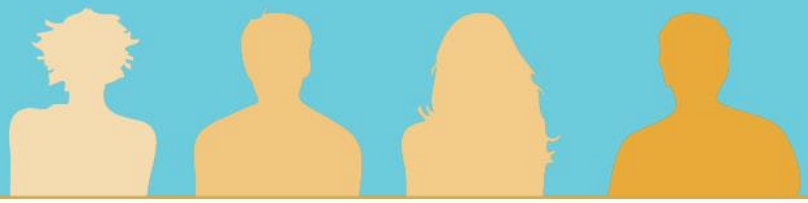
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY STATUS ON YOUTH VIOLENCE



2013 DATA REPORT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASKFORCE

Youth violence has become a growing concern in Santa Cruz County. It both directly and indirectly impacts the health, quality of life and future of our youth and our community. In response, the Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce was formed in October 2012 as a project of the Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County to better understand the problem and its solutions. Made up of over 40 stakeholders including elected officials, law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, community based organizations, youth, formerly incarcerated individuals and concerned citizens, this inclusive multi-sector collaborative is committed to addressing youth violence through a public health lens, working to identify and implement evidence based, prevention focused and asset based solutions.

HISTORY

In October 2012, the Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County (CJC) worked closely with the United Way of Santa Cruz County and Applied Survey Research to develop a Strategic Planning Summit for over 125 stakeholders committed to preventing youth gang and school violence in Santa Cruz County. The summit was in response to a clear need communicated by community stakeholders for better alignment, coordination and understanding of all of the efforts currently happening in our community, as well as the identification of common goals for all of these efforts to work together toward a safer community.

After the initial summit, the CJC Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce was formed. In 2010, the Departments of Justice and Education launched the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and this group is using the 2012 National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Planning Toolkit for Communities as a guide for their planning process, which calls for a four step process:

Step 1: Build Partnerships and Raise Awareness

- ✓ 1.1: Initiate a call to action.
- ✓ 1.2: Agree on a common vision of success.
- ✓ 1.3: Organize a structure for developing the plan.

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Step 2: Gather and Use Data to Inform Strategies

- ✓ 2.1: Review current youth violence research and evidence.
- ✓ 2.2: Collect and share local data on youth violence.
- ✓ 2.3: Use the data to inform strategy selection.
- ✓ 2.4: Identify resources and assets.

Step 3: Write the Plan

- ✓ 3.1: Develop strategies and goals.
- ✓ 3.2: Match resources to strategies and goals.
- ✓ 3.3: Develop measurable objectives and activities.

Step 4: Implement the Plan

- ✓ 4.1: Work the plan.
- ✓ 4.2: Revisit and update the plan.

This report reflects the taskforce's data collection process, which was designed to better understand the issue of youth violence in Santa Cruz County and inform the selection of further strategies and solutions. This process has been financially supported by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Trust Fund and the Lucille Packard Foundation in addition to countless in-kind hours donated by taskforce members and community partners. Information presented in this snapshot report, in addition to research and information gathered from community interviews, police ride-alongs, and youth peer-to-peer surveys will be used to develop and make recommendations to the Criminal Justice Council in early 2014 for a 3-5 year comprehensive strategic plan.

The strategic plan will include recommendations in the areas of: 1) Data and Evaluation: Chaired by Applied Survey Research, this work group is collecting data in selected indicator areas, identifying long, short, and medium term outcomes to measure change, and identifying data sources to measure outcomes. 2) Evidence Based Practices: Chaired by Assistant Probation Chief Fernando Giraldo, this work group is completing an inventory of existing programs and services for youth and will identify data driven programming for prevention, intervention, enforcement and

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reentry. 3) Systems and Policies: Chaired by United Way of Santa Cruz County, this work group is working to identify and address existing systems and policies that may be hindering the success of our youth as well as potential new systems and policies that could help support the needs of law enforcement, service providers, the community, and the youth.

MISSION

An equitable and united county where all youth are engaged in family, school, and community; where all youth have a sense of safety and wellbeing; where all youth feel they have a voice and are empowered to use it; and where all youth are able to access opportunities for successful transition into adulthood.

GOALS

The goals of the Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce are to:

- Ensure supported and functioning families
- Foster safe and vibrant neighborhoods
- Promote positive child and youth development
- Increase program and government effectiveness

TARGET POPULATION

For the purpose of this report, ages 10 to 24 were selected to define the target population. Ages 10 to 24 are commonly used when discussing youth violence because this age range is considered high risk. For example, gang members commit violent offenses at a rate higher than those not involved in gangs with the average age range of gang members being 12 to 24 years old.[1] According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), homicide is a leading cause of death among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24[2] and many programs addressing youth violence typically include persons between the ages of 10 and 24. For this report, the term "youth" refers to individuals 10 to 17 years old and "young adult" refers to individuals 18 to 24 years old, unless otherwise specified.

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DEMOGRAPHICS

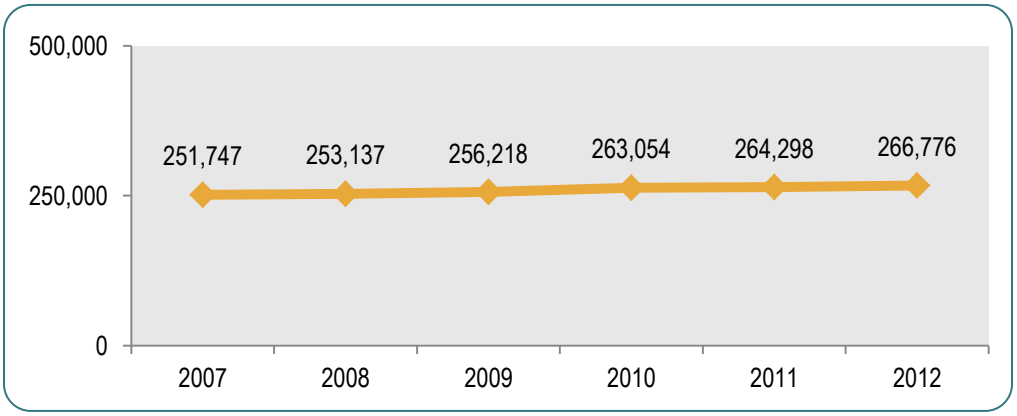
The U.S. Census Bureau calculates population estimates based largely on three factors: birth rates, mortality rates and migration. Policy makers use these estimates to plan for the future. For this report, it's important to know the estimates of the overall population, and youth in particular. It's also important to know people's race/ethnicity and what languages they speak so that services can be culturally competent.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

What the Data Tell Us

The estimated total population of Santa Cruz County was 266,776 in 2012, up from 251,747 in 2007. The population of youth between the ages of 10 to 17 years old and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years old also increased from 2007 to 2012 and is projected to continue to increase. The largest population of both youth and young adults were in the cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville in 2011.

TOTAL POPULATION, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Demographic and housing 1-year estimates, Table DP05, 2007 – 2012.

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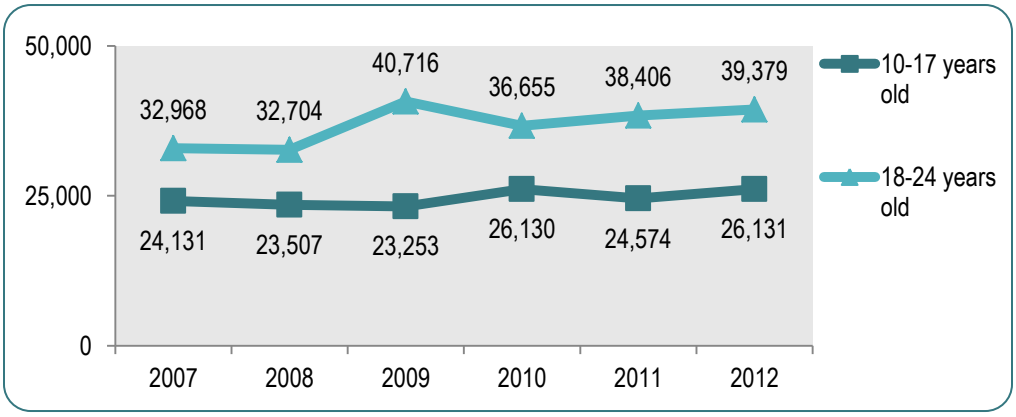
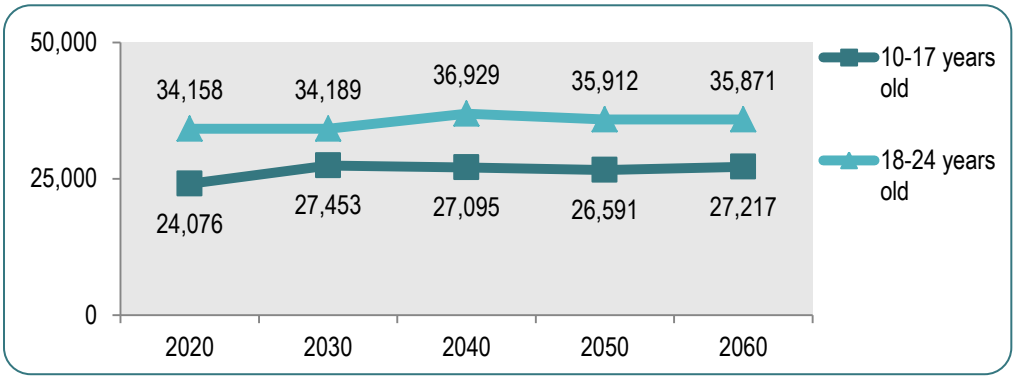
Population of Youth and Young Adults, Santa Cruz County



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Sex by Age 1-year estimates, Table B01001, 2007 – 2012.

Projected Population of Youth and Young Adults, Santa Cruz County



Source: California Department of Finance. (2013). Population projections, 2010-2060. Report P-1: State and county population projections by major age group, 2010-2060 (by decade).

City/Place Distribution, Santa Cruz County, 2007-2011

City/Place	Total Population	10-17 year olds	18-24 year olds
Aptos	6,121	476	485
Capitola	9,864	705	988
Live Oak	16,550	1,628	1,543
Pajaro	2,939	262	635
San Lorenzo Valley	23,445	2,037	1,976
Santa Cruz	59,022	3,764	16,506
Scotts Valley	11,480	1,386	1,248
Soquel	9,474	875	983
Watsonville	50,291	7,224	6,059
Remainder of the County	70,216	7,774	8,956
Santa Cruz County	**259,402**	**26,131**	**39,379**

Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Demographic and housing 5-year estimates, Table DP05, 2007 – 2011.

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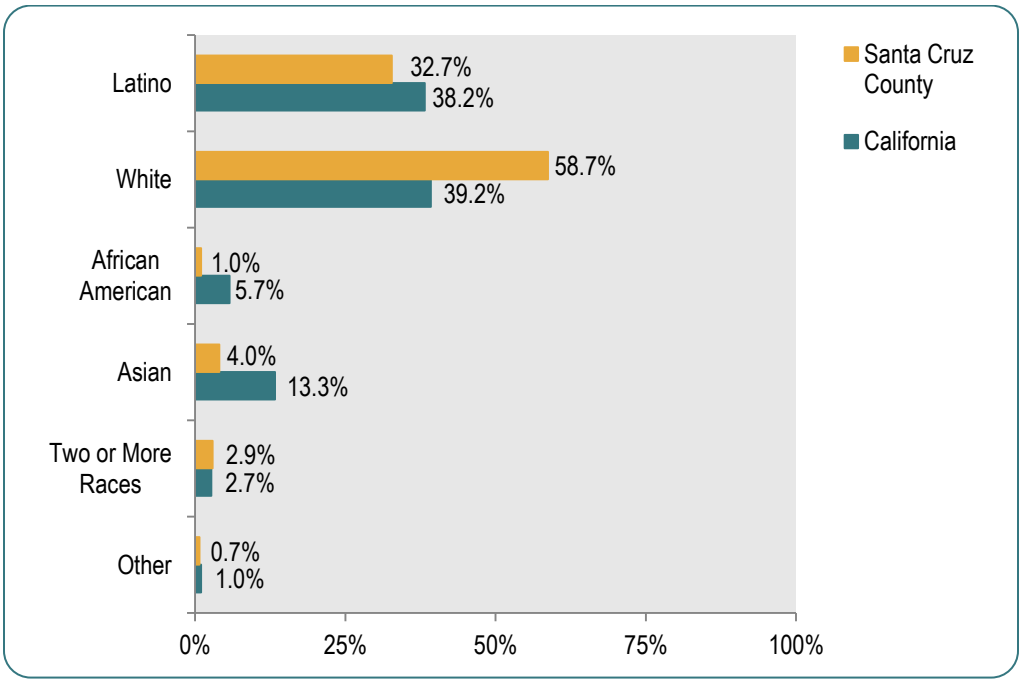
RACIAL/ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION

What the Data Tell Us

In Santa Cruz County, more than half of the total population (59%) identified as White while another 33% were Latino, 4% were Asian, and 1% was African American in 2012. In 2012, a little less than half (48%) of youth and young adults between the ages of 10 and 24 years old identified as White while another 40% were Latino, and 12% all other races. By 2060, the racial/ethnic distribution in Santa Cruz County is projected to change to where more than half (51%) of the population will identify as Latino and one-third (35%) will identify as White.

RACIAL/ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION (ALL AGES), 2012



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Demographic and housing 1-year estimates, Table DP05, 2012.

Note: Other includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race.

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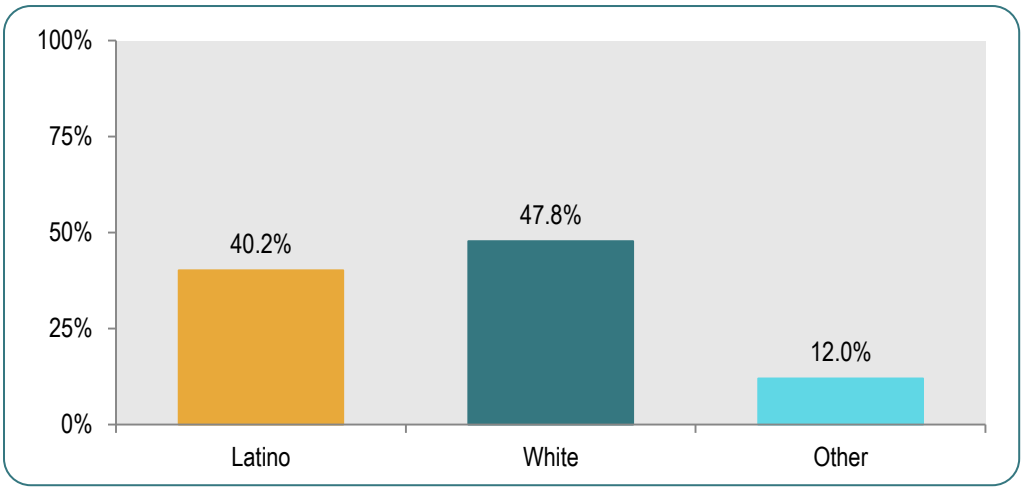
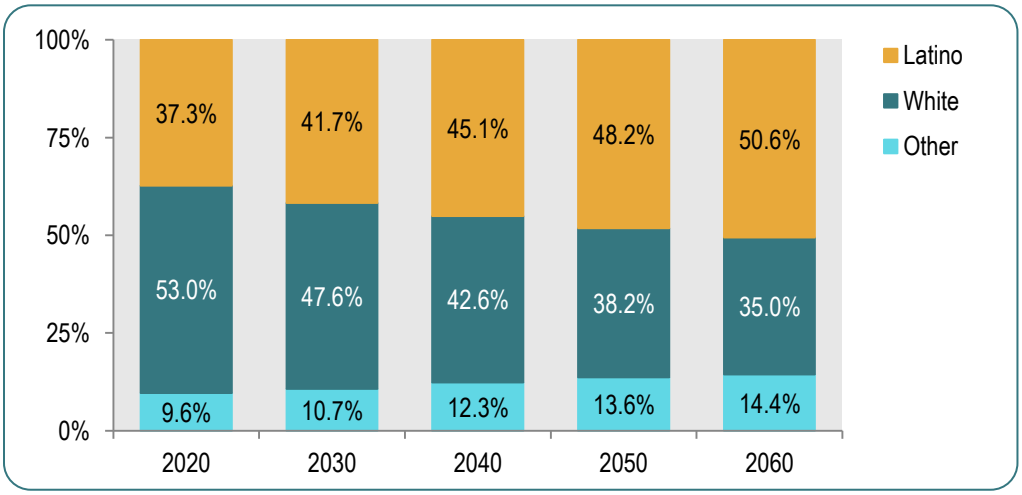
Racial/Ethnic Distribution (Ages 10 to 24 Years), Santa Cruz County, 2012



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Sex by age 1-year estimates, Table B01001 (D, F, G, H, I), 2012.

Note: Other includes all other races.

Projected Racial/Ethnic Distribution, Santa Cruz County



Source: California Department of Finance. (2013). Population projections, 2010-2060. Report P-1: State and county population projections by major age group, 2010-2060 (by decade).

Note: Other includes Black, American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Multi-race.

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Language Spoken at Home

What the Data Tell Us

English was the primary language spoken at home in more than two-thirds (68%) of the population ages 5 years and over in Santa Cruz County in 2012, followed by Spanish in just over one-quarter (26%) of the population, and an Asian or Pacific Islander language in 3%. Since 2007, there has been a decrease in the percentage of individuals who speak only English and an increase in the percentage who speak Spanish at home.

Language Spoken at Home (Population Ages 5 Years and Older)

Language/ Region	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	08-12 Net Change
English Only						
Santa Cruz County	**70.6%**	**72.5%**	**69.1%**	**67.8%**	**68.1%**	**-2.5**
California	57.7%	56.9%	56.3%	56.2%	55.7%	-2.0
Spanish						
Santa Cruz County	**23.5%**	**22.7%**	**25.6%**	**26.5%**	**25.5%**	**2.0**
California	28.1%	28.7%	28.9%	28.8%	29.0%	0.9
Other Indo-Euro Languages						
Santa Cruz County	**3.6%**	**2.6%**	**2.2%**	**2.5%**	**2.9%**	**-0.7**
California	4.4%	4.4%	4.3%	4.5%	4.6%	0.2
Asian and Pacific Islander Languages						
Santa Cruz County	**2.1%**	**2.0%**	**2.5%**	**2.9%**	**2.9%**	**0.8**
California	9.0%	9.1%	9.6%	9.6%	9.8%	0.8
Other Languages						
Santa Cruz County	**0.2%**	**0.2%**	**0.5%**	**0.3%**	**0.6%**	**0.4**
California	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0

Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Selected social characteristics in the United States 1-year estimates, Table DP02, 2008 – 2012.

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EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Why It's Important

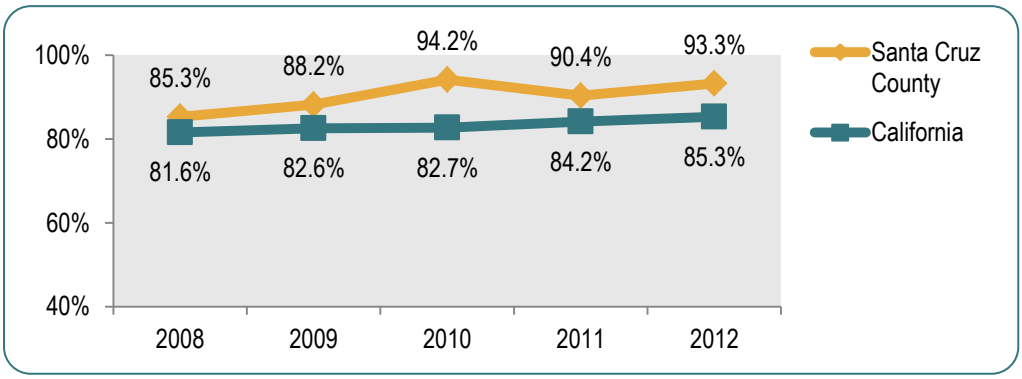
High school graduates earn higher salaries, have better self-esteem, more personal life satisfaction, fewer health problems, and less involvement in criminal activity as compared to high school dropouts.[3] Households headed by a high school graduate accumulate ten times more wealth than households headed by a high school dropout.[4]

What the Data Tell Us

When looking at the percentage of adults ages 18 to 24 years old in Santa Cruz County, 93% had a high school diploma or higher in 2012, which was higher than the state at 85%. More than one-third (38%) of county residents had a bachelor's degree or higher as compared to 31% across the state in 2012.

Educational attainment differed by city. The two areas with the highest percentage of people with advanced degrees included the cities of Santa Cruz (52%) and Scotts Valley (45%) followed by San Lorenzo Valley (43%), Aptos (41%), Capitola (40%), Soquel (40%), and Live Oak (37%). All cities within the county had over 90% of the population with a high school diploma or higher with the exception of Live Oak (85%) and Watsonville (52%).

PERCENT OF POPULATION (AGES 18 TO 24 YEARS) WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HIGHER



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Educational attainment 1-year estimates, Table S1501, 2008 – 2012.

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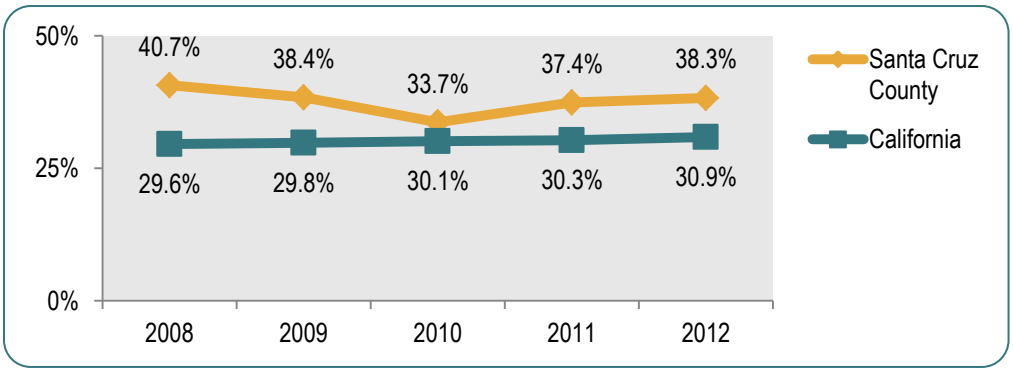
Percent of Population (Ages 25 Years and Older) with Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Educational attainment 1-year estimates, Table S1501, 2008 – 2012.

Educational Attainment (Population Ages 25 Years and Older)

Attainment Level/ Region	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	08-12 Net Change
Less Than High School Graduate						
Santa Cruz County	**13.9%**	**15.4%**	**15.8%**	**15.6%**	**14.0%**	**0.1**
California	19.7%	19.3%	19.3%	18.9%	18.5%	-1.2
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)						
Santa Cruz County	**15.2%**	**16.9%**	**16.5%**	**15.7%**	**16.1%**	**0.9**
California	20.8%	20.9%	20.8%	21.1%	20.6%	-0.2
Some College or Associate's Degree						
Santa Cruz County	**30.2%**	**29.4%**	**33.9%**	**31.4%**	**31.6%**	**1.4**
California	29.8%	29.8%	29.8%	29.8%	30.0%	0.2
Bachelor's Degree or Higher						
Santa Cruz County	**40.7%**	**38.4%**	**33.7%**	**37.4%**	**38.3%**	**-2.4**
California	29.6%	29.8%	30.1%	30.3%	30.9%	1.3

Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Educational attainment one-year estimates, Table S1501, 2008 – 2012.

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EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (POPULATION AGES 25 YEARS AND OLDER), BY CITY, 2007-2011

City	Percent with High School Degree or Higher	Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Aptos	95.4%	41.4%
Capitola	91.6%	39.9%
Live Oak	84.5%	37.3%
San Lorenzo Valley	96.3%	43.1%
Santa Cruz	91.8%	52.2%
Scotts Valley	96.8%	45.0%
Soquel	94.3%	40.1%
Watsonville	51.7%	10.1%

Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Educational attainment 5-year estimates, Table S1501, 2007 – 2011.

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CITIZENSHIP

Why It's Important

There are many benefits to having U.S. citizenship as opposed to not being a citizen including: protection from deportation, the ability to legally work in the United States, college financial aid, access to more government benefits, the ability to vote and to travel out of the U.S. more easily. Non-U.S. citizens and families who have immigrated to the United States (whether legally or not), can experience stress. They may also suffer the trauma of violent immigration experiences, but be afraid to seek help for fear of deportation.[5]

In June 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that individuals who came to the U.S. as children and who met certain guidelines (e.g., under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012, currently in school) could request consideration of deferred action (i.e., discretionary determination to defer removal action) for two years under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Individuals meeting these guidelines and who have deferred action status can apply for employment authorization.[6]

What the Data Tell Us

In 2010, 8% of youth ages 5 to 17 years old in Santa Cruz County were foreign-born, and of those, 7% were not U.S. citizens.

CITIZENSHIP STATUS (YOUTH AGES 5 TO 17 YEARS), SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Citizenship Status	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	06-10 Net Change
Native	92.2%	92.4%	90.3%	93.0%	92.3%	0.1
Foreign-born naturalized U.S. citizen	1.6%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%	1.0%	-0.6
Foreign-born not a U.S. citizen	6.1%	7.0%	8.8%	6.6%	6.8%	0.7

Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Citizenship status by age by language spoken at home for the population 5 years and older, Table B16008, 2006 – 2010.

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ENSURE SUPPORTED AND FUNCTIONING FAMILIES

Early attachments between children and adults help to set the foundation for positive self-identity and confidence as a child becomes a youth. Some families face challenges that can strain family stability and parent-child attachments. Poverty, homelessness, chronic illness, disability, substance abuse, mental health issues, and family violence are family stressors.

Unresolved post-traumatic stress can lead to serious long-term consequences (e.g., problems with interpersonal and cognitive functioning, mental health and substance abuse disorders) into and throughout adulthood.[7] Researchers have developed a better understanding of the effects of trauma over the past few decades and still more has been done in developing supports to address the effects of trauma and to build resiliency, which ultimately prevents further trauma.[8]

FAMILIES IN POVERTY

Why It's Important

Families in poverty face greater stressors as they have difficulties meeting basic needs such as housing, food, medical and dental care, and child care. The federal poverty level is one method of assessing poverty in a region. Federal assistance programs use a multiple of the federal poverty level to determine eligibility (e.g., CalFresh eligibility is 130% of the FPL)[9]. The federal poverty level was developed in the 1960s and was based on three times the cost of a nutritionally adequate monthly food plan, as determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since then, annual adjustments for inflation have occurred; however, it does not consider the cost of other factors such as child care, transportation, medical, and housing costs. It is therefore an underrepresentation of poverty.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard provides information on how much income is needed in different counties in order for families of different sizes to meet their basic needs without public or private assistance. The Self-Sufficiency Standard provides a more comprehensive measure of income adequacy than Federal Poverty Thresholds (levels) by taking into account housing, child care, health care, transportation, food, taxes and miscellaneous costs, as well as economic differences between counties.

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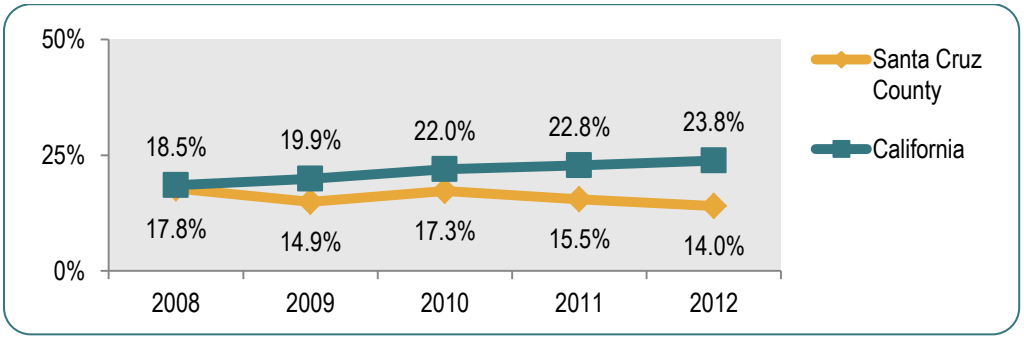
The federal poverty level for a family of three in California was $17,916 in 2011 and for a family of four, it was $23,021.[10] Under the Self-Sufficiency Standard, a family of three in Santa Cruz County (i.e., 2 adults and 1 teenager 13-18 years old) would need to earn $51,768 annually to be self-sufficient.[11]

What the Data Tell Us

Fourteen percent of individuals under 18 years old in Santa Cruz County were living in poverty in 2012, lower than in California overall at 24%. Twelve percent of families with children under 18 years old were living in poverty in Santa Cruz, lower than in California at 19%.

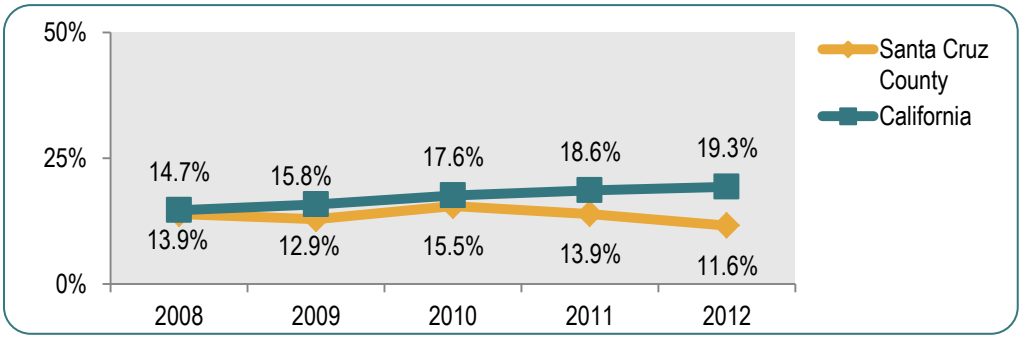
Under the Self-Sufficiency Standard, a single adult in Santa Cruz County would need to earn $32,273 annually to be self-sufficient, while a family with 1 adult and 1 teenager (13 to 18 years old) would need to earn $44,230 to be self-sufficient.

Percent of Individuals (Under 18 Years Old) below the Federal Poverty Threshold (Also Known as Federal Poverty Level)



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Poverty status in the past 12 months 1-year estimates, Table S1701, 2007 – 2011.

Percent of Families with Children under 18 Years Old below the Federal Poverty Threshold



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Poverty status in the past 12 months of families by family type by presence of related children under 18 years by age of related children 1-year estimates, Table B17010, 2007 – 2011.

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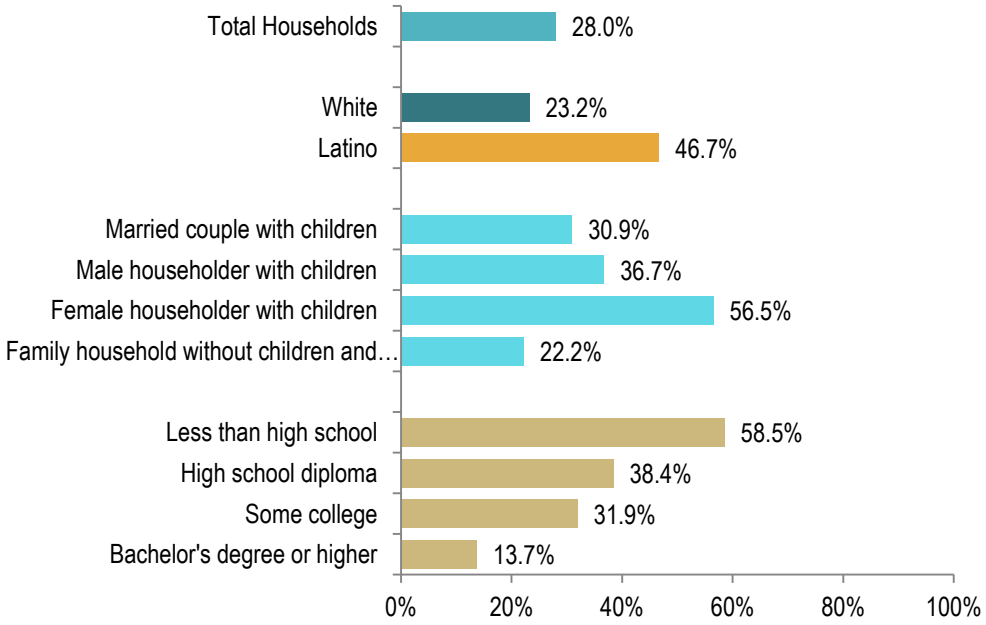
Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Santa Cruz County, 2011

	Single Adult	Single Adult + 1 Teenager (13-18)	2 Adults + 1 Teenager (13-18)
Housing	$1,327	$1,730	$1,730
Child Care	$0	$0	0
Food	$236	$448	$666
Transportation	$262	$262	$504
Health Care	$140	$402	$459
Miscellaneous	$197	$284	$336
Taxes	$527	$643	$703
Earned Income Tax credit (-)	$0	$0	$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	$0	$0	$0
Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage	$15.28	$20.94	$12.26
Monthly Self-Sufficiency Wage	$2,689	$3,686	$4,314
Annual Self-Sufficiency Wage	$32,273	$44,230	$51,768

Source: Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2011). The Self-Sufficiency Standard for California.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Percent of Households Below Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Santa Cruz County – 2007



Source: Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington's School of Social Work. (2010). 2007 Overlooked and Undercounted 2009: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in California.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available

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HOMELESSNESS

Why It's Important

Homeless youth are often victims of crime.[12] Homeless young women are more often victims of violent crime, such as sexual assault.[13] Homeless youth are in greater contact with hostile individuals, potential offenders, and people with serious substance abuse and mental health issues.[14] In a 2013 survey of 500 homeless youth ages 18-24 in five Northern and Central California counties, one in three (32%) had been physically attacked or assaulted, 32% had had their possessions stolen while they were not there, and 27% had been robbed by someone threatening violence.[15] Further, homeless youth are less likely to be in school or employed, and more likely to be in poorer physical and mental health than their non-homeless peers.

What the Data Tell Us

Unaccompanied children and transition age youth, under the age of 25, accounted for 27% of the homeless population in Santa Cruz County. The Point-in-Time count identified 133 unaccompanied children under the age of 18 and 814 transition age youth in 2013.

In 2013, 37 unaccompanied youth were surveyed during the Point-in-Time count. This small sample provided insufficient data on the population. However, a previous study of homeless youth in Santa Cruz County showed many had a history of foster care, family violence and very few had social support networks. In 2011, 28% of homeless youth reported a mental health condition and 67% reported drug or alcohol abuse. Compared to those over the age of 25, a higher percentage of youth reported they were living in Santa Cruz County at the time they became homeless.

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UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, 2013

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2013 Santa Cruz County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.

CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Why It's Important

Abused and neglected children experience higher rates of depression, substance abuse, difficulties in school, behavioral problems, and suicide. They are also at greater risk of later mistreating their own children.[16] Child abuse is found across the social and economic spectrum, but a cross-cutting factor is parental substance abuse.[17] Social isolation, financial stress and poverty are also factors, as is domestic violence.[18] Research shows that 30% to 60% of homes with child abuse and neglect are also experiencing domestic violence.[19] In general, younger children are more likely to be victims of abuse and neglect than older children, especially children under 1. Further, children of color are over-represented in the Child Welfare System in California.

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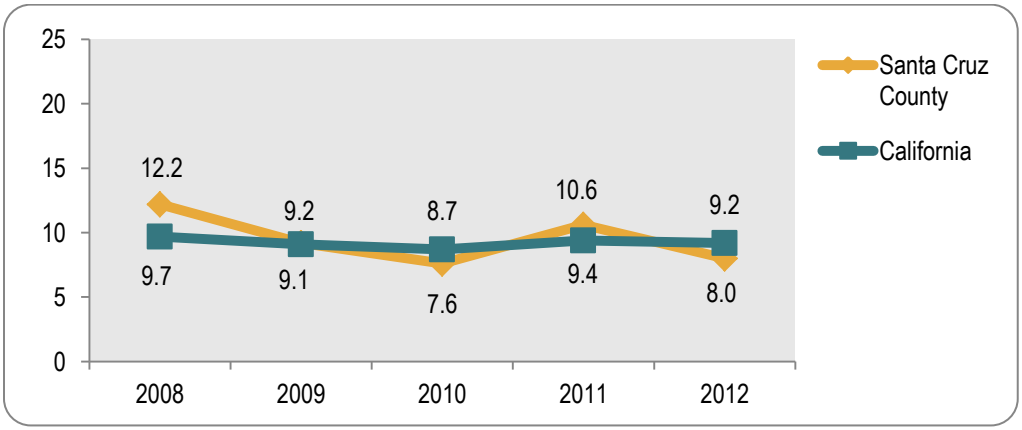
What the Data Tell Us

If a person suspects a child has been abused, he or she may file a referral with Child Welfare Services. If the referral warrants an in-person investigation and there is significant evidence that an incident of child abuse or neglect, as defined by State law, is believed to have occurred[20], the referral becomes a substantiated case of abuse. A child is only counted once a year in the category with the highest severity.

There were 8 cases of substantiated child abuse for every 1,000 children ages 0-17 in Santa Cruz County in 2012, lower than the overall rate in California of 9.2 per 1,000 children that same year. The rate in Santa Cruz County has fluctuated from a high of 12.2 in 2008 to a low of 8 per 1,000 in 2012. The most frequent type of substantiated child abuse was neglect with 307 cases in 2012, followed by severe neglect (48 cases), physical abuse (38), emotional abuse (34), sexual abuse (15) and at risk because the sibling was abused (6).

RATE OF SUBSTANTIATED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE PER 1,000 CHILDREN (AGES 0-17)



Source: Needell, B. et al. (2013). 2002-2012 Child Welfare Services Reports for California, University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research.

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SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE CASES BY TYPE OF ABUSE

Type of Abuse	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
General Neglect	290	244	259	381	307
Substantial Risk[1]	146	82	0	0	0
Emotional Abuse	128	68	41	61	34
Physical Abuse	58	44	32	52	38
Severe Neglect	47	52	72	51	48
Sexual Abuse	25	26	21	35	15
At Risk, Sibling Abused	3	8	9	4	6
Caretaker Absence or Incapacity	3	3	1	0	0
Santa Cruz County Total	**700**	**527**	**435**	**584**	**448**
California Total	96,575	90,472	87,311	87,263	84,590

Source: Needell, B. et al. (2013). 2006-2012 Child Welfare Services Reports for California, University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research.

Note: A child is counted only once per year, in category of highest severity.

[1]In 2010, Substantial Risk was no longer an active code an individual could choose when entering data into the data system.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Why It's Important

Children and youth that live in homes where there is domestic violence between adults have a higher chance of also being abused themselves. Research shows that 50% of men who frequently abuse their wives also abuse their children.[21] Even in families with domestic violence and no child physical abuse, children who witness the abuse between their parents frequently suffer behavioral and emotional problems such as aggression towards others, withdrawal, low self-esteem, and lower school achievement.[22] Domestic violence is also underreported to law enforcement, as such the number of cases should be viewed with caution as being unrepresentative of the actual number of cases.

What the Data Tell Us

In 2012, there were 3 domestic violence-related calls for assistance per 1,000 residents in Santa Cruz County. The City of Santa Cruz had the highest rate of domestic-violence related calls for assistance in 2012 in Santa Cruz County at nearly 5 calls per 1,000 residents. The City of Santa Cruz also had the highest number of domestic-violence related calls for assistance in 2012 at 280, followed by the Sheriff's Department with 251 reported calls.

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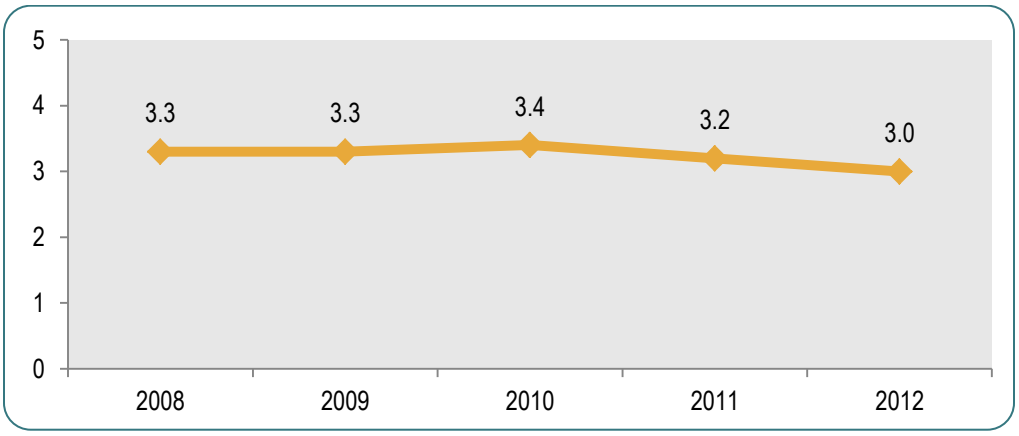
Rate of Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance Per 1,000 Population, Santa Cruz County



Source: California Department of Justice (2013), Domestic Violence –Related Calls for Assistance, 2008-2012.

Rate of Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance Per 1,000 Population by Jurisdiction, 2012

Jurisdiction	Rate per 1,000
Capitola	2.8
Santa Cruz	4.7
Scotts Valley	2.5
Watsonville	3.7
Sheriff's Department	3.6

Source: California Department of Justice, Domestic Violence –Related Calls for Assistance, 2012.

Number of Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance, by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Capitola	33	47	62	55	28
Santa Cruz	297	265	291	281	280
Scotts Valley	26	41	29	36	29
Watsonville	206	214	226	210	187
Sheriff's Department/ Unincorporated	275	283	282	249	251
Other	10	6	6	10	8
Santa Cruz County	847	856	896	841	783
California	166,343	167,087	166,361	158,547	157,634

Source: California Department of Justice, Domestic Violence –Related Calls for Assistance, 2012.

Note: Other includes UC Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz Mountains DPR

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FOSTER SAFE AND VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS

It's important to foster safe and vibrant neighborhoods for youth that support the development of youth assets. When people feel safe in their neighborhoods, they are more likely to be physically active outdoors and to have reduced stress levels. Crime contributes to poorer physical and mental health for victims, perpetrators, and community members.[23] Witnessing and experiencing violence in a community can cause long term behavioral and emotional problems in youth. For example, a study in the San Francisco Bay area showed that youth who were exposed to violence showed higher rates of self-reported PTSD, depressive symptoms, and perpetration of violence.[24]

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Why It's Important

"Community safety is achieved when community members live in peace, harmony, and mutual respect and when citizens and community groups feel that they personally can prevent and control crime."[25] Communities that feel a greater sense of cohesiveness, can access ample pro-social opportunities and feel a greater sense of safety are more likely to report crime and less likely to experience incidents of crime and violence. These community conditions can help cause feelings of stability, belonging and connection for youth growing up there. Conversely, communities that report feeling less safe in their neighborhood, more neighborhood disorganization, increased access to alcohol or other drugs and high arrest rates, for example, experience higher rates of crime and violence and can lead to feelings of vulnerability among youth as well as promoting a culture of antisocial norms.

What the Data Tell Us

A telephone survey of Santa Cruz County residents ages 18 and older is conducted every two years in the spring. Overall, over 700 telephone surveys were conducted, including cell phones.

Slightly less than half (47%) of survey respondents reported feeling "very concerned" about crime in Santa Cruz County in 2013, up from 40% in 2005. Respondents in South County were more concerned about crime than those in North County or San Lorenzo Valley.

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Survey respondents were asked if they felt safe in their neighborhood. In 2013, 60% of respondents in Santa Cruz County answered "very safe," a decrease from 68% in 2005.

In 2013, 21% of survey respondents in the county reported being "very concerned" about gangs. Regional breakdowns showed that South County (33%) had a higher percentage of respondents who felt "very concerned" compared to North County (16%) and San Lorenzo Valley (7%).

In 2013, nearly 17% of survey respondents in the county reported being "very concerned" about violence in their neighborhood. Regional breakdowns showed that South County (23%) had a higher percentage of respondents who felt "very concerned" compared to North County (14%) and San Lorenzo Valley (8%).

HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT CRIME IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY? (RESPONDENTS ANSWERED "VERY CONCERNED"), SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Jurisdiction	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
North County	38.8%	47.5%	35.7%	33.1%	44.7%
South County	45.4%	43.3%	52.0%	46.5%	53.5%
SLV	24.9%	25.1%	23.1%	21.6%	35.8%
Overall	**40.2%**	**43.0%**	**40.1%**	**36.1%**	**46.8%**

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2005, 2007, 2009, 2011 2013).Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

2013 Overall n: 712; North County n: 259; South County n: 239; SLV n: 214.

Note: Please see Methodology section for definition of regions.

Note: North County, South County, and San Lorenzo Valley n's may not add to the overall n. Please see Methodology section for more information.

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How Safe Would You Say You Feel in Your Neighborhood? (Respondents Answered "Very Safe"), Santa Cruz County

Jurisdiction	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
North County	63.0%	66.9%	68.1%	65.5%	59.5%
South County	67.8%	54.4%	51.0%	58.9%	55.0%
SLV	83.0%	85.4%	83.4%	86.1%	74.2%
Overall	**68.1%**	**64.7%**	**63.8%**	**65.2%**	**59.8%**

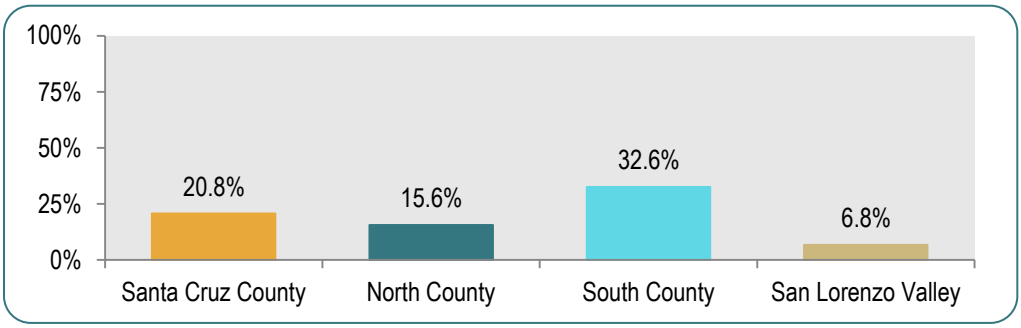
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2005, 2007, 2009, 2011 2013).Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

2013 Overall n: 710; North County n: 258; South County n: 238; SLV n: 214.

Note: Please see Methodology section for definition of regions.

Note: North County, South County, and San Lorenzo Valley n's may not add to the overall n. Please see Methodology section for more information.

How Concerned Are You About Gangs in Your Neighborhood? (Respondents Answering "Very Concerned") – 2013

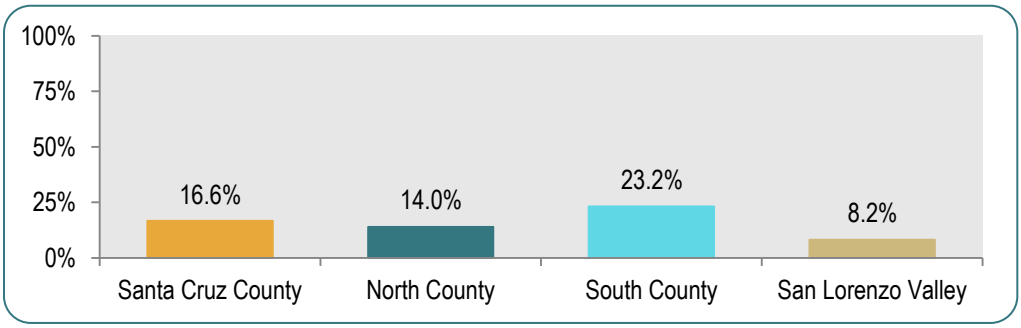


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013).Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey. Santa Cruz County n=704; North County n=255; South County n=239; SLV n=209.

Note: Please see Methodology section for definition of regions.

Note: North County, South County, and San Lorenzo Valley n's may not add to the overall n. Please see Methodology section for more information.

How Concerned Are You About Violence in Your Neighborhood? (Respondents Answering "Very Concerned") – 2013



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013).Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey. Santa Cruz County n=706; North County n=257; South County n=236; SLV n=214.

Note: Please see Methodology section for definition of regions.

Note: North County, South County, and San Lorenzo Valley n's may not add to the overall n. Please see Methodology section for more information.

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ACCESS TO ALCOHOL

Why It's Important

People with greater access to liquor stores and bars are more likely to consume higher levels of alcohol. For example, when there are more alcohol outlets near a university, there is more drinking among the students.[26] When there are more alcohol outlets, there are also more violent crimes, assaults, child maltreatment and abuse, and homicides.[27] In fact, people with increased access to liquor stores also tend to have higher levels of hospital contacts for anxiety, stress, and depression.[28] Further, there tend to be more alcohol and tobacco outlets in lower income neighborhoods and in communities of color.[29]

Neighborhood blocks that have more bars have higher crime rates for murder, rape, assault, robbery, burglary, grand theft and auto theft. Adding one bar to a block would result in 3.38 more crimes committed on that block in a year, and increase the risk of violent crime by nearly 18%. Increase in outlets resulting in an increase in violence is four times more likely in neighborhoods with a high minority population and low income.[30]

What the Data Tell Us

With over 700 retail alcohol outlets, Santa Cruz County has 2.7 outlets per 1,000 residents. Localities that have a small total population and a high tourist population and restaurant and entertainment land uses, may have higher than average per capita rate.

NUMBER OF RETAIL ALCOHOL OUTLETS[1]

	June 2008	June 2009	June 2010	June 2011	June 2012	June 2013
Retail Alcohol Outlets – Santa Cruz County	638	647	689	707	717	730
Outlets per 1,000 People - Santa Cruz County	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7
Outlets per 1,000 People - California	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1

Source: State of California, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. (2013). Alcoholic Beverage Licenses Report, 2006-2013.
California Department of Finance (2013). 2006-2013 E-1: City/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change.

[1]Includes both on-sale and off-sale outlets.

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RETAIL ALCOHOL OUTLETS[1], BY CITY/PLACE

	June 2013
Remainder of County	
Number of Outlets	204
Outlets per 1,000 People	1.8
Percentage of County Outlets	**27.9%**
Capitola	
Number of Outlets	66
Outlets per 1,000 People	6.7
Percentage of County Outlets	**9.0%**
Santa Cruz	
Number of Outlets	271
Outlets per 1,000 People	4.6
Percentage of County Outlets	**37.1%**
Watsonville	
Number of Outlets	102
Outlets per 1,000 People	2.0
Percentage of County Outlets	**14.0%**
Scotts Valley	
Number of Outlets	48
Outlets per 1,000 People	4.2
Percentage of County Outlets	**6.6%**
Live Oak	
Number of Outlets	39
Outlets per 1,000 People	2.4
Percentage of County Outlets	**5.3%**

Source: California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. (2013). 2013 Alcoholic Beverage Licenses Report. 2013 rates were calculated using the following source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Demographic and housing 5-year estimates, Table DP05, 2007 – 2011.

[1]Includes both on-sale and off-sale outlets.

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ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Why It's Important

Four of every five young people in state juvenile justice systems are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs while committing their crimes, test positive for drugs, are arrested for committing an alcohol or drug offense, admit having substance abuse and addiction problems, or share some combination of these characteristics, according to a 2010 report by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. The report, *Criminal Neglect: Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice and The Children Left Behind,* found that 1.9 million of 2.4 million juvenile arrests had substance abuse and addiction involvement and that only 68,600 juveniles receive substance abuse treatment. According to a detailed study of California juvenile court petitions, juvenile felony and misdemeanor drug arrests have been steadily climbing, with the drug arrest rate per 10,000 increasing from 38.3 in 2004 to 46.4 in 2009, 45% were in court for a substance use offense or violation, and 67% had a documented substance abuse problem.[31] Drug and alcohol abuse impacts a young person's behavior in a variety of ways, including impaired decision making, reduced self-control, increased impulsivity and reduced ability to recognize potentially dangerous situations. The effects are far reaching, effecting relationships, academic performance, health and safety. Drug and alcohol abuse is often used as a coping mechanism for challenging life circumstances and after experiencing or witnessing violence at home or in the community.[32]

What the Data Tell Us

Alcohol use among Santa Cruz County 11th grade students decreased from 46% in 2002/03 to 40% in 2010/11. Among 9th grade students in Santa Cruz County, self-reported use of alcohol decreased from 2002/03, while self-reported use of marijuana, increased slightly from 19% in 2002/03 to 23% in 2010/11.

Nearly 50% of 11th grade students in Santa Cruz County had reported use of any alcohol or other drug in the past 30 days in 2009-11, higher than their peers in the state (39%). The percentage of 9th grade students who had reported use of any alcohol or other drug in the past 30 days in 2010-11 varied between 14% and 44% in the Santa Cruz County school districts.

The alcohol-related misdemeanor arrest rate decreased from 46.6 arrests per 1,000 young adults ages 18 to 19 to 26.0 arrests per 1,000. Santa Cruz had the highest number of juvenile arrests with 45 per in 2012. The drug-related misdemeanor arrest

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rate for young adults ages 18 to 19 in Santa Cruz County decreased from 16.8 per 1,000 in 2006 to 3.8 per 1,000 in 2012. Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and Scotts Valley saw a decrease from 2008 to 2012 in the number of juvenile drug-related misdemeanor arrests.

Self-Reported Drug and Alcohol Use Among Youth in the Past 30 Days, Santa Cruz County

	2002/ 03	2004/ 05	2006/ 07	2008/ 09	2010/ 11	Trend
Alcohol						
7th Grade	13%	16%	15%	18%	15%	↔
9th Grade	31%	33%	33%	34%	28%	↔
11th Grade	46%	47%	44%	41%	40%	↓
Marijuana						
7th Grade	6%	6%	7%	10%	10%	↔
9th Grade	19%	18%	20%	26%	23%	↔
11th Grade	25%	29%	26%	30%	30%	↑
Cocaine						
9th Grade	3%	3%	3%	6%	4%	↔
11th Grade	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	↔
Methamphetamines/Amphetamines						
9th Grade	3%	4%	2%	4%	4%	↔
11th Grade	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	↔
Inhalants						
7th Grade	5%	3%	5%	8%	6%	↔
9th Grade	5%	5%	5%	8%	6%	↔
11th Grade	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	↔
Psychedelics (Includes Ecstasy, LSD, or other psychedelics)						
9th Grade	4%	3%	3%	8%	5%	↔
11th Grade	3%	3%	3%	7%	6%	↔

↑ *Increasing (Upward) trend;* ↓ *Declining (Downward) trend;* ↔ *No clear trend.*

Source: West Ed Source: California Department of Education. (2013). 2002-2011 California Healthy Kids Survey, Santa Cruz County.

Note: Data are weighted.

Note: Questions regarding use of Methamphetamines, Cocaine, and Psychedelics were not asked of 7th middle school students.

[1]Alcohol use refers to at least one drink.

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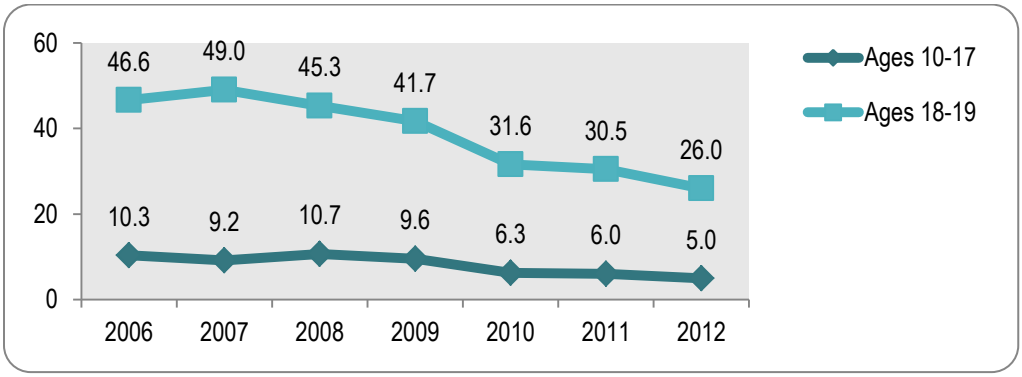
Percent of Students Who Reported Any AOD Use in the Past 30 Days, 2010-2011

School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	22%	33%	46%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	–[1]	32%	35%
Santa Cruz City High School District	17%	44%	52%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	9%	14%	35%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	10%	30%	41%
Santa Cruz County[2]	19%	35%	47%
California[2]	16%	29%	39%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Current AOD Use, Past 30 Days, Table A4.3, By school district, 2010-2011, By County and statewide, 2009-2011.

Note: AOD use includes alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, cocaine, methamphetamines, ecstasy, LSD or other psychedelics, and other illegal drugs or pills.
[1]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.
[2]County and state data are 2009-11.

Alcohol-Related[1] Misdemeanor Arrest Rate per 1,000, Santa Cruz County



Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles. 2005-2012 Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail.

[1] Includes: Contributing to the delinquency of a minor, drunk, liquor laws, and driving under the influence.

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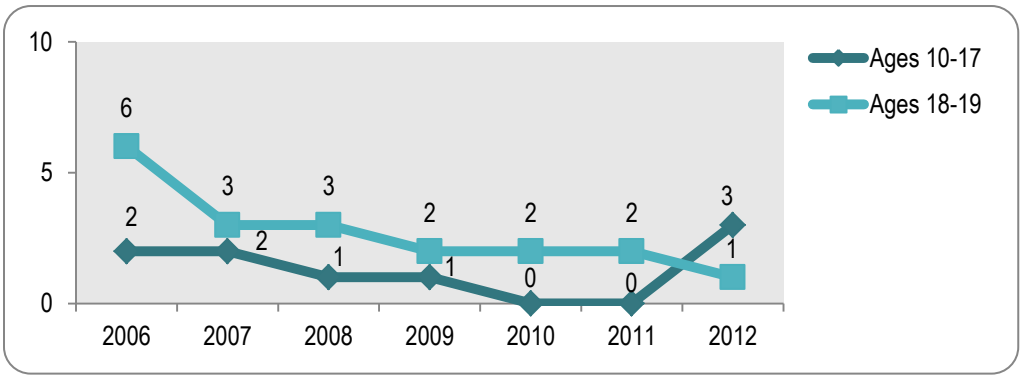
Number of Driving under the Influence Felony Arrests, Santa Cruz County



Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles.

Number of Alcohol-Related Juvenile (Under 18 Years Old) Arrests, by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Trend
Capitola						
Misdemeanor	9	9	2	2	1	↓
Felony	0	0	0	0	0	↔
Santa Cruz						
Misdemeanor	55	64	42	49	45	↔
Felony	0	1	0	0	1	↔
Watsonville						
Misdemeanor	52	51	34	23	12	↓
Felony	0	0	0	0	0	↔
Scotts Valley						
Misdemeanor	14	19	23	24	9	↓
Felony	0	0	0	0	0	↔
Remainder of County[1]						
Misdemeanor	136	88	58	55	59	↓
Felony	1	0	0	0	2	↔

↑ *Increasing (Upward) trend;* ↓ *Declining (Downward) trend;* ↔ *No clear trend.*

Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles.

Note: Misdemeanor alcohol-related arrests include: contributing to the delinquency of a minor, drunk, liquor laws, and driving under the influence. Felony alcohol-related arrests include: driving under the influence.

[1]Remainder of the county data include Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz Mountains- DPR, UC Santa Cruz, California Highway Patrol of Santa Cruz County, Cabrillo College and Pajaro Coast-DPR and Union Pacific Railroad of Santa Cruz County.

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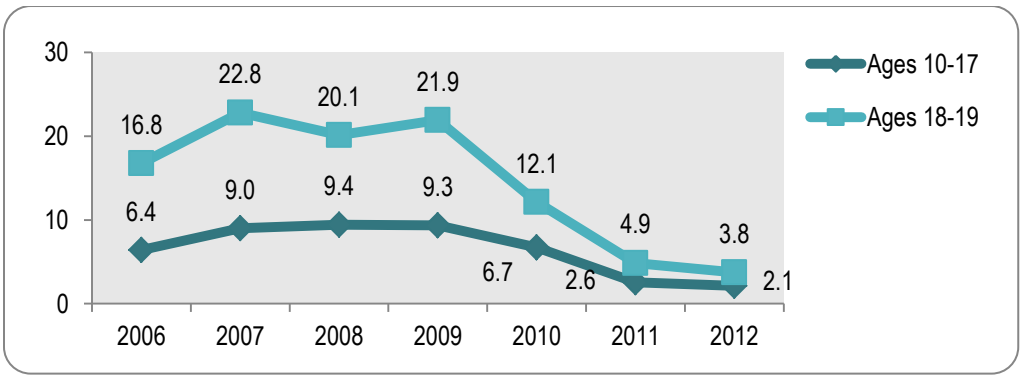
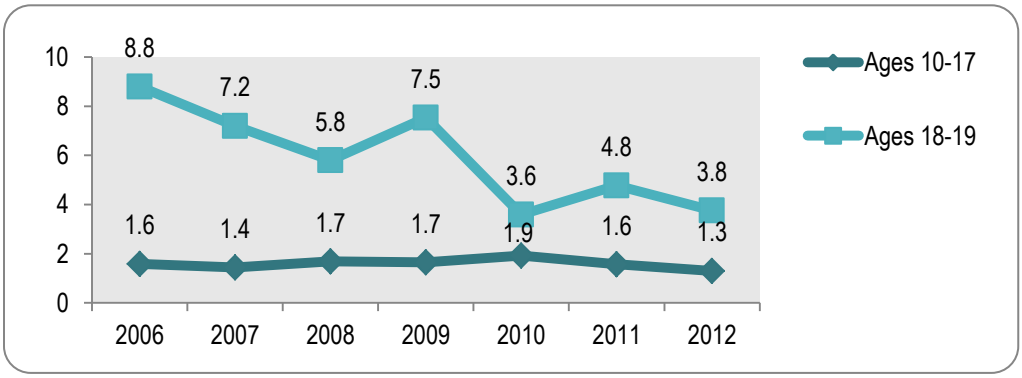
DRUG-RELATED[1] MISDEMEANOR ARREST RATE PER 1,000, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles. 2005-2012 Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail.

[1] Includes: Marijuana, other drugs, and glue sniffing.

DRUG-RELATED[1] FELONY ARREST RATE PER 1,000, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles. 2005-2012 Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail.

[1] Includes: Narcotics, marijuana, dangerous drugs, and other drug violations.

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Number of Drug-Related Juvenile (Under 18 Years Old) Arrests, by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Trend
Capitola						
Misdemeanor	1	8	10	0	5	↑
Felony	1	0	3	4	3	↔
Santa Cruz						
Misdemeanor	49	51	49	20	19	↓
Felony	14	6	9	9	7	↓
Watsonville						
Misdemeanor	73	66	53	16	11	↓
Felony	7	11	13	10	15	↑
Scotts Valley						
Misdemeanor	19	9	13	3	3	↓
Felony	4	3	2	2	2	↔
Remainder of County[1]						
Misdemeanor	93	92	46	26	16	↓
Felony	16	20	22	15	6	↓

↑ *Increasing (Upward) trend;* ↓ *Declining (Downward) trend;* ↔ *No clear trend.*

Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles.

Note: Misdemeanor drug-related arrests include: Marijuana dangerous drugs, other drugs, and glue sniffing. Felony drug-related arrests include: Narcotics, marijuana, dangerous drugs, and other drug violations.

[1]Remainder of the county data include Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz Mountains- DPR, UC Santa Cruz, California Highway Patrol of Santa Cruz County, Cabrillo College and Pajaro Coast-DPR.

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SAFETY AT SCHOOL

Why It's Important

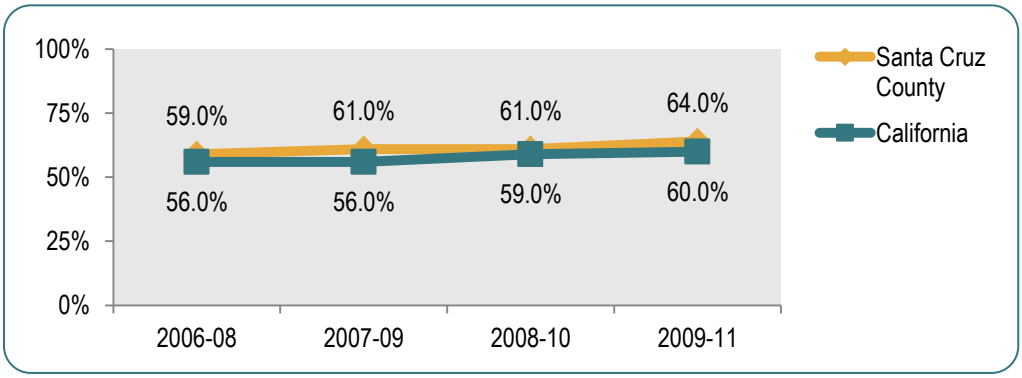
When a youth feels safe in school, it improves their educational performance and their ability to concentrate and learn.[33] However, in a 2011 nationally representative sample of youth in grades 9-12, 6% of youth did not go to school on one or more days in the last 30 days prior to the survey because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to school. Seven percent reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times in the prior 12 months, while 5% reported carrying a weapon to school in the last 30 days.

What the Data Tell Us

Sixty-four percent of 9th grade students in Santa Cruz County reported feeling safe at school which is slightly higher than their peers in California (60%) in 2009-11. However, about one in four students in the 7th, 9th, and 11th grade in Santa Cruz County reported that they were harassed or bullied on school property in 2010-11. The percentage of students who reported being bullied on the internet increased with age in 2010-11, from 18% of 7th graders to 25% of 11th graders.

Six percent of 9th grade students in Santa Cruz County reported that they carried a gun onto school property, higher than 9th graders in the state (5%). Thirteen percent of 9th graders in the county reported carrying a weapon other than a gun onto school property.

PERCENT OF 9TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO REPORTED FEELING "VERY SAFE" OR "SAFE" AT SCHOOL



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Perceived Safety of School, Table A6.10, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

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Percent of Students Who Reported Feeling "Very Safe" or "Safe" at School, by School District and Grade, 2010-2011

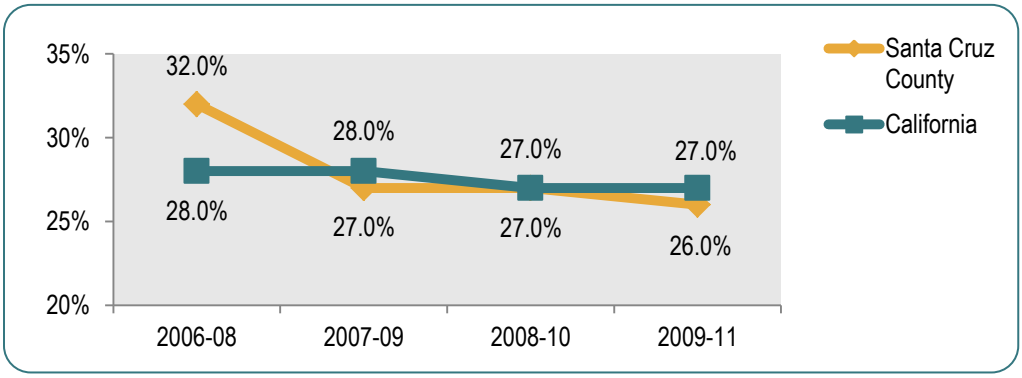
School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	60.0%	60.0%	59.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	59.0%	61.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	58.0%	66.0%	78.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	79.0%	88.0%	95.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	70.0%	79.0%	78.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**61.0%**	**64.0%**	**70.0%**
California[1]	63.0%	60.0%	63.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Cyber Bullying, Table A6.11, By school district, 2010-2011, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

During the Past 12 Months, How Many Times on School Property Were You Harassed or Bullied? (Respondents Answering 1 or more Times, 9th Grade students)



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Reason for Harassment on School Property, Table A6.7, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

Note: Data represent students who answered: 1 time or 2 or more times for any of the following hate-crimes: race, ethnicity or national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical/mental disability.

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During the Past 12 Months, How Many Times on School Property Were You Harassed or Bullied? (Respondents Answering 1 or more Times), 2010-2011

School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	23.0%	24.0%	25.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	29.0%	24.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	31.0%	27.0%	24.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	37.0%	21.0%	21.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	35.0%	29.0%	19.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**27.0%**	**26.0%**	**24.0%**
California[1]	31.0%	27.0%	23.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Cyber Bullying, Table A6.11, By school district, 2010-2011, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

Note: Data represent students who answered: 1 time or 2 or more times for any of the following hate-crimes: race, ethnicity or national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical/mental disability.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

During the Past 12 Months, How Many Times Did Other Students Spread Mean Rumors or Lies About You on the Internet? (Respondents Answering 1 or more Times), 2010-2011

School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	16.0%	23.0%	28.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	26.0%	22.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	20.0%	22.0%	23.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education School District	32.0%	28.0%	21.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	26.0%	29.0%	26.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**18.0%**	**23.0%**	**25.0%**
California[1]	18.0%	22.0%	21.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Cyber Bullying, Table A6.11, By school district, 2010-2011, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

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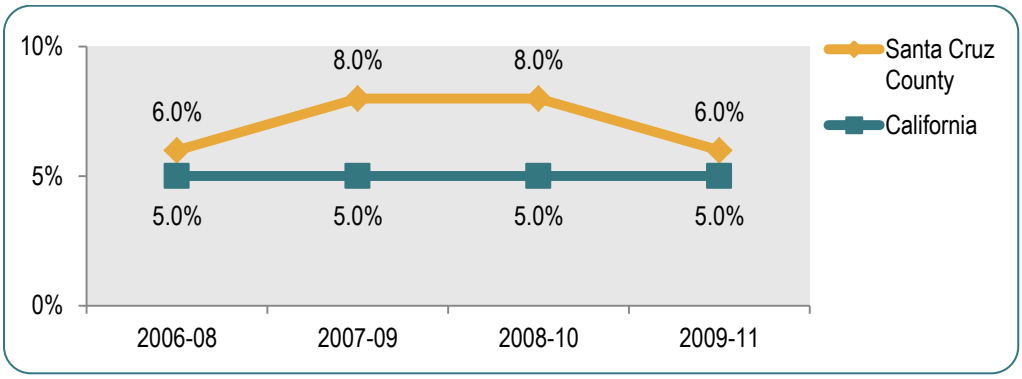
On School Property: Carried a Gun (Respondents Answering 1 or more Times, 9th Grade Students)



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Weapons Possession on School Property, Past 12 Months, Table A6.4, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

On School Property: Carried a Gun, by School District and Grade, (Respondents Answering 1 or more Times), 2010-2011

School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	5.0%	7.0%	7.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	8.0%	3.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	3.0%	7.0%	3.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	7.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	6.0%	4.0%	3.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**4.0%**	**6.0%**	**6.0%**
California[1]	5.0%	5.0%	4.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Cyber Bullying, Table A6.11, By school district, 2010-2011, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

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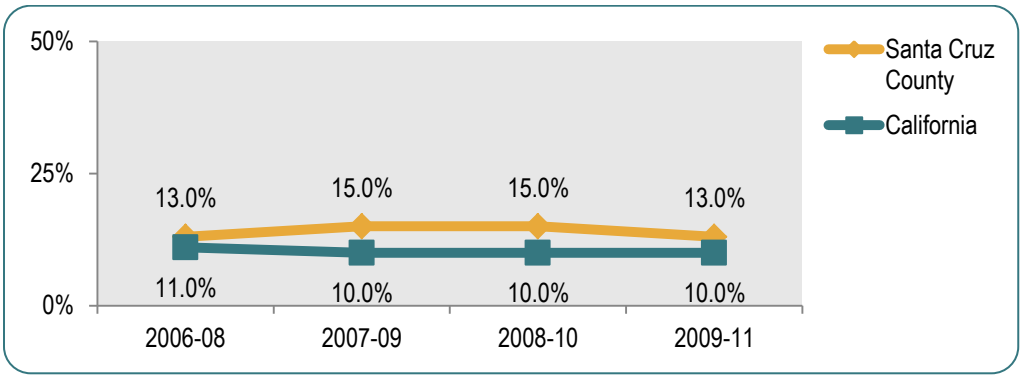
On School Property: Carried any Other Weapon (Respondents Answering 1 or more Times, 9th Grade Students)



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Weapons Possession on School Property, Past 12 Months, Table A6.4, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

On School Property: Carried any Other Weapon (Respondents Answering 1 or more Times), by School District and Grade, 2010-2011

School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	10.0%	13.0%	13.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	10.0%	9.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	11.0%	16.0%	12.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	12.0%	2.0%	4.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	14.0%	9.0%	7.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**11.0%**	**13.0%**	**11.0%**
California[1]	10.0%	10.0%	9.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Cyber Bullying, Table A6.11, By school district, 2010-2011, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

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CRIMES

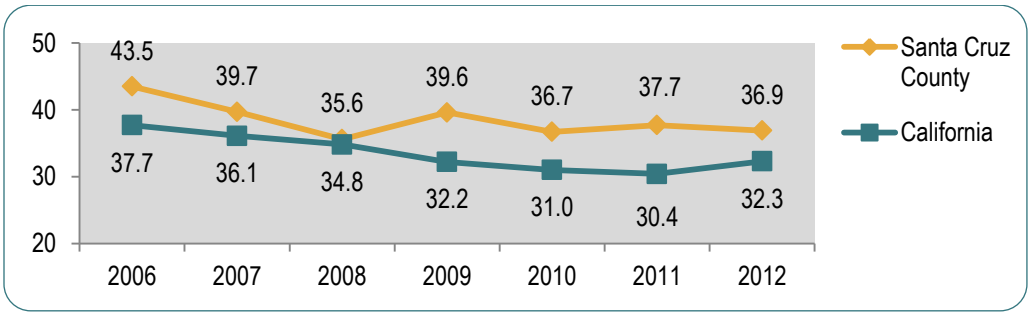
Why It's Important

Crime contributes to poorer physical and mental health for victims, perpetrators, and community members.[34] In addition to direct physical injury, victims of violence are at increased risk of depression, substance abuse, anxiety, reproductive health problems, and suicidal behavior, according to the World Health Organization's "World Report on Violence and Health."[35] Witnessing and experiencing violence in a community can cause long term behavioral and emotional problems in youth, including PTSD, depression, and perpetration of violence.[36]

What the Data Tell Us

Total crime decreased from 43.5 crimes per 1,000 residents in 2006 to 36.9 crimes per 1,000 in 2012 in the county overall. Watsonville experienced the biggest decrease from 47.4 total crimes per 1,000 residents in 2006 to 35.9 crimes in 2012.

CRIME RATE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS



Source: California Department of Justice. (2013). 2005-2011 California Criminal Justice Profile. California Department of Finance (2012). 2000-2010 E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2000-2010, with 2000 and 2010 Census Counts.

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CRIME RATE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS BY JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	06-12 Net Change
Violent Crime Rate[1]								
City of Capitola	NA[4]	NA[4]	NA[4]	NA[4]	NA[4]	2.8	4.7	NA
City of Santa Cruz	7.0	8.4	7.7	7.6	9.2	7.8	7.0	0.0
City of Scotts Valley	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	-
City of Watsonville	6.2	7.9	7.0	6.9	6.4	5.5	4.9	-1.3
Unincorporated	2.3	2.0	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.2	-0.1
Santa Cruz County[3]	**4.1[4]**	**4.7[4]**	**4.7[4]**	**4.5[4]**	**5.0[4]**	**4.4**	**3.9**	**-0.2**
Property Crime Rate[2]								
City of Capitola	96.1	83.3	62.2	63.2	71.3	60.3	54.3	-41.8
City of Santa Cruz	56.4	42.3	35.9	52.5	49.0	54.8	58.0	1.6
City of Scotts Valley	29.4	23.7	23.8	24.8	21.3	24.1	28.0	-1.4
City of Watsonville	40.8	45.4	37.0	35.9	30.0	31.3	30.8	-10.0
Unincorporated	20.3	18.8	17.9	19.2	17.2	17.7	14.6	-5.7
Santa Cruz County[3]	**38.9**	**34.6**	**30.5**	**34.7**	**31.5**	**33.1**	**32.8**	**-6.1**
Total Crime Rate								
City of Capitola	NA[4]	NA[4]	NA[4]	NA[4]	NA[4]	100.4	59.8	NA
City of Santa Cruz	64.0	51.2	44.0	60.5	58.6	91.6	65.3	1.3
City of Scotts Valley	30.7	24.9	24.9	25.6	22.8	25.3	29.4	-1.3
City of Watsonville	47.4	53.5	44.2	43.0	36.7	37.0	35.9	-11.5
Unincorporated	22.8	21.0	20.7	21.6	19.6	26.7	16.9	-5.9
Santa Cruz County[3]	**43.5[4]**	**39.7[4]**	**35.6[4]**	**39.6[4]**	**36.7[4]**	**37.7**	**36.9**	**-6.6**
California	37.7	36.1	34.8	32.2	31.0	30.4	32.3	-5.4

Source: California Department of Justice. (2013). 2005-2011 California Criminal Justice Profile. California Department of Finance (2012). 2000-2010 E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2000-2010, with 2000 and 2010 Census Counts.

^Rate is not calculated for numbers less than 20, as small numbers are unstable and can be misinterpreted.

[1]Violent crime rate includes: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

[2]Property crime rate includes: burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft over $400.

[3]Santa Cruz County totals include the California Highway Patrol, U.C. Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Mountains Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Union Pacific Railroad.

[4]In 2012, a reporting error was discovered in the City of Capitola Uniformed Crime Report data for 2011. The Records Manager found when officers were entering information in their assault reports; they were inadvertently coding information incorrectly causing aggravated assault data to be over inflated. This occurred for at least the past five years and probably longer. Upon discovering this error, the City of Capitola corrected the problem moving forward; however, they are unable to correct data that has already been submitted.

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ARRESTS

Why It's Important

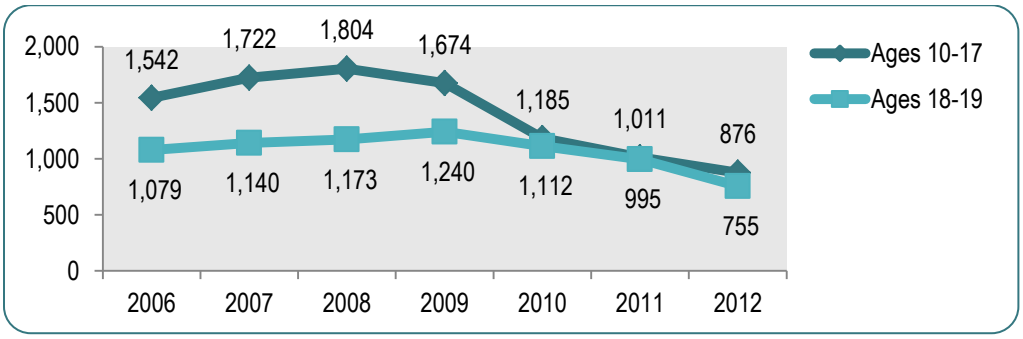
The following data are arrest data, and it's important to note that arrest data are different from conviction data. Felony arrest data means that the individual was arrested but not necessarily convicted of a crime. Felony arrests are for the most serious alleged crimes, including homicide, rape, and aggravated assault.

What the Data Tell Us

The arrest rate in youth ages 10-17 and young adults ages 18-19 in Santa Cruz County decreased from 2006 to 2012. The rate of violent misdemeanor and felony arrests for youth 10 to 17 and young adults 18 to 19 years old in Santa Cruz County decreased from 2006 to 2012.

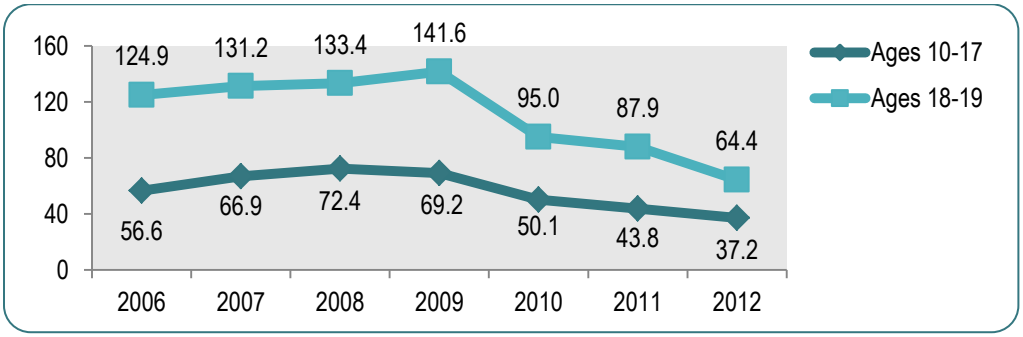
The number of weapons misdemeanor arrests for youth 10 to 17 years old in Santa Cruz County increased from 22 in 2006 to 30 in 2012.

NUMBER OF ARRESTS, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Source: California Department of Justice. (2013). 2006-2012 California Criminal Justice Profile. California Department of Finance. (2013). 2005-2012 Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail.

RATE OF ARRESTS PER 1,000, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Source: California Department of Justice. (2013). 2006-2012 California Criminal Justice Profile. California Department of Finance. (2013). 2005-2012 Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail.

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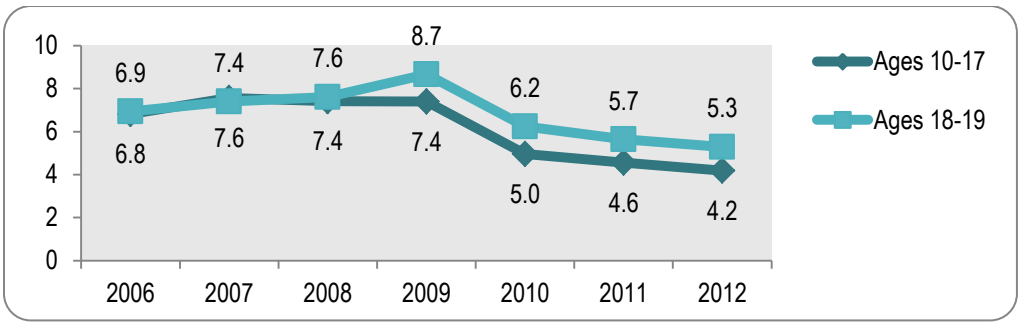
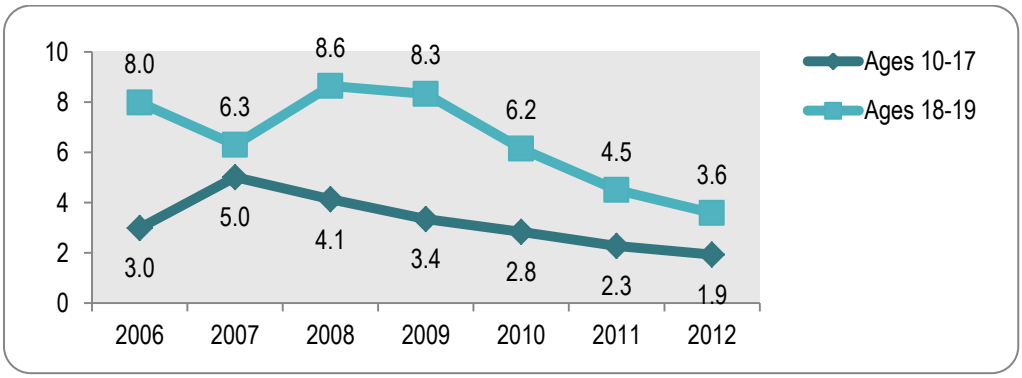
Rate of Violent[1] Misdemeanor Arrest per 1,000, Santa Cruz County



Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles. 2005-2011 Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail.

[1] Includes: Manslaughter-misdemeanor and assault and battery.

Rate of Violent[1] Felony Arrests per 1,000, Santa Cruz County



Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles. 2005-2011 Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail.

[1] Includes: Homicide (including murder and non-vehicular manslaughter), vehicular manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, assault, and kidnapping.

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Number of Misdemeanor Violence-Related Juvenile Arrests, by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Trend
Capitola						
Ages 10-17	0	3	1	4	0	↔
Ages 18-19	3	3	4	1	2	↔
Santa Cruz						
Ages 10-17	22	24	17	22	10	↓
Ages 18-19	14	10	18	18	12	↔
Watsonville						
Ages 10-17	76	86	67	57	66	↓
Ages 18-19	23	39	30	27	22	↔
Scotts Valley						
Ages 10-17	12	8	7	3	3	↓
Ages 18-19	0	0	0	0	0	↔
Remainder of County[1]						
Ages 10-17	75	58	34	30	27	↓
Ages 18-19	27	24	21	18	26	↔

↑ *Increasing (Upward) trend;* ↓ *Declining (Downward) trend;* ↔ *No clear trend.*

Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles.

Note: Misdemeanor violence-related arrests include: vehicular manslaughter and assault and battery.

[1]Remainder of the county data include Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz Mountains- DPR, UC Santa Cruz, California Highway Patrol of Santa Cruz County, Cabrillo College and Pajaro Coast-DPR.

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Number of Felony Violence-Related Juvenile Arrests, by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Trend
Capitola						
Ages 10-17	6	8	3	7	0	↓
Ages 18-19	1	3	1	2	2	↔
Santa Cruz						
Ages 10-17	21	17	14	12	19	↔
Ages 18-19	20	14	19	16	11	↓
Watsonville						
Ages 10-17	44	37	43	21	16	↓
Ages 18-19	28	33	38	17	9	↓
Scotts Valley						
Ages 10-17	1	3	0	0	2	↔
Ages 18-19	0	0	1	0	0	↔
Remainder of County[1]						
Ages 10-17	31	16	12	18	12	↓
Ages 18-19	27	23	13	16	10	↓

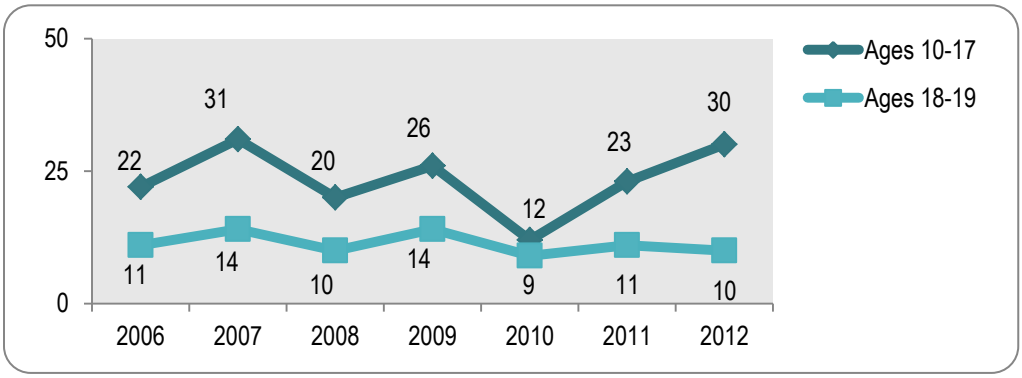
↑ *Increasing (Upward) trend;* ↓ *Declining (Downward) trend;* ↔ *No clear trend.*

Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles.

Note: Felony violence-related arrests include: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, and kidnapping.

[1]Remainder of the county data include Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz Mountains- DPR, UC Santa Cruz, California Highway Patrol of Santa Cruz County, Cabrillo College and Pajaro Coast-DPR.

Number of Misdemeanor Arrests involving weapons, Santa Cruz County



Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles.

Note: Rate is not calculated for numbers less than 20, as small numbers are unstable and can be misinterpreted.

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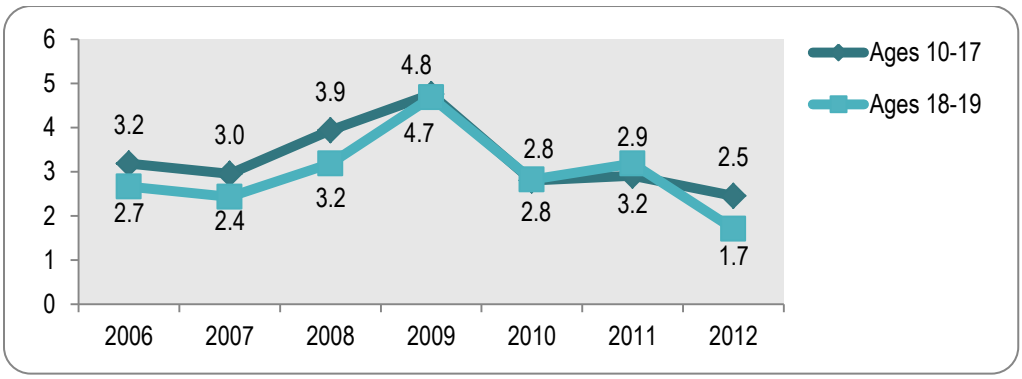
Felony Weapons Arrest Rate per 1,000, Santa Cruz County



Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles. 2006-2012 Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail.

Number of Juvenile (Under 18 Years Old) Arrests with Weapons, by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Trend
Capitola						
Felony	2	2	2	1	1	↔
Misdemeanor	1	2	0	0	2	↔
Santa Cruz						
Felony	17	26	18	15	18	↔
Misdemeanor	2	0	0	2	0	↔
Watsonville						
Felony	69	81	36	47	35	↓
Misdemeanor	12	15	8	13	18	↑
Scotts Valley						
Felony	1	1	2	2	4	↑
Misdemeanor	0	0	0	0	1	↔
Remainder of County[1]						
Felony	9	5	13	9	4	↓
Misdemeanor	5	9	4	8	9	↑

↑ *Increasing (Upward) trend;* ↓ *Declining (Downward) trend;* ↔ *No clear trend.*

Source: State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. (2013). Criminal justice profiles.

[1]Remainder of the county data include Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz Mountains- DPR, UC Santa Cruz, California Highway Patrol of Santa Cruz County, Cabrillo College and Pajaro Coast-DPR, and Union Pacific Railroad of Santa Cruz County.

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JUVENILE PROBATION

Why It's Important

Probation data shows us key information about youth who come into contact with and/or enter the juvenile justice system and are supervised under court order in Santa Cruz County. Additionally the data illustrates how diversion is used as an option to divert first time offenders from the court. The data can tell us what types of charges result in probation supervision, as well as important demographic information related to probation cases. Knowing what delinquent acts commonly occur and the risk and needs of youthful offenders provide the justice system with data to help design research based interventions to prevent recidivism and progression of more serious behavior.

What the Data Tell Us

Nearly 60% of youth on probation during 2011-12 were Hispanic/Latino, followed by 34% White and 3% Black. Hispanic/Latino and Black youth on probation were overrepresented in the probation population.

Forty-eight percent were between the ages of 16 and 17 years old and 80% were male. Aptos and Freedom had the highest rates of youth on probation during 2011-12 with 6.9 youth ages 10-19, per 10,000 in Aptos and 6.1 youth ages 10-19, per 10,000 in Freedom. While the largest number of probation cases (315) were in Watsonville, the rate of youth ages 10-19 on probation was 3.4 per 10,000.

Nearly 71% of the first sustained offenses of youth on probation were misdemeanor level offenses, of those, 23% were violent offenses.(i.e., assault and assault/ battery offenses).

Forty-one percent of youth on probation had a drug or alcohol related term.

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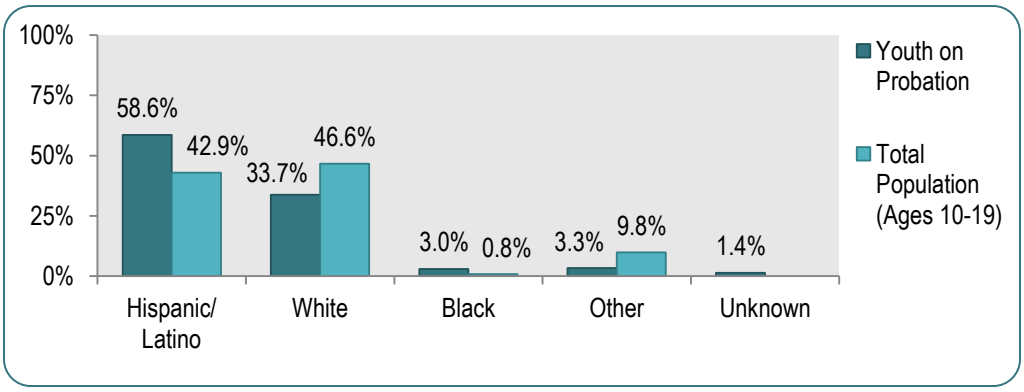
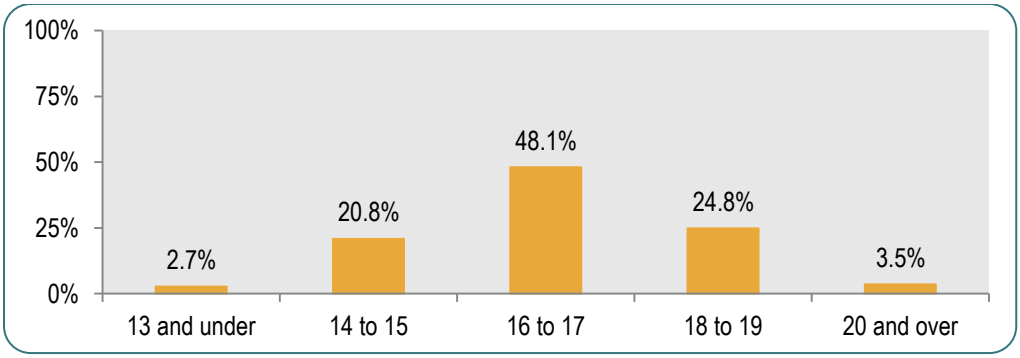
Race/Ethnicity of Youth on Probation During 2011-12, Santa Cruz County



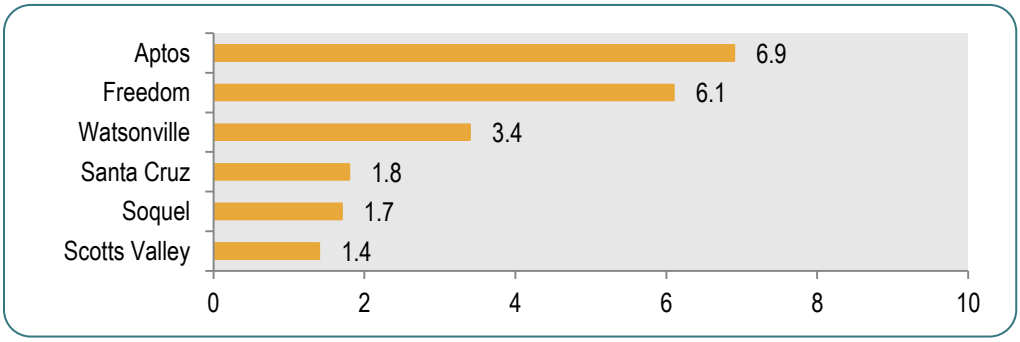
Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Age of Youth On Probation During 2011-12, Santa Cruz County



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Rate of Youth on Probation, per 10,000 (Ages 10-19), Santa Cruz County



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Note:Cities with less than 20 youth are not displayed above.

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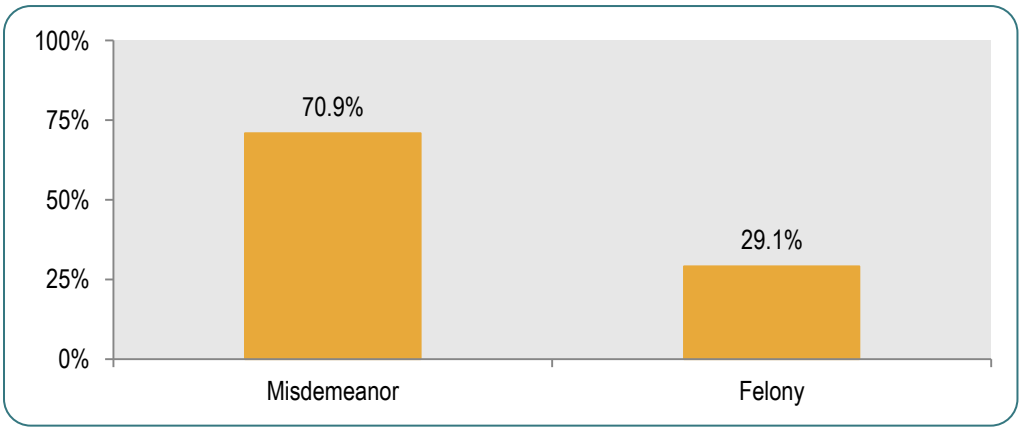
Number and Percentage of Youth on Probation During 2011-12, By Region (Of Youth 10-19 Years Old), Santa Cruz County

City	Number	Percent of Total
Watsonville	315	45.4%
Santa Cruz	158	22.8%
Aptos	45	6.5%
Scotts Valley	26	3.7%
Freedom	22	3.2%
Soquel	21	3.0%
Ben Lomond	15	2.2%
Boulder Creek	14	2.0%
Capitola	13	1.9%
Felton	10	1.4%
Brookdale	6	0.9%
Davenport	0	0.0%
Mount Hermon	0	0.0%
Out of County	49	7.1%
Total	**694**	**100%**

Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

First Sustained Offense[1] by Level, 2011-12, Santa Cruz County



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

[1]Note: First sustained offense refers to the first offense in which the youth was found guilty of in Court.

Note: Data presented above is for all youth for which was available. In August 2010, Probation moved to a new data system and first sustained offense data was not available for every youth in probation during 2011-12.

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First Sustained Offense by Youth on Probation, by Type, 2011-12, Santa Cruz County

Type of Offense	Misdemeanor		Felony	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol[1]	29	7.3%	0	0.0%
Drugs[2]	41	10.4%	21	13.0%
Theft/Property[3]	72	18.2%	55	34.0%
Weapons	39	9.9%	19	11.7%
Violent[4]	90	22.8%	28	17.3%
Other[5]	124	31.4%	39	24.1%
Total	**395**	**100.0%**	**162**	**100.0%**

Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Note: Data presented above is for all youth for which was available. In August 2010, Probation moved to a new data system and first sustained offense data was not available for every youth in probation during 2011-12.

Note: First sustained offense refers to the first offense in which the youth was found guilty of in Court.

[1]Misdemeanor Alcohol Offenses include Driving Under the Influence, Liquor Laws

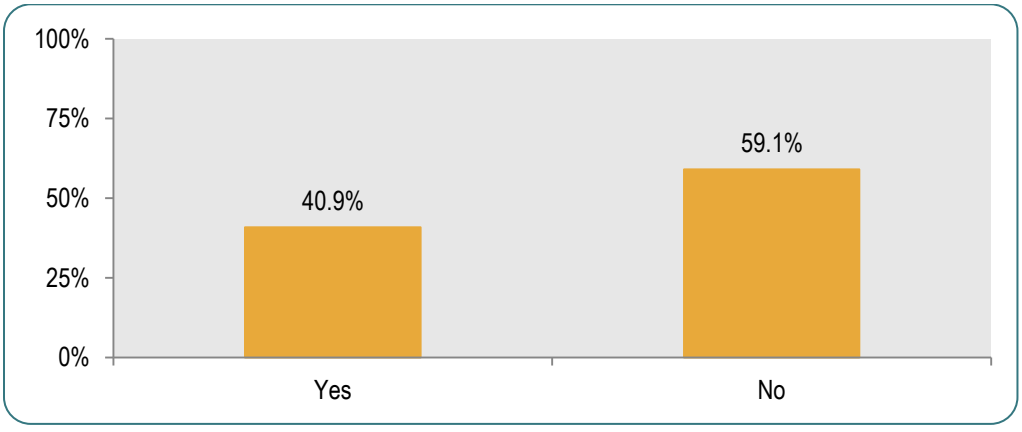
[2]Misdemeanor Drug Offenses include Dangerous Drugs, Marijuana, Narcotics, Other Drugs; Felony Drug Offenses include Dangerous Drugs, Marijuana, Narcotics.

[3]Misdemeanor Theft/Property Offense includes Burglary, Forgery, Motor Vehicle Theft, Theft; Felony Theft/Property Offense includes Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Theft.

[4]Misdemeanor Violent Offense includes Assault, Assault and Battery; Felony Violent Offenses include Manslaughter Vehicular, Robbery, Assault.

[5]Misdemeanor Other Offenses includes Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, Driving without a License, Hit and Run, Obsene Matter, Trespassing, Vandalism, All Other, and offenses categorized as other; Felony Other Offenses includes Arson, Disturbing the Peace, Lewd or Lascivious, Vandalism, All Other, and offenses categorized as other.

Youth on Probation with a Drug or Alcohol Term[1], 2011-12, Santa Cruz County



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

[1]Includes all terms related to alcohol and drug use and/ or possession.

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JUVENILE HALL BOOKINGS

Why It's Important

Juvenile Hall booking data shows us how juvenile detention is utilized in our community in relation to the types of offenses that youth are charged with making. Detention utilization data shows us who is being booked into juvenile hall, who is arresting them, where they are from and the offenses with which they are being charged. The use of secure detention must be reserved for only the most serious offenders based on the results of an objective detention risk assessment instrument. These tools ensure that only those youth that are at risk to recidivate pending court and/or fail to appear for court are held in secure detention until an initial hearing. Youth who can be safely released according to the objective detention risk assessment instrument should be released either to a detention alternative or released without conditions. Research indicates that reliance on unnecessary detention for youth increases the probability of future recidivism, incarceration and poor life outcomes.[37]

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department is a nationally recognized model site by the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its use of effective alternatives to detention to safely reduce reliance on detention.

What the Data Tell Us

The number and rate of juvenile hall bookings have been decreasing steadily since 2002. In 2002, there were over 1,000 juvenile hall bookings which droped to 562 in 2012.

Almost 60% of the youth entering juvenile hall between 2011 and 2012 were Latino followed by 33% White and 5% Black. More than half were between the ages of 16 and 17 years old and over three-quarters (78%) were male. Aptos had the highest rate of youth in juvenile hall during 2011-12 with 3.2 youth ages 10-19, per 10,000. While the largest number of youth entering juvenile hall (188) were in Watsonville, the rate of youth ages 10-19 entering juvenile hall was 2.0 per 10,000.

Twenty-two percent of youth entering juvenile hall were booked for property offenses followed by 15% for violent offenses and 15% for drug/alcohol offenses.

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JUVENILE HALL BOOKINGS, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Type of Offense	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	Trend
Annual Bookings	1,068	892	851	794	611	562	↓
Juvenile Booking Rate per 1,000[1]	**35.0**	**32.1**	**30.9**	**31.9**	**25.8**	**22.9**	↓

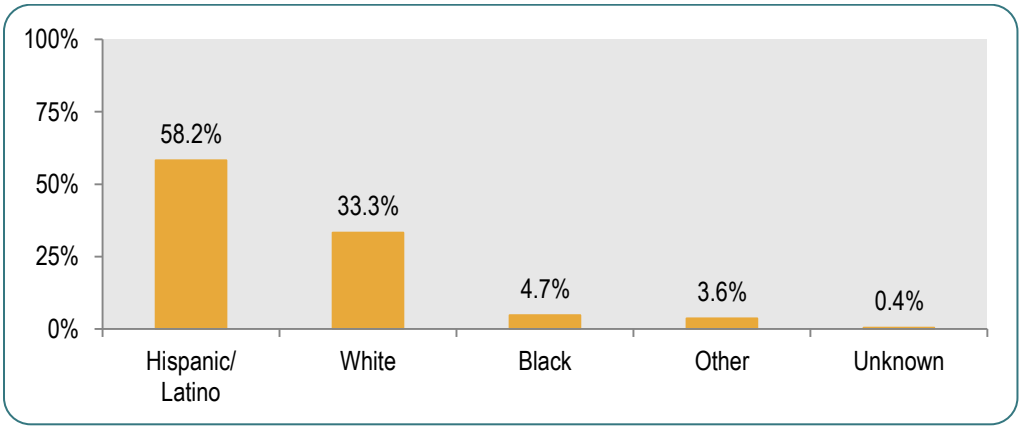
↑ *Increasing (Upward) trend;* ↓ *Declining (Downward) trend;* ↔ *No clear trend.*

Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department. (2013). 2002-2012 California Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail. American Community Survey 2006- 2010 1 year estimates.

Note: From 2010 on, the juvenile arrest rates will be calculated using the youth population ages 10-17 from the American Community Survey Table B01001 Sex by Age.

[1]Juvenile arrest rates are calculated using the youth population ages 10-17

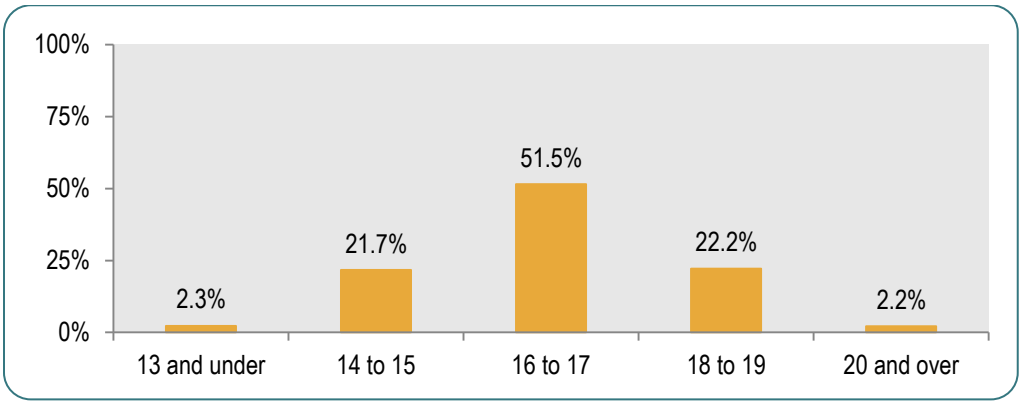
RACE/ETHNICITY OF YOUTH ENTERING JUVENILE HALL DURING 2011-12, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Note: Other includes American Indian, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hawaiian, Other Asian, Vietnamese and Other.

AGE OF YOUTH ENTERING JUVENILE HALL DURING 2011-12, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

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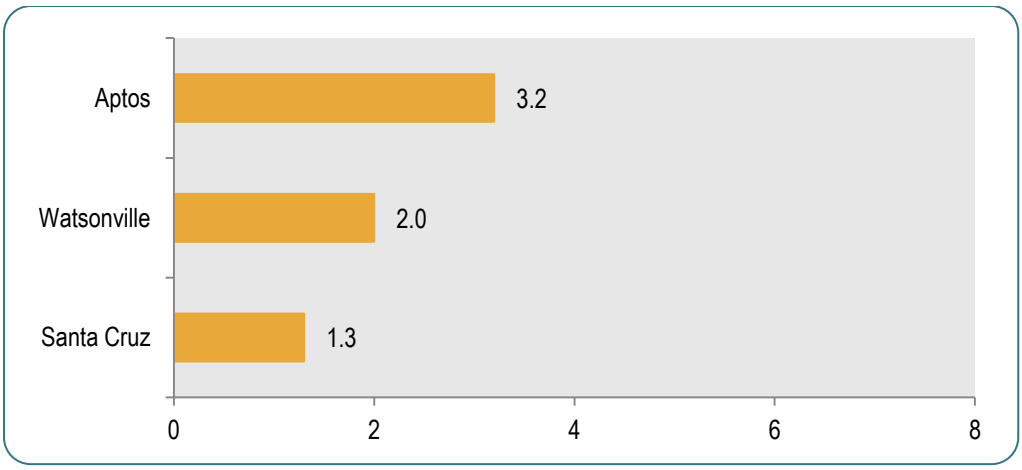
Rate of Youth in Juvenile Hall, per 10,000 (Ages 10-19), Santa Cruz County



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Note: Cities with less than 20 youth are not displayed above.

Number and Percentage of Youth in Juvenile Hall During 2011-12, By Region (Of Youth 10-19 Years Old), Santa Cruz County

City	Number	Percent of Total
Watsonville	188	37.0%
Santa Cruz	114	22.4%
Aptos	21	4.1%
Freedom	19	3.7%
Soquel	19	3.7%
Boulder Creek	9	1.7%
Capitola	8	1.6%
Felton	8	1.6%
Scotts Valley	7	1.4%
Ben Lomond	5	1.0%
Brookdale	5	1.0%
Davenport	0	0.0%
Mount Hermon	0	0.0%
Out of County	105	20.7%
Total	**508**	**100%**

Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

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JUVENILE HALL BOOKING CATEGORY FOR FIRST ENTRY, BY TYPE

Type	Number	Percent
Drugs/Alcohol	82	14.9%
Property	118	21.5%
Sexual Assault	3	0.5%
Violent	82	14.9%
Weapons	54	9.8%
Other[1]	211	38.4%
Total	**550**	**100.0%**

Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

[1]Other includes AWOL, FTA Bench Warrant, Court Remand, EM Violation, Home Supervision Violation, Placement Failure, Runaway, Probation Violation, and offenses categorized as other.

DIRECT FILE

Why It's Important

In 2000, Proposition 21 created the prosecutorial power to directly file charges against juveniles in adult criminal court under a variety of circumstances without first obtaining the permission of the juvenile court.

Crimes listed in Welfare and Institutions Code § 707 (b)- the section that lists crimes for which minors can be tried as adults - include murder, arson, robbery, rape, and kidnapping as well as several types of sex offenses. Youth who are tried and convicted in adult criminal court face an array of possible sentences. The adult criminal court can sentence these individuals just as the juvenile courts would, by sentencing them directly to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Alternatively, if the juvenile offender is under 18 years old, the adult court can sentence him or her to the adult institution but house them in DJJ. These are called "M" cases. If the adult court makes no determination of where the under 18 youth will be housed, under an agreement between the juvenile and adult divisions, these youth are admitted to Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF) until they become 18, when they are then transferred to adult prison unless they can complete their sentence before the age of 21. These are known as "E" cases.[38]

Recent developments in research asserts that juveniles are biologically different from adults in terms of their development, mental capacity and processes - an argument utilized by the Supreme Court to justify its ruling against capital punishment for juveniles whose crimes were committed under the age of 18. There are three fundamental issues that this research has brought to bear on the policy of juvenile transfers. First, there is evidence that youth are less able to ascertain the

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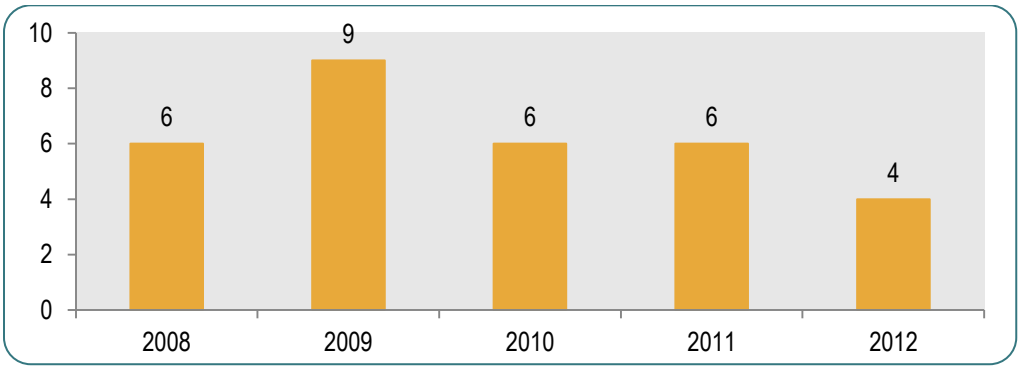
consequences of their actions, and are thus less culpable relative to adults. This fact supports the argument that juveniles should be held to a lower standard of punishment than adults. Second, research reveals that the average juvenile under the age of 16 lacks the mental capacity to comprehend and participate in the adult judicial process as required by law. The cognitive processing of youth this age has been compared to that of adults who are found to be incompetent to stand trial. Finally, because their cognitive development is incomplete at this age, juveniles have been found to be more amenable and receptive to behavioral reform than adults, making them prime candidates for rehabilitative efforts.[39]

What the Data Tell Us

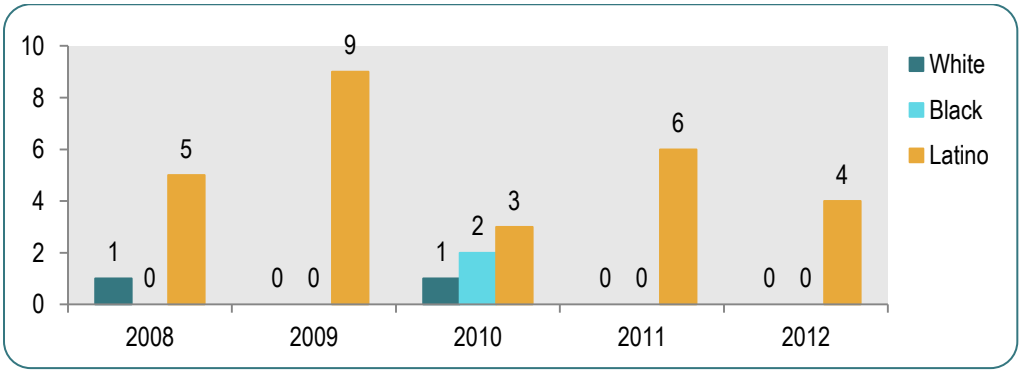
The number of direct file cases varies each year and ranged from 9 in 2009 to 4 in 2012. The majority of the direct file cases each year were for youth identifying as Latino. In 2012, all 4 of the direct file cases were identified as "gang related."

Number of Direct Files, Santa Cruz County



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Number of Direct Files, By Race/Ethnicity, Santa Cruz County



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

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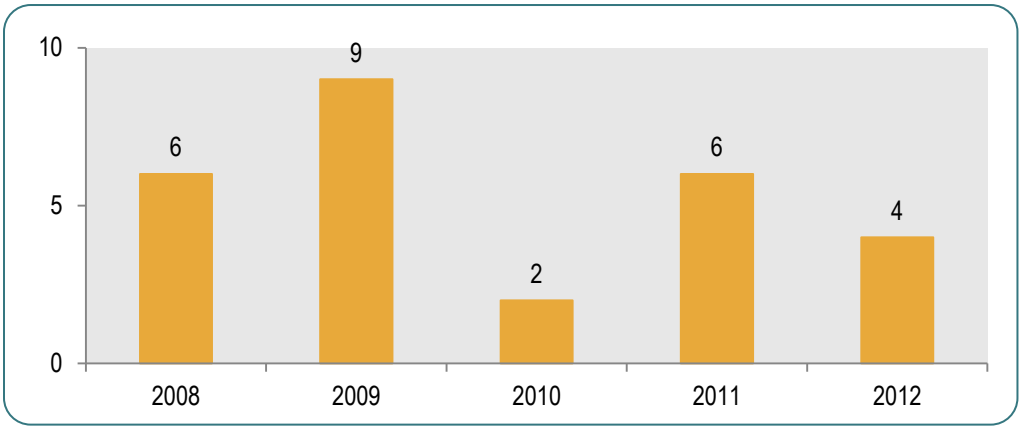
Number of Direct Files That Were "Gang Related", Santa Cruz County



Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Offenses Youth Were Charged With, Santa Cruz County

Type of Offense	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Assault/Homicide (PC 187 or 664/187)	4	4	2	0	4
Robbery (PC 211)	1	1	1	5	0
Assault (PC 245(a))	1	2	0	1	0
All Other	0	2	3	0	0
Total	**6**	**9**	**6**	**6**	**4**

Source: Santa Cruz County Probation Department, 2013.

Note: Other includes 4 unknown, 12020(a)1, PC 246, PC261(a)(2).

Gangs

Why It's Important

Gang members are responsible for the majority of serious violence committed by youth.[40] There are an estimated 756,000 youth involved in gangs in the U.S. and most gang members join between the ages of 12 and 15.[41] A recent CDC study of youth and gangs, however, showed that when youth had more protective factors, they had a much lower rate of gang membership. Protective factors may include good parent supervision, a supportive family, social skills, and an ability to cope with conflict. Youth who had seven or more protective factors had a 2% chance of joining a gang, compared to youth who had 0-3 protective factors who had a 26% chance of being in a gang.[42] Research also suggests that a comprehensive approach to gangs involving prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts works better than suppression efforts alone.[43]

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What the Data Tell Us

There are estimated to be 25 to 30 gangs in Santa Cruz County.

When 9th grade students in Santa Cruz County during the 2009-11 school year were asked in a survey whether they were involved in a gang, one in ten reported yes, higher than their peers in the state (9%).

Police report data records from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville City Police Departments as well as the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office were analyzed and summarized below. Gang related crime refers to: Suspects, victims or participants are identified as gang members or affiliates and/or the offender committed the crime for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with the gang with the specific intent to promote, further or assist in any criminal conduct by gang members. Youth are considered to be individuals between 12 to 17 years old and young adults are individuals between 18 to 25 years old.

There were a total of 81 reported youth gang related cases and 178 young adult gang related cases in Santa Cruz County from January through June 2013. The City of Watsonville saw the most youth and young adults involved in cases.

The age of individuals arrested in youth and young adult cases reported to be gang related were broken down into 3 groups for youth and 4 groups for young adults. The highest percentage of youth arrested were between the ages of 16 to 17 years old (64%). The highest percentage of young adults arrested were between 20 to 21 years old (30%).

The agency that made the most arrests of youth and young adult cases from January to June 2013 was the Watsonville Police Department. There were 113 reported youth gang-related arrestee violations and 310 young adult gang-related arrestee violations during January through June 2013. Of the 310 young adult gang-arrestee violations, 25% (79) committed violent crimes.

There were 15 weapons violations by youth including 4 firearm, 6 knives, and 5 other weapons violations in the first half of 2013. There were 56 weapons violations by young adults including 18 firearm, 27 knives, and 11 other weapons violations in the first half of 2013.

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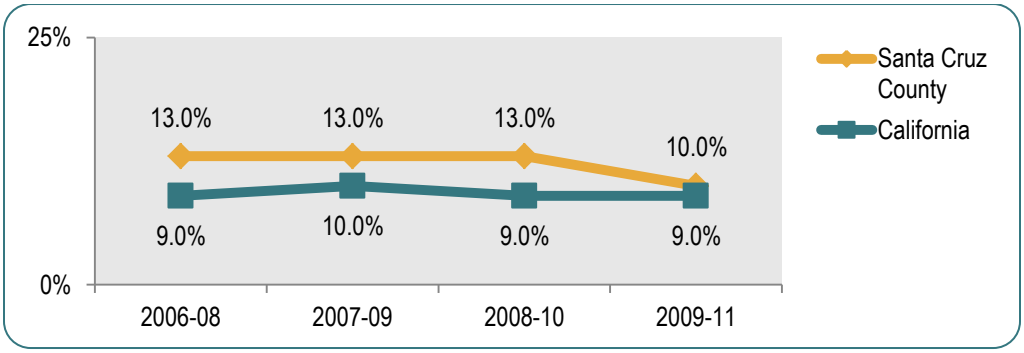
Percent of Students Who Reported Gang Involvement (9th Grade Students)



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Gang Involvement, Table A6.8, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

Percent of Students Who Reported Gang Involvement, by School District and Grade, 2010-2011

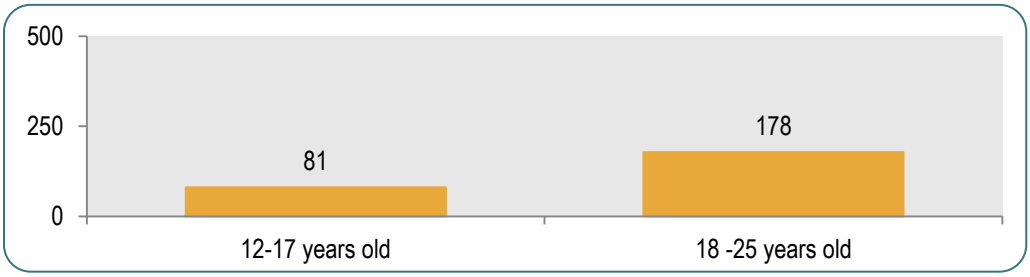
School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	8.0%	10.0%	13.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	7.0%	5.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	8.0%	12.0%	7.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	6.0%	1.0%	8.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	12.0%	8.0%	10.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**8.0%**	**10.0%**	**10.0%**
California[1]	8.0%	9.0%	8.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Gang Involvement, Table A6.8, By school district, 2010-2011, By county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

Gang Related Cases, January – June 2013



Source: Data was compiled by the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

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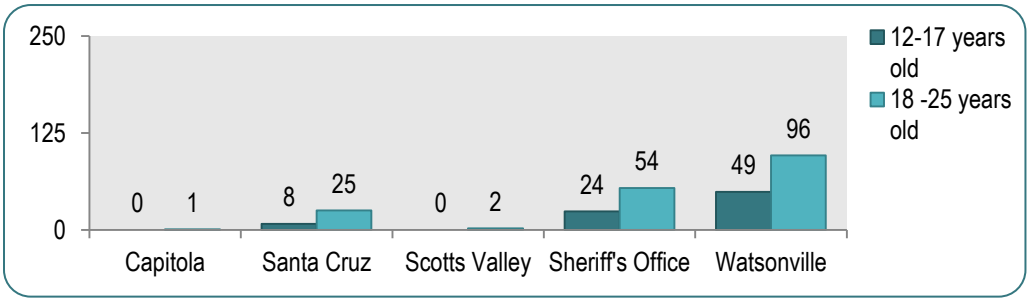
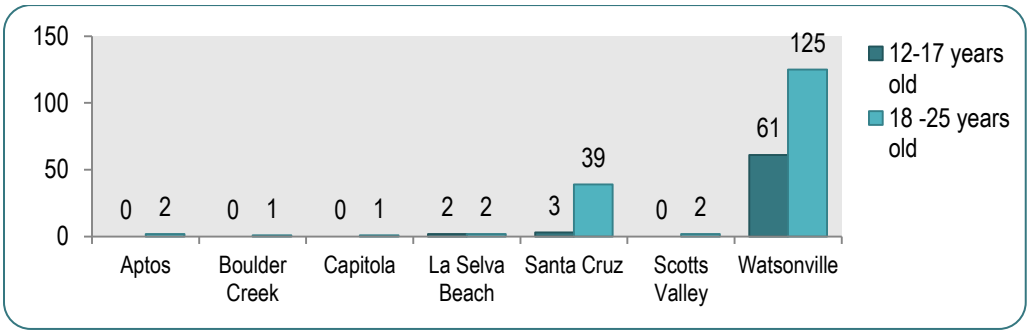
Number of Gang Related Cases by Jurisdiction, January – June 2013



Source: Data was compiled by the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

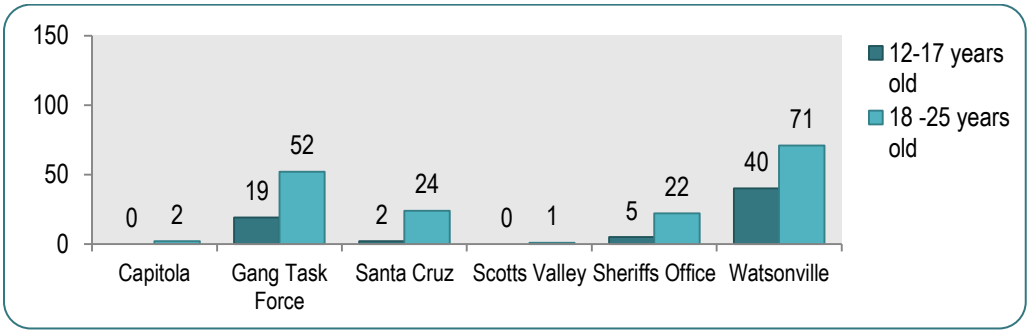
Number of Arrests by Location, January – June 2013



Source: Data was compiled by the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

Number of Arrests by Agency, January – June 2013



Source: Data was compiled by the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

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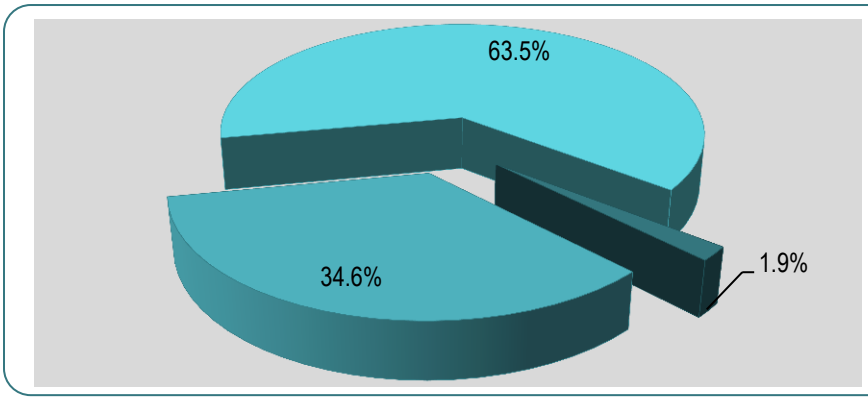
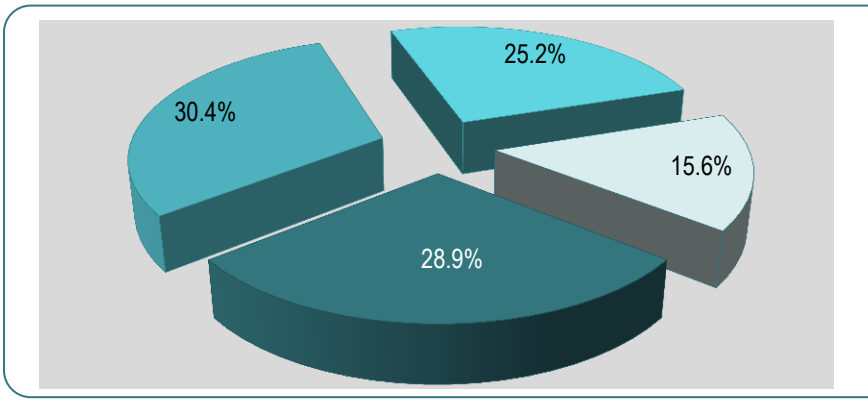
YOUTH GANG RELATED ARRESTS BY AGE, JANUARY – JUNE 2013



Source: Data was compiled by the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

YOUNG ADULT GANG RELATED ARRESTS BY AGE, JANUARY – JUNE 2013



Source: Data was compiled by the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

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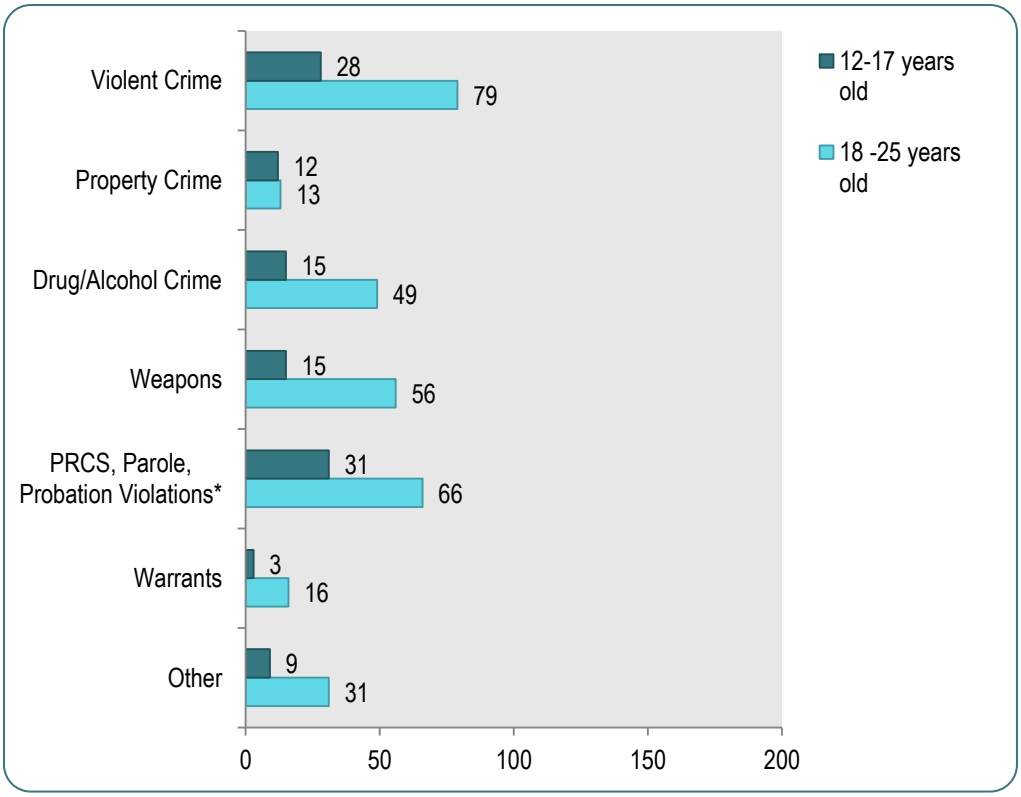
GANG CASE ARRESTEE VIOLATIONS, JANUARY – JUNE 2013



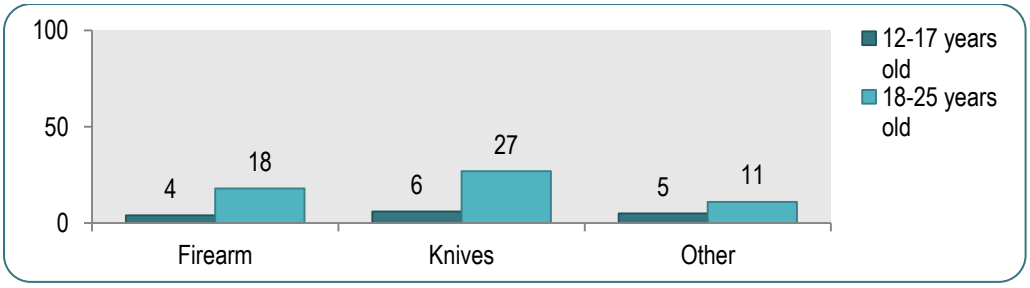
Source: Data was compiled by the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

Note: Violent crimes include: charges of homicide, robbery, battery, assault, drive by shooting and participation in a criminal street gang. Property crimes include: charges of burglary, vandalism, and receiving/possession of stolen property. Drug crimes include: any charge involving possession of drugs and/or paraphernalia as well as alcohol related charges.

**Note: For 12-17 year olds, all 31 gang case arrestee violations are probation violations.*

WEAPONS, JANUARY – JUNE 2013



Source: Data was compiled by the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

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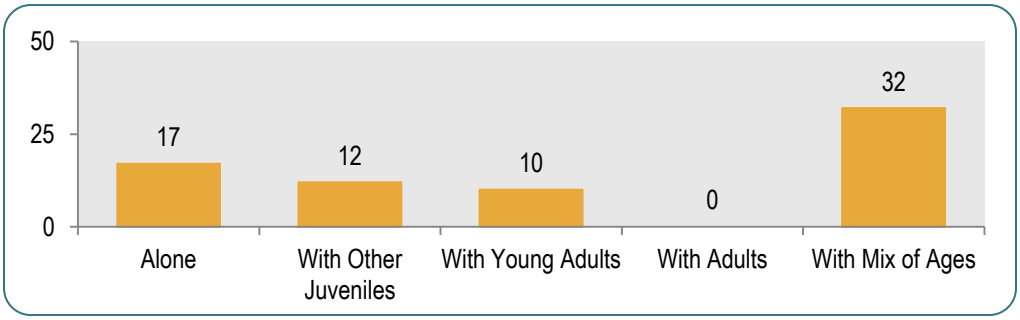
COMPANION OF YOUTH ARRESTEES/SUSPECTS AT TIME OF CONTACT, JANUARY – JUNE 2013



Source: Data was compiled for the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force from police data reports from Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville City Police Departments and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Note: Data was collected from reports that were classified as "gang related" from January through June 2013.

Note: Young adults are age 18 to 25 years; adults are age 26 and older; a mix of ages includes a combination of other juveniles, young adults, and adults.

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PROMOTE POSITIVE CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

There are several child and youth assets that are known to be critical for healthy development. Some of these are known as external assets including engaging in activities in the community, having connections with adult role models, and feeling connected at school. Internal assets include such things as self-esteem, sense of purpose, and a positive view of one's future. According to the Search Institute, the more assets youth possess, the more likely they are to choose healthy activities, succeed in school and avoid risk behaviors.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN ACTIVITIES

Why It's Important

A key asset for youth is to be part of a club, sport's team or religious organization. Another key asset is to have activities at school that youth enjoy as well as after-school activities. As more parents work outside the home, young people have more unsupervised time alone. Studies have shown that the after-school hours can be dangerous ones for youth. The Department of Justice reports that 29% of all juvenile offenses occur on school days between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and that the number of violent crimes committed doubles in the hour immediately after school is let out.[44] After-school programs are often seen as an effective way to keep children safe and supervised.

What the Data Tell Us

Students in 7th, 9th and 11th grade were asked in a survey whether they were a part of group activities such as clubs, sports teams or church/temple activities. More than two-thirds (69%) of 9th grade students in the county reported they were a part of group activities, lower than their peers in the state (71%) in 2009-11. The percentage of 9th grade students involved in group activities has stayed consistent in the county and the state from 2007 to 2011.

However, student involvement in group activities varied greatly by school district and grade, for example between 69% and 86% of 7th grade students were part of group activities while between 64% and 92% of 9th grade students reported involvement in activities.

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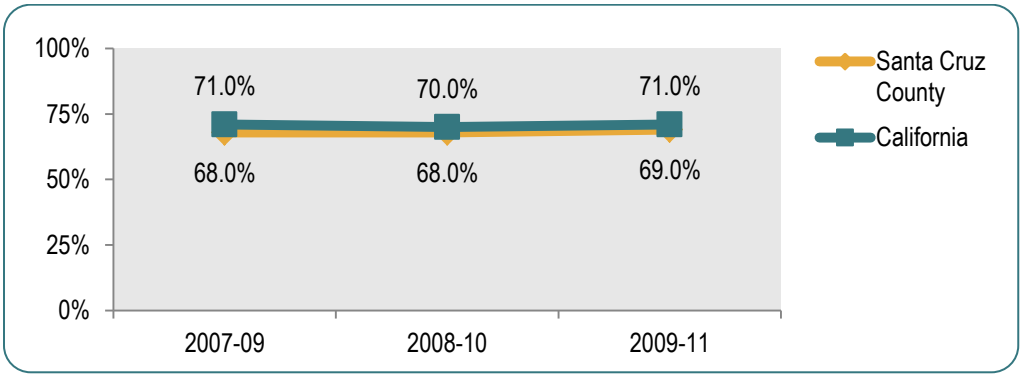
Students were asked in a survey whether they did interesting activities at school. Eighty percent of 9th grade students in the county and the state said yes, which has stayed consistent from 2007 to 2011.

The percentage of students who did interesting activities at school varied by school district and grade for example between 80% and 95% of 11th grade students were involved in interesting activities at school while between 75% and 95% of 9th grade students reported involvement in activities at school.

Santa Cruz County parents were asked during a telephone survey whether their middle school and/or high school children engaged in activities after school in 2013, 37% of middle school and 32% of high school parents responded "always."

PERCENT OF 9TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO WERE A PART OF CLUBS, SPORTS TEAMS, CHURCH/TEMPLE OR OTHER GROUP ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF HOME OR SCHOOL (RESPONDENTS ANSWERING A LITTLE, PRETTY MUCH, AND VERY MUCH TRUE)



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Community Protective Factors (Developmental Supports), Table A3.12, by county and statewide, 2007-2009, 2008-2010, 2009-2011.

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Percent of Students Who Were a Part of Clubs, Sports Teams, Church/Temple or Other Group Activities Outside of Home or School (Respondents Answering A Little, Pretty Much and Very Much True), by School District and Grade, 2010-2011

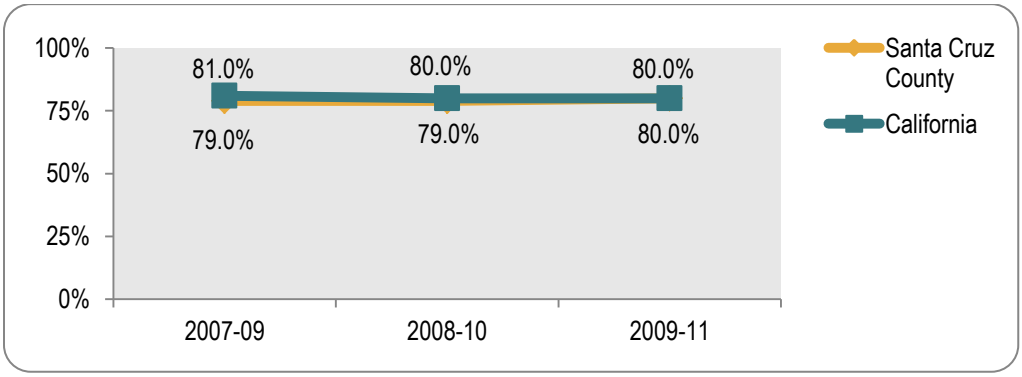
School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	69.0%	64.0%	70.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	70.0%	74.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	79.0%	73.0%	78.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	83.0%	92.0%	86.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	86.0%	86.0%	84.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**73.0%**	**69.0%**	**76.0%**
California[1]	73.0%	71.0%	71.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Community Protective Factors (Developmental Supports), Table A3.12, By school district, 2010-2011, and by county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

Percent of 9th Grade Students Who Report They Do Interesting Activities at School (Respondents Answering A Little, Pretty Much and Very Much True)



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). School Protective Factors (Developmental Supports), Table A3.11, by county and statewide, 2007-2009, 2008-2010, 2009-2011.

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Percent of Students Who Report They Do Interesting Activities at School (Respondents Answering A Little, Pretty Much and Very Much True), By School District and Grade, 2010-2011

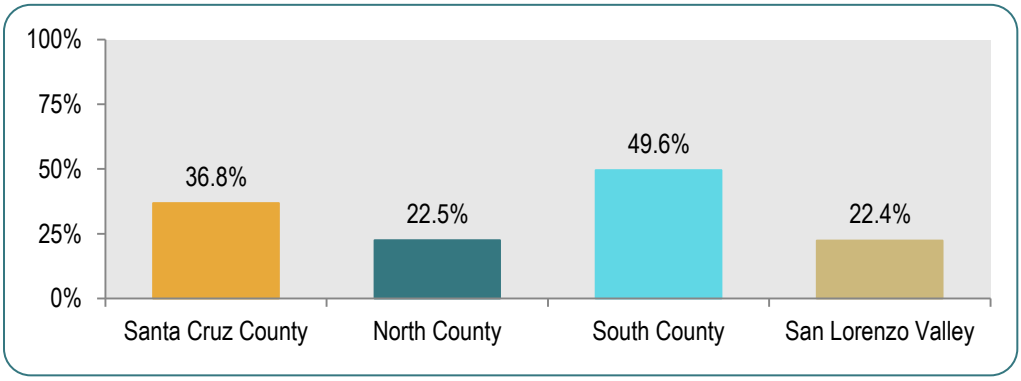
School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	84.0%	75.0%	80.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	79.0%	82.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	88.0%	85.0%	87.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	94.0%	95.0%	92.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	80.0%	89.0%	81.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**85.0%**	**80.0%**	**83.0%**
California[1]	86.0%	80.0%	80.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). School Protective Factors (Developmental Supports), Table A3.11, By school district, 2010-2011, and by county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011.

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

How Often Does (Do) Your Middle School Age Child (ren) Engage in Activities After School? (Respondents Answering Always) – 2013



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013).Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

n: Santa Cruz County=64, North County=18, South County=30, San Lorenzo Valley=12.

Note: North County, South County, and San Lorenzo Valley n's may not add to the overall n. Please see Methodology section for more information.

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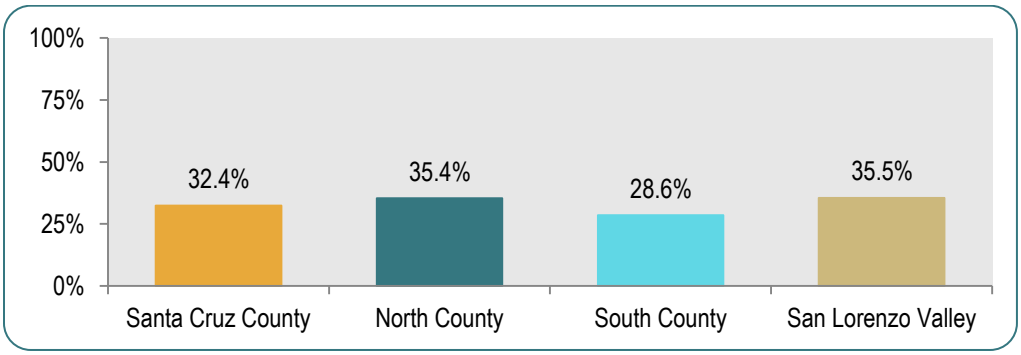
How Often Does (Do) Your High School Age Child (ren) Engage in Activities After School? (Respondents Answering Always) – 2013



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013).Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Telephone Survey.

n: Santa Cruz County=66, North County=22, South County=26, San Lorenzo Valley=16.

Note: North County, South County, and San Lorenzo Valley n's may not add to the overall n. Please see Methodology section for more information.

Connection to Adults in the Community

Why It's Important

Research shows that "youth's beliefs about themselves and their abilities are shaped by the extent to which they perceive that the adults in their lives care about them and are involved in their lives." [45] Outside of the home, these positive connections to adult role models can happen in school, recreational, social service or mentorship settings. Mentoring has been proven to be one of the most effective strategies for creating a "close, developmental relationship between an older, more experienced individual and a younger person, usually sustained over a period of time and involving mutual commitment, respect, and loyalty."[46] It has also been shown that having a mentoring relationship can positively affect a young person's school attendance and engagement, academic performance, self-efficacy and attitude toward drugs and alcohol.

According to 2008-10 data, about two-thirds of California public school students in grades 7, 9, and 11 expressed a high level of agreement that adults in the community had high expectations of them (65-67%) and that adults in the community cared about them (63-64%).[47]

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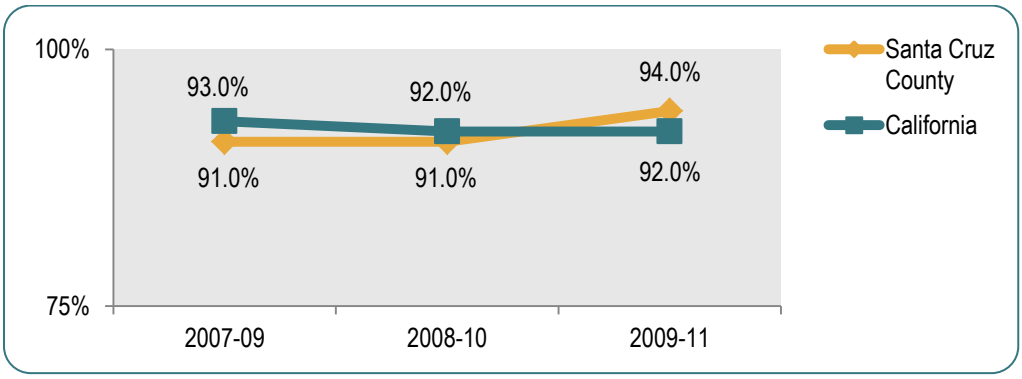
What the Data Tell Us

Students were asked whether they had an adult outside of their home and school who really cared about them and the majority (over 90%) of 9th grade students in Santa Cruz County and the state said yes in 2009-11.

The majority of 7th, 9th, and 11th graders in Santa Cruz County school districts also reported that they had an adult outside of their home and school that cared about them in 2010-11.

PERCENT OF 9TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO REPORTED THEY HAVE AN ADULT OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOME AND SCHOOL WHO REALLY CARES ABOUT THEM (RESPONDENTS ANSWERING A LITTLE, PRETTY MUCH AND VERY MUCH TRUE)



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, West Ed for California Department of Education. (2013). Community protective factors (developmental supports): Outside of my home and school, there is a teacher or some other adult who really cares about me (CR), Table A3.12, by county and statewide, 2007-2009, 2008-2010, 2009-2011.

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PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO REPORTED THEY HAVE AN ADULT OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOME AND SCHOOL WHO REALLY CARES ABOUT THEM (RESPONDENTS ANSWERING A LITTLE, PRETTY MUCH AND VERY MUCH TRUE), BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND GRADE, 2010-2011

School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	93.0%	93.0%	91.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	95.0%	94.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	95.0%	96.0%	97.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	97.0%	97.0%	97.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	92.0%	95.0%	97.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**93.0%**	**94.0%**	**94.0%**
California[1]	93.0%	92.0%	94.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, West Ed for California Department of Education. (2013). Community protective factors (developmental supports): Outside of my home and school, there is a teacher or some other adult who really cares about me (CR), Table A3.12, By school district, 2010-2011, and by county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011.

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Why It's Important

Research overwhelmingly shows that school attendance is directly correlated to student success, school attachment and graduation rates. This is true "regardless of gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status." Frequent excused and unexcused absences lead to lower academic performance and higher dropout rates. As one study showed, "when students are chronically absent during kindergarten, these students perform lower academically in first grade. The relationship is especially strong for Latino children who had much lower first grade reading scores if they were chronically absent in kindergarten."[48] According to the OJJDP, "school based risk factors such as poor school performance and poor school attachment are primary factors for eventual gang involvement."[49] A study in Baltimore, Maryland tracked attendance records of 391 youth who had been killed or become victims of non-fatal shootings over the course of 4 years and found that the youth were absent from school an average of 46 days annually and over two-thirds had been suspended or expelled at least once.[50]

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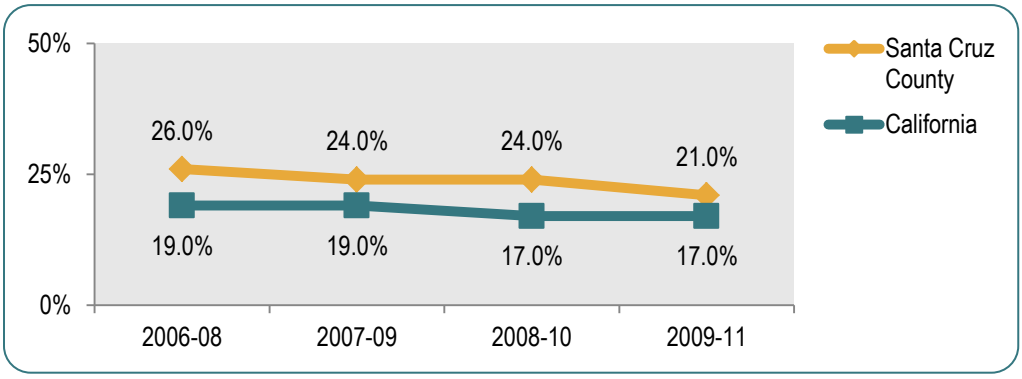
What the Data Tell Us

Students were asked in a survey whether they skipped school or cut classes in the past year. Nearly 1 in 4 (21%) 9th grade students in Santa Cruz County reported cutting class 3 or more times in the past year, higher than their peers in the state (17%), but a decrease from 26% in 2006-08. Eleventh grade students cut or skipped class more often than 7th and 9th grade students throughout the school districts in Santa Cruz County.

Thirty-two percent of Santa Cruz County students were truant (i.e., had an unexcused absence or was tardy on 3 or more days) during the 2011-12 school year, a higher percentage than students in the state (29%).

PERCENT OF 9TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO REPORTED THAT THEY SKIPPED SCHOOL OR CUT CLASSES 3 OR MORE TIMES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS



Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Truancy, Past 12 Months, Table A2.7, by county and statewide, 2007-2009, 2008-2010, 2009-2011.

Note: Data represent students who answered: A few times, Once a month, Once a week, More than once a week.

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Percent of Students Who Reported That They Skipped School or Cut Classes 3 or More Times in the Past 12 Months, By District and Grade, 2010-2011

School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	10.0%	23.0%	40.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	17.0%	23.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	9.0%	27.0%	35.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	3.0%	10.0%	26.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	10.0%	8.0%	22.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**10.0%**	**21.0%**	**36.0%**
California[1]	8.0%	17.0%	29.0%

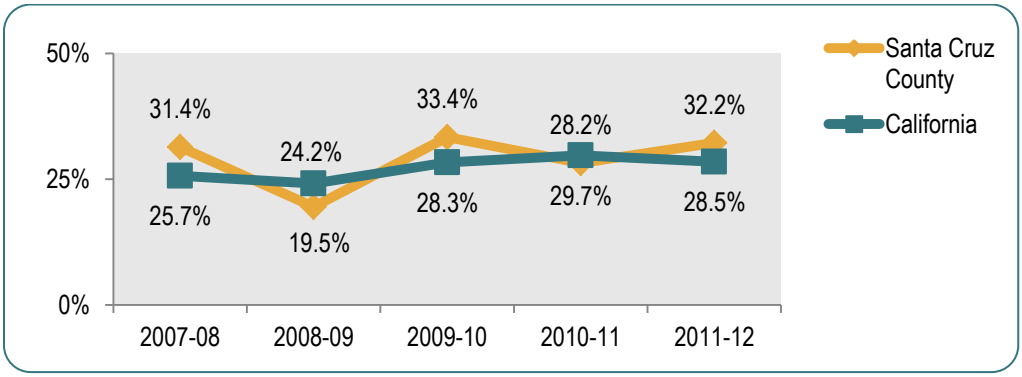
Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Truancy, Past 12 Months, Table A2.7, By school district, 2010-2011, and by county and statewide, 2009-2011.

Note: Data represent students who answered: A few times, Once a month, Once a week, More than once a week.

[1]County and state data are 2009-2011.

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

Truancy Rate (Students With Unexcused Absence or Tardy on 3 or More Days)



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). (2013). Suspension, Expulsion, and Truancy Report for 2007-12.

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SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

Why It's Important

Suspension and expulsion from school are disciplinary measures implemented by school administrators to decrease problem behavior including violence, drug abuse, and truancy. In 2006, approximately 3.3 million U.S. students were suspended and 102,000 were expelled. That year, California's suspension and expulsion rates were the 12th and 10th highest in the nation, respectively.[51]

Suspensions and expulsions may have a place in effective discipline for severe or chronic behavioral issues, however, research shows that they may do more harm than good. Kidsdata.org has summarized the importance of this emerging issue by stating that suspensions and expulsions can exacerbate student academic problems, amplify the achievement gap between low-income children and their higher-income peers, and contribute to student involvement in the juvenile justice system. Suspensions and expulsions disproportionately affect students of color, students with disabilities, students in foster care, and non-heterosexual youth. Research has shown, for example, that students who experience out-of-school suspension and expulsion are 10 times more likely to drop out of high school than those who do not and are more likely to have less supervision at home than their peers.[52]

The American Academy of Pediatrics published a report on the issue in 2008 which recognized the mental and physical health ramifications on youth who experience suspensions and expulsions. The report put forth several policy and practice recommendations to both address the root causes of behavior leading to disciplinary action in school and to curtail the use of out of school suspension and expulsions, especially in zero tolerance settings.[53]

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What the Data Tell Us

During the 2011-12 school year, there were 512 students suspended in Santa Cruz County representing 743 offenses with 35% being a violent incident but with no physical injury. During the same time period, there were 46 expulsions in Santa Cruz County with the largest percentage (37%) being drug related offenses.

Most of the suspensions and expulsions for violence and drugs offenses have been in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

SUSPENSIONS BY OFFENSE, 2011-12

Type of Offense	Santa Cruz County		California	
	#	% of total	#	% of total
In School				
Weapons Possession	2	0.3%	751	0.1%
Illicit Drug Related	5	0.7%	1,217	0.2%
Violent Incident, Physical Injury	3	0.4%	4,251	0.6%
Violent Incident, No Physical Injury	41	5.5%	23,827	3.4%
Other Reason for Suspensions	42	5.7%	140,403	19.8%
Out of School				
Weapons Possession	38	5.1%	14,691	2.1%
Illicit Drug Related	123	16.6%	48,633	6.9%
Violent Incident, Physical Injury	54	7.3%	47,818	6.7%
Violent Incident, No Physical Injury	261	35.1%	193,179	27.2%
Other Reason for Suspension	174	23.4%	234,826	33.1%
Total	**743**	**-**	**709,596**	**-**
Unduplicated count of students	512	-	366,629	-

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). (2013). Suspension, Expulsion, and Truancy Report for 2011-12.

[1] Suspended students whose most serious offense was violating California Education Code Section 48900(k), otherwise known as "Defiance," are counted under the "Other Reason for Suspension" categories.

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Expulsions by Offense, 2011-12

Type of Offense	Santa Cruz County		California	
	#	% of total	#	% of total
Weapons Possession	8	17.4%	1,572	16.1%
Illicit Drug Related	17	37.0%	3,335	34.2%
Violent Incident, Physical Injury	12	26.1%	1,564	16.0%
Violent Incident, No Physical Injury	6	13.0%	2,294	23.5%
Other Reason for Expulsion[1]	3	6.5%	993	10.2%
Total	**46**	**-**	**9,758**	**-**
Unduplicated count of students	46	-	9553	-

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). (2013). Suspension, Expulsion, and Truancy Report for 2011-12.

[1] Expelled students whose most serious offense was violating California Education Code Section 48900(k), otherwise known as "Defiance." are counted under the "Other Reason for Expulsion" category

Violence/Drug Suspension Offenses, by District

School District	2010-11
Bonny Doon Union Elementary	12
Happy Valley Elementary	1
Live Oak Elementary	114
Mountain Elementary	0
Pacific Elementary	0
Pajaro Valley Unified	1,409
San Lorenzo Valley Unified	109
Santa Cruz Elementary	16
Santa Cruz City High	263
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	64
Scotts Valley Unified	83
Soquel Union Elementary	34
Santa Cruz County	**2,105**
California	313,875

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). (2013). Suspension, Expulsion, and Truancy Report for 2010-11.

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VIOLENCE/DRUG EXPULSION OFFENSES, BY DISTRICT

School District	2010-11
Bonny Doon Union Elementary	0
Happy Valley Elementary	0
Live Oak Elementary	0
Mountain Elementary	1
Pacific Elementary	0
Pajaro Valley Unified	120
San Lorenzo Valley Unified	2
Santa Cruz Elementary	0
Santa Cruz City High	17
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	0
Scotts Valley Unified	2
Soquel Union Elementary	0
Santa Cruz County	**142**
California	15,862

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). (2013). Suspension, Expulsion, and Truancy Report for 2010-11.

GRADUATION RATE

Why It's Important

High school graduates earn higher salaries, have better self-esteem, more personal life satisfaction, fewer health problems, and less involvement in criminal activity as compared to high school dropouts.[54] Households headed by a high school graduate accumulate ten times more wealth than households headed by a high school dropout.[55] Roughly 60% of jobs require some type of training or education beyond high school.[56]

What the Data Tell Us

The graduation rate for Santa Cruz County was 82% in the 2011-12 school year, higher than the state rate at 79%. The rates for the county and the state have increased since 2009-2010.

Graduation rates differed by race and ethnicity in the county. African American and Latino students had the lowest graduation rate in the county (71% and 75%, respectively). The highest graduation rate was among students of two or more races (93%) followed by White (89%), and Asian students (85%).

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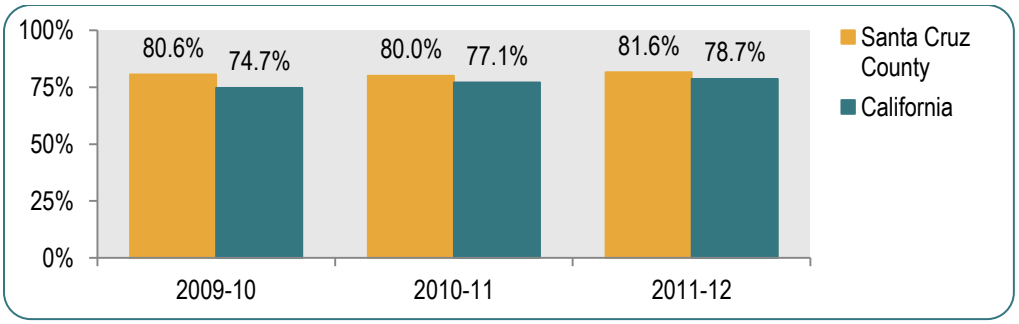
There were also differences in the graduation rate by school district. Scotts Valley Unified (97%) and San Lorenzo Valley Unified (96%) had the highest graduation rates while Ocean Grove Charter (80%) and Pajaro Valley Unified (86%) had the lowest rates in the county.

Cohort High School Graduation Rate



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). (2013). Cohort outcome summary report by race/ethnicity, 2009 – 2012.

Note: Cohort graduation rate is the rate at which students leave the 9-12 instructional system with a high school diploma, GED, or special education certificate of completion and do not remain enrolled after the end of the 4th year.

Cohort High School Graduation Rate, by Ethnicity

Ethnicity/Region	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011-12	09-12 Net Change
African American				
Santa Cruz County	**73.9%**	**84.6%**	**71.4%**	**-2.5**
California	60.5%	62.8%	65.7%	5.2
Asian				
Santa Cruz County	**93.0%**	**85.7%**	**84.5%**	**-8.5**
California	89.0%	90.3%	91.0%	2.0
Latino				
Santa Cruz County	**72.7%**	**73.1%**	**74.7%**	**2.0**
California	68.1%	71.4%	73.2%	5.1
White				
Santa Cruz County	**87.7%**	**86.7%**	**88.9%**	**1.2**
California	83.5%	85.7%	86.4%	2.9
Two or More Races				
Santa Cruz County	**93.3%**	**80.0%**	**92.5%**	**-0.8**
California	82.8%	81.9%	84.3%	1.5

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). (2013). Cohort outcome summary report by race/ethnicity, 2009 – 2012.

Note: Cohort graduation rate is the rate at which students leave the 9-12 instructional system with a high school diploma, GED, or special education certificate of completion and do not remain enrolled after the end of the 4th year.

Note: Data for American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, and Filipino students were not presented due to less than 20 students being represented.

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COHORT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE, BY SCHOOL DISTRICT, 2011-12

School District	Graduation rate
Live Oak Elementary	92.9%
Ocean Grove Charter	80.4%
Pajaro Valley Unified	85.9%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified	96.3%
Santa Cruz City High	90.6%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	---
Scotts Valley Unified	96.7%

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). (2013). Cohort outcomes – list of districts in Santa Cruz County, 2011 – 2012.

(- - -) indicates County Office of Education (COE) which receive the County-wide rate

YOUTH IN THE LABOR FORCE

Why It's Important

"Nothing stops a bullet like a job" - Van Jones

Research has long showed that youth employment can be a strong protective factor against violence and related behaviors. In 2013 for example, researchers at Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies polled 421 Boston teens who found summer employment through a youth violence prevention initiative. The study looked at 22 behaviors "deemed negative, deviant or risky".[57] The study noted significant improvements in behavior over the summer in 19 of the 22 areas assessed. "The biggest differences in behavior change between the participants and comparison group involved using alcohol, selling or using illegal drugs, picking on others by chasing them, spreading false rumors or lies about others, and not listening to one's parents," noted researchers in the study synopsis.

A lack of employment opportunities can create a sense of hopelessness about the future, lead to unnecessary idle time and can lead to increased criminal activity. This subsequently leads to less employment opportunities, creating a cycle that is challenging to move beyond.[58] Having access to employment and job training is critical for youth to not only successfully plan for their futures, but also to believe a positive future can be achieved.

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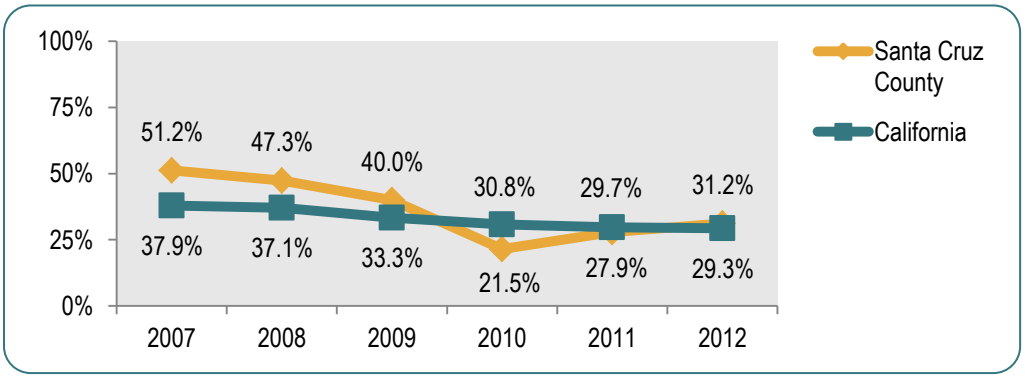
What the Data Tell Us

Half of youth (51%) ages 16-19 were in the labor force in Santa Cruz County in 2007. However, the most recent data for 2012 showed that only 31% were in the labor force.

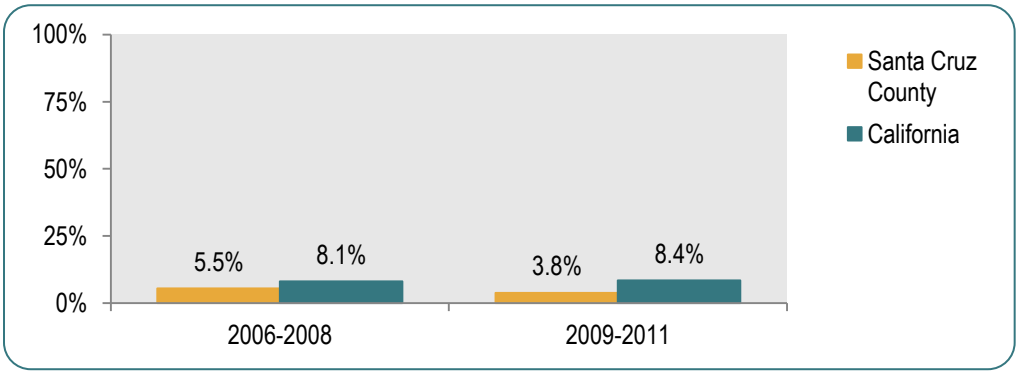
Four percent of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working in Santa Cruz County according to the 2009-2011 estimates; this was a decrease from 6% in 2006-08 and lower than the state at 8%.

PERCENT OF YOUTH (AGES 16 TO 19 YEARS) IN THE LABOR FORCE



Source: American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau. (2013). Sex by Age by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over 1-year estimates, Table B23001, 2007 – 2012.

PERCENTAGE OF DISCONNECTED[1] YOUTH (AGES 16 TO 19 YEARS)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed at http://factfinder2.census.gov (Nov. 2012).

Note: Teens not working include those who are looking for work and those who are not in the labor force.

[1]Youth not in school and not working.

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EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Why It's Important

The term "mental health" historically has been used in reference to mental illness; however, mental health is increasingly now viewed as a state of well-being. This new framework for mental health includes a focus on resilience, and having certain family and community supports that help improve well-being such as youth having adult mentors, participating in after-school activities and volunteer and leadership opportunities in the community.

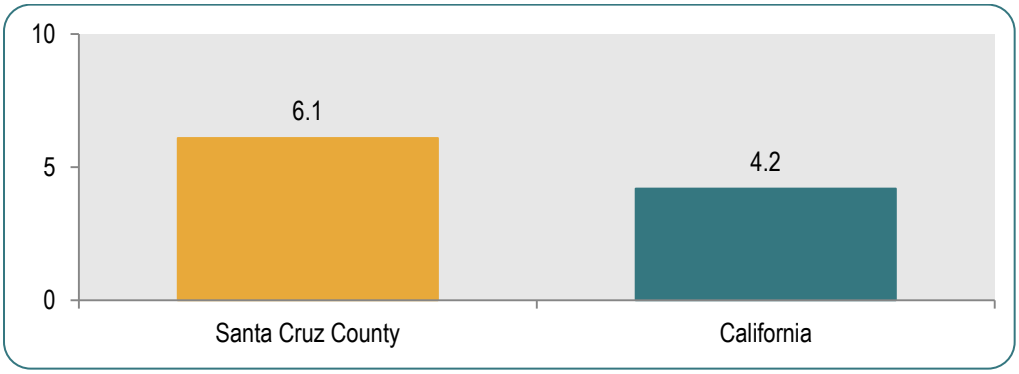
What the Data Tell Us

In 2011, there were 6 hospitalizations for mental health issues per 1,000 youth or young adults between the ages of 15 to 19 year old in Santa Cruz County; this was higher than the state at 4 hospitalizations per 1,000 youth between the same ages.

Students were asked if they ever felt so sad and hopeless every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities. Nearly one-third (32%) of 9th grade students in Santa Cruz County reported feeling that sad.

Reported rates of sadness differed by district. For example, 35% of 9th grade students at Scotts Valley Unified reported being that sad every day for two weeks or more as compared to one in five 9th graders (21%) at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

HOSPITALIZATION RATE PER 1,000 YOUTH AGES 15-19 FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, 2011



Source: Special Tabulation by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (Feb. 2013). California Dept. of Finance, 2000-2010 Estimates of Population by Race/Ethnicity with Age and Gender Detail; and State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity and 5-year Age Groups, 2010-2060 (by year). Accessed athttp://www.dof.ca.gov (Feb. 2013).

Note: Data are limited to hospital admissions only; emergency room visits that did not result in admission are excluded.

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Percent of 9th Grade Students Who Felt So Sad and Hopeless Every Day for Two Weeks or More That They Stopped Doing Some Usual Activities

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Frequency of sad or hopeless feelings, Past 12 months, Table A7.2, by county and statewide, 2006-08, 2007-09, 2008-10, 2009-2011.

Percent of Students Who Felt So Sad and Hopeless Every Day for Two Weeks or More That They Stopped Doing Some Usual Activities, by School District and Grade, 2010-2011

School District	7th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	28.0%	34.0%	31.0%
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	--[2]	31.0%	30.0%
Santa Cruz City High School District	23.0%	29.0%	29.0%
Santa Cruz County Office of Education	33.0%	21.0%	28.0%
Scotts Valley Unified School District	27.0%	35.0%	32.0%
Santa Cruz County[1]	**27.0%**	**32.0%**	**30.0%**
California[1]	27.0%	30.0%	32.0%

Source: California Healthy Kids Survey, WestEd, California Department of Education. (2013). Frequency of sad or hopeless feelings, Past 12 months, Table A7.2, By school district, 2010-2011, and by county and statewide, 2009-2011.

[1]County and State level data are for 2009-2011

[2]Sample size for San Lorenzo Valley Unified 7th graders was too small to report percentages.

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YOUTH CITY COUNCIL SURVEY DATA

Why It's Important

Part of the mission of the Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce is to ensure that all youth have a sense of safety and wellbeing and that all youth feel they have a voice and are empowered to use it.

What It Is

The Youth Safety Survey was created in response to discussions that took place at the Santa Cruz County Youth Violence Prevention Planning Summit in October of 2012. The Watsonville Youth City Council (WYCC), with guidance from their advisors, created the survey, which was designed to learn directly from youth about their ideas and feelings of safety in the city, whether or not they reported crimes, and how to improve their quality of life.

How It Is Measured

The Youth Safety Survey was first conducted during the 2012-13 school year in Watsonville. The first survey was distributed in November 2012 with a follow up survey in February 2013. Santa Cruz Youth formed their own Youth City Council (SCCYC) and distributed a version of the survey in May 2013. A total of 1,136 surveys in Watsonville and 850 surveys in Santa Cruz were collected.

What the Data Tells Us

Youth were asked what makes them feel the most unsafe in their city. Both youth in Watsonville and Santa Cruz most often stated gang activity (57% in Watsonville and 46% in Santa Cruz). More than half (53%) of youth in Watsonville had a friend who belonged to a gang compared to one-third (32%) of youth in Santa Cruz. Forty-one percent of youth in Watsonville had a family member who belonged to a gang compared to only 12% of youth surveyed in Santa Cruz.

Three out of four youth in both Watsonville and Santa Cruz did not know they could report a crime anonymously. When youth were asked if they would report a crime anonymously, 64% of youth in Watsonville and 76% of Santa Cruz youth said yes. One in four youth in Watsonville stated they would ignore a crime and not report it even if they knew someone was going to get hurt. Youth during a discussion at the

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Safety Summit were asked why youth might be reluctant to report a crime, and many replied because of fear.

The majority of youth surveyed in both Watsonville and Santa Cruz reported they felt safe at school during the day. About 75% of youth felt that they could make their city a safer place.

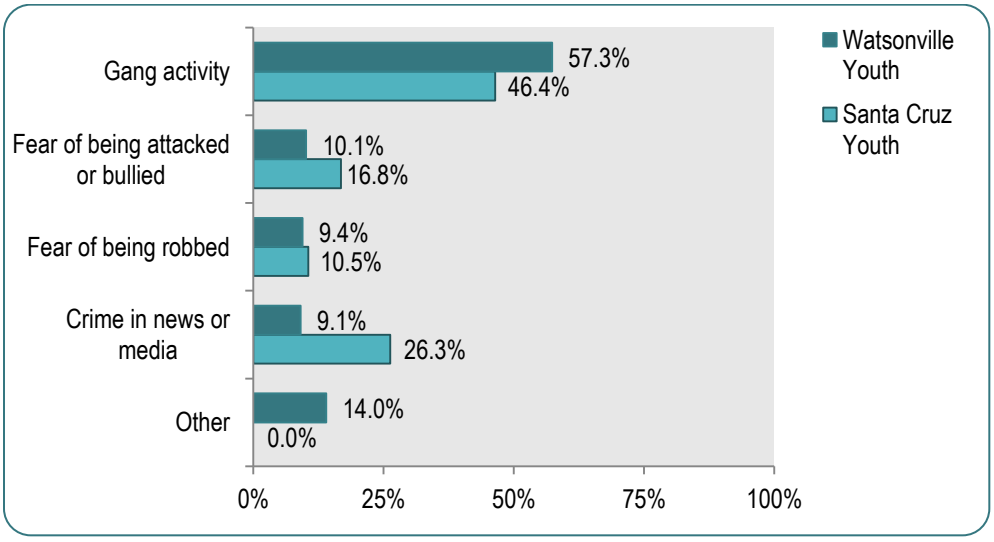
Seventy-four percent of Watsonville youth and 78% of Santa Cruz youth stated their family taught them how to trust the police.

Percent of Youth Responding "Yes" or "True" to the Following Questions:

Question	Watsonville Youth	Santa Cruz Youth
I have been approached by a gang member and invited to join	21.6%	12.6%
I have a friend who belongs to a gang	52.9%	32.4%
I have a family member who belongs to a gang	40.6%	12.3%

Source: Santa Cruz County Youth Safety Survey, Watsonville Youth Safety Survey, 2013

What Makes You Feel the Most Unsafe in Watsonville/ Santa Cruz?



Source: Santa Cruz County Youth Safety Survey, Watsonville Youth Safety Survey, 2013

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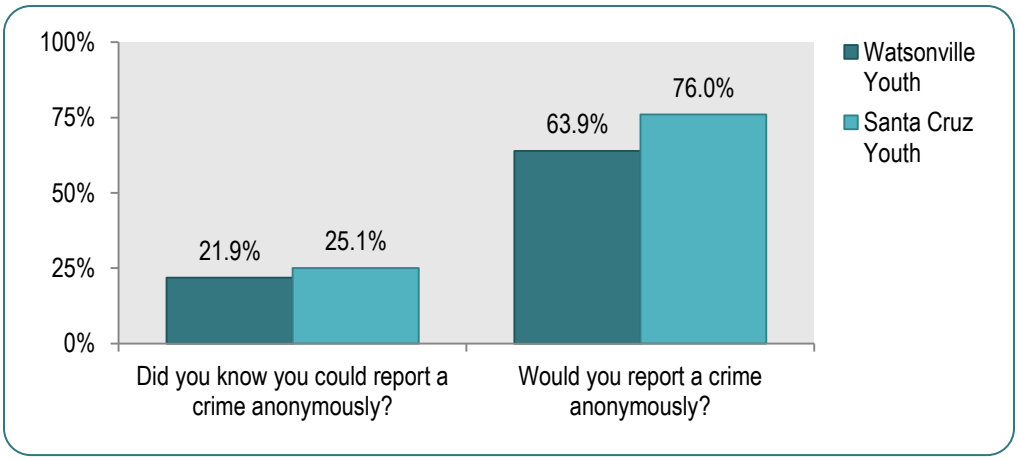
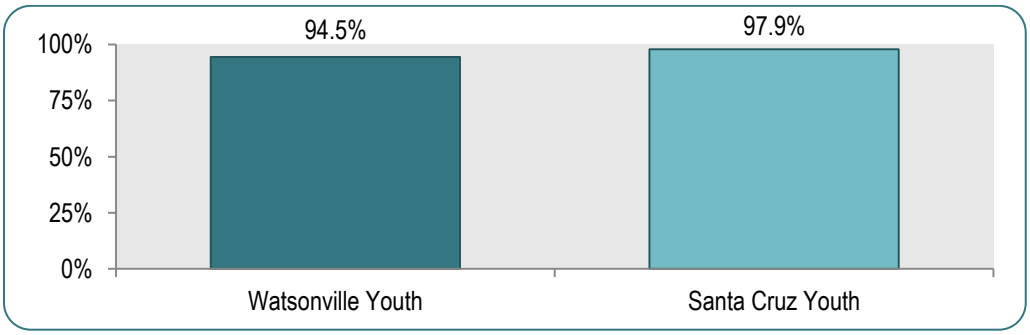
Reporting a Crime Anonymously (Percent Responding "Yes")



Source: Santa Cruz County Youth Safety Survey, Watsonville Youth Safety Survey, 2013

Note: For Watsonville Youth only, "I don't have a cell phone "was a response option for the question "Would you report a crime anonymously."

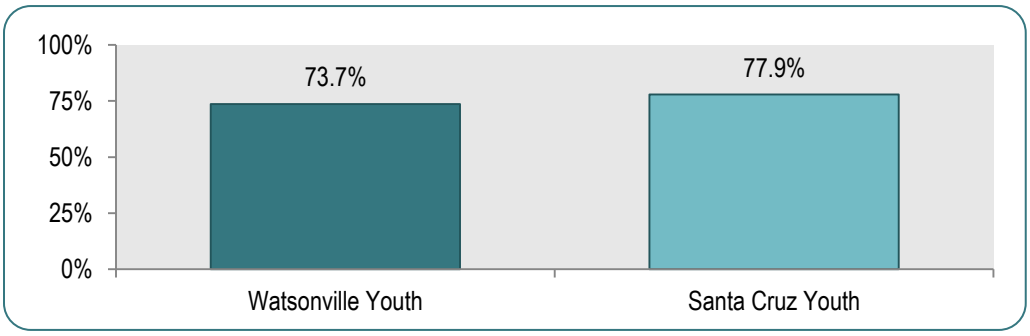
How Safe Do You Feel at School (During the Day)?



Source: Santa Cruz County Youth Safety Survey, Watsonville Youth Safety Survey, 2013

Note: Feeling totally safe and at home, pretty safe but cautious. SCC Youth: Completely safe, somewhat safe

In General, My Family Has Taught Me to Trust Police



Source: Santa Cruz County Youth Safety Survey, Watsonville Youth Safety Survey, 2013

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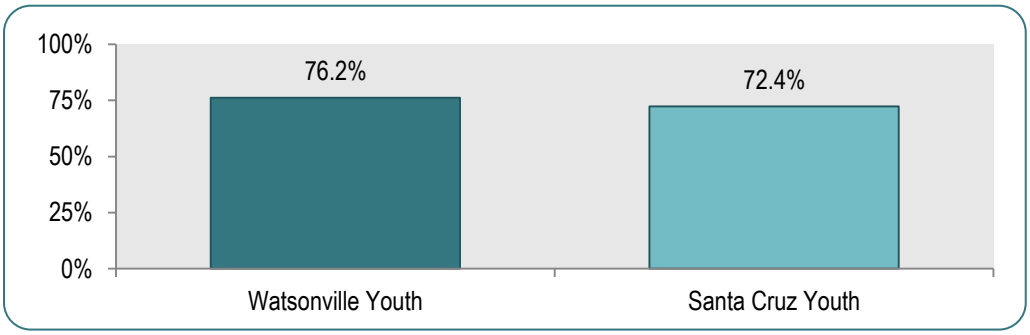
DO YOU THINK YOUTH CAN MAKE WATSONVILLE/SANTA CRUZ A SAFER PLACE? (PERCENT RESPONDING "YES")



Source: Santa Cruz County Youth Safety Survey, Watsonville Youth Safety Survey, 2013

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METHODOLOGY

SECONDARY DATA

Secondary data are collected from a variety of sources, including but not limited to: the U.S. Census; federal, state, and local government agencies; academic institutions; economic development groups; health care institutions; libraries; schools; local police, sheriff and fire departments; and computerized sources through online databases and the Internet.

California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)

The CHKS is a comprehensive youth self-reported data collection system that provides essential and reliable health risk assessment and resilience information to schools, school districts, and communities. It is developed and conducted by a multidisciplinary team of expert researchers, evaluators, and health and prevention practitioners. The Santa Cruz County CHKS is conducted bi-annually at all public schools throughout the county.

American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides data every year giving communities the current information they need to plan investments and services. It uses a series of monthly samples to produce annually updated data for small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample.

Santa Cruz County Probation Department

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department provided data on the youth on probation as well as youth in juvenile hall. The data system used by the probation department is Caseload Explorer and specific queries were requested for the purposes of this report. Data was provided for youth on probation or entering juvenile hall from January 2011 to December 2012.

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Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project (CAP)

A sample size of 713 residents provides 95% confidence that the opinions of survey respondents do not differ from those of the general population of Santa Cruz County by more than +/- 3.7%. This "margin of error" is useful in assessing how likely it is that the responses observed in the sample would be found in the population of all residents in Santa Cruz County if every resident were to be polled.

It is important to note that the margin of error is increased as the sample size is reduced. This becomes relevant when focusing on particular breakdowns or subpopulations in which the overall sample is broken down into smaller groups. In these instances, the margin of error will be larger than the initially stated interval of 3.7%.

The geographic quota sampling produced a confidence interval of +/- 6.5% at the level of each of the three geographic regions (North County, South County, and the San Lorenzo Valley). This confidence interval can be applied when examining the results of the regional comparisons.

Definitions of the CAP Geographic Regions:

North County: Bonny Doon, Capitola, Davenport, Live Oak, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Soquel.

South County: Aptos, Corralitos, Freedom, La Selva Beach, Pajaro, and Watsonville.

SLV (San Lorenzo Valley): Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Felton, Lompico, Mount Hermon, and Zayante.

DATA ANALYSIS

To further understand the data collected and manipulated, it was often important to analyze the data in a number of meaningful ways, including comparisons of local rates with rates from the state, jurisdictional comparisons, comparisons of subgroups (e.g. ethnicity, age), and trend analysis.

Rates

Rates were calculated using the U.S. Census Bureau total population estimates for the corresponding year. Where population estimates were not available for 2012, 2011 estimates were used in its place.

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List of Santa Cruz County ZIP codes

City	ZIP code
Aptos	95001,95003
Ben Lomond	95005
Boulder Creek	95006
Brookdale	95007
Capitola	95010
Davenport	95017
Felton	95018
Freedom	95019
Mount Hermon	95041
Santa Cruz	95060,95061, 95062, 95063,95064, 95065
Scotts Valley	95066,95067
Soquel	95073
Watsonville	95076,95077

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