

San Joaquin Valley Place Matters Health Disparity Initiative

The Central Valley Health Policy Institute (CVHPI) along with six counties of the SJV is involved in a national initiative launched by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Health Policy Institute. The SJV place matters serves as catalysts for strategic action to improve the health of the region. Our mission was to identify, develop, and implement regional strategies to address racial/ethnic, rural/ urban social class disparities.

The Valley has always been an area that's underserved; there are significant issues in the Valley that reflect rural inequality. Poverty in the San Joaquin Valley can be so extreme that it is often compared to that in the Appalachian region. Accompanying the continuing economic crisis, there is a rise in racial discrimination against racially and nationally oppressed people. Minority families are disproportionately victimized by cutbacks in health care, education, child care, welfare, food stamps and jobs.

SJV Place Matter initiative is focused on convening all initiatives in the region that address root causes of health disparities to: 1) successfully communicate across domains/efforts/initiatives local and regional social determinants of health as central messages and mission to address health disparities, 2) To develop a communication process that builds shared commitment and pride,3) to create a culture that promotes respect and trust with open and consistent communication, and 4) To encourage the Communities to actively share information in a timely fashion and through a variety of appropriate announcement channels for an ongoing and interactive communication exchange.