



# Wayne State University School of Medicine Student Organizations' Opportunities to Diversify Services to Hispanic Populations

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## Introduction

Current literature shows that student-organized health fairs provide preventative health care to underserved patient populations. In the Hispanic community specifically, health fairs bridge this gap by providing preventative health services to the low-income and uninsured.<sup>1</sup> However, it is unknown how these fairs impact the involved student organizations.

Amigos Medicos hosted a health fair in July 2022 to provide and expand access to local community resources. Afterwards, a survey was administered to the participating Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM) student organizations in efforts to understand how their organization was impacted by the health fair.

## Objective

The objective is to determine how health fairs impact student organizations' recruitment and the challenges of participating with Hispanic populations.

## Methods

Eight WSUSOM student organizations participated in the July 2022 health fair. After the fair, Amigos Medicos clinic coordinators developed a survey using Google Forms. The survey incorporated a Likert scale with nine questions that assessed their experiences and interest in engaging with the Hispanic population in the future using health fairs as a venue.

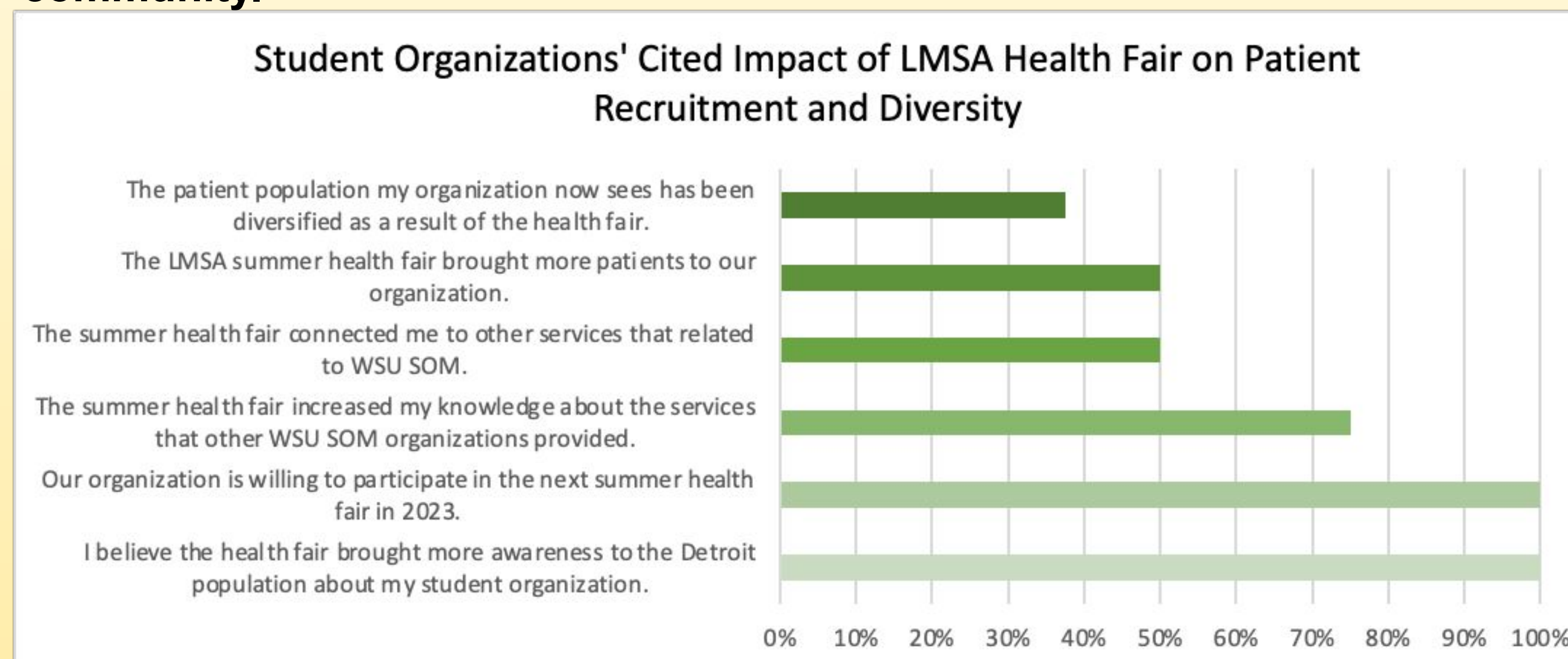
After the fair, the survey was e-mailed to the student coordinators of involved organizations. The organizations were also requested to suggest improvements involving outreach with Hispanic populations.

## Results

One-hundred percent of the student organizations responded to the survey. Results indicated **100% believe (strongly agreed/agreed) the health fair brought more awareness to the Detroit population of WSUSOM's ability to serve them.** 100% agreed that the fair served as a **recruitment for patients to their regular student-run clinics.** 75% believe that the fair **increased their knowledge about other WSUSOM organizations.** 50% believe the summer health fair **connected them to other services that related to WSU SOM.** 50% reported that the health fair **helped bring more patients to their organization following the event.**

## Results (continued)

37.5% reported that the patient **population in their own student-run clinics is more diverse after the health fair.** 100% agreed that their organization would be **willing to participate in future health fairs involving the hispanic community.**



## Cited Barriers to Student Organization Health Fair Efficacy

### Financial constraints

42.9% of student organizations indicated that financial constraints of their organization affected their ability to provide materials for healthy living to the community. **This was the most cited barrier.**

### Translators

14% of student organizations indicated that not having enough Spanish-speaking translators affected their services.

### Volunteers

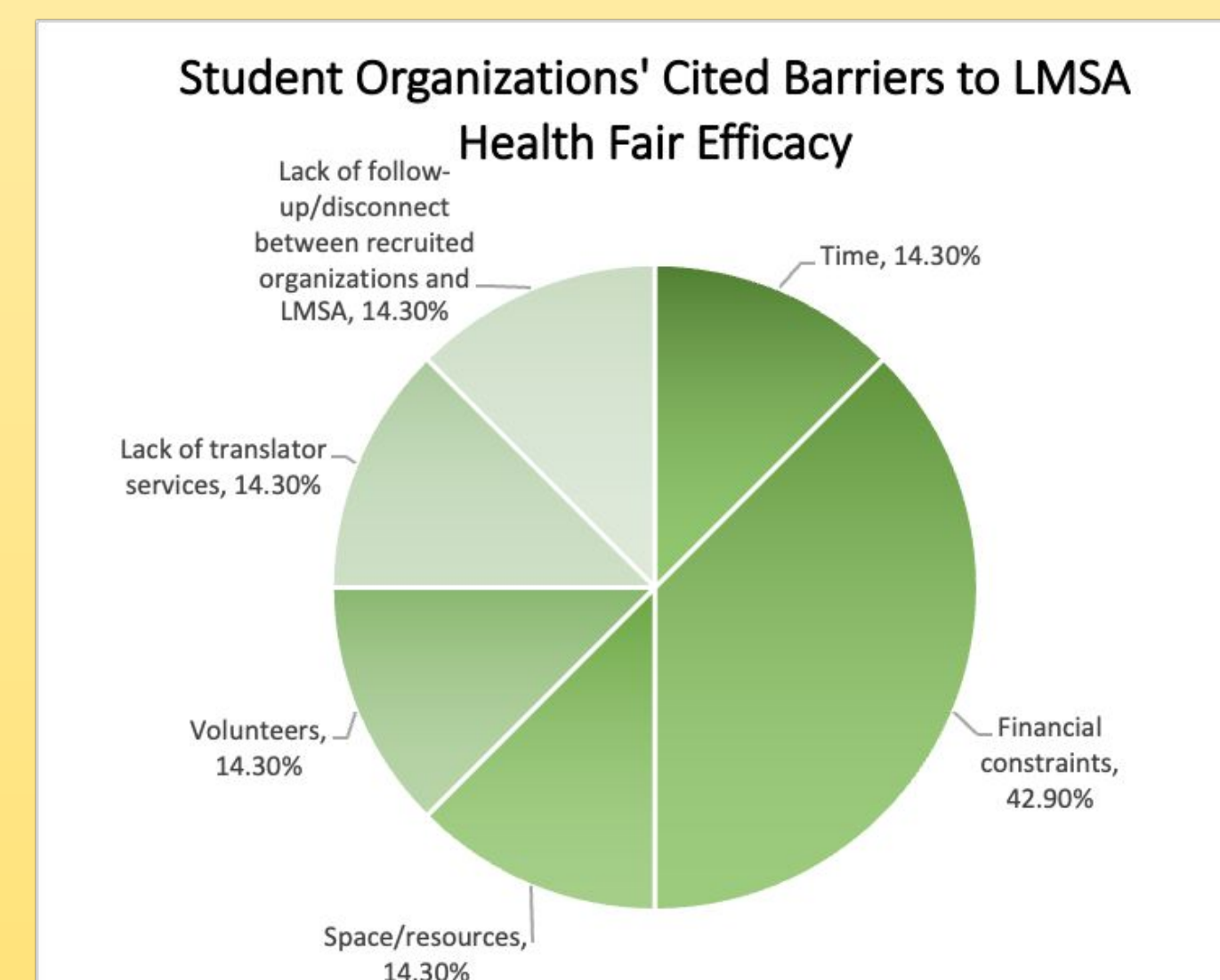
14% reported that a shortage of volunteers affected the services they could provide.

### Space and Resources

14% reported they did not have enough resources/space to maximize the services they could provide.

### Lack of follow-up

14% said a lack of follow-up with the patients/disconnect between the organizations and LMSA lessened the student organizations' impact.



## Conclusion

The Amigos Medicos clinic sees a large majority of Spanish-speaking patients in Southwest Detroit. The summer health fair showed a positive impact in the Southwest Hispanic community by increasing knowledge and access to resources in efforts to help mitigate health disparities in the community. It also demonstrated a positive impact on those WSUSOM student organizations involved in the fair by diversifying and increasing the number of patients they can see. In addition, their participation increased knowledge of their organization within the community, a favorable mutual benefit.

To address some of the issues noted, future events can include additional fundraising and recruitment of more Spanish-speaking translator volunteers. Future organizations that organize the fair can also create forms to help understand what participating organizations need to best augment the services they can provide during the fair.

## References

1. Murray, K., Liang, A., Barnack-Tavlaris, J., & Navarro, A. M. (2013, August 2). *The reach and rationale for Community Health Fairs - Journal of Cancer Education*. SpringerLink.