National Voices Project

Understanding barriers
Measuring opportunities
Informing initiatives for change

For children – through the voices of adults in their communities

Local Impact Report
Fresno County, CA
2012-2015
Introduction

The NVP offers an unprecedented perspective on community-level opportunities for children throughout the country, in the domains of health and nutrition, education and learning, and economic security - through the eyes of adults whose occupations and volunteer work affect such opportunities. In other words, the NVP reflects the perceptions of individuals throughout the United States who are in a position to improve children's opportunities in the future. We generally use the word "children" throughout the report to describe children from age 0-18 years, unless otherwise noted.

With support and collaboration from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation through the America Healing Initiative, researchers at the University of Michigan are leading the National Voices Project (NVP) from 2011-2016. The central goals of the NVP are to examine the sources of racial/ethnic inequity and other disparities for children in the United States today and identify interventions that address disparities effectively.

Key Findings

• About 100 different residents of Fresno County responded to questions in each of the years of the National Voices Project (NVP) annual survey.

• Along with other communities participating in Collaboratives for Health Equity, a growing proportion of respondents from Fresno County perceived many racial/ethnic inequities over the years 2012-2015.

• In most years of the NVP surveys, residents in Fresno County most commonly perceived racial/ethnic inequities related to neighborhood safety. They less commonly perceived racial/ethnic inequities related to food and nutrition, and health and healthcare. Most of these perceptions were reported more commonly than residents of other communities across the United States that do not participate in Collaboratives for Health Equity.

• In Fresno County, from 2012-2014 residents commonly perceived lots of opportunities for children and teens to have fresh fruits and vegetables. Respondents generally less commonly perceived lots of opportunity for children and teens to have neighborhoods without violence.

• Respondents in Fresno County most commonly and consistently perceived the most availability of hospital care and primary care for children and teens, and less availability for specialty care and mental health care. Reproductive care was also perceived infrequently as being widely available for teens.

• In Fresno County in most years of the NVP annual survey, about one-quarter of respondents rated multiple aspects of education and child care for young children as "excellent". For young children, they were generally most positive about having a safe environment at elementary schools, and consistently least positive about cultural diversity programs. For teens, they were most positive about opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities and least positive about school support for teens at risk of dropping out.

• In all four years of NVP annual surveys, the proportion of Fresno County residents who perceived that family financial situations had worsened over the past year was greater than (sometimes twice as great as) the proportion that perceived they had improved – with at least two out of five respondents saying in each year that families’ financial situations had worsened over the past year.

• Regarding programs nominated by the Collaboratives for Health Equity team and presented to respondents in a survey related to boys and young men of color, the majority of respondents had not heard of the two programs. However, about one-third of respondents said that they had either heard of the program or knew someone who had benefited.
Survey Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents</td>
<td>2,311</td>
<td>2,712</td>
<td>2,147</td>
<td>2,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboratives for Health Equity Only</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>1,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno County Only</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount of Perceived Racial/Ethnic Inequities

The Importance of Perceptions of Inequities

Perceptions of inequities in communities are strongly associated with:
- Lower measures of "lots of opportunity" for health
- Less healthcare availability
- Lower ratings of "excellent" for aspects of quality education
- Barriers to school success
- Perceptions that financial situations have "gotten worse" over the last 12 months

Respondents' perceptions of inequities in their communities was more strongly associated with their perceptions of children's and teens' opportunities than was respondents' age, gender, education, or household income.
Perceptions of Racial/Ethnic Inequities among Children and Teens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inequities</th>
<th>Fresno</th>
<th>CC</th>
<th>Fresno</th>
<th>CC</th>
<th>Fresno</th>
<th>CC</th>
<th>Fresno</th>
<th>CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Nutrition+</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Healthcare</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education∞</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Safety+</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Opportunities∞</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice System/Law Enforcement∞</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Only respondents who perceived few/some/many racial ethnic inequities were asked about inequities in specific areas.
Response options included "Yes," "No," and "Don't know"
*P<.05 for comparison across Collaboratives for Health Equity in 2012
+P<.05 for comparison across Collaboratives for Health Equity in 2013
∞P<.05 for comparison across Collaboratives for Health Equity in 2014
∞∞P<.05 for comparison across Collaboratives for Health Equity in 2015
Perception of "Lots of Opportunity" for Health & Nutrition

### Young Children

#### 2012

- Places to get Physical Activity: 52%
- Neighborhoods without Violence: 41%
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: 42%
- Clean Air, Water & Outdoor Spaces: 35%

#### 2013

- Places to get Physical Activity: 56%
- Neighborhoods without Violence: 55%
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: 57%
- Clean Air, Water & Outdoor Spaces: 71%

#### 2014

- Places to get Physical Activity: 60%
- Neighborhoods without Violence: 58%
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: 54%
- Clean Air, Water & Outdoor Spaces: 71%

#### 2015

- Places to get Physical Activity: 60%
- Neighborhoods without Violence: 60%
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: 54%
- Clean Air, Water & Outdoor Spaces: 68%

### Teens

#### 2012

- Places to get Physical Activity: 56%
- Neighborhoods without Violence: 36%
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: 49%
- Clean Air, Water & Outdoor Spaces: 38%

#### 2013

- Places to get Physical Activity: 67%
- Neighborhoods without Violence: 56%
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: 62%
- Clean Air, Water & Outdoor Spaces: 73%

#### 2014

- Places to get Physical Activity: 64%
- Neighborhoods without Violence: 58%
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: 63%
- Clean Air, Water & Outdoor Spaces: 71%

#### 2015

- Places to get Physical Activity: 69%
- Neighborhoods without Violence: 58%
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: 62%
- Clean Air, Water & Outdoor Spaces: 71%

Note: Response options included "Lots of opportunity," "Some opportunity," and "Little or no opportunity"

Fresno County, CA
Perception of "Lots of Availability" of Healthcare

**Young Children**

![Graph showing the perception of availability of healthcare services for young children from 2012 to 2015.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fresno</th>
<th>CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Teens**

![Graph showing the perception of availability of healthcare services for teens from 2012 to 2015.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fresno</th>
<th>CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Response options included "Lots of availability," "Some availability," and "Little or no availability"
**Education Opportunities Rated as "Excellent"**

**Young Children**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe Environment at Elementary Schools*+∞</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships, Vouchers, or other Financial Support to Help Low-Income Families Afford High-Quality Child Care*+∞</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Resources*t</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity Programs*+∞</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Child Care</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Preschools+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Elementary Schools+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to Participate in Extra Curricular Activities∞</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of After-School Care t</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Response options included "Excellent," "Good," "Poor," and "Don't know"

*P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across all response options in 2012
+P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across all response options in 2013
tP<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across response option rated as "Excellent" in 2014
∞P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across all response options in 2015
Education Opportunities Rated as "Excellent"

Teens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fresno</th>
<th>CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Environment at Middle and High School*+∞</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity Programs+∞</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Resources*</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Education for Teens*+t</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to Participate in Extracurricular Activities*+∞</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Support for Teens at Risk of Dropping Out</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for Advanced Classes*∞</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Environment at Middle and High School*+∞</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity Programs+∞</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Resources*</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Education for Teens*+t</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to Participate in Extracurricular Activities*+∞</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for Advanced Classes*∞</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Environment at Middle and High School*+∞</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity Programs+∞</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Resources*</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Education for Teens*+t</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to Participate in Extracurricular Activities*+∞</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Support for Teens at Risk of Dropping Out</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for Advanced Classes*∞</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Environment at Middle and High School*+∞</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity Programs+∞</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Resources*</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Education for Teens*+t</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to Participate in Extracurricular Activities*+∞</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Support for Teens at Risk of Dropping Out</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for Advanced Classes*∞</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Response options included "Excellent," "Good," "Poor," and "Don't know"  
*P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across all response options in 2012  
+P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across all response options in 2013  
†P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across response option rated as "Excellent" in 2014  
∞P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across all response options in 2015
Change in Family Financial Situation over the Past 12 Months

Gotten Better

- Fresno County: 17% in 2012, 25% in 2013, 24% in 2014, 25% in 2015
- Comparative Communities: 9% in 2012, 17% in 2013, 21% in 2014, 23% in 2015

Gotten Worse

- Fresno County: 58% in 2012, 46% in 2013, 52% in 2014, 44% in 2015
- Comparative Communities: 58% in 2012, 40% in 2013, 30% in 2014, 27% in 2015

Note: Response options included "got much worse/got slightly worse," "stayed the same," and "got slightly better/got much better."
Change in Job Opportunities for Teens from Low Income Families in the Next 12 Months

Job Opportunities Will Get Better

Job Opportunities Will Get Worse

Note: Response options included "will get better," "will stay the same," and "will get worse."
2015 Boys and Men of Color Survey: Collaboratives for Health Equity Initiatives

Survey Question:
How familiar are you with these programs in Fresno County?
- Barrios Unidos
- Youth Leadership Institute

Awareness of Programs in Fresno County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Know Someone Who Has Benefited</th>
<th>Have Heard of This Program</th>
<th>Have Not Heard of This Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barrios Unidos</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Leadership Institute</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Boys & Young Men of Color (BYMOC) Qualitative Analysis
Fresno County, CA
n=115

Research Question: How is your community creating opportunities for boys and young men of color?

Most Commonly Reported Efforts:
- Education/job training
- City partnerships/involvement of organizations
- Sports programs/rec centers/after school programs

“Fresno struggles to create opportunities for all of its residents. Success or failure in the area is more dependent on individual decisions than what someone else can do for you.”
- White Respondent, Fresno

“In this city there are not many people of color but I think opportunities would be given the same way as a white or other race person.”
- Hispanic/Latino Respondent, Huron

“For example, the program in schools called “Dual Emersion[sic]” where English and the student’s native language are taught so students will be bilingual by the time they reach sixth grade.”
- Hispanic/Latino Respondent, Sanger

BYMOC are helped by...
- Education and job training
- City partnerships and involvement of organizations
- School programs
- Sports programs/rec centers/after school programs
- Social programs
- Volunteer opportunities

No differences by race
- No different opportunities regardless of color

Other themes
- Don’t know/I am the wrong person to ask
- Opportunities are not being created
- Not enough is being done

Race/ethnicity of respondent
- African American
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Arab Americans
- Asian American/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/Latino
- White
- Other

Each person represents one comment. Views with at least five comments are displayed.
Mission of the National Voices Project

Led by researchers at the University of Michigan, the National Voices Project (NVP) is an effort to bring the perspectives of thousands of people in communities across the United States to the national dialogue about opportunities and barriers for children related to race/ethnicity.

Boys and Young Men of Color (BYMOC) Survey

The BYMOC survey was conducted in January-February 2015 via GfK, a survey research organization that maintains KnowledgePanel®, a nationally representative web-enabled panel of adult members of households across the U.S. GfK invited 11,644 people 18 years or older to participate. 2,081 respondents completed the survey and indicated they have jobs and/or volunteer in ways that affect education, health/healthcare/nutrition, economic opportunities, social justice or community and civic engagement for children.

This qualitative summary was conducted with respondents residing in the following Place Matters locations: Cook County (IL), Alameda County (CA), Wayne County (MI), Fresno County (CA), King County (WA), Suffolk County (MA), and Bernalillo County (NM).

Methods

Open-ended responses were analyzed to assess for themes and sentiment of the responses from this question: “How is your community creating opportunities for BYMOC?” Each question was coded by two reviewers. All discrepancies between the two reviewers were discussed and recoded as necessary. If a reviewer decided not to change their coding, a third reviewer was invited to decide how the response should be coded. Responses were broken down into 22 main themes:

- Education/jobs/skills training
- School programs
- Volunteer opportunities
- Sports/rec centers/afterschool clubs
- Mentors
- Community events
- Organizations/other sectors (religious, civic, etc.)
- Social programs
- Policy changes
- No different opportunities regardless of color
- No differences, great education for all
- No differences, EEO
- No differences, equal access
- Opportunities not created
- Parent’s role
- Teachers/discipline limitations
- Not enough is being done
- Effort is needed by BYMOC
- BYMOC get better opportunities than other races
- They are doing everything they can
- Nationwide issue
- Don’t know/wrong person to ask

Partner: National Collaborative for Health Equity

For this BYMOC survey, NVP partnered with the National Collaborative for Health Equity (NCHE). The mission of the NCHE is to promote health equity by catalyzing collaboration among racial equity advocates, grassroots and community-based organizations, researchers, public health professionals, and other key stakeholders. For more information, visit their website: NationalCollaborative.org.
Mission of the National Voices Project

Led by researchers at the University of Michigan, the National Voices Project is an effort to bring the perspectives of thousands of people in communities across the United States to the national dialogue about opportunities and barriers for children related to race/ethnicity.

The National Voices Project conducts major national surveys twice each year among adults who work and volunteer on behalf of children. These surveys focus on racial/ethnic inequities at the community level that affect children's health, education, and economic security. For more information, visit the project website: NationalVoicesProject.org.

The National Voices Project team is grateful for the support and collaboration of the W.K.Kellogg Foundation, through the America Healing Initiative.

The Team

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