



Health Services Advisory Board Meeting

Public Health Services Report

September 16, 2025



On August 8, a terrible tragedy occurred at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our hearts go out to the family, friends, and colleagues of police officer David Rose, killed in last month's shooting outside CDC's Roybal Campus in Atlanta. He served with honor, courage, and unwavering dedication.



Tributes for police officer David Rose outside the CDC HQ

Mr. Rose's sacrifice will never be forgotten and his commitment to protecting others is a profound testament to the very best of the law enforcement profession. Let us work together to remember "the dangers of misinformation... and restore trust in public health to those who have lost it—through science, evidence, and clarity of purpose."



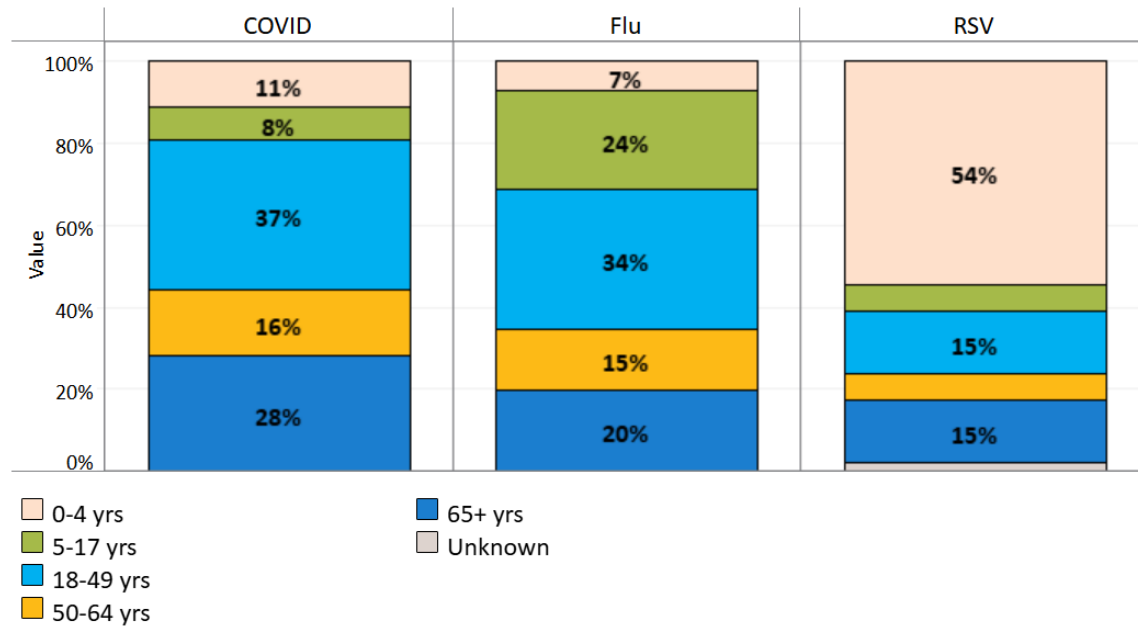
Public Health Officer Update

Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer
Public Health Services

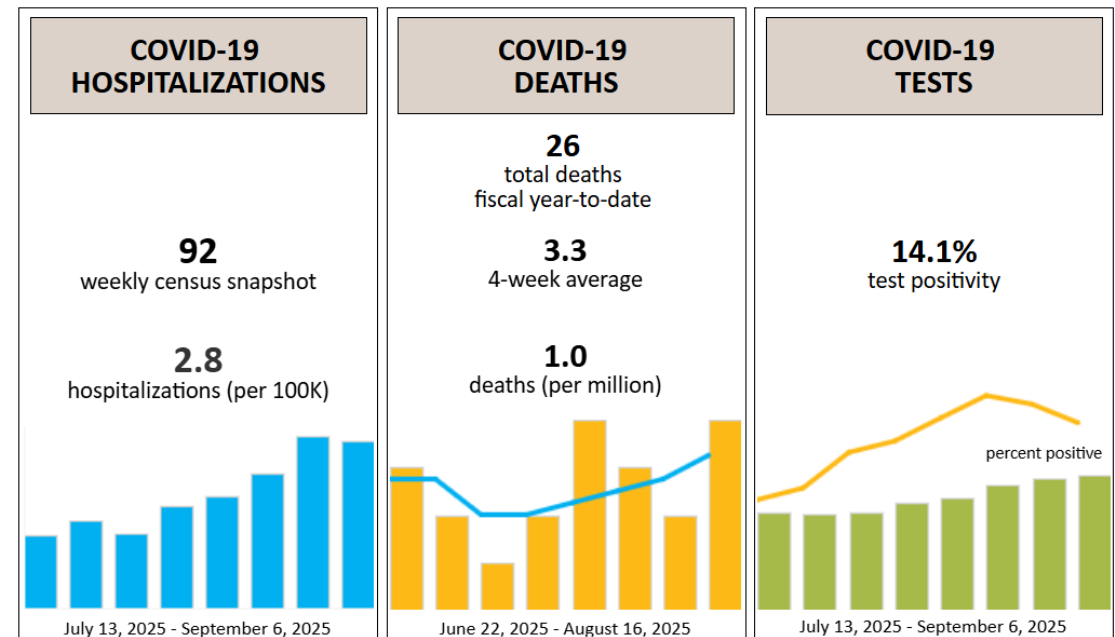


Respiratory Virus Surveillance

2024-25 Season Demographics: Cases



Highlights



Updated September 11, 2025. Data through September 6, 2025. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/respiratoryviruses/surveillance.html



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Respiratory Virus Surveillance



Updated September 11, 2025. Data through September 6, 2025. Data are preliminary and subject to change.
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/SDC_Respiratory_Virus_Surveillance_Report.pdf

COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Hospital Census

Figure 3. **COVID-19**-Positive Hospitalized Patients, Weekly Census Snapshot,* San Diego County

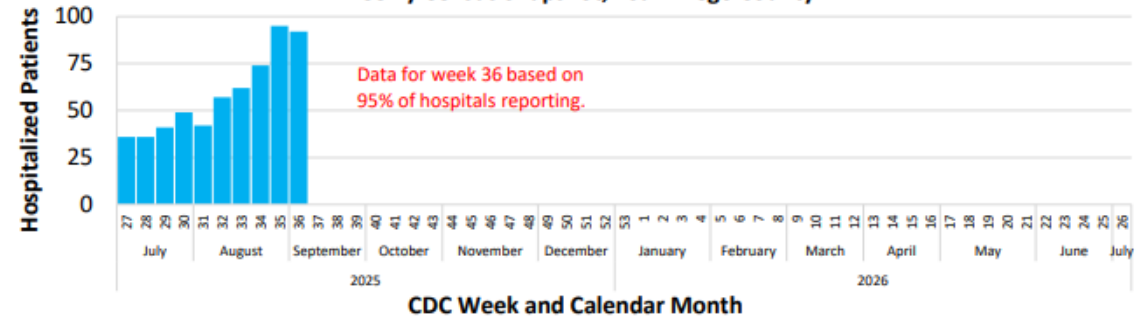


Figure 4. **Influenza**-Positive Hospitalized Patients, Weekly Census Snapshot,* San Diego County

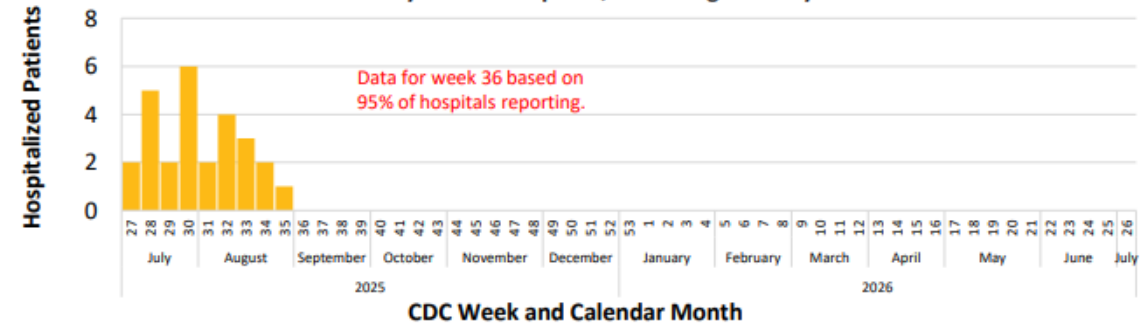
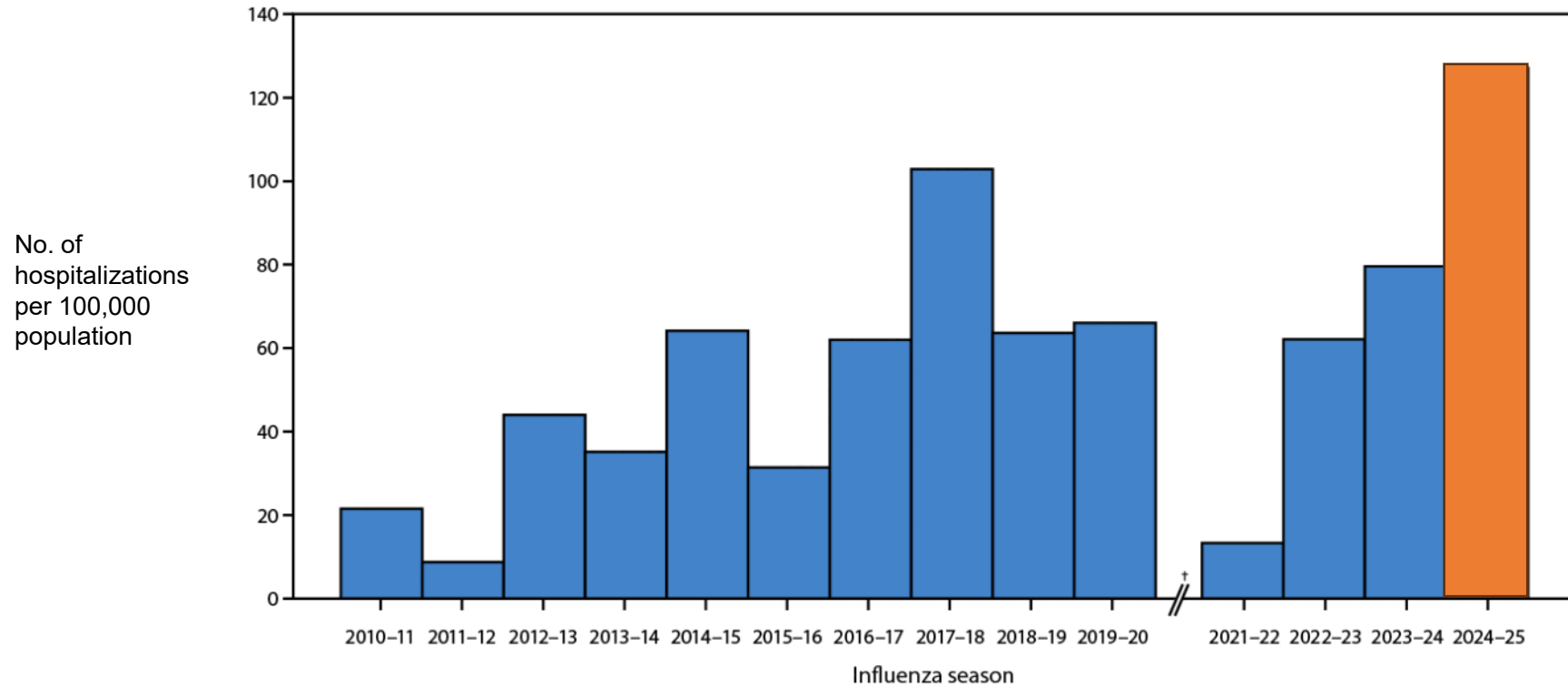


Figure 5. **RSV**-Positive Hospitalized Patients, Weekly Census Snapshot,* San Diego County



*A weekly snapshot of the number of people hospitalized for the Wednesday of each week.

The cumulative 2024-25 flu season hospitalization rate was the highest in more than a decade



Flu vaccination can reduce the risk of flu-related hospitalization

MMWR

† Data from the 2020-21 season were excluded from the analysis because of low numbers during the COVID-19 pandemic

bit.ly/4m6E6lg

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025



Two New Child Deaths Added to Flu Totals Last Season as New Season Approaches



Video by [Fernanda Lopez Halvorson](#)

By [Anita Lightfoot](#), County of San Diego Communications Office

Sep. 12, 2025 | 5:00 PM

- As the County enters a new flu season, doctors are worried it could be just as bad as 2024-2025, in part due to low and declining vaccination rates.
- San Diego County last year recorded nearly 40,000 cases of the flu.
- Those cases resulted in 220 deaths compared to 63 deaths in the previous season.
- **Seven** of those fatalities were children, up from two the previous season when 6,127 pediatric flu cases were reported, and the highest number of child deaths since 2009/2010 when four were recorded.

[Two New Child Deaths Added to Flu Totals Last Season as New Season Approaches | News | San Diego County News Center](#)



September 8 Health Advisory: New World Screwworm Outbreak in Mexico and Central America

Key Messages

- New World screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly whose larvae feed on living tissue and can infest mammals and birds; it largely affects livestock but can also affect pets, wildlife, and humans.
- On August 4, 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Maryland Department of Health confirmed that a U.S. resident with recent travel to El Salvador as the first travel-associated case in 2025.
- Healthcare providers who identify myiasis (maggots) in a patient should ask about travel within 10 days of symptom onset to a country where NWS is present and notify the County Epidemiology Unit immediately.



Recent Resource



California Health Alert Network (CAHAN) San Diego Health Advisory: Keeping Patients Safe during Extreme Heat Events



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: August 5, 2025

From: Public Health Services Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch

Health Advisory: Keeping Patients Safe during Extreme Heat Events

Key Messages

- **Screen** [patient populations](#), especially during extreme heat events, [who](#) are more vulnerable to [extreme heat adverse effects](#). These include older adults, young children and infants, those with chronic medical conditions, and pregnant people.
- **Review** medications and alcohol/substance use that affect [thermoregulation](#) with patients.
- **Refer** vulnerable populations and those without access to air conditioning to the County's [Cool Zone program](#).
- **Remind** patients and their caregivers to never leave pets, children, or disabled adults in locked vehicles, especially during extreme heat events, to avoid severe adverse events or death.
- **Plan** with patients to help them develop their own heat plan using the County's [Consumer Version Excessive Heat Response Plan](#) and [HeatReadyCA.com](#).

Subscribe to



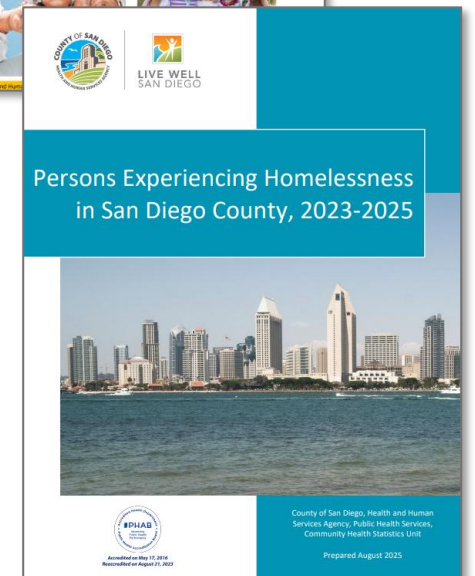
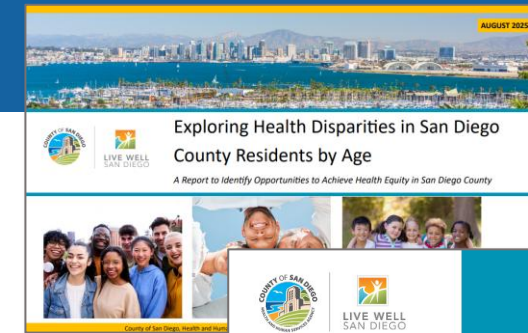
CAHAN San Diego

Now Available

August 13

CHSU Publishes Age, Sex, Urbanicity, and Race/Ethnicity Health Equity Reports

- This health disparities report series is an update to reports published in 2022 and include indicators of well-being, in addition to disease burden.
- The 2025 Exploring Health Disparities in San Diego County series includes detailed reports with data and information for each of the lenses of health equity



August 19

CHSU Publishes Persons Experiencing Homelessness Dashboard and Brief

- [Dashboard](#): Examines aggregated demographic data, hospital and facility data, and data on top diagnosis groups for individuals in San Diego County whose records indicated they were experiencing homelessness.
- [Brief](#): Provides key take aways from the Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County Dashboard



Now Available

August 25

OSAR Publishes Drug Overdose Data Dashboard

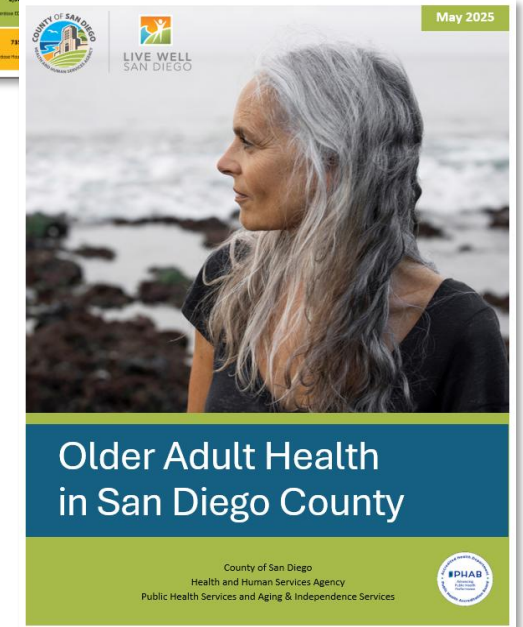
- This dashboard provides data on drug-related overdose outcomes specific to San Diego County, including statistics on overdose deaths, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations.



September 11

CHSU Publishes Older Adult Health Report

- This report examines notable health outcomes among the older adult population, including chronic and communicable (infectious) diseases, behavioral conditions, and injuries.
- With special emphasis on Alzheimer's disease and non-Alzheimer's dementia, this report estimates the number of older adults living with Alzheimer's disease and non-Alzheimer's dementia and gives projections through 2050.



New Benefit for Medi-Cal Members

Enhanced Care Management (ECM)

- ECM is a no-cost benefit that gives an extra layer of support to help Medi-Cal members get the care needed to thrive.
- Members will be provided with a lead care manager who will work with doctors specialists, pharmacists, and others to help.
- Joining ECM is a choice. Members can leave the program at any time and keep Medi-Cal benefits.
- To get ECM, members need to meet at least one of the eligibility criteria outlined in the [Enhanced Care Management for Medi-Cal Members](#) handout (PDF).



For more information, visit:

[Community Events Planned to Showcase New Medi-Cal Services | News | San Diego CNC](#)





DHCS Launches New Online Experience for Medi-Cal Members and Applicants

- Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) launched a new online experience for Medi-Cal members and potential applicants at my.medi-cal.ca.gov. These new pages are the main entry point for Californians who come to DHCS.ca.gov to learn about Medi-Cal benefits, check if they qualify, and take the next step to apply for or use their coverage. The site, designed specifically for Medi-Cal members and potential members and informed by the Medi-Cal Member Advisory Committee, is:
 - **Mobile-first** – built for phones, where most users access the web.
 - **Plain-language** – written at a sixth grade reading level to ensure clarity.
 - **Multilingual** – in 19 Medi-Cal languages to support California’s diverse communities.
 - **Accessible** – fully usable by people with disabilities and assistive technologies.
 - **Streamlined** – focused only on member needs, with no extra clutter.
- This new online experience is just the beginning and is part of a broader Web Transformation Project to make DHCS.ca.gov more human-centered, inclusive, and effective. We invite you to explore the site and share it with your networks. Together, we can help more Californians get the information and care they need.

17 new podcast episodes and mini-lectures on STD, HIV, HIV PrEP, & Hepatitis B curricula

National STD Curriculum

NEW [National STD Curriculum Podcast](#) episodes explore innovative and significant STD issues and discuss the clinical implications through conference summaries, expert interviews, hot topics, and literature reviews:

- Three Expert Interviews:
 - [Antimicrobial Resistance in Neisseria Gonorrhea: Surveillance Programs](#)
 - [Antimicrobial Resistance in Neisseria Gonorrhea: Key Micrologic Factors](#)
 - [Antimicrobial Resistance in Neisseria Gonorrhea: Past, Present, and Future](#)
- One Hot Topic:
 - [STI Surveillance, 2023: Key Trends](#)

National HIV Curriculum

NEW [National HIV Curriculum Podcast](#) episodes explore practice-changing issues and updates in HIV diagnosis, management, and prevention through case discussions, conference summaries, expert interviews, and literature reviews:

- One Expert Interview
 - [Integrating Injectable ART into Clinical Practice](#)
- Three Case Discussions:
 - [Hepatitis C and HIV Coinfection: Diagnosis and Management](#)
 - [PML: Evaluation and Management](#)
 - [Initial Laboratory Evaluation of a Person with HIV](#)
- Two Conference Summaries (new category):
 - [CROI 2025: Four More Potentially Practice-Changing Abstracts](#)
 - [CROI 2025: CARES and BEeHIVE Studies and Their Potential Practice-Changing Impacts](#)
- **NEW** Mini-Lecture: National experts discuss clinically relevant topics in these concise lectures:
 - [Histoplasmosis Prophylaxis in People with HIV](#)
- **Key Updates** in [National HIV Curriculum](#) lessons:
 - New CDC guidance on [Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis](#)
 - FDA-approved lenacapavir, long-acting injectable HIV PrEP, added to [HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#)



17 new podcast episodes and mini-lectures on STD, HIV, HIV PrEP, & Hepatitis B curricula

National HIV PrEP Curriculum

- **NEW [Mini-Lectures](#):** Three landmark HIV PrEP studies are reviewed in concise lectures:
 - [Twice-Yearly Lenacapavir or Daily F/TAF for HIV Prevention in Women](#)
 - [HPTN 084: Cabotegravir for HIV Prevention in Women](#)
 - [HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis with TDF-FTC in Women](#)

Hepatitis C Online

- **HCV Test and Cure module:**
 - A new 5-hour [Hepatitis C Online HCV Test and Cure](#) fundamentals module helps health care providers develop core proficiency to screen, diagnose, treat, and assess for cure via five highly interactive lessons. Registered learners can earn free CME/CNE/CE, Certificates of Completion, and an optional HCV Test and Cure Training Certificate.

Hepatitis B Online

- **NEW [Mini-Lectures](#).** National experts discuss clinically relevant topics in these concise lectures:
 - [Occupational Hepatitis B Post-Exposure Prophylaxis](#)
 - [Management of HBV and HIV Coinfection](#)
 - [Hepatitis B \(HBV\) Reactivation](#) – updated with new guidelines

Podcast episodes and mini-lectures provided by the Infectious Diseases Education & Assessment (IDEA) Program / University of Washington, updates from 5/1/25 – 7/31/25.



Tijuana River Valley Sewage Crisis Updates





Public Health Director Update

Elizabeth Hernandez, Ph.D.
Public Health Director
Public Health Services



Federal Funding Changes: Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)

- On August 1, 2025, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) authorized only \$500,000 in HPP funding for the entire State of California, with no drawdown authority.
- On August 15, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) confirmed that state-level allocations have not yet been issued and that any HPP-related costs incurred since the July 1, 2025 start of the current fiscal year, **may not be reimbursed**.
- **The County has received HPP funding since 2002. In FY 25/26, the County's HPP expected budget was \$725,820.**
- Funding is primarily used to administer the [San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition \(SDHDC\)](#).
- Mitigation Strategies include:
 - Reallocating limited resources
 - Scaling back lower-priority activities
 - Working with coalition partners to develop a reduced-capacity plan for the remainder of the fiscal year
 - Exploring sustainability strategies should funding constraints persist

Changes at the County Level

- HHSA DCAO
- HHSA COO
- Board of Supervisors voted to transition Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Department into its own County group.
 - Ensures BHS can operate optimally as a **specialty behavioral health plan** considering BH transformation and the new policies and regulatory changes under Prop 1 and other new mandates.
 - Allows the department to establish proper staffing, health plan functions, oversight, infrastructure, and financial capabilities to better meet statutory requirements that will allow the department to better serve people with SMI and SUD.



New Guaranteed Income Program Supports High Risk Mothers and Babies



Black Legacy Now

By [Fernanda Lopez Halvorson](#), County of San Diego Communications Office

Aug. 26, 2025 | 5:09 PM

- The County is partnering with the San Diego Foundation on a new guaranteed income program for high-risk pregnant women.
- [Born Well](#) is focused on improving birth outcomes for mothers and newborns in high-risk communities.
- This guaranteed income pilot program will provide \$750 cash payments per month to 25 expectant mothers for one year.
- Participants will be referred through the County's Perinatal Equity Initiative program who are in their first or second trimester of pregnancy.

[New Guaranteed Income Program Supports High Risk Mothers and Babies | News | San Diego County News Center](#)

County Launches Programs to Help Small Businesses

San Diego County Core & Build Pilot Programs

CORE PROGRAM

Compliance, Operations, and Readiness Education

- ✓ Strengthen Your Business Foundation
- ✓ Bookkeeping & Compliance Support
- ✓ Gain a Competitive Edge

BUILD PROGRAM

Bonding and Underwriting insurance for Local Development

- ✓ Become Contract-Ready
- ✓ Access Bonding & Insurance
- ✓ RFP & Contract Navigation

Who Should Apply?

1.

Small businesses and nonprofits based in San Diego County

2.

Organizations seeking to grow through County contracts

3.

Businesses that need support in compliance, bonding, or back-office operations

Learn more at:

[County Launches Programs to Help Small Businesses](#) | [News](#) | [San Diego County News Center](#)
[County Administrative Office](#) | [Small Business Support](#)



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Public Health Services

BOARD LETTER FORECAST	
Board Meeting Date	Subject
September 30, 2025	Authorize Acceptance of Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Allocation Including the Perinatal Equity Initiative Allocation from the California Department of Public Health
December 9, 2025	Authorize acceptance of funding to address Sexually Transmitted Infections and apply for future funding opportunities



Media/Community Events



Targeted Date and Time	Description & Location of Event
November 2023 and ongoing	Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) radio ads run on local radio stations , Z90 and Magic 92.5. Digital banners pop up on high-traffic websites. Both the radio and digital ads are played for the target audience and will redirect listeners and viewers to the Black Legacy Now website.
June 2024 and ongoing	PEI creatives (brochures, door hangars, and postcards) are being distributed in the community to promote educating African-American mothers on the importance of advocating for equitable and dignified maternity health treatment for themselves and their babies.
September – October 2025 	The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Immunization Media Campaign , in partnership with iHeart Media, Inc., aims to increase vaccination coverage for COVID-19 and other vaccine preventable diseases to reduce health inequities among racial and ethnic populations with the lowest vaccination rates.
October 14 , 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM Casa De Oro County Library October 16 , 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM Oak Park City Library October 21 , TBD	Annual Flu Point of Dispensing (POD) Events , hosting by PHPR, are providing an opportunity for the under vaccinated population to receive protection from this year's flu virus. Three PODs will be stood up in October offering no cost vaccinations at several locations in San Diego County. For more information, visit sandiegocounty.gov/iz , 211sandiego.org , or call 2-1-1. <i>Come shout "BOO to the Flu!" with PHPR</i>
October 22, 2025 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM 	San Diego Immunization Coalition (SDIC), the County of San Diego Healthcare Associated Infections Program, and the Long-Term Care Sector will be hosting the 3rd Annual Virtual Summit . This event will feature expert speakers on respiratory virus vaccinations, addressing vaccine hesitancy, expanding vaccine access, and infection prevention strategies across skilled nursing, long-term care, and other programs serving older adults. https://www.sdizcoalition.org/s-projects-basic/webinars

Highlights

Mark Beatty, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Medical Director, EISB,
featured on NBC 7 San Diego interview for [“A ‘kiss’ from this bug could lead to life-threatening illnesses decades later”](#)

"So many people, even providers, may not be aware of the risk of Chagas in their patients," Beatty said. "And so we want to be able to get people thinking about the disease and screening for it so that people can get treated and prevent the long-term outcome."



Congratulations!



Ishita Gulati, Sr. Public Health Microbiologist, with PHS Lab, was accepted into the very competitive [APHL Emerging Leaders Program \(ELP\)](#)! This program is designed to develop leadership skills among laboratory professionals from state, local, environmental, and agricultural laboratories. Each year, approximately a **dozen participants** are selected. [See Cohort 18 Profiles.](#)

Alyssa Monge Peralta, Operations Research Analyst, OPIM, featured on [InService](#)!

Since this was filmed, Monge Peralta took a new role in Public Health Services Administration's Office of Performance and Improvement Management. She's also a board member of the [County's Filipino American Employees Association](#) and has thrown out the [first pitch at a Padres' game](#).



Health Services Advisory Board Meeting



Thank you!



The Public Health Services department, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has maintained national public health accreditation, since May 17, 2016, and was re-accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 21, 2023.