

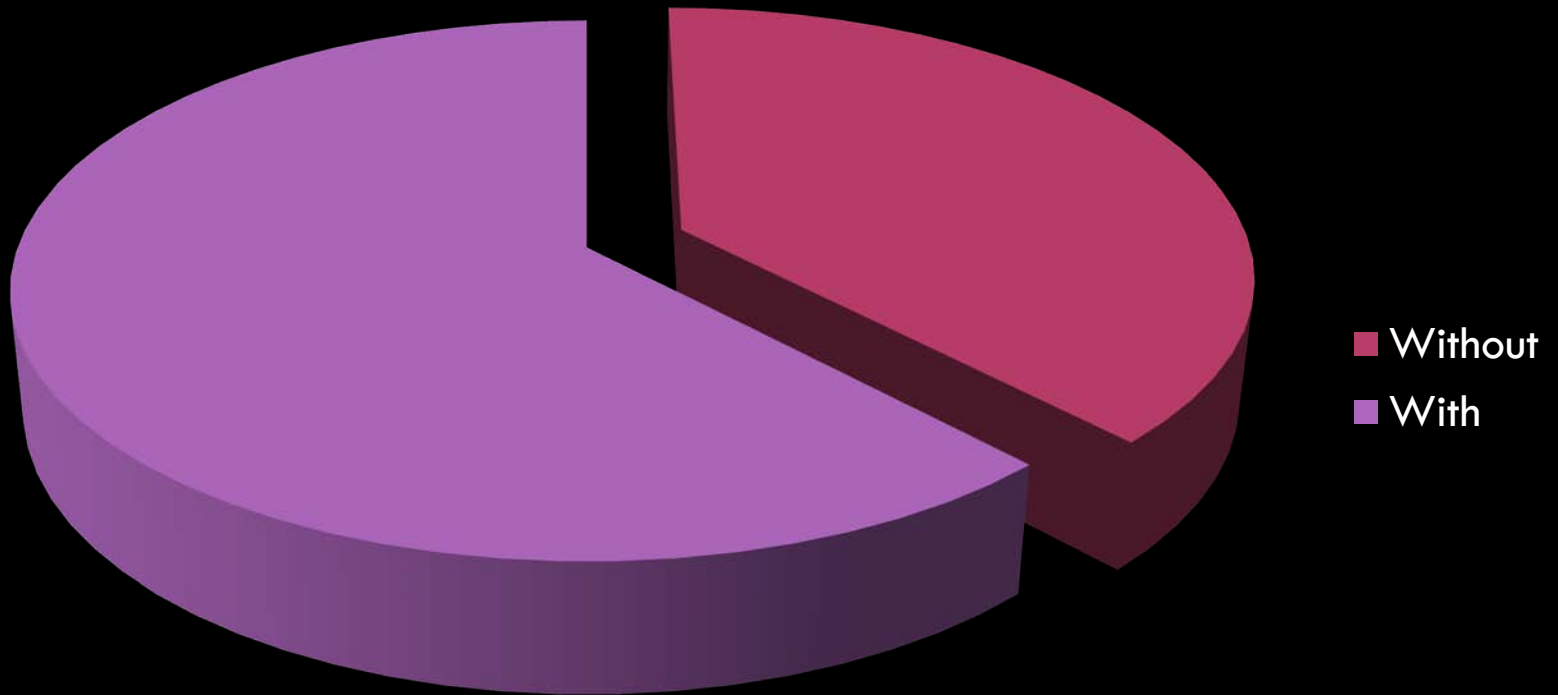
Growing the Grassroots

Making Toxics Data
Relevant to Environmental
Justice Communities



Access to internet at home

General Population



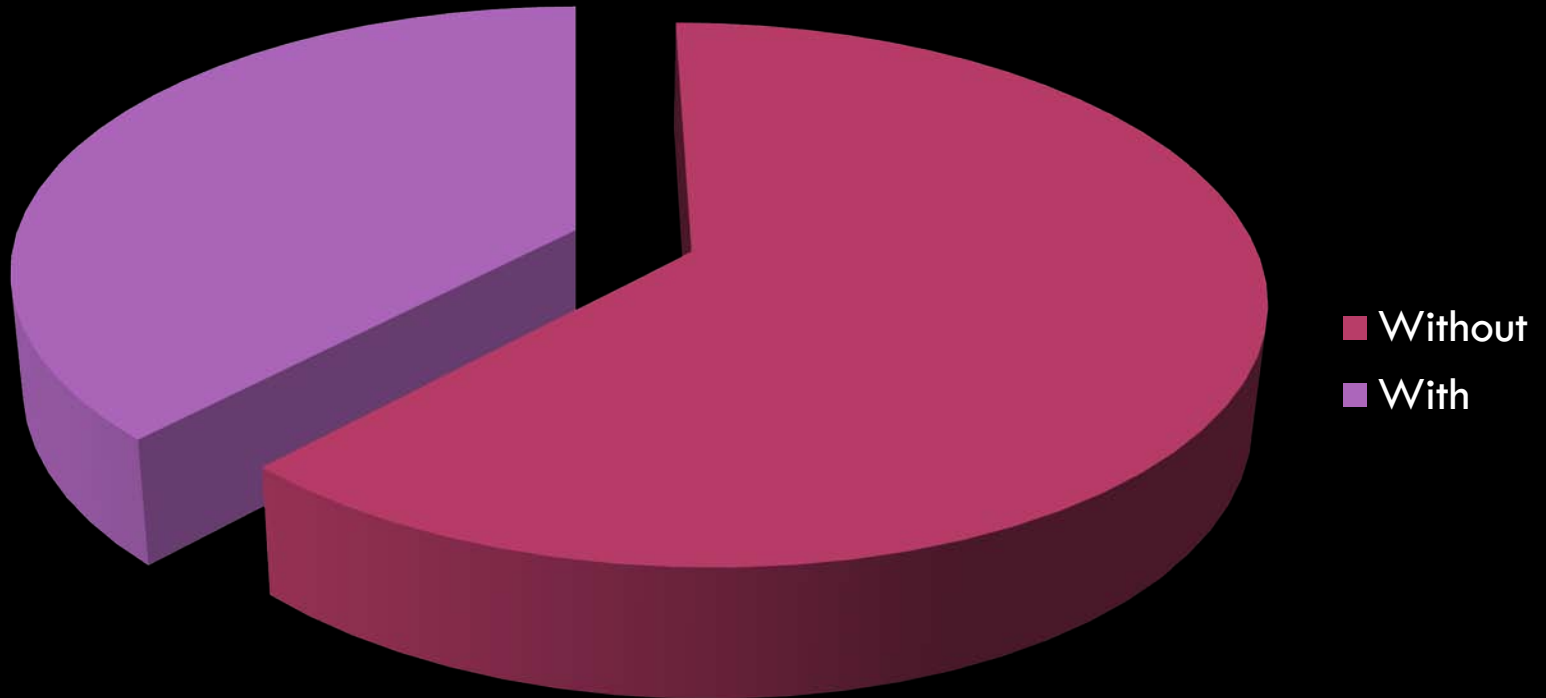
Access to internet at home

African Americans



Access to internet at home

Latinos



Right to know

A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Including the Poor in Decisions for Development and Environment

Joseph Foti and Lalanath de Silva

Based on the Findings of the Access Initiative



Approach

Problems

Progress

Next?

Barriers to access to information

- Lack of legal thresholds for engagement
- Literacy
- Access to communication channels
- Cost
- Exposure to risk
- Official documentation
- Who has a voice?

Approach

Problems

Progress

Next?



Approach

Progress

Problems

Next?



Approach

Progress

Problems

Next?

- Relevance
- Usefulness
- Publicity
- Accountability

Approach

Progress

Problems

Next?

Relevance

- Lack of systematic knowledge about end users
- Need for risk data

Approach

Progress

Problems

Next?

Usefulness

- Fragmentation of data in online tools
- Digital divide persists

Approach

Progress

Problems

Next?

Accountability

- Varying engagement of local governments

- Acc
link



tability –

Recommendations

Relevance

- further development of risk-type data
- USEPA should begin rigorous tracking of end-usage of their data

Usefulness

- integration of decision-relevant data sources
- Partnerships to develop low-tech low cost solutions

Recommendations

Publicity

- programmatic publicity of data and information sources
- ramp up capacity-building of community organizations in partnership with state agencies

Accountability

- increased capacity-building of local governments, including fostering EJ policy, and centralizing decision-relevant data
- Integration of formal complaint mechanisms and opportunities for public comment with data platforms