CENTER FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
IMPACT REPORT
2020-2021

I got vaccinated for my family

I got vaccinated to protect my friends and loved ones

To protect those who can't get vaccinated
Another year has passed, and we are still living in the era of COVID-19. We went from encouraging everyone to get tested, to pop-up vaccination sites everywhere, people trying to determine which vaccine is the right one for them: Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson. To now the vaccine being available to children 12 and above, restrictions being lifted and return to work orders announced. While trying to comprehend the effects of the Delta Variant and get back to some sense of normalcy, but still safely engage in social activities with friends and family, navigate wearing our masks, maintain an appropriate social distance and keeping our trusty hand sanitizer close by.

CHC’s has been a trusted source, stood in the gap and used our social media platforms to communicate updated, easy to understand COVID-19 information and resources to the Southern Inland community at large.

CHC partnered with our School of Medicine’s Drs. Adwoa Osei and Carlos Cortes and hosted a series of Community Conversations: Changing Systems, Challenging Attitudes. These conversations are a starting point to chisel away at systemic racism in the medical community. We initiated the conversation to learn how to understand, model empathy, and effectively communicate with people of different races, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, language, sexual orientation, and cultures.

This year has proven to be as emotional draining and filled with challenges as 2020. However, the difference is the southern inland community is coming together, appreciating our interconnectedness, and working to create incremental change in how we care for one another!

Michelle S. Burroughs, M.P.H.
Director of Community Engagement & Outreach (CHC)
UCR Center for Healthy Communities

“Health equity is crucial because it’s fundamental to living a good life and building a vibrant society.”
— Victor Dzou

“Achieving health equity requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences.”
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THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE

CHC was created to serve the Inland Southern California communities, which includes Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

There are four major health issues (cardiovascular, cancer, diabetes, and mental health) plaguing the Inland Empire. Traditionally CHC would have brought awareness and offered in-person educational opportunities to our community.

由于COVID限制，我们无法提供面对面的健康教育服务，因此我们创建了一个YouTube健康系列，叫做"Hitt’s Lit."（学习，告知，教学）解释了健康和社会概念在一个容易的格式。

访问我们的YouTube频道，标题为"UCR中心为健康社区"
The CHC is embedded in our diverse community. We are accessible and available to serve, to be a resource and to engage the residents of Inland Empire communities. Below are highlights of a few community engagement events that CHC was part of in 2020 & 2021.

MINI-GRANT

CHC created the Community Medicine and Population Health Mini-Grant Program which engages medical students, graduate students, residents, and fellows of UCR in service and advocacy projects within Southern California communities.

Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective (IEIYC) was awarded $5,000 to support their UnDocuHealth Ambassadors Program.

ABOUT THE UNDOCUHEALTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

The UndocuHealth Ambassadors Program (UHA) supports the Health4All Campaign, which advocates for preventative healthcare that is accessible to all, especially the immigrant population residing in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The program provides tools to build resilience within the immigrant community in the IE. By training 10 immigrant individuals how to advocate for preventative health care for all. The 10 ambassadors will serve and engage an additional 50 community member through a series of health-related workshops. The Ambassadors’ program will capitalize on IEIYC’s established partnerships with local organizations, raise awareness, and bring free or low-cost medical serves to their target population.

SUMMARY OF MINI-GRANT

UHA was able to train immigrant communities about digital organizing, state and county medical resources; developed new relationships, and advocate for health justice and utilize community members’ stories to uplift the social movement. The ambassadors were also successful in enrolling themselves and an additional 33% into medical programs.

COMMUNITY TOWNHALLS & CONVERSATIONS

Throughout late 2020 and early 2021, CHC was featured in and advertised several online webinars revolving around topics relevant to several groups within our community.

SERVICE

Learn more about our mini-grants at healthycommunities.ucr.edu/mini-grants
Discussions with City Representatives

At CHC, it is our mission to build connections with Inland Empire communities through service, education, and research that addresses our communities’ needs and promotes health equity. CHC put this into action by meeting with City of Riverside council members: Mayor Lock Dawson and Councilwoman Gaby Plascencia to build connections and understand their vision of a healthier and more equitable Riverside.

We lack a comprehensive exit strategy for those who are coming out of incarceration; those who are coming out of drug treatment programs and those who are coming out of mental health services. Those three populations, although some of them are related, all have different needs. They have different needs in which to thrive, and they need different services. Regardless, they all need intensive case management. That is something that I think we need to do. [...] There are so many things that are broken in this system that we are trying to fix right now.

— Mayor Patricia Lock-Dawson
2mayor@riversideca.gov

We still have some discriminatory policies. What I have done by declaring racism a public health crisis having the support of most of my colleagues and a group of residents from Riverside started this committee called “Anti-Racist Riverside”. What I love about them is that they really champion these kinds of issues. What they did was, they worked closely together, within their group, a matrix has some tangible language that we could implement into our five-year strategic plan.

— Councilwoman Gaby Plascencia
GPlascencia@riversideca.gov

Community Conversations and Co-Education

In partnership with Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), UCR presented empowering health equity, social justice, and anti-racism discussions with IEHP providers. Our very own Dr. Adwoa Osei moderated this series of conversations on how to understand, model empathy, and effectively communicate with people of different races, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, language, sexual orientation and cultures.

This conversation series was open to the community and hosted in Spanish, as well as with closed captioning.

Topics Addressed in the Series:

- Changing Systems, Challenging Attitudes
- Living with Chronic Health Conditions
- Dealing with COVID-19, Personal Experiences
- Asian-American & Pacific Islanders Perspective: Hate Incidents & Healthcare
- Ethnic and Religious Perspectives in Maternal Health

Stay updated on upcoming events like these at instagram.com/ucr_chc
RESEARCH

Through partnerships, the CHC is able to design research for easy translation to real-world health settings and situations. As a result, the CHC is able to improve cultural and language-appropriate interventions that create better services for underrepresented and underserved populations.

AIR QUALITY RESEARCH PROJECTS

AIR QUALITY SHORT-FILM & ART EXPRESSION COMMUNITY CONTEST

Majority of residents experience health impacts either caused or exacerbated by poor air quality on a regular or semi-regular basis, including asthma, reduced heart function, and cancer. To gain a better understanding of how to address poor air quality in our community, we need people (i.e. key players, and influencers) that can lend their expertise on how we can effectively address the poor air quality issues that are plaguing our community. We will not achieve this goal without your input, and we need you to make a positive impact.

The Short Film and Clean Air Artistic Expression contests aim to engage the community in civic engagement through creative expression via the arts. Through this contest, our communities highlighted the effects of poor air quality and ways to reduce it within the Inland Empire.

AIR QUALITY SHORT-FILM WINNERS (FEBRUARY 2021)

Clear the Air
Directed, shot, and edited by Sean McDade
Featuring Nia Sharon Campbell, Renea Dorr

Air Quality
Presented by NAACP Youth & College Division
Featuring Chloe Brantley, Jeremy Page Carney, Tiffany Lemieux, Salone Meadows

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION WINNERS

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

• Jose Bonilla-Gurrola
• Diana Cuautle
• Alexandrina Doubravsky
• Kamaria Kermah

WRITTEN EXPRESSION

• William Bowman

Left to right: By Jose Bonilla-Gurrola, Diana Cuautle, Alexandrina Doubravsky, Kamaria Kermah

THE GEARs OF WASTE

by William Bowman

Many years ago, centuries if you feel so inclined,
There was an era where Mother Nature was running out of her time.
Watching as Humanity was experimenting with creation,
Mother Nature couldn’t help but feel immense devastation.

Running the oil rigs, and mining for coal,
Everything for the environment was starting to sound droll.
Humanity’s descent into the darkest of pits
Was beginning to settle into the creation they knit.

"The Industrial Revolution" is what they named their achievement.
Though for Mother Nature, it was deceptively inconvenient.
And over the years, as Humanity went further,
Everything about this was just screaming "Murder!"

Their finest creation, a noteworthy automaton,
Was a robot, simply designed to be more brains than brawn.
This clever thinker could be around for centuries,
But Humanity didn’t stop to think if it wanted to be carried.

Equipped with flames, blades, and even a small furnace,
Its bright yellow eyes would glow, just to concern us.
Coming to a realization on Humanity’s mistake,
They all knew what to do, only to be far too late.
A MOMENT IN TIME IN THE COVID ERA

Between 2020 and 2021, there was a rise and decrease of COVID-19 cases. In the end of 2020, vaccines such as Moderna and Pfizer were becoming released to the public and in early 2021, the single-dose Johnson and Johnson became available. CHC has played a role in bringing awareness regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccine information, as well as ensuring that the community is always informed on where to get vaccinated.

There are 3 vaccines that are authorized in the United States to prevent COVID-19:

**PFIZER**
- Manufacturer: BioNTech
- Two shots, 21 days apart
- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is recommended for people aged 12 years and older

**MODERNA**
- Manufacturer: ModernaTX inc.
- Two shots a month (28 days apart)
- The Moderna vaccine is recommended for people ages 18 years and older

**JOHNSON & JOHNSON**
- Manufacturer: Janssen Pharmaceuticals Companies of Johnson & Johnson
- One shot only
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is recommended for people ages 18 years and older
COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND MYTHS ABOUT COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic, the CHC heard several myths about COVID-19 from our community members. We responded by communicating factual scientific evidence debunking the most commonly heard myths.

WILL A COVID-19 VACCINE ALTER MY DNA?
No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. The two types of COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized and recommended for use in the United States are: messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines and a viral vector vaccine. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19 (CDC, 2021). The material never enters the nucleus of the cell where our DNA is kept (CDC, 2021). This means the genetic material in the vaccines cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way, and all COVID-19 vaccines work with the body’s natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease (CDC, 2021).

CAN A COVID-19 VACCINE MAKE ME SICK WITH COVID-19?
No. None of the authorized vaccines in the United States currently in development contain live virus that causes COVID-19 (CDC, 2021).

WILL A COVID-19 VACCINE MAKE ME INFERTILE?
No. The COVID-19 vaccine will not affect fertility. The truth is that the COVID-19 vaccine encourages the body to create copies of the spike protein found on the coronavirus’s surface. This “teaches” the body’s immune system to fight the virus that has that specific spike protein on it.

AFTER GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE, WILL I TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 ON A VIRAL TEST?
No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on viral tests (CDC, 2021). Neither can any of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States (CDC, 2021).

CONVERSATIONS ON RACIAL JUSTICE
In July 2020, CHC partnered with Riverside’s NAACP to engage the community in two town halls on police reform to facilitate a dialogue with Riverside’s Sheriff Department to start the conversation on what is happening in our community and address the racial issues that kill many innocent lives yearly.

Our team’s efforts did not stop; after releasing our statement of solidarity with our community, we continue to spread positive messages through the use of our social media. Keeping our community updated with local and state policies that affect us. In addition, we started sharing key terms to educate our audience of all ages. Through our Real Talk, which is our virtual bi-weekly open discussion, the community educated us on street terms.

In an effort to make the declaration practical, the mayor’s multi-cultural forum in Riverside put together an anti-racism vision. CHC hosted a conversation series in July and September titled “Structural Barriers: Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis” to discuss with the community how we can start collectively working to eradicate racism in the Inland Empire.

RACIAL JUSTICE
Although media attention may have gone away, organizers continue to work to increase Black-led projects, initiatives, and businesses. Our approach may be different due to COVID, however, we are all striving towards the small goal. In the words of civil rights activist and former American Congressman John Lewis, “we are fighting the good fight.”
**JUNETEENTH**

In 2020, we saw communities all throughout the country celebrating and bringing awareness of Juneteenth. A year later was that it became a Federal Holiday due to outpour work community activists and June 19 is now officially Juneteenth National Independence Day, a US federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

**FACTS ON JUNETEENTH**

- It commemorates June 19, 1865, the day that Union Army Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and told slaves of their emancipation. That day came more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Even after Lincoln declared all enslaved people free on paper, that hadn’t necessarily been the case in practice.
- Juneteenth is also known as Emancipation Day. People across the country celebrate with food and festivities, much like the Fourth of July.

**STOP ASIAN HATE**

Stop Asian Hate is the name of several rallies against Asian violence which have been held across the United States in 2021 in response to racism against Asian Americans related to the COVID-19 pandemic, or in short is a response to the hatred.

Our communities stand united against racism. As community member Nicole Dumaguindin says, “by lumping AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) together, a lot of people fall through cracks; it’s not one-size-fits-all in history, culture, immigrant experience in America.” Our role is to raise awareness on important issues that are happening in our community and provide resources.

**VOTING**

2020 was a remarkable year that shaped all our lives’, in the political aspect, a record-breaking number of people voted in the 2020 election. Election day in 2020 was Tuesday, November 3rd. With the beginning of the second wave, many opted to mail-in their votes while others still decided to go to their local poll.

**PREREGISTRATION NUMBERS**

As of October 19, 2020

San Bernardino preregistration 6,527

Riverside preregistration 7,979

**ELECTION REGISTRATION NUMBERS**

As of October 19, 2020

Riverside 1,241,552 (83.21% of total eligible)

San Bernardino 1,331,471 (82.82% of total eligible)

**VOTING AGE**

As of October 19, 2020

- Riverside
  - Ages 17.5*-25: 15.10%
  - Ages 26-35: 19.99%
  - Ages 36-45: 15.81%
  - Ages 46-55: 15.00%
  - Ages 56-65: 16.36%
  - Ages 66+: 17.27%

- San Bernardino
  - Ages 17.5*-25: 15.57%
  - Ages 26-35: 17.23%
  - Ages 36-45: 15.33%
  - Ages 46-55: 16.52%
  - Ages 56-65: 16.81%
  - Ages 66+: 16.08%

*You must be 18 years or older on Election Day to register.

If you pre-register to vote at 16 or 17, you will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday.

Learn more about Juneteenth becoming a Federal Holiday at cnn.com

Learn more about Juneteenth facts on cnn.com

Learn more about Juneteenth voting at election.com

Learn more about Juneteenth voting age at election.com
**GENERATIONAL VIEWPOINTS ON VOTING**

**GEN-Z**

“I felt that it was my duty to vote as a woman, a first generation American, and as a young first-time voter who wanted to see change in her country. Government officials make decisions that affect us all, which is why I performed my civic duty and voted for the candidate whose platform aligned most with what I felt society needed.”

— Priscilla Gonzalez

“"There were too many things on the line such as reproductive, indigenous, LGBTIQ+, and POC rights. If Trump were re-elected, America would have continued to fail as a society without the protection of these rights.”

— Nolan Shimizu

**MILLENIALS**

“Honestly, I am somewhat on the side that is jaded with voting because I think that the voting system is deeply flawed and gives us choices that are not meaningful alternatives at the level of systemic change. However, I believe voting is an act of harm mitigation because there are options on the ballot consistently that have strong likelihood of success that have drastic material consequences in the lives of marginalized folks across the country.”

— Dharshan Chandramohan

“As an immigrant who received her citizenship only recently, I was looking forward to having the right to vote ever since I learned about this civic duty in elementary school. Voting is far more than just casting our preference for presidency. Voting is about helping shape our local communities by making decisions about our local city councils, water districts, and school boards. As somebody who has helped run and win local campaigns, I have experienced firsthand how much votes matter: sometimes an election can be determined by just a few votes. The social determinants of health that influence us and our future patients heavily depend on the policies made by our local decision makers. To ensure improvements in health inequity (through environmental and social justice), we must vote.”

— Priya Vedula

**BABY BOOMERS**

“The 2020 election showed what we as a nation can do to pull together to save our democracy. But I would also add, not only do we have to save our democracy from white supremacy and its drift toward authoritarianism, but we have to push for the unfinished business of delivering democracy to all oppressed people in our society right now.”

— Dr. Yolanda Moses

Professor, UCR Department of Anthropology

“The 2020 election made me proud and empowered because I could go to the ballot box with both my daughter and mother. Since I was a child with my grandmother, voting has been something I have been doing; although she is no longer with us, her spirit is with us every time we vote.”

— Sharron Lewis

**VOTING PROPOSITIONS**

The community shared how difficult the many of the California propositions were to understand, so CHC responded by providing summaries to clarify the meanings of each proposition. These explanations were shared both in English and in Spanish.

**PROP 14: STEM CELL RESEARCH**

CA voters approved, which issues $5.5 billion funds to stem and other medical research.

**PROP 20: STRicter PAROLE SENTENCING**

CA voters denied, it would make changes and require people convicted of certain misdemeanors to submit DNA collection to a state database.

**PROP 15: PROPERTY TAX**

CA voters denied, the raise for schools and local governments by raising property taxes on commercial and industrial real estate.

**PROP 21: LOCAL RENT CONTROL**

CA voters denied, allowing cities and counties to implement rent control for residential properties over 15 years old.

**PROP 16: END BAN ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

CA voters denied, keeping CA affirmative action in place.

**PROP 22: RULES OF APP-BASED DRIVERS**

CA voters approved, requires companies to label independent contractors as employees.

**PROP 17: VOTING RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE ON PAROLE**

CA voters approved, allows people on parole for felony convictions to vote after their prison term ends.

**PROP 23: DIALYSIS CLINIC REQUIREMENTS**

CA voters denied, requiring dialysis clinics to have a licensed physician, nurse or physician assistant on site during kidney dialysis treatment.

**PROP 18: 17-YEAR OLDs VOTING**

CA voters denied, allows expanding voting rights to a 17-year old in CA who’s 18th birthday is the same year as the election.

**PROP 24: EXPAND CONSUMER PRIVACY**

CA voters approved, allowing Californians to block companies from sharing personal information and limit business’ use of “sensitive personal information”

**PROP 19: TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TAX BREAKS**

CA voters approved, allowing homeowners over 55, disabled or victims of natural disasters to transfer part of their property tax with them when they sell their home and purchase a new one.

**PROP 25: REPEAL OF CASH BAIL**

CA voters denied, it would of replaced CA’s cash bail system with a new pretrial release system based on public safety and flight risk.
GOALS ACHIEVED

At CHC, our long-term goal is to create synergies with UCR’s campus community and community partners to improve the health outcomes of the Inland Southern California region and move the needle in advancing health equity for all.

CONTRIBUTE TO TRAINING AND RETAINING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY.

CHC will provide opportunities for medical and graduate students engagement with the community on research, and health disparity issues that are relevant to the Inland Empire communities.

**GOAL:**

By June 30, 2021, CHC will create five community engagement research opportunities between medical/graduate students and the IE community.

**OUTCOME:**

CHC achieved 11 community engagement research opportunities in fiscal year 2021.

- UCR SOM Internships & Fellowships
- Community Medicine & Public Health Mini-Grants
- STOP COVID-19 in underserved and vulnerable communities
- Community Conversations: Changing Systems, Challenging Attitudes

CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY.

CHC will serve as a portal for engagement and be the bridge between UCR researchers and the IE community. Bringing new community partners in, to participate in research.

**GOAL:**

By June 30, 2021, CHC will create ten research partnerships between UCR researchers and IE community members.

**OUTCOME:**

CHC was able to achieve 21 research partnerships in fiscal year 2021.

- Community Engagement and Dissemination Core (CEDC)
- Structural racism conversations
- COVID-19 CAB members
- COVID-19 narratives
- STOP COVID-19 in underserved and vulnerable communities (surveys and focus groups)
- Shared research results on social media
- It’s L.I.T. (11 virtual events)
- AQ Community Grant (art expression contest, short-film contest, and J.W North & Lincoln High School Summit)
- Community Air Quality CAB members

CONTRIBUTE TO IMPLEMENTING HEALTH PROMOTION EFFORTS TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY.

Engaging UCR campus community through the CHC, who can invest, learn from, and teach the community healthy behaviors and empower them to take control over their own health.

**GOAL:**

By June 30, 2021, CHC will have offered 16 health promotion opportunities in the Inland Empire throughout the year (four per quarter).

**OUTCOME:**

CHC came close to this goal with virtual health promotion activities.

1. General Membership Meeting & Town Hall on Police Reform Part I
2. General Membership Meeting & Town Hall on Police Reform Part II
3. A Conversation Series: Structural Barriers: Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis
5. Addressing Structural Racism with Community Engagement
6. Clean Air Day
7. Informing Through Crisis: COVID-19’s Impact on Black Communities in California Q&A
8. Chancellor’s UCR Campus Safety Task Force Meeting
9. I Am Cheo
10. Ladies First
11. HPV Vaccination Study
12. STOP COVID-19 in the Black Community PSA

Working collaboratively with the community has given us the opportunity to train and retain a diverse workforce, build our research partnerships, and increase our health-promotion activities which has moved us closer to increasing health equity in the Inland Southern California communities.
Thank you to our community, who has welcomed and partnered with CHC, and joined our calls to action for social transformation. Your support and dedication to improving the health outcomes of our communities, inspires hope and creates opportunities for a better tomorrow.