

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids *California*
California Survey of Teens
May 2006

Teens at Risk:

- Incidence of High-Risk Behaviors: Crime, Gangs, Drugs
- Need for After-School Programs

Conducted by

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Methodology

These results are based upon 604 telephone interviews conducted by Opinion Research Corporation among teens ages 12-17 living in California. Interviews were conducted May 24-27, 2006. The source of the sample for this survey, households with children ages 12-17, was obtained from the GENESYS household database from Marketing Systems Group. Data in the GENESYS database are from a variety of sources, including published White Pages, state automobile registration, driver's license data, voter registration, birth records, survey respondents, coupon redemption information, and proprietary data sources. Once the database was narrowed down to households that are believed to have 12- to 17-year-olds living in them, phone records from the database were then randomly selected.

The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is plus or minus four percentage points. This signifies that there is a 95% chance that the true figure of the population of teens ages 12-17 in California would fall within this range if all of them were to be interviewed in this survey. Any subgroups of the sample would have a larger margin of error.

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Summary of Key Findings

- ✓ 604 teens, ages 12 to 17, were surveyed, 342 of which are in high school and 249 in middle school/junior high. Exactly half (302) are male and half female.
- ✓ Three in ten teens (29%) are unsupervised three or more days per week after school.
- ✓ Teens who are not supervised after school 3 or more days during the week are more likely to have **frequently or sometimes** engaged in each of the following in the past year than teens who are not supervised 0 to 2 days after school:

	Not Supervised After School 3 or More Days Per Week	Not Supervised After School 0 to 2 Days Per Week
Done something that could have gotten them arrested	21.1%	7.4%
Hung out with people who belong to a gang	16.0%	7.4%
Smoked marijuana	15.4%	4.6%
Used other drugs without a doctor's orders	6.3%	1.2%

- ✓ In addition, teens who are not supervised after school 3 or more days during the week are more likely to have done each of the following in the past year:

	Not Supervised After School 3 or More Days Per Week	Not Supervised After School 0 to 2 Days Per Week
Been recruited by a gang	5.1%	1.0%
Had their money or property stolen, been beaten up or otherwise been a victim of a crime	24.0%	16.5%

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- ✓ More than one-third (35%) of California teens said that there are not enough supervised after-school activities in their areas that interest them. Of these, 77% said they would be likely to participate if interesting activities were available to them.
- ✓ When asked their opinions about after-school programs, 86% of youths surveyed said they believe supervised after-school activities help teens stay safe and out of trouble.
- ✓ High School vs. Middle School Students:
 - High school students are more likely than middle school students to be unsupervised 3 or more days per week (34% vs. 22%).
 - Compared to middle school youths, high school teens are more likely to have engaged in the following behaviors in the past year:

	High School	Middle School/ Junior High
Done something that could have gotten them arrested	28.1%	12.4%
Hung out with people who belong to a gang	16.1%	8.4%
Smoked marijuana	17.3%	2.4%
Used other drugs without a doctor's orders	6.7%	1.6%
Been recruited by a gang	2.9%	1.2%
Had their money or property stolen, been beaten up or otherwise been a victim of a crime	20.5%	14.9%

- ✓ Of all youths surveyed, one in five (21%) had engaged in an activity that could have gotten him or her arrested in the past year, and nearly one in five (18%) had been the victim of a crime.

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Survey Questions and General Findings

California Teenagers – 12 to 17 years old

1. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements.

A. Teens and youth in my community have safe places to go after school between 3 and 6 pm.

Strongly agree	31.8%
Somewhat agree	52.5%
Somewhat disagree	9.3%
Strongly disagree	4.1%
Don't know/Refused	2.3%

B. Supervised after-school activities helps teens and youth in my community stay safe and out of trouble.

Strongly agree	51.0%
Somewhat agree	35.3%
Somewhat disagree	8.8%
Strongly disagree	3.5%
Don't know/Refused	1.5%

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2. How many days of the week are you NOT supervised by a parent or other adult for all or part of the after-school hours between 3 and 6 pm? Adult supervision could be, for example, by a coach, teacher or instructor at a community center.

None	40.4%
1 day	14.6%
2 days	14.1%
3 days	7.3%
4 days	6.8%
5 days	14.9%
Don't know/Refused	2.0%

3. Are there ENOUGH supervised after-school activities in your area that interest you?

Yes	62.7%
No	35.3%
Don't know/Refused	2.0%

(If answered "No" to Question 3, then ask Question 4. Otherwise, skip to Question 5.)

4. If after-school activities that interested you were available, how likely would you be to participate? Would you say you would be...

Very likely	29.1% *
Somewhat likely	47.4% *
Not too likely	12.2% *
Not at all likely	10.8% *
Don't know/Refused	0.5% *

* Of those who said "No" to Question 3

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5A. Of the following, which is the TOP after-school activity you would be MOST likely to participate in?

Sports and recreation	48.0%
Performing or visual arts, such as music, acting or video production	33.6%
Career and job skills training	6.3%
Homework help or tutoring	5.6%
Community service projects	4.5%
High school exit exam preparation	0.6%*
None of these	1.7%
Don't know/Refused	0

* 0.6% of those who are in high school (and 0.3% of total teens surveyed). The "high school exit exam preparation" option was provided only to those who are in high school.

5B. Of the following, which is the after-school activity you would be SECOND MOST likely to participate in?

Performing or visual arts, such as music, acting or video production	26.0%
Sports and recreation	19.5%
Career and job skills training	15.6%
Community service projects	15.6%
Homework help or tutoring	14.9%
High school exit exam preparation	7.6% *
None of these	4.0%
Don't know/Refused	0.2%

* 7.6% of those who are in high school (and 4.3% of total teens surveyed). The "high school exit exam preparation" option was provided only to those who are in high school.

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6. I am now going to read you a list of things some young people do. Please tell me, **IN THE PAST YEAR**, have you done any of the following?

A. Hung out with people who belong to a gang

Yes	12.7%
No	86.6%
Don't know/Refused	0.7%

B. Been recruited by a gang

Yes	2.2%
No	97.8%
Don't know/Refused	0

C. Had your money or property stolen, been beaten up or otherwise been the victim of a crime

Yes	18.4%
No	81.6%
Don't know/Refused	0

D. Smoked marijuana

Yes	11.1%
No	88.9%
Don't know/Refused	0

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E. Used other drugs without a doctor's orders

Yes	4.5%
No	95.5%
Don't know/Refused	0

F. Done something that could have gotten you arrested

Yes	21.4%
No	78.3%
Don't know/Refused	0.3%

7. How often, IN THE PAST YEAR, have you done each of the following: one time, sometimes or frequently?

A. Hung out with people who belong to a gang*

One time	2.8%
Sometimes	5.8%
Frequently	4.1%
Don't know/Refused	0

* 86.6% said "never" (see Question 6A).

B. Smoked marijuana*

One time	3.1%
Sometimes	5.1%
Frequently	2.5%
Don't know/Refused	0.3%

* 88.9% said "never" (see Question 6D).

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C. Used other drugs without a doctor's order*

One time	1.5%
Sometimes	2.2%
Frequently	0.5%
Don't know/Refused	0.3%

* 95.5% said "never" (see Question 6E).

D. Done something that could have gotten you arrested*

One time	9.8%
Sometimes	9.6%
Frequently	1.7%
Don't know/Refused	0.3%

* 78.3% said "never" (see Question 6F).

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Demographics:

Age:

12	13.9%
13	16.1%
14	19.7%
15	16.9%
16	20.2%
17	13.2%

School level:

High school	56.6%
Middle school/Junior high	41.2%
None of these	2.2%

Sex:

Female	50.0%
Male	50.0%