Agency: Salt Lake County Health Department

Project Title:
Evaluating Child and Adolescent Vaccine Coverage as a Function of Health Disparities in Salt Lake County, Utah

Project Description:
Equitable vaccine coverage remains a critical function of public health, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic where vaccination rates for many childhood and adolescent vaccines declined. The Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCoHD) Population Health Division seeks to address health disparities in child and adolescent vaccine coverage across Salt Lake County by applying robust informatics, epidemiological, and community engagement techniques to engage the public and increase trust. This project will improve accessibility of data within the agency through expanded infrastructure, create a vaccination disparity situational report, and leverage the Health Equity Data Analysis (HEDA) framework to investigate and intervene on vaccine access, hesitancy, or resistance that creates the disparities in our community. This project will create a framework to apply to future public health challenges in our community.

SLCoHD staff seek to improve technical and analytical competencies and cooperation across bureaus within the Population Health Division through this project. The Population Health Informatics Bureau (PHIB) will acquire and process data using a secure file transfer protocol (SFTP), perform quality assurance checks on the data, and house the data in a SQL database for easy access. The Epidemiology Bureau will work with the Health Equity Bureau to clean, analyze and visualize the results in an equitable way. Community partner feedback will be incorporated throughout the analysis process using the HEDA framework to ensure conclusions drawn from this project reflect the existing community needs. By incorporating an equity lens and community feedback, the data analysis will aim to not only identify the areas of need, but also the social determinants driving the disparities. The determinants will be reported to policymakers to address the barriers.

This project ultimately creates a permanent and flexible infrastructure to monitor for disparities and respond to them in various sectors of public health. The DSTT program will help SLCoHD accomplish these goals by providing staff with access to resources that improve and expand necessary data science skills.