

*Report:*

**2024 Community-Engaged Research Summit: *Building Career Momentum & Income Stability to Achieve Health Equity***

*April 11 & 12, 2024*

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Registration & Attendees.....	3
Agenda & Recording Links.....	8
Breakout Session Notes.....	10
Evaluation.....	15

# Executive Summary

The 2024 Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Summit, *"Building Income and Career Momentum to Achieve Health Equity"* was held on April 11 & 12, 2024. Over the two days, 74 unique attendees representing university/academic faculty & staff, community organization leaders & representatives, community members, healthcare providers, and students attended. Presentations and panel discussions related to income and career were given by community and academic experts. Attendees of the symposium engaged heavily in dialogue with a goal of collaboratively producing action items to address needs in this area.

The following themes evolved from the action items produced at the symposium:

## **Need for More Job Opportunities**

- How can we bring people without college degrees into the work?
- Entrepreneurship is an option for people to champion their own cause!
- Creating jobs in the University and increasing value for the lived experience
- Identify pathways for people to get jobs without heavy debt

## **Career Navigation**

- Career maps, how to prepare selves for the specific roles
- Offer career planning for CHWs

## **Capacity Building**

- Creating pipelines for people to get skilled even if they are not degreed
- Need better strategies to leverage research findings and data to magnetize money

## **Partnership & Collaboration**

- Collaborate with the for-profit sector.
- Bring the right partners to the table.
- Collaborating authentically and leveraging to work through differences.
- Continue to work together and collaborate to serve communities.

## **Cash Assistance Programs**

- Direct cash payments to individuals and families.
- The issue of money given to people via public health interventions causing SSI benefits to be compromised needs to be addressed. The threshold needs to be higher.

## **Policy & Advocacy**

- Focus on advocacy.
- It matters who is in the room when these policies are put into power.
- Hold elected officials accountable in addressing community needs.

## **Transportation**

- Transportation is a huge barrier to care
- Detroit needs mass transit system in Southeastern Michigan which can be a political issue

## **Digital Access**

- Everyone should have the right to internet use and access.

# Registration & Attendees

## DAY ONE

Total Registered: 106  
Total Attendees: 44  
Participation Rate: 41.5%

## DAY TWO

Total Registered: 113  
Total Attendees: 52  
Participation Rate: 39%

## Attendee Background

Demographic information was only available for 55 of the Summit attendees. Attendees came from both academic and community backgrounds:

<b>Job/Work Role</b>	<b>Total Attendees</b>
Wayne State University faculty	14
Community organization leader or representative	13
Community-based health care professional	10
Community member/resident	7
Other	4
Wayne State University staff	3
Student	2
Other university faculty/staff	2

# Registration & Attendees

Those affiliated with WSU/KCI came from these departments:

- Department of Oncology, School of Medicine
- Family Medicine, School of Medicine
- Public Health, School of Medicine
- Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES)
- Public Health, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- College of Engineering
- School of Social Work
- Institute of Gerontology
- Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Those affiliated with community organizations represented some of these organizations:

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- The Free Opinion Press Newspaper
- Raj'een/Return Collective
- Neighborhood Services Organization
- Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance
- Detroit Parent Network
- Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN)
- Western Wayne Family Health Center
- Corktown Health
- Healthier Black Elder Center
- Honor Community Health
- Henry Ford Health
- McLaren Health Plan
- Black Mother's Breastfeeding Association (BMBFA)
- Oakland Community Health Network
- Southeastern Michigan Health Association (SEMHA)
- Electronic Services Technologies LLC

Other universities represented at the Summit included:

- University of Detroit Mercy
- University of Michigan

# Registration & Attendees

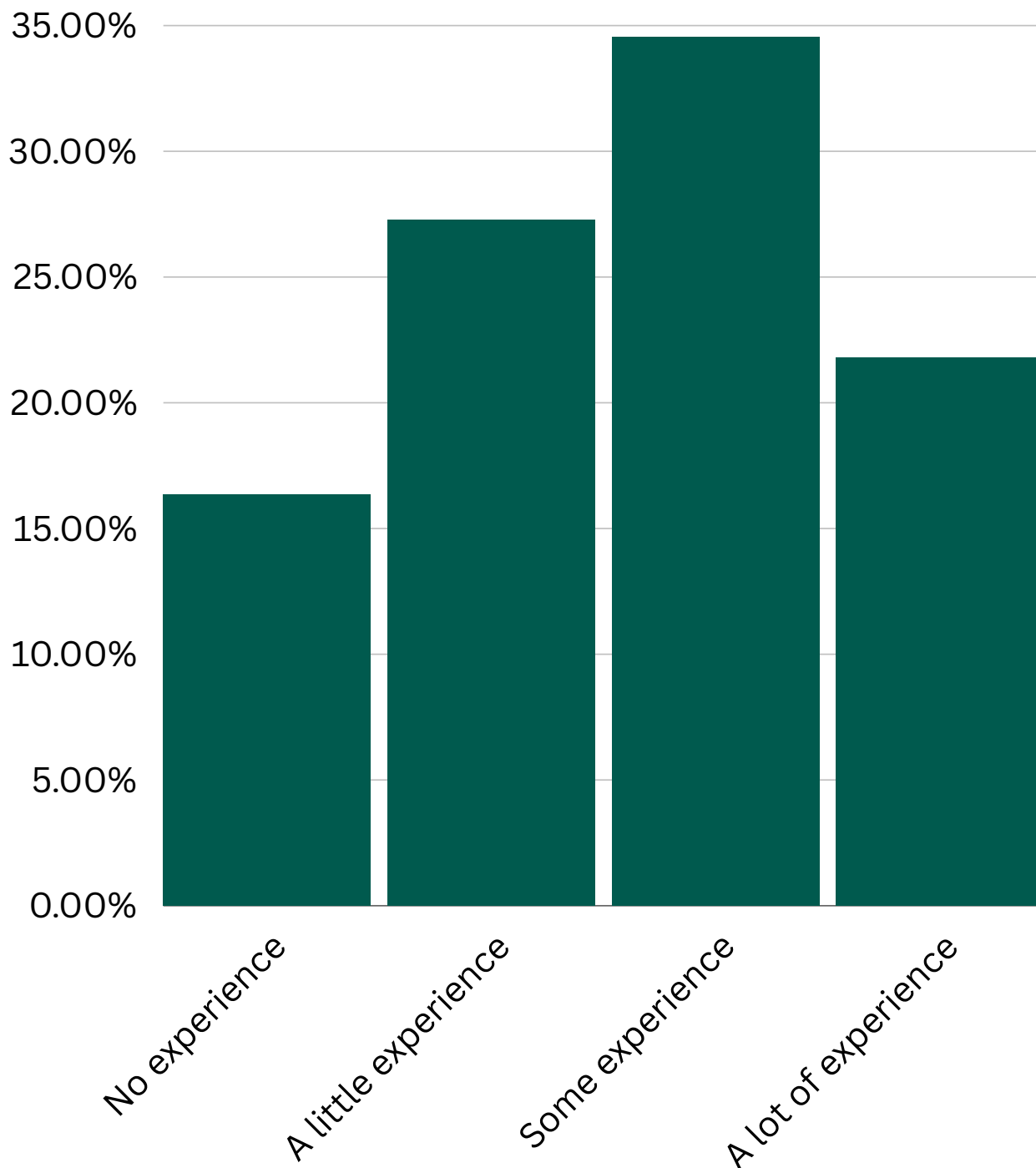
Attendees research interests:

<b>Research Interests</b>	<b>Total Attendees</b>
Social determinants of health	40
Community engagement	36
Health disparities	35
Public health	31
Behavioral health	26
Black health	25
Women's health	22
Children's health	20
Cancer	18
Chronic disease	17
Environmental health	15
Physical activity and nutrition	15
HIV and AIDS	11
LGBTQ health	11
Immigrant health	8
MENA health	8
Rural health	8
Refugee health	7
Basic science	4

## Registration & Attendees

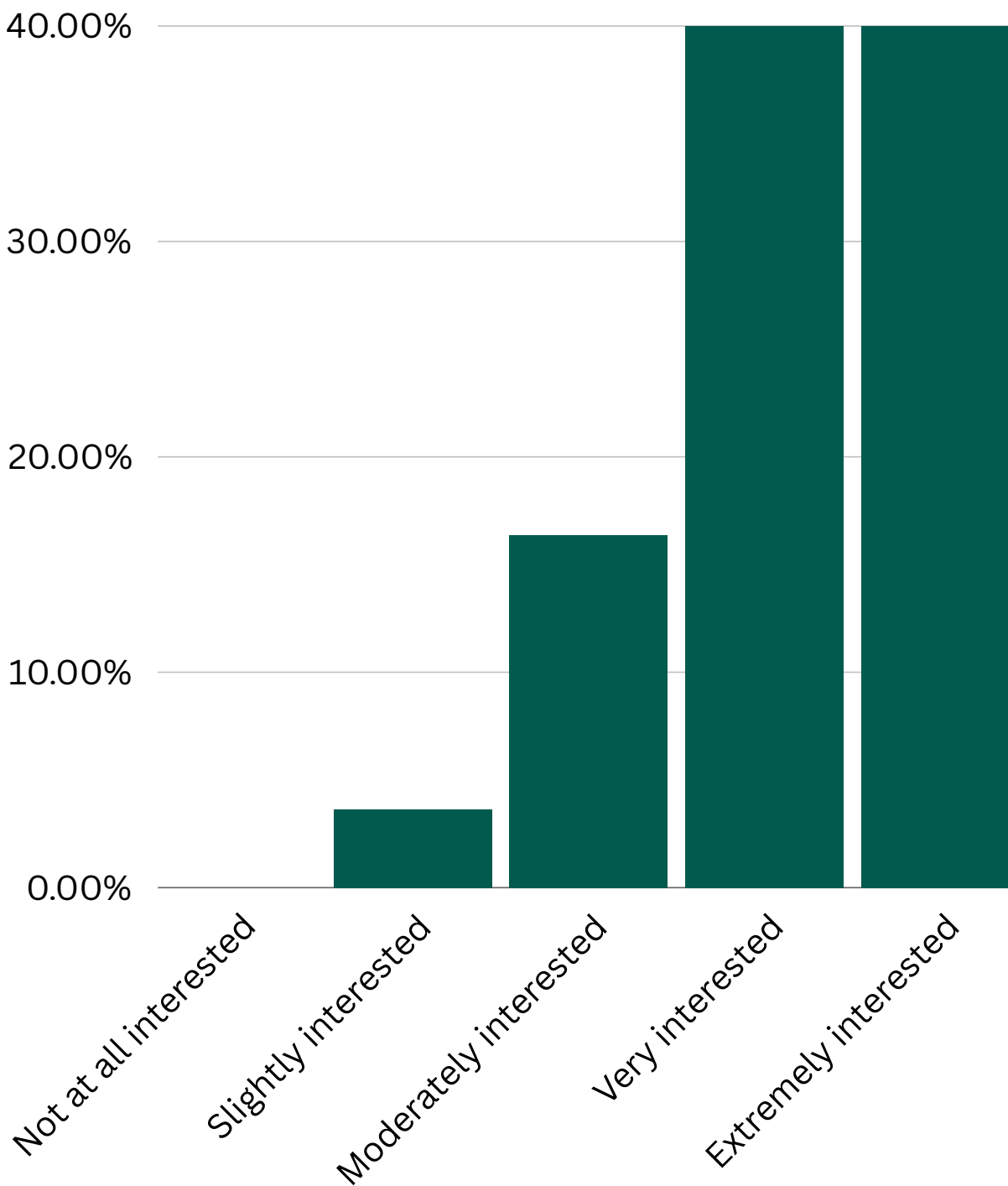
Community-engaged research is the process of working collaboratively with groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests, or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being and meaningfully involving those groups affected by a research finding in the research process (CDC (1997); Staniszewski et al. (2014)).

How much experience have you had with community-engaged research?



## Registration & Attendees

What is your level of interest in community-engaged research?





# Day 1 Agenda

**Wayne State University & Karmanos Cancer Institute  
Fifth Annual Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Summit:  
“Building Career Momentum & Income Stability to Achieve Health Equity”**

**Day 1: A Career as a Community Health Worker: Starting Out & Staying In  
THURSDAY, APRIL 11**

**YouTube Recording:** <https://youtu.be/AP0jkzI6nS0?si=Lf3XBq6m3BtruSzD>

**6:00 PM**      **Virtual Networking**

**6:30 PM**      **Welcome**  
Hayley S. Thompson, PhD

**6:35 PM**      **Panelist Introductions**  
Arthur Hampton, MEd

**6:40 PM**      **Panel Discussion**  
Philesha Gough, MS  
Ijeoma Nnodim Opara, MD  
Cheryl Somers, PhD  
Hayley S. Thompson, PhD

**7:40 PM**      **Question & Answer**

**7:55 PM**      **Wrap-up & Evaluation**

**8:00 PM**      **End**

# Day 2 Agenda

Wayne State University & Karmanos Cancer Institute  
Fifth Annual Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Summit:

Day 2: Building Career Momentum & Income Stability to Achieve Health Equity

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

\*underlined sections are linked to YouTube recordings

**9:00 AM**      **Virtual Networking**

**9:30 AM**      **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

President Kimberly Andrews Espy, PhD  
School of Medicine Dean Wael Sakr, MD  
Planning Committee Chair, Maha Albdour, PhD, RN, APHN-BC

**9:45 AM**      **CHECK-UP Update & Research Network Update**

Hayley S. Thompson, PhD  
Maha Albdour, PhD, RN  
Rick S. Zimmerman, PhD

**10:15 AM**      **Keynote Speaker**

Kenyetta Dotson, DMIN, MSW  
Rx Kids Flint: A Cash Payment Program for New & Expecting Moms

**11:00 AM**      **Panel Discussion: Building Bridges, Sharing Solutions: Community-Academic Partnerships for Equity**

Shannon Lijewski, MCHW, MBA, CHCEF  
Danielle Atkinson  
David Underwood  
Theresa Hastert, PhD, MPP  
Samuele Zilioli, PhD

Moderator: Ki-Jana Malone

**12:00 PM**      **BREAK**

**12:30 PM**      **Breakout Session & Agenda Setting**

**1:15 PM**      **Report Back to Entire Group**

**1:45 PM**      **Wrap-up & Evaluation**

**2:00 PM**      **End**

## Day 2 Breakout Room Notes: Main Themes

### **Community-engaged research**

“CEnR can be a catalyst for change, making University’s more accessible and easier to leverage to community health and benefit”

“Community engagement doesn’t always translate to real world impacts, need to do more listening and letting other people lead the research”

“CEnR is expansive, bigger than people think about it’s not all health related”

“Ideas that come from patients are super important to capitalize on”

“It is important to thoughtfully engage the community partners and community members. Community members have a wealth of knowledge.”

“It is important to be patient and learn from the community.”

“Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance has a multi year health initiative. For community engagement, they had listening sessions on what can be done to promote health in the community. Community partners, Block Clubs, and neighborhood partners were engaged. They learned that listening is the greatest tool in the field of research. They found that caregiving is a huge issue for health and not having resources or information.”

“Start on the inside first, learning how to go into the community, Learning how address social determinants of health in the community”

Go into the community and communicate to make sure we are not duplicating work.”

### **Financial literacy**

“Appreciated the comment of financial literacy and the challenges in SES”

“Does diet and nutrition work with a focus on food budget. People default to whatever money is left over to pay for food. Working with families on the budgets and how to prioritize a food budget as a must do and how to make the money last the entire month.”

### **Employment at all ages**

“People are seeking [employment] opportunities at all ages from very early even after retirement”

“CHW devoting their time and retirement to upskilling, that can happen at all ages! An approach to intervention; community-driven intervention”

## Day 2 Breakout Room Notes: Main Themes

### **Rx Kids Flint**

“Flint program supporting new mama’s and that the benefits move with the babies”

“AMOUNT OF FUNDS!!! Incredible range of funding”

“Freedom of choice, placing people at the center of decision making; agency”

“People know what is best for their families, their own needs, sense of control and agency over their own circumstances”

“Money being able to have raised for flint and the buy-in was impressive”

“Shocked with Dr. Dotson program and utilizing the money as the families see fit. Interested in the evaluation determining how that money was utilized and how it can stop the naysayers, those with judgment of giving people freedom on how to spend the money.”

“Comment on how the program had to advocate on how mothers can spend money on what’s important to them and their priorities”

### **Partnering with faith-based organizations**

“Liked the involvement with the faith based community and African Americans and how that work can continue within MENA. Interested in getting mosques involved and understanding challenges with funding, some minority groups are funded over others.”

“Learning how to involve the community in different levels and how faith based communities can be involved with that”

“The faith based organizations are a key component as they know the needs in the community and their outreach to other faith based organizations to get the information out to the community. A great place to start in community engagement.”

“Faith based communities are a good way to get information out and to share other resources. Utilizing the church network.”

### **Community health workers**

“Criteria for advancement in the field of CHW work”

“CHW devoting their time and retirement to upskilling, that can happen at all ages! An approach to intervention; community-driven intervention”

“Engaging youth to be motivated for being CHWs is so important especially because a lot of kids coming from families who dont have english as their first language already operate as community translators and advocates for their first generation school kids from”

“All ages are looking for employment resources, micro-credentials, and older people are looking for a second career.”

## Day 2 Breakout Room Notes: Main Themes

### **Cash assistance programs**

“Policing how people use their money in academia and communities”

“Freedom of choice, placing people at the center of decision making; agency”

“People know what is best for their families, their own needs, sense of control and agency over their own circumstances”

“Who defines what the good use of money is? Who defines success? Who defines health and well-being, what does joy mean? What does it mean to be healthy, people need to define it for themselves!”

“Interest and excitement for cash payment assistance for cancer patients”

“Social security benefits/basic income programs- how are they linked to health outcomes down the line”

“Joy can mean many different things, and, like going to the movies, can improve mental health. Funds used for that can improve quality of life, which is the goal.”

### **Digital exclusion and healthcare**

“Clinicians change positions and orgs, people get comfortable with healthcare providers and then if they leave, for those that can’t access the info that remains in things like healthcare apps for those who are digitally excluded”

### **Importance of transportation**

“Transportation = EMS for some people, these things contribute to safety issues”

“Transportation hard to come by outside of emergency transportation, people rely on EMS”

“Transportation. Other cities like Chicago have regional transit. Here, other municipalities outside of Detroit are against it. Which comes back to race and class.”

### **Employment & returning citizens**

“Thinking about how to prepare people for entering the workforce who have interactions with the justice system or have been incarcerated; transition clinics”

“Programs to improve income or improve employment-people with criminal background”

### **Capacity building**

“Pipeline to upskilling is important for capacity building”

### **Policy**

“Emphasized the importance of electing well-vetted officials to enact just policies.”

## Day 2 Breakout Room Notes: Action Items

### **Career navigation**

“Prep for career path: Career resume and career mapping for individuals to identify plan and what is needed to get there; including after retiring”

“Career maps, how to prepare selves for the specific roles”

“Offer career planning for CHWs”

“Resume building/career mapping”

### **Capacity building**

“Creating pipelines for people to get skilled even if they are not degreed”

“We need to figure out better strategies to (help community partners especially) leverage research findings and data to magnetize money”

“We need to help people actualize, which can happen at different points across the lifespan; people need to feel fulfilled by their work; people have expertise to make change where they are”

### **Digital access**

“Everyone should have the right to internet use and access”

### **Need for more job opportunities**

“Job momentum: Need to create job opportunities, not just learning here but earning here at WSU”

“Thinking about how can we bring people without college degrees into the work?”

“Entrepreneurship is an option for people to champion their own cause! People can lead change and be agents of change in their lives and communities; they have the experience of knowing what needs to happen to make changes and need to”

“Creating jobs in the University and increasing value for the lived experience”

“How to create more job opportunities directly at WSU, learn here/work here”

“Identify pathways for specific people to get jobs without heavy debt”

“How to create job opportunities within the university that do not require degrees but leverage work and lived experiences.”

### **Partnership & collaboration**

“Make sure we have the right people at the table”

“Collaborate with the for-profit sector.”

“Bring the right partners to the table.”

“Collaborating authentically and leveraging to work through differences.”

“Continue to work together and collaborate to serve communities.”

## Day 2 Breakout Room Notes: Action Items

### Cash assistance programs

“RxKids for adults, applying this program to other settings. Direct cash payments to individuals and families”

“This comes back to over-policing of how people are spending money. Adults need to make these decisions and they are also paying taxes. Goes back to willing to pay taxes to feed lower income folks, not the tax breaks for the rich.”

“Would like to see the cash model of RxKids implemented in other marginalized groups”

“The issue of money given to people via public health interventions causing SSI benefits to be compromised needs to be addressed. The threshold needs to be higher.”

### Policy & advocacy

“Focus on advocacy. SSI and disability are hitting thresholds with money being given that they can not claim since they are no longer eligible.”

“It matters who is in the room when these policies are put into power. Who is being elected. Intersectional identities”

“Detroit needs mass transit system in Southeastern Michigan which can be a political issue”

“Hold elected officials accountable in addressing community needs.”

“Lack of a mass transit system in SE Michigan is a race and politics issue”

### Transportation

“Transportation is a huge barrier to care”

“Importance of transportation, especially for senior citizens, in accessing healthcare”

“Detroit needs mass transit system in Southeastern Michigan which can be a political issue”

“Lack of a mass transit system in SE Michigan is a race and politics issue”

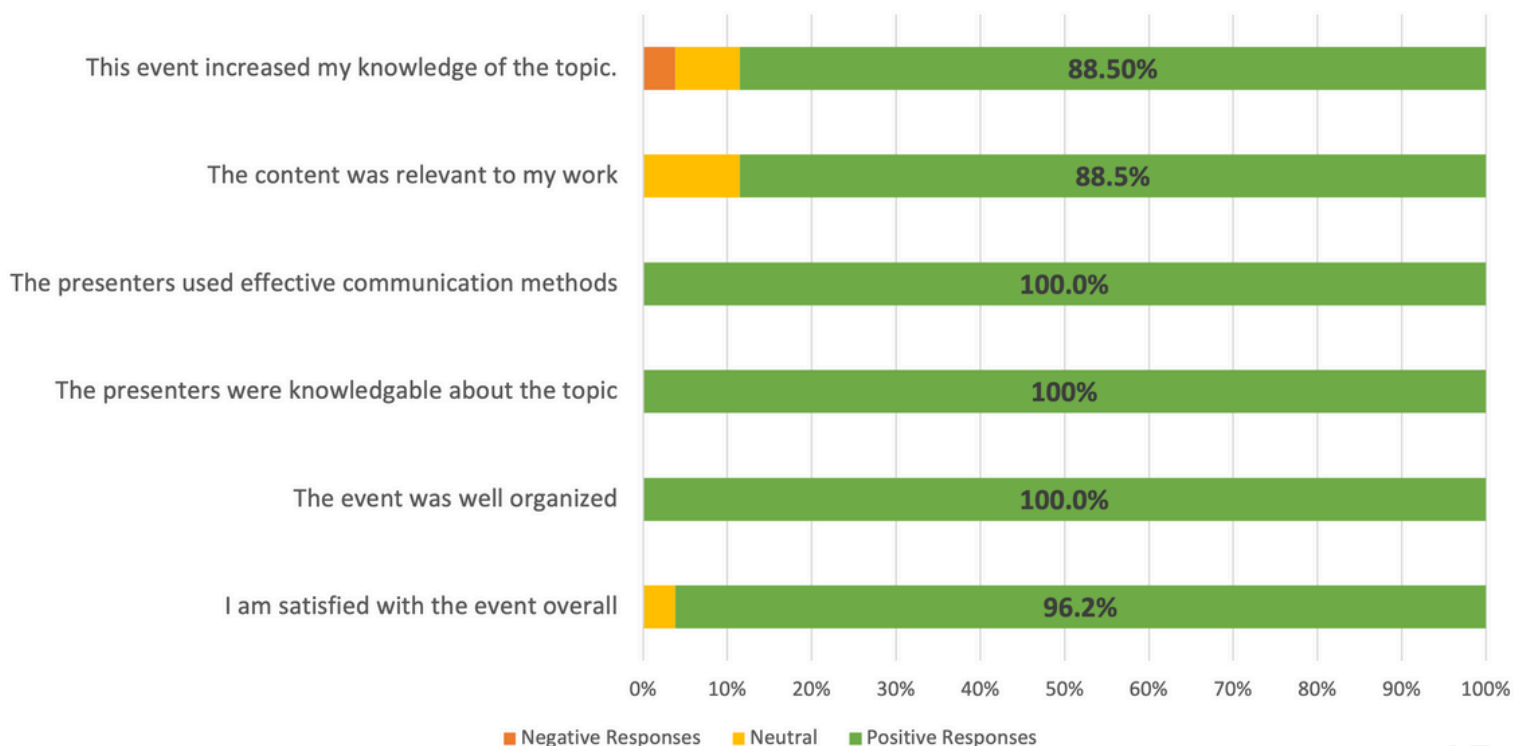
# Day 1 Evaluation

Twenty-six attendees completed the Day 1 evaluation.

Which best describes you? (mark all that apply)

Community member/resident	8
Community-based healthcare professional	6
WSU Faculty	6
Community organization leader or representative	5
Student	4
WSU Staff	4
Other	3
Other university faculty or staff	1

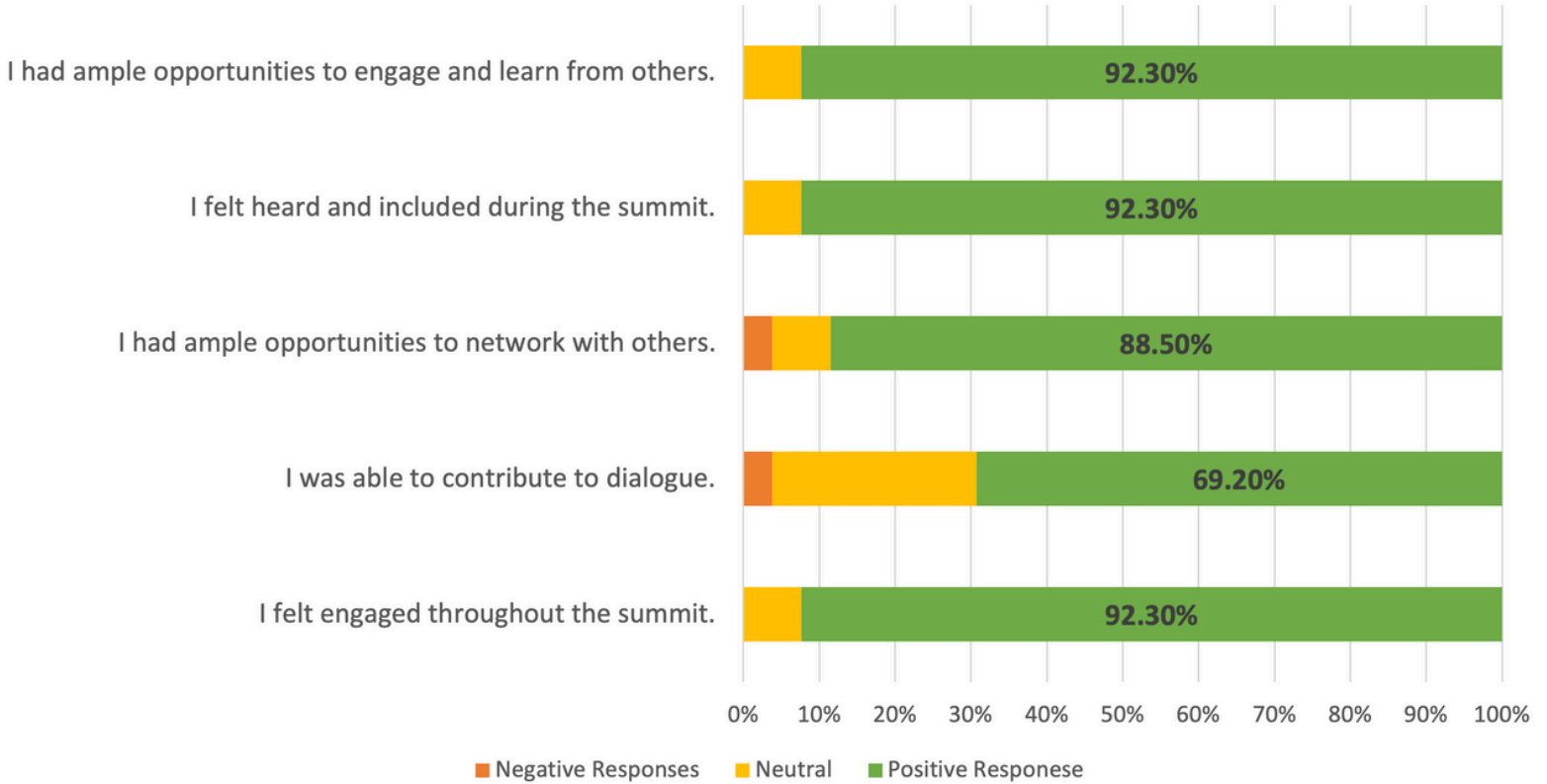
## Based on my experience attending today's event...





# Day 1 Evaluation

How much would you agree or disagree with the following statements?



## Topics of Interest for Future Events



# Day 1 Evaluation

## How will you use the information you learned at today's event?

"Increase partnerships with CHW's"

"I will look into becoming certified as a CHW. This event and the training have helped me understand what next steps I need to take to move into a post retirement career in the health field."

"Increased my networking and awareness about current academic and community partnership"

"Will pass on CHW resources to Community and Quality Outreach teams."

"Follow up to see how I can support CHWs in my current role"

"Immediate dissemination to areas of great impact within our membership and community "

## How can CHECK-UP support community engagement with research at WSU?

"Increase community organizations and members presence in research conversations "

"Continue sharing partnerships and having open discussions across communities."

"Help to train faculty member about engaging community members"

## What specific challenges need to be addressed to foster and improve community engagement with research at Wayne State University?

"reach to community members where they are not to expect them to come to you in academia"

"More financial support to develop focus groups, pilot studies, and larger studies"

"Engaging us earlier"

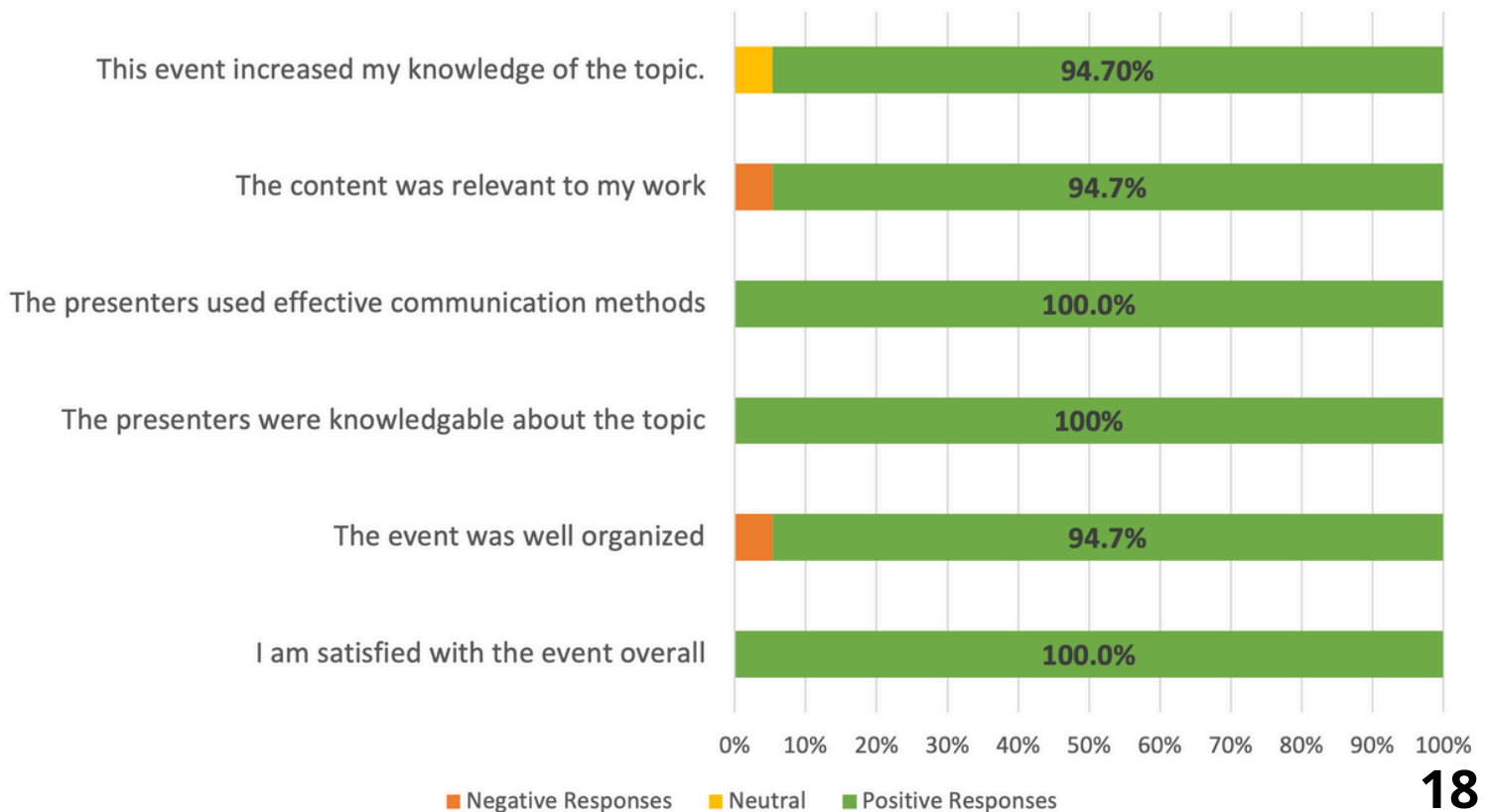
# Day 2 Evaluation

Nineteen attendees completed the Day 2 evaluation.

Which best describes you? (mark all that apply)

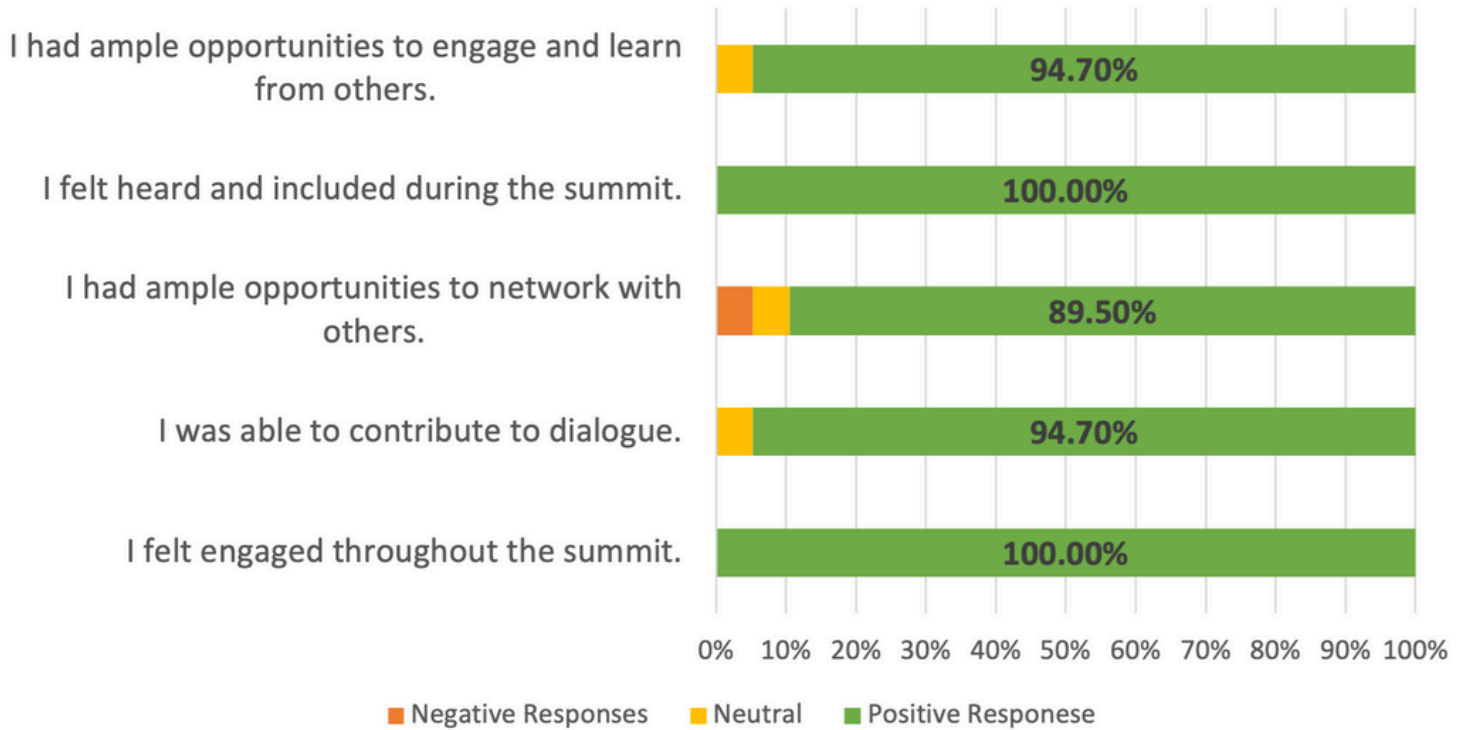
Community organization leader or representative	6
Community member/resident	5
Community-based healthcare professional	4
WSU Faculty	3
Other	2
WSU Staff	2
Other university faculty or staff	1
Student	1

## Based on my experience attending today's event...



# Day 2 Evaluation

## How much would you agree or disagree with the following statements?



## Topics of Interest for Future Events



## Day 2 Evaluation

### **How will you use the information you learned at today's event?**

"To strengthen our focus on community health initiatives."

"Consideration of other SDOH in my engagement work and also several community members I hope to connect with"

"I will take the information from my community partners and build stronger connections to engage community members in addressing their needs and share information to become a trusted messenger. "

"Try to implement relevant aspects of the programs that were presented"

### **How can CHECK-UP support community engagement with research at WSU?**

"Information dissemination, access to services, assistance with data collection, analysis and reporting."

"More opportunities like this for networking on similar areas of interest so much great work happening in our city "

"Continue the strategic efforts to include the community voice in all efforts. "

### **What specific challenges need to be addressed to foster and improve community engagement with research at Wayne State University?**

"Connection to those who are the subject of research efforts."

"More support for faculty/resources; Flexibility in supporting engagement work (eg type and how we compensate community members) and locations for meetings (eg barriers to meeting on campus but also constraints to going to our communities that seem to be university imposed)"

"Normalize community engaged research; financial support and dedicated faculty time for community engaged research"

"Continue to promote information sharing "

"More outreach to non health care individuals demonstrating how their voice matters in the community research."