

Sacramento County Children's Report Card

September 2004



*Committed to enriching the lives of children in our community by
keeping them safe, healthy, nurtured, educated, and happy*

Sacramento County is fortunate to have many agencies, foundations, community groups, and individuals who care deeply for our children. We thank them for the countless hours donated to work on this project.

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Sacramento County Children's Report Card 2004
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First 5 Sacramento Commission

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City of Citrus Heights

Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Inc.



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Staff services are provided by the Community Services Planning Council, Inc.

To the People of Sacramento County

Children hold our future in their hands. As a community, we hold their health, safety, education, and happiness in ours. The *Sacramento County Children's Report Card*, first published in September 2000, was established to show how well the Sacramento community is fulfilling this responsibility. The *Children's Report Card 2002* profiled the status of children in Sacramento County, highlighting many of our community's successes and challenges.

The *2004 Sacramento County Children's Report Card* presents findings in five result areas: economics, education, health, safety, and social and emotional well-being. The five result areas and 45 indicators selected by the community in 2000 remain unchanged.

Due to funding constraints, the *2004 Children's Report Card* is more compact and economical with half-page updates for 35 indicators and full-page reports on ten priority indicators selected at the 2003 Children's Summit.

Data was revised and updated to best relate how our community cares for its children and families. Information about children ages 0-5 also is included. The 0-5 age group is the target population for the First 5 Sacramento Commission, a major funding source for early childhood development.

While we still have work to do, all who have tirelessly built partnerships to foster collaboration and improve the lives of children in our community should take pride in the results that have been achieved. We invite you to consider the trends outlined in this report. We hope you will join us in our commitment to enhance the lives of children by keeping them safe, healthy, nurtured, educated, and happy. Their present is our obligation. Their future is our legacy.

Sincerely,

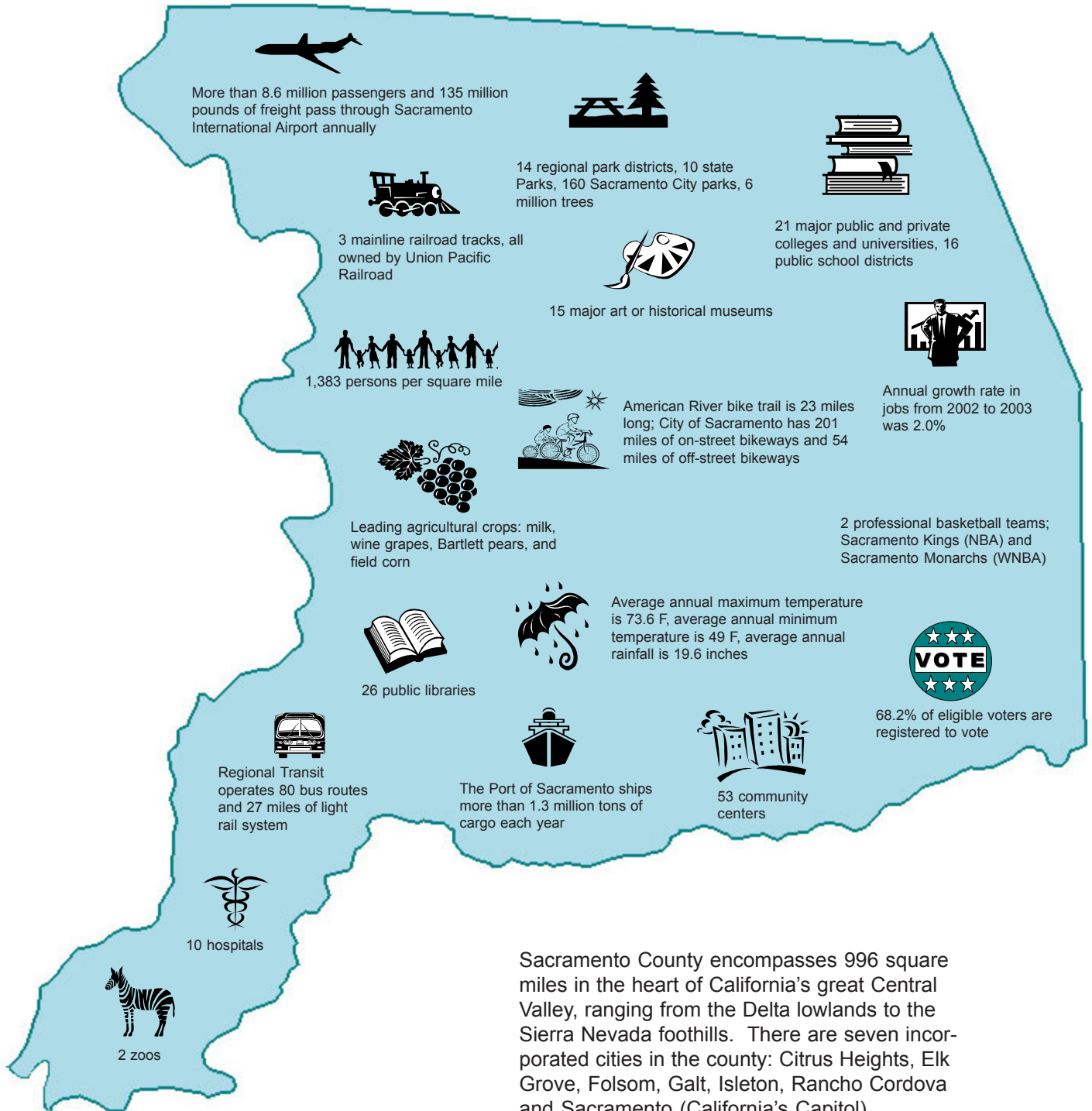
The *Sacramento County Children's Report Card 2004* Committee
A Committee of the Sacramento County Children's Coalition



Photo courtesy of Rio Linda Unified School District



Sacramento County



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Photo courtesy of Rio Linda Unified School District

Demographics

- ◆ In 2004, the Department of Finance estimates that the total number of children ages 0 through 17 in Sacramento County will be 360,032.
- ◆ Of all households with children under age 18, those headed by single females increased from 21% to 25% between 2000 and 2002.
- ◆ There are more than 45 languages spoken by students in County schools.
- ◆ 20.4% of students in grades 1 through 8 and 27.5% of Kindergartners are English Language Learners (ELL).
- ◆ Sacramento County is home to 81.8% of all Ukranian ELL students in the State of California, 44.8% of all Russian ELL students and 38.7% of all Mien (Yao) ELL students.
- ◆ In 2002, there were 96,672 school-age children enrolled in free and reduced-price school meal programs.

Indicators

- Population by Groups
- Population Diversity
- Family Composition
- Children Living in Poverty



Population by Groups

How are we doing?

There are 360,032 children ages 0 to 17 in Sacramento County according to California Department of Finance estimates for 2004. Children ages 5 and under represent 8 percent of the total population and 31.6 percent of all children.

Children ages 12 and younger represent 17 percent of the total population and 64.2 percent of the County's children.



Photo courtesy of Mustard Seed School

**Sacramento County Population Projections, Ages 0 to 17
by Age Group and Race/Ethnicity, 2004**

	White	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	Black	American Indian	Multirace	Total
5 and Under	43,907	32,434	13,251	721	13,833	1,571	8,232	113,949
6 through 11	42,279	32,143	15,237	897	17,499	2,312	6,782	117,149
12 through 17	48,092	31,052	20,400	1,155	19,369	2,588	6,278	128,934
Total	134,278	95,629	48,888	2,773	50,701	6,471	21,292	360,032
% of 0-17	37.3%	26.6%	13.6%	0.8%	14.1%	1.8%	5.9%	100.0%

Source: California Department of Finance

Population Diversity

How are we doing?

Another source of data that reflects the diversity in Sacramento County is public school English Language Learner (ELL) data.

Children from immigrant families often enter the public school system not speaking English well, if at all.

For the 2002-2003 school year, the California Department of Education reported there were 1,599,542 Kindergarten through 12th grade ELL students throughout the state of California and 2.8 percent of them (44,769) attend schools in Sacramento County.

In Sacramento County, 27.54 percent (4,600) of Kindergartners and 20.41 percent (30,014) of students in First through Eighth grades were English Language Learners during the 2002-2003 school year.

Sacramento County is home to 81.8 percent of all Ukranian ELL students in the State of California, 44.8 percent of all Russian ELL students and 38.7 percent of all Mien (Yao) ELL students.

Spanish-speaking students represent the greatest number of non-English speakers with 19,485 enrolled in public schools.

**Public School K-12 English Language Learner
2002-03 School Year**

Language	Sacramento Total	% of State Total
Spanish	19,485	1.4%
Hmong	7,087	28.1%
Russian	3,577	44.8%
Vietnamese	2,246	6.1%
Ukranian	2,026	81.8%
Cantonese	1,797	7.5%
Mien (Yao)	1,327	38.7%
Hindi	1,159	27.3%
Punjabi	978	11.2%
Lao	814	15.9%
Rumanian	338	32.0%
Tongan	220	12.2%
Bosnian	48	19.4%
Marshallese	36	28.1%
Croatian	16	10.1%

Source: California Department of Education

Family Composition

How are we doing?

For children living with their own families, the American Community Survey estimates there has been an increase (from 61% to 67%) in the percentage of households with children under age 18 living in married-couple families and a substantial decrease (from 18% to 8%) in the percentage of single male-headed household families with children under age 18.

Of all households with children under age 18, those headed by single females increased from 21 percent to 25 percent between 2000 and 2002. Single female head-of-household families are more likely to live in poverty than male head-of-household, or two-parent families.

Increasingly, grandparents are taking responsibility for caring for their grandchildren. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 27,874 children in Sacramento county under the age of 18 were being raised in households headed by grandparents and other relatives as their parents struggled with incarceration, divorce, substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence, economic hardship, and other serious problems. These kinship caregivers are caring for

children both inside and outside the foster care system. Of the nearly 28,000 children being raised by kinship caregivers, 10,483 (37.6%) were in the care of their grandparents. Of those grandparents, 2,481 (23.7%) had been responsible for their grandchildren for less than one year, while 4,057 (38.7%) had been responsible for their grandchildren for five years or more.

Family Type for Children Under Age 18 Living with Own Parents Sacramento County, 2002

	Number of Households with Children Under 18	Percent of Households with Children Under 18
Married-couple Family	107,471	67.3%
Male Householder	11,650	7.3%
Female Householder	40,616	25.4%
Total Households	159,737	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002

Children Living in Poverty

How are we doing?

The Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) are established annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to determine eligibility for several public assistance programs (e.g., Healthy Families). The 2002 FPG established a baseline for a single individual at \$8,860 annual gross income, with incremental increases of \$3,080 for each additional person in a family group. (For example, the poverty threshold for a family of three under the 2002 Guidelines is \$15,020. In 2002, the percentage of children under age 18 living in poverty decreased to 18.4 percent from 20.9 percent in 1999.

Another indicator of childhood poverty is participation in free and reduced-price school meal programs. In Sacramento County, children enrolled in these programs has

Sacramento County Students Enrolled in Free- or Reduced-Price School Meal Programs

	Number	Percent
1998	93,894	45.1
1999	93,389	44.1
2000	98,232	45.0
2001	100,159	42.8
2002	96,672	41.6

Source: California Department of Education

hovered between 40 and 45 percent each year since 1995. In 2002, there were 96,672 school-age children enrolled in free and reduced-price school meal programs. For additional information on eligibility guidelines, refer to the Data Appendix.

Percentage of Sacramento County Children Living in Poverty

	1995		1999		2002	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-4 (est.)	27,189	28.5%	23,934	26.9%	17,260	19.1%
5-17	51,737	23.4%	41,967	19.9%	46,650	18.1%
Total	78,926	24.5%	65,901	20.2%	63,910	18.4%

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Children Now, California County Data Book





Photo courtesy Sacramento City Unified School District, Early Head Start

Family Economics

◆ Average yearly unemployment in Sacramento County increased from 4.2% in 2000 to 5.6% in 2003. ◆ The Government sector employs one in four people in the Sacramento Metropolitan Statistical Area. ◆ Affordable housing is diminishing. Average housing costs in Sacramento County continue to exceed what a minimum-wage earner can afford. ◆ Child Action, Inc. estimates that only 60% of families who are seeking childcare can find it. That percentage drops to 40% when the child has special needs. ◆ 35% of Sacramento County residents spend an hour or more each day commuting to and from their workplace. ◆ According to the Sacramento Air Quality Management District, about 70% of Sacramento's ozone problem is caused by vehicle emissions.

Indicators

Availability of Quality Child Care
Availability of and Access to
Out-of-School-Time Programs
Employment
Living Wage
Housing Affordability
Affordability of Child Care
Highway Congestion
Ridership of Public Transportation



Availability of Quality Child Care

How are we doing?

When a parent or guardian works outside the home, *adequate* childcare ensures that a child’s primary needs are met in a safe environment. *Quality* childcare goes beyond the basics, building a relationship with the child and family, contributing to the child’s sense of security, and supporting the child’s development. Research indicates that quality child care is important for all children but may be especially so for low income children who, according to researchers, are more likely to experience poor health, reduced verbal ability and other characteristics associated with lower school achievement.

In 2000, the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network reported there were 37,516 licensed childcare slots in Sacramento County to meet the needs of approximately 149,523 children. By 2003, children needing care had declined slightly to approximately 148,855 while licensed slots had climbed significantly to 52,770.

At face value, these data indicate that four years ago, only 25 percent of children were served in licensed childcare and now, more than 35 percent are thus served. While significant progress has been made, more needs to be done.

Approximately 50 percent of children always have been served in unlicensed childcare situations or informal arrangements with family or friends.

Child Action, Inc. estimates 60 percent of families who call for assistance are able to find childcare. That figure drops to 40 percent when the child has special needs. Approximately 300 providers in Sacramento County now serve children with special needs.

Under normal circumstances, such a shortfall might entice providers to develop more facilities. However, rising costs for childcare providers can make entry into the market

unattractive. As costs get passed on to consumers, families may face a situation where the expense of childcare exceeds the value of working outside of the home.

Recognizing the importance of quality care for Children, the First 5 Sacramento Commission has as one of their goals to “increase the quality of care of children, from birth to 5, in all settings, such as preschools, day care centers and homes.”



Photo courtesy of First 5 Sacramento Commission, Children’s Celebration, 2003

Sacramento County Number of Licensed Child Care Slots			
	2000	2003	% Change
Child Care Centers			
For Infants	1,508	2,465	63.5%
For Ages 2-5	17,101	19,725	15.3%
For Ages 6 and Older	5,609	8,902	58.7%
Total	24,218	31,092	100%
Family Child Care Homes			
All ages	13,298	21,678	63.0%
Total	37,516	52,770	40.7%

Source: California Child Care Portfolio, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

Availability of and Access to Out-of-School-Time Programs

How are we doing?

Out-of-school-time programs are organized activities and opportunities that youth participate in before or after school, on weekends, in the evening, or during school breaks. There is limited data on these opportunities. The statistics used here come from a review of school-based programs and inquiries of other program providers.

Children spend approximately six hours a day in school and about nine hours sleeping. How they spend the rest of the time each day can have a significant impact on their academic, social, and emotional development. Research has shown that children benefit greatly from access to safe places, caring adults and relationships, opportunities to participate in activities and to learn skills, and community support and involvement.

Other research indicates that young people without supervision during out-of-school hours experience greater stress, do less well in school and engage in more risky behavior, including crime, sex and substance abuse. Out-of-school-time programs have been shown to reduce crime, teen pregnancy, the incidence of sexually transmitted disease, teen smoking, school violence, and youth substance abuse. Out of school-time programs also have been shown to contribute to the academic success of young people and help them become job ready.

Comprehensive, coordinated support systems currently are in place for children ages 0-5. The same infrastructure does not exist for children and youth ages 5-18.

Over the past several years there has been an expansion of academically-focused, state-funded after school programs for elementary school age and middle school youth serving approximately 8,350 children. The CORAL Initiative, a 7-year Irvine Foundation grant, serves about 650 elementary age students in North Sacramento and Meadowview.

There are other programs available throughout the county, including but not limited to: Friday Night Live, Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Camp Fire, 4-H, programs offered by recreation districts, and private sports leagues. The City of Citrus Heights has included after-school care as one of its priority goals.

Most communities have gaps in services because they lack programs that provide leadership development, career awareness, employment, sport leagues, and volunteer opportunities.

Programs and opportunities for youth with disabilities or who have special needs may be even more limited in terms of accessibility or because staff and volunteers may need specialized training to provide the level of service needed.



Photo courtesy of Rio Linda Unified School District



Employment

How are we doing?

One in four workers in the Sacramento Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) holds a government job. The Sacramento MSA includes the counties of Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado. Since 2002, state and local budget deficits have resulted in layoffs from many government positions, contributing to the unemployment rate in the region. Government contract reductions also have had an impact on local agencies. Despite layoffs and service cutbacks in many sectors,

Annual Average Unemployment Rate Sacramento County and California, 2000-2003				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sacramento County	4.2%	4.2%	5.4%	5.6%
California	4.9%	5.4%	6.7%	6.7%

Source: California Employment Development Department

the California Employment Development Department is projecting employment growth in the services, retail trade, and government sectors through 2006. Fields with anticipated growth in the service sector

include security guards on the low end of the pay scale (average \$9.29 per hour) to registered nurses on the upper end of the pay scale (\$24.00 per hour average). In the retail trade sector, it is anticipated that there will be a significant number of jobs available for salespeople, cashiers, and restaurant workers. The general pay range in the retail sector is from \$6.75 to \$8.50 per hour.

Employment by Industry, Sacramento Metropolitan Statistical Area Number and Percent of Total, 2000-02 Averages

Selected Industry Category	2000		2002		Percent Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Agriculture	4,000	0.6%	5,100	0.7%	27.5%
Mining/Construction	47,800	6.7%	55,000	7.4%	15.1%
Manufacturing	50,700	7.1%	45,400	6.1%	-10.5%
Transportation & Public Utilities	27,500	3.9%	25,500	3.4%	-7.3%
Wholesale/Retail	152,500	21.4%	160,100	21.6%	5.0%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	47,800	6.7%	48,200	6.5%	0.8%
Services	202,000	28.3%	206,600	27.9%	2.3%
Government	181,400	25.4%	195,000	26.3%	7.5%
Total	713,800	100.0%	740,900	100.0%	3.8%

Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division

Living Wage

How are we doing?

Even in the best of economic times, many working families struggle to make ends meet, especially those whose income is at the lower end of the wage scale. In California, the minimum wage is \$6.75 per hour. This is the pay rate for many entry-level positions, and the starting wage for many jobs in the retail and services sectors.

The graphic for this section is a hypothetical budget for two Sacramento County families. One is a single-parent family of three (mother, two children ages 7 and 1½); the mother is a fulltime bookkeeper earning \$32,032 annually. The second is a two-parent family of four (father, mother, two children ages 7 and 1½). Both parents work full-time; the father as a maintenance worker and the mother as a childcare worker. Together they earn \$38,750.40 annually.

Hypothetical Family Budget, January 2003

	1-Parent Family	2-Parent Family
Monthly Gross Pay	\$2,669.33	\$3,229.00
Deductions: Federal, State, Social Security, Medicare, Disability	320.28	429.56
Dependent Health Coverage	479.00	579.00
Monthly Net Pay	\$1,870.05	\$2,220.44
Expenses:		
Rent - 2 Bedroom	\$918.00	\$918.00
Child Care (full-time and after school)	877.00	877.00
Food	465.00	667.00
Bus Pass	60.00	120.00
Utilities	75.00	95.00
Total Expenses*	\$2,395.00	\$2,677.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$524.95)	(\$456.56)

* Does not include costs for clothing and services, education, personal care, housekeeping supplies, basic telephone service, or entertainment.

Sources: Refer to Data Appendix

Housing Affordability

How are we doing?

The housing boom that has made the Sacramento area the fastest growing region in the nation since 2002 has created a situation where many families cannot afford to live where they work and may be forced to relocate or commute long distances to get to their jobs.

The housing crunch also has made it necessary for families to allocate greater percentages of the family income to housing, leaving fewer resources for other necessities such as food, transportation, health, and childcare.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recommends that families spend no more than a third of their income on housing. In Sacramento County the median rental cost for a two-bedroom apartment in 2004 is \$950. For a single parent making \$12 per hour, \$950 represents 70 percent of the wage earner’s net monthly pay.

The rising costs of new and resale houses has priced many working families out of the home purchase market as well.

Fair Market Rents (FMRs) Sacramento County and California, 2004					
	Studio	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
California	\$748	\$878	\$1,101	\$1,510	\$1,749
Sacramento	\$674	\$759	\$950	\$1,318	\$1,554

Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development

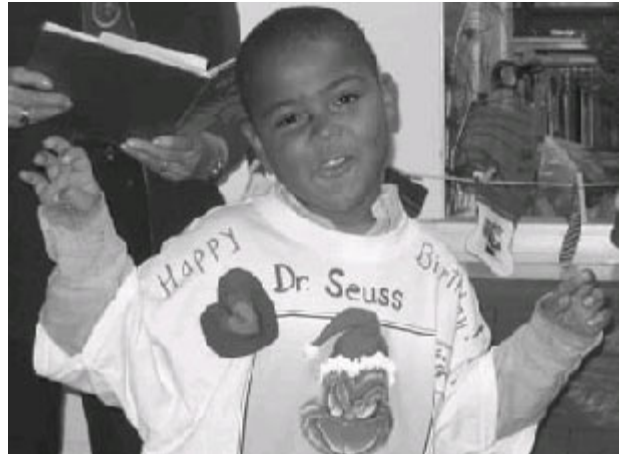


Photo courtesy of Mustard Seed School

Affordability of Child Care

How are we doing?

For working families, the cost of childcare has to be balanced with the income realized by working. When childcare costs begin to exceed a certain percentage of income, the purpose for working is compromised and there is a disincentive for parents to work. As the Sacramento Local Child Care and Development Planning Council summed it up: “Parents can’t pay it, employers don’t support it, and government support for it is shrinking.”

Budget pressures on childcare providers include rising costs for workers compensation, licensing fees, unemployment insurance, and mandatory family leave. At the same time, government is cutting back on childcare subsidies.

Child Care Cost and Family Income, 2002

Average annual cost of full-time licensed care for a preschooler, 2-5 years old, in a center ¹	\$6,692
Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker ²	\$14,040
Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage	48%
Annual median family income ³	\$50,717
Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit ⁴	\$8,508
Salary of entry-level public school teacher ⁵	\$29,967

See Data Appendix for footnotes

Source: California Child Care Portfolio, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network



Highway Congestion

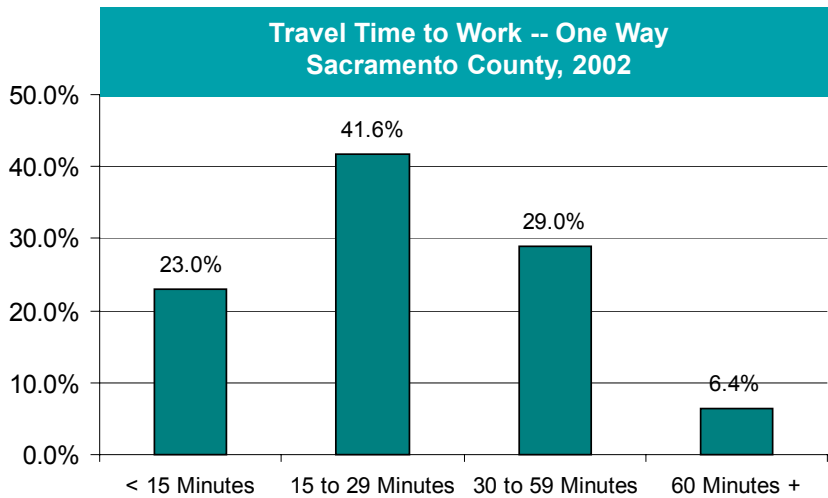
How are we doing?

Traffic congestion and transportation issues rank very high on the list of Sacramento region residents' quality of life concerns; so high that 63 percent of respondents to the 2004 Central Valley Survey conducted jointly by the Great Valley Center and Public Policy Institute of California said they are willing to pay additional taxes to fund transportation improvement projects.

In the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' *Regional Transportation Plan for 2025*, it was noted that previously uncongested roads are becoming clogged because so much of the growth in both jobs and housing is in suburban locations.

Commuters are finding that it takes longer to get to and from their jobs as more and more vehicles use the highways. Extended commute times can increase vehicle maintenance, childcare and job-related expenses, and have a negative impact on air quality.

According to the Sacramento Air Quality Management District, about 70 percent of Sacramento's ozone problem is caused by vehicle emissions. Chronic air pollution poses health risks and can cause or exacerbate lung conditions—especially asthma in children.



Source: Western Economic Research

Ridership of Public Transportation

How are we doing?

For each of the last 10 years, public transit systems have experienced an increase in ridership.

Rapid regional growth and demographic changes have resulted in significant housing and business development on the outer boundaries of existing urban centers, creating new demand for extended public transit services. Many suburban job sites have little or no transit service, and transit service connecting suburban residential and employment areas is especially thin.

Sacramento Regional Transit has been responsive to citizen interest by developing plans for new and improved lines to outlying areas, increasing wheelchair and bicycle rider capacity on busses and trains, and adding services to the existing system. In response to student advocates and parents, Regional Transit began selling a reduced fee monthly student pass for \$15. All youth ages 18 and under who are pursuing a high school diploma can ride Regional Transit for 75 cents or purchase a daily pass for \$1.75.

System	FY 1999	FY 2001	FY 2003
Total Annual Boardings	26,070,000	26,039,000	27,800,000
Average Weekday Ridership	93,125	97,000	101,496

Source: Sacramento County Regional Transit; Short Range Transit Plan

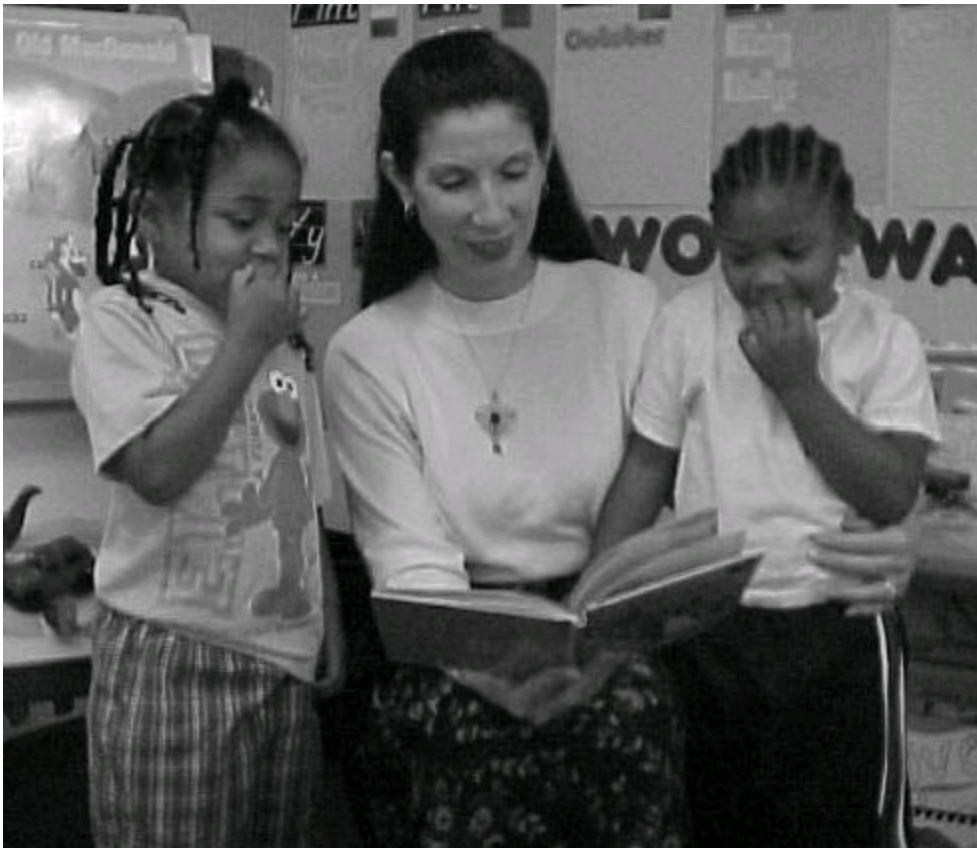


Photo courtesy of Rio Linda Unified School District

Education

- ◆ 91% of Sacramento County students are enrolled in public schools, public special education, or public alternative programs.
- ◆ Research indicates that the emotional, physical, and intellectual environment a child is exposed to in the early years of life has a significant impact on brain development and influences how a child will function in school and later in life.
- ◆ Approximately 1/3 of first-year teachers in 2001-2002 did not continue teaching in Sacramento County for a second year in 2002-2003.
- ◆ During the 2002-03 academic year 90% of Sacramento County schools achieved their school-wide Academic Performance Index Growth target.
- ◆ The percentage of Postsecondary Enrollment of Sacramento County High School graduates declined from 56% in 2001 to 48% in 2002.
- ◆ A survey conducted by the First 5 Sacramento Commission found that approximately 44% of children had some pre-Kindergarten experience at a preschool, Head Start program, or childcare center.

Indicators

- School Readiness
- Student and Family Support Services
- School Enrollment, Public and Private
- Classroom Teacher Credential and Experience
- Test Scores
- Academic Performance Index (API) Growth
- Children Who Are Not in School
- Graduation Rates
- Post-Secondary Enrollment
- Per-Pupil Expenditures



School Readiness

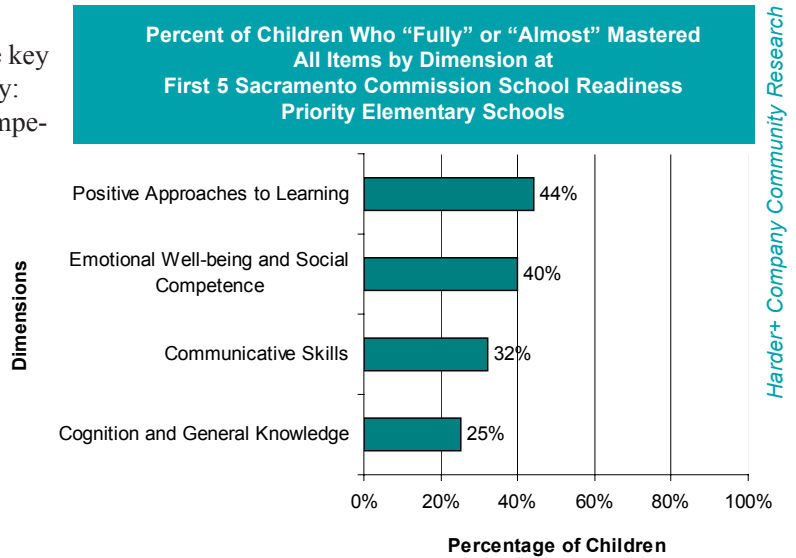
How are we doing?

School readiness is measured by whether or not three key elements are in place and working together effectively: whether children start school with developmental competencies that will help them succeed in school; whether community and family supports are in place to support school readiness; and, whether schools are prepared to address the needs of all children.

At the preschool level, Head Start and state-funded child development programs in Sacramento County assess children for school readiness using a tool called Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). This tool gauges language literacy, math/science approaches to learning, physical development, and other indicators. The data yielded by these assessments can be examined in a variety of ways, including by ethnicity, language groups, and age. The assessments also can be used to revise classroom curriculum and develop strategies to enhance children’s growth and development.

In order to assess school readiness at elementary schools performing in the lowest third on the Academic Performance Index, the First 5 Sacramento Commission surveyed teachers, principals, and parents in 2003. Kindergarten teachers used a modified version of the DRDP to evaluate the baseline competencies of entering Kindergarteners at the target school readiness sites in Sacramento County. The tool includes items about developmental competencies of Kindergarteners along four of the five critical dimensions defined by the National Education Goals Panel: 1) Approaches to Learning; 2) Social and Emotional Development; 3) Communicative skills (language use); and, 4) Cognition and General Knowledge. Summarized here are data for Kindergarteners from the First 5 Sacramento Commission-funded school readiness program schools.

School readiness is a focus for many people and organizations in Sacramento County. The Countywide School Readiness Task Force meets monthly. Community partnerships are being developed with organizations such as the First 5 Sacramento Commission, the Sacramento County Office of Education, school districts, and community-based organizations. Outreach efforts include brochures that provide information to help both parents and childcare providers support the healthy development of children. The First 5 Sacramento Commission is taking a leadership



role in promoting school readiness. The Commission, which is funded by Proposition 10 tobacco taxes, has developed a three-year operational plan around the priority of increasing school readiness among children ages birth to 5 years old. The Commission has earmarked \$7 million for school readiness strategies from 2004 through 2007. Most of these funds have been allocated for the continuation and expansion of current School Readiness programs located within school districts with elementary school performing at the lowest three deciles of the Academic Performance Index (API). The balance of funding is targeted for special focus areas related to school readiness including infrastructure, special needs, caregiver support, oral health, and preschool.



Photo courtesy of First 5 Sacramento Commission, Children’s Celebration, 2003

Student and Family Support Services

How are we doing?

Federal and state policies have tried to focus schools on student achievement. High-quality classroom instruction is not the only essential ingredient for academic progress. A child’s physical and emotional health, which often are directly related to family strengths, are key factors in school attendance and a student’s ability to learn well.

During the last five years, schools in Sacramento County have increased the number of school counselors, effectively decreasing the student case load for each counselor. Except for the 2002-2003 school year, schools in Sacramento County also increased the number of school nurses.

In recent years, schools in Sacramento County have formed collaborative relationships with the County’s Department of Human Assistance, community-based organizations, and statewide initiatives to provide eligible students with learning support services. Healthy Start programs, after-school programs, dental clinics, mentor programs, student resource offices, and mental health services are provided at selected schools.

These programs address family conditions that deprive children of the support they need, including providing employment assistance and parenting education. They also focus on the child, including arranging for dental and health care, coordinating immunizations, or providing enrichment activities.

During the last five years, the number of pupil services personnel per 1,000 students in Sacramento County has increased steadily, frequently exceeding the state average. These personnel include counselors, school psychologists, librarians, social workers, nurses, speech/language/hearing specialists, and resource specialists – service providers who directly touch the lives of students every day in schools throughout the county.

While there is growing recognition that these services are vital to support academic achievement, school districts are facing tough funding choices as are many of their collaborative partners. As a result, the collaborative approach that has served children well over the past five years faces new challenges.

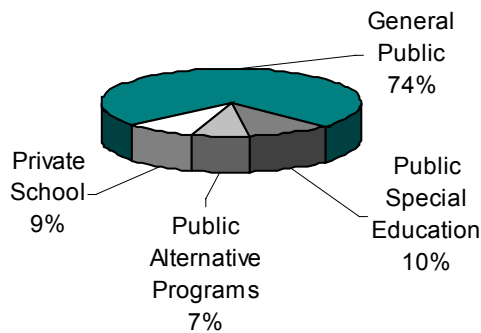
Student Support Services Counselor and Nurse Ratios					
Number and Ratio, 1997-98 to 2002-03					
	Enrollment	Number of Counselors	Counselor to Student Ratio	Number of Nurses	Nurse to Student Ratio
1997-1998					
Sacramento County	205,000	215	1: 953	98	1: 2,092
California	5,727,303	6,028	1: 950	2,389	1: 2,397
1998-1999					
Sacramento County	209,598	230	1: 911	99	1: 2,117
California	5,844,111	6,394	1: 914	2,528	1: 2,312
1999-2000					
Sacramento County	213,713	231	1: 925	105	1: 2,035
California	5,951,612	6,623	1: 899	2,630	1: 2,263
2000-2001					
Sacramento County	222,224	251	1: 885	110	1: 2,020
California	6,050,895	6,942	1: 872	2,726	1: 2,220
2001-2002					
Sacramento County	228,122	255	1: 895	118	1: 1,933
California	6,147,375	6,995	1: 879	2,695	1: 2,281
2002-2003					
Sacramento County	232,612	261	1: 891	80	1: 2,908
California	6,244,403	7,224	1: 864	2,725	1: 2,292

Source: California Department of Education



School Enrollment, Public and Private

Sacramento County Public and Private Schools Enrollment, 2002-2003



Source: California Department of Education

During the 2002-2003 school year, 255,523 Sacramento County children were enrolled in schools. Of those, 232,612 (91%) were students in public schools and 22,911 (9%) were at private schools. Just more than 10 percent of public school students were enrolled in Special Education programs. Total school enrollments increased by 10,487 students (4.3%) from the 2000-2001 school year.

Between the 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 school years, there were significant changes in public alternative education programs within the county's school systems as well.

How are we doing?

Information was obtained on public and private school enrollments from the California Department of Education for the 2002-2003 school year. The information does not include data on students who were "home-schooled."

Education in the United States is compulsory from age 6 through 18 and most children spend the better part of their childhood in a school environment.

Public Alternative Education Programs Enrollment Sacramento County, 2002-2003

	K-8	9-12
Continuation Classes	0	2,576
Community/Experience-based Opportunity	5	223
Magnet Program	658	231
Pregnant and Parenting	4,591	1,835
Independent Study	9	241
Other Programs	2,042	5,219
Total	7,411	10,903

Source: California Department of Education

Classroom Teacher Credential and Experience

How are we doing?

Professionally-trained teachers have the tools to help students succeed. A teacher's ability to respond effectively to a variety of situations and students is honed by his or her experience in the classroom.

There was little change in the average number of years teaching from 12.9 percent in 2000-2001 to 12.4 percent during 2002-2003. From 2001-2002 to 2002-2003, there was a decrease of 27 first-year teachers, and an increase of 52 second-year teachers in Sacramento County schools.

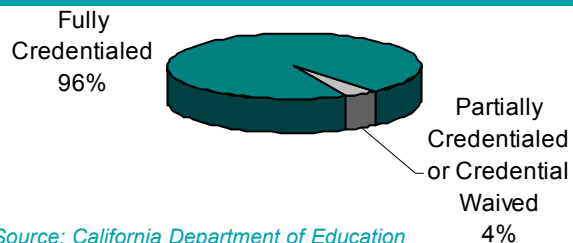
Approximately one-third of first-year teachers in 2001-2002 did not continue on to teach in Sacramento County for a second year in 2002-2003.

Teacher Employment History 2002-2003

	Avg. Years Teaching	First Year Teachers	Second Year Teachers
Sacramento County	12.4	690	666
California	12.7	17,816	20,139

Source: California Department of Education

Classroom Teachers Credentialing Sacramento County, 2002-2003



Source: California Department of Education

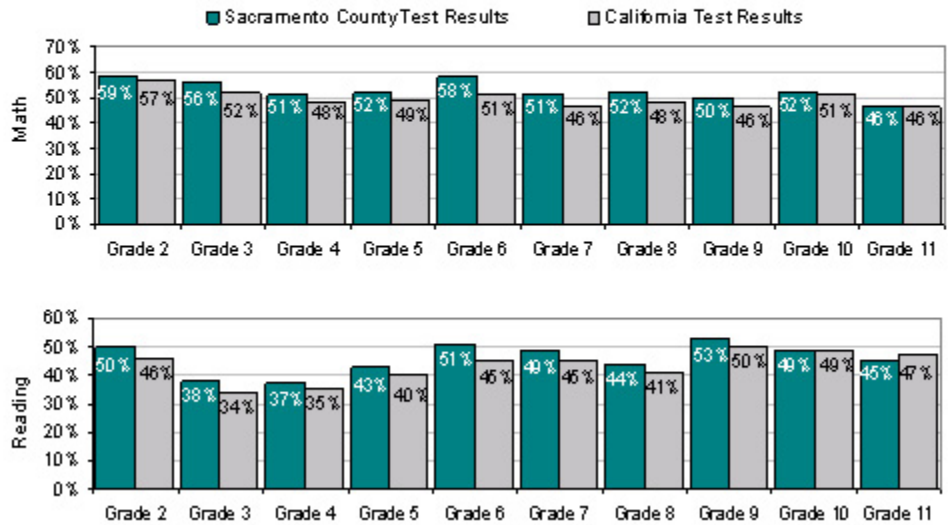
Test Scores

How are we doing?

Standardized testing helps educators, parents, and the community understand how well students are meeting state standards and demonstrates whether schools are effectively teaching the required skills. In April 2002, the California Achievement Tests/Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey) replaced the Stanford 9 (SAT 9) as the standardized test used throughout California to measure performance in reading, language, spelling, mathematics, science, and social science.

more than half of students in grades 2, 6, and 9 were scoring at about the 50th National Percentile Ranking.

Percent of Students Scoring at or Above the 50th National Percentile Ranking Sacramento County and California, Spring 2003



Source: California Department of Education

As of spring 2003, CAT/6 math tests scores for Sacramento County showed that more than half of students in grades 2 through 10 were performing at or above the National 50th Percentile Ranking. CAT/6 reading test results showed that

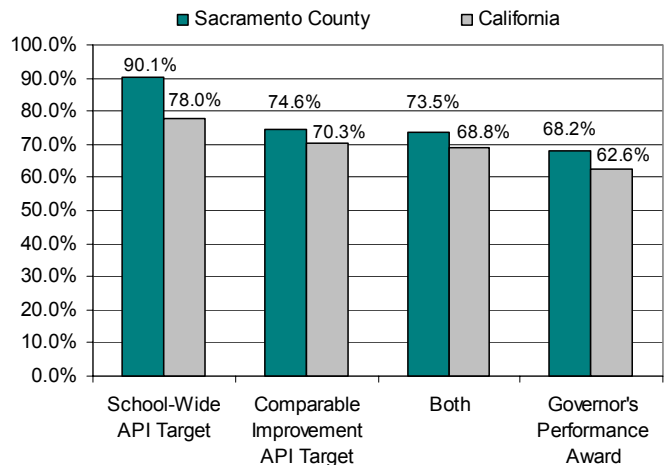
Academic Performance Index (API) Growth

How are we doing?

The Academic Performance Index (API) measures improvement in a school's test scores from year to year. Each school is measured by how much their students improve overall and by how much each numerically-significant ethnic group and socio-economically disadvantaged group has improved. By focusing on API growth rather than the basic score, schools are evaluated on their improvement, leveling the playing field for gains and financial incentives.

Significant improvement was made in Sacramento County schools from 2000-01 to 2002-03. In 2000-01, more than 75 percent of Sacramento County schools participating in API ranking achieved their school-wide target. Sixty percent of schools achieved 4 percent API growth in the area of comparable improvement. More than half of all schools in Sacramento County (53.9%) were eligible for the Governor's Performance Award. During the 2002-03 academic year, 90.1 percent of schools achieved their school-wide target, 74.6 percent achieved their comparable improvement target, and 68.2 percent were eligible for the Governor's Performance Award.

Percent of Schools Meeting API Growth Targets 2002-2003 School Year



Source: California Department of Education



Children Who Are Not in School

How are we doing?

Children who are not in school are not receiving the education they need to lead successful and fulfilled lives. Students who are habitually truant often are unsupervised and more likely to practice behaviors that put them at risk. In addition, truancy impacts the average daily attendance calculations upon which school operating budgets are based, and ultimately affects children who are in school.

School districts in Sacramento County report an average of 95 percent attendance on any given day. Districts in the County use the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) guidelines to enforce compulsory attendance laws. However, of the five percent of students who are absent, data to distinguish truancy from excused absences is not available in a centralized format.

The Sacramento County SARB currently is developing a survey to be used countywide for all districts to report this information.



Photo courtesy of Mustard Seed School

Graduation Rates

How are we doing?

Higher education levels often translate to higher earning levels. Failure to attain at least a high school diploma can relegate workers to low-paying jobs and perpetuate an economically-impooverished lifestyle.

The percent of students graduating from high school in Sacramento County (measured as a percent of students entering 9th grade four years earlier) has been rising steadily since 1996 by an average of two percentage points each year.

The percentage of 12th graders graduating during 2002-2003 (based on percent of 12th graders securing a high school diploma) increased somewhat over the 2001-2002 levels for African American and Filipino students, but decreased for all other racial/ethnic categories. There was a significant decrease in the graduation rate of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Percent of 12th Grade Students Graduating by Race/Ethnicity Sacramento County and California, 2001-02 and 2002-03				
	Sacramento County		California	
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003
African American	80.0%	81.1%	83.1%	83.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	69.1%	74.6%	85.4%	86.1%
Asian	91.2%	69.4%	93.6%	92.8%
Filipino	85.6%	88.4%	92.0%	91.7%
Hispanic or Latino	80.9%	78.8%	86.5%	85.6%
Pacific Islander	98.4%	85.0%	90.6%	85.2%
White (not Hispanic)	90.8%	87.0%	90.9%	90.6%
Total	87.2%	85.3%	89.1%	88.6%

Rate based on percentage of Enrolled 12th Grade Students Graduating.

Note: This data is not comparable with previous Children's Report Card data as it is based on the percentage of enrolled twelfth-grade students graduating, not number of twelfth-grade graduates divided by number of ninth graders enrolled four years prior as was used in prior Children's Report Cards.

Source: California Department of Education

Post-Secondary Enrollment

How are we doing?

Keeping pace with rapidly changing and developing professional fields requires lifelong learning. In today's competitive employment arena, job candidates without at least some education beyond high school often find themselves at a disadvantage.

From 2000-01 to 2002-03, Grade 12 enrollments in Sacramento County grew by 12.9 percent. For the same period, the high school graduation rate increased countywide by 13.1 percent.

In Sacramento County, the number of UC/CSU-eligible high school graduates rose

High School Graduates Meeting UC/CSU Entry Requirements Sacramento County and California, 2000-2003

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	% Change 2000-01 to 2002-03
Sacramento County				
Total Enrollment	222,224	228,122	232,612	4.7%
Grade 12 Enrollment	13,615	13,817	15,372	12.9%
High School Graduates	11,591	12,055	13,106	13.1%
UC/CSU Requirements Met	3,428	4,233	4,505	31.4%
% Graduates Meeting Req's	29.6%	35.1%	34.4%	16.2%
California				
Total Enrollment	6,050,895	6,147,375	6,244,403	3.2%
Grade 12 Enrollment	357,789	365,907	385,181	7.7%
High School Graduates	316,124	325,919	341,097	7.9%
UC/CSU Requirements Met	112,469	112,676	114,194	1.5%
% Graduates Meeting Req's	35.6%	34.6%	33.5%	-5.9%

Source: California Department of Education

Graduates Enrolling in California Public Post-Secondary Institutions, 2000-2002

	2000	2001	2002
California Community Colleges	39.0%	39.7%	30.9%
California State Universities	10.8%	11.3%	10.8%
Universities of California	6.3%	6.0%	6.7%

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission

from 3,428 in 2000-01 to 4,505 in 2002-03, an increase of 31.4 percent. Despite the increase in UC/CSU-eligible students, enrollments in UC/CSU institutions did not increase, and enrollments in community colleges decreased by 8.1 percent from 2000 to 2002.

Per-Pupil Expenditures

How are we doing?

Whereas schools in most states are funded through local jurisdictions, funding for public schools and education in California largely is controlled by state government. The complex funding system for California schools has evolved through a maze of state laws, voter-approved initiatives, court decisions, and government regulations. Federal and state funds for local jurisdictions often come with requirements that the money be used for specific programs or particular groups of students. The result is that the way sizeable portions of local education funds are spent often is beyond the control of the local jurisdiction.



Photo courtesy of Mustard Seed School

Per-Pupil Expenditures, 1998-99 through 2001-02*

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Sacramento County	\$5,409	\$5,643	\$6,309	\$6,669
California	\$5,379	\$5,705	\$6,360	\$6,719
County Annual Difference	\$30	-\$62	-\$51	-\$50

* Cost of direct educational services based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

Source: California Department of Education

According to EdSource, California ranked 35th of 50 states in 2001-2002 in per-pupil expenditures. For 2002-2003, EdSource noted that California's per-pupil expenditure was \$6,788 and estimated the expenditure would be \$6,752 in 2003-2004.

Since 1999-2000, Sacramento County has spent less per pupil than California as a whole. In 2001-2002, Sacramento County spent an average of \$6,669 per pupil, \$50 less than the statewide average per-pupil expenditure.





Photo courtesy of First 5 Sacramento Commission, Children's Celebration, 2003

Health

◆ The 2001 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) estimated that 3.4% (about 11,000) of Sacramento County's children ages 0-17 did not have health coverage at the time the survey was conducted and 8.4% (about 28,000) did not have health coverage at some point during the prior year. ◆ In Sacramento County, the level of women obtaining prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy has increased by nearly 4% since 1998. ◆ Over the past 12 years, up-to-date immunization rates in California have increased steadily. ◆ 63% of children completed their basic series of immunizations by age 2 in 2003. ◆ 31% of Sacramento County Healthy Start students were in need of routine dental care in 2002 and 16% were in need of urgent care. ◆ 16.8% of children ages 0-17 experienced asthma symptoms in 2001. ◆ Of the 21,743 babies born in Sacramento County in 2002, there were 640 born to mothers ages 17 and younger.

Indicators

Health Care Access

Sexually-Transmitted Infections

Prenatal Care

Breastfeeding

Perinatal Substance Exposure

Birth Rates Among Teens

Immunization by Age 2

Dental Health

Air Quality

Children Suffering from Asthma

Tobacco Use and Youth



Health Care Access

How are we doing?

Children without access to preventive and ongoing healthcare are more likely to suffer from costly chronic health conditions and are less likely to do well in school. Studies have documented that health insurance coverage is linked to better health, which in turn is linked to improved school performance. Also, children who have access to healthcare are more likely to receive the many immunizations that are an important front-line defense for limiting contagious diseases.

Children who have no health insurance often end up in hospital emergency rooms when they become ill. This drives health costs higher for everyone, strains facilities that should be reserved for emergencies, and exposes children unnecessarily to frightening medical situations.

Ensuring that children are seen at the early stages of health problems by providing them with an appropriate, insured medical “home” improves not only their health outcomes but also limits costs, addresses public health issues, and increases emergency room availability for others with more dire needs.

The 2001 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) estimated that 3.4 percent (about 11,000) of Sacramento County’s children ages 0-17 did not have health coverage at the time the survey was conducted. Statewide, 9.6 percent of children lacked health coverage for the same period.

At the time of the CHIS Survey, 8.4 percent (about 28,000) of children in Sacramento County had not had health coverage at some point during the prior year. Comparatively, 14.2 percent of children statewide did not have consistent health coverage during the year prior to the survey.

As of July 2003, there were 138,527 children between the ages of 0 and 20 enrolled in Medi-Cal. There were 17,014 children ages 0-18 enrolled in Healthy Families as of November 2003. (Age limitations and age groupings for data tracking differ for the two programs.) Uninsured children come from many types of situations. Some are undocumented residents; others have parents who are

between jobs or who are employed in places that do not provide family coverage. Others have parents who make too much money to qualify for government assistance but too little money to buy insurance without shortchanging other household needs.

Fully two-thirds of uninsured children are eligible for existing programs but are not enrolled. Impediments to enrollment include limited outreach, complex application procedures, language and cultural barriers. Many whose children are eligible do not know about government assistance or lack trust in healthcare concepts and programs that may be unfamiliar.

In late 2002, the Sacramento Children’s Coalition sponsored a “Children’s Summit” that identified healthcare coverage as a priority. As a result, the Children’s Coalition, City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, and First 5 Sacramento Commission jointly are sponsoring a task force that meets monthly to develop and implement a strategy for providing health insurance coverage for all Sacramento County children. The strategy includes outreach and enrollment efforts for existing programs, a retention focus to maintain coverage, and the creation of a new health insurance program as a plan of last resort for children not eligible for other coverage.

The “Cover the Kids by 2006” initiative is poised to unfold one or more pilot projects in 2004, propelled by a three-year, \$10 million commitment from the First 5 Sacramento Commission. “Cover the Kids by 2006” also is participating in a regional, six-county effort to plan and implement a seamless, family-friendly system that is portable across county lines for insuring its youngest and most vulnerable residents.

**Number and Percentage of Children Enrolled in Medi-Cal
Sacramento County and California, July 2003**

Age Groups	Sacramento County		California	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-5	44,178	17.1%	1,222,685	19.0%
6-10	35,150	13.6%	849,004	13.2%
11-15	33,985	13.1%	752,797	11.7%
16-20	25,214	9.7%	560,657	8.7%
Total Ages 0-20	138,527	53.5%	3,385,143	52.6%
Total All Ages	258,351	100.0%	6,435,184	100.0%

Source: California Department of Health Services

Sexually Transmitted Infections

How are we doing?

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs; also STDs) can have serious, long-term, and permanent consequences including infertility, chronic pelvic pain, and poor pregnancy outcomes. Left untreated, they can even be fatal. However, unlike many serious diseases, STIs and their consequences are nearly always preventable when education and outreach help people change their behavior patterns.

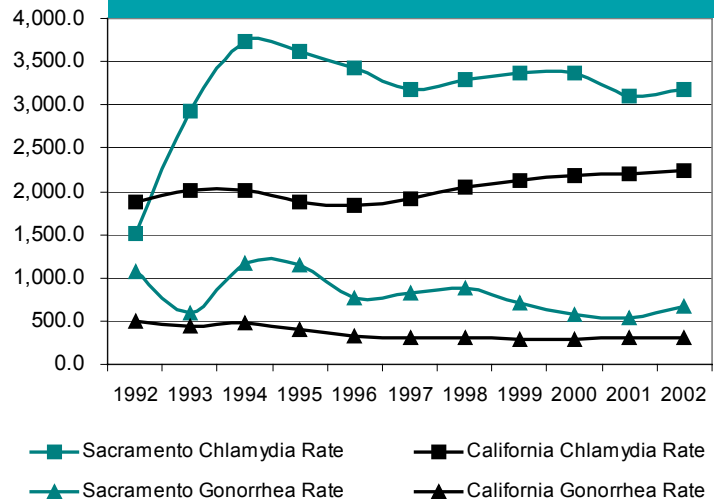
Of particular concern is that STIs have an enormous adverse influence on pregnancy outcomes. It is estimated that 30-40 percent of premature births may be associated with STIs. With appropriate early detection and treatment, many of the adverse outcomes can be avoided or lessened.

The numbers for childhood HIV/AIDS infection are small but distinctive in nature. In 2002, of the six reported cases of HIV infection among children in Sacramento County, all were transmitted from mother to fetus. Recently, state legislation has been enacted that strengthens the requirement that all pregnant women be offered an HIV test. It is hoped that the rate of mother-child transmission will decrease with increased testing.

Sacramento County teenage gonorrhea and chlamydia rates are higher than the statewide rate. The prevalence of chlamydia in females ages 15-19 is among the highest in the state. (Note: these data are not tracked for males as they often are asymptomatic and do not get tested.)

Sacramento County has emphasized testing among children at highest risk for STIs, including wards of the County's juvenile detention facility. The County's Care-a-Van, a mobile medical clinic, offers free STI testing at a variety of teen gathering spots. This emphasis on testing, identification, and reporting of young people who have contracted sexually transmitted infections may explain in part why Sacramento County appears to have significantly high rates of STIs when compared with other counties or the state as a whole. Current fiscal conditions may constrain the level of intervention available to the most critical populations.

STI Rates Among 15-19 Year Old Females Sacramento County and California, 1992-2002



Sexually-Transmitted Infections: Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Females Ages 15 -19, Sacramento County and California, 1990-2002

	Chlamydia				Gonorrhea			
	Sacramento		California		Sacramento		California	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
1990	614.0	1,856.1	14,516.0	1,461.0	309.0	934.1	5,320.0	535.5
1991	892.0	2,743.9	17,704.0	1,835.1	306.0	941.3	5,120.0	530.7
1992	496.0	1,505.5	18,147.0	1,878.1	350.0	1,062.3	4,867.0	503.7
1993	983.0	2,936.3	19,266.0	2,004.9	199.0	594.4	4,301.0	447.6
1994	1,283.0	3,736.7	19,596.0	2,017.9	400.0	1,165.0	4,562.0	469.8
1995	1,289.0	3,625.9	18,626.0	1,879.2	411.0	1,156.1	4,038.0	407.4
1996	1,282.0	3,432.6	18,764.0	1,832.5	284.0	760.4	3,421.0	334.1
1997	1,225.0	3,172.2	20,145.0	1,909.3	318.0	823.5	3,142.0	297.8
1998	1,327.0	3,293.0	22,348.0	2,044.8	354.0	878.5	3,372.0	308.5
1999	1,401.0	3,364.6	23,855.0	2,118.2	297.0	713.3	3,243.0	288.0
2000	1,437.0	3,370.8	25,124.0	2,181.7	244.0	572.4	3,290.0	285.7
2001	1,350.0	3,097.3	25,794.0	2,194.3	231.0	530.0	3,620.0	308.0
2002	1,417.0	3,176.4	26,951.0	2,233.1	300.0	672.5	3,647.0	302.2

Rate per 100,000 population ages 15-19

Source: California Department of Health Services



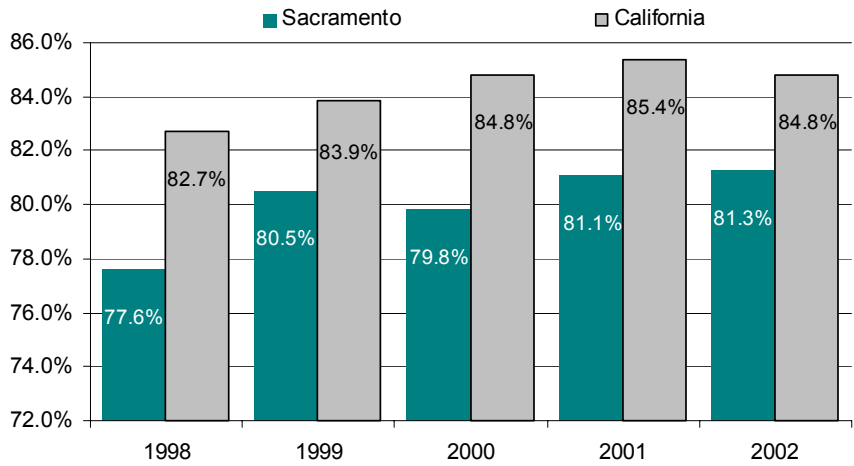
Prenatal Care

How are we doing?

Mothers who obtain prenatal care are more likely to carry their babies to term, have babies with a better birth weight, and generally have healthier babies. Accessing early prenatal care can help identify potential medical problems and other risk factors that could jeopardize the pregnancy, and provide early and effective intervention. Prenatal care is an opportunity to educate the expectant parent(s) about caring for their newborn and other children.

In Sacramento County, the level of women obtaining prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy has increased by nearly 4 percent since 1998. However, 15.2 percent of women still do not obtain prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy. Minority women, women younger than 20, and women older than 45 are least likely to start early prenatal care. Lack of transportation and childcare for existing children are common obstacles to accessing early prenatal care.

Prenatal Care Received During First Trimester Measured as a Percent of Total Live Births 1988-2002



Source: Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services

Lack of insurance has been associated with failure to seek early prenatal care although every health plan in Sacramento County, including Medi-Cal Managed Care, encourages prenatal care.

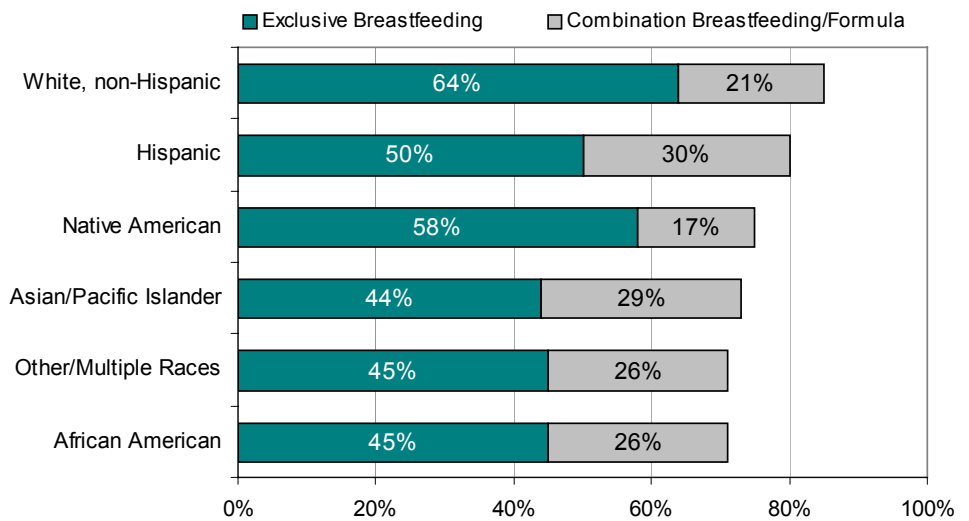
Breastfeeding

How are we doing?

In 2001, data on in-hospital breast-feeding was collected for 508,723 new mothers in California. Eighty-three percent (422,240) initiated either exclusive breastfeeding or combination breastfeeding/formula.

Similar data was collected for 20,451 mothers delivering babies in hospitals in Sacramento County during 2001. Eighty percent (16,361) initiated either exclusive breastfeeding or combination breastfeeding/formula. Of those, 11,248 (68.7%) initiated exclusive breast-feeding and 5,113 (31.3%) initiated combination breastfeeding/formula.

Mothers Who Initiate Breastfeeding Exclusively and Combination Breastfeeding/Formula by Race/Ethnicity Sacramento County, 2001



Source: California Department of Health Services

The percentage of African-American and Asian/Pacific Islander mothers who initiate exclusive breastfeeding is below the 50 percent mark.

Perinatal Substance Exposure

How are we doing?

Substance use during pregnancy is one of the leading factors contributing to preventable infant mortality.

Substance use during pregnancy is costly to society in both human and economic terms. *Saving Babies' Lives Community Health Plan 2001* reported that the average medical cost for the birth of a healthy baby is around \$5,000 while the average medical cost associated with the birth of a drug-exposed infant is approximately \$100,000–\$150,000.

The most recent in-depth statewide study on alcohol and drug use during pregnancy, *Profile of Alcohol and Drug Use During Pregnancy in California*, was conducted in 1992. At that time, 15.2 percent of infants in Sacramento County were born to mothers who used alcohol or other drugs during pregnancy. This was higher than the rate for California overall (11.4%) and for most other counties in the state. Examination of Sacramento County infant deaths in 1999 revealed a family history of alcohol and/or illicit substance use in nearly one-fourth of infant deaths caused by prematurity and other perinatal conditions.

Currently, there is no system in place in Sacramento County to regularly collect local data on perinatal substance use. Perinatal describes the period from 28 weeks of gestation through the first week of life. Child Protective Services encourages hospitals to report both positive toxicology screens or history of perinatal substance abuse, but not all mothers are screened consistently.



Birth Rates Among Teens

How are we doing?

Numerous risk factors link early childbearing with poor health outcomes for both the teen mother and the child. Teenage girls also face increased risk of both physical and emotional complications during pregnancy. Many pregnant or parenting teens do not graduate from high school and experience long-term economic hardships for themselves and their children.

There were 21,743 babies born in Sacramento County in 2002. Of those, 8.9 percent were to mothers ages 19 and younger. This is the same percentage of births to teenage mothers that was seen in 2001, down slightly from 10 percent in 2000.

**Number and Percent of Births to Teenagers
by Age and Ethnicity of Mother
Sacramento County, 2002**

	Under Age 18		Age 18-19	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African American/Black	131	20.5%	212	16.2%
American Indian	11	1.7%	20	1.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	37	5.8%	95	7.3%
Latino/Hispanic	229	35.8%	414	31.6%
White	176	27.5%	481	36.7%
Unknown/Other	56	8.8%	87	6.6%
Total	640	100.0%	1,309	100.0%

Source: Rand California, 2004



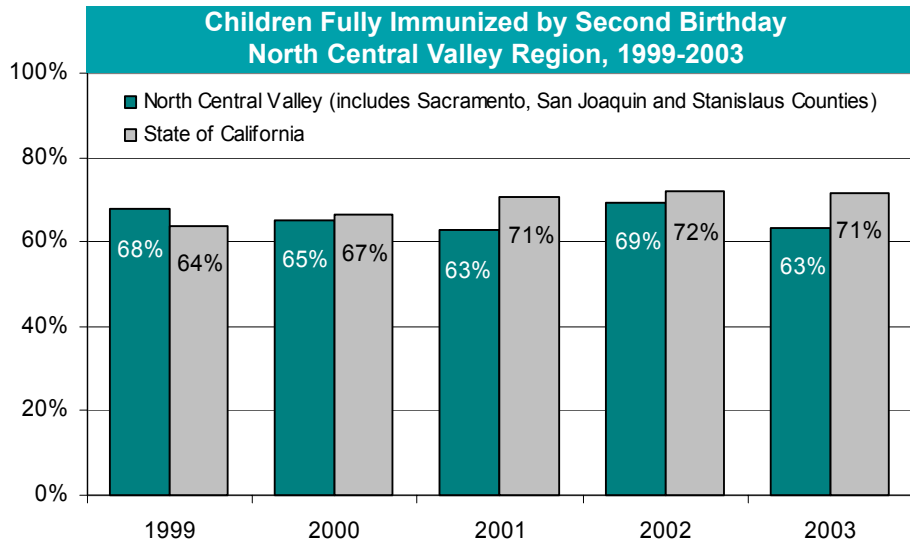
Immunization by Age 2

How are we doing?

From 1999 through 2002, up-to-date immunization rates across California increased for all ages from a low of 64 percent to a high of 72 percent.

In the North Central Valley Region which includes the counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin and Stanislaus, the percentage of children who have completed their basic series of immunizations by the age of 2 has fluctuated from a low of 63 percent in 2001 to a high of 69 percent in 2002.

From 2002 to 2003 there was a 6 percent decrease in the immunization level in the North Central Valley Region.



Source: California Department of Health Services

Dental Health

How are we doing?

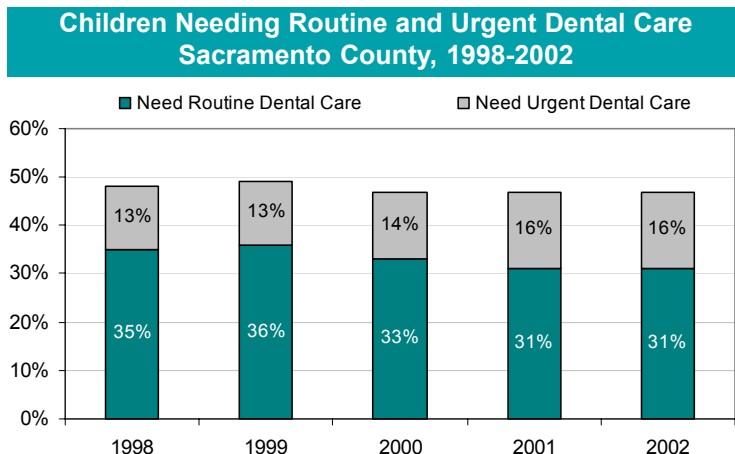
Oral disease continues to be the most prevalent untreated disease nationwide. The California Dental Association recognizes that early childhood dental disease can have long-range health consequences and negatively impact quality of life.

From 2000 through 2003, there was a slight downward trend in the percentage of children at the target schools needing routine care, but a commensurate increase in the percentage of children needing urgent dental care, from 38 percent to 40 percent.



Photo courtesy of Mustard Seed School

Every year, volunteer dentists and hygienists conduct brief oral examinations of more than 12,000 Healthy Start students in Sacramento County. Students in participating schools often are from low-income families and are among the 153,557 Sacramento County children enrolled in the Denti-Cal program.



Source: Sacramento District Dental Society

Air Quality

How are we doing?

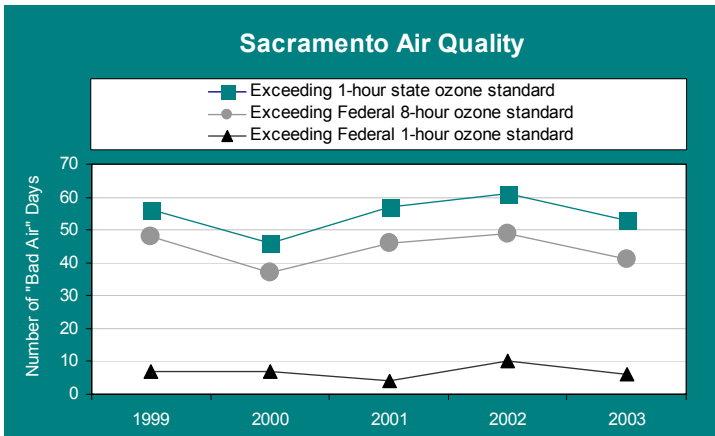
Sacramento County is designated a “non-attainment area” for ozone by federal and state regulatory agencies, and for particulates by the California Environmental Protection Agency. In *State of the Air: 2004*, covering the years 2000-2002, the American Lung Association ranked Sacramento as the 11th worst County in the nation for air pollution. During that time, the County had 68 days where ozone levels were considered unhealthy for sensitive groups, and 49 days where particulates were sufficient to merit warning

to sensitive groups. Sensitive groups include children, older adults and persons with respiratory conditions.

Effects of air pollution on children include asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Consequences are both short- and long-term. Children breathe more rapidly than adults, taking in more air per pound of body weight. Children spend a lot of time outdoors and do not recognize the effects of exposure to polluted air, even when they are experiencing difficulty breathing. A study funded by the

California Air Resources Board has revealed that exposure to high air pollution levels can slow down the lung function growth rate of children by up to 10 percent.

Through the Children’s Environmental Health Protection Program, the California Air Resources Board has implemented air quality monitoring to assess the risks of harmful air pollution on children’s health in six communities throughout the state of California. While no sites in the Sacramento region are being monitored, data gathered in other areas may be helpful to local planners in addressing air pollution concerns in the Sacramento area.



Source: Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

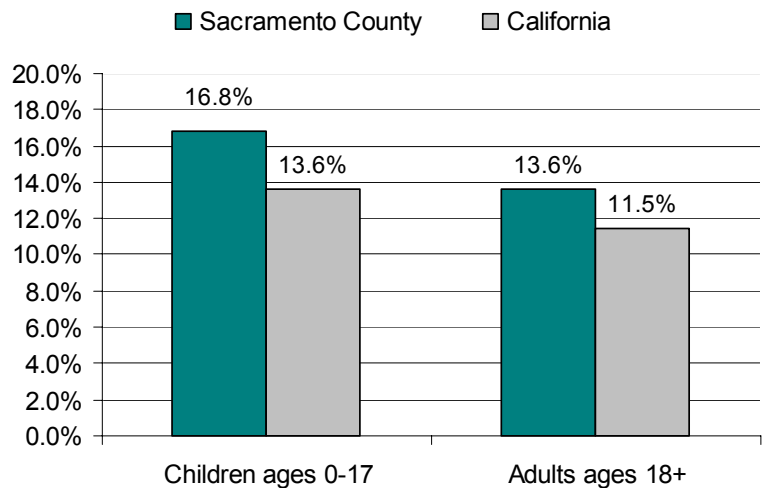
Children Suffering from Asthma

How are we doing?

Asthma is the leading serious chronic illness among children, causing significant absences from school. Most children with asthma have mild to moderate symptoms, and their illness can be controlled by treatment at home or in the doctor’s office. For some children, however, the illness becomes a formidable problem prompting visits to emergency rooms and hospitalizations. Asthma is the number one cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15. Nationwide, asthma accounts for one in six pediatric emergency visits.

According to the 2001 California Health Interview Survey, 16.8 percent of children ages 1 to 17 in Sacramento County had been diagnosed with asthma.

Percent of Asthma Diagnoses Sacramento County and California, 2001



Source: California Health Interview Survey

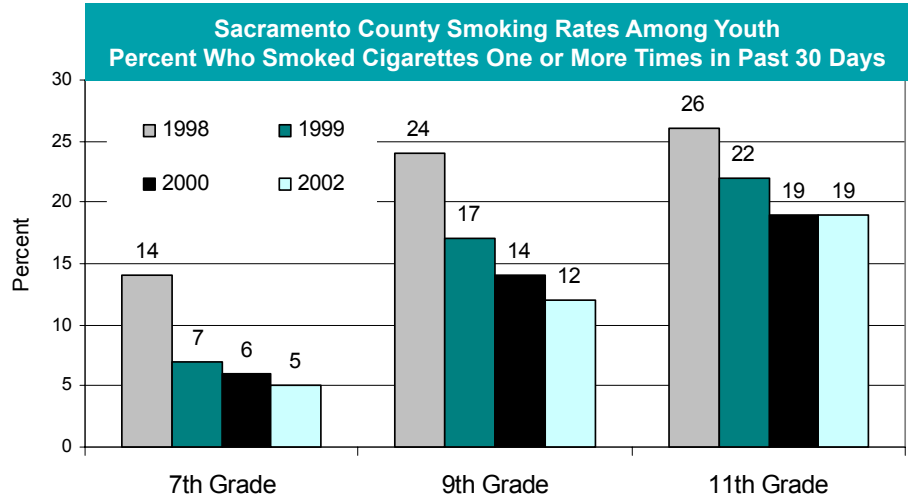


Tobacco Use and Youth

How are we doing?

With the exception of 11th grade students, smoking by youth in Sacramento County appears to be declining. The percentage of seventh graders who smoked cigarettes one or more times in the 30 days prior to the survey decreased steadily from 1998 through the spring of 2002. There was a decline in the percentage of 11th graders who smoked cigarettes within the prior 30 days from 1998 through 2000, but from 2000 to 2001-02, no change was seen in the percentage of 11th grade smokers.

The majority of first tobacco use occurs before high school graduation. It is clear that youth must be targeted at an early age to prevent tobacco use and that emphasis should be placed on reaching out to junior and senior high school-level youth.



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey 2000, 2001/2002
Note: Survey was not conducted in Sacramento County for 2001

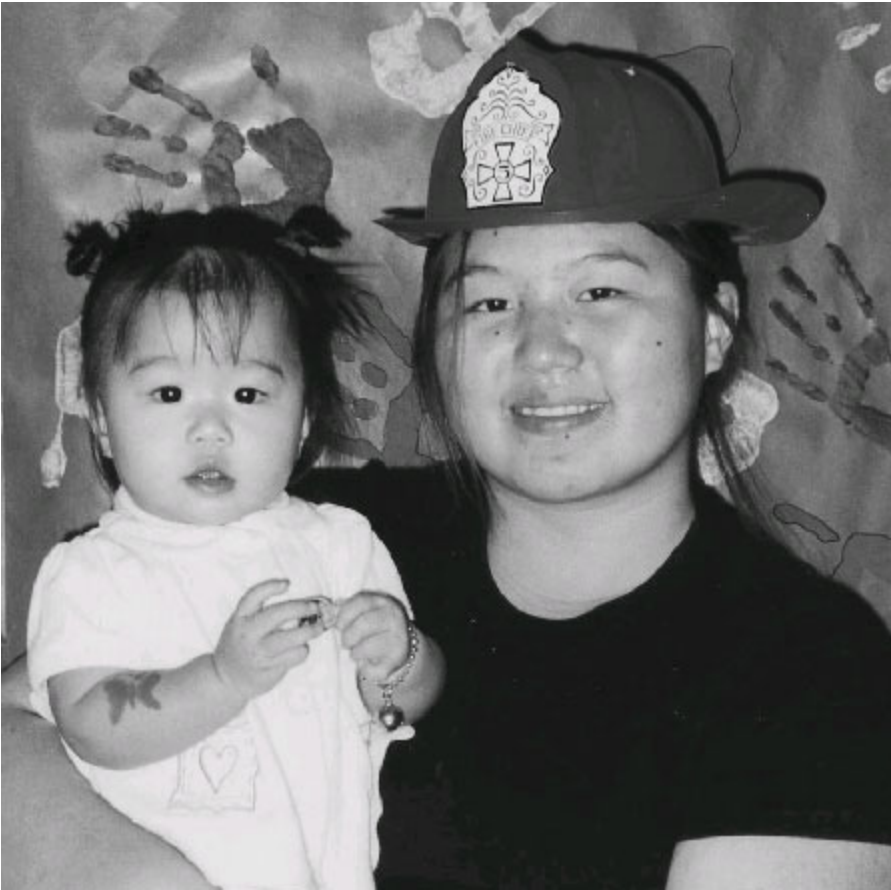


Photo courtesy of Sacramento City Unified School District, Early Head Start

Safety

◆ Approximately 1/4 to 1/3 of all child deaths in Sacramento County in the last two years were the result of preventable injuries. ◆ Infants account for the majority of child deaths, with 109 (59%) infant deaths in 2002. ◆ Sacramento County school districts identified 3,773 homeless children during the 2002-03 school year, but estimated the actual number of homeless children was at least 5,730. ◆ Since 1996, Sacramento County and California arrest rates for juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 have declined each year by one full point. ◆ Since 1998, the rate of domestic violence calls to law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County has remained relatively constant at nearly 7 per thousand population. This exceeds the California average statewide rate which has remained constant at just below 6 per thousand population.

Indicators

Child Deaths

Homeless Children

Child Abuse and Neglect

Domestic Violence

School Violence and
Student Crime Rates

Juvenile Felony Arrest Rates

Driving Under the Influence

Runaways



Homeless Children

How are we doing?

Homeless children suffer disproportionately from poor health, developmental delays, anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems. Their uncertain living conditions make it difficult for them to attend school regularly, which can lead to academic failure. Furthermore, a homeless child with special education needs also may have difficulty completing an Individual Education Plan (IEP) because it requires continuous attendance at one site throughout the lengthy process of identification, testing, and implementation. Without an IEP, the child is deprived of vital services.

Homeless families may be forced to separate to access shelters or other temporary accommodations. Such displacement can cause emotional problems that linger for children long after the homelessness is resolved.

Obtaining an accurate count of the number of people who are homeless is difficult. In Sacramento County, there is no centralized approach to collecting data – and the task is made more complicated by the fact that only those who seek services are likely to be included in data collection.

However, a new federal mandate requires school districts to identify homeless children and provide specific services

to them. According to the Sacramento County Office of Education’s “Project TEACH,” schools in Sacramento County counted 3,773 homeless children during the 2002-03 school year, and estimated that the actual number of homeless children was at least 5,730. Since these counts were provided by schools, they do not include any children from 0-2 years of age and very few three- and four-year olds, so the total number of all homeless children is higher.

One measure of progress is the increase in the number of emergency shelter beds. Shelters are a lifeline for homeless families, providing safety and supportive services such as individual needs assessments, counseling, and access to healthcare, schools, and housing search assistance. In July of 2004, St. John’s Shelter for Women and Children relocated and expanded in order to serve 100 women and children, and Loaves & Fishes plans to open a 15-bed shelter for women and children.

Despite progress, the situation for homeless children remains challenging, especially in light of government and other program cutbacks that threaten current services. The Sacramento County and Cities Board on Homelessness has identified a need to provide permanent housing with supportive services for at least 1,600 homeless people.

**Identified Homeless Children in Sacramento County
by School Districts, 2002-2003**

District	Number Homeless Children Identified	% of Total Enrollment	Number Homeless Children Estimated	% of Total Enrollment	Total Enrollment
Arcohe	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	582
Center	21	0.4%	54	0.9%	5,904
Del Paso	46	2.1%	50	2.3%	2,155
Elk Grove Unified	319	0.6%	900	1.7%	52,418
Elverta	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	375
Folsom-Cordova Unified	413	2.3%	600	3.4%	17,614
Galt Joint Union	17	0.4%	67	1.6%	4,257
Galt Joint Union High	7	0.3%	15	0.7%	2,074
Grant	180	1.4%	220	1.7%	12,682
Natomas	481	6.3%	477	6.2%	7,653
North Sacramento	563	10.1%	650	11.7%	5,552
Rio Linda	323	3.2%	433	4.3%	10,134
River Delta	26	1.0%	25	1.0%	2,490
Robla	34	1.5%	97	4.2%	2,323
Sacramento City Unified	727	1.4%	1,800	3.4%	52,850
San Juan Unified	616	1.2%	950	1.8%	52,212
California Education Authority	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	214
Sacramento County Office of Education	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,123
Total	3,773	1.6%	6,363*	2.8%	232,612

* Sacramento County = 5,730 unduplicated County (total estimated by districts minus 10% to avoid cross-over duplication).

Source: Sacramento County Office of Education, Project TEACH

Child Deaths

How are we doing?

Approximately one-fourth to one-third of all child deaths in Sacramento County in the last two years were the result of preventable injuries. For example, drownings – which nearly doubled from 2001 to 2002 – often were due to lack of supervision and/or physical barriers from water. Reviewing the causes of child deaths can help increase implementation of injury prevention measures such as safe sleeping for infants, pool fencing, car seat and bicycle helmet usage, and installation of smoke detectors. Public policy changes, and educational outreach to influence and change behavior can help prevent needless child deaths.

The child death rate in Sacramento County has remained fairly stable for the past three years (52.9, 55.0 and 52.6 per 100,000 child residents for 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively). Infants (newborns through the twelfth month) account for the majority of child deaths, with 109 (59%) infant deaths in 2002. In 2002, children under five years of age comprised 27 percent of the county’s child population and 68 percent of child deaths (125 of 184).

Sacramento County continues to have rates of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) that are higher than the

rates nationwide, statewide, and for other comparable counties. In 2002, there were 15 SIDS deaths, accounting for 8 percent of all child deaths. At least 73 percent of the Sacramento County SIDS victims died in environments with risk factors that are recognized nationally to increase the risk of SIDS including adult or makeshift beds, high-risk sleeping positions and exposure to tobacco smoke.

In Sacramento County, there were 17 abuse- or neglect-related child deaths in 2002, with causes ranging from prenatal substance abuse to homicide. In Sacramento County during the past three years, one in three Child Abuse/Neglect (CAN) homicide victims died between their first and third birthdays. CAN homicides typically share certain risk factors, including prior family history of substance abuse, child abuse or neglect, violent crime, or domestic violence.

Early intervention and home visitation programs are provided by public and private partnerships to reduce or eliminate child abuse, neglect, and preventable deaths.

Causes of Child Deaths Sacramento County, 1998-2002						
Causes of Child Deaths		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Natural Causes	Perinatal Conditions	48	40	42	48	56
	Congenital Anomalies	27	27	33	32	39
	SIDS	19	18	18	18	15
	Cancer	10	10	15	5	10
	Infections	4	6	8	10	6
	Respiratory	4	1	3	0	2
	Other	4	11	16	8	2
	Undetermined (Natural)	1	5	3	0	0
Injury-Related	Homicide					
	Child Abuse or Neglect	7	13	6	9	4
	Third Party	4	3	4	7	6
	Arson	0	0	0	0	1
	Motor Vehicle Accidents	11	11	14	21	13
	Drowning	7	6	5	5	9
	Suicide	8	0	6	5	7
	Suffocation/Choking	2	1	1	3	1
	Fires	4	0	0	1	1
	Other	1	1	1	8	4
	Undetermined (Injury)	2	1	0	1	2
Total Natural Deaths		117	118	138	121	130
Total Injury Related Deaths		46	36	37	60	48
Undetermined Manner		3	6	3	1	2
Total Child Deaths		166	160	178	182	180

Source: Sacramento County Child Death Review Team, 2002 Annual Report



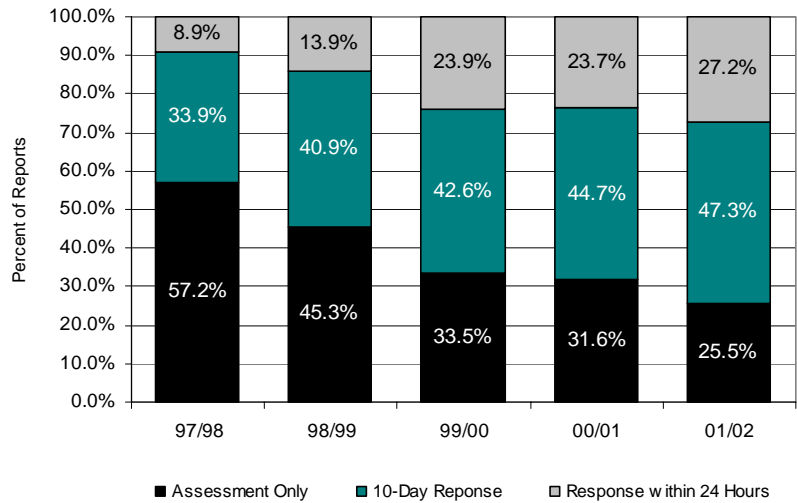
Child Abuse and Neglect

How are we doing?

Public awareness and education continue to play an important role in increasing community awareness of the tragedy of child abuse and neglect. While the number of child abuse and neglect reports rose in 2001-2002 to the same level as 1997-98 (18,000), the response time has changed significantly.

In 1997-1998, there were 18,155 reports of child abuse and/or neglect. Sacramento County Child Protective Services investigators responded to only 9 percent within 24 hours of the report and 34 percent within ten days. In 2001-2002, there were 19,891 reports of child abuse or neglect. Investigators responded to 27 percent of the reports within 24 hours, and 47 percent within ten days.

**Response to Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect
Sacramento County, Fiscal Years 1997-98 -- 2001-02**



Source: Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services Quarterly Reports

Domestic Violence

How are we doing?

Since 1998, the rate of domestic violence calls to law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County has remained relatively constant at nearly 7 per thousand population. This exceeds the California average statewide rate which has remained constant at just below 6 per thousand population. Some of this difference may be accounted for in the aggressive outreach and education efforts the Sacramento community has made to report incidents of domestic violence.

Domestic violence has its worst impact on the most vulnerable members of society – children. National studies indicate that 3.3 million children witness physical and verbal spousal abuse each year in the United States. In homes where domestic violence occurs, children are physically abused and neglected at a rate 15 times higher than the national average.

There is equally alarming data available about the impact of domestic violence on pregnant women. In a study released in the March 2001 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* it was noted that pregnant women or recently pregnant

women were more likely to be victims of homicide, primarily at the hands of their intimate partners, than to die from any other cause.

Children exposed to domestic violence are more likely than non-exposed children to become perpetrators or victims of domestic violence themselves.

Nationwide, studies show that nearly one in ten high school girls and one in twenty boys reported abuse by dates, boyfriends or girlfriends, including date-forced sex.

**Domestic Violence-Related Calls
to Law Enforcement Agencies
Number and Rate per 1,000 Population, 1998-2002**

	Sacramento		California	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1998	7,985	6.8	196,832	5.9
1999	7,680	6.4	186,406	5.5
2000	8,606	7.0	196,880	5.8
2001	8,432	6.7	198,031	5.7
2002	8,767	6.8	196,569	5.6

Source: California Department of Justice

School Violence and Student Crime Rates

How are we doing?

For the 2002 *Sacramento County Children's Report Card*, crime rates per 1,000 students as reported in the California Safe Schools Assessment were used to describe both school violence and student crime rates. Subsequently, funding for the *California Safe Schools Assessment* was eliminated, and updated information no longer is available for either of these indicators. Utilizing previously-existing data, a graphic showing the 1995-2001 trend for crimes committed by students has been created which groups crimes committed by category.

A student is defined as anyone enrolled in Kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Student-committed property crimes declined steadily from 1995-1996 through 1999-2000, but surged upward during the 2000-2001 school year. There also was a significant increase in student-committed batteries during 2000-2001. Weapons possession offenses, assaults with deadly weapons, robberies, and sex crimes all have remained at a relatively constant rate since 1995-1996. Drug and alcohol offenses decreased slightly during 2000-2001.

Sacramento County Student Crime Rates Rate Per 1,000 Students, 1996-2001*							
	Drug/Alcohol Offenses	Battery	Deadly Weapon	Robbery or Extortion	Sex Offenses	Weapon Possession	Property Crimes
1995-96	3.17	5.74	0.31	0.25	0.12	1.41	5.61
1996-97	3.28	7.09	0.64	0.21	0.27	1.25	5.21
1997-98	3.00	5.19	0.50	0.28	0.12	1.38	5.04
1998-99	3.98	4.68	0.57	0.33	0.20	1.51	4.73
1999-00	5.60	5.36	0.74	0.29	0.27	1.57	4.45
2000-01	5.22	7.59	0.71	0.22	0.44	1.58	5.66

*Crime rates of school districts with more than 999 students enrolled.

Source: *California Safe Schools Assessment*

Juvenile Felony Arrest Rates

How are we doing?

A felony crime is one that would be punishable by death or imprisonment in a state prison if it had been committed by an adult. Often, felonies are violent crimes against persons such as homicide, rape, or robbery, but also include property crimes such as burglary, auto theft and weapons offenses, or health and safety code violations including serious drug offenses. Youth convicted of felonies often continue a pattern of criminal behavior into adulthood.

Since 1996, Sacramento County and California arrest rates for juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 have declined by more than one full point each year. In 2002, juvenile felony arrests comprised just more than 10 percent of all felony arrests in Sacramento County. Nearly 18 percent of juveniles arrested for felonies were females. The most common felonies for which juveniles were arrested in Sacramento County in 2002 were burglary (23%), auto theft (17%) and assault (15%).

Juvenile Felony Arrests Rates Rates per 1,000 Population Ages 10-17, 1998-2002					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Sacramento County					
Arrests	2,679	2,549	2,572	2,496	2,329
Rate	19.4	18.1	17.7	16.6	15.0
California					
Arrests	76,104	68,503	63,889	63,993	61,539
Rate	20.2	17.8	16.0	15.3	14.1

Source: *California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center*

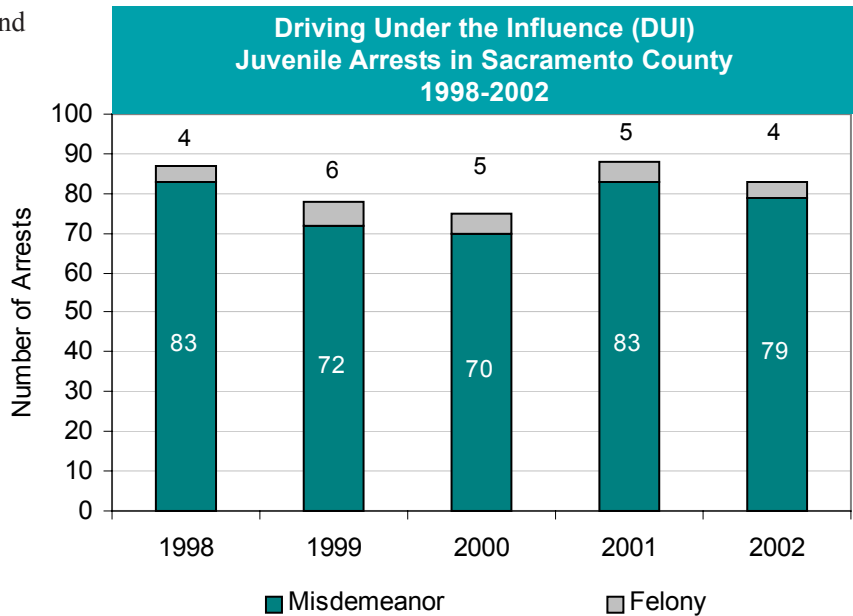


Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

How are we doing?

Juvenile Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests represent a combination of high risk and illegal attributes: youthful, often unlicensed drivers, using drugs and/or alcohol, who operate a vehicle without regard for personal or public safety. In some cases, the vehicle has been stolen.

From 1998 through 2002, juvenile DUI arrests in Sacramento County reached a low of 75 in 2000, and a high of 88 in 2001. In 2002, there were 83 juveniles between the ages of 14 and 17 arrested for DUI. Four arrests were for felony DUI, involving a charge for an injury to a person or significant property damage. During 2002 in Sacramento County, 79 juveniles were charged with misdemeanor DUI. (Note: Arrests do not always result in convictions.)



Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center

Runaways

How are we doing?

Runaway youth are defined as persons under the age of 18 who are away from home at least one night without the permission of parents or guardians.

Runaway youth are at risk for both criminal behavior and becoming victims of crime.

Very little information is available on the number of runaway youth in Sacramento County. Before October of 2003, data on runaway youth in the County were tracked by the County Sheriff's Missing Persons Unit. In October 2003, this Missing Persons Unit was disbanded.

The lack of consistent, current data makes it difficult to assess the problem of runaway youth in Sacramento County in order to address the problem effectively.

From the limited data available, it was noted that within Sacramento County's municipal jurisdictions, there seems to be a spike in juvenile missing persons during the months of May and June of each year.

Data from the City of Sacramento for 2003 shows that 75 percent of all missing persons reports are for juveniles, and on average, 62 percent of all missing juveniles are considered "high risk" (i.e., under the age of 15).

Missing Persons/Runaways												
City of Sacramento, 2003												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Reports	303	276	341	314	358	419	345	331	345	320	315	291
Adults	68	71	76	83	74	111	108	82	84	73	86	77
Juveniles	235	205	265	231	284	308	237	249	261	247	229	214
At Risk Juveniles	149	114	162	147	183	207	163	149	150	125	135	143

Source: Sacramento City Police Department



Photo courtesy of First 5 Sacramento Commission, Children's Celebration, 2003

Social and Emotional Well-Being

◆ As of July 1, 2001, there were 5,387 children in out-of-home placement, or “foster care” in Sacramento County. Two years later there were 4,648 children in foster care. ◆ Nearly half of 11th graders report having used alcohol or other drugs during the previous 30 days. ◆ More than 80% of 11th grade respondents report that alcohol and marijuana are easily accessible. ◆ The number of children and youth receiving publicly-funded mental health services has quadrupled since 1995. ◆ Locally, an estimated 30% of schools have a service-learning component or are considering integrating one into their curriculum.

Indicators

Out-of-Home Placement
Youth Substance Abuse
Mental Health Services for Children
Youth Involved in Community
Service and Volunteerism



Out-of-Home Placement

How are we doing?

As of July 1, 2001, there were 5,387 children in out-of-home placement, or “foster care” in Sacramento County. Two years later there were 4,648 children in foster care.

The number of children in foster care has decreased in the last two years, due in part to an increase in permanent placements, including reunification.

Family Reunification Services reunited 38 percent of children with their families in 2003, up from 26 percent in 2001.

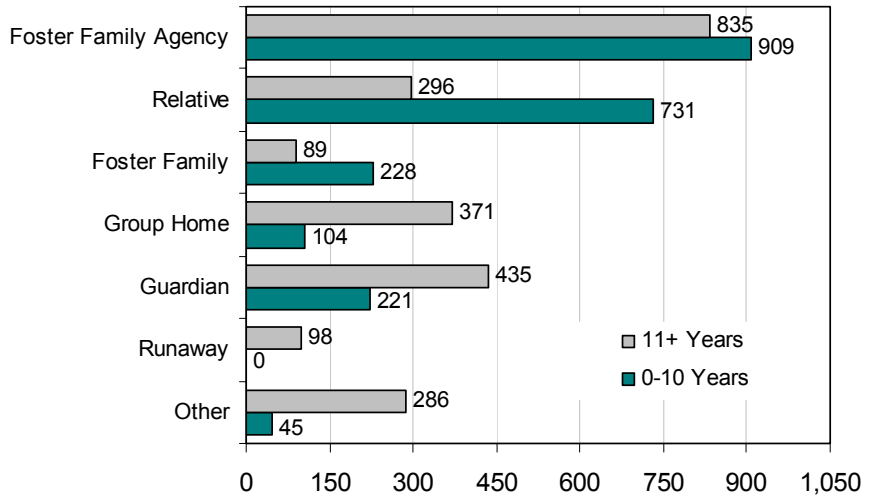
At the same time, there were increases in the number of children under the supervision of the Sacramento County Probation Department and under the supervision of the County Mental Health Services Division. In July of 2001, there were 222 children who were removed from their homes and supervised by the Probation Department. As of July 1, 2003, there were 399 children in this situation. In 2001, there were 51 children in out-of-home placement being supervised by the County Mental Health Division. In 2003, there were 59 children thus supervised.

When reunification is not possible, relative placements, non-related guardian placements and adoption are increasingly used as avenues for moving children out of temporary settings. “KinGap,” a program that provides relatives with the same reimbursement rate that unrelated foster care parents receive, accounts for removing 600 children from the foster caseload since the program’s inception in 2000. Children placed with permanent guardians accounted for 656 out of the 4,648 children under supervision on July 1, 2003.

Despite signs of progress, there are areas that need improvement. One is the lack of suitable placements for teenagers. Another is finding placements that allow siblings to remain together.

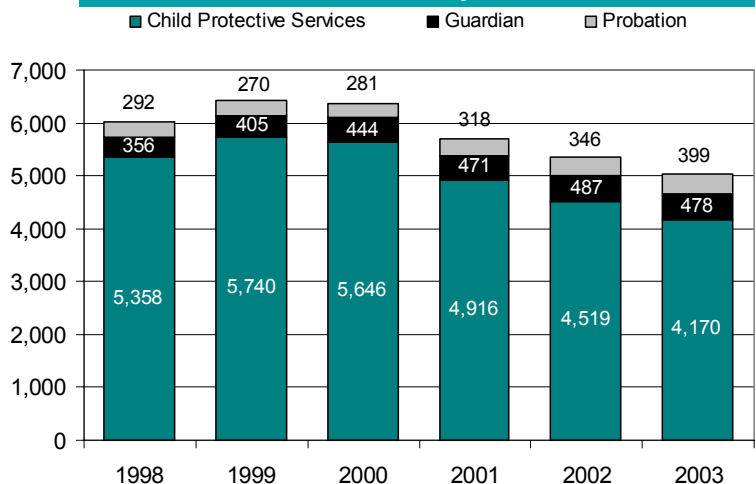
There also is a need to limit group care placements since studies show that children who stay in group care for longer than 12 months may not be as successful in permanent placements as those who have not experienced long-term group care.

Children in Child Welfare Supervised Foster Care by Placement Type and Age Sacramento County, July 1, 2003



Source: Center for Social Services Research, University of California at Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, CWS/CMS 2003 Quarter 2 Extract from Department of Social Services, Research and Development Department

Children in Foster Care: Child Welfare, Guardian and Probation Supervision Sacramento County, 1998-2003



Source: Center for Social Services Research, University of California at Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, CWS/CMS 2003 Quarter 2 Extract from Department of Social Services, Research and Development Department

Youth Substance Abuse

How are we doing?

Alcohol or other drug use continues to threaten the physical, emotional, and developmental well-being of young people in Sacramento County. Data from the California Healthy Kids Survey showed that nearly 60 percent of the County’s youth reported no alcohol or other drug use in 30 days prior to the survey, but only 29 percent reported they had never used any substance.

As young people age, a larger portion of their population engage in risky behavior. In fact, by the time a youth progresses from 7th to 9th to 11th grade, the likelihood that there will be alcohol or other drug use rises from 17 percent to 34 percent to 46 percent.

Nearly one-fourth of 11th grade respondents reported using marijuana during the prior 30 days. More than 30 percent of 11th graders reported “getting high from drugs” three or more times, and 12 percent reported binge drinking three or more days within the prior 30 days.

Noteworthy is the 11th graders’ perception of harm from using alcohol and other drugs. According to the survey, 83 percent of 11th graders perceived that frequent alcohol use was harmful or extremely harmful, but only 39 percent perceived occasional alcohol use in the same way. By the same token, 78 percent perceived that frequent marijuana use was harmful or extremely harmful, but only 51 percent perceived occasional use as harmful or extremely harmful.

**Perception of Harm from Alcohol and Marijuana Use
11th Graders in Sacramento County Schools, 2001-02**

	Alcohol Use		Marijuana Use	
	Occasional	Frequent	Occasional	Frequent
Extremely Harmful	16.0%	57.0%	29.0%	57.0%
Harmful	23.0%	26.0%	22.0%	21.0%
Somewhat Harmful	32.0%	12.0%	25.0%	12.0%

Frequent use is defined as daily or almost daily.

Source: California Healthy Kids survey, compiled by Sacramento County Office of Education for the 2001/02 school term

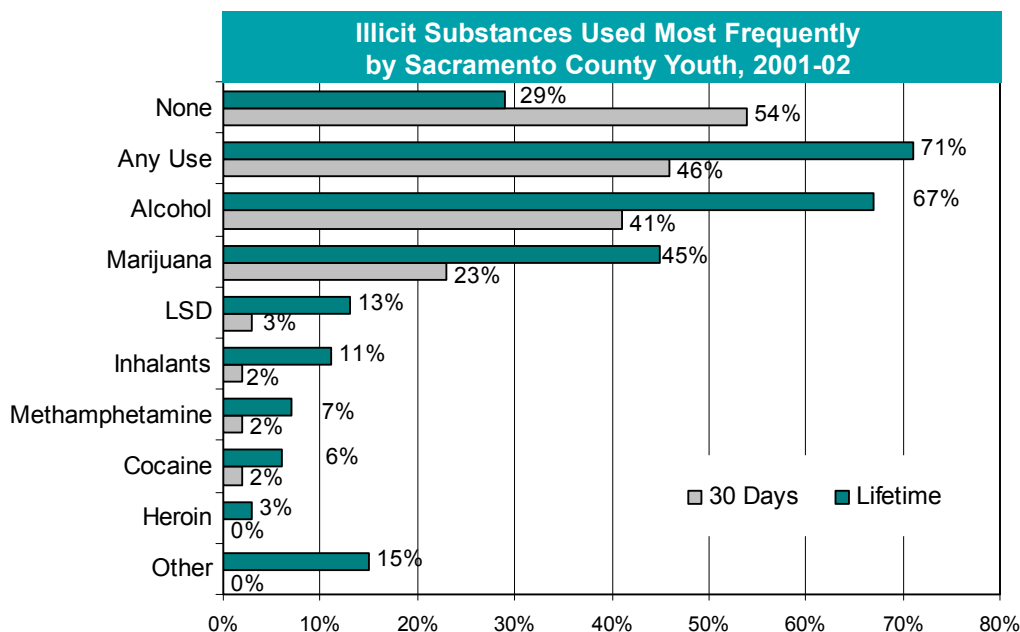
Of particular cause for alarm is that nearly one-third of 11th grade students surveyed reported having driven after drinking. Equally alarming is that 42 percent of 7th grade students reported being a passenger in a car driven by someone who had been drinking.

Another issue of concern is the availability of alcohol and illegal drugs on school campuses. More than 80 percent of 11th grade respondents reported that alcohol and marijuana were easily accessible. Just under half (45 percent) of the students reported being offered illegal drugs on campus in the prior 12 months. The problem of alcohol access continues to be a major concern as alcohol remains the number one drug of choice for youth.

Since the last *Children’s Report Card*, there has been an effort to establish a youth treatment center in Sacramento County. Lack of a provider has been a critical gap in youth treatment services in the county, forcing youth in need of such services to go out of Sacramento County to meet their

treatment needs or go without treatment.

The regular collection of data related to youth substance involvement is still a struggle. Efforts are under way to put all school districts on a consistent California Healthy Kids Survey schedule, which would improve tracking over time.



Data for this component is drawn from the California Healthy Kids Survey compiled by the Sacramento County Office of Education for the 2001/02 school term.

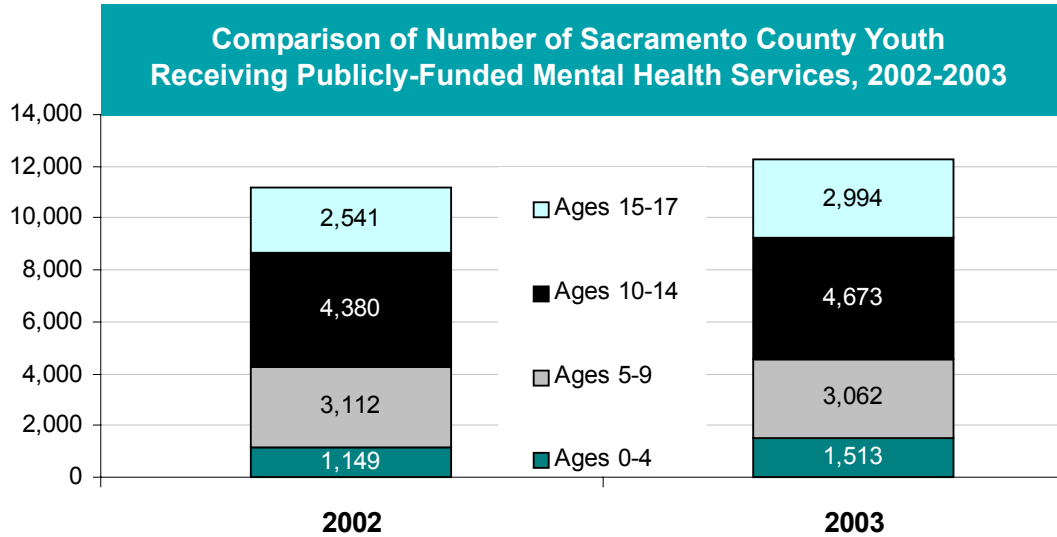


Mental Health Services for Children

How are we doing?

There is no data available on the number of children who receive privately-funded mental health services in Sacramento County. However, the number of children and youth receiving publicly-funded mental health services has quadrupled since 1995. This may be due in part to the availability of Medi-Cal managed care programs that offer mental health services to members. These mental health services help ensure that children and youth have the necessary treatments for mental health conditions as part of a total package of health care and wellness.

Sacramento County, like most counties in California, does not have sufficient financial resources to provide mental health care to all children needing these services, especially those who do not have Medi-Cal or private insurance.



Source: Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services

Youth Involved in Community Service and Volunteerism

How are we doing?

Community service is a way for youth to feel they have a useful role and are valued members of society. Numerous studies have reported the positive relationship of service learning with personal and social responsibility and personal development. Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school and develop leadership skills, and are less likely to abuse alcohol and drugs. Youth who donate their time are more likely to participate in volunteer service as adults as well as donate money. Other positive impacts include elevated academic performance and increased self-esteem.

While there is no hard data available on the number of children who are involved in volunteering and community service in Sacramento County, youth service programs in schools have been growing steadily. Service learning is being used as a core educational strategy that links hands-on experience with a school's curriculum, helping students learn in a way that improves both the student and the community.

Locally, an estimated 30 percent of schools have a service-learning component or requirement or are considering integrating one into their curriculum. Community agencies also are integrating children and youth into their volunteer activities. Youth organizations are integrating service learning into their youth development programming. Faith congregations also provide opportunities for youth to serve their community.



Photo courtesy of Mustard Seed School



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DEMOGRAPHICS

Population/Demographics

The California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit estimates annual population figures by age, gender, and race/ethnicity for California counties.

Diversity

Diversity is broadly defined to include gender, age, race, ethnicity, languages, economic status, faith and persons with disabilities. Data by age groups, race and economic status are reported under other indicators. The number of students designated as “English Learners” (EL) students are those students for whom there is a report of a primary language other than English on the state-approved Home Language Survey, and who, on the basis of the state-approved oral language (grades K-12) and literacy (grades 3-12 only) assessments, have been determined to lack the clearly defined English language skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing necessary to success in the schools’ regular instructional programs. Sacramento County’s share of statewide English language learners by language is also shown. For more information on English learners visit: <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>. Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, Dataquest 2002-03 School Year.

Family Composition

The number of children under 18 years of age living in families with their own parents by married-couple and single-parent (male householder and female householder) families from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2002. For additional information visit: www.census.gov.

In the “Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children,” put out by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), it was noted that across Sacramento County, close to 30,000 children are being raised in households headed by grandparents and other relatives as parents struggle with incarceration, divorce, substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence, economic hardship, and other serious problems. These family members (or “kinship caregivers”) are caring for children both inside and outside the foster care system.

According to the 2000 Census, there were 27,874 grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18 years of age in Sacramento County. Of those, 10,483 (37.6%) grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren; 2,481 (23.7%) of those grandparents had been responsible for their grandchildren for less than one year, while 4,057 (38.7%) had been responsible for their grandchildren for 5 years or more.

Children in Poverty

Estimates for the number of children living in poverty from 1995 were gathered from Children Now, California County Data Book; from 1999 U.S. Census (Census 2000 Long Form); from 2002 U.S. Census (American Community Survey 2002). For more information visit: www.childrennow.org, and www.census.gov. Federal Poverty Guidelines updated annually by the federal government. 2003 Guidelines Source: Federal Register, Vol. 68, No 26, February 7, 2003, pp. 6456-6458. A two-parent family of four earning \$18,400 or less annually is considered to be living in poverty. For more information visit: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>.

“Free and Reduced-Price Meals” is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Program participation is by application and is based on the income of the child’s parent or guardian. 130% of Federal Poverty Guideline qualifies for free meals, 130-185% of Federal Poverty Guideline qualifies for reduced price meals. Data source: California Department of Education. For more information visit: <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

FAMILY ECONOMICS

Availability of Quality Child Care

The total number of licensed childcare center slots available from 2000 to 2003 by child age groups and percent change over the same three year period. For more information visit the website: www.rnnetwork.org. Source: California Resource and Referral network, California Child Care Portfolio 2003.

Out-of-School-Time Programs

The list of programs and number of youth served in each program reported by Sacramento County Office of Education After School Programs Center.

Employment by Industry

The annual averages (by number and percent) of people employed within each selected category of industry in the Sacramento Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA – which includes Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado Counties). Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information). For more information visit: www.calmis.ca.gov.

Unemployment

Annual average unemployment rate for Sacramento County and California. Source: California Employment Development Department.

Living Wage

Two hypothetical family budgets: a Sacramento family of three (mother and two children ages 18 months and 7 years). The mother is employed full-time as a bookkeeper with an annual salary of \$32,032 (\$15.40/hr), and a 2-parent family of four (father, mother, and two children, a 7 year old and 18-month old); The father works as a general utility maintenance repairer and the mother works fulltime as a child care worker. Both work full-time and together earn \$38,750.40 annually. Sources: Wages were based on information found in the Occupational Outlook Training Directory for Sacramento and Yolo Counties under average wages (salaries). California’s minimum wage is \$6.75 per hour. For more information visit the website: www.work-info.com/. Health coverage based on HMO plans through Kaiser Permanente or Blue Cross (health coverage). Rental housing costs based on the Fair Market Rent (FMR) determined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (rental costs): www.hud.gov. Child-care expense based on information from the California Child-Care Resource and Referral Network (childcare): www.rnnetwork.org. Food budget based on figures from the US Department of Agriculture (food budget). For more information visit: www.usda.gov. Bus pass expense from Regional Transit (bus pass): www.sacrt.com. Utility estimates based on Sacramento Municipal Utility District rates (utilities estimate): www.smud.com.



Housing Affordability

Average rental rates. Source originally taken from “Locked Out 2004: California’s Affordable Housing Crisis” For additional information visit: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fair Market Rents (FMR) (www.hud.gov). 2004 FMRs are effective October 1, 2003; Fair Market Rents (FMRs) calculated at the 50th percentile in recognition of higher housing costs. In general, HUD sets FMRs at the 40th percentile, meaning that 40 percent of the area’s rents are at or below the FMR.

Affordability of Child Care

Childcare cost and family income figures. Average annual cost of full-time licensed care for a preschooler 2-5 years old in a center from the 2002 regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers (\$6,692); Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker from California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002(\$6.75/hr = \$14,040/yr); Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household earning minimum wage paying average annual cost for care (without subsidies – 48%); Annual median family income in Sacramento County as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 American Community Survey (\$50,717); Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit as reported by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2002; Salary of entry-level public school teacher as reported by California Department of Education, 2002-2003 school year (\$29,967).

Highway Congestion

Travel time to work by percent of employed persons driving to work in Sacramento County in 2002. Source: Western Economic Research

Public Transportation

Regional Transit calculates and compiles system-wide ridership data through annual on-board ride checks on bus route and light rail on/off counts. In addition, ridership figures for some special services and boarding counts for supplemental school service are collected. Source: Sacramento County Regional Transit; Short Range Transit Plan (<http://www.sacrt.com/>).

EDUCATION

School Readiness

Selection of parent survey summary result findings provided by First 5 Sacramento Commission via Harder & Company Community Research. Purpose of the School Readiness Initiative Evaluation is to provide a snapshot of incoming kindergarten cohorts in under-performing schools where the School Readiness Initiative is implemented. Key evaluation questions: 1) Are children ready to learn? 2) Are parents/guardians better prepared to help their young children enter kindergarten ready to learn? 3) Are schools helping to transition children into school? Participating Sacramento school districts: Folsom-Cordova Unified, North Sacramento, Robla Elementary and San Juan Unified. Parent Survey response rates: 514 surveys completed by parents – 59% response rate. Results from child survey and principal survey were unavailable at print time. For more information please visit the First 5 Sacramento Commission at: <http://sackids.saccounty.net/school-readiness.html>.

Student and Family Support Services

Counselor/Student Ratio and Nurse/Student Ratio: The total enrollment by school year in Sacramento County and California divided by the number of counselors employed and the number of

nurses employed in each geography. Source: California Department of Education.

Enrollment

The number of students enrolled in public school as measured on “Information Day” a Wednesday in early October. Private school enrollment represents only the number of students enrolled in private schools with six or more students. Source: California Department of Education, California. For more information visit: <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

Classroom Teacher Credential

The percentage of teachers in public schools by credential type: “Fully Credentialed” are those teachers who have completed a teacher preparation program and hold a preliminary, clear, professional clear or life credential. “Partially credentialed or credentialed waived includes: (1) “District Internship” – interns who participate in school district credential programs which includes staff development, but may or may not include college coursework; (2) “University Internship” – interns who are enrolled in a university credential program and are taking coursework while teaching; (3) “Emergency Permit” – persons who do not qualify for a credential or internship but meet minimum requirements and can complete credential requirements through a college or university; (4) “Waiver” – requested by an employer on behalf of an individual when the employer is unable to find credentialed teachers or individuals who qualify for an emergency permit. Teacher Employment History for 2002-2003 average years teaching and number and percent of total teachers that are first year and second year teachers. Source: California Department of Education.

Test Scores: California Achievement Tests/Sixth Edition Survey (for Reading and Math)

California Achievement Tests/Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey) has replaced the Stanford 9 as a standardized test used statewide. Tailored to the grade level of the student, it measures performance in reading/language, spelling and mathematics to students Grades 2-8 and reading/language, mathematics and science to students Grades 9-11. The percentile associated with a particular score is referred to as the National Percentile Rank (NPR). For this report, only math and reading scores and the percentage of students scoring at or above the national median score, or the 50th NPR, are included. Source: California Department of Education.

Test Scores: Academic Performance Index (API)

The Academic Performance Index (API) is a numeric index (or score) that reflects a schools’ or school district’s performance on statewide student assessments. It is a measurement of school achievement as mandated by the 1999 Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA). Each school’s API ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. The statewide API Performance Target is 800. The API is calculated from a variety of measures that have changed each year. To calculate the 2003 API, individual student scores from each indicator are combined into a single number to represent the performance of an individual school. The indicators are as follows: The Norm-referenced test (NRT) for national reporting purposes utilizes the California Achievement Test, Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey), this test is comparable in calculating national percentile rank (NPR); The California Standards Test (CST) as measured through performance levels in English-Language Arts, Math, History/Social Science and Science; the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) as measured through performance levels in English-Language Arts and Mathematics and the California High School Exit Examination

(CAHSEE) as summarized on a pass/no-pass basis. APIs may also be calculated for student sub-groups. Source: California Department of Education. For additional information please visit: <http://api.cde.ca.gov>.

API Growth

The California Department of Education determines API percentage growth targets from year to year. For 2002-03 the percentage of schools that met their targets were measured in the following categories: Annual Percentage Growth School-Wide Target (approx. five percent improvement between 2002 API and Statewide goal of 800); Annual Percentage Growth Comparable Improvement Target (approx. four percent improvement from 2002 to 2003); Annual Percentage Growth for both School-Wide Target and Comparable Improvement Target; Governor’s Performance Award (participants rates and growth criteria met and eligible for awards). Source: California Department of Education.

Note – California is transitioning from API to Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards, to conform to the national “No Child Left Behind” program. It is possible that many districts performing well under API will not perform as well under AYP because API rewards growth and improvement, so even poorly performing schools can receive recognition. AYP requires a minimum percentage of students to achieve academic proficiency, which applies both school-wide and to subgroups of students, such as ethnic groups, English language learners, and students with disabilities. The minimum percent of students required to achieve proficiency increases each year until it reaches 100% in 2014. Yolo County Children’s Portfolio 2003.

Graduation Rates

Total of twelfth-grade graduates who received a diploma in the school year indicated divided by the number of ninth graders enrolled four years prior. It does not include students graduating on the basis of the California High School Proficiency Examination, from programs administered by a community college, from adult education programs or receiving a General Education Development (GED) certificate and has not been adjusted for increases in enrollment. Graduation rates were calculated for 2002-2003 by ethnicity based on the percentage of enrolled twelfth-grade students graduating in the same year. Source: California Department of Education.

Post-Secondary Enrollment

UC/CSU eligible graduates determined by the number of twelfth-grade graduates, for the school year indicated, completing all the courses required for University of California (UC) and/or California State University (CSU) entrance with a grade of “C” or better (representing only a portion of the entrance requirements for UC or CSU). Recent public high school graduates in the county enrolled at public higher education institutions as first-time freshman (19 years of age and younger). Sources: California Post-Secondary Education Commission and California Department of Education.

Per-Pupil Expenditure

The current cost of education is the direct cost of educational services per Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for students. Only costs directly associated with educational services are included, unlike the annual per-pupil expenditures or total cost per student used nationally, which is an estimate and includes expenditures not directly related to educational services. Source: California Department of Education; School Fiscal Services Division. California’s national ranking provided by EdSource, August 2003.

HEALTH

Healthcare Access

Total enrollment in Medi-Cal by Age Groups and percentage of total enrollment for Sacramento County and California as reported by the California Department of Health Services.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Data was collected on rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia by age. The reported incidence of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia for 15-19 year olds per 100,000 is shown (2002 California data is provisional). Sources: California Department of Health Services, Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch; Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services. For more information visit: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/STD/stdindex.htm.

Prenatal Care

The percent of live births in a calendar year for which prenatal care was received during the first three months (trimester) of pregnancy. Source: California Department of Health Services. For more information visit: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/vssdata/2002data/2002NCountyEX.htm>

Breastfeeding

The number and percentage of mothers by race/ethnicity who initiate exclusive breastfeeding and combination breastfeeding/formula at the time of discharge from the hospital. The data is captured on the Newborn Screening Form by hospital staff. Source: California Department of Health Services, Epidemiology and Evaluation Section, Maternal and Child Health Branch. For more information visit: www.fns.usda.gov/wic/.

Perinatal Substance Exposure

Currently there is no system in place in Sacramento County to collect local data on perinatal substance use. Perinatal describes the period from 28 weeks of gestation through the first week of life. This period of time includes pregnancy, delivery, and post-partum. Child Protective Services (CPS) encourages hospitals to report both positive toxicology screens or history of perinatal substance abuse, but not all mothers are screened for drugs. Each hospital has discretion regarding who is screened and reported to CPS.

Birth Rates among Teens

Number and percent of teen births by age and ethnicity: under 18 and 18-19 for Sacramento County, 2002. Source: Rand California, 2004.

Immunization by Age 2

The immunization rate is measured by reviewing a child’s immunization record when he or she enters school, making the data retrospective. Missing, incomplete, or incorrect records may result in an inaccurate picture. The percentage of kindergarteners who had received three doses of polio vaccine, four doses of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, and one dose of mumps/measles/rubella by their second birthday. This data is based on a retrospective examination of kindergarteners. Source: California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch. Additional information can be found at: www.shots4tots.org and www.immunizationinfo.org.



Dental Health

There is little data available to measure the extent of dental disease among children in Sacramento County and the amount of remedial care given. Data from the Sacramento County Healthy Start Collaborative was used. Children Needing Dental Care or Children Needing Urgent Dental Care based on visual exams of Sacramento County students in various school districts throughout Sacramento County. Source: Sacramento District Dental Society *Healthy Start Screenings* www.sdds.org and Sacramento County Healthy Start Collaborative.

Air Quality

The number of days the air quality exceeded the 1-hour state ozone standard and the number of days the air quality exceeded the 1-hour and 8-hour federal ozone standard. Source: Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. For more information visit: www.sparetheair.org.

Children Suffering from Asthma

Local and state data on asthma diagnosis from the 2001 California Health Interview Survey (www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/) by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research is reported. The statewide survey was collected from a telephone interview survey with 55,428 adults, 5,801 teenagers, and 12,592 parents of young children. Survey participants are from every county in California. This survey is conducted bi-annually and updated information will be available at the end of 2004 for 2003. For information on the number of adults interviewed, by race/ethnicity, and on county sample counts, visit www.chis.ucla.edu. Additional information on asthma can be found on the American Lung Association's website: www.lungusa.org

Tobacco Use and Youth

The percent of students by grade level (7, 9 and 11) who have smoked at least one cigarette in the past 30 days was measured using 2002 California Healthy Kids Survey results. Source: California Healthy Kids Survey. For more information visit: www.wested.org/hks.

SAFETY

Child Deaths

Causes of child death were compiled by the Sacramento County Child Death Review Team; the numbers represent the deaths of resident children, age newborn to 18. The number and causes of child deaths. Source: Sacramento County Child Death Review Team.

Homeless Children

The number of non-duplicated children identified and children estimated by individual school districts in Sacramento County as homeless for the 2002-03 school year. Source: Sacramento County Office of Education, Project TEACH. For a description of the program visit: <http://fmpro.scoe.net/programs>. Additional information obtained from homeless shelters and the Sacramento Cities and County Board on Homelessness.

Child Abuse and Neglect

The number of reports and responses to reports of child abuse. Monthly statistics are collected from the hand-counted Child Protective Services telephone logs completed by Emergency Response Intake social workers. Source: Sacramento County Department of Health and

Human Services, CPS, Quarterly Statistical Reports. For additional information please visit: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/>.

Domestic Violence

"Domestic Violence Related Calls Received by Law Enforcement Agencies" is shown as a total number of calls and as a yearly rate per 1,000 population for Sacramento County and California state-total number of calls per 1,000 estimated population derived from California State Department of Finance yearly estimates. Complaint of abuse from an adult or a fully emancipated minor who has or has had a close, intimate, or cohabitating relationship with the abuser. Source: Office of the Attorney General, California State Department of Justice, Statistics Division. For more information visit: <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/>.

School Violence and Student Crime Rates

The number of criminal incidences on school campuses per 1,000 students by type of crime. School districts with fewer than 1,000 students are not included in this measure. Because of space constraints, the California Safe Schools Assessment (2000-2001) did not report the following crimes, which constituted less than 2% of the total crimes reported: bomb threats, destructive/explosive devices, and loitering/trespassing. When drawing conclusions from individual rates changes, remember that improved reporting practices by some local educational agencies may have resulted in increases in their crime rates, which may not represent actual increases in crime. Source: California Department of Education, Safe Schools and Violence Prevention Office, California Safe Schools Assessment. The California Safe Schools Assessment for 2000-2001 is available at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fd/cssa9899-pdf.asp>.

Juvenile Felony Arrest Rates

Data from the California Department of Justice was used to show the number of arrests per 1,000 juveniles (ages 10-17) for a crime committed by a juvenile that is punishable by death or imprisonment in a state prison if committed by an adult. Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center. For more information visit: <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/datatabs.htm>.

Driving Under the Influence

California Department of Justice tracks arrests of youth ages 10-17 for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The number of juveniles (ages 10-17) arrested for misdemeanor and felony driving under the influence (DUI). Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

Runaways

Juvenile Missing Person Reports. The number of juvenile missing person reports filed in Sacramento County. The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Missing Persons Unit has been disbanded as of Sept/Oct 2003. There is no longer a central unit. All missing persons reports will go to one of 7 areas of the county. Source: Sacramento City Police Department and Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Out-of-Home Placement

Number of Children in Child Welfare Supervised Foster Care by Placement Type and Age provided by the Child Welfare Services/Case Management Service data system. Children in Foster Care: Child Welfare and Probation Supervision, Sacramento County. Source: Center for Social Services Research, University of California at Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, CWS/CMS 2003 Quarter 2 Extract from Department of Social Service, Research and Development Department. For further information visit: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu>. Data on mental health out-of-home placements came from Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Research and Development Department.

Youth Substance Abuse

Alcohol and Drug Usage of 11th grade youth in Sacramento County. Source: California Healthy Kids Survey 2001-02.

Mental Health Services for Children

The number of youth receiving publicly funded mental health services by age groups in Sacramento County. No data is available to capture the number of children who receive mental health services privately. Source: Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Research and Evaluation Division.

Youth Involved in Community Service and Volunteerism

There is no comprehensive data on the number of children who are involved in volunteering in Sacramento County. Community service requirements in high schools (and in some middle schools) are highly individual within not only schools, but within certain classrooms.

Thanks to the following for their assistance in providing information and data for the 2004 Sacramento County Children's Report Card:

California Budget Project
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
California Department of Education
California Department of Finance
California Department of Health Services
California Department of Housing and Community Development
California Department of Justice
California Department of Transportation
California Employment Development Department
California Postsecondary Education Commission
Center for Social Services Branch, University of California at Berkeley
Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Inc.
Child Action, Inc.
Child Death Review Team
Children NOW
City of Sacramento Police Department
Community Services Planning Council
Elk Grove Unified School District
First 5 Sacramento Commission
National Center for Health Statistics
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
Sacramento City Unified School District
Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services
Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services Division
Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance
Sacramento County Healthy Start Collaborative
Sacramento County Office of Education
Sacramento County Office of Education, Project TEACH
Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
Sacramento District Dental Society
Sacramento Employment & Training Agency
Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
Sacramento Regional Transit District
San Juan Unified School District
UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
United States Census Bureau
United States Department of Agriculture
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)





Children's Report Card Evaluation

We are implementing a procedure to track how the Children's Report Card is utilized in the Community. Could you please take a moment to answer the following questions? Please circle or write your responses. Thank you.

1. Was the information in the Children's Report Card presented in a clear format?

1	2	3	4
Very Clear	Clear	Somewhat Clear	Not Clear

2. Was the information presented in the Children's Report Card useful to your organization?

1	2	3	4
Very Useful	Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Useful

3. How have you used the Children's Report Card?

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a. Grant Proposal | c. Resource Allocation |
| b. Program Planning | d. Special Report |
| e. Other: _____ | |

4. What was the impact?



5. The Children's Coalition would like to track how much funding the Children's Report Card helps bring into this community. If you used the 2004 Children's Report Card for a grant proposal:

a) What was the proposal for? _____ From whom? _____

b) Was the proposal funded? Yes No

Approximate Award? _____

c) What was the impact on the community? How many people were/are served?

6. Which indicator in the Report Card did you find most useful?

7. What indicators would you like to see added to the Report Card?

8. How could the Children's Report Card improve?

9. If you are willing to be contacted to work as a volunteer on the next Report Card, please identify yourself:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please return this survey to the Sacramento County Children's Coalition:
909 12th Street, Suite #200 Sacramento, CA 95814 or Fax to: 916-447-7052

Thank You!

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Copies may be downloaded online at www.communitycouncil.org

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Please acknowledge the Sacramento County Children's Coalition.

*The Sacramento County Children's Coalition expresses
appreciation to Sharon Neese,
a Coalition Member who passed away in 2004
after dedicating 30 years of service
to children in the Sacramento community.*



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