

## Empowering Local Health Departments with Jurisdiction-Specific Core Modules

Some Local Health Departments (LHDs), especially those which may be under resourced, face challenges with performing comprehensive health assessments of their communities. The personnel and appropriate technological tools, which are needed to effectively collect and analyze health data to inform public health priorities and decision-making, may not be consistently available in these counties/cities. Without reliable and comprehensive data, LHDs lack information to inform efforts to improve community health.

Every year, the CDPH Office of Policy and Planning (OPP) produces the California State Health Assessment Core Module (SHA CM) to identify findings that contribute to informing the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The SHA CM provides an assessment of population health across a range of health conditions, demographic characteristics, and other factors (e.g. disparities and inequities). In order to address the issue above, the OPP data team modified and customized the SHA CM code system to additionally produce jurisdiction-specific versions of the Core Module for all 58 California counties.

Following the production of the SHA CM and jurisdiction-specific versions, a webinar was held to share key findings with LHDs, CDPH programs, and agency partners, and to give an opportunity to LHDs to request a Core Module specific to their jurisdictions. This year's webinar saw over 350 attendees with over 50% being from LHDs. Additionally, 42 LHDs requested and received jurisdiction-specific Core Modules.

Data is the foundation of evidence-based public health practice. The jurisdiction-specific Core Modules empower, often resource poor, LHDs to monitor health patterns and trends, and identify health disparities within their communities for the purpose of designing effective interventions and tracking progress towards better health outcomes. LHD teams may also build on the standard data in the Core Module to identify areas for further local assessment and analysis. LHDs utilize the Core Module to support the development of their Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP).

*Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Success Story by the Office of Strategic Development & External Relations, Fusion Center (Office of Policy and Planning)*