



Our Community Our Future

Healthy Yolo

Quarterly Report

YOLO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

January, 2014

Healthy Yolo and the Four Assessments

As part of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) model, Healthy Yolo is conducting four community assessments to better understand the public health needs of Yolo County and to inform the community. All four community assessments will be compiled into one community health assessment that will help communities prioritize public health issues, develop goals and strategies, identify resources, and take action.

Local Public Health System Assessment

On November 15, 2013, Healthy Yolo conducted a half-day work session with representatives from the Yolo County local public health system (LPHS). The National Public Health Performance Standards provided a framework to assess the capacity and performance of LPHS. The performance standards helped answer questions such as "What are the components, activities, competencies, and capacities of our LPHS?" and "How well are the 10 essential public health services being provided in our county?"

Twenty six representatives from the LPHS attended the work session and scored 108 performance measures relating to the overall, current delivery of the 10 essential public health services. The full report is available on our project website at www.HealthyYolo.org.

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

Healthy Yolo conducted 20 open house events where we presented preliminary health data and engaged people to inform us of the health issues matter most to them and the strengths of their community. The open house events were conducted in eight different towns at such events as fairs, festivals, food distributions, flu clinics, and school events. The survey was also available online and distributed to the rural county libraries and other community organizations. Overall, 900 surveys were collected. The data collected will help prioritize strategic issues and develop strategies to address the health issues. Available in early February.

Community Health Status Assessment

We have collected quantitative information for over 140 health indicators for such categories as demographics, social and economic circumstances, health behaviors, physical environment, health outcomes, and mortality. This information will also aid in prioritizing strategic issues. Available in early February.

Forces of Change Assessment

Key leaders in Yolo County have been invited to participate in a work session to identify forces of change that are happening or may happen in the immediate future that will affect the health of our community. Forces are a broad all-encompassing category that includes trends, events, and factors in such categories as social, economic, political, and environmental. Available in late February.

Healthy Yolo and Public Health

Many people who come across Healthy Yolo and hear that it is a public health effort have often asked, "What is public health?"

Public health uses a proactive, preventive approach that focuses on the entire community. Public health seeks to prevent problems from happening or re-occurring through implementing educational programs, developing policies, administering services, and conducting research.

Community health is affected by many factors that operate at a societal level, which necessitate strategies that span many levels of community. These population-based strategies for improving community health include efforts to control epidemics, ensure safe water and food, create smoke-free environments, improve motor vehicle safety, and conduct surveillance of health problems. Some of the accomplishments of public health efforts are listed to the right.

Healthy Yolo recognizes the interconnectedness of our community. Preventing disease and disability and promoting health requires changing the conditions in which people live, improving the quality of the environment, and reforming public policy.

Our community is made up of many people with many strengths. Together we can improve the quality of life for all Yolo County residents.

"Knowing is not enough; we must apply.

Willing is not enough; we must do."

~Goethe

Accomplishments of Public Health

Vaccines – prevent diseases such as smallpox, diphtheria, measles, and mumps

Motor Vehicle Safety – safety belts and air bags, child-safety seats, and reducing alcohol impaired drivers

Infant Mortality – improved environmental and living conditions in urban areas such as safe drinking water and sewage and refuse disposal

Infectious Diseases – control of pneumonia, influenza, and HIV

Cancer Prevention – cancer screening recommendations for test quality and usage

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