

***Assessment of Health Concerns and
Access to Care among
African American Residents of
Fresno Texas***

Denae King, PhD
Kellogg Scholar Alumni
U.T. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Center for Research on Minority Health

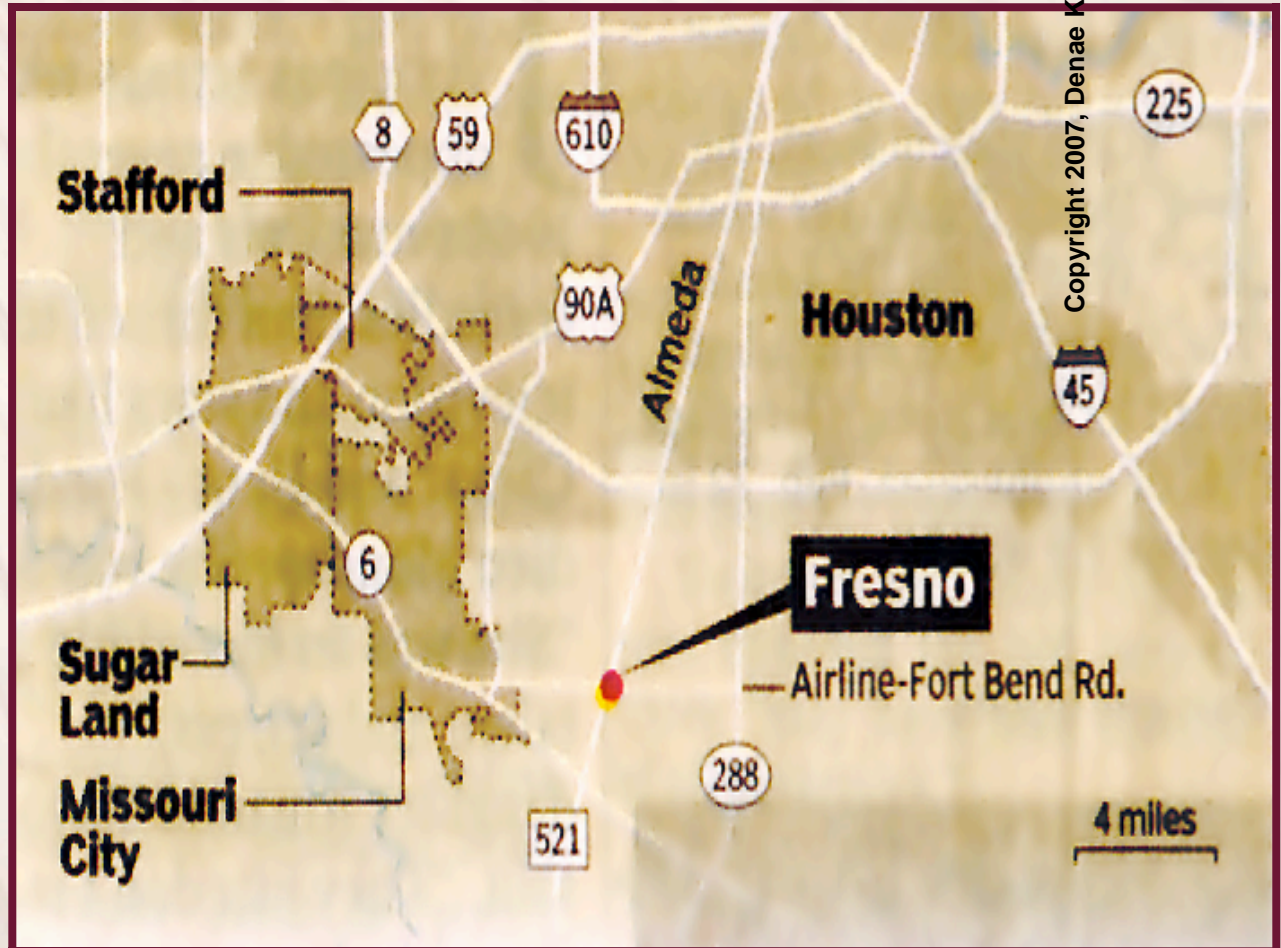
Order of Presentation

- n Overview: The Fresno Project
- n Health Care and Access to Care
 - n Focus Group Discussions
 - n Objective
 - n Methods
 - n Findings
 - n Conclusions

The **FRESNO** Project

Fresno Environmental Survey of Needs and Opinions

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Fresno, Texas

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Fresno, Texas

- § Quickly growing unincorporated area (4,500 acres) in Fort Bend County
- § 25 miles from the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- § Population: Estimated 6600 residents*
- § Demographics: 50% Hispanic/Latino, 27% African American, 22% White Non-Hispanic*
- § 15% of individuals live below poverty level*
- § A public water supply has not been established for all of the residents
- § No mayor or city officials; elected county officials
- § The community is surrounded by growing, expensive neighborhoods (south), a landfill (north), and an expanding industry (west).

***Source: US Census Data, 2000**

The Fresno Community ***(often referred to as “The Old Fresno”)***



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Mobile Homes account for 25% of housing units in Fresno.

The Fresno Community



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The Fresno Project

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The Fresno Project

- n Five focus groups sessions were conducted between June 2005 and September 2006 consisting of 23 African American participants.
- n The focus group sessions were approximately one-hour long and were held at either the local community center or at the local elementary school.



The Fresno Project

Recruitment:

Newspaper, Elementary school, Culturally tailored flyers, Active

Participant Incentive:

\$20 Target gift card and Dinner

Participant Eligibility:

18 years or older, resident of Fresno for at least one year, provide informed consent

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2004-0447
January 25, 2005
Page 1

The FRESNO Project

Fresno Environmental Survey of Needs and Opinions

What do we need to know about the Fresno community?

Let's have a group discussion to talk about living in the Fresno community!



For Rental Call FCC Parks Department



You will receive a complimentary dinner and \$20 Target gift card for your participation.

The Center for Research on Minority Health at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is conducting focus group sessions with the residents of the Fresno community. The Fresno Environmental Survey of Needs and Opinions will assess the needs of the residents of Fresno, TX. This information will inform researchers, health educators, and Fort Bend county officials on the best ways to develop environmental and health education programs that are specific to the residents of the Fresno community.



For more information about the FRESNO PROJECT, please contact Denaë King at 713-563-2723.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
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The Fresno Project

FOCUS GROUP OBJECTIVES

- I. Assess the resident's perceptions of the Fresno community with regards to the constituents' race/ethnicity, income, and age and their neighborhood in terms of the quality of schools, safety of the area, the accelerated growth of the community, access to entertainment, and shopping
- II. Explore the participants ideas on the status of individual and collective health in the Fresno community
- III. Determine if the participants feel that their environment affects their health status
- IV. Explore beliefs related to possible types of environmental exposures in the Fresno community
- V. Explore perceptions of participating in research, MDACC, and genetic testing

Health Status and Access to Care

The goal of this section of the focus group discussions was to identify any health concerns, to examine the perceptions of individual and overall community health status, to assess potential mediators of health status, and to determine where the residents obtain primary and emergency healthcare.

Participants' Demographic Characteristics

<u>Mean Age, years (age range)</u>	53 (27-80)
<u>Gender</u>	
Male	11 (48%)
Female	12 (52%)
<u>Years Residing in Fresno</u>	
0-5	16 (69%)
6-10	2 (9%)
11 or more	5 (22%)
<u>Highest Level of Education Completed</u>	
Elementary	1 (4%)
High School	5 (22%)
Technical	2 (9%)
College	15 (65%)
<u>Employed in Fresno</u>	
Yes	2 (9%)

Health Concerns

Are there any health concerns in the Fresno community?

There were no health concerns noted by the residents.

- n *“Within my family and I do communicate a lot with my neighbors ... I haven’t heard anything major.”*
- n *“I’m not aware of any individuals having any severe health issues. Keep in mind I been here 10 years and I’m not aware of any [concerns]”.*

Self-Reported Health Status

How would you rate your health?

Residential participants consistently described their health as **good** and described the health of the overall community as **fair**.

- n ***“I guess I would rate the community’s health status as fair, you are not seeing anybody dying, but you wonder because there’s always those that wouldn’t think to go to the doctor.”***

- n ***“See anytime you don’t have any clinics, you don’t have no hospitals in the area, that means the best your health could be is fair.”***

Potential Mediators of Health Status

t Air Quality

“Its bad for the people that [have] breathing problems, it’s a lot of dust and stuff around here”.

t Proximity to a Landfill

“I think another thing is that we are not that far from a dump ... I think over the long haul stuff that’s been buried for [years] is going to come, it’s coming back”.

t Exposure to Sewage

“We have a lot of areas where they run sewage into the ditch... And any time you have that, there is a potential for severe health issues”.

t Water Quality

“No I haven’t heard of any health problems. I just think that the water is horrible. I think that it can have some affect after some years of it”.

Perceived Health Mediator: Water Quality

- n *“For some people the biggest problem here is as far as the health line is our **water**. A lot of the water is not really good to drink. We have to buy the drinking water, the cooking water, we have wells but it’s not fitting to drink.”... We’re not on the city water and we wish we could get city water.”*
- n *“That’s some kind of **contamination to the water** and it’s the reason why ... It’s not healthy for us.”*
- n *“I mean, in the long run I think the **water** will affect my health because I don’t know, but where I stay, I can taste the chlorine in the water ... And the smell of the water is at times too much.”*

18 of the 23 participants responded that they used the water in their homes.

Access to Healthcare

“Where do you go when sick?”

Personal Physician	Emergency Room
20 participants	3 participants

“Do you see a doctor in the Fresno area”?

Number of Participants	Location of Physician
15	Houston, Texas
4	Sugarland, Texas
1	Missouri City, Texas
3	Other Locations

Access to Emergency Healthcare

“Where do you go in case there is an emergency”?

1. Memorial Herman in Houston
2. The Fort Bend Hospital in Missouri City
3. Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
4. The Fresno-Arcola Family Medical Clinic which is independently owned and was established to serve low-income, uninsured, and elderly patients. It is the only health care facility within the town of Fresno.

Lack of Access to Healthcare

- n *“We have a lot of low-income families out here in this area and I don’t think there is adequate care.”*
- n *“But I don’t know what would happen if the people with no health insurance went over there to Fort Bend unless they were dying or something.... If they would send them off to some place else.*
- n *“If you have a family and you know they are working minimum wage and they have 5 or 6 kids more than likely they are not going to have health insurance, and for them to go over to the Fort Bend Hospital, I don’t know if they would treat them there.”*
- n *“You have a lot of people [that] have come in here from other countries and many of these people are working minimum wage ... So they don’t have access to medical care and I think that a lot of them wouldn’t know who to ask or what to ask either.”*

In Conclusion...

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In Conclusion...

- n African American Fresno residents perceived that environmental hazards may potentially affect their health status.
- n Access to healthcare for Fresno residents, particularly for residents who are immigrants, low-income, or uninsured, was a major concern identified during the focus group discussions.

Recommendations

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Recommendations

- § Efforts should be made by county officials to provide affordable and accessible healthcare to the Fresno residents.
- § In addition, the elected officials should develop and enforce policies that promote healthy water and air quality for the Fresno community.

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