



OCT.  
2008

# REPORT

to the  
Community



Promoting the Development and Well-Being of  
Children 0 through 5 in Stanislaus County



# Our Story



## CHILDREN ARE OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

We know that the first five years of a child's life are critical. The brain acts a lot like a sponge in the early years in that it soaks up everything it's exposed to. Research shows that a child's brain develops dramatically during this time and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life.

Based on this research, First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, and the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission were established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November of 1998. The unprecedented ballot measure added a 50 cents-per-pack tax on all cigarettes to fund education, health, childcare, and other programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 through 5.

## MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

On behalf of the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission, we're pleased to present our fifth annual Report to the Community.

You could say we're celebrating a birthday, a mini milestone. Five years sharing our work with you and sharing the impact on the lives of children and families.

Fewer premature babies. Fewer confirmed child abuse cases. Increased awareness of bicycle and pedestrian safety. These are just a few of the important and exciting results we saw in fiscal year 2007-2008. Our Commission invested more than 12 million dollars to support health, safety, emotional health, school readiness, and quality childcare programs.

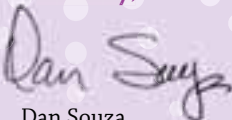
To do that, we relied on valuable community partnerships. For example, our partnership with the Community Services Agency to fund Family Resource Centers to prevent child abuse and strengthen families has been very successful. Data indicating a

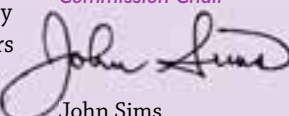
drop in the child abuse recidivism rate shows we're on the right track.

We are committed to doing all we can to help improve the lives of children and families. And we invite you to join us. To find out more about the Commission and our activities, please contact us at (209) 558-6218. You can also visit us on the web at <http://www.stanprop10.org>

As we celebrate this community report's fifth birthday, our wish is simple. We want all children in Stanislaus County to grow up healthy, happy, and ready for school because giving a child the best start in life is what we're all about.

Sincerely,

  
Dan Souza  
Commission Chair

  
John Sims  
Executive Director

## About Stanislaus County



Stanislaus County had 8,834 births in 2007, roughly 24 births a day.\*



Stanislaus County has 54,694 children 0 through 5 years of age.\*

\* California Department of Finance projection



## Ethnicity of Children 0-5

Hispanic	31,999	58.5%
White	17,964	32.8%
Multirace	1,889	3.5%
Asian	1,661	3.0%
Black	915	1.7%
Pacific Islander	176	.3%
American Indian	90	.2%

• 2007 U.S. Census Bureau data

## 2007-2008 COMMISSIONERS

**Vicki Bauman**  
School Representative

**David Cooper**  
Community Representative

**Denise Hunt, RN, MFT**  
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

**Mary Ann Lee**  
Health Services Agency

**Dick Monteith**  
County Supervisor

**Nelly Paredes-Walsborn, Ph.D.**  
Community Representative

**Ken Patterson\***  
Chair/Community Services Agency

**George Skol**  
Community Representative

**Dan Souza, LCSW**  
Chair/Community Representative

**John Walker, MD**  
Public Health Officer

\* Former Member

## STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**William O'Brien** ·· 1st District

**Thomas W. Mayfield** ·· 2nd District

**Jeff Grover** ·· 3rd District

**Dick Monteith** ·· 4th District

**Jim DeMartini** ·· 5th District

Children will thrive in supportive, safe, nurturing, and loving environments. Children will be healthy, eager and ready learners. Children will become productive well-adjusted members of society.

# OUR VISION



# Helping to Make our wishes For Children Come True



## Improved Health

Prop 10 funded programs promote optimal health by identifying physical and emotional developmental delays and providing services that decrease the risks that threaten children's health.

## Improved Child Development

Programs in this area focus on increasing the quality of, and access to, early learning and education for young children.

## Improved Family Functioning

Parents, families, and communities are provided relevant, timely, and culturally appropriate information, education, and services to support the well-being of children 0-5.

## Improved Systems of Care

Programs strive to be integrated, comprehensive, and inclusive in order to provide appropriate and efficient services as well as improvements in family functioning, health, and child development.

### RESULTS:

- 2,592 children who did not have access to health services were able to receive medical attention through the Healthy Cubs program
- At least 1,377 of these children now have permanent health insurance
- 5,052 new parents were educated about Shaken Baby Syndrome, an educational program designed to prevent infant injury and death

### RESULTS:

- 640 children were screened for educational developmental issues, 18.2% indicated the need for further assessment or assistance
- 1,220 parents gained knowledge on how to prepare their children for school
- 943 early learning providers were trained to better care for our children








### RESULTS:

- 902 children 0-5 received mental or behavioral health services
- 85% of parents reporting indicated improved relationships with children
- 297 children enrolled in respite childcare were kept safe from child abuse without incident, thereby preserving the family
- 1,697 children's families were assisted with support and services such as housing, clothing, etc.

### RESULTS:

- 100% of children served in an intensive case management program were kept safe and out of foster care
- 100% of families involved in substance abuse court cases obtained sober living environments through the SAFE Court program
- A second confirmed report of child abuse/neglect decreased from 14% to 5% since the Commission funded countywide Family Resource Centers

## 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET TOTAL BUDGET: \$12,221,629

<b>Improved Family Functioning</b> (Family Support, Education, and Services)	\$4,279,012		35%
<b>Improved Health</b> (Health Education and Services)	\$3,337,972		27%
<b>Improved Child Development</b> (Child Development Services)	\$2,301,613		19%
<b>Improved Systems of Care</b>	\$596,126		5%
<b>Administration</b>	\$476,601		4%
<b>Evaluation</b>	\$298,805		2%
<b>Other Programs</b> (Includes Contingency Fund)	\$931,500		8%

## Help Us Help Children



Children are our most precious resource. We want them to thrive, and we need your help. The Commission is updating its Strategic Plan and we want to hear from you. How do you envision us helping children in Stanislaus County to grow up healthy and happy? What do you consider most important? You can help us determine what's still needed in our community. To do that, we've put together an easy 5-minute survey. To access it, just go to our website at: <http://www.stanprop10.org>

You can also contact us by phone at 558-6218 and we'll send you a survey in the mail (or you can answer questions by phone).

We value your input as we work together to make a difference for children in Stanislaus County.

## In Pursuit Of Healthy Birth Outcomes

Denise Provins and Jackeline Romero are two women from different backgrounds but with similar dreams: giving birth to healthy babies. Their paths led them to Healthy Birth Outcomes (HBO), a free program for expectant mothers offered by the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency.

Funded by the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission, the focus is to give every baby a healthy start in life.

"Too many babies are born early or with an unhealthy, low birth weight," said Evelina McDowall, Program Coordinator. "We want to change that."

HBO is making those changes...impacting the lives of mothers and their children through case management, support groups, and community awareness.

Denise was a smoker and struggled for years with substance abuse. When she became pregnant with her sixth child, she looked for help.

"I wanted a better life for me, my baby, and my family," said Denise. "I was ready to do the right thing."

A public health nurse took her case and guided Denise throughout her journey to a clean and sober life. Denise kicked cigarettes and drugs



Denise Provins with daughter, Lacey Ann Thompson

and gave birth to Lacey, a healthy baby girl.

Jackeline Romero found nurturing peer support at Great Expectations, a weekly HBO group at the Oak Valley Family Support Network in Oakdale. The support group, one of ten in Stanislaus County, provides invaluable health education including pre-natal information, parenting skills, and a whole lot more.

"I learned how to be a good mother," said Jackeline, who gave birth to her son, Antonio, this past year. "It was important to be around other moms so we could share our experiences."

Jackeline loves the support group and is still an active member.

Denise and Jackeline.

Two moms with two healthy babies - thanks in part to a program that's changing lives.

To learn more about the HBO program, contact the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency at 558-7400.



Jackeline Romero with son, Antonio

## Help Is On The Line With 2-1-1

ROSANNE MORENO WAS WORRIED.

She was pregnant and her baby would be born without health insurance. But getting health coverage for her son, Jayden, was just a phone call away.



"It was really easy," said Moreno. "I just picked up the telephone and they helped me with the Healthy Families application."

Rosanne got help by dialing 2-1-1, a free program run by United Way of Stanislaus County. Assisting callers with health insurance enrollment is one of the many resources available through the countywide program that links callers with the appropriate agency to get them the help they need.

"Eighty percent of our callers don't know about all the resources we have in the community," said Linda Tagholm, 2-1-1's Program Manager.

2-1-1 is an easy to remember toll free telephone number that connects residents with health and human services information and referrals. Funded by the Stanislaus County Children and Families



Commission, community agencies, and cities, the hotline is a help line that improves access to healthcare and other important services.

"It will help families get the help they need to promote the development and well being of their children," said Dan Souza, Chair of the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission. In fact, this past year, 2-1-1 helped 712 families with children 0 through 5.

2-1-1 specialists assess phone calls and provide callers with a wealth of resource information: where to go for basic human needs such as food, clothing, and shelter; physical and mental health resources including medical information lines and crisis intervention services; employment support; assistance for seniors and persons with disabilities; and support programs for children, youth, and families, such as childcare.

The service launched in October 2007 and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Services are provided in English, Spanish, and more than 170 other languages through the AT&T Language Line. For TTY users, the number to call for help is 877-721-1889.

Rosanne Moreno says 2-1-1 was a blessing. Her son now has health insurance and Rosanne has peace of mind.

## A Baby's Life Is In Your Hands

A moment of frustration and anger. A lifetime of guilt and pain.

There are an estimated 50,000 cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) reported nationwide every year. The Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) wants to make sure none of the cases happen here.

Shaken Baby Syndrome is a violent form of physical child abuse that causes permanent brain damage. It occurs through the shaking of a baby or young child, causing the head to flop back and forth. This whiplash motion can cause the brain to slam against the inside of the skull and tear blood vessels.

To increase community awareness, CAPC kicked off a countywide prevention program this year. It includes an advertising campaign with signs on city buses and bus benches. Their message: "My life is in your hands. If you shake me, you could kill me."

"We want residents to know that this is preventable," said Juan Ramirez, Program Coordinator. "If we can save one child, it's worth it."

The program also focuses on parents of newborns. In a unique partnership with area birthing hospitals, parents are shown an educational training video on SBS. Parents then sign a "commitment statement" pledging to never shake their baby.



Modeled after a prevention program in Pennsylvania, research has shown a 50% reduction in SBS cases when the program is fully implemented. Stanislaus County had 7 cases of SBS in 2006-2007, but only one case has been documented here since the program began.

"Educating the community has an effect on protecting children," said Ramirez. "The message is getting out there."