

MINUTES

Data Committee
November 5, 2013



Call highlights:

HCI Wrap-Up

- Final versions of the Healthy Community Indicators we worked on are now posted on CDPH website at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/HealthyCommunityIndicators.aspx>
- Suggest holding a future DC call in collaboration with Healthy Food Procurement working group on the subject of Food Retail Environment Index development.

ATP Program and Definition of “Disadvantaged Communities”

- Members are encouraged to review [CalEnviroScreen Tool](http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/042313CalEnviroScreen1.pdf) and methodology report: <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/042313CalEnviroScreen1.pdf> to assess whether the disadvantaged communities (as indicated by this tool) correspond to areas of need in your county/city.

Call Attendees:

| Participant | Organization |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Belinda Prado | Long Beach |
| Dan Gallagher | SANDAG |
| Danyte Mockus | Riverside |
| Dulce Bustamante | CDPH |
| Sabrina Rossetti | San Bernardino County Department of Public Health |
| Katherine Lee | American Lung Association |
| Rye Baerg | Safe Routes to School National Partnership |
| Susan Klein-Rothschild | Santa Barbara |
| Trav Ichninose | Orange County |
| Carla Blackmar | Public Health Alliance of Southern California |

Minutes:

1. **Welcome/ Introductions**— Danyte Mockus

The Data Committee welcomed two new members: Belinda Prado, Epidemiologist from Long Beach Department of Public Health, and Sabrina Rossetti, Epidemiologist with the San Bernardino Department of Public Health. Sabrina is replacing Evie Trevino on the committee. Evie retired from San Bernardino this month.

2. **New Healthy Community Indicator Additions: *Food Retail Environment* and *Minutes Walking and Biking to Work***

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Neil and Dulce completed work on two additional Healthy Community Indicators from the original list selected by the data committee. Final versions of the indicators are online at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/HealthyCommunityIndicators.aspx>

- **Discussion of *Food Retail Environment Index***

Dulce presented some background information on this indicator, noting that it came from the CDC, which created the indicator in 2009 using information from a proprietary database. Because of the propriety nature of the information, the methodology for how they produced the indicator are not available. A further limitation of the indicator is that the CDC has not provided any indication of whether/when it will be updated. These limitations are presented in the narrative that accompanies this indicator.

In a subsequent conversation, Sabrina Rossetti from San Bernardino noted that San Bernardino is working to produce a similar indicator using the business information that is collected by DEH in their County. One challenge in doing this is categorizing retailers as “healthy” or “unhealthy.”

Trav commented by email that he thought it would be good if the retail food environment narrative discussion could include a summary of some of the longitudinal studies of the food environment. Trav commended the honesty of the narrative write-up in recognizing the complexity of the literature on the food environment.

➤ *Suggested follow up: joint Data Committee/ Healthy Food Procurement call on food retail environment indicator development.*

- **Discussion of *Minutes Walking and Biking to work***

Dulce developed this indicator to represent the percentage of employed persons biking/walking 10 minutes to work. In prior calls, the Data Committee had discussed what the cut-off should be (in minutes) for this indicator—the group did not come to a consensus. Dulce explained that they selected 10 minutes as the cutoff both to simplify the comparison of cycling and pedestrian data (which have their origin in different sources), and also to reflect that the data represents a *one way* trip—the round trip would come closer to the 15 minutes per day that was suggested as the cutoff by some participants. After some discussion the group agreed that this cutoff made sense.

The group reviewed the narrative associated with this indicator and provided some comments. Rye commented that this indicator presented a very limited portrait of Active Transportation. Some of these limitations are detailed in the narrative. Trav

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suggested that it could be good to expand the “significance” section to include some discussion of how physical activity impacts health independent of the obesity pathway.

➤ **NEXT STEPS:**

- *Revised indicator narratives will be posted on CDPH website.*
- *Data Committee will work on developing recommendations related to the data gaps exposed through the HCI process.*

3. **Discussion of “Disadvantaged Communities” definition for the new California Active Transportation Program**

Carla introduced Active Transportation Program—recently approved in state legislature. The Active Transportation Program or “ATP” will provide a coordinated approach to Active Transportation investments. It will also keep AT funding stable in the wake of changes to the new transportation reauthorization bill.

- The program includes a requirement that 25% of funds allocated to all sources go to “disadvantaged communities”
- These communities are still undefined, though the legislation suggested that CalEnviroScreen (<http://oehha.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=1d202d7d9dc84120ba5aac97f8b39c56>), a tool originally developed to indicate Environmental Justice communities, could be one potential tool for gauging disadvantaged communities under ATP.
- Additional information about CalEnviroScreen is available at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/042313CalEnviroScreen1.pdf>
- There may be an opportunity for health departments to suggest refinements to this definition.

➤ **NEXT STEPS:**

- *Members are encouraged to check out CalEnviroScreen, see if it reflects the areas of highest need in your community as you understand it.*
- *If we have specific other alternatives to propose, can do once guidelines are released on December 11.*
- *Data Committee will work on developing recommendations related to the data gaps exposed through the HCI process.*

4. **Wrap Up/ Next Call:** Our next call is scheduled on 12/3 from 2-3pm