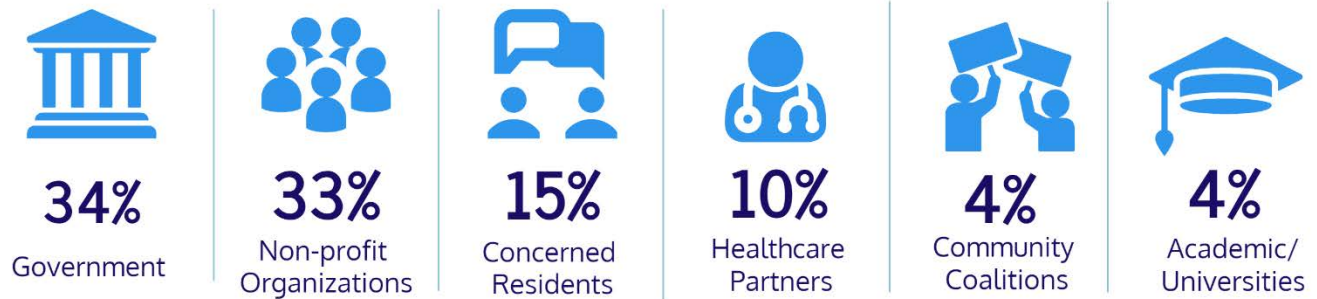


Event Summary
January 23, 2018







Los Angeles County Center for Health Equity
**Community Listening Session:
South Los Angeles**

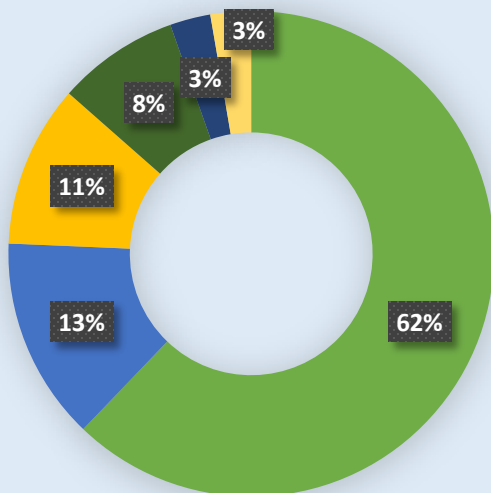
The Center for Health Equity is an LA County Health Agency initiative led by the Department of Public Health. Our work is to ensure that everyone in LA County has the opportunities and resources needed for optimal health and well-being. As a first step, the Center hosted listening sessions across the county. The sessions invited community partners and local community members to share their input, which will help shape the Center’s work. This summary reflects the feedback gathered during the session hosted in South Los Angeles, where 73 people attended.

Who participated in this session?

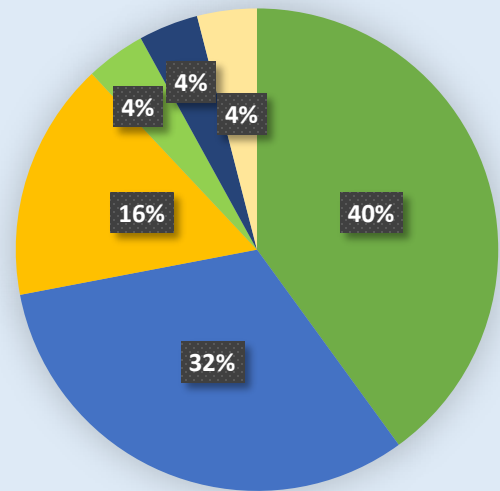








Most valuable part of the Listening Session

-  Group breakout session
-  Learning about the Center
-  Presentation
-  Gallery Walk
-  Networking
-  Open Mic Session



What can we do better?



-  More community representation
-  Longer event time
-  More information to disseminate
-  More focus on priority areas
-  More food
-  More provider representation

Community Voices:

What would make future sessions better?

- “Get more community members here by leveraging existing county staff working on community-based initiatives, and using them and their community partners to recruit.”
- “Invite more *promotoras* and nurses to understand the need in the community to be served with dignity. “
- “Unclear of the centers goals and plans. How are we going to name discrimination? How will we achieve Health Equity? We know the CHE focus areas and don’t know the HOW. Large task, small center: How will you do it? How will we do it?”
- “A little more time, lots of potential to network, share contact list for the network to happen.”
- “*Gracias por hacer lo que hacen!*” (Thank you for doing what you do!)
- “Continue to bring people together like tonight.”



Top Insights from the Gallery Walk

Attendees offered feedback on poster-sized versions of draft data briefs on the Center’s five key initiatives—infant mortality, environmental justice, sexually transmitted infections, Health Neighborhoods, and cultural and linguistic competency. Six key insights were identified:



Focus on workforce development

Train current County workforce, line staff, management, clinicians and providers; practice of cultural humility; find ways to train and employ community members



Hold those in power accountable

Too often those with power are able to avoid responsibility for their actions; environmental polluters must be held accountable for harming the community.



Continue open discussion backed by race history & science

Continue to address structural racism, trauma and stress; further address intersectionality and cross-sectional nature of racism today; highlight that racism is a daily part of people’s lives and affects health outcomes.



Strengthen best practice models

Enhance cultural competency approaches by strengthening successful models, such as use of *promotoras*; evaluate processes so best practices can be replicated in other public agencies.



Facilitate collaboration between community groups and local officials

Support community efforts to engage with elected representatives; provide a platform for leaders in community to speak; coordinate community to create unified goals.



Learn how people define their own narrative and identities

Combat stigma and false narrative by acknowledging community as experts of their experiences; create a space for self-identification for people across all spectrums; build inclusiveness for communities of color.

Top Needs Identified from Small Group Discussions

Attendees broke up into small groups to discuss how the Center could best support the community's efforts to build health equity. The following needs emerged during these discussions.



Engage in meaningful community engagement & mobilization

Work to build trust; listen to community members in their spaces like churches and schools.



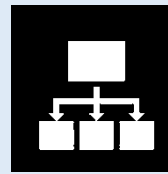
Develop a communication strategy that uses diverse channels

Don't communicate as usual; use other channels like word-of-mouth, social media, video content and door-to-door strategies; reach out to diverse and unconventional partners.



Acknowledge cultural history of systemic oppression

Begin with naming the issue of discrimination and racism, and naming them; create a clearinghouse for real facts—eliminate the false narratives and myths; be the community voice at the systems level.



Connect marginalized communities to decision-makers

Provide training and build capacity for communities to navigate complex policy systems; bring diverse disciplines together.

Who else would participants like the Center to engage?

- American Indian Counseling Center
- Best School Partnerships
- Best Start Community - Compton
- Community health councils
- Faith-based community leaders
- First5LA
- Gang intervention groups
- GRID alternatives to provide free solar panels to low income communities
- Housing advocate partners
- Industry partners that contribute to environmental injustice
- Investing in Place
- Kendren Community Health Center
- Local businesses
- Local elected officials
- Pacoima Beautiful
- Pals for Health
- Parents of murdered children to share what programs/services they believe should be created that would prevent more trauma in communities
- Physicians and nurses
- Representatives from local indigenous communities
- Soul Food for your Baby
- The City Project
- Transgendered advocacy groups
- Trusted community leaders that can provide cultural practices and traditions to educate others on cultural norms
- Vision y Compromiso
- Youth groups

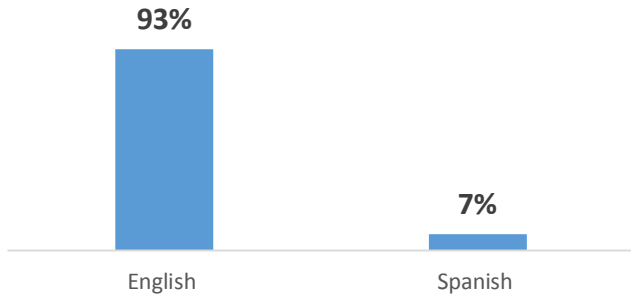
How will the information be used?

The community listening sessions are only the beginning. Your enthusiasm and commitment to health equity truly reflects the vision of communities taking the lead in identifying and advocating for their health and well-being. We will:

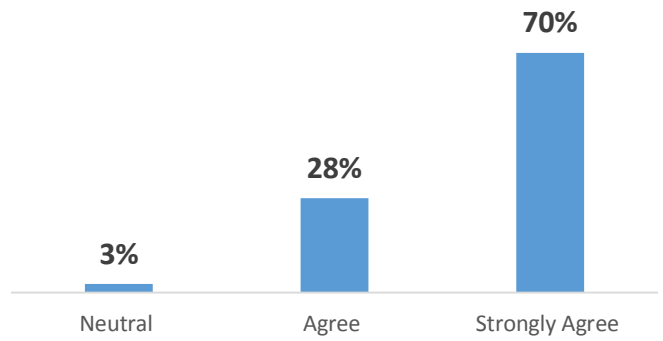
- Revise data briefs according to the key insights;
- Create inventories of best practices, coalitions, communications and other strategic efforts;
- Address the top needs to inform the Center's work plan, prioritizing the specific services attendees would like the Center to offer or enhance;
- Engage recommended key partners.

Graphs and Data Appendix

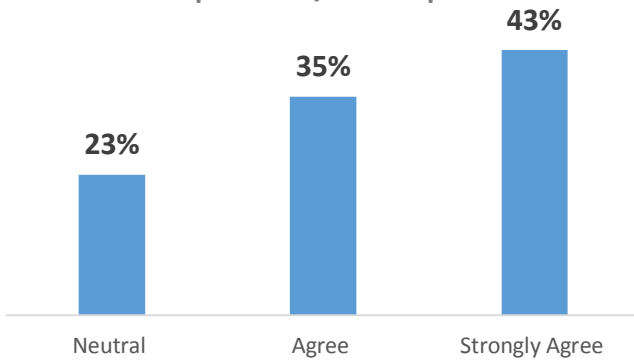
Language of completed surveys



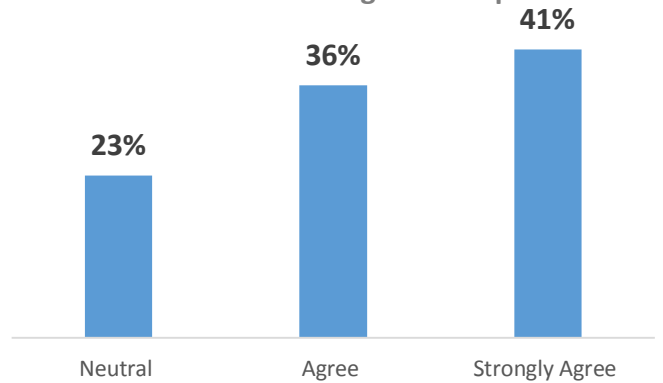
I understand health equity & why it's important



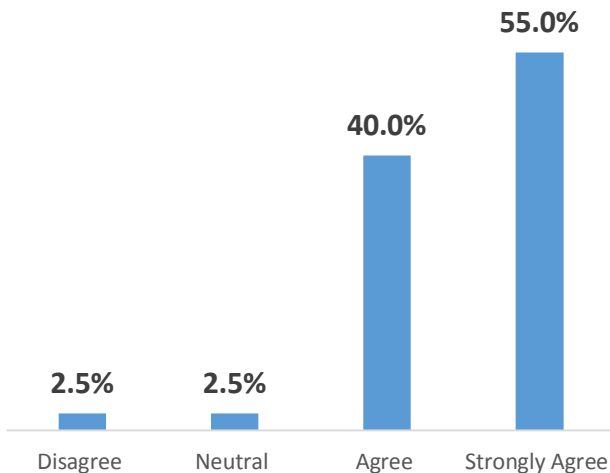
My voice was heard & I had the opportunity to ask questions/share opinions



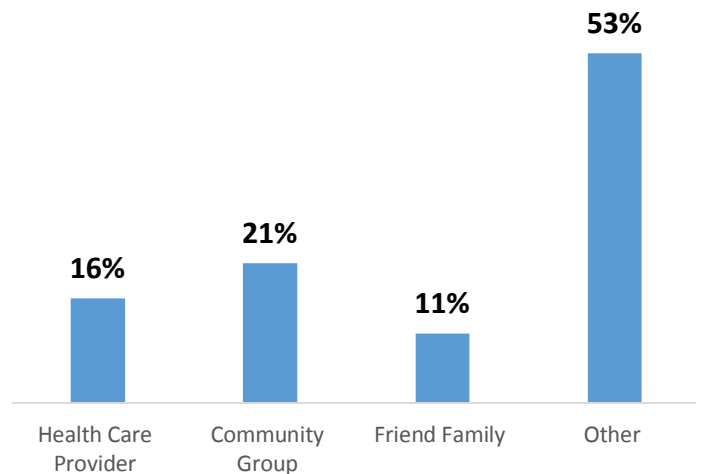
I learned about CHE goals and plans



The listening session was a good use of my time



How I learned of the listening session



Join the Listserv at LACHealthEquity@listserv.ph.lacounty.gov

