

# Stone Soup Gazette

Orange County Health Needs Assessment

Volume 6, November 1998

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## **ASSESSMENT NOT A ONE TIME PROJECT**

By Len Foster, Co-Chair - OCHNA



The first phase of the Countywide Health Assessment will soon be completed. This project is the most ambitious and comprehensive of its kind ever undertaken in a community as large and diverse as Orange County. By any objective measure it has been a tremendous success. A massive amount of health related data has been collected, sorted and analyzed. Thousands of Orange County residents have provided invaluable information about their health status, attitudes, risk behaviors, sources of medical care, and barriers to health care access through the household telephone survey. And, scores of focus group participants have provided their insights on the important issues of mental health and substance abuse, the health concerns of seniors, pregnant women, children and immigrants.

The Countywide Health Assessment has provided an opportunity for a wide array of interested individuals and organizations to come together and work collaboratively on something important to the community as a whole. It has given them the chance to identify common interests and improve communication.

The issuance of a Countywide Health Assessment report that is expected to be published within the next few months should not be considered the end of that process. Just as individuals schedule routine visits to their family physician every year or so, the Orange County community should get a periodic health check up, too. Demographic changes, economic conditions, changes in health care delivery systems, and medical breakthroughs can have significant impact on the health of our community. Only through comprehensive, periodic assessments can the effects of these changes be determined. Orange County is a dynamic community and an ongoing health assessment process is essential to track its health status.

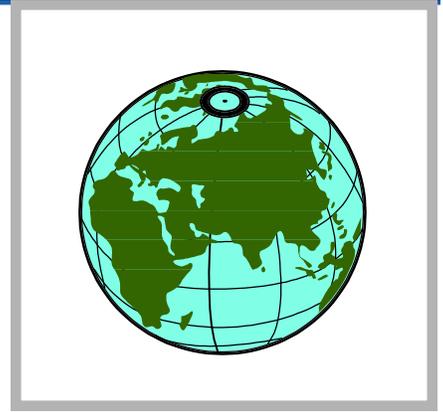
One lesson already learned from the Countywide Health Assessment is the value of individuals and organizations working together on complex issues. United Way's participation as a collaborating partner in the Countywide Health Assessment has reinforced the interrelationship between health and a variety of other factors including education, demographics, public safety, housing, age and a variety of other factors. This realization has stimulated a close working relationship between the Countywide Health Assessment and United Way's project to create a dynamic data base which will allow for the display of a variety of community indicators in map format utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Rather than duplicating data collection and analysis activities, the current collaboration will ensure that the most up-to-date health status information is made available to United Way in its project.

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## Health Assessment Not A One Time Project

The issues facing our modern society are complex and exceed the capacity of government, churches, philanthropic institutions, corporations, or community based organizations to resolve. Projects such as the Countywide Health Assessment provide the stimulus for all sectors of our society to come together to identify and resolve issues which it collectively views as important. It provides the opportunity to recapture a spirit of community. To be successful, however, the process must not be viewed as a one time only undertaking. I believe that the Orange County community has the desire to make the assessment process an important and ongoing part of our community.



[WWW.OC.CA.GOV/OCHNA/](http://WWW.OC.CA.GOV/OCHNA/)

Visit our web page and check out what is new and exciting, as we venture forth on our quest for a healthier community. If you have questions, suggestions or wish to get involved, please contact Pamela Austin, Project Manager, at the Healthcare Assoc. of Southern California (714) 677-7155, ext. 16, or e-mail her directly at [paustin@hasc.org](mailto:paustin@hasc.org)



## BREAST CANCER QUIZ

(Information obtained from the American Cancer Society – Cancer Facts and Figures 1998)

1. Breast cancer is the second major cause of cancer death.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
2. All of the following will increase breast cancer risk except:
  - A. Family History of Breast Cancer
  - B. Weight Gain and Physical Inactivity
  - C. Low Education and Socioeconomic Status
  - D. Induced Abortion
  - E. Use of Oral Contraceptives
  
3. Which of the following represents the incidence rates of breast cancer in women?
  - A. 10 per 100,000
  - B. 110 per 100,000
  - C. 1110 per 100,000
  - D. 11110 per 100,000
  
4. Which of the following provides the best opportunity to reduce breast cancer mortality?
  - A. Low Fat Diet
  - B. Early Detection
  - C. Lumpectomy or Mastectomy
  - D. Chemotherapy
  
5. The ten year relative survival rate for localized breast cancer is:
  - A. 43%
  - B. 67%
  - C. 80%
  - D. 91%

Answers: A, C, B, B, B



## Stone Soup Gazette

The Stone Soup Gazette is the official Newsletter of the Orange County Health Needs Assessment Project. This is a monthly publication. We welcome your comments, concerns or suggestion. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month.

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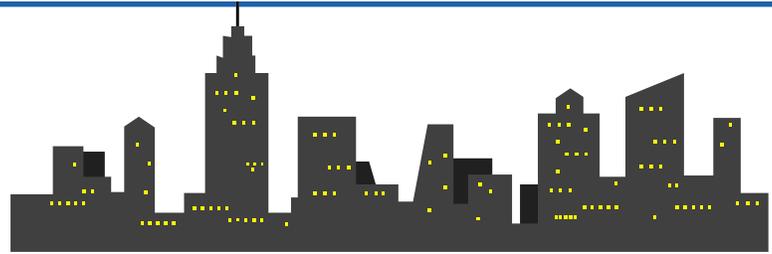
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# Community Highlight



## ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND NEEDS – THE GIS(T) OF IT...

By: Tim Shaw, Orange County's United Way

Orange County's United Way is currently seeking information on needs assessment efforts throughout the county (see insert). If your organization is involved in such an effort currently, or will be in the coming year, please take a moment to fill out the enclosed survey form and return it.

Orange County's United Way, in conjunction with California State University, Fullerton, Chapman University, University of California, Irvine, Pacific Life Foundation, Flour, PacifiCare, the County of Orange and other funders of nonprofit health and human services, have joined together for an unprecedented community project. Using a Geographic Information System (GIS), the Social Ecology of Health and Human Services will be developed. This cutting edge technology will allow an enormous amount of data to be housed in one accessible location. The GIS system does not generate data, but must rely on information obtained from needs assessments, census and demographic data, and descriptive information about health and human service providers. It will have the ability to provide users with maps indicating where services are offered and where needs exist.

The project involves several aspects, including: A) InfoNet, created by Mary Ellen Hadley, an annually updated data base containing over 1,800 Orange County health and human services providers. This information includes their location, eligibility criteria, funding source, capacity, and service area. B) A selection of over 45 community indicators completed for the first phase of the project (additional indicator will be looked at during future phases); and C) demographic data, down to the census tract or zip code level, from 1995 population estimates (including ethnic and socioeconomic) plus the capacity to project in five year increments through 2020. The system will be able to be updated on an ongoing basis and will serve as a powerful community planning tool.

Data Collection and entry, as well as system development and modification are underway, and an initial report will be issued to the community in March or April of 1999. In addition to the partnering of so many funders, and educational institutions, this project is unique because it will eventually allow grant writers, nonprofit, and government workers and funders to easily access, via a "point and click" computer system, vital, updated information on a wide variety of health and human services issues in Orange County. To our knowledge, no other system like this exists anywhere in the United States.

Reciprocal representation on the United Way's GIS Steering Committee and the Orange County Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee ensures a collaborative effort in disseminating information into the community. The United Way eagerly awaits the results of the Orange County Health Needs Assessment (OCHNA), so that they can be incorporated into the GIS System and be made available to the community through easy access. If you would like more information on the GIS project, please call Stephanie McElheney, (949) 263-6117 or Tim Shaw, (949) 263-6110 at United Way. If you would like more information on the Orange County Health Needs Assessment project or would like to be added to the OCHNA mailing list please contact Pamela Austin, Project Manager – OCHNA (714)667-7155.

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## OCHNA Steering Committee

Len Foster, Co-chair.....Orange County HCA  
Dr. Gwyn Parry, Co-chair...Hoag Memorial Hosp.  
Pamela Austin, Project Mgr.....HASC  
Anaheim General Hospital  
Anaheim Memorial Med. Ctr.  
CalOPTIMA  
Children's Hospital of OC  
Coalition of OC Community Clinics  
Coastal Communities Hospital  
Chapman Medical Center  
Fountain Valley Regional Hospital  
Garden Grove Hospital  
Healthcare Assoc. of So. Calif.  
Healthcare Council of OC  
Hoag Memorial Hosp. Presbyterian  
Huntington Beach Hospital  
Irvine Medical Center  
Kaiser Permanente  
La Palma Intercommunity Hospital  
Los Alamitos Medical Center  
March of Dimes  
Martin Luther Hospital  
Mission Hospital Regional MC  
Orange County Medical Assoc.  
Orange Coast Memorial MC  
Orange County HCA  
Placentia Linda Hospital  
Saddleback Memorial MC  
St. Joseph Health System  
St. Joseph Hospital  
St. Jude Medical Center  
Santa Ana Hospital  
South Coast Medical Center  
UCI Medical Center  
United Way of OC  
West Anaheim Med. Cntr.  
Western Medical Center/SA/Anaheim

## Advisory Committee

Rimal Bera, M.D. ....Mental Health Assoc.  
America Bracho, M.D...Latino Health Access  
Jo Caines .....KOCE TV, Channel 50  
Mai Cong.....Vietnamese Community OC  
John F. Dean, Ed. D.....OC Dept. of Educ.  
Mary Dewane.....CalOPTIMA  
Ron DiLuigi.....OC Health Care Agency  
Len Foster.....OC Health Care Agency  
Gene Howard.. Orangewood Children's Fnd  
Pat Klotz.....California State PTA  
Jim Levy.....Senior Citizens Council  
Stanley C. Lowenberg, M.D. ....OCMA  
Glenda Mourer.....Family Preservation &  
Support  
Martin E. Ogle, M.D.....Emergency Medical  
Care Committee  
Gwyn Parry, M.D.....Hoag Memorial  
Hosp. Presbyterian  
Julie Puentes.....OC Business Council  
Felix Schwarz.....Human Relations  
Commission, OC  
William Shane.....The National Conference  
The Honorable James W. Silva.....  
OC Board of Supervisors  
Jim Spriene.....Laguna Beach Police  
Dept., Rep., Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Assoc.  
Hugh Stallworth, M.D.....OC HCA  
Ron Wright, DDS.....100 Black Men of OC  
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# OCHNA PROJECT UPDATE:

## IN THE HOME STRETCH & BEYOND

By: Heather Clifford, Project Assistant - OCHNA

The Orange County Health Needs Assessment (OCHNA) Steering Committee members have indicated, in a formal vote, to continue their work together in the coming year. This has been officially sanctioned by the Healthcare Association of Southern California's member hospital's executive management and CEO's, who voted to renew their financial contribution. They have indicated a desire to maintain the collaborative partnerships that have been developed and to focus their energy on addressing health priorities, based on this years research findings, in 1999.

With November's arrival, the OCHNA project concludes it's final phase of data collection. The surveys were completed on Friday, October 16th and despite technical breakdowns, exceeded the goal of 4800 respondents. In order to be confident, we are taking the steps necessary to ensure that we understand the data, the methodology, it's strengths and weaknesses, and engage in a high degree of analytic integrity. Azhar Qureshi, MD, Dr. PH, Senior Research Scientist, from St. Joseph Health System (one of our collaborative partners) has taken on the task of analyzing the enormous database (nearly 400 variables). He will provide bi-variant cross tabulations and multi-variant models. The Executive Summary of our report will highlight those variables that have statistically significant findings (see insert). We expect that some of the survey findings may be surprising to some, and may even challenge what we previously thought about the county. This will be wonderful opportunity to encourage discussion and action, based on what we can finally say we "know" about the residents in our county, versus the "estimates" of what we think might be happening.

Fifteen focus groups have now taken place and analysis of the results are expected by mid November. Participants from the focus groups represented the diverse nature of the county. Community businesses and organizations lent a helping hand in hosting the events and providing hosting services and incentives at reduced or no cost. Of particular interest was a teen's focus group consisting of youth aged thirteen to eighteen and hosted by the Boys and Girls Club of Buena Park. The teens were extremely vocal with their opinions and showed remarkable insight into health needs and concerns as they pertain to their lives.

Once the survey data has been cleaned and analyzed, the data review teams will tackle the job of synthesizing all three elements (primary, secondary, and qualitative data) into a final report. This brings us to 1999, striving towards a healthier Orange County.

## OCHNA

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