

Taking Action!
2024

**IMPERIAL COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH
ASSESSMENT**



IMPERIAL COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

photo source: Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3

Letter to the Community.

4

Background

7

**2024 CTSA Survey & Community
Priorities**

11

Imperial County Demographics

13

What We Learned (Findings)

17

Health Behaviors & Outcomes

28

Behavioral Health

33

Social Determinates of Health

Letter to the Community

The Imperial County Community Health Partnership believes that health and well-being go beyond the doctor's office or hospital to the spaces in our community in which we live, work, learn, and play. It is with great pride that we present this summary of the Imperial County 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA).

Our goal is for the CHA to help make positive changes in the county so that everyone has access to the essential services and supports they need to thrive. We invite you to explore the CHA and join us in our ongoing efforts to build a healthier community, and we thank you for your commitment to this important work.

The longer report is available on the Imperial County Public Health Department's website. For more information about improving health and well-being in Imperial County, please read the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

photo source: Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner

Here is how the CHA & CHIP process works:

- 1 Everyone Works Together:** Community members and health experts team up.
- 2 Figuring out problems:** Together, they meet, talk, and decide what the biggest health issues are in Imperial County.
- 3 Making a plan:** They set goals to improve the community's health and also figure out how they'll measure success.
- 4 Finding solutions:** They pick ideas to help tackle health problems in Imperial County.

Background

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) collects information to understand the health needs of people living in Imperial County. This information helps healthcare leaders identify the community's challenges and strengths, so they can work on making things better.

The community health improvement plan (CHIP) is based on what the CHA finds. It explains how to help with the community's health needs, including specific actions, partners, and resources needed to really make a difference.

The CHA and CHIP work together to create a roadmap for a healthier Imperial County and help different organizations work towards the same goal.

Path to the CHA (Methodology)

The CHA is a deep dive into the health of Imperial County's communities. It gathers data – numbers, stories, and everything in between – to understand what people are really going through.

Imperial County used the MAPP 2.0 guide to conduct the CHA and answer three main questions:

1. What are the biggest health problems facing our community?
2. What habits might be hurting people's health?
3. What things make people and the whole community healthy?

To answer these questions, the people conducting the CHA looked at all sorts of information, including data about health issues, surveys from community members, and information from focus groups. This way, the CHA shows us an overall picture of health in the community.



Health Equity

An important part of the CHA is understanding health inequities. Not everyone has the same chance to be healthy and live a healthy life.

“Health Inequity” means that some people are more likely to be unhealthy or experience health issues than others. Some reasons why there might be health inequity is because of issues in the environment, they do not have enough money to get healthcare, or there are not enough nearby medical professionals to provide care.

One of the main goals of the CHA process is to improve health equity in Imperial County. The team looked for places where not everyone has the same chance to be healthy. Focusing on shrinking health inequity can help all people in Imperial County live healthier lives.

“Health Equity” means that everyone has a fair chance to be healthy and receive the care they need.

Focus Groups

During the CHA, small group meetings were held to discuss the health of Imperial County. Community members were asked to share their experiences and talk about their own health and the health of the community.

They identified several key issues and needs, including:

- The need for better communication and engagement of youth and families with children
- Clearer communication about available services
- Improved collaboration between schools and local government health agencies
- Easier ways to understand health benefits and schedule appointments
- Targeted advertisements to raise awareness of important health issues
- More safe places for exercise and outdoor activities
- Improved mental health care for young people and the reduction of substance use disorders

Participants also highlighted the community's strengths, emphasizing a strong sense of community awareness and compassion in Imperial County, which is seen as a crucial starting point for addressing social issues.

Imperial County Community Survey

Understanding health in our community is very important. The community survey helps by getting different opinions from people who live in the county to see why some people are healthier than others. The survey used for this assessment is called the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) survey and it helped healthcare leaders to learn about the community's health concerns. This survey lets community members share their opinions on health issues and quality of life. Their responses help leaders make plans to improve community health and help with these issues.



578 people completed the CTSA survey

What were they asked?

People who took the survey were asked three key questions:

1. What three things are most needed in your community to improve your health?
2. What three things are most damaging to the health of your community?
3. What three things are the most damaging to the health of the people in your community?

Who took the survey?

In total, 578 people completed the CTSA survey. The survey results were divided into four regions based on the participants' residential areas. The Far North region includes Bombay Beach, Salton City, Palo Verde, and Niland. The North region includes Brawley, Calipatria, and Westmorland. The Central region includes El Centro, Imperial, Holtville, Ocotillo, and Seeley. The South region includes Heber, Calexico, and Winterhaven.

Cites & Towns	CHA Region
El Centro, Imperial, Holtville, Ocotillo, Seeley	Central
Bombay Beach, Salton City, Palo Verde, Niland	Far North
Brawley, Calipatria, Westmorland	North
Heber, Calexico, Winterhaven	South



2024 CTSA SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

578 people from Imperial County responded to the survey

38%

Identified as a
person of color

16%

Identified as
LGBTQIA+

63%

Identify as
Hispanic or Latino

3%

Young adults
(18-24 years)

38%

Reported an
income less than
\$50,000

14%

Older adults
(55 years and older)

photo source: Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner

What three things are most needed in your community to improve your health?

Top Five (county wide)

- Access to healthcare providers
- Good jobs and a healthy economy
- Affordable housing
- Access to mental health services
- Lower crime and safe neighborhoods



What three things are most damaging to the health of your community?

Top Five (county wide)

- Mental health problems
- Underemployment and low paying jobs
- No specialty medical care
- Drugs or alcohol
- Environmental problems



What three things are most damaging to the health of the people in your community?

Top Five (county wide)

- Poor eating habits
- Being overweight
- Lack of exercise
- Not getting regular health screenings
- Alcohol misuse or abuse



photo source: Imperial County Public Health Department

CTSA Survey

Demographics

(who lives in Imperial County)

Demographics tell us all about the details that make up the population in Imperial County. Demographics cover things like:

- Age: Are there more younger people or older people?
- Gender: Is the county made up mostly of men, women, or a mix?
- Ethnicity: What backgrounds do the people come from?
- Family life: Do most people live with their family? Do families have one parent or two?

Demographics can also include:

- Education level: How many people have finished high school or gone to college?
- Income: Do most families have a lot of money or not as much?
- Location: Do people live in the city, suburbs, or rural areas?

Race and ethnicity, age, and gender are closely linked to health outcomes

Looking at demographics is important because it helps people understand the health risks, challenges, and strengths of the county.

Age – The largest age group in Imperial County is people ages 18-39, making up 31.5% of the county. In total 59.9% of people in Imperial County are under the age of 40.

Older adults ages 65 and older make up the smallest age group in Imperial County, with 13.2% of all residents in this group.



59.9% of people in Imperial County are under the age of 40

Adults ages 65+ make up the smallest age group at 13.2%



73.1% of people in Imperial County speak Spanish

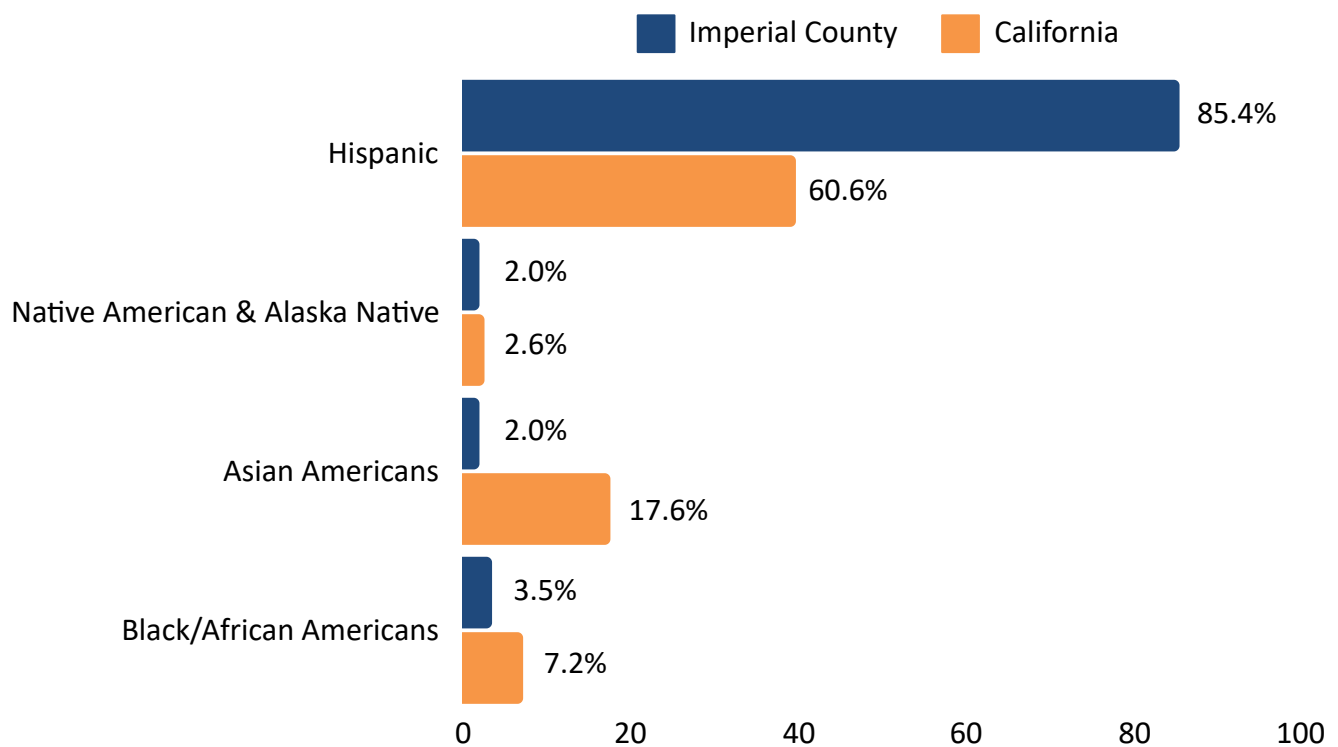
Race and Ethnicity – Understanding the racial and ethnic makeup of Imperial County is important to see health differences like who has a higher chance of dying early or has a harder time getting help from a doctor when needed.

From 2018 to 2022, most people in Imperial County were Hispanic/Latine . In fact, Hispanic/Latine residents made up 85.4 percent of the population—higher than the state’s average of 39.7 percent. Native Americans and Alaska Native residents were 2.0 percent of the population. Asian Americans were also 2.0 percent of the population. Black/African Americans made up 3.5 percent of Imperial County’s population. Understanding this information is important to recognize and address health differences in the community.

Language Spoken -- Between 2018 and 2022, only 25.5 percent of residents aged five and older in Imperial County spoke only English, compared to 56.1 percent of Californians. The most spoken language in Imperial County was Spanish, with 73.1 percent of residents speaking Spanish.

Language Spoken -- Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate, 2018-2022, Table DP02

Race and Ethnicity in Imperial County



Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate, 2018-2022, Table DP05



WHAT WE LEARNED (FINDINGS)

photo source: Imperial County Public Health Department



What we learned through the CHA

The purpose of the 2022-2024 CHA process was to develop and document important information about the health and well-being of people living in Imperial County.

Though progress is being made and important community assets exist, the data show that Imperial County struggles to prevent and treat certain chronic diseases and behavioral health-related issues (including both mental health and substance use disorder) and struggles to ensure enough access to effective healthcare and preventive services that address risky health behaviors and chronic disease.

The CHA also found that people in Imperial County do not have enough access to healthcare that works for everyone, despite their background or language.

In Imperial County, these issues are made worse because people struggle to earn enough money, are living with bad air quality, and do not have enough healthcare services available where they live.

Mortality

When we talk about the death rate or mortality rate, we are talking about the number of people in a population who die over a certain period.

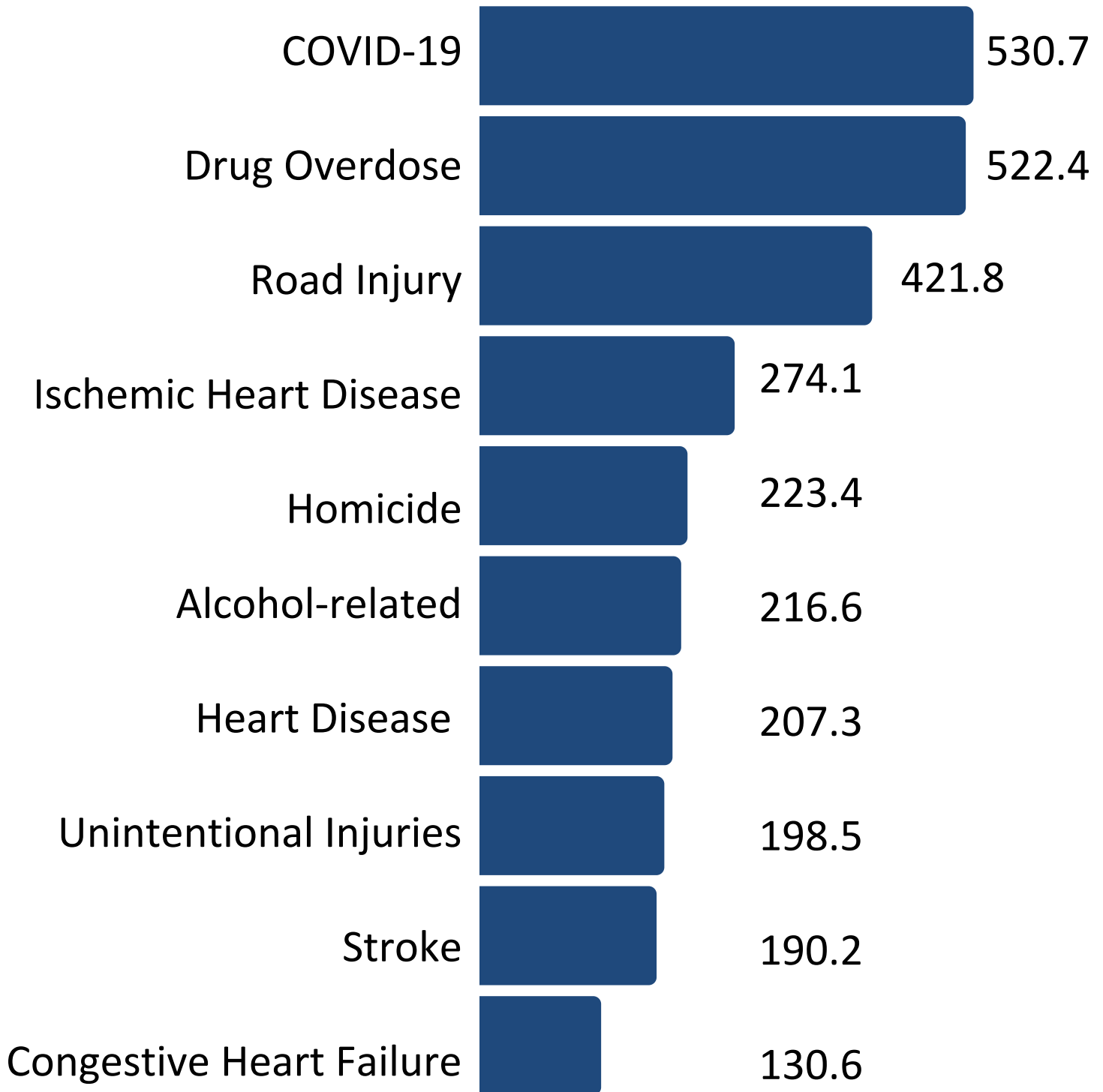
For example, a "low infant mortality rate" means that only a small number of babies die before they turn one, while a "high infant mortality rate" means that many babies die before they turn one.

Years of Life Lost* (YLL)

Years of life lost (YLL) estimates the years of potential life lost due to premature (early) deaths. YLL helps us compare the different causes of premature deaths within a population, set priorities for prevention, and compare the premature mortality experience between populations.

*YLL takes into account the age at which deaths occur, giving greater weight to deaths at a younger age and lower weight to deaths at older age.

Years of Life Lost in Imperial County, 2022



Source: Data for 2022 are not yet final. Number of deaths are likely to increase slightly. Some cause-of-death codes will become more accurate. These changes are not expected to significantly impact the interpretation of any observed noteworthy patterns or trends. Source: CDPH. California Community Burden of Disease Engine. Retrieved in April 2024.

In 2022, COVID-19 was the number one cause of years lost, with a YLL of 540.7 years, followed by drug overdose at 522.4 years.



Top Causes of Death

In Imperial County from 2020 to 2022, drug overdose was the leading cause of death for adults ages 25 to 34 and the second leading cause of death for adults ages 35 to 54.

The top three causes of death for residents of Imperial County and California were COVID-19, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease. For children ages 0 to 4, the leading cause of death is neonatal conditions and for youth ages 15 - 24, the leading cause of death is road related injuries.

For adults ages 25 to 34 in Imperial County, the leading causes of death were drug overdose and road injury. For adults 45 to 54, the second and third leading causes of death were drug overdose and alcohol-related deaths.

CDPH. California Community Burden of Disease Engine. Retrieved in April 2024



Drug overdose was the leading cause of death for adults ages 25 to 34 between 2020- 2022

It was the second leading cause of death for adults ages 35 to 54

HEALTH BEHAVIORS & OUTCOMES



photo source: Imperial County Public Health Department



Exercise and eating healthy foods can prevent heart disease, diabetes, and obesity

Health Behaviors & Health Outcomes

One of the focus areas in the CHA is health behaviors. Health behaviors are things you do that affect your health, such as what you eat, how active you are, if you smoke, and alcohol or drug use. Unhealthy behaviors are linked to many serious health problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and certain types of cancer.

Many of the leading causes of death and disease are partially because of unhealthy behaviors. For example, poor nutrition and a lack of physical activity are associated with a higher chance of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity. Tobacco use is associated with heart disease and cancer. Excessive alcohol use can cause certain types of cancers and injuries, among other things.

Health outcomes measure how long and how well people live. They show how physically and mentally healthy people in Imperial County are. Health outcomes help us see if health programs in Imperial County are working well, and if we need to make new or different efforts.

During the CHA, we looked at differences in health behaviors and outcomes based on health factors and demographics so we can see where some groups have fewer good health outcomes. Knowing where these differences are helps us change health programs to help those who are not as healthy.

Health Behaviors are things people do that affect their health, such as how they eat, if they exercise, smoke, and misuse or abuse of alcohol and other drugs.



Photograph courtesy of Imperial County Office of Education

Health Outcomes measure how long and how well people live. They show how physically and mentally healthy people in Imperial County are.



Lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer-related death from 2020-2022 in Imperial County

Chronic Disease

Chronic diseases are health conditions that last 1 year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living, or both. In some areas, many people have multiple chronic conditions. In Imperial County, more people died from Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia between 2000 and 2022, especially women and Hispanic residents.

Cancer

Cancer rates are declining in Imperial County, with fewer people dying from cancer. But, in Imperial County and California, Black residents have been more likely to die from cancer than other groups.

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia related deaths increased in Imperial County between 2000 and 2022, and female residents and Hispanic residents were more likely die from Alzheimer's disease than other groups.

Diabetes and Asthma

The overall number of diabetes cases went down but more people died from it between 2017-2019 to 2020-2022.

Many people in the county have asthma, especially kids. In 2022, a total of 14.9% of surveyed respondents suffered from asthma, compared to only 9% of California residents.


Disparities

In 2022, among Imperial County children under 18, 16.4% currently had asthma -- more than two times the U.S. rate (7.8%).

In the Far North region: 46.9% of residents that answered the survey reported having three or more chronic conditions.

The South region had the most surveyed adults with heart disease (7.4%), a stroke (5.25%), and kidney disease (9.2%). One major concern is that 72.3% of diabetes deaths in Imperial County from 2020-2022 were Hispanic.

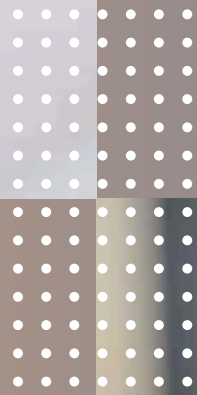
Cancer-Related Deaths -- CDPH, California Community Burden of Disease Engine
 Alzheimer's: Source: CDPH, California Community Burden of Disease Engine
 Diabetes -- Source: CDPH, California Community Burden of Disease Engine
 Asthma -- PRC Survey
 Disparity --PRC Survey
 Hispanic Diabetes --CDPH, California Community Burden of Disease Engine



In 2020-2022, Hispanic Imperial County residents were more likely to die from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias compared to White Imperial County residents.



In Imperial County from 2020-2022, 72.3% of diabetes deaths were among people of Hispanic origin



In 2022, 16.4% of Imperial County children under 18 years of age experienced asthma, which is more than two times the U.S. rate of 7.8%.



Access to High Quality Healthcare

Access to high quality healthcare means that people can find the medical care and doctors that they need. Healthcare should be easy to find and easy to get to. It also means that care is affordable for the community and that their health needs get met. In Imperial County, there are issues finding doctors nearby and finding care that is affordable.

One of the main reasons people have a hard time getting the care they need is the shortage of doctors and mental health providers. There simply aren't enough doctors in Imperial County.

In 2020, there was only **one doctor for every 1,550 people**, compared to the state average of one doctor per 1,060 people. (National Provider Identifier)

This means longer wait times and less availability. The same goes for mental health providers and dentists. In 2022, Imperial County had far fewer mental health providers per person compared to the state average and there were also slightly fewer dentists in the county.

Overall, many Imperial County residents face obstacles in getting the healthcare they need. The community survey found many people face challenges getting the care they need because of:

- **Cost:** Over a third of people said high out-of-pocket costs are the biggest problem. It can be expensive to see a doctor, even if you have insurance
- **Scheduling issues:** Over 30% of people reported that appointments aren't available or take too long to schedule.
- **Location and hours:** Nearly a third of people said needed services aren't offered in their area. Additionally, 28% of people said they need evening or weekend hours to see a doctor, but these hours might not be available.



No appointments and long wait times to get an appointment are the main reasons people can't get the care they need

2024 CTSA Community Survey

What is a Specialty Care Provider?

Some examples of specialty care providers are:

- Heart Doctor = Cardiologist
- Cancer Doctor = Oncologist
- Skin Doctor = Dermatologist
- Brain Doctor = Neurologist
- Women's and Maternal Health Doctor = Obstetrician / Gynecologist (OBGYN)

What is a Mental Health Provider?

A mental health provider is someone who takes care of your mind and your emotions. Just like you got to a doctor for a checkup if your body does not feel well, a mental health provider can help when you are struggling with your thoughts and feelings. Some examples of mental health providers are counselors, therapists, psychiatrists, and psychologists.



More Imperial County residents have health insurance compared to California as a whole

The number of new cases of Chronic Hepatitis C decreased in Brawley and El Centro from 2018-2020 to 2021-2023, which shows that people might be making more of an effort in preventative health care

Insurance Rate -- Source: American Community Survey, Five-year estimates 2018-2022, Tables B27001/C27001
Hep C -- Source: CalREDIE via the Imperial County Public Health Department

Staying Healthy (Preventative Healthcare)

Preventative healthcare is like building a fort to protect yourself from getting sick. It is all about doing things to stay healthy and avoid getting sick in the first place. Examples of preventative healthcare are getting vaccines like your flu shot every year, brushing your teeth and washing your hands, eating healthy food, exercising every day, getting plenty of sleep every night and seeing your healthcare provider for an annual physical exam, cancer screenings, well-child checkups.

Staying healthy is important and one of the best ways to stay health is to engage in preventative healthcare. There are many reasons that preventative healthcare is important:

Early Detection and Treatment: Think of preventative care as catching a small tear in your clothes before it becomes a huge rip. Preventative care focuses on early discovery of potential health problems, allowing for treatment to begin sooner, often when it's most effective and less invasive. For example, catching high blood pressure early with regular checkups can help prevent heart disease later in life.

Improved Health Outcomes: By identifying and addressing health issues early, preventative care can lead to better overall health outcomes. It's like taking steps to avoid getting sick in the first place, rather than just dealing with the consequences later. This can mean less hospitalizations, a better quality of life, and a longer lifespan.

Reduced Costs: Healthcare can be expensive and there are some upfront costs for getting checkups or screenings, but, they can actually save money in the long run. Early treatment of health problems is usually cheaper than treating them once they become more serious. It's like paying for a small car repair now, versus having to replace the entire engine later.

Empowerment and Well-being: Preventative care isn't just about doctors and medications. It empowers you to take control of your own health. By understanding your risk factors and making healthy lifestyle choices (like eating well, exercising, and getting enough sleep), you can significantly improve your overall well-being and reduce your risk of developing chronic diseases.

Prevention of Contagious Diseases: Vaccinations are prevention. They help to prevent the spread of infectious diseases like measles and COVID-19. Vaccines protect you and those around you, especially vulnerable populations like young children or the elderly.

Overall, preventative healthcare is a proactive approach to maintaining good health and preventing future problems. It's an investment in your well-being that can pay off in significant ways throughout your life.



Preventative healthcare is the best way to get and stay healthy, and it's the best way to keep your family and friends healthy!



In 2019-2021, there were nearly twice as many births from people age 18-21 in Imperial County compared to California



TEENAGE PREGNANCY & PRENATAL CARE



The percent of births with no prenatal care increased from 4% in 2010-2012 to 6% in 2020-2022



**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH**



The suicide mortality rate from 2020-2022 was lower in Imperial County than in California

In 2021, less than 2% of students in 7th, 9th, and 11th self-reported tobacco or e-cigarette use

Behavioral Health

What is behavioral health? Behavioral health is about how our thoughts, feelings, actions, and overall well-being are connected. It includes:

Mental health: This focuses on our emotions, thoughts, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act.

Substance misuse and abuse: This means using drugs or alcohol in a way that harms your health or daily life.

Healthy habits: This includes things like getting enough sleep, eating a balanced diet, and exercising regularly. These habits can all affect our mental and emotional well-being.

Stress management: This is the ability to handle stressful situations in a healthy way. Constant stress can affect our mental and physical health.

Social relationships: Strong social connections are important for our emotional well-being. Feeling isolated or lonely can negatively affect our mental health.


The CHA found some concerning trends in Imperial County.

The community survey showed that many people in the Far North are affected by substance use more than others in the county. More resources and support are needed for those struggling with addiction in that area.

In 2022, a total of 23.8 percent of surveyed adults were classified as excessive drinkers (heavy and/or binge drinkers), which is higher than in California at 18.0 percent.

Students in 11th grade had higher rates of binge drinking. Self-reported e-cigarette use rose as students progressed through school levels.

Students in 11th grade had higher rates (7%) than students in 7th grade (2%) in 2021.



**In 2022,
a total of 23.8% of surveyed adults were
classified as excessive drinkers (heavy
and/or binge drinkers), which is higher
than in California at 18.0%
and
students in 11th grade had higher rates of
binge drinking.**

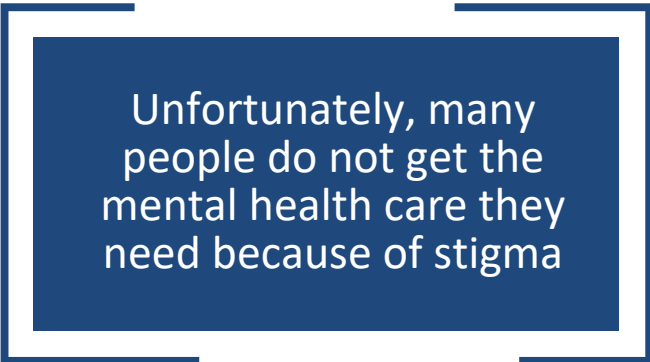
Mental Health Access

Some groups had trouble getting mental health services. LGBTQIA+ individuals, those with very low income, and women had higher rates of not getting the help they needed compared to the county average. This shows the need for more accessible and inclusive mental health services.

Teen Depression: Rates of depression among middle and high school students (7th, 9th, and 11th graders) have been increasing. This needs to be addressed to ensure the well-being of young people in Imperial County.

Adult Depression: A considerable number of adults (nearly a quarter) have been diagnosed with depression. This shows the importance of having mental health screenings and making treatment options available for adults in the county.

These findings show a clear need for more focus on behavioral health services and resources in Imperial County, especially in the Far North region and for vulnerable individuals.



Unfortunately, many people do not get the mental health care they need because of stigma

Unfortunately, many people do not get the mental health care they need because of stigma. The stigma around mental health causes significant problems. It can make it harder for people to seek help, limit access to treatment, increase feelings of isolation and loneliness, lower self-esteem, and lead to discrimination. Challenging stigma is important to create a more supportive environment for those with mental health conditions.

Mental health stigma is like being afraid to ask a friend to help chase the cloud away because you think something might be wrong with you.

But remember, everyone has dark clouds sometimes! It's okay to feel sad, mad, or scared.

There are people who care about you and mental health providers that want to help chase those clouds away. Talking about your feelings is like letting sunshine peek through the clouds and making you feel happy again.

It is important that everyone feels comfortable talking about how they feel and reaching out for help if they need it.



What is Stigma?

Mental health stigma means some people might be afraid or embarrassed to talk about their feelings, even if they need help.

Challenging stigma is important to create a more supportive environment for those who need help with mental health conditions or substance misuse.



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

photo source: Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner



The average unemployment rate in Imperial County decreased between 2018 (18.8%) and 2022 (14.7%)

The number of reported crimes decreased between 2013 and 2022, from 6,215 reported crimes to 3,509 reported crimes

Air Quality in Imperial County improved between 2019 and 2023

Unemployment Rate -- Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018 to 2022

Crime -- Source: California Department of Justice, Openjustice.doj.ca.gov

Air Quality -- Source: EPA, Environmental Justice Screening, 2023.

Free and Reduced Price Meals-- Source: California Department of Education,

DataQuest, Free and Reduced Price Meals, 2022–2023.

Food Insecurity -- Source: Feeding America

Recreation Centers -- US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns.

Additional data analysis by CARES. Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES),

University of Missouri Extension. Retrieved October 2022 via SparkMap (sparkmap.org).

Social Determinants of Health

The Social Determinants of Health (or SDOH) are the conditions in the places where we live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect our health.

Your health is not determined only by going to the doctor; it's also affected by your surroundings. Understanding SDOH is important because it helps us focus on improving the conditions where people live, not just treating them when they get sick. By addressing these factors, we can create healthier communities for everyone.

These factors affect the health of individuals and their communities. For example, economic and social insecurity are linked to poor health. Poverty, unemployment, and lack of education affect access to healthcare services. Employment provides income that increases choices in housing, education, healthcare, childcare, and food. Family and social support can counter the effects of limited income and the ability to accumulate financial resources.

Here are some important facts about the social determinants of health in Imperial County:

- People in Imperial County have less recreation and fitness facilities and live further from them than people in California.
- In the school year 2022/2023, 76% (27,561) of students in Imperial County were eligible for free and reduced-price meals – 16% higher than the State.
- Calexico Unified (86%) and Brawley Elementary (85%) have the largest number of students eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Meals were in.
- Food insecurity rates improved from 30% in 2017 to 25% in 2021.



Roughly one in three adults (33.9%) found it very or somewhat difficult to get affordable fresh fruits and vegetables. The national average is 21.1%.

The CTSA Survey found that Imperial County residents who make less money (51%), Hispanic respondents (35.3%), and people of different races (43.4%) had a hard time finding fresh fruits and vegetables that they can afford.



Obesity is a challenge for many Imperial County residents. Hispanic Adults (48.1%), Adults ages 40-64 (53.2%), those living in the North region (53%), and those living in the Far North region (61%) are impacted the most.



Health Priorities

Stakeholders involved in the Imperial County Community Health Partnership and community members worked together to identify the most important issues, set goals, and choose strategies to make positive changes for the well-being of Imperial County residents most affected by poor health outcomes and health inequities.

They thought about the community's strengths, perspectives, and health data to choose the priority areas for the 2024 - 2027 CHIP. Understanding what the community does well, such as strong social connections and cultural traditions that promote healthy living, helped to create a plan that builds on these strengths.

To pick the most important issues, the stakeholders considered a few things:

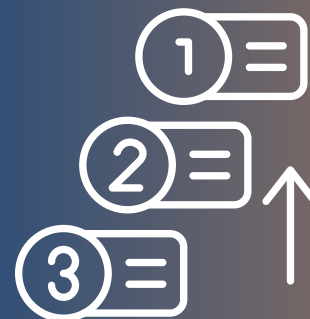
- What do people living in Imperial County say are the biggest health problems?
- What does the data say are the health problems facing people in Imperial County?
- What is going well in Imperial County?
- What are the traditions and ways of life that help people in Imperial County stay healthy?

After answering these questions three priority areas were picked:

- Access to High Quality Healthcare
- Healthy and Safe Living
- Behavioral Health

Conclusion

We hope this report starts conversations about health in Imperial County and the information helps to find the best ways to keep everyone healthy. The goal is to involve everyone, including organizations, residents, businesses, and the government, to work together on the most important health issues and create solutions that help everyone in the community, not just some people. By talking with each other and working as a team, we can make a healthy Imperial County a reality!



Health Priorities

- 1 Access to High Quality Healthcare**
- 2 Healthy and Safe Living**
- 3 Behavioral Health**

**Read
the full
CHA
Report
HERE**

**Read
the
CHIP
Report
HERE**