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About This Report

This is SSMC's 7th edition of the *Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County; A Yearly Report Card on Our County's Quality of Life*. It highlights relevant facts about our county necessary for stimulating a community dialogue for bettering our community. This 2003 report is being written as we face the possibility of war and its subsequent effects on the national economy, and as the state legislature begins the long process of passing a budget in a deficit year. These crises reveal the interrelationship among the three E's of sustainability—the Economy, the Environment, and Social Equity. What should our priorities be in a time of national and economic insecurity? How can we stimulate *sustainable* economic development, continue to provide social services for those in need, while protecting the health of our planet?

The *Indicators* was designed to provide some of the data our county leaders need in making difficult decisions. It covers aspects or indicators of all three of the three E's. The topical index shows how these indicators are relevant to multiple topics.

This report is a community activity, with volunteers of all ages, from high school and

college students to professionals to retired senior citizens doing the research, writing, editing, and design layout. SSMC could not produce this report without these volunteers or without the financial support of many others, particularly the county and many of the cities, which have generously supported us in the past. Volunteers and sponsors are listed in the back of the report.

This year we added some extra pages. This added space accommodates insets or sidebars for a few sentences about some of SSMC's Sustainability Award winners. These sidebars are meant to encourage others to undertake similar endeavors. In addition to this new feature we have one new section this year—"Health Insurance Coverage and Medical Costs." "Mortality" and "Prenatal Health Care" reappear. "Fish Populations and Commercial Fish Catches" has been renamed "Living Marine Resources." "Land Use" and "Homelessness" are absent this year, but will return when we have new data. The "Summary" which follows has two sections. The first part covers the definition and recent history of "sustainable development," and the second part covers the individual summaries of each section of this report.

Summary

Definition and Recent History of "Sustainable Development"

The inspiration for Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) and the *Indicators* project began with the 1987 publication of *Our Common Future* by the World Commission on Environment and Development. That publication made "sustainable development" a universally recognized concept. It called for a United Nations summit on the issues involved. That conference, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, yielded a 40-chapter blueprint of sustainability principles and calls for action (*Agenda 21*).

Both the Commission and the Rio Summit based their deliberations on the evidence that humans were using the natural resources of the earth at rates higher than could be sustained. Yet the continued livelihood of humanity was based on the availability of those resources. Being aware of this condition, the Commission enunciated its now well-known definition: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The problem, of course, is determining: 1) What exactly that definition means; 2) How to measure how we are doing; 3) How to change our unsustainable behavior? Sustainability indicators are an effort to address the first two of these questions. Knowing that we are behaving unsustainably, say in energy consumption or water use, will not in and of itself change behavior, but before one can start a program of social change, credible information about the current circumstances is necessary.

Sustainability, as an ecological concept, is holistic and systemic, encompassing the biophysical as well as the human dimensions, focusing on their interactions. SSMC has used a shorthand for these dimensions, the three "Es"—Environment, Economy, and Equity.

There are three basic environmental principles that should inform the functioning of the economy: 1) Renewable resources, such as the soil used in agriculture, should not be used or abused at a greater rate than they can be regenerated; 2) Non-renewable resources, such as petroleum, should not be used at a rate greater than renewable substitutes are made available; 3) The amount of pollution and waste generated by humans should not exceed the assimilative capacity of the ecosystem.

Unfortunately, humans have a proclivity to invent economic systems that do not follow these principles. Thus, the economic systems may work well for a while, but eventually they self-destruct. The industrial-technology, fossil-fuel based sys-

tems that have developed over the last 200 years have been the biggest violators of these environmental principles. The dominant measure used to evaluate degree of success or failure in modern economic systems, the Gross National Product (GNP), does not incorporate the cost of environmental degradation. In fact, paradoxically, the cleanup and health costs of toxic fallout are counted as a positive contribution to the Gross National Product!

Neither the World Commission nor the Rio Summit directly confronted this contradiction. Both recognized poverty and global income inequality as serious impediments to sustainability, but they relied on the existing economic systems to solve these problems while respecting environmental constraints. Critics have argued that taking this approach to sustainable development makes the phrase an oxymoron. The economic incentive structures are counter-ecological.

So far the critics have been proven correct. At the first five-year review of the Rio-established Commission for Sustainable Development, most of the sustainability indicators were negative. But since the participating countries could not agree on what to do about the dismal situation, the Chair of the Commission decided not to even issue a statement. Deforestation and desertification were worse than in 1992; carbon emissions were higher; water was scarcer; fish stocks were lower; loss of species had not abated; air pollution was greater; more people were in poverty.

Sadly, the reviews prepared five years later in 2002, such as *Global Environmental Outlook 3* by the United Nations Environmental Program, document a continually deteriorating situation in most categories. These reports were intended as background material for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa. This Summit did not generate any new multilateral environmental treaties such as the Convention on Biodiversity that came out of Rio, but it did produce two governmental consensus statements, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and a Plan of Implementation. There were also 280 "partnership initiatives"—sustainable development agreements among national governments, international institutions, businesses, labor groups, NGO's, and others. There were over 8,000 non-governmental participants accredited for the Summit which included over 1,000 business

continued

representatives, among whom there were 120 CEO's or board chairpersons.

At the Johannesburg Summit the United States Government distinguished itself by being opposed to all definite commitments, such as date-specific targets for achieving environmental objectives or specific amounts of financial assistance for poor countries. The U.S. succeeded in preventing any agreement on targets for reducing carbon emissions or increasing the proportion of energy from renewable sources as well as on financial assistance. Some new targets were established, however: halving the 3 billion people without access to sanitation by 2015, restoring fisheries to sustainable yields by 2015, reducing biodiversity loss by 2010, and seeking minimization of harmful effects from chemical production and use by 2020. These are, however, just "paper agreements," as they do not include any means of enforcement.

The Plan of Implementation also includes commitments by national governments to begin strategies of sustainable development by 2005 and to develop 10-year frameworks for programs of sustainable production and consumption. The highly industrialized countries are expected to take the lead on the latter, as they are responsible for most of the production and consumption. The richest 20% of world population accounts for 86% of personal consumption expenditures. Private consumption in the United States is about five times the global average. Despite its bountiful natural resources, the U.S. exceeds its natural resource capacity by about 40%. The deficit is made up by taking advantage of the surpluses available in other countries, such as Canada. If, however, every country tried to emulate U.S. production and consumption patterns, according to ecological planners Wackernagel and Rees, we would need three planets rather than one. Yet major poor countries, such as China, seem to be following the U.S. down this unsustainable path.

This concept of the amount of utilization of the natural resource capacity is called the "ecological footprint." It is estimated by calculating, for each country's economy, given its current population and technology utilized, the area in hectares of biologically productive land that is required to continuously provide the energy and materials consumed as well as to absorb the waste generated, such as carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning. The footprint for each country is compared with its available capacity to determine whether it is in deficit or surplus. The world is already in deficit, making up the difference with non-renewable resources, yet two-fifths of the world's population is still in desperate poverty.

To break out of this dilemma, not only does each individual have to think about the sustainability implications of her or his decisions and actions, but we also collectively need to redesign our economic system to make it compatible with sustainability.

The December 2002, issue of *Ecological Economics* contains a report of a conference held at the University of Maryland in which the objective was to invent a vision of a sustainable society for the U.S. by the end of the new century. The conference participants took a stand for strong sustainability and strong democracy. Strong sustainability implies that our existing institutions, e.g., market capitalism, are not capable of bringing about real sustainability. Strong democracy implies that only locally based, community-oriented, participatory democracy will bring about the changes in culture and values that are required to create a truly sustainable society.

Some of the key features of their vision for a sustainable society include:

- "An ecological worldview of complexity and indeterminacy, inspired by nature as mentor-holistic, integrated, and flexible-will replace the worldview of mechanical physics."
- Concern for the common good and other values will replace individualism and consumerism.
- Instead of market prices driving decisions, measures incorporating all social and environmental benefits and costs will guide decision-making.
- Cities and economies will be redesigned so that people achieve most of their needs locally and renewably.
- Natural resources will be viewed and treated as scarce capital that needs to be preserved for all future generations, not treated as a commodity with which to make profit.
- The obsession with economic growth will be replaced with an emphasis on equitable, socially oriented human development.
- The U.S. needs to globally cooperate in addressing all threats to a sustainable global ecosystem.

Resources: Farley, Joshua and Robert Costanza, "Envisioning Shared Goals for Humanity: A Detailed, Shared Vision of a Sustainable and Desirable USA in 2100," *Ecological Economics*, vol. 43 nos. 2-3 (December, 2002); Khor, Martin, "A Disappointing Summit," *Third World Resurgence*, no. 145/146 (September/October, 2002); United Nations Environmental Program, *Global Environmental Outlook 3*, (Earthscan: London), 2002; Wackernagel, Mathis and William Rees, *Our Ecological Footprint*, (New Society Publishers: Gabriola Island, British Columbia), 1996; World Watch Institute, *State of the World: 2003*, (W.W. Norton & Company: New York), 2003
Researcher: Raymond Miller

Topical Summaries

Agriculture and Forestry

For over two hundred years agriculture and forestry have been a vital part of San Mateo County's economic base. The gross production value from the agricultural and forestry industries in 2001 was \$177,110,000, a decrease of 11% from that of the previous year. The calculated economic contribution to San Mateo County for 2001 remained well above six hundred million dollars, \$619,885,000. The decrease from last year was probably due to several factors: general economic downturn, increased influx of competitively priced foreign imports, and restrictions imposed on the export of potted plants to Canada because of fears raised by the outbreak of Sudden Oak Death in California.

An Agricultural Summit was held in February 2003 to address agricultural concerns. Special emphasis was placed on improving water quality and land use policies. The outcomes of this Summit will be addressed in future SSMC reports.

Air Quality

All of the pollutants measured by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District occur in our county, but ozone and particulate matter (PM10) are those that most often exceed state or federal allowances. No federal exceedences or days over standard (DOS) occurred in 2001. California's more stringent standards were exceeded once for ozone and four times for PM10.

Arts Participation

Surveys sent to city arts commissions and to a wide variety of arts organizations showed that the current downturn in the economy is negatively affecting all areas of arts support. Arts organizations are turning more to corporations and foundations for funding support, but those sources are currently less able to respond. Self-generated sources of income are limited. Although the arts have been shown to generate \$134 billion nationally in economic activity each year and arts education has been shown to increase students' academic performance, the arts are most often where funding cuts are made.

Biodiversity

It is accepted that communities need to protect and restore native ecosystems to enjoy the benefits of the region's biodiversity. Species must be listed according to mandated state or federal requirements before protective actions can legally be set in motion to protect them. Threats from non-native animals and plants also impact an area's biodiversity. Recently feral pigs are more

numerous in the Santa Cruz Mountains and rototill the soil causing erosion, which hurts certain fish and the red-legged frog, and gives access to non-native plants such as pampas grass. Funds are being allotted to map current conditions and reduce the risks. The programs need to be monitored and assessed in future *Indicators* reports. As of October 2002, no species whose habitat is found in the county has been added or removed from endangered/threatened lists since 1999.

Child Abuse

From 1999-2001, a yearly average of 4,712 referrals of child abuse was reported. These referrals include cases of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse, and neglect suffered by children ages 0-17. The rate per 1,000 children is 26 child abuse referrals. San Mateo is ranked #1 as having the lowest number of substantiated child abuse reports in California. While the substantiated cases have remained stable using a three-year average, funding for treatment of child abuse is in jeopardy.

Child Care

Child care is vital to working parents and their employers. Because of the high cost of living in the county many families depend on two incomes. Fifty-seven percent of children ages 0-6 live with both parents in the work force compared with a statewide rate of 52%. Approximately 68% of these same children who need care have it available to them in a licensed facility. Average costs for child care range from \$654 to \$979 per month. Providing adequate and affordable child care is an ongoing community problem made even more difficult by our weak economy, which results in lower and inconsistent income for child care professionals, thus resulting in an unstable environment for our children.

Christmas Bird Count

Number and diversity of birds are good indicators of the health of an ecosystem. Crystal Springs and Año Nuevo are the two sites of the count taken annually. This indicator reports on five species that represent different dietary, nesting, and mating requirements. The Common Raven is thriving because of its ability to occupy various habitats and adapt quickly to human environmental changes. Future data are needed to determine population stability for the other species.

continued

City Parks and Open Space

Between 2000 and 2002 the amount of developed parks acreage in the 20 surveyed cities increased by 96.2 acres. During this same period the amount of open space in all cities together decreased by 745.9 acres.

Community Safety

The Community Safety indicator charts the growth or decline in the overall crime within the county. In the year 2001, San Mateo County showed a much higher growth in overall crime and crime rate per 100,000 population of the county compared with the State of California. There was an 11.3% increase in violent crime rate in the county versus a declining violent crime rate throughout the state. In contrast, the violent crime rate for juvenile offenders showed a decline in the county even as it increased slightly in the state.

Employment Trends

Diversity in the local economy is an important element of sustainability. Currently, small- and medium-sized businesses account for a large percentage of the number of businesses in the county. The economic downturn in the past year has threatened the stability of these small- and medium-sized businesses, which contribute significantly to the county's economic diversity.

Energy Consumption

San Mateo County's voracious consumption of non-renewable sources of energy has threatened the natural environment as well as the very health of its inhabitants. Whether one looks at energy from gasoline, or natural gas, or electricity, this picture remains bleak. Although the State of California has passed automotive emission limits and the county has passed "green" building restrictions on its county constructions, no national initiatives are forthcoming. Such inaction reflects an inability or unwillingness to do anything about the global implications of our gluttonous ways of using energy and the finite sources that produce it.

Green Building Policies

The new construction, demolition, renovation, and long-term use of buildings causes harm to the environment. To reduce adverse impacts, architects are designing "green" buildings, which save energy and reduce air pollution, use recycled and resource-efficient materials, save water, create a healthy indoor environment, reduce maintenance and operating costs, and minimize construction waste. Municipalities that adopt "green" building policies indicate support of construction that is more sustainable. As of December 14, 2002, the

county had adopted a "green" building policy, but none of the twenty cities had established such a policy, although some cities were designing "green" facilities for their own municipal use.

Health Insurance and Health Costs

The number of people without medical insurance grows yearly and the costs of care are escalating. In 2001 there were approximately 43,000 uninsured children and adults in San Mateo County.

Results of a survey indicate that the county is short of doctors. On a more positive note the county's new hospital opened in 2001, and in 2002 the Board of Supervisors passed a program to cover all children with health insurance who are not otherwise covered.

High School Dropouts

Well-educated young adults contribute to sustaining a high quality of life in a community. The dropout rate from public high school in 2000-2001 in the county is very low, ranging from 0.0% in Pescadero Unified District to 3.8% in the Sequoia High School District. If dropout rates are compared by gender, male students dropped out of high school slightly more often than females at 2.3% and 2.0% respectively. If declared ethnic backgrounds of students are compared, Asian, White, and Filipino students dropped out less than 2.0%; American Indian or Alaskan, Hispanic or Latino, Pacific Islander, and African-American students showed dropout rates of above 3% but no higher than 4.8%.

Housing Affordability

After a brief dip in 2001, the median price of a single-family home countywide increased 5.9% in 2002 from \$590,000 to \$625,000. The price for a condominium remained constant from last year. The annual gross income required to buy a median-priced house in the county increased 3.3% in 2002 to \$135,300, which reversed the movement toward affordability recorded last year. Meanwhile, the annual gross income required to buy a condominium dropped 1.9% to \$83,345 primarily because of lower interest rates. The median-income family could still not afford the median-priced home, but could afford the median-priced condominium. Both median and low-income families could afford rental housing because apartment rents moved down in 2002.

continued

Living Marine Resources

Most people are aware of the value to our health of regularly eating fish. We now learn that San Mateo County's salmon stocks have seriously declined, forcing a rapid demand for slow-growing rockfish, which in turn has caused a decline in that fish stock. Rockfish are now protected by closure in all Pacific Ocean coastal waters. Available data on marine environmental health are sketchy, but sufficient to start a varied set of remedies such as establishing marine protected areas, enacting laws to limit the taking of certain marine species, and placing management principles before laissez-faire attitudes or personal wishes.

Mortality

The leading causes of death for San Mateo County residents are cancer, heart disease, and stroke. While the number of deaths has changed very little from 1995 to 1999, heart disease and stroke have increased in frequency (up 19.1% and 26.8%, respectively). Analysis of the root or actual causes of death shows that life style modifications (tobacco use, diet and activity habits, and consumption of alcohol) need to be made if the rate of killer diseases is to be reduced significantly.

Per Pupil Funding

For the fifth consecutive K-12 school year (2000/2001), average revenues and expenditures increased, though total enrollment continued to decline. Average revenues per annual daily attendance for grades K-12 in 2000/2001 were \$8,123 and expenditures were \$6,855. The disparity among school districts' per pupil funding continues.

Population

San Mateo County's population in January 2002 was estimated to be 713,800; with a total land area of 449 square miles, it is densely populated with close to 1600 persons per square mile. While our overall growth rate is slow, we are experiencing a significant domestic out-migration that is countered by a large foreign immigration equal to our natural increase. A quarter of our population consists of children and youth, and our senior population is relatively high.

Poverty

The San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) provides and monitors welfare programs for the county. Between 1997 and 2001, San Mateo County's public assistance recipients declined at a rate greater than that of California as a whole. The number of children served increased, however. The Welfare to Work Program links families on public assistance with housing and

training in self-sufficiency skills. County participants in that program nearly tripled. The HSA's 2002 estimate of the amount of money needed per month to sustain a family of three was \$5,112 (\$61,344 annually).

Prenatal Health Care

Prenatal health care in San Mateo County is necessary to maintain a healthy and productive society. An array of organizations have set goals and have monitored progress toward these goals—adequacy of prenatal care, infant mortality, low birth weights of newborns, and birth rates of the adolescent population. By these measures the county is doing well or progressing positively toward approved measures of prenatal care.

Public Library Use

Public library use is an indication of literacy, political interest, business research, education, intellectual curiosity, and general interest in reading, videos, CDs, and computers. In 2001/02, the total combined annual expenditure per capita for all the library systems in the county rose 17.4% from 1999/2000 to \$47.95 per capita which is historically higher than statewide. Materials circulation per capita was down 7.4% from 1999/2000 and reference questions asked were down 21.9%. All county libraries in 2001/02 were open to the public 3.1% fewer hours than in the previous year indicating a slight decrease in public accessibility to libraries.

Solid Waste

Solid waste in San Mateo County is being reduced. While 757,614 tons of solid waste went to landfills in 2002, this is a 20% reduction since 1998. If the county follows the state pattern, then almost half of the waste stream comes from the commercial sector and approximately 38% comes from the residential sector.

No cities in the county remain on compliance schedules, but many cities have not yet reached the 50% mandated reduction requirement.

Substance Abuse • Arrests for DUI

Driving vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances is a demonstration of gross irresponsibility to the community. San Mateo County has experienced a healthy downward trend of arrests for driving under the influence among the adult population. Juvenile arrests, however, have only recently leveled off in 2001, returning to the level of 1998. It is too early to identify this downturn as permanent, but one may derive a glimmer of hope from the latest statistics.

continued

Substance Abuse • Treatment Provided

In fiscal year 2001/2002, about 5,000 patients enrolled in alcohol/drug treatment, a number that remained virtually unchanged from the previous year. Substantial increases, though, are recorded for several specific drugs, and there is a notable five-year growth rate.

Transportation

Transportation continues to be a major concern in San Mateo County. In 2001 the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) was close to five million miles, but this was only a small increase over the prior year. The daily vehicle hours of delay dropped significantly (39%) from 2000 to 2001. Most trips continue to be by automobile. Public transit ridership was 5%.

The new lanes on the San Mateo/Hayward Bridge improved east/west traffic flow. Transportation improvements scheduled are the intermodal connection between Caltrain and BART at Millbrae, and "Baby Bullet" trains between San Francisco and San Jose. The federal and state financial crises may affect the implementation of other longer range transportation projects.

Unemployment

San Mateo County's unemployment rate from January to October 2002 was 4.5%. Unemployment in the state was 6.4% and 5.7% in the nation. The areas with the highest unemployment in San Mateo County were East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks, and Daly City. Comparing the single month of October 2001 with October 2002, employment in the three West Bay counties of Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo was down by 31,500 jobs, with major declines in services and air transportation.

Volunteerism

Many of the county's institutions and their related programs and activities would be hard pressed to continue without significant help from volunteers, estimated to be as numerous as 275,000. Though hard data are often difficult to come by, San Mateo County demonstrates a solid corps of volunteers. They come from all age, gender, and ethnic groups, though women volunteer much more often than men do. The areas of mental and physical health, children's education, and community involvement attract the greatest number of volunteers in the county. There may be a serious shrinkage taking place, but it will take another year or two to establish a trend.

Voter Participation

In 2002 gubernatorial, federal, state, judicial, municipal, school, and special district elections were held. Fifty-nine percent of the adult population was registered to vote. Of those registered, 29% actually voted, giving an adult population participation of 17%. More registered voters (39%) used absentee ballots in this election than previously.

Water Consumption

Annual water consumption in San Mateo County in FY 2000/01 was 35.4 billion gallons—nearly 100 million gallons per day—or 135.4 gallons per capita per day (gpcpd). Although less than the Bay Area average of 160.4 gpcpd, it is the highest consumption reported to date in these *Indicators*. Consumption roughly correlates with affluence: consumption in Menlo Park (the highest in the county at 335.2 gpcpd) is more than four times as high as in East Palo Alto (76.5 gpcpd). The overall per capita consumption trend is upward, a "yellow alert" for policymakers.

Water Quality • Tap Water

The drinking water in San Mateo County continues to be essentially free of contaminants. Lead and copper in tap water are below levels set by both state and federal regulations.

Trihalomethanes are present at levels approaching maximum limits, but a new treatment facility at the Pulgas Water Temple will go on-line this year bringing the presence of this contaminant to an end in the county.



"In effect, we are behaving as though we have no children, as though there will not be a next generation."

Worldwatch Institute
1998 State of the World report

Agriculture and Forestry

Importance

Agriculture, historically a basic and vital part of San Mateo County's diverse economy, continues to be an important generator of additional jobs for such ancillary businesses as packaging, trucking, and selling farm materials, supplies, and services. The gross production value of agriculture to San Mateo County for 2001 was \$177,110,000. Statisticians calculate the extended economic effect of the agricultural industry by using a standard 3.5 multiplier on the gross production value, yielding in San Mateo County a total of \$619,885,000.

Beyond monetary valuation, although not easily measurable, are other advantages to the whole region in having a thriving agriculture. Tilled acreage contributes substantially to a healthful microclimate, proportionally to the macroclimate. It gives the pleasant feelings associated with open space. Controlled grazing maintains the open space

and helps to minimize soil erosion. An apt new descriptive term in sustainability literature for these effects of parkland and open space is "a working landscape."

Communities that buy locally-grown produce are usually interested in the well-being of local agricultural land and support

retaining and protecting agricultural land from urban sprawl, industrial development, and negligent land management. Additionally, fruits and vegetables grown out of the region lose freshness, probably nutrition, and require added energy and expense to transport. And transportation fuel emissions take a toll in diminished air quality. All these considerations are sufficient reason for purchasing seasonal local produce.

Indicators Used

The values reported (costs of production not included) of agricultural production for 2001 are shown in the accompanying charts for the six largest income-producing crop categories. Their acreage is shown. Production values for eight years (1993-2001) are also illustrated.

Findings

San Mateo County's "2001 Agricultural Crop Report" was produced again this year by the county Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures in compliance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

This year's report shows a gross production value of \$177,110,000, an 11% decrease from the previous year's figure of \$198,664,000 for 2000. Floral and nursery crops were valued at \$137,614,000, a drop of close to \$18 million from last year. About twice as much of these crops were grown indoors under glass or plastic as outdoors, mostly around Half Moon Bay with a few large greenhouses and some fields inland from Pescadero.

Vegetable crops valuation dropped to \$34,564,000 from \$36,160,000, a distant second in production value to that of floral and nursery. Scattered the length and width of the coastal plain, vegetable growing acreage brought in lower market prices for Brussels sprouts, mushrooms, and leeks this year. Timber production value at \$2,742,000 dropped 30% from \$4,533,000 in 2000, harvesting 354,000 board feet fewer than in last year.

One new organic farm reported adding some 20 acres of land in organic production.

The \$18 million dollar decrease in gross production value for 2001 floral and nursery crops was probably caused by the general economic downturn, the continued influx of competitively priced foreign imports, and restrictions imposed on the export of potted plants into Canada because of Sudden Oak Death.

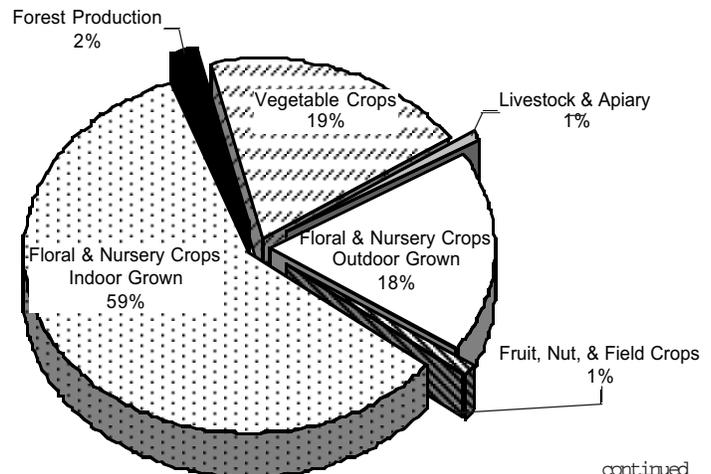
No information is reported on the progress of California's new food safety measures now being planned by an Agricultural Commission subcommittee to cope with the possible threat of terrorist activities.

Considerable progress is being made by a partnership involving the San Mateo County Farm Bureau with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Coalition of Central Coast Farm Bureaus, which together developed an Agricultural Water Quality Program. The program uses technical advice and support by the county Agricultural

2003

JZ Cool Eatery uses locally grown organic products including hormone-free meat products and practices energy conservation and recycling to reduce waste in its restaurant operation.

Percent Production Value by Crop Production Category • 2001



continued

Agriculture and Forestry, continued

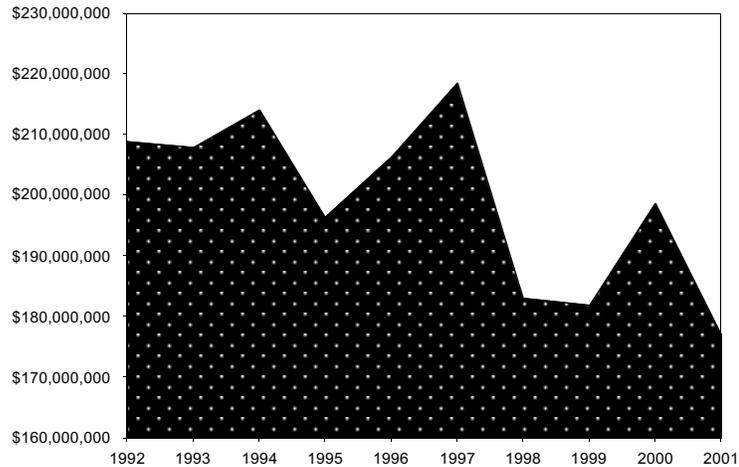
Commissioner, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, UC Cooperative Extension and the State Regional Water Quality Control Board. Task groups of farmers and governmental regulatory and non-regulatory agencies are working towards reducing agricultural non-point source pollution, and bringing about cleaner water in our San Mateo County coastal streams and the ocean. Worth noting is that farmers are demonstrably taking initiative in handling these important problems, enrolling in classes for education and taking subsequent action.

Direction

The County's Agricultural Advisory Committee, composed of growers, environmental community experts, and interested public, is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to provide input to them and to the Planning Commissioners as well, and has played a pivotal role in bringing about an exciting new development- "An Agricultural Summit for San Mateo County." A resolution for such a meeting to be held* under their auspices on February 28, 2003, was passed by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. It states forthrightly that "Agriculture in San Mateo County is threatened," and that the Commissioners and

*When this report is read this summit will have taken place, but as this is being written, it is still in the future.

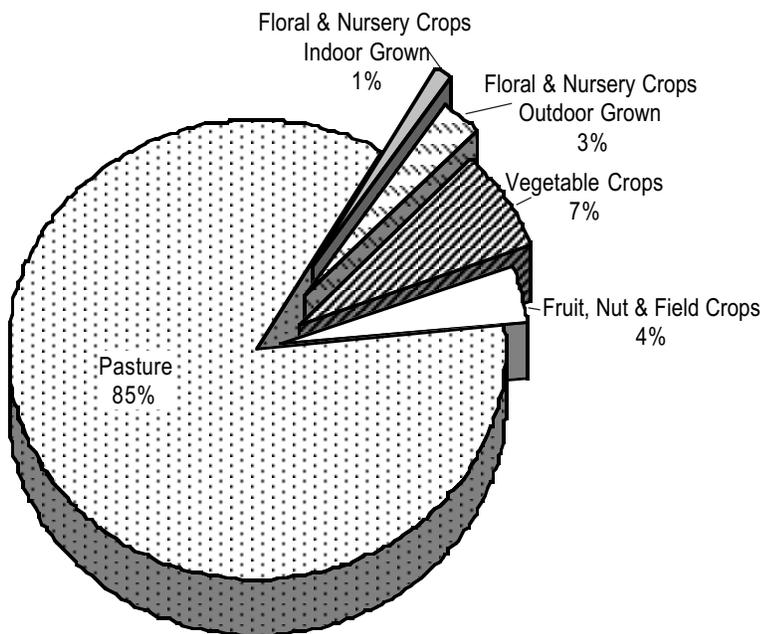
Total Production Value • 1992-2001



Supervisors also believe that they need to get out the story about agriculture, its history in the county, the current situation, and threats to the future of agriculture in the county. The purpose of the summit will be to explore visions for invigorating and sustaining agriculture in San Mateo County emphasizing two immediate and future problems: securing "a dependable water supply" and keeping land in agricultural production. Supervisor Rich Gordon, in a memo to his fellow supervisors recommending the summit, calls agriculture "our oldest economic engine, one over two centuries old."

Invited to attend will be leading experts concerned with the issues, farmers, politicians, educators, environmentalists, governmental agricultural workers, media, and agencies. By publication time this innovative important meeting will have resulted in developing and reporting on their visions for invigorating and sustaining agriculture in San Mateo County and strategies to accomplish that end.

Percent Acreage by Crop Production Category • 2001



Sources: 2001 *Agricultural Crop Report*, San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures; conversations with Gail Raabe, Agricultural Commissioner (San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures); Jack Olson, Executive Administrator (San Mateo County Farm Bureau); Tim Frahm, Conservation and Water Quality Program Director (San Mateo County Farm Bureau); Ann I. King, Ph.D., Environmental Horticulture Advisor, San Mateo and San Francisco Counties (University of California Cooperative Extension)

Researcher: E.W.Anderson

Air Quality

Importance

Clean air is essential for health. Polluted air is currently exacerbating respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema. Continued exposure to ozone, even at relatively low levels, can eventually reduce lung function and cause chest pain and coughing. Bad air quality is detrimental not only to human health, but to the overall environment and productivity of communities, plants, and animals.

Indicators Used

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) measures and regulates air quality in the Bay Area. BAAQMD measures five major air pollutants for which health-based exposure limits have been set by the national Environmental Protection Agency and by California: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter. California standards are more stringent than national standards for the five pollutants.

Ozone results from a chemical reaction between nitrogen dioxide and other organic gases caused by ultraviolet light. Ozone at ground level contributes to smog and reduced visibility, respiratory problems, eye irritation, and vegetation damage.

Carbon monoxide comes from motor vehicle exhaust.

Nitrogen dioxide forms when a material burns at high temperature. Car engines are also the main source of this air pollutant. At higher concentrations, it damages sensitive crops.

Sulfur dioxide is formed by the burning of fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas. It is a byproduct of impurities in the fuel and can damage vegetation, human beings, and animals.

Particulate matter (PM10) is made up of dust, mist, ash, smoke, and fumes. These constituents come from open-fire smoke, petroleum refining, the burning of fuel in vehicles and airplanes, and by earth-moving operations in farming, industry, and construction.

Violations of standards are measured by exceedences or Days over Standard (DOS). Reported here are the DOS for these five pollutants for 2001.

Findings

BAAQMD maintains monitoring stations throughout the Bay Area. The only one in San Mateo County is located in Redwood City, and the findings recorded here are from that location.

No exceedences of national standards occurred in 2001. California standards were exceeded for ozone and PM10. The DOS occurred once for ozone and four times for PM10. Since PM10 is sampled only every sixth day, actual DOS can be estimated to be six times that, or 24 days. Carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide readings continue to remain below California and national DOS.

Direction

All of the pollutants measured by BAAQMD occur in our county, but ozone and PM10 are those that most often exceed the DOS standards. In the years 1997-2000, the ozone level was within national and California standards, so the level of ozone in the county increased slightly in 2001. For San Mateo County there were no DOS for particulate matter from 1996-2000, so PM10 has increased more significantly at four DOS in 2001. Comparatively, the Bay Area as a whole had 15 California DOS for ozone and 10 DOS for PM10 in 2001.

Sources: www.baaqmd.gov/pie/apsums.htm;
www.oaspub.epa.gov/airdata/

Researchers: Ai-Mun Chew and Christine Fanchiang

— 2003 —

Emma's Eco-Clean, a women-owned cleaning cooperative, has shown how to effectively use the least toxic alternative methods and materials for residential and commercial cleaning services.

Arts Participation

Importance

The arts improve the quality of life in any community. They are a means for reflection and a vehicle for bringing meaning into people's lives, for coping with tragedy, and for expressing joy. A vibrant arts environment can have a substantial positive effect on the economy through increased cultural tourism, with visitors spending on transportation, hotels, restaurants, and shopping. The arts, too, are an important criterion for corporate recruitment.

Education is another area where the arts exert a strong positive effect. Studies measuring test scores, grades, attendance, and retention demonstrate that the arts improve students' overall academic performance. They can be an important means to reach those at risk and, for all students, help develop thinking skills, imaging, collaboration, perseverance, and responsibility, and help promote cross-cultural understanding.

San Mateo County has an impressive array of arts organizations offering opportunities to participate and give back generously to the community by volunteering time at community festivals, hosting free concerts in the park, donating scholarships and tickets, or providing special programs for low-income youth. For example, Performing Arts for Youth Society (PAYS) last year provided low-cost tickets (\$2 and \$2.50) that enabled more than 27,000 youngsters to attend performances. The South Coast Artists' Alliance annually provides \$5,000 for art scholarships, art instruction in local schools, visiting artists, and field trips to art events. Conversely, arts organizations rely on volunteers to help build and paint sets, usher, mail brochures, answer phones, and perform countless other activities. There is a real win-win circle of involvement with the community.

Indicators Used

This year's "Arts Participation" was done in cooperation with ARTshare, a countywide organization composed of representatives of arts commissions and cultural organizations and individuals involved in the arts. Sustainable San Mateo County mailed surveys to San Mateo County city arts commissions and to a wide variety of arts organizations, both large and small. The focus was on sources of funding.

Findings

While major financial support of the arts goes to San Francisco and San Jose, San Mateo County has a rich variety of theater, music, dance, literature, visual arts, and arts education opportunities. There are numerous opportunities for the enjoyment of free public art as well.

Funding was one of the areas of concern expressed by the majority of attendees at four Town Hall meetings held by ARTshare and the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County in February 2002, as part of the process of creating a Cultural Plan for the county. In response, this year's Sustainable San Mateo County survey looked at the various ways our county's arts organizations currently fund their activities, from membership dues to grants to ticket revenue, based on their 2002-2003 budgets.

The numbers and percentages listed below are based on figures reported by responding organizations, which included a representative sample of the county's more than 400 arts organizations.

The **total annual budget** for responding organizations ranged from a low of \$400 per year to a high of \$460,000 per year. The mean was \$65,000 per year, the average was approximately \$73,415.

Earned income, comprised of such items as tickets to performances, class fees, sweatshirts and t-shirts, CD recordings, etc., was a funding source for half the organizations. For many of those organizations, earned income represented the majority of their funding, from 75% to 100%. For some it was as little as 6%.

Underwriting or corporate funding represented a funding source for only 28% of the organizations, the figures varying from a low of 5% to a high of 20% of the annual budget.

Grants were a source of income for half the responding organizations. For some, grants represented between 0.5% and 5% of their total income. A few organizations depend upon grants for 73% to 75% of their annual budget. Some organizations reported having received grants in past years, but not in the current budget year.

Membership dues made up part of the annual budget for half the responding organizations. For one-third of those organizations, membership fees represented virtually all of their annual income. For another third of organizations with membership dues, those fees made up between 28% and 50% of the budget. For the final third, membership fees totaled only 1% or less of the annual budget.

Special events, such as dinner-dances or walk-athons, were a source of income for just one-third of the responding organizations. The monies raised during special events ranged from 1% of the budget to 25%, with an average of 10%.

Special donor drives brought income to 28% of the responding organizations, representing from a low of 1% to a high of 32% of the annual budget.

Planned giving, from wills or trusts, was not a source of funding for any of the responding organizations.

continued

Arts Participation, continued

The survey also looked at city financial support of city arts commissions. Some commissions reported receiving no financial contribution from their city. For those that did receive funding from their cities, the amounts ranged from \$500 per year to just over \$79,000 per year. In addition, commissions variously received other kinds of support, such as free or low-cost rent and utilities, copying or mailing privileges, or staff help in installing sculptures and other kinds of activities.

Increasing numbers of requests for assistance from a variety of arts groups are causing some city commissions to seek additional assistance from city sources. Because of the dire situation in state and local funding, however, those cities may be unable to support any of those requests.

Direction

The economic downturn is causing tremendous uncertainty about future funding for arts organizations. One major source of grants in San Mateo County, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, has experienced a decline of more than 60% in its endowment since the end of 2000 and has therefore decided to eliminate the arts as one of its specific program areas. Even where there are grants available, many organizations lack the personnel or expertise to write grant proposals.

Smaller arts membership organizations, such as those formed to support and critique particular art forms, can easily survive on budgets derived solely from membership. Larger organizations that offer a full program of performances or arts education have a more difficult task in raising sufficient funds for the current level of operation or sustaining growth in either number of programs or to enhance production quality. Even with sell-out crowds, performing arts organizations can not survive on the box office revenues alone, nor can arts education organizations survive solely on class fees. There also is a finite limit determined by theater and/or venue capacity.

Special events, which provide a modest source of income for some organizations, are usually people- and time-intensive activities, and increasing the number of such events is not feasible. Organizations, therefore, must turn to increasing underwriting and corporate support and to encouraging increased contributions from donors.

Support of the arts is not only good for the arts organizations themselves, but for the health and sustainability of the county as a whole. "Arts and Economic Prosperity" a report released in June by the nonprofit organization Americans for the Arts, revealed that \$134 billion in economic activity is generated by America's nonprofit arts industry every year. The figure includes money spent by arts organizations and by their audiences, which trans-

lates into jobs and household income as well as local, state, and federal tax revenues.

Many states, counties, and cities have turned to creating special programs that support artists, not as a charitable movement but rather as a part of their plans for economic development. The incentives for artists include low interest real estate loans, special enterprise zones, and joint marketing programs, among other ideas.

The Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County recognizes the importance of the arts and has formed a five-member County Arts Commission, which is working closely with ARTshare, the county's Local Arts Partner. Local Arts Partner is an official designation in a special program of the California Arts Council. Each California county Board of Supervisors is allowed to designate one organization as its Local Arts Partner, which organization then is entitled to California Arts Council funds. ARTshare addresses expressed needs for additional cultural facilities, networking, advocacy, and visibility of the arts in San Mateo County.

In a recent editorial the *San Francisco Chronicle* emphasized, "Art is a vibrant part of Bay Area life, well worth nourishing and supporting." In spite of the challenges, there are numerous opportunities for cultural planning and development in San Mateo County. Collaboration will play an important role.

Sources: Surveys to San Mateo County city arts commissions and to executive directors or presidents of a broad spectrum of county arts organizations; ARTshare; editorial, *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 20, 2002

Researcher: Bonny Zanardi; Survey designer: Henry Use and Bonny Zanardi; Compiler: Bonny Zanardi

1999

David Schooley, "Mr. San Bruno Mountain," has devoted much of the last 30 years to preserving San Bruno Mountain's unique ecosystems and rare and endangered species from commercial development. His success derives from his writing, his teaching young and old, his leading hundreds of hikes, and his hands-on work restoring the native habitat and eradicating invasive plant species.

Biodiversity

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.

Protecting biodiversity by keeping ecosystems intact is important. It gives us the best chance of protecting the species listed as threatened or endangered. Effective protection of these species has many benefits which include providing scientific information and playing an important role in the local ecosystem. Further, the decline and subsequent listings of a species could cause cultural and economic hardships on a community.

While it is generally accepted that communities should be protecting and restoring native ecosystems in order to protect the region's biodiversity, under current law, an ecosystem in trouble is not directly protected. A specific species must be listed under either state or federal law before plans are enacted to protect that species from extinction.

Indicators Used

Shown here are the number of endangered, threatened, rare, and species of concern in San Mateo County, as designated by federal and state governments for 2002. The list is divided into animal and plant species.

Listed Animal Species in San Mateo County • 2000

Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
Edgewood Blind Harvestman	Species of Concern	
Tomales Isopod	Species of Concern	
Ricksecker's Water Scavenger Beetle	Species of Concern	
Bumblebee Scarab Beetle	Species of Concern	
Bay Checkerspot Butterfly	Threatened	
Mission Bay Butterfly	Endangered	
San Bruno Elfin Butterfly	Endangered	
Calippe Silverspot Butterfly	Endangered	
Tidewater Goby	Endangered	
Central Steelhead	Threatened	
Central Coho Salmon	Threatened	Endangered
California Red-Legged Frog	Threatened	
San Francisco Garter Snake	Endangered	Endangered
Western Snowy Plover	Threatened	
Saltmarsh Common Yellowthroat	Species of Concern	
California Black Rail	Species of Concern	Threatened
California Clapper Rail	Endangered	Endangered
Bank Swallow		Threatened
California Least Tern	Endangered	Endangered
Marbled Murrelet	Threatened	Endangered
Salt-Marsh Harvest Mouse	Endangered	
Bank-Marsh Wandering Shrew	Species of Concern	Endangered

Findings

Our research in October 2002 showed that no species whose habitat is found in San Mateo County was added or removed from the state or federal lists since 1999.

Measuring biodiversity—the health of our natural communities—is not easy. The listing of a plant or animal on the threatened and endangered species list indicates that the ecosystem providing the habitat for that species is already severely compromised. The listing of a species is dependent upon a scientific process that quantifies the decline in species. This process has been affected by reduced budgets and staffing levels of the resource agencies charged with this activity. The listing of a species officially highlights a problem long after many of us, experts or not, recognize that the landscape is changing or disappearing.

Since development in San Mateo County is relatively stable, very little habitat loss is due to the landscape being altered. The biggest threats to habitat viability are the impacts from animal and plant non-native, invasive species.

Biologists and land managers have highlighted the deleterious effects of non-native plants such as yellow star thistle and pampas grass for some time now. Non-native animal species can also impact an area's biodiversity. Recently, the feral pig population in the Santa Cruz Mountains has increased. The rototilling of acres of soil in their quest for food has left disturbed soil where invasive species have a better chance of being established. This has caused

significant erosion that hurts wetland and riparian species such as the red-legged frog, steelhead trout, and coho salmon.

Collaborative agency efforts, such as the Weed Management Area and the Serpentine Restoration Project, and volunteer stewardship efforts have helped to address the impacts from these non-native species.

Direction

Based upon the information in the indicators of the Federal and State Endangered Species lists, the situation appears stable. Scientists and land managers believe, however, that biodiversity is moving in a negative direction. The good news is that funds and programs are being dedicated to mapping the current conditions and reversing the loss of biodiversity. Sustainable San Mateo County will review results from these programs in future *Indicators* reports.

Sources: California Department of Fish and Game: www.dfg.ca.gov
 Researcher: Julia Bott

Child Abuse

Importance

"Early intervention in the lives of children experiencing abuse leads to fewer physical, psychological, and emotional problems in their lives and helps reduce the continuation of abuse of future generations of children. Healthy children in stable families are a foundation of a sustainable community." *Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County*, May 2002

The importance of child abuse treatment has been well documented. The agency responsible for helping victims of child abuse in California is the Victim of Crime Program (VCP) governed by the three-person Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB).

Indicators Used

This year *California: The State of Our Children 2002* used an average of the prior three years to measure the occurrence of child abuse. Reported here are the average number of child referrals during this period. The data utilized consist of reports of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as neglect. The types of abuse vary from the head trauma of "shaken baby" syndrome, broken bones, and neglect in babies to physical and sexual assault or chronic abuse of child victims from infancy through 17 years of age as well as the emotional abuse associated with living in an environment characterized by physical and emotional violence. Many child abuse cases are not reported to the police or to Child Protective Services. But it is commonplace for clinicians assessing mental health of child clients to be told about experiences of incest with a grandparent, other relative, or stepparent, or a rape that was never reported. Victims often say that they were embarrassed and ashamed or afraid or that no one would have believed them.

Findings

From 1999-2001, a yearly average of 4,712 referrals of child abuse was reported. These referrals include cases of sexual, physical or emotional abuse, and neglect suffered by children ages 0-17. The current data show a rate of child abuse referrals at 26 children per 1,000 in San Mateo County compared with a statewide rate of 57 child abuse reports per 1,000. San Mateo County is ranked #1 as having the lowest number of substantiated child abuse reports in the state of California. California is ranked 28th of 51 in the nation.

In September 2002, the hourly reimbursement rate for child abuse psychotherapy was reduced

from \$90 to \$70 for Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) and Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) and from \$130 to \$90 for PhDs and MDs. A further reduction of reimbursement to \$28 per session was one option considered by the VCGCB Board at their January 2003 meeting. Instead, the Board opted to limit the number of counseling sessions for children and qualifying derivative victims, generally the primary caretaker of the minor victim at the time of the crime. In addition, the Board intends to seek future legislation that would allow it to further reduce all reimbursements by a percentage necessary to balance the VCP budget. The Board anticipates that VCP expenditures will exceed revenues by \$50 million dollars this fiscal year.

Practitioners in private practice as well as agencies in San Mateo County providing child abuse treatment are being hit hard by these changes in victim compensation. In addition, because of a huge backlog in claims, the VCP program budget may show a deficit before current claims can be paid. The welfare of our child victims of crime is thus at risk.

Direction

Recent reports indicate that the VCP is "facing an immediate budget crisis." While substantiated cases of child abuse have remained stable in our county using a three-year average, the funding for treatment of child abuse is in jeopardy. As was noted in the introduction to last year's indicators report, "we are facing the fact that much-needed funds will not be as readily available for county needs." This is a poignant example of the interdependence of economics and the safety and social equity of our children.

The year 2003 is critical in the treatment of child abuse in San Mateo County and in the State of California. The rate of 26 children per 1,000 in San Mateo County still represents 2.5 % of our children. If the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Program is unable to provide compensation for victims of child abuse, these children will not receive the treatment that they need to restore them to psychological and physical health.

Sources: California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board: www.boc.ca.gov; *California: The State of Our Children 2002*, and *California Report Card 2002*, Children Now, Oakland: www.childrennow.org
Researcher: Anne Hinckle, MFT

Child Care

Importance

Child care is integral to San Mateo County's economic and social well-being for several reasons. Because of the high cost of living in the county, many families are unable to afford living in the county without two incomes or their equivalent. Having safe, consistent care for children while parents are at work is crucial to maintaining a highly skilled work force that helps San Mateo County remain an economic powerhouse in an increasingly competitive global economy.

In addition to helping parents work and employers compete in a global economy, child care has long-term consequences for our children. Researchers have linked school-readiness and later school success to the quality of early learning experiences. Recent brain research confirms that care-giving during the early years affects the structure and functioning of a child's brain and how a child will behave, learn, feel, and perform. Consistent, quality child care can also act as a stabilizing force for children and their families during changing times.

Child care as an industry occupies a vital niche in San Mateo County's economic picture, providing not only a crucial service for families, employers, and the community, but contributing to jobs and revenue. The licensed child care industry in San Mateo County generates about \$150 million in gross receipts. Child care centers generate \$103,586,270 in gross receipts. Family child care homes generate \$44,998,029 in gross receipts. Gross receipts attributable to children being cared for in license-exempt settings cannot be estimated. Across the county over 3,400 people are employed directly in licensed child care homes and centers. The licensed child care industry brings about \$30 million to the San Mateo County economy in federal and state child care and early childhood education subsidies.

Indicators Used

Several key resources, including data from the *Census 2000* and data drawn from the Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County, have been used to determine the total number of children estimated to be in need of child care, the total number of child care spaces available, and the child care industry's contribution to the local economy in terms of gross receipts and local jobs.

Findings

The supply of licensed child care remains critically inadequate, despite an economic downturn that has reduced parental demand for child care. Fifty-seven percent of San Mateo County children under age six live with families where the parents are in the work force (both parents are working or a single parent in a single-parent household is work-

ing), compared with the statewide rate of 52%. There are more than 28,000 of these children under the age of six with fewer than 19,000 licensed spaces available. Stated simply, approximately 68% of these children have formal care available to them. The remaining 32% are being cared for in informal or unlicensed settings. In some cases parents prefer such an arrangement, but often appropriate, affordable licensed care is unavailable.

For infants (ages 0-2), there are only 920 child care center spaces available. The needs of pre-school-aged children (ages 3 to 5) are better served. There are 11,491 center spaces in San Mateo County for preschool children. Parents of school-age children face a grimmer picture in their search for care; San Mateo County has only 6,470 spaces in child care centers for school-age (ages 6-14) children. Additionally, there are 6,500 more spaces to serve the entire child population (ages 0-14) in family child care homes.

Low-income families experience the greatest challenges in the quest for quality child care. About 6,000 of the county's approximately 40,076 children in low-income families are served by a variety of state and federal programs. In order to receive child care subsidy, a family must fall below state- or federally-created income guidelines that are not in alignment with the high cost of living in San Mateo County.

Families who do fall within the very low-income guidelines for subsidized care are not assured of receiving assistance. They often wait for years on the county's Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) for care. The CEL currently has 1,987 children waiting for subsidized care. Even using state and federal income guidelines that are well below a self-sufficiency wage in San Mateo County, the need for child care in this county, particularly care for low-income working families, far exceeds available financial resources to help parents pay for child care.

Furthermore, there is a great discrepancy between the maximum amount of income allowed for subsidized child care and the family income amount that the county has determined is necessary for self-sufficiency. For example, a family of three must earn at least \$4,268 per month in order to be self-sufficient, yet a family of three cannot make more than \$2,886 per month in order to qualify for State Preschool. Many San Mateo County families fall into this gap where they may earn less than a self-sufficiency wage, yet they make too much to qualify for child care subsidy.

These families have a particularly hard time of it in San Mateo County, where the cost of child care is

continued

Child Care, continued

higher than in most parts of the state, reflecting the county's high cost of real estate and skilled labor, which are essential elements of licensed care. San Mateo County is one of the most expensive counties in California for infant care. Average cost for full-time infant care in a licensed child care center is \$979 per month and \$687 per month in a licensed family child care home. Average full-time preschool care is \$654 in a licensed child care center and \$657 in licensed family child care homes.

Child care providers face many obstacles to remain in business. During the economic "boom" in the latter half of the 1990's, there was a significant increase in the industry's child care gross receipts but little if any growth in licensed capacity. Child care providers could not expand in the economically good years because they were priced out of the county's high real estate market and had difficulty competing for well-trained workers. The revenue increase experienced by the industry in the good years was attributable directly to extremely low vacancy rates and increases in parent fees.

With the county experiencing a significant economic downturn, these same providers are experiencing weaker demand for child care, causing higher vacancies and requiring them to discount their rates. Many parents have been laid off from their jobs, which causes a temporary decrease in the use of care, which in turn causes an unstable income for providers. Parents who are looking for work still require care, yet cannot afford to pay for it. With higher vacancies and lower parent fees, providers are now struggling to cover fixed costs that they were barely able to cover during the boom years of very low vacancies and high parent fees. These challenges are reflected in a continuing decline in licensed family child care spaces in the county. The number of licensed family child care spaces has declined from 7,906 in October of 1998 to only 5,492 in August 2002.

Direction

The demand for child care in San Mateo County remains among the highest in the state, despite a higher unemployment rate. A lack of facilities, high operating costs, and difficulties in recruiting and retaining well-trained child care staff contribute to the continuing shortage, which has temporarily been exacerbated by the industry's difficulty in covering cost structures that were created during the county's economic boom years when child care vacancies were low and parent fees were high. Several initiatives in San Mateo County are working to address this shortage through facilities development, capacity-building efforts, and professional training and retention programs. These efforts have been endorsed by a countywide Child Care Action Campaign sponsored by the Children's Report Initiative, which seeks to engage the larger community in sustained efforts to increase the availability of licensed care by 10% in the next five years.

Facilities Development. Smart Kids, a child care facilities expansion fund, aims to increase the supply of quality child care. Smart Kids finances startup costs of new child care centers, expansions of existing child care centers, and the development of family child care homes, by increasing the number of licensed child care slots in the county by 550-650 over three years.

Work force Development. More than 600 experienced child care professionals are now pursuing the higher education requirements of the state's Child Development Permit Matrix, thanks to SAMCARES (San Mateo County Compensation and Recognition Encourage Stability).

New entrants to the child care field are being assisted by the Career Development Center. The Early Childhood Education (ECE)/Development department of Cañada College in partnership with the Children and Families First Commission offers more incentives and support services.

Sources: *Census 2000*, U. S. Census Bureau; San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council, San Mateo County Office of Education; *The San Mateo County Child Care Needs Assessment, 1999-2000*; The Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County Researcher: Wendy Robinette

Maximum Income Levels For Subsidized Care 2002

Program	Gross Monthly Wages						
General Child Development and AP Programs	\$2730	\$2925	\$3250	\$3770	\$4290	\$4387	\$4485
State Preschool	\$2519	\$2886	\$3137	\$3292	\$3432	\$3510	\$3588
Head Start	\$715						
	\$967	\$1219	\$1471	\$1722	\$1974	\$2225	\$2477
Family Members	1 or 2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Christmas Bird Count

Importance

The number and diversity of birds are good indicators of the health of an ecosystem. A small variation in numbers indicates an ecosystem in balance. Birds are vital to nature, acting both as predators and as prey, important at many levels of the food chain.

A sustained increase or decrease in the numbers of a specific species can result from factors such as habitat changes, a problem in the food chain, an environmental threat, or disease. It should be noted that with migratory birds, the rise and fall in numbers may be related to problems elsewhere in their migratory range.

Indicators Used

Each count encompasses a 15-mile diameter circle with teams of observers assigned a specific area in order to maximize coverage within the circle. This indicator reports on five species found in both count circles: Great Blue Heron, American Kestrel, California Quail, Acorn Woodpecker and Common Raven. Each of these five species nests in San Mateo County but count totals may also include migrants for the American Kestrel. Each species represents different dietary needs, nesting requirements, and mating behavior. Caution needs to be applied when comparing local results with national trends because of the variables in natural environments and habitats.

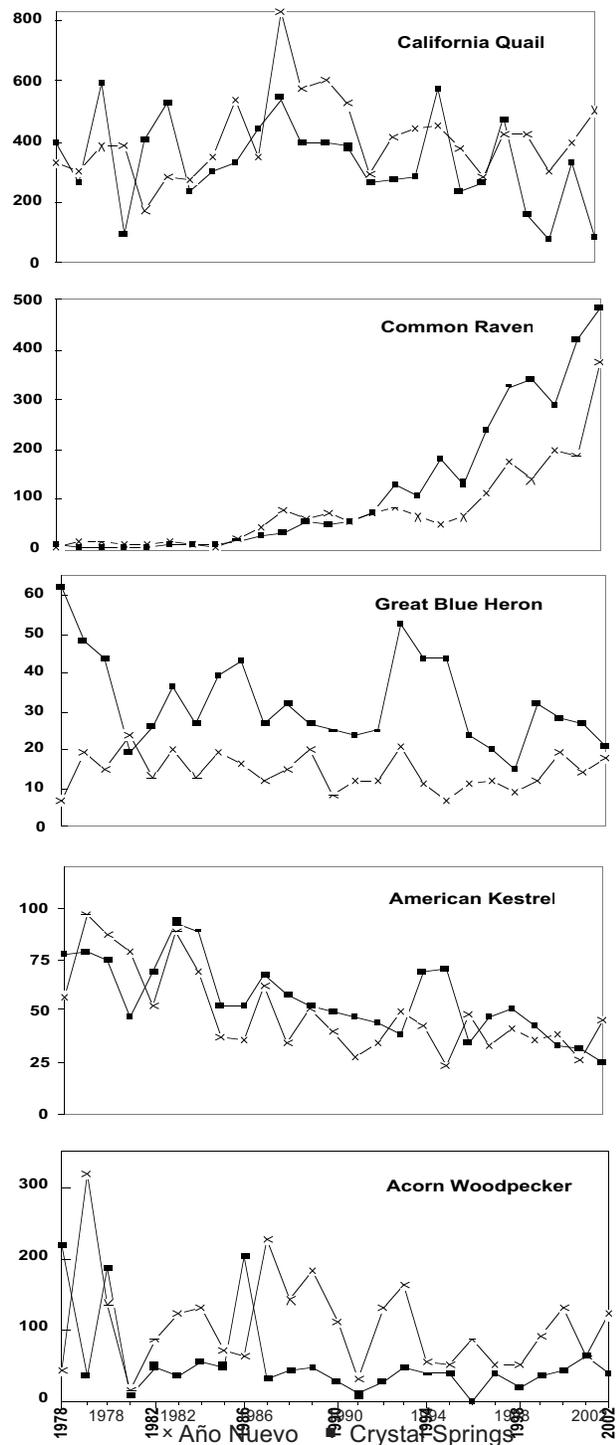
The Christmas Bird Count takes place at two locales on two different dates. The 2002 count in Crystal Springs was conducted on December 14, 2002, with the participation of 49 observers totaling 162.75 hours in the field compared with 45 observers totaling 193 hours in 2001.

The 2002 Año Nuevo count took place on January 4, 2003 with 52 observers totaling 212.75 hours compared with 36 observers totaling 129.5 hours in 2001. A record number of observers participated in the 2002 count with a corresponding increase in the number of hours in the field.

Findings

The total number of birds counted in Crystal Springs was 62,023 and 177 species reported compared with 73,737 and 194 species in the 2001 Christmas Bird Count. Unlike 2001 when the weather was favorable, heavy rain and gusting winds occurred throughout the day, and these conditions contributed to the low total number and species count. Land birds found shelter in dense vegetation and roosting sites and were

Christmas Bird Count • 1978–2002



continued

Christmas Bird Count, continued

hidden from view. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and other seabirds in coastal areas were also hard to count because of poor visibility and difficulty in using spotting scopes under such conditions. Some teams were unable to complete the coverage of their assigned areas because of the weather, which also resulted in a reduced number of hours in the field.

In Año Nuevo, 22,981 birds were counted with 176 species identified compared with 16,787 and 153 species in 2001. While weather conditions were good in 2002, rain and windy conditions in 2001 resulted in reduced numbers for the count and a lower number of hours in the field.

The differing weather conditions from 2002 and 2001 make it difficult to compare the count data on a year-to-year basis. In an attempt to look at long-term trends, the graphs present data for the last 25 years for each of the five species being studied.

One species that appears to be increasing rapidly is the Common Raven. These intelligent and opportunistic birds are able to thrive in a variety of habitats and adapt quickly to changes to the environment. A record number of ravens

occurred on both counts with 482 at Crystal Springs and 374 at Año Nuevo.

Direction

Year-to-year counts vary because of weather conditions on the count days, the number of observers in the field, familiarity with the count areas, and the total number of hours in the field. Other variables are not fully known or understood. For example, habitat disturbance appears to be one reason for the population declines of the California Quail. The removal of brush and cover along fence rows makes this species vulnerable to predators, such as feral and domestic cats. Recent problems with disease, such as West Nile Virus and Sudden Oak Death, may have an impact on our bird populations. Potential environmental threats, such as collisions with communication towers, are also unclear. Continuing observation of both sites will further our understanding of the ecosystem's health.

Source: Sequoia Audubon Society, *2002 Christmas Bird Counts*

Researcher: Susan James



"Conservation is humanity
caring for the future."

David Brower

City Parks and Open Space

Importance

The presence of nearby areas for recreation and for the enjoyment of nature adds to the quality of life. By providing opportunities for outdoor activity and for the enjoyment of the natural world, parks and open space contribute to both physical and psychological health.

Indicators Used

In each of the last three years (2000–2002) 20 cities in San Mateo County were sent a survey by SSMC regarding city parks and open space. Three questions were asked: 1) How many acres of developed park lands are within your city’s boundaries excluding school playgrounds, undeveloped lands, open space, watershed lands, or adjacent county or state parks? 2) How many acres of open space are within your city’s boundaries excluding school playgrounds, undeveloped lands, developed parks, watershed lands, or adjacent county or state parks? 3) What percentage of the city’s budget, if any, is allocated to increasing parklands?

There were three objectives to the survey: 1) to determine the amount of city park and open space in each city, 2) to determine whether the amount of city park and open space is increasing or decreasing, and 3) to determine what percent of the city’s

budget is allocated to increasing park land, and thereby establish some idea of the importance elected and appointed officials place on this measure of a sustainable quality of life.

Findings

Among the 20 cities surveyed during the three-year period 2000–2002, the amount of city parkland ranged from none in Woodside to 198 acres in Daly City. The amount of reported open space ranged from none in Atherton, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, and Millbrae to 959.9 acres in Woodside.

Eight cities reported an increase in city parkland acreage and five cities reported an increase in open space acreage. While city parkland increased overall in the county over the past three years, there was a decrease from 2001 to 2002. City open space decreased moderately from 2000 to 2001 and decreased more significantly from 2001 to 2002.

Five cities reported that a portion of the city’s budget is allocated to increasing park lands: Brisbane (less than 1% decreasing from 1.7% in 2001), Colma (approximately 5%), East Palo Alto (2.4%), Foster City (22%) and Half Moon Bay (less than 5%). Only two cities had a budget for increasing parklands in 2001—Brisbane and South San Francisco.

Acreage of Parks & Open Space per 1,000 People • 2000–02

	City Parks				City Open Space			
	2000	2001	2002	3-year +or-	2000	2001	2002	3-year +or-
Atherton	2.9	3.9	2.9	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	-0.7
Belmont	2.0	2.6	1.7	-0.3	15.5	11.5	12.1	-3.4
Brisbane	6.6	11.1	14.2	7.6	41.0	45.3	71.2	30.2
Burlingame	1.6	2.0	2.5	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.0	-0.2
Colma ⁽²⁾	0.6	2.0	1.0	0.4	na	na	3.0	na
Daly City	0.8	1.9	0.0	-0.8	1.3	10.0	0.0	-1.3
East Palo Alto	0.6	0.6	0.5	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Foster City	4.9	3.9	0.0	-4.9	6.9	6.9	0.0	-6.9
Half Moon Bay	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.4	1.6	1.6	6.7	5.1
Hillsborough	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1	21.9	0.0	0.0	-21.9
Menlo Park	2.4	7.2	1.3	-1.1	4.9	0.4	5.2	0.3
Millbrae	2.0	5.1	0.5	-1.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	-2.4
Pacifica	2.5	0.6	0.6	-1.9	0.6	9.7	10.0	9.4
Portola Valley ⁽¹⁾	18.3	18.2	18.2	0.1	346.6	344.0	344.7	-1.9
Redwood City	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0
San Bruno	2.2	1.9	1.8	-0.4	14.9	1.7	3.2	-11.7
San Carlos	2.1	2.0	2.1	0.0	0.8	2.8	3.0	2.2
San Mateo	1.3	1.7	1.7	0.4	4.2	3.7	2.6	-1.6
S. San Francisco	1.4	1.0	2.2	0.8	2.1	0.6	1.1	-1.0
Woodside	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	174.0	142.0	179.4	5.4
TOTAL	54.6	68.1	53.9	-0.7	641.2	581.8	643.8	-4

AVERAGE **2.7** **3.4** **2.7** **0.0** **33.8** **30.6** **32.2** **-1.6**

⁽¹⁾ Did not report in 2002 so 2001 figures were used for 2002 so as not to skew that data.

⁽²⁾ Correct figures for 2000 and 2001 open space are not available (na).

Direction

The average amount of city developed parklands in 2002 is 2.7 acres per 1000 residents, a decrease from 3.4 acres per 1000 residents in 2001, but no change from the 2.7 acres per 1000 residents reported in 2000. During the past three years, the amount of city parkland has increased moderately (96.2 acres).

The average amount of city open space countywide in 2002 was 32.2 acres per 1,000 residents. During the past three years, the amount of open space in cities has decreased by 745.9 acres.

Sources: Acreage and population figures came from (or were derived from) each city’s response to the survey.
 Researcher: Denise Marie Huajardo Springer

continued

City Parks and Open Space, continued

Developed Parks & Open Space by City • 2000-02

	Developed City Parks in Acres				City Open Space in Acres			
	2000	2001	2002	3-year + or -	2000	2001	2002	3-year + or -
Atherton	22.0	22.0	22.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	-5.0
Belmont	50.6	67.0	42.4	-8.2	403.5	300.0	302.2	-101.3
Brisbane	22.1	45.0	56.8	34.7	138.9	183.9	284.4	145.5
Burlingame	46.7	60.0	69.0	22.3	34.5	28.0	28.0	-6.5
Colma ⁽²⁾	0.8	2.6	1.0	0.2	na	na	3.0	na
Daly City	78.6	200.0	198.0	119.4	140.0	1000.0	100.0	-40.0
East Palo Alto	16.0	16.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Foster City	151.5	120.0	124.0	-27.5	212.0	212.0	0.0	-212.0
Half Moon Bay	7.0	7.0	15.0	8.0	18.0	18.0	100.0	82.0
Hillsborough	1.0	1.0	0.0	-1.0	259.0	0.0	0.0	-259.0
Menlo Park	76.0	230.0	40.0	-36.0	155.0	12.0	160.0	5.0
Millbrae	44.0	109.5	44.0	0.0	52.0	0.0	0.0	-52.0
Pacifica	100.0	25.1	25.1	-74.9	26.0	400.0	400.0	374.0
Portola Valley ⁽¹⁾	84.0	84.0	84.0	0.0	1591.0	1591.0	1591.0	0.0
Redwood City	130.0	130.0	113.2	-16.8	47.0	47.0	42.8	-4.2
San Bruno	92.1	79.8	71.5	-20.6	620.8	70.0	128.3	-492.5
San Carlos	59.9	59.9	60.0	0.1	23.5	82.2	84.0	60.5
San Mateo	121.9	159.0	160.0	38.1	391.3	353.0	243.0	-148.3
S. San Francisco	83.0	83.0	140.0	57.0	126.0	40.0	69.0	-57.0
Woodside	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>995.0</u>	<u>803.5</u>	<u>959.9</u>	<u>-35.1</u>
TOTAL	1187.1	1500.9	1281.9	96.2	5238.5	5140.6	4495.6	-745.9
AVERAGE	59.4	75.0	64.1	4.7	275.7	270.5	224.8	-50.9

⁽¹⁾ Did not report in 2002 so 2001 figures were used for 2002 so as not to skew the data.

⁽²⁾ Correct figures for 2000 and 2001 open space are not available (na).



"We have lived by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives, so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption that what is good for the world will be good for us."

Wendell Berry (found in Timeline)

"Being ecologically literate means understanding the basic principles of ecology and being able to embody them in daily life and in the lives of human communities."

Fritjof Capra, (found in Timeline)

Community Safety

Importance

Community safety is an important part of a sustainable community. A sustainable community takes joint responsibility for and utilizes local solutions and resources to ensure to all individuals the right to live, work, and go about their daily pursuits with confidence and without fear, risk of harm or injury to themselves and others. Community safety embraces a range of issues: crime prevention, domestic abuse, drug abuse, road safety, fire safety, accident prevention, etc.

Personal safety is crucial for maintaining a strong sense of community, high quality of life, and healthy families. Criminal activity negatively affects our physical and psychological well-being and results in fear and personal suffering. High crime rates force the community to channel its resources to law enforcement and detention programs, draining the human and financial resources of governments and community programs. A high

juvenile crime rate reveals deep problems in the community. Youths who continue criminal behavior do not develop into emotionally stable and productive individuals. This affects the long-term well-being and stability of the community.

Indicators Used

Statistical data used here are taken from *California Criminal Justice Profile 2001-San Mateo County* and *Crime and Delinquency in California 2001*. The *California Criminal Justice Profile* series includes the *California Crime Index (CCI)* and the *California Crime Index Rate (CCI Rate)*.

A *crime index* is composed of specific crimes chosen to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime. The CCI tracks the total number of major crimes in cities and counties with more than 100,000 people. It includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. These offenses are chosen because of the seriousness and likelihood of being reported to the police by the public.

A *crime rate* is the number of reported crimes per 100,000 of the general population. The CCI Rate reports the number of major crimes included in the CCI.

Both the CCI and the CCI Rate for San Mateo County are reported here. A comparison of the indices with the statewide statistics shows where the county stands in relation to the state as a whole. The data for adult arrests and juvenile arrests (youths between the age of 10-17) for felony and misdemeanor in the county are also discussed and compared with numbers statewide. Domestic violence related calls for assistance, violent crimes against senior citizens, and hate crime statistics are also reported here.

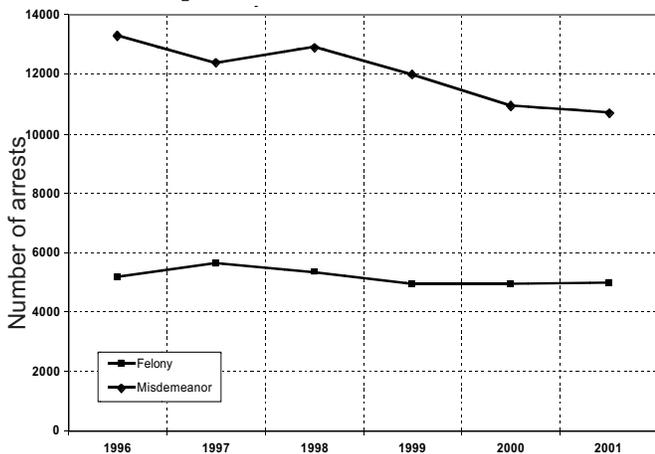
Findings

In San Mateo County, the CCI, which reports the total number of major crimes, showed an increase in 2001 of 10.8% over 2000. The CCI was 7,341 in the year 2001 compared with 6,623 in 2000. The California CCI increased for the second consecutive year by 4.5% over the previous year.

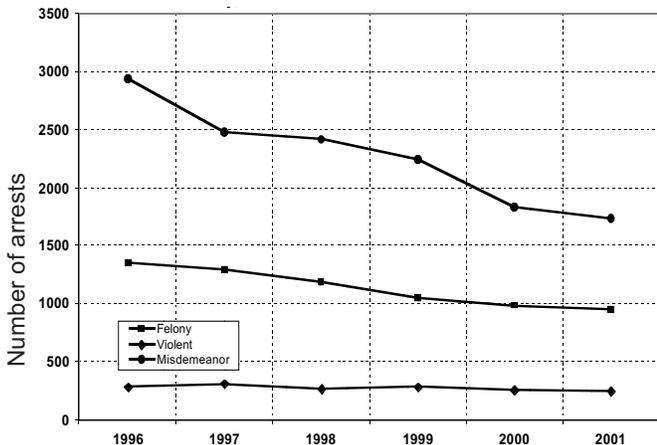
The CCI Rate was 1,027.4 in 2001 compared with 922.6 in 2000. This represents an 11.4% increase in the county in 2001 compared with a 5.6% increase last year. The population of the county declined in the same period by 0.5% to 714,500 in 2001. Within California, the CCI Rate increased for the second consecutive year in 2001 by 3.7%.

The total adult felony arrests in the county were 4,980 compared with 4,940 from the previous year. Adult misdemeanor arrests were 10,723

Adult Felony & Misdemeanor Arrests • 1996-2001



Juvenile Felony, Misdemeanor & Violent Crime Arrests • 1996-2001



continued

Community Safety, continued

compared with 10,950 in 2000. The adult felony arrests showed a mere 0.8% increase while the misdemeanor arrests showed a decline of 2% in the same period.

While the violent crime rate in California declined in 2001 by 0.8%, the number of arrests for violent crimes in San Mateo County rose to 2,205 compared with 1,991 in the previous year. This amounts to an increase in the violent crimes by 10.7% in the county. The violent crime rate in the county increased by 11.3% over last year.

The property crime rate, which measures burglary and motor vehicle theft per 100,000 people, increased to 718.8 in 2001, compared with 645.2 last year, an increase of 11.4% in the county. Statewide, the property crime rate showed an increase of 6% from 2000 to 2001.

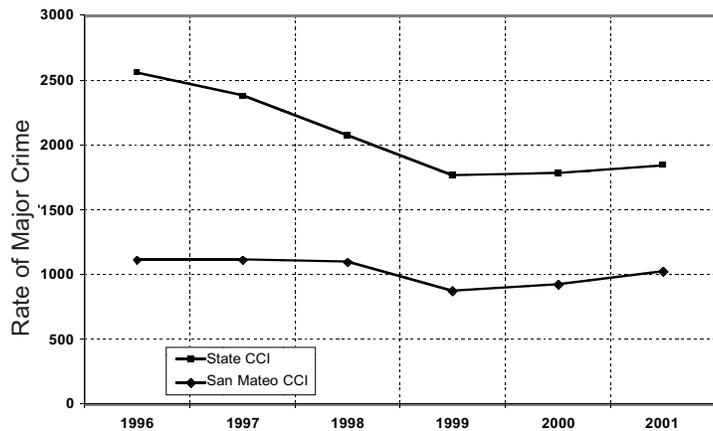
The total number of juvenile arrests in San Mateo County was 3,110 in 2001 compared with 3,170 in 2000. This is a decrease of 1.9% over the year 2000. A total of 945 juvenile felony arrests were made in San Mateo County in the year 2001, a decline of 3.9%. Violent juvenile felony offenses were

248 compared with 255 in the year 2000. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes showed a decline of 2.7% over 2000. Burglary, assault, and theft accounted for approximately half of the felony arrests. Drug-related arrests were 9.9% of the total felony arrests. The county recorded 1,735 juvenile misdemeanors in 2001 compared with 1,834 in the previous year, a decrease of 5.4%. The most common juvenile misdemeanors were petty theft, assault-battery,

marijuana, and drunk driving. The juvenile arrest rate for violent offenses increased for the first time statewide since 1996 by 0.3%.

There were 2,874 domestic violence-related calls for assistance made in the county in 2001. This is a decrease of 4.3% over 2000. More than half of these calls were cases with weapons including firearms and knives. Forty-seven violent crimes were reported against senior citizens in the county. Twenty hate crimes were reported in the county, one more than last year. In the state as a whole, 2,261 hate crimes were reported.

California Crime Index Rate per 100,000 Population



Direction

The Community Safety indicators show that the decade-long period of decreasing levels of crime has ended. From 1991 to 1999, California followed the national trend of decreasing crime rates including the largest one-year decline of 14.9% in 1999 because of factors such as improved strength in law enforcement agencies, crime prevention programs, economic factors, etc. The overall California Crime Rate increased for the second consecutive year in 2001 by 3.7%. The CCI Rate in San Mateo County showed an 11.4% increase over 2000, a much higher figure than the state increase.

More disturbing is the violent crime rate statistic for the county, which increased 11.3%. Comparatively, the California violent crime rate continued its nine-year decline possibly because of effective crime prevention and early intervention programs. The California violent crime rate was down 0.8% in the year 2001. San Mateo County also reported an increase in violent crimes last year, against the trend elsewhere in the state. On the positive side, whereas statewide the juvenile arrest rate for violent offenses increased by 0.3% for the first time since 1996, juvenile arrests for violent crimes in San Mateo County declined by 2.7%, and the total number of juvenile arrests declined by 1.9% over the previous year. The domestic violence related calls for assistance also declined.

Sources: *Criminal Justice Profile—Counties and Cities, 2001*; <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc>, *Crime and Delinquency in California 2001*

Researcher: Sapna Singh

1999

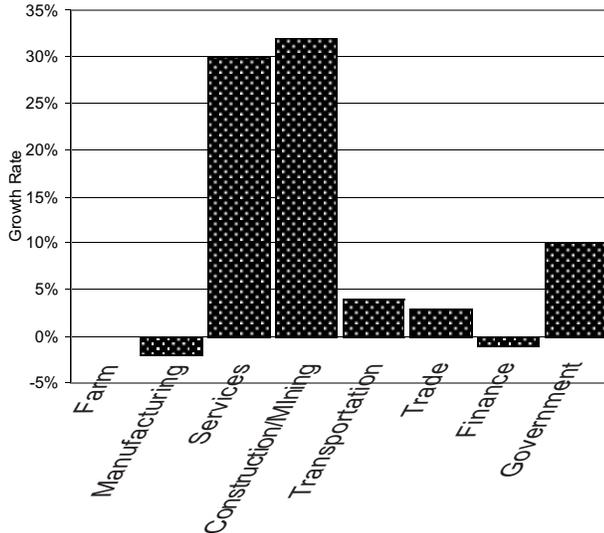
San Mateo's North Central Goal Directed Action Team works collectively with the community to create, improve and maintain a high quality of life through interconnected programs and goals like property preservation, safety, image, neighborhood empowerment, and youth development.

Employment Trends

Importance

Economic sustainability is largely dependent upon the diversity of the local economy. When a few large industries account for the majority of jobs, an economic downturn can adversely impact the work force. The community is more prone to mass unemployment and economic subsidence. Rapid growth in high-venture businesses or emerging industries, such as biotechnology, can be a misleading sign about the long-term sustainability of employment. Instead, growth patterns in all industries must be examined. Projections of job

5-Year Growth Rate • 1997-2002



growth by industry are key measures in planning for economic sustainability. There must be substantial distribution of jobs in main industries, with allocation throughout many small and medium-sized companies.

Indicators Used

Shown are the 10 largest employers in San Mateo County with their respective numbers of employees. The data show the total number of jobs by industry, the change in the number of jobs by industry for the past five years, and the number of businesses operating with fewer than 100 employees. Data are for fiscal year (FY) 2001/02. Events since July 2002 are not reflected in these figures.

Findings

As of July 2002, businesses in San Mateo County employed 386,400 workers. The two largest employers, United

Ten Largest Employers

United Airlines	19,000
Oracle Corporation	7,000
County of San Mateo	4,700
Genentech	3,700
Visa	2,500
US Postal Service	2,400
Excite@Home	2,300
Core-Mark International	2,200
American Airlines SFO	2,170
Siebel Systems	2,000

Source: SAMCEDA

Airlines in South San Francisco and Oracle Corporation in Redwood City, employed 19,000 and 7,000 people, respectively. Most businesses in the county are still small or medium-sized; a predominant 97% were firms with fewer than 100 employees, and 75% had fewer than 10 employees.

The largest industry, services, accounted for 38% of all jobs and recorded a steady 2.5% growth over the past fiscal year, despite the sluggish local economy. Business services, representing 44% of all services, recorded a modest 2% increase. Low growth was also typical of other types of services, though most still showed positive growth.

Construction/mining remained the fastest growing, showing 4% growth. This sector, however, employs only 6% of the county work force. The largest decline was recorded in transportation, which was cut back by 5%. Manufacturing (accounting for 10% of jobs), trade (21%), and finance (6%) also reduced employment. Government employment remained stable at 1% growth.

2001

Opportunities
Industrialization Center West (OICW) offers vocational training programs for minority and disadvantaged citizens in San Mateo County. They focus on matching workers' skills to the needs of the job market.

Direction

Since 1997, employment has increased by 20,600, or 5%. Though not nearly as robust as the 14% growth between 1995 and 2000, such positive growth is encouraging in light of the dot-com failures, the 2001 terrorist attacks, and the general economic slowdown. The most recent negative impacts on the economy, the recession and terrorism, were reflected in the 400-jobs decline for the past fiscal year.

The five-year growth rate (1997-2002) for services, 30%, has also dropped from a record-high 45% growth rate. Notwithstanding this downturn, the tremendous 55% growth in business services and 22% growth in engineering services are among the highest of any sector of the local economy. Employment leveled off in FY 2001/02, but the 3,200 new positions in

continued

Employment Trends, continued

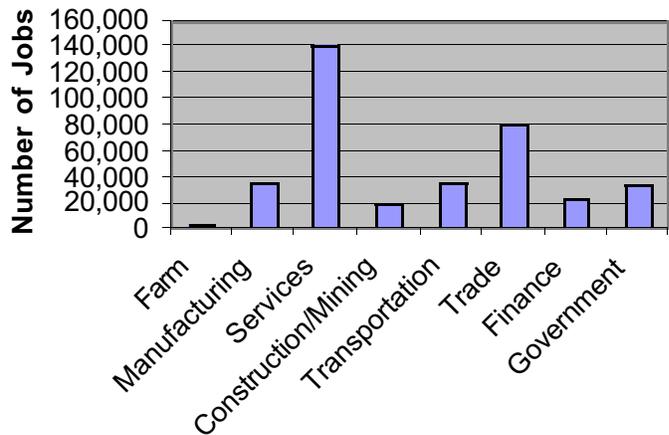
services contrasts with the general cutback in other sectors.

The largest employer, United Airlines, has reduced its work force from 19,395 to 19,000 and, as this is written, verges on bankruptcy. United's financial woes in the wake of September 11, general decline in business travel, and a sluggish economy have contributed to the present \$100 million budget shortfall at San Francisco International Airport. The international terminal expansion and the BART extension have only somewhat eased the cutbacks. Last fiscal year's 5% decline in transportation employment reflects these financial hardships.

Oracle, the second largest employer, has also reduced its work force, from 12,000 to 7,000. Redwood City-based Excite@Home, which still employs 2,300, went bankrupt this past year. Continued instability in computer-related firms leaves the prospect of more unemployment.

With United and Oracle struggling, the importance of economic diversification becomes ever more apparent. SAMCEDA, a business advocacy organization for the county, sees biotechnology as part of the solution. Biotechnology giant Genentech, the fourth largest local employer, has increased its work force from 3,349 to 3,700 in FY 2001/02. Growth

Number of Jobs by Industry • FY 2001/02



in this industry has been helpful to the county during the current economic slump and represents a good start towards a more diversified economy.

Sources: Ron Beam, California State Employment Development Department (EDD); <http://www.samceda.org>, San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)
 Researcher: David Chen



"Starting with the economies of food and farming, we should promote at home, and encourage abroad, the ideal of local self-sufficiency."

Wendell Berry (found in Timeline)

"The test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much. It is whether we provide enough for those who have little."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"The problems of poverty, population growth and environmental degradation are inextricably intertwined."

Rio Consensus, Parliamentary Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992

Energy Consumption

Importance

In the twentieth century humans used more energy in the conduct of their economies than all previous human societies combined. That energy expenditure has come mostly from the burning of fossil fuels – coal, petroleum, and natural gas. Since these fuels take millions of years to form, they are non-renewables. Furthermore, their burning releases unprecedented amounts of carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere, creating global warming, air pollution, and acid rain. From both a resource and health perspective, this pattern is unsustainable.

With less than 5% of the world's population, the United States alone accounts for 25% of the world's annual consumption of coal, petroleum, and natural gas. Not surprisingly, that makes the United States the largest emitter of carbon gases. Its 23% of the total

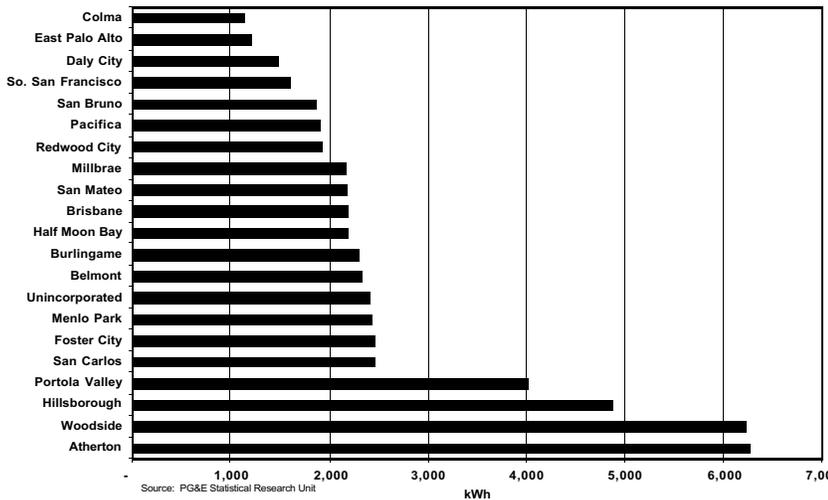
world emissions is more than double that of the next ranking country, China. The per capita emissions of the United States are twice that of the European Union and Japan and five times the world average. Furthermore, we continue to add to our output. From 1990 to 2001 the United States increased its emissions by 15.7%. All other industrial countries have committed themselves under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce their emissions below the 1990 level.

As one of the richest counties in the world's richest fossil-fuel-based economy, San Mateo County contributes disproportionately to the negative sustainability balance in energy consumption.

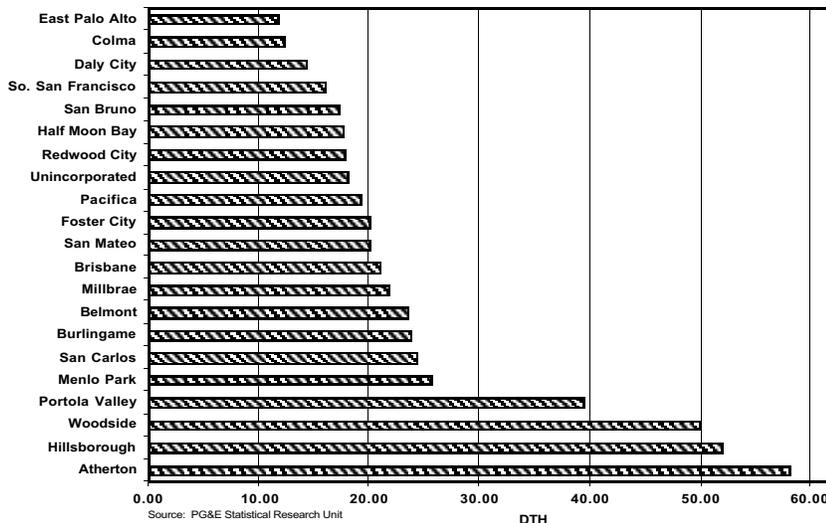
Indicators Used

- 1 Per capita gasoline consumption in San Mateo County
- 2 Per capita residential natural gas consumption by city in San Mateo County
- 3 Sources of electricity generation for California
- 4 Per capita residential electricity consumption by city in San Mateo County

Residential Electricity Consumption per Capita by City • 2001



Residential Natural Gas Consumption per Capita by City • 2001



Findings

Gasoline consumption: The United States has by far the highest per capita gasoline consumption in the world, 459 gallons in 1997. For comparison, Germany has 140, Japan 113, and China 10. San Mateo County exceeds the national average with a per capita consumption of 517 gallons (1998). In that same year there were 657,263 vehicles in the county, almost as many as there were people, 716,500. California is not as dependent as the whole country on foreign oil. The U.S. imports 50% of its needs whereas California imports 29.3% (2001) of its crude oil. Ironically, in light of the current geopolitical situation, the major source of foreign oil imports to California is Iraq with 28.2% of the total in 2001. Second is Saudi Arabia with 21.8%.

An unfortunate development that has exacerbated the gasoline consumption figures in the last few years is the popularity of fuel inefficient sports utility vehicles. For instance, the best selling SUV in 2002, the Ford Explorer, gets 17 miles per gallon and emits 10.8 tons of greenhouse gases per year whereas the Honda Civic gets 33 miles per gallon and emits 5.8 tons of greenhouse gases per year. In 2002, over the strenuous objections

continued

Energy Consumption, continued

of the automobile industry, the California Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Act. It requires that by 2009 all passenger vehicles sold in the state must have their emissions reduced to the maximum extent that is economically feasible. Two major automobile corporations have already filed suit against the 2001 automobile emissions rules of the California Air Resources Board claiming that the state cannot require higher standards than the federal government. They argue that emissions controls are really fuel efficiency standards. The Bush administration has joined the suit against California. Both the automobile companies and the federal government are expected to initiate litigation against the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Act as well. The U.S. Congress has not been able to pass legislation imposing passenger car-level fuel efficiency for SUV's which are considered light trucks. The Bush administration has proposed a small increment in fuel efficiency standards for SUV's while simultaneously proposing a substantially higher tax write-off for expensive SUV purchases by businesses.

Natural Gas consumption: In 2000 Californians used 6 1/2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas per day. Of this total 21% was used by residences, 8% by commercial establishments, 36% by industrial facilities, and 35% for electrical generation. In California 71% of home heating is by natural gas. California's heavy reliance on natural gas, a cleaner-burning fuel, has helped it to avoid the acid rain problems that have plagued the northeastern United States. Nevertheless, natural gas is a non-renewable fossil fuel, and most of it (84%) comes from out of state in only four pipelines. The extraordinary increase in natural gas prices (2 to 10 times the price in neighboring states) was one of the contrib-

2003

The office renovation and home addition project for Eric Joustra and Paulien Strijland of Menlo Park, designed and built by Eric Joustra, drastically reduces energy use and incorporates passive solar energy concepts.

uting causes to California's "electricity crisis," as 42.7% of electrical power is generated by burning natural gas. The price of natural gas fluctuates widely, as it is not publicly regulated. It's been alleged in formal filings of the state that during the energy crisis period (2000-2001) the supply of natural gas was

privately constricted in order to drive prices up and thus increase profits.

In 2001 San Mateo County used 25,274,000 DTH of natural gas. (A DTH is defined as a unit of heat equal to 1,000,000 British Thermal Units.) Fifty-five

percent of the natural gas consumed within the county is going to residential use, while 45% is going to non-residential uses. The bar graph demonstrates the per capita differences between cities in their residential natural gas consumption. There is almost a five-fold difference between the biggest consumers in Atherton, and the least, in East Palo Alto. The bar graph allows one to visually correlate affluence with higher consumption.

Electricity generation and consumption: As a consequence of the California electricity "crisis" of 2000/2001 the public awareness of our reliance on electrical power has never been higher. Unfortunately, instead of recognizing our wasteful uses of energy and our dependence on unsustainable fossil fuel generation as the underlying problem, some of our political leaders, especially at the national level, have actually blamed environmental regulations for the crisis and denigrated conservation as a solution. Yet the evidence now suggests that the electricity supply shortages were caused by deliberate manipulation, inept legislation, and dilatory regulators. The real long-term solutions are greater energy efficiency, conservation, and a shift to renewable sources. California has recognized that reality with the passage of the Clean Energy Act of 2002. This legislation requires the state's investor-owned utilities to generate 20% of their electricity from clean, renewable sources, such as wind, solar, and small-scale hydroelectric, by 2017. In 2001 the proportion from renewables was 10.3% statewide.

In 2001 California produced 265,059 gigawatt hours of electricity. It was generated from the following sources:

Hydroelectric	9.4 %
Nuclear	12.6 %
Coal	10.4 %
Oil	0.5 %
Natural Gas	42.7 %
Geothermal	5.1 %
Biomass & Waste	2.3 %
Wind	1.2 %
Solar	0.2 %
Imports - Pacific North West	2.6 %
Imports - Pacific South West	12.8 %

Residential accounts used 30% of the electricity generated at the state level in 2001. In San Mateo County residences used 34%, while non-residential uses consumed the remaining 66%. The average resident in San Mateo County in 2001 used 2,099 kilowatts of electricity or 219 fewer than in 2000, a decline of 9%. This decline was undoubtedly associated with the plea for conservation during the period of uncertain electricity supply. As in natural gas consumption, there are great variations between cities in annual per capita consumption. As the bar graph demonstrates, the residents of Atherton again are the

continued

Energy Consumption, continued

biggest consumers with an annual average of 6,251 kilowatts. The residents of Colma had the lowest average at 1,132 kilowatts, a 5 1/2 fold difference. East Palo Alto is close to the low consumption average of Colma, and so is Daly City, the largest city in the county. As with the natural gas consumption, the electricity data show a correlation between wealth and energy consumption. The same correlation exists for the world: U.S per capita energy usage is estimated at 40 to 80 times that of poor countries.

Direction

The California legislature and some of the residents of the state, especially in the Bay Area, are taking action to move the generation and consumption of energy in a sustainable direction. San Francisco voters have passed a measure similar to California's Clean Energy Act mentioned above. Many rebate and tax-credit programs have been enacted that encourage more energy efficient behavior. For more information check the web sites of PG&E and the California Energy Commission.

According to Hawken and Lovins in *Natural Capitalism*, anyone who disparages conservation or increases in energy efficiency is either ignorant or pushing an economic vested interest that gains from energy inefficiency. The authors claim that our energy using systems—motor vehicles, buildings, electrical motors, appliances, etc.—can be designed to be 60%–90% more efficient. We could end our dependence on oil imports and thereby significantly

decrease our geopolitical exposure to dangerous areas of the world. One highly promising technology is fuel cells. With abundant hydrogen as its basic fuel, zero harmful emissions, decentralized infrastructure, and eventually much cheaper cost per kilowatt generated (about a fifth of current costs), it almost sounds too good to be true. Skeptics argue that commercially feasible widespread fuel-cell use may be 10 to 20 years in the future. There are several technical problems, especially the explosive nature of hydrogen, yet to be solved. What, they inquire, do we do in the meantime? In contrast to California, the answer of the current national administration in the United States is, "not much that's different from the past."

Sources: California Energy Commission (energy.ca.gov); P.G.& E. Statistical Research Unit (pge.com); California Public Interest Research Group (environmentcalifornia.org); *San Francisco Chronicle* (various articles on energy, 2001/2002/2003); Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins & L. Hunter Lovins, *Natural Capitalism* (Little, Brown and Company, 1999); Seth Dunn, *Micropower: The Next Electrical Era and Hydrogen Futures: Toward a Sustainable Energy System*, and *Reading the Weathervane: Climate Policy from Rio to Johannesburg* (World Watch Institute, July, 2000, August, 2001, and August, 2002); Jeremy Rifkin, *The Hydrogen Economy* (Tarcher/Putnam, 2002).
 Researcher: Raymond Miller

Per capita Average Residential Energy Use in San Mateo County 2001

Rank	City	DTH (gas)	Population	Rank	City	Per Capita k Wh	Per Residence k Wh
1	Atherton	58.19	7,194	1	Atherton	6,251	17,980
2	Hillsborough	51.93	10,825	2	Woodside	6,209	16,590
3	Woodside	49.94	5,352	3	Hillsborough	4,863	13,898
4	Portola Valley	39.37	4,462	4	Portola Valley	3,995	12,037
5	Menlo Park	25.66	30,785	5	San Carlos	2,448	5,751
6	San Carlos	24.33	27,718	6	Foster City	2,440	5,543
7	Burlingame	23.78	28,158	7	Menlo Park	2,418	5,682
8	Belmont	23.57	25,123	8	Unincorporated	2,390	7,152
9	Millbrae	21.76	20,718	9	Belmont	2,313	5,408
10	Brisbane	20.96	3,597	10	Burlingame	2,293	4,723
11	San Mateo	20.12	92,482	11	Half Moon Bay	2,181	6,636
12	Foster City	20.01	28,803	12	Brisbane	2,174	4,448
13	Pacifica	19.36	38,390	13	San Mateo	2,159	5,407
14	Unincorporated	18.04	61,275	14	Millbrae	2,150	5,399
15	Redwood City	17.70	75,402	15	Redwood City	1,921	5,139
16	Half Moon Bay	17.62	11,842	16	Pacifica	1,899	4,925
17	San Bruno	17.22	40,165	17	San Bruno	1,850	5,309
18	So. San Francisco	16.09	60,552	18	So. San Francisco	1,591	4,842
19	Daly City	14.28	103,621	19	Daly City	1,457	4,833
20	Colma	12.29	1,191	20	East Palo Alto	1,194	5,417
21	East Palo Alto	11.70	29,506	21	Colma	1,132	4,293

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, PG&E Statistical Research Unit

Green Building Policies

Importance

The new construction, demolition, renovation, and long-term use of buildings, although essential to human progress, cause much harm to the environment. According to Worldwatch Institute, buildings account for one-sixth of the world's fresh water withdrawals, one-quarter of its wood harvest, and two-fifths of its material and energy flows. Buildings contribute to deforestation, air and water pollution, stratospheric ozone depletion, and global warming. Many buildings and furnishings contain chemicals that contribute to indoor air pollution, which can adversely affect human health. In addition, buildings use massive amounts of energy and water over their lifetimes. This has a long-term economic impact on the buildings' owners and a long-term impact on the region's environment.

In response to these problems, forward-thinking architects, builders, developers and municipalities are designing, building, and promoting sustainable buildings. These "green" buildings are designed to save energy and reduce air pollution, use recycled and resource-efficient materials, maximize longevity, save water, create a healthy indoor environment, reduce maintenance and operating costs, and minimize construction waste.

Municipalities that adopt "green" building strategies indicate a willingness to redirect current thinking away from wasteful, inefficient building practices to more resource-efficient, environmentally benign, healthy, and economically sustainable practices.

Indicators Used

Sustainable San Mateo County's Green Building Task Force members telephoned all the cities in the county plus the county government and inquired whether they had a "green" building policy or ordinance within their jurisdiction, or whether they were considering creating one in the near future.

Findings

The County of San Mateo adopted a "green" building policy on December 11, 2001. This policy applies to all new county-owned construction and all new additions to existing county-owned facilities larger than 5,000 square feet. Projects meeting these criteria are required to meet minimum sustainability standards. The county's policy does not apply to private developments. The county recently completed a new forensics laboratory that meets "green" building criteria.

None of the twenty cities in the county had a "green" building policy in place as of December 14, 2002, but all the cities require contractors to recycle construction and demolition debris. This recycling policy contributes to sustainable construction. Planning staff of most cities were familiar with "green" building concepts and support-

ive of the idea, but were stymied by budget realities and lack of staff to study the issue. Some cities are waiting for completion of a prototype policy that could be modified to fit the needs of each city. RecycleWorks in collaboration with city representatives is drafting such a policy for distribution in 2003.

There is support for sustainable construction in many, but not all, cities. San Carlos is developing a "green" building policy. Pacifica's city council is in the preliminary stages of discussion. Colma has ordinances encouraging water conservation and solar energy. The Portola Valley planning commission is exploring "green" building techniques. The city of San Mateo is designing its new central library to be "green" and expects future city-owned projects to move toward sustainability. Menlo Park is hoping to achieve a minimum of 28 points on the LEED* certification rating for city building projects. Daly City says their engineering department takes "green" practices into consideration for capital building projects, and Brisbane is considering installing solar panels on the roof of a planned renovation of city hall.

Direction

The concept of "green" buildings is rising on the national and local agenda. Nationally, the cities of Denver, Seattle, Atlanta, Kansas City, Austin, Santa Barbara, Portland (Oregon), and Boulder, plus Clark and Kitsap Counties in Washington State have adopted "green" building programs. Locally, San Francisco, San Jose, Palo Alto, Pleasanton, and San Mateo County have adopted nascent "green" building policies within the past three years. Although none of the twenty cities in San Mateo County has officially signed on to this growing trend, "green" building concepts are becoming more mainstream and it is expected that more and more Peninsula cities will build "green" buildings for their own municipal use in the near future. On the other hand, it may be a while before the cities adopt official written "green" building policies and even longer for them to take the next step to include sustainable criteria in their basic building and planning codes which would affect private developments.

*LEED stands for: "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design." It is a program of the U.S. Green Building Council and consists of a checklist of many of the different elements that can contribute to a "greener" building. Developers can use this checklist to help them design and construct sustainable buildings. For more information go to www.usgbc.org.

Source: Telephone survey of San Mateo cities and the county government

Researchers: David Crabbe, John Hara, Bill Lee, John Kittermaster

2003

RecycleWorks has created important programs like the Green Building Program to encourage cities to adopt important green building concepts.

Health Insurance Coverage and Medical Costs

Importance

Adequate health care is vital. It is a life-long need. A sustainable community makes certain that access to health care is available to all, and that all have an opportunity to thrive and become healthy and productive citizens. Annual checkups, preventive care, and prompt treatment for illness are important aspects of health care.

Health insurance provides access to care for individuals and families and spreads the cost of care across the community. Without insurance many cannot afford treatment and put it off until an emergency forces them to seek help. Then they must attempt to repay huge costs. The public is left with the unrecoverable debt.

The individual's cost of care is of concern, too. Large health care costs for insurance, treatment, or medications mean less for other basic needs, such as housing, food, and transportation. This is of particular concern for the elderly, living on fixed incomes. At a time in their lives when they often need more medical services, the low-income elderly often cannot pay for these services.

The "American health care system relies on a patchwork of insurance coverage, including employer-sponsored health insurance for the majority of working-age adults, the Medicare program for the elderly and disabled, and Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program for low-income adults and children," according to a recent report.¹ The federal government and the state fund the county's Health Plan, which provides health care for low-income people, the disabled, and the elderly. "The Health Plan is one of just five of its kind in the nation—all in California—that contracts with the state to manage health care costs for social welfare programs, using the business model of private HMOs."² In existence for 16 years, the Health Plan serves 64,000 San Mateo County citizens and has an estimated \$125 million budget.

Indicators Used

Sustainable San Mateo County has not found adequate *annual* measurements of health insurance coverage and medical costs. Because it is an issue of critical importance, however, we are presenting what we found for 2001-2002. Three of our sources for this report conduct surveys; two are conducted every three years and one is conducted every two years. The indicators used in this report are:

- The approximate number of uninsured children and adults in San Mateo County in 2001.
- The percent of uninsured non-elderly adults (18-64 years old) in San Mateo County (two different sources) in 2001.
- The percent of individuals (18-64) who had no routine checkup in San Mateo County in 2001.

- The number and percent of unduplicated individuals receiving treatment at the San Mateo Medical Center (hospital and 21 clinics in outlying areas) in FY 2001/2002.

- The national percent of increase in Consumer Price Index's health care component for fiscal year 2001-2002.

Findings

Three surveys provide some health information for the county. One is the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Health Policy Research. The other two surveys are the San Mateo County Quality of Life Survey and the 2001 San Mateo County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, conducted for the Healthy Community Collaborative of San Mateo County.

The CHIS found that approximately 43,000 uninsured children and adults reside in San Mateo County. Seventy-five percent of all children are covered by job-based insurance and another 15.8% are covered by Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. The CHIS percentage of uninsured non-elderly adults (18-64 years old) was 8%. The Behavioral Risk Factor Survey found the CHIS percentage of uninsured non-elderly adults was 9.3%. Averaging these two surveys suggests the percentage for the county is around 8.7%.

The Behavioral Risk Factor Survey found that more than half of the uninsured (52.5%) had no routine checkup in the prior year and 29.5% of residents overall received no routine checkup. Almost a third (31.7%) have no dental insurance. Other interesting findings are that use of alternative or complementary health care increased, as did use of the internet for health care information, particularly by men. The number of smokers is down but 53.8% of the population is overweight.

The county's new hospital, the San Mateo Medical Center, opened in 2001. The Center serves primarily Medi-Cal patients and the uninsured. From July 2001 to June 2002, it treated 21,200 unduplicated individuals who had no insurance. This is approximately 37% of the total visits to the hospital. For comparison, Sequoia Hospital reports that 17,744 patients or 9.3% of patients in the Emergency Department were self-paid, which means they did not have insurance.

The cost of health care nationwide increased 4.9% in the year ending July 31, 2002—an increase that was higher than any other economic category tracked by the United States Labor Department's Consumer Price Index (CPI).³ Higher costs for labor,

continued

Health Insurance Coverage and Medical Costs, continued

prescription drugs, hospital care, and increased use of medical services were some of the reasons for this increase.

One happy note is that last fall the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors passed a Healthy Kids Program for children of families ineligible for state programs such as Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.⁴ Additionally, a letter-writing campaign is underway to urge the federal government to add parents to the Healthy Families program.

Direction

The number of people without medical insurance grows yearly and the costs of care are escalating. Some aspect of the health care crisis is covered almost daily in local papers. In 2001, 14.6% of U.S. residents (41 million Americans and 6.3 million Californians⁵) lacked health coverage. Percentages for minorities are higher than for Whites. For the 43,000 San Mateo County residents who remain uninsured, however, adequate health care may be lacking.

Lack of insurance is not the only criterion for assessing the availability of adequate health care. The cost of insurance, drugs, and clinic or hospital care as well as availability of services—enough doctors, nurses, and open clinics—are also important. For instance, the county is seriously short of doctors. The high cost of housing and low medical reimbursement rates are reasons that new qualified physicians are choosing to settle elsewhere. "The county is short by 47 primary doctors, eight surgeons, six urologists, and three neurologists, according to Cattaneo and Stroud, a Burlingame consulting firm for hospitals and medical groups."⁶

Here are some quotes from recent newspaper articles first on costs and then on availability.

- "California has 12% of the nation's population and 14% of those living in poverty. Yet it now receives only 11% of the Medicaid dollars because its sizable high-income population gives the state a relatively high average income." Rosenblatt, Robert A. "Feds dump Medicaid costs on state," *S.F. Chronicle*, Nov. 24, 2001

- "California officials have been notified by the federal government that the state will have to pay a bigger share of the cost of Medicaid and other programs for the poor beginning in mid-2002." Rosenblatt, Robert A. "Feds dump Medicaid costs on state," *S. F. Chronicle*, Nov. 24, 2001

- "Large Northern California employers expect a 17% jump in the price of health coverage for their workers next year [2003] raising the chances that employees will end up absorbing a greater share of the cost." Tansey, Bernadette, "Health care premiums apt to rise," *S. F. Chronicle*, Dec. 10, 2002

- "20% of employers have eliminated retiree medical plans for new hires." Strope, Leigh, "Health benefits for workers eroding, studies show," *S.M. Co. Times*, Sept. 16, 2002

- "The California Public Employees Retirement System, the nation's second largest public purchaser of employee health care, has said its 2003 HMO premiums will rise on an average of 25%." Rosenberg, Alec, "Health benefits for workers eroding, studies show," *S.M. Co Times*, Nov. 1, 2002

- "Only 58% of California's doctors accept new patients covered by HMOs, making it about as difficult to get care as if you were on Medi-Cal, which 50% of doctors no longer accept." Russell, Sabin, "State health care system unraveling," *S.F. Chronicle*, Dec. 4, 2002

- "Growing numbers of independent physicians, unhappy with low fees are refusing to take on new HMO patients, making it harder for even the fully insured to find a doctor." Russell, Sabin, "State health care system unraveling," *S.F. Chronicle*, Dec. 4, 2002

- "The nursing shortage grows—13% of the slots in California are vacant." Editorial, *S.M. Co. Times*, Dec. 28, 2002

In a recent report "the National Academy of Sciences states that the U.S. health care system is in crisis and that the Bush administration should immediately test possible solutions, including universal insurance coverage and no-fault payment for medical malpractice, in a handful of states."⁷ Whether the administration or Congress will address this health care crisis is not clear at this time.

Sources: Healthy Community Collaborative of San Mateo County, *2001 Community Assessment* (two surveys), HtmlResAnchor <http://www.plsinfo.org/healthysmc>; UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, HtmlResAnchor <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu>; Ron Robinson, Chief Operating Officer, San Mateo County Health Center; Pat Georgelos, Administrative Assistant, Sequoia Hospital; ¹Davis, Karen, Commonwealth Fund, "Universal Coverage in the United States;" ²Whitney, Jean, "County's low-income insurance may be safe for another year," *S.M. Co. Times*, Jan. 9, 2003; ³Colliver, Victoria, "Big surge in the cost of health care," *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 17, 2002; ⁴Bowers, Wes, "Ensuring health," *The Independent*, Aug. 27, 2002; ⁵Editorial, "Nation's ailing health care system needs TLC," *San Maeo Co. Times*, Dec. 28, 2002; ⁶Sherbert, Erin, "Where have all the physicians gone," *San Mateo County Times*, Dec. 13, 2002; ⁷Pear, Robert, "Health care in crisis, says Academy of Sciences," *San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 20, 2002.

Researcher: Marcia Pagels

High School Dropouts

Importance

Without a high school diploma, and increasingly, a college degree or skilled training, chances for obtaining quality, high-paying jobs are limited. Business leaders have stated that the future needs of county businesses require a highly skilled and educated work force. Without such a local pool, they will seek employees who live elsewhere. This will add to commuter trips into and out of the county, increasing congestion and air quality problems. The lack of a qualified work force locally may also be a factor influencing a company's decision to move into or out of the county. Finally, students who do not receive adequate education will be more vulnerable to poverty, homelessness, crime, or substance abuse.

Indicators used

The dropout rate in San Mateo County by school district, gender, and race is reported for grades 9 through 12 for the academic year 2000/01 using information provided by local and state educational departments. Because it is difficult to account for students who enter and leave the school district, the data might be inaccurate to a small degree. This report analyzes statistics only from public schools in the county.

Findings

The number of dropouts by school district for the 2000/01 academic year shows that La Honda-Pescadero Unified has the lowest rate at 0% and Sequoia Union High has the highest at 3.8%. African-American students had the highest dropout rate for the 2000/01 school year at 4.8%. Asians had the lowest rate at 0.6%. Of the total school population, 2.3% of males drop out, and 2.0% of females drop out.

Direction

High school dropout rates have been relatively static in the past couple of years, following distinct general trends. La Honda-Pescadero has consistently had the lowest dropout rate in the county, while Sequoia has the highest. African-Americans and Pacific Islanders have had the highest dropout rates, while Whites and Asians have had the lowest. Females consistently have

lower dropout rates than males.

Sources:
California Basic Education provided by Jeannie Goodwine, San Mateo County Office of Education, Instructional Services Division;
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/demographics>.

Researchers: Theo Leung and Alex Yuh

2001

Evelyn Taylor, as principal of North Shoreview School and co-founder of San Mateo's Turnbull Learning Academy, has gone the extra mile to give all her students, 75% to 95% from ethnic minority families, opportunities to succeed.

Housing Affordability

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 and municipalities 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 drives essential service workers out of the area and can drive low-income people below the poverty line. In some cases, this can lead to homelessness.

Indicators Used

The relationship between the countywide median price of a single-family home and condominium; the countywide average rent for a vacant one-bedroom, one-bath and two-bedroom, one-bath apartment; and the ability to pay annual housing costs are measured. Affordability calculations are based on local lender's guidelines that homeowners not pay more than 35% of gross household income per year for housing. This is higher than the 30% used nationally because of the high cost of housing in the Bay Area. Annual housing cost for ownership housing assumes a 20% down payment and a 30-year, fully amortized loan.

Findings

In 2002, Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) countywide median income figure for a family of four increased 7.5% over 2001 to \$86,100.

During 2002, the median sales price of a single-family home countywide increased 5.9% from \$590,000 to \$625,000. This compares to a median price of \$313,000 in California and \$159,000 nationwide. Meanwhile, the price for a condominium remained constant (\$384,700 in 2002 compared with \$385,000 in 2001). House prices decreased in the more affluent areas (Woodside, Portola Valley, Hillsborough, Atherton, Montara, Half Moon Bay, and Moss Beach), but prices increased in all other cities in the county. Long-term interest rates, which have a major impact on housing affordability, were relatively low in 2002.

In 2002 the median-income family could not afford the median-priced home, but could afford a condominium. The annual gross income required to buy a median-priced house in the county increased 3.3% in 2002 to \$135,300 despite lower mortgage rates. This is a setback

from last year when housing affordability improved slightly. The annual gross income required to buy a condominium dropped 1.9% to \$83,345 primarily through lower interest rates.

Between December 2001 and December 2002, the countywide average monthly rent for a vacant apartment decreased 7.8% for a one-bedroom apartment to \$1,305, and 9.5% for a two-bedroom apartment to \$1,597. This meant that countywide median-income families and low-income families (80% of median) could afford to pay the average rents in the county. A breakdown of rents by city ranges from a low of \$1,121 for a one-bedroom and \$1,469 for a two-bedroom apartment in Belmont to a high of \$1,839 (1-BR) and \$1,987 (2-BR) in Menlo Park. Occupancy rates increased slightly to 93.9% countywide in 2002 compared with 93.5% last year. This meant that slightly fewer apartments were available for rent in 2002 than in 2001.

Of 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. Families earning low and very-low income (80% of median and 50% of median respectively) may be paying more than 35% of income for housing, live in subsidized housing, share housing with others, live in substandard and overcrowded housing, or be homeless.

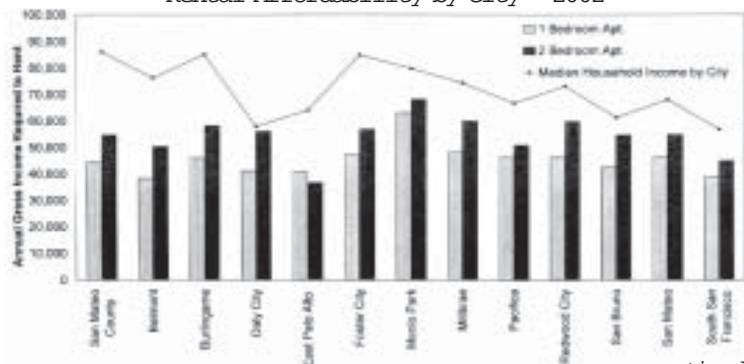
Direction

The demand for single-family housing in the county remains strong and can be expected to continue to drive up house prices. Condominiums, which are less expensive than single-family homes, are generally the only ownership option for median-income and less affluent families and can be ex-

2001

Peninsula Habitat for Humanity continues its efforts to build quality, affordable housing in partnership with qualified families in San Mateo County.

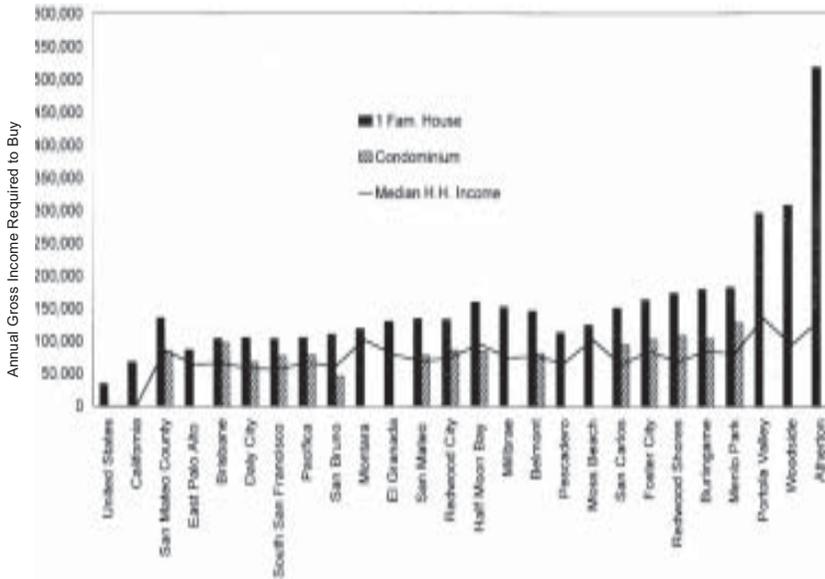
Rental Affordability by City • 2002



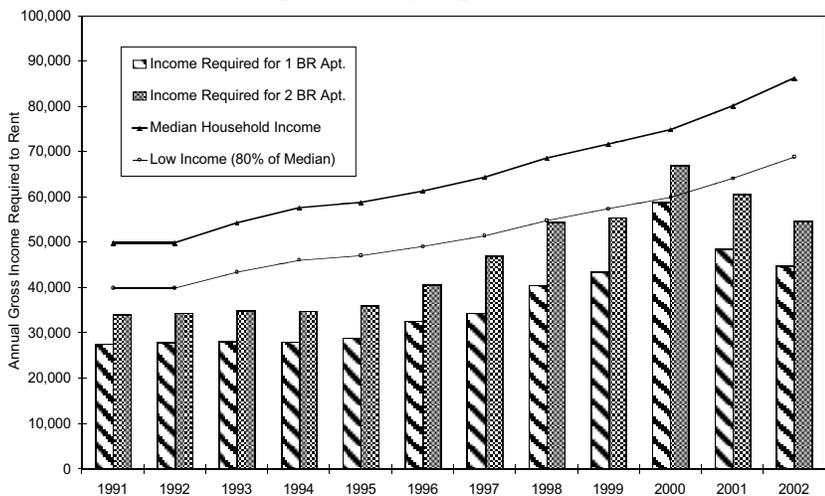
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Housing Affordability, continued

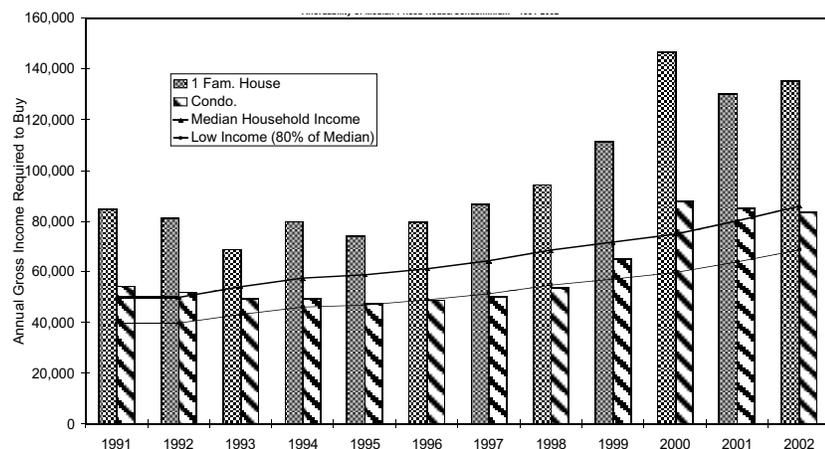
Affordability of House/Condominium by City • 2002



Affordability of Average Apartment Rent • 1991-2002



Affordability of Median-Priced House/Condominium • 1991-2002



pected to continue in high demand. The high-end luxury housing market is weak indicating that fewer affluent families are willing to pay exorbitant prices for single-family houses.

Rents in the county are decreasing. This is a welcome improvement from previous years and will probably continue into 2003. Unfortunately, this is probably a deceptive trend because only a limited number of new rental units are being constructed annually. When the economy improves, occupancy rates may once again rise to the levels of 1996-1999, which severely limited rental availability and drove up rents countywide.

The overall trend is troubling because the gap between housing costs and affordability remains very wide. This means that soon only the most affluent members of society are going to be able to live in San Mateo County. This will gradually force middle-income and lower-income families and individuals out of the area making it harder for local businesses to hire qualified workers. The lack of a local work force will create pressure to increase wages to attract employees from out of county. This will increase the cost of products and services for county residents, and will make local businesses less competitive with similar businesses located elsewhere. This could drive businesses out of the county to more balanced communities. Pressure will also continue to construct more housing of all types within the county in the future.

Sources: County of San Mateo; Association of Bay Area Governments; San Mateo County Association of Realtors; Housing and Urban Development, Researcher: David Crabbe

Living Marine Resources

Importance

The problems facing the oceans, the cradle of most of the world's biological diversity, are immense. Around the globe, the top five threats to the seas stem from overfishing, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution, and global climate change. It may be difficult to see from our perspective above the waterline, but San Mateo County's marine ecosystems are showing signs of serious ecological declines.

Perhaps the most dramatic indication of troubles in our waters is a recent, unprecedented action taken by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (the body that oversees fishing in our West Coast federal waters). Fishing for rockfish has been closed in all federal waters on our coast, nearly the entire continental shelf from Mexico to Canada. As our populations of wild salmon declined, demand for rockfish soared, leading to rapid exploitation of these slow-growing populations. Like the several depleted abalone species, these rockfish could take decades to recover and will require local initiatives to provide vigilant stewardship.

All of us enjoy the serene and sometimes tempestuous nature of our beautiful ocean, bays, and estuaries. Not too long ago our oceans were not so sick. For around 10,000 years the Pomo and other Native Americans lived in healthy harmony with the ocean's abundant resources. In recent history San Francisco Bay has been overwhelmed by invasive species brought here inadvertently by incoming ships. Bottom trawling and other destructive fishing techniques have completely altered the natural seascape in ways we are only beginning to understand. There is much work to be done to mend ocean food webs and regain a sustainable balance between man and sea. Taking care of our marine environments must go hand-in-hand with care for our watersheds.

Indicators Used

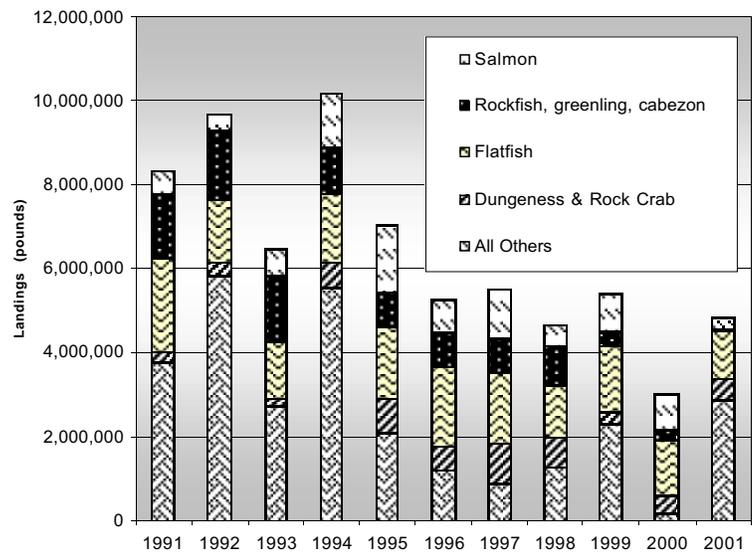
Monitoring the state of ocean organisms is a much more difficult task than monitoring species on land. Our understanding of even the most common ocean species is scant. For example, in our nearshore fisheries 266 species were assessed for possible management. Only 19 species, however, had enough information about them for us to design and implement management plans. So when we see downward trends in the fish populations we are tracking, it is more than a warning for that particular species—it is likely an alert to more widespread problems.

The number of fish we catch offers one type of data we can learn from. Even this, however, is a challenging task. Recreational fishing is significant, often exceeding commercial catches for many nearshore species, but California does not even know how much biomass this widespread popular activity removes from most marine populations. For San Mateo County the only source of multi-year catch information is data reported by commercial fishermen at Princeton Port.

Findings

Looking at the 10-year time series for Princeton Port, certain groups seem to be doing better than others are. Clearly the most troubling trend is the recent and dramatic crash of rockfish, greenling, and cabezon. The 2001 commercial catch for this group was less than 3% of the catch in 1991. Flatfish populations have fluctuated, but only half as many were caught in 2001 compared with a decade ago. Salmon had a bad year in 2001, yielding less than one-third of the previous year's catch. This could be due to changing ocean conditions, below average

Commercial Landings for Princeton Port • 1991-2001



rainfall, and other factors hindering the comeback of our struggling wild salmon populations. Commercial catches of crabs have been relatively stable, with 2001 proving to be a good year. Ten years is a good start for trying to see population trends, but it is only a brief view of patterns created by dramatic changes in the oceans over the past several hundred years.

continued

Living Marine Resources, continued

Direction

There are a variety of efforts underway to stop the declines in California's marine ecosystems. Limiting fishing effort is an important step, exemplified by the recent coast-wide rockfish closures. Another tool gaining support is the use of marine protected areas (MPAs). Similar to protected areas on land, MPAs have demonstrated an ability to increase marine species diversity, productivity, individual numbers and biomass. In 2002 California celebrated a milestone with the creation of a network of fully-protected MPAs around the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. San Mateo County will be considering new marine reserves over the next few years through the state's recently passed Marine Life Protection Act. Other new policies are on the way as well. The Marine Life Management Act is

creating opportunities for us all to be involved by ensuring that the many competing interests—commercial, recreational, and other public and wildlife interests—are well balanced.

A good framework is long overdue to achieve ecosystem management for our oceans. We can adopt precautionary approaches, including marine protected areas, and we can do much to educate one another to ensure that our individual actions do more good than harm. Are we ready, finally, to turn the tide?

Source: Susan E. Ashcraft, Associate Biologist, Marine Fisheries, California Department of Fish and Game.
Researcher: Aaron Tinker



Some Fishy Ideas

- Join a local marine conservation organization, many of which can be found through the Ocean Wilderness Network.
www.oceanwildernessnetwork.org
- Check the Monterey Bay Aquarium wallet guide for sustainably caught seafood - <http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/seafoodwatch.asp>
- Convince your local grocery or seafood provider to only sell sustainably harvested seafood, and under no circumstances should they sell farm-raised salmon.
- Learn about and ENJOY our beautiful marine life! California's Living Marine Resources: A Status Report is available for free at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/statu/>
- Learn what you can and can't fish! http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/fishing_map.html

Mortality

Importance

A sustainable community seeks to improve the health and decrease preventable deaths of its citizens. Mortality rates provide a measure of the health of the whole community. This knowledge is especially valuable to those who promote good health, maintain preventive services and practices, and those making long-range plans to improve public health. Anomalies in the mortality rates can signal a need to practitioners that attention needs to be paid to newly emerging challenges to the health of the county's population and to justify the allocation of scarce resources to meet emerging threats to the health of the county's people.

Indicators Used

This article highlights three major indicators of health in terms of mortality statistics: leading causes of death for all ages (1995–1999), the county's ranking compared with other California counties of age-adjusted death rates by selected causes (1999), and the actual causes of death as an estimated annual average (1997–1999). These three indicators should give a reasonable snapshot picture of the mortality rates and causes in San Mateo County for the years indicated.

Findings

From 1995–1999, heart disease and cancer were the most common causes of death in San Mateo County. In 1999 heart disease was the major cause of death, while cancer killed more citizens in 1995–1998. Change in number of deaths due to cancer in 1999 compared with 1995 was only an increase of 0.3%. The change in heart disease deaths showed a major jump of 19.1% from 1995 to 1999. These changes may be only an artifact of statistical recording because the overall death toll for this five-year period decreased by 1.7%. Deaths from stroke—the third most common cause of death—showed a 26.8% increase from 463 deaths attributed to stroke in 1995 to 587 recorded in 1999.

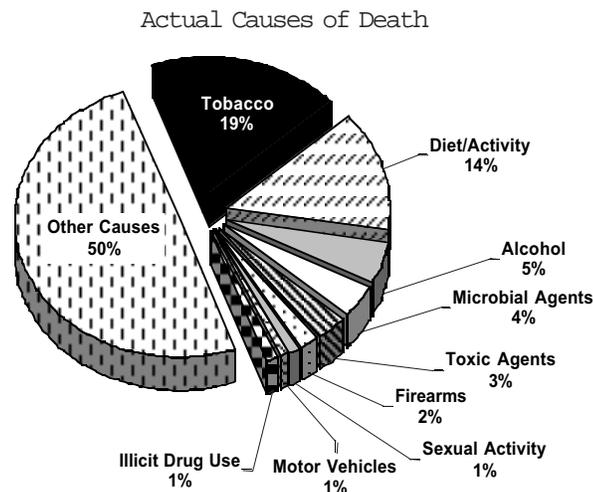
If death rates adjusted to the year 2000 standard adopted for the State of California are examined, a less than promising picture appears. Among the 58 California counties San Mateo ranks only 18 (1 = best, 58 = worst) for all cancers and coronary heart

disease, 21 for suicide, 25 for homicide, and a very low 41 for stroke. San Mateo County ranks in the top ten among the counties of the state only in unintentional injuries.

While most of the statistical record cites causes of death determined at the time of death, another assessment of mortality can be made by applying a model developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify and quantify the major external (non-genetic) factors that contribute to death in the United States. According to this model San Mateo County can attribute these causes to the average number of deaths (estimated number of 1997–1999 annual averages deaths) as follows: because of tobacco use, 937 persons; poor diet and/or lack of exercise, 690 deaths; and excessive alcohol use, another 246.

Direction

There have been some bright spots in the history of mortality in San Mateo County over the last several years. Pneumonia/influenza deaths have dropped by 30.1%, AIDS by 83.2%, liver disease by 26.4%, and homicide by 50%. But these figures based on comparisons of raw numbers fail to tell the whole story. Health officials, medical practitioners, and educators, as well as the informed public, might consider paying greater attention to the potential causes of death underlying the reported causes of death. There we may discover the need to modify our very life styles to create a more sustainable community in the future.



Source: www.dhs.ca.gov
 "2001 Community Assessment—Health and Quality of Life in San Mateo County; California Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics Data Table 2000, San Mateo County's Health Status Profile for 2001"
 Researchers: Yasean Lee and Michelle Lo

Per Pupil Funding

Importance

We depend on schools to provide students with the basic skills necessary to be good citizens of our community and with the ability not only to participate but also to succeed in society. Committing resources and funds to our education system demonstrates our dedication to future generations. Without sufficient funding, our schools cannot provide updated curricula and maintain competitive salaries for teachers.

Indicators Used

Average revenues and expenditures in San Mateo County public school districts per annual Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) for 2000/2001 are shown. Revenues and expenditures per ADA by school district are shown in the chart. Also reported are the percentage changes in revenues and expenditures from the previous year.

Findings

Average revenues per annual ADA for grades K-12 in 2000/2001 in San Mateo County were \$8,123; average expenditures were \$6,855. Total revenues countywide for 2000/2001 increased by 14% to \$656,970,009. Total expenditures increased by 9.9% to \$570,856,033. Schools in San Mateo County are organized in three different ways according to the wishes of the electorate in the communities served: elementary school districts, most often grades K-8; high school districts, most often grades 9-12; and unified districts, grades K-12.

1999

San Mateo County Office of Education's Outdoor Education Program provides a week-long environmental education for over 5,000 fifth and sixth grade students and their teachers at Jones Gulch in La Honda.

Elementary school districts displayed the following characteristics of per pupil funding. The amount of money available per student varies widely: Woodside shows \$11,201 behind each student; Jefferson, only \$6,257. Bayshore Elementary School District showed the largest increase in ADA revenues and expenditures for elementary school districts. Revenues per ADA increased by 33% to \$7,658 while expenditures per ADA increased by 24.9% to \$6,638. Bayshore Elementary School District also had the greatest decrease in ADA for Elementary Schools in San Mateo County losing 9.5%—409 students. Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District

continued

Revenues and Expenditures
Per Annual Average Daily Attendance (ADA) • 2000/2001

District	Annual Revenues K-12 ADA	Expenses Per ADA(\$)	% increase revenues	% increase expenses
Elementary				
Bayshore	409	7,658	6,638	33.0
Belmont-Redwood Shores	2,404	7,248	6,266	5.6
Brisbane	651	6,723	6,500	11.2
Burlingame	2,311	6,766	5,916	13.8
Hillsborough	1,371	9,528	3,976	8.7
Jefferson	7,114	6,257	5,831	13.9
Laguna Salada	3,127	7,002	5,654	20.6
Las Lomas	952	10,508	9,646	19.5
Menlo Park	1,893	9,064	7,788	31.8
Millbrae	2,188	6,790	5,813	19.7
Portola Valley	668	10,260	9,480	12.5
Ravenswood	5,134	7,263	6,681	9.1
Redwood City	8,914	7,864	6,824	13.6
San Bruno	2,804	6,321	5,699	17.4
San Carlos	2,461	9,426	6,276	28.9
San Mateo-Foster City	10,057	6,783	5,958	16.0
Woodside	443	11,201	9,453	19.9
TOTAL ELEMENTARY	52,901	8,039	6,729	
High				
Jefferson High	5,101	7,337	6,607	9.6
San Mateo	7,752	9,056	8,266	11.2
Sequoia	7,404	9,261	7,794	13.7
TOTAL HIGH	20,257	8,551	7,556	
Unified				
Cabrillo Unified	3,679	6,711	6,329	15.4
La Honda-Pescadero Unified	394	11,398	8,539	38.3
S.San Francisco Unified	9,548	6,409	5,738	16.7
TOTAL UNIFIED	13,621	8,173	6,869	
TOTAL/AVERAGE	86,779	8,123	6,855	

Per Pupil Funding, continued

showed the smallest increase in ADA revenues increasing by 5.6% to \$6,862. Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District reported the largest ADA increase by 5% to 2,290 students. Hillsborough Elementary decreased the most in ADA expenditures by 51.8% from \$8,247 to \$3,976. Las Lomitas Elementary School District has the highest school district ADA expenditure at \$9,646 with the second highest school district ADA revenue at \$10,260. Woodside Elementary School District has the highest ADA revenue at \$11,201.

Among the high school districts, Sequoia High School District showed the greatest increase in ADA revenues but also the lowest increase in ADA expenditures. Sequoia's ADA revenues increased by 13.7% to \$9,261 and its ADA expenditures increased by 6.2% to \$7,794. Jefferson High School District showed the smallest increase in ADA revenues but also the greatest increase in ADA expenditures. The ADA revenues increased by 9.6% to \$7,337 and the ADA expenditures increased by 14% to \$6,607. No school district in 2000/01 showed decreased revenues compared with 1999/2000. San Mateo High School District is the only high school district that decreased in ADA dropping by 0.5% to 7,752 students.

Among unified school districts, La Honda-

Pescadero Unified District showed the largest increase in ADA revenues and ADA expenditures. Revenues per ADA increased by 38.3% to \$11,398 and expenditures per ADA increased by 21.4% to \$8,539. All of the unified school districts are decreasing in ADA, but La Honda-Pescadero Unified District shows the largest decrease by 9.2% to 394 students. La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District managed to keep the position of having the highest of any public school district ADA revenue at \$11,398.

Direction

For the fifth consecutive K-12 school year, average revenues and expenditures continue to increase. Though total enrollment continues its downward trend, declining to 86,779 in 2000/2001 from 87,529 in 1999/2000, the decrease of 750 students was substantially less than the decrease of 3,617 students from 1997/98 to 1998/99. The disparity among school districts' per pupil funding continues unabated.

Sources: California State Department of Education; California Basic Education Data Partnership at www.ed-data.k12.ca.us; *2000/2001 Financial Statistical Report*, San Mateo County Office of Education
Researchers: Alexander Chang, Beatrice Hunt



"My kids' lives will depend on the state of the world in 2052, not just on our decisions about life insurance and schools."

Jared Diamond "Lessons from Lost Worlds,"
Time Magazine, Aug. 26, 2002

"The earth is not left to us by our parents; it is lent to us by our children."

African proverb

"For the choices we make and the stands we take now for our children's and nation's futures, whose trajectories are inextricably intertwined, will shape America's fate in the new era."

Marian Wright Edelman *The State of America's Children* 1997

Population

Importance

Demographics paint a community picture using the social and vital statistics for a given area's population over a selected period of time. The political, economic, and social institutions working to meet the needs of individuals who reside in the county need to respond to changing demographics. Sustainable communities accommodate the challenges of growth, while maintaining the physical and cultural environments that provide lives of good quality for all ages of residents.

The planning challenges for San Mateo County include population changes due to economic conditions, a large commuting population that does not live in the county, the high cost of living and lack of affordable housing for professional and blue collar workers, the accommodation of significant numbers of immigrants speaking languages other than English, and the encouragement of retired people on fixed incomes to remain in the county.

Indicators Used

Total county population data including components of growth are obtained from the Demographic Unit of the California Department of Finance E-2 and E-6 reports, published annually in January & February. City populations are January 2002 estimates from the State's E-1 report. Race and age statistics for 2000 come from the Bureau of the Census Summary File.

The Census Bureau has reported a 2000 undercount of approximately 500,000 people in

City Populations

	2001	'01-'02 % Inc.	2002
Atherton	7,225	0.0	7,225
Belmont	25,250	0.0	25,250
Brisbane	3,620	1.1	3,660
Burlingame	28,350	0.2	28,400
Colma	1,200	0.8	1,210
Daly City	104,200	0.2	104,400
East Palo Alto	29,700	4.7	31,100
Foster City	28,900	0.0	28,900
Half Moon Bay	12,000	1.3	12,150
Hillsborough	10,900	0.9	11,000
Menlo Park	30,950	0.3	31,050
Millbrae	20,800	0.0	20,800
Pacifica	38,700	0.1	38,750
Portola Valley	4,480	0.7	4,510
Redwood City	75,800	0.7	76,300
San Bruno	40,350	0.0	40,350
San Carlos	27,850	0.2	27,900
San Mateo	92,900	1.3	94,100
So. San Francisco	60,900	0.2	61,000
Woodside	5,375	0.5	5,400
Unincorporated	63,000	1.0	63,600

California. This accounts for some possible differences between the state data & census totals.

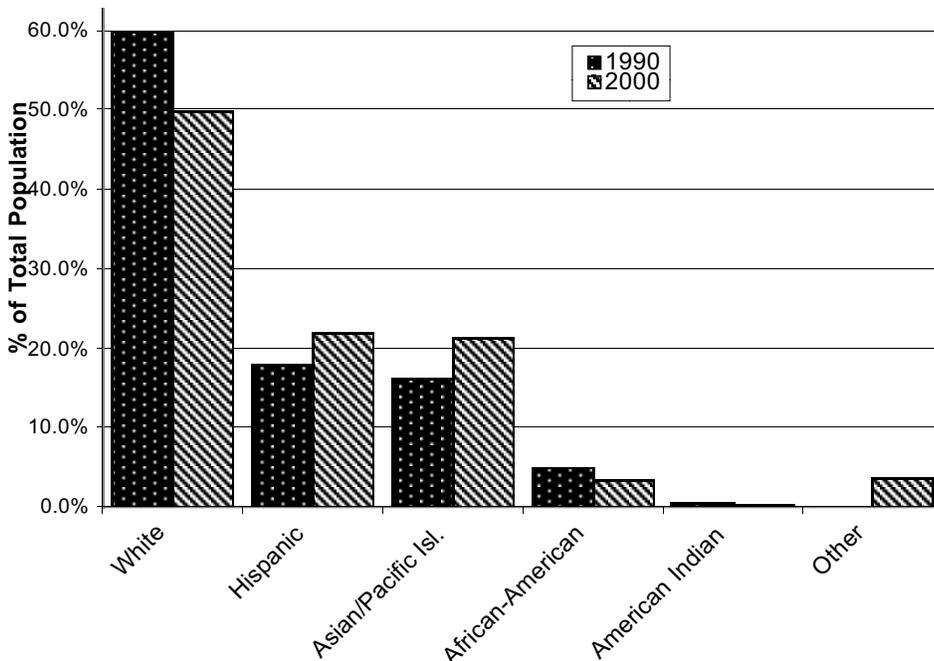
Findings

San Mateo County continues to be a place of ethnic diversity. The graphs reflect changes in the ethnic groups since the 1990 Census. County statistics for 2000 reflect a trend similar to that of the State of California where Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islanders account for 44% of the state's population.

Our neighborhoods are becoming more ethnically diverse. In 2000, 63% of the census tracts in the San Francisco Bay Area were "diverse" or "somewhat diverse", the highest in the

continued

Ethnic Composition of Population



Population, continued

Year	Population With Components of Growth								
	Total (July 1)	% Growth	# Growth	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Net Immigration	Net Domestic Migration
1990	648,200								
1991	653,900	0.9	5,700	10,838	4,746	6,092	-392	4,887	-5,279
1992	662,000	1.2	8,100	10,609	4,873	5,736	2,364	5,645	-3,281
1993	666,800	0.7	4,800	10,455	4,910	5,545	-745	5,853	-6,598
1994	670,600	0.6	3,800	10,349	4,803	5,546	-1,746	5,912	-7,658
1995	675,900	0.8	5,300	10,185	5,020	5,165	135	4,977	-4,842
1996	679,900	0.6	4,000	10,048	4,952	5,096	-1,096	4,924	-6,020
1997	690,400	1.5	10,500	10,098	4,973	5,125	5,375	5,817	-442
1998	695,800	0.8	5,400	9,918	4,841	5,077	323	5,556	-5,233
1999	700,800	0.7	5,000	10,177	5,020	5,157	-157	5,649	-5,806
2000	710,300	1.4	9,500	10,243	4,716	5,527	3,973	4,167	-194
2001	714,900	0.6	4,600	10,376	4,831	5,545	-945	6,213	-7,158
2002	713,800	-0.15	-1,100	10,223	4,768	5,455	-6,555	5,126	-11,681
	Total	9.65	65,600						

Source: E6 Report, January 2003, California Department of Finance
E2 Report Revised, January 2003, California Department of Finance

state, and compared with only 36% in 1990. San Mateo County is considered overall to be "somewhat diverse" with a score of 54 on the diversity index established by the Public Policy Institute of California for the year 2000.

In the 2000 census, 6.4% of the county population is under 5 years of age, 23% under 18, and 12.5% over 65. The median age in San Mateo County in 2000 was estimated to be 37 years.

Direction

Population growth remains comparatively low or negative. The county grew 9.65% in the years between 1990 and 2002, a rate slower than that of the state (16%). State demographers project a growth of less than 30% between 2000 and 2020. Natural increase (births minus deaths) remains

relatively stable. Birth rates in the next decade are projected to be similar to those of the previous ten years. The annual growth fluctuates significantly, however, owing to migration factors. Residents continue to move out of the county and the state but that is offset by a high foreign immigration.

Sources: California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit - <http://www.dof.ca.gov>
US Government, Bureau of the Census
<http://census.gov>
Public Policy Institute of California, "California Counts: Population Trends & Profiles"
<http://www.ppic.org>
Researcher: Carol Mink



"A sustainable society is a demographically stable one."

Worldwatch Institute 1998 *State of the World* report

"The first step in stabilizing population is to remove the physical and social barriers that prevent women from using family planning services."

Worldwatch Institute 1998 *State of the World* report

"As countries begin to press against the limits of their water supplies, the competition between the countryside and cities intensifies."

Worldwatch Institute 1998 *State of the World* report

Poverty

Importance

Poverty trends are significant indicators of the effectiveness of a county's economy. Keeping track of the number and sufficiency of programs available to recipients of the different welfare programs allows San Mateo County to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current economic policies and programs, and demonstrates the general well-being of the county as a whole. With too many people living in poverty, potential investors turn elsewhere. County general funds spent on entitlements leave less for parks, libraries, and other civic enrichments.

A sustainable society is one in which each individual has the opportunity to develop and make the best use of his or 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 physical growth and cognitive development lasting into adulthood.

Indicators Used

There is no single yearly measurement that reflects the number of people living in poverty in San Mateo County. The San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) provides and monitors welfare programs for the county. These programs include CalWORKs (for families with dependent children), General Assistance (single adults), Food Stamps, and Medi-Cal. Given here is the number of people enrolled in these welfare programs in San Mateo County in October 2001. The HSA's estimate of the amount of money needed for a family of three to survive in our county in 2001, and data from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey are provided.

Food stamp figures include both those receiving and those not receiving public assistance payments. Not included are people living below the poverty level who receive no public assistance.

Findings

In October 2001 the HSA provided services as follows: 1,604 families (3,563 people) received services in the CalWORKs program, 244 individuals received General Assistance, 782 cases (family members and individuals totaling 1,507) received food stamps, and 18,188 cases (27,209 people) received Medi-Cal. Most recipients of CalWORKs also received Food Stamps, and all are eligible for Medi-Cal. The latter two programs served additional people who receive no assistance payments.

United States Census 2000 Supplementary Survey data show that for California as a whole, 14% of the population is living below the poverty line. Of these, 60% are female and 30% are children under the age of 18. At the county level, percentages of the population living below the poverty line ranged from 5.7% (Contra Costa County) to 25.5% (Fresno County). In San Mateo County, 6.5% of the population is living below the poverty line, 1.8% receive

Public Assistance Income, and 9.4% receive Public Assistance Income or Non-cash Benefits.

The HSA's estimate of the amount of money needed for a family of three to survive in our county (in 2002) was \$5,112 a month, or \$61,344 per year.

Direction

San Mateo County's "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report" to the Controller's Office for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2002/2003 budget, describing county caseload trends states:

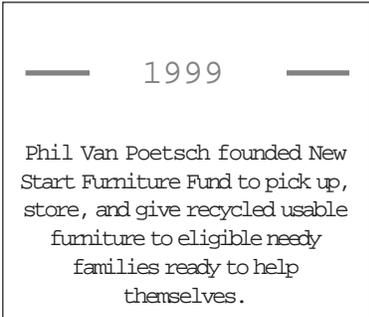
"Between 1997 and 2001, the county had a steadily declining rate of families on public assistance compared with California as a whole. During this period, the county's public assistance, or CalWORKs, rate decreased at 1.7 times the rate of the state. Between 1997 and 2001, the total number of CalWORKs participants in the county decreased by 68.3%; statewide, the number of recipients decreased 39.5%. Between 1997 and 2001, the total number of Food Stamps recipients in the county de-

creased by 67.2% from 12,438 to 4,084; statewide, the number of recipients decreased 43.3%. The County has increased the proportion of CalWORKs recipients under age 18 from 74% of all recipients in 1997 to 82% in 2001. Statewide in 2001, only 76% of CalWORKs recipients were under age 18. The only exception in this pattern occurred in the Moving-to-Work caseload. The San Mateo County Human Services Agency Office

of Housing secured additional Section 8 housing vouchers linking families on cash aid with affordable housing for the innovative Moving-to-Work program; this program helps low-income families move from public assistance to economic self-sufficiency. Between 1999 and 2001 the county's Moving-to-Work caseload increased 74% from 349 to 608; statewide, the Moving-to-Work caseload decreased 12.9%.

"In partnership with PeninsulaWorks, the Human Services Agency provided enhanced employment services to the community due to the downturn of the economy in 2002. These services included assembling an impromptu employment center at San Francisco Airport immediately after September 11, 2001 and offering integrated re-employment strategies and counseling to dislocated workers. The Human Services Agency's budget experienced a net increase of 10.5% in actual cost from FY2000-01 to FY2001-02. The increase reflects new grant funding for enhanced/new program services."

Sources: James V. Miller, Research Analyst, Research & Planning, San Mateo County Human Services Agency; *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* (for Fiscal Year 2001/2002), San Mateo County; *Census 2000 Supplementary Survey Results for San Mateo County*, United States Census Bureau, <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/c2ss.html>
Researcher: Stacey Esser



Prenatal Health Care

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 are available to all women, thus providing every newborn with the opportunity to thrive and become a healthy, productive adult. In addition, this preventative care reduces the long-term social and medical burdens placed on a community.

Indicators Used

The indicators used for prenatal health care are adequacy of prenatal care, infant mortality, low birth weights, and teenage birth rates.

Findings

Adequacy of Prenatal Care

The percentage of San Mateo County women receiving first trimester prenatal care increased from 80.7% to 86.5%; the proportion of mothers with no prenatal care declined remarkably from 2.0% in 1989 to 0.6% in 2000.

A total of 2.7% of San Mateo County pregnant women did not receive prenatal care until the third trimester in the year 2000. This percentage has leveled, following a general decline over the past several years.

The rate of late or no prenatal care decreased for Whites and Hispanics, while remaining stable for other race/ethnic groups from 1989 to 2000. Adequate care of African-American, Hispanic and Filipino mothers ranges from 65% to 85%. Adequacy rates of Pacific Islanders are improving. After 1996, the rate of late or no prenatal care stabilized across all race/ethnic groups.

Only Whites and Asians reached the Healthy People 2010 objective that 90% of pregnant women receive care beginning with the first trimester. Between 1989 and 2000 Hispanic women showed the greatest improvement in having first trimester prenatal care (+10%), followed by African-Americans (+9%).

Another measure used to monitor adequacy of prenatal care is the Kessner Index, which

defines "not adequate" prenatal care as no prenatal care at all, care begun in the third trimester, or care for which the number of patient visits was less than half the number recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. By this measure:

- Adequate prenatal care increased from 79% to 86% of total births between 1989 and 2000.
- African-Americans showed the greatest improvement in adequacy of prenatal care (+16%) followed by Hispanics (+13%). All groups had better rates in 2000 than in 1996 and 1989.

Infant Mortality

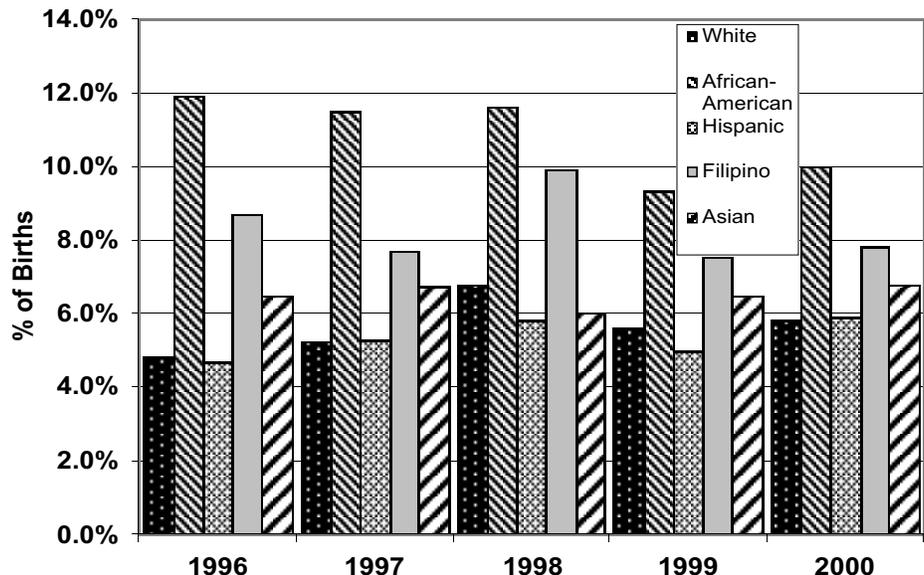
The San Mateo County infant mortality rate declined from 6.3 deaths per 1,000 births in 1990 to 3.8 per 1,000 in 1999. Since 1998, San Mateo County has met the Year 2010 objective for infant mortality of 4.5 deaths per 1,000 births.

Each year until 1996, African-Americans had the highest infant mortality rate among racial and ethnic groups. The rate has declined from 18.7 deaths per 1,000 births to 6.6 per 1,000 births. Thus, the overall trend in African-American infant mortality appears to be declining. An increase in Pacific Islander infant mortality has been seen since 1998, replacing African-Americans as the racial/ethnic group with the highest infant mortality.

Low Birth Weights

Among total births, the proportion of low birth weight deliveries was slightly in excess of 5% most years from 1989 to 2000 and has remained relatively stable. This is just short of the Year 2000 and Healthy People 2010 objectives. African-American and Filipino women had the highest proportion of

Low Birth Weight Deliveries by Race/Ethnicity • 1996-2000



continued

Prenatal Health Care,
continued

low birth weight deliveries.

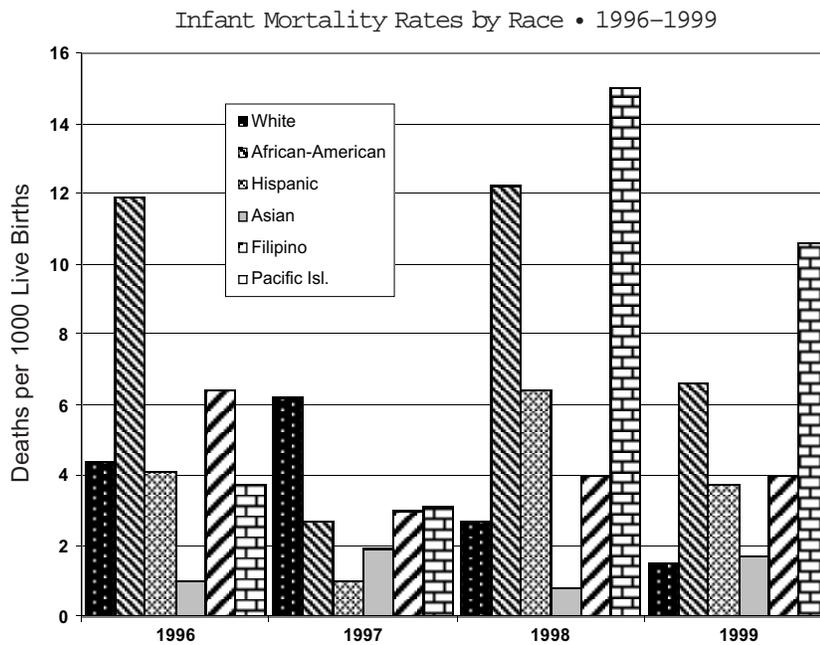
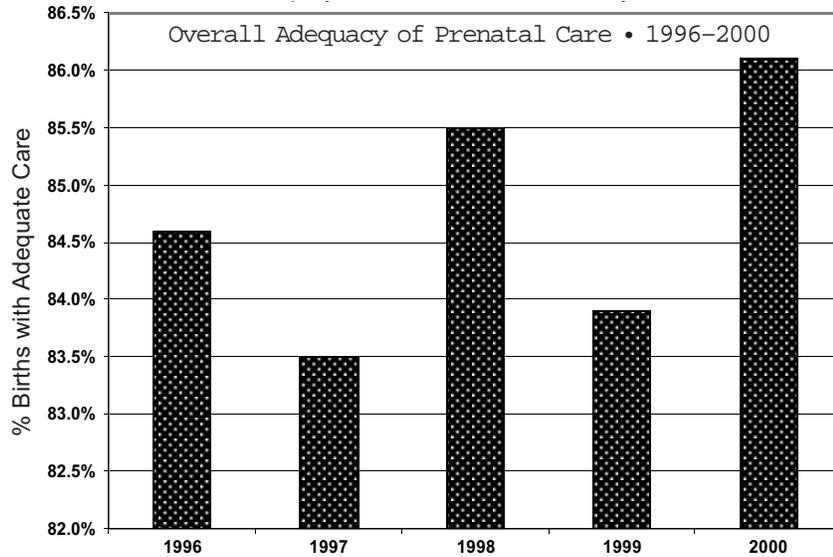
The rate of low birth weight infants among African-Americans exceeded the Year 2000 objective of 9.0% each year between 1989 and 2000. Infants born to African-American women were more likely to be of low birth weight when compared with those born to other racial/ethnic groups, with low birth weight infants accounting for 10% or more of African-American births each year.

Teenage Birth Rate

In the last 10 years, San Mateo County has experienced a decline in teen birth rates, from 2.4% in 1990 to 1.8% in 2000. Since 1998 there has been a decline of 35% (from 2.8% to 1.8% in 2000). There were 191 births to adolescents (under 17). For adolescents 15-19 years old, the proportion of births was African-Americans 15.6%, Hispanics 12.4%, Pacific Islanders 6.1%, Filipinos 4.9%, Whites 1.8%, and Asians 0.8%.

Direction

The adequacy of prenatal care in San Mateo County is improving overall. According to the Kessner Index, the percentage of births with adequate care increased from 78.5% in 1989 to 86.1% in 2000. Infant mortality in the county is decreasing and currently satisfies the Healthy People 2010 goal, however, rates remain particularly high among African-Americans. Low birth weights are just short of the Healthy People 2010 goal; but again are particularly high among African-Americans. Rates of births to teenagers have steadily declined over the last 10 years.



Source: 2001 Community Assessment: Health & Quality of Life in San Mateo County; Public Health Department, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Network
Researcher: Teri Whitehair



"The Earth is a sphere, and a sphere has only one side. We are all on the same side."

Peace Corps volunteer

Public Library Use

Importance

Public library use is an indication of literacy, political interest, business research, education, intellectual curiosity, and general interest in reading, videos, CDs, and computers. Libraries are gateways to information for large numbers of people. They are also an access point to the internet and a multitude of data bases. Library programs aimed at children and adults are cultural assets to the 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.

Indicators Used

The California State Library collects statistics yearly from public libraries in California and issues an annual summary of the data collected. This year the state's final summary was delayed so the data used herein is based on a pre-publication draft copy. Four statistics from that draft 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 public libraries in Daly City, San Mateo, Redwood City, South San Francisco, Burlingame, San Bruno, and Menlo Park, plus the San Mateo County library system which includes branches in Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Carlos, and Woodside.

Findings

The indicators vary by library system within the county. In 2001/02, the total combined annual expenditure per capita for all the library systems in the county rose 17.4% from 1999/2000 to \$47.95 per capita. Materials circulation per capita was down 7.4% from 1999/2000 and reference questions asked were down 21.9%. Circulation per capita in 2001/02 was 7.15. Data for statewide circulation per capita and annual per capita expenditure were not available at the time of this publication; state spending and circulation have historically been considerably lower than that in the county, however. All libraries countywide in 2001/02 were open to the public 70,473 total hours, a 3.1% de-

crease over the previous year.

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. Expenditures per capita for libraries in Redwood City (\$73.32), Burlingame (\$65.48), South San Francisco (\$61.08), and Menlo Park (\$52.06) are higher than those for libraries in San Mateo County (\$46.25), San Mateo City (\$43.23), and San Bruno (\$39.40), while Daly City receives the least funding (\$22.22). In general, the library systems with the higher expenditures per capita are open more hours and support higher usage.

Direction

Countywide expenditures per capita for libraries are up from 1997/98 levels indicating continuing support for library services. The number of materials circulated per capita is trending down slightly and reference questions asked per capita have dropped minimally. Some of this decline may be attributed to greater use of the internet for reference and recreation. Hours open to the public had been steadily increasing since 1994/95, but dropped 3.1% in 2001/02. It is too soon to determine if this downward trend in accessibility will continue.

Source: *California Library Statistics 1990-2002* by Library Development Services Bureau, California State Library, Sacramento.

Researcher: David and Nancy Crabbe

continued



"If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible."

Soren Kierkegaard

"Real education begins with a question in the life of the learner."

Leo Tolstoy (found in Cecil Andrews, *The Circle of Simplicity*)

"As long as you live keep learning how to live."

Seneca (found in Cecil Andrews, *The Circle of Simplicity*)

Solid Waste

Importance

In 1989, the California State Senate passed Assembly Bill AB 939. This bill established the current organization, structure, and mission of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). The purpose was to direct attention to the increasing waste stream, the decreasing landfill capabilities, and to mandate a reduction of waste being disposed of in landfills. Jurisdictions made up of individual San Mateo County cities and unincorporated county areas, were required to meet diversion goals (recycling requirements) of 25% by 1995 and 50% by the year 2000. A disposal reporting system was established with CIWMB oversight.

Over the past 12 years, the cities and the county of San Mateo have implemented a variety of programs to address recycling waste rather than disposing of it in landfills. The year 2000 was when jurisdictions could be fined for not meeting their goals. In determining whether to assess fines, CIWMB takes into consideration the "good faith" efforts being made by cities to meet the goal of diverting 50% of solid waste.

Indicators Used

Reported is the tonnage of solid waste disposed into landfills of San Mateo County and the approved diversion rates (the amount of waste reused, recycled, or composted) for 1995 to the year 2002. All the 1999 and many of the 2000 diversion rates have been submitted and approved with some conditions as noted in the chart, *Solid Waste Diversion Rates*. Only four jurisdictions have submitted diversion rates for 2001.

Findings

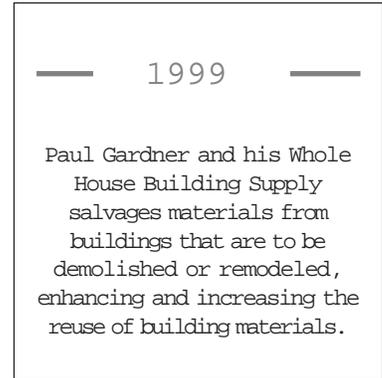
The tonnage of solid waste in San Mateo County landfills has decreased every year since 1999. In 1999, San Mateo County sent approximately 1.3% less waste to county landfills than in 1998. The 958,185 tons in 1998 was reduced to 945,673 tons in 1999. There was a 7.1% reduction from 1999 to 2000 (878,409 tons), an additional 6.4% reduction between 2000 and 2001 (822,071 tons), and a 7.8% reduction between 2001 and 2002 (757,614 tons). The total reduction from 1998 to 2002 exceeds 20%. Additionally, the number of San Mateo County cities on "Compliance Schedules" (cities that still need assistance in reaching the 50% goal) has been reduced from seven cities in 1998 to only three cities in 2000. Today, there are no cities in San Mateo County remaining on "Compliance Schedules."

In 2000, the solid waste disposed of in landfills outside of our county was 25,896 tons compared with 49,592 ton in 2001. The export of solid waste is not caused by an overflow in San Mateo County, but is driven by either special waste disposal require-

ments or a cheaper market.

In the State of California, the commercial sector makes up 48.8% of the waste stream still being disposed of in landfills. Residential makes up 38.1% of the waste stream,

and self-hauling makes up 13.1%. Within those three categories, organic products make up 35.1% of the landfills; paper products, 30.2%; construction and demolition, 11.6%; plastic, 8.9%; metal, 6.2%; and glass, 2.8%.



Direction

Solid waste in San Mateo County landfills is being reduced. There are, however, significant amounts of recyclable materials still being disposed of in our landfills. Continued efforts are especially needed in recycling organic products, paper products, demolition products, plastics, and metals. The majority of recyclable materials in those categories are uncoated corrugated cardboard, newspaper, white ledger paper, filmplastic, food, leaves, grass, and lumber.

RecycleWorks, a program of the county of San Mateo, is a leader in recycling education. In the years 2000 and 2001 RecycleWorks sold 1,039 compost bins. This program diverts 25-35% of home waste or approximately 364 pounds of organic food waste per year, per household where used. They have also implemented forums on "green construction" and a comprehensive public education campaign devoted to e-waste (electronic recycling). In 2001 only 230 tons of e-waste was recycled in San Mateo County. In the first four months of 2002, after the beginning of the outreach campaign, over 170 tons of e-waste was accepted for recycling, a 121% increase over 2001. A total of 390 tons of e-waste was recycled in 2002, and 53 tons of e-waste were recycled in January of 2003 alone.

With the statewide commercial sector making up nearly 49% of the waste stream, special efforts have been made to educate the businesses within the construction industry. The role of city and county government is essential in controlling the waste stream created by the construction industry. In December 2001, the county of San Mateo adopted

continued

Solid Waste, continued

Solid Waste Diversion Rates by City • 1995-2001

Jurisdiction	Approved Diversion Rates					2000	Unapproved Diversion Rates 2001
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999		
Atherton	17%	43%	15%		31%	55%	*
Belmont	36%	33%	43%	48%	48%	63%	*
Brisbane	25%	34%	40%	32%	3%	00% ¹	*
Burlingame	37%	41%	42%	40%	46%	47% ²	*
Colma				47%	51%	50%	*
Daly City				14%	23%	23% ³	*
East Palo Alto	10%	15%			45%	59%	*
Foster City	27%	25%	54%	50%	37%	43% ³	*
Half Moon Bay				32%	44%	46% ²	*
Hillsborough	19%	25%			25%	52%	* ⁴
Menlo Park	36%	34%	39%	30%	40%	50%	*
Millbrae	30%	12%	31%	40%	52%	50%	*
Pacifica	36%	26%	30%	28%	31%	22% ³	*
Portola Valley	-2%	17%		32%	27%	37% ³	32%
Redwood City	39%	41%	43%	46%	47%	47%	*
San Bruno	29%	19%			47%	49% ³	51%
San Carlos	34%	38%	39%	34%	39%	42% ³	*
San Mateo	40%	33%	42%	29%	34%	39% ³	*
S. San Francisco	26%	27%	36%	39%		32% ³	*
Unincorporated	30%	34%	33%	26%	25%	30% ¹	48%
Woodside	21%	8%			42%	57%	70%

¹ Figures under review
² Board approved good faith effort
³ Board approved with time extension
⁴ Waste generation study in progress
* Diversion rates are not yet available

a Sustainable Building Policy, which requires new county buildings to be built to LEED standards, as developed by the US Green Building Council (see "Green Building Policies" for an explanation of LEED). Just two months later, in February of 2002, they adopted a Construction & Demolition Ordinance, which applies to all construction in the unincorporated areas of the county. Several cities have also adopted construction and demolition ordinances or building policies and conditions. Those cities are Atherton, Burlingame, Colma, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, and Woodside. Other San Mateo County cities may also consider adopting "green building" policies.

Sources: County of San Mateo RecycleWorks, www.recycleworks.org; California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), www.ciwmb.ca.gov
Researcher: Don Eagleston



"As they said in the Depression, 'Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.'"
Cecile Andrews, Circle of Simplicity

"In nature there is no waste, only food for the decomposers. And the same materials have been recycled for billions of years."
Eric Roston "New War on Waste," Time Magazine, Aug. 26, 2002

"[We live in] a world addicted to growth, but in deep denial about the consequences."
William Rees, Canadian ecologist

Substance Abuse

Arrests for Driving Under the Influence

Importance

Persons driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs (DUI) pose a serious threat to the safety and well-being of everyone, including themselves. Although an increase in the number of DUI cases can reflect enforcement efforts, it may also represent an increase in the number of persons driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, which equates to an increased probability that an accident will occur and that a serious injury or fatality will ensue.

Indicators used

The California Department of Justice records the number of arrests in San Mateo County for DUI. Figures from 1992 to 2001 are shown.

Findings

A total of 3,503 DUI arrests was recorded in 2001. Of these, 3,423 arrests were misdemeanors, and 80 were felony arrests. The majority of the DUI arrests occurred in the 30-39 year-old age group accounting for 3,396 misdemeanor and 77 felony arrests. A felony arrest is one in which someone other than the person arrested is injured or if the perpetrator has had three or more arrests within seven years.

Juveniles had 30 DUI arrests in 2001, which is 1% of the total.

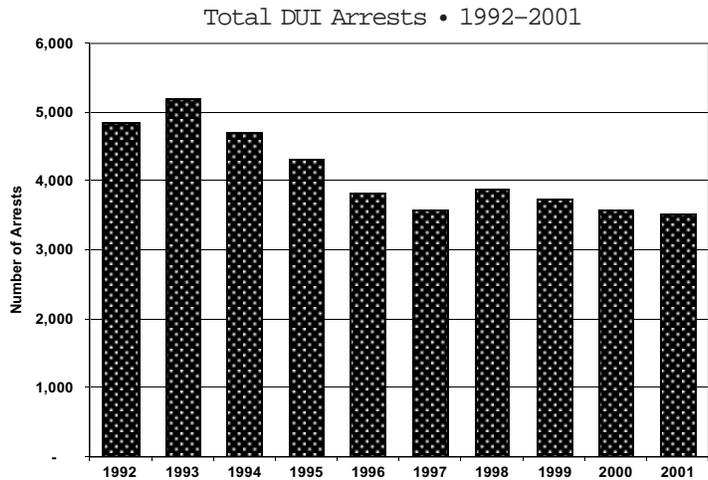
Direction

During the period from 1992 to 2001, there has been a general decrease in DUI arrests (from 5,592 to 3,503). This is a decrease of 63%. The trend has slowed in recent years. From 1998 to 1999 DUI arrests decreased 3.9% from 3,889 to 3,739. In 2001, arrests continued to decrease. Juvenile arrests have not exhibited this gradual decrease. Arrests increased from 19 to 31 in 1997 to

1998. In 2001, arrests are down slightly at 30 arrests.

The leveling off in recent years in DUI cases may be due to growing awareness concerning DUI among San Mateo County drivers, as well as the increase in penalty fees for DUI arrests. Public education programs may be more widespread and more effective in reaching the general public.

Increased public awareness of the hazards of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has led to stricter laws, higher penalty fees, and increased enforcement of those laws. Since 1991, the streets have probably become much safer because of DUI awareness in the community.



Source: State of California, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Services Division, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, *Criminal Justice Profile, 2001, San Mateo County*.

Researcher: Teri Whitehair

Substance Abuse • Treatment Provided

Importance

No community can long maintain a safe local environment if its citizens are victimized by accidents and diseases resulting from substance abuse. Past statistics for violence, automobile injuries, and the spread of serious diseases have been linked to substance abuse. "The economic cost associated with substance abuse, including costs to health care, social welfare, crime, and family violence, is staggering in San Mateo County," according to the report *2002 Alcohol and Drug Assessment*. To combat substance abuse, the county expends millions of dollars annually.

Treatment services are an integral part of alleviating the immediate effects and long-term health care costs of substance abuse. These services are instrumental in promoting independence and stability for the individuals and safety for the community.

The latest data from the San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) Alcohol and Drug Services Division provide us with reports of the number of people who sought substance abuse treatment in San Mateo County. Supplementary statistics are provided by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, which gathers statewide information. Data for fiscal year (FY) 2001/02 have been compared with data for several previous years to determine trends in treatment.

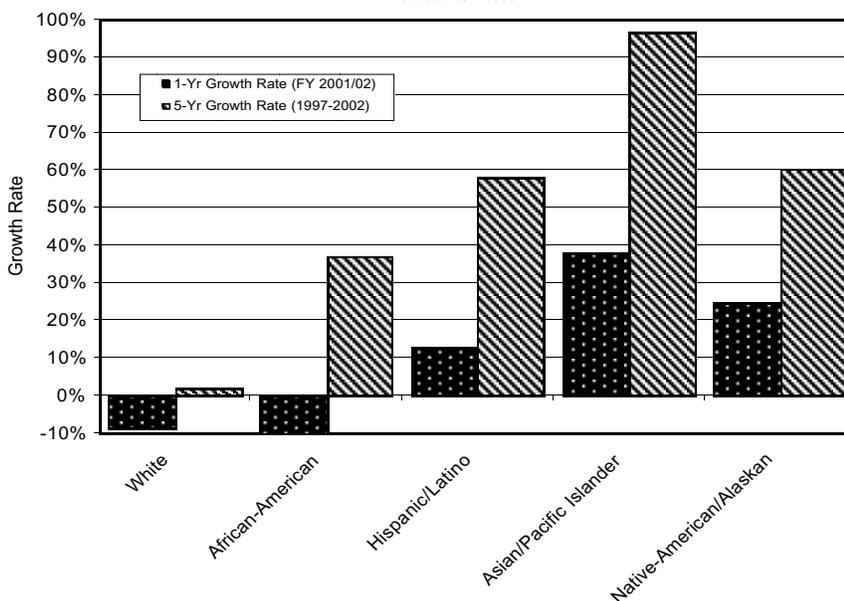
Findings

The total number of treatment episodes for FY 2001/02 is 4,939, virtually unchanged from the previous fiscal year's 4,960. A treatment episode is defined to be one client enrollment in an alcohol/drug treatment program, regardless of the number of visits the client makes. In terms of specific demographics, substantial increases in treatment episodes occurred with Hispanics/Latinos (13%), Native-Americans/Alaskans (25%), and Asians/Pacific Islanders (38%), although these three groups combined account for only 34% of all treatment episodes. The largest ethnic group seeking treatment, Whites, decreased 9%; African-Americans, the third largest ethnic group seeking help, decreased 13%.

Of the 15 largest counties in California, San Mateo County for the past five years has had the lowest ratio to total population of slots, or places available for treatment. Only 11 persons per 100,000 in the population can be treated at any one time. The state average is 28 per 100,000. Also, San Mateo's average waiting time for treatment was 50 days, more than twice the state average of 20 days.

In FY 2001/02, the county saw an increase in clients seeking treatment for marijuana/hashish (22%) and methamphetamine (26%). Cocaine/crack use increased by 5%. The number of users of alcohol and heroin dropped 9% and 3%, respectively. Those using two or more drugs (64% of total treatment episodes), excluding alcohol, showed an 8% increase; those using three or more drugs (30% of the total) showed a 9% increase.

Substance Abuse



Direction

Over the past five years, the total number of treatment episodes has increased by 20%, although the growth rate for treatment episodes in the past three years slowed to 2%. Since 1997, with the exception of Whites (2% growth), treatment episodes for all other ethnic groups have increased significantly: African-Americans, 37%; Hispanics/Latinos, 58%; Native-Americans/Alaskans, 60%; and Asians/Pacific Islanders, 97%.

Since 1997, large increases in the use of specific

continued

Substance Abuse • Treatment Provided, continued

drugs are also alarming. Marijuana use has increased 136%, methamphetamine 38%, and cocaine/crack 31%. These figures indicate greater availability of popular drugs in the community, both among previous addicts and at-risk adolescents. On a positive note, since 1997, a 2% drop in alcoholism and a 27% drop in heroin addiction show successful containment efforts. Moreover, as a result of reduced heroin use, a 25% drop in needle use has been encouraging, as it relates directly to a lowered risk for diseases transmitted by reused needles.

HSA foresees a sharp drop in treatment episodes over the next few years, including a 30% drop from now until FY 2005/06, because of better one-time and expanded prevention efforts. These

projections may be too optimistic, however, considering FY 2002/03 budget cuts. Additionally, Proposition 36 allows nonviolent alcohol and drug abusers to enter treatment instead of jail but relies on the county to pay for such treatment. The vision of HSA remains "to improve outcomes in the [treatment] system through early identification and structured referral of substance abuse clients to appropriate services."

Sources: Selina Tony, San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Alcohol and Drug Services; 2002 *Alcohol and Drug Assessment*, Human Services Agency; <http://www.adp.cahwnet.gov/default.html>, California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs
Researcher: David Chen



"Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

George Bernard Shaw (found in Cecile Andrews, *The Circle of Simplicity*)

"Man is like every other species in being able to reproduce beyond the carrying capacity of any finite habitat. Man is like no other species in that he is capable of thinking about this fact and discovering its consequences."

William R. Catton, Jr., *Overshoot: The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change*, 1980

"Many present efforts to guard and maintain human progress, to meet human needs, and to realize human ambitions are simply unsustainable—in both the rich and poor nations. They draw too heavily, too quickly, on already overdrawn environmental resource accounts... They may show profits on the balance sheets of our generation, but our children will inherit the losses."

World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future*, 1987

Transportation

Importance

Finding better ways of carrying people and goods from one place to another and delivering them efficiently, economically, and safely is a sustainability issue. The lack of affordable housing near convenient affordable public transit is a major cause of traffic congestion and air and water pollution.

Motor vehicles generate emissions and toxic wastes, such as oil and grease, asbestos from brake linings, and rubber particles from tires—all create air and water pollution. Fossil fuels are non-renewable resources. Roads take up valuable land and reduce habitats and natural wetland purification systems. An increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) indicates increased congestion and use of resources, less time for family, community involvement, and leisure. A decrease in VMT suggests the availability of public transit and shorter commutes.

In 2002 the Environmental Protection Agency found the San Francisco Bay Area in violation of clean air standards. Although most of the violations were confined to areas in eastern Alameda County, nonetheless, all federal funding to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for transportation improvements, which are linked to air quality, was threatened. Additionally, MTC was threatened by a citizen legal action because the agency's goal of 15% utilization by the public of mass transit was not reached.

Automobiles are the greatest generators of air pollution, contributing up to 74% of environmental damage. Diesel trucks, buses, and trains make up the balance, thus further emphasizing the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The San Francisco Bay Area is now the second most congested traffic region in the United States. In San Mateo County much of this congestion can be attributed to the high cost of housing. Workers, unable to afford housing in the county, purchase homes in locations up to 100 miles from their place of employment—such as Tracy, Vacaville, and Salinas. Public transportation from these locations is limited.

Indicators Used

This report gives the following data for San Mateo County:

- the estimated percentage of commuter trips by automobiles for 2002
- public transit ridership for 2002
- VMT per year (1999, 2000, 2001) within the county
- daily vehicle hours of delay in 1990, 2000, and 2001

Findings

Ninety-two percent of all commuter trips in 2002 were by automobile. Bicycles and walking made up 3% with public transit the balance of 5%. These are intracounty trips. Ridership percentages in fiscal 2002 (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002) were distributed among the transit systems as follows:

SamTrans: 47%

Caltrain: 26%

BART: 22% (San Mateo County trips only, including intercounty)

Redi-Wheels: 2%

Shuttles: 3%

Ridership numbers did decrease (especially trips to/from Santa Clara County) probably because of post September 11 and the economic downturn. SamTrans has seen ridership decrease about 8%, Caltrain about 10%, BART about 8%. Resulting dips in sales-tax revenues have also adversely affected levels of service with all carriers cutting back their schedules.

VMT per year in San Mateo County from 2000 to 2001 are as follows:

Year	Miles in Millions
1999	4,865
2000	4,911
2001	4,948

Thus, in 2001 VMT were close to five trillion miles, but the increase over 2000 was only 0.7%.

Daily vehicle hours of delay are as follows:

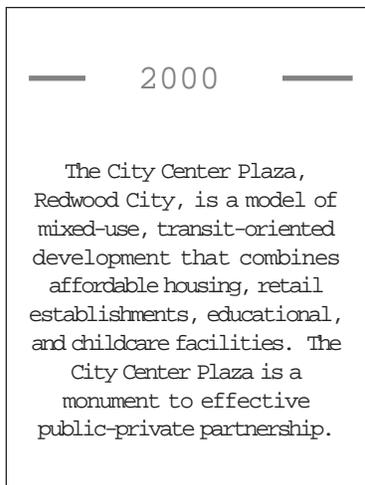
Year	Daily Hours of Delay
1990	1,800
2000	18,000
2001	10,900

Thus, daily vehicle hours of delay went down 39% from 2000 to 2001, a very significant drop. The number of directional miles of congestion decreased from 52 to 38 miles during that same time period.

Traffic congestion in the San Francisco Bay Area costs commuters over \$3 billion in wasted fuel and time.

San Mateo County has received national recognition for its "Transit Oriented Development" program. The new Franklin Street Apartment complex in Redwood City, fits the criteria of being within a 1/3 mile walk to a Caltrain station as well as being directly served on El Camino Real by three SamTrans bus lines. The apartment complex has done a survey of the residents and found that 19% are using

continued



Transportation, continued

Caltrain. This is a positive finding for the use of mass transit.

Direction

Commuting continued to be mostly (over 90%) by private automobile. Only 5% of in-county trips were by public transportation—Caltrain, BART or SamTrans.

Unfortunately, most of the auto activity for suburban dwellers is not to and from work, but rather other trips—going to and from schools, athletic fields, dances, movies, appointments, errands, and shopping in general. Until individuals and families can find ways to consolidate trips, choose more efficient and less polluting cars, statistics on congestion and pollution will not change much for the better.

Travel by public transit in the Caltrain and El Camino corridor will probably increase with housing and businesses located within easy walking distance, but much of San Mateo County is hilly and those people whose homes are located west of the Alameda and on the coastside will continue to be automobile dependent.

SamTrans plans a new express bus service (in mid-2003) from Daly City (BART) to Palo Alto on El Camino Real supplementing the half-hourly train

service by Caltrain. A new "Baby Bullet" express train service is also scheduled to commence in mid-2003 on Caltrain allowing faster trains to pass slower locals at select locations on the important trunk rail line. BART's extension to Millbrae with seamless intermodal connection to and from Caltrain as well as direct service to San Francisco International Airport is now scheduled for early 2003. Ridership is expected to jump significantly on both BART and Caltrain as the trips between East Bay cities (U.C.-Berkeley, as an example) and San Mateo/Santa Clara County locations will be a simple cross-platform transfer. Electrification of Caltrain, more sales of hybrid automobiles, and SamTrans's goal of a cleaner diesel bus are goals within reach.

Sources: San Mateo County Economic Development/ Peninsula Partnership, *Innovative Solutions on the Corridor*, 11/22/02; Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, *Projections 2002*; County of San Mateo, *Shared Vision 2010*; Diana Lee, Strategic and Long Range Planning, Caltrain/SamTrans; Chuck Purvis, MIT; *Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 2001 Report; Year 2001: Bay Area Freeway Congestion Data*; <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/saferesr/trafdata/monthly/histdatacounty>
Researcher: Arthur Lloyd



"In the real world, the environment and economy are linked.

It is only in institutions that they are kept separate".

Jim MacNeill, Secretary General, UN World Commission on Environment and Development.
quoted in article by Peggy Lauer in In Context Magazine, # 32.

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

Norman Cousins

"I truly believe that we in this generation must come to terms with nature,
and I think we are challenged as mankind has never been challenged
before, to prove our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves"

Rachael Carson

Unemployment

Importance

The measure of unemployment is vital to understanding the economic well-being of the county compared with the state and nation. Sustainability of a community is affected positively by a low rate of unemployment. Near full employment creates stable tax revenues that help to sustain infrastructures and social programs that benefit the community. High unemployment makes costly financial and emotional demands on the social services of a community, therefore negatively affecting its sustainability. Unemployment can cause an exodus of members of a community who contribute to its sustainability, as they must go elsewhere in their pursuit of employment.

Indicators Used

The average annual unemployment rates from 1992 through October 2002, for San Mateo County, the State of California, and the United States are reported here. Unemployment rates for October 2002, are not seasonally adjusted and are calculated on non-rounded data as shown from the Labor Market Information for Economic Development.

"Employment" includes all non-institutional civilians, 16 years of age and older who are working for a wage or salary, are self-employed, or are working at 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week that includes the 12th of the month. Those who are on vacation, other kinds of leave, or involved in a labor dispute, are also counted as employed. The "Employment" report does not include people who work for cash that is not documented.

"Unemployment" includes those individuals 16 years of age and older who are not working but are able, available, and have been looking for employment during the week that includes the 12th of the month. Individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days are also considered to be unemployed. The unemployment report does not include individuals who are part-time employees who desire full-time employment. Unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labor force.

Findings

San Mateo County's January to October 2002 unemployment rate of 4.5% is lower than that of the state which is 6.4% and the nation which is 5.7%. For the month of October 2002, San Mateo County ranks 12th highest in unemployment rate (4.6%) of

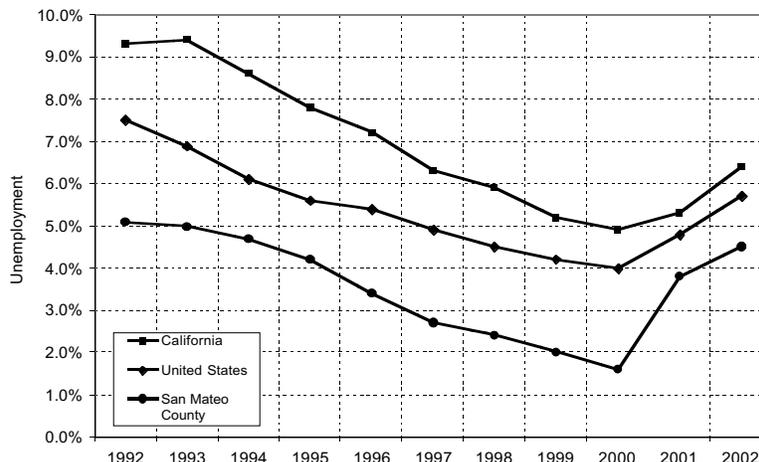
the 58 counties in California.

The three San Mateo County cities with the lowest unemployment and unemployment rate for October (preliminary) 2002 on unrounded data not seasonally adjusted are Half Moon Bay at 160 for a rate of 2.7%, San Carlos at 450 for a rate also of 2.7%, and Burlingame at 520 for a percentage rate of 3.1%. The three cities and census designated place (CDP) with the highest unemployment and unemployment rate are East Palo Alto at 1,440 for a rate of 11.6%, North Fair Oaks (a CDP) at 830 for a rate of 10.1%, and Daly City at 3,370 for a rate of 6%. San Mateo County for this period is 18,600 at 4.6%. San Mateo County unemployment is still probably being impacted by the events of September 11, 2001, with continued decline in travel, and a continued economic downsizing or folding of dot-com companies, software related services companies, and information industries in the county.

2003

The Bread Project runs a training program that teaches the baking trade to people who have been incarcerated, on parole, at-risk, in recovery programs, or are disadvantaged in other ways, enabling them to find jobs and live fruitful lives.

Average Unemployment • 1992–October 2002



Direction

The Employment Development Department (EDD), Labor Market Information Division, combines Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties into San Francisco Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The November 8, 2002 MSA report

continued

Unemployment, continued

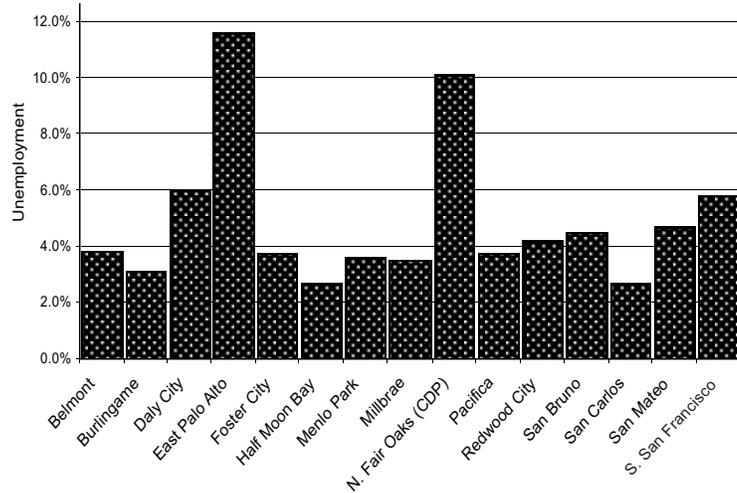
combines employment information for these West Bay counties. Since San Mateo County is part of the MSA, the report will show San Mateo County direction along with the other two counties for the month of October 2002 only.

The unemployment rate in the San Francisco MSA was 5.4% in October 2002. This is above the year-ago estimate of 5.0%. This October 2002 figure compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 6.2% for California and 5.3% for the nation during the same period. The unemployment rate was 3.7% in Marin County, 6.7% in San Francisco County, and 4.6% in San Mateo County.

The total number of wage and salary jobs in the West Bay counties of Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo stood at 1,035,000 in October 2002, up by 1,700 jobs from the September total. Services showed a net increase of 1,900 jobs, chiefly in business service and private education. Government employment netted a gain of 1,700 jobs, with continued seasonal increases in public education. Manufacturing noted a net gain of 200 jobs. In contrast, retail trade decreased by 900 jobs. Transportation and public utilities reported a decline of 400 jobs with half of the loss in air transportation. Construction also posted a decline of 400 jobs. Wholesale trade was down 300 jobs, while farming decreased by 100 jobs. Mining, as well as finance, insurance, and real estate, remained unchanged over the month.

Compared with the single month of October 2001, employment in the West Bay counties was down by 31,500 jobs over the year (3.0%). Services registered a net cutback of 11,300 jobs, mainly through job losses in business services and hotels. Nearly 60% of the drop of 7,600 jobs in transportation and public utilities was in air transportation. About two-thirds of the reduction

Unemployment Rates by City and Census Designated Place (CDP) • October 2002



of 3,800 jobs in finance, insurance, and real estate occurred in finance. Construction saw a loss of 3,600 jobs from last year. Manufacturing showed a decline of 2,800 jobs overall, while retail trade noted a net decrease of 2,200 jobs, mostly in restaurants and bars. Wholesale trade declined by 800 jobs. On the other hand, government posted a net gain of 500 jobs. Farm employment edged upward by 100 jobs. Mining employment remained unchanged over the year.

Sources: www.calmis.ca.gov (Monthly Labor Force Data for Counties; Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment, State of California; Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment, San Mateo County); report by Ruth Kavanagh, State of California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division; State of California Employment Development Department (Labor Force for Sub-County Areas); www.bls.gov (United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey)
 Researcher: Angi Burgess



"Building a sustainable food economy depends on protecting cropland both from soil erosion and from conversion to non-farm uses."

Worldwatch Institute 1998 State of the World report

"While economic indicators such as investment, production and trade are consistently positive, the key environmental indicators are increasingly negative."

Worldwatch Institute 1998 State of the World report

Volunteerism

Importance

The nonprofit sector provides housing to the homeless, feeds the hungry, cares for the sick, and saves lives in times of disaster. It helps educate the young, protects the elderly, preserves our air and water, and enriches our lives with music and art. Hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the community make a meaningful difference in the lives of people. Volunteers are increasingly needed as public funding for support services decreases. By tracking who is involved and why they are involved, we can better estimate and engage the future volunteer force.

Indicators Used

Five indicators are used to describe volunteerism in San Mateo County. The first estimates the percentage of youth and adults who volunteer, and from that estimate, the value of volunteer work for the county is calculated. The second indicator categorizes the areas of volunteer interest. The third identifies the ethnicity of volunteers. The fourth shows the gender of volunteers. The fifth reports how people get involved in volunteer work. Data for the first indicator were derived from a survey conducted by the Volunteerism Project and the Volunteer Centers of the Bay Area in 1999. The second, third, and fourth estimates are drawn from data collected by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County (VC of SMCO). The fifth estimate comes from findings by the Independent Sector, a nonprofit coalition of 700 national nonprofit organizations, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs.

Tracking volunteerism is difficult. The places where volunteers work are many and varied—schools, hospitals, museums, theater groups, environmental groups, churches, agencies, and service groups of many kinds. Most agencies do their own recruiting for volunteers, and they ask the VC of SMCO for assistance for special occasions or additional help. Many agencies do not collect statistical data on volunteerism, and even if they do, there is no central point for the compilation of these data.

Findings

The January 1999 Volunteerism Project's Survey of Volunteering in the San Francisco Bay found that 42% of adults and 51% of youth volunteered in 1998. Assuming these percentages are still applicable, approximately 275,000

residents in San Mateo County volunteered in 2000 (using population data from Census 2000). The Independent Sector estimates that volunteers work on average 3.5 hours per week, a decline from 4.2 hours in 1995, and it assigns a national hourly value of volunteer time to be \$15.39. The total value of work done by volunteers in the county is estimated to be \$770 million.

Data from the VC of SMCO indicate that areas of volunteer interest have shifted again this year.

Total volunteers by ethnicity were 42% Caucasian, 31% Asian/Pacific Islander, 10% Hispanic, 3% African-American, 2% other, and 1% multiracial. This parallels fairly well with the racial/ethnic makeup of the county recorded in the *California County Data Book*

More women than men volunteer. In 2001/02, 60% were women and 33% were men (gender information for 7% was unavailable). In 2000/01, 63% were women and 37% were men.

The Independent Sector's surveys over the years consistently show that people are likely to volunteer for three reasons: when asked by someone; through participation in an organization; and through a family member or relative. When asked, 89.5% of people volunteer.

Direction

Since no survey on volunteerism has been conducted on a local or national level since 1999, it is difficult to gauge the trend of volunteerism for adults or teens. The total value of volunteer work has increased since the hourly value of volunteer time has increased, while the average number of volunteer hours per week has declined.

Sources: Fran Guevarra, Director of Agency Relations, 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*; Independent Sector, *Giving and Volunteering in the United States, Find-*

continued

Volunteerism, continued

ings from a National Survey, 1999 Edition; California Department of Finance, E1 Report 2000; California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, California State Census Data Center, Census 2000, Population by Age and by

Sex.

Researcher: Stacey Esser



The greatest beauty is organic wholeness
The divine beauty of the universe . . .
Love that, not man apart . . .

Robinson Jeffers,

quoted in *Let the Mountains Talk,
Let the Rivers Run,*
by David Brower, Chpt. 5

Voter Participation

Importance

In an ideally sustainable society, citizens participate in making decisions about their communities. Voting is one way they can do so, and is the most easily observed and counted. Low voter turnout is a matter of concern in maintaining a vital community.

Indicators Used

Three countywide measurements of voter participation for the November 2002 election are given: the percent of the adult population registered to vote, the percent of registered voters who actually voted, and the percent of the adult population that 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 consolidated federal, state, municipal, school, special district, measures, and propositions election of November 5, 2002 is also given.

Findings

Sixty-two percent of the adult population was registered to vote in the 2002 election. Of those registered 29% actually voted, giving an adult population participation of 17%.

The November 2002 election consisted of federal offices (Congressional representatives in the

Percent of Registered Voters Voting by City November 2002		12th and 14th districts); state offices (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Member of the Board of Equal- ization for Dist. 1, State Superinten- dent of Public Instruction, State Senator for the 8th District, State Assembly for the 12th, 19th, and 21st Districts, Associate Justices for the Supreme Court of California, and Presiding and
Atherton	61	
Belmont	61	
Brisbane	54	
Burlingame	55	
Colma	50	
Daly City	44	
East Palo Alto	42	
Foster City	52	
Half Moon Bay	59	
Hillsborough	63	
Menlo Park	59	
Millbrae	56	
Pacifica	61	
Portola Valley	67	
Redwood City	53	
San Bruno	50	
San Carlos	57	
San Mateo	55	
So. San Francisco	47	
Woodside	61	
Unincorporated	57	

Associate Justices for the Court of Appeals, District 1); school districts (members of the governing boards for six elementary school districts); city clerk of Belmont; city council members for Colma, Daly City, East Palo Alto, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Pacifica; treasurer in Colma; Harbor District Commissioner; directors in two healthcare districts; director in the Regional Open Space District; director for one water district; three school measures for taxes or bonds; six city measures for taxes or bonds; one district-wide measure; and seven state propositions.

A breakdown by city shows a range of 42%-67% of registered voters voting in the 2002 election.

Direction

There is a fairly consistent pattern of voting participation over the last 10 years. Since 1991 the percentage of adult population voting in off-year elections has been less than 20%. Participation in general elections (even-numbered years), in which the president, congressional, and state government officials are elected is generally higher than participation in off-years. The low level of voter participation in all elections, however, continues to be the most significant trend.

Thirty-nine percent of voters voted by absentee ballot, compared with 36% in 2001.

Sources: California State Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit; *Supplement to Sales and Marketing Management: 2000 Survey of Buying Power*; *San Mateo County Statement of Vote, Tuesday, November 5, 2002*

Researcher: Stacey Esser



"A culture is no better than
its woods."
last line of poem, Woods by W.H. Auden

Water Consumption

Importance

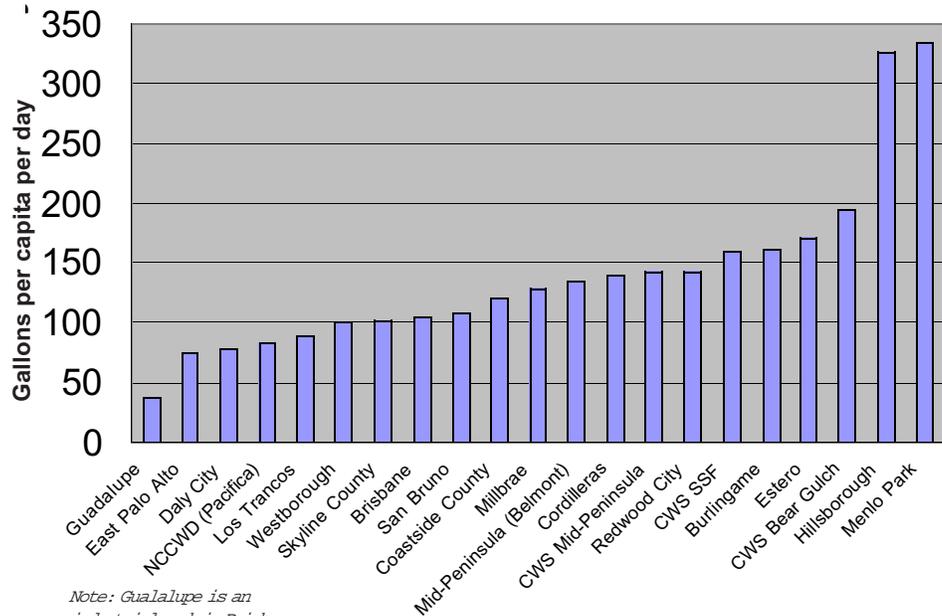
Water is necessary for the survival of all life. It is also important to humans for everyday activities such as bathing, washing clothes or dishes, and basic living. Water consumption varies based on the amount of rainfall and the average maximum temperature. The higher the temperature and the less rainfall, the greater the water consumption.

Water conservation is important because current use is both overdrawing local sources and relying heavily on faraway sources. With an expanding population and increasing demands on our finite water supply, water

conservation is necessary for a community to move toward sustainability. Approximately 90% of San Mateo County water comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park. This reservoir is fed by snow melt from the Sierra Nevada mountains. The remaining 10% of San Mateo County water comes from a fresh water aquifer, a natural underground water deposit created by rain percolating through the soil. Increased urbanization—in the form of pavement, buildings, and other impermeable structures—typically diverts rainfall into storm drains, preventing natural recharging of the aquifer. The reduction of inflow as well as overdrawing of water from the aquifer can cause the surrounding earth to collapse, decreasing the capacity for future water storage.

counties, annually surveys and publishes data on water consumption in the areas served by its members. This indicator reports on San Mateo County's annual per capita water consumption for fiscal year (FY) 2000/2001; compares this amount with water consumption in BAWUA's total service area as well as with consumption in San Mateo County for the preceding five years; and compares water consumption rates in different communities within San Mateo County.

Water Consumption by Agency



Note: Guadalupe is an industrial park in Brisbane

Findings

Annual water consumption in San Mateo County for FY 2000/01 was 47,344,175 ccf (1 ccf = 748 gallons) or 35.4 billion gallons, approaching 100 million gallons per day. Thus per capita consumption for the 716,364 people residing in the San Mateo County service area is 135.4 gallons per day. Although less than the BAWUA service area average of 160.4 gallons per capita per day (gpcpd), it is the highest consumption reported to date in these *Indicators*. Significantly, the range in daily per capita consumption roughly correlates with affluence. Less affluent jurisdictions, such as East Palo Alto, Daly City, and Pacifica, rank among the lowest water users, while Burlingame, Hillsborough, and Menlo Park are among the highest. Water consumption in Menlo Park, the highest per capita water user (335.2 gpcpd), is

continued

2000

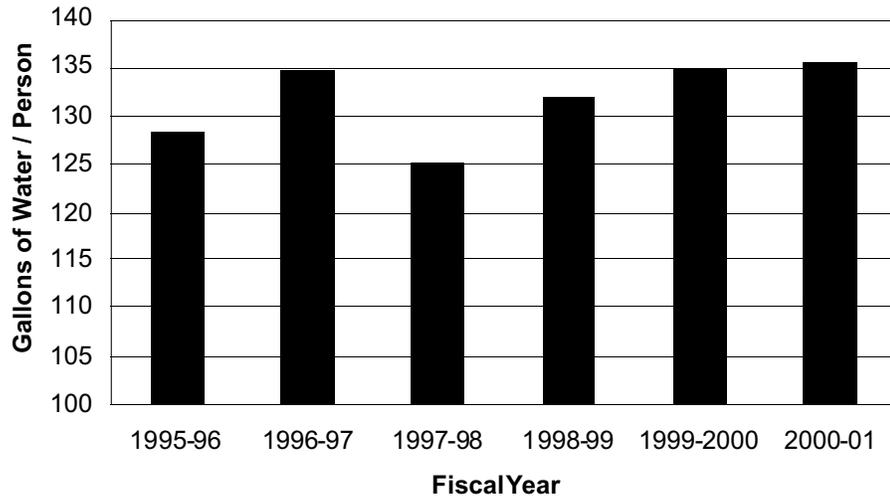
Patrick Burt and Acteron have show how a typically high-polluting and high water use industry such as their metal plating company in San Carlos can operate in an environmentally benign manner.

Indicators Used
The Bay Area Water Users Association (BAWUA), a nonprofit corporation representing 29 water retailers (water districts, et al.) in San Mateo, Alameda, and Santa Clara

Water Consumption, continued

more than four times as high as in East Palo Alto (76.5 gpcpd), but did drop significantly since last year (8.3%). Los Trancos, Brisbane, and Cordilleras also showed significant reductions in consumption (9.7%, 7.9%, and 12.7%, respectively). Jurisdictions with significant increases (greater than 5%) were Guadalupe, an industrial park (50.8%), Millbrae (5.5%), and Hillsborough (9.0%). Other jurisdictions showed increases or decreases in per capita consumption of less than 5%.

Daily Water Consumption



Direction

Water consumption in San Mateo County (135.8 gpcpd) increased about 0.4% over the previous year (134.9 gpcpd) and is the highest reported in these *Indicators* to date. Overall, fluctuations in the past six years have been relatively minor. The difference between the highest year and the lowest (1997/98—reported by BAWUA to be one of the wettest years in history) is slightly more than 8%. Although the trend over the last four years has been upward, the average daily per capita consumption for all years

reported in these *Indicators* has varied little since our second year of reporting. Minor differences are likely due primarily to natural variations in rainfall and temperature. Nevertheless, the upward trend, should it continue, is a warning signal to concerned citizens and policymakers.

Sources: *Bay Area Water Users Association, Annual Survey 2000-2001.*
 Researcher: Ann Edminster



"Refusing to address climate change may bring unprecedented environmental damage to the health and well-being of people throughout the world."

Senator John Kerry, quoted in *Time Magazine*, August 26, 2002

"Terrorists could at worst kill "only" a few tens of millions of us. The even graver environmental problems that could do in all our children are ones such as global warming and land and water degradation."

Jared Diamond "Lessons from Lost Worlds," *Time Magazine*, August 26, 2002

Water Quality • Tap Water

Importance

A high quality of drinking water contributes to the overall health of a community and to personal well-being. Contaminated water can bring disease, birth defects, increased infant mortality, and increased occurrence of cancer.

Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are chemicals that form from chlorinating water and are suspected to be human carcinogens and mutagens and may cause damage to human DNA. Lead can cause severe learning disabilities in children, elevated blood pressure and neurological ailments in adults, and complications in pregnancy. Copper can cause nausea, vomiting, and even death when ingested in large quantities. Because of the risks associated with these contaminants in drinking water, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) places special emphasis on the monitoring of TTHMs, lead, and copper levels in tap water.

Indicators Used

The most potentially dangerous impurities likely to be found in drinking water were measured. Levels of trihalomethanes (TTHMs), lead, and copper in water delivered by San Mateo County's two largest water suppliers—the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's San Francisco Water Department (SFWD) and the California Water Service Company (CalWater) are reported. Well water supplies a small percentage of the county's water and is not measured. The water quality reports for the SFWD and for CalWater for 1999, 2000, and 2001 were reviewed. The SFWD supplies most of San Mateo County's water, while CalWater supplies water for San Mateo, San Carlos, South San Francisco, Colma, Broadmoor and adjacent unincorporated areas of the county; both SFWD and CalWater supply Menlo Park, Portola Valley, and Woodside. The state and federal governments assign a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for many of the chemical and biological pollutants found in water, and these MCLs are used in assessing the quality of tap water provided within the county.

The media have paid a good deal of attention to certain water contaminants in the last several years: Chromium 6+, MTBE, and Arsenic. Both SFWD and CalWater have tested for these dangerous pollutants and reported that none was detected in treated water.

Findings

The data show that the drinking water of San

Mateo County residents and businesses is essentially pollutant free.

Of the 21 contaminants found in the water supplied by CalWater and SFWD only

TTHMs seemed to give a warning by passing 50% of the MCL. To comply with stricter federal TTHM regulations, the SFWD will substitute new disinfectant chloramines for currently used chlorine by December 2003 to further lower TTHMs levels. The USEPA has granted an exemption until 2004 for the water districts and companies to reach new and more stringent limits on TTHMs. The new substitute for chlorination treatment, which creates the TTHM threat to tap water, is chloramine treatment. A new treatment facility being built on the Water Temple grounds on Canada Road is on schedule and expected to be brought on line before the end of December 2003.

SFWD and CalWater reported in 2000 that no MTBE has been found in county tap water provided by either. Throughout the county, however, as reported as recently as this August 2001, MTBE is turning up in well water. MTBE is a byproduct of fossil fuel refining and has been used as an oxygenate to be added to gasoline to meet clean air anti-pollution requirements. MTBE has been phased out since it was discovered to be a neurotoxin and possibly a carcinogen. Wherever gasoline tanks have leaks, however, MTBE leaches into the soil and has been found to travel a considerable distance in ground waters, thus polluting wells and the waters of San Francisco Bay.

There is no MCL for lead or copper, but there are Action Levels (AL). An AL tells water managers to cut off any source of water leading to a drinking water use until remedial steps have been taken. An AL, then, is a more stringent measure than a MCL because it requires that water contaminated at an AL reading be shut off. Lead and copper are both associated with pipes inside individual buildings, largely those built before 1945. The lead and copper levels in San Mateo County are well within accept-

continued

2000

The City of Pacifica's Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant, over a period of ten years, has used new ways of treating waste water by filtering it through restored wetlands.

able levels.

Direction

Although there is a continuing trend toward the detection of more THMs in San Mateo County drinking water, the quality of tap water supplied to the county remains excellent. THMs, lead, and copper levels remain below their MCLs or ALs. THMs pose a continuing threat, but reduction should begin to appear next year.

Sources: California Water Service Company, "Mid-Peninsula District, California Water Service Company 2001 Water Quality Report for San Carlos & San Mateo," and "South San Francisco District, California Water Service Company, 2001 Water Quality Report;" San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, SF Water Department, *City of San Francisco Water Quality Data 2001*; John Berg, California Department of Health Services, Oakland, CA, personal discussion; Bowman, Chris, "Judge ups stakes in MIBE cleanup," *The Sacramento Bee*, August 21, 2001, and personal discussion; Kay, Jane, "Drinking water in peril," *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 26, 2001; Lacey, Eric, Bay Area Regional Water Quality Review Board, personal discussion; Rubien, David, "Water, water everywhere, but is it safe to drink?" *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 3, 2001.

Researcher: Wilson Pinney



"Wilderness is the bank for the genetic variability of the earth."

David Brower in *Encounters with the Archdruid* by John McPhee

"A continuously expanding global economy is slowly destroying its host—the Earth's ecosystem."

Edward Abbey

"One in every four mammals is in danger of extinction."

Worldwatch Institute 1998 State of the World report



Sponsors

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Yes, I can give you names and contacts

- Here are names of businesses, organizations, agencies, or individuals who are practicing sustainability in some way (to research for Sustainability Awards).

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Business, organization _____

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- Here are names of individuals who have expertise relevant to _____ indicator.

Name _____ Title (if any) _____

Business/Organization _____

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- Help research & write the *Indicators*
- Work with the Business Task Force
- Work with the Education Task Force
- Join a study group on possible additional indicators
- Participate in presenting the Annual Sustainability Awards
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