LGBTQ Health Assessment

- Historically, very limited data available on LGBTQ health in Santa Clara County
- Board President Ken Yeager, State of the County 2013
- First health assessment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer SCC residents
- Goal: understand health needs of LGBTQ residents to identify priorities, strategies, and resources to address disparities
Timeline

- **August 5:** First Steering Committee Meeting
- **August 17-18:** Adult paper survey administered at San Jose PRIDE
- **August 28:** Community stakeholder meeting and community conversations
- **September-October:** Online LGBTQ adult survey in English, Mandarin, Spanish & Vietnamese
- **September-November:** Key Informant Interviews and additional community conversations
- **November 14:** Community Forum (i.e. recommendations and strategy development)
- **December 20:** Final Report
Community engagement & participation

Co-chairs
- PHD
- RDA

Community forum

Community conversations and key informant interviews

Steering Committee Members
3 Co-chairs
Steering Committee
(N=27)

SCCPHD

Data collection

Adult Survey
(N=1,175)

Community Conversations
(N=17)

Key Informant Interviews
(N=27)
Health and social issues

- Community connectedness and social cohesion
- Discrimination and acceptance
- Health care access and discrimination
- Families
- Outness
- Substance use and abuse
- Resiliency
- Safety
- Youth
- Mental health

Additional population specific conversations identified:
Latino/a LGBTQ (in Spanish); Asian; Seniors; Lesbian; Transgender men/women; African Americans; Youth (<18)
Key informant interviews

- 27 community leaders, experts, and service providers knowledge about particular issues or populations
- Similar topics as in community conversations
Community forum

Public Health Department and RDA identified...

47 priority areas

Smaller steering committee working group selected...

20 priority areas

Co-chairs selected...

12 priority areas
SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS
Population size and SES

- Lesbian or gay: 31,000 adults (3% of SCC adults)
- Bisexual: 16,000 adults (1% of SCC adults)
- Transgender: 3,500 adults (based on national estimates)
- Higher education than heterosexual adults but more likely to live below 200% FPL

Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2011-12
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents with health insurance by household income

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who have experienced healthcare discrimination in the past 5 years

- Healthcare professionals refused to touch me or used excessive precautions: 13%
- Healthcare professionals blamed me for my health status: 13%
- Healthcare professionals used harsh or abusive language: 12%
- I was refused needed care: 7%
- Healthcare professionals were physically rough or abusive: 4%

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Out to healthcare provider

- **By race/ethnicity:**
  - African American: 29%
  - Asian/PI: 67%
  - Latino: 66%
  - White: 78%

- **By age:**
  - Ages 18-24: 56%
  - Ages 25-54: 69%
  - Ages 55+: 96%

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
In their own words: Medical provider competence

- Being “LGBTQ friendly” is not enough; providers need to be “LGBTQ knowledgeable”.
- “It’s nice to educate our doctors [about trans issues], but I want to know that they know what they’re doing, and not just fudging a little bit and figuring it out on us.”
Recommendations: Healthcare

- Develop LGBTQ competency trainings for all providers and staff in healthcare settings.
- Educate LGBTQ healthcare consumers and providers about LGBTQ rights and enforce existing nondiscrimination statutes.
- Standardize medical forms to include optional gender identity and sexual orientation questions to prevent unintentional discrimination.
- Create an inventory of LGBTQ-competent healthcare providers and conduct outreach around available services.
GENERAL HEALTH
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who are overweight or obese

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who felt that they might need to see a professional in the past 12 months because of concerns with their mental health, emotions, nerves, or use of alcohol or drugs.

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who had ever shot up or injected any drugs other than those prescribed

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
In their voices: Mental health and substance use

- Mental health and substance use among LGBTQ people are often connected to rejection, isolation from families, discrimination, and harassment.

- “Mental health issues are dramatically different from the straight community. Not only do you have internal struggles; there is a lot of internalized oppression and stigma.”

- “I had two episodes where I was near suicidal - one before transition because of the stress of that, and one after because it broke up my family.”
Homelessness and LGBTQ in SCC

- LGBTQ: 29% of the homeless < age 25
- LGBTQ: 10% of the homeless ages 25+
- Transgender: 4% of homeless < age 25
- Transgender or “other”: 2% of homeless ages 25+

Source: Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey, 2013
“Everybody I know who has come out [as trans] has had some family relationship that’s been disrupted. For young people it impacts their ability to survive.”

“[As a senior] there are two choices: Maintaining my identity and being isolated or going back to the closet after being out for so many years.”
Recommendations: Mental health and substance use

- Designate the LGBTQ population as high-risk for mental health issues in order to prioritize services and funding.
- Develop LGBTQ-specific mental health and substance use services to reduce barriers and mitigate fears of discrimination.
- Provide training to ensure an LGBTQ-competent workforce in mental health and substance use.
- Continue targeted outreach and education related to mental health and substance use as well as information on available services.
- Conduct regular tobacco cessation campaigns that target LGBTQ populations.
TOBACCO USE
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who smoked 1 or more cigarettes in the past 7 days

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Some participants expressed that tobacco use in the LGBTQ community, specifically smoking, is an issue of concern that should not be overlooked.

Community members cited sporadic LGBTQ public health-related tobacco education campaigns, acknowledging a need for more frequent outreach and education.
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND SAFER SEX
Testing for sexually transmitted infections

Among MSM survey respondents:
- 21% have **never been tested** for HIV
- 43% have **never been tested** for syphilis
- 38% have **never been tested** for gonorrhea

Among lesbian, bisexual women, and transgender survey respondents:
- Between 34% and 40% have **never been tested** for HIV
- Between 45% and 65% have **never been tested** for chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis (transgender)

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Percentage of MSM survey respondents who used condoms when having sex in the past 6 months

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
In their voices: STIs

- Community members identified a shortage of HIV and other STI outreach and testing.

- Participants highlighted stereotypes about who is at risk for HIV and other STIs as a barrier to increasing access to HIV and other STI testing.

- “Normally, gay men go out of the county to San Francisco to get a one-stop shop service.”
Recommendations: STIs

- Offer free, comprehensive HIV and other STI testing.
- Integrate testing in community venues.
- Reduce barriers to testing by offering low-cost and anonymous testing.
- Promote and subsidize in-home HIV testing kits.
- Train medical providers on how to talk to patients about STI risk, testing, and care.
- Improve outreach for hard-to-reach groups.
- Raise public awareness to reduce stigma about HIV and other STIs.
- Mandate school-based sex education inclusive of LGBTQ identities.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents ever hit, slapped, pushed, kicked, or physically hurt in any way by an intimate partner

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Community members emphasized that intimate partner violence is a hidden issue in the LGBTQ community.

Participants also cited instances of parents abusing their children for coming out.

“LGBT people in family violence situations often don’t come forward. Domestic violence is a dirty little secret in our community.”
Recommendations: Domestic violence

- **Increase education and outreach within the LGBTQ** community **to lessen stigma around intimate partner violence.**
- **Develop LGBTQ-specific** intimate partner violence services, shelters, and youth crisis services.
- **Facilitate reporting** by training law enforcement agencies and courts about responding to LGBTQ intimate partner violence. Instate victims advocates trained in LGBTQ issues at local police stations.
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with statements regarding social acceptance of LGBTQ people in Santa Clara County.

- Most people in Santa Clara County are accepting of LGBTQ people: 62%
- Most people in my neighborhood are accepting of LGBTQ people: 54%
- Most people in my family are accepting of LGBTQ people: 59%
- Most people in my place of employment are accepting of LGBTQ people: 73%

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey.
Percentage of LGBTQ survey respondents who experienced discrimination due to sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the past 12 months

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey
Percentage of 7th, 9th, and 11th graders who were harassed or bullied on school property in the past 12 months because they were gay or lesbian or someone thought they were.

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-10
“[The trans] community as a whole recognize that walking out the door, sitting at the bus stop, going to the store, realistically can cost us our lives.”
Next steps

- Disseminate widely: report available online & print
- Data from report and recommendations from forum will help inform: community organizations, county agencies, and elected officials
- Goal: generate equitable action-oriented solutions to improve the lives of the LGBTQ community
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Reports

This section contains health status reports and fact sheets created by the Public Health Department.

Status of LGBTQ Health in Santa Clara County, 2013
- Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 LGBTQ Adult Survey


Pertussis Report, through September 28, 2013
- Previous Pertussis Reports in 2013

Child Poverty in Santa Clara County Report, 2013

Obesity, Physical Activity and Nutrition Report, 2013

Secondhand Smoke and Multi-Unit Housing in Gilroy: A Desktop HIA, 2013

Influenza Reports
Influenza Report, January 12-18, 2014
Influenza Report, January 5-11, 2014
- Previous Influenza Reports

Status of Latino/Hispanic Health Santa Clara County 2012
- Executive Summary (English)
- Executive Summary (Spanish)
- Volume 1: Latino/Hispanic Health Matters
- Volume 2: Neighborhood Conditions that Affect Latino/Hispanic Health
- Appendix: Methods and Tools
- Additional Tables and Graphs
- Presentations
- Neighborhood Profiles
Questions?