



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Daniel Tsai  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
Daniel L. Lurie  
Mayor

# Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of October 6, 2025

*A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco*

<https://sf.gov/departments/san-francisco-health-commission/past-meetings>

*In alignment with the California Department of Public Health, we will no longer report on COVID-19 case data. More people are now testing themselves at home for COVID-19 and we do not get data from at-home testing. This affects the accuracy of data on testing volume. We will continue to report on [test positivity](#) and will monitor other indicators including hospitalizations.*

## DPH RELEASES 2024 HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT

DPH released the 2024 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report that provides a comprehensive overview of the state of HIV in San Francisco. The report shows that 146 new HIV diagnoses were reported in San Francisco in 2024, a 4.3% increase from the record low 140 diagnoses reported in 2023. The total number of people living with HIV with a known current San Francisco address was 11,552 by the end of 2024.

Among racial/ethnic groups in the City, the increase in new HIV diagnoses was highest among Black/African Americans, with 40 reported in 2024 compared to 27 in 2023. In addition, new diagnoses among cis women increased from 14 in 2023 to 26 in 2024. Nearly half (46%) of new diagnoses among cis women in 2024 were Black/African American.

## HIV Prevention Efforts

Getting tested is the only way for people to know their HIV status. DPH helps people access testing through a variety of community-based programs. The Department's Take Me Home program allows people to order an HIV test and have it delivered directly to their home. Participation in the program has increased from 249 orders in 2021 to 1,670 orders in 2024. The program is promoted by the DPH-led Have Good Sex and PrEP Supports campaigns that aim to reduce stigma in the Black/African American and Latine/x communities.

DPH funds seven Health Access Points (HAP) that are designed to reduce disparities by providing equity-focused, stigma-free, and low barrier HIV prevention, care and treatment services. While everyone is welcome at the HAPs, each HAP is designed to address the specific health needs of priority populations, including Black/African Americans and Latine/x, and people who use drugs. Over 9,400 HIV tests were administered at the HAPs between July 2023 and June 2024, their first year of operation.



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Daniel Tsai  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
Daniel L. Lurie  
Mayor

In addition, DPH has also been proactive in promoting and enrolling people on HIV PrEP, a highly effective medication that prevents HIV. From 2015 through 2024, PrEP use among men who have sex with men (MSM) without HIV increased from 21% to 63% among San Francisco City Clinic patients who were San Francisco residents. DPH is also part of Getting to Zero San Francisco, a consortium of over 300 members focused on supporting access to PrEP and other efforts to eliminate new HIV infections, preventable deaths, and HIV stigma and discrimination.

### Linkage to Care

Quickly linking people to care and effective treatment makes it less likely for HIV to spread and improves health outcomes. In 2023 and 2024, 94% of people were linked to care within one month of diagnosis. Viral suppression within 12 months of diagnosis increased to 87% for 2023 diagnoses from 79% in 2020.

The full 2024 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report can be read in full [here](#).

### HIV Prevention and Treatment Resources:

San Francisco City Clinic: [sfcityclinic.org](https://sfcityclinic.org)

Health Access Points: [sf.gov/information--health-access-point-hap](https://sf.gov/information--health-access-point-hap)

Take Me Home: [takemehome.org](https://takemehome.org)

## PHEPR UPDATES

### Strategic Planning Project Grant

The Visitacion Valley & Sunnysdale Community Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (PHEPR) Strategic Planning Grant Project was officially launched with its first meeting on July 16. Eight community-based organizations (CBOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) are participating grantees working together with our Community Resilience Section to draft their Emergency Preparedness Strategic Plans. Plans are drafted in bi-weekly working sessions where the Community Resilience Section facilitates and coordinates speaking engagements with subject matter experts. PHEPR's Community Resilience will continue to facilitate workshops until October 8<sup>th</sup> to support the CBOs and FBOs to build stronger community networks for emergency preparedness.

### Listening Sessions

Eight Community Listening Sessions were organized and facilitated by the Community Section in vulnerable neighborhoods. The listening sessions gave PHEPR the opportunity to gain information regarding assets and needs in communities in South of Market near the Tenderloin, Bayview/Hunter's Point, the Mission, and Western Addition neighborhoods. Each session was adapted from the previous to iterate upon participant input and improve accessibility and one of the listening sessions was conducted in Spanish. Attendees of the listening sessions provided a diverse



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Daniel Tsai  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
Daniel L. Lurie  
Mayor

array of input and information, and their post-session evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. The needs identified in the sessions will be incorporated into existing and future DPH emergency plans.

### **Needs Assessments**

Community Communications Needs Assessments were conducted and completed by our contractor, Civic Edge. The communication needs of vulnerable communities in Visitacion Valley and Sunnydale were assessed via over 100 interviews and eight focus groups. Civic Edge will produce a comprehensive report with their findings and a communications toolkit and the findings will be utilized by PHEPR and DPH to improve risk communications and information sharing during emergency incidents and special events.

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER LICENSING SURVEY**

The Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing surveyors conducted a one-day annual licensing survey of the Behavioral Health Center's Residential Care for the Elderly (RCFE) facility with no deficiencies identified. Congratulations to Charisse Li and the entire RCFE team for their outstanding preparation and dedication, which contributed to a smooth and successful survey process. As always, thanks to our Regulatory Affairs team for supporting our teams during surveys throughout the year.

### **PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM HOSTS SUCCESSFUL SURVEY**

In September, the ZSFG Pharmacy Residency Program underwent a robust survey by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists, a national accrediting body. They earned the maximum possible duration of 8 years. This rare distinction reinforces the high quality of care, teaching, mentorship and clinical preceptors within the department, with the surveyors praising the program as rigorous and vital to train the next generation of clinical pharmacists in a public health setting. This is a huge accomplishment that highlights the key role pharmacists play in DPH. Congratulations to the entire pharmacy team.

### **ZSFG SHOWCASES CONSTRUCTION AND SEISMIC IMPROVEMENTS**

Health Director Dan Tsai toured ZSFG on September 26<sup>th</sup> to see the progress of seismic safety upgrades and ongoing construction projects on campus, many of which are part of ZSFG's goal of creating an Ambulatory Center of Excellence in Building 5. Dr. Susan Ehrlich led the tour with Chief Operating Officer Sabrina Robinson, Deputy Chief Operations Officer Chauncey Jackson and Chief Communications Officer Christine Falvey. Dan was joined by DPH Chief Operating Officer Jenny Louie to visit the Urgent Care Clinic and see the improvements in staff and patient experience.



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Daniel Tsai  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
Daniel L. Lurie  
Mayor

since their renovation and move; the new Psychiatric Emergency Services to view the progress of ongoing construction; the Clinical Lab Track Replacement and Renovation Project to observe how we are getting lab results faster; and the Family Health Center and Specialty Clinics to see what is envisioned for the future. Gratitude to the staff who helped showcase these important projects including, Amy Lee, Dr. Angelica Almeida, Joan Torres, Dr. Mark Leary, Andrea Chon, Dr. Barbara Haller, and Chi Prijoles.

### **STAFF HONORED BY AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

In September, two ZSFG staff earned prestigious awards from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). ACEP selected Dr. Starr Knight as the 2024-2025 Outstanding Speaker of the Year. The award recognizes a faculty member who consistently demonstrated teaching excellence through performance, versatility and dependability during ACEP educational meetings throughout the year. Janis Farnholtz Provinse, RN, received the Honorary Membership Award, which is presented to an individual who has rendered outstanding service to the College or to the specialty of emergency medicine. Congratulations to our ZSFG staff.

### **MCAH NEOP PROGRAM**

With deep regret, we share that the Maternal Child Adolescent Health Nutrition Equity, Opportunity, and Physical Activity (NEOP) program will officially sunset on September 30, 2025, following the elimination of its federal funding. For more than two decades in San Francisco, NEOP has advanced nutrition and physical activity equity by making healthy choices more accessible through policies, systems, and environmental changes.

Among its many accomplishments, last year NEOP's SPARK policy helped over 2,300 students at Recreation and Park sites eat healthier and be more active; its Pick a Better Snack lessons reached nearly 800 students directly and supported healthy eating policies for more than 55,000 students across SFUSD; and its free summer walking program engaged 1,600+ residents in building healthier, more active lives. To learn more about NEOP's impactful programs, please visit [www.sf.gov/neop](http://www.sf.gov/neop)

While the program is ending, its impact and partnerships will continue to shape healthier communities across San Francisco.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 10/1:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 3.9%.



## **San Francisco Department of Public Health**

Daniel Tsai  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
Daniel L. Lurie  
Mayor

- Thirty-two percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.