



NICOS Chinese Health Coalition Chinatown/ Chinese Community Health Issues


Presented by Michael S. Liao, MSW

Director of Programs

August 20, 2019

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

The image shows the storefront of the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition. The building has a blue and white tiled facade. A sign above the entrance reads "NICOS Chinese Health Coalition" and "華人健康組織聯合會" in Chinese. The address "1208" is visible. The text in the image is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box with a dashed border.

NICOS Chinese Health Coalition

Mission: To Enhance the Health and Well-Being of San Francisco's Chinese Community.

- Founded in 1985 by:
 - North East Medical Services
 - IPA (Chinese Community Health Case Association)
 - Chinese Hospital
 - On-Lok Lifeways
 - Self-Help for the Elderly
- Located in SF Chinatown
- Fulfills mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation

Partial Membership List

Today, NICOS Chinese Health Coalition is a public-private-community partnership of more than 30 health and human service organizations and concerned individuals.

- APA Family Support Services
- Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Cameron House
- Chinatown Child Development Center
- Chinatown Community Development Center
- Chinatown North Beach Mental Health Services
- Chinatown Public Health Center
- Chinatown YMCA
- Chinese Community Health Care Association
- Chinese Community Health Plan
- Chinese Hospital
- Chinese Newcomers Service Center
- Chinatown Community Children's Center
- Gordon J. Lau Elementary School
- Gum Moon Women's Residence/ Asian Women's Resource Center
- Kai Ming, Inc.
- Kaiser Permanente
- Newcomers Health Program
- North East Medical Services
- On Lok Lifeway
- Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc.
- San Francisco Chinatown Lions Club
- Scorch LLC
- Self-Help for the Elderly
- UCSF-Memory and Aging Center
- UC Davis
- Individual Members

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Advocacy: Recent/ Current Efforts



Advocacy is a core component of NICOS' mission. NICOS was founded in 1985 when five of the largest health care organizations in Chinatown came together to form a representative voice for the Chinese community.



- Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax + API Health Equity Seat at the Advisory Committee
- Prop 56 Tobacco Tax (DentiCal)
- Opposition to the Citizenship Question on the Census 2020
- Opposition to new proposed Public Charge Rule



MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Chinatown Children's Oral Health

Funding: **SF** Dental Transformation Initiative
Local Dental Pilot Project

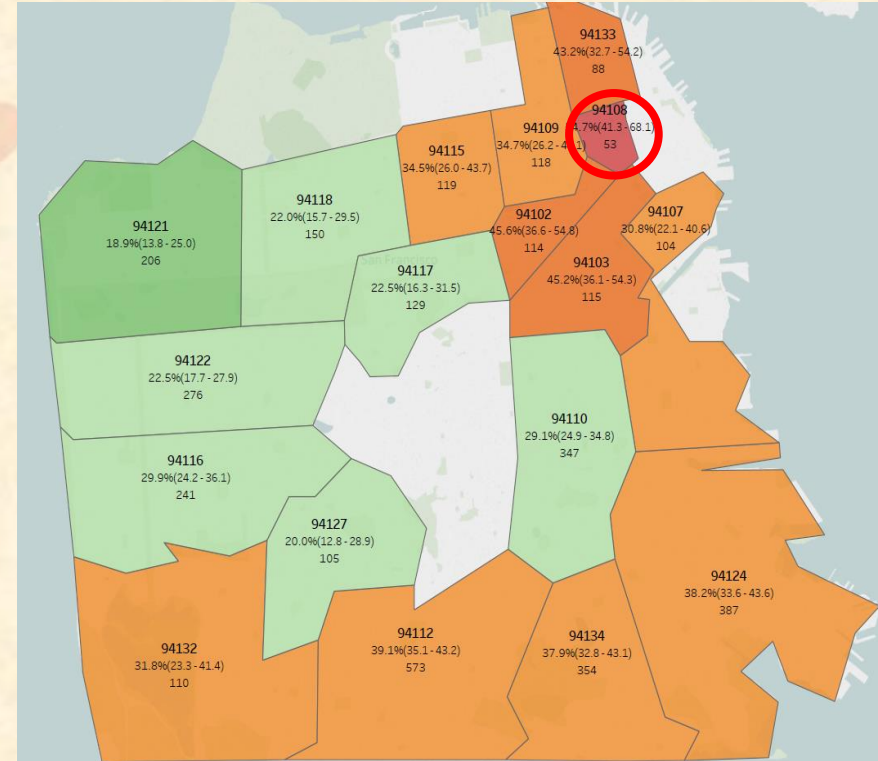
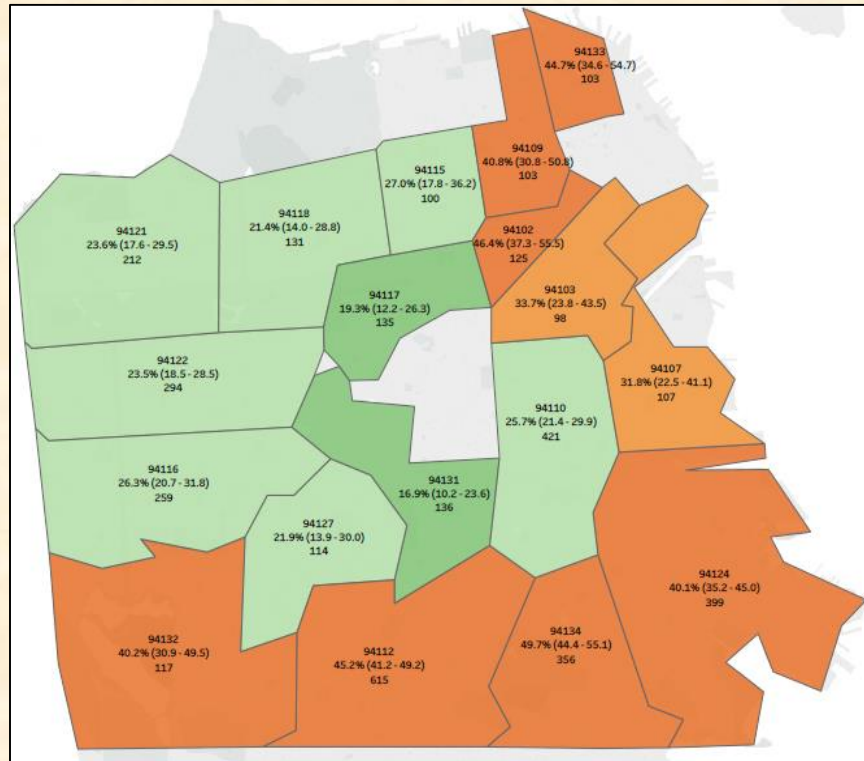


Percentage of SFUSD kindergarteners who experienced dental caries by zip code

2016-2017

2017-2018

- Less than 15 Percent
- 15 to 19 Percent
- 20 to 29 Percent
- Over HP2020 Target, 30 to 39 Percent
- 40 to 49 Percent
- 50 Percent or Higher



NICOS
Chinese Health Coalition
華人健康組織聯合會

NICOS Chinese Health Coalition

MISSION

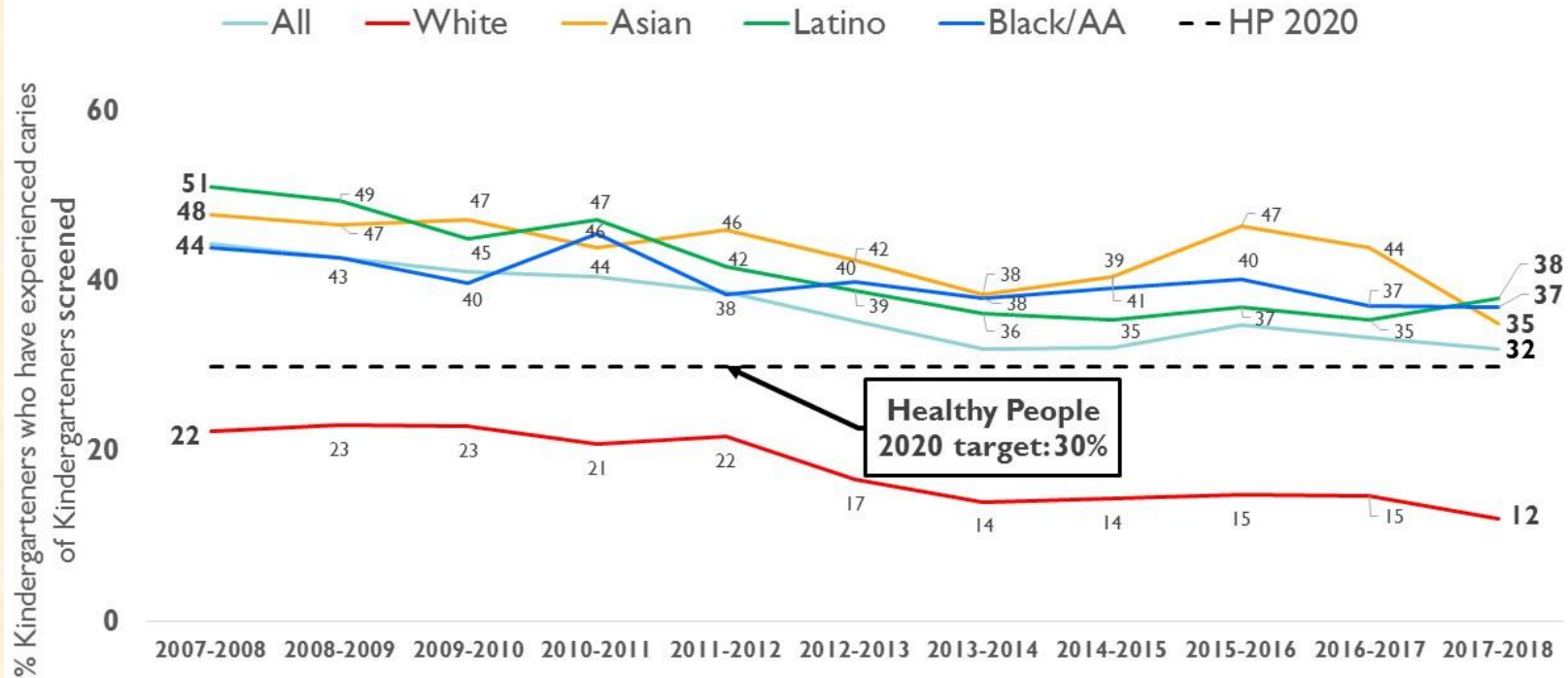
The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Chinatown Children's Oral Health

Funding: **SF** Dental Transformation Initiative
Local Dental Pilot Project



San Francisco Unified School District kindergarteners who have **experienced caries** in their primary teeth by race-ethnicity



Data source: SFDPH-SFUUSD-SFDS Kindergarten Oral Health Screening

NICOS
Chinese Health Coalition
華人健康組織聯合會

NICOS Chinese Health Coalition

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Chinatown Children's Oral Health

Funding: **SF** Dental Transformation Initiative
Local Dental Pilot Project

Passed YES on 56
SAVE LIVES CALIFORNIA



The Chinatown Task Force on Children's Oral Health (CTFCOH) was founded in July 2015. The Task Force is comprised of community leaders, health and human service providers, students and concerned individuals motivated to address children's oral health issues through utilizing a collective impact approach.



- SF DTI focus group in Chinatown with parents/ caregivers in 2018:
 - Family elders view baby teeth as not important
 - Desired more child-friendly strategies to increase child acceptability
 - Trusted community programs, schools, media
 - Felt elders should be included in interventions

- CTFCOH developed media campaign around slogan:



MISSION

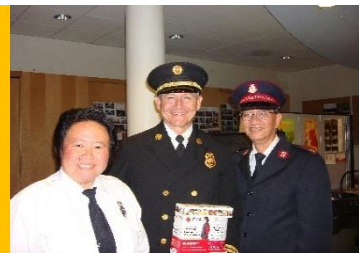
The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Chinatown Disaster Preparedness & Response

Funding:



The Chinatown Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC) was established after the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989. With a membership consisting of public and private organizations, the Committee is dedicated to providing disaster preparedness resources that suit Chinatown's specific language and demographic needs.



Chinatown Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC) Disaster Mission Statement:

Preparedness Phase

Coordinate disaster-related trainings for local residents and staff | Test preparedness of the community through regular drills
Act as information/ resource clearinghouse for Chinatown | Establish agreements with public, private and community entities
Develop a local Chinatown Disaster Response workforce

Response Phase

Provide linkages to local resources and assess needs | Coordinate communication bet. Chinatown ICC and SFNERT/SFFD, EOC
Be the language bridge to the community – to broadcast information

Recovery Phase

Disseminate available info. to the community on financial recovery efforts
Be the information clearinghouse for Chinatown community



NICOS Chinese Health Coalition

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Examples of CDPC Activities

- Outreach & Education (Chinatown Community Health Fair, District Attorney's Chinatown Community Resource Fair)
- Trainings (Cantonese NERT classes, ICS trainings, HAM radio certification, Shelter Operations training, etc.)
- Drills (ShakeOut earthquake drills, tabletop drills, search and rescue NERT drills, etc.)
- Communications (e-mail/ texting groups, FRS/ HAM radios, runners)
- Coordination (MOUs with partner agencies, caches of supplies/ equipment in neighborhood)
- PG&E Resilient Communities Grant: Chinatown CDC, NICOS and SF Environment – identify cooling/ heat-relief centers, develop and implement Chinatown extreme heat response plan, develop and disseminate in-language PSA

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.



Emerging Issues

Climate Change Triple Threat: Extreme Heat, Power Shutoffs, Air Quality Concerns

- Chinatown lacks trees and greenery that provide natural heat relief. Community under-prepared for extreme heat and lacks cooling/heat-relief centers.

Sociopolitical Threats/ Challenges

- Immigration/ ICE Raids Response
- Active Shooter Preparedness



MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Project Overview

- Provides free technical assistance, training, and resources to enhance organizational cultural competency and responsiveness
- Training Topics: General cultural responsiveness; implicit bias; language access; LGBTQ-issues; transgender-responsive care; working with ethnic groups (Asian American, African American, Latinx communities); disability-issues,
- Consultation: organizational policies to diversify staff; focus groups for staff and client feedback; trans-affirming policies; way-finding designs; linguistic access
- Serves 600-900 professionals annually
- National CLAS Standards (Federal Office of Minority Health, Rev. April 2013) serve as framework for project



MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Emerging Issues

Diversity and Demographic Shifts in Chinatown and among Chinese population

- Lack of bilingual/ bicultural workforce in mainstream health/ social service organizations
- Shifts in population served by Chinatown-based organizations
- Lack of Chinese-focused services in areas where large Chinese pop. is current residing (e.g. Visitacion Valley, Bayview)



Addictions within Chinese Communities

**Gambling
Gaming
Tobacco/ Nicotine**

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Chinese Community Problem Gambling Project

Funding:  San Francisco Health Network
Behavioral Health Services



A pioneering program addressing the issue of problem gambling in the Chinese community. Includes training for service providers; helpline and referral services for problem gamblers and their families; and education and outreach to the general public.



Gambling Among Chinese Adults in San Francisco: 14.5% meet criteria for problem gambler, 21% meet criteria for pathological gambler (Wong and Toy, 1999)

California Problem Gambling Prevalence Study: APIs who are less acculturated are almost 3x as likely to be addicted to gambling (Volberg et al., 2006; Lui & Chung, 2007)

Problem gambling among San Francisco Youth: 11% among API youth vs. 2-6% national average (Chiu & Woo, 2012)

San Francisco State University Problem Gambling Survey: 12.8% of AAPI students are probably pathological gamblers (15.7% of foreign-born AAPI students) (Zhao, Lee, Kuwatani, 2016)

- Gambling still disproportionately impacts API young people
- Online and video games may be emerging as another prominent issue among API youth
- Less acculturated APIs seem to have greater problems with both gambling and games

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Chinese Community Tobacco Use Focus Groups



Focus Group 1

Older Chinese Immigrant Men (60+)
January 2019

Focus Group 2

College-age Chinese Americans (18-25)
February 2019

Focus Group 3

Middle-age Chinese Immigrant Men (25+)
March 2019

Key Findings:

- General lack of information or at-times misinformation about health impacts
- Intersection of race, age, and gender influences usage and product preference
- Motivators to smoke: family influence and stress relief
- Motivators to quit: family and personal relationships & finances
- Barriers to seeking medical care: for less acculturated – cost; for older: don't see the point
- Barriers to quit: Less acculturated: see lack of self-determination as main barrier; for more acculturated: discomfort, social aspect and habituation
- Social stigma placed on smoking seen as challenge/ barrier to seek help
- Older, less acculturated tended to trust CBOs; younger, more acculturated prefer lived experience/ peer-to-peer

Recommendations:

- When creating interventions and campaigns, focus on how smoking impacts the family, use children as spokesperson
- Emphasize the financial benefits of quitting smoking
- Utilize spokespersons with lived experience with quitting smoking
- For those less acculturated, use the addiction-model to educate clients, and utilize strategies such as motivational interviewing
- For those more acculturated, create programs that focus on non-judgmental, peer-to-peer support
- Role of medical professionals: doctor's 3-minute conversation about smoking cessation is critical
- Need more education to debunk myths and misconceptions about tobacco use, esp. with newer products such as e-cigarettes

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.

Additional Community Health Concerns

- Housing/ Homelessness – SROs, precarious housing, homelessness in the neighborhood
- Mental Health – immigrant stress levels, depression, stigma, suicide
- Disability – voice of Chinese/ Asian Americans with disabilities is underrepresented
- Safety/ Violence – increasing crime and violence toward Chinese/ Asian community, Chinatown underserved by SFPD
- Seniors – loneliness, mental health
- Workforce – dearth of bilingual/ bicultural health workforce

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.



THANK YOU!

Michael Liao
Director of Programs
michaelliao@nicoschc.org

1208 Mason Street
San Francisco, CA 94108
415-788-6426
www.nicoschc.org

NICOS	
Chinese Health Coalition	華人健康組織聯合會

MISSION

The mission of NICOS is to enhance the health and well-being of the San Francisco Chinese community. The coalition fulfills its mission through advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation.