

## Maternal and Child Health Access



**Monthly (Virtual) Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 17, 2024 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**October is: Domestic Violence Awareness Month-  
 Wear Purple Oct. 17! (see below)**  
**Breast Cancer Awareness Prevention Month – [Think  
 Before You Pink®](#)**

### Where?

This is a virtual  
 meeting



**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

After you register, look  
 for the Zoom link in  
 your registration  
 confirmation email

### Speaker/Topic:

**Breast Cancer Prevention: Project  
 Perspectives**

**Venezia Ramirez**  
**Research Coordinator**  
**USC Division of Environmental  
 Health**  
**Breast Cancer**

**Breast Cancer in Los Angeles -  
 Prevention with *Promotoras***

**Maegan E. Ortiz**  
**Executive Director**  
**Instituto de Educacion Popular del  
 Sur de California (IDEPSCA)**

**The California Breast Cancer  
 Research Program and Domestic  
 Workers' Health**

## Updates

### Notes from Monthly Meeting September 19, 2024

[www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm](http://www.mchaccess.org/meetings.htm)

This fall voters will decide on a number of health-related ballot measures. We heard from speakers on five of them, and gave mention to Prop 4, a bond measure which among other things raises money for safe drinking water, and Measure A to increase the sales tax for housing and homelessness.

#### **Kristen Golden Testa – The Children’s Partnership – Prop. 35 – Permanent tax on managed care health plans for specific purposes**

Kristen spoke to us of growing opposition to Prop 35 and the reasons why. Prop 35 addresses how to spend money raised from taxes on managed care plans. It makes these taxes permanent rather than needing to be re-authorized periodically, which all seem to agree is a good thing. She emphasized that her organization and others in the NO coalition support the need for better funding for providers - the community clinics, doctors and others who would benefit from this measure. The concern is for how the measure goes about raising the funds - requiring only for Medi-Cal and limiting the ability to adjust spending. This is considered "earmarking" and "Ballot box budgeting" that would take a higher majority of votes to change. See the [Los Angeles Times No on 35 opinion](#) and the [No on 35 Fact Sheet](#).

Groups representing Yes on 35 also provided documents - see those [here](#) and [here](#). Those groups say the measure will help bring access to care for our patients and fund health care worker training to address our workforce shortages seen. Joanne Preece, CCALAC would be happy to connect with anyone who wants to hear more about health centers' perspective on Prop 35 and why they are supporting. Joanne Preece, CCALAC, [jpreece@ccalac.org](mailto:jpreece@ccalac.org).

#### **Monica Davilos, California Budget and Policy Center**

**Prop 32:** A YES vote on this measure means: The state minimum wage would be \$18 per hour in 2026. After that, it would go up each year based on how fast prices are going up. The [Los Angeles Times](#) endorses Prop. 32

**Prop 36** reverses key aspects of Proposition 47. Ten years ago, voters approved Proposition 47, which sought to reduce California’s prison overcrowding by making some theft and drug crimes into misdemeanors. Since then, prosecutors, police and big box retailers [have blamed the law](#) for an increase in property crimes and homelessness. Prop. 36 is their attempt to unwind Prop. 47. [Opponents say](#) that no studies on criminal justice or homelessness support the idea that harsher punishment — or the threat of harsher punishment — prevents crime or gets people off the street. The Los Angeles Times opposes Prop 36 - Read the California Budget and Policy Center's opposition and concerns [here](#).

**Susie Shannon, of Yes on 33, No on 34 -**

**Prop 33** - More people are rent-burdened in CA than anywhere else in the US. Current state law (the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995) generally prevents cities and counties from limiting the initial rental rate that landlords may charge to new tenants in all types of housing, and from limiting rent increases for existing tenants in

(1) residential properties that were first occupied after February 1, 1995;

(2) single-family homes; and

(3) condominiums. This measure would repeal that state law and would prohibit the state from limiting the right of cities and counties to maintain, enact, or expand residential rent-control ordinances. Prop. 33, then, would let cities and counties enact or expand rent control and let them implement vacancy control. It wouldn't enact any regulations on rents statewide, however — it would just open the door for local governments to do so.

**Prop. 34** Requires certain providers to use prescription drug revenue only for strict patient care and not on housing or other low-income programs. Top funders of the proposition are the California Apartment Association and the California Association of Realtors. The LA Times says, "It appears as if the real goal is silencing the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that has backed three state rent control ballot measures, including Proposition 33 on this year's ballot. The same two real estate associations [are also spending millions](#) to defeat Proposition 33." [LA Times is opposed to the measure](#), calling it a "revenge measure" against one agency, AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

### **Remember: Kaiser Permanente Community Health Care Program – Enrolling with Special Enrollment and November 1 Open Enrollment -**

a. Free

b. To 300% of Federal Poverty Level - so kids 266-300%, adults 138 -300% (below that should be eligible for Medi-Cal)

c. Not eligible for other health insurance

d. Enroll through a community organization - easiest and most chance of success (MCHA is one of the orgs...)

Remember enrollment is also year-round IF someone loses existing insurance but must apply within 60 days of losing insurance.

Current enrollees must renew annually! Community Health Care Program members whose subsidy will expire on December 31, 2024, should have received reapplication information. You MUST provide Kaiser Permanente the signed form, proof of household income, and other applicable documents by October 1, 2024, to determine if you still qualify for financial help in 2025.

### **Remember: Covered CA Open Enrollment Starts Nov. 1- Enroll with Qualifying Events before, after Open Enrollment**

**DACA recipients now eligible:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [published regulations](#) to allow DACA recipients access to the healthcare marketplaces established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), like Covered California.

As a result, DACAmented Californians will be able to purchase health insurance through Covered California during the open enrollment period starting November 1st! As we prepare to begin outreach work around this expansion, we are looking to identify a DACAmented storyteller who is planning to enroll in a Covered California health plan once the expansion goes into effect. Ideally, this individual will be willing to share about their experiences navigating their life uninsured and how enrolling through Covered California will benefit them. This individual will be compensated for their time and be provided support from the Health4All organizing and communications teams. If you know anyone in your grassroots networks who would benefit from this expansion and would like to share their story, or for more information, please reach out to Ana Alvarez [aalvarez@health-access.org](mailto:aalvarez@health-access.org) at Health Access or Carlos Alarcon [calarcon@caimmigrant.org](mailto:calarcon@caimmigrant.org) at California Immigrant Policy Center. For more information, feel free to review NILC's [FAQs on Affordable Care Act eligibility for DACA recipients](#).

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Support Peace over Violence!

From Peace Over Violence: **Purple Thursday** is a day during Domestic Violence Awareness Month where we come together and wear purple to raise awareness for domestic violence prevention and healing on a national level. This year, **Purple Thursday is October 17th!**

In honor of Purple Thursday, we are very excited to announce a special social media challenge with our friends at [Thrive Causemetics](#). For every post on 10/17 that uses the hashtags **#PurpleWithPurposeChallenge** and **#thrivecausemetics**, Thrive Causemetics will donate \$1 to Peace Over Violence (up to \$10,000!!). We are encouraging you and everyone we know to show off your favorite purple look and post as a part of this challenge and to help increase this donation. Please spread the word and make sure to include **#PurpleWithPurposeChallenge** and [tag POV](#) in your posts!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), and Peace Over Violence is joining communities nationwide to shine a light on the staggering prevalence of domestic violence. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the U.S.—that's over 10 million per year. This month, we are highlighting the urgency to stand with and provide critical support to survivors.

October also highlights National Bullying Prevention Month and National LGBTQ+ History Month. Bullying can be prevented by addressing the factors that put young people at risk—[learn more here](#). LGBTQ+ History Month is an occasion to celebrate the resilience of the LGBTQ+ community, who face disproportionately higher rates of intimate partner violence—44% of lesbian women, 61% of bisexual women, and 26% of gay men experience IPV in their lifetime, underscoring the need for prevention and healing efforts tailored to the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ survivors.

Read [the October Newsletter](#) to learn how to join us in raising awareness and supporting survivors this month and all year long. Together, we can break the cycle of violence and build safer, more inclusive communities for all.

## Extreme Health and Maternal Health

Remember our August meeting topic? A new report from the Women's Initiative at the Center for American Progress. [Rising Extreme Heat Compounds the U.S. Maternal Health Crisis](#) discusses the devastating effects of extreme heat on maternal wellbeing and proposes several policy solutions to protect the health of pregnant people. This report is [part of a broader series](#) on opportunities to protect at-risk Americans from extreme heat.

**Here are some main takeaways:**

- Extreme heat increases pregnant women's risk of severe maternal morbidity, life-threatening pregnancy complications, and maternal mortality.
- Extreme heat exposure increases the risk of hospitalization among pregnant women, with a disproportionate impact on Black pregnant women – exacerbating the already appalling state of maternal health in the United States.
- Pregnant workers can be exposed to extreme heat conditions in low-wage indoor and outdoor jobs.
- The report concludes with several policy levers for state and federal policymakers to consider to protect pregnant people from the effects of extreme heat and climate crises, like passing the Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act.

### **California will make and distribute our own insulin – invitation to be on the Patient Advisory Council – apply by Nov. 1**

CalRx®, California's initiative to make medications more affordable for all Californians, is launching an Insulin Patient Advisory Council and recruiting members to provide input and guidance to advance awareness, education, and advocacy for CalRx® low cost, biosimilar insulin products.

In partnership with Civica Rx, CalRx® is supporting the development of three insulins, each of which will be available both in vials and prefilled pens under the CalRx® label. Civica and CalRx® have the mutual goal of ensuring access to affordable insulins that have single, low, transparent prices. For more information about CalRx® and the Biosimilar Insulin Initiative, please visit: <https://calrx.ca.gov/>.

While the intent is for CalRx®-branded insulin products to be readily available via pharmacies, retail stores, and mail order, the CalRx® Insulin Patient Advisory Council will provide critical insights and expertise as CalRx® evaluates alternative distribution models, addresses barriers in the current market, and ensures equitable access to insulin for diverse communities.

CalRx® would like to invite an individual representing your organization to apply to be considered for appointment to the Council. Interested individuals should complete the [Submission of Interest form](#) by **November 1, 2024, 5:00 p.m.** and attest that they do not have any conflicts of interest. For more information about participation and logistics, please review the [Patient Advisory Council Charter](#).

## From Justice in Aging – Some “Extra Help” Low Income Subsidies for Medicare Part D costs ending in 2025

The Low-Income Subsidy, known as LIS or “Extra Help ” is a program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) that provides financial assistance with Medicare Part D prescription drug costs including premiums and co-pays.

Each year in September, [some individuals with the LIS will receive notices](#) from Medicare informing them that their LIS is ending at the end of the year and that they will need to reenroll with SSA to continue to receive financial assistance with their Medicare drug costs.

These notices are specific to individuals who were deemed eligible for LIS because they were eligible for Medicaid or a Medicare Savings Program (MSP). When these individuals lose their Medicaid or MSP eligibility—as happened at high rates in 2023 and 2024 due to the Medicaid unwinding—they also lose their LIS eligibility. Because of the way LIS works, a person typically loses LIS many months after they lose Medicaid or MSP.

**Individuals who receive notices this month are those who lost Medicaid coverage between July 1, 2023 and, June 30, 2024.** They will remain LIS eligible through December 31, 2024, but will lose coverage starting January 1, 2025, unless they reapply for LIS through the Social Security Administration or reestablish Medicaid eligibility. The financial eligibility criteria for LIS are broader than those for Medicaid. Accordingly, even if someone is no longer eligible for Medicaid, they may still qualify for LIS.

Therefore, **it is extremely important for individuals who receive a notice from Medicare about their LIS ending to reapply for LIS coverage as soon as possible to ensure they continue to receive assistance with Part D drug costs in 2025. Individuals not eligible for LIS may want to consider choosing a different Part D plan that is more affordable.**

For more information on LIS and Medicaid unwinding, [read the updated Justice in Aging fact sheet.](#)

## Good News!! Paid family leave benefits increase in January

If a new baby is coming into your life in 2025, here’s some good news: **Starting in January, [California will increase leave payments](#) for workers caring for a new child or a sick family member.**

Currently, most workers get 60% of their income replaced through the state’s disability insurance program. That will increase to 90% of income for workers making up to \$60,000 a year; workers who make more than that will receive up to 70%.

The change is part of a new law intended to make it less difficult for low-income earners to take leave.

Read more [HERE.](#)

## SB 954 – Condoms in Schools – Vetoed

Despite troubling, even shocking statistics about sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, in youth. Fewer young people are having sex, but the teens and young adults who are sexually active aren't using condoms as regularly, if at all. And people ages 15 to 24 made up half of new chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis cases in 2022. Addressing STIs and congenital syphilis is part of the new public health plan, below. In Los Angeles, a total of 136 cases of congenital syphilis were reported in 2022, reflecting a rate of 153 cases per 100,000 live births. Since 2013, reported congenital syphilis cases have increased more than 17-fold. Latinx represented more than half of all congenital syphilis birthing parents (64%) while Blacks, Whites and Other8 racial/ethnic groups represented 19%, 11% and 4% of birthing parents, respectively. See the related article below, about condom use:

<https://fortune.com/well/article/condoms-no-longer-fact-of-life-for-young-americans/>

## **New Community Health Improvement Plan for Los Angeles County 2024-2029**

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, recently announced the new 2024 - 2029 Community Health Equity Improvement Plan (CHEIP) for Los Angeles County. The 2024-2029 plan is a consolidation of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and the [Center for Health Equity's](#) Action Plan into one overarching plan. **The CHEIP focuses on four key areas:**

### **Black/African American Infant & Maternal Mortality**

All Black/African babies and mothers/birthing people in Los Angeles County enjoy healthy and joyous births and thrive well beyond baby's first birthday.

### **Sexually Transmitted Infections & Congenital Syphilis**

Everyone in Los Angeles County, including future generations, is protected from sexually transmitted infections and congenital syphilis.

### **Environmental Justice**

Those living in the most highly pollution-burdened communities in Los Angeles County enjoy healthy lives safe from toxic exposures and the negative effects of climate change.

### **Violence Prevention**

All families and communities in Los Angeles County live free of violence and thrive in a culture of peace.

Here is a link to [the website that hosts the full plan](#), and abridged versions of the plan in English and Spanish. DPH hopes you share the CHEIP extensively throughout your networks and in your organizations to expand our ability to collectively advance equity in Los Angeles County.

## **Health Care on the Ballot in 2024**

When American voters are asked to name their top issues in this year's election, [they say health care](#) second only to the economy. And with good reason — despite spending the most on health care, the United States has the shortest life expectancy, the highest rates of avoidable deaths, and the highest health care costs of any country.

Voters understand that policy changes made by the next administration and Congress will profoundly impact our health care system, shaping its affordability, access, and equity.

[\*\*Mirror, Mirror 2024: A Portrait of the Failing U.S. Health System\*\*](#) — a new report from the Commonwealth Fund — reveals that the U.S. consistently ranks last among 10 nations on key measures of health equity, access to care, and outcomes. This is in largely because millions of Americans face significant barriers getting and affording health care. The U.S. is the only nation in the study without universal health coverage. Despite gains made by the Affordable Care Act, 26 million Americans are uninsured and nearly a quarter of all working-age Americans cannot afford their health care and are considered underinsured.

[\*\*Read more...\*\*](#)

**Almost half of young infants were not protected from RSV last season because they didn't get RSV antibodies and their mom didn't get maternal vaccination**

ACIP recommends either:

- Maternal RSV vaccination (32-36 weeks); or
- Nirsevimab for young infants

**We are entering RSV season. Clinicians, talk to pregnant patients and new parents about protecting young babies from RSV**

bit.ly/mm7338a2  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

\* Internet survey of 2,263 current and recently pregnant women - 2023-24 RSV season

**CDC**

**MMWR**

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the most common cause of hospitalization among U.S. infants. Receipt of either a maternal RSV vaccine or administration of RSV antibody (nirsevimab) to infants was first recommended during the 2023–24 RSV season. Enhanced measures to implement provider RSV immunization recommendations are needed to protect infants from severe RSV disease.

Read more [\*\*HERE.\*\*](#)

## Resources

You are encouraged to utilize the [\*\*L.A. County Voting Toolkit\*\*](#), which provides essential resources to help voters in your community make a plan to vote.

**Here's how you can use the toolkit:**

- Customizable Materials: Access flyers, posters, and social media graphics to share with your network.
- Voter Registration Info: Get step-by-step instructions on how to check or update your registration.
- Voting Options: Learn about Vote by Mail, Ballot Drop Boxes, and in-person voting at Vote Centers.
- Key Election Dates: Stay informed about deadlines, such as the last day to register to vote and when Vote Centers open.

**Here are some top-level details to share with your community:**

- Register to Vote by October 21, 2024 to receive a Vote by Mail ballot. Check or update your registration status through the toolkit.
- Vote by Mail: Ballots will be mailed starting October 3, 2024. Fill out your ballot, sign the envelope, and mail it back—no postage needed!
- Ballot Drop Boxes: Use one of over 400 Ballot Drop Boxes starting October 3, 2024. The toolkit has a locator to find one near you.
- Vote Centers: In-person voting begins on October 26, 2024, and continues through Election Day, November 5, 2024.

For additional resources and tools, please visit the [L.A. County Voting Toolkit](#) to help your community make their voting plans today.

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It's Hispanic Heritage Month, and The Children's Partnership is honoring the 4.6 million Latine children in California - over half - by releasing a fact sheet highlighting the many factors that contribute to their health and well-being. See the 2024 Fact Sheet [HERE](#) and the list of citations [HERE](#)

## Save the Date

**Sunday Oct. 20 8 AM – 12 noon - Alma Backyard Farms 10 Year Celebration!** 801 E. Redondo Beach Blvd Compton, CA. Stand and marketplace, music, brunch service at 8:30 AM, tours of the farm and children's workshop. And did you know they [serve brunch](#) ever 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday? Brunch starts at 8:30am and sells out around 11am.

**Tuesday, October 22nd at 11 AM Pacific time, 2pm EST How Abortion Restrictions are Worsening America's Maternal Health Crisis**

[register here](#). You are invited to join The Century Foundation's Black Maternal Health Federal Policy Collective for a webinar on the impact that abortion restrictions are having on maternal health outcomes.

Researchers have found that if abortion care is banned throughout the United States, the number of maternal deaths would rise by 24 percent. This number is even worse for Black women, whose deaths would rise by 39 percent. Join us as we discuss how to both safeguard abortion and tackle the maternal health crisis in these challenging political times.

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**Thurs October 24 – Immigrant Access to Disability and Age-Based Public**

**Benefits** –Sponsored by Benefits Access for Immigrants, LA(BAILA). The major cash, health, food and other resources available to the aged and disabled population.

**English Session 10-11 AM** Register [HERE](#)

Acceso de inmigrantes a beneficios publicos por discapacidad y basados en la edad

**Spanish Session 12 Noon-1 PM** Register [HERE](#)

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**Thursday, November 7, 2024, 12:00 – 1:30pm WEBINAR: Recent Medi-Cal Reforms: Improving Access to Health Care for Transition-Age Youth**

Medi-Cal provides a critical safety net for foster youth, former foster youth, and transition-age youth. In recent years, California has implemented a series of reforms to more comprehensively support the health and wellbeing of underserved children and

youth. In this webinar, we will provide an overview of recent changes to Medi-Cal services and delivery systems, including reforms to mental health and sexual and reproductive health services, managed care enrollment, case management, and other new policies impacting youth. 1.5 hours of general MCLE credit will be available for California attorneys.

**Presenters:** Carly Myers and Jasmine Young, Staff Attorneys at National Health Law Program

**Please register here** and share widely with your networks!

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 1-3 PM. California Victims Compensation Fund Overview and Required Documentation.** eligibility, qualifying crimes, how to access benefits and services, and what is required to receive compensation.

Register **HERE**. Did you know that alternative medicine and dental care for affected teeth may be available after a crime? See more about the categories of help and services available **HERE**.

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## Maternal and Child Health Access

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