



THE OFFICE OF SENATE MAJORITY WHIP
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SB 435 (Gonzalez) Health Data Disparities for Latino & Indigenous Californians

SUMMARY

Senate Bill (SB) 435 will require the Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Department of Social Services (DSS), to collect and disaggregate anonymous demographic data on the ancestry or ethnic origin of specified Latino, and Indigenous Peoples.

SB 435 requires CDPH to collect and tabulate data on important health related outcomes, including rates of major diseases, leading causes of death per demographic, subcategories for leading causes of death in California, and other important health information for these specified Latino and Indigenous subgroups.

EXISTING LAW

Existing law requires a state agency, board, or commission that directly or by contract collects demographic data on the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use separate collection categories and tabulations for each major Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic group including, but not limited to: Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Cambodian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, and Samoan.

Current law requires CDPH to collect demographic data related to each major Asian and Pacific Island Group when collecting data for specified reports. This demographic data must be collected for reports that collect information regarding the ancestry or ethnic origin of persons that includes rates for major diseases, leading

causes of death per demographic, pregnancy rates housing numbers.

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

Latinos make up 40% of California's population. However, within the Latino community there are several ethnic subgroups that have diverse health outcomes. Latino subgroups and Indigenous Latin Americans experience disparate health and life outcomes based on differences in ethnicity, culture, and language. For example, according to data from the National Health Interview Survey, Puerto Ricans have the highest prevalence of asthma in the U.S. mainland (16%) compared to non-Latino Whites (7.7%). In contrast, Latinos of Mexican origin have the lowest prevalence of asthma (5.4%).¹

This is especially true for Indigenous Latin Americans who speak over 560 indigenous languages.² Some of these subgroups have specific needs, such as lack of indigenous language access needed to obtain reliable information and services from our state agencies and systems.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous communities could not access timely and reliable information to access vaccines in California and suffered a higher death rate as a result.³

¹ <https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/Latino-report.pdf>

² The World Bank. 2015. Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century. Washington, DC: World Bank. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO.

³ <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2021/11/covid-indigenous-language-barriers/>

Without disaggregated data, policymakers and researchers must rely on less detailed information released by state agencies or local governments that may be collected inconsistently. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that generalized data focused on generic demographic categories lead to higher death rates of marginalized subgroups due to a lack of targeted messaging and outreach.

SOLUTION

SB 435 takes the critical and necessary first step to uncover trends and potential disparities that are often hidden in aggregated numbers for Latinos and Indigenous Mesoamericans in California by requiring public health state agencies, to collect and disaggregate data for specified subgroups.

Specifically, SB 435 requires CDPH, and DSS, to collect and release disaggregated data for the following Latino subgroups: Mexican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Costa Rican, Panamanian, Belizean, Puerto Rican, Dominican, Cuban, Argentinean, Bolivian, Brazilian, Chilean, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Guyanese, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Surinamese, Uruguayan, and Venezuelan. The bill also requires data collection for each major Mesoamerican Indigenous nation, including, but not limited to, Maya, Aztec, Mixteco, and Zapoteco and each major Mesoamerican Indigenous language group, including, but not limited to, Zapoteco, Chinanteco, K'iche, Nahuatl, Mixteco, Purépecha, Tzotzil, Mayan, Amuzgo, Ayuujk (Mixe), Mam, Popti, Q'anjob'al, Triqui, and Chatino.

SUPPORT

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (Sponsor)
Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) (Co-Sponsor)
Comunidades Indígenas en liderazgo (CIELO) (Co-Sponsor)
Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO) (Co-Sponsor)
AARP
ACCESS Reproductive Justice
Alliance for a Better Community
AltaMed Health Services
API Equality-LA
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)
Asociacion de Migrantes Guatemaltecos, LA
Berkeley Health Initiative of the Americas
Buen Vecino

CA Black Health Network
CA Dental Association
CA Food and Farming Network
CA Institute for Rural Studies
CA Latinas for Reproductive Justice
CA LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
CA Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Casa Del Diabetico Gualan
Central California Environmental Justice Network
Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
Ceres Community Project
Children Now
Chinatown Service Councils
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Communities United For Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)
Community Health Councils
Diligencias
Disability Rights California
Food Empowerment Project
Fund for Santa Barbara
Having Our Say Coalition
Health Education Council
Interface Children and Family Services
Justice in Aging
Leaders LA
Maternal and Child Health Access
National Health Law Program
Nourish California
Public Health Advocates
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (Ramp)
Sacramento Native American Health Center
San Francisco Aids Foundation
San Ysidro Health (UNREG)
Sistahfriends Women's Counseling and Eldercare Management
Southeast Asia Resource Center (SEARAC)
Thai Community Development Center
The Children's Partnership
The Unity Council
Training Occupational Development Educating Communities (TODEC)
Union De Guatemaltecos Emigrantes
Vision Y Compromiso
Western Center on Law and Poverty

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