

Event Summary
January 11, 2018

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

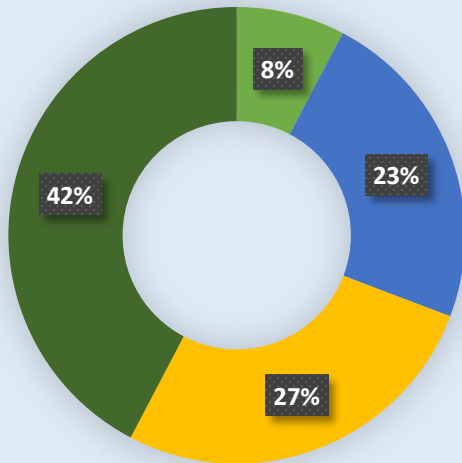
The Center for Health Equity is an LA County Health Agency initiative led by the Department of Public Health. Our work is to ensure that everyone in LA County has the opportunities and resources needed for optimal health and well-being. As a first step, the Center hosted listening sessions across the 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 the city of South Gate, where 83 people attended.

Who participated in this session?

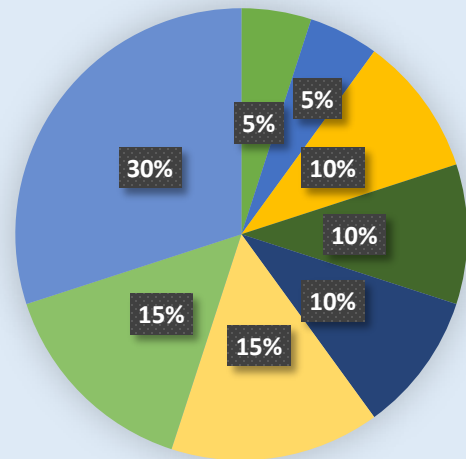


Most valuable part of the Listening Session

- The entire event
- Learning about the Center for Health Equity
- Group breakout sessions
- Hearing concerns and ideas from community members



What can we do better?



- Timing of meetings
- Table facilitators
- More community involvement
- Better venue
- More leadership representation
- Info on future sessions
- More focus on root problems
- More time for networking

Community Voices:

What would make future sessions better?

- “A larger venue and more community involvement.”
- “Arrive on time, attend, listen, ask.”
- “Discussion among participants should be longer. More chances to speak to the larger group.”
- “Focus on root problems.”
- “Follow up with more information and a workshop.”
- “Invite representatives from each city and involving educational, social, and law enforcement agencies to work as a wraparound model.”
- “Commit members to be part of a workgroup to make a difference.”
- “We need more action and to raise our voices for a better life for our families. For those of you who visit us from neighboring communities, help us make a change for a better environment and better social ‘treatment’ and health for the community.”
- “Community health promotoras should have a high level of involvement in our communities. I think the work coming from the hands of volunteer health promotoras makes a big difference and a real positive change in our communities.”



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:



Continue open discussion backed by race history & science

Continue to address structural racism, trauma and stress; call out discrimination and false narratives that perpetuate stigma and continue to marginalize our communities.



Ensure just investments

Realign staff, resources and investment to meet the community’s needs; ensure investment in those that are doing the work, like *promotoras* and community workers (i.e., “comadres saben”); access to services should be affordable and easy to obtain.



Address community fears and create safe spaces

More frequent deportation and fears around immigration status may discourage communities from accessing services.



Focus on workforce development

Train County workforce, line staff, management, clinicians; ensure cultural sensitivity and competency; make hospitals and clinics equally responsible for delivering respectful customer services.



Engage with young people

Create youth advisory committees; add education equity; cultivate grassroots leaders who are connected to the community, speak the language and understand the culture.



Good start, but simplify

Support community driven educational marketing materials; ensure messaging is youth and culturally appropriate; use plain language for community members; visually depict issues for those with language access and cognitive processing delays.

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; be proactive rather than reactive; meet with community leaders.



Promote grant funding opportunities for community

Support community efforts to leverage financial capital; more transparency in government spending; ensure accountability; support and fund programs that are science based.



Meet the community in safe spaces

Attend meetings of existing agencies and community participants; organize forums and community meetings to share and gather more public opinion and follow up.



Develop a communication strategy that uses diverse channels

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

Who else would participants like the Center to engage?

- AltaMed
- Bienestar
- California Latinos for Reproductive Justice
- Children's Health Outreach Initiatives (CHOI)
- Church groups
- Community colleges
- Community Garden Council
- Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM)
- Cruzitas's Deli and Café
- Department of Health Services doctors and nurses providing services in the field for homeless populations
- Environmental health organizations
- Ethnic-focused CBOs with long histories
- Generaccines en Accion
- HIV prevention agencies
- LA Care
- LGBTQ + trainings from a racial, gender and economic perspective of people of color (POC)
- Organizations that work collaboratively for the same objective, like Esperanza Housing Corp
- Organizations that care more about health than money generated by businesses
- Parent Education Bridge for Student Achievement Foundation
- Parents, childcare agencies
- Roybal Foundation
- Youth

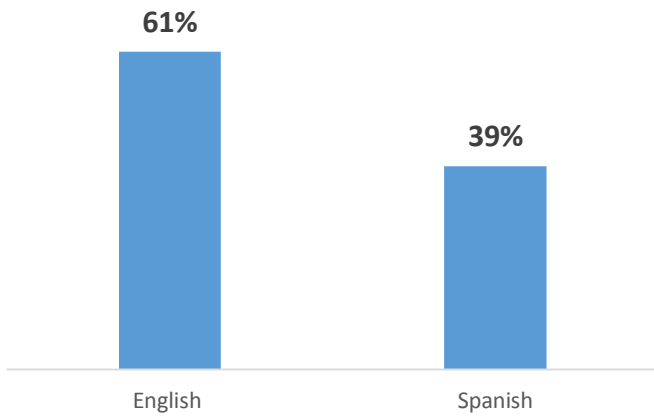
How will the information be used?

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:

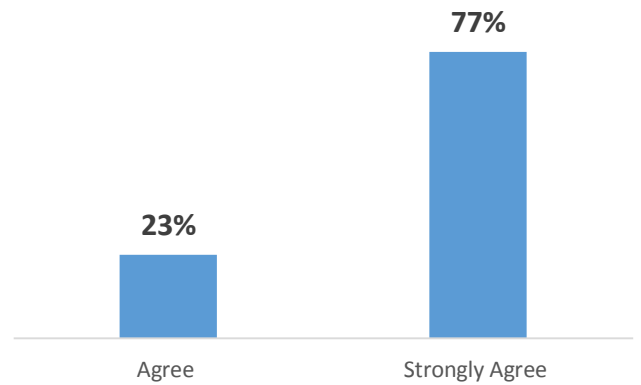
- Revise data briefs according to the key insights;
- Create inventories of best practices, coalitions, communications and other strategic efforts;
- Address the top needs to inform the Center's work plan, prioritizing the specific services attendees would like the Center to offer or enhance; and
- Engage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

Graphs and Data Appendix

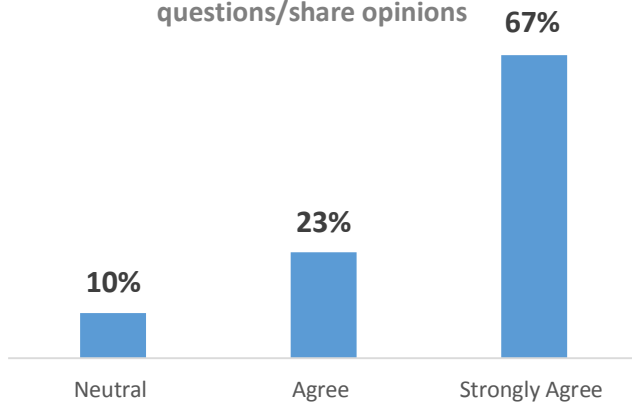
Evaluation Language



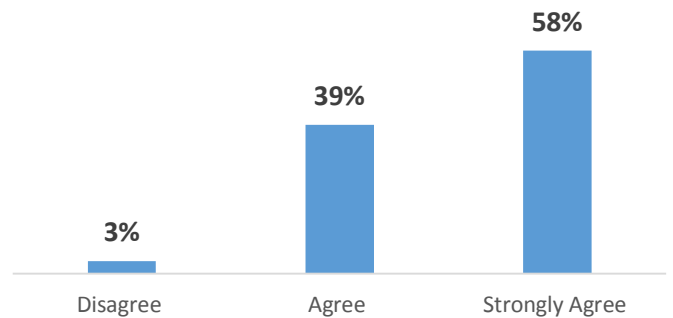
I understand health equity & why it's important



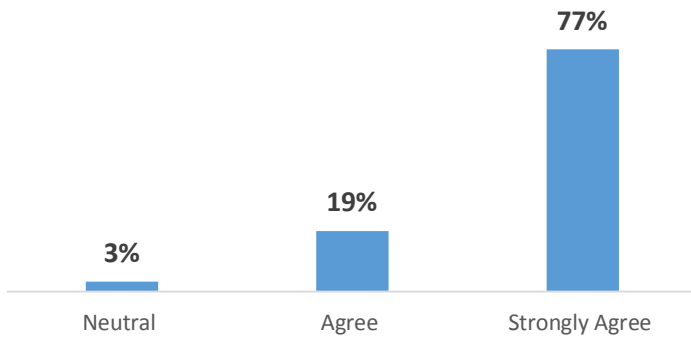
My voice was heard & I had the opportunity to ask questions/share opinions



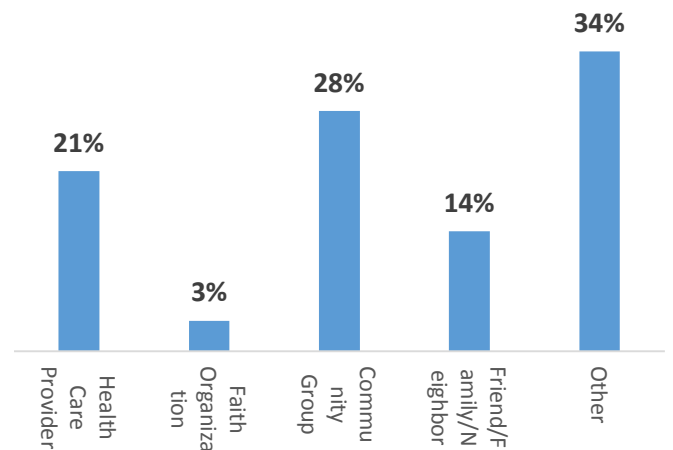
I learned about CHE goals and plans



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

