

County of Santa Clara

Public Health Department

Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health
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Local Health Advocates Convene to Address Partnerships in Developing Healthy Children Ready to Learn

SAN JOSE, CA— Slightly more than one in seven (14%) children ages 0-4 was overweight, and more than one in five (20%) children ages 5-19 was overweight in Santa Clara County, according to the 2005 Children's Report: Key Indicators of Well Being. These statistics mirror national trends and warn of a troubling future for our community as overweight children are at higher risk for preventable diseases and are hospitalized more often than children with a healthy weight. Local school officials, community leaders, and health professionals will hold the **Family Health Conference** on February 15 to address the growing health problems of children and look at opportunities to partner together for solutions.

Keynote speakers are Dr. Martin Fenstersheib, Santa Clara County Health Officer and Dr. Colleen Wilcox, Superintendent of Santa Clara County Schools. Dr. Fenstersheib will lay the foundation for continuous partnerships by examining the present health status of our children, contributing factors, and how health status can predict major health problems for the future of our children. Dr. Wilcox will address the academic performance of our children, how it relates to their health and opportunities for partnerships in addressing these issues.

The eighth annual **Family Health Conference** will provide innovative opportunities to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles in academic and public settings. School officials, community leaders, and health professionals will learn the importance of "partnerships" as their agencies address financial issues and the implementation of new policies and technologies. This one-day conference will take place on Thursday, February 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel in Downtown San Jose.

Conference attendees include teachers, child care workers, community advocates, physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, psychologists, dentists, dieticians, students of health, church leaders and others. Attendees will can attend four workshops geared towards getting and keeping kids healthy:

- Opportunities for Promoting Health in Learning Environments
- Advocating for School Wellness Policies
- Working Together: Integrating Public Health and School Programs
- Creative Methods for Engaging Parents

This conference began in 1995 and was organized by the Santa Clara County Black Infant Health Advisory Board. The goal of the conference is to provide insight into the dynamics of healthcare service delivery for Santa Clara County residents and to address the health disparities that exist within communities.

For conference information & registration, please call 408.792.5055.