



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
Public Health Division



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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Date: November 4, 2024

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH RELEASES THE 2024 MATERNAL, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH REPORT

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA – Every five years, the Children and Family Health Branch in the County of Santa Cruz Public Health Division conducts a Title V Needs Assessment (“2024 Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Report”) aimed at identifying and addressing critical health needs and improve outcomes for families and children in Santa Cruz County.

The Title V Needs Assessment is conducted to:

1. **Identify Health Gaps:** Analyze existing health services and resources to pinpoint areas where support is lacking or where services can be improved.
2. **Engage Community Stakeholders:** Collaborate with local health providers, community organizations, and residents to gather insights and feedback on health needs and priorities.
3. **Develop Strategic Recommendations:** Formulate actionable recommendations based on assessment findings to enhance the delivery of health services and improve health outcomes for birthing persons, children, and families.
4. **Promote Equity:** Ensure that the needs of underserved and marginalized populations are thoroughly assessed and addressed in strategic planning.

“This report aims to amplify the voices of community members and stakeholders of the County of Santa Cruz who participated in this needs assessment process,” said Susan Paradise, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Director. “While the results

will guide the planning of local programs, the process itself has been crucial in fostering engagement with community members and partners.”

Priorities needs identified in the assessment included:

- Mental/Social/Emotional Health (Birthing Persons/Children/Adolescents)
- Housing Security (Birthing Persons)
- Substance Use (Birthing Persons/Adolescents)
- Navigating Complex Healthcare Systems (Perinatal/Infant/Children and Youth with Special Needs)

Next steps will include a focus on advocacy and development of community support for needed changes. Upcoming community meetings will discuss what actions can be taken collectively to address the priority needs identified. Email hsaphadmin@santacruzcountyca.gov to share your feedback on the report or for updates on upcoming community meetings.

To read the full report, visit me-qr.com/l/2024MCAHreport. For more information about the health needs of the broader community, see the Santa Cruz County Community Health Assessment at www.datasharescc.org.

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