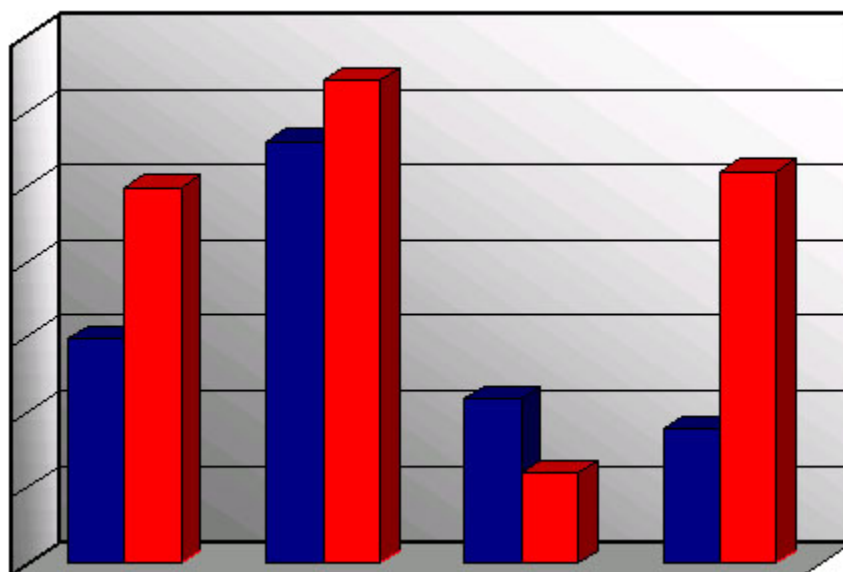


Visioning Progress:

A Changing Stanislaus County



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A Changing Stanislaus County

Throughout the 1990s, Stanislaus County experienced significant change. The changes placed tremendous pressure on existing resources that required difficult and creative choices to be made by public policy makers. The series of indicators included in this report provide the data regarding many of the changes and the challenges facing policy makers. This brief narrative highlights some of the more dramatic changes and pressing challenges.

The population grew by almost 21%, substantially exceeding the state growth rate of 13.8%. While the cities have seen increases between 14.7% in Modesto to more than 85% in Riverbank, the unincorporated area of the county has also grown 11.3%.

Agricultural land is, inevitably, one of the important resources that is squeezed as a result of such significant population growth. Nevertheless, creative policy choices and the efforts of farmers have limited the impact on agriculture. Land used by agriculture declined by 7,514 acres between 1992 and 1998, or almost 2% of the total. Prime farmland declined almost 3%, although some of this was due to a reclassification of agricultural land itself. Unique farmland, for example, increased by more than 3% during this same period. Furthermore, harvested acreage has remained relatively high throughout the 1990s, suggesting that shifts in land use have not impeded agricultural productivity. Between 1996 and 2000, harvested acreage increased from 802,965 acres to 810,395.

Total acreage protected by Williamson Act guarantees declined slightly between 1997 and 1998, although the volume of nonprime land increased by more than 4,000 acres while prime farmland declined by 9,000 acres.

Air and water are two very precious resources that can be seriously harmed as a result of rapid population increase. Air quality in Stanislaus County has actually improved since 1990—even with population growth that exceeds the state average. Yet, air quality in the

San Joaquin air district has not improved enough to forestall the imposition of federal sanctions. As has been well reported in the press, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Board requested a more severe designation than the data warrant in order to obtain additional time to meet federal standards.

Water use in Stanislaus County is high, with irrigation accounting for 90% of all fresh water withdrawals. This is an increase of 3.4% over 1985 levels. In 1995, per capita use of fresh water in gallons per day was 3,475 in Stanislaus County compared with 1,130 on average in the state. Even restricted to domestic use only, per capita figures are 3.74 gallons per day for the state and almost 10.5 gallons per day for the county.

Economically, conditions in Stanislaus County are improving but serious challenges remain. Substantial job creation has occurred, exceeding the rate across the state in 4 of 5 years under review. At the same time, unemployment rates remain 4 or 5 percentage points higher than the state average although they had started to decline (consistent with job growth) until very recently when the economic slowdown finally found its way to the Central Valley.

Per capita personal income in Stanislaus County is lower than the state average, although the gap was beginning to narrow until 1999. Housing, on the other hand, is quite affordable in Stanislaus County compared with both the Bay Area and with other counties in the northern San Joaquin Valley (though less affordable than in the southern San Joaquin Valley). The index measures the percentage of homes a median income family could afford, and in Santa Clara County it was 17.8% while in Stanislaus it was 40.1% in 2001. In Merced the index was 33.3 and in San Joaquin County it was only 26.7. Home ownership is, accordingly, higher in Stanislaus County than the state as a whole with 61.9% of all housing units occupied by owners compared with a statewide average of 56.9%.

Regrettably, however, the poverty rates in Stanislaus County have been worsening. In 1995, poverty rates for all persons and for persons under 18 were similar in the county

and the state overall. Since 1995, though, the poverty rate statewide has declined while in Stanislaus County it has increased.

The population diversity in Stanislaus County, especially the high percentage of students for whom English is not their first language, influences educational achievement. How much so, however, is a question too complicated for an indicator's analysis. A comparison of students in 4th, 8th, and 11th grades in Stanislaus County and the state between 1999 and 2001 reveals that in all instances the percentage of English Learners was higher statewide than in the county. But averages can be misleading. To determine whether English language skills influence educational achievement, a detailed analysis of student performance in individual schools across the state would be required.

For our purposes, Stanislaus County students generally performed slightly less well than students on average across the state on the Stanford 9 tests, although both groups followed similar patterns. In terms of institutional performance, almost 52% of K-12 schools performed in the top 50% of schools statewide on Stanford 9 achievement tests in 2001. This was a dramatic improvement over 2000 when only 45% of schools performed in the 6th to 10th deciles, but still not as good as the 53.7% showing in 1999.

Some of the most important institutions in a community are its charities and the community benefits greatly from their generosity. Still, in comparison with the state overall, Stanislaus County receives proportionately less than the state for the size of its population. While Stanislaus County is home to 1.32% of the state's population, only 0.9% of all charities in the state are represented in the county and only 0.4% of all charitable assets in California are located in the county.

The public library is another important community institution and the number of books in circulation indicates the value residents place on this service. Based on this indicator, use of the library has increased significantly over the past five years. The total number of books in circulation rose from 1,620,794 in 1996-97 to 1,996,252 in 2000-01—an increase from 3.87 items per capita to 4.43.

Two measures involving births are often used to indicate the health of a community: the percentage of low birth weight babies and the teenage birth rate. With respect to the former, Stanislaus County has shown a dramatic improvement in recent years, moving from a position that far exceeded the state average to one that is substantially lower. In 1997, 6.6% of all live births in Stanislaus County were less than 5 lbs. 8 oz.—the cutoff for low birth weight—while the statewide rate remained steady at 6.1%. By 2000, the county's rate declined to 5.6% while the state's increased slightly to 6.2%.

The county's performance in terms of teenage births is not as salutary. The percentage of all live births in Stanislaus County to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 has declined from 15.1% in 1996 to 13.7% in 2000 while the comparable numbers statewide are 11.7% and 10.4%. While both rates have declined, the rate in the county increased from 13% in 1999 to 13.7% in 2000.

Sales taxes provide a major source of revenue for local government and per capita receipts in Stanislaus County are somewhat lower than for the state overall. In 2000, the per capita revenue sales tax in the county was \$11,519 while the average across the state was \$12,917. This suggests that governments in Stanislaus County operate on a lower revenue basis than do other governments, on average, throughout the state.

Citizen engagement with their community is often measured in terms of voter participation. Since 1990, the percentage of Stanislaus County residents registered to vote who have actually voted is slightly lower than that for the state overall. Similarly, the percentage of those eligible to vote who actually register is less in Stanislaus County than the state overall, although the county pattern has closely mirrored the state's since 1990 and both have shown higher rates of participation during Presidential elections.

The rates of both violent crime and crimes against property are noticeably higher in Stanislaus County than for the state as a whole, with violent crimes in 2000 numbering 679.3 per 100,000 people in Stanislaus county compared with 610.5 in California and property crimes numbering 1549.1 per 100,000 people in Stanislaus County compared

with 1169.7 in the state. Nevertheless, both rates declined between 1996 and 2000 and the property crime rate declined faster in Stanislaus County than in the state overall.

In sum, available data indicate that Stanislaus County can be characterized as undergoing widespread and continuous change. Substantial improvements have been registered in conditions in Stanislaus County. Nevertheless, imposing challenges remain.

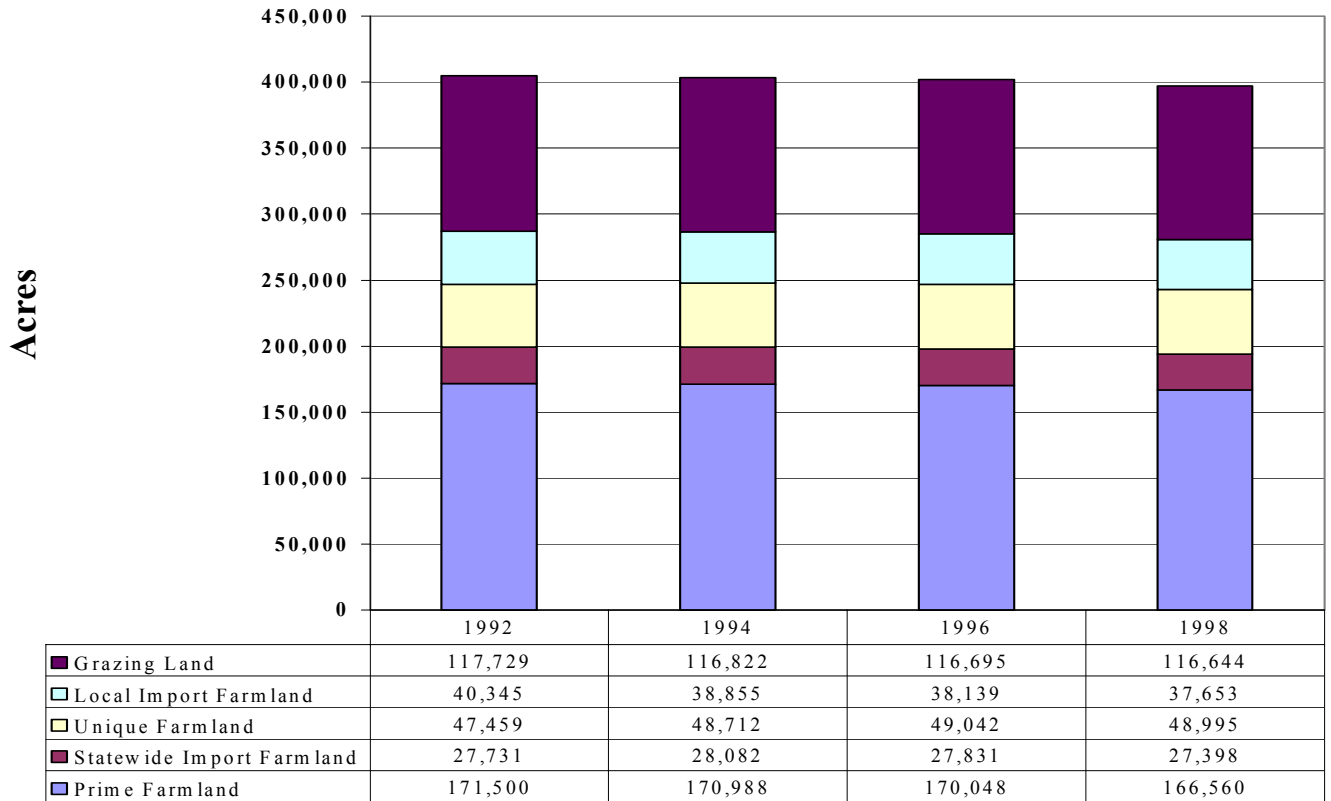
Land Use

VISION: We will demonstrate our resolve to produce a world class example of “DOING IT RIGHT” so that Stanislaus County remains blessed with a bounty of fertile land for agriculture. Population growth will be accommodated in communities of varying sizes ranging from larger metropolitan areas to mid-sized cities, to small rural towns and enclaves. Communities will plan, grow and evolve in a compact, efficient fashion. Large expanses of agricultural land and other open space will secure buffers between urban areas and preserve the beauty of views and vistas throughout the County.

Indicators

- 92-98 Land Conversion
- Population Density by City
- Population Density
- Stan. Crop Value
- Stan. Top Crops
- Williamson Act Acreage

Stanislaus County Land Use Conversion



What's the measurement?

Since 1982, the California Department of Conservation has inventoried land use throughout the state every two years. To determine agricultural use, the department has taken soil samples and recorded the number of acres by type or quality of farmland; in all instances, it has tracked land use and its conversion from one application to another. The result is a detailed account of land by category and the number of acres that have shifted between categories. As of June 17, 2002 the department had not yet released 1998-2000 conversion data for Stanislaus County.

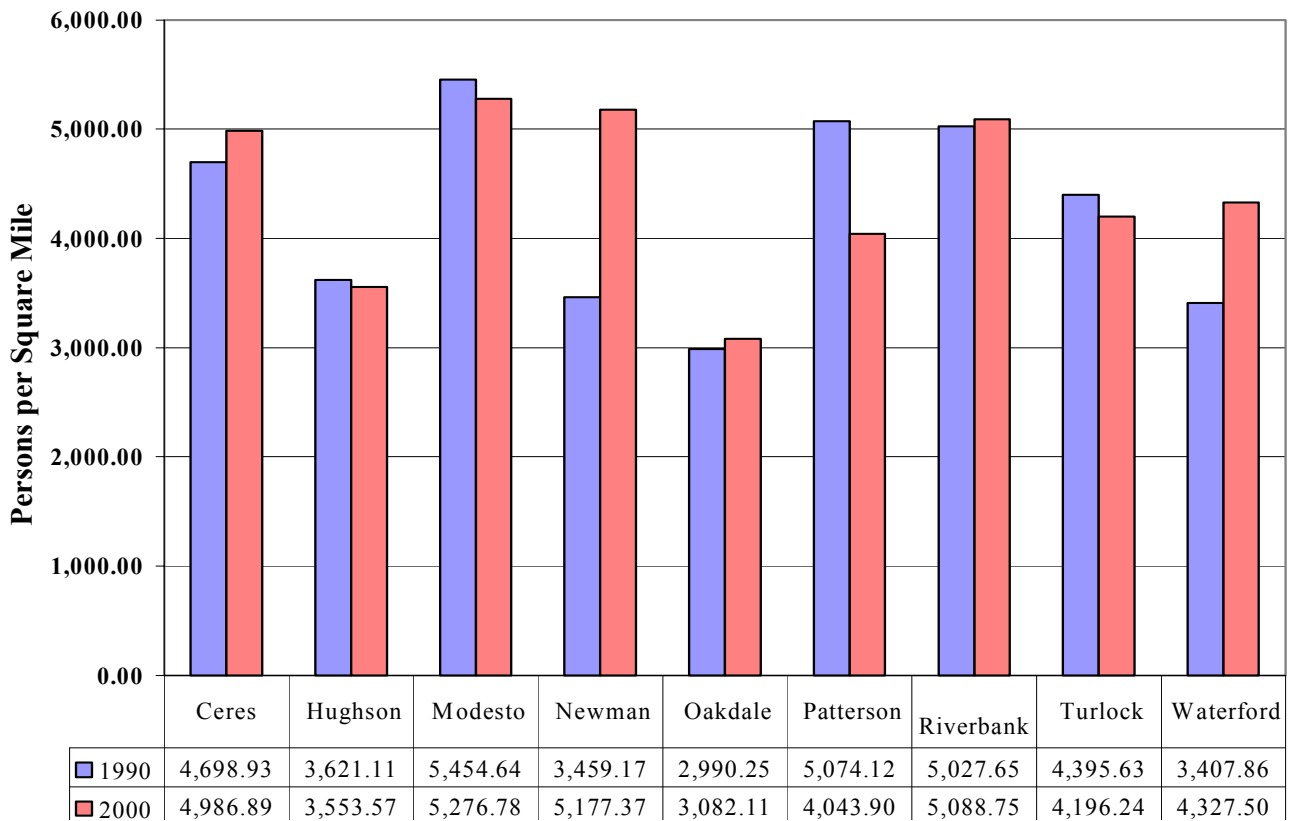
Why is it important?

Population growth and the accompanying pressures to provide housing for local residents and Bay Area commuters have led developers and others to meet those population demands by converting agricultural land to other uses. This report tracks the shift in land over time. To the extent that high quality agricultural land is converted to urban uses, the county reduces its agricultural capacity.

How are we doing?

Between 1996 and 1998, the latest period for which data are available, Stanislaus County lost 4,505 acres or 1.12% of its agricultural land to other uses; 1,310 acres were added to "urban and built up" land. Between 1992 and 1998, the total acreage lost to urban uses was 7,514 acres or 1.856% of agricultural land, suggesting that the trend is increasing. It is expected that the number of acres converted between 1998 and 2000 will be even greater.

Population Density by City



What's the measurement?

Population density is calculated by dividing the total population by the total land area in square miles. In this case, U.S. Census data from 1990 and 2000 were used for both population counts and land area calculations to calculate density and maintain consistency over time.

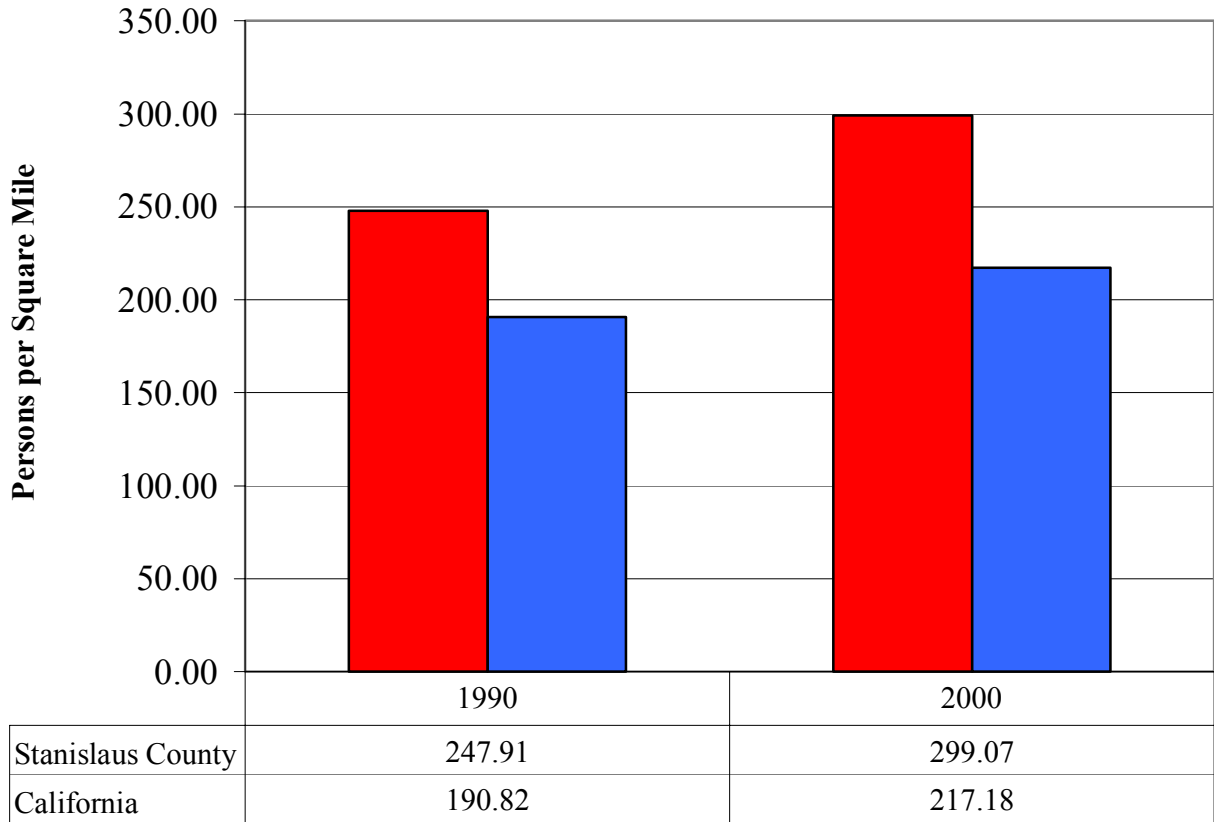
Why is it important?

Population density increases when the population grows without a commensurate increase in land area. This can suggest smart growth, if populations are concentrated in urban areas, but it can also camouflage sprawl if growth patterns are irregular.

How are we doing?

This chart compares the ratio of population to land area in the nine incorporated cities in the county. Population density of the 9 cities ranges from a low of 3,084 in Oakdale to a high of 5,277 in Modesto. However, because all 9 cities have annexed land, their density has not always increased. In ten years, the land area of incorporated cities has increased by 14.8 square miles but the population has also increased by 65,650 people. What is not displayed on this chart is population growth in the unincorporated area of the county, which has lost 14.8 square miles but seen an increase in population from 95,965 in 1990 to 106,790 in 2000, an increase of 10,825. Population density has increased from 66.72 persons per square mile in 1990 to 75.02 in 2000, or an increase of 12.44%.

Population Density by County



What’s the measurement?

Population density is calculated by dividing the total population by the total land area in square miles. In this case, U.S. Census data from 1990 and 2000 were used for both population counts and land area calculations to maintain consistency over time.

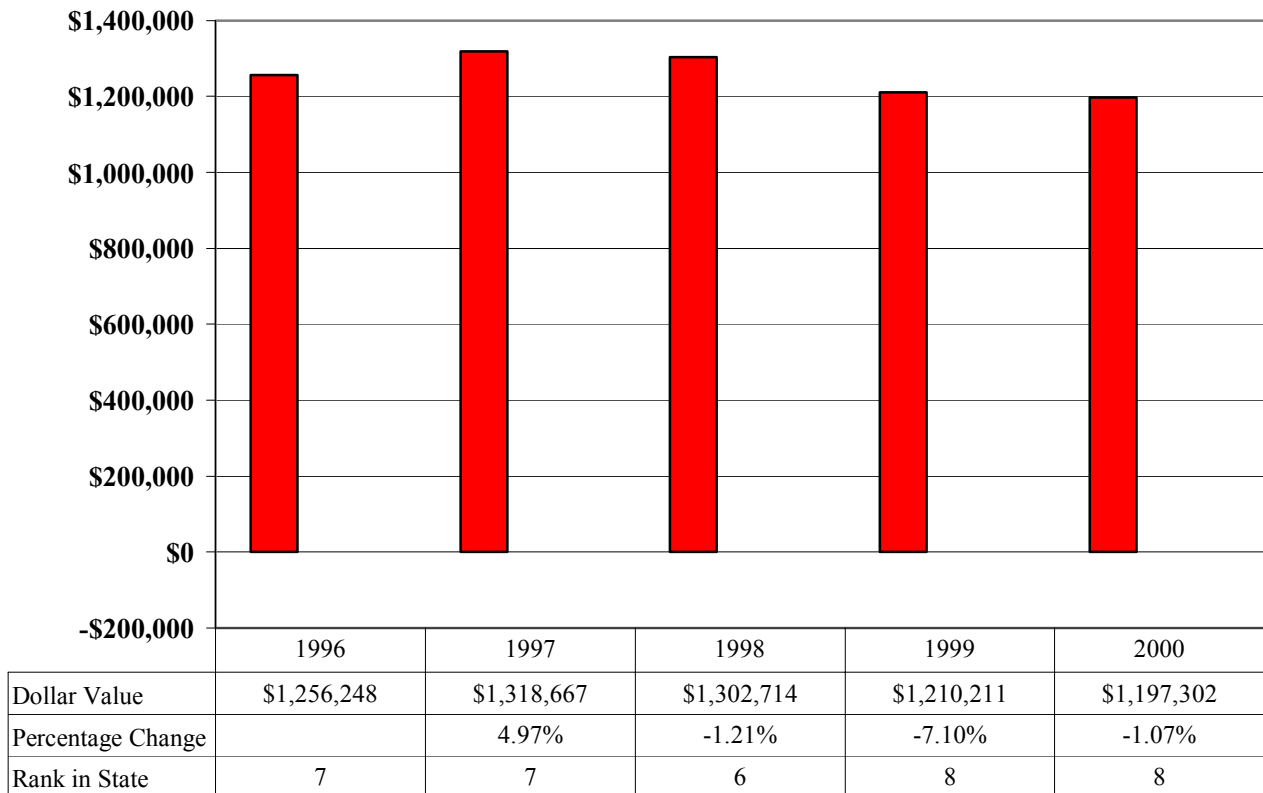
Why is it important?

Population density is an indicator of population growth. Without other indicators, however, it is difficult to evaluate. It can suggest both smart growth, if populations are concentrated in urban areas, or sprawl, if growth is spread across the county without regard to the availability or cost of public services or to the diversion of agricultural land.

How are we doing?

The first chart compares the ratio of population to land in Stanislaus County relative to the state as a whole. Population density is both higher in Stanislaus County than the state as a whole, and it has increased more than the state’s in the past ten years. Population density of the cities in Stanislaus County range from a low of 3,084 in Oakdale to a high of 5,277 in Modesto. However, because many cities have annexed land, their density has not always increased.

Value of Crop Production in Stanislaus County



What's the measurement?

The market value of crop and livestock production measures the economic outcome of agricultural activity in the county. Acres harvested, yield, and overall production in pounds or tons measure agricultural activity, but market value suggests the economic impact of that effort. Both the county and state of California collect crop production data, but their numbers are often at variance. This is due to differences in classification between the two units of government. The data in this chart have been taken from the state's files because they are more comprehensive.

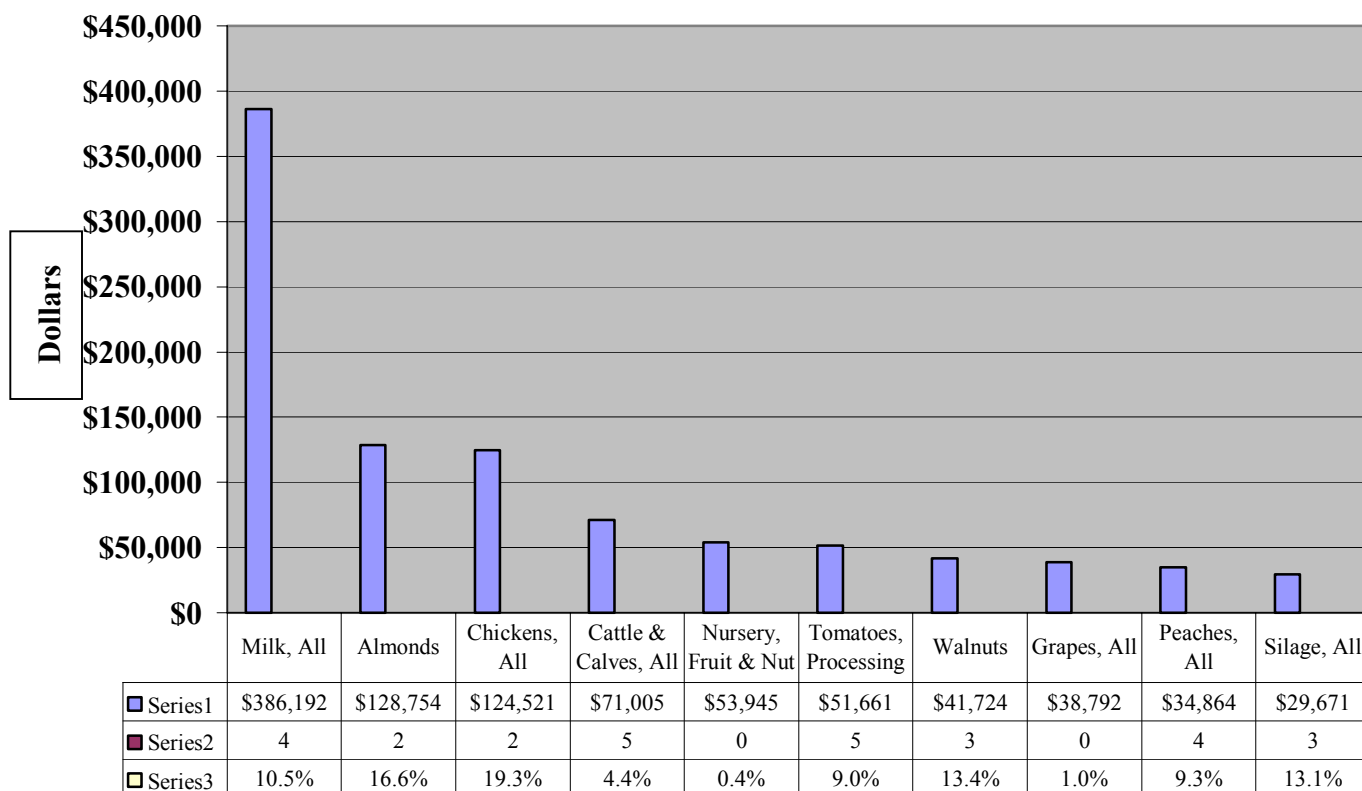
Why is it important?

Basically, two factors affect production value—changes in the volume of agricultural production (due to land conversions, weather conditions, etc.) or changes in the economy. Thus, alone, variations from year to year are inconclusive. However, the county's rank in the state will provide a relative measure of Stanislaus County's performance in comparison with other agricultural counties in California.

How are we doing?

Relative to the rest of the state, Stanislaus County has dropped two positions since its high ranking of 6 in 1998. As important, the market value of its crops has dropped 9.2% since its height of \$1.3 billion in 1997.

Value and Rank of Top Ten Crops in Stanislaus County



What's the measurement?

The market value of crop and livestock production measures the economic outcome of agricultural activity in the county. This chart tracks the top ten agricultural commodities for Stanislaus County in 2000 and then calculates the county's contribution to overall production in the State. Both the county and state of California collect crop production data, but their numbers are often at variance. This is due to differences in classification between the two units of government. The data in this chart have been taken from the state's files because they are more comprehensive.

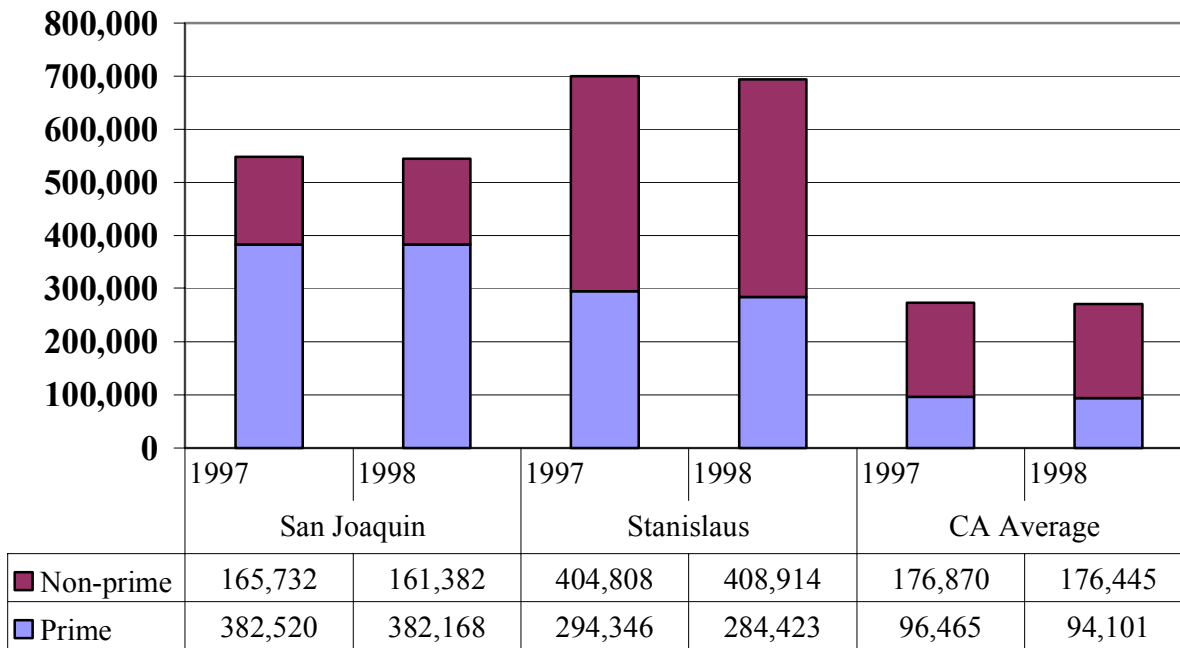
Why is it important?

The importance of a commodity to the economy of Stanislaus County may say nothing about its importance to the economy of California overall. This chart attempts to link the two economies by showing where Stanislaus County's fortunes impact those of California as well.

How are we doing?

Eight of the top ten agricultural commodities in Stanislaus County rank in the top 5 of counties contributing to California's overall output of that crop. In terms of the crops themselves, the production value of milk ranks 2nd in the State, almonds-9th, chickens-12th, cattle & calves-4th, nursery products-3rd, processing tomatoes-15th, walnuts-20th, grapes-1st, peaches-17th, and silage-24th.

Williamson Act Acreage



What is the measurement?

The Williamson Act allows farmers to take a tax deduction in exchange for a commitment to keep their agricultural land in production for a period of ten years. Farmers who convert their land prior to the end of the contract must reimburse the state for unpaid taxes. This chart indicates the number of acres of land in Stanislaus County-compared with those in San Joaquin County and the average in California-that have been committed to remain in agricultural production for the next ten years. Data are provided for both prime and nonprime agricultural land. Future funding for this program is in doubt, however, as of May 14, 2002 when Governor Davis prepared his May revised budget.

Why is it important?

This indicates the degree to which landowners have made a legal commitment not to convert productive agricultural land to development. It is therefore an indicator of potential changes in land use in the county.

How are we doing?

Fewer total acres were committed to agricultural production under the Williamson Act in 1998 than 1997, although there was an increase in the reservation of nonprime land and a decrease in prime land.

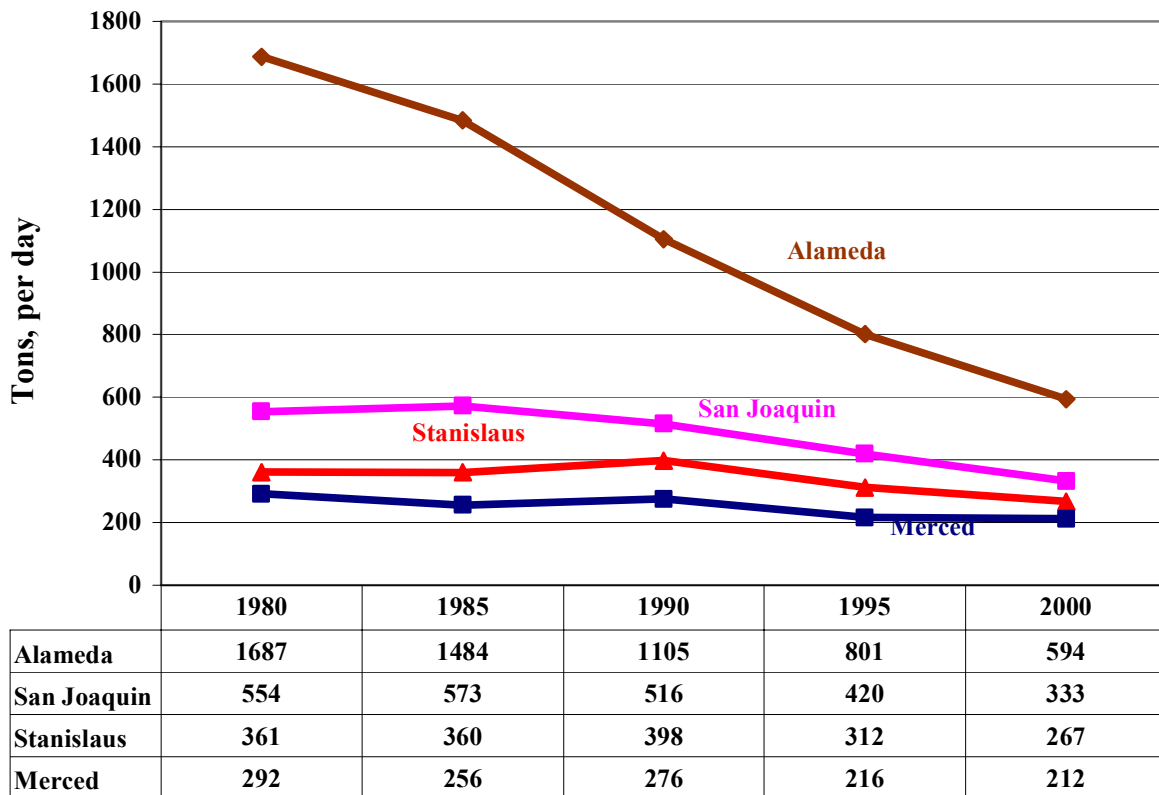
Environment

VISION: Our precious natural resources will be used wisely. The air will be healthy to breathe, the water pure to drink and sufficient for our needs. We will enjoy an abundance of open space and a diversity of plant and animal life that is sustained in a variety of natural habitats.

Indicators

- Air Quality (Carbon Monoxide)
- Air Quality (PM10)
- Air Quality (Ozone)
- Water Use in Stanislaus County

Air Quality-Carbon Monoxide



What's the measurement?

The amount of carbon monoxide emitted each day is measured in tons. Carbon monoxide is emitted by several sources including vehicles, agricultural burning, power plants and refuse. The source is the California Air Resources Board.

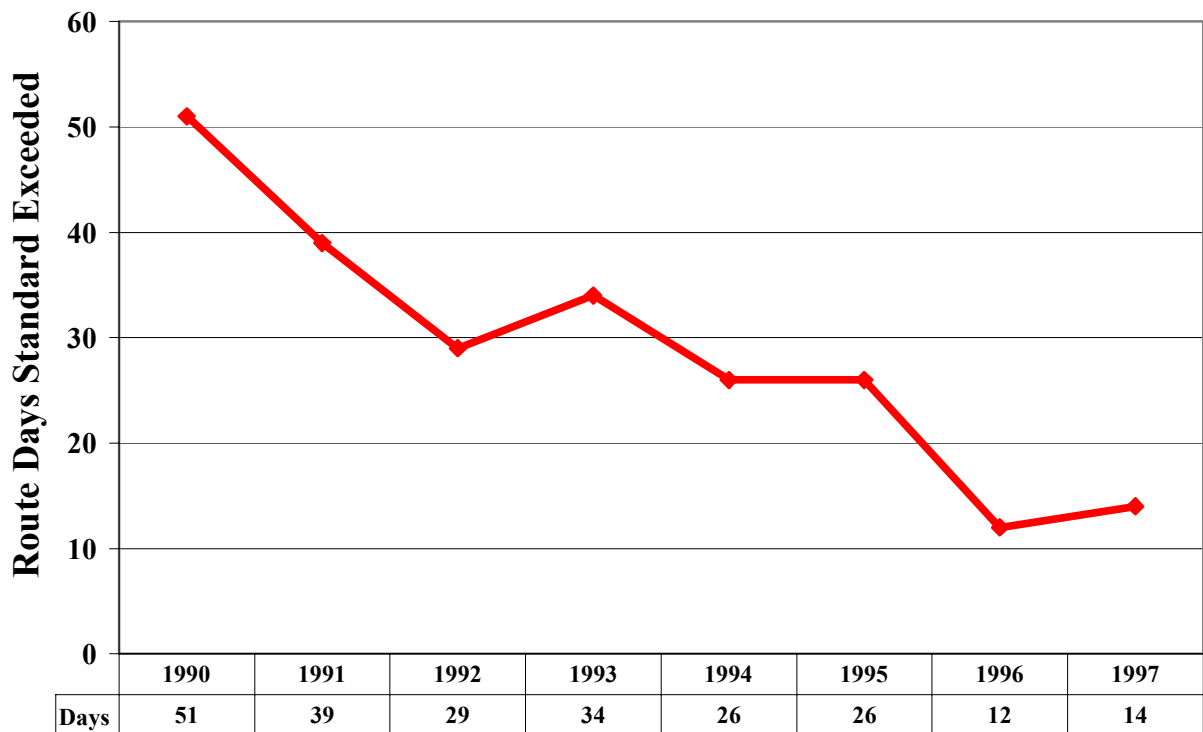
Why is it important?

Carbon monoxide is the most common form of air pollution and results from the incomplete burning of fossil fuels. In high concentrations, carbon monoxide is fatal. In lesser concentrations, it can lead to a lessening of the blood's ability to carry and circulate oxygen and can cause drowsiness and slowed reflexes. Large amounts of carbon monoxide also impede the ability of the atmosphere to cleanse itself.

How are we doing?

Historically, carbon monoxide emission levels have been significantly lower in the San Joaquin Valley than in more populated and industrial areas. As the data above indicate, however, some metropolitan areas have shown dramatic decreases in their emissions. There is, of course, a strong relationship between the number of vehicle miles per day and the amount of carbon monoxide emissions. The challenge for Stanislaus County, and other counties in the region, will be to keep emissions low as the number of vehicles and the miles driven rise.

Air Quality – PM 10



What's the measurement?

The California Air Resources Board monitors particulate matter in the air. Both the state and federal governments have established standards for the concentration of PM 10—Particulate Matter. “PM10 refers to particles with an aerodynamic diameter of ten microns or smaller.” (Human hair is 50 to 100 microns.) PM10 is a mixture of substances that may occur as solid particles or liquid droplets. The standards are: State: 50 ug/m³ for 24 hours and 30 ug/m³ annual geometric mean, neither to be exceeded; Federal 150 ug/m³ for 24 hrs, not to be exceeded, more than once per year and 50 ug/m³ annual arithmetic mean averaged over 3 yrs. The data here reflect the number of days Stanislaus County exceeded the State standard in a given year.

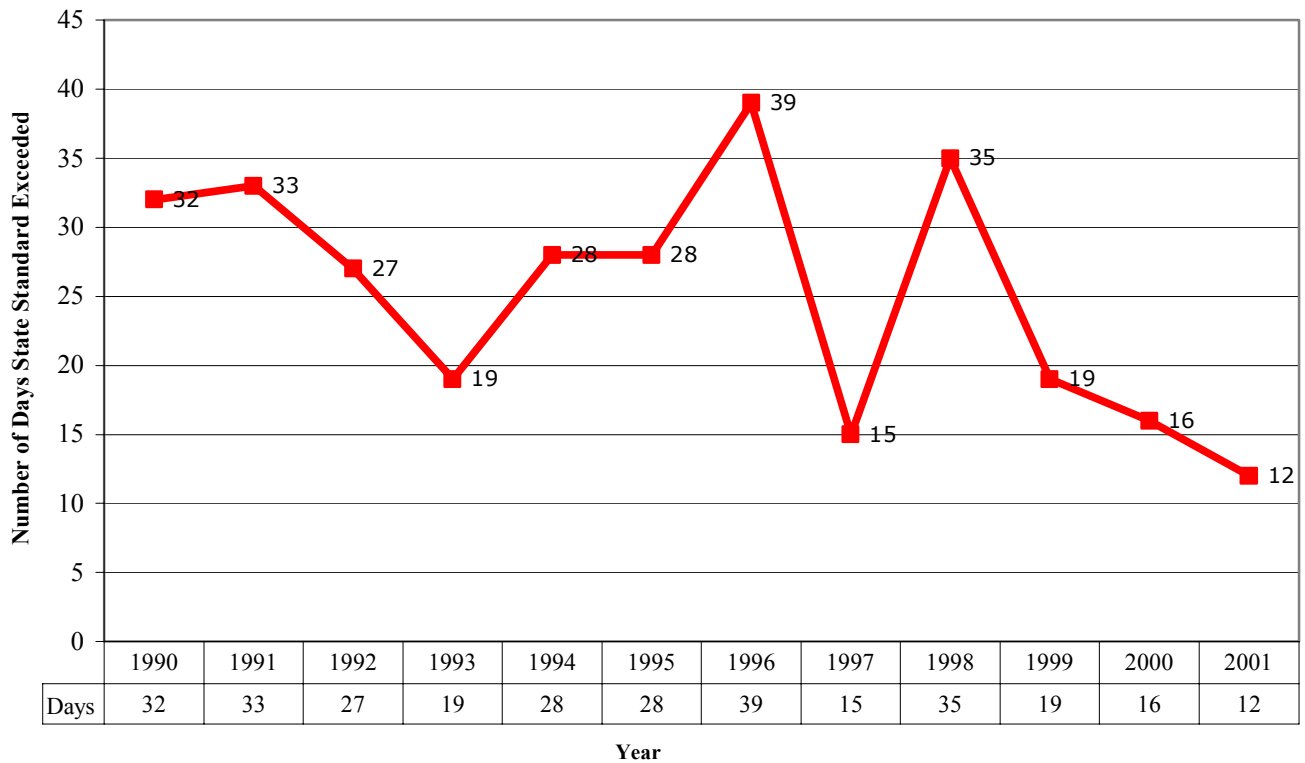
Why is it important?

Air quality affects the health of valley residents and the attractiveness of the county to economic development. In the case of PM10, asthma and bronchitis are affected both in terms of frequency and severity. Here, health costs can increase as a direct result of excessive levels of PM10 in the environment.

How are we doing?

Overall air quality in the county has improved since 1990, although 1999 (the latest year for which data are available) saw a serious increase in particulate matter.

Air Quality-Ozone



What's the measurement?

The California Air Resources Board monitors ozone in the air at two sites in Stanislaus County—Modesto 14th Street, and Minaret in Turlock. Both the state and federal governments have established standards for the concentration of ozone. “Ozone, a colorless gas with a pungent odor, is the chief component of urban smog.” It is formed in the atmosphere when hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxides (Nox) emissions react in the presence of sunlight. The standards are: State: 0.09 ppm for 1 hour, not to be exceeded. Federal (two standards): 0.12 ppm for 1 hour, not to be exceeded more than once per year and 0.08 ppm for 8 hours, not to be exceeded, based on the 4th highest concentration averaged over 3 years. The data here reflect the number of days Stanislaus County exceeded the State standard in a given year.

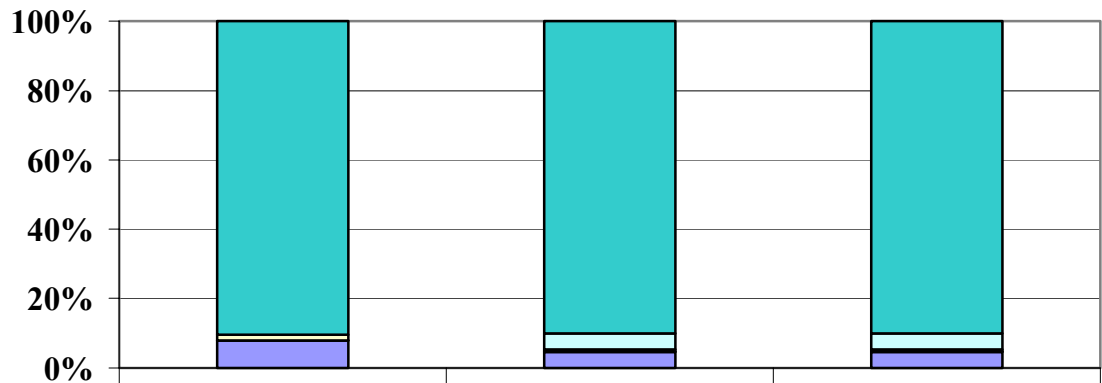
Why is it important?

Air quality affects not only the health of valley residents but the attractiveness of the county to economic development. As importantly, to the extent that the county exceeds federal standards, serious fines and other economic consequences could be imposed.

How are we doing?

There has been considerable news coverage in recent months that the San Joaquin Valley Air District has failed to meet the federal ozone standard on schedule and was reclassified from serious to severe non-attainment on December 10, 2001. While Stanislaus County cannot be separated from the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin for meeting EPA standards, the data for both the county and the air basin show improvement in meeting the standards—an achievement of sorts given the higher than average increase in population.

Water Use in Stanislaus County



| | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|------|
| Irrigation Withdrawals, Fresh | 86.6% | 90% | 90% |
| Livestock Withdrawals, Fresh | 0.0% | 5% | 5% |
| Industrial Withdrawals, Fresh | 1.5% | 1% | 1% |
| Domestic Withdrawals, Fresh | 0.0% | 0% | 0% |
| Public Supply | 7.5% | 5% | 5% |

What's the measurement?

The U.S. Geological Survey collects data on water use throughout the United States every five years. The data are collected in millions of gallons per day by type of use. Categories include: public supply; and use for domestic, commercial, industrial, thermoelectric power, mining, livestock, and hydroelectric power. Distinctions are made between fresh and saline water and between ground and surface water. Data for 2000 are in the process of being collected but are not yet available on the USGS web site.

Why is it important?

Water is an increasingly scarce resource and California consumes more water than any other state, withdrawing 45.9 billion gallons per day. Texas ranks second in total gallons withdrawn at 29.6 billion gallons per day. Within the state, 79% of the water withdrawn is fresh and, of that, 90% is for irrigation.

How are we doing?

The chart presented breaks down fresh water use in Stanislaus County since 1985. The county follows the state pattern where irrigation consumes 85%, 90% and 90% respectively in 1985, 1990 and 1995. On a per capita basis, however Stanislaus County fares much worse than the state overall, with the state consuming 1,132 gallons per capita per day but the County consuming almost 3,475 gallons per capita per day. Even when water use is restricted to domestic use only, per capita figures are 3.74 gallons per day for the state and almost 10.5 gallons per day for the county.

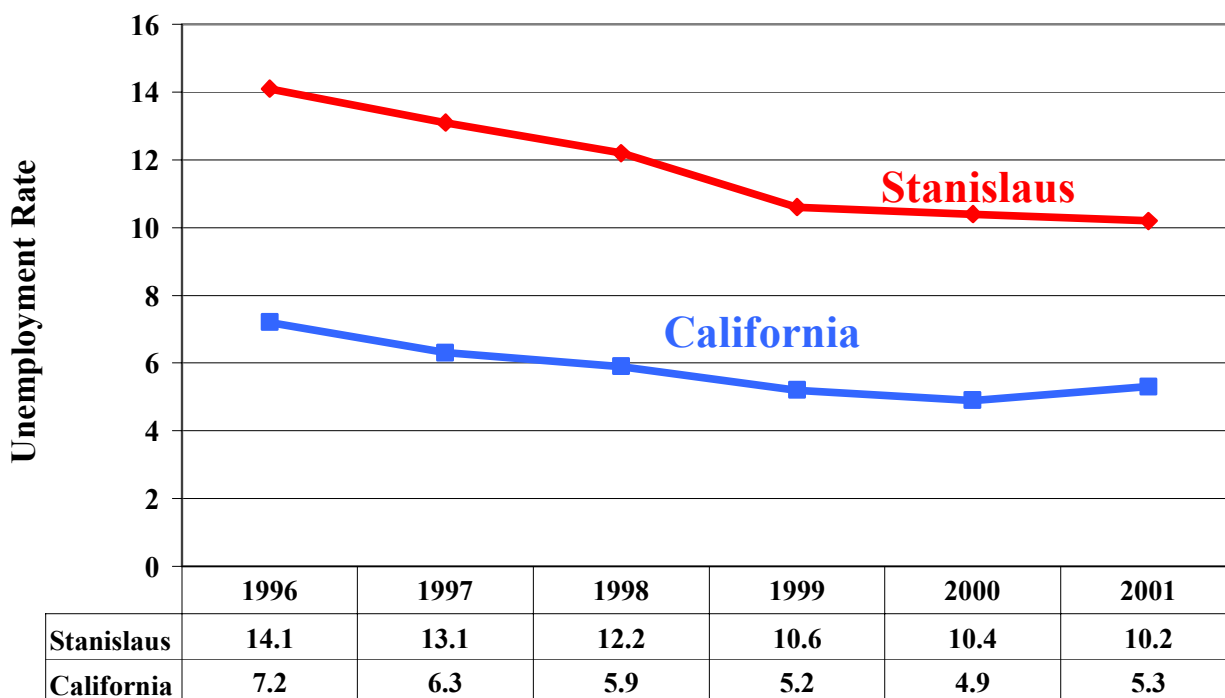
Economy

VISION: We will have a highly competitive, vibrant and diverse regional economy that provides economic opportunity for everyone close to home and results in both individual and regional prosperity.

Indicators

- Annual Unemployment Rates
- Average Wage
- Homeownership Rates
- Housing Affordability
- Job Growth
- Per Capita Income
- Poverty Rates

Annual Unemployment Rates



What's the measurement?

Unemployed persons are those not currently working who are seeking work. In measuring county level unemployment, the Employment Development Department utilizes unemployment insurance claims, those who have exhausted unemployment claims, and persons out of the labor force prior to beginning to look for work. The annual rate is an average of the year's monthly rates.

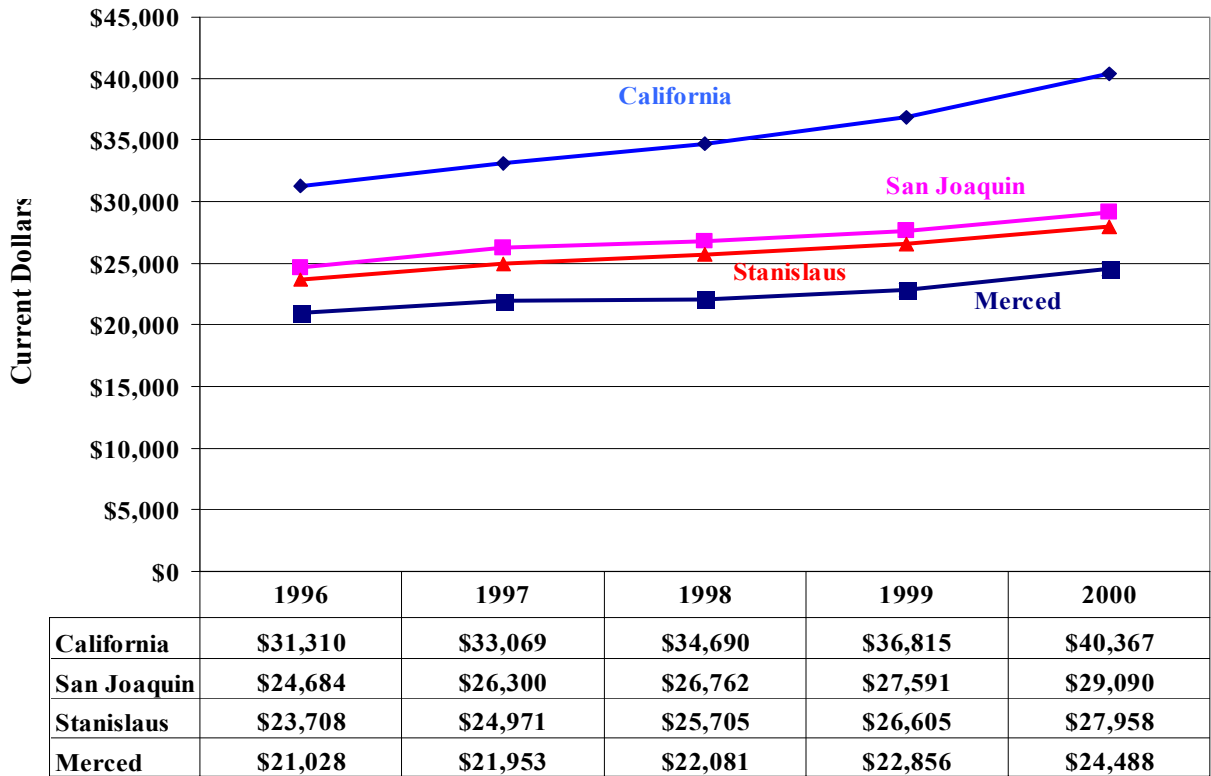
Why is it important?

Unemployment rates are one measure of the health of an economy. Higher unemployment rates are related to poverty levels, crime rates, rates of abuse, and increased rates of alcohol and drug use. Increases in unemployment rates lead to increased public sector spending.

How are we doing?

Unemployment rates in Stanislaus County are substantially higher than the statewide unemployment rate. In fact, Stanislaus County unemployment rates are consistently about twice the state average. Since 1996, however, the Stanislaus County unemployment rate has shown substantial improvement although the rate of improvement has declined.

Average Wage per Job



What's the measurement?

The measure is the average wage, in current dollars (that is, not indexed for inflation), for all employed persons who are not self-employed. In computing the average wage, it is the job and not the person that is used. The source is the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

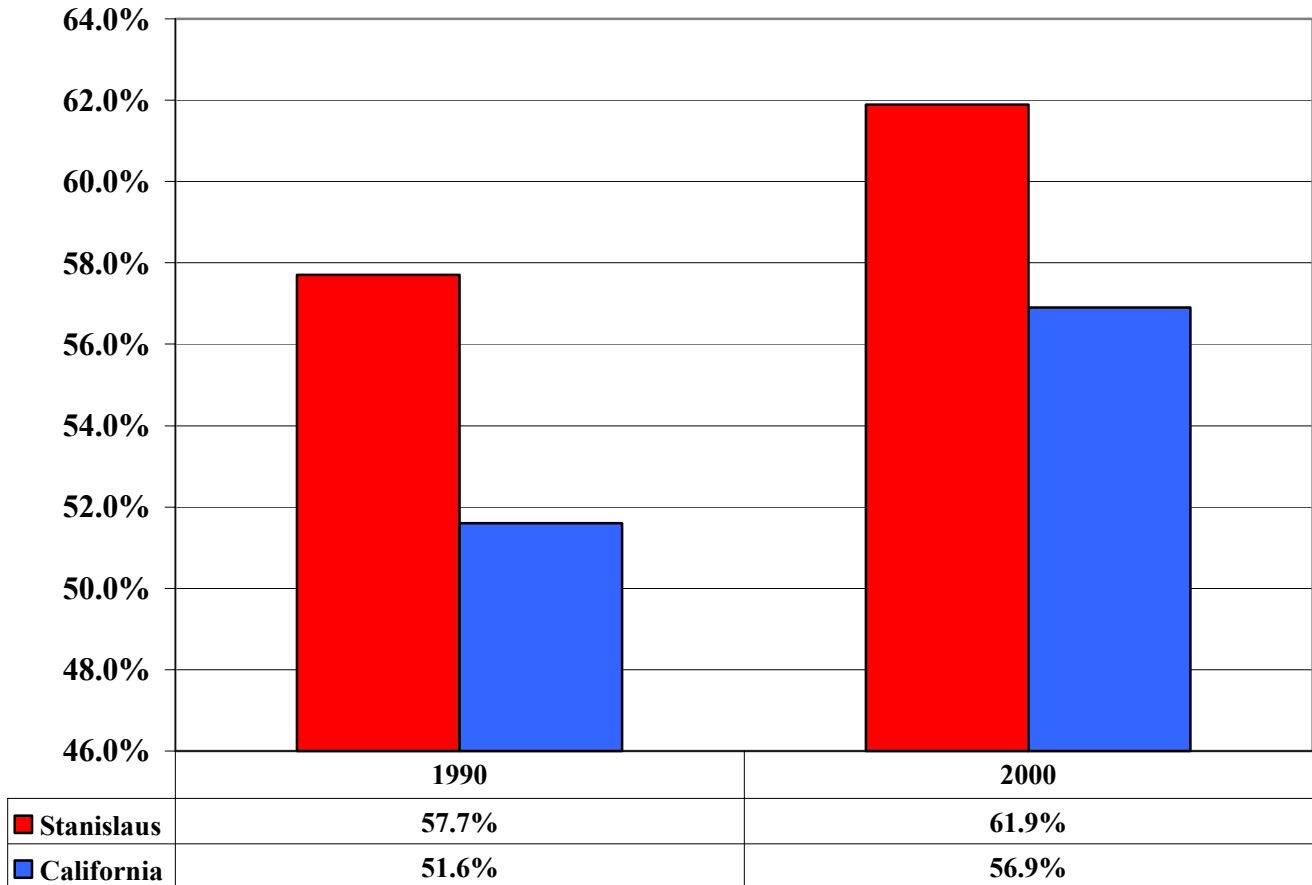
Why is it important?

The average wage is a measure of the material well-being of a population. It is also an indicator of the salary rates of the businesses and industries in a particular area and of the types of businesses and industries. Higher wage rates are usually associated with higher skilled jobs and occupations.

How are we doing?

The average wage per job is lower in Stanislaus County than in the state. Regionally, wage rates are lower in Stanislaus County than in San Joaquin County but higher than Merced County. Wage rates increased in all areas from 1996 to 2000 but the increase was lower in the northern San Joaquin Valley than for the state.

Homeownership Rates



What's the measurement?

The percent of housing units that are occupied by owners (rather than renters). The source is the U.S. Census Bureau.

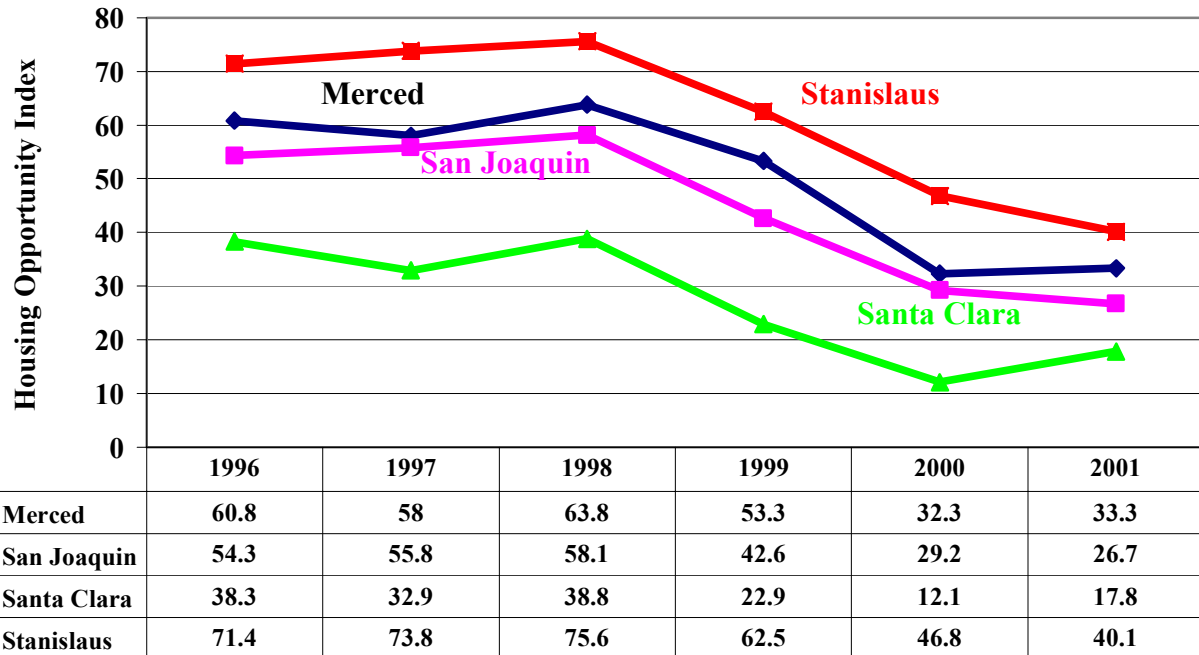
Why is it important?

Home ownership is considered to be one of the cornerstones of the “American dream” and thus a key measure of an area’s quality of life. Rates of home ownership are very closely connected to housing affordability and thus a good measure of the extent to which residents in the area can afford to buy a home.

How are we doing?

The rate of home ownership is higher in Stanislaus County than for the state as a whole. In other words, housing is more affordable than is true generally for California. The home ownership rate improved over the past decade for both California and for Stanislaus County although the rate of improvement was somewhat greater for the state than for the county.

Housing Affordability



What's the measurement?

The housing opportunity index is one measure of housing affordability. The opportunity index is the percentage of homes that a family with a median income could afford to buy in the county. For instance, in Stanislaus County, an average income family could afford to purchase 40.1% of the homes in 2001. All data are for the fourth quarter of each year. The source is the National Association of Home Builders.

Why is it important?

Nothing is more central to the American Dream than home ownership. Housing affordability is, therefore, an important measure of material well-being and of quality of life. A low rate of affordable housing is a significant cause of homelessness.

How are we doing?

Housing in Stanislaus County is significantly more affordable than in the Bay Area, as indicated by the housing opportunity index for Santa Clara County. Stanislaus County also has more affordable housing than other northern San Joaquin Valley counties. San Joaquin County has a lower opportunity index because housing is more expensive while Merced County has a lower opportunity index primarily because family income is lower. While housing is more affordable in Stanislaus County than in most areas of the state, the last few years have witnessed a steep increase in housing costs and a corresponding decline in housing affordability.

Job Growth



| | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Stanislaus County | 3.4% | 3.8% | 3.1% | 1.1% | 2.9% |
| California | 3.0% | 3.4% | 2.8% | 3.5% | 1.3% |

What's the measurement?

The year-to-year percentage change in the number of total jobs created. The source is the California Employment Development Department.

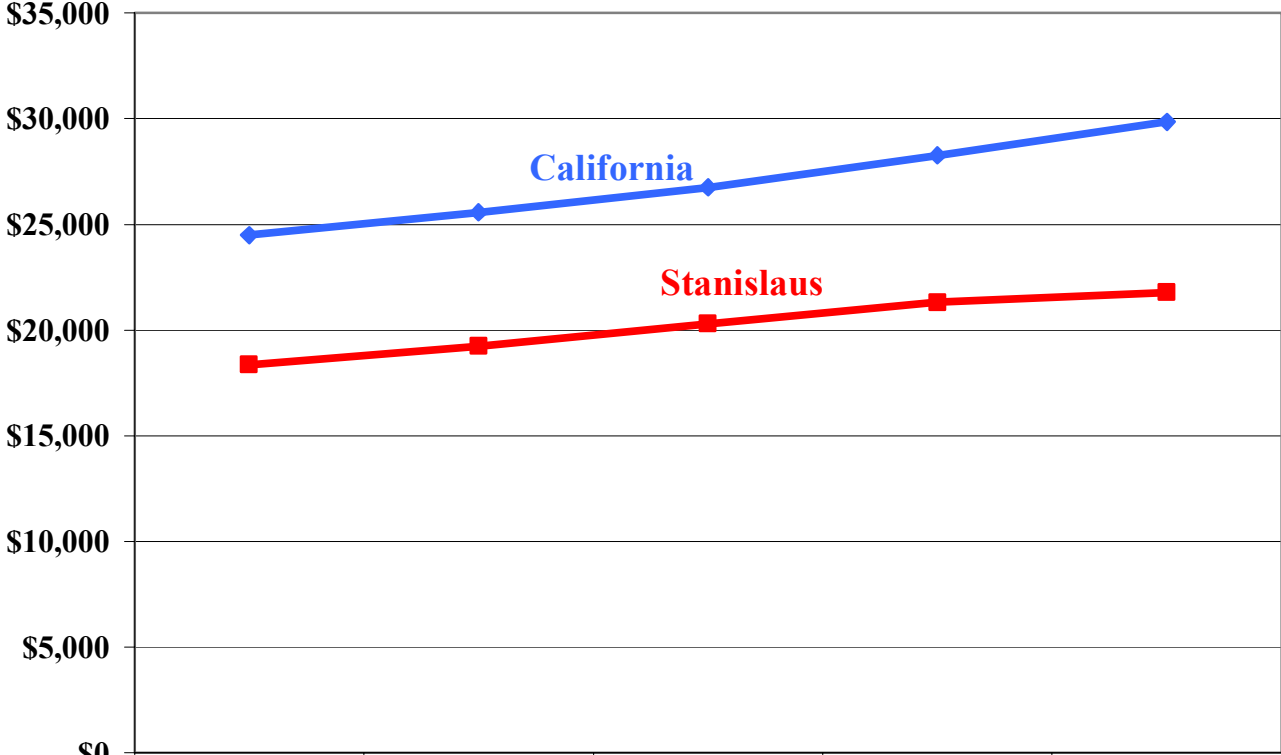
Why is it important?

Job growth rates are an important indicator of the health of the economy. New jobs must always be created in order to be able to employ the growing number of adult residents in the county.

How are we doing?

Job growth rates in Stanislaus County have been robust except for the 1999-2000 year. Job growth rates have consistently outperformed statewide job growth rates except for the one year period. The County job growth rate has also consistently been higher than the population growth rate which averaged 1.4% during the second half of the 1990s.

Per Capita Personal Income



| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| California | \$24,496 | \$25,563 | \$26,742 | \$28,264 | \$29,856 |
| Stanislaus | \$18,360 | \$19,237 | \$20,295 | \$21,318 | \$21,790 |

What's the measurement?

The measure is the total of personal income in the state or county divided by the area's population. It excludes military personnel who are abroad. The source is the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data.

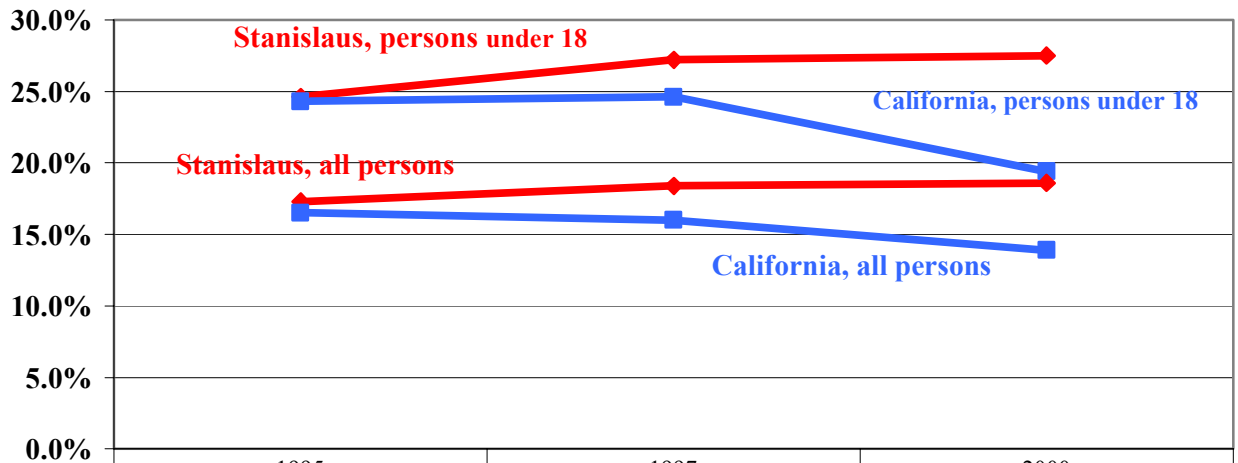
Why is it important?

Per capita personal income is a measure of the material well-being of a population. Higher per capita incomes are usually associated with higher levels of economic well-being including housing, transportation, nutrition, and access to recreation and leisure activities.

How are we doing?

Average per capita income is lower in Stanislaus County than in the state. Per capita income in Stanislaus County was increasing at a rate comparable to the state average for the period 1995 to 1997. The rate of growth for the County slowed for 1998 and 1999.

Poverty Rate



| | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Stanislaus, Persons under 18 | 24.6% | 27.2% | 27.5% |
| California, Persons under 18 | 24.3% | 24.6% | 19.4% |
| Stanislaus, All Persons | 17.3% | 18.4% | 18.6% |
| California, All Persons | 16.5% | 16.0% | 13.9% |

What's the measurement?

The reported number is the percent of individuals living below the poverty line. The information included refers to the childhood poverty rate and the poverty rate for all persons. In determining income level, the Census Bureau considers total money income before taxes but does not include noncash payments (e.g., public housing or food stamps). The poverty thresholds (the poverty line) do not vary by geographic area but they do vary from year to year to account for inflation. For the three years included in this report, the respective poverty thresholds for a family of four were: \$15,455 (1995), \$16,276 (1997), and \$17,463 (2000).

The source is the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2000 poverty rate is based on estimates by the Census Bureau.

Why is it important?

Poverty rates are an important indicator of the material well being of residents. Persons living below the poverty line may suffer from malnutrition, inadequate medical care, poor housing, and inadequate transportation. Higher poverty rates in an area mean higher public expenditures to assist those in need.

How are we doing?

The poverty rate in Stanislaus County is higher than the statewide average. While the poverty for California has been declining, it has been increasing in Stanislaus County.

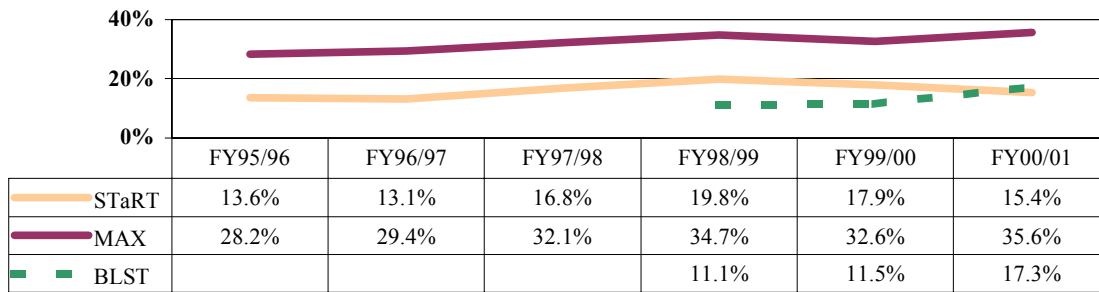
TRANSPORTATION

VISION: We will have an efficient, integrated transportation system that provides internal and external linkages and facilitates economic growth.

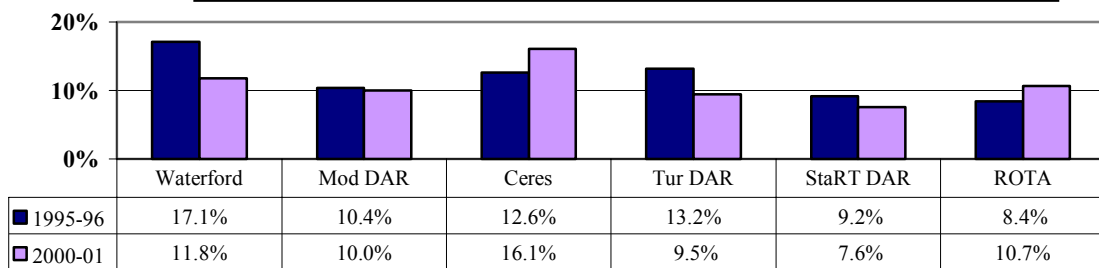
Indicators

- Farebox Recovery Ratios
- Peak Hour Traffic
- Pass Per Hour
- Transportation Funds
- Vehicles Per Capita

Reported Fare Box Recovery Ratios for Fixed Route Bus



Reported Farebox Recovery Ratios for Dial-a-Ride



What's the measurement?

Each fixed route and dial-a-ride transit operator must meet performance criteria mandated by the California Transportation Development Act and monitored by StanCOG. One of the most important of these is the farebox recovery ratio, which is fare revenue in relation to operational costs. The required minimums are 20% for MAX (Modesto Area Express) and 10% for other operators. Stanislaus County (StaRT), Modesto (MAX and Modesto DAR), and Turlock (BLST and DART) have both fixed route and dial-a-ride/runabout services. Ceres, Waterford, and Riverbank/Oakdale (ROTA) offer only dial-a-ride. The sources are StanCOG and Transit Operators

Why is it important?

Public funding for public transit through the Transportation Development Act is contingent on each transit operator meeting the mandated farebox recovery ratio. The projected ratio is a key factor in the determination of whether an unmet transit need is "reasonable to meet." A transit operator has a minimum of two years following the expansion of service to raise the ratio to the required minimum.

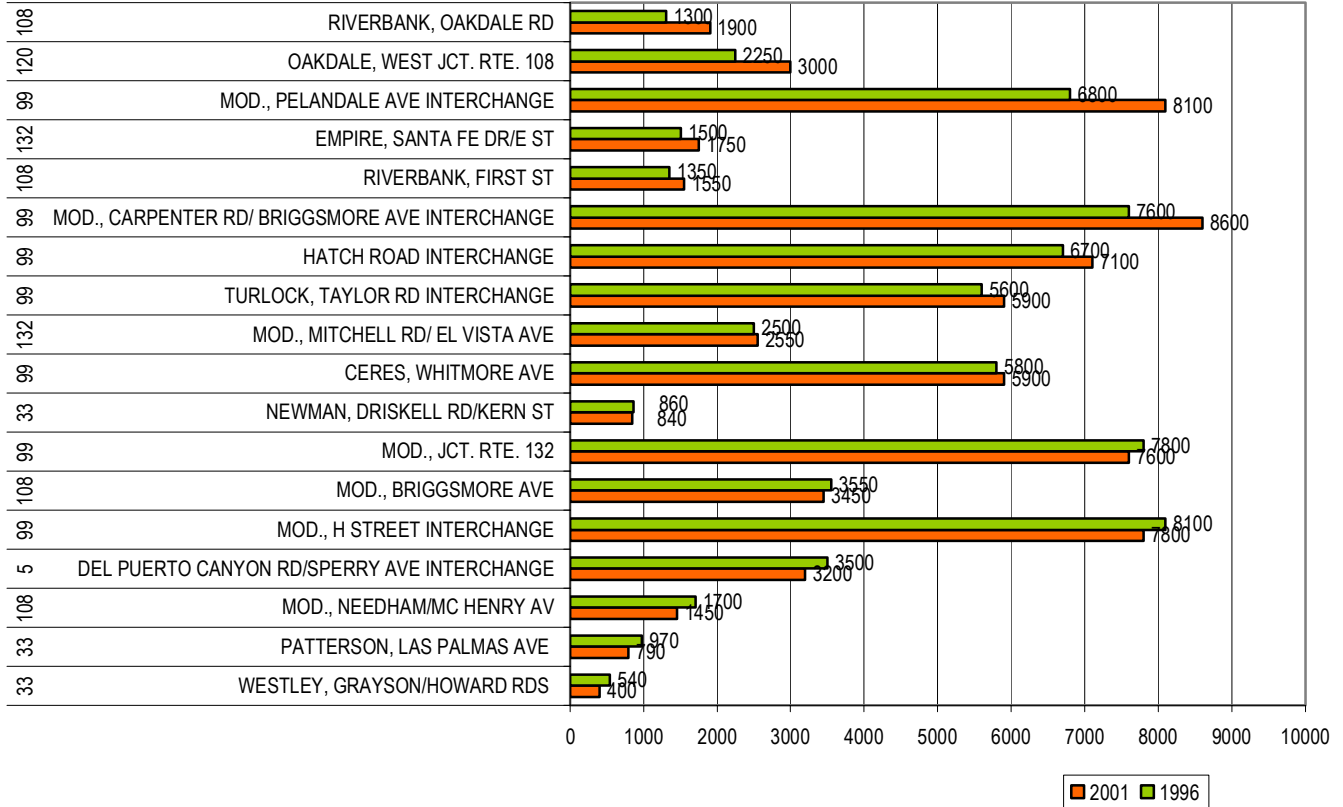
How are we doing?

All fixed route systems have experienced rising farebox recovery ratios above the mandated levels. However, the trendlines are uneven. There also have been variations among routes within systems during the entire period.

Dial-a-ride/runabout ratios have tended to be lower, a reflection of the more customized nature of the bus service. Additionally, some dial-a-rides (Modesto, StaRt's Eastside Runabout, and Turlock's DART) serve seniors and the disabled for all or part of the day. StaRT's lower ratio in 2000/01 reflects changes in service that fall within the two year window.

Selected Peak Hour Traffic Counts on State Highways: 1996 and 2001

Data Source: California Department of Transportation



What's the measurement?

Peak hour traffic volume is based on electronic sampling along the state highway system by the Traffic and Vehicle Data Systems Unit of the California Department of Transportation. Peak hour results are calculated from the annual average daily estimates. The traffic count year extends from October 1 to September 30. Traffic counts are adjusted for seasonal and other factors.

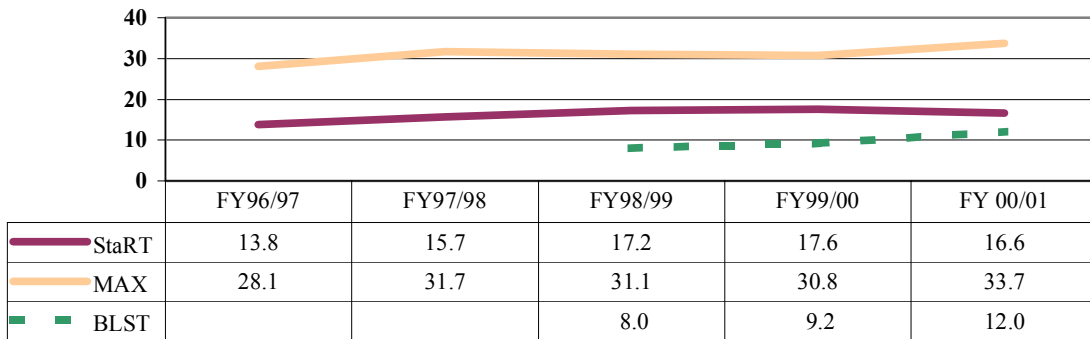
Why is it important?

Peak hour traffic counts can be used to gauge both traffic volume trends and congestion.

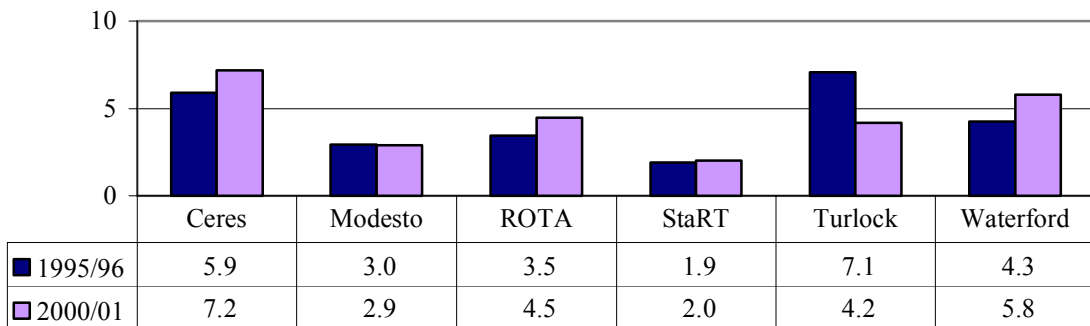
How are we doing?

There have been variations in peak traffic count trends since 1996. The most notable declines have been on the Westside. Increases along the Highway 99 corridor have been principally in north Modesto, south Modesto, Ceres, and Turlock. The most significant increases in peak hour traffic volume have been in Riverbank, Empire, and Oakdale.

Reported Fixed Route Passengers Per Revenue Hour



Reported Dial-a-Ride Passengers Per Revenue Hour



What's the measurement?

Passengers per revenue hour addresses the relationship between the number of passengers taking public transit and the hours of bus operations. The results are influenced by a number of considerations, including the types of transit services offered, the densities of populations served, and bus frequencies. The sources are StanCOG and Transit Operators.

Why is it important?

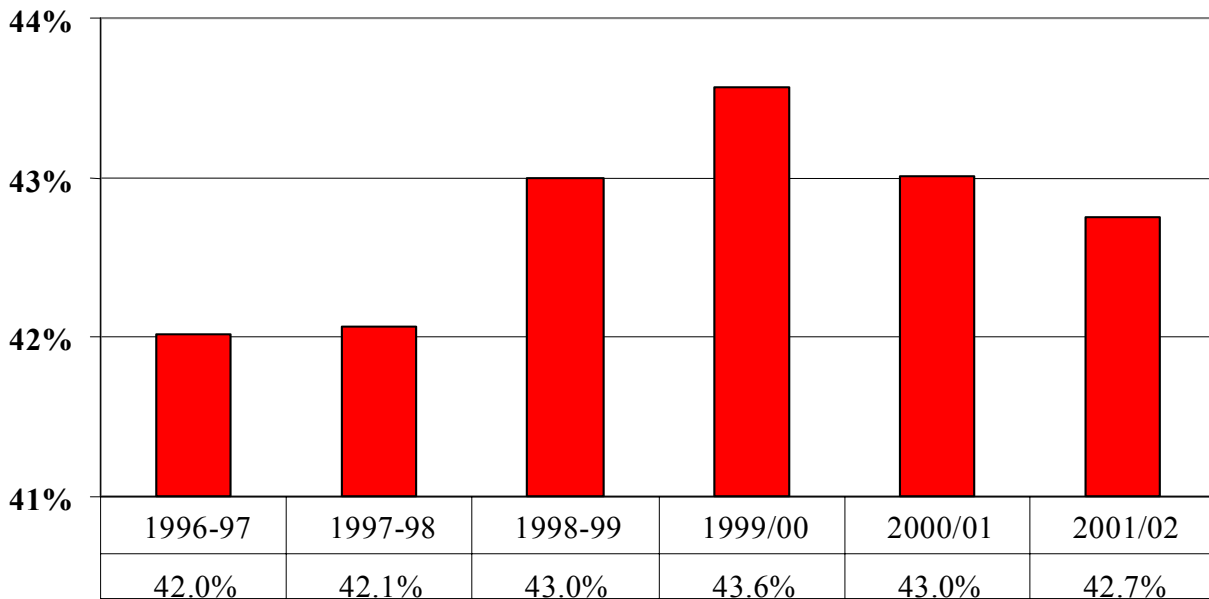
Passengers per revenue hour is an important performance indicator used to gauge public transit operations. Rather than focusing on the number of passengers alone, it relies on a ratio that can be used by transit operators to assess the need for changes in routes and bus frequencies.

How are we doing?

Between Fiscal Years 1995/96 and 2000/01, both MAX (Modesto) and StaRT (County) passengers per revenue hour increased by 20%. Turlock's (BLST) passenger per revenue hour ratio jumped 50% during the first three years of operation. However, growth rates have been uneven, especially between Fiscal Years 1999/00 and 2000/01.

Dial-a-ride/runabout ratios were lower during the period studied. This reflects the more customized and specialized nature of the bus service. Note that the three dial-a-ride operations without a fixed route option (Ceres, Waterford, and ROTA) experienced impressive increases between Fiscal Years 1995/96 and 2000/01.

Percent of Local Transportation Funds for Streets and Roads



What's the measurement?

An important source of funding for the construction and maintenance of local streets and roads in Stanislaus County is the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) of the California Transportation Development Act (TDA). Financed by $\frac{1}{4}$ cent of the sales tax, the LTF also is used to cover TDA administration and planning, nonmotorized transportation (e.g., bicycles), and public transit. In fact, the StanCOG Policy Board – the body responsible for administering the TDA in Stanislaus County – cannot allocate funds for streets and roads (usually described as “other”) until these other transportation needs have been met. The proportion of all LTF dollars earmarked for streets and roads is an annual measure of dollars available for local infrastructure.

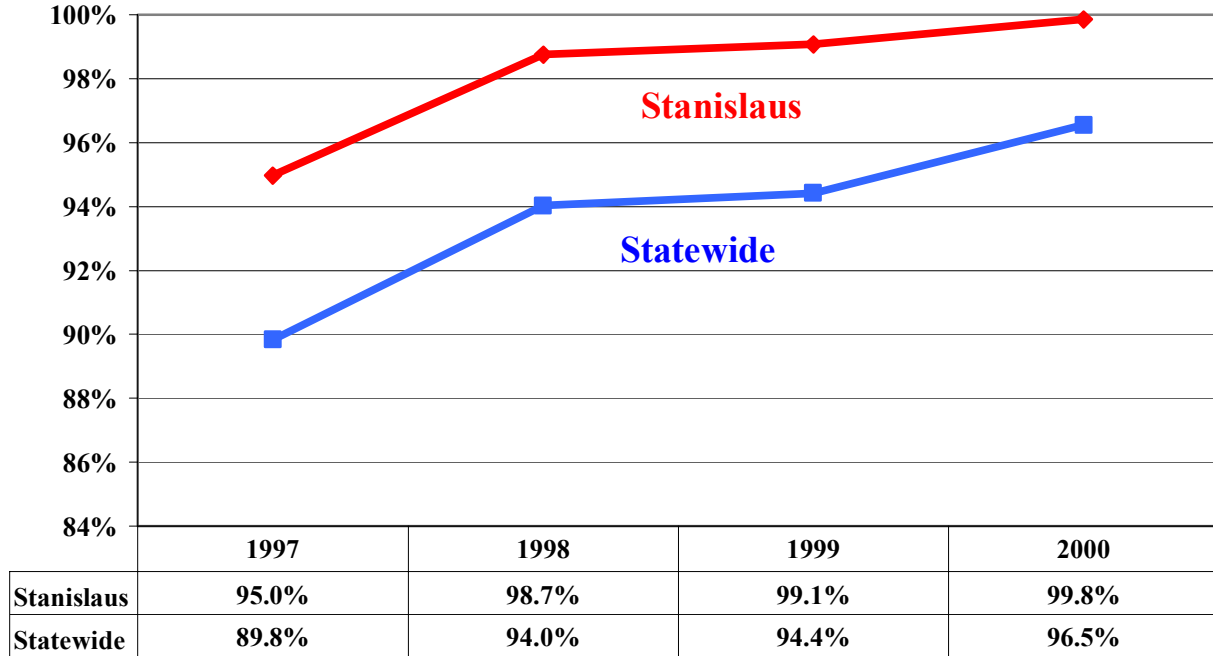
Why is it important?

The movement of both people and goods and services is tied to the quality of local infrastructure. The latter, in turn, is linked to the performance of the economy as well as the area's quality of life. Since LTF funding of streets and roads is residual, the proportion of funds available also represents an assessment of transit service needs.

How are we doing?

Between the 1996/97 and 2000/2001 Fiscal Years, the amount of money available in the Local Transportation Fund increased from \$9.8 million to \$14.4 million, or 46.7%. During the same period, support for streets and roads climbed from \$4.1 million to \$6.1 million, or 49.2%. The overall effect of these changes has been a modest rise in the proportion of LTF funds devoted to streets and roads: from 42% in Fiscal Year 1996/97 to 42.7% in Fiscal Year 2001/02.

**Motor Vehicle Registration Per Capita
(Population 16 Years and Older)**



What’s the measurement?

Registered vehicles per adult 16 years and older is a ratio that links motor vehicle registrations to the population. It provides a gauge of the distribution of vehicles. The source is the California Highway Patrol, Department of Motor Vehicles, and U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Why is it important?

As the County grows, the number of vehicles on the road is likely to increase as well. A rising proportion of registrations could impact both local infrastructure and travel. While all adults do not have registered vehicles, some have access to more than one.

How are we doing?

There has been a steady increase in the vehicles per capita since 1997. In fact, by 2000 it was almost 100%. The ratio was consistently higher than in the state as a whole throughout the 1997-2000 period. In 2000, there were approximately 2.1 vehicles per household in Stanislaus, slightly higher than in the state as a whole.

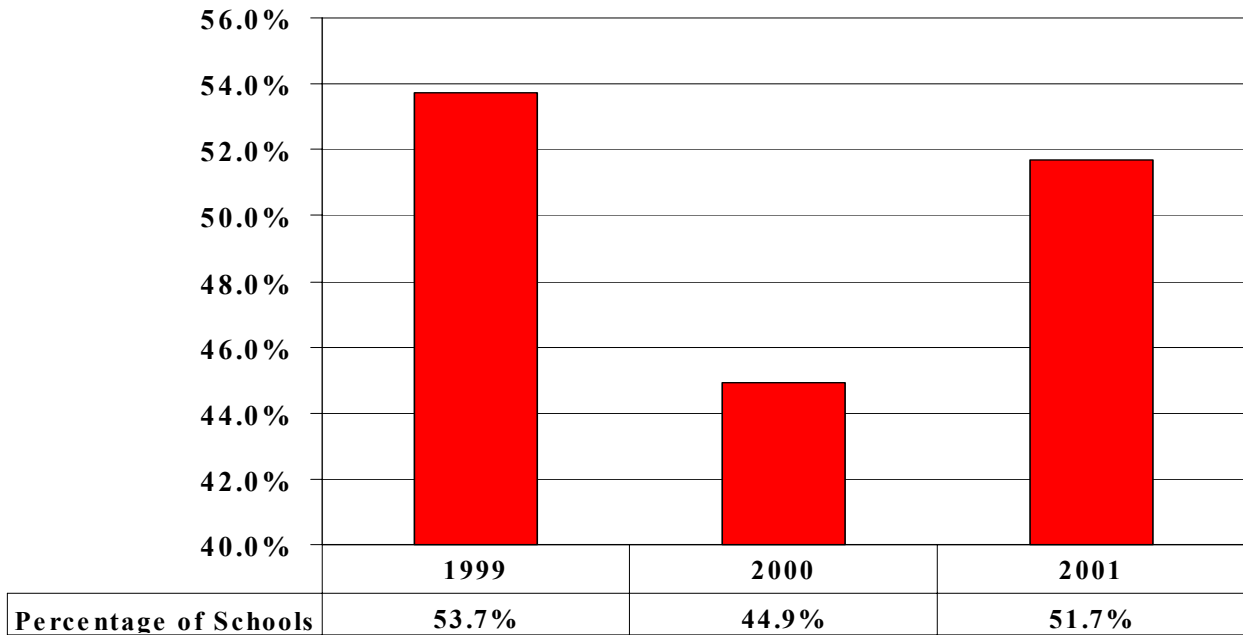
Education

VISION: Everyone, especially our children, will have opportunities to stimulate the mind, inspire the spirit and develop healthy bodies.

Indicators

- API Summary
- Graduation Rates by Ethnicity
- STAR Report (Math)
- STAR Report (Reading)
- UCCSU Eligible Graduation

Academic Performance Index (API)



What’s the measurement?

The Academic Performance Index is a composite score assigned to schools based on their students’ performance on Stanford 9 tests. Raw scores range from 200 to 1000. Schools throughout the state are then grouped in deciles by grade level of instruction based on these collective rankings. Appearance in the 6th to 10th deciles will place the schools above average in the state. The index itself, therefore, is a comparison with schools across the state. The source is the California Department of Education, Policy and Evaluation Division.

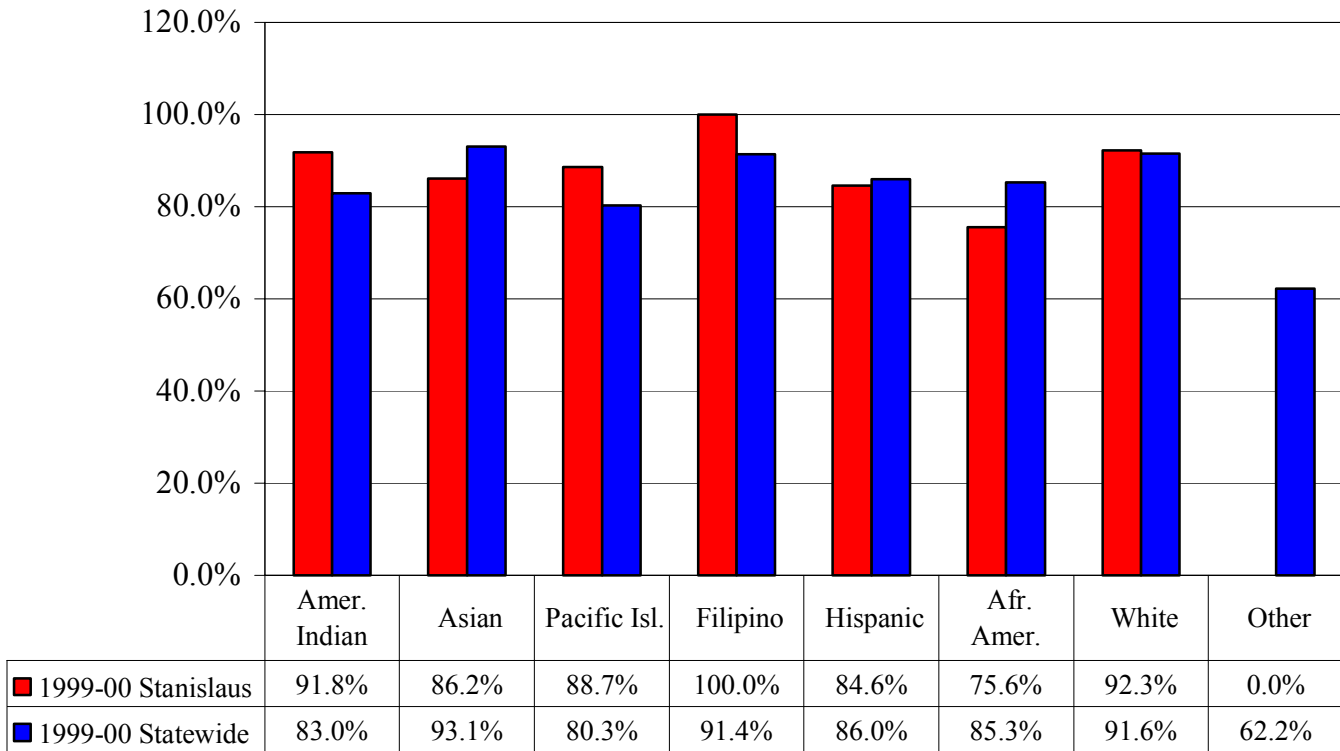
Why is it important?

Above average performance suggests that schools in Stanislaus County are preparing students better than half of the other schools in the state. To the extent that more schools are performing at this above average level, the county can be regarded as meeting or exceeding educational goals of continuous improvement. However, improvement relative to other schools in the state can camouflage any gains the school may have made relative to its own earlier performance.

How are we doing?

The number of schools in the county ranking in the top half of student performance state- wide increased from 53 in 2000 to 64 in 2001, although it had been at 58 in 1999. This was on a base of 108 schools in 1999, 118 in 2000, and 120 in 2001, producing the percentages indicated above. In terms of raw scores, however, 62 of 121 schools improved or stayed the same over the 3-year period. Greater progress is not seen on the above chart because other schools in California were also improving and some of their gains exceeded Stanislaus’.

Graduation Rates by Ethnicity 1999-2000



What's the measurement?

Graduation rates are calculated by dividing the number of students graduating from high school by the total number eligible for graduation, i.e., those enrolled in 12th grade. This graph provides the graduation rate by ethnicity and compares the rate for Stanislaus County with that for the State of California as a whole.

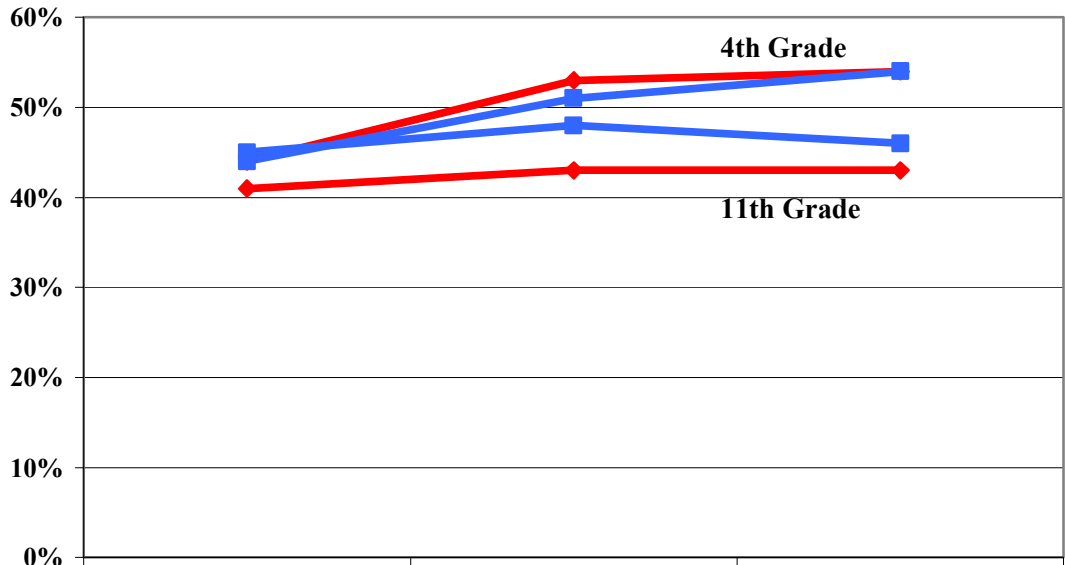
Why is it important?

A high school diploma suggests basic preparation for the work environment. To the extent that students in the county graduate at a higher rate than that of the state as a whole, students should have a better than average chance of securing employment and there is a better chance that the county will be able to attract employers to the area.

How are we doing?

For 1999-2000, the last year for which data are available, four ethnic groups in the county graduated at a high rate than their counterparts statewide and three ethnic groups graduated at a lower rate. In two instances, one better, one worse, the rates were almost equal. However, this is a one-year snapshot and longer term trends can vary.

Student Performance STAR Report—Math



| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Stanislaus County, 4th Grade | 44% | 53% | 54% |
| California, 4th Grade | 44% | 51% | 54% |
| Stanislaus County, 11th Grade | 41% | 43% | 43% |
| California, 11th Grade | 45% | 48% | 46% |

What’s the measurement?

Every year, California students in grades 2-11 take the Stanford Achievement Test, Version 9 (SAT-9) as part of the state’s Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. Test scores are reported both as averages and as the percentage of students scoring at or above the 50th percentile nationally. These charts reflect the second method. The first shows percentile data for Mathematics in Stanislaus County and California at the 4th and 11th grades respectively in 2001. The second compares achievement in the county for these same grades between 1998 and 2001.

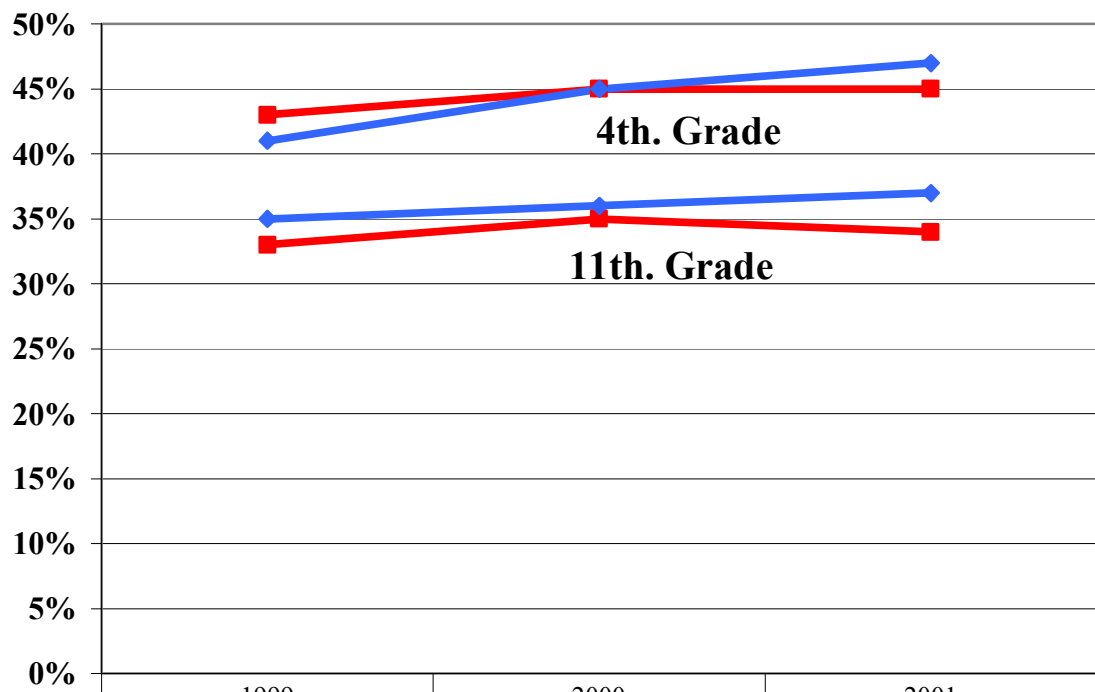
Why is it important?

Student performance relative to the performance of students nationally is an important indicator of the competitive position of Stanislaus County. These charts show national standing, comparison with students in California, and change over time.

How are we doing?

In 2001, Stanislaus County students outperformed students statewide in math at both grades. The difference was particularly noticeable in 4th grade. The second chart shows impressive improvement in test performance at the 4th grade level, although there has been less change at the 11th grade.

Student Performance-Reading



| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|
| ■ Stanislaus County, 11th Grade | 33% | 35% | 34% |
| ◆ California, 11th Grade | 35% | 36% | 37% |
| ■ Stanislaus County, 4th Grade | 43% | 45% | 45% |
| ◆ California, 4th Grade | 41% | 45% | 47% |

What’s the measurement?

Every year, California students in grades 2-11 take the Stanford Achievement Test, Version 9 (SAT-9) as part of the state’s Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. Test scores are reported both as averages and as the percentage of students scoring at or above the 50th percentile nationally. This chart reflects the second method by displaying the percentile data for Reading in Stanislaus County and California at the 4th and 11th grades for the period 1999 to 2001.

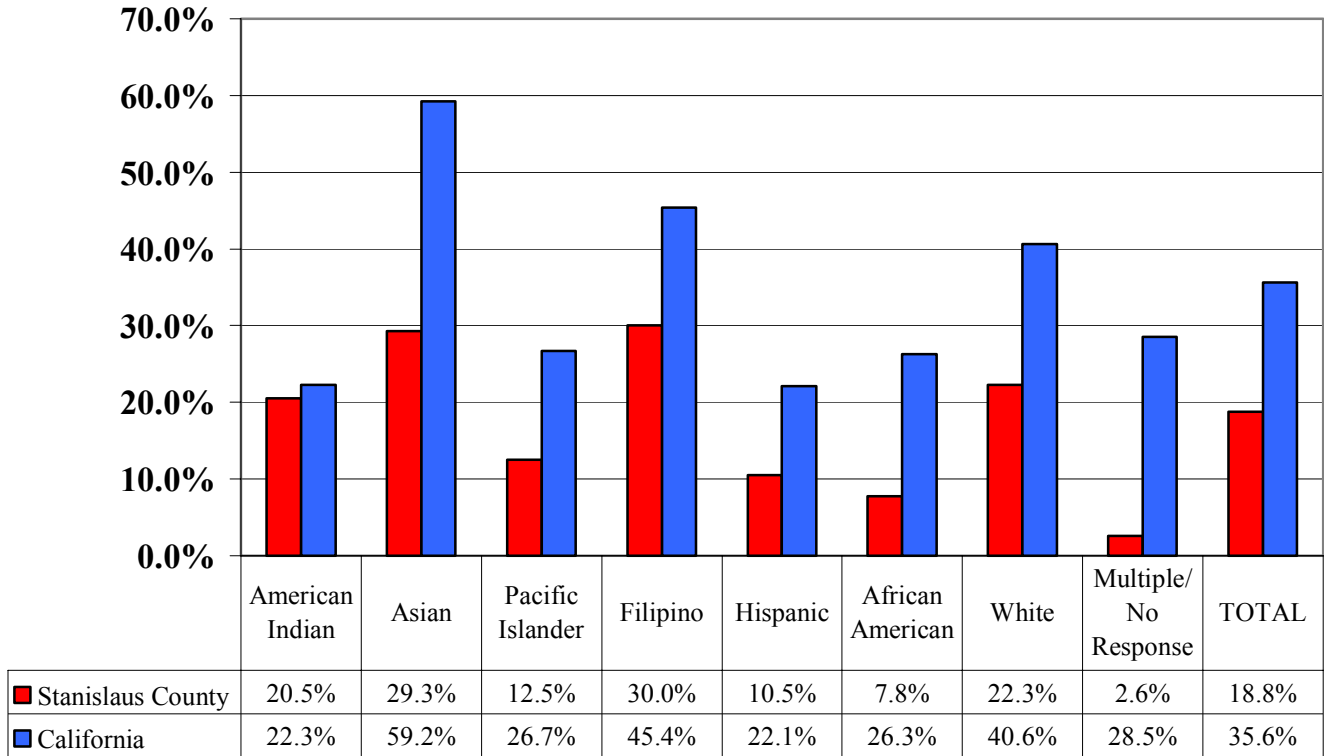
Why is it important?

Student performance relative to the performance of students throughout the nation and California is an important indicator of the competitive position of Stanislaus County. These charts show comparison with students nationally and in California and change over time.

How are we doing?

Students in Stanislaus County in the 4th grade have been performing at a level comparable to other 4th graders in the state. The performance of 4th graders in Stanislaus County has shown improvement. The 11th graders were somewhat below the state overall.

Graduates Eligible for UC-CSU by Ethnicity – 1998-99



What’s the measurement?

Students’ eligibility for CSU and UC is based on their completion of specific high school courses, the grades received in high school, and performance on college admission exams (most notably the SAT). The latter two are typically computed together to form an eligibility index. Students with higher grades can score lower on the SAT, while those with lower grades must get a higher score. This chart includes the percentage of all high school graduates in the county and state respectively who met the UC-CSU admissions criteria for course preparation. The data are broken down by ethnic group, providing the percentage of graduates by ethnicity who met the UC-CSU criteria.

Why is it important?

A college degree is increasingly important in today’s economy—both for graduating seniors and the county in terms of its ability to attract employers to the area. This measure tracks the extent to which high school graduates have met the basic course requirements for admission into the UC and CSU systems and compares the rate with that for California as a whole. Meeting the criteria suggests these students want to attend college and are prepared to do so. It can therefore be used as a surrogate for the college going rate.

How are we doing?

For 1998-99, the last year for which data are available, the county prepared proportionately fewer students for UC and CSU than the state as a whole. However, this is a one-year snapshot and may not be representative of the county’s performance over time.

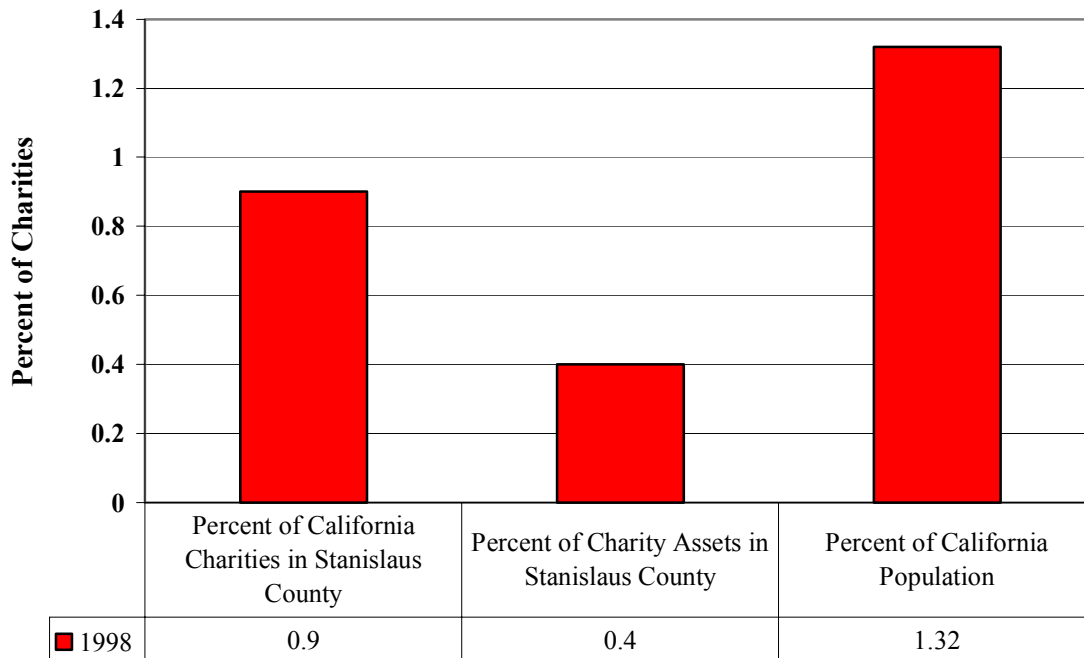
Community

Stanislaus County will contain diverse, interesting and unique social and cultural characteristics that strengthen the bonds within and between our communities, preserve local identity and enhance regional pride. Individuals and groups will commit to contributing to the well being of their community.

Indicators

- Charities and Charity Assets
- Library Usage
- Low Birthweight Babies
- Teen Birth Rates

Charities and Charity Assets



What's the measurement?

The percentages of all public reporting charities in California in 1998 that were in Stanislaus County and the percent of all reported charity assets in California that were held by public reporting charities in Stanislaus County. Charities not required to report include religious organizations and charities with less than \$25,000 in assets. The source is the National Center for Charitable Statistics.

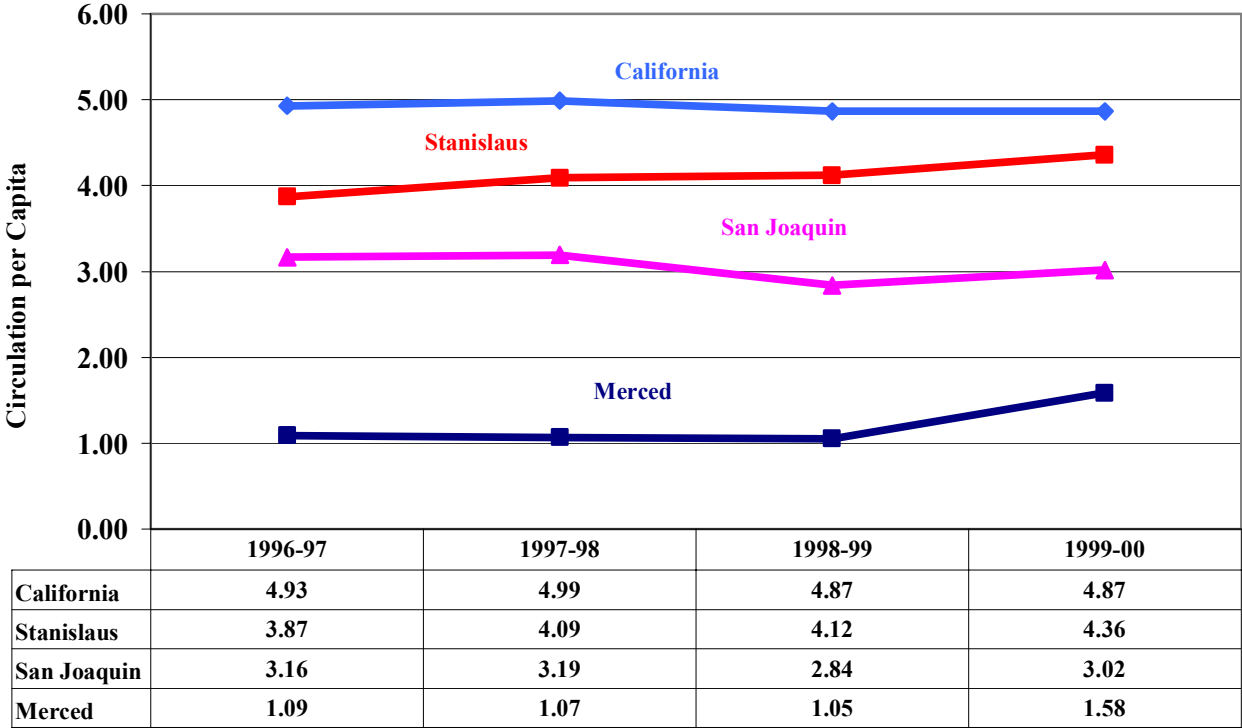
Why is it important?

Charities can be a significant source of funding for programs that provide critical assistance to people in need. Food banks, clothes closets, programs for at-risk children, programs for the elderly, and others often receive important funding from charitable organizations. The condition of charities also is an indicator of the generosity of the county's residents.

How are we doing?

The proportion of the state's charitable organizations and charitable assets in Stanislaus County is less than the county's proportion of population. In other words, on a per person basis, charitable giving is lower in Stanislaus County than statewide. Comparisons can also be made to other counties of similar size. Monterey, San Joaquin, Sonoma, and Tulare Counties are roughly similar in size to Stanislaus County. The figures for proportion of organizations and assets within the respective counties are: Monterey 1.4/1.1; San Joaquin 1.1/0.9; Sonoma 1.9/0.7; Tulare 0.7/0.1.

Library Usage



What's the measurement?

The annual per capita rate of the circulation of public library materials in Stanislaus County. For each year, the total number of library materials in circulation is divided by the county's population. The source is the Stanislaus County Public Library and the California State Library.

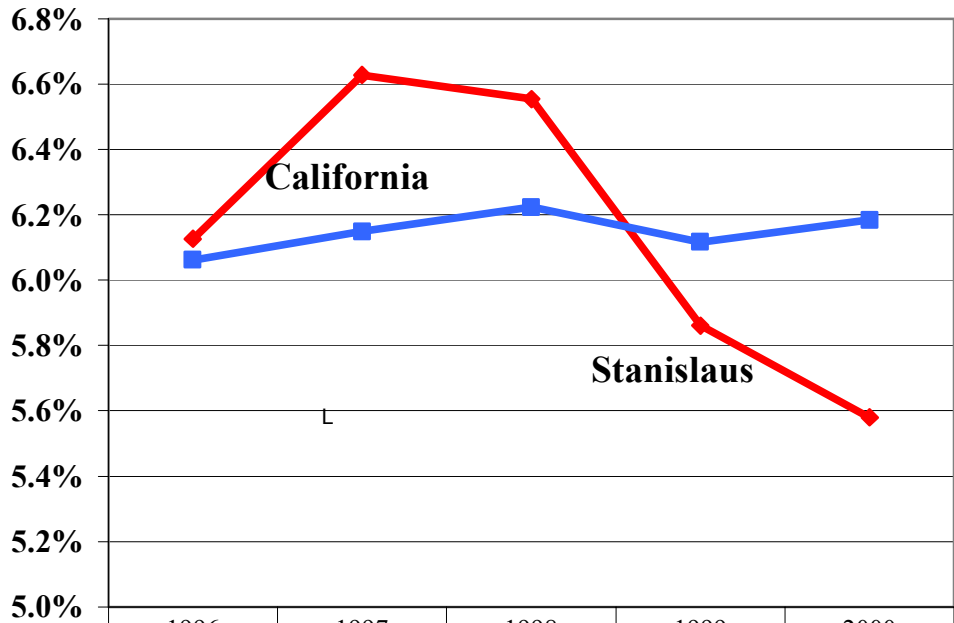
Why is it important?

Public libraries play an important role in the educational and cultural life of a community. When people are using their libraries, it becomes an indication of the educational and cultural health of the community.

How are we doing?

The data indicate that people are increasing their use of the library each year. The total number of materials in circulation rose from 1,620,794 in 1996-97 to 1,996,252 in 2000-01. Some of the increase is due to the fact that the population of the county rose significantly during this period. In spite of that, on average, per person use of the library increased from 3.87 materials during the 1996-2001 period. Data from the California State Library indicate that library usage tends to be lower in the San Joaquin Valley than for other regions of the state.

Low Birthweight Babies



| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Percent of all births that are low birthweight babies in Stanislaus County | 6.1% | 6.6% | 6.6% | 5.9% | 5.6% |
| Percent of all births that are low birthweight babies in California | 6.1% | 6.1% | 6.2% | 6.1% | 6.2% |

What's the measurement?

The percentage of low birthweight babies are defined with a weight of less than 5 lbs., 8 oz (2500 grams). The source is the California Department of Health Services.

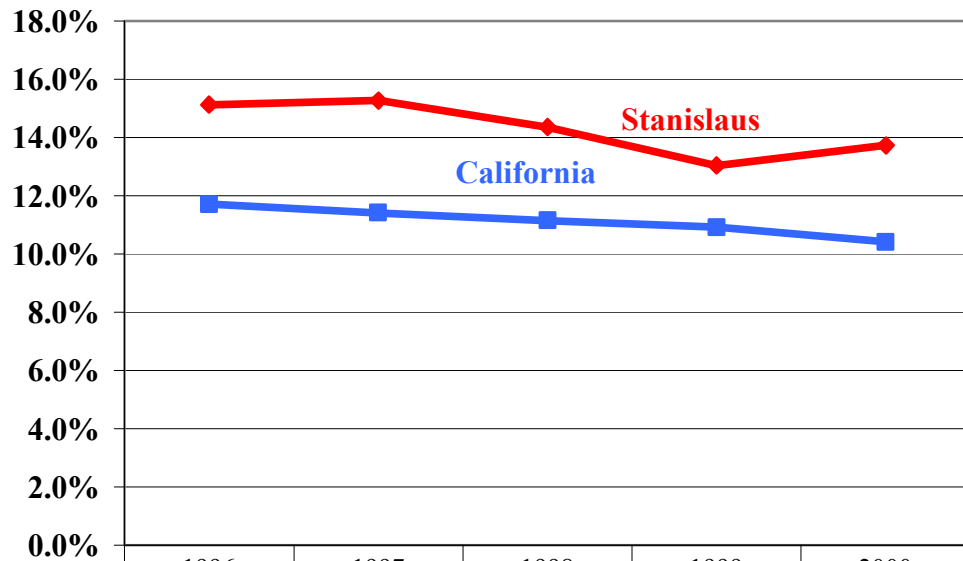
Why is it important?

Low birthweight babies are more likely to die in their first year of life; thus, low birth weight is a contributor to infant mortality. Low birthweight babies are also more likely to suffer delays in their development and are more likely to have behavior and learning problems later in life. Low birthweight babies can also be an indicator of poor nutrition and prenatal care on the part of the pregnant woman.

How are we doing?

From 1996 to 1997, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of low birthweight babies in Stanislaus County and the proportion was significantly higher than the statewide average. Since 1997, there has been a continuous and dramatic decrease in the proportion of low birthweight babies in Stanislaus County. The county rate in the year 2000 was noticeably lower than the statewide rate.

Teenage Birth Rate



| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Percent of Births to Teenage Mothers in Stanislaus County | 15.1% | 15.3% | 14.4% | 13.0% | 13.7% |
| Percent of Births to Teenage Mothers in California | 11.7% | 11.4% | 11.2% | 10.9% | 10.4% |

What's the measurement?

The percentage of all live births to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19. The source is the California Department of Health Services.

Why is it important?

Teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of school than women who delay childbearing and are likely to have fewer job skills. Pregnant adolescents are less likely to seek proper medical care during their pregnancy and more likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors such as cigarette and alcohol use. Babies born to teenagers are more at risk for school failure, poverty, and physical and mental illness. Teenage mothers are more likely to have low birthweight babies.

How are we doing?

The teenage birth rate in Stanislaus County has been consistently higher than the statewide average. For the year 2000, 13.7% of all live births in Stanislaus County were to teenagers compared to 10.4% for the state. Relative to the state, the teenage birth rate in Stanislaus County has not been improving although between 1997 and 1999, the teen birth rate in the County did show consistent improvement.

Government

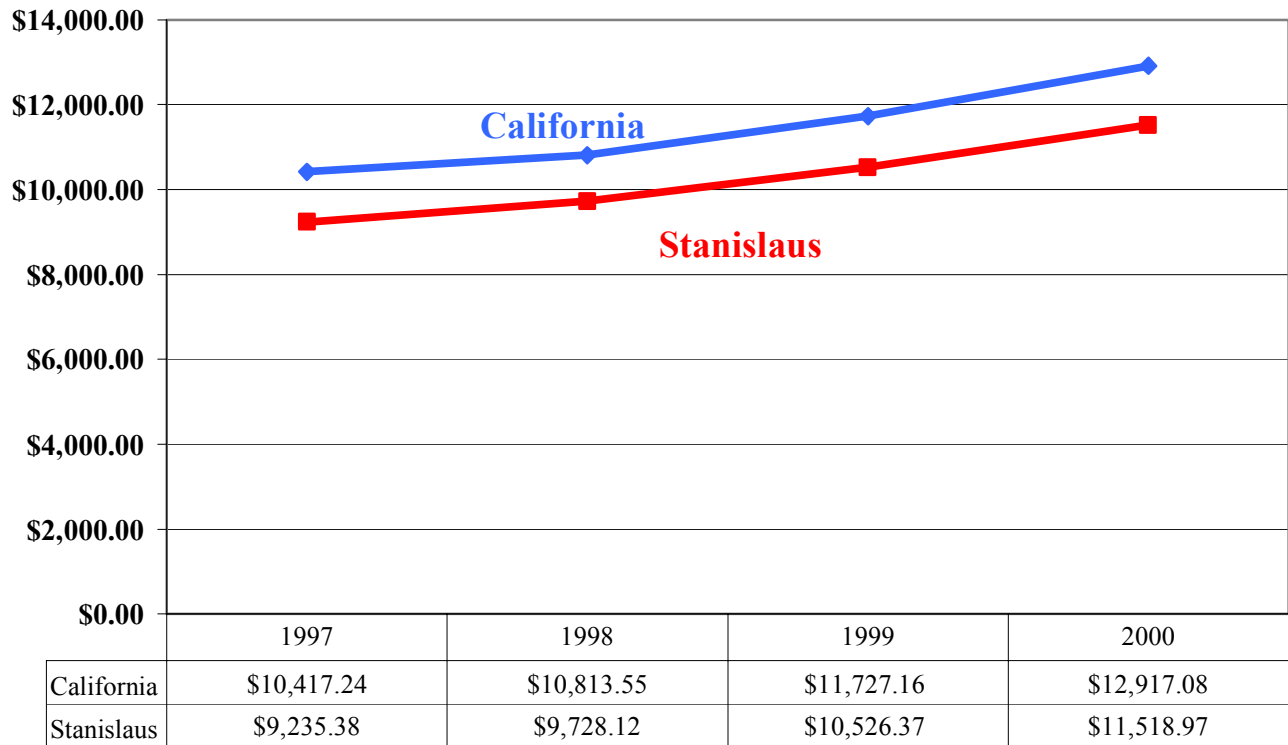
VISION: Our local governments will govern based on the principle of stewardship.

Elected officials and government employees will hold public resources and processes in trust for citizens and they will act in service of citizens and the community, not in self-interest.

Indicators

- Per Capita Taxable Sales
- Recreation and Cultural Services Spending
- Response Census 2000
- Voter Participation Rates

Taxable Sales, Per Capita



What's the measurement?

The reported figures are per capita taxable sales per year for all transactions throughout the county. Total taxable sales include all retail sales and business and personal use taxes. The total taxable sales for the year are divided by the total population for the county. The source for taxable sales is the California Board of Equalization. The source for the county and state population is the Department of Finance official state estimates.

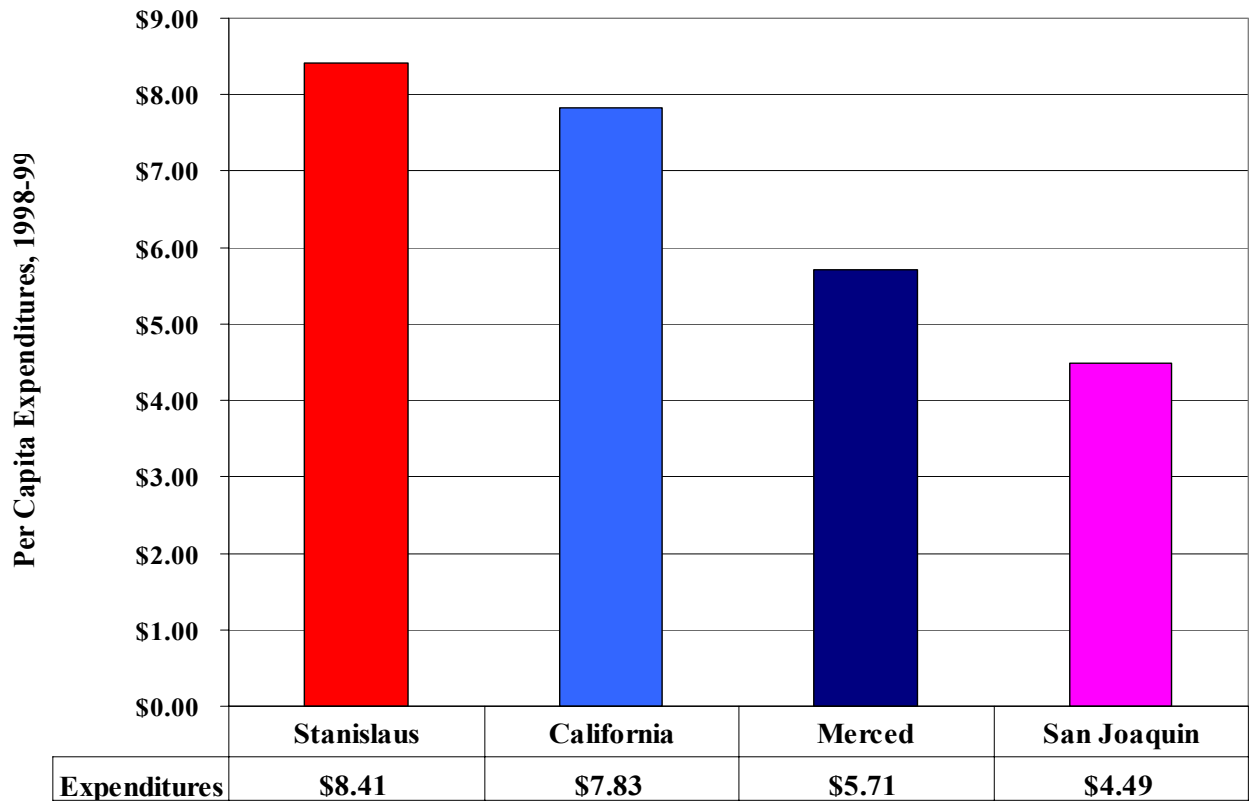
Why is it important?

The sales tax is an important revenue source for city and county governments. Relatively lower retail sales volume means that less sales tax is received and the local governments are more constrained in the range of services they can offer. Sales tax revenue is particularly important for local governments because there are few restrictions on how the revenue can be used permitting greater flexibility for local governments to respond to local needs.

How are we doing?

Taxable sales per person in Stanislaus County are somewhat lower than the statewide average indicating that local governments in the county must operate on a lower revenue basis. In general, the growth in taxable sales in Stanislaus County is similar to the rest of the state.

Recreation and Cultural Services Spending



What's the measurement?

The expenditure by county governments on recreation and cultural services is divided by the population in each county. The data are for the 1998-99 fiscal year. The source is the California State Controller's Office and the California Department of Finance.

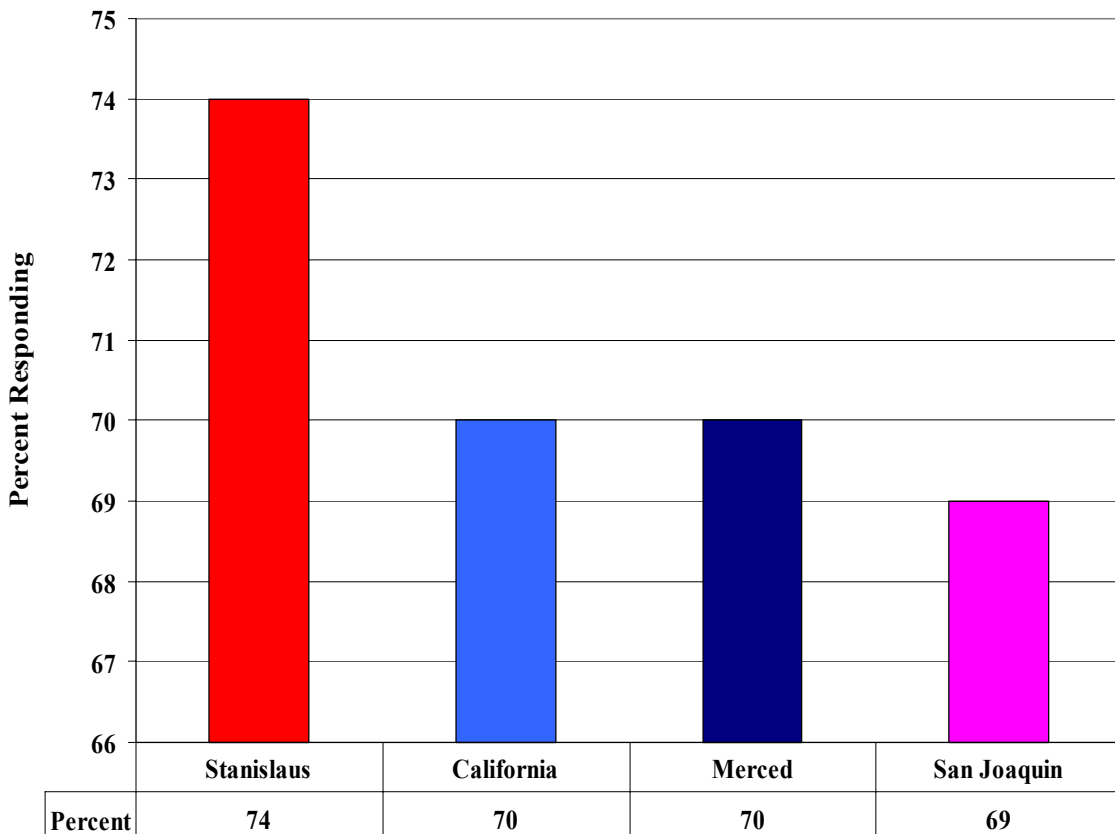
Why is it important?

Recreation and cultural services play important roles in the quality of life of the residents of a county. Counties not only provide activities and sites in unincorporated areas but may also partner with cities to develop recreation and cultural services. While most county spending is mandated by state and federal programs, counties do have some spending discretion and may choose to spend more or less on recreation and culture.

How are we doing?

The data indicate that Stanislaus County government places a substantially higher priority on spending for recreation and cultural services than most counties. Stanislaus County ranked 19th (of 58 counties) in fiscal year 1998-99 for per capita spending in these areas.

Response to Census 2000



What's the measurement?

The percentage of residents who responded to the 2000 U.S. Census by the mail deadline. The source is the U.S. Census Bureau.

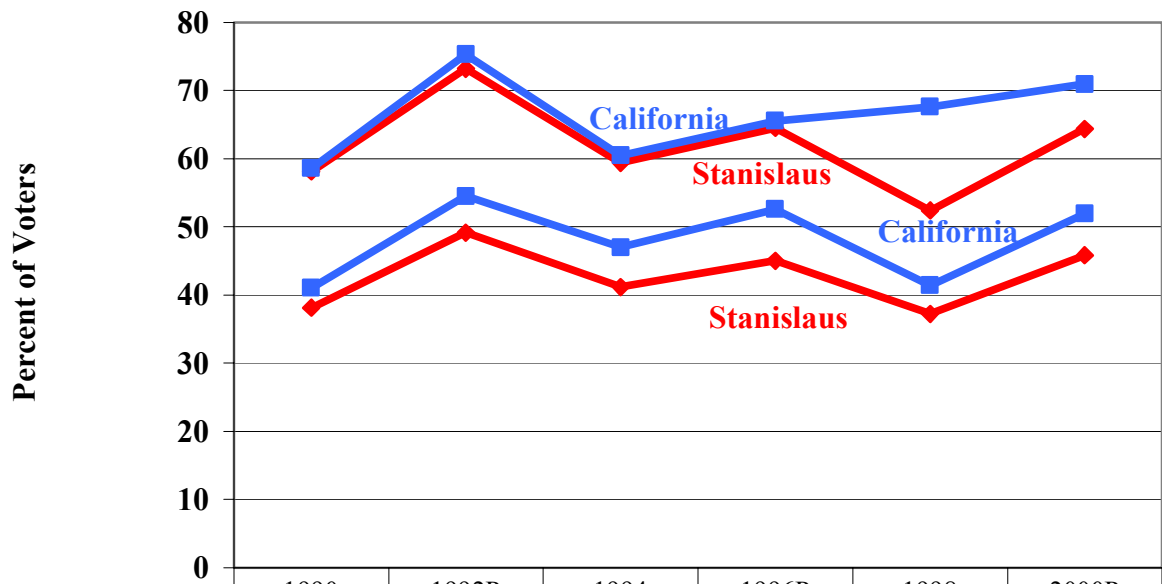
Why is it important?

Response rates to the 2000 Census provide one indicator of citizen involvement in community affairs and can be viewed as a measure of the health of democracy. Accurate data made possible by the census count is important to counties and cities because it impacts federal expenditure levels.

How are we doing?

Stanislaus County recorded one of the highest response rates to the 2000 Census. Efforts by city and county officials were important in achieving the high level of response. Numerous community and neighborhood organizations engaged in outreach efforts that also were crucial.

Voter Participation Rates



| | 1990 | 1992P | 1994 | 1996P | 1998 | 2000P |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Stanislaus, % Registered | 58.14 | 73.21 | 59.38 | 64.52 | 52.39 | 64.37 |
| California, % Registered | 58.61 | 75.32 | 60.45 | 65.53 | 67.59 | 70.94 |
| Stanislaus, % Eligible | 38.14 | 49.14 | 41.16 | 45.04 | 37.21 | 45.8 |
| California, % Eligible | 41.05 | 54.52 | 46.98 | 52.56 | 41.43 | 51.92 |

What's the measurement?

Voter participation can be measured by the percentage of registered voters who vote and the percentage of eligible voters who vote. Each of these is measured for Stanislaus County and statewide. The “P” following 1992, 1996 and 2000 indicate they are presidential election years. The source is the California Secretary of State.

Why is it important?

Voter participation rates provide one indicator of citizen involvement in community affairs and can be viewed as a measure of the health of democracy.

How are we doing?

The data permit several types of comparisons. We can compare how we are doing in presidential election years and “off” years. Citizens in Stanislaus County are much more likely to vote in presidential election years than in “off” years; the same is true for citizens statewide. When we compare how we are doing over time, we see that voting rates dropped during the 1990s but increased for the 2000 presidential election. Voting rates in Stanislaus County are lower than the statewide average although between 1990 and 1996 the percentage of registered voters who voted in Stanislaus County was only slightly lower than the statewide average. The gap for voting rates of eligible voters, however, was much higher.

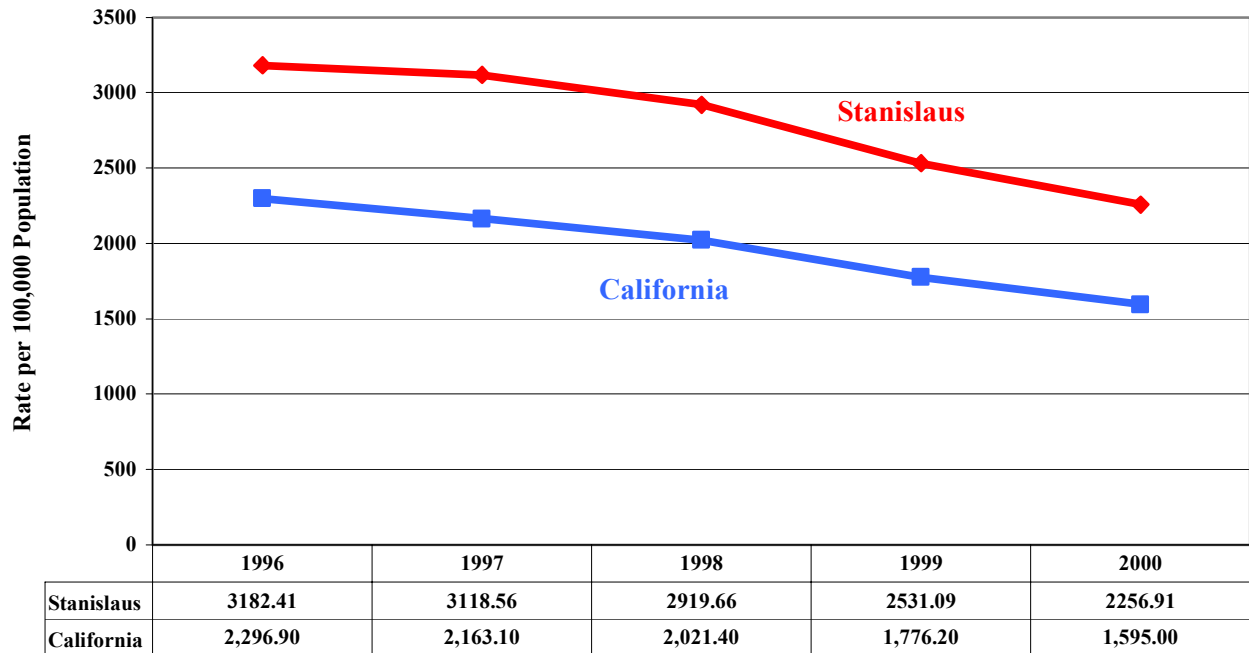
Public Safety

Recognizing that public safety is the foundation for a safe and healthy society, law enforcement, fire and life safety service agencies will provide Stanislaus County residents with the highest quality services possible in conjunction with local community involvement. To that end, all agencies will strive to collaborate and form partnerships to deliver optimum service in all aspects of public safety.

Indicators

- Juvenile Arrest Rate
- Property Crime Rate
- Violent Crime Rate

Juvenile Felony Arrest Rates



What's the measurement?

The number of arrests of individuals between the ages of 10 and 17 per one hundred thousand people. Arrests are for any felony activity including property crimes, violent crimes, sex crimes, drug offenses, bookmaking, weapons, driving under the influence, and so forth. It should be noted that the rate refers to arrests, not convictions or incidence of crime. Arrest rates can be influenced by police policy and procedure as well as by the incidence of crime.

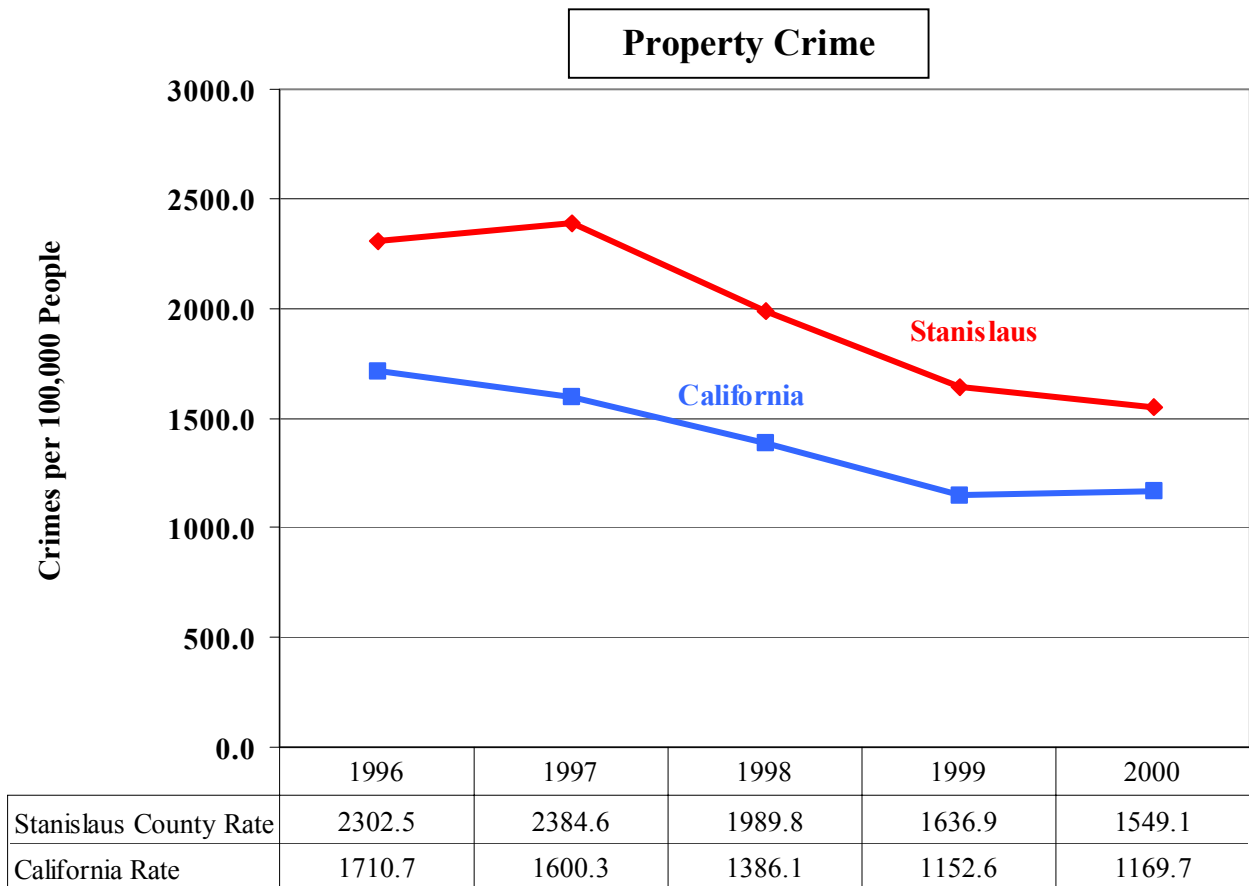
Rate is per 100,000 population between the ages of 10 and 17 and is calculated as reported crimes/total population ages 10-17 x 100,000. The source is the California Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

Why is it important?

Felony crime impacts the level of real and perceived safety, which in turn greatly impacts the health of communities and neighborhoods. Juvenile felony crime can be particularly harmful for a community as the activity may impact the person's life and have long-term negative consequences for employment.

How are we doing?

Juvenile arrest rates in Stanislaus County are substantially higher than the statewide average. However, the juvenile arrest rate in Stanislaus County in 2000 was noticeably lower than the rate for the five year average and has shown a dramatic decline over the five-year period.



What's the measurement?

The number of reported property crimes per one hundred thousand people. Property crimes include burglary and motor vehicle theft.

Rate is per 100,000 and is calculated as reported crimes/total population x 100,000. The source is the California Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

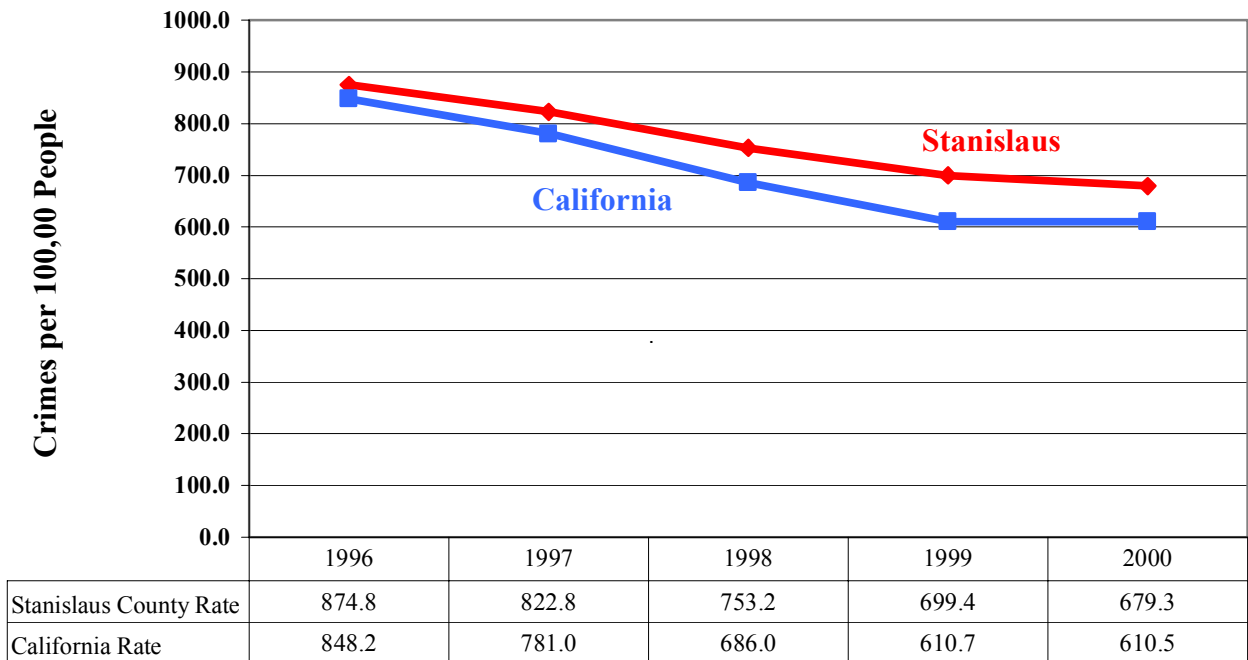
Why is it important?

Crime impacts the level of real and perceived safety, which in turn greatly impacts the health of communities and neighborhoods. In some cases, the reality and perception of safety can be different. The level and perception of crime in a community are significant factors that affect quality of life. Property crime entails costs to individuals and businesses and impacts our sense of community and safety.

How are we doing?

Property crime rates in Stanislaus County are substantially higher than the statewide average. However, the property crime rate in Stanislaus County in 2000 was noticeably lower than the rate for the five year average which means that the amount of crime in the county is dropping, and it is dropping faster than for the state.

Violent Crime



What's the measurement?

The number of reported violent crimes per one hundred thousand people. Violent crimes include murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Rate is per 100,000 and is calculated as reported crimes/total population x 100,000. The source is the California Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

Why is it important?

Crime impacts the level of real and perceived safety, which in turn greatly impacts the health of communities and neighborhoods. In some cases, the reality and perception of safety can be different. The level and perception of crime in a community are significant factors that affect quality of life. Crime has wide-ranging effects on communities. In addition to economic costs, the fear, frustration and instability resulting from crime chisel away at our sense of community and undermine people's ability to get ahead.

How are we doing?

Violent crime rates in Stanislaus County are substantially higher than the statewide average. The violent crime rate for the state dropped significantly between 1996 and 1999 but then leveled off. The violent crime rate in Stanislaus County continues to decline.