

Yolo County Health Department



Key Indicators of
Well-Being
for Children
Ages 0 - 5

1999

Introduction

This report was prepared as the first in a series on the health and well being of Yolo County citizens. Children from ages 0 – 5 were chosen for this first report because of their extreme importance to the future of Yolo County and because the Yolo County Children and Families First Commission will soon be developing a strategic plan to improve life for these children.

The importance of healthy parents who bear healthy children and a community that supports their growth and development cannot be overstated. Early childhood is a critical time in human development and children are always at special risk due to their vulnerable, dependent state. Responding to their needs requires a clear understanding of the current and developing issues for children in Yolo County.

The following report was compiled with data which takes into account the entire population from 0 – 5 and groups at special risk. These risk groups include people with low incomes, people from various minority groups, and people with often overwhelming health or social difficulties. The report provides an overview of Yolo County, as well as comparisons with state trends.

We hope this first report will be useful to those who are attempting to design services for the children of Yolo County as well as those who simply want to learn about their community.

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Yolo County Health Officer*

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

This report provides an overview of important trends in the health and wellbeing of children ages 0-5 in Yolo County. Key findings are provided below.

Demographics:

- *Forty percent of preschool age children in Yolo County live in Woodland.*
- *Of the children age 5 and under in Yolo County, one half are from minority populations compared to only 36% of the total population.*
- *One in five (20%) of these children live in poverty. Poverty is an important indicator of poor health outcomes in children.*
- *Less than one-third of children of all age groups who are eligible for publicly funded health services are using these services.*
- *An estimated 4,000 children under age 21 are without health insurance of any kind.*

Substance Abuse:

- *Fewer children are being exposed to tobacco smoke.*
- *Substance use in pregnancy was higher in the northern California region that includes Yolo County. Although the extent of alcohol and drug use among pregnant and parenting women is unknown, substance abuse has been strongly associated with higher rates of child abuse and neglect, poor prenatal care, low birthweight and HIV infection in women and children.*
- *67% of the women with AIDS in Yolo County were infected through injecting drug use.*

Health Risks:

- *Almost one out of 10 (9%) of children under age 5 are overweight and at higher risk for adult obesity or early diabetes. Obesity in children is often indicative of a lack of sufficient exercise and poor nutrition.*
- *About one-third (32%) of hospitalized children under age 5 were hospitalized for ambulatory care sensitive conditions, many of which may have been avoided through regular outpatient health care.*
- *An increasing number of children under age 5 are being placed in foster care due to neglect or abuse.*

Pregnancy/Births/Infant Mortality:

- *Less than two-thirds of pregnant women (65%) obtain adequate prenatal care.*
- *Birth rates have been decreasing, as have births to teen mothers.*
- *Infant death rates remain higher than expected although infant mortality has been gradually decreasing in the state and nation.*

Education/Childcare:

- *One half of preschool children (6,000) need qualified, affordable and accessible childcare while their parents are in the workforce.*
- *One of every three students in West Sacramento and one of every five in Woodland or Winters enters school with limited English skills.*

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OVERVIEW OF YOLO COUNTY

Yolo County offers a unique mix of urban, university, agricultural and rural communities located along two major state highways. In 1999, the population of Yolo County was estimated at 160,800 with the majority of people residing in four major cities: UC college town of Davis (56,000), urban and commercial area of West Sacramento (30,450), small and growing Winters (5,350), and historic and agrarian Woodland (45,600). The remainder of the county is a rural unincorporated area with vast fields and very small farming communities of Esparto, Dunnigan, Knights Landing, Brooks, Zamora, Madison and Clarksburg. While slightly less than 11% (21,436) of the population lives in the unincorporated areas, 63% of the land is devoted to crop production which provides the county with a rural flavor and a large geographic area.

Yolo County closely parallels the state of California in its diversity of race and ethnic populations and wide range of economic and housing costs throughout the county. In 1999, the Yolo County population was represented with 64% Whites, 23% Hispanic, 10% Asian or Pacific Islanders, 2% Blacks and 1% American Indians. The population reflects greater diversity among children under age 5 where over one-third (37%) of the children are from Hispanic families. In 1998, 22% of the children enrolled in Yolo County schools were Limited-English Proficient compared to 25% for California overall. The ethnic diversity of Yolo County is represented by 1) people of many countries who attend the University of California at Davis, 2) seasonal farm workers, and 3) three major immigrant populations - Russian, South East Asian and Hispanic.

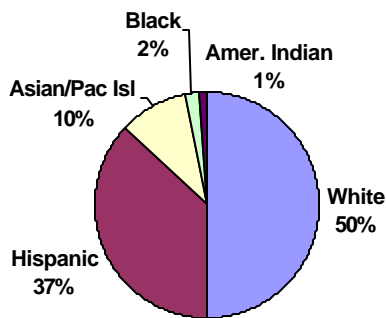
The economic diversity is illustrated by the wide range in housing costs in Yolo County. In 1999, the median cost of single-family home varied from \$98,200 in West Sacramento, \$149,400 in Woodland to \$250,300 in Davis. Per capita personal income for residents of Yolo County was estimated to be \$22,747 in 1996, slightly below the statewide reported income of \$25,368. In 1995, it was estimated that one out of five children (20.4%) under age 18 were living in poverty in Yolo County (U.S. Census Bureau 1995 Estimates). Level of education varies widely with over a third (34%) of the adults in West Sacramento without a high school degree compared to 25% in Woodland, 30% in Winters and only 4% in Davis (U.S. Census, 1990). In 1997, 27% of the mothers who gave birth in 1997 had not completed their high school education.

POPULATION

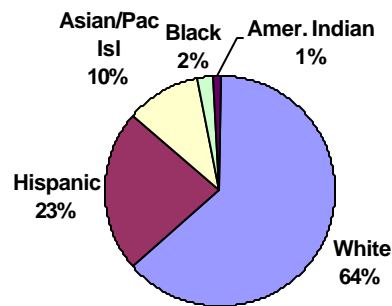
Background: Yolo County's population is 88% urban with an estimated population of 164,800 in year 2000.

Summary of key findings in Yolo County:

- By year 2000, an estimated 11,817 children ages 0 to 5 years will live in Yolo County, making up 7% of the county population.
- Half of all preschool children in this age group will be from minority populations, representing a greater diversity of race and ethnicity than the general population.



Children Ages 0-5, Yolo County 2000



All Age Groups, Yolo County 2000

- Almost four out of ten preschoolers in Yolo County (38%) live in Woodland.

| Population (2000) | All Ages | % | Children < 5 | % |
|-------------------|----------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Davis | 57,896 | 35% | 2,785 | 25% |
| Woodland | 48,219 | 29% | 4,120 | 38% |
| West Sacramento | 32,966 | 20% | 2,785 | 25% |
| Winters | 5,740 | 4% | 645 | 6% |
| Unincorporated | 19,189 | 12% | 640 | 6% |

- School age children and adults over age 44 are the fastest growing population in Yolo County.

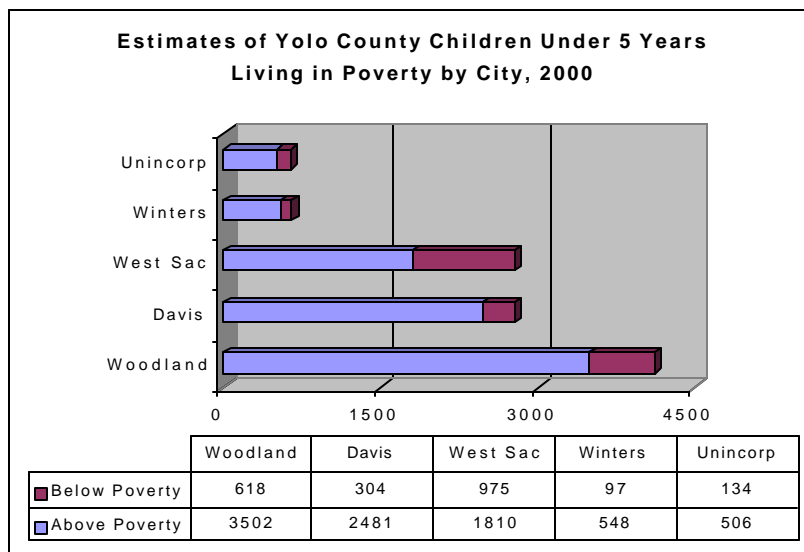
| Age Group | 1990 Population | 2000 Population | Percent Change 1990-2000 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 0 – 4 | 10,308 | 11,817 | + 15% |
| 5-14 | 18,934 | 23,633 | + 25% |
| 15-24 | 31,231 | 34,749 | + 11% |
| 25-44 | 45,063 | 49,573 | + 10% |
| 45-64 | 22,095 | 27,674 | + 25% |
| 65 & older | 13,458 | 16,564 | + 23% |
| TOTAL | 141,092 | 164,010 | + 16% |

INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Background: Median income, household composition and poverty levels are obtained from the Bureau of the Census. Estimates for percent of population in poverty were applied to year 2000 population data published by the California Department of Finance.

Summary of Key Findings :

- The median household income for Yolo County was \$35,620 in 1995, similar to \$36,767 for the state.
- The majority of county children under 5 (80%) lived in two parent households.
- Preschool children living in single parent homes were more likely to live in poverty (54%) than those in two parent homes (11%). In areas with the lowest incomes, there was less difference in poverty rates among single parent and two parent households.
- One in five children (20%) or 8,200 children under 18 years old in Yolo County lived in poverty in 1995. Poverty rates vary throughout the county with the highest rates in West Sacramento where one out of three (35%) children under age 5 live in poverty.
- Children of minority non-white populations in Yolo County are three times as likely to live in poverty as are white children.
- The number of families on public assistance has decreased in Yolo County from 12,865 in 1995 to 11,745 in 1998. The average wage for Cal-WORKS clients was \$6.94 per hour in 1998-99.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 estimates of poverty by city in Yolo County applied to year 2000 population for children under age 5

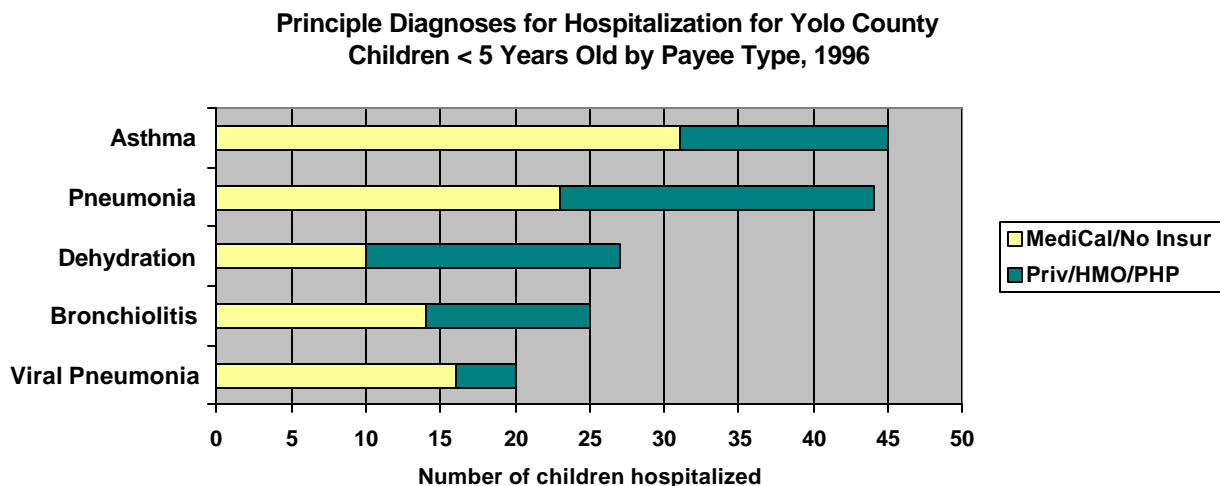
HEALTH INSURANCE FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN

Background: Medi-Cal is federally funded health coverage for outpatient, hospitalization and preventive health for low-income children living at or below 133% of the poverty level.

Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP): Free health examinations are available to all children on Medi-Cal and children whose family income is within 200% of poverty or who have special health problems. Children can receive health screening through a CHDP provider of their choice. CHDP screening includes a physical exam, vision, hearing and basic laboratory tests, health education and immunizations but not treatment for illness or disability.

Summary of Key Findings:

- 12,520 eligible children will be covered by Medi-Cal insurance in 1999. This is less than one-third (31%) of the estimated Medi-Cal eligible population under age 21 in the county.
- Almost one-half (46%) of births in Yolo County in 1998 were to women on Medi-Cal, similar to the state which had 49% of Medi-Cal births in 1997.
- Almost half of Yolo County children under age 19 hospitalized in California in 1996 were covered by state Medi-Cal insurance (42%) or had no health insurance (5%).
- From July 1996-June 1997, 9,333 children or (26%) of a target population of 36,000 eligible children in Yolo County were served through CHDP. Over two-thirds (70%) of the children screened in CHDP are Medi-Cal clients and (30%) are state funded.
- Over two-thirds (67%) of the Yolo County children screened in CHDP during 1996-97 were under 5 years old.
- Hispanics make up 54% of the preschool children seen in CHDP compared to 26% White, 2% Black, 5% Asian or Pacific Islanders and 13% other populations.



UNINSURED CHILDREN

Background: During 1995-1997, an estimated 13% of children under age 19 in California were living within 200% of poverty and without health insurance. Applying this estimate to the county population, it is estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 children in Yolo County may be without health insurance. Undocumented children born outside of this country would not be eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families insurance.

Summary of Key Findings:

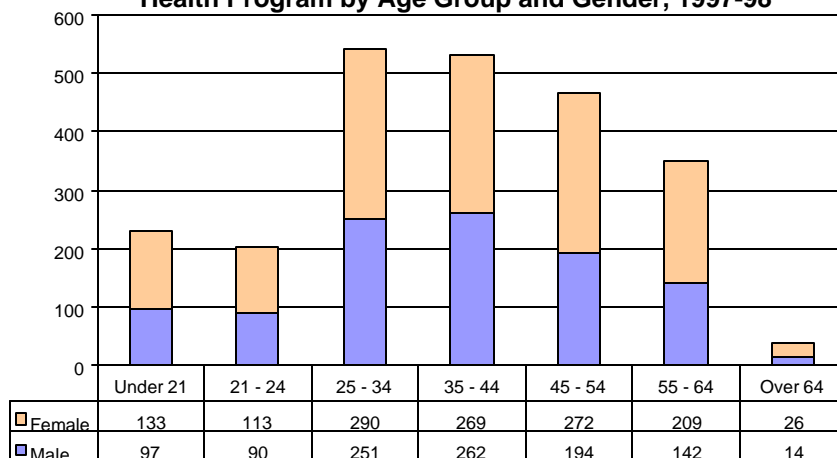
HEALTHY FAMILIES: In 1998, the state sponsored Healthy Families program was implemented to provide health insurance to families ineligible for Medi-Cal but living within 200% of poverty.

- As of June, 1999, 508 of the estimated 4,000-5,000 uninsured children in Yolo County were enrolled in Healthy Families.

YCHIP: The county provides reimbursement to local health care providers under the indigent health program. All the children covered under YCHIP are low income but most are undocumented and ineligible for other government sponsored health coverage.

- The number of children under age 21 requesting YCHIP has decreased yearly from 1994 through 1998 from 361 children in 1994-95 to 230 children in 1997-98.
- Children from Woodland and West Sacramento are over-represented in YCHIP services and make up 85% of the indigent children covered by YCHIP.
- 97% of the children under 21 covered by YCHIP in 1997 were Hispanic.

Yolo County Residents Receiving Care under the Indigent Health Program by Age Group and Gender, 1997-98



Note: Annual total of Indigent Health Population =2362
 Source: Yolo County Health Dept. Indigent Health Program. 1998

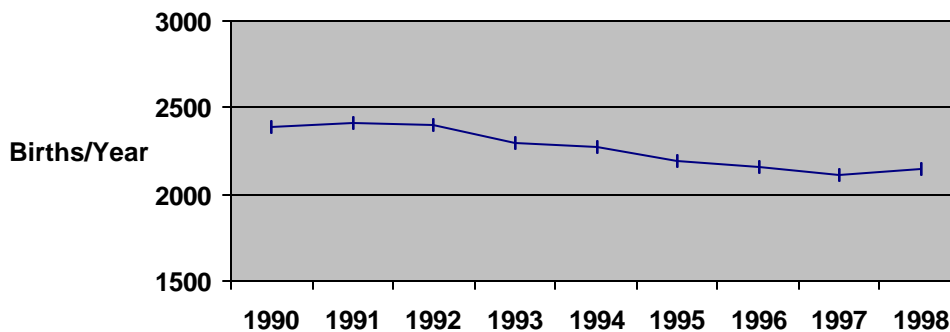
BIRTHS IN YOLO COUNTY

Background: Information about births to women living in Yolo County provides data about changing trends about different age groups, race and ethnic populations in the various communities and about access to prenatal care and the health of the newborn.

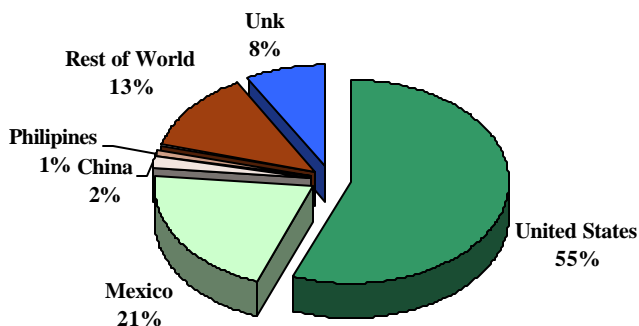
Summary of key findings:

- The county population has increased 13 % from 1990 to 1998 yet the birth rate has decreased from 17 births to 13.5 births per 1,000 residents during the same period
- Birth rates have been decreasing except for women over 35 and Hispanic women; 15% of births in 1998 were to women 35 years or older compared to 10% in 1990.
- Approximately 29% of the women who gave birth in 1996 in Yolo County were single mothers, similar to California (31%).

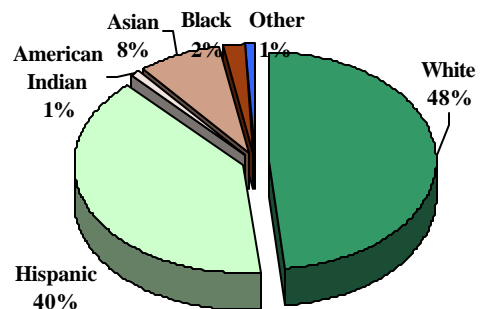
Number of Births Declining, Yolo County 1990-1998



Births by Place of Birth of Mother in Yolo County , 1997



Births by Race/Ethnicity in Yolo County , 1997

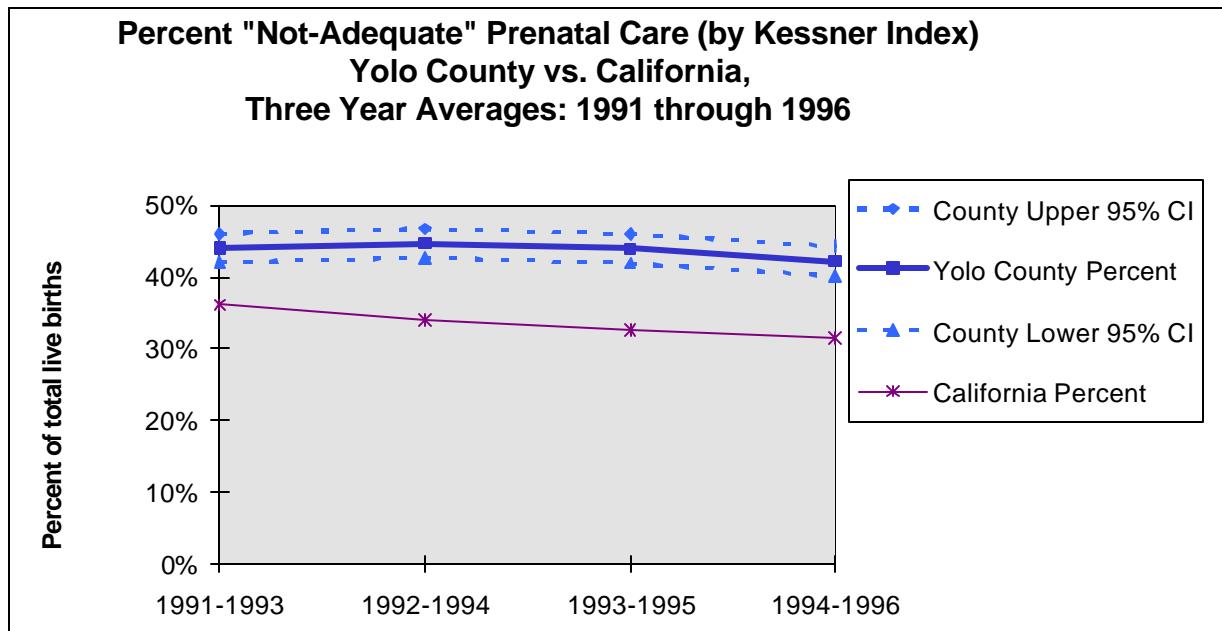


ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE

Background: Adequacy of prenatal care is based on the Kessner Index which takes into account three factors: month in which prenatal care began, number of prenatal care visits, and length of gestation. “Women with Not adequate” prenatal care refers to those who received intermediate or inadequate care or the level of care was unknown. Risk factors associated with inadequate care include low income, young maternal age, low maternal education level, race/ethnicity, number of previous births, maternal substance abuse, lack of health insurance, domestic violence and other cultural or political barriers.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Less than two-thirds (65%) of women in Yolo County in 1997 obtained adequate prenatal care using the Kessner Index of care: 71% of white women had adequate prenatal care compared to 61% of Hispanic women, 58% of Black and Asian women and 52% of American Indian women.
- Women in Yolo County who did not complete high school, were under age 20 or had more than five previous births were less likely to obtain adequate prenatal care.
- In 1997, 9.2% (13/142) of Yolo County women who entered care in the third trimester of pregnancy or had no prenatal care delivered low birth weight infants (under 5.5 pounds) compared to 5.6% of women who obtained prenatal care earlier in their pregnancy.



Source: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics

Note: CI = 95% confidence that the true value lies between these two intervals

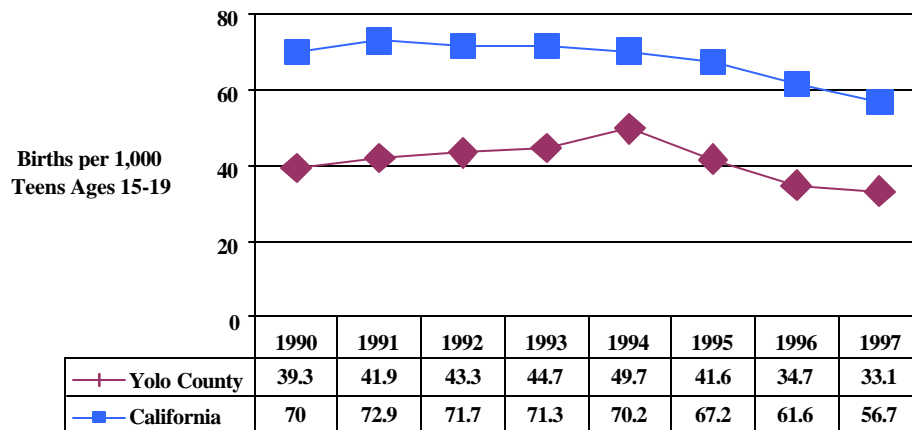
TEEN BIRTHS

Background: Teen births refer to births to women under age 20 living in Yolo County. The adverse consequences of child bearing during the teen years are most often attributed to social and economic problems: teen parents are less likely to complete high school and are more likely to be single parents, receive welfare, and raise their children in poverty. Teens are more likely to have inadequate prenatal care and low birth weight infants. Teen mothers and fathers are also more likely to engage in other risk behaviors such as smoking, alcohol and drug use and unsafe sexual practices. The effects of teen parenting are related to factors such as family and community support, education and income.

Summary of key findings for Yolo County:

- Teen birth rates decreased by over 20% from 1993-1997.
- Teen births decreased among all age groups (<15, 15-17, 18-19 years old) and almost all race/ethnic groups during this period.
- Teen births comprise 17-21% of the births to American Indian, African-American and Hispanic women compared to 7-9% of the births among Asian and White women.
- The majority of fathers (63%) of babies born to teen mothers are adults age 20 years or older.
- Teen birth rates are highest in areas of the county where household income is lowest.
- Almost one out of ten (9%) adolescents have inadequate prenatal care in Yolo County.

Teen Birth Rate Declining in Yolo County and California, 1990-1997



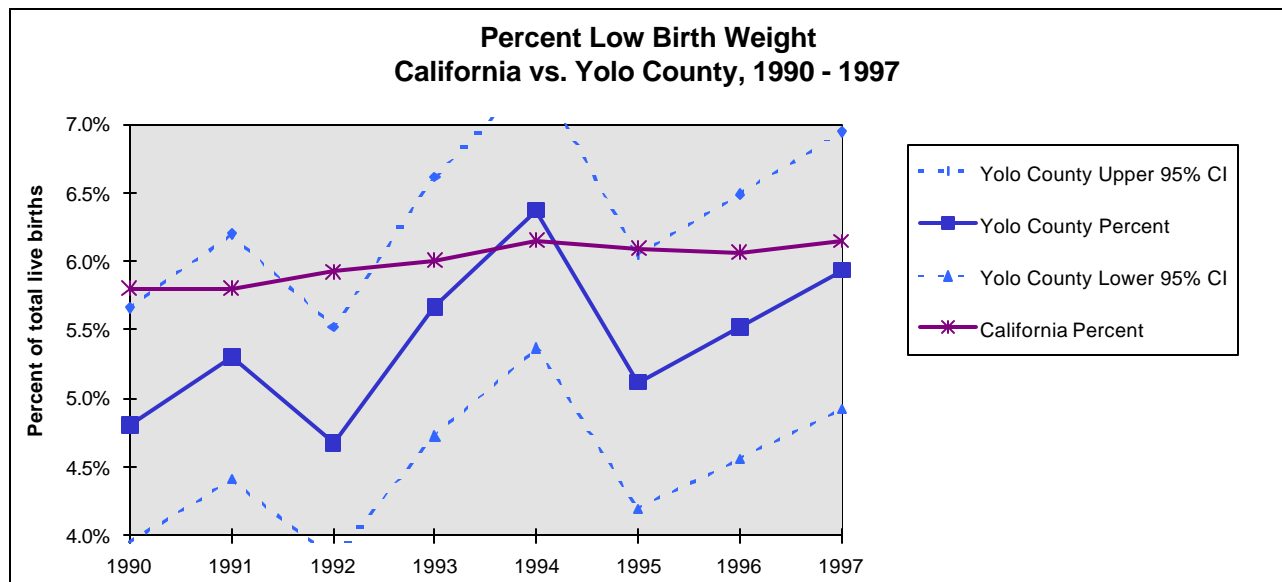
Source: Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Branch, 1998

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS

Background: Low birth weight refers to the number of newborn infants with low birth weight (LBW) weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) or very low birth weight (VLBW) weighing less than 1500 grams (3.3 pounds). Low birth weight infants are at greater risk for health problems. Low birth weight has been strongly associated with poverty and lack of prenatal care and other factors such as low pregnancy weight, cigarette smoking, drug and alcohol use, poor nutrition, low educational attainment and marital status. Both teens and older women have a higher incidence of low birth weight infants. The recent increase in multiple births may have attributed to a higher percent of low birth weight infants in California.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Percent of low birth weight infants has increased in California from 5.6 % in 1990 to 6.1% in 1996; The percent of low birth weight infants is lower in Yolo County than California but there may be an increasing trend similar to the state.
- Teen mothers under age 20 were more likely to have low birth weight infants (8.5%) compared to mothers age 20 or over (5.5%) in 1997.
- One out of every 15 babies born in West Sacramento (6.8%) was low birth weight compared to 5.8% of babies born in Woodland and northern regions and less than 5% of babies in the rest of the county (based on five year averages, 1993-1997).



Source: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics

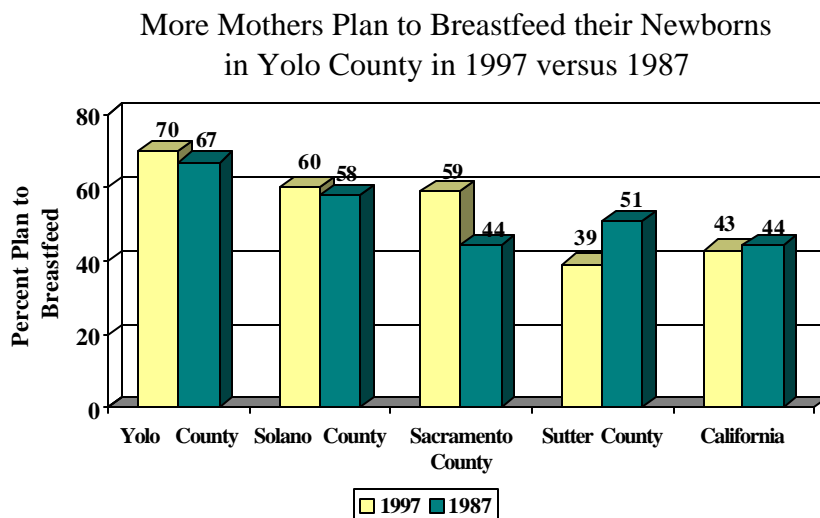
Note: CI = 95% confidence that the true value lies between these two intervals

BREASTFEEDING

Background: All babies are given a heel-stick blood test to determine genetic problems before they leave the hospital. At that time, mothers are asked if they intend to breastfeed. Those who report that they intend to exclusively breastfeed their babies plan to provide only water, juice and vitamins or minerals with no supplemental formula. Infants who are breastfed are less likely to have digestive problems, and have greater protection against common illness due to the mother's immunities passed through the breast milk. The national health objective for the year 2000 is to increase to at least 75% the proportion of mothers who breast-feed their babies in the early post-partum period. Factors associated with lower breastfeeding rates are working mothers, lack of prenatal care, lack of prenatal WIC services, lower maternal education level, low income, Southeast Asian ethnicity, African-American race and mothers who are less than 20 years of age

Summary of Key Findings:

- Over two-thirds of mothers in Yolo County planned to exclusively breastfeed their infants at the time of hospital discharge in 1997 although information was not available regarding the number of months the mother planned to continue breastfeeding.
- More mothers planned to exclusively breastfeed their babies in Yolo County than in other neighboring counties
- The W.I.C. program for nutrition for low-income women is collecting data about how long mothers continue to exclusively or partially breastfeed their infants.



Source: Department of Health Services, hospital discharge data from newborn screening tests, 1997
Mothers who planned to exclusively breastfeed their newborns

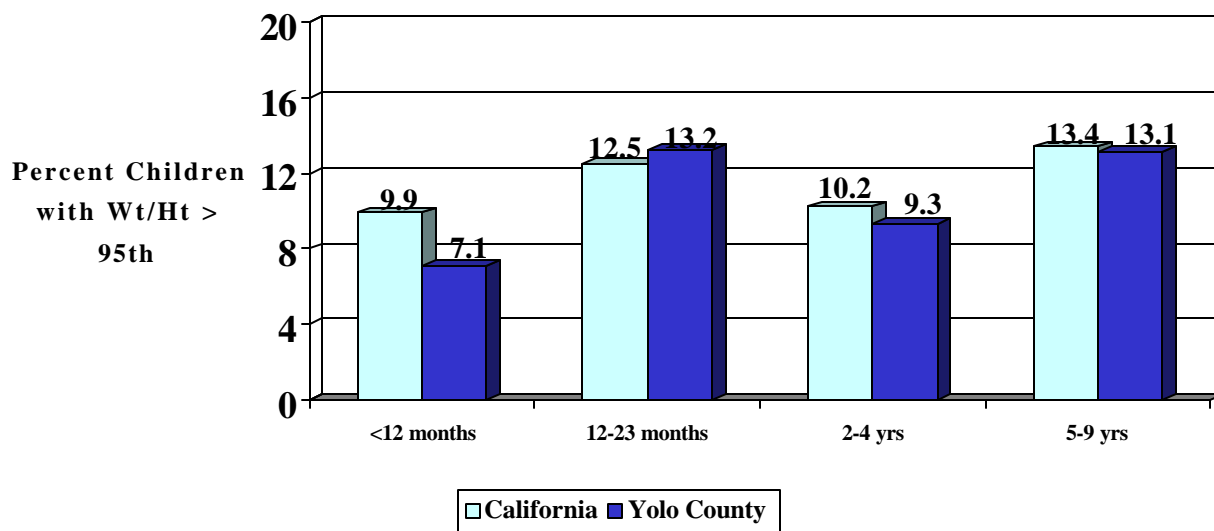
OBESITY AMONG CHILDREN

Background: Obesity is defined as weight above the 95th percentile for weight to height ratio for all children in a specific age group. The Child Health and Disability Program collects information about height and weight from examinations provided to Yolo County children who are screened through the CHDP program. About 7,000 preschool children are screened in CHDP programs each year in Yolo County.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Almost one out of ten (9.7%) children under age 5 in Yolo County were obese in 1997.
- Trends in obesity in children in California: Obesity among children of all ages has increased from 11.5% in 1988 to 13.4% in 1997 among all children aged 0-17 years old who were screened through the CHDP program in California.
- The rise in childhood obesity in the United States has been related to recent increases in diabetes diagnosed among children.

**Percent obesity among children under age 10,
CHDP Program in Yolo County and California, 1996**



Source: Pediatric Surveillance System, Child Health and Disability Programs (CHDP), 1998

ANEMIA AMONG CHILDREN

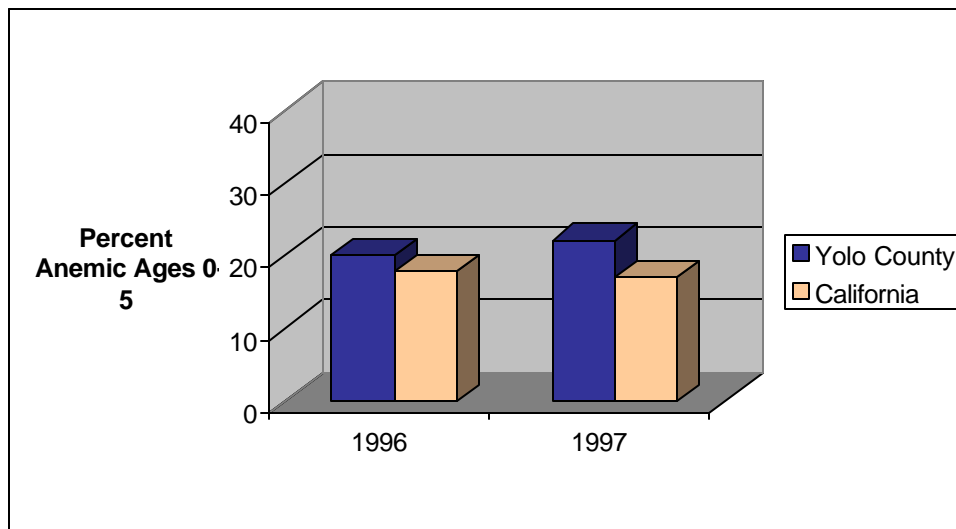
Background: Anemia is defined as having low hemoglobin levels below the 5th percentile for all children tested in a specific age group. The Child Health and Disability Program collects information about anemia from on-site laboratory tests. CHDP providers begin testing for anemia at six months of age. About 7,000 preschool children whose family income is within 200% of poverty are screened in CHDP programs each year in Yolo County. Anemia is higher among preschool children whose diet may be low in iron-rich foods.

- One out of five (22.1%) children ages 6 months to 5 years old was anemic in 1997.
- The percent of children who are anemic was higher among preschool children under age 5 (22.1%) than school age children ages 5 through 17 years old (17.8%).
- A higher percent of preschool children in Yolo County tested below the 5th percentile for hemoglobin (22.1%) than in California (17.0%) in 1997.
- Rates of anemia for children screened through CHDP decreased from a high of 24% in 1993 to 20% in 1997 for children aged 0-17 years of age. Rates of anemia in California decreased from 17% to 15% during this same period.

Lead: Anemia has been linked to high lead levels in children. Although recommended for all children under age two, lead testing is not being done routinely.

- Only 25% of the children under age two years old in Yolo County have been adequately screened and tested for lead poisoning.

Anemia is Higher among Children Aged 0-5 Years Old in Yolo County CHDP compared to California, 1996 and 1997



Source: Pediatric Surveillance System, Child Health and Disability Program (CHDP), 1998
Anemic = < 5th percentile for hemoglobin results for children aged 0-5

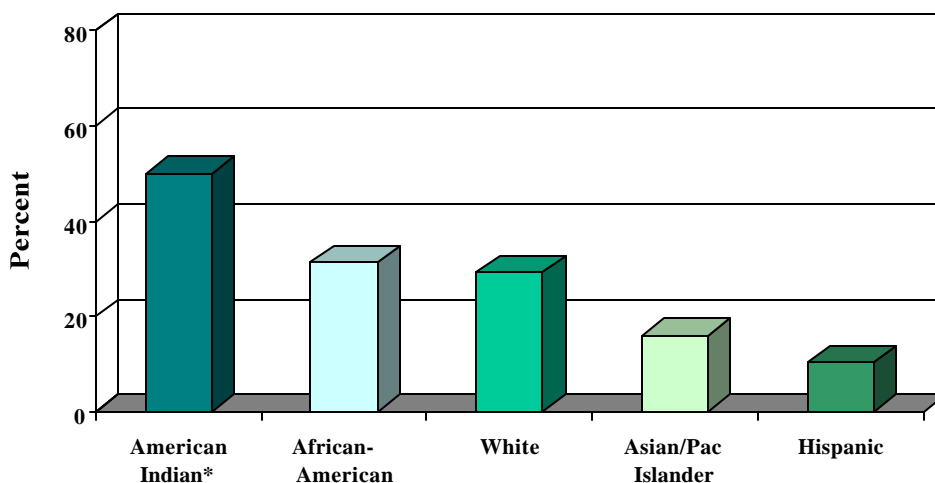
TOBACCO EXPOSURE

Background: The Child Health and Disability Program started collecting information about tobacco exposure among children at CHDP examinations. About 7,000 preschool children are screened in CHDP programs each year in Yolo County.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Approximately 14% of Yolo County children under age 5 were exposed to tobacco in the home in 1996.
- The percent of children exposed to tobacco in the home decreased from 18.5% in 1995 to 15.8% in 1996 among children of all age groups screened in CHDP programs in Yolo County.
- Risk of tobacco exposure was lowest among Hispanic children and Asian or Pacific Islanders compared to White, Black or American Indian children.
- Smoking rates have decreased among ADULTS and race/ethnic groups from 30% of all adults in 1980 to 16.7% in 1995 in California. Smoking rates were highest among white and black populations and lowest among Hispanics.
- Smoking among YOUTH aged 12-17 increased from 9.1% in 1990 to 11.9% in 1995 in California. In contrast to adult smokers, smoking rates for youth were lower among blacks but increasing among Whites, Hispanics and other groups.

Tobacco exposure varies by race/ethnicity among children ages 0- 21 screened through CHDP in Yolo County, 1995/96



Source: California Dept of Health Services, Child Health and Disability Program, 1998

Note: * Percent for American Indian children may be unreliable due to small numbers

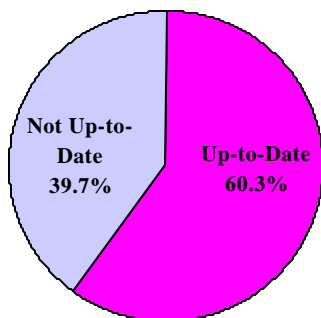
IMMUNIZATIONS

Background: To be adequately immunized, children should have received 4 DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus), 3 Polio and 1 MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccinations by age two. Other immunizations now included are a series of three Hepatitis B and Hemophilus vaccines. Lower immunization rates among low-income populations have been linked to health care system barriers such as limited access to after-hours care, lack of walk-in appointments for immunizations and missed opportunities at the time of other health visits. Substance abuse, family violence and high mobility of families may also contribute to lower immunization rates for children.

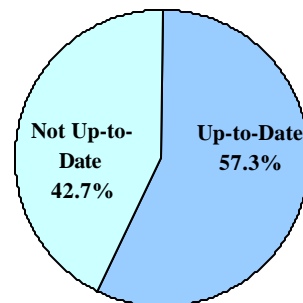
Summary of Key Findings:

- Less than two-thirds of toddlers (60%) were adequately immunized by two years old in Yolo County in 1994.
- Rates of children adequately immunized by age two in 1998-99 averaged 46% for children at private providers and 68% for those seen in the public clinics. Infants under one year are more likely to be up-to-date (92% adequately immunized, 1998-99).
- In the Yolo County retrospective study of kindergarten students immunized at 24 months old in 1994, immunization rates were 65% for White and 56% for Hispanic toddlers. Similar immunization rates were reported in California with 66% for White, 40% for Black, 52% for Hispanic, 57% for Southeast Asian and 70% for Other Asian.
- The number of toddlers adequately immunized in California has been increasing slowly from 57.3% in 1996 to 62.9% in 1998. Trends in immunization for toddlers are not yet available for Yolo County.

**Percent of Children Adequately Immunized by Age 2 Years Old
Retrospective Study of Toddlers Immunized in 1994, Yolo County and California**



Yolo County



California

HOSPITALIZATION FOR CHILDREN

Background: Data is presented for children under age 5 who were residents of Yolo County and hospitalized in California. Hospitalization data provides information about the primary reasons for overnight hospitalization and does not include data for children who received care through the emergency room, urgent care centers or outpatient clinics.

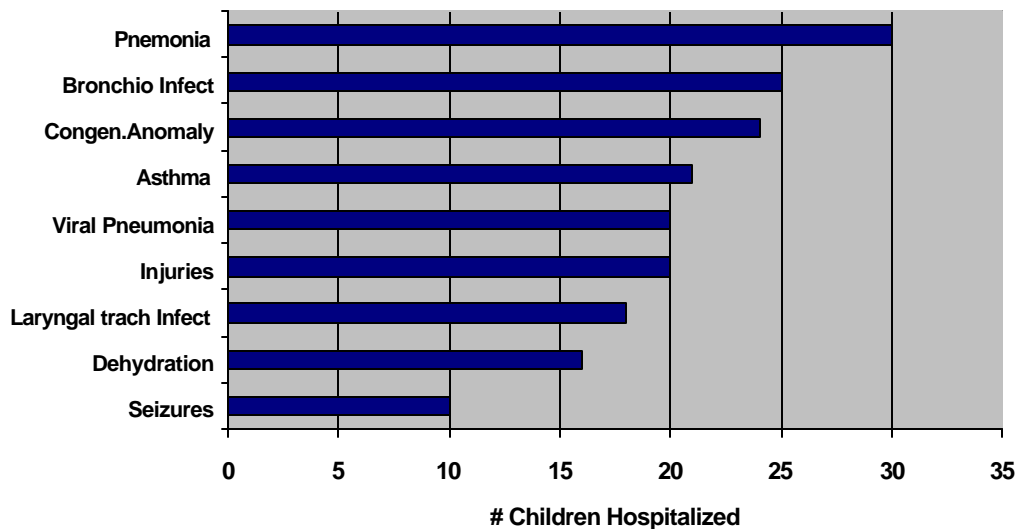
Summary of Key Findings:

- In 1996, 343 children from Yolo County ages 0 to 5 were hospitalized in California (not including the newborn period).
- Young children in West Sacramento and Woodland were more likely to be hospitalized in 1996 (39 per 1,000 children < age 5) than young children in the rest of the county (24 per 1,000 children < age 5).
- One-third (109) of the children were hospitalized for Ambulatory Care Sensitive conditions such as asthma, convulsions, pneumonia and dehydration, for which hospitalization may have been avoided through regular outpatient care

Yolo County Children Under Age 5 Hospitalized in California in 1996 by Race/Ethnicity and Percent Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions

| Children < 5 | Asian | Black | Hispanic | White | Other | TOTAL |
|------------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| # Hospitalized | 16 | 6 | 99 | 203 | 21 | 345 |
| % ACS Conditions | 25% | 33% | 39% | 28% | 38% | 32% |

Principle Diagnoses for Hospitalization of Children < age 5 in Yolo County, 1996



Source: Office of State Wide Planning and Development, 1997

INJURIES

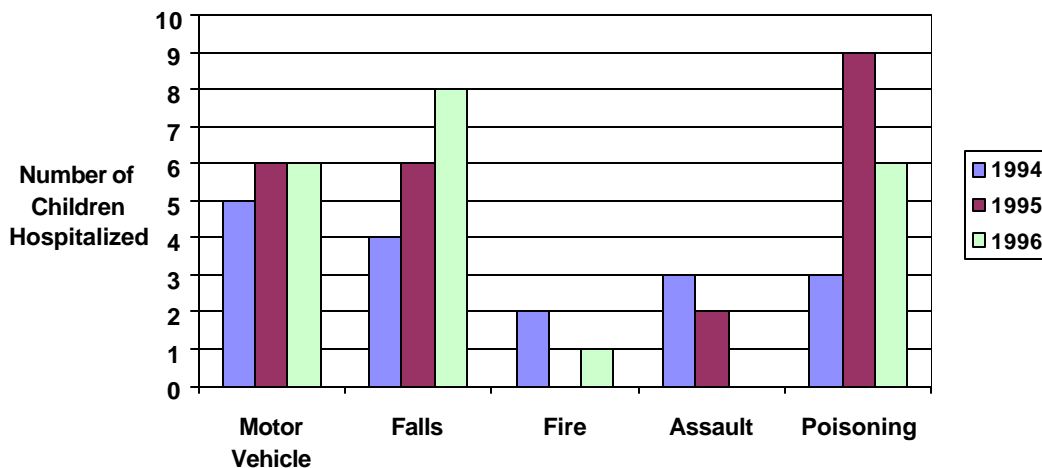
Background: Injury is the leading cause of death among children ages one through four in Yolo County. Information about childhood injuries is obtained from death certificates, hospitalization discharge data or the California Highway Patrol motor vehicle accidents reports. Hospitalization data does not include data for children who received care through the emergency room, urgent care centers or outpatient clinics.

Summary of Key Findings:

- The number of injuries due to motor vehicle accidents continues to decrease for all age groups in Yolo County. From 1994 to 1996, no infants under one year old were killed or hospitalized due to motor vehicle injuries.
- Among children ages 0-5, four children died from injuries between 1993-1997; two died from motor vehicle accidents and two died from drowning.
- The main reasons for hospitalization due to injuries for children under age 5 are related to falls and poisoning.
- Among all persons injured in motor vehicle accidents in Yolo County in 1996, the use of safety equipment (seat belts, children's car seats and helmets) varied by location:

| LOCATION OF ACCIDENT | % USE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT, 1996 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Davis | 89% |
| Winters | 86% |
| Woodland | 84% |
| West Sacramento | 76% |
| City Roads | 83% |
| County Roads | 75% |
| Unincorp. state highways | 77% |

Yolo County Children Ages 0 - 5 Hospitalized for Injuries, 1994-1996



Source: Injury Control Branch (EPIC), California Department of Health Services

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Background: Communicable diseases have declined markedly in the United States during the 20th century. Communicable diseases are required to be reported to the local health department by physicians, laboratories, schools and daycare centers in order to limit further spread of illness. Data reported here is likely to underestimate the rates of disease as children who have relatively mild symptoms might not seek professional medical care or, if treated, their illness may not be reported to the health department.

Key findings about vaccine preventable illnesses: Many childhood illnesses can be prevented through routine immunizations including Measles, Mumps, Rubella or Congenital Rubella Syndrome (German Measles), Diphtheria, Polio, Haemophilus Influenza, Hepatitis A and B, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

- An outbreak in the spring of 1999 resulted in over 65 possible cases of Pertussis. Most cases were reported among school age children or adults but 7 cases of Pertussis were reported in children ages 1-5 and 4 cases among infants under one year of age.
- An average of 1 to 2 cases of Pertussis were reported each year for a total of 7 cases for 1994-1998. Of these, 3 were among infants under age one.
- One case of measles was reported in Yolo County between 1994 and 1998.

Key findings about other communicable diseases:

- Over three-quarters (81%) of the communicable diseases reported for children aged 5 or younger were gastrointestinal diseases including Giardia, Campylobacteriosis, Salmonella, Shigella, and Hepatitis A.
- The rate of tuberculosis in Yolo County has remained lower than the state with approximately 10 to 12 new cases a year. Four children under the age of 15 have been reported with tuberculosis since 1992, all of whom were preschool age children.
- Other less common diseases (< 1 case per year) included Kawasaki Syndrome, Hepatitis B, Typhoid, Brucellosis, Amebiasis, and Rheumatic Fever.

Commonly Reported Communicable Diseases among Children 5 or Younger in Yolo County, 1994-1998

| Disease | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | AVG /YEAR |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Giardiasis | 8 | 15 | 24 | 8 | 9 | 13 |
| Campylobacteriosis | 2 | 7 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 7 |
| Shigellosis | 2 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Salmonellosis | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Hepatitis A | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Meningitis (all types) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Pertussis | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| E-Coli | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

Source: Communicable Disease Reports, Yolo County Health Department, 1998

LICENSED CHILD CARE

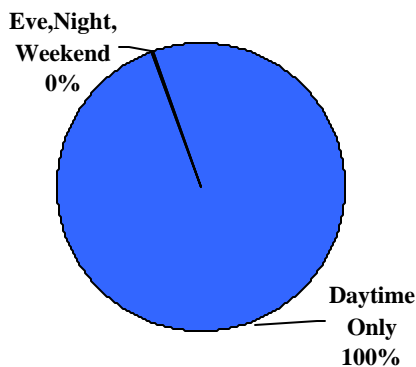
Background: In 1990, over half (53%) of the preschool children under age 6 in Yolo County lived in households with two parents in the labor force or if living with one parent, the single parent was in the labor force. More attention has been given to the issue of qualified childcare availability with the anticipated needs of CalWORKs families entering the labor force. The quality as well as the cost of child care varies widely. Licensed child care is available through family homes or center based facilities. To obtain a state license, both must follow facility standards, basic emergency response training and safety codes. Many children stay in unlicensed homes with relatives or unrelated adults.

Summary of Key Findings:

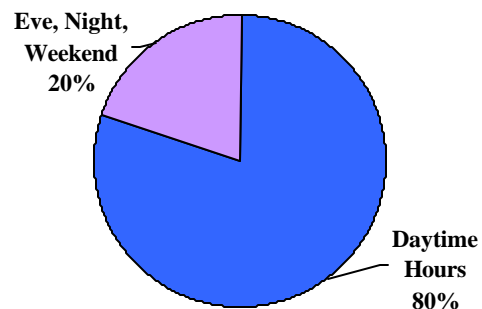
- The number of children in unlicensed, unregulated child care is unknown.
- Only 20% of licensed family child care homes and none of the child care centers offer after hours child care for evenings, nights or weekends.
- Over half (53%) of children ages 0-5 and 63% of children ages 6-13 live in households where either both parents or the single parent head of household is in the labor force (U.S. Census Bureau, 1990).
- Of the children of working parents, it is estimated that 51% of those ages 0-5 and 20% of school age children ages 6-13 are in child care outside of the family (California Child Care Portfolio, Yolo County statistics, 1997).

Hours of Care for Licensed Child Care in Yolo County, 1999

Licensed Child Care- Center Based



Licensed Child Care – Family Homes



Source: California Child Care Resources & Referral Network, 1998

EDUCATION

Background: The educational level of families, economic and language difficulties all impact the young child’s readiness for entering school.

Education Level of Families:

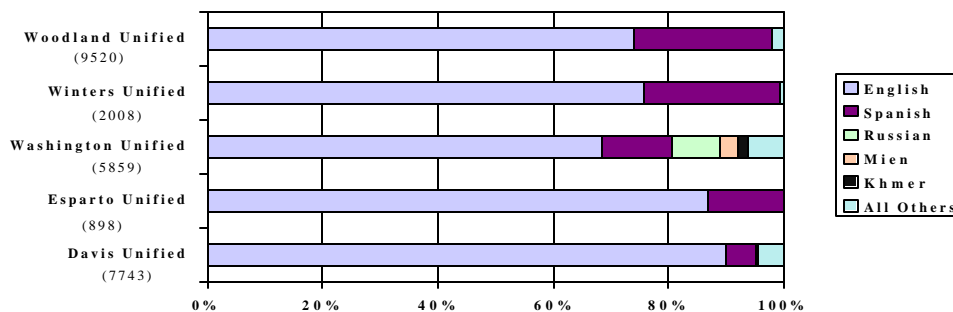
- In 1990, over 80% of the adults in Yolo County had graduated from high school and more than one out of four (25%) completed college. The percent of adults (>25 years) with a high school education was 96% in Davis, 85% in unincorporated areas, 75% in Woodland, 70% in Winters, and 66% in West Sacramento (U.S. Census Bureau, 1990).
- The percent of students who dropped out of school in Yolo County has decreased to 2.8% in 1997, comparable to the state (3.3%). The dropout rate in West Sacramento fell from 7.8% in 1995 to 4.3% in 1997. The drop out rate was similar in Esparto (4.3%) and Woodland (3.7%) but lower (<2%) in Davis and Winters.

Subsidized school lunches for low-income students: In 1997, 45% of students in Yolo County were eligible for free or reduced lunches with the highest number of eligible students (69%) enrolled in Washington Unified Schools.

| School District | Enrollment | Free/Reduced Lunch | Percent |
|------------------------|------------|--------------------|---------|
| Davis Unified | 7740 | 1850 | 24% |
| Esparto Unified | 898 | 482 | 54% |
| Washington Unified | 5839 | 4055 | 69% |
| Winters Joint Unified | 1999 | 965 | 48% |
| Woodland Joint Unified | 9538 | 4398 | 46% |

Limited English Speaking Students in Yolo County Schools: One of every five students in Woodland and Winters and 33% of students in West Sacramento were limited English-speakers in 1997-98. Over 25 different languages are spoken in local schools.

Percent of English and Limited-English Proficient (LEP) Students in Public Schools in Yolo County, 1997-1998



Other languages include Punjabi, Korean, Vietnamese, Hmong, Cantonese, Pilipino, Armenian, Mandarin, Lao, Arabic and Farsi and 11 other languages

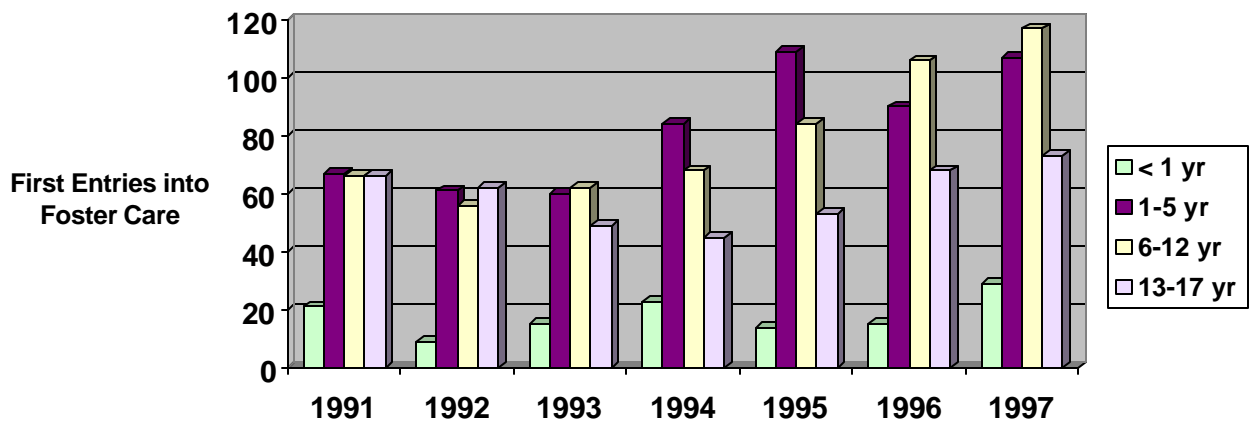
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT

Background: Yolo County has identified children in out-of-home placement as one of the key priorities for children's services. Children are reported to the Child Protective Agency for physical or sexual abuse, neglect or abandonment but not all are removed from the home while under Child Protective Services. Most of the increase in out-of-home placements for young children have been due to neglect. Increases in child abuse reports may be due to a rise in abuse or neglect or may be due to changes in reporting patterns.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Over half (58%) of the 209 Yolo County children who entered out-of home placement for the first time in 1997 were aged 5 years or younger. Of these, 60% were White, 24% Hispanic, 10% Black and 6% were from other groups. Rates of abuse or neglect were higher among Black and White preschool age children in Yolo County.
- First entries into foster care for children aged 0-5 increased from 61 in 1990 to 89 in 1996 with the primary increase due to reports of neglect.
- The rate of children entering foster care has been increasing in California and Yolo County since 1990, particularly among preschool age to preteen children.
- The number of child abuse reports increased in Yolo County from 1,638 in 1990 to 2,149 in 1996 (from 85 to 94 incidents per 1000 children) with increases in group home placements and decreases into foster homes.
- In 1997, a total of 326 children < 19 years old were in foster care in Yolo County

Out-Of-Home Placements Increase for Children Aged 12 & Under in Yolo County, 1991-1997



Source: Performance Indicators for Child Welfare Services, Mountain Region, 1997

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

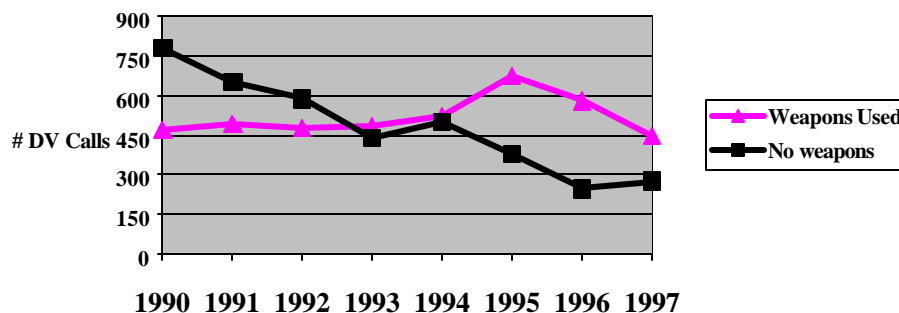
Background: It is estimated that between 10-25% of women have experienced violent abuse by their partners or husbands. Women are exposed to even greater severity and frequency of battering during their pregnancies. Battered women are more likely to enter care late in pregnancy or receive inadequate care. In families where one form of abuse exists, such as child abuse, there is a 40-70% likelihood that domestic violence also exists – and vice versa. Women who are abused experience high levels of anxiety, chronic depression and social isolation. These behaviors inhibit healthy bonding between the parent and child and interfere with appropriate forms of stimulation needed for development in the first years of life. Young children who witness severe domestic violence exhibit a range of associated behavior problems including severe anxiety, withdrawal, emotional and cognitive delays that block the development of age-appropriate skills and abilities.

Summary of key findings:

- Yolo County ranks in the top 25% of California counties for incidence of domestic violence.
- The proportion of weapons involved in domestic violence-related calls increased in Yolo County with two-thirds of the calls made to law enforcement involving weapons in 1995-1997 compared to less than one half of the calls in 1990-1993.
- Over 70% of the women who experienced severe battering meet the diagnostic criteria for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Children who witness severe domestic violence are more likely to demonstrate psychiatric disorders.
- Of the children aged 3-5 years old enrolled in the UCSF Preschool Child Trauma, Project who witnessed their mother being severely battered, 40% showed serious cognitive impairment. One-third had significant enough behavior problems to be at risk for expulsion from their child care settings.

MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH

Use of Weapons Increased among Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance in Yolo County, 1990-1997



Background: Death certificates provide a representative database for primary causes of death and illness in the population. Data obtained from death certificates has limitations as it only describes the primary cause of death and not some of the common underlying causes. Specific illnesses may be under-reported.

Summary of Key Findings for Deaths to Children under age 5, 1993-1997:

- An average of 16 infants under one year of age died each year in Yolo County – based on infant mortality rates for the state, this is higher than would be expected.
- The three top leading causes of death for infants under one year of age in Yolo County were conditions related to the perinatal period (40%), Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (19%) and congenital anomalies (17%).
- The leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 in Yolo County was injury. One quarter of the deaths in this five-year period was due to injuries.
- Alarmingly, there was one homicide reported for an infant under age one and two homicides among children under age 5 in Yolo County from 1993 to 1997. Homicide ranks as the third leading cause of death in California among children ages 1-4.
- Numbers were too small to discern any differences in mortality rates for children ages 1-4 by race/ethnicity or community of residence.

**Causes of Death for Children Under 5, 1993-1997
Total for Five Years and Average per Year**

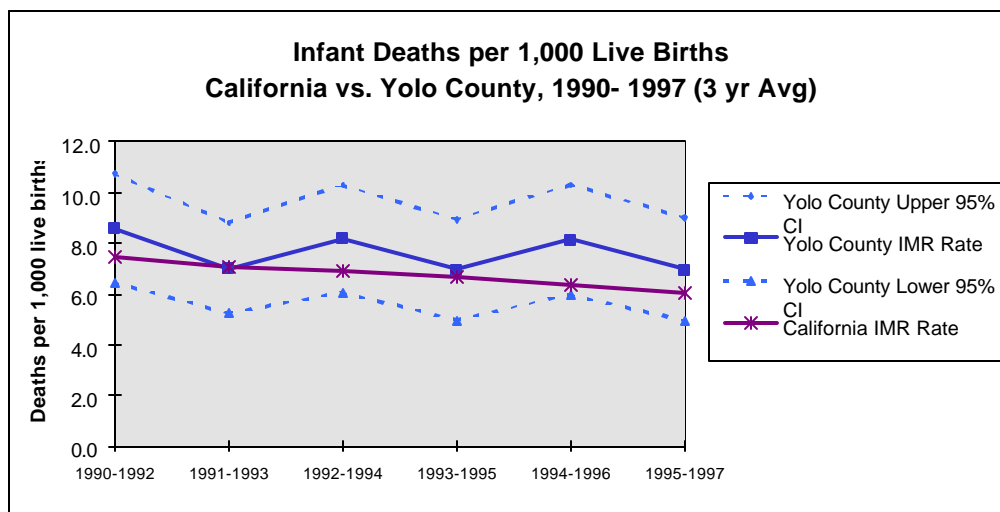
| Cause of Death | Under One Year | 1 – 4 years old |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Perinatal Condition | 32 | 0 |
| Congenital Anomalies | 14 | 1 |
| SIDS | 15 | 0 |
| Injuries | | |
| Motor Vehicle Crash | 0 | 2 |
| Drowning | 1 | 1 |
| Other: Falls/Poison/Fire | 0 | 0 |
| Homicide | 1 | 2 |
| Heart Disease/Cardiovasc. Dis | 3 | 1 |
| Cancer | 0 | 2 |
| Other Causes | 15 | 3 |
| Total Over 5 Years | 81 | 12 |
| Avg. Per Year | 16 deaths/ year | 2-3 deaths/ year |

INFANT DEATHS

Background: Infant mortality is the key public health indicator that reflects the health of the community and the equity of care and support offered to all sectors of the population. Infant death refers to the number of infants under one year of age who died in a year. Neonatal mortality is the number of deaths occurring at less than 28 days of age and postneonatal mortality is the number of deaths occurring between 28 and 364 days of age. Infant mortality rates vary by race and ethnicity and represent differences in socioeconomic status and other factors such as low birth weight, preterm births, inadequate levels of prenatal care, prevalence of poverty and substance abuse.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Infant mortality is declining in California but numbers are too small to detect trends in Yolo County.
- Over half of all infant deaths occur in the neonatal period (the first 28 days of life).
- The number of infant deaths range between 11 and 24 deaths per year in Yolo County , with a higher than expected infant death rate, 7.4 deaths per 1,000 births, compared to 6.4 per 1,000 births in California (averaged from 1993-1997).
- Although the number of infant deaths are few, the infant death rate was almost four times higher among African-American infants (average 31 deaths per 1,000 births from 1993-1997) than for other groups. Infant death rates for other race or ethnic groups averaged 7 deaths per 1,000 births in Yolo County from 1993-1997.
- The highest infant mortality occurred among babies from Woodland with an average of 10 deaths per 1,000 births from 1993-1997. There were an average of 7 infant deaths per 1,000 births in West Sacramento, and less than 7 deaths per 1,000 births in the rest of the county (averaged over five years from 1993-1997).



Source: Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics Branch; IMR = Infant Mortality Rate
Note: CI = 95% confidence that the true value lies between these two intervals

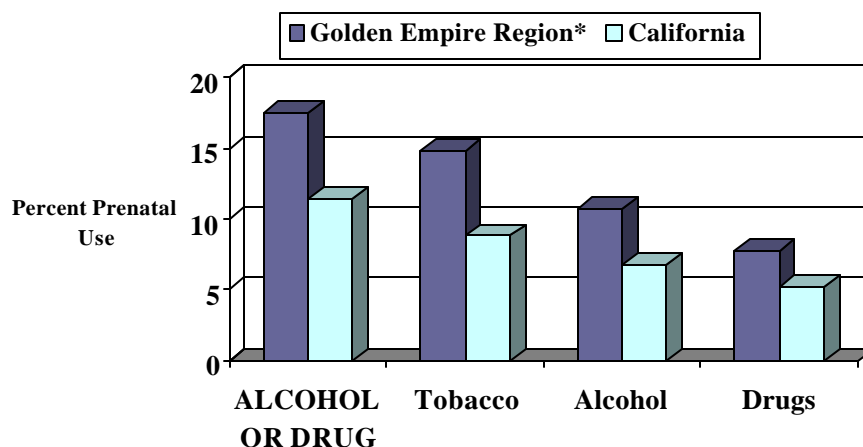
PERINATAL SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE

Background: In 1992, the California Department of Alcohol and Drugs conducted the first state-wide study of tobacco, alcohol and drug use among women who delivered babies during that year. Yolo County was one of the seven counties included in the Golden Empire region along with El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Sutter and Yuba Counties. Testing for the presence of drugs or alcohol was done anonymously. Tobacco use was self-reported. Toxicology testing at birth is not done universally and current rates of perinatal substance use are not readily available.

Summary of Key Findings for the Golden Empire Region, 1992:

- This region had the highest percentage of perinatal women testing positive for alcohol or drugs (17.5%) of all regions and higher than the 11.4% reported for the state overall.
- One out of 10 (11%) women tested positive for alcohol at delivery and 8% used one or more drugs besides alcohol (note: alcohol testing is less accurate and these results may underestimate the amount used).
- 15% of the women reported tobacco use at the time of delivery with lowest rates among Hispanic women (3%) and highest among Black (29%) and White (19%) women.
- The highest percent of drug use was found among women over 35 years old (11%) versus those under 35 years (5.5%), women on Medi-Cal (9%) versus those with private insurance (2%) and white women (8%) versus all other races (<3%).
- Teen mothers were more likely to test positive for alcohol and less likely to test positive for illicit drugs than women 20 years or older.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use During Pregnancy in Golden Empire Region and California, 1992



* Region includes El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties
Source: California Department of Alcohol and Drugs, 1993

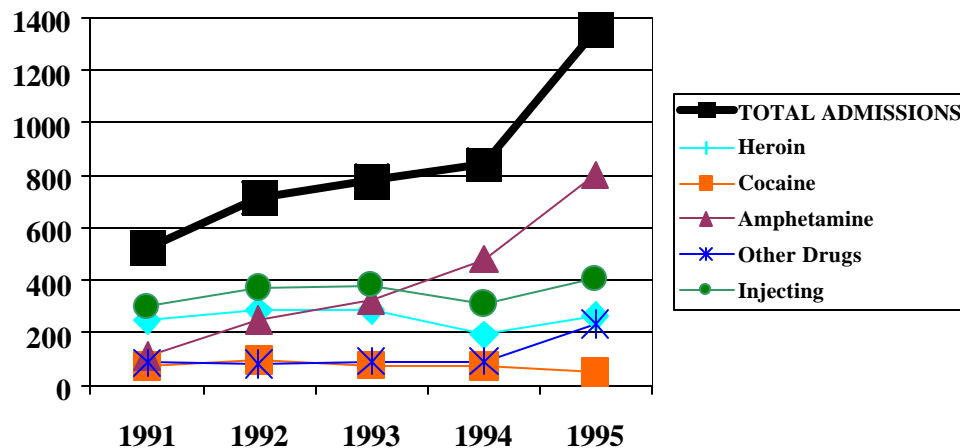
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT

Background: The Yolo County Department of Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health collects information on admissions to drug treatment services supported by county funds.

Summary of Key Findings:

- During fiscal year 1996-1997, 1,723 persons from Yolo County were admitted to treatment services.
- Over 90% of the treatment group were under 46 years of age and 40% were female.
- The majority of the admissions to treatment were related to amphetamine use (44%), 26% for alcohol use, 14% for marijuana, 9% for heroin and 4% for cocaine use.
- Three-quarters of the admissions were either unemployed or not seeking work, 30% had not completed a high school education and 5% were homeless.
- Forty women were pregnant at the time of admission into treatment in fiscal year 1996-1997.
- The increase in the number of admissions to drug treatment was related to the increase in reported use of methamphetamine among clients seeking treatment.

Admission to Drug Treatment by Primary Type of Drug Used Yolo County, 1991-1995



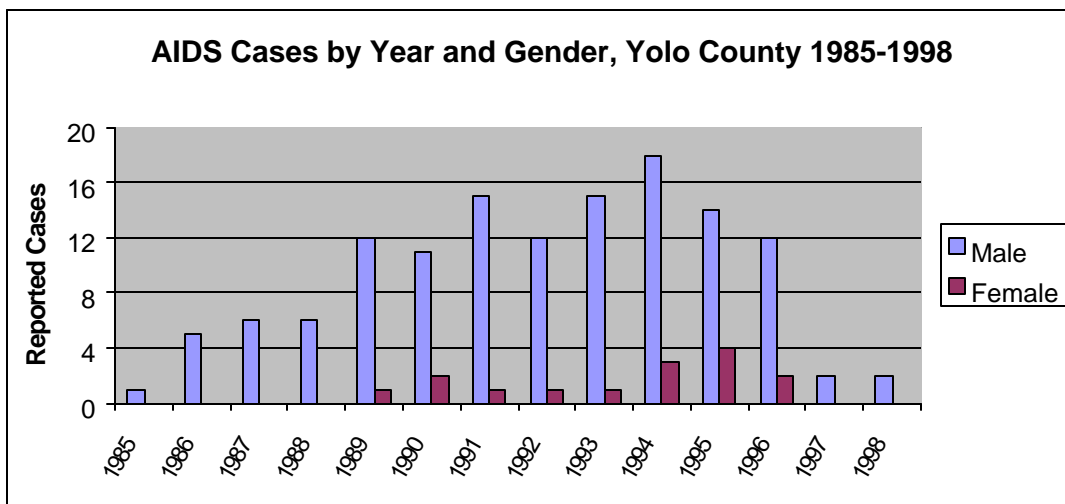
Source: Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, CAL-DADS/CADDS

HIV/AIDS IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Background: The number of new cases of AIDS reported among women is increasing. In 1997, women made up 12% of the cases reported in California compared to 3% in 1987. Rates of HIV among childbearing women in California remained relatively stable through 1995 with about one in every 1,540 women testing positive for HIV infection. In 1997, 44% of women diagnosed with AIDS in California reported heterosexual exposure and 35% reported injection drug use as the primary exposure category for HIV infection. Despite a drop in AIDS cases in the last few years, the rate at which people are becoming infected with HIV has remained the same (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998). Of the children reported with AIDS in California as of 1997, 68% were infected through a mother with HIV infection.

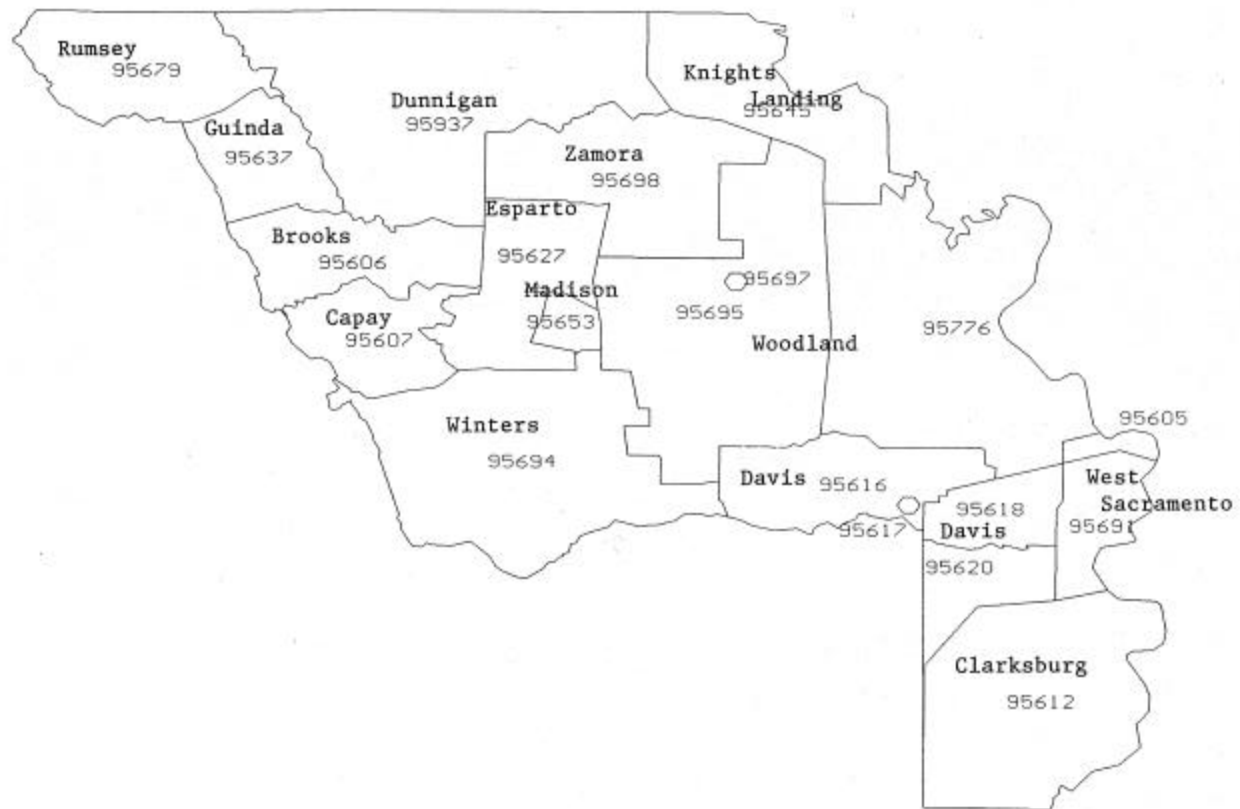
Summary of Key Findings:

- As of December 1998, there was a cumulative total of 145 cases of AIDS reported in Yolo County, 15 of whom were women.
- Ten (67%) of the 15 Yolo County women diagnosed with AIDS in Yolo County reported injecting drug use as the primary exposure category for infection with 4 (27%) reporting heterosexual exposure and one where the risk was not reported.
- One infant was reported with AIDS in Yolo County. Eight infants (four to the same mother) have been born to women infected with HIV but as of January 1999, none converted to HIV infection.
- Five women with HIV infection are currently receiving case management services.
- Since 1993, over half (53%) of the new AIDS cases were among men or women from West Sacramento, 26% were from Woodland, 16% were from Davis and 5% were from other areas of the county.

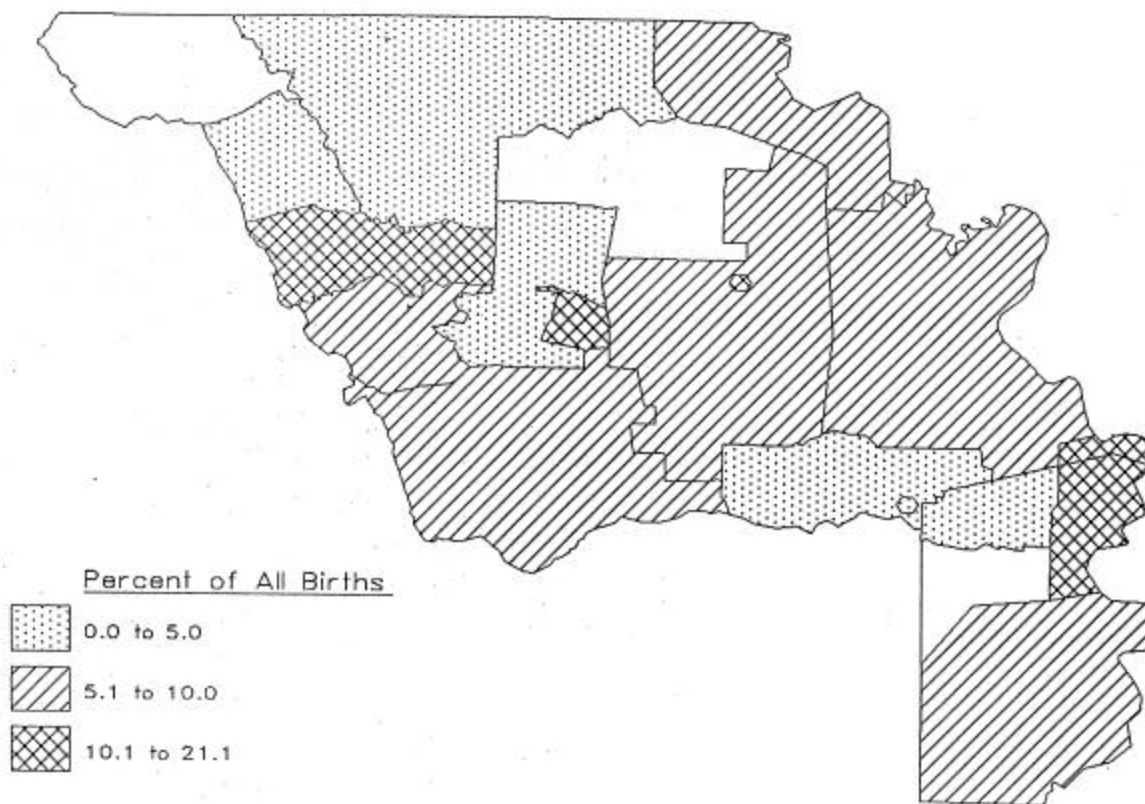


Source: California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS

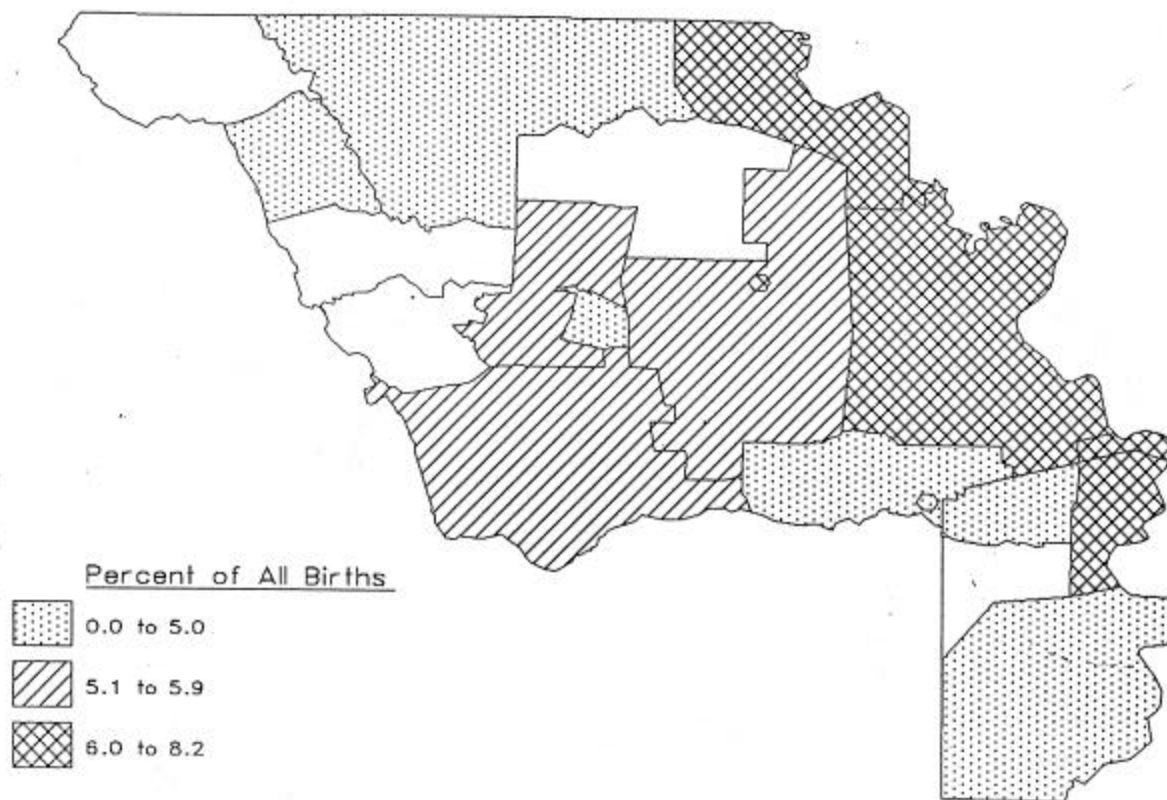
Map of Yolo County by City and Zipcode



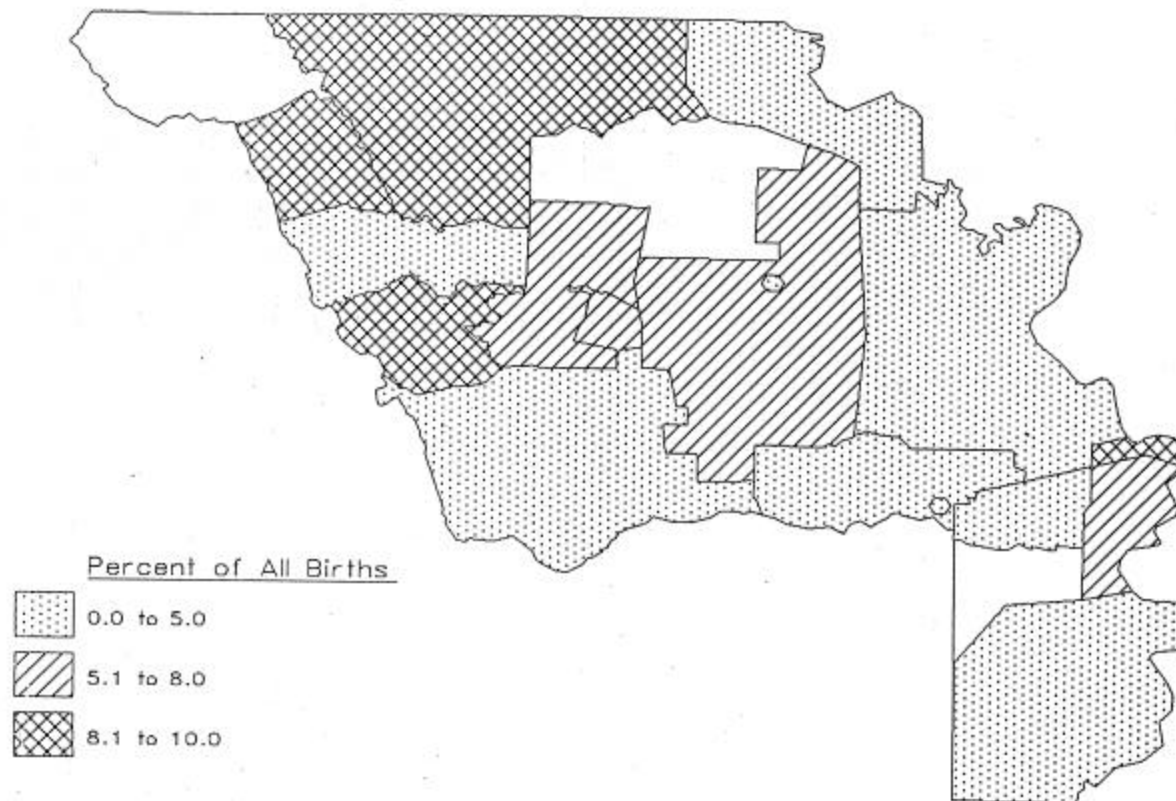
Percent Third Trimester Entry or No Prenatal Care
By Zipcode in Yolo County, 5-yr avg 1993-1997



Percent Low Birth Weight Infants (<2500 grams or 5.5 lbs)
By Zipcode in Yolo County, 5-yr avg 1993-1997



Percent Adolescent Births (under 18 years old)
By Zipcode in Yolo County, 5-yr avg 1993-1997



Infant Mortality Rate (Infant Deaths per 1000 Births)
By Zipcode in Yolo County, 5-yr avg 1993-1997

