



County of Santa Cruz



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY Public Health Division

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH RELEASES THE 2024 COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA – Every three years, the County of Santa Cruz Public Health Division completes a Community Health Assessment (CHA) to assess the health of Santa Cruz County residents. The CHA collects and analyzes health data, including risk factors, quality of life, social determinants of health, health inequities, mortality, and morbidity. Input from community residents was also gathered to help inform findings.

“The goal of the CHA is to provide a meaningful understanding of the most pressing health issues in Santa Cruz County,” said Pam Conelly, Deputy Director of Public Health. “The CHA guides planning efforts to address these needs using a health equity approach.”

Engaging diverse groups of community members was a key focus in the CHA process, with emphasis on learning from those who are less represented in the data. Four focus groups and ten key informant interviews were conducted to gather insights from these priority populations. Additionally, on June 28, 2024, a community prioritization session was held in Watsonville where County data was shared, and participants prioritized the health topics through an interactive activity.

The 2024 assessment, which can be found online at www.datasharescc.org, includes a brief overview of the County’s demographics, the methods used to gather and analyze the data, and the four identified priorities to address.

- Access to Healthcare
- Children/Adolescent Health
- Housing Security/Housing Burden
- Mental Health and Mental Disorders

These top four health priority areas will be addressed in the upcoming Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which will be designed through a community process. This fall, Public Health will continue efforts to learn from the Santa Cruz County community and develop a CHIP that reflects our strengths and needs. Community members can [sign up](#) to receive CHIP updates.

In addition to the CHA, Public Health also recently conducted the Title V Needs Assessment which looked in depth at the health of maternal/birthing person, infant, child, adolescent, and children and youth with special health care needs. For more information on the Title V Assessment, visit me-qr.com/l/2024MCAHreport.

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