

Maricopa County Qualitative Data

FORCES OF CHANGE section of Community Health Assessment

What it is

The purpose of this assessment is to ascertain positive and negative conditions that impact the promotion and protection of the public's health. The forces of change focuses on identifying forces such as legislation, technology and other impending changes that may impact how a community's public health system operates.

This assessment area answers the questions:

- What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?
- What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

Method

Focus Groups, self-identified

- 4 African-American
- 4 Asian / Pacific Islander
- 4 American Indian
- 4 Hispanic / Latino
- 2 LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender)
- 2 Older Adults
- 2 Low income residents

Overall Findings

Although each of the three sub-group population focus group discussions varied, responses shared many similarities and common themes.

Participants in the focus groups identified the following overall themes:

- Economy
- Environment
- Healthcare
- Health status and concerns
- Legal and Social
- Recreation

Qualitative Data portion of Maricopa County Community Health Assessment

Sixteen focus groups were conducted with 148 participants, all from ethnic minority groups. Four focus group sessions were held with each of the following ethnic groups: African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic. Ages ranged from 18 to 82 and 98 participants (66.2%) indicated that they had health insurance. Respondents answered the following demographic questions:

What is your ethnicity?

- 38 Hispanic
- 37 American Indian
- 34 Asian (comprised of those identifying as Asian Indian/South Asian, Bhutanese, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese American, Karen [Burma], Korean, Vietnamese)
- 29 African American
- 4 Other
- 1 White
- 1 Pacific Islander
- 1 Half Mexican, Half Yaqui

What is your primary language? (focus groups were conducted in or translated to participants' primary language)

- 67 English
- 29 Spanish
- 10 Vietnamese
- 7 Korean
- 1 Chinese
- 1 Karen (from Burma)

What is your gender?

- 84 females
- 58 males

What city do you live in?

- 73 Phoenix
- 13 Guadalupe
- 11 Avondale
- 9 Aguila
- 9 Gila Bend
- 7 Chandler
- 4 Gilbert
- 4 Maricopa
- 4 Mesa
- 3 Tempe
- 2 Goodyear
- 2 Scottsdale
- 1 Apache Junction
- 1 Glendale
- 1 Laveen
- 1 Litchfield Park
- 1 Paradise Valley
- 1 Salt River
- 1 Tucson

Six focus groups were conducted with three subpopulation groups, including two sessions each with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community, participants from low socio-economic status (SES) communities, and older adults (65+ years of age). Ages ranged from 20 – 81 years of age and 38 or 70.4% indicated they had health insurance.

Participant race/ethnicity

- 24 Hispanic
- 18 White
- 6 American Indian
- 5 Other or Unknown
- 3 African American
- 1 Pacific Islander

Participant gender

- 38 Female
- 13 Male
- 3 Transgender

Education

- 12 or 22.2% had less than a high school education
- 10 or 18.5% were high school graduates
- 1 or 1.9% had a GED
- 18 or 33.3% had 1 – 3 years of college
- 8 or 14.8% were college graduates
- 5 or 9.3% had post graduates
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Employment Status

- 20 or 37.0% were currently employed
- 8 or 14.8 were unemployed/looking for work
- 9 or 16.7% were homemakers
- 11 or 10.4% were retired
- 3 or 5.6% were unable to work
- 3 or 5.6% unknown

Marital Status

- 21 or 38.9% were Married
- 1 or 1.9% were Separated
- 11 or 20.4% were Divorced
- 3 or 5.6% were Widowed
- 14 or 25.9% had never been Married
- 3 or 5.6% were members of an unmarried couple
- 1 or 1.9% unknown

Number of Children

- 11 or 20.4% had no children
- 7 or 13.0% had 1 child
- 12 or 22.2% had 2 children
- 12 or 22.2% had 3 children
- 7 or 13.0% had 4 children
- 5 or 9.3% had 5 children

Major themes and concerns discovered through minority focus groups	African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	LGBT	Low SES	Older Adults
Poor economy/high rates of unemployment or underemployment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Limited access to affordable, quality health care	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lack of access to quality, low-cost recreational facilities	X	X	X	X			
Barriers to affordable, appropriate, quality housing	X	X	X	X			
Transportation barriers	X	X	X				
Anti-immigrant perception, issues with immigration status		X	X	X			
Discrimination/racism	X	X		X			
Neighborhood safety issues and violence	X	X		X			
Concerns about environmental pollutants/toxins	X	X		X	X	X	X
Sedentary lifestyles	X	X		X			
Limited access to healthy, culturally relevant foods	X		X	X			
Limited health literacy	X		X				
High stress	X			X			
Struggles to preserve cultural traditions		X		X			
Lack of resources for parents in need of help or education	X			X			
Lack of public or private insurance coverage or lack of understanding for eligibility requirements			X	X	X	X	X
Limited access to quality, affordable dental care	X					X	
Lack of quality, accessible social services	X	X					
Lack of culturally-appropriate resources/institutions for health care and social services			X				
High prevalence of obesity					X	X	X
Issues related to homelessness					X	X	X
Lack of sufficient mental health resources					X	X	X
Issues related to high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes					X	X	
Problems with depression, lack of mental health care		X			X		X
Not enough volunteer opportunities						X	X

The following issues were brought up by only one minority group:

Asian and Pacific Islanders

- Language barriers
- Social isolation

African Americans

- Lack of cultural cohesiveness
- Dissatisfaction with the media in terms of negative stereotypes
- Social marginalization, sentiment that the community's voice is ignored
- Too many liquor stores
- Lack of quality, concerned schools

American Indians

- Limited skill set for those who move from the reservation to urban settings
- High prevalence of alcoholism and other forms of substance abuse
- Limited knowledge of preparing healthy foods
- Lack of financial literacy

Hispanics

- Lack of affordable, quality early childhood education

LGBT

- Issues of stigmatism:
 - Between the general population and LGBT community
 - Between gays/lesbians and the transgender community
 - Regarding HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Not enough coverage for prescription medicines
- There has been an increase in STD and HIV rates due to unclean needle exchanges for those injecting hormones
- Not enough outreach to the general population in regard to STDs and HIV
- Not enough resources specific to the LGBT community, especially transgender populations
- Large number of undiagnosed HIV cases

Low SES

- Some are abusing public resources, such as AHCCCS (public health insurance)