



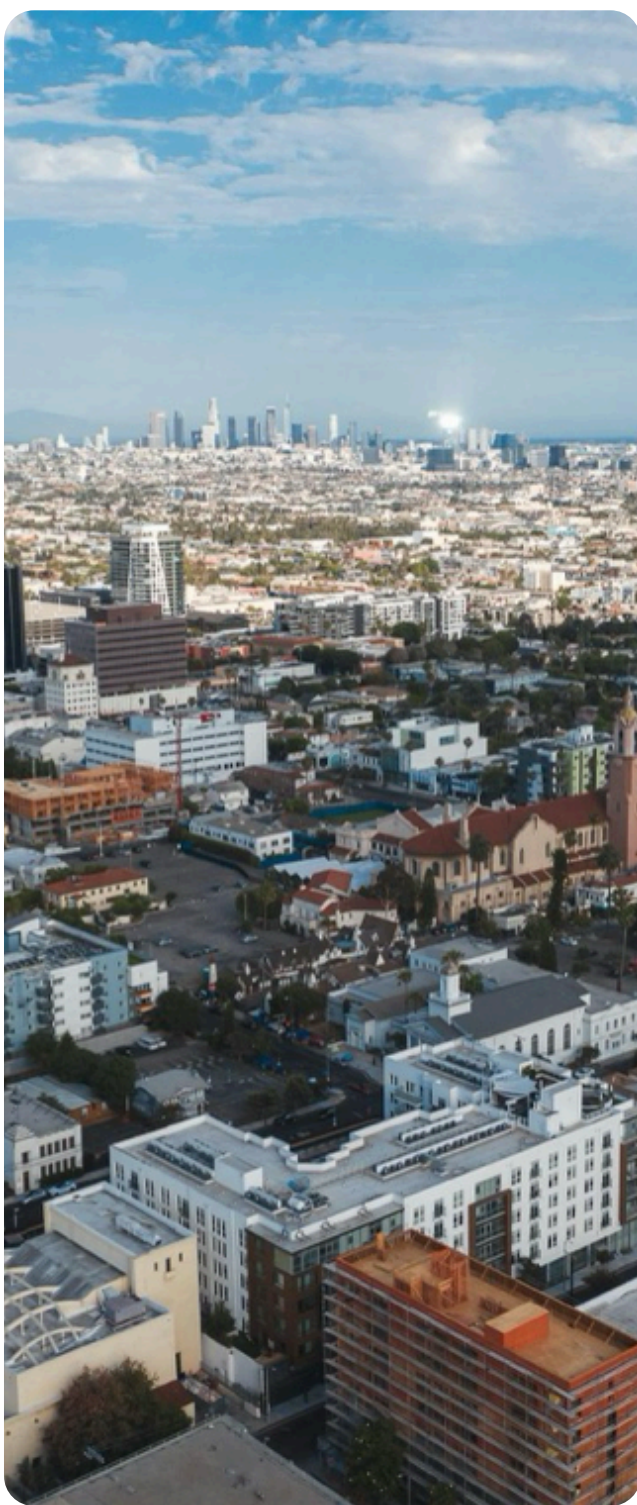
LOS ANGELES COUNTY Participatory Mapping Study

WHAT IS THE PARTICIPATORY MAPPING STUDY?

On July 13, 2021, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion to guide the equitable implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act and strengthen the County's equity data and accountability infrastructure. A key component of the motion directed the County's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative to conduct a study of non-geographically concentrated communities and develop tools to better understand and respond to their needs.

Non-geographically concentrated communities refer to dispersed populations that are frequently undercounted in traditional data systems and often excluded from place-based planning and service delivery models. In response to the Board's directive, ARDI commissioned this study to document and map the spatial realities, access patterns, and service gaps experienced by these communities across Los Angeles County.

In order to address critical data gaps and provide a more accurate understanding of how people live, work, gather, access services, and experience barriers, the study centers the lived experience and trusted community knowledge of seven target populations, producing insights that inform more responsive, inclusive, and effective County planning and decision-making.

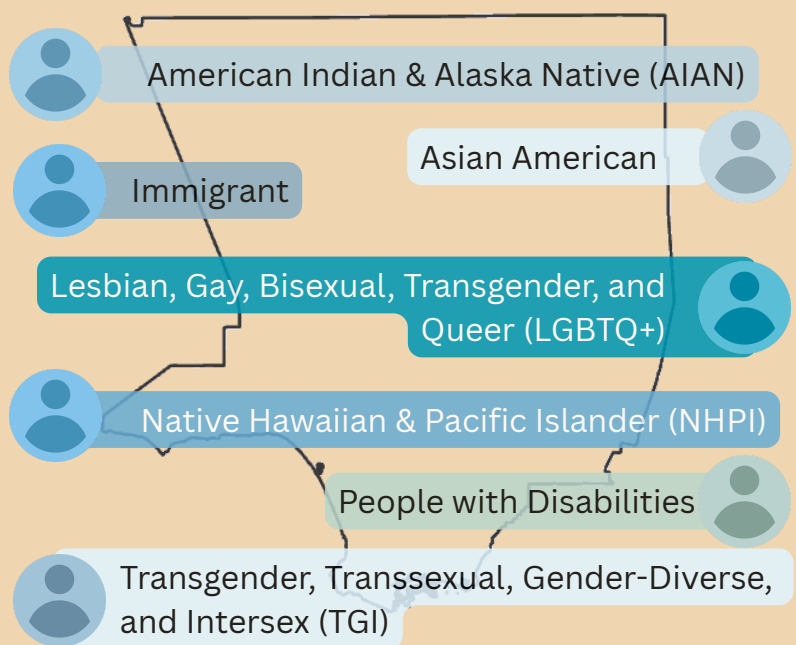


WHY THIS STUDY MATTERS

County services and investments depend on data and mapping tools to determine where resources are located and who can access them. When dispersed communities are not visible in traditional, place-based data systems, their needs and barriers to access may go unaddressed. Participatory mapping fills this gap by revealing real-world access patterns, enabling the County to make more equitable, informed, and effective service decisions.

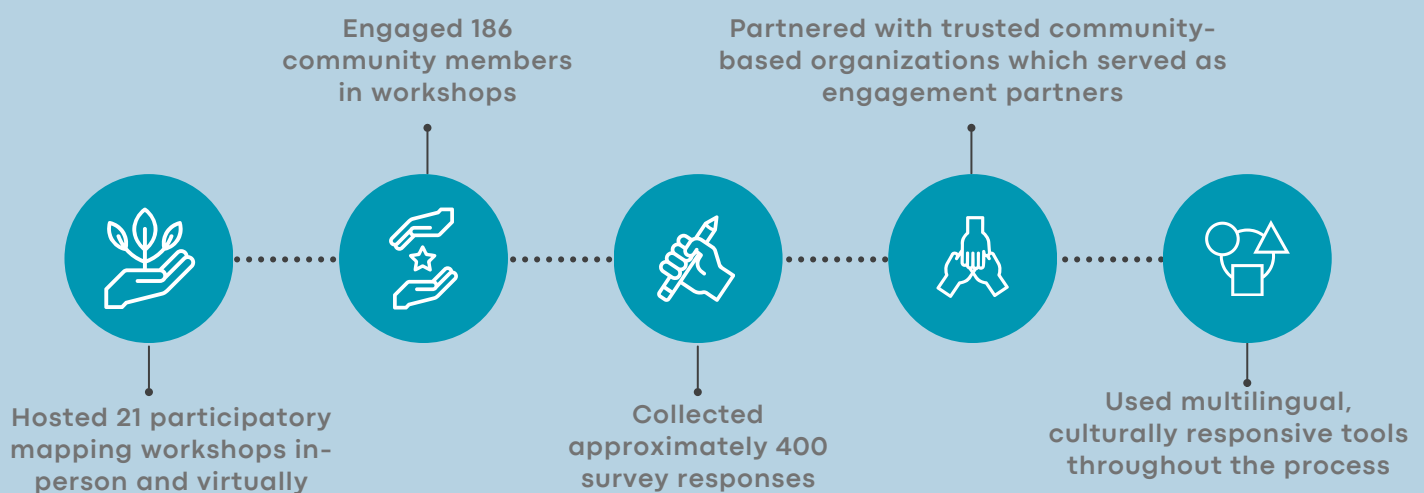
COMMUNITIES ENGAGED

This study focused on seven non-geographically concentrated communities in Los Angeles County:



HOW THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED

The process involved multiple steps, stakeholders, and communities. In order to arrive at the study's findings, the research team:



Mapped data were digitized and analyzed using GIS software and integrated into the County's Equity Explorer platform.



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KEY CROSS-CUTTING FINDINGS

Across all communities, participants consistently highlighted common themes and critical concerns:



Geographic dispersion that limits access to centralized services



Reliance on trusted community organizations as primary access points



A need for language inclusive, culturally responsive, and trusted resources



Data invisibility affecting funding, planning, and recognition



Transportation and accessibility barriers as major constraints



Overlapping and compounding crises, including housing instability, health inequities, discrimination, and policy-driven disruptions

WHAT THE MAP SHOWS

The Equity Explorer participatory mapping layers highlight:



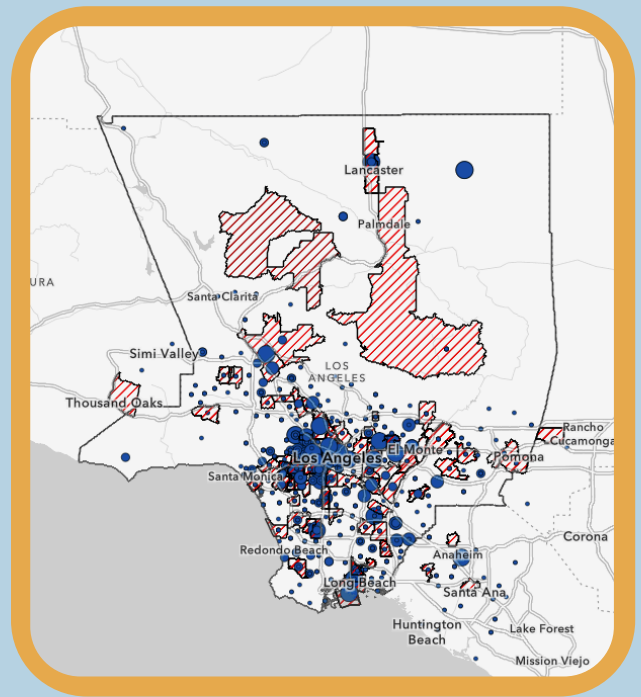
Areas of trusted community assets and gathering spaces



Gaps between service locations and where people actually live



Areas where access barriers are most pronounced



HOW THE DATA CAN BE USED

- to inform County and municipal planning and program design
- to support equitable funding and investment strategies
- to identify service gaps and access barriers
- to strengthen advocacy and cross-sector coordination
- to improve accountability and transparency in decision-making

WHERE TO LEARN MORE



To read the full report, scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/PM-report>



For the Equity Explorer Participatory Mapping Experience, scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/ARDI-map>