SUMMARY REPORT

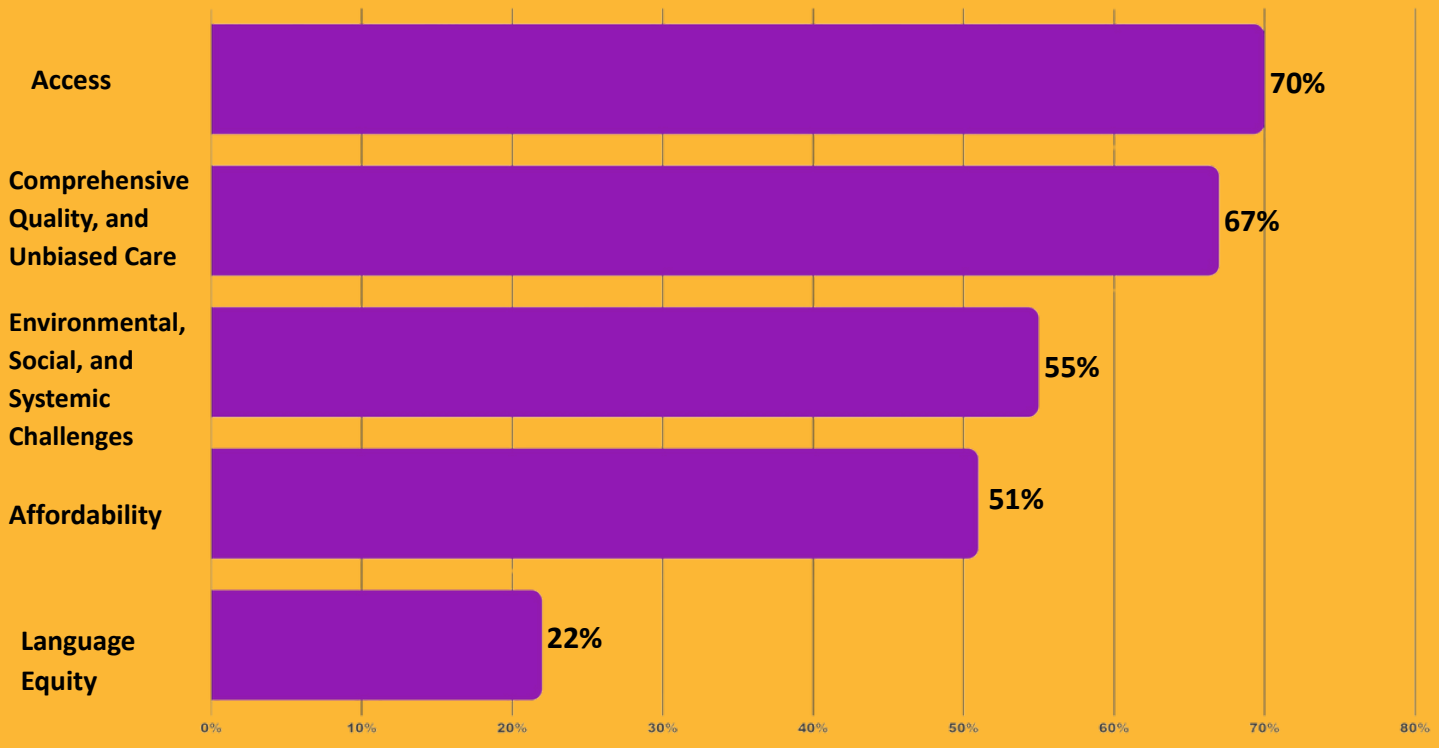
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS 2025

HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS

Health Equity Solutions engaged with 348 residents from 34 towns across Connecticut in discussions about health equity. HES sought to understand residents' concerns about health inequities and solutions to address them. Feedback was collected through community conversations co-hosted with partners and through a survey. Community responses were key in creating Health Equity Solutions' 2026 Policy Agenda.

2025 COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS THEMES

% of participants whose policy priorities align with each category



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS

Access

Definition:

Access is the health system's ability to reach the entire population. Increasing people's access to healthcare improves their overall opportunity to attain their optimal health status, increases life expectancy, and helps to reduce health inequities.

Community Solutions

- Health insurance that is available to all residents, regardless of immigration status
- Improve transportation options for medical appointments

"Health insurance for all will be better for our bodies and our minds." -Community Member

Environmental, Social, and Systemic Challenges

Definition:

Environmental, Social, and Systemic Challenges are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and people's access to power, money and resources that have a powerful influence on health inequities.

Community Solutions

- Better and less biased care for pregnant and birthing people
- Improved communication about community resources for accessing health care, food, transportation, and other basic needs

"And no one is going to apply for anything if they don't know about the system. More education [is needed] for people who work to educate the community."
-Community Member

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS

Language Equity

Definition:

Language equity is the practice and principle of ensuring that all people have equitable access to communication in the language they know best. It recognizes that language is not only a tool for communication but also a core part of identity, culture, and power.

Community Solutions

- More health care professionals that are bilingual and understand different cultures
- Proper and improved interpretation and translation services in hospitals

"There is a barrier in [medical staff] listening if they don't speak your native language."
-Community Member

Comprehensive, Quality, and Unbiased Care

Definition:

Comprehensive, quality, unbiased care means services, practices, and processes responsive to diverse behaviors, assets, needs, beliefs, and languages. People are not treated differently because of their race, immigration status, gender, sexuality, or socioeconomic status. And health care is patient-centered, timely, effective, and equitable.

Community Solutions

- Regular culturally informed medical education for providers
- Receiving continuous care from the same doctor

"They see you by your face, by your hair...they discriminate against [you] for everything"
-Community Member

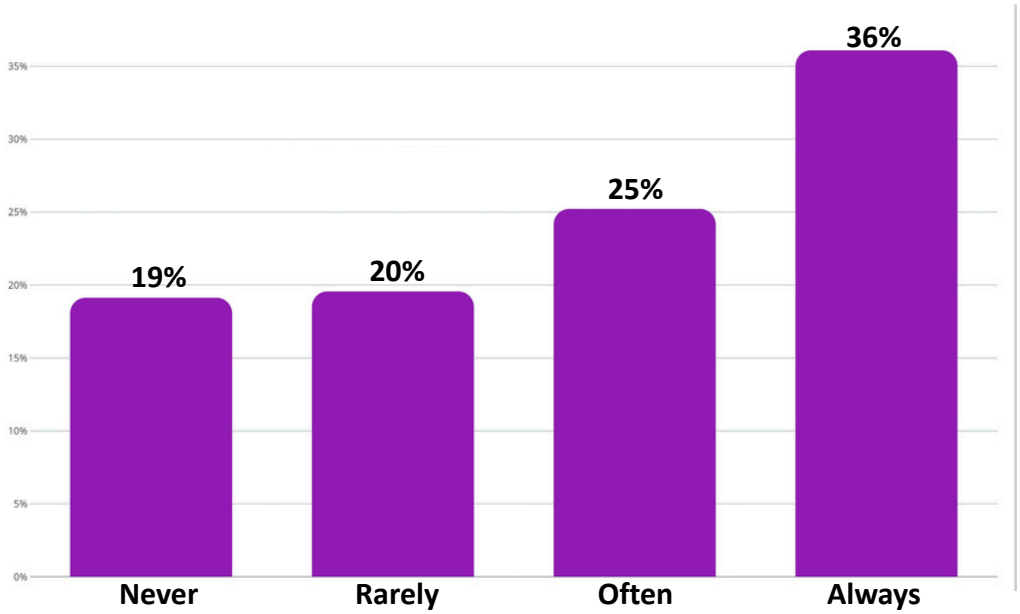
SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS

Affordability

Affordability is the degree to which people can get the healthcare services they need while still being able to afford basic needs such as food, childcare, and transportation.

Over 80% of Participants in the 2025 HES Community Survey Worry about the Cost of Medical Care



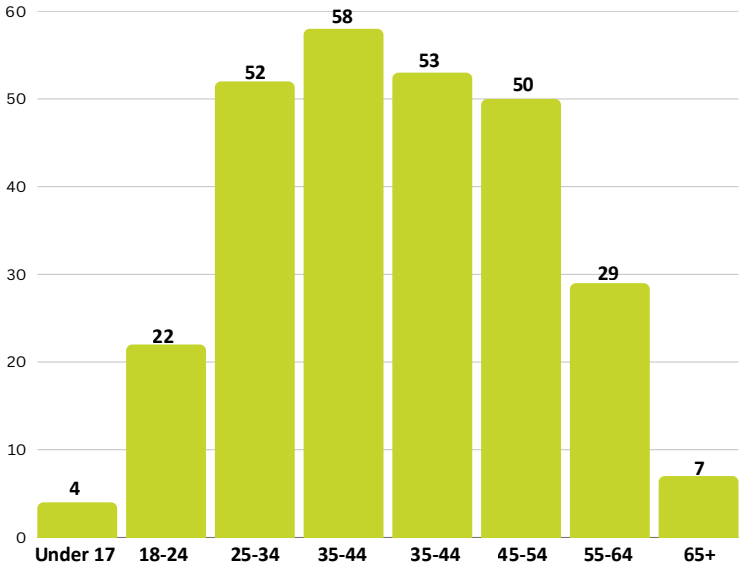
Community Solutions:

- Decrease prescription drug costs
- Address benefit cliffs so that people don't abruptly lose health coverage or other supports when they earn a little more than the income limit

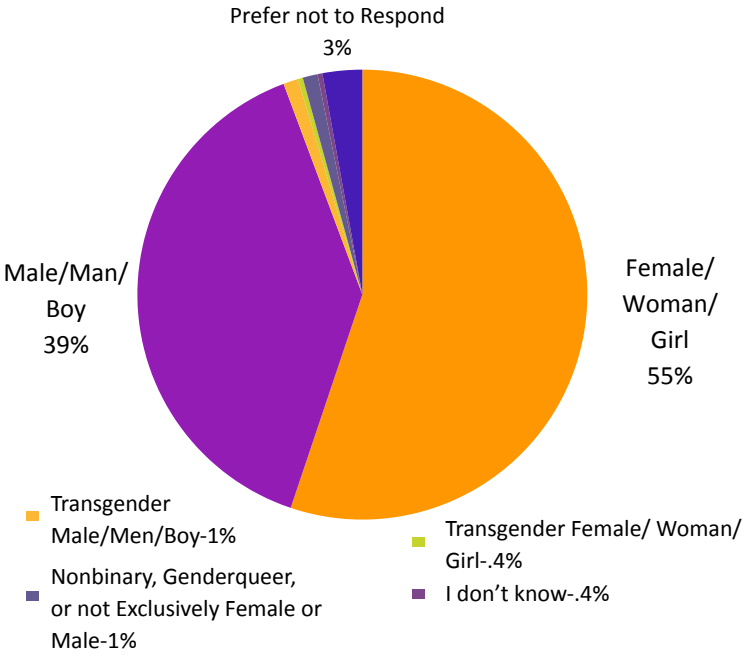
"You cannot miss work, because how are you going to pay for this bill, or for food, or for rent. You cannot miss work...many people do not want to go to the hospital because of this."-Community Member

Self-identified Demographic Information of Participants

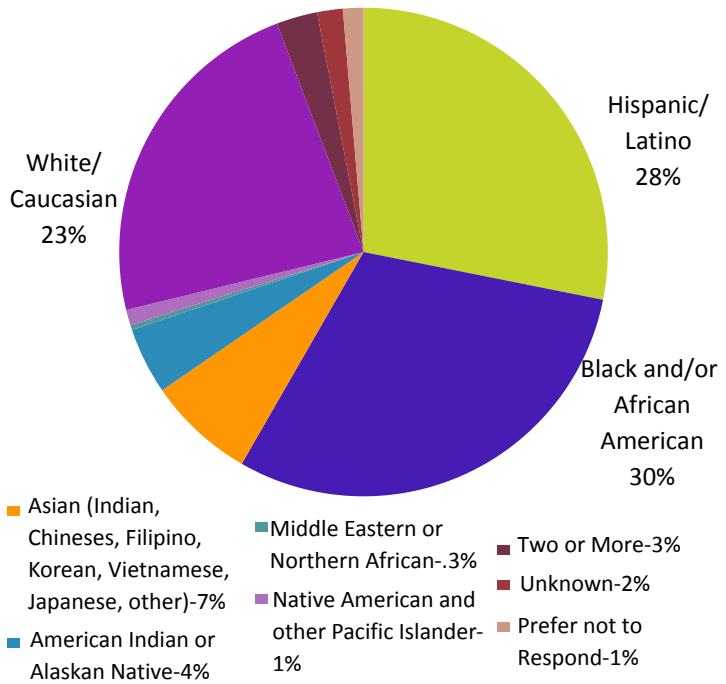
Age of Participants



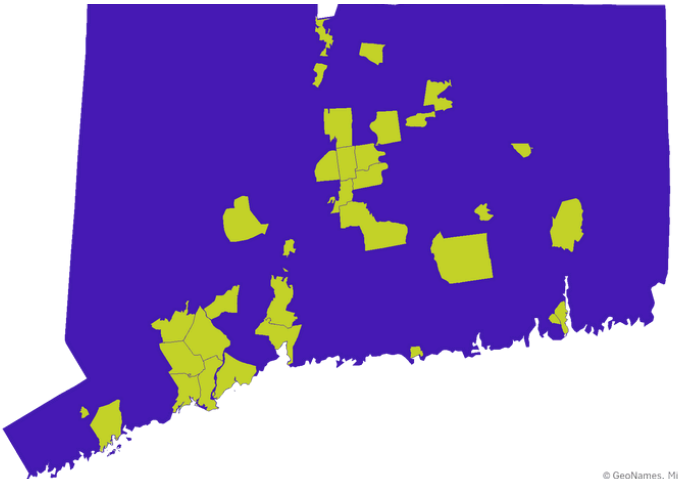
Gender of Participants



Race and Ethnicity of Participants



348 Participants from 34 Municipalities Represented



Questions/Comments?
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