

# ACTION for Healthy Communities

## Social Environment Issues

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# Social Environment

To gauge issues surrounding the local social environment, the assessment looked to a handful of key resources: voter participation, perceptions of discrimination and whether or not people give blood.

One in 10 county phone-survey respondents reported experiencing some type of discrimination within the county in the past 12 months - down slightly from 1999. Among those citing discrimination, the basis varied widely. Age-based discrimination was noted most frequently, by 38 percent, and was cited both by older and younger adults. One in five noted racial or ethnic discrimination, down dramatically from the 41 percent noted in 1999. However, Latinos were still two-and-a-half times as likely as Caucasians to have experienced discrimination, and other non-Caucasians were twice as likely. One third of phone-survey respondents say they are "very concerned" about racism.

Voting in 2000 was up from 1998, reflecting the traditionally stronger interest shown in presidential election years. More than half of eligible voters participated in the November 2000 general election, up 12 percent from 1998. Thirty-seven percent voted in the March primaries, up 7 percent from 1998. Participation in the primary elections may also have been aided from California's move to have primary elections on Super Tuesday in March.

In terms of voting preferences, the trend appears to be toward not specifying party membership. The number of voters who "declined to state" a party preference when registering grew to 14 percent in 2000, up from nine percent in 1996. The move toward open primaries may be a factor in this trend.

In the telephone survey one in eight county residents reported giving blood regularly. That percentage is virtually unchanged from 1999.

# G1 Discrimination



## Telephone Survey Results

*Have you felt discriminated against in San Luis Obispo County in the last twelve months?*

Response	1999		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	77	14.2	83	10.3
No	464	85.8	726	89.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>100</b>

*If yes, for what reason? (Top three responses)*

Response	1999		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ethnicity / Race	24	41.4	17	21.0
Gender	16	27.6	7	8.6
Age	14	24.1	31	38.3

*Source: 1999 and 2001 ACTION for Healthy Communities, Survey*



## Telephone Survey Results, by ethnicity

*Have you felt discriminated against in San Luis Obispo County in the last twelve months?*

Response	Yes 1999		Yes 2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Caucasian	54	11.9	55	8.4
Latino	16	22.5	18	20.9
Other	6	37.5	10	18.2

*Source: 1999 and 2001 ACTION for Healthy Communities, Survey*

## G2 Racism



### Telephone Survey Results

*How concerned are you about the following issues in your community? For each one, please answer "Very Concerned," "Somewhat Concerned," or "Not at all Concerned."*

#### *Racism*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very concerned	135	25.2	257	32.2
Somewhat concerned	200	37.3	231	28.9
Not at all concerned	201	37.5	310	38.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>100</b>



### Telephone Survey Results

*Do you regularly:*

#### *Donate blood?*

<b>Response</b>	<b>1999</b>		<b>2001</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	69	12.7	103	12.8
No	474	87.3	700	87.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>100</b>

# G3 Voting

## San Luis Obispo County Voter Registration and Turnout

<b>Election</b>	<b>Eligible to Register</b>	<b>Registered</b>	<b>% Registered</b>	<b>County Turnout</b>	<b>% of Registered</b>	<b>% of Eligible</b>	<b>State Turnout (% of Eligible)</b>
June 1998 Primary	171,805	129,805	75.6	70,905	54.6	41.3	30.1
November 1998 General	173,074	133,809	77.3	88,049	65.8	50.9	41.4
March 2000 Primary	177,922	130,828	73.5	84,425	64.5	47.5	37.1
November 2000 General	178,707	142,633	79.8	109,761	77.0	61.4	51.9

*Source: San Luis Obispo County Elections Department, Elections Division-California Secretary of State, 1999 and 2001.*

[http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/sov/2000\\_general/reg.pdf](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/sov/2000_general/reg.pdf)

## Voter Profile

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>1996</b>		<b>1998</b>		<b>2000</b>	
	<b>County</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>State</b>
Democrat	39.7	47.4	38.7	46.8	36.1	45.4
Republican	45.2	36.8	44.4	35.8	43.5	34.9
Declined to state	9.1	10.6	10.8	12.4	13.6	14.4
Other	6	5.2	6.1	5.0	6.8	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: San Luis Obispo County Elections Department, 2001.*

# G4 Hotline Calls for Assistance

## Number of Calls

<b>Category</b>	<b>1996-97</b>	<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-00</b>
Alcohol and Drug Abuse	991	1,276	953	801
Child Abuse	110	99	100	88
Counseling Resources	363	439	397	450
Developmental Disabilities/ Neurological Handicaps	96	52	89	70
Emergency Assistance	1,056	752	494	391
Family Care Network	182	140	201	146
Family Planning/Sexuality	124	182	162	136
Family Services Center	550	0	---	---
Homeless Shelter (EOC)	2,132	2,391	2,783	3,217
Hospice	50	0	---	---
HOTLINE Staff/Resources	3,733	3,688	3,700	3,512
Housing Problems	184	193	241	196
Information and Referral	1,732	1,289	1,048	1,186
Interpersonal Relationship	362	546	501	434
Legal/Consumer Complaint	634	605	578	422
Mental Illness	974	1,368	1,242	1,035
Misc./Defies Classification	1,566	1,511	1,472	1,835
Phone Friends	4,811	0	---	---
Physical/Health/Disabilities	360	396	329	313
Rape Crisis Center	85	0	---	---
Senior Services	3,778	4,100	3,774	3,360
Sexual Assault	0	75	71	61
Special Olympics	120	96	69	63
Support	1,725	1,364	1,122	1,128
Teenage/Youth	304	---	---	---
Telecare	---	4,770	4,595	5,229
Women's Shelter	2,587	2,214	1,610	1,749
Suicide Issues	232	255	235	224
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>28,841</b>	<b>27,801</b>	<b>25,766</b>	<b>26,052</b>

Source: HOTLINE of San Luis Obispo County, 2001.

# G4 Hotline Calls for Assistance, continued

## Hotline Calls, by Age Group of Caller

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
0 - 9	12	12	9	15
10 - 19	375	431	434	401
20 - 29	2,923	3,146	2,754	2,634
30 - 39	7,030	6,315	5,466	5,220
40 - 49	6,137	5,564	5,248	5,244
50 - 59	2,546	2,254	2,207	2,432
60 - 69	1,854	2,087	1,976	2,144
70 - 79	2,843	2,423	1,810	2,158
80 - 89 +	3,304	3,656	3,887	3,837
Unknown	1,817	1,830	1,975	1,967

Source: HOTLINE of San Luis Obispo County, 2001.

## Hotline Calls, by Caller Area of Residence

Jurisdiction	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
San Luis Obispo	10,916	10,042	9,874	10,663
Paso Robles	2,109	2,106	1,510	1,394
Atascadero	2,401	2,337	1,750	1,525
Morro Bay	980	1,057	984	1,259
Cambria	296	248	226	223
Cayucos	242	174	134	104
Los Osos/Baywood	1,232	1,321	1,299	1,361
Pismo Beach	1,465	1,294	1,513	1,581
Grover Beach	1,224	1,638	1,339	1,303
Arroyo Grande	1,922	1,880	2,131	2,078
Santa Margarita	159	107	113	85
Nipomo	241	204	188	157
Other	2,460	2,266	1,591	1,470
Out of County	1	2	11	6
Unknown	3,193	3,125	3,103	2,843

Source: HOTLINE of San Luis Obispo County, 2001.

Note: Twenty-four-hour phone lines are available to anyone in need. A specialized phone line is open to accommodate the needs of the senior citizen and frail, elderly population of San Luis Obispo County. Senior Telecare is a daily assurance and safety-check telephone service, whereby volunteers place regularly scheduled phone calls to clients.