

Kaiser Permanente Kern County 2023 Community Health Snapshot

Our mission goes beyond providing exceptional health care services. We are committed to enhancing the well-being of our members and strengthening the communities we serve.

We believe that true health extends beyond medical care, encompassing physical, mental, social, and community aspects. Kaiser Permanente is tackling the underlying determinants of health, including economic opportunities, racial equity, education, homelessness, housing, food security, and building resilience in school environments, while ensuring access to health care.

To guide our investments toward achieving more equitable health outcomes in a meaningful and sustainable manner, we collaborate closely with community-based organizations, safety net clinics, schools, faith-based institutions, cities, service providers, county departments, and health care systems.

In addition to direct grant investments, we provide our partners with technical assistance, facilitate trainings, conduct community programming, provide volunteers, and engage in strategic community collaboratives. Together, we co-create solutions tailored to the specific needs of our communities.



Building healthy communities

Kaiser Permanente is committed to Total Health — mind, body, and community.

Our footprint in Kern County

- 1 Contract hospital
- 11 Medical office buildings
- 118,623 Members
- 149 Physicians
- 314 Nurses
- 786 Employees

In 2023, **\$4.3 million** was invested to improve community health among vulnerable populations.* Strategic community investments are guided by the Kaiser Permanente tri-annual Community Health Needs Assessment (kp.org/CHNA).

* Kaiser Permanente invests directly and via our Donor Advised Fund at the California Community Foundation.

Population by age and race

- **823,630** total population:
- **11.1%** age 65+ years, **28.9%** under age 18 years
- **0.1%** Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, **3.2%** multiracial, **15.1%** Asian, **7.5%** Black, **25.2%** White, **48%** Hispanic

Why it matters

- Nearly **1 in 5** residents of the Kern County service area live below the poverty line, **48%** more than the national average.
- The unemployment rate is nearly **16%**.
- Homelessness in Bakersfield, the largest city in Kern, increased by **27%** since 2020.
- The county lags **35%** behind the U.S. average in per capita number of primary care physicians.
- The proportion of mental health providers per capita is **23%** lower than the national average.



Addressing housing insecurity

The **Open Door Network** in Kern County offers a lifeline to those teetering on the brink of homelessness. Their **Diversion Project** is a swift and personalized response to housing crises, providing essentials like rent aid and utility assistance coupled with comprehensive case management. With over two decades of unwavering support, Kaiser Permanente's partnership underscores a deep-rooted commitment to nurturing and empowering Kern County's children and families. The project is a cornerstone for community health and well-being.

\$50,000

to improve physical, mental, and social health for 4 schools



348

students and adults reached through Educational Theatre

\$90,000

to support access to care for all Kern County residents with Medi-Cal outreach and enrollment



Quality health care delivered to

13,904

Medi-Cal patients

\$1,820,000

to support the Safety Net in improving quality and expanding capacity



\$50,000

to support entrepreneurial training for

100

small business owners



Read more about our partnerships

The **Hippocrates Circle Program** seeks to inspire diverse and underrepresented middle school students to pursue careers in medicine or health care. The program partners with schools across Southern California to deliver a series of engaging educational events for students, families, and their communities. Students have an opportunity to connect and learn from physicians that may reflect their own personal experience and diverse background. In 2023, **35** students in Kern County participated in the program.

The **3C Capital Fund** is dedicated to economic progress in Kern County by championing minority and underserved entrepreneurs. Through a 12-month program, they've nurtured the Kern Inclusive Entrepreneur Hub, bolstering **18** entrepreneurs, connecting them with **25** diverse mentors, and facilitating **36** outreach events. The hub focuses on skill-building, mentorship, networking, and access to capital, fostering sustainable business growth and job creation. The program is strengthened by funding from Kaiser Permanente in 2023 to amplify this momentum, ensuring every entrepreneur has the tools to thrive.

The **Bakersfield American Indian Health Project (BAIHP)** stands as a pillar of health and heritage, offering more than 220 tribes in Kern County a sanctuary of holistic care. Infused with traditional Indigenous wisdom, BAIHP fosters a healing journey grounded in safety, trust, and empowerment. As Kern County's sole Urban Indian Health Care provider, its culturally attuned care embraces a vast tapestry of tribal identities. In 2023, Kaiser Permanente began a partnership filled with pride, supporting BAIHP's mission to nurture and advocate for the health and cultural vibrancy of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.