



Quality Improvement Success Story



Poverty rates in Salinas are at 22.3% compared to 17.3% for Monterey County. Economic conditions can substantially impact a person's or community's ability to achieve optimum health. For example, 43.5% of 5th grade Salinas students have an unhealthy BMI compared to 33.9% for the state. Limited access to fresh fruit and vegetables contributes to this reality.

The Salinas City Council unanimously approved the EDE that included these health-oriented provisions:

- *Reduce hunger and food insecurity* by supporting government and private programs that enhance community education, urban agriculture and emergency food sources.
- *Reduce disparities in life expectancy and disease* by working closely with Monterey County Health Department to track trends and support targeted prevention and wellness programs.
- Acknowledge that individual *income and wealth is a strong predictor of health and well-being* and strive to increase income among the lowest income groups in Salinas.

Policy ED QL 1.1: The City must lead take action to improve perceived and actual safety in Salinas by *addressing the root cause of crime and violence* in tandem with traditional public safety measures.



The Problem

The Action

The Result

The Connection

Contributors

City of Salinas
 SPARC
 BHC
 CCA
 CHISPA

Understanding that economic conditions impact a community's access to healthy opportunities, MCHD and partners worked collectively with the City of Salinas to embed health-oriented policies in the City's Economic Development Element (EDE) of their General Plan. This policy assures a robust community engagement process to support economic changes that support health conditions.

Monterey County Health Department promotes *Health in All Policies (HiAP)* to incorporate health and wellbeing considerations into population-based policies that affect individual and public health. HiAP addresses health determinants and work "upstream" of problems by changing social and environmental influences. The HiAP method reflects #4 of the 10 Essential Services of Public Health: *Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.*

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