

San Joaquin County Public Health Services

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction

San Joaquin County Public Health Services (PHS) offers a broad array of programs and services to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of San Joaquin County residents. PHS is well regarded for its core programs, including a state-of-the-art Public Health Laboratory and immunization registry that both serve surrounding counties. With over 200 multidisciplinary staff, the organization reflects the broad diversity of the county's population.

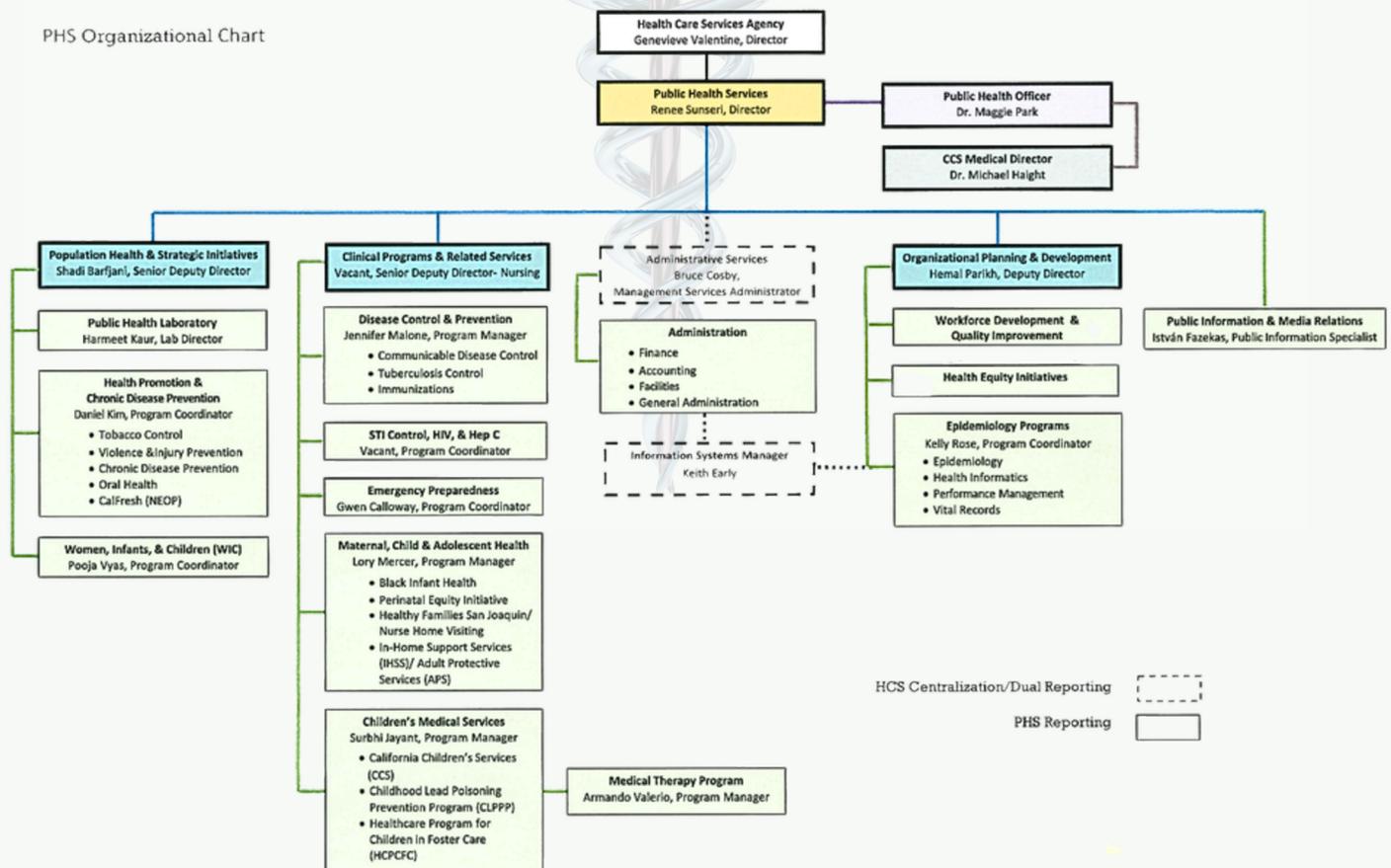
Our Vision & Mission

As set forth in the PHS Strategic Plan:

Vision - All San Joaquin County communities are healthy, safe, equitable, and thriving

Mission - Protect, promote, and improve health and the conditions that impact well-being for all in San Joaquin County

PHS Organizational Chart



Public Health Services Director



As we look to the future, I am proud of the progress we have made in protecting and promoting the health of our communities in San Joaquin County.

At Public Health Services, we are committed to staying ahead of the curve, promptly responding to emerging issues, and leveraging new technologies and approaches to improve health outcomes for all residents.

Our annual report highlights our efforts, many successes, and trends. I am honored to be a part of the work we are doing to protect and promote the health of our communities, and I look forward to continuing this important work in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Renee Sunseri

Renee Sunseri, Public Health Services Director

List of PHS Programs & Services

ADMINISTRATION

(209) 468-3411

Supports major functions of PHS — such as department management, health statistics and reporting, personnel, accounts payable, purchasing, payroll processing, expense reimbursement claims.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND OTHER VITAL RECORDS

(209) 468-3401

Registers births and deaths in the county. Provides certified paper copies of birth certificates and other vital records (e.g., burial permits and death certificates).

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS)

(209) 468-3900

Statewide program that coordinates and pays for medical care and therapy services for eligible clients under 21 years of age.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM

(209) 468-8914

Provides car seat installation assistance on Wednesdays by appointment, conducts car seat education presentations at community locations including pre-schools and parent cafes, holds large-scale car seat check-up events around the county, and trains Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM (CLPPP)

(209) 468-2593

Provides education and resources to the community and medical providers to raise awareness about lead poisoning dangers. Home visitation and inspections also available for children found to be severely lead-poisoned.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM

(209) 953-7309

Works with community partners in the county on strategies to reduce risks associated with diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic conditions (e.g., healthier diets, more physical activity, monitoring blood pressure, appropriate medications). Also, works with traditional and non-traditional partners on injury prevention (e.g., as a result of traffic, pedestrian, and bike crashes; senior falls, drowning, suffocation, and poisoning such as opioid abuse.)

DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

(209) 468-3822

Conducts case investigation of reportable communicable diseases, outbreak management, contact identification, patient and community education. Plus, consultation to physicians, infectious disease practitioners, nursing facilities, schools, and day care programs.

List of PHS Programs & Services

- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (EP) PROGRAM** (209) 468-9361
Strengthens and coordinates the ability of PHS to prepare for, prevent, and respond to communicable diseases outbreaks, bioterrorism events, and all public health emergencies by providing education and training, disseminating effective communications, and enhancing community resilience and safety through collaborative partnerships.
- EPIDEMIOLOGY** (209) 468-9841
Provides surveillance and monitoring of health data. Supports programs needs for health-related data (e.g., social determinants of health). Shares health information with community through data reports, dashboards, and requests.
- IN HOME SUPPORT SERVICES (FOR OLDER, BLIND, AND DISABLED ADULTS)** (209) 468-2202
Assess clients via nurses to determine needs for in-home care; provides referrals and recommendations to families.
- LOCAL ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM (LOHP)** (209) 468-2202
Provides activities to support state oral health plan and works with community partners to build capacity for children's oral health education, prevention, links to treatment, surveillance, and case management services. Partners with San Joaquin Treatment + Education for Everyone on Teeth + Health (SJ TEETH) Collaborative.
- MATERNAL, CHILD, AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAM (MCAH)** (209) 468-3004
Improves health of women of reproductive age, infants, children, adolescents, and their families via integrated programs.
- MEDICAL THERAPY PROGRAM** (209) 468-6361
Provides physical and occupational therapy for children with physical disabilities up to the age of 21, with qualifying medically eligible condition(s).
- NURSE HOME VISITING PROGRAM** (209) 468-3004
Conducts home visits for anyone who is pregnant or has a baby up to 1 year old. Nurses provide parent education, case management, weight checks, developmental screening, and more. Some children with complex medical issues can be referred up to age 5.
- OPIOID SAFETY PROGRAM** (209) 953-7309
Facilitates the San Joaquin County Opioid Safety Coalition, offers community venue to discuss strategies and interventions for the opioid overdose epidemic, increases access and awareness to treatment options, educates prescribers, and reduces stigma associated with opioid use in the public.

List of PHS Programs & Services

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (209) 468-3460

Provides high-complexity testing services for San Joaquin and neighboring counties as a California state and federally certified facility.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION (209) 468-3400

Develops and coordinates communication and outreach strategies to the community (e.g., program educational materials, press releases, community advisories, social media) Maintains media relations.

STIs/HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS (209) 468-3820

Coordinates STD and HIV/AIDS related services. Provides counseling, education and prevention services that include street- based outreach and activities at schools and correctional facilities.

SMOKING & TOBACCO OUTREACH/PREVENTION PROGRAM (STOPP) (209) 468-8637

The STOPP program works in partnership with the community to promote a tobacco-free San Joaquin County through education; policy and environmental changes, engagement with stakeholders, supporting cessation services, and coalition building.

STOPP HELPLINE - LOCAL NUMBER (209) 468-2415

Makes referrals to community programs to help stop smoking.

**SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) PROGRAM
MCAH PROGRAM** (209) 468-3004

Provides supportive services, referrals, and education for families experiencing death of an infant due to SIDS.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) CONTROL PROGRAM (209) 468-3828

Provides support and treatment for clients with active TB. Also, facilitates contact tracing to assess if others have been infected and require treatment, referral, and/or monitoring.

**WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM** (209) 468-3280

Provides families with nutrition education and breastfeeding support, issues healthy supplemental food benefits, and makes referrals to healthcare and other community services.

Public Health Laboratory

The San Joaquin County Public Health Laboratory (SJCPHL) works in conjunction with public health clinics, local hospitals and health care providers, public health departments from surrounding counties and the department of Environmental Health.

SJCPHL is a California State and Federally certified facility that provides high complexity testing services in the areas of bacteriology, parasitology, mycobacteriology, mycology, immunology, and virology.

In 2025, the lab performed about 30,238 tests from a diverse test menu. Here are some 2025 accomplishments:

Data Modernization

The SJCPHL upgraded the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to Orchard Enterprise Laboratory System (OEL) to comply with the up-to-date technology and data modernization features enhancing infrastructure, efficiency in operations, data exchange and reporting. This upgrade is a consolidated environment, based on our previous technology that eliminated the synchronization requirements, thus reducing maintenance overhead and improved system reliability.

Regulatory Compliance

The SJCPHL successfully passed re- accreditation surveys and met the regulatory compliance standards for CLIA/CMS, ELAP/TNI, and annual Medical Waste audits.

SJCPHL Recognition

The SJCPHL received a certificate of appreciation from the California department of Public Health and was recognized for four years of collaboration and contributions to the California COVID Net program.

Continued Screening in Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Laboratory assisted skilled nursing facilities by prioritizing critical carbapenemase-producing organisms samples and expediting test results, leading to improving patient care. These organisms can quickly spread from patient to patient from contaminated equipment, the healthcare environment, or the hands and clothing of healthcare workers.

Surveillance Testing

Crucial testing for influenza H5N1 and seasonal subtypes at the local level allowed for early detection of the virus, enabling swift containment to prevent its spread.

Outreach

The laboratory coordinated with Saf T Pak/APHL and offered free Division 6.2 Dangerous Goods Packaging and Shipping Training to Sentinel Laboratory partners, including hospital and county health department personnel. In addition, the SJCPHL conducted virtual training for LRN Sentinel laboratory partners as a refresher on the rule out and submission of biothreat agents, and shared up-to-date guidance and safety practices.

Workforce Development

The laboratory participated in several workforce development activities and multiple training programs, such as Public Health Microbiologist Training Program, and the LabAspire Fellowship Program that prepares candidates to meet CLIA guidelines for a Laboratory Director. SJCPHL also served as host lab for APHL-CDC fellows. This fellowship program is an opportunity for post-bachelor's, master's and doctoral scientists to engage in focused public health laboratory training.

California Strengthening Public Health Initiative and (CASPHI) & Future of Public Health Initiative (FoPH)

Throughout 2025, San Joaquin County Public Health Services leveraged Future of Public Health (FoPH) and California Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure (CASPHI) funding to advance key efforts in operations, informatics, and health equity, improving our ability to better serve the needs of county residents. A prime example is the modernization of our data management and development of data visualizations in various dashboards, allowing for more real-time, data-driven decision making at the programmatic level. This effort allows data to be displayed in a user-friendly format that is more accessible to the public and community partners.

CASPHI funding was able to sustain two full-time staff responsible for the comprehensive implementation of the PHS Health Equity Action Plan (2022-2027), including the development of staff trainings to embed an equity lens into our work. Funding will be utilized through 2026 to continue to support these efforts.

“The funding has been critical to our success in serving the needs of a diverse and complex community here in San Joaquin County. Spanning the spectrum between funding critical positions and mobilizing key resources, it has served as an essential bolster to our organization’s effectiveness in advancing issues around public health,” Renee Sunseri, San Joaquin County Public Health Services Public Health Director.



Maternal Child Adolescent Health (MCAH) Program

The MCAH Program includes the following: Black Infant Health, Nurse Home Visiting, Healthy Families San Joaquin, and the Perinatal Equity Initiative.

Some accomplishments in 2025 include:

- The Healthy Families San Joaquin program completed 717 home visits to pregnant and parenting families residing in the county in FY 24/25.
- Perinatal Services Roundtable attendance grew from 24 to 109.
- The Perinatal Equity Initiative and Black Infant Health community advisory board hosted its 3rd annual Black Maternal Health Symposium on April 15th.
- MCAH provided over 100 “pack ‘n plays” to families in need of a safe sleeping environment for infants, in addition to over 1,000 family home visits.
- In an effort to raise awareness about Black infant mortality, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors approved a proclamation on January 28th 2025, declaring every third week of February as Black Infant Health Week.



Perinatal Services Coordinator (PSC) Success Story:

“The PSC established stronger relationships with our local managed care plans, Health Plan of San Joaquin & Health Net. We participated in quarterly roundtables with key topics such as: Interfacing with Doulas More Effectively, Preconception Health and the Positive Impacts on Birth Outcomes, Prioritizing Maternal Mental Health, and Low Dose ASA for Preeclampsia Prevention: Essential Skills & Resources for Addressing Perinatal Hypertension.

The PSC visited local community clinics, including the county hospital, which helped strengthen community partnership efforts. This included bringing highly trained professionals to speak to local providers, which led to increased provider attendance. In addition, we developed an important relationship with California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), who now serves on our planning committee with Health Plan of San Joaquin and our Local Community Doula representative. We are anticipating offering Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in the near future to encourage more participation and support the growing interest.”

SUCCESS STORY

Community Health Outreach Worker (CHOW) Success Story: A Community Health Outreach Worker delivered a presentation on Safe Sleep Practices for the Passport to Fatherhood Program at Mary Magdalene Community Services. The presentation emphasized the critical importance of understanding and preventing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) for fathers needing guidance and support on how to safely put their infants to sleep. There was a total of 5 fathers in attendance. One of the father’s shared that he lost a child to SIDS and wished he had received this presentation much earlier to help prevent his loss.

It is important that we receive this kind of feedback from the families that we serve throughout the county. Expanding our outreach to include fathers is key to maximizing the effectiveness of services provided by Public Health. SJC-PHS is always assessing, growing, and pivoting to the needs of the community. Feedback from fathers such as this, who voice their gratitude for the work we do, is sometimes the only way to gauge our work. One prevented death is a success, and one improved outcome validates our important work.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program

WIC Program Reach & Participation

The San Joaquin County PHS WIC program had an assigned caseload of 7400 participants for the year. During the FY 2025, a total of 66,104 residents utilized WIC program services, averaging 5508 participants per month and demonstrating sustained program utilization and community demand for services.

Breastfeeding Outcomes

Breastfeeding continuation rates reflect ongoing participant engagement and WIC education efforts have been well received.

Among the enrolled families:

- At 3 months, 27% women fully breastfed babies and 52% women chose to either breastfeed in some or partial capacity.
- At 6 months, 22% women fully breastfed babies and 42% women chose to either breastfeed in some or partial capacity.
- At 11 months, ~ 20% women fully breastfed babies and ~ 36% women chose to either breastfeed in some or partial capacity.

Early Literacy Initiative - Books for Kids

Through an on-going partnership with the California Department of Public Health since year 2022, the WIC program distributed free books to enrolled children ages 0-5. In 2025 the program successfully distributed a total of 882 books to participating families. Over last three years, 6,562 free books have been distributed to the community, supporting early childhood literacy developmental outcomes.

Program Developments

An important WIC card update occurred in FY25, with participants are now receiving EBT cards with QR codes. This enables them to access cash value produce at farmer's markets all year long. Also, commencing in August 2025, The PHS WIC program transitioned to the Enfamil formula brand, allowing uninterrupted benefits to over 300 infants.

Community Engagement

PHS WIC hosted its first in-person breastfeeding celebration at the WIC main office since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic on August 8, 2025. The event welcomed seven community partners and had an attendance of 35 families. All attendees received breastfeeding education, community resource information, and enrollment opportunities in partner programs such as "Read to Me Stockton".

Overall Impact

Throughout FY25, PHS WIC demonstrated a strong commitment to delivering a diversity of WIC services, and a meaningful engagement with the community. Strategic partnerships and operational improvements position the WIC program to maintain a reliable servicing ability for the future.



SUCCESS STORY

A foster youth needed extensive dental treatment (root canals) to be performed under general anesthesia with a pediatric endodontist. The local dental surgery center could not accept the youth as a patient because they do not work on those specific teeth. The foster care program's public health nurse reviewed all local dental resources, and when no local provider could have it covered by Medi-Cal dental insurance, they found a Bay Area dental office that could. The public health nurse connected the dental office's medical director with the social worker. The youth was then able to receive treatment with the Bay Area dental office and have the treatment paid for by funds from Flexible Family Supports through the California Department of Social Services.

Children's Medical Services (CMS)

The CMS Program serves children with special health care needs and consists of:

- California Children's Services (CCS)
- Medical Therapy Programs (MTP)
- The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC)
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP).

The largest CMS Program is CCS, which serves approximately 4000 children with special needs in our county. During 2025, the CCS program authorized 18,496 services to children.

Success Story:

The CCS staff assisted a 20-year-old client with multiple chronic conditions to successfully re-establish medical care. The client attended college while supporting themselves by working part-time. During a recent review of their chart, it was noticed that the client's Medi-Cal coverage terminated due to income exceeding the Medi-Cal eligibility thresholds. The CCS staff supported the client in system of care navigation. Now, CCS will resume coverage for this client until their 21st birthday. Notably, the CCS staff helped the client apply for affordable private health insurance, ensuring continuity of care for transition planning after their coverage expires with CCS.

CCS Medical Therapy Program

The California Children's Services Medical Therapy Program is a special program within California Children's Services that provides physical therapy, occupational therapy, and medical therapy conference services in outpatient clinics. In 2025, 485 children were served by the program.

Success Story:

"We had a child with a diagnosis of Arthrogyrosis, or arthrogyrosis multiplex congenita (AMC). It is a non-progressive condition present at birth and characterized by multiple joint contractures — stiff or fixed joints that cannot fully move or straighten. It affects roughly 1 in 3,000 to 10,000 live births, involving rigid joints, thin muscles, and limited mobility. This child has bilateral knee extension contractures, elbow extension contractures, and bilateral foot deformities. We began seeing her when she was 4 years old and now, she is 7. When we first started working with her, the primary means of mobility was scooting her bottom. After surgeries, and in conjunction with therapy, she can now propel a wheelchair using her feet to shuffle, walk independently with ankle braces 180 feet, or use a gait trainer independently for 300 feet."

Disease Control and Prevention (DCP)

PHS Street Outreach Van – Taking It to the Streets

As reported last year, PHS kept using our new van to maintain our field services' efforts. Last year alone, DCP staff provided much needed testing and vaccination services throughout the county for our most vulnerable populations. PHS expanded the screenings to include Hepatitis C in addition to Syphilis and HIV.

In total, the DCP team proudly administered **1,340** screenings/tests and **2,713** Flu vaccines in the field.



PHS Immunization Assistance Program (IAP)

For the second consecutive year, the IAP team bridged the gap for students who, in summer, still needed vaccines required for school enrollment. Their families were experiencing challenging barriers to accomplish this through standard services.

Public Health Nurses in IAP set to work and administered over **1,485** vaccines for these students, helping them stay on track for school.

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Control: Syphilis

The county experienced a rise in syphilis cases during the COVID pandemic years, peaking in 2023. Then the overall rate of syphilis started to decline in 2024 and 2025— trending from **828** cases to **682**, and then **559**, following the State's trend. PHS's efforts to maintain this downward trend included a multi-pronged approach to STI control in reproductive aged women and men, including:

- Extensive testing and treating by PHS in the community – in collaboration with CBOs and FBOs
- Regular testing/treatment at correctional facilities – in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and Correctional Health Services
- Opt-out testing with St. Joseph's Medical Center and San Joaquin General Hospital for HIV and syphilis in emergency departments
- Case management and support to address social determinants of health for pregnant women
- Applying cutting-edge technology and collaboration with hospital partners in finding and treating lost to care (LTC) clients
- Increasing engagement with county hospitals in infection prevention meetings by sharing STI and other infectious diseases data and trends

Tuberculosis

TB continues to present an ongoing challenge in our county, with **54** new cases in 2025, showing an increase of 10 cases compared with last year. The department continued to receive the test results for potential latent TB Infections - **2,790** IGRA reports. TB team has been diligently working on applying technology to optimize resources to link the infected residents to treatment, completing over **1,463** outreach calls to residents and linking **112** to care in 2025 with a total of **2,228** outreach calls and **629** treatment completions since the start of the LTBI program in late 2022.

Public Information & Media Relations

Public Health Services maintains robust communication and connection to our communities. Through a mixture of social media engagement, content on our website, media interviews, online coalitions, and through the many public events we participate in throughout the year, our teams are committed to making connections and engaging with our diverse county residents and healthcare partners.

187,348

Unique website visitors

Our website received a complete overhaul in 2025, modernizing the aesthetics and searchability of the content.

501

Facebook posts

with 228,197 impressions

499

Instagram posts

with 64,068 impressions

211

X posts

with 11,330 impressions

6

Press releases

2

Health advisories



Emergency Preparedness

The Emergency Preparedness (EP) program closely coordinates with public safety agencies throughout the county to plan for both the unexpected and severe natural events.

In 2025, the EP program overhauled the department's emergency plans, many of which were several years overdue. Revisions included:

- reorganizing the base emergency operations plan (EOP) with appropriate annexes
- removing redundancies, including more planning considerations for a wide range of vulnerable populations
- adding decision aids for determining the level of departmental response
- creating a new plan for lab staff surge
- updating the internal notification process

Completion of this project brings the EP program into alignment with current emergency management best practices and fulfills programmatic grant requirements. The follow-up steps for 2026 will include staff training and exercising the plans to increase familiarity, in the event of a public health incident.

SUCCESS STORY

Our Perinatal Services Coordinator (PSC), established strong relationships with our local managed care plans, coordinating quarterly roundtables covering essential health topics.

She also visited local community clinics, including the county hospital, which helped further community partnership efforts. This all helped us develop a close relationship with California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) who is now on our planning committee with Health Plan of San Joaquin and our Local Community Doula representative. We are anticipating offering Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in the near future to encourage more participation and build upon the growing interest.

Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention

The Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention branch of PHS serves the community through the following: CalFresh Health Living Program, Child Passenger Safety Program, Injury Prevention Program, Local Oral Health Program (LOHP), Opioid Safety Coalition, and the Smoking & Tobacco Outreach/Prevention Program (STOPP). These programs conduct community-level outreach and education to reduce the impact of both acute and chronic diseases, highlighting risk factors (e.g., tobacco use, poor nutrition, lack of exercise, environmental exposure) that contribute to illness and death while providing basic resources and action steps that increase community capacity to be healthy and active.

The **Smoking & Tobacco Outreach/Prevention Program (STOPP)** advocates establishing local policies limiting the number of tobacco retailers near youth-serving organizations and schools. They also advocate for enforcing the current tobacco laws to reduce illegal sales of unauthorized flavored tobacco products and e-cigarettes to underage residents. Additionally, they work to increase the number of outdoor public settings that ban the use of tobacco products, reducing the risk of secondhand tobacco smoke exposure by the community.

Success Story:

In June 2025, the STOPP team and San Joaquin Office of Education collaborated to hold a daylong training for high school student leaders with Youth Mental Health Development Academy (YMHDA). The YMHDA is a peer leadership program providing training around mental health, suicide prevention, human trafficking, substance abuse, school violence, and social media. Participating students receive monthly training, and present this information to peers and younger students during the academic year. The training with the STOPP team covered a variety of topics including: Public Health 101, Health Effects of Vaping and Smoking, and Public Speaking & Motivational Interviewing.

During and after the program, students approached STOPP staff to ask questions regarding non-nicotine vapes, navigating higher education, and interest in public health. After the training, one of the students presented on public health and tobacco policy prevention work at a statewide conference due to their interest sparked from the training. This training marks an amazing continuous partnership with SJCOE and STOPP.

The training received positive feedback and high engagement from student participants. At the end of the training, students completed a survey to assess their knowledge of the topics. Some key findings were:

- 70% reported an increase in knowledge of e-cigarettes/vaping products.
- 77% reported an increase in knowledge of public health.
- 61% reported an increase in knowledge of OARS skills in motivational interviewing.



The **Opioid Safety Coalition (OSC)** combats the misuse and abuse of fentanyl and other opioids leading to overdose injuries and death by applying prevention strategies. Through community-wide education, the OSC raises public awareness on the dangers of fentanyl and reduces stigma around substance use disorder. They also provide training on the distribution of harm reduction products such as naloxone, as well as the promotion of available medication-assisted treatment services.

Success story:

The San Joaquin County Opioid Safety Coalition hosted multiple screenings of the documentary film *Fentanyl High* produced by Northern California high school student Kyle Santoro. Shown in movie theaters and community centers in Stockton, Tracy, Lodi, Manteca, and Mountain House, these viewings provided opportunities for parents to start conversations with their teens about mental health and the dangers of fentanyl use. More than 600 participants attended these screenings and 545 Narcan kits were distributed. 96% of survey respondents thought the film was very helpful in teaching the public about the dangers of fentanyl.

Feedback from Viewers:

"Well done. Well formatted. Powerful message. Even at 20 years old, this connected so deeply with me."

"Testimonials were impactful. Thank you for spreading awareness."

"Very impressed with the film and all the personnel that spoke after. It's reassuring to know there are so many people that care and there are resources to help."

The **Injury Prevention & Child Passenger Safety Program (IP/CPS)** works with public safety officers on child passenger safety and other strategies to prevent childhood injuries, including bicycle and pedestrian safety. During FY 24-25, the CPS program conducted 424 car seat fittings, and distributed 353 no-cost car seats to families in need. Fifteen (15) new Child Passenger Safety Technicians were trained in the county's only certification course of the year.

The **Local Oral Health Program (LOHP)** Promotes school-based dental health screenings to identify children and families in need of dental services, recommending early interventions by the time children enter kindergarten. LOHP, in partnership with Community Medical Centers, conducted 1,773 dental screenings this year across more than 10 priority schools in the Stockton, Tracy, and Lodi Unified School Districts. As a result, 69 students were identified as needing urgent dental care coordination, and 603 were referred for follow-up care. During the screenings, students also received oral health education and behavior change materials to support healthy habits at home. These efforts not only connected children to essential dental services but also helped raise awareness among families about the importance of preventive care.

The **CalFresh Healthy Living Program (CFHL)** Promotes healthy nutrition for county residents. The CFHL team in collaboration with Thomas Toy Community Center trained fifteen (15) local youth in managing their own garden plots at the center, gaining hands-on experience with ownership and responsibility in choosing their own crops and harvesting produce such as tomatoes and lettuce, while building their confidence to explore more complex varieties of edible plants in the future. They are maintaining their individual spaces; developing agricultural skills by understanding soil health, watering techniques, and food safety; and establishing lifelong habits by learning about food literacy and fostering a deeper connection to nutrition and health.



SUCCESS STORY



Our Maternal, Child & Adolescent (MCAH) Program partnered with the Family Justice Center in the last half of 2025. This collaboration will now allow for warm handoffs and referrals to public health departments that work with families and individuals escaping domestic violence environments.



SUCCESS STORY



“This year a licensed childcare provider in our community experienced the unimaginable — the sudden and unexpected death of an infant in her care due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The loss was devastating, not only for the child’s family but also for the provider, who had cared for the baby daily and had formed a deep emotional bond. While the immediate focus was on supporting the grieving family, the childcare provider was also experiencing profound emotional trauma. She expressed feelings of guilt, anxiety, and fear about continuing her work with infants. Recognizing the potential long-term impact on her mental health, we quickly connected her with specialized bereavement resources and a support group. When we followed up with the childcare provider she was very thankful she able to talk to someone who also went through a similar experience.”

SUCCESS STORY



One of our family support specialist with the Health Families San Joaquin Program was working with a mother for almost 2 years. The new mother was dealing with a lot of anxiety being a new mom and conveyed that it was exhausting feeling highly anxious all the time. She was afraid to leave her baby son alone and was scared to even leave the house without Dad being with them. Over time, the family support specialist was able to help the new mom by working on goals to put the baby to sleep in his crib, go for short walks, and take “safe breaks” from the baby while he is with the father. As time went on, mom started to share some of her own childhood traumas and triggers. After connecting with many different therapists and counselors, the family support specialist was finally able to help mom find one that she felt comfortable with. Today, mom is successfully working on her own mental health and said that she finally feels like she has people, outside of her family, that care and want to listen to her.

SUCCESS STORY

Public Health Nurse (PHN)

Success:

"A licensed childcare provider in our community experienced the unimaginable – the sudden and unexpected death of an infant in her care due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The loss was devastating, not only for the child's family but also for the provider, who had cared for the baby daily and had formed a deep emotional bond.

While the immediate focus was on supporting the grieving family, the childcare provider was also experiencing profound emotional trauma. She expressed feelings of guilt, anxiety, and fear about continuing her work in watching small babies. Recognizing the potential long-term impact on her mental health, I promptly stepped in to connect her with specialized bereavement resources.

I was able to contact our State SIDS support group and connect her with another PHN who helps run the groups. Through talking to the PHN, I was able to link the child care provider to another provider who also had a baby pass away from SIDS. I was also able to connect her with a parent in the support group who had a child die from SIDS. When I followed up with the childcare provider, she was very thankful to be able to talk to someone who also went through a similar difficult experience.

SUCCESS STORY

Public Health Nurse (PHN)

Success:

"I worked with a client who was a father and the sole caretaker of his baby, who had been born as a micro 'preemie'. The baby's mother was unable to provide care due to ongoing physical health and mental health challenge, which included life threatening hospitalizations.

The father attempted to apply for WIC to help meet his baby's nutritional needs; however, he faced barriers because he was not the mother. He was told he could not apply for WIC on behalf of his child.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, my supervisor and I contacted a WIC supervisor to advocate for the family and clarify the eligibility requirements for a sole father caretaker. As a result of these efforts, the father was able to successfully apply for WIC and obtain the special formula his baby required for optimal growth and development."

SUCCESS STORY

Supporting fathers:

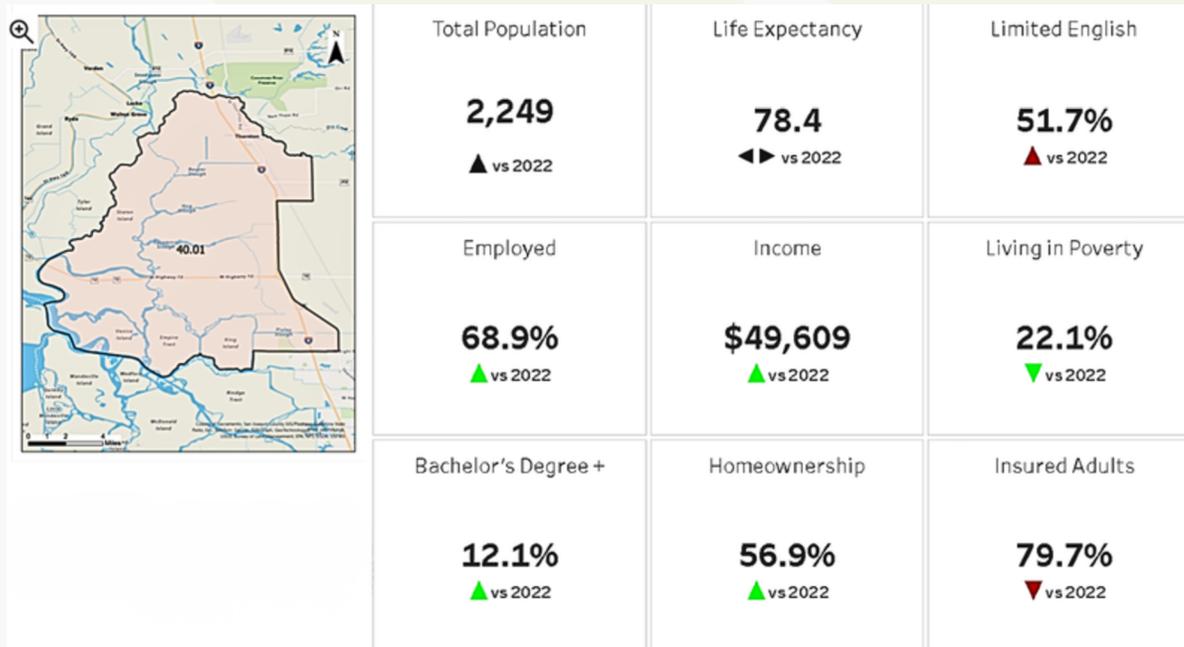
SJC PHS has been working collaboratively with our community-based organizations to identify gaps in service and implement interventions to support fathers. More programs are emerging based on these collaborations. The case to the left (**please see middle column success story**), came to the attention of our child welfare program, and was discussed in a collaborative Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) team meeting. These meetings are intended to improve outcomes and prevent recidivism in the child welfare system. Due to the mother's incapacity, this young father was questioned as to his ability to provide care for their newborn infant. Thankfully, the home visiting nurse was able to intervene on behalf of the father and provide support where he needed it. Our public health nurse was able to connect him with services and provide outreach that he would not have been able to do on his own. Child welfare was able to step out, and CBOs were able to support the father by keeping his child at home and in his care. "

Health Informatics and Epidemiology

Health Informatics and Epidemiology staff continued to perform complex scientific and technological assessments to support public health policies and practices. Staff worked collaboratively with other professionals in public health and information technology in the design and implementation of multiple data systems including training and aiding users, testing system usability, identifying barriers, and proposing solutions. In FY25-26, our program switched to an improved system for tracking projects and time, with the Priority Neighborhoods Profile Dashboard contributing to the highest number of project hours totaling over 141 hours. We also created and enhanced four additional Tableau dashboards providing near real-time updates on respiratory illnesses, overdoses, communicable diseases and bird flu to the public.

In FY 26-27, our goals remain transitioning from manual tasks to automatic processes, improving data exchanges, consolidating multiple data systems into one platform, and delivering more accessible and transparent public health information, so that community members and public health partners can easily understand and use the information.

Priority Neighborhoods Profile Dashboard



Vital Records

PHS staff register births, deaths, and fetal deaths occurring in the County. In FY 2025-2026 PHS issued over 27,000 certified birth and death certificates, and over 6,500 burial permits. Nearly all certificates and permits were issued within 24 hours of the request.

We provide certified birth and death certificates, burial permits, and medical marijuana cards. In 2025, there were 33,958 documents issued, a 11% decrease from FY24-25.

Vital Records staff issues emergency burial permits 24 hours a day, every day. In 2025, 24 permits were issued after working hours, the same as FY24-25.

Epidemiology Program Success Story

During the fall of 2024, Epidemiology Program staff applied for the highly competitive Data Science Team Training program (DSTT). The DSTT program is a team-based, on-the-job training program to promote data science upskilling at state, local, and tribal public health agencies. Learners in the 12-month DSTT program work collaboratively on a project that addresses a current agency need related to the Data Modernization Initiative (DMI). The DMI, launched by the CDC at the end of 2019, was developed to increase the capacity of public health to modernize antiquated data systems “to get better, faster, actionable insights for decision-making at all levels of public health”. San Joaquin County was one of only two California jurisdictions, and 26 in total across the country, to be awarded the \$12,000 stipend.

The DSTT project involved modernizing the static PDF Priority Neighborhood Profiles report into a publicly available data dashboard. The Epidemiology Program was able to use DSTT to prioritize and support increasing skills in building data dashboards that are engaging and easy to navigate at most learning comprehension levels. This has a positive impact on internal PHS programs and external partners’ ability to access data for the communities they serve.

In addition to building professional capacity in the Epidemiology Program, DSTT also provided a platform for collaborating with state and local public health agencies across the country. The Epidemiology Program was able to participate in monthly DSTT “coffee hours”, where ideas and information could be shared amongst the DSTT cohort. PHS was able to share our unique, small cell-masking “R code” with the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, assisting them with their dashboarding data masking.

The Epidemiology Program was able to utilize the \$12,000 stipend to send five staff members to attend four separate national conferences: Open Data Science Conference, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Conference, Public Health Law Conference, and the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Conference. Knowledge gained from these conferences was presented to and shared with the entire Organizational Planning and Development team during unit meetings.

The immense amount of capacity building accrued by the Epidemiology Program during the DSTT program period resulted in increased knowledge and skill in building data dashboards in Tableau, that will positively impact future data dashboard projects, including a Community Health Needs Assessment dashboard. Additional departmental impacts include increased data access for PHS programs allowing for more complete program planning and decision-making.

Following the success of participating in the DSTT program, the Epidemiology Program decided to apply again and was awarded with another DSTT program spot. San Joaquin County was one of just three California jurisdictions to be awarded in the 2025/2026 cycle. The new DSTT project involves building a syndromic surveillance data dashboard for internal program use. This will allow PHS to utilize syndromic surveillance data in a more comprehensive way.

Acknowledgements

Special acknowledgements go to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors for their continued support, and to our Public Health Services staff for all their great work and accomplishments in 2025.

Our Mission

Protect, promote, and improve health and the conditions that impact well-being for all in San Joaquin County.



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