





# Youth Growth and Development

Youth growth and development refers to the healthy physical, social, and emotional development of young people. Promoting youth development is a deliberate process of providing support, relationships, experiences, and opportunities for young people—leading to happy, healthy, successful adulthood. Primary and secondary data indicate that youth development tends to be undermined by trauma and violence, unhealthy family functioning, exposure to negative institutional environments and practices, and insufficient access to positive youth activities, among other things. In San Joaquin County, the disparate levels of exposure to these risk factors contribute to outcome disparities during youth and throughout adulthood. This includes disparities by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and income, with respect to outcomes such as juvenile justice involvement, foster placement, adult incarceration, educational attainment, and chronic disease.

## Key Data

Indicators	Community Feedback
<p><b>Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate<sup>1</sup></b>  <i>Felony arrest rate per 100,000 youth ages 10-17</i></p> <p>San Joaquin  1140</p> <p>California  878</p>	<p>“When youth meet with their case manager, it’s often the first time that the world opens up to them with opportunities and someone says to them, ‘You can do it’.”</p> <p>– Interviewee</p>
<p>Over one-third (<b>36%</b>) of all San Joaquin County youth arrests occur at school; of these arrests <b>85%</b> were youth of color.<sup>2</sup></p>	
<p><i>Link between violence and health outcomes</i></p> <p>Youth exposed to abuse or violence in the home, or violence in their community, are at greater risk of poor mental and physical health outcomes in adulthood, including increased risk for heart disease, depression, suicide attempts, and alcoholism, among others.<sup>3,4</sup></p> <p>Poverty during childhood can also have a strong impact on later outcomes, including healthy brain development and success in school.<sup>5</sup></p>	
<p><b>Key Themes Expressed by Residents and Stakeholders</b></p>	
<p><i>Trauma, stress, and mental health/substance abuse</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exposure to violence</li> <li>- Improper diagnoses and insufficient treatment</li> <li>- Substance use as a coping mechanism</li> <li>- Suicide</li> </ul> <p><i>Education and economic opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poverty as a root cause</li> <li>- Education not preparing students for workforce</li> <li>- Lack of employment opportunities and low wages</li> </ul>	<p><i>Social activity and support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of social skills and healthy peers</li> <li>- Lack of free and affordable activities for youth</li> <li>- Lack of family and community support</li> </ul> <p><i>Engagement with the criminal justice system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Violence</li> <li>- Early and consistent law enforcement interaction</li> <li>- Probation and/or criminal record limits work opportunities</li> </ul>

Note: California state average estimates are included for reference. Differences between San Joaquin County and California state estimates are not necessarily statistically significant.

## San Joaquin County Community Health Needs Assessment



# Youth Growth and Development (continued)

## Additional Data

### Education

School Suspension Rate  
*Rate of suspension per 100 enrolled students<sup>6</sup>*

**7.9** | **3.8**  
San Joaquin | California

Expulsion  
*Rate of expulsion per 100 enrolled K-12 public school students<sup>7</sup>*

**0.2** | **0.1**  
San Joaquin | California

English Performance among English Language Learners (Grade 10)

*% of English language learners (grade 10) who passed the California High School Exit Exam in English Language Arts<sup>8</sup>*

**33.0** | **38.0**  
San Joaquin | California

### Foster Care

Foster Care Placement Stability  
*% of children in foster care system for more than 8 days but less than 12 months with 2 or less placements<sup>9</sup>*

**84.7** | **86.6**  
San Joaquin | California

### Youth Activities

**31.7%** of  
Community Survey respondents indicated that a lack of activities for youth is a high concern in their community.

“There are a lot of youth activities, but there is often a cost to participate and many families cannot afford it. There needs to be innovative strategies to deal with this.”  
– Interviewee

### Violence and Crime

“Reducing racial disparities is important. There is a disproportionate amount of bookings, suspensions, and expulsions with the school to prison pipeline.”

– Interviewee

**30.3%** of  
Community Survey respondents reported that youth violence is an important health concern in their community.

Gang Involvement, Youth  
*% of 11th grade students reporting current gang involvement<sup>10</sup>*

**15.0** | **8.0**  
San Joaquin | California

“Youth crime has dropped dramatically over last 10 years. However, those who do enter the system are at very high risk. More youth cases are being tried as adults even though they don’t have previous experiences with the criminal system.”

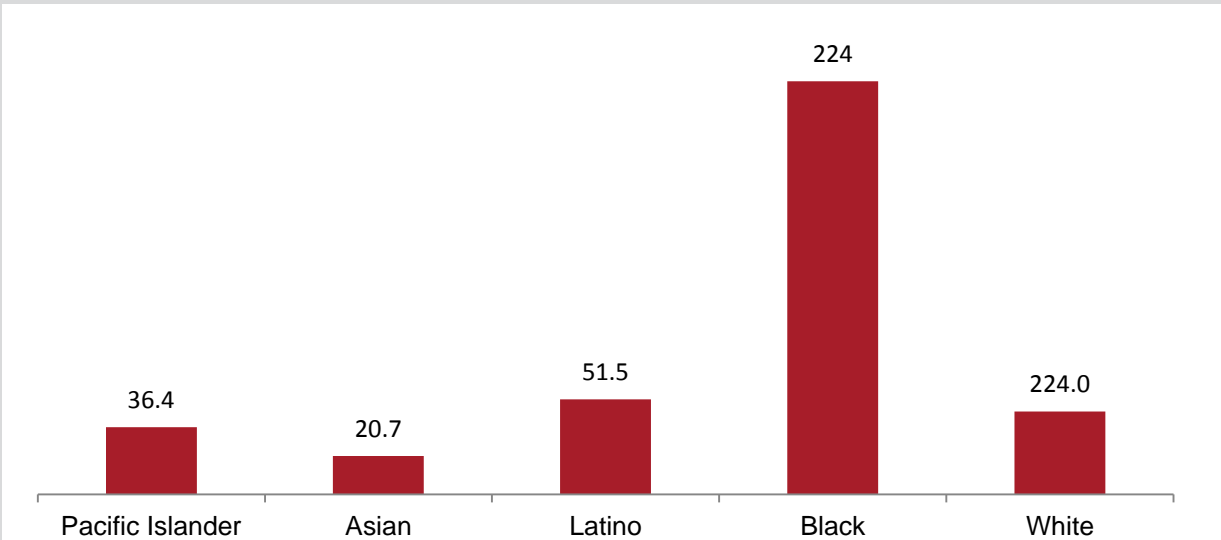
– Interviewee



# Youth Growth and Development (continued)

## Salient Disparities

Rate of Arrests Per 1,000 Youth (Age 14 to 17) in San Joaquin County by Race/Ethnicity, 2014<sup>11</sup>



Note: Although data indicate the arrest rate for Latino youth is only slightly higher than that of White youth, stakeholders expressed some concern that Latino youth may, at times, be misidentified as White youth.



# Youth Growth and Development (continued)

## Assets and Suggestions for Change

### Examples of Existing Community Assets<sup>†</sup>

Youth Service Providers



School Districts



Community Mentors



### Ideas from Focus Group and Interview Participants<sup>†</sup>

- Partner with San Joaquin Pride Center and implement early interventions in school to address LGBTQ concerns, bullying, and feelings of isolation
- Decriminalize general youth behavior
- Provide counselors for kids and families (e.g., at school-based health centers)
- Connect youth to role models
- Provide trainings about trauma-based care
- Provide more opportunities for parenting classes; teach motivational interviewing techniques for parents of teens who are asking for help
- Address substance abuse among teens
- Provide education, internship, entertainment, recreation, sports, and mentoring opportunities to youth
- Provide youth-friendly nutrition information

<sup>†</sup> Assets and recommendations excerpted from qualitative data and San Joaquin CHNA Core Planning Group. For a comprehensive list of county assets and resources, reference <http://www.211sj.org/>.

<sup>1</sup> Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> 2015 San Joaquin County Racial and Ethnic Disparities Technical Assistance Project, Phase One Assessment, Youth Justice Data 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Jack P. Shonkoff and Deborah A. Phillips, eds., "From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development," National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development, National Academy Press, 2000.

<sup>4</sup> "Adverse Childhood Experiences: Major Findings," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed November 2015, <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/findings.html>.

<sup>5</sup> 2016 California Children's Report Card, Children Now.

<sup>6</sup> California Department of Education, 2014-15.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> California Department of Education, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Healthy Kids Survey, 2009-11.

<sup>11</sup> 2015 San Joaquin County Racial and Ethnic Disparities Technical Assistance Project, Phase One Assessment, Youth Justice Data 2014.