



## Board Briefing Report

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DATE: May 23, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Luchini, RN, PHN, Director, Department of Public Health

SUBJECT: Community Health Assessment

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this briefing is to provide your Board with information about the completion of the 2023 community health assessment (CHA) conducted by the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH), and to provide an overview of the primary health issues the community identified as areas of priority that will help inform key intervention strategies and resource allocation.

### HISTORY/STATUS:

A primary component of creating a healthy community is assessing the needs and prioritizing those needs for impact. The role of the CHA is to identify factors that affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the region to adequately address these factors.

In 2019, FCDPH led the Healthy Fresno County project, as a joint effort with the Fresno Community Health Improvement Partnership, in creating a centralized community dashboard that analyzes secondary data values on health and social indicators and compares them to statewide indicators for a snapshot on Fresno County's community health. As a result, the Healthy Fresno County website ([www.healthyfresnocountydata.org](http://www.healthyfresnocountydata.org)) was launched along with the completion of a CHA. The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 interrupted the continuation of the development of an accompanying community health improvement plan (CHIP) as FCDPH shifted their resources and their focus onto the pandemic. The CHA along with the dashboard continue to be a resource for the public and partners to use and stay informed on significant community health needs and to better shape data informed interventions that can lead to achieving optimal health and well-being in our county.

The 2023 CHA is the second community health assessment conducted and concluded by FCDPH to identify primary health issues, current health status and other health needs in the community. To build upon the work that was initiated previously, the prior 2020 CHA was reviewed. Health needs were assessed through a review of available secondary health data (existing data on the county, state and nation). The analysis of secondary data on significant health needs, informed primary data collection through focus groups, interviews, and surveys with community residents and leaders. Finally, a ranking survey was developed and sent to stakeholders and residents of the community to prioritize the health needs for Fresno County to address.

The results from the 2023 CHA provide critical information that will guide the FCDPH in the development of programmatic interventions and a targeted focus that aims to address health disparities amongst our community. The 2023 CHA enables FCDPH to measure impact through established priorities,

partnerships, and community engagement. The CHA is an important component that will help guide the development of a five-year CHIP, which is currently under the review phase and is expected to be completed this summer. The CHIP will support in informing FCDPH's strategic plan and decision-making concerning future programs and the alignment of health resources. Improving the health of Fresno County residents in the areas identified below does not necessarily reflect the lack of current County resources in these areas. Instead, they reflect opportunities where public and private partnerships would need to focus and align.

The CHA and CHIP are essential components of the Public Health Accreditation Board national standard requirements that aim at strengthening the public health infrastructure through strategic approaches and continuous quality improvement measures. FCDPH is working towards alignment with national public health standards through informed interventions which will prioritize the health needs of Fresno County residents.

The following areas were identified in the 2023 CHA and chosen by the FCDPH as areas of priority. These areas will be FCDPH points of focus in the five-year CHIP and the results will be shared with your Board upon completion of the CHIP this summer.

#### PRIORITY AREAS:

##### 1. Nutrition and Physical Health

- The top health behavior that affects the health of the community reported in the survey is poor nutrition (46%), followed by lack of physical activity (36%).
- The #1 need of children and families reported in the survey was safe spaces for physical activity (51%), followed by access to healthy food (45%).

##### 2. Equitable Access to Healthcare

Barriers to care reported were:

- High co-pays and deductibles
- Unaffordability of healthcare
- Long wait times
- Doctor appointments that are scheduled too far out
- No care available on nights/weekends
- No health insurance

##### 3. Mental Health and Substance Use

- Mental health and access to mental healthcare was the #1 ranked community behavioral health concern (more than two-thirds of survey respondents).
- Over 40% of survey respondents said that the County needs more mental health programs.

The CHA will be made available to the public after notification and approval by your Board. The public will be able to find it online, at <https://www.FCDPH.org/cha>.

#### CONTACT PERSON:

For additional inquiries contact David Luchini, Director, at (559) 600-6403.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Fresno County Department of Public Health 2023 Community Health Assessment