

CPCA

California Primary  
Care Association



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# **Serving the Underserved: Finding Solutions to Eliminate Health Disparities**

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# Demographics of California

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- By 2050, racial/ethnic minorities will account for nearly 50% of the total U.S. population.
- Today, almost 40% of Californians speak a language other than English at home.
- Major changes are underway in California's population demographics.
- Disparities impacting minorities and people of color are significant and cannot be overlooked.

# Strategies to Address Disparities

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- There is an infinite array of cultures, races, and ethnicities represented throughout California.
- Six principal strategies are employed by various organizations to address disparities:
  - Institutional Leverage
  - Policy Advocacy
  - Research and Programs
  - Partnership/Coalition-Building
  - Information Dissemination
  - Community Engagement/Empowerment

# Activities Targeting Culturally Diverse Groups

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- Culturally competent information needs to be provided.
- Culturally and linguistically competent staff should be employed.
- Outreach activities can focus on reaching racial and ethnic minorities.
- Partnerships can be developed to reduce system fragmentation and increase program sustainability.

# Health Care and Minorities

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- Despite our tremendous diversity as a state and as a nation, financial and non-financial barriers continue to exist for low-income communities.
- Racial and ethnic health disparities are a persistent and growing problem and threaten our state's health and prosperity.
- CCHC's are working to erase the disparities that exist.

# CPCA Background

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- CPCA was founded in 1994 to create a unified, statewide voice for community clinics and health centers.
- CCHCs serve approximately 3.6 million low-income, ethnically diverse patients with over 50% of patients statewide being Latino, 21% White (not including Hispanics), 6% Black, 7% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2% Native American /Alaskan Native, and 10% Other/Unknown.

# Community Clinic and Health Center (CCHC) Growth Statistics

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- In 2006, CCHCs served nearly 4 million patients.
- From 1995 to 2005, the total number of clinics grew from 471 to 794 (almost 70%).
- During this same 10 year period, CCHCs delivered more than 11 million encounters to 3.6 million patients.

# Addressing Challenges

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- Despite spiraling costs, CCHCs continue to offer a cost-effective model for delivering primary and preventive care.
- CCHCs employ culturally competent practices often lacking in other health care settings.
- CCHCs excel in the treatment of chronic disease.



# Finding Solutions to Eliminate Health Disparities

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- Finding effective solutions to eliminating health disparities that exist today will require a multicultural approach and collaborative efforts.
- Health care organizations must change the way they deliver care if they are to eliminate health disparities and improve functional and clinical outcomes.

# Overcoming Barriers (Strategies)

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- 1) Institutional Leverage: Organizational commitment to address the health disparity issue, i.e. clinic mission statements
  - La Clinica de La Raza
  - AltaMed Health Services
  
- 2) Policy Advocacy: Research & analysis to provide recommendations
  - Clinic affiliation with the statewide association (CPCA)
  
- 3) Research & Programs: Efforts to address racial/ethnic disparities
  - Health Disparities Collaborative, e.g. La Clinica de La Raza

# Overcoming Barriers – *cont'd* (Strategies)

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- 4) Partnership/Coalition-Building: Development of collaborative activities to help address the disparity issue
  - CA Women's Healthcare Partnership
  - Oral Health Access Council
  - Latino Health Alliance
  
- 5) Information Dissemination: Reports, workshops, etc.
  - AltaMed Health Council's *Tomar Control* program
  
- 6) Community Engagement/Empowerment: Interaction with community leadership, etc.
  - Family HealthCare Network (Project Dulce)

# The Future – What Does It Hold? Solutions?

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- Overcome gaps in care through potential collaborative opportunities.
- Build referral networks to augment referrals.
- Involve communities and other organizations to target racial and ethnic health disparities.
- Adopt a prevention-oriented approach.

# Conclusion

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- In order to make a difference and begin overcoming racial and health disparities, we must better utilize our primary care providers and address the diversity of those served.
- The need is greater now than ever before as California continues to evolve as one of the most diverse places in the world.



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CPCA's mission is to strengthen its member community clinics and health centers and networks through advocacy, education, and services in order to improve the health status of their communities.