



Creating healthy communities in Southern California

For more than 70 years, Kaiser Permanente has worked toward our mission of delivering high-quality health care to our members and people in our communities. In 2017, we invested more than \$947 million to help build a healthy Southern California.

Our work encourages kids to eat healthier foods and be physically active. It provides training programs for health care workers and supports the safety net of community clinics, public hospitals, and government programs to improve access to and quality of patient care. We seek out health inequities, determine how and where we can best use our resources and work with funding partners, educational institutions, and a range of community groups to find solutions.

We focus on three broad areas of community benefit work:

- **Healthy People:** Providing access to high-quality care to low income, underserved people
- **Healthy Environments:** Creating safe, healthy communities and environments where people live, work, and play
- **Sharing Knowledge:** Developing important new medical knowledge and sharing it widely

Southern California community impact in 2017

- **422,094 of the most vulnerable people** in the state received quality health care through Kaiser Permanente.
- **104,892 low-income, uninsured, and underinsured members and non-members** received financial assistance when they were unable to pay for emergency and medical care.
- **40,000 students** from Medi-Cal households became certified for free school meals through a demonstration project in 14 California public school districts.
- California Food Policy Advocates reported that data sharing between schools and county and state agencies increased student enrollment in the school meals program.
- **181 schools** in 22 Districts in Southern California participated in the Thriving Schools program - part of our ongoing commitment to improve community health.
- **228,133 children, teens, and adults** attended professional Educational Theatre performances and workshops that address current issues, including healthy eating and active living, conflict management, and bullying.
- **990 studies** were undertaken and more than 400 scholarly articles were published by the Department of Research and Evaluation. Kaiser Permanente researchers address critical health issues to improve health care worldwide.
- **1,290 medical residents** from throughout the country and the world received training in our medical centers, focusing on preventive and primary care and chronic disease management to better serve culturally diverse communities.
- **1,028 health care professionals** (nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, and pharmacy residents) received free training to enhance their professional skills, thanks to Kaiser Permanente and the Southern California Department of Professional Education.
- **288 underserved or at-risk high school students** participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program to gain health care work experience.

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Creating healthy communities in Southern California (continued)

Expanding Access to High-Quality Care

Improving access to care for people without it is fundamental to our mission. We help thousands of low-income individuals and families in our emergency rooms, hospitals, medical offices, and through our participation in Medi-Cal and Medical Financial Assistance programs.

Additionally, we share our knowledge and expertise; establish partnerships and collaborations; and provide grant funding, technical assistance and training. We work with the safety net of community clinics, public health systems and hospitals, and other organizations to improve care management and quality-improvement strategies in the diverse communities we serve.

Promoting Healthy Eating Active Living

Kaiser Permanente knows good health is easier to achieve when people are surrounded by a healthy environment. That's why we promote our [Healthy Eating Active Living](#) (HEAL) programs. Our multifaceted approach combats obesity and related health conditions on a long-term, comprehensive basis by improving access to healthy foods and physical activity.

Our HEAL work integrates statewide, regional, and local strategies to improve community health through policy and environmental changes. This integrated collaboration brings fresh food into communities and improves public parks so adults and children can have nutritious diets and safe places to exercise and play. Our [community partners](#) are implementing strategies to reach people where they live work, play, eat, and learn—places such as schools, retail stores, clinics, and parks.

We also help improve community health by supporting leading organizations that advocate for health equity, distribution and use of healthy foods and beverages, breastfeeding, and enhancements to parks and open space.

[Thriving Schools](#) encourages student and workforce health through programs that promote healthy eating, improve nutrition, foster more physical activity, decrease stress, and support greater social and emotional well-being.

Developing Medical Knowledge and Sharing Resources

We conduct an extensive range of medical [research](#) studies annually, supported by state-of-the-art methods and one of the world's largest, most comprehensive electronic health record systems. Our research includes studies on cancer, epidemiology,

cardiology, diabetes, geriatrics, childhood obesity, and women's health. From this work we create new medical and health care knowledge, translate it into clinical practice, and share it with the world.

Our work extends to the training of health care professionals. For example, our [Graduate Medical Education](#) program provides training and education to medical residents in a variety of specialties. Residents provide care to Kaiser Permanente members in ambulatory and inpatient settings, and work rotations at school-based health centers, community clinics, and homeless shelters. These settings provide primary medical care services to low-income children and adolescents, the homeless, and other people without access to health care. We also support six [Community Medicine Fellows](#) each year to work in community health care facilities to help increase the quality and efficiency of care.

Kaiser Permanente supports education, training, and development to increase the numbers of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, and other clinicians and allied health professionals. Additionally, to maintain and improve the clinical skills of nurses, we conduct important studies to help enhance patient care and outcomes.

Improving Total Health Through Community Outreach

[Our knowledge and resource-sharing](#) also benefit families in the greater South Los Angeles area. Since 1967, the [Watts Counseling and Learning Center](#) has provided educational support and counseling programs to families regardless of health plan membership.



Doing well in school can send a student on a lifelong trajectory toward success. The [Educational Outreach Program](#) provides education and support services, primarily for Latino families, in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County.

And for 30 years, we've cultivated a kind of learning that doesn't come from books or sitting in a classroom. [Educational Theatre](#) uses music, comedy and drama to inspire audiences of children, teens and adults to make healthy choices for themselves and their communities. The performances and workshops, led by professional actor-educators, address the most pressing health issues of the day, including healthy eating and active living, conflict management and STD prevention.