

## Introduction

Today's children will grow into tomorrow's adult residents of San Mateo County. This report is as much about the future of the county as it is about the current status of its children. The purposes of the report are to direct attention to changes in children's health and well-being, to galvanize the community to work together toward common outcomes, and to inform program and policy decisions that affect children's lives.

This report summarizes how children in the county are faring with respect to four desired outcomes:

- I. Children Are Healthy**
- II. Children Are Nurtured in a Stable, Caring Environment**
- III. Children Are Succeeding in School**
- IV. Children Are Safe**

These outcomes, established through a community-wide process in 2000, reflect basic truths about child development: (1) child well-being is multifaceted, and healthy development requires that children do well physically, emotionally and behaviorally, as well as cognitively and academically; and (2) children can thrive only if parents, families and communities provide them with support and guidance to help keep them safe and promote their growth.

This report differs from previous Children's Reports<sup>i</sup> in that it is a summary of trends related to children's well-being, rather than an extensive data book. Detailed statistics now can be found at [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org), an online resource that provides a wide range of regularly updated indicators of children's health and well-being in San Mateo County and other Bay Area counties.

The San Mateo County Children's Data Team, a collaborative countywide group, including public agencies, foundations, nonprofits and others, advised on this report and previous Children's Reports (see list of members on inside back cover).

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i. Since 2000, San Mateo County has released Children's Reports every two or three years, summarizing the status of children's health and well-being. Each report was produced through a countywide collaboration, with the County leading the 2000 report (found at [www.plsinfo.org/healthysmc](http://www.plsinfo.org/healthysmc)); the Peninsula Partnership for Children, Youth and Families leading the 2002 and 2005 reports (found at [www.siliconvalleyycf.org](http://www.siliconvalleyycf.org)); and the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health leading this report.