

# UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

30th Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner November 13, 2024



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and colleagues,

More than 30 years ago, a former community organizer leaned into the vision that talented, committed researchers could positively impact the health of all Californians through the production of rigorous policy analysis and high-quality, local level data. My dear friend and mentor Rick Brown shared his vision with colleagues at UCLA (pictured) and made it a reality. In three decades since the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (CHPR) was launched by a small team, we are now 100 strong and still building a body of work widely used by policymakers, health care leaders, community groups, and advocates in California and across the country.

We continue the great work the founders started, advancing research and policy analysis, program evaluations, and data production that have made us a valuable resource. We remain committed to the philosophy that we must not only produce high-quality evidence, but also partner with communities to ensure they can access and utilize the information in their work to address inequities and improve health outcomes for all.

On behalf of the CHPR staff, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for joining us for this celebration. We welcome our alumni, our long-standing partners, and the community leaders and policymakers whose support has made the CHPR what it is today. Your presence makes the evening truly special,



and we are grateful for your support and generosity. Our work is not possible without you.

Tonight is first and foremost a celebration of those who have contributed to the Center in the last 30 years. That includes not only past and present staff, but also the funders who provide crucial support, the community partners who help to guide our priorities and amplify our work, and the health care and policy leaders who push us to innovate.

This community makes change in health possible.

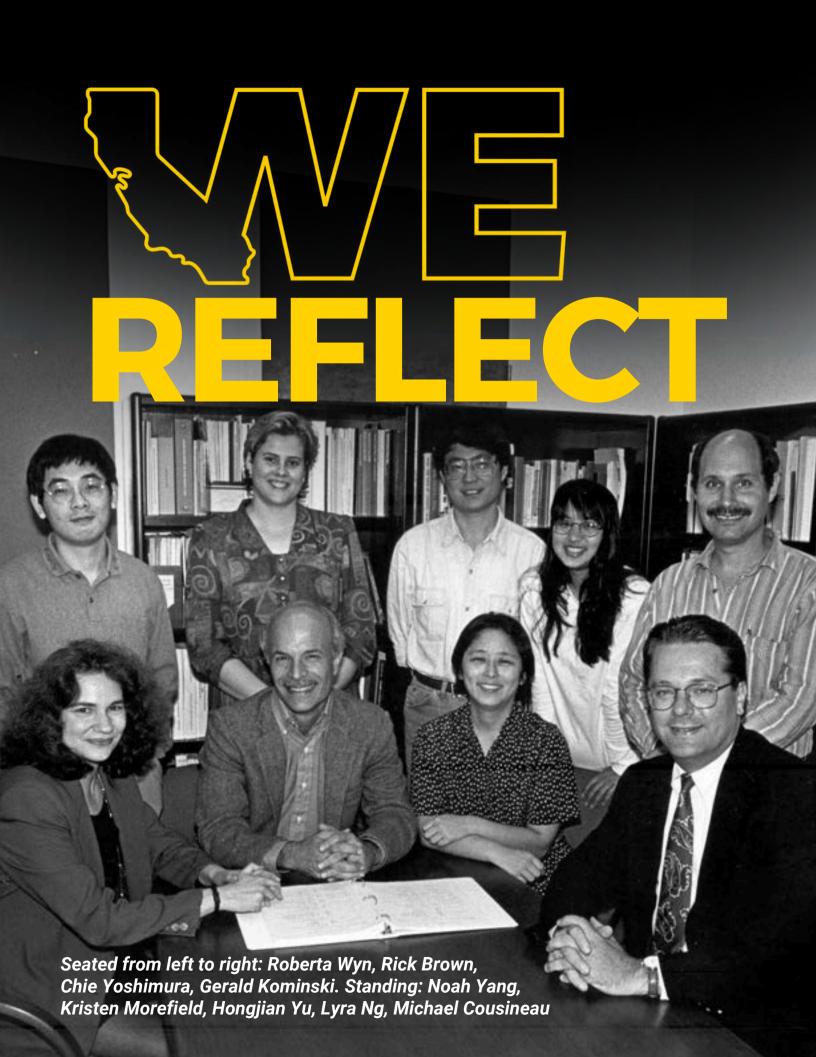
Together, we celebrate our achievements and the incredible impact we can make as a community. Thank you for your contributions, enthusiasm, and for being a vital part of our mission.

We look forward to continuing this journey together.

Warm regards,

Ninez A. Ponce, PhD, MPP

Minez A. Ponce



# YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research turned 30 in 2024. Let's take a look at how we started and some of the key moments over the last three decades.

# o 1994

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research is founded by E. Richard "Rick" Brown, a professor at the UCLA (now Fielding) School of Public Health and a renowned health policy advocate.

1994

# 1996

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and the UC Berkeley School of Public Health begin to produce an annual report card on the number of people insured in the state.

# **~ 2009**

UCLA CHPR's estimates of the number of Californians eligible for health insurance exchange subsidies and for expanded Medi-Cal under the proposed Affordable Care Act (ACA) are heavily relied upon by California's congressional legislators in the debate leading up to the bill's passage.

# **~ 2015**

Numerous organizations submit amicus briefs that cite "Same-Sex Legal Marriage and Psychological Well-Being: Findings from the California Health Interview Survey," a Williams Institute study based on CHIS LGB data, in support of same-sex marriage in Obergefell v. Hodges. The U.S. Supreme Court rule in favor of the petitioners in June.





### <u>a 2011</u>

Gov. Jerry Brown signs a law requiring the state's Area Agencies on Aging to use the CHPR's Elder Index in their strategic planning calculations of the true cost of living for low-income seniors.

# o 2016

Senate committees cite CHIS data that 281,000 Medi-Cal patients had difficulty understanding their doctor because of language. AB 635, which increases funding for interpretation services for Medi-Cal patients, is signed into law.

### o 2001

The first California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is conducted with more than 50,000 California adults, teens, and children in six languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Khmer.



# **0 2002**

UCLA CHPR launches the first-ever "State of Health Insurance in California" (SHIC) report, a comprehensive report of health insurance status and trends.

## o 2018

U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, Rep. Nanette Barragán, CA Attorney General Xavier Becerra, and many other groups cite UCLA CHPR, UC Berkeley Labor Center, and California Food Policy Council analysis in official comments of "public charge" rule changes proposed by the Department of Homeland Security.





**2020 c** 

In response to the pandemic, UCLA CHPR added COVID-19 questions to CHIS, and for the first time in history, released preliminary estimates during the same year as data collection. Dashboards were made available to the public.

## **~ 2007**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger launches his new health reform effort at UCLA, citing the CHPR's SHIC report on the decline in employer-sponsored coverage as justification. CHIS data are subsequently used by the state's Legislative Analyst's Office and policymakers from both parties in debate about the proposed reform effort.



"This research underscores everything we have been talking about. Coverage is eroding because costs are out of control for businesses and workers, making it harder for them to compete," said Schwarzenegger. "All this points out once again that we need comprehensive health care reform that insures everyone and guarantees all Californians have access to affordable and reliable care."

## **~ 2022**

UCLA CHPR launches a national Data Equity Center to provide technical assistance, expertise, and resources to increase representation in and access to data for marginalized populations.



## 

UCLA CHPR Director Ninez A. Ponce discusses data equity at the White House for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



A journalist committed to telling the real-life stories that represent the importance of data disaggregation.

An attorney general fighting for racial, economic, and environmental justice.

An endocrinologist advising lawmakers on the unique health needs of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

A state senator leading efforts to make food benefits accessible to every Californian, regardless of their immigration status.

Researchers, advocates, and community leaders striving to make health equity a reality.

Meet our 30 champions of change.



Our 30 honorees embody the spirit of change, using their platforms, expertise, and resilience to champion underrepresented communities and pave the way toward a healthier, more equitable future for everyone.



**Mayra E. Alvarez** 

Mayra E. Alvarez is president of The Children's Partnership, a nonprofit advocacy organization working to advance child health equity through policy, research, and community engagement. Throughout her career, Alvarez has worked to improve the U.S. health care system, having served in various roles at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during the Obama-Biden administration.



**Tomás Aragón** 

Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPh, serves as director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the State Public Health Officer. In his role, Aragón works through partnerships to mobilize communities and institutions to transform policies and systems towards a culture of equity, antiracism, healing, and health for all people and our planet. Prior to CDPH, he was the health officer for the City and County of San Francisco and director of the public health division.



# **Karen Bass**

Mayor Karen Bass, MSW, has dedicated her career to serving the city where she was born and raised. Bass has served Californians in the State Assembly, the U.S. House of Representatives, and as the first woman and second African American mayor of Los Angeles. Earlier in her career, she worked as a nurse and physician assistant, and founded the Community Coalition, a grassroots organization that pioneers strategies to address the root causes behind the challenges facing South LA.



# **Elaine Batchlor**

Elaine Batchlor, MD, MPH, is the CEO of MLK Community Healthcare, a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 5-star-rated hospital and health system that provides quality care to 1.3 million residents of the medically underserved community of South Los Angeles. Dr. Batchlor, who earned her master's degree in public health at UCLA, has devoted her career to reducing health disparities and expanding health care quality and access for the most vulnerable.



## **Rob Bonta**

Rob Bonta, JD, is the 34th Attorney General of the State of California and the first person of Filipino descent and the second Asian American to occupy the position. As both a lawmaker and as attorney general, Bonta has led fights for racial, economic, and environmental justice. As an assemblymember, he used UCLA CHPR data when authoring AB 1726 to address the lack of disaggregated data for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.



# **Nancy Breen**

Nancy Breen, PhD, is an economist and former project officer at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), where she investigated how race, social class, gender, community factors, and health service diffusion — especially cancer screenings — shape cancer outcomes. At NCI, Breen helped launch the California Health Interview Survey, developing and improving measures, methods, and tools for analyzing access and utilization in cancer control services and cancer-related risk factors.



# **Shana Charles**

Shana Charles, PhD, is an associate professor of public health at Cal State Fullerton and has more than 25 years of policy experience, from the White House to local community services agencies. In 2022, she was elected to the Fullerton City Council. A triple UCLA alumna, Charles began working at the CHPR as a master's student and later became the director of health insurance studies and co-authored 20 years of State of Health Insurance in California reports.



# **Susan DeMarois**

Susan DeMarois is the director of the California Department of Aging. Appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to lead California's efforts for implementing the state's Master Plan for Aging, DeMarois and her team have led 46 new initiatives, including creating a "No Wrong Door" system to reduce challenges in navigating and accessing information and services for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers.



# **Richard Figueroa**

Richard Figueroa is a deputy cabinet secretary in Governor Gavin Newsom's office, where he works on health, human services, and veterans' issues. He has served three California governors on health-related issues and has a long track record of working to increase access to health insurance and lower the cost for Californians. Figueroa, who earned his MBA at UCLA in 1983, was previously director of prevention for The California Endowment.



# **Jody L. Herman**

Jody L. Herman, PhD, is the Reid Rasmussen Senior Scholar of Public Policy at the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law. Her work on gender identity in survey research and the prevalence and impact of discrimination based on gender identity or expression has helped advance equity for LGBTQ people. She serves as co-chair of the CHIS Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Working Group for the 2023–2024 and 2025–2026 cycles.



# Sandra R. Hernández

Sandra R. Hernández, MD, is president and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), an independent, nonprofit philanthropy that works to improve the health care system so that all Californians, especially those who have traditionally faced the greatest barriers to care, have the care they need. Prior to joining CHCF, she was CEO of The San Francisco Foundation and served as director of public health for the City and County of San Francisco.



# **Sherry M. Hirota**

Sherry M. Hirota has dedicated her life to championing underserved communities. Hirota founded Asian Health Services (AHS) in 1974 and retired as CEO at the end of 2023. In 50 years, AHS has grown to provide high-quality care in 14 languages, serving more than 50,000 patients each year, and operating a \$65 million budget that supports 12 clinic sites; 11 clinical, advocacy, and educational programs; and a professional staff of nearly 500, 99% of whom are bilingual.



"The center was an important ally and resource. We could always get very detailed information about the population trends within our community and were able to respond more effectively to COVID-19, 'public charge,' and what universal health care can mean in our community." — Sherry Hirota



# **Sue Holtby**

Sue Holtby worked in public health for more than 35 years, including 28 years at the Public Health Institute, where she served as project director and oversaw a planning grant to inform content for the Center's first California Health Interview Survey. Holtby worked on CHIS for nearly two decades, helping develop questionnaires, overseeing translation and English simplification reviews, analyzing data, and writing up findings.



# **Melissa Hurtado**

Melissa Hurtado is a California State Senator representing the Central Valley and working to ensure rural voices are heard at all levels of government. She is the youngest woman ever elected to the state senate. Using CHIS data on food insecurity, in collaboration with Nourish California and the California Immigrant Policy Center, Hurtado co-authored the Food4All bill, which expands access to food benefits for all Californians, regardless of their immigration status.



**Sunghee Lee** 

Sunghee Lee, PhD, is a research associate professor and the director of the program in survey and data science at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. From 2005–2010, Lee was a survey methodologist for the California Health Interview Survey. Lee's research interests revolve around improving data quality through inclusivity, which has profound implications for equity in social programs and policy decisions.



**Louise McCarthy** 

Louise McCarthy, MPP, is the president and CEO of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, the largest regional coalition of nonprofit community health centers in California. McCarthy was instrumental in creating and implementing free public health care programs that have served hundreds of thousands of low-income, uninsured residents in Los Angeles County.



# **Usha Lee McFarling**

Usha Lee McFarling is a national science correspondent at STAT, covering health disparities and the intersection of race with science and medicine. Her work on the diseased state of the world's oceans earned a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism. Her coverage of health disparities earned an Edward R. Murrow award, as well as awards from the Association of Health Care Journalists and the Asian American Journalists Association.



# **Alex Ortega**

Alex Ortega, PhD, MPH, is the dean and professor of public health at the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He is a nationally recognized public health and health care policy scholar whose work focuses on health equity. A UCLA Bruin, Ortega served as director and principal investigator for the UCLA Center for Population Health and Health Disparities and worked alongside the late Steve Wallace on the Latino Youth Health Study.



# **Jeffrey Reynoso**

Jeffrey Reynoso, DrPH, serves as a regional director at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), where he advances the Biden-Harris Administration's health and human services priorities and is the key representative for U.S. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra with state, local, territorial, tribal, and external partners in Region 9 (Southwest and Pacific Region). Before HHS, he served as the Executive Director of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California.



**Robert K. Ross** 

Robert K. Ross, MD, is the former president and chief executive officer for The California Endowment. Under his leadership, the endowment provided advocacy and funded efforts in support of "Health For All" across the state, expanding health coverage for undocumented residents, farmworkers, and dreamers; strengthening diversity in the health workforce, improving health advocacy for young people of color, and providing leadership for health-oriented criminal justice reform.



# **Raynald Samoa**

Raynald Samoa, MD, is an endocrinologist and associate professor in the department of diabetes, endocrinology, and metabolism at City of Hope. Throughout his career, Dr. Samoa has championed health equity, in particular using evidence and data to advise lawmakers on the unique health needs of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. He has also taught gender-affirming care to other physicians and advocated for data disaggregation.



"The UCLA CHPR worked tirelessly to provide data and data trends that assisted the Pacific Islander COVID Response Team in advocating for the allocation for crucial resources to address the disproportionate burden experienced by NHPI communities during the pandemic. The COVID-19 dashboards were vital in obtaining the necessary resources to optimize vaccine dissemination to NHPI communities which was a key factor in their resilience during the pandemic." — Raynald Samoa, MD



# **Delight Satter**

Delight Satter, MPH, is an elder and member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and a senior health scientist in the CDC's National Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce. She has also served as co-author and implementation working group member for the White House Indigenous Knowledge Guidance. Prior to the CDC, Satter directed the American Indian Research Program at UCLA CHPR and remains a faculty associate.



# **Linette T. Scott**

Linette T. Scott, MD, is the chief data officer and the deputy director of enterprise data and information management in the California Department of Health Care Services. In this role, she advances health equity through the intelligent application of data. Dr. Scott, who is alternate chair of the California Health Interview Survey advisory board, works to ensure that reliable data are used to drive improvements in population health.



# **Sandra Shewry**

Sandra Shewry is a health policy expert with experience in public service and health philanthropy. Following a 20+ year career in California state government — including as director of the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Health — Shewry spent 10+ years at the California Health Care Foundation, leading the state health policy office and external engagement teams. She currently serves as board chair of the CARESTAR Foundation.



**Tia Shimada** 

Tia Shimada has 15 years of public policy experience, including nearly a decade as the director of programs for a statewide nonprofit advocating equitable access to food, resources, and opportunity for all Californians. Shimada has partnered with UCLA CHPR on various projects including fact sheets on how proposed changes to the "public charge" rule would impact Californians and experiences of food insecurity among immigrants who are documented.



# **Lisa Simpson**

Lisa Simpson, MB, is a nationally recognized health policy researcher, pediatrician, and advocate for the translation of research into policy and practice. She was the president and CEO of AcademyHealth from 2011–2024. She is currently an Impact Fellow at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health, as well as an adjunct professor in the University of South Florida School of Public Health and the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University.



# **Alek Sripipatana**

Alek Sripipatana, PhD, MPH, serves as the director for the Data and Evaluation unit at the Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care in the Office of Quality Improvement. His unit oversees the Bureau's primary data collection strategies on all HRSA-supported health centers across the country, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. He is a proud UCLA CHPR alumnus.



# **Efrain Talamantes**

Efrain Talamantes, MD, MBA, MSc, is the chief operating officer of health services at AltaMed. He joined AltaMed as the inaugural medical director for the AltaMed Institute for Health Equity, leading health services and community-partnered research and training to advance health equity and medical education. A triple Bruin and recognized health equity advocate, Dr. Talamantes leads initiatives throughout the country to enhance diversity in the health care workforce.



# **Robert Otto Valdez**

Robert Otto Valdez, PhD, is the director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the lead federal agency charged with improving the safety and quality of health care for all Americans. Valdez has dedicated his 40+ year career to public service, working as a professor and MBA/MPH program director at UCLA — and serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and special senior advisor to the Clinton White House on health care reform.



# **Maria-Elena De Trinidad Young**

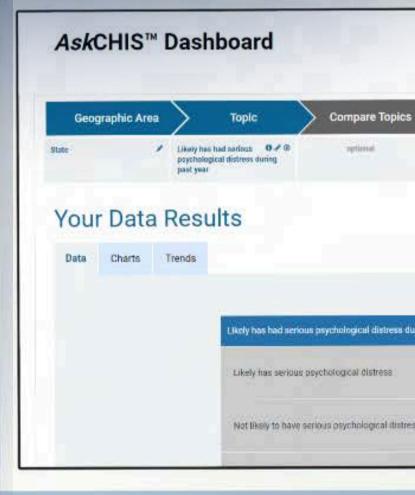
Maria-Elena De Trinidad Young, PhD, MPH, is an assistant professor of public health at UC Merced, who in her words "grew up" at the Center, where she was a graduate student researcher working with the late Steve Wallace. Young is currently a CHPR faculty associate and was project manager for the Research on Immigrant Health and State Policy (RIGHTS) Study, which sought to understand the impact of the U.S. immigration system on the well-being of immigrants and their families.



"I was so lucky to get to work with Steve [Wallace]. Steve was a mentor who created the conditions for people to flourish. He challenged me to take on new projects, always communicating trust in my abilities while being willing to ask hard questions and push me to be rigorous and thoughtful. He fostered my autonomy and voice as a thinker and researcher, supporting me to grow while knowing he always had my back." — Maria-Elena Young

# BULD.

For 30 years, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research has been a trailblazer in building tools that empower communities, inform policymakers, and drive equity in health care. Through our commitment to building evidence. we have shaped policies and programs that affect the health of Californians and beyond. Our research spans across diverse populations and pressing health issues, delivering insights that drive progress and transformation. By producing robust, data-driven evidence, we help decision-makers understand the complexities of health disparities and guide actions that foster healthier communities.





# Research should not sit on the shelf.

# - Dr. E. Richard "Rick" Brown

Since our humble, but mighty, beginnings in 1994, we at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (CHPR) have been guided by the vital words of our founder, Dr. E. Richard "Rick" Brown.

Whether through our nationally recognized California Health Interview Survey or through our rapid-response policy analysis, timely and easy-to-understand publications, and user-friendly web tools, UCLA CHPR has pioneered ways to put objective data and evidence-based research into the hands of the public in ways that inform, educate, and result in grassroots-driven policy change that advances health equity.

Our renowned programs conduct in-depth analysis and research on health disparities, chronic diseases, health insurance, environmental health, mental health, and much more. UCLA CHPR is recognized for its work highlighting gaps in health status and access to care among historically underserved populations, including older adults, immigrants, LGBT people, and racial and ethnic groups.

# **California Health Interview Survey**

Launched in 2001, the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is the largest state-based population health survey in the nation and a leading source of credible and comprehensive data on the health and health care needs of California's large and diverse population.

It serves as a national model for data collection on race and ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, and immigrant health. CHIS spans a broad

range of health topics including: access to and use of health care, health insurance, health status, health conditions, health behaviors, public program participation, mental health, food insecurity, and other social drivers of health.

To improve its value, CHIS is constantly evolving its questions to address emerging public health concerns including: COVID-19, housing insecurity, gun violence and firearm safety, climate change, and hate incidents and discrimination.

Most importantly, CHIS has never wavered from its commitment to data democratization, making its publicly accessible tools, data dashboards, and online health query systems such as  $AskCHIS^{TM}$  and  $AskCHIS^{TM}$  Neighborhood Edition (NE) free to the public.

# Health Economics and Evaluation Research Program

Policies written and adopted with good intentions are important for advancing health equity, but do they actually work for the people they're intended to help? That question forms the foundation of the work of our Health Economics and Evaluation Research (HEER) program.

The HEER team examines the economic and financial impacts of federal programs, statewide demonstrations, local initiatives, environmental disasters, and state and legislative policies. HEER reports have been instrumental in subsequent changes in health care policy and care delivery to improve population health and reduce costs. Recent evaluations include: Whole Person Care, Public Hospital Redesign and

Incentives in Medi-Cal (PRIME), Housing for a Healthy California, and Parks After Dark. The HEER and CHPR staff are also part of the UCLA Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study, which is assessing short- and long-term health impacts of the 2015–2016 gas blowout, the largest uncontrolled release from an underground gas storage facility in U.S. history.

The California Simulation of Insurance Markets (CalSIM), a micro-simulation model developed by the CHPR and UC Berkeley Labor Center, has been used since 2012 to estimate the impact of various elements of the ACA.

# Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program

Chronic diseases and conditions, such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, and obesity, can take a huge toll on many aspects of people's lives. The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program is a premier source of data and research on chronic diseases. Our research recognizes the role social drivers of health (such as education level, economic status, access to care, and neighborhood quality) can play in the onset of chronic diseases and how policy changes can help prevent them.

Researchers investigate the health, social, and economic consequences of chronic diseases. The program also conducts research on factors that both promote healthy living and prevent the development or exacerbation of chronic diseases.

Staff have published on topics ranging from the link between high numbers of neighborhood fast food restaurants and obesity, to the decline in emergency room visits among patients with asthma and COPD in high-traffic cargo areas after emission controls were enacted, to the impact of proposed "public charge" rule changes on low-income immigrant communities' use of food benefits.

# Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Data Policy Lab

Working with scholars and advocates throughout the country, in August 2020, UCLA CHPR launched the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) Data Policy Lab to address striking gaps within data and research for the NHPI community.

The lab's formation was catalyzed by the need to increase the number of states reporting disaggregated NHPI COVID-19 cases and calling attention to the NHPI community experiencing the highest COVID-19 rates of any racial and ethnic group in various states across the country. Since its founding, the lab has expanded its portfolio beyond COVID-19 to provide accessible tools on the overall health and health needs of the NHPI community.

Working alongside community members and through funding from organizations such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health, the NHPI Data Policy Lab has created tools aimed at closing decades of data gaps that have perpetuated and exacerbated health inequities among NHPI communities.

"As a member of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community, being part of the NHPI Data Policy Lab has been a blessing and inspiring. We are committed to protecting our families, empowering our community with knowledge, and providing actionable data to advocate for the health needs of NHPIs."

Corina Penaia, MPHNHPI Data Policy Lab



# ACHIEVE ACHIEVE

As much as we celebrate with pride this year in recognition of three decades of increasing access to health care and advancing health equity, we also have been humbled and honored to be acknowledged by our peers and organizations we respect and admire.

In 2024, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research received three awards recognizing our commitment to increasing the inclusion of underrepresented communities.

These achievements would not have been possible without you: our colleagues, supporters, alumni, collaborators, and friends.





## **Inclusive Voices Award**

In recognition of more than two decades of work advancing data equity, the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) honored UCLA CHPR's California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) with its Inclusive Voices Award.

The award recognizes the important data sets, research, and survey methods that have improved the ability to study complex social phenomena related to understudied populations.

CHIS has been a centerpiece project that fuels the CHPR's efforts to make an impact on California's policy landscape.

"For over 20 years, CHIS has served as a national model for best practices in collecting data on race and ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, and immigration status ... AAPOR selected CHIS as the recipient of the Inclusive Voices Award for its commitment to design a general population survey to include the voices of those who are undercounted or underrepresented and its commitment to health equity via data equity."

# Elizabeth Fries Health Education Award

UCLA CHPR Director Ninez A. Ponce, PhD, MPP, received the 2024 Elizabeth Fries Health Education Award from the CDC Foundation and the James F. and Sarah T. Fries Foundation for her decades-long dedication to health equity.

In her work, Ponce has helped ensure public health data collection goes beyond just including historically underrepresented communities; she has centered these communities to understand their unique needs and developed health programs and policies to address them.

"We're thrilled to honor Ninez Ponce for her scholarship and policy advocacy for data equity and representativeness that has generated new and crucial understandings of racial and ethnic health disparities, particularly for Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander populations," said Dr. Judy Monroe, president and CEO of the CDC Foundation.

# **Narrative Change Award**

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) chose UCLA CHPR's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Data Policy Lab as the inaugural recipient of its Narrative Change Award in recognition of its work to increase the inclusion of the voices of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

"APIAHF is honored to select the NHPI Data Policy Lab for the inaugural award based on the trailblazing work in lifting up the voice and visibility of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities by addressing critical gaps in data collection and public health research," the organization said.

# Remember

We remember and honor three remarkable leaders whose vision and commitment helped shape the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research: Rick Brown, Steve Wallace, and Ying-Ying Meng. Their legacy continues to shape our work, our values, and our commitment to advancing health equity. We remember them with deep gratitude and a shared responsibility to carry their vision forward.



Dr. E. Richard "Rick" Brown

E. Richard "Rick" Brown, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's founding director, spent his career pioneering the collection and dissemination of health survey data in support of making health care services more accessible and more affordable for all Americans.

Brown was a tireless advocate for the uninsured, and he promoted the development of health data surveys to both dispel persistent myths about the uninsured and document the devastating consequences of the chronic lack of health insurance for millions of Americans.

He founded the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), which has served as an exemplar of equitable data collection and dissemination. CHIS embodies Brown's goal when he started the Center: to translate academic research into practical evidence that policy audiences and community health organizations could use in their work.



Dr. Steven P. Wallace

Having served as associate director for 25 years, Steve Wallace's impact at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and as a scholar cannot be overstated. Wallace was an internationally acclaimed scholar on aging in communities of color and immigrant health and health policy.

In his work at the Center, Wallace developed new approaches to assessing the economic security of older adults through the California Elder Index, which was adopted into law in California and was used by the World Health Organization in its 2020 Decade of Healthy Aging report.

In 2022, the American Public Health Association renamed an award in his honor: The Steve Wallace Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an outstanding individual with a 20-year or longer career, and who has made a significant contribution to public service, scholarship, or science in the areas of geriatrics and gerontology.

Wallace was a passionate educator and dedicated mentor to countless students, researchers, and colleagues who are carrying on his legacy.



Dr. Ying-Ying Meng

The former director of research at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Ying-Ying Meng's work focused on the causes of and solutions to inequities in health and health care delivery from a holistic perspective. For more than two decades, Meng led studies ranging from inequities in California tobacco policies to the mental health benefits of parks and natural spaces in neighborhoods to air pollution exposure-associated health and economic cost. Her contributions helped make the Center a go-to source for policymakers, researchers, advocates, and journalists seeking insightful analysis of population-based data to understand the relationship between physical and social environments and chronic disease.

Beyond her influential scholarship, Meng was a beloved person at the Center, known for her everpresent smile and boundless generosity.



# **Data Equity Center**

Best practices — just like data — should never sit on the shelf. UCLA CHPR's newest initiative, the Data Equity Center, leverages our three decades of experience and the knowledge we've acquired and scales it to a national level.

The Data Equity Center, which launched in February 2024, provides free technical assistance and resources to organizations across the country to advance their data equity goals; inform, support, and promote data systems becoming more representative, inclusive, and collaborative with the communities they serve; and foster a shared vision of data equity.

To make progress toward health equity, policymakers, advocates, funders, and researchers need data to measure and track, not only the health of communities and individuals, but the barriers or disadvantages that limit the potential to attain health and wellness including socially driven circumstances.

# **Health Equity Program**

Health equity means that everyone — regardless of their background or circumstances — has a fair opportunity to reach their full health potential. The Health Equity Program provides analysis and insight on disparities in health status and access to care among historically underserved populations, including older adults, immigrants, LGBT people, and racial and ethnic groups.

A person's race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, citizenship status, English proficiency, and socioeconomic status, as well as social drivers of health — the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age — affect access to and quality of care and influence health outcomes.

Projects include the Long-Term Services and Supports Study, Research on Immigrant Health and State Policy (RIGHTS) Study, California Elder Index, and the Mental Health program.

# **Health Equity Challenge**

The Health Equity Challenge, conducted by the UCLA CHPR in collaboration with MolinaCares and the California Health Care Foundation, has awarded nearly \$500,000 to community organizations through a unique program that turns UCLA graduate students' ideas to solve health inequities into full proposals and programs that will benefit Californians. Previously awarded projects include:

- Point-of-care ultrasound screenings for heart failure for people experiencing homelessness
- Peer specialist pilot for a jail diversion and housing program
- Mental health de-escalation toolkit for medical providers and students
- Trauma-informed yoga and mental health services for South Asian survivors of interpersonal violence
- Extreme heat preparedness and response training for caregivers
- Mobile health screening for vision-threatening conditions and eye safety training for jornaleros



# BYTHE NUMBERS

30 years

of building evidence and advancing health equity 19+
million

queries have been run in AskCHIS™ and AskCHIS™ Neighborhood Edition (NE) since inception

different estimates can be explored in *Ask*CHIS™

10+
million

in AskCHIS™ and 2,274 AskCHIS™ Neighborhood Edition users in 2024

**5,901** users

200+
publications

used or cited UCLA CHPR data and research over the last year languages

CHIS is conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Vietnamese, and Tagalog including policy briefs, reports, and fact sheets, produced in-house since 2023

in local, state, national, and international news outlets cited UCLA CHPR data and researchers during the last year

300+
articles

36
publications



We know that making progress requires collective action. We appreciate and celebrate the great work we — UCLA CHPR, advocates, foundations, researchers, legislators, health leaders — do together.

From building evidence to supporting communities to influencing policy, we are grateful to you.

# Thank you to our GOLD sponsors

# AltaMed



# Thank you to our **SILVER** sponsors

# blue of california foundation

# **Marianne Brown and Family**



& EDNA and TOM GORDON



# Thank you to our **BRONZE** sponsors











# Thank you to our **BRONZE** sponsors







Gerald F. Kominski, PhD Ninez A. Ponce, PhD, MPP Nadereh Pourat, PhD

# Thank you to our FRIEND sponsors









# A special thank you to our 30th anniversary planning and host committees:

# **30th Anniversary Planning Committee**

Kristie Allen Mark Peterson, PhD

Garen Corbett Ninez A. Ponce, PhD

Hala Douglas Dylan Roby, PhD

Tiffany Lopes AJ Scheitler, EdD

...and to Kim and Kelly of Your Day by J&K

# **30th Anniversary Host Committee**

Alice Chen, MD Nadereh Pourat, PhD

Tom Gordon Neil Jay Sehgal, PhD

Gerald F. Kominski, PhD Lisa Simpson, MB

Julia Liou, MPH Efrain Talamantes, MD

Michael Ong, MD, PhD Paul S. Viviano



AltaMed is a proud supporter of

# The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

# 30th Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner

At AltaMed, we are committed to providing quality health care and community services to help families live healthier lives.











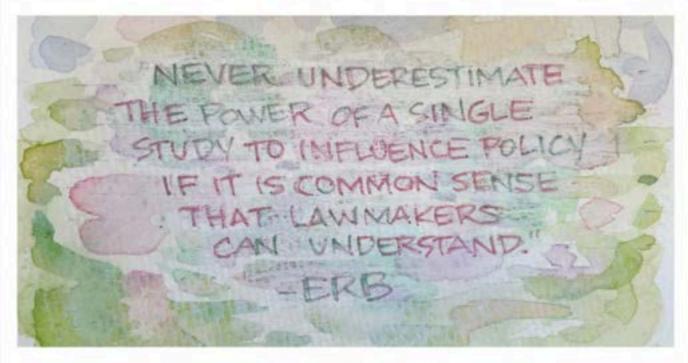


# Happy 30th Anniversary to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

We are deeply grateful for all that you have done — and continue to do — to make California's health care system work better for ALL Californians.

www.chcf.org

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH FOR 30 YEARS OF ADVANCING HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND HEALTH EQUITY



As we reflect on these past 30 years, we are moved to see how the UCLA CHPR continues to honor Dr. Rick Brown's vision of health care for all. Warmest congratulations to the UCLA CHPR's dedicated team on their three decades of impactful health policy research, and for helping to empower communities to build a health care system that leaves no one behind!

Best wishes for your continued success!

Marianne Brown and family

Delia, Makeda, Marianne, Adrienne, and John







The UCLA Department of Health Policy and Management congratulates CHPR on its 30th anniversary!

CHPR is a beacon of excellence in health policy research and a vital source of health information for California's diverse communities. The California Health Interview Survey exemplifies the Center's outstanding work and serves as a model nationwide.

We also recognize CHPR's immense contributions to training future public health practitioners, policymakers, and researchers.

We wish Dr. Ninez Ponce and the entire CHPR team the very best as they continue to make a positive and lasting impact on health policy and the health of Californians in the years to come.

# Congratulations

TO THE UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH ON

# 30 YEARS

OF ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY
IN CALIFORNIA AND BEYOND

The Blue Shield of California Foundation is honored to celebrate three decades of health equity leadership by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

The caliber of the evidence, insights, and technical assistance generated by CHPR's expert and dedicated leadership, faculty, and staff supports the Foundation's mission to promote health equity and prosperity for all Californians. Research and evaluation are critical to addressing the deeply rooted, systemic issues that give rise to health and economic disparities in our state and across the nation. We deeply appreciate and respect CHPR's commitment to improving equity for marginalized groups such as older adults, immigrants, sexual and gender minority groups, and racial and ethnic minority populations. We recognize the great value of CHPR's many accomplishments since 1994 and look forward to the continuation and expansion of its leadership in health equity over the coming decades.

blue of california foundation



to the entire CHPR team for reaching a remarkable milestone!

A toast for being an incredible, dedicated partner (oh, all of those late nights!) in our collective quest to inform and support evidence-based policymaking. Your innovations in data, simulation, and survey research have immeasurably helped us and all Californians.

And thanks for keeping us company in the club of organizations with very awkward acronyms!



## AcademyHealth celebrates our health services research leaders!



Former AcademyHealth President and CEO Dr. Lisa Simpson and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Director Dr. Robert "Bob" Valdez have dedicated their careers to improving healthcare systems, patient care, and driving cutting edge evidence into policy. These visionary leaders, grounded in evidence and committed to action, have together made historic strides in improving healthcare outcomes for patients across the country.

AcademyHealth joins the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in celebrating Dr. Simpson and Dr. Valdez for their inspiration and leadership in moving the U.S. health system toward more equitable, accessible, and compassionate care.







# Congratulations to the Center for Health Policy Research on its 30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary!

Thanks for supporting research on
Veterans health and for supporting the
careers of our investigators at the
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System





# Health Net is proud to support UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's 30th Anniversary Celebration!

For more than 40 years, Health Net has been dedicated to transforming the health of our community, one person at a time by providing health plans for individuals, families, businesses and those that qualify for Medi-Cal or Medicare — providing Coverage for Every Stage of Life...



Health Net expands access and drives health equity. Scan code to learn more.





# Archstone Foundation congratulates the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research on 30 years of building evidence and advancing health equity.

We are proud to support one of the nation's leading health policy research centers. Thank you for helping us improve the health and well-being of older Californians and their caregivers.



# Congratulations to tonight's distinguished honorees and to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

We are proud to support the UCLA CHPR and commend their thirty years of advancing health equity through evidence-based research.

We are deeply inspired by the way CHPR
has empowered diverse stakeholders,
from policy makers to health care providers,
community organizers to journalists,
with invaluable insights that have real-life impact.

The profound influence of CHPR leadership, researchers, and partners on the health outcomes of Californians is staggering.

Here's to thirty more years of illumination and progress.

With respect and gratitude, Edna and Tom Gordon and the Don Levin Trust Proud to Support

# CENTER HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH



### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

To our friends, colleagues, and mentors at the *UCLA Center for*Health Policy Research on their 30th anniversary.

The Department of Health, Society, and Behavior at the new UC Irvine Joe C. Wen School of Population & Public Health endeavors to train the next generation of public health professionals in our new...

Master of Public Health degree concentrations:

- Community Health & Health Equity
- Health Systems & Policy

PhD in Public Health concentrations in:

- Disease Prevention
- Biobehavioral Mechanisms of Health
- Global Health

More information about our degree offerings around the study of social determinants of health can be found at publichealth.uci.edu.

#### **UC Irvine**

Joe C. Wen School of Population & Public Health



Congratulations to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research on 30 years of advancing health policy for communities across the nation!

We at the Center for Health Policy at Meharry Medical College are proud to celebrate this milestone with you.

Here's to continued innovation, impactful research, and advocacy that drive us closer to a healthier and more just world.

**Happy 30th Anniversary!** 

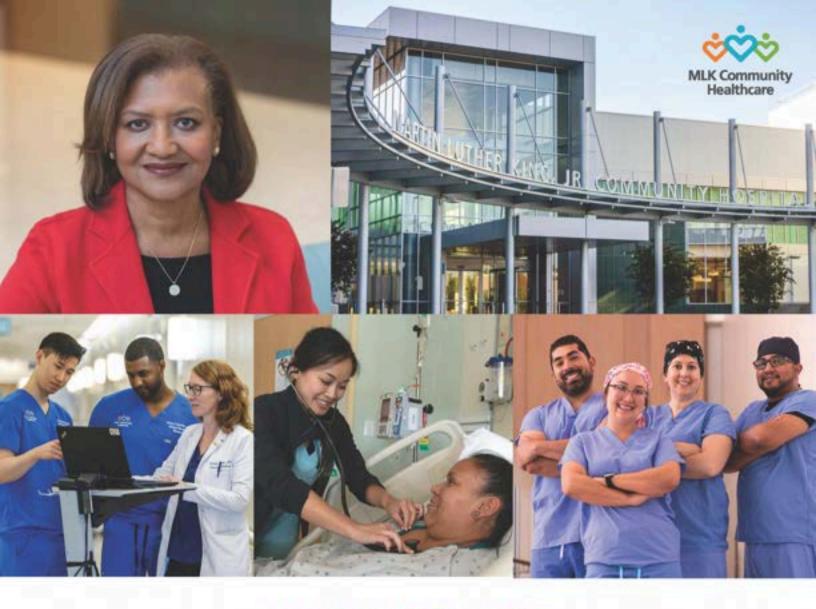




Proudly salutes the

# UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

on 30 years of advancing health equity in California and beyond



# **VISIONARY**

MLK Community Healthcare is proud to salute our CEO, Dr. Elaine Batchlor, as an honoree during tonight's 30th Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner.

Congratulations to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research on three decades of impact.









# TOP 5 in the Nation for Cancer Care



City of Hope® congratulates **Raynald Samoa**, **M.D.**, and all the honorees for their extraordinary work to advance health equity.

cityofhope.org





## Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results."

Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha
 Nigerian Author and Educator

SSRS congratulates the California Health Interview Survey Team and the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research on its 30th Anniversary.

We are proud to have worked with the Center as the data collection partner for the CHIS since 2017.

We sincerely thank CHPR for allowing us to be part of this important work that is constantly improving health policy knowledge in California and beyond.

#### Forward thinking research.

SSRS is your trusted partner for complex and challenging research problems. With the latest data collection best practices, cutting-edge survey methodologies, and an industry leading team, SSRS is breaking the mold on what research companies can do.



Let's start a conversation about your next project. ssrs.com



I am proud to call UCLA Center for Health Policy Research home from its inception to today.

Starting with a small group of collaborators, Rick Brown tirelessly pursued his great vision of putting data in the hands of organizations and individuals who can use it to improve the health of Californians.

Thirty years later, the Center is a premier source of data and evidence that advances health equity to policymakers, health care providers, advocates, and the public in California and nationally.

I salute all the individuals who were and are members of the growing Center community and whose efforts have led us to today. Here is to another thirty years of advancing health equity!

Nadereh Pourat, PhD Associate Director, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

# The University of Washington MHA Programs would like to congratulate the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research on 30 years of improving the public's health.

Become a health care leader and solve challenging problems in one of our nationally-recognized, equity-focused MHA programs grounded in the principles of population health.

Earn your MHA without putting your career on hold in our Executive MHA program, or join us on our beautiful Seattle campus in our traditional MHA program.

Learn more at hspop.uw.edu/mha/two-mha-options.







## 53 ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES

## Congratulations, Sherry Hirota!



Thank you for your service, leadership, and advocacy for our community. We stand on your shoulders as we continue the work and mission to ensure health care for all and advocacy for the underserved.





Congratulations
to the UCLA Center for
Health Policy Research on
30 years of contributions
to the field of health policy





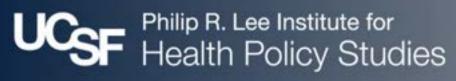


Children's Hospital Los Angeles is proud to support the

UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's 30th Anniversary Gala

323.660.2450 CHLA.org





CONGRATULATES

THE UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY

ON 30 YEARS!





#### Congratulations to the

### **UCLA Center for Health Policy Research**

for 30 years of advancing grassroots-driven policy change with data and research

Now in its 60th year, the Public Health Institute is dedicated to advancing well-being and health equity with communities around the world.

Read about our impacts at phi.org/about/phi60\_report/





#### EVENT CILIBRATES THE ScHOOL'S PAST, FUTURE

#### UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH Is Established at School of Public Health

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The School of Politic Health to conduct research on leadth policy issues afficient Californi-um and the rest of the nation. The SCLA Center for Health Folicy Research will emphasiate confudention research by facolity or confudention research by facolity or

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guate information about the people quant information shout for people and the institutions they would affect and the impact of the poli-sies themselves," says Brown, a nationally known health policy argest who served on the White House Task Ferre on Blooth Care Rathern but your and has sell-tond a

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#### VALUEZ APPOINTED TO KEY HIHS POSITION



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Public Should Service and direc Public Health Service and devi-es of menugency policy idealy-nate) at the HealthCare Financing Administration. It is the first part approximate actions the two-majors approximate of the U.S. Department of Blooks and

Hentan Services.
Vallet, who is 1993 served on the White Bease Task Force on Health Care Reliefs as so-class of the Beasellin Working Group.

#### STUDIORS PLACE THERE IN HHS SECRETARY'S **Милоки** Сометтом

"A Parent's Goods for When Your Child To Nick" in intended parents in Anality with common right. Annal Street,

#### BOOK FOCUSES ON HEALTH RAPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE ON WORKERS.

"It is expended that the design of the nese

norkplace

recognize the

central role of

the worker in

the work

process."

THANKYOU

#### DOCTORAL STUDENT WING WHO First Prize



#### WORKING TOGETHER



D'Army Ilona

Ron DELLUMS

Rick

#### WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE



D'ARMY BALL

**Center for Health** UCLA **Policy Research** 

TO BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL



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