

**AMADOR COUNTY
COMMUNITY
ASSESSMENT**



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Amador County VOICES for Families produced the counties first broad-based comprehensive community assessment in 2001. This publication proved to be extremely successful on several levels, most importantly as a resource to leverage funding to meet the needs of the residents in Amador County. At that time VOICES for Families was funded by a Healthy Cities and Communities Grant to support community collaboration and assessment activities designed to evaluate and ultimately improve the quality of life in Amador County. Many agencies and community representatives took part in the collaborative. As funding diminished, participation waned as well. In late 2003 it was decided to disband VOICES and meet on 'as-needed' basis. Ironically, it was shortly afterwards they started to meet to discuss updating the Assessment. With no funding available to conduct another comprehensive assessment that included surveys and focus groups, the few remaining VOICES participants secured a small grant from the University of California Cooperative Extension to hire a graduate student to compile several new assessments, as well as research data in several areas of need in Amador County. The result of this endeavor is the 2005 Amador County Assessment.

This assessment was developed and monitored by several people during the year-long process. Thanks to the excellent work of Kun Chen, graduate student at the University of California, Davis, for researching and compiling several needs assessments and state data on Amador County. In addition to Kun's work the following people spent time and effort gathering data, reading several drafts, and meeting periodically to keep the effort alive:

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Larry Anderson of HRC Child Care Resources produced the final formatting of this document. Any persons or any pertinent information left out, is unintentional and we apologize. We hope this information and research will help with capacity building efforts to build a strong and healthy Amador County.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Until 2000, Amador County had conducted no broad-based community assessment. At that time, the need for such an assessment was expressed by members of the community, particularly county staff, agencies and organizations. The Amador County Community Assessment 2000 was funded by three organizations: the California Children and Families Commission (First 5), the Center for Civic Partnerships (a Healthy Cities & Communities Grant), and the California Medical Services Program (a Wellness Foundation Grant). The assessment, conducted in Amador County, was based on comprehensive surveys in the community, and processed by the Voices for Families Alliance. The Amador County Community Assessment 2000 provided the first significant comprehensive overview of community assets and needs. The effort helped local community agencies, organizations and individuals work on the development of the community as a whole, by utilizing community strengths, mapping community capacities, meeting community needs, solving community conflicts, and preparing for community challenges.

Building on the success and effectiveness of the Amador County Community Assessment 2000, the Voices for Families Alliance began in 2004 to update the document, basing it on several specific surveys, assessments, reports, and data collections. The new assessment seeks to avoid the fragmented and costly duplication of efforts within the community by synthesizing existing data. Moreover, it gives county leaders, officials, community organizations, groups and individuals an updated overview of current community conditions to further their work on improving the quality of life in Amador County.

The 2004 Amador Community Assessment is based on data collected from the following documents:

- Amador Community Assessment (2000)
- U.S. Census Summary File (2000)
- RAND California Community Statistics
- Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan (2004-2009)
- California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Report (2003)
- County and Statewide Archive of Tobacco Statistics
- Amador Child Care Council Needs Assessment (2003-04)
- California Child Care Portfolio (2003)
- California Basic Educational Data System (2004)
- California Employment Development Department County Snapshots: Amador County (2003)
- California Institute for County Government County Profile: Amador County (2003)
- Amador Fire Safe Council Fire Hazard Reduction Plan Final Report (2004)
- Amador County Recreation Agency Survey (2001)

Besides the above major reports and files, the information in the assessment is introduced and discussed according to various current news releases, state and county government, environmental, health, child care organizations and agencies files and official websites.

The 2004 Community Assessment keeps the structure and organization of the 2000 Assessment, and uses the same defined terms and concepts with some updates. In order to be as accurate as possible, most descriptive information comes directly from the original documents with editing. The data analysis is based on the original raw data, and a large amount of figures and tables have been used directly from the original files, or created according to the raw data.

Below are some of the priority issues that have been identified based on the assessment findings.

Strengths:

- The local residents enjoy a much lower population density than in other parts of California
- The community is getting more diverse ethnically
- The immunization rate for 5 year olds is higher than the statewide rate
- Smoking prevalence has decreased in the community
- The age-adjusted death rate from coronary heart disease has been lower than statewide rate
- The Human Resource Council's (HRC) Child Care Resources program, the Amador County Department of Social Services, and some other programs are helping families with child care
- The cost of child care is lower than the state average
- The school administrators, pupil services and teacher per pupil ratios are all lower than state ratios
- There are several special and alternative educational programs serving students with various needs
- The average rate of unemployment in Amador County is lower than the statewide average
- The per capita personal income has increased steadily
- Industry employment growth surpassed the state's in past years
- Valley air districts are developing air pollution control measures for their areas
- The Amador County Fire Hazard Reduction Plan (Fire Plan) was developed to provide the Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) a foundation for justifying and prioritizing future fuel reduction projects.
- Amador County is judged to be a safe place to live
- Amador County has higher rates of voter registration than does the rest of California
- There are newly formed recreation agencies in Amador County

Challenges and Needs:

- The population growth rate is higher than the statewide rate
- Hispanic population is growing fast, but health, education, and child care services for minority groups are not sufficient
- The senior population is growing fast, but services for seniors are not sufficient
- Amador County has a shortage of health care providers
- Both adult and youth smoking prevalence is higher than statewide
- Drug-related arrests increased in past few years
- The age-adjusted death rate from coronary heart disease has increased slightly
- The age-adjusted death rate from unintentional injuries has increased and remains higher than the statewide rate
- Although suicide age-adjusted death rate has decreased since 2000, comparatively, it has remained higher than the statewide rate
- The demand for child care well exceeds the supply, and infant care (ages 0-3) remains the hardest to find
- The county's per capita personal income has remained around 20% lower than the state's, e.g. by 2002, the county's per capita personal income was \$2616, while the state's was \$3298
- Ten percent of residents live below the federal poverty level, 14.2% of those are children under five
- Median resale price of housing has risen to \$247,000, a rise of almost 150% in the past five years
- The high fuel loads have increased the potential for large catastrophic wildfires
- The violent crime rate is slowly increasing
- Reports to Child Protection Services have increased
- Public transportation is limited to the main core communities
- Art, sport complexes and trails are significantly needed as public facilities

AMADOR COUNTY

Amador County is located in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. Amador is the smallest rural county in California covering almost 605 square miles of varying types of geography ranging from mountainous peaks almost 8,000 feet above sea level to lower gentle rolling hills.



The County of Amador was officially established in June of 1854. Originally, it was part of Calaveras County. The county is named for Jose Maria Amador, a soldier, rancher, and miner who in 1848 helped establish a successful gold mining camp near the present town of Amador. In Spanish, the word *Amador* translates as “one who loves.” During the gold rush, Amador was one of the state's leaders in gold production, second only to Nevada County. The county's economy now relies on government, education, legalized casino gambling and tourism for its income. Many bed and breakfast inns and small boutique wineries speckle the countryside of Amador County, and the premium Zinfandel grapes grown here are in high demand.

The county has five incorporated cities which include Jackson, Sutter Creek, Ione, Amador City and Plymouth; all other areas are unincorporated. The following map shows the proximity of each of these communities throughout the county.¹

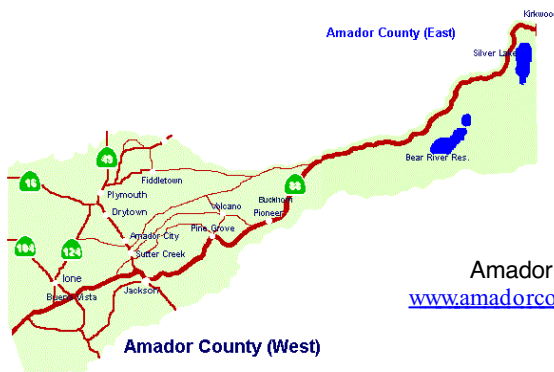


Figure 1 Amador County Map.

Source:

Amador County Chamber of Commerce Website at
www.amadorcountychamber.com/images/amador%20map.gif

¹ The demographic introduction information is directly from the Amador County official website: <http://www.co.amador.ca.us>, the Amador Child Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004, the County Snapshots Amador County 2003 from Labor Market Information at California Employment Development Department website: <http://www.calmis.ca.gov>, and the Amador County Fire Hazard Reduction Plan 2004. The graph is from the 2003 California Employment Development Department County Snapshots: Amador County at <http://www.calmis.cahwnet.gov/file/COsnaps/amadosnap.pdf>.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The population of Amador County is steadily growing. The county is still predominately Caucasian with a majority percentage of 82.4%. However, the Hispanic population has increased significantly in recent years, and it is estimated that one of ten residents in Amador County will be Hispanic in 2005. Amador County's population is becoming older. The average age of Amador County residents was 6.6 years older than that of California in 2003.

Population

What is it? Currently, Amador County's population is often estimated at more than 36,000 people. However, these figures include institutional populations. Because Amador County is home to Mule Creek State Prison, and other smaller institutions, population estimates can appear larger. This report includes the population in "households" (basically residents) and "group quarters" (such as prisons and nursing homes.)²

How are we doing? The most recent 2003 population estimate is 37,273 according to the US Census Bureau. The 2002 population was 36,657, and the 2001 population was 35,811. The population percent change from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003 was 6.2%. It was slightly higher than the statewide population change (4.8%).

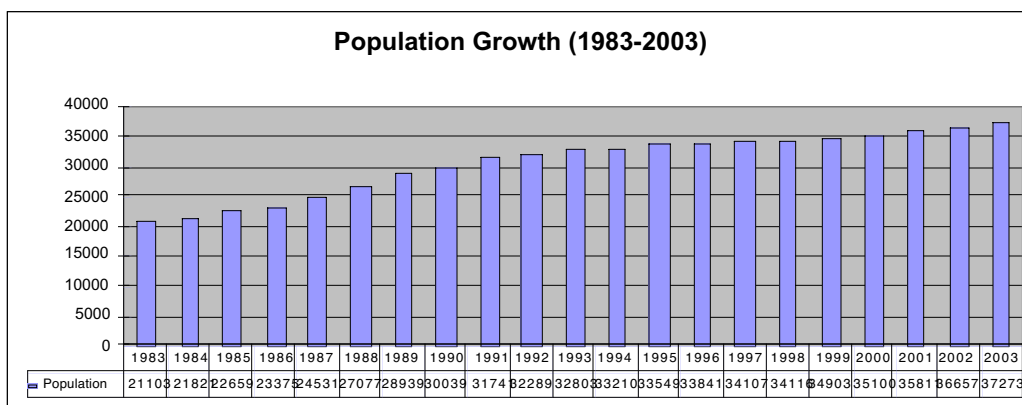


Figure 2 Amador County Population Growth from the Year 1983 to 2003.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

² In this 2004 assessment, all information in "What is it?" and "Why is this important?" are directly from the Amador County Community Assessment 2000 with some updated information.

The total population in Amador County according to the U.S. Census (2000) is 35,100. This indicates an increase of almost 17% over the 1990 census when the population was 30,039. During the same period, California's overall population increased by 12%. Within Amador County, the largest population centers are found in the cities of Ione with 7,129 residents, Jackson with 3,989 residents and Sutter Creek with 2,303 residents according to the 2000 U.S. Census.³ The table shows the population growth in Amador from the year 1992 to 2000 by cities.

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Amador City	200	200	200	200	200	210	210	210	196
Ione	7025	7075	7050	7000	7100	7125	6900	7150	7129
Jackson	3660	3710	3770	3720	3730	3740	3780	3830	3989
Plymouth	820	810	820	800	800	800	800	810	980
Sutter Creek	1870	1920	1960	1970	1970	2000	2030	2060	2303
Unicorp. Areas	17900	18250	18600	18800	19000	19300	19550	20000	20503
Total Population	31475	31965	32400	32490	32800	33175	33270	34060	35100

Source: California EDD

Table 1 Amador County Population Growth from the Year 1992 to 2000 by Cities.
Source: California Economic Development Department.

Residential and Institutional Population

One challenging aspect of estimating the population of Amador County is the presence of Mule Creek State Prison and other smaller institutions, the population of which hovers around 5,000 annually. Therefore, it is important to note that the total residential population (excluding persons in institutional settings) in Amador County was 25,333 in 1990 and 29,595 in the year 2000, representing the same percentage of growth as the overall population.⁴

Population Density

The population density, or person per square mile in Amador County, increased from 20 people per square mile in 1970 to 62 in 2003. The current population density is three times of that in 1970. The population density is growing fast. However, compared with the statewide statistics, the population density in Amador County is very low. In Amador County, Jackson had the largest residential population of 3,520, and Ione had the largest institutional population of 4,321, resulting in the highest total population in the year 2000.

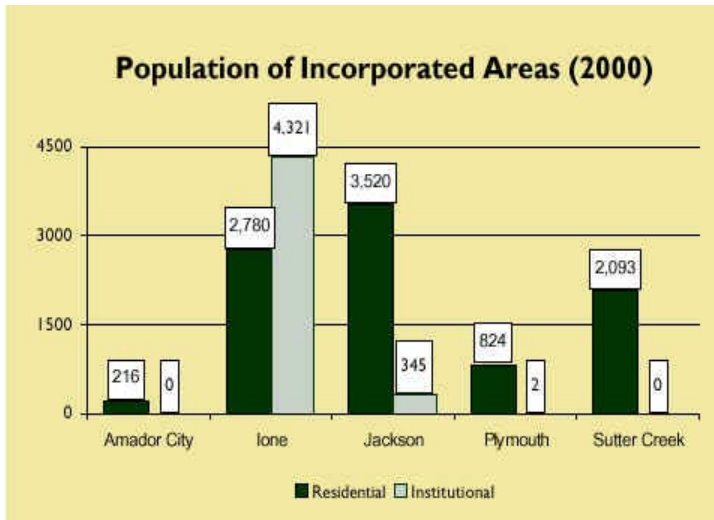


Figure 3 Amador County Incorporated Areas in the year 2000. Source: Amador County Community Assessment 2000.

In over 70 percent of the County, residential growth is either prohibited (e.g. federal lands), or limited to large acreages. However, the major development trend is toward greater densities of homes where development is permitted. This is being driven by many factors including Amador County's desirable climate and rural ambiance, proximity to major job markets, and general population growth. The growth of residences is particularly noticeable in and around the incorporated cities and in the urban/forest intermix zone. The Amador County Development Policy states that "Future residential development will be encouraged to take place in the form of farms, ranches, and estates throughout the county or through expansion of existing towns and villages..." The increasing density of residences in the intermix zone is particularly important due to the extreme wildfire hazard in this area.⁵

⁵ The information is directly from the 2003 Amador County Planning Department Files.

Population Trend

Amador County’s population is expected to reach 40,129 by the year 2020, an increase of close to 18 percent over the current population. By the year 2030, the California Department of Finance projects that Amador’s population will grow to approximately 41,731, an increase of almost 19%. When using the figure, keep in mind that these are only projections from one resource agency. The many variables affecting population growth make this only a rough estimate.⁶

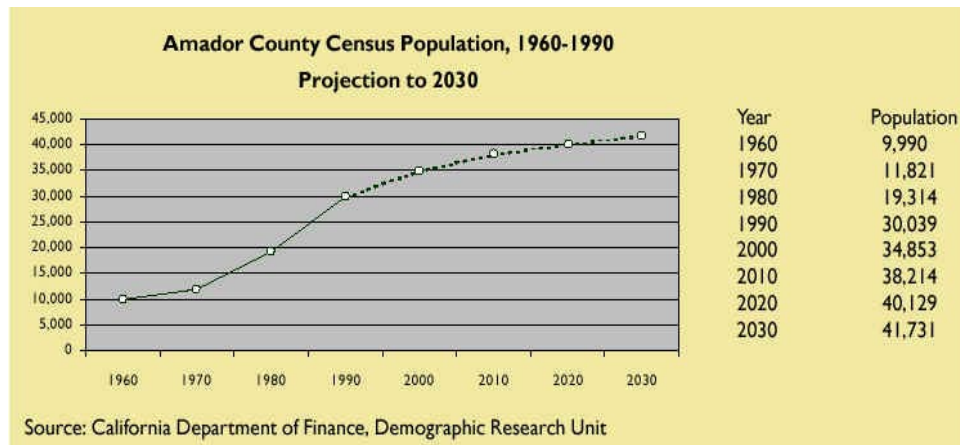


Figure 4 Amador County Census Population from the Year 1960 to 1990
 Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit/Amador County Community Assessment 2000.

Why is this important? Population growth is an important consideration for future regional planning. The degree and location of growth must be considered a significant indicator for locating schools, housing, child care, retail facilities, social services, transportation and other infrastructure

Ethnicity

What is it? Ethnic composition examines the percent of population in Amador County by major ethnic group in households and group quarters.

How are we doing? Based on the data from the 2000 U.S. Census, the population in Amador County has been primarily white. In fact, 82.4% of the population in Amador County is white (not of Hispanic/Latino origin, percent), and 8.9% is Hispanic, 3.9% of the population is black, 1.8% is Native American or Alaska Native, 1% is Asian, and the rest of the population is identified as other/two or more races. By the year 2005, at least one in ten Amador County residents will be Hispanic. These figures represent the entire population of Amador including those who are institutionalized.

⁶ The information is from the Amador County Community Assessment 2000

Ethnic Population Composition

The chart below illustrates the composition of the population in Amador by race/ethnicity according to the 2000 Census.

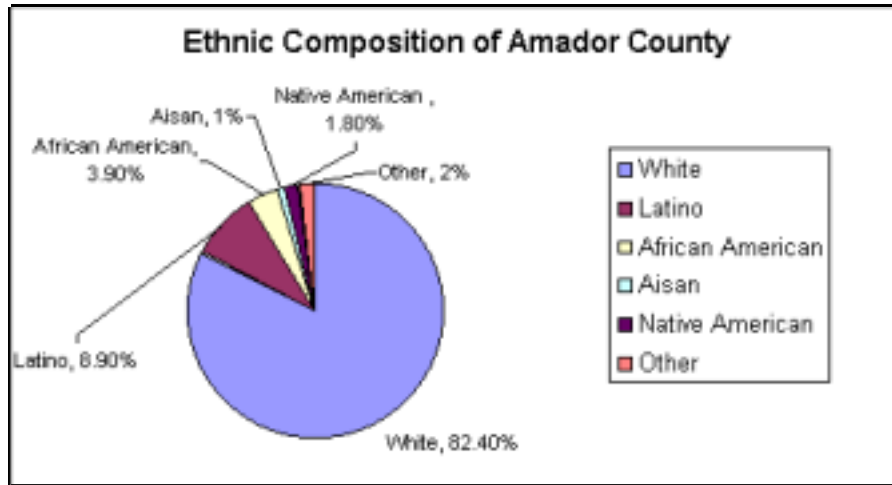


Figure 5 Ethnic Composition of Amador County in the Year 2000
Source: 2000 U.S. Census.

Language Spoken At Home

According to the 2000 Census, 92.4% of homes with children 5 years and over spoke English only. Five percent of homes primarily spoke Spanish; 1.7% spoke other Indo-European languages; and 0.7% spoke Asian or Pacific Island languages. Among people who spoke a language other than English at home, 1.6% of the county population who spoke Spanish, 0.2% who spoke other Indo-European language, and 0.4% who spoke Asian/Pacific Island language at home identified themselves to speak English less than "very well".

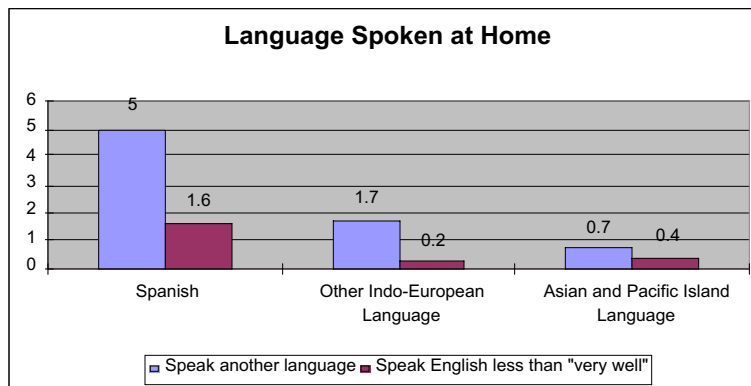


Figure 6 Population Percentage in Amador County Speaking a Language Other Than English at Home in 2000
(Language estimates are limited to those aged 5 and over)
Source: 2000 US Census.

Why is this important? It is important to know the characteristics of population. As a population becomes more diverse, education, health care, and other social services must be tailored to meet the cultural needs of a heterogeneous society. Although currently Amador County is primarily white, the population is becoming more diverse within recent decades, especially the Hispanic group in Amador County and in California. Therefore, race/ethnic composition should be one of the factors for local planning and community development.

Age

What is it? The age of Amador County's population is presented here. It should be noted that the Census does not produce estimates for age by residence type. Therefore, the numbers presented here include both residential and institutional populations.

How are we doing? Amador County's population is getting older. The median age shifted from 30.9 in 1990 to 42.7 in 2000, which was almost ten years older than the California median age. The average age of Amador County's population was 6.6 years older than that of California in 2003. According to the 2000 Census, the group, ages 41 to 50, grew 46% between 1990 and 2000. Those under age 10 actually decreased between the same period by 10.2%. The group with the most growth were those 81 and older, which grew 73.6%.

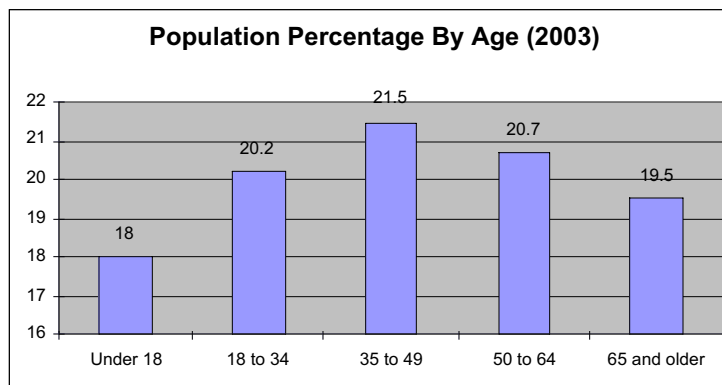


Figure 7 Amador County Population Percentage by Age in the Year 2003
Source: California Institute for County Government.

Why is this important? It is important to know the characteristics of population. Health care, social support and other services will be required to meet the growing needs of the aging population.

PERSONAL HEALTH

Physical well-being and the support systems can ensure appropriate health care for our citizens. This section on “Personal Health” provides a snapshot of physical health-related trends for residents of Amador County, and provides information about existing services.

Amador County is served by Sutter Amador Hospital, a private not-for-profit community hospital that is linked to a larger system of tertiary care hospitals in an adjacent county. Sutter Amador Hospital opened a new state-of-the-art facility in spring 2000. Sutter Amador hospital owns two full service primary care centers in the remote rural communities of Plymouth and Pioneer, and one pediatric center in Jackson. Another primary care center that is a satellite of Lodi Memorial Hospital, provides services to Ione, a third remote rural area of the county. These four medical centers provide the majority of care to the county’s low income and Medi-Cal eligible population. In addition, there is a Native American medical clinic located just outside of Jackson that serves the Native American community as well as other ethnic groups.

The only long term care (LTC) hospital in Amador County is equipped with 199 licensed LTC beds. The number of licensed beds per 1,000 population is 5.7, which is higher than California and the U.S. average around 2. According to the 2002 Health Data Summaries for California Counties, in 2001 there were 62 active non-federal physicians and 22 licensed dentists in Amador County. The number of persons per physician was 566, and the number of persons per dentist was 1,595.

Amador County, like many rural counties, has a shortage of health care providers. While only two areas of the county (Pioneer and Plymouth) have qualified as “underserved areas,” many residents have problems finding a primary care physician. For reasons related to economic and workload challenges, many health care providers do not accept Medi-Cal. It is also difficult to recruit physicians to rural areas. The average age of Amador County physicians is currently 49 years, therefore recruitment will become increasingly important. Amador County has two private practice dentists that will serve an extremely limited number of Denti-Cal recipients.

While local health care providers are well-trained and provide many inpatient and outpatient services, certain subspecialties are represented only part-time (e.g. cardiology and pulmonary medicine) or not at all (e.g. endocrinology and oncology). For this reason, many patients need to seek care in more urban areas of Sacramento, Stockton and Lodi. This can be particularly challenging for non-drivers, including many young, single parents and seniors because public transportation to Sacramento is limited, and none is available to Stockton. Children who need extensive dental care requiring sedation must travel to Atwater, approximately a 3 hour drive.

Another barrier to service for many residents in Amador County is the lack of care available during evening and early morning periods. Several Voices for Families focus group participants expressed concern about after-hours health care access and data on Sutter Amador Hospital ER room usage shows an unusually high level of usage that is likely linked to the absence of alternative options.⁷

⁷ The updated information is based on the Amador County Community Assessment 2000.

Maternal & Child Health

The Baby Birth

The average number of live births from 1996 to 2004 in Amador County was 264. The biggest number of live births occurred in the year 2003 (298), and the smallest number was 237 in 2000. According to the Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002, the birth rate per 1,000 population of Amador County in 2000 was 6.6. In 2003, 44.2% of mothers gave birth outside county of residence. There was an increased number of live births to women older than 34 years from 38 in the year 2000 to 53 in 2003, while there was a decreased number of live births to teenage mothers (17 years or younger) from 14 in the year 2001 to 5 in 2003.

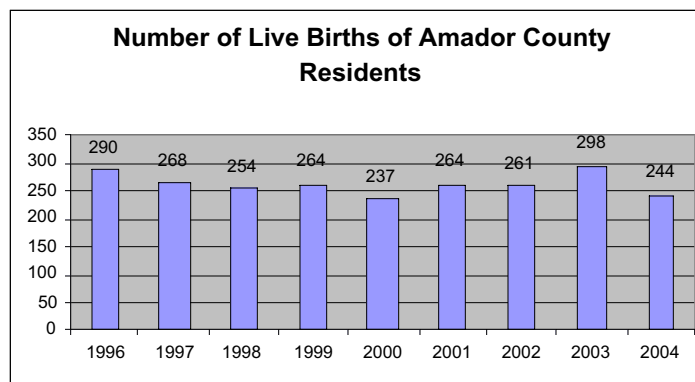


Figure 8 Number of Live Births in Amador County from the Year 1996 to 2004
Source: Amador County Health Department, Perinatal Indicators of Amador County Residents.

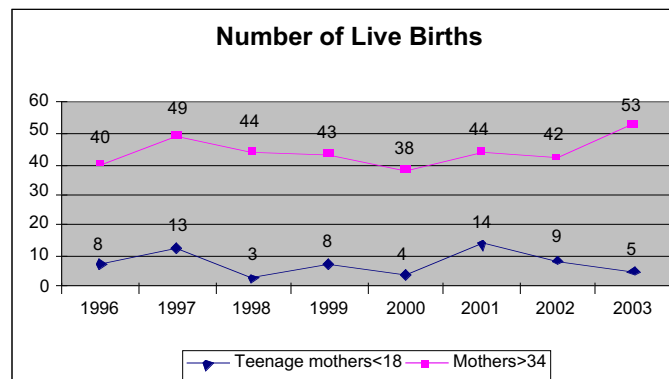


Figure 9 Number of Live Births to Women Older than 34 or Younger than 18 from 1996 to 2003
Source: Amador County Health Department, Perinatal Indicators of Amador County Residents.

According to the 2002 Health Data Summaries for California Counties, 32.1% birth deliveries were paid by Medi-Cal or other government funding, 28.2% were paid by HMO and prepaid plans, and 38.5% were paid by private insurance.

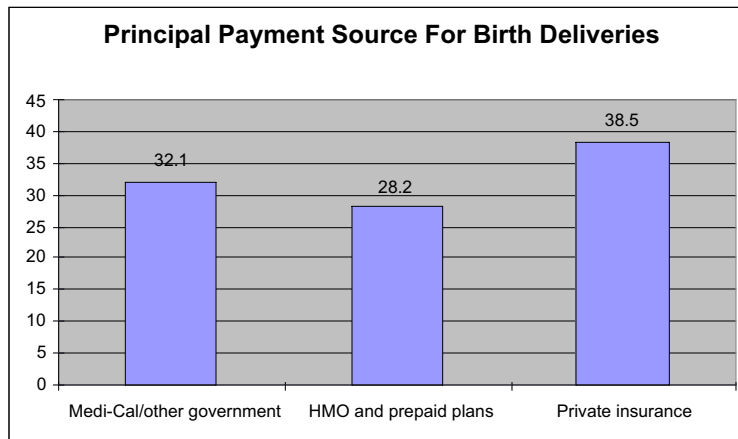


Figure 10 Amador County Percentage of Birth Deliveries by Payment Source
 Source: California Department of Health Services, Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002.

Prenatal Care

What is it? Prenatal care includes three major components: risk assessment, treatment for medical conditions or risk reduction, and education. Early, high quality prenatal care is critical for improving pregnancy outcomes. This indicator tracks the percentage of expectant mothers who did not begin prenatal care in the first trimester. It does not measure whether prenatal care was continued throughout the pregnancy, nor the quality of care.

How are we doing? The average percentage of expectant mothers who did not start prenatal care in the first trimester in 2000 to 2003 has dropped to 13% from 16% in the 1990's. Though Amador County ranks 4th best among California's 58 counties in terms of entry into prenatal care, the county has not yet met the Healthy People 2010 National Objective of 90% beginning prenatal care in the first trimester.

Why is this important? Many factors are associated with expectant mothers receiving late or no prenatal care, including: low income, less than a high school education, language and cultural barriers, lack of transportation, lack of insurance coverage, substance abuse, inability to take time off of work, teenage pregnancy and a large number of children. A future America in which the right to grow to one's full potential is universally assured through attention to the comprehensive physical, psychological and social needs of the maternal and child health population. People strive for a society where children are wanted and born with optimal health, receive quality care and are nurtured lovingly and sensitively as they mature into healthy, productive adults. If all expectant mothers received adequate prenatal care, the estimated savings would be \$14,755 per every low birth-weight birth prevented.

Low Birth-Weight Babies

What is it? Low birth-weight babies (between 3lbs 503 to 5lbs 803 at birth) include those born full-term but underweight, those born prematurely and underweight and those with retarded intrauterine growth.

How are we doing? Amador is in the top 13 counties in the state that meet and exceed the Healthy People 2010 National Objectives of 5.0 low birth weights per hundred births with average from 1999 to 2001 of 4.7.

Why is this important? Low birth-weight is frequently preventable and prevention strategies are effective. Low birth-weight is associated with a number of factors including younger and older maternal age, low socioeconomic status, low educational attainment, late entry into prenatal care, low maternal weight, and smoking and substance abuse. Low birth-weight is the risk factor most closely associated with neonatal death. Another important issue is the long-term effect of low birth-weight on affected infants who survive their first year, as these infants are more likely to experience long-term developmental and neurologic disabilities than infants of normal birth-weight.

Immunizations

What is it? California’s Health and Safety Code requires that children entering school (both public and private) have a certain set of required immunizations. For children entering kindergarten, required immunizations are the following: diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis (four or more doses), hepatitis b (three doses), measles/mumps/rubella (one of mumps, two doses of measles-containing vaccine and rubella-containing vaccine), and polio (three or more doses).

How are we doing? During the early 1990’s, more than 94% of Amador County’s kindergartners were fully immunized by the time they began school. The county’s immunization rate was consistently higher than California and met the Healthy People 2000 National Objective of at least 90%. The immunization rate dropped in 1997 when hepatitis B became a new required immunization. Since that time, Amador County and California have had nearly the same rate.

Year	California	Amador County
2000	92.2%	95.21%
2001	90.85%	94.89%
2002	92.29%	97.09%
2003	Not Available	94.26%

Table 2 Amador County Kindergarten Immunization Rate from the Year 2000 to 2003
Source: California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch

Immunization levels for children who are up-to-date at 24 months range from 65% to 71%. Immunization rates for children entering kindergarten in 2002 fully immunized are 97.09% (California is 92.99%). However, retrospective studies which these same records show 68.8% (California 65.5%) were up to date at age 2 years.

Year	California	Amador County
2001	57.9%	71%
2002	63.1%	68.8%
2003	65.5%	65.4%

Table 3 Immunization Coverage Levels (4 DTP/DTaP/DT, 3 Polio, 1MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B) for Children at 24 Months from 2001 to 2003

Source: California Department of Health Services, Amador County Health Department Clinics

Why is it important? Immunizations are very important to assure a healthy community by keeping people safe from life threatening and/ or debilitating diseases.

Tobacco Use

Adult Smoking Prevalence in Amador County

Smoking by California adults dropped to 16.2 percent in 2003, a record low. Adult smoking has dropped 12 percent since 1998, when the rate measured 18.4 percent. The continuing decline of smoking in California is one of the state’s great public health achievements. However, the success is tempered by the fact that those of lower socioeconomic status continue to smoke at rates that are substantially higher than those of other groups.

What is it? The data for this indicator comes from the California Tobacco Survey conducted by the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, U.C. San Diego. A current smoker is someone who smokes at the time the survey was conducted. This definition does not take into account the number of cigarettes smoked, nor whether the respondent was addicted.

How are we doing? Amador County was included in the Gold Country Region of twelve foothill counties. The Gold Country Region had a higher smoking prevalence than did California. However, the region’s adult smoking prevalence decreased for each year from 22.1% in 1990 to 17.2% in 2002, and the youth smoking prevalence decreased from 11.6% in 1990 to 10.4% in 1999.

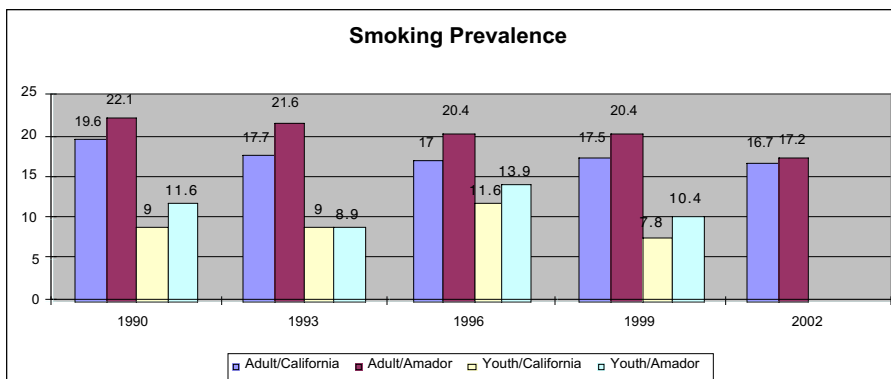


Figure 11 Regional Smoking Prevalence in Amador County and California from 1990 to 1999. Source: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section.

California Healthy Kids Survey

The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is a statewide confidential questionnaire that measures a wide range of student-health-behaviors provided by the California Department of Education (CDE). It is administered to students in the seventh, ninth and eleventh grades every other year, and requires parental consent for participation. The Healthy Kids Survey was conducted in Amador County Unified School District to examine student behaviors related to school safety, drug, alcohol and tobacco use and violent behaviors, and to evaluate the effectiveness of Amador County Unified School District in changing those behaviors.

Most recently, the CHKS was administered in Spring 2003. The information provided by the survey results is used to help in decision-making, as it pertains to programs related to Safe Schools, Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco use, as well as for providing data for other applicable grants. There is a strong correlation between achievement and positive health behaviors; therefore, helping students to improve behaviors in these areas via district programs, curriculum, grants and support is essential to improving student achievement. The following information shows students' tobacco use patterns in Amador County Unified School District.⁸

The survey shows that in the year 2003, the higher the grade students were in, the more they had tried cigarettes. At the time the survey was conducted, 15% of the students in the seventh grade had ever used a cigarette, including those who had one or two puffs. At the same time, 30% of the students in the ninth grade, and 39% in the eleventh grade had ever used a cigarette. One percent of the students in Grade 7, 2% in Grade 9, and 3% in Grade 11 were daily users.

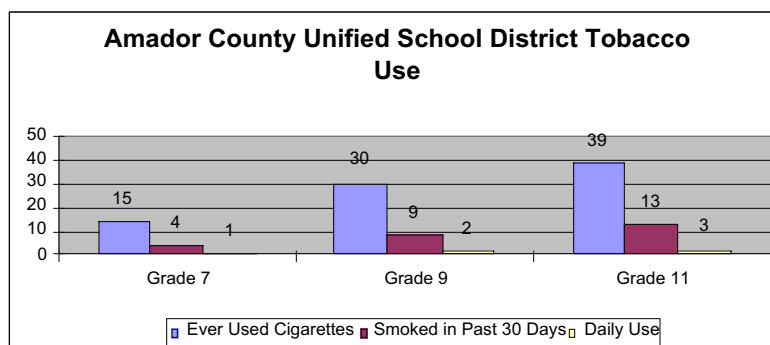


Figure 12 Amador County Student Percentage of Tobacco Use in the Year 2003

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Technical Report 2003.

It shows that among Amador County Unified School District students in Grade 7, 9 and 11, more female students had ever tried cigarettes. Three percent more girls in Grade 7 and 9 used cigarettes than boys in the same grade, and 11% more girls in Grade 11 use cigarettes than boys in the same grade.

⁸ The information is based on the California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Technical Report 2003.

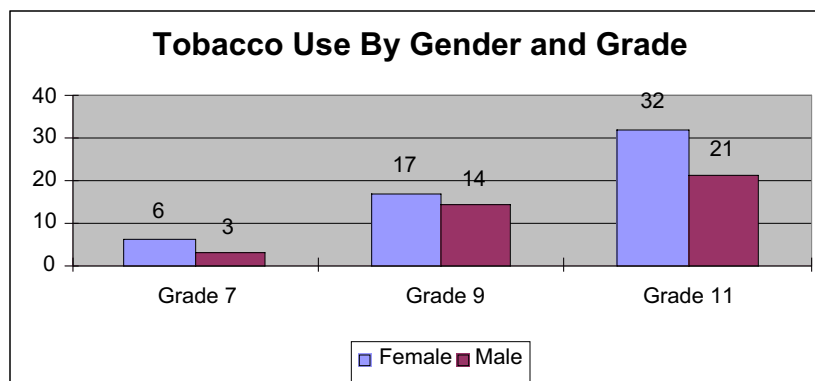


Figure 13 Amador County Student Tobacco Use by Gender and Grade in the Year 2003
Source: California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Technical Report 2003.

Adult smoking had a significant impact on children's behavior and attitude toward cigarette smoking. At the time the survey was conducted, 85% of the students in Grade 7, 89% in Grade 9 and 93% in Grade 11 reported that they knew adults who smoked at least once a month. This is a big portion of the students, which shows the significant prevalence of adult smokers.

The students reported in the survey that it was not difficult to obtain cigarettes. 37% of the students in the seventh grade said it was fairly easy or very easy to obtain cigarettes. At the same time, 67% of the students in Grade 9, and 82% in Grade 11 reported it was fairly or very easy to obtain cigarettes.

Since adult and youth smoking prevalence are higher than California's average, and the tobacco use has a great impact on the students' lives in Amador County, there is a great need to pay attention to and improve tobacco education in the school district. When the survey was conducted, 66% of the students in Grade 7 and 70% in Grade 9 reported that during the past 12 months, they had had lessons about tobacco and its effects on the body. However, among the students in Grade 11, only 22% said that they had tobacco education while they had higher smoking prevalence than the students in the other two grades in this survey.

Why is this important? Tobacco addiction causes devastating emotional and medical consequences as well as serious financial hardships. Cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States. Each year, more than 400,000 Americans die from cigarette smoking. In fact, one in every five deaths in the United States is smoking-related. Every year, smoking kills more than 276,000 men and 142,000 women.⁹ In the year 2004, more than 43,000 people in California will prematurely die from a tobacco-related disease. The cost of smoking in California is nearly \$16 billion annually or \$3,331 per smoker every year. Preventing the onset of smoking among young people is critical to the long-term success of tobacco control goals; however, helping smokers quit is critical to reducing the health and financial burden attributed to smoking in the short term.¹⁰

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Smoking-attributable mortality and years of potential life lost, United States, 1990," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 1993; 42(33):645-8

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Cigarette Smoking Among Adults, United States, 1997" (Fact Sheet) at <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/97adultprevfacts.htm>.

Drug & Alcohol Use

Drug Arrests

What is it? Drug-related arrests include both misdemeanor and felony offenses among adults and minors. This would include possession, use and/or distribution of illegal drugs such as cannabis, narcotics, heroin, amphetamines, barbiturates and psychedelics. This indicator only measures drug use that results in arrests.

How are we doing? Overall, the drug-related arrests in Amador County decreased from 330 in the year 1993 to 271 in 2002. In 1999, the number of arrests was the lowest at 186. However, the number was on the rise in 2001 and 2002.

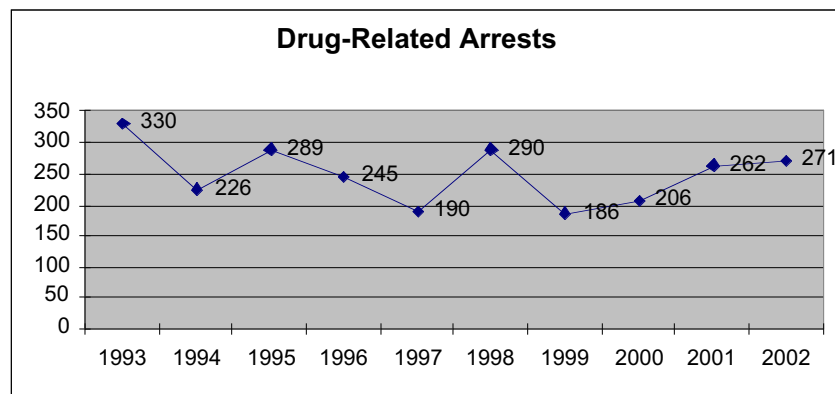


Figure 14 Number of Amador County Drug-Related Arrests from 1993 to 2002
Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

Why is this important? Drug dependence is a chronic, relapsing disorder. Addicted persons frequently engage in self-destructive and criminal behavior. Research has confirmed that treatment can help end dependence on addictive drugs and reduce the consequences of addictive drug use on society.¹¹ While no single approach for substance abuse and addiction treatment exists, comprehensive and carefully tailored treatment works.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2010, January 2000, Chapter 26, Page 5.

Alcohol-Related Arrests

What is it? Alcohol-related arrests include public drunkenness, liquor law violations and driving under the influence. This data includes misdemeanor and felony charges for adults and minors. This indicator only measures alcohol use that results in arrest.

How are we doing? The number of alcohol-related arrests in Amador County had fallen from 435 arrests in 1993 to 359 in 2002.

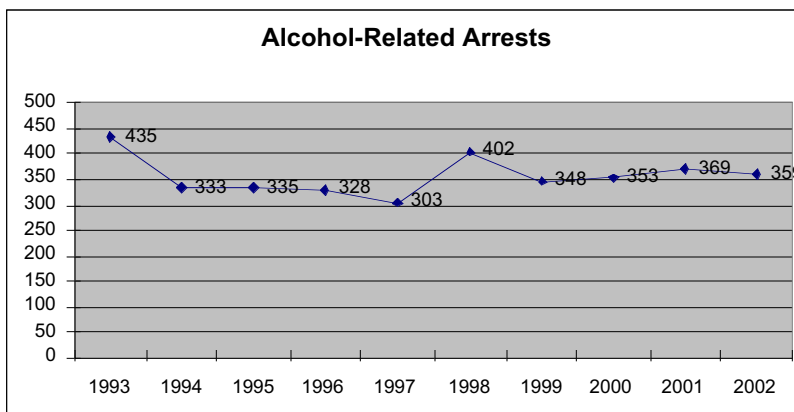


Figure 15 Number of Amador County Alcohol-Related Arrests from 1993 to 2002
Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

Why is this important? Excessive drinking has consequences for virtually every part of the body. Each year, about 100,000 deaths in the United States are related to alcohol consumption. Alcohol use has been linked with a substantial proportion of injuries and deaths from traffic crashes, falls, fires, and drownings. It also is a factor in homicide, suicide, domestic violence, child abuse and high-risk sexual behavior.¹²

¹² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2010, January 2000, Chapter 26, Page 3 and 4.

California Healthy Kids Survey

The following figure illustrates the percentage of students who have ever tried a full drink of alcohol (not just a sip), inhalants, or marijuana. These data provide information about the overall drug environment in the school and community. However, lifetime use rates include students who may have only experimented once.¹³

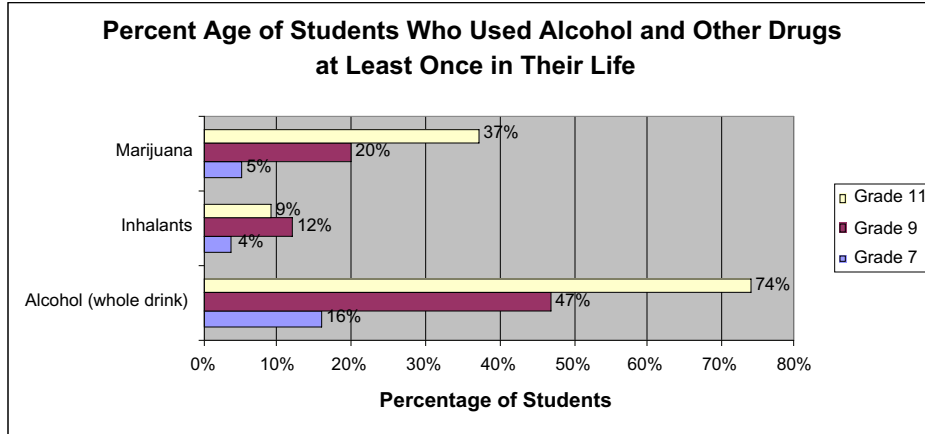


Figure 16 Percentage of Students Who Used Alcohol and Other Drugs at Least Once in Their Life.
Source: California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Technical Report 2003.

¹³ The information is from the California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Technical Report 2003.

Chronic Disease

Coronary Heart Disease

What is it? Like any muscle, the heart needs a constant supply of oxygen and nutrients that is carried by the blood in the coronary arteries. When the coronary arteries become narrowed or clogged and cannot supply blood to the heart, the result is coronary heart disease. A heart attack occurs when the blood supply is cut off completely.

How are we doing?. Amador County's age-adjusted rates of deaths from heart disease have been lower than California's. However, the death rates in the county have been on the rise in recent years. The following figure shows the causes of deaths in Amador County between 1999 and 2000. Heart diseases and cancer were two major causes of deaths.

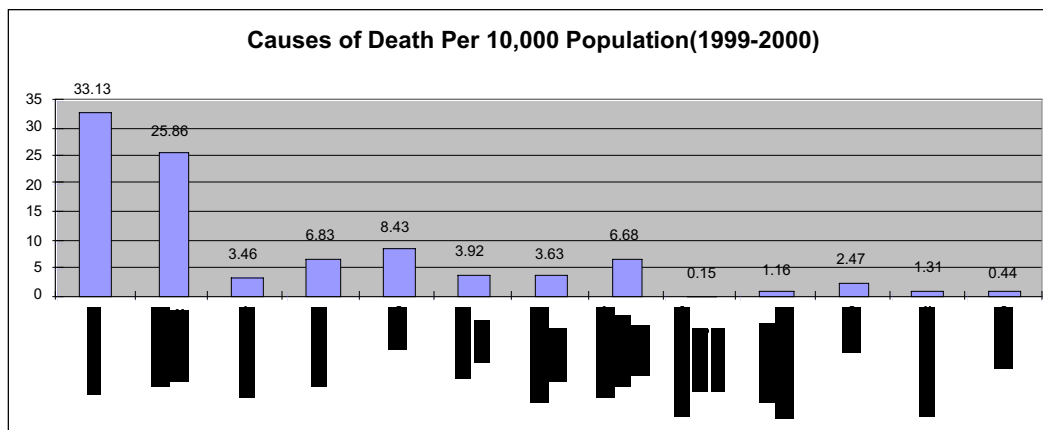


Figure 17 Amador County Residents' Causes of Deaths per 10,000 Population in 1999 and 2000
Source: California Department of Health Services.

Why is this important? Coronary heart disease accounts for the largest proportion of heart disease. While the death rate due to coronary heart disease has declined over the past 35 years, it continues to be the leading cause of death in the United States.¹⁴ It affects about 7 million Americans, causes over 500,000 deaths annually, and costs the nation approximately \$43 billion per year. The major modifiable risk factors for coronary heart disease are high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and cigarette smoking. Obesity and physical inactivity increase the likelihood of developing high blood pressure and cholesterol, and ultimately the risk of heart attack. Regular exercise, good nutrition, and smoking cessation are keys to controlling the risk factors for coronary heart disease. Immediate action at the first sign of a heart attack is critical in saving heart tissue.

¹⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2010, January 2000, Chapter 12, Page 3.

Cancer (All Types)

What is it? Cancer is a large group of diseases characterized by the uncontrolled spread of abnormal cells. Normally, the body's defenses target and destroy abnormal cells. Cancer occurs when abnormal cells manage to overcome these defenses. It can occur in almost every area of the body.

How are we doing? From 1999 to 2001, age-adjusted death rates due to cancer were lower than California's. Yet, from 2000 to 2002 Amador County's age-adjusted death rate was higher than the state's. Between 1999 and 2002, lung cancer accounted for the largest percentage of all cancer deaths in Amador County.

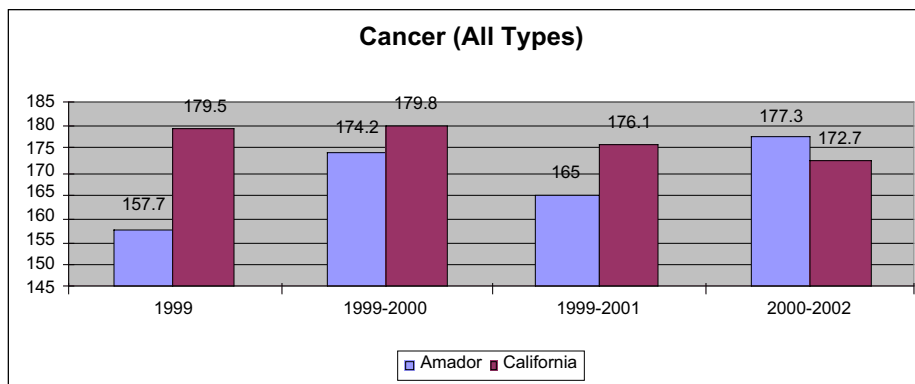


Figure 18 Amador County Cancer (All Types) Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 Population
Source: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.

Why is this important? Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States.¹⁵ During 1999, an estimated 1,221,800 Americans were diagnosed with cancer.¹⁶ The overall annual cost for cancer is estimated at \$107 billion, with \$37 billion in direct medical costs. Evidence suggests that several types of cancer can be prevented and that survival rates continue to improve. It is estimated that as much as 50% of cancer can be prevented through smoking cessation and improved dietary habits. Additionally, routine screenings are critical to detecting the disease in early stages when it is more treatable.

¹⁵ National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 47, Number 19, June 30, 1999

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2010, January 2000, Chapter 3, Page 3.

Cerebrovascular Disease

What is it? Cerebrovascular disease, also known as “stroke” or “brain attack,” occurs when blood circulation to the brain fails. Brain cells can die from the decreased blood flow and the resulting lack of oxygen. There are two broad categories of stroke: those caused by a blockage of blood flow and those caused by bleeding. While not usually fatal, a blockage of a blood vessel in the brain or neck is the most frequent cause of stroke.

How are we doing? In the year 1999, the county’s age-adjusted rate of 66.1 deaths per 100,000 was higher than the state (63.3). However, between 1999 and 2002, the rates decreased and were lower than California’s rates.

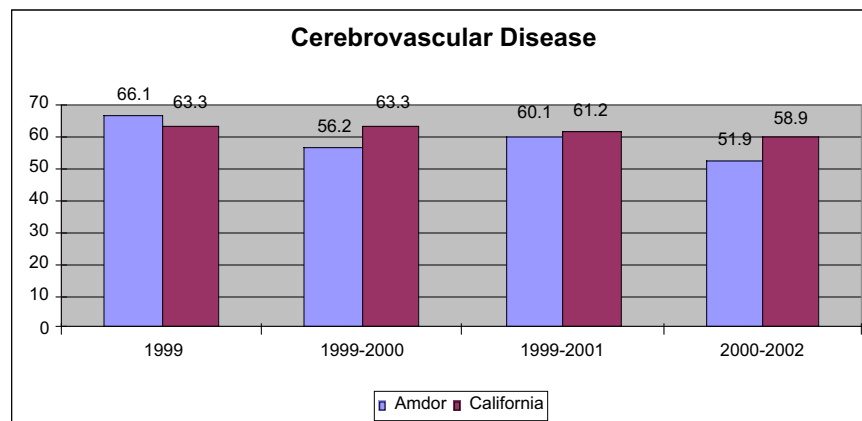


Figure 19 Amador County Cerebrovascular Disease Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 Population
 Source: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.

Why is this important? Though stroke mortality has declined by more than 50% since 1972, it is currently the third leading cause of death in the United States. Cerebrovascular disease is also a major cause of disability with 400,000 to 500,000 Americans suffering non-fatal strokes each year. Much of this decline has been attributed to the improved control of high blood pressure. New medical advances can dramatically reduce the severity of stroke, making it all the more important to become familiar with the signs of a stroke and seek early medical treatment. Evidence indicates that cigarette smoking is a risk factor for stroke, and that smoking cessation will reduce stroke risk.

Unintentional Injuries & Suicide

Unintentional Injuries

What is it? Often referred to as “accidents” or “accidental injuries,” unintentional injuries refer to incidents in which bodily harm or death is sustained as a result of an unintended or unanticipated event. Unintentional injuries include, but are not limited to, the following causes: motor vehicle crashes, poisoning, fires, drowning and falls.

How are we doing? The age-adjusted death rate due to unintentional injuries has been higher in Amador County than California. The rate increased from 30.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 1999 to 41.5 in 2000-2002. The Healthy People 2000 National Objective is no more than 17.5.

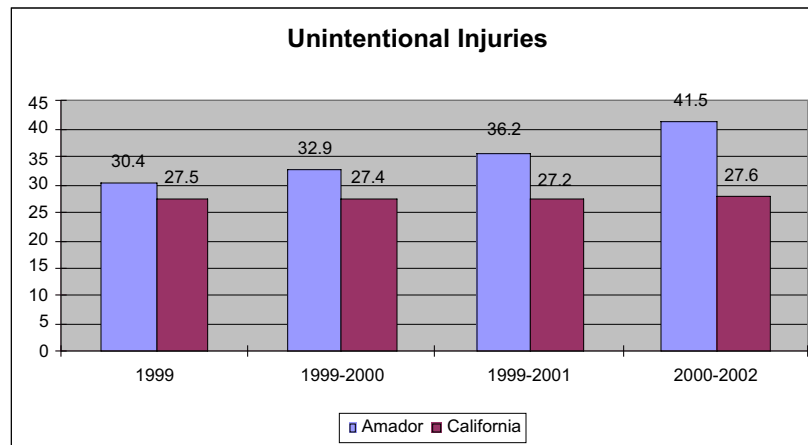


Figure 20 Amador County Unintentional Injuries Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 Population
Source: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.

According to California Department of Health Services records, between 2000 and 2002, the major cause of nonfatal unintentional injuries were falls. Among all age groups, people at the age of 65 or above are the most vulnerable group to fall and get injured, followed by the group at the age between 45 and 64. Kids are the least vulnerable group to get injured by fall. In 2000, among 198 fall cases, 158 cases occurred in the age group of 65 and above. In 2001, among 167 fall cases, 113 cases occurred in the age group of 65 and above. In 2002, among 168 fall cases, 121 cases occurred in the age group of 65 and above.

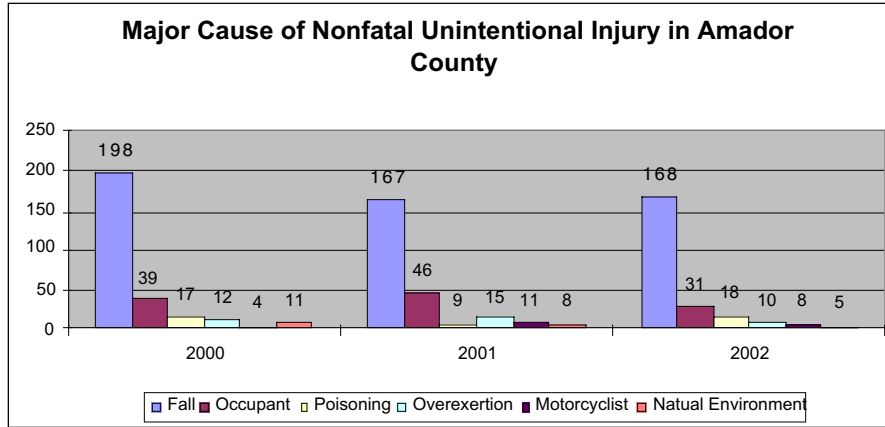


Figure 21 Major Causes of Nonfatal Unintentional Injuries in Amador County from 2000 to 2002
Source: California Department of Health Services.

Why is this important? Unintentional injuries constitute the fifth leading cause of death in the United States.¹⁷ During the first four decades of life, unintentional injuries claim more lives than infectious or chronic diseases.¹⁸ Each year, millions of years of life are prematurely taken by unintentional injuries, more than from any other cause. Additionally, millions of people are incapacitated by unintentional injuries, with many suffering lifelong disabilities. Although the greatest impact of injury is human suffering and loss of life, the financial cost is staggering. By the late 1990's, it was estimated that unintentional injuries cost \$224 billion for medical care, rehabilitation, lost income, and productivity annually.¹⁹ Injury-related deaths tend to be 40% higher in rural populations than in urban populations.²⁰

Suicide

What is it? Suicide can be prevented in many cases by early recognition and treatment of mental disorders. Nationally, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death.²¹ At least 90 percent of all people who kill themselves have a mental and/or substance abuse disorder. In addition to mental and substance abuse disorders, risk factors include: prior suicide attempt, stressful life events, access to lethal suicide methods, history of family violence, history of physical or sexual abuse, and homophobia. The indicator used here, "completed" suicides, paints only a portion of the picture. There is no way to consistently and accurately count the number of individuals who are suicidal or attempt suicide. The ratio between attempted and completed suicide varies greatly by gender and age.

¹⁷ National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 47, Number 19, June 30, 1999.

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives, September 1990, page 272.

¹⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2010, January 2000, Chapter 15, page 4.

²⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2010, January 2000, Chapter 15, page 16.

²¹ National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 47, Number 19, June 30, 1999.

How are we doing? For the last decade, Amador County had a much higher age-adjusted suicide rate than California as a whole. In 1999, the county's age-adjusted suicide rate was 21.2 deaths per 10,000 people (21.2 deaths per 100,000 people). The Healthy People 2000 National Objective is not more than 5 suicides per 100,000 people. A review of suicides between 2000 and 2002 found that the majority of victims in Amador County were between the age of 21 and 64 (80%). Individuals under 20 and over 64 committed suicides less frequently than did middle-aged individuals.

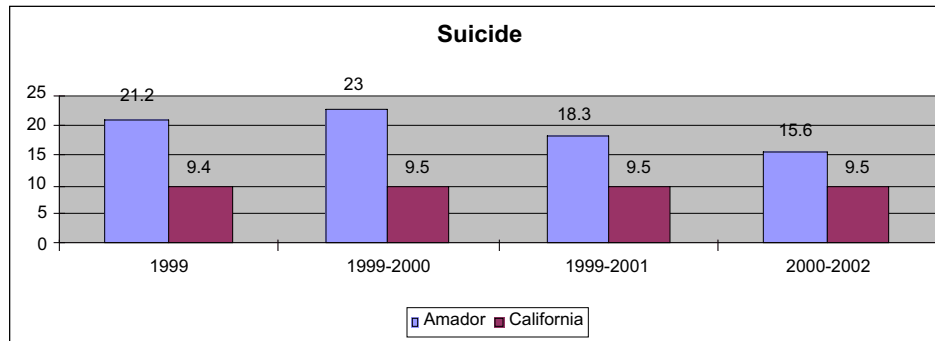


Figure 22 Amador County Suicide Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 Population
Source: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.

Although the total number of suicide or attempts has decreased, it is still a great concern that the suicide rate in Amador County has been significantly higher than the California average from 1987 to the present.

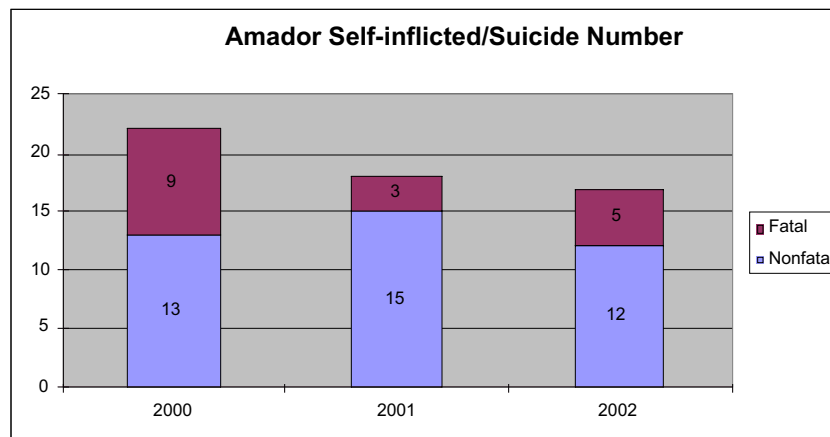


Figure 23 Amador County Residents Number of Self-inflicted/Suicide between 2000 and 2002
Source: California Department of Health Services.

Why is this important? Health experts believe that the region's high suicide rates are linked to the lack of mental health services in the Sierra Nevada which, in turn, are linked to the difficulty of serving small, dispersed populations.²² Rural areas often do not generate enough business to support psychiatrists, therapists or even suicide hot-lines. This lack of services is often magnified by a reluctance to seek help, either because of the high value rural culture places on self-sufficiency or because of the challenge of protecting privacy and confidentiality in small towns.

²² Sierra Business Council, Sierra Nevada Wealth Index: Understanding and Tracking Our Region's Wealth, 1999.

Health Care Services and Insurance

Dental Services

Dental resources in Amador are extremely limited for low-income families. Amador has received the dubious designation of being earmarked by the state as an “Under-served Community” for dental care due to the lack of Denti-Cal providers registered with Delta Dental serving our county. There are approximately 1,189 children eligible for Denti-Cal services. We currently (5/04) have no dental practices accepting Denti-Cal eligible children for either preventative or restorative care. The Jackson Rancheria Health Complex is the major provider of dental services for low-income families with 8 dental chairs, 3.5 dentists and 1 part time dental hygienist with plans to hire another full time dentist. Currently, their practice is full and they are not accepting new Denti-Cal clients. Two private practice dentists will see Denti-Cal children on a case-by-case basis. Families must travel an average of 50 miles into surrounding counties for both preventative and restorative care. Children requiring sedation must travel approximately 3 hours to Atwater.²³

Mental Health Services

Mental Health services for the MediCal population are managed for the county from their office in Jackson. A psychiatrist for adults comes in from Concord twice a week. All initial requests for service are triaged within one to two weeks of the initial request. Intake appointments for adults can take up to a month, and up to two months for children. The child psychiatrist comes in from Sacramento once a week. Those with private insurance are referred to local psychologists or, since the county has no privately practicing psychiatrist, referred to Stockton or Sacramento. Barriers to care include: transportation to Jackson for those in the more isolated areas and lack of timely appointments.²⁴

Adolescent Health Care and Other Issues

In the past, the community has requested more services for adolescents and their parents. Much of the new money from grants (First 5 and Office of Child Abuse Prevention funds) coming into the county has targeted children less than 6 years of age. Many county agencies consider “youth” as potentially at-risk populations and target prevention programs to this group. Some of their risk areas include STD’s, HIV disease, pregnancy, obesity, unintentional injury/deaths, alcohol/drug abuse, and crime, both as a perpetrator and a victim.

In the spring of 2003, the Amador County Unified School District conducted the Healthy Kids survey of 7th, 9th and 11th graders, with an average of 55% of students participating in the survey. Twenty-two percent felt they were overweight (28% in 11th grade), and 6% considered themselves obese.²⁵ The County school nurse reports only one student with type 2 diabetes in the school system.

²³ The information is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan 2004-2009.

²⁴ The information is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan 2004-2009.

²⁵ Amador County Unified School District Healthy Kids Survey, Spring 2003. The information is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan 2004-2009.

Health Care Insurance

According to the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan (2004-2009), the enrollment for middle-income pregnant women is supported by the County's Perinatal Services Coordinator. From program inception in 1992, Amador County enrolled 57 clients through July, 2002. Fiscal year 2002-2003 enrolled 21 clients were eligible. In part, because of the Perinatal Service Coordinator, physicians are more aware of the program and continue to refer clients. Physician office education about the program remains a challenge. With recent state budget cuts to AIM (access for infants and mothers) (early 2004), state technical support staff are no longer available to assist with client enrollment or outreach efforts.

The total Healthy Family enrollment in Amador in the past three years (2000 to 2003) remains over 300. Yearly enrollment averages 143. However, approximately this same number disenrolls every year. At this time, there is no noticeable problem with access to primary health care for low-income families with 6 full time practices open to new clients and three offices providing care for existing patients and their families. The number of births funded by MediCal ranged from 34.9% to 38% over the last 3 years. Single female heads of household, with children under 18, are 5.4% of the population. This is usually an indicator of poverty level/MediCal households.²⁶

²⁶ The information is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan 2004-2009.

PARENTING, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

According to the 2003 California Child Care Portfolio and the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 5,079 children between 0 and 13 years old in Amador County, among whom 3,249 children have parents in the workforce. In this largely rural region, many parents travel long distances to find good-paying, stable employment, resulting in demand for care during evenings and weekends. However, there is no center-based care during these hours, and only 25 percent of licensed family homes operate during these non-traditional hours.

Although the county has about the same number of slots in licensed centers and family child care homes, Child Care Resources, the local resource and referral agency (R&R) reports both options are often full. In Jackson, the county seat, the demand for child care well exceeds the supply. In the western part of the county, the amount of child care has, thus far, kept pace with the growing population. In addition, the number of households in Amador County speaking Spanish has nearly doubled in the last decade, which results in the need for Spanish-speaking child care providers.

Amador County Child Care Needs

According to the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network’s 2003 Child Care Portfolio, there are 3,249 children between the age of 0 and 13 in Amador County with parents in the workforce, which is 64% of the total of 5,079 children. Based on these numbers, licensed child care is only available for 24% of children in Amador County with parents in the labor force. Additionally, only 6% of all slots in licensed child care centers are available for infants, and 45% are available for preschoolers. This would indicate that the greatest need for child care is for children ages 0 to 2. The total number of licensed slots available for infants cannot be calculated because family child care providers are licensed for a specific number of children, not by ages of the children in their care.

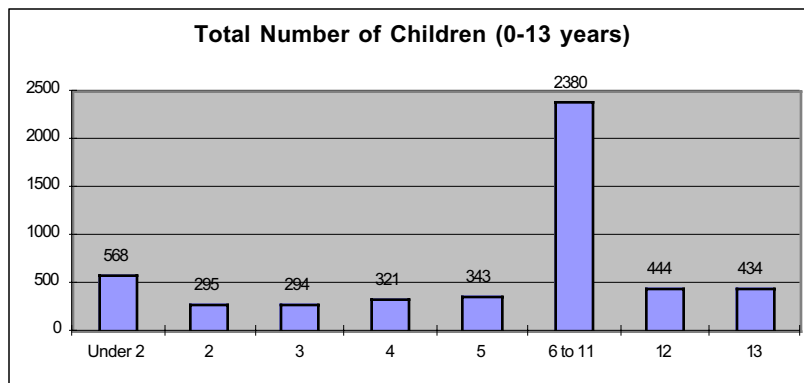


Figure 24 Number of Children between 0 and 13 in Amador County by Age in the Year 2000
Source: 2003 California Child Care Portfolio.

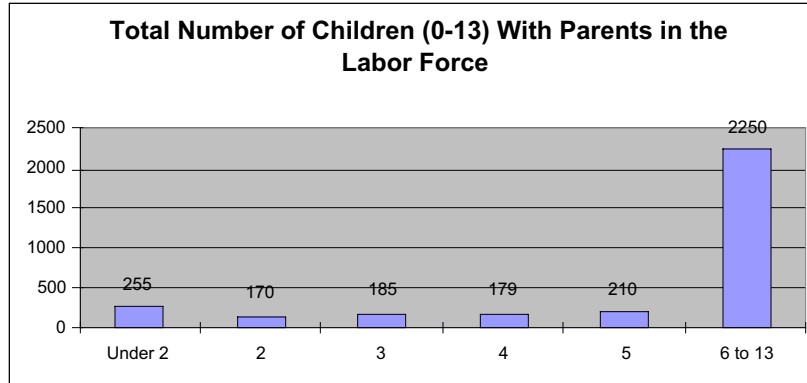


Figure 25 Number of Children between 0 and 13 with Parents in the Workforce in 2000

Source: 2003 California Child Care Portfolio.

Note: This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.

Amador County Child Care Supply

According to the 2003 California Child Care Portfolio, the number of licensed child care slots in Amador County has fluctuated between 720 and 770 over the last two years. According to the 2003 California Child Care Portfolio, Amador hosted a total of 770 licensed child care slots. Fifty-four percent (416 slots) of those were in licensed child care centers. The remaining 46% (354 slots) were in licensed family child care homes.²⁷

There were a total of nine licensed child care centers in Amador County licensed for 381 children, and there were 40 family child care homes licensed to care for an additional 346 children. However, only 254 children were actually enrolled in those family child care homes primarily for two reasons. First, some licensed providers prefer to care for fewer children than they are licensed to provide care for, and secondly, some child care providers report difficulty in filling their licensed slots. Four State Preschool programs in the county serve approximately 100 children. There are 30 TrustLine providers currently providing care for 47 children through the HRC CCR subsidy program. TrustLine is a database of nannies and caregivers that have cleared criminal background checks in California, but who are not licensed. It's the only authorized screening program of in-home caregivers in California with access to fingerprint records at both the state Department of Justice and the FBI.

License exempt providers include relatives, care in a child's own home (in-home care), TrustLine providers, some public recreation programs, care for school age children at their own school and care in a provider's home when care is provided for one or more children from the same family. In addition to the licensed facilities in Amador County, there are another seven child care centers that are license exempt.

²⁷ The information in this section is directly from the 2003 California Child Care Portfolio.

Families and Children in Special Programs

Families Receiving Help Paying for Child Care

In August 2003, 267 children in 154 families were receiving subsidies from the Human Resource Council's (HRC) Child Care Resources program (CCR). At that time, there were 104 families on the eligibility waiting list for receiving assistance for child care from HRC. Those families had a total of 127 children. Of those, 15 were infants, 43 were toddlers, 46 were preschoolers, and 109 were school age children.²⁸

Ages of Children	Number of Children Receiving Subsidies
0 to 2 years	62
3 to 5 years	77
6 and older	128
TOTAL CHILDREN	267

Table 4 Amador County Children Receiving Subsidies in the Year 2003
Source: Amador Child Care Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

According to the 2003 California Child Care Portfolio, in 2002, the average annual cost of full-time care for a preschooler in a licensed child care center in Amador County was \$4,470. It means that care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage (\$14,040) is at least 32%. This cost of child care in Amador County is lower than California's average (\$6,737). For a family at County median income (\$51,226 per year), the percentage of child care cost is 9%.

As reported by Children Now in 2003, based on 1999 percentages, Amador County ranked 19th out of the 58 counties in the number of children living in poor households. The 2003 California Child Care portfolio reports that 15% of children under five years old in Amador County are living in poverty and 32% are living in single-parent household. Affordable and accessible child care services are important to those families and children.²⁹

²⁸ The information is directly from the Amador Child Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

²⁹ The information is from the California County Data Book 2003 at www.childnow.org.

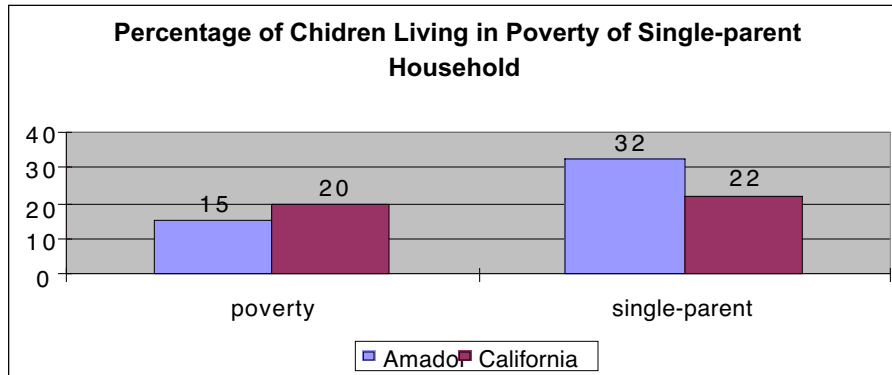


Figure 26 Percentage of Children Living in Poverty or Single-parent Household in the Year 2000
Source: The 2003 California Child Care Portfolio.

In December 2003, the Amador County Department of Social Services (DSS) reported a total of 291 cases, representing families receiving benefits for one-parent families or needy caregivers, two-parent families, families of children being cared for by relatives and other caregivers, CalWORKs/TANF cases, CalWORKs Safety Net cases (where parents have timed out of CalWORKs and only the children are receiving cash aid), foster children, adoption assistance, aid for severe emotional disturbance and emergency assistance.³⁰

All of those cases resulted in a total of 481 children and 161 adults being served by DSS in December 2003. This total was comparable to other months during the same year. Most notably, of families receiving CalWORKs/TANF assistance, 93% were utilizing child care subsidies.

Community	Age 0-5	Age 5-9	Age 10-14	Ages 15-19+
Jackson / Martell	6	44	49	37
Sutter Creek/ Amador City/ Drytown	3	22	45	22
Pioneer/Buckhorn/ Kirkwood	2	29	49	26
Pine Grove / Volcano	5	30	37	26
Ione	3	44	46	35
Plymouth / River Pines / Fiddletown	1	16	26	14
Camanche / Buena Vista	0	0	0	0
Other*	0	1	3	2
Totals	20	186	255	162

Table 5 Number of children receiving services from the Amador County Office of Education
Source: Amador Child Care Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

³⁰ The information is directly from the Amador Child Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

Children With Special Needs

According to the 2003-2004 Amador Child Care Council Needs Assessment, seventeen percent of family survey respondents reported having children in the home with either disabilities or special needs. Forty-four percent of respondents to the Council's provider survey said that they care for one or more child with a diagnosed disability. In Amador County, children with special needs receive services from two primary sources, the Amador County Office of Education (ACOE) and Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC).³¹

Diagnosed Disability	Number of Children
Specific Learning Disability	310
Deaf/Blind	2
Mentally Handicapped	0
Hard of Hearing	11
Deaf	3
Speech/Language Impaired	181
Vision Impaired	12
Severely Emotionally Disturbed	26
Orthopedically Impaired	13
Other Health Impairment	33
Multiple Disability	1
Noncategorized	0
TOTAL	648

Table 6 Number of Children with Diagnosed Disability in Amador County
Source: Amador Child Care Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

Children Now reported that between 2000 and 2002, an average of 35 children were in foster care in Amador County. That's an average of slightly more than 4 per 1,000 children. In addition, as of August 2003, HRC was providing nine families and 16 children with respite care through their Respite program.³²

No families in Amador County were identified as migrant families with children. Although a small percentage of the population is Spanish-speaking, according to the Director of State Preschools in Amador County, 38% of children enrolled in county State Preschool programs are Spanish-speaking. There is an increasing need for Spanish-speaking child care assistance in Amador County.

³¹ All the information in this section is directly from the Amador Child Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

³² The information is from the California County Data Book 2003 at www.childnow.org.

Other Child Care Related Trends in Amador County

Legislation regarding Universal Preschool in California and pending federal reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant will impact early care and education in Amador County in the near future. In recent years there have been few changes to federal child care funding. However, dedicated professionals have remained committed to improving the quality of early care and education and increasing opportunities for young children to access quality care both nationally and locally.

The Amador County School Readiness “Movement” offers and supports services and programs for children 0-5 and their families. School Readiness is funded by First 5 Amador working in conjunction with a number of agencies in the county, the school district, and child care providers. Funding supports family resource centers in Camanche and Pine Grove. A summer transition program for children entering kindergarten is offered in partnership with the school district.

A new program administered by HRC Child Care Resources, funded by First 5 Amador, called CARES (Compensation and Recognition Encourage Stability), promotes quality child care through funding and incentive programs that give child care providers access to ongoing learning experiences. The incentives also improve staff retention in the child care and early education settings, build the quality and quantity of early childhood opportunities and improve the professional skill levels of child care providers.

The Children’s Inclusive Care Council of Amador and Calaveras (CICC) is working to connect children with special needs and their families to quality care and other services. The group’s activities include developing a provider peer support group and developing a manual and training for both parents and caregivers of children with special needs.³³

³³ The information in this section is directly from the Amador Child Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

Child Care Survey Highlights

Family Survey Highlights

As part of the Amador Child Care Council Needs Assessment, hundreds of surveys were distributed to families in Amador County and 189 surveys were returned to the Council. Not all survey respondents had children in child care.

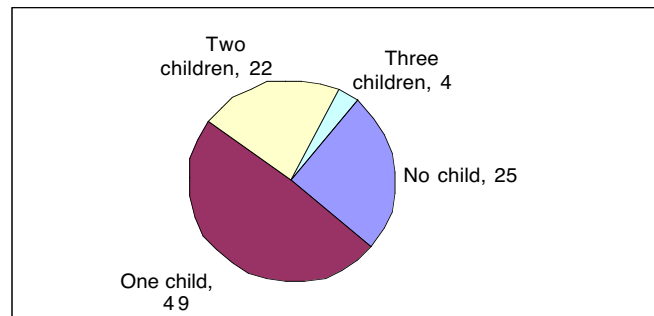


Figure 27 Percentage of Families with Children in Child Care in the 2003 Family Survey
Source: Amador County Child Care Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

Forty-seven of all family survey respondents reported receiving assistance with the cost of child care. The majority of those (91%) received assistance from HRC. Three respondents said that they received assistance from family and one respondent received assistance from Head Start.

When families were asked about dates and times they needed care, the majority of respondents reported needing care between the hours of 5:00am and 7:00pm. One parent reported needing care until 10:45pm. Two percent of families needed care on Saturdays and Sundays, and 9% of all respondents said child care is unavailable during times they need it.

When asked whether families ever had to go without care, 40% of those responding to the question did in fact have to go without care at some time. When asked how they resolved their inability to find child care, the majority of respondents stated that they stayed home with their children, with or without pay. The second most common response was that family or friends had provided care for their children. Several respondents also said that they had taken their children to work with them.

Families were asked to prioritize issues related to choosing care for their children. Sixty-one percent of survey respondents answering the question (n=146) ranked quality as the number one priority. Provider qualifications emerged as the second overarching priority, while type of care, location and cost were prioritized in that order by the majority of respondents.

Ninety-seven percent of respondents who answered the final question regarding whether they believed their child was in a quality setting said 'yes.' When asked why, the majority stated that their child loved to go to child care, that their child was happy and comfortable there. Additionally, with equal frequency, respondents stated that their provider was knowledgeable, caring and treated the children well. This was described further as providers paying attention to the children and providing a nurturing environment.

Provider Survey Highlights

Sixty-one providers responded to the Council's survey. The largest group of those respondents was family care providers, comprising 44% of all respondents. The second largest group of respondents was from privately owned child care centers, and the third largest group worked at Head Start programs.³⁴

The wages earned by providers varied greatly depending on the type of program they were employed by, or whether they were self-employed. For example, when looking simply at hourly wages, the greatest range of wages was found among family child care providers who reported making anywhere between \$2.00 and \$25.00 per hour. Providers employed at private centers reported making between \$7.00 and \$9.00 per hour, and those employed by Head Start programs reported hourly wages between \$9.38 and \$13.61. Employees working at State Preschools reported earning hourly wages between \$14.00 and \$20.05.

Thirteen percent of respondents working at privately owned centers received medical, child care and retirement benefits. One hundred percent of respondents working at State Preschool said that they received benefits. Eighty-eight percent of Head Start respondents received benefits, and 53% of providers working at private centers said they received benefits. Two family care providers and one school district employee also stated that they received benefits.

More than 25% of responding providers reported total annual income levels of less than \$20,000. This means that more than one quarter of the child care workforce in Amador lives in households where the total annual income is less than \$20,000 per year. Of those, 4% reported total annual income levels of less than \$10,000, and 21% reported annual household income levels between \$10,000 and \$20,000 per annum.

³⁴ All the information in the provider survey is directly from the Amador Child Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

Employer Survey Highlights

Fifty-one employers in Amador County responded to the Council's Employer survey. Of those, an estimated 25% of their full time employees had children in care outside the home. When describing child care related benefits offered to employees, only one employer provided on-site child care for employees, while parental leave was offered by 10% of employers.³⁵

Almost 30% of employers said that they had experienced attendance problems as a result of employees' child care needs. The majority described these issues as being related to either sick children or caregivers. Some however said that care was not available during late working hours or when caregivers were on vacation. Others said that care was simply not available in their area. One employer said that a staff member actually quit their job due to lack of reliable child care.

Seventy-six percent of employers said that they allowed flexibility in employee schedules to accommodate for child care needs and availability. Others said that employees were allowed to make up time, while still others said that employees brought their children to work with them at times.

Three employers said that they would be interested in collaborating with other businesses to subsidize a local child care facility, and seven said that they would like to be contacted by the Council to learn more about child care related issues, policies and benefits.

³⁵ All the information in the employer survey is directly from the Amador Child Council Needs Assessment 2003-2004.

EDUCATION

Schools play a fundamental role of educating and socializing young people. They also provide adults with ongoing learning experiences for purposes of both personal fulfillment and career advancement. Many schools, particularly those in rural communities like Amador County, serve as places of civic engagement and provide much more than a traditional classroom education. Schools are often used as weekend activity areas, sites for health-related events, or recreational centers. A handful of informal educational programs in Amador County also offer a range of opportunities for students of all ages.

While informal educational opportunities are valuable assets for Amador County residents, many focus group participants also expressed an interest in more structured credit-bearing classes. In addition, Amador's Hispanic population is growing. However, to date we have been unable to accommodate ongoing ESL classes because of several issues such as: current funding, participation, and lack of instructors. A new family literacy program was started in 2004 that serves low-income Spanish speaking parents with young children in the Jackson and Ione areas.³⁶

School Enrollment

What is it? Enrollment information is from Unified School District, County Office of Education, and California Youth Authority. All public schools count their enrollment in kindergarten through twelfth grade on "Information Day," a Wednesday in early October every year. Private schools report their annual enrollment to the California Department of Education. Due to state law, the Department of Education is only allowed to report enrollment for private schools serving more than five students. Therefore, the private school enrollment may be slightly higher than is reported here. Enrollment is often larger than the average daily attendance.

How are we doing? Enrollment in public and private schools in Amador County has increased between 1992 and 1998. Since 1999, the enrollment has slightly decreased from 5,691 students to 5,545 in 2003, but is still larger than that in the early 1990s (see Figure 28 on the next page).

³⁶ The information is based on the Amador County Community Assessment 2000 and information from First Five.

Why is this important? Schools help to educate and socialize our young people. Schools in our county also serve as places for civic engagement.

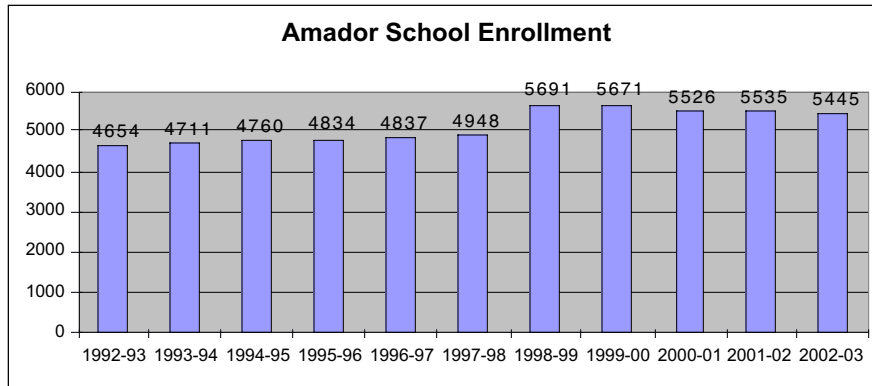


Figure 28 Amador School Enrollment from the Year 1992 to 2003.
Source: Educational Demographics Office, the California Basic Educational Data System

Enrollment Trend by Ethnicity

How are we doing? In the recent decade, the ethnicity make-up among Amador County students has changed. Most significantly, the percentage of Hispanic students has increased from 4.6% in the year 1992-93 to 12.5% in the year 2002-03. Meanwhile, the percentage of Caucasian students has decreased from 90.3% in 1992-93 to 78.3% in 2002-03. Overall, minority group students now take up a bigger portion than before in Amador County. However, the county is still basically “white” compared with California as a whole. The percentage of Hispanic students (45.2%) is bigger than Caucasian (33.7%) in California.

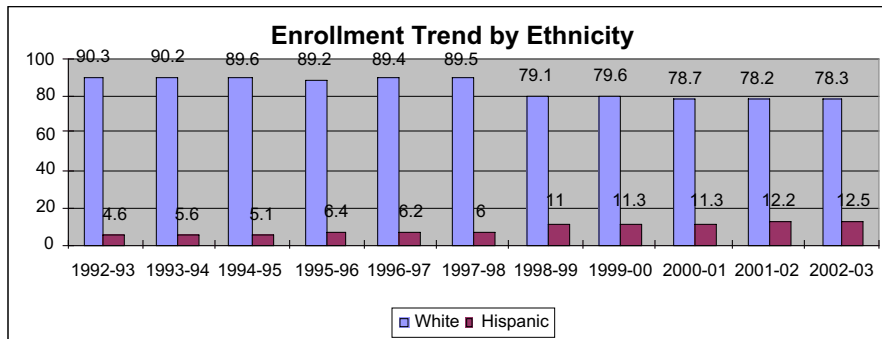


Figure 29 Amador School Enrollment Trend by Ethnicity from the Year 1992 to 2003.
Source: Educational Demographics Office, the California Basic Educational Data System

Special Education Enrollment

What is it? Students who receive special education include children with one or more of the following disabilities: Mental Retardation, Hard of Hearing, Deaf, Speech or Language Impairment, Visual Impairment, Emotional Disturbance, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Deaf- Blindness, Multiple Disability, Autism, and Traumatic Brain Injury.

How are we doing? Since the year 2000, there are more than 600 children who are receiving special education in Amador County. Fifty percent of these children have specific learning disabilities, and 30% of them have speech or language impairment problems.

Specific Learning Disability (SLD): Specific Learning Disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations.

Speech or Language Impairment (SLI): Speech and Language Impairment means a communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, language impairment, or a voice impairment, which adversely affects a child's educational performance.³⁷

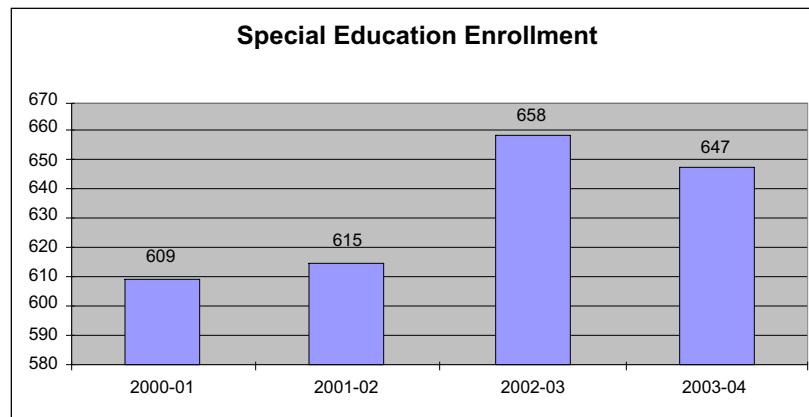


Figure 30 Amador County Special Education Enrollment from the Year 2000 to 2004.
Source: Educational Demographics Office, the California Basic Educational Data System

³⁷ The definitions are from the California Basic Educational Data System.

Average Class Size

What is it? Average class size measures the actual contact between students and teachers in a classroom. It is calculated by dividing the enrollment in classes by the number of classes. It does not include special education classes.

How are we doing? Amador County has smaller classes than California in general. The average class size has increased from 22.6 in 2000-01 to 26.0 in 2002-03 in Amador County, while, the average class size has dropped slightly statewide. This decrease is due in part to California's Class Size Reduction Program. Established in 1996, the program gives school districts the opportunity to reduce class size to a maximum of 20 students per certified teacher in kindergarten through the third grade.

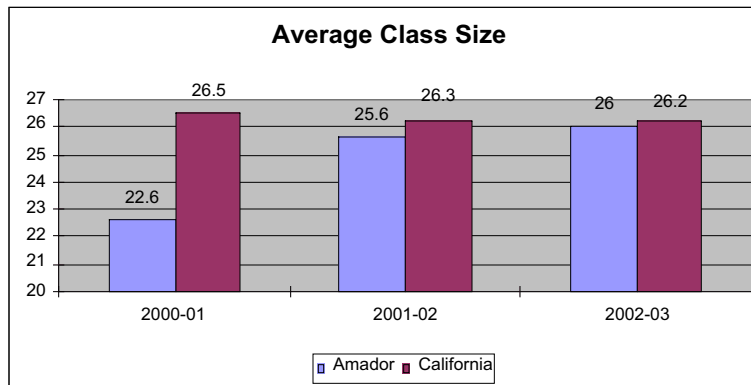


Figure 31 Amador School Average Class size from the Year 2000 to 2003.
Source: Educational Demographics Office, the California Basic Educational Data System

Why is this important? While there is still debate about the impact of class size reduction on student performance, several studies found “non-achievement” outcomes.³⁸ For example, an evaluation of Tennessee’s class size reduction efforts found that children in small classes were less likely to be retained than children in regular classes. Researchers have reported higher morale and less stress for teachers who instruct classes with a smaller number of students. Teachers reported more active participation from students who had previously been enrolled in smaller classes.

³⁸ David C. Illig, “Reducing Class Size: A Review of the Literature and Options for Consideration,” California Research Bureau, California State Library, June 11, 1996. <http://www.library.ca.gov/CRB/clssz/index.html>.

School Staff

What is it? **Administrators:** Administrators are certificated employees who are not teachers or pupil services personnel. Administrators include principals, assistant superintendents or principals, program directors or coordinators, and other certificated staff not providing direct services to students. The number is also given as a full time equivalent (FTE). **Pupil services:** These are certificated employees who provide direct services to students but are not teachers, for example counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, librarians, speech specialists, and other medical personnel. The number is also calculated as a full time equivalent (FTE). **Teachers:** Adult education, Regional Occupation Programs (ROP), child care, and preschool teachers are not included in this count.³⁹

How are we doing? According to the latest data in the year 2002-03 from the California Department of Education, there are 28 administrators, 35 pupil services staff and 284 teachers working in Amador County. Currently, the percentage of white teachers in Amador County is significantly large (94.4%). Although 12.5% of the students are Hispanic, the percentage of Hispanic teachers in Amador County is as low as 3.3%. Overall, the make-up of teachers in Amador County is much less diverse than in California as a whole.

College Bound Graduates

What is it? College bound graduates refers to those high school graduates (ages 19 and younger) who are enrolled at the University of California, and California State University. According to California Department of Education, California's Master Plan for Higher Education, first written in 1960, established student eligibility criteria for the three segments of the state's higher education system, the community colleges, the California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC).

The state's 106 community colleges must accept all applicants 18 years and older who can benefit from attending.

CSU draws from the top one-third of high school graduates and accepts all qualified community college transfers.

UC draws from the top 12.5% of high school graduates and also accepts all qualified community college transfers.⁴⁰

³⁹ The definitions are from the California Basic Educational Data System.

⁴⁰ The definitions are from the California Basic Educational Data System.

How are we doing? The average percentage of Amador County graduates enrolled in higher education has been lower than the statewide percentage of graduates since the early 1990s, although during 1996-97, the percentage of county graduates is close to the percentage of state graduates. High school graduates in Amador County are less likely to attend UC or CSU than graduates in many other counties in California.

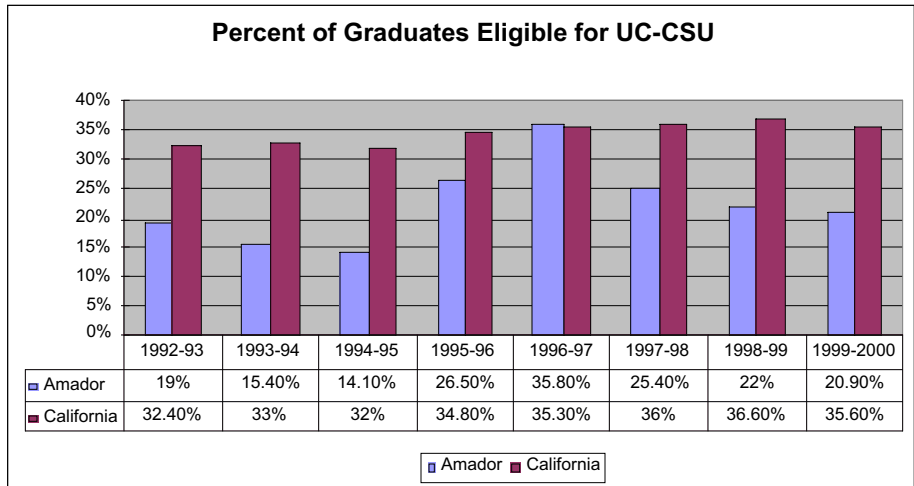


Figure 32 Amador County Percent of Graduates Eligible for UC-CSU from the Year 1992 to 2000. Source: Educational Demographics Office, the California Basic Educational Data System

Special and Alternative Programs

English Learner (Language Census): Students who are not yet proficient in English. In previous years these students were referred to as Limited English Proficient (LEP).

Free /reduced price meals (CalWORKs Report): Students enrolled in the program for free or reduced price meals. County social service offices for the whole attendance area report the students. Since some may attend private schools or have dropped out of school, the CalWORKs count may be slightly inflated.

CalWORKs (CalWORKs Report): The students ages 5-17 whose families receive CalWORKs payments. This program replaced the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) after 1997-98. County social service offices for the whole attendance area report the students. Since some students may attend private schools or have dropped out of school, the CalWORKs count may be slightly inflated.

Compensatory education (Consolidated Application): The students at the school participating in the federal Title I and/or the state Economic Impact Aid/State Compensatory Education (EIA/SCE) program. Title I is a federal program that provides supplementary services to low-achieving students from low-income families, and EIA/SCE is a state program that provides funds to low-achieving schools with high proportions of transient, low-income or English learner students. The goal of both is to improve student achievement in reading and mathematics.

Special Programs Amador County, 2002-03			
	County		State
	Participants	Percent of Enrollment	Percent of Enrollment
English Learners	55	1.0%	25.6%
Free/Reduced Price Meals	1,409	29.9%	48.7%
CalWORKs ¹	202	4.3%	10.1%
Compensatory Education	653	12.0%	47.9%

¹ California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (formerly AFDC through 1997-98)

Figure 33 Amador County School Special Programs in the Year 2002-03.
Source: Educational Demographics Office, the California Basic Educational Data System

Continuation classes: Students enrolled in either a comprehensive or continuation high school that meets the requirements for continuation education.

Community/experience based: Enrollment in an instructional program based in the community, including community service, internship, city (or community) as school, school without walls, and experience or field-based education. (Does not include community day schools.)

Opportunity program: The number of students in a program for student attendance improvement or other school-related problems.

Independent study: Students who have an individualized instructional plan based on their specific needs. The student enters into an agreement (contract) with the district to complete specific assignments under the supervision of a teacher.

Other: Students in all alternative programs or educational options not covered in the preceding categories.⁴¹

Alternative Education Amador County, 2002-03		
	Alternative Enrollment	Percent of Total Enrollment
Continuation Classes	73	1.3%
Community/Experience Based	56	1.0%
Opportunity	36	0.7%
Independent Study	96	1.8%
Other	119	2.2%
Total	380	7.0%

Figure 34 Amador County School Alternative Education in the Year 2002-03.
Source: Educational Demographics Office, the California Basic Educational Data System

⁴¹ All the information in this section is directly from the California Basic Educational Data System.

Adult Educational Attainment

What is it? The indicator is used to illustrate adult education. The indicator measures the highest level of education completed ages 25 and older.

How are we doing? Basically, the percentage of population who received higher education in Amador County is lower than the statewide percentage. The biggest portions are people who graduated from high school (30.2) and who got some college education (29.8).

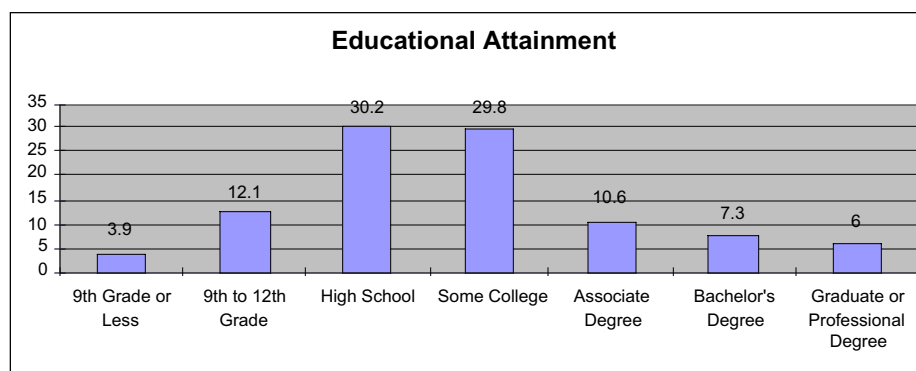


Figure 35 Education Estimates of Amador County Residents aged 25 and over in the Year 2000.
Source: US Census 2000.

Why is this important? Adults with low educational attainment or poor literacy skills have fewer employment options and their earnings are likely to lag behind those of better-educated adults.⁴² As the link between skills and opportunity grows stronger in the increasingly technological economy, individuals with low educational attainment or poor literacy skills are likely to be left further behind.

⁴² Jenkins, L.B., and Kirsch, I.S., Adult Literacy in California, 1994.

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Amador County's annual average labor force expanded to 15,940 in 2002. The labor force in Amador grew steadily over the last several years and was accompanied by declining unemployment rates until 2002, when unemployment in the county increased slightly. However, Amador's 2002 annual average unemployment rate of 4.4 percent was still significantly lower than California's rate of 6.7 percent for the same year. The average rate of unemployment in Amador County during 2003 was 4.9%, up only slightly from the 1999 annual rate of 4.6%. Also in 2003, Amador had the 16th lowest unemployment rate out of the 58 California counties. This was lower than California's overall unemployment rate during 2003 (6.7%).

In recent years, many of the county's workforce has begun seeking employment in neighboring counties. The primary source of employment for Amador County residents remains government, with the Mule Creek State Prison in Ione and the Amador Unified School District employing the largest majority. Jackson Rancheria Casino and Hotel is the largest private employer in the county. Remaining employers are primarily service industries, manufacturers and retailers. Sources of employment in the county have not changed much in recent years.

Government provides almost 4,700 jobs, slightly more than 37 percent of the county's total employment. Within government, a majority of jobs are in the local government component that includes local education, city government, county government, and Indian tribal government. Employment in the trade, transportation and utilities industries accounts for 16.1 percent of Amador's total employment. The retail trade industry is the largest employer in this group, providing more than 82 percent of the jobs. Other important industries in Amador County include professional and business services, providing 1,220 jobs or 9.8 percent of all employment, and educational and health services, with 9 percent or 1,120 jobs.⁴³

Per Capita Personal Income

What is it? The per capita personal income is generated by dividing the total personal income by the population. Total personal income includes earned income (i.e., wages and salaries, other labor income, proprietors' income), investment income (i.e., dividends, interest, rent) and transfer payments received by Amador County residents.

⁴³ The information is based on the 2003 California Employment Development Department County Snapshots: Amador County.

How are we doing? The per capita personal income has increased steadily for both Amador and California. However, the county's per capita personal income has been lower than the state's.

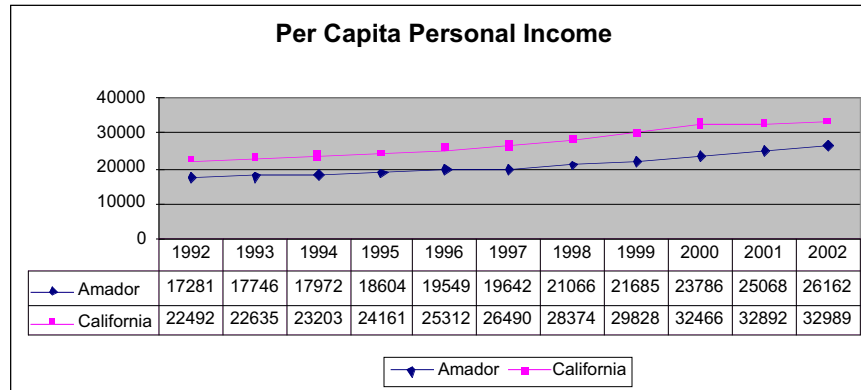


Figure 36 Amador County Per Capita Personal Income (Dollars) from 1992 to 2002
 Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts

Why is this important? Per capita personal income reflects the money individuals and families have to meet their financial needs. Higher per capita incomes increase the options available to people, such as access to higher education, housing, health care, or personal enrichment.

Unemployment

What is it? The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force. Unemployment includes those individuals 16 years of age and older who are not working but are able, available and looking for work during the week including the 12th of the month. Individuals who are waiting to be re-called from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days are also considered to be unemployed. It does not include those who are unemployed but, for one reason or another, have given up looking for work.

How are we doing? In 1990, the county's unemployment rate fell below the statewide rate where it remained for most of the decade. The county's unemployment rate dropped from a high of 9.1% in 1993 to an all-time low of 4.6% in 1999. Over the years 1998 to 2000, Amador County's unemployment rate declined 1.6 percent points. Increased unemployment in 2002 put the rate back to 4.4 percent, a level recorded in the year 2000. Despite the increase, Amador County still enjoys a rate significantly lower than both California's rate of 6.7 percent, and neighboring Calaveras County's rate of 7.0 percent.

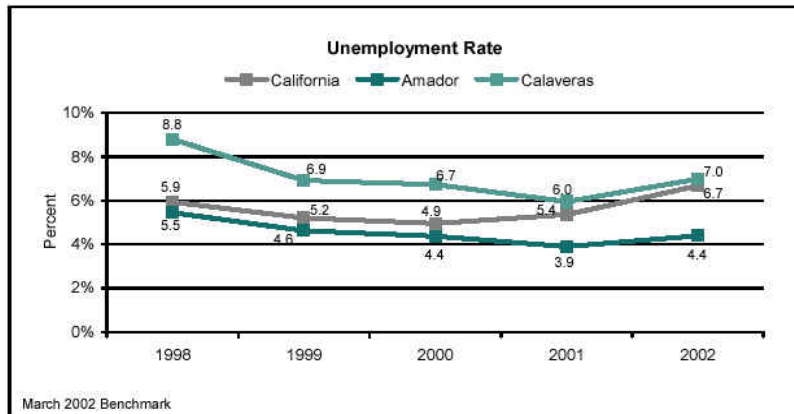


Figure 37 Unemployment Rate from 1998 to 2002

Source: California Employment Development Department County Snapshots 2003: Amador County. (Benchmark Data 2002)

Labor force data, as shown below, accounts for civilians who are age 16 or older and who are working or looking for work. Amador County's annual average figures show a gain in labor force of 2,550 persons since 1998. Employment and unemployment figures reflect the employment status of individuals by place of residence. Counts of employment by place of work are referred to as industry employment totals.⁴⁴

Labor Force Statistics	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Labor Force	13,390	13,630	14,190	15,110	15,940
Employment	12,660	13,000	13,570	14,520	15,240
Unemployment	730	630	620	590	700
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	4.6%	4.4%	3.9%	4.4%

2002 Benchmark

Figure 38 Labor Force Statistics in Amador County from 1998 to 2002

Source: California Employment Development Department County Snapshots 2003: Amador County. (Benchmark Data 2002)

⁴⁴ The information is based on the 2003 California Employment Development Department County Snapshots: Amador County.

Why is this important? Unemployment, which reduces one's income, can hamper one's ability to provide adequate housing, nutrition, health care and other basic essentials. Because employment is often associated with being a responsible and valued member of society, unemployment can result in feelings of personal inadequacy that have a profound effect on one's health and the health of one's family.

Poverty

In Amador County, approximately 9% of the population is deemed to be at, or below the poverty level (\$11,859 for 2).⁴⁵ Approximately ten percent of residents live below the federal poverty level, with 14.2% of children less than five years of age living below the poverty level.⁴⁶

Industry Employment

Over the years 1998-2002, Amador County added 2,200 jobs, a cumulative growth of 21.4 percent. In 2002, the county gained 480 new jobs, a growth of 4 percent. Government and professional and business services industries contributed the largest shares of the growth, with 370 and 80 new jobs, respectively. Nearly all job gains in government were in local government. The 2002 industry employment growth in Amador notably surpassed California's rate (-0.9 percent) for the same year.⁴⁷

In the table below, Amador County's industry employment totals are given for the period 1998-2002, showing overall growth in most industries, with the exception of natural resources and mining; information; and leisure and hospitality. Government; trade, transportation and utilities; and professional and business services were Amador's largest industry employers in 2002. Together, these industries accounted for almost 64 percent (7,920) of the county's total employment (12,460). Other industries important to the county economy include educational and health services, providing 1,120 jobs (9 percent of all employment), and leisure and hospitality, accounting for almost 8 percent.

⁴⁵ The data is from the U.S. 2000 Census.

⁴⁶ The data is from the U.S. 2000 Census.

⁴⁷ All the information in this section is based on the 2003 California Employment Development Department County Snapshots: Amador County.

Employment by Industry	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Agriculture	240	240	260	300	310
Natural Resources and Mining	140	160	90	90	90
Construction	300	370	360	400	440
Manufacturing	720	650	760	780	780
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	1,820	1,850	1,850	2,020	2,010
Information	220	230	230	220	220
Financial Activities	370	400	410	400	410
Professional and Business Services	640	720	1,110	1,140	1,220
Educational and Health Services	1,020	1,170	1,140	1,120	1,120
Leisure and Hospitality	1,140	1,050	1,040	1,030	990
Other Services	130	140	150	160	180
Government	3,520	3,610	3,860	4,320	4,690
Industry Employment Total*	10,260	10,610	11,240	11,980	12,460

2002 Benchmark

Figure 39 Amador County Industry Employment Totals from 1998 to 2002
 Source: California Employment Development Department County Snapshots 2003: Amador County. (Benchmark Data 2002)

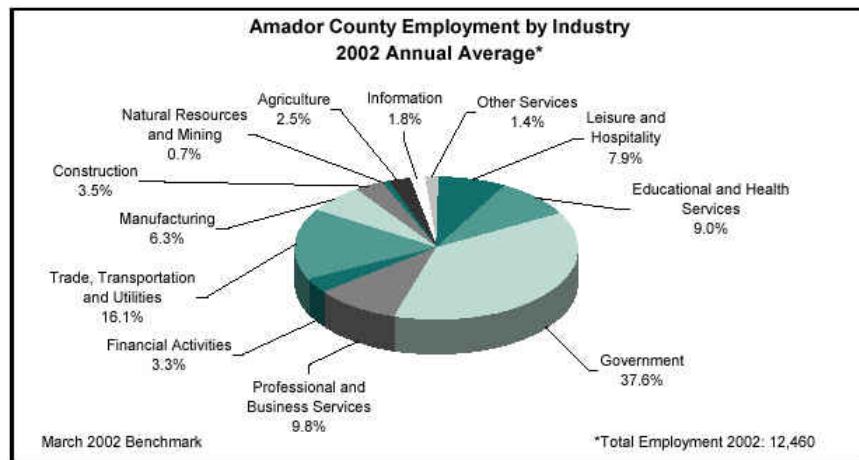


Figure 40 Amador County Employment by Industry in the Year 2002
 Source: California Employment Development Department County Snapshots 2003: Amador County. (Benchmark Data 2002)

Occupational Employment

Services have the largest growth industry in Amador, as forecast using the Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC).⁴⁸ Services are expected to add 1,070 jobs during the projection period, growth of 46.1 percent. The occupations listed below are those likely to have the most job gains. Amador's occupational projections are combined with Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne counties (also known as the Mother Lode Consortium), with annual job openings reflecting the total for all four counties. By SIC definition, services includes establishments providing a variety of services for individuals, business, government, and other organizations. Hotels and other lodging places; establishments providing personal, business, repair and amusement services; health, legal, engineering and other professional services; educational institutions; membership organizations, and other services are included.⁴⁸

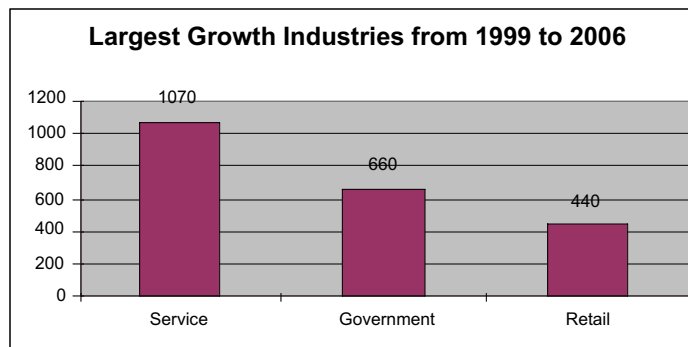


Figure 41 Largest Growth Industries in Amador County from 1999 to 2006
Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information.

Government is the second-largest growth industry in Amador, according to the 1999–2006 industry projections.⁴⁸ Amador County is estimated to experience growth of 18.3 percent or 660 jobs in this industry during the seven-year period. Government employment consists of federal, state, and local government. Local government includes local education, city government, county government, and Indian tribal government. In Amador County, greatest growth is expected in local government (an increase of 23 percent or 440 jobs).

The third-largest growth industry in Amador, retail trade is forecast to add 440 jobs during the 1999–2006 projection period. As defined by the SIC, retail trade establishments sell merchandise to the general public for personal or household consumption and are classified by kind of business according to the commodities sold (groceries, hardware, etc.), or the usual trade designation (drug store, cigar store, etc.). Retail trade includes employment in areas such as building materials and garden supplies; general merchandise stores; food stores; automotive dealers and service stations; apparel and accessory stores; furniture and home furnishings stores; eating and drinking places; and other miscellaneous retail.

⁴⁸ All the information in this section is based on the 2003 California Employment Development Department County Snapshots: Amador County.

Housing

Fair market rental rates in 2003 were \$673. Few such rentals are actually available due to rising property values. Subsidized housing has waiting lists of many months. Property managers willing to accept subsidized rates are dwindling. No new properties in development are identified as subsidized.

Median resale price of housing has risen to \$247,000, a rise of almost 150% in the past 5 years. First time homebuyers, even with low interest rates, are hard pressed to find affordable housing for a family.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ The information is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan (2004-2009).

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Geographic and Environmental Conditions

Amador County is located in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California and occupies approximately 600 square miles. The terrain ranges from gently rolling hills in the west to rugged mountain terrain in the east. The north-south orientation of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, which is nearly perpendicular to the direction of seasonal storms, creates climatic variations that are primarily driven by changes in elevation. Elevations in Amador County range from less than 500 feet in the west to over 9,000 feet in the east. At the lower elevations, the climate is characterized by hot dry summers with annual precipitation averaging 20 inches or less. Annual temperatures rarely fall below zero or rise above 100 degrees, resulting in a very temperate climate. In the eastern portion of the County, summer temperatures are generally moderate, with lower average summer temperatures as you increase in elevation. Rainfall and snow remain concentrated in the winter months with annual precipitation averaging 75 inches or more at the higher elevations. These patterns of precipitation and temperature result in four broadly defined vegetation and climatic zones: Grasslands; Oak woodlands; Mixed Conifer Forests; and Sub-alpine and Alpine Forest.

As with most of California, Amador County has cool to mild winters (except the higher elevations) and warm to hot summers. Predominately the surface winds in Amador County are westerly, with northerly or southerly influences. Additionally Amador County experiences diurnal wind patterns of up-slope winds during the day and down-slope winds at night during the dry season. During the spring, summer and fall seasons, temperature inversions are a normal occurrence, which prohibits good dispersion of smoke and other air pollutants. During calendar year 2000, reported agricultural and prescribed burning consisted of approximately 9,425 tons of vegetation (tonnage only reported) and 730 acres of vegetation (acres only reported). Slash, chaparral and brush consisted of 87% of the tonnage reported and 98% of the acreage reported.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ The information is base on the 2004 Amador County Fire Hazard Reduction Plan.

Land and Land Use

Current land use and development in Amador County is shaped by customs and cultures, as defined in the Land Use Element of the General Plan and the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. The noted customs and cultures are mining, timber, agriculture, grazing, hunting, fishing, federal leaseholders, transportation, tourism, and watershed management. The Federal Reserve Act of 1891 created our national forests by authorizing the President of the United States to reserve timberlands on the public domain and prevent them from passing out of the possession of the Government. Today, the Eldorado National Forest covers about 22 percent of Amador County. Together, the customs and cultures and the establishment of the national forest land in Amador County provides the mold for today’s land use and development trends.⁵¹

GENERAL LAND USE CATEGORIES		
Land Use	Acres	%
Urban & Suburban (<i>Residential, Commercial & Manufacturing</i>)	108,619	29
General Agriculture (<i>Williamson Act – 1 Resident/40ac.</i>)	90,028	25
Other Agriculture (<i>EBMUD, JVID, Non-Williamson Act</i>)	43,582	11
Timber Production (<i>Non USFS/BLM</i>)	29,524	8
Federal Lands (<i>USFS, BLM, & Mokelumne Wilderness</i>)	100,328	27
Total County	376,081	100

Source: Amador County Planning Department Files, September 2003.

Table 7 Amador County Land Use Categories.
Source: Amador County Planning Department Files 2003

Water Sources

The North Fork of the Mokelumne River, located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, is the primary water source for the Central Amador Water Project (CAWP) system, the Amador Water System (AWS), and the PG&E Tiger Creek Powerhouse system. Water supplied from rainfall and snowmelt is stored in Tiger Creek Afterbay and is pumped to the Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant. There it is treated and ready for use by the customers of Pine Grove, Pine Acres, Sunset Heights, Fairway Pines, Jackson Pines, Pioneer, Gayla Manor, Ranch House Estates, Toma Lane, Sierra Highlands, Silver Lake Pines, Ridgeway Pines, Rabb Park, and Mace Meadows. Water from the Mokelumne River is also stored in Lake Tabeaud and conveyed by canal to the Tanner Water Treatment Plant where it is treated for use by the customers of Jackson, Sutter Creek, Amador City, and Drytown. The Ione Pipeline transports raw water from the Tanner Reservoir to the Ione Water Treatment Plant where it is treated for use by the customers of Ione. Our LaMel Heights customers get their water from a single well located in the LaMel Heights Subdivision and our Lake Camanche residents get their water from three wells located in the Lake Camanche area.

Amador water quality monitoring met or exceeded State and Federal Primary Drinking Water Standards. However, The Amador Water System exceeded the MCL for “color” and “iron”, non-health related secondary standards. Secondary Standards relate to aesthetic qualities such as taste, mineral content, odor and clarity.⁵²

⁵¹ The information is directly from the 2003 Amador County Planning Department Files.

⁵² The information is directly from the Amador County Water Agency 2003 Report.

Air Quality

Amador County is one of seven air pollution control districts that make up the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The MCAB consists of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa Northern Sierra (Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra Counties), Placer (portion thereof), and Tuolumne air pollution control districts. The seven air districts work closely together employing a regional approach to air pollution control.⁵³

Air quality is regularly monitored in Jackson for two pollutants: ozone and carbon monoxide. The closest monitoring site for PM10 and PM2.5 is located in San Andreas in neighboring Calaveras County, roughly ten miles south of Jackson. Table 12 summarizes air quality data from these monitoring sites for the years 2000-2002. The major air quality problem in Amador County is ozone, which is primarily transported into the county from the up-wind San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Concentrations of other monitored pollutants generally meet the state and federal standards.

What is it? Ground-level ozone is a colorless, odorless pollutant formed when various gases (re-active organic gases, oxides of nitrogen) combine in the atmosphere. Motor vehicles are the primary source of these gases, though a variety of other sources (including petroleum refineries, utility power plants, dry cleaning establishments, and even residential water and space heaters) are also contributors. Ozone production is affected by a variety of factors, including weather and topography.

How are we doing? Amador County’s ambient air quality exceeded California’s one-hour standard for ozone an average of 20.3 days in 1997-99. While this is much better than the statewide number, it represents an increase of 48.1% over 1992-94. According to the California Air Resources Board, 38.1% of the county’s ozone emissions were produced by motor vehicles in 1996. Amador County measurements, which began in 1992, are taken at the Jackson-Clinton Road monitoring site.

In June of 2004 the US EPA officially designated the Amador Air District, which includes all of Amador County as a marginal nonattainment area for the new federal 8-hour ozone standard. Most of the ozone monitored in the area is transported from the valley to the west. The Air District is required to take actions that will reduce emissions of ozone precursors, primarily oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds. Motor vehicle emissions contribute much of these pollutants to our air. It is helpful to reduce motor vehicle emissions by planning trips that accomplish several tasks each time to use cars and by increasing school bus and public transportation ridership.⁵⁴

Ambient Air Quality Standards For Ozone		
Averaging Time	California Standard	Federal Standard
1-hour	0.09 ppm	0.12 ppm
8-hour	-----	0.08 ppm

Table 8 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone
Source: California Air Resources Board

⁵³The information is from the California Air Resources Board.

⁵⁴ The information in this section is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan (2004-2009).

Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Federal Primary Standard	State Standard
Ozone	1-Hour	0.12 ppm	0.09 ppm
	8-Hour	0.08 ppm	--
Carbon Monoxide	8-Hour	9.0 ppm	9.0 ppm
	1-Hour	35.0 ppm	20.0 ppm
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.05 ppm	--
	1-Hour	--	0.25 ppm
Sulfur Dioxide	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.03 ppm	--
	24-Hour	0.14 ppm	0.05 ppm
	1-Hour	--	0.25 ppm
PM ₁₀	Annual Geometric Mean	50 u/m ³	20 u/m ³
	24-Hour	150 u/m ³	50 u/m ³
PM _{2.5}	Annual Arithmetic Mean	15 u/m ³	12 u/m ³
	24-Hour	65 u/m ³	--
Lead	30-Day Avg. Calendar Quarter	--	1.5 u/m ³
		1.5 u/m ³	--

ppm = parts per million
u/m³ = Micrograms per Cubic Meter

Table 9 Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards
Source: California Air Resources Board

Amador County Ambient Air Quality

Pollutant	Standard	Days Exceeding Standard During		
		2000	2001	2002
Ozone (Jackson)	1-Hour State	13	4	8
	1-Hour Federal	0	0	0
	8-Hour Federal	14	2	7
Carbon Monoxide (Jackson)	State/Federal 8-Hour	0	0	0
	1-Hour State	0	0	0
PM ₁₀ (San Andreas)	24-Hour State	0	0	0
	24-Hour Federal	0	0	0
PM _{2.5} (San Andreas)	24-Hour Federal	0	0	0

Source: California Air Resources Board, Aerometric Data Analysis and Management (ADAM), 2003.

Table 10 Amador County Ambient Air Quality from the Year 2000 to 2002
Source: California Air Resources Board, Aerometric Data Analysis and Management (ADAM), 2003

Why is this important? Ozone is a highly reactive chemical that irritates and damages lungs, reduces plant growth, and erodes buildings, rubber, and some plastics. It can increase reactivity to allergens and particles, reduce resistance to infection, increase fatigue, and weaken athletic performance.

Exposure to levels of ozone above the current ambient air quality standard can lead to human health effects such as lung inflammation and tissue damage, and impaired lung functioning. Ozone exposure is also associated with symptoms such as coughing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and the worsening of asthma symptoms. The greatest risk for harmful health effects belongs to outdoor workers, athletes, children and others who spend greater amounts of time outdoors during smoggy periods. Elevated ozone levels can reduce crop and timber yields, as well as damage native plants. Ozone can also damage materials such as rubber, fabrics and plastics.

Environmental Concern: Amador County is in violation of the federal 8-hour ozone standard, but only marginally so. Environmental Strength: Valley air districts are developing air pollution control measures for their areas which will benefit our local area provided we take reasonable measures to reduce our own contributions.⁵⁵

Fire Hazard

Amador County, like most Sierra Nevada counties, is at very high risk of experiencing catastrophic wildfires. Many areas in the county are rural, or in the wildland/urban interface, and have high levels of fuel loadings due to aggressive fire suppression activities over the past 50 years by state and federal agencies. These high fuel loads have increased the potential for large catastrophic wildfires that could destroy millions of dollars of private and public property if they were to occur. The problem of fuel loading continues to grow with each passing year as chaparral and forest stands become denser and as fire suppression continues to exclude fire from the natural ecosystem. This problem has been substantially increased by the rapid population growth and residential building in the County's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas.

Recognizing the urgent need for a countywide fire hazard reduction plan, the Amador Fire Safe Council applied for a United States Forest Service planning grant, funded by the National Fire Plan, to fund its development. The one-year grant was approved in June 2003. EIP Associates was contracted by the Amador Fire Safe Council to prepare the Fire Plan with monthly oversight reviews conducted by the AFSC Fire Hazard Reduction Committee. Some fires that occurred before 1950 and some fires smaller than 300 acres are also shown. In 2002, the criteria expanded to include timber fires 10 acres and greater, brush fires 50 acres and greater, and grass fires 300 acres and greater, wildland fires destroying three or more structures, and wildland fires causing \$300,000 or more in damage. The following table shows the acres burned within Amador County and within each administrative unit.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ The information is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan (2004-2009).

⁵⁶ The information in this section is directly from the 2004 Amador County Fire Hazard Reduction Plan.

PUBLIC AND HOME SAFETY

Amador County was judged to be a safe place to live by local residents and this is generally supported by local and state statistics. A high degree of collaboration among the city police departments, the County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney, the Probation Department, the schools, the courts and local human service agencies may be largely responsible for preventing and responding well to crime. Security at the schools (with backup from city and county law enforcement agencies) is also strong, and the fire departments are effective and efficient in their responses. The interfacing of local agencies is a great asset in keeping the citizenry safe. The Director for the Amador County Chamber of Commerce said, "There is no passing of the buck" in our county. Agencies work well together and respond.

Seniors report feeling generally secure, and agencies respond well to their requests. The District Attorney's office has recently started a new Elder Abuse Prevention project, and the local bus system (ARTS) will reroute buses when necessary for emergency pick-ups for seniors.

In spite of excellent agency response and prevention efforts, crime is still on the rise in Amador County. While Amador County still has a lower crime rate than much of the state, its violent crime rate is slowly increasing at a time when this rate is decreasing across the rest of the state. Among the County's greatest public safety challenges are domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse. It's unfortunate to see that while many residents feel they live in a safe community, they do not feel the same about their home environment.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ The information is based on the Amador County Community Assessment 2000.

Crime

What is it? Crimes include violent crimes (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), arson, property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft and other larceny-theft).

How are we doing? The crime rate in Amador County has been lower than the state's. However, while the violent crime rate has dropped statewide, the crime rate in Amador County has slowly increased.

Crimes	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Violent Crimes	107	179	141	146	117
Homicide	1	1	0	0	0
Robbery	3	3	4	8	6
Forcible rape	14	22	19	24	31
Agg Assault	89	153	118	114	80
Property Crimes	408	378	536	568	533
Burglary	270	228	333	334	305
M.V. Theft	44	46	87	91	92
Total Larceny-theft	391	400	467	516	532
Over \$400	94	104	116	143	136
\$400 and under	297	296	351	373	396
Arson	5	4	2	1	1

Table 11 Crimes in Amador County from 1999 to 2003

Source: California Department of Justice. http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof03/03/1.htm.

CASELOAD NUMBERS FOR 2004	ADULTS
In County Felony	145
Out of County Felony	218
In County Prop 36	43
Out of County Prop 36	109
In County DV	155
Out of County DV	90
Total Caseloads in the Adult Unit	760

Note: these numbers include active warrants on these caseloads. DV refers to domestic violence.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ The information is from the Amador County Probation Office records in 2004.

	Felony		Prop 36		DV	
	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out
	145	218	43	109	155	90
Searchable	124	181	43	109	50	24
Testable	93	127	43	109	41	22

Table 12 Testable and Searchable Numbers in and out of the County in 2004
 Source: Amador County Probation Office, 2004

Note: **Prop 36** - Proposition 36 was the initiative passed by the people of California allowing drug offenders treatment versus incarceration in cases involving personal use and or addiction. Offenders are on probation and are required to attend an appropriate drug treatment program based on their personal risk and needs.

Searchable - means the defendant and areas under his/her control may be searched by any probation officer or other law enforcement at any time for items specified by the court.

Testable - means the defendant may be tested for the use of illegal drugs including alcohol in some cases.

Why is this important? Crime undermines a community's quality of life by creating a climate of fear and mistrust.

Probation

Total violent crimes from 2001 to 2002 increased slightly by 3.5%.⁵⁹ Recent headlines have discussed forcible rape, sexual abuse of teens, and a rare teen homicide/suicide. In 2000, half of all arrests were for drug and alcohol related offenses. Rape and assault arrests for 2000 totaled 180.⁶⁰

Juveniles on probation have jumped from 65 to 104 to 204 from 2000 to 2003. While most on probation were arrested for misdemeanors (marijuana use lead the numbers), a third to one-half were due to felonies; primarily crimes relating to property.⁶¹

In 2004, Probation reports an increasing domestic violence (DV) caseload. Currently there is 1 full time position handling all the DV cases. The total caseload as of June, 2004 is 165. There are 24 cases considered "high risk" that require daily contact with a probation officer.

Domestic Violence

What is it? Domestic violence (DV) is a pattern of behavior with the effect of establishing power and control over a "significant other" through fear and intimidation. It includes not only physical and sexual abuse, but also emotional and verbal abuse, intimidation and isolation, economic abuse, and a variety of other forms of power and control.

For measurement purposes, we examined the domestic violence-related calls for assistance (e.g., 911 calls) and arrests. Law enforcement agencies are mandated to report any domestic violence cases, which resulted in a report being written by the responding officers irrespective of arrest. Because the penal code definition of domestic abuse is narrowly focused on bodily injury, this indicator does little to enhance our understanding of other forms of domestic violence such as emotional abuse.

⁵⁹ Criminal Justice Statistics Center April 2003

⁶⁰ National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, University of Michigan/FBI data 2000:Mapstats

⁶¹ Criminal Justice Statistics Center

How are we doing? In the recent years, the rate of domestic violence-related calls for assistance in Amador County dropped from 56.6 calls per 10,000 people (over age 18) in 2000 to 43.2 in 2002.

The Sheriff's Office took a spot look at bookings into the County Jail in March, 2003. There were 120 offenders booked with DV related charges (violence, drugs, firearms, etc.) with 54% of these offenders having prior offenses.

Amador County Superior Court

Family Domestic Violence	2002	2003	1/04 to 6/22/04
Temporary restraining order	95	68	24
Restraining orders after hearing	25	24	6

Table 13 Amador County Superior Domestic Violence Court Records
 Source: Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan 2004-2009.

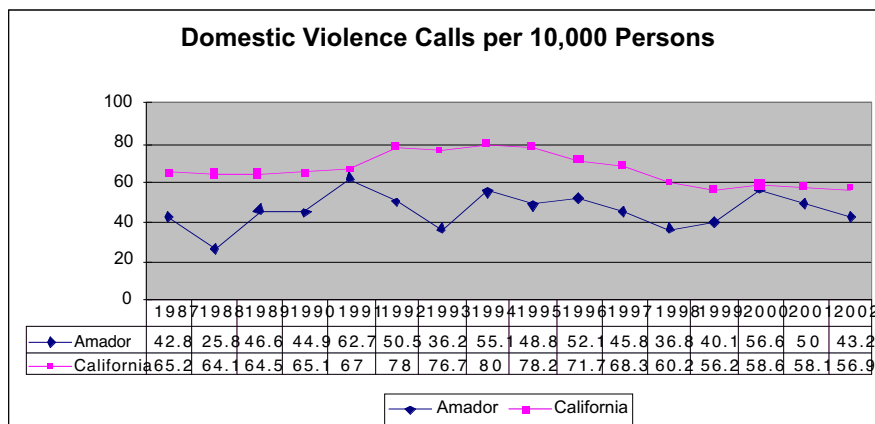


Figure 42 Amador County Domestic Violence Calls per 10,000 Persons from the Year 1987 to 2002
 Source: RAND California Community Statistics.

The DV Council supported the need for development of the multi-disciplinary team called the Domestic Violence Enhancement Response Team (DVERT) to be trained to review and provide intervention services to cases involving incidents of domestic abuse, including spousal/partner, child, and elder abuse.

In 1980, Operation Care was founded in Amador County. Currently, they provide 24-hour hotlines for: sexual assault, domestic violence and crisis intervention. Their domestic violence (DV) program provides rape crisis assistance, counseling, advocacy, accompanying services and a safe house. They also provide educational outreach programs to the community.⁶²

⁶² The information is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan (2004-2009).

Why is this important? We pay an enormous price for domestic violence. In addition to the immediate physical and emotional impact of domestic violence, research overwhelmingly indicates that early exposure to domestic violence increases the risk of boys becoming future batterers, and girls becoming future victims.⁶³ Additionally, adults who experienced adverse childhood environments (including domestic violence) are more likely to develop chronic diseases (e.g., heart disease, cancer, etc.), later in life.⁶⁴

Child Protective Service

Calls to Child Protection Service have increased to almost 60 responses per month, resulting in over 40 children in foster care yearly since 2001. Two positions in CPS have been added to handle the increased caseload.⁶⁵ There is an increasing trend to vacate parental rights and place children for adoption.

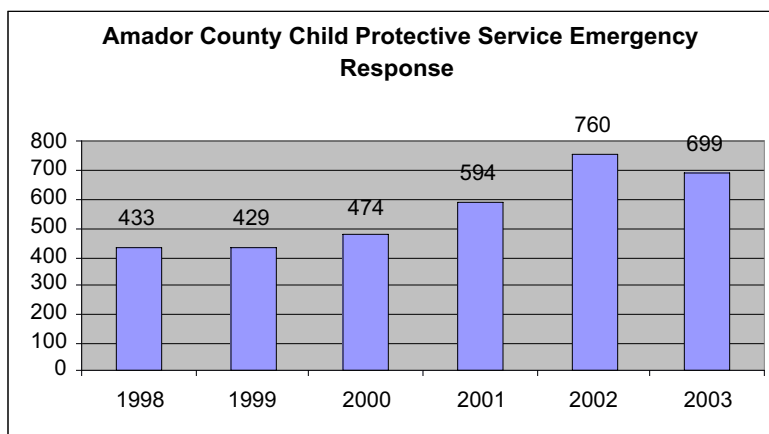


Figure 43 Amador County Child Protective Service Emergency Response.
Source: Amador County Child Protective Service

⁶³ Studies illustrate the link between children witnessing DV and violent and abusive behavior throughout life. Jeffrey L.D. of the University of Minnesota has compiled an extensive listing of these studies in his paper, “Children’s Witnessing of Adult Domestic Violence.”

⁶⁴ Felitti, V, et al, “Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study,” American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Volume 14, Number 4, May 1998.

⁶⁵ Amador County Child Protective Service

California Healthy Kids Survey

The American public's highest concerns about youth are currently related to violence. The following figure shows students answers to the question about how safe they feel at school. Safety both psychological and physical is a basic need that must be met in order for students to succeed in school.⁶⁶

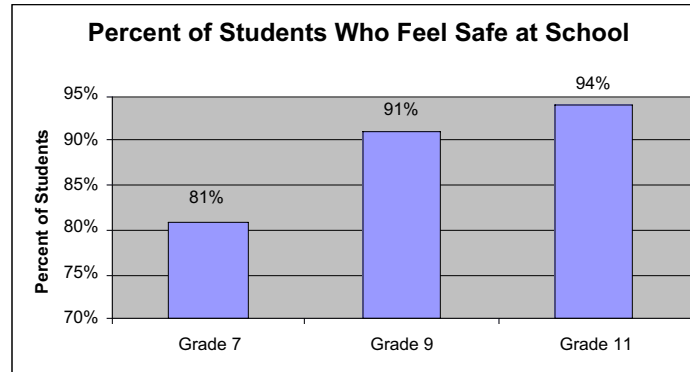


Figure 44 Percent of Students Who Feel Safe at School in Amador County.
Source: California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Technical Report 2003.

The following chart includes indicators of harassment, violence perpetration, and weapons possession at school.

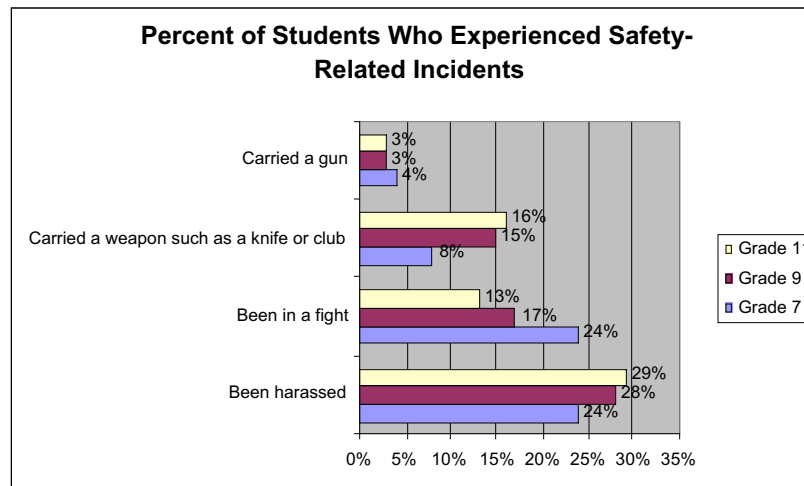


Figure 45 Percentage of Students Who Experienced Safety-Related Incidents on School Property in Amador County during the Past 12 Months.
Source: California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Technical Report 2003.

⁶⁶ The information is from the California Healthy Kids Survey Amador County Unified School District Technical Report 2003.

COMUNITY LIFE

Community life is one of the most challenging health indicators to measure. It relies largely on public opinion, and requires an understanding of the diversity of interests held by individuals of different ages, cultural and social backgrounds, as well as attention to different, and even conflicting, needs that may be based on location of residence, employment, or schooling. Some individuals appear highly satisfied with current activities and opportunities for involvement, while others express feelings of isolation or disconnect from the kinds of activities they would like to pursue. All individuals possess a unique set of interests, but this assessment attempts to present the trends that have become apparent among certain groups within our population.

Amador County has much higher rates of voter registration than does California as a whole. It shows that the local residents in Amador County have been active in vote registration. At the same time, a strong interest in using our outdoor assets underlies many of the findings related to community life in Amador County. The respondents in the community survey expressed interests in using improved public parks and recreation areas. Topping the lists of specific recreational interests for residents were art museums/theaters, sports complex, and trails.

Reasons for not participating in community activities were varied, but the availability is one of the most striking factors to increase public recreational opportunities. Moreover, the majority of adults reported “a lack of information” about opportunities. Voices for Families witnessed this directly in the challenges it faced in effectively publicizing events. After forums that were advertised in the local newspaper, radio, and television media at least two weeks prior to the event dates, we consistently received dozens of phone calls from individuals who hadn’t “known about the forums until it was too late.” A number of participants, particularly those in outlying areas, also informed us that they used local media sources infrequently. Teens cited “a lack of time” or the inability to “match their personal interests” as being the biggest barriers to community activities. This information should help organizations as they work to increase participation and create new opportunities for community members.⁶⁷

Public Transportation

Located to the east of Sacramento and San Joaquin counties, Amador County encompasses the foothill terrain of the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Range. The county is bisected north/south by Highway 49; east/west by Highway 88. Highway 104 reaches from 88/116 into a southern area of the county. The population centers are located along these two-lane state highways. Additional population is scattered off private roads.

⁶⁷ The information is base on the Amador County Community Assessment 2000.

Public transportation is limited to the main, core communities, with additional pickups by request, up to _ mile from the main route⁶⁸. A twice-daily service has been added to and from Sacramento. Service is available 5:40am to 7:15pm, depending on the route.⁶⁹

Vote Registration

What is it? Voter registration is the percentage of registered voters divided by the number of eligible voters as determined by the Secretary of State’s Office. Eligible voters include those who are 18 years or older, U.S. citizens, and not in prison or parole.

How are we doing? In general, Amador County has higher rates of voter registration than does California. Between 1996 and 2000, the annual average for Amador County was 76.6 and California was 72.6. Nearly one-quarter of Amador County’s eligible voters are not registered to vote.

According to California Institute Counties Government Amador County Profile, in the year 2002, 70.4% of registered voters voted in the 2002 General Election, which was much higher than the state’s percent (49.6%).

AMADOR COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS 2002	County	State
Percent of <u>registered voters</u> who voted in General Election	70.4	49.6
Percent of <u>residents eligible to vote</u> who voted in the General Election	54.0	35.4
Percent of 2001 income tax returns with voluntary contribution	0.8	0.9

Table 14 Percent of Voters in Amador County in the 2002 General Election
Source: California Institute for Counties Government County Files

Why is this important? People who participate in voting typically have a greater sense of responsibility with regard to how public policy is created and implemented. High voter turnout creates more direct accountability between elected officials and the people they represent, accountability that is essential to the vitality of our democratic system.

⁶⁸ Amador Regional Transit System 1/2004

⁶⁹ The information is directly from the Amador County Community Health Assessment and Local Five Year Plan (2004-2009).

Recreation Opportunities

In the year 2001, Amador County conducted a small-scale recreation survey in the local community. Sixty-seven local residents responded to the survey. Although the respondents can hardly represent the whole community, the survey results restate many findings represented in the 2000 Amador County Community Assessment. Here are some findings of the survey.

Availability (51) and proximity to home/work (30) are the two major factors to increase use of public facilities according to the 67 survey respondents in Amador County.

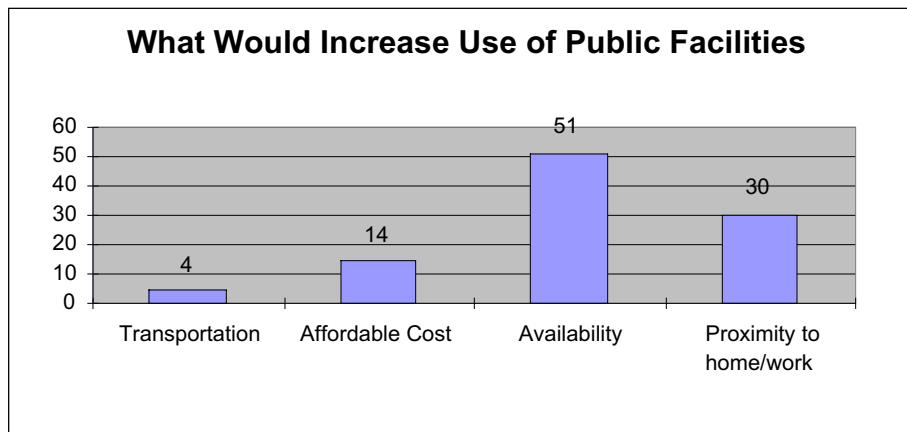


Figure 46 Number of Choice to Increase Use of Public Facilities in the 2001 Recreation Survey
Source: 2001 Amador County Recreation Survey

The survey respondents reported that currently among all public facilities, school fields are most used ones, followed by Plymouth Fairgrounds. Some other relatively often used public facilities include: Minnie Provis Park, Jackson Pool and Howard Park.

The Most Used Public Facilities	Number of Use
School fields	21
Plymouth Fairgrounds	16
Minnie Provis Park	15
Jackson Pool	11
Howard Park	10
Lake Tabeau	8
Senior Center	7
Sutter Creek Auditorium	6
Volcano Theater	6
Italian Picnic Grounds	5

Table 15 Number of Use of Public Facilities in the 2001 Recreation Survey
Source: 2001 Amador County Recreation Survey

Among the survey respondents, 31 people use public parks or facilities out of Amador County once a week, and meanwhile 24 of them use parks or facilities in Amador County. However, there are 16 respondents never using public facilities in Amador County, while only one person never uses public facilities out of Amador County.

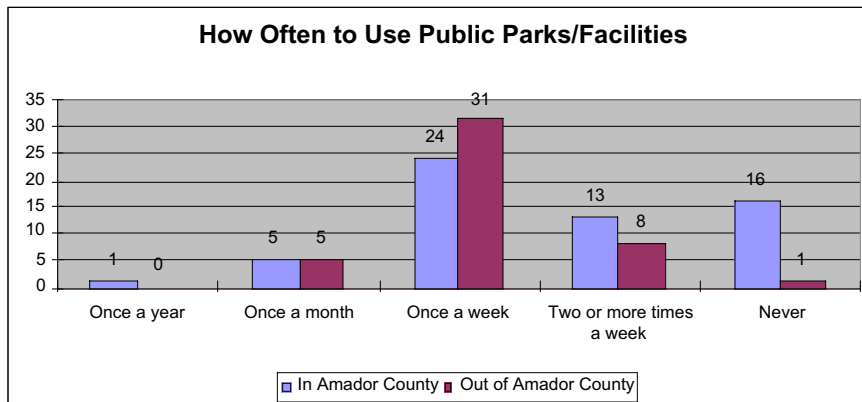


Figure 47 Number of Times to Use Public Facilities in and out of Amador County
Source: 2001 Amador County Recreation Survey

Theater/music and hiking are the two popular recreation types among the 67 survey respondents. Bike riding and shopping are relatively popular.

Recreation Types Out of Amador County	Number
Theater and music	15
Hiking	12
Bike riding	5
Shopping	5
Camping	4
Fishing	4
Art shows	3
Dancing	3
Meetings	3
Movies	3
Swimming	3

Table 16 Type and Number of Recreation Activities out of Amador County
Source: 2001 Amador County Recreation Survey

Nineteen respondents liked performing arts as local recreation facilities, 19 respondents chose swim centers. Trails, sports complex and multi-use trail system were mentioned 9 to 17 times by the respondents. Some other subjects were brought up such as tennis courts, skate parks, upcountry pools, gyms, community center, playgrounds, and youth centers, etc.

What types of recreation facilities would you like to have available?

Recreation Preference	Responses
Performing Arts	19
Swim center	19
Trails	18
Sports complex	17
Multi-use trail system	15
Bike trails	9
Tennis	5
Skate park	5
Upcountry pool	4
Gym	3
Community center	2
Community garden/demo area	2
Playgrounds	2
Riding trails	2
Shooting range	2
Upcountry exercise facility	2
Youth center	2

Table 17 Types of Recreation Facilities Amador County Residents Want to Have Available.

Source: 2001 Amador County Recreation Survey