

Notes from Dr. Jamshid Damooei:

- Child Abuse Data: we used Department of Justice information for child abuse and it looked strange showing a sharp decline since year 2000. I discussed this with my good friend Sonia Kroth, Community Relations Manager of the County HSA and her colleagues who are experts on the county child abuse case management and administration. With their help I managed to use Child Welfare Dynamic Report System, which has come out of the collaboration between California Department of Social Services and University of California at Berkeley. They have a great data system and I learned quite a bit about what goes on with regard to child abuse cases and extracted yearly data for substantiated child abuse cases from 2000 to 2010. I found that some 80 to 90 percent of reported cases are often thrown out as unsubstantiated. I then made comparison between our data from DOJ and the data that they collect and it appears that DOJ does not prosecute cases of general neglect which is the most significant proportion of cases every year. This is my guess and I will bring it up with my good friend Greg Totten, Ventura County District Attorney when I see him. Making the long story short the data we have which is 100 accurate also shows a significant drop particularly since the middle of the last decade, but it is not as drastic and it is possible to be believed.
- County Ag Land: I traced the data between 1984 to 1992. The historic data comes from GIS system of California Department of Conservation. They have gone through some changes in their reporting system in 1996 and 2000, which can be found in the footnotes of my slides. Making the long story short, we see a surge in year 2000, which in part can be attributed to some change in their reporting. Ag land has gone up in some period of time but by much lower amount. Using a total change over some 20 year when the reporting format change make no sense. So I reported the changes on yearly basis for all three categories of land in the report. The picture is quite clear and accurate now.
- Level of Rents: as I alluded to it in my presentation and some of our panel members also mentioned the story of the county rents falling is not accurate. The graph that we have in our presentation clearly shows that it has gone up over the period of our report.