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SERVING ALL OF THE DESERT CITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

AIDS assistance PROGRAM

Aids Assistance Program Announces 2014 'Evening Under The Stars' Honorees

Contributions of community heroes to be recognized at 21st annual gala

AIDS Assistance Program announced the honorees to be lauded at the 21st annual Evening Under the Stars gala, which will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2014, at 5:30 PM at the O'Donnell Golf Club in Palm Springs. The honorees include: James Houston and Harold Matzner (Jeanette Rockefeller Humanitarian Award), Dr. John Stansell (Gloria Greene Inspiration Award), Steve Kaufer (Joanna Jakway Community Hero Award), and Rabbi Sally Olins and Joyce Shampeny (Herb Lazenby Community Service Award). For more about this year's honorees, see below.

"Each of these individuals exemplifies the meaning of giving, and they have all been instrumental in helping to shape our organization and allow us to grow over the years," says Mark Anton, CEO/

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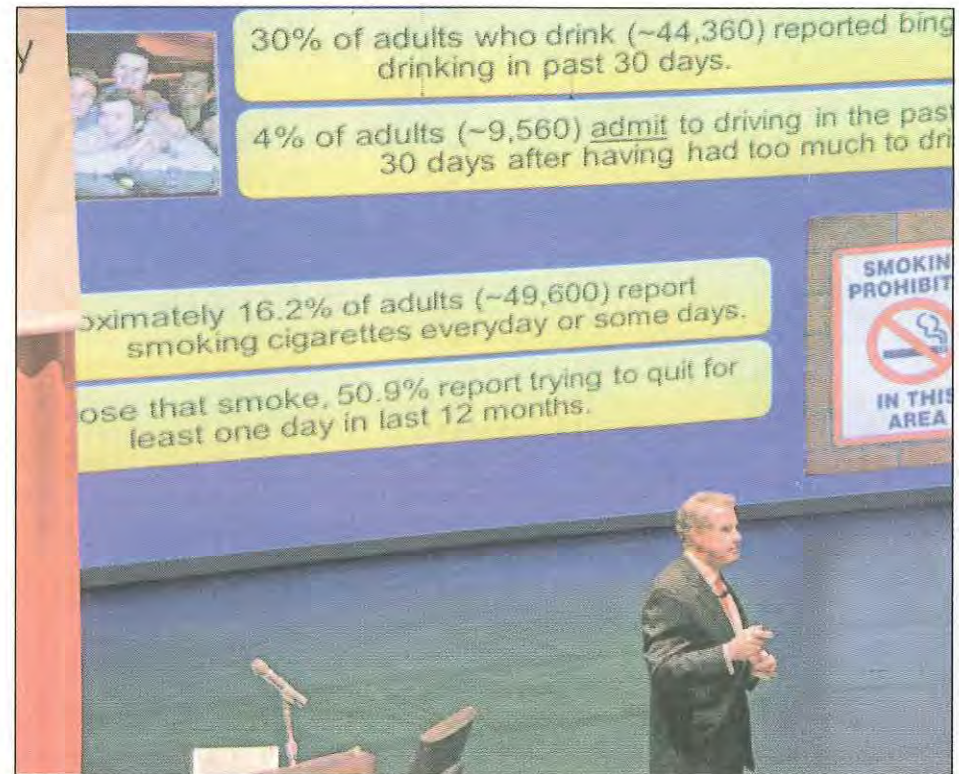
HARC's 2003 Health Monitor survey shows more CV children living in poverty

BY KEN ALAN

The Health Assessment Resource Center's (HARC) third, triennial Coachella Valley Community Health Monitor (CHM) presents some startling results.

Released last month, the detailed 133-page document is used primarily by healthcare, government and nonprofit agencies in their strategic planning and grant writing efforts, according to CEO Eileen Packer. "Within two hours of the data release, we already received notice that one local nonprofit had used the data to bolster a funding request. This accurate, up-to-date information will hopefully help dozens of local organizations to prioritize needs, address gaps in services, and obtain funding to improve the health of the Coachella Valley community," she said.

The detailed survey is unique in California. "The only other similar report is the California Health Interview Survey which is done only on a county-level," she said, noting that the health needs of the Coachella Valley are very different from those in the more urban areas of Riverside County. The report is freely available online at www.HARCdata.org.

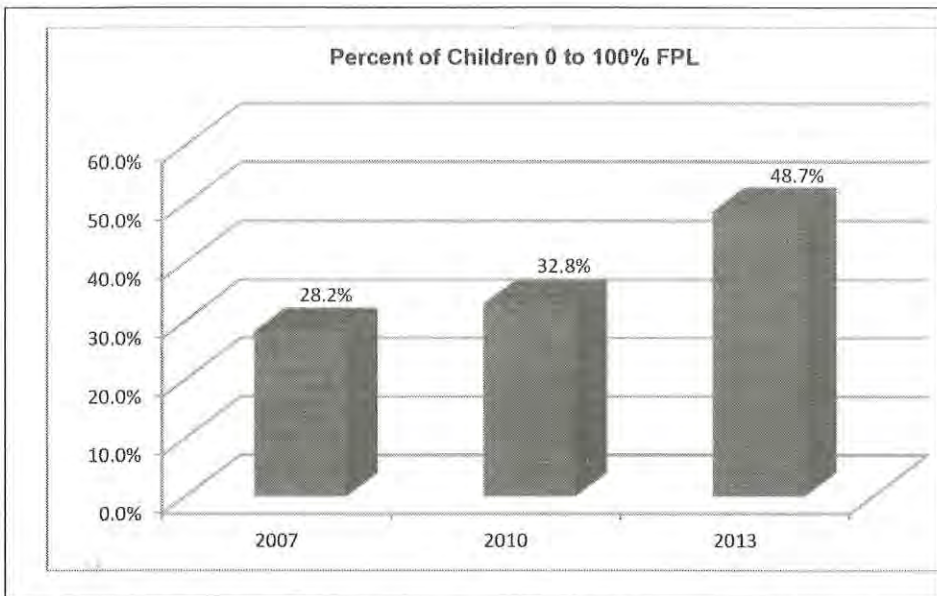


Dr. Glen Grayman, president of HARC, on stage at the Indian Wells Theatre on the CalState San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus for the data release event of the Community Health Monitor 2013 Executive Report. The slide behind him shows data gathered on drinking and smoking habits of adults 18 and older who live in the Coachella Valley

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HARC's 2013 Health Monitor survey shows more CV children living in poverty

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About 79.3 percent of Coachella Valley children live in households that fall at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). Significantly more children are living at or below the federal poverty level in 2013 (48.7 percent) than in 2010 (32.8 percent) or 2007 (28.2 percent).

Survey Highlights

One of the most troubling findings of the survey is the number of children living in poverty has climbed to 48 percent—up from 28 percent in 2007. About 37 percent of Coachella Valley adults live in households that fall at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty line. They are likely to be eligible for one or more types of federal or state assistance. About 10 percent of adults are currently unemployed.

The top three greatest concerns for local communities included jobs, unemployment (13 percent), crime (11 percent), and health insurance (almost 10 percent). About 20 percent of survey participants said that they have no concerns for their community.

About one-third of adults between 18 and 64 have no health insurance.

An additional 18,888 adults ages 18 to 64 lack healthcare coverage because they lost their job or changed employers. The survey was conducted in the fall of 2013, before the Affordable Care Act (ACA) took effect at the beginning of this year. "Access to medical services has gradually improved and that improvement is likely to continue, due in part to the effects of the ACA and the efforts of various local agencies and organizations. As that happens, more individuals will find out for the first time that they have diseases such as diabetes and/or hypertension (high blood pressure)," wrote Glen Grayman, M.D. in the executive summary.

Hispanic/Latino adults are significantly less likely than White adults to have health insurance coverage. Almost half of Hispanic/Latino adults between the ages of 18 and 64 are uninsured, compared to only 22 percent of White adults in the same age range.

Income also affects whether or not individuals have health insurance. Households with income less than \$50,000 per year have uninsured rates more than 50 percent, while individuals whose household income is \$50,000 or higher have uninsured rates of about 20 percent.

Almost a quarter of adults, including seniors more than 64, do not have health insurance for prescription drugs.

Over half of adults under 64 do not have vision coverage. Seniors fare a bit better—only 40 percent lack vision coverage.

About 55 percent of adults of all ages lack dental insurance. Nevertheless, the major-

ity of adults in Coachella Valley (68.3 percent) have seen a dentist within the past year.

More than 70 percent of Coachella Valley adults reported visiting a healthcare provider within the previous six months. More than 10 percent said the hospital emergency room was their usual source of care. Common barriers to receiving care include understanding what is covered, healthcare provider hours and taking time off work.

More than 10 percent of adults sought healthcare or prescription medications in Mexico within the past year. Hispanic/Latino adults were significantly more likely than White adults to report seeking healthcare in Mexico.

More than 20 percent of Coachella Valley adults have never had their blood cholesterol checked. Of those tested, all but 3.9 percent of them have been tested within the recommended five-year frequency.

Approximately half of Coachella Valley adults have not had a flu vaccination within the past year. Young adults are significantly less likely to get a flu shot. Low-income adults are also significantly less likely to receive the flu vaccine than their high-income counterparts.

Nearly one-third of adult drinkers in Coachella Valley report binge drinking at least one time within the past month. Binge drinking is the consumption of five or more drinks within two hours for men and four or more drinks within two hours for women.

Young adults are significantly more likely to smoke than older adults. More than 16 percent of adults in Coachella Valley are smokers. About half have tried to quit the habit within the past year.

The three most common chronic diseases in Coachella Valley adults are hypertension, high cholesterol and arthritis.

Nearly 60 percent of Coachella Valley adults are overweight or obese.

The Future of HARC

With three robust health studies under its belt, HARC has set its sights on expanding from its small, three-person operation to become a major healthcare research provider, both inside and outside of the Coachella Valley. "Our goal is to grow our client services. We just received a grant from the Alliance Healthcare Foundation in San Diego to do a senior LGBT needs assessment. We are providing services to Humana Foundation for an evaluation of their program. We're doing an evaluation for the Boys and Girls Club...so we're looking for other opportunities to do needs assessments, evaluations, workplace wellness programs...we're definitely trying to expand our business," said Packer. She hopes to hire a part-time student with a master's degree in research as soon as possible.

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