

Your Health Your Voice: Community Conversations to Inform Local Health Strategy in Greater Prince William

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BACKGROUND

- As part of the 2025 Community Health Assessment (CHA) in Greater Prince William, a collaborative of public health agencies, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations (CBOs) convened a series of community conversations to better understand local health challenges, assets, and priorities.
- Recognizing that quantitative data alone cannot fully capture lived experience, this community driven effort aimed to elevate voices often underrepresented in public health planning.

METHODS

- This Coalition driven process identified eight priority populations including immigrant communities, LGBTQ+ community members, seniors/aging individuals, individuals living with disabilities, military families/veterans and youth ages 15-17 (with IRB approval).
- From August 2024 to February 2025, 13 conversations were held with residents and four with community partners, using a standardized six-question facilitator guide. Sessions were conducted in English and Spanish either in-person or virtually and embedded within already scheduled events like luncheons or monthly meetings. Community partners and residents were invited to co-facilitate the sessions.
- To perform thematic analysis, a data extraction table was created in Excel to code conversation notes and identify common themes and sub-themes across all conversations.

RESULTS

- A total of 151 individuals participated, and 123 completed optional demographic surveys. Participants reflected a range of racial/ethnic backgrounds and linguistic diversity, with high representation of women and individuals identifying as Hispanic/Latino, White, Black, and East/South Asian.
- Community input highlighted both existing resources and unmet needs, highlighting disparities in access, communication, and systemic support.

CONCLUSION

- These conversations provide contextually rich, community-informed insights that strengthen local public health planning. Although identified themes cannot be generalized across all groups, findings directly shape the upcoming Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and show the value of having community members and partners drive the Assessment process. This work demonstrates the importance of cultural humility and cross-sector collaboration in co-creating solutions to promote community well-being.

Community insights are not just data points; they reflect real experiences and highlight persistent barriers to health and needs in our community.



"We have to choose whether to eat, starve, or get this medication." —Community Member

"If you don't have insurance... doctors sometimes, they don't wanna give appointments... that's a big problem." —Community Member

"Access to affordable dental care – this is a request we frequently receive and there are few options available, especially for those not on Medicaid." —Community Partner

"Prioritizing basic needs makes it difficult to focus on aspects of health beyond physical well-being..." —Community Member

"We live in times right now where we have a lot of information, but we don't know how to use it." —Community Member

"I'd wait for a bus for 3 hours and in rain it's bad." —Community Member

"A healthy place would be friendly & free from hate, with places / activities for all." —Community Member



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