



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Countywide Community Health Assessment 2008 Launches with Survey Team Training

STANISLAUS COUNTY – What is the most critical health issue affecting you in Stanislaus County? And what's your vision to improve the quality of life in this place we call home?

Here's your chance to be heard.

It's called the Stanislaus County Community Health Assessment 2008, a countywide survey that officially launches today, following the training on Friday of nearly three dozen representatives from community organizations. This survey is being conducted through a collaborative effort of the Stanislaus County MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) Stakeholders.

"This will be the largest and most comprehensive local assessment of our community's health that has ever been undertaken," said Laura Long, project coordinator for the Community Health Assessment. "The leading factor that has helped this effort become reality is the sheer strength in numbers of the project stakeholders and community partnerships."

The Community Health Assessment Steering Committee comprised of Local Hospitals, County Agencies, and Health Plans, worked together to develop a survey to collect information on 50 indicators of social, economic, health, and behavioral quality of life. This data will be published in a comprehensive health report to help organizations in Stanislaus County develop action plans to address critical health issues facing the County.

Team members include representatives from several local organizations that have committed to help conduct the face-to-face survey throughout the county through the month of July. The survey takes from 5-7 minutes to complete and is available in English and Spanish. Survey questions range from nutrition to drug and alcohol use to where people obtain medical care.

"We are looking to reach out to all parts of our county and we hope to get the full support of everyone in the community," said Tammy Felix, Program Manager for Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children. "This is an opportunity for our residents to give their opinions and voice their needs. We need to collect surveys from all socioeconomic levels and all populations to get an accurate picture of the health status and needs of our county residents."

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People who have not already been asked but would like to participate in the Community Health Assessment 2008 can complete a survey at their local Stanislaus County Library. The project is being funded by Memorial Medical Center, Doctors Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission, Health Services Agency, Community Services Agency, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Department of Aging & Veterans Services, and Anthem Blue Cross. It is not too late for agencies to offer financial assistance or sponsorships. For more information on the Stanislaus County Community Health Assessment contact Laura Long at (209) 558-6824.

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