

ANTELOPE VALLEY LISTENING SESSION: EVENT SUMMARY



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



PURPOSE

- Gather feedback from the Antelope Valley community on opportunities, challenges, and community needs related to sexual health and wellness.
- Identify solutions to inform planning efforts to improve services, address challenges and increase service utilization within the Antelope Valley.

CHALLENGES

Challenges identified include:

- Limited resources (including staff) and services
- Despite availability, providers and clients lack knowledge of existing services/resources in the area
- Fear of stigma due to a prevalent conservative culture
- Lack of staff knowledge/training around LGBTQ and trans issues
- Provider discomfort discussing sexual health history
- Providers lack knowledge of Prep/PEP/DoxyPEP

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Participants noted the following community needs for engagement:

- Welcoming spaces celebrating all identities
- Other supportive services (housing, mental health, etc.)
- Service availability in outlying areas
- Evening and weekend hours
- Education on HIV/STIs
- Knowledge of how to find needed services (central info hub)
- Constant follow up
- Incentives

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ongoing collaboration and regular convening of providers to increase knowledge of existing resources and build strong partnerships within the Antelope Valley.
- Offer weekend and evening hours to accommodate all clients.
- Provide ongoing staff training on HIV/STI care and prevention and people first care (trauma-informed care, stigma, reproductive justice, gender-affirming care, etc.).
- Increase resources to scale up education, outreach, and staffing.
- Use a variety of methods to promote services and provide education using simple, culturally-appropriate language.
- Increase efforts to educate seniors, youth, Spanish-only speakers and sex workers.