



## Basic Needs

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## Basic Needs Issues

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Basic needs indicators attempt to measure some of the most fundamental quality of life issues in American society. While food, shelter and medical care often seem abundant in California, nearly every community has some people who struggle with these types of basic needs. The County of San Luis Obispo is no exception.

Since the first ACTION for Healthy Communities Telephone Survey in 1999, the percentage of those who have gone without basic needs such as food, clothing, childcare, housing or health care has increased from 8% to 13% in 2006. Amongst those who struggle with these types of basic needs, Health Care (52%), Food (38%) and Clothing (36%) have consistently represented the top three challenges. While the percentage of those in San Luis Obispo who delayed getting prescription medicines did not change substantially from 2001 to 2003 (approximately 12%), California has seen an increase from 9% to over 12% during the same time period. There was a slight increase in the percentage of those unable to afford enough food in San Luis Obispo, which rose from 23% in 2001 to 33% in 2005.

In San Luis Obispo County there is growing concern over the homeless issue. In 1999, 73% of the survey respondents indicated they were either somewhat or very concerned compared to 82% in 2006. A 2006 report by The Homeless Services Coordinating Council identified 2,301 homeless in known locations, and 107 homeless people who were identified but the location was unknown, for a county total of 2,408. The County's homeless shelter need has exceeded its capacity. At the Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter, the number of homeless people who were turned away due to over-capacity grew from 163 people in 1999 to 525 people in 2005.

Fair Market Rents in San Luis Obispo have risen by approximately 18% to 22% in every unit size except a four-bedroom, which has increased by 9% between 2001 and 2005. In addition, nearly 50% of the survey respondents reported that housing and utilities consume more than one third of their income in 2006. According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the generally accepted definition of affordable housing is for a household to pay no more than 30% of its annual income on housing. Spending much more than 30% impacts a resident's ability to afford other basic needs such as health care and childcare.

Along these same lines, the median home price in San Luis Obispo has increased from \$290,000 in 2002, to \$533,000 in 2006 (84%), while the median income has only increased from \$50,300 to \$63,800 (27%) over the same time period. In a county comparison with Fresno, Merced, Ventura/Oxnard, Santa Cruz and Visalia, San Luis Obispo ranked third highest for median sales price in 2006.

Another basic needs indicator looks at the enrollment data for school meal programs. While the percentage of eligible students varies from district to district, San Luis Obispo County enrollment data have remained steady at approximately 32% since the 2002-2003 school year. This is less than the state level data that has increased steadily from 49% in 2002-2003 to 51% in 2005-2006.

## A1

# Basic Needs

 In any given month, do you have to go without basic needs such as food, clothing, childcare, housing, or health care?

Response	1999	2001	2003	2006
Yes	7.7%	8.5%	8.0%	12.7%
No	92.3%	91.5%	92.0%	86.9%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>502</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

 If yes, what do you go without? (Top 3 responses)

Response	1999	2001	2003	2006
Health Care (including prescriptions)	51.3%	52.9%	61.9%	52.1%
Food	35.9%	30.9%	35.7%	38.3%
Clothing	12.8%	29.4%	31.0%	35.6%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>64<sup>1</sup></b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

<sup>1</sup> Multiple response question with 64 respondents offering 106 responses.

 During the past 12 months, did you either delay or not get a medicine that a doctor prescribed for you?

Response	2001		2003	
	San Luis Obispo	California	San Luis Obispo	California
Delayed or didn't get medicine	11.2%	8.8%	12.6%	11.7%
Didn't delay (got medicine)	88.8%	91.2%	87.4%	88.3%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>181,000</b>	<b>24,566,000</b>	<b>187,000</b>	<b>25,595,000</b>

Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2001 and 2003.



**New data not available**



**Are you able to afford enough food?<sup>1</sup>**

Response	2001		2003		2005	
	San Luis Obispo	California	San Luis Obispo	California	San Luis Obispo County	California
Able to afford enough food (food secure)	76.9%	70.8%	70.2%	66.1%	67.4%	70.0%
Not able to afford enough food (food insecure)	23.1%	29.2%	29.8%	33.9%	32.6%	30.0%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>8,696,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>8,635,000</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>8,265,000</b>

Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2001, 2003 and 2005.

<sup>1</sup> Asked of adults whose income is less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.



**Do you eat 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables every day?**

Response	2001	
	San Luis Obispo	California
Eat 5 or more servings fruit/vegetables daily	50.2%	50.6%
Eat less than 5 servings fruit/vegetables daily	49.8%	49.4%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>177,000</b>	<b>23,869,000</b>

Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2001.



**New data not available**



**Do you eat 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables every day?**

Response	San Luis Obispo
Yes	41.6%
No	57.5%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>446</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2006.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

## A2

# Poverty Guidelines

## Federal Guidelines, 2002-2006

### Annual Income Levels

Family Size	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	02-06 % Change
1	\$8,860	\$8,980	\$9,310	\$9,570	\$9,800	10.6%
2	11,940	12,120	12,490	12,830	13,200	10.6%
3	15,020	15,260	15,670	16,090	16,600	10.5%
4	18,100	18,400	18,850	19,350	20,000	10.5%
5	21,180	21,540	22,030	22,610	23,400	10.5%
6	24,260	24,680	25,210	25,870	26,800	10.5%
7	27,340	27,820	28,390	29,130	30,200	10.5%
8	\$30,420	\$30,960	\$31,570	\$32,390	\$33,600	10.5%

Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Registry, 2006.

Note: The poverty guidelines shown above represent the 48 contiguous states, including Washington, D.C.; poverty guidelines differ for the states of Hawaii and Alaska.

# A3 Food Insecurity

## Hunger Study Respondents

	Total	Homeless	Seniors	Disabled
Food Insecure: responded “yes” to any of the following six measures.	53%	84%	24%	56%

Source: San Luis Obispo Hunger Study, 2003.

## During the previous year have you:

Response	Total	Homeless	Seniors	Disabled
Cut size/skip meals because not enough money or food	37%	67%	7%	40%
Been hungry but didn’t eat because couldn’t afford enough food	24%	35%	12%	24%
Chosen between paying for food and paying for medicine	33%	67%	7%	40%
Chosen between paying for food and paying for rent/mortgage	20%	26%	6%	12%
Chosen between paying for food and paying for utilities	20%	20%	7%	20%
Children had to skip meals because not enough money or food <sup>1</sup>	17%	<sup>2</sup>	NA	NA

Source: San Luis Obispo Hunger Study, 2003.

Note: The data are based on 219 interviews with clients of 11 food pantries (106 interviews), 9 kitchens (98 interviews), and the 2 shelters (15 interviews). The numbers are the percentages of each group that answered “yes” to the question. “Seniors” are people 65+ years of age and “Disabled” are people receiving Social Security Disability Income (SSDI).

<sup>1</sup> Based on 35 interviews with parents.

<sup>2</sup> Number too small to report.



**New data not available**

**Hunger Study Respondent Types**

<b>Types</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Seniors (age 65+)	28%
Homeless	25%
Disabled (receiving SSDI)	11%
Household Income at or below 150% of poverty level	68%


*Source: San Luis Obispo Hunger Study, 2003.*

*Note: The data are based on 219 interviews with clients of 11 food pantries (106 interviews), 9 kitchens (98 interviews), and the 2 shelters (15 interviews). The numbers are the percentages of each group that answered "yes" to the question.*



**New data not available**

# A4 Homelessness

 **How concerned are you about homelessness in your community?**

Response	1999	2001	2003	2006
Very Concerned	29.9%	33.7%	33.0%	34.6%
Somewhat Concerned	42.7%	46.1%	43.7%	47.4%
Not at all Concerned	27.5%	20.3%	23.0%	16.9%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>502</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

**Homeless Enumeration Report: Locations of Observation – Whole County**

Locations of Observation	Frequency	Percent
Shelters	149	6.5%
Jail	31	1.3%
Meal Programs	187	8.1%
Living outside: encampments or on the streets	662	28.8%
Mental Health Services	9	0.4%
Transitional or Supportive Housing	284	12.3%
Day Center	75	3.3%
State or County Parks	174	7.6%
Social Services	71	3.1%
Health Services	76	3.3%
Schools (PreK-12)	583	25.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,301<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: The Homeless Services Coordinating Council, Homeless Enumeration Report, San Luis Obispo County, California (Revised April 21, 2006).

<sup>1</sup> Total does not include 107 homeless people who were identified in unknown locations.

**Homeless Enumeration Report: Locations of Observation – Whole County**

Geographic Region	Frequency	Percent	General Population	Percent
North Coast	119	4.9%	33,000	13.8%
North County	1,034	43.0%	81,000	33.9%
San Luis Obispo	473	19.7%	45,000	18.8%
South County	781	32.4%	80,000	33.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,407<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>239,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: The Homeless Services Coordinating Council, Homeless Enumeration Report, San Luis Obispo County, California (Revised April 21, 2006).

<sup>1</sup> Total does not include one homeless person identified in an unknown region.



**Shelter Over-capacity**

<b>EOC Homeless Services</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2005</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter: January – March	28	29	81
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter: April – June	64	175	158
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter: July – September	47	165	261
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter: October - December	24	118	25
<b>Total Over-capacity</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>525</b>

Source: Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC), 2006.

Note: These data are for the Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter, which is operated by the Economic Opportunity Center (EOC). Over-capacity refers to the number of individuals seeking shelter that exceeds the number of available beds. The shelter has a regular capacity of 49 beds per night, plus overflow capacity of 15-35 beds provided in collaboration with the Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless. Capacity increased in 1999 when the EOC-ICH overflow program expanded from 7 to 12 months per year.

**Clients Placed in Permanent Housing**

<b>EOC Homeless Services</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2005</b>
Number of Single Adults	43	50	30
Number of Families	35	48	33
Number of Parents	40	55	48
Number of Children	71	80	61
Percent of Children	46.1%	43.2%	43.8%
<b>Number of clients permanently housed</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>139</b>

Source: Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC), 2006.

# A5 Fair Market Rents

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## Fair Market Rents for San Luis Obispo County

Number of Bedrooms	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	01-05 % Change
Efficiency (Studio)	\$525	\$584	\$619	\$641	\$620	18.1%
1 Bedroom	593	659	699	724	733	23.6%
2 Bedrooms	752	836	886	917	893	18.8%
3 Bedrooms	1,045	1,162	1,232	1,276	1,301	24.5%
4 Bedrooms	\$1,234	\$1,372	\$1,454	\$1,505	\$1,339	8.5%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent, 2005.

## Fair Market Apartment Rents for San Luis Obispo County, 2006

Number of Bedrooms	Fair Market Apartment Rents
1 Bedroom (baths not specified)	\$758
2 Bedroom (baths not specified)	\$923
3 Bedroom (baths not specified)	\$1,345

Source: City-Data. Retrieved November 14, 2006 from <http://www.city-data.com>.

# A6 Housing Affordability

## How concerned are you about housing costs in your community?

Response	2001	2003	2006
Very Concerned	55.7%	67.8%	60.7%
Somewhat Concerned	27.7%	22.0%	27.1%
Not at all Concerned	16.6%	9.6%	11.6%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>502</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2001, 2003 and 2006.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

## Does one-third or more of your income go to housing, including utilities, such as gas and electricity?

Response	1999	2001	2003
Yes	54.5%	66.4%	63.8%
No	45.5%	33.6%	33.5%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>522</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 1999, 2001 and 2003.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."



**New data not available**

## Among those paying more than one-third of your income to housing expenses, does one-half or more of your income go to housing, including utilities, such as gas, and electricity?

Response	1999	2001	2003
Yes	37.6%	47.4%	52.9%
No	62.4%	52.6%	46.5%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>333</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 1999, 2001 and 2003.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."



**New data not available**

 **Is the amount of money you use to pay for housing, including utilities, such as gas and electricity...**

<b>Response</b>	<b>2006</b>
Less than one-third of your income	40.8%
Between one-third and one-half of your income	32.7%
More than one-half of your income	16.7%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>502</b>

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2006.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

### San Luis Obispo MSA<sup>1</sup>

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2002</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter<sup>2</sup> 2003</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2004</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2005</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2006</b>
Median Price	\$290,000	NA	\$400,000	\$475,000	\$533,000
Housing Opportunity Index	13	NA	12.1	10.5	7.8
Medium Income	\$50,300	NA	\$61,700	\$61,700	\$63,800
National Rank	188	NA	160	146	169

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent, 2006.

<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) are relatively free standing and are not closely associated with other metropolitan areas. There are approximately 190 MSA's nationwide.

<sup>2</sup> First Quarter 2003 data not available.

**Housing Affordability – Housing Opportunity Index and National Rank Comparisons**

	1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2002		1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2003 <sup>1</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2004		1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2005		1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2006	
	HO Index	Nat'l Rank	HO Index	Nat'l Rank	HO Index	Nat'l Rank	HO Index	Nat'l Rank	HO Index	Nat'l Rank
Fresno, CA	52.1	156	NA	NA	39.2	136	19.9	136	9.2	165
Merced, CA	33.0	178	NA	NA	21.3	151	6.8	154	5.5	176
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.0	144	10.8	162
Salinas, CA	7.7	191	NA	NA	12.7	159	4.3	158	5.0	178
San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA	9.2	189	NA	NA	16.2	155	10.4	147	7.8	169
San Jose, CA	20.1	185	NA	NA	32.6	140	19.5	137	14.9	156
<b>San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles, CA</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>169</b>
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria, CA	25.2	181	NA	NA	10.8	162	5.0	157	3.2	180
Santa Cruz-Watsonville, CA	8.0	190	NA	NA	15.2	157	7.7	151	5.9	174
Visalia-Porterville	63.6	132	NA	NA	60.5	113	35.0	128	18.2	151
National	64.8	NA	NA	NA	61.2	NA	50.1	NA	41.3	NA

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent, 2006.

Note: The Housing Opportunity Index is the share of homes in a particular area that would have been affordable to a family earning the median income. It is based on the median family income, interest rates, and the price distribution of homes sold for each market in a particular quarter of a year. This measure was discontinued in the 1st quarter of 2002 due to insufficient funding. The price of homes sold is collected from actual court records by First American Real Estate Solutions, a marketing company. The median family income for each market is calculated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

<sup>1</sup> First Quarter 2003 data not available.

**Number of New Affordable Housing Units Sold or Rented to Low-and Moderate-Income Families, San Luis Obispo County**

2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
NA	141	267	184

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, 2007.

Note: Affordable housing units result from permit requirements and incentives (including state, federal, and local funds) to maximize the number of affordable housing units provided for low- and moderate-income families.

## A7

# Housing Prices

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## Median Sales Price (in thousands of dollars)

Metropolitan Service Area <sup>1</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2002	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter <sup>2</sup> 2003	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2004	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2005	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2006
Fresno	\$134	NA	\$193	\$249	\$297
Merced	163	NA	215	295	365
Ventura/Oxnard	NA	NA	NA	510	591
Santa Cruz	420	NA	505	625	672
<b>San Luis Obispo</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>533</b>
Visalia	110	NA	140	188	248
<b>National</b>	<b>\$160</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$186.5</b>	<b>\$225</b>	<b>\$250</b>

Source: National Association of Homebuilders, Housing Opportunity Index, 2006.

<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan Service Area is one of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. MSA's are relatively free standing and are not closely associated with other metropolitan areas.

<sup>2</sup> First Quarter 2003 data not available.

## A8

# School Meals Program

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## Percent of School-aged Children Enrolled in Free/reduced Cost Meal Program

District	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Atascadero Unified	20.8%	22.0%	23.4%	21.7%
Cayucos Elementary	20.1	23.1	20.1	21.7
Coast Unified	36.5	38.4	40.0	45.2
Lucia Mar Unified	44.7	42.4	36.6	36.4
Paso Robles Joint Unified	36.6	34.8	31.8	35.9
Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary	30.7	35.0	31.0	41.1
San Luis Coastal Unified	24.8	25.9	27.1	28.3
San Luis Obispo County Office of Education	23.4	60.2	57.2	60.1
San Miguel Joint Union	51.2	59.5	56.0	59.6
Shandon Joint Unified	67.4	62.4	69.6	66.9
Templeton Unified	12.1	11.7	11.2	13.6
<b>Total County</b>	<b>32.3%</b>	<b>32.6%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>	<b>32.2%</b>
<b>Total State</b>	<b>48.7%</b>	<b>49.0%</b>	<b>49.9%</b>	<b>51.2%</b>

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest, Educational Demographics Unit, County Summary Data, 2000-2005.

