

Building Healthy Communities

CWDA Conference
October 2011

The Nexus of Place and Health

Tony Iton, M.D., J.D., MPH
Senior Vice President
The California Endowment

The “Why”

The Argument For A Place-Based
Approach To Health

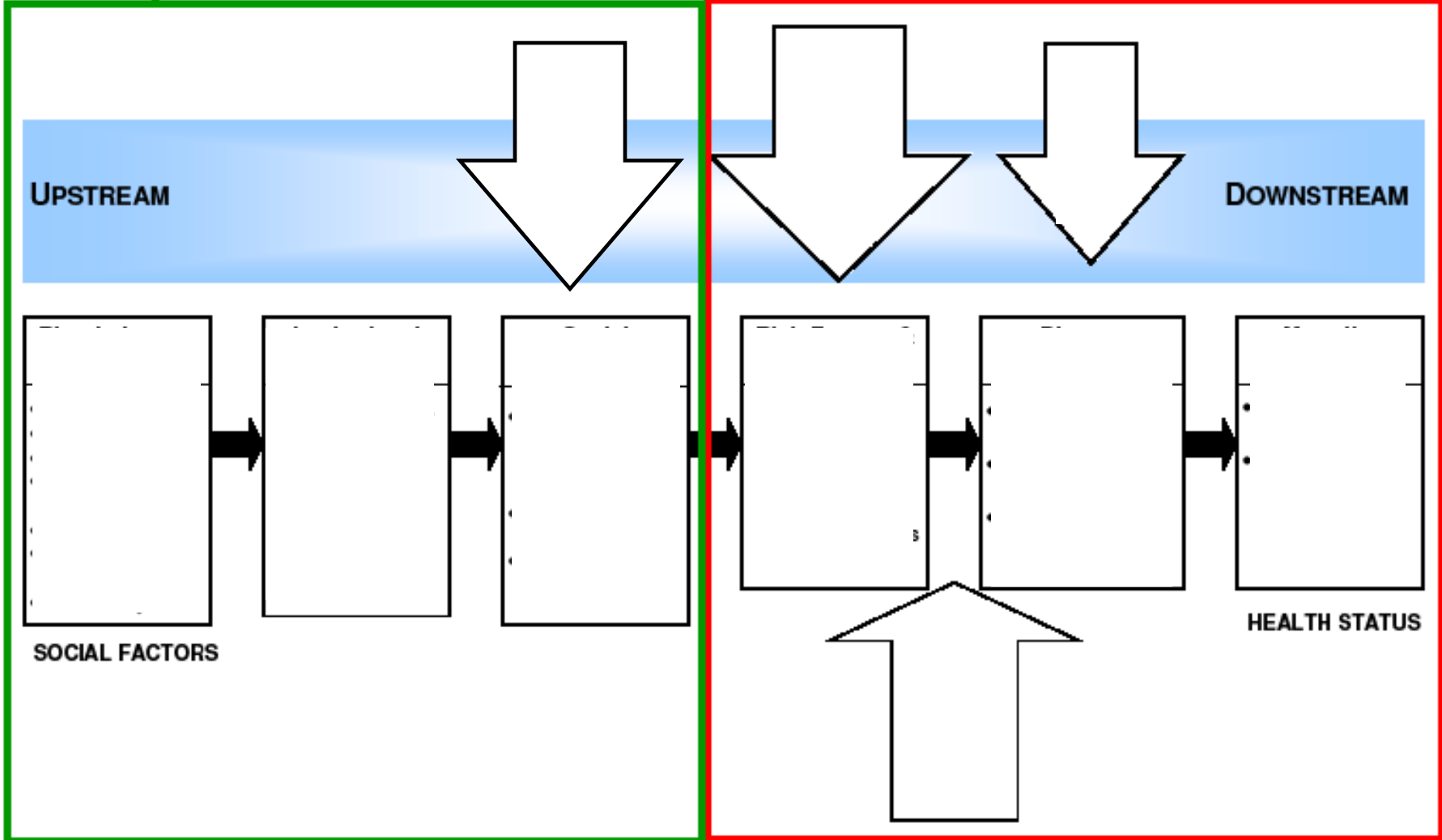
**Achieving Health Equity
Means Fighting For
Social Justice!**



A Framework for Health Equity

Socio-Ecological

Medical Model



Health ≠ Health care

Where You Live Matters

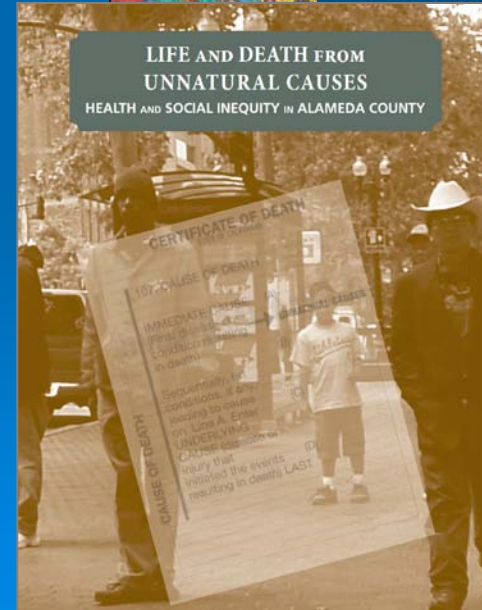
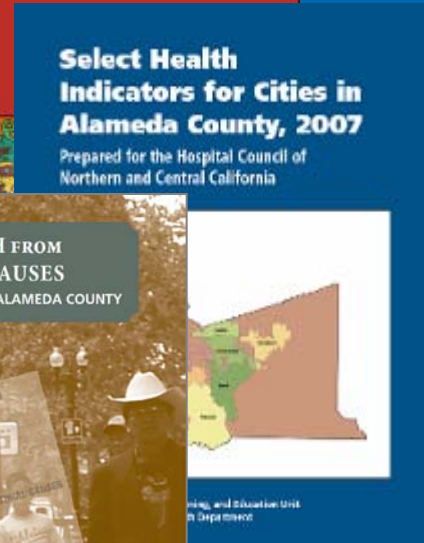
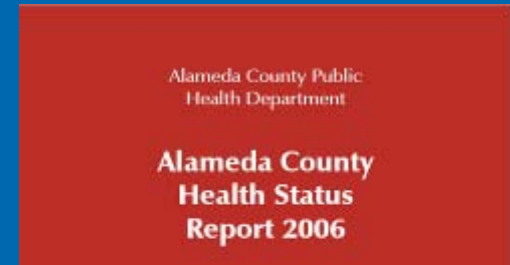
It Matters A LOT!

Alameda County Public Health Department Mission

- To work in partnership with the community to **ensure the optimal health and well being of all people** through a dynamic and responsive process respecting the diversity of the community and challenging us to provide for present and future generations.

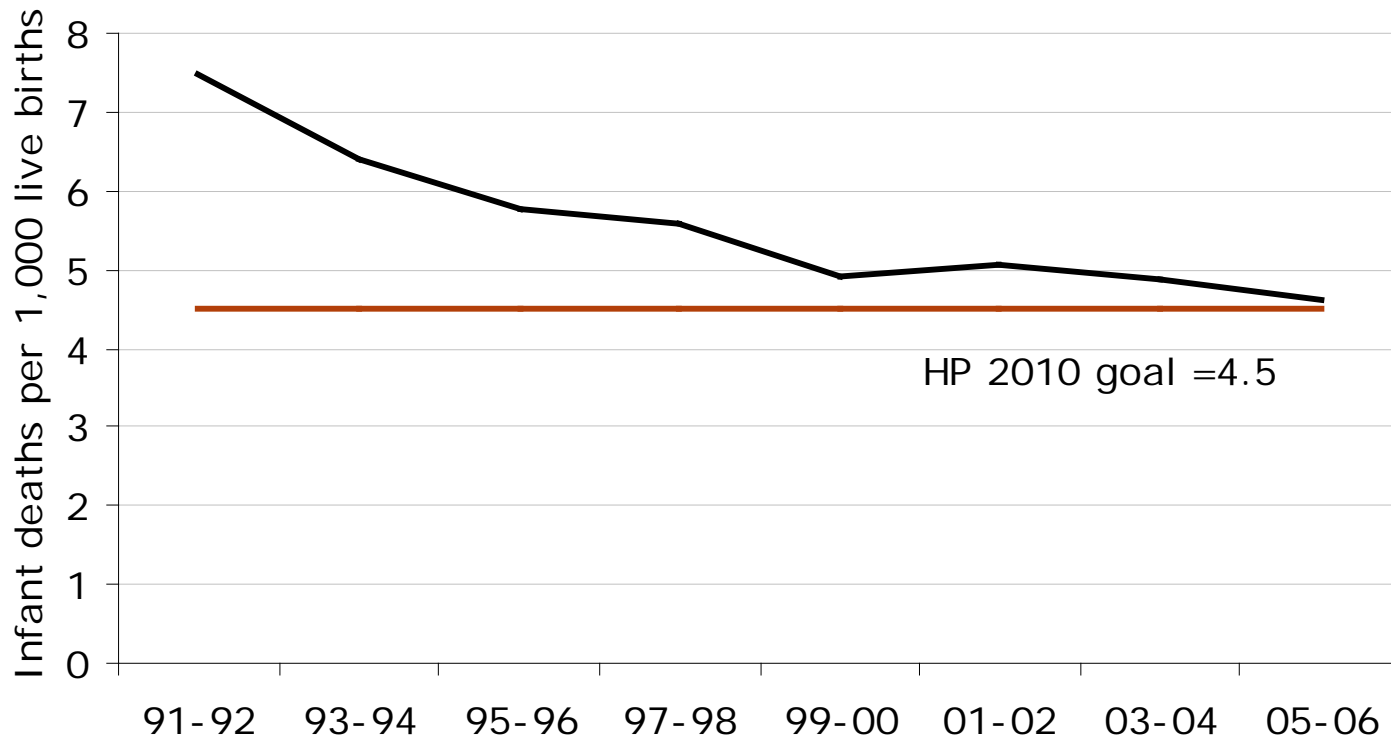
Where we are now

- Overall health has improved.
- Health improvements have not been realized equally across population subgroups in the County.
 - Major inequities in life expectancy and mortality driven by chronic diseases



Infant mortality is decreasing...

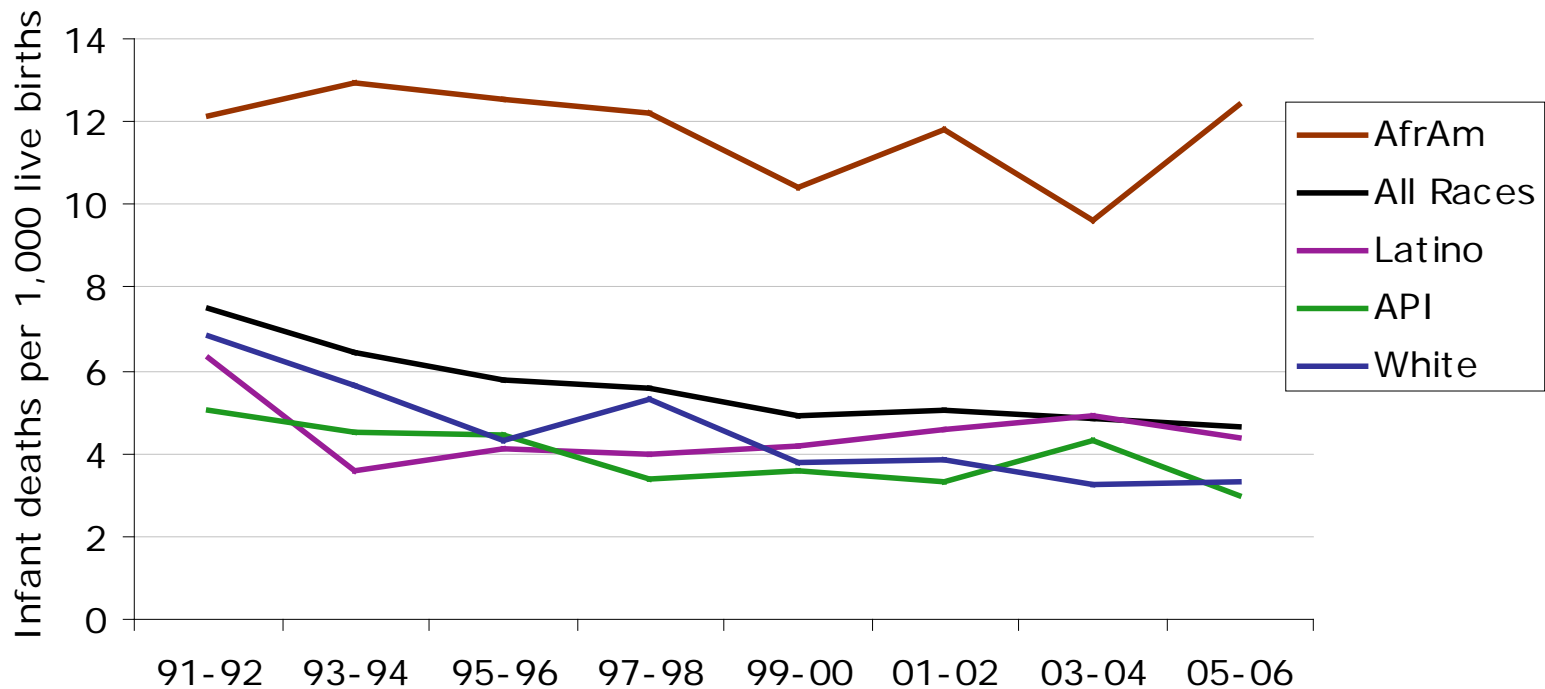
**Infant Mortality Rates
Alameda County 1991-2006**



...but it's far from a success story.

Three times higher rates among African Americans than Whites or Asians/PIs

**Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity
Alameda County 1991-2006**



The Neighborhood Context





