



**HEALTHY  
FRESNO  
COUNTY**  
Better Together

# Fresno County Rural Mobile Health Program

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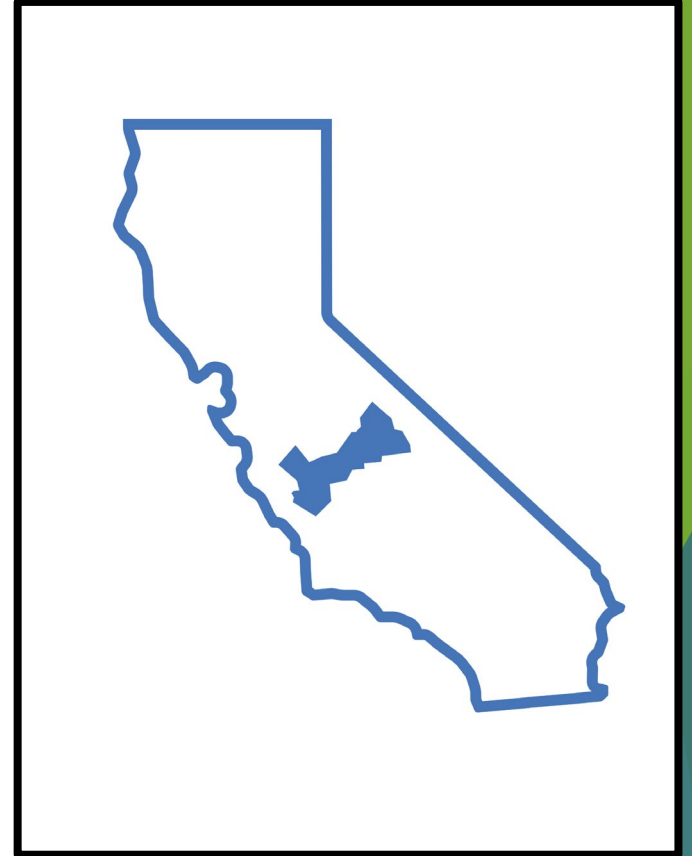
June 13, 2024

# 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

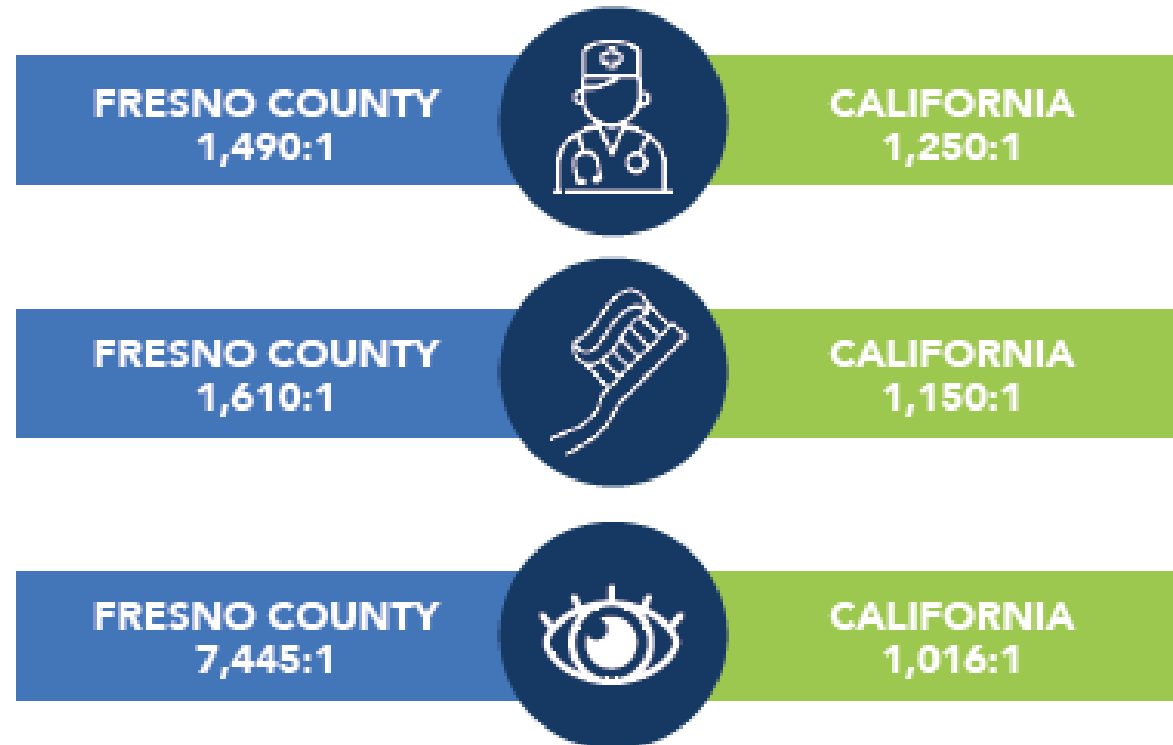
# Overview of Fresno County, CA

- 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<sup>20, 21, 22</sup>



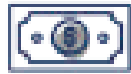
# IMPACT OF COST, LACK OF INSURANCE, OR OTHER INSURANCE ISSUES ON CARE IN FRESNO COUNTY



**11% of adults and 8% of children** delayed or did not get prescription meds in the past year<sup>23</sup>



**12%** delayed or did not get medical care in the past year<sup>23</sup>



**18%** of community-wide survey respondents have trouble paying for medication<sup>26</sup>



Fresno County teens are **more than 2.5 times as likely** as California teens to have teeth in 'fair' or 'poor' condition<sup>23</sup>



**8%** of residents had to forego needed medical care in the past year<sup>23</sup>



**32% of Fresno County adults** described the condition of their teeth as 'fair' or 'poor', vs. **25%** for California<sup>23</sup>

# 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

- 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!

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