

# Community Health Assessment Executive Summary

Stanislaus County Health Coalition

2025



Prepared By

crescendo | 



## About the Stanislaus County Health Coalition

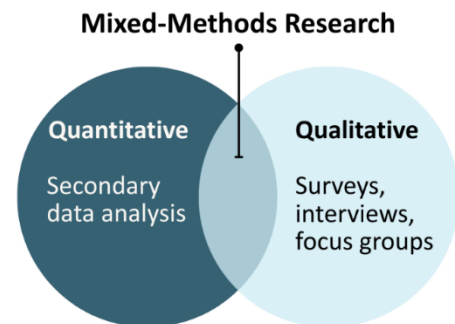
The Stanislaus County Health Coalition (SCHC) is a group of local healthcare systems, community organizations, and public agencies working together to improve community health in Stanislaus County. Formed in 2021, the coalition brings partners together to identify community health needs and coordinate shared solutions. The SCHC led the 2025 Community Health Assessment (CHA), ensuring it reflected community voices and priorities.

## Why We Conducted a Community Health Assessment

The CHA provides a clear understanding of a community's health status. It identifies assets and resources, as well as factors contributing to poorer health outcomes. The findings equip organizations and partners with the information to address community needs and service gaps and informs the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and related initiatives.

## How the Assessment Was Done

Between July and December 2024, Crescendo Consulting Group partnered with SCHC to conduct a robust, county-wide assessment to engage community members and agency partners in a process aimed at identifying community resources and health challenges. The process utilized a mixed-methods approach that combined secondary data analysis with primary data collection through surveys, interviews, and focus groups, capturing statistical trends and lived experiences- particularly from underserved populations.



## Gathering Community Input

Community engagement was integrated throughout the assessment. Outreach prioritized inclusion of vulnerable populations such as people of color, individuals experiencing homelessness, those with behavioral health conditions, caregivers, refugees, New Americans, and justice-involved individuals. Focus groups and surveys were available in multiple languages and Health Equity Champions supported outreach, trust-building, and prioritization.



# Who Lives in Stanislaus County?

This section provides a snapshot of Stanislaus County’s population, highlighting key demographic and economic factors that influence community health.

According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey Five Year Estimates for 2018-2022, the county is home to over 550,000 residents, with a median age of 34.5. Approximately 27% of the population is under age 18, and 13% are age 65 or older. The community is diverse: 48.6% identify as Hispanic or Latino, and 42.9% speak a language other than English at home. Educational attainment varies, with about one in five adults lacking a high school diploma. Economic data shows that 13.7% of residents live below the poverty line, 32.9% live with a disability, and the unemployment rate is 8.2%. Office support, sales, and management are among the county’s leading employment sectors.

## Community Needs

After reviewing the data, the assessment identified 39 health-related needs across Stanislaus County. In January 2025, the Steering Committee- made up of local partners- organized the needs into seven main priority areas, listed below in alphabetical order:

-  **Affordable & Stable Housing**
-  **Chronic Disease Prevention & Management**
-  **Economic Stability & Basic Needs**
-  **Education & Youth Development**
-  **Healthcare Access & Affordability**
-  **Maternal, Infant, and Reproductive Health**
-  **Mental & Behavioral Health**

The next sections provide highlights for each of the priority areas, including local data, community perspectives, and key challenges. For a comprehensive review of all the findings, please refer to the full 2025 Community Health Assessment report.

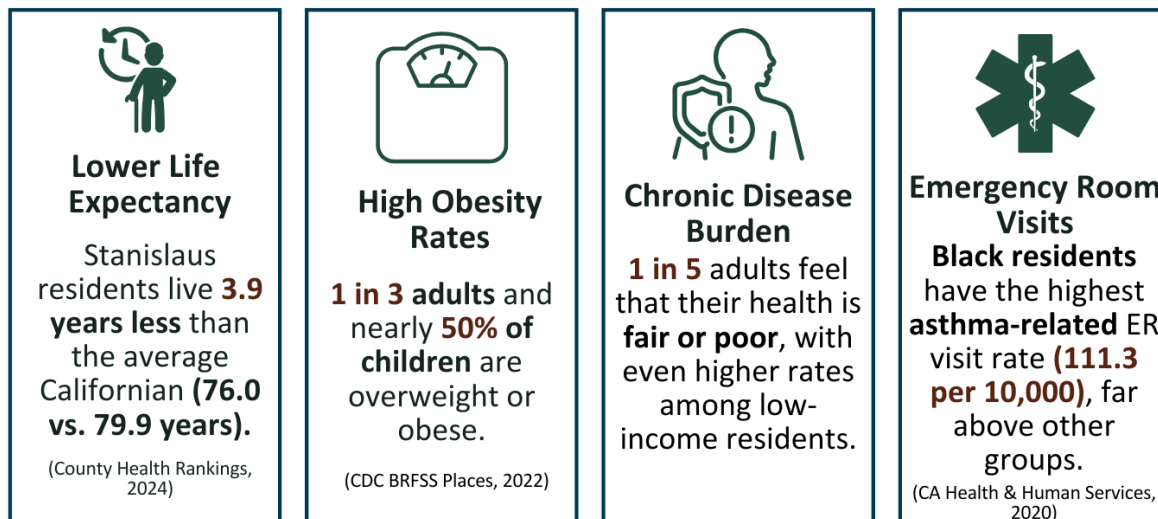
## Affordable & Stable Housing

In Stanislaus County, many residents are struggling to find housing that is both stable and affordable. Families face long waits for assistance, while rising rental costs continue to outpace local wages. These pressures are not limited to renters; many homeowners also report difficulty keeping up with housing expenses. Community feedback highlights growing concern about the lack of available options and the increasing visibility of homelessness.



## Chronic Disease Prevention & Management

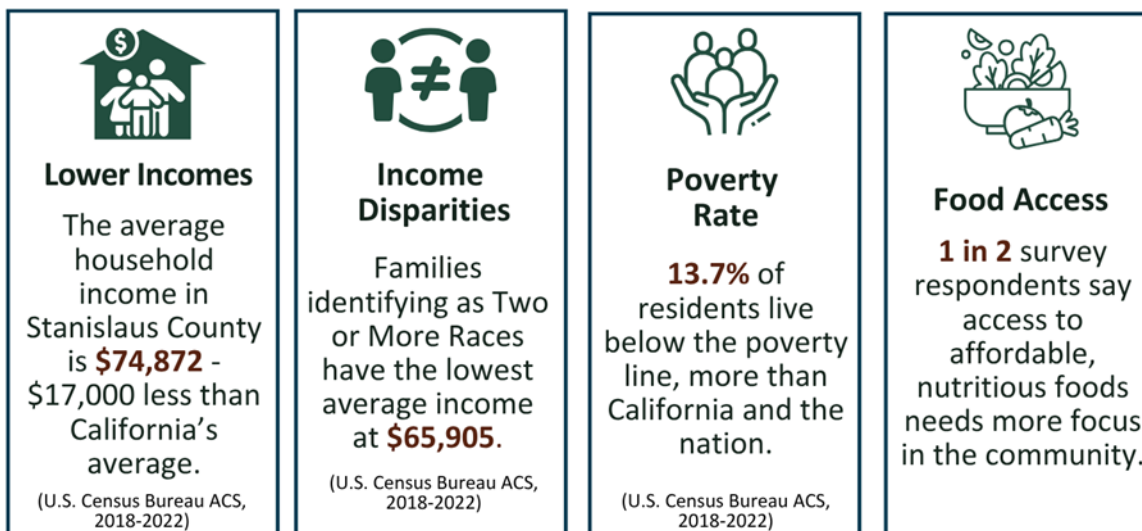
Stanislaus County residents face a heavy burden when it comes to chronic disease. Life expectancy is lower than the state average, and many adults report their health as only fair or poor. Obesity and asthma are widespread, especially among children, and cancer death rates remain high. These challenges are even more pronounced for residents with lower incomes and for communities of color, who also experience higher rates of emergency room visits and barriers to preventive care.





## Economic Stability & Basic Needs

Families in Stanislaus County are feeling the pressure of rising costs and limited financial stability. Household incomes fall below the state average, and many families struggle to afford essentials like housing, food, and childcare. The challenge is even greater for families identifying as Two or More Races, who report the lowest average incomes. Residents describe a system that's difficult to navigate without better wages, reliable childcare, and access to affordable necessities.



## Education & Youth Development

Young people in Stanislaus County face challenges that affect their education and well-being. Academic performance trails the state, and many students, especially Black and Hispanic youth, struggle with low test scores and limited opportunities. Mental health concerns are common, but schools often lack adequate support. Families also see a need for more youth programs and safe, accessible spaces. With one in four residents under 18, strengthening local resources is key to supporting youth development.



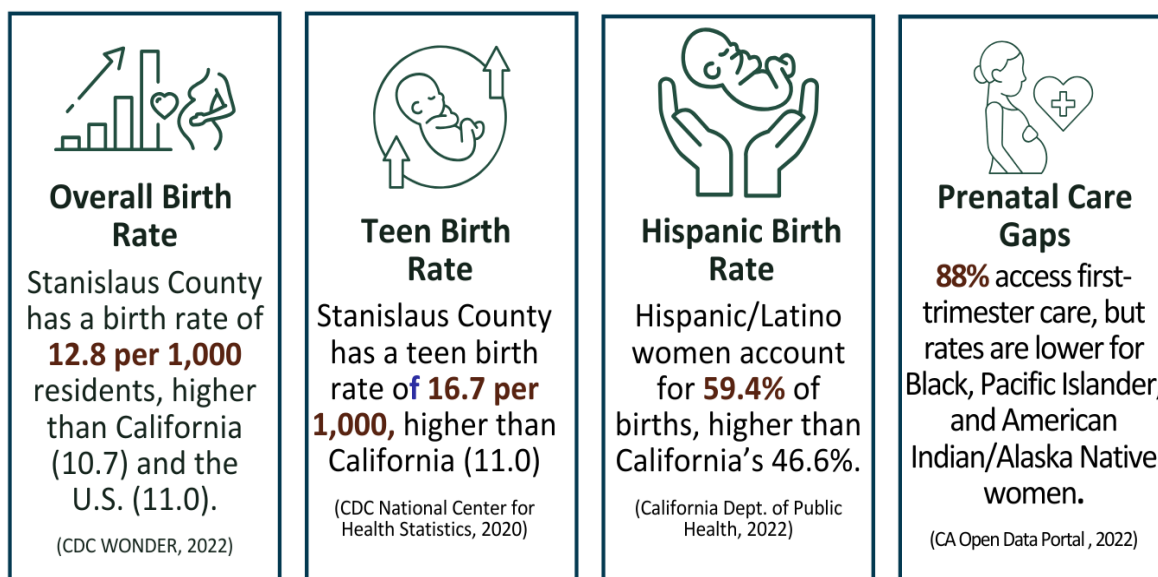
## Healthcare Access & Affordability

Access to healthcare remains a challenge for many residents in Stanislaus County. Long wait times, limited provider availability, and insurance barriers are preventing people from getting the care they need. Some residents report missing medical appointments altogether because they could not find a provider or their insurance was not accepted. Provider shortages are especially concerning in areas like pediatrics and women's health. For families with children, particularly those who are uninsured, these gaps can make it even harder to stay healthy.



## Maternal, Infant, and Reproductive Health

Stanislaus County has high infant mortality and teen birth rates, both above state averages. Prenatal care access is uneven, with lower rates among Black, Pacific Islander, and Native American women. These disparities contribute to poorer maternal and infant health outcomes.



## Mental & Behavioral Health

Stanislaus County residents face serious gaps in mental and behavioral health care. One in six residents needed support but did not receive it, often due to long wait times, provider shortages, and transportation barriers. There is only one mental health provider for every 492 residents, fewer than the state average. Rates of suicide and opioid overdose are also higher than in California overall. These challenges are especially difficult for low-income families and youth who need timely, consistent access to care.



### Unmet Needs

**1 in 6** residents needed mental health or substance use care but didn't receive it.



### Poor Mental Health Days

**18% of adults** in Stanislaus County report frequent poor mental health days.

(CDC BRFSS Places, 2022)



### Limited Access to Care

Long wait times, transportation issues, and provider shortages make it harder for youth and low-income residents to get help.



### Provider Shortages

Stanislaus County has **1** mental health provider per **492** residents, compared to 1 per 300 people in state of CA.

(National Plan & Provider Enumeration System, 2022)

## Conclusion

The 2025 Community Health Assessment provides a comprehensive foundation for understanding the conditions that shape health in Stanislaus County. It also highlights barriers many residents face in accessing care, services, and resources in the community. The findings from this assessment will guide the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)- a shared action plan designed to address the priority needs identified in Stanislaus County. Developed in collaboration with residents and community partners, the CHIP will outline shared goals, strategies, and outcomes to improve health outcomes throughout the county.