

Summaries of Existing Reports

What We Know About Children and Youth in Sacramento County

What do we know about youth in Sacramento County? It can be difficult to hone a clear image of the needs, challenges and assets of our community's young people and sift through the conflicting and often times negative images from the media and what we know from our own experience. In an attempt to develop our understanding of youth in Sacramento County in a way that reflects realities, as opposed to stereotypes and myths, the following data and needs assessments have been gathered. These reports are those that provide analysis or recommendations around the trends and issues for children 5-21 in recent years. However, it is important to note that all reports can only offer a "snap shot in time". It is also important to recognize, that while the information summarized below comes from reliable sources, there is no standardization of data between reports. The hope is that by reviewing the data available, the communities of Sacramento County will better understand some of its youngest members, as well as work with and for them around the issues most pertinent to their lives, both in the short term and for the future.

Demographics

Sacramento County Children's Report Card 2000, Sacramento County Children's Coalition

This report provides data on the Sacramento County area in the following areas: Demographics, Family Economics, Education, Health, Safety and Social-Emotional Well-Being. The report indicates that data on non-school hour programs with activities available was incomplete at the time of the report's printing.

California Child Care Portfolio 1999, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

This report looks at the need for child care by county throughout the State of California. According to the report there are 24,683 children between 6 and 13 years of age living in poverty. This makes up 18% of the total under-14 population of 249,785. 61% or 83,478 children between 6 and 13 were living with working parents. 20% or 16,696 were in care outside the family. 27% of all calls to the Sacramento County Child Care Resource and Referral were for school-age care. 11% of all calls were for evening, overnight or weekend care.

California County Data Book '99, Children NOW

According to this report, there were 215,725 children ages 6-17 in Sacramento County in 1998. In 1995, 24.5% of children 0-17 were living in poverty, one of the higher proportions in the State. 26.2% of children 0-17 received TANF in 1998. This study also breaks down the TANF data and the general population of children by ethnicity. 11.9 children per 1,000 in 1997 were in foster care. The teen birth rate was 54.5 per 1000.

County Quick Facts, U.S. Census Bureau

In 1999 27% of Sacramento Counties population was under 18 years old. In 1997 27.3% of children were estimated to be living below the poverty line. In 1990 there were 265,298 family households.

Sacramento Report Card 1999, Healthy California Progress Initiative

This report covers health-related data in the county. Findings include the following: There were 2605.4 juvenile felony arrests per 100,000 in 1997. 42.4 juvenile misdemeanors per 100,000 were reported. There were 3.00 drug and alcohol offenses per 1,000 enrolled students in 1997/1998. In 1999 children 5-14 made up 15.9% of the population and youth 15-24 made up 13.3%. The drop out rate for youth in grades 9-12 was 3.2 in 1997/1998.

**City Kids County, "Data on the Well-Being of Children in the Large Cities",
The Annie E. Casey Foundation**

In 1990 there were 96,691 children under the age of 18 in the City of Sacramento, a 42.5% increase from 1980. In 1990, 70% of teen births were to unwed mothers. In 1994 11% of births were to unmarried teen mothers. 856 youth ages 10-17 were arrested for a violent crime per 1000 youth. In 1990 13% of children ages 5-13 lived in a household in which "no one over age 13 spoke English well." 25% of children in 1990 lived in "distressed neighborhoods", whereas only 12% did in 1980.

Education Data

Special Education Data, Sacramento County Department of Education 1999-2000

24,372 children in grades K-12 have been identified as having a disability.
Within that, 13,114 have been identified as having a severe learning disability.
6,617 have been identified as having a speech or language impairment.
1,413 have been identified as having mental retardation.

"Number of English Learners in California Public Schools", Educational Demographics 1999-2000, California Department of Education

Includes information such as:

38,195 children in grades K-12, each are speaking one of 51 possible languages.
13,629, or 35.7% of the total, speak Spanish.
7,029, or 18.4% of the total, speak Hmong.
3,321, or 8.7% of the total, speak Russian.

Drop Out Rates 1998-1999, California Department of Education

In this year 3,234 students in grades 7-12 dropped out-of-school. The highest number of drop-outs occurred in grade 12 with 899 students dropping out in Sacramento County.

Sacramento County Profile 1998-1999, Education Data

This report covers general data around the schools within Sacramento County including ethnicity data, staff/student ratios and graduation statistics. Such data includes:

There were 149,275 children in grades K-8 in 1998-1999
There were 59,163 students in grades 9-12.
1,160 students were not categorized in grades.

93,894 students, making up 45% of enrollment, were eligible for free or reduced lunch.
59,168, or 28.4% were involved with CalWorks.

California Healthy Kids Survey - Key Findings Spring 2000

This report provides a summary of the California Healthy Kids Survey administered by the Sacramento County Office of Education in the Spring of 2000, as well as a summary of the key findings related to substance use, violence and safety, and poor physical health. One of the goals of this survey was to promote youth well-being and school success. It was implemented in part to discover what problems students' face and to lead to the creation or support of programs that will address those needs. The survey targeted students in grades 7, 9 and 11. The report cautions readers with the statement "How well data in this report reflects the behavior of all students in the district is questionable because of poor student participation." Results included that 30% of 7th-graders had tried alcohol at least once while 70% of 11th-graders had. This increase in experimentation from the younger grades to the older is consistent across experimentation with cigarettes and marijuana as well, although inhalant use was quite low across the board. 24% of 9th-graders indicated they drove after drinking and 34% of 11th-graders indicated the same. On a more positive note the vast majority of youth recognized cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana as extremely harmful. Also, more than 80% of youth in all grades felt safe both at school and in their neighborhood. The report does not offer recommendations.

Sacramento City Unified School District Youth Survey on School Reform 2000

This survey was created as a venue for gathering student input on the school reform process. It was also used to educate the students about the school reform effort and used as a foundation for discussion around specific ideas. The survey asked students about their views on the goals of a high school education, the strengths of our current system, the problems they see in their schools, and different possibilities for reform. Twelve hundred students at then schools completed the survey.

In response to the question “What should our high schools do for students?” the response ranking number one was “The ideal high school should prepare students for the demands of college, and/or for jobs and careers so that they can keep our economy strong.”

The top three “crucial problems” students identified as facing their school were:

- 1) Students not excited about learning (bored);
- 2) Students are stressed out;
- 3) Need more counselors for students, especially those in danger of dropping out.

The top five ideas for encouraging more community and parent involvement in the success of schools were:

- 1) Students should be encouraged to participate in community service activities, internships, apprentices and more—so that adults will see students as resources to support, not problems to be fixed or controlled.
- 2) Media (radio, television, web) should be used more effectively to tell positive stories about young people and our schools.
- 3) People who provide jobs (businesses, government, community organizations) should be asked on a regular basis what skills and attitudes they expect among those they employ so schools can prepare students for careers based on actual needs.
- 4) Local governments (city and county) should work together with our schools to use their buildings, programs and other resources to make our schools better – after all the schools are part of, not separate from the rest of the community.
- 5) Schools should have special, fun events designed to attract parents and other adults and provide information and workshops about how they can help or support their child.

Additional themes included the need for higher quality teaching and academic materials as well as facility improvements.

Youth Director High School Reform Priorities 2000, Sacramento City Unified School District

The Youth Directors are 35 high school-aged youth drawn from each of the Sacramento Unified School District’s high schools. Their mission is to help determine and communicate the ideas, concerns and priorities of SCUSD youth throughout the stages of the high school reform process. During the fall of 2000, the Youth Directors identified priorities from the results of the Reform Survey. In the area of ideas for improving parent and community involvement the youth director selected the following five recommendations:

- 1) Schools should use their campuses to provide activities that benefit parents and other adults (aerobics, arts classes, financial counseling and more). (This item was ranked #7 of 11 items on the survey).
- 2) Schools should have special, fun events designed to attract parents and adults and provide information and workshops about how they can help or support their child. (Ranked #5 of 11 items on survey).
- 3) Local governments should work together with our schools to use their buildings, programs and other resources to make our schools better. (Ranked #4 of 11 items on survey).

- 4) Media (radio, television, web) should be used more often and more effectively to tell positive stories about youth (Ranked #2 of 11 on survey).
- 5) People who provide jobs (businesses, government, and community organizations) should be asked on a regular basis what skills and attitudes they expect among those they employ (Ranked #3 of 11 items on survey).

Consistent themes included a need for greater community collaboration that include youth and their needs. The need for greater appreciation of youth and the need for school-to-work/school resources were also identified. One area not as strongly identified in the youth survey itself was the encouragement of community services and activities being offered at the school site, so as to have the school become a community nexus. The need for higher quality academic resources and teaching was also identified.

Risks

Child Protective Services Statistical Report for July 1999-June 2000

Child Protective Services going over their activities during the 1999-2000 fiscal year produced this report. Data shown in this document include:

- The Division responded to 19,151 referrals.
- The Division made 30,084 allegation dispositions.
32.1% (9,647) were substantiated.
51.45% (15,473) were inconclusive.
16.5% (4,964) were unfounded.
- The most common allegations were general neglect (39.2%), followed by physical abuse (23.6%) and sexual abuse (11.8%).
- 3,996 children were placed in protective custody.
391 children were returned home by family reunification.

California Safe Schools Report 1995-2000

The California Safe Schools Assessment (CSSA) is the school crime reporting system implemented by the California Department of Education. The purpose of CSSA is to provide objective information for local and state school officials to use in assessing the safety of public schools in California. This report contains data collected for the 1999-2000 school year and includes comparison data from previous school years and includes comparison data from previous school years. The report provides results statewide as well as on a county-wide and school district level. The data on the incidents are presented as the total number of incidents in each crime category and as crime rates (i.e., the number of incidents per 1,000 students enrolled.) Comparisons are made of crime rates but not of the total number of incidents because the crime rates reflect the changes in student enrollment from year to year. County wide, in the 1999-2000 school year, the crime rates of school districts with more than 999 students enrolled was:

- 5.60 drug and alcohol offenses, an increase from 3.98 the previous year
- 5.36 battery crimes
- 0.74 assaults with a deadly weapon
- 0.29 robbery or extortion crimes
- 0.27 sex offenses
- 1.57 possession of a weapon
- 4.45 property crimes
- 10.78 loss to district

Testimony of Sheriff Louis J. Blanas, "Youth Crime and Violence Prevention", August 2000

This report discusses strategies and programs designed to have a positive impact on youth and the prevention of violence in the community. It also makes recommendations for areas of further action or improvement. These recommendations include:

- Funding collaborative efforts between local public safety and education institutions.

- Funding for improved technology as well as for adequate staffing in the areas of school nursing and counselors.
- Designating a state agency to be a clearing house for information and data that explain programs and best practices.
- Adequate funding for the Department of Justice Cal-Gangs Data Base.
- Facility improvements for juvenile halls and juvenile detention facilities.
- Greater representation and collaboration of community agencies on the Child Death Review Team.

Sacramento County Community Intervention Program-CWLA, 1997

This is a study was conducted by the Sacramento County Joint Cabinet Youth Work Group and the Child Welfare League of America. The study found that children between 9 and 12 years old known to the child welfare system are 67 times more likely to be arrested than 9 to 12 year olds from the general population of children. Children and youth 9 to 12 years old were identified by the Joint Cabinet Youth Work Group as “a critical intervention point.” The report found that this was an age group was “too old” for significant Child Welfare Services Intervention, but “too young” for significant attention by Juvenile Justice authorities.

The report looks at risk factors, primarily referral to the child welfare system and its implications for youth criminal behavior later on. At the time there were 75,000 children and youth 9 to 12 years of age in the County. Of these youth:

- In 1994, 1.4% (1,026) were known to the child welfare system due to at least one investigation of child abuse or neglect
- .18% (132) were arrested or cited by Sacramento County Law Enforcement.
- 50% of the arrested youth (66) were among that 1.4% of 9-12 year olds known to child welfare.
- The 1,026 nine to twelve year olds whose families have been investigated for child abuse and neglect and the 66 of these youth that have also been arrested display risk factors “very similar to youth that were sent to the California Youth Authority.”
- The arrest rate among children referred to child welfare was 67 times the arrest rate among children not known to the child welfare system.
- In subsequent analysis in November 1996 of the 132 nine to twelve year old youth arrested or cited by law enforcement, 8% had subsequent contact with child welfare services, 28% subsequent mental health services and 50% had a subsequent arrest or probation violations.

This report reviewed literature of national and local programs that demonstrated the most effective community delinquency prevention efforts, and identified common attributes including:

- 1) Programs address the highest priority risk and protective factors present in the community.
- 2) Focus on populations with multiple risk factors.
- 3) Address risk and protective factors early and at appropriate developmental stages;
- 4) Reach and communicate effectively with the youth targeted;
- 5) Are long term;
- 6) Involve staff who are well trained and have a common vision of risk-focused prevention.

Teen Childbearing in America's Largest Cities 1999, Annie E. Casey Foundation

This report is a supplement to the 1999 report “When Teens Have Sex: Issues and Trends”, which focused on changes in birth rates and reproductive health related issues both nationally and statewide. The supplement addresses changes in teen childbearing for females ages 15-19 in the nation's largest cities, including Sacramento. This report examines teen births in the 1991-1996 period. In Sacramento in 1991, 1,720 births were reported. In 1996, 1,463 births were reported. The percent change was 15 percent. The city received a ranking of 19 out of 50. In 1996 there were 123 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19, placing Sacramento at rank 49 of 50 cities, surpassed only by Miami, Florida.

The report does not offer recommendations.

The Right Start City Trends April 1999, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

This report briefly covers trends related to births and birth related factors in the City of Sacramento. Highlights include that the yearly number of births in Sacramento decreased from 12,735 in 1990 to 10,616 in 1998. The report states that the reduction is due to a “substantial reduction in births to whites.” The proportion of teen births, which accounted for 14% of births in Sacramento, is reported as not significantly different in 1998 than in 1990. The proportion of teen births to “young women who were already mothers” did not have a significant change from 1990-1998 although a slight increase was reported in 1993.

Youth Survey May 1999, Youth Development Council

This was a very small survey, done by the Sacramento Youth Commission, of 68 students in high school in Sacramento.

Youth felt issues they had to face included:

- “fitting in” with peers
- Drugs
- Learning and sustaining morals
- Boredom
- Violence

Youth suggestions for activities:

- Sporting events
- Opportunities for community service.
- Music and art events
- Events that celebrate the cultures of community members and are free.

Strategic Plans

Sacramento Employment and Training Agency Youth Workforce Investment Plan 1999

Since March 1999, a youth advisory committee selected by the Chair of the Transitional Workforce Investment Board has conducted monthly public forums to receive community input on the local plan for the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The committee, with representatives from community-based agencies, schools, drug and alcohol counseling programs, faith-based organizations, career centers, employers and the Employment Development Department, was charged with the mission to:

- Identify existing youth services and needs
- Identify gaps in service and establish linkages on unmet needs.
- Gather input on proposed services.
- Provide recommendations on youth policies and services for the Sacramento area;
- Expand the knowledge base and broaden the focus on youth throughout the community.

The committee created a matrix of existing providers of youth activities and services in Sacramento County. It also identifies gaps in services including:

- Insufficient funding and staff to serve the numbers in need;
- Inadequate services to special populations of youth (learning disabled, foster youth and other disadvantaged youth).
- Lack of a consistent county-wide system and standard for youth assessment, career planning and transition to work.
- Housing for homeless/emancipated/un-or-under-employed youth;
- Planning and advocacy of youth programs.

The Youth Council recommended a variety of actions to overcome these barriers. These included:

- Strengthening current links between service providers

- Promote involvement of parents and community partners from all applicable spheres.
- Develop a multi-disciplinary, community-wide, cross sectional collaborative approach
- Work with the community to encourage early intervention and lifelong learning.

After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnership – January 9, 2001 After School Regional Meeting in Sacramento

This meeting was one of several held around the state to promote awareness of the After School learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnership, as well as to gather input around community after-school needs. Most of the input dealt directly with challenges specific to AFSLSNP Programs. However, some general themes included:

- The need for improved funding for:
 - Staff and Administrator compensation
 - Better include children with disabilities
 - Transportation
 - Training
 - Unique program needs
 - Background checks
- The need for stable funding
- The need for partnerships and collaboration, such as with local colleges and universities
- The need for improved training, particularly in the areas of child and youth development. Opportunities for regional training events.
- Improved statewide data collection for:
 - Program evaluation
 - Best practices.
 - Connection to a “child care master plan.”
- The need for a public awareness campaign for both communities and legislators.

Parents Earning Children Learning 1997, Sacramento Local Child Care and Development Planning Council

This report looks at the need for child care for children birth through school-age throughout Sacramento County, as well as by internal regions. The report estimates that in 2002 there will be a need for 20,974 licensed child care spaces for children between ages 6 and 12. This would be in addition to the current capacity of 15,615. The report identifies challenges in the area of the staff supply, facilities development, quality enhancement and funding. The report’s recommendations:

- The recruitment and license of an additional 1,500 family child care homes to care for 9,000 children
- Recruit and train 125 new teachers and teachers aids to staff expanded child care centers for 1,500 children.
- Develop 200 Start or before and after school recreation program sites on school campuses for 20,000 school-age children.
- Expand consumer and parent education opportunities.
- Support legislation for child care facility bonds and work collaboratively to develop community based child care facilities as well as collaboration with employers.
- Train child care professionals in child development, business practices, health procedures, cultural competence and violence prevention. Expand abilities of providers to care for children with special needs.
- Promote quality assessments and accreditation.
- Promote collaborative projects

School-Age Care in Sacramento County March 2001, Child Action, Inc

This report, prepared for the Sacramento Local Child Care Planning and Development Council, reviews available data on the availability of child care for school-age children ages 5-14 and the challenges families and providers face in this area. It examines the issues for both exempt and licensed child care.

The report identified the following challenges and barriers to school-age care:

- Funding-examines fiscal challenges for providers, parents and the inclusion for children with special needs
- Transportation
- Program Space
- Qualified Staff-addresses staff recruitment, training and retention
- Continuum of Care
- Collaboration
- Quality of Care

Sacramento Public Library Homework Centers Report April 2001

This report is a request to the Sacramento Public Library Authority Board to “approve the concept of establishing additional Centers over the next three to five years...and the concept of renaming “Homework Centers” to “Community Learning Centers”. The Sacramento Public Library currently operates two Homework Center, the Naygrow Family Foundation Homework Center at Colonial Heights Library and the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Library Homework Center. These Centers operate four days a week to help students in grades K-8 with their homework and to develop their academic and research skills. Evaluation results found that at the Naygrow Center, reading comprehension scores of the attending students improved from 41% at or “below reading grade level” to no “below grade level” and 94% moving “above reading grade level” between Fall 2000 and Spring 2001. An external evaluation of the King Homework Center had “a significant number of parents” report that their children had “higher homework completion rates, an improved attitude about school, and spent more time reading”. The task force involved in this project recommended creating Centers at the libraries in Del Paso Heights, North Sacramento – Hagginwood, Arcade and Southgate. These locations were selected as the libraries had the space for such a project, there was not a similar program in the area, and transportation was available to the children.

California Park and Recreation Society Statewide Before & After School Survey Report for Sacramento County Agencies 2001

Of the nine responding park and recreation agencies, six offered before or after school programs. The survey findings from the six with services include:

- California local Park and Recreation Agencies in Sacramento County serve over 184,000 children in before and after-school programs
- Park and Recreation facilities are used as often as schools to house these programs.
- The vast majority of programs were offered at elementary school sites. There were 26 after-school programs at elementary sites, 6 at middle school sites and 4 at high school sites. All 6 of the before school programs were at elementary school sites.
- Homework assistance was offered at 67% of the sites, snacks and breakfasts at 17%, and computer access and learning were at 17%.
- None offered transportation
- Park and Recreation staff was used by 83% of the agencies, teachers were used by 33%, and school aides were used by 50%. None of the agencies used volunteers.
- Of 8 possible funding sources, only three were utilized by the agencies. Only one program ran its program entirely with fees.

Economics

The Self-Sufficiency Standard of California November 2000 (Prepare Californians for Family Economics Self-Sufficiency)

This report examines the amount of money a family needs to earn in order to live and work without public or private assistance or subsidies. In Sacramento County, a family with two adults, one preschooler and

one school-age child would need to earn \$9.61 an hour, or \$3,384 a month to be self-sufficient. A family with one adult, one preschool age child and one school-age child would need to earn 16.41 an hour or \$2,888 a month to be self-sufficient. For the two adult family, child care would take up 26% of their total income, and 30% in the one adult family. In both cases this is the most expensive need, making up a higher percentage even than housing.

Working Poor: An Overview of the Working Poor in the Sacramento Region 1998, Community Services Planning Council

This report looks at the economic situation for the working poor and families within the Capital Region. In 1996 the per capita personal income in Sacramento was \$23,828.

Occupational Employment Statistics 1999, Bureau of Labor Statistics

This report estimates wages in major employment groups for the greater Sacramento County region.

Education Administrators for Child Care Centers earned a median hourly wage of \$20.26.

Child Care Workers earned a median hourly wage of \$7.38.

Recreation Workers earned a median hourly wage of \$7.94 an hour.

A Profile of the Sacramento Child Care Workforce 1998, Prepared by the Center for the Child Care Workforce for Child Action, Inc.

This report looks at the needs and characteristics of the Sacramento County child care workforce. The study found average starting wages for providers in centers to be:

Teachers: \$7.24 an hour

Assistants: \$6.36 an hour

Most employers offer sick leave, holidays and vacation leave. The average sick leave is 7.8 days per year. The average annual vacation leave is 8 days for teachers and 6.3 days for assistants. 65% of centers offer a reduced child care fee to teachers and 53% offered this benefit to assistants. 49% of centers offered full health coverage to teachers.

The report indicates that child care staff report a high level of “intrinsic” satisfaction in their work but have a low level of “extrinsic” satisfaction for areas such as pay and value placed on their work by others. In Sacramento County, low wages and poor benefits fuel high staff turnover—39% for teachers and 44% for assistants. Turnover among directors and teacher-directors is 7 percent and 11 percent respectively.

The net income for family child care homes was:

\$6,337 a year for small licenses

\$12,271 a year for large licenses.

66% of family child care providers indicate they do not know how long they will continue to remain in the field. Most providers (85%) indicated that economic improvements would encourage them to remain in the field. 53% indicated more respect would be an incentive.

Youth Participation in the Labor Force 1998, Bureau of Labor Statistics

In 1998, the civilian labor force participation rate for youth 16-19 in the Sacramento Region was 48.2.

The unemployment rate was 21.4. To be considered unemployed the youth had to be actively seeking employment.