



REPORT CARD 2007

KERN COUNTY NETWORK FOR CHILDREN

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The mission of the Kern County Network for Children is to protect and enrich the lives of children in Kern County through the commitment of all community partners by helping to build and sustain healthy families.

WELCOME

Since 1999, Kern County Network for Children has produced a countywide Report Card. This annual document not only tells the story of children in our county, it regularly takes the Network back to its roots.

In 1992, a similar data report by *Children Now* identified Kern County children as being more likely than their peers statewide of dropping out of school, scoring poorly on achievement tests, having children during the teen years and other negative behaviors.

Due to the overwhelming public concern raised by the *Children Now* report, a network of concerned individuals began identifying effective ways to improve services for children and families. Based on the suggestions of this group and with the support of state legislation, the Kern County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing the Kern County Network for Children.

The Network's original goals remain essentially the same today:

- Strengthen families, thereby enriching the lives of children
- Promote family self-sufficiency
- Identify the most critical children's issues county-wide, and develop strategies for addressing them
- Determine gaps and overlaps in services
- Share information about children's services and recommend ways to make them more effective and efficient

The Network has always believed that all children are valuable. As you review the information presented in this document, consider how you can help improve the lives of children in Kern County. They are truly our most important resource.

Sincerely,



John Roberts, Chief Probation Officer
KCNC Governing Board President





In 2005 the Census Bureau estimated nearly 232,000 children lived in Kern County, or about 32 percent of the population. More than 100,000 families were raising related children.

-- American Community Survey 2005

COUNTY OVERVIEW



Kern County is one of nine California counties to have gained over 100,000 persons in the last six years.

-- California Dept of Finance

Kern County, California

Kern County is the state's third-largest county in land area, covering 8,200 square miles with three distinct physical environments: valley, mountain, and desert. Its 11 incorporated cities and 41 unincorporated communities were home to an estimated 796,000 residents on July 1, 2006.

According to the California Department of Finance, Kern was the third fastest-growing county in California based on its one-year percentage growth of 3.56 percent. This population growth was attributed primarily to new residents from other states or counties in California.

Kern County is one of nine counties to have gained over 100,000 persons in the last six years. The county's population is expected to top 950,000 by 2020 and 1.1 million by 2030.

Between July 2005 and July 2006, Kern grew by 27,403 individuals. Natural increase (births minus deaths) contributed 8,989 individuals (33 percent) and net migration (domestic migration plus foreign immigration) contributed 18,414 individuals (67 percent).

The following chart provides a breakdown of population by children's age and ethnicity. This information is taken from the California Department of Finance's most recent population projections, which include a base population from the 2000 Census and additional data based on birth/death rates, school enrollment, migration patterns, and other factors.

Population figures reported elsewhere in this document may differ slightly, as they are based on the US Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey.

DATA SOURCES:

California Department of Finance
http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/ReportsPapers/Estimates/E2/documents/E-2_Press_Release_Jul06.doc

Center for Social Services Research, UC Berkeley
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/population/data/POPf_EA0-17_2006_15.html

Kern County Child Population by Ethnicity and Age (2006)	African American	Caucasian	Hispanic/Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	Other	Total
Total Children (0-17)	14,350	70,043	124,403	7,723	2,679	5,292	224,490
Percentage of Total Children	6.4%	31.2%	55.4%	3.4%	1.2%	2.4%	100.0%
Under 1	704	3,771	8,273	418	158	239	13,563
1-2	1,338	7,034	15,893	872	310	451	25,898
3-5	1,854	9,576	21,354	1,061	259	1,300	35,404
6-10	3,729	17,578	32,706	2,044	690	1,389	58,136
11-15	4,825	22,261	33,946	2,388	944	1,417	65,781
16-17	1,900	9,823	12,231	940	318	496	25,708

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Per Capita Income

The per capita income figure is often used to measure the economic health of counties and other regions. It is calculated by dividing an area's total income by the number of residents. However, the figures used to calculate income differ depending on the government agency providing the information.

US Bureau of Economic Analysis

The US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) takes income figures from business receipts. In 2004, the per capita income in Kern County was \$24,335. By comparison, the per capita income in California was \$35,219 and in the nation was \$33,050 during the same year. Using the BEA measure, Kern County's per capita income is 30.9 percent less than the state and 26.4 percent less than the nation.

US Census Bureau

The US Census Bureau uses individual and business surveys for income figures. These numbers are presented annually in the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

According to the 2005 Survey, the Kern County per capita income was \$18,636. By comparison, the per capita income in California was \$26,800 and in the nation was \$25,035 during the same year. Using the Census measure, Kern County's per capita income is 30.5 percent less than the state and 26.0 percent less than the nation.

Summary

Kern County residents have about 31 percent less income than others in California and about 26 percent less than others in the United States.

DATA SOURCES:

US Bureau of Economic Analysis
<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis>

US Census Bureau
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Unemployment

In Kern County, an annual average labor force of 338,400 was available for work during 2006. Of these, 312,800 were working and 25,600 were seeking employment.

The official annual average unemployment rate for Kern County was 7.6 percent during 2006. By comparison, California's annual average rate of unemployment was 5.3 percent.

Unemployment rates fluctuate throughout the year, especially in regions with seasonal economies like agriculture. In 2006, the county's highest monthly unemployment rates (8.9 percent) occurred during both February and March.

Outlying communities often have higher unemployment rates than Metro Bakersfield. The following communities had the highest unemployment rates in the county during 2005.

Community	2006 Annual Avg Unemployment Rate
Buttonwillow CDP	9.3
Mojave CDP	9.5
Ford City CDP (portion of Taft)	12.6
Shafter city	13.8
Lamont CDP	13.9
Weedpatch CDP	14.2
Wasco city	14.4
McFarland city	16.4
Onyx CDP	20.5
Delano city	20.8
Arvin city	21.4

CDP is an abbreviation for Census Designated Place, a term used for small unincorporated communities.

DATA SOURCE:

California Employment Development Department
<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>



In a 2002 study of California counties, a significant correlation existed between rates of unemployment and rates of contact with child protective services.

-- California Dept. of Social Services



Single mothers with children under age five are the families most likely to live in poverty. During 2005, 63 percent of Kern County's single mothers with young children were impoverished.

-- 2005 American Community Survey

Children in Poverty (0-17)	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	25.0%	28.0%	28.8%
California	18.6%	18.9%	18.2%

Children in Poverty (0-4)	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	29.3%	33.2%	31.6%
California	20.3%	20.5%	19.6%

Children in Poverty (5-17)	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	23.4%	25.4%	27.8%
California	18.0%	17.7%	17.7%

All Families with Children Percent Living in Poverty	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	23.6%	23.2%	25.9%
California	17.0%	15.3%	14.9%

Single Moms with Children Percent Living in Poverty	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	41.0%	39.4%	49.8%
California	40.0%	34.2%	32.6%

Hourly Wage Needed to Afford Two-Bedroom Apt	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	\$11.62	\$12.00	\$12.42
California	\$21.24	\$22.09	\$22.86

Poverty

According to the American Community Survey conducted by the US Census Bureau, 224,081 children live in Kern County during 2005. Of these, 29.4 percent were living in poverty. By comparison, 18.6 percent of children statewide were living in poverty.

Among all Kern County families raising children, 104,842 (25.9 percent) were impoverished. In 7.4 percent of these families, the householder worked full-time and year-round. Families headed by single mothers were the poorest with 49.8 percent living in poverty.

Educational attainment is an important factor in rates of poverty. Among families whose householder had less than a high school diploma, 36.1 percent lived in poverty. Of those families whose householder had a high school diploma, the rate of poverty dropped to 18.6 percent. For those families with householders having at least a bachelor's degree, the poverty rate fell dramatically to 2.4 percent.

The US Department of Health and Human Services uses an annual poverty guideline to determine eligibility for federal assistance programs. During 2007, the federal poverty guideline for a family of four in California is set at \$20,650.

DATA SOURCES:

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005
<http://factfinder.census.gov>
US Department of Health and Human Services
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/07poverty.shtml>

Child Support

Child support is vital to the economic well-being of many children, especially those who are poor. A report by Urban Institute in March 2000 found that child support reduces poverty among children who live apart from a parent.

During the 2005-06 federal fiscal year, Kern County Department of Child Support Services served 67,803 children represented by 59,863 open support cases. Seventy-six percent of these open cases had formal support orders established for the non-custodial parent by the court system.

Of the \$71.9 million owed to Kern County children from non-custodial parents, \$35.5 million (49.4 percent) was collected and distributed as current support.

The percentage collected and distributed during 2005-06 is significantly higher than fiscal year 2000-01 when only 35 percent of owed child support was collected and distributed.

DATA SOURCES:

Kern County Department of Child Support Services
<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/childsupport>
Urban Institute
<http://www.urban.org/publications/309440.html>



As the proportion of children living with both parents has fallen and as public support for sole-parent families has been reduced, child support has become a crucial source of income for single-parent families.

-- National Poverty Center



Nationwide, 61 percent of all housing vouchers provide homes for families with children.

-- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Housing

Families paying more than 30 percent of their gross income for housing are cost burdened and often have difficulty meeting other important financial obligations.

The Census Bureau's American Community Survey reports 86,245 renting households in Kern County during 2005, or 38 percent of 231,566 total households. Of these renting households, 50.2 percent spent more than 30 percent of household income on rent. The median gross rent in Kern County during 2005 was \$663, a 28 percent increase over the 2000 median gross rent of \$518.

Fair Market Rents are determined annually by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and can differ substantially from the median gross rent reported by the Census Bureau. The current Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kern County is \$646.

Using this rental rate, the National Low Income Housing Coalition calculates a housing wage, or the amount a household must earn to afford a two-bedroom unit. During 2006, the monthly housing wage was \$2,153; the full-time hourly housing wage was \$12.42.

Homelessness

In January 2007, volunteers with the Kern County Homeless Collaborative surveyed both sheltered and unsheltered individuals in Metro Bakersfield, East Kern and West Kern. Children made up 13 percent of the homeless population on the night of the census.

On the night of January 24/25, a total of 1,537 individuals were homeless. Of these, 1,248 were single adults and 289 were family members. Eighty-three families with 173 children were

sheltered and six families with 19 children were unsheltered on that night. Most of the family units were headed by single mothers.

Among the six unsheltered families, five families with 17 children were in Taft and Shafter. The remaining family had two children and was in Metro Bakersfield. Most unsheltered families were living in automobiles.

Of the 83 sheltered families with children, 40 families with 97 children were staying in emergency shelters and 43 families with 76 children were living in accommodations provided by transitional housing programs.

A report prepared by the California Senate Office of Demographics reveals many homeless children receive special services through local schools. In Kern County during the 2005-06 school year, 2,692 children were provided services related to housing issues. Of these, 141 were unsheltered, 1,077 were sheltered, 1,392 were doubled-up with other families, and 82 were living in unknown situations.

DATA SOURCES:

California State Senate, Office of Demographics
http://www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/committee/standing/transportation/_home/HomelessChildrenSchools

Kern County Homeless Collaborative
<http://www.kernhomeless.bakersfield93301.us/>

National Low Income Housing Coalition
<http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2006/>

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey
<http://factfinder.census.gov/>

US Department of Housing and Urban Development
<http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr.html>

EDUCATION INDICATORS

Education Overview

Kern County was home to 49 school districts employing 8,261 full-time equivalent teachers during the 2005-06 school year. Nearly 95 percent of the county's teachers had full credentials, with the remainder holding emergency credentials, waivers, or serving as interns prior to receiving a full credential. Since June 2006, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has not issued emergency credentials.

Enrollment

During the 2005-06 school year, 170,362 public school students were enrolled in the county's 260 schools. Approximately 6,000 additional students attended private schools throughout the county.

Student Diversity

Kern schools are ethnically and linguistically diverse, with 41 languages represented by students countywide. During 2005-06, 35,219 students (20.7 percent of total county enrollment) were English learners; another 29,555 students (17.4 percent of total enrollment) were newly designated English-proficient students.

Additionally, 9.8 percent of the county's K-12 enrollment were students with special educational and/or medical needs.

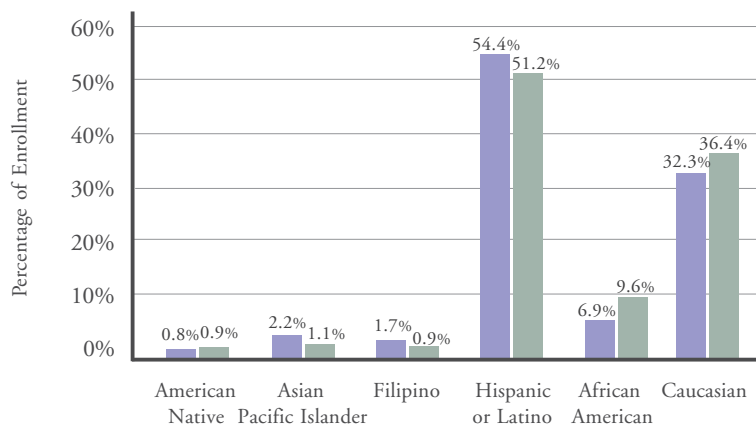


Of the 35,219 students designated as English Language Learners in Kern County schools, 96 percent speak Spanish. The remaining 4 percent of English learners speak 39 different languages.

-- California Department of Education

Total Enrollment and Special Education Enrollment by Ethnicity

Kern County 2005-06



California Department of Education
Graph excludes those not reporting ethnicity

■ Total Enrollment ■ Special Education

California

3rd Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	03-04	04-05	05-06
Reading	30%	31%	36%
Mathematics	48%	54%	58%

7th Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	03-04	04-05	05-06
Reading	36%	43%	43%
Mathematics	33%	41%	41%

Out-of-School Youth Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma	2003	2004	2005
American Community Survey, US Census	7.3%	6.5%	6.8%

Graduation Rates Interim graduation rate - see discussion	02-03	03-04	04-05
National Center for Educational Statistics formula	86.7%	85.4%	85.0%

College Prepared Youth	03-04	04-05	05-06
% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require	33.7%	35.2%	unavailable
% 12th Graders Taking SAT	35.3%	35.9%	40.5%

Community Education Levels Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least a high school diploma	2003	2004	2005
American Community Survey, US Census	19.8%	19.6%	19.9%

Kern County

3rd Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	03-04	04-05	05-06
Reading	24%	26%	30%
Mathematics	39%	46%	49%

7th Grade Test Scores (CST) Percent "Proficient" or Above	03-04	04-05	05-06
Reading	29%	35%	35%
Mathematics	24%	29%	34%

Out-of-School Youth Percent of youth ages 16-19 not in school and without high school diploma	2003	2004	2005
American Community Survey, US Census	7.8%	9.4%	9.8%

Graduation Rates Interim graduation rate - see discussion	02-03	03-04	04-05
National Center for Educational Statistics formula	84.6%	84.8%	86.0%

College Prepared Youth	03-04	04-05	05-06
% Grads w/ CSU/UC Require	19.8%	21.6%	unavailable
% 12th Graders Taking SAT	22.1%	22.1%	27.3%

Community Education Levels Percent of all adults 25 and older without at least a high school diploma	2003	2004	2005
American Community Survey, US Census	27.9%	27.2%	27.8%



Special Education

Kern County's Special Education system served 16,679 children and young adults from newborn to age 22 during the 2005-06 school year. Of these students, 1,944 children were under the age of six and 14,219 children were between the ages of six and 17.

Additionally, 516 young adult students continued to receive educational and transitional services after the age of 18. Special Education enrollment represented 9.8 percent of the total K-12 enrollment during that year, compared to 10.8 percent statewide.

During the 2005-06 school year, 742 teachers provided special education services to these students.

Alternative Education

To be successful in school, students may need a variety of alternative education options to meet their needs. These can be mandated, such as continuation schools, or voluntary, such as magnet schools.

In Kern County during the 2005-06 school year, 7,454 students were served through a variety of alternative education programs. This figure represents 4.4 percent of the total student population in the county.

Of these 7,454 students, 33 percent were enrolled in independent study, 26 percent in magnet schools, 21 percent in continuation schools, and 20 percent in other alternative programs.



Research over the past two decades has increased our understanding of the relationship between gender and mathematics. We've learned gender differences are not biological, but the product of social and cultural factors, expectations, and confidence levels. There is no math gene!

-- American Association of Elementary School Principals

Student Testing

Standardized student testing is only one measure of achievement used today in California's education system. Standardized tests help schools and educators continually improve instructional methods so children have the best opportunity to learn. Additionally, test scores are provided to parents as a tool for following the progress of their child in school.

The Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) uses several tests to measure student performance in California schools. The California Standards Tests (CST) are used to measure mastery of state-adopted standards.

California uses five levels of performance when reporting student achievement: advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, and far below basic. The target performance level for all students in California is proficient or above.

3rd Grade Reading and Math

In Kern County during the 2005-06 school year, 30 percent of 3rd graders were proficient or above in English Language Arts and 49 percent were proficient or above in Mathematics.

Statewide, 36 percent of 3rd grade students were proficient or above in English Language Arts and 58 percent were proficient or above in Mathematics.

7th Grade Reading and Math

In Kern County during the 2005-06 school year, 35 percent of 7th graders were proficient or above in English Language Arts and 34 percent were proficient or above in Mathematics.

Statewide, 43 percent of 7th grade students were proficient or above in English Language Arts and 41 percent were proficient or above in Mathematics.

High School Exit Exam

Although the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) has been given since 2000, the class of 2006 was the first class required to pass the exam in order to receive a high school diploma. The CAHSEE has two parts: English-language arts and mathematics.

The exam is given several times throughout grades 10, 11, and 12, providing students with multiple opportunities throughout high school to pass the exam before graduation. Those who still lack passing scores at the completion of grade 12 can also take the test in adult school or community college and have their Certificate of Completion converted into a Diploma.

The test has been controversial because passing rates vary widely among students of different ethnicity, economic status, and learning ability. Additionally, the state does not yet have a complete data system for tracking the students who take the CAHSEE. This has made reporting results difficult because no official data has been posted on the number of seniors who have passed both sections of the exam and graduated with a diploma.

Local educators have estimated that 94 percent of Kern County's 2005-06 seniors completing course work, passed the CAHSEE and received a diploma. The remaining 6 percent received certificates of completion.

College Preparation

In California, students are believed to be fully prepared for a four-year college when they have completed all of the “A-G” class requirements for entering the California State University/University of California system. In Kern County during 2004-05, 22 percent of students graduated with all “A-G” classes completed. Thirty-five percent of seniors statewide completed these requirements.

The percentage of 12th graders taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is also a measure of graduates considering college education. In Kern County during 2005-06, 27.3 percent of 12th graders took the SAT exam. This figure represents a one-year increase of 24 percent. Statewide, 40.5 percent of 12th graders took the exam, representing a 13 percent increase.

Graduation

In Kern County, 9,044 students met graduation requirements during 2004-05. However, the actual number of students who dropped out between their freshmen and senior years and did not finish high school, has been impossible to capture because the California Department of Education had no unique coding system for students.

But this is changing. To comply with federal education mandates and California Senate Bill 1453 the California Department of Education is now in the process of implementing a student-level tracking system using identification numbers. Within a few years, data analysts will be able to track children throughout their school career and know specifically how many graduate.

Until then, the state is reporting county-level graduation rates based upon a formula used by the National Center for Educational Statistics. During 2004-05, Kern County had an estimated graduation rate of 86 percent. Statewide, the estimate was 85 percent.

DATA SOURCES:

California Department of Education, DataQuest
<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

Education Data Partnership
<http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/>



A college education builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in earlier years. It is best for your child to start planning a high school course schedule early, in the seventh or eighth grade. Research shows that students who complete algebra and geometry by the end of ninth grade are more likely to go to college than those who do not.

-- US Department of Education



“In public health, the health of babies and mothers is a fundamental priority. The ongoing disparity between African-Americans and other races and ethnicities in infant and maternal health challenges us to do better.”

-- Dr. Mark Horton, California State Public Health Officer

HEALTH INDICATORS

Prenatal Care

Women who begin prenatal care early in their pregnancy can have babies with better health outcomes. In Kern County, the three-year (2002-2004) average early prenatal care rate was 75.9 per 1,000 live births. In California overall, the rate was 78.3.

Prematurity and Low Birth Weight

The leading causes of infant death are prematurity and low birth weight. During 2004, 13,455 babies were born in Kern County. Of those with a reported gestation period, 13.6 percent were born prior to 37 weeks - the point which defines prematurity. Statewide, 10.9 percent were premature.

Newborns have a low birth weight when they weigh less than 5.5 pounds. Many very small babies are premature, but not all. The three-year (2002-2004) average percentage of low-weight births in Kern County was 6.8 percent. By comparison, the three-year average was 6.6 percent for all live births in California.

Births to Young Mothers

Babies born to women under the age of 20 are at greater risk of birth complications. The three-year (2002-2004) average rate for births to adolescent mothers in Kern County was 64.4 per 1,000 live births. This was the fourth highest rate among California counties.

Although the pregnancy rate for adolescents aged 15 to 19 in Kern County was significantly higher than the state overall (39.2), rates have fallen dramatically over the past decade.

Breastfeeding

The California Department of Health Services promotes breastfeeding as the most healthy and preferred method of infant feeding for at least the first year of life.

The three-year (2002-2004) average breastfeeding rate in Kern County was 79.0 per 1,000 live births. This was the fourth lowest rate of all California counties. Statewide, the breastfeeding rate was 83.7 per 1,000.

Immunizations

Each year the California Department of Health Services conducts an immunization assessment of enrolling Kindergarteners to monitor compliance with the California School Immunization Law. In the fall of 2003, 93.0 percent of children enrolling in Kindergarten had all required immunizations. Statewide this figure was 92.7 percent.

Infant Death

The three-year (2001-2003) average mortality rate for infants in Kern County was 6.0 per 1,000 live births. This figure was higher than the California three-year average rate of 5.3.

Nationwide, African-American infants die more frequently than those of other race/ethnicity. In Kern County, the three-year (2001-2003) average mortality rates for African-American infants was 14.8 per 1,000 live births; in California the figure was 11.6 per 1,000.

DATA SOURCES:

CA Dept of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/tables/>

CA Dept of Health Services, County Health Profiles
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/reports/healthstatusprofiles/2006/profiles.pdf>

CA Dept of Health Services, Immunization Branch
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/levels.htm>



Immunizations are a safe and effective way to help keep our children and communities healthy and protected from serious vaccine-preventable diseases

-- California
Department of
Health Services

Late or No Prenatal Care (Percentage of those reporting)	2002	2003	2004
Kern County	2.6%	2.4%	3.3%
California	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%

Overweight Youth (Percentage of 5 th /7 th /9 th grade)	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Kern County	35.0%	36.4%	36.5%
California	33.0%	33.3%	32.5%

Premature Births (Percentage of live births)	2002	2003	2004
Kern County	11.5%	12.6%	13.6%
California	10.5%	10.7%	10.9%

Chlamydia Infection in Youth (Rate per 100,000 females 15-19)	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	3434.4	3274.4	3300.6
California	2217.0	2227.6	2280.8

Births to Teen Mothers 15-19 (Percentage of live births)	2002	2003	2004
Kern County	15.1%	14.7%	14.7%
California	9.5%	9.1%	9.1%

Infant Mortality Rate - 3yr avg (Rate per 1,000 live births)	1999 - 2001	2000 - 2002	2001 - 2003
Kern County (All Races)	7.2	6.8	6.0
California (All Races)	5.5	5.5	5.3
Kern County (African-American)	20.0	14.8	12.9
California (African-American)	11.9	11.6	11.2

Births to Teen Mothers 15-19 (Rate per 1,000 live births)	2002	2003	2004
Kern County	63.8	64.0	65.8
California	40.6	38.9	38.1
United States	43.0	41.6	n/a

Immunization Rates (% of Kindergarteners enrolling with all required immunizations)	2004	2005	2006
Kern County	94.1%	93.3%	93.0%
California	92.9%	92.8%	92.7%

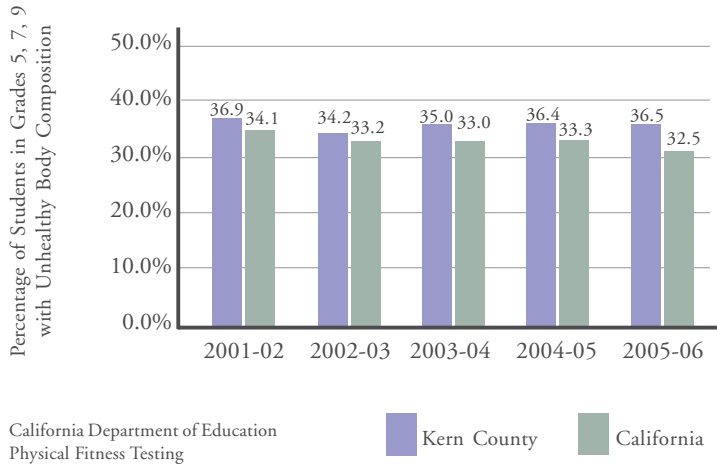
Total Kern County Births (2004)	African American	Caucasian	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian/ Pac Islander	Native American	Total *
Number of Live Births	689	4,193	7,886	453	69	13,455
Percentage of Total Births	5.1%	31.2%	58.6%	3.4%	.1%	100%

Kern County Births to Teens 15-19 (2003)	African American	Caucasian	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian/ Pac Islander	Native American	Total *
Number of Live Births	144	447	1,246	18	10	1,893
Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Births	75.8	36.6	92.9	16.4	26.0	64.0

Figures will not total 100% as unknown or multiple races are excluded from these tables.

Unhealthy Body Composition of Students 2001-02 through 2005-06

Kern County and California ~ 5th, 7th, & 9th Graders



Childhood Obesity & Fitness

A healthy lifestyle, including good nutrition and fitness levels, can significantly reduce an adult's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. Yet, these lifestyle behaviors are not easy to change for adults. For best lifelong health, good nutrition and activity habits must begin in childhood.

Good fitness in children is also important for educational outcomes. In 2002, a California Department of Education study found that higher student achievement was associated with higher levels of fitness at each of the three grade levels measured, particularly in mathematics.

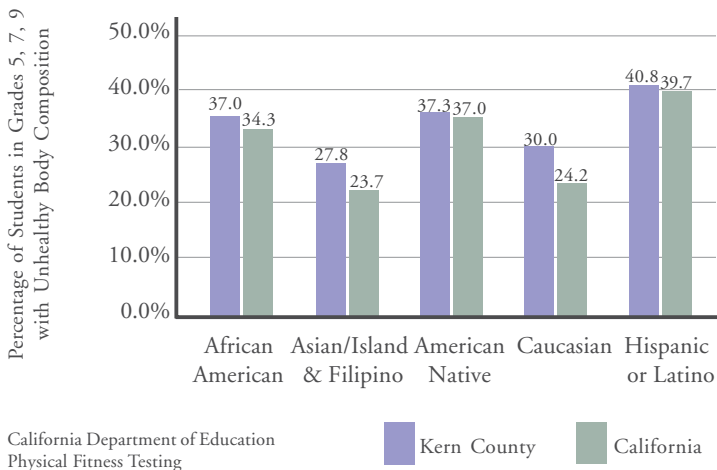
In Kern County during the 2005-06 school year, 38,675 students in 5th, 7th, and 9th grades completed California Physical Fitness Testing. Among these students, 36.5 percent had unhealthy body composition based on individual Body Mass Index (BMI) scores.

A review of this physical fitness testing by ethnicity and gender indicates 41 percent of Hispanic/Latino children in Kern County had unhealthy body composition. Also, on average, boys had poorer body composition than girls.

The 2005 California Health Interview Survey found that 29 percent of Kern County youth (about 22,000) aged 12 to 17 did not engage in vigorous activity as least three days per week. During the survey, these youth were also asked about eating patterns on the previous day; 66 percent of youth had eaten fast food.

Unhealthy Body Composition of Students by Ethnicity 2005-06

Kern County and California ~ 5th, 7th, & 9th Graders





The 2005 California Health Interview Survey reports 45.1 percent of children with asthma in Kern County had to visit a hospital emergency room or urgent care clinic because of their condition.

Asthma

According to the 2005 California Health Interview Survey conducted by UCLA, 22.2 percent of children in Kern County had been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetime. Statewide, the figure was 16.1 percent. Asthma is prevalent throughout the Central Valley and is often attributed to agriculture-generated dust, heavy trucking corridors, rapid population growth, and the physical geography of the southern Valley.

Health Insurance

The California Health Interview Survey also asks many questions about health insurance because it is an important predictor of regular medical care. Parents were asked if their children had been covered by health insurance for the entire previous twelve months. Using this measure, 16.2 percent of Kern County children in 2005 did not have coverage for the entire previous year. Statewide, the figure was 9.4 percent.

Communicable Disease

According to the 2006 County Health Status Profile, Kern County has the second highest rate of Chlamydia cases among California counties. In 2004, the rate of diagnosed infection in females of all ages was 756.1 per 100,000. For males, the rate was 275.5 per 100,000. By comparison, California rates were 486.9 and 184.0 for females and males, respectively.

Chlamydia rates are especially prevalent in sexually active females aged 15 to 19. In Kern County, the 2005 rate for this population was 3,300.6 per 100,000. This rate is significantly higher than the California rate of 2,280.8 for females in the same age group.

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted communicable disease in the United States. It is referred to as a “silent” disease because about 75 percent of infected women and 50 percent of infected men have no symptoms. Chlamydia, if left untreated, can cause irreversible damage to female reproductive organs and can be transmitted to newborn babies.

DATA SOURCES:

California Department of Education
<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr02/yr02rel37.asp>

California Department of Health Services
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/tables/>
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/dc/dc/STD/stdindex.htm>
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/reports/healthstatusprofiles/2006/profiles.pdf>

California Health Interview Survey
<http://www.chis.ucla.edu/>

SAFETY INDICATORS



A child who has been abused needs special support and treatment as early as possible. The longer he continues to be abused or is left to deal with the situation on his own, the less likely he is to make a full recovery.

-- American
Academy of
Pediatrics

Child Abuse and Neglect Overview

Mandated reporters and other concerned adults often refer potentially dangerous situations to Child Protective Services for investigation. The number of referrals can indicate about how many children in the county are potentially at risk of abuse and neglect - an important measure of child safety.

However, referral rates also demonstrate the willingness of community members to report events where children may be in danger. Most child abuse referrals are unfounded and dismissed during the investigative phase.

Substantiated cases are those that have been fully investigated and the situation is found to meet specific state criteria for abuse or neglect. When child abuse allegations are substantiated, Child Protective Services must decide quickly if the situation can be easily remedied. If so, they may leave the children in their home while following the family situation closely. When the situation is more extreme, children must be removed from parental care and placed with a foster family.

Child abuse and neglect information for the State of California is processed by the Center for Social Services at the University of Berkeley. Researchers continually revise the data, so rates and other figures change periodically. Statistics used in this document were taken from the California Children's Services Archive, CWS/CMS 2006, Quarter 2 Extract.

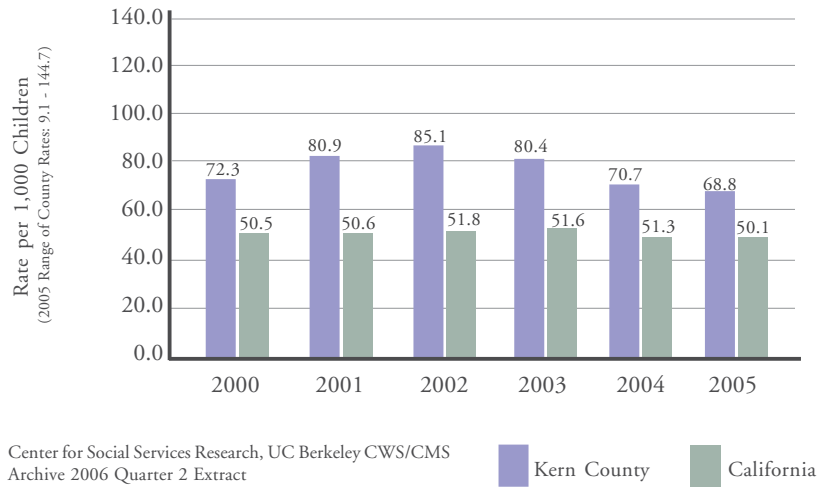
CPS Referral Rates

In 2005, 15,314 referrals were made to Kern County's Child Protective Services (CPS), indicating a referral rate of 68.8 per 1,000 children. Statewide, 482,011 referrals were made for investigation, indicating a referral rate of 50.1.

Kern's 2005 child abuse referral rate and the percentage difference between the state and county referral rate are both at the lowest point since 1999.

Of the 15,314 referrals in Kern County during 2005, 30.2 percent became substantiated cases. All other referrals were inconclusive, unfounded, or evaluated-out during the CPS investigation. Statewide, 22.7 percent of referred cases were substantiated.

CPS Referral Rates 2000-2005 Kern County and California



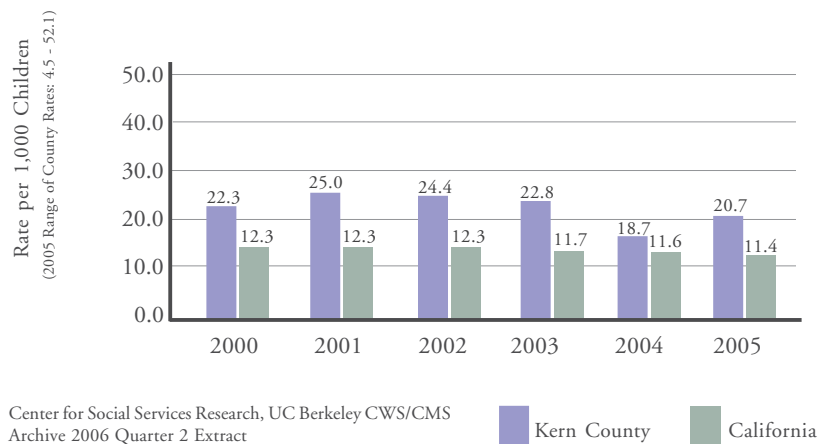
Child Abuse Rates

In 2005, 4,618 referred cases were substantiated in Kern County, indicating a child abuse rate of 20.7 per 1,000 children. Statewide, 109,463 cases were substantiated, indicating a child abuse rate of 11.4.

For the first time since 2001, Kern's child abuse rate increased from the previous year. Between 2004 and 2005, the rate increased by 11 percent.

During 2005, the abuse rate in Kern County was 82 percent higher than the state rate. Substantiated abuse rates at the state level continued to fall.

Child Abuse Rates 2000-2005 Kern County and California



Child abuse rates in California counties ranged from 4.5 to 52.1 during 2005.



These kids
want a bed;
they want to
know that
they're going to
eat every day;
they want to
know that
someone loves
them.

-- Kern Foster
Parent

Foster Care

Of the 4,618 children in Kern County with substantiated abuse during 2005, 1,259 were placed into foster care. The rate of foster care placement was 5.7 per 1,000 children and represented 27.3 percent of the substantiated cases. Kern's 2005 foster care placement rate represents a one-year decrease of 20.2 percent. During the same year, California had a placement rate of 3.7 per 1,000 children representing 32.9 percent of substantiated cases. Statewide, between 2004 and 2005, the percent of children placed into foster care increased 7.5 percent.

The number of children in foster care is always changing. However, a point-in-time count is taken on July 1 of each year. On July 1, 2006, 2,466 children were in foster care in Kern County, 230 fewer children than July 1 of last year.

Based upon the number of children in foster care and the population estimate of each ethnicity, a foster care rate can be calculated per 1000 population. The 2005 rate of children in foster care by ethnicity are as follows: 18.3 per 1000 African American children, 12.8 per 1000 Caucasian children, 9.2 per 1000 Hispanic/Latino children, 2.3 per 1000 Asian/Islander children, and 4.2 per 1000 Native American children. In both Kern County and California, African American children are in foster care at a rate greater than other children.

CPS Referral Rates per 1,000 Children	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	80.4	70.7	68.8
California	51.6	51.3	50.1

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates per 1,000 Children	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	22.8	18.7	20.7
California	11.7	11.6	11.4

Foster Care Rates per 1,000 Children (Entry + Re-Entry)	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	6.8	6.2	5.7
California	3.5	3.5	3.7

Percentage of CPS Referrals Substantiated	2003	2004	2005
Kern County	28.3%	26.4%	30.2%
California	22.6%	22.6%	22.7%

California Recurrent Child Abuse	Base Number 2005	3 mo	6 mo
% with new substantiated abuse after 3 and 6 months	86,602	5.5%	8.2%

Kern County Recurrent Child Abuse	Base Number 2005	3 mo	6 mo
% with new substantiated abuse after 3 and 6 months	4,466	5.7%	10.3%

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates (2005)	African American	Caucasian	Hispanic/Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	All Children
Kern County	33.0	23.6	18.5	4.2	6.6	20.7
California	22.6	10.2	11.4	4.4	16.2	11.4

Substantiated Child Abuse Rates (2005)	Under 1	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16-17 yrs
Kern County	55.6	27.8	25.1	20.4	13.7	8.3
California	25.2	12.6	12.2	11.6	9.5	6.6

Foster Care Prevalence Rate (Children in care on 7/1/06)	African American	Caucasian	Hispanic/Latino	Asian/Pac Islander	Native American	Total
Kern County	18.3	12.8	9.2	2.3	4.2	10.4
California	29.4	6.4	6.7	1.7	12.6	7.6

Reunification

Returning children safely to their home is the primary goal of Child Protective Services. Rates of family reunification are a way to measure the permanency outcomes of foster children. During 2004, 1,013 children entered Kern County foster care and stayed more than four days. Of these, 327 (32.3 percent) reunified with family within twelve months. In the state, 38.1 percent were reunited within twelve months.

Of those children entering foster care in Kern County during 2003, 29 percent were still in care after two years. Statewide, the rate was 31 percent.

Recurrence

Even when reunification is initially successful, some children must be placed again into foster care when another abuse event occurs. Of all children entering foster care in Kern County for the first time during 2003, 9.8 percent of those who reunified within twelve months returned to care during the following year. The rate in California was 11.8 percent.

In Kern County during 2005, 202 cases were closed following family reunification services. Of these children, 4.0 percent had a subsequent abuse occurrence within three months and 10.9 percent had subsequent abuse within six months.

Statewide, 4.5 percent of reunified children had a subsequent abuse occurrence within three months and 7.1 percent had subsequent abuse within six months.

Preserved Family Relationships

For those children living in foster care, the preservation of natural family relationships is very important. Whenever possible, sibling units are placed in the same foster home.

On July 1, 2006, a total of 1,789 sibling groups were in foster care in Kern County. Of these, 25.2 percent were placed together with some siblings and 38.7 percent were placed with all siblings in

care. The figures for California were 21.8 percent placed with some siblings and 46.8 percent with all siblings.

Additionally, of those children in care during 2005, 37.7 percent were placed predominately in foster care with extended family.

Emancipation

Some children remain in foster care until they are 18 or have graduated from high school. These youth are often referred to as “aging out” or emancipating from foster care. In Kern County, during the period October 2005 through September 2006, 158 youth emancipated from foster care.

Because the transition from foster care to adulthood is very difficult, the Department of Human Services offers a voluntary Independent Living Program (ILP) to qualifying foster youth ages 16 and older and multidisciplinary Urgent Action Team services for youth emancipating without support or plan at emancipation.

In Kern County during the period October 2005 through September 2006, 774 foster youth were offered ILP services and 476 (62.5 percent) accepted those services. Statewide, 73.1 percent accepted ILP services.

Of the students receiving Independent Living Program services, 12.2 percent were parenting their own children, 14.1 percent graduated or completed high school equivalency, 13.9 percent were enrolled in college, and 26.5 percent were employed.

DATA SOURCES:

California Department of Social Services
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/>

Center for Social Services Research, UC Berkeley
<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/>



Between October 2005 and September 2006, 158 youths emancipated from Kern County foster care. Each year, about 25 youth receive Urgent Action Team services when they will have no support or plan at emancipation.

-- Kern County
Department of
Human Services



California state law requires all children under age 6 or weighing less than 60 pounds be secured in appropriate child passenger restraints (safety or booster seats) in the back seat of the vehicle. Buckle children in properly every trip, no matter how short the drive!

-- California Highway Patrol

Kern County

Submersion / Drowning (Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)	2002	2003	2004
Fatal Injury	2	1	6
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	8	11	13

Assault/Homicide (Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)	2002	2003	2004
Fatal Injury	3	6	3
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	30	40	41

Motor Vehicle Related (Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)	2002	2003	2004
Fatal Injury	15	30	9
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	130	160	179

Domestic Violence (Calls for Assistance to Law Enforcement)	2003	2004	2005
Number of Calls	3,532	3,394	3,117
Rate per 100,000 pop.	492.4	456.0	404.6

Self-Inflicted Injury / Suicide (Number of children 0-17 killed or injured)	2002	2003	2004
Fatal Injury	2	2	2
Non-Fatal Hospitalization	25	29	36

Crime Rates (Number of crimes per 100,000 pop)	2003	2004	2005
Violent Crimes	521.7	594.0	506.0
Property Crimes	2,225.1	2,395.3	2,558.7

Missing Children

During 2006, 4,803 children were reported missing in Kern County. Of these, 4,660 were suspected runaways, 2 were lost, 47 were suspected family abduction, 13 were missing under suspicious circumstances, and 81 were reported under unknown circumstances.

Law enforcement officers log missing children reports into the Department of Justice Missing Persons System. Statistics taken from this database include the number of children entered into and canceled in the system during the given year. Annual statistics from the Missing Persons System are based on report cancellations during the same year the initial missing persons report was made.

During 2006, 4,521 of the missing child reports previously noted were canceled: 3,434 children were returned, 809 were located, 134 were arrested, 2 were deceased and 142 were removed from the system for other reasons; 282 children remained missing at year end. Some of these children were reported late in 2006 and were not yet located when California Department of Justice reports were compiled.

DATA SOURCE:

California Office of the Attorney General
<http://ag.ca.gov/missing/stats.php>

Child Injury

During 2004, 636 children in Kern County were hospitalized for accidental injury. Additionally, 24 children died from accidental injuries. In both county and state, the most common nonfatal accidental injuries among children are fall-related. Twenty-five percent of Kern County's hospitalizations for injury were due to falls. Most fatal accidents among children in Kern County were automobile and drowning-related.

Seat Belts and Impaired Driving

The California Health Interview Survey conducted by UCLA, asks health and behavior questions of children and youth. The 2003 Survey found that 22 percent of Kern's youth population aged 12-17 did not always wear seatbelts and 19 percent had, in the past, ridden with a driver that had been drinking. Statewide these figures were 20 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

DATA SOURCES:

California Department of Health Services
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/epic/>

California Health Interview Survey
<http://www.chis.ucla.edu/>



There is no such thing as a “typical” runaway. These kids come from every kind of neighborhood, rich or poor, suburban, rural, or urban. There is no differentiation between race or religion. One out of seven children will run away sometime between the ages of 10 and 18.

-- National Runaway Switchboard



About two-thirds of home drowning deaths (excluding those in swimming pools) occur in bathtubs. Some of these deaths happen even when children are in bath seats or rings. Babies can drown in just 1 inch of water.

-- Mayo Clinic

Water Safety

In California, drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death among toddlers and preschoolers and the fourth leading cause among children of all ages. During 2004, six drowning and 13 near-drowning episodes happened in Kern County.

A recent Safe Kids USA study found that 88 percent of drownings occur when an adult believes they are supervising the child. Because drownings in young children are usually silent, with no splashing or crying out, adults must concentrate on supervising children near water. It is not enough to be nearby doing other tasks.

DATA SOURCES:

EPICenter, California Injury Data Online
<http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/epicdata/>

Safe Kids USA
<http://www.usa.safekids.org/>

Child Deaths

During 2006, Kern County's Child Death Review Team investigated 57 child deaths that met the coroner's review criteria. Twenty of the reviewed deaths, or 35 percent of the cases, were infants under one.

Among infants, the most common cause of death other than natural cause was co-sleeping. Eight infants, or 40 percent of those investigated, died as a result of co-sleeping and aspiration. Eight others, or 40 percent, died from natural causes. Two infants (10 percent) died as a result of physical child abuse and one infant (5 percent) died at premature birth due to drug exposure. One infant death was undetermined.

The Child Death Review Team also investigated 37 deaths of children aged one to 18 during 2006. Automobile-related accidents continue to be the most common cause of unnatural death among children over age one. Sixteen children

and youth, or 43 percent of investigated cases, died as a result of automobile accidents. Of these, 81 percent (13 children) were unrestrained. Five additional children (14 percent) died by other traffic-related means, including train, bicycle, go-cart, skateboard, and as a pedestrian.

Homicide accounted for nine of the investigated deaths among children (24 percent), five by gun shot and four by blunt force trauma attributed to child abuse. Three of the fatal gun shot injuries were gang-related. The remaining seven deaths were caused by explosion, drowning, drug overdose, fire, and undetermined causes.

DATA SOURCE:

Kern Child Abuse Prevention Council, CDRT
<http://www.havencounselingcenter.org/>

Gang Activity

The California Healthy Kids Survey, taken biannually by students, asks health and behavior questions of seventh, ninth, and eleventh graders. The following information is reported in the 2005-06 compilation report for Kern County schools.

When Kern County students were surveyed about gang membership, 11 percent of seventh grade students identified themselves gang members. Among ninth and eleventh grade students, eight percent identified themselves gang members. Students served by Kern's nontraditional continuation schools were more likely to identify themselves as gang members with 15 percent indicating gang involvement.

In California, the 2004-2006 weighted rates of gang involvement for the three grade levels were nine, eight, and seven percent, respectively.

DATA SOURCE:

California Healthy Kids Survey
http://www.wested.org/pub/docs/chks_bsearch.html

Domestic Violence

The California Department of Justice reports annually on domestic violence calls for assistance. According to the Department, this data includes cases which resulted in a domestic violence report being written by responding law enforcement officers. The data includes cases where an arrest was made and also incidents where circumstances did not warrant an arrest. Because of complex coding procedures, state statistical reports do not necessarily include all incidences of reported domestic violence.

During 2005, Kern County law enforcement officers recorded 3,117 calls for assistance in domestic violence situations, a rate of 404.6 calls per 100,000 population. The California rate for the same year was 490.1 per 100,000. The rate of calls for assistance in Kern County has increased 9.7 percent from 368.9 in 2000 to 404.6 in 2005. The California rate has decreased 14.2 percent from 571.0 in 2000 to 490.1 in 2005.

Of the 3,117 calls for assistance in Kern County during 2005, nine percent involved the use of firearms, knives, or other dangerous weapons. Another 33 percent involved personal weapons, such as hands, fists or feet. In total, 42 percent of these calls for assistance involved weapons.

A recent study conducted by Kern County's Domestic Violence Death Review Team indicates 28 children have been impacted by the death of one or both parents due to intimate partner murder or murder-suicide during the five year period from 1999 through 2004. Thirteen of these children witnessed the event.

DATA SOURCES:

California Department of Justice
http://stats.doj.ca.gov/cjsc_stats/prof05/index.htm

Kern Domestic Violence Death Review Team
Report by Doris Hall and others of California State University Bakersfield, Department of Criminal Justice

Crime Rates

Violent and Property Crime

During 2005, the violent crime rate for Kern County was 506.1 per 100,000 population. Following a four-year period of increasing violent crime, the county rate fell 14.8 percent in one year. However, the rate in 2005 remained 6.0 percent higher than the rate in 2000.

By comparison, the statewide rate of violent crime in 2005 was 512.3 per 100,000. The state continued a five-year period of decreasing violent crime. The state rate has fallen 16.0 percent since 2000.

Property crime in Kern County is at the highest rate since 1995. During 2005, Kern's property crime rate was 2,558.7 per 100,000 population. California's property crime rate was 1,952.0.

Juvenile Arrests

The rate of felony arrest among Kern County youth continued to be slightly higher than the California rate. However, the county rate has fallen 37 percent since 2000.

In Kern County during 2005, the juvenile felony arrest rate was 1,536.2 per 100,000 youth. California's rate of juvenile felony arrest during the same year was 1,361.1 per 100,000.

Juvenile misdemeanor arrests have followed a similar trend, falling 51 percent since 2000. In both 2004 and 2005, the county rate has fallen below the state rate.

In Kern County during 2005, the juvenile misdemeanor arrest rate was 2,303.4 per 100,000 youth. The rate is California during the same year was 2,817.9 per 100,000.

DATA SOURCE:

California Department of Justice
http://stats.doj.ca.gov/cjsc_stats/prof05/index.htm



More than half of school-aged children staying in domestic violence shelters show levels of clinical anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder. These children are at significant risk for delinquency, substance abuse, school drop-out, and difficulties in their own personal relationships unless treatment is made available.

-- American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress

2007 COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES



Family Resource Centers are “one-stop” centers that provide multiple resources for individuals and families in need within their own community.

Since 1992, Kern County communities have partnered together as Community Collaboratives to better care for children and families. Nineteen of these partnerships have completed an in-depth application process and review by Kern County Network for Children and have been designated Accredited Community Collaboratives. Most Community Collaboratives host a Family Resource Center (FRC) or Community Resource Center (CRC). The following list can be used to refer individuals or families to needed services within their own community.

Accredited Community Collaboratives

Arvin	Arvin Collaborative and FRC	661.854.6526
Bakersfield	34th Street Collaborative	661.326.3051
	East Bakersfield Community Coalition and CRC	661.631.5878
	Fairfax/Brundage Neighborhood Partnership	661.331.8143
	Greenfield H.E.L.P.S. Collaborative and FRC	661.837.3720
	South Chester Collaborative and FRC	661.631.5945
	Southeast Neighborhood Partnership and FRC	661.322.3276
Buttonwillow	Buttonwillow Collaborative and CRC	661.764.9405
California City	California City Collaborative	760.373.7377
Frazier Park Area	Mountain Communities Collaborative and FRC	661.245.4303
Lake Isabella Area	Kern River Valley Collaborative and FRC	760.379.2556
Lamont/Weedpatch	Lamont/Weedpatch Collaborative and FRC	661.845.2724
McFarland	McFarland Community Collaborative and FRC	661.792.5524
Mojave Area	East Kern Collaborative and FRC	661.824.4118
Ridgecrest Area	Indian Wells Valley Collaborative and FRC	760.375.4357
Shafter	Shafter Collaborative and FRC	661.746.8690
Taft Area	Greater Westside Collaborative and CRC	661.765.7281
Wasco	Wasco Collaborative	661.720.5835
Kern County	Richardson Special Needs Collaborative and FRC	661.336.5482

Other Community Collaboratives

Bakersfield	Oildale Collaborative and CRCs	
	North of the River Case Management Services	661.324.0293
	Neighborhood Place (children under age 6)	661.392.2054
	Standard Healthy Start (school children)	661.392.2163
	Rosedale Collaborative	661.631.6016
Delano	Delano Neighborhood Partnership and CRC	661.721.7036

2007 GOVERNING BOARD

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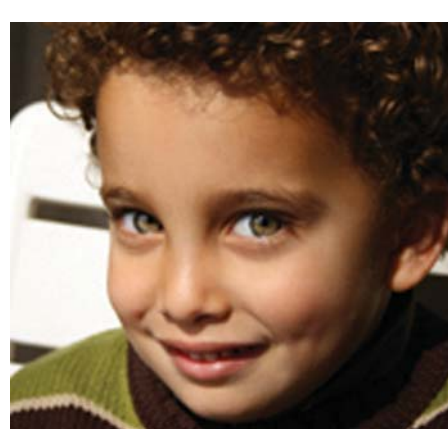
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LOCAL COMMUNITIES WORKING IN COLLABORATION
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