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Barriers Facing Mexican-Americans in Regards to Participating in Research
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Environmental injustice does not only impact communities, it also affects how those injustices are studied. Those who volunteer for studies are predominately White. There is nothing that can be considered as strong evidence that the White community has an inherently stronger drive to be involved in studies. This leaves the only conclusion to be that there are factors that limit Black and People of Color to be involved in studies. There are a few theories that have been considered as potential factors limiting involvement.

The first is the physical distance. The Salt Lake Valley is by all accounts, except legal, racially segregated. The wealthy White communities are along the East bench and the ethnically diverse and lower socio-economic level neighborhoods are on the West side, with Interstate 15 along with railways being the divider between the two areas. The University of Utah finds itself located on the easternmost portion of the valley, whereas potential participants of ethnically diverse backgrounds would most likely find themselves on the West side. This creates the situation where it would be required for participants to drive across the valley to participate in a study, which has the potential to be tedious and potentially not economically viable.

The second is scheduling difficulties. Generally speaking, the diverse communities have a higher amount of physical labor workers, which have strict schedules. Because of this, participating any time Monday through Friday between nine to five is difficult, yet that is the only time the technicians needed for the various tests are able to work. This then will have an impact on participation.

In the study performed this summer, the barrier that was dealt with the most was that when researchers reached out to potential participants, utilizing phone calls to do so, it was during work hours. Even though the study directly targeted Mexican-American community members, there was limited involvement because they were unable to answer for various reasons, even though one could make the assumption that this was because they were working at the time the call was placed.