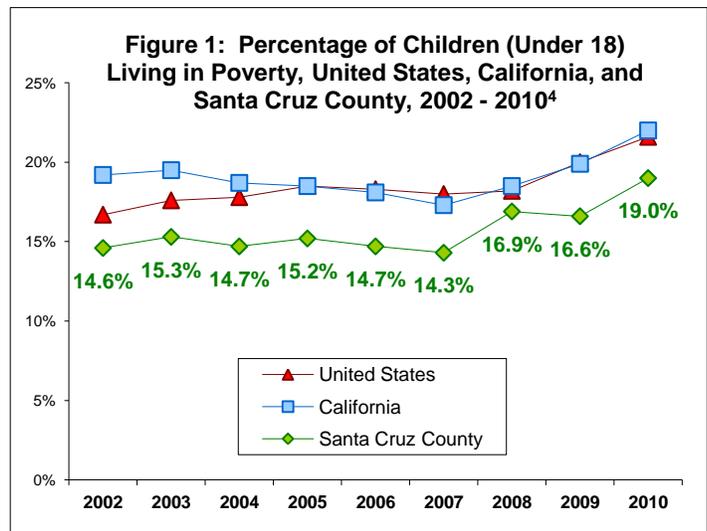


INCOME

Importance	Poverty and ill health are inextricable. In general, poor countries tend to have worse health than wealthier countries. Also, within a given country, poor people tend to have worse health than wealthier people. This association reflects causality running in both directions: poverty breeds ill health, and ill health keeps poor people poor. ¹
Definitions	<p>Poverty: As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau,² when a family's total income is less than the family's defined poverty threshold, with 48 different values dependent upon family size and age composition; the family and every individual in the family is considered to be in poverty (visit link in source 2 for thresholds and more information).</p> <p>Homeless person: As defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,³ an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and who has a primary nighttime residence that is either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), or - an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or - a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

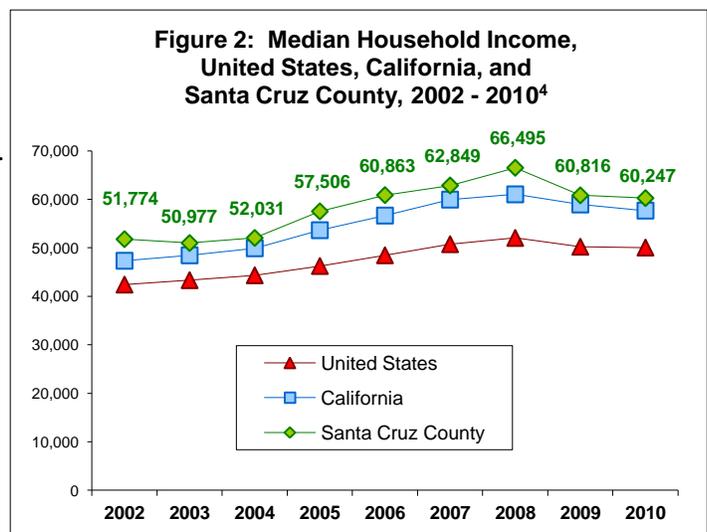
CHILDREN IN POVERTY

In 2010, an estimated 19.0% of Santa Cruz County children under age 18 were living in poverty, an estimated 10,308 children. The upward trend is consistent with California and the U.S., which had childhood poverty levels of 22.0% and 21.6% respectively in 2010 (see Figure 1).⁴



INCOME

The median household income in Santa Cruz County in 2010 was \$60,247, compared to \$57,644 statewide and \$50,046 nationally (see Figure 2).⁴



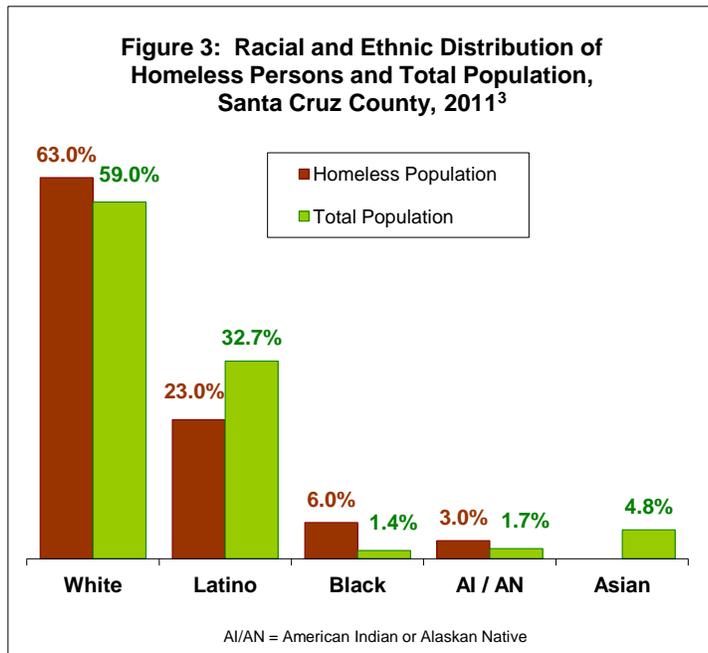
HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness has devastating effects on health. Nationally and locally, people who die while homeless have an average age of death that is approximately 30 years younger than the general U.S. population. A 2011 point-in-time enumeration effort counted 2,771 homeless persons in Santa Cruz County.³ Using a formula recommended by Applied Survey Research and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the actual number of homeless persons in Santa Cruz County is estimated to be 9,041 persons, which is more than double the 2009 estimate of 4,624.

INCOME

Also in 2011, 52% of respondents said this was the first time they had been homeless, compared to 46% in 2009. Job loss was the most frequently cited cause of homelessness. The racial and ethnic distribution of homeless persons differs from the total population distribution with a higher percentage of Blacks being homeless (see Figure 3).³

Other findings of interest from the 2011 Santa Cruz County Homeless Census include: the majority were White males between the ages of 31 and 60, two-thirds were already living in Santa Cruz County when they most recently became homeless, more individuals were unsheltered than sheltered, 28% indicated that it had been more than three years since their last permanent housing situation, and 63% of all survey respondents said they had a disability condition.³



Primary Prevention Activities	Homeless Action Partnership: has the vision that all Santa Cruz County residents will have the stable housing and appropriate services they need to live in dignity and reach their highest potential.	
Secondary Prevention Activities	Homeless Services Center: dedicated to the coordinated provision of services, including both emergency and transitional services, to homeless individuals and families to enable clients to achieve self-sufficiency.	
Helpful Websites	County of Santa Cruz, Homeless Persons Health Project (HHPH)	http://www.santacruzhealth.org/phealth/2homeless.htm
	County of Santa Cruz, Planning Unit, Homeless Action Partnership	http://www.sccoplanning.com/html/housing/hap.htm
	National Alliance to End Homelessness	http://www.endhomelessness.org/
Sources	<p>(1) Wagstaff Adam. Poverty and health sector inequalities. Bull World Health Organ [serial on the Internet]. 2002 [cited 2013 Jan 08]; 80(2): 97-105. Available from: http://www.scielosp.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0042-96862002000200004. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0042-96862002000200004.</p> <p>(2) U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty. "How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty." http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html.</p> <p>(3) Applied Survey Research. (2011) "2011 County Homeless Census." Watsonville, CA. http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org/storage/database/homelessness/santacruz/2011SantaCruzHomelessReport.pdf.</p> <p>(4) United States Census Bureau. "Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates." http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/interactive/#.</p>	