

The Children’s Healthy Living Network Multistate

An integrated approach to building capacity and addressing community and child health in Hawai’i and the Pacific

The Situation

The Children’s Healthy Living Program for Remote Under-served Minority Populations in the Pacific Region (CHL) Network Multistate is a partnership among remote Pacific states and other U.S. jurisdictions: Alaska, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Hawai’i, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, West Virginia, and University of Arizona.

The Pacific region has some of the highest rates of chronic disease in the world. Diabetes, heart diseases, strokes, cancer, and other conditions are affecting Pacific peoples at a disproportionate rate compared to other populations. This places a significant burden on individuals and communities in these island countries and territories.

Childhood obesity is an important determinant of adult obesity, however, child health surveillance systems are absent and training opportunities limited in the region. The CHL Network is a partnership among Land Grant colleges to build capacity to address health issues through research, training, and extension.

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources’ Response

Since 2017, the CHL Network Multistate partners have actively engaged over monthly working group calls and annual meetings to achieve the following objectives:

1. Adapt and disseminate CHL child obesity policy, systems, and environmentally focused, multilevel prevention training and social marketing materials for the Pacific region.
2. Facilitate use of CHL data and findings related to child obesity and its multilevel (policy, system, and environmental) determinants.
3. Promote partnership and coalition building and strengthening in and among Pacific communities and the region around child health.
4. Build and sustain a child health and nutrition monitoring system in the Pacific.



Impact/Outcomes

As a result of the CHL Network Multistate:

- there is an active national network of leaders seeking to expand monitoring, training, research, extension, and policy efforts in Pacific child health and nutrition.
- an additional \$2,325,903 in USDA funds has been awarded in the Pacific.
- more than 200 individuals have received formal education on Pacific child nutrition and health through the online Children’s Healthy Living Program Summer Institute courses.
- standardized protocols for collecting anthropometric measures (weight, height, waist circumference) have been developed and adopted across the network partners.

Children's Healthy Living – continued

- data on the nutritional status of individuals and communities in the region has been collected by measuring 1,753 individuals and assessing 548 community environments.
- CHL data has yielded 12 peer-reviewed publications and been utilized by 30 students in their pursuit of higher education.



For more information, please contact:

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NIFA Critical Issue

Youth/Family/Community Development and Health