

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

OPERATIONAL AREA



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK

November 2020



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IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY THAT NO PERSON SHALL BE DENIED THE BENEFITS OF OR BE SUBJECTED TO DISCRIMINATION IN ANY CITY PROGRAM, SERVICE, OR ACTIVITY ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, RELIGION, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ENGLISH PROFICIENCY, SEX, AGE, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR SOURCE OF INCOME.

THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY ALSO REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS AND GRANTEEES TO COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY.

FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

WHAT - The Monterey County Community Resilience Framework is a guide for making our community more resilient, by bringing the whole community together to better understand our risks and capabilities during disasters and how we can become stronger, smarter, and more capable of handling any hardship that comes our way.

HOW - The framework provides community analyses and recommendations based on previously collected data, current surveys analysis, community and stakeholder input, and lessons learned from previous and current emergencies. The framework examines preparedness; mitigation; community connectedness; access to resources to meet needs; and available opportunities in the county.

WHY - The goal of the framework is to unite the community, better understand our capabilities and risks, and empower actions that make us more resilient.

WHEN - Community resilience is an ongoing process that must be adapted to our ever-changing society and as such this framework should be routinely updated.

SECTION SUMMARIES

Community Profile – Includes a discussion of the demographics, geography, history, and disaster risk of the county and the regions, cities, and towns within it.

- **Geography:** Monterey County, located in north-central coast of California is 3,280 miles and includes 2 valleys, the Monterey Peninsula & coastline, and 2 mountain ranges. Most of the population lives in the top third of the County.
- **Demographics:** The Salinas Valley has the highest Hispanic/Latinx concentration and the Peninsula has the highest white concentrations; with diversity being highest in the cities in and near California State University Monterey Bay.
- **History:** Pre-colonization, the region had three Native American tribes that were largely wiped out during Spanish Mission Era. The county grew initially from military installations, ranchos, and farms, with development increasing with the creation of railroads and Highway 101.
- **Disaster Risk:** Severe storms, floods and wildfires are the most common disasters in the county, however extreme temperatures, agricultural emergencies, erosion, sea level rise, tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides, hazardous material exposure, terrorist attacks, public health emergencies & power outages can also occur.

Emergency Preparedness – Reviews trends in preparedness knowledge and actions, along with organizations and projects that work to boost preparedness.

- **Key Takeaways:** People are becoming more motivated to prepare for disasters; but they are still tend to lack adequate insurance and emergency savings, and few are involved in community preparedness and emergency drills. Developing partnerships with different community sectors, encouraging preparedness activities (ex. emergency plans & supplies), and taking steps to make preparedness fun can increase preparedness within Monterey County Communities.

Mitigation and Sustainability – Reviews wildfire mitigation, building development, hazardous material management, environmental protection & sustainability programs in the county.

- **Key Takeaways:** Building codes and regulations, wildfire mitigation efforts, and environmental protection organizations all work to make the county more sustainable, however more efforts can be made to protect the environment and natural resources including: reducing waste, recycling, protecting soil, air and water quality, moving to renewable energy, encouraging building modifications and sustainable development, boosting partnerships with insurance companies, and developing climate actions plans.

Connections and Engagement – Reviews community connectedness, inclusion and engagement in the county; programs that work to unite, engage and advocate for the community; and lessons learned from previous and current disasters on bringing the community together.

- **Connectedness:** Monterey County has strong connections within communities but there are gaps between communities, as south county is often both socially and physically isolated from the rest of the county. Further, while there are high levels of social capital and trust in local leadership and community members in the county, most people believe community members are treated unfairly based on demographic characteristics (ex. race) and data shows disparities in trust and inclusion for minority races/ ethnicities.
- **Lessons Learned:** During disasters, communication and coordination is strong between emergency management organizations, but could be improved between emergency management and community-based organization. The best way to provide disaster information is by using traditional (ex. social media) and non-traditional (ex. churches, HAM radio) sources; text, voice, and images; and multiple languages.
- **Recommendations:** Expanding community programs and organizations that unite the community and combat discrimination, along with open spaces (ex. parks), after school programs, outdoor recreation (ex. bike paths) can boost community connectedness, as can building partnerships among community organizations, leadership & emergency management. Moreover, prevention and reentry programs that work to reduce recidivism, crime, & violence and neighborhood groups (ex. CERT) can make community members feel safer in their communities.

Basic Needs – Reviews data on food insecurity, housing, homelessness, and access to health care and other basic needs, such as sanitation items and clothing. Describes organizations and programs that work to meet the basic needs of the county community and lessons learned regarding basic needs during disasters.

- **Food:** About 10% of the county is food insecure. To combat food insecurity and promote healthy eating, communities should increase meal programs for children; promote healthy food near schools, transit and government facilities; and create community gardens, food cooperatives, and food policy councils.
- **Housing:** A top concern for many in the county is housing affordability and quality, with housing cost increases forcing many into homelessness or overcrowded/unsafe housing. This issue impacts low income renters and migrant farmworkers at the highest rates. Developing more housing programs and safeguards can help alleviate housing concerns. Additionally, realtors and housing organizations can help encourage household preparedness and partnering with insurance companies can reduce disaster insurance rates.
- **Health care** availability has been highlighted as an issue in the county, with South County being most medically underserved and nearly a third of the adult population lacking health insurance. 9% of the county has some type of disability and about a quarter have some type of mental health problem. To combat health issues in the county affordable health care (ex. low-cost clinics) and insurance programs should be enhanced, as should safety, counseling, and well-being programs/events.
- **During disasters,** basic needs are increased and the ability to meet them is often strained, making it crucial that feeding, housing and health care organization have emergency plans and backups and make partnerships with other organizations in the community pre disaster.

Available Opportunities – Reviews employment, education, childcare, transportation and communication opportunities and organizations in the county and lessons learned in these sectors during emergencies.

- **Economy:** Agriculture and tourism are the largest county industries, with the Salinas valley being a large agriculture center and the coastal regions being large tourist attractions. 17% of the county lives in poverty, however this number doubles when examining the real cost of living. Minority races/ ethnicities, children, and single mothers are the most likely to live in poverty and poverty rates are highest in the Salinas Valley and lowest on the Peninsula. To prepare for disasters, businesses should create plans, partnerships & emergency supplies/funds and encourage their employees to prepare their households.
- **Education:** 72% of the county has graduated high school, with social capital, access to basic needs, and a lack of discrimination and adversity influencing academic success. While most students do feel connected to their schools, about 1/5th have been bullied and issues with disabilities, substance abuse, mental health problems, poverty and homelessness are all present within the county student body. *Schools* should work to address underlying issues for students, increase access to support programs, and embed disaster preparedness in curriculum. *Universities* should partner with emergency management to conduct disaster related research and assist with disaster response.
- **Childcare** is an issue in the county, with 85% of families currently in need of full time, affordable childcare.
- **Transportation and communication systems** are lacking in south county. To address this, public transportation should be increased in south county and phone trees and HAM radio groups should be developed throughout the unincorporated Monterey County, including Carmel Valley and South County.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Monterey County Community Resilience Framework is a guide for making our community more resilient, by bringing the whole community together to better understand our risks and capabilities during disasters and how we can become stronger, smarter, and more capable of handling any hardship that comes our way.

The framework provides these community analyses and recommendations based on previously collected data, current surveys analysis, community and stakeholder input, and lessons learned from previous and current emergencies.

This framework is the first step in the process of community resilience and should be followed by projects that work to engage, educate, unite, and empower both the larger Monterey County community and all subcommunities within it. Community resilience is an ongoing process that must be adapted to our ever-changing society and as such this framework should be routinely updated.

THE BAD NEWS: No person or place is immune from disasters and their impacts.



THE GOOD NEWS: We have the power to reduce our risk & handle anything that comes our way!



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Resilience is the ability to prepare for, cope with, overcome, positively adapt to, and recover from change, including adverse or stressful events. When disasters strike, resilient communities are better able to return to normal, learn from the experience, and become stronger and better prepared as a result. Resilience is not something we naturally have, just like most things in life, it is something that we must be constantly worked on.

While every person and organization should prepare themselves for emergencies, this is easier to do when you have a strong support system. **Community resilience** is about transforming disaster management from "me" to "we" so that we are all smarter, stronger, healthier, and better prepared to face emergencies. It is an inclusive, informed process that addresses social, economic, natural, cultural, technological, and organizational sectors of a community.

For the purpose of this document, the terms "disaster" and "emergency" are used interchangeably.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Individuals and organizations alike have a responsibility to prepare themselves for emergencies by learning how to respond to them; signing up for local emergency alerts; having an emergency plan and back up supplies/funds; and getting their property insured for their risks. Everyone should also encourage others, such as family, employees, customers, and neighbors, to do the same; helping those who cannot prepare on their own.

To enhance community resilience, everyone's role is to become more involved within their communities by getting to know their neighbors and local emergency plans, attending community meetings, joining a community emergency response team or neighborhood watch, and making a community emergency plan and/or stockpile. Additionally, Governments, Businesses, and community organizations should develop community partnerships/agreements and create programs to boost community resilience and/or address vulnerabilities.

COUNTY OF MONTEREY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK 2020

FRAMEWORK PURPOSE

THE GOAL

Promote collaborative, whole-community efforts to increase resilience among the communities and residents of Monterey County, so that negative impacts of disasters can be removed or minimized, and our community is able to quickly recover from any and all emergencies.

OBJECTIVE 1: Unite Our Community

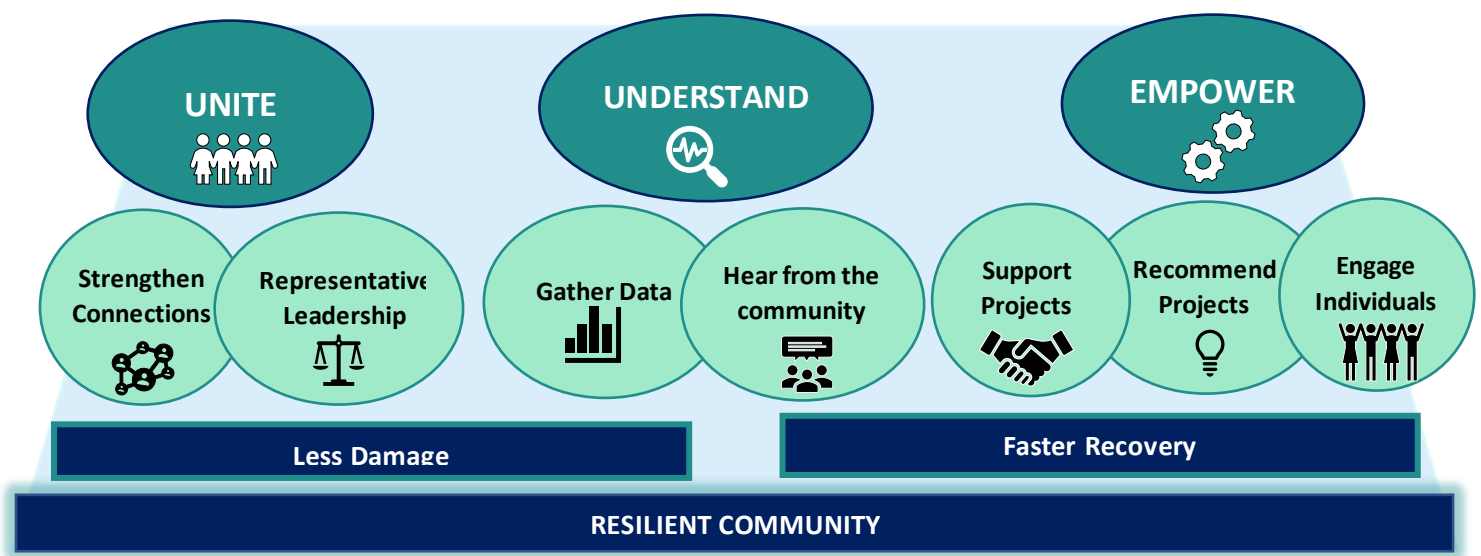
- Promote cross-sector cooperation and collaboration on resilience building efforts between all sectors within Monterey County, including both public and private partners.
- Remove barriers that inhibit or prevent participation of all sectors of the community to allow for diversified and representative leadership, by making plans, meetings, and documents accessible and digestible for all.

OBJECTIVE 2: Understand our Capabilities and Risks

- Provide a better understanding of the Monterey County community, by leveraging the knowledge of the whole community, including input from the public, local government, academia, non-profit, faith, and community-based organizations, advocacy and social service groups, and private businesses.
- Make sure that everyone's voice is heard, while paying a special emphasis on gathering input from the most vulnerable and underrepresented populations.

OBJECTIVE 3: Empower Actions That Make Us More Resilient

- Support existing community resilience projects
- Provide recommendations on how the larger Monterey County community, along with all subcommunities (from businesses to neighborhood blocks), can work to enhance community resilience, by becoming more self-sufficient and better prepared for emergencies.
- Increase the engagement of individual community members in resilience building activities at home, at work and in their neighborhoods.



MEASURING RESILIENCE

PREPAREDNESS

Preparing for disasters can help reduce anxiety and fear about them, along with preventing hazardous responses that can lead to injuries and death. To measure preparedness in our county we examine the knowledge and skills our residents and organizations have in relation to disasters (**Preparedness knowledge**) and the level to which they use that knowledge to take action and prepare for and respond to emergencies (**Preparedness Actions**) Further, while preparation can help manage disasters in the short term, **environmental sustainability** is how we manage and prepare in the long term.



Preparedness Knowledge



Preparedness Actions



Environmental Sustainability

UNITY

Research shows that communities that are more closely knit tend to have higher rates of well-being, bounce back more quickly from disasters, and take away more positive lessons from the experiences.¹ The takeaway is that we are stronger and better off when we work together, because, regardless of how much you know or what resources you have, some things are just too big to handle alone. To measure our county's social connectedness, we examine how many connections county residents and organizations have to their communities (**social capital**), the strength of these connections (**social cohesion**), and the level at which the people actively engage within the community (**social engagement**), by volunteering with organizations, participating in events, or otherwise working within the community.



Social Capital



Social Cohesion



Social Engagement

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Knowing where to go isn't enough if you don't have the means of getting there. When people and organizations have the resources to meet their needs without external help, they are better able to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and are more capable of assisting those who lack or have lost their resources during an emergency. Self-sufficient communities provide **safe places to live and work and access to adequate food, water, healthcare, housing, employment, education, emergency preparedness resources** (such as insurance and local emergency plans), **energy and communication systems, and transportation** for all community members.



Basic Needs Met



Opportunities available



High quality health care



Affordable, healthy food



Affordable & safe housing



Socially Connected

Access to safe water

Environmentally sustainable

Safe & effective education systems

Efficient, well-maintained infrastructure

An active & involved community

Economically strong

Disaster Ready!

Culturally Inclusive

Self-sufficient

Effectively governed

2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

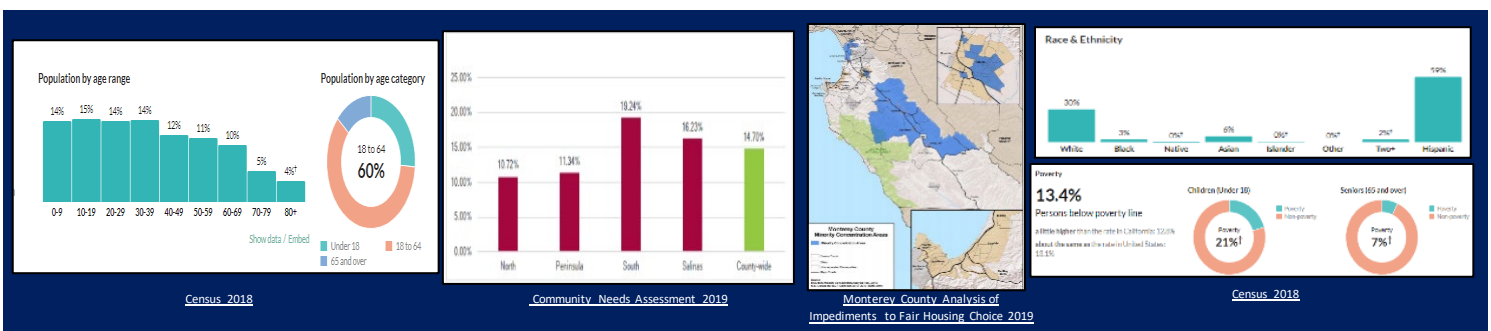


Monterey County takes up 3,280 square miles of the north-central coast of California. The western region of the county includes nearly 100 miles of coastline, with Monterey peninsula in the northwest and the Santa Lucia Mountain range separating the coast from the Carmel and Salinas Valleys. Salinas Valley, often called the “Salad Bowl of the World” takes up the eastern region of the county, with the Gabilan Mountain Range running parallel to its east and separating it from San Benito, Fresno and King counties, the city of Salinas in the northeast, Santa Cruz county to the north, and San Luis Obispo county to the south. Most of the county is sparsely populated, with the mountain ranges, western coastline, and large southern agricultural regions occupying the majority of the space and most residents living in the northern third of the county, in one of the 12 cities.¹

DEMOGRAPHICS

Monterey County has a population of 434,061 residents that has been increasing steadily and is projected to reach 569,450 residents by 2060.² The Median age in the County is 34.7, with nearly half of the adult population being married and 26% of the population being under the age of 18. The elderly population in the county is 14% and is the quickest growing population, increasing by 4% of the county’s residents since 2000. Most residents have lived in the same location for the past year (88.6%) and about 70% were born in the state, with most foreign-born residents coming from Latin America, followed by Asia and Europe. 32% of county residents are immigrants and 23% lack US citizenship. Additionally, 29% of residents do not speak English fluently, with Spanish being the most common primary language.

Over half of the county population (59%) self-reported as “Hispanic”, with the large majority (93%) specifying that they are Mexican. The Hispanic/Latinx population in the county has been rising since 2008. 47% of the population categorized themselves as white, with 30% noting they are “Non-Hispanic White”, 3% stated they are Black/African American, and 6% noted being Asian.^{1,3,4,5} The Eastern side of the county has several regions with large Hispanic/Latinx concentrations, while the Western side of the county has several regions with large white concentrations.⁶ 13% of county residents are living in poverty⁷ with the largest population located in South County and Salinas, being females age 25-34, Latinx/Hispanics, and children.^{1,3} Since 2000, poverty rates have grown by 3%, for everyone except children, whose rates have dropped by 3%.^{2,8}



The above description provides a snapshot of Monterey County, however the size and differences in geography and development spurred vastly different cultures in different regions. For this reason, this framework will break down analysis of the county into three sections: West, Northeast, and South County. West County includes the coastal region of Monterey peninsula and the coastline south of it. The Northeast County includes the county’s largest city, Salinas, and the unincorporated regions that border San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties to the north of it. South county refers to the agriculture rich Salinas valley down to the county’s southern border.

HISTORY

Pre-Colonization

Monterey County was originally occupied by Ohlone/Costanoan, Esselen, and Salinan Native Americans. The Salinan Native Americans lived in south county and had about 3,500-4,000 members.⁹ The Esselen Native Americans had several hundred members and resided on the northwest coast of the county. The Costanoan (Ohlone) group was the largest in the area with around 7,000 people, occupying Monterey Peninsula and north county¹⁰ Spanish explorers first reached the area in the 16th century and resided in what is now the Presidio of Monterey. In the 1770s, Spanish settlers developed several catholic missions, or religious outposts, within the County and used the Salinas Valley for range lands. This began a period of intense Native American conversion to Catholicism and the disintegration of Native American traditional life in the area.^{11, 12}



Pierce, C.C. 1861-1946

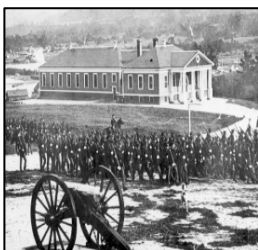
The Native Americans were prisoners of the missions, separated from their families, forced into unfamiliar work, and stripped of their former lifestyle, not being allowed to speak their language, eat their normal diet, or practice their customs. These stressful conditions, along with new diseases brought by settlers, led to the death of 80-90% of Native Americans. Those who managed to avoid the missions, were hunted down, beaten, and killed.¹¹ In 1833, the region fell to Mexican rule, Missions were converted to Ranchos and used for livestock. The Native Americans who survived the missions were released, but much of their land was now occupied by settlers and they faced hatred, violence, and persecution.^{11,13,14}

1800-1900s

In the mid-1800s, during the Mexican American war, the Presidio of Monterey was taken over by the US military and California became a US state, with Monterey being one of its original counties. In the 1850s, the gold rush sparked the developed of the Southern Pacific railroad and, as railroad systems grew throughout the late 1800s, so did the Salinas Valley population. The gold rush also brought about a cattle boom, that ended with major flooding in 1862, shifting the use of land from ranching to dry farming of grains. By the 1880s, large-scale seasonal row-crop farming and related industries became the County's economic base, creating a need for transient workers, who could come to work during the peak of growing season and leave thereafter. This need drew in Chinese immigrants, who had been working on railroad system development and had also begun fishing in the region. Anti-Chinese sentiments in the 1880-90s displaced many Chinese immigrants from farm labor, replacing them with Japanese immigrants, who also ended up facing discrimination and hostility and were subsequently replaced by Filipino and Mexican immigrant farm labor in the early 1900s, with Mexican immigrant populations continuously growing since.¹¹



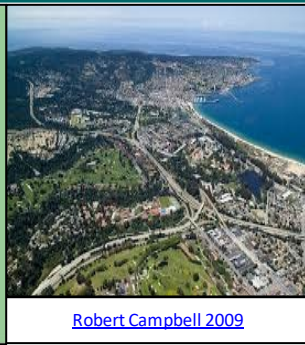
Gabe Rodriguez 2014



U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey 2018

The 1900s were a time of military growth for Monterey County with Fort Ord's creation in Seaside during World War 1 and Camp Roberts development in South County during World War 2. However, in recent history, base closures have resulted in reductions of military presence in the county, and the reuse of major portions of the former Fort Ord.⁶ The 1900s also marked a time of reunion for Native Americans, as the remaining members of different tribes came together and formed groups such as Salinan Tribe and the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation. Through activism, and in the interest of conservation and cultural resilience, Esselen Nation got back a 1,999-acre parcel of their old land in Big Sur in July 2020. While none of the native American groups in the county are currently federally recognized, they are petitioning the government for recognition and working to preserve their history and culture.^{11,13,15,16, 17}

WEST COUNTY



Robert Campbell 2009

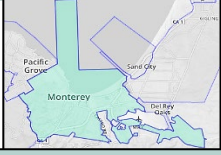
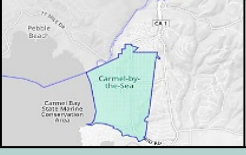
West County holds 27% of the County's population and includes the Monterey Peninsula and the coastal regions to its east and south. The region's coastline and scenic beauty, particularly in the western most parts and on the peninsula, have attracted tourism and a wealthier, older, whiter, and less diverse population than Monterey County as a whole. Moving eastward along the coastline, the presence of CSUMB and the redevelopment of Ford Ord have attracted younger, poorer, and more diverse populations.⁶

	Monterey County	Carmel by the Sea	Del Rey Oaks	Marina	Monterey	Pacific Grove	Sand City	Seaside	Carmel Valley 93924	Big Sur 93920	Del Monte Forest/ Pebble Beach
Population	435, 594	3,855	1,596	21,608	28,512	15,567	318	34,077	6,568	1403	4,197
Population per square mile	133	3,615	3,314	2,430	3,301	5,446	565	3688	190	369	522
Median Age	34.7	61.3	46.5	34.9	36.9	48.5	38.8	32.3	54.9	36.3	59.8
Age: Under 18	26%	13%	18%	22%	16%	19%	16%	25%	16%	21%	12%
Age: 18-64	60%	43%	60%	64%	66%	55%	74%	65%	53%	66%	48%
Age: 65 & over	14%	44%	22%	14%	17%	26%	10%	10%	30%	13%	40%
Hispanic	59%	10%	16%	30%	17%	10%	34%	43%	16%	44%	9%
White	30%	82%	74%	34%	66%	79%	57%	31%	76%	54%	74%
Black/A.A.	3%	0%	3%	7%	4%	1%	5%	7%	1%	0%	1%
Asian	6%	4%	5%	19%	7%	5%	2%	10%	1%	3%	14%
Poverty Rate	13.4%	7.5%	6.2%	11.2%	11.2%	7%	14.8%	14.7%	9%	14.1%	6.6%

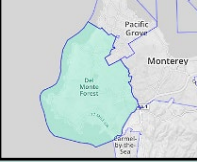
THE COASTLINE EAST OF MONTEREY PENINSULA

						
SAND CITY	SEASIDE			MARINA		
The tiny half a square mile city of Sand City includes slightly over 400 residents, few children and elderly residents, and a majority white population, with higher rates of Native American and Black/ African American residents than the county. The city is largely industrial, developed through sand mining and tourism, but is growing and becoming a more residential area. ³	Seaside is a densely populated, coastal city of 9 square miles and over 34,000 residents, that was built on the US Army Base Fort Ord and includes California State University of Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Seaside is diverse compared to the county, but somewhat less so than Marina, and is younger in age than both, with a lower elderly population. ³			The eastern edge of the West County begins at the city of Marina, which was developed in 1975 and has grown as part of the redevelopment of the former Fort Ord military installation. With nearly 10 square miles, including several miles of beaches preserved as public park space, Marina has a population of over 21,000 and is Monterey County's most ethnically diverse city, with the highest percentage of Asian residents in the county and over double the Black/African American residents. ^{3, 18}		

MONTEREY PENINSULA

			
PACIFIC GROVE	MONTEREY	DEL REY OAKS	CARMEL BY THE SEA
The city of <i>Pacific Grove</i> is the most densely populated city in the Peninsula with 3 square miles and 15,600 residents. The protected ocean front scenery, Victorian style buildings and historic downtown have made the city a tourist destination. 3	<i>Monterey</i> is the largest city on the peninsula, with 9 square miles of coastline and wooded hills and nearly 29,000 residents. The city has a long military history, housing the Presidio of Monterey, served as California's first capital city, became the center of a thriving fishing industry, and is now a tourist destination, known for Monterey Bay Aquarium, Cannery Row, Fisherman's Wharf, and several historic and cultural sites. 3 19	<i>Del Rey Oaks</i> is small in size, with just over 1,500 residents in its half square mile. The city also has the lowest poverty rate in West County and is the only city not on the coastline, located in the wooded Canyon of Del Rey 20	<i>Carmel by the Sea</i> is a relatively small city of 1 square mile of dense forest and nearly 4,000 residents. The city is a popular commercial district that emphasizes independence, art, culture, & environmental preservation and has the largest elderly and white populations in the county. 1 21

THE SOUTHERN COASTLINE AND CARMEL VALLEY

		
BIG SUR & SOUTHERN COAST	DEL MONTE FOREST	CARMEL VALLEY
The <i>Big Sur</i> region and southern coastline, in the zip code of 93920, includes about 370 square miles and is sparsely populated with about 1,400 residents and demographics that mirror West County. Off the Pacific Coast highway, the region is a famous tourist attraction, known for its campgrounds, beaches, hiking trails, and the Bixby Bridge. 3 22	<i>Del Monte Forest</i> includes pebble beach, a popular golf resort area, and is about 8 square miles, with just over 4,000 residents. The area has the fewest proportion of children in West County and one of the county's highest Asian population. 3	The <i>Carmel Valley</i>, 93924, is a sparsely populated region of about 190 square miles and 6,500 residents, many of whom migrated from Salinas Valley in the 1800s, with demographic trends that mirror the rest of West County. 3 11

NORTHEAST COUNTY



[Naotake Murayama 2010](#)

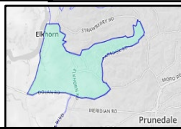
The Northeast portion of Monterey County includes the city of Salinas and the unincorporated regions to its north. The development of the Southern Pacific Railroad and Highway 101 promoted the growth of this region, which now includes 44% of the County's population, most of which resides in the city of Salinas. The regions in the northeast with the largest populations tend to be the areas with high Hispanic/Latinx concentrations, younger residents, more poverty, and fewer white residents, while the smaller population regions are the least impoverished areas in the county and tend to be older, with much fewer children and more white residents. [6](#)

	Monterey County	Salinas	Aromas	Boronda	Castroville	Elkorn	Las Lomas	Moss Landing	Pajaro	Prunedale	Spreckels
Population	435, 594	156,275	2,553	1,066	6,686	1,151	3,755	61	3,561	19,584	385
Population per square mile	133	6,670	539	1,858	6,544	240	3,621	153	3,842	425	3,152
Median Age	34.7	30	43.6	47.2	28	49.8	27.2	52.3	25.6	40.4	47.8
Age: Under 18	26%	31%	18%	12%	33%	13%	34%	0%	37%	23%	5%
Age: 18-64	60%	59%	69%	61%	59%	67%	63%	84%	60%	63%	78%
Age: 65 & over	14%	9%	13%	27%	8%	20%	3%	16%	2%	15%	17%
Hispanic	59%	81%	30%	87%	89%	14%	89%	39%	92%	49%	19%
White Non-Hispanic	30%	11%	69%	10%	8%	78%	9%	61%	3%	41%	81%
Black/A.A.	3%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Asian	6%	6%	1%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Poverty Rate	13.4%	16.9%	6.4%	5.4%	17.9%	1.5%	20.4%	11.5%	14.2%	6.6%	0%

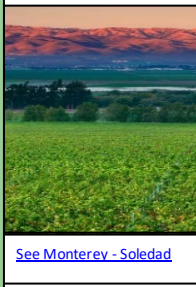


SALINAS

Salinas, located at the northern end of the Salinas Valley, is the largest city in the county, with over 160,000 residents. The city was once part of the Ohlone tribe's territory, was turned into rangelands while part of Mexico, and, as part of the US, grew through the development of a courthouse and the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1870s, becoming the county seat. Today, the city has a large suburban region, several large growing and shipping company headquarters, more than 100 manufacturing firms and a highly frequented commercial region, known as Old Town Salinas. The city's population is younger, poorer, and less diverse than the County's, with a large majority of residents identifying as Hispanic/Latinx and fewer residents who identify as non-Hispanic white or Black/African American. Salinas' position as a center for agricultural activity and its history of having many former confederate residents in the 1860s, who were not welcoming to Black/African Americans, contributed to Salinas' current ethnic composition. [6, 11](#)

LARGER SALINAS AREA				
				
BORONDA		SPRECKELS		
<i>Boronda</i> is a census designated place directly west of Salinas, with a population of just over 1,000. The region has a small poverty rate and large elderly population as compared to Salinas and Monterey County as a whole. Its ethnic composition mirrors Salinas, aside from fewer Asian residents, but is much less densely populated. ³		<i>Spreckels</i> is a town located south of Salinas with a population of 385 that has no poverty and is largely white, middle-aged residents. ¹ The town was developed in the late 1800s by Claus Spreckels who created the Pajaro Valley Railroad to transport beets and the Spreckels Sugar Factory, which employed the town’s residents. ¹¹		
NORTHERNMOST MONTEREY COUNTY				
				
PAJARO	LAS LOMAS	PRUNEDALE	AROMAS	
<i>Pajaro</i> is the northmost town of the County, on the southern tip of the Pajaro river. The town’s population grew with the development of Ranchos, Southern Pacific Railroad & the gold rush ²³ Pajaro now has 3,500 residents, with the largest Hispanic/Latinx and Native American populations, the lowest white population, and the youngest median age in the County, along with fewer elderly residents & more children. ³	<i>Las Lomas</i> is a town south of Pajaro, with a population of 3,755. The town has very few elderly residents and is majority Hispanic/Latinx. 1/5 Las Lomas residents live in poverty, making it the most impoverished region in the county.	<i>Prunedale</i> lies in northeast Monterey County and grew with the development of the 101 Highway, now hosting the largest population in all of the unincorporated County. The region has similar demographics as the county, but is slightly older, has a larger white population & a much smaller poverty rate. ^{3, 6, 24}	<i>Aromas</i> is a town on the northern border of Monterey County, partially located in San Benito County. The town has 2, 500, primarily white residents & less children, Hispanic/Latinx & Asian residents than the County, & no Black/African American residents. ³	
				
MOSS LANDING	CASTROVILLE	ELKHORN		
<i>Moss Landing</i> is a historic fishing village of 61 adult residents, located on the northern most coastline of the county, that has developed into a tourist attraction and a center for oceanic research. ³	<i>Castroville</i>, known as the Artichoke capital of the world, is located southeast of Moss Landing. The town has a population of 7,000, who are primarily Hispanic/Latinx and are younger and more impoverished than the rest of the County. ³	<i>Elkhorn</i> is a town located northwest of Prunedale, developed as a stop on the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1870s & includes the natural reserve of Elkhorn Slough.²⁵ The town has about 1,100 mostly white residents and has a higher percent of pacific islander and elderly residents than the county and the second lowest poverty rate.		

NORTHEAST COUNTY



See Monterey - Soledad

Salinas Valley makes up South County, which includes 29% of the county's population, with 98% of the Valley reserved for agriculture. The region grew with the development of missions, ranches, farms, the Southern Pacific Railroad, Highway 101, Soledad State Prison, and several oil refineries.¹¹ South County residents tend to be younger, having fewer elderly residents and more children, than the rest of the county. Further, in all 4 cities, most residents are Hispanic and in all South County, except for Soledad and Jolon, Asian & black populations are smaller than the County as a whole.

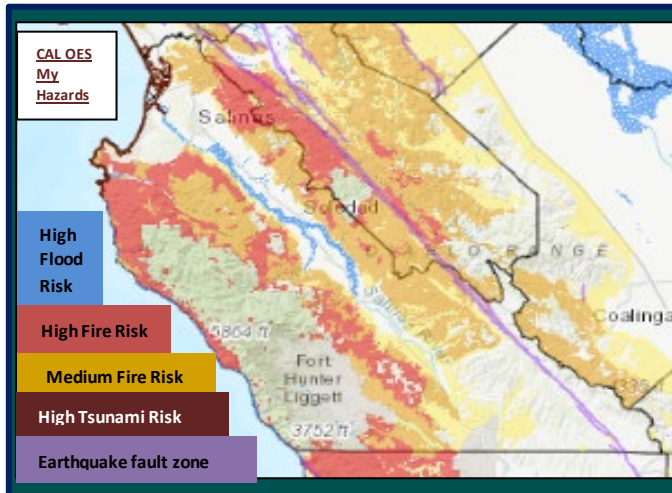
	Monterey County	Greenfield	Gonzales	King City	Soledad	Bradley	Chualar	Jolon	Lockwood	Parkfield	Pine Canyon	San Ardo	San Lucas
Population	435, 594	17,276	8,402	13,834	25,597	107	1,442	820	604	4,089	2,294	554	472
Population per square mile	133	8,087	4,445	3,551	5,820	1,244	2,303	42.9	55.6	510	688	1,233	1,198
Median Age	34.7	26.6	30.3	28.3	35.9	48.3	26.2	25.3	27.6	34.6	40.7	27.4	30.2
Age: Under 18	26%	36%	33%	33%	22%	17%	36%	6%	39%	28%	21%	39%	37%
Age: 18-64	60%	59%	60%	61%	72%	77%	59%	94%	49%	60%	64%	54%	57%
Age: 65 & over	14%	6%	7%	6%	6%	7%	5%	0%	12%	12%	15%	7%	6%
Hispanic	59%	92%	92%	89%	73%	21%	100%	25%	28%	47%	55%	82%	84%
White	30%	6%	5%	7%	14%	79%	0%	44%	69%	48%	38%	16%	15%
Black/A.A.	3%	1%	0%	1%	8%	0%	0%	11%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Asian	6%	0%	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	7%	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Poverty Rate	13.4%	18%	12%	24.1%	13%	13.1%	28.7%	0%	37.8%	17.9%	11.6%	19.5%	11.5%

SALINAS VALLEY CITIES

							
GONZALES	SOLEDAD	GREENFIELD	KING CITY				
<i>Gonzales</i> is a city of about 8,000, located south of Chualar. Gonzales has a small-town, rural character with a strong agricultural heritage, including an agricultural industrial business park & numerous wineries and vineyards in the nearby foothills. Gonzales is majority Hispanic/Latinx & has a younger population than the county.	<i>Soledad</i> is the largest city in South County, located south of Gonzales, with 25,600, primarily Hispanic/Latinx residents and a higher proportion of children and Black/African American residents than the county. The city moved from rangelands to row crops in the 1920s, becoming a prime area for wineries and vineyards, and further diversified in the 1990s with the construction of two prisons. ¹¹	<i>Greenfield</i> is a densely populated city, just south of Soledad, with a quickly growing population of over 17,000, that is primarily Hispanic/Latinx and relatively young, having few elderly residents and more children than the County. The city contains a mix of rural and suburban lifestyles and has a large agriculture base and many vineyards.	<i>King City</i> is the southernmost city in the county, located along the Salinas River. The city is the location of the former San Antonio Mission, became rangelands in the 1800s, and now has an agricultural focus, primarily in food processing and packing. ¹¹ King City has nearly 14,000 residents, a majority of which are Hispanic/Latinx, has the highest poverty level in the county and a relatively young population.				

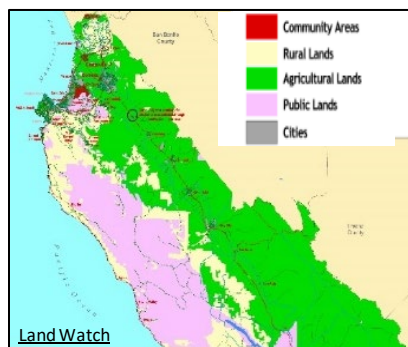
SALINAS VALLEY UNINCORPORATED REGION							
							
CHUALAR		SAN LUCAS		SAN ARDO		BRADLEY	
<i>Chualar</i> is an agricultural town south of Salinas with almost 1,500 residents, all of which are Hispanic/Latinx. The town has steadily grown since the late 1800s and has more poverty, more children, and fewer elderly residents than the County. 3 11		<i>San Lucas</i> is a town between King City and San Ardo, settled in the 1800s as farms, ranches, and dairies. The town has 472 residents and is primarily Hispanic/Latinx, with a younger population than the county. 11		<i>San Ardo</i> is a small town of 554, north of Bradley, that includes oil fields and agricultural operations and is majority Hispanic/Latinx, with a younger and more impoverished population than the County.		Bradley is a town of about 100 residents on the southern end of Monterey County, that includes primarily white residents between the age of 18 and 64.	
							
PINE CANYON		JOLON		LOCKWOOD		PARKFIELD	
<i>Pine Canyon</i> is a town just west of King City with about 2,300 residents, with a white majority, and an older and slightly less impoverished population than the county.		<i>Jolon, 93928, is a town southwest of King City that drew in Chinese miners in the mid-1800s, followed by farmers in the late 1800s when mines closed. The town has 820 residents, a white majority, few children, no elderly residents, and the highest black/African American population in the county. 11</i>		<i>Lockwood</i> is south of Jolon and includes Lake San Antonio, Fort Hunter Liggett, ranches, vineyards, and 600 residents, with a white majority, a high proportion of children, and the highest poverty rate in the county. The town’s settlers were neighbors and relatives from Fohr, Germany who developed farms that have now expanded to several thousand acres. 11		<i>Parkfield, 93451, is on the southeastern edge of the County, in the Cholame Hills. It was settled in the 1850s as mining operations drew in settlers and now has about 4,000, primarily white and Hispanic/Latinx residents, with a higher poverty rate than the county. 11</i>	

DISASTER RISK



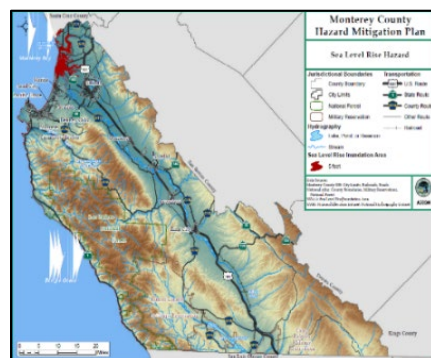
Monterey County has experienced 25 emergencies since 1967 resulting in a local proclamation or federal disaster declaration, with the top three hazards being Severe Storms (29%), Floods (16%), Wildfires (16%). Although less frequent, there is a risk of experiencing extreme temperatures, agricultural emergencies, erosion, sea level rise, tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides, hazardous material exposure, terrorist attacks, public health emergencies and power outages. On average the County experiences a Federally Declared disaster every 1.5 years, with each disaster lasting approximately 40 days.²⁵ For more information on County disaster risk and history please refer to [Monterey County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

Agricultural Emergency



Agricultural emergencies are events that cause significant agricultural losses; drought, extreme temperatures, storms, fires, and insects are the most common causes in California, with the 2019 E. coli outbreak and 2014 drought being the most recent agricultural emergencies in Monterey County. The County is highly vulnerable to agricultural emergencies as its top employment industry is agriculture, contributing \$8.1 billion and employing 76,054 people. South County's agricultural focus places it at highest risk, holding 393,315 acres of cropland. Anticipated increases in temperatures and decreases in precipitation caused by climate change will increase the frequency, duration, and extent of agricultural emergencies. [1,27,28,29](#)

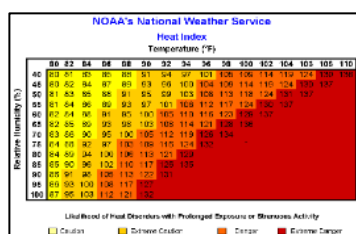
Coastal Erosion and Sea Level Rise



While not as rapidly occurring or deadly as flooding, coastal erosion and sea level rise pose a threat to coastal regions of Monterey County. Coastal erosion is the wearing away of rock, soil, and sand along the coast. The county has a history of 20 to 50 feet of erosion in Carmel and Marina, along with slope failure near Big Sur, with winter storms, particularly el Niño, flooding, and earthquakes historically causing Monterey cliffs to erode. Coastal erosion may worsen because of climatic change impacts, such as sea level rise, and long-term human factors such the construction of shore protection structures and dams. Overall, the probability of coastal erosion occurring within the county is considered highly likely throughout Monterey County coasts, with Monterey, Sand City, Pacific Grove, Marina, and the

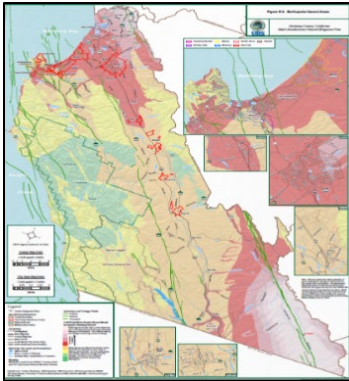
coastline off the Pacific Coast Highway being most at risk. Sea Level Rise, due to thermal expansion and melting ice, is steadily increasing in Monterey County as well, at a rate of 0.05 inches per year, impacting Monterey County coastline, with Northern county, particularly moss landing, being at highest risk. [1](#)

Extreme Temperatures



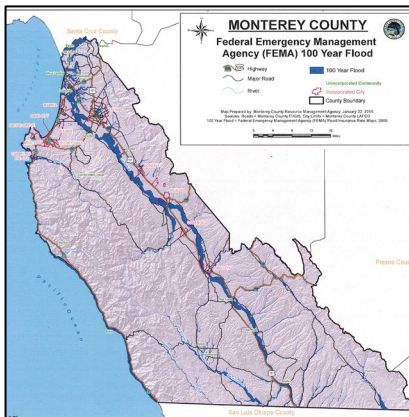
Prolonged extreme temperatures occur less often in Monterey County, however they can and have happened, with extreme cold more likely to occur in coastal and mountain regions during the winter, and extreme heat more likely to occur inland, during the summer. The county's annual average temperature will increase between 2.9-4.9 degrees Fahrenheit, and extreme heat days are expected to increase from 4 days per year to 50-90 days per year by 2100, depending on emissions. [1](#)

Earthquake



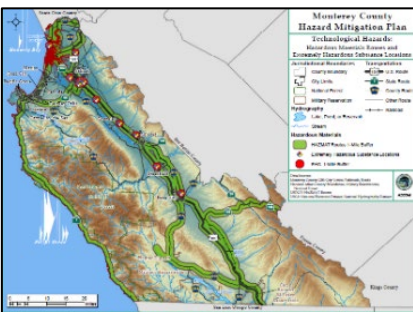
An earthquake is a sudden motion or trembling caused by a release of strain accumulated within or along the edge of the earth's tectonic plates. Earthquakes usually occur without warning and, after just a few seconds, can cause landslides, erosion, liquefaction, utility disruptions, tsunamis, property and infrastructure damage, and extensive casualties across a large geographic area. There are 3 faults in Monterey County, the Palo Colorado–San Gregorio Fault, the Monterey Bay–Tularcitos Fault and the San Andreas fault, which has caused the majority of earthquakes in the county and runs through the southeastern portion of the county for approximately 30 miles. Available data suggest that between five to ten small earthquakes have been felt each year in Monterey County and one moderate earthquake has been felt along the San Andreas Fault near Parkfield every 22 years over the past 150 years. Research by USGS shows that the San Andreas Fault has a 21 percent probability and the San Gregorio–Palo Colorado Fault has a 10 percent probability of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake by 2032. While all of the county is at risk of earthquake shaking, 78% are at high or very high risk of shaking, with the highest risk being in the northern and southeastern portions of Monterey County, that includes 3% of the population. ¹

Flooding



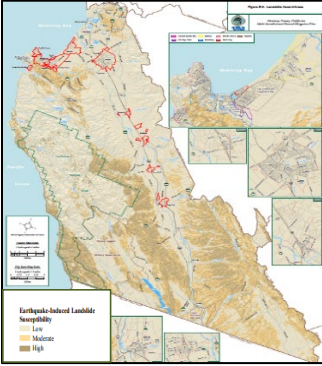
Flooding is the accumulation of water where none usually occurs or the overflow of a body of water onto adjacent lowlands, known as floodplains, that can cause evacuations, property, cropland and infrastructure damage, economic losses, utility disruptions, and casualties. Flooding in Monterey County has occurred five times since 1967, occurring on average once every four years, primarily between October and April. Flooding in the county is largely caused by winter storms but can also occur because of dam failures and tsunamis, with the San Antonio, Nacimiento, and Los Padres dams having the largest potential impact. Although no dam has ever failed in Monterey County, if one of them did, it could cause catastrophic flooding in Soledad, King City, Greenfield, Marina, Monterey, Carmel by the Sea, Pacific Grove and/or Salinas. ²⁶ An area totaling 232.942 square miles within the county is within the 100-year floodplain, that includes 5% of county residents, 145.0 square miles of cropland, over 600 nonresidential buildings, 43.6 miles of highway, and 15.6 miles of railroad tracks. Overall, the Salinas, Carmel, Pajaro, and Big and Little Sur Valleys, areas adjacent to the Salinas, Carmel, Pajaro, and Arroyo seco rivers, the Moro Cojo and Elkhorn Sloughs, and low-lying coastal areas are at highest risk of experiencing flooding. ¹

Hazardous Material Events



Hazardous Material events include the release of highly toxic, reactive, corrosive, flammable, radioactive, or infectious substances that pose a significant risk to humans. Releases of toxic substances can occur during transport and from fixed facilities and can be caused by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, accidents, or acts of terror. Transportation-related releases are generally more troublesome because they can occur anywhere, including close to human populations, critical facilities, or sensitive environmental areas and are harder to mitigate. According to the NRC, there have been 897 reported incidents in Monterey County since 1990, 41% of which occurred in unincorporated Monterey County, including 13% in the vicinity of Moss Landing, 29% in the city of Monterey, and 13% in the city of Salinas. In the County, a hazardous materials event is most likely to occur along transportation corridors, oil fields, or in agricultural production areas. Based on previous occurrences, Monterey County can expect a hazardous material event due to a railroad or mobile sources to occur five times a year. ¹

Landslide



A landslide is the sliding downhill of a mass of soil or rocks along a sloped surface. Landslides can be caused by floods, earthquakes, fires, or storms, and can also be categorized as mudflows, mudslides, debris flows, rock falls, rockslides, debris avalanches, debris slides, and slump-earth flows. Historically, landslide activity has occurred in Carmel Valley, Big Sur, and Las Lomas and has increased during severe El Niño years, resulting in debris slides, property and road damage, and casualties. A little over 22 percent of the county's population lives in moderate or high landslide hazard areas that includes the Big Sur coast, the Santa Lucia and Gabilan Mountain Ranges, the Carmel Valley, and the northern county limits. In general, Monterey County can expect to experience significant landslide events during strong El Niño years (every 5 to 7 years) or during a large earthquake event. ¹

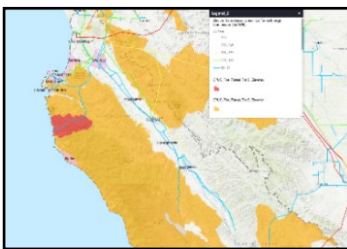
Man Made Disasters



Man Made disasters include any manmade event that poses a serious threat to life, property or the environment. These types of events include targeted violence (ex. Riots), oil spills, train derailment, and terrorist attacks. Terrorist attacks are violent or criminal actions used to intimidate or coerce a government, civilians, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives and can be done by anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or citizenship. Acts of terror include violence, such as bombings or shootings, and cyberattacks, used to steal or destroy information ³². While manmade

disasters can occur anywhere, to anyone, transit emergencies are most likely to occur on highways and railroad tracks, riots are more likely to occur during times of civil unrest, and terrorist attacks are most likely to occur at large gatherings, government facilities, corporate centers, international airports, high-profile landmarks, on utility systems, and through the mail; cyber-attacks are more likely to target government entities and large corporations. ^{1, 33}

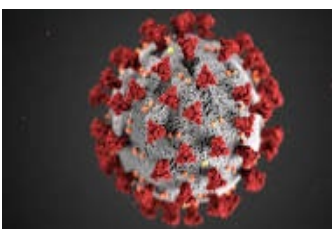
Power Outage



Power outages can occur anywhere and can be intentional or unintentional. Most power outages generally do not last for prolonged periods of time, however public safety power shutoffs can. These types of power outages are conducted by the power company to prevent wildfires when fire risk is high and can impact both transmission and distribution power lines, generally taking 3-5 days to fully reenergize after the high wildfire risk conditions have passed. In much of Monterey County, de-energization can be localized; however, in the Big Sur region and the Salinas Valley region, from Gonzales to the

southernmost end of the county, the distribution subsystems are interdependent and electricity cannot be rerouted, so power outages can impact these entire regions simultaneously, affecting areas not originally in the hazard area. Prolonged power outages can impact access to clean water, sanitation, communication systems, electrical medical devices, ATMs, health services, and gas pumps and are especially harmful when they occur during extreme temperatures. ^{1, 31}

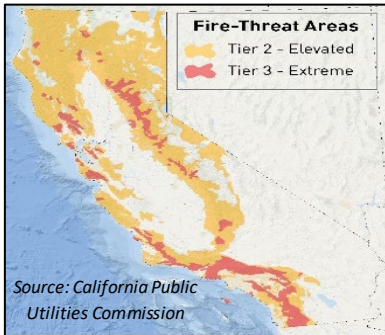
Public Health Emergencies



Public health emergencies, such as a pandemic, can occur anywhere, at any time. Public Health emergencies tend to impact different populations differently and vary based on the type of health emergency occurring. However, in most health emergencies, those with preexisting health conditions are at higher risk, as are regions with fewer and/or lower quality health care facilities. The most recent public health emergency in Monterey County is the COVID-19 pandemic that began in February 2020 and is still occurring, impacting

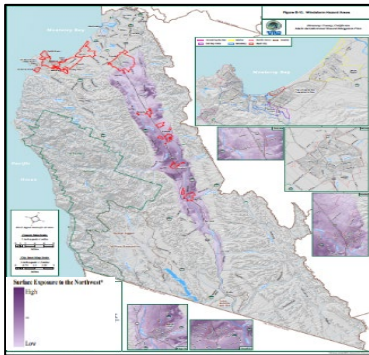
elderly residents and those with preexisting conditions the worst. ^{1, 34}

Wildland Fire



Wildland fires are relatively frequent in Monterey County, with major fires occurring in 1932, 1977, 2016 and 2020, burning over 350,00 acres of land, causing property damage, evacuations, and casualties. Wildfires also strip the land of vegetation destroying forest resources, harming the soil, waterways, and the land itself, increasing flooding and debris flow risk. Wildfire causes in the county have varied, with some man made (campfire) and others caused by nature (lightening). Wildfires can be worsened by high heat and winds, low humidity, unmanaged vegetation, and drought. Areas located in and around Los Padres National Forest, Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, and Fresno and Kings counties' borders have the highest risk of wildland fires, followed by the communities along the Big Sur coast and the mountainous areas to the west and east of Salinas Valley. Moderate wildland fire hazard areas are located from the southernmost area of the Salinas Valley north to Moss Landing and Pajaro. Overall, around 90% of Monterey County residents have between a moderate to very high wildland fire risk. It is anticipated that the County will face a wildland fire every 1 to 2 years, most likely in the late summer or early fall and, with climate change increasing temperatures and decreasing precipitation in the county, the frequency and magnitude of wildland fires is projected to increase to 4-6 times the current conditions. ¹

Windstorm



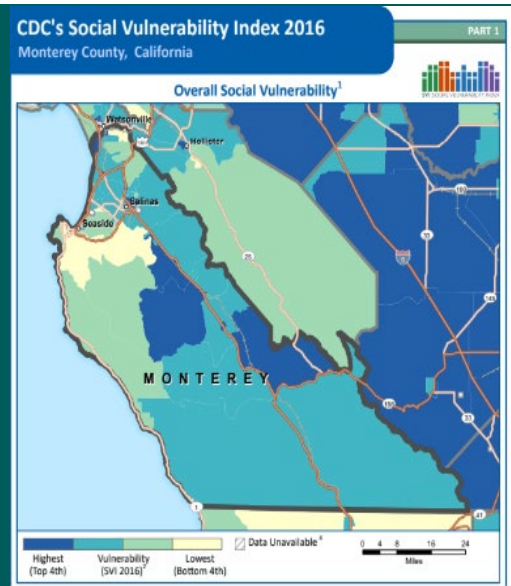
Windstorms can damage trees, cause utility disruptions, and increase the risk of wildfires and public safety power shutoffs. Monterey County has had several high windstorm events, including four tornadoes which occurred in the northeastern portion of Monterey County, with the largest tornado reaching a magnitude of F1 (maximum wind speeds of 73–112 mph) in Watsonville, just across the Pajaro River in Santa Cruz County, in December 2001. In addition to winter windstorms that occur from November to February and impact the entire county, between the months of March and October, northwest sustained surface winds in Salinas Valley occur each year, reaching average speeds of 10 to 15 mph with accompanying wind gusts up to 45 mph. ¹

Tsunami



A tsunami is waves generated by an earthquake, landslide, volcano, or even a large meteor hitting the ocean. There have been 10 observed tsunamis in Monterey County over the last 200 years, almost all of which were produced by earthquakes, occurred in Monterey, Pacific Grove, or Moss Landing, and resulted in wave run-ups of 1 meter or less. The entire coastal area of Monterey County is susceptible to a tsunami, with the Big Sur coast being least susceptible and the coastal low-lying areas and riverine valleys on the north county coastline having the highest risk. The San Gregorio Fault, which runs more or less parallel to the coastline, is the likeliest point of origin for a near-shore event, capable of creating a large enough earthquake to trigger an offshore landslide in a submarine canyon in the Monterey Bay and a subsequent tsunami that could reach shore in less than 30 minutes and as little as 10 minutes. Large tsunami events near the Alaska-Aleutian Islands region could also impact Monterey County's coastline, causing currents that could damage harbor docks, infrastructure, and other facilities. Less than 1 percent of the county's population, mainly residing in the unincorporated communities of the Carmel Highlands, Carmel Lagoon, Castroville, Moss Landing, and Pajaro, are vulnerable to a tsunami. A significant coastal visitor population may also be vulnerable to tsunamis, with approximately 5.4 miles of highway, 4.4 miles of railroad tracks, and 5 bridges in this hazard area. ¹

SOCIAL VULNERABILITY



As discussed in the introduction, hazard exposure alone does not fully explain disaster resilience; characteristics including age, ethnicity, race, income, household structure, language, employment, home and car ownership, health, population density, insurance, and citizenship, can also impact how well a person manages hazard risks.

The groups at highest disaster risk include those who:

- **Depend on others for survival** (children and those with severe physical or mental limitations)
- **Have difficulty managing disasters on their own** (the elderly, those with health problems or limitations, living alone, without vehicles, or with limited education, single parents, and low-income households)
- **Already face discrimination or stigma** (non-English speakers, minorities, immigrants)
- **Are at a disadvantage pre disaster** (unemployed, homeless, renters, uninsured, and older, crowded, and mobile home residents).

While these groups do face higher risks, the emergency experienced and the mix of characteristics they have will also impact disaster vulnerability. Further, being more vulnerable does not necessarily mean being less resilient. For example, while those with low income have fewer resources needed to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, they often learn to be more resourceful and, through facing previous adversity, may be better capable of mentally and emotionally coping with emergencies. Similarly, while Latinx/Hispanic residents may face discrimination that creates a barrier to information and resources, their collectivist culture does provide some social capital that can be utilized to reduce disaster impacts. The map above provides a snapshot of the county's social vulnerability; the characteristics that increase vulnerability and how they look within county communities will be discussed in the following chapters.

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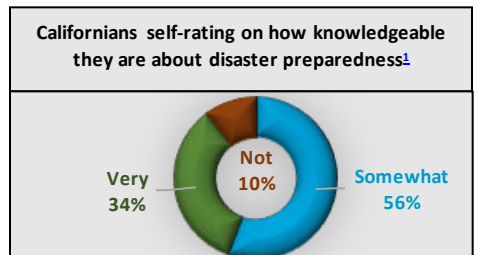
Disasters are incredibly powerful, with the ability to impact every sector of our lives, amplifying both good and bad, while creating new challenges and hardships, along with some opportunities. However, we too are powerful. We have the power to prevent some disasters from ever happening, by being situationally aware, protecting the natural environment, and reducing CO2 emissions. We can avoid some disasters' negative impacts by living away from high hazard zones and moving to more sustainable living practices. Even when we cannot stop or avoid disasters, we can reduce their impacts by taking steps to be prepared, such as making home modifications and having an emergency plan, back up supplies, and sufficient insurance. The following two sections will review emergency preparedness, mitigation, and sustainability efforts in Monterey County.

3. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

A community's ability to prepare and mitigate disasters is largely influenced by the availability of social and financial resources. Communities that are socially cohesive, or tight knit, can use this social capital to create Community Emergency Response Teams, Neighborhood Watches, and community emergency plans that allow them to work more cohesively together to respond and recover from emergencies. Likewise, communities that have a wealth of resources and financial capital can invest in community supplies and modifications, such as a community emergency stockpile or power source. Alternatively, communities who lack resources and those who are unable to access high quality education, employment opportunities, health care, transportation, and technology pre disaster, are often unable to dedicate the time and resources needed to prepare, making them more likely to be negatively impacted by the experiences. Further, even though everyone has at least some ability to prepare and mitigate disasters, those with limited financial or physical ability may feel discouraged because they believe they lack the power to do so.

PREPAREDNESS KNOWLEDGE

In 2014, most Californians stated that they had at least some knowledge about disaster preparedness, with Californians increasingly rating themselves as knowledgeable since 2006. White residents, men, and homeowners were most likely to state they were "very knowledgeable" about preparedness.¹ Nationally, discussion amongst Americans regarding disaster preparedness has also been on the rise, moving from 28% to 45% between 2018 and 2019; as has the percent of Americans actively seeking out disaster information, rising from 39% to 64%.²



In the County's 2020 Community Resilience Survey, 85% of residents stated that they knew where to access information on preparedness, a steep incline from the 43% of residents who stated this in the County's 2015 Hazard Mitigation Survey. Exposure to the 2016 Soberanes Fire, the 2020 Pandemic, and the Dolan, Carmel and River Fires may have contributed to this increase, as research indicates that people who are exposed to disasters are more likely to do seek disaster information and prepare, as are those encouraged to prepare by their employers, schools, family, or community.^{2,3} While these two surveys may be skewed toward those who are already familiar with emergency management and preparedness, because they both come from the County's Office of Emergency Services, the size of the surveys and way they were distributed were very similar, indicating that, at minimum, they can be used as points of comparison to one another to observe changes in preparedness over time in the County.

¹ PPIC. (2014). *Statewide Surveys*. Retrieved from www.ppic.org/publication/disaster-perceptions-and-preparedness/

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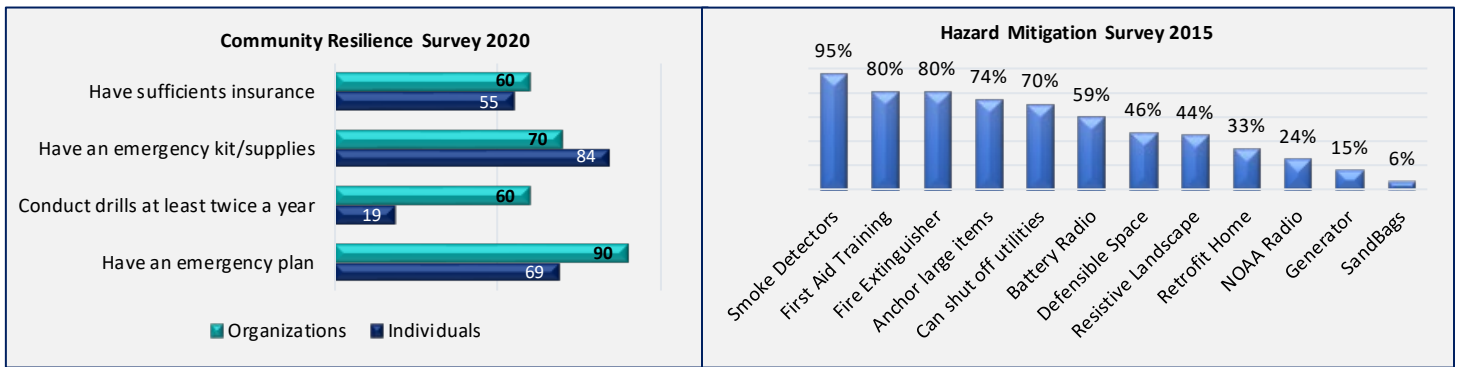
³ FEMA. (2014). *Preparedness in America*. Retrieved from www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409000888026-1e8abc820153a6c8cde24ce42c16e857/20140825_Preparedness_in_America_August_2014_Update_508.pdf

PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

In 2015, 71% of county residents stated that they were interested in making their home or community more resistant to hazards and 88% believed they were at least somewhat prepared for emergencies.¹ Nationally, more people are indicating that they are investing time in disaster preparation since 2018, with 59% of FEMA’S 2019 National Household Survey respondents stating that they perceive themselves as prepared and 35% intending to prepare themselves in the next year.

Individual and Organizational Preparedness

47% of the county’s adult population and about 70% of businesses have signed up for Alert Monterey County. 79% of county residents have a place to evacuate to if needed and most residents practice resilient habits, such as being situationally aware and keeping gas tanks full and devices fully charged.² In addition, most residents have had CPR or first aid training, have smoke detectors on each level of their home, own a fire extinguisher, know how to shut off their utilities, and have anchored large equipment and furniture. ¹ Around half of county residents have a battery powered radio, have defensible space around their home and use resistive landscapes, while a third have done retrofits to strengthen their homes. Nationally, about half of Americans have set aside more than \$700 of emergency savings. ³ Few residents conduct emergency drills at least twice a year or have a NOAA weather radio, a generator, or sandbags at home. ^{1,2}



According to the 2020 Community Resilience Survey, organizations were more likely than residents to have emergency plans and much more likely to practice their plans at least twice a year. Slightly over half (55%) of organizations had continuity of operations plans and most have updated all plans this year. Most organizations also have emergency/back up equipment, supplies, staffing and funding, sufficient insurance to cover all their disaster risks, and partnerships with local stakeholders. Finally, 75% of organizations teach their employees about emergency preparedness.

Changes over time

Between 2015 and 2020 there was a 21% rise in county residents with an emergency plan and sufficient insurance to cover their disaster risks and a 29% rise in residents with emergency kits/supplies. ^{1,2} Despite the rising trends in insurance coverage, only 13% of homeowners in California have earthquake insurance. A lack of insurance was also a problem in both the 2019 Chualar Flood and the 2016 Soberanes Fire in Monterey County, with most of the homes destroyed or damaged during these disasters lacking insurance to cover the losses. In addition, cost of insurance has been on the rise making it less affordable, particularly for hazards like fires in which there aren’t programs like California Earthquake Authority and the National Flood Insurance Program to lower costs.

Community Preparedness

58% of County residents are familiar with local government, work and/or school emergency plans and most residents do not feel that their community is well prepared to handle major emergencies, with 39% stating their community has an emergency plan or team and 10% indicating their community has an emergency fund or stockpile.² Further, 45% of residents state that they or a local organization have taken actions to reduce or eliminate risks to hazards with Community Emergency Response Teams and household preparedness (ex. creating emergency kits & defensible space) being the most frequently cited actions.¹

1 Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2015). *Monterey County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=13709>

2 Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2020). *Community Resilience Survey*.

3 FEMA. (2019). *National Household Survey*. Retrieved from https://community.fema.gov/AP_2019_National_Household_Survey

LOCAL PREPAREDNESS PROJECTS

There are several organizations in Monterey County that work to encourage emergency preparedness.

Education

The city of Seaside has an active public education program covering a variety of topics, from fire safety to CPR trainings. Several of the cities in Monterey County also provide online information on preparedness including Monterey, Pacific Grove, Marina, Carmel By The Sea, and Sand City. CSUMB provides online prep resources, develops disaster plans for the campus and conducts emergency drills regularly to keep students and staff prepared. Monterey County - San Benito County Health Care Preparedness Coalition provides training on preparedness for health care services and connects different organizations to one another. Most local, regional, and state fire agencies also conduct public education programs and provide disaster information on their websites and social media, with twitter being a key source of response information. Further, the County's Fire Safe Council works to educate the public on wildfire dangers and how to reduce them and supports projects that help make homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe.

Coordination and Collaboration

Monterey County Office of Emergency Services (OES) has taken many steps to help prepare the community for disasters:

- Developing emergency plans, including the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Resilience Framework
- Working on projects that inform the public and other organizations about disasters, including Listos Social Bridging program, StormReady, and TsunamiReady
- Conducting disaster exercises, emergency preparedness and emergency planning trainings and presentations,
- Providing multiple resources for information on the OES website (ex. Preparedness toolkit in English & Spanish)
- Creating multiple working groups to better coordinate and prepare throughout the disaster management process, including an Access and Functional Needs Working Group
- Running Alert Monterey County

OES also assists local jurisdictions with Local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), which provide disaster management trainings and equipment for volunteers, conduct disaster exercises, and can assist communities during disaster response when professional responders are not immediately available to help. In Monterey County there are CERTs located in Big Sur, Cachagua, Monterey Peninsula, and South County. The Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) of Monterey Peninsula, provides support to local CERTs and other organizations engaging in community preparedness through networking, grant writing, workshops, collaborating with local businesses and organizations, and co-sponsoring community events. CERV also created <https://montereyco.recovers.org/> to assist with donation and resource coordination during disasters.

Another community level program that works to enhance preparedness is Monterey County ARES, a group of ham radio volunteers who can assist with radio operations during disasters when cell and internet communication is impacted and can provide training to the public so that they too can have additional communication capabilities during disasters. Likewise, the Rancho Tierra Grande Fire Safety Committee in the Carmel Valley is working with Monterey County Regional Fire, Cal Fire, PG&E, Monterey County, and Mayday.ai to develop a strategic community plan that includes awareness, fuel mitigation, partnerships, training, technology and the development of neighborhood captains.

Other Efforts

There are also some organizations in the county whose pre disaster actions work to prepare the community, though not always as directly as trainings and educational campaigns. Community Foundation for Monterey County has a disaster fund in place that can be utilized during emergencies to assist nonprofits; as was the case during the pandemic, in which their COVID-19 Relief Fund awarded more than \$2.9 million in grants. United Way's 2-1-1 call centers helps ensure the public has a place to call for non-emergency questions 24/7, with services enhanced during disasters, which helps make communication more coherent when it is needed most. United Way also provides Financial Literacy and Capacity Building Workshops and one on one coaching, in partnership with Goodwill, boosting financial preparedness for community members. SPCA provides assistance for pets and wildlife in need daily, amplifying their services during emergencies and providing sheltering and evacuation transportation for animals. SPCA also provides presentations, printed and digital information, and attends events to educate children and adults on pet preparedness.

COUNTY OF MONTEREY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK 2020

REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS PROJECTS

State Preparedness Efforts

At the state level, Cal Fire is a leading source for fire preparedness and prevention information and education. Cal Fire conducts public forums, distributes of printed preparedness material, participates and hosts preparedness events, like the Pebble Beach Zombie Run, and runs several education campaigns including: “Ready, Set, GO!”, FireSmart and MySafe programs, and the “One Less Spark Campaign” to encourage the public to prepare for emergencies.

The Earthquake Country Alliance works to improve earthquake and tsunami preparedness, mitigation and resiliency by developing resources and organizing activities for the public, including the annual nationwide Shake Out earthquake drill.

California’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) provides disaster risk, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery information including their MYhazards website, which provides information on disaster risk, along with regional plans, support, training, guidance, and funding for emergency operations throughout the state. Some of the programs the state provides include: an Earthquake Early Warning system, Don’t Get Caught Off Guard” Earthquake campaign, 300 cameras to detect wildfires, and the Listos California’s preparedness campaign, which developed a Disaster Ready Guide, and, in response to the pandemic, a Social bridging program. The Social bridging program has conducted **63,044 total calls** in 2020 to check on elderly persons and provide disaster preparedness information to households. As of **October 3, 2020**, this program has signed up **442** residents for county alerts, sent **590** disaster ready guides to households, had **566** COVID wellness conversations and **1,905** disaster readiness conversations with residents. These calls didn’t just deliver important preparedness information and references to residents, they also provided some much-needed emotional support, allowing people to share their stories and alleviating loneliness, a crucial mental health component during long term isolation caused by the pandemic. LISTOS also awarded Community Emergency Response Volunteers of Monterey Peninsula funding to provide grants and training to 15 nonprofits to assist staff and clients with disaster preparedness.

National Preparedness Efforts

On a national level, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides preparedness information and assistance for hazard mitigation projects. Additionally, FEMA developed IPAWS (the national emergency alert system), the CERT program, and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). NFIP reduces the cost of flood insurance and encourages sustainable development; Monterey County has voluntarily participated in the NFIP for over 20 years.

Monterey County also participates in the National Weather Service’s (NWS) StormReady and TsunamiReady programs that help communities create plans to handle extreme weather and tsunamis, encouraging and recognizing community preparedness efforts. Moreover, the county has received financial assistance through the Homeland Security’s Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), which funded the development of the Community Resilience Framework and subsequent projects, including the preparedness toolkit and webpage. The toolkit has been given to over 400 households in the county, through local evacuation facilities and the Del Monterey Preparedness Fair and is being sent to organizations like Monterey County Behavioral Health by request.

The American Red Cross provides information and resources on preparing for emergencies, including outreach material, CPR and first aid classes, emergency response volunteer opportunities and training, and events like Sound the alarm, in which fire alarms are installed in homes, and the pillowcase project that provides interactive preparedness education for students grade 3-5. The National Fire Protection Agency offers several educational resources on disaster preparedness, as does the department of Homeland Security, through their in-depth disaster preparedness website: www.ready.gov/. Finally, some national program’s work to simultaneously address disaster recovery, mitigation and preparedness, such as the US department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Development Block Grant.

While the discussion above provides descriptions of many preparedness programs in Monterey County, this list is not exhaustive. Further, despite the remarkable amount of information available, not everyone has access to this information, not all information is easy to find, and information is not always understandable and digestible, particularly for those with limited reading capabilities or limited English proficiency. This topic will be further discussed in the Community Connectedness and Engagement Chapter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Advancing Coordination and Collaboration

Disaster management and leadership organizations in Monterey County should work to expand their partnerships with community organizations and increase the presence of local CERTs within county communities. Further, they should partner with the academic field to conduct disaster research to inform disaster management efforts. Higher Education facilities are often better equipped to conduct survey analysis and go through the IRB approval processes that allows them to collect more sensitive data such as race and religious information, which can be helpful when trying to understand the best approaches to preparing communities and combating discrimination throughout the emergency management process. This collaboration could also create more valid results, as some groups, like undocumented immigrants, are more likely to respond to non-government organizations; while government can attract larger audiences than a higher education facility could alone.

Disaster management should also assist organizations in developing Continuity of Operations Plans, along with providing information and training on roles agencies can have in a disaster and steps to take to collaborate with the county; particularly for smaller organizations who don't usually have a predeveloped relationship with emergency management. Furthermore, targeting community and faith-based organizations, including vulnerable communities, such as assisted living and senior communities, can be an effective method of engaging the community in preparedness actions. **Disaster Management organizations, such as the County Office of Emergency Services should be expanded, as increased staffing and funding for such organizations assists in coordination, preparedness, planning, response, and recovery efforts.**

Encouraging Preparedness

Outreach efforts and public material on disaster preparedness should be amplified by all types of leadership and disaster management organizations, not just in volume, but also in method of distribution. For example, disaster management agencies should not only directly provide the public with information but should also provide organizations pre-made kits so that they can prepare their own customers and staff. Regardless of who or how information is being shared, it should be engaging, easy to understand, utilize multiple sources (ex. print, webpage, videos), and be created in multiple languages, using both pictures and print. Some examples of engaging preparedness outreach are FEMA and Sony Pictures "[Zombieland: Double Tap](#)" which promotes preparedness using a famous movie and [San Francisco's "Owl Tech"](#) which provides a visual of future flooding potential using virtual reality. A great time to push this disaster preparedness messaging is during the disaster recovery process, as the reality and risk of disasters is fresh in people's minds, making them more likely to take it seriously and take steps to prepare for future events.

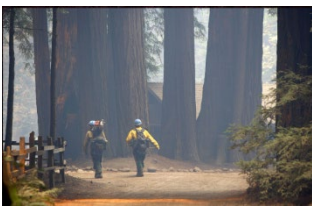
In order to reduce the time and cost requirements of preparing and mitigation disasters, community residents should visit Monterey County's [Resilience Webpage](#) and review the preparedness checklist and toolkit. Organizations should read the sector specific suggestions below, try and embed disaster preparedness and mitigation into their day to day operations and use disaster recovery as an opportunity to prepare and mitigate disasters.

 <u>Housing & Development:</u> ✓ Avoid building in flood plains, liquefaction zones, & high fire risk areas. ✓ Conduct building updates ✓ Create a hotel program to identify and partner with local hotels/motels pre disaster, to advance sheltering capacity.	 <u>Businesses and Community Organizations:</u> ✓ Get to know local emergency management ✓ Create and practice Emergency Response & Continuity of Operations Plans ✓ Have emergency funds/supplies ✓ Teach employees & clients about preparing ✓ Host prep fairs or block parties (ex. Neighborfest)	 <u>Education & youth organizations:</u> ✓ Incorporate preparedness into curriculum ✓ Create Emergency Plans and practice them regularly ✓ Have emergency funds/supplies
 <u>Utilities:</u> ✓ Ensure durability & redundancy in systems	 <u>Health Care Facilities:</u> ✓ Make a Medical Reserve Corp to assist with hospital surges ✓ Be well stocked with emergency supplies	 <u>High Education</u> ✓ Work with emergency management on disaster related research and campus preparedness

4. MITIGATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Aside from general disaster preparedness, certain steps can be taken to prevent some disasters: having strong building codes, building outside of hazard zones, conducting vegetation management and prescribed burns can prevent wildfires; properly handling hazardous material can prevent spills and leaks; and building redundancies in utilities can prevent outages. On an individual level, practicing healthy habits such as washing your hands frequently can prevent some public health emergencies and practicing situational awareness can prevent acts of terror (Read more in **Appendix X: Community Resilience Toolkit**). Building stronger ties within a community and making sure all people feel welcome and included can also help prevent acts of terrorism and violence (Read more in the **Community Connectedness and Engagement Chapter**) In the long term, sustainable living can prevent the depletion of resources and can reduce the impacts of climate change on sea level rise and weather-related disasters. Living sustainably means being adaptable and respectful of the land and resources used to survive, so they can persist and keep us alive.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION



Some wildfires are created by humans, and thus can be prevented by them. To prevent fires on an individual level, people should use caution when managing open flames and should alert authorities if they see a fire, even a small one, as it can grow very quickly if not immediately spotted and addressed. Additionally, several fire agencies attempt to manage fires and protect property through Knox Box programs, that give fire departments quicker access to a property during a fire or other emergency. Fire departments, such as the Seaside Fire Department, also host fire extinguisher demonstrations, smoke detector installation and education programs, Community Risk Reduction and Fire Prevention programs and Juvenile Fire Setter Programs, which provide intervention and assistance in creating behavioral changes through counseling young people who have a curiosity with setting fires. Learn more about steps to become a fire adapted community by visiting: <https://fireadapted.org/>

WILL ADD IN CAL FIRE MITIGATION EFFORTS

On an organizational level, the Local Fire Departments in Monterey County and California State Parks conduct prescribed burns, fire fuel reduction projects, and code enforcement to prevent wildfires. In addition the state of California and the U.S. forest service created an Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forest and Rangelands which includes a commitment by the federal government to match California's goal of reducing wildfire risks on 500,000 acres of forest land per year through ecologically sustainable techniques for vegetation treatments, such as prescribed fire, enabling fire adapted communities, and prioritizing forest health. State Parks also created guidelines for the protection of structures from wildland fire and vegetation modification, and, on a case-by-case basis, addresses homeowner's defensible space needs. In addition, PG&E's 2019 Wildfire Safety Plan works to prevent fires caused by their infrastructure through routine safety inspections, infrastructure improvements, vegetation management, public safety power shutoffs, weather monitoring technology improvements, and a Wildfire Safety Operations Center. One recommendation made in the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Survey to combat wildfires is to remove eucalyptus trees in the county, which aren't native to the area and add fuel to fires.

While steps are being taken to address wildfire risk, the Resource Management Agency, Fire Safe Council of Monterey County, and several community members, at 2020 Hazard Mitigation Community Meetings, have acknowledged that federal, state, and local regulations are 1) not always consistent with one another 2) can impede wildfire hazard mitigation activities. For this reason, federal, state, and local leadership is encouraged to work with local communities and fire departments to review and amend regulations, as necessary.

WILL FURTHER SPECIFY AND DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS, AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON HOW THEY ARE IMPEDING WILDFIRE MITIGATION EFFORTS

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT



Where and how we build largely determines our risk of experiencing natural hazard events. Building away from floodplains, high fire-threat zones, liquefaction zones, cliffs and mountain sides can prevent negative impacts of floods, wildfires, erosion, landslides, and earthquake induced liquefaction. While the location of building development will not stop these events from occurring outright, it can move people and property away from the impacts. Likewise, utilizing strong building codes can prevent building damage during wind events and earthquakes, elevating property can prevent building flooding, creating defensible space and using fire resistant material for buildings can prevent fire damage, and installing shutters, air conditioning, cool roofs, and insulating buildings can prevent or reduce the impacts of extreme weather. Further, the inclusion of canopy covers and vegetation around buildings and the use of permeable pavement and rain gardens can reduce the impacts of flooding and heat waves. Utilizing smart grids, microgrids, and/or having back up power for cities and building can reduce the impacts of power outages.

Monterey County abides by California Building Standards Code, which have expanded over the years, as we continue to learn and improve building standards with each major earthquake experienced. Although these codes do place building requirements on new buildings, they do not require older buildings to be improved and brought up to code, unless they are already being modified. Given that many buildings in the county were built in the early 1900s, this can pose a serious threat to life and property if a major earthquake occurs.¹ In the county, The Resource Management Agency (RMA) manages Building Services, ensuring safe building construction and managing infrastructure and county facilities. To encourage building resistance to disasters, insurance companies may offer discounts to home and business owners who make building modifications. Local leadership should work with insurance companies to create and expand these types of programs. The National Flood Insurance Program also requires modifications of building in flood plains. Additionally, some cities have taken steps to encourage safe building development, such as Greenfield, whose Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Program provides assistance to eligible homeowners for correction of health and safety items, as well as code violations, through deferred payments.

Learn more about hazard resistant building: www.fema.gov/national-earthquake-hazards-reduction-program

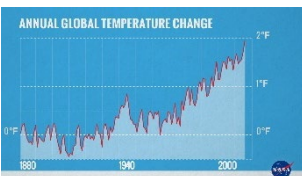
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL MANAGEMENT



To prevent hazardous material spills and leaks, facilities that use, manufacture, or store hazardous materials in the United States fall under the regulatory requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). State and Federal Community-Right-to-Know laws allow the public access to information about the amounts and types of chemicals in use at local businesses and they require the businesses to plan and prepare for possible chemical emergencies. The local Certified

Unified Program Agency, County Environmental Health Bureau, administers this program & stores this information.

CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate change, or the change in the average weather conditions over a long period of time, has led to sea level rise and the increase in the frequency and severity of weather related extreme natural events, including droughts, fires, heat waves, flooding, and winter storms. These disasters not only impact life and property, affecting beaches, wharves and campgrounds, and subsequently the county's second largest economic driver, tourism, but also

disrupt wildlife, destroy natural environments, and spark other disasters.² Every sector of our lives will be affected by climate change, as it impacts agricultural systems, the stability of food supplies, water quality and quantity, human health, air quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, and the economy.³ About half of county residents are "very concerned" about climate change's impacts on community natural hazard risk.⁴ Similarly, the share of Americans who see climate change as a major threat to the well-being of the U.S. has increased from 40% in 2013 to 57% in 2019.⁵

¹ Kersten. (2000) *Living Where the Earth Shakes: A History of the California Seismic Safety Commission*. California Senate Office of Research.

² NASA. (2020). *Climate Kids*. Retrieved from <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/climate-change-meaning/>

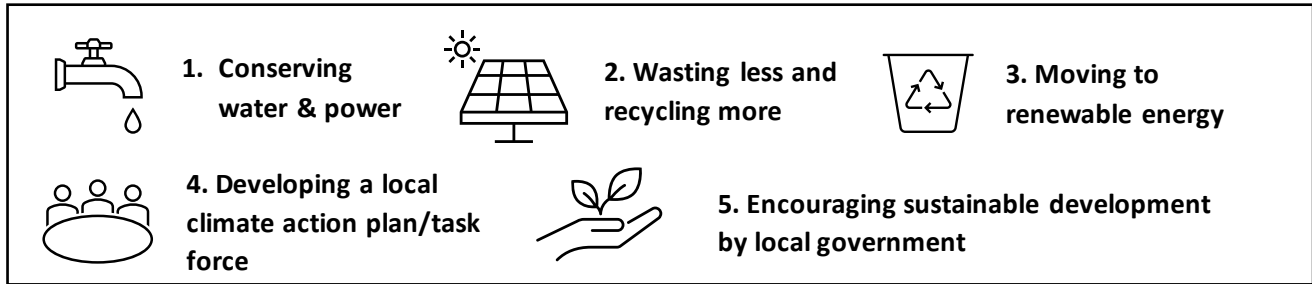
³ U.S. Global Change Research Program. (2014). *National Climate Assessment*. Retrieved from <https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

⁴ Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2015). *Monterey County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=13709>

⁵ Gramlich. (2019). *19 Striking Findings from 2019*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/>

What you can do

Individuals have power to impact climate change:



For a more detailed how-to-guide on combating climate change, check out California’s “[cool block](#)” program.

Local Government Programs

To assist with overall climate change reduction, the county’s sustainability program seeks to address all aspects of sustainability including reducing emissions, utilizing cleaner energy, preserving/enhancing water quality and supply, ensuring clean, healthy, and fresh air, transforming waste management, supporting increased mobility options and access to services, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, supporting local farms, creating partnerships, preparing and strengthening adaptation and mitigation for climate change impacts, conserving natural habits, and ensuring all sustainable activities are inclusive of the whole community. The county has also begun to work with the [Urban Sustainability Development Network](#), which provides funds to support collaborations to develop or enhance innovations that address problems or opportunities in sustainability and long-term carbon reduction.

[Monterey County Environmental Health](#) provides educational opportunities to industry workers and the public on sustainable practices, and when necessary, enforces Environmental Health principles and law in relation to sewage systems and treatment, wastewater facilities, water distribution systems, desalination treatment facilities, retail food protection, water quality and quantity issues, substandard housing, vector control, and other general health protection activities. The cities of Big Sur, Carmel, Marina, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas and Seaside developed Communities for Sustainable Monterey County (CSMC) to provide environmental education and encourage conservation and stewardship of land, water, and energy and promote waste reduction, ‘green’ building ordinances, renewable energy, public transportation, community gardens, and more. The city of [Monterey](#) has also developed a [Climate Action Plan](#) focused on reducing GHG emissions and signed the [United Nations Urban Environmental Accords](#) in 2007, along with the cities of Salinas, Pacific Grove and Marina, to work toward more sustainable living through energy efficiency and water conservation upgrades at major facilities, a recycling outreach campaign, and a Green Building Ordinance.

Local Organization Programs

Monterey county and local cities aren’t the only ones moving toward sustainability. [CSUMB](#) participates in The Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) and several other programs and organizations related to sustainability, along with following the CSU Sustainability Policy that promotes greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through changes in transportation and use of renewable energy, sustainable food operations, and recycling programs. [Mearth](#) offers programs to connect students to each other, their communities, and the world around them through hands-on activities that teach environmental stewardship. There is also a wide array of organizations that work to protect the environment and wildlife, advocating for more sustainable and ecofriendly practices through outreach, programs, and policy. These organizations don’t just protect the environment and wildlife while promoting sustainable living, they also protect the natural beauty of the County, which drives much of the tourism to the area and subsequent economic gains. Finally, there is a multitude of environmental protection organizations in the County; listed to the right.

- [Big Sur Land Trust](#)
- [California Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#)
- [Carmel Valley Save Open Space](#)
- [Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network](#)
- [Land Watch Monterey County](#)
- [Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District’s EECO Division](#)
- [Otter project inc.](#)
- [Point Lobos Natural Reserve](#)
- [Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Santa Lucia Preserve](#)
- [Save Our Shores](#)
- [Ventana Wildlife Society](#)
- [Wildlife Emergency Service](#)

The programs described above work to address climate change and environmental protection in its entirety, other programs work to address a handful of issues, such as California's Property Assessed Clean Energy Program, or PACE, which provides funds to property owners for energy efficiency, water efficiency and renewable energy projects, and the Monterey Bay Green Business Program, which encourages businesses to meet or exceed environmental standards in Waste Reduction, Pollution Prevention, and Water & Energy Conservation. Finally, some programs work directly to address a specific area of sustainability, such as water or energy; the following sections will review such programs.

ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainable energy can be achieved by moving to renewable forms of energy, such as solar panels, electric vehicles, and LED lighting. Sustainable and renewable energy is often more resilient to disasters because it is locally produced, doesn't create a high level of emissions that contributes to climate change and subsequent increases in frequency and severity of weather-related disasters, and can spark local job growth. In California, renewable energy use has been on the rise since 2000, as more policies and programs have been put in place to move the state toward sustainability. Despite this progress, petroleum, the largest emitter of greenhouse gas, is still the most used form of energy in the state.¹

Several programs have been developed to enhance energy sustainability in Monterey County communities:

- Several farms and vineyard in the Salinas Valley utilize wind turbines to meet their energy needs.
- Del Rey Oaks enrolled in PG&E's Solar Choice program to move city buildings to 100% solar power and is working to promote energy efficient upgrades to residential and commercial properties within the City.
- Greenfield approved an energy service contract to construct more solar panels
- Monterey, Sand City, and Marina have worked to replace fluorescent and incandescent lights with LED lighting to reduce life cycle costs and GHG emissions.
- MST is moving to battery-powered electric buses and trolleys to reach the goal of full zero-emission fleets by 2040.
- Cal Trans is increasing the number of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) and building charging infrastructure to support widespread adoption of ZEVs.
- Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) gives cities and counties a collective voice in relation to statewide policies and programs on sustainable energy.
- Central Coast Energy Services (CCES) provides energy conservation, consumer education & advocacy, home improvement, utility assistance, and job training to encourage energy sustainability.
- GRID Alternatives provides clean, affordable solar power and solar jobs for low-income households and communities.
- Central Coast Community Energy provides electricity customers in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties clean, carbon-free power.
- The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and PG&E partnered to create an Energy Watch Program, to reduce energy use through energy assessments, installation of energy efficient equipment; and financial incentives for energy efficient retrofits.

Communities can work with neighbors to conserve energy by creating green teams (ex. Acterra's Green Team or the Berkeley Ecology Center's Low Carbon Diet program) and/or pooling money to purchase a renewable energy source for the community. People can also get involved with the Local Clean Energy Alliance or local chapters of the Sierra Club. Additionally, all cities should implement climate action plans and/or pass a city climate action ordinance. Local jurisdictions should also take more steps to move toward sustainable energy, by investing in public transit and bike/pedestrian lanes, promoting the use of solar panels and electric vehicles through incentives and educational programs, powering government operations using only renewable energy & encouraging local utilities and businesses to do the same, and adopting sustainable and ecofriendly policies, such as requiring new buildings to achieve fossil fuel-free performance.

WATER SUSTAINABILITY



Poor water quality can spread disease and illness to humans and animals, worsening overall health. Water quality can be worsened by poor infrastructure and disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, and long-lasting power outages; creating a situation where people need to boil water before use and/or only use bottled water. This was the case during the 2016 Soberanes Fire, where damage to watersheds impacted potable water supplies. Freshwater availability is also a concern when thinking about water sustainability, as fresh water is a limited but vital resource for people, animals, and crops.

Water Agencies and Organizations

There are over 100 water systems serving Monterey County residents, with California Water Service, Cal American Water, Marina Coast Water District, Alco Water Service, the Cities of Greenfield and Soledad, and Castroville Community Service District serving the most residents (10,000+ each). ¹ Except for the State Water Project, which derives from Sierra Nevada sources, most of Central California's water comes from the region itself. Overall, 66 percent of the region's water comes from groundwater, with the remainder split mostly between federal projects and reuse.² The County's Water Resources Agency manages, protects, stores, and conserves water resources in the county, while minimizing damage from flooding to create a safe and sustainable water supply. Monterey Peninsula Water Management District works to promote a long-term sustainable water supply, along with managing and protecting water resources.

Water Quality

To reduce stormwater pollution, which occurs when rain or melting snow doesn't flow into the ground and moves pollutants such as pesticides and oil into water and soil, King City has partnered with Save the Whales to conduct an outreach campaign on the topic. Similarly, the Stormwater and Education Alliance, which includes Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, Seaside, and the County of Monterey, conducts public education campaigns.

Individuals can also take steps to prevent water pollution by properly recycling unwanted chemicals (ex. Antifreeze, old prescription drugs, paint, batteries), washing cars on unpaved surfaces or at a commercial car wash, conducting regular maintenance of vehicles, landscaping with native plants, using nontoxic alternatives to pesticides, sweeping, rather than hosing down, driveways, patios, and sidewalks, avoiding littering, and participating in local beach cleanup projects. Learn more at <http://ourwaterourworld.org/>

Water Conservation

To encourage water conservation, Greenfield has approved an energy service contract to replace outdated water meters and irrigation control systems. Pacific Grove adopted a water conservation rebate program to replace older appliance with new appliances that operate with significantly less water and imposed a water surcharge on monthly water utility bills. Pacific Grove also developed a recycled water treatment plant (SRWTP) to recycle a portion of municipal wastewater for landscape irrigation at the Pacific Grove Golf Links and El Carmelo Cemetery. The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the Marina Groundwater Sustainability Agency are developing comprehensive groundwater sustainability plans, working to and achieve basin sustainability by 2040. California American Water is implementing the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project which includes the creation of a desalination plant and the Pure Water Monterey, which recycles water to recharge the Seaside groundwater.

Water can be conserved through industry and agricultural practices that reduce water use, such as drip irrigation and upgrading appliances, buildings, and systems. **Local government can prevent flooding during storms that can pollute water by improving stormwater drainage system capacities, using revetments and bioengineered bank stabilization techniques, and protecting and enhancing natural mitigation features such as wetlands and dunes.**³ At home, residents can take steps to conserve water, such as running sprinklers at night and using rainwater catchment tanks. In addition, those concerned about the quality of tap water should organize to improve it by getting involved with the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water and the Sierra Club's California Campaign for Clean Water. **Conserving water by preventing overgrazing, improving water supply and delivery systems, and encouraging drought tolerant landscape designs, such as xeriscaping and using permeable surfaces and driveways to reduce runoff and promote groundwater recharge, not only helps preserve an invaluable resource but can help mitigate drought.**

¹ US Environmental Protection Agency. (2020). *SDWIS*. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/enviro/sdwis-overview>

² Cal EMA & California Natural Resources Agency. (2012). *California Adaptation Planning Guide – Understanding Regional Characteristics*

³ FEMA. (2013). *Mitigation Ideas A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards*.

AIR QUALITY



Poor air quality can create or worsen overall health and can be made worse by disasters like wildfires, windstorms, and releases of hazardous material. The impacts of poor air quality tend to affect those with asthma, [respiratory](#) or cardiovascular diseases, pregnant women, the very old and young, and those who work outside at higher rates. Further, those who lack health insurance and are exposed to elevated air pollution may have more severe health impacts than those with insurance. The agricultural areas of the Salinas Valley face higher risk of negative air quality impacts, as agriculture workers must work outdoors and dust from farms adds particulate matter into the air, worsening air quality. The disproportionate impacts of poor air quality could be seen during the 2016 Soberanes fire and the 2020 Carmel, Dolan, and River fires, where farm workers faced hazardous air quality while harvesting crops. The health effects of smoke were reflected in spikes in emergency room visits for respiratory complaints at local hospitals in Salinas and on the Monterey Peninsula.¹

To Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) monitors air quality throughout the county and local government provides public information when air quality is poor, encouraging residents to stay indoors. To address air quality issues in the short term, programs and procedures should be put in place by organizations that have staff working outdoors most of the time, such as having stockpiles of respirators and N-95 masks for all staff to wear when air quality is bad. In the long term, moving to sustainable energy, transportation, and farming practices is the best way to reduce air pollution.

FOOD SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainable food production and distribution is also a key staple of a sustainable community, as proper farm to table practices can prevent negative environmental impacts, soil erosion, and food scarcity. Sustainable food production includes farming methods that promote [soil health](#), minimize [water use](#), and lower [pollution levels](#). Sustainable harvesting and distribution practices include keeping food local, to avoid food waste and GHG emissions created when transporting food, avoiding non-biodegradable food containers, and using 'unmarketable crops' through donation or compost. In the community, green roofs and community gardens not only increase local, sustainable food, while lowering costs for residents, they also bring community members together and reduce community carbon emissions. In our homes, sustainability includes avoiding food waste, when possible, and composting all food waste.

To improve farming practices:

- [Monterey County Farm Bureau](#) collaborates with other agricultural organizations to find solutions to problems related to farms and ranches, water resources, the environment, and the rural community.
- [The Office of the Agricultural Commissioner](#) actively engages in local agricultural issues, including food safety, pest and disease control, environmental policy, natural resource conservation, and legislative affairs, along with sponsoring and participating in educational programs and community events.
- [Monterey County Certified Organic](#) provides certification services for organic farm operations
- [Alba Farms](#) provides land-based education to limited-resource and aspiring organic farmers
- [California Farm Link](#) uses loan capital, education, and networking to help farmers with limited formal education or English-language proficiency build financial stability and facilitate conservation, climate adaptation, and affordable land access.
- [Community Alliance with Family Farmers](#) (CAFF) work with farmers, policy makers, researchers, and local technical assistance providers to better understand and improve the adoption of climate smart farming throughout California, in order to reduce GHG emissions and conserve natural resources like water and topsoil.

These efforts seem to be working as organic crop production and sales has been on the rise since 2007.²

¹ California Energy Commission. (2012). *California Social Vulnerability to Climate Change Data*.

² Monterey Bay Economic Partnership. (2018). *Monterey Bay Region Agriculture*

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Forty percent of food in America is wasted and the average family of four throws out \$1500 worth of food each year. Wasted food also wastes the energy, water, fuel and money used to grow and distribute it. Rotting food in landfills creates greenhouse gases, adding to climate change.



To prevent food waste at home, and simultaneously save money, individuals can meal plan, shop carefully, properly store food, eat food that will go bad quickly first, and donate or compost extra food. Monterey Regional Waste Management District and Salinas Valley Recycles offer free composting workshops to get residents started. Similarly, county businesses should contact their waste and recycling collection service provider and participate in the Monterey Regional Compost Program, which turns food scraps into compost while creating energy.¹ In addition, businesses that

works in the food industry can partner with local food banks and shelters to donate unused food, rather than throwing it away, helping both the community and our environment.

Food waste is not the only type of waste that harms our environment and community. Improper disposal of all types of waste, overconsumption, and use of non-biodegradable material, such as plastic, is filling our landfills and polluting our water, air, and soil. To assist with proper waste disposal Carmel By The Sea, Pacific Grove, and Monterey have banned plastic single-use disposable items. To encourage recycling, **California State Law AB341** (2011) requires commercial entities that generate four or more cubic yards of waste per week and all multi-family complexes of five or more units to implement a recycling program.

- Gonzales conducts REuse, REcycle & Cleanup Day Events.
- Monterey Regional Waste Management District works to turn waste into resources in the most cost effective and environmentally sound manner. The District also created the Keep Monterey County Clean program and has participated in efforts to clean up illegally dumped waste and litter in the region.
- Recycling Resource and Recovery Services implements and supports programs and policies that reduce the amount of solid waste that goes to local landfills.

Businesses and organizations should take similar steps, engaging in recycling efforts and reducing their use of plastic and other nonbiodegradable material. On an individual level, we should also focus on reducing consumption, reusing products, and recycling waste. Organizations, municipalities and residents can work with programs like the Offset Project (TOP) to establish sound waste policies and implement best practices in environmental stewardship.

This section provides a snapshot of environmentally friendly hazard mitigation strategies, for more recommendations and information, visit:

- www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1904-25045-0186/fema_mitigation_ideas_final508.pdf
- www.c2es.org/document/maximizing-benefits-strategies-for-community-resilience/

As stated earlier, disasters amplify everything in our lives, both good and bad, bringing out the compassion and humanity that exists within us, while worsening the faults within our community. The following three chapters will explore how this looks in Monterey County, lessons learned from previous disasters, and recommendations for strengthening each sector.

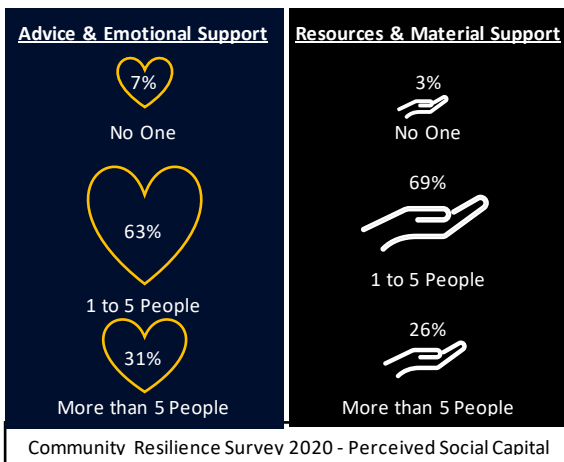
5. CONNECTIONS & ENGAGEMENT

When community members develop bonds to one another pre disaster they tend to work more cohesively and are more likely to help one another during and post disaster, providing information, supplies, and support. Being socially connected to one's neighborhood can strengthen mental and physical health, advance opportunities, reduce barriers and discrimination, and create safer communities; as those who feel they belong in their community are more likely to help it, volunteering an participating in community events, and less likely to harm it through acts of violence, crime and terror.¹ Conversely, in order to create strong connections between a community and its members, people in the community must feel they are treated fairly and equitably, they are welcome in their community, and have opportunities to engage with the community, such as having organizations, events, and a well maintained natural environment, including hiking trails and parks. ^{2,3}

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social Capital is the networks of relationships we have in our society, who we know and how well we know them. Through social capital we receive social support, which can be given in the form of emotional, financial, or material support. For example, during disasters your neighbors can help you talk through your trauma, but they can also lend you money, give you a ride or a place to stay, and help with home repairs.

County Analysis



Examining social support in Monterey County in 2013, most residents indicated that they had someone “mostly available” or “always available” in their lives if they needed assistance.³ Similarly, most people in the 2020 Community Resilience Survey indicate they have between 1 and 5 people to turn to if they need help. Respondents noted having someone to turn to for material support, such as a place to stay or money, more frequently than having someone to provide emotional support. In addition, 60% of respondents agree that they know their neighbors, with 45% interacting at least weekly with them. For businesses, the survey indicates that most (85%) partner with local organizations, having an average of 14 local community partners per business, with a maximum of 60 partners and a minimum of 2 partners.

Opportunities to Interact

How long a person has been in a community influences the time and ability to get to know and feel connected to one's community, thus influencing social capital. In the 2020 Community Resilience Survey, no respondent had lived in the county for less than six months, with only 2% stating they have lived in the county for less than a year, and a majority (65%) having lived in the county for more than 20 years. This may speak to the level of community connectedness but could also suggest that those taking this survey are the residents most imbedded in the county and thus most likely to be familiar with the County's Office of Emergency Services; more research is needed to better discern these results.

The availability of outdoor activities encourages community members to get out and interact with one another. Most regions of the county support outdoor activities and social gatherings, hosting several parks and community centers near homes, schools, and businesses; however, there are fewer parks and centers available in the County regions south of San Lucas.¹ Moreover, while Pacific Grove, Carmel, Greenfield and King City are welcoming to pedestrians, having shops within walking distance to homes and plenty of pedestrian & bike lanes, most of the unincorporated county and Salinas, Marina, and Del Rey Oaks are less pedestrian friendly.²

Safety is another factor that influences community members' desire and ability to get out and socialize with one another. In 2010, Monterey County had the highest homicide rate in California, with Salinas leading the county. Since then, homicide rates have decreased moving from 10.6 to 3.5 per 100,000 residents, indicating the county is getting safer overall. However, there still are some issues with safety in the county, with crime rates currently higher than both state and national averages.³ Further, Latinx/Hispanic and Black/African American residents are more likely to be impacted by crimes and violence in the county than white residents.⁴ Similar patterns can be found in county schools, with males who identified as "Black", "Other", and "Native American" being most likely to report feeling unsafe at school.⁵ Overall, in 2020, 66% of residents felt their community was a safe place to live/work and had safe, accessible community spaces and facilities (ex. libraries, parks).⁶ Further research is needed to better distinguish patterns and disparities regarding safety for the different demographic groups in the county.

Project Highlights in Monterey County

Local events, such as fairs, festivals, and community meetings, can bring the community together and boost social capital, as can libraries and community centers like the Family Service Agency of the Central Coast and Aromas Community Grange (see the Appendix X: Disaster Resource Directory for full listing).

There are also several local groups who work to unite our community including:

- Community Emergency Response Teams
- Neighborhood Watches
- Homeowner & Community Associations (ex. Community Association of Big Sur)
- Religious organizations (ex. Diocese of Monterey & Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action)
- Humanitarian organizations (ex. Neighbors helping neighbors, Monterey County Collaborates and rotary clubs)

Other groups work to bring specific sectors of the community together, for instance:

- The Monterey Bay Spouses Club is designed for military spouses
- The Non Profit Alliance of Monterey County (NAMC) brings local nonprofits together
- Monterey County Management Council connects county employees to one another
- The North Monterey County Community Alliance fosters connections between North County resident.

The United Way also works to boost social capital in our community, providing a call center with information about local events, programs and services and running the Impact Monterey County Network, which conducts outreach and examines community aspirations related to safety, education, economic self-sufficiency, and health. Likewise, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) plays a role in bringing the community together, functioning as the Emergency Operations Center during disasters to coordinate information and resources and supporting county communication and coordination pre disaster through multiple working groups (ex. AFN working group), the hazard mitigation project and the community resilience project. Lastly, regional organizations, such as Cal OES, the California Resiliency Alliance and USDN provide a way to coordinate between counties and communities.

¹ Trust for Public Land. (2019). *Park Access*. Policy Maps. Retrieved from <https://www.policymap.com/data/our-data-directory/#Trust%20for%20Public%20Land>

² Walk Score. (2020). Retrieved October 12, 2020 from <https://www.walkscore.com/>

³ US Department of Justice. (2020). *Crimes Statistics*. Retrieved from <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics>

⁴ Monterey County Health Department. (2018). *Community Health Improvement Plan 2014-2018*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=18356>

⁵ Monterey County Health Department. (2013). *Community Health Assessment*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=18340

⁶ Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2020). *Community Resilience Survey*.

SOCIAL COHESION

Social Cohesion refers to the strength of social connections within a community, including trust in community members and leaders and feeling included and welcome in one's community.

County Analysis



According to the 2020 Community Resilience Survey, most county residents believe that people in their community help one another in general (73%) and would do so during an emergency (68%), suggesting a high level of trust between community members. Furthermore, nearly all (98%) residents feel connected to their community, with many tying this connection to family and friends, followed by neighbours and work. Few residents cited strong connections to faith-based organizations and schools. Despite the high level of social cohesion *within* county

communities, there is a disconnect *between* communities, as the county's large geographic size and the concentration of people and services in Salinas and the Peninsula leaves south county isolated, not just physically and materially, but also socially, stiffening both communication and trust.

Trust

Looking at trust in local leadership and authority, 47% of respondents to the community resilience survey stated that their local leadership was effective, while 39% stated that local leadership represents them properly. At the state level, the majority of Californians have some confidence in the federal government's readiness to respond to disaster but tend to trust state and local government more. Trust in leadership does vary based on race and ethnicity, with Asian (40%) and Latinx/Hispanic (31%) populations being more likely than Black/African American and White populations (21% each) to be very confident about state and local government disaster readiness.¹ Similarly, Black/African American and Latinx/Hispanic Americans tend to be more skeptical and less trusting of the police than White Americans.²

Inclusion

Feeling included in your community is another key aspect of social cohesion. Some factors that influence level of social inclusion are time spent in the community, access to resources and people who share your culture and language, belief that you have power to impact your community, and a lack of discrimination against you. Alternatively, a factor that indicates a lack of social inclusion is gang affiliation, as gangs often form as a replacement to missing social connections for youth who are seeking a group from which they can belong.³ According to the 2020 Community Resilience Survey, most county residents believe they belong in their community (63%) and can influence it (66%), while around half (49%) agree that there are leadership opportunities available for residents, and less than half (44%) agree that their voice is heard and their community treats people fairly, regardless of their background or demographics (39%).

Discrimination

Discrimination and Prejudice can be corrosive to social cohesion, making community members feel like they are unwelcome or don't belong, increasing the chance of negative emotional, physical and behavioral outcomes. In addition, discrimination bleeds into all sectors of life, from getting a home loan, to getting a job or promotion, to being incarcerated, to receiving adequate health care and education, to living in safe and clean housing; every part of life is impacted by the demographic characteristics of residents and the discrimination attached to it.^{4,5,6} Discrimination can also impede disaster preparedness for households and communities alike, as residents who are not socially connected to their communities are less likely to be exposed to the information, resources and encouragement that fosters disaster preparedness. During disaster response and recovery discrimination can make it difficult to access resources, while creating additional emotional and mental strain for those being discriminated against.

¹ Public Policy Institute of California. (2019). *PPIC Statewide Surveys*. Retrieved from www.ppic.org/publication/disaster-perceptions-and-preparedness/

² Pew Research Center. (2019). *Why Americans Don't Fully Trust Many Who Hold Positions of Power and Responsibility*.

³ Deuchar, R. (2009). *Gangs, Marginalised Youth and Social Capital*. Stoke-on-Trent: Trentham Books.

⁴ Monterey County. (2019). *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=76698

⁵ Williams, Lawrence, & Davis. (2019). *Racism and Health*. Annual Review of Public Health, 40(1), 105-125.

⁶ Faundez, J. (2005). Chapter 4: Racism and employment. In K. Boyle (Author), *Dimensions of racism*. (pp. 53-65). New York: UN.

Research clearly indicates that minority races and ethnicities (53% of the county population) in the United States face disparities in every aspect of life.¹ Similar trends can be found for immigrant populations (32%), particularly undocumented immigrants (23%), Non English Speakers (29%), LGBTQ populations (X% of the county), low income households (17%), those from minority religions Christianity is largest religious groups in the county), and those with physical or mental limitations (9%).^{2, 3, 4} People who have a mixture of these characteristics can face compound discrimination (ex. simultaneous racism, classism, and sexism) that worsens stigma against them.^{3, 4, 5, 6} One concern voiced during discussions with community leaders in Monterey County regarding discrimination is the immigrant farm worker population who are transient residents, only residing in the county seasonally; as they not only are more likely to face compound discrimination, but are only in the region for limited periods of time, making it even more difficult for them to integrate into the community.

Project Highlights in Monterey County

Reducing violence and increasing safety and trust in the community:

- Community Alliance for Safety and Peace reduces gang violence through prevention, intervention, suppression, and re-entry by leveraging resources and partnerships to assist youth.
- Community Partnership for Youth provides positive alternatives to gangs, drugs, and violence.
- Vision Salinas 2019 works to create a trusting dialogue between the community and public safety to reduce violence and make people feel safer in their communities by addressing the root cause of violence, improving transportation networks, pedestrian and bike lanes, open spaces and resources, and working to engage the community in preparedness, health living, and community activism.
- Monterey Peace and Justice Center brings the community together to cultivate peace through education and understanding, along with hosting a free English as a Second Language (ESL) class.
- Restorative Justice Partners works to reintegrate juvenile delinquents in their community and help victim heal through programs like their Reintegration Circles and Community-Building and Problem-Solving Circles.
- Urban Arts Collaborative (UAC) provides a safe space for artistic expression as a catalyst for healing, leadership development, and social justice.

Police departments in Monterey County have also taken steps to boost inclusion and trust within communities.



The Gonzales Police Department practices a community policing philosophy and created a Volunteer's in Policing Program that allows community members to assist the police with day to day operations and a Police Explorer Program which teaches youth about police work. Gonzales PD has also been monitoring community views of the police department, with their 2018 Survey. This survey found that the majority of residents believe police officers in Gonzales solve important problems (79%), work well with the residents (77%), are present in the community (81%), are making the community safe (76%), and are willing to call the police to report a crime (92%) and provide crime info to them (88%). The top recommendations by residents were more opportunities to interact with Officers (20%), better officer customer service (20%), and better responsiveness and response time (16%). The police department also sponsors several events, including coffee with a cop and national night out, and hosts a community police academy, police explorers and a youth diversion program. To assist with community policing efforts, police are offered crisis intervention, cultural competency, and Spanish language immersion trainings.



Greenfield police department has a similar survey, with similar findings, however the approval and trust in police is lower in Greenfield than it is in Gonzales, with some respondents noting that more meetings, more police patrols, and better communication between residents and police is needed. Further, Greenfield PD has a police explorers program for youth interested in the career field.

¹ Grusky, Varner, & Mattingly. (2017). *The Poverty and Inequality Report*. State of The Union.

² Wilkes & Wu. (2019). Immigration, Discrimination, and Trust: A Simply Complex Relationship. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 4. doi:10.3389/fsoc.2019.00032

³ Noga-Styron, K. E., Reasons, C. E., & Peacock, D. (2012). The last acceptable prejudice: An overview of LGBT social and criminal injustice issues within the USA. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 15(4), 369-398. doi:10.1080/10282580.2012.734564

⁴ Neufeldt, A. H. (1995). Empirical Dimensions of Discrimination against Disabled People. *Health and Human Rights*, 1(2), 174. doi:10.2307/4065213

⁵ Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2015). *Monterey County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

⁶ FEMA. (2020). *Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool*. Retrieved from <https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=90c0c996a5e242a79345cdbc5f758fc6>

⁷ Data USA. (2020). *Monterey County, CA*. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/monterey-county-ca>

⁸ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2020). *emPOWER Map 3.0*. Retrieved from <https://empowermap.hhs.gov/>

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- Marina Police department has a citizen Ride-A-Long program and “the ARC program” which is a community partnership aimed at youth crime intervention and prevention.
- Monterey Police Department implemented a Community Policing Initiative that works toward community outreach, education, information sharing, and partnership with residents. As part of this initiative, the Community Action Team (CAT) patrols the streets to create closer bonds with the community. Further their Citizens’ Police Academy and ride along program teach the community about policing; Salinas Police Department provides similar programs
- Soledad Police Department participates in community events, has a Police Explorer Program, a “Cops Youth Literacy Program” where officers visit 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes to discuss the importance of reading, and “Coffee with a Cop” events to allow residents the opportunity to meet and converse with Police Officers. Police are also encouraged to conduct routine foot patrols and bike patrols in the community.

The cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, and Salinas have also participated in neighborhood improvement projects that worked to make cleaner and safer streets, open spaces, and places for the community to gather. Additionally, Salinas Recreation & Park Division and the Citizenship Project partnered to offer free citizenship classes, along with implementing Community Leadership Academies, a Street Outreach Cross Functional Team, and Community Listening Sessions. Most cities also host community meetings and events to bring the community together.

To boost community inclusion and advocate for underserved populations:

- Village Project helps meet the needs of underserved Black/African American communities.
- Carmel Valley Women's Club supports women in the Carmel Valley.
- Mujeres en Acción provides group meetings and referrals to services such as childcare to marginalized women.
- Central Coast Citizenship Project provides education and support to undocumented persons and new US citizens.
- CSUMB has multiple clubs to bring students together based on their backgrounds and hobbies, including Native American Students United.
- Groups like Indigenous Peoples of Monterey County, Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation, and Salinian Tribe bring Native Americans together to preserve their history and culture and advocate for their rights.
- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation works to preserve the pride, values, and heritage of the Mexican American culture, through programs in early childhood education, family and senior services, and job training.
- The Migrant Education Program provides social and health services for migrant students and parents.
- Gonzales Youth Council gives voice and action to youth in the community.
- South County Outreach Effort (SCORE) and Southern Monterey County Rural Coalition are partnerships of south county organizations, working to advocate for the south county communities.

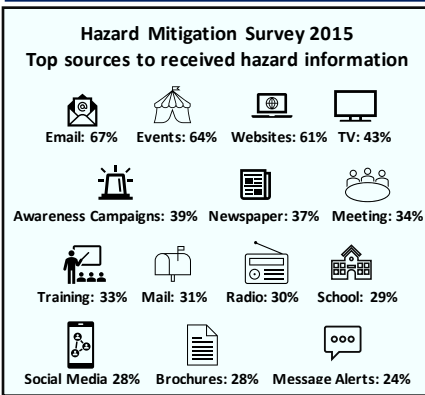
To reduce discrimination and protect residents’ rights:

- Monterey County Civil Rights Office works to combat discrimination and sexual harassment, while protecting reasonable accommodations and language access.
- NCBI Monterey County provides training and education in schools and the community to increase understanding, promote acceptance, and reduce prejudice.
- Center for Community Advocacy provides education and legal support for farmworkers and low-income families to improve housing and health conditions.
- Interim’s Success Over Stigma educates the community about combating stigma regarding mental illness.
- Immigration Task Force runs a countywide hotline and database that notifies and mobilizes volunteers to verify and document ICE activity; created a “Know Your Rights Card” that provides a quick guide on constitutional rights, and partners with community organizations to educate migrant residents.
- Latinian provides legal immigration services for immigrants.
- Pride of Monterey County provides advocacy for the LGBTQ community.
- YWCA runs programs and events designed to combat racism and empower women.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

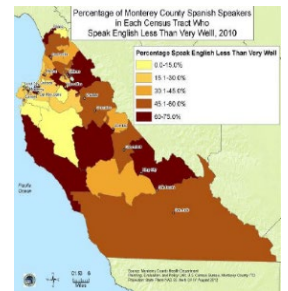
Social engagement is the level of participation the community has in events, voting, volunteering, and other community activities and is influenced by community connections, inclusivity, and how engagement opportunities are presented.

County Analysis



According to the 2020 Community Resilience Survey, family and friends were the most trusted source of information for residents, followed by government, newspaper, websites, and work. The top media sources were NPR, KSBW, Monterey Weekly, and CNN. When asked about the most effective ways to receive hazard information in the 2015 County Hazard Mitigation Survey, email was the top source (67%), followed by community events (64%); websites (61%), and public service announcements (on radio or tv). Nationally, 90% of American adults use the internet, 81% own a smartphone and 72% use social media, with rates higher for younger Americans.¹ Social media use is also on the rise, with YouTube and Facebook being the top used platforms overall.² For these reasons, social media and phone alerts have now become common for local leadership, emergency management, and nonprofits seeking to engage the community. Currently, Monterey County Office of Emergency Services engages 41,138 followers on twitter, 81,339 on Facebook, and 1,898 on Instagram.

Sharing information is most effective when provided through multiple routes, in multiple languages, using text, picture, and voice messaging, and keeping text at a low reading level. This is because 25% of the adult population **in the County who speak English** read below the 4th grade level.³ Further 30% of County Households don't have members who are English Language proficient, with over one third being solely Spanish-speaking households, and about one quarter speaking an Asian or Pacific Islander language.⁴ Moreover, while Spanish is the only language considered legally "significant", Tagalog is spoken by 2,280 individuals, Korean is spoken by 1,099 individuals, & some residents speak indigenous languages including Mixteco, Triqui, and Chatino.⁵



When it comes to encouraging community action, results can be shown in political participation, participation in community events, and volunteer rates. In Monterey County, about one third of eligible voters voted in the 2020 Presidential Primary Election and about two thirds have taken the 2020 Census. According to the County's 2020 Community Resilience Survey, about half of residents are involved in a community or faith-based organization (52%) and about 1/5th of people are involved with 3 and 10 organizations. While 36% of residents never interact with community or faith-based organizations, 45% note interacting daily or weekly with organizations, with 18% interacting with organizations less often. In regard to volunteerism, 24% of state residents note volunteering⁶ while 74% of county respondents of the community resilience survey noted that they contribute to their community through donations or volunteering regularly.

Project Highlights in Monterey County

Monterey county elections, League of Women Voters of Monterey and the census all encourage political participation by communities, as do local youth councils and leadership organizations. Similarly, Monterey County Office of Emergency Services, local police and fire departments, and disaster organizations and groups, such as CERT and the American Red Cross, encourage community participation is preparedness and resilience building activities. Further:

- ACTION council works to empower people to transform their communities
- Community Builders of Monterey County connects volunteers with organizations in need
- Junior League of Monterey County, Inc. promotes voluntarism and builds leadership skills through training, education and projects that address community needs and inspire enthusiasm and participation.
- Community Foundation for Monterey County manages donations to address community needs.

1 Gramlich. (2019). *19 Striking Findings from 2019*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/>

2 Pew Research Center. (2019). *Social Media Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/

3 Monterey County. (2015). *Adult Literacy Program*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/Home/Components/JobPosts/Job/26/1344

4 Monterey County Health Department. (2013). *Community Health Assessment*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=18340

5 Monterey County. (2018). *Board Policy Manual*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=69250>

6 Opportunity Index. (2019). *Monterey County*. Retrieved from <https://opportunityindex.org/detail/06053>

DISASTERS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

Prior to disasters, having a strong connection to the community can encourage preparedness. In addition, preparedness project and efforts, along with experiencing disaster can create stronger community connections. Pre-disaster, the Monterey County Office of Emergency services, local leadership, and community organizations work to bring the community together and enhance social capital, cohesion, and engagement for the purpose of building disaster preparedness. Groups like CERT, Red Cross, and OES not only help communities prepare, they also coordinate with one another during disasters, using their own social connectedness to better support the community through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), WebEOC, and during large emergencies, the Joint Information Center. Since community connectedness is put to test during disasters, examining previous disaster experiences can inform where community bonds are strong and where they need to be improved.

During the Tassajara Fire in 2015, CERT provided escorts for displaced people accessing their property for personal damage assessment. OES and fire responders held 14 community meetings over the three-month fire fight to keep the community informed and communication open. However, communications between the EOC and field staff were hampered by infrastructure damage and lack of cellular service in some areas. During response, state, local and non-profit agencies and organizations ran a Local Assistance Center (LAC) to provide recovery information and resources.

2016 Soberanes Fire



During the Soberanes fire in 2016, the EOC coordinated with local NGO's, affected communities, and the Nestle's Corp. to provide over 36,000 bottles of donated drinking water during the early phases of recovery. The county's alert and warning system sent over 70 emergency alerts related to evacuations and air quality issues, along with using social media to push public information. WebEOC was used to coordinate information internally, as was the case during previous winter storms and other emergency events. The United Way's call center stood up to provide the public 24-hour fire and air quality information, refer fire survivors to resources, and answer questions in 180 languages.

At the local levels, community members and concerned people from around the state offered donated goods and services to assist affected residents with their recovery. Department of Social Service staff cooperated with the EOC's Donations Management Unit and local non-profits to ensure donated relief supplies and services reached impacted residents. Community Emergency Response Volunteers, in coordination with the EOC, ran their Monterey Recovers web-based donation management program, which matched unmet needs of fire survivors with donated goods and services. Further, the Community Foundation of Monterey County established the Soberanes Fire Relief Fund and managed monetary donations of about \$800,000 for fire victims and their recovery. Moreover, Monterey Bay Aquarium hosted their largest night event on record, admitting 3,400 people for a fundraising event, Salinas Valley agricultural companies donated cash, and Wharf Marketplace hosted a fundraising farmers market that all contributed to the Fire Relief Fund.

2020 Pandemic

Challenges



The 2020 pandemic served as a major challenge to unity, one that is not typically seen in emergencies. Unlike most disasters, where we physically come together in shelters and during recovery, the pandemic forced us to stay apart. While impacts of the pandemic on different sectors is discussed throughout the framework, it is important to note how the pandemic directly impacted our ability to unite. The pandemic cancelled social gatherings and events that typically unite the community and shut down many organizations dedicated to unifying the community. Many people were also unable to volunteer, as many volunteers fell into high risk category for the pandemic. Furthermore, sheltering in place created a situation where many people were isolated from their communities, which had a wide array of effects on mental and emotional health that are yet to be fully understood as this pandemic is still not over (10/3) and impacts can appear far after it is.

The pandemic also increased anger and hate throughout our nation, as anti-Asian sentiments arose, and fear of both the pandemic and restrictions designed to combat it fueled civil unrest. This unrest was amplified by the health disparities faced by racial and ethnic minorities throughout the country and within Monterey County, linked to long-standing systemic health and social inequities. In California, Latinx/Hispanics were disproportionately represented in COVID cases, while Black/African Americans were disproportionately killed by COVID.¹ California Department of Public Health found similar disparities, noting that Black/African American, Latinx/Hispanic, and Pacific Islander communities, low income household and essential workers in California were disproportionally impacted by the pandemic. These disparities, along with several incidents of police misconduct and brutality across the county, sparked protests throughout the nation and within the county. While racial disparities and civil unrest indicate a lack of community connectedness and equity in our nation, some of the resulting protests, including in Monterey County, did provide an opportunity for community dialogue.

Accomplishments



In response to the pandemic, the Patient-Provider Communication Forum, was developed to provide free communication supports to patients and health care workers, such as downloadable health care communication boards to support patients of different ages, abilities, and languages. Listos stood up to conduct welfare check calls, as did the city of Monterey and County Social Services programs, to check on and provide emotional support to residents living alone. Programs also emerged to better understand community building and inequalities during the pandemic. In response to the disproportionate number of farmworkers impacted by the pandemic, Listos also leveraged the strong tradition of oral communication among California farm workers and developed audios of critical information in multiple languages, including indigenous languages. These audio files are located on the new "Farmworker Initiative" section of the Listos California website or by texting "VOX" to "211211". In addition, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, in collaboration with Community builders of Monterey County, engaged students in a program to document stories of resiliency and innovative community building during the pandemic. Similarly, the Office of Emergency Services pushed out surveys for nonprofits and businesses to see how they have been impacted by the pandemic.

While the pandemic worked against unifying the community in many ways, it did provide everyone a shared experience of adversity. The pandemic demonstrated to our community that we are deeply interconnected and provided people an opportunity to take responsibility for their community's health, which, when viewed in this perceptive, can be a unifying force. This feeling that "you are not alone" can provide comfort and solace during periods of isolation, give people strength to continue on, making them feel closer to their community and providing them a lens in which to empathize with one another. Public information was published by cities and the county to remind people that they must take steps not only to protect themselves and their loved ones but also their community, in attempts to reinforce positive community relationships and promote a collective goal toward a safer and healthier community.

2020 Fires



The sentiment that "we are all in this together" became even more evident as three large fires simultaneously hit the county in August 2020 and the community rallied together to support one another. Many local nonprofits, such as the Food Bank of Monterey County and SPCA, amplified services to help county resident. All in Monterey County stood up a location for spontaneous donations and volunteers, as did CERV through their "Recovers" webpage. While coordination amongst nonprofits quickly arose in response to the fires, the EOC was not able to quickly and effectively embed themselves into spontaneous volunteer and donation management. However, the EOC was able to successfully work all three fire responses and the pandemic response simultaneously, while the majority of the 100+ EOC staff worked remotely. Like other fires, the EOC worked with local partners to open evacuation centers and shelters, push fire information through their alert system and social media, host community meetings, and develop a LAC to assist with fire recovery. As a result of the pandemic there were some changes in operations, as shelters gave out hotel vouchers rather than having people stay in their facilities and a fire webpage was developed, as was a virtual local assistance center, to fill gaps left by limited in person communication.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Bonds

Community bonds can be strengthened by creating or enhancing community programs and events, such as neighborhood watches and block parties, particularly in South County regions that are often overlooked. Efforts to make communities friendlier to pedestrians and encourage outdoor activities, along with development of more green spaces, community gardens, and centers can maximize social interactions. **Organizations, especially smaller ones, should work to broker partnerships pre-disaster with government and other local organizations, so that they have multiple places to turn for assistance during emergencies.** Platforms like LocalData, OpenPlans, & NextDoor can provide a way for community members to interact virtually. Furthermore, a networking web can be created in each community, in which people/organizations partner make agreements to assist one another during disasters through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Finally, having a county community resilience liaison and hub would be an invaluable resource for strengthening community connections, implementing community projects, and assisting with disaster coordination.

Information Sharing

Public information should be shared using multiple methods, including websites, tv, social media, alerts, and meetings, be provided in multiple languages including, but not limited to, Spanish and English, and use voice, pictures, and text messaging. Extra efforts should be made for hard to reach groups, such as immigrants and tourists. Immigrant populations are typically less trusting of government and may not be reachable through regular channels; working with community leaders, such as churches and labor unions, can help bridge this gap. For tourists, familiar, nationwide resources (ex. mainstream media, 211, Red Cross), hotels and tourist attraction may be the best channels to push disaster information. Further, **Ham Radio trainings and groups should be increased, along with the creation of neighborhood contact trees, to make emergency communication easier.** This is particularly true in unincorporated areas, where cell coverage is poor, and in South County, where **Klon** is the only local radio station pushing emergency information.

Engagement

To empower people, amplify community voices, and help inform future projects, citizen panels or committees should be created, as should Idea/suggestion boards (both online and at libraries, schools, and centers). Programs like City Hall for You in Santa Cruz and townhall meetings, where residents can talk to leadership, also allow residents to be heard by those who represent them, while boosting trust and social connectedness. Finally, throughout the County, Community Emergency Response Team and preparedness fairs, meetings, trainings, and events should all be increased.

Inclusion

While racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination are not as easily solved, steps can and should be taken to alleviate their impacts on our community and make sure that everyone feels welcome. Organizations and projects that work to address disparities should be built upon and enhanced. Working to build social connectedness can also reduce discrimination and injustice, as those exposed to groups of people different from them are more likely to empathize with others and are consequentially less likely to discriminate.¹ Likewise, situational and self-awareness and community activism can better inform what is going on both around and within us, making it easier to see and address discrimination, stereotypes, and other negative mind views that work against social cohesion. Finally, because groups who are discriminated against or feel disconnected from their community often form or turn to subcommunities (ex. Church, advocacy group) as a way of fostering power, resources, and information, engaging with these subcommunities can help bridge gaps between them and the larger county community.

Safety

While boosting social inclusion can reduce crime and violence, so can working with youth to strengthen their bonds with the community. This not only helps address violent crime, as people under the age of 35 are more likely to commit such crimes.² but it embeds ideas of community resilience in residents early on, while utilizing our most energetic population to strengthen our community. Youth engagement can be conducted in youth organizations and schools through counseling, mentorship, and after school programs that encourage positive behaviors and community involvement. It can also be done through reintegration programs, like the Community Reentry Program & Urban Arts Collaborative, that help previous offenders develop skills, get jobs, resources and support that prevents them from committing more crime.

¹ Gonzalez, Steele, & Baron. (2016). Reducing Children's Implicit Racial Bias Through Exposure to Positive Out-Group Exemplars. *Child Development*, 88(1), 123-130

² Statista Research Department. (2020). *Violent Crime in the U.S.* Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/aboutus/our-research-commitment>

6. BASIC NEEDS

Disasters can directly threaten our lives by impacting our physical and mental health and obstructing access to safe housing, clean water, healthy food, and other necessities, such as sanitation items and clothing. For those who already struggle with their health and/or access to necessities, this not only limits ability to mitigate and prepare for disaster but also makes it difficult to respond and recover, worsening disaster impacts.

FOOD



Communities that have access to healthy food tend to have better overall health and are better able to handle community food needs during a disaster. Food insecurity and food related health problems, such as obesity, are linked to low income, as lower income neighborhoods often lack full-service grocery stores and farmers markets, and healthy foods tend to be more expensive. Food insecurity is particularly devastating for children, whose developing brains and bodies need nutrients to grow. Food insecure children have worse arithmetic skills, and are more likely to have seen a psychologist, repeat a grade, and get suspended.¹ In the central coast, 37% of adults are food insecure and in Monterey County about 45,000 residents or 10.5% of the population is food insecure. Women and children in the county face higher rates of food insecurity, as do the areas of East Salinas, Marina and South County.^{3,4,5}

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Food Insecurity

Monterey County has several programs to address food insecurity and needs in the county.

- Most public-school districts in the County provide free and reduced meals (breakfast, lunch, snacks) to children enrolled in public schools. During disasters, meals are provided to-go at drive-thru and walk-up sites.²
- Women, Infant and Children program (WIC) provides supplemental food, health care referrals, breastfeeding support, and nutrition education for low-income expecting and new mothers and children 5 years old or younger.
- CalFresh, often known as the Food Stamp Program or SNAP, provides an EBT card to purchase food from grocery stores and farmers' markets for low income Californians, serving almost 9,000 households in the county.³
- Meals on Wheels, Area Agencies on Aging & Carmel Foundation deliver food to seniors, and the Agency Alliance on Aging provides a congregate meal programs regularly, providing a pick up meal service during the pandemic.

The Food Bank for Monterey County provides emergency supplemental food to 1 in 5 County residents, serving around 90,000 different people annually. There are also numerous food pantries and feeding programs throughout the county that do the same, along with over 50 feeding programs run by faith based and community organizations, including:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| • <u>Community Food Bank of King City</u> | • <u>Harvestlands Church</u> | • <u>St Vincent De Paul Food Pantry</u> |
| • <u>Community Human Services</u> | • <u>Pajaro Rescue Mission</u> | • <u>Salvation Army</u> |
| • <u>Dorothy's Place</u> | • <u>Pass the Word Ministry</u> | • <u>Thomas Carman Food Pantry</u> |
| • <u>First United Methodist Church</u> | • <u>Rice plus Project</u> | • <u>Victory Mission</u> |
| • <u>Gathering for Women</u> | • <u>Second Harvest Food Bank</u> | |

For contact information, locations and times of feeding programs refer to United Way Monterey County.

Promoting Healthy Eating

Several programs work to educate the Monterey County community about healthy eating and living including:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • <u>Ag Against Hunger</u> | • <u>Healthy Eating Active Living</u> | • <u>Everyone's Harvest</u> |
| • <u>Alliance for Food and Farming</u> | • <u>(HEAL) Cities Campaign</u> | • <u>CalFresh Healthy Living</u> |

¹ Nutrition & Fitness advocates of the Central Coast. (2019). *Food Access Directory*.

² Feeding America. (2020). *Food Insecurity in The United States*. Retrieved from <https://map.feedingamerica.org/>

³ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2020). *Children who are not food insecure in California*.

⁴ USDA. (2020). *Food Access Research Atlas*. Retrieved from www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/

⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2020). *Eligible students who are reached by free and reduced-price meals during the summer in California*.

⁶ US Census Bureau. (2020). *COVID Demographic and Economic Resources*. Retrieved from <https://covid19-uscensus.hub.arcgis.com/>

Some of the 18 Rotary Clubs in the county also provide gardens and assist with local food banks. MEarth provides an outdoor learning center with a culinary classroom, outdoor kitchen, organic gardens and fruit orchard, off-grid solar greenhouse, and native plant nursery. Likewise, Community Alliance with Family Farmers provides a Farm to Cafeteria program to increase access to the freshest, highest quality, diverse local produce for schools, by building farmers capacity to sell to schools, hospitals and universities through technical assistance and marketing support. CAFF also provides the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, a partnership between farms and consumers in which customers purchase a “share” and become a farm “member” and the farm delivers a box of seasonal goods regularly throughout the season. This gives business to farmers, while increasing access to local nutritious food.

- Everyone’s Harvest
- Golden State Farmer’s Association
- Monterey Bay Certified Farmer’s Markets
- Soledad farmers’ market
- Farmer’s Market of Old Monterey
- Carmel-by-the-Sea Farmers Market
- CSUMB Farmers’ Market
- West Coast Farmer’s Market Association

There are also multiple Certified Farmers’ Markets in the county which boost access to local nutritious food (see Figure X to the right). To promote the use of farmers markets, Everyone’s Harvest has a program called Market Match, that provides an additional \$10 to buy fresh produce to customers who spend \$10 of CalFresh benefits at one of their markets. There is also a partnership between healthcare providers and farmers’ markets in which doctors “prescribe” fresh produce to young overweight patients and direct them to the farmers’ markets where they can receive \$25 worth of fresh produce weekly, known as the Fresh

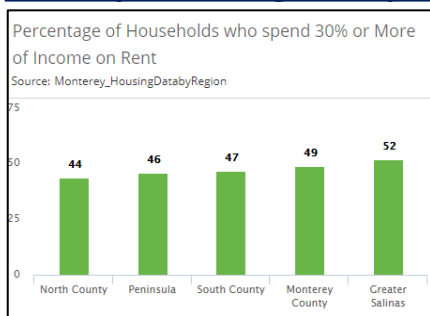
Rx program. CSUMB’s FreshAccess is program enables students to receive fresh produce each week at select local farmers markets. Finally, the Family Market Program in Soledad, offers free fresh produce to families from April to October each year, with each market serving between 200-400 people and each household receiving about 50-100 pounds of food.

HOUSING

Housing conditions are deeply intertwined with disaster outcomes. Mobile and older homes, homes that are crowded, and those located in floodplains, liquefaction or fire hazard zones, or on fault lines are more likely to be damaged during an emergency, creating economic hardship for households and increasing risk of injury or death. Conversely, regular home maintenance and/or renovations that mitigate disaster impacts, such as bolting a home’s foundation, can reduce or prevent home damage. Disasters can also increase demand for emergency sheltering needs, creating more homelessness and straining resources available to meet housing needs.

Homeowners tend to fair best in disasters, as they are more likely to have insurance and can use their home as collateral to receive loans. Homeless populations, often lacking a shield against disasters and having more pre-disaster unmet needs, tend to fair worst.¹ Those with lower income, older age and/or physical limitations are less likely and able to make needed home repairs and low-income county residents are less likely to own their homes and more likely to live in crowded households, putting these populations at higher disaster risk. Additionally, Pacific Islander, Native American, and Black/African American households in the county are the most disproportionately impacted by housing problems.²

County Housing Analysis



There are about 126,000 households in the county, with 3.3 people on average per household. 51% of housing units are owner occupied and 49% are renter-occupied throughout the county, with owner-occupied housing higher in urban areas. 72% of households are composed of families, 52% of which are married-couple families, and 22% are single person households, with about half being senior households. Most homes in the county are single family units, however 27% of housing structures are multi-family units and 4.7% are mobile homes. The rural regions of the county and south county cities and towns have the most mobile home residents, West County has the least. 28% of housing units were built before 1960 and 69%

were built before 1990. ^{1,2, 3,4} The median household cost for the county in 2019 was \$587,000 and median gross monthly rent was \$2,600. **Salinas residents spend the highest percent of their income on housing in the county, with the percent of affordable homes (as compared to median local income) dropping from 52% in 2010 to 19% in 2019.**⁵

1 National Low-Income Housing Coalition. (2018). *New Data Reveals Disaster Preparedness Disparities between Renters and Homeowners*.

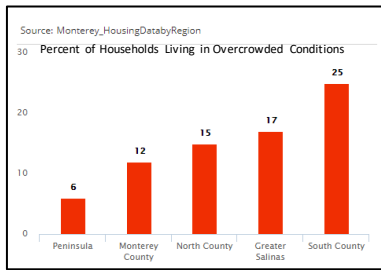
2 Monterey County. (2020). *Community Development Block Grant Program, FY 2020 – FY 2024 Consolidated Plan*.

3 US Census Bureau. (2019). *Quick Facts – Monterey County*. US Census Bureau. (2019). *Quick Facts – Monterey County*.

4 FEMA. (2020). *Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool*. Retrieved from <https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>

5 Monterey Bay Economic Partnership. (2019). *Monterey Bay Region Housing Story*

COUNTY OF MONTEREY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK 2020



Approximately 56% of the renters in the county spend over 30% of their income on rent, a rise of 16% since 2017. This percent suggests that there is a high housing cost burden in the county. Furthermore, rent increases are outpacing growth in incomes. These high costs for housing have led to overcrowding and people residing in unfit housing conditions, particularly for low income renters and migrant farmworker populations. Currently 52% of residents live in overcrowded housing, with Greenfield, Gonzales and the unincorporated County having the highest rates.^{1 2 3 4} Unaffordable housing costs are a large reason for overcrowded households and the leading cause of homelessness (76%), as median income has not increased at the same rate as housing costs and 58% of county households currently pay over 30% of their gross income on housing and 17% pay over 50% of their income on housing.³

County Homeless Analysis

Monterey County has about 6,000 reported homeless residents per year, with the homeless population growing by 23% from 2015 to 2017.⁵ This number is most likely underestimated, as homeless populations can be difficult to accurately count. According to the 2019 County Homeless Census & Survey, there are about 7,000 homeless students in the county, or about 20-36% of all county students, a larger rate than San Francisco & Alameda Counties. Most (76%) of the homeless population in the County were unsheltered, spending their nights outdoors, primarily in the streets or parks. Unaccompanied youth and chronic homeless were most likely to be unsheltered, while families and veterans were least likely. 10% of homeless youth have been in foster care and 19% have spent a night in jail in the past year. Men (65%) are disproportionately represented in the county's homeless population, as are Black/African American residents (25% of the homeless, 3% of the county). Nearly half of homeless survey respondents abuse drugs or alcohol (45%) or suffer from depression (44%) and about a quarter have physical disabilities (27%), chronic health problems (25%), or PTSD (23%).



About half were experiencing homelessness for the first time, 23% were chronically homeless, and 63% had been homeless for a year or longer. 33% of homeless county residents are families, 7% are veterans and 14% are minors, 5% of which are unaccompanied youth. Financial losses and substance abuse were the top causes of homelessness, while the top ways homeless populations obtained permanent housing was rental assistance and employment.⁴ Finally, strategic planning sessions found that transitional housing programs directed toward families, substance users, those with mental illness, and youth are the most vital need for homeless populations in the county.⁵

Affordable Housing Programs

To alleviate housing needs and homelessness the county has two types of affordable housing assistance programs, the Inclusionary Housing Program that provides home ownership and rental opportunities and the Down Payment Assistance program for first time home buyers.⁶ The County also requires housing developers to include a certain percentage of affordable housing units in new projects within the unincorporated County. The cities within the county have implemented similar programs, including investing in affordable housing, first time home buyer down payment programs, and housing grants/loans. Further, the US Financial Stability & Helping Families Save Their Homes Acts of 2009 assist eligible homeowners who can no longer afford their home and provides protection for renters living in a foreclosed home.

1 United Way. (2017). *Real Cost Measure Dashboard*.
 2 California Department of Community Services and Development – Community Services Bloc Grant. (2019.) *2018-2019 Community Action Plan*.
 3 Monterey County. (2016). *2015-2023 Housing Element*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=12511>
 4 Monterey County. (2019) *Community Needs Assessment*. Retrieved from <https://co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=77726>
 5 Monterey County Behavioral Health. (2014). *Strategic Plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=15379>
 6 Monterey County. (2019). *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=76698

- Housing Authority of Monterey County (HACM) provides rental assistance and develops/manages affordable housing throughout the County, including programs directed toward farmworkers families, seniors, and people with disabilities. HACM'S website also provides information on both housing assistance and disaster preparedness.
- ECHO Housing provides housing and rental assistance, a shared housing program, tenant, landlord, and home purchasing counseling, education, and referrals.
- Housing Resource Center provides emergency rental assistance, a first-time home buyer program, case management, permanent housing placement, and supportive services to over 40,000 county residents. These programs not only provide financial assistance but also teach financial literacy, which can boost financial preparedness for emergencies.
- Catholic Charities of The Diocese of Monterey provides eviction prevention assistance, financial education, nutrition education, and help applying for assistance.
- Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association (CHISPA), the largest private, nonprofit housing developer in the County, builds and renovates homes and apartments throughout the central coast. CHISPA also offers onsite educational and recreational programs for the residents at their rental properties, through partnerships with the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Read to Me Project, Alisal Percussion, Arts Council, and Alliance on Aging.
- Center for community advocacy works to improve substandard housing conditions for farmworker families and helps farmworkers mobilize various housing committees to advocate for the construction of quality, affordable housing
- Tenants Together & Keep your home California both seek to advocate for renter's rights, reduce housing discrimination and provide foreclosure and eviction advice.

Homeless Programs

Homelessness remains a large problem for Monterey County and, as a result, most cities and county departments have allocated time and resources to coordinate efforts and funding to address homelessness, as have many nonprofits and community-based organizations. Overall, there are 15 facilities and 366 beds being used specifically as emergency shelter in the county. Moreover, several programs have been developed to provide permanent supportive housing, including 214 permanent supportive housing beds targeted toward chronically homeless veterans. ¹While these programs are helpful, they do not always have the capacity to meet the needs of all their clients particularly during times of disaster, where sheltering needs are even more prevalent.

Monterey County Government Programs

- County Behavioral Health collaborates with local homeless service providers to provide outreach, assessments, case management, & psychiatry services for adults with a psychiatric disability who are or may become homeless. Their Transition Age Youth Program provides permanent supportive housing for youth with diagnosable psychiatric disabilities.
- The City of Salinas and Monterey County are collaborating on the development of several new homeless shelters.
- The Salinas Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team Officer actively works with the homeless in Chinatown.
- County Public Works has worked to clean up trash and address sanitation problems in homeless encampments

Nonprofits and Community-Based Organizations Programs

- Coalition of Homeless Service Providers promotes housing service coordination, education, & funding programs.
- Community Homeless Solutions provides emergency, warming, and domestic violence shelters, transitional and permanent housing, a respite center, resource centers, food, clothing, supplies, case management, training, outreach, education, referrals, advocacy, and other assistance to the homeless. Their 10 programs serve over 300 people each night and over 90% of those in transitional housing and 80% of those in emergency shelters have seen improvements in their income and transition into stable housing.
- Community Human Services provides substance abuse and mental health counseling and recovery services, an emergency shelter and transitional housing for both women, families, and youth.

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- Dorothy's Place provides transitional and permanent housing programs, substance abuse counseling, physical and mental wellness support, case management and counseling.
- Family Resource Center (FRC), Rancho Cielo, Seneca Family of Agencies, and Sun Street Centers provide supportive services and resources for homeless families and youth.
- Interim, Inc. provides affordable supportive housing, a day rehabilitation program, permanent housing, residential treatment, mental health and dual-recovery services, case coordination, therapeutic services, outreach and intensive support for adults with mental illness. Their McHome is working with County Behavioral Health to provide housing for patients with mental illness so that they are not discharged into homelessness.
- Outreach Unlimited's I-HELP program provides emergency sheltering for homeless men and women 365 days a year, along with feeding and transportation services and referrals.
- Salvation Army provides some rental assistance and a transitional housing program for families with children experiencing homelessness, along with case management and other support services.
- Veterans Resource Center and Veterans Transition Center provide supportive services for homeless military veterans and their families, such as food, clothing, case management, substance abuse counseling, advocacy, referrals, employment training, and emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing.
- Victory Mission & Pajaro Rescue Mission provide shelter, food and other resources for homeless adult men.
- YWCA provides women and children who are survivors of domestic violence with emergency sheltering.

SUPPLIES, SUPPORT, AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS

Many of the organizations and programs discussed above provide more than just shelter and food, they provide, supplies, showers, counseling, advocacy, and other support services.

- Casa de la cultura provides healthy food and emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, & other basic needs.
- DOD Outpatient Clinic provides food, clothing, and blankets and other support services to homeless veterans.
- First United Methodist Church provides a safe space day program with access to computers, telephones, restrooms, and free clothes.
- Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in Seaside provides low cost household and building material.
- Monterey County Aging and Adult Services provides support and assistance to people with disabilities, seniors, and their family and caregivers, including 24-hour reporting and investigations of elder and dependent adult abuse, In-Home Supportive Services, the SSI-Advocacy Program, and senior information & assistance services.
- Monterey County Department of Social Services provides temporary public assistance benefits and services, including Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families (cash aid), General Assistance, Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and CalWORKs, along with offering supportive services such as providing clothing and needed supplies.
- Safe Parking Program provides safe parking spots for homeless people with vehicles to stay at overnight.
- United Way 2-1-1 provides information and referral services to meet a variety of basic needs.
- Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shop provides donations to organizations that provide for the physical, emotional and social needs of the community through the sale of household supplies, clothes, toys and furniture.

Several organizations also provide supplies such as clothing, furniture, camping equipment, toiletries, computer access, classes/training, employment assistance, hygiene facilities, and/or counseling, to those in need including:

- Castro Plaza Child & Family Resource Center
- CSUMB Chinatown Learning Center
- Rice plus Project
- Gathering for Women
- Salvation Army

Young Children

Infants and young children also require specific supplies including diapers and breastmilk that can be impacted during emergencies. In fact, nearly 95% of infant and child deaths during emergencies result from contaminated water and unsanitary environments that lead to diarrhea. Parents during emergencies may turn to infant formula as a substitute, however it is less nutritious and if there is not clean water and a way to sterilize bottles this could make babies sick.¹ Additionally, first responders, shelter staff, health workers, and other involved in helping the community during emergencies, should consider learning more about breast feeding, and at shelters and other assistance centers creating a safe space, private areas for breastfeeding women and lactation support providers.²

Animals

Aside from meeting the basic needs of individuals, it is also important to recognize the needs of the over 12,5000 pets in the county.³ Organizations that work to meet the basic needs of pets and assist animal owners include:

- SPCA provides low cost spay, neuter and vaccination services, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, disaster preparedness and response services, dog training classes, animal cruelty and neglect investigation and rescue, and sheltering of lost pets, along with partnering with Meal on Wheel to deliver pet food to their clientele with pets.
- Max's Helping Paws Foundation assists severely ill or injured pets by providing pet owners assistance with the costs of urgent medical care.
- Peace of Mind Dog Rescue provides volunteer and financial assistance so seniors can afford to keep their pets with them for as long as possible.

DISASTERS, FOOD, AND HOUSING

During disasters, need for food, housing and other necessities increases dramatically and the organizations already put in place to address these needs before the crisis are often the ones that step in during disasters. In addition, disaster response organizations like the American Red Cross provide assistance with mass care and shelter efforts. When needed, the Operation Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coordinates resources and information between organizations to enhance collaboration and reduce duplication of effort. The county and state emergency operations also keep a list of nearly 100 potential shelter locations in the county, including schools, fairgrounds, hotels and other locations that can be used as emergency shelters in a disaster. As of July 2020, these facilities could house up to 21,844 shelter residents.

COVID-19 Pandemic

While housing and food are often the highest priority needs in a disaster, the type and circumstance surrounding a disaster may create a priority for other supplies as well, such as a pandemic creating a need for face masks or a flood creating extra need for clothes. During the COVID-19, there was an increase in needs, particularly food and shelter.⁴ despite this increased need, nonprofits were hard hit by the pandemic, with many from the County's COVID impacts surveys indicating that they had more work and less assistance, and one national study on NGO impacts of COVID showing that one in eight people employed by a nonprofit in February 2020 were unemployed by the end of May 2020; with the highest areas of loss being educational workers, healthcare workers, and social assistance workers, including food and housing services.⁵ The pandemic also created a need for personal protective equipment such as face masks and, particularly at the beginning of the pandemic, grocery stores faced higher demand and crowds that left few, if any, toiletries and water on the shelves. To address expanded needs during COVID-19, and during most other disasters, most feeding and sheltering programs have continued and/or been enhanced during the pandemic. There have also been several pop-up events to distribute supplies and food by various organizations.

1 US Breastfeeding Committee. (2020). *Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including COVID-19*.

2 Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *Disaster Planning: Infant and Child Feeding*.

3 Monterey County Animal Services. (2020). *Dog Licenses*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/Home/Components/ServiceDirectory/ServiceDirectory/301/1334?cftype=ServiceDirectory

4 Bright Beginnings. (2020). *Understanding the Needs of Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

5 Dubb. (2020). *Nonprofits Have Laid Off 1.6M since March, Finds Center for Civil Society*. Nonprofit Quarterly.

Food

To address food needs in the county during the pandemic, County Office of Education offered free and reduced-price school meals. Meals on wheels Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley also amplified their ability to provide meals by collaborating with ITN Monterey County and their efforts were amplified by similar programs that were created in response to the pandemic such as the State's Great Plates Delivered program. The Monterey County Free Libraries offered grab and go meals and activity bags for youth 18 and under during the fall 2020 semester. Community Alliance with Family Farmers compiled tips, resources and guideline to help keep residents stay safe and advocated to keep farmers markets open during the shelter in place order.

Smaller food pantries, like Thomas Camren Food Bank, faced some challenges as they were largely dependent on the Monterey County Food Bank for nonperishable supplies. And, during the pandemic and other disasters the food bank became to overwhelmed to assist these smaller organizations, forcing them to turn to grocery stores and other outlet, which were not always easy to identify for assistance. Some efforts work successful however as some grocery stores, such as the Grocery Outlet in Marina, did work with local food pantries to donate and deliver food to those in need. One unique response to the pandemic was self-organizing pop up feeding services, testing, and PPE handout events; that often occurred randomly, with little notice, making them harder to inform people about.

Housing

To address housing needs, the Emergency Operations Center worked with local jurisdictions and the Homeless coalition to ramp up safe parking sites, create several portable wash stations to boost hygiene resources for the homeless, develop a temporary housing site for medically fragile persons need housing, and open up 5 facilities to house COVID positive homeless who are able to care for themselves but need to be quarantined through the State's Project Room Key. In total, the 6 housing facilities that were created as a response to the pandemic were housing about 160 people at the end of July 2020. The program was further expanded in October 2020, through the state's housing for the harvest program that focuses on housing farmworker populations that have been exposed or have tested positive for COVID. This project builds off the Grower Shipper Association's work housing farmworkers during the pandemic. In addition, agricultural organizations and businesses have developed their own program to house farmworkers and the County has placed an eviction moratorium that limits both residential and commercial evictions.¹

The county's housing efforts not only helped provide some temporary housing to address the ever growing homelessness problem throughout the county, but was also able to address some of the long term housing issues by working with the Homeless Coalition to get medically fragile persons housed first temporarily and now permanently. This type of action, using disaster response to tackle a larger social issue, should be seen as a best practice and more commonly utilized. Similarly, The State's "Housing is Key" campaign connects tenants and landlords with important information about relief and protections under the new state law that prevents eviction until February 1, 2021. Like many other disaster responses, Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) were utilized to ensure that those with Access and Functional Needs who went to shelters received the support and assistance they needed.

Many nonprofit and community-based organizations also stepped up to assist with housing during the pandemic:

- Gathering for women enhanced their programs, providing meals, clothes, showers, and case management visits to hundreds of residents and placing nearly 20 people in temporary housing between 3/13/20 and 6/12/20.
- Dorothy's Place's amped up feeding services by 33% providing 600 "to-go" free meals daily and expanded other programs in coordination with the Community Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, and Rotary Club of Corral de Tierra, providing case management to clients in motels through "Project Refuge".
- Street to Homes has increased sheltering operations
- Tenants Together created a COVID-19 tenant defense toolkit and a campaign to advocate for and assist renters
- Community Homeless Solutions converted their warming Shelter in Salinas to a 24/7 shelter and opened additional shelter beds in the Chinatown area.
- Catholic charities provided rent assistance for those in dire need, along with handing out a thousand masks (from USHHS) and information on available services and COVID prevention.

FOOD RECOMMENDATIONS

To address food insecurity, accessibility to free or low-cost healthy food should be enhanced.

Organizations and government should:

- Increase summer meal programs and expanding summer EBT for children
- Open more community gardens, food cooperatives, and farmer's markets
- Encourage healthy food retail near schools and transit (ex. growing health food at schools, creating policy that prevents processed and unhealthy foods from being sold at school).
- Limit less nutritious foods and beverages in schools, on government property, and in city, state, and county run or sponsored events.
- Hold a potluck at the end of the school year to distribute old food supplies to families before expiration
- Create partnerships between restaurants, catering companies, farms, and food banks to donate excess food rather than throwing it away.

On the individual level, community members can come together to:

- Develop community or school gardens and farms (Learn more: [Guide to starting a community garden](#))
- **Join or start a food cooperative.** (ex. [Cooperative Grocery](#); [Rainbow Grocery](#))
- **Support or start a produce stand or delivery service** (ex. [Somethin' Fresh](#); [Farm Fresh Choice](#))
- **Start a Food Policy Council** to implement a long-term food security plan for your community.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

To address housing issues and preparedness:

- **Realtors and housing organizations**, such as the housing authority, could provide emergency preparedness packets and kits as welcome presents.
- **Insurance companies** can work with the government to provide discounted disaster insurance to areas with high risk, similar to the [National Flood Insurance Program](#).
- **Social service programs** that provide education, employment, mental and substance abuse assistance, and other forms of social support, can enhance services as a preventive measure against homelessness, as can transitional shelters and programs that assist patients discharged from hospitals, mental health facilities, prison, jail, substance abuse treatment programs and the foster care system.
- **Community organizations** that provide basic needs services, such as rotary clubs and churches, can be used as a trusted source to push information on housing and feeding services and disaster preparedness to the community.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health outcomes, particularly during emergencies when health care systems are put under the highest pressure, are a strong indicator of the overall well-being and resilience of a community, as they are deeply interconnected with all aspects of our lives. From socioeconomic status to social support, everything we do, good or bad, impacts our health; likewise, our health impacts everything we do. For example, overall health is worsened by poverty, as poverty limits access to nutritious food, clean air and water, safe neighborhoods, and high-quality health care, schools, and housing. Similarly, poor health can worsen poverty, increasing health care costs and reducing the ability to make income. ¹

Health Care Access

Health Care Facilities



There are 4 hospitals in Monterey County:

- **Salinas Memorial** and **Natividad** hospitals in Salinas
- **Community hospital of Monterey Peninsula** (CHOMP) in Monterey
- **MEE Memorial Hospital** in King City.

There are also 80+ independent living centers including the **Central Coast Center For Independent Living** and at least 65 health centers, including:

- **Casa de la Cultura**
- **Confidence Pregnancy Center**
- **Clinica de Salud del Valle**
- **Doctors on Duty Medical Clinics**
- **Planned Parenthood**

According to John Hopkins University, the county's hospitals have 709 staffed beds and 47 ICU beds. Overall, there is one primary care physician per 1,660 residents and one mental health provider for every 310 residents. ^{1,2}

Health Care Programs

There are numerous county programs that help enhance resident's health. The **County Health Department** runs a variety of programs including communicable disease prevention and control, family planning, children, and women services, nutrition services, preventive health care education, case management and home visits, HIV Programs, a County Employee Wellness program, a public health emergency preparedness program, and substance use programs. All four hospitals in the county provide emergency, urgent, and diagnostic care, along with a variety of specialized health care, however Natividad is the only teaching hospital in the County, specializing in family medicine, with about one-third of graduates remaining on the Central Coast to establish a practice. **MC-CHOICE** conducts outreach to maximize enrollment of children in the Medi-Cal program. **FamilyWize** prescription savings card makes prescription medications more affordable for all families. The **Central Coast Visiting Nurse Association** provides home care services, allowing patients to return home from the hospital earlier, remain in their homes longer, and prevent future hospitalizations.

In addition, there are several organizations that provide education, programs, and support to enhance the health and well-being of County residents such as:

- **Building Healthy Communities East Salinas**
- **Health Projects Center**
- **Carmel Foundation**
- **Nutrition & Fitness Collaborative of the Central Coast**
- **Central California Alliance For Health**

Health Needs

The Health Resources and Services administration has labeled Monterey County as a primary care shortage area, with the most medically underserved regions in the county being Del Rey Oaks, Marina, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Pine Canyon and Jolon and services largely concentrated in Monterey Peninsula and Salinas. ^{3,4} Overall, the second highest need in the county is health related services, with top health needs being: health insurance (≈25%), physical and mental health services (≈22%), family mentoring and planning (≈16%), exercise and fitness (≈10%), substance abuse support (≈7%) and domestic violence support (6%). ² 11.4% of California residents have not been to a doctor in the past year because of cost. 11.2% (46,650 residents) of the county is uninsured, with this rate on the rise. ⁵

Seniors, followed by children, were the least likely to be uninsured, and, when these populations are excluded, rates rise to 29%. ⁶ The highest rates of uninsured residents are those who are low income but live above the poverty line, those with less than a high school education, Hispanic residents, and those living in East Salinas, Moss Landing, Greenfield, King City, Parkfield, Pine Canyon and Jolon. ^{2,6} Private insurance covered most residents (57%), followed by Medicaid (23%). ^{6,7} Per capita personal health care spending has been on the rise in Monterey County and was \$7,549 per person in 2014, with those on Medicare spending the most and those with private insurance spending the least. ⁵

¹ University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. (2020). *County Health Rankings*. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

² Monterey County. (2019). *Community Needs Assessment*. Retrieved from <https://co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=77726>

³ HRSA (2019). *Medically Underserved Areas*. Policy Maps. Retrieved from <https://www.policymap.com/data/our-data-directory/#HRSA>

⁴ Monterey County. (2018). *Community Health Improvement Plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=18356>

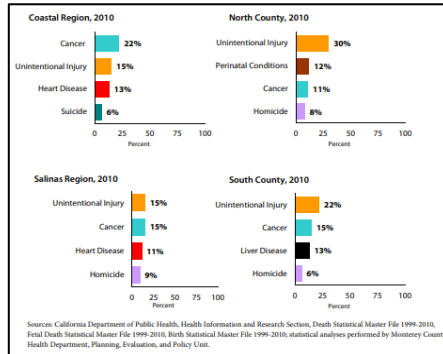
⁵ Data USA. (2020). *Monterey County, CA*. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/monterey-county-ca>

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs

⁷ Monterey County Health Department. (2013). *Community Health Assessment*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=18340

Health Outcomes

Monterey County residents experienced improvements in health status since the early 2000s, with those who were older, male, homeless, and/or Hispanic being more likely to self-rate their health as poor.^{1,2,3,4} In 2013, there were 6,541 births in the County, 8% of which were teen mothers, with the highest rates among Latina teens. About 27% of pregnant women received late or no prenatal care, with teen mothers less likely to receive prenatal care. The regions with the poorest birth outcomes are Chualar, Watsonville, Castroville, East Salinas, Greenfield, King City, & San Ardo.^{4,5,6}



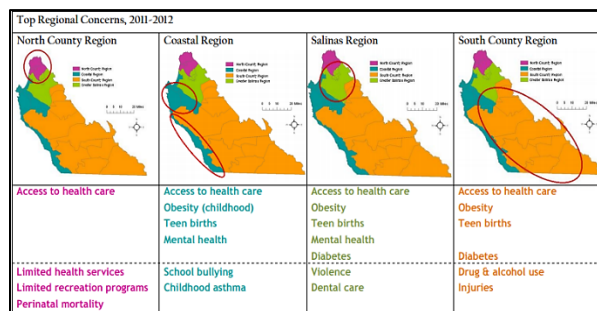
Life expectancy in the county is higher than state and national averages, with women living 83.7 years and men living 80 years on average.⁷ 603 people died per 100,000 in 2014 in the County, about 9% of which were premature deaths. The county death rate has declined over the last decade for all age groups except 15-24-year olds and are lowest among Non-Hispanic Whites. The leading causes of death varied by region, with cancer and heart disease being the highest overall in the county. In West County, cancer is the top cause of death, followed by injury, heart disease, and suicide. Unintentional injury was the top cause of death and homicide was the 4th leading cause of death for the rest of the county, with perinatal conditions in North County, heart disease in Salinas, and liver

disease in South County also listed on the top four causes of death for each region.^{1,7,8,9,10} There are 2 deaths related to substance abuse or suicide per thousand County residents and men had higher rates than women.^{7,11}

Disability and Illness

Health concerns

California ranks better than the nation in effective treatment and preventative care, healthy living, cancer, cardiovascular disease, mental health, and substance abuse rates, improving most in nursing homes and with low income patients. California ranked worst in HIV rates, opioid related diagnoses, health provider-patient communication, and with Medicare managed care, becoming worse in access to health care and diabetes & HIV/AIDS rates.¹²



According to County Health Department staff, the largest county health concern is health care access, particularly in the Northeast County. Teen birth rates and mental & behavioral health was a large concern for most of the county, with South County having the greatest concern over substance abuse and West County most concerned about school bullying. Other regional concerns included childhood asthma for West County; obesity, diabetes, and injuries for South County; and diabetes, violence, perinatal mortality, and dental care for Northeast county (See [figure X](#) for more details).⁸

Hypertension, high cholesterol, and depression were the most impactful health conditions in the county, with obesity being a risk factor for diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol. In 2009, 8% of all county residents had diabetes, a quarter were obese, and over a third were overweight. Nearly half of children were overweight or obese, with the highest rates in Seaside, Salinas, and Soledad.^{5,8} 738 persons, mostly male (83%), had HIV/AIDS, the majority of which reside in the Monterey Peninsula/Big Sur and Salinas.¹ 43% of residents have received a flu shot and most adults have been screened for breast or colorectal cancer; with rates highest among non-Hispanic residents. 20% of residents are physically inactive and 12% of the adults population smoke, with men smoking at three times higher rates than women.^{8,9}

1 Monterey County Health Department. (2013). *Community Health Assessment*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=18340

2 Monterey County Core Metrics. Retrieved from <https://insight.livestories.com/s/v2/monterey-county-core-metrics-overview/>

3 Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. (2020). *Health Index*. Retrieved from <https://www.bcbs.com/the-health-of-america/health-index>

4 Community Foundation for Monterey County. (2016). *Homeless Women on the Monterey Peninsula*.

5 CSUMB Institute for Community Collaborative Studies. (2012). *Safety Net Provider Project – Phase I Report*.

6 Monterey County Health Department. (2013). *Birth Outcomes Report*.

7 Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. (2015). *County Profile – Monterey County*.

8 Monterey County. (2018). *Community Health Improvement Plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=18356>

9 University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. (2020). *County Health Rankings*. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

10 Monterey County Health Department. (2019). *Injury and Violence Data*.

11 Opportunity Index. (2019). *Monterey County*. Retrieved from <https://opportunityindex.org/detail/06053>

12 Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. (2018). *National Health Care Quality and Disparities Report*.

Disabilities

37,000 people (8.9%) have disabilities in the county with the highest rates being ambulatory, cognitive, hearing, and independent living difficulties. Likelihood of having a disability increased with age and is about 3% for children, 7% for adults 18-64, and 32% for those 65 or older. There are about 58,600 Medicare Beneficiaries in the county, with Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, Salinas and Monterey reporting the highest rates and about 1,500 confirmed people who dependent of electricity powered medical equipment.¹ The senior resident population in the county is 14% and is steadily rising, with about 10% of this population living alone. There are also 17,403 veteran residents in the county, who make up 29% of the disabled population.² The unincorporated regions of Bradley, Boronda, Pajaro, Las Lomas and Spreckels have over half of the senior residents with disabilities; Seaside has the most for cities (41.5%) and Pajaro has the most for any region (80.4%).³ In California, 45% of people with disabilities age 21-64 years old were employed or actively looking for work, making \$47,600 annually on average. Income has decreased for this group since 1980, poverty has increased, and 7% of this group remain uninsured.⁴

Programs

Monterey County Department of Social Services provides information, referrals, programs, and assistance for older adults and individuals with disabilities, including In-Home Supportive Services, a non-medical home care program, the Social Security Income program which provides financial assistance, and Medi-Cal which provides medical insurance. There are also several programs that seek to assist those with disabilities, including group homes and residential care facilities, however most services are located in the more urban areas of the County, with the highest concentration of services in the cities of Salina and Monterey.⁴ The following is a list of programs and organizations that provide services to those with disabilities or illnesses and their loved ones (this list is not exhaustive):

General advocacy and support:

- [Commission on Disabilities](#)
- [Easter Seals](#)
- [Gateway Center](#)
- [Josephine Kerns Memorial Pool](#)
- [Christine Marie Star Riders](#)
- [Goodwill](#)
- [Hope Services](#)

Specific health conditions:

- [Alzheimer's Association](#),
- [Blind & Visually Impaired Center](#),
- [Breast Cancer Assistance Group](#)
- [Cancer Patient's Alliance](#)
- [Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center](#)
- [Quality of Life Program](#)
- [PG&E's Medical Baseline Program](#)
- [San Andreas Regional Center](#)
- [American Cancer Society](#)

Child Services:

- [Coastal Kids Home Care](#)
- [Special Kids Connect](#)
- [Partnership for Children](#)

Senior Services:

- [Central Coast Senior Services](#)
- [Alliance on Aging](#)
- [Legal Services for Seniors](#)
- [Prunedale Senior Center](#)
- [Sally Griffin Senior Center](#)
- Salinas, Monterey, & Area Agency on Aging's [Senior Lunch Program](#)
- Carmel Police Department's [Seniors Helping Seniors program](#)
- [ITN Monterey](#)
- [Monterey Salinas Transit](#)
- [Meals on Wheels](#)

Veterans Services:

- [County Veterans Affairs Office](#)
- [Monterey Bay Veterans](#)
- [G.I. Josie](#)
- [Veterans Resource](#)
- [Veterans Transitions Centers](#)

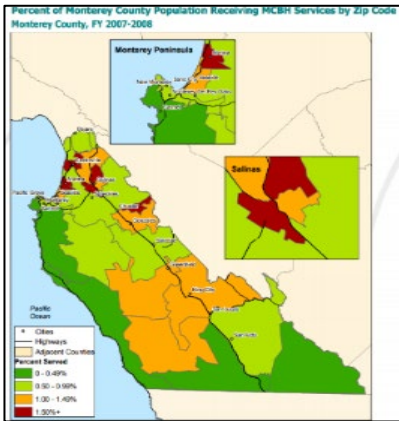
¹ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2020). *emPOWER Map 3.0*. Retrieved from <https://empowermap.hhs.gov/>

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2018). *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs

³ Monterey County. (2019). *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice*. Retrieved from https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Reports/Housing/2019_0328-Public-Review-Draft-AI-Monterey-County.pdf

⁴ Monterey County Economic Development Department. *Monterey Urban County Community Development Block Grant Program FY 2013 – FY 2017 Consolidated Plan (Amended) and FY 2013-2014 Action Plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=11592>

Mental and Behavioral Health



Analysis

1 in 5 US adults have a mental health condition, with worse rates for youth. Access to mental health services has increased over the years, however most Americans (56%) still lack access to care, which has been linked to worsened mental health and higher incarceration rates.¹ The highest Mental Health professional shortage is in south county (See Figure X).² 37% of county residents who felt they needed mental or emotional health treatment said their health insurance plan covered it and 58% of the 31,000 residents who sought treatment for mental/emotional or substance abuse issues in 2007 did not receive it.^{3,4} There are other barriers to receiving needed mental health services, aside from cost, including being unaware of available programs, stigma, transportation barriers, time restraints, and lack of follow up care.⁵

32% of adolescents in Monterey County are at risk for depression, with higher rates for Non-Hispanic white and Black/African American children.⁶ Further, 25% of County students exhibited moderate mental health problems, a higher rate than the California average of 20%.⁷ In 2015, Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) served about 8,500 clients directly, 7% of which were homeless and a total of 10,482 clients, when including contracted providers who work with MCBH. The most frequently reported health issues for homeless clients were substance abuse (29%) and mental health conditions (28%).⁸ 68% of individuals served by Behavioral Health have been impacted by trauma, with children and Hispanic populations having higher rates of trauma. Clients served by behavioral health rose in 2019 to 13,508 clients and 1,328 inpatient hospital admissions, with Salinas Valley serving the highest number of behavioral health clients. 33% of all clients had a substance use diagnosis and 24% of discharged clients were re-hospitalized. ⁵

Programs

Mental health support and assistance in the county include: MCBH, NAMI, and Family Service Agency of the Central Coast. There are also several mental health treatment facilities that provide in-patient psychiatric services, including:

- CHOMP
- Community Human Services
- Door to Hope
- Felton (re)MIND Early Psychosis program
- Harmony at Home
- Shine a Light Counseling Center
- The Village Project
- YWCA

Organizations that work to assist specific populations with mental health services and support include:

- Interim Inc. assists homeless populations with mental illness
- Seneca Family of Agencies Kinship centers assists children in foster care
- Alliance on Aging has a Senior Peer Counseling Program and the Institute On Aging has a Friendship Call Line providing emotional support for older adults and those living with disabilities around the county.
- The Ohana Project provides treatments for the psychiatric problems for children and their families, including problems with anxiety, mood, attention, self-regulation, eating, and substance abuse.

Additionally, some organizations provide services for specific mental health support. For example, Monterey County Rape Crisis Center helps survivors of sexual abuse. Likewise, Papillon Center for Loss & Transition and A Time for Grieving & Healing provide crisis, loss and transition support & programs. For substance abuse there are a multitude of support groups (ex. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous) and several substance abuse treatment facilities including:

- Beacon House
- Community Human Services
- Sun Street Centers
- Sunrise House
- The Bridge Restoration Ministry
- Turning Point of Central California
- Valley Health Associates

The discussion above highlights some of the resources available in the county & is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

1 National Alliance of Mental Health (2020). *The State of Mental Health in America*. Retrieved from <https://namimonterey.org/state-mental-health-america/>

2 Health Resources & Services Administration. (2020). *Health Professional Shortage*. Retrieved from <https://data.hrsa.gov/maps/map-gallery>

3 Monterey County Health Department. (2009). *Health Profile*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=17492>

4 Data USA. (2020). *Monterey County, CA*. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/monterey-county-ca>

5 Monterey County Behavioral Health. (2019). *Data Driven Decisions*. Retrieved from <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=82522>

6 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2015). *Adolescents who are not at risk for depression in California*.

7 Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2018). *Children's Emotional Health Summary*.

8 Community Foundation for Monterey County. (2016). *Homeless Women on the Monterey Peninsula*.

DISASTERS AND HEALTH

Any and every disaster can have a major impact on the health care system, as all emergencies can poorly impact mental and physical health, creating a higher need for all types of health-related services. However, certain types of disasters have higher impacts on the health care system, especially public health emergencies like pandemics and biological terrorist attacks. Likewise, earthquakes, fires, floods, tsunamis, and other rapid onset disasters that cause mass casualties can overwhelm the health care system. Physical and mental health impacts of disasters do not always occur during the actual disaster but can manifest months or even years after the traumatic experience.

During disasters, pre-disaster health care quality and disaster preparedness efforts are put to test, as organizations come together to mitigate an array of problems. According to the [United Nations](#), people with disabilities are two to four times more likely to be injured or die in a disaster. Further, a brief study conducted by [World Institute on Disabilities \(WID\)](#), indicated that disability led organization note that they are often left out of traditional disaster relief funding and about half (51%) stated that they did not have what they needed to serve the local communities during the pandemic. WID, along with programs like Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) and The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies work to promote equal access, disability rights and full inclusion of people with disabilities, older adults, and people with access and functional needs before, during, and after disasters and emergencies.

Health and Disaster Preparedness

[Monterey-San Benito Health Care Preparedness Coalition](#) was created to advance the regional health care system's capability to manage disasters, by enhancing healthcare partnerships, preparedness, planning, policies, procedures, trainings, and exercises. During emergencies, the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is the point of coordination for all large-scale disaster management, with the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) working as the point of contact for health mutual aid. To assist those with disabilities, the health department coordinates with the EOC in mass care and shelter operations and in the access and functional needs unit.¹ Functional Assessment Service Teams have been created to ensure equal access to care in shelters and Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) and Emergency Medical Services coordinate paratransit for those with access and functional needs during evacuations.² Finally, to assist local jurisdictions, [the Bay Area Access & Functional Needs \(AFN\) Project](#) provides guidance documents regarding AFN inclusive disaster management operations.

Health and Disaster Response

The Monterey County Health care system is no stranger to emergencies, having their capabilities tested in 2016 during the *Soberanes fire* and again in 2020 Pandemic and Dolan, Carmel and River fires. To address the physical health impacts of the pandemic, telehealth services were increased, several health care facilities offered free and/or virtual care and hotlines to answer health related questions and concerns, and the County provided housing to at risk populations. Further, several pharmacies offered free prescription delivery, Meals on Wheels boost their services, and grocery stores created senior shopping hours to increase access to food and supplies for this high-risk population. Finally, several organizations, including Community builders and the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program distributed masks and other personal protective equipment to residents & organizations. As of 10/1/2020 the pandemic has not overwhelmed hospital capacity, however the health care system did find itself short on trained staff to assist in facilities housing COVID positive residents.

The pandemic didn't only create physical health concerns, but the Shelter in Place and social distancing requirements needed to quell the virus may have led to worsened mental health and substance abuse problems due to the isolation, rapid changes to lives, personal losses, and economic hardships.^{4,5} These issues may have also increased domestic violence.⁶ Moreover, these issues were compounded by the fact that the mental health and case management resources that could help combat these issues became even more limited during the pandemic. To address the mental health impacts of the pandemic, the City of Monterey created "Operation Outreach" and Listos, in coordination with OES, created the "Social Bridging Program". These two programs provide welfare checks to older adults and those with disabilities, to check on residents and provide information and referrals to needed services.³ County Social Services also provided welfare check calls to IHSS and APS program recipients.

¹ Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2019). *Emergency Operations Plan Annex B - Care and Shelter*.

² Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2010). *Annex U - Mass Evacuation and Transportation Plan*.

³ Monterey County Department of Social Services. (2020). *COVID-19 Senior Resource Guide*.

⁴ Rajkumar, R. P. (2020). COVID-19 and mental health: A review of the existing literature. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, 52, 102066.

⁵ Zaami, Marinelli, & Vari. (2020). New Trends of Substance Abuse During COVID-19 Pandemic: An International Perspective. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 11.

⁶ Mozes. (2020). *Study Finds Rise in Domestic Violence During COVID*. WebMD.

The pandemic not only directly impacted physical health but made people less likely to visit their doctors and participate in life saving early diagnosis, such as cancer screening. Further those who were not familiar with or did not have consistent access to technology were at a disadvantage during the pandemic, facing barriers to important information & resources. Even for those with access to the internet, navigating through public health information and resources was challenging for some residents, while the county websites did seem to help, as did 2-1-1's call center, this challenge remained a problem. This should be a point of discussion and planning for future disasters to streamline and improve the distribution of consistent and timely information to the public. Alternatively, Coastal Kids used their funding from the LISTOS readiness program, with the assistance of CERV, to make the pandemic an opportunity to bring up the conversation about preparedness to families of children with special needs. Similarly, during the 2019 Public Safety Power Shutoffs, Coastal Kids worked with families who had children reliant on electric medical devices to be added to early notification lists, so they would be able to prepare for them, along with connecting families with grants to buy backup generators.

HEALTH CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

Health Department staff, in a community dialogue, listed some solutions that could strengthen county health outcomes.¹

- **North county** solutions included enhancing affordable health care (ex. low-cost clinics for pregnant women) and providing more health education, after school programs, outdoor activities, bike paths & parks.
- **West County** solutions included creating more safety programs, like Neighborhood Watch, that can reduce violent crime, after school programs that empower children to be healthier, including health & nutrition workshops for parents, and increases in elder assistance services and school counseling.
- **Salinas** solutions include creating health coverage, education & after school programs, affordable prescriptions, free health screenings, & safety programs (ex. crossing guards, neighborhood watch, gang prevention).
- **In South County** solutions included free clinics, bus vouchers and payment plans to improve health care access, along with empowerment, safety, and youth programs and activities that encourage a safer & healthier lifestyle.

Community members added, in the 2015 County's Hazard Mitigation survey, that the public needs to have a better understanding of what the Health Department does and why.

Disaster Preparedness & Response

Individuals with additional health or medical needs should do their best to prepare in advance for emergencies, including having extra needed medical supplies when possible, back up support services, and a health or communication card with their important medical information to provide guidance during emergencies if they are unable to communicate their health needs or requirements. The county should develop a Medical Reserve Corp of retired health care professionals to address increased demand for staff increases during disasters. Health care organizations should increase partnerships with other community sectors, like schools, faith-based institutions, social service, youth and recreation organizations, and transportation and environmental agencies. For example, the presence of health care staff in schools, including mental and behavioral health professionals, can help catch and address health issues in students early on before they become severe and can be a source of support post-disaster in addressing trauma; coordinating with youth and recreation programs, community organizations and faith based institutions can amplify the message to eat healthy and exercise; and advancing environmental protection can improve air, soil and water quality which improves overall health throughout the community. While these actions do not all directly impact disaster outcomes, having a healthier society when a disaster strikes can make withstanding and recovering from disaster impacts easier.

To assist those on medication and/or with substance abuse problems during disasters, rehabilitation centers and pharmacies should work with emergency management to develop Continuity of operations plans. Further, there should be a coalition, similar to the AFN working group, dedicated to the mental and physical well-being of communities during disasters to include faith based organizations, health organizations, schools, and community based programs to coordinate before during and after disasters happened. While these needs may not be at the forefront of people's minds during disasters, particularly compared to food and shelter, they are a key component to recovery. Only when people manage adversity with BOTH the physical and emotional support they need, can they learn and grow from the experiences. Finally, to advance communication between first responders and those with access and functional needs Tips for first responders was developed by the university of new Mexico center for development and disability; the county hopes to distribute these guides to first responders to keep with them in the field

¹ Monterey County Health Department. (2018). *Community Health Improvement Plan 2014-2018*.

² Widgeit Health. (2020). *ICE Communication Cards*. Retrieved from <https://widgeit-health.com/ICE-communication-cards.htm>

7. AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Access to basic necessities is largely determined by access to opportunities to advance economically, including having high quality education, access to child care, transportation and technology that allows people to gain high paying employment that can put them in a financial situation that helps them meet their housing, food, health care, and other basic needs, along with making it easier to prepare, respond and recover from disaster financially.

EMPLOYMENT

There were about 8,800 total employer establishments and around 209,000 people employed in Monterey County in 2019, however recent data indicates that these numbers have dropped since the pandemic and, as of May 1, 2020, there were 167,000 people employed. The unemployment rate was 6.2% in 2018 and rose to 14.4% in June 2020, with almost 30,000 residents unemployed. ^{1 2 3} The Highest unemployment rate is in the southern most portions of the county, followed by the Northeast county. ^{4 5} Agriculture, tourism, and oil are the largest industries in the county. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting employ 19.4% of the county labor force, followed by retail at 10.6%, educational services at 9.4%, healthcare and social assistance at 10.5% and accommodations and food service at 7.5%. ⁶

Even though agriculture and tourism are the top county industries, they are also the lowest paying. ⁷ This indicates that the local career opportunities in the county lean toward lower income level jobs. ² The highest paying fields in the county are in health, legal, architecture, utility, oil, and management occupations. The most needed employees in the county based on job ads, are registered nurses and retail and food service workers. Further, based on job ads, Monterey and Salinas are the largest employers, while Sand City and Del Rey Oaks are the smallest. ⁸ There has been business growth throughout the county, with men and white residents more likely to own a business than women and minorities. ^{1 2} The county is projected to add 5,578 jobs in the next 3 years, with the fastest growing occupations being health care & social assistance, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, and Accommodation & Food Services. ²

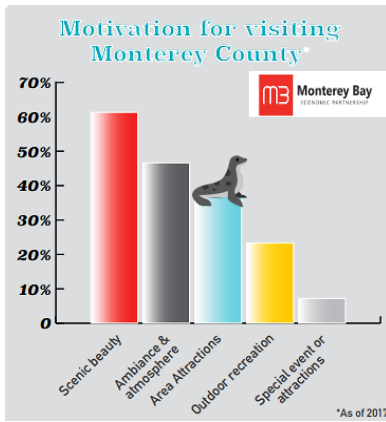
Top crop production

1	Leaf lettuce \$733.2 m
2	Strawberries \$698.5 m
3	Head lettuce \$459.5 m
4	Broccoli \$388.9 m
5	Wine Grapes \$247.8m



Agriculture is the most deep seeded economic driver in the county, generating \$4.3 billion in 2018 with Monterey ranking in the top ten agricultural counties in the nation and often being referred to as the “Salad Bowl of the World”. Lettuce is the most common and profitable crop grown in the Salinas Valley, with 80% of lettuce and artichoke in the nation grown there. ¹⁰ Wine grapes take up more than a third of irrigated land, including over 50 wineries, 40 wine tasting rooms, and 175 vineyards. The region also grows broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, strawberries, peppers, squash, carrots, asparagus, celery, tomatoes, mushrooms, brussel sprouts, garlic, onions and flowers. ¹¹ Agriculture brings in over \$8 billion to the county each year directly and nearly \$12 billion indirectly, shipping \$2 billion worth of crops annually nationally and internationally. ¹² South County employs a significant portion of county farmworkers, with 40% of Greenfield’s, 32% of Gonzales’, and 45% of San Ardo’s labor force employed in this industry. Pajaro also has a significant farmworker population, with 49% of its workforce in this field. ¹³ Gonzales’ Agricultural Business Industrial Park and other related industrial districts are home to businesses such as growers, irrigators, farm labor contractors & suppliers, packing, equipment design, servicing, and food processing/manufacturing. Further, Greenfield is the heart of wine grape growing in the region and the city of Salinas serves as a hub for food processing and agriculture technology.

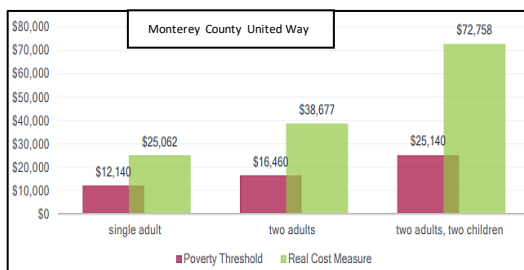
- 1 U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey. Retrieved from www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs
- 2 Labor Force Data by County. (2019). Annual Averages. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/lau/laucnty19.txt>
- 3 Employment Development Department. (2020). Monterey County Profile. Retrieved from www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/
- 4 FEMA. (2020). *Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool*.
- 5 Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019). *Unemployment*. Policy Maps.
- 6 Data USA. (2020). Monterey County, CA. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/monterey-county-ca>
- 7 Workforce Development Board. (2019). Economic Overview - Monterey County
- 8 Employment Development Department. (2017). Monterey Scorecard
- 9 Opportunity Index. (2019). *Monterey County*. Retrieved from <https://opportunityindex.org/detail/06053>
- 10 Monterey Bay Economic Partnership. (2020). Monterey Bay Region Agriculture.
- 11 Monterey County Business Council (2011). *Monterey County Economic Report*.
- 12 Monterey County. (2020). *Economic Opportunity Pillars*.
- 13 Monterey County. (2020). *Community Development Block Grant Program, FY 2020 – FY 2024 Consolidated Plan*.



Through retail, food service, and hospitality industries, tourism has become the second largest industry in the county and employs about 12% of the county labor force. The coastline, vineyards, golf courses, Monterey Bay Aquarium, WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, historical landmarks, and events like the California Rodeo and the Salinas International Air Show, draw in over 8 million tourists each year, generating 2.8 billion in spending. Education and research are the next top employer in the county, staffing the over 20 higher education institutions, 150+ PK-12 schools, and 11 research institutions. It's important to note that the education industry not only contributes directly to the economic makeup of the county, it also has indirect long term impacts, as educational attainment is highly intertwined with employment and economic outcomes.^{1,2} Top employment needs in the county include job readiness training, job search and career counseling, and vocational and on the job training.³

INCOME

In 2018, the median household income in Monterey County was about \$67,000 and the median per capita income was \$45,000. Household income was lowest in South County and highest in West County, with Chualar and San Ardo having the lowest per capita income on average.^{4,5} Additionally, most county residents do not see much economic mobility, as only a quarter of residents with high income were raised in medium income households, 15% were raised in low income households, and 8% were raised in very low income households.⁵



As mentioned in a previous section, about 17% of county residents live in poverty. However, poverty rates do not fully explain financial needs, as the poverty threshold is federally defined and is not depictive of the real cost of living in many areas. In Monterey County, the real cost of living is over twice as high as the poverty threshold and is even higher for households with children. A family of four would need the income of 3-4 full time minimum wage jobs just to make ends meet. For example, while agriculture is the leading economic field in the county, farmworkers make only \$24,000

annually on average, which is below the cost of living for a single adult and far below that for families with children.^{3,6}

Latinx/Hispanics, Blacks/African Americans, single mothers, children, and those with low educational attainment are most likely to make less than the real cost of living. Alternatively, White residents and those living in Seaside, Marina, Monterey, and Pacific Grove are most likely to live above the real cost of living. Lower income often comes with stigma, revolving around the assumption that those with less money are less hard working, however this stereotype is far from the truth, as 97% of county households who live below the real cost of living threshold had at least one working adult in them.^{3,6}

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Employment and Business Services

The higher educational institutions, government agencies, and youth organizations in the county provide training to advance employment opportunities and economic mobility for residents. **Monterey County Community Action Partnership** provides financial literacy, budget classes, and job support services. The **Center for Employment Training** (CET) provides job training programs, including teaching trade skills in growing fields, supportive services, and job placement assistance. The **Monterey County Workforce Development Board** provides services for both job seekers and business for the over 5,000 job seekers they serve in the county each year. For job seekers, they provide skill assessments, career counseling, on-the-job, skills, and workplace readiness training, job placement assistance, and unemployment benefits. Employers can post jobs at no cost, business services staff, career fairs and employee recruitment events are available, as are prescreening of job applicants, labor market data, and skills training at partial cost reimbursement for new hires. The board also provides information on starting a new business.

1 Monterey County. (2020). *Economic Opportunity Pillars*.

2 Monterey County Business Council (2011). *Monterey County Economic Report*.

3 Monterey County. (2019) *Community Needs Assessment*. Retrieved from <https://co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=77726>

4 U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey. Retrieved from www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs

5 FEMA. (2020). *Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool*.

6 United Way. (2017). *Real Cost Measure Dashboard*.

Virtual on-line services can be found at www.montereycountywdb.org for:

<u>Job Seekers:</u>	<u>Employers:</u>
1) Monterey Workforce Initiative (Monterey Works) provides “Up-Skill” on-line courses	1) Virtual Job Fairs, job boards, and customized recruitment
2) Monterey Cadre Youth Leadership Program	2) Human Resource Services
3) Services for Adult and Dislocated Workers	3) Rapid Response (Lay-off Aversion)
4) Services for Youth.	4) On-The-Job Training
	5) Up-Skills Training Grants
	6) Small Business Resources, Referrals, & Micro grants

There are also several programs designed to address the employment needs of specific groups.

- **Agriculture and land-based training association** provides economic opportunity for limited-resource and aspiring organic farmers through land-based education.
- **Cal Coastal Small Business Development Center** offers no-cost, personalized, confidential, one-on-one consulting for start-ups, entrepreneurs and existing businesses and no to low cost classes to area businesses, including Social Media, QuickBooks, and Customer Service.
- **Interim’s Supported Education and Employment Services (SEES)** program offers opportunities for adults with mental illness who are seeking employment or who are interested in pursuing higher education, through career counseling, job development, and training programs.
- **SCORE** provides business mentoring for small businesses, free online workshops on startup strategies, and an online library of resources, including interactive courses.
- **Social Vocational Services** delivers training and job placement assistance, along with work opportunities, transportation, and job coaching programs.
- **The Epicenter** empowers at risk youth by providing them with a one-stop resource center that includes employment, internship and volunteer assistance and opportunities.
- **Veterans Transition Center** provides life skills training, transportation and employment services to veterans

Many homeless service organizations provide similar services with **The Housing Authority of Monterey** and **Victory Outreach** offering trainings and employment services and **Franciscan Workers** (Dorothy’s Place) providing childcare, transportation, advocacy and employment services. Similarly, youth programs, such as **Rancho Cielo & County Young Professional Group** provide networking opportunities and life skills, professional development and vocational trainings for youth and young adults.

Employee and Business regulation, coordination, and advocacy

Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner Office serves as the primary local enforcement agents for State agricultural laws and regulations, responsible for the control and eradication of pests harmful to agriculture, the promotion of agriculture, farm worker health and safety, the protection of environmental resources, and the assurance of a fair marketplace. In addition, the county has multiple programs and organizations that advocate for current workers, pushing for better wages and treatment. Labor unions, including **SEIU 521** and **United Farm Workers**, advocate for workers’ rights and fair pay & treatment. There are also several **chambers of commerce** in the county, providing collaboration, advocacy and information to local businesses. Other collaborative support and advocacy business organizations are listed below.

<u>REGIONAL & COUNTY</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>TOURISM</u>
• Monterey Bay Central Labor Council • Monterey Bay Economic Partnership • Monterey County Business Council • Monterey Urban County Standing Committee	• Old Monterey Business Association • Salinas United Business Association • Marina Economic Development Commission	• Farm Bureau • Vintners and Growers Association • Western Growers Association • Grower Shipper Association • Casa de la Cultura • Community Alliance with Family Farmers	• Convention & Visitors Bureau • Hospitality Association

DISASTER AND THE ECONOMY

All disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts on employment and economic outcomes, causing shortages of staff and customers and layoffs or cut hours for many employees, destroying businesses and work sites, and straining finances through costly response and recovery. Further, some groups are disproportionately affected by disasters, particularly for those with low income and no homeowner's or renter's insurance. Impacted workers often need employment assistance, including access to job placement, training, and education, to help them re-establish themselves financially. Business owners have experienced disruption to business operations that impact their ability to re-open, pay creditors and employees, and handle the recovery costs for building damage. Those with the lowest income and the lowest paying jobs are often hit hardest and quickest by disaster economic impacts. Examining business response to previous disasters, can help us to understand best practices and lessons on business emergency response.

Agriculture & Disaster

In the agriculture industry, flooding in 1978 and 1983 destroyed thousands of acres of farmland, creating millions of dollars in damages.¹ E. Coli outbreaks in 2006 and 2019 halted spinach and lettuce production, causing severe economic loss for businesses and reducing available employment for farmworkers.² As a result of the multiple E. Coli outbreaks associated with leafy greens, the FDA released a [2020 Leafy Greens STEC Action Plan](#), which outlines a three-pronged approach for tackling this problem through prevention, response, and addressing knowledge gaps. During the Soberanes fire, smoke from the fire caused "smoke taint: on ripening grapes, creating over \$8 million in losses for the wine industry. Further the impacts of climate change on drought and water supplies could be long term disaster consequences for agricultural, reducing the productivity if crops, as each needs specific temperatures and water to grow.³

Tourism & Disaster

The county's second leading industry, tourism is also intimately connected to disasters. Tourists are often deterred by disasters, as fear of being exposed to an emergency can prevent tourism and aesthetic damage caused by a disaster can take a long time to recover from. Tourism can also cause or worsen disasters, as high levels of tourism can create environmental problems, such as coastal erosion, can spread disease, and can be a target for terrorism. Further, during a disaster, tourists are less likely to be familiar with the region and the organizations that can help them during a disaster. Tourists coming from out of state or country may be unsure about how to properly respond to certain, unfamiliar disasters such as earthquakes and may not speak English, making it harder to communicate emergency instructions to them. This is not only true of rapid onset disasters like earthquakes and fires, but also in relation to the slower moving impacts of climate change including drought and sea level rise

The 2020 Pandemic

In Monterey County Economic challenges for residents and COVID-19 impacts are closely tied, as many essential jobs are in sectors with an abundance of lower paying jobs such as agriculture. Most of the confirmed COVID-19 cases were in the agricultural sector. Leisure and hospitality is another important employment sector in the County that has been affected by the economic downturn and sector closures as part of COVID-19 containment efforts. This sector lost almost half its workforce from January to May of 2020, with a drop from 26,300 to 14,100 employed.⁴

To assist businesses and employees during the pandemic multiple organizations offered delayed bill payments and California provided [Statewide Guidance](#) for different business sectors on safe reopening.

- California [EDD programs](#) provided aid to job seekers and workers who had lost employment or could not work because of the pandemic and/or resulting school closures. Likewise:
- [California Coastal Rural Development Corporation](#) gave financial assistance to local small businesses impacted by COVID-19, including a [Emergency Microloan Fund](#).
- [Community Alliance with Family Farmers](#) provided tips, resources and guidelines to help keep agricultural businesses and workers stay safe during the pandemic.
- [Jewish Free Loan](#) provided interest-free loans for lost wages, childcare costs, and revenue losses.

¹ Monterey County Water Resources Agency. (2020). *Historical Flooding*.

² U.S. Food and Drug Administration (2019). *Outbreak Investigation of E. coli: Romaine from Salinas, California*

³ California Emergency Management Agency. (2012). *California Adaptation Planning Guide*.

⁴ Monterey County. (2020). *COVID-19 Pandemic Disparate Impact Report*. Retrieved from www.co.monterey.ca.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=95671

COUNTY OF MONTEREY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK 2020

- **Labor and Workforce Development Agency** provided information on potential benefits for employers and workers, including informative chart displaying and explaining these benefits.
- **Monterey County Workforce Development Board** started/enhanced several initiatives for employers and job seekers impacted by the pandemic, including SkillUp Monterey, offering free, online skill training; Monterey Cadre leadership program; Monterey Help, offering over 20 weeks of paid work experience; Pre-Apprenticeship construction training program; Small Business Grants that help businesses stay open; and Layoff Aversion funds to assist employers and workers affected by layoffs, business closures, and disasters.
- **Small Businesses Administration** provided low interest and forgivable federal disaster loans for businesses impacted by COVID-19 and public assistance for organizations that worked the disaster response.

Programs for specific groups impacted by pandemic include:

- Nonprofit assistance through the Community Foundation and Monterey Peninsula Foundation's **COVID Relief Fund**
- Service workers assistance provided by Restaurant Opportunities Centers Fund, Dining Bonds, Restaurant Workers Community Foundation, and One Fair Wage
- Assistance for workers in the Alcohol industry provided by **USBG National Charity Foundation**;
- Domestic worker assistance through the **National Domestic Workers Alliance's Coronavirus Care Fund**
- Cash assistance to students given by **Scholly**.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUSINESSES

Small businesses are particularly vulnerable to disasters, as they often lack the savings and revenue to manage the periods of no or little income that occur during and after a disaster. Having an emergency plan in place can be helpful for small businesses, as can coordinating with other businesses and the government during preparedness, response and recovery. Coordination can also familiarize businesses with programs and assistance that could be helpful during disasters. In addition, having contracts or MOUs in place can allow businesses to work on disaster recovery efforts, so their revenue does not completely dry up during an emergency. For example, catering companies can assist with mass feeding services and set up/break down of mass care facilities. Moreover, when businesses encourage workers to practice disaster preparedness, employees are more likely to manage disasters effectively and are more capable of getting back to work quickly. Collocation and disaster preparedness can also be beneficial for bringing back customers post disaster. For example, when communities that have a lot of tourism show that they are able to handle and recover from emergency situations, their reputations among travelers improves, thereby enhancing tourist business.

EDUCATION

High quality affordable and accessible education is a vital part of a resilient community; teaching children how to interact, strengthening connections to one's community; providing child care for working parents; employing 8% of the county; advancing economic and career opportunities; and enhancing the ability to communicate and comprehend information, which can help individuals navigate hurdles in preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters. Further, education and youth programs can help address mental, physical, and behavioral challenges youth may have, providing productive alternatives to drug use, crime, and other harmful activities. All of these benefits of high-quality education have not been lost on the County, with over half (58%) of respondents to the Hazard Mitigation Survey stating that K-12 education is a "very important" part of their community.¹ Further there is a strong relationship between educational attainment, crime rates and poverty, as those who graduate high school and go to college are less likely to unemployed, less likely to engage in gang and criminal activities and more likely to make a living wage.²

Early Childhood Care and Education

Early childhood care and education plays a vital role in children's long-term educational and developmental outcomes, socializing children and providing parents the time to work outside of home. Early Childhood is also an excellent time to start teaching children disaster resilient habits.

1 Monterey County Water Resources Agency. (2020). *Historical Flooding*.

2 Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Preventing Youth Violence: Opportunities for Action

COUNTY OF MONTEREY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK 2020

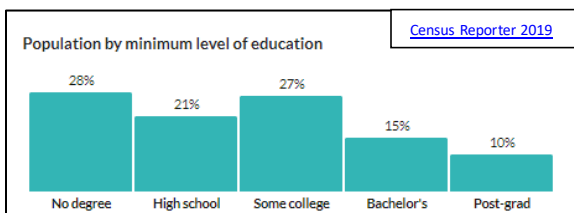
There are 16 head start programs with 732 children in Monterey County and 136 childcare centers.^{1,2} About 51% of all children age 3-5 are enrolled in school, with about 13,000 children enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten.^{3,4,5} Only 51% of Monterey County families read to their children, 45% of parents do not have a high school education, and first-generation immigrant parents often have less than a 6th grade education. The Monterey County's Office of Education provides **Early Learning services** to thousands of low-income children to help prepare them for school. Their Early Care and Education team, which houses the County's Quality Rating Improvement System (known as **Quality Matters**) and the Local Childcare Planning Council (LPC), brings multiple sectors and organizations together to offer professional development opportunities to over 500 early childhood educators (reaching 3,600 children) and administrative support for agencies and programs, in order to align early learning with the Tk-12 system.

Similarly, **First 5 Monterey County** provides families with child development; early childhood care, and parenting information and referrals; co-develops goals and strategies to enhance child care quality; provides evaluation reports; and gives out small grants to support community events that raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education. First 5 also created the **Bright Beginnings program** that works to improve early childhood development outcomes for the 64,500 young children ages 0-8 in Monterey County. The **San Andreas Regional Center** conducts an early start program for children age 0-3 with physical limitations. To help support parents, especially during the early years, programs like **Parenting Connection of Monterey County** and **Papas of the central coast** provide classes and support groups for parents, often with onsite childcare. The **Read to Me Project** also provides parent education programs, along with empowering school aged children to read to their younger siblings at home to boost early childhood literacy. Similarly, **AmeriCorps** provides tutoring for 1,000+ K-4 students struggling to read at grade level during and after school. For more information regarding child care in Monterey County, please refer to the **Monterey County Child Care Website**.

PK-12 Education and Youth Programs

Throughout the county there are 24 school districts with 126 public schools, 22 private schools, and 8 charter schools that meet the educational needs of the nearly 40% of county households with children.¹ There are 121,716 total students in the county, with 22,112 students enrolled in charter schools, and 77,387 students and 3,966 teachers in public schools.^{4,6} 91% of students in the county are enrolled in public school, with the majority of private school enrollees residing in the northern third of the county, and Soledad, Chualar, Aromas and most of west county, aside from seaside, enrolling the smallest proportion of public-school students.⁷

Academic Achievements



72% of the county's residents who are 25 or over have graduated High School, a third of residents graduated college with an associate degree and about 1/4th with a BA or higher.^{4,8} with the west county, especially Del Monte Forest, having the highest percentage of residents who are high school and college grads, and the south county cities and east Salinas having the lowest percentages.⁹ 7.7% of teens age 16-19 are not in school or working and 84.7% of students who attend Monterey County schools graduate high school, with graduation rates highest in West County and lowest in South County, particularly in Soledad and King City.^{10,11,12,13} Since 2012, graduation rates for Monterey county students have increased, as have students on free & reduced meal programs and homeless students; while dropout rates, suspensions/expulsions, teen births, and juvenile felony arrests have decreased.^{13,14}

1 Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2018). *Education & Childcare*.

2 Child Care Center US. (2020). *In-Home Daycare and Group Home Child Care in Monterey County*.

3 Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2015). *Monterey County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

4 Monterey County Office of Education. (2020). *Districts/Schools*. Retrieved from <https://www.montereycoe.org/districts-schools/>

5 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). *3- and 4-year-olds who attend preschool by county in California*

6 Towncharts. (2020). *Monterey County, California Education Data*.

7 US Department of Education. (2017). *Private School Universe Survey*. Policy Maps. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/index.asp>

8 U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs

9 National Center for Educational Statistics. (2017). *Common Core of Data*. Policy Maps. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/>

10 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2017). *12th graders who graduate on time by Race/Ethnicity in California*

11 University of California Davis. (2014). *Regional Opportunity Index*.

12 Opportunity Index. (2019). *Monterey County*. Retrieved from <https://opportunityindex.org/detail/06053>

13 California Department of Community Services and Development – Community Services Bloc Grant. (2019.) *2018-2019 Community Action Plan*.

14 Monterey County Children's Council. (2019). *Annual Report*.

Factors influencing academic success

Overall, children tend to have better developmental and educational outcomes when they are equipped with a strong social support networks, stable households, a welcoming school environment and access to resources and programs that nurture education and development. Barriers to child education and development include discrimination, bullying, abuse, unstable or crowded households, low income, language barriers, behavioral issues, mental or physical impairments, homelessness, and/or food insecurity. While each of these adversities can be detrimental to child development, children often face more than one adversity at a time. For example, people who live in poverty are more likely to have limited health care, poor nutrition, live in crowded homes and violent neighborhoods, and lack access to housing, food, a computer, and internet access. Moreover, poverty tends to be a greater problem for ethnic minorities that have historically faced discrimination, which can worsen health, behavioral and educational outcomes of these children and make them feel isolated.^{1,2}

School Connectedness

In Monterey County, the majority of middle and high school staff believe that their schools foster resilience and give students opportunities to make a difference, with high school staff agreeing at slightly higher rates. In addition, most believe that students can be successful; the school is an open and inviting place for both students and parents; the school staff cares about students; and students are motivated to learn. Slightly over 50% of staff stated that the school collaborates with the community to assist students, with about three quarters saying the school helps students with substance abuse issues and provides adequate counseling. Most high school students also note receiving school support, feeling connected to their schools, and having a caring relationship with school staff. Around three quarters of students feel highly motivated academically and a 3rd of students believe that the things they do at school make a difference. However, Black/African American, Native American and LGBT students, along with those who have been bullied, report having caring relationships with school staff and high levels of school connectedness less frequently. Feeling connected to one's school is associated with higher motivation in school and lower levels of depression, thoughts of suicide, gang involvement, and substance abuse.^{3, 4}

Safety and Education

In Monterey County, 1 in 5 high school students reported being bullied or harassed, 1 in 3 high school students are at risk of depression, and 1 in 4 eleventh graders reported using drugs, tobacco, or alcohol with higher rates for LGBT students. Further, 41 out of every 1000 students were involved in reports of child abuse, with ages 6-10 being at highest risk. Looking at mental health, Native American and Black/African American students cited emotional distress and feeling unsafe at school as reason for missing school at higher rates than any other ethnicity/race. In 2012, 45.2% of children who needed treatment or counseling didn't receive it, and there is currently 1 social worker per 77,923 students, 1 counselor per 689 students and 1 psychologist per 1,617 students within the County public school system.^{5,6} To help address the emotional needs of students in the county, the Office of Education's **Therapeutic Intervention Program** (TIP) provides therapy to students experiencing significant emotional issues and **Harmony at Home** provides free counseling, bullying prevention, individual coaching, peer learning groups, parenting classes, childcare supplies, and family/youth services in South County.

Disabilities and education

Throughout the County public school system. there is 1 Nurse per 4,870 students, 1 Speech / Language / Hearing Specialist for every 1,265 students and 1 Special Education Staff per 635 students.⁶ 11.7% of children have some type of disability in Monterey County and 3% have a major disability, with 8,793 students enrolled in special education programs; most enrollees live in South County and have a learning disability or speech/language impairment.^{7, 8} To address additional needs of students. To assist students with special needs, Seneca Family of Agencies offers special education services with individualized plans for county children. Similarly, the County Office of Education created several programs to address the needs of students with disabilities including an Early Start Infant Program, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program, Life Skills Program, Severely Orthopedically Impaired Program and Autistic Spectrum Disorders Program.

1 Treanor. (2012). *Impacts of poverty on children and young people*. Scottish Child Care and Protection Network (SCCPN), Stirling.

2 Arreola. (2018). *Salinas Comprehensive Strategy for Community-wide Violence Reduction 2013-2018*

3 Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2018). *Child and Youth Safety*

4 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). *Students who feel connected to their school in California*

5 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2015). *Rate of substantiated child abuse (per 1,000) by county in California*

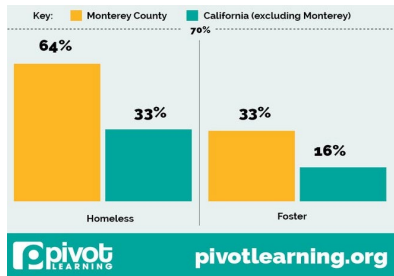
6 Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2018). *Emotional & Behavioral Health*

7 Monterey County Office of Education. (2020). *Districts/Schools*. Retrieved from <https://www.montereycoe.org/districts-schools/>

8 Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2019). *Special Education Enrollment*.

Demographic factor's influencing education

Migrant, minority, socioeconomically disadvantaged, ESL, disabled, and homeless students, along with those who lack home internet/computer access and who live in foster care tend to fair worse in school, having higher rates of expulsion and lower graduation rates than the average student.¹ 60.7% of county students are economically disadvantaged and about 1 in 4 are living in poverty, with Salinas, Soledad, and King City having the highest student poverty rates.



About 1/3rd of children live in a single parent household and 40% of children live in crowded households.^{2, 3} Overall 12.4% of households do not have a computer and 19.2% don't have internet access.⁴ 8% of low-income students are eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and have access to a state-funded afterschool program. 5% of eligible students are reached by free and reduced-price meals during the summer in California and 57% are reached during the school year, with most county recipients located in east Salinas, Castroville and South County.^{5, 6} 0.2% (389) of students are in foster care, with slightly over half staying there for 2 years or more and only 48% graduating high school. About 1 in 10 children in the County are homeless, with a large majority of these children being grade 5 or younger, and 19% being food insecure.^{3, 7} 0.8% of students in the County are migrants, 34.3% are English learners and about 38% of students who were learning English between 2016-2018 gained proficiency.^{2, 8}

To address some of these disparities, there are 21 libraries in the County, 16 of which are County Free Libraries that offer free tutoring, free Wi-Fi and computer access, and educational programs for County residents.³ Organizations like Peacock Acres, Seneca Family of Agencies, and the Office of Education's Foster Youth Service program provide assistance such as housing, case management, mental health assistance and life coaching for foster children. The County Office of Education Homeless Student Liaisons work throughout the county to identify and serve students in transitional living situations and the McKinney-Vento Student Services program provides educational services, opportunities, and supports for homeless students. The County's Migrant Education Program was developed to address the needs of migrant students, providing student services, advocacy for migrant families and information on the education system for migrant parents. Loaves, Fishes, & Computers provides low-cost computers to families and computer literacy classes to our partners at their sites. Stuff the Bus is a countywide drive to provide new school supplies for students living in or near homeless conditions in Monterey County. The program distributed 4,303 Backpacks to Students in Need in 2019.

There are several community and resource centers in the county, that provide education and tutoring assistance, youth programs, mentoring, classes for both parents and children, access to computer and Wi-Fi, and referrals to resources such as housing, food, advocacy and health assistance, including:

- Boys & Girls Club in Seaside and Salinas
- Carmel valley and Carmel youth centers
- Gonzales' STEM enrichment program for youth, Youth Council, and teen innovation center (in development).
- King City's 4-H program & Future Farmers of America which provide agricultural education and skills training.
- Marina Recreation department's youth and teen centers & Police Department's ARC Program intervention and prevention for at risk youth.
- Monterey Bay Educational Center and 4 community centers in the city of Monterey
- North County Recreation & Park District youth clubs, programs, & summit and Castro Plaza Child & Family Center
- Pacific Grove community center
- Salinas: 4 community centers including a teen lounge, Saturday night teen program, & Alisal family resource center
- Seaside Youth Empowerment Forum, Youth Violence Prevention Program, Children's Center, Kid's Club, Cabrillo family resource center, and B.J. Dolan Youth & Education Teen Center
- Soledad's Young Legislators Program
- YMCA in Soledad, Monterey, and Salinas

1 Monterey County Children's Council. (2019). *Annual Report*.

2 Monterey County Office of Education. (2020). *Districts/Schools*. Retrieved from <https://www.montereycoe.org/districts-schools/>

3 Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2017). *All Data: Monterey County*.

4 U.S. Census Bureau. (2018). *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs

5 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2016). *Eligible students who are reached by free and reduced-price meals during the school year in California*

6 National Center for Educational Statistics. (2017). *Common Core of Data*. Policy Maps. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/>

7 Feeding America. (2017). *Food Insecurity*. Policy Maps. Retrieved from www.policymap.com/data/our-data-directory/#Feeding%20America

8 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2018). *English learners who gained proficiency in English in California*.

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To help guide youth toward constructive behavior, personal and professional development, and educational success, youth development programs have been developed including

- [After School Education and Safety Program](#)
- [Monterey County Young Professionals Group](#) which serves ages 21-39
- [Community Partnership for Youth](#)
- [The Epicenter](#) one stop resource center for ages 16-24 and youth council
- [Monterey County Youth Center](#) residential facility for boys who are wards of the Juvenile court

In addition, several programs exist in the county that teach life skills, including:

- [Boy Scouts of America](#) and [Girls inc](#) in Salinas
- [Girl Scouts of central California](#) in Castroville.
- [Future Citizens Foundation](#) which serves over 9,000 County youth through the [Center for Learning](#)
- [The First Tee program](#)
- [Pay It Forward Scholarship and Mentoring Program](#)
- [Partners for Peace](#)
- Rancho Cielo

There are also topic specific programs available, such as:

- [El Cajon Project](#) provides culinary arts training to at risk high school student
- [UC, 4-H Program](#) is a science, technology, and engineering program focused on agriculture
- [Greenfield Community Science Workshop](#) provides underserved youth in south county science classes
- [Lyceum of Monterey County](#) offers STEM role models and hands-on activities for middle & high school girls.
- [Monterey County Youth Museum](#) provides a creative and engaging educational environment for children.
- [UnChained](#) teaches youth how to train homeless dogs
- [MEarth](#) provides hands-on, expansive learning opportunities to county schools, organizations, and citizens

Advocacy Programs in Monterey County, such as the [Bright Futures Education Partnership](#), do not directly serve the youth but rather collaborate with and support education and youth organizations to enhance educational outcomes from early childhood development to employment, through research and strategic planning. Similar programs include the [Region 5 After School Partnerships \(ASP\)](#) which facilitates collaboration and provides technical assistance for after school programs and the [Children's Council of Monterey County](#) which provides leadership and policy direction to encourage comprehensive and collaborative delivery of services to children and youth in Monterey County.

Higher Education

There are more than 20 higher education and research institutions in the county, including 2 community colleges, a state university, a college of law, an international institute, 2 military installations, and several vocational schools, including [Mission Trails](#) and [Social Vocational Services](#) in Soledad, Salinas, and Marina, and marine research institutions, including [Camp SEA lab & Moss Landing Marine Labs](#), with [CSUMB](#) (6,745), Monterey Peninsula College (8,225) and Hartnell (12,954) hosting the largest numbers of students. The County's higher education sector focuses largely on research, military, and language studies.¹ All higher education institutions provide a multitude of programs for students, including counseling, guidance, advocacy, leadership development programs and school organizations. Likewise, the community colleges provide programs that make transferring to State Universities easier.

Universities can also be a source of data and analysis, providing information relating to disaster mitigation and resilience. For Example, [Middlebury Institute's Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism](#) research on how extremist messaging motivates individuals to carry out acts of violence. In 2017, universities in Monterey County has 31,333 students and awarded 7,553 degrees. The median tuition costs are \$39,590 for private 4-year colleges, and \$5,742 and \$17,622 respectively, for public four-year colleges for in-state and out-of-state students.² While every higher education institution has different fees and funding programs, Federal and State funding assistance is available at many institutions, with low income students able to apply for tuition free waivers at the public college and universities, [Pell Grants](#) of up to \$5,920 per school year, and Cal Grants of up to \$10,000 for college expenses.

1 Monterey County Business Council (2011). *Monterey County Economic Report*.

2 Data USA. (2020). *Monterey County, CA*. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/monterey-county-ca>

EDUCATION AND DISASTERS

Any disaster can impact the education and development of students. Disasters can destroy and/or close schools and youth programs, impacting, not only education, but the social benefits and services that schools and youth programs provide, leaving children educationally behind, with less support and assistance when they need it the most, and parents without child care while they work. In addition, prolonged school disruption can slow down children's ability to recover from disasters, as schools provide a much-needed sense of routine and normalcy that fosters recovery.¹ Alternatively, academic institutions and youth programs play a tremendous role in resilience against disasters, directly being a source of disaster preparedness and response information, such as what to do during an earthquake, and being a source of social support for both children and their families. Indirectly schools bring children together with their communities, boosting social connectedness, motivating children to become active community members, enhancing community engagement, and reducing vulnerabilities such as behavioral and mental health problems, that can be worsened by disasters.

School Preparedness

Under California Education Code (EDC) sections 32280–89 all California schools and districts must have and maintain a school safety plan, in coordination with staff, parents, community leaders, and first responders. Every school with an occupant capacity of 50 or greater or those that have more than one classroom must have a dependable and operative fire alarm system and all elementary schools must have a fire drill at least once every calendar month and twice per school year at the secondary level under EDC-sect-32001. In addition, Cal OES and county office of education both provide training and tools to help prepare schools for emergencies, including A.L.I.C.E 100 active shooter training, a safe schools workshop and Incident Command system training. All districts in the county have emergency plans and have earthquake and fire drills at least once a year, while half conduct drills more frequently. Further, 13 school districts have active shooter drills, Bradley Union Elementary conducts a bus evacuation drill and Salinas City Elementary has a school phone tree.² Furthermore, CSUMB has an emergency management division in the University Police Department, which offers disaster preparedness training; the university has programs like Return of the Natives to mitigate disasters through restoration of natural habitats; and their staff are state employed and thus expected to support disaster response

Schools and Disaster Response

One of the best ways to understand how students, schools and youth organizations can manage and cope with disasters in the future is to look at how they handled previous disasters. During the Soberanes fire and other disasters within the county, CSUMB played an important role in the disaster response, assisting in mass care and sheltering operations, contributing at the Operational Area EOC, sheltering firefighters and being a base camp for the electrical company while they responded to the wildfire. This fire luckily did not have a huge impact on schools, as it occurred during the summer.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many programs were cancelled or postponed, including the shutdown of preschools, kindergarten readiness programs, after school programs, and community centers and K-12 schools, colleges, and education/youth programs were rapidly moved online in the middle of spring semester. The Read to me project, as well as many schools, revamped their curriculum, breaking up teaching material into smaller pieces to make it more digestible in an online format, and provided training and guidance to educators for moving to online classrooms. Along with moving programs online, the County Free libraries, which often are a gathering point during emergencies for rural communities, have hosted, in coordination with school districts, pop up events to distribute thousands of meals and books to the community. This has helped address the impact lack of school meals and physical books have had on students.

Students without access to internet and computers at home faced challenges keeping up academically during the pandemic. In response, Monterey Salinas Transit provided free mobile Wi-Fi to communities, as has the 16 County free libraries, and the Office of Education is planning for tutorial and academic enrichment programs in the fall, which will pay extra attention to youth who have not engaged in distance learning in the spring, due to lack of technology or connectivity. Monterey County Free Libraries and several organizations are also providing educational resources to help children learn remotely and book pick-ups. Likewise, the libraries in Salinas have continued to offer their free live homework help program virtually for all residents. To address recreational needs of youth in the county, Salinas found success distributing take home kits paired with custom videos for at home youth recreation.

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Closed schools and youth programs not only impact students but leave parents without childcare. In response, the [Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Development Initiative](#), an early childhood coalition, has coordinated support and solutions for emergency care and education during the pandemic, updating their [central childcare website](#) and creating a toolkit with COVID-19 response information regarding child care for essential workers, in coordination with the EOC; provided Personal Protective Equipment to nearly 40 child care centers; and provided support and coordination for child care organizations. To learn more about childcare efforts during disasters, refer to the Employment section of this chapter.

Even with the hard work and effort given to address the issues created or worsened during the pandemic, it is important to note that there are still many educational needs that haven't been fully addressed. There is still a digital divide, as lack of internet and computers at home plagues many low income households; there are students who need extra assistance or may not have full computer literacy, who will be left behind academically during distance learning; the dramatic change in how students can learn may negatively impact academic outcomes over time; and the inability to gather at community centers, schools and libraries, where students and families generally turn to for support during difficult times, can add additional strain for youth and families.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION

While the county has taken great strides in providing high quality education and programs to students and youth, there is more that can be done.

Making Preparedness Fun & Engaging



To be most impactful, children should learn basic disaster preparedness steps at a young age, this way the information becomes engrained in their minds. Disaster preparedness can be a scary topic for children and thus it should be made fun, not just educational. Having a day, week, or month at school that focuses on disaster preparedness and includes projects, games, stories, songs, movies, and/or competitions, can not only make preparedness a fun and engaging process for students, but will also boost preparedness for teachers and families, as they guide their children through this school work. Similarly, making preparedness into themes, such as "preparing for the zombie apocalypse". You can find games, stories, and lesson plans [here](#).

Primary, secondary, and higher education schools and youth programs can also host disaster preparedness events, such as festivals, or use immersive storytelling with virtual reality programs like [VR4DR to further engage youth](#). Back to school events can be a great time to provide children and their families emergency preparedness kits and information. In addition, implementing programs and/or providing brochures on disaster preparedness within community and youth centers, libraries, and school campuses can raise awareness about disaster preparedness. Schools can also implement their own preparedness clubs, Teen Community Emergency Response Team programs, or youth councils. The county, cities, and nonprofits can partner with schools to provide volunteer and internship opportunities related to disaster preparedness, including informational campaigns, research on school preparedness, and art and music directed towards disaster preparedness; this could be particularly helpful for college students who need real world experience as they prepare for careers. Finally, programs that give youth a voice and address community needs, although not directly impacting disaster preparedness, can reduce disaster vulnerability indirectly. For example, creating a community garden, can bring fresh, healthy food to campuses and teach children life skills, empowering students, while providing healthy free food.

Embedding Preparedness into Schools

Having a required disaster preparedness course or including a disaster preparedness section in new student orientation at colleges and universities can help young adults practice disaster resilient habits early on in their adulthood. Preparedness classes can also be intertwined with many of the current leadership, youth, and life skill programs that exist within the county. Further, when schools provide multiple methods of educating students, this makes adapting to disasters easier. Having hybrid programs that include both online and in person classes and/or indoor and outdoor classes pre disaster can make it easier to readjust curriculum during disasters. For example, the [Green school yards](#) program has managed to continue running during the COVID-19 pandemic by moving to outside learning.

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Colleges and universities can implement disaster preparedness and community resilience efforts through classes, clubs, volunteer opportunities, and internships. Colleges can develop their own CERTS, conduct school preparedness surveys, campus gardens, preparedness events. Certain majors can also intertwine preparedness and resilience into their activities, for example communication studies can conduct projects such as developing ads, blogs, or shows that communicate preparedness to the public, or conducting research on the best methods for communicating disaster information to the public. Computer Science and digital art majors can work on disaster preparedness games, websites, and graphics. Social science majors can conduct disaster response research. Studio, film and theater arts majors can create plays or movies teaching about preparedness. Finally, student councils and political science majors can create work to advocate for campus policies that advances disaster preparedness. These efforts not only engage students, teaching them valuable skills that can help them get good careers, but also benefits the community

Schools and Disaster Response & Recovery

Schools should work with local emergency management organizations and conduct routine assessments of a school's ability to respond and recover from disasters. Developing a website with all local educational and child resources can also boost collaboration during emergencies, making response easier. Moreover, while schools are often used as shelters during emergencies, this can become a problem when children need to go back to school;  utilizing schools as family care centers when possible instead may help alleviate this problem. These centers can provide shelter, resources, and education specifically for families with school aged children. A portion of the school would be designated to sheltering and feeding services, while the classrooms would remain open to provide families childcare and education.

Schools, such as grammar schools, that lack the accommodations to work as shelters, could be used a resource or day centers. This would keep children in a familiar place, get them back into a routine quicker, and aid parents with childcare so they can focus on healing and recovery. Youth and education programs can also plan for disaster recovery by developing post disaster recovery programs that engage children, teens, and young adults in recovery projects, giving children an opportunity to take some control back over their lives while simultaneously boosting social connectedness and supporting community and individual recovery. Finally, when schools are already equipped with support services, such as counselors and social workers pre-disaster, they are better able to assist children and families with recovery.

INFLUENTIAL FACTORS FOR EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

There are deep interconnections between employment, education, poverty, food insecurity and health problems. For example, those who live in poverty may be less able to afford business attire for a job interview, living with food insecurity can reduce educational attainment, and having serious health problems can prevent a person from going to school and working. Similarly, childcare, transportation, and communication accessibility play an important role in influencing access to employment and educational opportunities. The following sections will examine how these sectors are connected.

Child Care

Childcare can be extremely beneficial for children, providing socialization and preparing them for school. Childcare is also an essential part of employment for parents, especially single parents, who may rely on childcare programs to watch over their children while they work. Childcare is also a crucial part of disaster management and a strong childcare system can speed up recovery for families, as schools and childcare programs often close during disasters, due to damage or safety issues, and parents may need to go to back to work or conduct clean up and repairs to damaged homes and businesses.

There are hundreds of childcare centers for the nearly 82,000 children age 12 or younger in Monterey County. Infant childcare costs \$13,862 annually and preschool care costs \$9,906 annually in the county.^{1,2} Infant/toddler care for working parents is the largest unmet child care need in the county, with over 85% of these families still in need of full time child care and only 7% of families with two children able to afford full time childcare.³ The Child Care Planning Council of Monterey County provides child care needs assessments and plans to address these needs. The Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, CSUMB's Child Care Center, & Bright Beginnings provide several affordable childcare programs during and after school throughout the County. Information on child care availability in Monterey County can be found on the County Child Care Website and Bright Beginning's central childcare website.

1 Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2018). *Education & Childcare*.

2 Monterey County Children's Council. (2019). *Annual Report*.

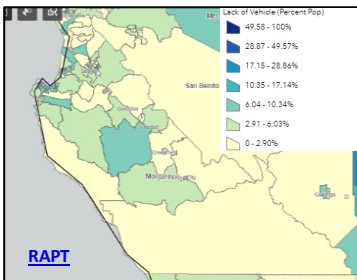
3 Local Child Care Planning Council. (2017). *Monterey County Needs Assessment*

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During COVID-19, several organizations provided free or low-cost childcare services, including the Central Coast YMCA, Heart and Hands Preschool, and Continuing Development Inc. to assist essential workers and the State created an interactive map to show safe and accessible child care options. In addition, childcare organizations took on new safety guidelines to prevent spread of the virus and the EOC, in coordination with Bright Beginnings, provided Personal Protective Equipment to nearly 40 childcare centers. Bright beginnings also created the first-ever countywide emergency response and recovery plan for the early childhood development system to ensure that young children of essential workers had safe quality childcare and education during the pandemic and were resilient beyond the emergency. here.

Transportation Systems

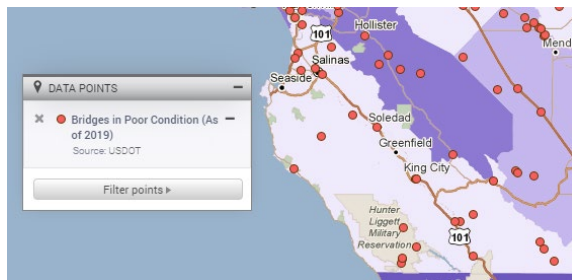
Having access to reliable and affordable transportation services, including owning a car or living near public transportation, allows students to go to school and employees to go to work. In addition, for those who are looking for work, having reliable transportation can make it easier to find a job and can expand the region a person can work in, boosting employment opportunities. Monterey-Salinas Transit provides public transportation for the county and County public schools provide transportation for children. ITN Monterey is a nonprofit that provides affordable 24-hour transportation to seniors and people with visual impairments throughout the county, also providing a rideshare and car trade program. Further, some organizations that assist people with access and functional needs, also provide transportation services, such as Social Vocational Services. There are also two major highways in the county, highway 101 which runs north-south through the Salinas Valley and the Pacific Coast Highway, running along the coastline. Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) oversees various planning projects to support transportation network improvements and provide funding for wide variety of transportation projects including highway, transit, local road, bicycle, pedestrian, and trail projects.¹



Almost 5% (6,000) of Monterey County households do not own a vehicle and most households own 2 cars. The average travel time to work for residents is about 23 minutes, with about half of these commuters traveling over 90 minutes to get to work; South County workers travel furthest for work. Further, South County residents have the most limited access in the county to public transportation to areas where services for individuals and families living in poverty are provided, which is largely in Monterey Peninsula and Salinas. Further Monterey Salinas Transit only offer 4 lines of service to South County, with limited frequency and are charged as regional and commuter rates

which are significantly higher than local rates.² In 2018, the most common method of travel for workers in the county was driving alone (70%), followed by carpooling (14.3%), walking (3.5%), and public transportation (2.2%).^{3,4} Moreover, transportation services employ almost 11% of the county, thus when disasters strike and roads are damaged, this sector can be deeply financially impacted.¹

Transportation and Disasters



During a disaster, when public transportation may be limited, those with no vehicles and those living far from school or work may have difficulty commuting back and forth. Those who are forced to relocate, may struggle to get back to their home frequently to conduct clean up and repairs, which can slow recovery. This is a particular concern for populations residing in group quarters such as college dormitories, farm workers' dormitories, psychiatric institutions, and prisons and residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities who may require more

coordination and assistance to evacuate. Moreover, many institutions can be unprepared to quickly remove their entire staff and residents under conditions that require specialized vehicles. Additionally, disasters like earthquakes and fires can cause road and bridge damage, particularly, for those in poor condition, and create a need for large evacuations, creating congestion and costly long term transportation impacts, and threatening the lives of those who lack the means to evacuate on their own, including those who can't drive and/or do not own a car.

1 Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. (2015). *Monterey County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

2 TAMC. (2020). *Transit Needs*. www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/bus-transit/transit-needs/

3 Data USA. (2020). *Monterey County, CA*. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/monterey-county-ca>

4 FEMA. (2020). *Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool*. Retrieved from <https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=90c0c996a5e242a79345cdb5f758fc6>

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During an emergency local law enforcement and public works handle road, congestion and traffic issues within their cities and California Highway Patrol, the sheriff's office, and Cal Trans assist with highways. All transportation organizations coordinate through the EOC during large scale evacuations.¹ The COVID-19 pandemic brought different transportation impacts than previous disasters. During the pandemic, transportation needs actually decreased, as people sheltered at home and many schools and businesses closed down. We have yet to see how widespread and long term the move to remote school and work will be. However, if remote education and work remain after the pandemic's conclusion, we should expect to see reductions in the negative consequences of limited transportation to work and school accessibility.

Transportation Recommendations

Advancement in accessibility of public transportation, coordination between transportation organizations and communities, and continued planning for potential mass transportation needs, including documents like the Monterey County Catastrophic Earthquake Mass Transportation/Evacuation Plan, can help prepare transportation agencies for disasters. In addition, communities who organize carpool or bike caravans to get to work, school, or other locations, including walking school bus programs, can reduce the reliance on vehicles for education and employment purposes, while also being ecofriendly, uniting the community and getting everyone more familiar with their neighborhoods, which can be beneficial in a major earthquake or other disaster that damages infrastructure, leaving those who are unfamiliar with their surrounding confused. Similarly, employers can create incentives to drive less to work, such as offering safe bike storage rooms, showers at work, nearby gym memberships, company commuter shuttles, or free bus passes on public transit. Cities can work to redevelop bike and pedestrian routes to encourage walking and biking to school and work and government, at all levels, can encourage affordable public transit development and transportation programs.

Communication Systems

Having access to internet and a laptop and/or cell phone can provide people with a wide array of information, including disaster preparedness guidance, social service resources, and community events, boosting people's overall knowledge about community resources and enhancing their connection to their community. Those who own a cell phone/laptop and have internet access and cable at home not only become more familiar with technology, but are also able to look for work and complete school work at home, allowing them more flexibility and opportunities in the employment and educational fields. Additionally, communication systems provide alternative ways to receive needed support, such as telehealth, and, during emergencies, can mean the difference between life and death, providing vital disaster alerts and information, along with being a way to reach out for assistance and reconnecting separated loved ones.

Cell phone coverage in the county is strongest within the cities and weakest around the mountain ranges, with rural south and west county having the weakest cell coverage.² Verizon, T-Mobile and AT&T are the largest cell phone providers in the county and AT&T and Xfinity are the largest internet providers. Internet connectivity has risen in the county and included 87% of households in 2018.³ Similarly, 87.6% of Households own a computer.⁴ Overall, computer and internet access for households was lower in south county.⁵ Schools, libraries, community centers, and organizations that provide life skills training and career counseling often provide computer literacy education and access to internet and computers within their facilities to help address disparities in access. In addition, Loaves, Fishes, and Computers offers low cost computer repairs and sales, providing about 9,500 computers locally to low income families.

Disasters and Communication Systems

Different types of emergencies create different impacts on communication systems. Pandemics and other disasters that create a need to shelter in place or at home, boost the need for household computers, cell phones, and internet. For those who are computer illiterate or lack these resources, this can amplify disaster impacts. On the other hand, disasters such as cyber-attacks and power outages can make communication technology temporarily ineffective, slowing businesses, disaster response, and educational institutions that rely on communication technology to run. Lastly, disasters that require specific instructions, such as evacuations for fires and food safety information during E. Coli outbreaks, create a more pertinent need for communication, as this information must be rapidly distributed to save lives.

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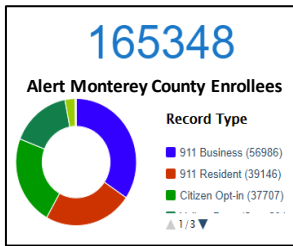
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COUNTY OF MONTEREY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK 2020



To help strengthen overall emergency communication, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) developed Alert Monterey County, an opt in emergency notification system serving 150,000 residents, and Nixle, a communication system designed for both community and emergency information serving about 15,000 residents. The federal government has also created alert and warning infrastructure known as the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), which does not require opt in, and can push Presidential, AMBER, and Imminent Threat alerts to all cell phones in the county. This program is helpful because raising awareness of and opt

ins for an alert system has proven to be challenging. Other methods of communication outreach by OES include NextDoor, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter accounts and a revamped website that provides emergency management information.

Local media plays an important role in providing disaster information, as residents often look to local tv, news and radio as a primary source of information. Family, friends and neighbors are also considered trusted resources for communicating disaster information. During disasters, coordination of emergency information goes through the Emergency Operations Center Joint Information Center (JIC). In addition, 211, who coordinates closely with the EOC, provides a 24-hour call center for those proactively seeking information before, during, and after disasters. Finally, Digital Nest works to created sustainable and scalable technology centers in vulnerable communities to help low income youth and those in rural communities, by teaching technical skills needed to be competitive and a growingly digital world.

Communication continues to be a problem, particularly in areas like Big Sur, where, during the 2016 Winter storms, damage to power and telephone infrastructure and slow repairs made emergency communication in the region nearly impossible. During the COVID-19 pandemic, in which communication technology became more prominently used and the digital divide grew, rural areas faced the greatest problems in need for laptops and video conferencing services and children with limited household laptop and internet access also struggled academically. Many people faced mental and emotional health problems during the pandemic as well and hotlines that were in place prior to the disaster, such as the national suicide prevention hotline, along with hotlines developed during the pandemic, including the California Volunteer Corps Hotline for older adults and the Emotional Support Hotline, stepped in to assist. Several health care institutions also provided telehealth services to manage health needs without increasing virus spread.¹

To address the digital divide MST provided mobile WIFI, Keep America Connected & Xfinity provided free internet hotspots, and county libraries kept their WIFI open for the local community to use. Zoom offered free basic accounts for all K-12 schools and Patient Provider Communication provided communication tools for patients with COVID. Finally, at the beginning of the pandemic, the Monterey County Office of Education formed a Digital Equity Task Force to address increased technology needs placed upon students to assist with distance learning for the 6,000 students without a laptop and the 11,279 students without internet at home.

California Department of Education (CDE) worked to address the digital divide by providing computers & MiFi devices to school districts and partnered with internet service providers to offer low income families reduced costs. T-Mobile donated 100,000 hotspots and the state allocated \$5.3 billion to local education agencies to use for internet & devices for students. Despite these efforts, there are still gaps, as learning new technology can be overwhelming and some groups (ex. the very young & old and those with learning limitations or behavioral issues) may have trouble learning and working online. This limitation does not just impact education, health, and employment, it can also prevent people from receiving needed services. For example, the city of Monterey created a food distribution program that required online sign up, however those without computer access or who don't know how to navigate websites were unable to access the services.

Recommendations

To advance communication efforts during emergencies, more people should become trained in using a ham radio and should own NOAA weather and ham radios, along with opting into local emergency alert systems. Programs that provide households with free or low-cost computer and internet services and computer literacy classes should be enhanced. There also needs to be strengthened cell coverage in the rural parts of the county. Communities, households, and businesses should create phone trees and work together to have an emergency communication plan. In rural regions, communities can develop programs like the General Mobile Radio Service, which is a licensed radio service that uses specific radio stations to communicate. This program has been successfully used by a Northern California rural community to communicate during fires and power shutoffs, when cell phone coverage was lacking. Finally, during emergencies where communication systems are down, radios, flyers, and information centers can be used for emergency communication.

APPENDICES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED BY A COLLABORATIVE, INTER-DISCIPLINARY TASK FORCE OF OPERATIONAL AREA (OA) PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WHOLE-COMMUNITY. THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN PLANNING EFFORTS

RECORD OF CHANGES

ANY APPROVED ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE CARE AND SHELTER WILL BE DOCUMENTED AND NOTED IN THIS SECTION. THE DATE OF THE CHANGE, THE TITLE OF THE PERSON MAKING THE CHANGE, AND A SUMMARY AND REASON FOR THE MODIFICATIONS, WILL BE INSERTED INTO THIS SECTION OF THE FRAMEWORK.

Change Number	Date of Change	Section	Summary of Change	Change Made By (Title or Name)
1				
2				

ATTACHMENTS

Community Resilience Survey & Results

Community Resilience Toolkit

Disaster Resource Directory/Coordination One Pager