



Public Health Health Equity

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CBO Collaborative Meeting Summary

September 01, 2026

Purpose

To enhance outreach and promotion efforts throughout the County by fostering collaboration with community-based partners and trusted messengers.

Public Health Officer Update

Speaker: Dr. Razon, Deputy Health Officer, EquityinAction@dph.sbcounty.gov

Fetal & Infant Mortality

- US infant mortality decreased by 20% from 2002 to 2022.
- Non-Hispanic Black infants die at more than twice the rate of non-Hispanic White infants.
- American Indian/Alaska Native infant mortality increased from 2002 to 2022.
- Rural areas consistently show higher infant mortality rates than urban areas, even in generally low-mortality states.
- Contributing factors to rural disparities include travel distance, clinician availability, and access to culturally congruent care.

San Bernardino County Data (from the [Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Dashboard](#))

- County data are shown in multiyear aggregates due to small numbers of cases.
- Infant deaths decreased between 2018 and 2021:
 - 11% decrease countywide.
 - 26% decrease in the High Desert region.
 - 20% decrease in the Low Desert region.
 - 8% decrease in the Valley region.
- From 2021 to 2023, mortality gaps among the High Desert, Low Desert, and Valley regions continue to close.
- Infant mortality improvements by race/ethnicity:
 - Black infant mortality decreased by 21%.
 - Hispanic infant mortality decreased by 19%.
 - White infant mortality decreased by 4%.
 - Asian infant mortality decreased by 7%.
- Despite improvements, disparities continue, with Black infant mortality rates still higher than county averages.

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- Dashboard allows users to view trends interactively across years, regions, and demographic groups.

Ways to Prevent Infant Mortality

- Safe sleep reduction
 - SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death) is the leading cause of post neonatal death, causing 3,500+ deaths annually.
- Community based & educational care packages
 - Community mobilization and antenatal/postnatal home visits reduce mortality.
- Doula Care
 - Fewer preterm births, lower low-birthweight rates, higher breastfeeding initiation, more vaginal delivery, and higher satisfaction.
 - Especially beneficial for groups with historical disparities

Standard Newborn Bundle

- Before baby goes home from hospital, routine protections are:
 - Guidance on safety, infection prevention, feeding, sleeping, etc.
 - Hepatitis B vaccine (birth dose)
 - Prevents mother-to-infant transmission of HBV and lifelong chronic liver disease.
 - Vitamin K (injection)
 - Newborns are born with very low vitamin K stores, which can lead to spontaneous bleeding. Newborns who did not receive the injection have a higher risk of bleeding.
 - Erythromycin eye injection
 - Single dose of eye ointment placed at birth to prevent a gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum, which is a serious eye infection that can cause blindness if untreated.

San Bernardino Countywide Vision: Community Vital Signs

Community Vital Signs, Nicolette Carlos, Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov

Vision Statement: We envision a county where a commitment to optimizing health and wellness is embedded in all decisions by residents, organizations, and government.

- Full San Bernardino Countywide Vision Statement available at: [CAO Vision – San Bernardino CountyWide Vision](#)
- The long-term vision for San Bernardino County is to be a county where all have access to opportunity, prosperity, health and well-being.
- Partners and organizations work together as part of an interconnected system to improve residents' quality of life.
- Community Vital Signs leads efforts related to the Wellness element of the Countywide Vision by uniting cross-sector partners to address community-identified health priorities:
 - **Behavioral Health:** Improve mental health and decrease substance misuse in San Bernardino County.
 - **Injury and Violence Prevention:** Decrease incidences of violence in San Bernardino County.
 - **Chronic Disease:** Decrease morbidity and mortality rates for chronic diseases in San Bernardino County.

- The Community Transformation Plan serves as a road map that aligns partner efforts, reduces duplication, and promotes shared goals, accountability, and collective ownership
- A few cross-cutting themes highlighted from the Community Health Forums are access to care, transportation, youth wellbeing, substance use, economic stress and housing instability, community safety, prevention and early intervention, and service navigation.
- Organizations are invited to participate in and support the Community Vital Signs initiative if they are interested in contributing to system-level change. Please contact Nicolette Carlos, Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov for more information

Public Health Program Updates

Family Health Services, Cautia Wadood, Cautia.Wadood@dph.sbcounty.gov

- The Perinatal Equity Initiative focuses on disparities that Black and African American moms and babies experience in San Bernardino County.
- Services provided include free doula support services, maternal mental health, and fatherhood programs.
- Eligibility requirements: Pregnant, have an infant 12 months or younger, and identify as Black or African American.
- What do you qualify for? 26 Maternal mental health sessions, 7-10 doula support sessions (prenatal, labor and delivery, postpartum).
- Fathers can join the Nurturing Fathers Program if the mom identifies as Black or African American.

Environmental Health Services, William VanDyke, William.Vandyke@dph.sbcounty.gov

- Vector Control Program
- West Nile virus activity is significantly higher this year compared to previous years.
- Mosquito Pool Testing
 - 320 mosquito pools submitted for testing (West Nile, Western/Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis).
 - 70 pools tested positive for West Nile virus.
 - Highest number of positives ever recorded in the service area.
 - Season is only a little more than halfway through (typically ends around Thanksgiving).
 - Previous high year: 2023 with 51 positive pools (mostly from Shandin Hills Golf Course).
 - This year's positives are spread across the entire service area.
- Positive Mosquito Pool Locations
 - Positive pools detected in: San Bernardino, Bloomington, Colton, Rialto, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Redlands.
 - Most positives collected from gravid traps targeting pregnant female.
- Dead Bird Surveillance
 - 25 dead birds have been submitted so far.
 - 8 birds tested positive for West Nile (~30% positivity rate).
 - Common positive species: crows, ravens, house sparrows.
- Disease Investigations
 - 11 disease investigations conducted this year, including malaria, tick-borne diseases, and typhus.
 - Slight increase in investigations, but still within expected patterns.

- Tickborne diseases investigated in mountain and other local communities.
- Aedes aegypti (Invasive Mosquito)
 - Aedes aegypti activity continues to rise.
 - Species has only been present in the area for about 10 years.
 - Ongoing communication and education provided to help residents stay informed.

Communicable Disease Section, Rochelle Granados, Rochelle.Granados@dph.sbcounty.gov

- Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Van provides free rapid HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis C testing. They also have gonorrhea and chlamydia testing.
- If a patient's results are positive, the health education team provides sexual health education and free condoms.
- Narcan is available at the WOW Van as well.
- All WOW Van events are walk-in.
- View upcoming events here: [Events for September 2026 – Department of Public Health](#)

Monthly Learning Topic

Doula Services in Rural and Frontier Communities, Priya Kalyan-Masih, MD, priya@loveyourbestlifellc.com

- Types of doulas include:
 - Full spectrum: Covers the time from prenatal all the way to birth and postpartum. They also cover pregnancy losses such as miscarriages, still birth, and abortions.
 - Birth: Show up to support during birth
 - Postpartum: Support after birth
 - Bereavement: Pregnancy losses, miscarriages, still birth, abortions.
- Doulas are not midwives or doctors; they do not deliver babies.
- A doula provides support helping with breathing exercises, lactation education, childbirth education.
- Help reduce Cesarean deliveries, reduce preterm labor, improve postpartum anxiety and depression, and improve breastfeeding outcomes.
- Provide racially and culturally competent care.
- Birthing centers, hospitals, homes.
- Importance of Doulas:
 - Can be present throughout the pregnancy.
 - Longer visits compared to traditional OB visits.
 - Ensure patients get the correct prenatal care, education, and access to resources.
 - Improve maternal/fetal outcomes.
- The High Desert has the highest infant mortality rate in San Bernardino County.
- Factors that may contribute to this rate are lack of transportation to care, limited access to healthy foods, and lack of education of which resources are available.
- Medi-Cal Doula Benefit
 - Passed on January 1, 2023
 - Prenatal, birth support, postpartum care until baby turns one.
 - Support during miscarriage, still birth or abortion.
 - Doula services are covered by some commercial plans (Kaiser, Healthnet) as of 1/1/25.
- Ways to support:

- Spread the word, we need more properly trained Doulas
- Medi-Cal Doula Directory – <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/documents/doula-directory.pdf>

CBO Collaborative Business

- We encourage you to fill out our survey, [CBO Collaborative Feedback](#) — All feedback will help us to better support our community. Our goal is to ensure that the collaborative remains relevant, uses time effectively, and continues to build and maintain partnerships across the county
- Topic for October CBO Collaborative Meeting:
 - Sickle Cell Trait

**The next meeting will be on
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Via Microsoft Teams**