

Results of Voice Your Vision Listening Sessions: Strengths, Solutions, Concerns and Community Collaboration for Health in New York State

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Background and Methodology: A bottom-up approach was used to engaging communities and identifying the issues important and relevant to them in an effort to improve overall health. As part of the New York State (NYS) Minority Health Council, community listening sessions were held in areas identified by NYS where health disparities are most significant. Over a thousand community members spent the day in facilitated conversation with each other, local and state officials, community and faith organizations, and practitioners.

Data Analysis: Participant groups self-selected by topic, such as: Taking Charge of Your Health; Women's Health; Men's Health; Violence and Trauma; Spiritually and Health; Youth and Adolescent Health; Aging and Eldercare; Living with Disabilities; LGBTQ Health and Seeking Services in the Community. Notes scribes were assigned to each table.

Data was qualitatively analyzed. First, within each topic across sites, then across all topics for cross-cutting themes. Finally, the transcripts were made into Woordle documents and the report returned to the community for member-checking.

Results: Relevant issues in each category were identified and supported with quotes. Solutions were proposed that were identified by the community (preferred) or evidence-based/best practice. Lastly, policy interventions and associated resources were identified and reported. Cross-cutting themes included Equal Access; Culturally Competent Care; Health Education and Outreach; Cost and Insurance; Taking Ownership of Health; Prevention and Wellness; Support Services and Connection to the Community; Caring for the Aging Population; and Genetics. These results have applicability beyond New York State as areas of concern in communities when considering CEnR.