



Neighborhood Health Advocates: Increasing Access to Healthcare and Preventative Services in Vulnerable Communities

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Overview

Currently, in the city of Fullerton, residents living in the zip code areas 92832 and 92833, have poor access to healthcare and preventative resources. In an attempt to increase awareness and access to healthcare and preventative services among vulnerable families, individuals from the community were trained to be community health workers.

Methods

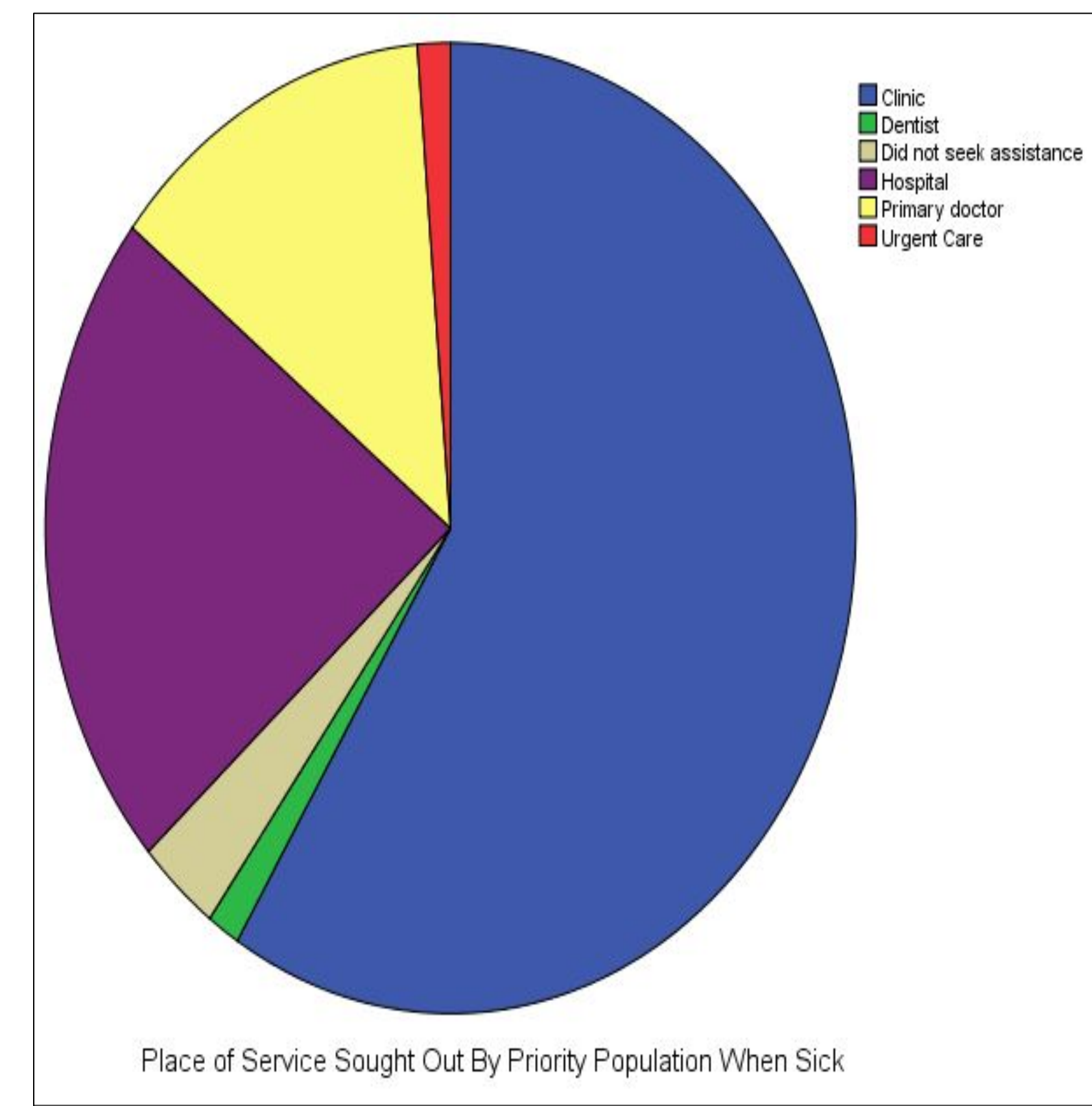
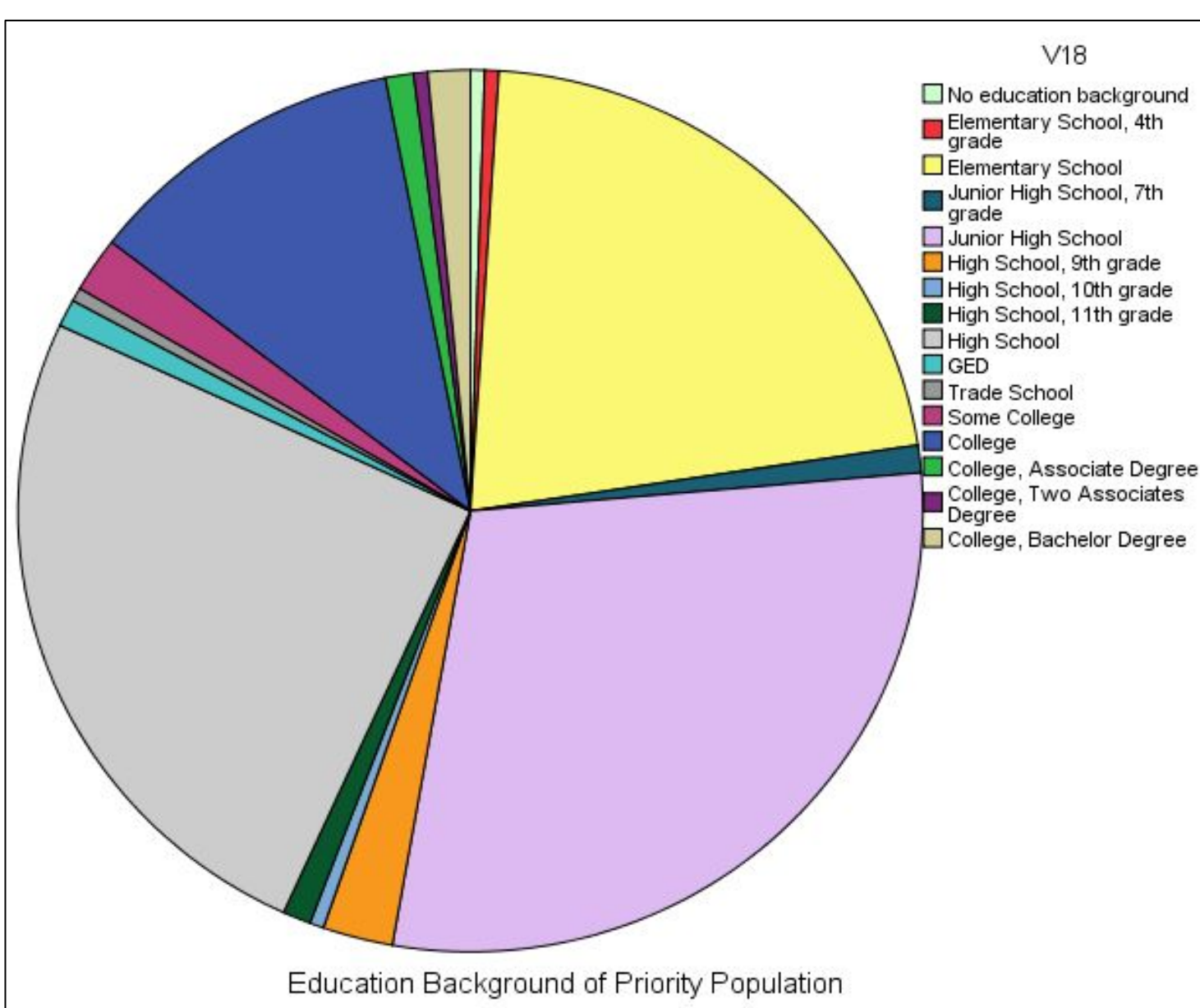
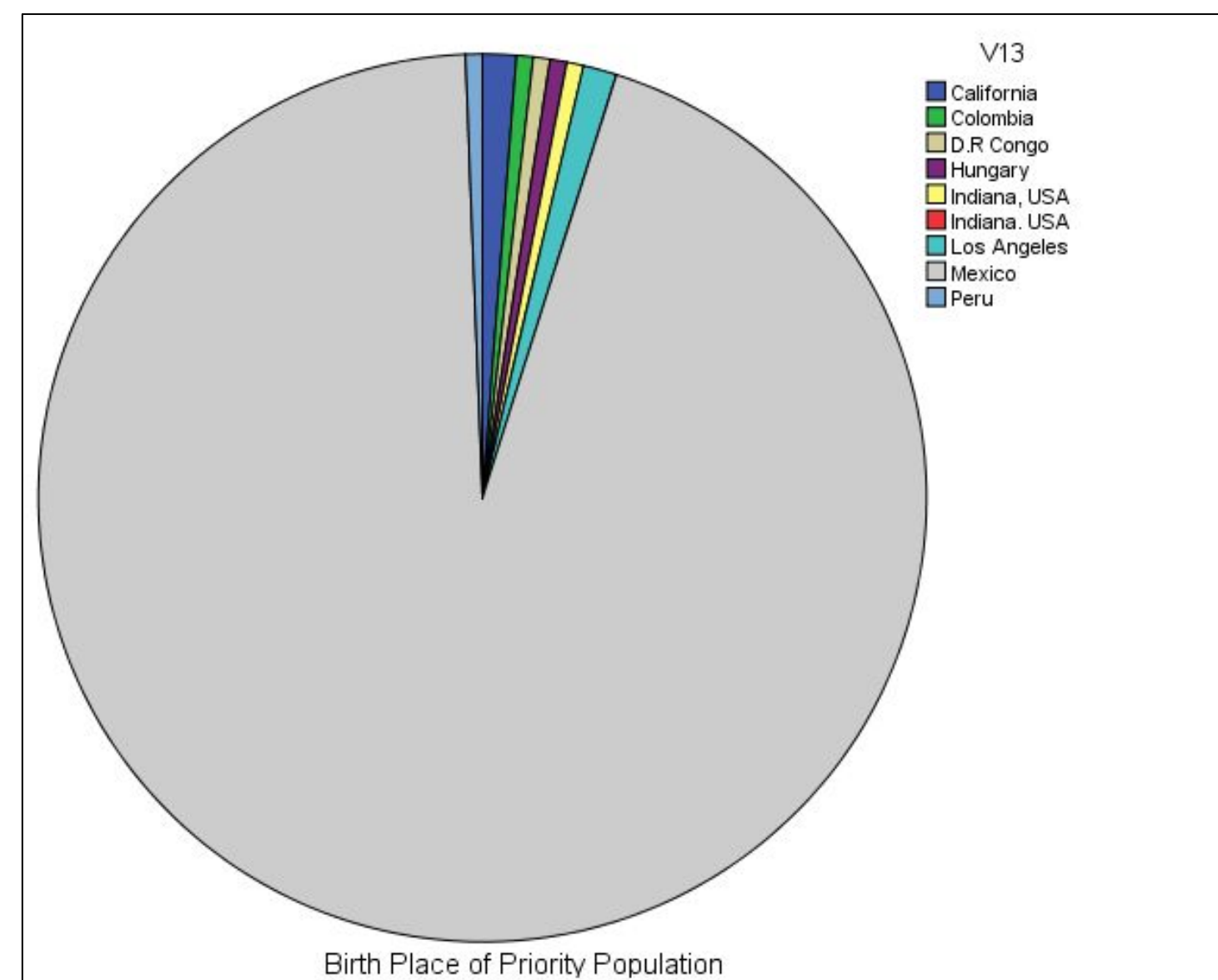
- Project directors recruited Spanish-speaking parents to serve as Neighborhood Health Advocates (NHA) and CSUF student interns.
- NHA, coordinators, and project directors then completed the MPH Promotor(a) De Salud Program.
- The Neighborhood Health Advocates meet weekly, while CSUF student interns meet monthly, with the Project Assistant and Project Director.
- The Neighborhood Health Advocates implement health assessments, referrals, and follow-up visits with individuals to reach a goal of 1,620 completed health assessments.
- CSUF student interns go weekly to the community and aid the Neighborhood Health Advocates in distributing Health Assessments.
- Once follow-up visits have been completed, CSUF student interns and the Project Assistant input data to be analyzed.

Results

- A majority of the priority population is not native to the United States and has immigrated from Mexico, and is seeking health care services with providers that speak Spanish.
- A large portion of individuals in our priority population did not go past junior high school education, many stating that it makes it hard for them to navigate the healthcare system and receive the support they need.
- A lack of access to healthcare and preventative services, has led many individuals to seek hospital services as a last resort, or not seeking help.

Conclusions

Based on our current findings, there is a correlation amongst individuals with language or financial barriers and poor access to health services. Additionally, several barriers have been identified in administering the health assessments. Challenges include a lack of trust within the community, due to the political climate and the fear of deportation, resulting in incomplete health assessments. The efforts of the Neighborhood Health Advocates program has resulted in the arrangement of health fairs with partnered organizations, such as Clinic at the Park. Moving forward with our data collection, we hope to build a strong relationship by gaining their trust to continue providing them with the information and resources they need to have healthier families.



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