

Creating partnerships to improve health equity among the disability community

Initiative to Address COVID19 Health Disparities among People with Disabilities Project Summary

Project Structure & Participants



Statewide Task Force

- 31 members representing 23 organizations
- 65% were new partners and 35% existing partners



Regional Community Workgroups

- 13 workgroups with 224 members across 155 entities
- 74% were new partners and 26% were existing partners

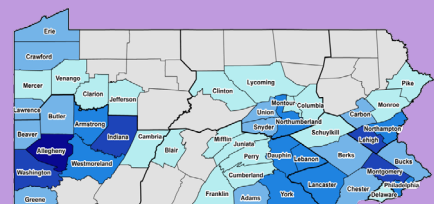
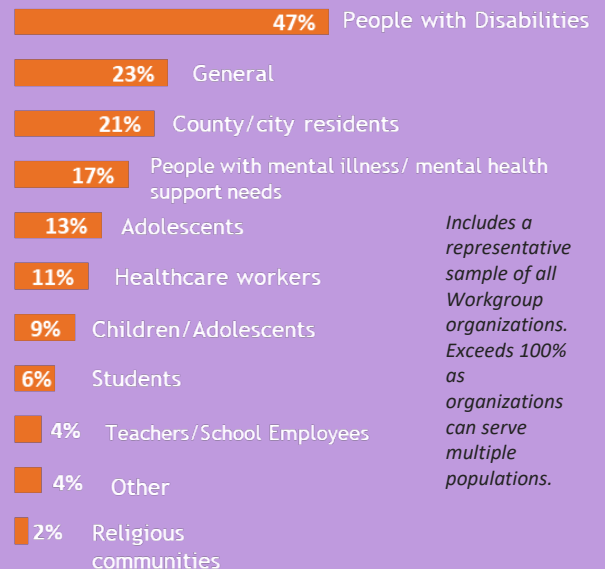
Organization Scan:

- 78% serve people with disabilities
- 30% serve healthcare workers & professionals
- 17% serve rural residents
- 17% serve racial/ethnic minorities
- 14 organizations served all of **Pennsylvania** without a more specific geographic focus
- 1 organization provided services **nationwide** with no regional focus

Listening Session Participants

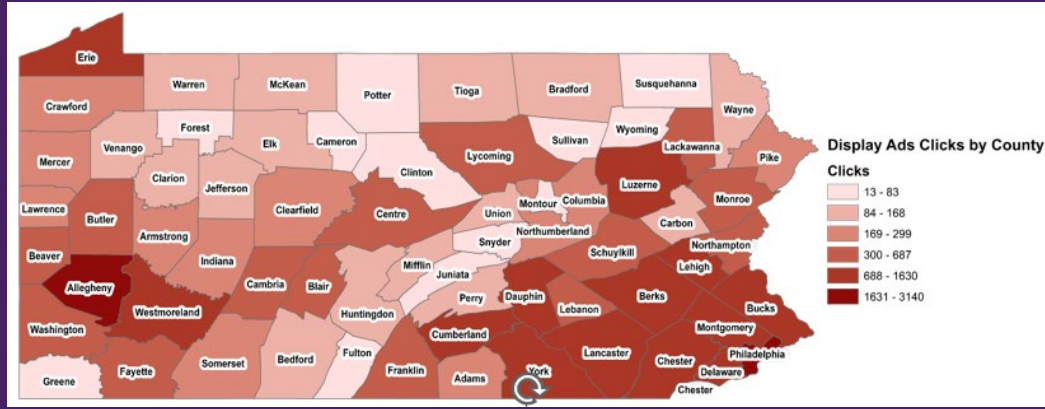


- The Arc of PA spoke to **393** people across **33** counties in PA to identify barriers to care and potential solutions.
- Participants included individuals with disabilities, their caregivers, healthcare providers, and advocacy organizations serving the disability community.



Media Campaign

- Static and radio ads in English and Spanish were created to promote vaccination and testing resources for the disability community, featuring individuals with disabilities
- Campaign received **30,516** clicks for more information
- **30%** came from people in rural PA counties



COVID-19 visual campaign materials used on social media and elsewhere



Ads were seen or heard **20,667,065** times (digital impressions)

- **29%** of impressions were in rural counties
- **16%** of impressions were Spanish Audio ads

Project Products

- The **Barriers Report** outlined the biggest issues the disability community faced during the pandemic, such as barriers to accessible information, reduced access to testing, vaccinations, and necessary accommodations.
- The **Solutions Report** highlighted recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Health to address these barriers.
- Reports were available in technical language, plain language, Braille, English, Spanish, Mandarin, and an on-line interactive format.
- Other materials include fact sheets, e-learning module, video library, postcards, social media toolbox, and reference library

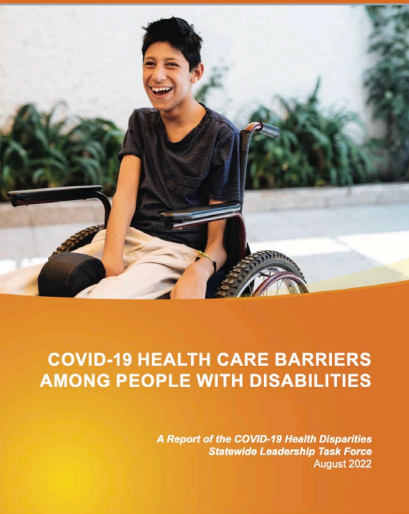
We collected information by asking people questions online and in focus groups called listening tours. From these conversations, 10 Recommended Core Solutions were identified, specific to the PA Department of Health.

Recommendations for Addressing COVID-19 Health Disparities Among the Disability Community

1. Involve people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers in policy making and healthcare decisions.
2. Reactivate the Governor's Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.
3. Keep helpful policy changes from the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Expand comm services and m
5. Include disabili Equity Advisor
6. Provide disabili professionals.
7. Designate peo Underserved P
8. Collect standa with disabili
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING COVID-19 HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY



<https://thearcpa.org/healthcare-initiatives/>

Data in this infographic were drawn from an evaluation report, supported by funds made available from the CDC's National Center for ST/ Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce through cooperative agreement OT18-1802, Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services Through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation's Health award #6 NU38OT000303-04-02. The conclusions, findings, and opinions expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.