

Tulare County

Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Community Profile 2017-18

Demographics

Our Community

Total Population ¹	456,075
Total Population, African American	5,754
Total Population, American Indian/ Alaskan Natives	3,521
Total Population, Asian/Pacific Islander	15,118
Total Population, Hispanic	281,003
Total Population, White	144,430
Total Live Births ²	7,651

Our Mothers and Babies

% of women delivering a baby who received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester of their pregnancy ²	81.5%
% of births covered by Medi-Cal ²	71.4%
% of women ages 18-64 without health insurance ³	26.5%
% of women giving birth to a second child within 24 months of a previous pregnancy *	38.0%
% live births less than 37 weeks' gestation ²	8.7%
Gestational diabetes per 1,000 females age 15-44	6.4
% of female population 18-64 living in poverty (0-200% FPL) ³	52.4%
Substance use diagnosis per 1,000 hospitalizations of pregnant women*	29.8
Unemployment Rate ⁴	15.9

Our Children and Teens

Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 births (ages 15-19) ²	48.6
Motor vehicle injury hospitalizations per 100,000 children age 0-146	16.4
% of children, ages 0-18 years living in poverty (0-200% FPL) ³	68.2%
Mental health hospitalizations per 100,000 age 15-24*	1043.7
Children in Foster Care per 1,000 children ⁵	6.7
Substance abuse hospitalization per 100,000 aged 15-24*	608.5

Data sources: ¹ CA Dept. of Finance population estimates for Year 2015, January 2013; ² CA Birth Statistical Master Files 2011-2013 Annual Average, 3 year average; ³ California Health Interview Survey, 2014; ⁴ [State of California, Employment Development Department, February 2017](#); ⁵ [Data from CA Child Welfare Indicators Project, UC Berkeley Point in Time Jul 2015](#); ⁶ [California Department of Public Health, Safe and Active Communities Branch](#); *Data carried over from the Community Profile 2015-2016. Not updated.

About Our Community – Health Starts Where We Live, Learn, Work, and Play

1) Geography

Tulare County is located in the San Joaquin Valley, an area rich in agriculture and as such many residents are farm workers. The county encompasses approximately 4,836 square miles, the seventh largest county in the state in terms of area. The majority of the population resides in the western half of the county on the valley floor, while the eastern half consists of the Sierra Nevada mountains including Sequoia National Park and Forest.

2) Major Industries and Employers

The major employment sectors in Tulare County are agricultural, including dairy and orchards (citrus, stone fruits, nuts). The 5 largest employers in the county are the County of Tulare, Kaweah Delta Healthcare District, Ruiz Food Products, Wal-Mart Distribution Center, and the Porterville Developmental Center.

3) Walkability, Recreational Areas

With the agricultural and national forest/park areas, Tulare County contains a large proportion of open space. However, this space is not easily utilized by residents for recreation/fitness. While the 3 largest cities have walk scores (walkscore.com) ranging from 75-91 indicating that they are very walkable, many residents live in small unincorporated communities with few services and walk scores that range from 38 in Oroquieta down to 8 in Seville.

Health System – Health and Human Services for the MCAH Population

- There are three hospitals where women give birth in Tulare County; Kaweah Delta Health Care District Hospital (Visalia), Tulare Regional Medical Center (Tulare), and Sierra View District Hospital (Porterville).
- There are 28 sites providing CPSP services throughout Tulare County, with between 1 and 6 providers per site.
- There are six (6) agencies operating eleven (11) Denti-Cal clinics that serve children in Tulare County.
- Tulare County faces several key challenges to access of health and social services, including a large immigrant population with undefined resident status, language and cultural barriers, high rates of poverty (51% locally vs. 33.8% statewide among adults 18-64) and unemployment (16.2% locally vs. 12.3% statewide), and a rural landscape that physically isolates many of the people who are most in need of services. In addition, Tulare County suffers from a number of environmental issues, including poor air quality, with a reported 93 days of ozone above regulatory standards in 2013, compared to just 16 days for the state of California.
- The Medi-Cal managed care plans providing services for women and children are Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. and the Anthem Blue Cross Partnership Plan.

Health Status and Disparities for the MCAH Population

Tulare County's population includes a large proportion of poor agricultural workers many with low English skills and low educational achievement. Over 30% of the county's population live in small rural settlements lacking many services such as medical providers and full service grocery stores. While the ACA and expanded Medi-Cal may be expected to provide health insurance to more people, there is still a shortage of providers, especially for specialty care and undocumented immigrants may still lack access to preventative care.

- Premature birth rates for Whites and Hispanics met the HP2020 goal of 11.4% in 2012 with 7.8% and 9.5% of singleton births being born at less than 37 weeks' gestation, respectively. African American and Asian/Pacific Islanders are higher at 15.3% and 10.3%, respectively, although the 95% confidence interval for both groups includes the HP2020 11.4% goal.
- Rates of early prenatal care have been improving since the low point of 75.1% in 2008 during the economic recession. In 2012, 80.2% of Tulare County females received prenatal care in the first trimester. White and Hispanic women both met the HP2020 goal of 77.9% at 83.2% and 79.7%, respectively. The rate for Asian women in 2012 was 77.7% (95% CI: 72.0,82.6). The rate for African American women continues to lag behind at 67.9% in 2012, but the population is small and has been decreasing making the estimates less reliable (95% CI: 57.0,77.3).
- Births to teen mothers continue to decline. In 2012, while Tulare County's rate of births to 15-17 year olds is higher than the state rate (24.1 versus 13.1), all ethnic groups met or exceeded the HP2020 goal of 36.2 births per 1,000 females age 15-17.