

## 9. Community Health

Health and human service agencies are extremely important in treating and monitoring the needs of the community. Community health indicators can determine and assess the success of programs and services that provide access to physical and mental support for a community.

When considering community health indicators, it is helpful to look not only at traditional medical indicators (births, deaths, etc.) but individual and collective health as well. Individual health may be influenced by a variety of factors, including educational attainment, employment, environmental factors, and even community relations. Health factors in a community provide an overall understanding of the health care knowledge, importance, and availability in a county. By analyzing trends in El Dorado County, the needs of the community become clear.

The community health of El Dorado County has seen improvement in several major categories over the last decade. Teen pregnancy and infant mortality rates both reached their lowest points in the last ten years in 2001, and were also considerably lower than California averages. Also, the number of physicians in El Dorado County has increased steadily since 1990, and as of 2003 the incidence of AIDS in the county per 100,000 residents is lower than the statewide average.

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## Births, Deaths, & Leading Causes of Death

### Overview

Birth and death statistics are essential when putting together public health information. This data is used for planning educational initiatives, problem identification, and targeting public health programs and services. A population's birth rate can also be used to plan maternal and childcare services. For example, an increase over the last five years represents the need for more child care facilities in the upcoming five to ten years.

The number of live births refers to those births given by a resident of the county, while it may have taken place outside of that county. Occurrence is the number of live births that took place in the county, regardless of whether it was a resident that gave birth. The live birth rate is the number of live births per thousand people in the county.

### El Dorado County

There was a total of 1,751 live births in El Dorado County in 2003, and 1,126 of those were to El Dorado County residents. Both of these numbers reflect decreases from the previous year.

In 2002, the number of deaths that occurred in El Dorado County totaled 968, with 1,191 El Dorado County residents' deaths occurring outside of the county. The lower number of deaths occurring in El Dorado County may be a result of fewer health care facilities available to county residents. Similar to the rest of California, heart disease and cancer are the top two causes of death in the county. There was an overall increase of thirty deaths from 2001 to 2002 of El Dorado County residents, including an increase of five deaths related to heart disease and twenty-eight deaths related to cancer during the same period.

Number of Live Births, El Dorado County

Year	Residence		
	Number	Rate	Occurrence
1990	1,993	15.5%	1,566
1991	1,956	14.7%	1,504
1992	1,773	12.8%	1,333
1993	1,789	12.5%	1,359
1994	1,792	12.2%	1,346
1995	1,726	12.0%	1,353
1996	1,664	11.5%	1,329
1997	1,666	11.3%	1,271
1998	1,677	11.2%	1,311
1999	1,637	10.7%	1,229
2000	1,628	10.4%	1,169
2001	1,698	10.6%	1,192
2002	1,765	10.8%	1,164
2003	1,751	10.6%	1,126

Source: California Department of Health Services

Number of Live Births, California

Year	Residence		
	Number	Rate	Occurrence
1990	611,666	20.4%	612,834
1991	609,228	19.9%	610,393
1992	600,838	19.2%	602,037
1993	584,483	18.4%	585,344
1994	567,034	17.6%	567,892
1995	551,226	17.2%	552,083
1996	538,628	16.5%	539,487
1997	524,174	15.9%	525,246
1998	521,265	15.6%	522,653
1999	518,073	15.2%	519,248
2000	531,285	15.7%	532,611
2001	527,371	15.3%	528,609
2002	529,245	15.1%	530,204
2003	540,827	15.2%	541,835

Source: California Department of Health Services

Number of Deaths, El Dorado County

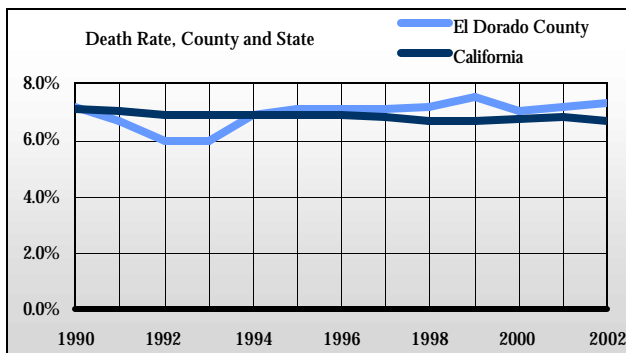
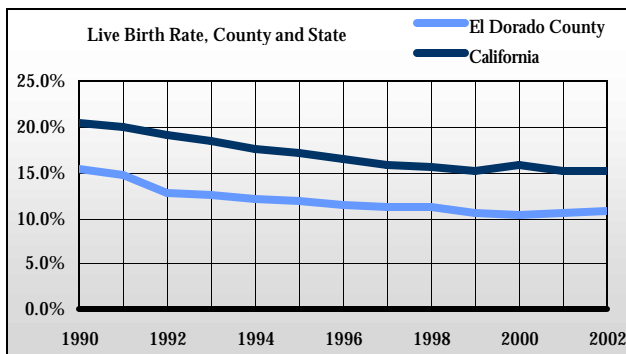
Year	Residence		
	Number	Rate	Occurrence
1990	929	7.2%	824
1991	901	6.7%	774
1992	827	6.0%	733
1993	856	6.0%	739
1994	1,004	6.9%	861
1995	1,026	7.1%	873
1996	1,024	7.1%	862
1997	1,053	7.1%	895
1998	1,078	7.2%	926
1999	1,149	7.5%	960
2000	1,101	7.0%	947
2001	1,161	7.2%	916
2002	1,191	7.3%	968

Source: California Department of Health Services

Number of Deaths, California

Year	Residence		
	Number	Rate	Occurrence
1990	213,766	7.1%	214,919
1991	214,220	7.0%	216,006
1992	214,586	6.9%	216,379
1993	220,271	6.9%	222,330
1994	222,854	6.9%	224,733
1995	222,626	6.9%	224,604
1996	222,308	6.9%	224,084
1997	223,438	6.8%	225,243
1998	225,450	6.7%	227,897
1999	227,965	6.7%	230,054
2000	228,281	6.8%	230,505
2001	232,790	6.8%	234,683
2002	233,246	6.7%	235,180

Source: California Department of Health Services



Leading Causes of Death, El Dorado County

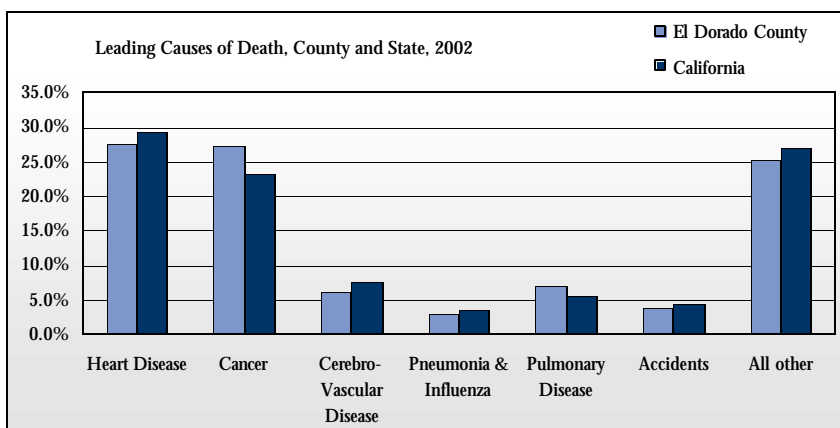
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
All causes	1,004	1,026	1,024	1,053	1,078	1,149	1,101	1,161	1,191
Heart Disease	279	298	286	268	283	343	275	324	329
Cancer	259	283	253	275	291	302	300	295	323
Cerebro-Vascular Disease	67	63	66	97	69	76	69	66	72
Pneumonia & Influenza	48	58	42	61	60	40	29	38	35
Pulmonary Disease	55	51	59	41	72	51	67	71	84
Accidents	55	45	67	61	33	47	54	65	47
Cirrhosis	n/a	n/a	16	17	15	21	18	13	17
Diabetes	23	20	16	23	23	28	28	23	19
Suicide	19	31	33	26	23	21	19	25	22
Homicide	7	5	n/a	2	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alzheimers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	22	33	32
All other causes	182	160	179	182	204	203	220	208	211

Source: California, Department of Health Services

Leading Causes of Death, California

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
All causes	222,854	222,626	222,308	223,438	225,450	227,965	228,281	232,790	233,246
Heart Disease	68,312	67,990	67,676	68,273	68,946	69,900	68,533	69,004	68,387
Cancer	51,247	51,217	50,904	51,818	51,186	52,880	53,005	53,810	53,926
Cerebro-Vascular Disease	15,703	16,176	16,481	16,649	16,385	18,079	18,090	18,078	17,551
Pneumonia & Influenza	10,237	10,548	11,134	12,286	13,316	8,014	8,355	8,167	8,098
Pulmonary Disease	11,017	10,765	11,373	11,737	12,261	13,187	12,754	13,056	12,643
Accidents	9,233	9,372	9,217	8,762	8,620	8,940	8,814	9,274	9,882
Cirrhosis	n/a	n/a	3,501	3,502	3,460	3,546	3,673	3,759	3,725
Diabetes	4,918	5,096	5,380	5,611	5,796	6,004	6,203	6,457	6,783
Suicide	3,821	3,823	3,408	3,424	3,215	3,047	3,113	3,256	3,210
Homicide	3,690	3,623	n/a	2,780	2,265	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alzheimers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,934	4,398	4,897	5,405
All other causes	37,937	37,566	39,027	38,596	40,000	40,434	41,343	43,032	43,636

Source: California, Department of Health Services



## AIDS Cases

### Overview

The epidemic of HIV and AIDS has attracted much attention both within and outside the medical and scientific communities. Much of this attention comes from the many social issues related to this disease, such as sexuality, drug use, and poverty. Although an overwhelming amount of scientific evidence points to HIV as the cause of AIDS, the disease process is still not completely understood.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has become a worldwide epidemic since it was first reported in the United States in 1981. Over 800,000 AIDS cases have been reported in the United States since 1981, and many more people may be infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS and may be passed from one person to another when infected blood, semen, or vaginal secretions come in contact with an uninfected person's broken skin or

stage, people have fewer than 200 CD4+ T cells, whereas healthy adults not infected normally have CD4+ T cell counts of 1,000. The definition also includes twenty-six clinical conditions that affect people with advanced HIV. Most of these conditions are opportunistic infections that rarely cause harm in healthy individuals. To people with AIDS, these infections can be fatal. People infected with AIDS are also prone to developing various cancers that can be very difficult to treat. Young children with AIDS are susceptible to the same opportunistic infections as well as some severe forms of bacterial infections.

AIDS can be contracted by people of any race, gender, or sexual preference. The epidemic, however, is growing most rapidly among minority populations and is the leading killer of African-American males, according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID).

Often people with AIDS cannot hold steady employment or perform household chores due to conditions brought on by the illness. In some cases, people may experience phases of intense life-threatening illness followed by phases of normal function.

AIDS Cases & Cumulative Incidence (1981 - November 30, 2004)

	AIDS cases	Deaths		Incidence (per 100,000)
		Number	Percent	
El Dorado County	167	101	60.5%	39
California	135,707	79,024	58.2%	157

Source: California Department of Health

mucous membranes. In addition, infected pregnant women can pass HIV to their baby during pregnancy or delivery, as well as through breastfeeding. People with HIV have what is called HIV infection. Some of these people will develop AIDS as a result of their HIV infection.

HIV destroys a certain kind of blood cell (CD4+ T cells) which is crucial to the normal function of the human immune system. Loss of these cells in people with HIV is an extremely powerful indicator of the development of AIDS. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AIDS includes all people infected with the HIV virus in its most advanced stage. At this advanced

### El Dorado County

From 1981 to 2004, there have been a total of 167 AIDS cases reported in El Dorado County, and 101 (60.5 percent) of these cases have terminated in death to the patient. In California, 135,707 AIDS cases have been reported since 1981, and 79,024 (58.2 percent) have resulted in death. These numbers translate to a ratio of thirty-nine cases per every 100,000 people among El Dorado County residents, and 157 cases per 100,000 people among Californians.

## Teenage Pregnancy

### Overview

Teen pregnancy is a major national and state concern because teen mothers and their babies face increased risks to their health. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, teen mothers are more likely than mothers over age twenty to give birth prematurely (before thirty-seven completed weeks of pregnancy). Although teenage birth rates slowed to the lowest point ever in 2003, teenage pregnancy remains an important concern throughout the United States. In 2002, the 7,315 girls under age 15 who gave birth were more than twice as likely to deliver prematurely than women ages 30-45 (21 percent versus 9 percent). Many factors contribute to the increased risk of health problems of babies born to teenage mothers. Teens often have poor eating habits, neglect taking their vitamins, and many smoke, drink alcohol, or even take drugs. Evidence also shows that many teens are less likely than older women to be of adequate pre-pregnancy weight and/or to gain an adequate amount of weight during pregnancy leading to an increased chance of having a low-birth weight baby.

Early and regular healthcare during pregnancy is vital to both the mother and child; however, many teens either do not have access to necessary services or simply choose to not utilize them. In 2002, 6.6 percent of mothers, ages 15-19 years, received late or no prenatal care, compared to 3.6 percent for all ages.

Teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of high school than those who wait until later years to have their own children. Lacking necessary education skills, teenage mothers potentially have a harder time finding and keeping good-paying jobs. As a result, a child born to an unmarried teenage high school dropout is ten times as likely as other children to be living in poverty at ages 8-12. In addition, a child born to a teenage mother is fifty percent more likely to repeat a grade in school, and is more likely to perform poorly on standardized tests and drop out before finishing high school.

NOTE: "a" denotes rates that are not calculated for fewer than five births.

Teen Birth Rates by Age of Mother

Year	El Dorado County		California	
	10-14	15-19	10-14	15-19
1990	a	44.5	1.4	69.9
1991	a	45	1.5	72.7
1992	0	31.9	1.5	71.1
1993	0	37.6	1.5	70.6
1994	a	32.1	1.5	69.9
1995	a	35.8	1.5	67.2
1996	0	29.1	1.3	61.6
1997	a	29	1.1	56.7
1998	a	26.8	1.4	69.9
1999	a	a	0.9	50.2
2000	a	21.8	0.7	48.1
2001	0	24.5	0.6	45.1
2002	a	23.1	0.5	41.6

Source: California Department of Health Services

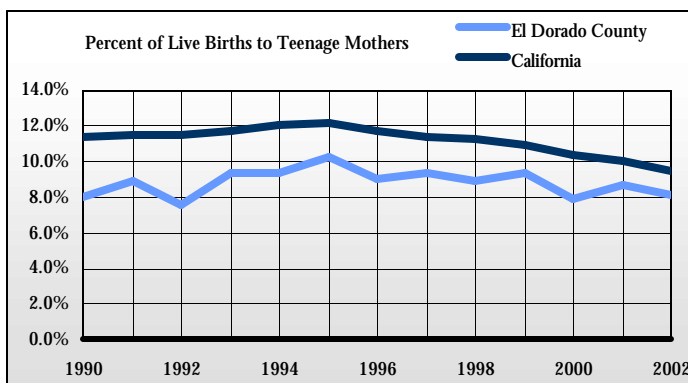
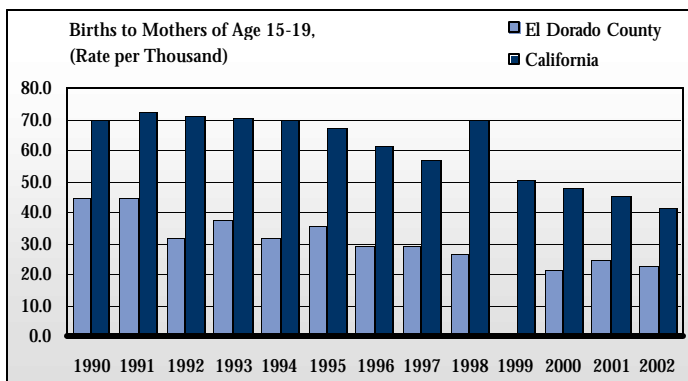
Total Teen Births

Year	El Dorado County		California	
	Total teen births	Percent of live births	Total teen births	Percent of live births
1990	159	8.0%	69,560	11.4%
1991	174	8.9%	70,322	11.5%
1992	135	7.6%	69,272	11.5%
1993	167	9.3%	68,519	11.7%
1994	167	9.3%	68,198	12.0%
1995	176	10.2%	66,644	12.1%
1996	150	9.0%	63,118	11.7%
1997	155	9.3%	59,851	11.4%
1998	149	8.9%	58,141	11.2%
1999	153	9.3%	56,577	10.9%
2000	129	7.9%	55,373	10.4%
2001	148	8.7%	52,966	10.0%
2002	144	8.2%	50,201	9.5%

Source: California Department of Health Services

**El Dorado County**

Teen pregnancies in El Dorado County represented 10.2 percent of all pregnancies in 1995, but have since been decreasing even though the population has grown. Also, teen pregnancy rates in El Dorado County have always been lower than the overall incidence throughout California. Only 8.2 percent of all births in the county were from teen mothers in 2002, lower than the California average of 9.5 percent. Of these, the vast majority of teen mothers were between the ages of 15-19.



## Low Birth Weight Infants

### Overview

Low birth weight is the primary cause of infant mortality. Birth weight is also an important element in childhood development. There are many factors that lead to low birth weights, such as smoking tobacco during pregnancy, using alcohol or other non-prescribed substances, poor nutrition, lack of or late prenatal care, and premature birth. Low birth weight babies are at a higher risk to be born with underdeveloped organs. This can lead to lung problems, such as respiratory distress syndrome, bleeding of the brain, vision loss, and/or serious intestinal problems. Low birth weight babies are more than twenty times more likely to die in their first year of life than babies born at a normal weight. The National Center for Health Statistics and the Department of Health Services agree that low birth weight is defined as "a live birth weighing less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces."

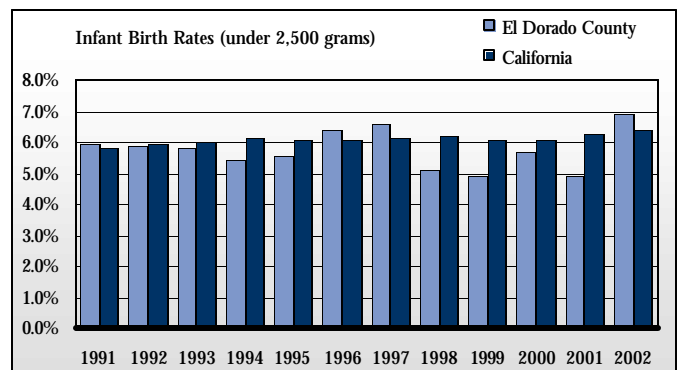
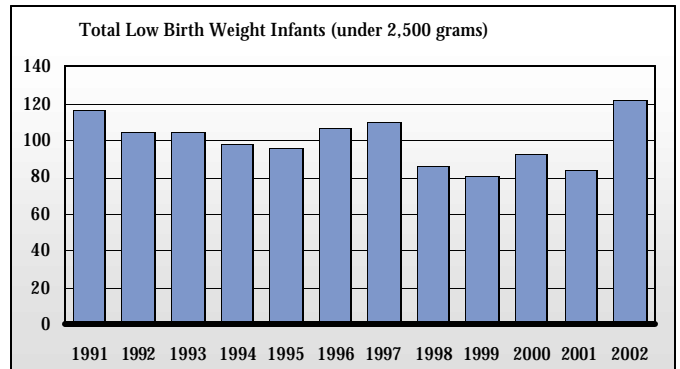
Low Birth Weight Infants (under 2,500 grams)

Year	El Dorado County		California	
	Number	Percent of total live births	Number	Percent of total live births
1991	116	5.9%	35,359	5.8%
1992	104	5.9%	35,608	5.9%
1993	104	5.8%	35,116	6.0%
1994	98	5.5%	34,876	6.2%
1995	96	5.6%	33,588	6.1%
1996	107	6.4%	32,649	6.1%
1997	110	6.6%	32,232	6.1%
1998	86	5.1%	32,438	6.2%
1999	81	4.9%	31,686	6.1%
2000	93	5.7%	32,853	6.1%
2001	84	4.9%	33,196	6.3%
2002	122	6.9%	33,859	6.4%

Source: State of California, Department of Health Services, Birth Records

### El Dorado County

The total number of low birth weights was 122 in El Dorado County in 2002, which was 6.9 percent of the total number of births in the same year. This percentage is significantly increased from 4.9 percent in 2001, and is 0.5 percent more than the rate of low-weight births across California.





## Infant Mortality

### Overview

Infant mortality is used to compare the health and well-being of populations across and within countries. The infant mortality rate, the rate at which babies less than one year of age die, has continued to steadily decline over the past several decades, from 26 per 1,000 live births in 1960, to 6.9 per 1,000 live births in 2000. The United States ranked twenty-eight in the world for infant mortality in 1998. (CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, 2000.) In the United States, the state of California was ranked twenty-two among the fifty states in 2003, dropping from a ranking of thirty-three in 1990 (CDC, NCHS, 2003). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, California's strengths include a low prevalence of smoking at 16.4 percent of the population, a low infant mortality rate at 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, and a low rate of cancer deaths at 191.9 deaths 100,000 population.

California's challenges include a high violent crime rate with 617 offenses per 100,000 population, a high incidence of infectious disease with 29.8 cases per 100,000 population, and a high uninsured population at 18.2 percent. The state is ranked twenty-six for the combined measures of risk factors and ranked twenty for the combined measures of outcomes, possibly indicating that, without changes, the relative health of California will slightly decline in the future if the risk factors are not improved.

Infant mortality represents many factors surrounding birth, including but not limited to the health of the mother, prenatal care, quality of the health services delivered to the mother, and child and infant care. In addition, high infant mortality rates are often considered preventable and can be influenced by various education and care programs.

Number of Infant Deaths

Year	El Dorado County		California	
	Number	Percent of live births*	Number	Percent of live births*
1991	7	3.6%	4,596	7.5%
1992	14	7.9%	4,174	6.9%
1993	8	4.5%	3,970	6.8%
1994	16	8.9%	3,948	7.0%
1995	6	3.5%	3,478	6.3%
1996	10	6.0%	3,186	5.9%
1997	3	1.8%	3,091	5.9%
1998	6	3.6%	2,994	5.7%
1999	8	4.9%	2,787	5.4%
2000	3	1.8%	2,884	5.4%
2001	9	5.3%	2,815	5.3%
2002	12	6.8%	2,875	5.4%

Source: California Department of Health Services

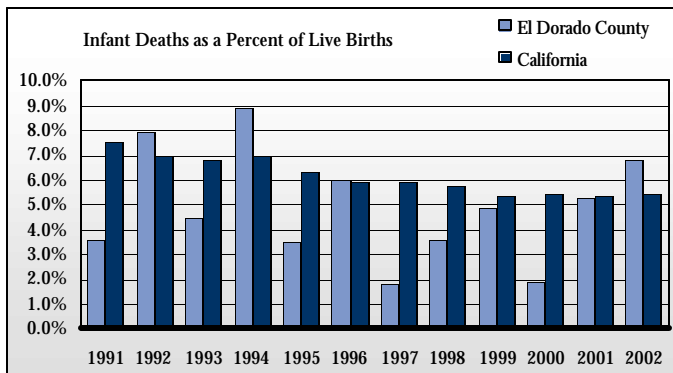
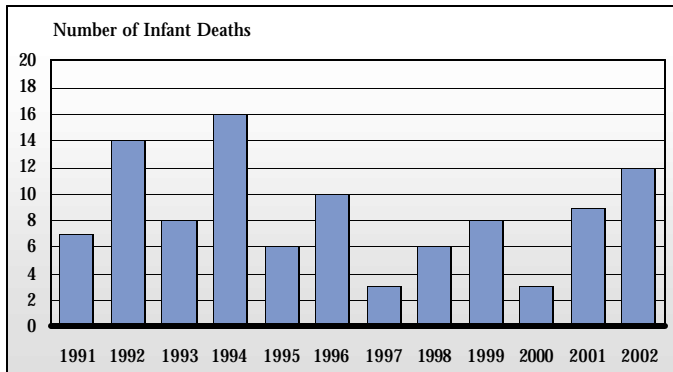
Infant mortality rates are the sum of infant and neonatal deaths, which are described below:

- Neonatal death is a death occurring within the first twenty-eight days of life.
- Infant death is a death occurring during the first year of life.

\*Percent of infant deaths out of every 1,000 live births.

**El Dorado County**

There were a total of twelve infant deaths in El Dorado County in 2002, an increase of three deaths from the previous year. This figure represents 6.8 percent of the live births for the same year, 1.4 percent higher than the California average. In 2002, El Dorado County saw the highest number of infant deaths since 1994.



## Medical Service Providers

### Overview

The number of practitioners providing services within an area indicates the available health care resources in a community. Access to health care and preventative services, such as immunizations and health screenings, are important to an individual's health. Those lacking preventative services are at a higher risk for some diseases, especially those that are preventable by vaccine.

### El Dorado County

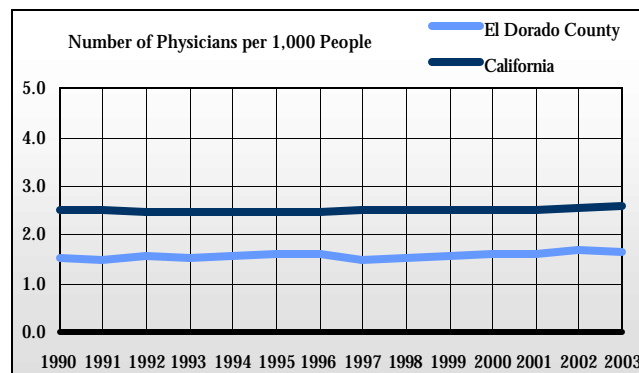
#### Physicians

The Medical Board of California regulates the majority of medical issues and concerns in California, and is responsible for reporting the number of physicians in specific areas in their annual report. As of 2003, there were 276 physicians actively practicing in El Dorado County, an increase of two physicians from the previous year. As the number of physicians in California and El Dorado County continues to rise, community health and preventative care services will continue to improve. Also, an influx of physicians in a particular area raises that area's economic and educational status. Nearly eighty-eight physicians have set up practices in El Dorado County since 1990.

#### Number of Physicians

Fiscal Year	Number of physicians	Total physicians in CA
1990	188	74,437
1991	193	76,043
1992	214	76,367
1993	215	76,411
1994	220	77,311
1995	234	78,169
1996	232	79,048
1997	224	80,341
1998	234	81,762
1999	242	82,872
2000	251	84,675
2001	261	86,934
2002	274	89,025
2003	276	91,049

Source: Medical Board of California



#### Dentists

The state of California's Department of Consumer Affairs is responsible for recording the number of licensed dentists for each county. As of November 30, 2004, there were 150 licensed dentists located within El Dorado County.

*The number of physicians in California has increased more rapidly than the state's population in the last two decades! According to the Office of Statewide Planning and Health Development (OSPHD), in 1995, California had 77,732 practicing physicians and a ratio of one physician for every 364 persons, compared with one in 457 persons twenty years earlier. Although there are no universally accepted standards on what the ratio of patients per doctor needs to be, there is a general agreement that California has a sufficient number of physicians.*

## Alcohol & Drug Program Clients

### Overview

Data on the number of participants in an area's available substance addiction and abuse programs can be useful in determining the need of public funds for such services, as well as establishing the importance of further study regarding the promotion of healthy individuals within a community.

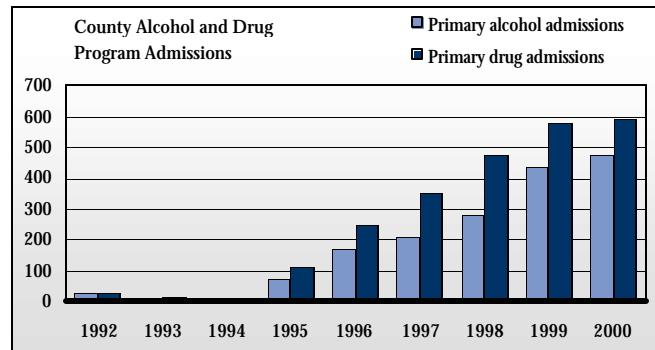
The data collected here was provided by RAND California and based on California Alcohol and Drug Data Systems. The department develops, administers, and financially assists treatment and prevention programs throughout the state and also offers certification of residential and non-residential programs.

Most of the information reported is submitted by treatment providers who receive state or federal funds. Licensed narcotic treatment programs, which may or may not receive public funds, and drug Medi-Cal providers, are required to submit information. Analysis and compilation of the data is performed, excluding client names and any identifying personal information.

Drug program admissions are due to primary problems with one or more of the following: heroin, barbiturates, methamphetamines, amphetamines, stimulants, cocaine/crack, marijuana/hashish, PCP, hallucinogens, tranquilizers (benzodiazepine), other tranquilizers, non-prescription methadone, inhalants, and other opiates and synthetics. It does not include other sedatives or hypnotics, over-the-counter drugs, or secondary problems.

### El Dorado County

A total of 1,079 El Dorado County residents were admitted into some kind of substance abuse program in 2000. Of the total, 594 were admitted to alcohol programs and 594 were admitted into drug abuse programs.



County Alcohol and Drug Program Admissions

	Primary alcohol admissions	Primary drug admissions	Total admissions
1992	25	29	54
1993	6	14	20
1994	9	9	18
1995	72	114	189
1996	172	250	422
1997	209	355	564
1998	280	472	757
1999	437	579	1,020
2000	473	594	1,079

Source: RAND California

City of Placerville Alcohol and Drug Program Admissions

	Primary alcohol admissions	Primary drug admissions	Total admissions
1992	n/a	8	8
1993	n/a	4	4
1994	2	2	4
1995	21	28	49
1996	35	67	102
1997	31	82	113
1998	69	130	200
1999	98	172	270
2000	111	169	285

Source: RAND California

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City of South Lake Tahoe Alcohol and Drug Program  
Admissions

	Primary alcohol admissions	Primary drug admissions	Total admissions
1992	14	9	23
1993	4	2	6
1994	n/a	3	3
1995	20	6	27
1996	71	71	142
1997	104	124	228
1998	119	152	273
1999	169	174	345
2000	185	188	373

Source: RAND California

## Persons Living with a Disability

### Overview

In order to understand the special needs of a community, it helps to look at the number of people in a community who live with a disability, and the types of facilities that are available to them. Six of the major disabilities are listed below.

- **Sensory disabilities** are conditions that affect the sensory organs, such as blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.
- **Physical disabilities** are conditions that substantially limit one or more basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.
- **Mental disabilities** are conditions that affect thinking processes, such as learning, remembering, or concentrating.

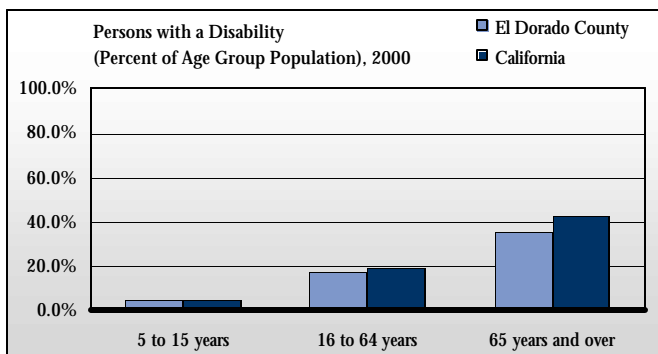
- **Self-care disabilities** are conditions in which basic everyday routines are not met, such as bathing and dressing oneself, or getting around inside the home without assistance.
- **Going outside the home disabilities** are conditions in which people are confined to their home and cannot leave it without assistance.
- **Employment disability** is the inability to work at a job or business.

The totals in the following figures include the disabilities listed above. Only persons 16-64 years of age were asked about employment disabilities. Only persons 65 years of age and older were asked about a going outside the home disability.

### El Dorado County

As of 2000, the total number of people living in El Dorado County with reported disabilities was 25,535, a number which represents 17.3 percent of the total population in the county. Of these, 1,273 were 5 to 15 years of age, 17,378 were between the ages of 16 and 64, and 6,884 were 65 and over. Of disabled residents between the ages of 16 and 64, 11,371 had some kind of employment disability.

Statewide, 5,923,361 Californians reported some kind of disability in 2000, which is 19.4 percent of the state's total population.



Persons with a Disability, 2000

Age	El Dorado County			California		
	Employment disability	Total with a disability	Percent of age group population	Employment disability	Total with disability	Percent of age group population
5 to 15 years	n/a	1,273	4.7%	n/a	277,503	4.8%
16 to 64 years	11,371	17,378	17.3%	2,770,128	4,180,265	19.4%
65 years and over	n/a	6,884	35.7%	n/a	1,465,593	42.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,371</b>	<b>25,535</b>	<b>69.7%</b>	<b>2,770,128</b>	<b>5,923,361</b>	<b>66.4%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census