

*The Madera County Report Card,
2004-2005*

A review of social conditions and community well being

*Pathways & Insights Associates
for the
Madera County Interagency Council*

Madera County Report Card: 2004 - 2005

The Madera County Interagency Children and Youth Services Council and First 5 Madera County are pleased to present the first comprehensive Report Card of conditions facing children and families in Madera County. Together, both of these groups continually demonstrate their commitment to children and families by advocating for local solutions to local needs. First with the Interagency Council in 1992, and later joined by First 5 in 1999, there began an organized effort of bringing parents, community leaders, public and private agencies, businesses, schools and communities together to collaboratively tackle problems and effect change in the lives of children. The partnerships birthed from such efforts have revolutionized the way our county takes care of children and families. After only 12 years, collaboratives have been planted, unique funding opportunities have taken root, new programs have sprouted and a system of supports for children and families is beginning to blossom throughout Madera County!

Keeping the community informed about our children and families and how Madera compares to other counties, the state and the nation is one way the Interagency Council and First 5 aims to serve as a resource. This report presents findings regarding family economics, education, health and well-being, child/family safety and special needs children. This information is featured as hard copy in this document as well as electronic copy on the compact disc attached to the cover. Finally, this report includes commentary from relevant department/agency heads to offer insight on their perspective of local needs as well as solutions they are implementing to improve the conditions of Madera County.

The purpose of this report is to share data that illustrates our successes as well as highlight areas where continued work is needed. This report is one way the Interagency Council and First 5 will regularly educate our community about Madera County's demographics and statistics to tell the story of how our children and families live. It is our belief that by bringing people and organizations together, providing tools needed to empower residents and communities, and by focusing on family and community strengths, we can truly improve lives. If there are additional ways that the Interagency Council and/or First 5 can help, please let us know.

Regards,

Harry Nabors
Chair, Interagency Children
And Youth Services Council

Supervisor Vern Moss
Chair, First 5 Madera County

Preface

The Madera County Report Card (*Report Card*) is the first annual report developed in partnership by the Madera County Interagency Children and Youth Services Council and First 5 Madera County regarding the socio-demographic conditions of the county. The Council and Commission recognized the need to produce a document displaying the overall conditions of the community of children, families, and citizens of Madera County, and to relate these conditions in comparison with trends and changes occurring across other Central Valley Counties as well as statewide.

Data and information were assembled and summarized from sources such as the U.S. Census, the California State Department of Finance, the California Basic Educational Data System, and other State and county data sources. The objective was to provide statistical information that would support local planning processes on behalf of children and the community, by leadership, planners and decision-makers, and those who express a deep concern about the well-being of children, families and citizens of Madera County.

The *Report Card* is organized into seven sections, including Introduction and Population Trends; Demographic Characteristics and Trends; Economic Conditions; Education Conditions; Health Conditions; Child Care; and Child Abuse and Juvenile Crime. The final Conclusion and Commentary presents final remarks and perspectives from selected county-agency leaders.

Where appropriate, trend graphs are displayed to highlight key indicators of change by various population groupings. Also, the graphs display Madera County information in relation to statewide profiles or averages, as well as in comparison with neighboring Central Valley Counties.

By providing much needed information, the graphical displays provide the basis for an informed discussion about the problems faced by residents, families and children in this community. While there has been much improvement over the past several decades in education, in economic status, and in health, still far too many areas present troubling conditions among our children, especially among children of the poor. Understanding the disparities is important, but ultimately the *Report Card* is intended to cause key leaders and key publics to act.

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This report reflects the leadership and commitment of a number of individuals and agencies. Pathways & Insights Associates would like to thank the following individuals and their organizations for their support and involvement in this project:

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A copy of the *Report Card* can be found online at <http://www.first5madera.org>

***About the
First 5 Madera County
Children and Families Commission***

In November 1998, California voters approved the Children and Families First Act of 1998, commonly referred to as Proposition 10. Effective January 1, 1999, Proposition 10 added a 50 cent per pack tax on all cigarettes and other tobacco products to promote, support and improve the early childhood development of children prenatal to five years old and anti-tobacco education programs at the local level. Given this opportunity to bring additional resources into Madera County to support our youngest children, the Madera County Board of Supervisors adopted County Ordinance 571 establishing the First 5 Madera County Children and Families Commission in December 1998.

The mission of First 5 Madera County is “to enhance early childhood development, child health care and family involvement by advocating and supporting early intervention systems”. In order to do so, First 5 focuses its dollars on expanding existing capacities, promoting integration and collaboration and maximizes dollars through leveraging and blending.

Commission Members

Chairperson

Supervisor Vern Moss

Madera County Board of Supervisors

Vice Chairperson

Susan Arteaga

Madera County Department of Social Services

Secretary

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Mountain Area Representative

***About the
Madera County Interagency Children
And Youth Services Council***

Since its creation by the Madera County Board of Supervisors in April 1992, the Madera County Interagency Children and Youth Services Council (ICYSC) has served as a countywide coordinating body pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18986.10. The ICYSC articulates goals, advocates direction and focuses resources on behalf of the community to improve opportunities for success in the lives of young people.

The overarching goal of ICYSC is “to encourage the development of a comprehensive and collaborative delivery system of services to children and youth”. In order to do so, the ICYSC focuses on prevention services that maximize the healthy development of children and minimize the long-term need for public resources.

Agency Representatives:

Madera County Behavioral Health Services
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Madera County Board of Supervisors
Child Abuse Prevention Council
Children’s Hospital Central California
Community Liaison
Darin Camarena Health Centers
Madera County District Attorney
Early Intervention Coalition
Housing Authority
Madera County Juvenile Justice
Law Enforcement
Local Child Care Planning Council
Madera County Community Action Agency
Madera Unified School District
Parks and Recreation
Madera County Probation Department
Madera County Public Health Department
Madera County Social Services
Madera County Superintendent of Schools
Madera County Superior Court

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