



NEWS RELEASE

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HARC Celebrates Ten Years of Providing Critical Data to Organizations That Enrich the Lives of the Local Community

It observes the milestone with a new website, logo and blog

Palm Desert, CA (September 26, 2016) – HARC, Inc. (Health Assessment and Research for Communities) announced today that it is celebrating its tenth anniversary and has now been providing critical data to local organizations for more than a decade. For the last ten years, HARC has provided objective, reliable research, analysis and technical services to local organizations, nonprofits and Coachella Valley communities to facilitate better decision-making regarding health and quality of life. HARC's work spans many diverse fields, all with the common theme of improving lives. HARC is observing this new decade with newly redesigned website, a new logo and a new blog.

Since HARC was founded in 2006, the organization has conducted extensive research on a wide range of topics, including mental and physical health issues, areas of deficiency in current methods of treating at-risk community members, and other important health-related matters. It publishes its results every three years in a free report called the Community Health Monitor. Local organizations use the unique and valuable data contained in the report to create and evaluate the success of community programs and strengthen their funding requests. This data has enabled more than 40 local organizations to raise more than \$12.8 million for critically needed programs and services such as free HIV tests, meal delivery for home-bound seniors, transportation for people with disabilities, and much more.

"It is staggering to think about the many Coachella Valley lives HARC has directly or indirectly influenced over the last decade," said Jenna LeComte-Hinely, PhD, Chief Executive Officer of HARC, Inc. "We are proud that our hard work has allowed so many local organizations to better serve their clients and continue to enrich the lives of the residents of the entire Coachella Valley."

HARC's Origin

The Coachella Valley is a unique community within Riverside County, so County-level data often does not meet the needs of the local service providers or tell the story of the health needs of those living in the Coachella Valley. Initially under the umbrella of the Desert Healthcare Foundation, and with financial support from the California Wellness Foundation, HARC was formed in 2006 to provide objective, reliable Coachella Valley-specific data. Since then, HARC has had dozens of clients and hundreds of data users (individuals who access the free data). In addition to producing its triennial health survey, HARC also offers custom consulting and research.

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Coachella Valley Community Health Survey

Every three years, HARC produces the Community Health Monitor (CHM), which provides vital information about health and quality of life in the region. The CHM has been conducted 2007, 2010, and 2013. The 2016 CHM is underway and results will be announced in early 2017. Organizations rely on the CHM because it highlights health issues, focuses local efforts to address current and future health disparities, and most notably, enables a wide range of local non-profit organizations to increase requests for funding by providing objective and reliable data. The data provided by this Coachella Valley Community Health Survey is used by nonprofits, hospitals, higher education, K-12 education, governmental agencies, and media organizations, among others. These organizations use the data to apply for funding, create presentations/lectures, prioritize health needs, develop programs to address those needs, write articles, design and conduct trainings, and make/change policy.

HARC's Consulting Services

In addition to the Community Health Monitor, HARC provides customized research and evaluation services. These services include program evaluation, needs assessments, data analysis, workplace wellness services, and much more. In 2009, HARC began offering these services with a single client. In 2010, this expanded to 5 clients, and then doubled to 10 in 2011. In continued this expansion trend by providing consultation services to 18 clients.

"We are thrilled to be able to utilize our expertise to help companies assess their programs and develop services that impact the lives of every Coachella Valley resident," continued LeComte-Hinely. "Our consulting services are designed to give our clients the information they need to make optimal business decisions. We work closely with every client to ensure that the services meet the client's needs, timeline, and budget."

In the last decade, HARC has helped the community in many ways. Its data has made it possible for partners to provide HIV testing for everyone, meals for hungry seniors, mental health counseling for children in schools, evidence-based pregnancy prevention education for teens, and many more important programs.

About HARC

HARC is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization based in Palm Desert, CA. It is dedicated to providing objective, reliable research, analysis and technical services to communities in order to facilitate better decision making regarding health and quality of life. For more information, go to <http://harcdata.org> or call 760-404-1945.

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