WAYNE STATE
CHECK-UP
Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations

Report:

Leveraging Science for Action & Advocacy

June 21, 2023

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Hybrid

Overview

Scientists and policy makers face society's most complex and challenging issues. Decision makers are siloed from researchers who possess technical knowledge that can be used to inform regulation and legislation for improved public health. It is uncommon for scientists to disseminate findings to public audiences, although doing so would contribute to social justice efforts by providing reliable and accurate information to assist decision makers and leader's problem solving. This panel-led discussion will help researchers and community gain an understanding of actionable ways to close the science-society gap.

The recording of this session can be viewed at https://youtu.be/dJiN4uC8Te0

Agenda

6:00 PM	Dinner & Networking	All
6:15 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA Patrick O. Lindsey, BA
6:25 PM	Community-Engaged Research Overview	Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA
6:35 PM	Panelist Introductions Winona Bynum, RDN Senator Stephanie Chang, MPP/MSW Katie Dwyer, MBA, MS Jametta Lilly, MPA Matt Stiffler, PhD	Hilary Marusak, PhD
6:40 PM	Panel Discussion	Moderated by: Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA & Hilary Marusak, PhD
7:45 PM	Question & Answer	All
7:55 PM	Wrap-Up & Evaluation	Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA
8:00 PM	End	

Panelists

Stephanie Chang, MPP/MSW
State of Michigan Senator

Winona Bynum, RDN
Executive Director, Detroit Food Policy Council

Jametta Lilly, MPA
CEO, Detroit Parent Network

Katie Dwyer, MBA, MS
President, Science Policy Network- Detroit

Matt Jaber Stiffler, PhD
Director, Center for Arab Narratives, ACCESS

Moderators:

Hilary Marusak, PhD
Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences, School of Medicine, WSU

Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA
Institute of Gerontology, CURES, & CHECK-UP, WSU

Registration:

Total Registered: 97
Total Attendees: 43
Participation Rate: 44%

Attendee Background

Demographic information was only available for 33 of 43 attendees.

Job/Work Role	Total Attendees
Wayne State University Faculty	8
Wayne State University Staff	2
Community Member/Resident	4
Community-based Health Care Professional	3
Community Organization Leader or Representative	4
Other University Faculty or Staff	4
Student	7
Other	2

Community organization leaders or representatives who attended work for the following:

- Aetna
- Detroit Black Community Food Security Network
- Detroit Hispanic Development Corp.
- Zero Waste Detroit
- St. Patrick Senior Center
- Pink Fund

And, they hold the following roles/titles at these organizations:

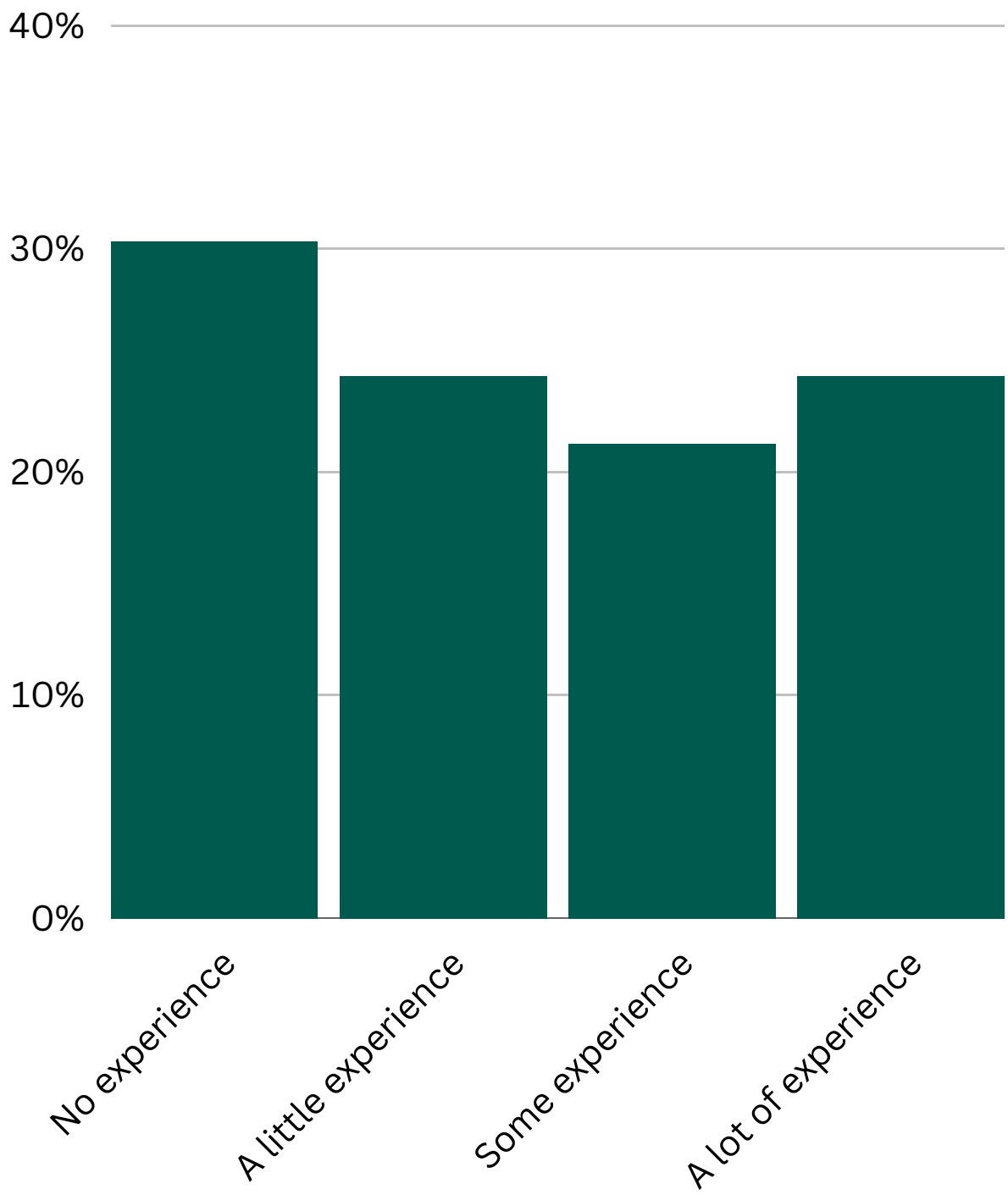
- Director
- Wellness Clinic Manager
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Community Organizer
- Site Coordinator
- Community Strategist

WSU faculty and staff represented these departments:

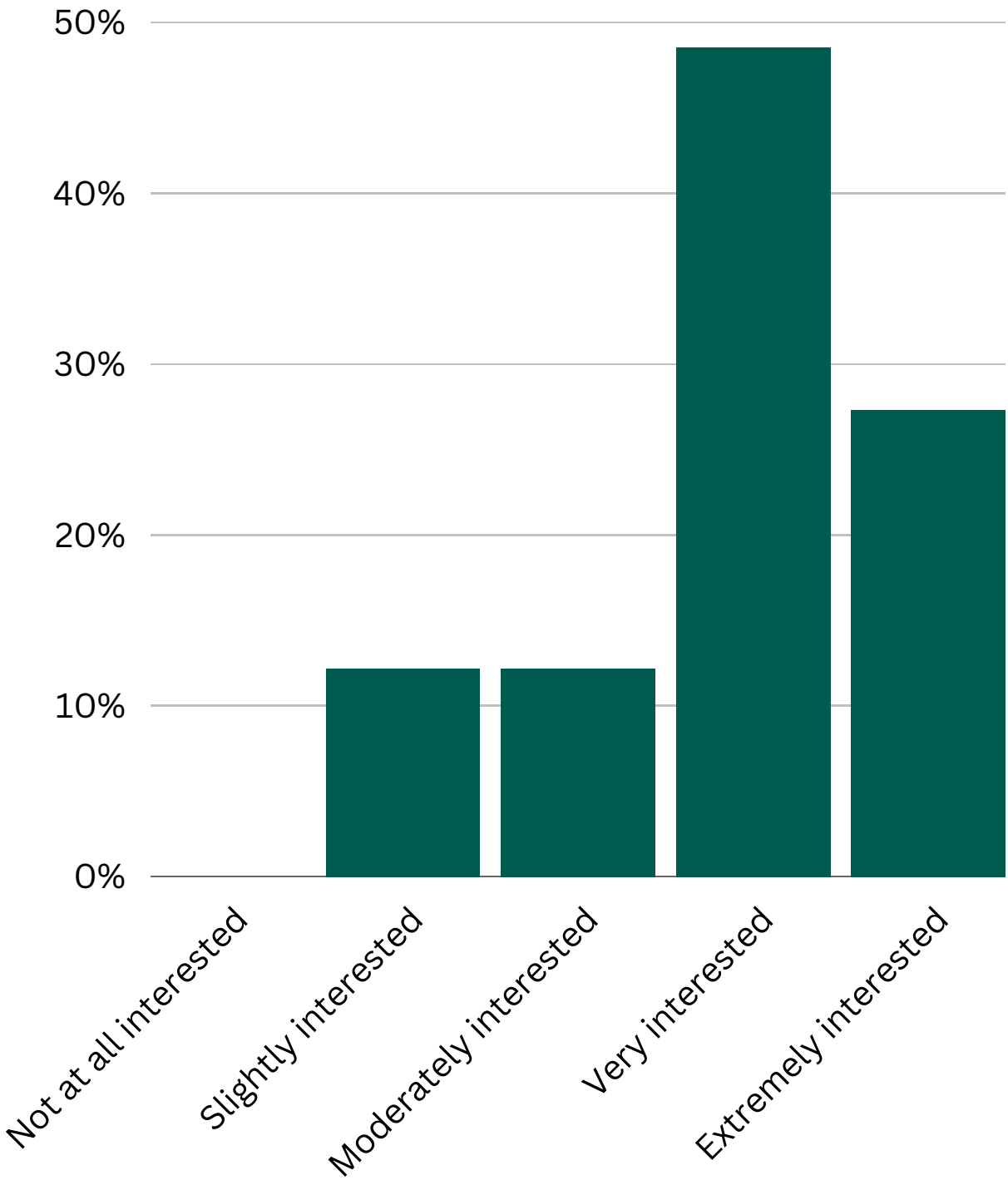
- School of Medicine
- Department of Communication
- College of Nursing
- Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors
- Institute of Gerontology

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?



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



Attendee research interests:

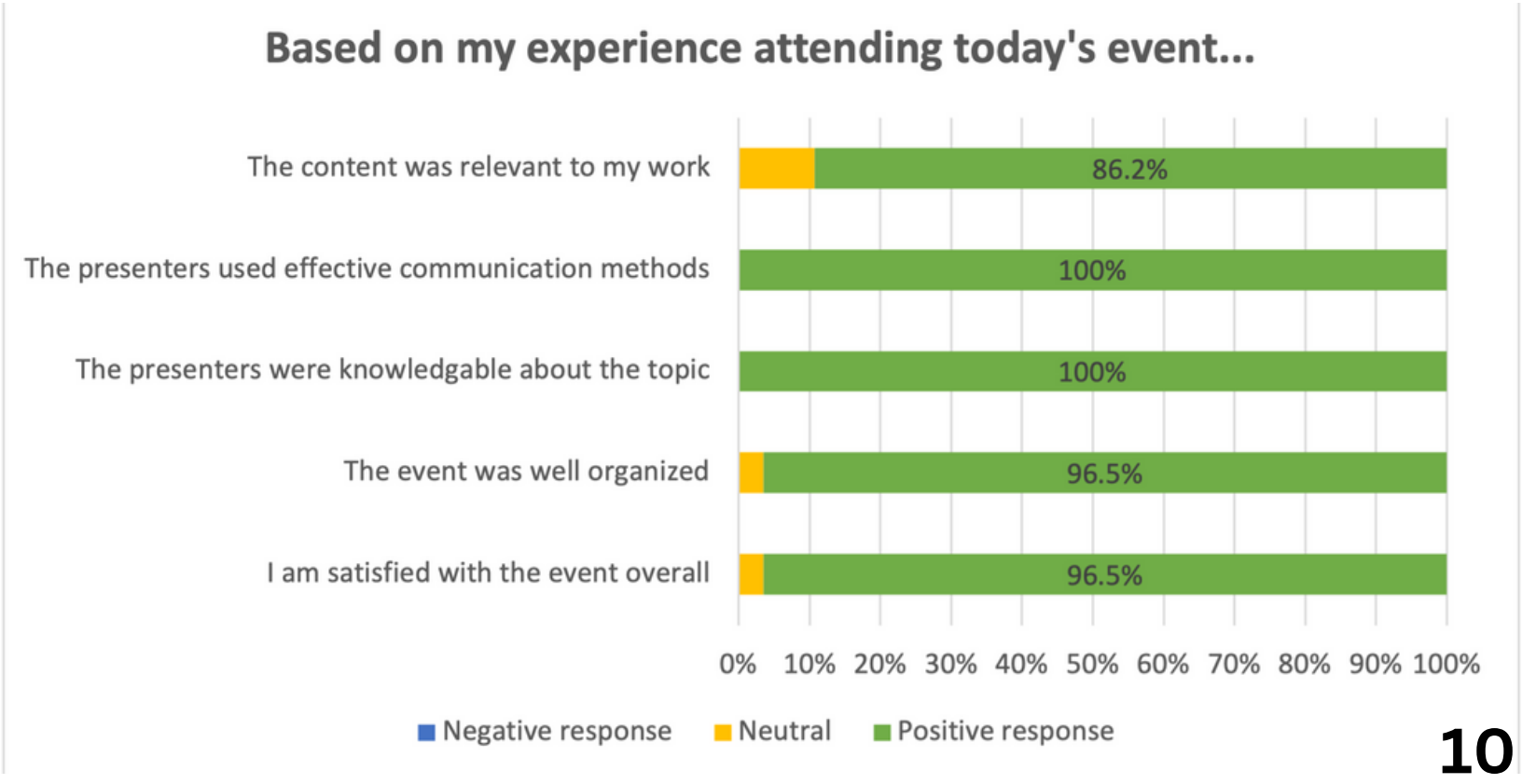
Research Interests	Total Attendees
Health Disparities	23
Social Determinants of Health	22
Community Engagement	20
Public Health	18
Black Health	17
Behavioral Health	13
Women's Health	13
Environmental Health	11
Cancer	10
LGBTQ Health	10
Basic Science	9
Chronic Disease	8
Children's Health	7
Physical Activity & Nutrition	7
HIV and AIDS	6
Immigrant Health	5
Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) Health	4
Rural Health	4
Refugee Health	2
Other	0

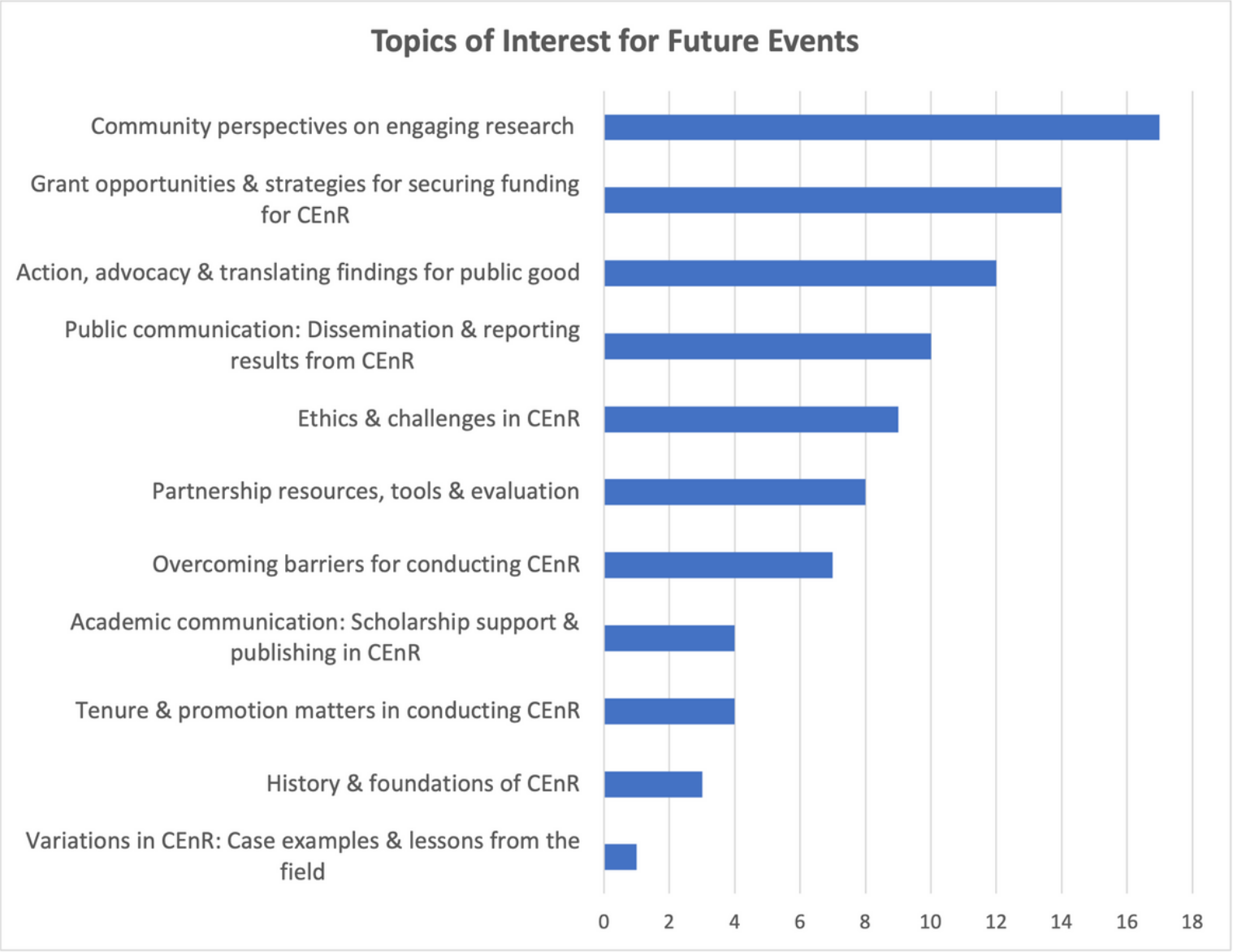
Evaluation:

29 attendees completed the evaluation.

Which best describes you? (mark all that apply)

WSU Faculty	6
WSU Staff	3
Community organization leader or representative	8
Community member/resident	6
Student	5
Other university faculty/staff	5
Community-based healthcare professional	2
Other	1





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

"My MPH Practicum is at a Detroit community org. I think it will greatly help me be a better community partner! I also have a project where I have to create a policy action toolkit for my Leadership class, and this has given me a great perspective on how to approach this project."

"Review resources provided for my students in my courses"

"It will inform curriculum development for the courses I teach."

"I will use the information shared to do an even better job at using data and stories to catalyze change, engage the community, and in partnership"

"I will use the information daily to inform my approach to engage the community and how I build partnership relationships. "

"Data is important when helping to solve community issues, making sure that the right data is collected."

"This info gathered from panelists will be useful for advancing the goals of science advocacy."

"Collaborate on research on methods to best communicate to change policy."

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

"Provide interactive workshops on reading and approaching policies"

"Keep the conversation about cultural humility and research activities going."

"Train interested Community Members on Research so they can more effectively interface with proposed Research in underserved communities"

"Build a grass root program for nonprofits owned by residents living in Detroit from 1980 - present to build neighborhood community census."

"Can CHECK-UP help CENTRALIZE or coordinate various community engagement and research activities at WSU? Like a central HUB? It seems there are various groups out there trying to do similar work."

"Continuing to have community events like this. And identifying and investing in the community leadership to strengthen their since of agency and their ability to self advocate."

"Make sure that the data collected is used to solve community issues."

"Connecting community leaders/ members to WSU researchers via some channel of communication."

"Community faculty and advocacy speed dating? Opportunity for researchers to meet reps from community organizations to connect. "

"Create a database of local community engaged research opportunities that local community members can access to learn about research participation opportunities."

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

"Sharing the data in a way that is easily understandable by the community."

"Makes easy for community leaders to help researchers to collect data on issues, so the issue can be addressed."

"Protected time for CEnR, benefits for students/ faculty micro-credentials?"

"I think education barriers really keep communities from this information. Maybe try to get programs or workshops into DPS."

"More opportunity for audience interaction with speakers"

"TRANSPORTATION"

"Orgs/ Agencies representatives to the table (panels, virtual, in-person presentations)"