

Public Policies to Address Health Disparities

Martin Martinez, MPP
Sept 16, 2006



CPEHN

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

- Established in 1992 by:
 - Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
 - California Black Health Network
 - California Rural Indian Health Board
 - Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
- Multicultural health network of community-based organizations, policy experts, and providers

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Mission:

To improve access to health care and eliminate health disparities by advocating for public policies and sufficient resources to address the health needs of communities of color in California.

CPEHN's Policy Agenda

- Improving Access to Health Care
- Eliminating Health Disparities
- Promoting Data and Research
- Advocating for Cultural and Linguistic Competency

How We Work

- **Advocate**
 - Legislative
 - Administrative
- **Educate**
 - Multicultural Health Web Portal
 - Community convenings
 - Policy briefs
- **Mobilize and Community Outreach**
 - Action alerts
 - Sign-on letters
 - Legislative visits
 - Connect local advocacy to statewide advocacy

Multicultural Principles for a Healthy California: A Systemic Approach to Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

- 1. Systemic social, economic, and environmental inequities must be addressed to eliminate health disparities.**
- 2. All institutions and sectors are responsible for eliminating health disparities.**
- 3. Communities of color must be integral players in efforts to eliminate health disparities.**
- 4. Universal access to affordable quality health care is essential for eliminating health disparities.**

Multicultural Principles for a Healthy California

- 5. All services must be culturally and linguistically accessible in order to eliminate health disparities.**
- 6. Data and research are critical to the elimination of health disparities.**
- 7. Eliminating health disparities must be a priority for California.**



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network



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Welcome to CPEHN's Multicultural Health Web Portal

Help improve the health of communities of color! Find [data and resources](#), [take action](#) or attend [events](#) to advance multicultural health.

JOIN OUR NETWORK - Click [here](#) to make a difference!

TAKE ACTION

- **Support SB 1405 (Soto): Task Force on Reimbursement for Language Access Services.** Click [here](#) for more information or [download](#) a sample letter of support.
- **Support SB 1329 (Alquist): Healthy Foods Access Act.** Click [here](#) for more information or [download](#) a sample letter of support.



Data You Can Use

33.9% of Native Americans and Alaska Natives feel discrimination sometimes or often.

[Get More Data](#)

Recent Event

Making Cultural and Linguistic Services Work for Your Health Plan (for health plan staff only)

[More Info](#)

Take Action!

Support establishing a reimbursement system for interpreters.

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Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Conditions

Find charts and statistics on racial and ethnic disparities in health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease.

Search for statistics and charts by:

Health Indicator: (You must select one.)

- Asthma Cancer Diabetes Heart Disease
 Hypertension Infectious Diseases Obesity Perinatal
 Smoking

Race/Ethnicity: (You may select more than one.)

[Select All](#)

- General Statistics Highlighting Disparities African American Asian Latino
 Native American Pacific Islander

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California childhood rates of overweight in grades 5, 7, & 9, by race/ethnicity, 2004

- Almost 29% of African American children are overweight.
- Almost 18% of Asian children are overweight.
- Over 35% of Latino children are overweight.
- Almost 32% of Native American and Alaska Native children are overweight.
- Almost 36% of Pacific Islander children are overweight, more than any racial/ethnic group.
- Over 25% of Filipino children are overweight.

Source: [The Growing Epidemic: Child Overweight Rates on the Rise in California Assembly Districts](#), California Center for Public Health Advocacy

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Childhood Rates of Overweight (grades 5, 7, and 9) (California, 2004)

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Statistics for this chart:

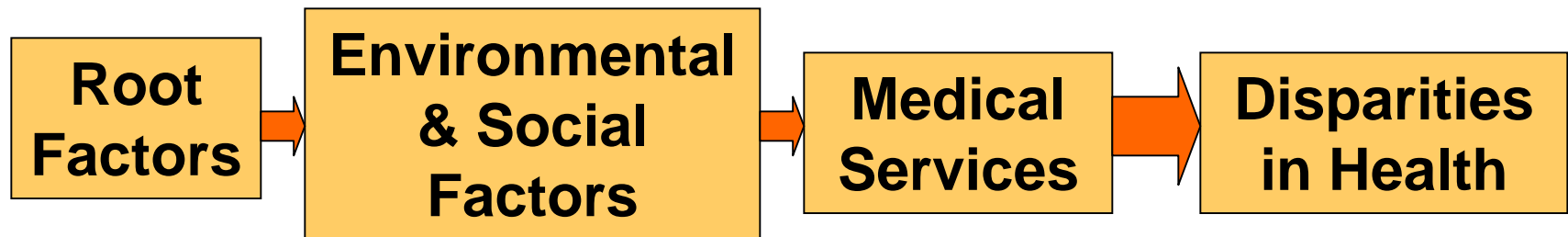
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	African American	Latino	Native American/ Alaska Native	Asian	Pacific Islander	Filipino	White
% Children (grades 5, 7 & 9) Overweight	28.7%	35.4%	31.7%	17.9%	35.9%	24.7%	20.6%

Note: "Overweight" is defined as an age-specific body mass index at or above the 95th percentile.

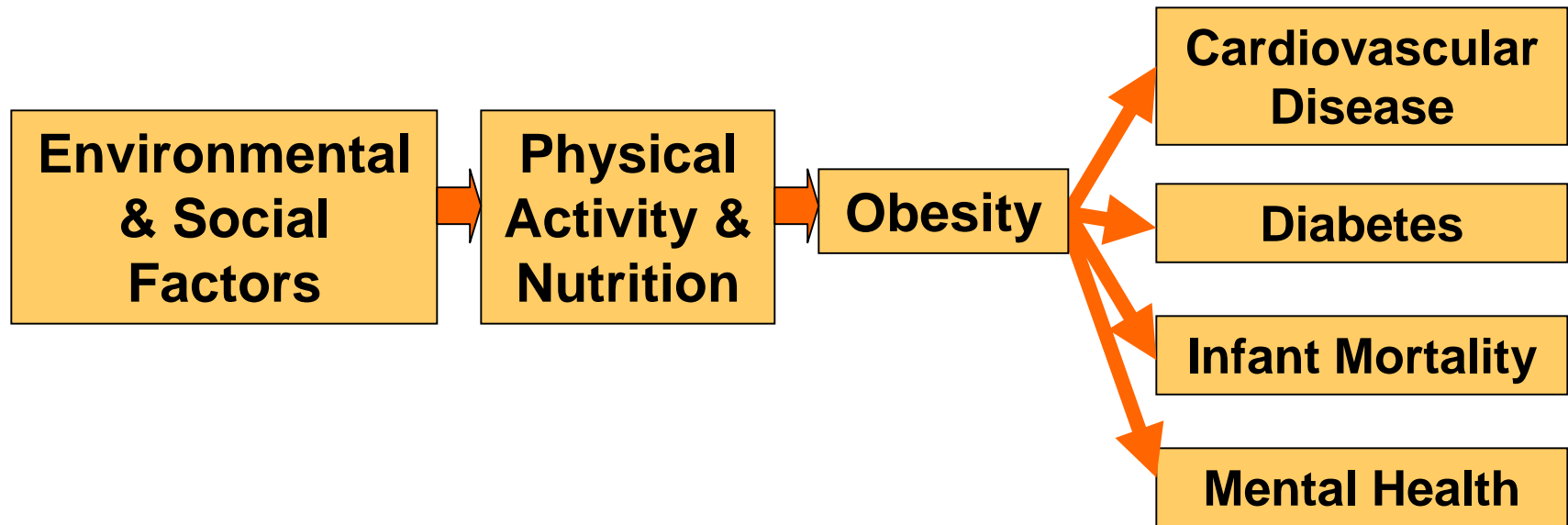
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Critical Pathways to Health



Health for All: Eliminating California's Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities,
Prevention Institute

Relationship between Physical Activity and Health Issues



Past Legislation

- **SB 677 (Ortiz), California Childhood Obesity Prevention Act**
 - Prohibits sale of soda in elementary and junior high schools
 - Effective July 1, 2004
- **SB 12 (Escutia), School Food Nutrition**
 - Sets nutritional standards for food sold in schools
 - Effective July 1, 2007
- **SB 965 (Escutia), Pupil Nutrition: Beverages**
 - Prohibits sale of soda in high schools
 - Effective July 1, 2007 (50%) and July 1, 2009 (100%)

What You Can Do

- Spread the word
- Monitor compliance
- Share successes and challenges with implementation

Recent Legislation

- **SB 1329 (Alquist), Healthy Foods Access Act of 2006**
 - Create development program to encourage sale of healthy foods in low-income neighborhoods
 - Assembly Housing and Community Development
- **SB 362 (Torlakson), Physical Education**
 - Establish a fund to provide physical education training to teachers
 - No longer able to exempt pupils from physical education
 - Assembly Appropriations

Current Legislation

- **H.R. 5088, Healthy Places Act of 2006**
 - Interagency working group to discuss environmental health concerns.
 - Establish a program focused on advancing the field of health impact assessment.
 - Develop guidance to assess potential health effects of land use, housing, and transportation.
 - Support state and local governments
 - Provide grants to public and private nonprofits to conduct research

What You Can Do

- Mobilize your constituents
- Write letter of support to authors and committee chairs
- Testify at committee hearings
- Call local representatives encouraging their support

Future Policy Ideas

- **Building a Healthy Community**
 - Requires the Office of Planning and Research to create a task force of public health experts to develop guidance regarding land use planning and development.
- **Advertising Prohibition in Schools**
 - Prohibit advertising of soda and non-nutritious foods in schools.
- **Partial Protection from Injury Liability**
 - Provide limited injury liability protection to improve the availability of and access to opportunities for physical activity.

What You Can Do

- Share your policy ideas with policymakers and advocates
- Study and disseminate information on need and feasibility of policy ideas
- Advocate for policy changes at local level, which will help inform state policy