

Countywide Services Agency

Department of
Health and Human Services

Division of Public Health
Glennah Trochet, M.D.
County Health Officer



County of
Sacramento

Terry Schutten, County Executive

Penelope Clarke, Agency
Administrator

Lynn Frank, Director

September 2, 2008

Public Health Media Contact: Kerry Shearer (916) 875-5881

For Immediate Release

Is Inequality Making Us Sick? Community Dialogues Planned in Sep./Oct.

(Sacramento, CA) – Trinity Cathedral and Sacramento County Public Health are co-sponsoring a series of community dialogues in September and October to explore how inequality has a negative impact on people's health.

The research is very convincing: a person's health and lifespan are directly correlated with socio-economic class, and the stress some persons experience as a result of racism imposes an additional burden on health.

"People generally attribute health differences to behavior, genes or nature, but social conditions can actually 'get under our skin' too and impact our health," said Sacramento County Health Officer Glennah Trochet M.D. "Research shows that the unequal distribution of society's resources results in the unequal distribution of the health of the population."

Each forum session will feature a screening of an episode of the new PBS-TV mini-series "Unnatural Causes," which addresses health inequities, followed by a discussion that will include local experts. The series shows how tackling health inequities requires looking at the ways jobs, working conditions, education, housing, social inclusion and even political power all have a hand in influencing the health of an individual and the community.

The forums will take place at 6:30 PM at Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, on September 11, 18, and 25, and October 2 and 9. "We're committed to serving our community, and we are providing these forums as an opportunity to have the kind of discussion that can make a positive difference in people's lives," said Gwendolyn Doebbert of Trinity Cathedral.

For details on the forums, the public can go to the Sacramento County Public Health web site at www.SCPH.com and click on the "Unnatural Causes" graphic, or call Trinity Cathedral at (916) 446-2513.

(Continued)

Unnatural Causes Forum Details

Location: Trinity Cathedral - 2620 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento

Room: Great Hall

September 11, 2008 - 6:30 PM

"In Sickness and in Wealth"

How health and longevity are correlated with social class,
and racism imposes an additional burden

September 18, 2008 - 6:30 PM

"Bad Sugar"

How chronic disease may result from "futurelessness"

September 25, 2008 - 6:30 PM - Two episodes

"When the Bough Breaks" and "Place Matters"

Possible causes for elevated African-American infant mortality rates;
health of southeast Asians worsens in black urban neighborhoods

October 2, 2008 - 6:30 PM - Two episodes

"Becoming American" and "Not Just a Paycheck"

Why the health of Mexican immigrants worsens in the U.S.;
How employment policy and job security affect health

October 9, 2008 - 6:30 PM

"Collateral Damage"

Why Pacific Islanders are hit by diabetes, heart and kidney disease

Parking:

Free on-street parking after 6:00 PM, or use the parking garage on the corner of 27th and N (entry is on 27th street). If you use a credit card to enter the garage, vouchers are available from the class leader so your credit card will not be charged. When exiting, insert the voucher followed by the credit card you used to enter.

For more information, visit www.SCPH.com and click on the "Unnatural Causes" graphic, or call Trinity Cathedral at (916) 446-2513.