



V E N T U R A C O U N T Y

P U B L I C H E A L T H

A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency



VENTURA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency

FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Ventura County Public Health

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VENTURA COUNTY'S EXPERIENCE

- Medium incidence county with 20-30 cases annually
 - 2018:29 cases- **8** report Mexico as county of origin
 - 2019:29 cases- **8** report Mexico as county of origin
 - 2020:19 cases- **6** report Mexico as county of origin
 - 2021:21 cases- **8** report Mexico as county of origin
 - 2022:29 cases- **17** report Mexico as county of origin
 - 2023:28 cases - **17** report Mexico as county of origin
(as of 7/1/23)

Ventura County demographics

- Large migrant community
- 59 % of the county land is agricultural
- 26.2% are Spanish speaking
- 43.29% report as Hispanic or Latino in 2020 census.
 - This is about 365 thousand persons

What have we encountered in VC

- About 50% of our patients reporting as born in Mexico are actually Indigenous and speak Mixteco or Zapoteco.
- Almost always very shy and soft spoken. And frequently do not tell us up front that they do not speak Spanish.
- Very agreeable group of individuals. Pleasant to work with.
- Often times are employes as migrant farm workers and very commonly live in multi family homes.
- Isolation is often a huge financial burden

What have we encountered in VC

- We have had many pregnant cases recently and have learned a lot more about this culture, specifically about women
 - It is disrespectful for the woman to speak before the husband allows then to.
 - When we interview cases we frequently have to go through the husband first.
 - Drawing blood is frequently an issue because it is thought that the spirit is in the blood and especially when pregnant they want to avoid blood draws.

What have we done in Ventura to improve our services

- Promotora de salud-community advocates who provide educational services on health-related issues and assist families in accessing needed support.
- Created a once a month for 12 months training for Promotoras to learn about public health (mostly about COVID) and help communities understand what services we can offer
- Foster trust within the community
- Using language they understand (these Indigenous languages are not written)

Road blocks we hit

- In VC we cannot hire individuals who do not speak English.
- Many of the promotoras do not speak English (in our case none of them were English speaking)
- We were able to work with an interpretation agency called MICOP who we already had a contract with to hire these individuals as temporary help and they were paid through MICOP.
- This individuals now work through MICOP and have more knowledge of PH and our services so when we hire interpreter they have experience

- In TB clinic we also hired a more full time employee through Maxim (a staffing agency for RN, LVNs, Medical assistants...) who is tri-lingual in English, Spanish and Mixteco
- We do have a few patients who are Zapotec speaking who we need interpreter services for.
- We hope to develop and CHW training for Promotoras that is specific to TB because our needs here are very specific.

Outreach & Access – Mixteco



Our Mission

To support, organize and empower the indigenous migrant communities in California's Central Coast.

Our Vision

We envision a strong indigenous immigrant community actively engaged to achieve just working and living conditions, equality, and full human rights in the broader community.

MICOP services

- Interpretation Services:
 - Since launching in 2010, the Indigenous Language Services program has seen an immense increase in the need for indigenous interpreters and we are now serving clients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We continue our collaboration at large with school districts, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and social services agencies. We are actively contracting with regional agencies at a statewide and national level.



- Radio Services: In the future we hope to use this for educational information as well as press releases sent to other English and Spanish speaking broadcasts.
- Medi-cal Navigators
- Disability Services
- Immigration services

Thank you!!

