

Disclaimer

The following report is a compilation of studies and data collected in and about Plumas County from 1990-2000, by different groups and individuals, for a variety of purposes. For specific source information, please see the annotated bibliography at the end of the report, and referenced throughout.

Plumas County Public Health Agency, and the Plumas Vision 2020 Project gathered the source documents, and Pacific Health Consulting Group compiled the Plumas Vision 2020 Data Report.

Plumas Communities Vision 2020

Background Data Report

Revised October 25, 2000

Compiled by Pacific Health Consulting Group LLC

Plumas Communities Vision 2020 Background Data Report

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Plumas Communities Vision 2020

Data Report

Key Highlights

Overview of Plumas Communities Vision 2020

Plumas Communities Vision 2020 is a broad-based collaborative process to develop a community-wide vision of improving the quality of life in Plumas County by 2020. The process has focused on promoting a healthy physical and aesthetic environment, a vital economy, and a supportive social climate that can all accommodate the expected growth and change. This community-driven collaborative effort includes diverse groups who will develop a vision and strategic implementation plan for our county over the next two decades. Funded by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors, the US Forest Service, and the Healthy Cities and Communities Project (Center for Civic Engagement), the project is implemented through local facilitation teams and coordinated by the Plumas County Public Health Agency. This data report intends to provide an overview of thirteen issue areas selected by the group.

Community Overview

- Plumas County is situated in the mountains of northeastern California, 150 miles northeast of Sacramento and 80 northwest of Reno, Nevada. It stretches over 2,618 square miles, making it 22nd in land area of the 58 counties in the state.
- Most of the land is pine forests (78%), and 60% are National Forest lands, while 70% of all land in the county is federally owned.
- The county has five main communities: Chester/Lake Almanor, Greenville/Indian Valley/Feather River Canyon, Portola/Sierra Valley, Mohawk Valley, and Quincy/Meadow Valley. Portola is the only incorporated city.
- Plumas County is estimated to have a population of 20,739 in 2000, a 5.6% increase in the past decade, a gain of 1,000 people. It is projected to increase to 28,000 by 2020.
- It is 50th in population among the 58 counties in the state.
- The county's population will remain stable in terms of ethnicity, with a slight decrease of whites and a doubling of the proportion of the Latino population, from 5% in 1990 to 10% in 2020,
- Plumas County's population is older than the state as a whole: people 65 and older constitute 22% of the county's population, more than double the percentage in the state as a whole (10.6%).
- The percentage of children 0-9 in the county (9.7%) is much smaller than the state as a whole (16.9%).

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Local artisans and art associations; cultural events and preservations; performances; museums and galleries.

- The Plumas County Arts Commission publishes a quarterly newsletter and calendar of arts and events taking place almost every day of the year.
- The county has six museums one movie theatre, one amateur theatre company and extensive art displays on view throughout the county.
- The county celebrates a number of festivals and heritage events each year, including Northern Sierra Indian Days, Gold Digger Days, summer family concert series, annual art show in 2000, and music festivals.
- Through many community surveys, residents have stated they are interested in more music and art events in their communities.

Business, Economy, and Tourism

Employment rates, availability of vocational education and job training programs; chamber of commerce activities; income levels, numbers of businesses; property value; building permits and tourism rates.

Employment and Income

- Unemployment declined from an annual average of 14% in 1993 to 10% in 1998. However, seasonal unemployment swings from a low of 6% in August and September to a high of 18% in February, on average.
- Per capita income grew from \$19,700 in 1988 to \$21,300 in 1996, outpacing growth in per capita income for California.
- Low wage service jobs increased from 22% to 31% of all jobs between 1972 and 1996. High wage service jobs account for only 28% of all jobs, substantially less than the California level of over 34%.
- The level of civilian (non-military) employment has grown 30%, from 7,030 in 1993 to 9,150 in 1998, slightly higher than the population growth rate (24%). The primary growth sectors have been service producing (45% increase).
- The percentage of children living in poverty grew from 16% in 1989 to 19% in 1995 (\$15,455 for a family of four). It is estimated to be 12.2% in 2000.

Businesses

- As a result of the county's lower cost of living, unskilled and skilled labor costs make Plumas County a particularly competitive place to locate a business, as does the cost of land and construction.
- The number of businesses has increased by 53% over the past 20 years.
- The timber industry has experienced declining employment.
- A total of \$117,545,000 was spent on tourism in the county in 1992, including a payroll of \$18.1 million, providing tax receipts of \$1.47 million.

Public Financing

- Forest reserve revenue to the local government dropped by almost 50% between 1989 and 1997, from \$3,75,449 in 1989 to \$1,865,420 in 1997.
- The transient occupancy tax, a marker for tourism rose 114%, from \$316,557 in 1989-90 to \$664,433 in 1996-97.
- In the 1990s, Plumas County spent all of its road funds on maintenance, rather than new roads or bicycle trails, due to the need and the lack of funding from the decrease in forest reserve revenues.

Communication and Technology

Systems of sending and receiving messages, such as telegraphy, telephony, cable television and wireless systems.

- Computers in Our Future (CIOF), an active community collaborative, has provided open access and training to more than 2,600 participants since January 1998. 25% of 14 – 23 year olds in the county have used the centers.
- Plumas County children have extremely high access to computers in the classroom compared to California (6 students per computer in the county compared to 10 in the state), with 32 classrooms wired for internet access.
- Telephone service is available from one of two providers: Pacific Bell and Citizens Utilities, which provides service in northern Plumas County.
- A transcontinental fiber optics transmission line running through Plumas County was completed in 1989.
- Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative provides internet access to local residents.

Community Organization

Collaboration and communication among organizations, levels of grassroots involvement and volunteerism.

- Plumas County has a number of community organizations which provide leadership in a variety of areas. They work hard to reduce fragmentation and duplication. One example is the Quincy Library Group (QLG) whose efforts resulted in the passage of the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act in 1998.
- Four Community Resource Centers were opened in 1997 throughout the county. They are open days and evenings, creating local access to information, referral and services.
- In the general elections of 1998, 55% of the registered voters cast ballots in Plumas County, compared to 41% in California.
- Plumas Rural Services, churches, and service organizations play a vital role in providing services to the county.

Community Safety

Education and prevention for youth, citizen involvement, crime response capacity, homicide and suicide, family violence, emergency preparedness and weapon safety.

- The suicide rate averaged nearly twice the California average between 1989 and 1997.
- Plumas County has had a steady rate of violent crime of about 30 – 45 crimes per 10,000 people, between a third and a half of the state rate of over 90.
- There were 100 domestic violence related calls for assistance in the adult population in 1999, according to the California Office of the Attorney General. The rate per 1,000 fell from 7.36 to 6.53 between 1995-1999, while the national rate dropped from 9.8 to 7.5. The state rate was 7.8 in 1999. Thirty-six women and 45 children were sheltered from domestic violence from July 1999 to June 2000. 145 children were affected by domestic violence.
- Plumas ranked 41st of the state's 58 counties in the number of child abuse reports per capita. The rate (10%) is falling, although it is still higher than the state (7.8%).
- An average of 16 youth were in out-of-home placements in 1999, a 13% reduction from 1998. The number of adjudicated delinquency cases nationally resulting in residential placement increased 56% between 1997 and 1998, the most recent comparison year available. The Probation Department juvenile caseload has increased slowly but steadily over the last nine years, from 46 to 106.
- Since implementing a drug diversion program for youth in 1998, Plumas County Alcohol and Drug have served 41 youth who would otherwise be sent to juvenile detention instead of treatment.
- While juvenile felony arrests declined 5.8% from 1988 - 1998 (with the exception of felony weapons offenses) and the arrest rate dropped 22.8% in California, the number of arrests in Plumas County rose from 34 to 96 in that period. (The State Attorney General's Office does not calculate an arrest rate when the base number is fewer than 50). The rate in 1998 (96 arrests among a population of 2,415 children 10 – 17 is 3,975 per 100,000) is significantly higher than the state rate of 2,041.4.

Education

Child care, local schools, college and job readiness, literacy programs, library holdings and use; parenting, social support and peer education.

Local Schools and Colleges

- Over a third (35.7%) of the 3,471 students attending a Plumas Unified School District (PUSD) received free or reduced price meals based on their income, compared to 47.6% statewide.
- 388 children qualified for special education throughout PUSD, in 1998/99, 10% of the total enrollment, which is average for the state. (MCAH Report, 1999).
- The percentage of high school students scoring at least 1,000 points on the SAT exam was at or below the California average every year but one between 1989 and 1998; in all but two years, a smaller percentage of students took the exam.
- There was a slight increase in high school drop-outs in the county, from 2% in 1992 to 2.3% in 1996, this remains below the state levels of 5% and 4% respectively.
- Children of color fare worse than their white peers in terms of graduation and drop-out rates, similar to the statewide picture.

- Feather River College is a public, two-year community college, fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. In addition to the classrooms and laboratories, the campus features unique facilities that include a trout hatchery and equestrian center with horse boarding facilities. In 1999, 2,105 students attended the college, 131 graduated and 40 received certificates.

Adult Literacy

- The percentage of adults with poor literacy skills in the county (39%), while strikingly high, is lower than the state average of 46%, a number affected by the large number of Californians for whom English is a second language, according to the *Sierra Nevada Wealth Index*. Poor literacy is defined as having considerable difficulty solving mathematical word problem that requires two or more arithmetic operations, and difficulty integrating or synthesizing information from complex or lengthy texts.
- The county has one main library headquartered in Quincy and six branch locations.

Child Care

- More than half (58%) of children under 14 have two working parents, 48% of children 0 – 5 have two working parents, and 64% of children 6 – 13 have two working parents, for a total of 2,410 children needing child care.
- Half of all children under 14 are cared for by someone outside their family.
- The average annual cost of full-time licensed child care in a center for an infant up to 24 months is \$5,511, 15% lower than the state average of \$6,549. A family with one wage earner who is paid minimum wage would have to pay 46% of her salary in child care. The cost is 17% of the median annual household income in the county.
- In 1998, there were 593 licensed child care slots, only one quarter of the need for child care. There are no licensed child care facilities for infants. Most (71%) of the licensed facilities are family child care homes.

Government

Local, state and federal bodies which initiate, implement, monitor and enforce various regulations and policies.

- Local government includes the following departments:

Administrative Office	Fairgrounds	Probation
Agricultural Commissioner	Farm Advisor	Public Guardian
Air Resources	Fire Coordinator	Public Health
Animal Shelter	Information Technology	Public Works
Assessor	Services	Recorder
Auditor	Law Library	Sheriff/Coroner
Building	Library	Social Services
Clerk/Elections	Literacy Program	Superior Court
Code Compliance Office	Maintenance	Treasurer/Tax
County Counsel	Mental Health/Alcohol	Collector
District Attorney	and Drug Services	Veterans Services
Engineering	Museum	Visitors Bureau
Environmental Health	Planning	

- Other local governmental agencies include the following:

Air Quality Management District	Regional Water Quality Board
Bureau of Livestock Identification	Sierra Valley Ground Water
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Management District
- The federal government, through its Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers, is both a major employer and owner of most of the land in the county (70%).
- 14 agencies at all levels are involved in land use planning.

Health

The full spectrum of physical and mental health services which may include physical fitness, health education and prevention efforts; chronic diseases; mental health resources; emergency medical care and complementary therapy.

Mortality and Morbidity

- Plumas County has a higher age-adjusted death rate than the state. It has significantly higher rates for all cancers, particularly breast and lung cancer, and unintentional injuries.
- The rate for motor vehicle deaths is almost twice the state rate and significantly above the Healthy People 2000 objective.
- There is no known HIV infection among childbearing women in the county.
- No vaccine preventable disease has been reported in Plumas County since 1990.

Maternal, Child and Elder Health

- Births to teenage mothers declined steadily in the 1990s; by 1997, Plumas County had a teen birth rate of 19 births per 1,000 teenage girls, one-third the California rate of 57 per 1,000 girls.
- Plumas County had a higher rate of women not entering prenatal care in the first trimester than the state in 1995 and 1996, although both rates are well within the Healthy People 2000 objective.
- While Plumas County met the national objective ceiling of 5% low birth weight babies in 1997, the ceiling is still too high.
- Latino children had considerably higher rates of abnormally low height for age and high weight for height than the general population.
- The number of In-Home Supportive Services clients has risen dramatically from 149 in 1997-98 to 208 in 1999-2000, a 40% increase in two years.
- Senior Nutrition Services provided 28,982 homebound and 15,382 congregate meals in 1999.
- There are no adult day health centers, Multi Service Senior Programs, or Alzheimer's units in Plumas County.

Access

- In Fiscal Year 1997-98, 1,469 children were in the Medi-Cal target group, which is 44.5% of all children in the county. 144 children enrolled in Healthy Families as of April, 2,000 representing fewer than 40% of the eligible children.
- With 179 people per hospital bed, local hospital capacity surpasses the California average of 278 people per bed.
- Pediatricians and other specialty physicians visit local providers on a regular basis.
- The use of the emergency room for non-urgent care of children has declined in Plumas County from 61% in 1991 to 48% in 1996; however, this still remains above the state average of 39% in 1996.

Housing/Community Physical Infrastructure/Sewers and Water/ Transportation

The basic facilities and installations of a community. This may include: community water systems; community sewerage disposal systems; utilities such as energy supply; communications systems; services such as fire protection and storm water disposal; transportation facilities and services; and housing.

- Housing is more affordable in Plumas County than the California average for renters and homeowners in every income group.
- The number of licensed motor vehicles in the county rose 24% from 1988 to 1998. These 27,541 licensed vehicles travel an average of 29.7 miles daily on the public roads in the county.
- Plumas County Transit (PCT) provides three fixed and deviated route services to all major communities within Plumas County. Deviated route accommodations serve individuals with disabilities who are unable to access regular bus stops. It also provides charter service.
- Senior transportation provided 2,078 assisted rides and 29,273 rides.
- According to the 1994 Plumas County Overall Economic Development Plan, East Quincy was the only community in need of a sewer system. Four communities did not have water systems, and those that did often needed improvements.

Natural Resources and the Environment

The ecosystem and management and/or utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources supplied by nature. Physical conditions, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise and sometimes selected artifacts.

- Ozone pollution is low – the state standard was exceeded only one in the past eight years; particulate pollution is declining – the number of days the state 24-hour standard was exceeded dropped from 14 days to 3 days per year in 1994 – 1997.
- The national forests bring 6.1 million visitor days to Plumas National Forest and 1.7 million visitor days to Lassen National Forest, which are popular for camping, summer sports, fishing, and nature study.
- The summer peak fire hazard is rated either “very high” or “high” in 80% of the county.

Land Use Planning and Development and Open Space

Land management, public support for the maintenance of open space.

- The number of acres in Williamson Act agricultural land preservation contracts has held steady at over 82,000 acres since 1990; no acres have been taken away.
- Over 94% of cropland and pasture is unprotected from conversion to other uses, as is over 95% of montane riparian habitat.
- Most of the land in the county is national forest land (64%). Most of the rest is in agricultural or resource production (28%). Only 5% is residential.
- Most of the acreage is timber (87.25%). Furthermore, 94% is for natural resources, including significant wetlands, agricultural, ranching, timber and mining.
- The Pacific Crest Trail runs the length of the county along the crest of the Sierra Nevada Range.

Recreation

Existent recreational activities for all residents, utilization of public parks and recreational sites, availability and proximity of community facilities.

- The county has six museums, one movie theatre and one amateur theatre company, three bowling alleys, Plumas-Eureka State Park (site of Johnsville Ski Bowl), a portion of Lassen National Volcanic Park, a portion of Lassen and Plumas National Forests, one federally designated wild and scenic river (the middle fork of the Feather River), three game refuges, one federally designated wilderness area (Buck's Lake), 50 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, seven golf courses, numerous lakes of varying sizes, horse back riding trails, 93 campgrounds and RV parks, and 53 motels and resorts.
- Plumas County encourages youth to participate in sports programs, including soccer, basketball, wrestling, skiing, football, tennis, ultimate disc, swimming, baseball and softball, and volleyball.
- Sports programs are also available to adults, including basketball, softball, bowling and volleyball leagues.
- Classes, camps and clinics are offered in the areas of music, tennis, soccer, football, basketball, baseball, and swim team.
- Throughout the year, there are a number of one and two day events, including invitational softball, basketball, and wrestling tournaments, swim meets (Quincy), 5 and 10 K runs, the Plumas Century Bike Ride, Gold Digger Days, parades, and fireworks events.

Youth

Youth development programs; foster care; court-related issues; education-related issues; physical fitness; and alcohol, drug and tobacco use prevention.

- School aged youth surveyed in Plumas County report statistics far below California state averages in the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

- The percent of youth who report smoking daily is very low: 1% of 7th graders and 6% of both 9th and 11th graders.
- The majority of surveyed youth report no alcohol or other drug use in the last 30 days: 74% of 7th graders, 60% of 9th graders, and 40% of 11th graders.
- Reported knowledge that frequent use of marijuana is extremely harmful was very high, as indicated by 82% of 7th graders, 65% of 9th graders, and 63% of 11th graders.
- All of these factors indicate that community and school based prevention programs in Plumas County are working.
- Programs addressing these issues are available in schools and throughout the community, including cessation, counseling, peer counseling, diversion programs, and many other types of assistance.

NOTE: The California Healthy Kids Survey was conducted with positive permission slips, resulting in 69% of 7th graders, 54% of 9th graders, and only 44% of 11th graders actually completing the survey.

I. Overview of Plumas Communities Vision 2020

Plumas Communities Vision 2020 is a broad-based collaborative process to develop a community-wide vision for improving the quality of life in Plumas County by 2020. It focuses on promoting a healthy physical and aesthetic environment, a vital economy, and a supportive social climate that can all accommodate the expected growth and change. This process started in 1992 with the three-day Feather River County Economic Diversification Conference. The community-driven collaborative effort represents diverse community groups who will develop a vision and strategic implementation plan for our county over the next two decades.

Funded by the County Board of Supervisors, the US Forest Service, and the Healthy Cities and Communities Project, in partnership with the City of Portola, the project is headed by Rita Scardaci, Director of Plumas County Health Services. Initial phases of the plan have involved a look at background data from local agencies, looking at duplication and ways to share information. In assessing existing data, members of Plumas 2020 have identified thirteen focus areas:

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Local artisans and art associations; cultural events and preservations; performances; museums and galleries.

Business, Economy, and Tourism

Employment rates, availability of vocational education and job training programs; chamber of commerce activities; income levels, numbers of businesses; property value; building permits and tourism rates.

Communication and Technology

Systems of sending and receiving messages, such as wire, telephone, cable television and wireless systems.

Community Organization

Collaboration and communication among organizations, levels of grassroots involvement and volunteerism.

Community Safety

Education and prevention for youth, citizen involvement, crime response capacity, homicide and suicide, family violence, emergency preparedness and weapon safety.

Education

Child care, local schools, college and job readiness, literacy programs, library holdings and use; parenting, social support and peer education.

Government

Local, state and federal bodies which initiate, implement, monitor and enforce various regulations and policies.

Health

The full spectrum of physical and mental health services which may include physical fitness, health education and prevention efforts; chronic diseases; mental health resources; emergency medical care and complementary therapy.

Housing/Community Physical Infrastructure/Sewers and Water/Transportation

The basic facilities and installations of a community. This may include: community water systems; community sewerage disposal systems; utilities such as energy supply; communications systems; services such as fire protection and water disposal; transportation facilities and services; and housing.

Land Use Planning and Development And Open Space

Land management, public support for the maintenance of open space.

Natural Resources and The Environment

The ecosystem and management and/or utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources supplied by nature. Physical conditions, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise and sometimes selected artifacts.

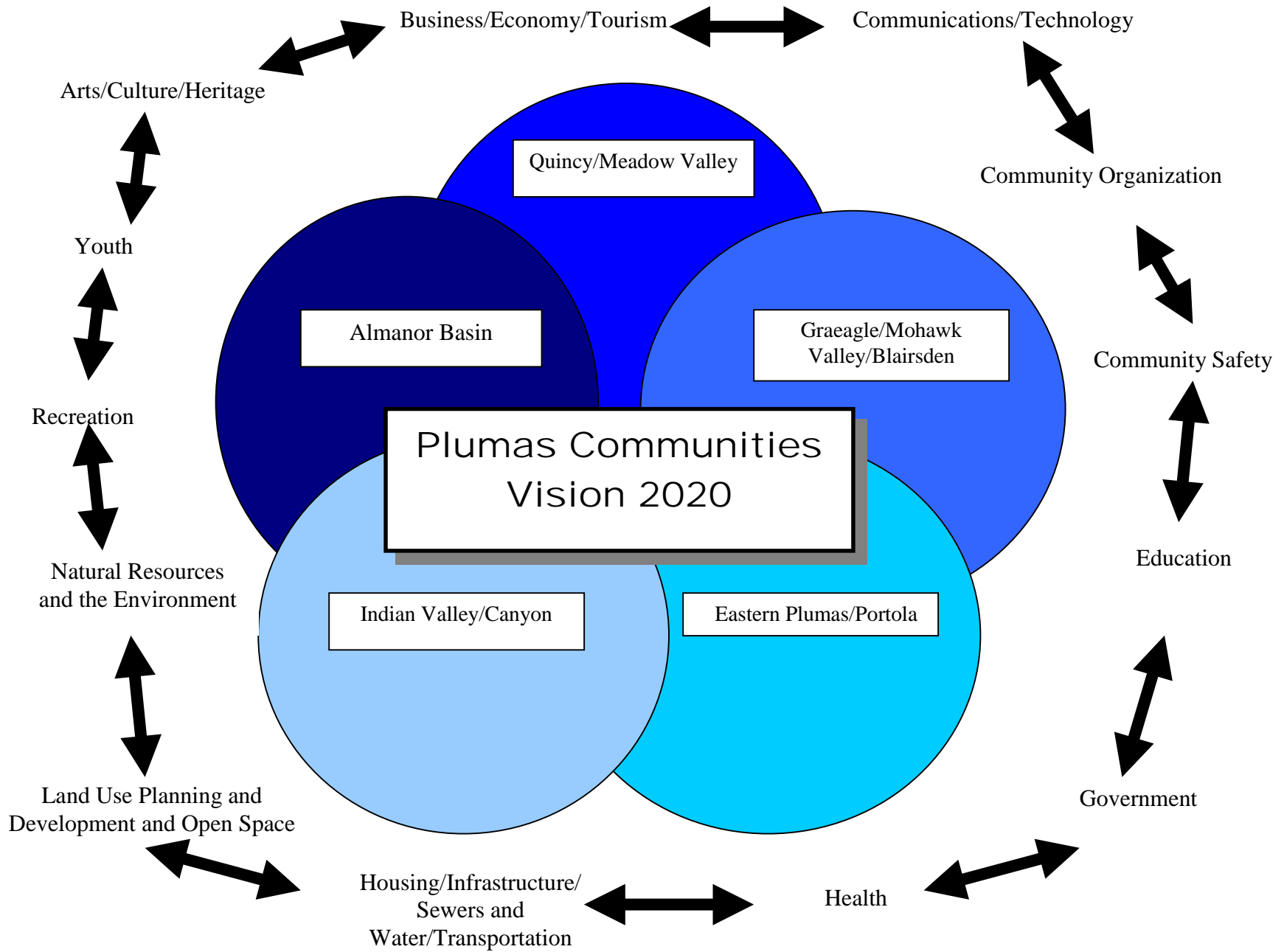
Recreation

Existent recreational activities for all residents, utilization of public parks and recreational sites, availability and proximity of community facilities.

Youth

Youth development programs; foster care; court-related issues; education-related issues; physical fitness; and alcohol, drug and tobacco use prevention.

This report is organized to reflect existing data concerning these thirteen areas and provides background information to community members in these areas.



II. Community Overview

II.A. Service Area

Plumas County is situated in the mountains of northeastern California, 150 miles northeast of Sacramento and 80 northwest of Reno, Nevada. It stretches over 2,618 square miles, making it 22nd in land area of the 58 counties in the state. It has elevations from 1,800 to 8,372 feet above sea level. Most of the land is pine forests (78%), and 60% are National Forest lands, while 70% of all land in the county is federally owned.

The county has five main communities: Chester/Lake Almanor, Greenville/Indian Valley, Portola/Eastern Plumas, Mohawk Valley, and Quincy, with a population density of 7.7 people per square mile. Portola, the only incorporated city since 1946, is governed by a City Manager form of government, with five elected City Council members, while the rest of the county is governed by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator. The population centers are evenly distributed across the county. Each area has its own separate identity and community. Centrally located, Quincy is an hour from Chester and forty-five minutes from Portola on two-lane mountain roadways.

The annual average rainfall in the county is 40 inches and the average annual snowfall is 38 inches. During the winter, black ice and “white-outs” from snow storms are not uncommon, although this varies among the population centers. Inclement weather, rock slides, accidents, and construction often cause travel delays.

II.B. Population Demographics

Plumas County is estimated to have a population of 20,739 in 2000, a 5.6% increase in the past decade, a gain of 1,000 people. It is 50th in population among the 58 counties in the state. The California Department of Finance projects that in the next decade the population will increase at a rate of 6.8% in a decade, and then slow down to a rate of 3.4% between 2010 and 2020. The county’s population will remain stable in terms of ethnicity, with a slight decrease of whites (from 91% in 1990 to 85% in 2020) and a doubling of the proportion of the Latino population, from 5% in 1990 to 10% in 2020, although the absolute number of Latinos will only show a gain of 1,500 people, as can be seen in Table 1 below. Tourists and part-time residents are not included.

Table 1: Population Projections by Ethnicity, 1990 – 2020 in Plumas County

Year	Total	White		Latino		Asian & Pacific		African-American		American Indian	
1990	19,739	18,008	91%	907	5%	112	1%	151	1%	561	3%
2000	20,852	18,693	90%	1,238	6%	129	1%	164	1%	628	3%
2010	22,261	19,404	87%	1,803	8%	144	1%	168	1%	742	3%
2020	28,531	24,251	85%	2,853	10%	285	1%	285	1%	1,141	4%

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, *City/County Population Estimates, with Annual Percent Change, January 1, 1999 and 2000*. Sacramento, California, May 2000. Plumas County General Plan, pp. 36-38. www.us.census.gov.

Quincy is the county seat, with a population of 6,500; Portola, the only incorporated city, has 2,300 residents; and Mohawk Valley, Chester and Greenville each have 2,000 - 4,000 residents. The Department of Finance estimates that Portola lost 93 residents (4.2%) from 1990 to 1999, while the rest of the county grew by 4.6%, as can be seen in Table 2 below.

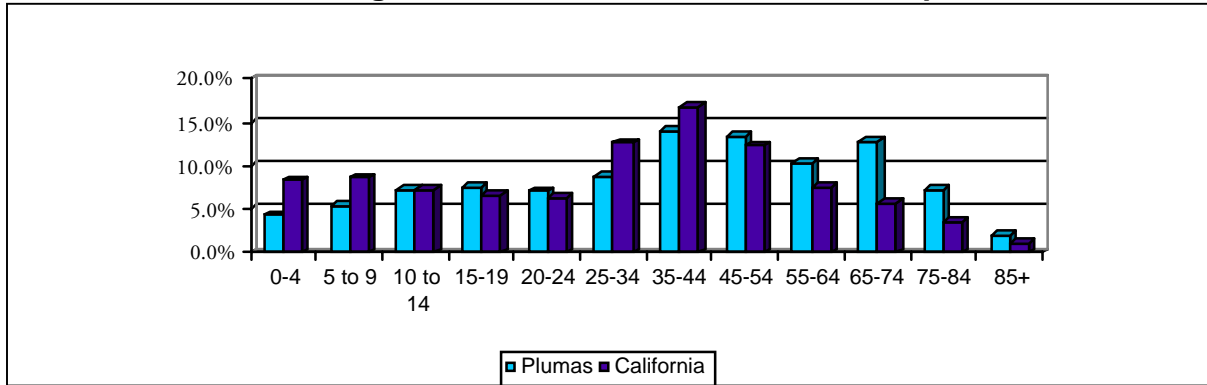
Table 2: City/County Population Estimates, 1990-2012, Selected Years

City/County	1990	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012	2020
Portola	2,167	2,190	2,130				3,485
Almanor	4,165	4,292	4,659	5,026	5,393	5,760	6,347
Canyon	219	219	220	220	221	221	222
Indian Valley	2,907	2,924	2,966	3,008	3,051	3,093	3,161
American Valley	6,289	6,357	6,526	6,695	6,864	7,033	7,303
Middle Fork	119	132	163	195	226	258	308
Mohawk	1,970	2,129	2,525	2,922	3,318	3,714	4,349
Sierra Valley	1,893	1,989	2,230	2,470	2,711	2,952	3,337
Last Chance	0	3	6	9	11	14	19
Other	30						
Total	19,739	20,235	21,425	20,545	21,795	23,045	28,531

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, *City/County Population Estimates, with Annual Percent Change, January 1, 1999 and 2000*. Sacramento, California, May 2000. Plumas County General Plan, pp. 36-38. www.us.census.gov.

As can be seen in Chart 1, Plumas County's population is older than the state as a whole, with a large population of retired people and part time residents. People 65 and older constitute 22% of the county's population, more than double the percentage in the state as a whole (10.6%). Meanwhile, the percentage of children 0-9 in the county (9.7%) is much smaller than the state as a whole (16.9%). There is a slightly larger group of young people between the ages of 15 and 19, a substantially smaller group of people in each age group between 25 and 44, and a larger percentage of people in every age group over 44. Over the next twenty years, the percentage of older people is likely to continue to grow. The lower percentage of people between 25 and 44 occurs as young adults leave the area to search of higher wages and more job opportunities.

Chart 1: Age Distribution – Percent of Total Population



State of California, Department of Finance, *County Population Projections with Age, Sex and Race/Ethnic Detail*. Sacramento, California, December 1998.

Income. Per capita income grew from \$19,700 in 1988 to \$21,300 in 1996, outpacing growth per capita for California. However, the income is still far below the state average. For those employed, the average income level is \$30,000 to \$32,000, 75% of the federal and state levels. Overall, per capita income was about 84% of state levels in 1996-98. (See Table 3.) Low wage service jobs increased from 22% to 31% of all jobs between 1972 and 1996. High wage jobs account for only 28% of all jobs, substantially less than the California level of over 34%. (Sierra Business Council.)

Table 3: Per Capita Income

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Plumas County	\$19,844	\$21,508	\$23,126	\$23,783
Percentage Change		8%	8%	3%
California		\$25,563	\$26,799	\$28,163
Percentage Change			5%	5%
Plumas as a Percent of California		84%	86%	84%

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Personal Income and Per Capita Income by County 1996 – 98, California*.

According to the 1990 census, 12% of the county and 19.6% of the 5,400 children under the age 18 lived below the poverty level, and 34.5% of children lived below 200% of poverty level. In 1995, 19.3% of children under 18 lived in poverty, whereas 23.2% of children under 5 did so, as can be seen in Table 4. (Children Now.)

Table 4: Poverty in Plumas County

	All	Children Under 18	Children Under 5
% in Poverty 1990	12%	19.6%	NA
% in Poverty 1995	NA	19.3%	23.2%
TANF 1998 - All		12.8%	18.7%
African American		33.3%	70.0%
Asian		2.9%	0.0%
Latino		7.6%	7.7%
Native American		17.0%	29.3%
White		13.0%	1.4%

Source: Children Now, *California County Data Book '99*.

As can be seen in Table 5, almost 13% of all children under 18 received Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) in 1998, while nearly 19% of children under 5 were beneficiaries of TANF. African American children fared worst of all ethnicities in terms of TANF participation in Plumas County: 33.3% of all African-American children and a full 70% of African-American children under 5 received TANF in 1998. (Children Now.)

- In 1997, 430 children, 84.3% of those eligible, received assistance under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program.
- In 1996, 432 adults were on welfare in the county, while the county had an annual unemployment rate of 11.9%.
- In 1998, 319 adults were on welfare, a 26% decline in two years.
- The basic poverty areas are in the towns. This continues to be borne out by CalWORKS cases, as can be seen in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Poverty (1990), CalWORKS (1998), Owner Occupied Housing (1990), and High School Graduates Rate for 25 and Older by Area

Area	% in Poverty (1990)	# of CALWORKS Participants	% Owner Occupied Housing	% 25 and Older with HS Diploma
Chester	12.7%	53	68%	80%
Quincy	11.3%	106	61%	84%
Portola	18.7%	80	76%	84%
Greenville	21.2%	73	69%	77%
Countywide	11.9%	319	NA	NA

Source: Plumas County Job Creation Report, Quincy Library Group Final Environmental Impact Statement.

More than half (58%) of children under 14 have working parents, 48% of children 0 – 5 have working parents, and 64% of children 6 – 13 have working parents. About half the children 0 – 5 are in care with someone outside the family, which 20% of children 6 – 13 are in care outside the family. (1999 California Child Care Portfolio.) In 1996, the last year for which data are available, 54% of child support cases had court payment orders.

The average amount of child support collected per month was \$150. (Children Now.) Child care is available for adults in training in all communities.

III. Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Local artisans and art associations; cultural events and preservations; performances; museums and galleries.

The Plumas County Arts Commission functions as a model partner in the California Arts Council's State Local Partnership Program and as the county arts planning and programming agency. It publishes a quarterly newsletter and calendar of arts and events taking place almost every day of the year. Arts Council income per capita from 1997 – 999 was \$8.40, compared to \$1.50 statewide. More than a third (37%) came from the state government, while 24% was earned income, 4% came from local government and 1% was from individual donations.

The county has six museums:

- Plumas County Museum in Quincy, displaying historical artifacts, Maidu basketry, period rooms, and a Steam Railroad display
- the Jim Beckwourth Museum, an 1805's log cabin trading post and "hotel
- Chester Museum, displaying historical photographs, Maidu basketry and artifacts, and the Butte Lake "Dinky"
- Indian Valley Museum, of the Mt. Jura Gem and Mineral Society
- Plumas Eureka State Park Museum, displaying mining, skiing, history and wildlife exhibits
- Portola Railroad Museum, displaying railroad history and photos and offering train rides.

Art displays are also on view throughout the county, at banks, galleries, government buildings and cafes.

Some examples of arts, culture and heritage events in the county include the following:

- Northern Sierra Indian Days, the county's annual celebration of traditional and contemporary Native American arts, marks its eleventh year in 2000, with demonstrations by Maidu basket weavers, dancing, and arts and crafts show
- Greenville will host its 38th annual Gold Digger Days, a two day festival with activities, music, food, contests and crafts.
- Chester Community Chorus and its affiliated groups which present three concert series annually, as well as presentations upon request within 150 miles.
- Indian Valley and Portola host summer family concert series.
- Almanor holds its 31st annual art show in 2000.
- Quincy Elementary School holds its third summer arts institute for teachers and artists.
- Quincy's Bookshelf holds a monthly book group.

During a number of community surveys, residents stated that they wanted more music and art events in their communities. Indian Valley's 1998-99 community surveys showed

that 53% of respondents wanted music or art in Greenville. The Healthy Start survey of 56 families at the Greenville and Taylorsville Elementary Schools showed almost all (93%) would like to see more art and music events in the community.

IV. Business, Economy, and Tourism

Employment rates, availability of vocational education and job training programs; chamber of commerce activities; income levels, numbers of businesses; property value; building permits and tourism rates.

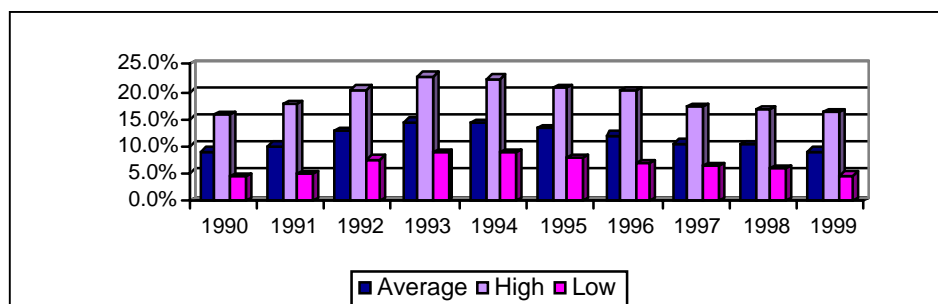
Economic development in the county is a cooperative effort of public and private sector organizations. The County Board of Supervisors supports tourism promotion and economic development through financial support of Plumas Corporation. The Plumas County Community Development Commission is the county's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) operator, providing some housing and infrastructure development throughout the county. The City of Portola is a key partner in this cooperative effort. The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. is a private nonprofit that administers the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) within Plumas, Lassen and Modoc counties.

IV.A. Employment

Plumas County has historically been dependent on the mining and timber industries. Lying at the northern end of the historic Sierra Nevada gold country, Plumas County maintained a large mining industry in the early part of the twentieth century. Mineral extraction industries still provide a small base of employment but represent only a fraction of their turn of the century size and are not a major factor in the local employment picture. The county also contains the headwaters of the Feather River as well as a complex of hydroelectric facilities. The Feather River provides most of the water to the State Water Project for transport to Southern California via the California Aqueduct.

Plumas County has the highest unemployment rate in the region, due in part to the recession in the timber industry. The problem is compounded by the lack of educational attainment: over 18% of the population over 25 years of age has not completed the twelfth grade. Chart 2 shows the wide range in unemployment in the county throughout the 1990s. Because there is so much seasonal work, unemployment can range from less than 10% to more than 20% in one year.

Chart 2: Unemployment in Plumas County, High, Low & Annual Average, 1990–99



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Force Statistics.

More than 20% of the work force is employed in the government and education sectors, approximately 10% is employed by the lumber manufacturing sector, and 20% is employed in service industries. The largest employers in Plumas County in descending order are Plumas Unified School District (400 employees); US Forest Service (359); Plumas County Government (333); Collins Pine Mill (332); Sierra Pacific Industries Mill (200) and Union Pacific Railroad (165). The biggest economic support in Plumas County other than government is the forest industry, even though it is shrinking, and tourism.

The timber industry has experienced declining employment because of labor saving technological changes and reduction in availability of raw materials from public and private timber lands. Recently, the Plumas National Forest has had to ensure that all timber sales meet guidelines designed to maintain the viability of the California Spotted Owl as well as fur bearing animals. Consequently, that, combined with Forest Service policy changes, has led to a reduction of output, resulting in substantially lower harvest levels and reductions in the Plumas National Forest labor force (40%). During the last three years, timber harvests have decreased 75%. (1994 Plumas County Economic Development Plan.) In addition, there are a number of animals and plants on the endangered and sensitive species, that may cause additional reductions in the federal timber sale programs. Proposed Roadless Area Review Transportation Policy, 219 Regulation changes and other administrative policy further threaten the harvest.

The level of civilian employment has grown from 7,030 in 1993 to 9,150 in 1998, according to the California Employment Development Department (EDD). This represents an employment growth rate (30%) that is slightly higher than the population growth rate (24%). The primary growth sectors have been service producing (45% increase). Key components of these increases have been wholesale trade (60 to 190 employees); retail trade (850 to 1,350 employees); and other services (770 to 910 employees from 1992 to 1997). A good portion of this increase has been in the tourism industry. Government employment has also increased during the fifteen year period (33% increase from 1,650 to 2,340). Declines in federal employment have been more than offset by increases in employment by various local governments. The goods producing sector (primarily lumber mills) declined overall from 1,300 in 1983 to 880 in 1997. Regionally job growth was projected to be led by correctional officers (57%) between 1993 and 2000. (EDD Report.) This type of employment was projected to be followed by retail and tourism-related occupations, such as retail sales (25%); cashiers (29%), food prep workers (20%), wait staff (20%), stock clerks (40%), and cooks (25%). Mechanics (32%) and truck drivers (19%) were also expected to experience large gains. A few other classifications, such as instructional aides and office clerks, were also predicted to increase. Table 6 below shows the shows the rise in employment in the public sector, offset by a similar decrease in the manufacturing sector.

Table 6: Employment by Sector

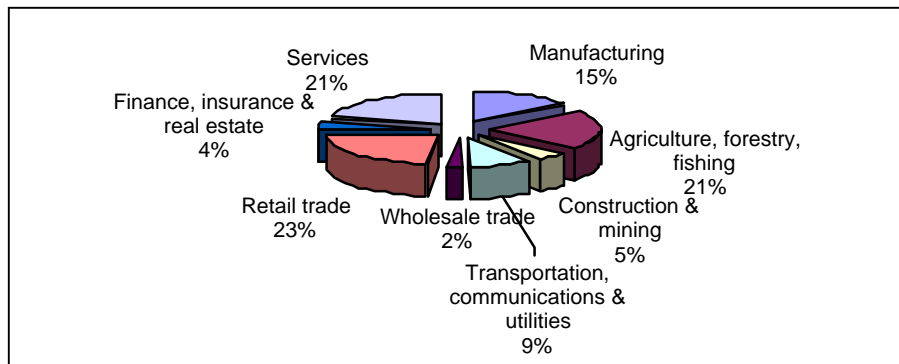
Sector	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Public	2,150	2,090	2,060	2,010	2,000	2,020	2,220	2,280	2,260
Manufacturing	980	850	680	750	740	790	820	880	

Source: Quincy Library Group, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix S.

Industry Projections Information – Plumas County 1995 – 2002, issued by EDD painted a somewhat different picture for Plumas County alone. This 1997 report concurred with the predicted regional growth sectors such as other services, restaurants, and food stores, but also predicted continued growth in wholesale trade and continued recovery in manufacturing. This study predicted a total job growth of 335 in Plumas County between 1997 and 2002. The industries predicted to increase during the period in order of increase are manufacturing, food stores, other services, health services, wholesale trade, local government, communications/public utilities, and restaurants

Chart 3 shows employment by type within the private sector in 1998. Retail trade (23%) and renewable land uses (21%) had almost half of all employment.

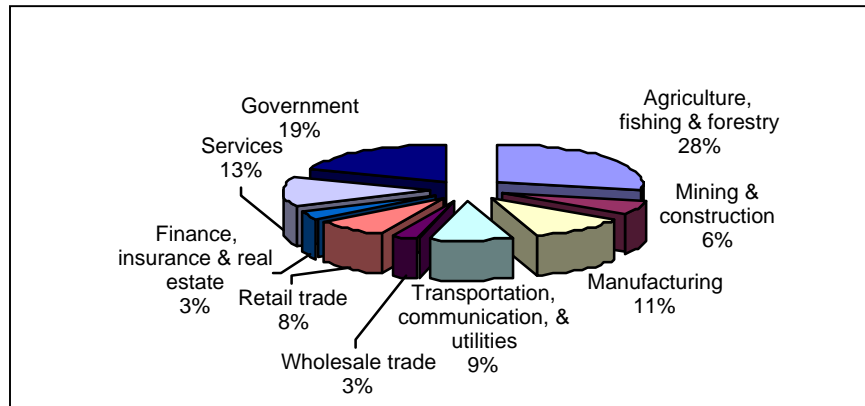
Chart 3: Employment in Private Sector, 1998, by Percent



Source: Quincy Library Group, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix S.

When employment by industry is compared to total income by industry in Chart 4, it is interesting to note that while retail trade employees are 23% of private sector workers, it has only 8% of all income.

Chart 4: Total Income by Industry, 1996, by Percent



Source: Quincy Library Group, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix S.

The quality of the workforce in Plumas County is dependent on the education and experience of the individual workers as well as the collaboration and coordination efforts between the job-training providers, economic development agencies and employers. In acknowledgement of that, Plumas County has a rich collaboration of partners in workforce development. The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) is regional nonprofit collaborative providing universal access to a comprehensive array of workforce development services and fostering the enhancement of quality-of-life throughout the county. It is at the core of activity to provide job training and career assessment services to economically disadvantaged people, re-entry adults and workers affected by business closures or downsizing.

AFWD is co-located with partner agencies at the Employment & Training Center, Plumas' One-Stop Center. The center is a collaboration of employment and training programs that are co-located in one location or electronically linked. Emphasis is on providing the customers a mix of services to meet Plumas County workforce needs of job seekers and businesses. Plumas partner agencies include, but are not limited to Employment Development Department, CalWORKS, Feather River College, Department of Mental Health, Plumas Rural Services, Plumas Unified School District and Plumas Office of Education, Computers in Our Future, and Green Thumb. AFWD also provides community coordination services with a focus on increased collaboration between economic development and workforce development programs.

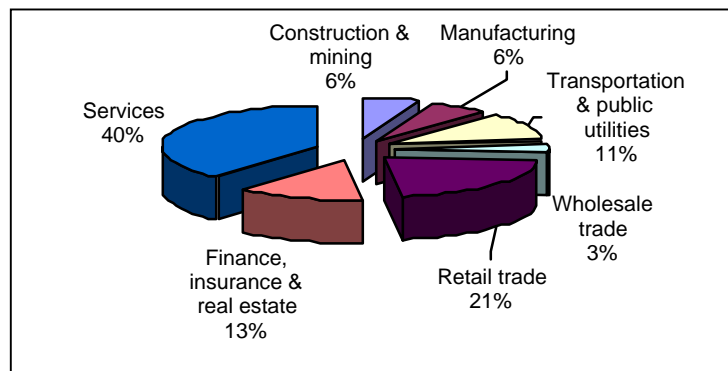
IV.B. Business and Sales

Business. The number of companies has increased by 53% over the past twenty years. There are four Chambers of Commerce representing Chester/Lake Almanor, Indian Valley/Greenville, Eastern Plumas/Portola, and Quincy. The local Chambers work cooperatively with the Plumas Corporation and the Visitors Bureau focusing their activities on five major areas: tourism promotion, retail promotion, business retention, expansion and attraction, informational services and promoting community activities and services. Each of the Chambers also works closely with the AFWD Small Business

Development Center and the EDD in efforts to provide labor market information and business assistance services to members.

Sales. The transportation and services industry sectors are strong, while the wholesale trade and construction industry sectors are relatively weaker, as can be seen in Chart 5. The economy of the area is typical of a consumer-based economy. About 42% of all sales are subject to state sales tax, whereas only about 11% of the state's sales are subject. Sales tax is applied to goods considered non-essential consumer goods. Plumas County had \$157,297 in 1997, an increase of 18% since 1990.

Chart 5: Sales by Industry Sector, Percent of Total Sales, 1998



Source: QLG Appendix S.

The National Forests have a substantial impact on regional sales figures. They bring 6.1 million visitor days to Plumas National Forest, which is popular for camping, summer sports, fishing, and nature study. Nearly all visitors who come to the National Forests in the region spend money.

Agriculture and Forestry. The Department of Agriculture for Plumas and Sierra counties shows a minor increase in the value of agricultural production between 1997 and 1998 in aggregate, with variations across crops, as can be seen in Table 7. The total value of all livestock, field crops and miscellaneous crops was \$15,400,275, up from \$15,392,530 in 1997. Livestock value increased slightly, due entirely to increased price, as the number of head of cattle fell from 1997 to 1998. The amount of acreage devoted to field crops dropped 1,000 from 164,350 acres to 163,350 in 1998. The value of grain hay fell dramatically from \$216,000 to \$108,000, due both to a drop in price and in production. The value of timber products dropped 29%, as the timber harvest dropped by 31%.

Table 7: Value of Agricultural Products, 1997 - 98

	1998	1997	Percent Change
Cattle and Calves	\$ 9,549,475	\$ 9,453,760	1%
Other Livestock	\$ 120,000	\$ 118,000	2%
Total Livestock	\$ 9,669,475	\$ 9,571,760	1%
Field Crops			
Alfalfa Hay	\$ 1,254,000	\$ 1,686,300	-26%
Meadow Hay	\$ 1,179,000	\$ 913,770	29%
Grain Hay	\$ 108,000	\$ 216,000	-50%
Irrigated Pasture	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,750,000	-3%
Meadow Pasture	\$ 765,000	\$ 663,000	15%
Range Pasture	\$ 264,800	\$ 231,700	14%
Total Field Crops	\$ 5,270,800	\$ 5,460,770	-3%
Miscellaneous Crops	\$ 460,000	\$ 360,000	28%
Total Crops	\$ 5,730,800	\$ 5,820,770	-2%
Grand Total	\$ 15,400,275	\$ 15,392,530	0%
Timber			
Gross Timber Harvest	\$ 32,528,441	\$ 46,097,875	-29%
Miscellaneous Timber Products	\$ 1,212,474	NA	NA
Total Timber Products	\$ 32,528,441	\$ 47,310,349	-31%

Source: Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture, 1998 Annual Crop and Livestock Report.

IV.C. Tourism

Because tourism is such an important aspect of economic activity and the environment within the county, Plumas Corporation has sponsored a number of studies and plans to enhance its effects. Plumas County is teeming with fish and game and recreational opportunities. The county draws a large economic benefit from tourists drawn to these natural attractions. According to the Tourist Action Plan of 1995, a total of \$117,545,000 was spent on tourism in the county in 1992, including a payroll of \$18.1 million, employing 1,800 people, and providing tax receipts of \$1.47 million. According to the Strategic Marketing Plan for Northern California Tourism and Outdoor Recreation: A Sourcebook for Tourism and Recreation Planners, the total spent on tourism increased in 1993 to \$123,396,000 (a 5% increase), with a payroll of \$19.2 million (6% increase), employing 1,957 people (9% increase). Vacation homes were the type of accommodation which had the largest impact on the economy, accounting for one-third of all jobs resulting from tourism. The vacation residents spend more than visitors staying in hotels, motels, bed and breakfast inns, and private campgrounds combined. Ground transportation accounts for the single largest expenditure, followed by eating/drinking establishments, retail outlets, and accommodations.

The Plumas County Visitor's Bureau of Plumas Corporation sponsored a ***County of Plumas Tourist Marketing Plan*** in 1996. This report, after reviewing previous reports,

analyzing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and describing the partners, named goals. These include:

1. Strengthen tourism partnerships by identifying common goals and encouraging more communication, cooperation, and coordination.
2. Encourage a climate of hospitality.
3. Continuously improve the tourism product, including infrastructure, facilities, and attractions. Encourage local ownership and management; discourage economic leakage from the county and the region.
4. Maximize the effectiveness of both financial and human resources through targeted marketing strategies.
5. Minimize the extremes of the seasonal cycles of the tourism industry in Plumas County.
6. Diversify the economy, avoid dependence on a single industry.

The 1995 ***Tourism Action Plan for Portola*** developed strategies with six objectives for Community Revitalization, the Railroad Museum, River Development, and Regional Tourism.

Community Revitalization:

Objective 1: Foster a sense of community in which there is a healthy interaction among all segments and a recognition of the interdependency that exists at all levels in Portola and the surrounding region.

Objective 2: Diversify the economy of Portola.

Objective 3: Upgrade Old Town (south of Gulling St. Bridge)

Railroad Museum

Objective 4: Begin the process of transitioning from an all-volunteer museum operation to an organization that can meet the growing demands commensurate with its international reputation.

River Development

Objective 5: Respectfully integrate the Middle Fork into the community.

Regional Tourism

Objective 6: Increase the impact of tourism in Portola by building upon the community's strength.

The ***Master Plan of the Portola Railroad Museum***, developed in October 1999, sponsored by the City of Portola, Plumas Corporation and the US Forest Service, links plans for the physical design of the Museum with funding and action strategies. The Railroad Museum is a star attraction for tourists visiting Plumas County and the City of Portola. The plan preserves and enhances its importance as a tourist attraction, while realizing untapped potential. The study contains an analysis of the existing conditions at the Museum, the organization and strategic weaknesses of the Feather River Rail Society, with a view to improving them; the site is evaluated in terms of potential synergy with the surrounding community; a statement of the current needs and future aspirations is presented in priority order; and a master plan for the physical

development, including an overview of the eventual build-out of the site, a road map for getting there, and a schedule for phasing in development. The plan integrates three major planning priorities: safety and functionality, aesthetics, and enrichment of the visitor experience. A primary concern, echoed in other reports, is to take the step to move from a voluntary staff to a professional museum, and the accompanying costs and investments required to achieve that.

Greenville produced *Visions of the Historic Greenville Railroad Depot* in November 1999 using the Portola Railroad Museum Master Plan. The citizens of Greenville have expressed a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment to restoring the Depot, returning it to productive use after remaining vacant for a number of years. Two community meetings were held in 1999, producing a large range of ideas for uses. These ranged from commercial (restaurant, bar, theatre, fitness center, RV park, equestrian center, depot for tourist train) to community uses (community center, theatre, wedding chapel, fine arts center, art co-op, craft center, youth hostel, youth center, museum, farmer's market, agency offices). The report recommends that the community grow into the building on an incremental basis, as more funding becomes available for reconstruction over time. The overall tenets for phasing the work are to protect the historic portions of the building, render the building useful in the most efficient and quickest means possible, and work realistically within funding and volunteer time limitations.

IV.D. Potential Development

As a result of the county's lower cost of living, unskilled and skilled labor costs make Plumas County a particularly competitive place to locate a business, as does the cost of land and buildings. Transportation costs for items which do not use local natural resources make it prohibitively expensive for companies which produce low value products. On the other hand, small package delivery services are particularly cost effective and are a competitive advantage for businesses which rely on such a service. (1994 Economic Development Plan.)

Plumas Corporation conducted a *Business Retention and Expansion Survey* in 1996. The needs most often identified by those businesses were access to capital, business counseling, improved educational system, streamlined local government, improved quality of labor force, and physical clean-up of area.

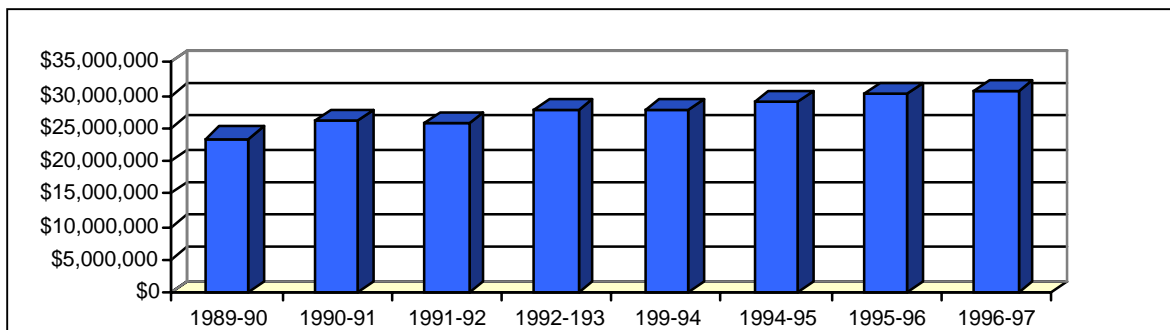
Plumas Corporation also sponsored a *Fiber Optics Feasibility Study* in 1996, to explore the best options for improving fiber optic telecommunication technology in the county, and in so doing, improve the ability to attract new business to the area. The focus was on data communications and job creation. The consultants proposed a phased fourteen step implementation plan starting with the formation of an organized group to pursue improved communications capabilities, chartered to develop a specific plan for the capabilities needed and targets for economic opportunity. The other basic recommendation was to improve the existing system, at a relatively small cost, rather than invest resources without a realistic rate of return.

Plumas Corporation sponsored an **Ethanol Feasibility Study** in 1997, which studied critical issues related to how biomass resources in the forests are used and managed. The Quincy Library Group proposed a plan to strategically thin the forests to reduce fire danger, improve forest health, and restore ecosystem balance. The feasibility study proposed converting biomass to fuel ethanol and cogenerated electricity. A modest sized forest biomass to ethanol demonstration plant would create at least 28 direct jobs at the plant if it is co-located with an existing biomass electricity energy plant. Additional jobs would be created if a biomass electric energy plant was built along with the ethanol manufacturing facility. The production of forest biomass feedstock for this plant would require employment of 63-100 additional employees to gather, process, and transport the cellulose material to the plant. These 91-128 direct jobs would result in an additional 93-122 indirect or multiplier jobs, thus generating between 184-250 total jobs.

IV.E. Public Finance (County Revenues and Expenditures)

Because federal legislation requires that 25% of all forest receipts from public lands be equally divided between roads and schools in the county in which they are generated, timber revenues strongly affect the county budget. The state also supplements county budgets by providing timber yield tax revenue, collected from the harvest of timber on private lands. The region is highly dependent on timber yield and forest reserve revenues, which supply about 5% of the revenues. Transient occupancy tax plays a larger role on the revenues of the region than in the state. As can be seen from the three charts below, total public revenues rose steadily between 1989 – 1997, although timber revenues fluctuated, and started to drop in 1994. However, transient occupancy tax rose until 1996-97, more than enough to make up for the difference. Charts 7 and 8 show public revenue between 1989 and 1997. While total revenue rose consistently, the proportion that came from forest reserve revenues dropped considerably.

Chart 6: Total Revenue, 1989 – 1997

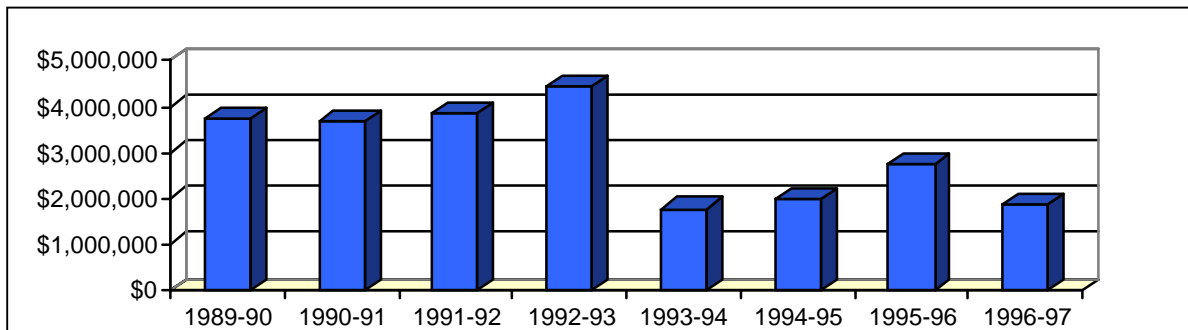


Source: QLG, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix S.

Forest reserve revenue dropped by almost 50% between 1989 and 1997, from \$3,75,449 to 1,865,420. This is a smaller decline than in the region as a whole, which

lost about 57% of its revenues, but a larger decline than the state as a whole, which lost about 46%.

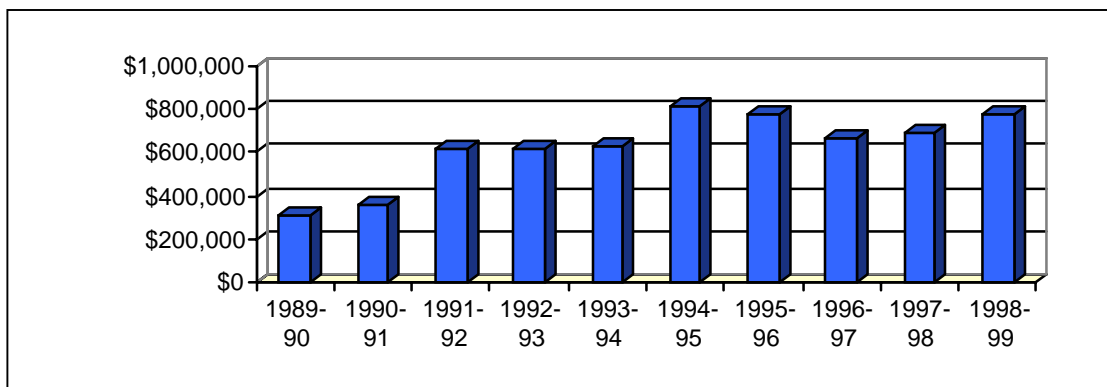
Chart 7: Forest Reserve Revenues, 1989 - 97



Source: QLG, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix S.

Transient Occupancy Tax Revenue. The transient occupancy tax is a levy generated by overnight occupancy income such as hotel and campground fees. Transient occupancy tax is controlled exclusively by the county, with no state requirements or mandates. This tax is a general indicator of tourism activity levels. In Plumas County, the revenue rose from \$316,557 in 1989-90 to \$664,433 in 1996-97. However, the tax income was higher in the early 1990s, as can be seen in Chart 9, showing a possible decline in tourist activity. In 1994-95, tax was imposed on campgrounds, which explains the increase.

Chart 8: Transient Occupancy Revenues, 1989 –97



Source: QLG, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix S.

Public Expenditures. Health and sanitation expenditures include public health, medical care, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse services, and environmental health costs. Fire and police expenditures have increased faster in the region than in the state. Between 1989 and 1997, public health expenditures increased from \$1,885,000 to \$3,936,000, an increase of 109%, about 10% larger increase than the state as a whole. Public assistance expenditures fluctuated somewhat between 1989 and 1997, although

never more than 5%. Over the course of those eight years, it started and ended in almost exactly the same place: \$5,7 million.

Public road maintenance is a problem for most rural areas. Even with 50% of revenue from timber receipts mandated to go to public roadways, rural areas can barely maintain their roads. Thus, in the 1990s, Plumas County spent all of its road funds on maintenance, although these funds can legitimately be spent on amenities such as public transportation, bikeways, and other alternative transportation forms. (QLG.) This insufficiency of road funding propels the county into a continuing search for additional revenue sources. The size and reliance on its natural resources requires the county to allocate additional financial resources to its roadways. Between 1990 and 1998, road expenditures ranged from 16 to 21% of the county budget, more than five times the average for the state.

V. Communication and Technology

Systems of sending and receiving messages, such as wire, telephone, cable television and wireless systems.

Computers in Our Future (CIOF), an active community collaborative, has established computer centers in each of the four geographic areas of the county – Chester, Greenville, Quincy, and Portola. Funded by the California Wellness Foundation and administered by the Plumas County Public Health Agency, the program has provided open access and training to more than 2,6 participants since January 1998. A quarter of 14 – 23 year olds in the county have used the centers which are open at all sites in the afternoons, Monday through Friday. The Healthy Plumas Online Project extends access to senior nutrition centers, public housing, and family resource centers.

CIOF is a springboard for technology-related projects, including:

- A community-based health web-site for access to health care resources, health care education, prevention and intervention;
- Computers and Internet connectivity for Senior Nutrition Sites, public housing, and family resource centers.
- Coordination and dialogue among service organizations, agencies, community college, school district and businesses on community technology and infrastructure needs.
- Partnering with school sites to conduct basic computer training and special week-end workshops, and
- A web site for special needs individuals, families, and providers and adaptive computer equipment, specialized software and training.

Plumas County children have extremely high access to computers in the classroom compared to California (6 students per computer in the county compared to 10 in the state), with 32 classrooms wired for internet access. Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative provides internet access to local residents.

As described earlier, Plumas Corporation sponsored a Fiber Optics Feasibility Study in 1996, to explore the best options for improving fiber optic telecommunication technology in the county, and in so doing, improve the ability to attract new business to the area.

Telephone and Cable Television. Telephone service is available from one of two providers: Pacific Bell, which serves Quincy and the eastern part of the county, and Citizens Utilities, which provides service in northern Plumas County. A transcontinental fiber optics transmission line was completed through Plumas County in 1989. The line, owned by US Sprint, runs along the right of way for the Union Pacific Railroad mainline. In 1994, television reception was available in Plumas County either by satellite or through one of three cable companies: Feather River Cable, serving central and eastern Plumas; Quincy Community TV, serving Quincy and East Quincy; and Jones Spacelink, serving northern Plumas County.

VI. Community Organizations

Collaboration and communication among organizations, levels of grassroots involvement and volunteerism.

This section describes existing community collaboratives and results of community surveys conducted in the past few years.

Of note in terms of community involvement is the rate of voter participation: in the general elections of 1998, 55% of the registered voters cast ballots in Plumas County, compared to 41% in California. However, 69% of Sierra County registered voters voted in 1998.

VI.A. Community Collaboratives

The AmeriCorps Academic Mentoring Program was designed to increase the mentees' academic skills and to provide role models and discussions about life in the "Big City," in an effort to increase the number of Plumas County college-bound youth. In 1998-99, 170 youth participated, up from 137 the year before. The program decreased the number of hours a mentor spends with each youth in order to reach more youth.

Computers in Our Future, another active collaborative, has established computer centers throughout the county, insuring that every resident has access to computers and the Internet. As discussed earlier, CIOF has established computer centers in each of the four geographic areas of the county – Chester, Greenville, Quincy, and Portola.

The **Feather River Coordinated Resource Management (CRM)** group encourages local initiative and participation in resource management on public and private land. There are currently about 20 different representatives of local, state, and federal government agencies, industry, and private landowners who meet to practice land management on a local basic.

Feather River Country sponsored a three-day conference entitled Feather River Country: Economic Diversification and Our Quality of Life at Feather River Community College in Quincy. The outcome of this conference was the foundation for an action plan. This project will finish that process and produce the action plan. The conference was also sponsored by the college, the Board of Supervisors, Plumas County Community Development Commission, Plumas County Superintendent of Schools, Plumas Corporation, Plumas Job Training Center, and Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forests.

Plumas Corporation is a non-profit corporation whose goal is to enhance the economic stability of the county. It has funded a number of studies for potential growth in the county.

Plumas Children's Network (PCN) was established in 1994 as a community collaborative, operating in conjunction with the Department of Health Services. It conducts regular community assessments, and acts to implement their recommendations.

Four **Community Resource Centers** were opened in 1997, as part of the strategy of the Children's Network. They are the following:

- Almanor Basin Community Resource Center, in Chester;
- Plumas Children's Network of Greater Indian Valley, in Greenville;
- Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center, in Quincy; and
- Healthy Start, in Portola.

They share the common goal of building community capacity. They are open days and evenings, creating community jobs. Common activities among the centers are information and referral, access to locally delivered services, family and individual advocacy, workshops, counseling, and peer counseling. Between July 1998 and June 1999, there were 67 additional activities which were spin-offs made possible through further collaboration and development of the centers. There include meeting spaces for clubs and governing boards and other local activities; computer advocacy and access; job and employment workshops and training programs which served 407 people; a broad range of family development activities; health and family services and health education; and recreational and educational programs. Plumas County community residents volunteered at least 8,300 hours of time to the four resource centers.

Plumas County Children and Families Commission is the independent commission established as a result of Proposition 10, The Children and Families First Initiative in November 1998. The monies collected from a surtax on the sale of tobacco products are to be used to fund programs that promote early childhood development, from prenatal to five. Programs are funded at the county level to best meet local needs as determined by each community. The Plumas County Children and Families Commission began a detailed planning process in November 1999, which included infrastructure development to be able to successfully execute programming, planning and implementation; research to identify documented community needs and assets;

community outreach to share information about the commission's purpose and to solicit input from community members; and strategic plan development, to construct a blueprint for program and service delivery in both the short and long term. The Commission analyzed much of the same data covered in the Health Indicators section of this report, as well as soliciting community input on needs and assets for family support, health and well-being, and early childhood education.

Plumas Rural Services (PRS) provides a range of services, including employment services for physically, mentally, and developmentally disabled job seekers. Its children's services division provides support services for employed parents including child care referrals and subsidized child care payments for qualifying parents.

The **Quincy Library Group (QLG)** is a high profile example of an effective collaboration that has enhanced community capacity. It started in 1992 as a loose knit collaboration of timber industry representatives, environmentalists, politicians, and US Forest Service representatives. The group hoped to temporarily reinstate some of the forest and timber-based economic activities that had been severely cut back over a number of years, and which had significantly affected the economy of this natural resource dependent community. Their efforts resulted in the passage of the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act in 1998.

Other: Job Creation Activities include: business counseling through Sierra College's Small Business Development Center, a county Revolving Loan Fund; seasonal job fair through the Employment Training Committee (ETC), initiation of a business attraction program to help attract new businesses and expand existing businesses.

VI.B. Community Surveys and Meetings

Plumas Children's Network community assessments revealed major issues that adversely affect health: limited economic resources; the need for low cost organized recreational activities; and limited access or availability of special health care services.

Indian Valley conducted four community surveys in 1998-99. One asked about the interest in establishing a community center or resource center in the community. Of the 193 returned surveys, 183 (95%) stated that they would like a community center. Almost half wanted a combination center: community, resource (information only), and teen center. Of the responses, 75% wanted teen activities, 53% wanted music or art, 49% wanted job training and computer classes, 45% wanted summer recreation and cooking classes. The overwhelming majority (87%) wanted to locate it in Greenville.

The Healthy Start program conducted a survey of 56 families at the Greenville and Taylorsville Elementary Schools. Respondents wanted the following programs: recreation (70%), afterschool programs (68%), preschools (30%), and personal hygiene, health screen, and nutrition programs (12% each). Almost all (93%) would like to see more art and music events in the community. Most (73%) children did not have a need for after school care, and few families (84%) were kept from events because of

transportation issues. Many (62%) felt that the community needs an additional preschool. When asked about the top two concerns, most felt that basic needs were primary, followed by youth development, family functioning, child welfare concerns, and health issues.

The Indian Valley Pool Project received 63 completed surveys. Most (82%) said they would be willing to support funding the pool, and more than half would be willing to donate labor. Work is in progress for the pool restoration with fundraising, a business plan and construction underway.

The Plumas Children's Network conducted another Healthy Start planning survey in Indian Valley, for which they received 29 responses. Most of the respondents (58%) had children in public schools. One quarter said they did not have transportation at all times. A large percentage did not have health insurance (28%). About a quarter were not aware of Healthy Families insurance. Most use Indian Valley Medical facilities. All would like a community resource center in the community, preferably located in Greenville. The three most popular uses for it were job training, teen center, and computer classes.

A three day conference focusing on Feather River economic diversification and quality of life was held in Quincy on May, 1992. It was seen as important to preserve values, identify issues and constraints to preserve prosperity, and develop specific action plans. Recommendations included improving quality of and access to information; fostering communication and cooperation for resource management; and economic development. The group wanted to involve local communities in crafting a vision. The basic steps were to include selecting a pilot community for economic diversification, state incentives for new markets, developing more economic information about tourism and recreation, and identifying funding for rural infrastructure. The importance of education in creating a competitive work force in a worldwide economy was stressed. The role of the Plumas Corporation was described, and a review of the numerous studies and the real-life outcomes was shown (showing that recommendations of these studies are implemented on a regular basis). Action plans were developed for attracting new businesses; start-up and incubation of new businesses; off-season recreation opportunities; institutionalizing tourism promotions; assistance to ongoing businesses; and timber/value-added secondary wood processing and manufacturing.

Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, a congressionally funded project, assessed the health of the ecological and human communities across the Sierra Nevada region. As part of SNEP's social assessment, Forest Community Research and the Plumas Children's Network piloted an assessment of the socio-economic well-being and the community capacity of the communities in the county.

La Porte developed a community action plan in 1999 and 2000 with input from the community, analyzing the community's strengths, weaknesses as well as the opportunities and threats facing it, and selected three key needs to fill. These needs are 1) a tourism and marketing plan, 2) a gas station and grocery store, and 3) medical and law enforcement services. The action plan addressed the tourism and marketing plan

and the need for a gas station and grocery store. They next developed a number of committees to address data needs, internal and external promotion, safety and emergency response to continue their work.

VII. Community Safety

Education and prevention for youth, citizen involvement, crime response capacity, homicide and suicide, family violence, emergency preparedness and weapon safety.

VII.A. Adult Crime

Crime statistics can provide a useful measure of household and community health, often serving as indicators of social pathology and dysfunction. According to California Criminal Justice Statistics Center data, the crime rate in Plumas County, like the crime rate nationally and statewide, is decreasing. The state FBI crime rate per 100,000 dropped from 6,740 to 3,750 from 1990 – 1999, a decrease of 44%. The county rate dropped from 4,938 to 1,475 during the same period, a decrease of 70%. Table 8 shows data on the number of calls received by the Plumas County Sheriff's Office for selected communities. It is important to note that the data on the number of calls are not equivalent to actual arrests or convictions, as there can be multiple calls for the same crime.

Among the five different areas, Greenville had the highest number of calls related to violent crimes, followed by Quincy. Quincy had the highest number of calls for nonviolent crimes, as well as other calls, domestic violence and drunk driving. When the statistic is adjusted for per capita calls, there is a somewhat different picture. Greenville has almost double the rate of violent crime as Chester, and almost three times the rate of Quincy, although the number of calls is only 15% higher. Quincy has only a slightly higher rate of nonviolent crime as compared to Greenville, with more than double the calls. Chester has a substantially higher rate of other calls, while trailing behind Quincy in number of calls. Chester also leads in per capita domestic violence and drunk driving, although Quincy has more calls.

Plumas County has lower mortality rates than the state for homicide deaths. The suicide rate however averaged nearly twice the California average between 1989 and 1997. However, both of these rates are unreliable due to the small number of occurrences.

VII.B. Domestic Violence

There were 100 domestic violence related calls for assistance in the adult population in 1999, according to the California Office of the Attorney General. The rate per 1,000 fell from 7.36 to 6.53 between 1995-1999, while the national rate dropped from 9.8 to 7.5, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The state rate was 7.8 in 1999. No firearms were involved in the county, and most involved physical violence, without an

external weapon. The Plumas County Crisis Intervention and Resource reports the crisis line in 1997-98 received 144 calls related to domestic violence: 16 in Portola; 66 in Quincy; 16 in Chester; 17 in Greenville; and 29 outside the county. According to these calls, 145 children were affected by domestic violence. The domestic violence shelter served 36 women and 45 children in 1999-2000. The Health Department reports that 16% of pregnancy test clients have been involved in domestic violence.

Table 8: Calls for Crime in Plumas County, by Area, Total Number of Calls and Calls Per Capita, by Crime

Community	Violent Crimes		Non-violent Crime		Other		Domestic Violence		Drunk Driving	
	#	Per 100	#	Per 100	#	Per 100	#	Per 100	#	Per 100
Chester	186	8.8	472	22.3	1,401	66.2	26	1.2	32	1.5
Portola	136	4.7	405	14.1	821	28.6	21	0.7	14	0.5
Greenville	469	16.1	415	14.3	917	31.5	21	0.7	36	1.2
Portola Area	92	NA	263	NA	789	NA	14	NA	4	NA
Quincy	408	6.0	1,097	16.0	2,512	36.6	45	0.7	41	0.6

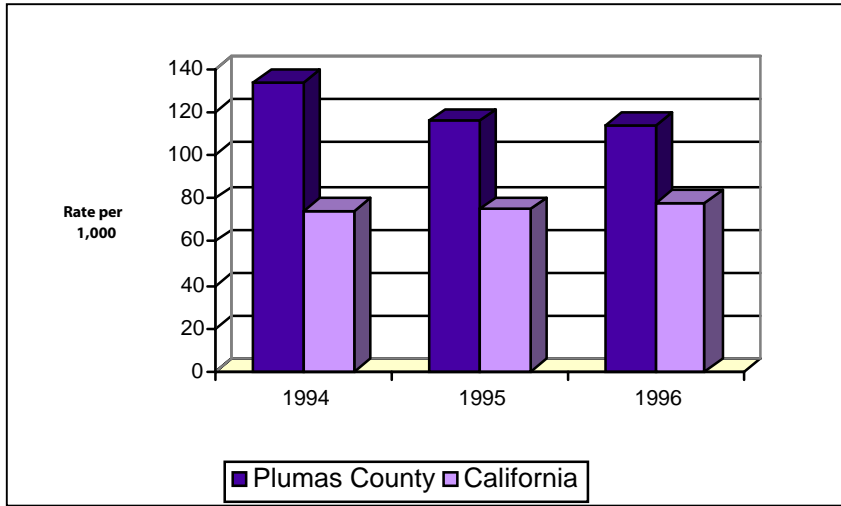
Source: Quincy Library Group, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix S.

VII.C. Child Safety

Indicators of children’s safety in the home include child abuse and foster care rates. Chart 12 below shows the number of child abuse and neglect reports in 1995 and 1996. None were available for 1997. Plumas ranked 41st of the state’s 58 counties in the number of reports per capita, showing a much higher, though falling, rate in the county.

Child abuse is found in families across the social spectrum. Substance abuse is often a factor. Financial stress and poverty can also trigger abuse. Younger children are more likely to be victims of abuse. Child abuse results in higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, problems in school, and other behavioral problems in later life. In addition, children who witness domestic violence often exhibit the same symptoms as those who are directly abused and are more likely to be involved in violent relationships as teens and adults. The Plumas County Children and Families Commission noted in its strategic plan that the number of reports of child abuse and neglect appears to be too high for the population. However, it is important to note that we don’t know the degree to which proper reporting occurs in each community, nor do we know how many of the referrals for investigation are discharged as unsubstantiated or inconclusive. These two issues make direct comparisons between communities and counties difficult.

Chart 9: Plumas County and California: Comparison of Rate of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports, 1994-96



Source: Children Now. *California County Data Book '99*.

Child abuse is typically measured by the number of reports to Child Protective Services (CPS). However, child abuse is underreported. Although national estimates indicate that one in four girls, and one in six boys, are abused as children, national statistics in 1993 showed that only 4.5% of children were the subject of CPS reports. According to Plumas County data in the *California County Data Book '99*, about 10% of Plumas County children were the subject of CPS reports in 1996. SRI International, which has tracked the long-term trend of child abuse and neglect in the county confirms the rate of 10%, which is 20% higher than the state's average of 8%. The MCAH Annual Report 1999 reports that the number of CPS emergency responses dropped 17% between 1996 (521) and 1998 (433), showing an ongoing trend of decreasing reports. However, the 1996 rate of 10% was still higher than the rate statewide of 8.4%. According to a recently issued report by the Department of Social Services, the number of CPS emergency responses in Plumas County is again on the rise, having received 523 referrals in 1999. The rate has risen in recent months, such that the department expects 576 referrals in 2000. The department believes that much of this increase is due to more collaboration with the public schools, resulting in more observations by teachers as well as more reporting.

Babies of teen mothers are twice as likely to be abused and/or neglected. The number of high-risk families in Plumas County referred to public health nursing for parenting, bonding, and/or child care concerns of medical personnel averaged about 40 between FY96-97 and FY98-99. These families included babies and siblings.

VII.D. Services to Youth

Plumas County provides a wide array of services to severely emotionally disturbed children and youth. The County has an excellent record for collaboration, with cooperation among Mental Health, Social Services, and Probation Departments. Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug use a “mini-treatment team” model when dealing with clients who are engaged with multiple agencies. There is an active referral process, although a mechanism to ensure consistent communication and coordination of services is needed. There is an Early Response Team, comprised of a CPS worker, alcohol and drug counselor, public health nurse, and probation officer. Family preservation strategies are in process of being implemented.

The Probation Department, while understaffed, has virtually every minor in its system on some sort of intensive supervision. All of these youth are seen at least weekly and many are seen three times a week. When hiring is complete, caseloads are expected to decrease to 20 – 30 youth per staff member. They provide intensive attention to children who meet certain at-risk criteria, thereby reducing the chance that that minor and his family will have further contact with the law. The Department uses juvenile halls in Butte, Glenn, Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Lassen, and Yuba-Sutter for the detention and commitment of minors. The average daily population in juvenile halls was 3.9 children. By July 2000, virtually all detained minors will be housed at the new Northeastern California Regional Detention Facility in Susanville.

Probation also runs a Special Purpose Juvenile Hall. About 48% of the juveniles arrested are returned home while 28% are detained in foster homes and 24% are detained in Juvenile Hall. Juveniles account for 53.7% of the total referrals to Probation. The Department used electronic monitoring of 6 minors in 1998 and 1999, and 52 youth were placed on home supervision in 1999, nearly doubling 1998’s total. The Department has continued to work hard to avoid placing youth in group homes, preferring less expensive, local, and often more effective foster homes whenever possible. An average of 16 youth were in placements in 1999, a 13% reduction from 1998. The number of adjudicated delinquency cases nationally resulting in residential placement increased 56% between 1997 and 1998, the most recent comparison year available. The number of youth given curfews in 1999 (44) nearly doubled from 1998. The juvenile caseload has increased slowly but steadily over the last nine years, from 46 to 106.

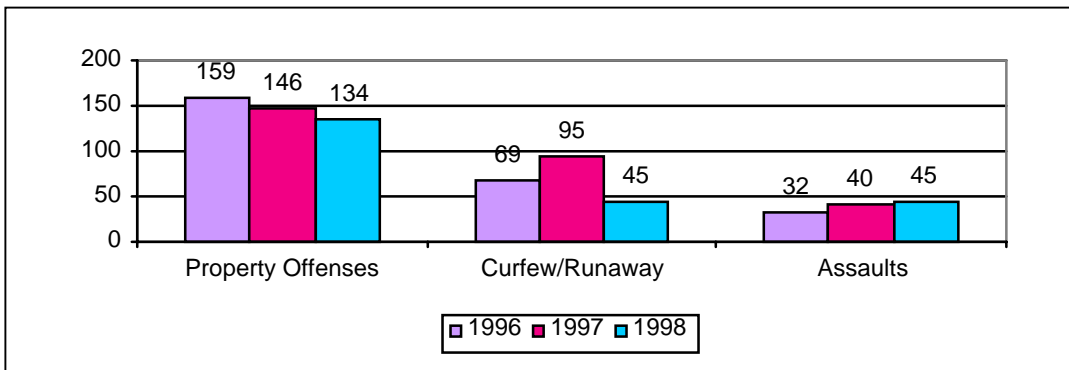
The five most frequent offenses in descending order were burglary, runaway/beyond control, battery assault, petty theft, and consumption of alcohol.

Since implementing a drug diversion program for youth in 1998, Plumas County Alcohol and Drug have served 41 youth who would otherwise be sent to juvenile detention instead of treatment.

Probation Youth Citations. There has been a decrease in property offenses. However, this may be artificial, due to the relatively small numbers. The Probation Department also noted that the number of citations may not accurately reflect the overall behavior of

the minors in the community. In 1999, 50 children were responsible for nearly half of all citations issued. The average age of minors who received citations was 15.1 years in 1999, compared to 14.6 in 1998. There was a drop in the number of citations issued from 307 in 1998 to 259 in 1999, a drop of 18%. Chart 10 shows the number of juvenile citations for property, curfew, and assaults in 1996-1998. While the total dropped, along with property offenses, it is a concern that the number of assaults rose. While juvenile felony arrests declined 5.8% from 1988 - 1998 (with the exception of felony weapons offenses) and the arrest rate dropped 22.8% in California, the number of arrests in Plumas County rose from 34 to 96 in that period. (The State Attorney General's Office does not calculate an arrest rate when the base number is fewer than 50). The rate in 1998 (96 arrests among a population of 2,415 children 10 – 17 is 3,975 per 100,000) is significantly higher than the state rate of 2,041.4.

Chart 10: Probation Juvenile Citations 1996 - 1998.



Source: Pat Leslie, Plumas Children's Network Evaluation Report, 1999.

The statistics in the **Probation Annual Report 1999** show no real trends for the number of individual offenses, although the overall drop is encouraging. Most of the offenses are rather minor. Burglaries are not well planned or executed, most assaults are little more than shoving matches and the drug offenses were nearly all for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana. Most of the offenses, according to Probation, are symptoms of children who are beyond the control of their parents in some way, and seem to have absolutely no impulse control.

In 1998, the school district reported that 31 children were suspended or expelled, for property offenses: property damage (52%), stolen property (39%), received property (3%), or robbery (6%). An additional 374 were suspended or expelled for defying authority, while 428 were expelled or suspended for behaviors showing some form of violence. These include causing injuries (67%), obscene language (14%), threats and intimidation (8%), possession of a weapon (4%), sexual harassment (4%), willful damage (2%), and hate violence (<1%).

VII.E. Emergency Preparedness

The Plumas County Office of Emergency Services manages all types of emergencies in the county, such as a hazardous material event, wildland fire, severe winter storm, flooding, earthquake, volcanic eruption, multiple casualties, civil disobedience, national security or terrorism, as well as others. The Office works with the community toward emergency preparedness. The Office also maintains close relationships with other county agencies and offices which must respond to emergencies to maintain collaboration with them for the most effective response to any emergency.

VIII. Education

Child care, local schools, college and job readiness, literacy programs, library holdings and use; parenting, social support and peer education.

VIII.A. Local Schools and Colleges

Plumas Unified School District (PUSD) has 18 schools, seven elementary, one middle, four high, and four continuation schools, and one alternative and one community day school, with an enrollment in 1999-2000 of 3,471. One school is a charter school. There were 65 English Learners (EL – formerly Limited English Proficiency (LEP)), 1.8% of the district, compared to 24.7% statewide. Over a third of the students received free or reduced price meals (35.7%) based on their income, compared to 47.6% statewide. Almost 10% of the enrolled students came from families participating in CalWorks, compared to 16.1% statewide. (California Department of Education.) Ethnicity of students is comparable to the ethnicity of the county in general. Table 9 shows enrollment, graduation, and drop-out data for Plumas County and the state, by ethnicity. The ethnicity of the student body reflects the county as a whole. Children of color fare worse than their white peers in terms of graduation and drop-out rates, similar to the statewide picture.

There is one private religious elementary school with an approximate enrollment of 110. Approximately 183 children are home schooled. Approximately 1,200 students are enrolled in the community college.

The percentage of high school students scoring at least 1,000 points on the SAT exam was at or below the California average every year but one between 1989 and 1998; in all but two years, a smaller percentage of students took the exam. (Sierra Business Council.)

Table 9: Educational Data by Ethnicity

Enrollment	Native American	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Latino	African American	White	Other
PUSD students (3,541)	169	44	248	48	3,020	5
PUSD %	4.8%	1.2%	7.0%	1.4%	85.5%	.1%
California %	.9%	11.1%	41.3%	8.7%	37.8%	.3%
Graduates						
PUSD students (228)	5	2	11	5	205	0
PUSD %	2.2%	.8%	4.8%	2.2%	89.9%	0
California %	.9%	15.2%	31.0%	7.5%	45.4%	.1%
Drop Out Rate						
PUSD 1 year (1.4%)	2.9%	0%	0%	0%	1.5%	0%
PUSD 4 year (5.4%)	11.1%	0%	0%	0%	5.6%	0%
CA 1 year (2.9%)	4.2%	6.8%	4.1%	4.4%	1.9%	0%
CA 4 year (11.7%)	16.7%	27.0%	16.3%	17.4%	7.5%	0%

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit – CBEDS, 1998-99.

Feather River College offers a comprehensive curriculum, and state-of-the-art technology that enables students and staff to access information and communicate easily, as well as take some courses on-line. An interactive telecommunications link provides coursework and services to the Almanor Center in Chester, which, like the main campus, is equipped with high capacity computers and up-to-date software programs. The college strives for developing the mind, celebrating the individual, striving for excellence, opening all doors, and nourishing the community.

In addition to the courses and programs found in other two-year colleges, Feather River College offers some exceptional educational opportunities. Its Pack Station and Stable Operations program is unique to community colleges. With a fish hatchery on the campus and the Plumas National Forest surrounding it, students enrolled in the college's Environmental Studies, Wildlife, Water Resources, and Forestry programs are provided with everyday opportunities for hands-on experience and study. Its Construction Technology program is also widely respected and is articulated with senior-level coursework leading to a baccalaureate degree at California State University at Chico.

Students who earn credits in any program leading to an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree may transfer them easily to the California State University or University of California systems, and articulation agreements are in place for certain programs within the University of Nevada system. Feather River College is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

In 1999, 2,105 students attended the college; 131 graduated and 40 received certificates.

Special Needs Students. There were 388 children who qualified for special education throughout PUSD, in 1998/99 (MCAH Report, 1999). This accounts for 10% of the total enrollment, which is the average throughout the state. In 1996, 14.4% of K-5 students

received special education services, compared to the California rate of 9.4%. Sixteen special education students attended the district preschool. There was one special education student between the ages of 0 – 3 and 26 between the ages of 3 – 5, not all of whom attended the preschool.

Plumas County Mental Health currently serves 49 children who meet the Section 5600.3 definition of severely emotionally disturbed (SED). PUSD has designated seven students as SED.

VIII.B. Literacy

The percentage of adults with poor literacy skills (39%) in the county is strikingly high, although it is lower than the state average of 46%, which is affected by the large number of Californians for whom English is a second language. Poor literacy, according to the Sierra Business Council's *Sierra Nevada Wealth Index*, is defined as having considerable difficulty solving a mathematical word problem that requires two or more arithmetic operations, and difficulty integrating or synthesizing information from complex or lengthy texts. Adults with low literacy skills have fewer employment options and their earnings are likely to lag behind better educated adults. The 1990 census report showed that 4.4% of the county's population achieved less than 9th grade; 12.5% achieved between 9th and 12th grade education without a diploma; 31.8% were high school graduates, including equivalency; 25.7% achieved some college, without a degree; 10.2% achieved an Associate Degree; 11.2% achieved a Bachelor's Degree; and 4.1% achieved a graduate or professional degree.

The county has one headquarters library in Quincy and six branch locations. They are open 59.3 hours per month (per 100 young children), and offer 18 preschool programs per 100 young children, which places Plumas County first in the state for preschool library programs.

SRI International has tracked the long term trend of data for high school drop outs. Although these data show a slight increase in drop-outs in the county, from 2% in 1992 to 2.3% in 1996, this remains below the state levels of 5% and 4% respectively.

Historically, post-secondary education has not been a high priority in the county. This is partly because youth must leave their local region to attend a university or college in the junior or senior year, and partly because many local children are ill-prepared for the transition to culturally and socially different environments.

VIII.C. Child Care and Its Costs

As described earlier, more than half (58%) of children under 14 have working parents, 48% of children 0 – 5 have working parents, and 64% of children 6 – 13 have working parents. Half of all children under 14 are cared for by someone outside their family.

The 1999 *California Child Care Portfolio* estimates that the average annual cost of full-time licensed child care in a center for an infant up to 24 months is \$5,511, compared to \$6,549 statewide. This is 46% of a full time minimum wage salary. The cost is 17% of the median annual household income in the county, whereas the care for two children is 30% of that figure (\$32,610). There are 593 licensed child care slots: 29% of all slots are in child care centers, and 71% in family child care homes. No infant care is available in child care centers, however. This is only one quarter of the need for child care (2,410 children ages 0 – 13 with working parents). Between 1996 and 1998, three child care centers closed, resulting in a decrease of 27% in slots available. During the community input process of the Children and Families Commission’s strategic planning process, most communities identified a need for more child care.

IX. Government

Local, state and federal bodies which initiate, implement, monitor and enforce various regulations and policies.

The **Plumas County** Board of Supervisors is established by state law and consists of five elected members. Each member represents a geographic area in the county equal to approximately 20% of the population. Members of the Board of Supervisors are considered non-partisan and are elected for four year, staggered terms.

The Board of Supervisors is responsible for the enactment of ordinances and resolutions, the adoption of the annual budget for County departments and dependent special districts for which they sit as the governing Board of Directors, approval of new programs and grants, and the adoption of land use and zoning plans. The Board of Supervisors is the policy making body within the county, not including the schools and independent special districts. Between 90 – 95% of the County budget which the Board adopts each fiscal year is a result of state mandated. The County Administrative Officer administers the Board’s policy throughout the County service and manages the operation of the county departments, which include the following:

Administrative Office	Fairgrounds	Probation
Agricultural Commissioner	Farm Advisor	Public Guardian
Air Resources	Fire Coordinator	Public Health
Animal Shelter	Information Technology	Public Works
Assessor	Services	Recorder
Auditor	Law Library	Sheriff/Coroner
Building	Library	Social Services
Clerk/Elections	Literacy Program	Superior Court
Code Compliance Office	Maintenance	Treasurer/Tax
County Counsel	Mental Health/Alcohol	Collector
District Attorney	and Drug Services	Veterans Services
Engineering	Museum	Visitors Bureau.
Environmental Health	Planning	

Other local governmental agencies include the following:

Air Quality Management District
Bureau of Livestock Identification
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Regional Water Quality Board
Sierra Valley Ground Water
Management District.

Plumas County Department of Social Services and Public Guardian provide an emergency response system providing immediate in-person response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Adult Protective Services provides direct intervention, remedial and case management services to dependent and elderly adults at risk or victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or fiduciary abuse. In-Home Supportive Services provides limited domestic and personal care to eligible aged, blind, and disabled people. It also provides CalWORKS, Medi-Cal, CMSP, and general assistance, as well as fulfilling the role of public guardian to those in need of conservatorships.

Plumas County Health Services works to improve the health of the citizens of Plumas County through medical care, prevention activities, health education and promotion of healthy lifestyles. It coordinates and promotes planning and collaboration with community-based nonprofit organizations, private providers and other county agencies. It is also the administrative and fiscal agent for a number of regional projects, including the Mountain Counties AIDS Consortium; Mountain Counties Early Intervention Clinics; 5-County HIV Prevention, Education and Planning; and the High Country Community Linkage Tobacco Use Project.

It also operates the following programs:

- Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health
- Comprehensive Perinatal Services
- Toll-Free Health Telephone Line
- Adult and Children's Immunizations
- Blood Pressure Evaluation and Monitoring
- Communicable Disease Control
- Child Protective Services Case Management
- Pregnancy Testing and Counseling
- County Employee Physicals
- Family Planning Clinic
- WIC Evaluations
- Fingerstick Blood Lead Level Training
- Adolescent Family Life Program
- Perinatal Outreach and Education
- Feather River College Student Health Services
- HIV/AIDS Case Management
- Correctional Facility Nursing services
- HIV Testing and Counseling
- Prenatal/Postpartum Case Management
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic
- Outreach Clinics
- TB Skin Testing and Follow-Up
- Prenatal Care Guidance.

It is also the administrative and fiscal agent for a number of regional projects, including the Mountain Counties AIDS Consortium, Mountain Counties Early Intervention Clinics,

5-County HIV Prevention, Education, and Planning, and the High Country Community Linkage Tobacco Use Education Project.

Plumas County Mental Health is primarily an outpatient service providing a full range of outpatient services, case management, and socialization services. More intensive services such as acute hospitalization, long term intensive residential services, and state hospital services are provided by contracting with other agencies.

Plumas County Department of Environmental Health administers ten state-mandated programs: Solid Waste, Food and Consumer Protection, Land Development and Use, Hazardous Materials Management, Housing and Institutions, Liquid Waste, Small Water Systems and Individual Wells, Underground Storage Of Hazardous Materials, Recreational Health and Vector, And Rabies Control.

The District Attorney is responsible for prosecuting all criminal violations within the county. The office also provides a full range of child support services for county residents.

The Plumas County Sheriff's Office serves our community by delivering fair and ethical law enforcement, protecting the innocent, apprehending criminals, maintaining public order, providing for the care and custody of prisoners, and by establishing the cause, manner, and mechanism of death in Coroner's cases.

The **Portola** City Council is composed of five Councilmembers elected to staggered four-year terms. There is an election each November of even numbered years with either two or three seats up for election. The Council selects a mayor and mayor pro tem from among its members to serve year terms. The mayor presides over the Council meetings, which are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. City Departments, overseen by the City Manager include

Building	Finance	Public Works
City Clerks	Fire	Sewer
Contract Services	Planning Commission	Water.

Government agencies involved in land use planning include:

- Air Quality Management District
- Bureau of Livestock Identification
- California Department of Fish & Game
- California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
- California Department of Water Resources
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Plumas County Agricultural Commissioner
- Plumas County Department of Environmental Health
- Plumas County Building Department
- Plumas County Planning Department
- Regional Water Quality Board
- Sierra Valley Ground Water Management District
- US Forest Service

- US Army Corps of Engineers.

X. Health

The full spectrum of physical and mental health services which may include physical fitness, health education and prevention efforts; chronic diseases; mental health resources; emergency medical care and complementary therapy.

X.A. Morbidity and Mortality

As can be seen in Table 10 below, Plumas County has a higher age-adjusted death rate than the state. Many of the individual rates are unreliable, due to their small numbers. It has significantly higher rates for all cancers, particularly breast and lung cancer, and unintentional injuries. The rate for motor vehicle deaths is almost twice the state rate and significantly above the Year 2000 objective. However, it has lower rates (again, unreliable rates) for heart disease, stroke, homicide, and drug-related deaths. The suicide rate averaged nearly twice the California average between 1989 and 1997.

Table 10: Age Adjusted Mortality Rates Per 100,000 Population

Cause	Plumas	California Average	Year 2000 Objective
All Causes	458.6	439.9	NE
Heart Disease	73.0	96.9	100.0
All Cancer	124.0	113.3	130.0
Breast Cancer	26.8*	18.9	20.6
Lung Cancer	42.1*	31.0	42.0
Stroke	12.2*	26.1	20.0
Motor Vehicle	21.5*	12.4	14.2
Unintentional Injuries	35.6*	25.7	29.3
Firearm Injuries	23.5*	13.5	11.6
Suicide	19.5*	20.3	10.5
Homicide	8.3*	20.6	7.2
Drug-Related	1.5	7.9	3.0

* Death rate unreliable, relative standard error is greater than or equal to 23%.

Source: Age-Adjusted Mortality rates, SBC County Data, Revised 11/5/1999.

Emergency Room Use. The use of the emergency room for non-urgent care of children has declined in Plumas County from 61% in 1991 to 48% in 1996; however, this still remains above the state average of 39% in 1996. (MCAH Report.) The rate per 100,000 of hospitalizations due to injuries for people 0 – 24 was very low for motor vehicles (140 – ranked 51st out of 58 counties), self-inflicted injuries (7.8 – 54th), and falls (124.4 – 53rd); high for poisoning (15.6 – 12th); average for assault (31.1 – 25th).

Motor vehicle accidents, despite their low rank for hospitalizations, are the primary means of death for children and youth in the county (MCAH Report).

Domestic Violence. There were 151 domestic violence related calls for assistance in the adult population in 1995, and the number grew to 156 in 1999. No firearms were

involved, and most involved physical violence, without an external weapon. The Plumas County Crisis Intervention and Resource reports the crisis line in 1997-98 received 144 calls related to domestic violence: 16 in Portola; 66 in Quincy; 16 in Chester; 17 in Greenville; and 29 outside the county. According to these calls, 145 children were affected by domestic violence. There were 90 families in the county referred to the domestic violence shelter in 1997-98. The Health Department reports that 16% of pregnancy test clients have been involved in domestic violence.

Infectious diseases. In 1997/8, Mountain Counties AIDS Consortium conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of the Title II, Ryan White Case Management Programs, local HIV/AIDS programs. The study included a survey of people with HIV/AIDS, a survey of providers, and a survey of consortium members. In general, the results of the assessment confirmed much of what was already known about the region: respondents in Plumas County identified seven unmet needs: back-to-work services, information about clinical trials, dental care, drug reimbursement, prescription drugs, spiritual counseling, and vehicle repair.

There is no known HIV infection among childbearing women in the county. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 1994 – 1998, the following infectious diseases were identified in Plumas County:

Table 11: Infectious Disease Cases, Plumas County, 1994 – 1998

Disease	Cases	Expected
E. coli	1	1
Salmonella	11	12
Shigella	3	3
Hepatitis A	16	
Hepatitis B	8	
Measles	0	0
Pertussis	2	

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, *Community Health Status Report, Plumas County, July 2000*.

X.B. Maternal and Child Health

Prenatal Care. Early prenatal care has been shown to improve birth outcomes and is thus considered an important marker of health status. The Year 2000 National Objective for this indicator (from the *Healthy People National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives*) is for 90% of women to begin prenatal care during the first trimester.

As seen in Table 12, Plumas County had a higher rate of women not entering prenatal care in the first trimester than the state in 1995 and 1996, although both rates are well within the Healthy People 2000 objective. In 1997, more than 98% of the mothers of the 156 births in the county entered prenatal care in the first trimester, almost twice the rate

of the state as a whole. This was a significant improvement from the previous two years (64%). Women who are on Medi-Cal, under 18, white, Latina, or Native American, or have not finished high school are the most likely to not receive adequate prenatal care. A full 60% of childbearing women in the county have one or more of these risks. Access to care is considered a barrier in Greenville and Portola, because they cannot deliver in their local community.

Table 12: Prenatal Care Not Begun in First Trimester of Pregnancy, Plumas County and California, 1995 – 1997

NS = Not Shown	1995		1996		1997	
	Plumas	CA	Plumas	CA	Plumas	CA
All	5.4%	4.6%	5.4%	3.8%	1.9%	3.7%
African-American	NS	5.1%	NS	4.2%	NS	4.5%
Asian	NS	3.2%	NS	2.8%	NS	2.9%
Latino	10.5%	5.8%	0.0%	4.9%	0.0%	4.6%
Native American	NS	9.8%	NS	7.5%	NS	7.2%
White	4.3%	3.2%	5.5%	2.4%	1.5%	2.4%

Source: Children Now. *California Data Book '99*. Oakland, 2000.

Teenage Births. Teen pregnancy and birth is a major problem in California and throughout the nation, with high social and financial costs. Among the adverse consequences of teen births are lifelong loss of schooling, a higher risk of single motherhood and more likely dependency on welfare. Table 13 illustrates the rate at which births are occurring to teenage mothers. The rate is calculated as births per 1,000 female teens under 20.

Table 13: Teen Birth Rates, Plumas County and California, 1995 – 1997

NS = Not Shown Rate per 1,000 females under 20	1995		1996		1997	
	Plumas	CA	Plumas	CA	Plumas	CA
All	41.2	67.2	30.9	61.6	19.1	56.7
African-American	NS	87.7	NS	78.1	NS	74.6
Asian	0.0	26.1	0.0	23.1	0.0	21.6
Latino	21.7	120.5	68.2	112.9	20.4	103.5
Native American	57.1	76.5	62.5	65.4	0.0	69.1
White	41.0	33.1	27.7	29.5	20.2	26.2

Source: Children Now. *California Data Book '99*. Oakland, 2000.

This table reveals that throughout the time period Plumas County had a significantly lower teenage birth rate when compared to California, except among white teens in 1995. The Year 2000 National Objective for teen birth rate is fewer than 50 births per 1,000 female teenagers, which Plumas already exceeds. The number of births to Latina teens was the same as whites in 1997. Again, the small number of births to the small number of Latina teens makes the rate fluctuate widely from year to year, although representing only a small numerical change.

Low-Birth Weight. The Year 2000 National Objective for low-birthweight babies is 5% for the total population of babies and 9% for African-American babies. Low birth weight is defined as weighing less than 2,500 grams or approximately 5.5 pounds. The occurrence of low birth weight varies by maternal age, race and ethnicity, adequacy of prenatal care, and socioeconomic status, as well as by parity (number of children born), the existence of complicating medical conditions and whether a birth is a single or multiple. Low birth weight is considered an important risk factor for poor birth outcomes, and is related to maternal smoking.

As illustrated in Table 14, Plumas had not met the national objective of 5% low birth weight babies until 1997, when it exceeded it. Again, the number of births is small enough to be affected by a small change (a 4% drop is the result of the difference in seven births). It is not possible to draw any conclusions regarding significance.

Table 14: Percent of Low Birthweight Infants

NS = Not Shown	1995		1996		1997	
	Plumas	CA	Plumas	CA	Plumas	CA
All	6.0%	6.1%	6.8%	6.1%	1.9%	6.1%
African-American	NS	12.1%	NS	11.9%	NS	12.1%
Asian	NS	6.4%	NS	6.8%	NS	6.8%
Latino	0.0%	5.5%	0.0%	5.4%	0.0%	5.6%
Native American	NS	6.8%	NS	6.1%	NS	5.7%
White	7.1%	5.6%	7.9%	5.5%	2.3%	5.5%

Source: Children Now. *California Data Book '99*. Oakland, 2000.

Infant Mortality in Plumas County ranged from 6.0 per 1,000 live births in 1995 to 13.5 in 1996 to 0 in 1997. The rate in California was 6.3 in 1995, and 5.9 in both 1996 and 1997. All of the infant deaths were to white mothers. The Portola and Greenville areas have the most infant deaths. There were a total of 13 infant deaths between 1990 and 1996.

Breastfeeding. Plumas County has exceeded both the Year 2000 objective and the state average in this area. In 1997, 77% of mothers discharged from the hospital were exclusively breastfeeding, compared to 43% statewide. However, visiting public nurses report numerous mothers have breastfeeding problems, causing them to choose to stop breastfeeding before the infant is one month old.

Immunization Status. Information on the immunization status of all Plumas County kindergartners entering school is collected. The Healthy People 2000 objective is that 90% of all two year olds be fully immunized. Fully immunized means having received three or more doses of Polio vaccine, four or more doses of DPT, and one or more doses of MMR. The value of this indicator is weakened by the fact that all children are legally required to be fully immunized before starting school. Nonetheless, the

percentage of children fully immunized when entering kindergarten has been steadily increasing over the past four years.

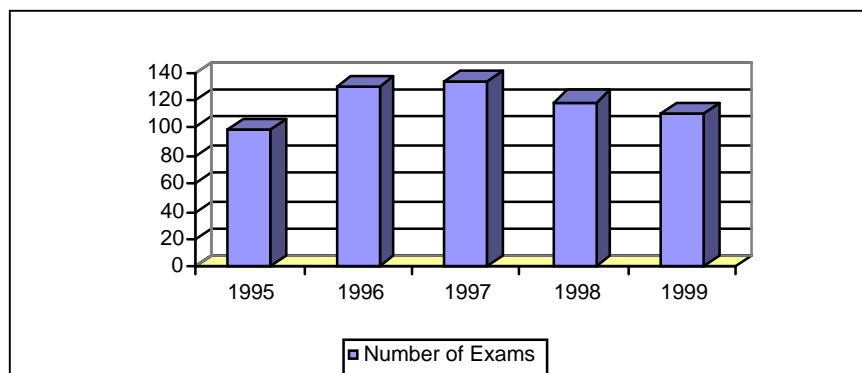
Of the 268 entering kindergarten students in Plumas County in 1997, half of them (119) needed one or more immunizations. Another 6% were exempted either for medical or personal reasons, so that only 44.5% (106 children) were fully immunized by the time they reached kindergarten. According to the Healthy People 2010 objective, full immunization now includes four doses of DTP, 3 doses of haemophilus influenza type B, three doses of Hepatitis B, one dose of MMR, 3 doses of polio, and 1 dose of varicella. However, on further detail, between 90.8% and 94.5% had had their polio, DTP, and MMR vaccinations, while only 49.6% had had their hepatitis B vaccines. The other vaccinations were not tracked in this report.

A 1997 immunization survey showed that 64% of two year old Health Department clients were up-to-date in their immunizations.

Plumas County has been conducting a Kindergarten Round-Up each year to provide physical exams and immunizations to children entering the schools. While the number fluctuates somewhat each year, about half the children entering kindergarten are screened through this program, shown in Chart 11 below. For example, in 1997, 133 children were screened, 56% of the entering class. In 1998, the number dropped to 119, and then further to 111 in 1999.

No vaccine preventable disease has been reported in Plumas County since 1990.

Chart 11: Number of 4 – 6 Year Old Children Screened During Kindergarten Round-Ups, 1995-1999



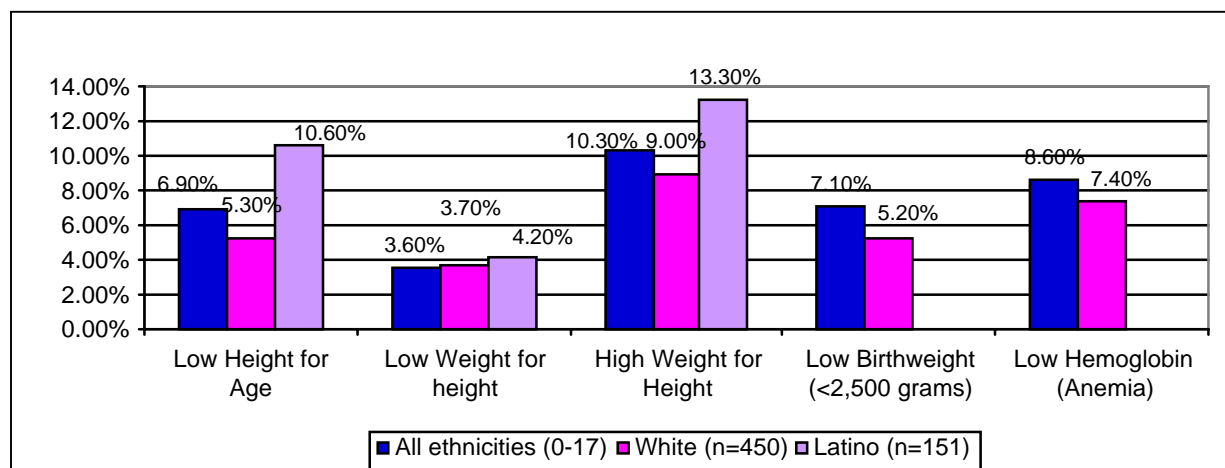
Source: Internal Document.

Children's Services. There are 705 children under five receiving Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) nutrition and food supplement services, which operates in all four of the main communities. The California Children's Services (CCS) Case Manager manages a caseload of 45-50 cases per year. The Children's Health and Disease Prevention (CHDP) Program has a target population of 4,000 – 4,500 children per year. Only 23% of the target population receives preventive medical services.

X.C. Behavioral Risk Factors

Nutrition: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted pediatric nutrition surveillance from 1/1/97 to 12/31/97. The report monitored prevalence of abnormal results for several nutrition related indicators within Plumas County. The report analyzed data for 905 children seen in WIC clinics (21%), EPSDT children's (46%), or well child clinics (32%). Abnormal results are defined as below 5% or above 95%. Chart 12 below shows the prevalence of abnormal findings for all children, and then white and Latino children. The sample size for Latino children in terms of low birthweight and hemoglobin was too small to identify statistical significance. It is important to note that Latino children had considerably higher rates of abnormally low height for age and high weight for height than the general population.

Chart 12: Nutrition Indicators for Children in Plumas County, 1997



Source: Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance, Statewide Summary of Indicators by Age and Ethnic Groups, Table 10, Reporting Period 1/1/97 – 12/31/97.

CHDP surveyed families about exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS – also known as second hand smoke). Of the 1,131 people surveyed in Plumas County, 28.5% responded that their children were exposed to ETS, while 66% were not. (The remainder were unknown.)

X.D. Oral Health

As is seen throughout the state, there is little information about oral health in the county. Local dentists screen school children, but do not keep data on number screened or referred, or of the severity of the dental caries (cavities). A total of 909 dental assessments were performed on 768 of the 904 children 0 – 18 who received CHDP

services in FY 1997-98. The Plumas Children's Network's survey of parents of kindergartners reported 4% of students had never seen a dentist.

In the 1999 California Healthy Kids Survey described below 72% of 7th, 81% of 9th, and 84% of 11th graders reported visiting a dentist in the past year.

X.E. Elder Care

Adult Protective Services provides direct intervention, remedial and case management services to dependent and elderly adults at risk or victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or fiduciary abuse. In-Home Supportive Services provides limited domestic and personal care to eligible aged, blind, and disabled persons. The number of clients has risen dramatically from 149 in 1997-98 to 208 in 1999-2000, a 40% increase in two years. It is likely that the rate increase may be due to additional reporting and response. It is also possible that the median age of the county is higher than other communities and there is a higher percentage of seniors in the county. Senior Nutrition Services provided 28,982 homebound and 15,382 congregate meals in 1999. Senior transportation provided 2,078 assisted rides and 29,273 rides. There are no adult day health centers, Multi Service Senior Programs, or Alzheimer's units in Plumas County.

X.F. Access

In Fiscal Year 1997-98, the state Department of Health Services reported that 1,469 children were in the Medi-Cal target group, 40% of whom were served by CHDP. The Department also identified an additional 1,325 children as targeted by state funding for CHDP services, 23% of whom were served by CHDP, for a total of 904 children served from a total target population of 2,794 children (32%). (CHDP 1997-98 PM 160.) The total target population represents 44.5% of all children in the county. (CHDP 1997-98 Table 4.) The Plumas County Children and Families Commission (PCCFC) found that the percentage of children without health insurance appeared to be high, and would be a component of their strategic plan.

The county has no Medi-Cal Managed Care. The 144 children enrolled in Healthy Families as of April, 2000 represent fewer than 40% of the eligible children. There were 2,558 people enrolled in Medi-Cal as of March 31, 2000, about 14% of the county population. About 2% of county (363 people) receives CMSP, the county-funded medical assistance program. Uninsured children live in low and moderate-income working families. These families have poor access to job-based insurance and high uninsured rates. The risk of being uninsured is greatest among people with low family incomes. In 1998, there were 3,360 senior Medicare beneficiaries and 490 disabled Medicare beneficiaries.

The National Center for Health Statistics identified vulnerable populations which may face unique health risks and barriers to care, requiring enhanced services and targeted

strategies for outreach and case management in Plumas County in 1997, except where noted. These include:

People with not high school diploma (among adults age 25 and older)	2,520
Unemployed individuals (1998)	1,000
People who are severely work disabled	830
Those suffering from major depression	1,030
Recent drug users (within the past month)	1,240

In 1998, there were 57.3 primary care physicians and 57.3 dentists per 100,000 population, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. As of 12/17/99, the county does not qualify as a Health Professional Shortage Area.

Pediatricians and other specialty physicians visit local providers on a regular basis. There are two obstetricians on staff at Eastern Plumas Health Care. High risk deliveries are transported when possible by helicopter to tertiary centers in Reno, Sacramento, or Davis. High-risk pregnancies, when identified early, are followed by specialists out of county.

There are four hospitals in the county: Plumas District Hospital in Quincy, Eastern Plumas Health Care in Portola, Seneca Hospital in Chester, and Indian Valley Hospital in Greenville. With 179 people per hospital bed, local hospital capacity surpasses the California average of 278 people per bed. (Sierra Business Council.)

Table 15: Hospitals in Plumas County

	Plumas District	E. Plumas	Seneca	Indian Valley
Licensed Beds				
Acute	26	10	10	9
Skilled Nursing	6	14	16	17
Patient Days per 1,000				
Medicare	45	57	40	32
Medi-Cal	16	17	14	4
Other	29	15	8	14
Acute Admits	31	32	22	21
Average Daily Census				
Acute	3.0	3.0	2.1	1.7
Skilled Nursing		15.0	15.8	19.8
Births	9		1	

Source: Internal Document

Plumas District Hospital in Quincy provides obstetrical services and Level I nursery care. It is 45 minutes from Portola and 30 minutes from Greenville. The medical staff is composed of family practice physicians, surgeons, and visiting specialists. In 1997, the Quincy Hospital opened a dental clinic which provides much needed services for Medi-Cal, CHDP, and Healthy Families children and families.

Eastern Plumas Health Care operates two health clinics, one in Portola and one in Graeagle, a dental clinic in Portola, and a hospital, also in Portola. They also operate an emergency room, ambulance service, skilled nursing facility, and provide home health care, including oxygen and medical equipment, diagnostic imaging, mammography, clinical laboratories, and telemedicine.

Seneca District Hospital in Chester also provides obstetrical services. The hospital's clinic has four family practice doctors, all of whom accept Medi-Cal, CHDP, and Healthy Families clients. No dentist in Chester accepts Medi-Cal, CHDP, or Healthy Families clients.

Indian Valley Hospital, Indian Valley Hospital Clinic and the Greenville Tribal Health Rancheria serve the Greenville area. Pregnant women in Greenville receive prenatal care from a local family practitioner, or a Quincy or Chester doctor. The delivery must be at Seneca District or Plumas District Hospital. Greenville is a fragile medical community, with frequent staff turnover.

The Plumas County Children and Families Commission identified concerns about health care for children in the county. Specifically, the strategic plan raised issues about

- the number of health providers who refer or screen infants and children for impairments of vision, hearing, speech and language and other developmental milestones, which may be low;
- the number of primary care providers who are trained to screen for mental health problems for all ages, which appears to be low;
- the number of primary care providers who are trained to make referrals for parent training on mental health needs of children, which appears to be low; and
- the number of primary care providers who include assessment of cognitive, emotional, and parent-child functioning with appropriate counseling, referral, and follow-up, which also appears to be low.

Telemedicine. Because recruitment and retention of all types of health care providers is a problem in rural areas, and specialty and tertiary (hospital) care are often located many miles away, northeastern California invested effort into a strategic plan for telemedicine in 1996. The plan identified “access to new technology” as a strategy to strengthen local health care systems. They formed the North East California Telecommunications Partnership, “CoNnECTuP.” Its goals are to design a regional system that will meet current and future needs for high-speed video, audio, and data transmission, and share information regarding funding availability and partnership opportunities. A provider survey in 1997 identified “video conferencing” as a top priority to connect with out-of-area specialists, provide continuing education opportunities, and conduct regional network meetings. CoNnECTuP received funding from the Office of Rural Health Policy, through a rural network development grant; California Telehealth/Telemedicine Center; Blue Cross of California Healthy Families Rural Demonstration Project; UC Davis Health system, Far Northern Regional Center; Regional Health Occupations Resource Center; and Butte Collage Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program. The technology involves PC-based video conferencing

system, point-to-point and multi-point conferencing; store and forward capabilities; and diagnostic scopes and cameras. Challenges facing the system include antiquated transmission systems, the pace of changing technology, integration into clinical systems, and of course, sustainability.

XI. Housing/Community Physical Infrastructure/Sewers and Water/Transportation

The basic facilities and installations of a community. This may include: community water systems; community sewerage disposal systems; utilities such as energy supply; communications systems; services such as fire protection and water disposal; transportation facilities and services; and housing.

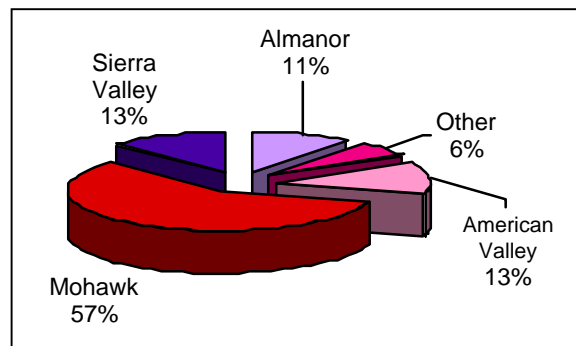
XI.A. Housing

The cost of living is generally lower in rural than in urban areas, particularly the cost of housing. This can be seen in the fact that Plumas County was recognized in 1990 as one of only two California counties to succeed in meeting its five year Housing Elements goals. There were 13,663 total housing units in Plumas County in 1998, an increase of 14% since 1990 (QLG Appendix S). There were 1,496 new housing units authorized by building permits between 1990-1997. At the same time, Plumas has consistently had a vacancy rate of about 32%, compared to the regional average of about 10.5%, and the state rate of about 7%. This statistic is based on the County's highly bifurcated year-round and part-time population. An analysis of the individual census block groups, within the five census tracts, provides the information that the occupancy rate is low in each block group that is predominantly a second home/vacation area.

These vacation and second home areas typically show occupancy rates that are below 50%, some significantly lower. Without the knowledge of the presence of these areas, such as the Peninsula, Prattville, East Shore, Graeagle, Plumas Eureka, and several others, it is not possible to analyze this data within the proper context.

Most of the housing (77%) is single family units, 14.5% are modular homes, and 8% are multiple family units. This is a much higher rate of both single family homes and mobile homes, compared both to the northeastern region and the state.

Chart 13: Lots Created in Plumas County 1990-98



Source: Internal Documents, Planning Department.

In regard to actual housing need, the issue is not just the vacancy rate and what is being built, but rather can those families in need of housing find housing that is affordable to them. This is the question that must be addressed. The Plumas County Housing Authority currently has a Section 8 waiting list of 158 families and seniors. However, this list is subject to change. In addition, our Public Housing waiting list has 20 families and seniors, with an additional 17 currently being screened for eligibility.

Homelessness. According to the General Plan, the local groups which provide emergency shelter indicated that an estimate of two people per day lacked permanent shelter at the time of the General Plan (not dated). The groups work cooperatively with the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center, which in turn works with the Department of Social Services. DSS reported an average of four families per month who were provided homelessness assistance. Shelter is typically provided in local motels, which indicate never having been unable to meet the need. The Multiple Family Residential Areas are Transitional Housing zones. They are within reasonable distance of public agencies and transportation services and are in areas where the infrastructure exists.

XI.B. Transportation and Commuting

The County has one major road running north and south (Highway 89) and one major road running east and west (Highway 70). Minimal public transportation exists within the county. No public transportation to urban centers such as Chico, Sacramento, or Reno, each over 90 minutes from Quincy, is available.

There are three county airports, in Quincy, Beckwourth, and Chester. Charter flights are available to terminals throughout the western United States. Union Pacific provides railway shipment west to Oakland and east to Ogden, Utah, connecting with Southern Pacific in Reno, Nevada. Package service includes trucking by several common carriers, including UPS and Federal Express, providing overnight delivery to Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Reno. Public transit is provided through the Plumas County Transit System operated by Plumas Job Training Center, and connecting the communities of eastern Plumas County, Chester/Lake Almanor, and Indian Valley with Quincy. A senior transportation system is also available.

In 1990, the most common commute identified in the Census was between Plumas County and Lassen County. Most of the 280 commuters from Lassen to Plumas County were residents of Westwood, many of whom worked for Collins Pine Mill in Chester. Most of the 139 commuters from Plumas to Lassen County lived in Lake Almanor and worked at the prison facilities around Susanville. Between 1980 and 1990, Plumas County experienced an 82% increase in commuters to Reno. More than half (57%) of all workers in Plumas County spent less than 15 minutes commuting to their job, a

substantially higher percent than within the region (44%) or the state (27%). (QLG, Appendix S.)

Plumas County Transit (PCT) provides fixed and deviated route services to all major communities within Plumas County. Service is provided Monday through Friday, except major holidays. Hours of operation are from approximately 6am to 7:30pm. Three daily routes are provided to the general public and include deviated route accommodations for individuals with disabilities who are unable to access regular bus stops.

The three routes provided are Quincy Local, Portola and Chester. The following describes service within these routes:

Quincy Local: Provides six daily headways and two extensions to the Meadow Valley area. While in Quincy, the route begins downtown making an entire loop, covering the most western and eastern extremities of town. Feather River College and the Annex are frequented twice during each headway.

Prior to beginning service in Quincy, the bus travels to Meadow Valley to pick up potential commuters, students and persons needing to access Social Service. Following the completion of Quincy service, the bus route extends to provide a return trip to Meadow Valley. Meadow Valley service begins and ends at the local storefront.

Portola: Provides three daily headways to and from the Quincy area. The route provides minor “inner-city” service within the Portola and Quincy areas. Service is extended to the Graeagle area during peak travel.

Chester: Provides three daily headways to and from the Quincy area. The route provides minor “inner-city” service within the Chester and Quincy areas. Service is extended to the Peninsula area during peak travel.

In addition, in 2000, PCT added an “inner city” type service to Indian Valley, providing five daily trips connecting Greenville, Crescent Mills, Taylorsville, Genessee, and the North Arm area. Morning and afternoon commute hour trips are timed for connections with Chester/Quincy service.

Fixed route service times have been designed to accommodate travel within entire service area, i.e. Chester to Portola and vice versa. Regularly scheduled vehicles are equipped with wheelchair lifts and will accommodate person’s with disabilities. Special fare rates are offered to senior’s and persons with disabilities. A new more comprehensive system schedule is available at most County offices.

Other Adjustments to Public Transportation:

Charter Service. Resulting from the County’s lack of Charter service, PCT was tasked to research and develop policy for Chartering. Additionally, the system was asked to establish a uniform method in determining recovery rates and explore discounts for special groups. In June, a policy was approved by the Plumas County Transportation Commission (PCTC). The policy distinguishes between user types and provides for

equitable terms in recovering costs based on the nature of the requestor's need for transportation.

The following describes rate methods and applicability:

Full Cost Recovery: These rates are applied where the County is without interest and where there is no compelling public need. This rate is determined by the system's current per mile operating expense, including a measured fleet amortization charge.

Operating Cost Recovery: This rate is applied when a public interest and/or benefit is present, and includes charitable organizations, non-profits and local government agencies. The rate is determined exclusively by per mile operating expense and is approximately 20% less than Full Cost Recovery.

Special Rates: Those groups qualifying for the Operating Cost Recovery rate may apply for a special rate reduction of 25%. Where approved, the reduction is provided as subsidy by the PCTC. These requests are considered under like terms when determining transit needs. Those qualifying must state compelling reasons why charter should be considered a "temporary" transit need.

Winter service to Johnsville: During this years' ski events, PCT maintained a high level of coordination with ski hill representatives. With the above charter policy in place, arrangements were made with this group to provide transportation during the season. Due to lack of participation during these events, transportation was cancelled.

Later mid-day runs to Portola: Effective October 4, 1999 PCT implemented modified service. With a new streamlined service, PCT was able to adjust the mid-day Portola trip. PCT was unable to meet the request for other day time service, as this time did not allow for appropriately timed afternoon returns and departures.

Plans for upcoming year: PCT is working on several projects, in effort to promote transit service and convenience. Specifically, PCT has submitted grant requests to purchase and install new bus shelters across the three routes and to purchase two (2) new vehicles. New vehicles are intended to replace those currently used in Chester and Portola. The need for replacement resulted from age and poor performance of those currently used. The new vehicles proposed would be designed for the types of terrain observed within the County.

Gasoline consumption in the county decreased by about 5% between 1993 and 1997, while it rose somewhat for both the region and the state. At the same time, the number of trucks as a percent of total cars and trucks declined in Plumas County, slightly more than the decline in the region, while the state percent rose.

The number of licensed motor vehicles in the county rose 24% from 1988 to 1998, as can be seen in Table 16. These 27,541 licensed vehicles travel an average of 29.7 miles daily on the public roads in the county.

Table 16: Plumas County Vehicle Registrations

Modes of Travel	1988	1991	1998	% Change
Automobiles	11,236	12,592	13,098	17%
Motorcycles	697	762	748	7%
Trucks	6,750	8,202	8,156	21%
Trailers	3,600	4,497	5,618	56%
Total	22,283	26,053	27,620	24%

Source: Plumas County General Plan.

XI.C. Sewers and Water

According to the 1994 Plumas County Overall Economic Development Plan, East Quincy was the only community in need of a sewer system. An updated version of the information from that report has been provided by the Plumas County Community Development Commission in collaboration with Environmental Health. Its authors raise the following concerns:

People may differ as to what constitutes a problem. Some items may be seen as normal repairs and maintenance that come from operating a system over time. However, others may see them as system problems that are out of the ordinary. Even the question of whether or not a system is needed may be viewed differently by various people. Table 17 reflects current conditions. It does not try to extrapolate over the next twenty years.

Table 17: Sewer and Water Systems

PLACE	SEWER SYSTEM			WATER SYSTEM		
	In Place		System Needed	In Place		System Needed
	No Immediate Problem	Improvement Needed		No Immediate Problem	Improvement Needed	
Beckwourth	X					
Blairsdan				X	In process	
Buck's Lake	2 Cluster Systems					
Canyon Dam						
Chester	X	Infiltration & Inflow	(1) FOREST SUB-DIVISION	X		
Chilcoot			(2)			
Clio				X	(6)	
Crescent Mills				X	In process	

East Quincy	X			X		
East Shore Lake Almanor			(3)			
Greenville	X			X	(7)	
PLACE	SEWER SYSTEM			WATER SYSTEM		
	In Place		System Needed	In Place		System Needed
	No Immediate Problem	Improvement: Needed		No Immediate Problem	Improvement: Needed	
Hamilton Branch				X		
Keddie						
Lake Almanor Country Club				X		
Lake Almanor West				X		
La Porte				X		
Prattville				X		
Portola	X			X		
Quincy	X			X		
Taylorville	X					
Vinton			(5)			

Source: Plumas County, Community Development Commission

FOOTNOTES TO TABLE 17: SEWER AND WATER SYSTEMS

- (1) The Forest Subdivision, west of Chester, operates its septic systems under a Special Use Permit that requires regular monitoring. Over time it is anticipated that this area will need a sewer system.
- (2) Chilcoot - High ground water presents an obstacle to future development.
- (3) The East Shore of Lake Almanor has seen a number of individual lots with problems related to perk rates and replacement fields. This is an on-going issue that the community has decided will be addressed by individual property owners.
- (4) Graeagle - Various homeowners in the Gold Ridge Subdivision are in the process of installing on-site sand filtration systems.
- (5) Vinton - High ground water presents an obstacle to future development.
- (6) Clio - The community is unable to feasibly finance tank and line improvements.
- (7) Greenville - The system needs increased water treatment capacity and/or repair of leaking water mains. (Source: Department of Health Services, Office of Drinking Water.)

XI.D. Other Infrastructure

Solid Waste. Various recycling programs including curbside and biomass source reduction have been undertaken. Plumas County has three landfill sites. The ones in Quincy and Chester had anticipated capacity of three and twenty years respectively in 1994. Both of these landfills are located on leased land, making it necessary for the county to begin alternative planning. The site in Portola is on city-owned property and had been recently expanded to handle a capacity population of 2,500.

Electric and Gas. Electric power in 1994 was available through one of three companies: Pacific Gas and Electric, Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, and Sierra-Pacific Power Company. There is no piped natural gas available in the county. Propane is provided to businesses and residents throughout the county by a number of privately owned companies.

Fire Safety. The Plumas County Fire Services has twenty districts or departments. These include the following:

- Beckwourth Fire Protection District
- Bucks Lake Fire Company
- C-Road Community Services District
- Chester Fire Protection District
- Crescent Mills Fire Protection District
- Eastern Plumas Rural Fire District
- Graeagle Fire Protection District
- Greenhorn Creek Community Services District
- Greenville Fire Protection District
- Hamilton Branch Fire Protection District
- La Porte Fire Protection District
- Long Valley Community Services District
- Meadow Valley Fire Protection District
- Peninsula Fire Protection District
- Plumas County Service Area 2
- Plumas Eureka Fire Department
- Portola City Fire Department
- Prattville-Almanor West Shore Fire Protection District
- Quincy Fire Protection District
- Sierra Valley Fire Protection District.

XII. Land Use Planning and Development and Open Space

Land management, public support for the maintenance of open space.

Land management activities are regulated by a number of different local, state and federal agencies. The county has adopted a General Plan which designates particular uses for all the land in the county. Zoning for one particular use may prohibit other types of uses. Each zone has a primary allowable or permitted use, and a secondary set of uses which may be allowed only with the issuance of a special or conditional use permit by the Planning Department.

Several zones have been created expressly to protect production-based land uses. Lands zoned for agriculture or forest uses have minimum parcel sizes – typically some

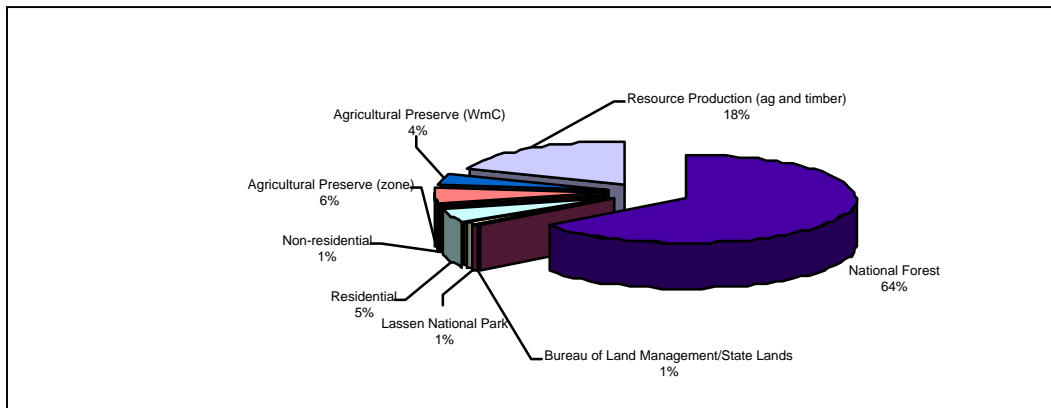
amount over 80 acres – and restrict the uses an number of dwellings that may be constructed.

Agricultural and Timber Preserve and Production Zones are designated to encourage long term production from these lands by allowing landowners to trade their rights to use their property in other ways in exchange for a tax advantage.

Since livestock may cause water quality problems in streams running through grazing lands, landowners who graze livestock must develop a plan to comply with the Clean Water Act, which is administered by the State Water Resources Board.

As can be seen in Chart 14, most of the land in the county is national forest land (64%). Most of the rest is in agricultural or resource production (28%). Only 5% is residential.

Chart 14: Total County Acreage



Source: California Department of Finance, *Population Projections by Ethnicity, 1990 – 2040*. Planning Department Documents.

When the acreage is assigned a specific land use, most of it is timber (87.25%). Furthermore, 94. % is for natural resources, including significant wetlands, agricultural, timber and mining. Just five percent of the land is set aside for residential use, including multiple residential, single family, prime expansion, suburban, agricultural buffer, secondary suburban, rural, and limited opportunity areas. Less than 1% is commercial. (Plumas County Planning Documents.)

The Pacific Crest Trail runs the length of the county along the crest of the Sierra Nevada. When complete, it is intended to allow one to complete the journey under maximum possible natural environmental conditions. The vast majority of the trail in Plumas County runs through public lands and is under the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service.

XIII. Natural Resources and the Environment

The ecosystem and management and/or utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources supplied by nature. Physical conditions, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise and sometimes selected artifacts.

XIII.A. The Management of the Ecosystem

Plumas County has three National Forests covering about 60% of the county, and can be describes as a rural, mountain, recreational area. Of the 1,644,800 acres in the county, a substantial portion is related to the abundance of natural resources. As stated earlier, the National Forests have a substantial impact on regional sales figures. They bring 6.1 million visitor days to Plumas National Forest, which is popular for camping, summer sports, fishing, and nature study. Due to weather conditions and the number of forests, the fire hazard is rated either “very high” or “high” in 80% of the county.

The number of acres in Williamson Act agricultural land preservation contracts has held steady at over 82,000 acres since 1990. However, over 94% of cropland and pasture is unprotected from conversion to other uses, as is over 95% of montane riparian habitat, as can be seen in Table 18.

Table 18: Plumas County Habitat Types and Percent Unprotected

Habitat Type	Square Miles	Percent Inprotected	Habitat Type	Square Miles	Percent Unprotected
Pasture	50.4	97.2%	Lodgepole Pine	10.8	30.4%
Cropland	14.9	93.8%	Sierran Mixed Conifer	1168.4	25.3%
Montane Riparian	7.4	96.0%	Douglas Fir	51.3	25.8%
Orchard and Vineyard	15.0	84.7%	Ponderosa Pine	89.1	22.7%
Blue Oak Woodland	0.0	0.0%	Montane Chaparral	142.9	22.1%
Bitterbrush	2.5	74.7%	Montane Hardwood-Conifer	4.4	27.0%
Lacustrine	55.5	77.7%	Jeffrey Pine	371.9	20.7%
Wet Meadow	25.4	68.0%	Red Fir	155.1	11.6%
Sagebrush	170.7	45.8%	Montane Hardwood	26.1	24.0%
Blue-Oak Pine	1.9	52.9%	Mixed Chaparral	23.0	18.4%
Low Sage	20.4	49.9%	Barren	5.8	19.8%
Annual Grassland	11.0	27.1%	Subalpine Conifer	2.4	0.3%
Eastside Pine	63.1	35.1%	Juniper	3.7	6.0%
White Fir	111.3	32.7%	Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress	0.0	0.0%

Source: Sierra Business Council. *Sierra Nevada Wealth Index 1999-2000 Edition.*

XIII.B. Endangered Species

Recently, the Plumas National Forest has had to ensure that all timber sales meet guidelines designed to maintain the viability of the California Spotted Owl as well as fur bearing animals. There are a number of animals and plants on the endangered and sensitive species, according to the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered animals: Bald eagle, peregrine falcon
 Sensitive animals: Goshawk, California spotted owl, great gray owl, fisher, Sierra Nevada red fox, pine marten, willow flycatcher
 Sensitive plants: Arabis constancei, astragalus lentiformis, astragalus webberi, fritillaria eastwoodiae, ivesia aperta, ivesia baileyi, ivesia sericuleuca, ivesia webberi, lewisia cantelowii, lubinus dalesiae, penstemon personatus, sedum albomar ginatum, senecio eurycephalus var. lewisrosei, silene invisata, and vaccinium coccinium.

In addition, the State of California has classified the following species found in Plumas County as endangered or threatened:

Endangered: Bald eagle, peregrine falcon, great gray owl
 Threatened: Greater sandhill crane, Sierra Nevada red fox, wolverine.

XIII.C. Air Quality

Plumas County is in the Mountain Counties Air Basin. It has enacted an agreement with the Northern Sierras Air Quality Management District for air pollution monitoring on an as-needed basis or at public request. In January 1991, air quality in the region exceeded National Ambient Air Standards for particulate matter for the first time (in other words, the air was clearly polluted with particulates). The single largest percentage of pollutants emitted into the air is caused by residual smoke from wood burning fireplaces during the cold winter months. In 1994, according to the General Plan, Plumas County was in “non-attainment” for particulate matter by virtue of exceeding standards on nine measurement days. The number dropped, according to the Sierra Business Council’s Sierra Nevada Wealth Index, from 14 days to three days per year in 1994 – 1997. However, ozone pollution is low: the state standard was exceeded only one day in the past eight years. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, in 1998, Plumas County has met air quality standards for carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and lead.

XIV. Recreation
Existent recreational activities for all residents, utilization of public parks and recreational sites, availability and proximity of community facilities.

The county has six museums, one movie theatre and one amateur theatre company, Plumas-Eureka State Park (site of Johnsville Ski Bowl), a portion of Lassen National Volcanic Park, a portion of Lassen and Plumas National Forests, one federally designated wild and scenic river (the middle fork of the Feather River), the 130 mile Feather River Scenic Byway (Route 70), three game refuges, one federally designated wilderness area (Buck’s Lake), 50 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, seven golf courses,

numerous lakes of varying sizes, 93 campgrounds and RV parks, and 53 motels and resorts.

There are four recreational entities serving Portola, Indian Valley, Chester and Quincy. Throughout the county there is a large emphasis on youth sports programs, including soccer, basketball, wrestling, skiing, football, tennis, ultimate disc, swimming, baseball and softball, and volleyball.

Chester's focus group for the Strategic Marketing Plan for Northern California identified the following recreation attractions: Lake Almanor with its range of activities, Caribou & Ishi Wilderness, Eagle Lake, Feather River, campgrounds, Chester Museum, Chester Winterfest, Cowboy Poetry, craft shows, fishing in streams and lake, two golf courses, hang gliding, hiking and bicycle trails, hunting, Lassen Scenic Byway, circle tours, Lassen Volcanic National Park, many small lakes, Pacific Coast Trail, snow sports, special events, and wildlife viewing.

Portola's focus group for the same project identified the following additional recreation attractions: arts and crafts fairs, backpacking and hiking trails, ballooning, historic sites at Beckwourth Cabin and Walker Mine, birding, Christmas tree cutting, deer migration, fairground and shows, the Feather River Inn Conference Center, special events, golf, Frazier Falls, Highway 70 Scenic Byway, horseback riding, ice skating at Grizzley Pond, Indian Heritage Areas, restaurants, lodging, recreation aviation, quilt shows, Railroad Days, tennis and train trips.

Quincy's focus group repeated many of the ones stated above as well as the following: Antelope and Bucks lakes, Butterfly Valley and Serpentine Area Botany Society, fall foliage drive, Feather and Indian Falls, gold panning, photo shots and places, and shopping.

Additional sports programs are available to adults, including basketball, softball and volleyball leagues. Classes, camps and clinics are offered in the areas of music, tennis, soccer, football, basketball, baseball, and swim team.

There are summer day camp "latchkey" programs throughout the county as well as before school activities in Quincy. During the school year, there are afterschool latchkey programs. Throughout the year there are a number of one and two day events, including invitational softball, basketball, and wrestling tournaments, swim meets (Quincy), 5 and 10 K runs, the Plumas Century Bike Ride, Gold Digger Days, parades, and fireworks events.

Public swimming pools are operated seasonally in Quincy and Portola. Group and private swim lessons are taught at both facilities.

Public parks can be accessed in Indian Valley (two), Portola (one), Graeagle (one), Chester (one), and Quincy/Meadow Valley (three).

The community of Quincy operated a community recreation center from 1987 through 1993; however, the facility was vacated in 1993 for economic reasons. Both Quincy and Chester are in the planning stages of building skateboard facilities. All communities are desirous of developing and operating full-time multi-faceted community and recreation centers.

As described earlier, community residents expressed a desire for more recreation activities in their communities. Indian Valley's 1998-99 community surveys showed that 95% of respondents want a community center. Almost half wanted a combination center: community, resource (information only), and teen center. Three quarters wanted teen activities, 53% wanted music or art, 45% wanted summer recreation and cooking classes. The overwhelming majority (87%) wanted to locate it in Greenville.

The Healthy Start program conducted a survey of 56 families at the Greenville and Taylorsville Elementary Schools. Most respondents wanted recreation (70%).

XV. Youth

Youth development programs; foster care; court-related issues; education-related issues; physical fitness; and alcohol, drug and tobacco use prevention.

PUSD administered the California Healthy Kids Survey in Fall 1999. The survey consists of a required module and a series of supplementary ones of specific health risk topics customized for each district. The core focused on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, violence, and school safety. It also included items relating to physical health and nutrition. Four schools participated, with responses from 170 seventh graders, 166 ninth graders, and 113 eleventh graders.

Alcohol and drug use questions revealed that by 9th grade, the vast majority of children had tried some drug or alcohol (70%). Most had tried alcohol (64%), almost half had tried marijuana (45%), 14% had tried inhalants, and 10% LSD or other psychedelics. In contrast, by 7th grade, 61% had tried nothing, and most of those who did had tried alcohol (37%).

However, it is important to note that 10% had already tried inhalants, and 13% had tried marijuana. By 11th grade, only 15% had abstained. Almost 80% had tried alcohol, 61% marijuana, 20% inhalants and other illegal drugs, 10% methamphetamines and LSD, 7% cocaine, and 3% had tried heroin.

When asked about use in the past 30 days, 74% of 7th graders, 60% of 9th graders, and 40% of 11th graders reported abstinence from all alcohol or other drugs. While 83% of 7th graders reported never having been very drunk or sick from alcohol, the number dropped to 59% by 9th grade, and only 33% by 11th grade.

As many as 42% of 11th graders reported being very drunk or sick from it three or more times. Also of concern was the percentage of students reporting current binge drinking:

5% of 7th graders, 11% of 9th graders, and 24% of 11th graders. More than a third (37%) of 11th graders reported that they had binged on alcohol in the past month, compared to 44% of 9th graders, and 13% of 7th graders.

Only 51% of the 11th graders and 70% of 9th graders reported never driving or being driven by someone who had been drinking. The seventh graders also reported high rates of being a passenger in the car of a driver who had been drinking.

The perceived effects of alcohol use also seem to become minimized by age: only 60% of 11th graders perceived frequent (daily use) of alcohol to be extremely harmful, compared to 69% of 7th graders. Access to drugs and alcohol were also perceived as easy to obtain, even on school property.

Tobacco use questions revealed again that the older the student the more likely the student had experimented with tobacco products: 13% of 7th graders, 30% of 9th graders, and 58% of 11th graders had smoked. But the damage was done early: 5% of 7th graders reported use in the past 30 days, as did 15% of 9th graders and 27% of 11th graders. The percent of youth smoking daily is low: 1% of 7th graders, and 6% each of 9th and 11th graders. Most understand the harm of frequent tobacco use – the perception of which actually increased with age, to 83% in 9th and 11th grades. However, 76 – 91% of 9th and 11th graders reported it was easy or very easy to obtain.

Safety questions revealed that Plumas County youth are relatively safe in terms of physical violence: about 90% reported zero incidents of being threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club. However, 65 – 75% had had property stolen or deliberately damaged. More 7th and 9th graders participated in physical fights on school property (36% and 32% respectively), compared to only 16% of 11th graders. Consistently 1% of youth had carried a gun to school in the past 30 days, although the percent of youth carrying a knife ranged from 5% for 7th graders to 13% for 11th and 15% for 9th graders. About 8% of the youth had ever been involved in gangs, a consistent number throughout the grades. Between 2-6% had experienced physical violence by a boy or girlfriend in the past twelve months. More than 90% felt safe in their school and neighborhoods. However, most children do not use seat belts every time they are in a car.

Nutrition. Over 90% of all students reported drinking at least one glass of milk a day. However, all other self-reports of nutrition show a lack of a balanced diet, in terms of eating fruits and vegetables or eating breakfast. More than three quarters had participated in physical exercise of 20 minutes duration on a regular basis of several times a week.

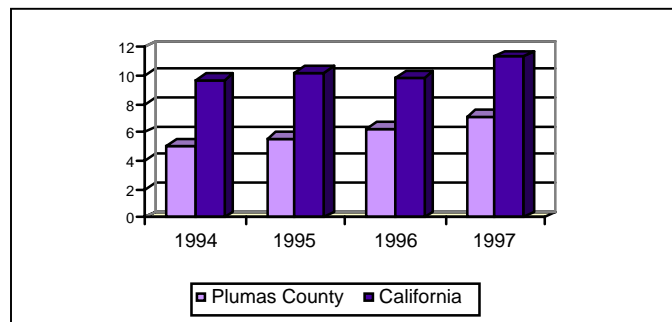
Emotional health. Between a 25 - 34% of youth, increasing with age, reported a frequency of sad and hopeless feelings in the past twelve months. Too many youth seriously considered suicide (22% of 7th, 13% of 9th, and 20% of 11th graders). Even more of a concern is that 9% of 7th graders, and 7% of 9th and 11th graders reported attempting suicide in the past year.

Sexual activity. Plumas County youth report having had sexual activity at increasing numbers by age: 14% of 7th, 30% of 9th, and 21% of 11th graders. Most who had intercourse reported using some method of birth control, while only 5% reported using none. Six to seven percent had either been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant. Four to five percent reported having been forced to have unwanted sexual intercourse. Almost half strongly agree that teen abstinence is a better choice than sexual intercourse. The number is consistent throughout the grades.

Table 19 shows the results of the Plumas County survey for selected questions compared to the results statewide and nationally.

Foster Care Placements. In 1998, Children’s Protective Services (CPS) and Probation averaged 41 out-of-home placements per month, ten in foster homes and 32 in group homes. The average cost was \$1,533 per children for a total cost of \$754,000. In 1996, CPS and Probation averaged 38 out-of-home placements per month (eight foster home and 30 group home) at a cost of \$1,672 per placement. The total cost was \$762,000. CPS had 521 referrals in 1996, 453 in 1997, and 433 in 1998. Referrals were evenly distributed across the county. As can be seen from Chart 15 below, the placement rate in Plumas County is much smaller than the state rate. However, the count rate is rising more rapidly than the state.

Chart 15: Foster Care Rates per 1,000: Comparison of Plumas County and California, 1994 – 1997



Source: Children Now. *California County Data Book '99*.

Table 19: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug use, Comparison with 1997 State and National Results

	7 th Grade		9 th Grade			11 th Grade		
	PUSD	CA	PUSD	CA	US	PUSD	CA	US
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Lifetime and Current Alcohol and Drug Use								
During your life, did you ever								
• Smoke a cigarette	13	26	29	52	68	58	56	69
• Drink alcohol (glass)	37	52	63	73	72	79	81	82
• Use inhalants	10	17	14	25	19	20	20	15
• Smoke marijuana	13	11	45	33	39	61	46	50
During the past 30 days, did you								
• Smoke a cigarette	5	11	15	23	33	27	27	37
• Drink alcohol (glass)	25	22	37	38	44	52	47	53
• Use inhalants	2	8	2	9	19	1	6	15
• Smoke marijuana	8	8	21	18	24	35	26	29
Level of involvement								
During your life have you ever								
• Been very drunk or sick after drinking	17	9	41	21	NA	67	38	NA
• Been high from using drugs	12	11	24	33	NA	64	43	NA
Perceived harm								
Frequent (daily or almost daily) use of ... is extremely harmful								
• Cigarettes	77	50	83	41	NA	83	43	NA
• Alcohol	69	46	65	35	NA	60	36	NA
• Marijuana	82	73	65	73	NA	63	42	NA
During the past 12 months at school, have you								
• Been harassed because of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability	19	NA	33	NA	NA	17	NA	NA
• Been in a physical fight	36	30	32	32	21	16	23	13
During the past 30 days at school did you carry a weapon								
Feels safe from physical harm								
• In school	90	71	93	66	NA	96	69	NA
• In the neighborhood	94	79	94	76	NA	99	74	NA
Ever belonged to a gang?	8	22	9	15	NA	7	13	NA

Source: Plumas Unified School District Key Findings, California Healthy Kids Survey, 1999.

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- , Plumas County Workforce Employment Plan, 2000. This plan, developed by the Employment and Training Committee of the Alliance, documents the interdependency of Plumas County with regard to factors affecting workforce preparation and workforce development, and outlines specific strategies to secure the coordination of economic development activities within a comprehensive workforce development system.

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Building Community Capacity Workshop: Summary of Previous Community Assessments.

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Annie E. Casey Foundation. 1999 Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being. This report provides information about children's health and well-being on a state-by-state basis.

Center for Health Statistics, Health Information and Strategic Planning, California Department of Health Services, Leading Health Indicators for California, May 1999. This document assesses a small sampling of Healthy People 2000 indicators for the state as a whole. There is no disaggregated information.

CHDP Program Letter No. 99-8: Health Assessment Data for Fiscal Year 1997-98, Nov. 1999. This state report provides statewide and county-specific data on utilization and needs for CHDP children, in terms of services provided, number of children using services compared to number eligible, referrals for specific services (i.e., dental), and results of a tobacco use survey.

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- , *California County Data Book '97: Challenges Ahead: Can Counties Make the Grade?* Provides county-by-county data concerning children's health and well-being, including economic, community, and health data indicators.
- Coe, Liz, MS. Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention "Best Practices" Report, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Network, September 1998. This report updates best practices in teen pregnancy prevention, as observed nationwide.
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- Healthy People 2010, Executive Summary. The summary of the changes in the national project to improve the country's health.
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- Leslie, Pat. Plumas Children's Network Evaluation Report 1999. The second annual report on the health of Plumas County children by the Plumas Children's Network, a child policy and advocacy community collaborative. It finds that children are healthier than before, although not all children are healthy.

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Livingston, Peter Mathews. Community Capacity in Plumas County, California: An exploratory Study of Human Service Agencies and Organizations Utilizing a General Systems Theory Approach. Fall 1999. Masters in Social Work thesis, showing the collaborations in the county, and reporting on a survey targeting governmental and nonprofit providers about the state of collaboration and community capacity in the county. While many organizations collaborate, and share congruence on why and how, many believe there are still many barriers to effective collaboration for service improvement.

Meta-Link. County of Plumas Tourism Marketing Plan. January 1996. Provides an overall approach to tourism, including linking all activities throughout the county, sharing information and data, and upgrading approach to tourism.

Mountain Counties AIDS Consortium. 197/98 Needs Assessment Final Report. In 1997/8, Mountain Counties AIDS Consortium conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of the Title II, Ryan White Case Management Programs. The study included a survey of consumers, providers, and consortium members. In general, the results of the assessment conformed much of what was already known about the region. The lack of specialized care, the difficulty of traveling to support or care services, the lack of dental services, and the lack of housing alternatives were all identified by clients and many providers as gaps in or barriers to services. Basic necessity services continue to be the most needed and used. It also presented action recommendations.

National Center for Health Statistics, *Community Health Status Report, Plumas County*, July 2000. This report provides health statistical data comparing Plumas County to 58 peer counties, national averages and Healthy People 2010 goals.

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Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Publications List.

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Plumas County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan, July 2000 – June 2001. This plan shows the vision, mission, and core values guiding the development of the strategic plan to ensure that all Plumas County children thrive

in supportive, nurturing and loving environments, enter school healthy and ready to learn, and become productive , well-adjusted members of society.

- , Plumas County General Plan. This document meets a wide range of California state requirements. It provides goals relating to protection and use of resources, development consistent with service levels, and constraints to development. It has a wealth of information about housing and land use. However, much of this information is either undated or outdated.
- , Plumas County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan. This document outlines the procedures for the Emergency Operations Center. It delineates who must be contacted, what types of emergencies warrant what level of activation, and specific instructions for specific agencies during specific emergencies.
- , Plumas County Job Creation Plan. Provides information about the welfare-to-work program in the county, including statistics about poverty by location, and the possibilities for employing people coming off welfare.
- , Plumas County's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Community Needs Assessment and Five Year (2000 – 2004) Local MCAH Plan. July, 1999. Provides information about services, progress toward national goals, the state of health in the county, and recommendations and a plan for the next four years.

Plumas County Mental Health, Plumas County Children's System of Care: Narrative and Three Year Plan. This report describes the countywide restructuring of services to meet the needs of children and youth who are emotionally and behaviorally disturbed, and their families.

Plumas County Probation Department, 1999 Annual Report. Provides data on all aspects of the Probation Department, from staffing, workload, number of detainees, children placed in foster care, etc. Key points include the hiring of three new officers, the lack of a completely automated information system, an 80% increase in the secure detention of minors, combined with a ten year low in the number of citations issued to minors and the decrease in the number of minors placed in foster and group homes.

Plumas County Department of Social Services and Public Guardian, Fiscal Year 1999/2000 Service Review. This report contains a departmental overview, with budget, funding by source (47% federal; 38% state; 14% realignment; 1% other), information about CalWorks, food stamps, Medi-Cal (with an increasing caseload over the past three years, from about 540 in 1997-98 to 625 in 1999-2000, with about 14% of the county population receiving assistance); and CMSP (about 2% of county (363 people) receives CMS; General Assistance, funded entirely by the county. Child welfare includes a response system providing immediate in-person response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It received 523 referrals in 1999, and the

rate has risen in recent months, so that the department expects 576 referrals in 2000. Adult Protective Services provides direct intervention, remedial and case management services to dependent and elderly adults at risk or victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or fiduciary abuse. In-Home Supportive Services provides limited domestic and personal care to eligible aged, blind, and disabled persons. The number of clients has risen dramatically from 149 in 1997-98 to 208 in 1999-2000, a 40% increase in two years.

Plumas Corporation, Feather River Country, Economic Development Planning and Research Abstracts, 1985-1995. Provides a list and description of reports and studies on economic development in the county.

Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Fiber Optics Feasibility Report. June 1996. Investigates the legal, physical, and technical aspects relating to accessing an existing fiber optics telecommunications line in central Plumas County. Fiber optics telecommunications access could then be used for attracting data and telecommunications-based businesses to rural Plumas County and to serve existing businesses and public entities. These scenarios range in scale from making fuller use of and upgrading the capabilities of the current local phone service carriers up to the provision of underground fiber optic lines countywide. The phone service upgrade would cost under \$250,000 and is recommended in the report.

Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Tourism Marketing Plan, January 1996. This report presents a review of other relevant studies; an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats which have a bearing on tourism; identifies the various partners in tourism; discusses roles and responsibilities and beginning steps in the process; lists goals and strategies, and evaluation methods.

Plumas Unified School District Technical Report Fall 1999, California Survey for Healthy Kids. This report documents the responses of 7th, 9th, and 11th graders to questions about health issues, including risk behaviors, nutrition, alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, violence, mental health issues, oral health issues, and sexual activity.

Physical exams and immunizations provided at kindergarten round-ups 1995 – 99. Immunization information for kindergarten. Shows that half of students are not fully immunized by the time they reach these exams.

City of Portola, Tourism Action Plan for Portola, 1995. This report describes the effects of tourism on the county, and the city, specifically. It makes recommendations for an action plan to enhance tourism in the area, including enhancing a sense of community, diversifying the city, upgrading the Railroad Museum, integrating the Middle Fork of the river, and increasing the impact of tourism on the city, by enhancing the city's strengths.

Portola Railroad Museum, Master Plan, October 1999. Provides a working planning document to make the Portola Railroad Museum live up to its international reputation, by creating a professional staff, building programs, upgrading the facilities, and raising funds, while working in concert with other tourism projects.

Needs Assessment Committee (of what?) (Children's System of Care?)

Quincy Library Group, California Energy Commission, California Institute of Food and Agricultural Research, Plumas Corporation, TSS Consultants, National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Northwestern California Ethanol Manufacturing Feasibility Study, November, 1997. Provides an analysis of the possibilities of building an ethanol plant in terms of reduction of biomass, job creation, and economic development in the county.

--, Final Environmental Impact Statement. Appendix S: Socioeconomic Indicators for the Lassen National Forest, the Plumas National Forest, and the Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest, a.k.a. the Quincy Library Group Region. This section provides socioeconomic data, especially employment information, for the region. Plumas County is considered a core area, and there is substantial data specific to the county.

--, Final Environmental Impact Statement. Appendix T: Forest Activities and Community Well-being: A Monitoring Framework for the Quincy Library group Legislation, Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Forest Recovery Group Act. Final Environmental Impact Statement. Presents a framework to assess and monitor community well-being in the context of the Quincy Library Group legislation, with the primary focus on assessing the effects of activities in the national forests of the Quincy Library Group area. It differs from social impact assessment associated with the National Environmental Policy Act by not trying to predict social consequences of the QLG legislation, and, instead, developing a framework to assess well-being in response to the legislation.

--, Northeastern California Ethanol Manufacturing Feasibility Study. November 1997. This report analyzes the option of creating a biomass to ethanol manufacturing plant to convert forest biomass, harvested to thin the forests, into fuel. The plant, feedstock, and indirect jobs were estimated to be between 184-250 new jobs. The market for ethanol is growing in such a way as to make this a feasible option, and the business is ecologically sound.

Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture, 1998 Annual Crop Report and Livestock Report. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross values of agricultural commodities produced in Plumas and Sierra counties. It also includes a summary of sustainable agriculture activities completed by the department in 1998.

RAND Corporation, Health-Related Research, 1990-94. An annotated bibliography of research completed by RAND on health issues.

CM Rennison, Ph.D., and S. Welchans. *Intimate Partner Violence*. The Bureau of Justice Statistics, United States Department of Justice, May 2000. A federal report on domestic violence nationally.

Emilyn Sheffield and Bob Warren, Strategic Marketing Plan for Northern California Tourism and Outdoor Recreation: A Sourcebook for Tourism and Recreation Planners. This plan, based on focus groups in 18 Northern California counties, held three focus groups in Plumas County: in Chester, Portola and Quincy. The report contains a mine of information about recreation opportunities in the county, as well as a marketing primer.

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David Sibbet, Karen Stratvert, Economic Diversification and Our Quality of Life: Feather River Country. Conference Charts, 1992. These charts outline the results of a three day planning workshop in May 1992.

State of California, Office of the Attorney General. Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis. Report on Juvenile Felony Arrests in California, 1998. Criminal Justice Statistics Center Report Series. Volume 2, Number 1, March, 2000. A statewide examination of juvenile arrests, showing a large decrease in the number and rate of arrests statewide, except for felony weapons arrests, from 1988 – 1998. Plumas County's rate was much higher and has been rising, rather than decreasing.