



**HEALTHY
FRESNO
COUNTY**
Better Together

Fresno County Rural Mobile Health Program

Trinidad Solis, MD, MPH

Deputy Health Officer, Fresno County Department of Public Health

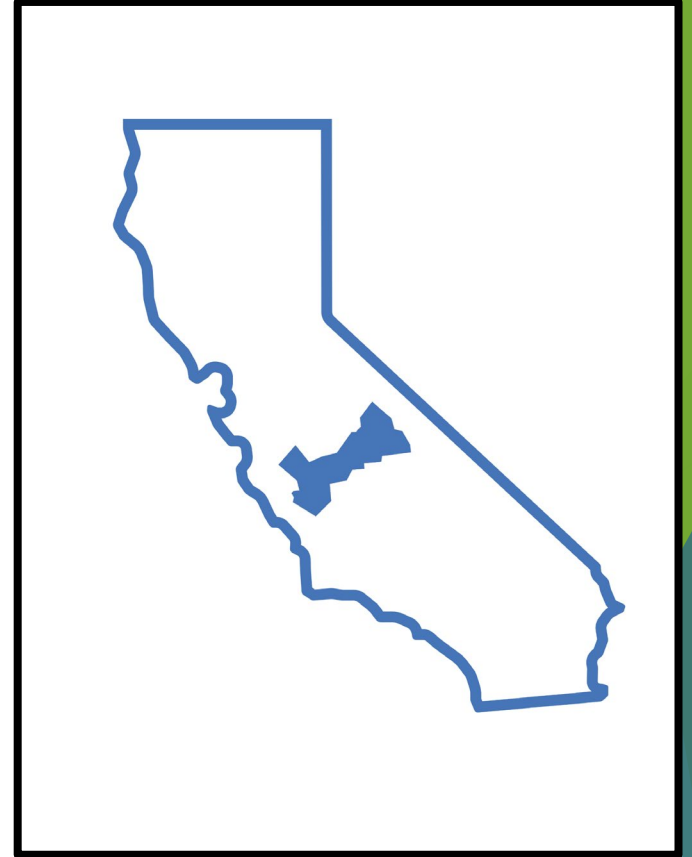
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Personal Journey

- Born and raised in California's Central Valley
- Education: Stanford University, UCSF SOM, Johns Hopkins SOPH, UCLA Medical Center-Family Medicine Residency
- Health Policy Fellowship- Sacramento, CA
- Family Medicine and Public Health Physician
- Current Deputy Public Health Officer of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Overview of Fresno County, CA

- Population of over 1M
- Population by Ethnicity: 55.7% Hispanic/Latino, 44.2% Non-Hispanic/Latino
- 16.2% of families in Fresno County live below the poverty line (versus 8.9% of families in California).
- Population by Age: 26.5 % below 17 y/o, 59% ages 18-64 y/o



FRESNO COUNTY

HAS LESS ACCESS TO PRIMARY, DENTAL, AND VISION
CARE PROVIDERS THAN CALIFORNIA OVERALL^{20, 21, 22}

FRESNO COUNTY
1,490:1



CALIFORNIA
1,250:1

FRESNO COUNTY
1,610:1



CALIFORNIA
1,150:1

FRESNO COUNTY
7,445:1



CALIFORNIA
1,016:1

IMPACT OF COST, LACK OF INSURANCE, OR OTHER INSURANCE ISSUES ON CARE IN FRESNO COUNTY



11% of adults and 8% of children delayed or did not get prescription meds in the past year²³



12% delayed or did not get medical care in the past year²³



18% of community-wide survey respondents have trouble paying for medication²⁶



Fresno County teens are more than 2.5 times as likely as California teens to have teeth in 'fair' or 'poor' condition²³



8% of residents had to forego needed medical care in the past year²³



32% of Fresno County adults described the condition of their teeth as 'fair' or 'poor', vs. 25% for California²³

Barriers to Accessing Healthcare in Fresno County's Rural Areas

- Lack of health insurance
- Inability to pay medical bills
- Physician shortage, creates delays in getting a clinic appointment
- Language barriers
- Lack of public transportation
- Continuity of care issues
- Fear of using healthcare due to immigrations status

Rural Mobile Health Program

- Allocation of 6 million dollars of the county's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was approved by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for a 2 year Fresno County Rural Mobile Health Program, January 2023 through January 2025.
- The Rural Mobile Health (RMH) program is one of the first initiatives in CA that aims to address rural communities and farmworkers medical and social needs in one visit.

Fresno County: Rural Mobile Health Program

- The Fresno County Rural Mobile Health (RMH) Program offers medical services at no-cost to farmworkers and people living in the rural areas of the region.
- Fresno County's Community Health Worker (CHW) Network provide patients that attend RMH clinic with wraparound care coordination services.



FRESNO COUNTY RURAL MOBILE HEALTH PROJECT

GOALS

- Increase access to healthcare services among agricultural workers and people living in the rural and unincorporated areas of Fresno County
- Integrate community health workers at Rural Mobile Health events to provide health education and community linkages based on individual needs
- Reduce local emergency room use by increasing access to primary care services

Fresno County's Rural Mobile Health Program

- **Medical Partners:** UCSF-Fresno and Saint Agnes
- Individuals can receive a variety of health services from the mobile health units at **no-cost**. Services include, but are not limited to:
 - Immunizations
 - Blood Pressure Checks
 - Glucose Testing
 - COVID-19 Test-to-treat Sites
 - Minor Sick Visits
 - Screening for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
 - Access to contraceptive care
- The Rural Mobile Health Program will also help connect individuals to needed health care services that cannot be provided onsite.

Mobile Vision Services

- Tzu Chi Mobile Clinic offers no-cost vision services to agricultural workers and people living in the rural communities of Fresno County. Vision services include eye screenings and complete eye-exams for individuals aged 5 and older.
- Single vision glasses will be provided as needed.
- Schedule: Appointment based, with some walk-ins

Community Health Workers

Social Determinants of Health



Healthy People 2030

- Community Health Workers (CHWs) assist Fresno County's mobile health events by providing health education in a culturally and linguistically sensitive manner on various topics, such as nutrition, diabetes, and heart disease.
- The CHWs link individuals without a medical home to a nearby primary care doctor and share information on local public health programs.



Rural Mobile Health Program-

- Leveraging CHW network to provide community linkages and access to residents during rural mobile health events.
 - **72** clients have been fully enrolled in a CHW care coordination program during mobile health events.
 - Over **1,770** health education materials were provided to residents attending rural mobile health events.

Rural Mobile Health Program Overview

- The first Rural Mobile Health event was held on February 14, 2023 at Terranova Ranch in Helm, CA
- Over 200 farmworkers received medical services
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUfGhSuHYGg>

Strategies to Improve Healthcare Access in Rural Communities

- Refer uninsured patients to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Distribute culturally and linguistically appropriate health education materials
- Translation services
- Transportation services - health insurance plans
- Mobile medical units with portable electronic medical records
- Partnerships with schools

Challenges and Opportunities

- Addressing sustainability of the Fresno County Rural Mobile Health Program
- Data collection and research
- Engaging with media
- Central California Mobile Health Consortium

Thank You!

► Email: tsolis@fresnocountyca.gov