Developing a Community Health Assessment: The Los Angeles County Experience

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Los Angeles County Demographics

- Population
  - 9.8 million residents
- Size
  - 4,300 square miles
- Race/Ethnicity
  - 47% Latino
  - 28% Caucasian
  - 14% Asian/Pacific Islander
  - 8% African American
  - 0.2% American Indian
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

- 39 Programs
- 14 Health Centers
- 4,000 Employees
- Separated from Health Services in 2006
Community Health Assessment

- Describes the health and health needs of the County
  - Indicators on health status, socio-economic factors, physical environment, & social environment
  - Displays data & written analysis
  - Highlights disparities
Community Health Assessment

Some models:
Overview of the CHA Process

• Identify indicators
• Engage community
• Analyze data, highlight disparities
• Develop report with charts, graphs, & text
• Disseminate the CHA
Preparation for CHA Process

• Consider PHAB requirements

• Review existing CHAs
  – Discuss with other jurisdictions

• Review data sources
  – Los Angeles Health Survey
  – California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)
  – California Department of Education
  – Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHPD)
  – US Census & American Community Survey
Los Angeles County CHA Process

• Determine Domains and Health Indicators
  – Demographics
  – Social Environment
  – Physical Environment
  – Health Behaviors
  – Health Care
  – Health Outcomes

• Data to be analyzed by sub-group, e.g. geographic area, race/ethnicity, and age group
Health Indicator Example

*Physical Environment*

- Health Indicator: **Access to Parks & Recreation**

- Data from Los Angeles Health Survey 2011
  - % of population who use walking paths, parks, sports fields, playgrounds in their neighborhood
Health Indicator Example

*Health Behaviors*

- **Health Indicator:**
  
  Students who meet statewide physical fitness goals

- **Data from California Department of Education website, Physical Fitness Testing**
  - Data available by county, district, school and grade level
Community Engagement

- Stakeholder survey conducted for departmental Strategic Plan
  - Included questions on a wide range of health issues and priorities

- Next steps
  - Community Meetings
  - Webinar
  - Online Comment Period
Analysis and Dissemination

• Analyze data
  – LA County Health Survey data (awaiting LA County 2010 census data )
  – Data to be analyzed by sub-group to identify disparities

• Write and design report

• Disseminate CHA via print & web
  – Share with community partners via program and field staff
Challenges

• Data Limitations
  – County-Wide
  – Service Planning Areas
• Numerous Indicators
• First Time CHA
Opportunities

- Community Engagement
- New Analyses
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
Questions?

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