

Tackling Data – Innovative Approaches for an Online Training During a Pandemic

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Background

Public Health 3.0 calls for public health practitioners to use actionable data and metrics in guiding the work of public health practice¹. In 2017, we learned from a state-wide assessment of the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal that the public health workforce in Iowa needs and wants more skill development in using public health data². In collaboration with the Iowa Department of Public Health Environmental Health Tracking Program, we developed a “Tackling Data: Using a Bite, Snack, Meal Approach” training course to meet this need in 2018. Due to the pandemic, we have adapted the course from in-person to both in-person and online formats, which allows us to reach a wider audience and allows participants to choose the format that is best suited for them.

Tackling Data Course Objectives

Measure and characterize disease frequency

Find and use public health data sources

Develop communication strategies

This poster will provide lessons learned in offering in-person vs. online training courses and offer strategies for developing and continuously improving workforce training opportunities.

- Visit the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal! <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/>

Learning Objectives

- Describe the process for transitioning an in-person data use and communication training to an online format.
- Compare quantitative and qualitative findings from in-person vs online training formats.
- Demonstrate the use of pre/post workforce training evaluation for continuous improvement.

Material & Methods

- In-Person Tackling Data Training
 - Full-day session with lectures and small-group activities
- Online Tackling Data Training
 - 4-week course with weekly, 1-hour synchronous sessions with live lectures, small-group activities, and online learning modules

- **Assessment**
 - Quantitative data: confidence levels on 10 public health data competencies and satisfaction on course quality and logistics
 - Qualitative data: main takeaways from the training, suggestions for future trainings, and least favorite part of the training



Results

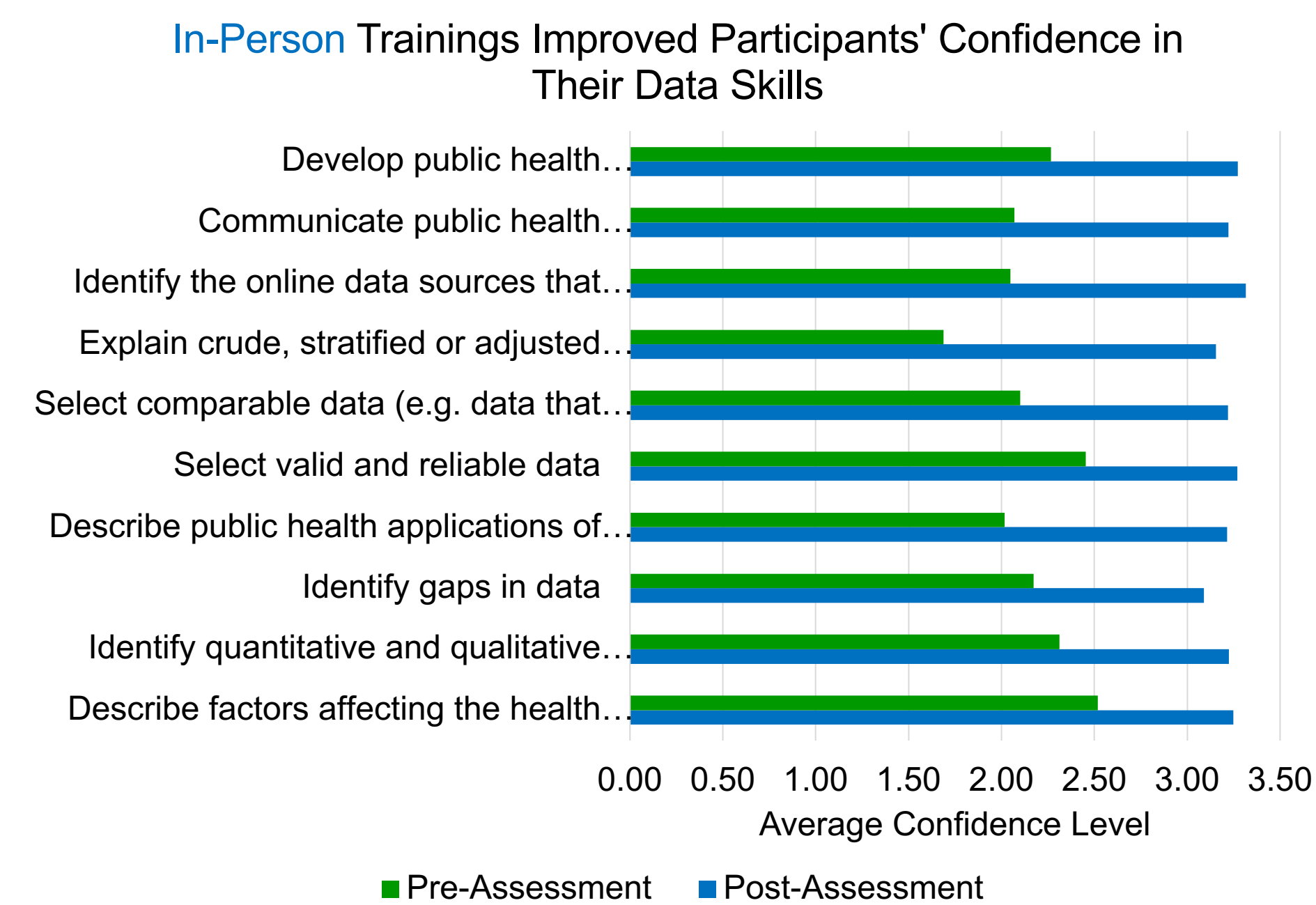


Figure 1. Average confidence levels for ten public health data competencies were compared before and after taking the Tackling Data Online Course. Confidence levels increased for all competencies.

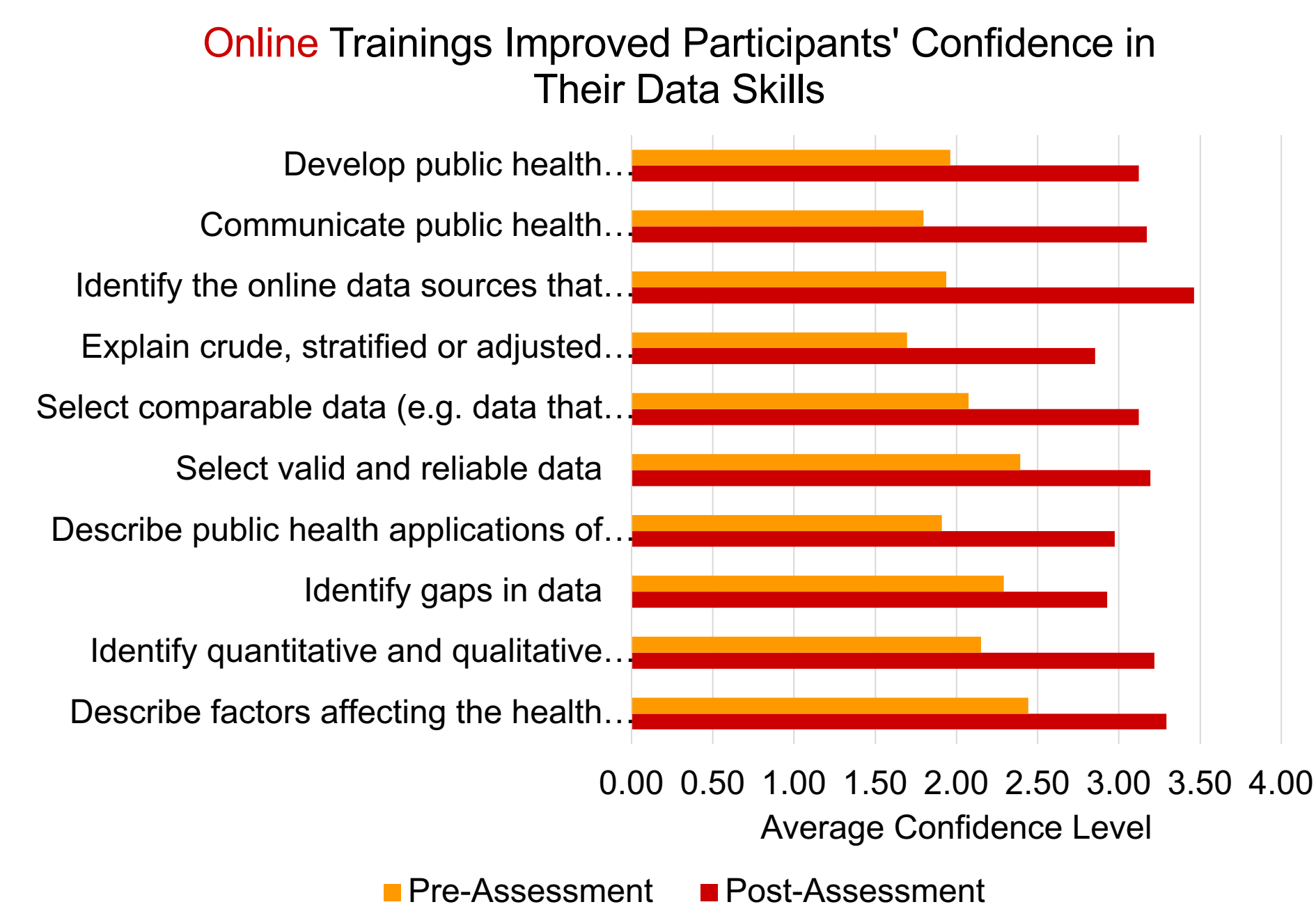


Figure 2. Average confidence levels for ten public health data competencies were compared before and after taking the Tackling Data Online Course. Confidence levels increased for all competencies.

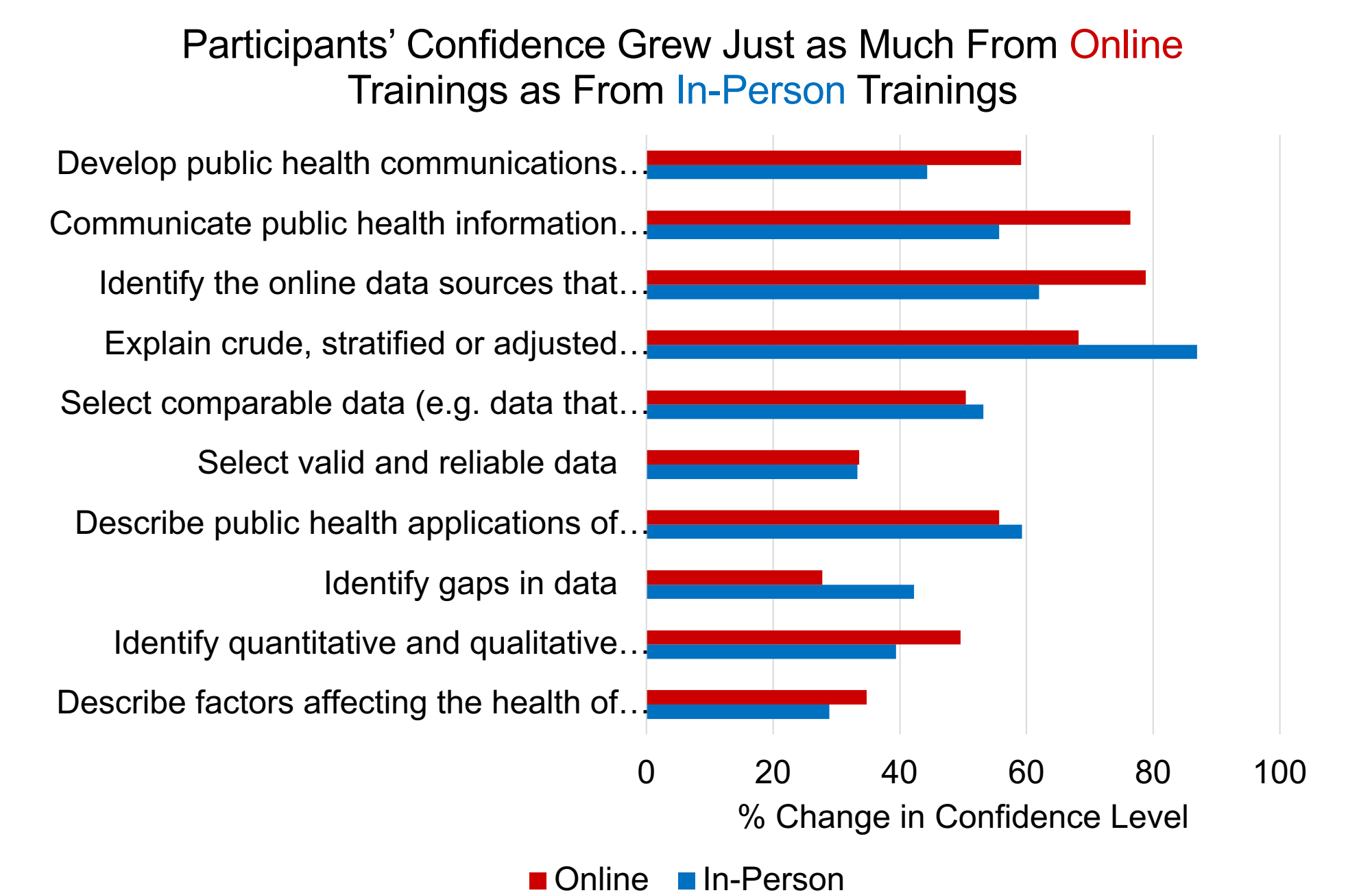


Figure 3. The percent change in confidence levels when comparing pre- and post-assessments around ten public health data competencies – a comparison between online and in-person trainings.



Figure 4. The main takeaways from Tackling Data most reported by participants.



Figure 5. Image taken from an In-Person Tackling Data Training – participants observe a lecture.

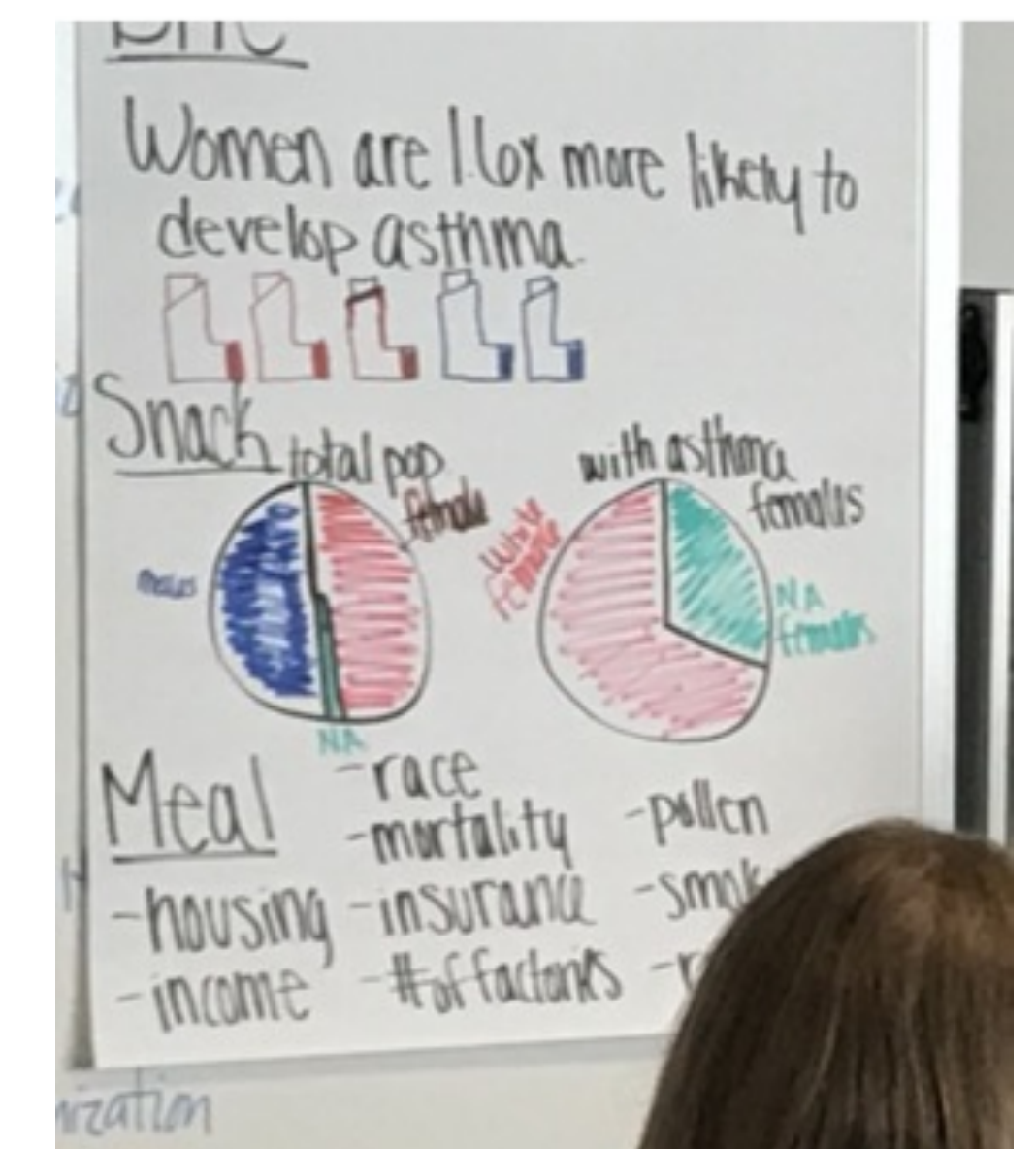


Figure 6. Image taken from an In-Person Tackling Data Training – example of a Bite, Snack, Meal used to communicate data on asthma in women.

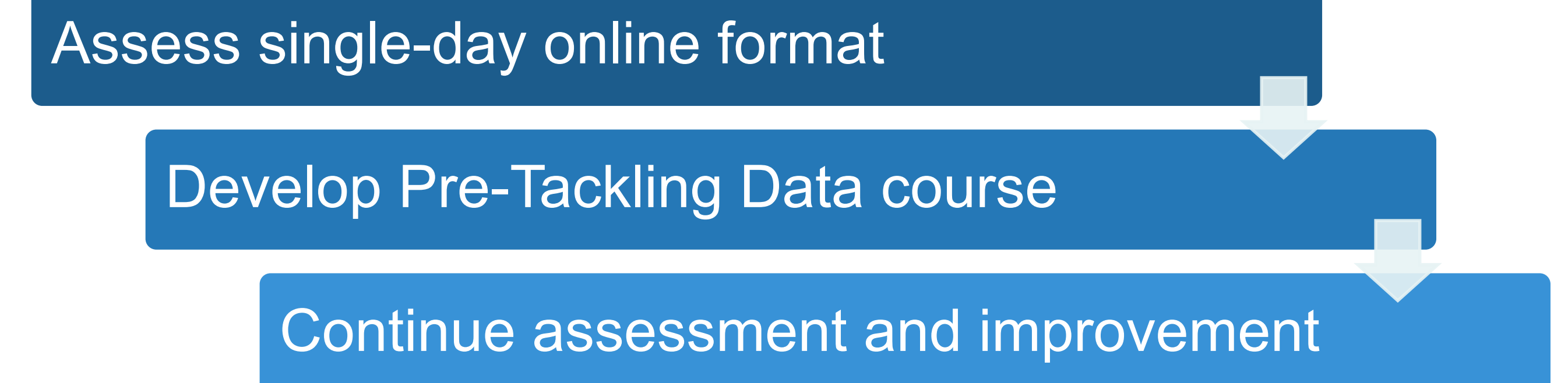
Discussion & Conclusion

- Both in-person and online Tackling Data trainings increased participants' confidence in using public health data
- Participants' confidence in using public health data increased just as much after the online format as after the in-person format
 - In-person trainings may feasibly be adapted for online learning
- Participants report the bite, snack, meal approach, data terminology, data resources, data terminology, and the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal as the main takeaways from Tackling Data

References

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2. Miene V, Nidey N, Torner J, Deshpande A. Iowa Public Health Data Needs Assessment. Iowa Institute of Public Health Research and Policy 2017. Available at <https://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/FINAL-IDPH-Needs-Assessment-Report.pdf>.

Future Directions



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