Civic Engagement in the Inland Empire

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Outline

- Introduction and survey results
  - Profile of nonprofit organizations
  - Organizational inequalities
  - Political Presence
  - Recommendations
Project Overview

- James Irvine Foundation
- Study similar to studies conducted in Bay Area, Orange County, Chicago, Central NJ

Goals of presentation
- Preliminary findings
- Feedback / Q&A
Why is civic engagement important?

- Volunteerism *and* political participation
- Volunteerism provides essential skills for political participation and influence
- Civic organizations are
  - Sources of information about community needs
  - Venues for political mobilization
  - Places where racial and ethnic relations can improve or worsen
- Provision of services
  - In light of cuts in government spending
### Demographic change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moved in last 5 years</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved from another county</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**US Census 2000**
Research Activities

- Survey of civic and political engagement
- Focus groups
- Interviews with government officials
  - 61 in Riverside, Norco, Apple Valley, Victorville, Rialto, Colton, Norco, Chino, Chino Hills, Palm Springs, Cathedral City
- Interviews with organization leaders
  - 63 in same cities except Chino, Palm Springs, Cathedral City
Survey of Civic Engagement

- Telephone survey
  - May 25 to July 5, 2007
- 2,075 respondents
  - Representative sample of IE residents
  - Bigger samples of Asian, African American, and Latino residents
- Questions on civic and political involvement
  - Also, awareness of community organizations
Attention to Presidential Election

- White: 26
- Latino: 17
- Af Am: 32
- Asian: 15
Interest in Politics

![Bar Chart]

- White: 37
- Latino: 19
- Af Am: 32
- Asian: 17

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Interest in Politics

- More than 10 years: 34
- 6 to 10 years: 29
- Less than 5 years: 28

Legend:
- Green: Less Than 5 ys.
- Brown: 6 to 10 ys.
- Blue: More than 10 ys.
## Political Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Inland Empire</th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signed petition</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended public forum or government meeting</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written to an elected official</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in demonstrations, rallies, marches</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Racial and Ethnic Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Latino or Hispanic</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Asian American</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signed petition</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended public forum or government meeting</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written to an elected official</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in demonstrations, rallies, marches</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Civic Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Adult citizens</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Involved in Organization</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Served as Officer or Volunteer</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most organization members are same race as me</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Newcomers vs. Established

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Length of Residence in Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less than 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involved in Organization</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Served as Officer or Volunteer</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most organization members are</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>same race as me</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most organization members are same race as me
Outline

- Introduction and survey results
- Profile of nonprofit organizations
- Organizational inequalities
- Political Presence
- Recommendations
Profile of nonprofit organizations

- 6,600 nonprofits in SB and Riverside County
- Sub-regional variation
- Ethnic versus Non-ethnic specific
- Activity Types
- Longevity
Map of Inland Empire

Subregions

- Eastern Desert
- High Desert
- Northern Mountains
- West San Bernardino
- East San Bernardino
- ReYuLo
- Riverside
- San Jacinto Valley
- Temecula/Southern Riv.
- Southern Mountains
- Coachella Valley

Edwards AFB
China Lake Naval Weapons Center
Fort Irwin
Death Valley NP
Malin National Preserve
Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Corps Base
Joshua Tree NP
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range
# Longevity By Region

The table below shows the percentage of organizations less than 20 years old by region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coachella Valley</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East San Bernardino</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Desert</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Desert</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mountains</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redlands/Yucaipa</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jacinto Valley</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Mountains</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temecula Area</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West San Bernardino</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>63%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By Region

![Bar chart and line graph showing the distribution of total nonprofits and ethnic-specific nonprofits by region. The regions include East San Bernardino, Redlands Area, Riverside, San Jacinto Valley, and West San Bernardino.]
By Region

![Diagram showing non-profits and ethnic-specific non-profits by region.]

- **Total Nonprofits**
  - Coachella Valley: Approximately 1800
  - Eastern Desert: Approximately 200
  - High Desert: Approximately 800
  - Northern Mountains: Approximately 400
  - Southern Mountains: Approximately 200
  - Temecula Area: Approximately 600

- **% Ethnic-Specific**
  - Coachella Valley: Approximately 18%
  - Eastern Desert: Approximately 2%
  - High Desert: Approximately 14%
  - Northern Mountains: Approximately 6%
  - Southern Mountains: Approximately 4%
  - Temecula Area: Approximately 6%
## Ethnic Nonprofits by Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asian</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iranian</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Activity Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundations</strong></td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Music</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment, Growth</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrants</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outline

- Introduction and survey results
- Profile of nonprofit organizations
- Organizational inequalities
- Political Presence
- Recommendations
Our Case Study Communities

- Important to look beyond nonprofits to capture fuller portrait of civic engagement
  - Especially inequalities

- Interviews with organization leaders
  - 61 in Riverside, Norco, Apple Valley, Victorville, Rialto, Colton, Norco, Chino Hills

- Interviews with government officials
  - 63 in same cities and Chino, Palm Springs, Cathedral City
Differences in Civic Capacity

- Longevity
- Nonprofit status
- Federated
- Paid staff
- Sources of revenue

- Constitution and Bylaws
- Political activities
Longevity

![Graphs showing longevity of organizations](image)
Nonprofit Status

- Pros
- Cons
- Illustrations from Case Studies

![Bar chart showing comparison between Ethnic, Mixed, and "Mainstream" categories]
Federated

- Pros of Federated Organizations
- Cons of Federation
- Illustration:
  - NAACP, local civil rights organizations
- No difference between ethnic and mainstream organizations
- But, significant difference between older and newer organizations
Paid Staff

- Ethnic: 11
- Mixed: 67
- "Mainstream": 53
Sources of Revenue

- No other significant differences for ethnic versus mainstream organizations
- Reliance on dues, foundations, corporations, government, private donations
Political Activities

- Petitions and Rallies
  - Ethnic organizations more likely than mainstream to be involved

- No difference for
  - attending local meetings
  - speaking to reporters
  - arranging meetings with government officials
Outline

- Introduction and survey results
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- Civic and Political Presence
- Recommendations
What is Political Presence?

- Specific definition
  - Extent to which organizations are visible to government officials

- How we measure it
  - What government officials say
  - What community orgs themselves say about who is politically influential
Variations in Political Presence

- By organization type
  - High for chambers, service clubs, particular neighborhood associations
  - Lower for arts/cultural organizations, naturalization and voting, labor unions

- Ethnic versus mainstream
  - Especially low for non-chamber ethnic organizations
Variations in Political Presence

- Recent versus established

- Regional differences
  - High Desert
  - Chino / Chino Hills
  - Rialto / Colton
  - Riverside
  - Norco
What is Civic Presence?

- Similar to political presence
  - Visibility in the eyes of the general public
  - And in media reporting

- Innovative survey question
  - Have you heard of ....?
  - How well do you know what ... does?
Awareness of Community Organizations: Riverside

- Rotary
- Arts Council
- Catholic Charities
- National Alliance

[Bar chart showing awareness levels for different organizations in Riverside, comparing White and Latino populations.]
Awareness of Community Organizations: High Desert
Outline

- Introduction and survey results
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- Political Presence
- Recommendations
Conclusions and Implications

- Lower participation
- Even with participation, lower visibility and fewer resources
- Demography is not destiny
  - Filipinos in High Desert
  - Residual effects (Basque in Chino/Chino Hills)
- Limited outreach by many mainstream organizations, but growth in “mixed” organizations
  - Racial and ethnic relations
Recommendations

- Visible ethnic leaders already well connected
  - Need for outreach beyond existing social networks
- Assistance to informal groups
  - Getting nonprofit status
  - Help with applying for funding, running organizations
- More efforts at diversification among older mainstream organizations
- More attention by advocacy groups in smaller population centers