



FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
July 16, 2007

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HARC Completes Second Phase of Region-Wide Community Health Survey
Eagerly Awaited *Community Health Monitor* to Help Shape Future
of Care in Eastern Riverside County

(PALM DESERT, CA) – More than 3,100 residents living in cities ranging from Calimesa to Blythe participated this year in the most comprehensive survey of community health needs ever undertaken in the region. Results from just-completed confidential interviews will be released this winter as part of a document called the *Community Health Monitor* now being developed by the Palm Desert-based nonprofit Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC).

The research initiative aims to deliver healthcare providers, cities, government agencies, and private interests a snapshot of public health in eastern Riverside County. HARC data will be used to facilitate decision-making on future issues such as program development, access, funding, utilization, and more.

Respected health research firm Macro International canvassed more than 55,000 people through phone calls in the data-gathering phase. Respondents fielded questions related to health status, behavior risks, quality of life issues, access, and utilization of services. A total of 143 questions comprised the adult survey and 120 for children.

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“It’s a major undertaking to manage a research project of this scale,” said HARC Board President Glen Grayman, M.D., “However, the data is vitally important to preserving our future health and quality of life within the communities we serve. Many professionals understand in anecdotal terms how the explosive growth of this region has changed public health. This new data can help us better understand to what degree that change has occurred and, correspondingly, how to prepare for future needs.”

Because of the large sample size, researchers will be able to deliver statistically valid results in virtually every major survey category. This is in stark contrast to prior needs assessment initiatives with low sample sizes and an emphasis on qualitative, versus quantitative data.

This winter’s release of the HARC *Community Health Monitor* will take place at a public event aimed at civic leaders and professionals across the community health spectrum. More information can be obtained by calling HARC at (760)601-3663.

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About HARC

Formed in 2006 by a consortium of more than 35 public and private healthcare agencies, the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) conducts a confidential community health status assessment in eastern Riverside County every 3 years to identify major health and quality of life issues. The nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization is funded in part by contributions from community partners, as well as entities who contract with the agency for customized public health research.