



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of February 7, 2023

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco

<https://www.dph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Today, there are over 192,843 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,142 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

EXTENDING THE PAUSE OF INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS AND DISCHARGES AT LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL

DPH is pleased to share that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has agreed to our request to continue the pause of involuntary discharges and transfers of Laguna Honda residents until at least May 19, 2023.

Last November, the City and County of San Francisco reached a settlement agreement with CMS that paused the involuntary transfers and discharges of residents of Laguna Honda Hospital initially through February 2, 2023, and now through May 19, 2023, and extended payments through November 13, 2023.

This extension is based on the many months of hard work and dedication to improve our facility. Laguna Honda must continue to improve in order to extend the pause beyond May 19, 2023 and obtain recertification.

During this pause, resident-initiated transfers and discharges will continue to occur, which is a right our residents are entitled to and aligned with hospital policy. Residents whose continued stay at Laguna Honda endangers their safety or the safety of others may also be transferred or discharged during this pause.

As required by the settlement agreement, we are working with CMS to develop a revised closure plan should we have to resume transfers. We are hopeful that we will never have to put this plan into action because of our continued improvements.



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ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE DEATHS DECLINE IN SF FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Accidental overdose deaths in San Francisco decreased in 2022, according to preliminary data, marking the second consecutive year that drug mortality rates dropped in the City despite climbing rates across the country.

The preliminary data, which is provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, indicates that San Francisco recorded 620 accidental drug overdose deaths in the 2022 calendar year, compared to 640 deaths reported in 2021 and 725 in 2020. Black individuals continued to be disproportionately impacted by overdoses. Preliminary data shows that overdose death rates among Blacks is more than five times the citywide rate, on par with 2021. The 2022 data shows a 14 percent decrease from the 2020 number when drug overdose rates were at all-time high in San Francisco, in large part due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing presence of the deadly synthetic opioid known as fentanyl.

Fentanyl is the leading driver of drug overdose deaths in the United States, as well as San Francisco. Of the 620 deaths in 2022, 72 percent were attributed to fentanyl. A small amount of fentanyl can be fatal and people who use drugs may be unintentionally exposed to it in other drugs such as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

There were 107,622 drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from the 93,655 estimated in 2020, according to the CDC National Center for Health Statistics. The 2022 estimates have not been made available, but national trends show few signs of the crisis abating.

Since fentanyl first became prevalent in local drug supplies in 2018, DPH has been tackling the crisis from multiple angles. Last year, Mayor Breed and DPH created an Office of Overdose Prevention and implemented an Overdose Prevention Plan to coordinate efforts to reduce overdose deaths and mitigate the negative impacts of drug use on individuals and communities.

Expanding access to substance use health care and life-saving medications, training City employees and partners on how to recognize and respond to overdoses and opening more overnight treatment spaces are among the tactics that have demonstratively shown to have made an impact in San



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DPH continues to expand access to treatment and care for substance use citywide. This year, DPH will open 70 residential step-down beds to offer recovery-settings for people leaving residential substance use disorder treatment and establish weekend hours at the Behavioral Health Access Center to facilitate entry to residential and other substance use disorder treatment.

Across the City, more than 3,200 people received buprenorphine treatment for opioid addiction in 2021, a 12 percent increase from the previous year, and 2,700 individuals received methadone. The Buprenorphine Induction Clinic, located at 1380 Howard St., treated 575 patients with buprenorphine in 2022, a 164 percent increase from the number of patients in 2021.

In 2021, DPH and its community partners distributed more than 33,000 kits of naloxone, the life-saving antidote for opioid overdoses. In 2022, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, which collaborates with DPH in its distribution of the medication, distributed more than 40,000 doses of naloxone alone and reported 5,127 reversals. Additionally, DPH trained more than 2,000 people on how to recognize and respond to an overdose in the last three months of 2022 alone.

DPH will also continue to scale up overdose prevention efforts this year by hiring additional overdose prevention staff, increasing its activities in supportive housing facilities in partnership with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and the DOPE Project, leading naloxone trainings and distribution in collaboration with the Entertainment Commission, and supporting the expansion of treatment for stimulant use disorder.

In 2024, DPH will open a new crisis stabilization unit to provide short-term, urgent care for people experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis.

SF TAKES STEP TO ALLOW PRIVATELY FUNDED OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES TO OPEN

Mayor London N. Breed and Supervisor Hillary Ronen announced local steps the City is taking to address a recently identified permitting barrier to moving forward with a non-city funded Overdose Prevention Site.



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As the City has continued to wait for federal guidance around whether it can fund an overdose prevention program with public dollars, conversations with leading non-profits around opening a privately funded site have continued. As part of this process, the City has identified a significant issue to be addressed for a privately funded site to move forward.

In 2020 the Board of Supervisors approved legislation establishing a permitting structure for city-funded overdose prevention programs. This law as written does not allow for any overdose prevention program to open until federal and state legal issues have been resolved, whether it's funded by the City or by private resources. Since that law was enacted, non-profits in New York have opened overdose prevention sites without public funding, and various non-profits in San Francisco have expressed interest in doing the same. San Francisco's current law would not allow them to do so.

To address this issue, Mayor Breed and Supervisor Ronen introduced legislation to repeal the 2020 permitting structure for overdose prevention programs. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, this would allow a non-profit to open a site with private funding before federal and state legal issues are resolved. Mayor Breed has asked President Peskin to expedite the ordinance to repeal the permitting law so that non-profits don't have to wait months for the ordinance to be enacted.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF NEW MARIA X MARTINEZ HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

DPH celebrates the opening of the Maria X Martinez Health Resource Center (MXM), a newly constructed urgent care and transitional primary care clinic named after longtime DPH leader, Maria X Martinez, who dedicated her career to advocating for and providing the highest quality health care to our most vulnerable communities.

Located at 555 Stevenson St., MXM is one of the [San Francisco Health Network's](#) (SFHN) two urgent care clinics and receives approximately 15,000 visits a year. The center specializes in providing multi-disciplinary services to respond to a wide range of medical, psychological and social needs of vulnerable adults in San Francisco, especially people experiencing homelessness. MXM replaces the Tom Waddell Urgent Care Clinic which operated at 50 Ivy St.

MXM offers drop-in urgent care, transitional primary care, dental services, podiatry, follow-up



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wound care, and medications for substance use addiction treatment. The center includes 10 upgraded exam rooms with an accompanying counseling room, four consultation rooms, four dentistry chairs, a laboratory, office space, and conference rooms for staff.

MXM is part of an important legacy of health services delivering urgent care in San Francisco. The clinic's namesake worked for DPH for 23 years, during which she passionately championed the needs of vulnerable populations. Maria X Martinez focused on building initiatives and developing care models for high-risk populations through new collaborations and system design. A key member of DPH leadership, she served in various roles including Deputy Director of Community Programs, Senior Staff to the Director of Health, Chief Integrity Officer, and the Director of Whole Person Care.

Maria strived to bring a racial and equity lens to create a seamless network of services to engage and meet the complex needs of San Francisco's most vulnerable residents. She passed away in July 2020.

MXM served an immediate need to upgrade and relocate the former Tom Waddell Urgent Care Clinic to more holistically serve clients and ensure patient needs are met. Patients at MXM primarily come from the surrounding South of Market, Tenderloin, and Civic Center neighborhoods. The resource center was delivered on-budget and funded through the DPH General Fund and Certificate of Participation (COP) as well as the Homelessness and Supportive Housing General Obligation (GO) Bond.

The resource center houses the offices of the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT), a mobile team that engages and stabilizes clients on the streets by voluntarily placing them into shelters and housing or connecting them with other resources. It is also comprised of two other Whole Person Integrated Care programs: the San Francisco Street Medicine Team, which provides medical services and assessments to people on the streets; and the Post Overdose Engagement Team, part of the Street Overdose Response Team (SORT) that focuses on overdose prevention for people experiencing homelessness. Both programs utilize MXM as a central hub to support clients into transitional primary care.



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DPH's BALJEET SANGHA RECEIVES ACHE HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL AWARD

The American College of Healthcare Executives announced Baljeet Sangha, FACHE, Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Deputy Director of the San Francisco Health Network, as the recipient of the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award for Young Healthcare Executive of the Year, 2023.

The Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award honors outstanding achievement in the field of healthcare management. It is the highest award given nationally for Board certified healthcare executives under 40, and recipients must be a Fellow of ACHE and hold a CEO or COO position in a healthcare organization.

Baljeet is the first ever healthcare executive from a public health system to receive this award. Baljeet will receive his award March 21 at the Malcolm T. MacEachern Memorial Lecture and Luncheon during ACHE's 66th Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

DPH is extremely grateful for Baljeet's dedication to the health and wellbeing of all San Franciscans and we are proud to see him receive this well-deserved national recognition.

DPH DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL RECEIVES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS FUNDING FROM CDC

The Disease Prevention and Control (DPC) Branch within the Population Health Division has received its 3rd year of CDC funding to supplement our core STD prevention grant, PCHD (Program Collaboration for Health Departments). The \$2.2 million/year PCHD supplement is intended to strengthen the Disease Intervention Services (DIS) workforce, improve outbreak preparedness and response, and advance health equity. DIS staff do the critical work of case investigation, contact tracing, partner services and linkage to care for communicable diseases of public health importance such as TB, HIV, syphilis, measles, MPOX and many others. They are an essential part of public health, whose work improves health outcomes and limits ongoing transmission of communicable diseases.

With this award, DPC has launched a new and innovative team, RADR (Reserve for Accelerated Disease Response). The RADR team is supporting DIS onboarding, training, and retention; deepening relationships with partnering departments and community; organizing and facilitating tabletop simulations to strengthen outbreak response plans; and working to advance health equity within the DIS workforce.



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ZUCKERBURG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL (ZSFG) CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPIATE TREATMENT OUTPATIENT PROGRAM

Since its inception, the Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program (OTOP) at ZSFG has utilized a combination of medication treatment, counseling services, harm reduction services, psychiatric care, specialty HIV care, and on-site hepatitis C treatment to address the many needs of our community. On January 26, 2023, this DPH/UCSF partnership celebrated 50 years of providing care to all.

Providers and patients gathered to commemorate the milestone in the courtyard of building 80/90 under the 100-year-old cedar tree that has stood in its place since the first treatment was provided at Ward 93 as a symbol of serenity. ZSFG CEO Dr. Susan Ehrlich joined the current and former DSAAM directors Dr. D. Andy Tompkins and Dr. Jim Sorensen who all shared their thoughts, experiences, and gratitude for Ward 93. A former patient gave thanks for the compassionate care they received there.

Located in Ward 93 at ZSFG, OTOP provides methadone detoxification and maintenance to heroin dependent clients in conjunction with medical and psychiatric services. Since the onset of the AIDS epidemic, OTOP has been involved in combating HIV among injection drug users through research, prevention, and medical care. Ward 93/OTOP was designated as the county methadone treatment provider for the most medically and psychiatrically compromised people with opiate use disorder. The COVID-19 public health emergency did not slow down OTOP, which moved from inside the ZSFG campus to vans stationed at the edge of campus, so they could keep serving their patients. They reduced barriers to treatment and were able to see more people seeking treatment.

Congratulations, OTOP on reaching this impressive milestone in your history!

MARKING THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF ZSFG WARD 86

The Ward 86 HIV Clinic in the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine at ZSFG celebrated its 40th anniversary on January 25. The clinic opened its doors in January 1983, 18 months after the first CDC report of AIDS.

In the early 1980s, the HIV epidemic spread rapidly. It was a frightening time, and the doctors, nurses, researchers, and students at DPH, ZSFG, and UCSF responded to the epidemic by immediately mobilizing care for infected individuals. The pioneering "San Francisco Model of HIV care" was established, emphasizing interdisciplinary care with a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, case managers, psychiatrists, addiction specialists, and nutritionists providing medical and



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social services in a single facility in close collaboration with community organizations. This model of care has been adopted around the world.

Today, Ward 86 serves as the largest clinic in the San Francisco Health Network, exclusively serving HIV-infected patients, and is a world-renowned center of HIV clinical expertise, teaching and research. At the anniversary event held in ZSFG Carr Auditorium and organized and hosted by Dr. Monica Gandhi, DPH Director Dr. Grant Colfax joined healthcare and civic leaders, including Division Chief Dr. Diane Havlir, UCSF Chancellor Sam Hawgood, ZSFG CEO Dr. Susan Ehrlich, Health Commission President Dan Bernal, Senator Scott Weiner, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, UCSF Chair of Medicine Bob Wachter, and UCSF Chief of Medicine Neil Powe to celebrate.

VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM

The DPH Environmental Health Branch (EHB) maintains a Vector Control Program wherein staff work continually to prevent vectors of disease like mosquitos, mice/rodents, bed bugs and other pests from harming the health of the residents of San Francisco.

The EHB staff work collaboratively with community members and participates in community meetings to provide updates, advice, and educational materials to residents. EHB's Senior Inspector Nader Shatara recently educated residents on the behaviors and habitats of roof rats, sewer rats, and house mice, and provided information on how to prevent them from making homes at the Glen Park Association's January meeting.

Senior Inspector Shatara has been instrumental in coordinating the various City departments involved in rodent control which can include Police, BART, Recreation and Parks, and Public Utilities. Controlling rodents often requires the cooperation of various City agencies, along with local businesses and residents. Thank you to Nader for extending his experience and professionalism improve the health and safety of our San Francisco communities!

DPH RECOGNIZES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month offers a chance to celebrate the many Black heroes, achievements, and events that have been integral to the shaping of America's history. It is also a time to remember and honor the reality that Black people in this nation have had to overcome structural and institutional barriers along every step of the way. The 2023 Black History Month theme, *Black Resistance*, explores how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms. This Black History



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Month, the DPH Black/African American Health Initiative (BAAHI), a program of the Office of Health Equity, will host four Equity Learning Series discussions on the theme of Black Resistance, and celebrate the accomplishments of those who helped us come this far. Those and additional special events are highlighted below:

Date: February 3

Theme: Cup of Gospel in the Chapel

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Laguna Honda Hospital Chapel

Date: February 7

Theme: BAAHI ELS, Randolph, Rustin, & the Origins of the March on Washington

Time: 9:00-10:30am

Location: Virtual (Zoom) <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvf6hrDsQGtL-3dbqzxeImhTo7JLWEy5Z>

Details: The March on Washington of 1963 is an enduring and widely known event of the Civil Rights movement. But the March has its roots in an earlier planned March on Washington that didn't happen. In 1941, labor leader A. Philip Randolph began planning a gathering aimed at many of the same goals as the eventual 1963 March.

Date: February 7

Theme: The 2023 Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. "A Celebration of Survival"

Time: 5:00-7:00 PM

Location: Virtual (Zoom) <https://sfaf.zoom.us/j/84023695774>

Details: In the nearly 43 years since the first HIV cases were diagnosed, Black/African Americans continue to over represent people diagnosed, living with, and dying of HIV related illness. Yet, many both HIV-positive and HIV-negative Black/African Americans have survived. This event will offer for people to share their stories of survival and what can be taught to future generations.

Date: February 14

Theme: BAAHI ELS, How an FBI Poster Became a Black Power Symbol/Angela Davis on continuing to fight for change

Time: 9:00-10:30am

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tceqtrT8qHtZtmDSjIHwWSuREFVxhAQ4s>

Details: An FBI wanted poster, intended to make a criminal out of activist and academic Angela



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Davis, transformed her into a symbol of Black Power and liberation. The activist, professor and writer reflects on five decades advocating against oppression, white supremacy and police violence

Date: February 15

Theme: Unity Walk

Time: 2:00pm

Location: The Atrium, Laguna Honda Hospital

Date: February 16

Theme: Anti-Racism in The Workplace

Time: 12:00-1:30pm

Location: 25 Van Ness, Suite 610

Details: This workshop is designed to continue the process of normalizing discussions of race and racism by exploring the roots of race and racism and gaining insights into how we individually and collectively contribute to systemic racism. We will also identify doable anti-racist actions that we can implement in the workplace.

Date: February 17

Theme: The Black Family in San Francisco: Stories of Resilience and Resistance

Time: 12:00-2:00pm

Location: 25 Van Ness, Room 610

Details: How does one create a healthy Black Family? What does the data show and what does the community tell us? This forum allows for exploration from academics and community members of stories and strategies for success in creating healthy Black families.

Date: February 17

Theme: Steppin' in Unity (dance)

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Laguna Honda Hospital Chapel

Date: February 21

Theme: BAAHI ELS, Mari Copeny - "Lil Miss Flint" 2020 Power to Inspire Honoree

Time: 12:00-1:30pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom) <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsd-uvqjMiHtx-ypEtvMfeful-KP5YEPCF>

Details: Mari Copeny led the fight to provide clean water for the community of Flint, Michigan, and beyond. Since 2016, Mari has fundraised over \$500,000 that has impacted over 25,000 children.



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These funds have gone towards supporting students in getting school supplies, toys, bikes, clean water, and other resources needed to ensure a fulfilled and healthy life.

Date: February 21
Theme: Poetry Slam
Time: 12:00pm
Location: Laguna Honda Hospital Chapel

Date: February 22
Theme: Unity Program
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Simon Theatre, Laguna Honda Hospital

Date: February 23
Theme: BAAHI/ELS, John Lewis and Bryan Stevenson: The fight for civil rights and freedom
Time: 9:00-10:30am
Location: Virtual (Zoom)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sce2urjMvHtAFAn1hiNS13IK1aNTwzr3K>
Details: Civil rights leader and longtime US congressman John Lewis spent his life fighting for freedom and justice for everyone. In this illuminating conversation with lawyer and activist Bryan Stevenson, Lewis discusses the essential importance of voting, shares encouraging words of wisdom for the generation of young people currently organizing in the struggle for racial justice.

Date: February 24
Theme: Population Health Division, Hidden Heroes (Around the World)
Time: 12:00-1:00pm
Location: Virtual (Teams)
Details: Black History Month is an observance of the history of the African diaspora in numerous countries outside of Africa. This year's theme Black History Month: Hidden Heroes (Around The World) is to recognize and celebrate our Black heroes who are not often talked about, such as Arturo Schomburg, Gaspar Yanga, Victoria "Toya" Montou, and many more that have given themselves to a cause.

For additional information on any of the aforementioned events, please contact: BAAHI@sfdph.org.



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MPX UPDATE

LOCATION	TOTAL CASES AS OF 2/2/23 (probable and confirmed)
San Francisco	844
California	5,719
U.S.	30,123
Worldwide	85,536

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 2/2:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 63 and 48 people are hospitalized, including 4 in the ICU.
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 65% have received booster dose(s).

[DPH in the News](#)