





chapter six

HEALTH AND EQUITY

The purpose of the Health and Equity Element is to protect the people and assets that make Indio a great place to live, work, and recreate. Place, income, living conditions and education are all significant contributing factors to health and equity in a community. How we plan and prioritize growth for the future can determine the well-being of residents in the long term. The City's physical, social, and economic environments combine to make specific individuals and groups more vulnerable to long-term changes and short-term shocks. From global climate change to economic transformation, the City has the opportunity to make choices that will positively impact the community, environment, and economy and make it more healthy, sustainable, and resilient to future change.

Key Considerations and Strategies

California law requires that a General Plan include elements (or chapters) specifically addressing environmental justice. This Health and Equity element was prepared to meet the requirements California adopted with Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), or the Planning for Healthy Communities Act. SB 1000 requires cities to develop an Environmental Justice element, or related environmental justice goals and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in “disadvantaged communities.” Elements may address the reduction of pollution exposure, the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity in disadvantaged communities.

The Health and Equity Element supports equitable development practices that are responsive to disadvantaged communities and that protect all members of a community from environmental harm and risk. Community-centered planning and design also elevates the values and priorities of historically-underserved populations, including lower-income residents and people of color, in guiding community development. In supporting and enhancing opportunities for meaningful engagement, the General Plan process recognizes the importance of addressing the intersection of health, equity, and environmental justice in creating access and expanding opportunities for all members of the community.

A broad range of approaches were incorporated into both phases of community outreach to ensure the public participation of diverse members of the community. Phase two included a diverse Task Force, citywide workshop, and stakeholder interviews targeting individuals of a variety of ages and backgrounds.

The community input helped shape the content and strategies of the Health and Equity Element. Key themes related to environmental justice and health that emerged from the outreach included: lack of park space, and access to open space; access to healthy foods; street safety including walkability and street lighting; and access to affordable healthcare.

Public Engagement

The community engagement strategy in Indio involved ongoing community outreach, a series of public workshops, a community questionnaire, pop-up outreach efforts (such as community blackboards), a student essay contest, and also informal observations provided by City staff. As part of this process, many community residents, along with City Council members, Planning Commissioners, General Plan Advisory Committee members, and other stakeholders shared their ideas about the opportunities and issues facing Indio, as well as how they envisioned the future of the City. The goal of the community engagement strategy was providing diverse opportunities for participation and for community members to share firsthand experiences with issues and opportunities in the City.

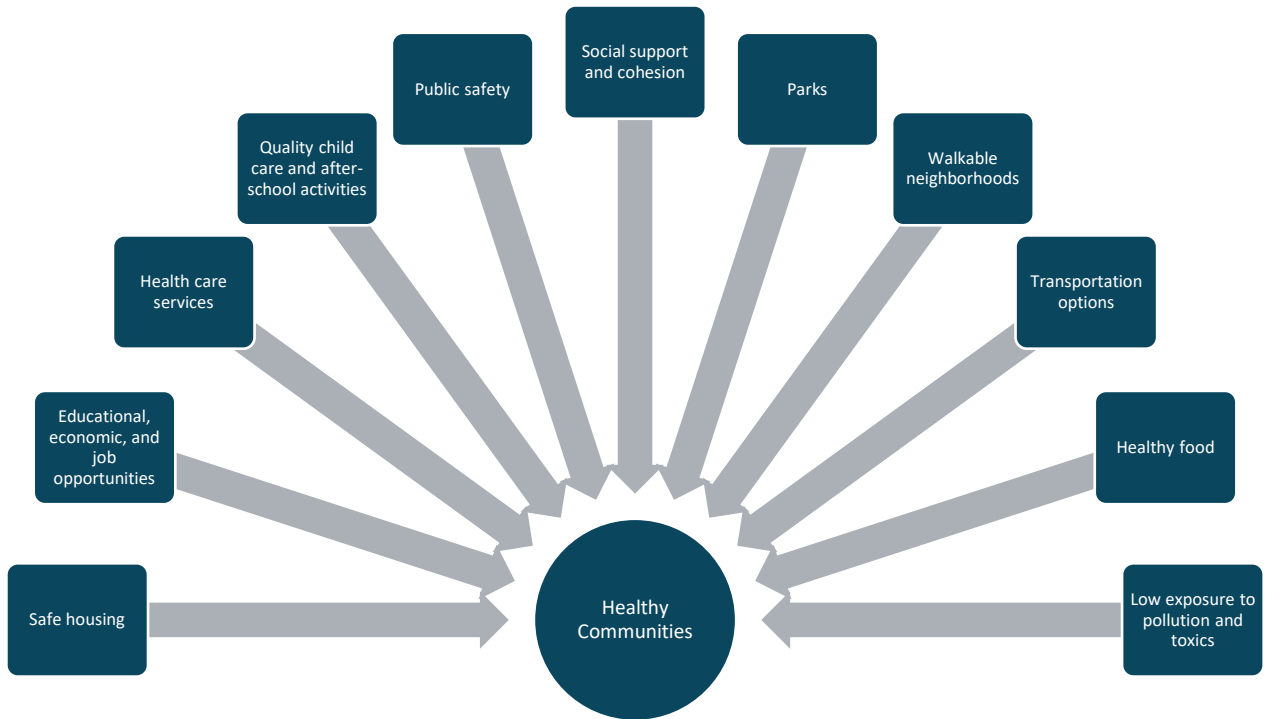


Healthy Communities

On February 7, 2018, the Indio City Council adopted a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign. The HEAL Cities campaign focuses on improving health across three policy areas: employee wellness, access to healthy food, and land use. The City of Indio is committed to reducing and preventing obesity and promote healthier lifestyles for all residents.

A community’s overall health depends on many factors. Eating well, staying active, and seeing a doctor all influence health. Health, however, is also influenced by access to social and economic opportunities, the quality of education, neighborhood conditions, workplace safety, and the cleanliness of water and air, among others. These conditions influence why some people are healthier than others, and why where people live and work matter to community health. Figure 6-1 shows examples of key healthy community components.

Figure 6-1: Example of Healthy Communities Components



Because healthy communities are influenced by a wide variety of factors, strategies to improve health are woven throughout the General Plan. Examples include:

- + Promoting development of non-polluting industries that are not major sources of air and water pollution (Land Use and Community Design Element, Goal 10).
- + Encouraging the use of bicycles and walking as the preferred transportation mode for trips to and from schools by implementing a "Safe Routes to School" Program (Mobility Element, Goal 2).
- + Collaborating with the College of the Desert and other appropriate entities to identify and strengthen educational and training courses in new and emerging technologies (Economic Development Element, Goal 3).
- + Focusing City efforts to create a variety of new parks types, including mini, neighborhood, and community gardens within Indio's existing neighborhoods, particularly the most disadvantaged neighborhoods (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element, Goal 2).

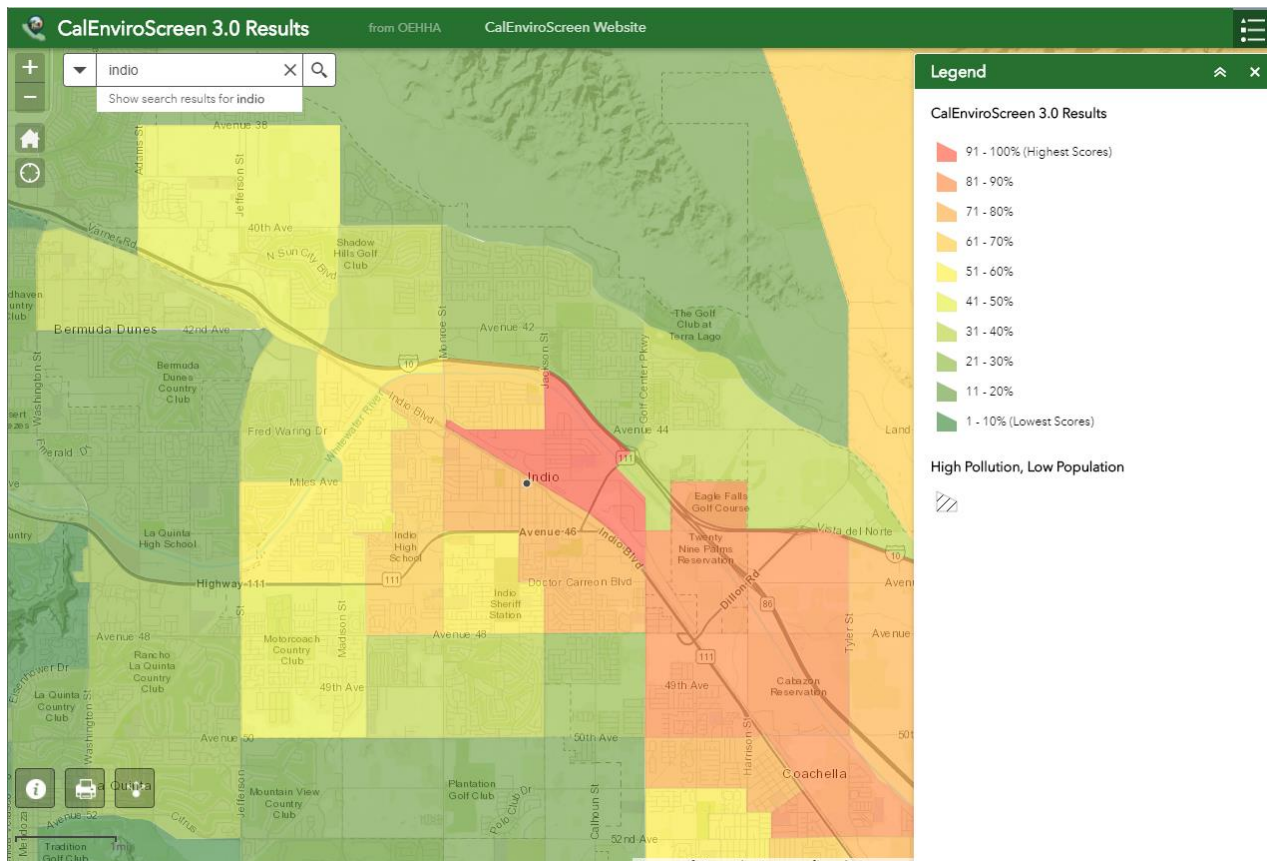
Encouraging a healthy community can bring many benefits to a community, from better health to new jobs to economic investments. Improving these determinants can also help promote equity and community development over the long term.

Disadvantaged Communities

While the promotion of healthy communities can bring many benefits to all members of a community, the impacts of environmental burdens and poor planning can have disproportionate impacts on disadvantaged communities, including low-income residents, minority populations, communities of color, and tribal nations. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) defines a disadvantaged community as an area that is a low-income area and that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution. The CalEnviroScreen (CES) tool can be used to identify disadvantaged communities disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and other hazards. The CES tool provides a data source for identifying communities burdened by multiple sources of pollution, based on environmental exposures, environmental effects, and population characteristics, including health outcomes and socioeconomic data.

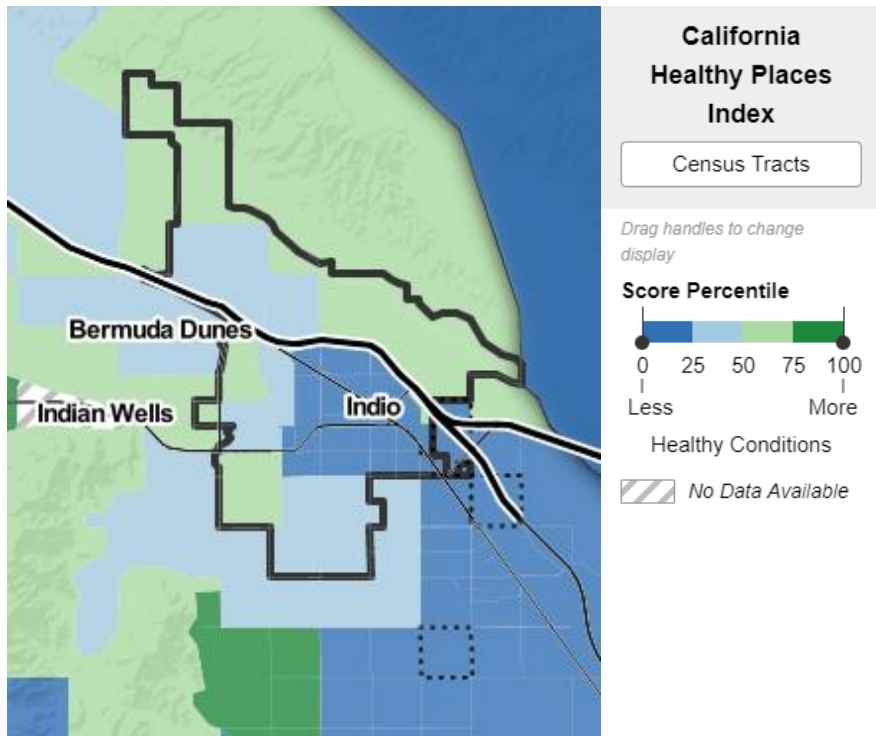
As shown in Figure 6-2, the CES tool identifies various communities in Indio as "most disadvantaged." Based on the scores, the City has relatively high levels of ozone, which is compounded by a concentration of neighborhoods and individuals that struggle with high levels of poverty, low levels of educational attainment, and poor health conditions.

Figure 6-2: CalEnviroScreen (CES) Tool



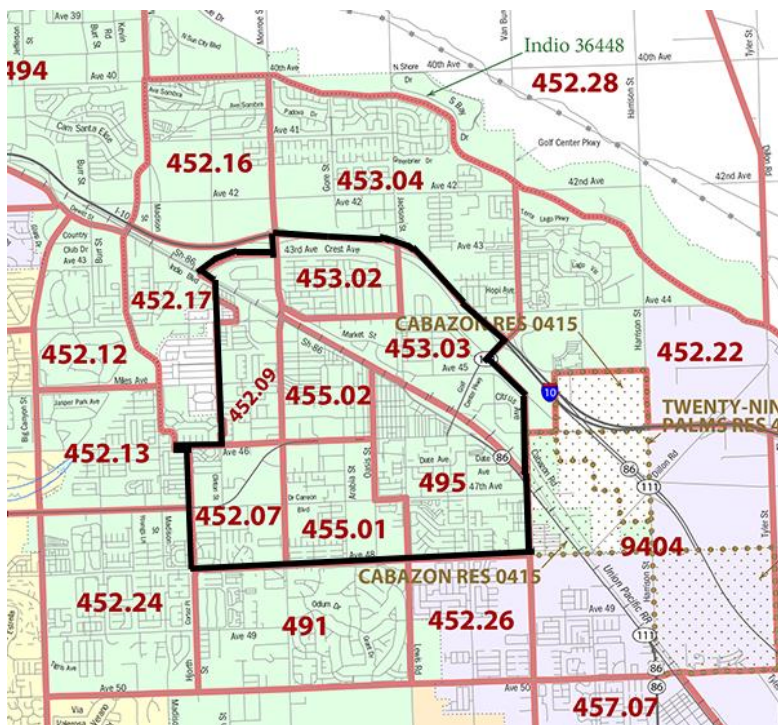
A second tool, the California Healthy Places Index (HPI), can be used to analyze the cumulative burden of social, economic, and environment conditions that may lead to unequal, inequitable, or disparate outcomes on a specific group of neighborhoods. In addition to pollution burden, the HPI tool emphasizes a broader spectrum of social factors (or determinants) that impact health, including education, housing, economic, and access to health. As shown in Figure 6-3, Indio has various neighborhoods with a low HPI score and higher proportion of residents considered especially vulnerable to public health risks, including children, the elderly, the disabled, recent immigrants, and those in poverty. Additionally, Figure 6-4 provides a map of disadvantaged communities in the lowest quartile of the HPI, identified by census tract.

Figure 6-3: Healthy Places Index (HPI)



The location of the City Boundary is approximate

Figure 6-4: Indio Census Tract Map



The location of the City Boundary is approximate

Poverty consistently co-exists with a wide variety of negative health outcomes. Table 6-1 provides a comparative profile of disadvantaged communities in the City of Indio. While census tract 9404 includes an area within the City, it is largely within Coachella and has not been included within the Indio Health Profile. In Indio, poverty disproportionately impacts families with children. Families with children fare poorly, with poverty rates much higher than the rates for all families, particularly in neighborhoods identified by the HPI as disadvantaged communities. This is particularly important because children in poverty can experience learning difficulties, and social, emotional and behavioral problems. In general, children are also especially susceptible to asthma from air pollution.

Residents in disadvantaged communities also face health risks from overcrowding, and if recent immigrants, may also be less likely to seek health services out of fear of legal repercussions due to their immigration status. Language barriers can lead to miscommunication, but also feelings of social isolation and solitude. Compared to the rest of the City, all census tracts identified by the HPI as disadvantaged communities have over one third or residents that identify with speaking English less than 'very well.'

Issues of social isolation and a lack of physical activity can also impact an aging population. While the number of residents age 65 and over are generally lower in disadvantaged communities, there are two census tracts (452.09 & 455.02) where the number of residents age 65 and over living alone are higher than the rest of the City. For the City, these neighborhoods present an opportunity to enhance social relationships and improve physical health for these residents.

Table 6-1: Indio Health Profile

	Census Tract							Indio City
	452.07	452.09	453.02	453.03	455.01	455.02	495	
Demographic								
Under age 5	10.5%	6.0%	6.6%	6.9%	6.9%	11.2%	7.3%	7.1%
Under age 18	22.5%	24.6%	21.7%	26.6%	20.7%	17.7%	22.6%	20.2%
Age 65 and over	9.1%	10.7%	14.8%	7.4%	7.3%	10.3%	9.4%	15.7%
Age 65 and over living alone	5.9%	14.9%	5.3%	7.1%	2.1%	10.7%	5.4%	8.8%
Average household size	3.2	3.25	3.92	3.53	3.31	3.23	3.38	3.1
Non-White (including Hispanic or Latino)	66.9%	62.7%	54.5%	69.0%	68.5%	57.9%	56.6%	49.1%
Percent high school graduate or higher	71.4%	61.2%	57.4%	48.2%	64.3%	51.7%	54.0%	74.2%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	7.1%	7.0%	3.2%	2.6%	5.0%	8.1%	9.6%	16.0%
Speaks English less than 'very well'	31.8%	33.2%	39.1%	38.5%	30.3%	37.1%	43.3%	24.0%
Percentage of families whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level								
All families	26.0%	27.3%	22.1%	38.6%	16.1%	25.8%	15.9%	14.0%
With related children under 18	30.1%	40.5%	24.0%	54.0%	26.2%	43.1%	22.3%	22.2%
With related children under 5	54.5%	42.7%	-	46.0%	27.3%	23.9%	0.0%	19.1%
Employment								
Percent Unemployed	10.4%	12.0%	8.8%	13.7%	9.5%	4.2%	8.2%	7.2%
Health Insurance								
No health insurance coverage	23.5%	24.3%	25.7%	27.4%	24.7%	30.7%	23.0%	18.1%

Source: 2012-16 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Broader Context

A guiding principle of environmental justice is that all members of a community should benefit from understanding the risks of environmental harms and the protections to mitigate their impacts. The built environment actively shapes health outcomes in communities. Although conventional planning practices (such as separating residential and commercial uses, building low density areas, constructing streets primarily for automobiles, and not providing adequate transportation choices) are not the single cause of chronic health problems in the United States, there is increasing documentation that they are often a contributing factor. Research indicates that auto-oriented, low-density, single-use places – as well as places underserved by parks and active recreation facilities – discourage physical activity and therefore contribute to an increased risk of heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.

As part of its commitment to the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign, the General Plan will build on existing efforts to encourage physical activity and access to healthy food in the City. For instance, the City has begun improving existing streets and sidewalks to encourage walking and biking and is currently developing a Safe Routes to School Master Plan, conducting a Multi-Modal Feasibility Study, and creating a five-mile hiking trail in the northern part of the city.

The following section provides a snap-shot of several key health outcomes and issues in the City.

Health Status

Based on data from UCLA's *California Health Interview Survey* (CHIS), the City of Indio has a low rate of children and youth (5.3%) that report fair or poor health. In contrast, adults (18-64) in the City (21.8%) and older adults (65%) in the County of Riverside report a higher rate of being in fair or poor health. Age is also a major risk factor for these chronic diseases. Because Indio has a younger-than-average population, there may be residents with unhealthy lifestyles that are at high risk for developing these chronic diseases in older age, but that have not yet been diagnosed. Treatment and diagnosis is often hampered by lack of preventative care, lack of insurance, and poor access to healthcare.

The data also suggests that obesity may be a critical public health problem for Indio. This is borne out by the fact that 28.4% of adults in Indio are obese or overweight, compared to 26.1% of residents in Riverside County and 25.8% in the state of California. The City's health challenges also include high rates of diabetes and death rates from heart disease, cancer, and chronic lower respiratory disease/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. These diseases are generally linked to unhealthy weight, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity.

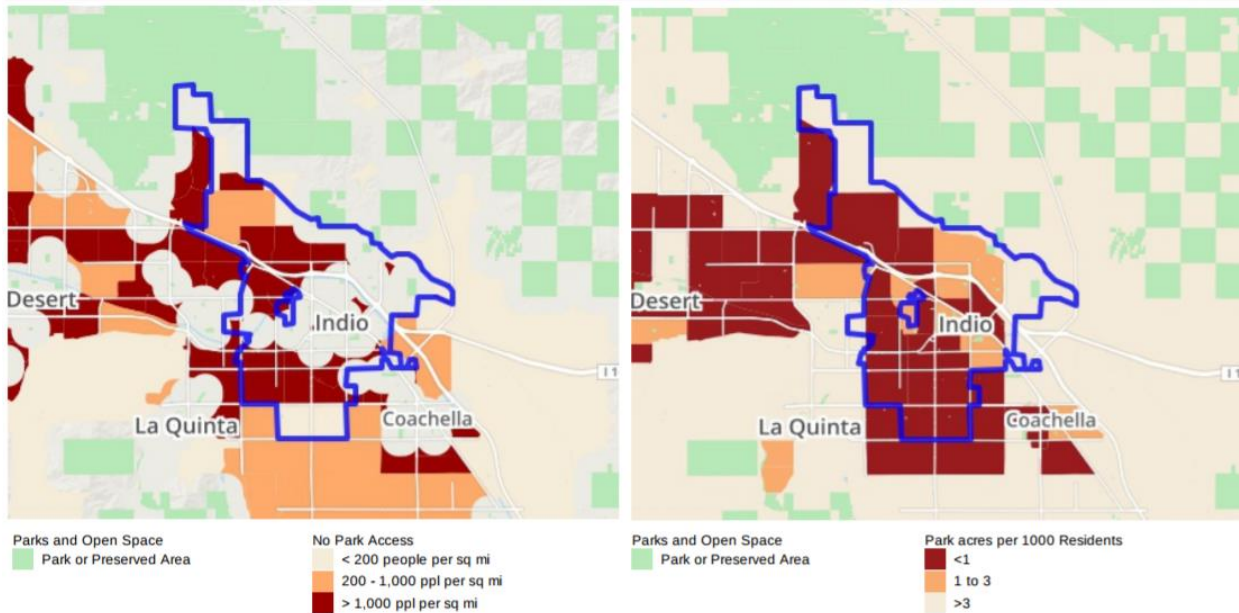
Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is an overarching health indicator for any population. Leading causes of death can highlight a population's risk factors and suggest policy priorities. Average life expectancy in zip code 92201 is 82 years, 3 years less than in 92203. There is no single cause for this disparity; rather, it suggests that the average Indio resident faces a variety of combined physical, social, and economic conditions that reduce health status and life expectancy. This disparity in life expectancy underscores why improving community health is a critical long-term goal.

Barriers to Physical Activity

The high rates of overweight and obese residents are compounded by a high percentage of adults (29.3%) in the City that do not participate in any physical activity. Generally, the City has a good pedestrian network. However, many transportation corridors – such as roadways, freeways, and train tracks – are difficult and dangerous for pedestrians to cross and thus discourage physical activity. In parts of the City, the prominence of suburban street design is not conducive to pedestrian activity. Residents’ ability to bicycle, walk, and exercise for recreation is also limited by a relative lack of public parks and recreation facilities, a cohesive bicycle network, and the distance many residents must travel to reach such facilities.

Figure 6-5: Park Access



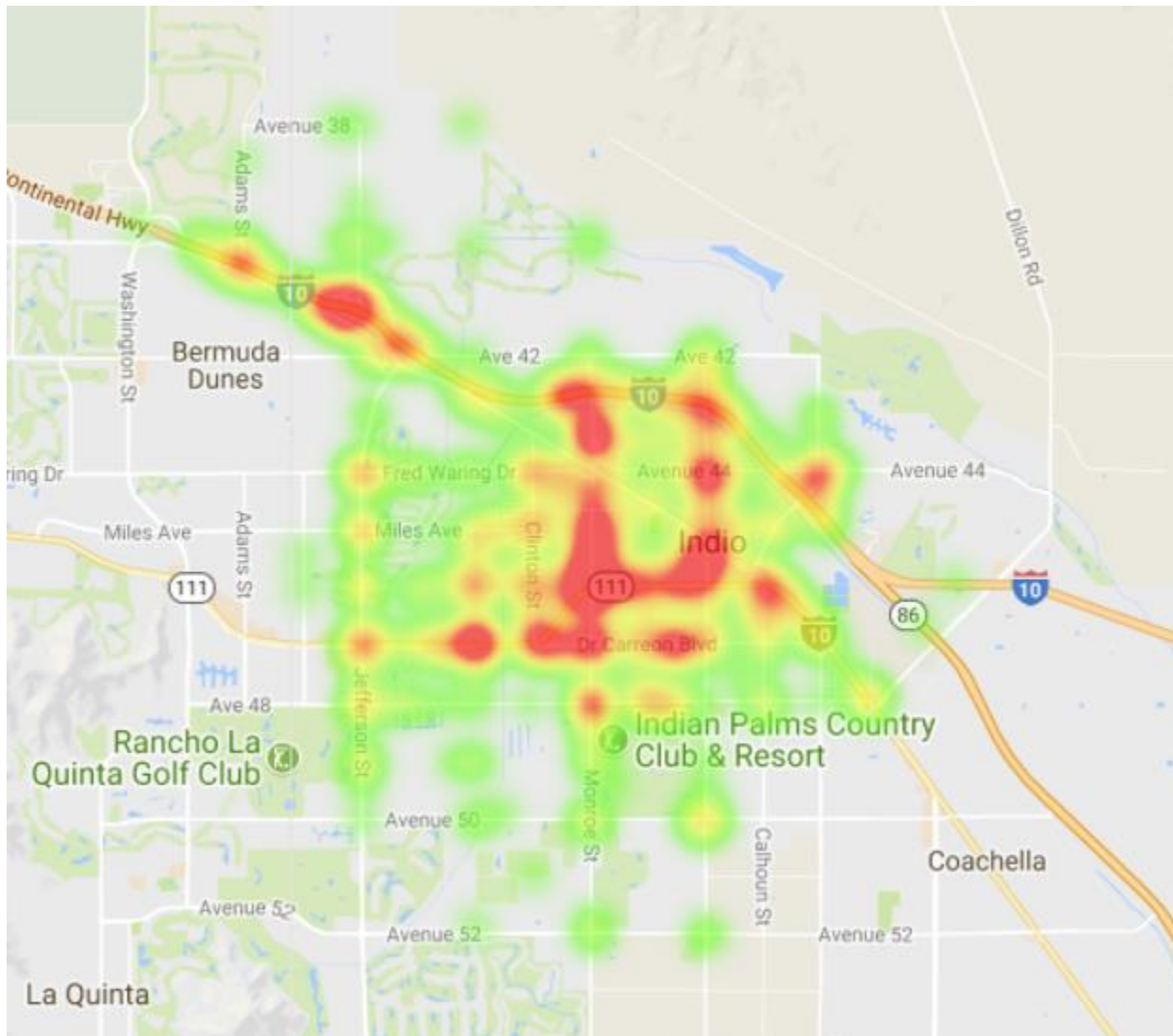
Source: Parks for California

The location of the City Boundary is approximate

While approximately one-third (33.5%) of Indio residents report walking at least 150 minutes a week, a limiting factor to physical activity levels is restricted access to public recreational and open space, as shown in Figure 6-5. Across the City, 53% percent of residents live further than half a mile from a public park. Despite the high density of people living in the City, 93% of residents live in areas with less than 3 acres of public parks or open space per thousand residents. Lastly, the bicycle network in Indio is incomplete and certain areas lacks infrastructure, a fact which limits the ability of residents to use bicycles for commuting, daily needs, or recreational purposes as illustrated in Chapter 4.

Street Safety for Walking, Driving, and Cycling

Concerns about pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle safety in Indio are amplified by the number of traffic collisions along the City’s largest streets. This is especially true of areas with high pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Based on data provided by the Transportation Injury Mapping System, there were a total of 1,008 traffic collisions in Indio from 2010 to 2014. Of these, 9% involved a pedestrian and 25 (2%) resulted in fatalities. The locations of these accidents are shown in Figure 6-6.

Figure 6-6: Vehicle Collision Map in Indio

Source: Transportation Injury Mapping System

The majority of injury and fatality incidents occurred along Indio's high-volume streets, most notably Monroe Street, Dr. Carreon Boulevard, and Highway 111, but also along the I-10 corridor, Jackson Street, and Avenue 48. The majority of pedestrian collisions took place at crossings and not in crosswalks (45.6%).

Nutrition

Better access to nutritious food and more opportunities for physical activity could reduce Indio residents' vulnerability to chronic diseases and is a key component of the HEAL Campaign. Poverty, low levels of education, and lack of access to health care may also contribute to these health conditions. As noted above, Indio has a high rate of obesity and overweight residents. Poor diet is likely a significant cause of this trend. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 82% of adult residents eat less than five servings of fruits and vegetables a day. One reason people may consume higher levels of unhealthy food is that it is often cheaper and easier to access than healthier food options. In the period between 2009-2014, the

number of fast food restaurants increased (10%) across Riverside County. There is a significant number of retailers selling food with low nutritional values across the City and only one farmers' market exists in the City.

Food security is also important for community health and wellbeing. "Food security" is defined as having access to enough food for an active, healthy life for all people at all times. Food insecurity can lead to undernourishment and malnutrition, which coincide with fatigue, stunted child development, and other health issues. Food insecurity among low income households is significantly higher in Indio (11.4%) than at the County (7.6%) and State (8.1%) levels. Households that lack "food security" can obtain supplemental assistance from government programs, such as SNAP and the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program. These vendors are generally located along Jackson Street and Highway 111.

Air Quality

The City of Indio is located within the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB). Within this Basin, ozone and particulates are the pollutants that pose the most significant threat to human health. Ozone and fine particle matter are difficult to detect with the naked eye, so it is not always apparent when there is poor air quality. Ozone is a gas composed of three oxygen atoms. It is formed when volatile organic compounds (VOC) combine with nitrogen oxides in the presence of ultraviolet sunlight. Inhaling ground-level ozone can result in a number of health effects that are observed in broad segments of the population. People may experience symptoms such as coughing, throat irritation, pain, burning, or discomfort in the chest when taking a deep breath, and chest tightness, wheezing, or shortness of breath. Particulate matter (PM) consists of a mixture of dry solid fragments and small droplets of liquid. These particles are linked with increases in mortality rates, respiratory infections, and the number and severity of asthma attacks.

Air quality in Indio is regulated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), which has jurisdiction over the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) and the desert portion of Riverside County in the SSAB. The District monitors air quality at two permanent locations: one in Palm Springs and one in Indio. The stations assess PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide levels.

The Coachella Valley has a history of elevated PM levels, which are closely associated with fugitive dust emissions from construction activities and the area's natural wind processes. The Coachella Valley is currently designated as a serious non-attainment area for PM₁₀, which refers to particulate matter that is larger than 2.5 micrometers, but smaller than 10 micrometers. Coachella Valley governments, agencies, private and public stakeholders, and the SCAQMD, have proactively worked to reduce unhealthy levels of PM₁₀ dust. In response to high levels of dust, SCAQMD adopted the State Implementation Plan for PM₁₀ for the Coachella Valley (CVSIP), which outlines reasonably available control measures and establishes a future attainment date for areas previously unable to meet federal PM₁₀ standards.

Ozone levels have been declining; however, concentrations have exceeded State and federal standards in recent years. In 2014, there were 30 days where the monitoring station in Indio registered an exceedance of the State's eight-hour concentration standard and 61 days where the monitoring station in Palm Springs registered exceedance of the State's eight-hour concentration standard. In the same year, the federal eight-hour concentration standard was exceeded 10 days at the Indio monitoring station and 35 days at the Palm Springs station.

Periodically, the SCAQMD prepares an update to the Air Quality Management Plan to comply with federal requirements and/or incorporate the latest technical planning information. This is a regional and multi-

agency effort to develop strategies primarily focused on addressing ozone and PM standards. The SCAQMD also offers assistance to government policy-makers in adopting and implementing local air quality policies. This Element provides Indio with goals and policies to improve its air quality. The City has also prepared a Climate Action Plan, which establishes current emissions and sets targets for reductions in greenhouse gases that will improve overall air quality.

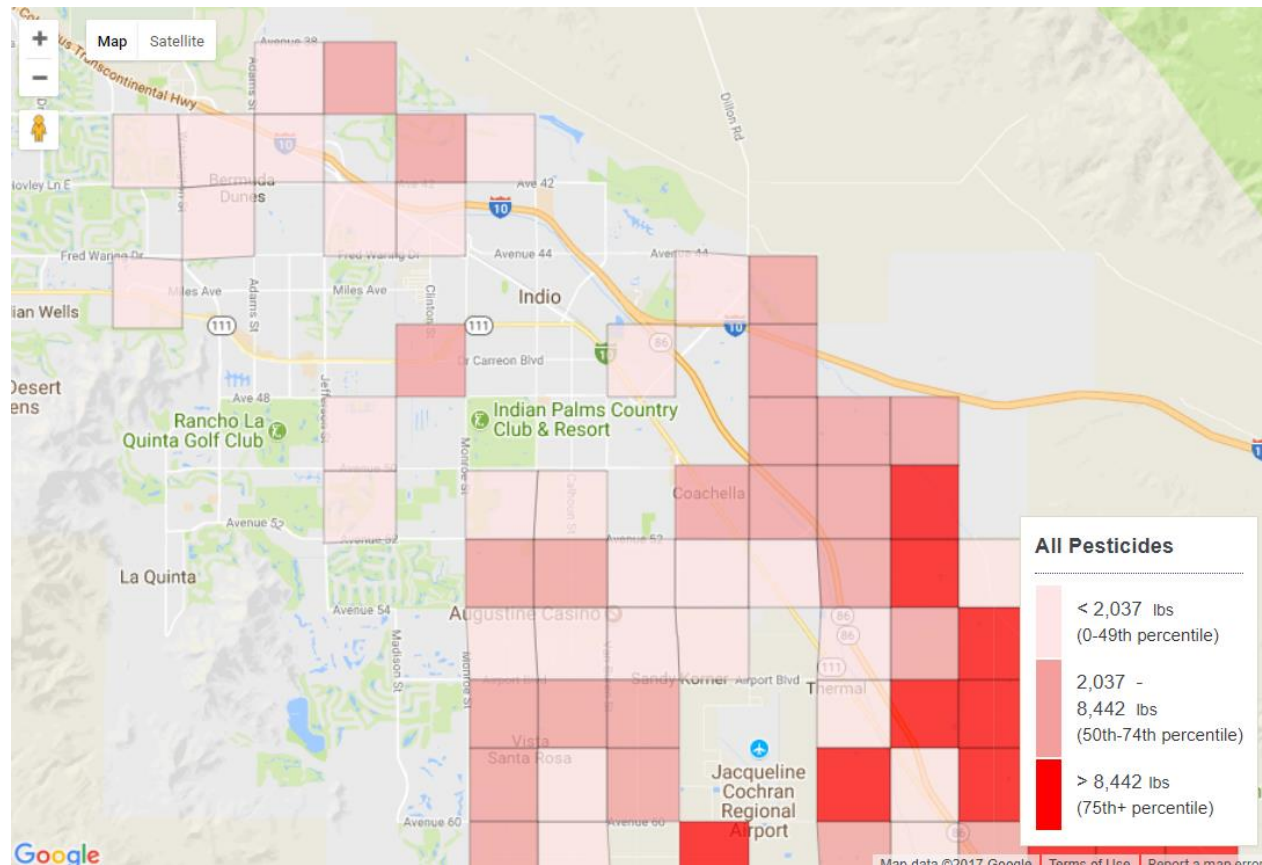
Indio's reported rates of adult asthma are higher in areas south of the 10 freeway, where many residents live near sources of air pollution – industrial lands, truck routes or freeways – that contribute to respiratory illnesses. It is also possible that the City's lower than average level of access to health insurance, information and care leads to under-diagnosing and under-reporting of respiratory disease.

Environmental Concerns

Various environmental concerns also negatively impact the health of residents and Indio's food system. Pollution from agricultural fertilizers and pesticides are primary sources of groundwater contamination in Indio. While contaminants can be naturally occurring or manmade, these can impact both the environment and human health.

Pesticides, for instance, are used to prevent and control pests, weeds, and other plant pathogens. Exposure to pesticides can happen by touching treated surfaces (skin contact), eating or drinking contaminated food or water (ingestion), or by breathing it in (inhalation). Areas with higher concentrations of pesticide use are shown in Figure 6-7.

Figure 6-7: Pesticide Use Map



A single or short-term high-level exposure can result in poisoning or illness. Similarly, chronic, or long-term exposure, can result in serious illness, including some types of cancers, pregnancy issues, abnormal births, and poor brain development. Symptoms can include headaches, dizziness, and allergies to chemical burns on the skin, unconsciousness, and death. In Indio, pesticide use includes Chloropicrin, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Sulfur, and Mancozeb.

Additionally, occupational exposure can put agricultural workers in particular risk for pesticide-related illnesses. Children and pregnant women are at greater risk from the health effects of pesticide exposure. Exposure can also be a problem in disadvantaged communities where the risk to in-home pesticide use is high and where community residents may have little or no participation in pest control decisions.

The effects of short or long-term exposure can be compounded by industrial manufacturing, agricultural run-off, and wastewater discharge. Chromium-6, a cancer-causing chemical is found in Indio’s tap water at a rate of 13.1 parts per billion, while California’s Public Health Goal for chromium-6 is 0.02 ppb. The adverse effects of drinking or inhaling Chromium-6 include lung cancer, kidney damage, and occupational asthma.

Access to Healthcare and Health Facilities

Access to health care is a major health policy issue in Indio. Many people cannot afford health care and there is a limited number of health providers in the area. In 2014, 26.9% of adults between the age of 18 and 64 were uninsured in Indio. A lack of access to health care can further complicate chronic diseases, include heart disease or diabetes, which are already prevalent in the City.

There are also a limited number of health care facilities in the City. John F. Kennedy Memorial is the only hospital in the City, which has plans for future expansion. Loma Linda University Children's Health Indio recently opened in Downtown Indio. Other nearby facilities include Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, Kaiser Permanente in Palm Desert, and Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs.

There are neighborhoods of the City, particularly those concentrated north of Avenue 46, that are located within a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for primary care and mental health professionals. A Health Professional Shortage Area is a federal designation given to areas that demonstrate a shortage of healthcare professionals, which may include primary care professionals, dentists, and mental health professionals.¹ Additionally, many of Indio's neighborhoods have also been designated as a Medically-Underserved Area (MUA).^{2, 3}

¹ California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (2015). Health Professional Shortage Areas.

² MUAs are determined through a ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and percentage of the population age 65 or over.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Goals and Policies

Healthy Neighborhoods

Promote community health programs, services, and design that improve health outcomes by expanding and leveraging resources and capacity. Health Equity can increase access to medical care and social and economic opportunities.

Goal HE-1: Health Equity. A City that supports health equity for all residents by promoting access to affordable, quality health care, mental health care, and social services.

HE-1 Policies

HE-1.1 Health equity. Encourage programs and practices that aim to reduce health inequities. Partner with public and private health partners to work towards ensuring a healthy and sustainable lifestyle for all Indio residents and workers.

HE-1.2 Health in all policies approach. Integrate a Health in All Policies approach to governance that aligns with County initiatives, policies, and strategies.

HE-1.3 Partnerships for health. Support partnerships with local health service providers, the County Public Health Department, schools, and other community-based organizations to promote health, wellness, and preventative care.

HE-1.4 City actions and programs. Implement the HEAL Campaign by promoting and addressing the health and wellness of the public through the City's actions, policies, programs and publications.

HE-1.5 Educational materials about health. Provide information about existing health care facilities through City-sponsored events, publications and activities.

HE-1.6 Flexible spaces. Promote the flexible use of community centers, libraries, and schools to provide important health services to Indio residents. Consider novel health care alternatives, like pop-up vaccinations or pop-up health screening.

Goal HE-2: Healthy Neighborhood Design. Neighborhoods designed to encourage a healthy lifestyle for people of all ages, income levels, and cultural backgrounds.

HE-2 Policies

HE-2.1 Neighborhood design. Design neighborhoods to promote pedestrian and bicycle activity as alternatives to driving. This policy is implemented through the Land Use and Community Design Element.

HE-2.2 Complete streets. Prioritize transportation system improvements that encourage activity by all users, particularly in the areas with the highest need. This policy is implemented through the Mobility Element.

HE-2.3 Universal park access. Increase access to existing and proposed parks and open spaces. Apply universal design principles to ensure that people of any culture, age, size, weight, race, gender, and ability can experience an environment that promotes their health, safety, and welfare. This policy is implemented through the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element.

HE-2.4 Sidewalk network. Design neighborhoods to facilitate social connectivity and walkability. This policy is implemented through the Mobility and the Land Use and Community Design Elements.

HE-2.5 Community engagement. During future neighborhood planning processes, encourage continuous participation by those who will be affected by the plan, including residents, property owners, and businesses, as well as the general public and interested groups. If possible, pursue public-private partnerships to implement projects and ensure long-term sustainability and benefits to the community.

HE-2.6 Coordination with regional agencies. Integrate a Health in All Policies approach to governance that aligns with County initiatives, policies, and strategies.

HE-2.7 Health-promoting uses. Prioritize health-promoting uses in new development including neighborhood markets, grocery stores, medical centers, pharmacies, parks, gyms, and community gardens.

Environmental Factors Affecting Health

Clean air, water, and soil are critical for Indio residents. Other effects on health include access to food, quality education, and safe neighborhoods. The following goals and policies aim to reduce negative environmental factors that contribute to poor health for Indio residents.

Goal HE-3: Environmental Quality. A City designed to improve the quality of the built and natural environments to reduce disparate health and environmental impacts.

HE-3 Policies

HE-3.1 Regional air quality planning efforts. Participate in air quality planning efforts with local, regional, and State agencies that improve local air quality to protect human health and minimize the disproportionate impacts on sensitive population groups.

HE-3.2 Contaminated sites. Continue to work with the appropriate local, State, and federal agencies to promote the clean-up of contaminated sites to protect human health.

HE-3.3 Construction pollution. Reduce particulate emissions from paved and unpaved roads, construction activities, and agricultural operations.

HE-3.4 Sensitive-receptor uses. Discourage development of sensitive land uses – defined as schools, hospitals, residences, and elder and childcare facilities – near air pollution sources that pose health risks – including freeways and polluting industrial sites.

HE-3.5 Truck routes. Designate truck routes to avoid sensitive land uses, where feasible.

HE-3.6 Smoke-free. Encourage smoke-free and Vape-free workplaces, multi-family housing, parks, and other outdoor gathering places to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke.

HE-3.7 Public education. Provide educational information about air quality issues and their health effects, including best practices for reducing and/or eliminating sources of indoor air pollution.

HE-3.8 Sensitive receptors and agricultural operations. When new sensitive receptors are proposed adjacent to existing active agricultural operations, ensure that an appropriate buffer is provided to minimize adverse impacts and that future residents will be provided with a notice specifying the

potential nuisances, such as dirt, noise, odors, and slow moving agricultural machinery that would be associated with the agricultural operations.

HE-3.9 Agricultural outreach. Work with the agricultural community to develop and distribute an informational brochure regarding best practices to reduce or eliminate surface and groundwater contamination, reduce particulate emissions from agricultural operations, minimize soil erosion, and prevent the buildup of salts in soils.

HE-3.10 Lower-emission fuel technologies. Support collaboration between State, regional, and local agencies to continue transitioning goods movement and transit vehicles to lower-emission fuel technologies in order to reduce vehicle air pollution.

Goal HE-4: Healthy Food. Healthy and affordable food available to all residents.

HE-4 Policies

HE-4.1 Healthy food. Ensure convenient access to affordable, fresh produce in all neighborhoods, including grocery stores, farmers' markets, and community gardens, particularly in underserved areas of Indio.

HE-4.2 Fast food access. Discourage unhealthy fast food outlets from locating near schools.

HE-4.3 Healthy food awareness. Promote public awareness and education about the importance of locally-produced food and food security.

HE-4.4 Local food production. Encourage local food production and distribution from Riverside County to reduce the distance food travels and pollution associated with transporting food.

HE-4.5 Mobile food markets. Maintain regular, weekly certified farmers' market and other mobile health food markets in Indio.

HE-4.6 Youth food programs. Work with the Desert Sands Unified School District and other Indio schools to create or implement educational programs for kids about healthy eating, such as edible school yards and healthy cooking classes.

HE-4.7 Liquor stores. Be cognizant of potential concentrations (e.g., multiple stores on the same block or intersection) of liquor stores and corner stores that sell liquor.

HE-4.8 Food insecurity. Educate residents about eligibility requirements for government nutrition programs, such as WIC and CalFresh.

HE-4.9 Food businesses. Encourage and promote innovative food microenterprises in Indio and create economic development opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Goal HE-5: Safety. Neighborhoods that enhance the safety and welfare of all residents, employers, and tourists in the City of Indio.

HE-5 Policies

HE-5.1 Crime prevention programs. Promote Business and Neighborhood Watch programs to help maintain a clean and safe environment.

HE-5.2 Community volunteer programs. Support the creation of community volunteer programs, including police cadets, Citizens Helping Indio Police (CHIP), and the Police Chaplain unit.

HE-5.3 Community and recreational programs. Encourage the development and operation of community and recreational facilities, programs, internships and block-party neighborhood events as pre-emptive strategies to reduce youth-related crime and to serve all phases of life (e.g., children, families, senior citizens).

HE-5.4 CPTED. Use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design strategies (CPTED) in new and existing development to improve public safety, including lighting, building orientation, and landscaping measures.

HE-5.5 At-risk youth programs. Continue to support programs for at-risk youth and parents of at-risk youth, such as parent training programs to prevent and intervene in destructive adolescent behavior, youth community outreach events, and the youth offender court program where juvenile offenders are tried in front of a jury comprised of their peers.

HE-5.6 Graffiti removal. Continue the robust graffiti prevention and removal efforts through the City of Indio's Graffiti Abatement Team which is managed by the Indio Police Department. The Team removes graffiti from public property (including parks, street signs, sidewalks, etc.) or property adjacent to public rights-of-way.

Goal HE-6: Education and Workforce. High-quality educational and expanded workforce opportunities for all Indio residents.

HE-6 Policies

HE-6.1 Enrichment programs. Promote free or low-cost child and family enrichment programs and afterschool supplemental education programs.

HE-6.2 Workforce training. Develop public-private partnerships with automakers, telecommunications, green industry, health care, education, and other sectors to support educational and workforce training opportunities, particularly to assist vulnerable populations in competing for career opportunities in growth industries. This policy is also implemented through the goals and policies in the Economic Development Element.

HE-6.3 Early childhood education. Support a high quality, universal system of early childhood education, especially in low income communities.

HE-6.4 Youth training and employment. Support participation in youth training and employment programs as a strategy to improve educational attainment and generate professional aspirations.

HE-6.5 County partnership. Partner with the network of Riverside County Libraries to promote educational programs that teach children, teens, and adults with low literacy to improve reading skills, improve English conversational skills, and homework support.

HE-6.6 Adult education. Support the creation of adult education and training programs, including English language classes, vocational training, and financial literacy programs that empower residents to save, budget, build credit, and explore investment opportunities.

Implementation Actions

The table below identifies programs, policy updates, planning efforts, coordination efforts, and other actions that will help implement the General Plan’s community health and equity vision and policies. Programs are consistent with the HEAL Cities Campaign and support this chapter’s goals and policies.

Table 6-2: Community Health and Equity Programs

	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Health resources inventory. Develop an inventory of health resources in the City in cooperation with the Riverside University Health System-Public Health and local hospital system.	Medium	Short	Planning
2	Healthy food plan. Develop a plan to attract more healthy food choices for residents of the City. The plan should strategically consider location and expansion of new and existing businesses to promote access to healthy food choices, including farmers’ markets (see action 3), throughout the City, including incentives to locate or expand grocery stores and other healthy food purveyors throughout the City.	Medium	Long	Planning
3	Farmers’ market. Pursue funding and partner with local organizations to provide a year-round farmers market in the City and seek out additional vendors to participate in the market.	Medium	Medium	Planning
4	Health fitness challenges. Create and implement health fitness challenges for City employees, businesses, and residents to encourage healthy living.	Low	Medium	Community Services
5	Health fair. Host an annual Health Day Fair with information, health care screenings and services, and activities celebrating an active lifestyle. The event should be sponsored by the City and involve a wide range of service providers.	Medium	Ongoing	Community Services
6	Employee health and wellness program. Implement employee health and wellness programs such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering discounts for gym or health club memberships; • Offering onsite health clinics for employees; • Bringing in exercise instructors to teach lunchtime classes; • Distributing educational information about physical fitness, nutrition, and other health topics to employees; • Organizing competitive events that encourage employees to be physically active; and • Prohibiting smoking and vaping on City property. 	Medium	Medium	Community Services

7	<p>Town hall meetings. Hold bi-annual town hall meetings to implement the General Plan. Publicize the meetings widely and in multiple languages.</p>	Medium	Short	Planning
8	<p>Zoning code updates. Amend City codes and ordinances for their impact on health. Topics that should be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco retail licensing • Standards for multi-family buildings located along freeways or truck routes or near hazardous materials. • Smoke-free multi-family housing • Location of fast food restaurants and liquor stores. • Standards for improved indoor air quality resulting from pollution such as toxics, VOCs, mold, paint, asbestos, smoking, and other chemicals. • Encouragement for HVAC systems that achieve high levels of indoor air quality. • Reduction of dust and other emissions from construction sites and unpaved industrial areas of the City. 	High	Short	Planning
9	<p>Development checklist. Coordinate with the Riverside University Health System-Public Health to implement a land development review checklist to ensure that projects enhance public health outcomes. The checklist should address topics such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian environment • Building siting • Access to transit • Access to parks • Proximity to healthy food sources • Proximity to existing or potential sources of pollution (such as freeways and land uses that use hazardous materials) • Shade and tree canopy 	High	Short	Planning
10	<p>Smoke-free events. Support smoke-free public events and facilities, including farmers’ markets, public parks and trails, and community street fairs.</p>	Medium	Ongoing	Community Services
11	<p>Regional coordination. Cooperate with local, regional, and state agencies that work to improve air quality and mitigate negative health impacts.</p>	Medium	Ongoing	Planning
12	<p>Vandalism and maintenance reporting. Create a program and/or method for residents to monitor and report vandalism along with maintenance issues in parks and public Right-of-Way.</p>	Medium	Medium	Public Works

13	CPTED manual. Develop a development manual to provide basic requirements and incentives for the inclusion of design features in new development to reduce potential for crime. These features could include well-lighted parking areas, open landscaping, limited access into and between buildings, and limited access to rooftops.	Medium	Medium	Planning
14	Learning partnerships. Partner with local institutions and other public and private organizations to maintain and enhance existing extended learning opportunities through after-school enrichment programs, summer boost programs, school breaks, and weekends for all children.	High	Medium	Community Services
15	Housing element. Incorporate analysis of key livability issues, including overcrowding, lead exposure, and other substandard housing conditions, in the next housing element update.	High	Short	Planning
16	Healthy Indio Initiative. In collaboration with Riverside University Health System-Public Health, create the healthy Indio Initiative to promote public health and wellness citywide.	Medium	Medium	Planning & Community Services