

Community Connector Exercise Preparation  
Community Assessment Summary  
PandORa 2006

Community connectors spoke with 43 people representing African American, African Imigrant, Asian, Child Care, Criminal Justice, Elderly, Immune Compromised, and Latino communities. Respondants ranged in age from mid-20's to mid 60's. Education level was high school or higher.

<p>1. In the past, have you ever gotten a flu shot? If not, why not? What do you think about why some people do not get flu shots?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingly go if told by doctor or at risk due to health issues</li> <li>• Fear of side effects and getting sick</li> <li>• Doubt effectiveness of shot</li> <li>• Rely on own immune system or preventive measures</li> <li>• Don't feel at risk</li> <li>• Barriers, including information, transportation, insurance, convenience, cost</li> </ul>
<p>2. Are you reluctant to go to the doctor if you are not sick for preventive care? Are you reluctant to go to the doctor if you are sick? Why?</p>	<p>Those who are reluctant to seek care say</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of trust</li> <li>• Different cultural expectations of doctors</li> <li>• Don't seek care until sick</li> <li>• Concerns re: overtreatment or undertreatment</li> <li>• Prefer alternative therapies and home remedies</li> </ul>
<p>3. Have you or other family members ever lived through a contagious disease outbreak? What did you or they do to survive?</p>	<p>Limited experience. Those with experience responded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go on living</li> <li>• Follow health department directions</li> <li>• Quarantine is a familiar concept</li> <li>• Western medicine combined with herbal medicine</li> </ul>
<p>4. Would the newness of the vaccine be a concern? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Many concerns about a new vaccine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we guinea pigs? (thalidomide)</li> <li>• Distrust – is it political; historical basis – Tuskegee</li> <li>• Want to see leaders get it first to build trust</li> <li>• Concern about risks, side effects (long term and short term, benefits, how do people getting the vaccine fare?)</li> </ul>
<p>5. Would your level of concern be different if the vaccine was made from a live (but weakened) or inactive (dead) virus?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about people who have compromised immune systems – currently encouraged to not get live vaccines</li> <li>• Concern about vaccine's effect on children</li> </ul>
<p>6. Do you think the leader of your faith community would get the vaccine? Would that affect your choice?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latino community – influential to work through churches</li> <li>• Leaders (faith and others) should get vaccine first to build trust and show safety</li> </ul>

<p>7. Do you have a regular health care provider? Would your doctor's opinion about the vaccine matter?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor's opinion is important for self care and protection of family</li> </ul>
<p>8. Do you have any health or mental health issues that would make you concerned about getting this new vaccine?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about interaction with other medications</li> <li>• Other health issues included asthma, high blood pressure, allergies, HIV, bi-polar, multiple meds.</li> </ul>
<p>9. What thoughts would you have knowing that there are priority groups who will get the vaccine first? What if you were not in the priority groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some think priority system is unfair, but many would accept priority based on vulnerability and need</li> <li>• See mismatch in priority v. disease pattern</li> <li>• Assume priority will be for white people and people with money</li> <li>• Need to be clear about priority system and address barriers to access</li> <li>• Young adults don't see themselves as a priority</li> </ul>
<p>10. What logistical needs would our response need to address so that you could take full advantage of vaccination and medical care sites (i.e. transportation, wheelchair accessibility, family care, food, access to medications, mental health services)? Would you need to see the site before you decide to go there?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighborhood locations – familiar and easily accessed by walking if necessary</li> <li>• Access to medications, family care, supportive and understanding staff</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Crowd control – so people won't be exposed to other illnesses</li> <li>• Home delivery of meds and vaccine could be helpful</li> <li>• Food needs to be available if people are waiting a long time</li> <li>• Assurance of safety for people without documentation</li> <li>• Wheelchair access</li> <li>• Outreach</li> <li>• Want to see people who look like me</li> </ul>
<p>11. Would you go to a vaccination site or health care site if you weren't sure someone was there who spoke your language?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language barrier would be disconcerting</li> <li>• Some might bring someone who could translate for them</li> <li>• Some would simply not go unless their language was spoken</li> </ul>
<p>12. Would you go to a vaccination site or medical care site if you had to show some form of identification to get the vaccine or care?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depends what types of ID would be required</li> <li>• Oregon ID or driver's license would be OK</li> <li>• ID can be a subtle deterrent – what about REAL ID Act?</li> <li>• What if people don't have ID?</li> </ul>

<p>13. What would you think about the public security at the vaccination or medical care site?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police presence would clearly send signal to immigrants</li> <li>• Role of security needs to be clear – to keep order, to protect public safety, to help people</li> <li>• Role should not be arrest people with outstanding warrants, to threaten or re-victimize people who are already stressed out</li> <li>• Sense of security is comforting to people</li> <li>• Might make people wonder if there is a shortage of vaccine</li> <li>• Not military – no big guns out</li> </ul>
<p>14. Are there locations or types of locations where you would not go for vaccination or medical care? What are your preferred locations or types of locations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefer clean, well-lit places people are already going to in their neighborhood.</li> <li>• Most important thing is familiarity and accessibility</li> <li>• Walking distance</li> <li>• Work sites, grocery stores, schools, medical facilities, churches – most common</li> <li>• Libraries, community centers</li> <li>• Do not want governmental sites</li> </ul>
<p>15. In order to slow the spread of the flu, the county may recommend closing schools and public events, – how would that affect you?</p>	<p>Understand purpose, but many concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the plan for people who will not be able to earn an income b/c they have to stay home with their children?</li> <li>• Some families would be able to work out alternative care for children with extended family and friends</li> <li>• Food, heat, ability to cook are primary concerns</li> <li>• What would be in place for older kids who are not in school and who might not stay at home?</li> <li>• Would homeless shelters close? This would be a big blow.</li> </ul>
<p>16. How would closing public transportation affect you?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many people have cars or access to cars</li> <li>• Many people used to walking; others can not physically walk long distances</li> <li>• Concern about access to food, vaccination and medical sites without public transportation</li> </ul>
<p>17. Would you go out in public if the Health Department said wearing a face mask would reduce your risk?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seemed to be confident in public health message</li> <li>• Would stay home a lot more – only go out when necessary</li> <li>• Could increase criminal activity due to decreased recognition</li> </ul>