

Better Valley Health

Better Valley Health is a coalition of public workers coming together to advocate affordable, accessible, quality health care for every person in the Central Valley.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our work will be focused on removing barriers to health care in the Central Valley and working to make healthy choices easier.

We will remove barriers by making sure that our healthcare plans are transparent, accountable, and focused on wellness and by working with other organizations to bring better access to healthy food and activities to our work and our communities.

Our current healthcare plans are too expensive for working families and the lack of coverage impacts everyone. Unaffordable healthcare places additional stress on vital public services when workers can't take care of themselves and their families because they can't access medical care.

We want to partner with the board to address problems in our overloaded provider networks, resulting in diminished access to doctors and extensive wait times. There are fewer HMO doctors and more PPO networks. Members are also dealing with loss of service and service denials due to changes in plan design.

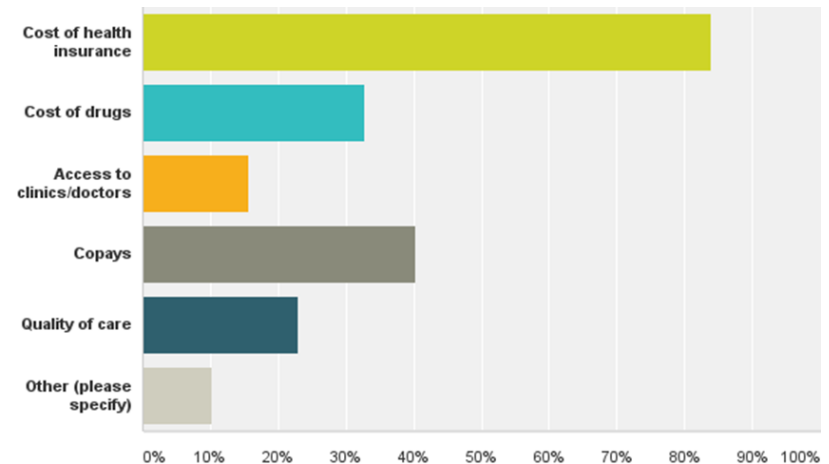
We will work address the inequality in healthcare, to create greater access to information and create a culture where each person's journey toward better health is supported and celebrated at every stage.

Healthcare Survey

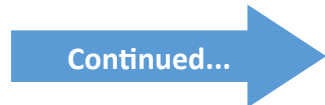
We surveyed hundreds of public workers in the Tulare-Fresno region over the past month— 75% of whom responded they were “Interested” or “Very Interested” in improving their health.

Other notable highlights:

Which of these are challenges in your healthcare coverage?



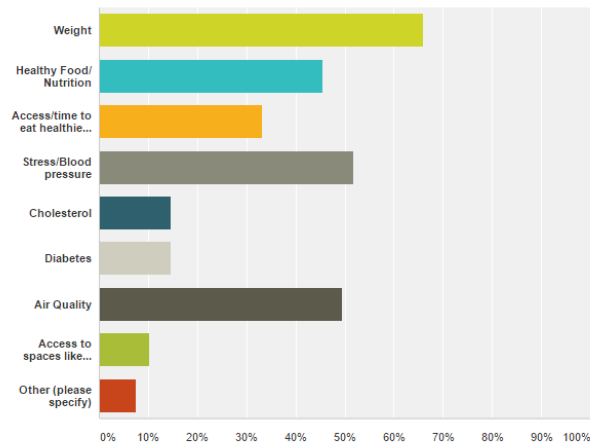
The top 3 concerns center around cost: cost of coverage; drugs; and copays.



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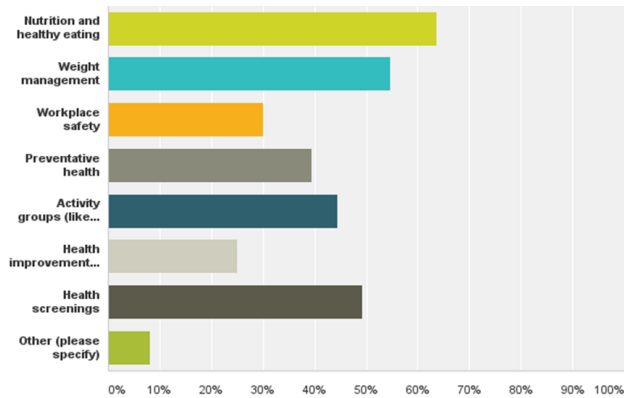
Healthcare Survey Continued

What are your top three health concerns:



Weight, stress, and air quality were the top three concerns.

Which wellness programs would you use at work:



Strong interest in using wellness programs to improve health.

What Individuals Said, In Their Words:

- I find myself holding off going to certain health care appointments due to increased costs and less money to pay for co-pays & medications.
- I desperately need to see a doctor. I have several health problems that either need ongoing care or immediate care. I don't have a prescription for an inhaler that I need.
- I began working for Fresno County last year. I thought I would have good insurance and not rely on Medi-Cal.
- I spend as much now on health care as I pay for my mortgage. I don't even use it since I can't afford co-pays.
- I am trying to improve my life and make a living wage but premiums take 1/3 of my take home pay. I need a second job to live.
- Cost of insurance is so high, I am not able to provide insurance for my family. They have to continue receiving Medi-Cal.

Our involvement:

SJVIA is responsible for more than 17,000 lives across 26 public agencies. As public workers enrolled in the healthcare program, we need to be integral partners in order to ensure the best health outcomes for our communities.

Clearly, SJVIA has problems that need immediate attention. A review of the agency's finances was the first step in the right direction. We will need to do more and do it together with transparency and accountability.

As members of Better Valley Health, we are committed to working with SJVIA to ensure there is affordable, accessible quality healthcare for everyone in the Central Valley.