

Community Involvement in the Design of Community Health Equity Reports

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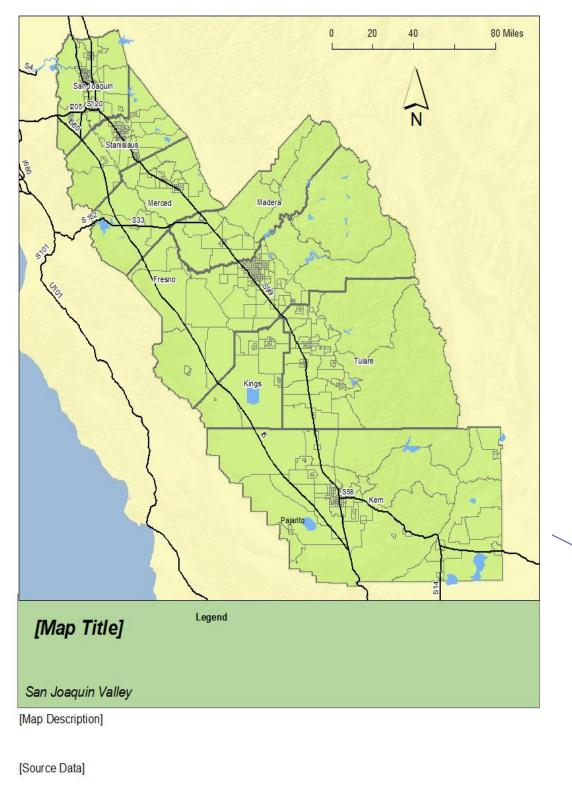
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Objective: This project utilized the input of community teams in cities and counties participating in the "Place Matters" initiative to develop tailored community health equity reports targeting local policies.

Methods: Researchers worked with partner teams—local health departments, faith-based organizations, and other civic leaders— in eight community teams were directly engaged in defining goals for the report; domains and indicators of interest; key questions, the analytic plan, and valid geocoded data sources; and relevant prior research in the community. The process, which facilitated this community engagement, will be described. Results: The teams sought to use the reports to persuade elected officials to improve access to health care. Domains of interest included environmental justice, institutional racism, the built environment, and violence. Health outcomes of interest included life expectancy, asthma and obesity. The specific indicators selected by the communities to measure geographic disparities in social determinants of health, and the lessons learned from the dialogue, will be presented. Conclusions: Nine different communities with varied interests were able to collaborate with researchers to tailor studies to local priorities in order to create leverage to facilitate policy change. The advantages and challenges of engaging community input as a first step in such research will be reviewed.

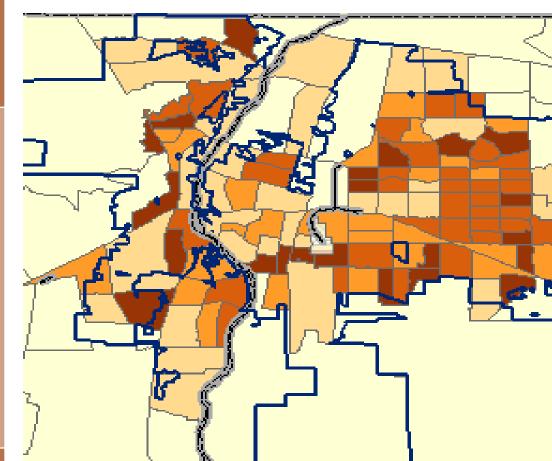
Partners: The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies – Health Action (CHA), Place Matters Community Team

Phases for CHER	Community Team Involvement	Lessons Learned	Sanc Saquin N Stanis aus Merced Madera	
 Selecting Teams to Participate in the Project 	Submitted a letter of interest to be included in the project	 Varying levels of preparedness among teams complicated subsequent stages in report production 	S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	
2. Communicating Steps, Timelines, Expectations and Roles	 Clarified project expectations and timelines in an iterative process with the researchers Provided input on how the CHER fit in with their other projects and policy initiatives 	 Upfront discussion with all of the project collaborators to clarify expectations, roles and deliverables was necessary Timelines and schedules were critical in managing the complexity of the project. However, flexibility was required to adapt to: Changing schedules of individual teams Data complications that emerged 	[Map Title] San Joaquin Valley [Map Description] [Source Data]	
3. Developing a Research Plan Background Research Identifying Data Defining Questions Selecting Methods Feedback from Advisory Panel	• Identified indicators and local data sources • Determined the topic of interest that reflected community priorities and how the CHER could add value to their current capabilities and facilitate policy discussion	 Selecting geospatial and statistical methods that would be both rigorous and accessible to general audiences was complex Some communities required guidance in Choosing a research topic Moving from general topics of interest to more focused questions 	Community Alameda County Cri Tra Env City of Baltimore Edi Bernalillo County Env	
4. Acquiring and Evaluating Data	 Provided a range of local data sets that would otherwise have been unavailable Directed researchers to other potentially available data sets. e.g. datasets at local universities Provided explanation of outliers Assisted in the selection of geographic units to be censored. e.g. small population, non-residential areas, etc. 	 Data for small geographic areas introduced multiple challenges. e.g. outliers, small sample sizes, missing data, etc. The data sources provided by communities varied in thoroughness and supporting documentation Data sharing agreements required negotiation and flexibility 	City of Boston Social Cook County For Orleans Parish Edition San Joaquin Valley (8 Social Soc	
5. Defining Community Boundaries and Landmarks	 Established the communities' geographic boundaries Suggested landmarks (e.g. rivers, minor road ways, topographical features) Approved community specific map templates 	 Community feedback was crucial to identify important local landmarks Delineating community boundaries was essential to conducting appropriate analysis Community and neighborhood names may be contested or inconsistent 	Counties) En Ho	
 Data Analysis a) Non-spatial b) Spatial Explore Spatial Patterns Histogram Spatial Autocorrelation Autocorrelation Hot Spot Analysis Ordinary Least Squares Regression Analysis Ordinary Least Squares Regression Geographically Weighted Regression 	 Suggested types of analysis Provided guidance on data issues Corroborated that results made intuitive sense Figure 5. Environmental Exposure by Race/Ethnicity and Poverty in Bernalillo County, NM ** White ** White ** Welow ** Below ** 150% of Federal Poverty Level ** Environmental Risk Factors ** Below *	 Community variability in data quality (e.g. unit of analysis) affected the power available for statistical analysis In general, communities lacked individual level data, which created analytical limitations 	South Delta (2 Counties) Early Bernalillo County Ma	
7. Report Production a) Technical Report b) Final Report	 Prioritized presentation of content and policy recommendations Provided community context in the narrative Provided feedback on interpretability of report 	 Early planning was necessary for dealing with limited findings or lack of statistically significant relationships Scientifically sound data and findings are important to support policy recommendations The local context of data is extremely important in interpreting results. 		
8. Rollout (HPI & CHA)	Determined appropriate audience	Pending		



Despite being referenced in online shape files, the community team for San Joaquin reported that this lake in Kings County no longer exists. Without community feedback, it would have been mapped incorrectly.

Community	Area of Interest	
Alameda County	Criminal Justice, Economics, Housing, Transportation, Education and Physical Environment	
City of Baltimore	Education and Neighborhood Quality	
Bernalillo County	Environmental Justice	
City of Boston	Social Capital	
Cook County	Food Access	
Orleans Parish	Education and Crime	
San Joaquin Valley (8 Counties)	Social Factors, Access to Care, Environmental Hazards & Avoidable Hospitalizations	
South Delta (2 Counties)	Green Space	



After Community Assistance

