Lessons in Data Transparency & Health Equity

2021 CHEAC Annual Meeting

October 7, 2021

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Session Objectives:

1. Identify infrastructure needed to support data transparency.

2. Align data collection and analysis with intended purpose of achieving health equity.

3. Recognize the multiple levels and modalities required to achieve transparency and effect health equity.

Data Analyses

Haruna (Hana) Feldman, PhD, MPH
Chief Data Officer
County of San Diego

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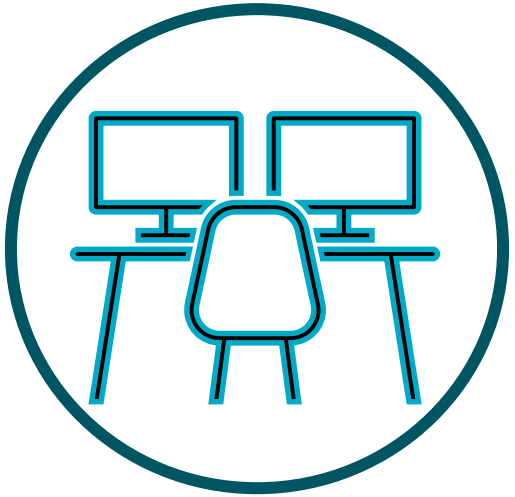
Data Analyses

The Three "S":

Structure

Staff

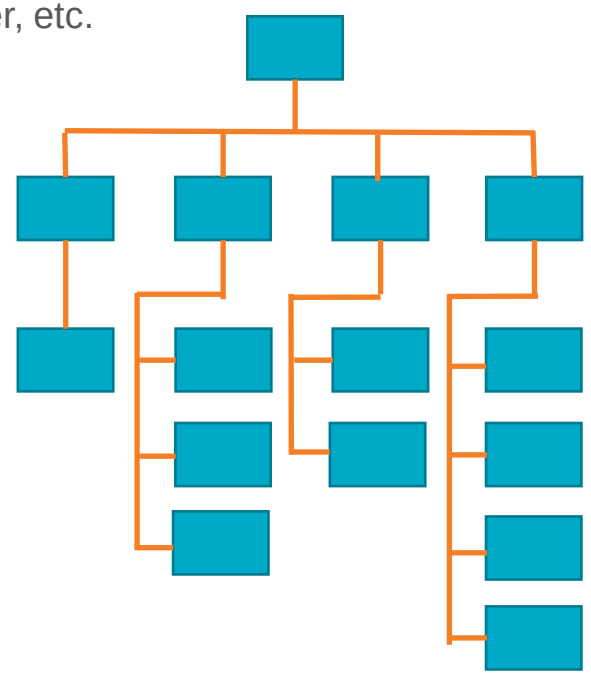


Stuff

Structure

Structure for optimal operations and support

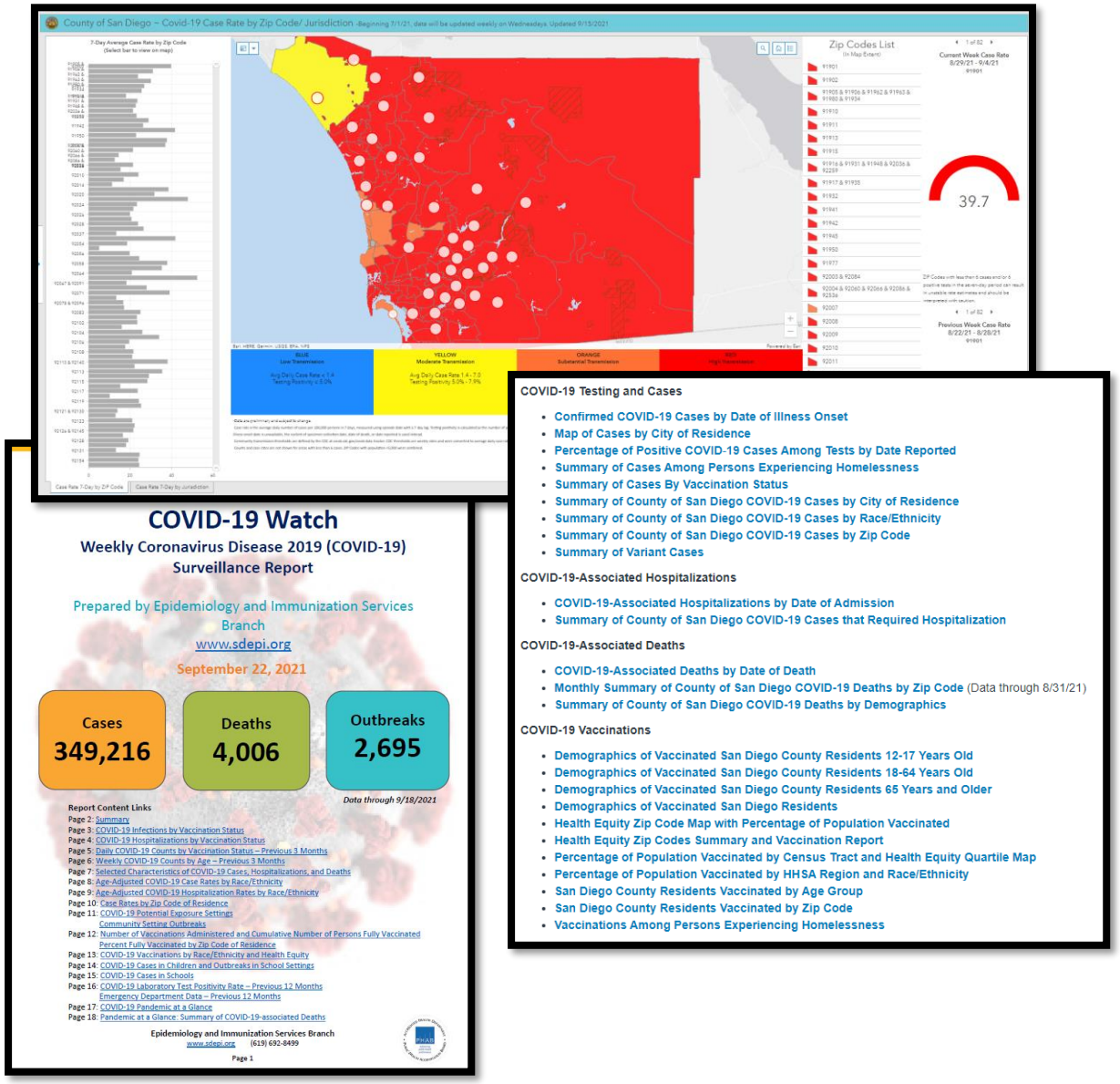
- **Operational**
  - Organization chart with clear roles/responsibilities
    - Improve communications among groups (e.g., weekly meetings, frequent check-ins)
    - Help prioritize tasks
    - Better manage staff time and effort
    - Known contacts for getting quick answers
      - County Counsel, Compliance, Privacy, Human Resources, Joint Information Center, etc.
  - Established relationships with other County department data stewards
    - Routine data reporting processes and collaboration
- **Executive support**
  - Help prioritize requests for staff and equipment
  - Direct access to leadership and decision makers
- **Information Technology**
  - On-site support and “fast-track” support tickets



Staff

Right people with the right skills sets

- **GIS**
  - geocoding
  - visualizations and dashboards
  - analyses
  - QA
- **Data**
  - cleaning and merging
  - analyses
  - visualizations
  - QA



Stuff

Equipment

- **Hardware**
  - Standard desktops took too long to run analyses
  - Standard laptops never meant to analyze millions of records
  - Internet connection slower in some buildings than others
  - Remote connection issues for teleworking staff
- **Software**
  - New teleworking platforms on top of current software programs
  - Data analyses
  - Internal/operations dashboards
  - Public visualizations
  - Open data portals

Data Into Action

Seema Shah, MD
Medical Director, Epidemiology and Immunization Services
County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
Public Health Services

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Without data you're just another person with an opinion.

- W. Edwards Deming

Icongraph

I have data, now what do I do with it?

General Principles

- Transparent
- Consistent
- Easy to interpret

Who is this data intended for?

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- Public
- Epidemiologists
- Action Takers
- Leaders

What message are you trying to convey?

"WE ARE DOING SOMETHING"

"WE ARE WORKING ON IT"

"HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM"

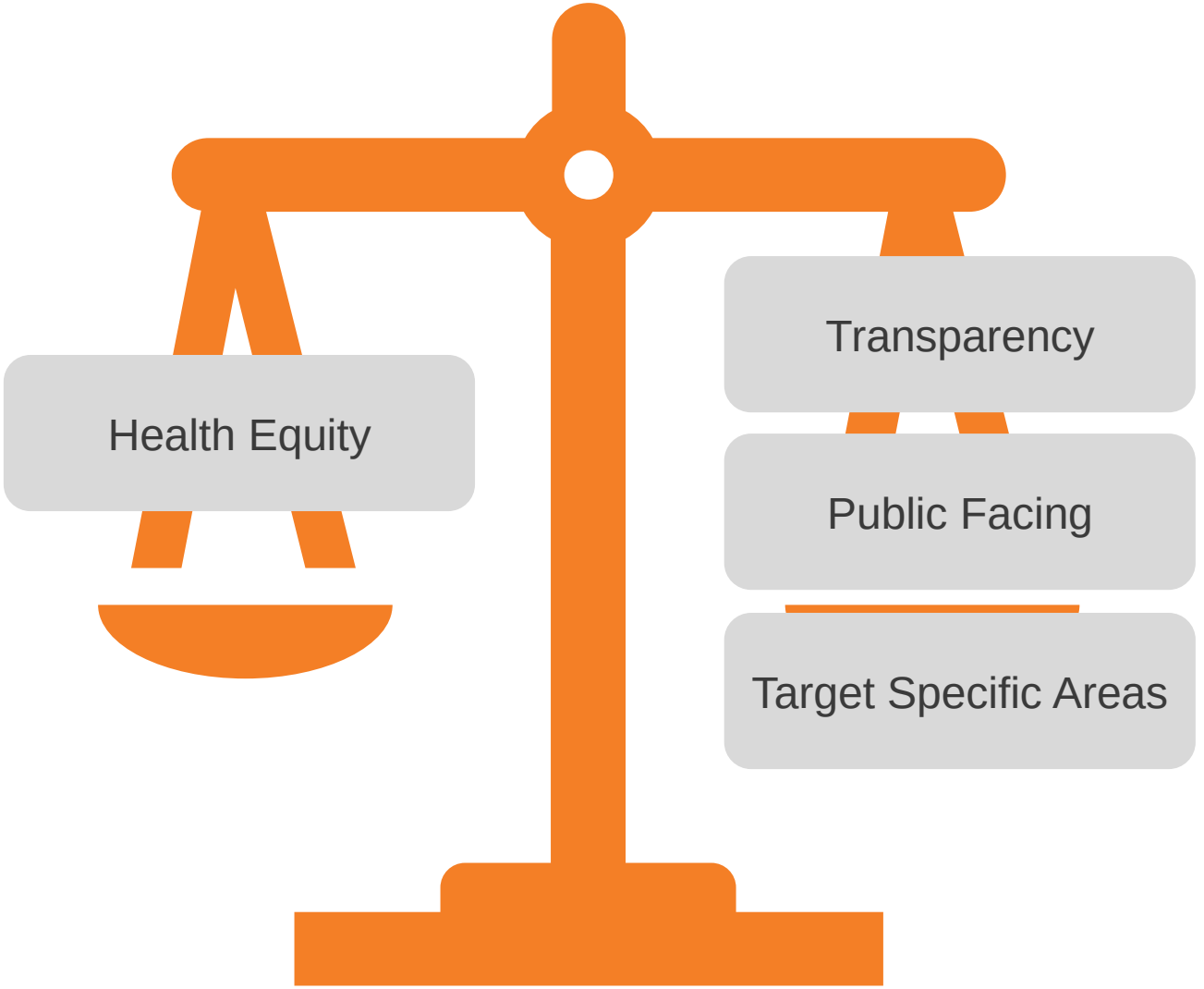
How do you want to display the data?

TABLE

CHART

MAPPING

People of Color Disproportionately Affected


Health Equity
Transparency
Public Facing
Target Specific Areas

San Diego County Residents Ages 12 Years and Older Who Received at Least One Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine					
	12 Years and Older Population	**Total Vaccinated**	**Percentage of Total Vaccinated**	**Percentage of Population Vaccinated**	**Vaccination Rate per 1,000***
	2,833,418	**2,232,455**		78.8%	787.9
Selected Characteristics					
Race/Ethnicity* **					
Hispanic or Latino	875,894 (30.9%)	659,106	29.5%	75.2%	752.5
White	1,317,801 (46.5%)	849,717	38.1%	64.5%	644.8
Black or African American	143,625 (5.1%)	67,246	3.0%	46.8%	468.2
Asian	375,319 (13.2%)	266,889	12.0%	71.1%	711.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12,421 (0.4%)	15,129	0.7%	99%^	999.0^
American Indian or Alaska Native	19,180 (0.7%)	9,386	0.4%	48.9%	489.4
Other/Multiple Race	89,178 (3.1%)	235,127	10.5%	99%^	999.0^
Race and Ethnicity Unknown		129,855	5.8%		

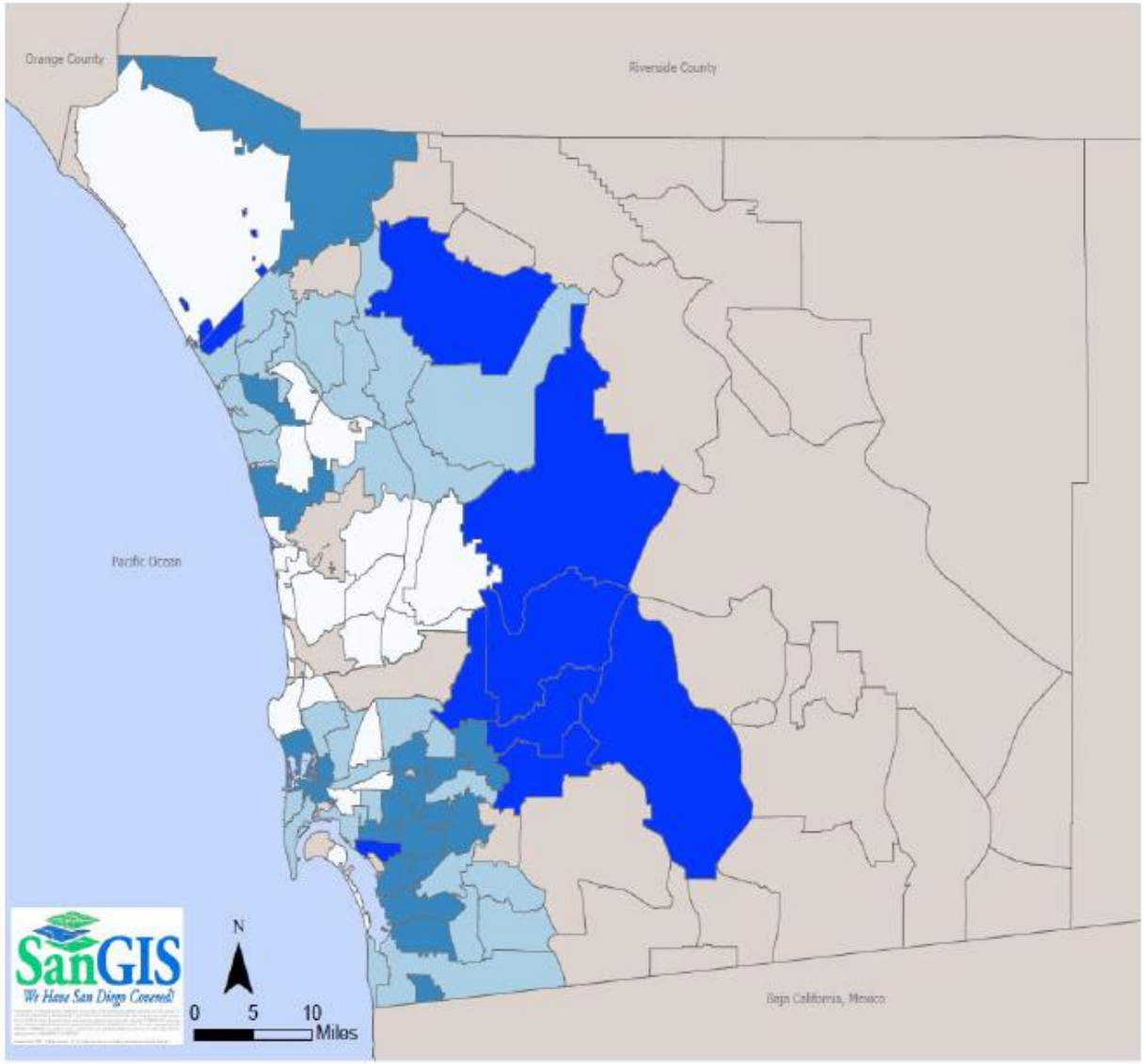
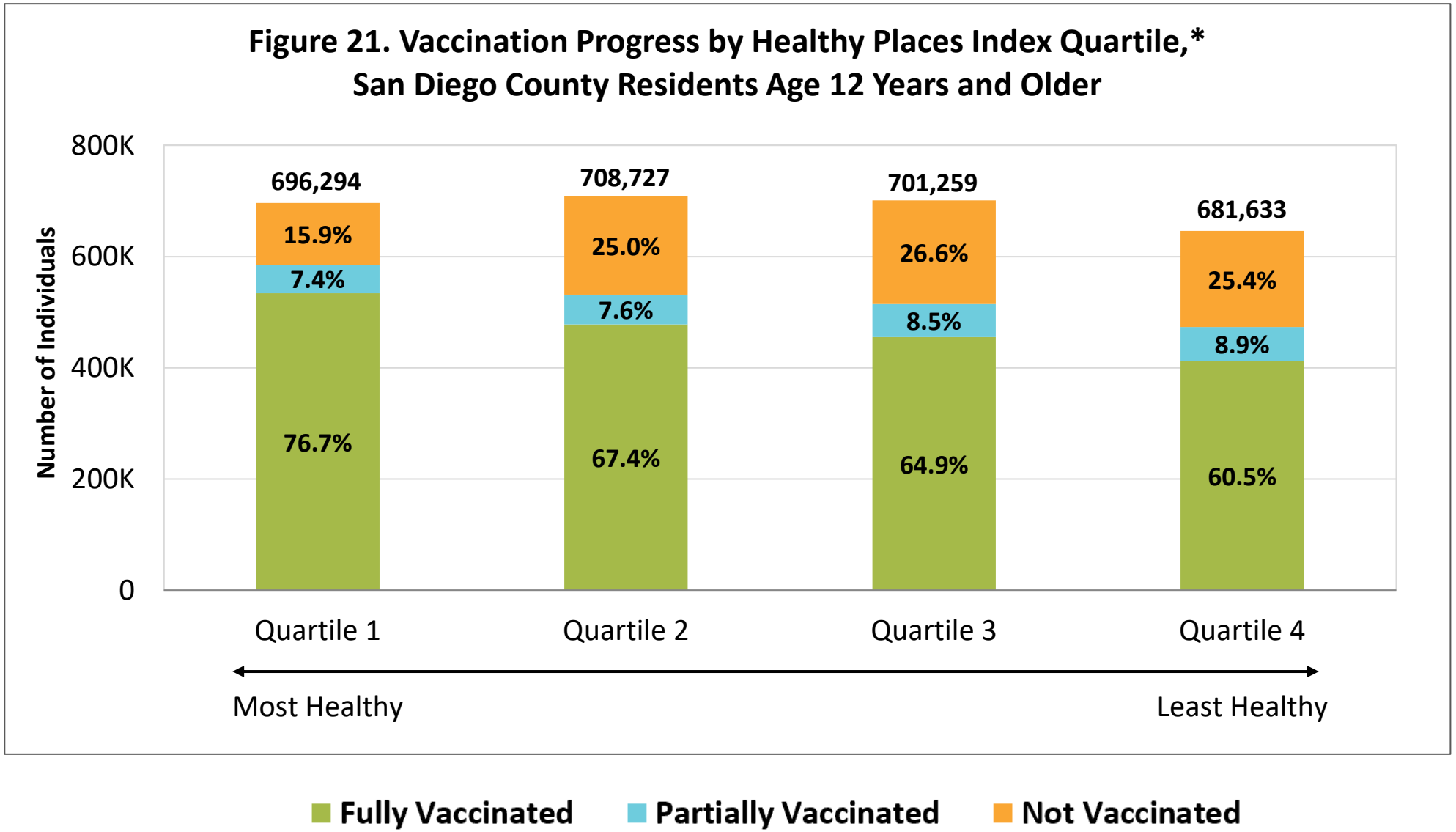


Figure 14. Confirmed Case Rate by Zip Code of Residence, 9/5/2021-9/18/2021, San Diego County (Countywide Rate = 295 per 100,000 Population)

Rate per 100,000 population

- ≤198
- 199 - 287
- 288 - 395
- ≥396
- <5 cases or 10,000 population (rate not calculated)

Figure 21. Vaccination Progress by Healthy Places Index Quartile,*
San Diego County Residents Age 12 Years and Older



Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 12. Age-Adjusted Rates of Hospitalizations by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County Residents

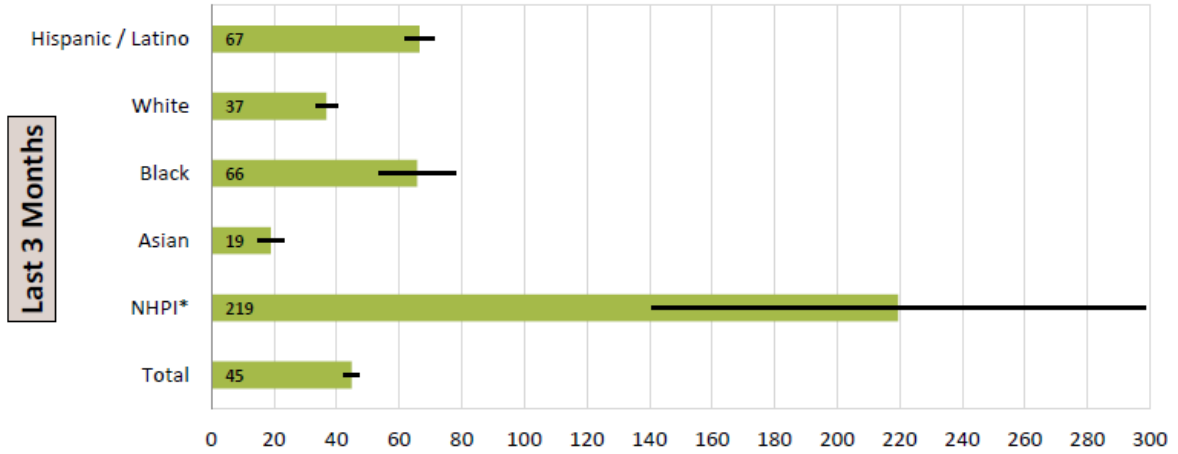
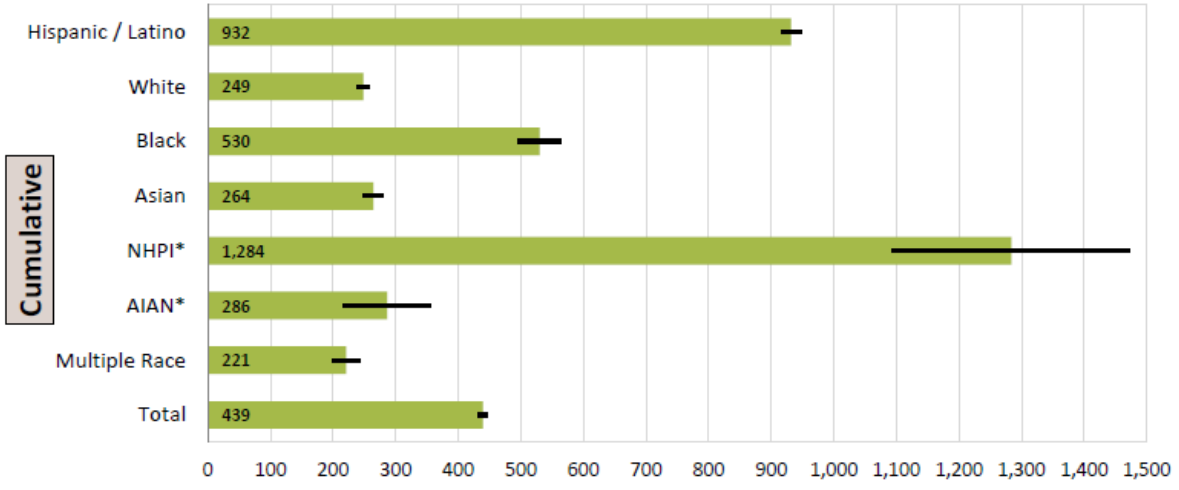
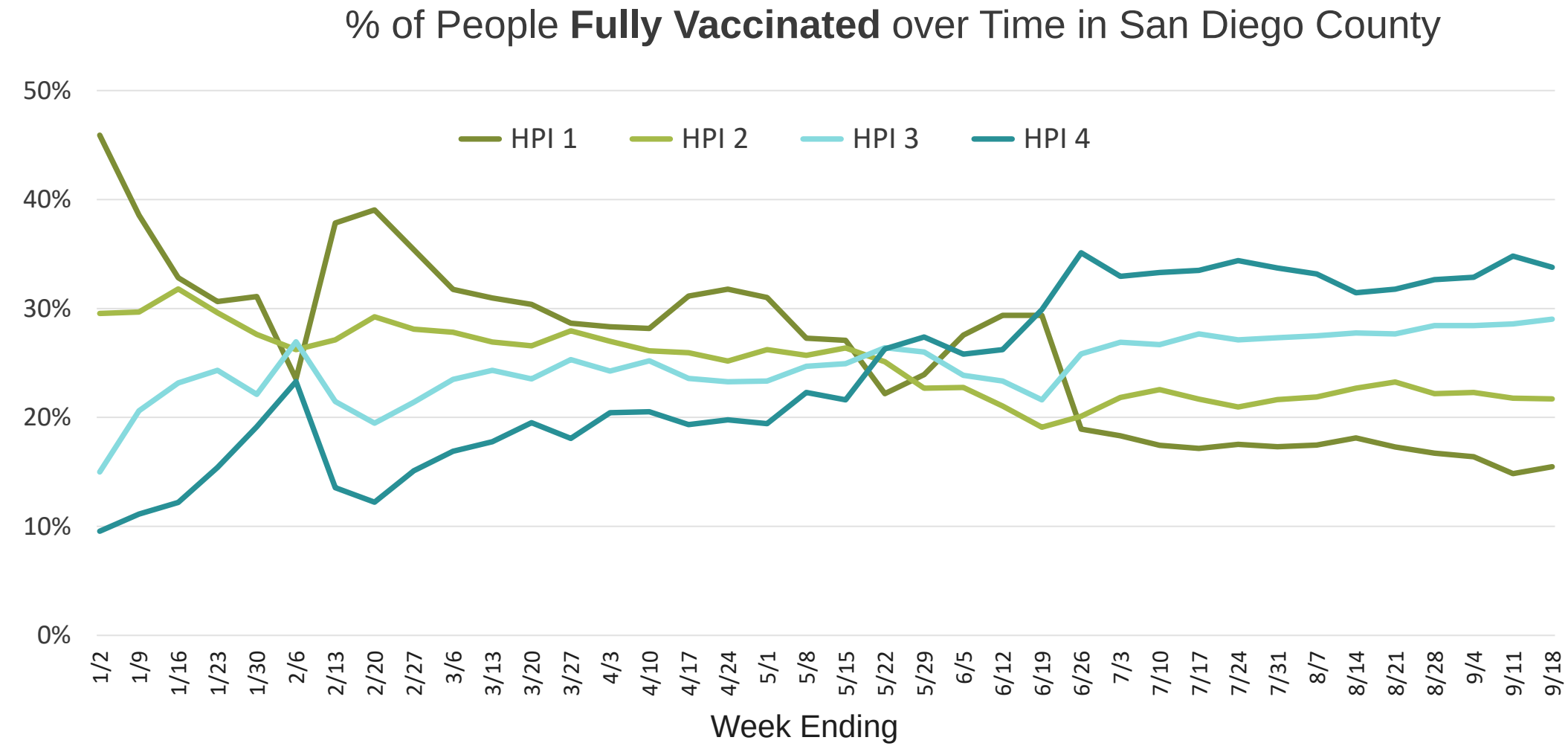


Figure 13. Age-Adjusted Rates of Hospitalizations by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County Residents

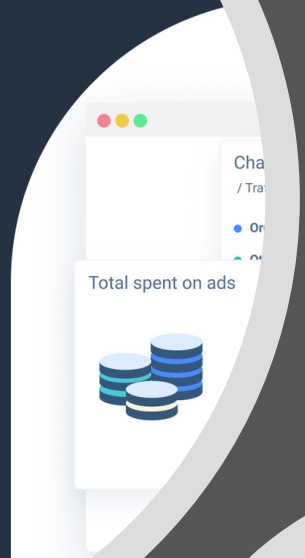


San Diego County Residents Fully Vaccinated by Week



Sample interpretation: Of the individuals fully vaccinated during the week ending 3/27/21, 29% reside in HPI Quartile 1, 28% in HPI Quartile 2, 25% in HPI Quartile 3, and 18% in HPI Quartile 4 also referred to as the Health Equity Quartile.
Source: San Diego Immunization Registry, data through 9/18/21, 9/20/21 update

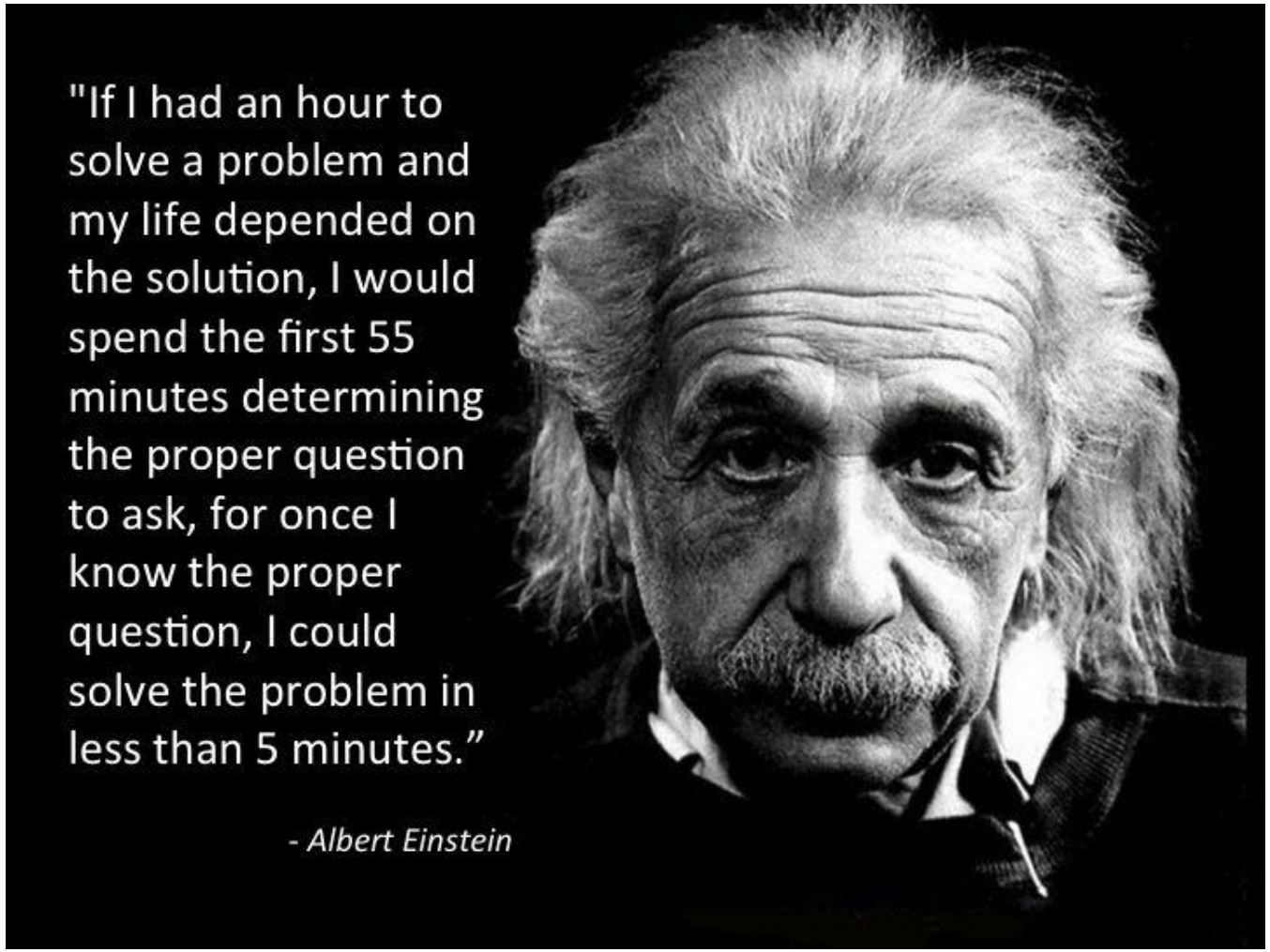
What is **Data interpretation** and how to do it right?



Challenges

- Give them an inch…
- Interpretation of data
- Misinformation

Find your question first!



Footnotes

- Data are preliminary and subject to change
- Rates are calculated using 2019 population estimates from the San Diego Association of Governments
- Persons of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity may belong to any race group. All categories except Hispanic/Latino include persons for whom race is known but ethnicity is non-Hispanic or unknown. SDIR categorizes "Multiple Races" as "Other Race" so all people who report being multiple races are categorized as "Other Race." "Other Race" may not have a standardized definition across data collecting entities or among patients reporting their own demographics

Data Sharing: Transparency

Denise Foster, DNP, RN, PHN, NE-BC
Chief Nursing Officer
County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
Medical Care Services Division

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Who?

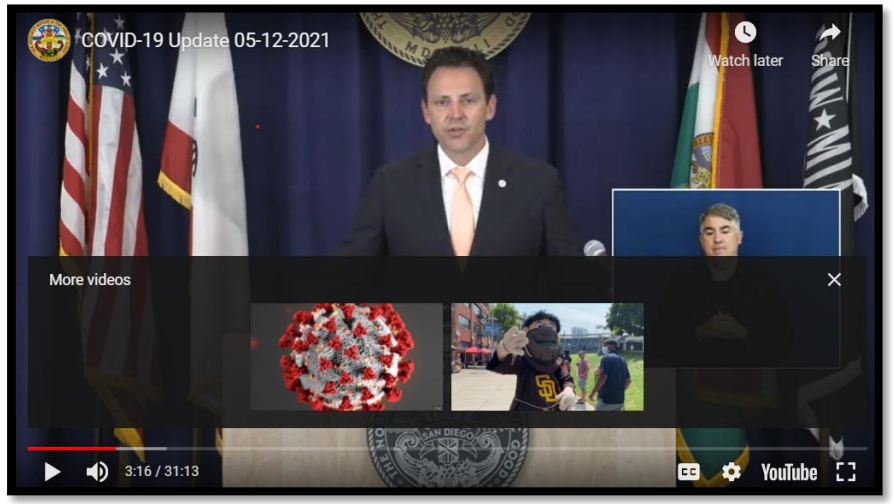
What?

Why?

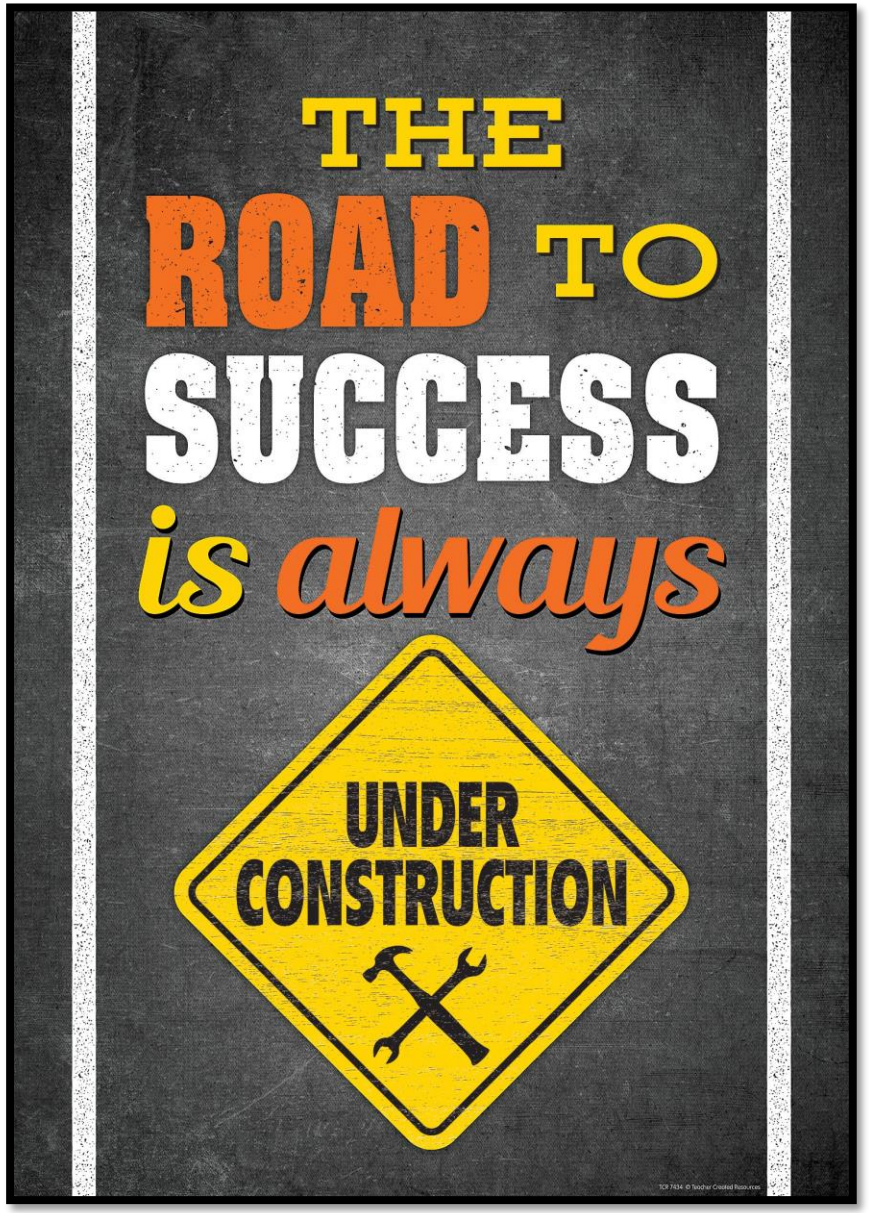
Commitment to Data Sharing

- **Responsibility to Inform the Public**
  - Regular press conferences
  - Townhalls
  - Website
  - Social media

COUNTYNEWSCENTER
DIRECT TO YOU FROM THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



Transparency: Colleagues



Building Equity through Data

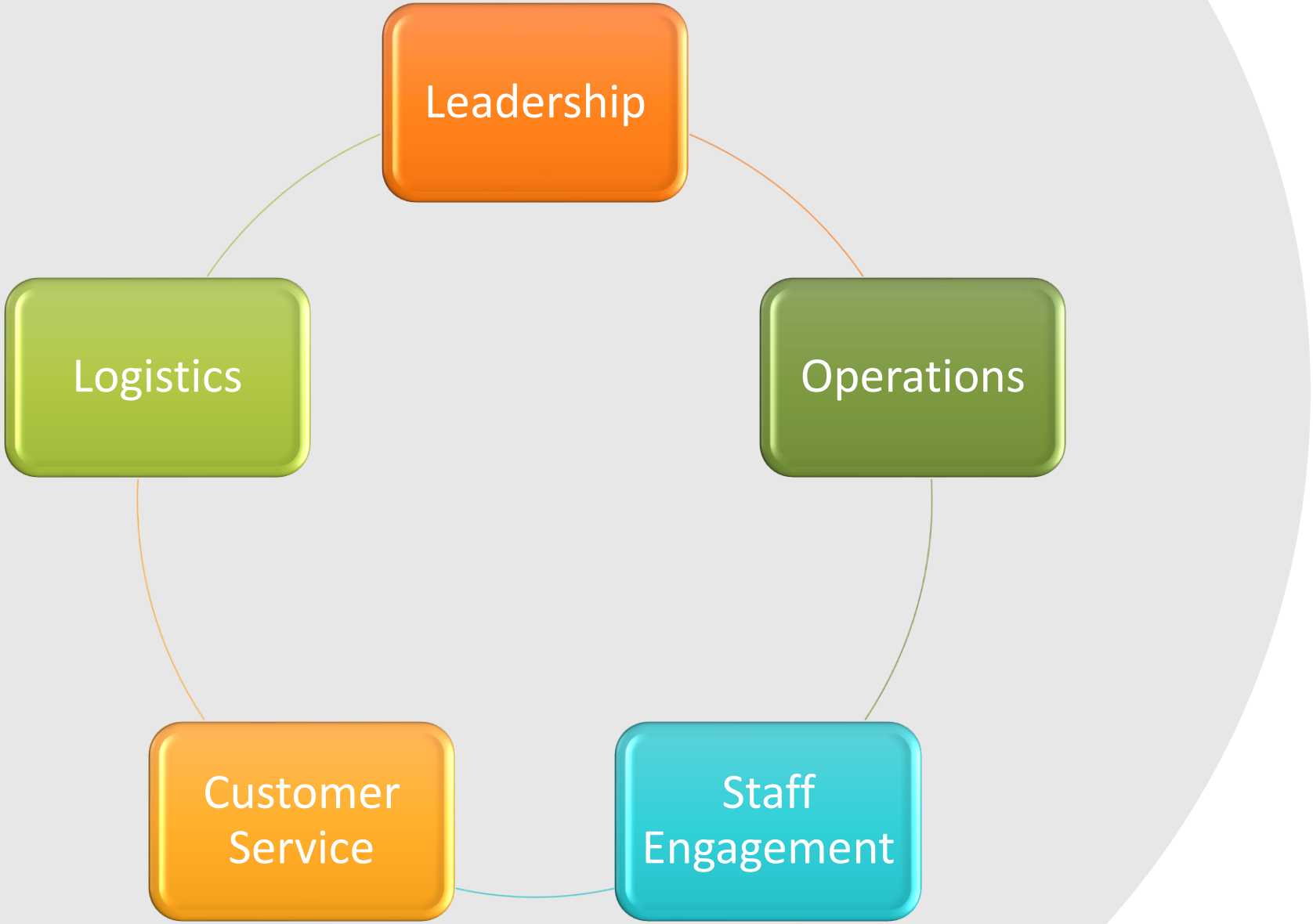
- **Clinical Advisory Council**
  - Determine Vaccine Allocation in a fair and equitable manner
  - County and Community Clinical Leaders
    - County Public Health
    - Hospitals
    - FQHC
    - Providers
    - Tribal and rural communities
    - LTCFs
    - Professional Organizations

Transparency

Building Equity Through Data

- San Diego County COVID-19 Health Equity Taskforce
  - Multicultural Health Foundation
  - Focused decreasing disparities in minority communities-specifically Black/AA communities
  - Providing community outreach, vaccinations and testing services

Transparency: Internal Communication



- Businesses and Employers
- Child Care Services
- Cities, Government and Tribal Nations
- Community-Based Organizations
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Health Professionals
- Homeless Sector
- Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities
- Military and Veterans
- Older Adult and Disability
- Restaurants, Food, and Beverage Providers
- Schools: K-12
- Schools: Colleges and Universitie

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Transparency: Community

Community Sector Support

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