Envisioning the Future of Public Health in California

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Voices for Change Conference
Workshop Session 3, February 11, 2021
“Fireside Chat”

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Risk of Inequitable Recovery

PPIC – Income Inequality and Economic Opportunity in California (December 2020)

• In the past 40 years, every recession except the dot-com bust of 2001 has resulted in a growing gap between high- and low-income families.

• This outcome stems entirely from larger income declines and slower recovery experienced by families at the bottom of the income distribution.

• Both high- and low-income families took years to recover, but the length of time was systematically longer for low-income families.
Opportunities

• **Strategize for recovery at the same scale as response**
  • Prioritize community recovery as a public health emergency and central focus of Department, Agency, and Statewide action

• **Address underlying inequities**
  • Deepen data collection and analysis around SDOH and behavioral health drivers, disparities and impacts on public health outcomes
  • Pilot and evaluate SDOH focused intervention strategy
  • Strengthen partnerships with other state departments

• **Maintain effort on other public health issues**
  • Expand staffing capacity to manage prolonged emergency response and public health programs
  • Promote awareness of public health priorities

• **Strengthen state and local public health infrastructure**
  • Sustain focus on population health and public health prevention, protection and health promotion

• **Increase community engagement**
  • Expand bidirectional engagement with communities to help strengthen data, communications and intervention as a systemic organizational process
Resources

- COVID_19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities: [COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities (ca.gov)]
- COVID Equity page: [California’s commitment to health equity - Coronavirus COVID-19 Response]
- Health Equity Metric: [Blueprint For a Safer Economy: Equity Focus (ca.gov)]
- Changelab Solutions:
  - [Blueprint for Changemakers:]
  - [Equitable Enforcement Guide to Achieve Health Equity]
- From Human Impact Partners:
  - [Health Equity Policy Platform for COVID-19 Response and Recovery:]
  - [Public Health Awakened, a national network of health equity advocates:]
  - [Health Departments Taking Action on Incarceration: A Framework for Advancing Health Instead of Punishment During COVID-19]
- CPEHN:
  - [Urge Governor Newsom to declare Racism a Public Health Crisis in California]
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