

Overdose Awareness Day

Event: International Overdose Awareness Day

Location: Downtown Oakland (Oakstop)

Date/Time: 8/27/22 1:00PM to 5:00PM

Number of people reached: 9

- 9 in-person interviews



Event Description:

Urban Strategies Council of the Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at the International Overdose Awareness Day event at Oakstop in Downtown Oakland. The event centered on awareness and information on how to prevent overdose deaths to youth. With live music performances, food, and community resource tables, the event was a safe space for those who have been affected by the Opioid Epidemic.

The team informed people what the General Plan is; conducted 9 in-person interviews; shared a 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions that people in Oakland are experiencing; handed out flyers for resources for Emergency Rapid Assistance Program (ERAP), library, and maintenance; referred community members to direct service

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organizations or City Department to address current needs; and gathered questions regarding the General Plan and City services. The 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions presented racial displacement, housing affordability, pollution burden, past and future housing production in Oakland, and a call to action.

Engagement Approaches:

- 1) Approach people to have a conversation rather than extracting information from them
- 2) A 2-pager on housing and environmental justice on the table in English

Demographics: The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership is committed to reaching people who have not traditionally been part of planning processes. At this event we spoke with persons impacted by mass incarceration, tenants/renters, low-income persons, and persons experiencing environmental injustice. The following are demographic highlights based on the 9 in-person interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Most of the people we spoke to are Black/African American (44%). *See Table 1 for more information.*
- **Age:** Most of the people we spoke to are between the ages of 25-34 (22%). *See Table 2 for more information.*
- **Gender:** 56% are male and 11% are female. *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** Majority of the people we spoke to are renters (56%). *See Table 4 for more information.*
- **Disability:** No one we spoke to stated they have a disability. *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Most of the people we spoke to have an annual personal income between \$30,001-\$40,000 (22%). *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** 56% are heterosexual. *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 60% of people shared that they have some experience with mass incarceration; being a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated (50%) and being a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated (10%). *See Table 8 below for more information.*

The 9 interviews included the following 8 questions and demographic information:

- **General:** 1) When did you/your family arrive in Oakland? Where were you living before?; 2) What neighborhoods have you lived in?; and 3) What's your favorite memory of Oakland?

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- **Housing:** 1) Have your family members struggled with housing problems? If so, what have been your major problems?; and 2) What are your ideas for solutions? What would you like to see as solutions?
- **Environmental Health:** 1) Do any of your Oakland family members have trouble breathing, been involved in a car collision, been affected by wildfires (proximity or smoke), or flooding?; and 2) What are your ideas for solutions? What would you like to see as solutions?
- **Anything else you would like to share?**
- **Demographic Information:** Zip code, neighborhoods, age, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, housing, disability, annual income, and formerly incarcerated

Engagement Summary

The following is a summary of the main points that community members brought up during the event. Points under each topic are ordered by most to least mentioned.

FAMILY ARRIVED IN OAKLAND

- A majority of individuals we spoke to shared that their families arrived between 1980-1999. *See Table 9 below for more information.*
- Most people had previously been living in the South.

A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

“People outside getting along with one another”

- **Culture and Cultural Arts:** People enjoy cultural arts through the music scene and various festivals, like the Carijama Festival
- **Sports:** People have fond memories of A's games, the Malibu Grand Prix, and Allen Temple Church baseball games
- **Oakland Locals:** People mention enjoying time with family and friends, finding importance in a community without tension or conflict
- **Nature:** One person mentioned the beautiful weather

HOUSING

“The OPD (Oakland Police Department) made my grandparents sell their house below value because of the actions of some of my uncles who didn't live at the residence.”

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- **Issues:**
 - **Unaffordable rent** that cannot be paid with average wages
 - **Affordable housing** is limited and people struggle with finding places to live
 - **Prospective homeowners and renters** are unable to find places that are affordable and liveable for more people, such as a household of 7
- **Solutions:**
 - Preserve and build affordable housing
 - Expand rent control
 - Invest in rental assistance programs development and outreach
 - Recenter the issue of housing around affordable living

HOUSING HABITABILITY

- **Issues:**
 - **Unsafe neighborhoods** surrounding affordable housing
 - **Overcrowding** impacts tenant/renters and homeowners

EQUITY

- **Issues:**
 - **Exploitation and coercion** of vulnerable groups, such as low-income individuals and older adults, to make decisions on selling/buying
 - **City and OPD pressure** on homeowner selling process
 - **Discriminatory practices** where individuals are impacted by family members' crimes and actions
- **Solution:**
 - Increase housing services and resources specifically for young families

HOMELESSNESS

- **Solution:**
 - Prioritize homelessness street outreach and sheltering programs

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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

“I think a lot more trees need to be planted so the air can be cleaner”

WILDFIRES & RESPIRATORY ISSUES

- **Issues:**
 - **Wildfire smoke** creates poor air quality that exacerbates respiratory issues
 - **Smoking** in public near newborns and kids impacts their respiratory health
- **Solutions:**
 - Plant more trees in neighborhoods with poor air quality

TRANSPORTATION

- **Solution:**
 - Optimize public transportation and prioritize reliability and efficiency

HEALTH & DRUG PREVENTION, ECONOMIC, AND CITY INVESTMENT

“Fixed potholes and drugs off the streets or more help for addicts”

HEALTH & DRUG PREVENTION

- **Issue:**
 - **Drug selling and use** impacts community health and safety
- **Solutions:**
 - Expand drug prevention and tackle drugs on the street without overpolicing
 - Provide comprehensive addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs, with a focus on creating job development pathways post-rehab
 - Increase health education and resources outreach in communities impacted by drugs

ECONOMIC

- **Solution:**
 - Create tangible job pathways for low-income workers, ensuring fair and liveable wages

CITY INVESTMENT

- **Solution:**
 - Prioritize fixing potholes and maintaining streets

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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ANALYSIS

Note: The tables listed below do not include a total count because respondents can select more than one response for subsections – Race/Ethnicity, Housing, Disability, Sexual Orientation, and Experience with Mass Incarceration.

Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Black/African American	4	44.4%
Hispanic or Latino (non white or Black)	2	22.2%
White/European	0	0.0%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
Multi-racial	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Caribbean Islander	0	0.0%
Middle Eastern	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Decline to state	3	33.3%

Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Number of People	Distribution (%)
12-17	0	0.0%
18-24	0	0.0%
25-34	2	22.2%

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35-44	1	11.1%
45-54	0	0.0%
55-64	0	0.0%
65+	0	0.0%
Decline to state	6	66.7%
Total	9	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Female	1	11.1%
Male	5	55.6%
Non-binary	0	0.0%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Intersex	0	0.0%
Decline to state	3	33.3%
Total	9	

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

Housing	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Rent	5	55.6%
Own	0	0.0%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	0	0.0%
Temporary with friends/family	0	0.0%
Mobile housing/unhoused	0	0.0%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	0	0.0%
Decline to state	4	44.4%

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Table 5. Engagement by Disability

Disability	Number of People	Distribution (%)
A mobility impairment	0	0.0%
A mental health disorder	0	0.0%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	0	0.0%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Decline to state	3	33.3%
None	6	66.7%

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

Annual Personal Income	Number of People	Distribution (%)
\$0-\$10,000	1	11.1%
\$10,001-\$20,000	0	0.0%
\$20,001-\$30,000	0	0.0%
\$30,001-\$40,000	2	22.2%
\$40,001-\$50,000	1	11.1%
\$50,001+	1	11.1%
Decline to state	4	44.4%
Total	9	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Heterosexual	5	55.6%
Queer	0	0.0%

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Bisexual	0	0.0%
Lesbian	0	0.0%
Gay	0	0.0%
Decline to state	4	44.4%

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

Mass Incarceration	Number of People	Distribution (%)
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	1	10.0%
I am formerly incarcerated	0	0.0%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	5	50.0%
None	0	0.0%
Decline to state	4	40.0%

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

Arrive in Oakland	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Before 1900	0	0.0%
1900-1950	2	22.2%
1950-1979	2	22.2%
1980-1999	3	33.3%
2000-2010	1	11.1%
2011-2020	1	11.1%
2021+	0	0.0%
Visiting	0	0.0%
Working	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Decline to state	0	0.0%

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Total	9	
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