



# **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

## **SENTINEL INFLUENZA REPORT** As of February 25, 2023

**Santa Barbara County**

**PUBLIC**



**Health**

**D E P A R T M E N T**

# Influenza Surveillance Activities

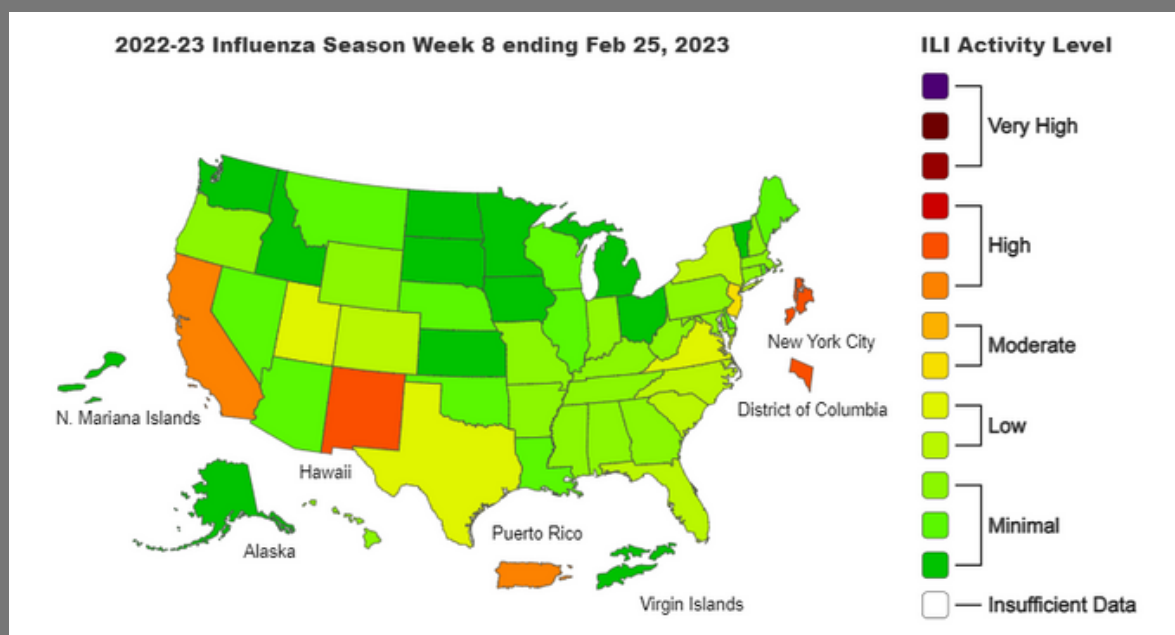
## as of 2/25/23

The 2022-2023 influenza surveillance season began on **October 2, 2022** (Disease Week 40). This report will be released every 2 weeks throughout the influenza season until the need for a more frequent report is necessary, e.g. as a rapid increase in cases not seen in typical seasons occurs.

## NATIONAL UPDATE

- [National Report](#) - Seasonal influenza continues to decline across the country.
- The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories is **1.0%** in Disease Week 8.
- The majority of viruses detected are influenza A(H3N2).
- **2.6%** of visits to a health care provider were attributed to influenza-like illness (ILI)\*. ILI activity remains **above** the national baseline of 2.5%.
- **9.2%** of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PIC). This is **above** the epidemic threshold for this week (**7.3%**). The majority of PIC deaths are due to COVID-19, although the proportion due to influenza has increased this past fall and remained at similar levels.

### Outpatient Illness: ILINet Activity Map



This week, 4 jurisdictions experienced high activity: CA, NM, DC, NYC

\* Influenza-like-Illness (ILI) is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat without a known cause other than influenza.

## CALIFORNIA UPDATE

- [California Report](#)
- Statewide activity was reported to be **Minimal** (percentage of specimens positive for influenza is below 2%).
- Since October 2, 2022:
  - **Deaths:** 612
  - **Influenza Outbreaks:** 102
  - **Laboratory Specimens:** 0.7% flu positive
- Influenza activity is minimal in CA.
- The majority of detected influenza virus are A (H3N2).
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity is decreasing in CA.
- Prophylactic palivizumab can prevent serious RSV illness in [high risk-infants](#).
- COVID-19 surveillance data are available on the [CDPH COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Minimal Low Moderate High Very High



Geographic Area	Activity Level
California Statewide	Minimal
Northern Region	Minimal
Bay Area Region	Minimal
Central Region	Minimal
Upper Southern Region	Minimal
Lower Southern Region	Minimal

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY UPDATE

- **Minimal\*** influenza activity was seen in Disease Week 8.
- The seven sentinel provider sites reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in **23** of the **7,047** total patients seen (**0.3%**) (Chart 1) which was about the same activity seen the last 2 seasons for this time of year.
  - Disease Week 7: 17/3819 = **0.4%**
  - Disease Week 8: 6/3228 = **0.2%**

Minimal Activity



- This season there have been **11** clusters of non-COVID-19 Upper Respiratory Illness reported in congregate settings, 6 clusters were positive for RSV and the remainder were positive for influenza.
- There were **0** influenza-associated deaths documented this season.

\* Minimal: The percentage of specimens positive for influenza is <2%.

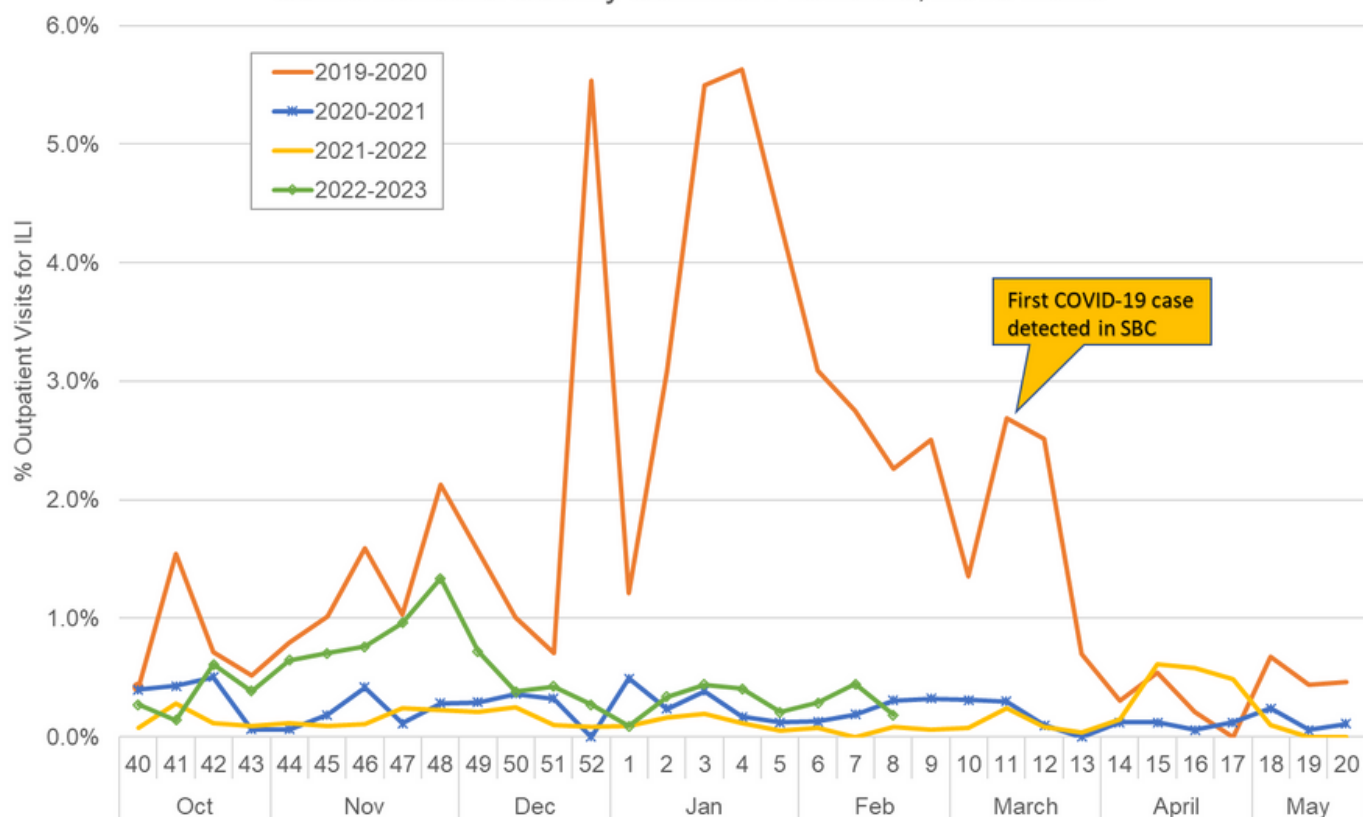
## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY UPDATE (CONTINUED)

- The Hospital Emergency Departments (ED) that submitted data reported seeing **5035** patients over weeks 7-8 of which **356** were diagnosed with ILI (**7.1%**) and **1.1%** were admitted.
  - Week 7:  $184/2466 = 7.5\%$
  - Week 8:  $172/2569 = 6.7\%$
- Last season during weeks 7-8, there was lower activity seen, with ED's reporting **5.7%** of ILI activity.
- Of note: The shifting of resources and priorities within the healthcare and hospitals has attributed to inconsistent ILI reporting throughout the pandemic.

### SENTINEL PROVIDER PROGRAM

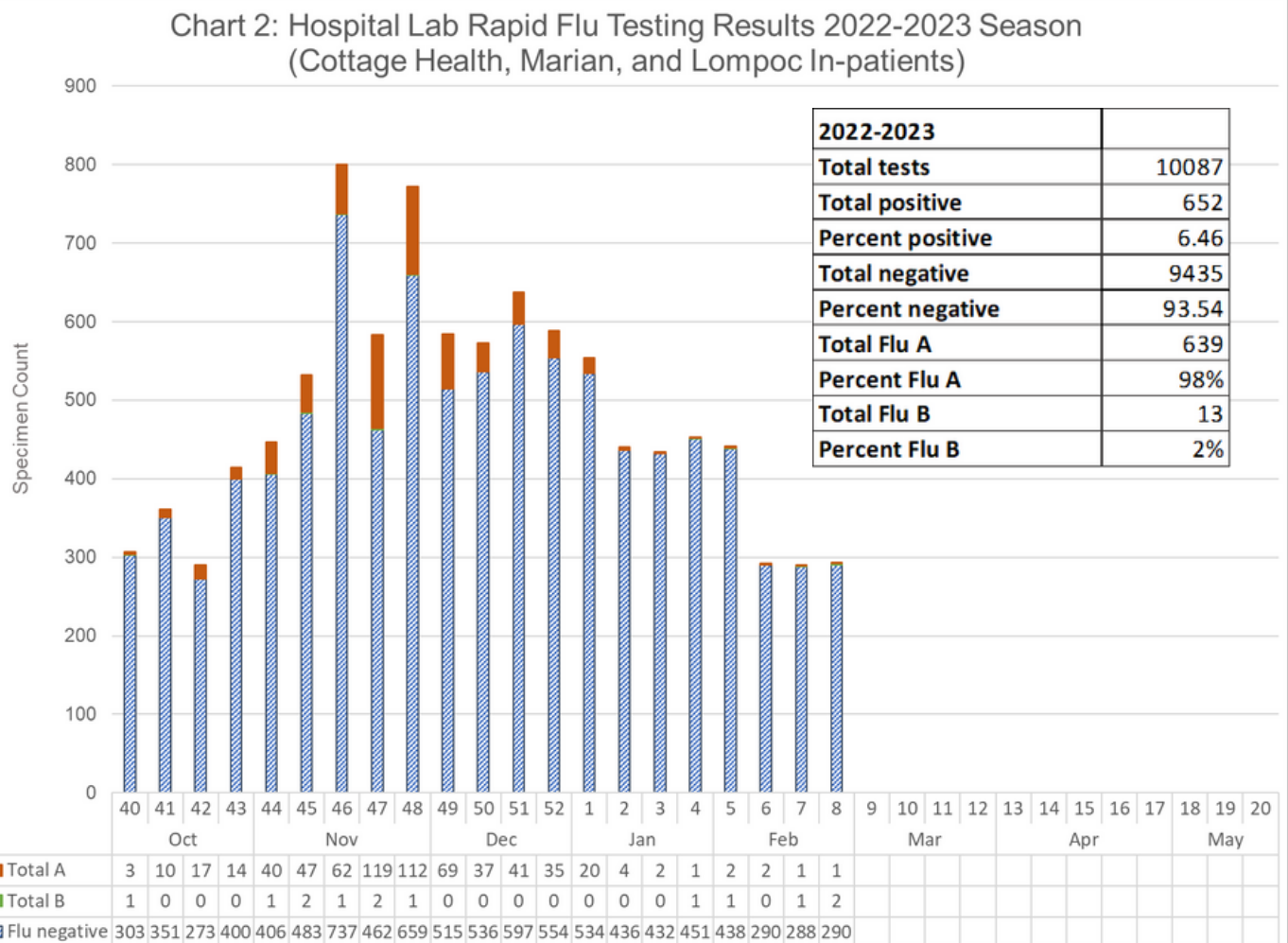
Each year, healthcare providers across the United States, enroll as sentinel influenza providers for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). In the 2022-2023 influenza season, Santa Barbara has seven clinics enrolled in ILINet: Carpinteria Health Care Center, Franklin Healthcare Center, Lompoc Healthcare Center, Santa Barbara Health Care Center, Santa Maria Health Care Center, SBCC Student Health, and UCSB Student Health.

Chart 1: Percent of Outpatient Visits Due to ILI  
Santa Barbara County Sentinel Providers, 2019-2023

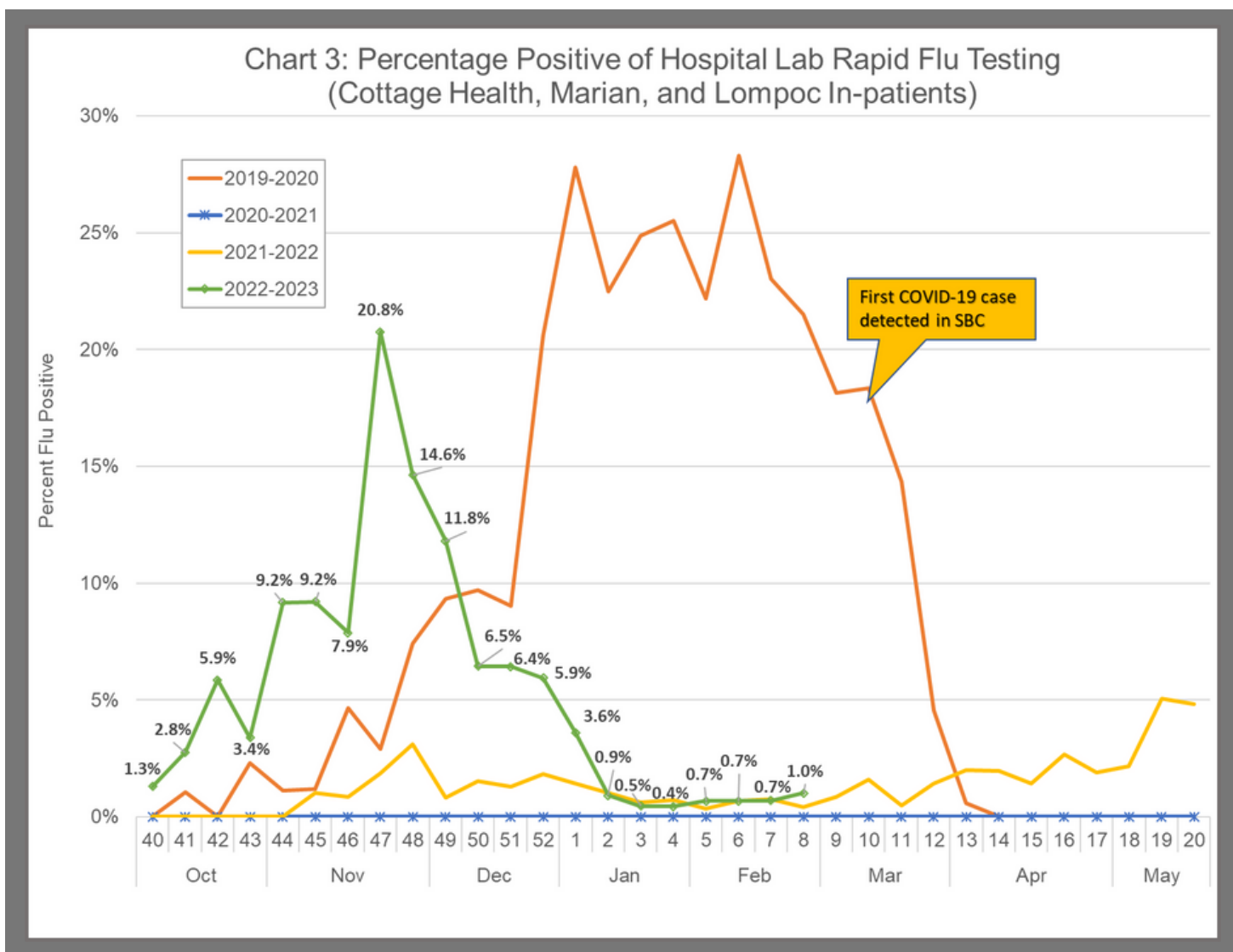




In Disease Week 8 the local hospital labs have reported having tested **293** in-patients with PCR and rapid tests with **3** testing positive (**1.0%, 1 flu A, 2 flu B**) (Chart 2). The influenza positivity percentage was significantly lower compared to this time prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (orange line in Chart 3 - COVID was first identified in March 2020 in SBC) and has been decreasing in recent weeks.



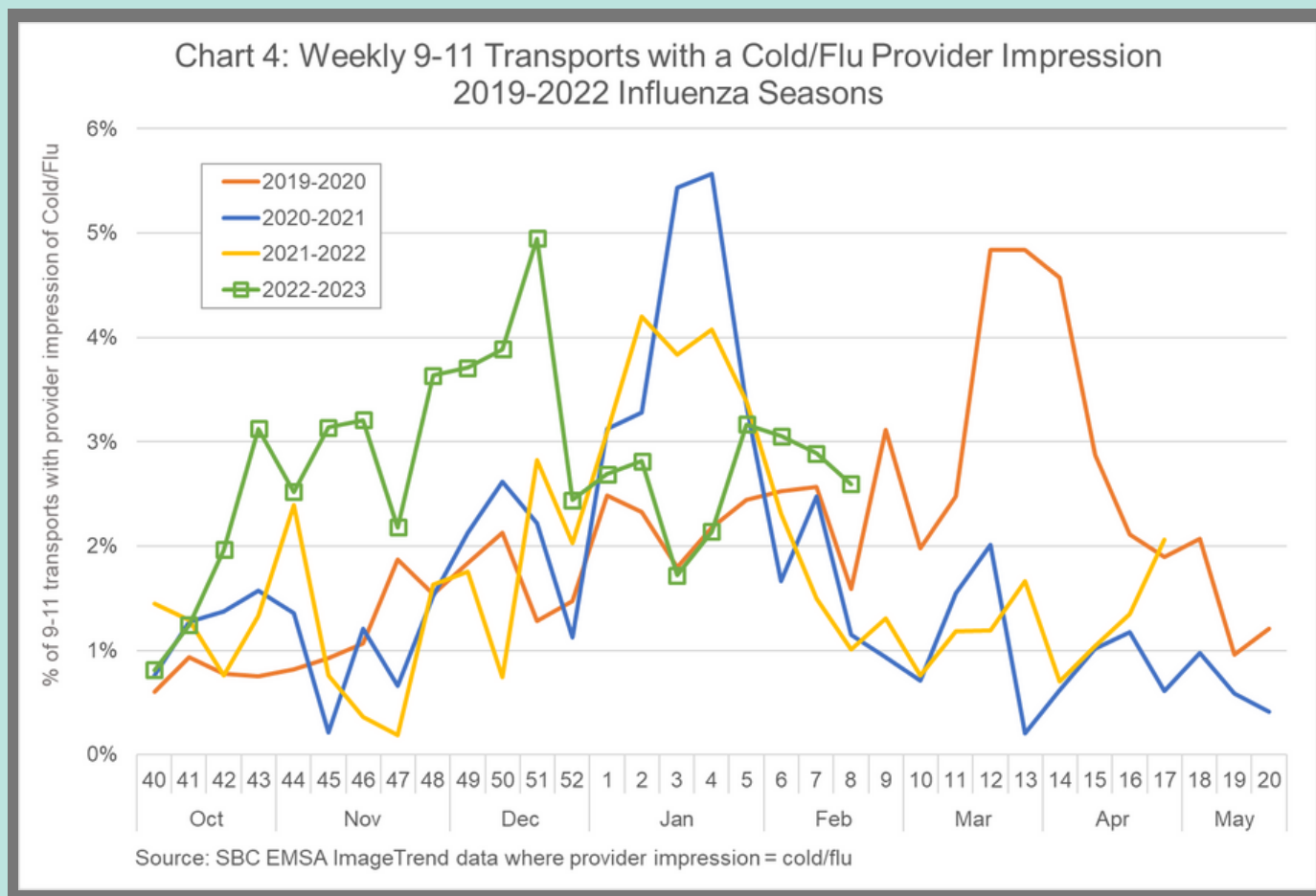
## LABORATORY DATA (CONTINUED)



## 9-11 TRANSPORTS

Each week, using the Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SBC EMSA) ImageTrend database capturing all pre-hospital transports, the percentage of 911-transports with a provider impression equal to cold/influenza is calculated.

In Disease Week 8, cold or flu was determined to be a primary impression/primary diagnosis by 9-11 paramedics for approximately **2.6%** of the total patients they transported that week. Compared to past seasons at this time, this percentage of cold/flu transports was above percentages reported the last 3 seasons. Spikes seen in March of 2020 and January 2021 were due in part to the increase of COVID-19 cases at that time.



For Local COVID-19 Data and Information, visit: <https://publichealthsb.org/>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Santa Barbara Public Health Epidemiology Unit

<https://www.countyofsb.org/phd/epi>