Laytonville, California
Community Health Survey

Final Results

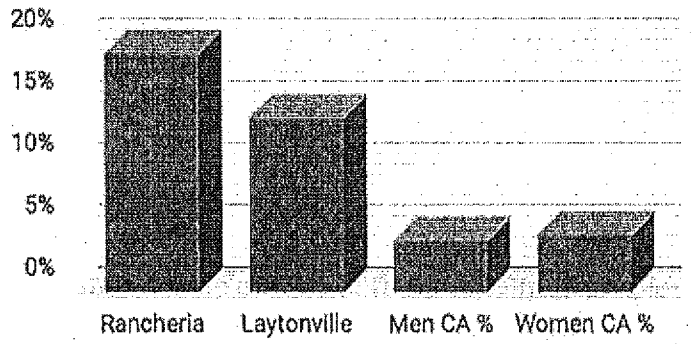
Laytonville residents, including tribal members from the Laytonville Rancheria, and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, conducted an extensive health survey due to concerns about old leaking landfills and reports of high incidence of illness and death. We confidentially interviewed residents about their health conditions. These results provide information from the health surveys.

The following data summarizes the results of a community health survey in Laytonville, California conducted in the spring of 2018. A total of 273 health surveys were received and analyzed (183 from the town of Laytonville, 70 from Laytonville Rancheria, and 20 from residents who did not identify the location of where they lived in Laytonville).

Cancer

Survey results specified that **19%** of individuals living in the Laytonville Rancheria and **14%** in the town of Laytonville have been diagnosed with cancer-higher than the state average. The average cancer rate in California is 4.16% for men and 4.5% for women. In the Laytonville Rancheria, men are 4.6 times more likely than the state average to have cancer and women are 4.2 times more likely to have cancer than the state average. In the town of Laytonville, men are 3.37 times more likely to have cancer than the average, and women are 3.1 times more likely to have cancer than the state average (See Figure 1). Two of the most common cancer types in the Laytonville Rancheria are cervical (2.8%) and brain (2.7%) cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute, the lifetime risk of getting cervical or brain cancer is 0.6%. Thus, the percentage rates present in the Rancheria are alarmingly high when compared to the lifetime risk of getting cervical or brain cancer in the nation.

California Cancer Prevalence Comparison to Laytonville Town and Rancheria



(Figure 1

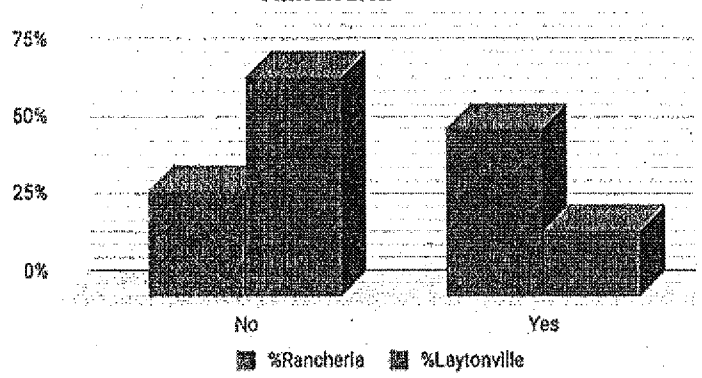
Respiratory Issues

Survey results found **24%** of individuals living in the Laytonville Rancheria have difficulty breathing or have been diagnosed with a respiratory illness/lung issue. The most common respiratory illnesses indicated in both the town and Rancheria were asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease or COPD. In the Rancheria, **11%** of residents specified having asthma, while it was **6%** in the town. The asthma rate on the Rancheria is much higher than the national average of 8% for asthma. **3%** of individuals in the Rancheria and **7%** in the town indicated they had COPD.

Almost **55%** of individuals in the Rancheria indicated that they noticed strange or noxious smells in the air (Figure 3). Survey results show that individuals living in the Rancheria notice more strange or noxious smells than those living in the town. The odors in the air are a possible contribution to the respiratory issues observed.

Air Quality Concerns in Town of Laytonville and Rancheria



(Figure 3)

Most Common Odors Reported:

	Rancheria	Laytonville
Burning of Plastic	8%	5%
Burning of Garbage	4%	3%
Foul Smell	10%	6%
Rotten Gas Smell	7%	2%
Burnt Gas	4%	1%
Sewer	6%	4%

Health Issues in Pets

Survey results indicated that many household pets on the Rancheria and in the town appear to have high rates of the following health concerns: cancer, tumors, and skin and eye issues.

Most Common Pet Health Issues in the Town of Laytonville and Rancheria:

Rancheria

- Tumors 23%
- Skin issues 23%
- Cancer 19%
- Eye Issues 15%

Laytonville

- Cancer 25%
- Tumors 21%
- Seizures 9%

Conclusion

Overall, the survey results demonstrate how widespread and serious health problems continue to be persistent on the Laytonville Rancheria and in the town of Laytonville. The results raise serious concerns for the community. It is important to note that those surveyed are living residents. The survey results do not account for those residents who have died from cancer and related problems. These extremely high death rates have yet to be investigated.

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