

Community Health Improvement Plan Executive Summary

VENTURA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH is pleased to present Ventura County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in follow-up to the Community Health Assessment published in 2017 and available online at www.healthmattersinvc.org. The CHIP planning process looks beyond the performance of an individual organization, serving a specific segment of the community, to the way in which activities of many organizations contribute to overall population health.

CHIP's are used by health and other governmental education and human service agencies, in collaboration with community partners, to set priorities and coordinate and target resources. CHIP's are critical for developing policies and defining actions to target efforts that promote health so that all residents can live a long, healthy life regardless of his or her background or socioeconomic status.

Our CHIP consists of 15 priority health areas under 5 broad goals. For each of the priority health issues identified in the health assessment, this plan outlines a strategy that will be pursued over the next three years, in collaboration with one or more Public Health Partner organizations, to improve population health. These strategies represent the collaborative work of all our partners, therefore, the "we" of the impact statements do not just reflect the view of VCPH but rather all our partners that are working towards improving health and wellness so that Ventura County will become the healthiest county in the nation by 2030.



GOAL 1:

Create Healthy Communities

PRIORITY 1:

Increase Early Learning and Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is one of the key indicators of the health status of a community. Individuals that do not finish high school have less social mobility, which is associated with negative health outcomes.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Assess current school district Wellness Policies for best practices and share with other school districts.*

PRIORITY 2:

Reduce the Percentage of Population Growing up in Poverty

Children growing up in poverty have less access to quality healthcare, quality childcare, superior schools, and safe neighborhoods. Policies that provide more access to these protective factors can make a positive impact on achievement, behavior, and health across the lifespan.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Implement Paid Family Leave Policies and Other Family Friendly Policies such as Babies at Work.*

PRIORITY 3:

Increase Affordable Housing in Clean, Safe Communities

Ventura County residents believe that a clean environment, low crime/safe neighborhoods, and affordable housing are necessary to build healthy communities.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Implement a home health risk assessment referral process.

GOAL 2:

Lay the Foundation for a Healthy Life: Healthy Beginnings

PRIORITY 4:

Improve Maternal Health Prior to Pregnancy

Access to services to prepare and plan for pregnancy helps women to improve health outcomes for themselves and their babies.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Provide preconception and inter-conception education and care to women of child-bearing age.*

PRIORITY 5:

Improve Childhood Physical and Mental Wellness

Supporting positive physical and mental health for young people is one critical element to help prepare them to live healthy lives.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Ensure access to services provided by International Board Certified Lactation Consultants to improve breastfeeding rates and duration.*

Executive Summary

PRIORITY 6:

Reduce Childhood Trauma

Reducing adverse childhood experiences will decrease a person's risk for adverse health outcomes later in life.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Design a prevention network of services and supports (Ventura County Prevention Plan) to prevent child abuse and neglect.*

GOAL 3:

Help People Achieve Optimal Health: Living Well

PRIORITY 7:

Improve Adult Physical Health

Being overweight or obese increases the risk of many health conditions and contribute to some of the leading causes of preventable death.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Establish a county-wide food waste reduction program to redistribute resources to residents that are food insecure.*

PRIORITY 8:

Reduce Adult Substance Use

Substance abuse was identified by Ventura County residents as the most important risky behavior affecting the health of the community.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Inform local leaders on the best practices for adult cannabis use based upon lessons learned from alcohol policy.*

PRIORITY 9:

Improve Adult Mental Health

Positive mental health allows individuals to realize their potential, cope with stress, work productively, and make meaningful contributions to their community.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Offer Logrando Bienestar workshops to reduce barriers to seeking mental health services within the Hispanic community.*

GOAL 4:

Maintain Dignity and Independence: Aging Well

PRIORITY 10:

Improve Cancer Screening Rates

Early detection and treatment and reducing lifestyle risks will decrease cancer rates and improve overall health for Ventura County residents.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Increase colorectal screening by offering community based FIT testing.*

PRIORITY 11:

Improve Health and Wellness for the Medicare Population

Aging adults living alone may lack social support, have inadequate assistance in emergency situations, and are at risk for institutionalization or losing their independent lifestyles.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: Implement the Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, and Injuries (STEADI) Toolkit at an ambulatory site as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PRIORITY 12:

Decrease Hospitalization During the End of Life

End of life is one of the most difficult stages of life and needs attention to improve the care and experience of individuals who are dying.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Establish a policy and billing structure for sustainable provision of palliative care.*

GOAL 5:

Redesign the Healthcare System: Efficient, Safe and Patient-Centered Care

PRIORITY 13:

Increase the Percentage of Residents with Access to Health Insurance

Despite the Affordable Care Act (ACA), access to health care services continues to be a function of residents' economic means, age, and citizenship status.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Increase promotion of safety net health programs by offering community enrollment opportunities.*

PRIORITY 14:

Increase Access to Primary Care

Ventura County residents are more likely to receive routine health checkups and screening if they have a consistent primary care provider, which can improve health outcomes.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Provide outreach on availability of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) and Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) and develop a county-wide oral health plan.*

PRIORITY 15:

Reduce Preventable Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations could have been prevented if Ventura County residents received optimal care in the ambulatory or outpatient care environment.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: *Strengthen the collaboration of the Ventura County Hospital to Home Alliance to follow the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.*