Atlas of Health Indicators in the Redwood Coast Region



By The California Center for Rural Policy

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By The California Center for Rural Policy at Humboldt State University



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The California Center for Rural Policy at Humboldt State University is a research center committed to informing policy, building community, and promoting the health and well-being of people and environments.





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Introduction

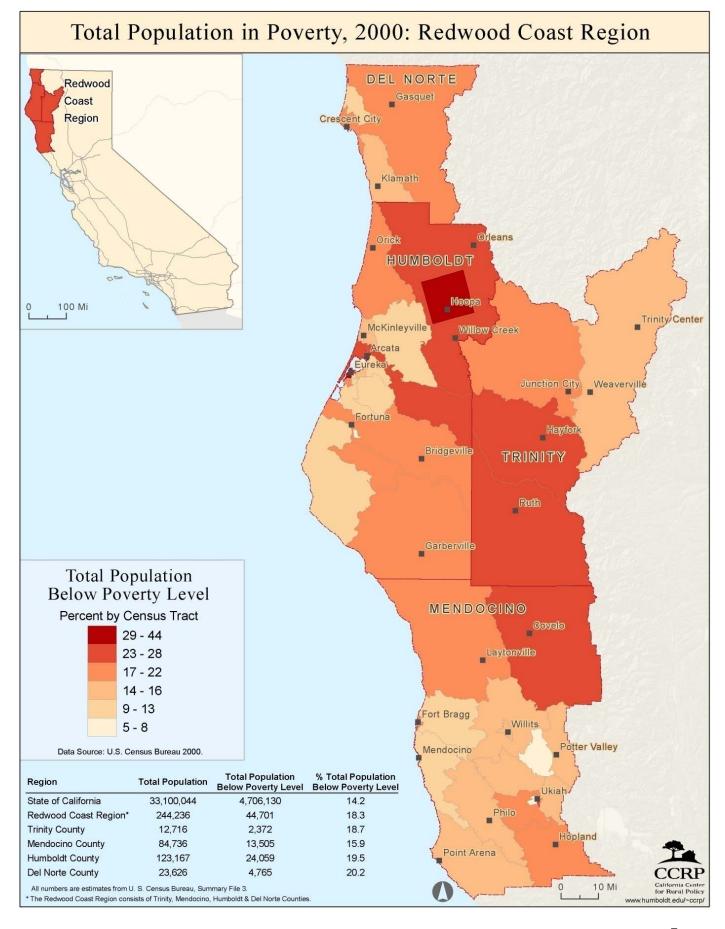
Maps are increasingly being used to understand connections between human health and physical and social environments. A geographic information system (GIS) is a computer system for analyzing and mapping variables. Mapping health and social indicators can assist with understanding issues faced by local communities, highlighting assets, localizing areas of highest need and targeting resources and policies aimed at ameliorating problems.

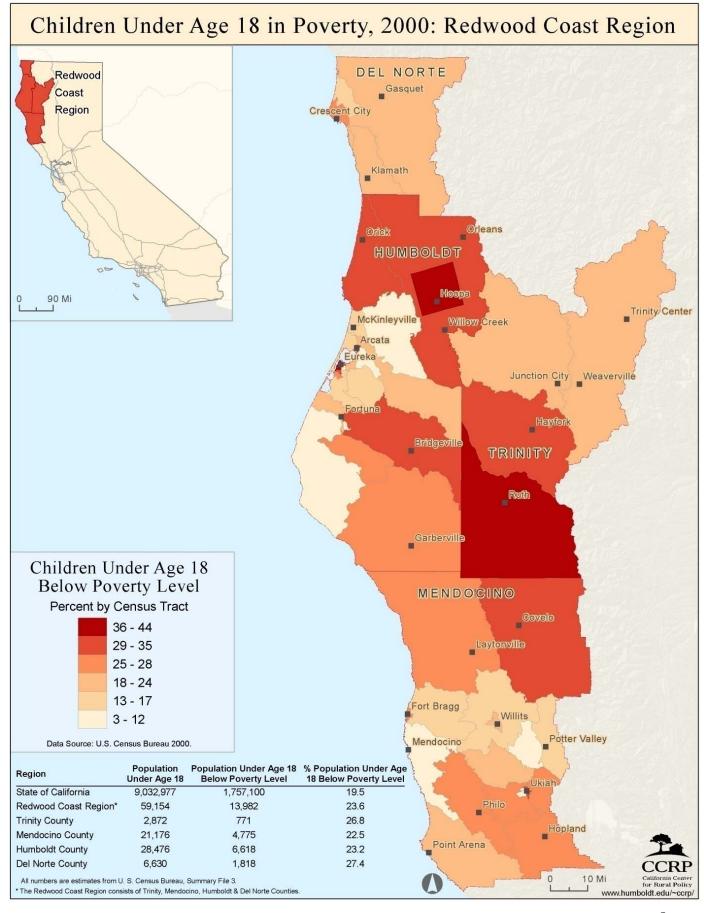
This atlas contains a collection of GIS maps produced from research projects conducted by the California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP) at Humboldt State University. All of the GIS maps were produced by the Institute for Spatial Analysis at Humboldt State University.

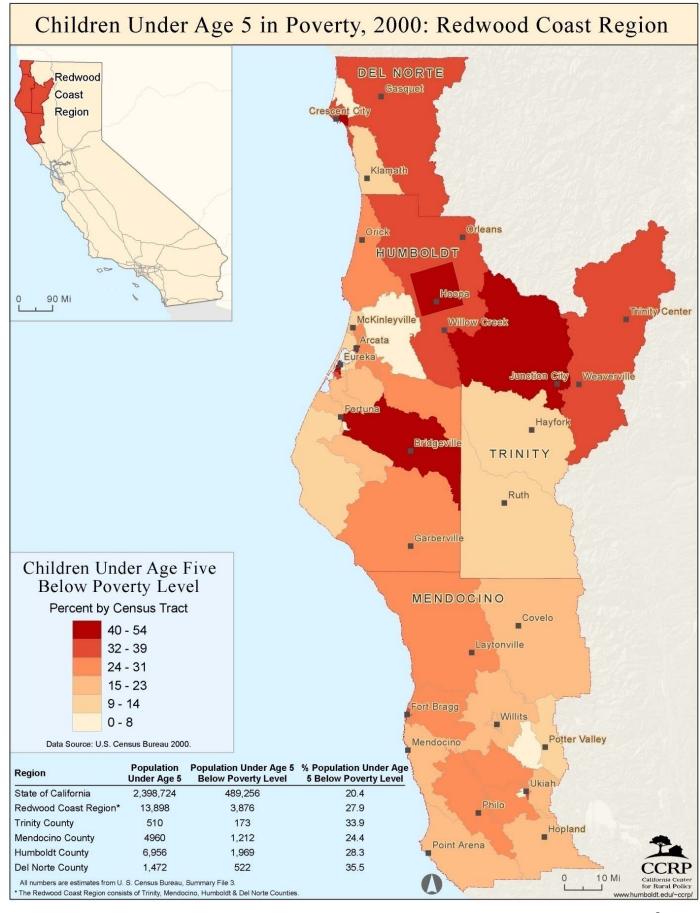
This atlas contains three sections:

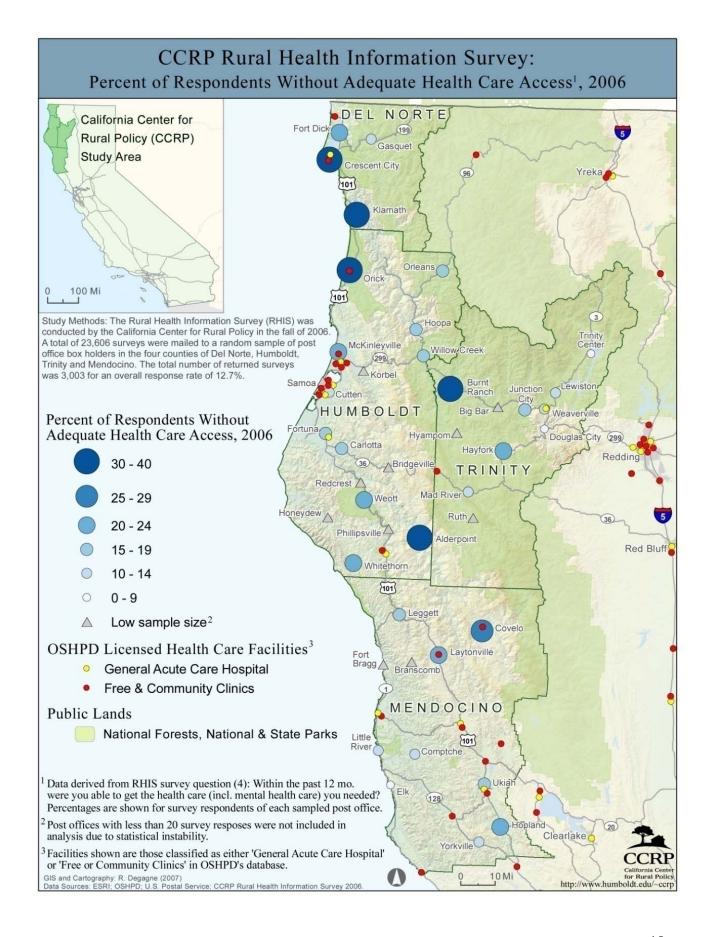
- 1) GIS maps showing the distribution of poverty in Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino counties (collectively known as the Redwood Coast Region). These maps were created using U.S. Census, 2000 data. For more information about poverty in the Redwood Coast Region visit http://www.humboldt.edu/~ccrp/
- 2) GIS maps showing various health indicators in the Redwood Coast Region. These maps were created using data from the Rural Health Information Survey (RHIS), which was conducted by CCRP in the fall of 2006. The purpose of the survey was to assess health disparities, access and utilization of health care, and other determinants of health among residents in Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino counties. The goal of the survey is to provide useful information for planning and policy development aimed at improving health in the region. A four-page self-administered survey was mailed to a random sample of adults in the four county region. A total of 2,950 surveys provided usable responses for analysis making this the largest survey to ever be conducted in this rural region of California. For more information about the Rural Health Information Survey visit http://www.humboldt.edu/~ccrp/
- 3) GIS maps showing various health and social indicators for the Latino population in Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties. These maps were created using data from the Rural Latino Project, which was conducted by CCRP in 2006.

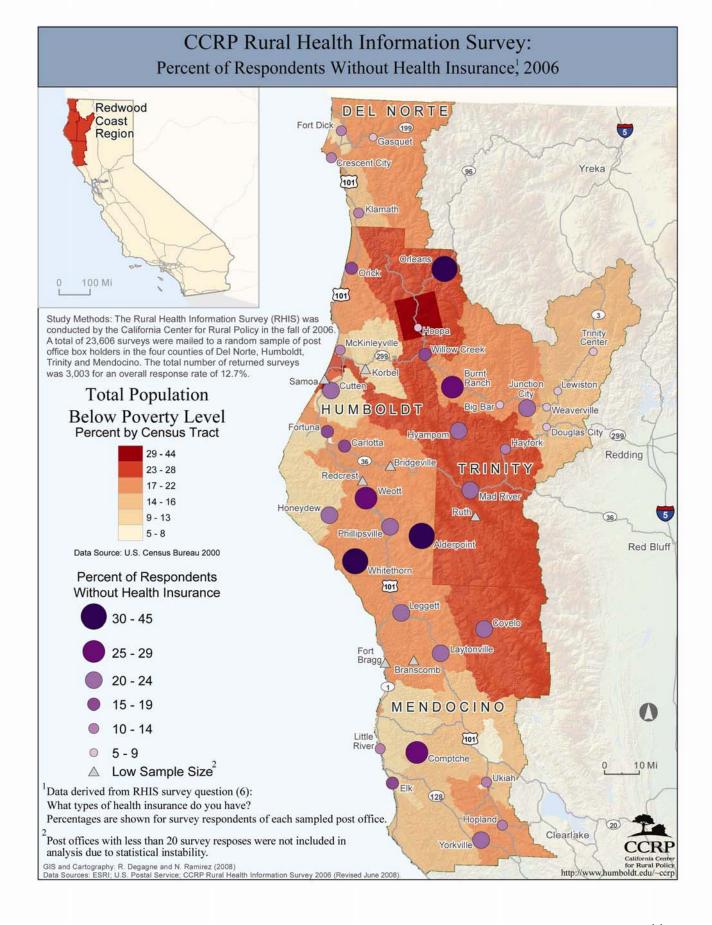
 The Rural Latino Project focuses on the health needs, coping strategies and experiences of Latinos in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties. Multiple research methods were employed including: key-informant interviews, content analysis of newspaper articles, field research, and spatial analysis of primary and secondary data. Qualitative, key-informant interviews were conducted with 54 adults in Humboldt County (*n* = 20), Mendocino County (*n* = 20), and Del Norte County (*n* = 14). Key informants were people who work closely with the Latino community, health and social service providers who serve Latinos, and Latino community leaders from the three counties. For more information about the Rural Latino Project visit http://www.humboldt.edu/~ccrp/

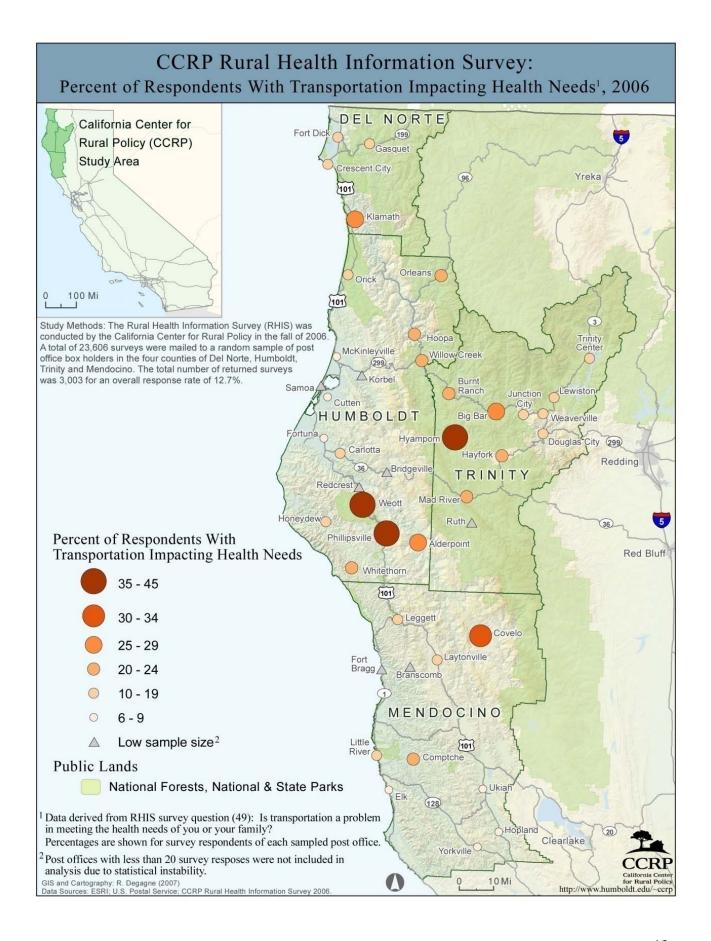


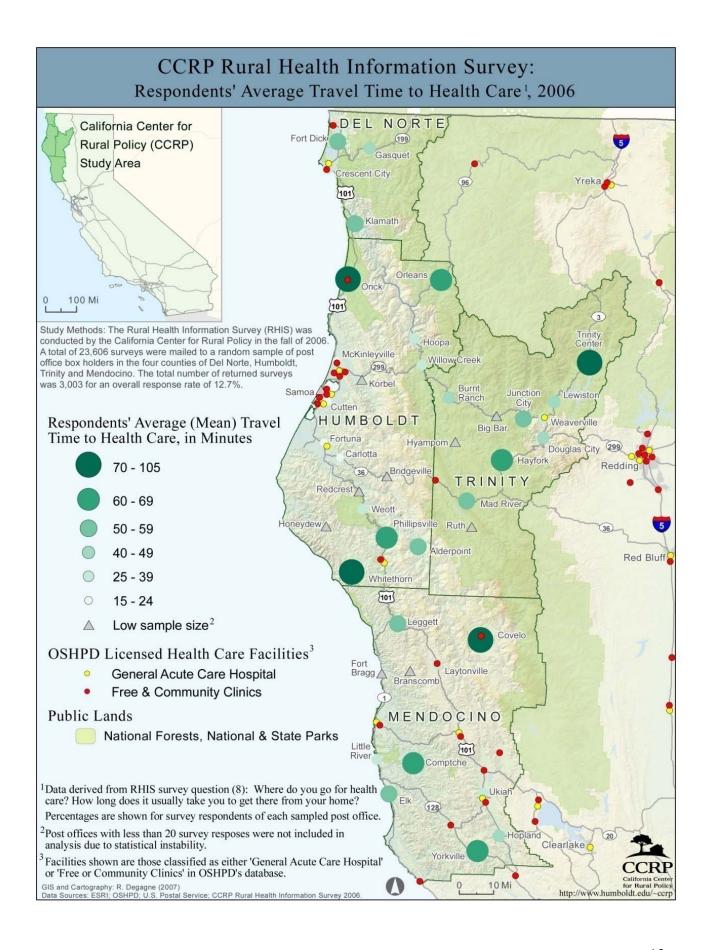


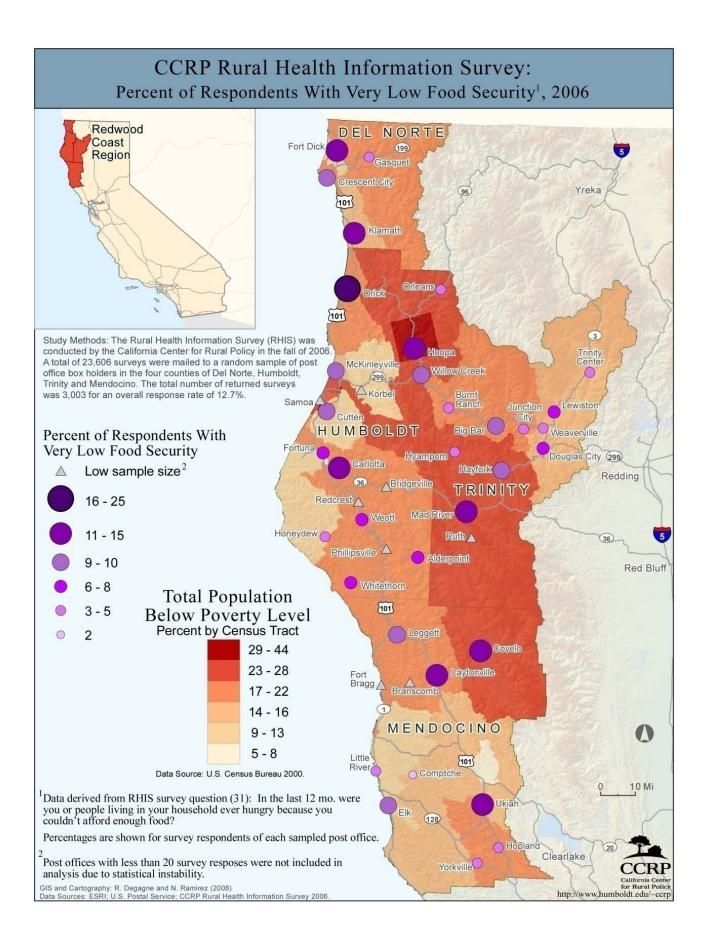


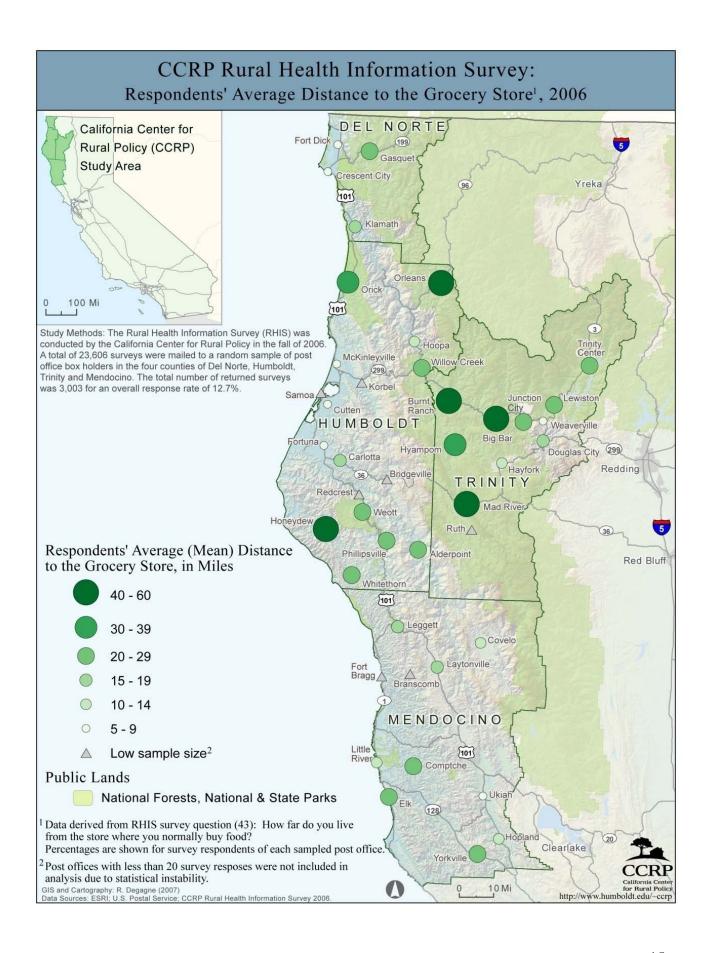


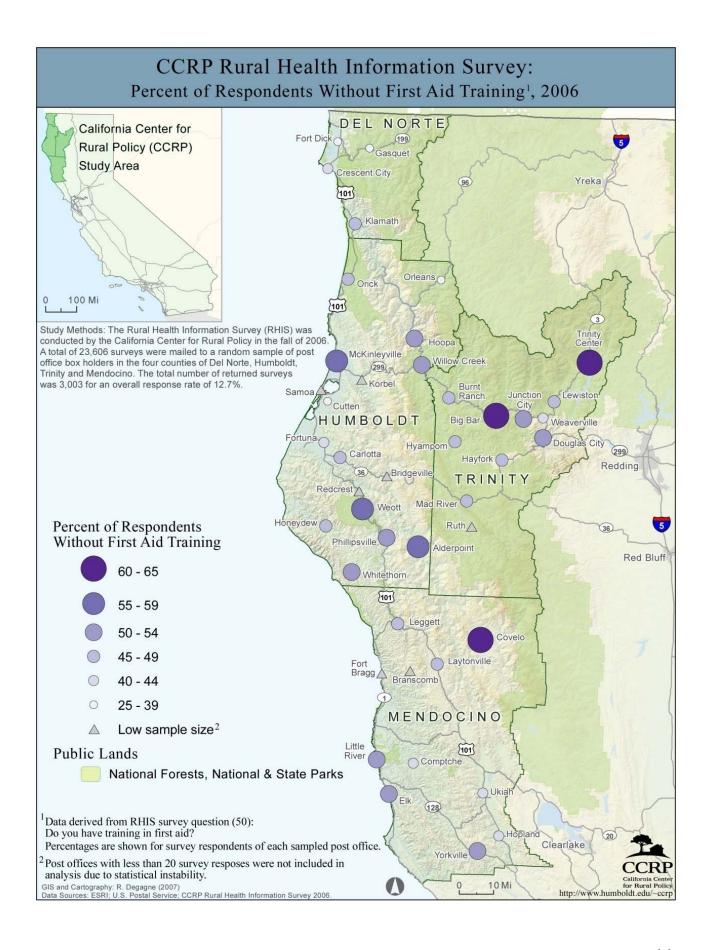


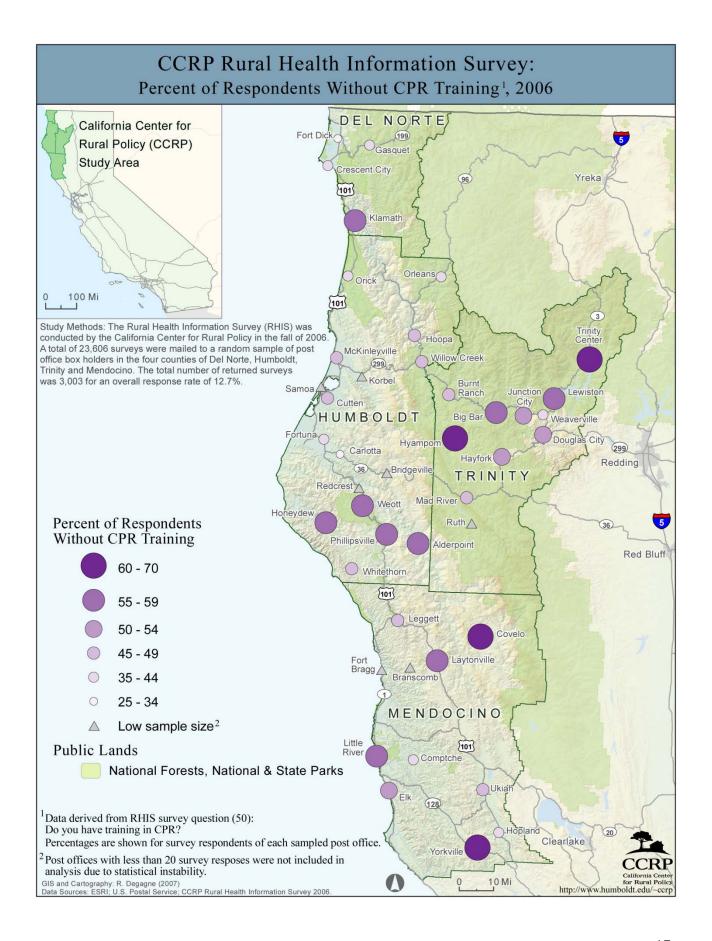


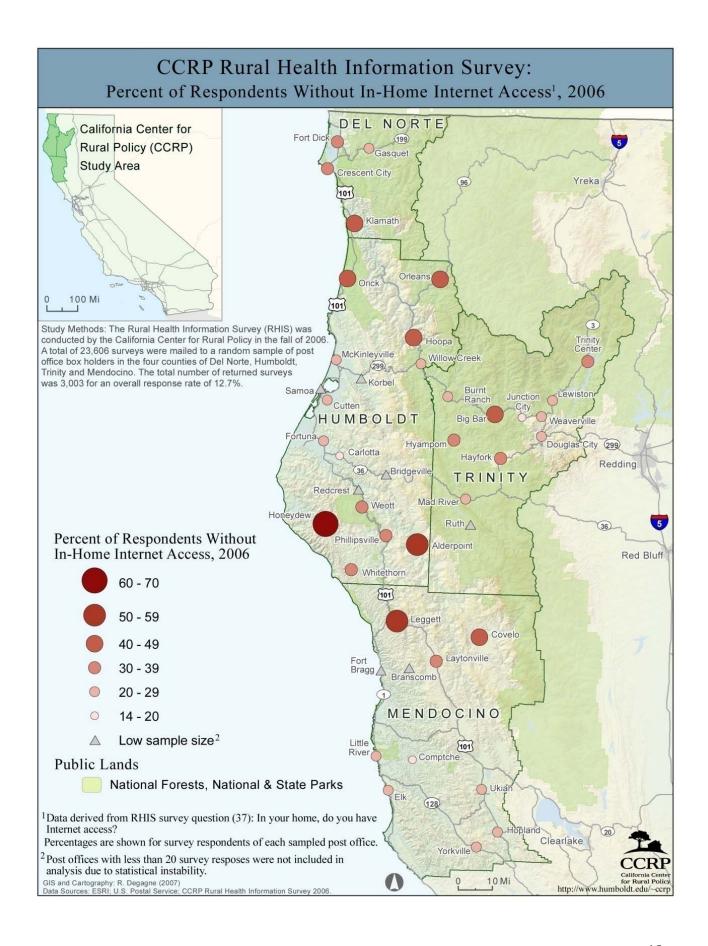


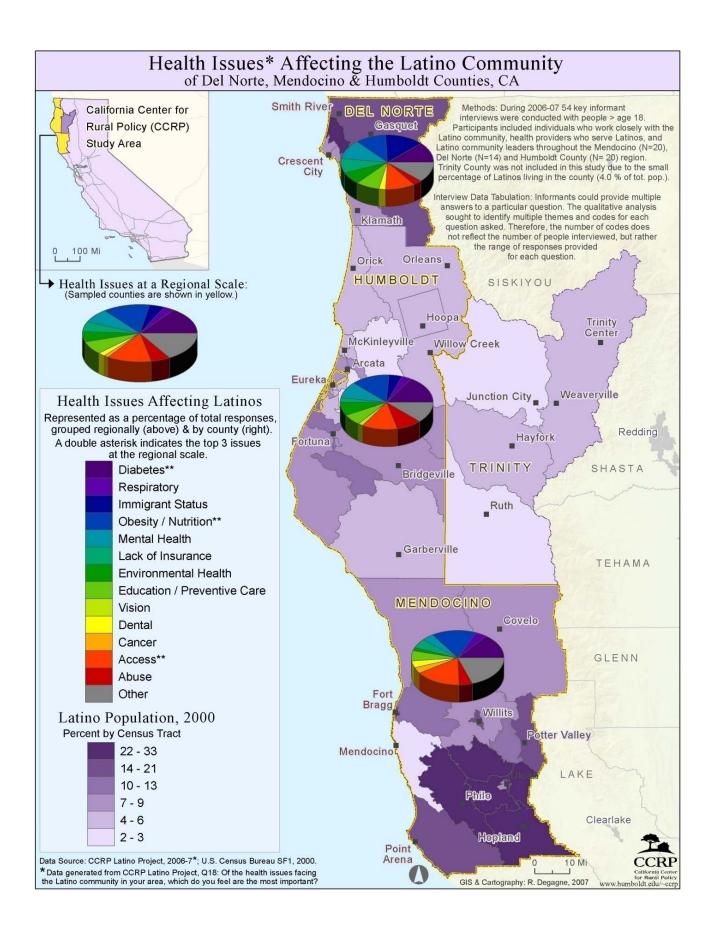


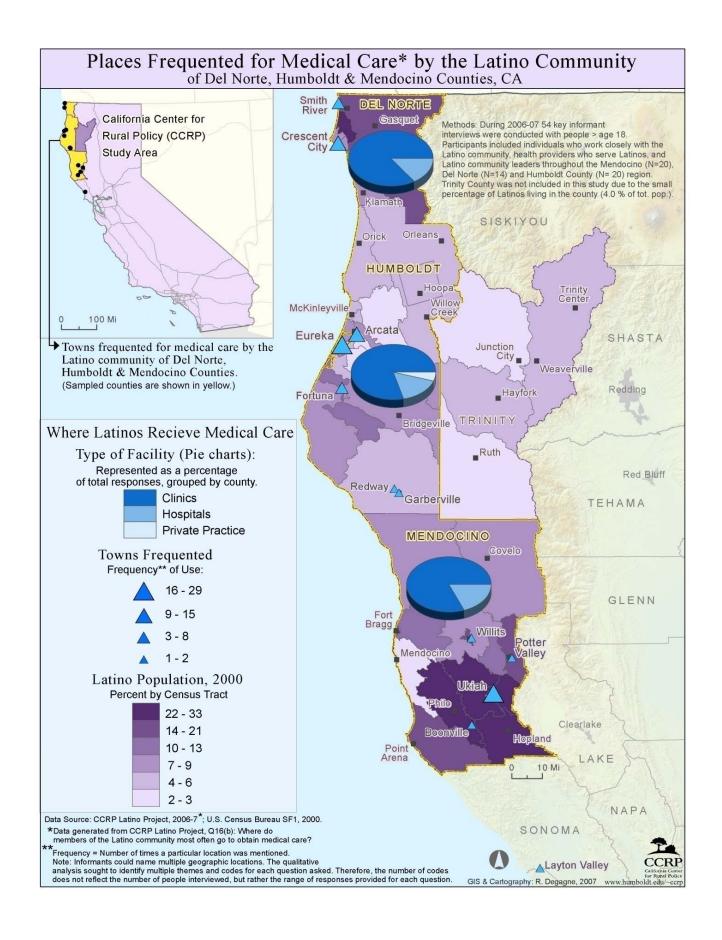


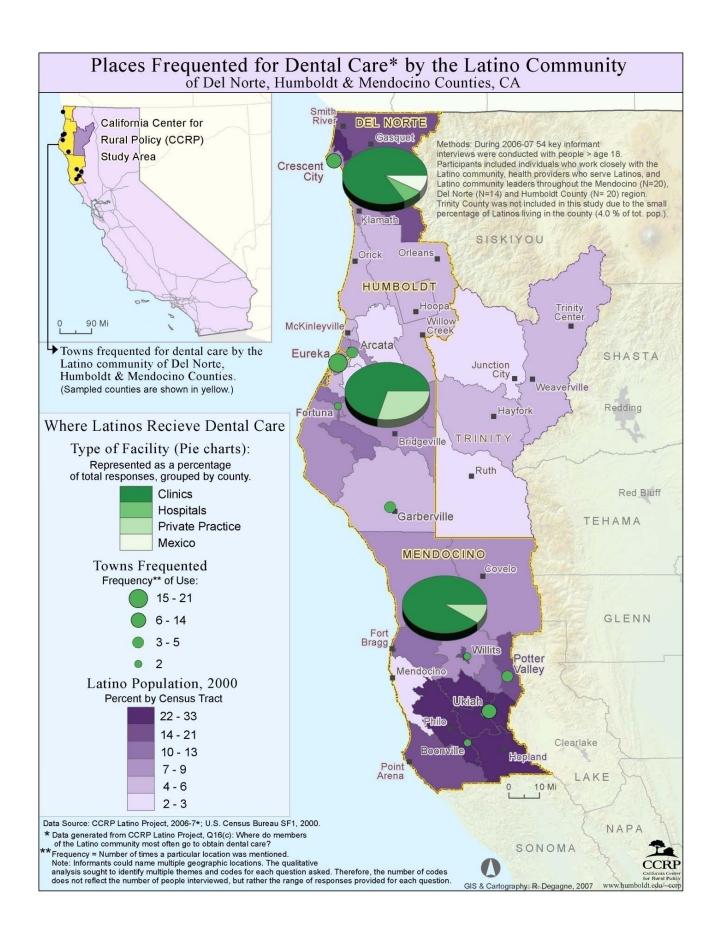


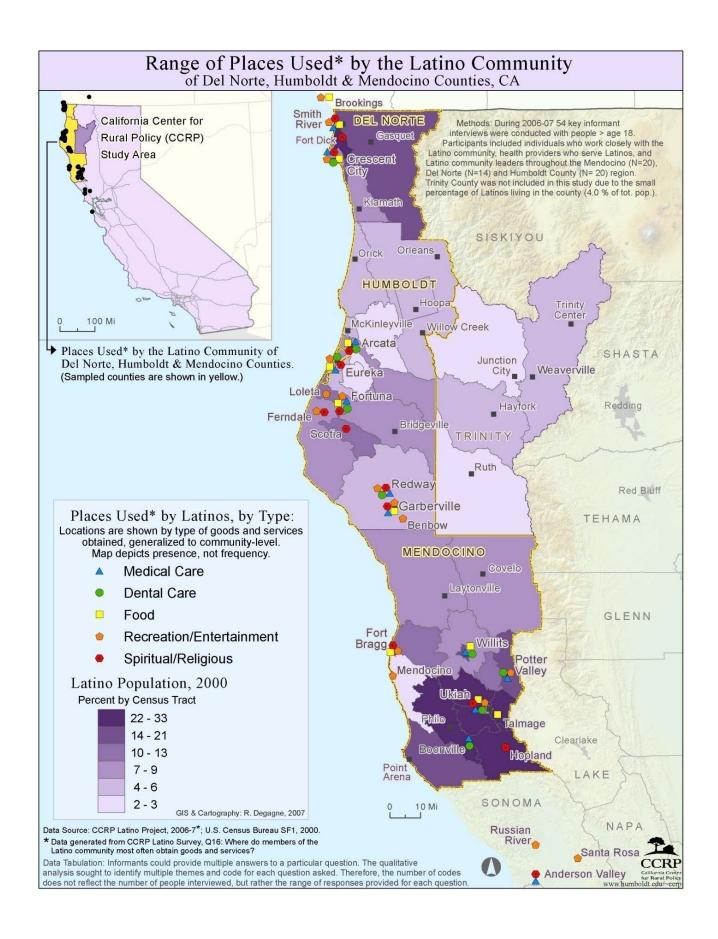


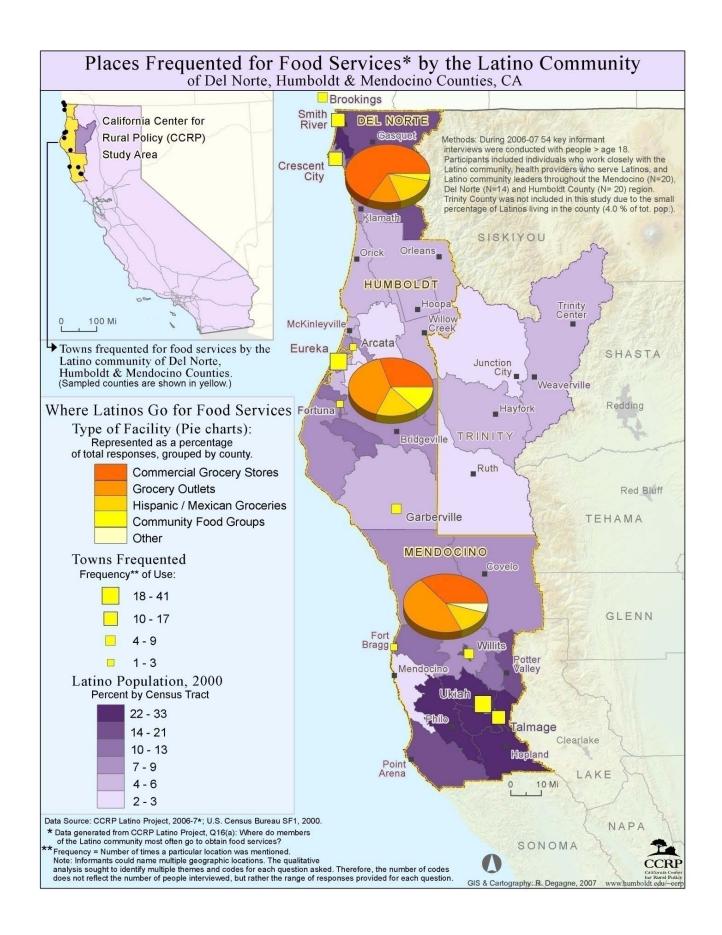


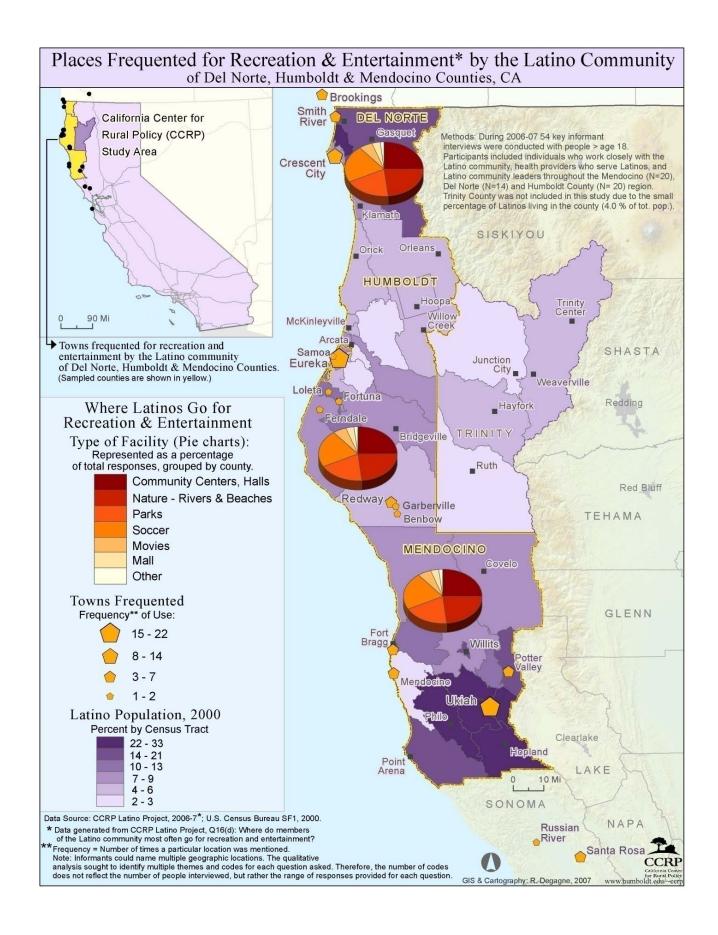


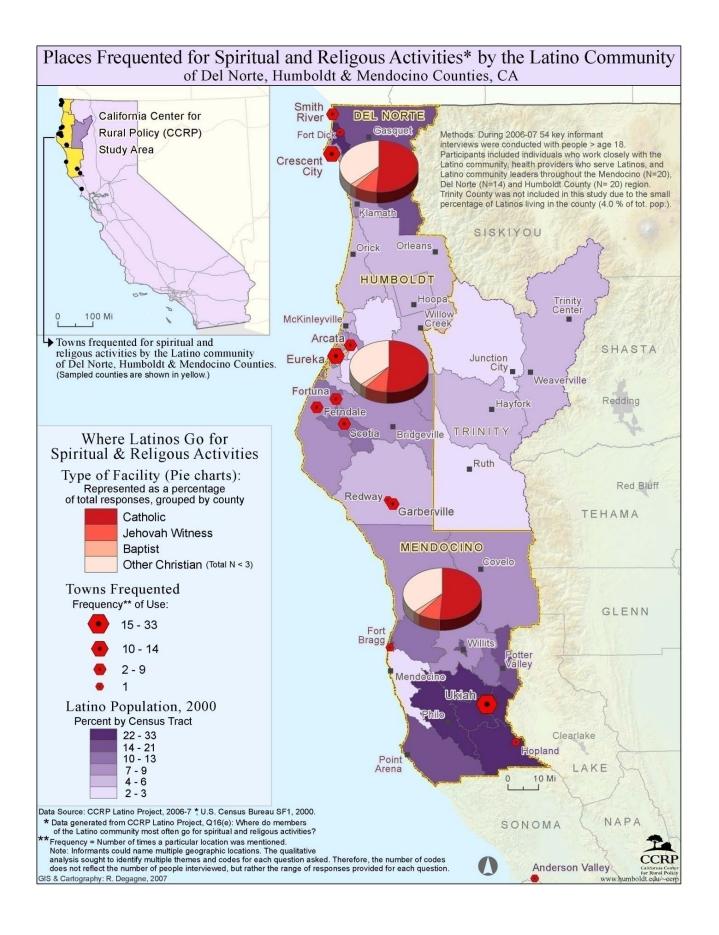


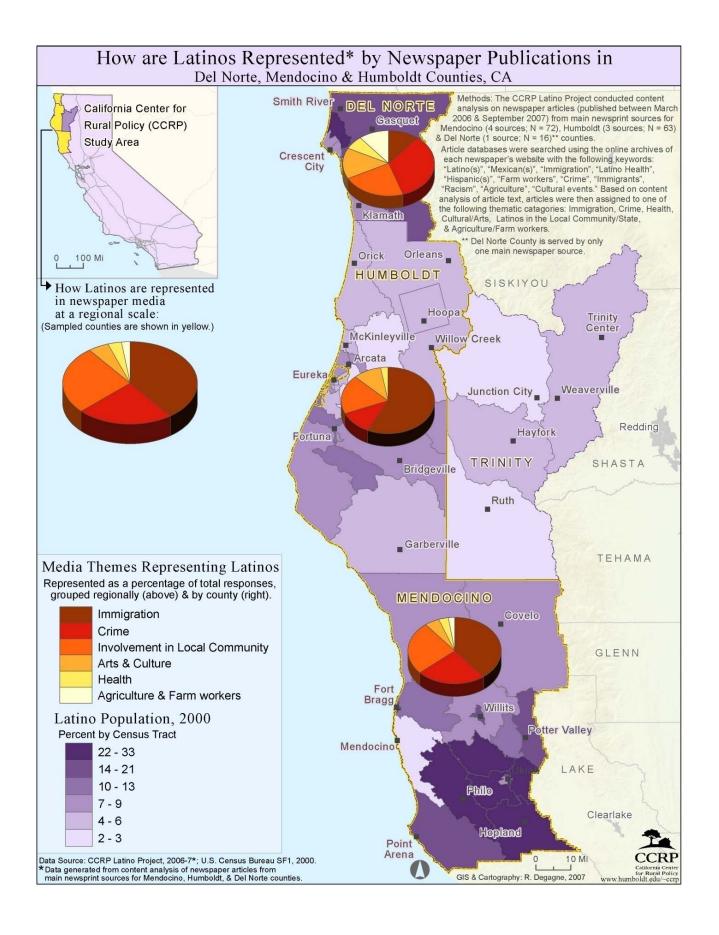












References and Notes:

- 1) Melnick A. *Introduction to Geographic Information Systems in Public Health*. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers, 2002.
- 2) Lang L. GIS for Health Organizations. Redlands, CA: ESRI, 2002.
- 3) Steinberg SJ, Steinberg SL. *Geographic Information Systems for the Social Sciences*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2006.
- 4) The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) varies by household size. For a family of four (two adults, two children) the 2006 Federal Poverty Level (100% FPL) was \$20,444, 200% FPL was \$40,888 and 300% FPL was \$61,332