



HARC to discuss health survey in Palm Desert

Written by

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Dr. Glen Grayman will host a lecture Saturday at the Cal State San Bernardino Palm Desert campus to discuss the latest health survey on the eastern Coachella Valley.

The event, which costs \$5 to attend, starts at 2 p.m. in the campus's Oliphant A auditorium at 37-500 Cook St. in Palm Desert.

Some of the topics to be covered include: the economy and its effect on senior health, whether some seniors' health are impacted more than others and whether seniors are more healthy.

"The 2010 needs assessment provides community stakeholders an unprecedented opportunity to gauge shifts that may be taking place in the public health arena and determine how it relates to their individual program or service offerings," Grayman said in a statement.

Grayman is board president of the Health Assessment Resource Center, or HARC, the group that produced the report.

"As valuable as the 2007 data proved to be, I'm confident that users of the HARC 2010 data will find it to be even richer in terms of its application and relevance to their respective fields of expertise. Its impact on the future access and delivery of healthcare services to our residents should be far-reaching."

Called the 2010 Community Health Monitor, the survey takes a look at a number of health issues including the incident rate of diabetes and the prevalence of childhood obesity.

It is the only survey of its kind that specifically looks at health outcomes in the Coachella Valley.

Among the 2010 findings:

- Greater numbers of whites were hard hit, watching their annual income plummet below \$25,000. But it was worse for women, a greater percentage of whom saw their earnings drop below \$25,000, rising from 17.9 percent in 2007 to 27.6 percent

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in 2010.

- Fewer adults saw a health care provider. Roughly two-thirds did in 2010 compared to three-quarters in 2007. And more adults did not have any health care insurance, their ranks rising from 14.8 percent to 20.5 percent.

- The number of adults needing help to put food on the table roughly doubled in three years. One in eight adults skipped a meal because of not having enough money to buy food.

Conducted every three years, the survey is to provide reliable health data for policymakers and nonprofit organizations. A separate report pulling Coachella Valley-only data paid for by Eisenhower Medical Center is expected to be released in the coming weeks.

For more information about the event, call Mike Singer at (760) 341-2883, ext. 78107.

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