

## Executive Summary

The Community Assessment Project (CAP) celebrates its 25th anniversary with the development of new community indicators of well-being, new ways to connect and support community action, and new ways to align with local, national and international partnerships and initiatives. Following the 2018 Youth Well-being Spotlight, CAP continues to highlight equity and well-being for all. Building upon new opportunities to purposefully link and align strategic efforts and data sharing, a focus on innovation and ease of use have resulted in:

- **New indicators of well-being:** New indicators were added, based on an exhaustive review by members of the CAP Steering Committee. This created new issues to explore and new data sources to access and resulted in an improved story of well-being for Santa Cruz County residents. Many indicators were removed or modified with the understanding that priorities should revolve around usefulness to existing community improvement initiatives.
- **New connections to community action:** The County Government and its partners are experiencing a new intentionality around coordination, connection, and alignment. CAP data has been refreshed in order to facilitate these linkages.

Continuing commitments to focus on broadly defined health equity and justice necessitate highlighting what groups are faring well and where more support may be needed. CAP's tightened methodological safeguards ensure that community level data is reliable and allows for a better understanding of differences between groups. Special topics and group profiles support more comprehension.

## Linking Beyond Santa Cruz County

To put greater focus on both Santa Cruz County's successes and areas for improvement, the CAP report began in 2016 to integrate national measures and objectives intended to improve health through the application of the Healthy People 2020 targets. This includes Leading Health Indicators (LHI) throughout the report where applicable. Incorporated among the Healthy People 2020 indicators are specific goals that relate to the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). These are components of a person's environment that impact how they experience health and well-being throughout their lifespan, such as access to basic needs, including housing and food, in addition to education and health care.<sup>3</sup>

Santa Cruz County is not an isolated place. Because we are part of the world community, we must create and share goals that interconnect and benefit all of humanity. To address this issue, in 2015 the United Nations set forth Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that all nations should achieve by 2030. These goals move beyond the UN's Millennial Development Goals of 2001 in that the SDGs also address the root causes of inequities so they can be mitigated more fully and more directly. These include issues related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

These goals interconnect, and to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each goal and target by 2030. The primary purpose is to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic

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<sup>3</sup> Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2016). Social Determinants of Health, Healthy People 2020. Retrieved October 20, 2016 from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health>

growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion. The CAP report has incorporated these SDGs while continuing to address the SDOH inequities and resource disparities that were uncovered in our local community.

Inequities in health and other quality-of-life indicators are unfair and avoidable outcomes within societal structures. They are measured as the differences among distinct populations.<sup>4</sup> These disparities arise out of unequal resource distribution at all levels: local, statewide, national, and international.<sup>5</sup>

It is through this lens that the CAP data are presented, in relation to the five key areas of SDOH (Social Determinants of Health): Economic Stability; Education; Social and Community Context; Health and Health Care; and Neighborhood and Built Environment.<sup>6</sup> Please note that beyond the Executive Summary, the entire comprehensive report was restructured in 2017 to align with these five categories, transitioning away from the original six sub-sections. By considering Santa Cruz County data in relation to national and international goals and objectives, our community can utilize the framework provided by Healthy People 2020, the Leading Health Indicators, the Social Determinants of Health, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to take action steps toward advancing the quality of life for our residents and ultimately for all humanity.

Following are the specific United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals directly connected to CAP SDOH components:

## ECONOMIC STABILITY



### NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Economic growth must be inclusive to provide sustainable jobs and promote equality.



### ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.



### DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

<sup>4</sup> Boston Public Health Commission. (2013) Health of Boston's Children: Parent and Caregiver Perspectives.

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). NCHHSTP Social Determinants of Health. Retrieved October 21, 2016 from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/definitions.html>

<sup>6</sup> Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2016). Social Determinants of Health, Healthy People 2020. Retrieved October 20, 2016 from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health>

## EDUCATION



### QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This is the foundation for improving people's lives and creating sustainable development.

## HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE



### GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages, which is essential for sustainable development.

## SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT



### REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries. Policies must be universal in principle while meeting the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations.



### SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Communities must provide opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation, and more.

## NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT



### PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable institutions at all levels.



### CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its negative impacts because this is a global challenge that affects everyone.



### LIFE BELOW THE WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources because careful management of this essential global resource is key to a sustainable future.



### LIFE ON LAND

Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

Woven throughout the CAP are highlights of the data through a gender lens. This overlay connects to the following SDG:



### **GENDER EQUALITY**

We must achieve gender equality, empowering all women and girls because gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, it is also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.

The following SDGs are indirectly connected to CAP data and the SDOH:



### **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production because investments in sustainable infrastructure are essential for achieving sustainable development.



### **INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.



### **AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all because it is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity.



### **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for everyone because clean, accessible water is an essential part of a sustainable world.

# ECONOMIC STABILITY

## NO POVERTY

### Housing Stability

Which housing status currently applies to you?

**HOMEOWNER: 47.2%**

**RENTER: 37.0%**

**HOMELESS: 0.6%**

**16.8%**

of CAP survey respondents reported that they were worried or concerned that in the next two months they may NOT have stable housing that they own, rent or stay in as part of a household.

### Poverty

**12.7%**

of Santa Cruz County's population were living below the poverty level.

### Child Care

**26.9%**

of CAP survey respondents reported that it was a "Very Serious" or "Somewhat Serious" problem to find quality, affordable child care in their area.

### Social Services

**25,515**

people in Santa Cruz County who on average were served monthly by CalFresh.

**92,234**

people in Santa Cruz County received aid from 1 or more public assistance programs.

## ZERO HUNGER

### Basic Needs

**20.7%**

of CAP survey respondents reported that they went without 1 or more basic needs at any time in the past 12 months.

**WHITE: 17.3%**

**LATINO: 26.2%\***

*\*Statistically significant*

### Food Security

**52.8%**

of students received Free or Reduced Cost Meals at school.

## DECENT WORK AND ECON GROWTH

### Financial Wellbeing

**84.7%**

of CAP survey respondents reported that they currently have a transaction account, checking or savings, with a bank or credit union.

**10.7%**

of CAP survey respondents reported using check cashing, payday lending, or other hard money lending services at least once in the past 12 months.

**40.5%**

of CAP survey respondents reported that they feel like they are financially better off now than they were a year ago.

### Employment

**39.9%**

of CAP respondents reported that they were employed full-time.

### Median Family Income

**\$107,017**

in Santa Cruz County  
CALIFORNIA: \$86,165  
UNITED STATES: \$76,401

**41.9%**

of CAP survey respondents reported their family income was in the range of \$75,000 or more for the year.

### Tourism

**11,403**

jobs in Santa Cruz County were generated by tourism.

# EDUCATION

## QUALITY EDUCATION

### Child Care

**29% shortfall**

in child care capacity for working families (children under age 6) in Santa Cruz County. This percentage of children represents a shortfall of 2,986 child care spaces (full- or part-time).

### Language and Literacy

**40%**

of Santa Cruz County 3<sup>rd</sup> graders met or exceeded grade standards in English language arts/literacy and are ready for future coursework.

**43%**

of Santa Cruz County 3<sup>rd</sup> graders met or exceeded grade standards in mathematics and are ready for future coursework.

## EDUCATION Continued

QUALITY EDUCATION

### High School Graduation

**81.7%**

Santa Cruz County cohort outcome graduation rate  
CALIFORNIA: 83.0%

**WHITE:**  
86.0%  
**LATINO:**  
78.7%  
**HP 2020:**  
87%

### College-Going Rate

**66.6%**

of Santa Cruz County students who completed high school in a given year and subsequently enrolled in a post secondary institution  
CALIFORNIA: 65.8%

### Enrollment in Higher Education

**CABRILLO COLLEGE:**  
11,648

**UC SANTA CRUZ:**  
19,700

## HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Access to Health Care

**88.2%**

of CAP survey respondents reported they were able to receive the health care they needed.

**WHITE: 90.0%**  
**LATINO: 86.7%**

### Oral Health

**67.2%**

of CAP survey respondents reported they had dental care in the past 12 months.

### Mental Health

**87.9%**

of CAP survey respondents reported their mental health as "excellent", "very good", or "good".

### Mental Health

Adult Respondents (18+) who indicated that in the past 12 months they had needed to see a mental health provider, health care provider, or taken a RX to address their mental health.

**PROFFESIONAL 34.1%**  
**HEALTH CARE PROVIDER 21.0%**  
**PERScription MEDICATION 12.6%**

**5.7%**

of CAP survey respondents reported feeling so sad or hopeless every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities.

**14.5%**

of CAP survey respondents reported experiencing excessive, unreasonable worry about events or activities, such as work, school, health, or politics.

### Overall Health

**83.7%**

of CAP survey respondents described their overall health as "excellent, very good, or good"

**HP 2020:**  
79.8%  
**WHITE: 85.7%**  
**LATINO: 80.7%**

### Prescription Drug Disposal

In the last 12 months, CAP survey respondents reported the following methods to dispose of unused or expired prescription medications:

**4.5%** FLUSH DOWN TOILET  
**16.3%** HARZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY  
**2.2%** GIVE AWAY TO SOMEONE ELSE TO USE  
**25.4%** RETURN TO PHARMACY  
**6.3%** RETURN TO PHYSICIAN OR MEDICAL OFFICE  
**48.5%** NEVER DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED PRESCRIPTIONS  
**0.4%** OTHER

### Obesity

**61.7%**

of CAP survey respondents were overweight or obese (based on BMI)

### Substance Use (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs)

**21.2%**

of CAP survey respondents reported binge drinking in the past 30 days.

**30.1%**

Of CAP survey respondents reported they felt it was "very acceptable" or "somewhat acceptable" for an adult to provide alcohol to persons under 21 in their home.

**21.9%**

Of CAP survey respondents reported they felt it was "very acceptable" or "somewhat acceptable" for an adult to provide marijuana to persons under 21 in their home.

# HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE Continued

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## Health Insurance

**89.7%**

Currently insured adults (ages 18-64) in Santa Cruz County

HP 2020: 100%  
CALIFORNIA: 89.1%

## Prenatal Care

**87.0%**

Santa Cruz County residents with 1<sup>st</sup> trimester prenatal care

HP 2020: 77.9%

Less than adequate prenatal care

**WHITE: 12.0%**  
**LATINA: 12.1%**

## Infant Mortality

**4.2**

infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Santa Cruz County

**HP 2020: 6.0** | **WHITE: 3.9**  
**CALIFORNIA: 4.6** | **LATINO: 3.7**

## Pre-term<sup>1</sup> Births

**6.7%**

Santa Cruz County

**7.9%**

County females ages ≤ 19

**HP 2020: 11.4%**  
**WHITE: 6.4%**  
**LATINA: 8.1%**

## Low Birth-Weight<sup>2</sup> Babies

**6.1%**

Santa Cruz County

**7.9%**

County females ages ≤ 19

**HP 2020: 7.8%**  
**WHITE: 4.6%**  
**LATINA: 5.6%**

<sup>1</sup> Pre-term births are all births before 37 weeks gestation.

<sup>2</sup> Low birth-weight are all babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams.

# SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CONTEXT

REDUCING INEQUALITY

## Discrimination

**16.4%**

of CAP survey respondents felt discriminated against in Santa Cruz County in the last 12 months.

Reasons for feeling discriminated against or treated unfairly:

**13.9%** SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS | **46.2%** ETHNICITY/RACE  
**17.6%** APPEARANCE | **3.9%** SEXUAL ORIENTATION  
**16.1%** AGE | **6.2%** LANGUAGE

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

## Civic Participation

**78.2%**

of CAP survey respondents have voted in the last 12 months.

**20.2%**

of CAP survey respondents who joined a protest or demonstration in the last 12 months.

**WHITE: 24.2%**  
**LATINO: 9.7%\***  
\*Statistically significant

## Homelessness

**2,167**

people were indentified as homeless in Santa Cruz County during the 2019 Point-in-Time Count.

## Social Cohesion

CAP survey respondents who strongly agree or agree with the statement: People in this neighborhood help each other out.

**88.7%**



OVERALL

**90.3%**



WHITE

**85.8%**



LATINO

**94.0%**

of CAP survey respondents who often or sometimes feel they have someone to turn to when they need help.

**WHITE: 95.7%**  
**LATINO: 91.2%**

# NEIGHBORHOOD & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS

## Concern About Crime and Violence

**29.8%**

of CAP survey respondents reported they were "very concerned" about crime in Santa Cruz County.

Concern about gangs, violent crime in neighborhood.

**35.9%** GANGS

**42.2%** VIOLENT CRIME

Concern about property/cyber crime in neighborhood.

**62.2%** PROPERTY CRIME

**58.5%** CYBER CRIME

## Trust in Law Enforcement

**86.3%**

of CAP survey respondents reported that local law enforcement was "somewhat trustworthy" or "very trustworthy."

**WHITE: 85.9%**  
**LATINO: 88.6%**  
**OTHER: 80.7%**

## Child Abuse Cases

**5.7%**

of CAP survey respondents reported that family members or friends in Santa Cruz County had experienced child abuse or neglect in the last year.

## Elder Abuse Cases

**4.0%**

of CAP survey respondents reported that family members or friends in Santa Cruz County had experienced elder abuse or neglect in the last year.

## Crime and Violence

**31.2**

was the Santa Cruz County crime rate per 1,000 residents

**PROPERTY CRIME RATE: 27.3**  
**VIOLENT CRIME RATE: 3.6**

Juvenile Arrests, Santa Cruz County

**WHITE: 25.6%**  
**HISPANIC: 66.9%**  
**BLACK: 3.2%**

**2.3**

homicide deaths per 100,000 residents in Santa Cruz County

**HP 2020: 5.5**  
**CALIFORNIA: 5.2**

## Incarceration

Jail population characteristics, Santa Cruz County

**WHITE: 57.3%**  
**HISPANIC: 35.1%**  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN: 4.8%**

LIFE ON LAND

## Concern for the Environment

**23.7%**

of CAP survey respondents listed **litter** as the top response for the issue that concerns them most about the natural environment in Santa Cruz County.

**NORTH COUNTY: 20.6%**  
**SOUTH COUNTY: 32.8%**

## Organic Farming

**6,940**

acres of organic farmland in Santa Cruz County.

**\$126.3**

million in gross organic farm sales in Santa Cruz County.

LIFE BELOW WATER

## Environmental Conditions

**5.6**

pounds of pesticide applied per resident in Santa Cruz County

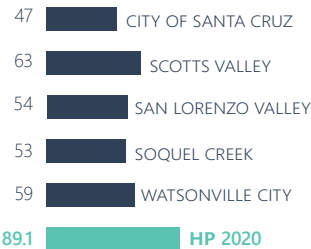
**194**

days of swim advisories in Santa Cruz County

**zero**

days of beach closures in Santa Cruz County

Average reported residential water use (in gallons, per capita, per day) by water district



Mode of transportation for commuting to work among Santa Cruz County residents

**69.0%**

drove alone  
*(car, truck, or van)*

**9.6%**

carpooled  
*(car, truck, or van)*

**27.4 mins.**

average travel time to work for Santa Cruz County residents

**10**

unhealthy days (Air Quality Index) for sensitive groups in Santa Cruz County

CLIMATE ACTION