





Health Issues

“I go without my prescribed medication because Medicare won’t pay for them.”

—Telephone survey respondent

Legend

No. County	North County – includes Bonny Doon, Capitola, Davenport, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Soquel	✓	Indicates a key indicator
So. County	South County – includes Aptos, Corralitos, Freedom, La Selva Beach, Pajaro and Watsonville	□	Provides a description of what the indicator means or measures. Note: not every indicator has a description
SLV	San Lorenzo Valley – includes Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Felton, Lompico, Mount Hermon and Zayante	📄	Indicates no new data for a particular indicator is available
	Indicates a question for which percentages do not total 100 because each respondent was allowed to select more than one answer	% Change	Describes change in value between the current and previous year data
	Indicates statistically significant survey responses in the 2000 data	☎	Denotes a telephone survey question
		👥	Indicates a respondent profile

Community Goals

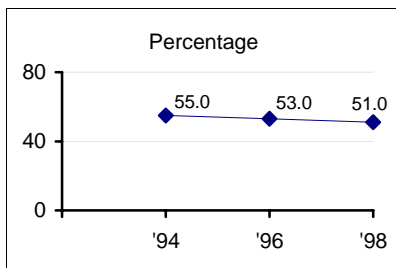
By the Year 2004, Santa Cruz County residents will have access to primary medical and dental care.

By the Year 2004, Santa Cruz County youth alcohol and other drug use will be at or below the statewide average.

By the Year 2004, Santa Cruz County residents over age 60 will live healthy and independent lives.

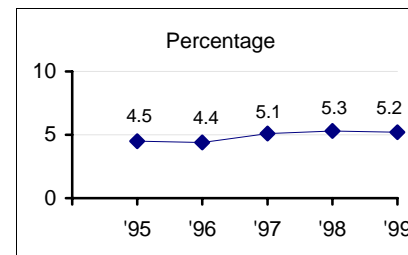
Key Indicators

Student Alcohol and Drug Use



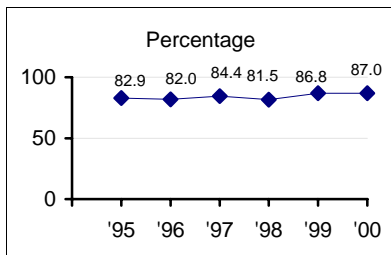
✓ Percent of 11th graders reporting use of alcohol in the last 30 days

Birth Weight



✓ Percent of low birth weight births (under 5.5 lbs.)

Primary Health Care



✓ Percent of respondents reporting that they have a regular source of health care

Health Summary

The CAP results for Health are mixed, although Santa Cruz County residents enjoy better health overall than the statewide, national or peer county averages.

The proportion of residents with a regular source of primary health care continue to increase, from 82% in 1996 to 87% in 2000. Those with health insurance increased from 73.3% in 1996 to 83.1% in 2000. However, that still means an estimated 40,000 uninsured residents in the County.

The numbers of uninsured continue to increase throughout the nation in part due to welfare reform and loss of Medicaid/Medi-Cal coverage and in part due to the expansion of entry level and low income jobs that do not provide health insurance coverage for workers. Santa Cruz County had 6,000 fewer Medi-Cal enrollees in April, 2000 than in 1997. Healthy Families only enrolls 2,200 out of an estimated 5,000 eligible children.

The performance of the health care system for preventive services has improved. The percent of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester increased by 2% over the past five years. Those with inadequate prenatal care (Kessner Index) decreased slightly. Percent of newborns with low birth weights declined slightly from 1998 to 1999, but the 1999 low birth weight rate is still 18% higher than the rate was in 1996.

Further, the percent of children in child care centers with up-to-date immunizations has increased from 75.6% in 1997 to 92.3% in 1999. But in each of these three years, our rate was below the statewide average. The same was true for children entering kindergarten. We do not have comprehensive data on the most vulnerable age group of children, ages 0-2 years, because we do not have an Immunization Registry or other systems to collect such data.

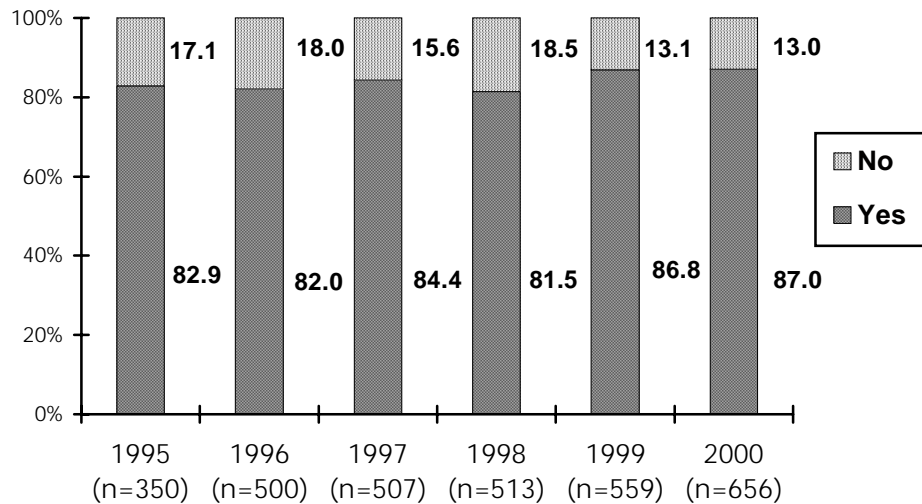
Residents are also taking better care of themselves. The number of alcohol outlets in our county has declined by 2.9% since 1998, but we still have more alcohol outlets per 1000 population than the statewide average. As reported last year, use of both alcohol and marijuana by Santa Cruz teens has declined since 1993-1994, as it has statewide and nationally. Tobacco use by teens also is on the decline in our state and county, while nationally it has increased by 31% since 1991 (*The Nation's Health*, August 2000). Other drug use by our teens has either held steady or declined, but overall drug use by our youth exceeds state and national levels.

Health care gaps between Caucasian and Latino residents remain significant. Latinos are less likely to have health insurance, a regular source of primary care, access to dental care, and first-trimester prenatal care, but more likely to have teen births.

Thank you to David R. McNutt, MD, Health Services Agency, for contributing to this summary.

Access to Health Care

Do you have a regular source of health care?




Due to their low numbers, respondents who said “don’t know” are not included in the graph.

Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

✓ Key Indicator

Adequate access to primary care allows for prevention or early treatment of disease, and reduces the need to utilize more expensive sources of care.

 *If yes, where do you go? (Top four responses)*

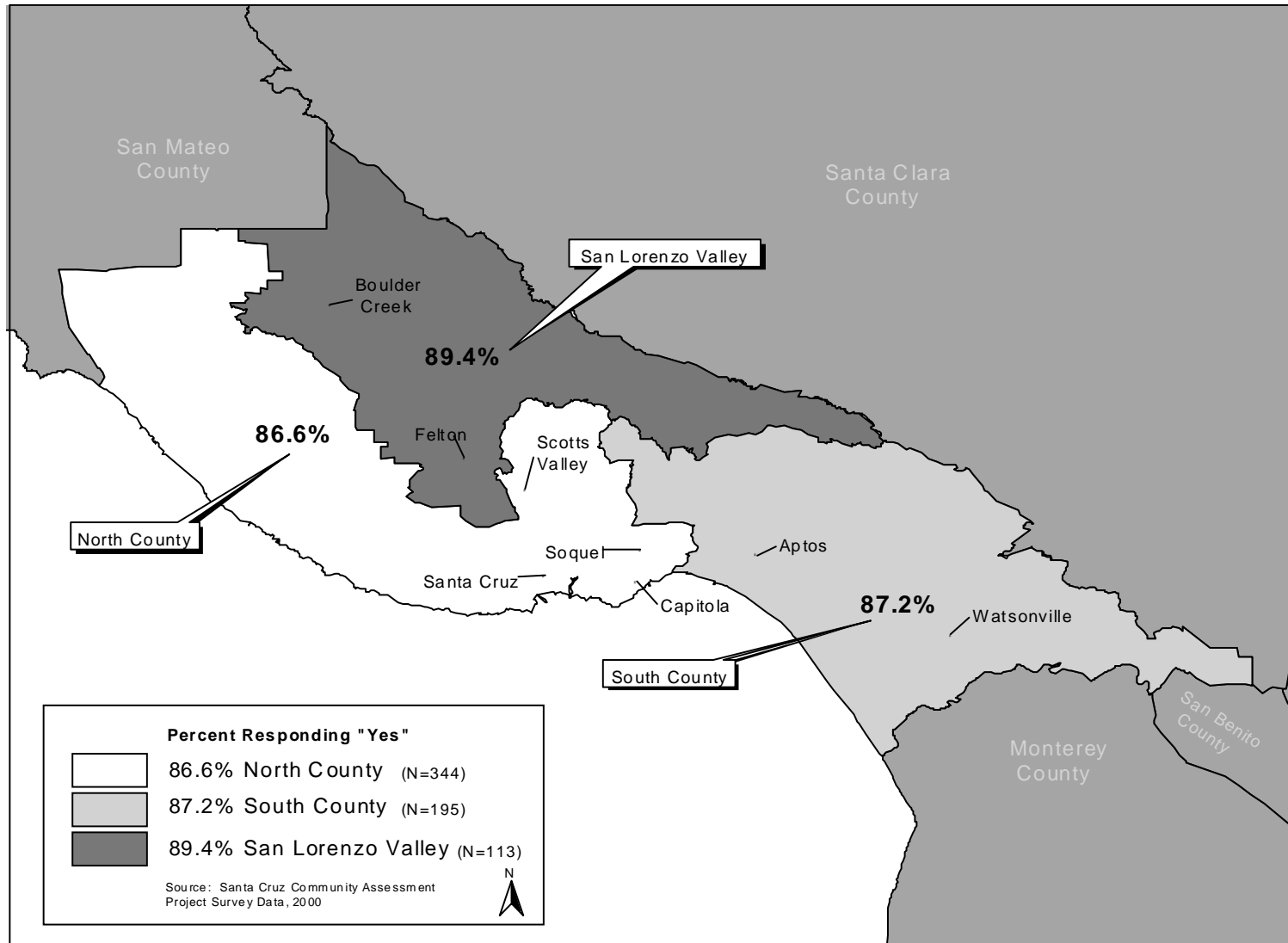
Response	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Private Doctor	57.1	60.7	71.8	52.7	58.5
Medical Clinics	22.5	23.6	36.7	35.3	34.1
Community Clinic	N/a	7.1	5.8	6.4	6.7
Urgent Care Clinics	9.6	11.7	16.5	2.4	6.5
Emergency room	2.9	10.3	12.6	0.8	1.6

Year 2000: 569 respondents offering 624 responses.

Quality of Life Indicator 47

Access to Health Care


Do you have a regular source of health care?




Access to Health Care


Respondent Profile


Percent of respondents who answered “yes” to: “Do you have a regular source of health care?”

 By Ethnicity	1998	1999	2000
Caucasian	84.4	87.6	89.6
Latino	71.7	80.7	79.6

By Region	1998	1999	2000
North County	82.0	86.5	86.6
South County	84.4	86.7	87.2
San Lorenzo Valley	81.5	90.0	89.4

 By Age	1998	1999	2000
18-24	-	69.5	80.2
25-44	-	85.6	85.2
45-64	-	91.6	91.1
65 and older	-	96.3	91.5

 By Gender	1998	1999	2000
Male	-	84.4	83.3
Female	-	88.7	89.6

 By Income	1998	1999	2000
Under \$15,000 per year	-	72.5	73.8
\$15,000 - \$34,999 per year	-	81.1	81.7
\$35,000 - \$64,999 per year	-	87.1	95.0
Over \$65,000 per year	-	97.4	94.6

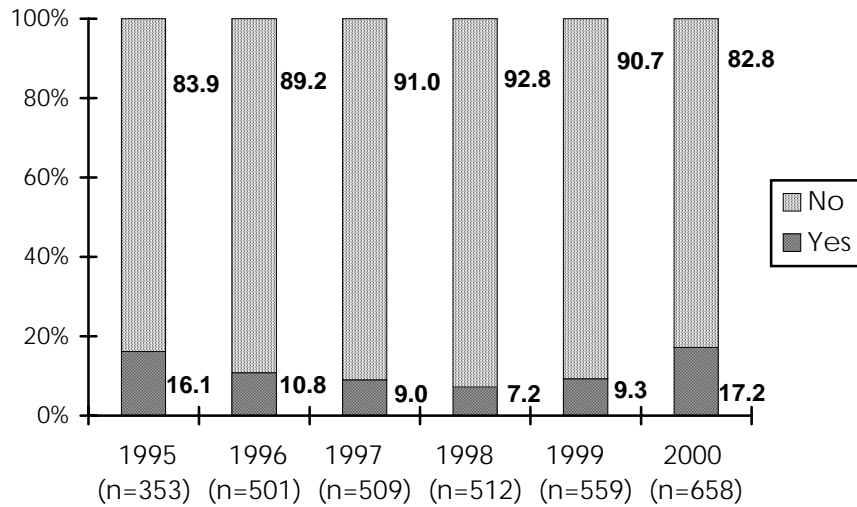
Total Respondents	513	559	656
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Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.


Quality of Life Indicator 47

Access to Health Care

*Have you needed health care (including alternative health care) in the past year and been unable to receive it?**



* Question was reworded in 1999 to include "alternative health care".

 *If yes, why couldn't you receive it? (Top three responses)*

Reason	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Couldn't afford it	28.3	35.9	50.0	33.3	43.1
No insurance	26.7	20.5	26.5	31.4	33.3
Insurance wouldn't cover it	6.7	23.1	11.8	17.6	31.4

Year 2000: 102 respondents offering 116 responses.

Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

Low Income Health Care - CCAFH

Number of Persons enrolled in Medi-Cal Managed Care plans, Central Coast Alliance For Health

Type of care provider	April 1997	April 1998	April 1999	April 2000	% Change
Clinic	8,048	6,700	6,422	6,364	-0.9
Private Practice	12,472	11,227	10,853	10,469	-3.5
Special Members (not linked)	3,624	2,914	3,803	3,695	-2.8
Total CCAFH Medi-Cal members	24,144	20,841	21,078	20,528	-2.6
Total Medi-Cal recipients county-wide	27,483	24,996	23,507	21,404	-8.9

Tracking information on Central Coast Alliance For Health members, their linkages to primary care providers and their demographics helps to measure the impact of Central Coast Alliance For Health on increasing access to primary care for the Medi-Cal population in Santa Cruz County.

Client Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Percent

Ethnicity	April 1997	April 1998	April 1999	April 2000
Caucasian	45.0	45.0	44.0	44.0
Hispanic	40.0	40.0	42.0	43.0
Other	15.0	15.0	14.0	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Central Coast Alliance For Health, State of California, Department of Health Services, Medi-Cal Care Statistics Section, 2000.

*Quality of Life Indicator 48***Low Income Health Care - CCAFH**

Client Characteristics, by County Region

Area of Origin¹	April 1997	April 1998	April 1999	April 2000
South County	46.0	46.0	47.0	46.0
North County	50.0	51.0	50.0	52.0
Out of County	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Total Clients	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Central Coast Alliance For Health, State of California, Department of Health Services, Medi-Cal Care Statistics Section, 2000.

Central Coast Alliance For Health (CCAFH) is the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan for Santa Cruz County and a participating health care plan under the Healthy Families Program (a Federal and State funded insurance program for low income children). Members who are linked to a primary care provider can choose to be linked to a clinic or a physician in private practice. Special members include people new to the county and waiting assignment and some special categories of clients such as children who are placed out of county, and children on probation who are in out of county placements. They also include members who have moved to another county in the state and are in the process of establishing their Medi-Cal eligibility in their new county.

Central Coast Alliance For Health provides Medi-Cal for the following persons: Disabled adults with no children, single parents with children, and two parent families with children in which one parent is unable to work, unemployed, absent from the families or otherwise not able to contribute to the household income. CCAFH is also the provider for Medi-Cal recipients who are on CalWorks. The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency provides Medi-Cal for qualifying individuals not on CalWorks. Those individuals who don't qualify for Medi-Cal, such as indigent adults who are single, not disabled, have no children, and are low income, can receive limited health care coverage through a local County program called Medi-Cruz.

¹ South County includes the areas of Freedom, La Selva Beach and Watsonville. Mid County includes the areas of Aptos, Capitola and Soquel. North County includes the areas of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Davenport, Felton, Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Brookdale and Mt. Hermon.

Low Income Health Care - Healthy Families

Number of Children enrolled in Healthy Families*

	May 1999	May 2000	% Change
County	1,023	2,231	118.1
State	132,080	279,173	111.4

Children Enrolled in Healthy Families, by Ethnicity*

Ethnicity	May 1999	May 2000	% Change
Caucasian	211	274	29.9
Hispanic	698	1,687	141.7
Asian / Pacific Islander	21	32	52.4
African American	6	11	83.3
Native American	0	4	100.0
Not Given	87	223	156.3
Total	1,023	2,231	118.1

Source: Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, 2000.

* All counts are a point-in-time count as of May 31st.

The Healthy Families Program (HFP) is a statewide initiative that provides low cost health, dental and vision coverage to children in low wage families that do not qualify for Medi-Cal.

*Quality of Life Indicator 48***Low Income Health Care - Healthy Families**

Children Enrolled in Healthy Families, by Selected Zip Code*

Zip Code	May 1999	May 2000	% Change
95003 — Aptos/ La Selva	28	49	75.0
95005 — Ben Lomond	17	36	111.8
95006 — Boulder Creek	12	27	125.0
95010 — Capitola	21	31	47.6
95018 — Felton/ Lompico	7	14	100.0
95019 — Freedom	56	162	189.3
95060 — Santa Cruz	72	141	95.8
95062 — Santa Cruz, Live Oak	96	179	86.5
95064 — UCSC	11	10	-9.1
95065 — Santa Cruz	12	26	116.7
95066 — Scotts Valley	26	31	19.2
95073 — Soquel	19	43	126.3
95076 — Watsonville	635	1449	128.2
Other Zip Codes	11	33	200.0
County Total	1,023	2,231	118.1

Source: Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, 2000.

* All counts are a point-in-time count as of May 31st.

The Healthy Families Program is low cost insurance that provides health, dental and vision coverage to children who do not have insurance and do not qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal. Eligible children are those with incomes above the level eligible for no cost Medi-Cal and below 200% of the federal income guidelines (\$35,376 for a family of three). Families participating in the program choose their health, dental and vision plan, and pay premiums of \$4-\$9 per child per month to participate in the program.

Low Income Health Care - Medi-Cruz

Number of Persons Certified Eligible for Medi-Cruz

	April 1996	April 1997	April 1998	April 1999	April 2000	% Change
Santa Cruz County	963	999	1,007	1,056	1,116	5.7

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Medi-Cruz Program, 2000.

Medi-Cruz provides health care services to low income individuals not eligible for Medi-Cal. These two programs form the majority of a health care safety net for low income individuals without health insurance. Medi-Cal is generally available to children, seniors, single parent families and the permanently disabled. By comparison, persons eligible for Medi-Cruz are primarily adults aged 21 through 64 who are residents of the County and do not have a Medi-Cal qualifying condition or situation.

Eligibility standards are similar for both programs and individuals must verify that their income and resources are within specified limits. Unlike Medi-Cal however, individuals applying for Medi-Cruz must have a current need for medical treatment at the time of application. Medi-Cruz eligibility usually lasts one to four months, after which the individual must reapply if the medical need persists.

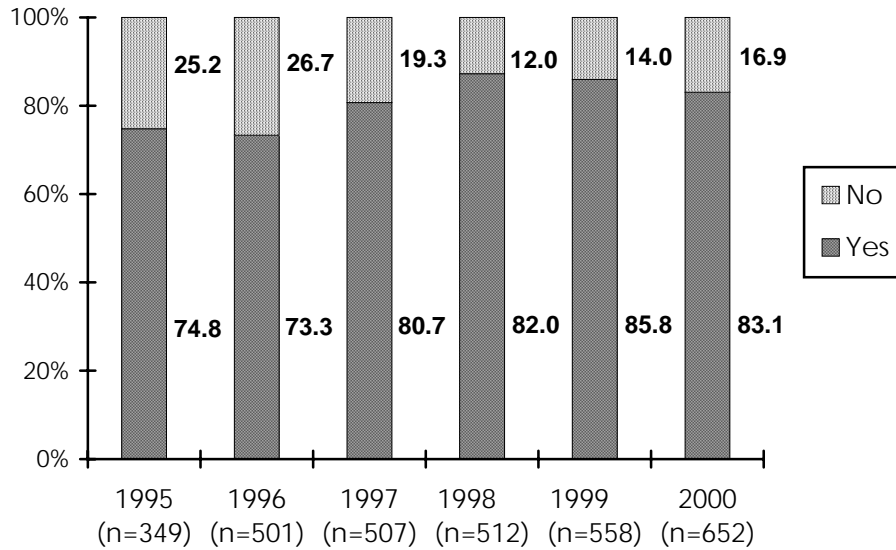
Once the applicant has been approved, primary care services are provided at one of the two county health centers located in the cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz. Emergency services are available at Dominican and Watsonville Hospitals. Medi-Cruz clients typically include the working poor, those temporarily unemployed, persons on General Assistance, as well as the homeless. In addition, undocumented residents of the county may be eligible for both Medi-Cruz and Medi-Cal.

Medi-Cruz is a Santa Cruz County initiative designed to provide a safety net for those low income individuals who aren't eligible for other government health care assistance, such as Medi-Cal.

Quality of Life Indicator 49

Health Insurance

Do you have health insurance?



Since 1995, the percent of survey respondents indicating that they have health insurance has increased by more than 8% Countywide.

Due to their low numbers, respondents who said “don’t know” are not included in the graph.

The survey question was reworded in 2000 so the responses for dental and long term care are not comparable to prior years.

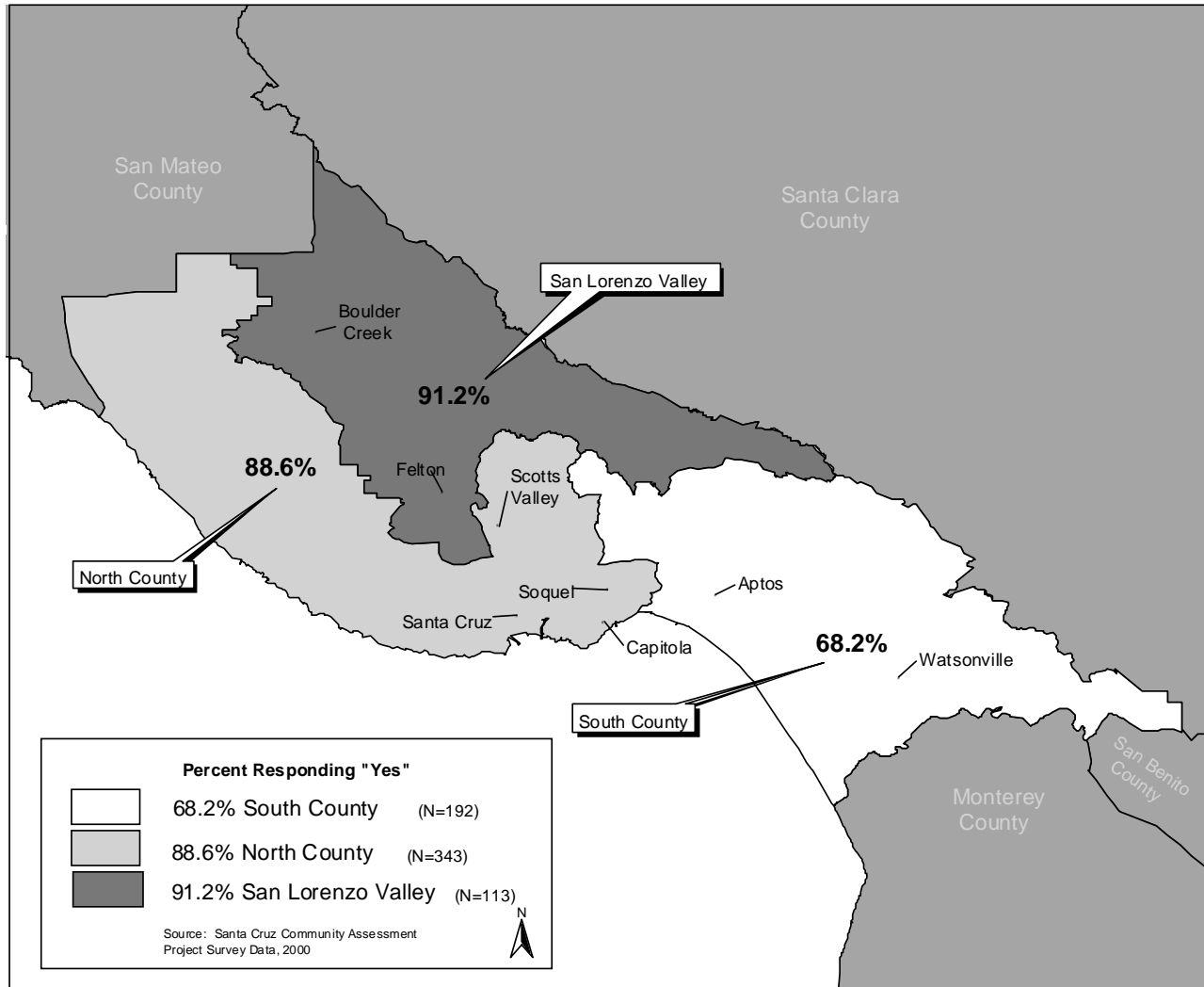
If yes, does your insurance policy cover:

Type of Coverage	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Medical care	97.7	93.1	93.4	95.0	97.3	96.7
Dental care	63.2	63.7	69.4	74.7	75.6	53.6
Prescriptions	77.0	82.5	82.4	86.8	89.0	91.5
Long Term care	61.3	61.8	42.4	47.1	43.7	19.4
Substance abuse	41.0	48.2	49.6	57.7	56.5	52.1
Dependents	-	-	-	-	67.8	68.6

Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.


Health Insurance


Do you have health insurance?



Quality of Life Indicator 49 **Health Insurance** **Respondent Profile**

Percent of respondents who answered “yes” to: “Do you have health insurance?”

 By Ethnicity	1998	1999	2000
Caucasian	89.1	88.9	90.7
Latino	50.5	67.4	59.3

 By Region			
North County	84.4	86.5	88.6
South County	77.2	84.3	68.2
San Lorenzo Valley	86.2	86.7	91.2

 By Age			
18-24	-	78.0	73.3
25-44	-	82.0	79.1
45-64	-	88.1	88.5
65 and older	-	98.8	93.4

By Gender	1998	1999	2000
Male	-	86.3	83.2
Female	-	85.9	83.0

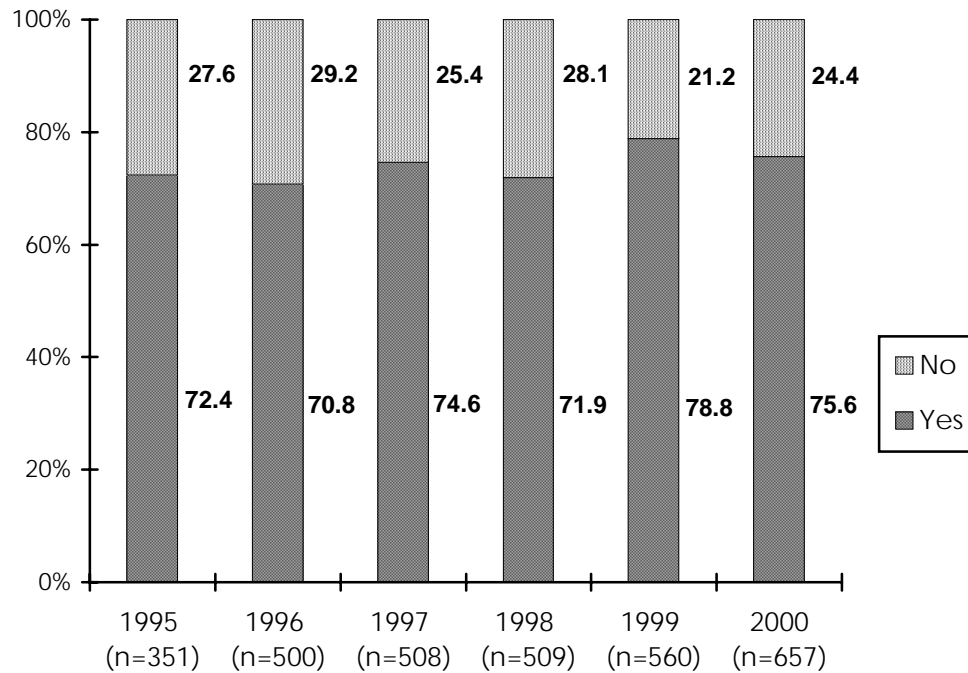
 By Income			
Under \$15,000 per year	-	73.9	69.2
\$15,000 - \$34,999 per year	-	73.2	70.1
\$35,000 - \$64,999 per year	-	91.0	90.0
Over \$65,000 per year	-	98.0	96.4

Total Respondents	512	558	652
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Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

Dental Care

Do you have a regular source of dental care?





Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

✓ **Key Indicator**
Adequate access to dental care allows for early prevention and/or treatment of tooth decay, gum disease, and other related dental problems.

Quality of Life Indicator 50 **Dental Care** **Respondent Profile**

Percent of respondents who said “yes” to: “Do you have a regular source of dental care?”

 By Ethnicity	1998	1999	2000
Caucasian	77.5	83.4	81.1
Latino	51.6	53.9	57.7

 By Region			
North County	72.1	78.3	77.4
South County	70.1	76.9	67.7
San Lorenzo Valley	75.3	86.7	84.1

 By Age			
18-24	-	62.2	59.8
25-44	-	73.7	74.4
45-64	-	87.1	84.4
65 and older	-	91.4	76.6

By Gender	1998	1999	2000
Male	-	77.5	75.3
Female	-	80.0	75.8

 By Income			
Under \$15,000 per year	-	53.6	52.3
\$15,000 - \$34,999 per year	-	66.1	60.4
\$35,000 - \$64,999 per year	-	84.8	87.3
Over \$65,000 per year	-	93.4	94.0

Total Respondents	509	560	657
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Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

Dientes Community Dental Clinic

Number of Appointments, Dientes Community Dental Clinic

	3/95-2/96	3/96-1/97	2/97-1/98	2/98-1/99	2/99-1/00	% Change
Number of Patients	3,723	2,776	3,208	3,973	3,261	-17.9

Source: Dientes Community Dental Clinic, 2000.

The number of patient appointments increased due to implementation of school program in Pajaro Valley.

Dientes is the only community-based, low income dental clinic in the County.

Estimated Number of Dentists Accepting Medi-Cal

Type of Dental Care	1996	1998	1999
Dentists accepting Medi-Cal	12	12	18
Oral Surgeons Accepting Medi-Cal	4	2	2
Orthodontists Accepting Medi-Cal	1	4	0
Pedodontists Accepting Medi-Cal	3	1	1
Total	20	19	21

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, 1999.

In 2000, there are approximately 85 dentists listed as general dentists, and 5 pediatric dentists/ pedodontists. (Pacific Bell Yellow Pages).

*Quality of Life Indicator 52***Births**

Number of Births, All Ages

Delivery Location	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Dominican Hospital	1,780	1,472	1,332	1,260	1,215	-3.6
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center	-	381	611	683	777	13.8
Watsonville Community Hospital	1,644	1,641	1,625	1,508	1,448	-4.0
Out of County	289	273	291	261	250	-4.2
Non-Hospital	122	78	89	86	86	0.0
County Total	3,835	3,845	3,948	3,798	3,776	-0.6

Percent of Deliveries Funded By Medi-Cal

Delivery Location	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Dominican Hospital	32.0	37.0	38.0	33.0	32.0
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center	-	9.0	14.0	14.0	17.0
Watsonville Community Hospital	73.0	70.0	68.0	68.0	71.0
County Total	48.9	46.5	44.5	42.0	42.0

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Birth Certificate Summary and Perinatal Indicators, 1999.

Teen Births

Number of Births to Teens

Delivery Location	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Dominican Hospital	146	130	105	103	97	-5.8
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center	-	16	29	31	39	25.8
Watsonville Community Hospital	294	267	248	263	210	-20.2
Out of County	32	13	13	11	20	81.8
Non-Hospital	3	2	5	1	0	-100.0
County Total	475	428	400	409	366	-10.5

Teen births are generally considered unplanned pregnancies. Many of these young mothers drop out of school and depend upon a variety of public funded programs for support for themselves and their children.

Percent of Births to Teens

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of Births to Teens	475	428	400	409	366
Number of Births, All Ages	3,835	3,845	3,948	3,798	3,776
Percent of Births to Teens, County	12.4	11.1	10.1	10.8	9.7
Percent of Births to Teens, State	12.4	12.0	11.7	11.4	N/a

Birth Rate per 1,000 Teens Ages 15-19

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
County	58.7	52.1	47.6	46.8	40.5
State	67.2	61.6	56.7	53.2	N/a
Nation	56.8	54.4	52.3	51.1	49.6

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Birth Certificate Summary and Perinatal Indicators, 1999, California Department of Finance, State of California, Department of Health Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

*Quality of Life Indicator 53***Teen Births**

Teen Births by Age

Age Group	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
14 & Under	18	10	8	9	9	0.0
15	44	24	40	29	19	-34.5
16-17	164	138	127	137	91	-33.6
18-19	249	256	225	234	247	5.6
County Total	475	428	400	409	366	-10.5

Teen Births by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Caucasian	120	98	82	61	85	39.3
Hispanic	343	323	308	330	272	-17.6
African American	6	1	5	8	2	-75.0
Asian	4	1	2	5	2	-60.0
Other	2	5	3	5	5	0.0
County Total	475	428	400	409	366	-10.5

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Birth Certificate Summary and Perinatal Indicators, 1999.

Prenatal Care Initiated in 1st Trimester - All Ages

Percent of Births Receiving Prenatal Care in the 1st Trimester

Delivery Location	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Dominican Hospital	89.0	86.0	87.0	86.9	88.7
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center	-	81.0	88.0	86.8	87.9
Watsonville Community Hospital	75.0	74.0	76.0	77.3	77.3
Out of County	84.8	91.2	91.1	86.6	91.2
Non-Hospital	59.8	69.2	65.2	65.1	79.1
County Total	82.0	81.0	82.0	82.6	84.1
State Total	78.0	80.0	80.8	81.0	N/a

Access to and utilization of prenatal care services helps to prevent untoward outcomes of pregnancy.

Percent of Births with Inadequate Care by Kessner Index

Delivery Location	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Dominican Hospital	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.9	0.9
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center	-	4.5	1.1	1.0	0.6
Watsonville Community Hospital	7.0	6.2	5.0	4.6	4.8
Out of County	5.5	2.6	1.7	2.7	1.2
Non-Hospital	7.4	3.9	4.5	8.1	2.3
County Total	4.3	4.1	3.0	3.0	2.4

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Birth Certificate Summary and Perinatal Indicators, 1999.

The Kessner Index combines the month of the first prenatal visit with the number of visits to establish a measure of the use of prenatal care.

*Quality of Life Indicator 54***Prenatal Care Initiated in 1st Trimester - All ages**

Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index — Percent of Births “Adequate/ Adequate Plus”

	1995-97	1996-98
County	62.3	67.0
State	67.1	70.5

Source: State of California, Department of Health Services and California Conference of Local Health Officers, County Health Status Profiles, 2000.

As of 1999, the California Department of Health Services replaced the Kessner Index with “The Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index” (also referred to informally as the Kottlechuck index), in accordance with the Year 2010 National Health Objectives. The index captures two dimensions of prenatal care, namely, at what point was care initiated, and frequency of care received. The year 2010 National Objective for “Adequate/ Adequate Plus” prenatal care is 90%.

Prenatal Care Initiated in 1st Trimester - Teens

Percent of Teen Births Receiving Prenatal Care in the 1st Trimester

Delivery Location	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Dominican Hospital	71.9	65.4	75.2	77.7	77.3
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center	-	43.8	82.8	77.4	74.4
Watsonville Community Hospital	67.3	67.4	67.7	70.7	71.9
County Total	70.7	66.4	71.5	72.6	73.8

Percent of Teen Births with Inadequate Care by Kessner Index

Delivery Location	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Dominican Hospital	4.8	5.4	1.9	3.9	1.0
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center	-	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0
Watsonville Community Hospital	9.9	6.0	6.9	6.1	5.7
County Total	8.0	5.4	5.0	5.4	3.6

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Birth Certificate Summary and Perinatal Indicators, 1999.

The Kessner Index combines the month of the first prenatal visit with the number of visits to establish a measure of the use of prenatal care. Births that occurred out of county and in non-hospital settings are not included here due to small frequencies.

*Quality of Life Indicator 56***Birth Weight****Percent of Low Birth Weight Deliveries, All Births**

Delivery Location	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Dominican Hospital	3.5	4.3	5.7	6.0	4.9
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center	-	0.5	1.3	1.8	1.2
Watsonville Community Hospital	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.0	5.0
Out of County	17.3	17.9	19.2	20.3	22.0
Non-Hospital	1.6	1.3	3.4	0.0	2.3
County Total	4.5	4.4	5.1	5.3	5.2
State Total	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	N/a

An unusually large percent of out of county deliveries are low birth weight. Many of these are attributed to the fact that at-risk deliveries must often be carried out at Stanford Hospital.

Low birth weight is associated with a number of health problems and can be used as a predictor of future medical care needs.

Number of Low Birth Weight Deliveries, Teens

Birth Weight	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Under 1500 grams (2.2 lbs.)	6	1	2	5	9	80.0
1500 - 2499 grams (5.5 lbs.)	19	14	14	18	23	27.8
2500 grams and over	450	413	384	386	334	-13.5
County Total	475	428	400	409	366	-10.5
Percent Low Birth Weight	5.3	3.5	4.0	5.6	8.7	55.4

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Birth Certificate Summary and Perinatal Indicators, 1999.

Babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams are considered low birth weight.

Immunization Levels

Immunization Levels of Children Enrolled in Child Care Centers

	1994	1995	1996	1997*	1998	1999
Number of Students (ages 2 to 5 years)	3,060	3,110	3,154	3,077	3,198	3,272
Number of Centers	73	73	73	73	74	76
Percent with medical exemptions	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5
Percent with personal exemptions	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.8	2.7	2.5
Percent needing one or more immunizations	4.6	4.2	4.4	24.4	9.7	7.8
Percent with all required immunizations—County	93.9	95.7	95.6	75.6	90.1	92.3
Percent with all required immunizations—State	94.1	94.4	92.8	85.5	91.2	93.6

Vaccine-preventable illnesses continue to occur. Immunization levels can be used to identify health needs for increased attention.

Immunization Levels of Entrance to Kindergarten

	1994	1995	1996	1997*	1998	1999
Number of Students	3,999	3,579	3,472	3,587	3,298	3,448
Number of Schools	61	66	66	68	65	66
Percent with medical exemptions	<1.0	<1.0	2.3	<1.0	<1.0	0.5
Percent with personal exemptions	2.4	1.5	1.5	2.8	3.1	3.0
Percent needing one or more immunizations	4.1	4.5	2.8	53.4	13.2	8.8
Percent with all required immunizations—County	93.3	94.0	95.5	43.6	83.3	87.6
Percent with all required immunizations—State	92.9	93.6	94.0	67.9	89.3	91.9

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Immunization Assessment of Kindergarten Students, 1999.

* Beginning in 1997, the state required incoming Kindergarten students to have completed the 3 dose Hepatitis B vaccine series in addition to the previously required doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella to be considered up to date on immunizations. Hepatitis B requirement is new and therefore many children were out of compliance.

*Quality of Life Indicator 57***Immunization Levels**

Seventh Grade Students

	1999
Number of Students	3,102
Number of Schools	28
Percent with medical exemptions	0.3
Percent with personal exemptions	3.3
Percent needing one or more immunizations	26.3
Percent with all required immunizations—County	70.1
Percent with all required immunizations—State	65.4

Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Immunization Assessment of Kindergarten Students, 1999.

In July of 1999, the Health Department began assessing the levels of complete immunization for seventh grade entrants.