

Action for Healthy Communities

# Social and Natural Environment Issues



## Social and Natural Environment

To gauge issues surrounding the local social and natural environment, the assessment looked to a number of resources: voter participation, availability of social services, charitable giving, how residents' basic needs are met, and quality of life survey indicators.

In terms of community involvement, local residents take their civic responsibility seriously. In a telephone survey, 76% of respondents said they vote in every election. For the 1998 General Election, the percentage of voters wasn't that high, but 51% of the 173,074 eligible local voters still turned out—a much higher turn-out rate than the state's 41% average.

Residents also expressed overall satisfaction with the level of services and programs available to them. The one area where people expressed greatest concern was for a lack of local programs for teenagers over 14 years of age; only 46% of telephone respondents felt that the level of services and programs for this age group was satisfactory; 41% of face-to-face respondents said the same. In comparison, 5% of telephone respondents indicated they would like to see more opportunities for youth if they could make a change locally.

When asked if they ever went without basic services, such as food, shelter, health care, or clothing in any given month, most local residents said no. But the ones that said they had (8% of telephone survey respondents, and 14% of face-to-face survey respondents) indicate that health care was the most common basic need these respondents went without, followed by food and clothing. Of the face-

to-face respondents, 29% of those with annual incomes less than \$15,000, and 23% of Latino respondents, said they went without some basic needs.

Food banks, which provide meals to low-income people and the homeless, keep busy in San Luis Obispo County, serving on average 13,832 people a month.

The need for homeless shelters is apparent by the numbers of people who use them in any given time period. In 1998, 883 people used the EOC Emergency Shelter in San Luis Obispo. The EOC Homeless services indicated that there was an overflow for shelter beds by 1,114 in 1998. There were 204 people permanently housed in shelter facilities last year.

San Luis Obispo County residents also want to give back to the community. More than 80% reported that they regularly contribute to charitable organizations; 48% said they do regular volunteer work in the community and 13% donate blood on a regular basis.

When asked about the one thing that most contributes to their quality of life in San Luis Obispo County, survey respondents chose the natural beauty, climate and the small-town quality. Related to this, the main thing that respondents said they would change locally was to restrict growth followed by more opportunities for youth.



INDICATOR 43

# Registered Voters Who Vote

## San Luis Obispo County Voter Registration and Turnout

ELECTION	ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER	REGISTERED	% REGISTERED	COUNTY TURNOUT	% OF REGISTERED	% OF ELIGIBLE	STATE TURNOUT (% OF ELIGIBLE)
June 1998 Primary	171,805	129,805	75.6	70,905	54.6	41.3	30.1
November 1998 General	173,074	133,809	77.3	88,049	65.8	50.9	41.4

Source: San Luis Obispo County Elections Department, Elections Division-California Secretary of State, 1999.

## Voter Profile

REGISTERED VOTERS	1996		1998	
	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE
Democrat	39.7	47.4	38.7	46.8
Republican	45.2	36.8	44.4	35.8
Declined to state	9.1	10.6	10.8	12.4
Other	6.0	5.2	6.1	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: San Luis Obispo County Elections Department, 1999.

INDICATOR 43A

# Voter Participation

## Telephone Survey Results

*Do you vote in every election?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	409	75.6
No	132	24.4
Total	541	100.0

*If no, why not? (top 4 responses)*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Not eligible/ not a citizen	29	23.0
Laziness	16	12.7
Not registered	12	9.5
Too busy	12	9.5

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.*

## INDICATOR 44

# Community Programs and Services

## Telephone Survey Results

*Do you feel the community provides adequate programs or services for:  
(Affirmative Responses)*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
You	478	90.2
Families	364	82.0
Seniors	327	84.5
Children - 0-5 years old	279	80.4
Children - 6-14 years old	266	71.5
Teens - 14 years+	174	45.5
The Disabled	247	76.2
Recreation	414	81.3

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.*

## Community Survey Results

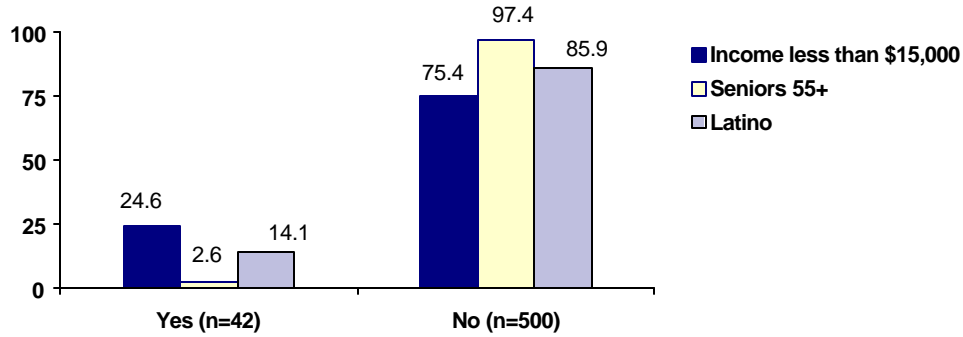
*Do you feel the community provides adequate programs or services for:  
(Affirmative Responses)*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
You	2630	78.4
Families	2038	65.4
Seniors	2005	64.7
Children - 0-5 years old	1846	65.3
Children - 6-14 years old	1640	58.5
Teens - 14 years+	1159	40.6
The Disabled	1562	55.7
Recreation	1773	57.4

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Community Survey.*

INDICATOR 45

# Basic Needs



 Telephone Survey Results

*In any given month, do you have to go without basic needs such as food, clothing, childcare, housing or health care?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	42	7.7
No	500	92.3
Total	542	100.0

Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.

 Responses, by Respondent Type

RESPONDENT	YES	No
Respondents with income less than \$15,000	24.6	75.4
Seniors 55 and older	2.6	97.4
Latino	14.1	85.9

Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.

INDICATOR 45

## Basic Needs, continued

### Telephone Survey Results

*If yes, what do you go without? (Top 3 responses)*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Health Care (including prescriptions)	20	51.3
Food	14	35.9
Clothing	5	12.8

### Responses, by Respondent Type

RESPONDENT	FOOD	HEALTH CARE	CLOTHING
Respondents with income less than \$15,000	18.2	63.6	18.2
Seniors 55 and older (n= 2)	0.0	50.0	50.0
Latino	30.0	60.0	10.0

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.*

INDICATOR 45A

## Basic Needs, continued

### Community Survey Results

*In any given month, do you have to go without basic needs such as food, clothing, childcare, housing or health care?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	511	14.0
No	3151	86.0
Total	3662	100.0

### Responses, by Respondent Type

RESPONDENT	YES	NO
Respondents with income less than \$15,000	29.0	71.0
Seniors 55 and older	8.4	91.6
Latino	22.6	77.4
North County	13.7	86.3
North Coast	13.5	86.5
San Luis Obispo	10.3	89.7
South County	17.3	82.7

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Community Survey.*

INDICATOR 45A

## Basic Needs, continued

### Community Survey Results

*If yes, what need do you go without?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Health Care (including prescriptions)	201	41.1
Food	141	28.8
Housing	48	9.8
Clothing	46	9.4
Child Care	26	5.3
Other	27	5.5

Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Community Survey.

### Responses, by Respondent Type

RESPONDENT	FOOD	HEALTH CARE	HOUSING	CLOTHING	CHILD CARE	OTHER
Respondents with income less than \$15,000	33.3	35.9	13.8	8.0	4.0	5.1
Seniors 55 and older	20.9	46.5	3.5	17.4	0.0	11.6
Latino	29.9	38.2	2.5	6.9	4.2	8.3
North County	33.9	39.0	4.2	8.5	5.9	8.5
North Coast	12.1	59.1	7.6	15.2	3.0	3.0
San Luis Obispo	19.1	44.7	18.1	9.6	5.3	3.2
South County	35.2	36.2	10.2	8.7	5.1	4.6

Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Community Survey.

INDICATOR 45B

## Basic Needs, continued

### Percent of School-aged Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Cost Meals

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>95-96</b>	<b>96-97</b>	<b>97-98</b>
Atascadero USD	18.0	20.6	19.4
Cambria Union Elementary	31.8	32.6	N/a
Cayucos Elementary SD	28.5	29.2	26.8
Coast USD	17.0	12.8	27.4
Lucia Mar USD	38.1	41.6	43.3
Paso Robles Joint USD	37.2	38.3	41.6
Pleasant Valley Joint USD	30.0	30.8	23.7
San Luis Coastal USD	22.5	22.9	22.5
San Miguel Joint Union Element SD	53.2	55.3	55.5
Shandon Joint USD	41.9	56.6	59.4
Templeton USD	16.9	17.5	18.8
San Luis Obispo County	29.1	31.0	32.0
State	46.4	47.1	47.4

Source: California Basis Educational Data System (CBEDS), 1999.

Notes: To be eligible to free or reduced lunches, the family income must not exceed 185% of the Federal poverty level. The rate of free or reduced lunch is therefore an indicator of student's socio-economic status. The population used by CBEDS to determine the rate of school-aged children eligible for Free or Reduced Cost Lunches includes all public school enrollments, and well as all other known school-aged children in the district area but are not enrolled in public school (private school enrollees, dropouts, etc).

INDICATOR 45C

## Basic Needs, continued

### Percent of School-aged Children Receiving AFDC/ CalWorks

	95-96	96-97	97-98
Atascadero USD	6.8	9.8	7.8
Cambria Union Elementary	4.2	3.2	N/a
Cayucos Elementary SD	6.5	6.9	9.3
Coast USD	4.2	3.2	2.7
Lucia Mar USD	15.5	11.9	11.5
Paso Robles Joint USD	12.3	11.1	9.7
Pleasant Valley Joint USD	3.6	1.7	0.0
San Luis Coastal USD	8.4	7.0	6.6
San Miguel Joint Union Elementary SD	25.5	15.2	12.9
Shandon Joint USD	9.7	4.4	7.1
Templeton USD	4.6	4.8	3.6
San Luis Obispo County	10.7	9.4	8.5
<b>State</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>18.3</b>

Source: California Basis Educational Data System (CBEDS), 1999.

Notes: The population used by CBEDS to determine the rate of school-aged AFDC/ CalWorks recipients includes all public school enrollments, as well as all other known school-aged children in the district area but who are not enrolled in public school (private school enrollees, dropouts, etc).

INDICATOR 46

# Food Bank Services

## Average Number of People Served per Month

<b>JURISDICTION PANTRIES</b>	<b>1998</b>
Arroyo Grande	1,049
Atascadero	1,700
California Valley	56
Cambria	373
Cayucos	73
Grover Beach	1,123
Heritage Ranch	21
Los Osos	82
Morro Bay	455
Nipomo	366
Oceano	1,502
Paso Robles	888
San Luis Obispo	1,500
San Miguel	148
Santa Margarita	113
Shandon	158
Templeton	329
Christ's Kitchen	457
People's Kitchen (South County)	3,100
Women's Resource Center (North County)	21
Women's Shelter Program (SLO)	16
EOC Homeless Shelter	302
<b>Total persons served</b>	<b>13,832</b>

*Source: Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, 1999.*

*Note: Includes Pantry and United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA) distribution.*

INDICATOR 46A

# Food Bank Services, continued

## Number of Meals Served per Year

JURISDICTION	DISTRIBUTOR	1997	1998	% CHANGE
Atascadero	North County Women's Resource Center	10,971	10,701	-2.5
	Loaves and Fishes	39,720	48,696	22.6
Morro Bay/ Nipomo/ Oceano	Salvation Army	123,267	182,862	48.3
Oceano	Harvest Bag	114,852	125,103	8.9
Paso Robles	Loaves and Fishes	116,881	147,858	26.5
Pismo Beach	Five Cities Meals	N/a	23,094	N/a
	South County People's Kitchen	36,000	N/a	N/a
San Luis Obispo	Women's Shelter	7,860	7,257	-7.7
	Salvation Army	11,882	14,000	17.8
	Grass Roots II	2,700	4,207	55.8
	EOC Homeless Shelter	N/a	54,485	N/a
SLO County-wide	AIDS Support	6,924	10,043	45.0
	Senior Nutrition- Congregate Facility	64,196	63,710	-0.8
	Senior Nutrition- Home Delivery	85,460	86,044	0.7
Total meals served		620,713	778,060	25.3

Source: *United Way of San Luis Obispo County, 1999.*

## INDICATOR 47

## Hotline Calls for Assistance

## Number of Calls

CATEGORY	1996-97	1997-98
Alcohol and Drug Abuse	991	1,276
Child Abuse	110	99
Counseling Resources	363	439
Developmental Disabilities/ Neurological Handicaps	96	52
Emergency Assistance	1,056	752
Family Care Network	182	140
Family Planning/Sexuality	124	182
Family Services Center	550	0
Homeless Shelter (EOC)	2,132	2,391
Hospice	50	0
HOTLINE Staff/Resources	3,733	3,688
Housing Problems	184	193
Information and Referral	1,732	1,289
Interpersonal Relationship	362	546
Legal/Consumer Complaint	634	605
Mental Illness	974	1,368
Misc./Defies Classification	1,566	1,511
Phone Friends	4,811	0
Physical/Health/Disabilities	360	396
Rape Crisis Center	85	0
Senior Services	3,778	4,100
Sexual Assault	0	75
Special Olympics	120	96
Support	1,725	1,364
Teenage/Youth	304	—
Senior Telecare	—	4,770
Women's Shelter	2,587	2,214
Suicide Issues	232	255
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>28,841</b>	<b>27,801</b>

Source: *HOTLINE of San Luis Obispo County, 1998.*

## INDICATOR 47

## Hotline Calls for Assistance, continued

## Hotline Calls, by Age Group of Caller

	1996-97	1997-98
0 - 9	12	12
10 - 19	375	431
20 - 29	2,923	3,146
30 - 39	7,030	6,315
40 - 49	6,137	5,564
50 - 59	2,546	2,254
60 - 69	1,854	2,087
70 - 79	2,843	2,423
80 - 89 +	3,304	3,656
Unknown	1,817	1,830

Source: *HOTLINE of San Luis Obispo County, 1998.*

## Hotline Calls, by Caller Area of Residence

JURISDICTION	1996-97	1997-98
San Luis Obispo	10,916	10,042
Paso Robles	2,109	2,106
Atascadero	2,401	2,337
Morro Bay	980	1,057
Cambria	296	248
Cayucos	242	174
Los Osos/Baywood	1,232	1,321
Pismo Beach	1,465	1,294
Grover Beach	1,224	1,638
Arroyo Grande	1,922	1,880
Santa Margarita	159	107
Nipomo	241	204
Other	2,460	2,266
Out of County	1	2
Unknown	3,193	3,125

Source: *HOTLINE of San Luis Obispo County, 1998.*

Note: Twenty-four-hour phone lines are available to anyone in need. A specialized phone line is open to accommodate the needs of the senior citizen and frail, elderly population of San Luis Obispo County. Senior Telecare is a daily assurance and safety-check telephone service, whereby volunteers place regularly scheduled phone calls to clients.

## INDICATOR 48

## Homeless Shelter

## Shelter Occupants, by Background

<b>EOC EMERGENCY SHELTER (SLO)</b>	<b>1998</b>
Domestic Violence	32%
Chronic Substance Abuse	50%
Mentally ill	45%
HIV/ AIDS	4%
Elderly	7%
<b>Total Shelter Occupants</b>	<b>883</b>

*Note: Percents do not total, as occupants may fulfill more than one category.*

## Shelter Over capacity

<b>EOC HOMELESS SERVICES</b>	<b>1998</b>
1 <sup>ST</sup> Quarter- Jan-March	43
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter- April-June	351
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter- July –Sept.	430
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter- Oct-Dec. (partial)	290
<b>Total Over capacity</b>	<b>1,114</b>

*Note: Over capacity refers to the number of individuals seeking shelter that exceed the number of available beds in the shelter.*

## Clients placed in Permanent Housing

<b>EOC HOMELESS SERVICES</b>	<b>1998</b>
Number of Single Adults	33
Number of Families	54
Number of Parents	73
Number of Children	98
% children	48.0
Number of clients permanently housed	204

*Source: Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC) Homeless Shelter, 1999.*

INDICATOR 49

# Volunteerism / Charitable Giving

## Telephone Survey Results

*Do you regularly:*

*contribute to charitable organizations?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	440	81.0
No	103	19.0
Total	543	100.0

*donate blood?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	69	12.7
No	474	87.3
Total	543	100.0

*do regular volunteer work in the community?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	261	48.1
No	282	51.9
Total	543	100.0

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.*

INDICATOR 50

# Quality of Life

 Telephone Survey Results

*What one thing contributes to your quality of life in San Luis Obispo County?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Climate	128	23.6
Natural beauty	103	19.0
Small town quality	102	18.8
Sense of community, friendly people	69	12.7
Everything, area, quality of life	55	10.1
Clean environment	28	5.2
Low crime, safety, security	27	5.0
Peaceful, quiet	24	4.4
General locale	19	3.5
Everything	18	3.3
Friends, family, "It's Home"	16	3.0
Activities, clubs, recreation	7	1.3
Minimal traffic	7	1.3
Colleges, good schools	6	1.1
Don't know	3	0.6
Local businesses, services	3	0.6
Identifiable, pleasant downtown	2	0.4
Employment opportunities	2	0.4
Growth, environmental concern	1	0.2
Other	30	5.5

*Multiple response question with 542 respondents offering 650 responses.*

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.*

INDICATOR 50A

# Quality of Life, continued

## Telephone Survey Results

*What one thing do you think takes away from your quality of life in San Luis Obispo County?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Nothing	100	18.9
Too much growth / poor growth planning	67	12.6
Bad roads / freeways / public transportation	43	8.1
Crime	33	6.2
Cost of living	30	5.7
Lack of commercial / industrial growth	29	5.5
Lack of employment opportunities	28	5.3
Lack of cultural activities / recreation	25	4.7
Insular attitudes / lack of diversity / conservatism / segregation	22	4.2
Cost of housing	19	3.6
Climate (summertime heat / fog / wind / cold)	19	3.6
Population too large	18	3.4
Bad local government	18	3.4
Location / access to city	16	3.0
Lack of good affordable healthcare options	8	1.5
Too many malls / chain stores	5	0.9
Don't know	12	2.3
Other	85	16.0

*Multiple response question with 530 respondents offering 577 responses.*

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.*

## INDICATOR 50B

## Quality of Life, continued

 Telephone Survey Results

*If you could make one major change locally, what would it be?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Restrict growth	58	11.0
Nothing	58	11.0
Better traffic and roadways management	53	10.0
Don't know	48	9.1
More opportunities for youth	27	5.1
More affordable housing, property, Low income housing	26	4.9
More opportunities for family entertainment	21	4.0
Better employment, broader economic base	20	3.8
Public transportation	20	3.8
More business establishments	19	3.6
Improve local government	17	3.2
Affordable, accessible, complete healthcare	16	3.0
Stop crime, gangs	14	2.7
Better schools	12	2.3
Stronger police force (quantity)	11	2.1
More cultural and racial diversity	10	1.9
Lower overall cost of living	9	1.7
Create affordable/ quality child care	8	1.5
Full range of homeless services	8	1.5
Increase wages	7	1.3
Senior services	6	1.1
Eliminate chain stores, support small business	5	0.9
More general social and educational services	5	0.9
Align friendly industry and jobs	4	0.8
Ensure stable supply of water	3	0.6
Change law enforcement attitude	3	0.6
Address drug issue	2	0.4
Better access for people with disabilities	2	0.4
Other	104	19.7

*Multiple response question with 528 respondents offering 596 responses.*

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey.*

INDICATOR 50C

## Quality of Life, continued

### Community Survey Results

*What one thing contributes to your quality of life in San Luis Obispo County?  
(All responses)*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Natural beauty	623	21.7
Small town quality	604	21.0
Climate	577	20.1
Sense of community, friendly people	531	18.5
Everything, area, quality of Life	297	10.3
Clean Air/ environment	281	9.8
Low Crime, safety, security	213	7.4
Friends, family, "It's home"	110	3.8
Activities, clubs, recreation	99	3.4
General locale	97	3.4
Employment opportunities	82	2.9
Minimal traffic	77	2.7
Local businesses, services	67	2.3
Colleges, good schools	56	1.9
Peaceful, quiet	55	1.9
Minimal growth	37	1.3
Cultural climate	25	0.9
Nothing	23	0.8
Identifiable, pleasant downtown	21	0.7
Volunteer activities	6	0.2
Other	148	5.2
Don't know	12	0.4

*Multiple response question with 2,837 respondents offering 4,041 responses.*

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Community Survey.*

## INDICATOR 50D

## Quality of Life, continued

 Community Survey Results

*If you could make one major change locally, what would it be?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Restrict growth/development	348	13.1
More opportunities for youth	257	9.7
Better employment / broader economic base	208	7.8
More affordable housing	190	7.2
Better traffic and roadways management	180	6.8
Affordable / accessible / complete healthcare	158	6.0
Public transportation	157	5.9
More general social and educational services	124	4.7
More opportunities for family entertainment	111	4.2
More business establishments	109	4.1
Improve local government	107	4.0
Stop crime / gangs	94	3.5
Nothing	91	3.4
Senior services	85	3.2
Full range of services for the homeless	73	2.8
Increase wages	66	2.5
More cultural diversity / racial diversity	63	2.4
Better schools	50	1.9
Lower overall cost of living	47	1.8
Address drug issue	38	1.4
Align friendly industry and jobs	35	1.3
Eliminate chain stores	35	1.3
Create affordable / quality child care	31	1.2
Stronger police force (quantity)	24	0.9
Change law enforcement attitude (quality)	20	0.8
Wheelchair accessibility to ADA guidelines	18	0.7
Ensure stable supply of water	16	0.6
Don't Know	65	2.5
Other	321	12.1

*Multiple response question with 2,650 respondents offering 3,121 responses.*

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Community Survey.*

## INDICATOR 51

## Discrimination

 Telephone Survey Results

*Have you felt discriminated against in San Luis Obispo County in the last twelve months?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	77	14.2
No	464	85.8
Total	541	100.0

*If yes, for what reason? (Top three responses)*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Ethnicity / Race	24	41.4
Gender	16	27.6
Age	14	24.1

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Survey*

 Telephone Survey Results, by ethnicity

*Have you felt discriminated against in San Luis Obispo County in the last twelve months?*

RESPONSE	CAUCASIAN	LATINO	NATIVE AMERICAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN	ASIAN	OTHER	MULTI- RACIAL
Yes	11.9	22.5	33.3	0.0	50.0	66.7	5.0
No	88.1	77.5	66.7	100.0	50.0	33.3	75.0
Total	453	71	3	2	4	3	4

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Survey*

INDICATOR 52

# Foster Care

## Profile of Children in Foster Care- San Luis Obispo County

	AUGUST 1996	AUGUST 1997	AUGUST 1998	97-98 % CHANGE
Cases open on last day of the month	73	87	69	-20.7
Total cases opened during the year	101	105	51	-51.4
Average age in years at case openin	15.9	15.8	15.9	0.6
Average months in placement	10.7	12.2	13.2	8.1
% female	20.5	25.3	21.7	-14.2
% male	79.5	74.7	78.3	4.8

*Source: California Department of Social Services, 1999.*

## Children in Foster Care, by Ethnicity

	AUGUST 1996	AUGUST 1997	AUGUST 1998
% Caucasian	80.0	74.7	79.7
% Hispanic	13.7	20.7	14.5
% African American	4.1	4.6	4.3
% Native American	0.0	0.0	1.4
% Asian/ Pacific Islander	1.4	0.0	0.0
% Filipino	0.0	0.0	0.0

*Source: California Department of Social Services, 1999.*

## Children in Foster Care, by Placement and Reunification status

	AUGUST 1996	AUGUST 1997	AUGUST 1998
% placed in non-relative foster family homes	20.5	21.8	4.3
% placed in relative foster family homes	0.0	0.0	0.0
% placed in group homes	79.5	78.2	42.0
% placed in other type of facility/ unknown	0.0	0.0	53.6
% cases terminated/ reunified with family	45.3	54.9	57.3
% cases terminated/ adopted	0.0	0.0	0.0

*Source: California Department of Social Services, 1999.*

## INDICATOR 53

## Air Quality

## Summary: Total days exceeding state air quality standards

LOCATION	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Ozone	6	4	3	8	20	0	27
Particulate Matter (10)	18	39	2	10	16	18	12
Total	24	43	5	18	36	18	39

Source: California Air Resources Board, 1999.

## Number of days exceeding safe levels of ozone

LOCATION	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Paso Robles	0	0	1	7	11	0	25
Atascadero	2	2	2	1	7	0	2
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morro Bay	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grover Beach	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nipomo- South Wilson	0	1	0	0	1	--	--
Nipomo-Regional Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Nipomo Mesa-Guadalupe Rd.	1	1	N/a	0	1	0	0
Total	6	4	3	8	20	0	27

Source: California Air Resources Board, 1999.

Note: The above chart refers only to exceedance of parts per million State Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS), and does not include exceedances of national standards. The Nipomo South Wilson Monitoring station closed in 1997, and reopened nearby at the Regional Park (Teft and Pomeroy) site in 1998. In 1997, there were no ozone exceedances due to complex climatological effects resulting from El Nino.

**Ozone:** Exposure to unhealthful levels of ozone can result in chest pain, coughing, nausea, shortness of breath, headaches, congestion and throat irritation. Most at risk during high ozone levels are children, the elderly, pregnant women, and individuals with asthma. About 40% of the county's ozone is produced from vehicle exhaust, while other sources include industrial fuel combustion, pesticides, and waste burning.

## INDICATOR 53

## Air Quality, continued

## Number of days exceeding safe levels of Particulate Matter

LOCATION	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Paso Robles	2	2	0	3	0	1	1
Atascadero	0	5	0	2	0	1	0
San Luis Obispo	0	1	1	1	0	2	0
Morro Bay	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Nipomo- South Wilson	0	1	1	1	0	--	--
Nipomo-Regional Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Nipomo Mesa- Guadalupe Rd	8	9	N/a	0	3	5	3
Arroyo Grande- Ralcoa Way	8	19	N/a	3	13	8	8
Total	18	39	2	10	16	18	12

Source: California Air Resources Board, 1999.

Note: The above chart refers only to exceedance of parts per million State Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS), and does not include exceedances of national standards. The Nipomo South Wilson Monitoring station closed in 1997, and reopened nearby at the Regional Park (Teft and Pomeroy) site in 1998.

**Particulate Matter (PM 10)** refers to the mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air that are less than 10 microns in size. Studies have linked high levels of particulate matter to aggravated asthma and acute respiratory symptoms, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and premature death. In San Luis Obispo County, the single largest source of PM10 is re-entrained dust from vehicles driving on paved roads. Other sources can be grinding operations, fuel combustion, agricultural burning and wood stoves.

## INDICATOR 54

## Water Quality

## Number of Public Well Systems Exceeding Beyond State Standards

TYPE OF CONTAMINANT	1996-97	1997-98
Bacteriological	16	16
Nitrates	0	3
Selenium	4	0
Total Monthly Sample Exceedances	20	19

*Note: The above exceedances do not total to 12 months, as some water systems did not pass monthly sampling on more than one occasion.*

## Total Number of Public Well Systems Exceeding State Standards

	1997		1998	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Public well systems sampled monthly	160	100.0	160	100.0
Wells exceeding standards for bacteria	12	7.5	13	8.1
Wells corrected for bacteriological contamination	8	66.6	7	53.8
Wells exceeding standards for Nitrate	0	0.0	3	1.8
Wells corrected for Nitrate contamination	0	0.0	3	100.0
Wells exceeding standards for Selenium	4	2.5	0	0.0
Wells corrected for Selenium contamination	4	100.0	0	0.0
Failure rate for all primacy water systems	--	1.0	--	0.9

*Source: Environmental Health Division-Public Health Department, San Luis Obispo County, 1999.*

*Note: Public well systems are small systems serving fewer than 200 people, and that are monitored monthly. The county does not monitor private wells.*

*Drinking water should not contain any bacteria, yet bacteriological contamination does not necessarily result in illness. Selenium contamination is more serious, and in too high of levels can result in neurological damage. Contamination is often due to industry runoff. The County worked with each well site and the necessary corrections were made. Nitrate contamination is also serious, in that it displaces oxygen in the blood. Nitrates are usually due to fertilizer and wastewater runoff. Fortunately, the County again worked with parties responsible at each well site to correct the contaminations.*

INDICATOR 55

# Senior Demographic Profile

## Persons aged 60+, as a percent of total population

	SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY	CALIFORNIA
1980	28,810	3,406,639
% of population	18.5	14.4
1990	39,878	4,234,871
% of population	18.4	14.2
1998	45,626	4,969,882
% of population	14.0	17.0

*Source: Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, Area Agency on Aging (adapted from U.S. Census, Department of Finance), 1999.*

## Persons aged 65+, by jurisdiction

JURISDICTION	TOTAL POPULATION	POPULATION 65+	PERCENT 65+
San Luis Obispo City and surrounding rural areas	43,478	5,959	14.0
Los Osos	14,369	2,459	17.0
Arroyo Grande	14,215	3,830	27.0
Atascadero	22,876	2,937	13.0
Cambria	5,377	1,351	25.0
Cayucos	2,946	700	24.0
Grover Beach	11,615	1,496	13.0
Morro Bay	9,379	2,767	30.0
Nipomo	7,097	1,440	20.0
Oceano	6,124	692	11.0
Paso Robles	18,529	3,778	20.0
Pismo Beach	7,625	1677	22.0
San Miguel	1,123	125	11.0
Santa Margarita	1,066	114	11.0
Shandon	1,902	68	4.0
Templeton	2,795	953	34.0
County of San Luis Obispo	217,162	30,612	14.0

*Source: Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens/ Area Agency on Aging (adapted from U.S. Census, 1990), 1999.*

INDICATOR 55A

# Senior Economic Well-being

Persons aged 60+ with income at or below poverty line

JURISDICTION	1980	% OF POPULATION	1990	% OF POPULATION
San Luis Obispo County	2,015	6.9	2,084	5.2
California	62,547	7.7	311,321	7.4

*Source: Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, Area Agency on Aging (adapted from U.S. Census, Department of Finance), 1999.*

## INDICATOR 55B

# Independent Living

## Seniors and Disabled ridership trends, by number of transit trips

JURISDICTION/ PROVIDER	MARCH 1998	% OF TOTAL RIDERSHIP	MARCH 1999	% OF TOTAL RIDERSHIP
San Luis Obispo	5,800	7.8	5,100	6.0
Paso Robles	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Atascadero	2,292	42.5	1,621	45.8
Morro Bay Dial-a-Ride	1,529	39.4	1,370	33.2
South County Area Transit	1,013	9.0	1,152	10.9
Total number of Senior/ Disabled Trip	8,564	9.1	9,243	8.9

Source: Regional Transit Authority, City Transit Agencies, 1999.

Note: The above data is not all-inclusive. Seniors and Disabled comprise about 40% of the Round-About transit system, but exact data of their Round-About ridership counts is not available. The city of Paso Robles also does not have data for the number of discounted senior or disabled fares paid. South County Area Transit (SCAT) serves the South County area, including Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach and Shell Beach. Total ridership counts are for routes 1-7.

## Number of Senior Drivers- County

AGE GROUP	1993	% OF ALL DRIVERS	1999	% OF ALL DRIVERS	5 YEAR % CHANGE
Aged 60-69	17,042	10.9	16,870	10.3	-1.0
70-79	13,909	8.9	15,100	9.2	8.7
80-89	4,128	2.7	5,265	3.2	27.5
90-99	212	0.1	313	0.2	47.6
Total 60+	35,291	22.8	37,548	22.8	6.4

Note: The total number of persons over 60 in San Luis Obispo is 45,626 (1998), which means approximately 82.3 % of seniors have a license to drive.

## Number of Senior Drivers- State

AGE GROUP	1993	% OF ALL DRIVERS	1998	% OF ALL DRIVERS	5 YEAR % CHANGE
Aged 60-69	1,792,383	8.8	1,793,659	8.6	--
70-79	1,170,566	5.8	1,238,606	5.9	5.8
80-89	325,646	1.6	396,634	1.9	21.8
90-99	16,867	.08	22,995	.11	36.3
Total 60+	3,305,462	16.3	3,451,894	16.7	4.4

Source: California Department of Motor Vehicles, 1999.

INDICATOR 56

## Senior Care

### Telephone Survey Results

*Are you the primary care giver of a parent or senior locally?*

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	71	13.1
No	471	86.9
Total	542	100.0

*Source: 1999 Action for Healthy Communities, Survey*

### Number of Seniors receiving Care Services

PROVIDER	1999
Adult Day Care Center	109
In Home Supportive Services	655
Long term Care Facilities	1,548
Total	2,312

*Source: Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens/ Area Agency on Aging, 1999*

