



# Social Environment Issues

"The thing that contributes most to my quality of life is the easy access to various social services."

*—Telephone survey respondent*

# A Summary of Santa Cruz County's Social Environment

## Our Goals

*By the Year 2004,*  
more residents will be engaged in community involvement to make Santa Cruz County a better place to live.

*By the Year 2004,*  
racism and discrimination in Santa Cruz County will be reduced.

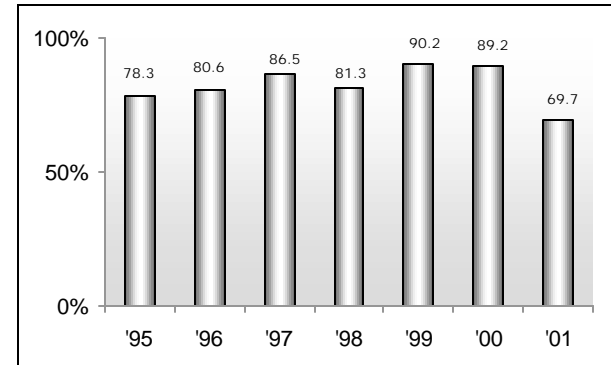
*By the Year 2004,*  
children in Santa Cruz County will have access to affordable, high quality child care and after school/summer enrichment and recreation opportunities.



Santa Cruz County residents are more individually involved, as in voting and financial donations, but less involved in collective efforts such as volunteering for a local organization. Perceptions of racism and discrimination are down, but with continuing gaps between certain

demographic groups. Also, while residents are voting more and discriminated against less, they find themselves needing more.

## After School and Weekend Activities

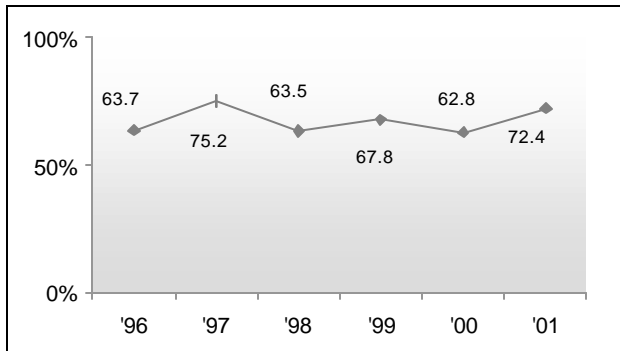


✓ Respondents reporting that their child has enough activities after school and on weekends.

When asked what one thing contributes to their quality of life, the percentage saying social climate did triple (from 3.2% to 9.7%), but the percentage that cited family, friends, or friendly people dropped by more than half (25.7% to 10.2%). When asked for one change to make locally, only three answers were more common in 2001 than 2000: homeless issues (4.3% to 7.0%), improving local schools (6.9% to 8.8%), and improving local government (3.1% to 6.4%).

Income is an important variable in understanding the social environment; the higher a respondent's income was, the more likely they were to vote or donate money. In terms of charitable contributions, the percentage of respondents who said they regularly donate money (71.9%) was the highest of any CAP year. Those with incomes above \$65,500 are over 50% more likely to donate money as those with incomes under \$35,000 – but over half of the latter group are donating money. Donations of time, however, are down, with a lower proportion than in any other CAP year saying they regularly do volunteer work in the community.

### Voting



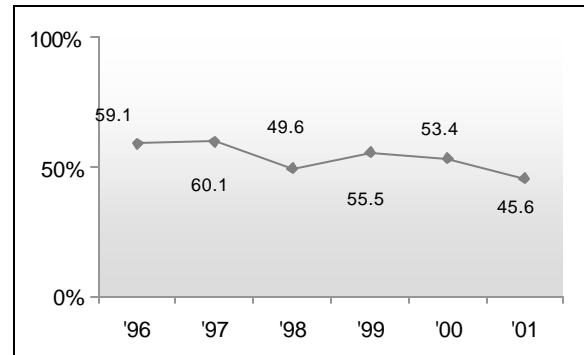
✓ Respondents indicating they vote in every election.

Voter turnout in Santa Cruz County for the November 2000 General Election (63.2%) was the highest since November 1996, while turnout statewide (51.9%) was the lowest since the June 1998 primary. The proportion of County respondents saying they vote in every election was up to 72.4%, the highest rate since 1997.

While Caucasians were nearly twice as likely as Latinos to say they vote in every election (81.6% vs. 43.5%), there was little difference in the proportion of each group who thinks voting is “very important”. But of those who did not vote, the most common reason was that they are not citizens. More significantly, the older the respondent, the more often they said they vote in every election (from 37.6% of those aged 18-24, to 91.7% of those aged 65 and older).

The proportion of respondents who think racism is a problem locally also dropped to the lowest of any CAP year. Moreover, the percentage that said they have felt discriminated against here in the last three years dropped to 11.1%, down at least half from any of the previous five years. Latinos continue to be more likely to say they see racism as a problem locally (56.0% vs. 40.3% of Caucasians), but that gap has narrowed (from a 21.8% difference in 2000 to 15.7% in 2001).

### Racism and Discrimination



✓ Respondents reporting that racism is a problem locally.

The lowest proportion of respondents in any CAP year said their child has enough activities after school and on weekends (69.7%). But the proportion was considerably lower for Latinos than Caucasians (52.1% vs. 82.5%), and the gap has widened in each year of the CAP (up to a 30.4% difference this year from 18.1% in 2000 and 12.6% in 1999).

In contrast, while Latinos were more likely to say they are “not at all” prepared for a natural disaster, that gap has declined in each year (to a 13.4% difference this year from 16.7% in 2000).



Fewer said they have been without a home at any time in the last year, down to 1.5% from 1.8%. However, a greater proportion now find themselves unable to meet basic needs in any given month, up for the second year in a row. Nearly two thirds (60.8%) of those said it was health care (including dental) that they went without.

# Voting

Voter registration and turnout reflect people’s sense of ownership and responsibility for their community.

## Santa Cruz County Voter Registration and Turnout



Election	Registration	Turnout	% County Turnout	% State Turnout
June 1994 Primary	132,139	58,040	43.9	35.1
November 1994 General	140,960	93,644	66.4	60.5
December 1995 Primary	33,089	10,513	31.8	-
March 1996 Primary	133,652	65,981	49.4	41.9
November 1996 General	148,663	103,922	70.0	52.6
June 1998 Primary	130,197	66,826	51.3	42.6
November 1998 General	137,955	86,634	62.8	57.6
March 2000 Primary	134,997	79,746	59.1	53.9
November 2000 General	145,214	78,878	63.2	51.9

Source: California Secretary of State, Department of Elections, 2000.

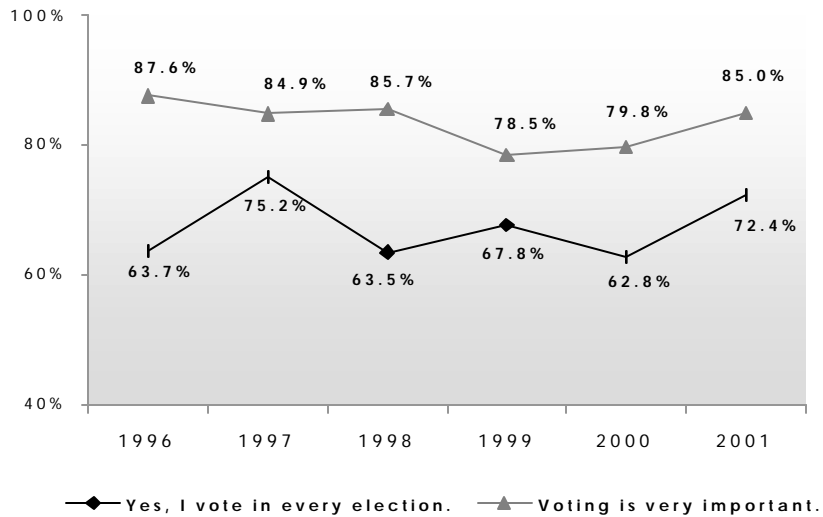
The December 1995 Primary was a 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Special Vacancy Primary Election.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 90

 **Voting**

*Do you vote in every election?*

*In your opinion, how important is voting?*



Total respondents	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Do you vote in every election?	499	509	513	559	658	706
In your opinion, how important is voting?	484	502	433	557	652	706

*\*See appendix for results of statistical testing for these questions.*



*If you do not vote in every election, why not?  
(selected responses)*

Response	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Not a citizen	49.4	27.6	42.3	32.0	28.2	22.9	39.3
Not registered / Not registered locally	7.4	12.5	3.1	-	3.4	22.1	10.3
Apathy / Lack of interest / Laziness	-	-	-	6.7	5.1	7.9	7.5
Voting has no effect	-	-	-	-	1.7	5.8	6.0
No time	13.5	9.2	6.2	15.2	15.8	12.1	5.6
Not familiar with issues	7.4	20.4	4.1	4.5	10.7	12.5	4.3
Don't want to vote	-	-	13.4	19.7	14.7	4.6	2.0
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>195</b>

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

# Voting

## Community Profile

*Percent of respondents who said “yes” to: “Do you vote in every election?”*

By Ethnicity	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
Caucasian	74.1	76.6	71.9	81.6	493
Latino	22.8	31.5	38.0	43.5	159

By Region	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
North County	67.0	69.2	66.5	73.6	203
South County	58.5	60.7	50.3	65.8	290
San Lorenzo Valley	66.0	75.0	73.5	83.4	212

By Age	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
18-24	-	41.5	39.1	37.6	76
25-44	-	61.3	55.0	61.4	217
45-64	-	77.5	74.5	80.1	258
65 and older	-	90.1	85.1	91.7	154

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

By Gender	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	-	69.5	65.3	72.2	353
Female	-	68.0	61.0	72.5	353

By Income, 2001	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	49.7	47.7	59.7	257
\$35,000 - \$64,499 per year	75.8	70.7	81.7	174
\$65,500 and greater	81.6	78.6	83.1	210

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data.

### Significance Testing

**Region:** San Lorenzo Valley significantly higher than South County

**Age:** 18-24 years significantly lower than 25-44 years; 18-24 years significantly lower than 45-64 years; 18-24 years significantly lower than 65 and older; 25-44 years significantly lower than 45-64 years;

25-44 years significantly lower than 65 and older; 45-64 years significantly lower than 65 and older

**Income:** \$34,999 or less significantly lower than \$35,000 to \$65,499; \$34,999 or less significantly lower than \$65,500 or more

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 90

 **Voting**

 **Community Profile**

*Percent of respondents who think voting is “very important.”*

By Ethnicity	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Caucasian	86.7	79.2	81.7	85.3	493
Latino	83.7	78.2	79.9	84.8	159

By Region	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
North County	86.6	78.8	77.7	84.2	203
South County	87.2	77.8	82.5	86.4	290
San Lorenzo Valley	80.0	78.3	82.3	83.8	212

By Age	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
18-24	-	67.5	76.9	67.0	76
25-44	-	76.0	75.9	83.6	217
45-64	-	80.3	81.2	87.7	258
65 and older	-	91.4	91.5	90.9	154

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

By Gender	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	-	76.4	77.5	81.9	353
Female	-	79.6	81.2	88.0	353

By Income	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	73.5	74.6	81.4	257
\$35,000 - \$65,499	79.8	81.2	88.8	174
\$65,500 and greater	80.9	88.0	87.6	210

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data..

**Significance Testing**

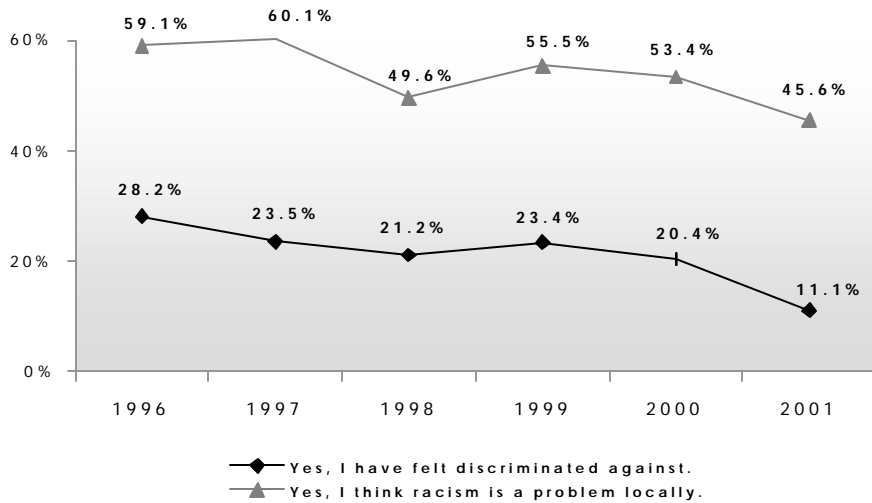
**Age:** 18-24 years significantly lower than 25-44 years; 18-24 years significantly lower than 45-64 years; 18-24 years significantly lower than 65 and older

## Racism and Discrimination

These Indicators measure perceptions of discrimination in the community.

*Do you think racism is a problem locally?*


*Have you ever felt discriminated against in Santa Cruz County in the last three years?*



Total Respondents	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Do you think racism is a problem locally?	499	506	514	559	657	701
Have you ever felt discriminated against in Santa Cruz County in the last three years?	493	507	513	559	652	705

\*See appendix for results of statistical testing for these questions.

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

 *If you have felt discriminated against in Santa Cruz County in the last three years, what was the reason? (Selected responses)*

Response	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Ethnicity / Race	21.2	34.8	29.1	44.4	50.4	42.9	27.2
Socioeconomic status	-	-	-	3.0	3.1	5.3	18.0
Language	2.1	6.7	5.2	12.6	11.5	18.8	12.5
White race / Non-Hispanic	-	-	-	-	13.0	10.5	12.4
Gender	31.1	15.7	17.2	11.9	24.4	22.6	9.7

Year 2001: 74 respondents offering 95 responses.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 91

 **Racism**

 **Community Profile**

*Percent of respondents who said “yes” to: “Do you think racism is a problem locally?”*

By Ethnicity	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
Caucasian	47.2	51.1	49.3	40.3	488
Latino	60.9	74.2	71.1	56.0	159

By Gender	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	-	54.9	50.0	39.8	353
Female	-	55.4	56.1	51.4	349

By Region	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
North County	45.3	51.6	53.5	43.4	202
South County	60.0	72.3	60.0	52.2	288
San Lorenzo Valley	38.3	30.0	41.1	38.3	211

By Income	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	66.9	58.1	42.6	256
\$35,000 - \$65,499	53.4	48.1	52.5	172
\$65,500 and greater	48.7	50.9	40.2	210

By Age	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
18-24	-	56.1	59.8	64.0	75
25-44	-	55.3	56.5	41.4	216
45-64	-	58.4	50.3	44.5	258
65 and older	-	49.4	44.7	44.1	151

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data.

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

**Significance Testing**

**Region:** San Lorenzo Valley significantly lower than South County

**Age:** 18-24 years significantly higher than 25-44 years; 18-24 years significantly higher than 45-64 years; 18-24 years significantly higher than 65 and older

# Discrimination



## Community Profile

*Percent of respondents who said “yes” to: “Have you ever felt discriminated against in Santa Cruz County in the past three years?”*

By Ethnicity	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Caucasian	17.7	20.1	13.0	7.9	493
Latino	34.8	36.0	36.6	11.0	159

By Region	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
North County	19.6	21.8	18.3	11.0	202
South County	26.7	30.6	27.6	12.5	290
San Lorenzo Valley	13.8	15.0	13.5	11.8	212

By Age	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
18-24	-	31.7	23.9	12.2	76
25-44	-	22.6	23.0	13.0	217
45-64	-	24.7	21.9	12.8	257
65 and older	-	14.8	6.5	5.4	154

By Gender	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	20.7	18.2	10.4	352
Female	24.9	21.8	11.9	353

By Income	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	33.1	28.4	8.1	257
\$35,000 - \$65,499	22.5	14.5	15.8	174
\$65,000 and greater	13.2	13.3	9.1	208

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data.

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

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 92

# Hate Crimes

A hate crime is considered to be any crime motivated by the victim’s race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.



## Hate Crimes, Santa Cruz County, by Bias Motivation

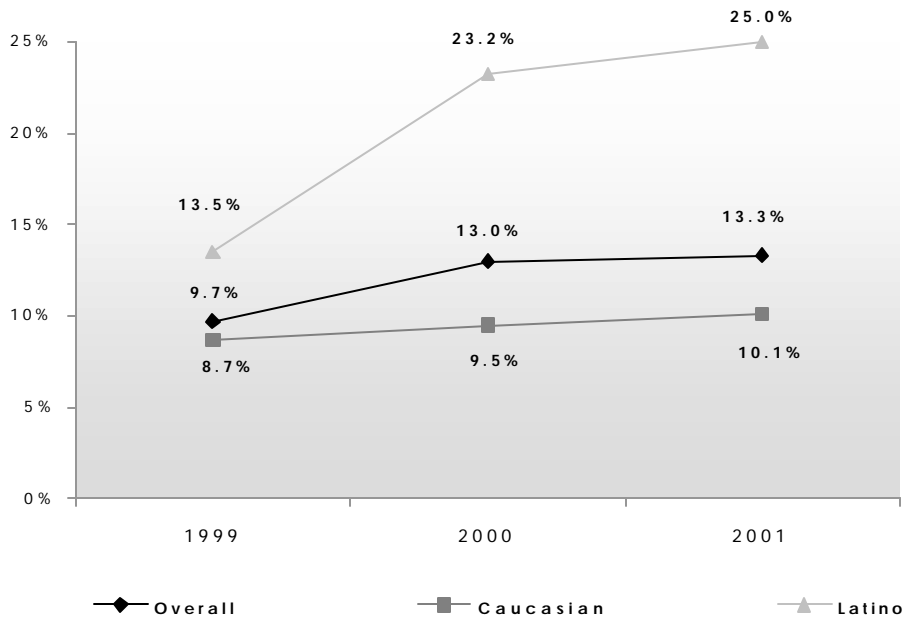
Bias Motivation	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	% Change
Race	4	10	6	8	4	-50.0
Sexual Orientation	7	4	5	3	5	66.7
Religion	1	0	1	0	2	-
Physical Disability	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.0</b>


Source: California Department of Justice, Hate Crime Statistical System, 2001.

## Basic Needs

The inability to meet basic needs often underlies other social and familial issues such as educational performance, family relationships and health status.

*In any given month, do you find yourself having to go without basic needs such as child care, health care, food or clothing? (Respondents answering “yes”)*



 *If “yes”, what do you go without? (Selected responses)*

Response	1999	2000	2001
Health care (including dental)	43.4	41.0	60.8
Food / Limits food choices	30.2	56.6	31.2
Clothing	15.1	18.1	24.7
Child care	5.7	19.3	12.4

Year 2001: 90 respondents offering 137 responses.

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

\*See appendix for results of statistical testing for this question.

Total respondents	1999	2000	2001
Overall	557	654	706
Caucasian	424	442	493
Latino	89	142	159

## QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 94

## Children Receiving Free or Reduced Cost Meals

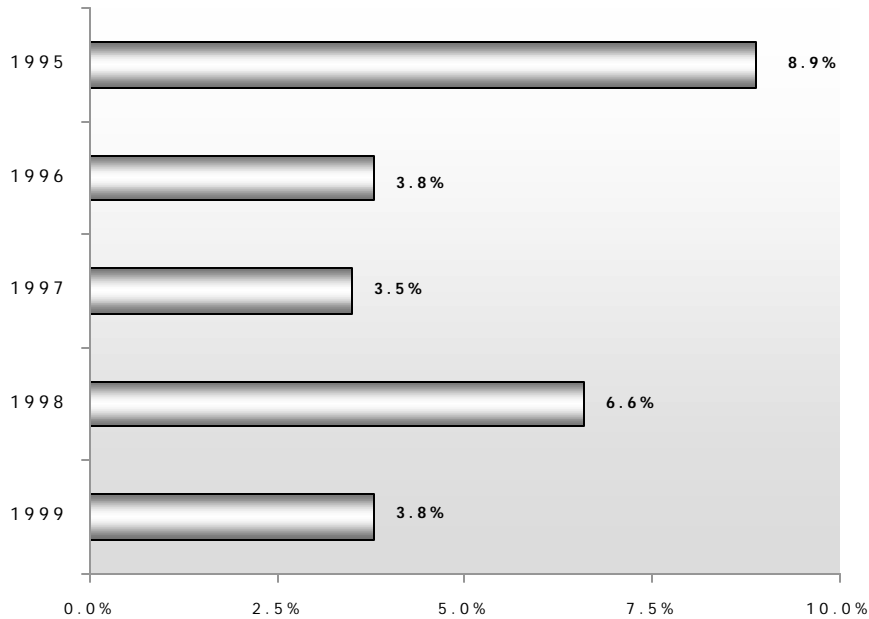
### Percent of Children Receiving Free/Reduced Cost Meals

School Districts	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
Bonny Doon	9.6	10.2	10.1	5.1	5.9	4.5	0.0
Happy Valley	12.0	13.2	8.3	10.9	9.4	8.4	8.7
Live Oak Elementary	44.3	42.2	42.1	41.1	36.4	37.1	34.4
Mountain Elementary	15.8	21.4	14.3	19.3	16.2	12.8	11.7
Pacific Elementary	47.7	40.3	23.7	26.8	20.5	20.2	25.3
Pajaro Valley Unified	52.9	56.3	55.2	55.0	54.0	56.3	53.9
San Lorenzo Valley Unified	15.6	14.5	14.5	13.2	14.1	13.6	13.3
Santa Cruz Elementary	35.9	36.8	37.9	38.1	33.8	39.5	38.0
Santa Cruz High School	14.3	13.3	13.1	12.7	11.6	13.1	11.6
Scotts Valley Unified	-	2.9	3.2	2.3	6.1	5.4	5.9
Soquel Elementary	25.9	23.7	27.3	26.1	24.6	25.2	23.9
<b>County</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>36.4</b>
State	44.6	46.4	47.1	47.4	47.6	47.3	46.8

Source: California Department of Education DataQuest, 2001.

 **Homeless**

*Have you ever been without a home locally (homeless, in a shelter, or on the street) in the last **five years**?*  
 (Respondents answering “yes”)

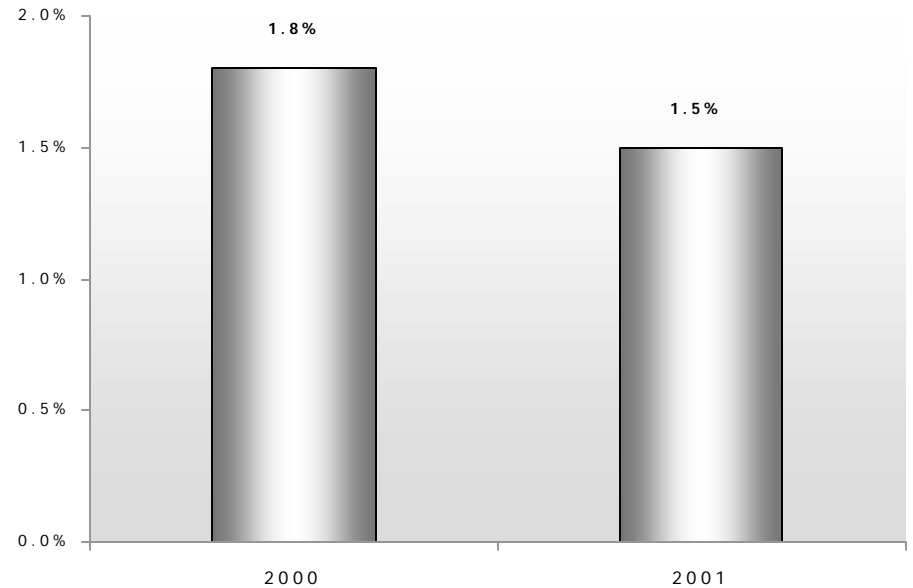


Total respondents	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Overall	348	500	509	512	558

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

Note: Question was re-worded in 2000 survey to read, “Have you ever been without a home locally in the last year?”

*Have you ever been without a home locally (homeless, in a shelter, or on the street) in the **last year**?*  
 (Respondents answering “yes”)



Total respondents	2000	2001
Overall	656	706

See appendix for results of statistical testing for this question.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 95

# Homeless - in the last year

## Community Profile

*Percent of respondents who said “yes” to:  
“Have you ever been without a home locally (homeless, in a shelter, or on the street) in the last year?”*

By Ethnicity	2000	2001	2001 N
Caucasian	1.1	0.9	493
Latino	2.8	2.4	159

By Region	2000	2001	2001 N
North County	2.3	2.6	203
South County	1.5	0.5	290
San Lorenzo Valley	0.9	0.3	212

By Age	2000	2001*	2001 N
18-24	5.4	9.2	76
25-44	2.2	1.8	217
45-64	0.5	0.0	258
65 and older	0.0	0.0	154

By Gender	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	2.2	1.2	353
Female	1.6	1.9	353

By Income, 2001	2000	2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	7.2	2.2	257
\$35,000 - \$65,499 per year	0.0	2.0	174
Over \$65,000 per year	0.6	0.2	210

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data..

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

### Significance Testing

**Age:** 18-24 years significantly higher than 45-64: 18-24 significantly higher than 65 and older.

## Homeless— in last 5 years

### Community Profile

Percent of respondents who said “yes” to:  
 “Have you ever been without a home locally (homeless, in a shelter, or on the street) in the last **five years**?”

By Ethnicity	1997	1998	1999
Caucasian	3.0	5.5	3.7
Latino	4.9	8.7	4.5

By Region	1997	1998	1999
North County	3.8	6.7	4.2
South County	2.6	6.7	3.5
San Lorenzo Valley	4.5	6.4	3.3

By Age	1997	1998	1999
18-24	-	-	8.5
25-44	-	-	4.6
45-64	-	-	2.2
65 and older	-	-	0.0

By Gender	1997	1998	1999
Male	-	-	4.2
Female	-	-	3.6

By Income	1997	1998	1999
Less than \$34,999	-	-	8.3
\$35,000 - \$65,499 per year	-	-	1.7
Over \$65,500 per year	-	-	1.3

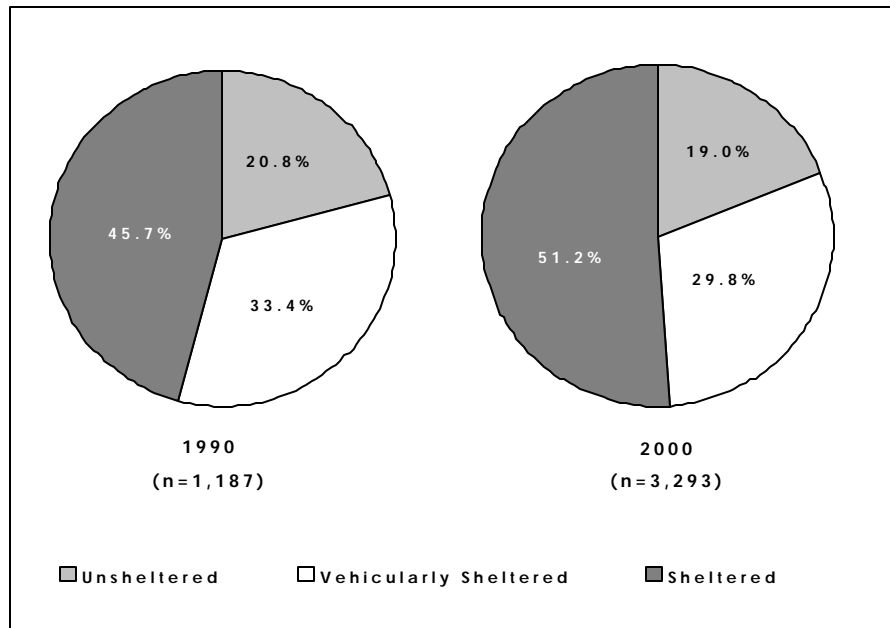
Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 95

# Homeless

## Point-in-Time Homeless Census

In 1990, the first Homeless Census in Santa Cruz County was conducted. Although the Homeless 2000 Census was conducted using a similar, non-intrusive observation method, there were significant differences in the approach. The most dramatic of these differences was the use of U.S. census tracts for enumeration. The use of census tracts enabled the researchers to cover the entire County of Santa Cruz, as opposed to focusing on key locations. While the methodological changes increased County coverage, the figures below are believed to be an undercount.



## Homeless Needs Assessment, 2000

Category	Selected Findings
Residency	28.4% of homeless respondents grew up in Santa Cruz County
	76.8% had lived here for more than 5 years
	72.1% had no plans to leave the County
	17.1% lived outdoors
Length of Homelessness	7.8% lived in a vehicle
	50.1% of respondents had been homeless less than 1 year
Employment	Long-term homelessness (greater than 2 years) was up – 12.6% in 1990 to 32.0% in 2000
	Employed homeless persons were on the rise – 23.8% in 1990 to 32.6% in 2000
	32.6% were employed full or part-time or are self employed
Health	59.9% were actively looking for work
	29.9% did not get enough to eat
	27.6% did not receive health care when they needed it in the last year
Veterans	49.8 would accept drug or alcohol counseling if it were made available
	Veterans were on the decline as a percent of the homeless – 20.4% in 1990 to 13.0% in 2000
Assistance	30.1% were on a waiting list for housing assistance
	38.4% did not receive any type of government assistance
	20.9% had been turned away from a shelter at least once
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>811</b>

Source: Santa Cruz County Homeless 2000 Census and Needs Assessment, Applied Survey Research.

Assessment of Shelter and Housing Needs for the Homeless Population of Santa Cruz County, 1990

New data not available

# Homeless- Housing and Emergency Beds

## Number of Non-disaster Emergency Shelter Beds, 2000/2001

Agency	Primary Client	Summer	Winter
Interfaith Satellite Shelter Project (ISSP) *	Adult men and women	14-18	114-133
Pajaro Rescue Mission **	Adult men	58	58
River Street Shelter	Adult men and women	32	32
Pajaro Valley Shelter Services	Women and children	19	19
Salvation Army Homeless Shelters ***	Adults and Families	90	130
Above the Line	Youths ages 13-17	9	9
Women's Crisis Support / Defensa de Mujeres	Battered women and their children	15	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>237-241</b>	<b>377-396</b>

Source: Respective service providers, via phone communications, 2001.

\* Interfaith Satellite Shelter Project provides 14-18 mats and blankets (no beds) year-round at 3 churches per night from among 20 participating churches, with space varying nightly depending on the size of churches; and an additional 100-125 beds from November 15 to April 15 by renting the National Guard Armory for the winter.

\*\* Pajaro Rescue Mission is not within Santa Cruz County. It is included here because, although it is situated just outside the County, it serves homeless persons from within the County.

\*\*\* Salvation Army Homeless Shelters include 51 beds on site, up to 20 more transitional, two houses through HUD, and up to five churches – an estimated total of 60 emergency beds and 30 transitional beds during the summer – with at least 20 additional beds during the winter. This supply increases by as many as 65 during the winter, with 40 additional beds of which 20 are onsite.

## Housing for Medical Emergencies Program

Agency	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	% Change
Number of vouchers provided	363	507	405	414	308	-25.6
Number of recipients (unduplicated)	312	390	360	362	310	-14.4
- Number of children	74	97	96	98	70	-28.6
- Number of adults	238	293	259	264	240	-9.1

Source: Community Action Board, 2001.

The Housing for Medical Emergencies Program provides emergency shelter vouchers for individuals and their families who meet the following conditions: discharged from the hospital, afflicted with Tuberculosis or HIV / AIDS. Vouchers are good for up to one week in a motel, and individuals may receive additional vouchers if needed.

## QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 95

# Homeless - children

## Number of Children who are Homeless

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
Number of students enrolled in the Lead Education Agency (LEA)	39,200	54,500	40,018	48,856
Number of students who are homeless*	1,000+	1,000+	1,907	2,685
Number of students who are homeless and receiving services under the McKinney Act	505	581	819	737
Number of "At Risk" students under the McKinney Act	27	148	91	344

## Housing Situations of Homeless Children

Living Arrangements	1997/1998	1998/99	1999/00*	2000/01
Shelters	62	107	36	59
Doubled-up homeless**	45	216	1,156	365
Motels	150	101	197	81
Transitional housing	162	75	125	125
Other situations	-	-	-	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>737</b>

Source: Santa Cruz County Office of Education, 1999-2001 Spring Surveys.

\* Prior to 1999 / 2000, the number of homeless students was based on an estimate produced by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Homeless Education Outreach Program (funded through the McKinney Act). In 1999, the County Office of Education conducted a survey of all schools in the county, asking them how many homeless students they had. Information gathered in this survey is reflected in the tables above and accounts for the dramatic increase from previous years.

\*\* The term "doubled-up homeless" refers to families doubled or tripled up in housing due to an inability to find permanent housing.

# Homeless - children

## Homeless Children Receiving Services Under the McKinney Act, by Age Group

Age Group	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
Pre-school	26	21	150	204
Primary (grade K-3)	117	192	216	322
Intermediate (grade 4-6)	109	168	171	323
Middle School (grade 7-8)	132	88	212	175
High School (grade 9-12)	121	112	161	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1,081</b>

Source: Santa Cruz County of Education, Homeless Education Outreach, 2001.

**The McKinney Act** is a legislative bill which enables the provision of government services to homeless individuals. The criteria used by McKinney Act to determine homelessness has now become the de facto definition:

1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and
2. An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
  - a. a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations

(including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), or;

- b. an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or;
- c. a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

This means that a person must satisfy both conditions 1 & 2 in order to receive government services for homeless individuals.

## QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 96

## People Served by Food Bank

While services are not a good proxy for need, this indicator helps identify the scope of efforts to fight poverty and hunger.

### Number of People Served by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	% Change
Capitola	794	685	1,462	709	926	1,064	14.9
Santa Cruz	7,466	7,618	4,881	6,271	7,095	7,701	8.5
Scotts Valley	408	1,610	1,024	1,295	1,102	1,038	-5.8
Watsonville	6,412	7,722	8,852	11,181	11,273	10,383	-7.9
Unincorporated	9,418	6,916	8,165	8,304	9,588	10,510	9.6
<b>County Total</b>	<b>24,498</b>	<b>24,551</b>	<b>24,384</b>	<b>27,760</b>	<b>29,984</b>	<b>30,696</b>	<b>2.4</b>

### Number of People Served by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	% Change
Caucasian	11,749	9,742	9,483	10,869	12,040	12,150	0.9
Latino	11,218	12,738	12,975	14,304	16,896	16,521	-2.2
African American	606	795	754	763	1,215	1,011	-16.8
Asian	333	610	578	925	840	713	-15.1
Native American	242	295	308	238	309	513	66.0
Pacific Islander	150	175	130	424	162	295	82.1
Other	200	150	156	97	171	125	-26.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,498</b>	<b>24,505</b>	<b>24,384</b>	<b>27,620</b>	<b>31,633</b>	<b>31,841</b>	<b>0.7</b>

Source: Second Harvest Food Bank, 2000.

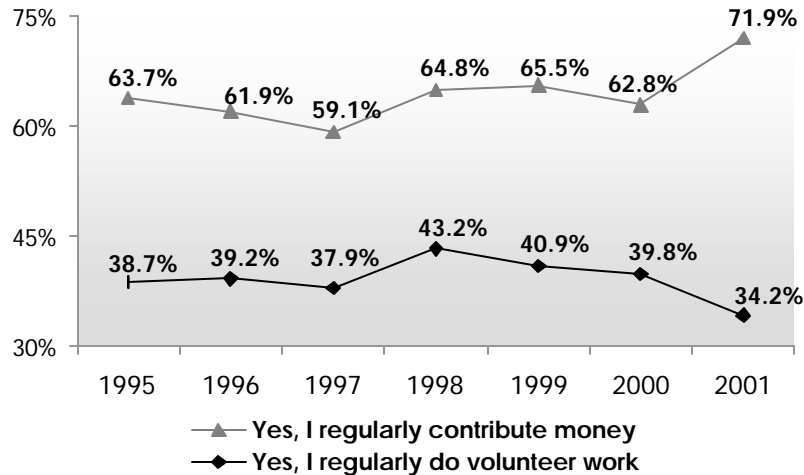
Totals for ethnicity breakdowns differ due to the regions served by the Food Bank; the ethnicity data is not disaggregated by jurisdiction. Data collected is an unduplicated count of recipients for the month of March.

## Volunteerism / Charitable Giving

Volunteerism and charitable giving are measures of people's sense of ownership and responsibility for their community.

*Do you regularly contribute money to charitable organizations?*


*Do you regularly do volunteer work in the community?*



Total respondents	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Do you regularly contribute money to charitable organizations?	347	499	492	514	524	656	704
Do you regularly do volunteer work?	349	498	509	514	560	656	706

*\*See appendix for results of statistical testing for these questions.*

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

 *If you volunteer, where do you volunteer?*  
(Selected responses)

Response	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
School	37.0	36.1	16.4	29.7	39.9	38.7	23.0
Church	30.4	23.0	15.9	27.9	15.8	20.7	18.6
Youth organizations	-	-	-	-	22.8	11.9	14.3
Service organizations	-	-	-	-	-	10.3	13.9
Community organizations *	-	52.9	38.5	52.7	-	-	-

Year 2001: 234 respondents offering 328 responses.

*\* The category for Community Organizations was expanded in 1999 and is not comparable to previous years.*

*If you contribute money, will you give:*

Response	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Less than last year	26.8	17.4	17.9	13.9	9.0	7.8	11.6
More than last year	15.9	19.3	22.3	20.4	31.6	22.6	20.1
About the same as last year	57.3	63.3	59.8	65.7	55.4	68.0	66.1
Total Respondents	219	305	291	324	345	405	506

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 97

 **Volunteerism**

 **Community Profile**

*Percent of respondents who said “yes” to:  
“Do you regularly do volunteer work in the community?”*

By Ethnicity	1997	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
Caucasian	40.9	44.0	44.3	42.9	38.4	493
Latino	27.2	41.3	30.3	32.4	18.6	159

By Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
North County	45.1	44.0	41.2	40.8	35.1	203
South County	32.2	44.6	37.0	30.4	34.2	290
San Lorenzo Valley	22.4	38.3	48.3	54.5	37.3	212

By Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
18-24	-	-	28.0	31.5	27.0	76
25-44	-	-	44.7	41.4	33.0	217
45-64	-	-	40.4	40.0	37.9	258
65 and older	-	-	44.4	43.6	33.7	154

By Gender	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	-	-	38.0	34.2	31.7	353
Female	-	-	42.1	43.6	36.7	353

By Income	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	34.8	30.7	28.3	257
\$35,000 - \$65,499	37.1	43.1	39.4	174
\$65,500 and greater	53.9	48.8	37.9	210

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data.

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

# Charitable Giving

## Community Profile

*Percent of respondents who said “yes” to:  
“Do you regularly contribute money to charitable organizations?”*

By Ethnicity	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Caucasian	62.8	70.5	69.5	68.6	72.2	493
Latino	40.6	43.5	43.2	49.3	68.3	159

By Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
North County	59.0	67.6	63.5	62.4	66.8	201
South County	53.8	60.0	64.5	57.4	75.4	290
San Lorenzo Valley	68.2	68.1	73.7	73.0	75.6	212

By Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
18-24	-	-	23.0	28.3	55.7	76
25-44	-	-	64.7	58.3	63.3	214
45-64	-	-	72.4	76.4	77.2	258
65 and older	-	-	93.5	81.7	83.3	154

By Gender	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	-	-	61.0	59.6	66.6	351
Female	-	-	69.1	64.8	77.1	353

By Income	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	41.6	43.8	57.7	257
\$35,000 - \$65,499	75.6	71.8	74.4	171
\$65,500 and greater	83.8	85.0	87.0	210

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data.

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

### Significance Testing

**Age:** 18-24 years significantly lower than 45-64 years; 18-24 years significantly lower than 65 and older; 25-44 years significantly lower than 45-64 years; 25-44 years significantly lower than 65 and older

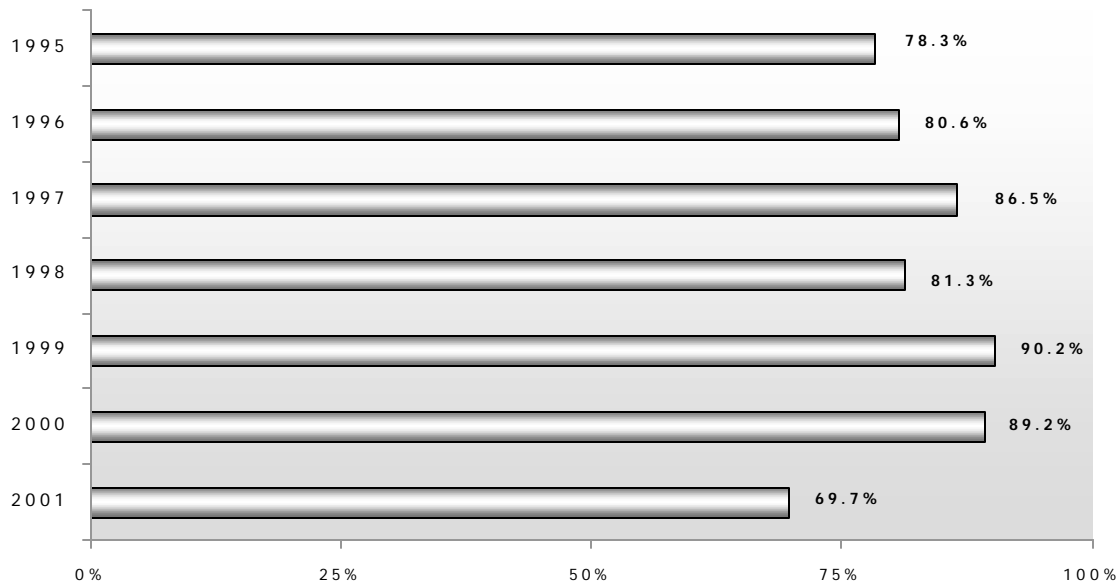
**Income:** \$34,999 or less significantly lower than \$65,500 or more; \$35,000 to \$65,499 significantly lower than \$65,500 or more; \$34,999 or less significantly lower than \$35,000 to \$65,499.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 98

# Youth Activities

After school activities provide a safe and positive environment for youth.

*Does your child have enough activities after school and on weekends?  
(Respondents answering “yes”)*



Total respondents	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Overall	120	170	156	144	153	185	180

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

See appendix for results of statistical testing for this question.

# Youth Activities

## Community Profile

*Percent of respondents who said “yes” to:  
“Does your child have enough activities after school and on weekends?”*

By Ethnicity	1997	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
Caucasian	87.5	84.8	94.0	96.2	82.5	84
Latino	84.1	71.4	81.4	78.1	52.1	78

By Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
North County	88.2	79.6	97.1	94.4	65.3	42
South County	84.8	77.5	81.0	80.0	77.7	83
San Lorenzo Valley	84.0	95.8	94.4	100.0	90.5	65

By Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
18-24	-	-	100.0	66.7	100.0	7
25-44	-	-	89.3	89.6	67.8	96
45-64	-	-	93.5	93.1	72.2	71
65 and older	-	-	50.0	0.0	23.3	5

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

By Gender	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	-	-	98.1	94.7	68.3	82
Female	-	-	86.3	86.7	70.9	98

By Income	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	78.3	78.7	58.9	71
\$35,000 - \$65,499	89.7	89.1	58.7	44
\$65,500 and greater	98.3	98.6	91.0	52

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data..

### Significance Testing

**Region:** North County significantly lower than San Lorenzo Valley

**Income:** \$34,999 or less significantly lower than \$65,500 or more; \$35,000 to \$65,499 significantly lower than \$65,500 or more

## QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 99

## Arts Programs

### Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County

Grants provide operating support for year-round cultural organizations that serve the residents of the County.

#### Number of Grants Awarded

Grants	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	% Change
Anchor Grants	7	7	7	8	8	8	0.0
Program Grants	21	20	18	19	18	17	-5.6
Project Grants	36	36	34	29	38	36	-5.3
Ethnic Arts Development Grants	22	14	8	10	10	1*	-90.0
Cultural Equity Initiative	-	-	-	2	2	1*	-50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-17.1</b>

#### Grant Amounts Awarded


Grants	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	% Change
Anchor Grants	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$104,386	\$102,890	\$120,682	\$120,500	-0.2
Program Grants	31,500	31,500	40,000	45,420	60,340	60,300	-0.1
Project Grants	22,500	22,500	34,000	27,800	41,000	40,800	-0.5
Ethnic Arts Development Grants	11,602	9,257	7,900	6,420	10,310	5,000*	-51.5
Cultural Equity Initiative	-	-	-	9,000	9,000	4,500*	-50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$159,602</b>	<b>\$157,257</b>	<b>\$186,286</b>	<b>\$191,530</b>	<b>\$241,332</b>	<b>\$231,100</b>	<b>-4.2</b>

Source: Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County, 2001.

\* The Council is re-evaluating its Ethnic Arts Development Grants and Cultural Equity Initiative Grants programs. For 2001, one grant was given to support The Calabash Awards, which benefited several groups.


Note: Anchor Grants provide operating support for Santa Cruz County's cultural institutions. Program grants provide operating support for year-round cultural organizations that serve residents, while project grants support well-planned, high-quality, short-term art projects. Ethnic Arts Development Grants and Cultural Equity Initiative Grants build the capacity of arts organizations deeply rooted in, and whose major focus of activity stems from, the experiences of ethnic communities.

## Quality of Life

 *What one thing contributes to your quality of life in Santa Cruz County?  
(Selected responses)*

<b>Response</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Scenery / Geography / Climate	53.1	47.2	60.9	72.7	65.7	67.8
Community / Low population / Slow pace	12.7	9.7	12.6	12.6	8.9	12.4
Family / Friends / Friendly people	16.1	11.0	16.3	17.6	25.7	10.2
Social climate	-	-	-	3.1	3.2	9.7
Quiet / Peaceful	-	-	-	5.4	7.5	4.2

Year 2001: 696 respondents offering 1,006 responses.

 *What one thing takes away from your quality of life in Santa Cruz County?  
(Selected responses)*


<b>Response</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Traffic	9.5	14.5	18.1	32.0	30.4	34.0
Overcrowding / Unplanned growth	11.1	14.0	18.1	24.2	17.8	21.8
Cost of living / Housing	12.6	11.2	15.7	17.7	22.7	21.6
Nothing takes away	1.9	-	2.3	5.9	2.5	8.0
Road conditions	2.7	24.0	6.0	6.6	6.8	2.3
Gangs / Crime	13.0	7.7	8.0	6.1	4.8	2.4

Year 2001: 649 respondents offering 858 responses.

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

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 100

 **Quality of Life**

 *If you could make one major change locally, what would it be?*

*(Selected responses)*

<b>Response</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Affordable housing	6.6	9.8	13.2	12.7	25.8	18.0
Less traffic	6.2	31.9	15.6	25.3	21.3	15.0
Improve schools	16.0	9.6	11.6	9.5	6.9	8.8
Homeless issues	16.5	10.8	5.6	3.8	4.3	7.0
Improve local government / government officials	-	-	2.4	3.2	3.1	6.4
Stop growth / slow growth	5.5	3.9	4.0	4.7	10.4	4.8
Jobs / job training	5.3	6.3	7.2	3.2	6.6	4.1
Crime	10.6	5.8	10.2	5.0	2.9	1.5
More bike trails / pedestrian friendly	-	-	-	16.1	1.2	0.9

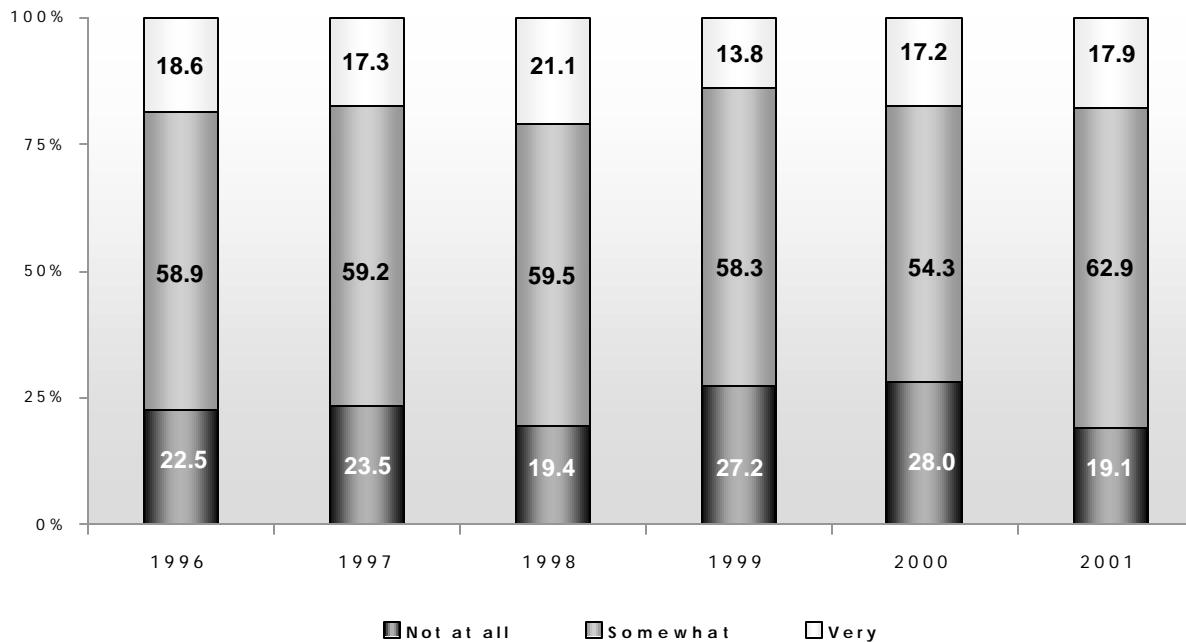
Year 2001: 664 respondents offering 829 responses.

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

## Disaster Preparedness

This indicator gauges the amount of self-help to be expected in the event of a disaster such as an earthquake, wildfire, or floods.

*How prepared are you for a natural disaster?*



Total respondents	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Overall	494	510	511	559	658	706

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

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

See appendix for results of statistical testing for this question.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATOR 101

# Disaster Preparedness

## Community Profile

*Percent of respondents who said they were “not at all” prepared for a natural disaster.*

By Ethnicity	1997	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
Caucasian	19.4	16.1	24.4	22.0	16.4	493
Latino	41.5	31.5	42.7	38.7	29.8	159

By Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
North County	27.8	23.2	29.8	32.1	22.0	203
South County	20.3	19.6	28.3	26.2	18.1	290
San Lorenzo Valley	14.9	9.7	15.0	18.6	10.7	212

By Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	*2001	2001 N
18-24	-	-	42.7	45.7	35.5	76
25-44	-	-	27.6	31.3	24.3	217
45-64	-	-	23.6	18.2	12.3	258
65 and older	-	-	17.3	21.3	15.3	154

By Gender	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Male	-	-	25.4	28.4	18.3	353
Female	-	-	27.8	27.8	19.9	353

By Income	1999	2000	2001	2001 N
Less than \$34,999	40.9	40.4	21.8	257
\$35,000 - \$65,499	23.0	20.4	18.0	174
\$65,500 and greater	19.1	14.3	13.2	210

\* Indicates statistically significant survey responses when reporting differences between sub-groups for the 2001 data. Absence of this symbol indicates no statistical significance difference between sub-groups for the 2001 data.

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

### Significance Testing

**Region:** North County significantly higher than San Lorenzo Valley

**Age:** 18-24 years significantly higher than 45-64 years; 18-24 years significantly higher than 65 and older; 25-44 years significantly higher than 45-64 years.

