Background of the Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project (HCI)

The Healthy Community Data and Indicators Project (HCI) was started in 2012 with support from the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), a state agency coordinating efforts to promote sustainability, economic prosperity, and quality of life in California. The goal of the HCI is to enhance public health by providing a standardized set of statistical measures, data, and tools that a broad array of sectors can use for planning healthy communities and evaluating the impact of plans, projects, policy, and environmental changes on community health. The initial phase of the project (2012-2014) was a 2-year collaboration of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) with funding by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), to create and disseminate indicators linked to the Healthy Communities Framework (PDF). These indicators were developed by the Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force of the Strategic Growth Council with extensive public discussion and input from community stakeholders and public health organizations. The Healthy Community Framework identifies 20 key attributes (aspirational goals) of a healthy community through all stages of life, clustered in five broad categories (domains).