



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Public Health Department Releases SLO County's First Community Health Improvement Plan  
*95+ community partners work together to identify priorities and take action***

San Luis Obispo, CA—The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department, in collaboration with more than 95 partners in the non-profit, health care and government sectors, is pleased to announce a first for San Luis Obispo County: the release of the county's comprehensive community health improvement plan. Together, the partners make up a collaborative known as SLO Health Counts.

This five-year plan represents a strategic and collaborative approach to achieving a shared goal: ensuring all San Luis Obispo County residents have the opportunity to be healthy. It provides a path to measurable improvement in eight priority areas, from infectious disease to social and emotional wellness.

"I am thrilled to see this plan in action and especially to see so many organizations from across our community come together to achieve this first for SLO County. I offer my sincere appreciation for the careful thought and hard work that it represents," said Dr. Penny Borenstein, Health Officer of the County of San Luis Obispo. "This is a true community effort and I hope new partners will continue to join us as we embark on this ambitious plan."

The community health improvement plan is informed by the [2018 County of San Luis Obispo Community Health Assessment](#), which paints a point-in-time picture of the county's health and highlights the important social, economic and health conditions that affect SLO County. After sharing this assessment, the Public Health Department brought together partners from across the community to develop a shared vision, identify eight priority areas, and form teams around those priorities. Team members used data, best practices and their own expertise to define goals, develop measurable objectives and outline strategies for the community health improvement plan. Now, these teams are working to put the plan in action.

"The true power of this plan is in the diverse partnerships behind each goal," said Dr. Borenstein. "Working together means we can focus fresh attention on challenging issues and pool expertise and resources to create the greatest collective impact."

To see the full plan and get involved, visit [www.slohealthcounts.org/CHIP](http://www.slohealthcounts.org/CHIP).

For an overview, see the attached executive summary and list of partners.

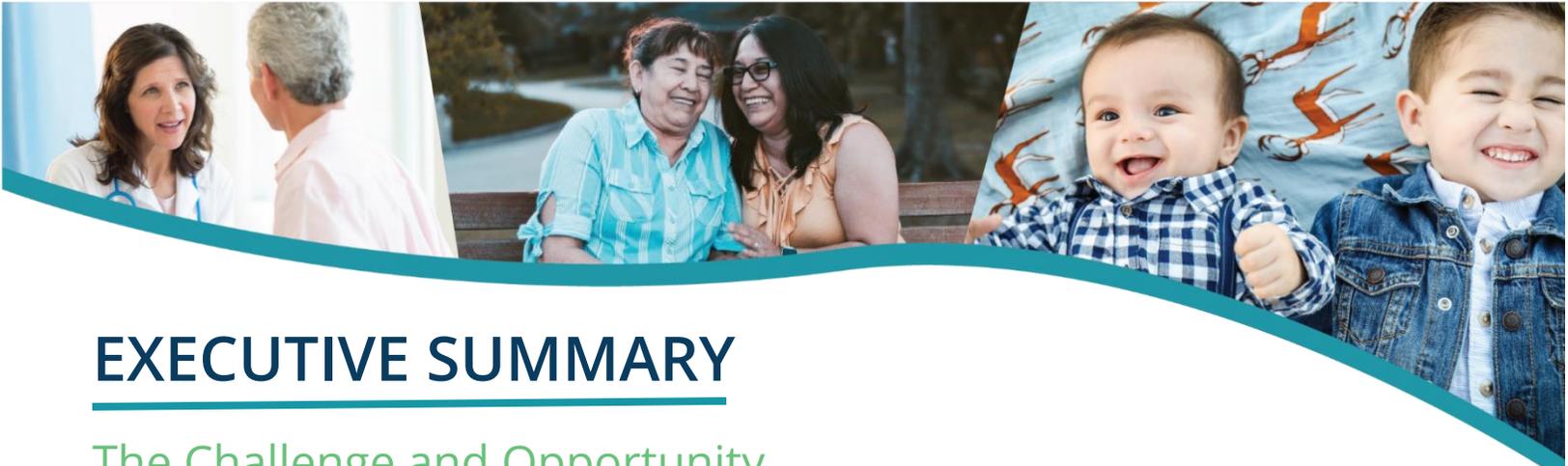
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[www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org)



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## The Challenge and Opportunity

Health improvement is a true community effort. San Luis Obispo County is home to a vast and diverse range of dedicated individuals and organizations working to create a healthy and vibrant future for our community. The work ahead is also vast. Resources are limited. It is through working together that we can most effectively leverage resources and create the greatest collective impact.

## Collective Impact through Planning and Collaboration

For these reasons and more, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department convened community partners to help develop a comprehensive and coordinated community health improvement plan. More than 95 community partners—including service providers, advocates and subject matter experts—came together to identify priorities and plans for action over the next five years. This plan represents the start of that collaborative effort.

## Measurable Improvement in Priority Areas

The plan is organized into eight priority areas. Each priority area includes a brief introduction to the topic, an overview of the partners involved in the planning process, and a work plan for each goal in the priority area. Work plans detail how the partners will achieve the goals and measure improvement over the next five years. In summary, the priorities, goals and objectives include:

### Access to Care

#### Improve coordination of health care among service providers.

- Increase number of entities participating in the county's Health Information Exchange
- Re-establish Care Coordination Group
- Establish a recognized lead entity to coordinate consumer navigation services
- Ensure ongoing comprehensive and accurate referral information through 211

#### Increase the proportion of low-income children in SLO County with routine and adequate dental care.

- Increase the percentage of children on Denti-Cal who visit a dentist
- Increase the number of dentists incorporating Re-Think Your Drink and Tobacco Cessation campaigns into their practice
- Provide workforce development in oral health in underserved areas

#### Recruit and retain providers to the Central Coast.

- Increase number of health care provider training program slots
- Create at least two incentive programs to retain providers

### Social Determinants of Health

#### Increase CalFresh enrollment to reduce hunger and improve health among SLO County residents.

- Increase enrollment of eligible individuals within SLO County

#### Improve access to affordable, attainable, safe and supportive housing.

- Support the development of very low income, low income, moderate and above moderate housing units throughout SLO County

Visit [www.SLOHealthCounts.org/CHIP](http://www.SLOHealthCounts.org/CHIP)  
to download the full plan or get involved.

**SLO**  
HEALTH  
COUNTS

## Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health

Improve social and emotional supports for new mothers.

- Increase Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder screening for new mothers

Implement a Help Me Grow™ (HMG) system in SLO County.

- Garner participation to perform universal developmental screening by county pediatricians
- Launch a centralized information and referral hub for HMG

## Infectious Disease

Reduce the rate of undiagnosed hepatitis C in SLO County Jail inmate population.

- Increase testing and referrals of hepatitis C in jail population

Reduce the rate of influenza in high-risk SLO County populations.

- Increase the number of flu vaccines given to jail population

Reduce the rate of syphilis in SLO County population.

- Decrease the rate of new syphilis cases

## Chronic Disease & Health Behaviors

Improve diets and increase physical activity in the environments where people eat, live, learn, work and play.

- Reduce rates of adult obesity
- Achieve national goal for reducing childhood obesity

Reduce rates of chronic disease among county residents.

- Reduce prevalence of type 2 diabetes among adults in SLO County

Reduce smoking initiation, tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

- Increase the number of smoke-free outdoor spaces in the county
- Decrease the percentage of youth in the county who use e-cigarettes



## Injuries

Reduce falls among seniors.

- Decrease fall-related injuries among seniors
- Increase the provision of fall prevention materials at hospitals for seniors treated after falls

Reduce vehicle-related injuries.

- Reduce number of bicycle-involved motor vehicle collision injuries
- Reduce number of pedestrian-involved motor vehicle collision injuries
- Reduce the number of all motor vehicle collision injuries

## Social & Emotional Wellness

Improve consistency of care across the continuum of social and emotional wellness services.

- Adopt a countywide Social and Emotional Wellness Standards of Care policy

Improve the social and emotional support network for teens in SLO County.

- Reduce percentage of teens who report chronic sad or hopeless feelings

## Environment

Increase awareness of Valley Fever within the agriculture community.

- Provide outreach information to County AWM permittees

Improve water quality at high priority beach / creek interfaces.

- Collaborate with organizations for regular collection and sharing of surface water quality data
- Seek grant funding to determine causes of exceedances so they can be corrected

## Reporting Progress

More detail about activities and measurement is available in each section of the plan. The Public Health Department will release a report on the progress toward these goals each year.

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Public Health Department acknowledges and thanks the many community partners whose representatives contributed their ideas, expertise and energy to develop this plan.

5 Cities Homeless Coalition  
ACTION for Healthy Communities  
Aegis Treatment Centers, LLC  
Air Pollution Control Board  
American Cancer Society  
Alliance for Pharmaceutical Access  
Alzheimer's Association  
Arroyo Grande Community Hospital  
Big Brothers Big Sisters SLO  
Bike SLO County  
California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly)  
CalFresh Nutrition Education  
CalFresh Alliance  
California State Parks  
Cambria Community Healthcare District  
Casa Solana Inc.  
CenCal Health  
Center for Family Strengthening  
Central Coast Dental Society  
City of Paso Robles  
City of San Luis Obispo  
Cayucos Elementary School District  
Coast Smiles on Wheels  
Commission on Aging  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Foundation of SLO County  
Conifer Health  
Community Health Centers  
County Office of Education  
County of San Luis Obispo Departments:  
    Behavioral Health  
    District Attorney  
    Libraries  
    Planning & Building  
    Public Defender  
    Public Health  
    Probation  
    Social Services  
County Health Commission  
Cuesta College  
Diringer and Associates  
Dignity Health Central Coast  
First 5 of SLO County  
Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo  
French Hospital Medical Center  
HEAL SLO  
Health Navigator Project  
HomeShareSLO  
Integrated Waste Management Authority  
Latino Outreach Council  
Leadership SLO  
The LINK Family Resource Center  
Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of San Luis Obispo County  
Meals that Connect  
Noor Foundation  
Oral Health Coalition  
Peoples' Self-Help Housing  
Planned Parenthood CA Central Coast  
Promotoras  
RISE  
San Luis Coastal Unified School District  
San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce  
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments  
San Luis Obispo County YMCA  
San Luis Sports Therapy  
Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center  
The Surfrider Foundation San Luis Obispo County Chapter  
United Way of San Luis Obispo County  
University of California Cooperative Extension of San Luis Obispo County  
Transitions Mental Health Association  
Twin Cities Community Hospital  
Plus unaffiliated community members, dentists, physicians and other health care professionals



SLO Health Counts is a collaborative focused on working together for a healthy San Luis Obispo County.

*Learn more at [www.SLOHealthCounts.org](http://www.SLOHealthCounts.org).*