On April 3, 2012, Health Rankings for all counties in the United States were released. These rankings compare counties by state on a variety of health measures. In 2012, 56 of California’s 58 counties were ranked. Santa Barbara County ranked 19th in Health Outcomes and 15th in Health Factors. This is somewhat lower than in 2011 when Santa Barbara County ranked 18th in Health Outcomes and 13th in Health Factors. With these rankings, health agencies, community leaders and stakeholders throughout our county can see what is affecting the health of county residents and use that information to develop solutions to improve health in Santa Barbara County.

The annual County Health Rankings information looks at two primary areas: Health Outcomes, which reflect the health of our community today, and Health Factors which looks at measures that will affect the health of our community tomorrow. Health Outcomes include data about death and illness in our community. Health Factors look at things that drive health such as diet, exercise, tobacco use, access to and the quality of clinical care, and poverty.

The Robert Wood Johnson and University of Wisconsin Population Health institute have released the County Health Rankings each year since 2010. The rankings provide nearly every county in the country with easy-to-understand information on data related to health.

Dr. Takashi Wada, Director of the Public Health Department and Health Officer for the County stated, “The rankings are intended to be a starting point for our community to assess and address health issues. We want to look at where Santa Barbara County excels and strengthen those areas. We also want to identify areas needing improvement where we can work with community partners to make policy changes and improve health outcomes across the county.”

Rankings for Santa Barbara County Health Outcomes include the following:
- Mortality (premature death) – 15 of 56
- Morbidity (days of poor physical health, days of poor mental health, low birth weight) – 31 of 56

Rankings for Santa Barbara County Health Factors include the following:
- Health Behaviors (adult smoking, adult obesity, physical inactivity, excessive drinking, motor vehicle crash rate, sexually transmitted diseases, teen birth rate) – 8 of 56
- Clinical Care (uninsured adults, primary care provider ratio, preventable hospital stays, diabetes and mammography screening) – 12 of 56
- Social & economic factors (residents with high school diploma, some college and college diploma, unemployment, children in poverty, inadequate social support, children in single parent households, violent crime rate) – 19 of 56
- Physical Environment (air pollution, limited access to healthy food, fast food restaurants, and recreational activities) – 23 of 56

To access the source document, visit: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/#app/california/2012/santa-barbara/county/1/overall
New US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations for cervical cancer screening were released March 16, 2012. The USPSTF recommendations include:

- No Pap smear before 21 or after 65
- Pap smear every 3 years for woman age 21 – 29
- Pap smear every 3 years for women age 30 – 65, or Pap smear with HPV testing every 5 years

These recommendations do not apply to women at high risk for cervical cancer. For more information, please go to [http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspserv.htm](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspserv.htm)

The Centers for Disease Control has informed the State Cancer Detection Program (CDP) that new cervical cancer screening guidelines will be released in the near future. Local CDP providers include the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Health Care Centers and all larger community clinics in the County. The California Department of Public Health announced that it will not make changes to CDP until new guidelines from CDC are released (see [http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CancerDetection/Pages/EWCReports.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CancerDetection/Pages/EWCReports.aspx)).

CDP providers should know that while at the present time charges for annual mammograms and biannual liquid based Pap testing are still allowed and reimbursed as before, there are still no provisions to cover HPV testing as a CDP EWC program benefit. Any future changes will be announced in the Medi-Cal manual updates and/or letters to providers.

For clinicians who want more information on this topic, a new one-day CME course is being offered on September 29, 2012 in Santa Maria. Co-sponsored by the Public Health Department and Marian Hospital, it provides an update and overview of cervical cancer screening and follow-up by a national expert in diseases of the genital tract. Register at [gap.sdsu.edu](http://gap.sdsu.edu) using the promotional code RC05 to receive a reduced tuition rate of $50. For more information please contact the regional administrative office at (805) 681-4956.

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**Web Based Confidential Morbidity Reports (CMR) Now Available!**

The CalREDIE Provider Portal, a web-based disease reporting system, which allows providers to fulfill their communicable disease reporting requirements by electronically submitting Confidential Morbidity Reports (CMR) to Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. Title 17, California Code of Regulations, §2500, requires reporting communicable diseases to the Local Health Authority as noted below:

- §2500 (b) It shall be the duty of every health care provider, knowing of or in attendance on a case or suspected case of any of the diseases or conditions listed, to report to the local health officer for the jurisdiction where the patient resides. Where no health care provider is in attendance, any individual having knowledge of a person who is suspected to be suffering from one of the diseases or conditions listed may make such a report to the local health officer for the jurisdiction where the patient resides.
- §2500 (c) The administrator of each health facility, clinic or other setting where more than one health care provider may know of a case, a suspected case or an outbreak of disease within the facility shall establish and be responsible for administrative procedures to assure that reports are made to the local health officer.
- §2500 (a)(14) ‘Health care provider’ means a physician and surgeon, a veterinarian, a podiatrist, a nurse practitioner, a physician assistant, a registered nurse, a nurse midwife, a school nurse, an infection control practitioner, a medical examiner, a coroner, or a dentist.

**What are the benefits of using the CalREDIE Provider Portal?**

- Report a disease incident online and print an electronic receipt for recordkeeping.
- Faster and easier to use when compared to the traditional faxing of CMR forms.
- Allows providers to generate reports of CMR’s submitted.

**How can I use the CalREDIE Provider Portal?**

1. **Enroll**
   Call the Disease Control Office at 681-5280 to request a CalREDIE Reporter Account Authorization Form. Return completed form by fax to: 681-4069.

2. **Schedule Training**
   Receive CalREDIE Quick Start guide. Disease Control staff will provide you with a Quick Start guide that will show you the quick and easy steps of using CalREDIE.

3. **Start using CalREDIE Provider Portal**
   You can now begin to submit your CMR’s electronically. Help Desk Support is available at (866) 866-1428.