

## 9. Community Health

Health and human service agencies are involved in treating and monitoring the health care needs of the community. Community health indicators measure the success of programs and services that provide access to physical and mental support for the community.

When considering community health indicators, it is helpful to look not only at traditional medical indicators (births, deaths, etc.), but those that measure individual and collective health as well. Individual health may be influenced by a variety of factors, including educational attainment, employment, environmental factors, and even community relations. Other indicators measure the availability, and perhaps the adequacy, of health care services in the area.

Indicators in this section can be linked to issues of unemployment and poverty, addressed in sections four and five, as health issues affect a person's ability to earn income and improve their standard of living. These issues can also be linked to welfare and education, sections ten and eleven, as health issues may prevent the acquisition of the skills and higher education needed to attain adequate income levels.

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## Births, Deaths, & Leading Causes of Death

### Overview

Births and deaths is the total number of live births and deaths reported to the California Department of Health Services. Stillbirths are not included in either count. The data is reported by place of residence at the time of birth or death, and as long as the birthmother and decedent were permanent residents of El Dorado County at the time of birth or death, they are included. Occurrence data is also included, which reports the number of birth and death occurrences in the county, regardless of whether the birth mother or decedent was a permanent resident. The live birth rate is the number of live births per thousand people in the county.

Each birth and death is reported with certain characteristic information. For births, this includes age of mother (see the teenage pregnancy indicator), race/ethnicity of the mother, birth weight (see the indicator for low birth weight infants), and other characteristics. For

deaths, this includes age and race/ethnicity of decedent, place of residence at time of death, and cause of death, among other characteristics. This indicator includes data on the ten leading causes of death in California each year, broken out by county. Some categories are not available when, during that year, the cause of death was displaced among the top ten by another cause in California. This table shows the eleven most common causes of death between 1990 and 2004.

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

### El Dorado County

There was a total of 2,036 live births to El Dorado County residents in 2006, with 1,243 births occurring in El Dorado County.

In 2004, the number of deaths that occurred in El Dorado County totaled 1,011, with 1,235 deaths to El Dorado County residents. The lower number of deaths occurring in El Dorado County may be a result of fewer health care facilities available to county residents. Similar to the rest of California, cancer and heart disease are the top two causes of death in the county.

Number of Live Births, County

Year	Residence		Occurrence
	Number	Rate	Number
1990	1,993	16.1	1,566
1991	1,956	15.0	1,504
1992	1,773	13.1	1,333
1993	1,789	12.9	1,359
1994	1,792	12.6	1,346
1995	1,726	12.0	1,353
1996	1,664	11.4	1,329
1997	1,666	11.2	1,271
1998	1,677	11.1	1,311
1999	1,637	10.7	1,229
2000	1,628	10.5	1,169
2001	1,698	10.6	1,192
2002	1,765	10.8	1,164
2003	1,751	10.5	1,126
2004	1,897	11.2	1,187
2005	1,930	11.2	1,184
2006	2,036	11.6	1,243

Source: California Department of Public Health. Rates calculated by CED.

Number of Live Births, California

Year	Residence		Occurrence
	Number	Rate	Number
1990	611,666	20.7	612,834
1991	609,228	20.2	610,393
1992	600,838	19.6	602,037
1993	584,483	18.8	585,344
1994	567,034	18.0	567,892
1995	551,226	17.4	552,083
1996	538,628	16.9	539,487
1997	524,174	16.3	525,246
1998	521,265	16.0	522,653
1999	518,073	15.6	519,248
2000	531,285	15.8	532,611
2001	527,371	15.3	528,609
2002	529,245	15.1	530,204
2003	540,827	15.2	541,835
2004	544,685	15.0	545,758
2005	548,700	15.0	550,142
2006	562,157	15.2	563,522
2007	566,137	15.1	567,527

Source: California Department of Public Health. Rates calculated by CED.

Number of Deaths, County

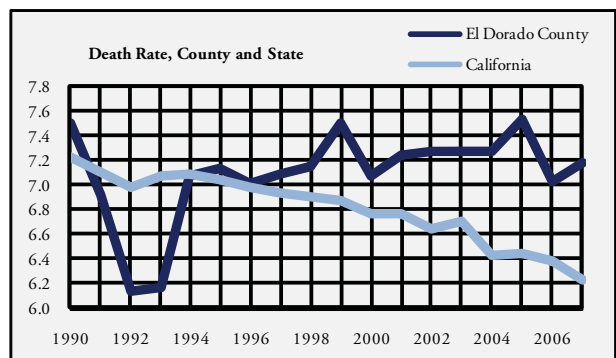
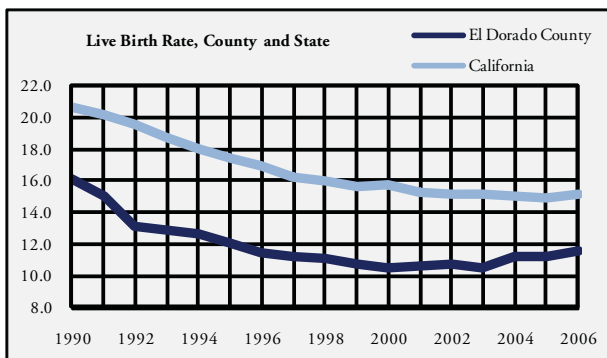
Year	Residence		Occurrence
	Number	Rate	Number
1990	929	7.5	824
1991	901	6.9	774
1992	827	6.1	733
1993	856	6.2	739
1994	1,004	7.1	861
1995	1,026	7.1	873
1996	1,024	7.0	862
1997	1,053	7.1	895
1998	1,078	7.1	926
1999	1,149	7.5	960
2000	1,101	7.1	947
2001	1,161	7.2	916
2002	1,191	7.3	968
2003	1,213	7.3	1,004
2004	1,235	7.3	1,011
2005	1,303	7.5	n/a
2006	1,233	7.0	n/a
2007	1,275	7.2	n/a

Source: California Department of Public Health. Rates calculated by CED.

Number of Deaths, California

Year	Residence		Occurrence
	Number	Rate	Number
1990	213,766	7.2	214,919
1991	214,220	7.1	216,006
1992	214,586	7.0	216,379
1993	220,271	7.1	222,330
1994	222,854	7.1	224,733
1995	222,626	7.0	224,604
1996	222,308	7.0	224,084
1997	223,438	6.9	225,243
1998	225,450	6.9	227,897
1999	227,965	6.9	230,054
2000	228,281	6.8	230,505
2001	232,790	6.8	234,683
2002	233,246	6.7	235,180
2003	239,325	6.7	239,977
2004	232,464	6.4	232,958
2005	236,220	6.4	237,526
2006	236,452	6.4	237,604
2007	233,467	6.2	n/a

Source: California Department of Public Health. Rates calculated by CED.



**Leading Causes of Death, El Dorado County**

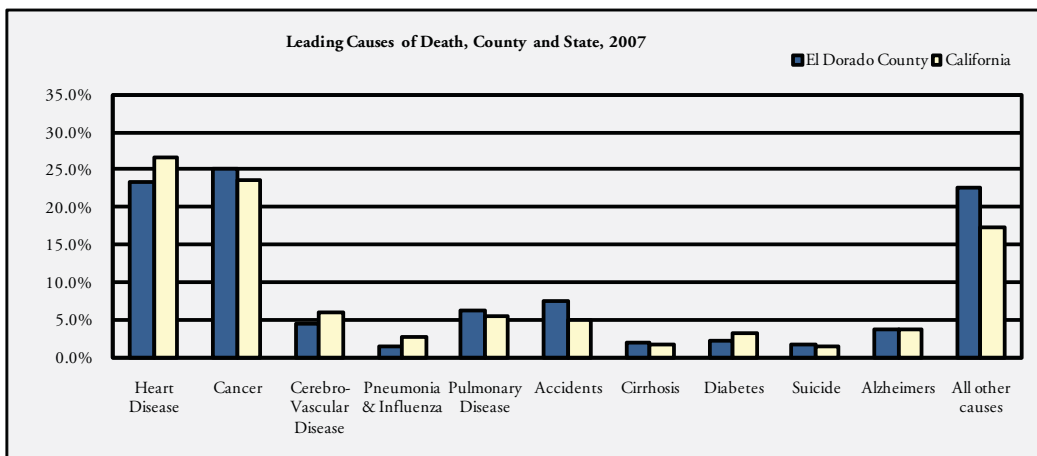
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All causes	1,053	1,078	1,149	1,101	1,161	1,191	1,213	1,235	1,303	1,233	1,275
Heart Disease	268	283	343	275	324	329	292	341	304	313	298
Cancer	275	291	302	300	295	323	324	296	319	300	319
Cerebro-Vascular Disease	97	69	76	69	66	72	74	76	83	52	56
Pneumonia & Influenza	61	60	40	29	38	35	24	33	33	36	18
Pulmonary Disease	41	72	51	67	71	84	75	73	104	70	79
Accidents	61	33	47	54	65	47	55	59	74	86	96
Cirrhosis	17	15	21	18	13	17	22	30	23	22	23
Diabetes	23	23	28	28	23	19	18	26	23	24	29
Suicide	26	23	21	19	25	22	29	14	34	31	21
Alzheimers	11	15	17	22	33	32	36	33	41	32	48
All other causes	173	194	203	220	208	211	264	254	265	267	288

Source: California, Department of Health Services

**Leading Causes of Death, California**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All causes	223,438	225,450	227,965	228,281	232,790	233,246	239,325	232,464	236,220	236,452	233,467
Heart Disease	68,273	68,946	69,900	68,533	69,004	68,387	69,013	65,002	64,689	64,648	62,220
Cancer	51,818	51,186	52,880	53,005	53,810	53,926	54,307	53,708	54,613	54,043	54,918
Cerebro-Vascular Disease	16,649	16,385	18,079	18,090	18,078	17,551	17,686	16,884	15,551	15,011	13,724
Pneumonia & Influenza	12,286	13,316	8,014	8,355	8,167	8,098	8,184	7,331	7,537	7,329	6,522
Pulmonary Disease	11,737	12,261	13,187	12,754	13,056	12,643	13,380	12,519	13,167	12,807	12,497
Accidents	8,762	8,620	8,940	8,814	9,274	9,882	10,470	10,614	10,926	11,236	11,426
Cirrhosis	3,502	3,460	3,546	3,673	3,759	3,725	3,832	3,686	3,819	3,826	4,052
Diabetes	5,611	5,796	6,004	6,203	6,457	6,783	7,088	7,119	7,679	7,367	7,395
Suicide	3,424	3,215	3,047	3,113	3,256	3,210	3,396	3,364	3,188	3,296	3,543
Alzheimers	2,057	2,087	3,934	4,398	4,897	5,405	6,585	6,962	7,694	8,141	8,495
All other causes	38,596	40,000	40,434	41,343	43,032	43,636	45,384	45,275	47,357	40,398	40,311

Source: California, Department of Health Services



## Teenage Pregnancy

### Overview

Teen births are reported by the California Department of Health Services as births to mothers under the age of twenty. It is a subset of the data presented in the previous indicator on births, deaths, and cause of death.

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

Teen pregnancy is a major national and state concern because teen mothers and their babies face increased risks to their health and economic status. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, teen mothers are more likely than mothers over age twenty to give birth prematurely (before thirty-seven completed weeks of pregnancy). Although teenage birth rates slowed to the lowest point ever in 2007, teenage pregnancy remains an important concern throughout the United States. In 2007, there

were 6,218 girls under age 15 who gave birth. Girls this young are more likely to deliver prematurely than fully matured women.

Many factors contribute to the increased risk to health problems to babies born to teenage mothers. Teens often have poor eating habits and neglect taking their vitamins, and many smoke, drink alcohol, or even take drugs. Evidence also shows that many teens are less likely than older women to be of adequate pre-pregnancy weight and/or to gain an adequate amount of weight during pregnancy leading to an increased chance of having a low birth weight baby.

Teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of high school than those who wait until later years to have their own children. Lacking necessary education skills, teenage mothers potentially have a harder time find-

Teen Birth Rates by Age of Mother

Year	El Dorado County		California	
	10-14	15-19	10-14	15-19
1990	a	45.1	1.4	69.4
1991	a	47.1	1.4	70.9
1992	0.0	35.8	1.5	68.6
1993	0.0	44.2	1.4	67.0
1994	a	44.4	1.5	65.5
1995	a	47.4	1.5	62.9
1996	0.0	39.6	1.3	58.2
1997	a	38.9	1.1	53.8
1998	a	34.5	0.9	50.9
1999	0.3	31.6	0.9	48.5
2000	0.3	23.0	0.7	46.7
2001	0.0	24.3	0.6	43.7
2002	0.1	22.3	0.6	40.6
2003	0.1	16.8	0.5	38.9
2004	0.0	17.4	0.5	38.1
2005	0.2	18.4	0.5	37.2
2006	0.0	15.2	0.5	37.8

Source: California Department of Public Health

Total Teen Births (15-19 Years Old)

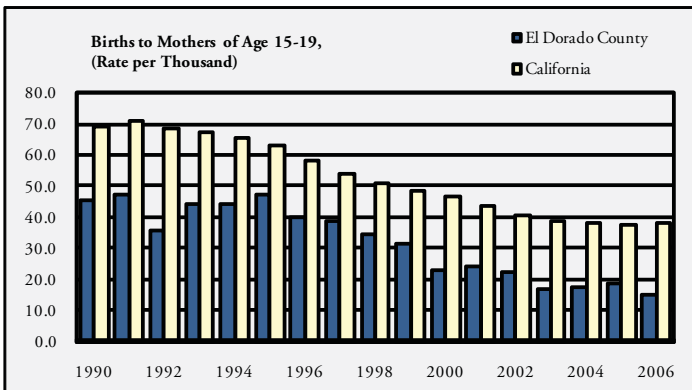
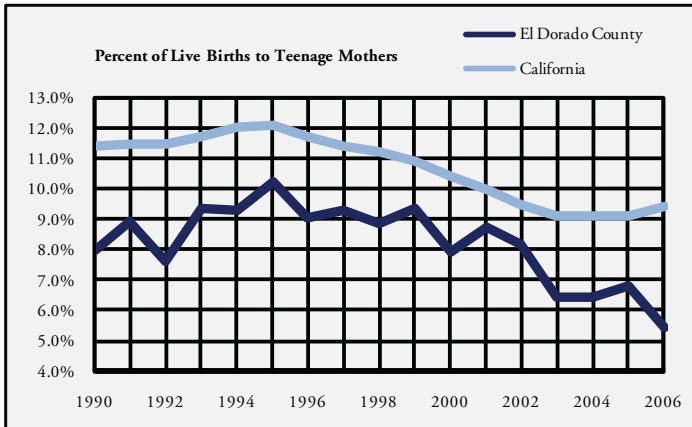
Year	El Dorado County		California	
	Total teen births	Percent of live births	Total teen births	Percent of live births
1990	159	8.0%	69,560	11.4%
1991	174	8.9%	70,322	11.5%
1992	135	7.6%	69,272	11.5%
1993	167	9.3%	68,519	11.7%
1994	167	9.3%	68,198	12.0%
1995	176	10.2%	66,644	12.1%
1996	150	9.0%	63,118	11.7%
1997	155	9.3%	59,851	11.4%
1998	149	8.9%	58,141	11.2%
1999	153	9.3%	56,577	10.9%
2000	129	7.9%	55,373	10.4%
2001	148	8.7%	52,966	10.0%
2002	144	8.2%	50,201	9.5%
2003	113	6.5%	49,330	9.1%
2004	122	6.4%	49,737	9.1%
2005	131	6.8%	50,017	9.1%
2006	111	5.5%	52,770	9.4%

Source: California Department of Public Health

ing and keeping well-paying jobs. As a result, a child born to an unmarried teenage high school dropout is ten times as likely as other children, ages 8-12, to be living in poverty.

*El Dorado County*

Teen pregnancies in El Dorado County represented 10 percent of all pregnancies in 1995, but have since been decreasing even though the population has grown (with the exception of 2002). Also, teen pregnancy rates in El Dorado County have always been lower than the overall incidence throughout California. Only 5.5 percent of all births in the county were from teen mothers in 2006, lower than the California average of 9.4 percent. All of births were to teen mothers 15-19 years old.



## Low Birth Weight Infants

### Overview

Births of infants with a low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams, about 5.5 pounds, or about 5 pounds and 8 ounces) are reported by the California Department of Health Services as subset of the data presented in the previous indicator on births, deaths, and cause of death.

Low birth weight is a major cause of infant mortality. Birth weight is also an important element in childhood development. There are many factors that lead to low birth weights, such as smoking tobacco during pregnancy, using alcohol or other nonprescribed substances, poor nutrition, lack of or late prenatal care, and premature birth. Low birth weight babies are at a higher risk to be born with underdeveloped organs. This can lead to lung problems, such as respiratory distress syndrome, bleeding of the brain, vision loss, and/or serious intestinal problems. Low birth weight babies are more than twenty times more likely to

die in their first year of life than babies born at a normal weight.

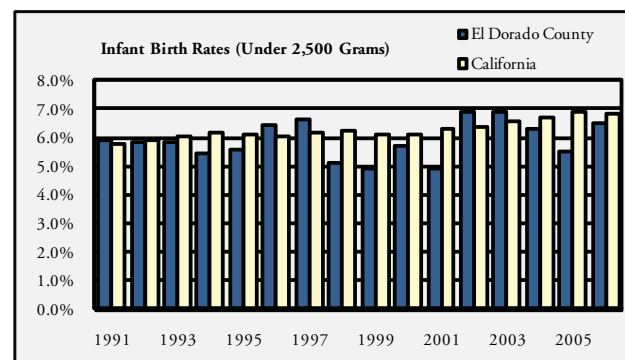
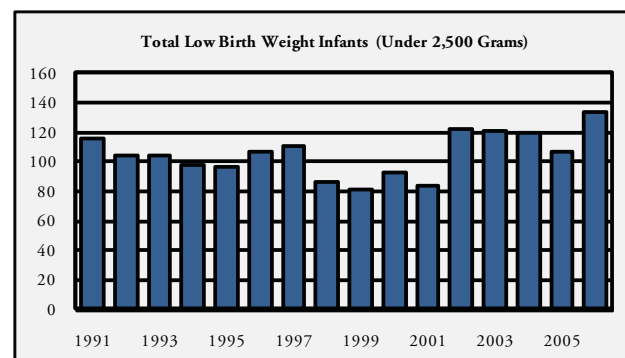
### El Dorado County

The total number of low birth weight babies was 134 in El Dorado County in 2006, which was 6.5 percent of the total number of births in the same year. This percentage has decreased from 7 percent in 2002 and 2003, and is .4 percent less than the rate of low birth weight babies across California.

#### Low Birth Weight Infants (Under 5.5 Pounds)

Year	El Dorado County		California	
	Number	Percent of total live births	Number	Percent of total live births
1991	116	5.9%	35,359	5.8%
1992	104	5.9%	35,608	5.9%
1993	104	5.8%	35,116	6.0%
1994	98	5.5%	34,876	6.2%
1995	96	5.6%	33,588	6.1%
1996	107	6.4%	32,649	6.1%
1997	110	6.6%	32,232	6.1%
1998	86	5.1%	32,438	6.2%
1999	81	4.9%	31,686	6.1%
2000	93	5.7%	32,853	6.1%
2001	84	4.9%	33,196	6.3%
2002	122	6.9%	33,859	6.4%
2003	121	6.9%	35,659	6.6%
2004	119	6.3%	36,481	6.7%
2005	107	5.5%	37,653	6.9%
2006	134	6.5%	38,517	6.9%
2007	n/a	n/a	38,923	6.9%

Source: California Department of Public Health



## Infant Mortality

### Overview

Infant deaths are defined by the California Department of Health Services as the death of a baby prior to its first birthday. It is a subset of total deaths presented in the previous indicator on births, deaths, and cause of death.

Infant mortality is used to compare the health and well-being of populations across and within countries. The infant mortality rate declined from 26 per 1,000 live births in 1960, to 6.9 per 1,000 live births in 2000. However, from 2000 to 2005 there was no change in the U.S. infant mortality rate. The U.S. fell to twenty-ninth in the world for infant mortality in 2004 (CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, 2009). In the U.S., the state of California was ranked twenty-two among the fifty states in 2003, dropping from a ranking of thirty-three in 1990 (CDC, NCHS, 2003). According to the California Department of Public Health, California's strengths include a low infant mortality rate at 5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006.

Infant mortality represents many factors surrounding birth, including but not limited to the health and socio-economic status of the mother, prenatal care, quality of the health services delivered to the mother and child, and infant care. In addition, high infant mortality rates are

often considered preventable and can be influenced by various education and care programs.

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

**Neonatal death** is a death occurring within the first twenty-eight days of life.

**Infant death** is a death occurring during the first year of life.

### Number of Infant Deaths

Year	El Dorado County		California	
	Number	Infant Death Rate	Number	Infant Death Rate
1991	7	3.6	4,596	7.5
1992	14	7.9	4,174	6.9
1993	8	4.5	3,970	6.8
1994	16	8.9	3,948	7.0
1995	6	3.5	3,478	6.3
1996	10	6.0	3,186	5.9
1997	3	1.8	3,091	5.9
1998	6	3.6	2,994	5.7
1999	8	4.9	2,787	5.4
2000	3	1.8	2,884	5.4
2001	9	5.3	2,815	5.3
2002	12	6.8	2,875	5.4
2003	4	2.3	2,819	5.2
2004	10	5.3	2,811	5.2
2005	5	2.6	2,913	5.3
2006	n/a	n/a	2,829	5.0

Source: California Department of Public Health

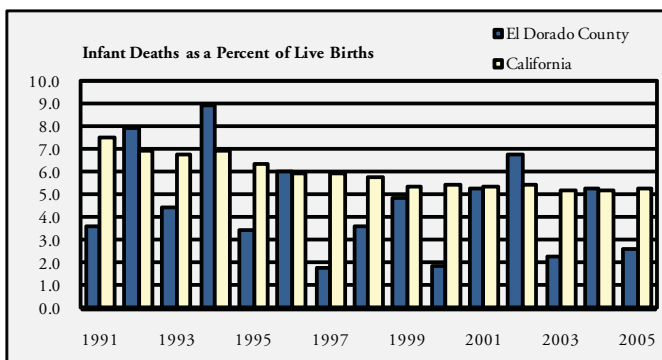
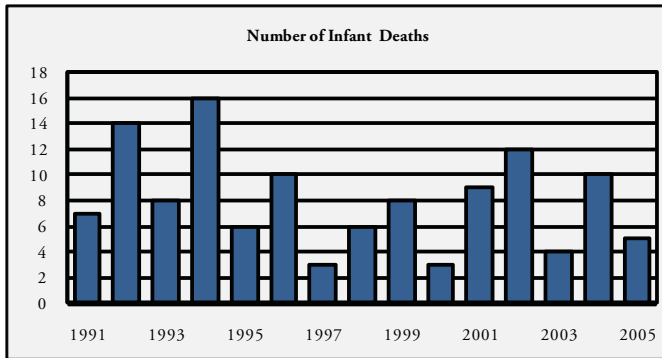
\*Percent of infant deaths out of every 1,000 live births.

### El Dorado County

There were a total of five infant deaths in El Dorado County in 2005, a decrease of five deaths from the previous year. In 2002, El Dorado County saw the highest number of infant deaths since 1994.

**At this time the most current data available is from 2005.**





## Medical Service Providers

### Overview

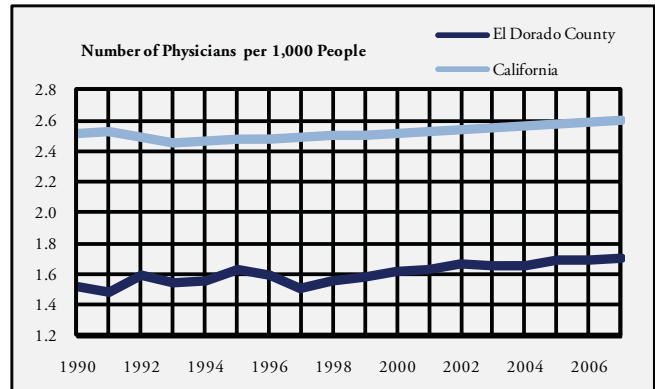
The Medical Board of California is the state’s licensing agency for practicing physicians. The table in this section presents the number of licenses where the primary address of the practice is in El Dorado County. This may not entirely represent health care availability in the area if there are a significant number of physicians practicing part-time in El Dorado County with a primary address in neighboring places.

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

### Number of Physicians

Fiscal Year	Number of physicians	Total physicians in CA
1990	188	74,437
1991	193	76,043
1992	214	76,367
1993	215	76,411
1994	220	77,311
1995	234	78,169
1996	232	79,048
1997	224	80,341
1998	234	81,762
1999	242	82,872
2000	251	84,675
2001	261	86,934
2002	274	89,025
2003	276	91,049
2004	282	92,852
2005	292	94,546
2006	297	96,299
2007	303	97,878

Source: Medical Board of California



### El Dorado County

The Medical Board of California regulates the majority of medical issues and concerns in California, and is responsible for reporting the number of physicians in specific areas in their annual report. As of 2007, there were 303 physicians actively practicing in El Dorado County, an increase of six physicians from the previous year. As the number of physicians in California and El Dorado County continues to rise, community health and preventative care services will continue to improve. Also, an influx of physicians in a particular area raises that area’s economic and educational status.

Over 100 physicians have set up practices in El Dorado County since 1990.

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

## Persons Living with a Disability

### Overview

The following totals are included for the six major categories of disabilities as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Only persons 16-64 years of age were asked about employment disabilities. Only persons 65 years of age and older were asked about a disability that prevents them from leaving their home (a going outside the home disability). Six of the major disabilities are listed below:

**Sensory disabilities** are conditions that affect the sensory organs, such as blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.

**Physical disabilities** are conditions that substantially limit one or more basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.

**Mental disabilities** are conditions that affect thinking processes, such as learning, remembering, or concen-

trating.

**Self-care disabilities** are conditions preventing affected individuals from performing everyday personal tasks, such as bathing and dressing oneself, or getting around inside the home without assistance.

**Going outside the home disabilities** are conditions where people are confined to their home and cannot leave it without assistance.

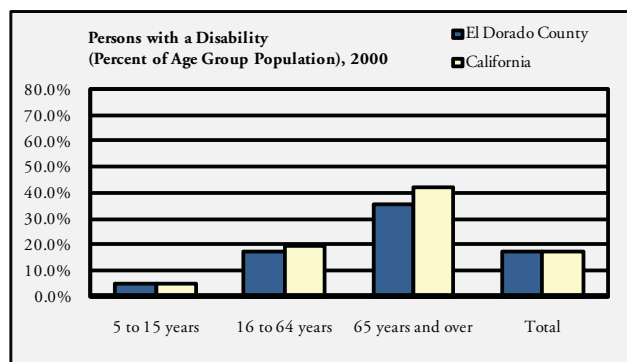
**Employment disability** is the inability to work at a job or business.

In order to understand the special needs of a community, it helps to quantify the problem in terms of the number of people in a community who live with a disability, and the types of facilities and services that are needed by them and are available to them.

### El Dorado County

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

Statewide, 5,923,361 Californians reported some kind of disability in 2000, which is 17.6 percent of the state's total population.



Persons with a Disability, 2000

Age	El Dorado County			California		
	Employment disability	Total with a disability	Percent of age group population	Employment disability	Total with a disability	Percent of age group population
5 to 15 years	n/a	1,273	4.7%	n/a	277,503	4.8%
16 to 64 years	11,371	17,378	17.3%	2,770,128	4,180,265	19.4%
65 years and over	n/a	6,884	35.7%	n/a	1,465,593	42.2%
Total	11,371	25,535	17.4%	2,770,128	5,923,361	17.6%

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

