



ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY: WHAT CAN ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS DO?

*Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Officer
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services*

*Presentation for Turn the Curve on Oral Health
June 21, 2023*



OBJECTIVES



1. What is Health Equity?
2. How has the department of Public Health Services, in the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, embedded Health Equity in public health practice?
3. How can a local health department integrate Health Equity into its Oral Health program?



1. WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY?



EQUALITY VS. EQUITY



Equality



Equity



DEFINITIONS



Health Disparities

According to the National Institutes of Health:

“Health disparities are **differences** in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States.”

Source: National Institutes of Health

Health Inequity

“Differences in health which are not only unnecessary and avoidable, but, in addition, are considered unfair and unjust.”

Margaret Whitehead, Department of Public Health,
University of Liverpool

Social Determinants of Health

Defined as the conditions in which people are born, live, work, learn, worship, and age. (education, poverty/income, genetics, R/E, social status, gender, physical environment)

Source: World Health Organization

Disproportionality

The term “**disproportionality**” refers to the ratio between the percentage of persons in a particular racial or ethnic group at a particular decision point or experiencing an event (maltreatment, incarceration, school dropouts) compared to the percentage of the same racial or ethnic group in the overall population.

(2016 CAO Priority)

Health Equity

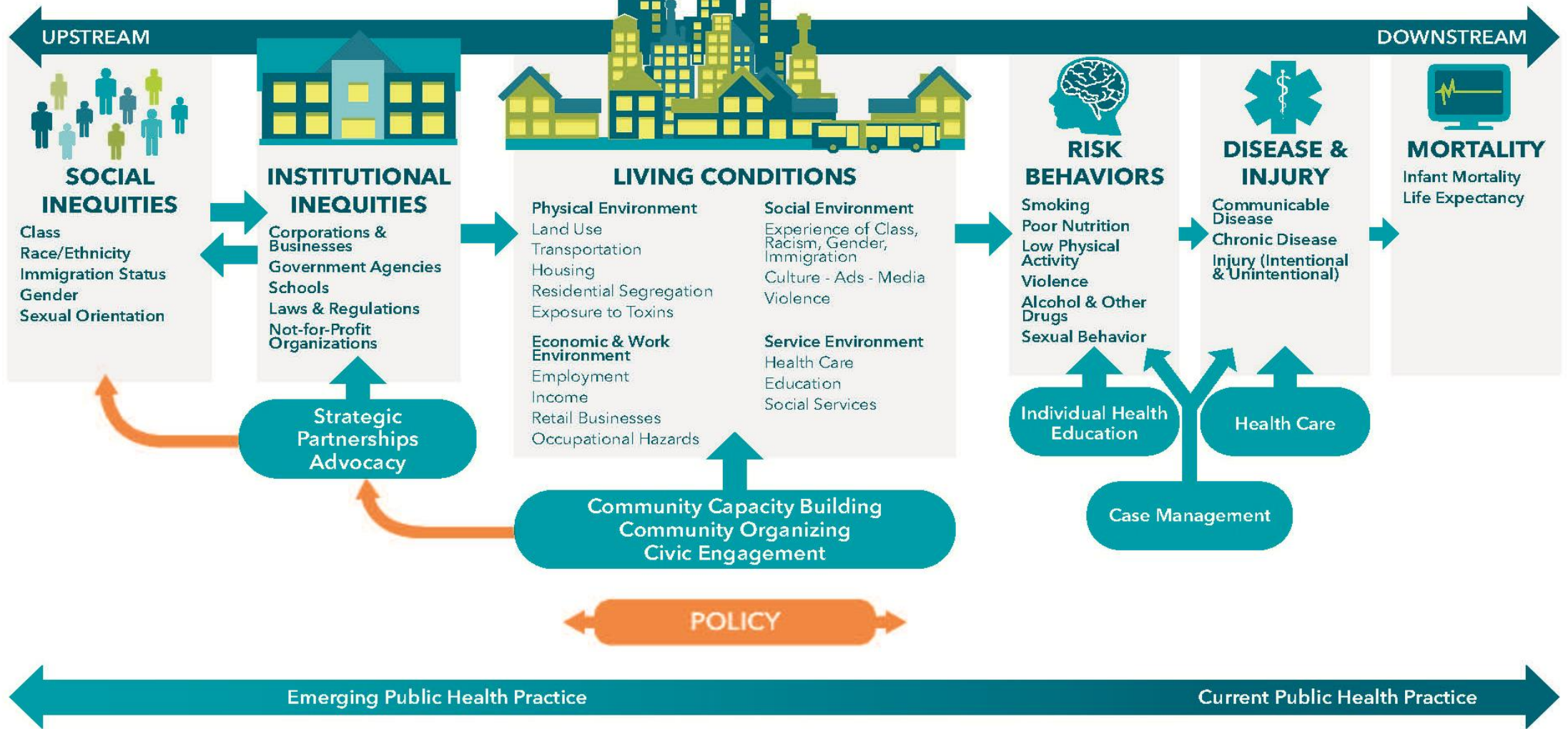
All groups in a population have fair and just opportunities to attain their full potential for health, well-being, and quality of life.

Source: Public Health Services, 2016

ADDRESSING THE CAUSES OF THE CAUSES



A PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES BAY AREA REGIONAL HEALTH INEQUITIES INITIATIVE





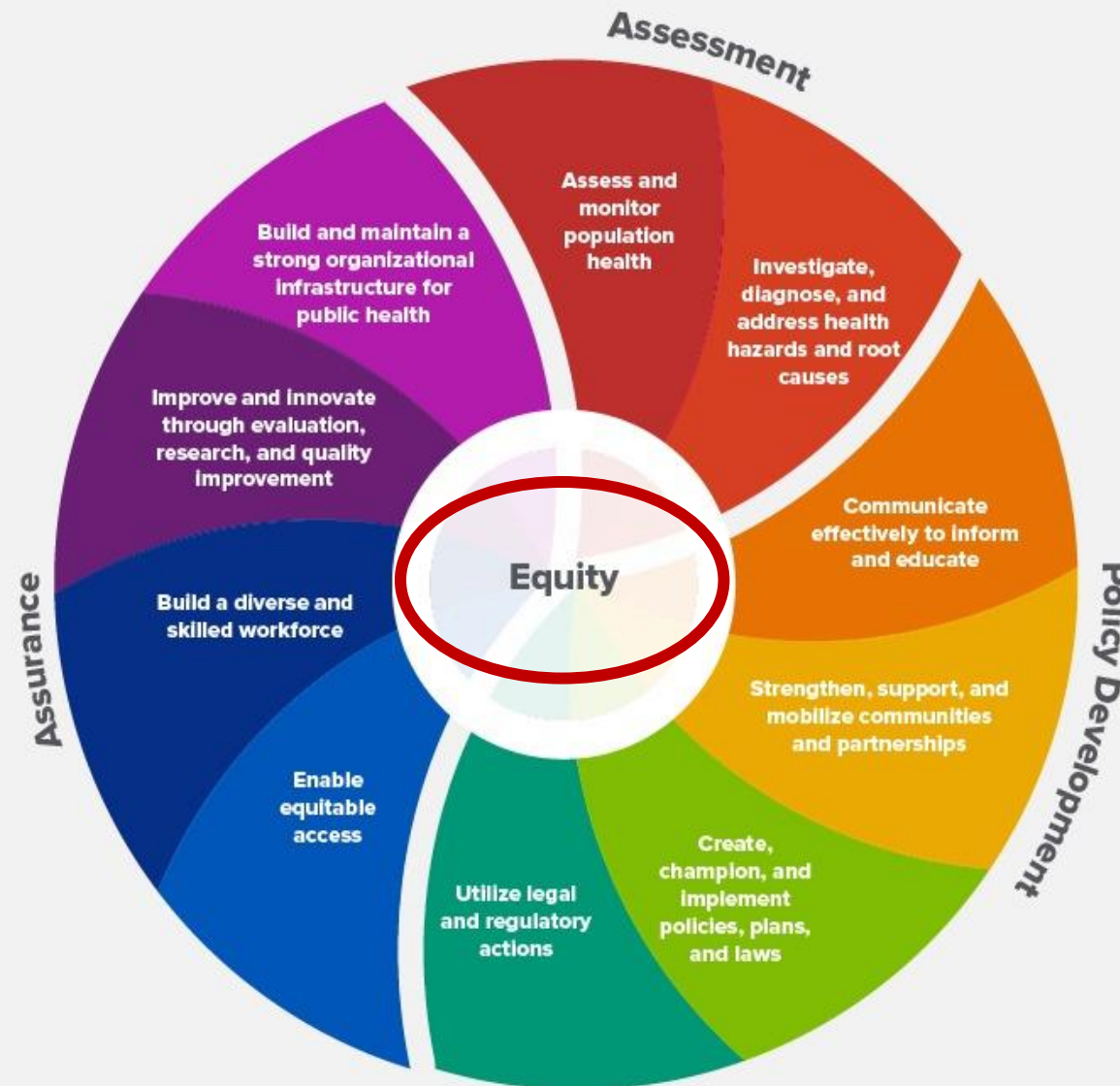
Transforming the conditions in which people are
BORN, GROW, LIVE, WORK and AGE
for optimal health, mental health & well-being.





THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities



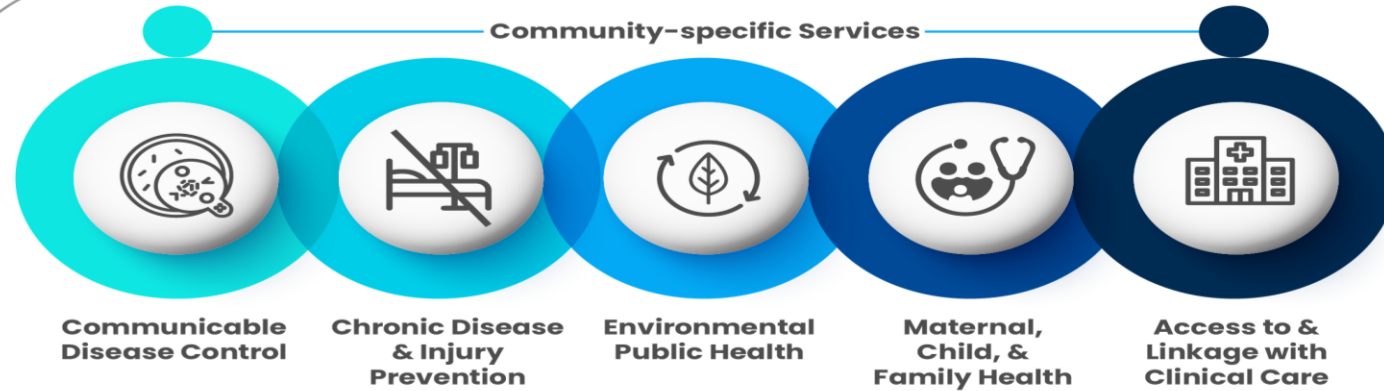
Basis
for
PHAB
Domains

FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES



Foundational Public Health Services

Foundational Areas



Foundational Capabilities



CORE COMPETENCIES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



The Council on Linkages
Between Academia and
Public Health Practice

October 2021

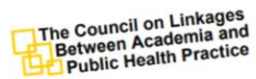
Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals

Revised and Adopted by the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice:
October 21, 2021

Available from: phf.org/corecompetencies



CORE COMPETENCIES



October 2021

Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals

Revised and Adopted by the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice:
October 21, 2021

Available from: phf.org/corecompetencies

Domain 4: Health Equity Skills

- 4.1. Applies principles of ethics, diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice
- 4.2. Engages in continuous self-reflection about one's biases
- 4.3. Recognizes the diversity of individuals and populations
- 4.4. Reduces systemic and structural barriers that perpetuate health inequities
- 4.5. Implements organizational policies, programs, and services to achieve health equity and social and environmental justice
- 4.6. Contributes to achieving and sustaining a diverse, inclusive, and competent public health workforce
- 4.7. Advocates for health equity and social and environmental justice



2. HOW HAS SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMBEDDED HEALTH EQUITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE?



CCLHO HEALTH EQUITY FRAMEWORK: FOUR PILLARS







- I. Organization (Internal)
- II. Workforce (Internal)
- III. Community (External)
- IV. Data (External)



CURRENT HEALTH EQUITY FRAMEWORK

- Publishing the next HE Plan July 1, 2023.
- Transitioning to 2-year cycle.

Public Health Services Health Equity Framework Fiscal Years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023	
Health Equity Framework Domains	Strategy
1. Organization (Internal Transformation) 	1.1 Foster alignment with County, HHSA strategic priorities (racism as a public health crisis, climate change), and broader Health in All Policies efforts that influence the social determinants of health.
	1.2 Promote policy integration that consistently promotes a health equity agenda (e.g., federal, state, and local); and within the department, embed equity into, and develop policy, procedures, standards of practice, manuals facilitating knowledge transfer.
	1.3 Operationalize, embed, and center health equity into public health <u>practice</u> ; develop and evolve institutional infrastructure.
2. Workforce (Internal Transformation) 	2.1 Skillfully lead diverse and inclusive teams (e.g., remote).
	2.2 Engage staff and develop core competencies (e.g., health equity skills).
	2.3 Assess and promote workforce equity, diversity, and inclusion.
3. Community (External Transformation) 	3.1 Partner to advance racial equity, identifying opportunities to replace structural racism, and other forms of bias, with fair, just, and equitable solutions.
	3.2 Examine opportunities for community and customer engagement and partnership to advance health literacy, resilience and adaptation related to climate change.
4. Data (Internal and External Transformation) 	4.1 Promote population health by combatting misinformation, fostering data literacy, transparent and timely dissemination of accessible data.
	4.2 Reinforce quality assurance, performance management, and data driven decision-making.



A scenic coastal landscape featuring a cliffside with several palm trees and buildings in the distance. The foreground is dominated by dense, low-lying green vegetation. The ocean extends to the horizon under a clear sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal gradient.

I. Organization (Internal)

HISTORICAL TIMELINE



2008

HHS declared Health Equity a priority

2015

- Office of Health Equity established (PHS)
- County launch of Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan (county/PHS)

2017

Updated REHDI Initiative website (PHS)

2001

Reduce and Eliminate Health Disparities with Information Initiative (REHDI)
(PHS)

2010

- CAO declared disproportionality a priority
- CCLHO Framework for Health Equity (PHS)

2016

Achieved public health accreditation
(PHS)

2021

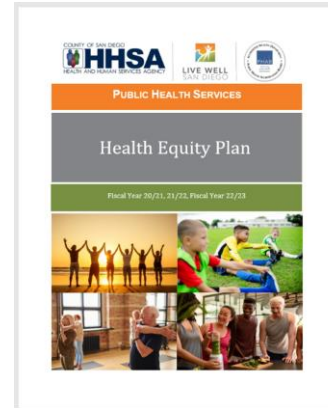
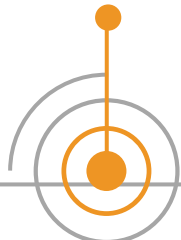
- Changed name of Office of Health Equity and Climate Change (PHS)
- Declared Racism as a Public Health Crisis (county)

POLICIES AND PLANS TIMELINE



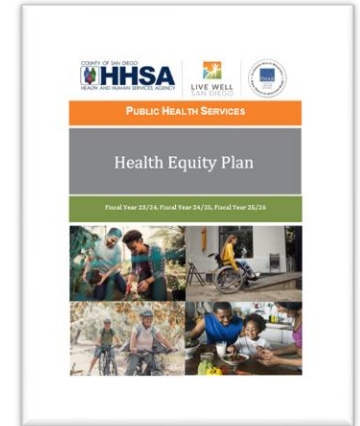
2015

- County launched 1st Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion guided by the Global Benchmarks Document (County/PHS)
- Published the first Health Equity Policy & Procedure (PHS)
- First published Health Equity Plan 2015 – 2020 (PHS)



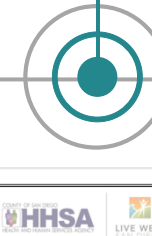
2022

Published second Health Equity Policy & Procedure (PHS)



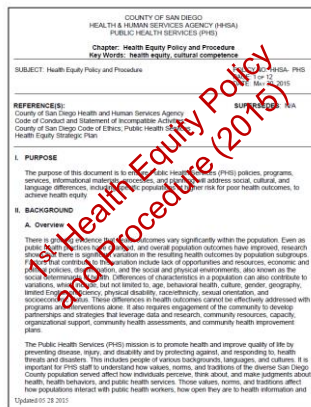
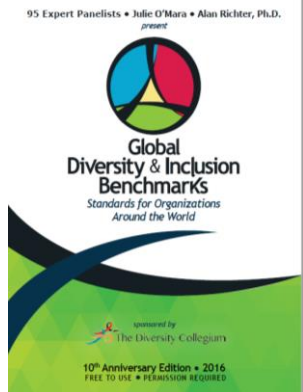
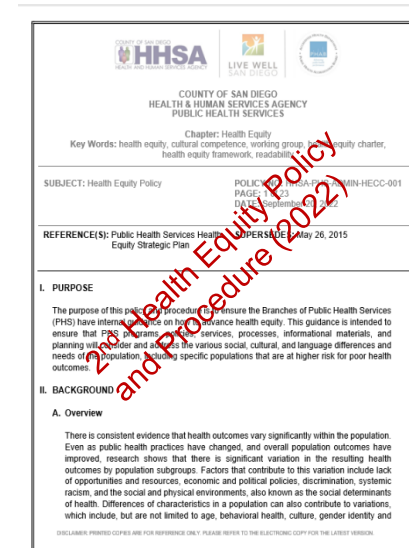
2021

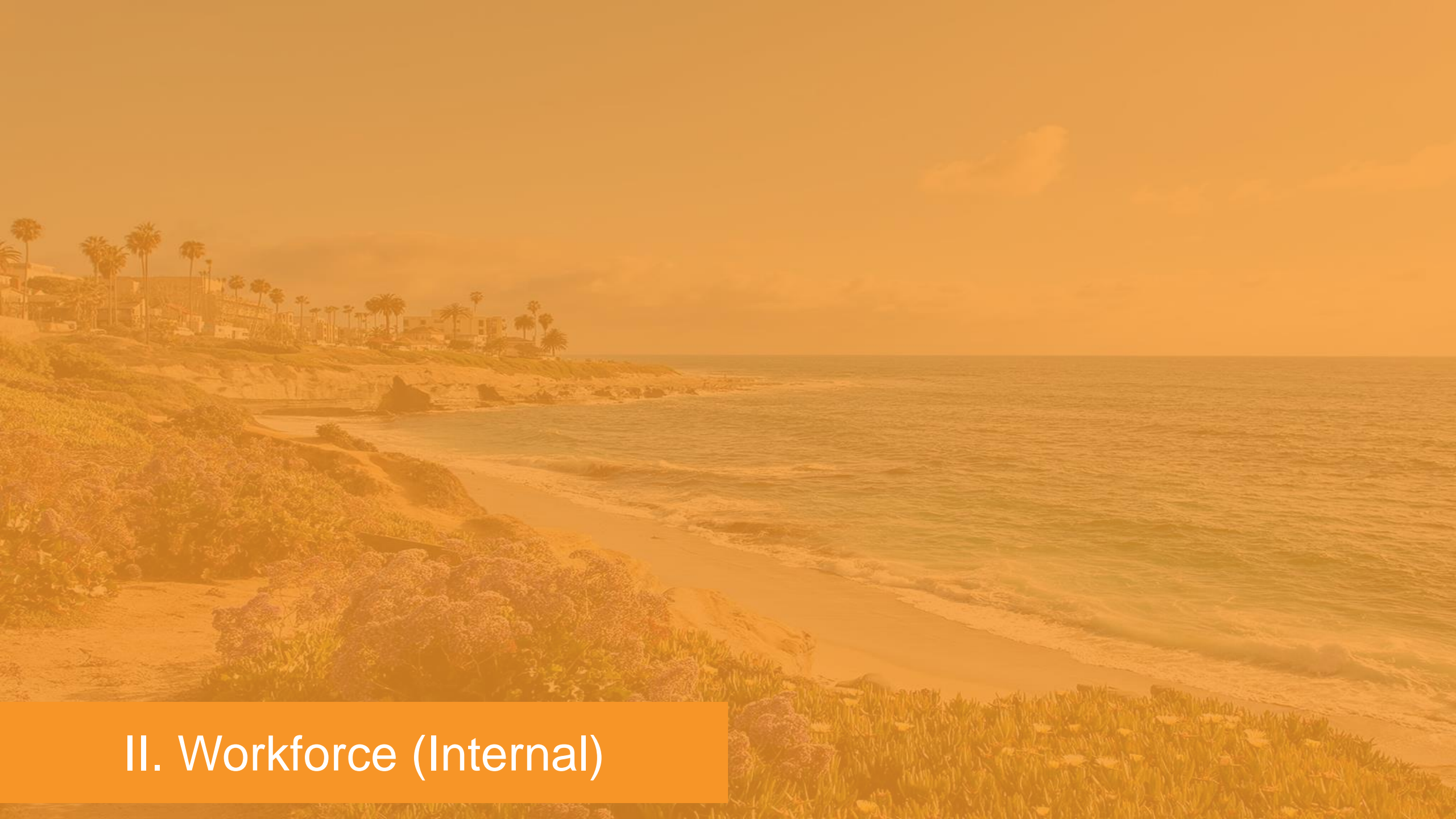
Published second Health Equity Plan 2021 – 2023 (PHS)



2023

Planning to publish third Health Equity Plan 2023 – 2025 (PHS)





II. Workforce (Internal)

PUBLIC HEALTH 101

History of Modern Western Public Health

Public Health Services
Health and Human Services Agency
June 4, 2019



PUBLIC HEALTH 101

Part 2: Concepts and Context
Abbreviated Version

Public Health Services
Health and Human Services Agency

MAKE-UP SESSION JUNE 4, 2019



PUBLIC HEALTH 101

PART 3: DATA

Live Well San Diego Ambassadors:
Extended Version

Ambassador's Name and Branch Here
Public Health Services
Health and Human Services Agency

INSERT DATE, 2016
EVENT NAME



Health Equity 101



Vision: Health Equity For All San Diego County Residents

Public Health Services
Health and Human Services Agency

April 13, 2022



CLIMATE AND PUBLIC HEALTH 101

Public Health Services
Health and Human Services Agency
County of San Diego

MARCH 2022

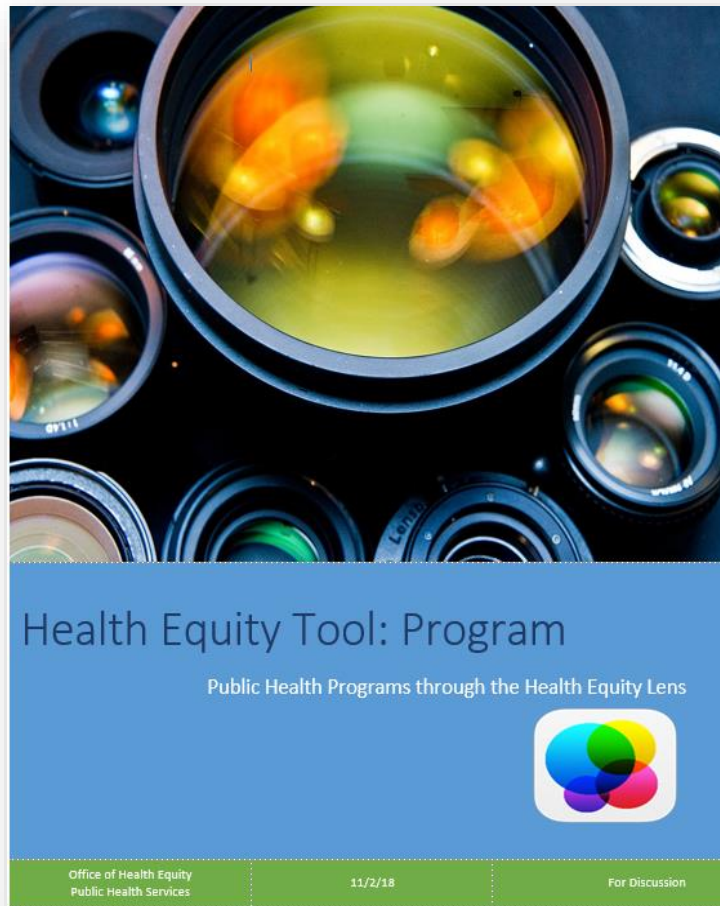


EXAMPLE OF
EFFORT FROM
WORKFORCE PILLAR

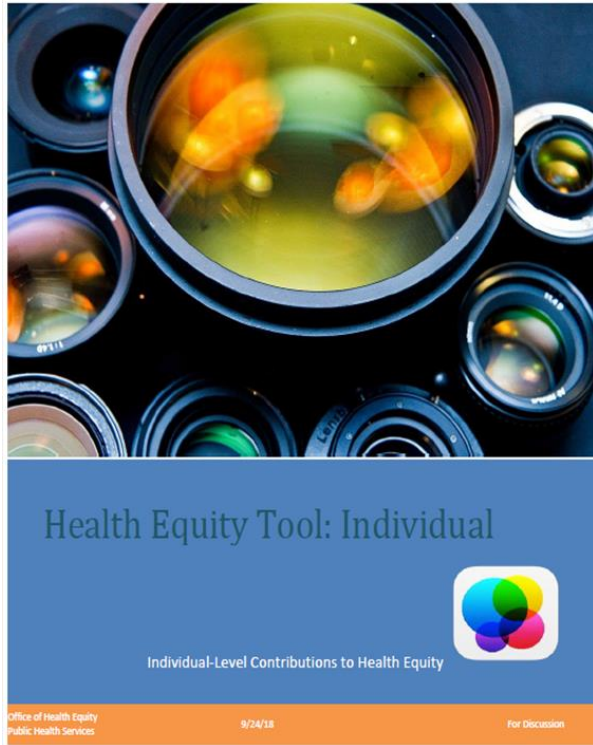
HEALTH EQUITY TOOL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS: 12 LENSES



Developed in response to staff asking: “What can I do to advance health equity in my program?”



1. Referrals and Collaboration
2. Customer Service
3. Partnerships
4. Climate Change (Resiliency/Adaptation)
5. Trauma-informed (Resiliency Promotion)
6. Diversity and Inclusion (D&I)
7. Workforce Development
8. Communication
9. Data
10. Policies and Procedures, & Plans
11. Research
12. Contracts



“What I Can Do” Activity (See activity sheet)



Take Action

“To know and not to do is not to know yet.” Stephen R. Covey
“I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.” Confucius
“Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do.” Goethe

Increase Knowledge

*Education is the most effective means of preventing intolerance.** UNESCO
“Not to know is bad. Not to wish to know is worse.” African proverb
“Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s ignorance.” Confucius

Enhance Interpersonal Communication and Compassion

“Love and compassion are necessities not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.” Dalai Lama
“I would like my life to be a statement of love and compassion and where it is not, that’s where my work lies.” Ram Das
“Never worry about the numbers. Help one person at a time and always help the person nearest you.” Mother Teresa



III. Community (External)

EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY



- Collective Impact – *Live Well San Diego*
- Annual *Live Well* Advance
- Advisory Boards, Family Panels, Focus Groups, Surveys
- Regional Community Leadership Teams (MAPP, CHIP/CHA)
- Chronic Disease and Health Equity Unit grant-funded programs (policy, systems and environmental changes to advance Health Equity)
- Collaboration with the County Employee Resource Groups (e.g., monthly fliers and to be included in Senior Staff meetings)
- Community Workshops on Climate Change and Health Equity

RESIDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PRESENTS
**RESOURCE DAY:
UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE
CHANGE & HEALTH TO BUILD
COMMUNITY RESILIENCY**

SPEAKERS

 **Jo-Ann Julien B.A., M.Ed.**
Public Health Services,
County of San Diego Health and Human
Services Agency

 **Sasha Gershunov**
UC San Diego
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

 **Tarik Benmarhnia**
UC San Diego
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

*Understand the intersection of
your health, climate change,
and community improvement
projects.*

Lessons learned from COVID-19.

*Gain new climate change
resources.*

*Ask your questions and connect
with climate change leaders and
subject matter experts.*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021
9:30AM-12:30PM
ZOOM**

REGISTER
<https://rlaresourcedayclimatechange.eventbrite.com>
Spanish interpretation available upon request.
For more information, please contact Yeni L. Palomino at ypalomino@sdchip.org.



RESIDENT LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY
BY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS




COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HHS
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO
LIVEWELLSANDEGO

NAACP
San Diego Branch

 **Wilmo J. Wooten,
M.D., M.P.H.**
Public Health Officer of
Public Health Services in
the County of San Diego
Health and Human
Services

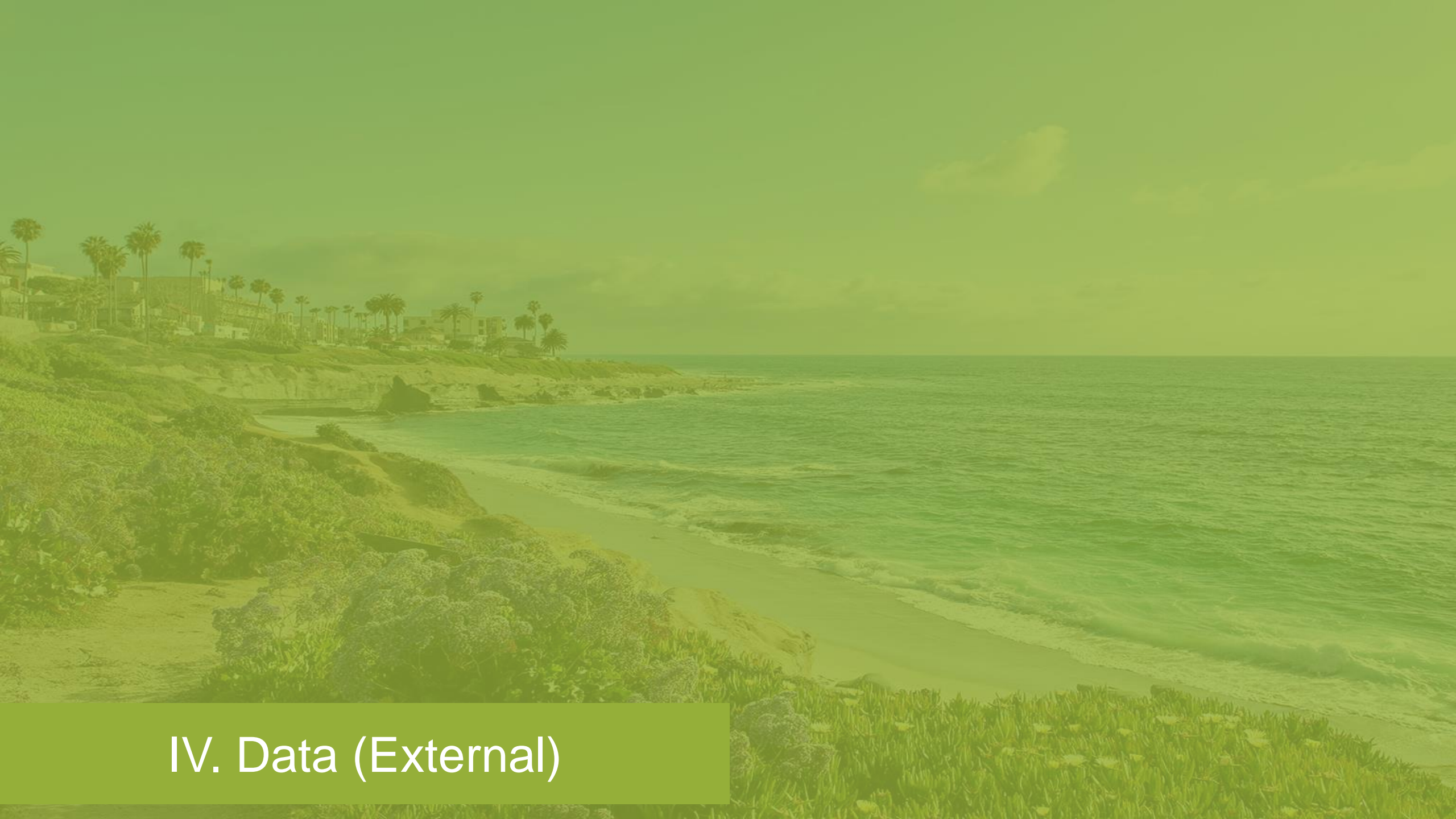
 **Cheryl A.M. Anderson,
PhD, MPH, MS**
Professor and Dean of the
Herbert Wertheim School of
Public Health and Human
Longevity Science

**THE PUBLIC
HEALTH
IMPACTS
OF
CLIMATE
CHANGE IN
SAN DIEGO
COUNTY**

Facilitated by: Jacquelyn Clark, Chair
Environmental & Climate Justice
Committee NAACP San Diego

October 28, 2021
2 PM - 4 PM

ATTEND AT:
[SANDIEGONAACP.ORG/CLIMATE-HEALTH-ZOOM](https://sandiegonaacp.org/climate-health-zoom)

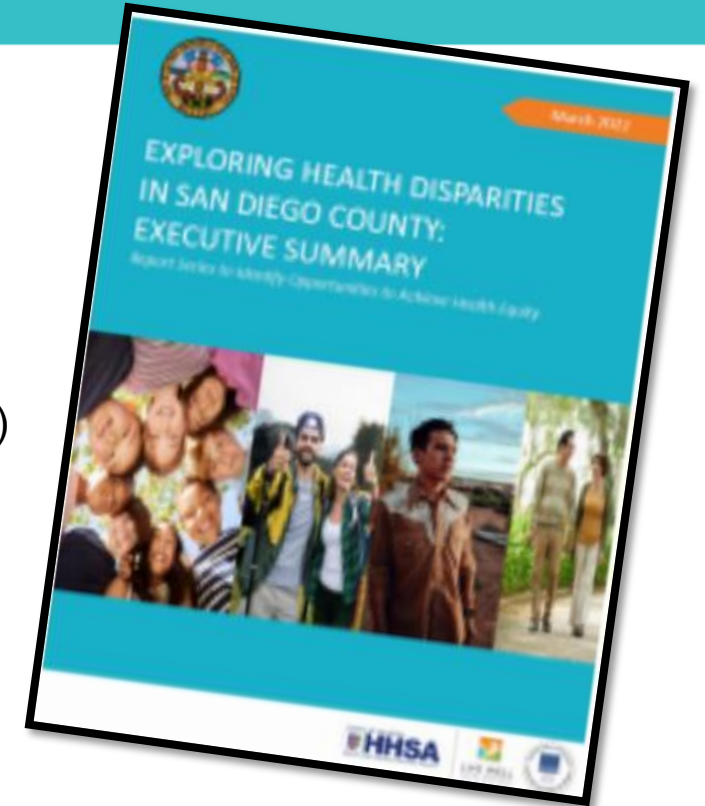


IV. Data (External)

EXAMPLES OF DATA EFFORTS TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY



- **Health Equity Reports** series (five lenses)
- Branch Chief presentations on disparities and disproportionality
- Health Equity in Action Workshops (per above)
- Performance Dashboards (3 buckets: Operations, Programs, Population Outcomes)
- Branch Health Equity Priorities
- County Data Portal with *Live Well* Indicators
- Trainings: Data 101, Data Literacy
- Community Health Assessment (CHA) Data
- Surveys and Assessments: BARHII-based surveys on Health Equity and Cultural Competence, Vulnerability Assessment and data on public health impacts of climate change
- See Community Health Statistics Website for full set of products on health equity, health disparities and more



- **Executive Summary**
- **Age**
- **Gender**
- **Geography**
- **Race/Ethnicity**
- **Socioeconomic Status**

STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY WITHIN LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



Develop a **Health Equity Plan, work plan, and policy**; develop a working group and charter; facilitate regular meetings; track and report progress; conduct program-specific staff workshops; ensure each branch has a health equity goal in the LHD strategic plan including goals/objectives related to D & I, employee engagement, trauma-informed services, and customer service.



Promote a “people first” agenda for the PH workforce; ensure a safe, flexible, engaged, workforce; develop workforce **trainings**, professional development opportunities, and career progression; train workforce on public health 101 training series, including public health history, concepts, data, health equity, climate change, and other relevant topics.



Span boundaries, create relevant **collaborations and partnerships** (e.g., governments, schools, businesses, community- and faith-based organizations, hospitals, universities, student interns), to identify issues and seek opportunities to improve public health programs and services (examine from various perspectives, seek input from community); refer (e.g., 2-1-1) clients to address “social determinants of health” needs.



Openly **share timely data** in a variety of formats for various health literacy levels with communities. Bring evidence to those who have the authority to change policy, or improve programs and services, for residents. Monitor public health programs, services, and outcomes via dashboards. Build a culture of performance management, QI, and data literacy. Create an ADA compliant website to share data resources.



3. HOW CAN A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT INTEGRATE HEALTH EQUITY INTO ITS ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM?



PILLAR 1 (ORGANIZATION): DEVELOP INFRASTRUCTURE FOUNDED IN HEALTH EQUITY



- Examine data to determine gaps and needs
- Develop a health equity focused vision and mission
- Garner a commitment to equitable outcomes for oral health programs
- Establish infrastructural components founded in Health Equity (e.g., plan, policies, charter, workgroups, reports) to ensure accountability



PILLAR 2 (WORKFORCE): TRAIN FUTURE PH WORKFORCE TO INCORPORATE ORAL HEALTH EQUITY



- During Spring 2023, the Oral Health Team trained **dental hygiene students, nursing students, and pre dental students** from two institutions of higher learning on the importance of oral health in public health and promoting equity.



University California, San Diego
Pre dental Society Students








Southwestern College Dental
Hygiene Students

PILLAR 3 (COMMUNITY): ORAL HEALTH OBSERVANCES



County of San Diego Oral Health Program SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES February is Children's Dental Health Month

These social media messages are designed for coalitions, groups, individuals, and other stakeholders to use in their educational efforts during Children's Dental Health Month.

<p>A Healthier Smile for a New Beginning It is time to smile! Take care of your smile by practicing good dental hygiene habits daily, eating well, and taking care of dental problems right away. Regular dental visits help you keep a healthy smile! https://bit.ly/3SSrKFS</p>	
<p>Give Kids a Smile! Take care of your smile by visiting the dentist. This month dental screenings, sealants, and fluoride varnish are at no cost for children 1-18 years old on Feb. 25 and Mar. 4, 2023. For more information, call 619-692-8858 or visit https://bit.ly/3AHFzjv</p>	
<p>Baby Teeth Matter! Baby teeth are important to chew, smile, and speak. Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and floss daily if two teeth are touching. Avoid putting baby to bed with a bottle and visit a dentist at first tooth or first birthday. https://bit.ly/3fSoSu0</p>	
<p>Keep A Good Oral Health Routine at Home You can encourage good oral habits at home by helping or brushing teeth with young children regularly. To keep teeth healthy, use fluoride toothpaste, limit sugary foods and drinks, and visit the dentist regularly. https://bit.ly/3RYVkbj</p>	
<p>Fluoride is Good for Your Teeth! By keeping the tooth strong and solid, fluoride stops cavities from forming and can even rebuild the tooth's surface. Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and drink fluoridated water to keep a beautiful smile. https://bit.ly/3RKhluE</p>	



Create Health Observance Tools

Oral Health Observances by PHS for 2023 Calendar Year:

- National Children's Dental Health Month/Give Kids a Smile Day
- June - Oral Health Month
- October - National Dental Hygiene Month

PILLAR 3 (COMMUNITY): EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION - SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORAL HEALTH FORUM






- **June 4, 2021 – Seventh San Diego County Oral Health Forum: Advancing Oral Health Equity in San Diego Communities**
- **Seventy-three participants** represented dental providers, medical providers, educators, and community-based leaders learned about oral health equity and discussed community-wide change.
- Featured speaker included Andrew Strong, Director, **Office of Equity and Racial Justice**.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORAL HEALTH FORUM 2021
Advancing Oral Health Equity in San Diego Communities
Breakout Session Overview

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Maternal, Child, and Family Services Branch, Oral Health Programs hosted the seventh San Diego County Oral Health Forum on June 4, 2021. This year's focus on Advancing Oral Health Equity, provided an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about oral health equity and discuss community-wide change. Highlights include:

- 73 participants represented a variety of organizations.
- Participants included dental providers, medical providers, educators, and community-based leaders.
- Opening remarks were given by the County of San Diego's Chief Dental Officer, Dr. Thomas Olinger, and Dr. Wilma Wooten, Public Health Officer.

ESTEEMED SPEAKERS
The forum featured three esteemed speakers from the local, state, and national levels.

 <p>Andrew Strong Director Office of Equity and Racial Justice County of San Diego</p>	 <p>Dr. Lynn Walton-Haynes Dental Program Consultant Office of Oral Health CA Department of Public Health</p>	 <p>Dr. Steven Geiermann Senior Manager Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention American Dental Association</p>
--	---	---

PILLAR 3 (COMMUNITY): PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION - UPDATED AND REVISED HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS EMPHASIZING HEALTH LITERACY



- **Good Oral Health brochure** is available in multiple languages: English, Spanish, Pashto, Dari, Arabic.
- Revised the American Academy of Pediatrics Brush, Book, Bed **one-page flyer** for parents.
 - Messages were simplified.

Buena Salud Bucal



Consejos para usted y su familia





KIDS LOVE ROUTINES — BRUSH, BOOK, BED!


Start your routine at the same time every night, 30 minutes before bedtime so you have time to brush teeth, read together, and go to sleep.

BRUSH

- From Birth:** Use a soft washcloth to wipe your baby's gums after feedings.
- Under 3 years:** Once you see teeth, brush twice a day with toothpaste the size of a grain of rice.
- 3-6 years:** Brush twice a day with a pea size amount of toothpaste and floss once teeth are touching.
- Limit Sugary foods and drinks:** Encourage your little one to drink only water.
- Visit the dentist regularly:** Start going to the dentist at age 1, and go twice a year.




BOOK



- Read Stories Everyday:** Children love to hear your voice so sing, talk, and read aloud as much as possible.
- Let Your Child Pick Out a Book:** This encourages decision-making!
- Name and Point to Things:** As your little one gets older, ask them questions as you read a book.

BED





- Make daytime playtime:** Talking and playing with your children during the day will help them sleep longer at night.
- Put your children to bed when drowsy, but awake:** This teaches them to fall asleep on their own from being awake.
- Have your babies sleep on their back:** The safest place for them to sleep is in their own crib without pillows, blankets, or stuffed animals.




Brush, Book, Bed is a program of the American Academy of Pediatrics. For more tips, visit: www.HealthyChildren.org/BrushBookBed

For more information contact the County Oral Health Program at: (619) 692-8858

Funded by the CDPH under Contract #22-10192, 3/2023

PILLAR 3 (COMMUNITY): EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION – GIVE KIDS A SMILE

Give Kids A Smile

No-cost preventive dental services for children 1-18 years of age.


Call today to make your appointment!

Choose a dental clinic near you:


Saturday, February 25, 2023 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Saturday, March 4, 2023 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cura Smiles ✓ OpSam Health ✓ Family Health Centers of San Diego – El Cajon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cura Smiles ✓ OpSam Health ✓ Vista Community Clinic ✓ San Diego American Indian Health Center

Preventive Services Provided:
Visual Exams · Fluoride Varnish · Dental Sealants

Dental Clinic Locations:

Cura Smiles 4101 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105 Appointments: 619-789-1832	OpSam Health 2835 Highland Avenue, Suite A, National City, CA 91950 Appointments: 844-200-2426 ext. 1563 or 1564
Vista Community Clinic 1000 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista, CA 92084 Appointments: 760-631-5000 ext. 1011	San Diego American Indian Health Center 2630 First Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103 Appointments: 619-234-2158
Family Health Centers of San Diego – El Cajon 525 E. Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020 Appointments: 619-906-4515	Scan the QR Code for more information! 

For more information, visit <https://sdcds.org/sdcdf/give-kids-a-smile/> or call 619-692-8858.




Give Kids A Smile

Servicios Dentales Preventivos Sin Costo Para Niños de 1 a 18 Años de Edad

¡llame hoy para hacer su cita!

Elija una clínica dental cerca de usted:

Domingo 25 de Febrero del 2023 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Sábado 4 de Marzo del 2023 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cura Smiles ✓ OpSam Health ✓ Family Health Centers of San Diego – El Cajón 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cura Smiles ✓ OpSam Health ✓ Vista Community Clinic ✓ San Diego American Indian Health Center

Se ofrecerán Servicios Preventivos:
Evaluación Dental · Barniz de Fluoruro · Selladores Dentales

Clínicas dentales participantes:

Cura Smiles 4101 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105 Citas: 619-789-1832	OpSam Health 2835 Highland Avenue, Suite A, National City, CA 91950 Citas: 844-200-2426 ext. 1563 o 1564
Vista Community Clinic 1000 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista, CA 92084 Citas: 760-631-5000 ext. 1011	San Diego American Indian Health Center 2630 First Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103 Citas: 619-234-2158
Family Health Centers of San Diego – El Cajón 525 E. Main Street, El Cajón, CA 92020 Citas: 619-906-4515	¡Escanee el código QR para obtener más información! 

Para más información visite <https://sdcds.org/sdcdf/give-kids-a-smile/> o llame al 619-692-8858




PILLAR 3 (COMMUNITY): EXAMPLES OF OTHER PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION



■ Examples of other oral health efforts with a health equity focus:

- Reaching **rural** communities
- Educating the **foster care** community
- Collaborating with organizations that serve **refugees** and newcomers
- Providing toothbrush kits in **school meal distribution** during COVID-19



PILLAR 4 (DATA): DATA ON CHILD ORAL HEALTH IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY



In San Diego County:

- About **one in four** children from low-income families (**26%**) have used free community or public dental programs.
- More than **one in ten** children ages 3-11 (**14%**) have never visited the dentist.
- **One in four (25%)** have never visited the dentist.
- Among over 11,000 San Diego County children entering school in 2021 with a submitted Oral Health Assessment:
 - Close to **one third (30%)** reportedly had caries experience and
 - Close to **one in four (24%)** had untreated decay.
 - Reported caries experience and untreated decay were higher among in lower income communities with less healthy community conditions (**41% and 36% respectively**).



Data sources: 2019-2021 California Health Interview Survey; 2021-2022 Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Data; California Department of Education; California Healthy Places Index

STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY WITHIN LHD ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS



Establish infrastructure founded in Health Equity (e.g., plan, policies, workgroups, reports) to ensure accountability; Garner a commitment to equitable outcomes; Examine data to determine gaps and needs.



Train future healthcare workers (e.g., dental hygiene students, nursing students, and pre-dental students) from local institutions of higher learning on the importance of oral health in public health and promoting equity.



Create collaborations through community forums; Update and revise oral health promotional materials emphasizing health literacy; Develop health observance tools; **Build partnerships** to enhance community events (e.g., Give Kids A Smile) focused on rural communities, foster youth, and refugees and newcomers.



Share data from publicly available sources (e.g., California Health Interview Survey) and local county data (e.g., kindergarten oral health assessment).



Thank you for advancing healthy people, communities, environments, and society.



THANK YOU. QUESTIONS? FOR MORE INFORMATION



Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,

*Health Officer and Director, Public Health Services, and
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency*

Contact Information:

wilma.wooten@sdcounty.ca.gov



On May 17, 2016, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Division of Public Health Services received accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board.