

VII. Injury and Violence

Title:	Data Source:	Publish Date:	Contact:
Kidsdata.org	www.kidsdata.org	Updated regularly	Andy Krackov, Senior Director of Public Information Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health (650) 736-0677

Major Findings

Number of Domestic Violence Calls for Assistance: 2005

<u>San Mateo County</u>	<u>East Palo Alto</u>
2,704	196

Definition: Number of domestic violence calls for assistance from residents of all ages.

Footnote: The county total includes the Dept. of Parks & Recreation, BART, Union Pacific Railroad, and the California Highway Patrol.

Data Source: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/index.htm>. Retrieved October 25, 2006.

What it is: Violence between intimate partners or former partners in dating or marriage relationships is considered domestic violence, and it can occur either inside or outside the home. The rate of domestic violence refers to the number of domestic violence calls to law enforcement each year per 1,000 residents, ages 18-69.

Why is this topic important?

In 30% to 60% of families that experience domestic violence, children also are abused* (some estimates of this co-occurrence are even higher). In addition, children who witness domestic violence -- even if they are not targets of the violence -- tend to exhibit the same emotional, behavioral, and academic problems as abused children. Children raised in violent family environments also are at risk of becoming abusers or victims themselves during adolescence or adulthood.

Juvenile Felony Arrests: 2004

<u>San Mateo County</u>	<u>East Palo Alto</u>
821	42

Definition: Number of juvenile felony arrests for children up to age 17.

Footnote: The county total also includes figures from the Dept. of Parks & Recreation, BART, Union Pacific Railroad, and the California Highway Patrol.

Data Source: State of California Department of Justice, California Criminal Justice Profile, 2004. Website:

<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/index.htm>. Retrieved 7/13/06.

What it is: This topic describes the rate of felony arrests of youth ages 10 to 17. Felony arrests, which are more serious than misdemeanors, tend to involve injury or substantial property loss. Felony crimes include violent offenses (homicide, rape, robbery, assault, and kidnapping), property offenses (burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and arson), drug and alcohol offenses, sex offenses, and other offenses (such as weapons, hit-and-run, and bookmaking).

Why is this topic important?

Juvenile arrests are considered an indicator of social breakdown, and juvenile offenders pose a risk both to themselves

and to others. A high rate of recidivism (repeat offenses) exists among young offenders. Moreover, adults who commit serious crimes are more likely to have been arrested as youth.

Title:	Data Source:	Publish Date:	Contact:
California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) Key Findings- 5 th Grade Spring 2006, Ravenswood City Elementary	California Healthy Kids Survey	Spring 2006	Call your CHKS Service Center for further information.

Major Findings

Violence and Safety-Related Behavior and Experiences in 5th graders in East Palo Alto

Being bullied (hit or pushed)	65%
Brought a gun or knife to school	5%
Saw someone with a knife or gun at school	36%
Feels safe at school all the time	39%

This chart includes the percentages of students who carried weapons to school and who saw someone with a weapon there. The former is likely lower than the latter because many students might see a weapon brought by only one student. The observation rate provides a sense of the effect of carrying weapons on the school environment.

Why is this Topic Important?

Perceived Harm

The relationship of knowledge, attitudes, and behavior is complex. Attitudes toward drug use among elementary-age youth are generally very negative. Among secondary school students, state and national trend data indicate that perceptions of high harm or risk are associated with lower use rates over time. This indicates that realistically communicating drug hazards is an important strategy of a comprehensive prevention program, particularly if youth do not see regular drug use as harmful.

Bullying

Pushing behavior is a form of harassment or bullying commonly used among elementary level youth. It is a form of abusive behavior that instills a sense of vulnerability, isolation, and fear in its victims. If pushing behavior is confronted with conflict, it can lead to physical fights, possibly with weapons. If not confronted, it can lead to isolation from friends, family and school, depression, and engagement in risk behaviors such as drug use.

Carrying Weapons at School

Much of the public concern over school safety is focused on guns and other weapons. The immediate accessibility of a weapon often is the factor that turns a violent altercation into a lethal event

Perceived Safety

The CHKS asks students how safe they felt in school. The mandate for safe schools does not mean merely "violence-free," but safe, secure, and peaceful. Safety -both psychological and physical- is a basic need that must be met in order for students to succeed in school and in life.

Title:	Data Source:	Publish Date:	Contact:
California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) Key Findings- 7 th Grade Spring 2006, Ravenswood City Elementary	California Healthy Kids Survey	Spring 2006	Call your CHKS Service Center for further information.

Major Findings

Description of Participating Students Grade 7

	Fall 2003	Fall 2005
Number of Students Surveyed	220	327
Percent of Students Participating	66%	69%
<u>Gender (%)</u>		
Males	52	48
Females	48	52
<u>Race/Ethnicity* (%)</u>		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	4
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	12	15
Asian	0	1
Black or African American	19	14
Hispanic or Latino/Latina	65	64
White or Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	1	2
Other	6	6
Selected more than one category	3	4

*Students that selected more than one category were counted in each category. Therefore, these columns may add up to more than 100%.

Percent of Students Who Feel Very Safe at School

Felt Very Safe at School 20%

Percent of Students Who Experienced Safety-Related Incidents on School Property During the Past 12 Months

Being Harassed	37%
Being in a Fight	49%
Being Afraid of being Beaten Up	34%
Carried a Gun	13%
Carried any Other Weapon, Such a Knife or a Club	25%

Title:	Data Source:	Publish Date:	Contact:
One East Palo Alto Community Survey Report	Prepared for the One East Palo Alto Neighborhood Improvement Initiative, East Palo Alto Community and Stakeholders by Empowerment Research!, a Program of the Community Development Institute.	March 2004	Dr. Faye McNair-Knox: mcnair@1epa.org or Lome: lome@cdi-usa.org

Crime and Safety Issues Major Findings

- Drugs were ranked as the top crime issue by 43% of respondents.
- Concern regarding drugs is concentrated in the neighborhoods of Palo Alto Park, University Village, and the northern segment of the Gardens.
- All of the racial and ethnic groups indicated that drugs are the number one concern.
- The majority of respondents (65%) feel very unsafe or unsafe in their neighborhood.
- A plurality of respondents (45%) indicated that public safety is good or very good.

Why is this Topic Important?

A spatial analysis of the top-ranked crime issue revealed that concern about drugs is mostly concentrated in the neighborhoods of Palo Alto Park, University Village, and the northern segment of the Gardens. In contrast, concern regarding drugs is more diffuse in the Weeks neighborhood. Drug crime arrests are mostly concentrated in Palo Alto Park, University Village, and the northern segment of the Gardens. It should also be noted that there is a concentration of drug crime arrests in the Weeks neighborhood along Clarke Avenue.

Title:	Data Source:	Publish Date:	Contact:
East Palo Alto Crime Reduction Task Force Report	Office of Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson	January 30, 2005	Office of Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson

Major Findings

Community Safety Committee

There are several compelling issues that face this community. Violence, particularly among the youth, is a serious concern. The prevalence of guns and the accessibility of guns correspond with the violence. An increase in gang activity among all cultures is another problem. Youth being attracted to gangs and the active recruitment of youth into gangs is another issue of paramount importance. The release of more parolees to this community from the Department of Corrections is an area that also needs to be addressed on several levels.

Community Values and Standards Committee

The fact that positive values are not commonly held and acted upon throughout our diverse community is reflected in a large percentage of EPA high school dropouts and disproportionate confinement of East Palo Alto youth in the San Mateo County juvenile justice system. 2003 ended as the most violent year in East Palo Alto in nearly a decade.

Prevention and Alternatives Committee

The need for positive alternatives for youth and adults and resources for prevention is great, yet this is an area that is often given less attention and funding. Without prevention and alternatives, crime reduction will be an even more challenging task.

Research and Analysis Committee

There are many innovative best practices that are occurring in other jurisdictions, yet this is not readily available for community, city, and county leaders to access.

Why is this Topic Important?

Community Safety Committee Recommendations

1. Continue and expand upon the highly functioning, well-established law enforcement collaborative effort to reduce crime, violence, drug sales, and gang activity.

2. Develop a citywide group of resources that will offer pro-social alternatives for youth in lieu of gang and criminal activities
3. Establish an Intensive Supervision Program. The goal of this program will be to target the most violent offenders in the community.

Community Values and Standards Committee Recommendations

1. Expand membership of the Values Committee and establish a meeting schedule to follow through with recommendations
2. Assemble all existing documents addressing value issues and build on existing efforts to identify, change or build upon existing community values
3. Convene focus groups to continue the dialogue about the community's values and publish a report representing a systematic research on community values
4. Establish a comprehensive initiative that would encourage positive behavior in learning, life skills/living, relationships, leadership, and family/community balance

Prevention and Alternatives Committee Recommendations

1. Initiate a process to identify East Palo Alto community leaders, nonprofit, public sector, and faith-based organizational partners and stakeholders who are in a position to assess the current situation and provide ideas and suggestions to improve the current situation
2. Convene community-based organizations, local stakeholders, and residents in a community vision planning process to generate ideas about crime prevention alternatives. Produce written record of the community visioning process and disseminating it widely to existing youth-serving agencies, institutions, and clients to elicit additional input.
3. Create a working group of interested participants whose charge would be to formulate an action or implementation plan from the content generated by the visioning process
4. Assign working group participants with the task of conducting outreach to individuals and groups already engaged in youth-focused crime prevention alternative work to leverage existing efforts and facilitate collaboration.

Research and Analysis Committee Recommendations

1. The Research and Analysis Committee recommended several areas that require additional research that will be helpful to the three committees. This areas include:
 - a. Gangs
 - b. Parolees
 - c. Jobs/skills match in the community
 - d. Best practices
2. As a long-term recommendation, conduct a citywide survey folded into community values and standards, community perceptions, and crime trends