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# Dear Residents,

We are pleased to present the 2018 edition of the Santa Barbara Community Indicators Project (SBCIP). This is a revival of the South Coast Community Indicators Project that ran for six editions from 1998 to 2003. The Santa Barbara Community Indicators Project incorporates both North County and the South Coast in its measures, and is designed to give an overall picture of our community's health and well-being. This project was made possible through the financial support provided by the Hutton-Parker Foundation, the Mosher Foundation, Montecito Bank & Trust, and the Gretler Foundation. The Santa Barbara Community Indicators Project focuses on social, environmental, and economic data within our community. The quality of our lives is a reflection of the balance of social, environmental, and economic conditions. We encourage our community to engage with us to discover ways in which we can continually improve our health, safety and environment.



# Introduction

## What is the Community Indicators Project?

The Community Indicators Project is an effort to measure the social, environmental, and economic factors that make up the quality of life in our community. The project consists of the information in this report, additional data provided at our website ([www.efp.ucsb.edu](http://www.efp.ucsb.edu)), as well as the process of generating the information. Both the product and the process are essential elements of the effort. Our mission is:

*To involve the Santa Barbara County community in developing and using social, environmental, and economic indicators that will guide decisions toward continually improving our quality of life.*

Each section contains the measures used to describe an issue, why those measures are useful and how our community is doing with regard to those measures. The data presented throughout this document cover a wide range of topics and, when possible, separates North County from the South Coast. This is done to better delineate the differences even within a relatively small area. These data should help us discover where our resources can be placed to reduce areas of concern. It is our hope that policy makers and our citizenry will use the information here to better our lives and well-being.



# Social Indicators

## Demographics

### **What are the measures?**

Population growth and the distributions of Santa Barbara County by age, gender, educational attainment, and race/ethnicity.

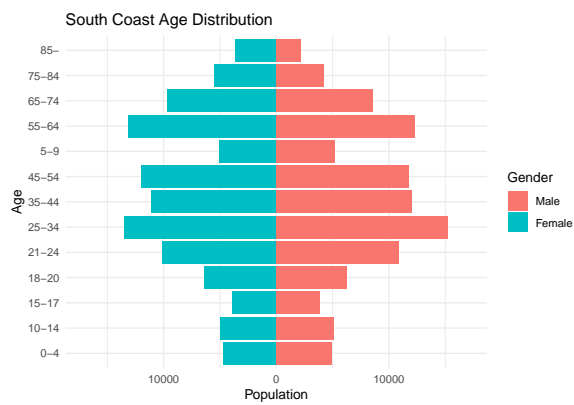
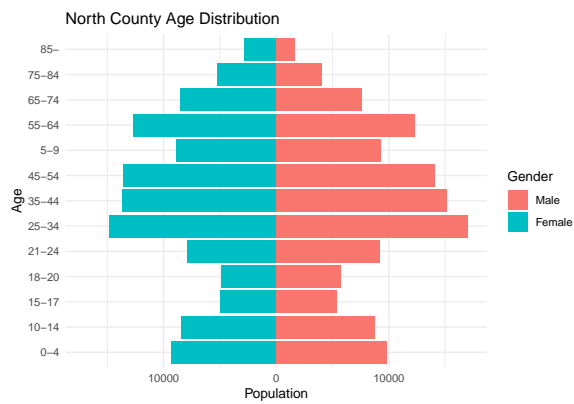
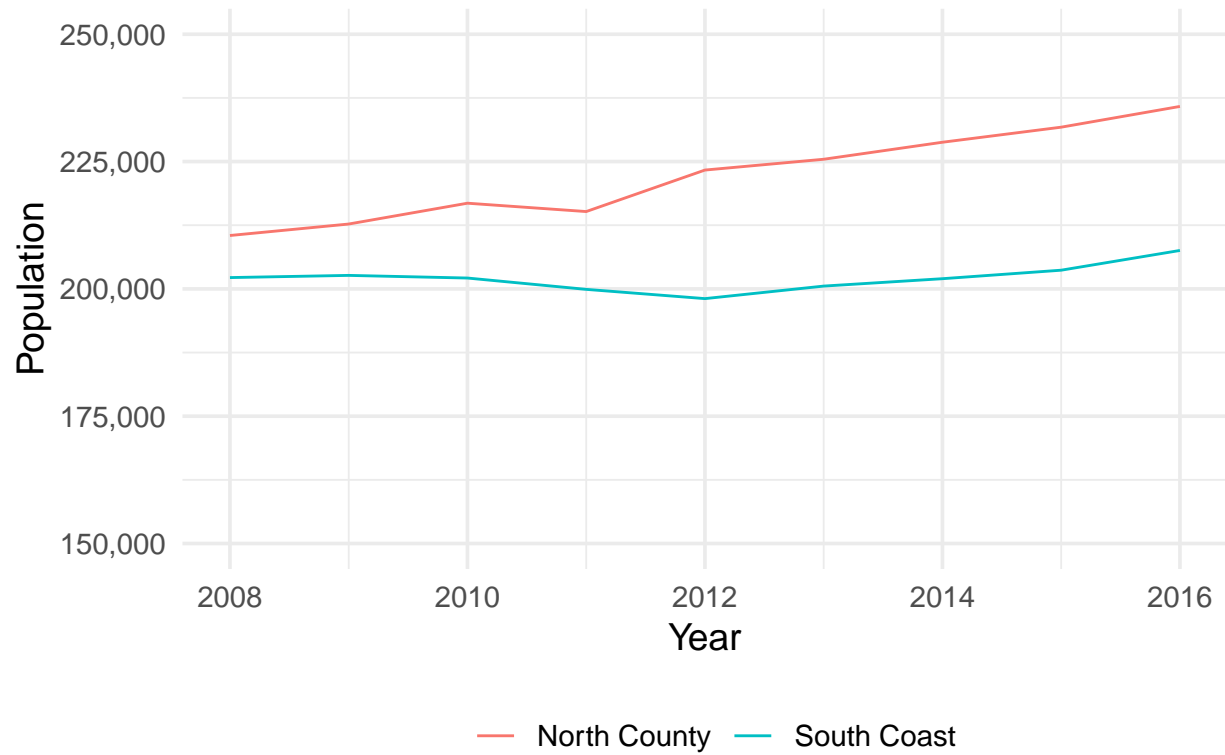
### **Why are they important?**

Population growth has a major impact on many aspects of life in Santa Barbara County from economic growth to social and environmental problems. Santa Barbara County residents of different ages require different services. The racial and ethnic make-up of our community shows an aspect of its diversity.

### **How are we doing?**

Population growth in the Santa Barbara area has been very consistent over the past 9, but has slowed to a slightly less than one percent growth rate. The County growth rate was 0.72% in 2015, and both North and South County have followed a similar growth path in recent years. The racial and ethnic profile of North County demonstrates a higher Hispanic population than any other race or ethnic group. The South Coast has a higher percentage of white citizens, followed by a substantial number of Hispanic residents.

## Population Santa Barbara County





## Neighborhood and Community Well-Being

### What are the measures?

These crime rates measure the number of property and violent crimes per 1,000 people in North County and in the South Coast. Violent crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, whereas property crimes include burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft.

### Why are the measures important?

Crime affects the level of real and perceived safety, which greatly impacts the health of neighborhoods. In some cases, the reality and perception of safety can be different.

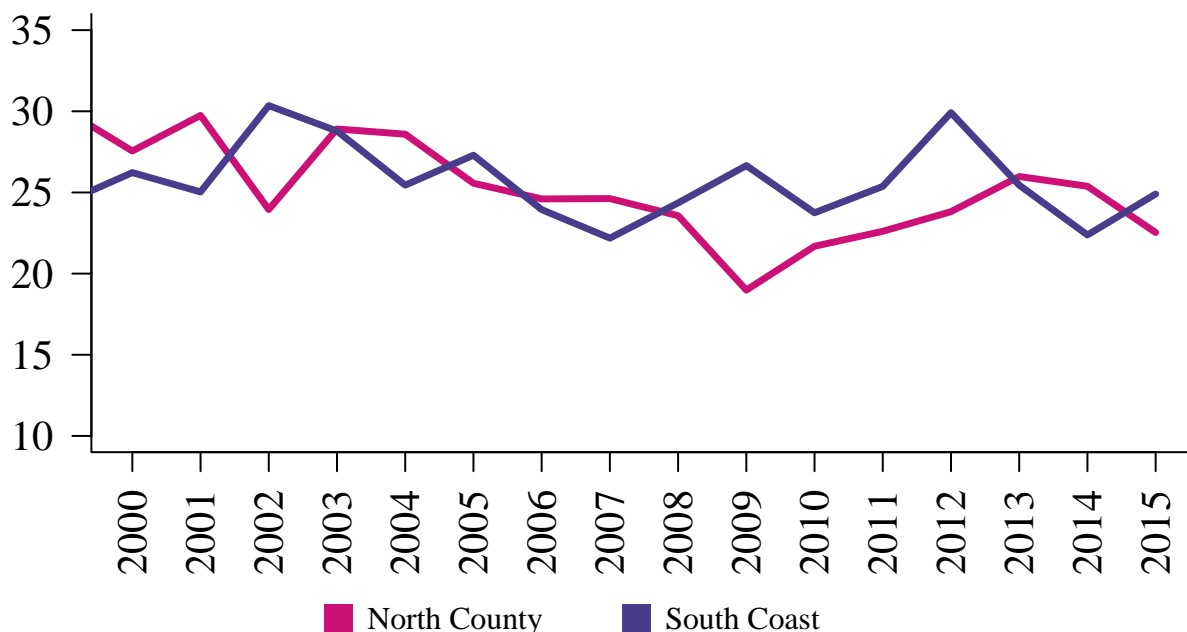
### How are we doing?

Violent crimes have fallen in both North County and the South Coast over the last several years. This year, the violent crime reached an all-time low of 2.65 crimes per 1,000 people for the South Coast, representing a 17 percent decrease from 2013 levels. After several years of having a significantly higher crime rate than the South Coast, North County saw a 13 percent decrease in violent crime rates over the past year, with only 3.8 crimes per 1,000 people.

Property crime rates have also fallen over the past year for the South Coast. The South Coast saw a 12 percent decrease, whereas North County observed a 2 percent decrease.

### Property Crime Rate

*Rate per 1,000 inhabitants*

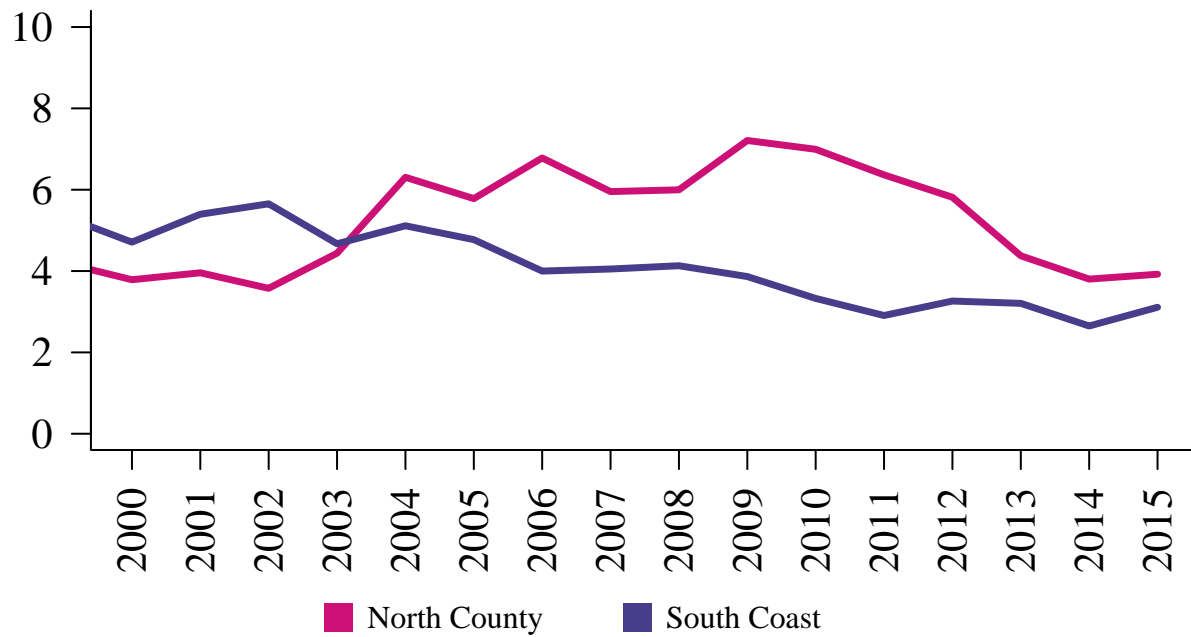


\*Goleta included in South Coast starting in 2003

Source: CA Department of Justice

## Violent Crime Rate

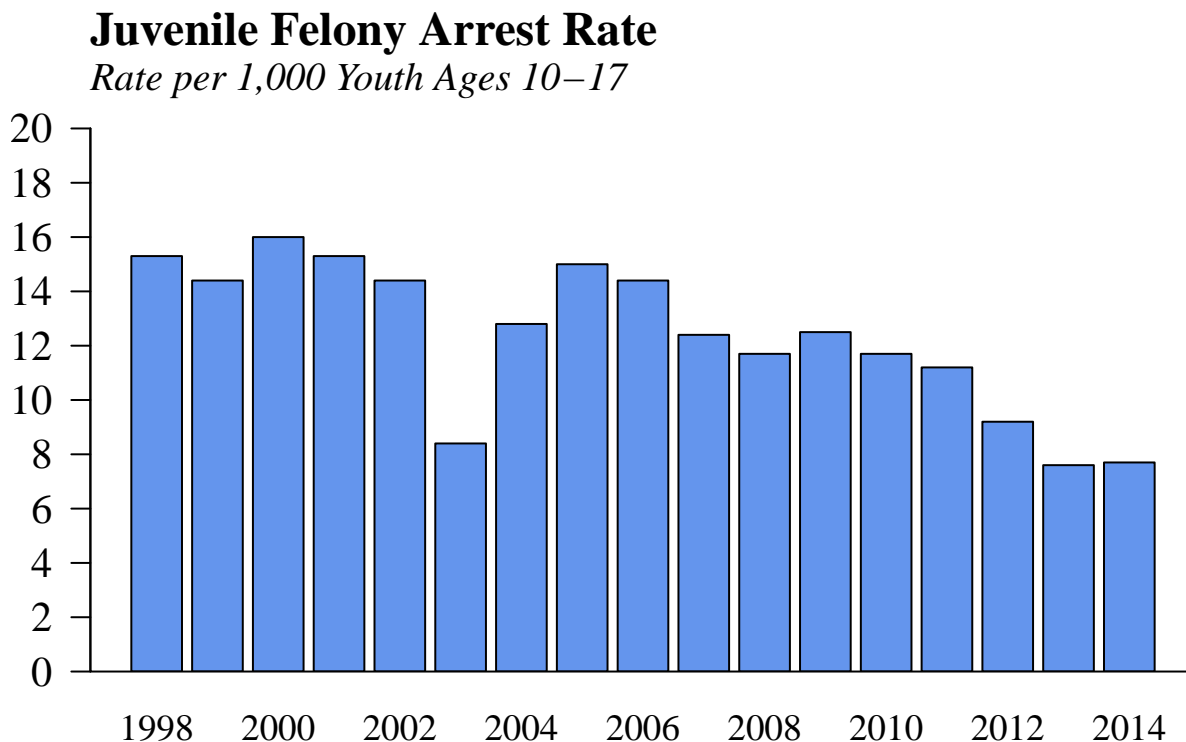
*Rate per 1,000 inhabitants*



\*Goleta included in South Coast starting in 2003

Source: CA Department of Justice

## JUVENILE FELONY ARRESTS NEAR LOWEST IN DECADE



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

### What is the measure?

The number of juvenile felony arrests in Santa Barbara County per 1,000 people, including homicide, rape, aggravated assault, and larceny.

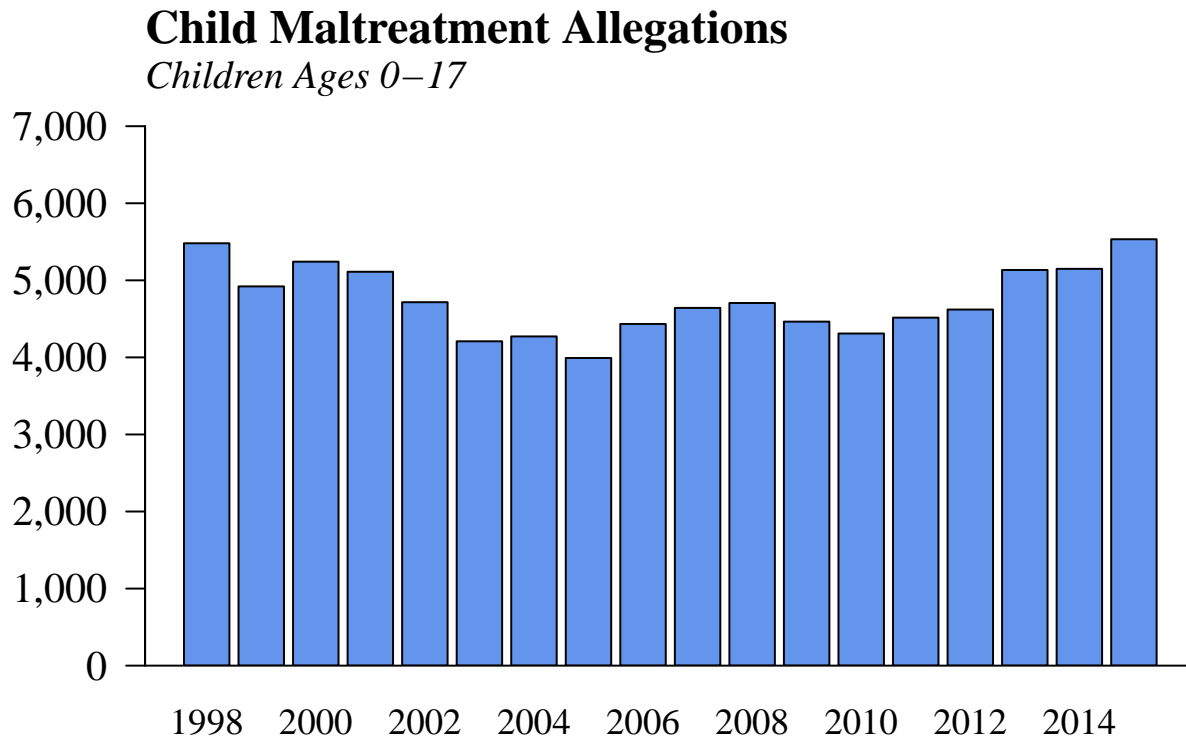
### Why is it important?

The rate of juvenile crime not only impacts our community's safety today, but also gives us an indication of how safe our community may be in the future. In addition, it reflects the effectiveness of intervention programs focused at teens and pre-teens.

### How are we doing?

Juvenile arrest rates have decreased over the last decade, reaching a low of 7.6 arrests per 1,000 youth in 2013. The current rate is 7.7, which is a 49 percent decrease from its level ten years ago.

## CHILD MALTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS ON THE RISE



*Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), UC Berkeley*

### What is the measure?

The number of children in Santa Barbara County with at least one child maltreatment allegation, which includes sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, severe and general neglect, exploitation, caretaker absence/incapacity, and at risk allegations. If a child has more than one allegation in different categories, the child is only counted once.

### Why is it important?

This is the best measure summarizing all types of child abuse and neglect encountered within the community. The consequence of child abuse impacts not only the child but on support services and school systems as well.

### How are we doing?

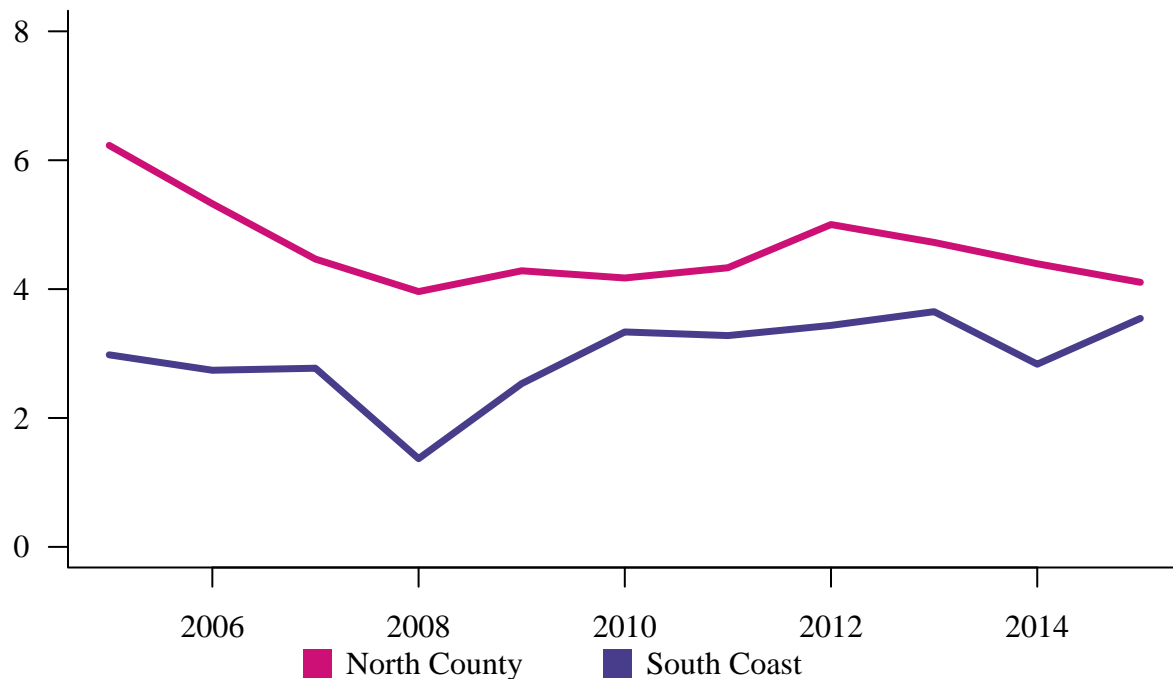
In 2015, Santa Barbara County surpassed its previous peak in child maltreatment allegations with 5,533 cases. Child maltreatment allegations have consistently been on the rise since 2010.

## Individual and Family Well-Being

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALL RATE DECREASES SLIGHTLY

#### Domestic Violence Call Rates

*Rate per 1,000 inhabitants*



*Source: CA Department of Justice*

#### What is the measure?

The domestic violence call rate is the number of 911 calls reported to police and sheriff departments in Santa Barbara County regarding domestic violence, including violence to children. This measure includes attacks with guns, knives, heavy objects, hands, fists, and feet. In order to control for growth in population, it is defined as the rate of calls per 1,000 people.

#### Why is it important?

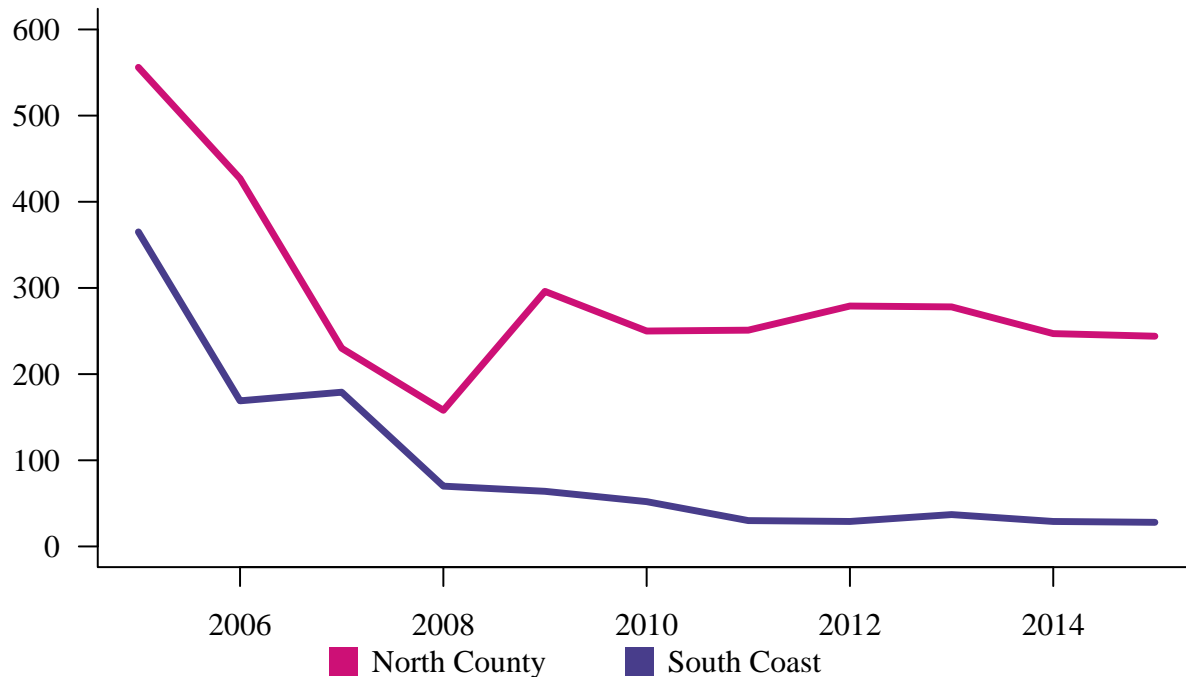
Domestic violence has tragic implications for the individual health and wellbeing of adults and children, and directly impacts the families to which they belong. Domestic violence may also be an indicator of the relative health of a community as a whole.

#### How are we doing?

The domestic violence call rate decreased by 0.28 calls for North County and increased by 0.71 calls for the South Coast per 1,000 people in the past year. Both North County and South Coast experienced their lowest rate in 2008 at 3.9 and 1.4 calls per 1,000 people, respectively.

## WEAPON-RELATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS CONSTANT

### Domestic Violence Cases with a Weapon



Source: CA Department of Justice

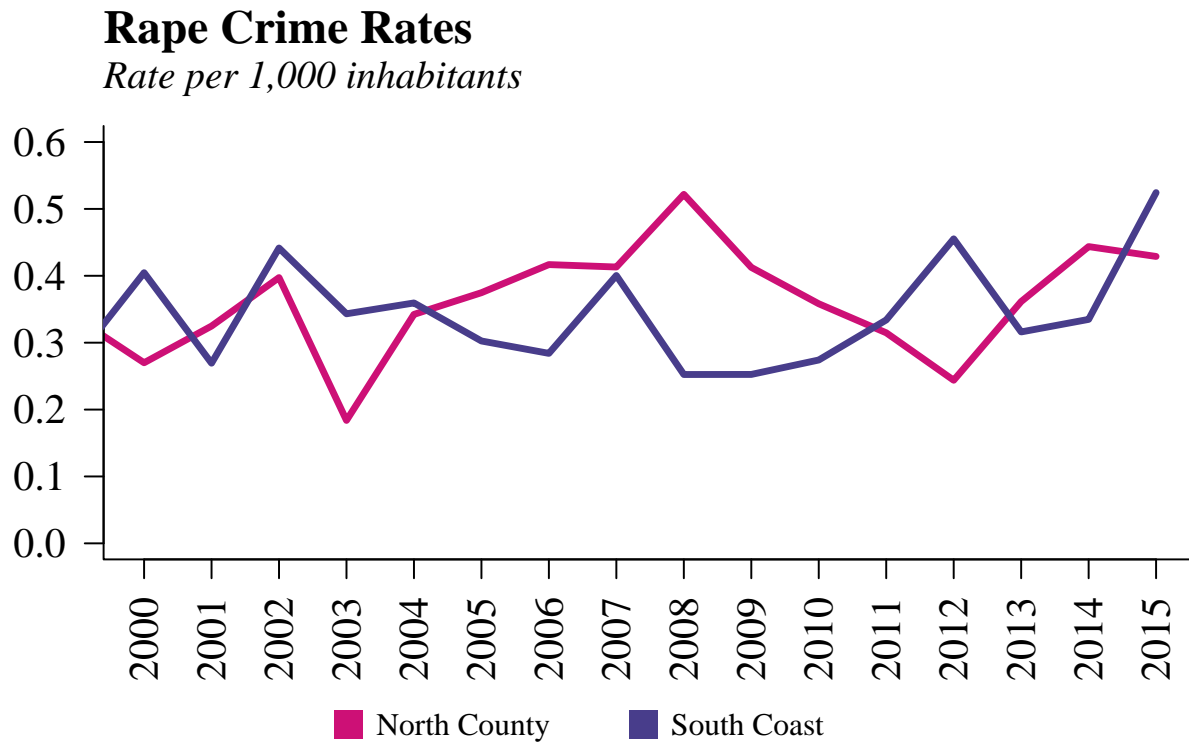
#### What is the measure?

This statistic measures the number of calls to 911 in Santa Barbara County in which domestic violence with a weapon is reported. Weapons include guns, knives, heavy objects, hands, fists, and feet. This specifically excludes verbal abuse.

#### How are we doing?

For the South Coast, weapon-related domestic violence calls to 911 have fluctuated between a high of 365 in 2005 and a low of 28 in 2015 in the last decade. In North County, the year 2005 represented the highest number of incidents with 556 cases, and 2008 represented the lowest with 158. For the South Coast, the number of cases has remained fairly stable since 2008, whereas North County saw a spike in weapon-related domestic violence calls in 2009.

## RAPE CRIME RATES INCREASE



\*Goleta included in South Coast starting in 2003

Source: CA Department of Justice

### What is the measure?

The number of reported rapes, calculated as the rate per 1,000 people.

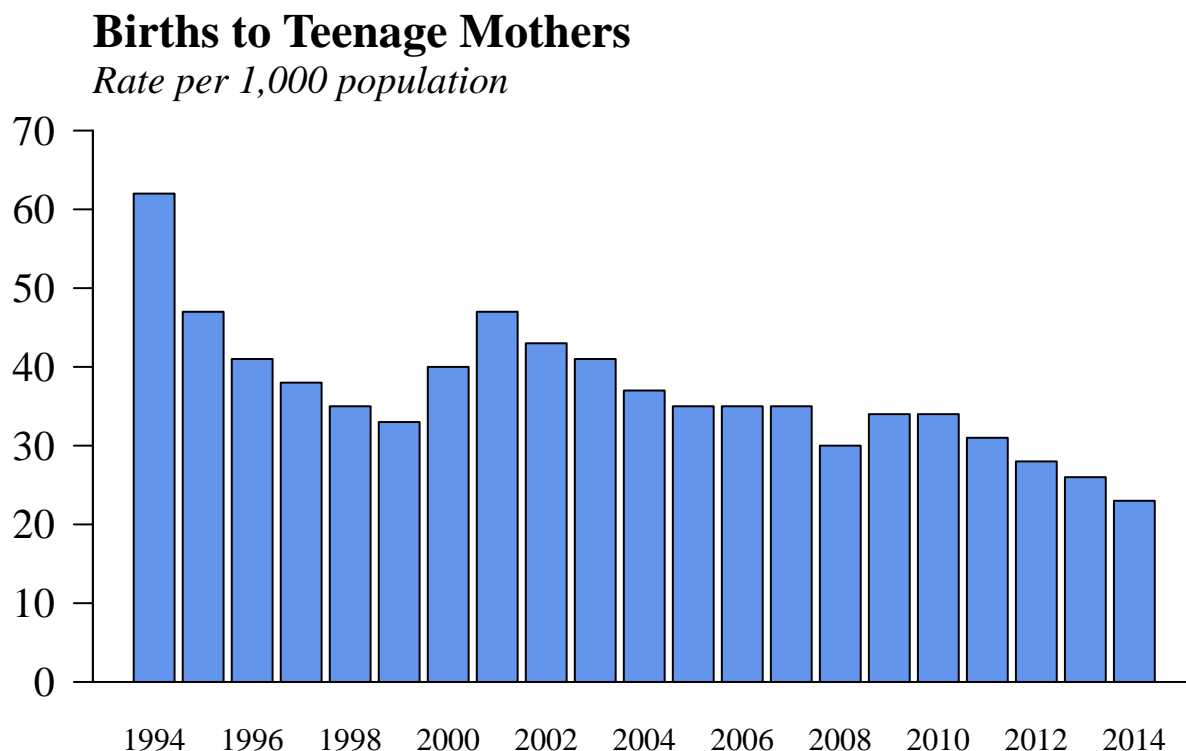
### Why is it important?

Rape crimes play a very significant role in shaping the community's sense of "being safe." Because these crimes violate one's personal rights, these crimes are both personally devastating and emotionally tolling on a community.

### How are we doing?

For the past several years, there has been a fair amount of variance in the rape crime rate for both North County and the South Coast. Currently, South Coast reached its highest rate at 0.52 incidents per 1,000 people compared to 0.33 incidents per 1,000 people in the prior year. North County reached its highest rate in 2008, with 0.52 incidents per 1,000 people. Currently, rates are down at 0.42 incidents per 1,000 people, a slight decrease from 2014.

## BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS DECLINING



*Source: CA Department of Public Health*

### What is the measure?

The number of children born to women between the ages of 15-19 as a percentage of total births.

### Why is it important?

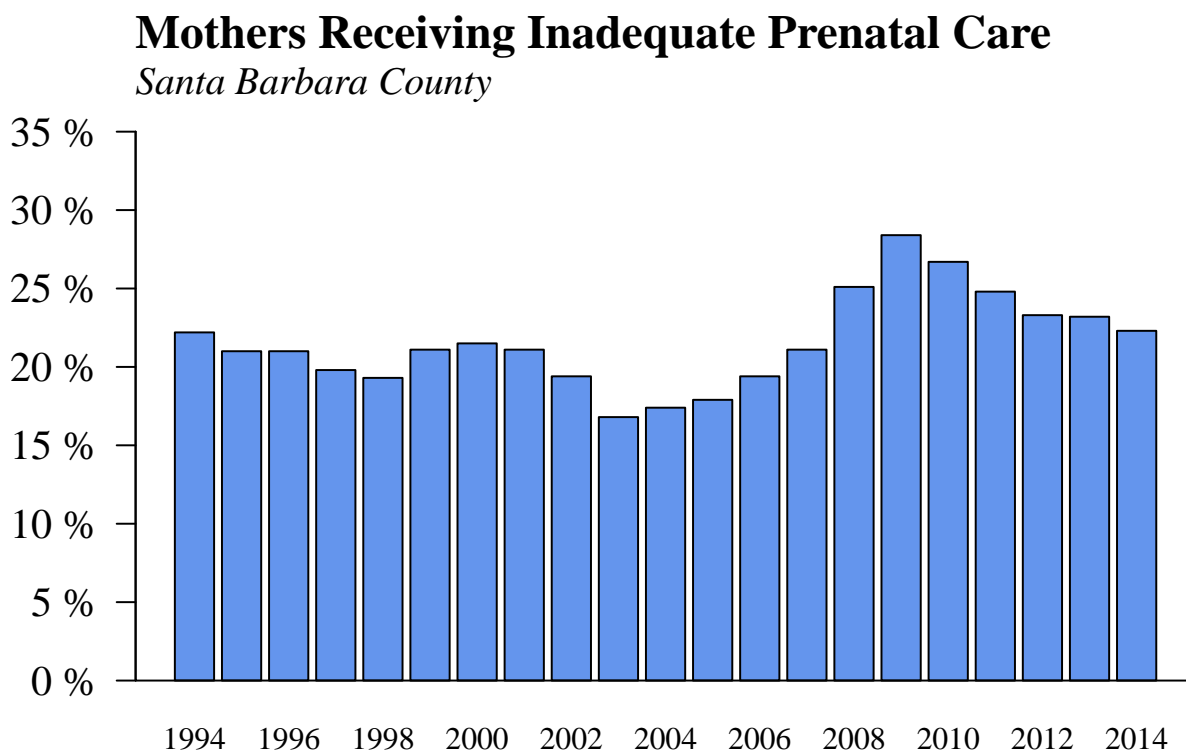
Births to teens represent a growing social concern. While children of teenage mothers can be happy and healthy, they are at a higher risk of suffering health problems than other children. Teenage mothers may face great challenges in raising children because of the time conflicts with attending school, lack of experience with child care, and the lack of income necessary to provide for a child.

### How are we doing?

The percentage of teen births in the Santa Barbara County reached its lowest point in 2014, reaching a rate of only 23 births per 1,000 teens.



## MOTHERS RECEIVING INADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE DROPS



*Source: CA Department of Public Health*

### What is the measure?

The percentage of total births in the Santa Barbara County in which the mother does not receive any prenatal care within the first three months of pregnancy.

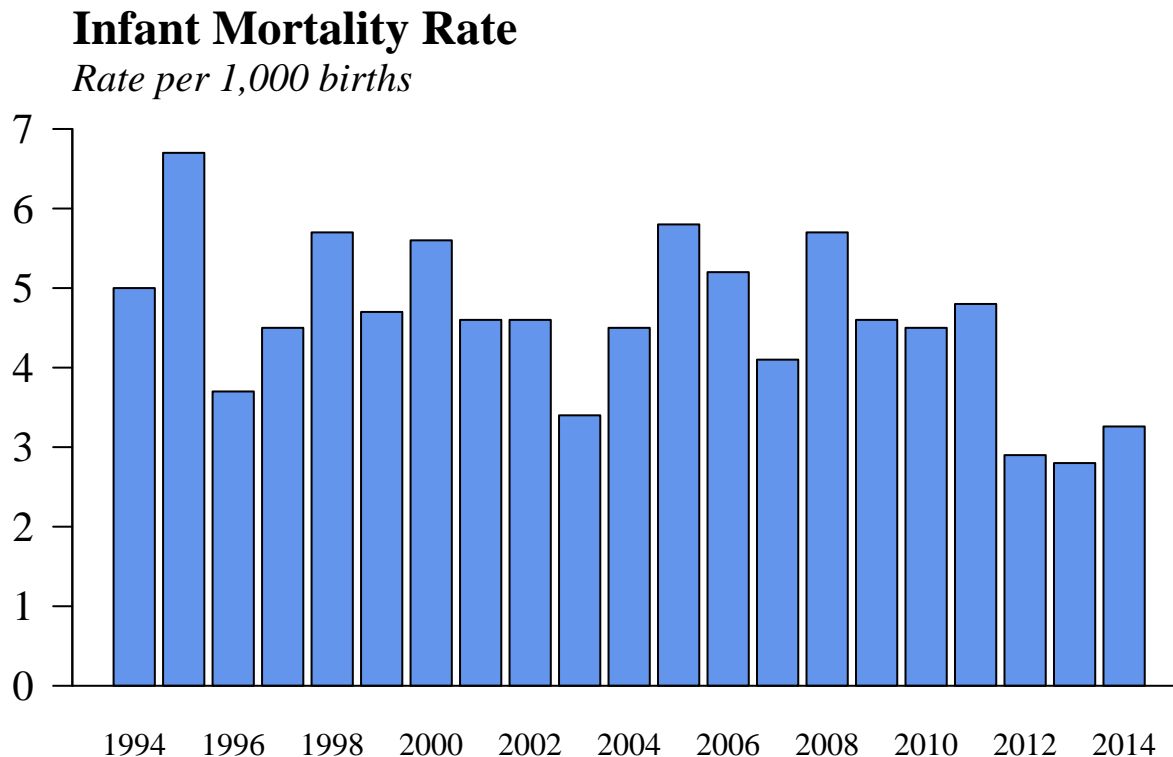
### Why is it important?

The level of prenatal care is not only a leading indicator of successful pregnancies, but also a predictor of a child's health later in life.

### How are we doing?

In the past ten years, inadequate prenatal care has fluctuated reaching a peak of 28.4 percent in 2009. However, the percentage of mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care has decreased since then, hovering around 23.2 percent. In 2014, it dropped to 22.3 percent.

## INFANT MORTALITY RATES SPIKE IN 2014



*Source: CA Department of Public Health*

### What is the measure?

The number of deaths of infants one year and under per 1,000 live births in Santa Barbara County.

### Why is it important?

In addition to the emotional damage caused to parents, high infant mortality rates are often an indication of a mother's poor health or of inadequate healthcare and services. Infant mortality is often attributed to congenital abnormalities, low birthweight, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), or problems related to complications of pregnancies.

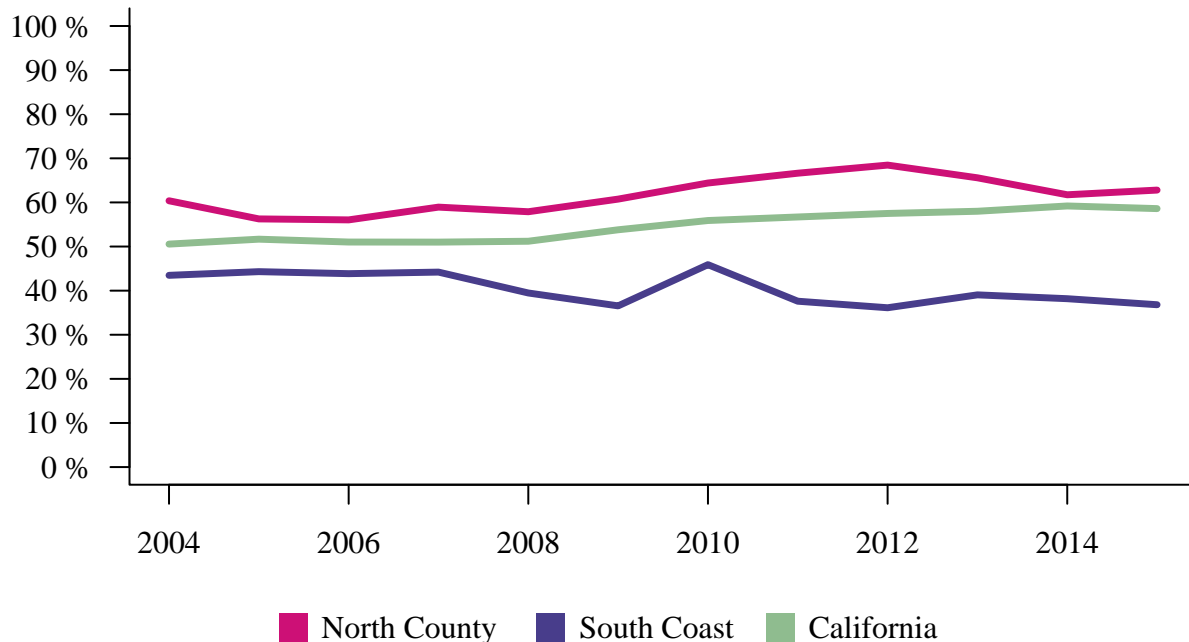
### How are we doing?

Infant mortality rates decreased sharply from 2011 to 2012, falling from 4.8 to 2.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. The rate in 2013 remained stable at 2.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, decreasing only slightly from 2012's rate. However, 2014 saw a marked increase in the infant mortality rate, which spiked to 3.3. Still, this rate remains lower than most years in the past.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH PARTICIPATION INCREASES IN NORTH COUNTY

### Elementary School Lunch Participation

*Year = Start of academic year*



*Source: CA Department of Education*

#### What is the measure?

This program provides federally sponsored, free, or subsidized school lunch programs in local public elementary schools. Because families must demonstrate financial need in order to participate, this measure reflects the percentage of children living in families with low incomes.

#### Why is it important?

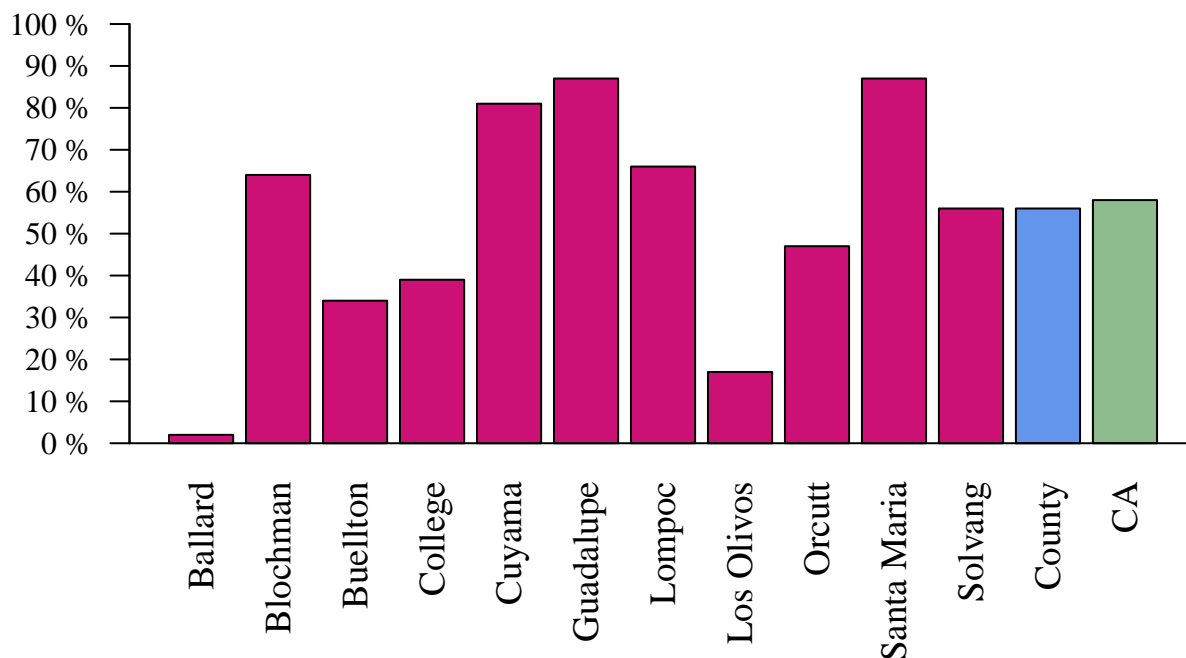
In many ways, children are the most sensitive to any negative forces in our families and communities. While it is true that many children from poorer families benefit from a solid family structure and do very well in society, financial strain is often seen as having a negative impact on a child's opportunities. At a minimum, children from poorer families often have diminished access to education and health care.

#### How are we doing?

While school lunch participation generally increased throughout the late 2000s to early 2010s, recently the percentage of students eligible for the program has stagnated across the South Coast. When comparing the South Coast to North County and statewide levels, the South Coast has less participation in these programs. North County, however, has slightly more eligible students than the statewide average. This number has increased in the last year. It is important to note that eligibility also varies within North County, with some school districts seeing much less eligibility than others.

## Elementary School Lunch Participation

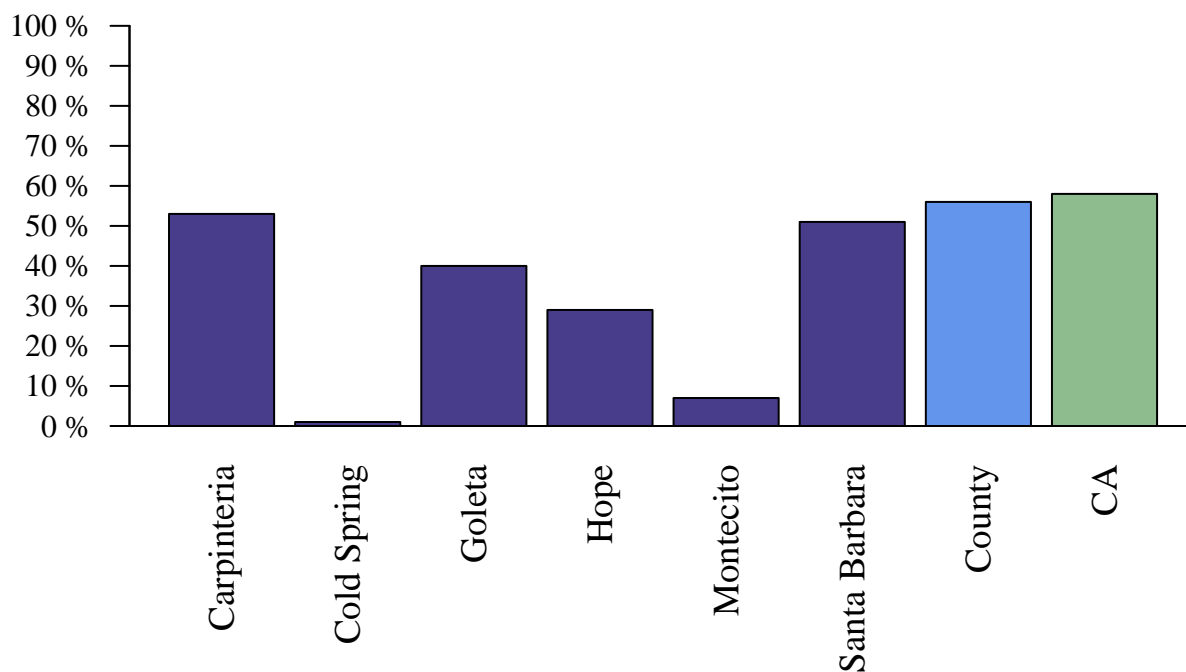
*Percent Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch, 2015–16*



*Source: CA Department of Education*

## Elementary School Lunch Participation

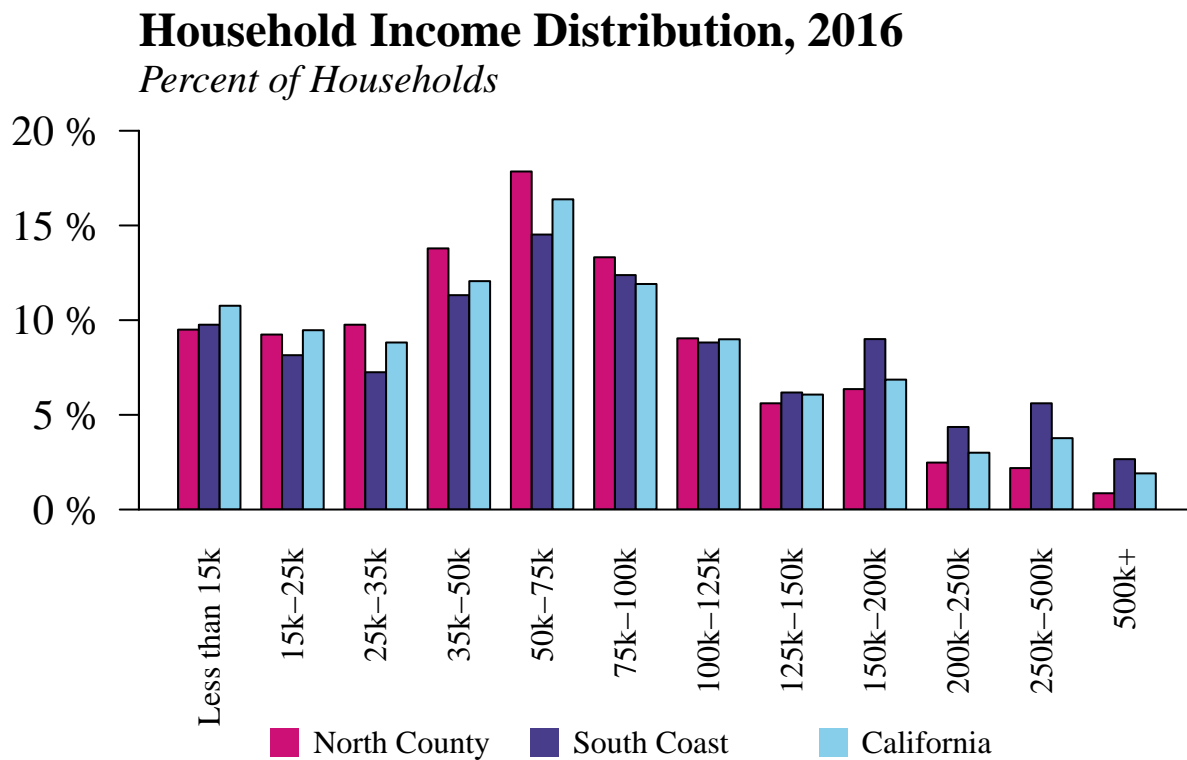
*Percent Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch, 2015–16*



*Source: CA Department of Education*

## Poverty in the County

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME DISTRIBUTION



*Source: SiteReports*

#### What is the measure?

The percent of households falling in certain income ranges for North County, the South Coast, and California in 2016.

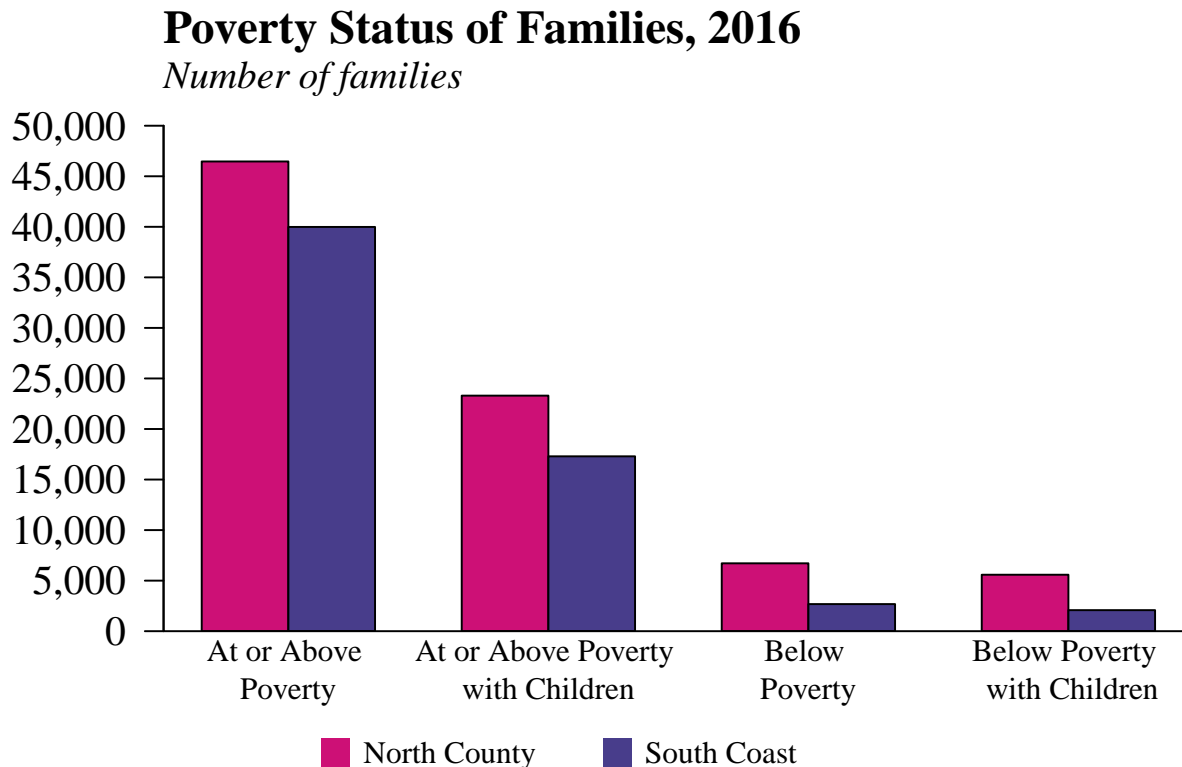
#### Why is it important?

The overall health of a community depends on the ability of its residents to afford basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. The income distribution breaks down the earnings and allows us to examine the percent of families that can afford a certain quality of life. We can use the income distribution to draw an overview of the economic composition of the community and how it compares to California.

#### How are we doing?

The South Coast tends to be wealthier than North County and California, with higher percentages of its residents falling at the upper end of the income distribution range. California also has a larger percentage of households making less than \$15,000 a year than North County and the South Coast.

## POVERTY STATUS OF FAMILIES



*Source: SiteReports*

### What is the measure?

A breakdown of the composition of families with incomes at, above, and below poverty in Santa Barbara County.

### Why is it important?

Understanding the composition of families living in poverty allows us to see which part of the population is suffering the most from poor wages.

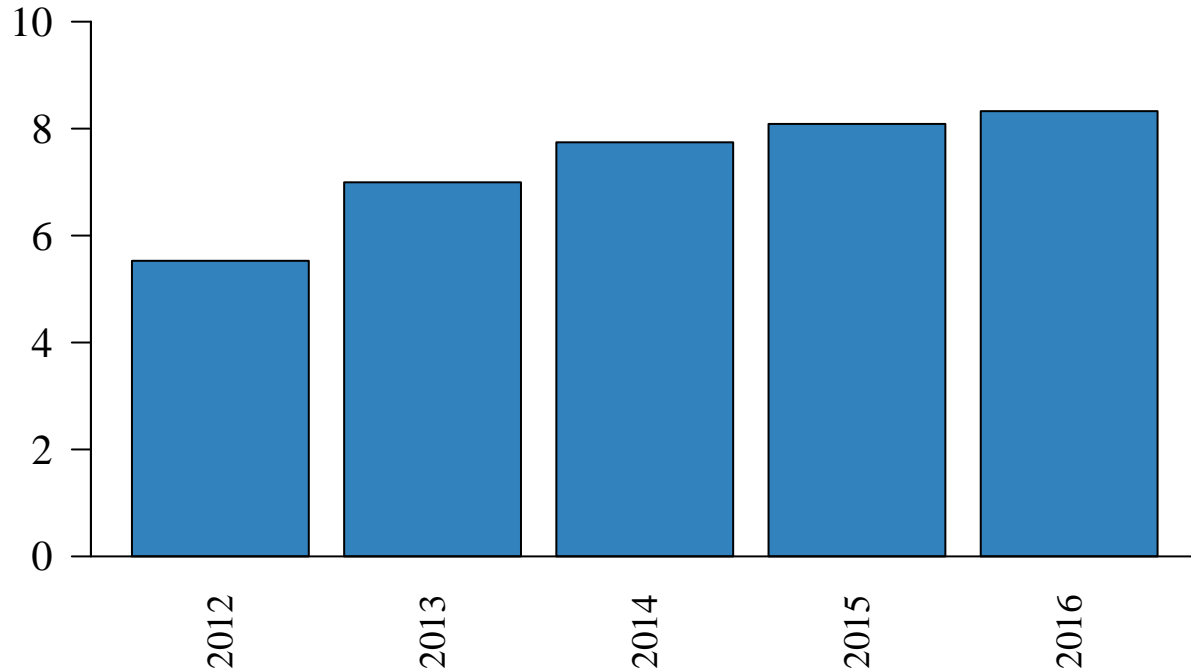
### How are we doing?

Most families with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level are families with children. 83 percent of the 6,714 households living in poverty in North County are families with children. 77 percent of the 2,081 households living in poverty in South Coast are families with children. This indicates that many children in the Santa Barbara County may be going without some of the basic needs that are crucial in children's early development.

NUMBERS OF MEALS SERVED INCREASES, 35 PERCENT OF THOSE SERVED ARE UNDER 18

**Number of Meals Served**

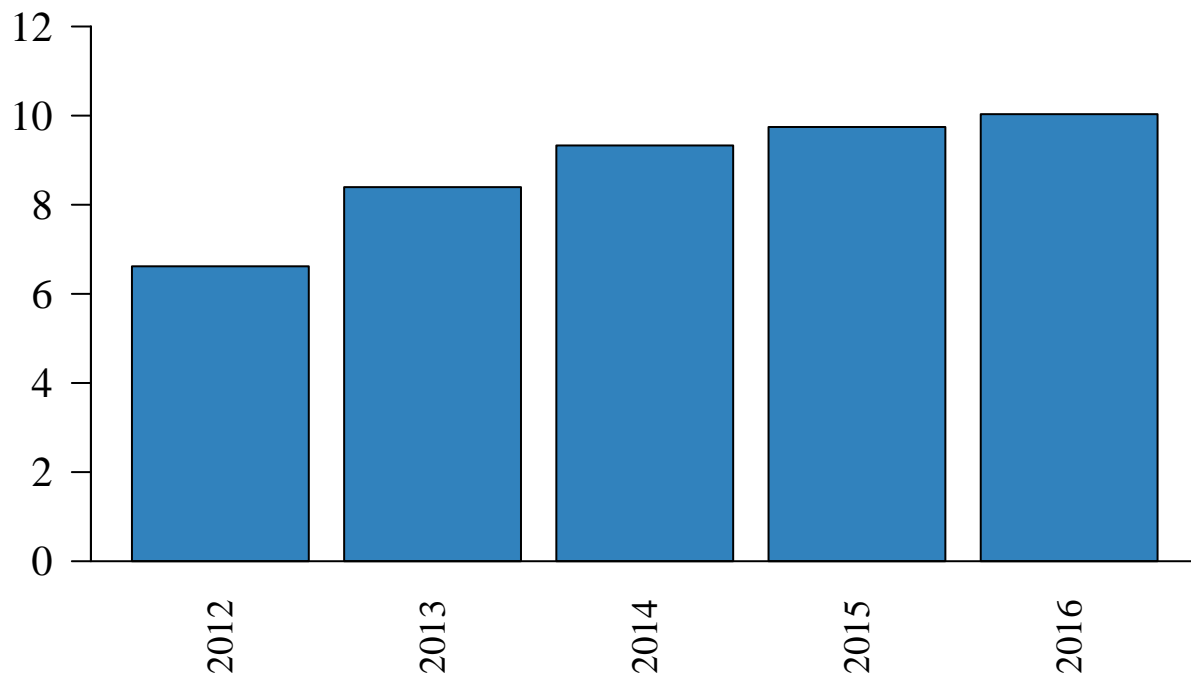
*Number in millions of meals*



*Source: Santa Barbara Foodbank*

**Pounds of Food Distributed**

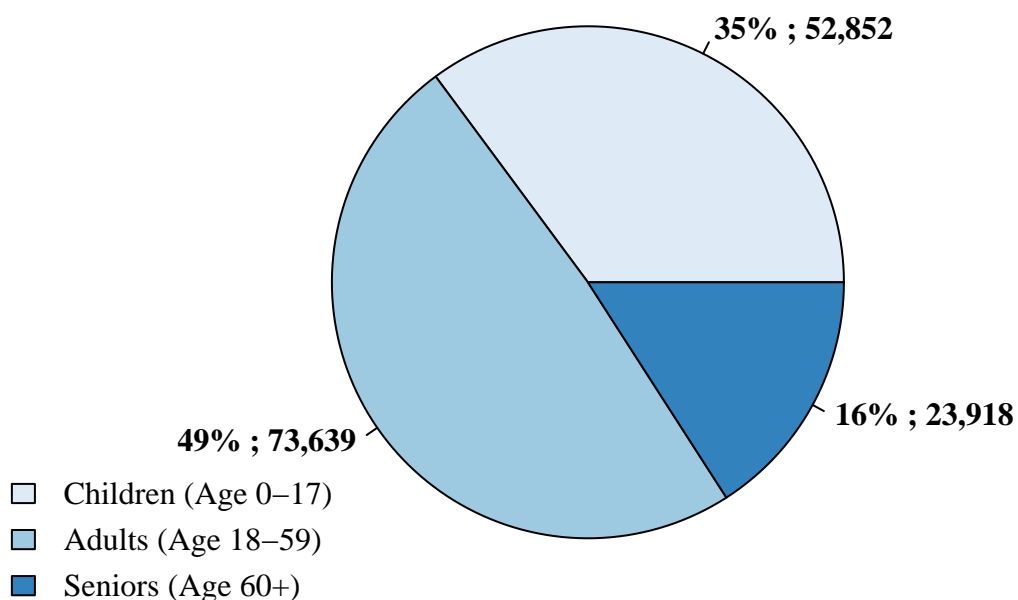
*Number in millions of pounds*



*Source: Santa Barbara Foodbank*

## Number of People Served, by Age

*Santa Barbara County, 2015*



*Source: Santa Barbara Foodbank*

### What is the measure?

The amount of food distributed by Santa Barbara County Foodbank, the number of people served in Santa Barbara County food kitchens, and the age of those served in 2016.

### Why are they important?

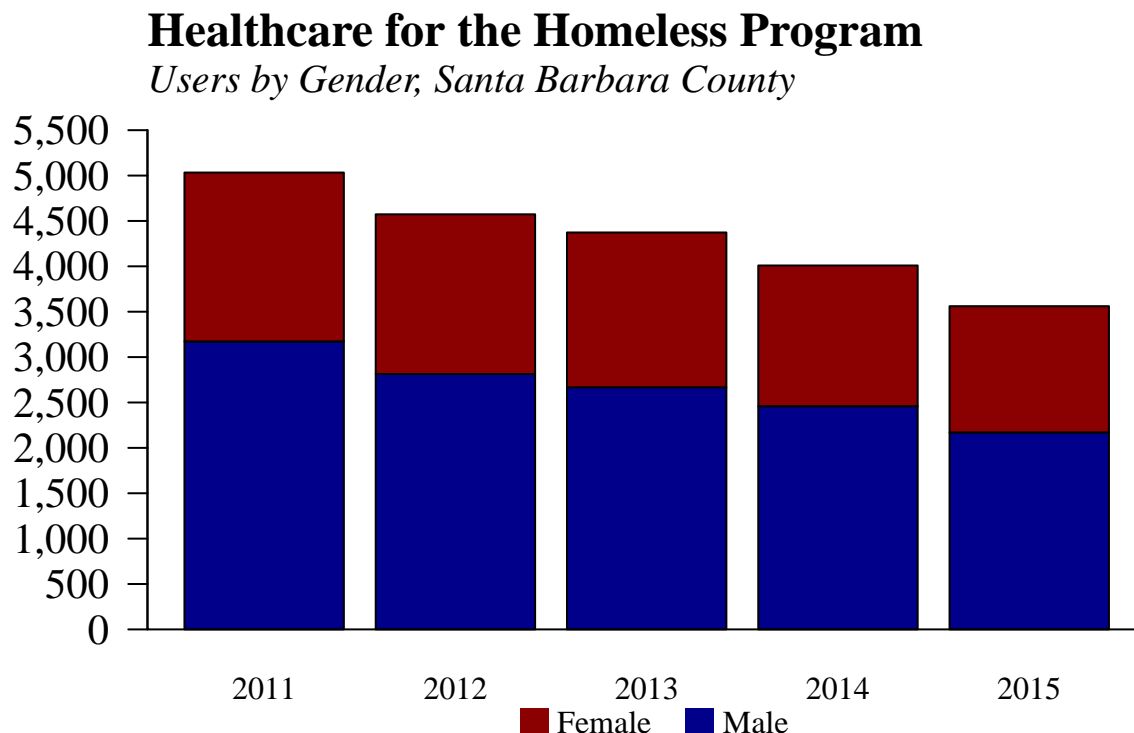
People use food kitchens when they cannot afford to buy enough food for themselves or their families, and good nutrition is an essential part of staying healthy. The number of people using food banks is often indicative of the number of people living at or below the poverty level within a community.

### How are we doing?

The pounds of food distributed and number of meals served in Santa Barbara County increased by 3 percent from 2014 to 2015, whereas the number of people served also increased by 3 percent from 146,198 to 150,409 people. This indicates that food contributions are rising at the same pace as the amount of people needing to be fed. Of the 150,409 people served in Santa Barbara County, 35 percent of them were under the age of 18. A considerable number of young people in Santa Barbara County live in families that do not earn enough money to provide adequate nutrition for their children.



## NUMBER OF HOMELESS USING HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOLLOWS DECREASING TREND



*Source: Santa Barbara County Public Health Department*

### What is the measure?

The number of users of the Health Care for the Homeless program broken down by gender. The Health Care for the Homeless program is federally funded and allows homeless people to receive medical attention.

### Why is it important?

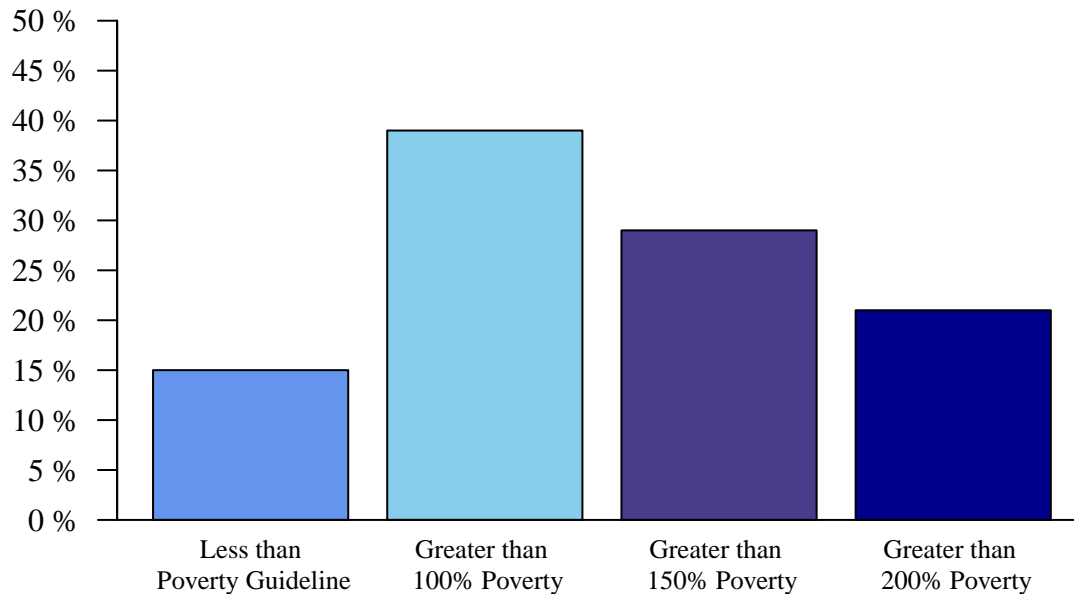
The overall health of a community depends on the physical and mental health of all of its members. Providing health care for the homeless permits more people in the community to remain in good health.

### How are we doing?

The number of homeless people using the program has continued its downward trend since 2011. In 2015, 2,170 men and 1,391 women utilized this federal program, compared to 3,173 men and 1,860 women in 2011. Given the challenges of attempting to measure the homeless and transient population, it is difficult to determine if these decreases reflect a smaller number of homeless people taking advantage of the program, or a decrease in the homeless population being served.

## OVER 15 PERCENT OF COUNTY JOBS PAY LESS THAN POVERTY GUIDELINES

**Percent of Jobs Paying Wages Relative to Poverty Guidelines**  
*Santa Barbara County*



*Source: California Employment Development Department*

### What is the measure?

The percentage of jobs in Santa Barbara County that pay below or above the poverty guidelines. For a household of three, the poverty guideline in 2016 is \$20,160 or \$10.08 per hour, which assumes 2000 working hours per year.

### Why is it important?

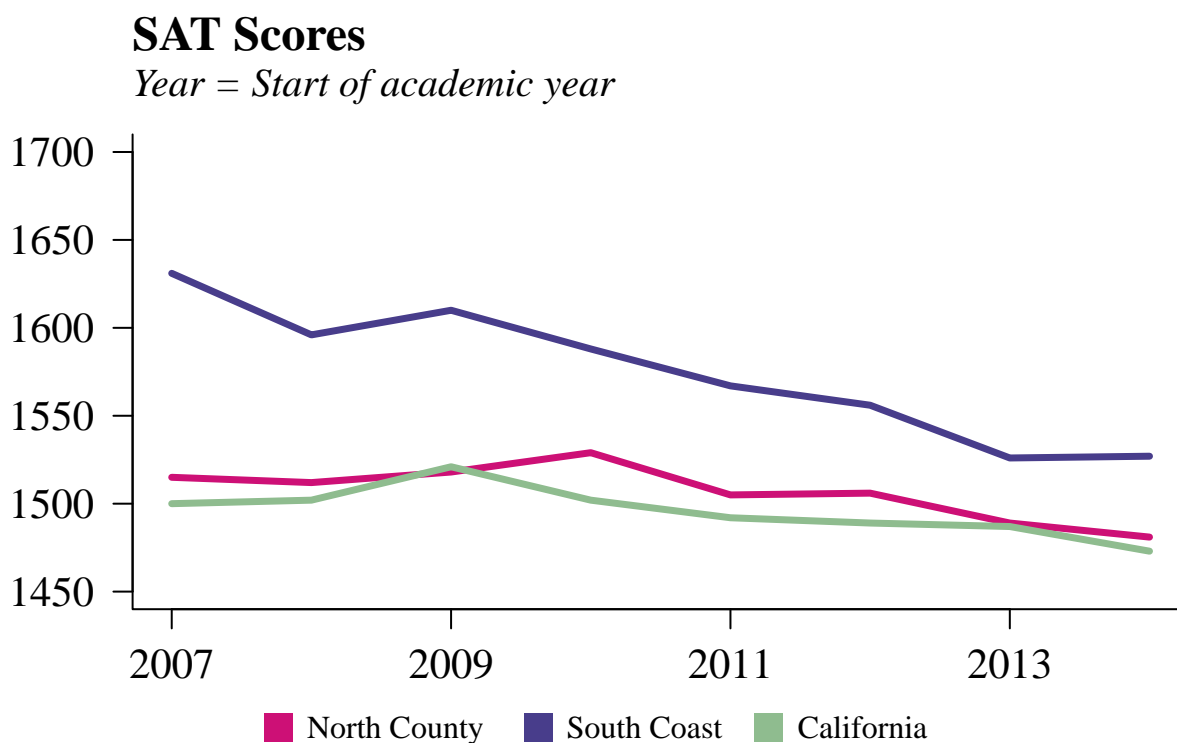
Positions that pay less than the Federal Poverty guideline denies people the ability to afford their needs and detracts from their quality of life.

### How are we doing?

15 percent of all jobs pay less than the Federal Poverty guideline, and over 22 percent pay over 200 percent of the guideline. Therefore, approximately one job in six fall below the Federal Poverty guideline, while over one in five pay 200 percent above the Federal Poverty guideline in Santa Barbara County.

## Education

### SAT SCORES CONTINUE DOWNWARD TREND



*Source: DataQuest, CA Department of Education*

#### What is the measure?

The Standard Aptitude Test (SAT) is designed to measure verbal, mathematical, and reading aptitude and is used as part of the admissions process at most universities. The score is also used as a benchmark in assessing and comparing the performance of secondary schools. The maximum possible score from these years is 2400.

#### Why is it important?

Whether high school students are prepared to enter the workforce or continue their education is key to their future opportunities and success. The general preparedness of our high school students has a great impact on our economy and community as a whole.

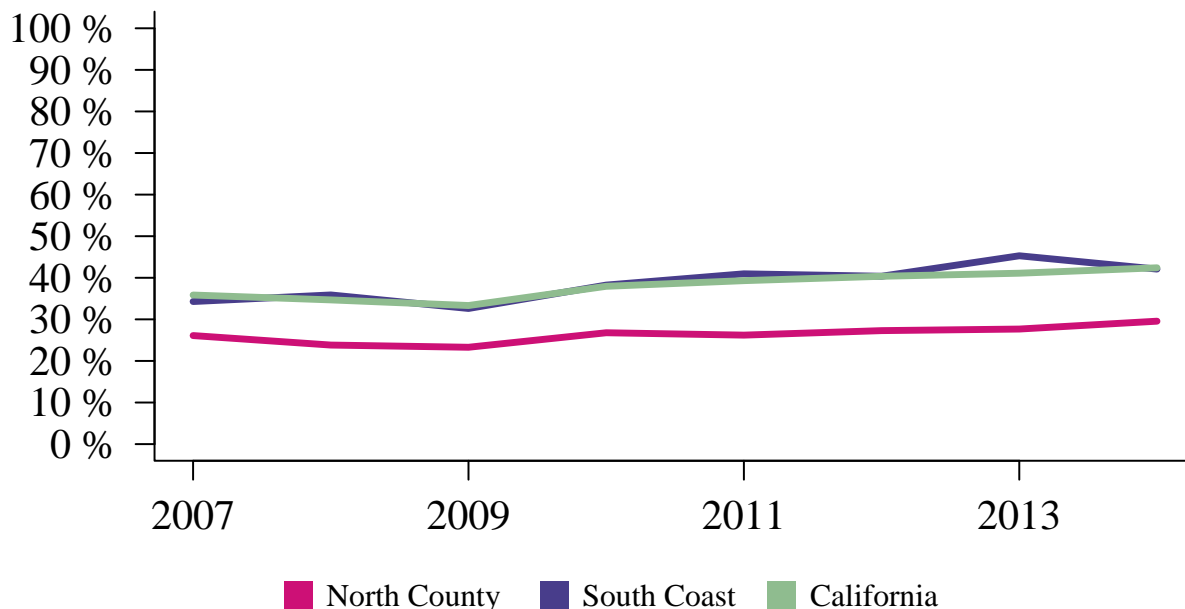
#### How are we doing?

The scores for South Coast high schools continue to lead benchmark data for the County and state, though the difference between the South Coast and North County has diminished significantly. The most recent data shows a continued trend of falling SAT scores across all three areas. However, both North County and the South Coast SAT scores remain above the California and nationwide average in 2015.

## HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS TAKE THE SAT

### Percent of High School Seniors Taking the SAT

*Year = Start of academic year*



*Source: DataQuest, CA Department of Education*

#### What is the measure?

The percentage of high school seniors taking the SAT.

#### Why is it important?

Taking the SAT exam is an indication that a student hopes to attend a four-year college or university. Consequently, the percentage of students taking the SAT is a measure of how successfully the schools have prepared their students and of student aspirations. Paradoxically, the higher the percentage of students taking the exam, the lower the average SAT score tends to be because relatively weak students are taking the exam.

#### How are we doing?

Despite a small drop in percentages for South Coast in the last year, the trend of high school seniors taking the SAT appears to be rising across all three locations. However, it is important to note that less than half of high school students take the SAT, denoting those with aspirations for a college or university degree directly after high school.

## SOUTH COAST OUTSCORES NORTH COUNTY ON CAASPP

### What are the measures?

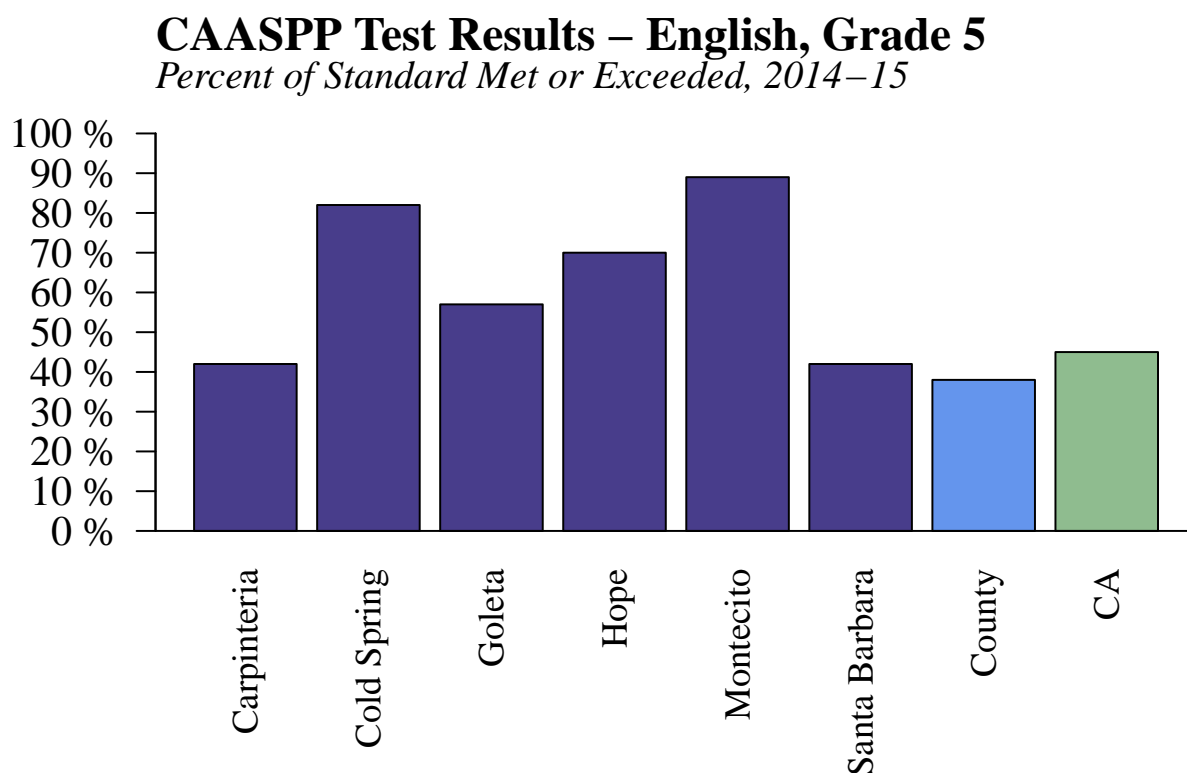
The California Assessment of Student Performance Progress (CAASPP) is a newer program implemented to replace the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) exam system. Designed to measure understanding of mathematical and verbal skills, the test is given to public school students in the County and then compared to other students in California.

### Why is it important?

Similar to the SAT, these tests are designed to measure the preparedness and general education level of local students. The scores are also used as a benchmark in assessing and comparing the performance of schools.

### How are we doing?

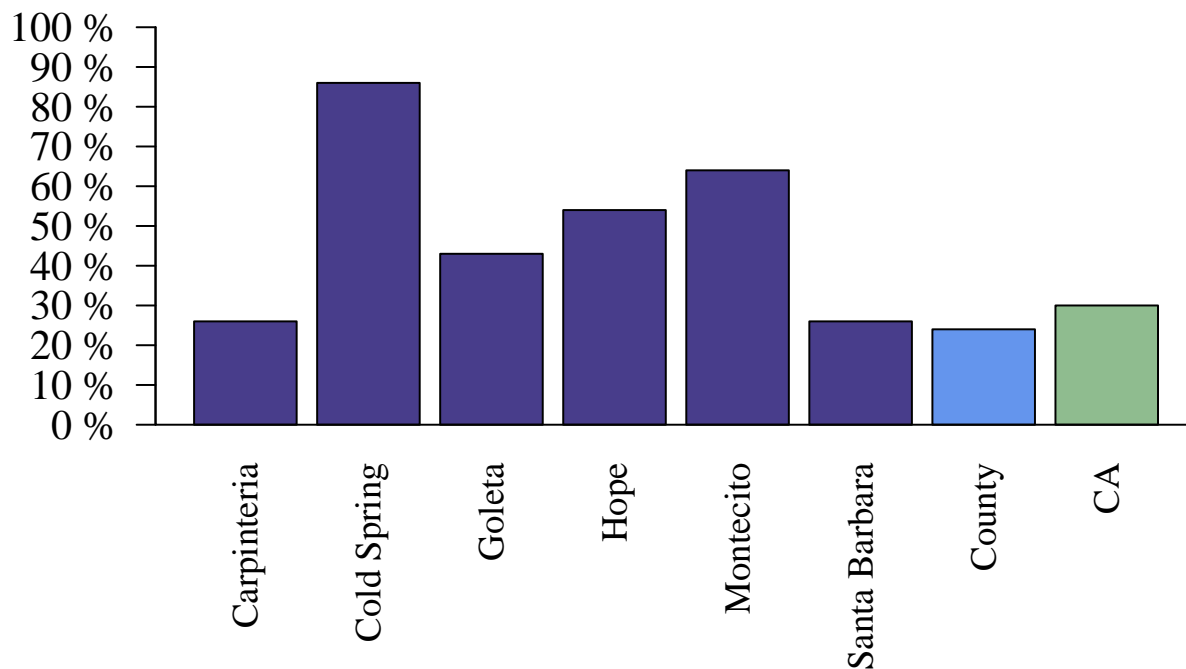
All six elementary school districts in the South Coast outperform the County in the percent of students that have met or exceeded the CAASPP standard for both English and Math. However, the statewide test results surpass those of the Santa Barbara and Carpinteria school districts. In North County, only the Ballard, Buellton, Los Olivos, and Solvang school districts score better than the California average.



*Source: CA Department of Education*

## CAASPP Test Results – Math, Grade 5

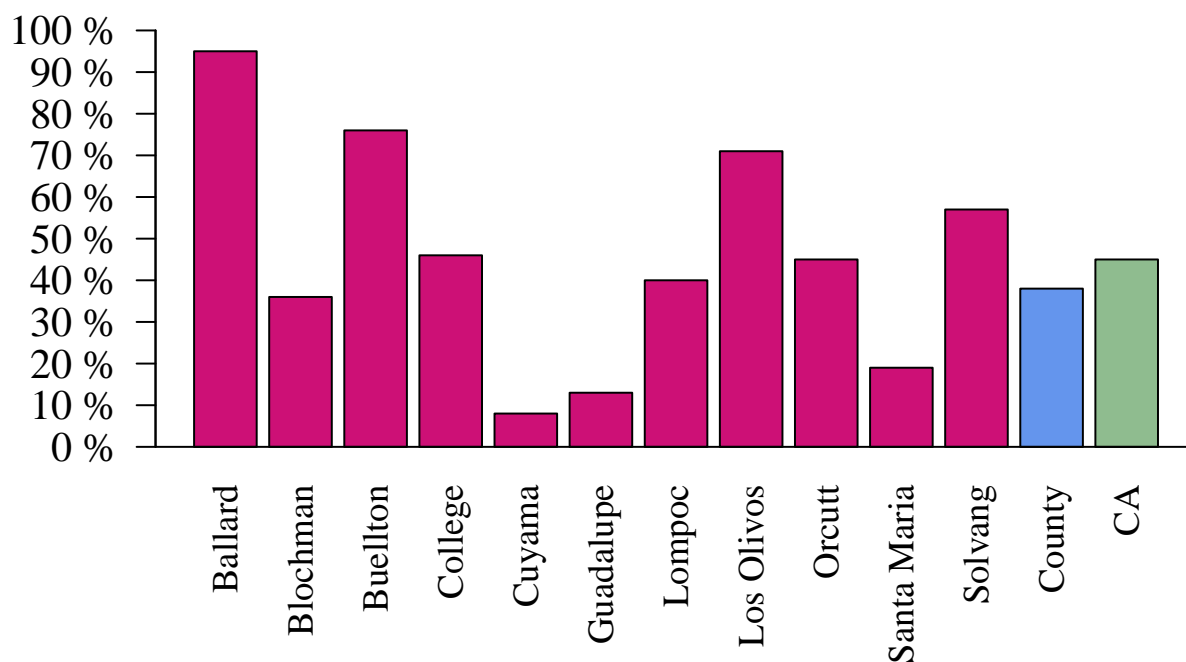
*Percent of Standard Met or Exceeded, 2014–15*



*Source: CA Department of Education*

## CAASPP Test Results – English, Grade 5

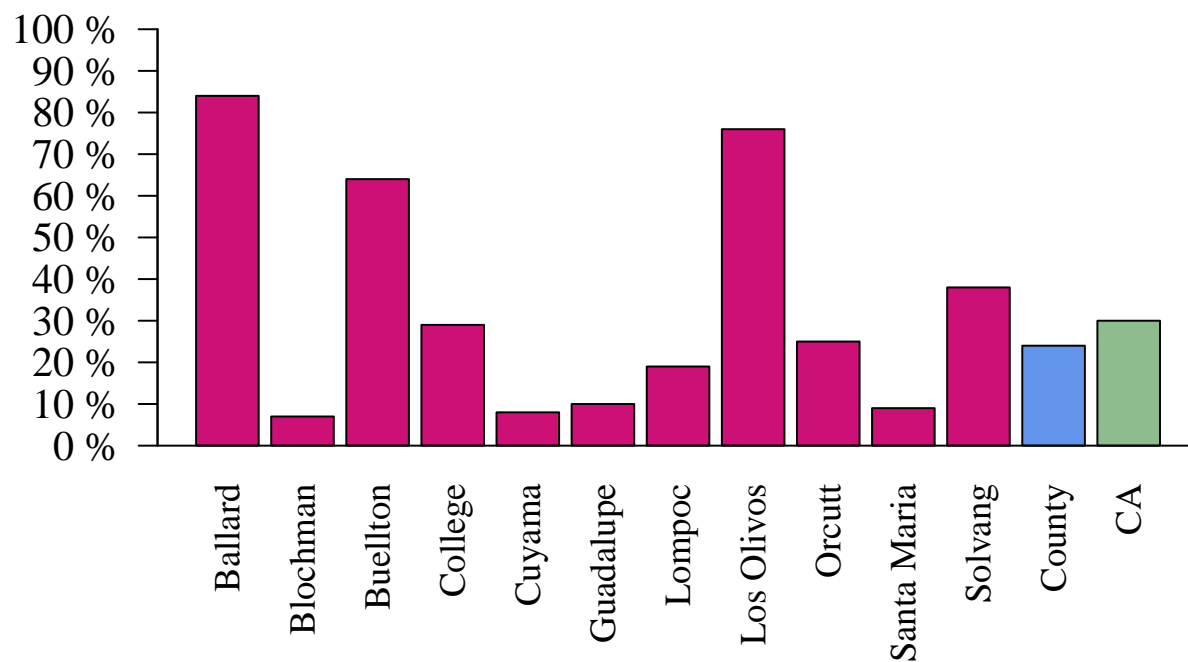
*Percent of Standard Met or Exceeded, 2014–15*



*Source: CA Department of Education*

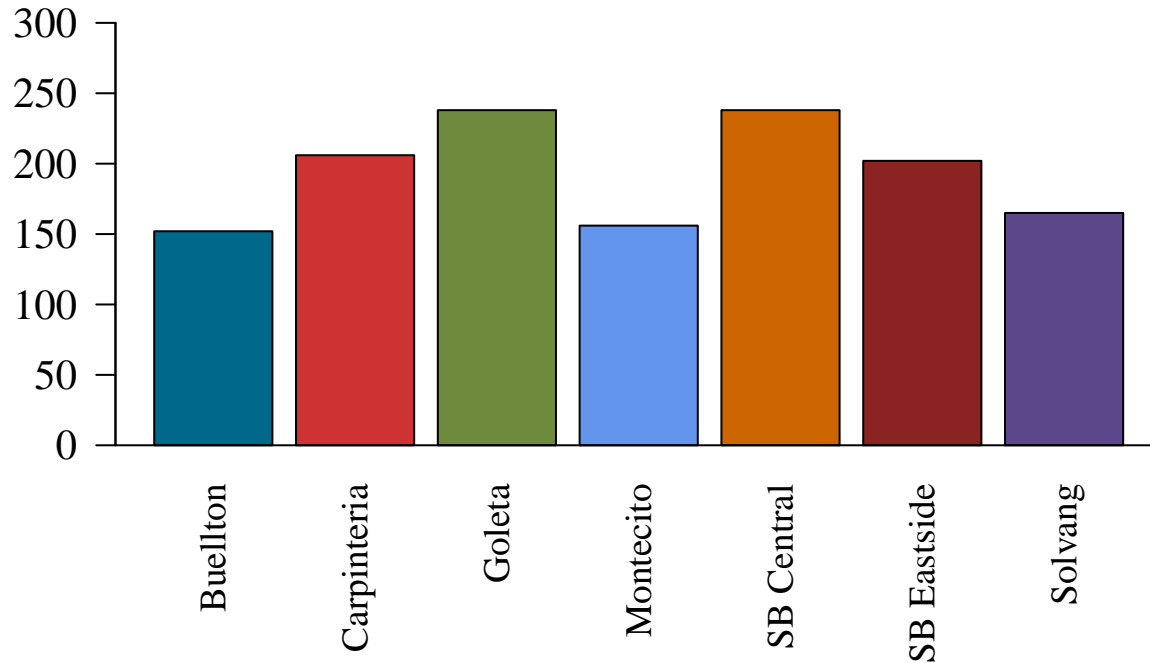
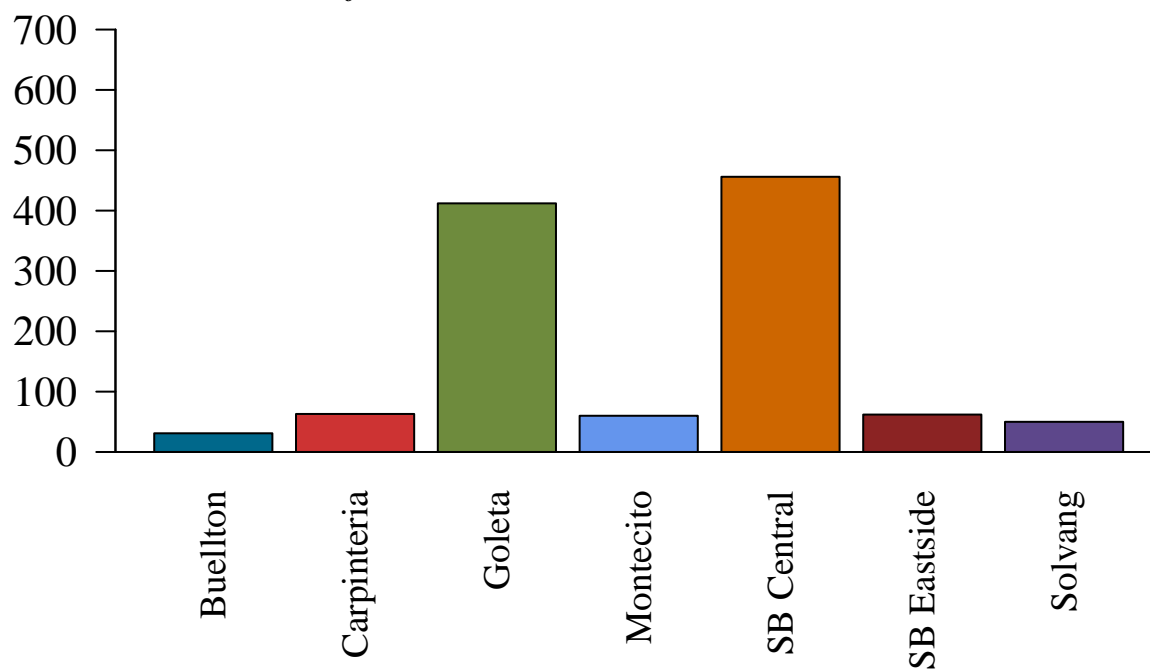
## CAASPP Test Results – Math, Grade 5

*Percent of Standard Met or Exceeded, 2014–15*



*Source: CA Department of Education*

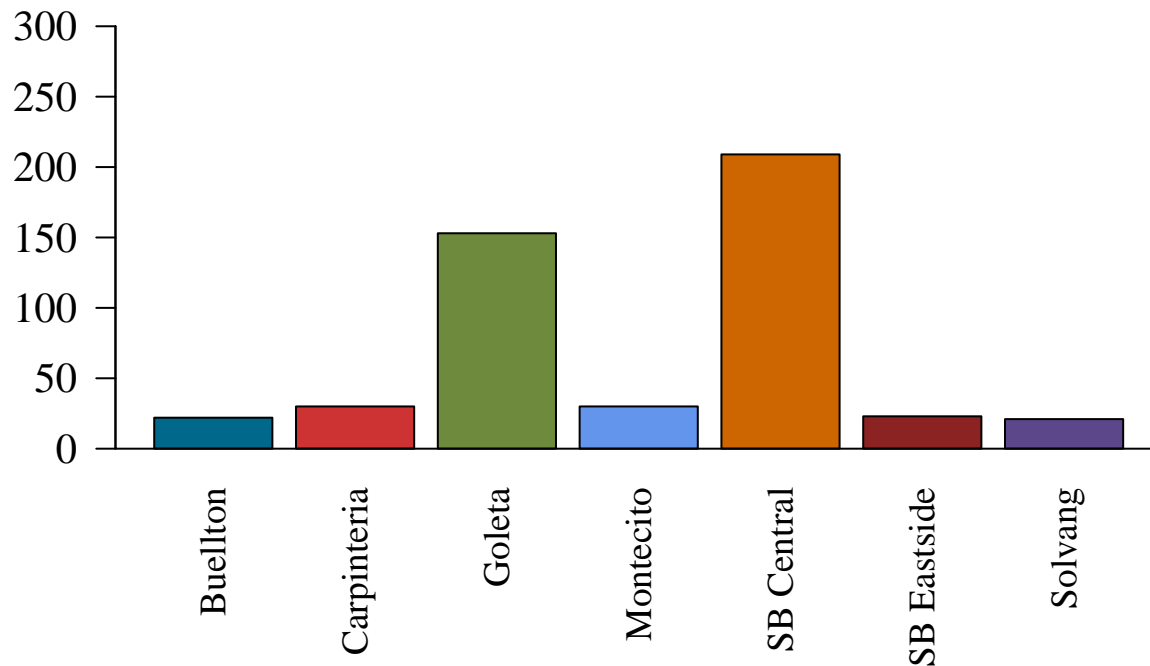
## BOOK AND MAGAZINE CIRCULATION SURPASSES ONE MILLION

**Average Library Hours, 2015–2016***Hours per Month**Source: Santa Barbara County Library***Library Book and Magazine Circulation, 2015–2016***In thousands of books**Source: Santa Barbara County Library*



## Library Audio–Visual Circulation, 2015–2016

*In thousands of items*



*Source: Santa Barbara County Library*

### What are the measures?

We are tracking three measures by sub-area in Santa Barbara County: the volume of book and magazine circulation, the monthly average of library hours, and the volume of library audio-visual circulation.

### Why are they important?

Public libraries provide supplemental educational resources for children, continuing education opportunities for adults, and an enhancement of the cultural quality of life.

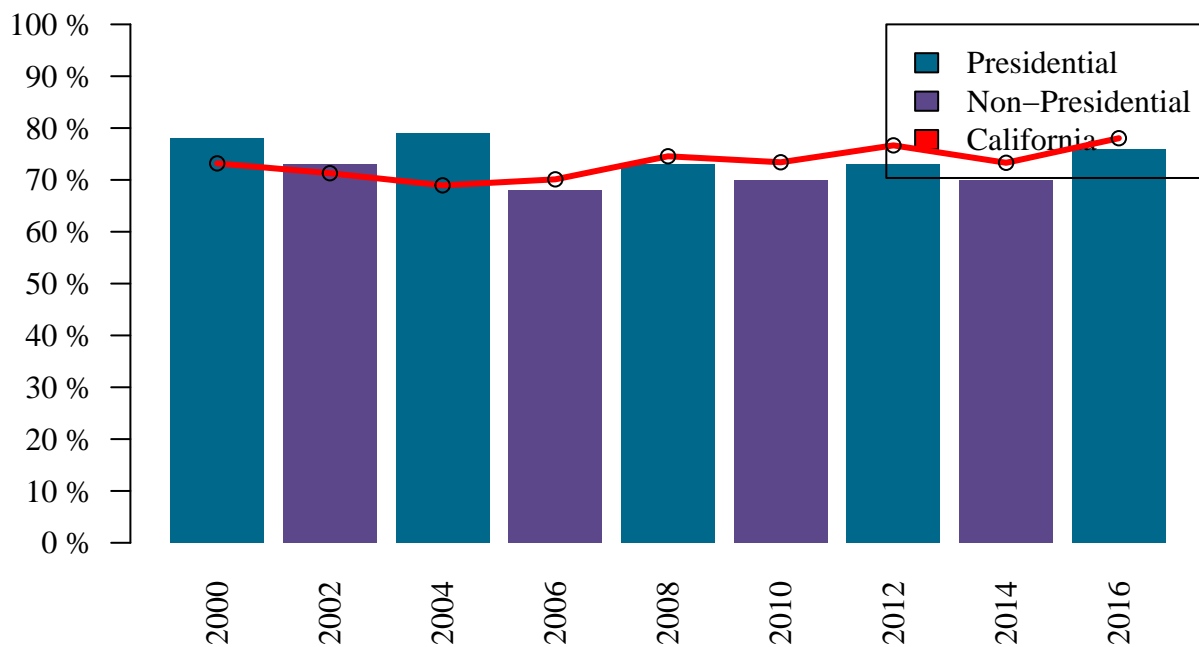
### How are we doing?

This data shows active use of library service throughout the Santa Barbara County. The average library hours has remained unchanged over the past three years. Meanwhile, book and magazine circulation surpassed one million books, and audio-visual circulation was nearly half a million units.

## Citizen Engagement

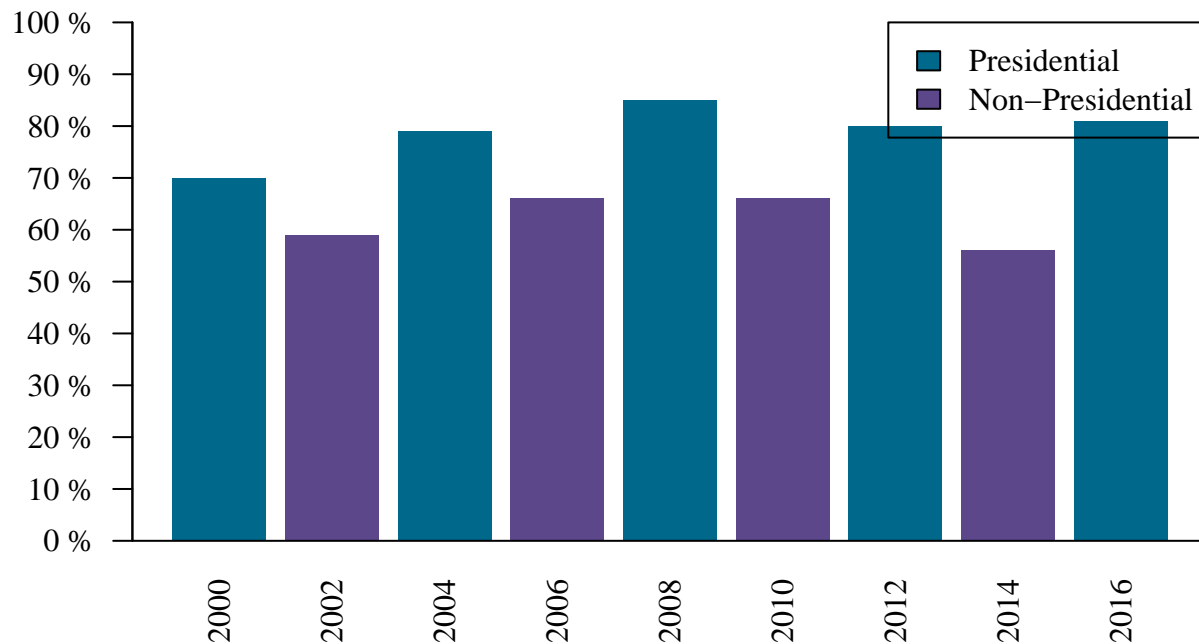
### VOTER REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT INCREASES

#### Santa Barbara County Voter Registration



Source: CA Secretary of State

## Santa Barbara County Voter Turnout



*Source: Santa Barbara County's Clerk Recorder, California Secretary of State*

### What are the measures?

These graphs measure the percent of the eligible population that is registered to vote and the percent of registered voters who voted in past elections in Santa Barbara County.

### Why are they important?

Voter registration and turnout measure the most basic forms of civic participation, and are surrogate measures for the level of interest residents have in community affairs. Broad-based citizen involvement not only improves the accountability of government, but also creates a critical fabric of support for all our institutions.

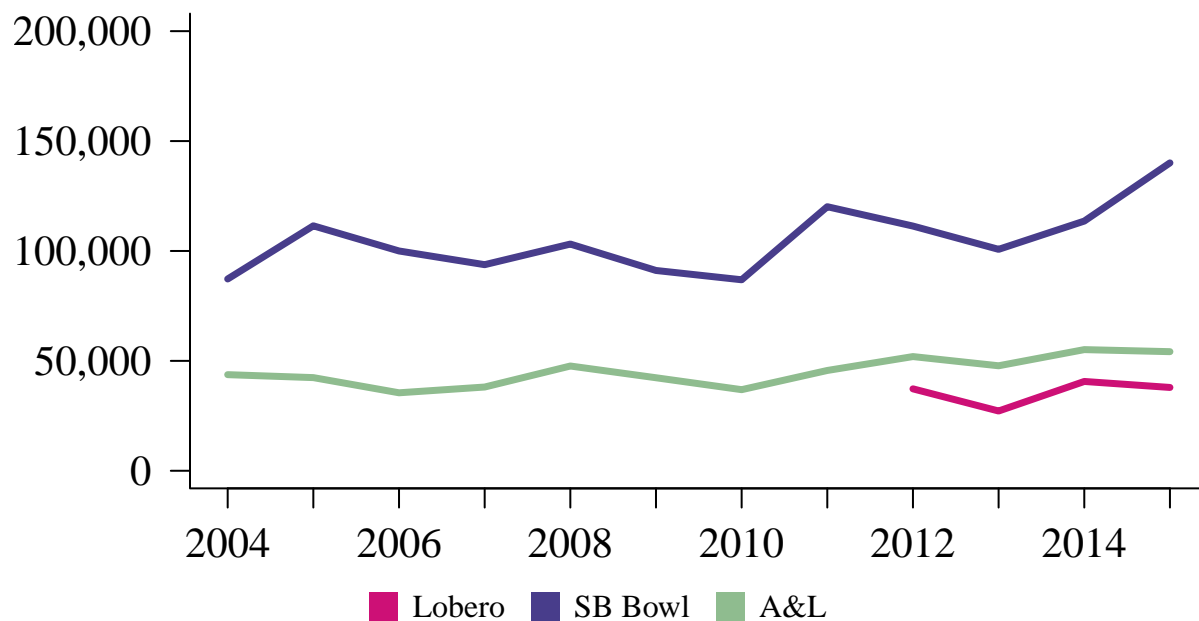
### How are we doing?

Voter registration increased in the 2016 Presidential Election, reaching 76.8 percent of eligible voters. This is the highest voter registration percentage in recent election cycles since 2004, where voter registration was 79.5 percent. The voter turnout for the presidential election also increased from 80.3 percent in 2012 to 81.7 percent in 2016. However, voter turnout in midterm elections has been decreasing, reaching its lowest levels of recent years in 2014.

## Cultural Resources

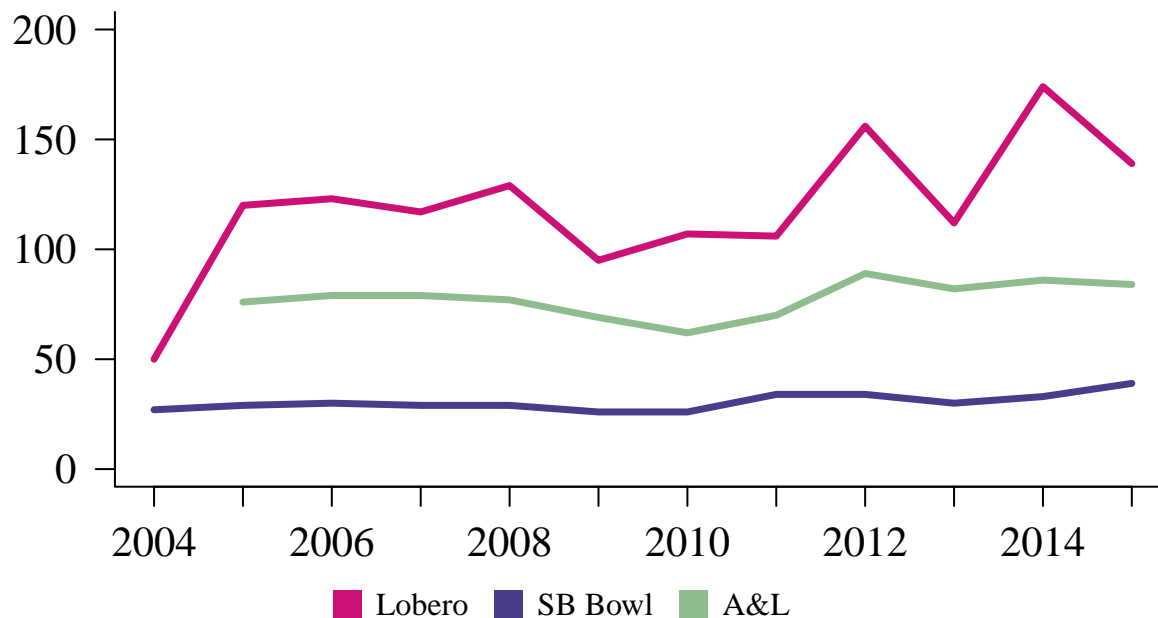
### PERFORMING ARTS TICKET SALES INCREASE AS NUMBER OF SHOWS SHOW A SLIGHT DECLINE

#### Number of Ticket Sales at Performance Venues



*\*Lobero Theatre is missing ticket sales from 2004–11  
Source: SB Bowl, Lobero Theater, Arts and Lectures*

## Number of Shows at Performance Venues



*\*UCSB Art and Lecture is missing events from 2004*  
*Source: SB Bowl, Lobero Theater, Arts and Lectures*

### What is the measure?

The total ticket sales and number of performances at the Santa Barbara Bowl, the Lobero Theater, and UCSB Arts and Lectures.

### Why is it important?

The arts are a critical part of the community fabric that offers a place where residents and visitors alike can come together, and enjoy the artistic expression of the human spirit.

### How are we doing?

Total tickets sales for all three venues in 2015 was 232,168 displaying an 11 percent increase from 2014; at the same time, the total number of shows declined 10%. Santa Barbara Bowl experienced a 23 percent spike in ticket sales, along with an increase of 6 events. Lobero Theater saw a decline of 7% in ticket sales corresponding with a 20 percent decrease of events throughout 2015. Similarly, UCSB Arts and Lectures displayed a loss in ticket sales, but with roughly the same amount of events from the previous year.



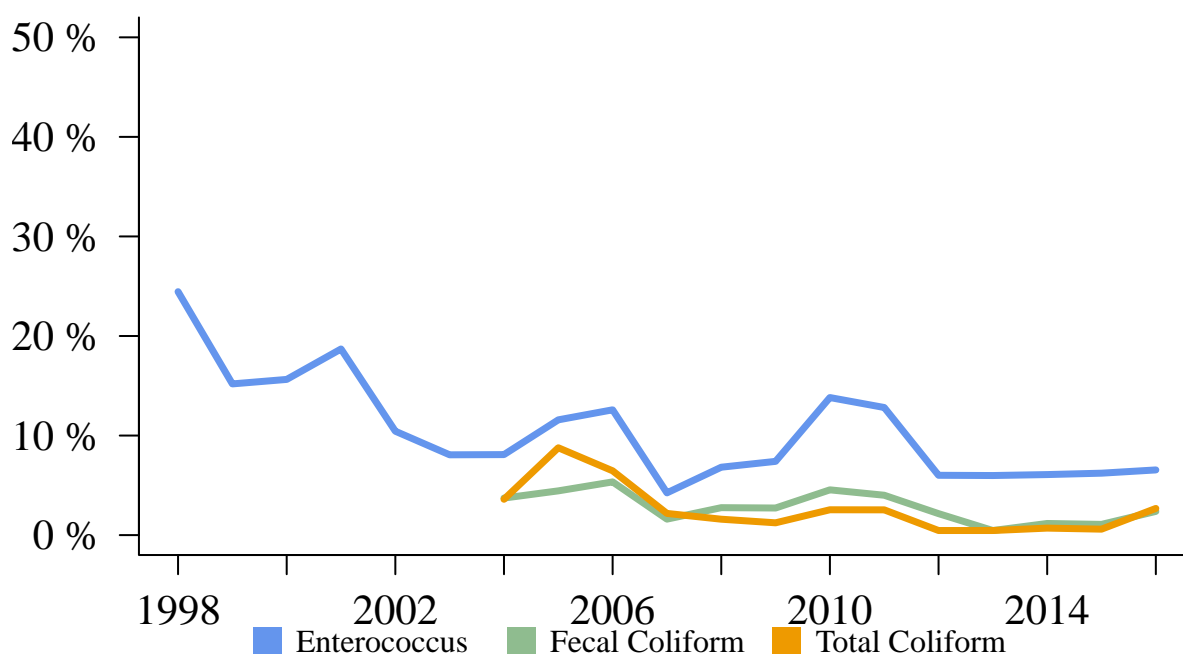
# Environmental

## Water Quality

WATER QUALITY VIOLATION DAYS RELATIVELY STABLE

### Bacteria Exceedances in County Beaches

*Percent of Tests where Levels Exceeded Standards*



*Source: Santa Barbara Ocean Water Monitoring Program*

#### What are the measures?

The percentage of weekly water quality tests that exceed state and federal standards for fecal coliform and enterococcus. This data is from the County Ocean Water Monitoring Program, which tests ocean water near the mouth of most major creeks in the Santa Barbara County. A reading of more than 400 parts per million for fecal coliform, 104 for enterococcus, or 10,000 MPN (Most Probable Number, meaning the bacterial count per 100 mL of water) for total coliform exceeds state and federal standards, and can lead to a Department of Environmental Health Beach Advisory.

**Why are they important?**

The quality of water coming out of a watershed directly reflects what goes into the watershed and is an indicator of the watershed's overall health. This not only affects the ability of residents to enjoy local creeks and beaches, but also affects the health of wildlife. In addition, unsafe beaches can adversely impact the local economy by reducing tourism.

**How are we doing?**

Water quality violation days have remained relatively stable over the last five years, though there was a small increase in fecal coliform. Still, less than ten percent of tests had results where bacteria exceeded state and federal standards. The amount of rainfall can significantly affect these results, as rainfall flushes bacteria and pollutants from the creeks into the ocean.

**WATER CONSUMPTION DECLINES****What is the measure?**

The amount of gallons of water consumed per day for residential purposes by the customers of all the principal water agencies within the Santa Barbara County.

**Why is it important?**

The amount of water consumed by residents of Santa Barbara County is especially important in times of drought conditions. The County has taken several steps to reduce residential water consumption, which appears to have had a positive effect on lowering water usage.

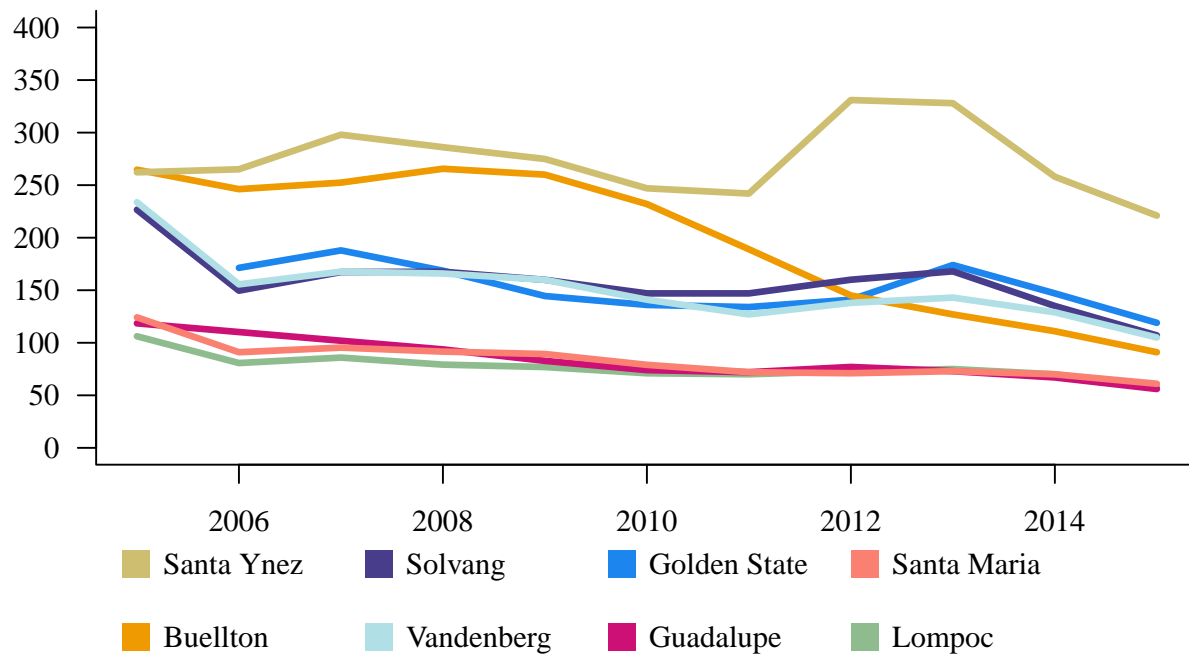
**How are we doing?**

The current drought has reduced countywide water consumption, with marked decreases beginning in 2013. Montecito, Santa Ynez, and La Cumbre continue to have the highest personal consumption of water out of the County, whereas Guadalupe, Santa Maria, Lompoc, Goleta, Carpinteria, and Santa Barbara have the lowest per capita water consumption in the county. Residential water consumption is at its lowest rate in ten years.



## Per Capita Water Use Per Day, North County

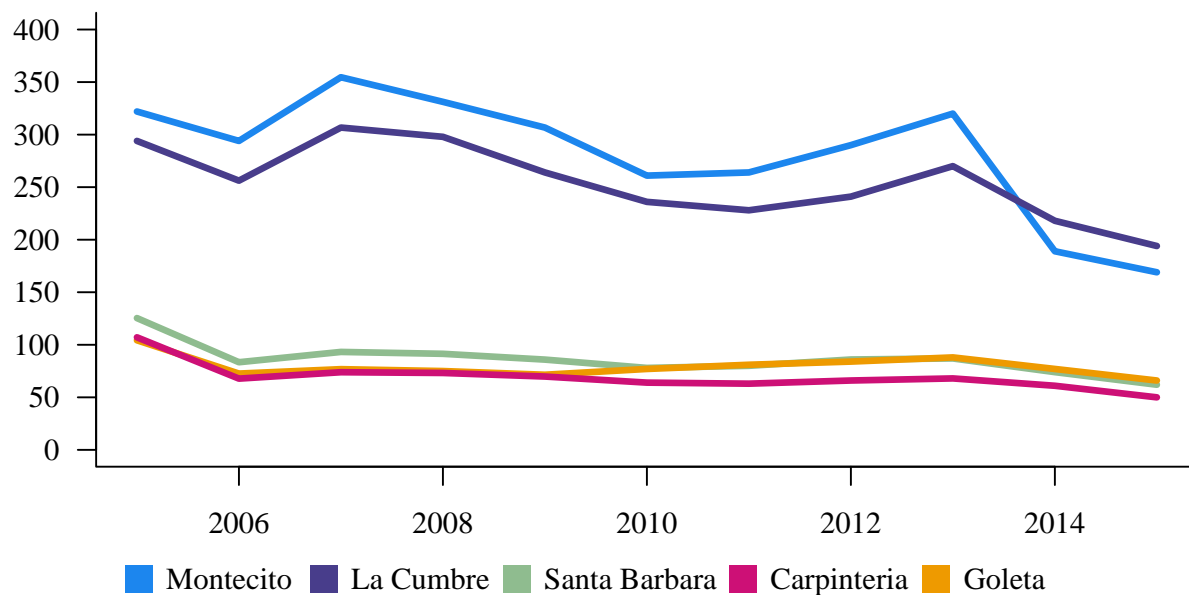
*Gallons per Person*



Source: Waterwise SR

## Per Capita Water Use Per Day, South Coast

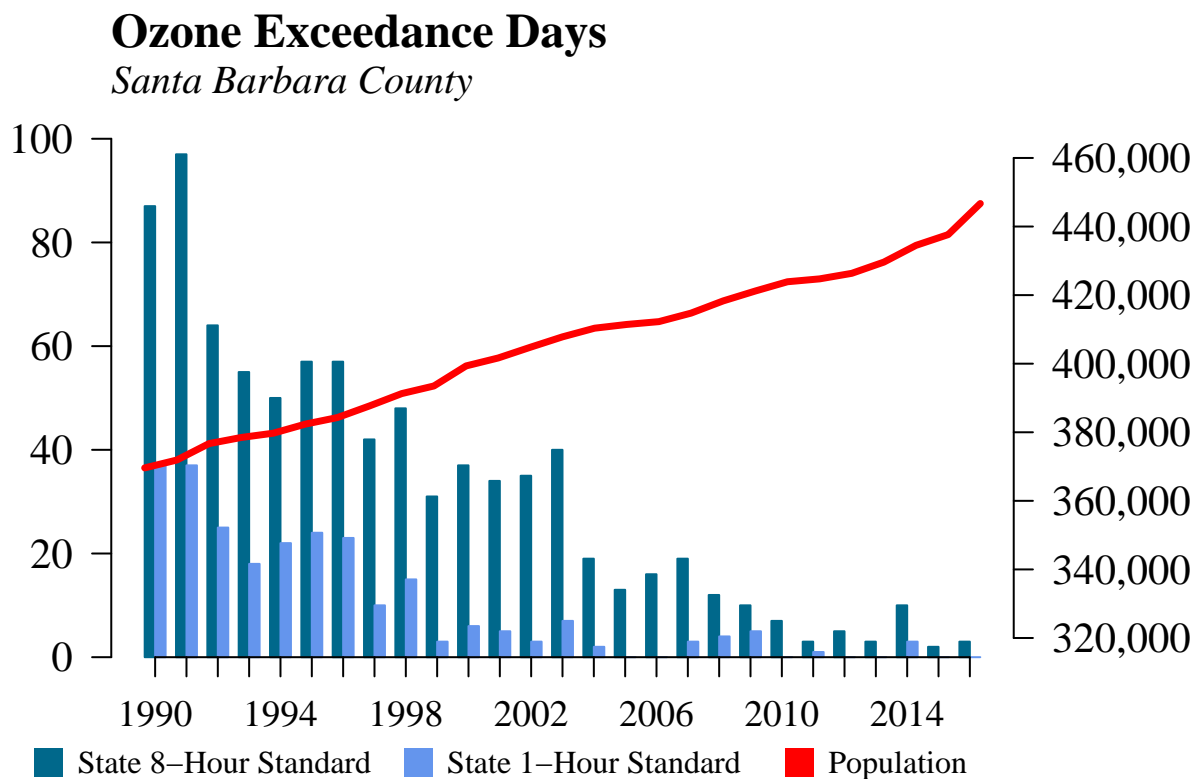
*Gallons per Person*



Source: Waterwise SR

## Air Quality

### OZONE VIOLATION DAYS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



*Source: Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District*

#### What is the measure?

The number of days in which local communities did not meet the state standard for ozone levels. If a daily ozone reading exceeds an hourly average of 0.09 parts per million, or an eight hour average of 0.07 parts per million, a state “violation day” occurs.

#### Why is it important?

Ozone – one of the primary components of smog – impairs normal functioning of the lungs and reduces the ability to perform physical exercise. Lack of ozone in the air is considered to be a good indicator of overall air quality.

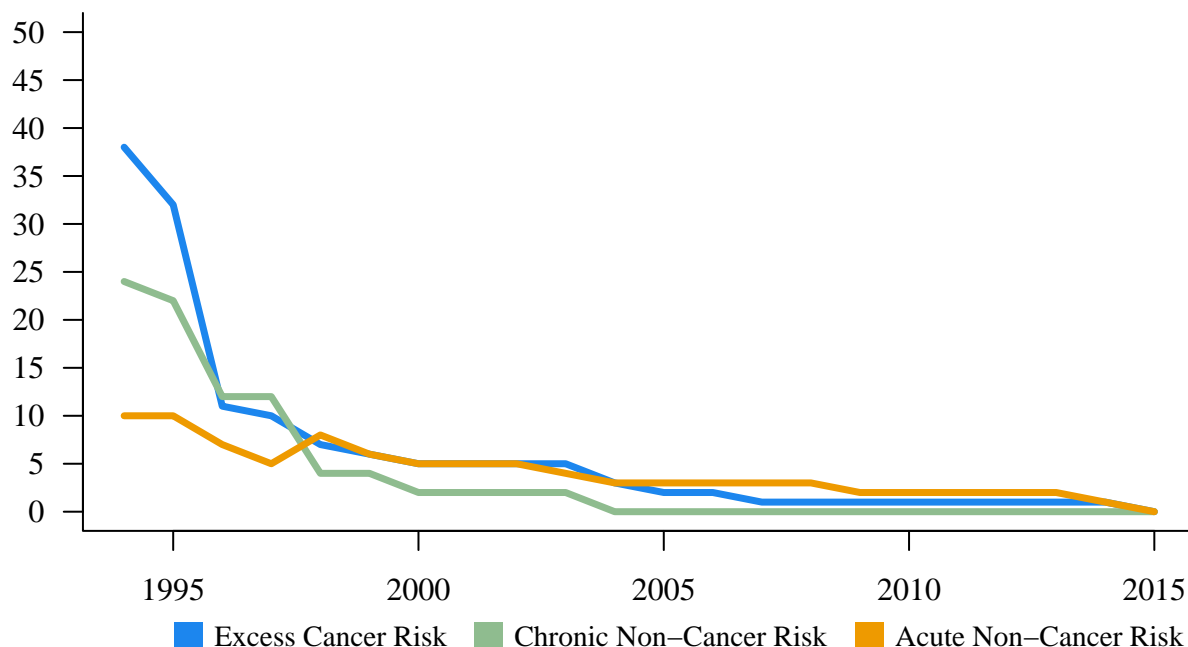
#### How are we doing?

In 2016, Santa Barbara County only experienced three days of ozone violation where the air quality exceeded the state 8-hour standard. While this is an increase of one day from 2015 statistics, air quality has improved dramatically over the past twenty years, even despite a rise in population. In October 2015, the EPA passed a new federal mandate reducing the 8-hour ozone violation from 0.075 parts per million to 0.070 parts per million. Santa Barbara County is currently in attainment of the 8-hour federal ozone standard.

## NO BUSINESSES RELEASE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS IN 2015

### Air Toxics: Hot Spots

*Santa Barbara County*



*Source: Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District*

#### What is the measure?

The number of businesses in Santa Barbara County that release airborne toxic contaminants which exceed the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District's thresholds for significant health risks. Three categories of toxic chemicals are measured – those that pose cancer risks, those that pose acute health risks, and those that pose chronic health risks unrelated to cancer.

#### Why is it important?

Toxic air contaminants pose a direct threat to the health of people who work at businesses that exceed safety thresholds and to those who live or work immediately adjacent to those businesses. In addition, the toxic contaminants harm overall air quality in the Santa Barbara County.

#### How are we doing?

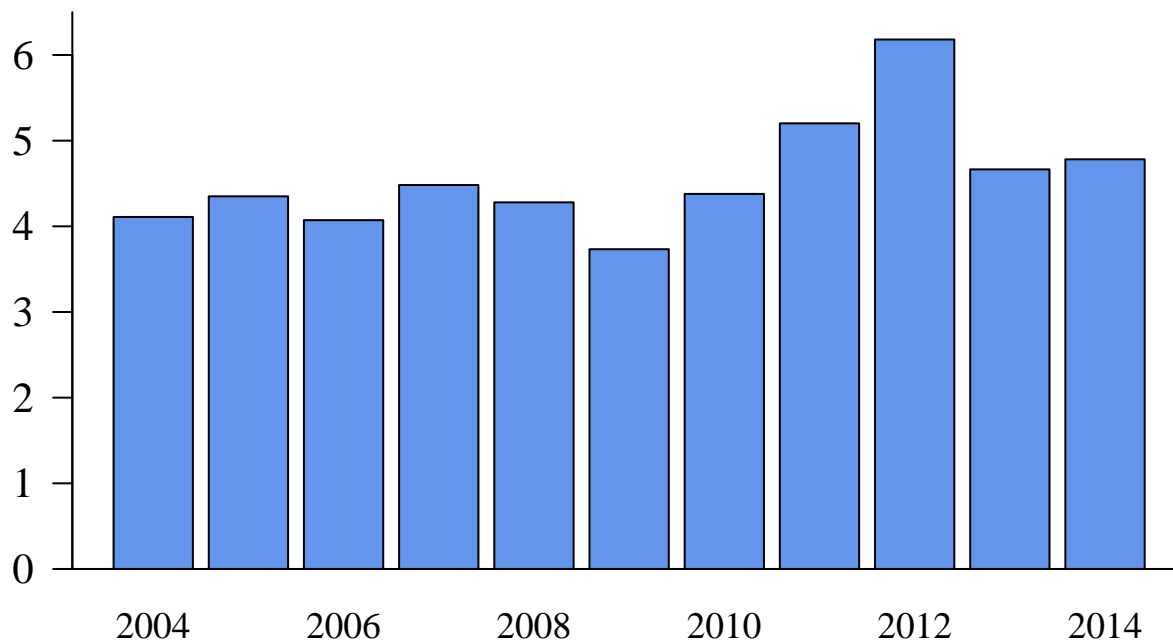
The number of businesses exceeding health risk thresholds has dropped to zero in 2015. This is even more significant when stricter changes in guidelines are taken into account; in 2003, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment revised the guidance manual to account for sensitivity to cancer at early ages, possibly resulting in increased risk results.

## Land Use

### PESTICIDE USE RISES SLIGHTLY OVER PAST YEAR

#### **Pesticide Use in Millions of Pounds**

*Santa Barbara County*



*Source: California Department of Pesticide Regulation*

#### **What is the measure?**

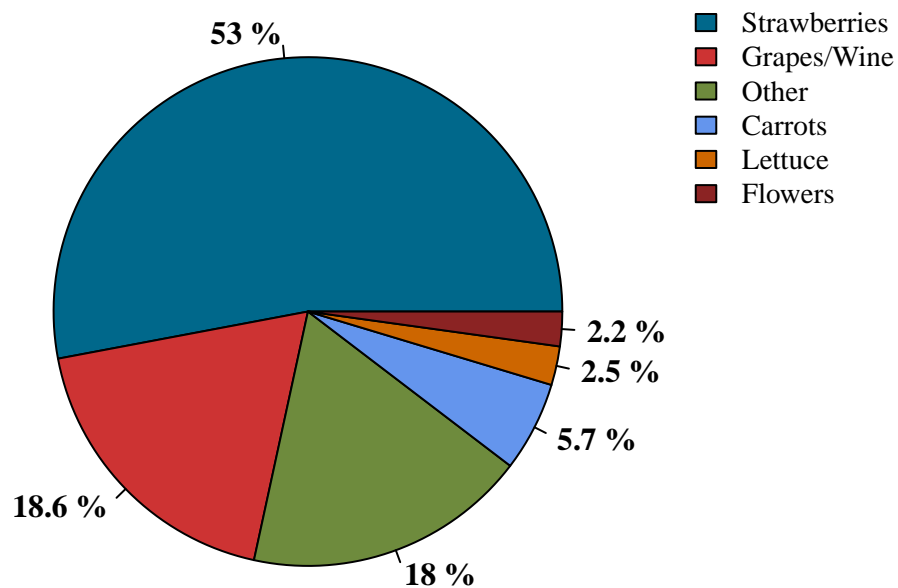
The total pounds of pesticide used in agriculture throughout Santa Barbara County.

#### **Why is it important?**

Many activities can affect ground and groundwater quality, most of which are difficult to track. Agricultural pesticide use is one possible precursor to ground or groundwater contamination. Pesticide use in the county is mostly within North County.

#### **How are we doing?**

After a large spike in pesticide use in 2012 – amounting to 6.18 million pounds – its use declined significantly in 2013. Since then, it has increased slightly to 4.78 million pounds. The lowest levels of pesticide usage were observed in 2009, with only 3.73 million pounds.

**STRAWBERRIES DOMINATE PESTICIDE USE SITES****Top Pesticide Use Sites***Santa Barbara County, 2014**Source: California Department of Pesticide Regulation***What is the measure?**

The top five sites of pesticide use throughout Santa Barbara County in 2014.

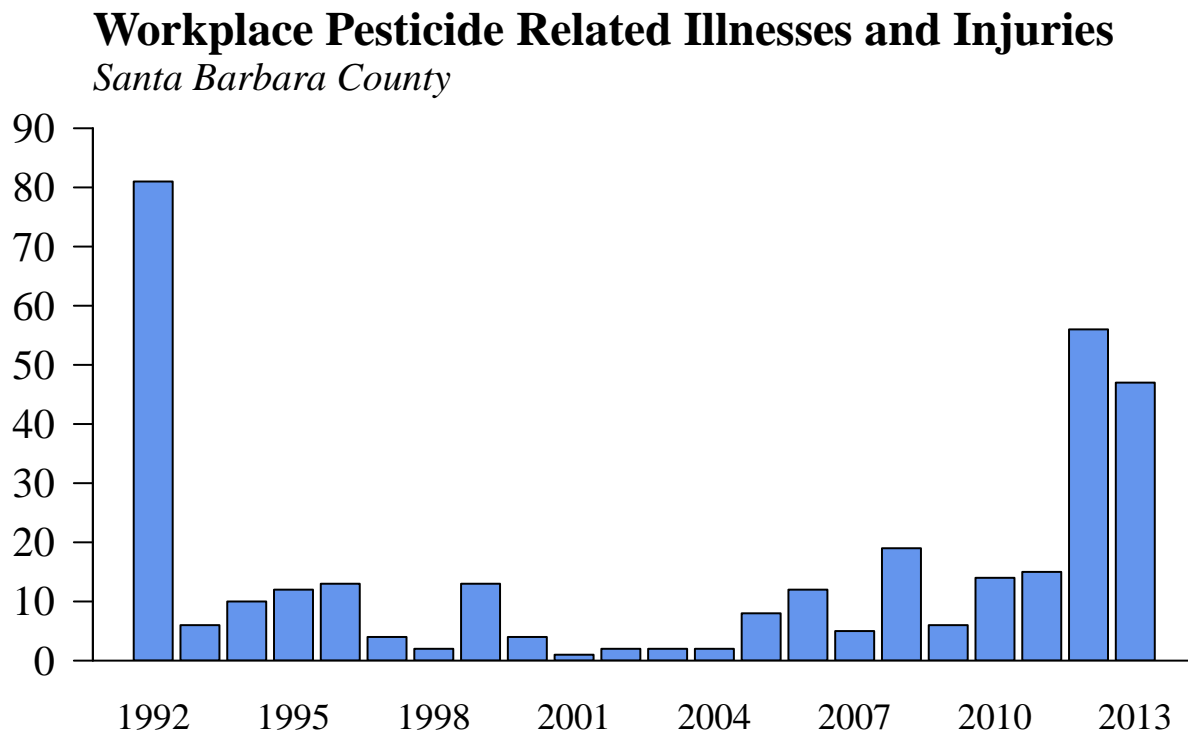
**Why is it important?**

Countywide pesticide use totaled 4,782,176 pounds in 2014. Of that, five types of crops constituted 82 percent of all pesticide use. These crops may be located in specific agricultural areas where pesticide use becomes more concentrated.

**How are we doing?**

The strawberry crop is the leading site for pesticide use in Santa Barbara County, with 2,532,990 pounds of pesticides used in 2014. From 2013 to 2014, raspberries and lemons fell from the top pesticide sites and were replaced by lettuce and flowers.

## WORKPLACE PESTICIDE RELATED ILLNESSES AND INJURIES INCREASE



*Source: California Department of Pesticide Regulation*

### What is the measure?

The number of workplace pesticide related illnesses and injuries experienced in the Santa Barbara County. This measure includes antimicrobial agents such as chlorine.

### Why is it important?

Many factors influence our health, including environmental factors. Workplace pesticide related illnesses are one of those that are regularly tracked.

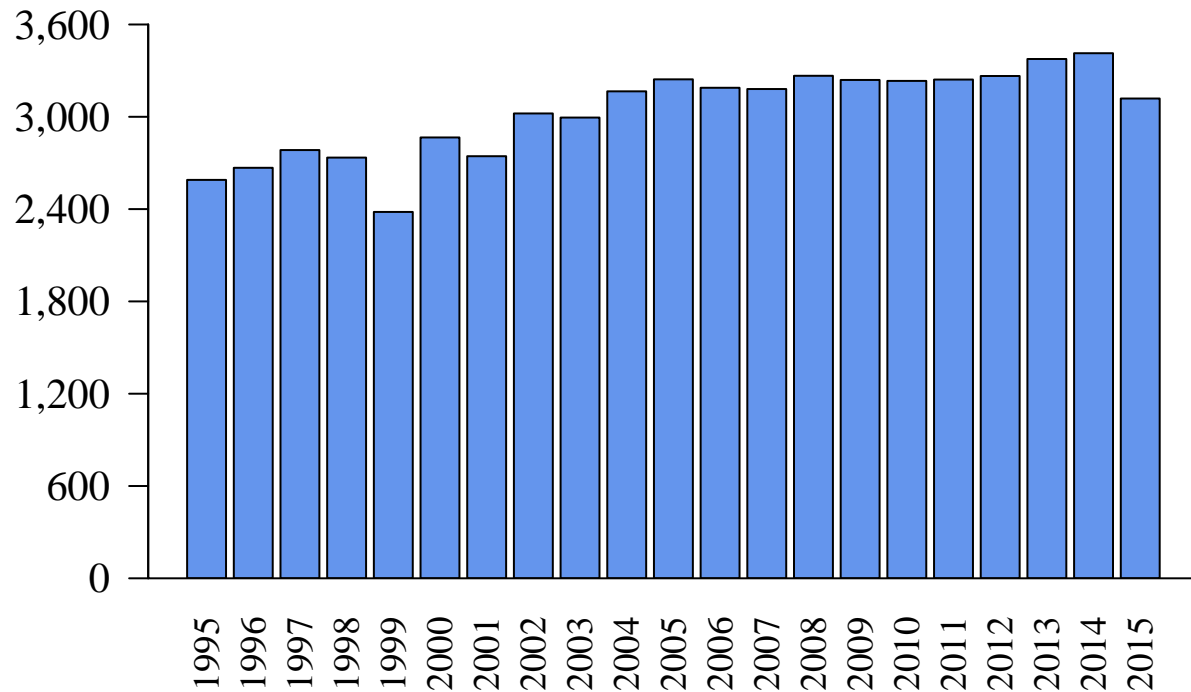
### How are we doing?

The number of reported illnesses related to pesticides has typically remained under 20 cases a year, with three major exceptions. The past two years saw a dramatic increase in the number of workplace pesticide related illnesses. From 2012 to 2013, there was over a 200 percent increase in the number of pesticide related illnesses. While 2014's numbers have decreased to 47 cases, they are still much higher than the typical number of cases in prior years.

## ENERGY USE DECREASES

## Electricity Consumption, Santa Barbara County

*Gigawatt Hours*



*Source: California Energy Commission*

### What is the measure?

The amount of electricity consumed by the Santa Barbara County for commercial, residential, and industrial purposes, measured in gigawatt hours. (One gigawatt hour equals one thousand megawatt hours.)

### Why is it important?

Electric energy is a critical commodity, integrated into every aspect of our lives in our homes and workplaces. However, the production of electricity may have negative environmental impacts through pollution and resource use.

### How are we doing?

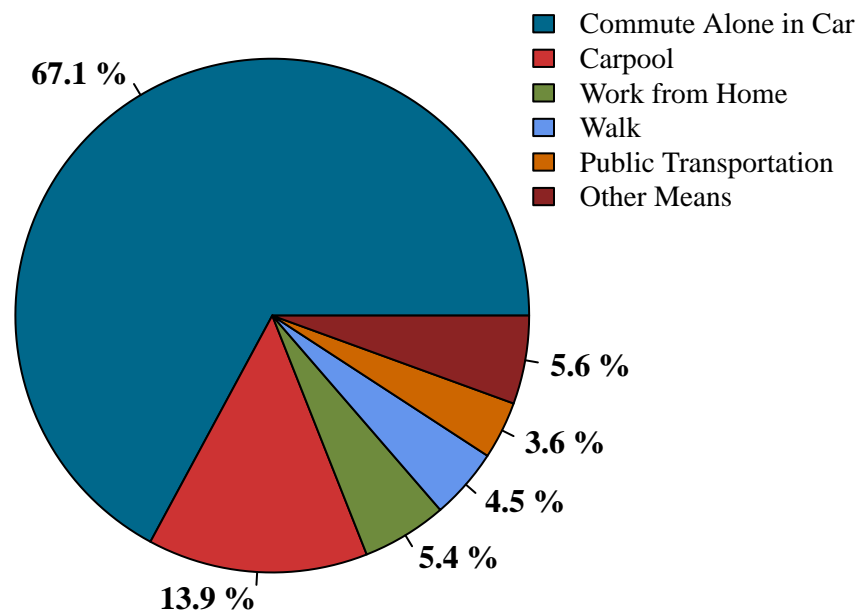
Santa Barbara County energy use decreased in 2015, dropping to its lowest consumption levels in over ten years.

## Mobility

### MOST WORKERS COMMUTE ALONE BY CAR

## Means of Transportation to Work

*Santa Barbara County, 2014*



*Source: United States Census, American Community Survey*

### What is the measure?

The respective percentages of Santa Barbara County residents' means of transport to work. This data is collected by the United States Census in the American Community Survey.

### Why is it important?

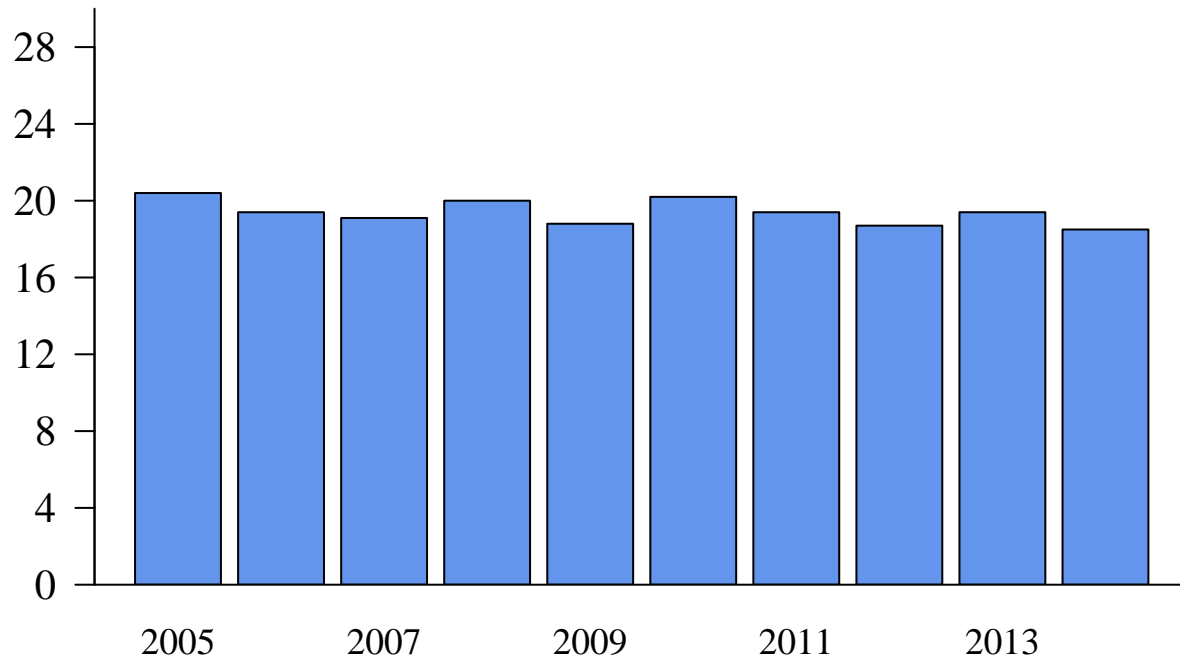
Mobility reflects the ability of people to get from one place to another efficiently; consequentially, traffic congestion prevents this from happening. While traffic congestion has many components – including the level of non-commuter automobile use, population, the success of land-use planning, and the ability of infrastructure improvements to adapt to changes – the level of single occupancy vehicle use has a direct impact on overall traffic congestion.

### How are we doing?

The majority of workers choose to commute alone by car. The proportion of these commuters has remained stable over the past five years.



## MEAN COMMUTE TIME DECLINES marginally

**Mean Commute Time in Minutes***Santa Barbara County**Source: United States Census, American Community Survey***What is the measure?**

The average amount of time it takes a commuter in Santa Barbara County to travel to work.

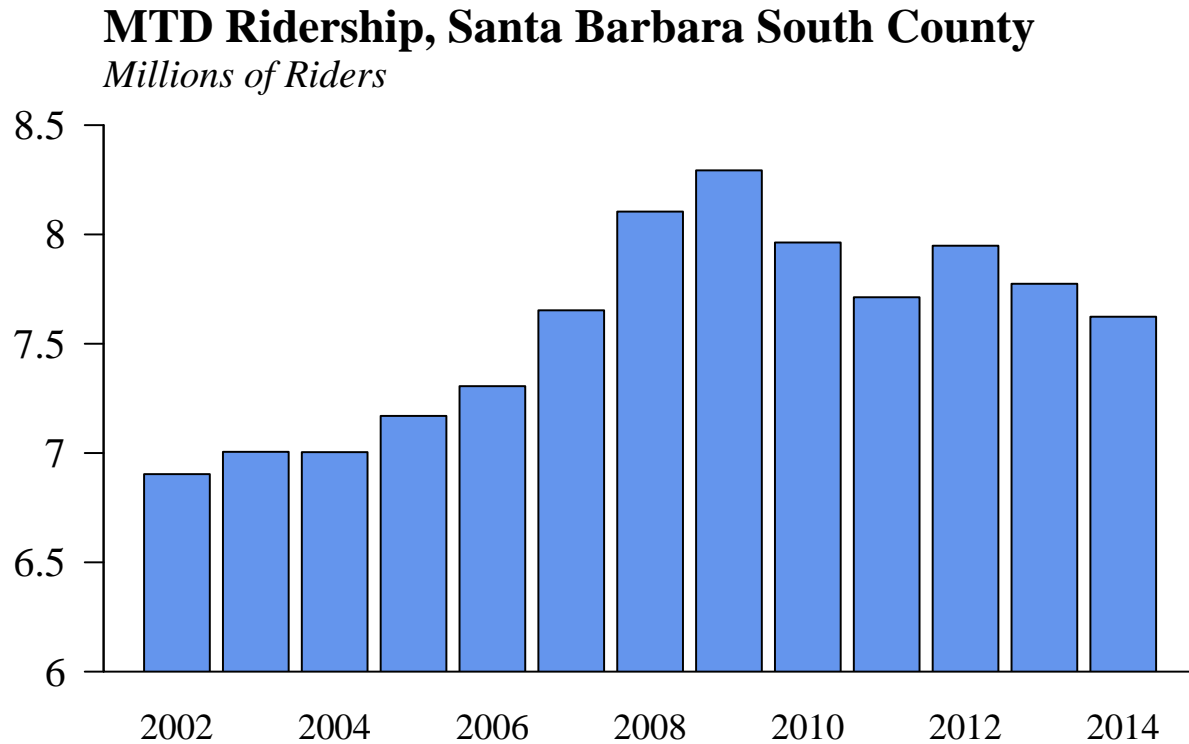
**Why is it important?**

Commute distances traveled can reveal much about the quality of life and future trends. Changing commute patterns may indicate a greater sensitivity toward housing costs and the economy. As the distance traveled increases, so does pollution, emission levels from automobiles, and traffic congestion.

**How are we doing?**

The average commute time in 2014 was 18.4 minutes, which is the lowest average commute time in our data. Over the past ten years, the mean commute time has peaked at 20.4 minutes.

## BUS RIDERSHIP DECREASING

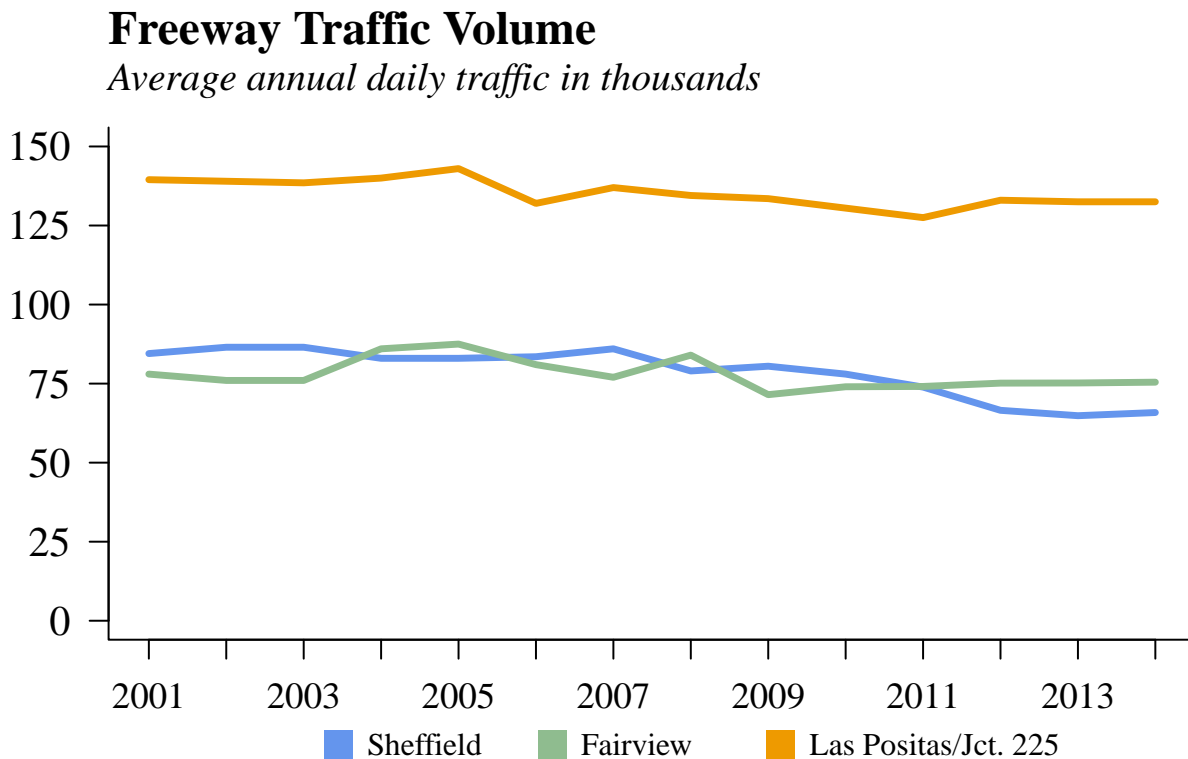


*Source: Santa Barbara MTD*

### What is the measure?

The number of bus trips taken in Santa Barbara on Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) buses. #####  
 Why is it important? {-} Buses are popular means of alternative transportation in Santa Barbara. In many cases, they are the transportation mode of choice for those who cannot afford an automobile or are unable to drive. #####  
 How are we doing? {-} Total bus ridership has declined recently to 7.6 million in 2014, the lowest ridership levels since 2006. Bus ridership levels peaked in 2009 with 8.3 million rides that year.

## TRAFFIC VOLUMES STABILIZE OVER LAST FIVE YEARS



*Source: CA Department of Transportation*

### What is the measure?

The number of cars per day on the freeway counted at three interchanges in Santa Barbara County. The interchanges are Highway 101 at Fairview, Las Positas, and Sheffield.

### Why is it important?

Highway 101 is a major roadway in Santa Barbara County, carrying local traffic, commuters from outside of the area, tourists, and other traffic. As the major traffic artery in the area, this highway plays an important role in the mobility of local residents.

### How are we doing?

As shown on the graph, traffic volume has stayed relatively stable over the past decade. Las Positas and Sheffield have both seen slight decreases in their traffic volume, even though all three interchanges have not seen much change in volume over the last few years.

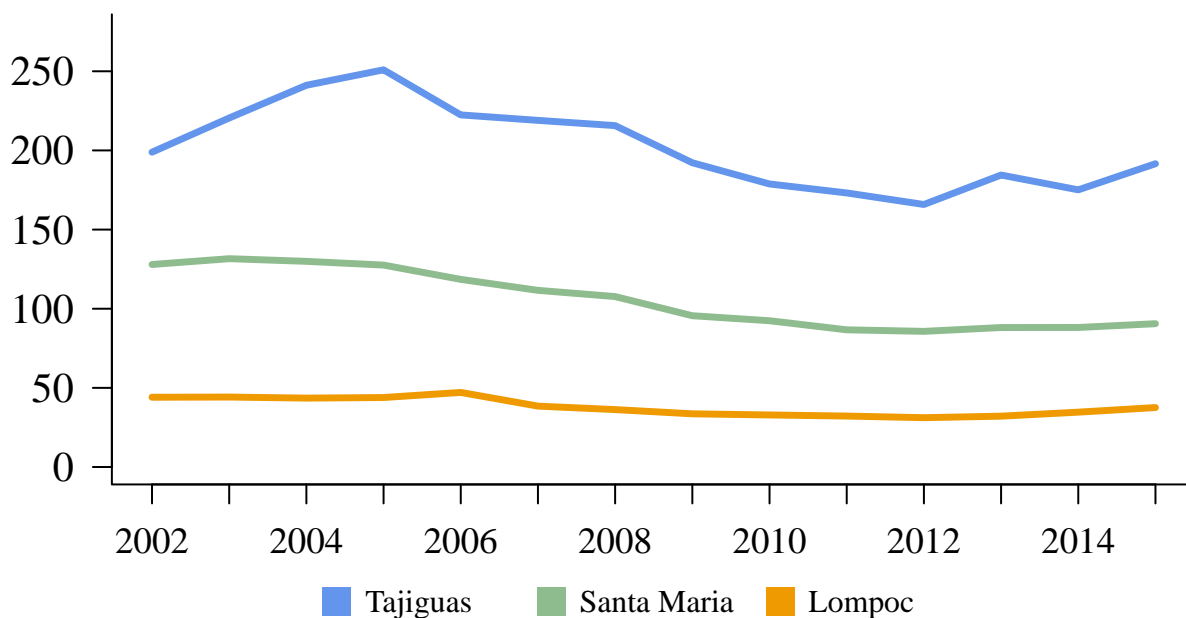
## Resource Use

### TOTAL WASTE DISPOSED SEES SLIGHT INCREASE

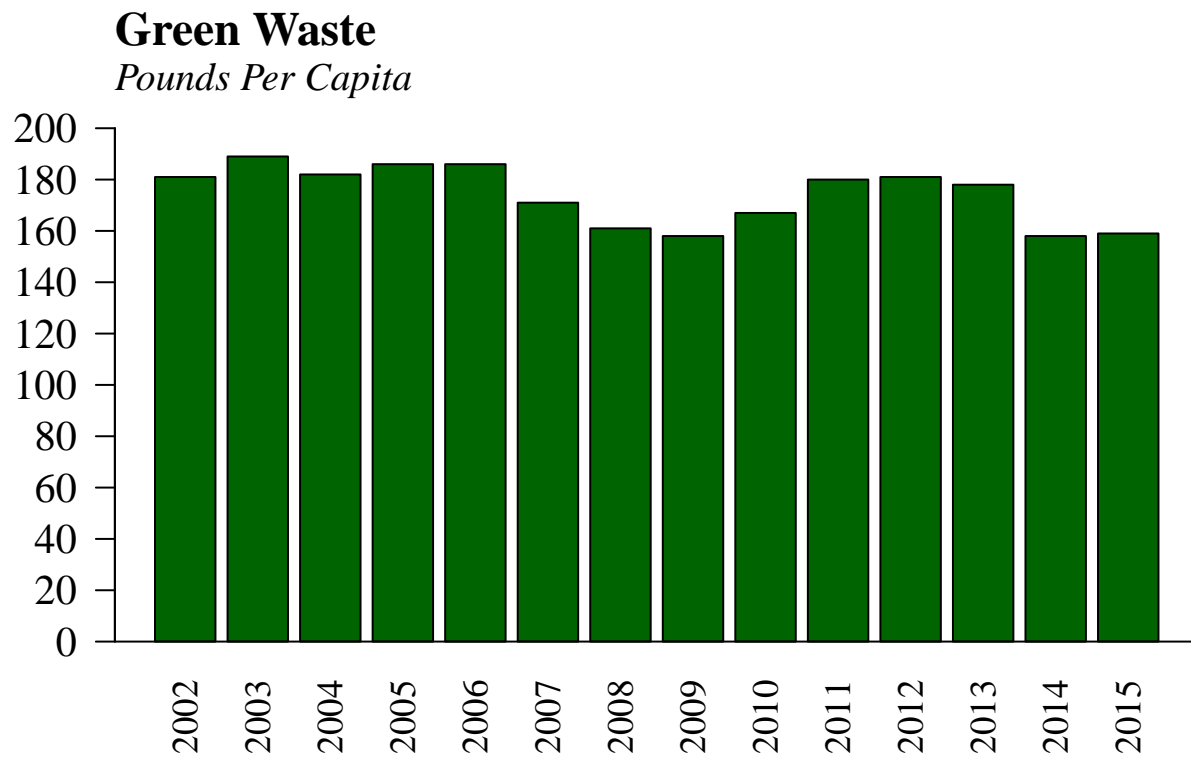
#### What are the measures?

The total tons of waste disposed in the Tajiguas, Santa Maria, and Lompoc landfills, as well as the amount of green waste and recycling diverted from the landfills. ##### Why is it important? {-} Waste disposal is a major form of urban pollution. Growing populations cause the total amount of waste to increase. Changes in the local economy, consumer purchasing decisions, and recycling and composting efforts also affect the amount of waste. ##### How are we doing? {-} The total waste disposed in the Santa Maria and Lompoc landfills increased by about two thousand tons each, reaching 90,534 and 37,554 tons respectively. However, the Tajiguas landfill (which serves most of the South Coast) has seen a larger upward tick in total waste disposed, moving from 175,099 tons to 191,598 tons. The total amount of green waste has increased in 2015 from 158 to 160 pounds per capita, whereas the total recyclables diverted decreased from 100 to 96 pounds per capita. California currently has a statewide goal of reducing solid waste by 75 percent by 2020 through recycling, composting, and source reduction. As of last year, recovery percentage for Santa Barbara County is 50 percent.

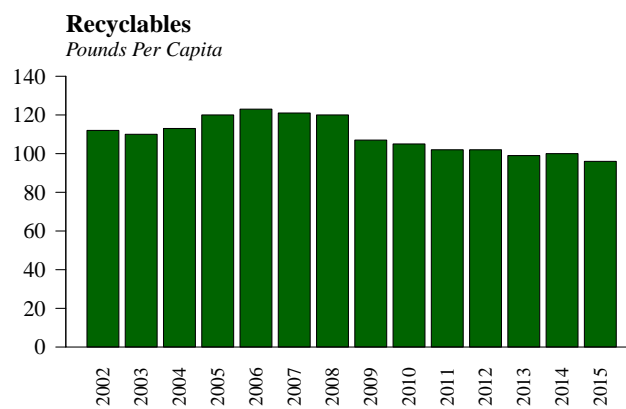
### Total Waste Disposed by Facility *Measured in Thousands of Tons*



Source: Santa Barbara County Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division



*Source: Santa Barbara County Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division*



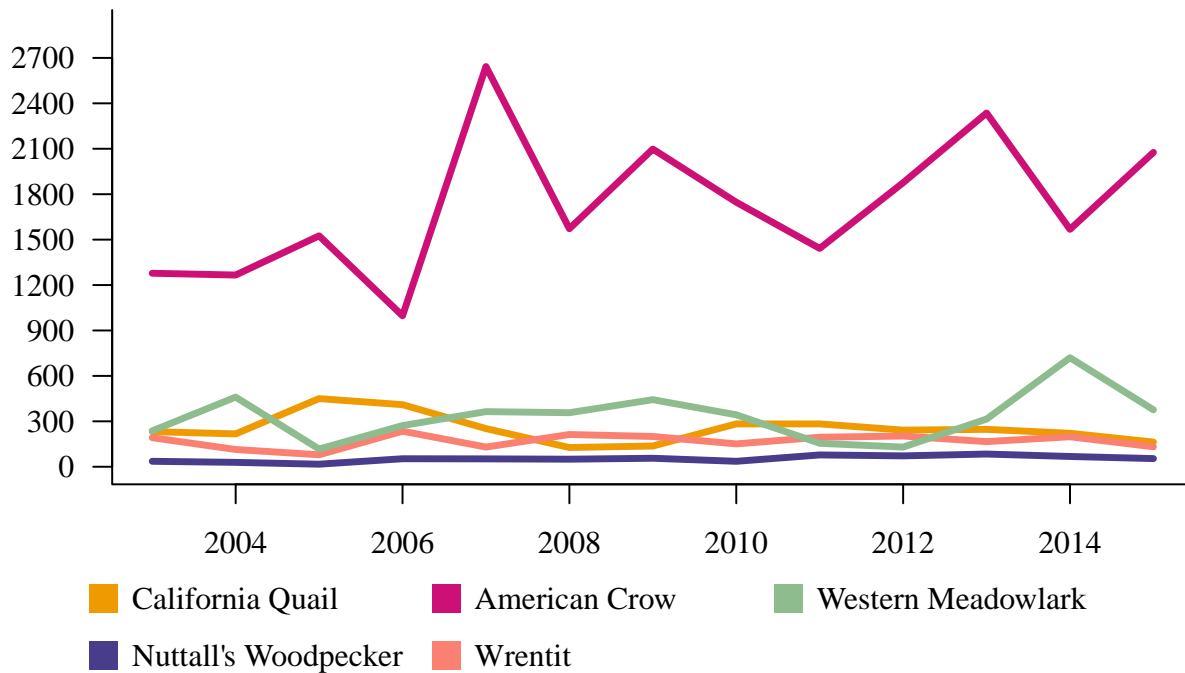
*Source: Santa Barbara County Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division*

## Nature

### TOTAL BIRD COUNT EXPERIENCES A DECLINE

#### Audubon Bird Counts

*Number of sightings*



*Source: National Audubon Society*

#### What is the measure?

The results of the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count for five species. The bird count is designed as a measure of the diversity of bird species, but it can also be used as a rough indicator of how well bird species are thriving.

Five common species are reported - the California Quail, the Nuttall's Woodpecker, the American Crow, the Wrentit, and the Western Meadowlark. All of these species are resident birds, living in different local habitats.

#### Why is it important?

Bird populations are an important part of our local ecosystem, and generally reflect its overall health. Changes in the bird count can reflect changes in habitat or other shifts in local environment.

#### How are we doing?

For the past decade, the number of Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Wrentits, and Western Meadowlarks have generally declined. These species have decreased mainly due to the loss of local chaparral and woodlands. However, the number of sightings of American Crows has seen a 36 percent increase from 2005 to 2015.

In 2015, Western Meadowlarks sightings fell dramatically from 720 to 376, a 47 percent decline. This decrease is surprising considering the 129 percent increase seen from 2013 to 2014. Similar to the Western Meadowlarks, the number of California Quails also fell by 26 percent moving from 2014 to 2015 after increasing considerably the years before.

The sightings of Wrentits and Nuttall's Woodpecker's generally stayed the same, although remaining on a downward trend. As most of the species decline, the number of American Crows sightings continues to grow, representing more than half of the total bird count.





# Economic

Standard of Living

Job Quality and Quantity

Housing Affordability

Business Vitality



## Chapter 1

# Final Words

We have finished a nice book.