San Joaquin County 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment

What is a CHNA?
A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) looks at the health needs and resources in a community so public agencies, hospitals, and community organizations can work to meet the needs. The San Joaquin County 2019 CHNA included participation from the local health department, the county’s nonprofit hospitals, many partner organizations, and residents across the county.

How were San Joaquin County’s health needs found?
Research was done to figure out the top health needs in San Joaquin County (SJC). We looked at health data and talked to leaders and SJC residents to get at the three top health needs. We focused on how to improve health as well as the conditions that impact health in our diverse ethnic and low-income communities.

What are San Joaquin County’s top health needs?

**Mental health** is important for living a full, safe, and healthy life.
- SJC has a higher death rate for suicide, drug overdose and alcohol poisoning combined than the California average
- There are not enough mental health providers and services are often not geared to community cultures

**Economic security** makes it easier to meet basic needs for good health such as healthcare, healthy food and housing.
- There are more people without jobs in SJC than the California average
- There is not enough low-cost housing; homelessness is linked to crime, poor mental health, and substance abuse
- Limited options for low cost transportation make it hard to get to appointments, the grocery store, and work
- Education is a key to economic security. In SJC, there are less children in preschool or reading at grade level, and youth have more suspensions compared to California

**Obesity/Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL)/Diabetes** improve health and wellbeing by lowering the risk of getting many diseases.
- SJC has limited places for physical activity, walking and biking
- Obesity affects more Black and Latino people in the county than other groups
- There are not many grocery stores or farmers markets to buy fresh food in neighborhoods that show the most health disparities

What will be done about the health needs?
County agencies, community organizations, and hospitals will work together to take action on the top health needs in communities with the biggest health challenges.

To learn more about health in San Joaquin County, see the full CHNA report: [www.healthiersanjoaquin.org](http://www.healthiersanjoaquin.org)