

## **Introduction**

Ruben Abrica, the former Mayor of East Palo Alto, convened an informal Community Health Roundtable Discussion on October 30, 2006 with the purpose of:

1. Gathering specific information, insights, observations on the health situation of East Palo Alto residents
2. Exploring social and environmental justice issues that impact the health of the community
3. Asking for suggestions on how city government can become a stronger advocate on health issues

At that meeting, the need for an open dialogue surrounding health issues and the sharing of community-based knowledge of health was identified. In an effort to do so, Ruben and Janine Bishop came up with a project for Stanford School of Medicine's Peds 252 class that would involve a first year medical student (Kristen Whitaker) collecting existing health reports and assessment from community leaders, assessing the needs and priorities of the community and creating an annotated bibliography for dissemination to East Palo Alto. Kristen worked with 3 other members of the "Health Profile Team" (Janine Bishop, Alberto Perez and Greg Bodin) to compile this health profile from existing community reports.

This health profile contains summaries of 10 East Palo Alto specific health reports collected and summarized by topic. This report is an attempt answer the following questions:

1. What is known about the health of East Palo Alto's residents?
2. What is not known about the health of East Palo Alto's residents (where are the gaps in knowledge)?
3. Are there multiple groups working on similar health issues who may be interested in sharing knowledge?
4. How can a health profile be designed for East Palo Alto that will be useful to the community and kept up to date?
5. What are the health needs and priorities of the community?

The health profile is meant to be a living document that will change with time and the accumulation of new knowledge surrounding the health of East Palo Alto.