

**Santa Barbara County 2008**

# **Children's Scorecard**

**Data on our children's physical, emotional, educational and social well-being over time.**

Presented by the Santa Barbara County KIDS Network, UCSB Gervitz Graduate School of Education, First 5 Commission of Santa Barbara County, and public agencies and community-based organizations.





## Credits & Participants

The production of this report was guided by the KIDS Network Scorecard Committee, made up of members of the general and executive membership:

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Please refer to [www.countyofsb.org/kidsnet](http://www.countyofsb.org/kidsnet) for more information on the KIDS Network.

The data and background information in this report was provided by analysts from the Santa Barbara County Departments of Social Services, Probation, Public Health, and Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health.

We also thank the Child Care Planning Council, the Children's Health Initiative, the Santa Barbara Police Department, and the University of California at Santa Barbara for their contributions. The KIDS Network general membership assisted with compiling information on community-wide initiatives.

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# Introduction

Conceived and designed by Dr. Michael Furlong at the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California at Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara County Children's Scorecard has a long and distinguished history. Issued for the first time in 1991, the report is based on data collected and compiled by the Santa Barbara County KIDS Network, and has been widely used by the community over the years.

This new issue of the report differs from prior editions in that it is a summary of trends related to children's well-being. It is organized around three "domains," or sets of goals desired for our community's children, namely:

- 1. Children and youth are safe and supported by families and communities.***
- 2. Children and youth are healthy and thrive.***
- 3. Children and youth are "ready to learn" and will succeed in school.***

Each domain is broken into goals, and each goal is measured by indicators.

The intent of this report is to provide a multifaceted overview of the conditions for Santa Barbara County's children, while providing enough information to allow for meaningful discussion about how to continue reaching the desired goals. The report attempts to provide rich context for each indicator, but does not make recommendations for specific programs or policies.

Statistics and data on Santa Barbara County's children continues to be available to the public at [www.kidsdata.org/sbc](http://www.kidsdata.org/sbc), an online resource that provides access to regularly updated indicators, community resources and research.

The production of this report was guided by the KIDS Network Scorecard Committee, made up of members of the general and executive membership. Please refer to [www.countyofsb.org/kidsnet](http://www.countyofsb.org/kidsnet) for more information on the KIDS Network.

## Message from the Chair



*Joe Centeno*

As the chair of the KIDS Network since 2004, I am deeply concerned about the well-being of all children in our County. Children of all ages and in all areas of the County deserve to live healthy, safe and protected lives. This includes access to a good education, health services and meaningful after-school and enrichment programs.

With increasing needs facing our communities and limited resources to address them, it is extremely important that we find a way to provide services and support where needs are greatest, or where the risks are so high that not intervening would carry the highest cost. These are difficult decisions that need to be weighed carefully. Data trends, such as those shown in the Children's Scorecard, provide a solid basis of information and are therefore valuable tools in our decision-making process.

The KIDS Network, which includes members from many agencies and organizations, is uniquely suited to encourage communities and public agencies to work together to make sure the County of Santa Barbara is able to address priority needs and meet our goals for children and youth.

*Joe Centeno, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors*

## Message from Social Services



*Kathy Gallagher*

The Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services provides critical safety-net services that support the well-being of children, youth and families in our community. We care about investing in approaches based on indicators and community-wide outcomes, and we proudly continue to support the production of the Children's Scorecard.

This latest edition, with its easily-accessible format, provides crucial information to support data-driven, long-range strategic planning for the well-being of the families and children in our community. We hope that the Scorecard, now more than ever, will serve as an added resource for policymakers, health and human services providers, educators and funders, and we invite you to share your suggestions and recommendations for future reports.

*Kathy Gallagher, Director  
Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services*

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**Domain 1 of 3:**

# **Children and youth are safe and supported by families and communities.**

## **Our goals for Santa Barbara County's children and youth:**

- **Children are free from abuse and neglect.**
- **Children and youth are socially responsible.**
- **Children live in families that are able to provide for them financially.**
- **Children are safe and learning while their parents are at work.**
- **Children feel valued, cared for and supported.**

## Executive Summary

- **Child abuse:** The overall rate of substantiated child abuse and neglect has been rising in Santa Barbara County since 2003. In 2006, it exceeded the statewide rate (per 1,000 children) for the first time.
- **Juvenile crime:** The rates for juvenile felony and violent offenses have increased overall since 2000 (but dropped in 2007). Most offenses do not involve weapons, and are committed by youth 14 and older.
- **Child poverty:** The County poverty rate for families with children under 18 differs little from the statewide rate. The percentage of County public school students enrolled in the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program has steadily increased.
- **Child care:** Estimated licensed child care availability for children aged 0-13 has remained steady over the past seven years in all regions of the County. Cost can be burdensome for families, not all of whom can be helped by subsidized programs. There is a critical shortage of infant-toddler care.
- **School connectedness:** Countywide, more students than in the past report feeling connected to school. Additionally, over half report having an adult outside of home and school with whom they have a caring relationship and who has high expectations for them.

**Goal:**

# Children are free from abuse and neglect.

**Indicator: Substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect.**

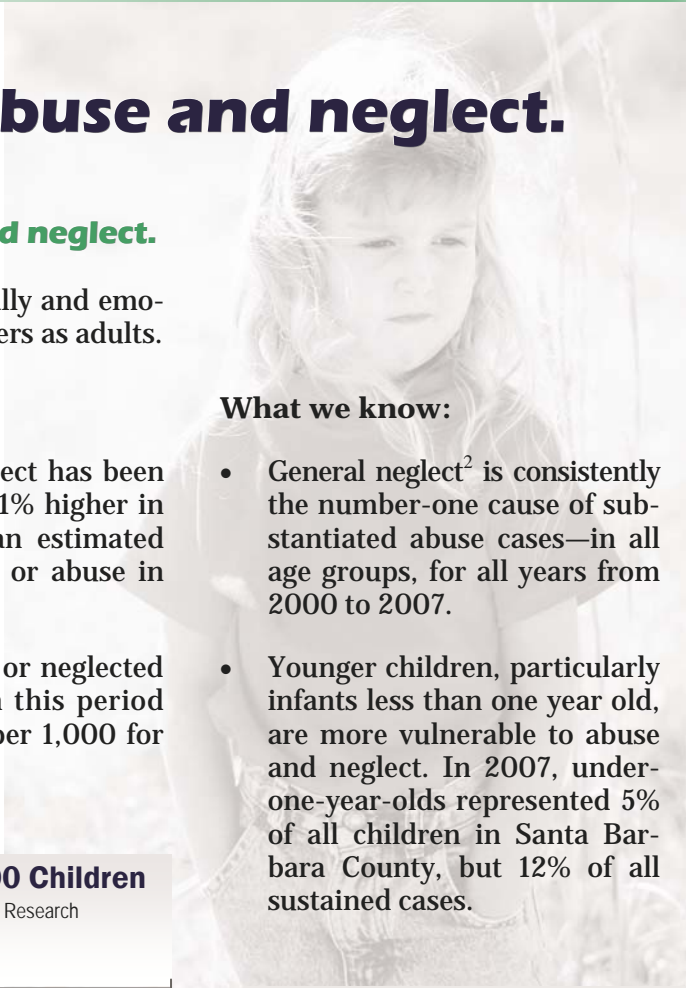
Children who grow up in safe environments are more socially and emotionally secure, and less likely to become victims or victimizers as adults.

**What the data show from 2000 to 2007:**

- The overall rate of substantiated<sup>1</sup> child abuse and neglect has been rising in Santa Barbara County since 2003, and was 21% higher in 2007 than in 2000. In real numbers, 1,144 out of an estimated 105,091 children were found to have suffered neglect or abuse in 2007, vs. 901 out of an estimated 99,859 in 2000.
- In 2006 the Santa Barbara County rate of 11.4 abused or neglected children (0-17 years) per 1,000, for the first time in this period exceeded the statewide rate, which was 10.7 children per 1,000 for that year.

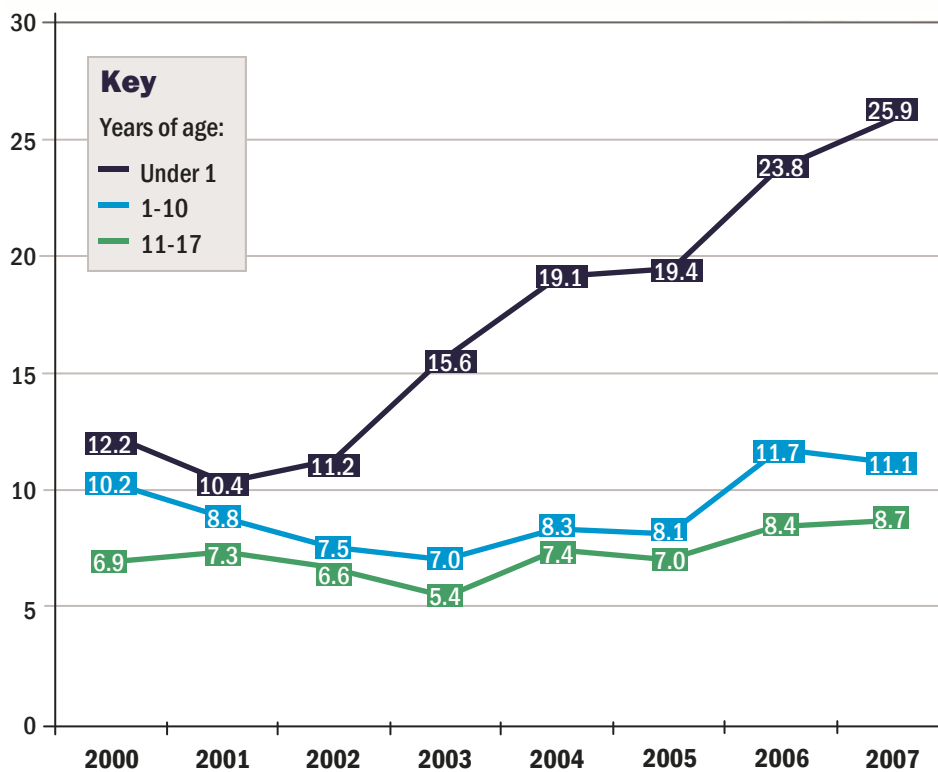
**What we know:**

- General neglect<sup>2</sup> is consistently the number-one cause of substantiated abuse cases—in all age groups, for all years from 2000 to 2007.
- Younger children, particularly infants less than one year old, are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect. In 2007, under-one-year-olds represented 5% of all children in Santa Barbara County, but 12% of all sustained cases.



### Substantiated Child Abuse by Age—Incidents per 1,000 Children

Source: Needell, B., et al. CWS Reports for CA. UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research  
<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports>



### Terminology & Explanations

1. "Substantiated" means that Child Welfare Services (CWS) has investigated the referral and determined that the parent's (or caretaker's) actions (or failures to act) meet the legal definition of child abuse and neglect, and require CWS intervention to ensure the safety of the child. In Santa Barbara County, substantiated cases represent approximately one quarter of all referrals to CWS.
2. "General neglect" is defined as "the negligent failure of a person having the care or custody of a child to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision where no physical injury to the child has occurred." General neglect in a family is often caused by stress or substance abuse, and is best addressed through prevention or supportive services for the caretakers.

### Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

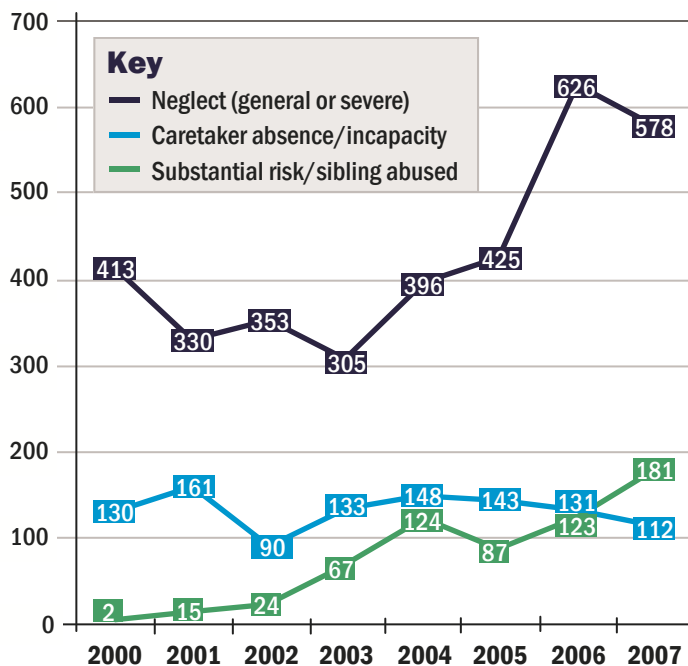
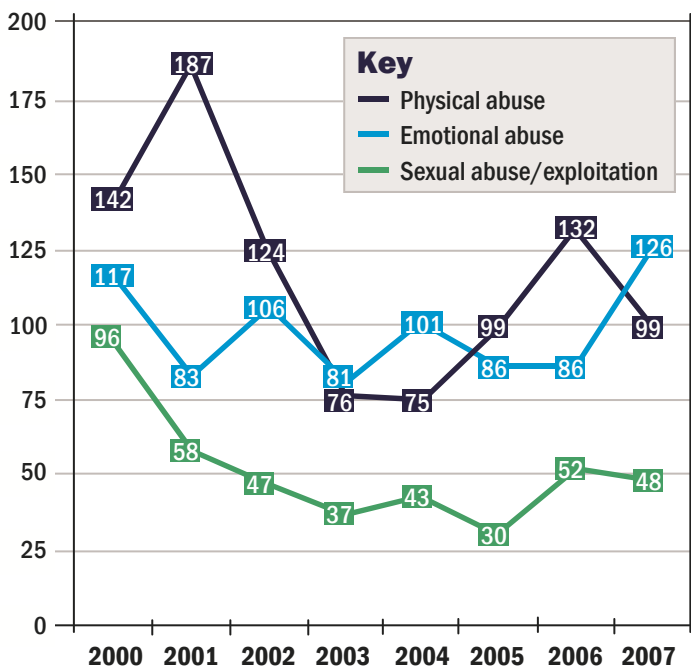
- **Structured Decision Making (SDM).** A process applied by CWS workers when answering Child Abuse Reporting Hotline calls, SDM provides defined, consistent decision-making criteria for assessing the risk of future abuse and the need for a response.
- **Safe-from-the-Start Coordinator.** Local experts in each county have been trained by the Safe-from-the-Start Initiative to provide community groups with no-cost trainings and presentations on the dangers of early exposure to violence. Contact: Deborah Holmes of CALM at (805) 965-2376.
- **Child Abuse Prevention Council.** A mandated countywide community council promoting child abuse prevention, and coordinating prevention activities. Contact: Katharina Zulliger, (805) 346-8222.
- **Family to Family.** A major grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, intended to improve outcomes for at-risk children by building community partnerships, implementing Team Decision Making in child placement decisions, recruiting foster families in children’s own neighborhoods, and applying evaluation tools. The County’s Family to Family grant ended in 2004.
- **Front Porch.** Santa Barbara County’s Differential Response Program. After a referral to the hotline has been made, families can receive community-based support services before formally entering the child welfare system. Contact: Cindy Nott, [c.nott@sbcsocialserv.org](mailto:c.nott@sbcsocialserv.org).

### Did You Know?

- **The Role of the Community:** State and Federal laws, funding and policies largely restrict CWS to protecting the child and helping the family *after* abuse has occurred. While the system is undergoing reform, community-wide support is urgently needed for *prevention* of child abuse and neglect.
- **Child welfare data** only provides information on families whose issues are so severe that they have come to the attention of the law. The *absence* of a substantiated child abuse case does not necessarily mean that a family’s children are doing well, but declining rates of such cases are certainly desirable.

### Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse & Neglect in Santa Barbara County, by Type

Source: Needell, B., et al. CWS Reports for CA. UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports>  
 For definitions of the categories of child abuse and neglect in California, visit [http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/state/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/).



**Goal:**

# Children and youth are socially responsible.

**Indicator: Serious or violent crimes committed by youth.**

Crimes committed by a youth negatively impact both the community, and the youth's own future.

**What the data show from 2000 to 2008:**

- The rates for felony and violent offenses increased in 2008 (by 25% and 12% respectively), and have increased overall since 2000.
- Over six youth per 1,000 committed a violent crime in 2008, compared to almost four youth per 1,000 in 2000. In real numbers, 338 out of an estimated 47,340 10-to-17-year-olds committed a violent crime in 2008, vs. 173 out of an estimated 44,435 in 2000.

**What we know:**

- The highest percentage of violent offenses are “misdemeanor assaults” such as school fights, domestic violence and other violent acts without weapons.
- The majority of these crimes are committed by youth ages 14 and older. The number of minors committing crimes at a younger age is very low.

## Juvenile Sustained Petitions<sup>1</sup> for Felony & Violent Offenses—Rate per 1,000 Youth<sup>2</sup>

Source: Santa Barbara County Probation Department

### Terminology & Explanations

1. “Sustained Petition” means the youth’s case has been adjudicated in a court of law and the petition has been found true. “Adjudicated” is a legal term meaning the case has been heard and settled. (The term “found guilty” is not used with youth offenders, as the focus of the juvenile system is rehabilitation, not punishment.)
2. The rate per 1,000 youth is a more accurate measure of changes over time than the number of crimes committed, because the size of the youth population changes over time. Note: if the total number of 10-to-17-year-olds is low, as is the case in Santa Barbara County, then small increases may appear more dramatic.
3. Felonies are serious crimes, punishable by over a year in detention, including grand theft, burglaries or aggravated assault. The felony rate includes violent felonies, but not misdemeanors.
4. Violent crimes include both misdemeanors (less serious) and felony (serious) crimes. Assault and battery, robbery, rape and homicide, for example, are considered violent crimes.

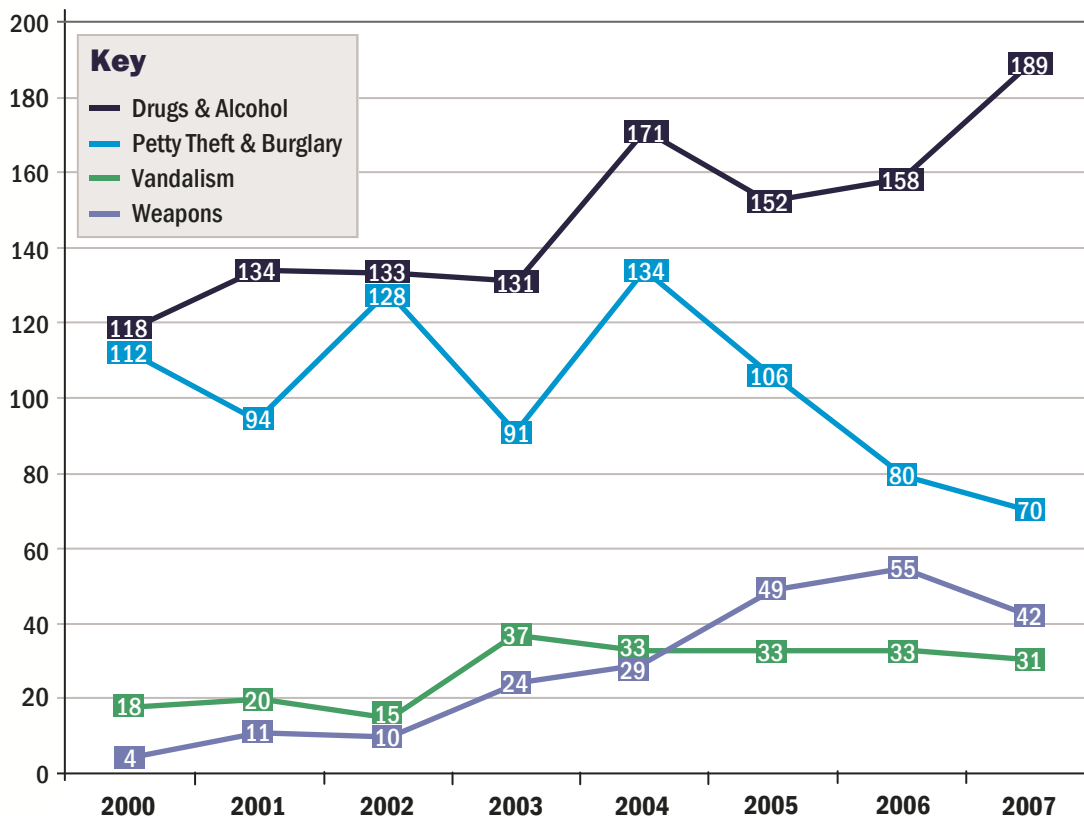


### Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

- **Alternative Detention Program.** Youth violating probation on technical offenses (such as absenteeism, or using drugs or alcohol) can be enrolled in a supervision program providing tutoring and homework help, guest speakers and community service. Contact: Wendy Stanley, (805) 934-6237.
- **Restorative Justice Taskforce.** First- and second-time non-violent offenders are referred to a local Restorative Justice Team Conference with the victim, to develop a plan for paying for or correcting damage or harm. Contact: Conflict Solutions Center, (805) 349-8943.
- **Teen Court.** First-time offenders are tried by a group of peers, who determine a legally binding punishment by jury. Offered countywide. Contact: Eduardo Cué, Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, (805) 963-1433.
- **Youthful Offender Block Grant Program.** State-funded program has select probation officers closely supervise certain serious juvenile offenders long-term, while providing pro-social opportunities and access to Probation and community resources, in an effort to reduce crime. Contact: Brian Swanson, County Probation Department, (805) 739-8607.
- **Lompoc & Santa Maria Valley Gang Forums.** Designed to educate and organize the community about gang violence, and respond to it through community-wide planning. Contact: Joyce Howerton, Fund for Santa Barbara, (805) 717-2012.
- **South Coast Gang Taskforce.** A collaborative of government agencies and community-based organizations from the South Coast region, with a goal of engaging the community in the development of short- and long-term strategies to end youth gangs and violence. Contact: Don Olson, City of Santa Barbara, (805) 564-5312.

### Most Frequent Juvenile Arrests for Major Offenses (City of Santa Barbara)

Source: Santa Barbara City Police Department



### Related Data & Resources

#### Juvenile Gang Data:

There is presently no central data collection point for comprehensive, comparative gang violence data on juveniles in Santa Barbara County. Probation data is limited to youth on probation with gang terms and conditions.

Law enforcement agencies in the County are using CALGANGS, a relatively new but promising state-wide data collection system for intelligence purposes, but data reports for the public are not available.

## Goal:

# Children's families can provide for them.

## Indicators:

1. Families with children in poverty.
2. Students enrolled in free and reduced-price lunch.

Child poverty is associated with negative outcomes later in life, including reduced educational attainment, low earnings, teenage childbearing, and physical and mental health problems. Children in poverty are more likely to live in stressful environments, sometimes without adequate nutrition for physical and cognitive development, and less likely to have access to health care, child care, and extracurricular opportunities.

## What the data show from 2000 to 2007:

- The percentage of families in Santa Barbara County with children under 18 and incomes below the federal poverty threshold,<sup>1</sup> was over time similar to the percentage of such families statewide.
- The percentage of public school students enrolled in the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program (FRL)<sup>2</sup> in Santa Barbara County has steadily increased.

## What we know:

- Poverty rates are higher for households headed by a female single parent. In 2007, 34.4% of female single parent headed households with children under 18 were under the poverty threshold, compared to 12% of all families.
- Many children (particularly in higher grades) who are eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Meals do not take advantage of this program, which may provide a misleading representation of the need (particularly in unified districts). To obtain a list of the latest FRL rates by district or school, visit the Department of Education website at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

## Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

- **EITC & Tax Assistance Campaign Financial Stability Services Partnership.** A partnership dedicated to increasing awareness and claiming of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Contact: Northern Santa Barbara County United Way, Sandy Soria Sosa at (805) 922-0329.
- **Workforce Investment Board Youth Council.** Countywide collaboration for supporting youth employment for in- and out-of-school youth. Contact: Ray McDonald, (805) 681-4446.

## Terminology & Explanations

1. Poverty thresholds are dollar amounts issued by the US Census Bureau for statistical purposes. Poverty guidelines are used to determine financial eligibility for certain programs, including Head Start, WIC and Medi-Cal (but not Cal-WORKs or low-income housing). The Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2008 for a 4-person household for all states (except Hawaii and Alaska) is \$21,200. Poverty experts agree that the methodology for determining poverty measures is outdated and should be revised. For more information on poverty guidelines and thresholds, please refer to <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/faq.shtml>.
2. The Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program (FRL) is a federal initiative for children whose parents or guardians have low incomes (130% of the poverty level for free meals, or under 185% for reduced-price meals). While there are limitations to its accuracy (e.g. limited income verification requirements, and lower participation in higher grades), it is widely used as a poverty measure due to its regular availability.
3. Poverty-by-ZIP-code data includes all households, including those without children. Per the UCSB Economic Forecast, there were 8435 total households in poverty in 2007, including 7,041 households with children.

### Aid to Children

Parents who have lost their jobs, or become incapacitated or disabled, and who have minor children, may receive temporary, conditional cash assistance from the CalWORKS program, and help buying food by means of the Food Stamp program. Both programs are administered by the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services (DSS).

Children make up the majority of the caseload in both programs. Of 9,653 individuals receiving CalWORKS, 79% were children, and 43% of them were under five years old. Food Stamps were received by 13,462 children under 18, or 67% of the Food Stamp caseload. (Source: DSS, July 2008, MRH009R & MRM182R reports.)

Not all families in poverty are eligible for these programs. Visit <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/CDSSWEB/PG85.htm> for more information on CalWORKs. For more on Food Stamps, visit <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps/PG841.htm>.

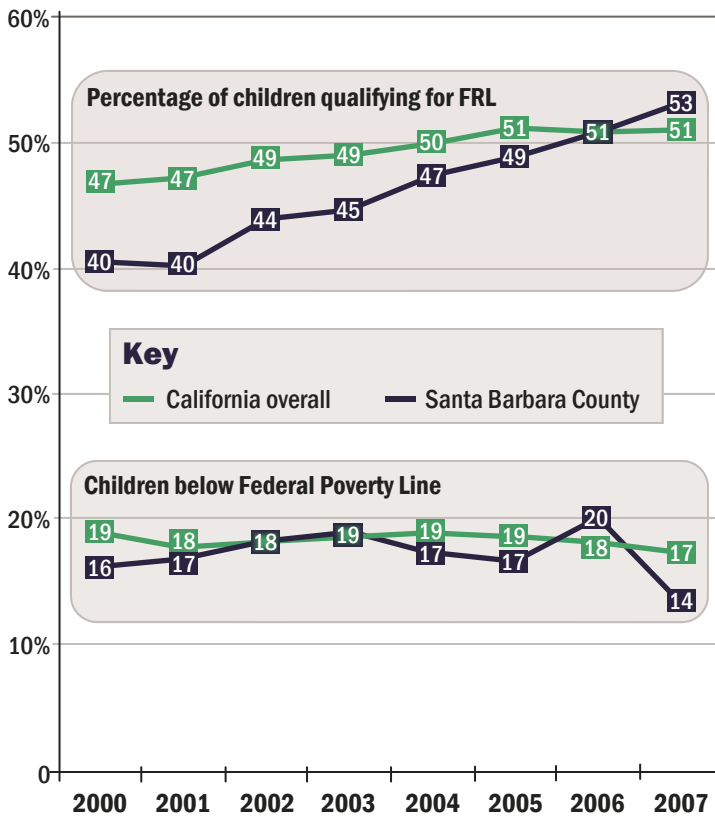
### Poverty by ZIP Code<sup>3</sup>

Source: UCSB Economic Forecast Project, 2007

Los Olivos (93441)	7%
Buellton (93425)	7.8%
Goleta/Isla Vista (93117)	7.9%
Santa Barbara (93103)	9.9%
Lompoc (93436)	11%
Sisquoc/Santa Maria (93454)	11.5%
Santa Barbara (93101)	13.9%
New Cuyama/Cuyama (93254)	13.9%
Santa Maria (93458)	20.4%
Guadalupe (93434)	22.5%

### Key Indicators, State vs. County

Rounded to nearest percent. Sources: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/> and [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)



### Family Needs & Income: A Local Context

- The 2007 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of four in any mainland state was \$20,650. The number of families with children considered poor by this standard in Santa Barbara County in 2007 was 5,880, or 12% of all families with children. The FPL, developed in the early 1960s, does not take into account housing and transportation costs, child care costs or geography.
- The Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard (FESS) measures the income necessary for self-sufficiency, based on daily necessary spending and adjusted by county. By this measure, the income necessary for self-sufficiency in Santa Barbara County for a family of four with one school-age and one pre-school aged child, is \$61,344 a year. For a budget and more information, see <http://www.insightccd.org/insight-communities/cfess/ca-sss.html>.
- In 2007, an estimated 31,000, or 34.7%, of Santa Barbara County families made less than \$50,000 a year. Median 2007 income for County families with children was \$59,900. The percentage of County families able to afford an entry-level home priced at 85% of the prevailing median home price, was 14%. (Source: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.)

## Goal:

# Children have appropriate child care.

## Indicators: 1. Early care & education (child care) availability 2. After-school program availability

It is important that children are safe and learning while their parents are at work. The quality and availability of child care and after-school programs is directly related to educational and social outcomes for children and youth.

Research has shown that the first three years of life are critical for brain development, and that children who participate in high-quality early care and education child care programs enter kindergarten with improved social and cognitive skills. High-quality after-school programs contribute to improved academic and behavioral outcomes, and expose children to art and recreational opportunities.

### What the data show from 2000 to 2007:

- Estimated licensed child care availability for children 0-13 has remained steady over the past seven years in all regions of Santa Barbara County.<sup>1</sup>

### What we know:

- In 67% of Santa Barbara County's two-parent families with children under 18, both spouses work.<sup>2</sup>
- An estimated 59% of pre-school aged children in California are in public or private center-based early childhood education (ECE) programs.<sup>3</sup>
- A family in Santa Barbara County with an income of \$50,000 and wanting licensed child care for an infant and a preschooler, would spend between 28% and 45% of their income for that care. With this income, the family would not be eligible for a state or federally funded child care space.<sup>4</sup>
- There is a critical shortage of infant-toddler care: in 2007, 369 children ages 0-2 were served in child care centers. In 2007, Santa Barbara County was home to an estimated 17,313 children under two years old. While we do not know how many of their parents were in the labor force, the available slots only provide care for 2% of these children.
- There are 34 state funded after-school sites in eight school districts in Santa Barbara County. A total of 3,007 students, or 15% of all students attending schools that offer ASES-funded<sup>5</sup> after-school programs, are enrolled in an after-school program in Santa Barbara County. Non-ASES funded, licensed facilities, such as Boys and Girls Club, YMCA or Girls, Inc. serve another 1, 661 children.
- Licensed family child care homes play a very important role in providing care in Santa Barbara County. In 2007, the 551 licensed homes provided 39 % of all available child care spaces.
- It is critical that children are in safe and healthy child care settings, where age-appropriate activities and caring relationships promote their optimal development and help them prepare for success in school.



### Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

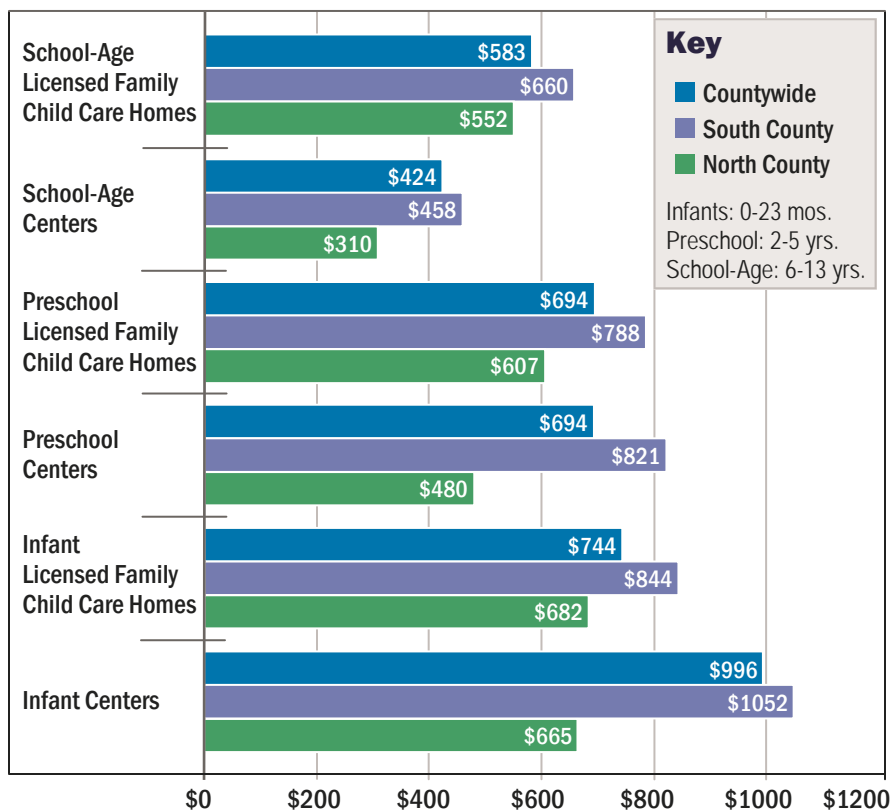
- Child Care Planning Council.** A state-mandated council funded by the California Department of Education to provide planning and coordination for Early Care and Education in the county. Contact: Valerie Kolstad at (805) 964-4710, extension 4473, or visit on the Web at <http://www.sbceo.org/~ccpc>.
- First 5 Early Care and Education Division.** This program provides resources and technical assistance for the early childhood education community to support program improvement, workforce development and capacity building. Call 884-8085 or visit ECED on the Web at <http://www.first5santabarbaracounty.org>.
- Children's Resource and Referral.** A child care referral hotline which links parents with a comprehensive, continuously-updated database of licensed providers. Child Care Resource and Referral agencies are located in every county. Santa Barbara's Resource and Referral Program is operated by Santa Barbara Family Care Center. Contact: (805) 963-6631.

### What is subsidized child care?

Families making less than 75% of the state median income (currently about \$40,000 for a family of four) are eligible for free child care, provided spaces are available. These child care slots include federally-funded programs with stringent income eligibility standards (such as Head Start), state-funded half- and full-day early care and education programs, and child care vouchers. Approximately 2,736 children participate in these programs at any one time. If these subsidized spaces were not available, many lower-income families would not be able to afford licensed early learning programs for their children. Many subsidized programs, such as Head Start, also include supportive services for the children and their families.

### Monthly Cost of Child Care (30+ hours/week)

Source: Santa Barbara Family Care Center, Children's Resource & Referral, October 2008



### Terminology & Explanations

- Child Care Availability is determined by dividing the number of available licensed child care slots by the estimated number of children 0-13 in families where both parents or a single parent is working, based on American Fact Finder survey data. (This data only captures slots available in licensed early care and education facilities, including licensed family child care in private homes. No information is available about private, license-exempt care provided by relatives, friends or neighbors.)
- Source: 2007 American Community Survey.
- Source: research brief, [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org).
- Child Care Cost is collected from licensed programs by the Santa Barbara Family Care Center, Children's Resource & Referral Program.
- ASES: The majority of school-based after-school programs in Santa Barbara County are funded through Proposition 49, the After School Education & Safety (ASES) program, and receive support and technical assistance through a regional office located in Ventura (Region 8). For more details on after-school program funding, policy and research, visit the California After-school Network website at <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/home>.

## Goal:

# Children feel valued and supported.

## Indicator: School Connectedness

“School connectedness” refers to the belief by students that adults in the school care about their learning, and care about them as individuals. Students who feel connected to school are more likely to achieve academically, and less likely to become involved in delinquent behavior.<sup>1</sup>

### What the data show from 2004 to 2007:

- Across Santa Barbara County, students in all grades had the same or higher levels of school connectedness in Fall 2006 as in Fall 2004.
- Students in grades 9 and 11 were more likely in Fall 2006 than in Fall 2004 to say that they feel safe, a part of their school, and close with people at their school.
- Overall, the 7th graders reported the highest level of connectedness, with almost half of students feeling a high level of connection to their schools. The 9th and 11th graders were more likely to report having a moderate level of school connectedness.
- Over half of students report having an adult outside of home and school with whom they have a caring relationship and who has high expectations for them.
- Less than half of students report participating in activities in their community. This may be due to lack of awareness of community resources, and/or a lack of community-based programs available to youth of all ages.



### What we know:

- Research has shown that when adolescents feel cared for and connected to people at their school, they are less likely to use alcohol, engage in violence, or initiate early sexual activity.
- Students who are connected to school are more likely to be academically engaged. In addition, having a good connection early on in a student’s secondary school life has been linked with later academic success, and an increased chance of graduating from high school.
- Positive classroom management climates, participation in extracurricular activities, tolerant disciplinary policies, and small school size are all positively associated with higher school connectedness.

## Terminology & Explanations

1. **Source:** McNeely, C.A.; Nonnemaker, J.M.; & Blum, R.W. (2002). Promoting School Connectedness: Evidence from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. *Journal of School Health*, 72, 138-146.
2. **Connectedness:** per student responses to 5 items derived from National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Students with “high” levels of connectedness *agree* or *strongly agree* with each of these statements: 1) I feel close to people at this school, 2) I am happy to be at this school, 3) I feel like a part of this school, 4) The teachers at this school treat students fairly, 5) I feel safe in my school.
3. **External assets:** defined per California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) measures. *Caring Relationships:* “I have an adult outside of home/school who really cares about me, tells me when I do a good job, notices when I am upset about something.” *High Expectations:* “I have an adult outside of home/school who believes I will be a success, always wants me to do my best, who I trust.” *Meaningful Participation:* “outside of home/ school, I am part of clubs, sports teams, church/temple, or other group activities; I am involved in music, art, literature, sports, or a hobby; I help other people.”

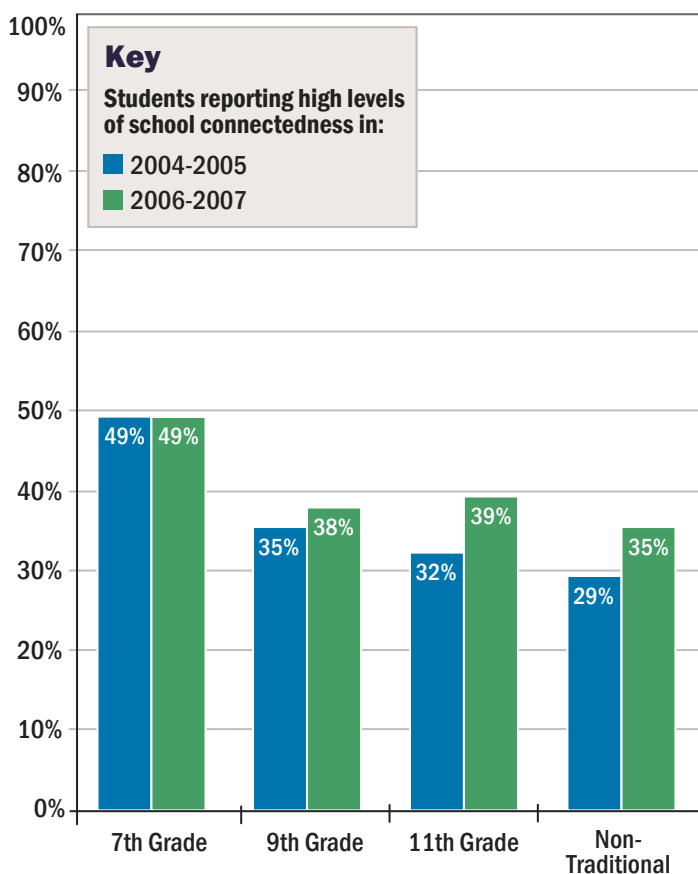
### Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

**Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative (SS/HS)** is a unique Federal grant-making program designed to prevent violence and substance abuse. It helps schools and communities to promote safe and healthy environments in which students can learn and develop. With funding from this project, both Carpinteria and Santa Maria school districts have had the opportunity to implement the following school- and community-based programs for students across grade levels:

- **Check, Connect & Respect (CC&R)** is a dropout prevention program that uses school-based coaches to help at-risk students feel more connected to the school and learning. The coaches work in collaboration with the student, teachers and parents to help the student develop habits of healthy school behavior.
- **Resolving Conflict Creatively Program** is a program characterized by a comprehensive, multi-year strategy to prevent violence and create caring, peaceable communities of learning that improve school success for all children. The program includes the recruitment, training and supervision of children to act as peer mediators and teachers.
- **Too Good for Drugs & Violence (TGDV)** is a classroom curriculum that promotes students pro-social skills, positive character traits, and violence- and drug-free norms. Through the program, students participate in role-plays and co-operative learning activities that aim to encourage them to apply their skills in a variety of school and community settings.

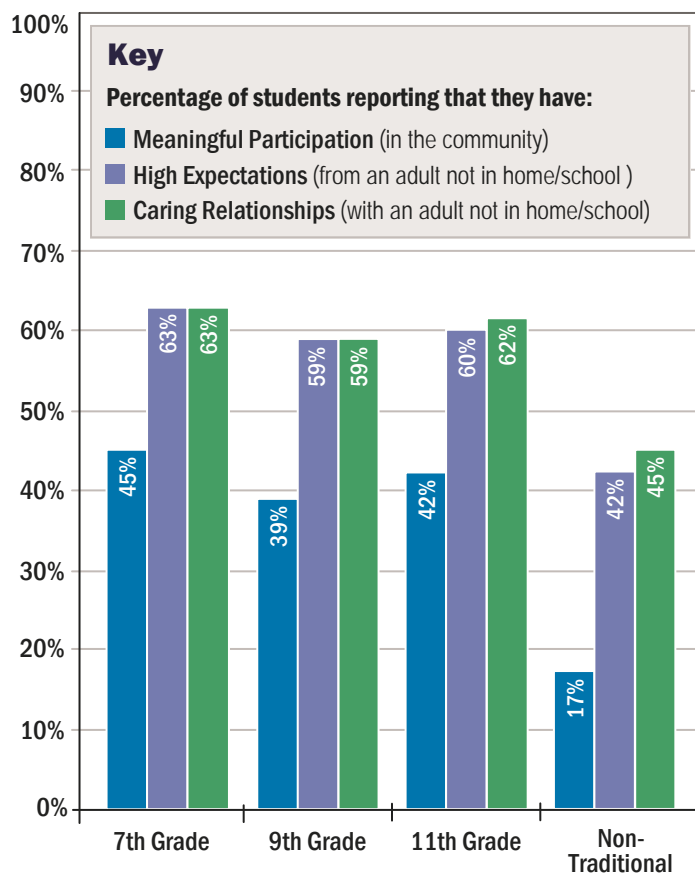
#### School Connectedness<sup>2</sup>

Source: CHKS Santa Barbara County 2004-2007 data



#### External Assets in the Community<sup>3</sup>

Source: CHKS Santa Barbara County 2006-07 data





**Domain 2 of 3:**

# **Children and youth are healthy and thrive.**

**Our goals for Santa Barbara County's children and youth:**

- **Children are physically fit.**
- **Children are born at normal birth weight.**
- **Children have access to health insurance coverage, and families know how to use it.**
- **Children are mentally and emotionally healthy.**

## Executive Summary

- **Physical fitness:** The percentage of Santa Barbara County youth considered “fit” has increased slightly over time, but is still less than half of all children and youth in all grades tested. These rates, however, are still for the most part better than the rates for California as a whole.
- **Low birth weight:** Santa Barbara County has not yet met the Healthy People Goal for low birth weight children, and does not appear to making progress toward that goal over time.
- **Mental illness:** Child & Adolescent Disorder and Adjustment Disorder are the most common diagnosis categories among children and youth seen by ADMHS. These categories primarily include Attention Deficit, Conduct and Attachment Disorders, and signs of depression or anxiety. A lower percentage of ninth and eleventh graders reported persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness in 2006-07 than in 2004-05.
- **Health insurance:** The percentage of uninsured children appears to have decreased since 2001 (although the data are not considered statistically stable). The number and percentage of children insured by Medi-Cal and Healthy Families has greatly increased. The majority of individuals and children on public health insurance are in North County.

## Goal:

# Children and youth are physically fit.

- Indicators:** 1. Public school children meeting all fitness standards  
2. Overweight children and youth

Childhood obesity and poor physical fitness increase the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, asthma, sleep and orthopedic problems, and more. Associated social problems may lead to depression, low self-esteem, and missed school days.

## What the data show from 2000 to 2008:

- The percentage of youth considered “fit” has increased slightly over time, but less than half of all children and youth in all grades tested were able to meet the six fitness standards in 2008.
- While overall fitness rates reported are low, the rates for Santa Barbara County are for the most part still higher than those for California as a whole.
- Comparing 2006 and 2008 WIC<sup>1</sup> data for children considered to be overweight or at risk of it (by BMI for age percentile<sup>2</sup>), there are no significant changes in any of the three County regions.

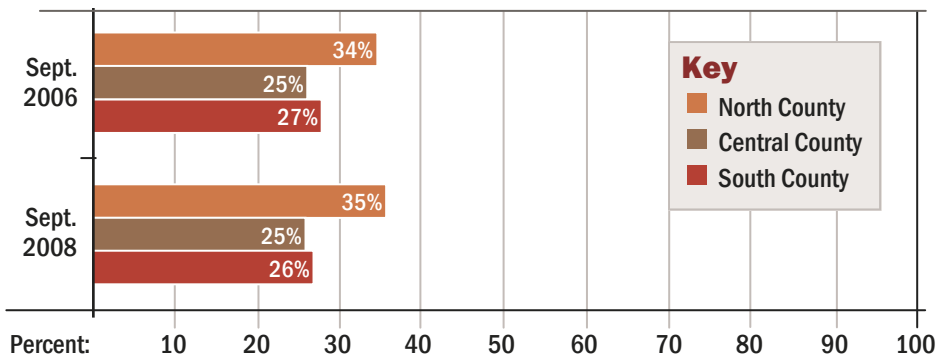
## What we know:

- Differences by gender are more significant than differences by grade. Seventh grade females are consistently more fit than 7th grade males.
- 35% of 7th graders and 31% of 9th graders were calculated to be overweight or at risk of being overweight.<sup>3</sup>
- The California Physical Fitness test includes a body composition component. Body composition is determined either by using measuring devices to estimate a student’s level of body fat, or by using weight and height measurements to calculate a student’s body mass index. Based on these measurements, there has been no noticeable change at any grade level of the percentage of children whose body composition is determined to be within a healthy zone.<sup>4</sup>



## Preschool children overweight or at risk of being overweight

Source: WIC. 7,058 children evaluated in 2006, 7,362 in 2008.



## Terminology and Explanations

1. Operated by the County Public Health Dept., the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program provides vouchers for selected food products for pregnant women, and women with children under 5. WIC also provides breast-feeding support, nutrition education and health care and social service referrals. To qualify, a family has to earn less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (presently \$39,220 for a family of four).
2. The Body Mass Index for Age Percentile provides a comparison of one child’s BMI value to other children of the same age and sex. It is not the same as BMI value. WIC considers children whose BMI-for-Age is above 85% to be at risk of overweight, and children whose BMI-for-Age is above 95% to be overweight. See more on BMI-for-Age at [http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens\\_BMI/about\\_childrens\\_BMI.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens_BMI/about_childrens_BMI.htm).
3. Based on CHKS self-reports. Source: 2006-07 California Healthy Kids Survey. See [http://www.wested.org/cs/chks/print/docs/chks\\_home.html](http://www.wested.org/cs/chks/print/docs/chks_home.html).
4. For definitions and more information on Public School Physical Fitness Testing, visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pfi/>.

### What is considered “fit”?

To pass all six fitness standards, a 7th grade female would at a minimum have to:

- Run 15 20-meter (~60ft) laps at a progressively faster pace
- Run one mile in 12 minutes
- Have a BMI of less than 24.5, or less than 32% body fat (depending on the measurement used)
- Complete 18 curl-ups without resting
- Lift the upper body 9 inches off the floor
- Complete 7 push-ups without resting
- Perform 4 modified pull-ups while lying on the floor
- Hang 7 seconds from a bar with the chin above the bar
- Reach 10 inches along the sides of the body while seated on the floor
- Touch fingertips together behind the back.

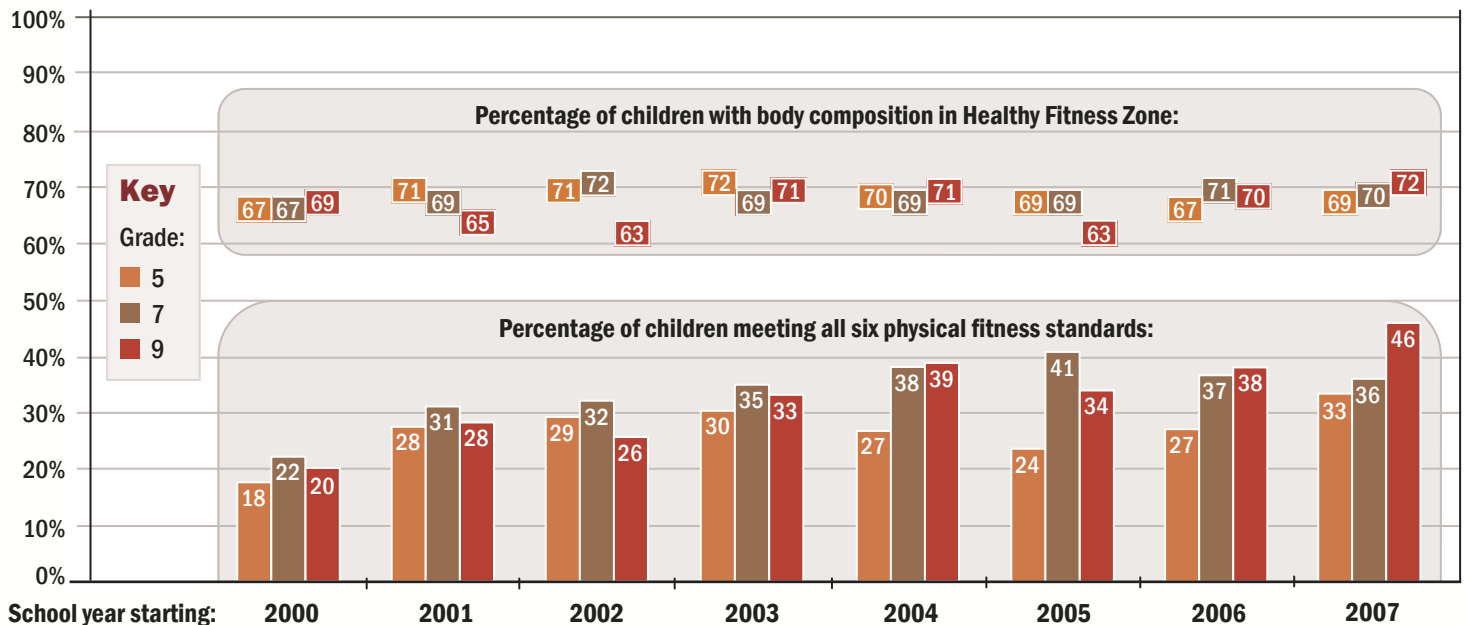
Source: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/ovrefguide.asp>

### Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

- **Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiatives (CCOPI).** Led by the Diabetes Resource Center, these initiatives provide education, resources and programs to public schools in Carpinteria and Santa Barbara. Contact: (805) 687-5586.
- **Gold Coast Collaborative.** Regional effort to address childhood obesity. Contact: Alicia Villacana, (805) 677-5254.
- **Lompoc Valley Community Health Care Organization.** Leads initiative focused on obesity prevention in Lompoc. Contact: Judy Taggart, (805) 737-5787.
- **Partners for Fit Youth.** Coalition of organizations with the goal of improving the health of youth and their families to prevent chronic disease, and promote healthy weight. Contact: Susan Horne, (805) 681-4757.
- **Project LEAN Nutrition Program and Network for a Healthy California,** two Public Health Department-based programs that work to increase community and youth involvement in obesity prevention activities. Contact: Susan Horne, (805) 681-4757.
- **S’Cool Food.** Orfalea-funded initiative to create sustainable “cook-from-scratch” school-food services in Santa Barbara County schools. Contact: info@scoolfood.org, (805) 565-7550.

### Percentage of County Public School Students Meeting Health & Fitness Targets

Source: California Department of Education DataQuest: <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>

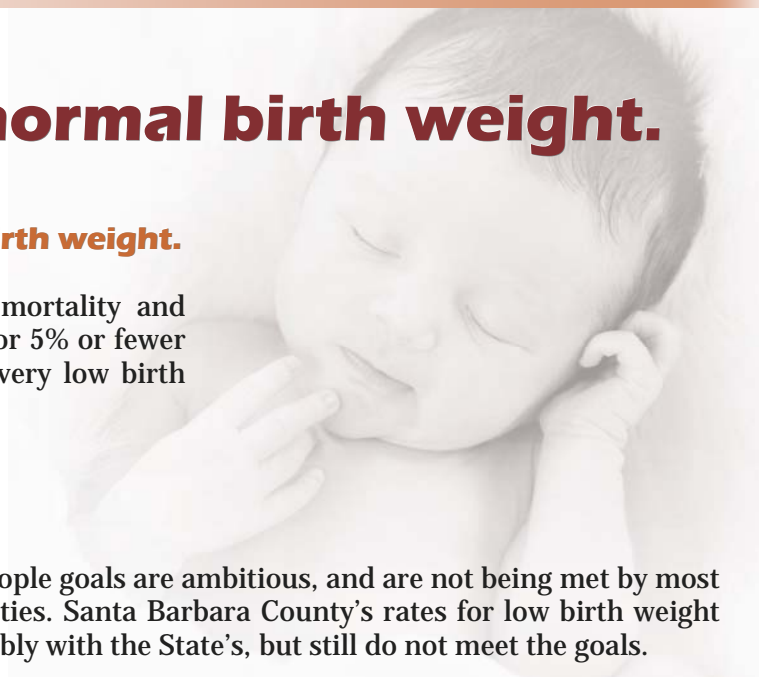


**Goal:**

# Children are born at normal birth weight.

**Indicator: Infants born at low and very low birth weight.**

Low birth weight contributes substantially to infant mortality and childhood disabilities. The Healthy People goals<sup>1</sup> aim for 5% or fewer of all children born at low birth weight, and 0.9% at very low birth weight.<sup>2</sup> Prenatal care is a key factor in birth outcomes.



**What the data show from 2000 to 2007:**

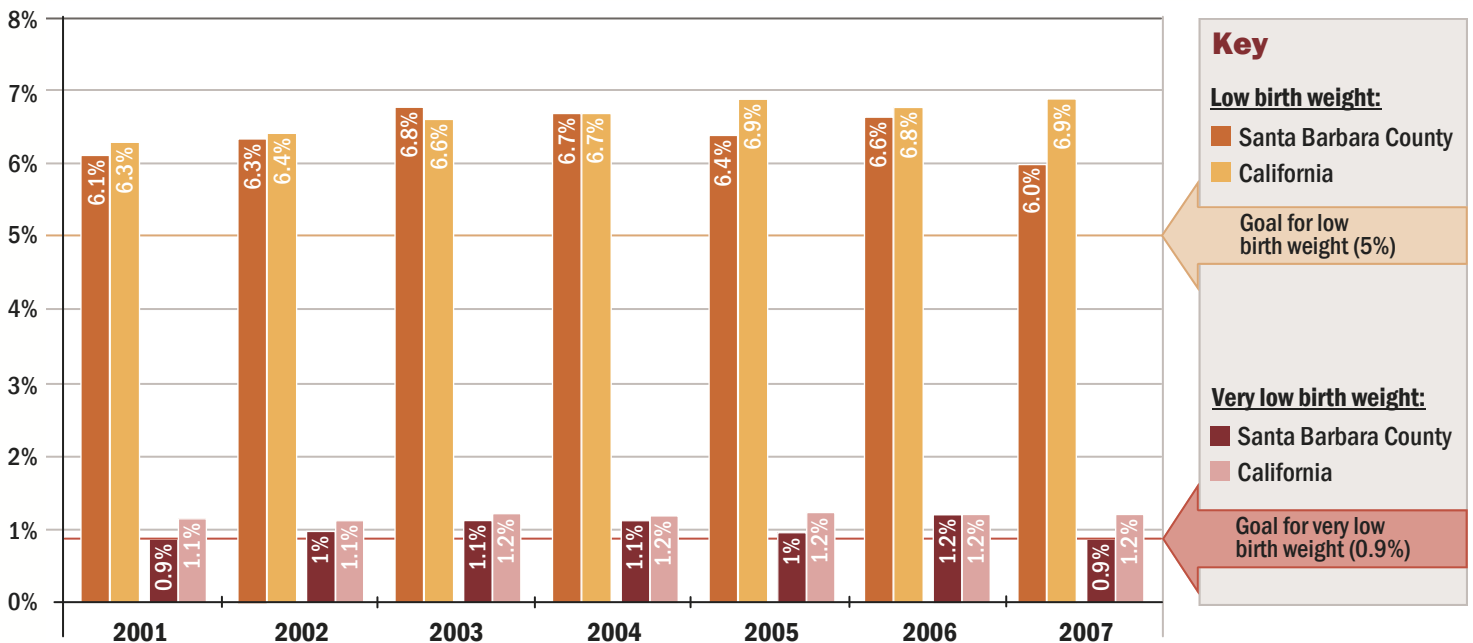
- Santa Barbara County has not yet met the Healthy People Goal for low birth weight children, and does not appear to making progress toward that goal over time.
- The County met the goal for very low birth weight children in 2001 and 2007.

**What we know:**

- The Healthy People goals are ambitious, and are not being met by most California counties. Santa Barbara County's rates for low birth weight compare favorably with the State's, but still do not meet the goals.
- While the overall number of low-birth weight infants is small (382 babies born in Santa Barbara County of the 6,289 total births in 2007), they are much more likely than babies of normal weight to have health problems and require specialized care in a neonatal intensive care unit, accounting for a significant amount of all funds spent on infant health care. Very low birth weight children are at the highest risk for poor health outcomes, including learning disabilities later in life.

### Percentage of Live Births at Low or Very Low Birth Weights

Source: Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.  
Percentage out of all births between 250g to 4,999g in accordance with FHOP data quality guidelines.



### Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

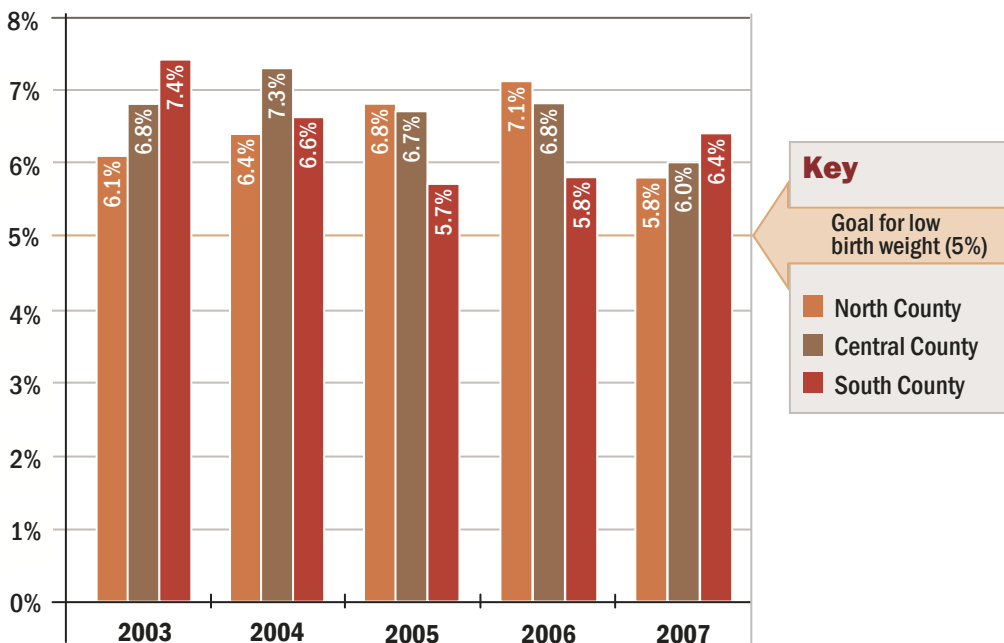
- Maternal Child and Adolescent Health<sup>3</sup> Field Nursing Program.** Through this program, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department provides in-home assessment, education, linkage/referral and comprehensive case management for women at risk of adverse pre-natal outcomes. Contact: (800) 288-8145.
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program.** A nutrition program administered by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), WIC provides supplemental food vouchers, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health and social services. According to PHD, 55% of Santa Barbara County mothers who had a child in 2007 (3,506 of 6,289) reported utilizing the WIC program.<sup>4</sup> Contact: (805) 681-5276.
- PAC/LAC** is a non-profit maternal and child health organization that strives to improve pregnancy and birth outcomes by working with the professionals and systems that care for pregnant women and their families. Contact: [www.paclac.org](http://www.paclac.org).
- Post-Partum Support Group** works on developing resources to increase awareness and build a comprehensive network of community perinatal services and providers to strengthen mental health in the pregnant and postpartum family. Contact: Sandy Fahey, (805) 934-6502.

### Terminology and Explanations

- Healthy People 2010* is a comprehensive set of disease prevention and health promotion objectives in different focus areas, including child and maternal health, set for the entire nation by Federal and State agencies and membership organizations.
- Low Birth Weight* refers to children weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. Children weighing less than 1,500 grams (3.3 pounds) are considered *Very Low Birth Weight*. The two main reasons for low birth weight are premature birth and "small-for-date" babies. In Santa Barbara County in 2007, 65% of low birth weight babies were born prematurely.
- Maternal Child and Adolescent Health* is part of the State Department of Public Health in the Maternal Child and Adolescent (MCAH) Branch. The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department administers the MCAH Program for the a Barbara County and provides, among other services, home-visitation for pregnant women and after the child is born.
- WIC data* are self-reported: to receive a birth certificate, mothers must state if they received WIC food while pregnant. Data trends show higher participation among North County, Hispanic, and teen mothers.

### Percentage of Low Birth Weight Births by Region

Source: Santa Barbara County Public Health Department  
 Percentage out of all births between 250g to 4,999g in accordance with FHOP data quality guidelines.



### Did You Know?

To meet the Healthy People 2010 goal of 5% or fewer low birth weight babies, in 2007, 68 babies would have to have been born at normal weight instead of low birth weight.

Possible causes for low birth weight include birth defects in the fetus, or being pregnant with multiples. Known risk factors include smoking or other substance abuse while pregnant, inadequate or lacking prenatal care, and chronic health problems in the mother. Low income and lack of education are also associated with a higher risk.

**Goal:**

# Children and youth are mentally healthy.

**Indicators:**

- 1. Mental health diagnoses of children referred to ADMHS<sup>1</sup>**
- 2. Youth reporting feeling sad or hopeless in the last 12 months**

Serious emotional and behavioral disorders can affect one in 10 young people, and can severely disrupt a youth's daily functioning in the home, school or community. These disorders include depression, attention deficit/hyperactivity, anxiety disorders, conduct disorder, and eating disorders.

**What the data show from 2000 to 2007:**

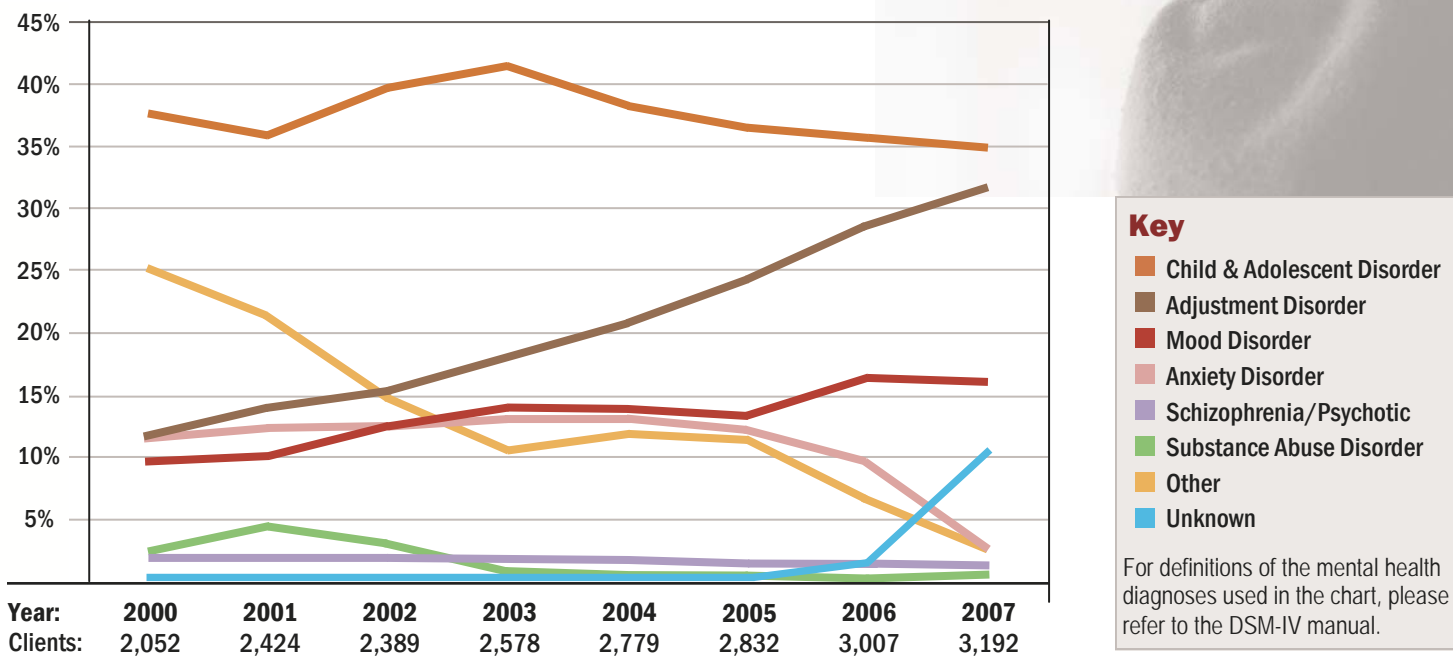
- Child & Adolescent Disorder and Adjustment Disorder are the most common diagnosis categories among children and youth seen by ADMHS.<sup>2</sup> (These groups primarily include Attention Deficit, Conduct and Attachment Disorders, and signs of depression or anxiety.)
- The percentage of females reporting persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness has declined for most grades surveyed.

**What we know:**

- Data is an insufficient representation of the full mental and emotional range of children and youth.

**Mental Health Diagnoses<sup>3</sup> of Children<sup>4</sup> Served by ADMHS**

Source: Santa Barbara County Department of Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services



Year:	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Clients:	2,052	2,424	2,389	2,578	2,779	2,832	3,007	3,192

### Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

- **Early Mental Health and Special Need Collaborative.** Led by ADMHS, this initiative aims to streamline mental health services for children 0-5 and their parents by coordinating assessments, screening and access to services. Contact: Sandy Fahey, (805) 934-6502.
- **SAFTY (Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth).** Operated by Casa Pacifica, SAFTY is a mobile crisis response service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to all Santa Barbara County youth through age 21. The goal is to prevent psychiatric hospitalization and decrease the use of emergency rooms for mental health crisis. Contact: Amanda Pyper, (805) 570-9333.
- **Spirit.** Children, youth and their families are provided whatever it takes to support resiliency and promote recovery from mental illness through wraparound teams. Located at clinic sites: Santa Barbara (805) 884-1600, Santa Maria (805) 934-6385, Lompoc (805) 737-6600.
- **Post-Partum Support Group** works on developing resources to increase awareness and build a comprehensive network of community perinatal services and providers to strengthen mental health in the pregnant and postpartum family. Contact: Sandy Fahey, (805) 934-6502.

### Terminology and Explanations

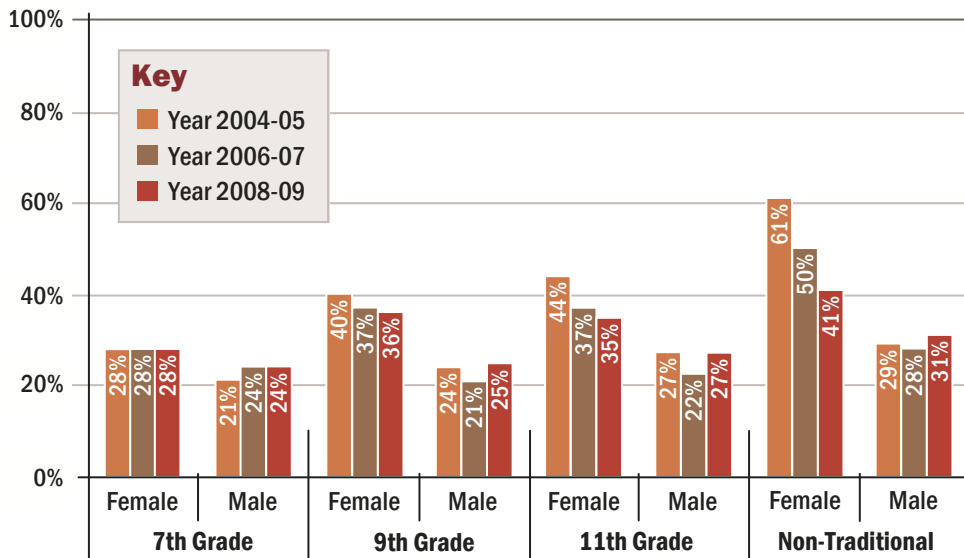
1. ADMHS (the Santa Barbara County Department of Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services) serves children and youth with "serious emotional disturbance" (a significant impairment in an important area of life functioning). Children receiving MediCal-funded services must have a DSM-IV diagnosis, with a treatment plan enabling the child to progress developmentally (as individually appropriate). Children with mental disorders can be served under "Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment" (EPSDT), which includes services to help those under 21 maintain their level of functioning, whether or not their condition is expected to improve.
2. The "Child & Adolescent Disorder" group primarily includes Attention Deficit, Conduct and Attachment Disorders. Very young children in this category often suffer from attachment disorders. In older children, "Adjustment Disorder" is used for a variety of behaviors, including signs of depression or anxiety.
3. While children are diagnosed carefully, categories of mental health diagnoses are also influenced and limited by medical billing and other internal procedures.
4. Experts and clinicians are less likely to diagnose a specific mental illness in early childhood, as it is an important developmental stage where much of the child's personality and mind is still in formation. Also, with younger children, it is often difficult to distinguish between social, emotional or physical issues that may be causing the concerning or disruptive behavior. Usually, behavioral issues are considered cause for intervention when they are so severe that they interfere with development and performance or strongly impact others.
5. Reflects the percentage of children answering "yes" to the question: "During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities?"

### The Community's Role: Prevention & Early Intervention

Community members can help sustain the emotional and mental health of children and youth by: understanding and supporting children's developmental stages; providing access to developmentally appropriate after-school activities (e.g. Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA, volunteer activities); and supporting early developmental screenings to allow intervention services before children enter school.

### County Youth Reporting Persistent Sadness & Hopelessness<sup>5</sup>

Source: California Health Kids Survey



**Goal:**

# Children have health insurance.

**Indicator: Children with health insurance coverage.**

Children with health insurance generally have better health throughout childhood and into their teens. They are more likely to receive needed shots that prevent disease, get treatment for recurring illnesses such as ear infections and asthma, get preventative care to keep them well, and get the treatment they need when they are sick. Children with health insurance get sick less often, and are less likely to miss school due to illness.<sup>1</sup>



**What the data show from 2000 to 2008:**

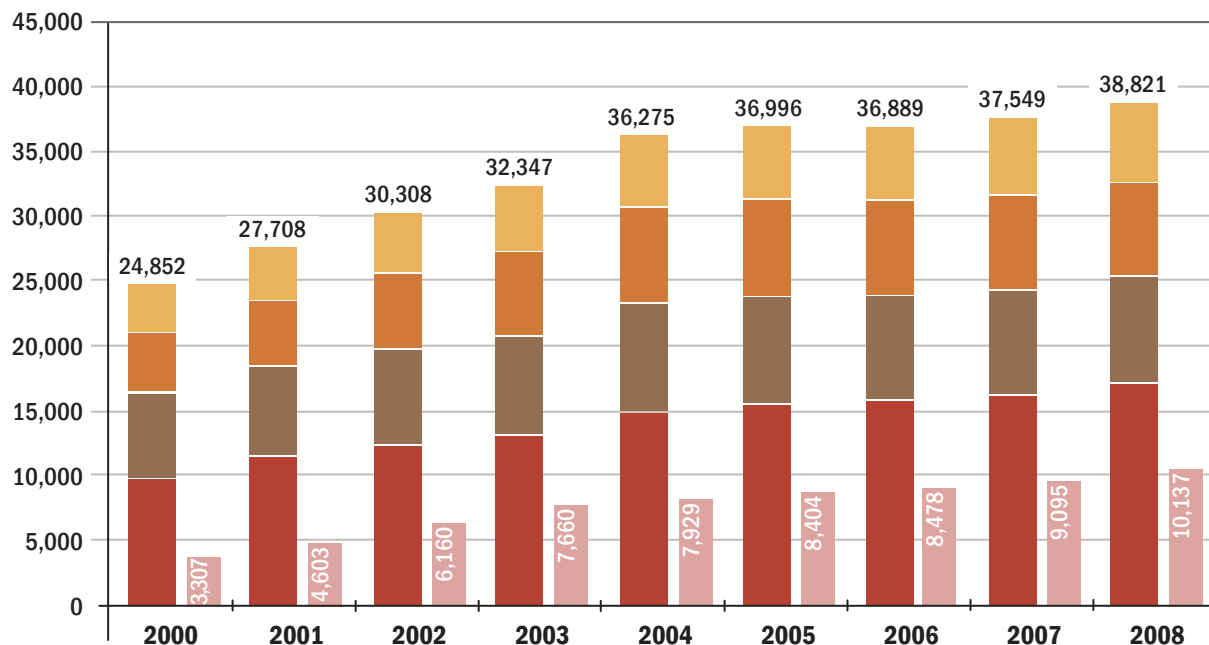
- The percentage of uninsured children appears to have decreased overall since 2001. However, the data is not considered statistically stable.<sup>2</sup>
- The number and percentage of children insured by Medi-Cal<sup>3</sup> and Healthy Families<sup>4</sup> increased from 2000 to 2008. In 2008, 30% of children and youth between the ages of 0 and 20 were receiving Medi-Cal services, compared to 20% in 2000.<sup>5</sup>

**What we know:**

- The majority of individuals and children using public insurance are in North County. While there is no specific information available on children-only enrollment, North County enrollees comprise 51% of the County's caseload in Medi-Cal, 48% in Healthy Families, and 44% in Healthy Kids.<sup>6</sup>
- The over 1,000 children enrolled in local Healthy Kids insurance are making appropriate use of it: in 2007, 69% received a preventive service, and only 1.3% had a visit to the emergency room.<sup>7</sup>

### Children on Public Insurance in Santa Barbara County

Source (Medi-Cal): California Department of Health Care Services, <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Pages/MediCalBeneficiaryProfilesbyCounty.aspx>  
Source (Healthy Families): Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, <http://www.mrmib.ca.gov/MRMIB/HFPRReports.shtml>



**Key**

**Medi-Cal:**

- Ages 16-20
- Ages 11-15
- Ages 6-10
- Ages 0-5

**Healthy Families:**

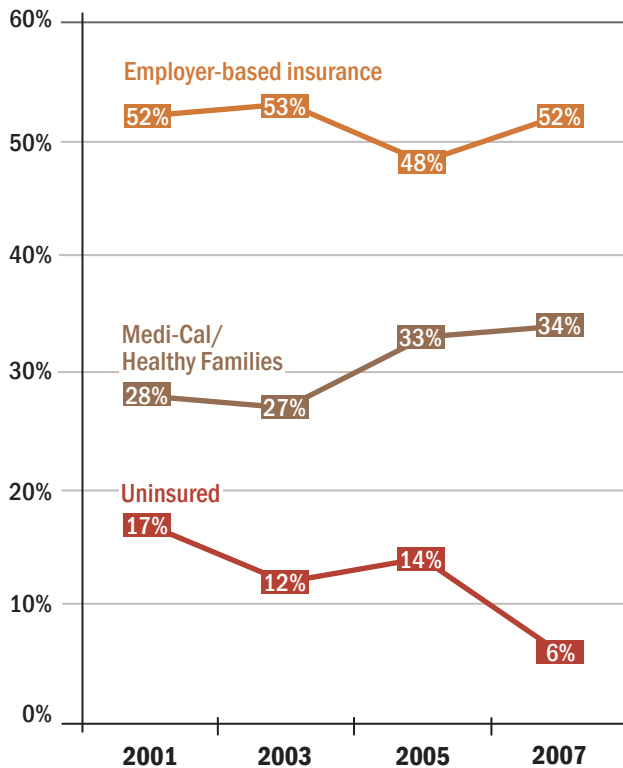
- Ages 0-18

**Note**

Data for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families is point-in-time enrollment as of April of each year.

### Type of Insurance (Children 0-17)

Source: California Health Information Survey<sup>2</sup>



### Children's Health Initiative Survey

Parents enrolling their children through CHISB's online enrollment system are asked a series of questions that help provide a picture of health access in the year prior to enrolling. From the 1,067 children who were enrolled between October 2007 and June 2008 and whose parents responded to the questions:

- 71% had no comprehensive health insurance for the past 12 months, and 42% had not seen a doctor or health professional during that time.
- 16% had delayed or did not seek medical care in the past year primarily due to cost, and 45% reported financial difficulties due their child health care needs.
- The majority of parents found out about health insurance options through their child's school (53%) or family and friends (25%).

If we assume these responses to be typical of most uninsured children in Santa Barbara County, then we can informally estimate that of the 14,000 uninsured children identified by the CHIS survey in 2005:

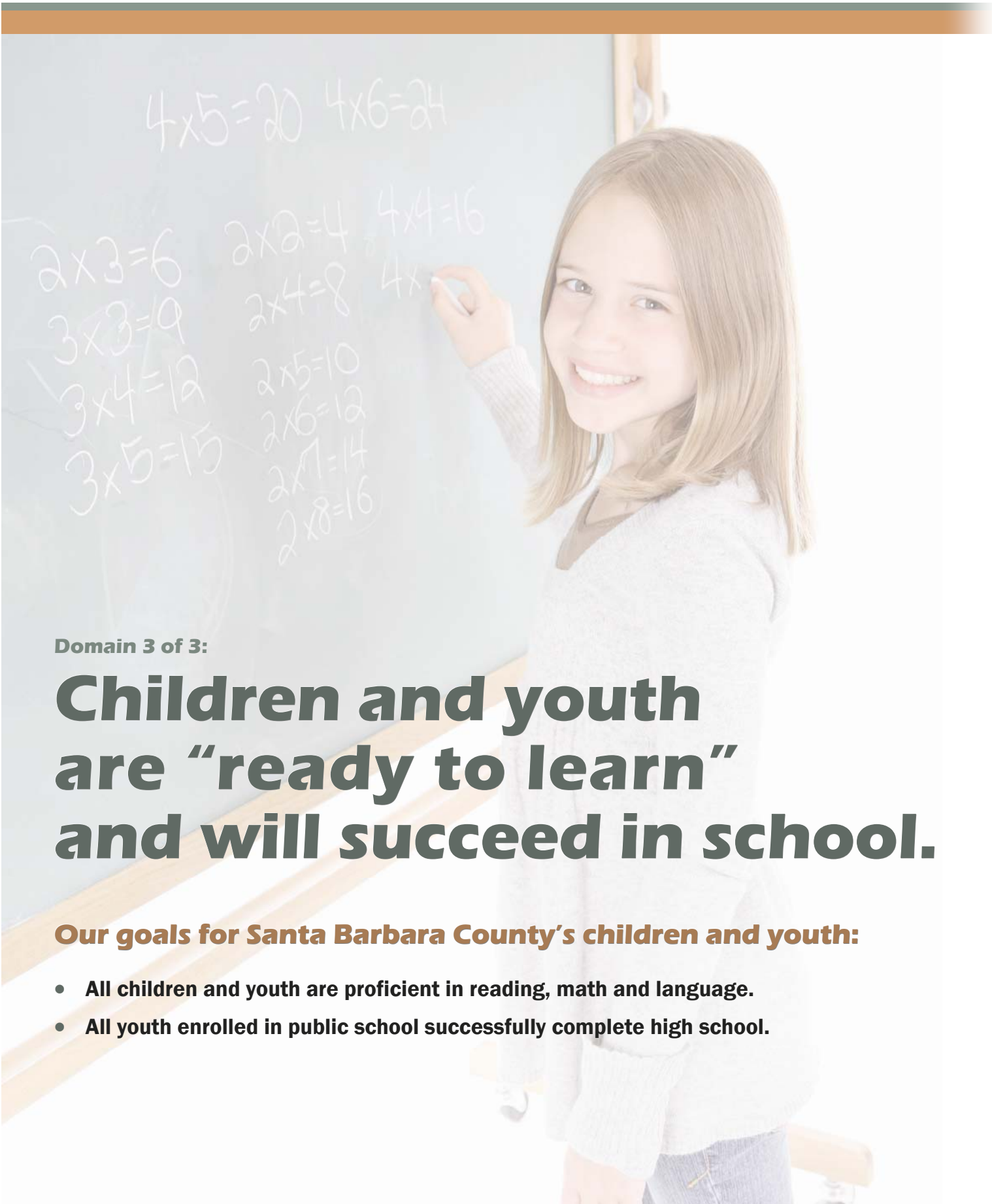
- 9,940 have not had insurance for at least a year
- 5,880 have not seen a doctor, and
- 2,240 have immediate health needs that are not being met.

### Terminology and Explanations

1. Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, <http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/questions.asp#why1>
2. *California Health Information Survey (CHIS)* is a telephone survey of adults, adolescents, and children, conducted every two years by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Such statewide surveys may be subject to a higher margin of error in smaller counties such as Santa Barbara. CHIS carefully selects respondents to create a sample that is representative of the population surveyed. See <http://www.chis.ucla.edu/>.
3. *Medi-Cal* is state- and federally-funded health coverage. To qualify, children must live in households with incomes under 250% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). A small fraction may also qualify due to a chronic or extreme health condition.
4. *Healthy Families* is state-funded public insurance for children whose parents earn less than 250% of FPL.
5. Source: Dept. of Finance.
6. *Healthy Kids* is locally operated and funded insurance for children whose parents earn up to 300% of FPL, irrespective of immigration status.
7. Source: Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County.

### Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

- **Children's Health Initiative Santa Barbara.** Housed at the Health Linkages program run by the County Office of Education, the Children's Health Initiative works to promote coordinated outreach, widespread enrollment, correct utilization and high retention for all health insurance products available to children. There are over 90 certified application assistants countywide. Contact: Tara Dooley at (805) 964-4710, extension 4460.
- **Community Health Centers of the Central Coast.** A network of clinics facilitating health care access for low-income families. Contact: (805) 929-3211.
- **Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics.** Provides high-quality, affordable medical and dental care to all, especially those uninsured and underserved, regardless of their ability to pay. Contact: Jeremy Myer at (805) 963-8566, x 226.
- **Santa Barbara County Public Health Clinics.** Provide medical and preventative services to the uninsured and underinsured. Contact: [www.sbcphd.org/clinics](http://www.sbcphd.org/clinics).



**Domain 3 of 3:**

# **Children and youth are “ready to learn” and will succeed in school.**

**Our goals for Santa Barbara County’s children and youth:**

- **All children and youth are proficient in reading, math and language.**
- **All youth enrolled in public school successfully complete high school.**

## Executive Summary

- **Grade school STAR test scores:** Although the scores for reading, math and language show slight gains between third and seventh grade, there are significant achievement gaps based on parent education level, income and ethnicity. Similar gaps occur nationwide. No significant progress has been made in closing these gaps for California students.
- **High school Algebra 1 CST test scores:** While there have been gains since 2003, the total number of students scoring Proficient or Advanced in Algebra remains low. Student scores for Algebra differ dramatically according to parent education level.
- **High school exit exam test scores:** There has been no significant change over time in the percentage of students able to pass the Mathematics or English Language Arts sections of the exam. The majority of students are able to pass the exam in 10th grade.

## Goal:

# Children are proficient in key subjects.

## Indicator: Public school third and seventh graders testing proficient in reading, math and language.<sup>1</sup>

A solid educational foundation greatly improves a child's opportunity to live a meaningful and productive adult life. Third-grade test scores are considered strong indicators of future academic success.

### What the data show from 2003 to 2008:

- Children's third-grade STAR test scores in reading and math show significant differences based on their parents' education level. This is true for each set of third graders tested since 2003.
- Between third and seventh grade, there are slight gains for each student group, but the achievement gap based on parent education does not narrow.

### What we know:

- Similar differences in children's test results are apparent when scores are broken down by parent income or ethnicity.
- This "achievement gap"<sup>2</sup> occurs statewide and nationwide. Causes and solutions are widely debated, but no significant progress has been made in closing this gap for California students.
- The achievement gap begins with the transition from pre-school to kindergarten, and continues as students progress through school. It is evident not only in test scores, but also in the rates of students passing the high school exit exam, completing high school, and achieving college readiness.



## Community-Wide Initiatives & Innovations

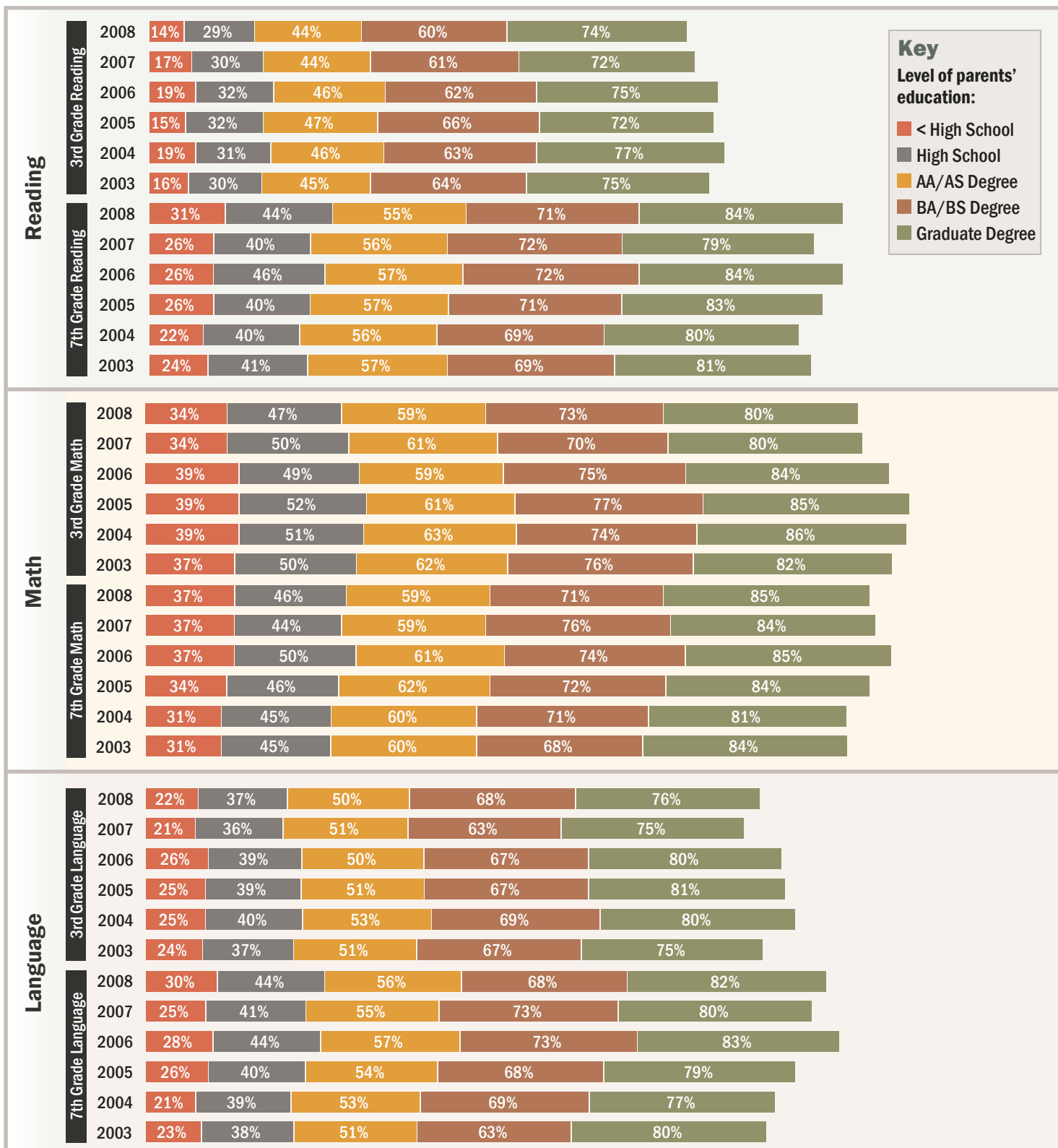
- **Fun in the Sun.** A summer program for at-risk and low-income youth, with a focus on literacy and reading proficiency. Contact: Santa Barbara County's United Way. North County: (805) 922-0329. South County: (805) 965-8591.

## Terminology and Explanations

1. Per STAR (Standardized Testing And Reporting program), CAT/6 (California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition) results. CAT/6, one component of STAR, measures students' "general academic knowledge in core subjects," including mathematics, reading and language. The tests provide national comparisons for students in grades three and seven only. For more information, please refer to <http://star.cde.ca.gov/>.
2. The Department of Education is leading a statewide initiative to close the achievement gap, defined in California as the disparity between white students and other ethnic groups, English learners and native English speakers, socio-economically disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged, and students with and without disabilities. For more information on this topic, please refer to <http://www.closingtheachievementgap.org>.
3. The CAT/6 Survey use national percentile ranks (NPRs). Scoring in at or above the 50th percentile means that a student scored as well as or better than 50% of a nationally representative group students from the same grade that previously took the test. As a different set of third graders is tested every year, CAT/6 results do not measure progress of students over time, but compares students nationally within a grade level.

Percentage of children with scores at or above 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, by parent education level

Source: <http://star.cde.ca.gov/>



## Goal:

# All youth complete high school.

## Indicators:

1. Proficient or Advanced score on Algebra I California Standards Test.<sup>1</sup>
2. Pass English & Math sections of High School Exit Exam in 10th grade.<sup>2</sup>

Algebra I is considered a gateway course for access to the pre-college mathematics courses needed to be UC and CSU eligible by graduation from high school. The California High School Exit Exam is a mandatory graduation requirement.

## What the data show from 2003 to 2008:

- Student scores for Algebra differ significantly according to parent education level. While there were slight gains from 2003 to 2008 for all student populations, students whose parents had attended graduate school were still almost three times as likely to score Proficient or Advanced in Algebra I testing.
- While there have been gains since 2003, the total number of students scoring Proficient or Advanced in Algebra remains low.
- There has been no significant change over time in the percentage of students able to pass the Mathematics or English Language Arts sections of the exit exam.
- A majority of students are able to pass the exit exam in tenth grade. This is particularly true for students whose families are not economically disadvantaged.
- Students who are unable to pass the exit exam in tenth grade, are increasingly less likely to pass the test in a later grade. In 2007-08, the average passing rate for the mathematics portion in grades 11 and 12 was 32%, vs. 80% in 10th grade.

## What we know:

- Students who do not take Algebra I by eighth grade are more likely to drop out of school, and less likely to graduate from a four-year college or university.<sup>3</sup>
- When broken down by the socio-economic status of the student's family, the Algebra achievement gap is less pronounced, but did not narrow over time. However, slight gains were made from 2003 to 2008, with the percentage of students scoring Proficient or Advanced rising from 16% to 25% for students from low-income families, and from 23% to 34% for students whose families are not economically disadvantaged.

## Terminology and Explanations

1. Algebra I testing is completed as part of the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. While there has been widespread public debate about Algebra testing in eighth grade, the results reported as part of the STAR testing include a combined score for students tested in any of the grades between 8-11 for specific content standards associated with having completed the Algebra I course.
2. The High School Exit Exam is now a mandatory graduation requirement. Beginning in tenth grade, students have the opportunity to take the test multiple times each school year until they have passed it.
3. Adam Gamoran and Eileen C. Hannigan (2000). Algebra for Everyone? Benefits of College-Preparatory Mathematics for Students With Diverse Abilities in Early Secondary School. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 241-254.

## A note on drop-out data

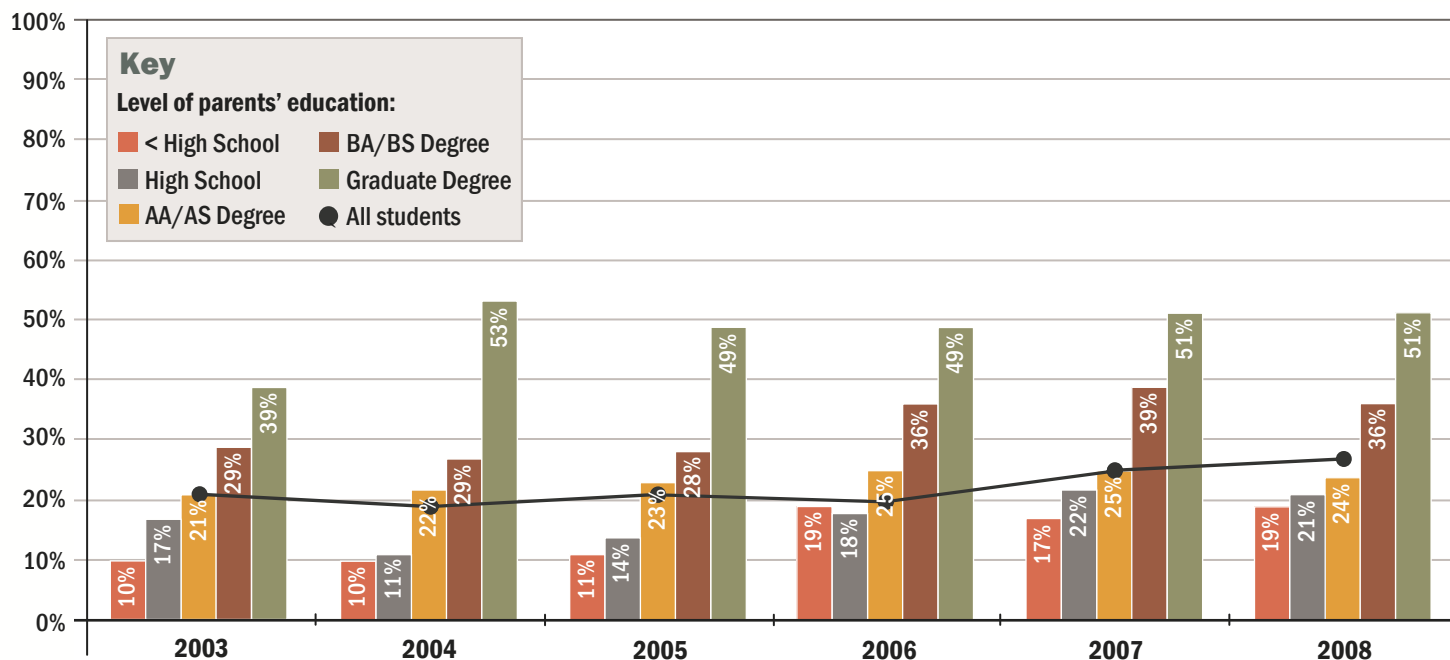
Beginning with the 2007/2008 school year, the Department of Education is tracking student drop-out rates by assigning each student a unique 10-digit number (Statewide Student Identifier) to identify pupils as they move between schools and districts. Historical data, which lacked this ability to account for individual students, is not considered by education experts to be reliable, and is thus not included in this Scorecard as a trend.

For the most recent drop-out data by school district, see the Department of Education's Dataquest website: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov>.



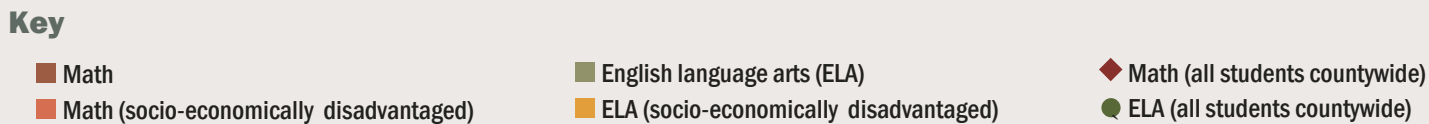
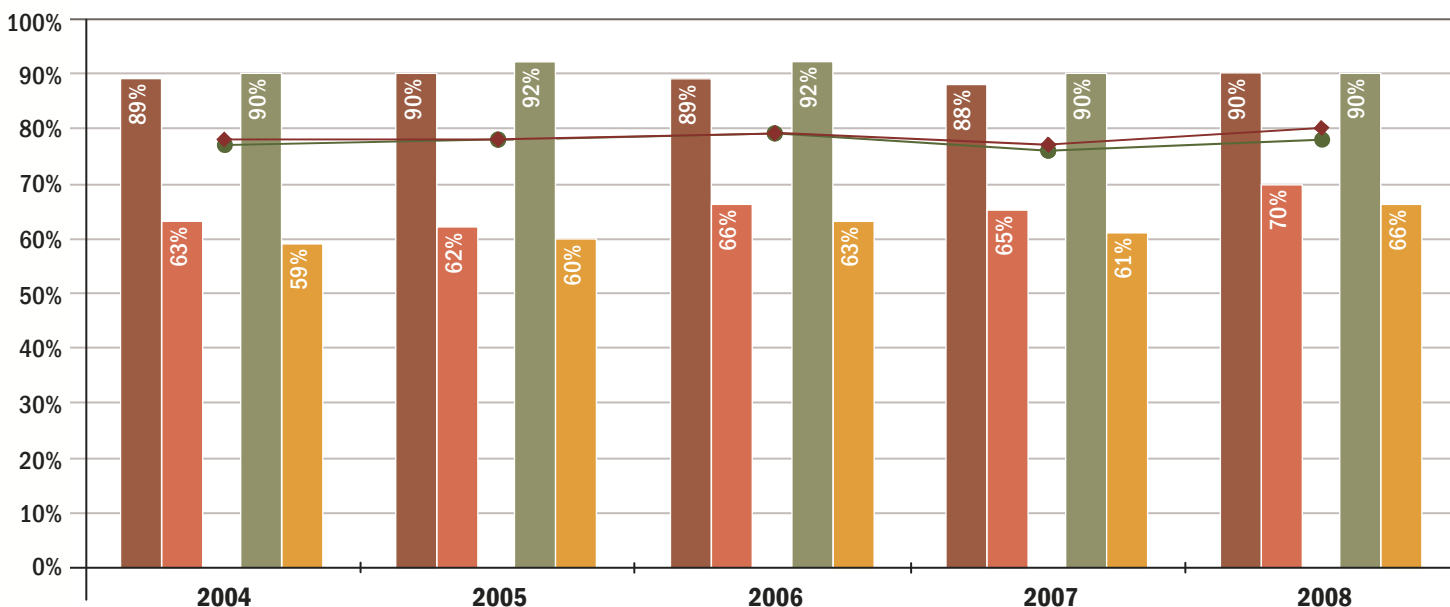
### Students in grades 7-11 scoring Proficient or Advanced in Algebra, by parent education level

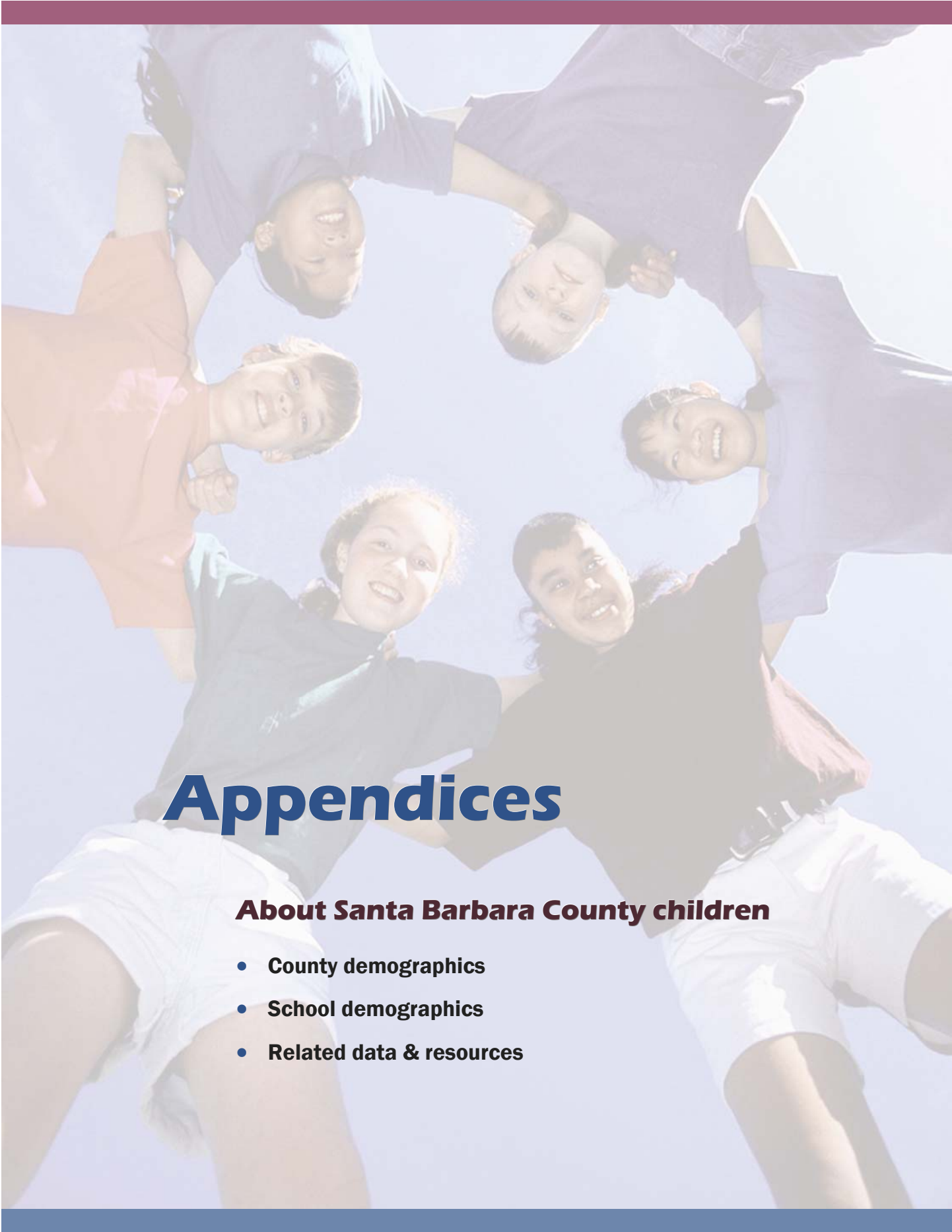
Source: California Department of Education Dataquest, at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>



### Percentage of 10th graders passing English & math exit exam, by socio-economic status

Source: California Department of Education Dataquest, at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>





# Appendices

## **About Santa Barbara County children**

- **County demographics**
- **School demographics**
- **Related data & resources**

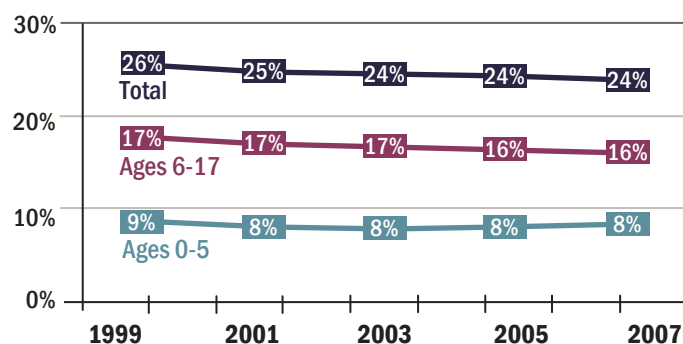
## Appendix 1: County Demographics



- In 2008, Santa Barbara County was home to an estimated 105,195 children. Of those children, 34,944 or 33% were under six years old.
- Of the 6,289 children born in 2007, 35% were born in South County, 18% in Mid-County, and 47% in North County.
- 56.3% of Santa Barbara County children identify Latino/Hispanic as their ethnic origin (vs. 48.9% statewide), and 35% as Caucasian/White (vs. 31% statewide).
- Based on the American Community Survey three-year estimate (2005-2007), approximately 49% (43,575) of all family households have children under 18 years living with their parents. Of these, 28% are single parent households.  
Source: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

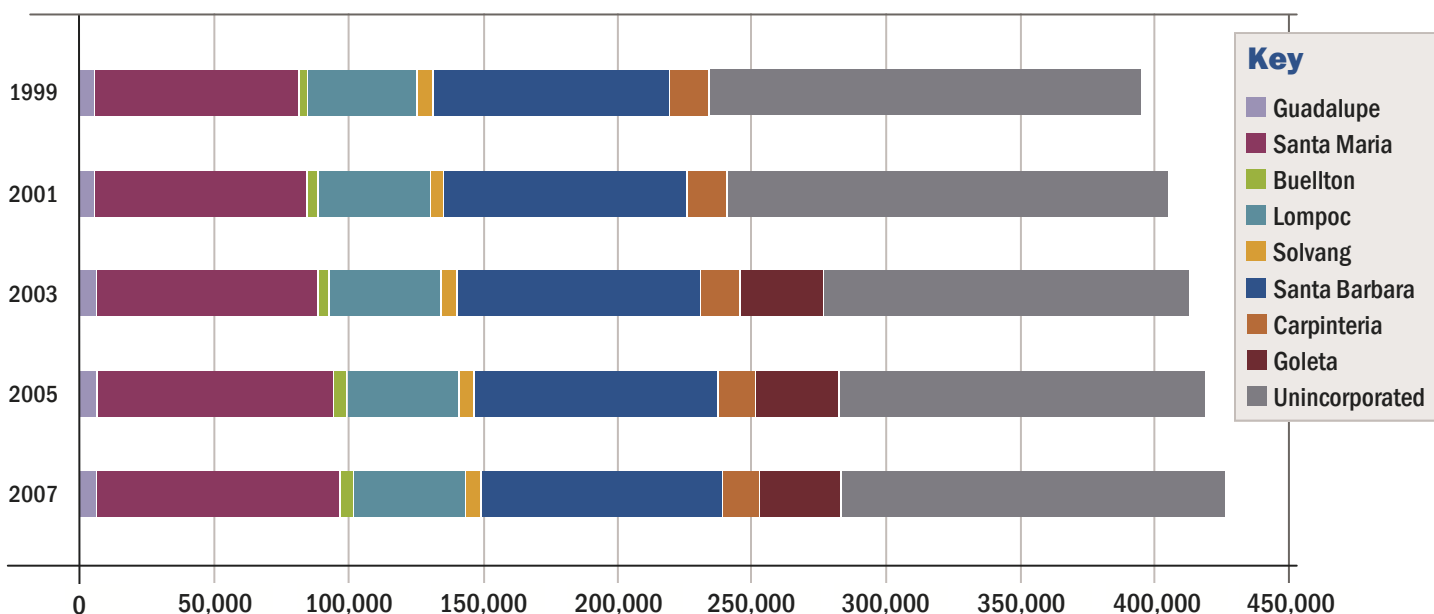
### Children as a Percentage of County Population

Source: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>



### Santa Barbara County Population by Region

Source: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

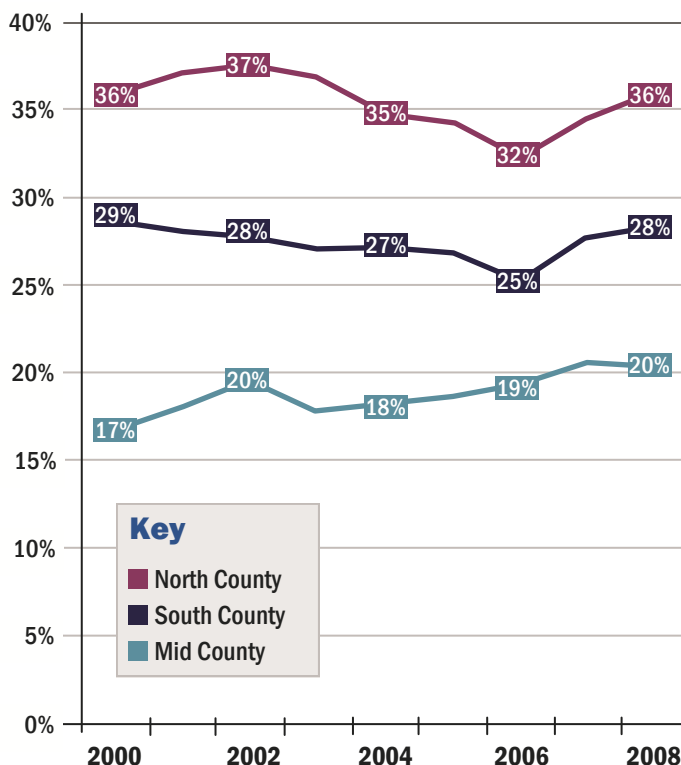


## Appendix 2: School Demographics

- Of the 66,334 children enrolled in Santa Barbara County's public schools, 42% are enrolled in North County school districts, 36% in South County and 21 % in Mid-County.
- School enrollment has declined in South and Mid-County, while increasing in North County.
- The overall percentage of English Language Learners (ELL) in the County has remained around 30% since 2000. The Santa Maria Bonita and Santa Barbara Elementary School Districts show an increasing percentage of ELL student enrollment.
- The percentage of white students has declined, while the percentage of Hispanic students has grown, as has the percentage of students identify either multiple races/ethnicities or none.

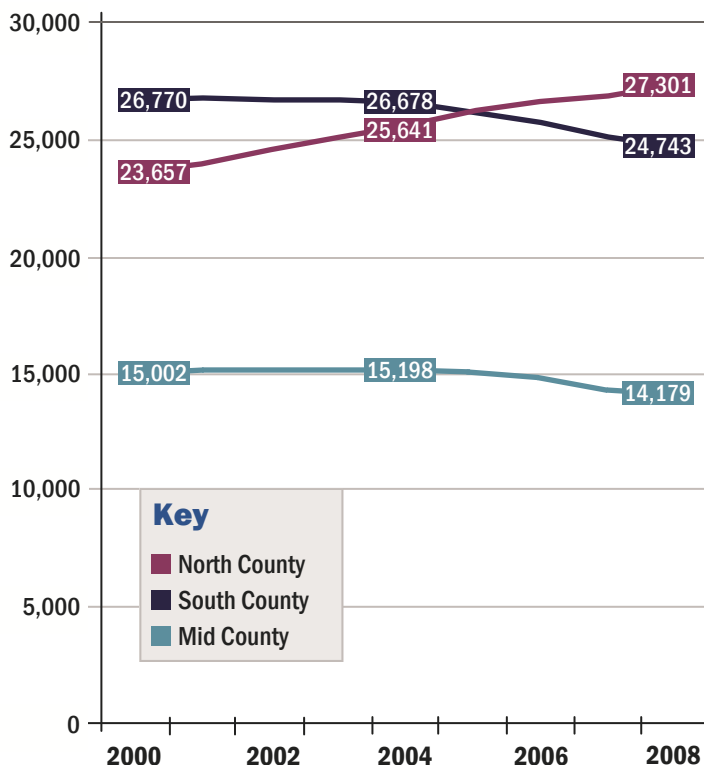
### English Language Learners as % of Enrollment

Rounded to nearest percent. Source: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>



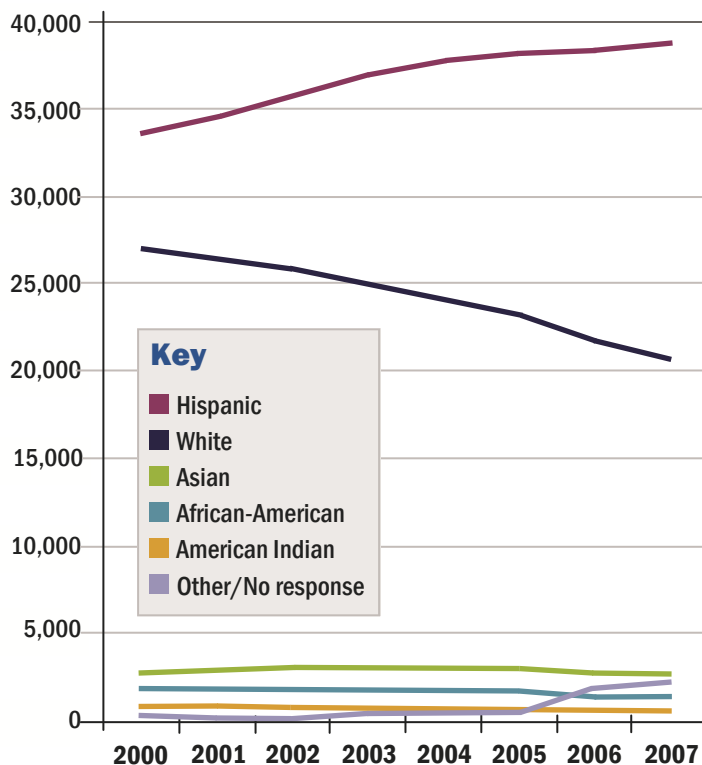
### Public School Enrollment by Region

Source: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>



### Santa Barbara County Students by Ethnicity

Source: <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us>



## Appendix 3:

# Related Data & Resources

Groups intending to develop a community-wide or strategic partnership may wish to consult the following resources for an in-depth understanding of the issues.

### Child Abuse & Neglect

**Child Abuse Referral & Foster Care data.** Available from the KIDS Network website at <http://www.kidsdata.org/sbc>, or directly from the U.C. Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website at <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports>.

**CDSS Child Welfare Redesign.** General information and history on the California Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability Act (AB636, C-CFSR), at <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1519.htm>.

**Child Welfare Information Gateway.** A service of the Children's Bureau, providing access to print and electronic publications, websites, and online databases covering a wide range of related topics, at <http://www.childwelfare.gov>.

**Pathway to the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect.** A collection of findings from research, practice, theory and policy about child abuse prevention, organized by outcome goals for families, available online at <http://www.pathwaystooutcomes.org/>.

**Online Mandated Reporter Trainings.** In English and Spanish, including professional modules targeted to particular sectors, available online at <http://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/resource/camrt>.

**Safe from the Start.** An initiative of the California Office of the Attorney General to reduce children's exposure to violence. Visit online at <http://safestate.org/index.cfm?navId=251>.

### Child Care & After-School Programs

**California After-School Network.** Statewide after-school coalition providing policy information, resources, research, and technical assistance for California's state-funded after-school programs. Home page at <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org>.

**California Child Care Resource & Referral Network.** Information for child care providers and parents, as well as links to county-level data and information, at <http://www.rnetwork.org/>.

**Early Care & Education Needs Assessment.** Information from the Child Care Planning Council regarding the availability of services and the needs within the County, updated every three years. Available online at <http://www.sbceo.org/~ccpc/needs.shtml>.

**Prepared to Learn.** A RAND study exploring the nature and quality of early care and education for preschool-age children in California. At [http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/TR539/](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR539/).

**Effects of a Universal Preschool Program in California.** According to RAND researchers, a high-quality, one-year, voluntary, universal preschool program could generate \$2.62 in benefits for California society per dollar of cost. Research brief available in PDF format for download at [http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/RB9164.6/](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9164.6/).

**Guiding Principles for Quality After-School Programs Serving Preteens.** A report from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, on after-school quality characteristics linked to positive outcomes for pre-teens; at <http://www.lpfch.org/afterschool/>.

### Child & Family Poverty

Poverty is a widely studied and debated issue, and there is a wealth of information about poverty measures, child poverty, related outcomes and policy available to those interested. Only a limited selection directly related to child and family poverty is listed below.

**Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.** This program of the U.S. Census Bureau (SAIPE) produces model-based estimates annually of income and poverty for states, counties, and school districts, based on a composite of data. Not as recent, but more accurate than ACS data. At <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/>.

**National Center for Children in Poverty.** Research, fact-sheets, poverty statistics and policy briefs at <http://www.nccp.org/>.

**The Effects of Poverty and Economic Hardship across Generations.** Report on poverty's effects on the social, physical, and developmental needs of children and families, using a "Family Stress - Family Investment" model: [http://cpr.ucdavis.edu/pdf/poverty\\_and\\_hardship.pdf](http://cpr.ucdavis.edu/pdf/poverty_and_hardship.pdf).

**Children and Poverty—Vol. 7, Number 2—Summer/Fall 1997.** Journal published by the Future of Children, providing research, policy and information, at <http://www.futureofchildren.org>.

**Family Economic Security Initiative.** This statewide coalition, providing information on policies and programs promoting family economic self-sufficiency, annually publishes a self-sufficiency standard for each county. At <http://www.insightcced.org/>.

**Family Strengthening and Economic Success.** A policy brief from the California Family Resource Association, describing ways to increase a families' assets, income and earning potential. Download at <http://www.californiafamilyresource.org/work/family-strengthening-policy-brief.html>.

### Education-Related Data & Research

**The California Department of Education** maintains an extensive website of information and statistics for all types of education-related data at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/>. Data can also be found organized by school district on [www.kidsdata.org/sbc](http://www.kidsdata.org/sbc).

**Closing the Achievement Gap.** Operated jointly by the California Dept. of Education and West-Ed, a website dedicated to research, information and policy on narrowing the achievement gap among student sub-groups: <http://www.closingtheachievementgap.org>.

**Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR).** The California Dept. of Education's STAR website annually publishes the most recent test results, and provides information about test content and administration: <http://star.cde.ca.gov/>.

**The California Dropout Research Project.** Based at U.C. Santa Barbara, the project provides data, and produces research and policy briefs on the California high school student drop-out issue. Visit online at <http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/>.

**West-Ed's California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS).** Bi-annual survey includes questions about study habits & feelings about the school environment. At [http://www.wested.org/cs/chks/print/docs/chks\\_home.html](http://www.wested.org/cs/chks/print/docs/chks_home.html).

**Education Trust.** Data, policy briefs and fact sheets on the achievement gap, access to higher education and other school-achievement related issues, at [www.edtrust.org](http://www.edtrust.org).

**UCLA/IDEA:** the Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access, based at UCLA. Produces research and reports in collaboration with the education and general community on issues of public education and higher education access. At <http://idea.gseis.ucla.edu/publications/index.html>.

## Health Insurance

**Children's Health Insurance Data.** Available from KIDS Network at [www.kidsdata.org/sbc](http://www.kidsdata.org/sbc) or directly from the UCLA California Health Information Survey at <http://www.chis.ucla.edu/>.

**Medi-Cal Enrollment Data.** Available online from the Department of Health Care Services: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Pages/MediCalBeneficiaryProfilesbyCounty.aspx>.

**Healthy Families Enrollment Data.** Available online from the Dept. of Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board at <http://www.mrmib.ca.gov/MRMIB/HFP.shtml>.

## Juvenile Crime

**Juvenile Arrest Data.** Available at [www.kidsdata.org/sbc](http://www.kidsdata.org/sbc) or directly from the Criminal Justice Statistics Center at <http://ag.ca.gov/crime.php>.

**Survey of Prevention and Intervention Programs** and Activities in Santa Barbara County Schools: Grades K-8. A publication from the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (with UCSB), at <http://www.jjdp.org/pdf/2006survey.pdf>.

**Research on Child Delinquency** including Child Delinquency Prevention, Youth Gangs, and Causes & Correlates of Delinquency, is available from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Publications, at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org>.

**Community Violence Prevention** as a Family Strengthening Strategy - Policy Brief #5 from the Family Strengthening Policy Center. Includes a list of resources and references. Available for download in PDF format at <http://www.nassembly.org/fspc/practice/documents/Brief5.pdf>.

**National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center.** Provides technical assistance resources for engaging local government and community leaders in implementing community-wide youth violence prevention strategies. Home page at <http://www.safeyouth.org>.

## Mental Health

**National Mental Health Information Center.** Information and research on youth and child mental health issues, from the US Dept. of Health & Human Services Substance Abuse & Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), at <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/child/childhealth.asp>.

**Suicide and Self-inflicted injury data.** Available from KIDS Network at [www.kidsdata.org/sbc](http://www.kidsdata.org/sbc) or directly from the Injury Prevention Web at <http://www.injuryprevention.org/info/data/ca.htm>.

**West-Ed's California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS).** Bi-annual survey includes self-reported data on emotional & mental health states of youth. At [http://www.wested.org/cs/chks/print/docs/chks\\_home.html](http://www.wested.org/cs/chks/print/docs/chks_home.html).

## Normal Birth Weight

**Birth Weight, Prenatal Care Breast-feeding & Infant Mortality data.** Available directly from the California Department of Public Health at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/default.aspx>, or from KIDS Network at [www.kidsdata.org/sbc](http://www.kidsdata.org/sbc).

**Healthy Women, Healthy Babies.** Issue brief on infant mortality and low birth weight prevention from the Trust for America's Health. Online at <http://healthyamericans.org/report/44/healthy-women-healthy-babies>.

**Maternal and Child Health Library.** Extensive information on issues and research of interest to the maternal and child health professionals and those interested in knowing more about the topic. Visit online at <http://www.mchlibrary.info/>.

## Physical Fitness & Obesity

**Physical Fitness and Obesity Data.** Available from KIDS Network at <http://www.kidsdata.org/sbc> or directly from the California Department of Education at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

**California Center for Public Health Advocacy.** For data and information related to obesity, and obesity-related outcomes, visit the California Center for Public Health Advocacy at [www.publichealthadvocacy.org](http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org).

**UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.** Data, policy and research on obesity and other health-related topics at [www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu).

**Get Healthy California:** California Obesity Prevention Plan. Strategic plan produced by the California Department of Health Services, listing goals and strategies to be implemented statewide. Available online at [www.dhs.ca.gov/CAObesityPrevention](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/CAObesityPrevention).

**Centers for Disease Control.** Definitions and information about healthy weight and how to interpret, calculate and use the body-mass index for children and youth: [http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens\\_BMI/about\\_childrens\\_BMI.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens_BMI/about_childrens_BMI.htm).

**"Designed for Disease."** Report finds that people living near numerous fast-food restaurants and convenience stores have a higher prevalence of obesity and diabetes than people living near grocery stores and produce vendors — regardless of individual or community income. At <http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/DesignedforDisease.html>.

**"Searching for Healthy Food:** the food landscape in Santa Barbara County." Fact sheet at <http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/searchingforhealthyfood.html>.

## Thank you for reading.

We welcome your comments, ideas, questions and suggestions for next year's Scorecard.

Please address them to Katharina Zulliger, Santa Barbara County KIDS Network Coordinator:

[k.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org](mailto:k.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org)



