

# Santa Cruz County 2003 Health Almanac

## Educational and Community-Based Programs

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## Agencies and Information Sources

### **Santa Cruz County (SCC) Health Services Agency** - <http://www.santacruzhealth.org/>

The Health Services Agency (HSA) exists to protect and improve the health of the people in Santa Cruz County. The Agency provides programs in Environmental Health, Public Health, Medical Care, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, and Mental Health.

### **California Department of Health Services** - <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/default.htm>

To Protect and Improve the Health of All Californians

### **California Health Interview Survey** - <http://www.chis.ucla.edu/index.html>

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is the largest state health survey conducted in the United States. Every two years, CHIS plans to collect information on the health and health care needs of California's diverse population.

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**- <http://www.cdc.gov/default.htm>

CDC's Mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

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### Education and Community-based Programs Sources of Information

#### Santa Cruz Public Health Dept. Health Education programs

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/phealth/2education.htm>

#### Health Finder - <http://www.healthfinder.gov/>

Healthfinder® is an award-winning Federal Web site, developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services together with other Federal agencies. Since 1997, Healthfinder® has been recognized as a key resource for finding the best government and nonprofit health and human services information on the Internet. Healthfinder® links to carefully selected information and Web sites from over 1,800 health-related organizations.

It includes:

[Library](#): hand-picked health information from A to Z — prevention & wellness, diseases & conditions, and alternative medicine — plus medical dictionaries, an encyclopedia, journals, and more.

[Just for you](#): selected health topics organized for men and women, by age from kids to seniors, by race and ethnicity, and for parents, caregivers, health professionals, and others.

[Health care](#): information about doctors, dentists, public clinics, hospitals, long term care, nursing homes, health insurance, prescriptions, health fraud, Medicare, Medicaid, and medical privacy.

[Directory](#) of carefully selected health information Web sites from government agencies, clearinghouses, nonprofits, and universities.

#### Combined Health Information Database <http://chid.nih.gov/welcome/welcome.html>

CHID is a bibliographic database produced by health-related agencies of the Federal Government. This database provides titles, abstracts, and availability information for health information and health education resources.

CHID lists a wealth of health promotion and education materials and program descriptions that are not indexed elsewhere. New records are added quarterly and current listings are checked regularly to help ensure that entries are up to date and still available from their original sources. Some older records are retained for archival purposes.

CHID is updated four times a year. The updated database is available at the end of these months: January, April, July, and October.

Search the Database

You can use the database in two ways.

[Simple Search](#)--Search on a single word or a single topic.

[Detailed Search](#)--Search on multiple words or multiple topics using more complex search strategies.

CHID Topics

CHID is a cooperative effort among [several Federal agencies](#). Recognizing the need for a single source of health information, the participating agencies combined their information files into one database--thus creating the Combined Health Information Database or CHID. CHID has been

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available to the public since 1985. Since then, new topics have been added and will be added in the future. Each topic is updated on a quarterly basis.

At present, CHID covers 16 topics. You can search either individual topics or the entire database.

The topics are:

[AIDS, STD, and TB Education \(AD\)](#)

[Alzheimer's Disease \(AZ\)](#)

[Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases \(AR\)](#)

[Cancer Prevention and Control \(CP\)](#)

[Complementary and Alternative Medicine \(AM\)](#)

[Deafness and Communication Disorders \(DC\)](#)

[Diabetes \(DM\)](#)

[Digestive Diseases \(DD\)](#)

[Epilepsy Education and Prevention \(EP\)](#)

[Health Promotion and Education \(HE\)](#)

[Kidney and Urologic Diseases \(KU\)](#)

[Maternal and Child Health \(MC\)](#)

[Medical Genetics and Rare Disorders \(MG\)](#)

[Oral Health \(OH\)](#)

[Prenatal Smoking Cessation \(PS\)](#)

[Weight Control \(WC\)](#)

CHID Records

CHID records contain bibliographic information. The following list contains the data elements or fields used in the CHID records. Not all fields are used by all subfiles.

AN Record Source

FM Bibliographic Format

LG Language

YR Year Published

AC Audience Code

TI Title

AU Author

CN Corporate/Organization Name or Author

SE Series

SO Source

PD Physical Description

AV Availability

LK Link to Full Text of Federal Documents

GV Sponsor/Funding Source

AB Abstract

EV Evaluation

MJ Major Descriptors (main topic or keyword)

MN Minor Descriptors (minor topic or keyword)

DE Descriptors (all keywords)

GA Geographic Area

SC Subject Category

VE Verification/Update Date

NT Notes/Copyright

TX Full-Text (if available)

TR Type of Organization

Happy searching!

If you have a question about this database, send your e-mail inquiry to [chid@erie.com](mailto:chid@erie.com).

Please note that because CHID provides searchable databases rather than an inquiry response service, we are not able to provide in-depth research assistance. We are also not able or permitted to dispense medical advice.

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Santa Cruz County: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/special/health/>

### **CDC specific information sites Health Topics A to Z**

Health Topics A to Z provides a listing of disease and health topics found on the CDC Web site. It is not yet a complete index of the site. New topics are added on an ongoing basis.

<http://www.cdc.gov/health/>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/indice.htm>

**CDC Office of Communications** <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/>

**FastStats** – a compendium of health related information from the National Center for Health Statistics

See: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/default.htm>

**Keyword search** <http://www.healthypeople.gov/hpscripts/KeywordSearch.asp>

### **Media Public Service Programs**

**KQED** <http://www.kqed.org/w/healthdialogues/topics/dental.html>

**HEALTH DIALOGUES RESOURCES:** <http://www.kqed.org/w/healthdialogues/resources.html>

**American Medical Association** <http://www.ama-assn.org/>

**Journal of the American Medical Association** <http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

**American Osteopathic Association** <http://www.aoa-net.org/>

**American Public Health Association** <http://www.apha.org/>

**California Medical Association** <http://www.cmanet.org/>

**National Institutes of Health News** <http://www.nih.gov/news/>

**New England Journal of Medicine News** <http://content.nejm.org/>

**Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California** <http://www.opsc.org/>

**Santa Cruz Medical Society** <http://www.cruzmed.org/>

## 10 Things to know about evaluating medical resources on the web

The number of Web sites offering health-related resources grows every day. Many sites provide valuable information, while others may have information that is unreliable or misleading. This short guide contains important questions you should consider as you look for health information online. Answering these questions when you visit a new site will help you evaluate the information you find.

- Who runs this site?
- Who pays for the site?
- What is the purpose of the site?
- Where does the information come from?
- What is the basis of the information?
- How is the information selected?
- How current is the information?
- How does the site choose links to other sites?
- What information about you does the site collect, and why?
- How does the site manage interactions with visitors?

### 1. Who runs this site?

Any good health-related Web site should make it easy for you to learn who is responsible for the site and its information. On this site, for example, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) is clearly marked on every major page of the site, along with a link to the NCCAM homepage.

### 2. Who pays for the site?

It costs money to run a Web site. The source of a Web site's funding should be clearly stated or readily apparent. For example, Web addresses ending in ".gov" denote a Federal Government-sponsored site. You should know how the site pays for its existence. Does it sell advertising? Is it sponsored by a drug company? The source of funding can affect what content is presented, how the content is presented, and what the site owners want to accomplish on the site.

### 3. What is the purpose of the site?

This question is related to who runs and pays for the site. An "About This Site" link appears on many sites; if it's there, use it. The purpose of the site should be clearly stated and should help you evaluate the trustworthiness of the information.

### 4. Where does the information come from?

Many health/medical sites post information collected from other Web sites or sources. If the person or organization in charge of the site did not create the information, the original source should be clearly labeled.

### 5. What is the basis of the information?

In addition to identifying who wrote the material you are reading, the site should describe the evidence that the material is based on. Medical facts and figures should have references (such as to articles in medical journals). Also, opinions or advice should be clearly set apart from information that is "evidence-based" (that is, based on research results).

### 6. How is the information selected?

Is there an editorial board? Do people with excellent professional and scientific qualifications review the material before it is posted?

### 7. How current is the information?

Web sites should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. It is particularly important that medical information be current. The most recent update or review date should be clearly posted.

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Even if the information has not changed, you want to know whether the site owners have reviewed it recently to ensure that it is still valid.

### **8. How does the site choose links to other sites?**

Web sites usually have a policy about how they establish links to other sites. Some medical sites take a conservative approach and don't link to any other sites. Some link to any site that asks, or pays, for a link. Others only link to sites that have met certain criteria.

### **9. What information about you does the site collect, and why?**

Web sites routinely track the paths visitors take through their sites to determine what pages are being used. However, many health Web sites ask for you to "subscribe" or "become a member." In some cases, this may be so that they can collect a user fee or select information for you that is relevant to your concerns. In all cases, this will give the site personal information about you.

Any credible health site asking for this kind of information should tell you exactly what they will and will not do with it. Many commercial sites sell "aggregate" (collected) data about their users to other companies--information such as what percentage of their users are women with breast cancer, for example. In some cases they may collect and reuse information that is "personally identifiable," such as your ZIP code, gender, and birth date. Be certain that you read and understand any privacy policy or similar language on the site, and don't sign up for anything that you are not sure you fully understand.

### **10. How does the site manage interactions with visitors?**

There should always be a way for you to contact the site owner if you run across problems or have questions or feedback. If the site hosts chat rooms or other online discussion areas, it should tell visitors what the terms of using this service are. Is it moderated? If so, by whom, and why? It is always a good idea to spend time reading the discussion without joining in, so that you feel comfortable with the environment before becoming a participant.

NCCAM Clearinghouse

Toll-free: 1-888-644-6226

International: 301-519-3153

TTY (for deaf or hard-of-hearing callers): 1-866-464-3615

E-mail: [info@nccam.nih.gov](mailto:info@nccam.nih.gov)

Web site: [nccam.nih.gov](http://nccam.nih.gov)

Address: NCCAM Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 7923, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-7923