



City and County of San Francisco
Daniel L. Lurie
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Daniel Tsai
Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of October 5, 2026

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 2025 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report

DPH released the 2025 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report, providing a detailed overview of HIV trends in the city. In 2025, San Francisco recorded 136 new HIV diagnoses, an 8% decrease from 2024.

There were 53 new HIV diagnoses among Latine/x persons reported in 2025. This marks a 45% decline from the 97 cases among Latine/x persons reported in 2018, but an increase from 47 in 2024. In 2025, new HIV diagnoses declined among Black/African American, White, and Asian/Pacific Islander persons. Latine/x and Black/ African Americans accounted for 39% and 23% of all new diagnoses respectively, despite representing only 17% and 5% of the City's population. New diagnoses among Whites accounted for 23%, Asian/Pacific Islanders for 11%, Multi-race individuals for 2%, and Native Americans for 1%.

DPH leads several programs and initiatives that build HIV awareness in the community and connect people to testing and prevention services, some of which are highlighted below.

Getting to Zero San Francisco: DPH is part of Getting to Zero San Francisco (GTZ-SF), 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. GTZ-SF is tracking and addressing equitable roll-out of long-acting injectable medications for HIV prevention and treatment.

San Francisco City Clinic PrEP Program: The DPH San Francisco City Clinic (SFCC) provides low-barrier access to PrEP to patients disproportionately impacted by HIV. From 2015 through 2025, PrEP use among men who have sex with men (MSM) without HIV increased from **21% to 74%**



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among SFCC patients 18 years and older who were San Francisco residents. Among this group, the proportion of *Latine/x MSM on PrEP increased each year from 19% in 2015 to 78% in 2024*. PrEP participation among *Black/African Americans increased from 52% in 2024 to 67% in 2025*. In addition, since its launch in 2023, SFCC has enrolled 175 patients in injectable PrEP, of whom 54% are Latine/x and 20% are Black/African American.

Health Access Points (HAPs): DPH funded Health Access Points are designed to reduce disparities by providing equity-focused, stigma-free, and low barrier HIV/STI/HCV prevention, care and treatment services. Each HAP is designed to address the specific health needs of priority populations including Black/African Americans and Latine/x. In the HAPs second year of operation (July 2024-June 2025), *the total number of people served increased by 11% and more than 21,000 HIV tests were conducted*.

Home-based Testing: To help reduce barriers to HIV/STI testing, DPH partners with Take Me Home, a program that allows people to order HIV, STI and HCV tests and have them delivered directly to their home. The program is promoted in part by the DPH led Have Good Sex campaign that aims to reduce stigma in the Black/African American and Latine/x communities. Over *1,300* testing kits were ordered in 2025.

LATIDOS Conference: In 2026, the DPH Community Health Equity & Promotion Branch hosted its second annual LATIDOS Conference, bringing together more than *200 frontline workers, community leaders, and partners* for a full day of Spanish language programming with a focus on highlighting current STI and HIV trends in California, and sharing community driven, culturally relevant strategies to reduce health disparities.

DPH also manages a robust network of programs to help ensure that people living with HIV get and remain connected with their care, such as LINCS (Linkage, Integration, Navigation and Comprehensive Services), Whole Person Integrated Care, and ZSFG's Ward 86 POP-UP clinic and HAP, "The Lobby". The 2025 HIV Epidemiology Annual Report is produced by the DPH Applied Research, Community Health Epidemiology, and Surveillance branch and can be read in full here: [2025 San Francisco HIV Epidemiology Annual Report](#).

Treatment on Demand Report Shows More People Accessing Care

On September 23, DPH released its annual Treatment on Demand Report, which found a 30% increase in the number of people receiving specialty substance use treatment over the past three years. The report's improved measurement also found that 78% of DPH clients were offered same or next day access to addiction treatment services.

The data identified a significant remaining gap in withdrawal management, often the first step toward residential treatment: 41% of people seeking this service were unable to access it the same



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or next day. DPH is working to close this gap by adding treatment care beds, expanding treatment options, and seeking state waivers to remove barriers to timely care. [Read the press release and report.](#)

Media Coverage:

- SF Standard: [Hundreds of people are desperate to get sober. They're being turned away at the door](#)
- SF Examiner: [Report finds SF substance-use resources improve amid gaps](#)
- KQED Radio: [Treatment on Demand Report](#) (at the 0:53 mark)

Advancing Vision Zero Through Public Health Data

San Francisco's commitment to Vision Zero recognizes that traffic injuries and deaths are preventable public health issues. The 2024 High Injury Network (HIN) was released earlier this Spring (March 2026) and provides an updated picture of where severe and fatal traffic injuries are most concentrated across the city, helping guide investments and actions to make streets safer.

Developed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health in partnership with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and San Francisco Police Department, the HIN combines police, hospital, and death certificate data. This approach helps identify serious injuries that may not be captured in police records alone and provides a more complete understanding of the impact of traffic violence.

The 2024 HIN covers 13.3% of San Francisco's street miles and captures 74% of the severe and fatal traffic injuries from 2020–2024. The findings strengthen our ability to target prevention efforts where they can have the greatest impact and advance a safer, healthier, and more equitable San Francisco.

In an effort to remain transparent with the public, the methodology used for producing the 2024 HIN is now available [here](#). The police data used to produce the HIN are available through the open data portal.

DPH Responds to Emerging Drug Threat on CNN

Director Dan Tsai appeared on CNN's *The Lead with Jake Tapper* to discuss San Francisco's response to cyclophane, an emerging synthetic opioid recently detected in a fatal overdose. The national interview highlighted how DPH is responding to an evolving illicit drug supply and working to protect the health of San Franciscans. Watch the CNN Interview: [The Lead With Jake Tapper - Deadly New Opioid 'Cyclophane' Sparks Nationwide Alarm](#)



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Fall Flu and COVID Vaccination Campaign

DPH is scheduled to launch its fall vaccination campaign on October 1, encouraging San Franciscans to get updated flu and COVID vaccines as flu activity increases and COVID continues to circulate. The campaign will emphasize vaccination as the best protection against severe illness and help residents find information about vaccine recommendations and access.

The campaign will begin with a press release and continue through coordinated media engagement, digital outreach and a “Hear from a Doctor” video featuring a DPH physician. Messaging will focus on helping San Franciscans stay healthy and continue enjoying the activities that matter to them throughout the fall and winter.

Immunization Webinars on Requirements for School Immunization and Tuberculosis Screening

On September 24, DPH's Immunization Program was joined by the Tuberculosis Program and Office of Equity and Community Engagement to jointly host two school webinars for private, public district, and public charter schools to share information about state and local requirements for school immunization and tuberculosis screening. Invitations were sent to all registered K-12 private and charter schools in San Francisco, as well as to SFUSD district enrollment leads. Thirty-one school and district participants attended these talks and Q&A sessions. The presentations were recorded and are being shared with slides to all invited participants throughout San Francisco to help keep students and staff healthy and in school.

DPH Environmental Health Helps Reduce Late-Night Drug Activity Through Retail Hours Regulation

The Mayor and Board of Supervisors established a priority ordinance amending Article 58 of the San Francisco Police Code to address late-night drug activity in targeted neighborhoods. Under this ordinance, retail food and tobacco establishments in the designated zones must close during restricted nighttime hours. Environmental Health is tasked with leading enforcement of this Restricted Retail Hours Program in partnership with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), the Planning Department, the Department of Building Inspection (DBI), the City Attorney's Office, and the Drug Market Agency Coordinated Command (DMACC).

The pilot program began in 2024 in the Tenderloin district to reduce loitering and openair drug activity around specific businesses identified as recurring problem locations. Environmental Health's Retail Hours Program contributed directly to improved neighborhood conditions, supported by enforcement actions and reduced late-night activity in front of regulated establishments. The program's early success led the Board of Supervisors to expand the pilot boundaries in 2026 to include a larger area, including the Sixth Street corridor in SoMa.

Since the expansion, Environmental Health has continued daily coordination with city partners. Using SFPD incident reports and body-camera footage, Environmental Health has issued seven



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Notices of Violation to businesses operating during restricted hours, and all seven cases have been brought to DPH Director's Hearings.

To date, a total of nine locations have ceased nighttime operation under the ordinance due to coordinated enforcement and compliance efforts. Environmental Health will continue leading enforcement of Article 58 to sustain neighborhood improvements, with approximately the majority of affected businesses now complying with nighttime closure requirements.

2026 Cancer Research Symposium Celebrates Collaboration, Innovation and Health Equity at ZSFG

On September 25, ZSFG Hospital brought together researchers, clinicians, trainees and community leaders for the 2026 UCSF-ZSFG Cancer Research Symposium at Pride Hall. The program highlighted cancer epidemiology, health equity, screening, quality improvement and clinical trials, with a focus on translating research and innovation into more equitable, accessible and patient-centered care. Sessions explored cancer disparities, genetic testing, screening, clinical trial access and emerging technologies, including AI to expedite mammogram interpretation. Presentations also highlighted efforts to strengthen screening, surveillance and clinical trial enrollment and address gaps across the cancer-care continuum. Special thanks to all the event speakers, appreciation also goes to UCSF and ZSFG leadership for supporting this important DPH-UCSF partnership.

ZSFG Shares Work at the Stanford Lean Conference

On September 28, ZSFG Hospital led by CEO Dr. Susan Ehrlich and Dr. William Huen, DPH's Chief of Strategic and Performance Innovation, presented at Stanford University's Lean Healthcare Academic Conference, sharing the work our teams are doing to improve care, strengthen systems, and make our work more effective.

At the conference, ZSFG presented about the ZSFG Way, our approach to management that helps us set clear priorities, grow strong leaders, and use data to keep getting better at what we do. Specifically, the team shared three efforts that are helping us handle complexity and improve how we perform:

1. Sharpening how we plan and roll out our strategy, so priorities are clearer across the organization.
2. Building one trusted source for performance data, so everyone's working from the same numbers.
3. Using AI to support quality improvement, so we can work smarter and more effectively.

Thank you to everyone who shared their work at this year's conference, and to the ZSFG KPO team for their continued leadership and support of creating a culture of continuous improvement through our strategic planning and Lean efforts.



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COVID-19 Update

As of 09/30:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 6.2%.
- Twenty-seven percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.