



Health Services Advisory Board Meeting

Public Health Services Report

October 7, 2025





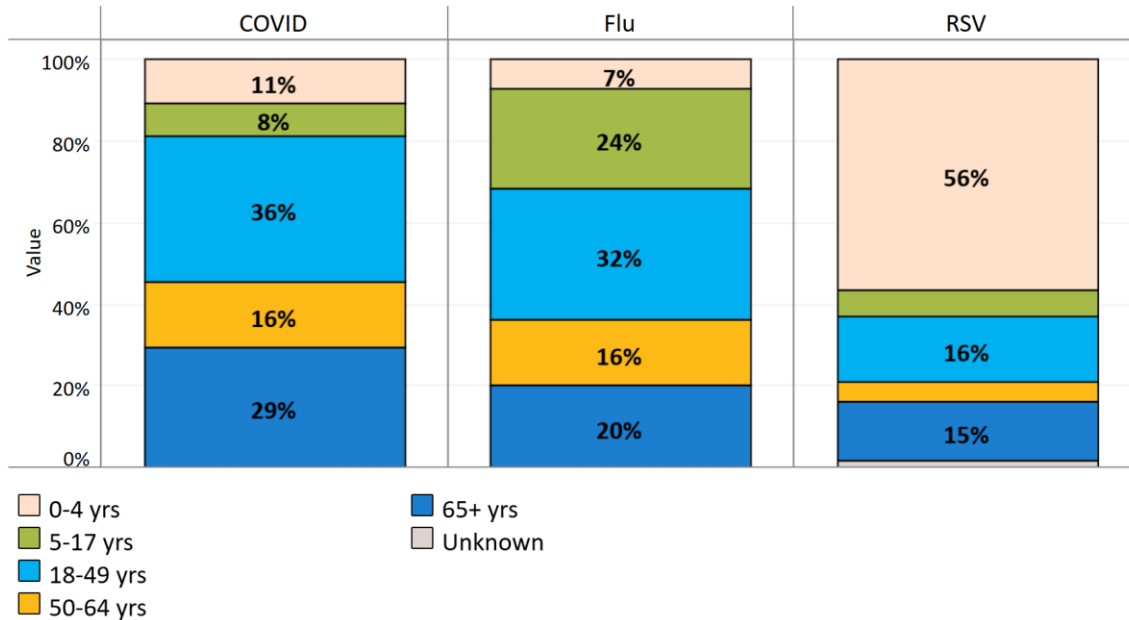
Public Health Officer Update

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



Respiratory Virus Surveillance

2024-25 Season Demographics: Cases



Highlights

San Diego County Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report

Prepared by Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch

www.sdepi.org

October 2, 2025

COVID-19

Hospitalizations
1,426

Deaths
38

Outbreaks*
64

6/29/2025 – 9/27/2025

Influenza

Hospitalizations
72

Deaths
2

Outbreaks*
1

6/29/2025 – 9/27/2025

RSV

Hospitalizations
11

Deaths
0

Outbreaks*
0

6/29/2025 – 9/27/2025

*In residential congregate settings

Updated October 3, 2025. Data through September 27, 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 October 2, 2025. Data through September 27, 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 3.1. **COVID-19**-Positive Hospitalized Patients, Weekly Census Snapshot,* San Diego County

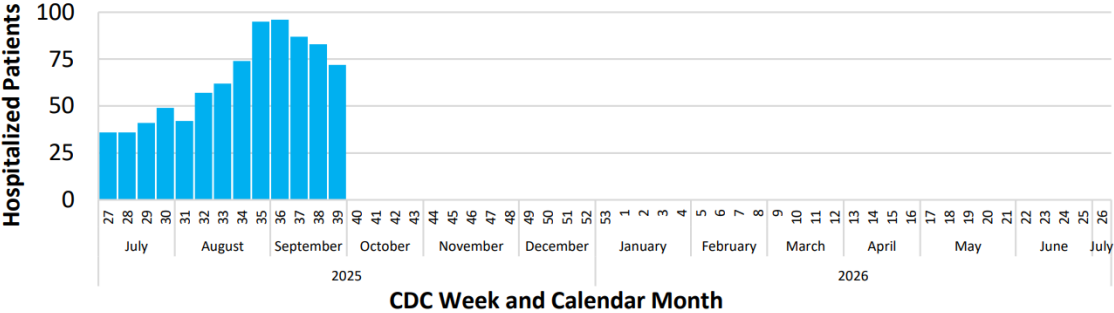


Figure 3.2. **Influenza**-Positive Hospitalized Patients, Weekly Census Snapshot,* San Diego County

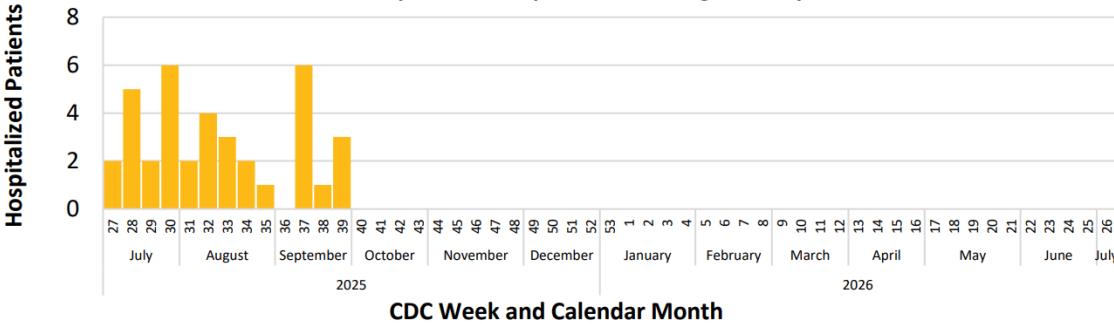
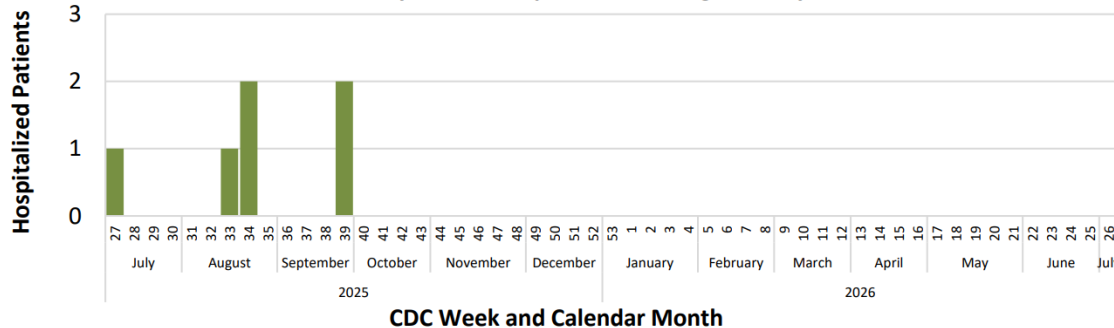


Figure 3.3. **RSV**-Positive Hospitalized Patients, Weekly Census Snapshot,* San Diego County



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

Board Approves Next Steps in Tijuana River Valley Soil Contamination Study



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

Sep. 30, 2025 | 6:11 PM

- The County Board of Supervisors voted to ask the State Water Resources Control Board to fund a \$1.4 million study to test the ground and water within the Tijuana River Valley for contamination.
- The two-year study, called a Sediment Quality Object Triad Analysis, is a standard scientific method for testing soil and sediment chemistry, toxicity and ecological impacts.
- As part of the study, 11 sites from Los Peñasquitos Lagoon to Famosa Slough will be tested to get a broader understanding of sediment along coastal waterways.

[Board Approves Next Steps in Tijuana River Valley Soil Contamination Study | News | San Diego County News Center](#)



September 19 Health Advisory: Ebola Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Key Messages

- On September 4, 2025, the Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene and Prevention in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) confirmed an outbreak of [Ebola virus disease \(EVD\)](#) in the remote Kasai Province.
- No suspected, probable, or confirmed cases related to these outbreaks have been reported in the United States. The current risk to U.S. and California residents is low.
- Healthcare providers should routinely ask patients with acute and possibly infectious illness about international travel in the three weeks before symptom onset.
- Healthcare providers and clinical laboratories should immediately report cases of suspected EVD to the [County Epidemiology Unit](#).





September 22 Health Advisory: Update #1: Cross-border Pollution in the Tijuana River Valley and Potential Health Effects

Key Messages

- Cross-border pollution continues to contaminate the Tijuana River Valley and beach water of the south region of San Diego County and leading to release of hydrogen sulfide gas (H₂S) and potentially other chemicals.
- In partnership with the [San Diego County Air Pollution Control District](#) (SDAPCD) and in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), U.S Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have developed [community guidance](#) for the public to mitigate the effects of H₂S including the use of air purifiers that help filter pollutants, which can be provided free of charge to eligible households through the [AIRE program](#).





October 6 Health Advisory: Updates to Fall 2025 Respiratory Virus Vaccine Recommendations in CA

Key Messages

- On September 17, 2025, California Governor Newsom signed [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 144](#). This law shifts the authority for setting California's vaccine recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- As a result, all providers in California should now follow CDPH vaccine recommendations which may differ from those issued by ACIP.
- Under AB 144, vaccines recommended by CDPH must be [covered by California Health Plans](#), including [Medi-Cal managed care plans](#). This means that these insurance plans will cover vaccines recommended by CDPH even if ACIP does not recommend them.
- This bill also provides liability protection to providers who administer vaccines based on CDPH recommendations. Additionally, it allows pharmacists to independently initiate and administer immunizations recommended by CDPH.
- Per [CDPH's 2025–26 Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations](#), all Californians 6 months and older who choose protection are recommended to receive updated COVID-19 vaccines. For the RSV vaccine, the age of when vaccination is recommended for persons at risk was lowered to 50 years. The Influenza vaccine recommendations remain unchanged from last year.

The Overall U.S. STI Burden Remains Substantial, but Signs of Progress Continue

In 2024, more than 2.2 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported. While this represents **a 9% decline in STI morbidity compared to 2023 (and the third consecutive year of decreases)**, there is still more work to do. Compared to a decade ago, the overall STI case burden in the U.S. remains 13% higher and reported congenital syphilis cases increased again last year for the 12th year in a row.

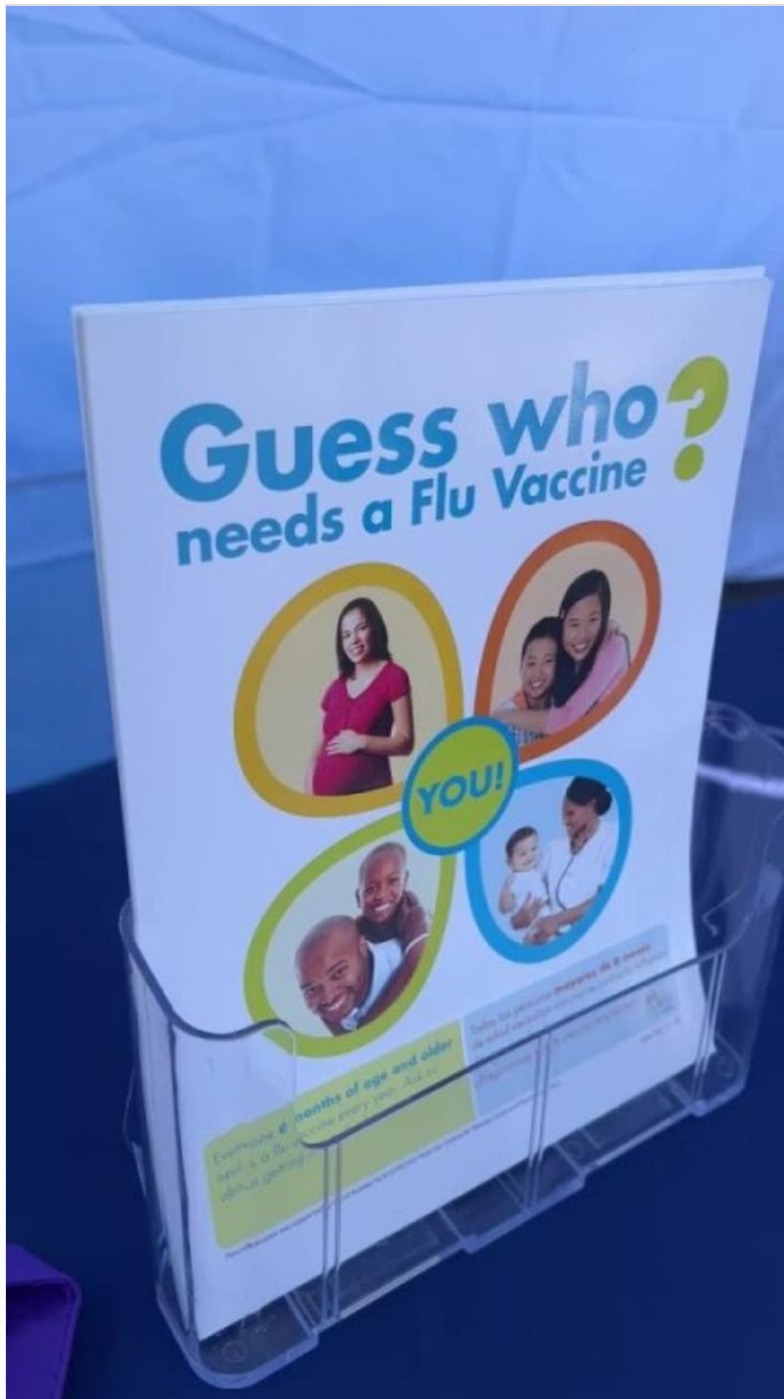
Other key findings from the surveillance data include:

- Chlamydia cases declined for the second year in a row (down 8% since 2023).
- Gonorrhea cases declined for the third year in a row (down 10% since 2023).
- Reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis, the most infectious stages of the disease, declined for the second year in a row (down 22% since 2023).
- **Nearly 4,000 cases of congenital syphilis were reported in 2024 (up 2% since 2023), and congenital syphilis morbidity is 700% higher than it was a decade ago.**

While the STI epidemic touches nearly every community, some geographic areas and populations may experience increases or decreases not reflected by the provisional 2024 national data.



Instagram



sandiegocountyhhsa and
catholiccharitiessd
Original audio

...



sandiegocountyhhsa 1d
The flu vaccine is the best protection against getting sick. Bishop Pham helped kick off a flu clinic this week in partnership with Catholic Charities and County Public Health and shared his message for protecting yourself, friends and family this flu season. Find a flu vaccine near you at myturn.ca.gov



rachelpm12 4h
Thank You Bishop Pham for inspiring us all to be
[#HappyHolyHealthy](#)

Like Reply



52 likes
1 day ago

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San Diego County EMS LOSOP Application

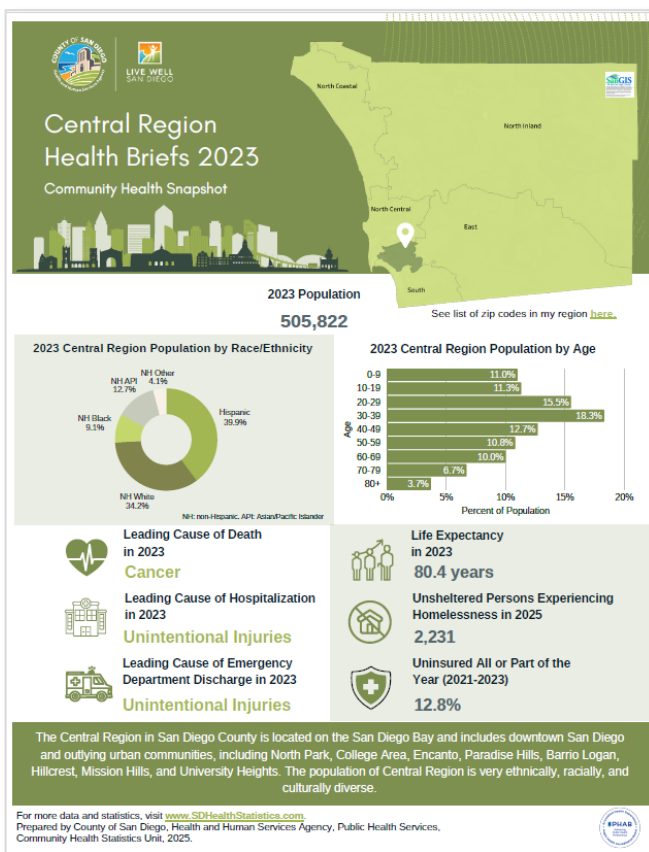
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office submitted a modified Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) on September 26th for authorization for paramedic, AEMT, and EMT administration of vaccines.

If approved, this LOSOP authority would give the County Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) the option to enhance capacity to support County Public Health vaccination campaigns and allow EMS personnel to vaccinate one another, which has been requested by County Fire Chiefs.

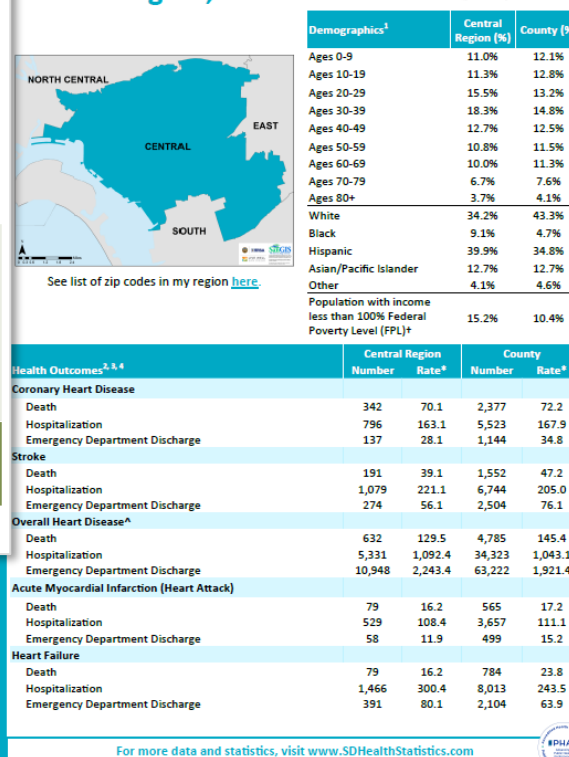
This initiative has been enthusiastically supported by the County of San Diego Public Health Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, Chair of the Health Services Capacity Task Force, and EMS agency physicians.



Region-Specific Health Briefs



San Diego County Health Briefs Central Region, 2023



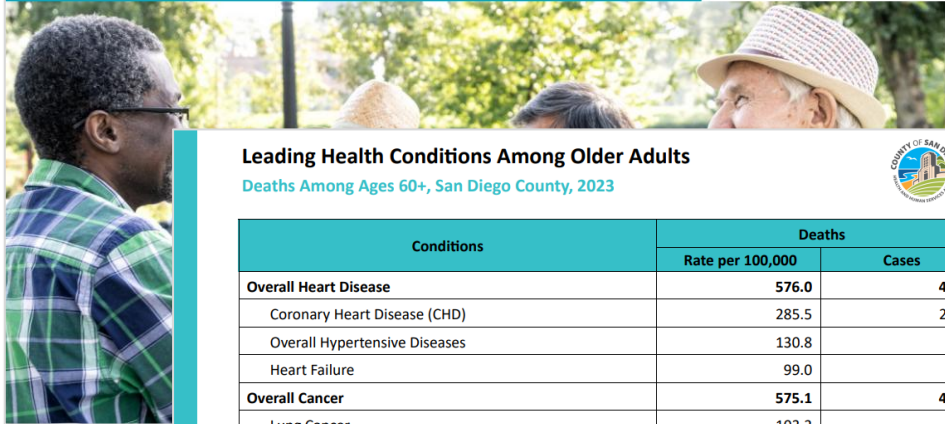
- Health Briefs are easy-to-read, printable health statistics by HHSA Region using data from the Community Profiles and the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS).
- Each health brief contains region-specific information on non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases, maternal & child health, injury, behavioral health, ADRD, environmental health, and access to care data.



The Leading Health Conditions Impacting Older Adults Briefs



Leading Health Conditions Among Older Adults in San Diego County, 2023



Leading Health Conditions Among Older Adults

Deaths Among Ages 60+, San Diego County, 2023

Conditions	Deaths	
	Rate per 100,000	Cases
Overall Heart Disease	576.0	4,374
Coronary Heart Disease (CHD)	285.5	2,168
Overall Hypertensive Diseases	130.8	993
Heart Failure	99.0	752
Overall Cancer	575.1	4,367
Lung Cancer	103.2	784
Pancreatic Cancer	49.5	376
Colorectal Cancer	48.6	369
Non-Alzheimer's Dementia	199.0	1,511
Stroke	189.6	1,440
Alzheimer's Disease	154.1	1,170
COPD/Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	115.0	873
Diabetes	103.4	785
COVID-19 (multiple cause of death)	70.5	535
Parkinson's Disease	52.7	400
Falls	48.6	369

Deaths in this report are the underlying cause of death, except for COVID-19 (multiple cause of death) and all opioid overdose, which refer to the multiple or contributing cause of death.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. SANDAG 2023 Population Estimates (v1/2025).

The **Leading Health Conditions Impacting Older Adults** briefs identify the leading health conditions impacting older adults in San Diego County. Cases and rates are presented by age group or geographical area within the following three reports.

- **Leading Health Conditions Among Older Adults in San Diego County, 2023**
 - Cases and rates are presented for older adults aged 60 years and over and by age group for those 60-69, 70-79, and 80 years and older in 2023.
- **Leading Health Conditions Among Older Adults in San Diego County by HHSA Region, 2023**
 - Cases and rates are presented for older adults aged 60 years and over in Central Region, East Region, North Central Region, North Coastal Region, North Inland Region, and South Region in 2023.
- **Leading Health Conditions Among Older Adults in San Diego County by Supervisorial District, 2023**
 - Cases and rates are presented for older adults aged 60 years and over in each of the five Supervisorial Districts in 2023.

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_health_statistics/SeniorData.html#rptgds

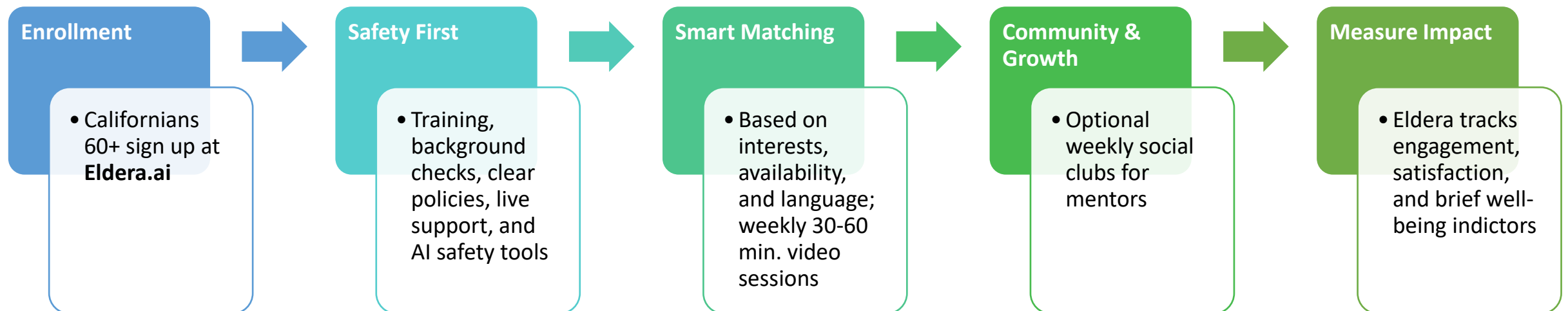
CA Age into Assets Recruitment

September 25, 2025 – Press Release: Statewide Recruitment

California Commission on Aging and Eldera Join Forces to Turn Age into an Asset and Adults 60+ into Mentors for Younger Generations

Call to Action

- **Adults 60+:** Give one hour a week. Change two lives. Sign up at **Eldera.ai**
- **Parents/Guardians:** Enroll your child (ages 6–17) for a weekly virtual mentor. Sign up at **Eldera.ai**
- **Organizations:** Sponsor mentor–mentee pairings in your community and share the positive impact. Reach out to community@eldera.ai





Public Health Director Update

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





LIVE WELL
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LIVE WELL ADVANCE CONFERENCE & SCHOOL SUMMIT

Reflecting on Years of Collective Impact

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, October 22, 2025
San Diego Convention Center
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Connect with thousands of partners and colleagues committed to the collective impact movement - *creating healthy, safe, and thriving communities together!* We invite you to join us as a speaker, exhibitor, sponsor, or attendee.

Notable Sessions for...



11:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Perspectives on Trust in Public Health: Panel and Dialogue

- *Explore actionable approaches that strengthen credibility, center community voices, and create new practices for public health that resonate across sectors and populations.*
- Trust is the foundation of effective public health—and it has never been more strained.
- Rebuilding and sustaining trust requires more than better messaging: it requires genuine dialogue, new practices, and deeper relationships across differences.

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM | Integrate Dental Health Services in Schools to Improve Student Health

- *Learn how La Mesa Spring Valley School District and the County of San Diego partnered to improve oral health of students.*
- Tooth decay is the number one chronic disease in children, and in most cases, it is preventable.
- In San Diego County, 1 in 3 kindergarteners in high need areas have untreated tooth decay. Untreated dental decay can cause pain and infection, leading to emergency room visits and hospitalization

Notable Sessions for...



2:15 PM – 3:00 PM | Understanding Work Requirements and Medi-Cal Retention

- *This session will focus on the upcoming changes to Medi-Cal that will make it more difficult for community members to enroll in the program including the new work requirements and the six-month redetermination requirement.*
- Presenters will identify a collective impact approach for community partners to collaborate on mitigating the impacts of these changes. Through this collective impact approach across multi-sector partners, San Diegans will be able to keep their benefits.

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM | Advancing Health Equity Research and Data Excellence

- *Explore the achievements and lessons learned from the research collaboration, between San Diego State University and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, as part of the Live Well Center for Innovation & Leadership partnership.*
- By breaking down institutional silos and building trust around data sharing, the partnership is helping shape research that directly influences public health policies—ensuring community needs are not only studied but truly addressed through action.



Public Health Services

BOARD LETTER FORECAST	
Board Meeting Date	Subject
October 21, 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 5, 2025 	EISB participated in the 5th Annual Latine Pride Community Event , at the Soap Factory. Educational flyers on RSV, flu, Hepatitis A, and HPV were distributed. Attendees were also provided information on local vaccine resources, with a focus on flu shot accessibility. Free promotional items, including sunglasses, frisbees, water bottles, tote bags, and string bags, were shared to help attract and engage the community.



Media/Community Events



Targeted Date and Time	Description & Location of Event
<p>October 8, 2025</p>	<p>The Regional Connect Networking event with Health & Wellness Fair, at Palomar Health, will be hosted by the North San Diego Business Chamber and focused on supporting the holistic wellbeing of the community. Attendees will be able to connect with local health experts offering resources and services across physical, mental, and emotional wellness.</p>
<p>October 13, 2025 (CSUSM) October 16, 2025 (SDSU)</p>	<p>CSUSM Interprofessional Education Event and Career Fair and SDSU Fall Career and Internship Fair will promote student internships, public health, and HHSA as an attractive career choice. The Office of Workforce Development team will be tabling and performing community outreach and recruitment opportunities.</p>
<p>October 15, 2025</p>	<p>The Border Health Consortium of the Californias will convene its 6th Binational Symposium, at UABC Tijuana Campus, to bring together public health leaders, practitioners, and researchers—from both sides of the border—to discuss shared public health priorities and strengthen cross-border collaboration. This year's symposium highlights a multi-level dialogue across federal, state, and local sectors, addressing evolving binational health priorities and spotlighting successful models of collaboration.</p>

Highlight

Champion Provider Fellow, Dr. Wai-Yin Chan, receives recognition from the American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 3 for improving pediatric oral health.

- On **September 13, 2025**, Dr. Wai-Yin Chan, Champion Provider, received the Mark Cheven, MD, AAP-CA3 Ally Award 2024 from the American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3) for leadership and collaboration on medical-dental integration to improve pediatric oral health.
- Since 2022, Dr. Chan has led the Medical-Dental Integration Workgroup, a San Diego County Oral Health Coalition.
 - In this role, Dr. Chan was instrumental in creating continuing education courses that brought pediatric medical and dental providers together.

For additional information regarding the Champion Provider Fellowship, visit their website at <https://championprovider.ucsf.edu/>



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.