### **INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)**

## **HEALTH EQUITY INITIATIVE BASELINE EVALUATION FINDINGS**

The baseline evaluation data presented here was collected prior to the implementation of the Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) IRB's Health Equity Standard of Practice (SOP).

The SOP was developed to provide written guidance for DPH researchers and project leads on how to address health equity in their research.

Data were collected from researchers and project leads who submitted new IRB applications between April 2023 and August 2024 and voluntarily completed an evaluation survey when completing their application. These data, along with data collected after implementation, will be used to assess the efficacy of the SOP.

83.3%

### Respondents' confidence in their teams' ability to address health equity\*

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Leadership of the research team reflects the target population (n=27)	3.7%	22.2%	22.2%	51.9%	
Recruited (or weighted) sample is representative of the target population (n=27)	7.4% 7.	4%	29.6%	55.6%	
Research question addresses health equity (n=27)	11.1%	14.8%		74.1%	
Study data collected is relevant to the examination of health equity (n=27)	7.4% 7	.4% 11.19	%	74.1%	
Community member(s)/organization(s) engaged in the research process (n=26)	11.5%	7.7%	19.2%	61.5%	
Project materials are available in the language(s)/dialect(s) predominantly spoken by the target population (n=26)	3.8% 7.79	% 15.4%	1	73.1%	
Project materials are available in reading levels that are appropriate to the target population (n=26)	3.8%3.8%	6 19.2%		73.1%	
Research implementation team reflects the target population (n=26)	3.8% 15	5.4%	19.2%	61.5%	
Collection of data on demographic characteristics across multiple domains (n=25)	12.0%	8.0%	16.0%	64.0%	
Dissemination of findings (n=25)	12.0%	8.0%	28.0%	52.0%	
	Not confid	ent at all	Slightly Confident	Somewhat Confident	Very Confident

\*This question asked respondents to rate how confident they were in their team's ability to address health equity in each of the categories. Respondents were provided examples not listed in category labels above.

### Anticipated barriers and challenges to addressing health equity in projects

"Target population reached will only be determined once [community-based organizations] are engaged and recruitment begins. this is a difficult topic to discuss, which may inhibit community participation." -Respondent

"Participants of the focus group are current [redacted] and there may be gaps in seeking input from all members that represent all relevant public health issues or priorities" -Respondent



**Total respondents: 42 Response rate: 59%** Time Frame: April '23 to August '24

**Department of Public Health** 

of respondents were

employed by LA County



## Top 5 methods of community engagement researchers planned to use in their project (n=26)\*



Community member(s)/ organization(s) consulted during research design (n=15)



Community member(s)/ organization(s) actively involved in recruiting research participants (n=13)



Research findings disseminated via lay fact sheet made available to public (n=13)



Community member(s)/organization(s) involved in interpretation of findings (n=12)



Research findings disseminated via publication in peer-reviewed journal (n=12)

\*This question asked respondents to select all categories that applied. Respondents were provided examples not listed in category labels.

# Top 5 methods for addressing health equity in research respondents planned to use in their project (n=38)\*

66%	Study data collected is relevant to the examination of health equity (n=25)		Community member(s)/organization(s) engaged in the research process (n=19)
63%	Project materials are available in reading levels that are appropriate to the target population (n=24)	<b>50%</b>	Project materials are available in the anguage(s)/dialect(s) predominantly spoken by the target population (n=19)
61%	Research question addresses health equity (n=23)	OTHER METHODS USED	"Machine learning algorithms to identify demographic patterns. By identifying groups with similar attitudes and challenges, as well as sociodemographic trends, we can design targeted programs and interventions to improve health equity."

-Respondent

\*This question asked respondents to select all categories that applied. Respondents were provided examples not listed in category labels.

# Top 5 ways researchers planned to track whether their project is addressing health equity (n=20)\*



Research question addresses health equity (n=13)



Study data collected is relevant to the examination of health equity (n=12)



Project materials are available in reading levels that are appropriate to the target population (n=11)



Community member(s)/organization(s) engaged in the research process(n=10)



Dissemination of findings via distribution of lay factsheets, use of non-traditional channels (n=10)

\*This question asked respondents to select all categories that applied. Respondents were provided examples not listed in category labels.

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