

Tuolumne County Profile

2005



Community Indicators Project



TUOLUMNE COUNTY



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Executive Summary

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WHAT IS THE TUOLUMNE COUNTY PROFILE 2005?

This is a Community Indicators Project. Indicator projects show long-term trends of economic, environmental, and social well-being. In more than 200 communities nationwide, local government, business, and grassroots leaders use indicator studies to:

- Identify and track community conditions
- Discover common values and priorities
- Measure progress toward shared goals
- Secure funding and other resources to address areas of common concern
- Assist in planning and mobilizing action to enhance community life

Why is the Tuolumne County Profile important?

The goal of this project is to inform, inspire, and even provoke. We hope to do these things by presenting sound, unbiased information on the issues our community has identified as important to our quality of life. We are inviting the community to immerse themselves in this information, talk about it, and use it to make our community an even better place to live and work.



How did we determine what the community deems important?

We wanted to know what the residents of Tuolumne County deem to be the most important issues facing them. Furthermore, we wanted to involve them in prioritizing those issues and the other aspects of Tuolumne County life that are important to their well-being and sense of community. To accomplish this, in February 2005, we hired a professional research firm (Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates, Santa Monica and Oakland, CA) to conduct a statistically significant survey of our community. The firm determined that a random telephone call survey of 400 Tuolumne County households would be the best way to ask our community what was important about living in the county. (Copies of the survey report are available in printed form and on compact disk (CD) from the Sonora Area Foundation. They are also available for viewing at all County Libraries and on the website listed below).

What did the phone survey tell us?

Overall, the survey results show that Tuolumne County residents are extremely pleased with conditions in the county. Fully 87 percent of those polled rate the county as an “excellent” or “good” place to live. And while there are a number of issues that residents consider problems in the county (between 10 and 20 percent each cite too much growth and development, too few career ladder jobs, too much traffic, and mounting housing costs), none seems to represent a dominant, consensus concern for local residents.

However, residents clearly considered some aspects of the local quality of life to be relatively more important than others; in general, items related to public health and safety—and to a somewhat lesser extent, education and culture—rose to the top of the list. The survey also identified natural resource, recreation, and economic issues that our residents consider important. We used the survey results to ensure that the selection of community indicators reflects the issues local residents view as most important.

What is an indicator?

An indicator is a slice of information that focuses on a small, manageable, and significant piece of a system to give people a sense of the bigger picture. In other words, indicators are statistics and trends that display the direction in which a particular condition is heading. Indicators measure whether a community is changing in relation to providing all its members with a productive, enjoyable life. The Indicator Project Committee members spent considerable time using the guidance from the phone survey to gather and present indicators that are available, understandable, valid, and clear.

What happens next?

Every three years, this information will be measured again, compared to the previous reports, and presented to the community. We will also evaluate the use of this document and use the findings from this evaluation to refine our work.

What did the indicators show?

This report presents valid, reproducible information on the indicators that the residents deemed important. To give a sense of perspective, when possible, we compared the indicators to previous years and to nearby counties and/or the state. A synopsis of what we found follows.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Most people consider rural communities to be safer and healthier than urban areas. In general, that is true for Tuolumne County. However, we still struggle with many of the same issues of more populated areas, such as domestic violence, abuse, and illness. Additionally, as with many rural tourist areas, we have a problem with motor vehicle accidents and theft.



EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Education and the arts are very important to the quality of life for most county residents. We face challenges and celebrate successes in meeting needs and expectations for early childhood opportunities and for K-12 performance and aspirations. A wide variety of opportunities exist for adults to pursue additional education and training, ranging from the local community college to a number of public and private providers, including major universities within reasonable commuting distance. Capacity, variety, and attendance among local performing arts venues are unique for a rural region, although financial support is very challenging. While residents desire a wide variety of visual arts exhibitions, funding and local venues and available galleries are limited, especially in proportion to the number of resident artists and craftspersons.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Our vast natural resources provide a sense of identity and pride. Yosemite National Park, in the southeastern area of the county, attracts millions of visitors annually and offers a wide variety of recreational activities, as do our state parks, numerous reservoirs, and federal forest. Our timberlands remain constant in size. We are reducing wildland fire danger and expanding our recreational opportunities.

ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Historically, mining and timber industries dominated Tuolumne County's economy, although tourism was very important from the early 1850s. In recent years, emphasis on mining decreased, while logging has remained steady. Government is the largest employer, accounting for about 1/3 of all the jobs. This includes city, county, state and federal and the two Me-Wuk Indian tribes. Other employment is found in education, services, trade, and tourism. We are also a community of commuters—both electronically and physically.

Introduction [Download Chapter](#)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE COUNTY?

Where are we and what do we look like?

Tuolumne County's spectacular landscapes, open spaces, cultural amenities, recreational and educational opportunities, and rich history make this region a unique and exciting place to live. Tuolumne County was one of California's original 27 counties created upon statehood in 1850, and retains its original county seat, Sonora. The word Tuolumne derives from the name of a group of Native Americans who lived on the Stanislaus River near the western county border.

We are located in the central Sierra Nevada, with major rivers to the north and south. The Sierra Nevada forms the border on the east, with our county flowing into the great central valley in the west. Our diverse terrain includes the Columbia and Railtown 1897 State Historic Parks, and much of the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park.

The county is also home to the two highest mountain passes through the Sierra Nevada: Tioga Pass (9,945 feet) and Sonora Pass (9,628 feet). Plant and animal life abound, and Tuolumne County's wildflowers begin their show in February, continuing in the high country until the first snows. Calaveras Big Trees State Park, with its world-renowned giant sequoia, is found partially within Tuolumne County borders.

How large is the county?

The county encompasses an area of more than 2,200 square miles, ranging from 300 feet to more than 12,000 feet in elevation. Most of the land (78.5%) in Tuolumne County is publicly owned by the federal, state, and local governments. That leaves less than one quarter (21.5%) of the land for private ownership. When viewing the county as a whole, we have a population density of 22.4 people per square mile. However, it is probably more accurate to state the density on the private land, which is 104 people per square mile.



What are our communities like?

The rural environment of the Sierra foothills is characterized by a population generally dispersed throughout small-town communities of mixed use surrounded by large areas of open expanses consisting of agriculture, native vegetation, and low-density development. It is a policy of the county's general plan to avoid having communities grow together, and this results in open areas between towns that allow distinct and individually-identified communities. Tuolumne County is made up of 19 defined communities: Strawberry, Long Barn, Sierra Village, Sugar Pine/Mi-Wuk Village, Twain Harte, Tuolumne, Soulsbyville, Crystal Falls/Mono Vista, Cedar Ridge, Standard, East Sonora, Sonora, Columbia, Jamestown, Chinese Camp, Moccasin, Lake Don Pedro, Big Oak Flat, and Groveland/Pine Mountain Lake.

Historic roads, highways and trails traverse areas of great scenic beauty within the county, offering enjoyable experiences for motorists, cyclists, and hikers. The visual separation of the county benefits from the conservation of open areas, especially along the road corridors connecting the communities. The relatively low density and scenic routes between communities and at entrances to the county give it much of its rural and natural character. Native vegetation and tree cover, geological wonders such as Table Mountain or volcanic "gargoyles," along with agricultural landscapes add scenic value to our separated communities.

What is our population like?

Almost 56,500 people live in Tuolumne County, with the number of births being fairly stable at approximately 400 annually. Almost 10% of our population is in institutions such as assisted living, and long term care; the largest portion of the institutionalized population, more than 4,000 men, are in the state prison outside of Jamestown.

Our income is significantly less than the state, with per capita income (\$25,044) 24.0% less than that of California (\$32,989). Many of our residents live below the poverty line (11.4%), 16.2% of those under the age of 18 and 4.0% of those 65 and older.

Demographics

	Tuolumne County	California
Per capita income	\$25,044	\$32,989
Average age	43	33
% home ownership	71%	58%
% renter households	29%	42%
Average # people/household	2.36	2.87

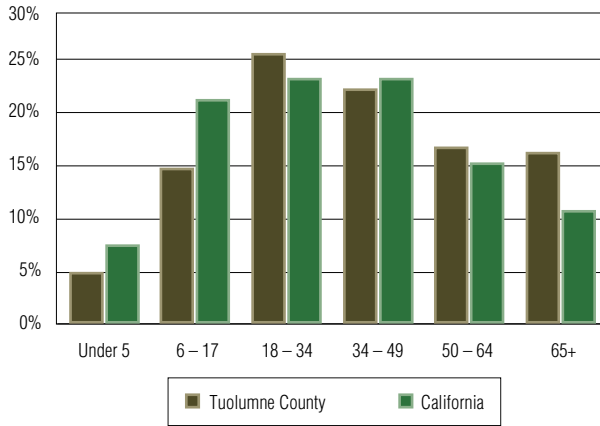
Note: The home ownership rate is computed by dividing the number of owner-occupied housing units by the number of occupied housing units or households

Population

2004	56,406	
Males	29,726	53%
Females	26,680	47%



Percentage of Population by Age



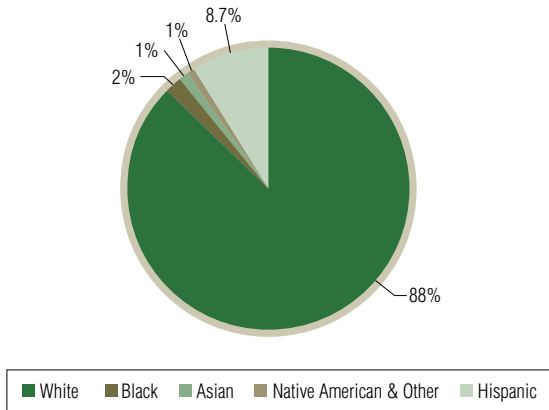
Tuolumne County’s median age, 43.4, is significantly higher than California’s 33.4 years. In fact, we are one of the “grayer” counties, with 18.5% of our residents being 65 years and older compared to approximately 10.0% of all Californians.

Although ethnic and racial diversity is increasing, we are still a fairly homogeneous county, with more than 85% of the population being Caucasian.

When compared to the state, a higher percentage of our adults are high school educated. However, fewer have a college degree.

Tuolumne County residents are active politically, with a higher percentage of people registering to vote and a higher percentage voting when compared to the state. As with most rural counties, Republicans outnumber Democrats.

Ethnic Diversity



What else?

Many aspects of our community are not quantified in this project. However, their absence should not diminish the important contribution they make to the uniqueness of Tuolumne County. For example, while not specifically measured in this report, nonprofits, including faith-based organizations, play a significant role in virtually all aspects of community life. Their dedicated staffs and volunteers contribute to creating the fabric of our communities. They graciously and respectfully help the most vulnerable in our county with food, shelter, clothes, and other assistance. The nonprofits often partner with public programs, complementing their services. And frequently, they fill the gaps not met by public agencies to serve the critical needs of our most defenseless populations.

We are a community that struggles with the loss of babies and youth to methamphetamine addiction. At the same time, in a land rich in natural resources, we are troubled by the loss of oak woodland and historic landscapes and sites. The tension between development and resource conservation continues. In the face of community and infrastructure development, we attempt to resolve these conflicts and retain what is unique about Tuolumne County.

Education Attainment

	Tuolumne County	California
High school graduates	84%	77%
Bachelor’s degree or higher	16%	27%

Note: For adults 25 years and older

Our county is also very philanthropic. This is shown every day through the outpouring of support offered to each other and by the generosity shown in supporting the arts, education, assistance programs, and the community as a whole with time, resources, and donations. We are glad to stop and let a driver turn left in front of us on Sonora's main street. We believe in spaghetti feeds and raffles to help our neighbors in need, and our spirit of volunteerism is very high.

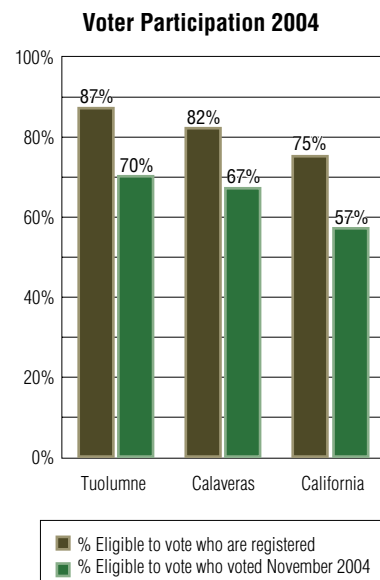
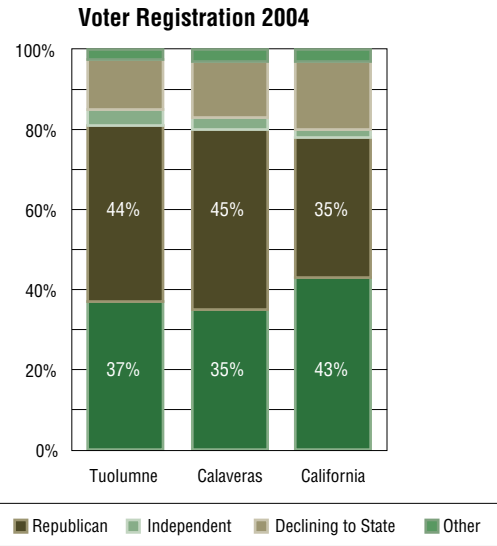
What about our history?

Every area worldwide has a history to share. Tuolumne County is no different. Our earliest inhabitants were the Native American tribes. They were infiltrated by the mountain men and trappers, the early emigrants and miners searching for gold. As mining faltered, logging took its place. Our residents value the history of our county and are eager to share it with tourists who visit our unique communities, our many museums and numerous cemeteries. Over the years we preserved and restored a number of historical sites and buildings which help retain the flavor of an earlier time.

In conclusion

Tuolumne County is a place of unique natural, historic, and cultural features. It is home to active people enhancing and protecting community identity, while striving for economic balance. Quality of life in Tuolumne County is closely tied to aesthetic, scenic, philanthropic, recreational, artistic, and rural elements.

Those of us who worked on the Tuolumne County Profile 2005 were challenged to measure the importance of yesterday, the significance of today, and the hope for tomorrow. We live in a land of beauty rich in natural resources, delicate environments, and changing demographics. It is our hope that the following indicator study supports our collective goal of encouraging economic growth consistent with prudent natural resource stewardship and respect for our heritage.



Health and Safety

Download
Chapter

Why is this important?

Areas of health and safety were identified in the phone survey of Tuolumne County residents as the most important in creating the quality of life people want and expect in our county. Our residents told us they want quality, available health care and emergency services. They want safety in their homes, valuing low rates of crime and abuse. This implies wanting individual health and safety, as well as community health and safety.

What is the measure?

The perception of good health by local residents is a significant feature of health status. In this section we seek to provide a statistical depiction of the actual condition of residents, to describe the scope of available local health care services and to quantify issues of special importance to Tuolumne County. Such special concerns include the spectrum of health care technology available in a rural region, and risks inherent in traveling on mountain roads.

Regarding safety issues, we again relied on statistics provided by a variety of sources covering crime rates, motor vehicle safety, juvenile crime, use of alcohol and drugs, and response times for fire and emergency medical services.

How are we doing?

In defining health, it is hard to avoid descriptions of illness. Indeed, this report documents the relative prevalence of numerous diseases in Tuolumne County. Health represents a state of functioning by which our bodies and communities operate not necessarily illness-free, but at peak efficiency. We cannot expect to achieve absence of illness, but we can hope to develop a community of individuals who are able to cope with the challenges that must be faced as human beings in society, thereby being as productive as possible.

Law enforcement and fire protection cover a broad range of services, which taken together and if generally successful should make people feel safe in their own homes and neighborhoods. Statistics show that we are lower than the state average in some crime classifications, and higher in others. Law officers are using grant dollars to augment their procedures and increase staffing. Working with our youth is of primary concern to all law enforcement.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

Why is this important?

Cancer has surpassed heart disease in Tuolumne County as the number one cause of death. The most important tool that we have to prevent the impact of cancer is early detection of disease.

Similarly, monitoring for high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol are two important means to control the impact of heart disease. This kind of surveillance is accomplished through preventive health interventions that are recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.¹

What is the measure?

Rates of recommended screening tests for breast cancer, colon cancer, and immunization rates are used as indicators.

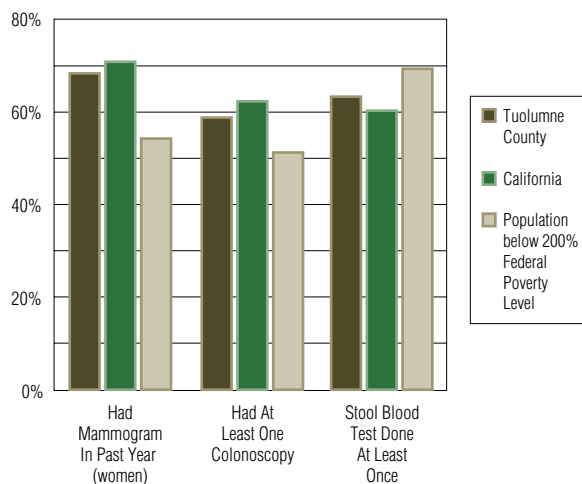
How are we doing?

According to available data, Tuolumne County residents participate in breast cancer and colon cancer screening, with mammography and colonoscopies or stool tests for blood, at a rate about equal with that of the average California resident. Low-income populations are more likely to participate in colon blood test screening than colonoscopy.²

Immunization rates in Tuolumne County are approximately equal to immunization rates throughout California.

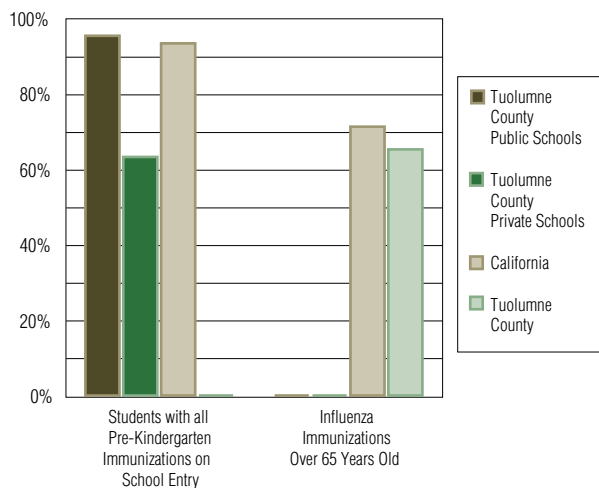
One exception is the low private school pre-kindergarten immunization rate for all recommended vaccinations, primarily resulting from parental choice to forego immunization.³

**Preventive Health Care
Age 65 and over 2001**



Sources: see footnotes

**Selected Tuolumne County
Immunization Rates 2004**

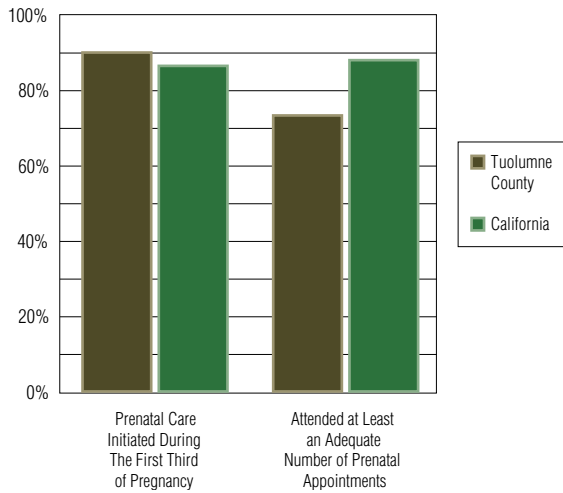


¹The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force first convened by the U.S. Public Health Service in 1984, and since 1998 sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, is the leading independent panel of private-sector experts in prevention and primary care.

²*Health of Older Californians: County Data Book*, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Healthcare Information System (CHIS) data 2001; Tuolumne County was grouped with other foothill counties, but represented 30% of the total population.

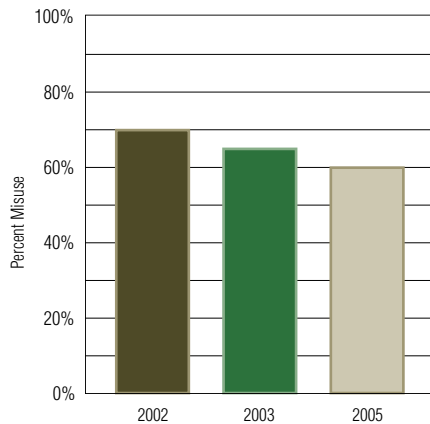
³Data compiled from the Division of Communicable Disease Control, CA Department of Health Services and Tuolumne County Immunization Program Data, 2004.

Prenatal Care Attendance 2001-2003



Source(s): see footnotes

Tuolumne County Child Safety Seat Misuse Rate



Source(s): see footnotes

Note: Survey was not conducted in 2004

PRENATAL AND INFANT HEALTH CARE

Why is this important?

The health care our babies receive, both before and after birth, influences the subsequent state of their health. Therefore, measuring the health of a community is intimately connected with the health of pregnant mothers and the practices employed during the most impressionable periods of child-rearing.

What is the measure?

Using prenatal care attendance covering a two-year period, we can determine the care our pregnant women are receiving. Child safety seat use is an important indicator of the safety practices of our children given the often dangerous rural roads.

How are we doing?

Between 2001 and 2003, a larger percent of Tuolumne County pregnant women received prenatal care during the first trimester than most California pregnancies. Attendance fell off during the remaining months; only 73% achieved “adequate” or “better-than-adequate” prenatal care,⁴ compared with 78% of California pregnancies.⁵ Between 2003 and 2004, 8% of Tuolumne County pregnant women admitted to alcohol or drug use, and 13% of those women smoked.⁶

When discharged from the hospital in 2003, 89% of mothers were breast feeding their infants. Three months later, only 59% of mothers followed by Health Department programs were still breast feeding.⁷ The Tuolumne County teen pregnancy rate⁸ is approximately equal with that of culturally and racially matched groups throughout California.⁹

Nationally, motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of children over age one.¹⁰ In Tuolumne County, the child restraint system was shown to be properly installed in the automobile in only 32% of those transporting children, and nearly 50% of all car seats and booster seats had serious installation errors.¹¹

⁴According to the Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index established by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

⁵County Health Status Profiles 2004, CA Department of Health Services

⁶Prenatal Assessment Project data, Tuolumne County Health Department, 2001-2004.

⁷Tuolumne County Women, Infants and Children’s (WIC) Program data, 2003.

⁸The number of pregnancies per 1,000 teenagers 15 to 19 years old.

⁹California Counts, Public Policy Institute of California, February 2003.

¹⁰Partners for Child Passenger Safety (CPS) and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

¹¹Child Restraint Surveys, Tuolumne County Health Department, 2002-2005.

CAUSES OF ILLNESS

Why is this important?

Quality of life is in large part based on good health and freedom from illness.

What is the measure?

Community health care providers were surveyed about non-fatal health conditions that had the greatest impact on local residents. Chronic pain, mental health disorders, diabetes, poor physical conditions and risky sexual behavior are listed by local caregivers as important issues. The prevalence of most of these conditions was then quantified.¹²

How are we doing?

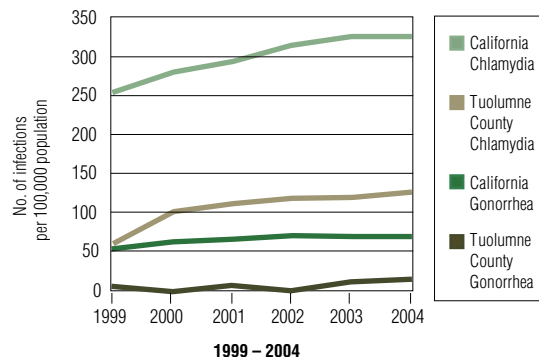
Living with chronic pain and mental health disorders, including substance addiction and dementia, were listed as primary issues for local residents. Behavioral health indicators are addressed under the Behavioral Health section of this report.

The age-adjusted percent of adults 18 years and over diagnosed with diabetes in 2001 in foothill counties (includes Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Alpine counties) was 6.3%,¹³ compared with a California average of 5.9%.¹⁴ However, the incidence among the Tuolumne County Me-Wuk population in 2002 was 11.4%, compared with California statewide diabetes prevalence in Native Americans of 9.3%.¹⁵

Obesity figures indicate age-adjusted obesity prevalence¹⁶ in foothill counties of 16.8%,¹⁷ compared with a California average of 18.4%. In Physical Fitness Testing for 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students in the 2003/2004 school year, 34% to 38% of Tuolumne County students failed to meet the Health Fitness Zone for a measure of conditioning called “Aerobic Capacity,” compared to 40% to 50% of California students.¹⁸

Sexually transmitted diseases are increasing in frequency, particularly among the 15 to 25 year old population. This trend parallels the California data and most notably involves infections with chlamydia and gonorrhea.¹⁹ While the Tuolumne County rate appears lower than that of California, when compared with a racially comparable population, our sexually transmitted disease rate is very similar to the state average.

Reported Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Infections in Tuolumne County and California



Selected Causes of Illness

	Foothills	State
Diabetes		
Adults (2001)	6%	6%
Native Americans (2002)	11%	9%
Physical Fitness Testing		
5th, 7th, & 9th graders failing to meet Health Fitness Zone in 2003/2004	34-38%	40-50%
Obesity		
% of population who are obese	17%	18%

Source(s): see footnotes

¹²Tuolumne County Public Health Department survey of local physicians, allied health professionals, physical therapists, chiropractors, and nurses conducted July through August 2005.

¹³90% Confidence Interval (CI) 4.8-7.8.

¹⁴90% CI 5.7-6.1.

¹⁵Mariposa, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne (MACT) Health Board Diabetes Program statistics, 2002.

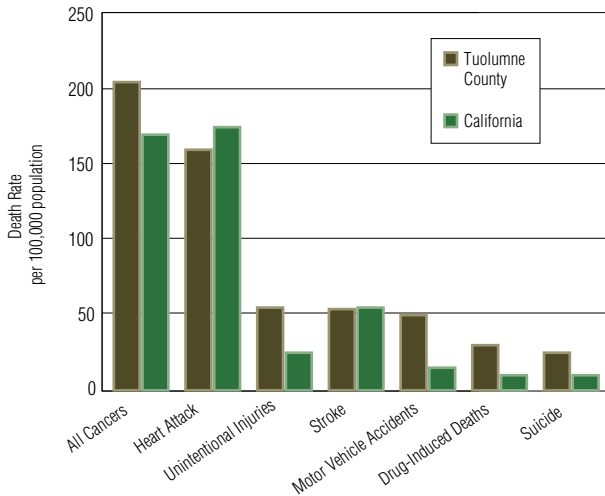
¹⁶Percent of persons with a Body Mass Index 30.0 or higher.

¹⁷90% CI 14.3-19.3.

¹⁸California Physical Fitness Report 2003-04, CA Department of Education.

¹⁹CA Department of Health Services STD Surveillance Report, July 2004.

Leading Causes of Death in Tuolumne County 2001 – 2003



Source(s): see footnotes

CAUSES OF DEATH

Why is this important?

Leading causes of death impact community health by shortening potential lifespan. Additionally, this is important because of the severe and prolonged disability experienced by patients during the latter stages of disease.

What is the measure?

Causes of death in a population are collected by local and state health departments to monitor the health status profiles of counties in California.

How are we doing?

In contrast to California statistics, cancer is the most common cause of death in our county, followed by heart disease and blood vessel diseases of the brain, leading to heart attacks and strokes.²⁰ The accompanying age-adjusted chart demonstrates the relative death rates for Tuolumne County residents compared to age-adjusted rates in California residents. When compared to a geographically and racially similar population, Tuolumne County cancer rates do not exceed the expected range of occurrence.²¹

Motor vehicle fatalities are addressed elsewhere in this report, but it should be noted that Tuolumne County’s excess “unintentional injuries” death rate is in large part explained by county motor vehicle fatalities, which are almost three times the average California rate.

Drug abuse issues are addressed under the Behavioral Health section. However, it is important to note that Tuolumne County drug overdose mortality is more than twice the statewide average, with toxicology reports indicating the most frequent involvement is of methamphetamine and opiates in these deaths.²²

²⁰County Health Status Profiles, CA Department of Health Services, 2005.

²¹California Surveillance Section 2, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Analysis, 2004 and 2005

²²Premature Mortality in California, 2000, CA Department of Health Services, April 2003

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Why is this important?

Highly technical, highly skilled health care is not valuable to a community unless it is available to the people who need it. The presence and availability of hospitals and practitioners in a community are critical components of health care access.

What is the measure?

The number of practicing physicians and allied health professionals per capita are used as the measure of access to health care.

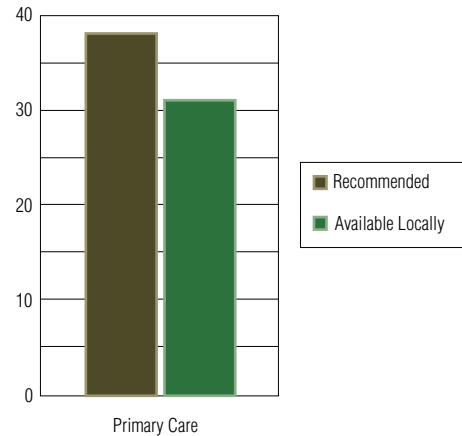
How are we doing?

In Tuolumne County, we have two hospitals centrally located in Sonora. Sonora Regional Medical Center maintains 84 acute care hospital beds, and Tuolumne General Hospital maintains 21 acute care beds.

We have 116 practicing physicians and 27 allied health professionals—nurse practitioners and physicians assistants. The physicians include 34 primary care specialists, 45 clinical specialists, 23 hospital-based specialists, and 14 emergency room physicians.

From 2003 to 2005 the number of primary care physicians decreased by 5; the number of nurse practitioners and physicians assistants increased by 6. Seventy-nine percent of primary care physicians accept new patients, but only twenty-eight percent of primary care physicians accept new patients with public insurance coverage. Public insurance coverage includes Medicare, Medicaid and County Medical Services Program (CMSP).

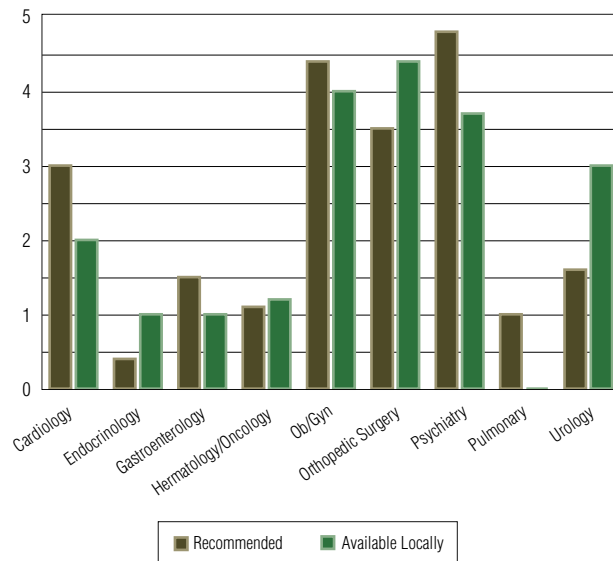
Primary Care Physician Supply



Source(s):

Sonora Regional Medical Center Medical Staff Development Plan, 2003—updated 2005 with current staffing levels.

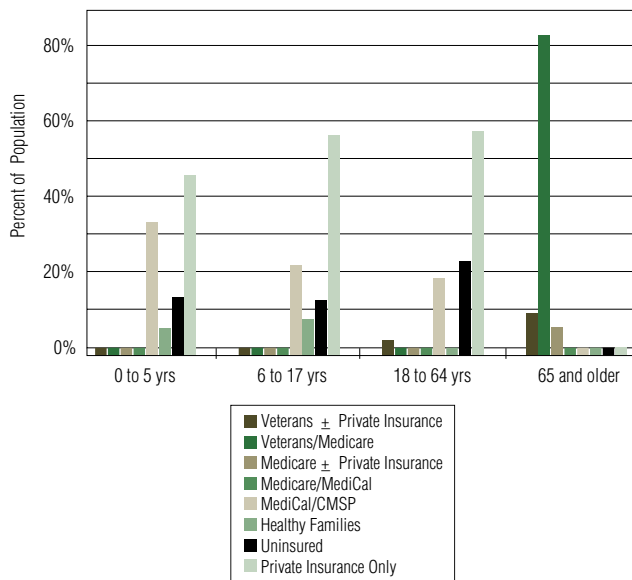
Specialists



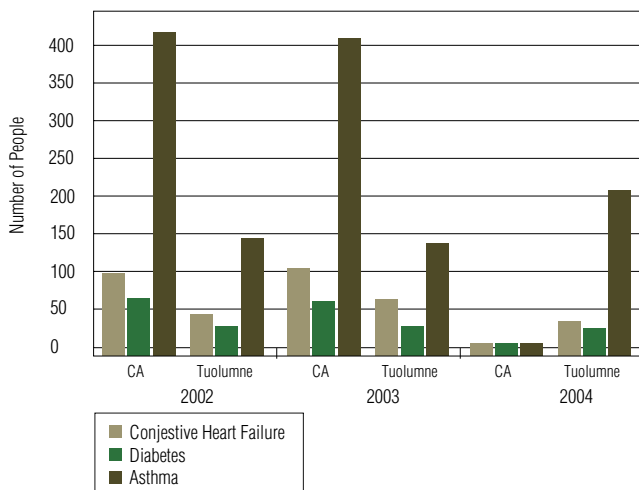
Source(s):

Sonora Regional Medical Center Medical Staff Development Plan, 2003—updated 2005 with current staffing levels.

Tuolumne County Health Care Insurance Coverage



Preventable Hospitalizations per 100,000 residents



Source(s): UCLA Center for Health Policy, UCLA CHPR Research Brief, May 2005; Medical Care Statistics Section Report, Calendar Year 2003, Department of Health Services, March 2005; Palo Alto Veterans Administration Central Region Statistics, 2004; Healthy Families Program Statistics, CA Department of Health Services HFP Report, June 2003; and Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002, CA Department of Health Services.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Why is this important?

Poor health can affect the ability of adults to work and children to learn. This can lead to economic problems for families, which can reinforce cycles of poverty and diminish the productivity of individuals and communities.

What is the measure?

Indicators of access to health care include health insurance coverage and preventable hospitalizations, i.e., hospital admissions for certain illnesses that might be avoided by clinic visits with a physician before the illness becomes severe.

How are we doing?

Access to health care for low-income populations is significantly restricted in Tuolumne County. Residents covered by County Medical Services Program (CMSP) or MediCal insurance have limited access to health care providers because few physicians accept new patients with these forms of public insurance. Only 16% of local physicians and 58% of nurse practitioners and physicians assistants accept new patients with MediCal or CMSP coverage.

Ninety-five percent of Tuolumne County residents 65 years and older are covered by Medicare, which is widely accepted by local physicians. Eighty-nine percent of hospitalized patients covered by private insurance receive coverage through Blue Cross, Blue Shield, or Kaiser programs. However, we have no Kaiser facilities in the county.

Preventable hospitalizations in Tuolumne County are considerably below state averages, suggesting that the outcome of participation in the local health care system compares favorably with the rest of California.

In Tuolumne County, family access to health care is not significantly affected by non-citizenship. Due to non-citizenship, eleven applications out of 1,102 were ineligible for the Healthy Families Program, a safety net program for children.

USE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Why is this important?

Drug and alcohol use and abuse are consistently tied to other physical and behavioral health problems that compromise health, well-being, and the ability to provide for the next generation effectively. Early use and access to drugs and alcohol for children and young adults is predictive for life-long drug and/or alcohol problems. Our community's ability to use the current effective interventions and education to "inoculate" our children against the use and especially early use of drugs and/or alcohol reflects our effectiveness as a community. Of current drug use, methamphetamine use is especially devastating to individuals, their families, the community, and the environment.

What is the measure?

The drug and alcohol use section of the Healthy Kids survey is administered every other year to 7th, 9th, and 11th graders. The second measure is the number of methamphetamine cases reported by law enforcement agencies.

How are we doing?

Tuolumne County children are using drugs at a rate that is somewhat less than the California average. However, we have a higher and earlier use of alcohol. Community prevention and intervention activities of agency collaborations target early alcohol use as a primary issue. Efforts to intervene continue on a cultural level with education and social alternatives, and on an individual level with treatment to make our community's children safer and healthier. Methamphetamine use, as measured by law enforcement cases, is on the rise in our county. A disturbing trend is evident in the increase of "super labs" replacing smaller operations.

Reported Alcohol and Other Drug Use

	Grade 7			Grade 9			Grade 11		
	County		State	County		State	County		State
	2002	2004	2001	2002	2004	2001	2002	2004	2001
No alcohol or other drug use	77%	69%	*	41%	49%	*	34%	37%	*
Never used alcohol	81%	72%	79%	42%	51%	52%	38%	29%	35%
Never used marijuana	95%	90%	92%	76%	76%	76%	51%	59%	56%
Never used inhalants (to get high)	94%	87%	94%	88%	91%	91%	92%	91%	87%
Never used cocaine	*	*	*	97%	98%	*	93%	94%	*
Never used meth or any amphetamines	*	*	*	97%	98%		97%	98%	*
Never used LSD or psychedelics	*	*	*	96%	96%	*	90%	95%	*
Never used Ecstasy	*	*	*	97%	97%	*	96%	97%	*
Never used heroin	*	*	*	100%	98%	*	98%	100%	*
Never used other illegal drugs	99%	95%	*	89%	92%	*	79%	83%	*

*Not asked

Source(s): California Healthy Kids Survey, conducted by local school districts (Tuolumne County 2002 and 2004, California 2001).

Note: Due to low participation and lack of randomness, the 2004 results may not be accurate.

Number of Law Enforcement Cases Involving Methamphetamines

	2002	2003	2004
Tuolumne Narcotics Team	57	89	97
Sonora Police	13	33	42
Highway Patrol	20	18	32

Source(s): Local law enforcement records

Psychiatric Admits and Conservatorships

(July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003)

	Tuolumne County	California
Involuntary psychiatric acute admissions for adults per 10,000 (1)	81.3	54.4
Permanent conservatorships per 10,000—usually requires out of home care (1)	3.6	4.1

Baseline Numbers

Prevalence Rates for Tuolumne County (2)

9% of persons in households at less than 200% of poverty (July 2004 projection) are projected to have severe mental illness

Unduplicated Voluntary Outpatient Client Count (3)

1,868 (FY 2002-2003)

Source(s):

1. CA State Department of Mental Health Statistical Report, <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/SADA/SDA-Inv-Dtnt.asp>
2. CA State Department of Mental Health Statistical Report http://www.dmh.ca.gov/SADA/SDA-Prevalence_Rates.asp
3. Tuolumne County Mental Health Program Reports

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Why is this important?

How we care for some of our most vulnerable residents—children, adults, and seniors with acute or long-term mental health disorders—reflects on the health and safety of our community. Until recently, the options for activity, employment, and social relationships were bleak for these residents. Today there are psychotropic medications, treatment interventions, and effective community support systems that enable many of these residents to participate in the life of the community.

What is the measure?

The number of hospitalizations and placements in acute or long-term settings of our citizens with these acute and/or chronic mental health conditions reflects the effectiveness of the prevention and intervention systems established in our county. Increases or decreases in these numbers alert all the collaborating agencies and services to important changes in the safety and quality of life for people with mental disorders.

How are we doing?

This snapshot indicates that Tuolumne County had a rate higher than the state rate per 10,000 population for acute involuntary hospitalizations, but a lower rate than the state level for permanent conservatorships. The Tuolumne County severe mental illness prevalence rate is similar to the statewide prevalence.

These findings would tend to indicate that Tuolumne County is better than average at helping people stabilize at lower levels of care instead of the highest level requiring out of home care once the people are identified.

However, Tuolumne County does not do as well as the rest of the state in early identification of people needing help with psychiatric problems. This results in more people coming to the attention of caregivers in crisis situations rather than less extreme situations.

ELDER ABUSE

Why is this important?

In Tuolumne County, 18.5% of our population is aged 65 and over. This is the third highest per capita rate in California. Tracking elder/dependent adult abuse trends helps the community to gauge its capacity to provide the support services needed to keep vulnerable and aged adults safe from abuse.

While supportive services are critical when dealing with self-neglect issues and criminal abuse issues, some of the factors affecting service provision include increasing numbers of elder adults, geographical isolation, individuals' lack of informal support networks, lack of affordable private health insurance, minimal subsidized housing, and funding reductions to service providers.

What is the measure?

Self-neglect reports include the inability to provide for basic food, shelter, and medical needs. Abuse by others is a crime and includes neglect; physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse; isolation; and abandonment.

Counties report statistics monthly to the California Department of Social Services regarding the number of abuse reports, types of abuse, and dispositions. This information is compiled and published on their website.

How are we doing?

Dependent adult abuse reports increased 21% between 2002 and 2004, while elder abuse reports decreased 33%. (See table footnotes for definitions.)

Tuolumne County has a significantly higher number of dependent adult abuse reports in relation to the number of elder abuse reports, which seems to be the trend in other rural California counties as well.

The county developed multi-agency response teams to address abuse issues and coordinate elder and dependent adult services.

Reports of Abuse
Received by Tuolumne County Adult Protective Services

	2002	2003	2004
Elder			
Reports received	293	214	195
Reports evaluated out	25	37	36
Dependent Adult			
Reports received	190	200	229
Reports evaluated out	21	47	42

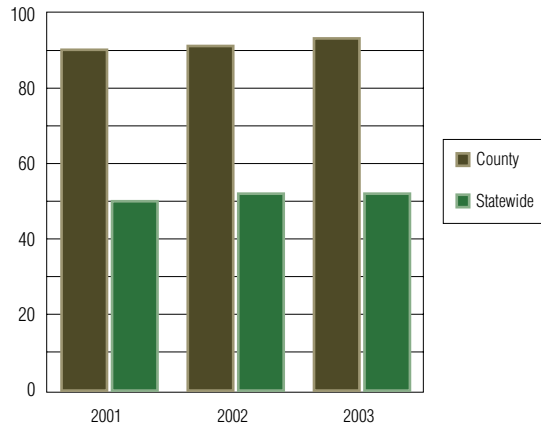
Source(s):

CA Dept of Social Services SOC 242 Report
http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/soc242-adu_436.htm

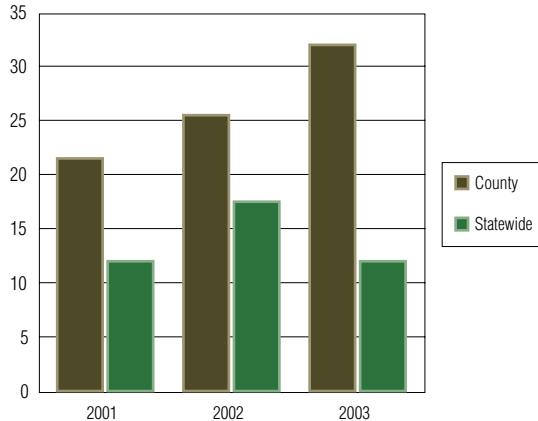
Notes:

"Elder" means a person 65 years of age or older.
 "Dependent Adult" means a person 18 to 64 years of age who has a physical or mental limitation which renders them incapable of performing activities of daily living.
 "Confirmed" means the investigated report showed credible evidence that abuse occurred or most likely occurred.
 "Inconclusive" means the investigated report showed insufficient evidence to determine that abuse occurred.
 Only Confirmed and Inconclusive data are included, so totals will not match.
 "Evaluated Out" means no in-person contact was required.

Total Abuse/Neglect Referrals for Children Under 18 (Rate per 1,000)



Substantiated Abuse/Neglect Cases for Children Under 18 (Rate per 1,000)



Source(s): CWS/CMS 2004 Quarter 2 Extract

CHILD ABUSE

Why is this important?

Child abuse and neglect rates are critical to determining the overall health of our community. Rates of abuse can assist with identifying and addressing the root causes of abuse such as poverty, lack of affordable housing, child care, job opportunities, and the prevalence of drug abuse.

What is the measure?

The rates and types of child abuse/neglect are tracked in Child Welfare Service/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), a statewide Child Welfare database. The system also includes information on whether the abuse was substantiated, inconclusive, or unfounded.

How are we doing?

The substantiated child abuse/neglect rates increased over the past three years, while the actual numbers of child abuse dispositions appear to be relatively constant. This may be an indicator that the community needs to increase the level of abuse prevention services available to parents.

Though the County's child abuse/neglect rates are higher than the California average, the statistics may reflect a local philosophy of proactive child protection. Tuolumne County Child Welfare Services provides a face-to-face social worker response to a large percentage of its abuse reports. As we continue to work towards strengthening the families in our community through collaborative efforts from service providers, it is likely that substantiated abuse may begin to decrease as more families are supported with the help of community resources.

Definitions:

"Substantiated" means there is sufficient evidence to determine abuse or neglect.

"Inconclusive" means there is insufficient evidence to determine abuse or neglect.

"Unfounded" means the report was found to be false.

"Assessment Only" means that there was no need for Social Worker face-to-face response.

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Why is this important?

Traffic safety is an important component of overall community safety. Monitoring traffic accidents helps evaluate the success of traffic enforcement and traffic-safety related street and intersection improvements. In our rural area, we have narrow and winding roads with limited visibility, which makes traffic safety especially challenging.

What is the measure?

Motor vehicle injury and fatality rates were used to measure traffic safety.

How are we doing?

Our injury rate from motor vehicle accidents is 25% lower than the state average. However, the fatality rate is almost 250% times higher than the state's fatality rate.

Over the course of five years, traffic collisions rose an average of 3%. Of the total collisions outside the Sonora city limits, fatal collisions increased almost 21%, with an approximate 3% rise in the number of injury collisions.

As part of an on-going effort to reduce the number of reportable* traffic collisions, injuries, and deaths, Sonora CHP and Sonora Police Department participate in traffic law enforcement grant projects established through the state's Office of Traffic Safety. These grant projects provide funding for overtime hours to augment traffic law enforcement patrol within each agency's jurisdiction.

Injury and Fatality Rates

Tuolumne County Fatal Collisions by Year		
2002 Statistics	Fatality Rate	Injury Rate
	1 out of every...	1 out of every...
Tuolumne County	3,546 people	141 people
California	8,632 people	114 people

Source(s): Tuolumne County and City of Sonora Collision Percentages.

Tuolumne County Fatal Collisions by Year					
Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of collisions	7	14	17	25	15
% Change		100%	21%	47%	-40%
% Population change		2.01	1.75	1.69	1.67

Tuolumne County Fatal Victims by Year					
Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of victims	7	16	21	34	18
% Change		129%	31%	62%	-47%

Tuolumne County Injury Collisions by Year					
Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of collisions	407	432	427	444	408
% Change		6%	-1%	4%	-8%
#/100,000		766	757	787	723

Source(s): Latest available statewide rates from Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System's Annual Report of Fatal and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions, 2002 California Quick Collision Facts.



*A reportable collision is an injury or fatal accident on any county roadway or state route.

Tuolumne County Total Number of Reported Crimes

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total number of crimes	1,769	2,142	2,601	2,719
% yearly change		21%	21%	5%
Overall % change '01 to '04				54%
Total crime rate clearance *	20%	26%	26%	22%
Violent Crimes	2001	2002	2003	2004
Homicide	1	2	4	2
Forcible rape	20	13	15	7
Robbery	22	15	20	12
Assault	528	574	667	575
Total	571	604	706	596
% yearly change		6%	17%	-16%
Overall % change '01 to '04				4%
Property Crimes	2001	2002	2003	2004
Burglary	506	619	695	760
Larceny (theft)	583	747	986	1,167
Motor vehicle theft	109	172	214	196
Total	1,198	1,538	1,895	2,123
% yearly change		28%	23%	12%
Overall % change '01 to '04				77%

Crime Rate 2004	CA Crime Rate per 100,000 population	Tuolumne County ^b Crime Rate Projected to 100,000 Population
Homicide	6.5	3.5
Forcible rape	26.2	12.3
Robbery	168.3	21.1
Aggravated assault ^c	338.5	288.4
Burglary	669.2	1,336.6
Larceny	1,985.8	2,052.4
Motor vehicle theft	688	344.7
Total crimes	3,882.5	4,059.1

Domestic Violence (counted as part of assault cases)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total cases	528	574	667	575
% of assault cases	43%	37%	34%	43%

Source(s): Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office Uniform Crime Reports, UCR statistics generated by the Sonora Police Department, statistics utilizing the CA Highway Patrol's Automated Information System (AIS), and data from the CA Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

SAFETY—CRIME RATE

Why is this important?

For residents to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods, a low crime rate is essential. A high or increasing crime rate leads to social disintegration, interferes with stability, and inhibits investment and responsible growth.

What is the measure?

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) is a federal reporting system that provides data on crime based on police statistics submitted by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

Note the seven categories listed under violent crimes (4) and property crimes (3) in the charts provided. These numbers give the most accurate picture of the overall crime level.

How are we doing?

Violent crimes increased 4% over the past four years; property crimes increased 77%.

Compared to state figures, Tuolumne County is below the state average for all categories except burglary and larceny (theft), which are considerably higher. Domestic violence accounted for at least one third of all assault cases.

Generally, law enforcement efforts are concentrated on violent crimes against persons as opposed to property crimes, and Tuolumne County is no exception.

Notes:

a Cleared crimes are "solved"

b Although the Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, collects crime data from all jurisdictions in California, the Center does not compute crime rates based on the number of crimes for jurisdictions of less than 100,000 population and therefore, does not make any official comparisons with the rest of the State for jurisdictions of less than 100,000 population. The projected number of crimes for Tuolumne County if it had a population of 100,000 is solely a mathematical projection for the purpose of making an approximate comparison with the State to tell us how we are doing.

c Aggravated assault includes domestic violence.

SAFETY—JUVENILE CRIME

Why is this important?

Increased crime levels involving juveniles are particularly disturbing because the future of a community lies in the ability of its youth to develop into emotionally stable and productive adults.

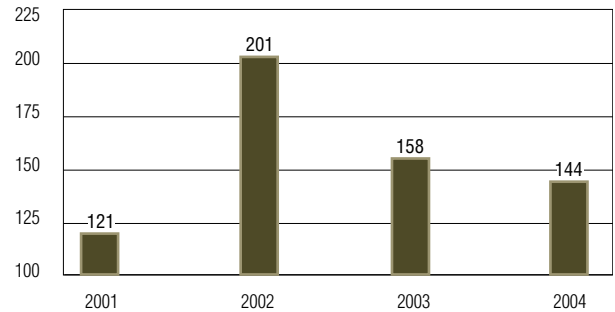
What is the measure?

The standard seven categories of crime reported each year include homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny (theft except motor vehicles), and motor vehicle theft.

How are we doing?

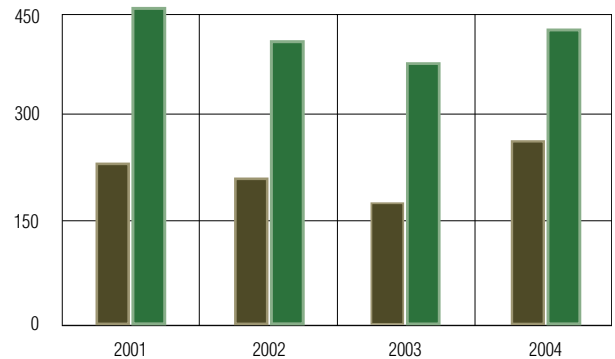
An encouraging statistic for Tuolumne County is that the number of juvenile arrests decreased significantly in 2003 and 2004 compared to 2001 and 2002—with juvenile crime continuing to decrease. Many factors influence crime in our society, and no one factor or identified series of factors can be absolutely attributed to an increase or decrease in crime. Possible reasons for the decrease in juvenile crime might include the increased number of community youth programs, the expansion of law enforcement school resource officer and probation officer programs in our schools, and educational emphasis among our youth on combating alcohol and drug abuse.

Juvenile Arrests



Source(s): Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office Uniform Crime Reports, UCR statistics generated by the Sonora Police Department, statistics utilizing the CA Highway Patrol's Automated Information System (AIS), and data from the CA Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

**Juvenile Probation Referrals
Tuolumne County**



601	204	187	163	256
602	468	400	382	432

Notes:

601 Status offenses typically involving behavior such as running away, beyond parental control, and truancy that would not be crimes if engaged in by an adult.

602 Welfare and Institutions Code. Violation of laws including but not limited to the Penal Code, Vehicle Code, Health and Safety Code, Business and Professions Code.

Source(s): Tuolumne County Probation Department Statistics.

Tuolumne County Arrests

	Arrests 2001		Arrests 2002		Arrests 2003		Arrests 2004	
	All	Juvenile	All	Juvenile	All	Juvenile	All	Juvenile
Homicide	0	0	1	0	8	0	2	0
Forcible rape	6	1	5	2	6	0	1	0
Robbery	6	3	9	0	5	2	4	0
Assault	162	42	256	61	368	51	314	41
Burglary	57	28	108	68	101	38	86	35
Larceny	94	41	140	63	156	59	148	60
Motor vehicle theft	27	6	30	7	30	8	35	8
Totals	352	121	549	201	674	158	590	144
<i>% of solved crimes committed by juveniles</i>	34%		37%		23%		24%	

Life and Property Response 2004

Department	Average Response Time in Minutes	Total # Incidents	Delayed Responses Due To Lack Of Volunteer Firefighter Availability
Columbia FPD	5:17	392	2
Groveland CSD	5:51	543	0
Jamestown FPD	note a	note a	note a
Mi Wuk – Sugar Pine FPD	4:00	241	0
Sonora City Fire Dept.	3:09	837	1
Strawberry FPD	note b	note b	note b
Tuolumne FPD	5:07	346	4
Tuolumne County Fire Dept.	11:00	5,196	779
Twain Harte CSD	3:50	418	1
Tuolumne County Ambulance	6:32	3,051	N/A

Source(s): Fire data obtained primarily from the various jurisdictions' National Fire Information Reporting System programs, and supplemented by Fire Protection survey form distributed and analyzed by Health and Safety Committee September 2005.

Ambulance data obtained from EMS Data Pro, Version 8.63 (Report # 526430613)

Notes:

a Jamestown FPD is managed under contract by CDF/TCFD. District statistics are included in the Tuolumne County Fire Department Information.

b District did not provide requested information for this study.

Definitions:

Response Time: Total elapsed time from time of dispatch to the time an engine arrives on scene. Includes both Code 2 (No red lights or siren) and Code 3 (Red lights and siren) responses. However, County Ambulance response times are for Code 3 only
 FPD = Fire Protection District

CSD = Community Service District

TCFD = Tuolumne County Fire Department

Complete details are found on the CD & website

LIFE AND PROPERTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Why is this important?

Appropriate response to emergencies can save lives and property. The number of emergency fire and emergency medical services (EMS) incidents increased more than the population and visitors to the county increased in recent years.

In addition to services traditionally provided by most fire protection agencies nationwide, the county has the responsibility of addressing severe wildland fire protection. Wildland fires constitute the most significant major disaster threat in the county. To complicate the problem, tens of thousands of structures are interspersed within the wildland area.

What is the measure?

Emergency medical, rescue, and fire protection services are primarily provided by the seven fire protection districts, Tuolumne County Fire Department (TCFD) and Sonora City Fire Department. Tuolumne County Ambulance Service provides advanced life support emergency medical services.

We measured the:

- Number and types of emergency incidents within each jurisdiction
- Total number of incidents each jurisdiction responded to, including assistance to other jurisdictions, and their response times

How are we doing?

Volunteer firefighters are not as plentiful or as available as in the past. The various fire protection agencies are extremely dependent upon one another (through automatic aid agreements) to meet emergency incident staffing needs. A single emergency often diminishes fire protection in a majority of the core area of the county, and other resources are often brought in from outside. Meeting the resource needs for a second significant emergency can be a challenge.

Education and the Arts

Download
Chapter

Why is this important?

Education and the arts are essential to a vibrant community. Strong education and training opportunities support good employment, adequate income, and a safe and healthy environment. The arts help us enjoy life, develop creativity and critical thinking, build civic engagement and strengthen the economy.

What is the measure?

For education, indicators document access to pre-kindergarten, performance in K-12 schools, and growing community college and adult education offerings. The most important education indicator to county residents was the ability of adults to read. However, a valid measure is not available, so adult reading habits were measured instead.

While residents expressed a strong desire to have low high-school dropout rates the measurement of this key indicator was problematic. Reporting is not standard and, therefore, has not been included. Similarly, having enough after-school and extracurricular activities was rated as important, but we found no valid way to measure this. Having adults actively involved with reading to their children or helping them with homework was an important concern of residents. One possible indicator is that 438 parents registered to participate in the library's early childhood literacy program from 2001-2005.

For the arts, we focus on performing arts as a robust and quantifiable segment with high value to residents. Interest in having a wide variety of visual arts exhibitions is also high, but we did not find a quantifiable way to measure this. The changing number of studios/galleries may indicate that artists struggle to present their work. Public art exhibitions and art in public places has declined following a loss of government funding.

How are we doing?

Overall, education appears to be doing relatively well, with some notable challenges and opportunities for improvement:

- Most children attend some pre-kindergarten, but a parent seeking licensed child care will have difficulty matching location, schedule, and preference.
- Students score a little better than nearby counties on standard tests. Forty-percent of 10th graders scored below the 50th percentile. County schools improved on the Academic Performance Index, and 27% achieved the state-set performance target.
- Few high school seniors (26%) take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), the standard college entrance exam, indicating that many are not yet aspiring to higher education.
- Columbia College and public and private providers offer access to adult education and training programs. Distance learning is compromised by limited access to high speed/broadband communications, but we can commute to California State University Stanislaus and University of California Merced.
- The county has below average reading habits for the region, but rapid progress is evident.

The arts appear to be thriving but are financially vulnerable:

- The county's largest performing arts organization, Sierra Repertory Theatre, has annual attendance that exceeds the county's entire population.
- Despite the fact that the capacity, variety and attendance among local venues are uncommonly high for a rural region, public financial support for local performing arts is extremely limited.



Education and the Arts

2005 Licensed Child Care Needs

	Under 2	2-4 Years	5-13 Years
Children potentially needing child care	255	518	974
Family child care & center spaces	198	537	507
Child care capacity	-57	19	-467
Current openings	18	70	44

Note: Negative numbers note a lack of space available

Source(s):

Infant Child Enrichment Services Survey 2005
 Tuolumne County Local Child Care Planning Council
 2004-2005 Needs Assessment

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Why is this important?

Countless studies show that birth to age five is the most critical stage in a child's brain development. Understandably, our residents stress the importance of having children under age 5 enrolled in preschool.

Many of our children spend 35 or more hours in child care each week because their parents are working.

A gap between supply and demand of licensed child care slots can result in parents choosing care that is short on quality.

What is the measure?

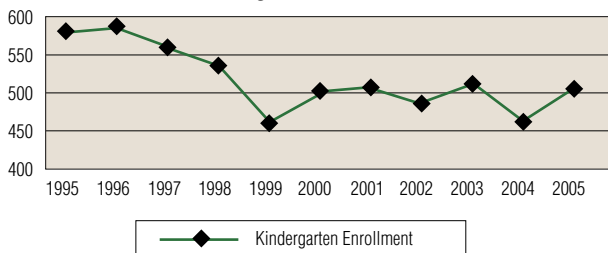
The Tuolumne County Local Child Care Planning Council and Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA) conduct child care needs assessments every three years. Additionally, the county child care resource and referral agency, Infant Child Enrichment Services (ICES), tracks child care slots in the county and has the ability to conduct surveys.

How are we doing?

A Tuolumne County parent currently seeking licensed child care (as described by the state of California under Title 22 regulations) has few options. While the graph shows slots available to a parent seeking care for a preschool age child, that same parent will most likely have location, schedule, and preference needs that won't match those slots.

Approximately 367 four-year-olds currently attend a child care/preschool program. These numbers indicate that the majority of four-year-olds have some form of pre-kindergarten experience.

Kindergarten Enrollment



Source(s):

CA Department of Education,
 Educational Demographics Unit
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/demograp/e%2D6%5Fupdt%5F90%2D99.html>



QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION— TEST SCORES

Why is this important?

Educational performance affects the well-being of residents, including the potential for economic success and health and safety of the community. Comparing the progress of our schools and students to that of other parts of the state will help keep our local system competitive and responsive to our students and our community.

What is the measure?

The California State Board of Education adopted statewide Academic Content specifying what California students are expected to know in each grade or course. Each spring, public school students in grades 2-11 are tested to measure how well they are learning basic academic skills. The California Achievement Test (CAT/6) is a national achievement test. It is used to help determine how well each California student is achieving academically. The results are compared to a national sample of students.

Academic Performance Index (API) scores are used to compare how well students are doing in schools across the state. API scores range from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000, and California has set a performance target of 800 for all schools.

How are we doing?

Students in Tuolumne County Schools had higher basic skills scores than students in nearby counties and statewide, with a larger percentage scoring at or above the 75th percentile. Forty-percent of Tuolumne County 10th graders scored below the 50th percentile.

As of 2005, six of twenty-two Tuolumne County schools (27%) have reached or exceeded the state's performance target.

CAT/6 Test Results (10th Grade Students)

2003/04	At or Above 50%		At or Above 75%	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
Tuolumne County	62%	59%	34%	35%
Calaveras County	59%	58%	29%	30%
Amador County	56%	53%	30%	30%
California	49%	51%	23%	30%

Source(s):

For individual school results, see

<http://star.cde.ca.gov/star2003/viewreport.asp>

Schools Reaching Academic Performance Tests Targets

API Scores	Passing* 2004	Passing* 2005	Total # of Schools	% Schools Passing in 2005
Tuolumne County	4	6	22	27%
Calaveras County	2	4	15	27%

*Schools reaching or exceeding the API goal of 800.

Source(s):

www.cde.ca.gov. For individual schools, see 2005 Accountability Progress Report.



QUALITY OF EDUCATION— HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SEEKING HIGHER EDUCATION

Why is this important?

Tuolumne County residents indicated that the percentage of high school students who go on to higher education and the percentage receiving high average scores on college entrance exams is important to them. The number of students who take the standard college entrance exam measures educational aspiration. The competitive advantage of California and the United States today lies in knowledge-based, high technology industries. Young people with post-secondary education will perform better in this environment than those without. A better-educated society is also linked to lower crime rates and better health.

What is the measure?

The SAT (Scholastic Achievement Test) is the dominant college entrance exam given in the United States. Students wanting to enter the University of California or California State University system, as well as other universities, must take this exam. A combined SAT exam score of 1,000 is in many cases the minimum criterion for admission.

How are we doing?

A local survey showed that 72% of the students who graduate from our high schools are seeking post-secondary education. When compared to the state, however, there is a gap between the percentage of Tuolumne County students who take the SAT (26%) and the percentage statewide (35%). Overall, the very low percentage of the county's high school seniors who are taking the SAT indicates that many students may be missing out on an important step toward their future careers.

Tuolumne County is similar to the state in that female students score lower overall than males. The percentage of county students who meet the minimum criterion is lower than the state average.

Students Taking the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT)

	2001/2002			2002/2003			2003/2004		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Grade 12 Enrollment	596	306	290	637	314	323	608	320	288
SAT Test									
Test takers—number	176	68	108	195	79	116	156	63	93
Test takers—percent (county)	30%	22%	37%	31%	25%	36%	26%	20%	32%
Test takers—percent (statewide)	37%	33%	42%	37%	32%	41%	35%	31%	40%
Average verbal score (county)	536	547	528	518	528	512	533	533	533
Average math score (county)	536	563	519	505	532	486	526	547	511
Average total score (county)	1,072	1,110	1,047	1,023	1,060	998	1,059	1,080	1,044
Average total score (statewide)	1,005	1,033	983	1,102	1,043	987	1,015	1,045	991
# meeting criteria (≥ 1000) (county)	124	56	68	107	51	56	104	44	60
% meeting criteria (≥ 1000) (county)	21%	18%	23%	17%	16%	17%	17%	14%	21%
% meeting criteria (statewide)	19%			19%			19%		

Source(s): <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/SAT-I2.asp?cChoice=SAT2&cYear=2001-02&TheCounty=55%2CTUOLUMNE&cTopic=SAT&cLevel=County>

EDUCATION OF ADULTS

Why is this important?

The adult population’s educational needs are diverse. Access to training and education that prepares adults for a livable wage job is a constant challenge in rural communities. In the 21st century, all adults must become lifelong learners to stay current in their professions and to prepare for job changes throughout a career.

Access to post-secondary education, job skills training, and basic education is critical to support the rapidly changing local and regional economy. Remedial education, basic skills development, and General Education Diploma (GED) preparation are in demand and serve as a critical first step toward self sufficiency for many adults. With the growing number of professionals retiring, and retired professionals increasingly moving to this county, there is a demand for personal enrichment programs. Our “graying” population wants to stay engaged in their community and prefers a lifestyle of learning.

What is the measure?

The number of adults participating in formal educational activities provides a gauge of adult education opportunities.

How are we doing?

The county is home to a comprehensive community college (Columbia College), adult ROP (Regional Occupational Program) programs, adult high school program, and a small number of private and public vocational and remedial training providers.

The Me-Wuk tribe provides a variety of additional education programs for their adult members. Several agencies provide short-term education and training courses for the local workforce and businesses. California State University-Stanislaus and University of California Merced are within easy commuting distance. While distance learning via the Internet is a growing trend, access to high-speed internet service is limited in most of the county.

Adult Education Enrollment

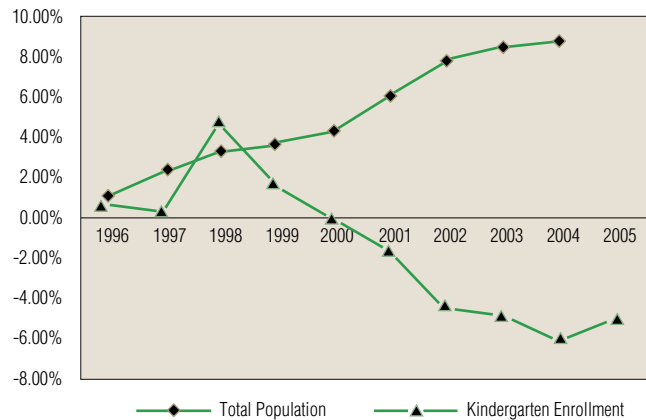
Institution	Enrollment 2004-05
Columbia College credit/no credit courses	3509 (fall 04)
Columbia College Community Education	2231*
Regional Occupational Programs	500
Adult school	128
Job training	579*
Job Connection	65
GED—high school diploma programs	35-50
Adult literacy	57

*Duplicated head count

Source(s):

Independent phone survey completed by the Education Committee August 16, 2005

**Population Growth Compared to Kindergarten Enrollment
Percent Change Since 1995**



Source(s):

CA Department of Finance

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/repndat.asp>

CA Department of Education

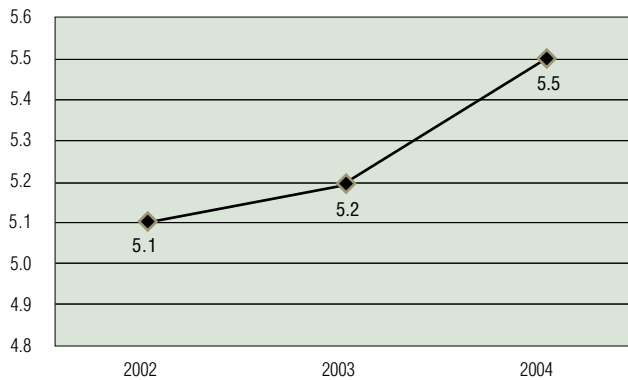
<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

Reading Quotient 2003

Data Elements	Amador County Library	Calaveras County Library	Tuolumne County Library
Total # of books etc. held	93,090	91,224	88,949
Total circulation	86,400	138,806	203,196
Sum	179,490	230,030	292,145
Population of the legal service area	36,500	42,450	56,500
Reading quotient	4.9	5.4	5.2

Source(s): Agency contact

Tuolumne County Reading Quotient



Source(s): see footnotes

READING HABITS

Why is this important?

Strong literacy and communication skills are more essential than ever to realizing one's full potential. Our residents place a priority on encouraging adults to read. Studies estimate that 20% of adults in Tuolumne County function at the lowest reading level. Risk indicators for literacy challenges include low income, low educational attainment, unemployment status, and low voter registration.

What is the measure?

We used the Reading Quotient as the measure. It is calculated by adding public library circulation to the total number of books; this sum is divided by the population. This is used because directly measuring the literacy rate is difficult. However, the reading quotient gives a good indication by looking at the books available in the library, and how often they are checked out.²³

How are we doing?

In June 2003²⁴ Tuolumne County had the second lowest reading quotient among libraries compared to Amador and Calaveras counties. This indicator of reading habits has climbed steadily, with a 9% gain in the past three years.

For nearly 25 years, the library had few service hours and an extremely limited book budget. Recently, improved funding for the library has allowed regular updating to the book collections, as well as improving facilities and service hours.

These improvements are reflected in the increasing reading quotient. Even so, Tuolumne County Library has fewer books than libraries in Amador and Calaveras counties. Continued emphasis on updating book collections can be expected to increase our reading quotient. This in turn can be an indicator of promoting and improving adult literacy over time.



²³Savageau, David. Retirement Places Rated, 6th ed. Wiley Publishing, Inc., 2004: p.195. Derived from National Center for Education Statistics and unpublished Federal-State Cooperative System library data.

²⁴<http://connect.informata.com>

PERFORMING ARTS

Why is this important?

Tuolumne County’s performing arts scene enriches the lives of residents, contributes jobs, and generates millions of dollars to the local economy. In a recent phone survey of county residents, more than half gave the highest ranking of “extremely important” to the value of a good variety of performing arts in the community.

What is the measure?

Performing arts attendance and capacity indicate the vitality of our performing arts scene.

How are we doing?

There is a total audience capacity of about 5000 at nine major venues. Most groups have seen steadily growing attendance.

The 26-year-old Sierra Repertory Theatre presents theatrical programming from world classics to Broadway musicals, and is the only Central California company to have a year-round contract with Actors Equity, the union of professional actors. Stage 3 Theatre specializes in new plays and has a well-regarded national playwriting competition. The dance field is currently represented by fee-based studios with limited public performances.

From the Strawberry Music Festival featuring Bluegrass acts to the historically focused Gold Rush Balladeers and Black Irish, the county offers an active and diverse music scene including historic, classical, jazz, contemporary, symphonic, and brass ensembles. There is an active arts outreach to schools program, strong support of music ensembles, and a performing arts charter school.

The financial picture for local performing arts groups is difficult: government funding at all levels is almost non-existent. There is limited visibility for national corporate and foundation grants, and heavy dependence on box office income creates financial vulnerability, which drives programming choices. The city of Sonora recently won a state Community Development Block Grant to assist in a feasibility study for a permanent theatre complex for Sierra Repertory Theatre.

Attendance/Visitors at Selected Cultural Events/Facilities

	1998	2001	2004
Sierra Repertory Theatre	43,105	51,980	66,678
Strawberry Music Festival	12,000	12,000	12,000
Stage 3 Theatre	4,800	5,500	6,000
Sonora Blues Festival	1,800	1,800	2,200
Bach Festival	1,160	1,185	880

Source(s): Agency contact

Number of Fee-Based Performances Offered by Resident Companies

	1998	2001	2004
Sierra Repertory Theatre	318	310	393
Strawberry Music Festival	2	2	2
Stage 3 Theatre	96	96	80
Bach Festival	6	10	8
Columbia College faculty directed college ensembles	15	15	15

Source(s): Agency contact

Performing Arts Capacity

- Black Oak Casino - 250
- Columbia College Amphitheatre – 700
- Fallon House Theatre – 274
- Mother Lode Fairgrounds – 1607
- Sierra Repertory Theatre – 202
- Sonora High School – 569
- Sonora Opera Hall – 400
- Stage 3 Theatre – 82
- Tuolumne Memorial Hall - 318

Source(s): Agency contact

Natural Resources and Recreation

Download
Chapter

INTRODUCTION

Why is this important?

In Tuolumne County the use of public lands is a key element in the local economy because of the various business and recreational opportunities they create. On the social side, many people live in Tuolumne County because they enjoy nature and forests. Residents, as well as visitors, use public lands in Tuolumne County for an extremely broad range of activities. From the foothills to the mountain crest zone, the county is a magnet drawing outdoor enthusiasts. Walking, hiking, biking, skiing, fishing, and boating are just some examples of uses of our public lands that many people consider essential to their quality of life. In addition, forest-related jobs and activities help to form the cultural identity of this county and a portion of its economic base.

What is the measure?

Human life is sustained by a flow of goods and services from the environment. Natural resource industries play a vital economic function, especially in the local rural economy. These include but are not limited to water, food, forest products, and recreation.

You will find in this section specific natural resources and recreation indicators which establish baseline data on economic and quality of life issues.



How are we doing?

Agricultural products, forest products, minerals, energy, and recreational opportunities are key commodities and uses associated with our public lands and natural resources. Utilization can deplete or degrade natural resources, or sustain and improve them when managed properly. Future human well-being depends on the development of technologies, institutions, policies, and lifestyles that use natural resources in sustainable ways. For example, the county is in the process of carrying out a grant funded project to determine the water quality in several local tributaries (streams and creeks) of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne River watersheds. It is hoped that the project, if necessary, will lead to revisions of policy and/or operational infrastructure that will enhance the quality of water in those tributaries.

The Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) determined that the district has an adequate sustainable water supply for many years to come.

Highlights of some of the most important findings regarding Natural Resources and Recreation include:

- Based on the current water quality standards and using the two largest water suppliers' tests, our drinking water is essentially pollutant free
- Each year we meet state and federal air quality standards on the vast majority of days
- Residents and millions of visitors have access to public lands in Tuolumne County to ski, hike, fish, hunt, boat, ride horses, observe plants and wildlife, camp, and mountain climb
- We are working diligently towards assuring that we have healthy, fire-resistant forests
- We have adequate emergency preparations in place for natural disasters like wildfires
- Our wildlife indicators showed mixed results. The bird count shows fairly steady populations. However, with increased population density and disease among our deer herds, migratory deer seem to be on the decline
- We have a wide variety of recreation opportunities available for children and adults

WATER QUALITY

Why is this important?

High quality drinking water is essential to human health. Contaminated water can cause disease, birth defects, infant mortality, and increased cancer rates.

Our drinking water originates from rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells, with most of the surface water transported through man-made earthen ditches.

What is the measure?

Drinking water quality is measured by levels of biological and chemical contaminants as reported per the two major water districts.

Maximum Contamination Levels (MCL), or drinking water standards, are limits of chemical contaminants allowed in drinking water. More stringent than MCL's, Action Levels (AL) are levels at which water managers must cut off any source of water leading to drinking water use until remedial steps have been taken.

Bacteria and other biological contaminants are used as indicators for waterborne illnesses. These include viruses, bacteria, and protozoa that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

How are we doing?

Based on the current water quality standards and using the two largest water suppliers' tests, our drinking water is essentially pollutant free.

The 2003 water quality reports for the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) show that TUD met standards for all but two of the 18 tested contaminants. TUD did not meet the standards for iron & manganese. Groveland Communities Services District (GCSD) met all standards in 2003.

Tuolumne County Drinking Water Quality

Met all water quality standards? biological and chemical		
	TUD	GCSD
2001	yes	no
2002	yes	no
2003	no	yes
2004	yes	no

Met the Standards for TTHM and Lead?

Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD)						
	TTHM	Avg	MCL	Lead	Avg	AL
2001	yes	71	100	yes	9	15
2002	yes	80	100	yes	8	15
2003	yes	32	100	yes	9	15
2004	yes	37	80	yes	3	15

Groveland Community Services District (GCSD)						
	TTHM	Avg	MCL	Lead	Avg	AL
2001	no	100	100	ND	ND	15
2002	no	104	100	no	33	15
2003	yes	95	100	yes	7	15
2004	no	143	80	yes	2.5	15

Source(s):

TUD and GCSD annual drinking water reports

Definitions:

Avg = Average

MCL = Maximum Contamination Levels. Ideally, the level of the chemical should be less than this number.

AL = Action Level. Level at which drinking water must be cut off.

ND = Non-Detectable

Notes:

TTHM and Lead reported in parts per billion (ppb)

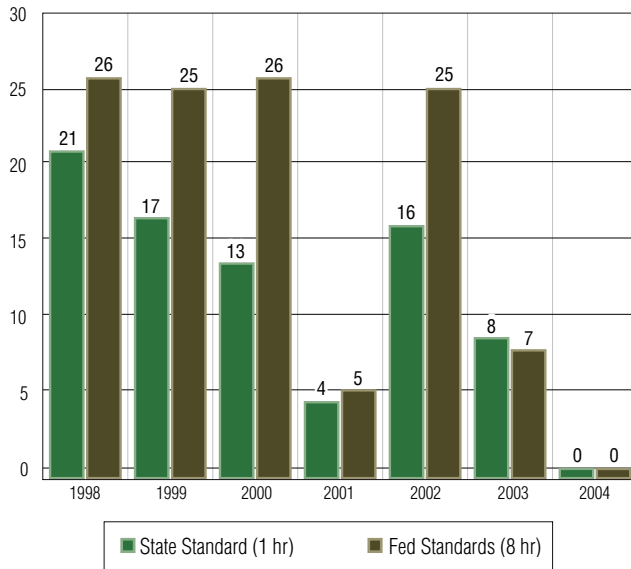
Trihalomethane (TTHM) Prior to 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) was 100 ppb. In 2004, it changed to 80 ppb (parts per billion) as did the reporting methods.

Total TTHM are a byproduct of chlorinating water that contains natural organics. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency survey discovered that trihalomethanes are present in virtually all chlorinated water supplies. Many years ago the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required large towns and cities to reduce TTHM levels in potable water. However, recent changes in national drinking water quality standards now require that water treatment systems of smaller towns begin to reduce TTHM. TTHM do not pose a high health risk compared to waterborne diseases, but they are among the most important water quality issues to be addressed in the U.S. water supply.

GCSD changed treatment process to reduce the lead leaching process in 2003.

Lead Action Level (AL) is 15 ppb.

Days the County Exceeded Ozone Standards



Source(s):

CA Air Resources Board, Emissions Inventory Branch,
 Almanac Data on Pop/Vehicle Trends Report

AIR QUALITY

Why is this important?

Ozone in the upper atmosphere is necessary for our survival. However, ozone at the ground level is harmful to health. Chemicals from car exhaust and some industries can react with sunlight to produce ground level ozone, also known as smog. Severe smog can cause acute symptoms, such as shortness of breath and throat irritation. Even at the lower levels, smog aggravates asthma and breathing problems, oxidizes building surfaces, and slows plant growth.

What is the measure?

The chart summarizes progress made toward meeting state and federal ambient air quality standards. Typically, these data monitor concentrations of pollutants measured over time (e.g. ozone—measured in parts per million averaged over one hour).

How are we doing?

Other than in 2004, a few days each year we failed to meet the state 1-hour ozone ambient air quality standards and the federal 8-hour ozone ambient air quality standards. Regulations require that all air districts attain these standards at the earliest practical date. Final allowable date is not specified for the 1 hour attainment; it is 2009 for the 8-hour attainment.

We produce a portion of the emissions affecting the county’s air quality. However, pollutants from the central valley are a critical factor in the county’s failure to meet standards, and one over which we have no direct control.

Another challenge is to balance air quality goals with the need to reduce the risk of destructive wildfires through prescribed burning. Short-term exposure to smoke from prescribed burns is one of the trade-offs for reducing flammable forest fuels that could otherwise create extremely high levels of pollution during extreme summer wildfires.

RECREATION USE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Why is this important?

Measuring recreational use on various public lands provides data to assist in long-term planning for local businesses, government agencies, and political decision-makers. Use of specific public land area also provides “big picture” information to better understand traffic patterns, seasonal differences in visitation, and other potential impacts.

What is the measure?

This indicator looks at annual estimated visitor counts using our public lands.

How are we doing?

Residents and millions of visitors use public lands in Tuolumne County to ski, hike, fish, hunt, boat, ride horses, watch wildlife, camp, and mountain climb. The public land use areas most frequented include Yosemite National Park, the Stanislaus National Forest, Don Pedro Reservoir, New Melones Reservoir, and Red Hills.

Yosemite National Park is one of America’s most desirable destinations for visitors. On any busy summer weekend, more than 20,000 people visit Yosemite Valley.

The Stanislaus National Forest offers a wide range of recreational opportunities, with three wilderness areas covering over 200,000 acres and 40 miles of “wild and scenic” rivers. It also includes campgrounds, recreational residences, major ski areas, roads, reservoirs, high country lakes, and motorized and non-motorized trails.

New Melones is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. The reservoir and surrounding lands provide a full service marina and store, boat rentals, boat launch ramps, beaches, campgrounds, and an informative visitor center.

Lake Don Pedro offers marinas, boat launch ramps, trailer pads, campsites, and a wide range of boating, camping, and swimming options.

Red Hills is public land near the historic town of Chinese Camp. Visitors enjoy hiking, horseback riding, nature study, seasonal wildflowers, rare species of plants and wildlife.

Tuolumne and Adjacent County Public Land Use 2004

Agency	Description of Facilities	Estimated Visitors/yr
Yosemite National Park	435,847 acres in Tuolumne County 1,260 lodging units 475 campsites	3,300,000
Stanislaus National Forest Estimates for the Tuolumne County Portion of the Forest	605,853 General Acres 113,277 Wilderness Acres (Emigrant and part of Carson Iceberg) 40 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers 991 Developed Campsites 2000 miles of Roads 1 Ski Resort 9 Organization Camps 4 Resorts 13 Outfitter Guides 264 miles of Motorized Trails Summer 1,100 Non-Motorized Trails 30.5 miles of Snowmobile Trails Groomed 89 miles of Snowmobile Trails Ungroomed 7 Reservoirs 659 Recreation Residences	3,000,000
New Melones	300 campsites 2 marinas 10 miles of multi-use trails—hiking, biking, equestrian	850,000
Lake Don Pedro	3 marinas 133 trailer pads 400 campsites	400,000
Bureau of Land Management	7,100 acres @ Red Hills 47,352 total Horseback riding Hiking Natural trails (non-motorized)	Not Available

Source(s): Agency contact

Natural Resources and Recreation

Tuolumne County Private and City/County Recreation Facilities 2005

	Total	# per 10,000 Population
Baseball fields ¹	32	5.7
Basketball courts	61	10.8
Children's playgrounds	28	5.0
Equestrian centers	11	2.0
Golf courses	5	0.9
Ice skating	1	0.2
Skate parks	2	0.4
Soccer ¹	14	2.5
Swimming lakes	9	1.6
Swimming pools ²	10	1.8
Tennis courts	18	3.2
Track and field	5	0.9
Youth centers ³	14	2.5
Trails	1,781 miles ⁴	

Source(s): *Tuolumne County Recreation Master Plan, 2002.* Although some of the facilities may have been upgraded or relocated, no substantive change in number of facilities has occurred since 2002.

1. Soccer/baseball fields are combined, in some cases, into one facility—most commonly at schools. The schools have priority for use of the sports fields at their respective campuses.
2. Public pools located in Twain Harte and in Tuolumne are county owned. Sonora High and Columbia Elementary Schools own their respective pools, but the County Recreation Department administers the swim programs at these respective pools during the summer months.
3. Includes PM Clubs and after-school care at local elementary schools (6 PM Clubs and 4 after-school care) and county-owned youth centers.
4. As identified in the Recreation Master Plan—includes all trails.

Note:

The Tuolumne County Recreation Master Plan (2002) outlines the details of existing facilities and services, and is available from the Tuolumne County Community Development Department.

RECREATION FACILITIES ON PRIVATE, CITY & COUNTY LANDS

Why is this important?

Recreation strengthens community awareness and sense of place, enhances economic development, and promotes health and wellness. Recreation facilities can assist community problem solving and provide leisure and healthy experiences.

What is the measure?

This indicator looks at the approximate number of private and public recreation facilities offered in Tuolumne County.

How are we doing?

The 2005 information sets a baseline from which we can measure our progress in meeting the recreational needs of our residents and visitors. To fully understand those needs, an assessment is being completed through the Tuolumne County Capital Improvement Planning Project.

WILDLIFE IN THE COUNTY—DEER

Why is this important?

Deer populations are an important indicator of overall forest and wildlife health. Deer herds are very dynamic and when we see trends, we should take note as these common animals could be indicators of problems in other animals we do not count. For example, mice and deer have similar diets in a meadow and when one is sick usually so is the other species. The same is probably true with deer and range cattle. The food chains are complex but “everything is connected to everything else.”

What is the measure?

The migratory Stanislaus Herd spring and fall birthrate of fawns to 100 does ratio was measured. The deer populations of Tuolumne County are of two general types—residential and migratory. Residential herds are generally seen at lower foothill locations near our homes. Migratory herds follow predictable routes from the summer high country to the winter ranges around 2,500 feet, where they may be found over-wintering in the company of resident deer.

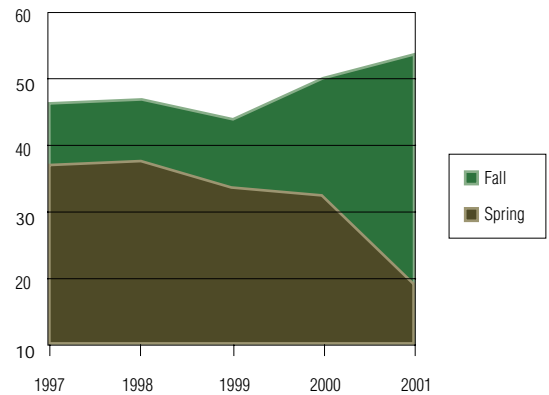
How are we doing?

A long-term study of fawn survival shows two periods of decline in numbers of young animals: the first in the early 1990's and the second at this time. When combined, these research projects show a significant decline in migratory deer populations.

Diseases harm the animals and reduce the numbers that breed. Additionally, the increase in human population density and deer killed in traffic accidents contributes to their decline.

In 1928 a similar decline in deer numbers from a rapidly spreading disease was noted near Kennedy Meadows.

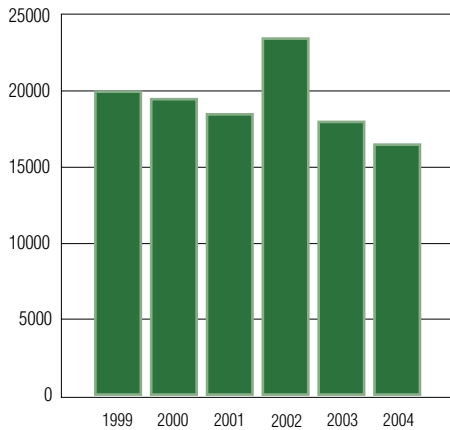
Stanislaus Herd – 3 Year Rolling Average of Fawns per 100 Does



Source(s): Stanislaus National Forest & the CA Department of Fish and Game

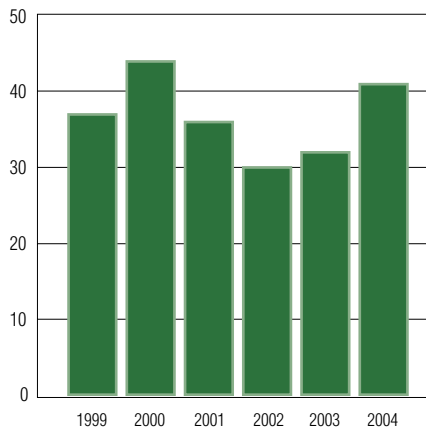


Audubon Bird Count



Source(s): Central Sierra Audubon Society

Total Eagles



WILDLIFE IN THE COUNTY— WINTER BIRD COUNT

Why is this important?

Bird populations are indicators of the complexity and general biological health of our local ecosystem. Numerous species are adapted to particular areas and habitats. If an area becomes less suited for a species, the number will decrease; if more suited, numbers will increase. We can assume that species other than birds will also reflect changes in the ecosystem by their rising or falling numbers.

What is the measure?

Audubon Society chapters annually conduct a winter bird count. Teams of birdwatchers select the same date, as near as possible, and survey the same locations to tally the species and numbers. Weather conditions will vary from year to year. But the one-day count is held regardless of weather conditions.

The total bird count reflects both local and regional habitats, and includes both managed species of birds like waterfowl and unmanaged species like songbirds. Birds will migrate either up or down the Sierra slope, and some migrate long distances to other regions of the Western hemisphere.

How are we doing?

The annual count shows a variation of 1,000 to 2,000 each year. This suggests relative stability. The fluctuations may occur because of the winter weather, which can move birds up and down in elevation.



FOREST HEALTH

Why is this important?

Healthy forests provide quality habitat for a wide range of fish, wildlife, and plant species; they are the source of our clean water, offer abundant recreation opportunities, and are a source of raw materials for local businesses such as the timber industry.

Much of Tuolumne County is comprised of forested ecosystems, including the oak woodlands in the lower elevations through the pines and the fir at the crest of the Sierra Nevada range. The social and economic health of the county is directly tied to the health of our forests.

A century of fire suppression combined with prolonged drought and associated insect infestations left many forested areas unhealthy and susceptible to wildfire. As the population increases adjacent to and within these forested ecosystems, the threat of wildfire to life and property has become a major public concern.

The local sawmills provide an important source of employment and income, and improve forest health by processing wood products. This reduces the density of overstocked timber stands as does other fuel treatment.

What is the measure?

The indicators are two-fold: the number of acres that are treated to reduce hazardous fuels in our forests and woodlands, and the wildland fires by number and acres.

How are we doing?

The Stanislaus National Forest and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection focus their forest fuel reduction efforts in areas adjoining communities—the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and the State Responsibility Areas (SRA).

The number of acres treated decreased in the past three years compared to the prior years. The variation can be due to weather, budgets and available personnel.

Acres of Hazardous Fuel Reduction*

Responsibility					
	Stanislaus National Forest			State	Combined
	Total WUI	Total Non-WUI	Wildland Fire Use	SRA	TOTAL
1999	3,567	8,406	2,561	33	14,567
2000	4,148	6,220	1,390	33	11,791
2001	6,379	8,927	71	62	15,439
2002	3,326	1,281	3	834	5,444
2003	7,329	3,867	11,203	219	22,618
2004	3,782	1,406	384	201	5,773

Definitions:

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) – areas where homes and businesses intermingle with public lands such as National Forests.

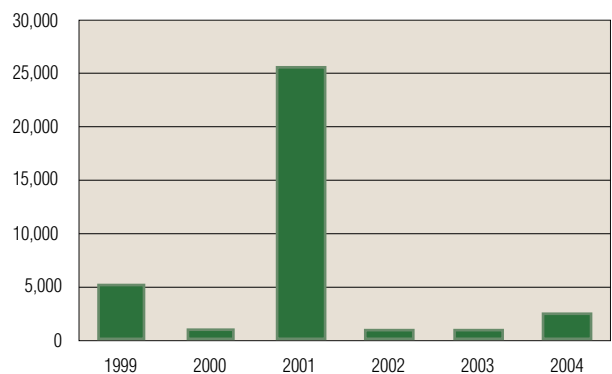
Non-WUI – public land that is not close to homes and businesses.

Wildland Fire Use: naturally caused fires, such as lightning, that are allowed to burn—similar to prescribed fire.

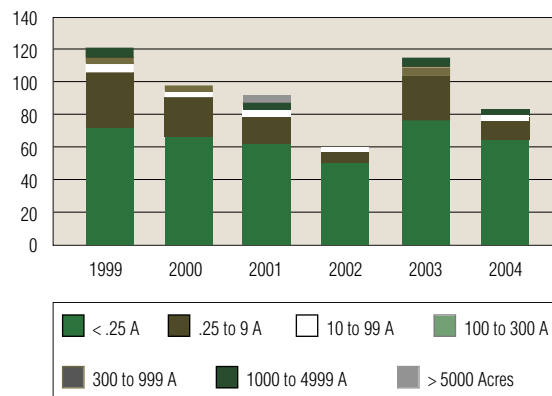
State Responsibility Area (SRA).

*Includes prescribed burning, shredding and thinning brush

Total Wildfire Acres Burned in the Stanislaus National Forest



Number of Fires in Stanislaus National Forest



Source(s):

U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention

Sonora City Fire Department

	July 2001	July 2002	July 2003	July 2004	July 2005
Total # paid personnel	8	8	8	8	15
# Aircraft	0	0	0	0	0
#Engines	2	2	3	3	3
#Bulldozers	0	0	0	0	0
#Hand crews	0	0	0	0	0
Inspections	157	152	170	124	118
Grants	0	\$235,525	0	\$34,633	0
Population	4,423	4,490	4,610	4,650	4,650

Source(s): City of Sonora Fire Department

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

	July 2001	July 2002	July 2003	July 2004	July 2005
Total # paid personnel	79	79	79	79	79
# Aircraft	4	4	4	4	4
# Engines	8	8	8	8	8
# Bulldozers	1	1	1	1	1
# Hand crews	5	5	5	5	5
# of Inspections	2,700	3,200	3,100	3,500	n/a
Grant \$ to wildland pre-suppression	\$90,000	\$22,013	\$26,000	\$138,000	\$42,000
Population	55,583	56,281	56,846	56,977	58,504

Source(s): California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

U.S. Forest Service

	July 2001	July 2002	July 2003	July 2004	July 2005
Total # paid personnel	142	178	198	198	198
# Aircraft	1	1	1	1	1
# Engines	10	12	12	12	12
# Bulldozers	1	2	2	2.6	2
# Hand crews	1	3	4	4	4
# of Inspections	400	400	400	400	400
Grant \$ to wildland pre-suppression*	\$122,300	\$345,052	\$425,000	\$675,500	\$455,000
Population	55,583	56,281	56,846	56,977	58,504

*Federal and matching funds

Source(s): U.S. Forest Service

Definition:

Paid Personnel includes firefighters, not support, pre-suppression staff or volunteers.

WILDLAND FIRE SERVICES

Why is this important?

All of Tuolumne County is at risk from wildfire. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection categorize all of the acres it protects in the county as very high risk. The seasonal cycle of very wet winters and hot dry summers creates an environment that is conducive to large damaging wildfires in the summer and fall months.

Prior to Euro-American settlement, the annual fire return interval ranged from 12-26 years at higher elevations to 8-15 years in lower elevations. Introduction of livestock, grazing, logging, and organized fire suppression forces have altered the natural fire return interval. The result has been a shift from frequent low intensity wildfires to higher intensity fires burning in more dense forests. This has been exacerbated by a growing population, which has resulted in a growing number of annual wildfire situations.

What is the measure?

We noted the trends of personnel, resources, grants and population change over the last 5 years.

How are we doing?

Despite the increasing fire activity, fire suppression resources have remained relatively stable. The 2003 fire season in Tuolumne County was mild, with below average ignitions and below average acres burned. There were 388 fires in the County in 2003 compared to a five-year average of 409. Acres burned were 4,450, which compare to a five-year average of 7,776. During the 2001 season, 30,137 acres burned.

Interagency cooperation on Highways 108 (Highway 108 Strategic Planning Group) and 120 (Southwest Interface Team Project) in conjunction with the 108 Fire Safe Council and the Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council led to numerous fuel reduction projects being implemented around communities in these corridors.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Why is this important?

Conservation and the prudent use of our natural resources are important aspects of a socially responsible society. Societal choice to use renewable resources for the production of energy is a key indicator of this.

The California Renewable Portfolio Standard directs utilities to have 20% renewable energy in their procurement mix by 2017.

What is the measure?

We measured the number of local hydropower, biomass co-generation, and solar and wind plants that produce electricity from renewable resources within the county.

How are we doing?

Because of the abundance of natural resources in our county, Tuolumne County produces a great deal of renewable energy from hydroelectric and biomass sources. To maximize the efficiency of water power, much of our water has passed through more than one hydroelectric facility. We produce no discernible power from wind or solar sources.

A challenge we face is that as public demand increases, will we be able to produce sufficient energy that is economic, efficient, and environmentally safe?

Renewable Energy Production is Dependent Upon a Number of Variables

Type of Power/Energy	Dependent Variables
Hydroelectric power	Precipitation
Biomass	Material availability Transportation costs Public policies
Solar	Material cost Land availability
Wind	Material cost Land availability
New technology	Public demand Efficiency Economic feasibility

Energy Produced

Type of Energy	Megawatts Hours Produced in Tuolumne County		
	1998	2001	2004
Biomass Energy			
Pacific Ultrapower	109,697	110,855	132,889
Sierra Pacific Industries	34,000-36,000	34,209	36,159
Hydroelectric Power			
PGE Hydropower	unknown	unknown	455,035
Tri Dam Project	369,368	336,804	419,794
New Melones	819,000	385,000	341,114
Hetch Hetchy Water & Power	unknown	1,294,400	1,598,200
Solar and Wind			
Solar	0	0	0
Wind	0	0	0

Note: A megawatt will run a 100 watt light bulb for 10,000 hours.

Source(s): Agency contact



Economy & Infrastructure

Download
Chapter

Why is this important?

A diverse economy, with broad opportunities for employment and strong infrastructure, is a major factor in creating a healthy community.

What is the measure?

The indicators selected cover the following: retail sales, the diversity of business and industry in the county, employment/unemployment, income, tourism, land use, housing, infrastructure, transportation, and communication.



How are we doing?

Overall, the economy continues to be in transition. This is exhibited by growth in retail sales, tourism, services and health care. In recent years, mining and timber industries declined.

Government and tourism are the largest employers in the county, which is reflective of the large proportion of public lands and the spectacular natural beauty drawing visitors to the area. Cultural tourism, including the many artisans and three professional regional theater companies, attracts large numbers of visitors from the Bay Area and central valley. Historic and agricultural tourism such as wine tasting, fruit and vegetable stands, and tree farms are also significant contributors to the economy.

We face economic challenges. As in all regions, housing our workforce continues to be expensive, as the prices escalate for housing and the inventory decreases. The rate of compensation for the workers is not increasing at the same rate as the cost of housing. A portion of the workforce tends to commute to other areas that offer higher wages to balance the costs for living in the foothills. Multi-dwelling units are very scarce with limited availability. Almost half of our population is 50 years of age or older. Thus, we face a challenge in filling entry level jobs—which are important for a vital and healthy economic outlook for the county.

RETAIL SALES

Why is this important?

Retail sales generate taxes, which are the primary revenue support for local police, fire, roads, and other infrastructure. Changes in retail sales are important to show growth or decline in the business community.

What is the measure?

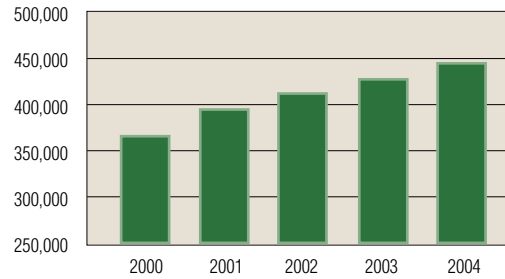
Sales data show the trends in retail sales in the following categories: apparel stores, general merchandise, grocery, restaurant and bars, home furnishings and appliance, building materials and farm implements, service stations, and other retail stores.

How are we doing?

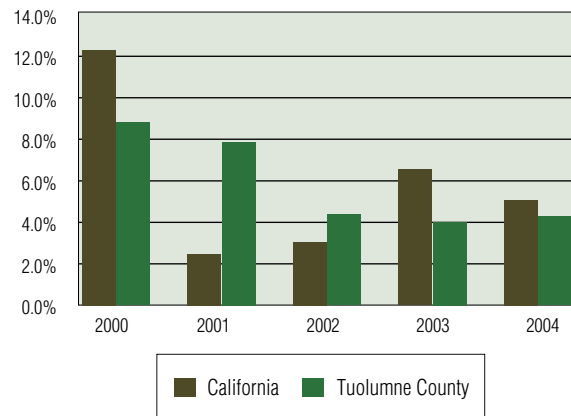
Over the past ten years retail sales have shown steady growth in Tuolumne County. All categories have shown increases, with the largest gains coming in building materials and farm implements, and auto dealers and supplies. Grocery has shown the lowest growth rate.

Compared to the state, sales growth over the last 10 years has been average. The sales change from 2003 to 2004 was below the state average, as was the net increase in sales outlets.

Tuolumne County Retail Sales (in \$000)



Percent Change (from previous year) in Retail Sales



Source(s):

California Retail Survey 2005 Edition, The Eureka Group, Sacramento, CA



Tuolumne County Workforce

Industry Sector	# of Jobs	% of Total
Goods Producing		
Natural Resources and Mining	190	
Construction	1,260	
Manufacturing	970	
Total	2,420	14%
Service Producing		
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (retail & wholesale)	2,920	
Information	290	
Financial Activities	590	
Professional & Business Services	1,060	
Education & Health Services	2,180	
Leisure & Hospitality (includes Accommodations & Food Service)	2,130	
Other services	740	
Total	9,910	57%
Government		
Federal	400	
State	1,120	
Local	3,610	
Total	5,130	29%
TOTAL – ALL SECTORS	17,460	

Source(s):

CA Labor Market Information Division
<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>

Employers with at least 100 Employees

Employer	# Employees
Tuolumne County Public Schools	1,416
Tuolumne County	1,300
Sierra Conservation Center	1,110
Sonora Regional Medical Center	880
Black Oak Casino	700
U.S. Government	500
Dodge Ridge Ski Resort (seasonal)	400
Sierra Pacific Industries	320
Wal-Mart	250
Diestel Turkey Farms	150
Save Mart	140
Pak 'n Save	130
Columbia College	125
Mervyn's	110
MRL Industries	100

Source(s): Economic Development Company of Tuolumne County, June 2005 report

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY DIVERSITY

Why is this important?

The diversity and balance of industry sectors has a significant impact on the overall economic health of a region.

What is the measure?

The number of jobs in the different sectors and the larger employers in the county offer an overall view of business/industry diversity in the county.

How are we doing?

In Tuolumne County, job losses over the past five years occurred in manufacturing. Typically this sector contributes more to the economy than those in which we experienced the largest growth—government, services, and construction.

Projections for the most growth from 1999-2006, according to the California Labor Market Information Division, are in government, services, and retail trade. The manufacturing, finance, insurance, and real estate sectors are not expected to grow during the projection period.

Tuolumne County's Industry Employment percentages differ significantly from California as a whole, where most growth in new jobs is expected in the professional and business services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, and lodging. Nearly 30% of California job growth will occur in professional and business services. Also in contrast to Tuolumne County, the government sector is expected to lose jobs in California.

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Why is this important?

Personal income is one of the more basic measures of the local economy's health. Individuals use their personal income to purchase items to meet family needs, and, in doing so, help fuel sectors of the local economy, from housing to durable goods.

Unemployment rates are a key indicator of the health of local economies. They reflect the ability of employers to supply the numbers and types of jobs needed by the labor force, and the ability of the labor force to provide the skills and availability needed by employers.

What is the measure?

Per capita estimates reflect the total amount of personal income averaged across the population.

The unemployment rate is expressed as the percentage of people within the labor force who are out of work and are actively searching for employment.

How are we doing?

Per capita income in 2003 was significantly lower for Tuolumne County residents (\$24,869) than for California (\$33,415). The difference in income can be accounted for in large part due to the types of jobs available in Tuolumne County. Historically, mining and timber industries dominated Tuolumne County's economy. In recent years, as these industries declined and the local economy adjusted, tourism has become an increasingly important industry.

Trade, transportation, and utilities account for more than 17% of the county's total employment with the majority in retail trade. Employment in leisure and hospitality industries made up 13.5% of employment in 2002. Unfortunately, these jobs pay minimum wage, and often do not offer full-time employment. Of the county's workforce, 29% are employed in government.

This trend will keep Tuolumne County's workforce average hourly wages in the \$16.00- \$17.00 range, well below the California average of \$20.00-\$26.00.

Per Capita Personal Income

	2003	Rank in State (out of 58 counties)
Tuolumne County	\$24,869	37
Amador County	\$25,781	30
Calaveras County	\$25,395	33
Mariposa County	\$22,716	46
California	\$33,415	N/A
U.S.	\$31,472	N/A

Source(s): <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

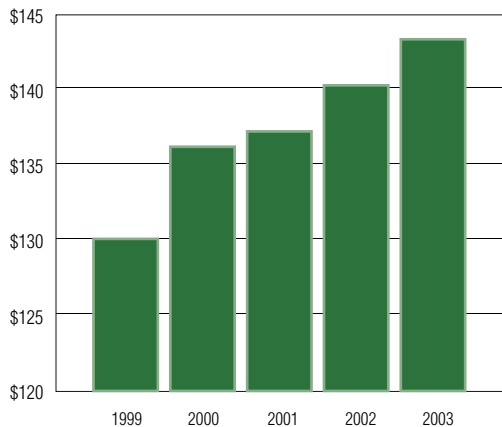
Unemployment Rate

	9/2004	9/2005
Tuolumne County	5.7%	5.2%
Amador County	4.7%	4.6%
Calaveras County	5.6%	5.5%
Mariposa County	4.7%	4.6%
California	5.7%	4.8%

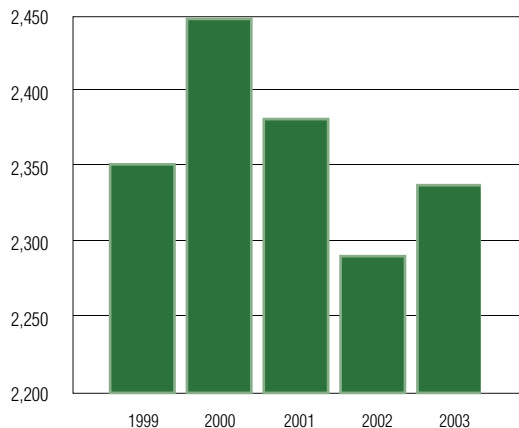
Source(s):

Labor Market Information Division, CA State Employment Development Department
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov

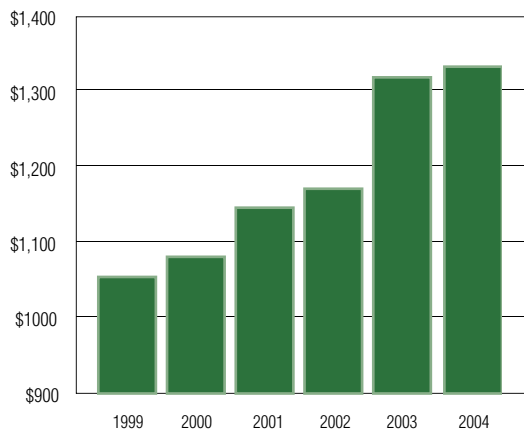
Tuolumne County Direct Travel Spending in \$000



Employment Generated by Visitor Spending



Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) in \$000



Source(s):
California Travel Spending by County, Dean Runyan and Associates, 2003

Note: 2005 TOT is 8% for the entire county

TOURISM

Why is this important?

Tuolumne County is a major tourist destination and a popular site for the film industry. As such, the local economy is dependent upon a strong and vibrant tourist industry.

What is the measure?

Direct travel spending is the amount spent by non-residents in Tuolumne County on accommodations, food, entertainment, travel, and other related expenses. This includes campers, day visitors, and those who stay in hotels. Transient occupancy taxes are one of the most direct means for jurisdictions to collect revenues from visitors. They are also a useful indicator of travel activity, since almost all of these sales are made to travelers. Transient occupancy tax receipts therefore provide a basis for evaluating both travel trends and the distribution of travel activity.

How are we doing?

Tuolumne County generated \$143.2 million for 2003, in direct visitor spending. Visitor spending for hotel/accommodations was \$32.5 million; food and beverage services accounted for \$39.8 million; arts, entertainment, and recreation totaled \$25.7 million; and retail sales equaled \$25.9 million.

Direct earnings from travel spending in 2003 is recorded at \$46.9 million, up from \$45.1 million the prior year; while total direct tax receipts surpassed \$2.3 million, up from \$2.2 million in 2002. Total direct employment is reported at 2,340.

We have more than 80 hotels, bed & breakfast inns, and vacation rental companies in the county, which provide more than 1,500 rooms. Public and private campgrounds and RV parks total more than 3,000 spaces.

Direct travel spending in our neighboring counties of Calaveras and Amador allow us a “regional” perspective. In 2003, Calaveras County reported \$131 million and Amador County showed \$101.6 million in visitor spending, as opposed to Tuolumne County’s \$143.2 million.

PUBLIC LAND USE

Why is this important?

The growth and development of a community is dependent upon the amount and location of land that is available for various uses. A community is comprised of a variety of land uses, such as residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational. A significant amount of land is also devoted to public uses, such as parks and schools. In the case of jurisdictions that have the majority of their lands held for public use, planning for growth and economic vitality can be a challenge due to this limited resource.

What is the measure?

The amount of land that is engaged in existing uses or available for new development can be measured by the amount of acreage that has been designated for a specific use or range of uses by the county or city. Public lands for both the city of Sonora and Tuolumne County are included within the public and parks and recreation designations under their respective General Plans. Measuring the amount of land that is held in public use provides insight into the opportunity for future growth within Tuolumne County and the city of Sonora.

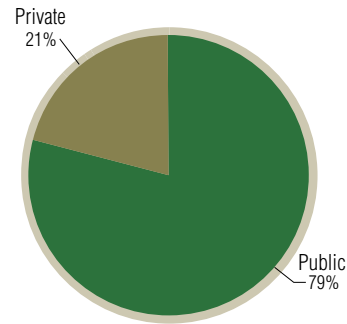
How are we doing?

While public lands are not available for commercial or residential development, they provide other economic benefits to Tuolumne County through natural resources, tourism, recreation, and employment.

The city of Sonora is comprised of 1,812 acres. Approximately 21% of these acres are public lands.

Tuolumne County is comprised of a total of 1,458,121 acres. Approximately 79% of these acres are public lands.

Comparison of Public and Private Land



Acres of Public Land by Jurisdiction 2005

Federally Owned	
Yosemite National Park	435,847
Stanislaus National Forest	605,803
Bureau of Land Management	47,352
Bureau of Reclamation/Army Corps of Engineers (New Melones Reservoir)	9,906
Total	1,098,908
State and Local Government	
Big Trees State Park	3,000
Columbia and Railtown State Historic Parks	270
County of Tuolumne	676
City of Sonora (City Limits)	377
Total	4,323
Other Government	
City and County of San Francisco	4,051
Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts	8,460
Total	12,511
Acreage of Private Lands	
Restricted agricultural land	119,458
Timber production zone	83,978
All other (including roadways)	98,060
Total	301,496

Source(s): Tuolumne County Community Development Department

Distribution of General Plan Land Use Designations 2005

The city of Sonora's General Plan is currently being updated. The following chart includes the proposed General Plan designations and corresponding acreages.

Combined General Plan Designation City of Sonora	Total Acreage ¹	Parcels	
		Total ²	Total Vacant ³
Park, Recreation, Resource, & Open Space ⁴	32	4	4
Residential	1,016	1,744	345
Commercial	217	391	45
Special Planning	186	45	13
Manufacturing	16	4	4
Public ⁵	345	175	5
Total	1,812	2,363	416

Source(s): City of Sonora Planning Department

1. Approximate
2. Split-designated parcels are counted as two parcels.
3. Excludes underdeveloped parcels; includes only vacant parcels.
4. Includes publicly owned parks.
5. Includes: City (e.g., police, fire, administration), County, Cemeteries, State (e.g., CDF), Federal (USFS), Community facilities (e.g., library, opera hall, youth center), Parking facilities, roads with parcel numbers assigned (Caltrans, County and City). Not all roadways have assigned parcel numbers.

Distribution of General Plan Land Use Designations for Unincorporated Area of Tuolumne County²⁶ 2005

General Plan Designation	Total Acreage	Parcels	
		Total	Total Vacant
Urban Residential	31,289	26,988	6,099
Rural Residential	42,759	4,639	1,862
Agricultural	163,241	1,783	1,530
Timber Production	87,309	411	407
Open Space	835	47	36
Parks and Recreation	4,827	307	178
Commercial	1,515	1,257	412
Industrial	2,169	357	118
Public	1,124,177	N/A	N/A

Source(s): Tuolumne County Community Development Department

²⁶The acreages for each land use designation are calculated from the total land area for each designation found within the Tuolumne County GIS General Plan layer, as of July 7, 2005.

PRIVATE LAND USE

Why is this important?

Land use is considered to be one of the more important aspects of a community's development. Land use designations, which are established through each jurisdiction's General Plan, will determine what parcels of land are available for housing, business, industry, open space, and public uses. These designations are intended to make efficient use of the land and promote a functional development pattern with varied, but compatible, land uses.

What is the measure?

The California Government Code established the requirement of a General Plan for all California cities and counties. It also stated that a General Plan is to include a land use element that designates the proposed general distribution, general location, and extent of land available for both private and public uses. The amount of land that is engaged in existing uses or available for new development can be measured by the amount of acreage that has been designated for each specific land use. Measuring the amount of land that has been designated by each classification of use provides insight into the future growth of Tuolumne County and the city of Sonora.

How are we doing?

Currently 10,642 parcels of vacant private land within the County of Tuolumne, and 407 parcels of vacant privately held land exist within the city of Sonora. These parcels can be utilized for the specific uses allowed under the land use designation. The majority of parcels still vacant within the county of Tuolumne as well as the city of Sonora are designated for residential purposes.

HOUSING

Why is this important?

Achieving an adequate, affordable, and diverse supply of housing for residents at all income levels is an essential step towards a prosperous future.

What is the measure?

The Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) is the share of homes sold in an area that is affordable to families earning the median income. To calculate the HOI in an area, the National Association of Home Builders assumes a family can afford to spend 28% of its gross income on housing. However, local jurisdictions may use different affordability standards. For example, the county uses 33% and Sonora uses 45% of gross income for first time homebuyer programs.

How are we doing?

While it's likely that homes are bought and sold in the county that cost less than the median home price of \$310,000 (as of May 2005), the numbers from local real estate transactions indicate that no families of median income can afford the current median home price.

Median income for a family of four in Tuolumne County is \$52,450.²⁷ Using the HOI calculations, a Tuolumne County family making the median income would fall short of affording the median priced home by \$361 per month.²⁸

Another measure of housing opportunity is the status of the existing housing stock. The county's survey found that approximately 73.6% of its housing stock is sound, 12.7% needs minor rehabilitation, 11% requires moderate rehabilitation, and about 2.6% needs substantial rehabilitation or are considered dilapidated. In the city, 57% is sound, 18% needs minor work, 20% needs moderate work, and about 5% needs substantial rehabilitation or is dilapidated.

New construction of homes continues to be quite active, with 435 residential building permits issued in 2004. However, multi-family permits issuance is inactive. Of the county's 26,139 housing units, 7,186 (27.5%) are vacation or second homes.

Number of Residences Where Occupants Pay More Than 30% of Income on Housing

Type of Dwelling	# Paying More Than 30% of Income on Housing	% of Total Units in County
Owner-occupied	2,799	20% of 14,162
Renter-occupied	2,030	42% of 4,791

Source(s): Section 3.C.2.c of Appendix 3.C of the Tuolumne County General Plan Housing Element (found in the Community Development Section on the County Website, <http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/>)

Home Prices

Year	Residential Units Sold	Median Price	Average Home Price
2000	995	\$140,000	\$161,458
2001	881	\$165,000	\$195,888
2002	985	\$189,000	\$221,379
2003	850	\$232,250	\$256,181
2004	711	\$267,000	\$275,663

Source(s): Tuolumne County Association of REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service

Building Permits

Year	Single Family	Multi-Family	Mobiles
2000	302	1 bldg/2 units	36
2001	288	0	47
2002	349	3 bldgs/8 units	50
2003	463	1 bldg/2 units	44
2004	403	5	27

Source(s): Tuolumne County Association of Realtors

²⁷Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2005 State Income Level report.

²⁸Several county assistance programs are often available to those making 80% of the median household income.

Major Water System Purveyors

District	# of Treated Water Customers	# of Wastewater Customers
Tuolumne Utilities District	10,000*	8,977
Twain Harte Community Services District	1,500*	1,444
Groveland Community Services District	3,000*	1,450
Lake Don Pedro Community Services District (Tuolumne County customers)	394	0

*Approximate numbers

Comparison of Residential Connection Fees and Service Rates for Public Water Systems

District	Residential Connection Fee*	Residential Monthly Rate**
Tuolumne Utilities District	\$1,255 to \$4,770	\$19.00 + usage fee
Twain Harte Community Services District	\$1,900 to \$3,700	\$27.00 + usage fee
Groveland Community Services District	\$2,062	\$24.47 + usage fee
Lake Don Pedro Community Services District	\$3,050	\$21.00 + usage fee

*Connection fee is based on location of parcel, and additional costs may also apply.

**Usage fee relates to the number of gallons consumed during the billing period.

Comparison of Residential Connection Fees and Service Rates for Public Sewer Systems

District	Residential Connection Fee	Residential Monthly Rate
Tuolumne Utilities District	\$3,800	\$31.86
Twain Harte Community Services District	\$2,750	\$29.00
Groveland Community Services District	\$7,125	\$31.33 + fee based on gallons generated
Jamestown Sanitary District	\$7,038*	\$30.88
Tuolumne Sanitary District	\$5,000	\$20.00

*This includes Tuolumne Utilities District's outfall fee of \$1,680.

Commercial Services:

Connections and monthly rates for commercial users are determined by establishing a residential equivalency based upon the type of business.

Source(s): Agency contact

INFRASTRUCTURE— WATER AND SEWER

Why is this important?

Infrastructure forms the backbone of a community. It consists of the facilities and services needed to sustain industry, residential, commercial, and all other land use activities. It includes water and sewer services, streets and roads, and public facilities, such as airports.

What is the measure?

We focused our indicators on water connections, sewage disposal rates, and energy sources.

How are we doing?

Most of the residents of Tuolumne County receive their water from public sources; however, many residents in the rural areas rely on groundwater from individual wells. In fiscal year 2003-04, the Tuolumne County Environmental Health Division issued 185 permits for wells. Due to the limited availability of groundwater, no extensive development of groundwater occurred in Tuolumne County. Consequently, water from rivers and reservoirs is used to meet the needs of the county's population. Recent studies by the Tuolumne Utilities District reveal that ample water within its system exists to meet the growth needs of central and northern portions of Tuolumne County.

Sewage disposal is provided by public utility districts or through on-site septic systems. However the majority of the rural areas have no public sewer system available, so they rely on septic systems. No information is available on the number of parcels that are currently served by individual on-site sewage disposal systems. In fiscal year 2003-04, the Environmental Health Division issued 613 permits for on-site sewage disposal systems.

We have no natural gas service in Tuolumne County. Propane is used as an alternative energy source to electricity, with six companies located in Tuolumne County that provide propane gas service.

TRANSPORTATION

Why is this important?

Transportation is the basic system providing mobility to sustain social, economic, and recreational activities in Tuolumne County. Properly developed, balanced transportation systems result in effective mobility and safe living conditions.

What is the measure?

We surveyed the basic modes of transportation—roads, rail, and air.

How are we doing?

Tuolumne County features a fixed-route public transit system, dial-a-ride transit system, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, a working railroad, two public-use airports, and a network of county roads and state highways. We have no public transportation in or out of the county.

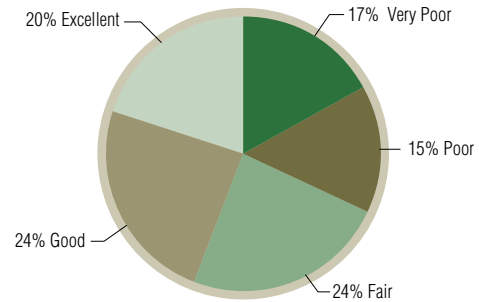
The condition of our local roads is projected to decline. We have approximately 611 miles in our road maintenance system. Roads built to serve new development are not accepted into this maintenance system. New roads are maintained by County Service Areas, homeowners associations, or private property owners.

Four state highways provide access to and through the county. We have no designated bike lanes on the county road system.

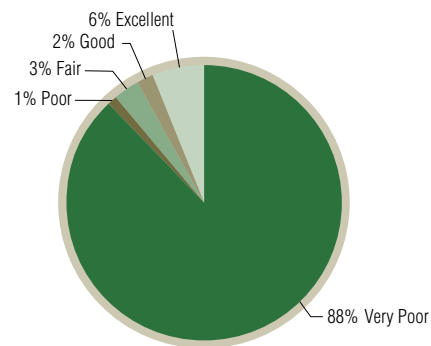
Tuolumne County is served by the Sierra Railroad, which operates freight service between Oakdale in Stanislaus County and Standard in Tuolumne County. It includes 49 miles of track and has operated since 1897.

General aviation needs in Tuolumne County are met by two county-owned and operated airports. The Columbia Airport (which has an historic grass runway) is located in the community of Columbia, and the Pine Mountain Lake Airport is located in the Groveland area. During fire season, the Columbia Airport is also host to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Columbia Air Attack Base.

2004 Pavement Condition Rating Values



Projected 2014 Pavement Condition Rating Values



Tuolumne County General Use Airports

Airports	Hanger Spaces	Tie-Downs		Runways	Take-Offs/Landings Annually
		Based Aircraft	Transient		
Columbia	75	85		Asphalt – 4,667' Turf – 2,600'	40,000
Pine Mountain Lake	5	54	9	Asphalt – 3,640'	12,765

Source(s): Tuolumne County Community Development Department

% of Households Receiving Service

Communication Service	Penetration (October 2005)
Cable	52% of the potential 21,500 connections
DSL	12%

Source(s):
Tuolumne County Community Development Department, September 2005

Communication Infrastructure

Wireless Services	Cell Towers	Antennas
Current	13	# Not available
Proposed	4	45

Source(s): Agency contact

COMMUNICATIONS

Why is this important?

Adequate communications are important for public safety, business and commerce, education, and government. Data services are rapidly moving to wireless technology and becoming faster. Today, more than ever, all aspects of everyday life are dependent on communications technology.

What is the measure?

Indicators for communications growth are the penetration of cable television and digital subscriber line (DSL) service and the number of towers/antennas identified and proposed for wireless technology.

How are we doing?

Telephone services for the county are provided by SBC and Frontier/Citizens Communications.

Comcast is the major franchise for cable television services, offering 34 regular cable channels, 110 digital channels, and 8 pay-per-view channels. Comcast currently provides “broadband” service in one direction only (video signals to the subscriber). It has approximately 52% penetration of the potential 21,500 connections (such as households, apartments, motel rooms, and businesses in its service area).

DSL is only available within approximately three cabled miles of the major service providers’ (Mother Lode Internet, Sonnet, Goldrush, and SBC) central offices in Sonora, Twain Harte, and Jamestown. About 12% of the subscribers in the service areas receive DSL.

Wireless services are provided by cellular and internet service providers (ISP’s). These providers use existing cell towers for their service and can also lease space on towers owned by others. The vast diversity of geography in the county presents challenges to these providers, because wireless technology is by line of sight to the antennae. Thirteen towers are located in the county; 45 antennas and 4 cell phone towers are proposed.

The dependency on this technology has dramatically increased in the last few years as the population demands more goods and services at their fingertips. However, the demand is not met by the current services.

CONTENTS

1. Phone Survey Ratings of the Most Important Aspects of the Local Quality of Life and Where to Find the Data in This Document [Download Full Phone Survey](#)
2. Tuolumne County History
3. Health and Safety Highlights
4. Unemployment Rates
5. Private Land Availability
6. For More Information

1. PHONE SURVEY RATINGS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE LOCAL QUALITY OF LIFE AND WHERE TO FIND THE DATA IN THIS DOCUMENT

The Tuolumne County Profile 2005 Committee members used the Community Phone Survey as a guide in choosing which indicators to measure. With a goal of measuring 40 different aspects of life in our county, we tried to address as many of the top scoring aspects as possible. Occasionally, we could not find a valid, available, and understandable means to measure something. The committee continues to work on ways to measure the most important aspects of the local quality of life that we were unable to quantify.

Items Listed in Order of Highest Priority	Mean Score out of a High Score of 7	Addressed on Page...
Having clean water to drink	6.7	30
Feeling safe in your neighborhood and around your home	6.7	19
Having low rates of violent crime	6.6	19
Having clean air to breathe	6.6	31
Having a high percentage of adults who are able to read	6.6	27
Having clean water in local lakes, rivers, and streams	6.5	30*
Having high rates of immunization for children	6.4	8
Having an adequate supply of water for households, farms, and ranches	6.4	29*
Having a low high school dropout rate	6.4	22*
Having low rates of child abuse	6.3	17
Having adults actively involved with reading to their children or helping them with homework	6.3	22*
Having low rates of crime motivated by racial, religious, or other types of bias	6.3	**
Having low rates of property crimes, like car theft or burglary	6.3	19
Having access to health care professionals who are willing to accept patients, including seniors, for ongoing health care	6.3	12
Having high rates of voter participation in local elections	6.3	6
Having adequate emergency preparations in place for natural disasters like wildfires	6.3	37
Having a high proportion of local high school graduates attend vocational school, alternative education, or college	6.3	26
Having healthy, fire-resistant forests	6.2	36
Having low rates of sexually transmitted diseases	6.2	10
Having low rates of motor vehicle accidents	6.2	18
Having a low unemployment rate	6.2	42
Having enough after-school and extracurricular activities available for students	6.2	**
Having low rates of substance abuse	6.1	14
Having a low poverty rate	6.1	4

Appendices

Having affordable utilities, like water, power, and phone service	6.1	47
Having good scores on math and reading tests for local students	6.1	25
Having healthy wildlife populations	6.1	34-35
Having local students receive high average scores on college entrance examinations	6.1	24
Having active participation from local residents in volunteer activities	6.1	6*
Having local jobs that are attractive enough that residents do not leave the county to work	6.0	42*
Having low rates of childhood obesity	6.0	10
Having low rates of depression	6.0	15
Having a good variety of performing arts, like music, dance, or theater, in the community	6.0	28
Having additional education and training programs available for adults	6.0	26
Having many local residents undergo preventive health screening, like mammograms or cholesterol tests	6.0	8
Having well-maintained roads and highways	6.0	48
Having recreation programs available for children and adults	6.0	33
Having low rates of on-the-job injuries	6.0	**
Having adequate health insurance coverage for local residents	5.9	13
Keeping farm and rangeland in agricultural use	5.9	**
Having a diverse range of different kinds of businesses in the county	5.9	41
Having a good variety of retail shops and services so that residents will spend their money in the county rather than elsewhere	5.9	**
Having high rates of homeownership	5.9	46
Having a large number of children under age 5 enrolled in pre-school	5.8	23
Having adequate and affordable child care available for parents who need it	5.8	23
Ensuring that residents have adequate access to public lands	5.8	44
Having enough protected open space	5.7	44
Having adequate access to psychiatric health services	5.7	15
Having an adequate amount of tourism to support the local economy	5.7	43
Having enough historical areas and museums for residents to visit	5.7	6*
Having enough trails for hiking, biking, walking, horseback riding, and jogging	5.6	32
Having enough local parks, recreation fields, and playgrounds	5.6	33
Having recreation facilities that are accessible for seniors and disabled persons	5.5	33*
Having adequate fish in local rivers and lakes	5.5	**
The availability of communications services for residents, like high-speed Internet service or cable TV	5.5	49
Having affordable rental properties	5.4	**
Having a high average household income	5.4	42
Having local residents actively participate in outdoor activities	5.4	32-33
Increasing the use of renewable energy, such as solar power	5.4	38
Having a good variety of visual arts exhibitions, like painting or sculpture, available for the public	5.4	22*
Having adequate access to bus service and public transportation	5.1	48
Having adequate community facilities for gatherings and meetings	5.1	**

*Not quantified, but described in text

**Not quantified nor addressed in text. We were unable to find valid data on the subject

2. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HISTORY

In 1806 Gabriel Moraga encountered the “Taulamne” Indians at their village on the Stanislaus River, giving the future Tuolumne County its name. Other early adventurers, such as Jedediah Smith, Joseph Walker, John Frémont, French trappers, and early emigrant parties, encountered the Central Sierra Me-Wuk Indians, a group who remains here and in surrounding counties. Accommodating a succession of prehistoric cultures, the county has a rich and varied cultural past that began more than 10,000 years ago.

Tuolumne County folklore suggests that miners from Sonora, Mexico, arrived here by 1848. These men, who gave the name of their home state to the new settlement of Sonoran Camp, mined for placer gold. It did not take long for word to spread that the precious metal was easily found: soon thousands of men from all over the world migrated to the county in search of gold. The story of Tuolumne County during the first few years of settlement is similar to other Mother Lode communities. Hordes of miners came. Water systems were developed. Settlements grew up around successful and rich mining areas. Transportation networks connected camps, first as trails, then as wagon roads. Farms, orchards, and truck gardens sprang up. Saloons and fandango halls, along with boarding houses, provided entertainment, bed, bath, and sustenance to the miners. The bare bones of civilization in the form of government, law, newspapers, and social lodges developed, and violence became commonplace. Natural and man-made disasters, such as fires and earthquakes, destroyed many of the structures of those early days.



Placer gold deposits were exhausted by the mid-1850s causing a major depression. Miners rushed to other strikes in Nevada, Colorado, or Alaska, hoping to find work, while local support industries collapsed or suffered. Farms were abandoned, businesses closed and auctioned off, and the mines shut down. Tuolumne County’s population decreased by nearly 50% between 1860 and 1870. Up to the early 1890s, the county suffered hardship and depression, only to have mining again enliven the area. The Lode Gold Rush lasted about 25 years—the county experienced another major period of growth and a population boom when the miners sunk deep shafts into the Mother Lode. Hoisting equipment was developed and pumps forced fresh air into the shafts, while electricity provided power, with the added benefit of providing some residential electricity.



Sonora and Jamestown boomed. A large increase in assessed valuation allowed the county to construct a new courthouse in 1898, build bridges, improve roads, establish a high school, and generally reestablish county services. Business and commerce revived, and agriculture came into its own again, while sawmills, planing, and box mills were developed. Hundreds of homes were built to house the increased population, and whole communities were established or rebuilt. Apples and pears from Tuolumne County were prized, as were its sugar pine wood, gold, and sash windows and doors.

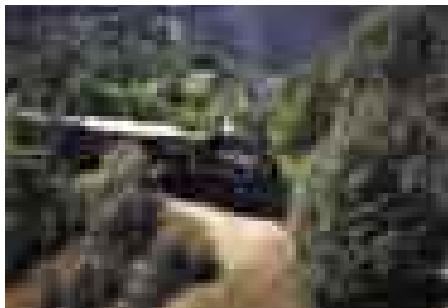
About this time, the City of San Francisco was feeling the need to expand its municipal water system to provide for a growing population.

By 1903 the city had acquired rights to Hetch Hetchy valley and Lake Eleanor. In 1913, the U.S. Congress, through the Raker Act, granted approval to flood Hetch Hetchy. Construction began the following year and greatly aided the economy and employment opportunities of southern Tuolumne County. Meanwhile, by World War I most of the mines in Tuolumne County were again idle and many people moved away to work in war-related industries in the San Francisco Bay Area. With the advent of the automobile and inexpensive truck transportation, many agricultural

Appendices

products and manufactured items were imported, rather than being produced locally. The Depression in 1929 sounded the death knell for most major industries, including agriculture and timber, and the county slumbered along with the rest of the United States during the following decade.

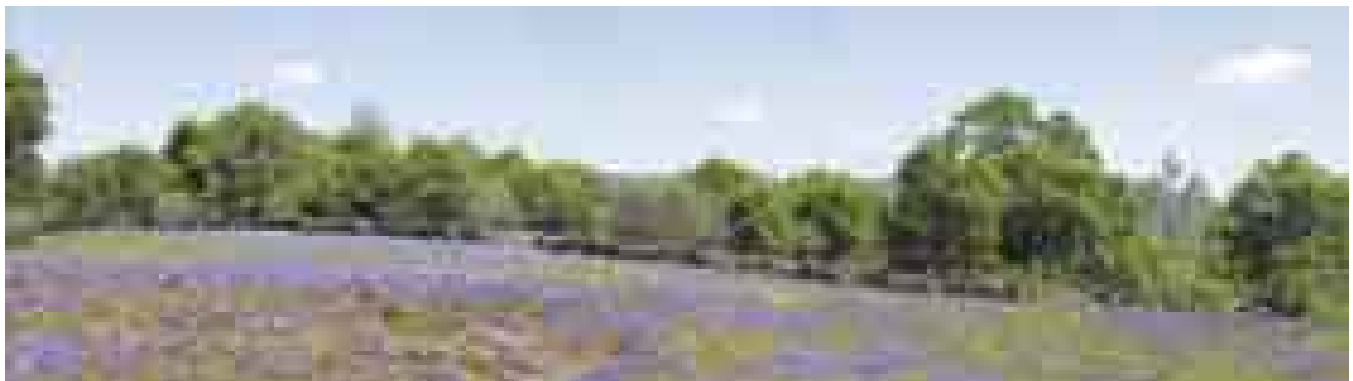
The centennial celebrations in 1948 and 1950 for the gold discovery and statehood, respectively, brought a renewed interest in the Mother Lode. Books were published, photographic and art exhibits mounted, and tourists came in droves to see where it had all happened. Tuolumne County's quaint towns with their narrow streets of stone, brick, and frame buildings from another century, the rolling fields studded with wildflowers, the rushing streams, and the serenity of the foothills were now a destination. A gateway to Yosemite and the Sonora Pass, a land of natural beauty, with a sense of its history and place, Tuolumne County welcomed the tourists, many of whom returned to settle or retire.



At the height of the Gold Rush in 1852, the population of Tuolumne County is estimated to have numbered 17,000 individuals, a figure that was not again reached until 1963. The number has steadily grown since that time. Intense subdivision developments started then, and today the county is experiencing a period of expansion unprecedented since the Gold Rush. The entire foothill area has recently experienced a rapid growth with the economy dependent upon employment by government, service industries, timber, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and tourism. With the expanding population has come an irreversible change to the fabric of society, the landscape, and the patterns of land use. Tuolumne County

is no longer 150 miles away from anywhere via a dirt road, but is now a couple hours drive from the Bay Area and Sacramento.

Those of us who worked on the Tuolumne County Profile 2005 believe that quality of life in our county is related to the aesthetic, scenic, philanthropic, recreational, artistic, and rural features we enjoy. The importance of history to the community fabric influences why people move here, why they remain, and what they feel is important and unusual about us. This is a county of yesterday, today, and tomorrow that we hope is captured in this indicator study.



3. HEALTH AND SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS

Causes of Illness and Death

The increased age-adjusted frequency of cancer in Tuolumne County residents relative to other Californians is explained by the racial distribution of the Tuolumne County population: The white population, with an elevated prevalence of cancer compared to other racial groups, is over represented compared to the California population in general. Compared to a racially equivalent population, Tuolumne County cancer incidence is similar to that of other Californians.¹

Suicide rates in Tuolumne County are approximately twice the average rates in other California counties. Victims of completed suicide tend to be young males, at a rate in California nearly three times that of females, reflecting the use of more lethal methods by young males. Enlightening is the fact that young female suicide attempts outnumber male attempts in California more than two to one.²

In the United States, health conditions that most commonly lead to disability include, in descending order, arthritis, back problems, heart disease, respiratory disease, deafness, limb stiffness, and mental/emotional problems.³ A Tuolumne County survey of health care providers indicates a pattern of illness reflecting these conditions, with a frequent concern that Tuolumne County residents do not maintain an ideal level of conditioning due to inactivity and poor diet.⁴ Chronic pain conditions are also recognized as a serious challenge to local caregivers, leading in some clinics to almost half of patients receiving medications for chronic pain.

Emergency Response System

Tuolumne County Ambulance Service (TCAS) currently has three stations that are staffed 24 hours a day, located in Sonora, Soulsbyville, and Groveland. TCAS augments services with two flexible deployment ambulances that are available for 12 hours each day. An off-duty employee call back system can be used to increase the number of available ambulances when necessary. Petroleum Helicopters Inc., Air-Med Team currently has an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Air Ambulance located at Columbia Airport. Emergency requests for ambulance service are received and dispatched by the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department 9-1-1 dispatch center. Cell phone 911 calls are received by the California Highway Patrol dispatch center.

The State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) recommends that emergency medical service areas (response zones) be designated so that 90 percent of Code 3 ("lights and siren") responses for ALS Ambulance shall be:

1. Metro/urban—8 minutes
2. Suburban/rural—20 minutes
3. Wilderness—as quickly as possible.

There are no recommended response time requirements for Code 2 (obeying all traffic laws) responses.

Nearly 10% of the 9-1-1 requests result in no patients being transported. Reasons for non-transport may include persons with no medical need, persons refusing treatment and/or transportation against the medical advice of the paramedics, patients who cannot be located, patients who left the scene, or deceased patients.⁵

Ambulance Response Statistics – Calendar Year 2004

ZONE TYPE	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Wilderness	Other	Cumulative
90th Percentile Response Time	10 Minutes	17 Minutes	39 Minutes	71 Minutes	8 Minutes	20 Minutes
Average Response Time	6 Minutes, 32 Seconds	11 Minutes, 2 Seconds	24 minutes, 8 Seconds	47 Minutes, 37 Seconds	4 Minutes, 36 Seconds	11 Minutes, 52 Seconds
Number Of Calls	436	2,273	314	13	15	3,051

Response Time Definition: Total time from time of dispatch by Tuolumne County Sheriff Office to the time an ambulance arrives on scene, for calls requiring Code 3 responses (Red lights and siren). 90th percentile means that 90% of the calls were in that response time.

Source(s): Data obtained from EMS Data Pro, Version 8.63 (Report # 526430613)

LIFE AND PROPERTY RESPONSE STATISTICS – CALENDAR YEAR 2004

DEPARTMENT	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME WITHIN JURISDICTION	# OF INCIDENTS WITHIN JURISDICTION							TOTAL INCIDENTS IN JURISDICTION	ALL MUTUAL AND AUTO AID RESPONSES	GRAND TOTAL INCIDENTS	DELAYED RESPONSES DUE TO LACK OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AVAILABILITY
		Structure	Wildland	Other Fire	EMS	Vehicle Accidents	Rescue	All Other Incidents Within Jurisdiction				
Columbia FPD	5:17	2	2	4	76	6	0	20	110	282	392	2
Groveland CSD	5:51	12	10	6	286	23	1	137	475	68	543	0
Jamestown FPD	See Note 1 Below	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	See Note 1	-
Mi Wuk – Sugar Pine FPD	4:00	4	0	5	41	8	0	32	90	151	241	0
Sonora City Fire Dept.	3:09	20	13	21	415	33	3	199	704	133	837	0
Strawberry FPD	See Note 2 Below	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	See Note 2	-
Tuolumne FPD	5:07	7	4	8	80	2	1	57	159	185	346	0
Tuolumne County Fire Dept.	11:00	198	163	-	3,227	401	22	42	4,053	1,143	5,196	779
Twain Harte CSD	3:50	4	2	1	101	7	1	76	192	226	418	1

REV 10/19/05

Note 1 – Jamestown FPD is managed under contract by CDF/TCFD. District statistics are included in the Tuolumne County Fire Department Information.

Note 2 – District did not provide requested information for this study.

Response Time Definition: Total elapsed time from time of dispatch to the time an engine arrives on scene. Includes both Code 2 (No red lights or siren) and Code 3 (Red lights and siren) responses

FPD – Fire Protection District

Data obtained primarily from the various jurisdictions' National Fire Information Reporting System programs.

Access to Health Care

There are no pulmonology subspecialists or neurosurgeons practicing in Tuolumne County. Local hospital services include full spectrum radiology services, including nuclear medicine, MRI, CT, and angiography. A new cardiac catheterization laboratory has recently expanded local cardiac diagnostic capabilities. Transportation services to and from medical appointments are available to patients for various services, either through local hospital or Health Department programs. An Adult Day Health Care program is available to transport disabled patients adjacent to health care services during the week.

There are six usual sources for financing routine health care.⁵ Four public sources for coverage include Medicare/Social Security (primarily for seniors and the disabled), MediCal and affiliated programs⁶ (primarily for low-income populations), County Medical Services Program (for low-income patients who do not qualify for MediCal), and the Veterans Administration (for veterans of the armed services). The remaining two usual sources for health care financing include private pay and insurance programs. Insurance programs include the Kaiser program as well as many different models of fee-for-service, capitated, and managed care. Additional programs are available to provide focused care for such needs as Family Planning, Sexually Transmitted Disease management, and Cervical or Breast Cancer screening.

Limitations to access are measurable through the monitoring of “preventable hospitalizations.” Preventable hospitalizations are defined as “ambulatory conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and hypertension that can often be managed in an outpatient setting.”⁷ Studies have utilized hospital discharge rates for these and other specific conditions to identify “preventable” hospitalization rates, and apply these as inverse markers of access to health care.⁸ It should be remembered that, while these hospitalizations are not in a strict sense clearly preventable, and while these numbers are influenced by advances in therapy and uncontrollable environmental factors, they have been identified as a valid marker for access to health care over time.^{9,10} Between 1994 and 1999, there was an average of 15.7 preventable hospitalizations, as defined in the 2004 California Healthcare Foundation study, per 1000 MediCal beneficiaries in Tuolumne County under age 65 years, compared with the California statewide average of 18.4 preventable hospitalizations for the same aged population, suggesting slightly better than average stability of these health conditions for Tuolumne County residents than the statewide average. In the same study, a trend was demonstrated showing an improvement in health for those patients receiving care from managed-care MediCal programs. While Tuolumne County remains a fee-for-service MediCal system, there is statewide movement inspired by such research towards managed-care MediCal networks.

While 1016 Tuolumne County zero to 5 year-old children in 2003 were enrolled in MediCal, and 861 were enrolled in the Healthy Families Program (HFP) or the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM), approximately 100 were uninsured even though they would have qualified for public insurance had they applied.¹¹

Preventive Health Care

Tobacco use among the young is an important indicator of lifetime smoking, and therefore of both lifetime risk of heart disease and cancer.^{12,13} The following chart illustrates trends in smoking among the graduating classes of high school students from both Tuolumne County and California high schools.

Each of these classes was surveyed for smoking behavior during their 9th grade year and again during their 11th grade year. Trends that are maintained in the class cohort are apparent in the charts for both the Tuolumne County and California student population.¹⁴

¹County Health Status Profiles, California Department of Health Services, 2005.

²California Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics, 2002.

³Prevalence of Disabilities and Associated Health Conditions among Adults, United States, 1999, MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report), February 23, 2001.

⁴Tuolumne County Health Department survey of local primary care practitioners, June 2005.

⁵Tuolumne County EMSA Data, 2004.

⁶There are also small programs for special circumstances, such as California Children's Services, Dental Connections, Family Pact, Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Programs, Charitable Programs, Service Groups, etc.

⁷Affiliated programs include the Healthy Families Program, Access for Infants and Mothers, and the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program.

⁸Preventing Unnecessary Hospitalizations in MediCal, California Healthcare Foundation, February 2004.

⁹Asthma in California: Findings from the 2001 California Health Interview Survey, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, November 2003.

¹⁰Preventing Unnecessary Hospitalizations in MediCal, California Healthcare Foundation, February 2004, p. 8.

¹¹California County Asthma Hospitalization Chart Book, California Department of Health Services Environmental Health Investigations Branch, September 2003.

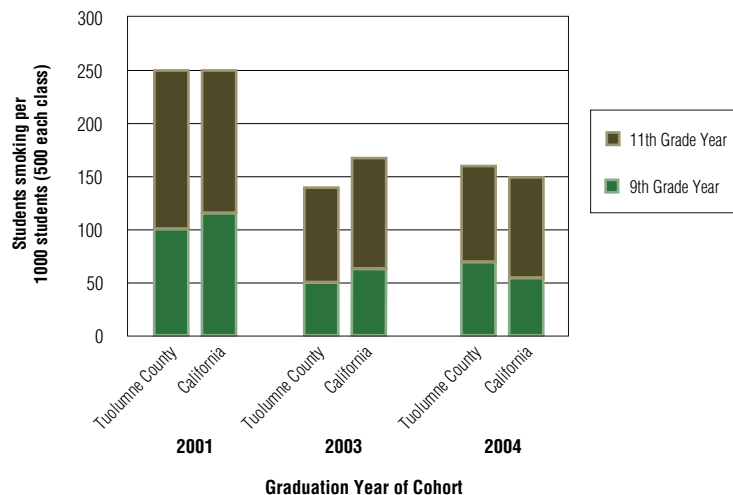
¹²Policy Brief, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, June 2004.

¹³Healthy People 2010 Objectives, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

¹⁴Chronic Disease, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Winter 2003.

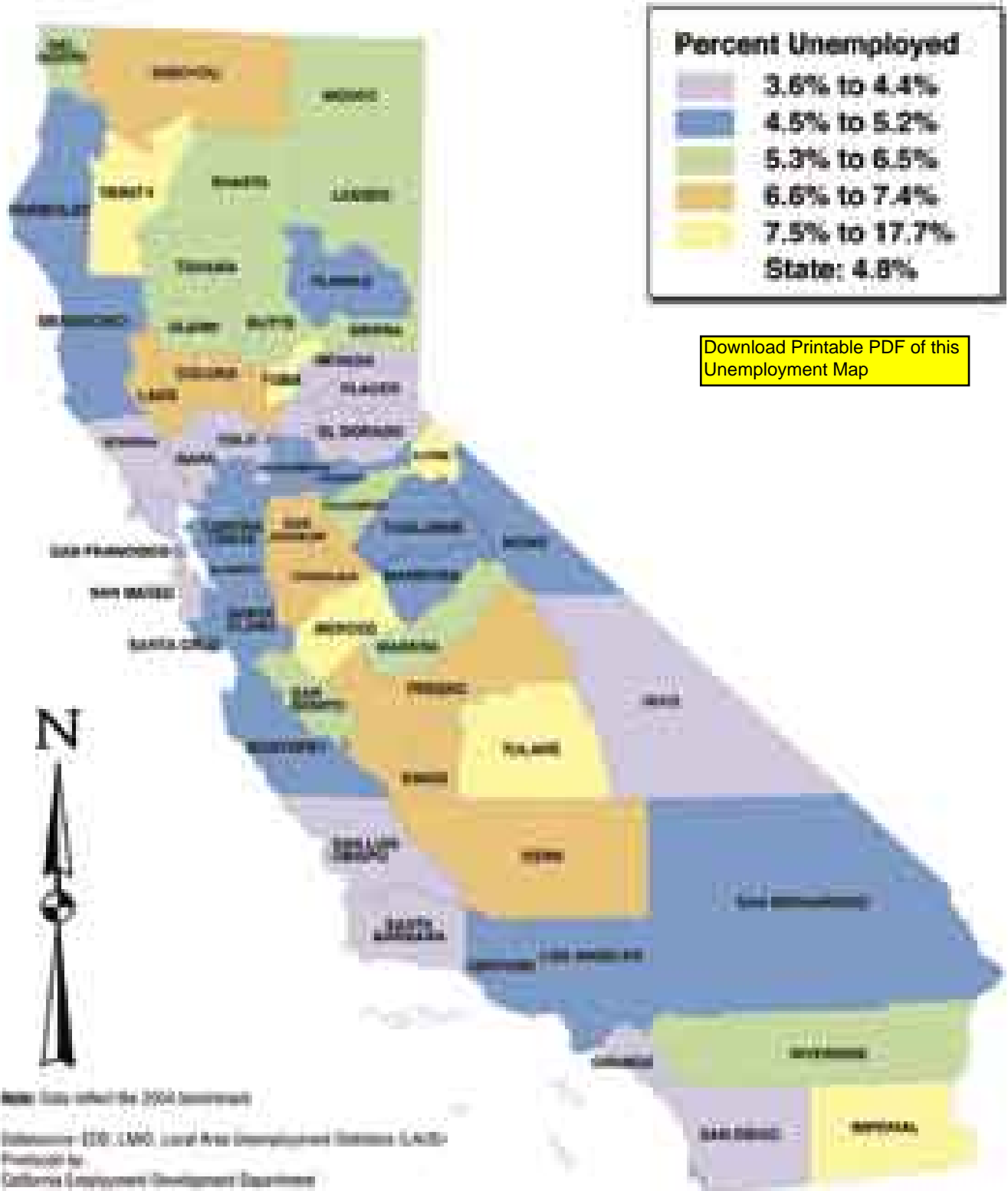
¹⁵California Healthy Kids Survey and California Student Survey, 2000-2005, California Department of Education.

High School Tobacco Use



County Unemployment Rates

September 2005 (Preliminary, Not Seasonally Adjusted)



[Download Printable PDF of this Unemployment Map](#)

Note: Data reflect the 2004 benchmark

Estimate: EDC, LMO, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
 Provided by:
 California Employment Development Department
 Labor Market Information Group
 Data Review and Support Unit
 October 2005

5. PRIVATE LAND AVAILABILITY

DISTRIBUTION OF GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS FOR UNINCORPORATED AREA OF TUOLUMNE COUNTY

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION	ACREAGE	PARCELS	
		TOTAL	VACANT
HDR High Density Residential	587	1172	181
MDR Medium Density Residential	130	259	51
LDR Low Density Residential	10,618	18819	3707
ER Estate Residential	13,216	4946	1675
HR Homestead Residential	6,486	1579	425
RR Rural Residential	30,644	3858	1440
LR Large Lot Residential	12,115	781	422
AG Agricultural	163,241	1783	1530
TPZ Timber Production	87,309	411	407
O Open Space	835	47	36
R/P Parks and Recreation	4,827	307	178
NC Neighborhood Commercial	102	134	41
GC General Commercial	717	739	245
HC Heavy Commercial	111	99	26
SC Special Commercial	585	285	100
BP Business Park	736	164	53
LI Light Industrial	527	145	47
HI Heavy Industrial	906	48	18
MU Mixed Use	252	213	60
P¹ Public	1,124,177	N/A	N/A
Total Acreage	1,458,121	35,789	10,642

DISTRIBUTION OF GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS²

The City of Sonora's General Plan is currently being updated. The following chart includes the proposed General Plan Designations and corresponding acreages.

General Plan Designations (Proposed)	Total Acres (Estimated)	Vacant Acres (Estimated)
High Density Residential	69.97	4.85
Medium Density Residential	66.57	11.52
Single-Family Residential	519.60	126.63
Estate Residential	117.80	29.63
Rural Residential	310.42	101.49
Special Planning	181.27	38.06
Commercial	214	12.05
Light Industrial	86.84	35.74
Public	379.37	16.68
Park/Recreation/Resource/Open Space	428.72	119

¹ The totals for Public (P) are all of those areas with the Public land use designation, including nearly all publicly owned properties held by such agencies as the Stanislaus National Forest, Yosemite National Park, and various Irrigation Districts, plus some private properties which are proposed for public uses such as future highway corridors.

² The acreages for each land use designation are calculated from the total land area for each designation found within the Tuolumne County GIS General Plan layer, as of July 7, 2005.

6. FOR MORE INFORMATION

Throughout the document, below many of the charts and tables there are website addresses where you can get updated and more comprehensive information. Also, in the next few pages, we cite additional websites that can be helpful.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

County Health Status Profiles, California Department of Health Services
www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/phweek/cprofile2003/cprofile2003.htm

Emergency Medical Services Authority www.emsa.ca.gov/aboutemsa/mis2002.asp

Healthy People 2010 Objectives, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.healthypeople.gov/

Chronic Disease, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/

California Healthy Kids Survey and California Student Survey, 2000-2005, California Department of Education
www.cde.ca.gov/ls/yd/re/chksdatacollection.asp

EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Tuolumne County - Historic Districts
www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/CA/Tuolumne/districts.html

National Association for the Education of Young Children www.naeyc.org

Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers www.pitc.org

California Preschool for All www.preschoolcalifornia.org

California Child Care Resource & Referral Network www.rnetwork.org

California Department of Education www.cde.ca.gov

Tuolumne County Library www.library.co.tuolumne.ca.us

Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools www.tuolcoe.k12.ca.us

Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District www.bofg.k12.ca.us

Columbia Union School District www.columbia49er.k12.ca.us

Curtis Creek School District www.ccreek.k12.ca.us

Jamestown School District www.jamestown.k12.ca.us

Sonora Elementary School www.ses.k12.ca.us

Sonora Union High School District www.sonorahs.k12.ca.us

Soulsbyville School www.soulsbyville.k12.ca.us

Appendices

Summerville Elementary School District www.sumel.k12.ca.us

Summerville Union High School District www.summbears.k12.ca.us

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

California Park and Recreation Society www.cprs.org

National Recreation and Park Association www.nrpaa.org

CDF www.fire.ca.gov

USFS www.fs.fed.us

BLM www.ca.blm.gov

ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

For information on Tuolumne County's labor market, including demographic information
www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county/tuolu.htm

Median Income www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrc/rep/state/incNote.html

California Demographics 2004
www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/CPS_2004_CA_basic_profile.pdf

California Demographics 2004 extended version
www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/Reports/CPS/CPS_Extended_3-04.pdf

Population Demographic Projections by county
www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/DRU_Publications/Projections/P-1_Tables.xls

Tuolumne County www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

Sierra Business Council www.sbcouncil.org

Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce www.tcchamber.com

Nonprofit information – InfonetTC www.infonettc.org

Statistics and Population/Demographics

Statistics Primer - This is a primer on finding statistical information on the Web and includes basic concepts of statistics such as mean, median, percentage, per capita, etc. It also includes a section on data analysis that always should be considered before using statistics.

California- General

- *California Center for Health Statistics* - "Advance Report: California Vital Statistics, 2000"
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/Publication/Highlights/Advance/Advance2000.pdf>
- *California Facts* - Links to a wide variety of quick facts from the State of California Website.
- *California General Statistics* - compiled from the Fedstats site. Provides brief data on agriculture; population, immigration & demographics; labor force; business; crime; education; energy & environment; gross state product and personal income. <http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/06000.html>
- *California Local Government Finance Almanac* - "Data, statistics, analyses, and articles on California city and county finance." Topics include vehicle license fees (VLF), state and local fiscal relationships, legislation, and property taxes. Provides links to government and other related sites. The author "is the League of California Cities' chief fiscal advisor, and is closely involved with proposals to reform local government finance."
<http://www.californiacityfinance.com/>
- *California State Health Facts Online* - This site is provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation. This resource contains the latest state-level data on demographics, health, and health policy, including health coverage, access, financing, and state legislation.
<http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?action=profile&area=California>
- *California Statistical Abstract* - This is the 38th edition of the California Statistical Abstract, a compilation of data on social, economic and physical aspects of the State.
http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/fs_data/stat-abs/sa_home.htm
- *Counting California* - Features a range of social and economic statistics about California and its counties including: population & demographics, business and industry, education, health & vital statistics, housing characteristics & costs, and finally work, labor and employment. <http://countingcalifornia.cdlib.org/>
- *The Data Source Handbook (.pdf)* - from the Calif. Dept. of Finance Demographic Research Unit State Census Data Center. This handbook provides Web links to state and federal agencies that provide statistical data. The handbook is divided into: (1) data sources by subject, (2) data sources in alphabetical order with URL addresses that link to the Web site, (3) statistical abstract, and (4) California State Census Network.
http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/scdc_handbook.pdf
- *Long-Term Socio-Economic Forecasts by County* - Biennial socio-economic forecasts, with history and long-term projections, for all counties in California. Includes statistics on wage and salary job creation, population growth, migration, industrial production, and other factors. Forecasts available back to 2000 for some counties; 2002 for others. From the California Department of Transportation.
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ote/socio-economic.htm>
- *San Joaquin Valley: Selected Statistics on Population, Economy, and Environment* - (2002) This report is a statistical overview of the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley, based on data published by state and federal agencies. The report shows that the San Joaquin Valley is a region of rich and diverse agriculture. The report includes many charts and tables summarizing selected data. It also cites published sources of current and historic data about California and the characteristics of its counties and their populations.
<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/02/10/02-010.pdf>
- *State and Country Quick Facts* - This new handy reference resource from the US Census Bureau allows users to access frequently requested Census Bureau information at the national, state, and county level. The site is navigated via a pull-down menu or interactive map, both of which produce tables of facts about the people, businesses, and geography for that state compared to the country as a whole. Another pull-down menu (or map) leads to similar information on the county level (compared to the state as a whole). In addition, each page offers

Appendices

a link to more detailed information from the Census Bureau, such as income and poverty estimates, economic censuses, county business profiles, and government finances, among other offerings.

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html>

National - General

- *Economic Report of the President* - This Web page contains the Current Economic Report of the President as well as economic reports from previous years, dating back as far as 1995. Statistical tables in spreadsheet format are also accessible and can be downloaded individually (.pdf) or in their entirety (.zip). These tables cover national income, population, employment, wages, productivity, corporate profits, agriculture and more than can be listed here.

- *Fedstats: One Stop Shopping for Federal Statistics* - provides statistics from over 70 federal agencies

<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

- *The Social Statistics Briefing Room* - at the White House. The purpose of this service is to provide easy access to current Federal social statistics. It provides links to information produced by a number of Federal agencies.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/ssbr.html>

- *Statistical Abstract of the U.S.*

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/01statab/stat-ab01.html>

- *Statistical Resources on the Web*

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stats.html>

Population/Demographics

- *Changing America* - Indicators of Social and Economic Well-Being by Race and Hispanic Origin. This chart book documents current differences in well-being by race and Hispanic origin and describes how such differences have evolved over the past several decades.

- *Counting California* - Population and demographics

<http://countingcalifornia.cdlib.org/subj/s17.html>

- *Population Reference Bureau* - provides population resources and world population data.

<http://www.prb.org/>

- *Poverty Statistics* - from the US Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html>

- *The UC Atlas of Global Inequality* - "This Atlas explores the interaction between global integration (globalization) and inequality, and provides maps, graphics and data." The site includes a database and "maps examining some aspects of material inequality, life and death, global connectedness ... economic globalization." and health. Users may select decades back to the 1960s and indicators. Also includes a glossary and bibliography. Searchable. From the Center for Global, International and Regional Studies (CGIRS) at the University of California Santa Cruz.

<http://ucatlas.ucsc.edu/>

Statistics on Specific Topics

- *Bureau of Transportation Statistics, US DOT* - includes many full-text guides and statistics all modes of transportation in the United States.

<http://www.bts.gov/>

- *California State Health Facts Online* - This site is provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation. This resource contains the latest state-level data on demographics, health, and health policy, including health coverage, access, financing, and state legislation.

<http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?action=profile&area=California>

- *ChildStatistics* - This web site offers easy access to federal and state statistics and reports on children and their families, including: population and family characteristics, economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education.
<http://www.childstats.gov/>
- *Crime and Justice Statistics Online* - from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Provides statistics on crime and homicide trends, law enforcement management and administrative statistics.
<http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/>
- *Drug Statistics Master Page* - Statistics about use and consequences of use of ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, and OTHER DRUGS
- *Facts about Newspapers* - A statistical summary of the newspaper industry covering such topics as reading audience, readership demographics, number of U.S. daily newspapers, U.S. newspapers circulation and much more.
<http://www.naa.org/info/facts02/index.html>
- *Farm Labor Data* - Compiles statistics on a number of aspects of farm labor such as socioeconomic conditions of hired farmworkers, farm safety and, labor laws and regulations
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/FarmLabor/farmlabor/>
- *Health, United States* An annual report on national trends in health statistics. This year's report includes a highlights section, chartbook, and 147 trend tables
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>
- *Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2000* - (National Center for Education Statistics) Provides statistics on practically all aspects of violence and crime in the school environment
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2001/crime2000/>
- *International Statistics* - Links to government statistical agencies by country beyond the U.S.
http://www.census.gov/main/www/stat_int.html
- *National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)* <http://nces.ed.gov/>
- *National Center for Health Statistics* - check out their data warehouse, news releases, and fact sheets.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>
- *Religious Statistics* - Adherents.com is a growing collection of over 49,000 adherent statistics and religious geography citations. It provides references to published membership/adherent statistics and congregation statistics for over 4,200 religions, churches, denominations, religious bodies, faith groups, tribes, cultures, movements, ultimate concerns, etc. They present data from both primary research sources such as government census reports, statistical sampling surveys and organizational reporting, as well as citations from secondary literature which mention adherent statistics. <http://www.adherents.com/>
- *State and Country Quick Facts* - This new handy reference resource from the US Census Bureau allows users to access frequently requested Census Bureau information at the national, state, and county level. The site is navigated via a pull-down menu or interactive map, both of which produce tables of facts about the people, businesses, and geography for that state compared to the country as a whole. Another pull-down menu (or map) leads to similar information on the county level (compared to the state as a whole). In addition, each page offers a link to more detailed information from the Census Bureau, such as income and poverty estimates, economic censuses, county business profiles, and government finances, among other offerings.
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html>
- *Uniform Crime Statistics 2000 (.pdf)* - The FBI's annual report on United States' crime levels. Data in the report are compiled from approximately 17,000 law enforcement agencies as part of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The report, which contains detailed tables and charts throughout, is available in seven sections in .pdf format only. Sections include a summary, crime index offenses reported and cleared, persons arrested, an analysis of motor vehicle theft, and a section on law enforcement personnel.
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- *United Nations CyberSchoolBus: Resource Source* - statistics and facts on global trends, counties, cites, etc.
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/res.html>

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PHOTO CREDITS

Thank you to:

Columbia College
David Wilkinson
Dodge Ridge Ski Resort
Jim Sells
John Buckley
Phyllis Goss Bigelow
Rich Miller
The Union Democrat
Tuolumne County Library, Recreation, and Visitor Bureau
U.S. Forest Service
Zephyr Whitewater Rafting

PUBLICATION ART DIRECTION/DESIGN

Sabre Design & Publishing • Groveland, CA

PLANNING

Patricia Jones Consulting • Jamestown, CA

Countless other people graciously contributed their time and expertise to the success of this project. Thank you.

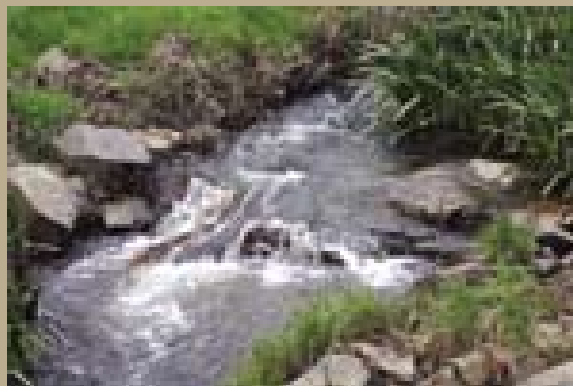
CONCLUSION

In Tuolumne County, we live in one of the most spectacular places in the world. We benefit from clean air and water, and bountiful recreational and cultural opportunities.

We face challenges similar to other rural areas. We have limited access to high-speed communication technology, and a shortage of benefited, living-wage paying jobs. Our public agencies and nonprofit organizations face decreasing funding and increasing demand.

We pride ourselves as a community that continuously works together to improve our quality of life. We know each other and face our challenges together openly and creatively.

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