

Countywide Services Agency

Department of
Health and Human Services

Division of Public Health
Glennah Trochet, M.D.
County Health Officer



County of
Sacramento

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For Immediate Release

National Public Health Week Recognized Amid Funding Challenges to Public Health Budget

(Sacramento, CA) – This week - April 6-12 - is National Public Health Week, and Sacramento County Public Health is marking the occasion by emphasizing some of the most critical public health issues facing our community.

“We’ve updated our web site, www.SCPH.com, with new pages for National Public Health Week focusing on obesity prevention, HIV and STD prevention, emergency preparedness, child health, hand washing to prevent illness and dental health,” said Quinn Wells, manager of Sacramento County Public Health’s education unit. Wells says visitors to the site can view a daily topic of emphasis and also sign up to receive periodic Twitter updates on developing public health issues.

Ironically, at the same time Sacramento’s critical health issues are being highlighted, County Health Officer Glennah Trochet, M.D., is dealing with the reality of having to reduce the Public Health Division’s annual spending plan in response to the impact of the economy on the County budget.

“Public Health programs are, in fact, **public safety programs** that work to protect the community from the threat of pandemic infection, the spread of Tuberculosis, and from transmission of sexually-transmitted diseases that are infecting our citizens at the third highest rate in the state,” Trochet said. “It’s a real challenge to get the job done with fewer resources.”

In addition to local health issues, National Public Health Week also brings focus to Public Health trends that are cause for concern. For example, although the U.S. spends more on health care than any other nation, our country is falling behind in many important measures of what it means to be healthy:

- U.S. life expectancy has reached a record high of 78.1 years but still ranks 46th — behind Japan and most of Europe, as well as countries such as Guam, South Korea and Jordan.

- A baby born in the United States is more likely to die before its first birthday than a child born in almost any other developed country. Among developed nations, only Latvia has a higher death rate for newborns than the United States.
- The U.S is among the top 10 countries that have the most people with HIV/AIDS, and it is estimated that one in 20 residents in the nation's capital are HIV-positive.
- Disparities persist with ethnic minority populations having nearly eight times the death rate for key health conditions, such as diabetes, than that of non-minority populations.

Despite the dramatic progress achieved through a century of public health advancements — the elimination of polio, fluoridation of drinking water and seatbelt laws — our nation's health still has plenty of room for improvement to meet its potential.

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