



Santa Barbara Women's Health Coalition

October 2022 Survey Recap

Survey Recap

Survey purpose:

- Gather preliminary information about the strengths, weaknesses and varying perceptions around local women's healthcare
- Identify the interests/ areas of involvement for members of SBWHC
- Collect demographics of respondents / those interested in SBWHC

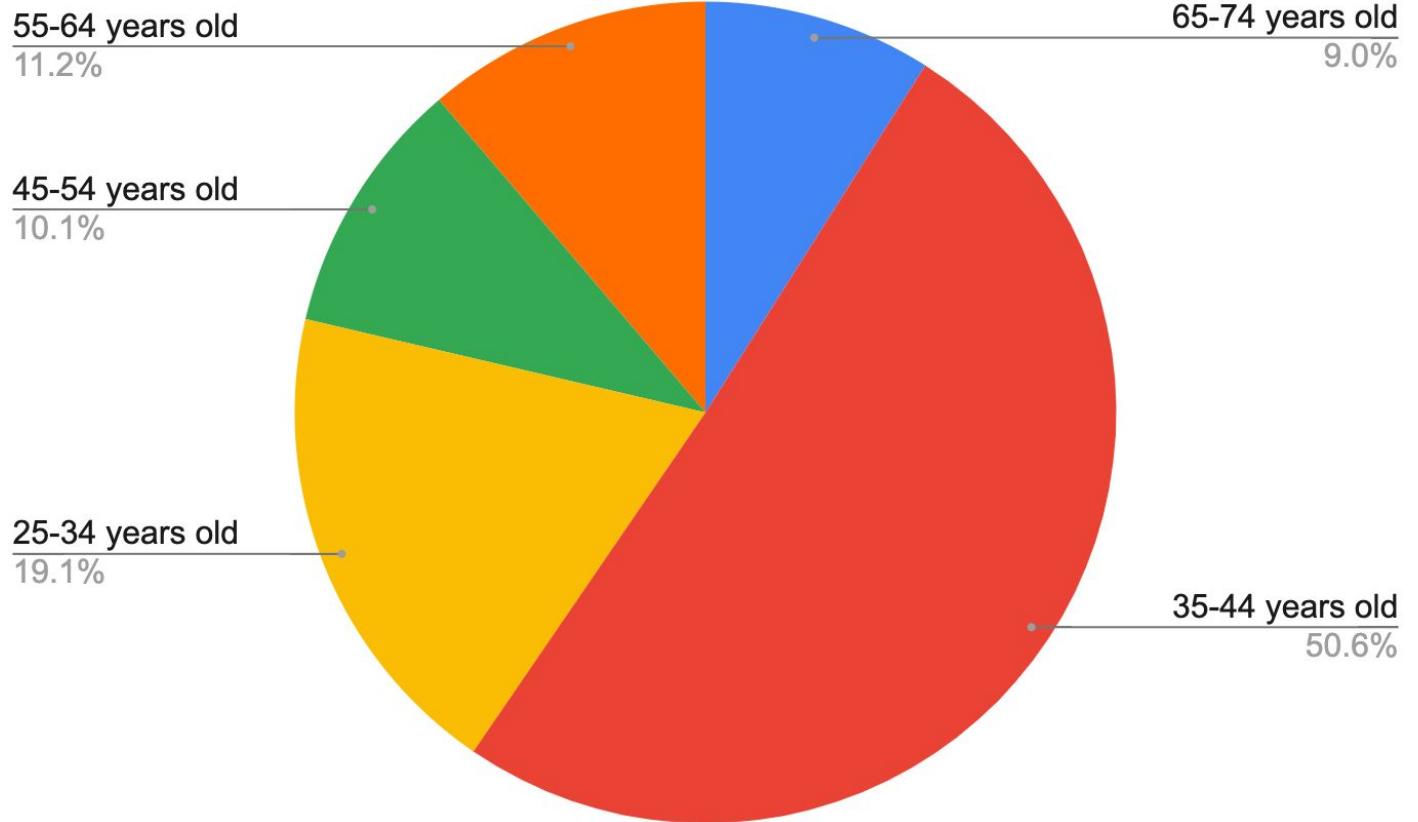
Open for responses: October 7 - November 27

Total responses: 89

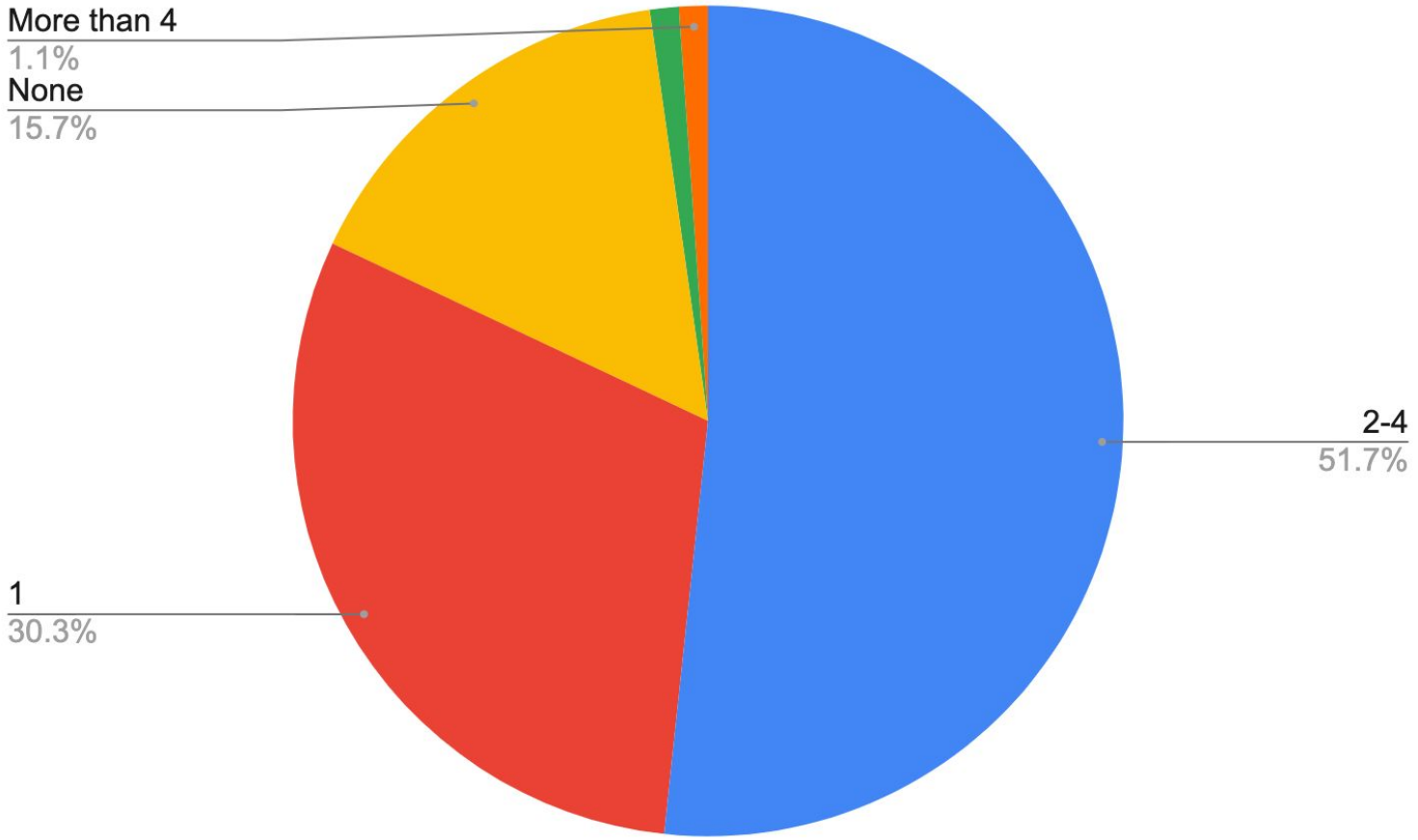
Gender

100% identify
as Female

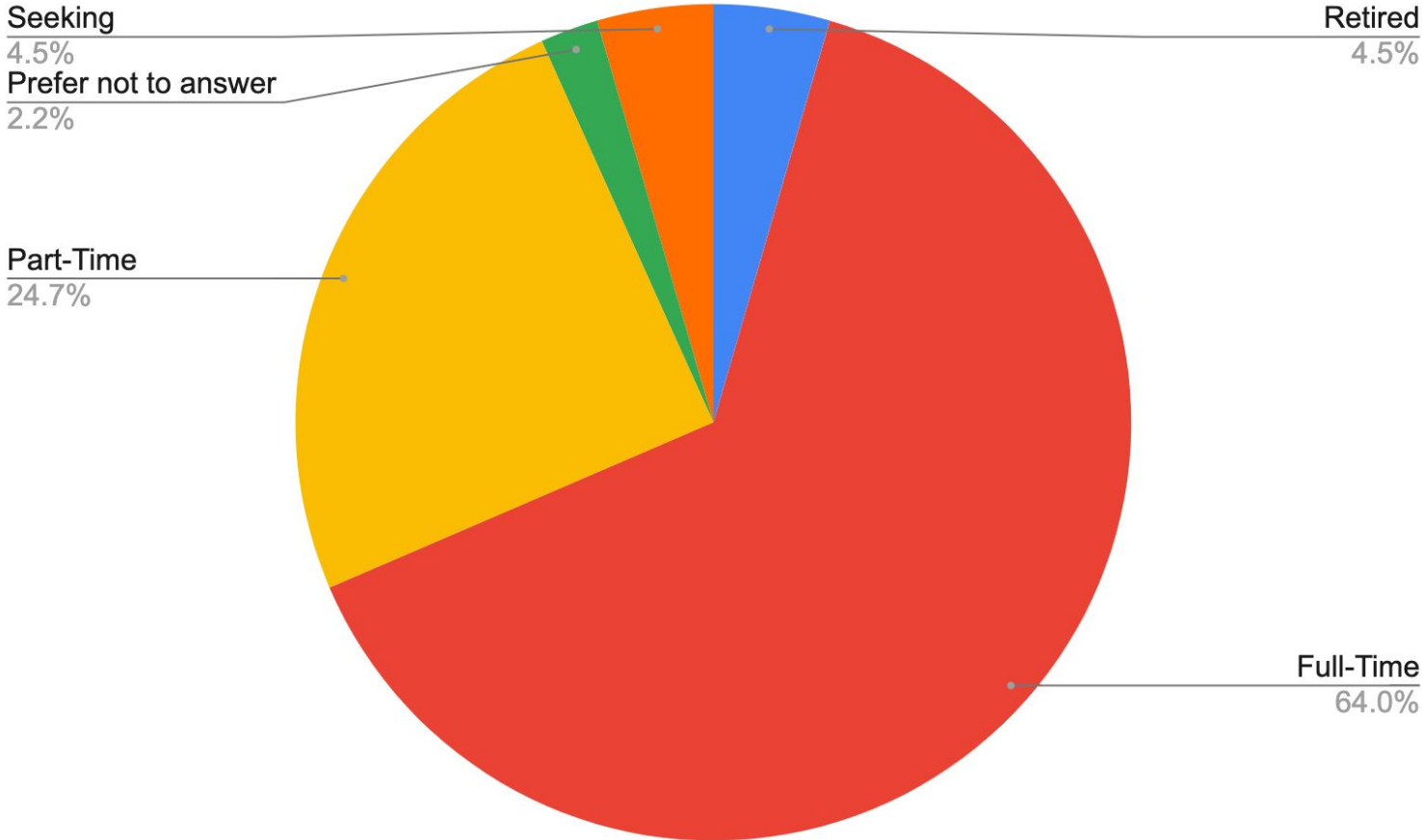
Age



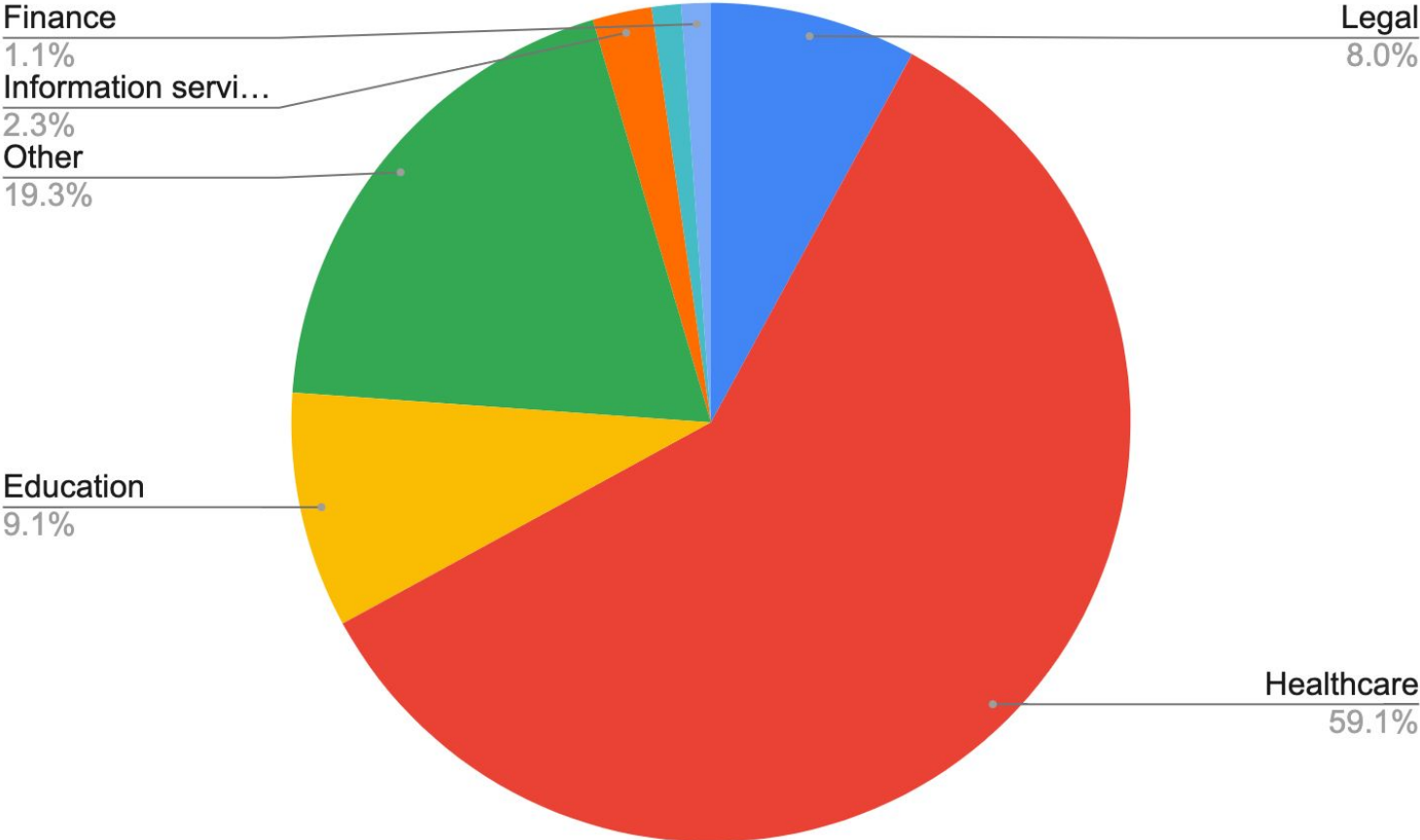
of Children



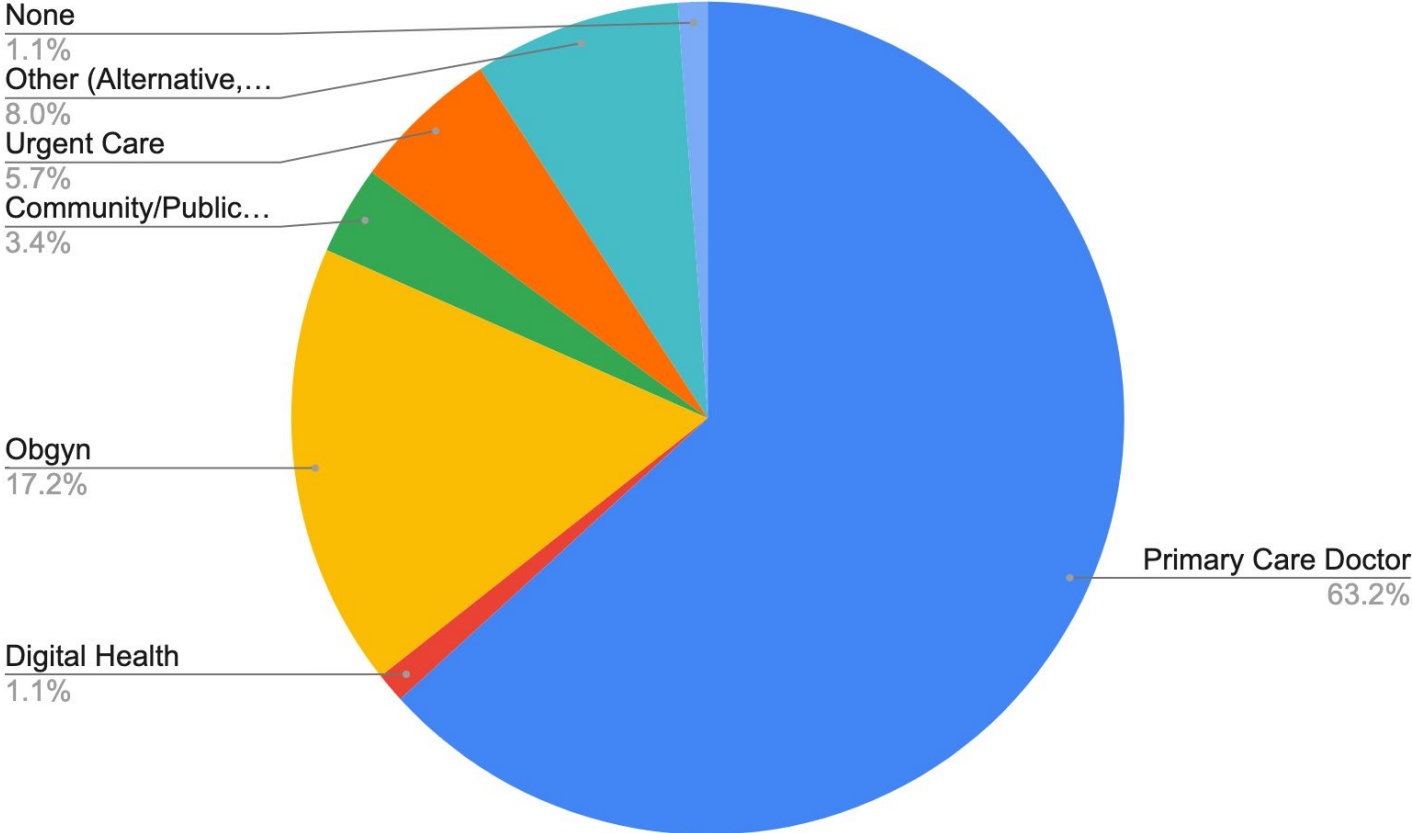
Employment Status



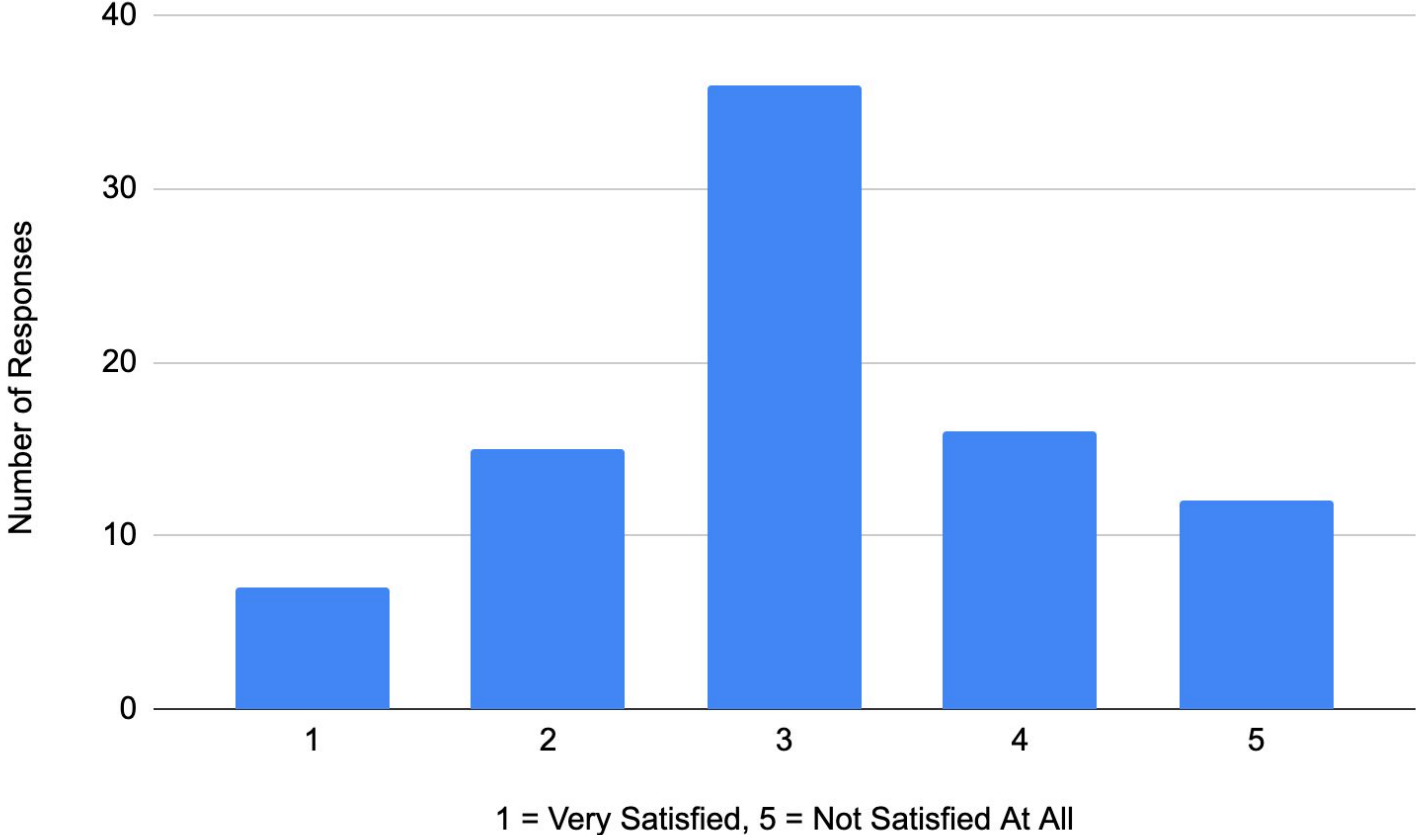
Work Industry



Primary Source of Healthcare



How satisfied are you with the healthcare you receive in Santa Barbara County?



Why do we need to open up conversation and develop an initiative focused on the health needs of women in our community?

We need to improve the care we access, for many reasons:

- It is behind and change happens too slowly
- There aren't enough providers to cover the demands of our community, especially women specific health concerns (beyond preventative and obgyn care)
- Maternal (pregnancy and postpartum) care is impacted/lacking

The barriers to care are impacting the quality of care we receive:

- Barriers: provider access/wait times for appointments, lack of specialized care, insurance coverage, fragmented/de-centralized providers.
- Quality issues: rushed appointments, not feeling listened to, not enough resources.

We need access to better information/education - both women as patients and providers. Advancing our community's understanding of the specific needs of women will help prevent misinformation and dated standards of care.

To create a vision/strategy for improving and integrating care for the physical and mental health needs of women, in a centralized location/system.

Given the financial resources in our community, we can do better.

What are the strengths of our Santa Barbara County healthcare system with regards to women's health?

- We have high-quality physicians, just not enough.
- There are a lot of systems to choose from for a community of our size: Sansum, Cottage, SB Neighborhood Clinics, American Indian Health, private practices.
- We have a lot of alternative providers that can help fill the gaps/support traditional medical healthcare, including: mental health professionals, midwives, doulas, acupuncturists, pelvic floor specialists, exercise and nutrition specialists, etc.
- WEB, PEP are great community resources for new moms.
- The women in our community are well connected so when we can make changes, it will be noticeable and supported.
- Santa Barbara is full of potential benefactors/donors that can help drive change.

What are the biggest challenges for you in obtaining regular, high-quality healthcare in Santa Barbara County?

- Access to providers/long waits.
- Knowing what care and resources are available.
- Inconsistency in the care received.
- Cost of care and poor insurance coverage.

What do you perceive as the biggest gaps in women's healthcare in Santa Barbara County?

- Provider shortage and limited availability.
- Obgyn care - shortage of providers and not enough support during pregnancy and
- Postpartum.
- Lack of services for uninsured or underinsured patients.
- Mental health is not evaluated or treated appropriately, especially in critical periods such as teens, pregnancy/postpartum care and menopause.
- Lack of awareness and support of alternative therapies and care deliveries that are proven to help with women's health concerns.
- Disparities in care for Latina, other women of color, underserved populations.
- VBAC policy
- Certified Nurse Midwives are not able to practice their full professional scope (including delivering babies) in Santa Barbara due to policies.