



**JUST
COMMUNITIES
ARIZONA**



COMMUNITY SAFETY INCUBATOR REPORT

Eagle's Nest Medicine Retreat



hello@justcomaz.org

October 16-19, 2025

www.justcommunitiesarizona.org

ABOUT JCA

MISSION: To create, foster, and resource community-based models for safety and justice outside the punishment system.

We work with people impacted by the punishment system to promote a holistic view of safety that encompasses physical, emotional, and economic health and wellness; cultivate the next generation of community leaders; and build community-based solutions.

Community Safety Incubator Projects

Goal: To invest in projects or services identified by neighborhood residents as solutions to the problems they face in order to increase safety and wellbeing of all community members.



Incubator Projects are designed to:

1. Generate dialogue, engagement, and cohesion in neighborhoods.
2. Invest in interventions, projects, and programs that increase community safety for all.
3. Strengthen, expand, and replicate holistic approaches to community safety that already exist in our neighborhoods.
4. Increase the capacity and sustainability of community-based organizations and initiatives that represent and serve under-resourced communities that have experienced high rates of arrest and incarceration.



FOUR DAY SWEATLODGE RETREAT

Location: Eagle's Nest, Pascua Yaqui Nation

Community Safety Team Members: Alex Alvarez, Veronica Torres, Christian Truckenmiller

Project Consultant: Abraham "Cruzito" Sanchez

Project Duration: June, 2025- October, 2025

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Extensive site preparation, requiring a massive amount of hard work and planning, to make sure the space was ready for over 200 visitors.
- A four day retreat with a non-stop drum circle, three daily meals, as well as classes and activities for the many children in attendance.
- Two sweatlodge sessions a day for both men and women.
- A sacred Bear Dance was the highlight of the event. This medicine was shared by Bear Dancers who traveled from California, and it is extremely rare to experience it anywhere else. Truly a testament to the connections that this event helped foster.

BEHIND THE SCENES

It is impossible to overstate the amount of sweat and work that went into preparing the Eagle's Nest. Brush had to be cleared off of hillsides; hills had to be pushed back thirty feet; a road had to be flattened to prepare for parking; and an outdoor kitchen area had to be renovated. Huge shoutout to the men and women who made this possible!



Over the course of three months, volunteers from the Eagle's Nest spiritual community contributed a massive amount of work to the project.



SWEAT, MEDICINE, AND PASSING TRADITION TO THE NEXT GENERATION



Due to the sacred nature of this medicine retreat there are no photographs of the main event which was a bear dance providing sacred healing bear medicine from California via dancers of the semi nomadic bear tribe. This is only the second time that the bear dance has ever been performed in Arizona, and people traveled from as far away as Alaska and Canada to participate in the event.

Look at the incredible work that went into feeding 200 people three square meals for four days.





IMPACT

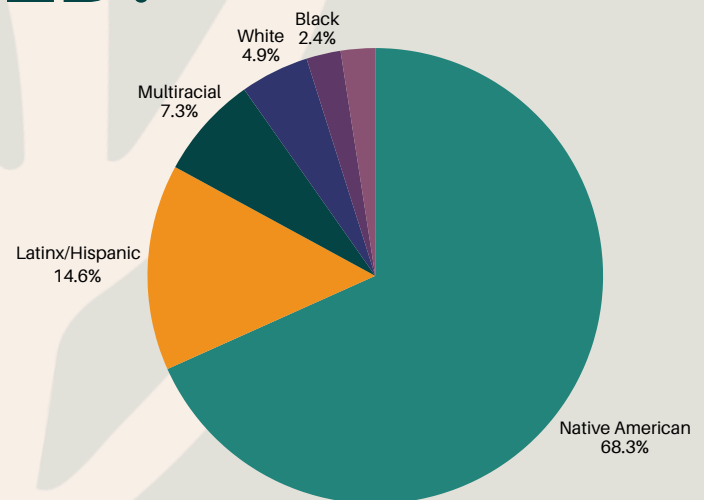
At each Incubator site we offer up a survey to participants--whether they are members of the Community Safety Team, volunteers who help with the project, or just neighbors who attend events.

The surveys are designed to capture a snapshot of who was served by the project and how they feel it impacted their safety, social connectedness, and wellbeing.

We collected a total of 36 surveys from participants at the event:

WHO WAS SERVED?

Survey responses confirm that participants in the incubator reflect the intended community. **The majority (95%) were BIPOC, with the majority of those (68%) identifying as native.**

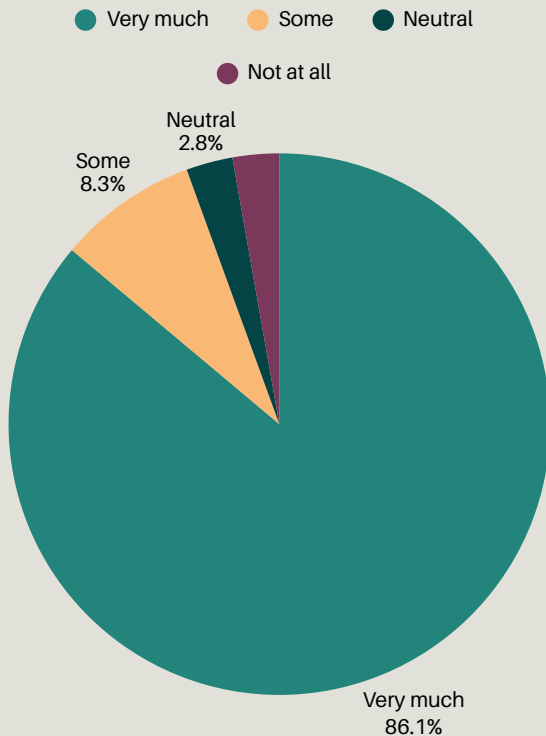


Nearly all respondents have been impacted by the criminal punishment system, with **86% reporting that they themselves have been arrested, or a close family members has been arrested.** This is also a reflection of the unfortunate reality that indigenous people are disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration in Arizona.

IMPACT



This project/activity made me feel safer in my neighborhood



SAFETY:

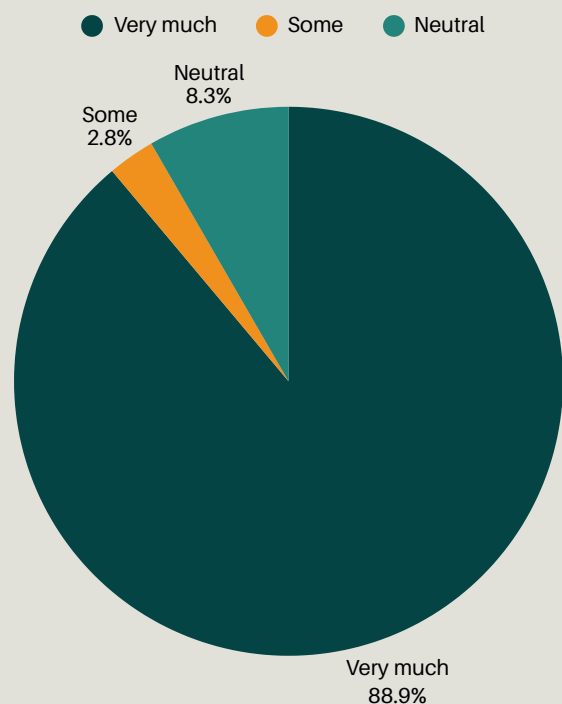
The majority (94%) of residents surveyed said **the project made them feel safer in their neighborhood.**

*The one participant that noted “Not at all” was not associated with this community.

CONNECTION:

The majority (90%) of residents surveyed said **the project made them get to know their neighbors better.**

This project/activity helped me get to know my neighbors better



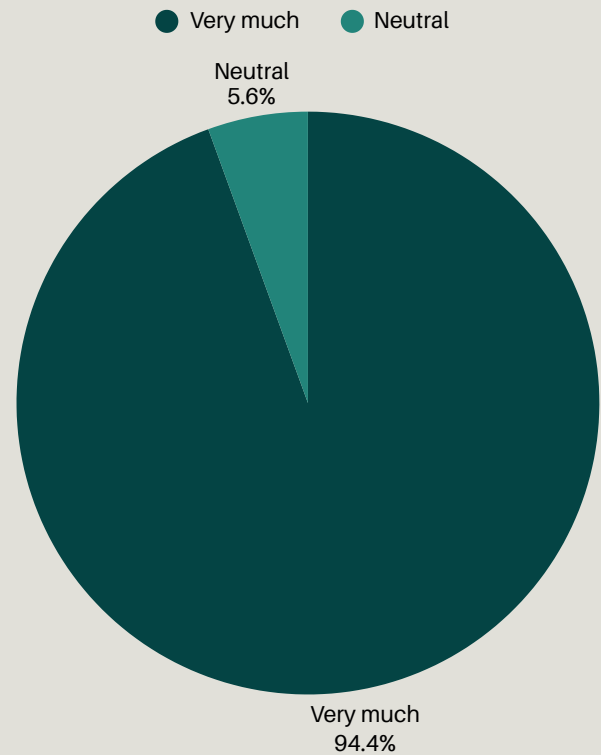
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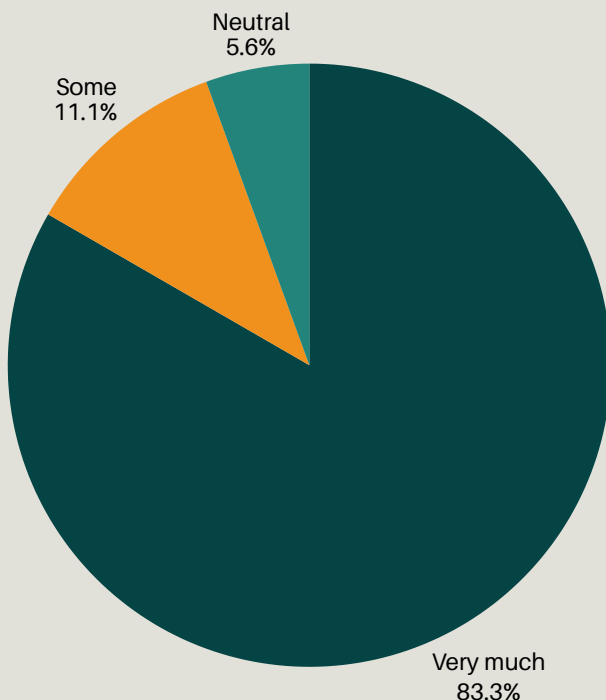
This project or event will contribute to better health and wellness of people in my neighborhood

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

The majority (94%) of respondents said that **the project will contribute to better health and wellness in their community.**



This project/event made me feel proud of my neighborhood



SENSE OF PRIDE:

Respondents overwhelmingly (94%) reported that **the project made them feel proud of their community.**

FEEDBACK



”

It brought love and connection, something that the world needs more of.

“

Huge, this was a wonderful event- filled with much love, compassion, guidance and safety for all. This event gave a great deal of hope and teaching skills for the trek ahead.

”

“

It created a place for peace, healing and change.

”

“

This project has had an extremely positive impact on my neighborhood and community members. I hope there are more in the future.

”

”

I was honored to attend. Good positive impact.

“

Beautiful, thank you.

”



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OF HEALTH SERVICES

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