

County of Santa Clara Health System

Quarterly Report April to June 2022

Public Health

The Public Health Department has been working with partners to reduce the infant mortality rate. Good news! The **rate declined in Santa Clara County from 3.2 per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 3.0 per 1,000 live births in 2021/22.**



The Department of Environmental Health was reorganized under the Public Health Department. They are **on track to inspect 13,500 food facilities in our community this year**, which is an increase over previous years.



Behavioral Health

Many custody clients receive mental health & substance use treatments. After being released, custody clients who continue treatments for more than 30 days have better outcomes. In 2017/18 over 1,400 clients did that, and the **goal for fiscal year 2022/23 is to have 1,700 of custody clients stay in treatment.**

The Behavioral Health Board hosted the annual Behavioral Health Community Heroes Awards. They **recognized 17 individuals & organizations** who provide service to county residents suffering the effects of behavioral health challenges.



Universal Coverage Update

Medi-Cal expansion began May 1, 2022, giving all adults in California over the age of 50 the chance to qualify. Regardless of immigration status. About **12,220 people** in Santa Clara County are eligible. **Santa Clara Valley Medical Center** staff, working with the County's Social Services Agency and community partners, **helped over 4,800 residents** sign up by the end of June 2022. **Valley Health Plan** also increased enrollment in their uninsured program. By June, **10,000 people were enrolled.**



Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Items Approved

Despite facing many hardships and challenges over the past two years, we begin a new fiscal year by building on our strengths and capacities to do even better. The most recently adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 reflects continued confidence and trust in our abilities to serve and do better. Here are a few examples:



★ **New health clinic in Morgan Hill** with primary care, ob/gyn services, behavioral health, specialty care and urgent care.



★ **Permanent disaster service worker team** to support vaccination efforts and protect the health of our community.

★ **Assisted Outpatient Treatment** services to interrupt the cycle of repetitive psychiatric crises and resulting hospitalizations, incarcerations, and homelessness for people with the most serious mental health problems.

★ **Additional full-time positions** for Valley Connections, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospitals and Clinics primary call center to enhance Telehealth services.

★ **Urgent Care Clinic** at VHC Gilroy to address community health needs.



Pandemic Response Continues

As we faced many challenges throughout the pandemic, we also had amazing achievements. The Health System continued to respond and cared for the unhoused, supplied needed medications at no or low costs, expanded Crisis Response Teams, and provided most of the COVID-19 tests and vaccines to our community. Of the largest counties in the US, **Santa Clara County still has the highest rate of fully vaccinated residents.**

According to data tracked by EPIC Systems, over 53 million COVID-19 vaccines were given by hospitals in their system. Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospitals and Clinics were in the top 5 of all Epic systems.

Recognized by the American Heart Association

O'Connor Hospital, St. Louise Regional Hospital and Santa Clara Valley Medical Center received **American Heart Association quality achievement awards** in April. The Association's "Get With The Guidelines" stroke awards recognize proven dedication to making sure all stroke patients have access to the best practices and life-saving care.

Our public hospitals are committed to providing stroke patients the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized and research-based guidelines. The high-quality care they provide ultimately leads to more lives saved and reduced disability.

For Men's Health!

In June we recognized Men's Health Month which encourages men to take charge of their overall health. We know that low-income men have less access to healthcare and poorer health. In the past, these men had relatively low public insurance coverage compared to other low-income populations, such as children and pregnant women who qualify for Medicaid/Medi-Cal.

With Medi-Cal expansion, we can now provide access to healthcare services to more people in our community. California was the first in the US to expand to all eligible adults 50 years of age and older, regardless of immigration status.

This expansion is absolutely needed. Men who are low-income and without coverage are not going to the doctor regularly. Less than half (45 percent) of low-income men nationwide reported a routine health checkup in the past year. By signing up anyone who is eligible, we are actively breaking down a significant barrier to access to care.



You can find the regular checkups men need [here](#).

Health Tip: Prevent Heart Failure

If you have had previous heart issues, are older or have not had a check up for a long time - visit your family doctor today. A healthy lifestyle can moderate most heart issues in your later years. That means:

An Active Lifestyle

150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise a week is a great start. Running, swimming, walking, or engaging in low-impact exercises all help promote a healthy lifestyle.

High Nutrition Intake

A balanced diet that provides you with a variety of nutrients is essential. Keep an eye out for [Heart-Check Certified Foods](#) to help guide you with your grocery choices.

Weight Management

Eating smart and staying active are key to managing one's weight.



New budget gives reasons for hope

This fiscal year's budget shows the County's commitment to build on our strong foundation and to expand access and services. This makes it possible for us to improve lives and create a healthy, thriving community.

The Health System continues to realize its vision of better health and wellness for the residents of Santa Clara County.



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