



Health DATA "Painting A Picture" Worksheet

Are you unable to find the exact numbers you need to describe the impact of a health issue in your community? You can PAINT A PICTURE with the information you do have. The following steps will assist you to do this work. GOOD LUCK!



DRAW YOUR PICTURE

STEP 1: Define your argument.

What is your argument?

Clearly state what you are trying to do. Do you want to show that a problem exists or do you want to focus on strategies for improvement?



Example:

We want the county to provide no-cost or low-cost patient educational and health care services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate to Latino children with asthma. Asthma is a serious health issue in Fresno County, especially among Latino children. Because many in the Latino community lack access to health care, it is difficult to manage this serious condition within the community.

STEP 2: Define your data needs.

What do you know about your community and issue that specifically pertain to the argument? Is this information documented and readily accessible?

Often, we already know what is going on in our communities from personal experience or pre-existing data. What data do you have that supports what you know? State that information.

Is there information that you do not have about your community or issue, but need to help you make your argument?

What data would you ideally need to support your argument or make it stronger?



Example:

- I know that Fresno County has the third highest asthma mortality rate in the United States. I also know that asthma is the leading cause of school

Continued on next page.

STEP 7: Organize the data you have to make a convincing argument.

What information will fit together to paint a picture that leaves no doubt about the importance of your argument?



Example:

In Fresno, we have the third highest rate of people dying from asthma in the United States, and asthma is the number one reason for emergency room visits. According to the American Lung Association's *State of the Air 2000* report, there are 15,455 children with asthma in Fresno County. This problem is especially important in Fresno's Latino community. Latinos make up 42% of our population, and nearly four out of every ten Latinos in California do not have health insurance. For Latino children in this state, the risk of being hospitalized because of asthma is 65% greater than that for white children. If we invest money in asthma patient education and target these services to our Latino communities, we can save our county health care system money by reducing costs for emergency room visits.

ⁱ American Lung Association of Central California, Fact Sheet. www.amerilungcencal.org.

ⁱⁱ California Department of Health Services.

ⁱⁱⁱ American Lung Association, *State of the Air 2000*. www.lungusa.org.

^{iv} National Asthma Education and Prevention Program of the National Institutes of Health.

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