



THU QUACH, PHD

Thu Quach, PhD has been working in public health and health care for 25+ years. Her research, service, and advocacy work have been grounded in her own lived experience as a refugee from Vietnam, and the struggles her family faced in the health care system. Trained as an epidemiologist, she has conducted community-based research, focusing on Asian Americans and immigrant populations, including examining occupational exposures and health impacts among Vietnamese nail salon workers. This work was inspired by her own mother, who passed from cancer at the age of 58, after working as a cosmetologist for decades. These research findings have contributed to the seminal work that has shaped policy changes and advocated for worker rights and safety.

Dr. Quach is the President at Asian Health Services, a federally qualified health center in Oakland serving 50,000 patients in English and 14 Asian languages. She is involved in local, statewide, and national research and policy efforts to promote health equity, including emphasizing the importance of language justice and data disaggregation. In recent years, Dr. Quach has been leading the organization in addressing racial disparities in COVID-19, including starting up a culturally and linguistically competent community testing site, contact tracing targeting Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), and vaccination efforts. In addition, she has been conducting groundbreaking research on COVID-19 impacts on the AAPI population, and launched efforts to collect stories of language and digital barriers faced by the AAPI community during the pandemic. Her recent work has focused on responding to anti-Asian violence and addressing mental health gaps for this population.

In her personal capacity, she helped form a national 501c4 organization in 2017 – PIVOT (Progressive Vietnamese American Organization), which engages and empowers Vietnamese Americans across the country for a just and diverse America. PIVOT work has focused on voter empowerment, fighting disinformation, policy advocacy and helping other refugee populations.