

Assessing the distribution of ESOs and the demographics in Los Angeles County

Krystle Golly, Michele Romolini, PhD, Brianne Gilbert, Eric Strauss, PhD
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Abstract

Global environmental change poses a series of complex conundrums to the country's most densely populated places – its cities. Cities lay at the nexus of change where they play an integral role in developing and implementing resilient practices. We define ESOs as governmental agencies and various civil organizations that conserve, manage, monitor, advocate for, and/or educate the public about their local environments. This study will focus on ESOs who conduct their activities within the boundaries of Los Angeles County and examine their distribution in comparison to the demographic composition of the County. Organizational data was collected via a survey in 2014-2015 and plotted using ArcGIS 10.3. Demographic data from the American Community Survey was mapped using Census Tract boundaries. The preliminary results can provide important information for concerned citizens, stakeholders, ESOs, and decision makers.

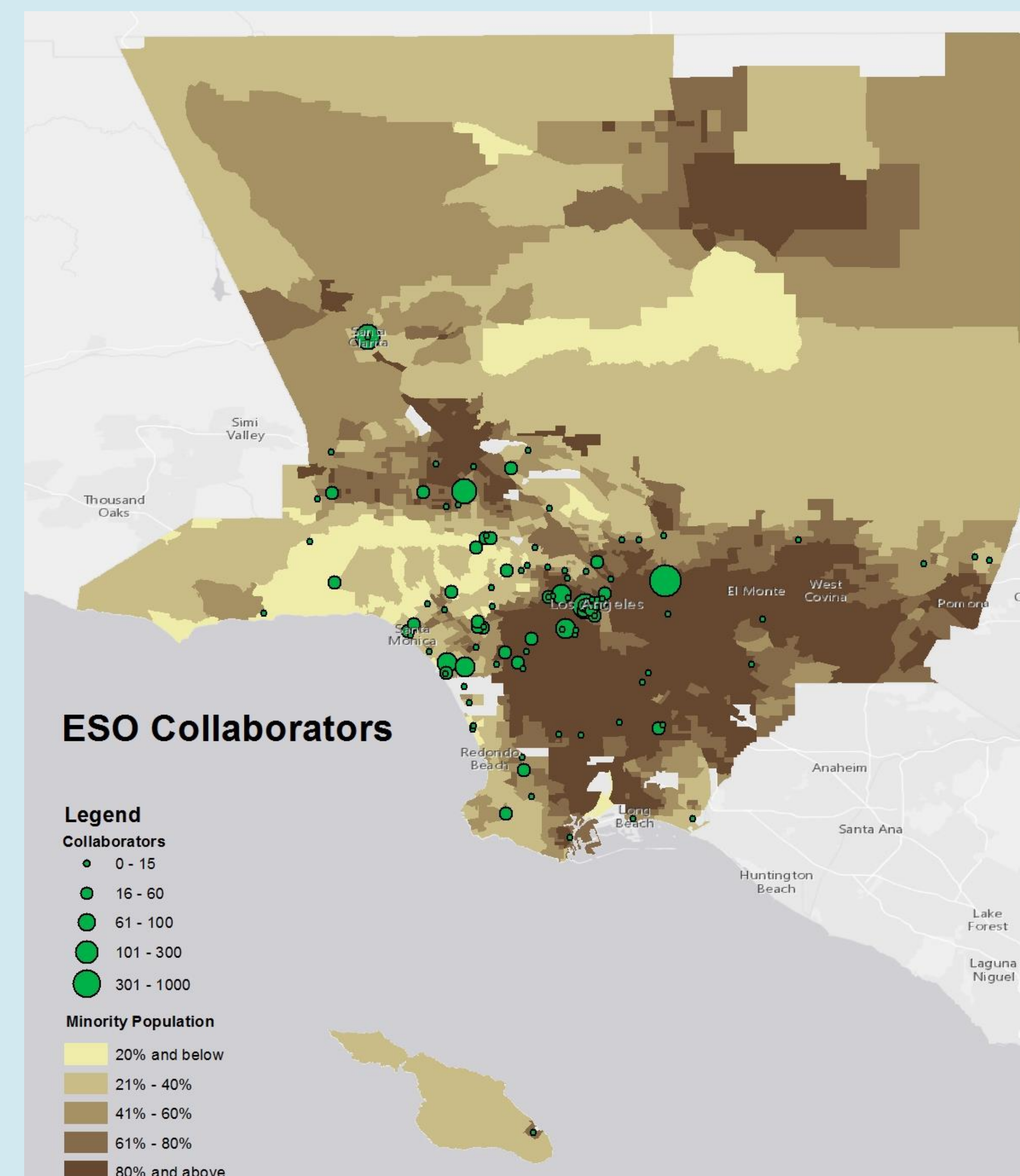
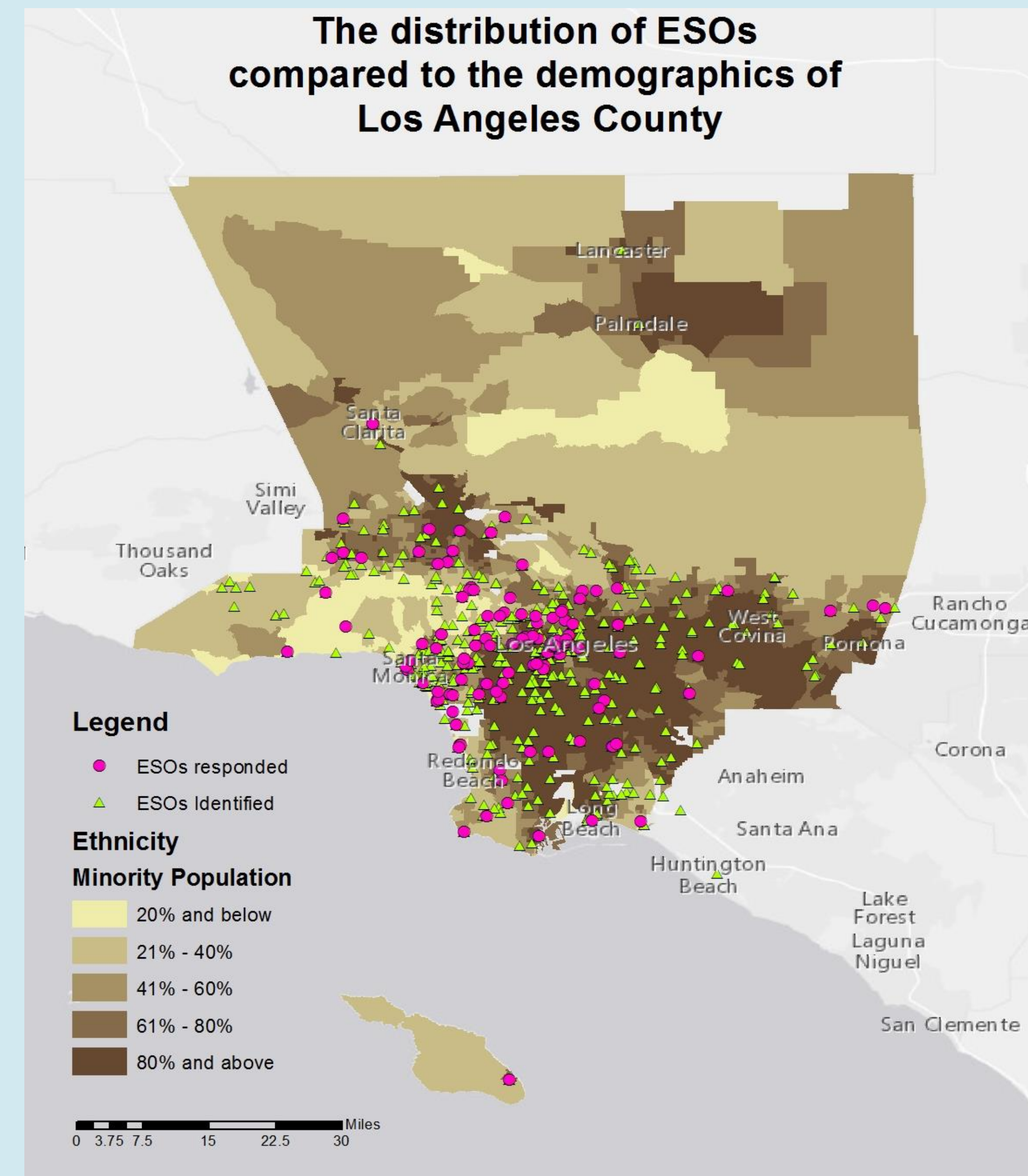
Introduction

- Understanding how and why ESOs exist
- Develop a better understanding of ESOs focus
 - Sharing information and resources
 - Distribution across the urban landscape
 - Areas that promote collaboration
- Develop a better understanding of the needs of the urban area
- Understanding the neighborhoods and communities within the urban area
- Strengthens trust and communication between all actors within an urban area
- Information gathered will be shared to assist in developing resilient cities by addressing
 - Environmental concerns
 - Urbanization
 - Utilizing resources efficiently
 - Public Health
 - Infrastructure
 - Encouraging citizen participation

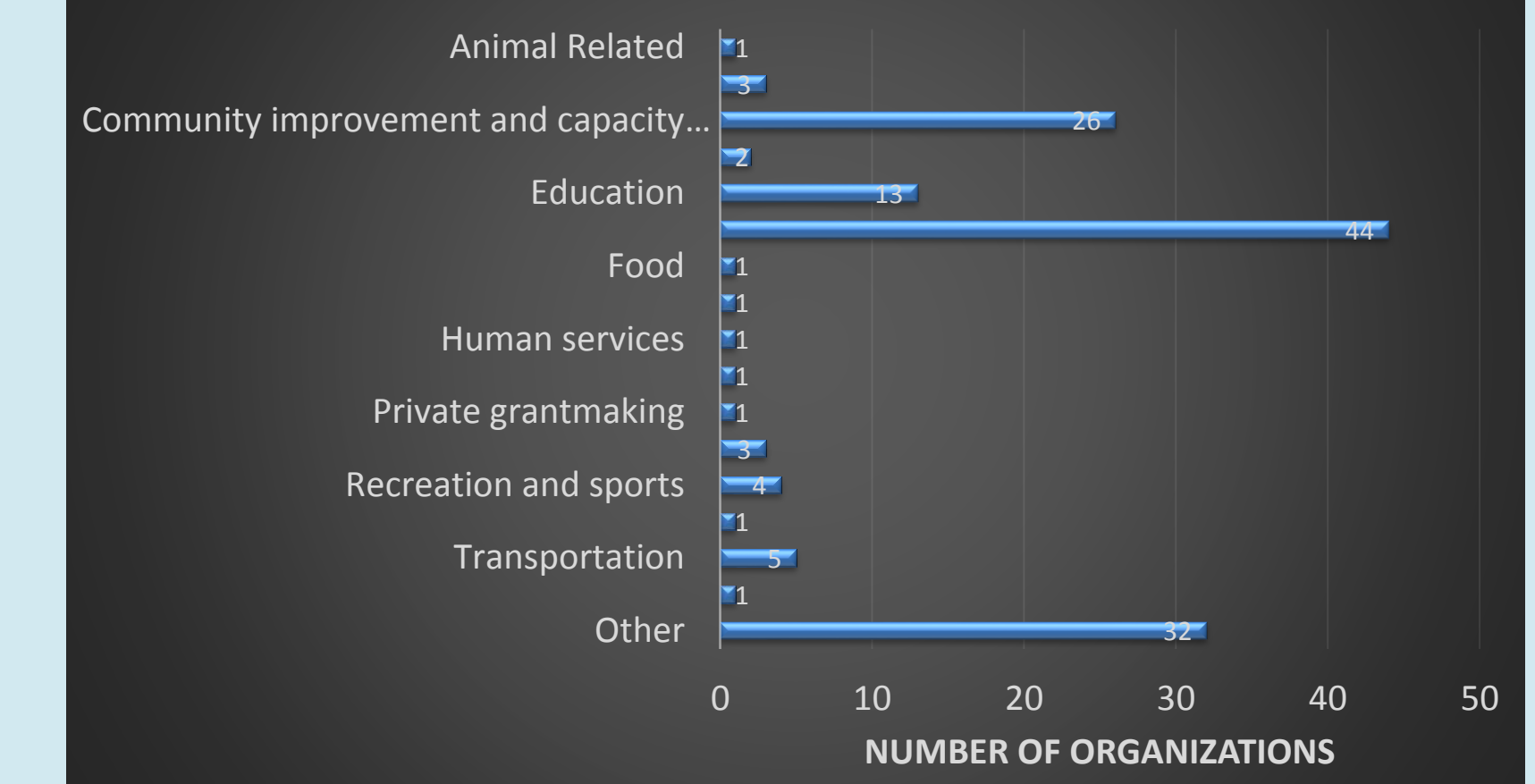
Methods

- Identified ESOs within Los Angeles County through key informant interviews, compilation of organizational directories and snowball sampling
- Web survey distributed in 2014-2015 with questions about: organization characteristics, relationship with other groups & locations of their activities
- Used ArcGIS 10.3 to map organizational address from the web survey and demographics from the American Community Survey 2011-2015

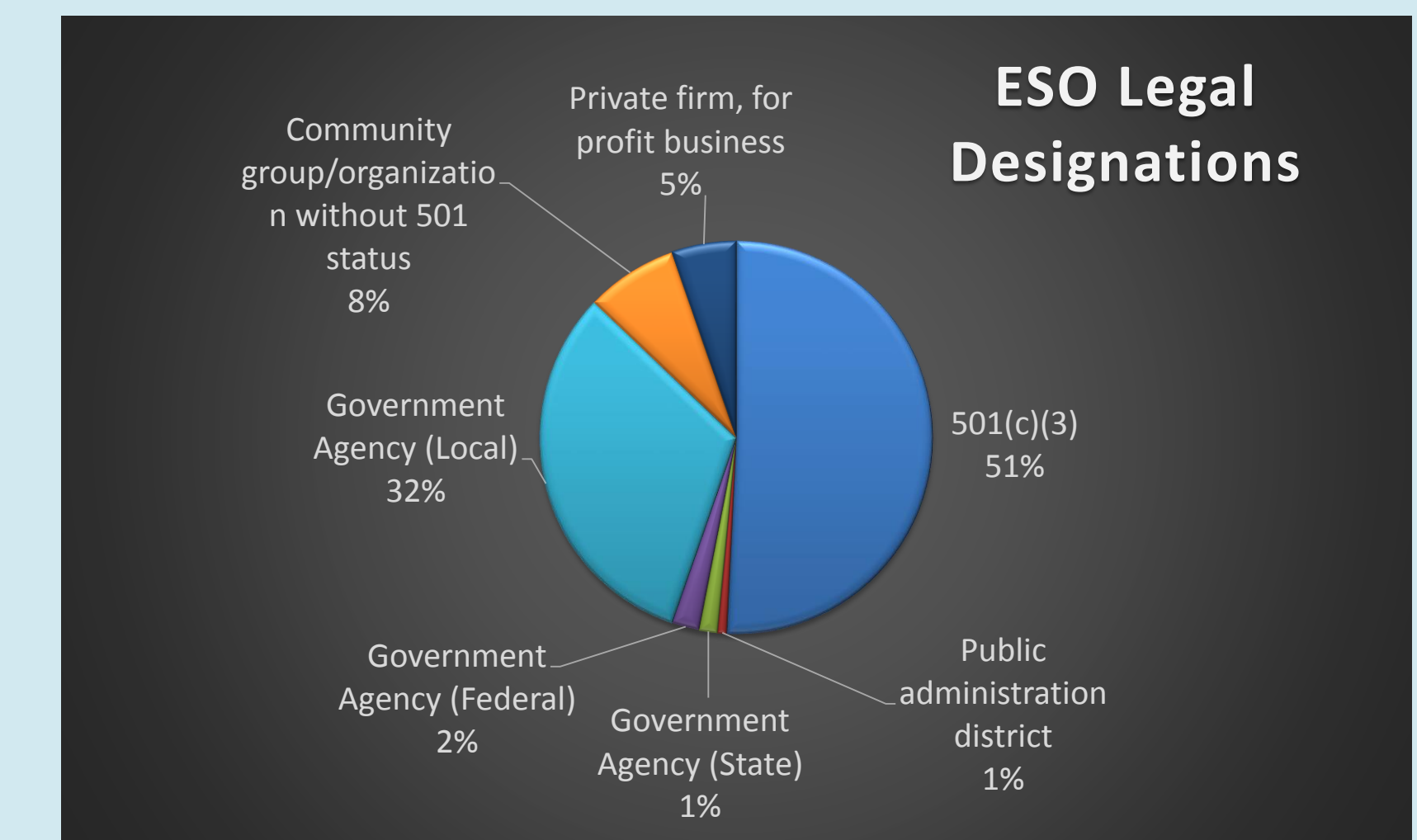
Data



ESO Primary Focus



ESO Legal Designations



Preliminary Results

140 out of the 700 identified ESOs responded to the web survey providing information about:

- Where ESOs in LA County are located
- Where their activities exist
- How they are working throughout the region
- Why they do what they do

Discussion

The ESO activity in Los Angeles County is overwhelming with groups representing multiple sectors and organizational foci that incorporate various aspects of environmental stewardship. While the data collected only represents a subset of ESOs, these preliminary findings can provide information to facilitate collaboration of ideas and resources.

Further data analysis will include mapping the locations of the described activities of the ESOs in order to highlight gaps and overlaps of stewardship in Los Angeles County. Spatial statistics will be employed to more precisely determine the relationship between stewardship activities and demographic variables.

Future research may include incorporating the five counties of the Southland (Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties).

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