

**THE STATUS
OF WOMEN & GIRLS
IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY:
2020 HEALTH CARE UPDATE**



OVERVIEW

1. Health Care Data
2. Reproductive Health Care
3. Mortality & Morbidity
4. Child Health
5. Latinx Women & Girls
6. Women Experiencing Homelessness
7. Senior Women
8. LGBTQ+





HEALTH CARE DATA

Key Findings

- Difficult to find data disaggregated by gender in reporting from County and community partners.
- Unclear why gender-related data is not collected routinely.
- Lack of such data makes identifying disparities in utilization or health outcomes for women difficult.



HEALTH CARE DATA

2020 Recommendation

- Support legislation, programs and policy to improve gender and gender identity-responsive:
 - Data collection
 - Definitions in health care services
 - Awareness and perceptions
 - Utilization rates and outcomes

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

Key Findings

- Availability of affordable, accessible reproductive health care in Santa Cruz County will be limited in the coming years by:
 - The Dignity Health/Catholic Initiatives merger
 - The current administration's policy changes related to reproductive health care
 - Planned Parenthood's withdrawal from Title X Family Planning Program

2020 Recommendation

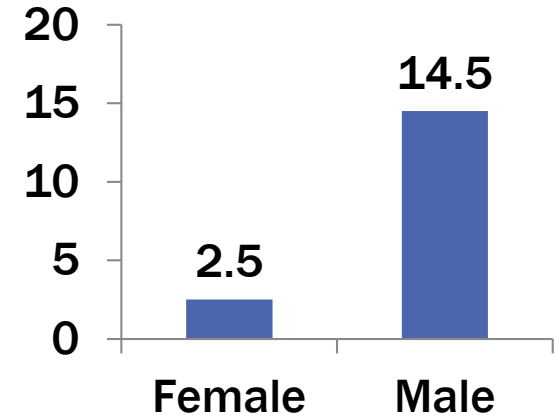
- Support legislation, policy and programs to ensure continued access to affordable reproductive health care services in Santa Cruz County, particularly for low-income populations.

MORBIDITY & MORTALITY

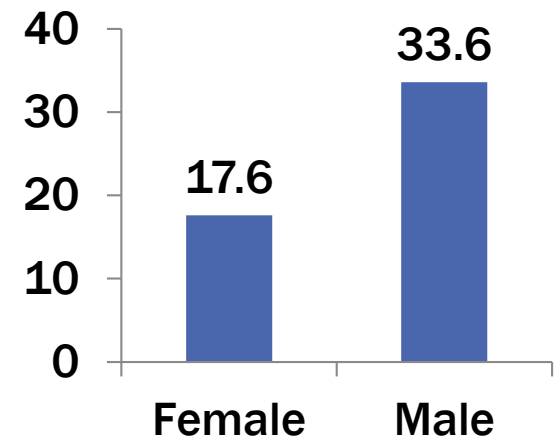
Key Findings

- County's opioid prescription rate is decreasing but remains higher than State rate.
- In 2017, Santa Cruz ranked 20th out of 58 California counties for high opioid overdose death rate.
- Santa Cruz women are less likely to:
 - Need emergency care for substance use than their male counterparts.
 - Die from opioid overdose than their male counterparts.
 - Can't compare to State rates (not disaggregated by gender).

Death Rate due to
Opioid Overdose
(per 100k Residents)



Number of ER Visits
due to Substance
Abuse (per 10k adults)



MORBIDITY & MORTALITY

Key Findings

- Santa Cruz women have higher rates for diabetes and asthma than their male counterparts.
- County rates are higher than State and national rates for:
 - Death by suicide
 - Drug-induced fatalities
 - Accidents
 - Alzheimer's disease
- County rates continue to decrease and are lower than State rates for:
 - Diabetes
 - Coronary heart disease
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - Lung cancer

MORBIDITY & MORTALITY

2020 Recommendations

- Support legislation, policy and programs to address Santa Cruz County's disproportionately high:
 - Opioid misuse and death rates
 - Suicide rates
 - Support legislation, policy and programs for prevention of:
 - Diabetes
 - Asthma
 - Obesity
- particularly in high risk, low-income populations.





CHILD HEALTH

Key Findings

- **16.4% of Santa Cruz County children live below the poverty level.**
- **14% of Santa Cruz County children experience food insecurity.**
- **2020 child food insecurity rate projected to increase to 23.4% because of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The ACA addressed health care access for children, but access barriers for children's vision and dental care persist.**

2020 Recommendations

- **Support legislation and programs that:**
 - **Improve access to vision and dental care for children**
 - **Address food insecurity, particularly for single-income families headed by women**

LATINX WOMEN & GIRLS

Key Findings

- Disproportionately high poverty rates and cultural barriers to health care contribute to reproductive health concerns for Santa Cruz County Latinx women, such as:
 - Higher teen pregnancy
 - Higher Infant mortality
 - Higher Prenatal and post-partum depression rates
 - Lower prenatal care
 - Lower breastfeeding rates
- The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the Latinx community has created a greater need for:
 - Access to resources and financial support
 - Coordinated, clear, concise, and culturally appropriate outreach



LATINX WOMEN AND GIRLS

2020 Recommendations

- Support legislation, policy and programs that address:
 - Reproductive health care concerns disproportionately impacting Latinx women and children
 - Poverty and food insecurity in the Latinx community, particularly for undocumented women and single-income families headed by women
 - The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the Latinx community

WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Key Findings

- Percentage of women experiencing homelessness is increasing.
- Lack of affordable housing contributes to homelessness which can contribute to significant health care issues for women in vulnerable populations, including:
 - Senior women
 - Latinx women
 - Women with disabilities
 - Single-income households headed by women



WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

2020 Recommendation

- Support legislation, policy and programs addressing lack of affordable housing and other factors contributing to growing numbers of women experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County.

SENIOR WOMEN

Key Findings

- Compared to their male counterparts, senior women in Santa Cruz County are more likely to live below poverty level and experience:
 - Chronic conditions
 - Memory loss and dementia
 - Daily limitations
- Transportation-dependent senior women need accessible, affordable transportation to access timely preventive health care and treatment.
- COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity and social isolation for senior women in Santa Cruz County.
 - Shelter-in-place has reduced support for many senior programs that rely on senior volunteers.

SENIOR WOMEN

2020 Recommendations

- Support legislation, policy and programs that address the following issues affecting senior women in Santa Cruz County:
 - Poverty
 - Food insecurity
 - Lack of affordable transportation
 - Social isolation



LGBTQ+

Key Findings

- National studies indicate that LGBTQ+ patients face an increased risk of:
 - Substance misuse
 - Depression
 - Suicide
- Failure to collect County health care data on sexual orientation and gender identity makes it impossible to identify and address local health care utilization and outcome disparities for the LGBTQ+ community.

2020 Recommendations

- Support legislation, policy and programs that consider health care through the lens of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Address health care issues disproportionately impacting the LGBTQ+ community.
- Consider establishing an LGBTQ+ Commission.

**THANK YOU!
ANY QUESTIONS?**

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