Ontario Implementation of the HIV Stigma Index

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Capacity bridging creates an environment of **shared knowledge, learning,** and **reciprocity** between academic researchers and peer researchers (PRAs)
The term was coined by the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network's AHA Centre



Extends **capacity building** from just building the knowledge base of PRAs

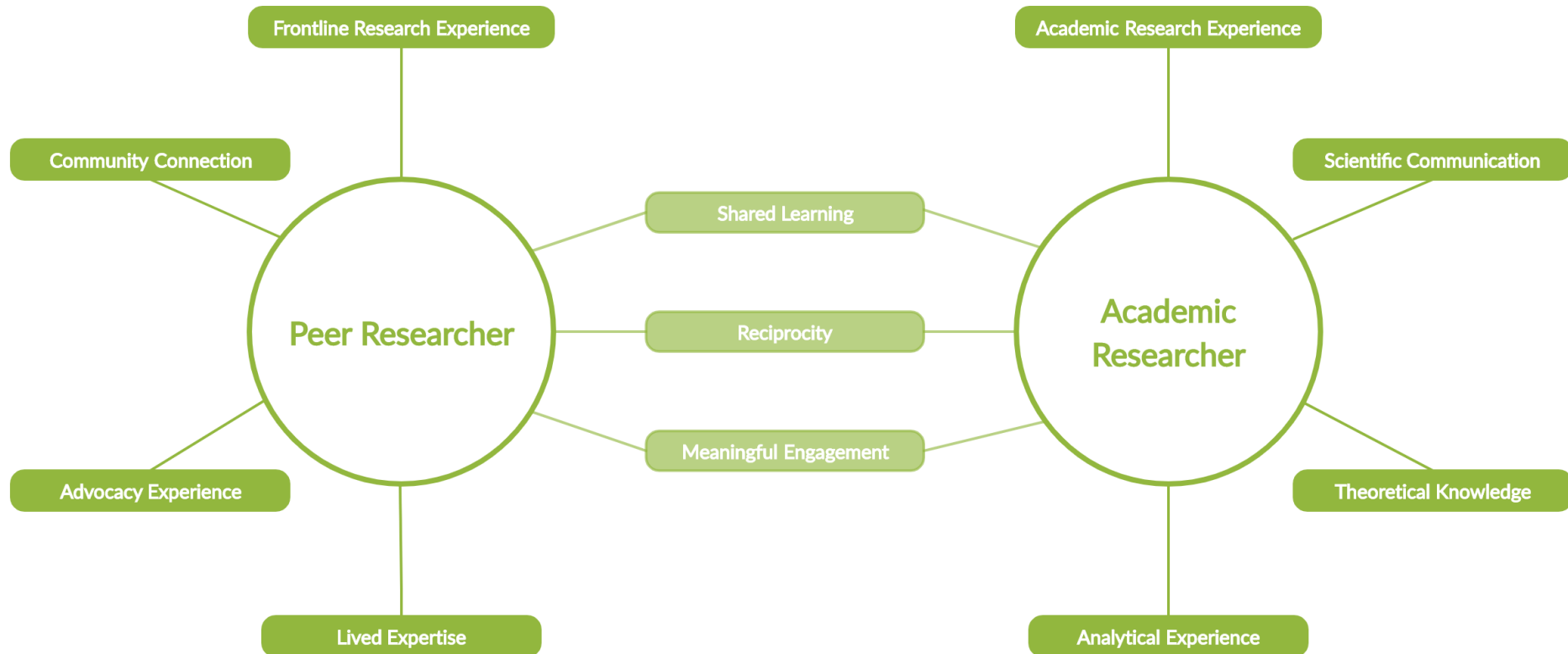


Bridging the knowledge gap between academics and PRAs



A Capacity Bridging Framework

Conceptualizing the expertise from peer researchers and academic researchers with the potential for shared learning



Capacity Bridging in the Data Analysis Phase

Quantitative data analysis is often where studies fall short in realizing principles of GIPA/MEPA, so we developed a collaborative approach to data analysis grounded in capacity bridging principles

9 PRAs met online biweekly for 6 weeks with academic researchers to collaborate on the data analysis and dissemination strategy for the Ontario HIV Stigma Index

PRAs guided academic researchers by asking questions of the data derived from three areas of lived experience:

1. Peer-to-peer interview experience

2. Personal experience with HIV stigma

3. Supporting advocacy in their region

Academic researchers empowered PRAs to work with data by leading data analysis tutorials covering three main topic areas:

1. Research terminology and asking analyzable questions

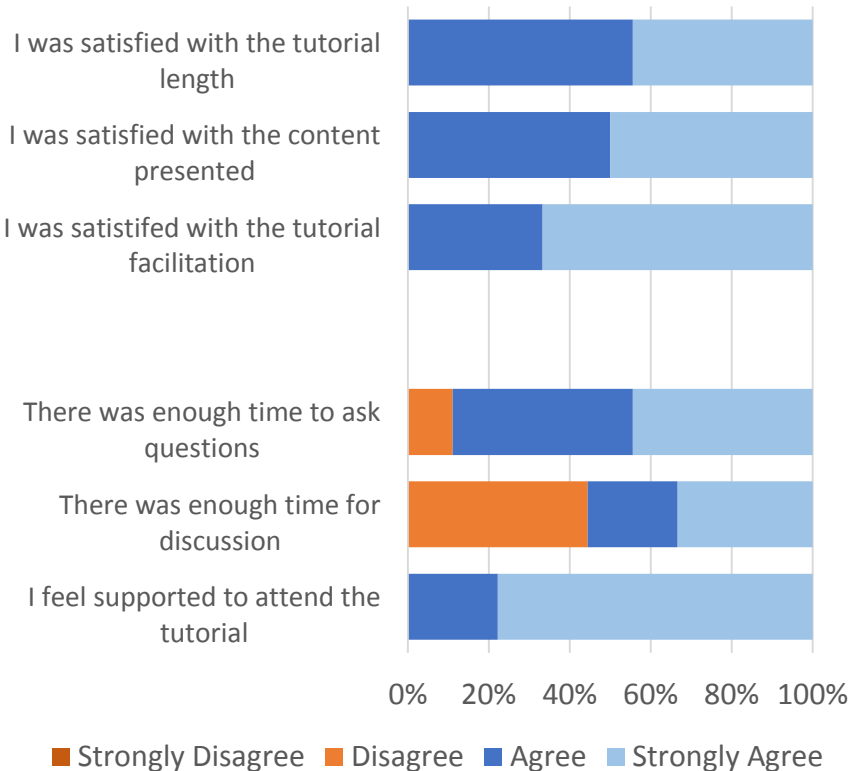
2. The data analysis process

3. Interpreting data visualizations

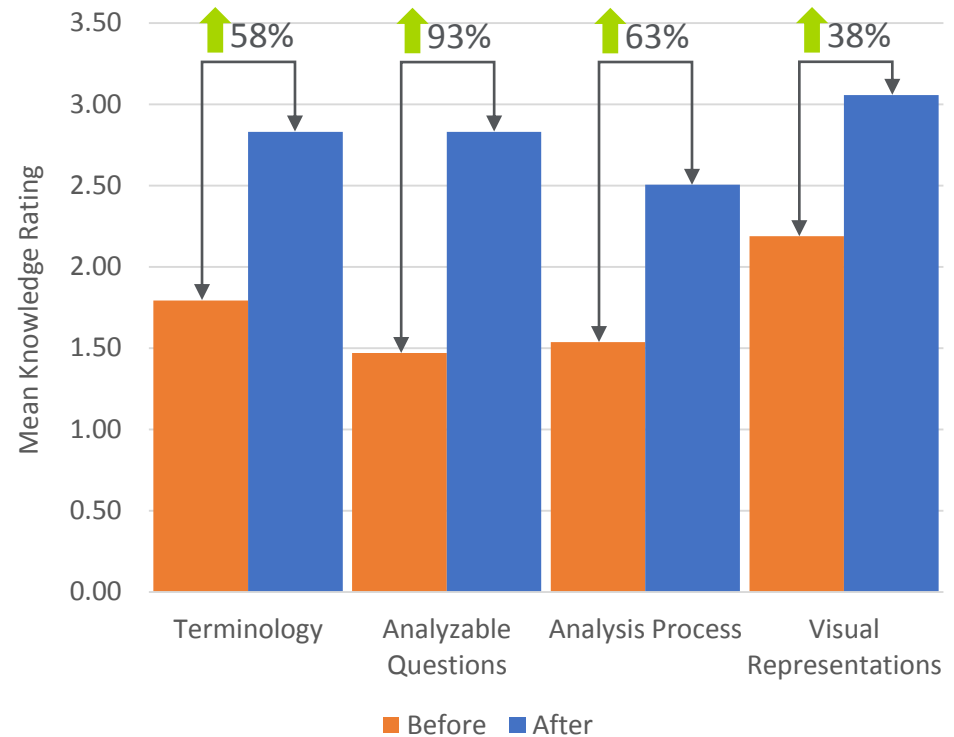


Evaluating our Capacity Bridging

PRAs were satisfied with the design and content of the tutorials



PRAs knowledge increased across all topic areas



*PRAs (n=9) rated their research knowledge on a 5-point Likert scale from "poor" to "excellent" before and after the capacity bridging process



What did we learn?

“I’m really glad this is an ongoing learning opportunity. This part of research hasn’t been offered to PRAs, and I find it fascinating”

“I found the content really interesting and would be interested in continuing learning about other aspects of research”

Capacity bridging has led to:

Uptake in engagement and deeper feelings of belonging

Measurable increase in data analysis knowledge

Increased understanding of the data and its implications

Future directions for analysis and knowledge translation activities

