

# Message from the Public Health Officer

One of the strategic goals of the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency is to improve the health status of the community through focused efforts with measurable outcomes.

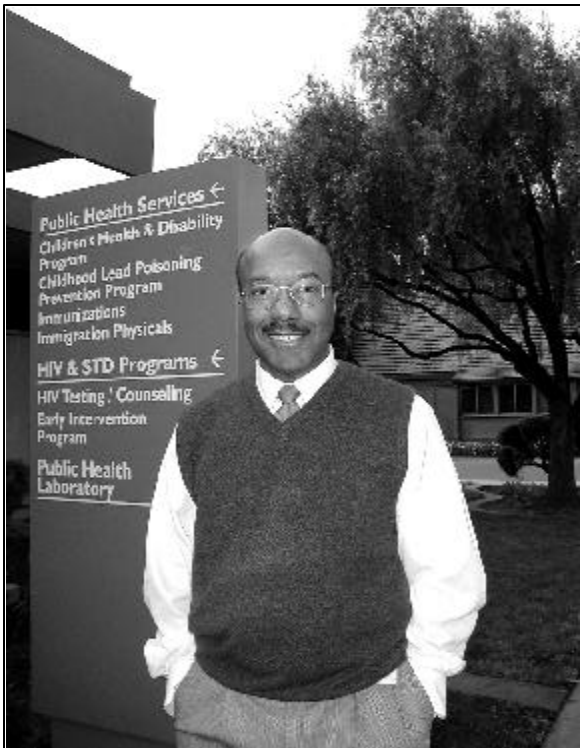
One activity to achieve such a goal is to review the community's health profile. The profile offers important data for the recommendation of policy and development of programs to improve the public's health.

This is the third community report which continues to analyze results for selected health indicators in the County.

At the same time, this report provides the reader information on various community health improvement projects and activities that the Agency is implementing.

The Agency plans to continue improving the analysis of the community's health on an annual basis.

Since the spectrum of prevention starts with an individual and ends with policy makers, the Agency will continue building community involvement and partnerships that lead to policy development which creates a healthier community.



John Walker, M.D.

*Public Health Officer*

*Stanislaus County Health Services Agency*

# ***Stanislaus County***

***On an average day in 2000 . . .***

**459,025  
population**

**19 births**

3.5 get late  
prenatal care

2.8 teen births

1.1 low birth  
weight babies

**Over 9 deaths**

**Chlamydia - 3 cases**

Heart disease  
2.4 deaths

Cancer  
2 deaths

Lung cancer  
.6 deaths

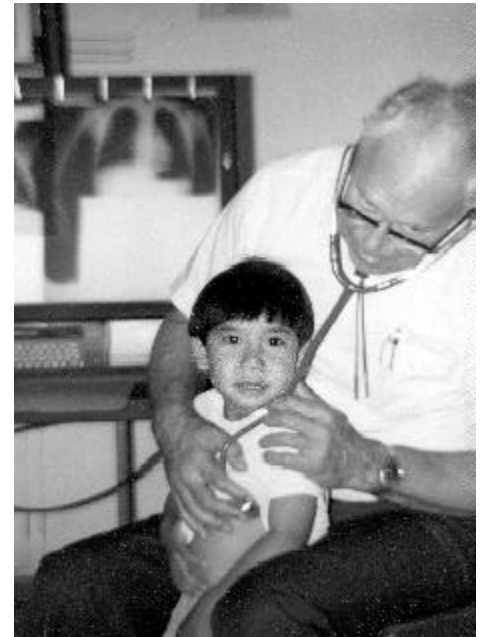
Stroke  
.7 deaths

Unintentional  
.5 deaths

**EVERY  
DAY**

# How was the analysis done?

The selected indicators analyzed for our county estimates were compared to two benchmarks. California's estimates and the National Healthy People 2000 Objectives (HP2K) were used to gauge how Stanislaus County's health and our progress toward improving that health rank. Data was analyzed from California's Departments of Health Services and Finance as well as Stanislaus County Health Services Agency data sets.



# What are the selected health indicators?

To understand a community, it is necessary to examine a broad range of information, which speaks to the fabric of our community and reflects the overall status of our populations.

These health indicators which have been identified can be impacted by individual and community action, and should be useful in directing policy and motivating actions of individuals, families, and community groups.

The following is a list of the health indicators chosen to be examined:

- Maternal Child Health, which includes infant births and deaths
- Reportable Diseases
- Deaths, including various causes

“health indicators which we have identified can be impacted by individual and community action”

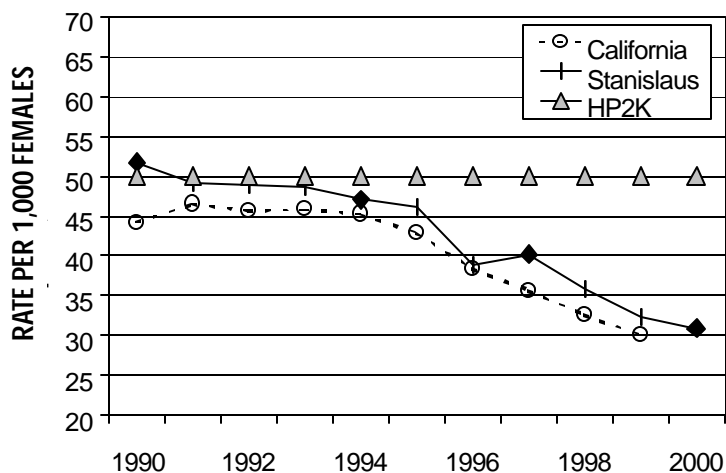


# Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health

## Teen Birth Rate

The teen birth rate has continued to decline in Stanislaus County as well as across the state. This encouraging trend is due to many factors, including increased partnerships with communities throughout the county, availability of services and families involved in addressing teen pregnancy, not only as a teen problem, but an adult problem.

TEEN BIRTH RATE (15-17 YRS) IN  
CA AND STANISLAUS CO, 1990-2000



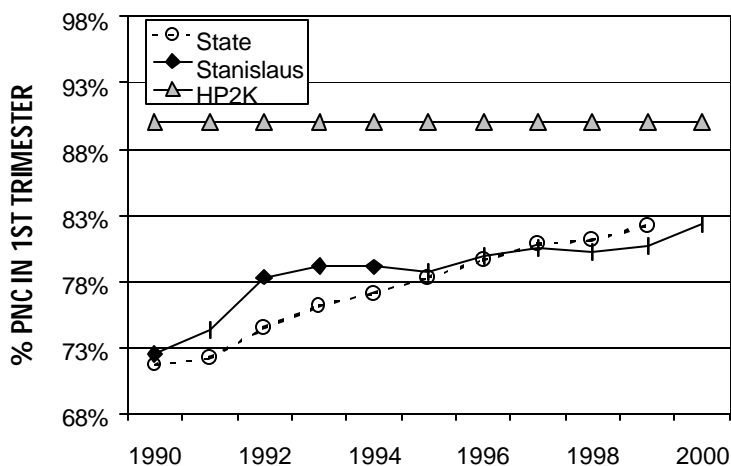
## Prenatal Care

The percentage of women getting prenatal care starting in their first trimester has steadily risen. In the past 11 years, the percentage has gone up 10 percentage points in Stanislaus County.

Prenatal care is one of the most important factors in determining the health of infants. Prenatal care in the first trimester has been increasing across all racial and ethnic categories as well.

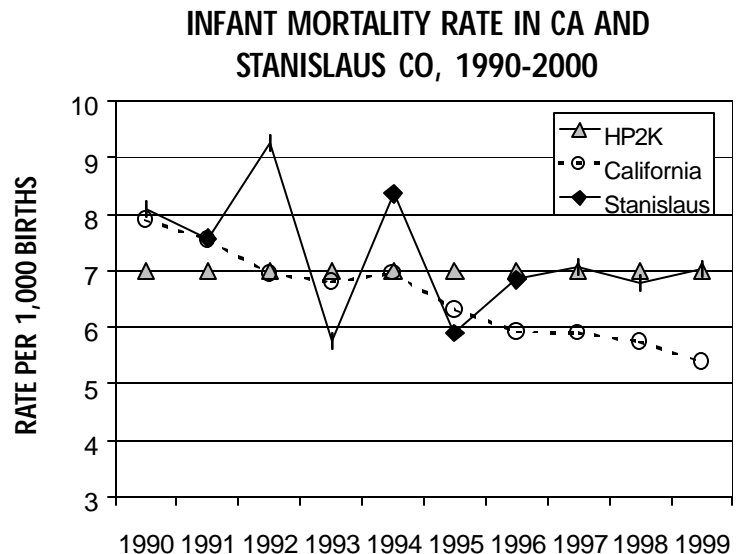
In spite of this, there is still significant work to be done in order to reach the goal of having 90% of women getting prenatal care in the first trimester.

% OF WOMEN STARTING PRENATAL CARE  
IN 1ST TRIMESTER IN CA AND  
STANISLAUS CO 1990-2000



## Infant Deaths

One of the starkest indicators of the health of a community is the number of infants that make it through their first year of life. The infant mortality rate in Stanislaus County has declined in the past decade to reach the national objective for the year 2000. California has had a lower rate than Stanislaus County for the past few years. The graph of the whole county does not tell the whole story. As is discussed later, deaths to African American infants is much higher than deaths to all other infants.



## Communicable diseases

### Gonorrhea

This sexually transmitted disease has declined precipitously from its epidemic proportions in the 1980's. The rate of disease in Stanislaus County has mirrored the rate in California as a whole for the past several years. Both jurisdictions met and surpassed the national objective for the year 2000 several years ago. While it appears that the rate of gonorrhea is rather low, the rate among the 15-29 year old age group is much higher than all of the other ages in the county.

