



# Health Services Advisory Board Meeting

## Public Health Services Report

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November 19, 2025





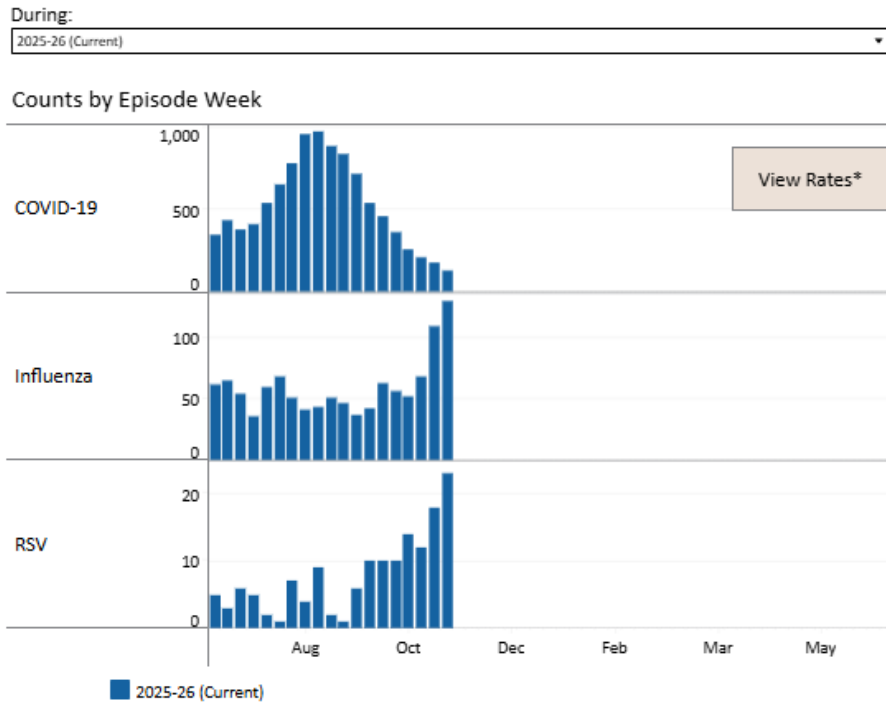
# Public Health Officer Update

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



# Respiratory Virus Surveillance

Respiratory Virus **Cases** by Season



\*Death rates are age-adjusted using United States 2000 standard population estimates.

Hospitalization data for COVID-19 and influenza are not available between 4/30/2024 and 11/2/2024. Historical hospitalization data are not available for RSV.

Data are displayed by CDC epidemiologic week, a means of standardizing data for comparison across years. In years with only 52 weeks, the data for week 52 are repeated in place of week 53.

Upd | subject to change.  
[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/respiratoryviruses/surveillance.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/respiratoryviruses/surveillance.html)

## Highlights

### San Diego County Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report

Prepared by Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch

[www.sdepi.org](http://www.sdepi.org)

November 13, 2025

#### COVID-19

Hospitalizations

1,811

Deaths

55

Outbreaks\*

91

6/29/2025 – 11/8/2025

\*In residential congregate settings

#### Influenza

Hospitalizations

127

Deaths

3

Outbreaks\*

2

6/29/2025 – 11/8/2025

#### RSV

Hospitalizations

23

Deaths

0

Outbreaks\*

0

6/29/2025 – 11/8/2025

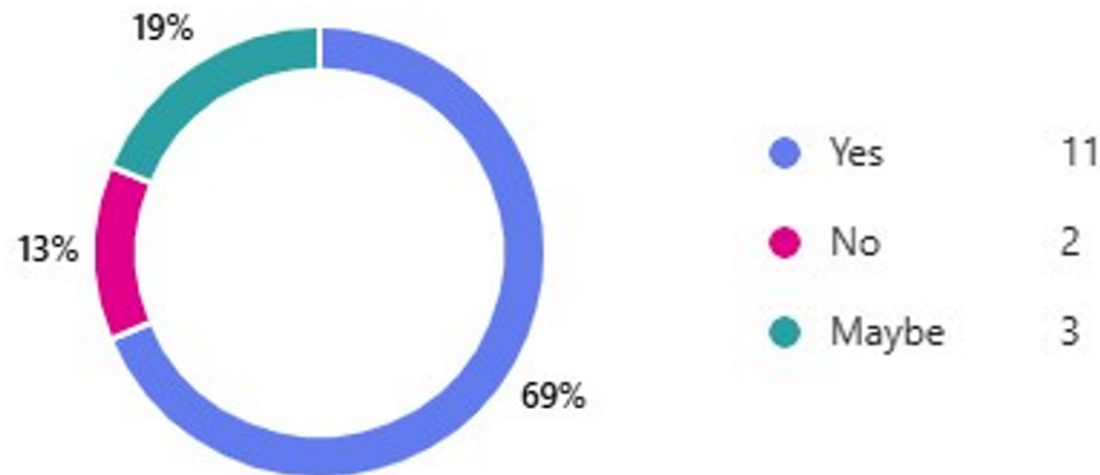


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# Respiratory Virus Season

## Vaccination LOSOP Approved!

- Paramedic and EMT vaccine administration
  - COVID-19, influenza, and “other diseases of public health concern”
  - Adults and children
- Implementation and reporting requirements under development
- San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association Survey Results (16 responses)
  - *Would your agency be interested in participating in a prehospital vaccination program?*



# Influenza Prevention: A Guide for Healthcare Personnel

Healthcare personnel (HCP) play a key role in preventing the spread of influenza in healthcare settings. Vaccination protects both HCP and high-risk patients, and is linked to better outcomes, lower transmission, and fewer absences.

Since 2014, the County of San Diego requires HCP wear a mask in healthcare settings during annual influenza seasons, unless they have received a current influenza vaccine.



## What is considered a healthcare setting?

Healthcare settings include:

- Acute care hospitals,
- Long-term care facilities,
- Physicians' offices,
- Urgent care centers,
- Outpatient clinics,
- Pharmacies, and
- Home healthcare agencies.

## Who are considered healthcare personnel (HCP)?

HCP include paid and unpaid employees, contractors, students, and volunteers who work in healthcare settings where patient care is provided or have direct contact with patients.

This includes clinical staff (e.g., physicians, nurses, technicians, EMS, dental, pharmacy, lab, and autopsy personnel) and non-clinical staff (e.g., such as those in clerical, food service, housekeeping, laundry, security, maintenance, administration, and billing).

## Why are HCP being asked to mask or get a flu shot?

HCP and patients can infect each other with influenza in healthcare settings. By getting vaccinated against the flu, HCP help protect patients, including those who are at an increased risk for complications from influenza. Flu vaccination will also protect co-workers, patients' visitors, and family members.

## As a manager in a healthcare setting, what can I do to protect my staff and patients against the flu?

- Ensure all HCP have access to and receive the annual flu vaccine.
- Encourage sick employees to stay home.
- Promote proper hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Provide appropriate personal protect equipment (e.g., gloves, masks, respirators).
- Minimize movement of infectious patients and staff exposure.

## When should I get the flu vaccine?

Get a flu vaccine each year during flu season as soon as it is available, usually by the end of October.

It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against the flu.

## Who should not get the flu shot?

Most people can safely receive the flu vaccine, but there are exceptions, including people with severe, life-threatening allergies to any ingredient in a flu vaccine (other than egg proteins). This might include gelatin, antibiotics, or other ingredients.

People who have had a severe allergic reaction to a dose of influenza vaccine should talk to their doctor to help determine whether vaccination is appropriate.

## What if I don't get the flu shot?

Unless they have received a current flu shot, HCP are to wear a mask for the duration of influenza season while in contact with patients or working in patient care areas.



For more information, visit  
[www.sandiegocounty.gov/respiratoryviruses](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/respiratoryviruses).



- Published on October 30, 2025, new version of the [Health Officer Flu Order](#) is now available.
- This order supersedes prior orders.
- This Order clarifies the start date for the masking requirement for unvaccinated healthcare professionals is **November 1**.
- The document also includes new helpful framing language above the Order.
- [HCP Flu Mandates](#)
- [Influenza Prevention: A Guide for Healthcare Personnel](#)



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## October 21 Health Advisory: Community Spread of Clade I Mpox in Southern California

### Key Messages

- Three unrelated cases of clade I mpox have been reported in residents of Southern California without recent travel to regions where clade I mpox virus is known to circulate, indicating community transmission.
- While no clade I mpox has been reported in San Diego County, overall mpox cases have increased over the last two months in the region.
- Clade I mpox virus (MPXV) can cause severe disease, and the risk of severe disease and complications is highest for people with weakened immune systems. It may be transmitted through close contact (e.g., massage or cuddling), shared personal items, or sexual contact.







## November 7 Health Advisory: Hepatitis A Cluster and Increased Mpox Cases in San Diego County

### Key Messages

- In October 2025, three new cases of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection were reported to the County of San Diego Health (CoSD). These cases were unrelated to travel and were not epidemiologically linked; however, all three identified as gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM).
- HAV is primarily transmitted through contaminated food and water. It can also be transmitted through person-to-person contact, including certain types of sexual contact. Vaccination against HAV is safe, highly effective, and is routinely recommended for MSM and adults with risk factors.
- Person-to-person spread of mpox continues in San Diego County, and mpox cases have increased recently with a total of 14 cases reported since August 1, 2025. To date, no cases of clade I mpox have been reported in CoSD.
- Other vaccines recommended for MSM include mpox, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and meningitis.





## November 12 Health Alert: Outbreak of Infant Botulism Linked to ByHeart Infant Formula

### Key Messages

- As of November 10, 2025, 15 infants with suspected or confirmed infant botulism linked to ByHeart Infant Formula have been identified in multiple states including California, none of these were in San Diego County.
- Infant botulism is most common in infants younger than 6 months old. Signs and symptoms can include constipation and neurologic symptoms including poor feeding, hypotonia (floppy baby syndrome), and a weak or altered cry. The incubation period is typically 10 to 30 days but has been reported as short as 3 days.
- Botulism can be fatal. Infant botulism antitoxin immunoglobulin (BabyBIG®) should be administered to suspected cases but is only available through California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program (IBTPP).







## November 18 Health Advisory: Update #1 Silicosis Becomes a Reportable Disease in California

### Key Messages

- Individuals with a history of working in shops that cut and finish countertops, are at risk for silicosis, a severe, incurable lung disease.
- Providers should ask patients about their work and conduct testing for silicosis in countertop workers, including those without symptoms.
- As of June 2025, silicosis is a reportable disease in California.

As of Nov 13, 2025, CDPH has identified 432 silicosis cases from 2019 to 2025. These include 25 deaths and 48 lung transplants. Median age of diagnosis of 46 and median age of death of 48. Thirty-four of the cases were San Diego County residents, 31 of which were reported directly to CDPH.



# CA Announces Coalition of Governors Forming New Alliance to Protect Public Health

- On **October 15, 2025**, Governor Newsom announced California and 14 other Governors are forming a non-partisan coalition to coordinate on public health guidance.
- The Governors Public Health Alliance is supported by [GovAct](#), a nonprofit, nonpartisan initiative that supports governors in protecting fundamental freedoms, including public health. GovAct serves as a centralized platform for collaboration through incubating, launching, and supporting alliances across governors' offices.

**Participating governors include:** *Bob Ferguson (WA), Josh Green (HI), Maura Healey (MA), Kathy Hochul (NY), Tina Kotek (OR), Ned Lamont (CT), Lou Leon Guerrero (GU), Dan McKee (RI), Matt Meyer (DE), Wes Moore (MD), Phil Murphy (NJ), Jared Polis (CO), JB Pritzker (IL), and Josh Stein (NC).*



# CA Launches New Statewide Service Effort to Support the Well-being of Young Men

- On **September 16, 2025**, CA launched the [California Men's Service Challenge](#), a bold new effort to inspire service, leadership, and community engagement.
- In partnership with [California Volunteers](#), the Challenge calls on 10,000 men to step up as mentors, coaches, and tutors — while inviting organizations across the state to join this movement building belonging and purpose.
- Prompted by the rising suicide rates, disconnection, and declining career options among young men and boys, these efforts aim to address this generation's mental health crisis, while creating pathways for purpose, leadership and belonging.

[Join the Challenge! >](#)

## CALIFORNIA MEN'S SERVICE CHALLENGE

California is calling on 10,000 young men to mentor, coach, serve and lead their communities.



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# CDPH Seeks Public Comment on BHSA Population-Based Prevention Program Guide - Phase 2

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is pleased to announce the release of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Population-Based Prevention Program Guide - Phase 2 ([Phase 2 Guide](#)). CDPH is inviting interested parties and Tribes to provide written public comment on the second phase of BHSA population-based prevention program guidance **by Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025**.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** CDPH encourages interested parties and Tribes to review the Phase 2 Guide in depth on our website and provide public comment by Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025. Submit written public comment through a Microsoft Forms by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025.

A link to the Microsoft Forms survey can be found here: [Microsoft Forms Survey](#)



# District Attorney Opens New One Safe Place in South County, Supporting Victims of Crime

- On **October 17, 2025**, San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) announced that a second [One Safe Place](#) (OSP) location opened today in National City with a ceremonial ribbon cutting attended by more than 100 community leaders, victim advocates, health professionals and law enforcement partners who all play a role in supporting victims of crime.
- [One Safe Place: the South Bay Family Justice Center](#) joins the first OSP location which opened in San Marcos in 2022 and has served nearly 9,000 individuals, primarily victims of domestic violence.
- Individuals living in, or near south San Diego County will no longer need to travel to several different locations across the region to receive forensic sexual assault examinations, child forensic interviews, volunteer attorney support for restraining orders, crisis intervention and safety planning for domestic violence, human trafficking and elder abuse, and other essential victim services.



## Share Your Input: Help Shape the County's Emergency Operations Plan



By [Yvette Urrea Moe](#), County of San Diego Communications Office  
Oct. 27, 2025 | 10:51 AM

- Attention residents, businesses, and community organizations, your feedback is needed to help shape how the region responds to disasters, especially if you want the County to consider specific community needs.
- An [online survey](#) is available for community members and organizations to share their perspectives and experiences.
- **The survey will be open until Nov. 21.**

[Share Your Input: Help Shape the County's Emergency Operations Plan | News | San Diego County News Center](#)



# San Diego County Well-Child Visits Education & Training



- **November 14, 2025:** First free training for anyone who works with parents/guardians of children 0-30 months.
- **Purpose:** Introduction to the Well-Child Visit Immunization Handbook and to learn best practices to promote children's health and development.
- More trainings **TBD**.

[SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV/HHSA](https://sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa)

The Healthy San Diego Health Education and Cultural and Linguistics Workgroup Presents



**San Diego County Well-Child Visits CHW Education & Training**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>WHEN</b><br>November 14, 2025<br>10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. PST | <b>WHERE</b><br>Online webinar via Teams - details delivered upon Eventbrite registration |
|--|---|

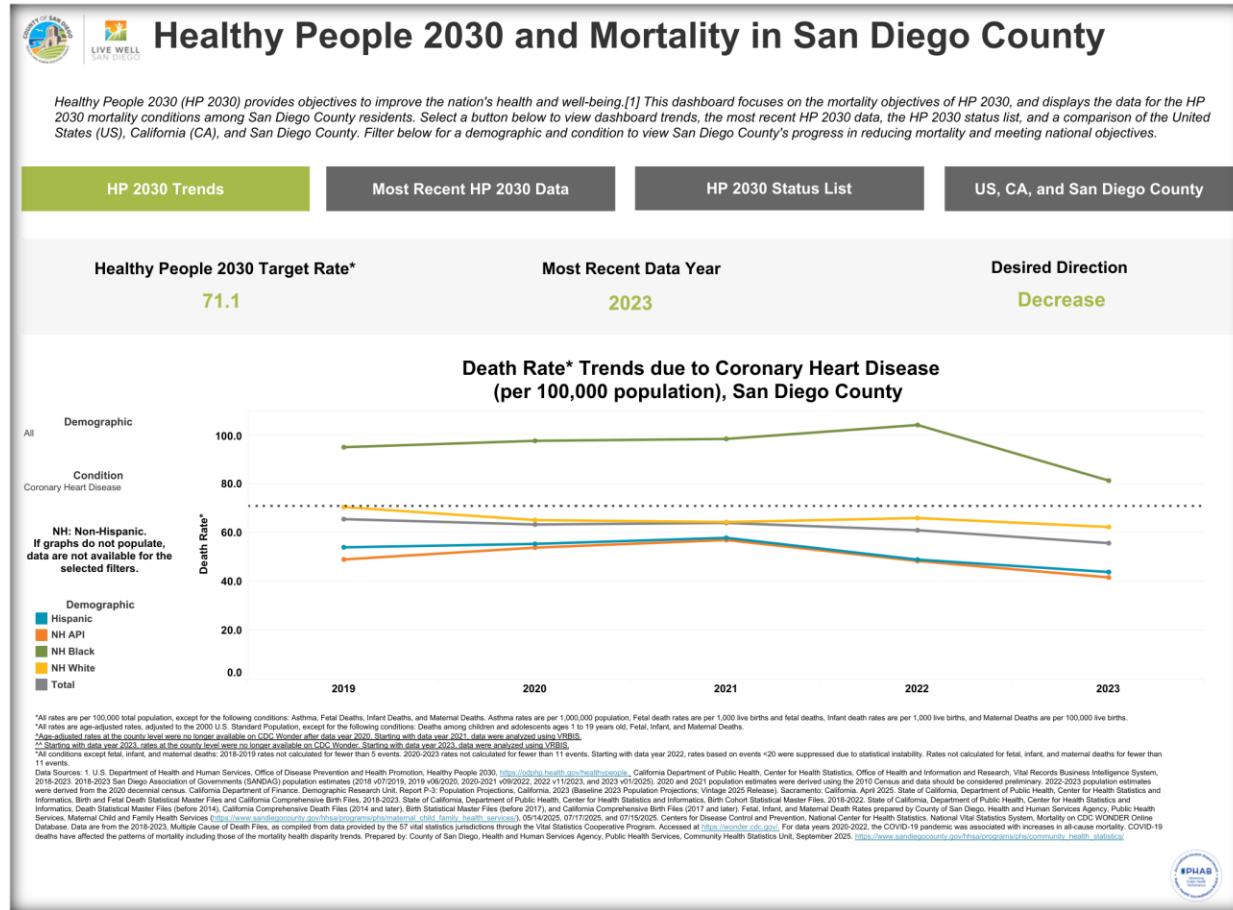
**Training Objectives:**

- Present and provide an overview of the Well-Child Visits and Immunization Handbook
- Review the importance of well-child visits and immunizations
- Restoring faith in science - clarifying misconceptions
- Review best practices for promoting well-child visits and immunizations

**There is no fee for this event! Register [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1825502971529?aff=oddtcreator).**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1825502971529?aff=oddtcreator>



# Healthy People 2030 and Mortality in San Diego County



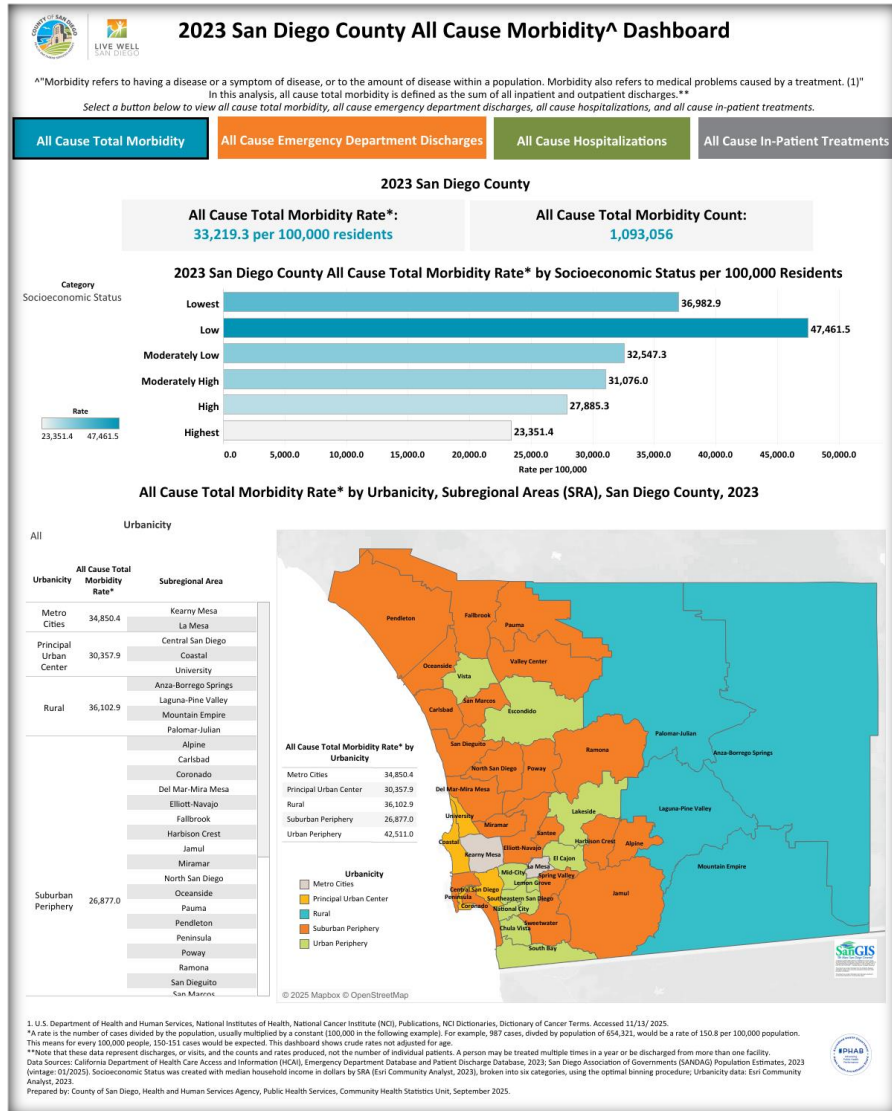
- Healthy People 2030 (HP 2030) provides objectives to improve the nation's health and wellbeing.
- This dashboard focuses on the mortality objectives of HP 2030 among San Diego County residents, and displays mortality trends, the most recent HP 2030 data, a HP 2030 status list, and a comparison to the United States and California.
- Filter for a demographic, condition, or HP 2030 status to view San Diego County's progress in reducing mortality and meeting national objectives.

[Healthy People 2030 and Mortality in San Diego](#)



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# All Cause Morbidity Dashboard

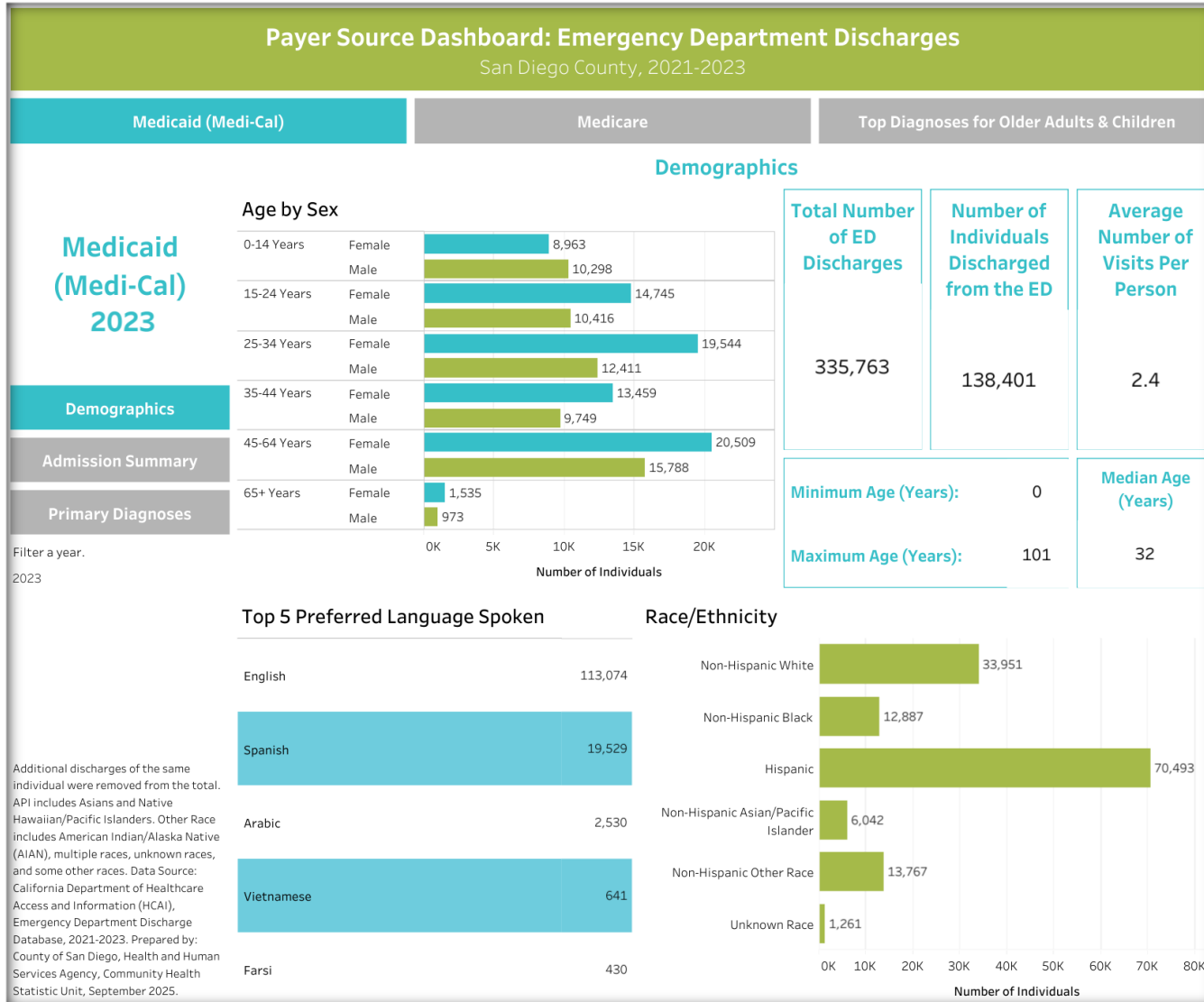


- **Morbidity** refers to having a disease or a symptom of disease, or to the amount of disease within a population. Morbidity also refers to medical problems caused by a treatment.
- In this analysis, all cause total morbidity is defined as the sum of all inpatient and outpatient discharges.
- **This dashboard visualizes the all cause total morbidity, emergency department, hospitalization, and in-patient treatment discharge rates in San Diego County.**
- Filter for these data by age, race/ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, and urbanicity.

## All Cause Morbidity Dashboard



# Payer Source Dashboards



- The Payer Source Dashboards display hospitalization and emergency department data by expected payer sources, including Medicaid/Medi-Cal and Medicare.
- Hospitalization and emergency department data includes demographics, admission summaries, and primary diagnoses by race/ethnicity, age group, and sex.
- These data are specific to residents in San Diego County who were admitted into the emergency department or hospital with health insurance covered by Medicaid/Medi-Cal and/or Medicare.

## Payer Source Dashboards



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# A “Food Is Medicine” Approach to Disease Prevention

- A [JAMA Internal Medicine](#) study found that a food prescription program led to lower blood pressure in patients, which, over the long term, can reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Highlights:
  - In this randomized comparative effectiveness trial including 458 participants, a food subsidy produced better blood pressure control than a delivered food box.
  - Offering lifestyle counseling and a longer benefit duration did not produce better blood pressure outcomes.
  - Did not find that providing 12 months of food insecurity intervention led to lower blood pressure than providing 6 months.
  - Of note, all study arms saw an average decrease in blood pressure and food insecurity.
- Dr. Seth Berkowitz is an author of this study, a primary care doctor, and the deputy scientific director of the American Heart Association's [Health Care by Food](#) initiative, inspired by Food is Medicine initiative.
- Food is Medicine was a key initiative in the [2022 National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#), and two states have launched coalitions to sustainably fund these programs.



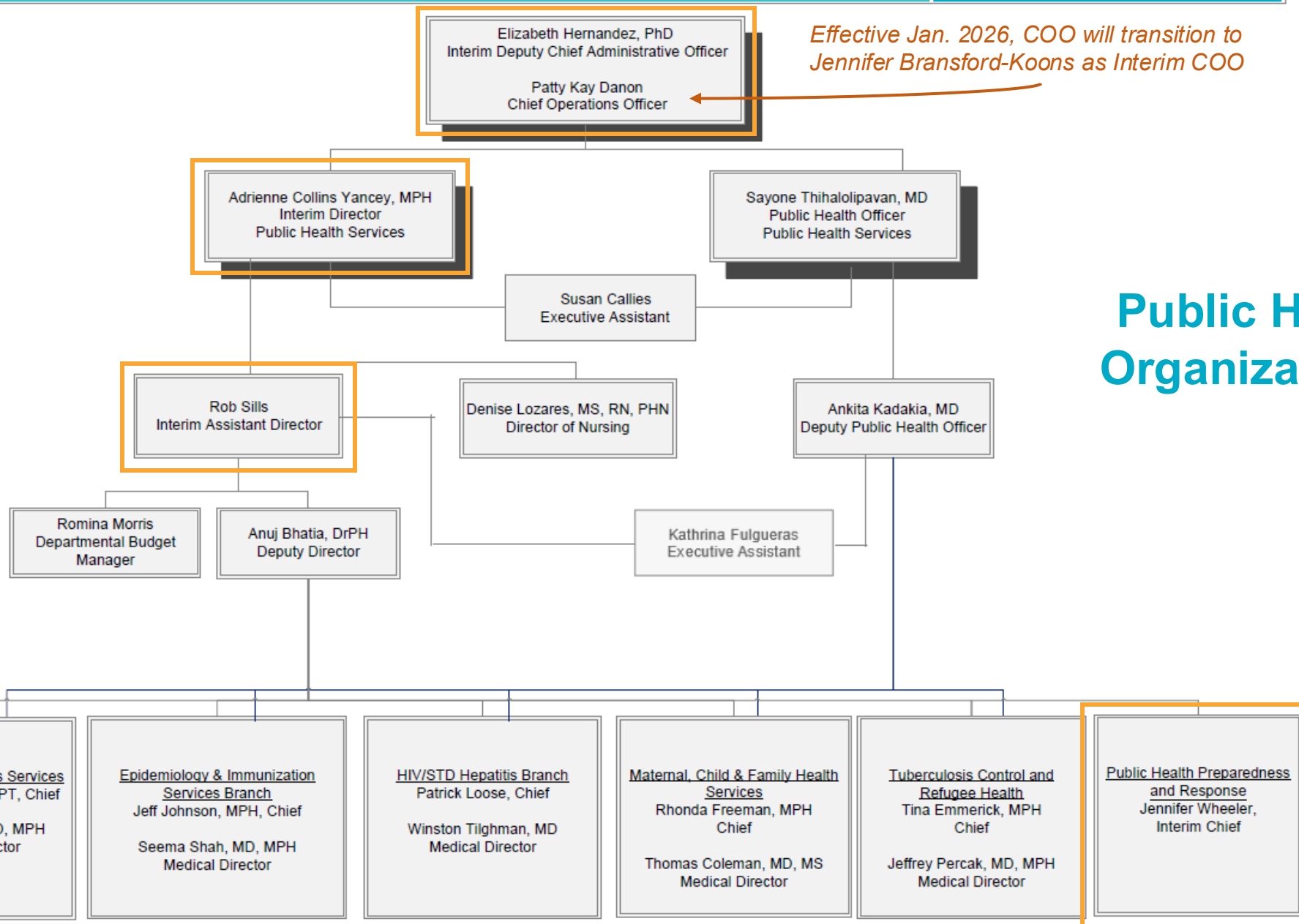
# Public Health Director Update

Adrienne Yancey, M.P.H.  
Interim Public Health Director  
Public Health Services





*Effective Jan. 2026, COO will transition to Jennifer Bransford-Koons as Interim COO*



## Public Health Services Organizational Changes



# ABOUT LIVE WOW

The Live Well on Wheels (WoW) buses provide San Diego County residents access to a variety of FREE health and community services - on the go! Apply for CalFresh, CalWORKS or Medi-Cal, get a health screening and learn about resources, host a vaccine event...right in your neighborhood.

- Private Consultation Room
- Wi-Fi
- Electrical Outlets
- ADA Compliant Bathroom
- Smart TV
- & more!

**Request the Live WoW bus for your office or community event today!**

For dimensions, equipment, and additional services offered, scan the QR code or visit [LiveWellSD.org/livewow](https://LiveWellSD.org/livewow)



# Public Health Services

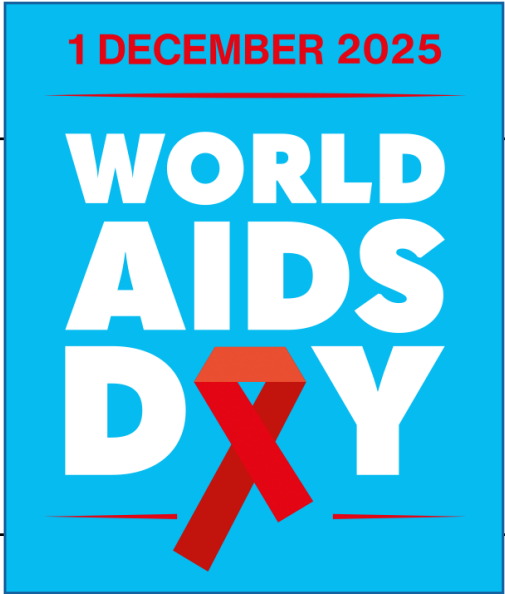
| BOARD LETTER FORECAST |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Board Meeting Date    | Subject   |
| December 9, 2025      | Authorize acceptance of funding to address Sexually Transmitted Infections and apply for future funding opportunities |



# Media/Community Events



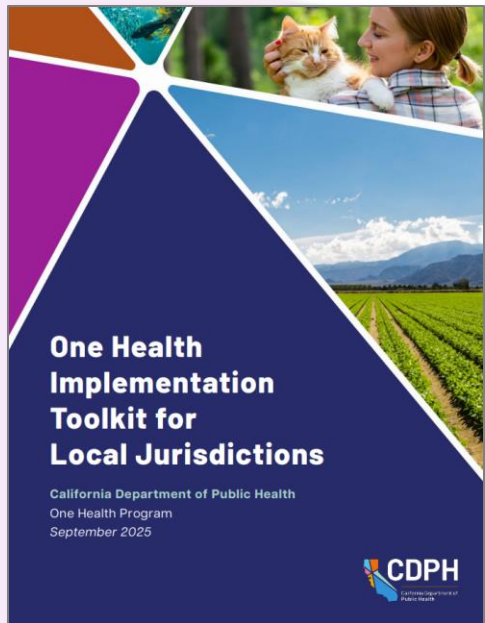
| Targeted Date and Time  | Description & Location of Event  |
|---|--|
| November 2023 and ongoing   | <b>Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) radio ads run on local radio stations</b> , Z90 and Magic 92.5. Digital banners pop up on high-traffic websites. Both the radio and digital ads are played for the target audience and will redirect listeners and viewers to the Black Legacy Now website.   |
| June 2024 and ongoing   | <b>PEI creatives</b> (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.   |
| <b>December 1, 2025</b><br><b>3:00 PM – 5:00 PM</b><br><br>The San Diego LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre St, San Diego | <b>World AIDS Day Annual Dr. A. Brad Truax Ceremony.</b> Created to honor the memory of Dr. Truax and his contributions to the HIV/AIDS effort in San Diego. The award is given annually, on World AIDS Day, to recognize the outstanding overall contributions made by a person involved in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the community. |





# Highlight: One Health Implementation Toolkit

**September 2025:** **Julie Breher, PHL Veterinarian, and Emily Trumbell, Epi Unit Veterinarian,** received acknowledgements as collaborators for the newly published [One Health Implementation Toolkit for Local Jurisdictions](#), by CDPH. This toolkit serves as a resource with actionable guidance for implementing the One Health approach at the local level.



Julie E. Breher, DVM, MPVM, Veterinarian



Julie E. Breher, DVM, Veterinarian

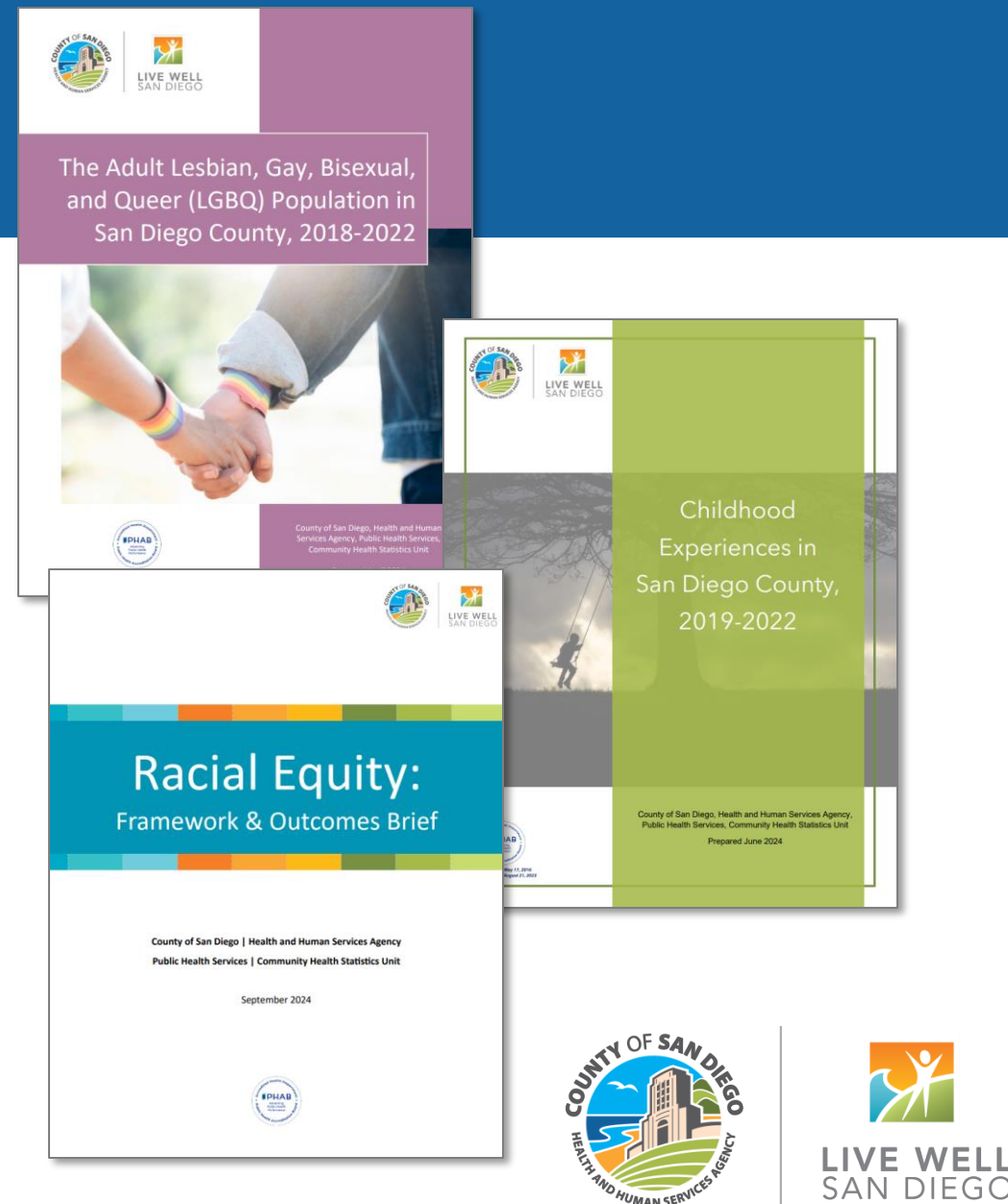


# Highlight: Making an Impact

**October 2025:** **Several CHSU products** were highlighted in the latest California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) [Making an Impact 2024](#) report.

- CHIS is the nation's largest state health survey and a key source of population data. Each year, the Center compiles a report that details how data is used by policymakers, researchers, community groups, media, and advocates. Products listed:

- [Adult Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Queer \(LGBQ\) Population in San Diego, 2018-2022](#)
- [Childhood Experiences in San Diego County 2019-2022](#)
- [Racial Equity: Framework and Outcomes Brief](#)





# Highlight: APHA Expo 2025

APHA 2025  
ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO

## November 2-5: Congratulations on a successful APHA Annual Meeting and Expo 2025!

Thank you for your attendance or presentations as representatives of the County and PHS:

- **Adrienne Yancey**, Interim Public Health Director
- **Denise Lozares**, Director of Nursing
- **Christopher O'Malley**, CHSU
- **Rachelle De Ocampo**, CHSU
- **Darian Grisso**, CHSU
- **Caitlin Clarke**, Student Worker, CHSU
- **Angel Kristen**, EISB
- **Meghan Murphy**, MCFHS
- *...and all other attendees from the County!* 🙌 🙌



# Highlight: California Association of Area Agencies on Aging

**THANK YOU, DEIRDRE, NAOMI, AND DELILAH (MCFHS),  
FOR YOUR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS IN PUTTING  
TOGETHER SUCH A FANTASTIC PRESENTATION!**

Recently, PHS staff partnered with AIS to develop the policy presentation and plan for the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Annual Conference.

The 2025 C4A Annual Conference focused on the role of strategic partnerships and collaboration in strengthening services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers.



# 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.*