

Youth and Adolescents Make Successful Transitions to Adulthood

Introduction

The successful transition to adulthood is to a great extent determined by academic achievement, safety of the local community, and an individual's state of both physical and mental health. These indicators can be influenced by conditions and characteristics of family (income, language), community (educational and recreational resources, crime) and peers (rates of teen births, gangs, and substance abuse). In particular, poverty is the factor that most often impacts a young person's success.

Household Needs Assessment Survey Results

- Overall, 57.2% of household survey respondents agreed with the statement "There is a lack of parental guidance." The percentages of those who agreed ranged from 46.5% in East Valley survey region to 62.8% in Central San Bernardino County survey region.
- Overall, 40.4% of survey respondents indicated that delinquents and gangs are major problems. At least one-third of respondents in each survey region indicated that delinquents and gangs are major problems.
- Over half of the Black and Hispanic respondents indicated that delinquents and gangs are a major problem while about 40% of White and Asian respondents indicated that delinquents and gangs are a major problem.
- The majority (62.2%) of household survey respondents agreed that too many teens experience emotional or behavioral problems. 55.1% of the respondents from the East Valley survey region agreed with this statement, while 67.2% of the Central San Bernardino County survey respondents agreed; the other survey regions had rates that fell between those.
- Overall, 43.8% of respondents agreed that teens receive enough education about STDs, HIV, and pregnancy while 40.7% disagreed, and 15.5% were neutral. Response rates were similar across all survey regions.
- About one-third of the survey respondents indicated that they do not have access to affordable colleges and vocational schools. This number was consistent across survey regions except for the East Valley region where only 15% of respondents indicated they did not have access to affordable schools.
- 44.5% of respondents agreed that there is not enough tutoring or homework assistance available for their children. Every survey region except the East Valley had more than 40% of its respondents in agreement.

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Indicators

Education

- The Academic Performance Index (API) is the central component of California's Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999. A school's score or placement on the API is an indicator of a school's performance level. Reported on a scale of 200 to 1000, the 2002 Base API summarizes a school's performance on the 2002 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR). It is based on the performance of individual pupils on Stanford 9 (all content areas) and on the California Standard Tests. (California Department of Education, 2002)
- San Bernardino County school districts with the highest average Base API's for 2002 are: Mt. Baldy Joint Elementary (810)*, Alta Loma Elementary (776), Etiwanda Elementary (751), Helendale Elementary (730), and Mountain View Elementary (730). San Bernardino County school districts with the lowest average Base API's are: Rialto Unified (599), Fontana Unified (595), San Bernardino City Unified (577), Ontario-Montclair Elementary (559), and Baker Valley Unified (511). 2002 Base API scores in the Eastern Los Angeles County school districts are: Walnut Valley Unified, 805; Claremont Unified, 760; Bonita Unified, 734; and Pomona Unified, 595. (DataQuest, 2003)
- All schools that receive APIs are ranked in deciles; a rank of 10 is the highest and 1 is the lowest. In 2002, 44 of the 482 San Bernardino County public schools received rankings of "1." Six schools received rankings of "10." Notably, one half (15/30) of the schools in the Ontario-Montclair School District received "1" rankings, and nearly one third (18/55) of the reporting schools in the San Bernardino City Unified School District received rankings of "1." (DataQuest, 2003)
- Smaller classes encourage student-teacher interaction and greater individual attention. During the 2002-2003 school year, the average class size in San Bernardino County public schools was 27.8 children, with a 21.8-to-1 teacher to pupil ratio. Statewide, the average class size was 26.2 and the pupil-to-teacher ratio was 20.7-to-1. In the East end of Los Angeles County, Bonita Unified had a pupil-to-teacher ratio of 23-to-1, Walnut Valley Unified had 22.2-to-1, Claremont Unified had 21.8-to-1, Pomona Unified had 20.6-to-1. (DataQuest, 2003)
- Standardized tests are one way to measure a student's academic achievement. Of 287,762 San Bernardino County public school students who took the 2002 Stanford 9 Math test, 50% scored at or above the 50th National Percentile Rank (NPR). Statewide, 55% of students scored at or above the 50th NPR in Math. In the East end of Los Angeles County, the percentages of students scoring at or above the 50th NPR in math were: Walnut Valley Unified, 82%, Claremont Unified, 71%; Bonita Unified, 65%; and Pomona Unified, 44%. (DataQuest, 2003)

* According to the California Dept. of Education, APIs based on small numbers of students are less reliable and therefore should be interpreted with caution.

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- Of 284,992 San Bernardino County public school students tested in Reading, 39% scored at or above the 50th NPR. This is below the 45% of students statewide who scored at or above the 50th NPR in Reading. In the East end of Los Angeles County districts, the percentages of students scoring at or above the 50th NPR in Reading were: Walnut Valley Unified, 68%; Claremont Unified, 64%; Bonita Unified, 58%; and Pomona Unified, 30%. (DataQuest, 2003)
- Students with disabilities and special needs often require individual instruction and accommodations in order to achieve their full potential. During 2002-2003, 10.22% of the total San Bernardino County public school enrollment participated in special education programs, which is very comparable to the California state figure of 10.17%. In 2002, only 19% of San Bernardino County Special Education students scored at or above the 50th NPR for math, and 13% scored at or above the 50th NPR for reading. (DataQuest, 2003)
- In order to enhance a child's educational progress and promote academic achievement, it is important to take into account the unique needs of English Language Learners (formerly known as Limited-English-Proficient students). According to the California Department of Education, an English Language Learner is a child who has been determined to "lack the clearly defined English language skills of listening, comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing necessary to succeed in the school's regular instructional programs."
- The number of English Learners in San Bernardino County public schools has increased steadily from 46,388 in the spring of 1995 to 77,857 in the spring of 2003. During the 2002-2003 school year, 19.1% (77,857 of 407,228) of San Bernardino County public school students were considered English Language Learners. This is below the California state percentage of 25.6%, as well as those in neighboring Riverside (22.6%) and Los Angeles (33.9%) Counties.
- Individual school districts with percentages of K-12 English Learners at or above the county and state averages include: Ontario-Montclair Elementary District (52.7%), Fontana Unified (36.5%), Baker Valley Unified (34.3%), San Bernardino City Unified (27.2%), Cucamonga Elementary District (27.0%), and Adelanto Elementary District (25.6%). In the east end of Los Angeles County, the Pomona Unified School District had 46.9% English Language Learners. (DataQuest, 2003)
- High school graduates are more likely to have higher earnings and experience lower rates of unemployment than those leaving high school without a diploma. In 2001-2002, the San Bernardino County public school 4-year drop-out rate was 12.9%. Individual San Bernardino County high school districts with four-year drop-out rates higher than the statewide rate of 10.9% were: Baker Valley Unified (50%), Victor Valley Union High (33.9%), Needles Unified (24.6%), San Bernardino County Office of Education (24.5%), Hesperia Unified (17.2), Upland Unified (17.1%), San Bernardino City Unified (16.1%), Colton Joint Unified (15.3%), Morongo Unified (12.9%), Cha spring of 1.04 0 Tc-0.00rner4 in S8Un

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- While the Chaffey Joint Union High School District is comprised of high schools from three neighboring cities in the West End of San Bernardino County, there is a significant difference in drop-out rates of the individual schools. Three high schools located within the city of Rancho Cucamonga have 4-year drop-out rates well below the state and county averages: Etiwanda High School, 6.1%; Alta Loma High School, 4.7%; and Rancho Cucamonga High School, 4.2%. (A 4-year drop-out rate cannot be calculated for the newly opened Los Osos High School). Conversely, there are individual schools within the CJUHSD with drop-out rates above the state and county averages: Valley View Continuation High School (Ontario), 34.6%; Chaffey High School (Ontario), 18.6%; Ontario High School, 17.8%; and Montclair High School, 15.3%. (DataQuest, 2003)
- Only 25.6% of San Bernardino County public school graduates completed UC/CSU required courses during 2001-2002. Only three of the twenty-four high school districts in San Bernardino County had an equal or higher percentage of graduates completing UC/CSU required courses than the California state average of 34.65%: Bear Valley Unified (48.2%), Rim of the World Unified (37.8%), and Redlands Unified (34.7%). (DataQuest, 2003)
- Countywide, 36.5% of Los Angeles County public school graduates completed UC/CSU required courses during 2001-2002. In the east end of Los Angeles County, Walnut Valley Unified (71.35%) and Claremont Unified (53.7%) were well above the state average for graduates with required UC/CSU completed courses. Pomona Unified reported only 18.4%. (DataQuest, 2003)
- The federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provided \$72.5 million to California's 15 largest counties in 2000 for youth jobs programs. These funds are allocated to job training, placement, and skill building. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 5.7% of San Bernardino County youth ages 16-19 were unemployed or not in school. Of this population, 15.8% were served by WIA federal job training programs. (Choices for Youth, 2002)
- Offering adolescents positive choices and opportunities will help them make smart decisions for their futures. During 2000 and 2001, San Bernardino County spent 0% of its \$4.1 million federal after school funding for high school youth. In neighboring Los Angeles County, 37% of the federal after-school funds are available for high school youth. (Choices for Youth, 2002)
- The California Governor's Mentoring Partnership has allocated \$8.5 million to California's 15 largest counties from 1998-2000. These grants are awarded through a competitive bidding process, requiring county initiative and an emphasis on mentoring. During this time, San Bernardino County received \$100,000, only 1% of the total California allocation. Los Angeles County received 36.1% of the governor's Mentoring Partnership funds. (Choices for Youth, 2002)

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Safety/Crime

- According to the Children's Network of San Bernardino County, there were a total of 5,914 admissions to juvenile hall in San Bernardino County in 2001. Of these admissions, 3,367 were from the San Bernardino valley area, 953 were from desert areas, 945 were from the west valley area, 454 were from out of the county/state/country, 177 were from the mountain areas, and 18 were from areas unknown. (Children's Network of San Bernardino County, 2003)
- During a point-in-time count on June 30, 2002, the California Youth Authority reported San Bernardino County as the county with the second highest institutionalized youth population in the state, with 573 commitments. Los Angeles County ranked first with 1,575 commitments, Orange County was third with 308, Fresno County was fourth with 308, and San Diego County was fifth with 291. During a previous count on December 31, 2002, the top five counties for commitments in institutions were: Los Angeles County with 1,451, San Bernardino County with 500, Fresno County with 307, Riverside County with 257, and Alameda County with 241. (California Youth Authority [CYA], 2002)
- Over the past ten years, the proportion of California Youth Authority institution population from San Bernardino County has steadily increased. In 1993, 3.2% of the statewide institution population was from San Bernardino County; by 2002, this figure had risen to 9.6%. Although the proportion of CYA population from Los Angeles County remains the highest of all California counties, the percentage has decreased significantly over the past ten years. In 1993, 43.7% of the CYA population was from Los Angeles County; by 2002, the percentage had fallen to 26.5%. (CYA, 2002)
- During 2001 there were 18,886 juvenile arrests in San Bernardino County. Of these arrests, 11,692 were misdemeanor-level, 3,794 were felony-level, and 3,400 were status offenses.* Areas with the highest number of juvenile arrests were: San Bernardino (including the City of San Bernardino, S.B. Community College District, San Bernardino Unified School District, and CSU San Bernardino), 9,550; Fontana (including City of Fontana and Fontana Unified School District), 2,774; Ontario, 1,601; and Rancho Cucamonga, 1,541. Los Angeles County had 56,770 juvenile arrests during 2001. Of these arrests, 450 were from Pomona (including Cal Poly Pomona), 127 were from San Dimas, 103 were from Claremont, 88 were from La Verne, and 57 were from Walnut. (California Department of Justice, 2001)
- During 2000 and 2001 the average daily population of incarcerated youth (ages 10-17) in San Bernardino County was 515.7. With a youth incarceration rate of 210 per 100,000, San Bernardino County ranked 36th of 58 California counties. (Choices for Youth, 2002)

* Status offenses are acts that are illegal only because the person committing them is of juvenile status, for example, running away, truancy, underage liquor law violations. In other words, adults cannot be arrested for status offenses.

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- In 1999 there were 11 fatal assaults and 71 non-fatal assaults committed against San Bernardino County youth ages 10-17. In 2000 there were 5 fatal and 88 non-fatal assaults. With a “youth assault victimization” rate of 36 per 100,000, San Bernardino County ranked 51st of 58 California counties. (Choices for Youth, 2002)
- According to the 2001 U.S. Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 17.4% of high school students nationwide reported that they carried a weapon, while 5.7% reported carrying a gun. Locally, 13% of high school students in the city of San Bernardino reported carrying a weapon, and 4.8% reported carrying a gun. (Centers for Disease Control, 2001)
- Choices for Youth defines prevention programs as those that “reduce a youth’s likelihood of becoming a victim of, or engaging in, a violent act, and activities that provide positive choices for youth.” The Juvenile Justice and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (JJCPA) allocated more than \$100 million to the 15 largest counties in California, with the initial allocation of funds (2000-01) earmarked for violence prevention programs and activities. Choices for Youth examined the percentage of JJCPA funds dedicated to prevention activities (activities and opportunities for learning) compared to funding for enforcement and suppression. In 2000-2001 San Bernardino County spent only 34% of its \$5,969,476 million Juvenile Justice and Crime Prevention Act funding on prevention programs. (Choices for Youth, 2002)
- With a student enrollment of 380,399, San Bernardino County public schools reported 2,049 drug/alcohol offenses, 1,839 incidences of battery, 116 assaults with a deadly weapon, 47 robberies/extortions, 87 sex offenses, 698 possessions of a weapon, and 1,737 property crimes during the 2000-2001 school year. In the four east Los Angeles County districts (Bonita, Claremont, Pomona, and Walnut Valley), there were 66,285 students enrolled and a total of 241 drug/alcohol offenses, 267 incidences of battery, 20 assaults with a deadly weapon, 6 robberies/extortions, 9 sex offenses, 102 possessions of a weapon, 242 property crimes during the same school year. (California Department of Education, 2002)
- During the 2000-2001 school year San Bernardino County public schools had a rate of 4.83 incidents of battery per 1,000 students. Alarming, the highest rates of battery were reported at the following elementary-level school districts: Adelanto Elementary (24.80), Central Elementary (17.19), and Victor Elementary (13.76). In the east end of Los Angeles County, Pomona Unified had a battery rate of 6.38, Bonita Unified had 3.79, Claremont Unified had .90, and Walnut Valley Unified had .13. The statewide rate of battery was 4.58 incidents per 1,000 students. (California Department of Education, 2002)

Physical Health and Wellbeing

- According to the Surgeon General, excess weight acquired during childhood and adolescence may persist into adulthood and increase the risk for chronic

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diseases, such as Type II diabetes and hypertension. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [USDHHS], 2001)

- During 2001-2002, 33% of San Bernardino County public school fifth, seventh, and ninth graders did not meet the “Health Fitness Zone” requirements for the body composition (percent fat and body mass index) component of the California Physical Fitness test. This is slightly below the statewide average of 34%. In the east end of Los Angeles County, the percentage of tested students who were not in the Health Fitness Zone for body composition were: Pomona Unified, 37.7%; Claremont Unified, 26.6%; Bonita Unified, 26%; and Walnut Valley Unified, 25.3%. (DataQuest, 2002)
- California Food Policy Advocates assert that poverty impairs one’s ability to access nutritious foods, which may cause obesity. The CFPA’s 2002 “Profile of Poverty, Hunger & Food Assistance” indicates that 13.7% of children in San Bernardino County are obese, which is just above the California statewide figure of 13.4%. (California Food Policy Advocates, 2002)
- Because children spend a significant amount of time outdoors, it is important to consider the role that air quality plays in their overall health. Recent studies have provided evidence that ozone negatively affects lung function in children. Every year since 2000, the California Lung Association’s “State of the Air” report has found that San Bernardino County was the most ozone-polluted county in the nation. The 2003 report estimates that there are 30,528 cases of pediatric asthma in the county. (American Lung Association, 2003)
- Adolescents are at a higher risk of acquiring STD’s because they may engage in riskier sexual behaviors. Sexually transmitted diseases (STD’s) can cause a variety of long-term complications, including pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. During the time period of January through August 2003, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health reported 1,399 cases of Chlamydia, 251 cases of Gonorrhea, 5 cases of Syphilis, and 1 case of AIDS in youth ages 10-19. (San Bernardino County Human Services System [SBCHSS], 2003)
- According to Healthy People 2010, teen mothers are less likely to get or stay married, less likely to complete high school or college, and more likely to require public assistance and live in poverty than their peers who are not mothers. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2000) In San Bernardino County, the rate of live births per 1,000 female population ages 15 through 19 was 57.7 during the year 2000. While this is a significant decrease from the 1990 rate of 89.9, it is still higher than the 2000 California rate of 48.1. San Bernardino County teen birth rates vary geographically within the county. For the year 2000, zip codes with high (37.3-151.3) birth rates to mothers age 15-19 include: 91762 (Ontario), 91764 (Ontario), 92311 (Barstow), 92335 (Fontana), 92404 (San Bernardino), 92405 (San Bernardino), 92407 (San Bernardino), 92410 (San Bernardino), and 92411 (San Bernardino). (SBCHDSS, 2002)

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- Malnutrition can cause fatigue, trouble concentrating in school, and stunted growth. The National School Lunch Program is a federally funded program that assists schools and other agencies in providing nutritious lunches to low-income children. During 2002-2003, 50.8% of children in San Bernardino County Schools received free and reduced price meals. This is slightly above the California statewide average of 48.7%. School districts with more than 50% of students receiving free and reduced price meals include: San Bernardino City Unified (80.5%), Ontario-Montclair Unified (76.6%), Trona Joint Unified (71.1%), Needles Unified (68.2%), Adelanto Elementary (66.7%), Fontana Unified (65.5%), Lucerne Valley Unified (65.1%), Cucamonga Elementary (63.9%), Rialto Unified (63.3%), Baker Valley Unified (61.5%), Barstow Unified (58.7%), Victor Elementary (57.6%), Hesperia Unified (56.3%), and Colton Joint Unified (50.3%). In the east end of Los Angeles County, 63.9% of students in the Pomona Unified School District received free and reduced price meals. (DataQuest, 2003)

Mental Health

- Mentally healthy children and adolescents enjoy a positive quality of life; function well at home, in school, and in their communities; and are free of disabling symptoms of psychopathology. Mental disorders can cause great distress and may lead to dysfunction of children, their family, and others in their social environment. (USDHHS, 1999)
- The 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health noted that almost 21% of children ages 9 to 17 had a diagnosable mental or addictive disorder associated with at least minimum academic, social, or family impairment, 11% had significant impairment, and 5% had extreme impairment. (USDHHS, 1999)
- In 1999 there were 4 fatal self-inflicted injuries and 91 non-fatal self-inflicted injuries by San Bernardino County youth ages 10-17. In 2000 there were 6 fatal and 147 non-fatal self-inflicted injuries. San Bernardino County ranked 37th of 58 counties for its rate of youth self-inflicted injury. (Choices for Youth, 2002)
- The 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 28.9% of high school students in the city of San Bernardino reported feeling sad or hopeless (everyday for ≥ 2 weeks in a row; stopped doing some usual activities), 15% had seriously considered attempting suicide, 13.5% had made a suicide plan, 10.1% had attempted suicide, and 3.4% had a suicide attempt that required medical attention. (Centers for Disease Control, 2001)

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Substance Abuse

- The use of alcohol and other drugs puts adolescents at increased risk for health and development problems, educational failure, and participation in criminal activities.
- During 2001 there were 240 drug-related juvenile arrests in San Bernardino County. The highest incidences of juvenile drug-related arrests occurred in the following jurisdictions: the Sheriffs Department (77), the city of San Bernardino (38), Ontario (29), the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County (25), and Chino (20). In the east end of Los Angeles County, the city of Pomona had 38 drug-related juvenile arrests in 2001. (California Department of Justice, 2001)
- During the 2000-2001 school year, there were 5.39 reported drug and alcohol related incidents per 1,000 San Bernardino County public school students. This is above the statewide rate of 4.30 incidents per 1,000 students. School districts with high rates of drug and alcohol incidents include: Chaffey Joint Union High School District (17.08), Hesperia Unified (10.61), San Bernardino City Unified (6.92), San Bernardino County Office of Education (8.78), and Victor Valley Union High School District (9.79). In the east end of Los Angeles County, the reported rates of drug and alcohol incidents were: 4.57 for Bonita Unified, 4.57 for Claremont Unified, 4.00 for Pomona Unified, and 1.68 for Walnut Valley Unified. (California Department of Education, 2001)
- The 2001 United States Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 28.5% of high schools students nationwide reported current cigarette use, while 12.0% of high school students in the city of San Bernardino currently used cigarettes. (Centers for Disease Control, 2001)
- In the 2001 United States Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 34.9% of high school students in the city of San Bernardino reported current alcohol use, 21% reported episodic heavy drinking, and 17.9% reported current marijuana use. (Centers for Disease Control, 2001)

Conclusions

Education

- Public school students in San Bernardino County score below the California state average in both reading and math. In the east end of Los Angeles County, the Pomona Unified School District scores below the state average in both reading and math.
- San Bernardino County public schools have fewer full-credentialed teachers than the state average.
- Poor academic achievement and high drop-out rates impede the potential for youth to obtain self-sufficiency in adulthood.

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- Fewer San Bernardino County public high school graduates complete UC/CSU requirements than the California average. In the east end of Los Angeles County, the Pomona Unified School District has fewer college-ready graduates than the state average.
- In San Bernardino County, no federal after-school funding is spent on high school youth.
- In San Bernardino County, as well as in the Pomona Unified School District, in the east end of Los Angeles County, the four-year dropout rate is higher than the California state rate.
- Both in San Bernardino County and the east end of Los Angeles County, high poverty rates among students consistently lead to poor outcomes in academic achievement.

Safety/Crime

- Crime and violence are barriers for successful transition to productive adulthood.
- An imbalance exists in San Bernardino County between funding for crime prevention vs. crime enforcement and suppression programs.
- Violence affects the quality of life of young people who experience, witness or feel threatened by it. Early intervention with at-risk youth can reduce the possibility of criminal activity in their adult lives.
- The rate of battery incidences in San Bernardino County public schools and the Pomona Unified school district in the east end of Los Angeles County, is higher than the California rate.
- San Bernardino County public schools, and Bonita Unified and Claremont Unified school districts in the east end of Los Angeles County, had a higher rate of drug and alcohol-related incidents than the California rate.

Health/Wellbeing

- Poor environmental conditions cause pediatric asthma rates to rise.
- Children in San Bernardino County tend to be more obese than children in the rest of California.
- Although the rate of births to teenagers in San Bernardino is decreasing, it still remains higher than the California rate.
- Nutrition may be a problem in the San Bernardino County.

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