National Voices Project

Understanding barriers
Measuring opportunities
Informing initiatives for change

For children - through the voices of adults in their communities

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.

Children thrive on opportunity. But when opportunities differ because of children's race or ethnicity, where they live, or because of who they are, children face barriers in their health, education, economic security, and success. Measuring disparities for children is a key step toward addressing disadvantage. Careful measurement of sensitive issues can bring greater understanding. In turn, understanding informs new initiatives that can lead to meaningful changes for children.

This Comprehensive Data Resource provides a four year history, from 2012-2015, of annual survey data from the NVP. These annual surveys focused on perceptions of racial/ethnic inequities at the community level that affect children's health, healthcare, education, and economic security. Annual data was collected on over 2,000 respondents who work and/or volunteer with children in areas of health, education, economic security, and community/civic engagement.

For each NVP survey, a unique GfK KnowledgePanel® was drawn. The NVP samples included oversampling of African American and Hispanic panel members, to ensure adequate representation of these groups and to allow greater precision of estimates in analyses using these groups. This oversampling, as well as the oversampling at the panel level and the possibility of unequal response rates with various groups of interest, requires that analyses include complex survey sampling considerations to produce results that are generalizable to the national population. Oversampling was also conducted in seven communities that are part of the National Collaborative for Health Equity. These communities are defined in the report as "Collaboratives for Health Equity." These seven communities include Alameda County, CA; Fresno County, CA; Bernalillo County, NM; Cook County, IL; King County, WA; Suffolk County, MA; and Wayne County, MI.

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The Team

Director
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MAPP

Faculty Collaborator
Kathryn L. Moseley, MD, MPH

Faculty Collaborator
Susan Woolford, MD, MPH

Project Manager
Dianne C. Singer, MPH

Data Analyst
Amilcar Matos-Moreno, MPH

Web & Communications Specialist
Anna Daly Kauffman, BA

Research Associate
Sara L. Schultz, BA
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