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Unless otherwise noted, figures in the charts refer to San Mateo County.

➤ TOPICAL INDEX

➤ INTRODUCTION

Since Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) released its first annual *Indicators* report in 1997, the word "sustainability" has entered the common vocabulary. When we began only a handful of communities nationwide were producing indicators of sustainability. Now there are many indicator projects in California and throughout the United States.

The President's Council on Sustainable Development encouraged this movement. Citizens concerned about influencing the direction of their community, preserving the best and restoring what has been lost for their children and grandchildren, have been the leaders in local efforts.

By now many have heard the terms: "sustainability," "quality of life," "smart growth," and "sustainable development." However, there is still confusion over what these words mean. The way of thinking and acting they represent is still an emerging societal phenomenon, and a new vocabulary is emerging too. We already know that advertising slogans often hijack the word "sustainability", when the actions or the products behind them are highly suspect. We think the *Indicators* and SSMC's other current projects, on the other hand, are good examples of "sustainability in action."

Current Projects

As part of its continuing commitment to wider public education, SSMC is again co-sponsoring in April, with the College of Notre Dame, a Town Hall emphasizing clean energy and presenting this fourth annual *Indicators* 2000 report. The Town Hall is one of many events worldwide celebrating Earth Day.

SSMC held its first Sustainability Awards luncheon in October to honor individuals, businesses and other organizations for their accomplishments in our community and beyond. Five were selected out of a wide field of nominees who are demonstrating their dedication to long-term county health and vitality.

The Business Task Force, in partnership with the California Hotel and Motel Association, City of Millbrae, San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the South Bayside Waste Management Authority, mounted a Sustainable Business Forum for the hospitality industry. It is intended to be the first of an ongoing program for other business segments.

SSMC also supports several noteworthy efforts to further sustainability in the Bay Area. After three years of deliberations, the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, a coalition of business, environmental, and social equity organizations, will hold workshops throughout nine counties to gather public feedback and input on a "compact" and regional indicators of sustainability. Another effective regional player is the Bay Area Transportation and Land Use Coalition, composed of over fifty organizations including SSMC, which successfully lobbied the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to include full funding for transit maintenance needs in the twenty-year transportation plan, and is proposing a regional Smart Growth Partnership.

Why is this Report Important?

The 2000 *Indicators* report is SSMC's fourth annual report card on our county's quality of life. It presents a snapshot of the quality of life in San Mateo County in 1999, and compares it with previous years. It does not document efforts to address current or future problems.

While there are excellent reports on our county's economy, other individual sectors, and reports that take an overall view of portions of the county, this is the only report that presents a full balanced view and assessment of the whole.

The 2000 *Indicators* report tries to identify and highlight significant trends taking place in the county. It is a tool for city and county decision-makers, businesses, and citizens alike.

This report is a community activity. SSMC could not produce this report without the support of the San Mateo County community. Generous grants are acknowledged in the back of this report. The researchers, writers, and editors involved in this edition of the *Indicators* recognize their indebtedness to those who worked on earlier editions.

We are also indebted to the hundreds of individuals who have supported SSMC through their membership dues. We invite you to join SSMC and help to continue this work. Please see the membership form in the end pages of this report.

SSMC could not produce this report without the many hours that dedicated volunteers have put into researching and writing the entries, or the hundreds of people who have participated in our community forums.

The Three E's of Sustainability

Sustainable thinking is built upon the "three E's" of economy, environment, and social equity. For a community to be sustainable, it must keep all three "E's" in mind. Traditional measures often look at only one "E'" at a time. While it is useful in understanding a single issue, it doesn't recognize how one area affects the others, how they are all interrelated. A traditional economic measurement, such as Gross National Product, doesn't reflect how certain types of business activity can affect the environment. A traditional environmental indicator, such as the Endangered Species List, doesn't educate about the economic benefits of healthy ecosystems.

Sustainability indicators point out the connections among the "E's." A sustainability indicator on housing, for example, looks at the economic costs and benefits of housing, as well as the social equity issues of who can or can't afford housing, the environmental impacts of building more, as well as housing's impact on other sectors, such as transportation. This report tries to point out how a change in one area may affect others.

We must take the entire picture into consideration when discussing policy decisions.

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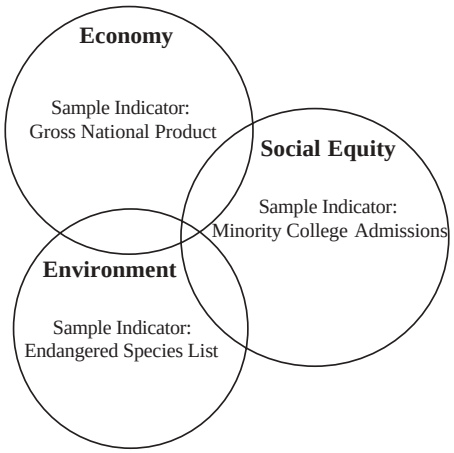
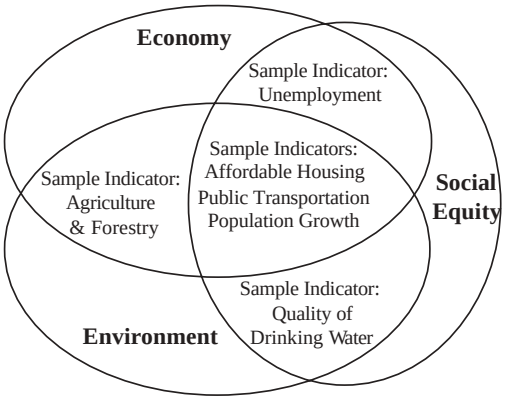


Traditional Indicators look at only one area of a community at a time. While this compartmentalization is useful in learning the facts about a single issue, it perpetuates the belief that we can solve society's problems without taking the big picture into account. See following page for Sustainability Indicators illustration.



Sustainability Indicators show the relationships among the economy, the environment, and social equity, and demonstrate that a change in one area may affect others.

➤ SUMMARY

San Mateo County right now, by any possible comparison with any place else on this globe, is a remarkably fine place to live and to conduct business. *Will it be comparable when the 22nd century begins*?

Let's just imagine for a moment that the *Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County* have had the effect intended. 22nd Century citizens will look back at the 20th Century on documentaries stored by methods we can only guess at. They will be taking for granted their clean air, but will know they must be careful in using every drop of precious water. They will enjoy their quiet, easily accessible, non-polluting transportation and convenient affordable housing, and will wonder how we ever managed to smile getting into our ancient (to them) noisy fossil fuel powered vehicles clogging streets and highways for miles and miles and spewing out foul smelling particulates. And air traffic was the same!! How could our grandparents have lived like that? Why did they put up with it? And when they seem to have had a booming economy then, how come all of the citizens weren't equally well educated according to their abilities and interests and equally healthy?

This little vignette is simply meant to be a gentle nudge to put your imagination in gear as you read the following Indicator summaries. That way you'll be able to glimpse a sketched picture of San Mateo County today, where it seems to be headed, and some of the resources that need attention if we are indeed going to leave those who come after us an equal opportunity to enjoy the good fortune in being here that we have, and to leave the economy, the environment, and the community that way too.

What follows is what we found in this year's measurements.

Agriculture and Forestry

There was a 15 percent drop in income from the agriculture sector and in acreage devoted to agriculture in 1999. Inclement weather conditions in 1998 (flooding, cool weather) appear to be the principal cause.

Air Quality

Days Over Standard (DOS) ozone were reduced in 1999 to 11 days compared to 22 days in 1998. Particulate matter has also decreased since 1991. Pollution occurs most in the summer months due to the air being warm and still.

Arts Participation

The arts organizations in San Mateo County not only offer a wide variety of arts to the public, but also give back to the community by providing free performances and public art, and by working with school children. In turn, they rely on community volunteer help.

Biodiversity

San Mateo County shelters 9 federally endangered plants and 9 federally endangered animals. Its biodiversity has not changed significantly, but more public awareness is called for if improvement is to be achieved.

Child Abuse

Child abuse cases referred for service had declined since 1992, but an increase of 500 cases was reported in FY ending in 1999. San Mateo County continues to offer a broad array of services to assist families. Early intervention is critical.

Child Care

The lack of licensed child care centers and homes in the county continues as a major problem with only 25 percent of children cared for in a licensed facility. Shortages are most acute in infant and schoolage care with costs escalating at an alarming rate.

Christmas Bird Count

Crystal Springs and Ano Nuevo are the two San Mateo County sites monitored by the Audubon Society every December. Number of species counted remains fairly constant but the number of American Crows is increasing at Crystal Springs possibly because of the degradation of that habitat.

Communicable Diseases

The county continues to make progress on several fronts. There is a decrease in new AIDS cases and other sexually transmitted diseases. Hepatitis C, however, is on the rise. Causes for concern include the high rate of AIDS in the African-American community and the high rate of tuberculosis among foreign-born residents.

Community Safety

The county is showing a decrease in reported crimes of 39 percent from l989 for both adults and juveniles. There was a 14 percent decline from l997 for juvenile felony arrests. Domestic violence arrests, however, have increased over the past decade.

Employment Trends

Total number of jobs has increased by 12.4 percent since 1994. Oracle, the second largest employer in San Mateo County (after United Airlines), has more than doubled its number of employees since 1997. Ninety-seven and seven tenths percent of all businesses in the county employ less than 100 people.

Energy Consumption

Residential use of electricity is increasing with 4 cities in the county using more than twice that of other cities. Commercial and industrial demand has increased 20 percent since 1994 accounting for 66 percent of the county's electricity consumption.

High School Dropouts

The county high school dropout rate has decreased again in l997-98 to 1.6 percent from a high of 3 percent in 1991. South San Francisco had the highest dropout rate, 2.7 percent, while La Honda/Pescadero Unified had no dropouts in 1997-98.

Housing Affordability

The last 4 years, l995-1999, show increases in housing costs of 59 percent. There was a 13 percent increase over 1998 in a single family home in 1999 to $475,000 and a 5.4 percent increase on a l bedroom apartment to $1248, a 5.4 percent increase on a 2 bedroom apartment to $1672.

Land Use

Land use patterns in the county remain fairly stable according to a survey of the city planners. In 10 of the cities it was acknowledged that economic vitality was either #l or #2 in priority in deciding land use.

Maternal Health

Pregnant teens who do not seek prenatal care and the number of teenage births to African Americans continue to be of concern. Other maternal health indicators are holding steady.

Mortality

Cancer and heart disease remain the leading causes of death in San Mateo County. African Americans continue to have the highest mortality rate which indicates that the county services may not be adequately reaching every community.

Per Pupil Funding

The average ADA expenditure in San Mateo County school districts has increased during l997-1998 by 8 percent to $5463. The average of pupils per teacher has decreased for both elementary and high school districts.

Population

The county population grew by .8 percent in FY ending in 1999 compared to 1.4 percent growth in FY ending in 1998. The rate may have declined due primarily to a lack of affordable housing. Surrounding counties have a much higher rate of growth.

Poverty

The number of General Relief recipients in 1999 was down from l998 by 38 percent. Average monthly payments for General Relief was up from $287 in 1998 to $317 in 1999. CalWORKs recipients went from 16,309 in 1996 to 6,762 in 1999.

Public Library Use

Annual expenditures for all library systems in the county dropped last year to $35.84 from the 96/97 high of $38.05. (The State average expenditure was $19.47.) Circulation per capita is 8.23 in the county compared to 4.9 in the State.

Solid Waste

There was a 9 percent increase in 1998 over 1997 in waste sent to landfill due mainly to new construction and demolition. Landfill sites are approaching capacity and each city must raise diversion rates to 50 percent by the end of the year 2000 to comply with AB939. The county wide diversion rate in 1996 was 34 percent.

Substance Abuse

The overall trend in San Mateo County is a decline in the number of clients treated for substance abuse. The county, however, has only 11 alcohol and drug treatment slots per 100,000 population compared with the statewide average of 28 per 100,000 population.

Transportation

As most of us know from experience, the roadways continue to be more congested. While county jobs increased by 16.6 percent from 1990, out-commuting remains high. Use of public transportation has declined since 1991.

Unemployment

San Mateo County's unemployment rate dropped again in 1998 to 2.4 percent from 2.7 percent. However, East Palo Alto and N. Fair Oaks remain above that rate with Half Moon Bay and San Carlos showing the lowest rates.

Volunteerism

42 percent of adults and 51 percent of teens did volunteer work in 1998 at an average of 3.5 hours per week. African Americans had the highest rate of volunteerism. Education and health were the areas most often chosen, 27 percent and 19 percent, respectively, by volunteers.

Voter Participation

Voter turn out in the 1999 off-year election remained low. The number of persons registered to vote declined by 6,000 despite increased population. One third of the votes cast in the 1999 election were by absentee ballot.

Water Consumption

The county per capita water consumption in FY 1997-98 was 125.0 gallons per day compared to 96-97, 134.7 gallons per day. This decrease is attributable to 97-98 being one of the wettest years in history.

Water Quality

San Mateo County's water comes from the San Francisco Water Department and CalWater. Of the 64 organic chemicals monitored, all were at minimal levels. Quality of drinking water remains high.

➤ AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Indicators Used

The three largest income producing crops and their acreage were used for tracking: floriculture and nursery crops; vegetables; and forestry including Christmas trees. These are the same indicators as last year. Total gross production value and overall acreage devoted to agriculture in the county for the past five years (1993-98) are illustrated in the charts.

Importance

Agriculture is a vital part of San Mateo County's diverse economic base and generates additional jobs for ancillary businesses and vendors. In fact, a multiplier of 3.5 is used on gross agricultural revenues by agricultural statisticians to estimate agriculture's monetary value to a county's economy. As important, but not measurable, are other factors. Tilled acreage contributes substantially to a healthful microclimate and a feeling of open space. Fruits and vegetables grown out of the region lose freshness and probably nutrition, and require more energy to transport. Communities that buy locally-grown produce tend to support retaining and protecting agricultural land from residential and industrial development.

Findings

San Mateo County's 1998 crop summary shows a total gross production value of $185,679,000, a decrease of 15 percent from last year. Floral and nursery crops account for 76.7 percent ($142,316,000) of the total. Twice as much of the crop was grown indoors than out, mostly clustered around Half Moon Bay, with the exception of large greenhouses and some fields inland from Pescadero.

Vegetable crops at 20.8 percent ($38,555,000) of total revenue were a distant second in production value. Scattered the length and width of the coastal plane, they suffered considerably from the late spring rains, flooding, and the cool weather generated by El Nino.

Board feet and value of harvested timber declined 40 percent from last year to $1,557,000. No public lands were logged.

37,932 acres of land were devoted to agriculture and floriculture in 1998. The decrease in total acreage this year appears to be 782. Some of this was due to flooding which eliminated several plantings, but some was due to other changes, such as late reporting, change of ownership, buildings out of use, etc. A one year fluctuation does not necessarily indicate a trend. Both indoor and outdoor floriculture suffered decreased income and productive acreage, but indoor floriculture continued to bring in about twice the revenue of outdoor while utilizing about 1.3 percent of the land area,132.6 acres. Vegetable crops reported down 300 acres, the same amount it went up last year. Field crops lost 300 acres. Six organic farms were reported, eight less than last year for a total of 83 acres. There is still only one Community Supported Agricultural effort in which farm shares are sold to consumers.

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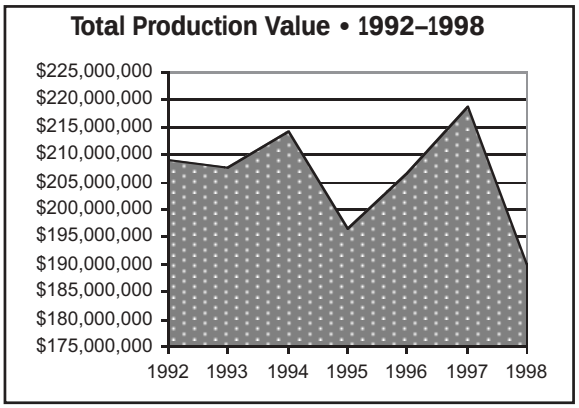
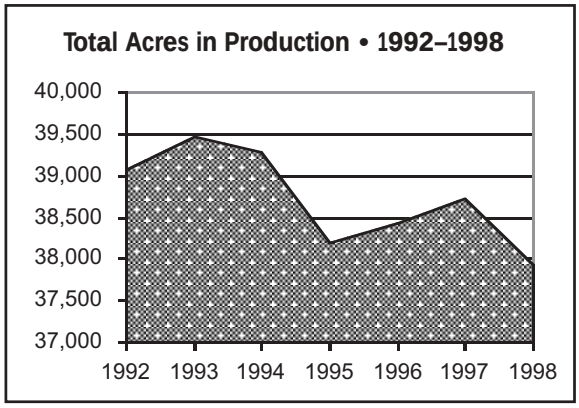
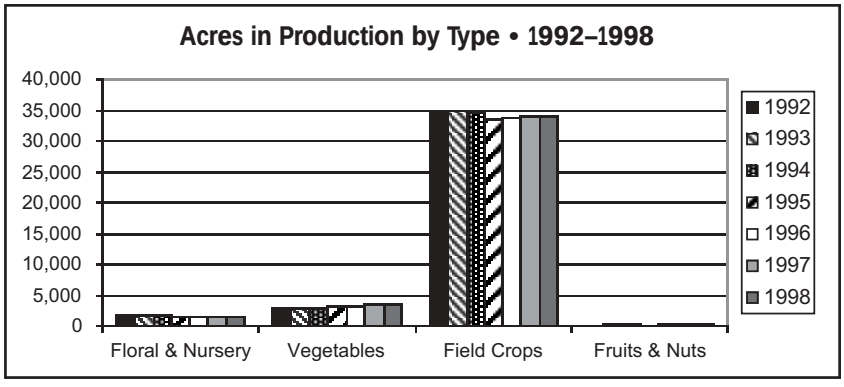






➤ AIR QUALITY

Indicators Used

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the principal agency to regulate air quality in San Mateo County. This organization makes sure that the Bay Area, including San Mateo County, complies with national and state air standards. BAAQMD measures five air pollutants: ozone (O_3), nitrogen dioxide NO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and particulate matter (PM10).

Importance

Clean air is an important part of an ecologically sustainable environment. Air pollution in San Mateo County consists mainly in high levels of ozone, fine particulate matter (PM 10), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Ozone and PM10 are the Bay Area's greatest concerns. Ozone at lower levels is a photochemical which contributes to smog and reduced visibility. Upper level, naturally occuring ozone is beneficial. Increased concentration of ozone at surface levels can irritate the respiratory system. Most ozone originates from motor vehicle exhaust. The other major pollutant in the area is fine particulate matter, which refers to very small particles, approximately 1/7 the diameter of a strand of hair. Particulate matter poses a problem for air quality, because these particles result in respiratory irritation and can invade our bloodstreams. The source varies. It can come from industrial factories and utility smokestacks, but it can also come from motor vehicle exhaust, wood burning, and dust from construction.

Individuals with heart or lung disease, asthma or emphysema, pregnant women, children under fourteen years of age (because their lungs are still developing), and the elderly face considerable risks when confronted with high levels of air pollution. Workers and athletes who are frequently outdoors, breathing heavily, also need to be wary of exposure to excessive air pollutants.

More than food, more than water, the need to breathe clean air is fundamental.

Findings

BAAQMD measures air pollution according to standards established by the federal government, the Pollutant Standards Index (PSI). The PSI divides the parts per million of a given pollutant into the more understandable categories of good, moderate, and unhealthy. If the reading is "unhealthy," it means that people in the area should avoid vigorous outdoor exercise and those susceptible to pollution should be cautious about even going out of doors.

When the data indicates an unhealthy amount of pollution, BAAQMD records it as a day over standard (DOS). Federal and state standards apply to the same data (see graph). The California state standard is stricter than the federal. The number of DOS, from January to December, is evaluated by local and federal agencies. If there are too many DOS the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can revoke the Bay Area's clean air status.

Weather conditions affect air pollution levels, causing unpredictable variants from year to year. Some weather patterns are more conducive to clean air. For example, April thro er is the "season" for increased ozone at s because the climate is warm and still. T r months are the most critical.

Direction

Because of excess ozone (DOS in 1995, 1996, and 1998) the region has been labeled as a "nonattainment area." The San Francisco Bay Area Ozone Attainment Plan was launched in June of 1999 with new strategies on how to regulate and control ozone. It promises to bring the Bay Area back into compliance with national ozone standards. Thus far it seems to be working, as the summer of 1999 yielded relatively low ozone concentrations in comparison to previous years. There were 11 days of excess in the Bay Area compared to last year's 22. This is a hopeful sign for future air quality in San Mateo County.

continued

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, *continued*

Direction

1998 saw a 15 percent drop from the all-time high in acreage devoted to agriculture and the income it generated in San Mateo County. This appears to be a one-year aberration, but only longer term records will reveal the trend. Clearly, weather conditions are the chief determinant in the agriculture economy. It is hoped that next year, if significant and reliable measurements can be found, it will be possible to report on participation in Integrated Pest Management Programs and water quality and quantity development programs.

Sources: 1992-1998 Agricultural Crop Reports, San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures, California State Board of Equalization
Researcher: Eleanor W. Anderson

➤ ARTS PARTICIPATION

Indicators Used

This indicator is still in the development stage. We are continuing to build an arts organizations database. Last year surveys were mailed to several dozen representative arts organizations that serve San Mateo County residents including museums, galleries, music, dance and theater companies. This year the same survey was sent to several dozen different arts organizations. Results from both years have been assessed together. Questions asked were the number of volunteers and employees, number of events, percentage of income from grants and donations, percentage of support from within the county, budget size, and how the organizations give back to the community.

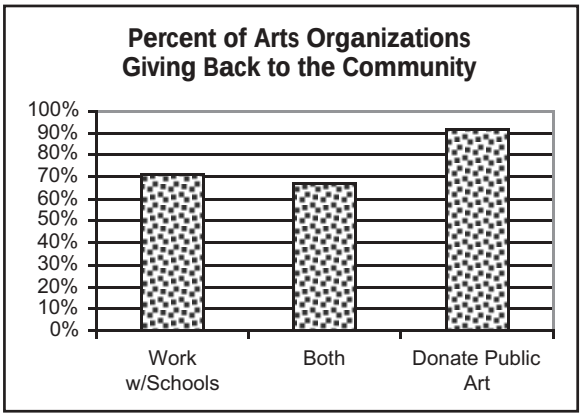
Importance

To sustain a high quality of life, a community must go beyond the basic survival issues of food and shelter. A truly sustainable community nurtures the mind and the soul of the citizenry as well as the physical body. A vital arts scene not only offers opportunities to participate, but is actively involved in bringing the arts to the general public, regardless of their ability to pay.

Findings

While San Francisco may offer a wider variety and greater number of arts events, there are still many opportunities for the public to attend galleries, museums, plays, and music and dance performances in San Mateo County.

The majority of arts organizations provide some form of free art to the public. When asked, "Has your organization provided any free art or public performances," 92 percent responded "yes." When asked, "Has your organization worked with local schools to provide educational programming, field trips, etc.?" 71 percent responded, "yes." Sixty-seven percent responded "yes" to both questions.



Some of the ways that arts organizations donate free art to the public include dance and music performances, paintings on public display, drama readings, free attendance for school children or seniors, scholarships and donated art works for fund raisers.

With the additional respondents added to last year's the ratio of volunteerism to paid employees is 20.6 to 1. This is significantly higher than last year's ratio of 8.2 to 1. The arts are obviously supported by a large number of volunteers.

continued

AIR QUALITY, *continued*

A historical look at ozone dating back to 1965 shows how far we have come. There was a measurable decrease in ozone levels with the advent of public awareness as well as from governmental intervention. We, as individuals in the community, still need to do our part in lowering ozone and pollution in general.

The trend in the case of particulate matter is optimistic with a clear decrease in pollutant levels compared to 1991.

Source: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)
Researcher: Alicia Grattan

➤ BIODIVERSITY

Indicators Used

Reported are the changes in endangered and threatened species of San Mateo County, as designated by the federal and state governments. The list is further divided into plant and animal species.

Importance

Biodiversity is defined as the variety of plants, animals, and other living things in a specific region. This definition can also be extended to suggest the sustainability of diverse species in a particular ecosystem, where there is human interaction with the land and its natural resources.

An ecosystem comprises a complex web of life, one that spans everything living. Each and every species of vegetation and creature, including human, plays a vital role in the circle of life. Plant, animal, and insect species interact with and depend upon one another in a symbiotic manner for their needs, such as food, shelter, oxygen, and soil enrichment. Maintaining a wide diversity of species in an ecosystem is necessary to preserve the web of life and sustain its living things.

Findings

Beach Layia and San Francisco Lessingia have been added to the seven on last year's federally designated endangered plant species list. Otherwise there are no changes in plant species status. Southern Steelhead was added to the endangered animal species list on October 17, 1999. Otherwise animal species status has remained the same. There are 37 plant species in our area which are in danger, and 30 animal species have been designated to the special status list, essentially the same as last year with additions as noted above.

Direction

San Mateo County's biodiversity declined somewhat without any significant improvement from the previous year. Species on the special status list last year are essentially the same. Conditions suggest a need for more public awareness programs to emphasize the importance of biodiversity.

Sources: California Department of Fish and Game http://www.dfg.ca.gov/dfghome.html
Researchers: Jonathan K. Luk, Nikki Ma

All human professions, institutions, and activities must be integral with the earth as the primary self-nourishing, self-governing and self-fulfilling community. To integrate our human activities within this context is our way into the future.

Thomas Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*

ARTS PARTICIPATION, *continued*

The arts are not as well supported financially. San Mateo County is a wealthy county, yet 68 percent of arts organizations responding receive no support from within the county, and 48 percent have no organizational budget at all.

Money, however, may leave the county and come back in the form of grant assistance. More than half of the organizations report receiving donations or grant support, ranging from 1 to 80 percent of their total budgets.

The events provided by art organizations in San Mateo County for the public are attended primarily by local people. When asked whether their customers were primarily local residents or tourists, 100 percent checked "local," and 8 percent checked "both."

Direction

Since this year's results were added to last year's, it is not appropriate to comment on any significant trend. However, it is clear that volunteerism is very important for the arts scene, that art organizations give back to schools and to the community, and currently the arts "market" is primarily local.

The movement to create an art museum for the county continues, and there is some initial disscussion about a new performing arts center as well.

Sources: SSMC mail-in survey of San Mateo County arts organizations and phone interviews
Researchers: Marcia Pagels, Dorothy Greene, Marimae McDonald, and Debbie Cogswell

➤ CHILD ABUSE

Indicators Used

Numbers recorded are of physical abuse, sexual abuse, severe neglect, and general neglect from Fiscal Years (FY) (ending 6/30) 1989-1999. The types of abuse vary: head trauma and broken bones in infants, serious physical and sexual abuse in teens, and other forms of violence. The exact number of abuse cases cannot be determined as many are unreported.

Importance

Monitoring child abuse is important because all manners of violence in our society, and family violence, must be monitored to ensure that we are addressing matters of public safety and community health. It is especially important for children since they cannot protect themselves. Prior to the identification in the mid-fifties of child abuse as an acknowledged social phenomenon, non-accidental injuries to children were not referred to law enforcement and other services for intervention and treatment. These cases were left in the hands of family members, who often were the perpetrators.

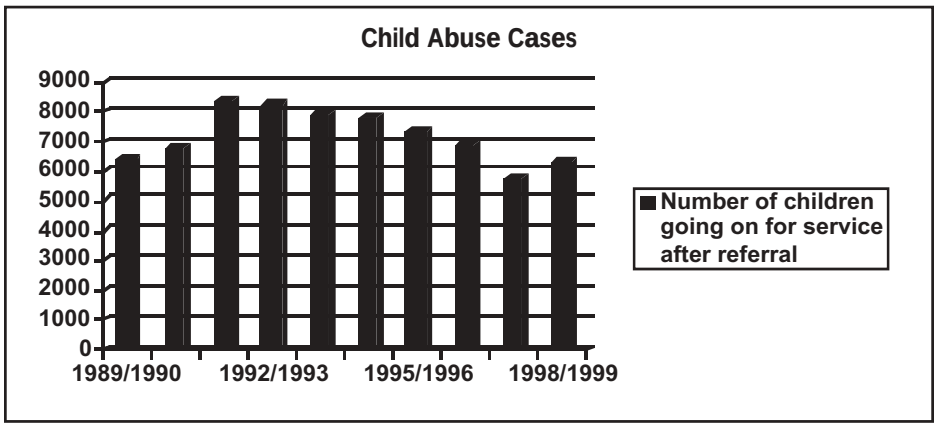
Findings

Fiscal Year 98/99 had a total number of 6,294 cases reported. The numbers in San Mateo County are declining since FY 91/92. This may be due to the rich array of services available to assist families in resolving psychosocial problems, and the availability of early intervention services to deal with family problems before they lead to child abuse and neglect. Another reason for the decrease may be the improvement of our economy over the past ten years. High employment acts to mitigate frustration and anger that may otherwise be brought upon children.

Direction

From 1990 to 1992, there was an increase in reported child abuse cases from 6,397 to 8,318. From some eight thousand cases reported in 1992, the numbers gradually decreased to 5,756, in 1998. However, in the FY ending in 1999, there seems to be an increase of 500. This increase is an indicator that San Mateo County needs to remain concerned about problems in families.

Sources: Stuart Oppenheim and Cheryl Nakayama of Human Services of San Mateo County
Researcher: Annie Li



Providing effective child care is an issue of critical importance, not only to the families, but also to our society, to business, and to our economy. And I believe all of us have important roles to play—families, businesses and government—at all levels—federal, state and local.

Child Care and the Economy:
Remarks by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin
White House Conference on Child Care, 1997

➤ CHILD CARE

Indicators Used

The total number of children estimated to be in need of child care, the total number of child care spaces available, and the cost of child care in San Mateo County were measured. The child care industry's contribution to the local economy in terms of gross receipts, local jobs and federal and state subsidy dollars are estimated.

Importance

Child care has become integral to San Mateo County's expanding economic and social infrastructure. Because of the high cost of living many families can't function above the poverty level without two incomes or their equivalent. At the same time, San Mateo County companies are growing in size and number, requiring an increasingly large workforce. Child care, therefore, is vital both to working parents and the companies for which they work.

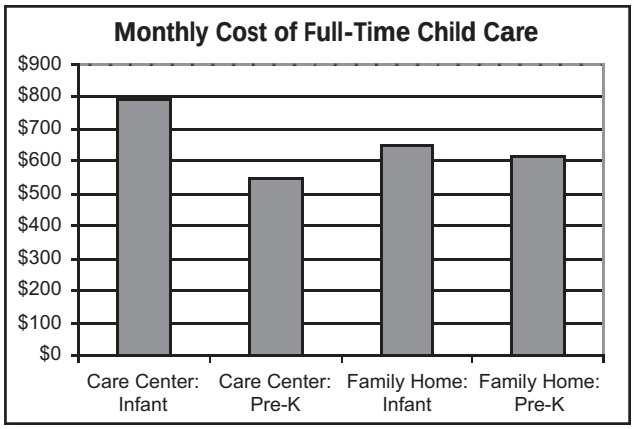
Another reason quality child care is needed is for the long-term effect it has on our children. Researchers have linked school readiness and later school success to the quality of early learning experiences. Recent brain research confirms that caregiving during the early years affects the structure and functioning of a child's brain and how a child will behave, learn, feel, and perform.

Findings

Sixty-six percent of San Mateo County children live with two parents in the workforce or with a single working parent, compared with the statewide rate of 55 percent.

Based on child population and the number of working parents in San Mateo County, there are 102,575 children up to age 13 needing care, but only 25,911 total available child-care spaces. There are 18,355 spaces in child-care centers and 7,556 spaces in child-care homes. Put simply, only 25 percent of children who need child care have formal care available to them in centers or licensed family child-care homes. Seventy-five percent are being cared for in informal or unlicensed settings.

The greatest shortages are in infant and school-age care. There are currently 19,406 infants who need care and only 793 spaces available for infants in centers. There are 11,511 center spaces available in San Mateo County for the 20,006 preschool children needing care. Of the 63,163 school-age children who need care, only 6,051 spaces in child care centers are available.



San Mateo County has a supply of only 4,940 subsidized child-care spaces for 40,076 children in low-income families. The result is that only about 12 percent of this segment of the population is currently receiving subsidized child care. The need for child care in the county, in particular subsidized care, far exceeds child-care spaces available.

The cost of child-care has been increasing at an alarming rate throughout the county. San Mateo County is the most expensive county in the State of California for infant child care. Average cost for full-time infant care in a licensed child-care center is $792 per month and $650 per month in a licensed family child-care home. Full-time preschool care is $546 per month in a licensed child care center and $614 per month in a licensed family child-care home.

San Mateo County's child-care industry provides a social infrastructure that is critical to the county's overall economic vitality and its quality of life. Licensed child care is a $109 million industry in San Mateo County. Child care centers generate $80 million in gross receipts while family child-care homes gross $29 million. The industry supports over 5,000 local jobs. The licensed child care industry brings over $22 million to the San Mateo County economy in federal and state child-care subsidy dollars. Child- care is a critical component of sustained economic development.

Direction

The gap between the demand for all forms of child-care and the supply of formal child-care has grown over the last six years. In 1993, formal child-care spaces were available to meet the needs of 29 percent of children who required care. Today, the supply of formal child-care meets the needs of only 25 percent.

The demand for child-care in San Mateo County has grown steadily along with the growth in population, the rapid growth in jobs, and the increasing cost of living.

Lack of facilities, difficulties recruiting and retaining child-care staff, and class size reductions in public schools contribute to the shortage in child-care.

Sources: *The San Mateo County Child Care Needs Assessment 1999-2000*, The San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council; The Economic Impact of Child Care in San Mateo County, 1997, The National Economic Development and Law Center; The Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County

Researcher: Julie Baldocchi

➤ CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Indicators Used

The Christmas Bird Count in Crystal Springs was conducted on Dec 18, 1999, with the participation of 51 bird counters, and in Año Nuevo on Jan 2, 2000 with the participation of 29 counters. This report focuses on five species found at each site: Wood Duck, American Crow, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, and Acorn Woodpecker. These five species represent a wide variety of birds with different feeding habits, nesting sites, and mating behavior. Numbers cannot legitimately be compared to national trends because of the variables in natural environments and habitats.

Importance

The number and diversity of birds are good indicators of the health of an ecosystem. Strong and consistent numbers indicate an ecosystem in balance. Birds are vital to nature, acting both as predators and as prey, important at many levels of the food chain. Because birds are not at the bottom of the food chain, a decrease in the number of birds can reflect a problem with vegetation or a group of animals lower in the food chain. It should be noted, however, that with migratory birds, the rise and fall in numbers might be related to problems elsewhere in their migratory range.

Findings

The total number of birds counted in Crystal Springs was 64,871, compared with 76,333 birds counted in the 1998 Christmas Bird Count. In Año Nuevo, 20,161 birds were counted, compared with 18,808 in the previous year. In Crystal Springs, 184 species were identified, compared with 190 in 1998, and 172 species were identified in Año Nuevo, compared with 170 species in the previous year.

Of the five species tracked, the number of California Quail in Año Nuevo remained constant: 425 birds were spotted this year compared with 421 last year. Crystal Springs, however, showed a dramatic decrease in this species: only 126 birds were counted, in comparison with 476 last year. The number of Wood Ducks in Crystal Springs increased from 13 in 1997 and zero in 1998 to 26 in 1999. Año Nuevo showed a similar increase: 50 Wood Ducks were counted compared with 31 last year.

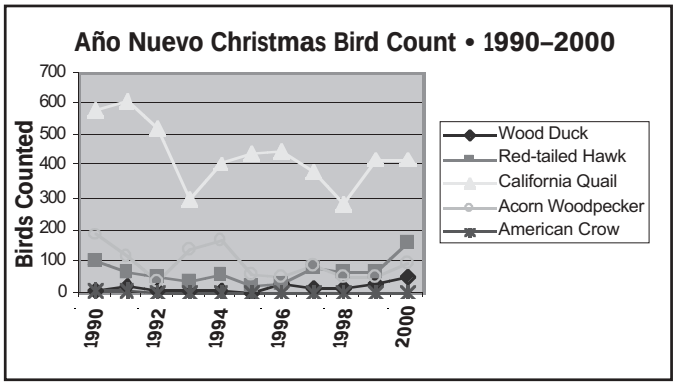
The Red-Tailed Hawk decreased dramatically in Crystal Springs from 140 in 1998 to 79 in 1999, but increased dramatically in Año Nuevo from 66 in 1998 to 153 in 1999. The Acorn Woodpecker population increased in Crystal Springs from 20 in 1998 to 34 in 1999, which is closer to the population of 38 in 1997. A similar increase occurred in Año Nuevo: from 51 in 1998 to 92 in 1999.

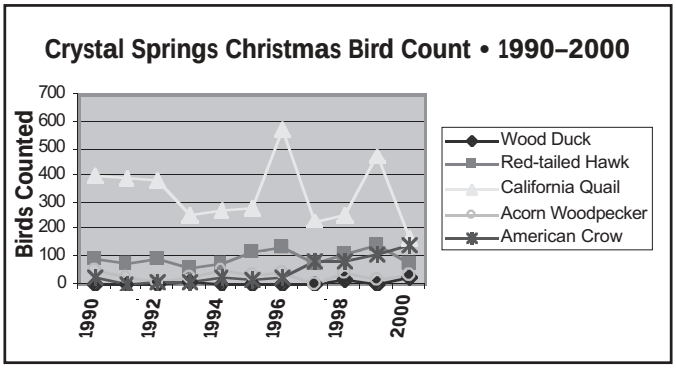
The American Crow population at Crystal Springs is on the increase: there were 82 in 1997, 106 in 1998, and 138 in 1999. This may actually be a bad ecological sign, as the American Crow is known to increase in numbers as the surrounding habitat is degraded. One American Crow was spotted in Año Nuevo.

Direction

The causes of the variations in bird counts are not known. In the past 15 years, the bird count at Crystal Springs has experienced several dramatic peaks and valleys. The bird count at Año Nuevo, however, has remained fairly steady. Although the overall count is consistently higher at Crystal Springs, it may have the more volatile environment, as evidenced by the greater fluctuations in the count and the growing number of American Crows. Continuing observation of both sites may help gain an understanding of the ecosystem's health.

Source: Sequoia Audubon Society, *1998-99 Christmas Bird Counts*
Researcher: Benjamin Sywulka





➤ COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Indicators used

The incidence of communicable diseases for the years of 1982-97 in San Mateo County was measured. The following data includes the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) statistics from 1982-97; tuberculosis cases from 1985-97; enteric disease cases from 1990-97 (these involve intestinal diseases such as salmonella, hepatitis A, shigellosis, and campylobacter); sexually transmitted disease (STDs) cases from 1990-97; vaccine-preventable disease statistics from 1991-97 (such as measles, mumps, pertussis and rubella); and hepatitis C cases from 1992-98. Data is collected and reported biannually.

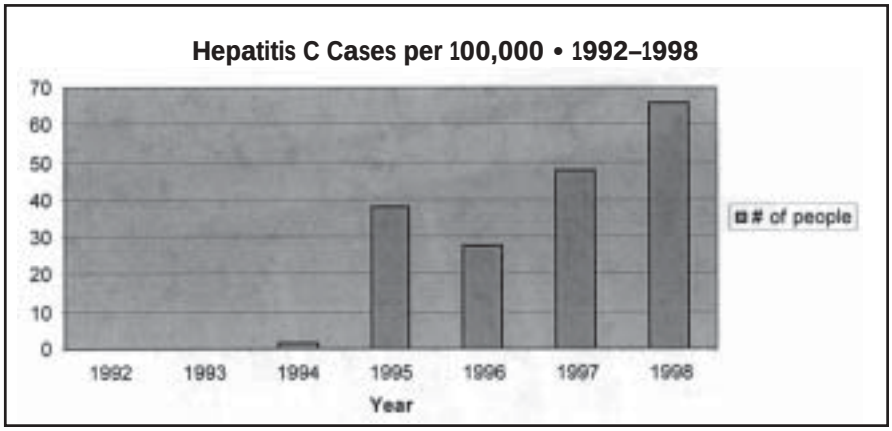
Importance

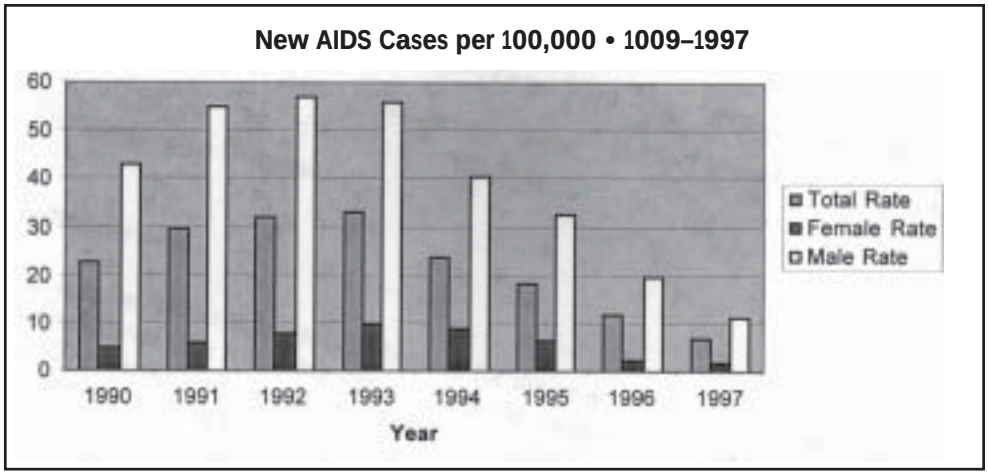
Measuring a community's incidences of communicable diseases is a way to monitor its progress in reducing preventable disease and death. It can also help a community evaluate the effectiveness of educational and preventive programs and reduce disparities in health care for vulnerable segments of the population.

Rising numbers indicate higher health care costs as well as increased suffering and lower quality of life for both those who are ill and for their family members. The increased load on our health care system also ultimately affects every member of the community in regard to availability of health care resources and high rates of absenteeism in schools and places of employment.

Findings

In San Mateo County, between 1993 and 1997, the number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases per year dropped from 221 to 44, an 80 percent decrease. The projection for 2001 is even lower. 1993 was the peak year for new AIDS cases. In successive years, the number dropped: 167 cases in 1994, 130 in 1995, 81 in 1996, and 44 cases in 1997. Meanwhile, due to better treatment and health programs, people still living with AIDS are rising in number. 471 people in 1993 lived with AIDS; in 1997 there were 581. Projections for 2001 indicate a small increase for surviving AIDS patients. The annual AIDS cases rates in San Mateo County are comparable to national rates.





Males make up almost 90 percent of reported AIDS cases in the county; of these cases, 30 percent are in the 25–34-year-old age group, while 39 percent are in the 35–44-year-old age group. Females make up a little over ten percent of the AIDS cases, with 40.5 percent of these cases in the 25–34-year-old age group.

Since 1988, African-American people in San Mateo County have had substantially higher AIDS rates per capita than other races. Since 1991, the diagnosed AIDS rate for African-Americans has been consistently over four times that of the

continued

Caucasian population, which is the next highest group of affected people. African-Americans represent 65.5 percent of the total cases in San Mateo County, Caucasians represent 17 percent, Hispanics constitute 12.5 percent, and Asians make up 5 percent.

The cases of tuberculosis continue to rise each year. Between 1985 and 1997, occurrences of tuberculosis rose 165 percent, from 32 to 82 cases per year. In 1997, with an incidence rate of 12 cases per 100,000 people, San Mateo County's rate was comparable to that of the state. However, in 1996 it was over the national rate of about 8 infections per 100,000 people. This is much higher than the county's goal of 3.5 cases per 100,000 people. Asians account for 54.9 percent of cases between 1985 and 1997. This is disproportionate to the Asian population in the county. In 1997 foreign-born people accounted for 82 percent of such cases while U.S. born dropped from 25 cases to 15 since 1995. These large increases can be accounted for by the fact that in other countries, anti-tuberculosis vaccination is not as prevelent. In Asian countries, many are born with the disease. Funding for vaccinations might decrease as awareness of the disease is dropping.

Salmonella cases are increasing in incidence. The average number of reported cases between 1990 and 1996 was 150 per year. In 1997 there were 208 diagnosed. The incidence rate of 29.8 per 100,000 is above the Year 2000 objective of 16 per 100,000. Shigellosis cases in 1997 declined slightly from 1996, but the rate is still higher than the national rates. Hepatitis A cases are 10.6 per 100,000, which is below the Year 2000 objective of 23 cases and lower than national and state rates. Campylobacter cases rose and fell during 1990 and 1995 but between 1995 and 1997 rates steadily declined.

Syphilis incidence was at a high of 107 in 1990 but has since dropped to 38 cases in 1997. This rate is below corresponding rates for California, the nation, and the Year 2000 objective. Gonorrhea has dropped from 814 occurrences in 1990 to 130 in 1997. This rate is also below that of California, the country, and the Year 2000 objective. Chlamydia dropped from the 1990 level of 1,629 cases to 845 cases in 1997. This drop is compliant with Year 2000 standards and is lower than state and national rates. However, the largest incidence of such infections is in the 15-24-year-old age group, which is five times higher than any other group in San Mateo County. The slowly decreasing numbers reported could be due to a lack of screening and case reporting, since the nation and state's rates are rising.

The incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases in San Mateo County has been sporadic, affecting individuals in less affluent or underprivileged populations. There have been three or fewer cases of measles in each of the past four years. Pertussis cases average five per year from 1991-1997. Rubella has increased from none to one from 1992-96, to three cases in 1997. Mumps have been reported as steadily decreasing since 1991, with only one case in 1997.

Disturbing is the fact that from 1994 to July 1998, incidence of hepatitis C has risen from 1.5 cases per 100,000 people to 65.7. This is a rapid increase in a period of less than five years.

Direction

Despite some increasing rates in the county, rates overall have been decreasing, due to greater awareness, stronger treatment programs, and educational programs. AIDS patients are living longer. Diagnosed cases of STD's are fewer. Tuberculosis is more prevalent, and vaccine-preventable infections are generally decreasing.

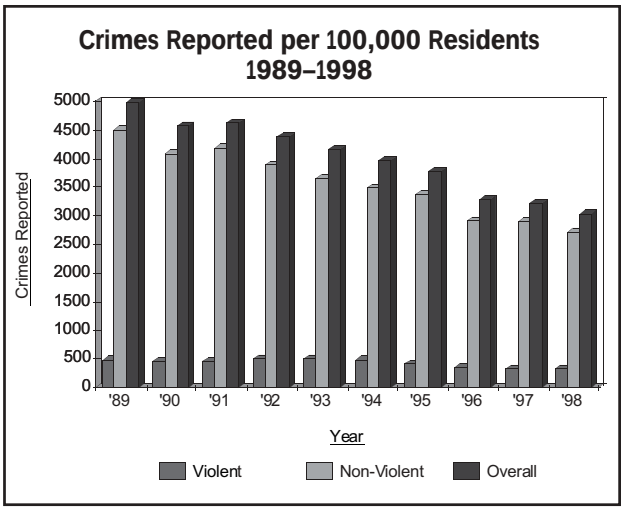
These statistics are not an entirely accurate reflection of the county's population, since they reflect only diagnosed and reported cases. Due to socio-economic, political, or idiosyncratic reasons, as well as fear, shame, ignorance, and other personal reasons, many do not seek medical help. Increased awareness and stress on the importance, as well as confidentiality of medical exams should be emphasized. Greater surveillance, public education, and health care programs will be needed to maintain our progress in fighting such communicable diseases. The dramatic rise in hepatitis C will require new public health approaches and policies.

Sources: San Mateo County Health Services Agency, Public Health and Environmental Protection Division, *Healthy San Mateo 2000: Health Status Indicators, 1998*
Researcher: Katherine Huang

Hell is where everything is disconnected from everything else.

Dante

➤ COMMUNITY SAFETY



Indicators Used

Shown here are the overall number of crimes reported per 100,000 residents in San Mateo County. Also reported are adult arrests per 100,000 residents, juvenile arrests per 10,000 juvenile residents, (youths between the ages of 10 and 17 are considered juveniles) and domestic violence arrests measured per 100,000 residents.

Importance

Ensuring the safety of the citizens of San Mateo County is highly important in order to maintain a high quality of life and a strong sense of community. Victims of crime often suffer mental and/or physical damage. The fear of crime often leads to unhappiness or dissatisfaction among residents. Crime is also costly, as the government is required to fund institutions such as jails and a police force in order to prevent and control criminal activity. A high crime rate can also cause economic problems such as decreases in property values and in investments from private businesses. High criminal activity among juveniles often indicates the presence of other serious problems within a community, such as the lack of an effective educational system. Resorting to a life of crime might prevent juveniles from becoming productive members of society. His/her actions may also serve as a bad influence on other juveniles in the community.

Findings

According to the FBI Crime Index, the number of crimes reported in 1998 throughout San Mateo County per 100,000 residents was 3,036. This marks the seventh consecutive year of decline in reported crimes, a 5.5 percent decrease from 1997 and a 39 percent decrease from 1989. Violent crimes constituted 10.8 percent of the total crimes reported.

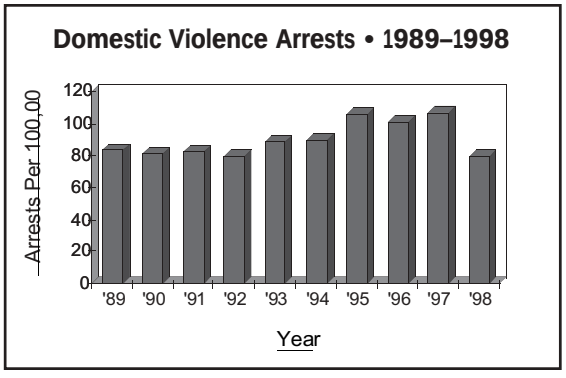
The number of adult felony arrests in 1998 per 100,000 residents was 1,183, a decline of 5 percent from the previous year. The most common adult misdemeanor arrests in 1998 were, in descending order: assault, narcotics, and theft. 1998 saw a 5.5 percent increase in the number of adult misdemeanor arrests (2,680) from the year before. The most common adult misdemeanor arrests in 1998 were, in descending order: driving under the influence, drunkenness, and petty theft.

Per 10,000 juvenile residents, the number of juvenile felony arrests in 1998 was 167. This was a 14 percent decline from the previous year and a 39 percent decline from 1989. The most common juvenile felony arrests in 1998 were, in descending order: burglary, assault, and theft. 1998 saw an 8 percent decrease in the number of juvenile misdemeanor arrests (2,419) from the previous year and a 27 percent decrease from 1989. The most common juvenile misdemeanor arrests in 1998 were, in descending order: petty theft, assault and battery, and vandalism.

The total number of domestic violence arrests in 1998 throughout San Mateo County was 79 arrests per 100,000 residents. This was a decrease of 26 percent from the previous year. It should be noted, however, that there has been a general increase in the number of domestic violence arrests over the past decade.

Direction

Over the last 10 years, the number of reported crimes dropped 39 percent. In that same time, there was a 21percent decrease in the number of adult felony arrests per 100,000 residents, and a 34 percent drop in the number of adult misdemeanor arrests. Between 1989 and 1998, there was a 39 percent decrease in the number of juvenile felony arrests per 10,000 residents, and a 27 percent drop in the number of juvenile misdemeanor arrests. 1997 saw a 22 percent increase in the number of domestic violence arrests from 1989.



➤ EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Indicators Used

The ten largest employers in the county and the number of people they employ are shown. The total number of jobs, number of jobs by industry, and the percent of businesses with less than 100 employees are reported.

Importance

Diversity of employment is an important component of sustainability. When a community is dependent on a few large industries or companies for economic sustenance, it becomes vulnerable to sudden market changes, including cyclical downturns and massive layoffs. Thus, having a large number of small and medium sized businesses, widely distributed over several industries, is important for maintaining a diverse and strong economic base. Also important in determining the long-term economic sustainability are the types of industries projecting the highest job growth. For instance, many jobs in the service sector are less secure and provide poorer benefits than those jobs in traditional and manufacturing industries.

Ten Largest Employers • 1999

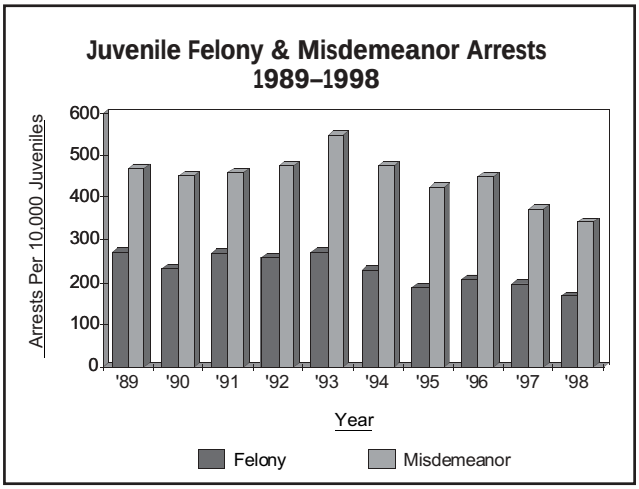
Firm	Number Employed
United Airlines	17,400
Oracle Corporation	14,000
County of San Mateo	4761
US Postal Service	2937
Raychem Corp.	2900
Franklin Resources, Inc.	2849
Genentech, Inc.	2839
American Airlines	2700
CHW West Bay	2373
Safeway, Inc.	1973

Findings

There are a total of 333,100 jobs in San Mateo County. Of these, 108,700 are in services.

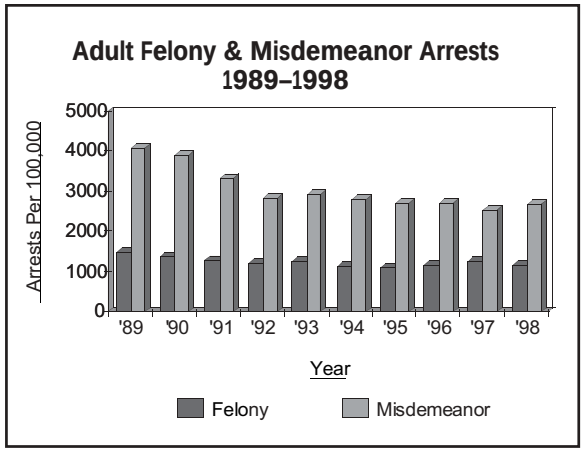
continued

COMMUNITY SAFETY, *continued*



The overall trend in the community over the past decade is a decrease in crime. This may be attributed to a myriad of different factors. The economy has improved greatly over the past decade. People with jobs and a steady income are less likely to resort to criminal activity. There has been a greater push in the community for family counseling programs to help troubled residents and stiffer penalties have been imposed for those convicted of a crime. Schools have also worked to lower student drop-out rates, decreasing the chances that a juvenile will get into trouble during school hours. More students are getting an education, providing them with a better future. The increase in the number of domestic violence arrests over the past decade does not necessarily mean that more people are committing acts of domestic violence. Over the past twenty years, the problem of domestic violence has become a more greatly condemned behavior by society and is no longer largely ignored by the legal system. Public awareness, women's resource centers and shelters, and new legislation may all have contributed to the increase of domestic violence arrests.

Source: State of California, Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, *Criminal Justice Profile, 1998, San Mateo County*
Researcher: Sean Kane



➤ ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Indicators Used

Shown are the methods of electricity generation for the state of California reported by the California Energy Commission (CEC). Also charted is the annual residential electric consumption average for each city in San Mateo County compared to 1994, and the total electric consumption for each city compared to 1994. These are fiscal year figures for 10/1/98 through 9/31/99.

Importance

Different methods of electricity generation use natural resources in very different ways, and have varied impacts on the economy and the environment. Fossil fuel extraction degrades the surrounding environment. It is non-renewable, and creats pollution when burned. Nuclear energy produces highly toxic waste that is a potential danger to any community. Solar and wind power have the least environmental impact, but have not yet been technologically developed sufficiently to meet growing needs. World-wide efforts are underway to discover and invent sustainable energy. Such sources need to be efficient, renewable, and free from causing pollution or habitat degradation.

Findings

The average residential electric account in San Mateo County used 5,953 kilowat (Kwh) over the 1998 fiscal year. Residential averages within the County vary widely. Atherton had the highest (18,067 kWh), while Colma had the lowest (4,377 kWh) for 1998. The City of South San Francisco leads commercial and industrial electric consumption with a total of 441.8 million kWh consumed in 1998.

Based on sales estimates, the CEC reports that eleven percent of the electricity sold to California consumers was generated using renewable resources.

Consumers now have a choice in how the energy they pay for is produced. Twenty-three Electric Service Providers (ESPs) sell energy to residential and small commercial accounts in San Mateo County. Twenty-one of these companies have energy generation profiles indicating that at least half of their energy comes from renewable resources.

continued

Energy Resources	California's 1998 Energy Portfolio	PG&E's 1998 Energy Portfolio
Renewable Resources	11.00%	18%
Biomass and waste	2%	7.5
Geothermal	5%	8.5%
Small Hydroelectric	2%	
Solar	<1%	
Wind	1%	2%
Coal	20%	
Large Hydroelectric	22%	15%
Natural Gas	31%	17%
Nuclear	16%	20%
Cogeneration		28%
Other	<1%	
Total	100%	100%

CEC 1999, PG&E *Sources of Power* 1999, PG&E *Purchases* 1999

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS, *continued*

United Airlines and Oracle Corporation are the largest employers in the county, employing 17,400 and 14,000 people, respectively. Of 24,158 businesses in San Mateo County, 97.7 percent employ less than 100 people.

Direction

Since 1994, the total number of jobs has increased by 36,800, or 12.4 percent. The number of people employed in services has increased significantly (22,400 new jobs, or a 26.0 percent increase) while the number of people employed in government has decreased slightly. There were only slight increases in other industries. Of the ten largest employers in San Mateo County, Oracle has more than doubled its employment since 1997. The other nine firms have shown only minor changes. This may reflect the growing place of large scale business systems in the economy. The percent of firms with less than 100 employees has changed very little since 1997.

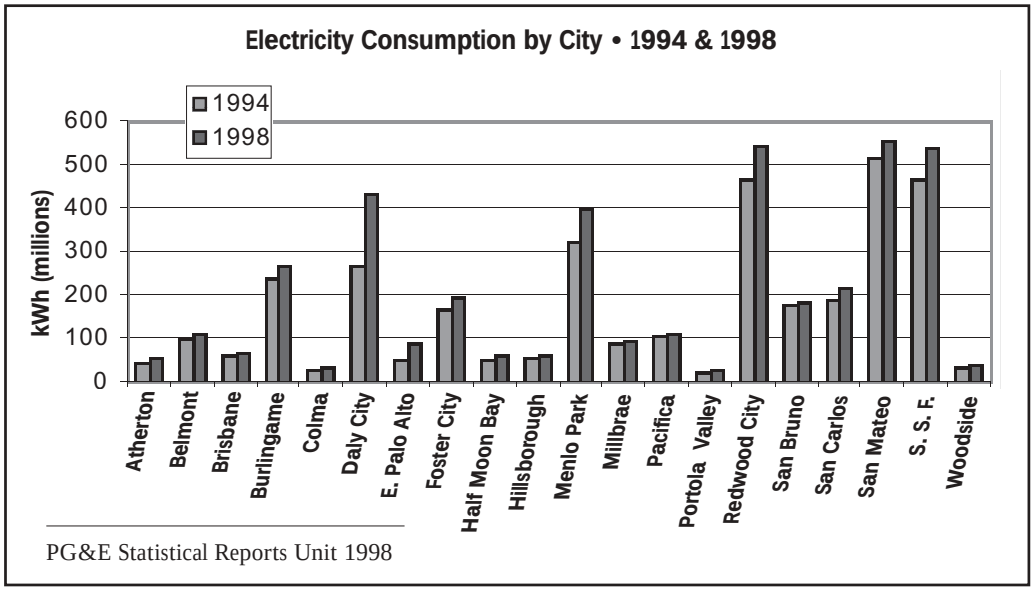
Sources: California State Employment Development Department (EDD); San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)
Researcher: Johann Chen

ENERGY CONSUMPTION, *continued*

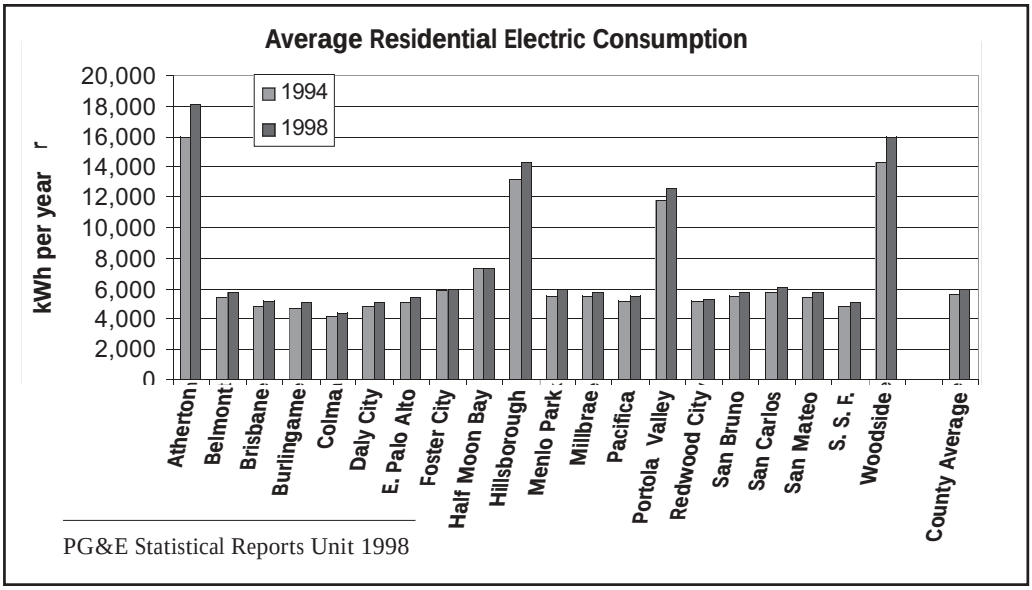
Direction

Though almost 40,000 of their customers in 1998 have switched to ESP's selling renewable energy, PG&E remains the dominant agency in power production and transmission for San Mateo County. PG&E reports indicate that residential electricity sales have increased only 1.5 percent between 1994 and 1998. Commercial and industrial electricity demand has increased 19.9 percent during this same period. In 1998 this sector accounted for 66.2 percent of the County's electricity consumption.

Sources: California Energy Commission (CEC), *1999 Renewable Energy in California* Cheri Davis, Ed; California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), *1999 Direct Access Activities Report;*Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), *1999 Sources of Power* www.pge.com; Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), 1999, *PG&E's Purchases from Independent Power Producers, 1995"*; www.pge.com; Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), 1998-1999, Statistical Report Unit's *Report on San Mateo County Municipalities*
Researcher: Kimberly Merrit



PG&E Statistical Reports Unit 1998



PG&E Statistical Reports Unit 1998

➤ HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

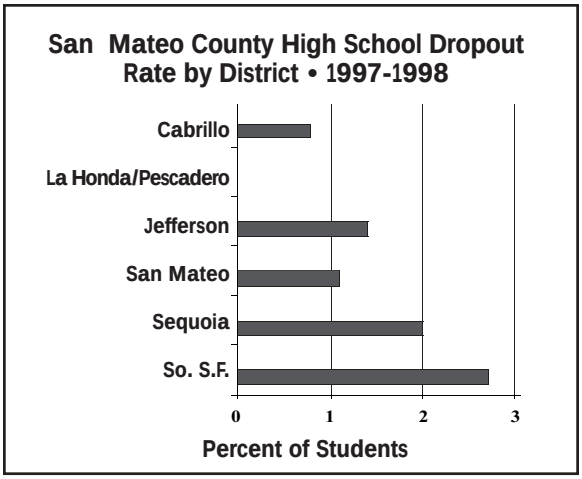
Indicators Used

The public high school dropout rate in San Mateo County is measured for grades 9 through 12 during the 1997-1998 academic year. Information for 1996/97 is presented by ethnicity and school district and is also compared to the rates over the past decade.

Source: California Basic Education Data provided by Jeannie Goodwine, San Mateo County Office of Education, Instructional Services Division;
http://www.cde.ca.gov/demographics
Researcher : Kristen Jadelrab

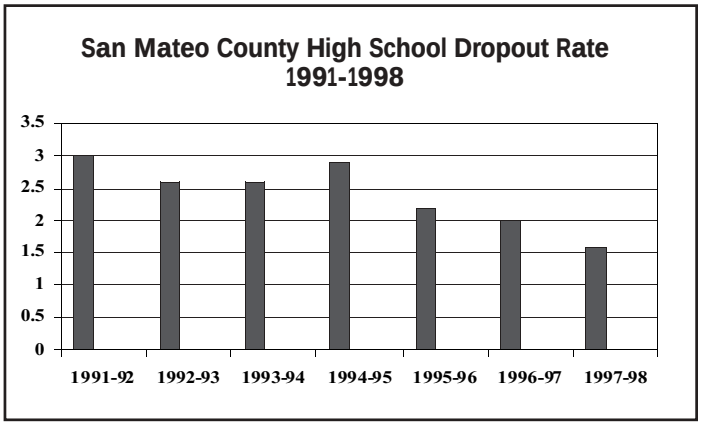
Importance

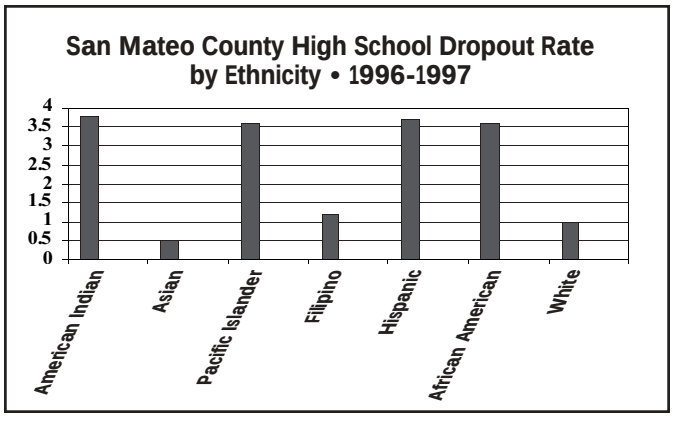
Opportunities for obtaining high paying and high quality careers are very limited without the possession of a high school diploma, and increasingly, a college degree. The jobs of the future will require a highly skilled and educated work force. If the rate of high school dropouts increases, local business leaders will be forced to search outside of the county for the quality of workers needed which, in turn, will create more commuter traffic in and out of the county. Without a sufficiently qualified local work force, businesses will be discouraged from opening in the county, contributing to a decline in prosperity. Students and young adults who do not receive adequate education will be more susceptible to poverty, homelessness, crime, and/or substance abuse, and will not grow up to become productive and beneficial members of the community.



Findings

The high school dropout rate in San Mateo County fell from 2.0 percent in 1996-97 to 1.6 percent in 1997-98. Information about 1997-98 high school dropout rates by ethnicity was unavailable. The most recent information available was taken from the 1996-97 school year. During this time Indian/Alaskan Native students had the highest dropout rate at 3.8 percent. This was followed by Hispanics at 3.7 percent, Pacific Islanders and African-Americans at 3.6 percent each, Filipinos at 1.2 percent, Caucasians at 1.0 percent, and Asians at .5 percent. South San Francisco Unified had the highest dropout rate at 2.7 percent. La Honda/Pescadero Unified remains without dropouts in 1997-98.





Direction

For San Mateo County as a whole, the high school dropout rate has improved by a noticeable margin. San Mateo County continues to have a high school dropout rate lower than that of the state. The dropout rates for American Indians, Hispanics, Pacific Islanders and African-Americans remain considerably higher than those of Caucasians, Filipinos and Asians.

➤ HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Indicators Used

The relationship between the countywide median price of a single-family home and condominium; the countywide average rent for vacant 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartments; and the ability to pay annual housing costs are measured. Lending institutions generally assume housing should cost no more than 35 percent of gross household income per year. The data used to establish countywide median prices and rents has in past years excluded the affluent cities of Atherton, Hillsborough, Portola Valley, and Woodside since they represent a small percentage of the total county population and skew the data toward the high end. The data for 1999 include the aforementioned cities, however, which significantly changes the following analysis and trends observed, as compared to previous years.

Importance

A lack of affordable housing limits the ability of young people to remain in the county after they enter the work force and makes it difficult for employers to recruit qualified workers. If housing is too expensive, people employed in the county obtain housing in neighboring counties and commute in. If there are not enough high-paying jobs in the county to support the high cost of housing, county residents commute out to adjacent counties to work. This jobs-housing imbalance contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution.

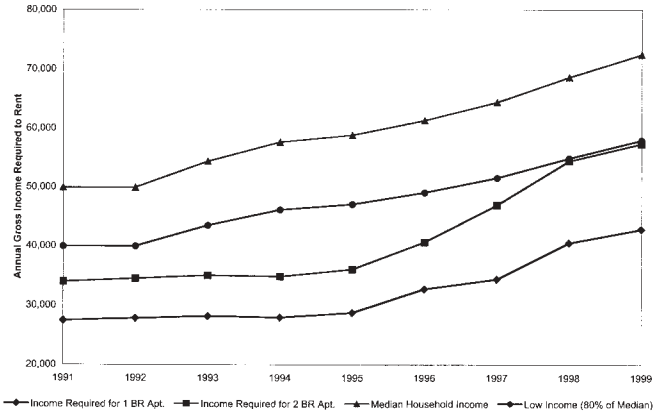
Lack of affordable housing also leads to overcrowding of housing units. It can drive low-income people below the poverty line, and limit housing options for elderly people on fixed incomes. In some cases, this can lead to homelessness.

Findings

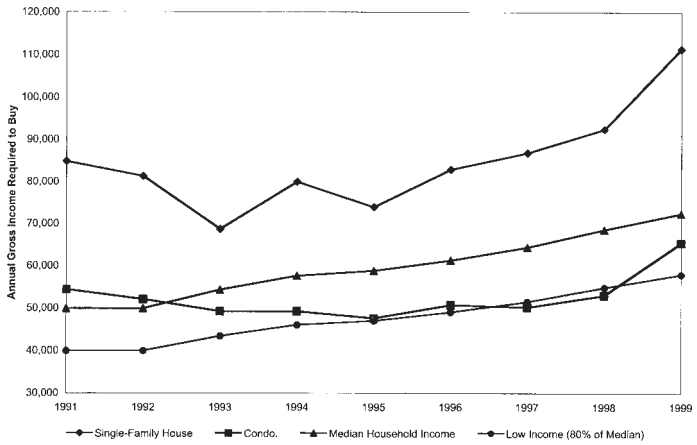
In 1999, the HUD countywide median income for a family of four increased 5.5 percent over the previous year to $72,400. However, this greatly lagged behind the same period's 13 percent increase in the median sales price of a single-family home to $475,000 and the 16 percent increase for a condominium to $278,819. The annual gross income required to buy either a median-priced house or a condominium saw a dramatic increase of over 20 percent from 1998 (20.4 percent and 23.4 percent respectively). Consequently, low-income families (80 percent of median income) could no longer afford to be homeowners, unlike the last two years in which condominiums were affordable to them. Median-income families continued to be able to afford condominiums, although not as easily as in 1998, and single-family houses remained unaffordable.

The average monthly rent of a one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartment increased respectively 5.7 percent to $1,248 and 5.4 percent to $1,672. Median income and low-income families continued to be able to pay average rents in the county. The breakdown of rental affordability by city

Affordability of Average Apartment • 1991–1999



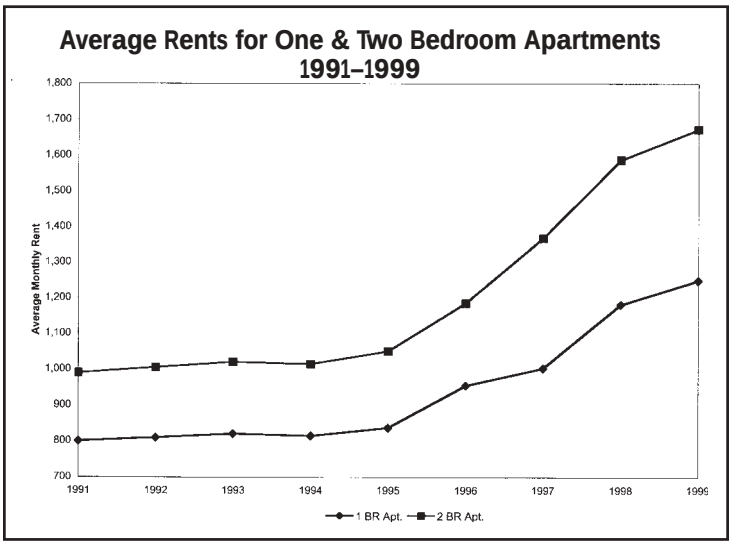
Affordability of Median-Priced Home

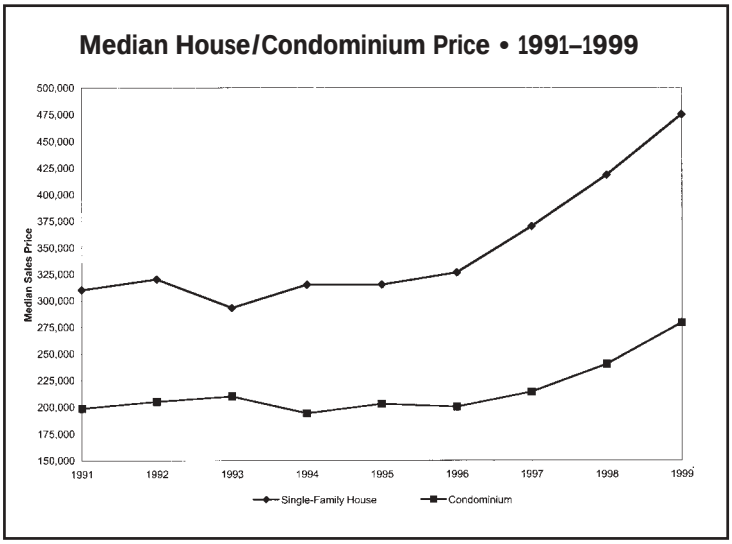


HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, *continued*

reflected a similar pattern. With the exception of Daly City, all other cities achieved a median income above the gross annual income required to rent one and two-bedroom apartments. However, the rental vacancy rate averaged a low 2.2 percent and vacant apartments were almost impossible to find because demand greatly exceeded supply.

Of the families making less than countywide median income, some are paying low mortgage payments on homes they have owned for a long time, or are paying less than average rents. Due to the decreasing affordability of housing, families earning very-low income (50 percent of median) may pay more than 35 percent of income for housing, live in subsidized housing with others, live in substandard housing, or are homeless.





Direction

Comparing the two four-year periods between 1991–1995, and 1995–1999 reveals a clear trend in the growth rates of the costs of housing. The former period's growth rates (below 7 percent) reflect insignificant increase. In contrast, the more recent period recorded astounding increases ranging from 37 percent to 59 percent. The median income has simultaneously maintained a steady growth rate of about 5 percent over these two periods. If these trends are extrapolated, San Mateo County can expect to experience a steady decline of housing affordability. The lower income groups in the county are likely to be impacted most, especially as apartment rents are, on the whole, increasing more rapidly than home sale prices.

Sources: San Mateo County Association of Realtors (SAMCAR); Tri County; MTC-ABAG reference library; California Association of Realtors (CAR); San Mateo County Housing (HUD)
Researchers: Katia Zarrillo and Frenje Wee

I'm wary of the emphasis on power rather than on a sense of community. The separate groups in our country are concerned about their power—whether it be black power or white power, the power of any particular group. There has been so much emphasis lately on the diversity of our peoples. I think it's time we reaffirmed the fact that what has built our country is community and that community is not dependent on governmant. It's dependent on the willingness of people to build together.

Daniel J. Boorstin

➤ LAND USE

Indicators used

This year's land use report focuses on *why* specific land use issues are priorities for a particular city of San Mateo County. For the second year, SSMC sent a survey to each city planning department of San Mateo County. The survey asked city planners to rank, in their best judgement, the importance of five general land use issues for their respective cities. The five general land use issues are: 1) Location and Intensity of Urban Development, 2) Mobility, 3) Natural Resource Protection and Management, 4) Housing Supply and Affordability, and 5) Economic Vitality.

In addition to ranking the five issues, the survey asked the city planner to explain "why" the #1 and #2 issues are priorities. A few of the city planners' answers are quoted in the next section.

Importance

A healthy and sustainable community provides for all of the community's needs - housing, business, services, industry, agriculture, and open space for recreation and habitat preservation. To accomplish these goals, a county must provide for a balance of land uses. Closely related to the indicators for Parks and Open Space and General Plans and Sustainability, the Land Use indicator looks at the priorities a community has set for using its limited space and resources.

Findings

The results of the survey were separated into three regions; the coastal region (Half Moon Bay and Pacifica), northern region (cities north of highway 92), and southern region (cities south of highway 92).

The coastal region's primary land use issue is Natural Resource Protection and Management. The northern region's primary land use issue is Economic Vitality. The southern region had diverse priorities, but the issue of Location and Intensity of Urban Development was reported as having a slight priority over the other four issues.

The city planners were asked "why" certain issues are priorities for their city. Below are selected answers from the city planners.

Location and Intensity of Urban Development is ranked #1 or #2 by eight of the cities in the county. Four of the eight cities are located in the southern region. In general, these cities wish to retain their "small town" image despite the high demand for development.

The community has placed a high priority on controlling the rate of residential growth.

Half Moon Bay

Portola Valley is concerned that the intensity of development is in keeping with the character of existing development.

Portola Valley

The challenge is most important because of the discrepancies between the current strong economy and the communities desire to retain its "small town" feel.

San Carlos

Preservation of privacy and rural atmosphere are of extreme community priority.

Woodside

Mobility is ranked #2 by six of the cities in the county. This issue involves focusing investment and development in designated transportation corridors.

Assuring reliable movement of people and goods in the region is essential to maintain economic vitality and quality of life.

South San Francisco

(Mobility issues) are extremely important in preserving quality of life.

San Carlos

People perceive they are less mobile and traffic is strangling the area.

Menlo Park

Natural Resource Protection and Management is ranked #1 or #2 by six of the cities in the county. Although this issue is the least important to San Mateo County as a whole, the cities that do focus on this issue consider it the foundation to their community.

Over 50% of the city is in publicly owned open space, making it one of the city's biggest assets. Potential future development of the remaining privately owned open space

Existing and Potential Development • 1995–2020

	Existing Developed Land as of 1995		Land Potentially Available for Development 1995-2020		Growth 1995-2020	Estimated Annual Growth**
	Number of Acres	%*	Number of Acres	%*		
Residential	40,300	14.1%	17,400	6.1%	43.2%	1.4%
Commercial/Industrial	16,500	5.8%	6,700	2.3%	40.6%	1.4%
Total	56,800	19.9%	24,100	8.4%	42.4%	1.4%

**Percentage to total land in San Mateo County (285,300 acres)* ***Assuming all potential land is developed*

continues to be one of the biggest concerns of Pacifica citizenry.

Pacifica

The reason people live in Half Moon Bay is because of the natural environment.

Half Moon Bay

Portola Valley is committed to preserving open space since that is critical to the low-density environment and the residents' desire.

Portola Valley

Housing Supply and Affordability is ranked #1 or #2 by four of the cities in the county. San Mateo County's limited housing supply (both existing and future development) is a great problem.

As the Bay Area is growing in population and housing supply is limited, it is most important at this time to provide enough affordable housing to the residents and employees within Foster City to strive towards a jobs/ housing balance.

Foster City

The scarcity of housing has led to many illegal units/garage conversions, and also led to farther commuting patterns.

Redwood City

Economic Vitality is ranked #1 or #2 by ten of the cities in the county. The majority of the cities are located within the northern region. This issue is the highest-ranking issue for San Mateo County. Many cities focus on Economic Vitality for maintaining tax revenues.

Economic Vitality is important to the city to ensure funding of basic city services and to continue to improve the quality of life. This issue is particularly important in this city which has a relatively small retail component and which is still in transition after the demise of post WWII heavy industry.

South San Francisco

The city is using redevelopment, master planning and the general plan to create a better balance of tax revenue generating and consuming land uses.

East Palo Alto

Due to the large residential base and the limited available property, the city has a limited tax base to support services. Needs to seek tax-producing businesses to maintain city budget.

San Bruno

Direction

For San Mateo County as a whole, the overall highest ranking land use issue for the next 20 years is Economic Vitality, which involves supporting existing businesses, promoting expansion and attracting new business. According to the survey, the general trend is to put economic vitality first in order to increase tax revenues.

The second priority for San Mateo County is Location and Intensity of Urban Development. According to the surveys, the general trend is to keep the peninsula's "small town" image.

The third priority is Housing Supply and Affordability. Mobility and Natural Resource Protection were ranked fourth and fifth overall. Please see the exhibit for specific rankings of each city.

Sources: The Regional Planning Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments; *Bay Area Futures: Where will we live and work?* (Nov. 1997) A study commissioned by the San Francisco District Council of the Urban Land Institute and performed by the Association of Bay Area Governments with the cooperation of the Bay Area Council; City Planning Departments of San Mateo County

Researcher: Dante Tosetti

Ranking of Land Use Issues • 2000

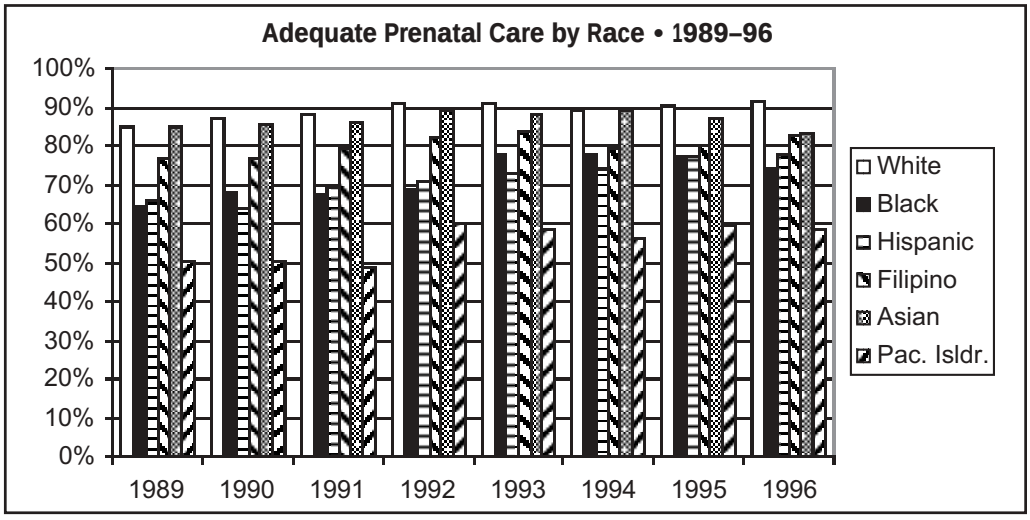
	Location & Intensity of Urban Dev.	Mobility	Natural Resource Protection & Management	Housing Supply & Affordability	Economic Vitality
Coastal Region					
Half Moon Bay	1	3	2	5	4
Pacifica	5	3	1	4	2
Average Ranking	**3**	**4.5**	**1.5**	**3**	**3**
Northern Region					
Brisbane	2	4	1	5	3
Colma	1	5	4	3	2
Daly City	3	2	5	4	1
Millbrae	2	3	5	4	1
San Bruno	3	2	5	4	1
San Mateo	3	4	5	1	2
S. San Francisco	3	2	5	4	1
Average Ranking	**2.43**	**3.14**	**4.29**	**3.57**	**1.57**
Southern Region					
Belmont	3	5	1	4	2
E. Palo Alto	3	4	5	2	1
Foster City	5	4	3	1	2
Menlo Park	1	2	4	3	5
Redwood City	4	2	5	1	3
Portola Valley	2	3	1	4	5
San Carlos	1	2	5	3	4
Woodside	1	5	2	3	4
Average Ranking	**2.50**	**3.38**	**3.25**	**2.63**	**3.25**
TOTAL Average Ranking	**2.24**	**2.71**	**3.12**	**2.53**	**1.76**

Burlingame did not participate in the survey. Atherton and Hillsborough are primarily residential, the survey does not apply.

➤ MATERNAL HEALTH

Indicators Used

Prenatal care, low birth weight (under 5.5 lbs), births to teenage girls and infant mortality were recorded from 1989-1996. Adequate prenatal care was measured by the Kessner Index, which uses gestational age, number of prenatal visits to a health care professional, and time of prenatal care to determine adequacy of care. New data to measure maternal health is only released every two years (consequently, the findings in this report are the same as in the May 1999 indicator report). The report is reprinted here to present a more comprehensive picture and to eliminate the need for referral to earlier reports.



Importance

Early prenatal care is essential for preventing infant mortality, low birth weights, and illness. Low birth weight is one of the primary causes of death for an infant in the first year of life. A sustainable community makes certain that adequate prenatal care and access to health care is available to all women, thus providing every newborn with the opportunity to thrive and become a healthy, productive adult. This preventive care will reduce the long-term social and medical burdens placed on a community. Recommendations for sustainability include increased education, nutrition and peer counseling, and immunization reminders, with a special focus towards pregnant adolescents across racial populations.

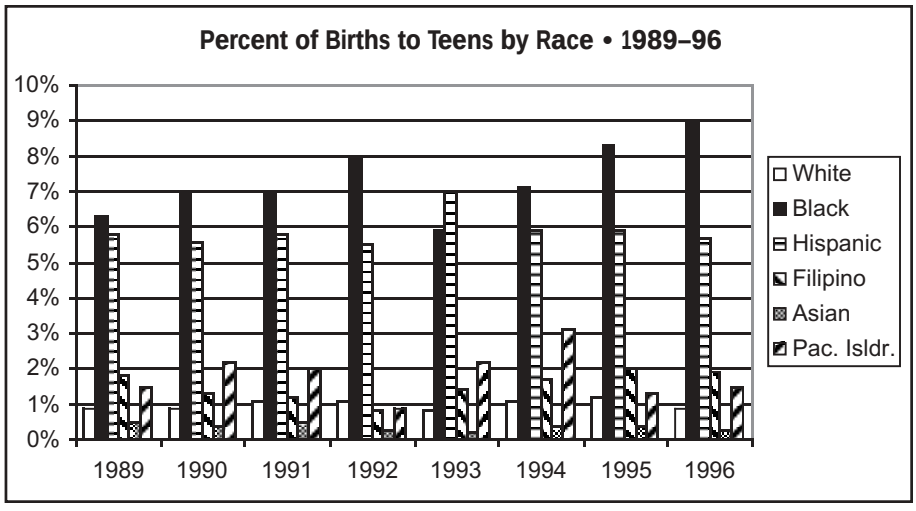
Findings

The overall rate of women receiving adequate prenatal care continues to improve from 78.5 percent in 1989 to 84.6 percent in 1996. Adequate prenatal care has increased by 11.7 percent for Hispanic women, the most for any racial/ethnic group, from 66 percent of births in 1989 to 77.7 percent of births in 1996. This rise puts Hispanic women above African American women, at 74.2 percent. Pacific Islanders have the lowest rate of adequate prenatal care at 58.4 percent in 1996. Over 90 percent of White women have received adequate prenatal care.

After several years of steady improvement, the rate of prenatal care among pregnant teenage girls has dropped from a high of 66 percent in 1995 to only 60 percent in 1996. The number of women over 17 who seek prenatal care in the first trimester has seen a slow, but steady climb from 80.7 percent in 1989 to 85.2 percent in 1996.

Overall, low birth weight deliveries has remained fairly steady, with 5.5 percent in 1989 and 5.7 percent in 1996. Women receiving adequate prenatal care

continued



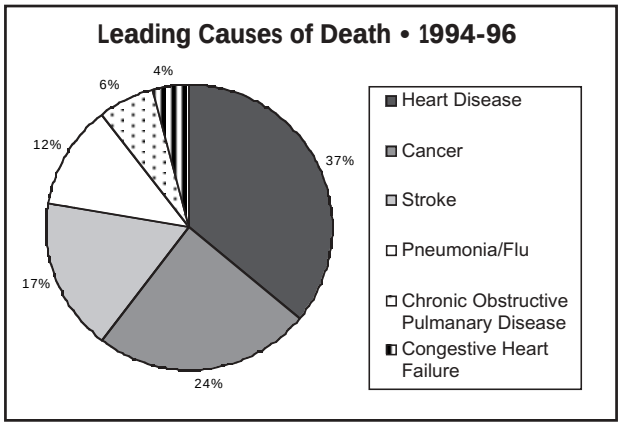
➤ MORTALITY

Indicators Used

The mortality rate and causes of death per 100,000 residents in San Mateo County were measured. The information is based on a three-year average for age and gender so that unusual circumstances are less likely to distort the given data. 1996 is the most recent information available using racial designations. New data to measure mortality and morbidity rates in the county are only released every two years. This report is reprinted here to present a more comprehensive picture and to eliminate the need for referral to earlier reports.

Importance:

A sustainable community constantly seeks to improve public health and decrease its preventable deaths. Mortality rates provide an in-depth look at the health status of the community as a whole. A sustainable community seeks to provide information, outreach, and health support services to reduce preventable deaths. This knowledge is indispensable to many people; especially those involved in health promotion, preventive services, and long-term planning. Aberrations in the mortality rate can indicate a need for closer examination of a specific concern. For example, a rise in infant mortality could signal inadequate programs and the need for more health education programs.



Findings

Between 1994 and 1996, the leading cause of deaths under the age of one was congenital abnormality. For people between the ages of 5 and 34, the leading cause of death was accidental or unintentional injury. Overall, however, accidental or unintentional injury accounted for less than one percent of deaths. For adults aged 35 to 74 years, the leading cause of death was cancer, and for seniors 75 years of age and older, the leading cause of death was heart disease.

Women developed cancer earlier than men, while men developed heart disease earlier than did women.

Although there were fifteen times as many White deaths as there were African-American deaths in terms of absolute numbers, the actual rate of mortality for

continued

MATERNAL HEALTH, *continued*

have a lower rate of low birth weight deliveries than do women receiving inadequate prenatal care. Those without adequate prenatal care were nearly twice as likely in 1996 to have a low birth weight delivery. Though declining from 13.6 percent in 1989 to 11.9 percent in 1996, African American women still have the highest rate of low birth weight infants.

The infant mortality rate in the county is fairly low at 4 deaths per 1,000 births in 1996. Asians currently have the lowest rate of infant mortality with only 2.1 deaths per 1,000 births in 1996, while Whites recorded 4.6 deaths and Hispanics and Pacific Islanders had 3.2 deaths per 1,000 each. African Americans still have the highest rates of infant mortality with 7.9 deaths per 1,000 in 1996, followed by Filipinos with 6.3 deaths per 1,000.

The percentage of births to teenagers has held steady at approximately, 2.8 percent, while the absolute number of births has fallen each year since 1993, from 296 to 281. The teenage birth rate among African Americans continued to increase to a record high of 9.0 percent in 1996; Hispanics were next with 5.7 percent. Whites and Asians had less than one percent each of births to teenagers. Teenagers are defined as being 17 years old and under.

Direction

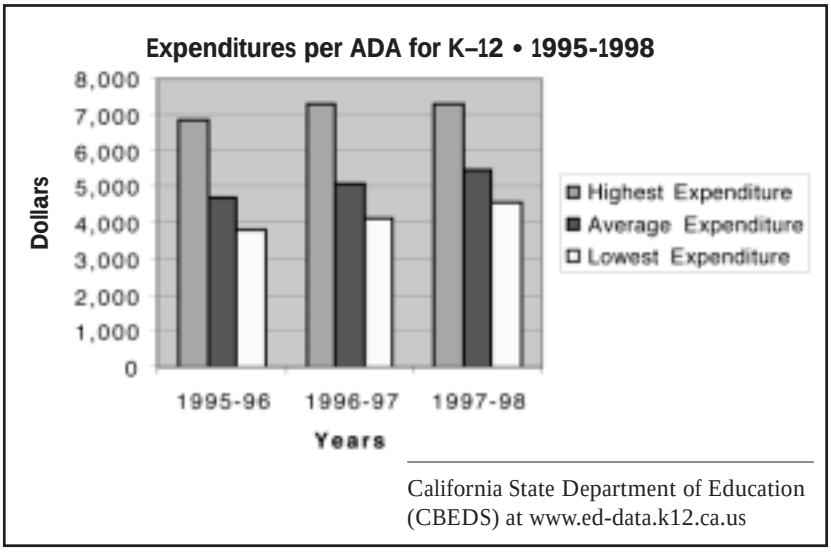
While most indicators are either remaining stable or heading in a positive direction, there are a few notable exceptions. Those most readily noted include teenage births to African Americans, the drop in pregnant adolescents receiving adequate prenatal care, and the slight decrease in the adequacy of prenatal care for Asians and African Americans. The high proportion of inadequate care in East Palo Alto, and parts of Redwood City and San Mateo, show the need for increased education and outreach into all communities.

Source: *Healthy San Mateo 2000: Health Status Indicators, Fall 1996 and 1998*
Researcher: Brandis Anderson

➤ PER PUPIL FUNDING

Indicators Used

The average expenditures in San Mateo County public schools per annual Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) from 1995-98 are shown. Student to teacher ratios from 1992-98 are displayed using information derived from the California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS).



California State Department of Education (CBEDS) at www.ed-data.k12.ca.us

Importance

We rely on schools to produce good citizens with the basic skills necessary to participate and succeed in our society. The amount of resources allocated for education shows our commitment to future generations. Adequate funding allows the school districts to provide updated curricula and maintain competitive salaries for teachers, creating a high quality education system and a positive learning environment.

Findings

The average expenditures per annual ADA for K-12 continued to increase during the 1997-98 school year by 8 percent countywide, to $5463. Laguna Salada School District, the lowest per pupil spender last year, showed the largest percentage gain at 17.6 percent, raising per pupil spending to $4,884 per ADA. The only decrease, 3.2 percent, in per pupil spending came from the Woodside District, the 1996-97 leader in per pupil spending. The Woodside District, however, remains among the highest in San Mateo County public schools , at $7,062 per pupil. San Mateo High School District

continued

MORTALITY, *continued*

African-Americans is alarmingly high. In the period from 1994-96 African-Americans had nearly five times the rate of death from AIDS and ten times the homicide rate of Whites. African-Americans are roughly twice as likely to die from a stroke than any other ethnic group. A declining African-American birth rate and the highest rate of women receiving late or no prenatal care, could decimate the county's African-American community within 30 years, according to County Health Officer, Dr. Scott Morrow.

Direction:

As is shown in such related indicators as Communicable Diseases and Maternal Health, San Mateo County is improving in most health-related categories. In addition, the majority of the causes of death in San Mateo County met Year 2000 objectives as noted in *Healthy San Mateo County 2000*: *Health Status Indicators*. However there are some notable exceptions and for many county residents, the trend is entirely reversed. The mortality rate for African-Americans is a sign that the current economic and physical health of the county is not reaching into every community. In an effort to obtain Year 2000 objectives in all counties, there are many recommendations. For instance, with youth smoking on the rise—which continued into adulthood increases cancer deaths—there is a need for preventative education in the schools. Additionally, to cut down possibly preventable deaths, increased community education, outreach, and regular health check-ups should be encouraged.

Sources: San Mateo County Health Services Agency, Public Health Division, Disease Control and Prevention Unit; *Healthy San Mateo County 2000*: *Health Status Indicators*, Fall 1996; "Black Population Drops," San Jose Mercury News On-line, October 7, 1998
Researcher: Brandis Anderson

decreased spending by 1.3 percent, and Sequoia High School District decreased spending by 0.2 percent in 1996-97. Both showed increases for 1997-98. San Mateo High School District increased 3.7 percent to $6,275, while Sequoia High School District increased 1.1 percent to $6,813. The Hillsborough Elementary District continued its growth to have the highest per pupil spending, $7,270, an increase of approximately 11 percent. Jefferson Elementary District spent the least at $4,574 per pupil. Total expenditures for all the districts in the county for 1997-98 were $489,429,560; total revenues were $504,651,204.

Related to per pupil funding is the pupil-teacher ratio, since it also plays an important role in education. Pupil-teacher ratio counts all certificated teachers in a district and divides it by the number of students. (The student-teacher ratio is not the same as average class size. The average class size is always larger because some teachers have special assignments). The data collected from CBEDS divides San Mateo County's public schools into two categories: Elementary Districts and High School Districts. The data from the 1997-98 school year shows the San Mateo County average of pupils per teacher decreasing for both the Elementary and High School Districts. The Elementary District had an average pupil-teacher ratio of 21-1, and the High School District had an average of 24-1. Elementary Districts with the lowest pupil-teacher ratios were: Woodside and Portola Valley. Elementary Districts with the highest pupil-teacher ratio were Jefferson Elementary and Ravenswood. High School Districts had the following pupil-teacher ratios: Jefferson (24-1), San Mateo (23-1), and Sequoia (22.3). Jefferson High School District had the highest pupil-teacher ratio but showed slight improvement over the previous year.

Direction

San Mateo County has increased its average ADA expenditure for the past three years. Each year the district with the lowest ADA expenditure increased its ADA for the following year. Smaller class size and a higher per pupil ADA expenditure seem to coincide. The districts with the lowest pupil-teacher ratio also have the higher ADA expenditure.

Pupil-Teacher Ratios by School District • 1992-1998

	'92-3	'93-4	'94-5	'95-6	'96-7	'97-8
Bayshore	24	24	26	25	22	21
Belmont	21	21	21	22	19	19
Brisbane	24	25	24	25	22	20
Burlingame	25	22	24	24	22	18
Hillsborough	19	20	20	20	18	17
Jefferson Elem.	24	25	25	25	25	23
Laguna Salada	26	25	25	25	25	21
Las Lomitas	21	20	19	19	18	17
Menlo Park	21	20	20	20	21	18
Millbrae	21	21	22	23	21	2
Portola Valley	19	18	17	17	16	15
Ravenswood	25	23	24	25	24	22
Redwood City	23	22	22	21	20	17
San Bruno Park	24	25	23	24	21	21
San Carlos	23	24	24	25	22	20
S. M.-Fstr City	22	22	22	22	21	19
Woodside	18	17	18	18	16	15
Jefferson High	24	24	24	25	25	24
San Mateo High	22	22	21	23	23	23
Sequoia	22	22	23	21	22	22
Cabrillo Unified	24	23	23	23	21	20
La Honda-Pescadero Unified	15	18	19	18	18	15
S. S. F. Unified	24	25	25	25	24	21

California State Department of Education (CBEDS) at www.ed-data.k12.ca.us

Sources: California State Department of Education; California Basic Education Data Partnership at www.ed-data.k12.ca.us
Researcher: Erik Blakerby

Help me not to waste time worrying about the bad world we have, but to use the time I have working for the better world our children need.

Marian Wright Edelman, *Guide To My Feet*, 1990

➤ POPULATION

Indicators used

The total population of San Mateo County on July 1 is recorded for each of the last ten years. The data, from the Demographic Unit of the California Department of Finance, includes the components of change for each year i.e. the growth rate, natural increase, and migration. Also measured is the county racial/ethnic composition, the age structure, and the population and growth rate for each of the 20 cities.

Importance

Political, economic, and social institutions meet the needs effectively of individuals who reside in the county by responding to changing demographics. Sustainable communities accommodate the challenges of reasonable growth, while maintaining the physical and cultural environments that create quality lives for residents of all ages.

The planning challenges are especially great for San Mateo County since population trends are changing due to economic conditions. The effects of a large commuting population that does not live in the county complicates efforts to work toward sustainability.

CITY POPULATIONS*	1998	1 Year % Inc.	1999	1 Year % Inc.
Atherton	7,500	1.0	7,525	0.3
Belmont	25,950	2.2	26,100	0.6
Brisbane	3,310	2.8	3,380	2.1
Burlingame	29,100	1.2	29,300	0.7
Colma	1,280	2.4	1,280	0.0
Daly City	103,500	1.5	104,200	0.7
East Palo Alto	25,450	1.0	25,550	0.4
Foster City	30,400	1.3	30,700	1.0
Half Moon Bay	11,100	1.8	11,200	0.9
Hillsborough	11,500	1.3	11,600	0.4
Menlo Park	31,300	1.8	31,500	0.8 -
Millbrae	21,800	1.2	21,600	0.9
Pacifica	40,450	1.3	40,700	0.6
Portola Valley	4,550	1.3	4,590	0.9
Redwood City	75,400	2.2	76,600	1.6
San Bruno	41,500	1.0	41,600	0.2
San Carlos	28,600	1.1	28,750	0.5
San Mateo	93,800	1.0	94,100	0.3
So. San Francisco	59,300	2.2	60,900	2.7
Woodside	5,625	2.3	5,700	1.3
Unincorporated	65,000	1.4	65,900	1.4

Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit, E1 Reports, 1998, 1999
*Population as of January 1, 1998 & January 1, 1999

Findings

The total county population grew over 11 percent in the past 10 years. While natural increase (births minus deaths) has remained relative stable and accounted for 89 percent of the 1999 growth, the annual growth has fluctuated significantly due to migration factors, 11 percent in 1999.

Consistent with the overall pattern in

continued

Population with Components of Growth

Year	Total Population (July 1)	% Growth	# Growth	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Immigration	Domestic Migration
1990	651,400								
1991	659,400	1.2	8,000	10,838	4,746	6,092	1,908	4,887	-2,979
1992	670,400	1.7	11,000	10,609	4,873	5,736	5,264	5,645	-381
1993	676,100	0.9	5,700	10,455	4,910	5,545	155	5,853	-5,698
1994	681,700	0.8	5,600	10,349	4,803	5,546	54	5,912	-5,858
1995	689,700	1.2	8,000	10,185	5,020	5,165	2,835	4,977	-2,142
1996	698,000	1.2	8,300	10,048	4,952	5,096	3,204	4,924	-1,720
1997	711,700	2.0	13,700	10,098	4,973	5,125	8,575	5,817	2,758
1998	721,400	1.4	9,700	9,918	4,841	5,077	4,623	5,556	-933
1999	727,300	0.8	5,900	10,138	4,890	5,248	652	5,649	-4,997
	Sum	11.2	75,900	92,638	44,008	48,630	27,270	49,220	-21,950
	Average	1.12	8,433	10,293	4,890	5,403	3,030	5,469	-2,439

Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit, E6 Report, February 2000

➤ POVERTY

Indicators Used

The number of people enrolled in welfare programs in San Mateo County for January through December of 1999 was measured. The San Mateo County Human Services Agency provides and monitors welfare programs. These programs include: CalWORKs, General Relief, Food Stamps, and MediCal. Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) has been the main federal welfare program, since its change two years ago from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). TANF block grants are given to the states to administer their own welfare programs. In California the TANF program is called CalWORKs. CalWORKs helps welfare recipients to qualify for and find jobs that will enable families to be self-supporting.

General Relief Recipients 1998–1999

	1998	1999
January	551	285
February	508	288
March	491	281
April	473	292
May	443	275
June	458	272
July	451	272
August	431	282
September	403	270
October	412	264
November	399	263
December	293	266
TOTALS	7311	5309

Importance

Trends in poverty help to demonstrate the effectiveness of San Mateo County's economy. Monitoring recipients of the different welfare programs allows San Mateo County to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current economic policies and programs. With too many people living in poverty, potential investors might turn elsewhere to invest. A sustainable society is one in which each individual has the opportunity to develop and make the best use of his/her unique gifts. Those living in poverty are often unable to fulfill their potential because their nutritional, health care, and educational needs are inadequately met. Children are especially vulnerable, as deprivation can stunt growth and cognitive development lasting into adulthood.

continued

POPULATION, *continued*

the State of California, San Mateo County continues to experience growth of the Hispanic and Asian populations. Foreign immigration remains high in 1999. However, while jobs are plentiful, housing is not, and is increasingly not affordable for most families with low or average incomes. Cost of living is the primary factor causing people to move out of the county in the last few years.

Because of the number of people leaving, overall growth has slowed. This is especially evident in the cities (see chart). January 1, 1999 data show, for nineteen of the twenty cities, a significant decline in the growth rate over the previous year. Discussions with the Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG) demographers, and county and city planners point to three causal factors: lack of affordable housing, an outflow of the work force choosing to live in San Francisco, and the loss of housing units in Millbrae due to BART expansion. Cities in surrounding counties are experiencing much higher rates of growth.

The racial/ethnic makeup of the county in 1999 is 53 percent White, 22 percent Hispanic, 20 percent Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 5 percent African-American. The Hispanic and Asian populations continue to increase. They are young populations; death rates are low; they have a high natural increase and continuing immigration.

Direction

County statistics reflect a trend similar to the State of California where, since 1990, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islanders account for 89 percent of the growth in the State's population. Data for age group populations remain estimates pending the 2000 Census. The following figures are based on a total county population estimate of 747,000, which is high. The median age in San Mateo County is 37 years.

Age Structure • Estimates for 2000

Ages	0-19	20-29	30-49	50-64	65-79	80+
Number	201,080	85,848	242,133	123,353	70,080	24,567
Percent	27%	11.5%	32.5%	17%	9%	3%

Sources: California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit, E6 Report, February 2000; California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit, E1 Reports, 1998, 1999
Researcher: Carol Mink

What kind of system would be ecologically sustainable? The answer is simple—a system whose structure respects the limits, the carrying capacity, of natural systems. A sustainable economy is one powered by renewable energy sources. It is also a reuse/recycle economy. In its structure, it emulates nature, where one organism's waste is another's sustenance . . . Just as an aircraft must satisfy the principles of aerodynamics if it is to fly, so must an economy satisfy the principles of ecology if it is to endure . . . Over the long term, carbon emissions cannot exceed carbon dioxide fixation; soil erosion cannot exceed new soil formed through natural processes; the harvest of forest products cannot exceed the sustainable yield of forests; the number of plant and animal species lost cannot exceed the new species formed through evolution; water pumping cannot exceed the sustainable yield of aquifers; the fish catch cannot exceed the sustainable yield of fisheries.

Recognizing the limits of natural systems is often seen as a call for no growth, but the issue is not growth versus no growth. The question is, what kind of growth? And where? Growth based on the use of renewable energy may be able to continue for some time, while that based on fossil fuels is ultimately limited by the remaining reserves, but more immediately, by potentially unacceptable climate disruption. Similarly, a reuse/recycle economy can grow much larger than a throwaway economy.

Worldwatch Institute *1998 State of the World* report

POVERTY, *continued*

Findings

From 1996 to 1999 there has been a steady decrease in the number of CalWORK's recipients: 16, 309 in 1996, to 6,762 in 1999. There has been an increase in the General Relief benefits in 1999. The average monthly payment for General Relief in 1999 was $317, up approximately $30 from the 1998 average of $287.30. Food Stamp recipients received an average of $67.90 in 1999, up approximately $20 from the 1998 average of $47.12. Food Stamps are reported by the number of cases. Food Stamps supplied could indicate benefits going to either individuals or families.

Direction

There is no way to ascertain the actual number of individual people benefiting from Food Stamps. Many people are only getting Food Stamp benefits. The number of recipients receiving General Relief benefits is steadily declining. From a high of 551 General Relief recipients in January of 1998, the high of 1999 was 292 in April. In 1999 the low was 263.

According to CalWORKs program specialist John Baarts, the "focus of CalWORKs in 2000 is how best to serve clients with multiple barriers to employment and to help people who have left the welfare system retain and upgrade the jobs they [currently] have."

Sources: John Baarts, California Department of Social Services
Researcher: Erik Blakerby

➤ PUBLIC LIBRARY USE

Indicators used

Every year, the California State Library collects statistics from public libraries in California and issues an annual summary of the data collected. Four statistics from that summary are included in this report: annual expenditures per capita; annual number of hours open to the public; annual materials circulated per capita; and annual number of reference questions asked per capita. The figures represent data for the San Mateo County library system, and public libraries in Daly City, San Mateo, Redwood City, South San Francisco, Burlingame, San Bruno, and Menlo Park.

Importance

Public library use is an indication of literacy, political interest, business research, education, intellectual curiosity, and general interest in reading, videos, and computers. Libraries are gateways to information for large numbers of people through shared access. They are also an access point to the internet. Library programs aimed at children and adults are cultural assets to our community. Libraries with community rooms provide needed meeting space for county residents. The level of library expenditure is an indicator of community support for libraries. The circulation per capita and reference questions asked per capita are indicative of library use. The number of hours open indicates library accessibility to the community.

Findings

The indicators vary by library system within the county. In 1996/97, for the first time in eight years, the total combined annual expenditure for all the library systems in the county rose above the1991/92 high of $36.46 to $38.05 ; however, in 1997/98 that figure dropped back down to $35.84, which is below the 1991/92 high. Statistics for all the library systems countywide indicate that materials circulation per capita in 1997/98 was the same as in 1996/97 while reference questions asked dropped 2%. Circulation per capita in 1997/98 was 8.23 in the county compared to 4.9 in the State. Annual expenditures in 1997/98 were also higher per capita in the county ($35.84) than in the state as a whole ($19.47). All libraries countywide in 1997/98 were open to the public 66,681 total hours which are fewer hours than in 1991/92 when libraries were open 67,291 hours.

Direction

Countywide expenditures steadily increased from 1993/94 through 1996/97. This was a positive indication of community support for public libraries, but this upward trend ended in 1997/98 with a 6% decrease. It is too early to tell if this decrease indicates a general downward trend or is merely a statistical glitch. Library use based on materials circulated per capita steadily increased from 1989 through 1996/97, but in 1997/98, materials circulation leveled off. Reference questions asked per capita have been dropping slightly, but steadily, since 1993/94. Changes in materials circulation and reference questions asked may be due to the increased use of the internet. Hours open to the public have been steadily increasing since 1994/95 and this positive trend is expected to continue.

In general, all eight library systems in the county are exceeding the state average in funding and usage which is a positive statistic, but some jurisdictions are doing better than others. Expenditure per capita for Burlingame, Redwood City, and Menlo Park libraries is considerably higher than for San Mateo County, the City of San Mateo, South San Francisco, and San Bruno, while Daly City receives the least funding. In general, the library systems with the higher expenditures per capita are open more hours and support higher usage.

Source: *California Library Statistics 1990–1999* by Library Development Services Bureau, California State Library, Sacramento
Researcher: David Crabbe

The vision I have is of an America where average citizens engage in serious dialogue about what would truly make America a 'kinder and gentler nation.' This is what the public wants for America . . . Slogans and top-down leadership cannot achieve it. It requires serious democratic dialogue to shape a political debate in which the public—the whole public—participates.

Daniel Yankelovich

➤ SOLID WASTE

Indicators Used

Shown are the tonnage of solid waste disposed into landfills of San Mateo County from 1990 through 1998 and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) approved diversion rates (the amount of waste reused, recycled, or composted) for 1995 and 1996. The tonnage of solid waste represents the total waste disposed of in San Mateo County landfills from sources both within San Mateo County and from jurisdictions outside of San Mateo County. Diversion rates for 1997 and 1998 have not yet been approved by the CIWMB, however, approved figures for those years will be available for the year 2001 *Indicators* report.

Importance

Landfill sites statewide are approaching capacity. San Mateo County is no exception. The two largest landfill sites in San Mateo County are Ox Mountain and Hillside. Hillside has two parcels within Colma and a third parcel on County land. Parcel one, in Colma, was closed in 1999 and parcel two is scheduled to be closed in two to four years. The third county parcel was scheduled to be closed in 1999, however that closure date may be extended. The Ox Mountain site, in Half Moon Bay, has a life expectancy to approximately 2027. More than 90 percent of our waste goes to the Ox Mountain site. As landfills reach capacity, new land will be needed to store the waste generated by San Mateo County. Landfills threaten water quality, use land that might otherwise be more productively utilized, and may affect the value of nearby residences and businesses.

A sustainable community strives to reduce the amount of solid waste it generates by recycling and reusing as much waste as possible, as opposed to creating more sites for solid waste disposal. The California State legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 939 in 1990, which requires that cities and counties decrease the amount of solid waste they send to landfills by 50 percent by the year 2000 (using the year 1990 as the base year). This ambitious goal can be achieved by reducing the amount of waste produced, increasing recycling, composting, and the reuse of goods and materials. Several counties and cities in Northern California have already achieved this goal.

Findings

In 1998, San Mateo County sent approximately 9 percent more waste to landfills than in1997; from 874,474 tons in 1997 to 953,530 tons in 1998. The population was relatively stable at a 1.5 percent increase. It should be noted that a variety of factors such as new construction, demolition, transportation projects and disaster waste (especially El Nino in 1998) affect solid waste landfilled and diversion rates.

Approximately 10 percent of San Mateo County solid waste is disposed of in landfills outside of San Mateo County. This outflow is not due to overflow, but is driven by either a cheaper market or special waste disposal requirements. Solid waste generated in San Mateo County has also been disposed of in Contra Costa County, Alameda County, Santa Clara County, Solano County, Marin County, San Joaquin County and Stanislaus County.

Six cities in San Mateo County have revised their original base year tonnage for determining their diversion rate. Four cities have changed to a more recent base year, and 7 cities are on compliance (mandantory reporting schedule) with (AB) 939.

continued

Diversion Rates

Jurisdiction	Diversion Rates		Solid Waste on Compliance
	1995	1996	
Atherton	17%	43%	✓
Belmont	36%	33%	
Brisbane	25%	34%	
Burlingame	37%	41%	
Colma	0	-120%	✓
Daly City	0	-20%	✓
East Palo Alto	10%	15%	✓
Foster City	27%	25%	
Half Moon Bay	24%	19%	
Hillsborough	19%	25%	✓
Menlo Park	36%	34%	
Millbrae	30%	12%	
Pacifica	36%	26%	
Portola Valley	-2%	17%	✓
Redwood City	39%	41%	
San Bruno	29%	19%	
San Carlos	34%	38%	
San Mateo	40%	33%	
South San Francisco	26%	27%	
Unincorporated	30%	34%	
Woodside	21%	8%	✓

California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board, Waste Characterization and Analysis Branch, *CIWMB Database Project*

➤ SUBSTANCE ABUSE • TREATMENT PROVIDED

Indicators Used

Data on clients receiving substance abuse treatment in San Mateo County are reported. Sources are: the San Mateo County Health Services Agency and the San Mateo County Human Services Agency (Alcohol and Drug Services). The State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs compiles information on a statewide basis. Data on alcohol and drug treatment is also tracked by the DADS/CADDS data system by fiscal year (July-June). DADS/CADDS tracks all clients involved with providers funded by the Human Services Agency.

Importance

According to *Healthy San Mateo 2000*, "substance abuse is one of the biggest threats to the health of the community." Substance abuse can often lead to a variety of societal ills, including violence, automobile accidents, and the spread of fatal diseases. The economic burden on the community is estimated at $400-$500 million per year. Effective treatment of those suffering from substance abuse is essential in helping to curb the injurious effects substance abuse can have on the community and the budget.

continued

	FY 1996-97	June 1997–May 1998	
Total unduplicated clients in alcohol/drug treatment	**4,235**	**3,929**	**(-7%)**
Male	2,783 (66%)	2,632 (67%)	(-5%)
Female	1,451 (34%)	1,295 (33%)	(-11%)
White	2,544 (60%)	2,384 (61%)	(-6%)
Black/African-American	823 (19%)	706 (18%)	(-14%)
Latino	556 (13%)	539 (14%)	(-3%)
Asian/Pacific-Islander	206 (5%)	178 (5%)	(-14%)
Native American/Alaskan	42 (1%)	41 (1%)	(-2%)
Social issues (on admission)			
On probation/parole	1,414 (33%)	1,453 (37%)	(+3%)
Admitted under court diversion	93 (2%)	79 (2%)	(-15%)
Employed full or part-time	1,226 (29%)	1,233 (31%)	(+1%)
Homeless	1,060 (25%)	1,035 (26%)	(-2%)

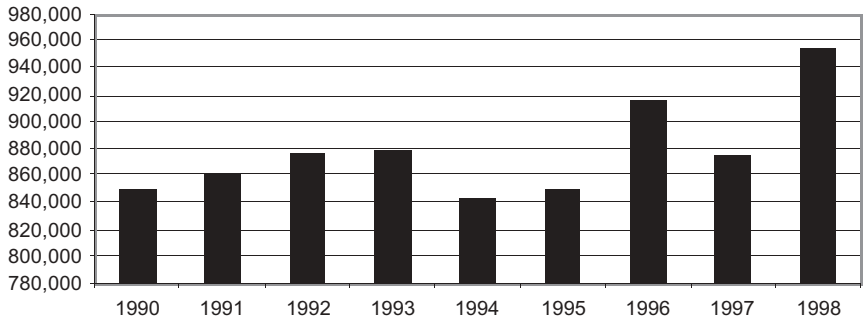
San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Business Systems

SOLID WASTE, *continued*

Direction

Improving accuracy and understanding the specific criteria for calculating diversion rates must be accomplished. It will require diligent efforts by all San Mateo County cities to achieve and maintain the goal of 50 percent by the year 2000. More aggressive recycling programs, increased education, and continued public outreach need to be undertaken in order to fulfill the goal set by (AB) 939. Additionally, new solutions, such as source reduction and finding or creating markets for recycled goods, must be found to increase recycling and to resolve existing problems associated with waste disposal programs.

Tons of Solid Waste Landfilled • 1990–1998



California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board, Waste Characterization and Analysis Branch, *CIWMB Database Project*

Source: California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board, Waste Characterization and Analysis Branch, *CIWMB Database Project*
Researchers: Don Eagleston and Samuel Hawks Booth

Findings

San Mateo County saw a 7 percent decrease in the number of unduplicated (counted only once, regardless of how many treatment visits) persons in alcohol and drug treatment services from fiscal year (FY) 1996-97 to FY 1997-98. The greatest declines, in terms of specific demographics, include women (11 percent), African-Americans (14 percent), Asian/Pacific Islanders (14 percent), and persons diagnosed with mental illness (18 percent).

State reports indicate that San Mateo County has the lowest number of alcohol and drug treatment slots per 100,000 population of the 15 largest California counties. San Mateo has 11 slots per 10,000 population, compared with the statewide average of 28. There were greater declines in detoxification and outpatient day programs than in residential or outpatient treatment and recovery services. State reports also indicate that San Mateo County has the second longest waiting time for alcohol and drug treatment services of the 15 largest California counties. San Mateo's average waiting time was approximately 50 days, compared with the statewide average of 20 days.

Concerning the drug of choice of clients under treatment, there was a 13 percent increase in the number of clients reporting methamphetamine problems during FY 1997-98. There was a decrease in the clients reporting cocaine/crack problems.

Direction

The overall trend in San Mateo County is a decline in the number of clients being treated for substance abuse. This might be attributed in part to increased awareness in the community of the dangers of substance abuse. However, other factors may involve long waiting lists and a lack of available treatment slots. San Mateo County Alcohol and Drug Services' vision for improving the existing county drug treatment system is a planned, comprehensive approach that is collaborative in nature. They believe the system should be coordinated, integrated, interdisciplinary, with stakeholders sharing resources, talents, and problem solving. The goal for the new system is to deliver high quality service that is culturally appropriate, cost effective, and has a spectrum of services that meets the needs and demands from consumers. A second goal is to continue providing leadership in the development of partnerships and relationships with others concerned about problems in San Mateo County relating to alcohol and drug abuse.

	FY 1996-9	June 1997–May 1998	
Total unduplicated clients in alcohol/drug treatment	**4,235**	**3,929 (-7%)**	
Drug of choice of clients			
Alcohol	704 (17%)	658 (17%)	(-7%)
Alcohol and drug	686 (16%)	647 (16%)	(-6%)
Drug only	2,665 (63%)	2,482 (63%)	(-7%)
At least 2 drug problems	2,279 (54%)	2,152 (55%)	(-6%)
At least 3 drug problems	923 (22%)	838 (21%)	(-9%)
Cocaine/Crack	1,533 (36%)	1,307 (33%)	(-15%)
Heroin	1,217 (29%)	1,083 (28%)	(-11%)
Marijuana/Hashish	993 (23%)	988 (25%)	(-1%)
Methamphetamine	791 (19%)	896 (23%)	(+13%)
Used needles in past year	1,226 (29%)	1,087 (28%)	(-11%)

San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Business Systems

Source: "*The Strategic Plan for Alcohol and Drug Services for San Mateo County, Implementation Period Fiscal Year 1998-99,*" Human Services Agency, San Mateo County Alcohol and Drug Services, San Mateo County Substance Abuse Network (courtesy of Yvonne Frazier, Administrator); San Mateo County Health Services, Public Health and Environment Protection Division, *Healthy San Mateo 2000: Health Status Indicators*, 1998

Researchers: Erik Der and Sean Kane

The time has come for economists and business leaders, who pride themselves as masters of the real world, to acknowledge the existence of the real *real world. New indicators of progress are needed to monitory the economy, wherein the natural world and human well-being, not just economic production, are awarded full measure.*

Edward O. Wilson, *Consilience, the Unity of Knowledge*

➤ TRANSPORTATION

Indicators Used

Measurements include: estimated highway vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per year within the county; estimated number of commute trips per day into, out of, and within the county; estimated number of commute trips per day by travel mode; estimated congestion delay on county freeways; annual gasoline consumption; annual bus and train ridership; and level of service (LOS), a rating of congestion, on selected roadway segments.

Importance

Motor vehicles generate emissions and toxic wastes, such as oil and grease, asbestos from brake linings, and rubber particles from tires, creating air, water, and noise pollution. Fossil fuels are nonrenewable resources. Roads take up valuable land and reduce habitat for wildlife. An increase in the vehicle miles traveled reflects increased use of resources; decreased ability to work, live and participate in the neighborhood or local community; more time spent driving from place to place; and less time spent with family and friends. Increased VMT, combined with a reduced level of service contributes to traffic congestion. This puts pressure on government to widen existing roadways and reconstruct interchanges. Roadway construction increases the cost of community infrastructure. A decrease in VMT would reflect reduced travel distances and increased use of less polluting alternatives to driving (walking, biking, work-at-home, transit).

Findings

Estimated VMT increased 104 percent from 1975 to 1997. Estimated daily hours of congestion delay on county freeways increased 600 percent from 1993 to 1998; during that period the total length of congested freeways increased from 14 miles to 33 miles. Congestion measured by vehicle hours of delay has increased on all measured roadway segments in the county. Although numerous road improvements have occurred over the years, increasing freeway congestion remains a continuing problem. Even with planned roadway and transit improvements, congestion in 2010 is predicted to exceed current levels.

Gasoline consumption has risen 9 percent from 1993 to 1997.

The number of commuters driving alone to and from work has increased from 69 percent in 1981 to 73 percent in 1994 while total use of alternative modes of travel has dropped from 31 percent to 27 percent. The number of people working at home has more than doubled from 1980 to 1990, but work-at-home represents only 2 percent of workers in the county.

From 1990 to 2000, the number of jobs in the county increased by 16.6 percent, yet the historically high percentage of out-commuting remained. It is estimated that about 38 percent of employed county residents travel to other counties for work. Of the total commute trips on county streets and highways in 1990, only 45 percent were within the county; 55 percent were trips to or from adjacent countries.

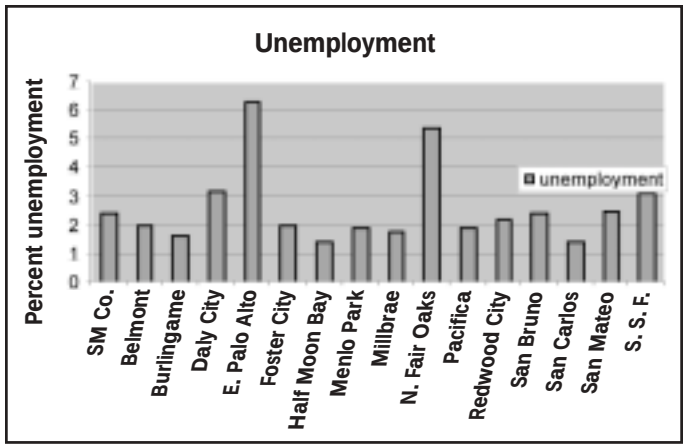
In 1998, SAMTRANS carried 17.3 million passengers, a steady decline since 1991. CalTrain carried 8.3 million passengers in the county, and BART (Colma and Daly City stations only) 6.9 million passengers. There are 29 employee shuttles traveling between BART and CalTrain stations and employment centers. Yet, all forms of transit comprised a small percentage of overall trips.

Direction

The number of motor vehicles and freeway congestion in the county continues to increase. Roadway improvements are offset by continued high levels of out-commuting and increased in-commuting due to an increase of jobs in the county. A lack of coordination of local land use policies with regional transportation planning is a major obstacle to effective congestion relief. Alternative modes of travel are unable to serve the region efficiently because housing, employment centers, shopping areas, and community buildings are located some distance apart and in scattered geographic locations; thus, the use of alternative, less polluting modes of travel is gradually decreasing as a percentage of overall trips. Without changes in land use, employment patterns, housing affordability, and vehicle use, transportation will continue to be a problem in the county, absorbing large financial resources for little real mobility gain.

Sources: Draft 2000 of the San Mateo County *Countywide Transportation Plan*; CalTrans; draft 1997 San Mateo County Congestion Management Program; phone interviews; Department of Transportation, Transportation System Information Program, Office of Travel Forecasting and Analysis, *Travel and Related Factors in California-Annual Summary 1997*
Researcher: Gary Orton

➤ UNEMPLOYMENT



Indicators Used

The average annual unemployment rates from 1988 to 1998 for San Mateo County, the state of California, and the United States are reported. Unemployment includes all people sixteen years or older who are not employed, have made efforts to find employment during the previous four weeks, and are available to be hired. It also includes those waiting to return to employment and those starting work within the next thirty days. These statistics were used to find employment trends in San Mateo County, comparing the different cities, and comparing the whole of San Mateo County with the state of California and with the United States.

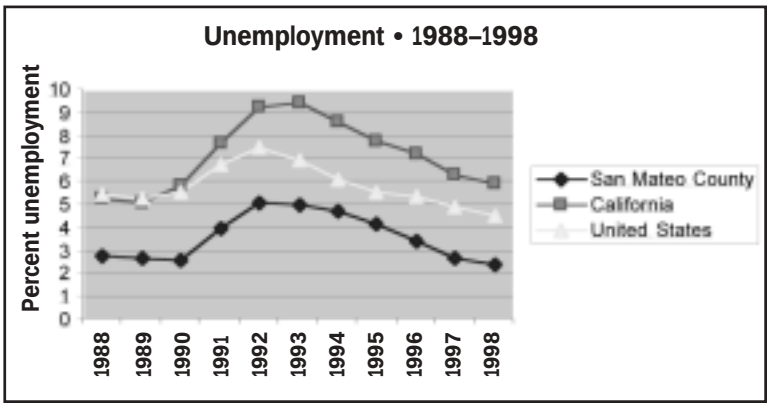
Importance

The measure of unemployment is vital to understanding the economic well being of the area as compared to the state and nation. Low unemployment rates indicate an economy that is well off, with numerous opportunities open for citizens who desire work. High unemployment rates show that there are not enough opportunities for people to make a living.

Findings

San Mateo County's unemployment rate is lower than that of the state, country, and of any other counties in California in 1998.

For 1998, the county's unemployment rate for the year was 2.4 percent, compared to California's rate of 5.9 percent, and 4.5 percent for the United States. The average unemployment rate of San Mateo County from 1988 to 1998 was 3.6 percent, while California's was 7.1 percent, and the United States 5.8 percent. The unemployment rate of the county is not uniform from city to city, though. Half Moon Bay and San Carlos have the lowest unemployment rates of the county, while East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks (a section of Redwood City) have the highest unemployment rates. Furthermore, the county's pattern of unemployment follows that of the state and the nation in terms of general pattern, but the actual percentage of unemployment is lower for several reasons, which include proximity to Silicon Valley, a booming technical industry, and high employment in service and technology industries within the county.



Direction

San Mateo County's 0.3 percent decrease between 1997 and 1998 is remarkable, considering that San Mateo County has reached a decade low unemployment rate of 2.4 percent, well below what is considered as full employment. The unemployment rate trends for the country and for California are also decreasing rather quickly, which means that the economy is booming, and what generally follows is a labor shortage in those job markets in which skilled employees are in high demand.

Sources: Labor Market Information, State of California Employment Development Department (EDD); United States Census Bureau, January 2000
Researcher: Catherine Hsiao

Not only our future economic soundness but the very soundness of our democratic institutions depends on the determination of our government to give employment to idle men.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

➤ VOLUNTEERISM

Indicators Used

Three measurements of volunteerism in San Mateo County were selected. The first estimates the percent of the county's population who volunteer, subdivided by teen/adult and by ethnicity. The second measurement identifies the type of work for which people are interested in volunteering. The third measurement categorizes responses given by people when asked how they got into volunteer work.

Data for the first and third measurements were gathered in a survey conducted by the Volunteerism Project and The Volunteer Centers of the Bay Area. This survey is conducted once every five years. The second measurement is derived from information gathered by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County (VC).

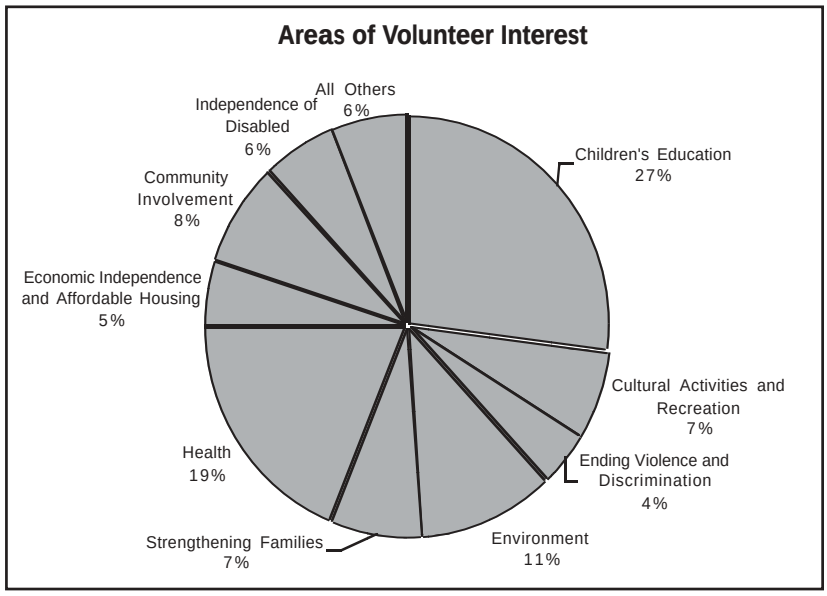
Most data is gathered by random sampling because tracking volunteerism is very difficult. First, the places where volunteers work are so many and so varied - schools, hospitals, museums, theater groups, environmental groups, churches, and agencies and service groups of many kinds. In most cases, agencies do their own recruiting for volunteers, and they ask the VC for assistance for special occasions or additional help. Secondly, many agencies do not collect statistical data on volunteerism and even if they do there is no central point for the compilation of this data.

Importance

In any community there will always be some people who are disabled, sick, or in need of assistance of one kind or another. In a sustainable society the community has a support system in place to assure that the basic needs of all citizens are met. Besides assuring that basic needs are met, volunteers add to the quality of our lives by serving the community in other ways—from being a museum docent to aiding in a classroom or cleaning a beach. Volunteers are increasingly relied upon as public funding decreases for support agencies, diminishing their staffing capacity. By tracking who is involved and why they are involved, we can better estimate and engage the future volunteer force.

Findings

It was found that 42 percent of adults and 51 percent of teens volunteered in 1998. This extrapolates to approximately 317,000 residents of San Mateo County who volunteered an average of 3.5 hours per week. Volunteer work is assigned a value of $14.30 per hour, as calculated by the Independent Sector, a national corporation that tracks information on volunteerism. Based on this figure, $825 million worth of work was done by volunteers in San Mateo County or the equivalent of 27,726 full-time employees. A previous study conducted in 1994 showed 43 percent of adults and 47 percent of teens volunteering.



Volunteerism by ethnicity was 49 percent of African Americans, 28 percent of Asians, 47 percent of Caucasian and Other, and 38 percent of Latinos.

Approximately 7 percent of those who volunteer in San Mateo County use the services of the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County to find their volunteer position. Based on statistics gathered by the VC, the most popular volunteer activities include working with children (27 percent), health issues (19 percent) and the environment (11 percent). The accompanying graph shows the areas in which people are interested.

And finally, how do people get involved? The top responses were because they were asked (36 percent), through a religious organization (20 percent), through school (14 percent, and through their place of employment (11 percent).

continued

➤ VOTER PARTICIPATION

Indicators Used

Three county-wide measurements of voter participation for the years 1990-1999 are included: the percent of the adult population that is registered to vote; the percent of registered voters who actually voted; and the percent of the adult population that actually voted. "Adult population" includes all persons 18 and over whether they are eligible to vote or not.

The percent by city of registered voters voting in the off-year 1999 school and consolidated election is also shown.

Importance

In a sustainable society, citizens participate in making decisions about their communities. A democracy is not working if too few people are engaged in the process. High voter participation indicates that citizens believe in their political institutions and believe that their vote is important and relevant to their lives.

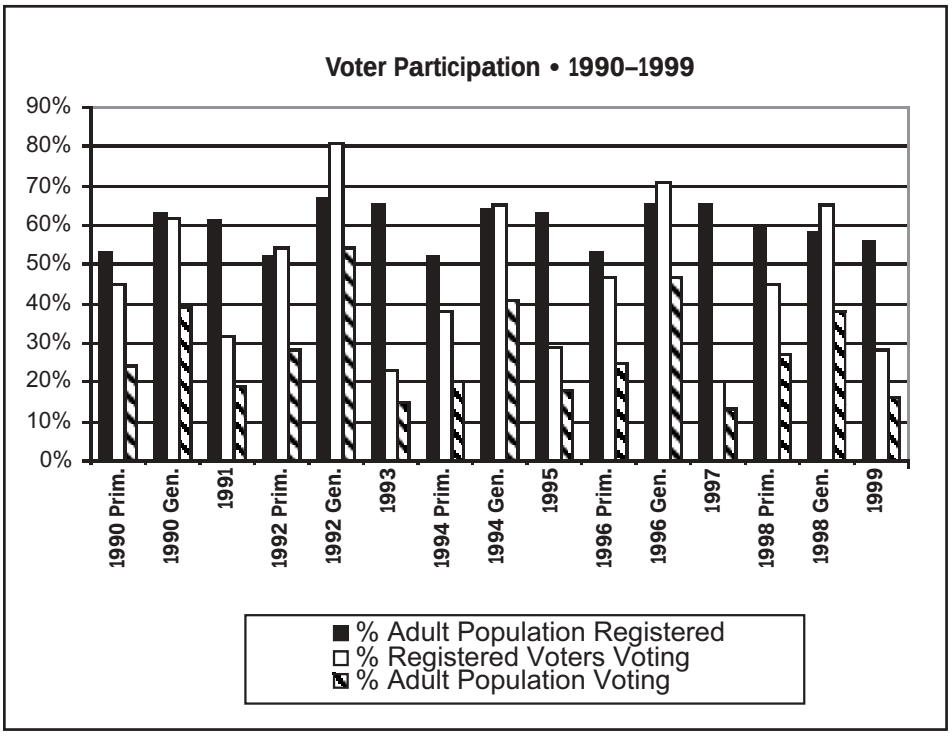
Findings

Fifty-six percent of the adult population was registered to vote. Twenty-eight percent of those registered in the 1999 election actually voted. The adult population participating in the 1999 school and consolidated election was 16 percent. This election was to choose school board members and city council members in 13 cities. Fire, sanitary, water, and special district elections; school bonds; and city measures were also on the ballot.

The county-wide level of participation of adults is similar to the other off-year elections of 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1997; all below 20 percent. In spite of the increased population, the number of persons registered to vote is lower in 1999 by more than 6000 persons.

A breakdown by city shows a range of 17-54 percent of registered voters voting in 1999. The slow-growth measure in Half Moon Bay brought out voters, while in Daly City a school board election alone was insufficient to draw many voters to the polls.

continued



VOLUNTEERISM, *continued*

Direction

The Bay Area and San Mateo County have seen an increase in the number of teenagers who are volunteering. In the Bay Area, volunteering by adults has remained steady over the past five years. Nationally, the numbers have fluctuated since 1987, peaking in 1998 at 55.5 percent but no general trend can be discerned.

Sources: Cathy Maupin, Executive. Director of The Volunteer Center of San Mateo County; The Volunteerism Project and The Volunteer Centers of the Bay Area, *Volunteerism Project's Survey of Volunteering in the Bay Area, January 1999*; *Giving and Volunteering in the United States, Findings from a National Survey*, 1999 Edition, Independent Sector; *1998 San Mateo County Annual Report; Estimates of the Population of Counties by Age, Sex and Race/Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1997*, U.S. Bureau of the Census
Researcher: Karen Decker

➤ WATER CONSUMPTION

Indicators Used

San Mateo County's annual per capita water consumption for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997-1998 is compared with water consumption for The Bay Area Water Users Association's (BAWUA) total service area, as well as to water consumption for the previous fiscal year. BAWUA, a non-profit corporation representing 29 water retailers in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties, annually compiles a survey of water consumption in the areas served by its members. There are no measurements for aquifer water.

Importance

Water consumption is an important indicator of sustainability because of its primary role in everyday tasks such as bathing, washing dishes, and basic living. San Mateo County uses water from two primary sources, local water pumped from wells and water purchased from the members of the above mentioned water association.

Approximately 90 percent of San Mateo County water comes from a source outside of its geologic boundaries, the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Located inside the Yosemite National Park, the O'Shaughnessy Dam was completed in 1927 in order to provide San Francisco with both inexpensive electricity and a reliable water source. John Muir called the now inundated canyon, god's country and believed it to be even *more* spectacular than the Yosemite Valley. He is often quoted as saying, "Dam Hetch Hetchy! As well dam for water-tanks the people's cathedrals and churches, for no holier temple has ever been consecrated by the heart of man."

The other 10 percent of S.M. County water comes from wells tapped into a fresh water aquifer. Currently this water is being over-pumped, meaning that more water is being taken from the ground than percolates back into the aquifer. Overdrawing water from the aquifer causes loss of capacity for storage. When water is removed, the space held by water may collapse, leaving less capacity for future storage. Increased urbanization, in the form of pavement, buildings, and other impermeable structures, results in less surface area for water to trickle down to the aquifer.

Water conservation is important because current use is both overdrawing local sources and relying heavily on far away sources. With an expanding population and increased demands on our finite water supply, water conservation is necessary for a community to be sustainable.

Findings

According to the BAWUA report, the number of people in the service area for San Mateo County grew from 694,980 to 701,240 people (about a 1 percent increase). Using their data for water consumption in FY 1997-1998, annual water use was 42,787,591 CCF (1 CCF = 748 gallons) or 32,000 million gallons. This

continued

VOTER PARTICIPATION, *continued*

Direction

The low level of voter participation continues especially in off-year elections. There is an evident pattern, repeating over the years. Participation in general elections in which the president, congressional and state government officials are elected (even-numbered years) is higher than participation in off-years (odd-numbered years) when school board members, special district board members, and city and county measures are decided.

The use of absentee ballots by those who do vote has increased dramatically. This year more than one-third of votes were cast by absentee ballot.

Sources: California State Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit; *Supplement to Sales and Marketing Management: 1999 Survey of Buying Power; San Mateo County Statement of Vote, Tuesday, November 2, 1999;* Burruto, David, "Voter turnout still slumped in November," *San Mateo County Times*, December 4, 1999
Researcher: Marcia Pagels

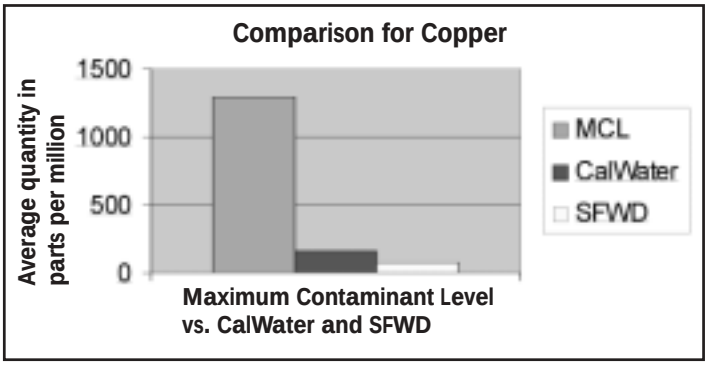
Percent of Registered Voters Voting, by City • 1999

Atherton	38%	Foster City	29	Redwood City	32
Belmont	30	Half Moon Bay	54	San Bruno	39
Brisbane	45	Hillsborough	19	San Carlos	34
Burlingame	34	Menlo Park	21	San Mateo	31
Colma	19	Millbrae	42	S. San Francisco	26
Daly City	17	Pacifica	18	Woodside	19
East Palo Alto	21	Portola Valley	25	Unincorporated	27

➤ WATER QUALITY • TAP WATER

Indicators Used

Measured were the potenially most dangerous impurities liable to be found in drinking water. Levels of trihalomethanes (THMs), methy tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), copper, and lead, in water delivered by San Mateo County's two largest suppliers of water, the San Francisco Water Department (SFWD) and CalWater are reported. Ground well water supplies a small percentage of the county's water and is not measured. The last eight years of water quality reports for the San Francisco Water Department and for CalWater were reviewed. The SFWD supplies most of San Mateo County's water, while CalWater supplies water for the communities of South San Francisco, San Mateo, San Carlos, Colma, Broadmoor, Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside, and portions of Redwood City. The state and federal governments assign a maximum contaminant level for many of the chemical and biological pollutants found in water, and these were used as standards for comparison.

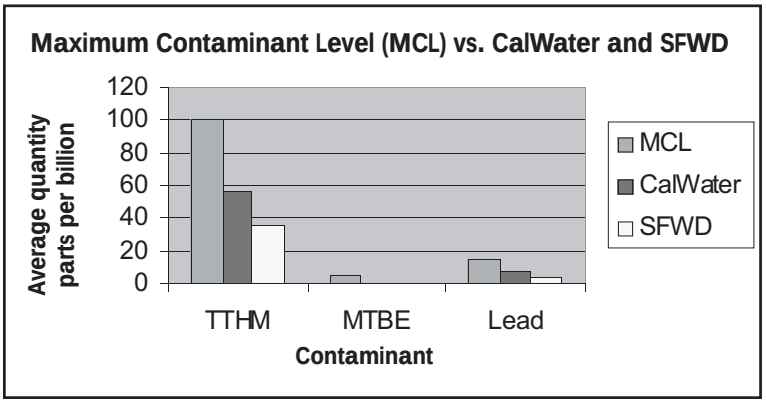


Importance

THMs are chemicals that arise in the chlorination process of water and that are suspected to be carcinogenic and mutagenic, possibly causing damage to DNA. MTBE is an oxygenate that is used to help gasoline burn cleaner, but recent studies show that it is a neurotoxin and possibly a carcinogen. Lead, a metal, can cause severe learning disabilities in children, blood pressure and neurological ailments in adults, and complications in pregnancy. Copper is a metal that can cause nausea, vomiting, and even death when ingested in large quantities. Because of these risks associated with lead and copper ingestion, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) places special emphasis on the monitoring of lead and copper in drinking water.

The quality of drinking water is one of many factors contributing to the environmental and personal health of a community. Poor water can bring disease, birth defects, increased infant mortality, and increased occurrence of cancer.

continued



WATER CONSUMPTION, ***continued***

is equal to about 87.7 million gallons per day. Average per capita consumption for 1997-1998 is estimated at 125.0 gallons per day.

Direction

San Mateo County's per capita water consumption in FY 1997-1998 was lower than the previous year. The 1996-1997 FY per capita consumption was 134.7 gallons per day. According to the BAWUA report this decrease comes from 1997-1998 being one of the wettest years in history. This reduces significantly the amount of water used in landscaping. Typically, landscaping accounts for 25 percent of household water consumption.

Sources: The Bay Area Water Users Association (BAWUA) Annual Survey Results FY 1996-97, 1997-98
Researcher: Edgar Becerra

Findings

The data show that the drinking water of San Mateo County residents and businesses is essentially pollutant free.

Of the 64 organic chemicals monitored in the CalWater Report, only THMs appeared at levels approaching the standard maximum level. The average level of THMs for the entire year was 56 parts per billion (ppb), only 56 percent of the maximum contaminant level (MCL). The water supplied by the SFWD contains on average only 35 ppb of THMs, 35 percent of the MCL.

MTBE, which has proven problematic in neighboring Santa Clara County, is virtually nonexistent in the drinking water of San Mateo County. The federal government has not yet set a standard for MTBE levels in the public drinking supply. State and federal officials have recently lowered the advisory level at which consumers can smell and taste MTBE in water to five ppb, but this advisory serves only as a warning level, not a standard maximum level, for water managers. The level of MTBE detected in the San Francisco Water System is below 0.5 ppb, and no MTBE was detected in water supplied by CalWater.

The average amount of copper in the water supplied by Calwater is 163 ppb, less than thirteen percent of the MCL. The SFWD water contained even less: 75 ppb—less than six percent of the MCL. Lead concentrations were also below the standard levels. The measurements averaged 4 ppb in the SFWD water and 7.3 ppb in CalWater's, the maximum contaminant level being 15 ppb.

Direction

Water quality over the last ten years has varied little and remains excellent.

Sources: California Water Service Group, 1998 Water Quality Report; Environmental Research Foundation, *Lead in Drinking Water*; Rebbeka Grossman, *Tap Water: The Last Taboo*; www.plumbingsupply.com; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission *1998 Water Quality Report*
Researchers: Mat Beale and Benjamin Sywulka

The specialist concentrates on detail and disregards the wider structure which gives it context. The new scientist, however, concentrates on structure on all levels . . . and discerns relationships and situations. By this method (he) can understand a lot more about a great many more things. If we are to understand what we are, and what we are faced with in the social and natural world . . . a general theory of systems is imperative.

Ervin Laszlo, *The Systems View of the World*

➤ UNDERWRITERS ➤

Sustainable San Mateo County wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the support for the Indicators Project by the Peninsula Community Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, Pacific Gas & Electric, Pacific Bell Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce, the County of San Mateo, and the Cities of San Mateo, Brisbane, South San Francisco, Half Moon Bay, Foster City, Portola Valley, and Colma.

➤ STATUS OF OTHER INDICATORS

In addition to the indicators you have just read, Sustainable San Mateo County has been reporting on several others over the years. The following summaries, with the exception of Commercial Fish Catches and Population, appeared in last year's edition, but were not updated for this edition. We were unable to find sufficient, verifiable, and current information to warrant their inclusion as a 2000 indicator.

We hope to include the following indicators in the 5th edition.

Commercial Fish Catches and Population

Increased regulations and the deterioration of ocean and river habitats may be partly responsible for a decrease in the number of fish caught. However, the total fish catch is not an accurate method of measuring the fish population off San Mateo County's coast because oceanographic conditions and natural fluctuations and cycles also impact fish populations.

General Plans and Sustainability

Nearly every city in the county reportedly includes the concept of sustainability in its General Plan, although only one actually uses the word. There is no one accepted definition of sustainability as yet.

Homelessness

While the number of homeless in San Mateo County has increased since 1994, the percentage of the population that is homeless has remained stable at a little under one percent. The number of homeless children, however, has actually decreased by 38 percent.

Parks and Open Space

Countywide, the average acres of developed park lands per 1,000 residents per city is 2.26. The average acres of undeveloped open space is 5.28 per 1,000 residents. Menlo Park reported the most developed park lands, with 7.4 acres per 1,000 residents.

Substance Abuse • Driving Under the Influence

Arrests for Driving Under the Influence in San Mateo County have continued to decline in recent years. Stronger laws and enforcement, coupled with public education and peer pressure, have led to safer roads for everyone.

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Nothing is as profound as an individual acting out of his/her own conscience, thereby awakening the collective conscience.

Norman Cousins

➤ FEEDBACK FORM

The members of Sustainable San Mateo County have made every effort to be inclusive in the process of choosing, writing, reviewing, and producing the indicators for this report. It is always our intent that this be a community project. In the spirit of continuing community participation, we invite you to fill out this page and send it to the address below. Your Comments will be read and taken into account. Your response might be an additional source of information or volunteering your individual, company's, agency's, class', or city's assistance in researching and writing an indicator (or more) for the next report.

1. Is this report useful to you? ❒ yes ❒ no
2. How can it be improved to be more useful?
3. ❒ I/we have particular expertise on the following indicator, and would be willing to provide assistance in its production for the next report:

_____

_____

_____

4. ❒ I/we would be willing to contribute financially or with in-kind service to the production of the next report:

_____

_____

_____

5. Additional comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Your name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Fax/E-mail: _____

Please return to

Sustainable San Mateo County
177 Bovet Road, Sixth Floor
San Mateo, CA 94402
650-638-2323 • Sustainable.Advocate.net

Sustainable San Mateo County

Dedicated to the long-term health and vitality of our region

JOIN NOW

Support these efforts

In San Mateo County

- ✔ Measure indicators to show our progress with sustainability
- ✔ Work with business to achieve sustainability in business plans and operations
- ✔ Promote sustainability as a key criterion in planning and decision-making
- ✔ Sponsor presentations by key advocates for sustainability

You will benefit

- ✔ Receive newsletters/announcements
- ✔ Know you are building a better future for our children, community and planet
- ✔ Enhance the likelihood that your county will maintain a high quality of life into the years ahead

Think globally, act locally!

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Yes!

I want to support the efforts of Sustainable San Mateo County by becoming a member.

Name _____
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- ❒ Benefactor $1000
- ❒ Sustainer $500
- ❒ Sponsor $100
- ❒ Regular $35
- ❒ Senior/Student/Low income $15

All contributions are tax deductible.

Yes!

I want to contribute time as well as financial support.

- ❒ Help with presentations
- ❒ Help the Indicators Project measure S.M. County's progress toward sustainability
- ❒ Work with the Business Task Force
- ❒ Work with the Education Task Force
- ❒ Help with the Annual Sustainability Award
- ❒ Help promote sustainability through other actions or projects

Yes!

I want a copy of the current Indicators Report

- ❒ $6 plus $2 postage and handling

Return this form with check made out to:

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177 Bovet Road, Sixth Floor
San Mateo, CA 94402
(650) 638-2323