

In Commemoration of 2025 National Black  
HIV/AIDS Awareness Day #NBHAAD

# Black Communities Speak: Insights from Our Listening Sessions

We asked. You answered. Here's what we heard from Black Women, Faith-Based Communities, Non-US Born Immigrants, and Same-Gender-Loving (SGL) Men about sexual health, HIV, and community wellness in our Black communities of Los Angeles County.

## What We Heard

### Women

- Lack of culturally competent healthcare providers leads to mistrust and avoidance of services.
- Stigma and judgment prevent open conversations about sexual health and HIV.
- More safe spaces are needed for Black women to discuss sexual wellness without fear or shame.

### Faith-Based

- Many desire faith-led, stigma-free conversations about sexual health and HIV.
- Misinformation and silence around HIV contribute to fear and discrimination.
- Trusted faith leaders can play a vital role in breaking down stigma and encouraging testing and care.

### Non US Born Immigrants

- Language barriers and immigration concerns create fear in seeking healthcare.
- Lack of awareness about available HIV services and rights leads to missed opportunities for care.
- Culturally inclusive outreach and multilingual resources are critical.

### Same-Gender-Loving (SGL) Men

- Stigma, discrimination, and medical mistrust discourage engagement with healthcare.
- Limited representation of Black SGL men in health messaging reduces relatability and trust.
- More affirming spaces are needed where Black SGL men feel seen, valued, and safe accessing care.

### Our Voices. Our Strength. Our Solutions.

We need culturally competent, judgment-free care, open conversations about sexual health, and accessible services free from stigma and barriers. Black-led advocacy must drive solutions, and safe spaces should empower honest dialogue and healing.

