

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Event: Thursday, July 10, 2014**



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**Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan to Release New County Obesity Report and Highlight Efforts at Local Schools to Provide Nutritious Food to Families**

*New report finds that obesity adversely affects quality of life and costs billions of dollars*

*Supervisor Chan will present Oakland Unified School District with funds to purchase new refrigerators for innovative nutrition and food redistribution program*

**WHO:** Students and community members will gather with speakers, including:  
**Wilma Chan**, Alameda County Supervisor, Third District  
**Dr. Muntu Davis**, Director, Alameda County Public Health Department  
**Jennifer LeBarre**, Director, Nutrition Services, Oakland Unified School District

**WHAT:** At a press conference with community leaders and students, Supervisor Wilma Chan will release a new report detailing the impact of obesity in Alameda County. The Supervisor will also present Oakland Unified School District with \$15,000, funds that will go towards OUSD's Food Redistribution Program.

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 10  
10:40am to 11:00am b-roll and photography opportunity for media  
11:00am to 11:20am press conference

**WHERE:** Franklin Elementary School  
915 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, CA 94606

**WHY:**

Together with community leaders and students, Supervisor Wilma Chan will release a new report, "The Health and Economic Impacts of Obesity in Alameda County." The report shows that more than half of Alameda County adults and a third of school-aged children are overweight or obese.

Also included in the report is guidance for improving access to nutritional foods for Alameda County families, including public education campaigns and potential policy interventions in schools and county facilities.

Oakland Unified School District's Food Redistribution Program is an example of efforts underway to improve nutrition and address obesity in Alameda County. The program takes healthy, unused cafeteria food that, by law, would otherwise be thrown away, and distributes the food to parents at the school site or to non-profits in the community. Nearly 70% of the re-distributed food is milk that has not reached its expiration date but cannot be re-used in the school cafeteria. Fresh fruit is another healthy item that is commonly distributed.

At the event, Supervisor Chan will announce that her office is committing \$15,000 to this innovative program – funds that will be used to purchase ten commercial-grade refrigerators. These refrigerators will allow OUSD to save and redistribute even greater amounts of nutritious food to the community that would otherwise go to waste.

"Obesity in Alameda County is costing our families both economically and in quality of life," said Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan. "In fact, this new report tells us that diabetes and other such disorders were among the 10 most common reasons for children to be hospitalized in Alameda County. Improving nutritional services in our schools and accessibility to healthy foods in our community will help us fight this public health challenge."

#### **KEY REPORT FINDINGS:**

By surveying health and obesity information for Alameda County since 2006, the report surfaces that:

- The damaging health effects of obesity are creating a diminished quality of life for too many Alameda County residents and costing the County billions of dollars each year.
- **More than half of adults and a third of school-aged children are overweight or obese in Alameda County**
- Children need more access to water as a means to reduce obesity and promote more healthy outcomes.
- **Nearly 70% of senior citizens (ages 65-79) are overweight or obese.**
- Diabetes and metabolic/nutritional disorders were among the 10 most common reasons for the hospitalization of children in the County between 2007 and 2011.
- Heart disease and diabetes—both of which are tied to obesity—were among the 10 leading causes of death in Alameda County in 2010.
- There is a critical need to review the nutritious value of food served by mobile vending trucks near schools in the unincorporated parts of Alameda County.

The report also shows that the economic costs of obesity in Alameda County are significant:

- In 2006, the combined costs of health care spending and lost productivity associated with overweight, obesity, and physical inactivity in Alameda County were estimated at \$2.17 billion, and were projected to rise by as much as 28 percent between 2007 and 2011.
- **In the 2013-14 fiscal year, the County will spend an estimated \$134.7 million to treat obesity-related diseases.**

This report was commissioned by Supervisor Chan with advisement from the Public Health Commission and Oral Health Subcommittee, and was completed by Change Lab Solutions and John Snow, Inc.

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### **About Supervisor Wilma Chan**

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan represents the Third District. She is the Chair of the County's Health Committee, member of the County's Personnel, Administrative, and Legislative Committee, Budget Committee, and Unincorporated Services Committee and former Majority Leader of the Assembly and Chair of the Committee on Health of the California Assembly. Supervisor Chan is the sixth woman to serve as a supervisor in the history of Alameda County.