



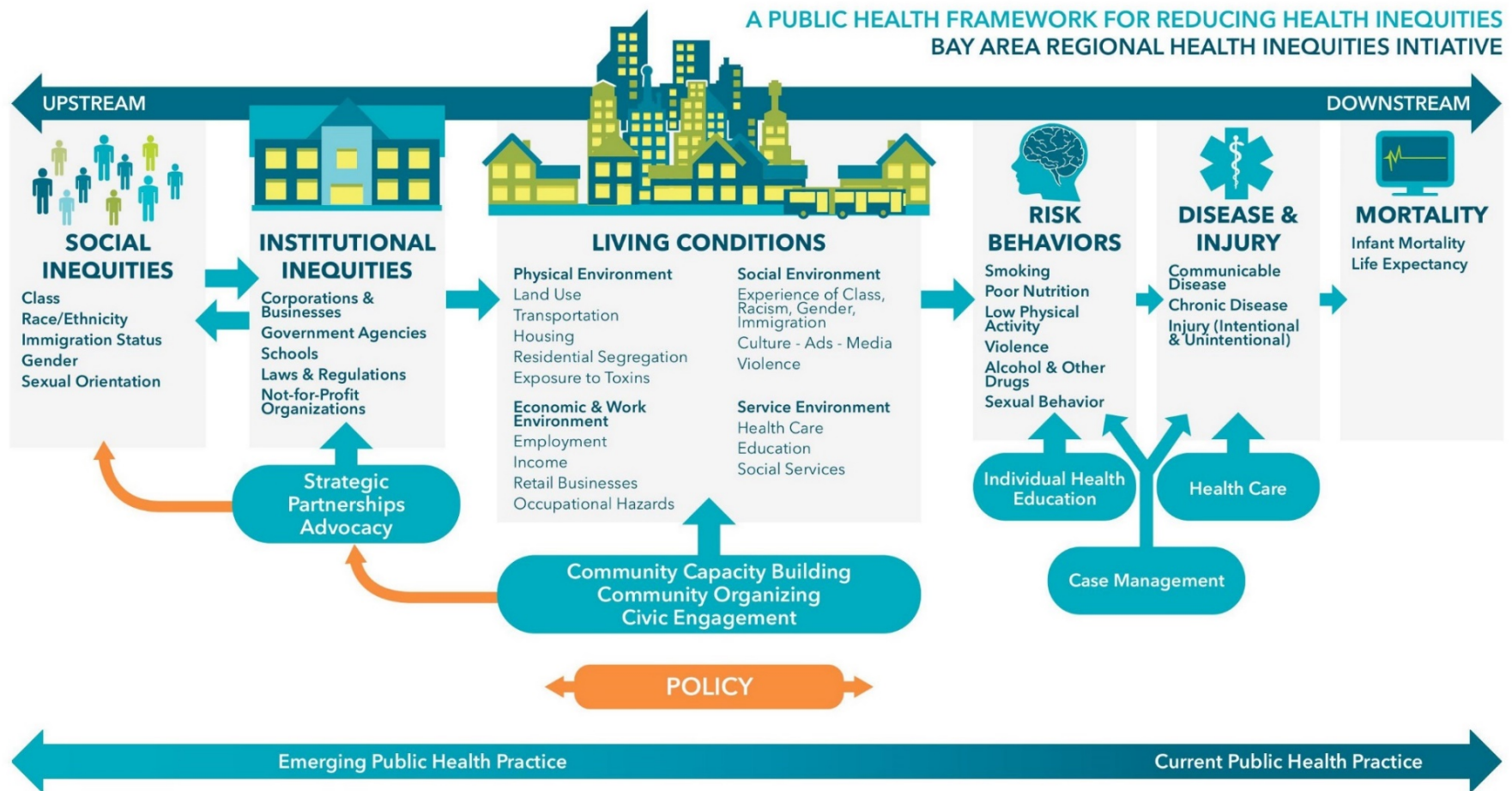
THE NORTH BAY FIRES AND EQUITABLE RECOVERY

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BARHII



THE BARHII FRAMEWORK



CLIMATE CHANGE IS EXACERBATES EXISTING HEALTH INEQUITIES NOW

Climate Impacts

- Extreme Heat
- Air Pollution
- Wildfire
- Severe Weather/Storms
- Drought
- Agricultural Disruptions



Health Impacts

- Death
- Cardiovascular Stress and Failure
- Disease
- Hunger; malnutrition
- Increased cost of water, food and energy
- Illnesses such as Heat Stroke, Heat Exhaustion
- Mental health disorders



Groups Most Impacted

- Elderly
- Children
- Farm/Outdoor Workers
- Diabetics
- Low-Income Urban Residents
- People with Respiratory Diseases



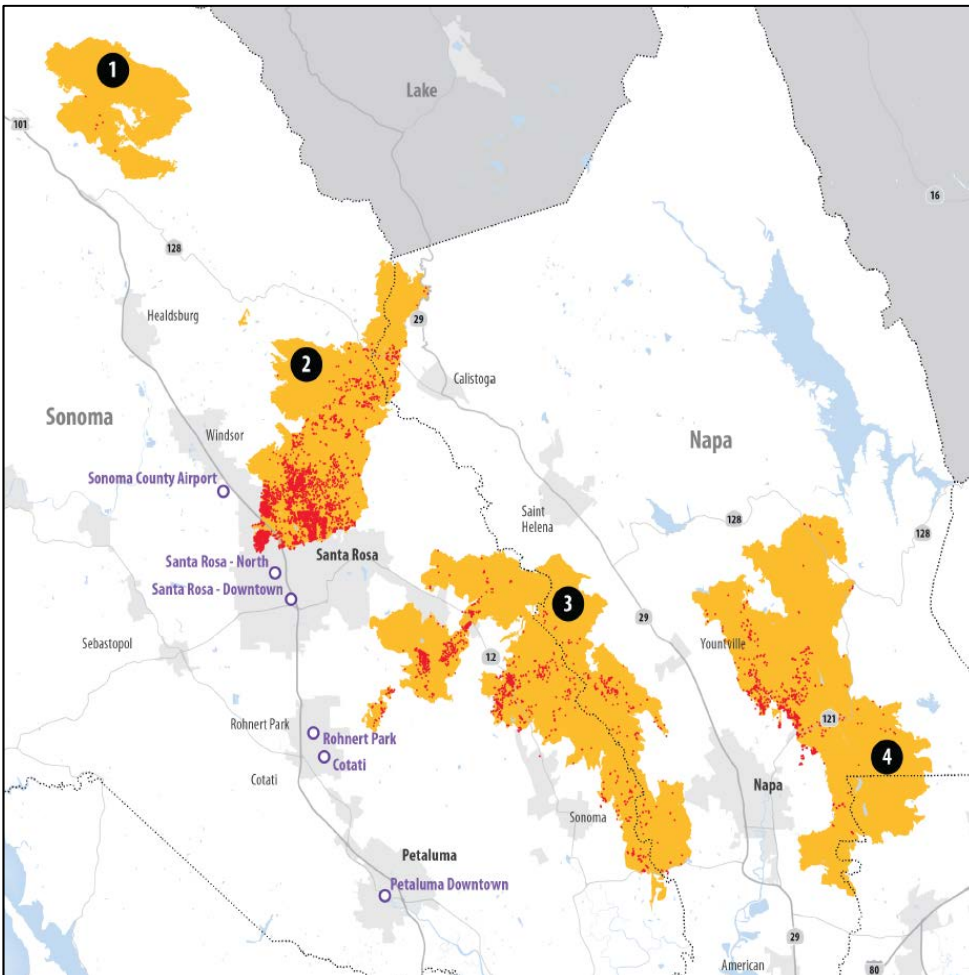


Figure 1. 2017 North Bay Wildfire Affected Areas: 1) Pocket Fire (Sonoma), 2) Tubbs Fire (Napa and Sonoma), 3) Nuns Fire (Napa and Sonoma), and 4) Atlas Fire (Napa).

Damaged or destroyed Structures within Fire Perimeter.
Statewide Fire Map 2017; MTC/ABAG

Source: CalFire

Pocket, Tubbs, and Nuns Fires (Sonoma)

- Over 110,000 acres burned
- Estimated 100,000 people evacuated from their homes.
- 6,686 structures destroyed
- 23 dead

Tubbs, Nuns, and Atlas Fires (Napa)

- Over 70,000 acres burned
- 8,000 structures destroyed
- 31 dead

In Solano County, 6,317 acres in rural areas burned and 2,500 Solano residents were evacuated. Three houses in Solano County were destroyed. Most evacuated Solano residents returned home within days.

A photograph of a destroyed neighborhood, likely after a natural disaster. In the foreground, a large, dark tree trunk stands prominently. A sign is attached to the tree, reading "WE WILL BE BACK BETTER STRONGER IN A PLACE". The background shows a landscape of rubble, debris, and damaged buildings under a clear sky. A white, repeating circular pattern is overlaid on the entire image. A dark grey rectangular box is positioned on the left side, containing the word "FINDINGS" in white capital letters.

FINDINGS

Two Years of Equity Training Prepared Staff to Provide Excellent Service



“The thing that gets forgotten are the soft skills by the staff is the result of two years of preparing our staff. Part of the theme here is that we showed up and we figured out how to improve the process because we had trainings on equity, diversity, social determinants of health, emotional intelligence. We had a high set of soft skills that were translated into interactions with the community...Our folks’ capabilities in handling folks with grace, respect, and professionalism.”

Workers with Low Incomes Have Become Displaced Workers

“Because one of the areas where houses burned was a wealthy area, people who cleaned houses or did landscaping lost their jobs. Kmart and other small businesses burned out, so people who were working there lost their jobs.”

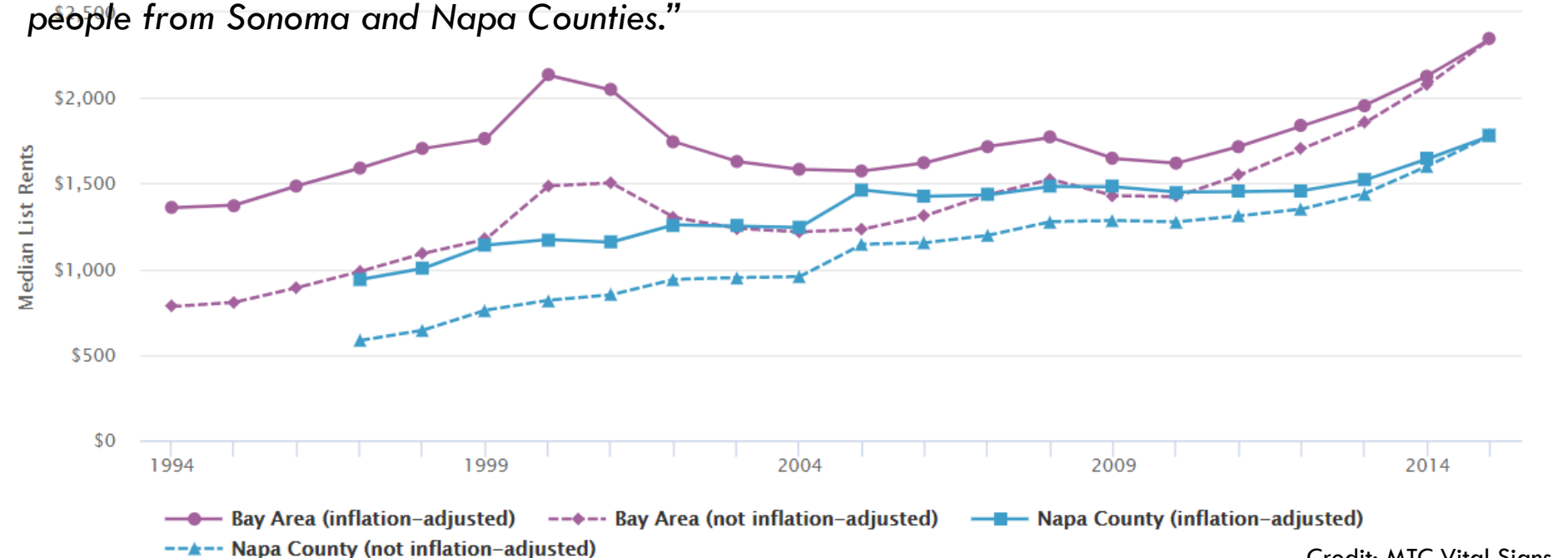
“Sonoma is overwhelmed with rebuilding needs. Economists have anticipated that 6,300 individuals, working full-time for three to five years, will be needed in order to rebuild in the aftermath of the fires. Solano County residents, especially those displaced as a result of the fires, can play an integral role in the rebuilding efforts. Solano County businesses will gain contract opportunities as a result of the fires, which will lead to employment for our displaced workers if proactive measures are taken.”



The Fires Have Exacerbated the Housing Crisis

“The recovery process is exacerbating the inequality. There are few resources and very little help for undocumented people and renters. Some people, mostly homeowners, were able to get help from [the] Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We had stories of homeowners evicting their renters or increasing their rents because of increases in insurance. People are being displaced, pushed out of their homes, and housing is very difficult to find.”

“Renters and people who lost their homes in Sonoma and Napa Counties are moving to Solano County because housing is still more affordable here. This has created pressure in our housing. The extra open housing we had, including apartments and hotels has been occupied by displaced people from Sonoma and Napa Counties.”



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IMPACTS SPENDING ON HEALTHCARE AND FOOD

Low-Income Households that can comfortably afford housing are able to spend:



More on Childcare



1/3rd more on Healthy Food



5x as much on Healthcare

See BARHII Displacement Brief

Image Credit: the Noun Project—Arthur Shlain, Adrien Coquet, UNiCORN, and Aneeqe Ahmed

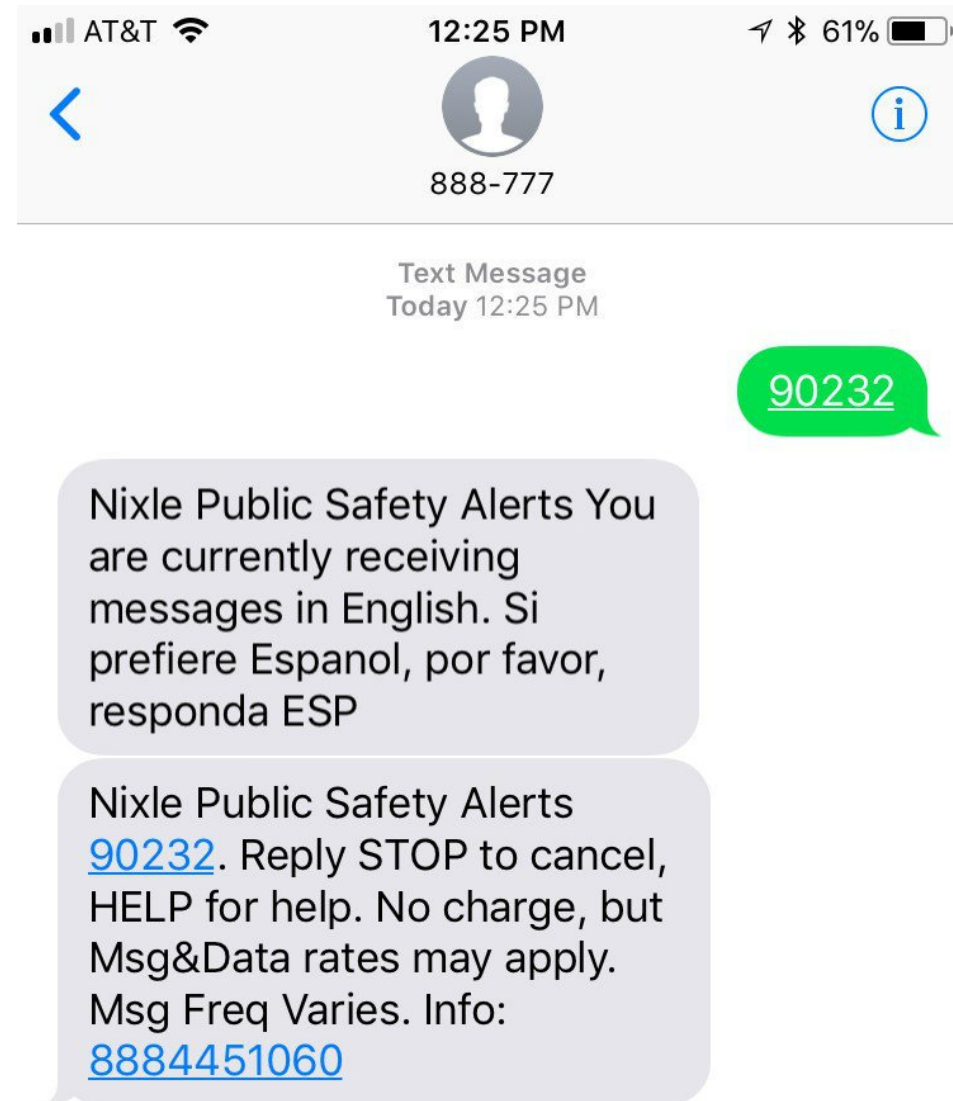
Fear Is a Major Barrier to Recovery for Immigrants

“At the college we were asked to walk through the parking lot because people weren’t coming inside. They were just staying in the parking lots in their cars because they didn’t want to go inside and because there was a rumor that ICE was there, that they were going to take your information, and they were asking you if you were documented in order to stay at the shelter, which they were not, but they did not know that so we were asked to walk through the parking lot and tell people to come in. It’s okay, they were like we’re okay. So, we started posting signs saying everyone is welcome. But that fear was there, if they are going to ask us for information. People wouldn’t even want to give their names.”



Language Capabilities in Community Alert and Warning Programs Were Not Fully Developed

“We did have a lot of feedback about the absence of a second language and we did bring interpreters and even started doing our Nixle in Spanish because it wasn’t something that was happening, and we had to get the approval from the Nixle first, which requires Jesus to come back and bless it. And then we could get it out. The English version would come out and then an hour and a half later the Spanish version would go out because it just took so long to get all of those approvals. “*



Marginalized Groups Needed to be Further Incorporated into the Recovery Process

“The City and the County are not being responsive and inclusive of the needs of marginalized populations. Not at all, is not happening. The planning is by and large happening behind closed doors. The first is awareness from the county side and the community side and that’s not happening. They need to provide culturally responsive meetings to increase the feeling of safety for people who usually don’t come to these meetings.”

“I want to underscore the importance of embedding equity at the beginning of the Framework and connecting it with environmental justice and access to resources, so that those themes are carried across the Framework.”

—COMMUNITY MEMBER

CORE PRINCIPLES

The ways that we plan for the next disaster, incorporate input, collaborate to build the right capabilities, mitigate threats, care for our citizens, and implement the goals and actions in this Framework are guided by a set of core principles outlined largely in the *National Disaster Recovery Framework*. Establishing and adhering to these core principles will help ensure that our recovery efforts are consistent with Federal and State recovery partners and best practices in recovery management. The core principles guide the strategies we pursue, our decision-making, processes and practices. In practice, they maximize the opportunity for achieving recovery success. Their more specific definitions have been informed by input from County leadership, partners, and our community.

SOCIAL EQUITY

All community members who have suffered or will suffer losses have equal voice in informing recovery efforts. Efforts address historic social and institutional barriers to equitable receipt of services and benefits. All individuals have access to resources that equitably address both their physical losses and psychological health needs.

Intake Process at the Local Assistance Center Needed More Coordination

"It wasn't like we assessed what people needed during our intakes, we were getting some demographics, having them wait for six hours, and then had to say we ran out of a particular benefit three hours ago, sorry. For them it was like, 'I can't come back tomorrow, I take care of kids at home or I clean houses.'" For the Spanish speaking community missing even one hour of work and then having to come back for appointments the next day was frustrating. They didn't show frustration to us, but I definitely saw worry in their faces having to go back to their homes and having to face not having food for today or the next week."



Lessons Learned

- Include Threshold Languages in all Communications
- Ensure Broad and Inclusive Public Participation as a Core Mechanism to Drive the Recovery Processes
- Address the Climate of Fear Affecting the Undocumented Community
- Include Public Health Equity Units in Fire Recovery Processes
- Set Aside Funds for Community Based Organizations to be Partners in Disaster Recovery Processes
- Address Housing and Jobs for People Displaced from Housing and Jobs from the Fires

THANK YOU!

Contact us for More Information:

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