



Public Health Administration

300 North San Antonio Road ♦ Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1316
805/681-5100 ♦ FAX 805/681-5191

Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD Director
Suzanne Jacobson, CPA Chief Financial Officer
Paige Batson, MA, PHN, RN Interim Deputy Director
Douglas Metz, DPM, MPH Deputy Director
Polly Baldwin, MD, MPH Medical Director
Polly Baldwin, MD, MPH Interim Health Officer

Contact Information:

Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
(805) 681-5105
van.do-reynoso@sbcphd.org

2/6/19

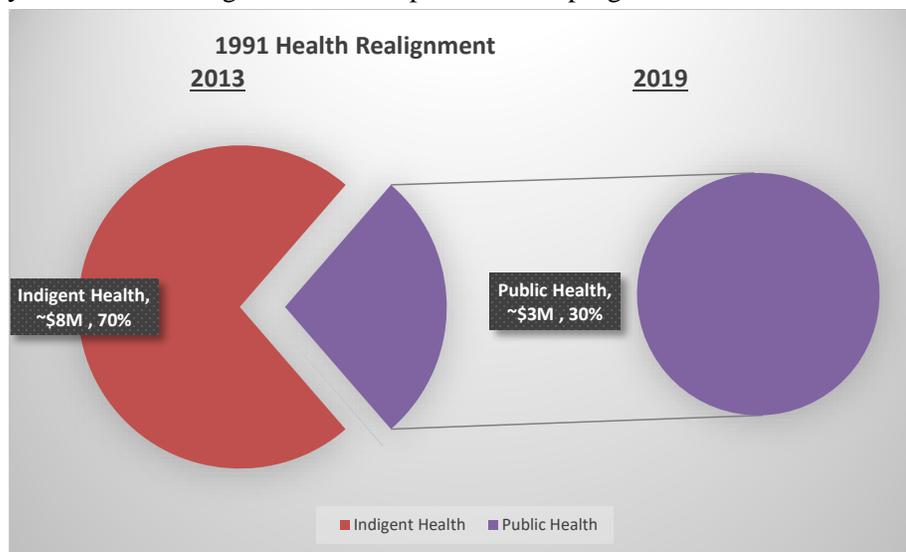
Impact of AB 85 to Santa Barbara County

Governor's FY 2019-20 Budget Proposal to redirect an additional \$2.1 million dollars will have serious impacts on core Public Health services in Santa Barbara County.

While the State has recognized the importance of ensuring access to healthcare through an additional expansion of Medi-Cal to young undocumented adults ages 18-25, part of the funding mechanism is based on an inaccurate financial premise and will have dire consequences on the essential core public health services provided by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.

The 2013 AB85 60/40 Formula left Santa Barbara County with only enough 1991 Health Realignment dollars for core Public Health services.

The following chart will illustrate how the original 2013 AB 85 60/40 formula redirected approximately 70% of the County's 1991 Health Realignment (approximately \$8M) to other State needs, because of the inclusion of 14.6% of the amount of local dollars (known as the 1991 Local Maintenance of Effort (MOE)). The remaining approximately 30% of funds (approximately \$3M) was already - **and is still currently in 2019** - funding essential core public health program services:



The Governor's proposed budget assumes that "county costs will decrease" because of the latest Medi-Cal expansion to cover more indigents, particularly undocumented indigent adults aged 19 to 25, however:

- ✓ Santa Barbara County does not cover undocumented indigents in its *Indigent Care Program*, thereby creating no opportunity for decreased costs, and;

- ✓ Santa Barbara County Health Care Centers do serve undocumented indigents, although an analysis of 2018 patient data has demonstrated that only 72 patients that meet the expansion population were seen, for a total of approximately \$70 thousand dollars, **not \$2.1 million.** After the initial 2013 AB 85 redirection in 2013, *no 1991 Health Realignment funds are used for primary care services for the indigent.*

The additional loss of \$2.1 million will have serious impacts on the Public Health Department's ability to protect the public's health:

- ✓ ***Reductions in our Communicable Disease programs:***
Santa Barbara County is experiencing an alarming growth rate tuberculosis cases, including several with multi-drug resistance. In addition, our county has demonstrated increases in sexually transmitted infections with upsurges in numbers of syphilis and HIV. This loss of core public health funding will limit and create delays in our response to initiate contact investigation, surveillance, and other public health nursing interventions.
- ✓ ***Reductions in Public Health Laboratory testing and analysis:***
The Santa Barbara County Public Health Laboratory conducts testing necessary to support all disease control and environmental health activities in the department and county. The Public Health Laboratory supports epidemiologic investigations and programs to prevent and control infectious disease of humans and animals as well as pollution of air, water, and food. Consistent with the alarming increases in communicable diseases, there is an equal demand in priority laboratory testing to initiate important public health and safety measures.
- ✓ ***Reductions in Health Education and Promotion activities:***
This will limit the Public Health Department's ability to perform health assessments of our county residents and to be able to address important issues and initiatives such as Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) and other unfunded, but very important, outreach programs to promote healthy lifestyles and save costs in the medical system.
- ✓ ***Reductions in programs targeted to support those with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or are victims of human trafficking:***
The Public Health Department will not be able to develop a program to identify and refer those with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or that are victims of human trafficking to important support services.
- ✓ ***The loss of the ability to leverage these state funds with federal financial participation:***
The Public Health Department leverages these funds through the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) program and other federal leveraging programs. The loss of \$2.1 million of 1991 Health Realignment funding will lead to even greater program reductions as matching funds that support important local programs that serve new mothers, children, and other vulnerable and special populations are lost.

1991 Health Realignment funds are critical to protecting and ensuring the health of Santa Barbara County residents and we need your support to continue our critical and essential functions of core public health.

We look forward to continued discussion regarding this significant issue and would welcome any questions or requests for additional data.