

Health Disparities in Our Service Area

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

- 49% of 5th graders and 43% of 7th graders are overweight or obese in Ravenswood City School District with elementary schools in East Palo Alto and Belle Haven.

Teen Pregnancy

- Adolescent birth rates in SMC much higher among Black and Latina women (55 and 49 per 1,000 females respectively).
- Highest rates of teen pregnancy in the county are in RFHC's service area.
- Majority of teen pregnancies occurs consistently in adolescent Latinas; increased dramatically from 61.3% in 1990-1994 to 78.2% in 2000-2004 (latest data available) *2008 Community Assessment: Health & Quality of Life in San Mateo County*

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

- Death from heart disease is 29% higher among African Americans than whites, and death from stroke is 30% higher.
- 85.3% of adults exhibit one or more risk factors for heart disease and stroke, marking an unfavorable increase in cardiovascular risk since the initial 1998 assessment.

DIABETES

- 26% of RFHC's 6,805 adult patients have diabetes and/or hypertension
- 1 in 4 black women over 55 has diabetes, nearly twice the rate of white women.

ORAL HEALTH CARE

- Dental disease is the #1 pediatric health problem. A dental screening of kindergarten and 2nd graders in Ravenswood School District found 32% had visible tooth decay.
- 80% of dental disease in children is found in children from low-income families.
- 40% of our adult patients need immediate dental care

Emergency Room Visits

- ER use is notably higher among women (29.6%); those with high school or less education (32.8%); those living between 200% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (33.8%); Black respondents (39.5%).

Mortality

- San Mateo County Community Assessment 2008 reported that "*The actual causes of premature death are rooted in behavior, and it is estimated that as many as 50% of premature deaths are due to health risk behaviors such as tobacco use, poor diet, a lack of exercise, alcohol use, etc.*"