

Santa Cruz County

Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Community Profile 2017-18

Demographics

Our Community

Total Population ¹	271,495
Total Population, African American	2,330
Total Population, American Indian/ Alaskan Natives	1,025
Total Population, Asian/Pacific Islander	12,181
Total Population, Hispanic	90,754
Total Population, White	157,908
Total Live Births ²	2,867

Our Mothers and Babies

% of women delivering a baby who received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester of their pregnancy ²	82.6%
% of births covered by Medi-Cal ²	52.3%
% of women ages 18-64 without health insurance ³	19.4%
% of women giving birth to a second child within 24 months of a previous pregnancy *	34.2%
% live births less than 37 weeks' gestation ²	6.8%
Gestational diabetes per 1,000 females age 15-44	9.4
% of female population 18-64 living in poverty (0-200% FPL) ³	33.5%
Substance use diagnosis per 1,000 hospitalizations of pregnant women*	19.5
Unemployment Rate ⁴	11.7

Our Children and Teens

Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 births (ages 15-19) ²	22.1
Motor vehicle injury hospitalizations per 100,000 children age 0-146	10.0
% of children, ages 0-18 years living in poverty (0-200% FPL) ³	41%
Mental health hospitalizations per 100,000 age 15-24*	1,189.3
Children in Foster Care per 1,000 children ⁵	5.3
Substance abuse hospitalization per 100,000 aged 15-24*	620.9

Data sources: ¹ CA Dept. of Finance population estimates for Year 2015, January 2013; ² CA Birth Statistical Master Files 2011-2013 Annual Average, 3 year average; ³ California Health Interview Survey, 2014; ⁴ [State of California, Employment Development Department, February 2017](#); ⁵ [Data from CA Child Welfare Indicators Project, UC Berkeley Point in Time Jul 2015](#); ⁶ [California Department of Public Health, Safe and Active Communities Branch](#); *Data carried over from the Community Profile 2015-2016. Not updated.

About Our Community - Health Starts Where We Live, Learn, Work, and Play

Santa Cruz County is located on California's central coast, and is the second smallest county geographically in the state with approximately 445 square miles. It is an oblong county bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean and Monterey Bay, to the east by the Santa Cruz coastal mountain range and the counties of Santa Clara and San Benito, and by Monterey County to the south. San Mateo County is north of Santa Cruz County. There are several watershed regions and two larger rivers, the San Lorenzo and the Pajaro.

The principal industries and employers in this county are agriculture, technology, tourism and the educational institutions of U.C. Santa Cruz and Cabrillo College. The county has 8 state parks and 7 state beaches, 24 county parks and open spaces, and about a dozen other city parks and dog parks. Significant work has been accomplished toward pieces of a north/south, almost county line to county line, rail trail that that would be accessible to all, including bike and wheelchair; however, the project

still needs work before it is completed. Walkability in Santa Cruz is good, in both the parks and the road systems, and the county has an excellent bus service that connects with nearby counties. The main limiting factor for walkability is safety: this is related both to gang and to social issues in pockets of the county, as well as commuter corridors, through which heavy automobile traffic prevents people on foot or bike from sharing the road safely. Bike lanes have been painted green in heavily populated areas of downtown Santa Cruz and in Soquel village to increase bike safety – especially in areas where cars and bikes need to intersect. There are goals to expand this practice to other high traffic areas of the county.

Health System – Health and Human Services for the MCAH Population

There are three birthing hospitals in Santa Cruz County- Dominican Hospital, Watsonville Community Hospital, and Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center- that provide obstetrical services with approximately 3,300 births occurring per year. Of note, roughly 500 of those births are to residents of other counties -- primarily Monterey (80%); there are also about 200 births that occur outside of Santa Cruz County to residents and close to 100 births that are delivered in non-hospital settings. Prenatal care is provided by either the two large medical groups (Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Dignity Medical) or by two FQHCs with five clinics spread across the northern, southern and middle portions of the county. Kaiser Permanente added clinic services including obstetrical care in our county in 2016.

For pediatric and adult care, there are six community clinics and four county-run clinics that provide primary care to the Medi-Cal population, as well as some private providers whom accept Medi-Cal. Several of the community clinics and the county-run clinics have developed integrated behavioral health programs, and the county Behavioral Health serves those with major mental illness. There are three community dental clinics, as well as some private dentists that provide adult and pediatric dental care to the Medi-Cal population.

Access to health insurance has improved with the Affordable Care Act, but challenges with timely access to care persist. A gap in care coverage for high-risk (e.g., homeless and/or substance using) perinatal patients exists as well as the ability for these clients to access early prenatal care and have continuity of care. In addition, few private obstetrical providers accept high risk Medi-Cal clients into their practice for 3rd trimester care. We are in the midst of addressing this issue with community partners and with the private obstetricians, and have implemented a Nurse Family Partnership program as of May 1st, 2017.

Health Status and Disparities for the MCAH Population

Key health disparities in Santa Cruz County are somewhat decipherable by geography since the demographics are quite different in the southern portion of the county compared to the northern half. In the southern region, also known as the Pajaro Valley, the largest incorporated area is the city of Watsonville. In Watsonville,¹ the population is fairly young (32% under 18 years), predominately Latino/a (81%), largely foreign born (39%), and less of the population has completed higher education (10% with a bachelor's degree or higher among persons age 25 and older). The per-capita income was \$17,087 between 2011 and 2015. Recent estimates of the homeless population, enumerated 440 homeless persons in Watsonville in 2015.² A large segment of the population is employed in the agriculture sector, gang violence is pervasive, and teen pregnancy is more common. Health conditions of concern include obesity, diabetes, and hypertension.

The northern area of county includes the incorporated city of Santa Cruz. In the city of Santa Cruz,¹ the population is older

(only 14% under 18 years), primarily non-Hispanic white (67%), less foreign born (14%), and a larger percent of the city has higher education (52% with a bachelor's degree or higher among persons age 25 and older). The per-capital income between 2011 and 2015 was \$30,391. The 2015 homeless census enumerated 831 homeless persons in Santa Cruz city – nearly twice the amount in Watsonville. 2 Among northern county residents, the primary health concerns include mental health and drug and alcohol abuse. There are also many residents living on or near the Santa Cruz Mountains where income and property values range drastically from some of the wealthiest residents to some of the poorest, and the health outcomes are just as variable.

(1) U.S. Census Quick Facts, data accessed on 4-24-2017

(2) Santa Cruz County Homeless Point-in-Time Census & Survey, 2015 (Applied Survey Research)