

REACH U.S.

Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander

Garden Grove, California

A REACH Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities (CEED)

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Across the U.S. (REACH U.S.) is a national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) program aimed at eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. It utilizes community-based approaches to reduce the burden of chronic illness in specific at-risk populations. There are 18 REACH **Centers of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities**. They serve as national expert centers implementing, coordinating, refining, and disseminating programmatic activities designed to eliminate health disparities.

ISSUE

Members of the Promoting Access to Health (PATH) for Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian Women program work to reduce the impact of breast and cervical cancer among Asian American/Pacific Islander (API) women in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties in Southern California. The program specifically focuses on Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Vietnamese, Chamorro/Guamanian, Marshallese, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Tongan populations.

ACTIVITIES

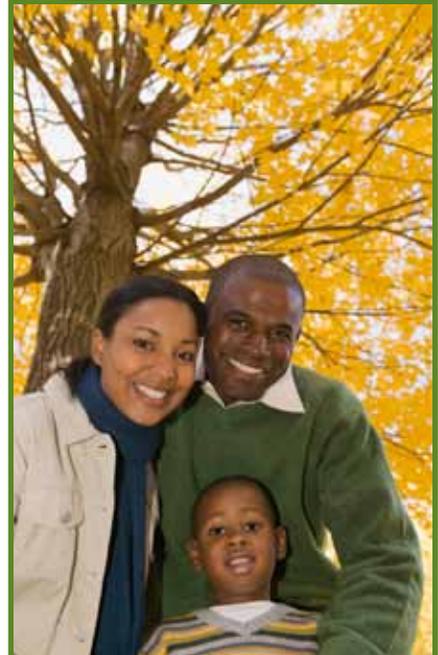
- Provides in-language and culturally-tailored outreach and education on breast and cervical health on an annual basis to at least 9,000 underserved women and their families.
- Bilingual/bicultural community-based health navigators make an average of 1,250 visits with women annually to assist them with screenings, diagnostics, treatment, and follow-up services.
- Facilitates Legacy Projects (mini-grants) annually for at least three communities with a desire to effect similar change in community and healthcare systems.
- Implements a health careers pipeline program for Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian students including making 10-12 annual scholarships available to qualified students.
- Works in partnership with healthcare systems and policymakers to improve access to care and to address disparities in health.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased community awareness of the need for more diversity in healthcare settings, including more healthcare providers with cultural competencies and increased access to providers who can speak in the many languages represented by several diverse ethnicities.
- Improved available data and knowledge of Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian women's health needs by publishing 13 peer-reviewed journal articles and providing approximately 60 presentations at local and national conferences.
- In a three-year period, provided approximately \$400,000 to 13 API communities across the U.S. to create access to breast and cervical cancer care for underserved populations.

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REACH U.S.

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