

Oakland Profile: Community Health and Safety

OAKLAND FUND FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

City of Oakland | Human Services Department

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INTRODUCTION

The Oakland Fund for Children and Youth has a two core goals related to the **health and wellness of children and youth in Oakland**. The following data is provided to highlight community health and wellness and community safety data and select indicators related to the these goals.

Information has been gathered from publicly available resources, mainly the Alameda County Public Health Department, California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey, and data compiled through **kidsdata.org**, a program of the Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health.

The data is presented with the intention of providing information that is local and specific to Oakland's children, youth, and families. When possible, information is provided to show comparisons of current data to trends over time, or to broader county or state data for context.

The information is provided to inform the development of OFCY's Strategic Investment Plan for 2019-2022, and is not intended to be comprehensive or inclusive of all the factors affecting the health, safety, and wellness of children and youth in Oakland.

OFCY GOALS:

- (1) Support the healthy development of young children through pre-school education, school-readiness programs, physical and behavioral health services, parent education, and case management; *and*
- (3) Prevent and reduce violence, crime, and gang involvement among children and youth through case management, physical and behavioral health services, internships, work experience, outdoor education, and leadership development, including civic engagement, service-learning, and arts expression.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Information provided in this section relates to factors impacting Oakland residents of all ages, including children and youth. The section will explore data and indicators related to **Community Health and Wellness**.

Health and Wellness

The section contains information on the health and wellness of children, youth and the community, with data primarily obtained through the work of the Alameda County Department of Public Health.

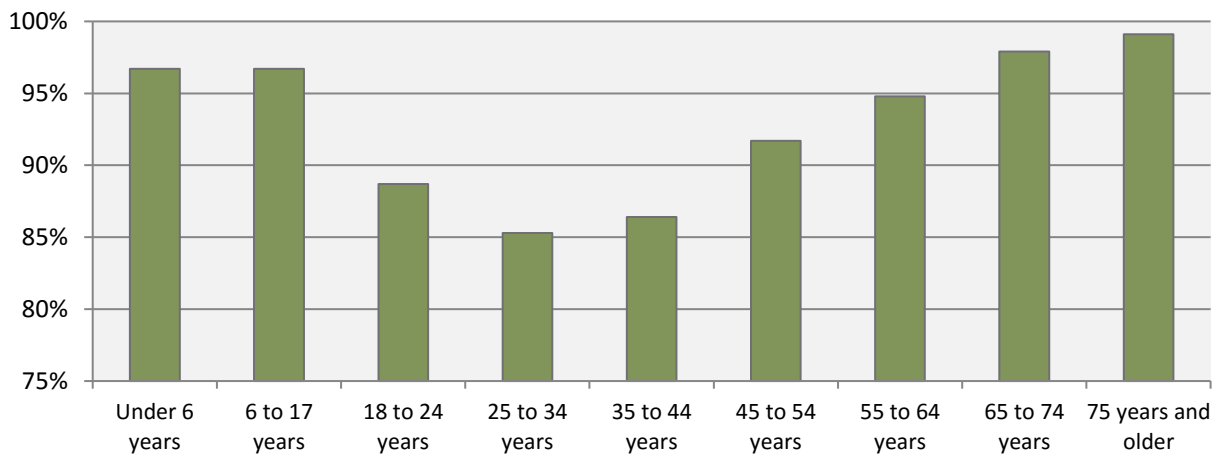
Health Insurance Coverage

Access to health insurance increased substantially for much of the population with the expansion of coverage available through the Affordable Care Act. The percentage of children and youth under the age of 18

without health insurance dropped to 3.3% of the child population in 2015, compared to uninsured rates of 8.5% in 2010. Health insurance coverage is lower for young adults than for children and older youth¹.

Percent of Population without Health Insurance by Age	2015	2010
Under 18 years	3.3%	8.5%
18 to 64 years	11.3%	24.6%
65 years and older	1.7%	1.2%

Oakland Residents - Percent with Health Insurance - 2015



Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate is the number of babies who die before their first birthday per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate in Alameda County has held relatively steady in recent years, and stands at 4.2 deaths per 1,000 births. However, the rates of infant mortality for African Americans is over twice the overall rate, at 10.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.²

Oakland has the highest infant mortality rate compared to other cities in Alameda County at 5.8 deaths per 1,000 births. The Alameda

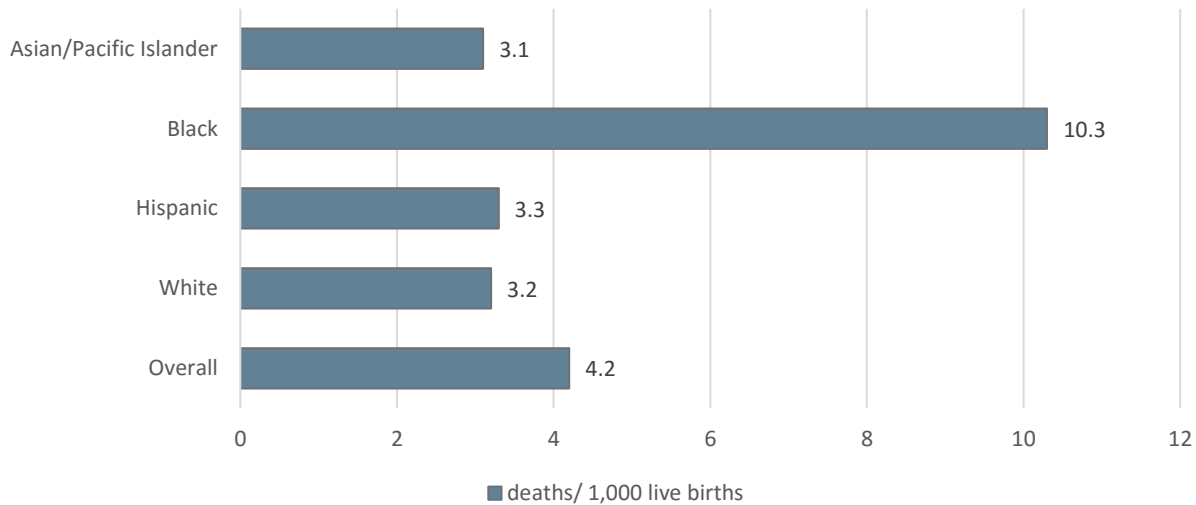
County Public Health Department cites the high poverty and a high population of African Americans as contributing to Oakland's high rate.³

Why is this important?

Infant mortality rate continues to be one of the most widely used indicators of the overall health status of a community. The leading causes of death among infants are birth defects, preterm delivery, low birth weight, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and maternal complications during pregnancy.⁴

Alameda County Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity

Source: California Department of Public Health (2012-2014)



Nutrition & Food Security

In 2014, the Alameda County Food Bank and its charitable food assistance network had 37,700 unique clients access food in a typical week, and served 305,200 individuals annually. An estimated 13,500 unique households are served in a typical week and 102,900 are served annually.

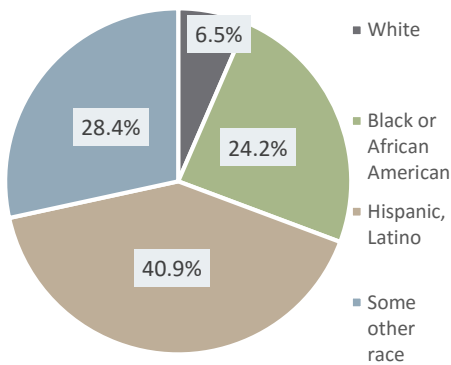
Within this food bank’s service area, 7 percent of clients identify themselves as white, 24 percent as black or African American, 41 percent as Hispanic or Latino. Among all clients, 22 percent are children under age 18, and 19 percent are seniors age 60 and older.⁵ In 2014, 19.4% of children in Alameda county were living in food insecure households.⁶

Student survey data from the California Healthy Kids Survey indicates that less than 60% of 7th, 9th, and 11th graders eat breakfast daily, rates that are slightly lower than county and state responses. Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander students have the lowest rates, while white students have the highest rates (73%).⁷

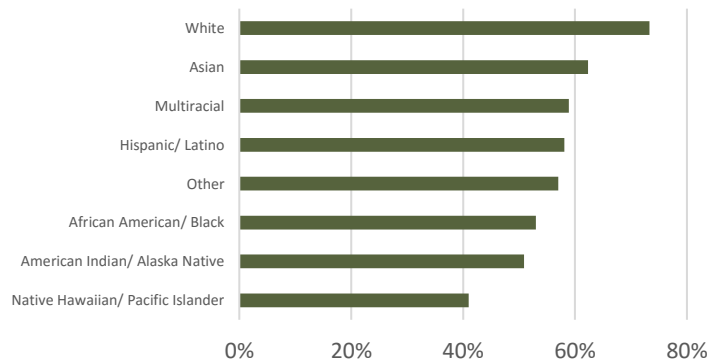
Why is this important?

According to the California Department of Public Health, food-insecure children are more likely to experience a host of health issues, including developmental, cognitive, behavioral, and mental health problems. Among pregnant women, food insecurity is associated with physical and mental health problems, as well as birth complications. Children and communities of color are disproportionately affected by food insecurity.⁸

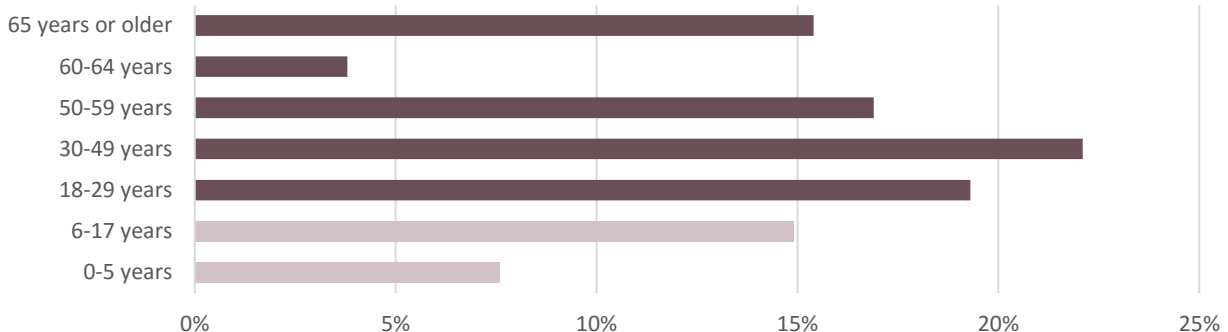
Alameda County Food Bank Recipients by Race/ Ethnicity



OUSD: Percentage of students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional students in public schools reporting whether they ate breakfast on the day of the survey



Alameda County Food Bank Recipients by Age



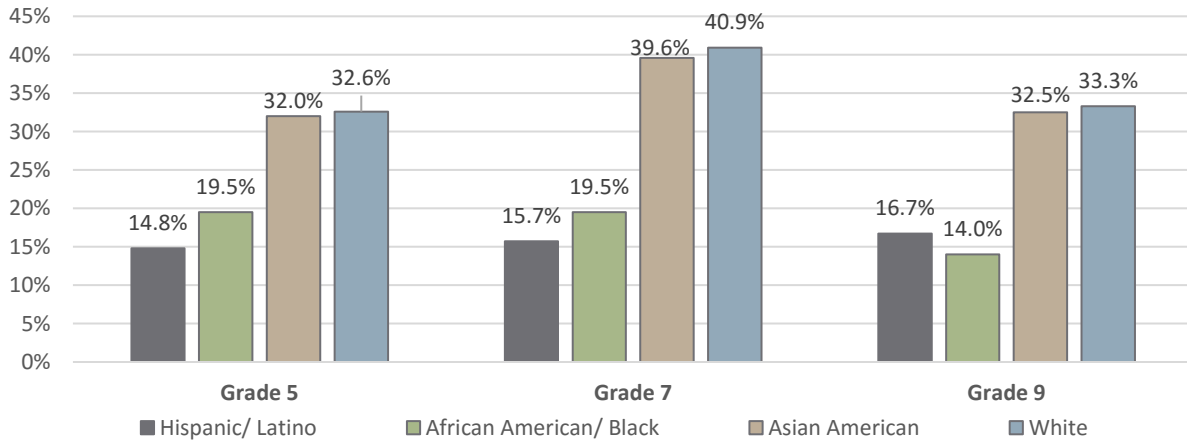
Student Fitness

There has been a small improvement in the percent of Oakland students in 9th grade meeting all fitness standards established by the state of California, increasing from 14% in 2011 to 20% in 2015. Overall, only 1 in 5 students in grades 5, 7, and 9 meet all fitness

standards.⁹ Asian and white students are more likely to achieve the fitness standards than Hispanic/ Latino and African American/ Black students, with disparities increasing in grades 7 and 9.

Grade Level	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Grade 5	22.0%	21.2%	21.8%	21.8%	21.3%
Grade 7	21.5%	22.3%	25.9%	26.2%	22.0%
Grade 9	14.0%	14.6%	17.9%	20.1%	19.9%

OUSD Students meeting all Fitness Standards, by Race/ Ethnicity and Grade Level: 2015

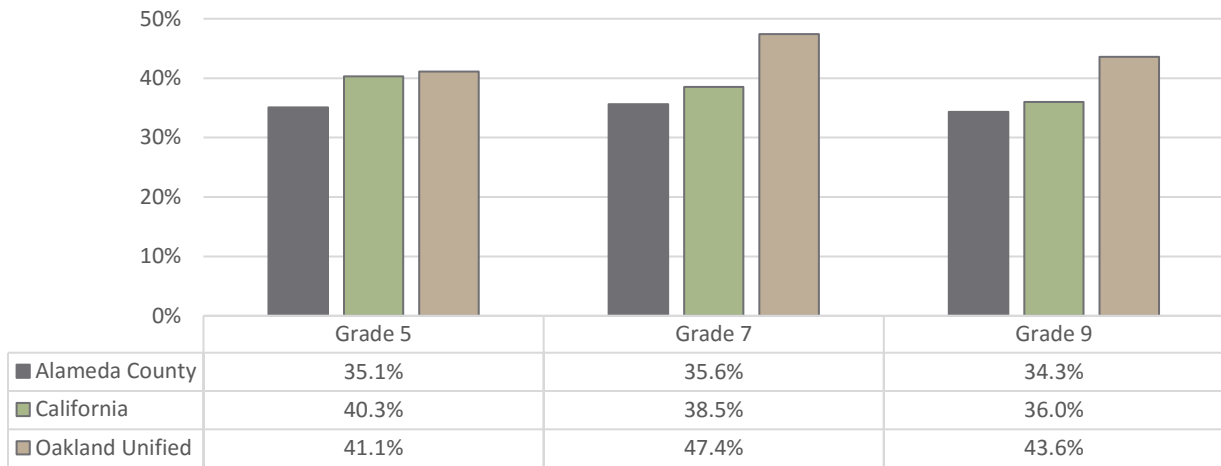


Student Obesity

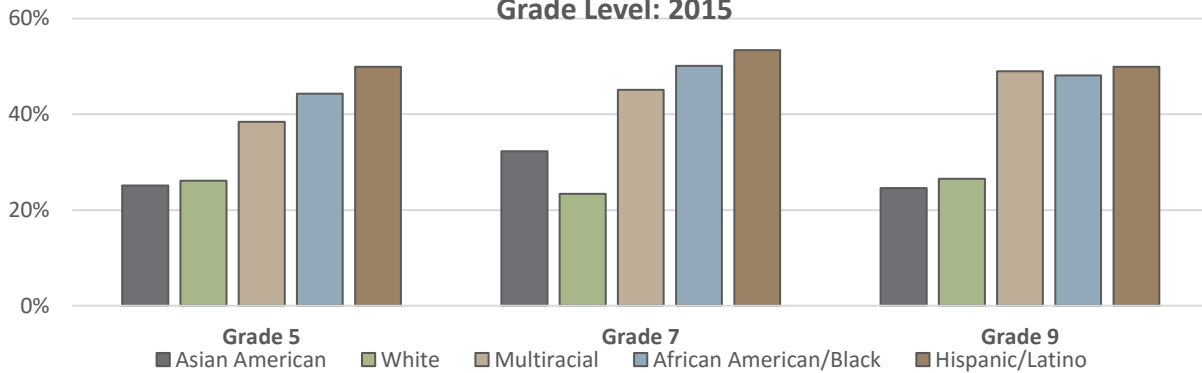
Nationally, one out of three children ages 2-19 in the United States is obese or overweight.¹⁰ In Oakland, more students in grades 5, 7, and 9 are overweight or obese compared to students statewide and in Alameda County (as defined as the percentage of students with body composition scores above the Healthy

Fitness Zone of the Fitnessgram assessment). Similar to data regarding student fitness, Asian and white students are less likely to be overweight or obese compared to African American/ Black and Hispanic/ Latino students.¹¹

Students Who Are Overweight or Obese, by Grade Level: 2015



OUSD: Students Who Are Overweight or Obese, by Race/Ethnicity and Grade Level: 2015



The newly-formed **Oakland Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Board**, responsible for the allocation of funds collected from the sugar-sweetened beverage tax passed by voters in 2016, is collecting data and preparing a summary of other health outcomes related to children and youth in the city. This information will be shared with OFCY for further context to inform the strategic planning efforts regarding the healthy development of children and youth.

Employment Status

There are approximately 332,000 people in Oakland age 16 and over, and two-thirds (67%) are considered as participating in the labor force. People are not in the labor force for multiple reasons, including retirement, being enrolled in school, and caring for children and not seeking work. Labor force participation is lowest among 16-19 year olds (27.6%), and for seniors ages 65-75 (28.9%) and over 75 years of age (5.3%), while it is highest for adults ages 30-44 (85%).¹² Youth in the labor market have the highest rates of unemployment: over 41% for youth ages 16-19 looking for work are unemployed, a rate that lowers to 17.6% for young adults ages 20-24.

Why is this important?

A survey of 235,000 people conducted between 2006 and 2008 by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention showed one out of 10 people in the United States is depressed. One of the primary factors, researchers found, was unemployment. One review of more than 300 studies on mental health and unemployment showed that being out of work does indeed have a negative effect on well-being. For instance, men who had lost jobs within the last four years were three times more likely than stably employed men to have recently abused alcohol. Likewise, women who had a stint of unemployment were three times more likely than other women to have suffered prolonged bouts of depression. All totaled, over 30 percent of all subjects with a history of job loss had also suffered a serious mental health problem, compared with 19 percent of people who worked steadily.¹³

Oakland Employment: Population by Age	Total Population	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment/Population Ratio	Unemployment rate
16 to 19 years	17,403	27.6%	16.2%	41.3%
20 to 24 years	26,886	72.6%	59.7%	17.6%
25 to 29 years	37,418	82.8%	73.5%	11.1%
30 to 34 years	37,097	85.1%	78.2%	8.1%
35 to 44 years	63,799	85.0%	77.4%	8.9%
45 to 54 years	52,739	79.5%	72.3%	9.0%
55 to 59 years	25,123	69.7%	63.6%	8.8%
60 to 64 years	23,389	55.5%	51.0%	8.1%
65 to 74 years	27,688	28.9%	26.4%	8.4%
75 years and over	20,715	5.3%	4.9%	7.2%

Community Safety

Information provided in this section relates to community, school, and family safety impacting Oakland children and youth, exploring data and indicators related to **Community Safety**.

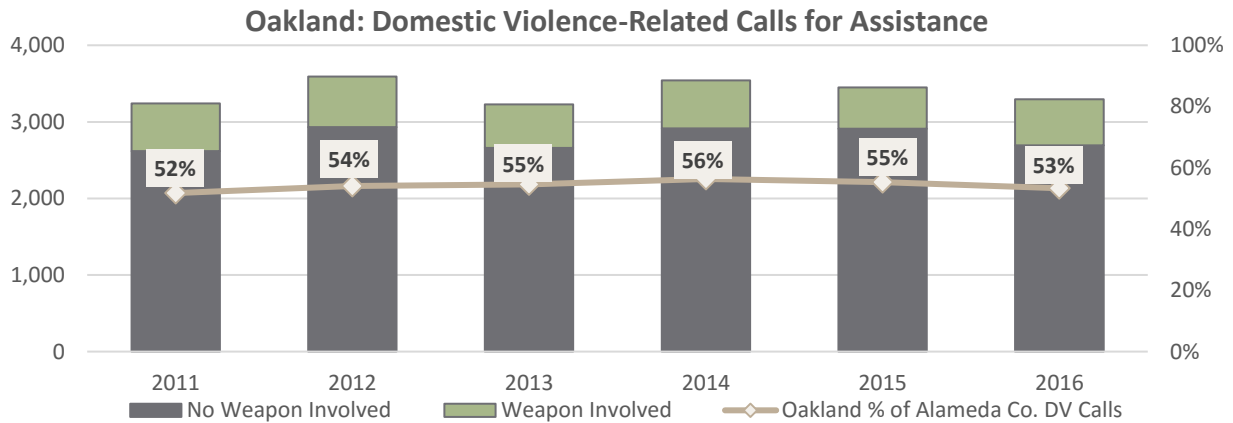
Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is defined by the U.S. Department of Justice as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.¹⁴ Rates of domestic violence, as identified through domestic violence-related calls for assistance reported monthly through Local Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to the California Department of Justice, have held steady in Oakland over the past six years. While Oakland’s total population represents approximately a quarter of all Alameda County residents,

Oakland accounts for over 50% of the calls for assistance in the county.¹⁵

Why is this important?

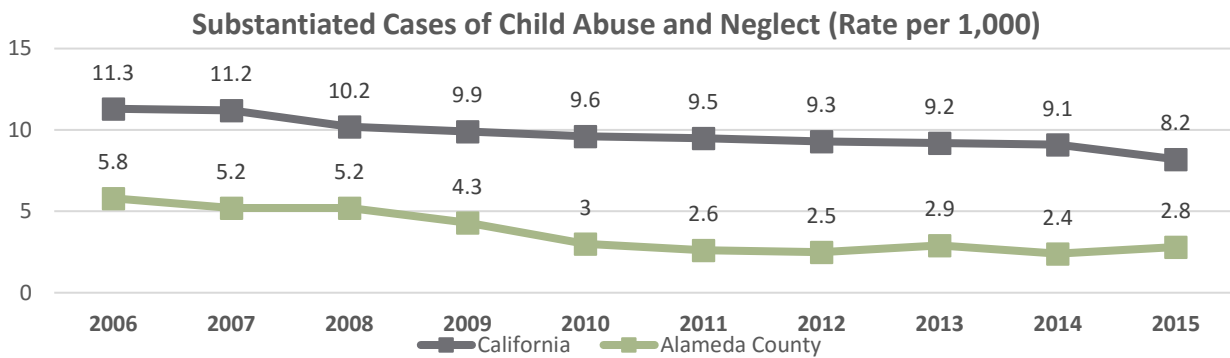
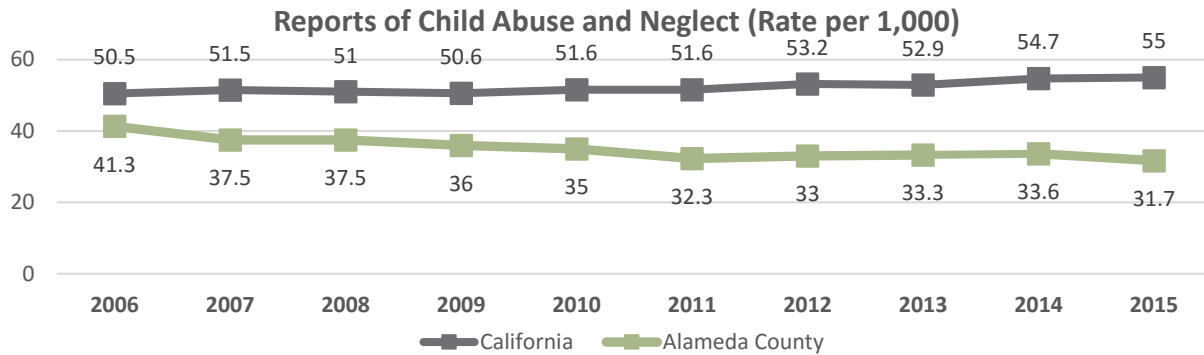
According to information provided by the Alameda County Family Justice Center, “Children are affected by domestic violence. Although children may not be present during an abusive episode, they are still impacted by it. They notice physical signs such as bruises, hear yelling and screaming and can feel tension between adults. Research has indicated that young children especially from birth to 5 years can be profoundly affected by exposure to domestic violence. Since brain development is influenced by experience, the brain of an infant or young child exposed to domestic violence may become “stuck” in a state of fear. As a result, the child may develop behaviors that promote survival such as hyper-vigilance, a focus on threat-related cues and impulsive behavior.¹⁶



Child Abuse and Neglect

Data shows that Alameda county has lower rates of both reported and substantiated child abuse and neglect than statewide rates. Over

the past ten years, both reports of child abuse and neglect and substantiated cases have declined in Alameda County.



In Alameda county, reports of child abuse and neglect were highest for physical abuse (35.7%) and general neglect (29.4%), while the

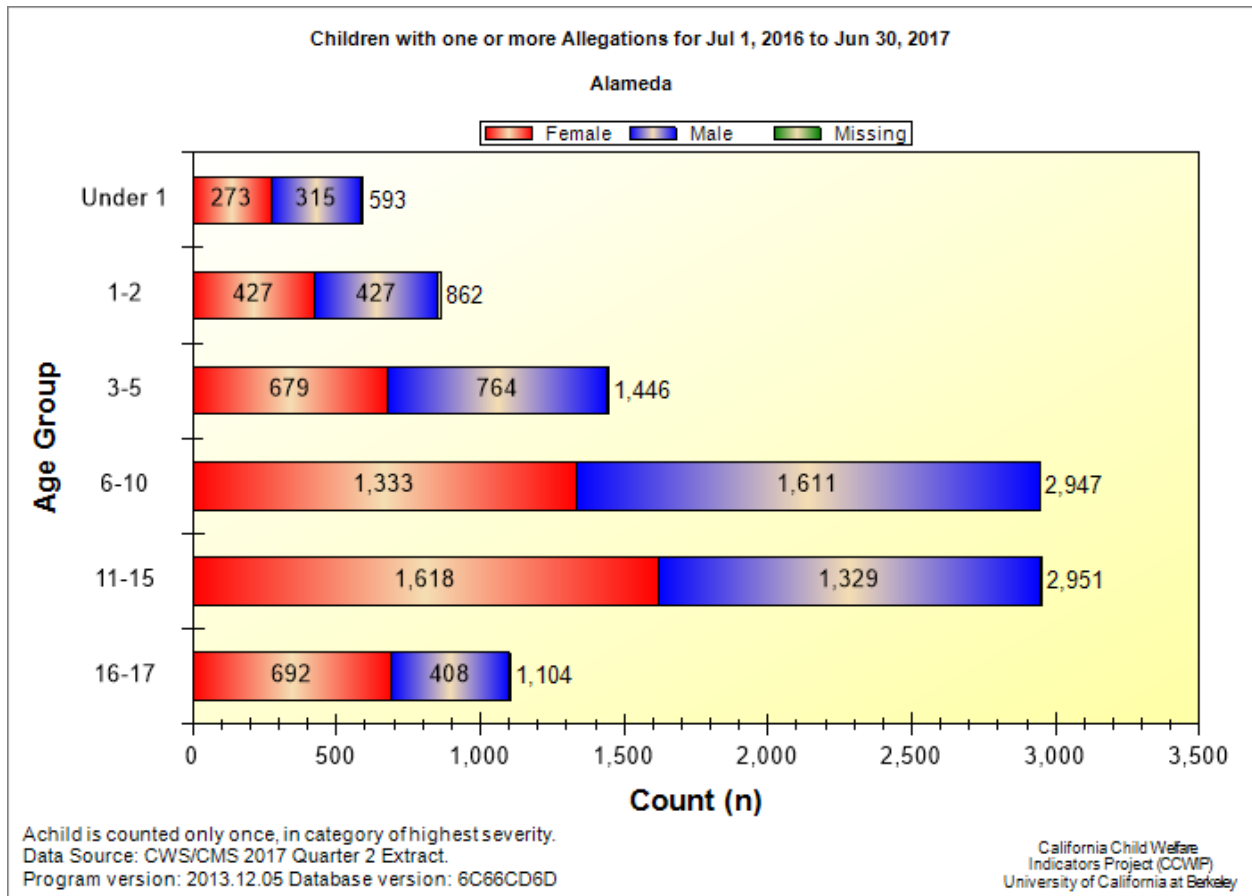
highest rates for substantiated abuse and neglect were for general neglect (37.7%) and caretaker absence/ incapacity (26%).¹⁷

Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect, by Type of Abuse (Alameda County 2015)	Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect	Substantiated Cases
Physical Abuse	3,895	129
General Neglect	3,204	358
Emotional Abuse	1,536	54
Sexual Abuse	1,325	75
Caretaker Absence / Incapacity	516	247
Severe Neglect	404	74
At Risk / Sibling Abused	11	11
Exploitation	11	1

African American/ Black and American Indian/ Alaskan Native children and youth experience disproportionately higher rates of child abuse and neglect than do Asian/ Pacific Islander, Hispanic/ Latino, or white children and youth. Overall, both young males and females have relatively similar rates of being victims of allegations of child abuse and neglect (50.7% for females and 49% for males);

however more males experience allegations of abuse in the early years (53.3% of children and youth from birth to age 10 that are alleged to be abused are male, compared to 46.4% for females in the same age range), and more females are victims of alleged abuse and neglect in older years (57% of alleged abuse victims ages 11-17 are female, compared to 42.8% male).¹⁸

Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect, by Race/Ethnicity (2015) <i>Rate per 1,000 children under age 18</i>	California	Alameda County
African American/Black	133	91.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	115.3	126.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	17.2	11.7
Hispanic/Latino	53.8	33.7
White	45.2	24.8



School Safety

Overall, half of all female students (49.7%) and a majority of male students (55.1%) in grades 7, 9, 11 and in non-traditional schools perceived their schools to be safe or very safe.

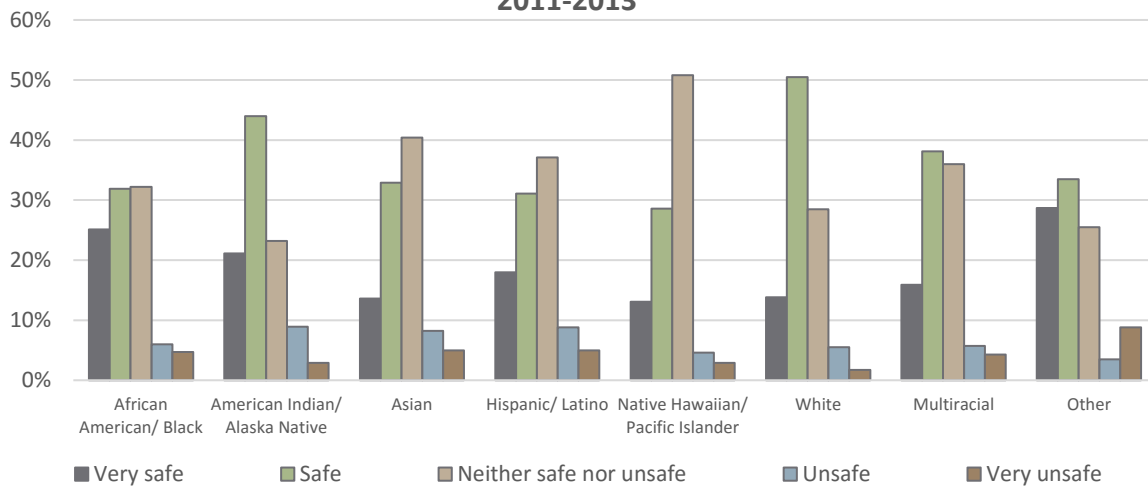
Perceptions of safety decline from grades 7 to 9 and 11 across both genders. Female students are less likely to perceive their schools as very safe or safe compared to male students.¹⁹

Grade Level	Female					Male				
	Very safe	Safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Unsafe	Very unsafe	Very safe	Safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Unsafe	Very unsafe
7th Grade	13.2%	44.0%	32.2%	5.8%	4.8%	21.1%	37.7%	27.9%	6.8%	6.5%
9th Grade	10.4%	33.8%	42.2%	8.3%	5.2%	23.2%	32.0%	32.2%	7.5%	5.0%
11th Grade	14.0%	27.4%	42.0%	11.0%	5.5%	21.5%	28.7%	38.6%	7.3%	3.9%
Non-Traditional	26.0%	34.7%	33.2%	4.1%	2.1%	26.5%	28.3%	39.0%	5.6%	0.6%
All	14.4%	35.3%	37.8%	7.7%	4.7%	22.5%	32.6%	33.2%	7.0%	4.7%

There are differences in perception of safety based on race/ ethnicity, but overall nearly nine out of ten students find their schools to be safe or are neutral about the safety of their school. Hispanic/ Latino and Asian students

were most likely to perceive their schools as unsafe or very unsafe (13.8% and 13.2%, respectively), while white students were least likely to find their schools unsafe or very unsafe (7.2%).

OUSD: Perceptions of School Safety (Student Reported), by Grade Level: 2011-2013



Fear of Being Beaten Up at School

While students were more likely to perceive their school as unsafe or very unsafe as they progressed from 7th grade to 9th grade and on to 11th grade, their fear of being beaten up at school declined as they progressed. Also, while more females perceived their schools as safe or very safe compared to male students, male students were more likely to fear being beaten up at schools compared to their female

peers. The fear of being beaten up at school declined the greatest between middle school (7th grade) and high school (9th grade). The data in the table below shows the percentage of Oakland Unified school students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional students reporting the number of times in the past 12 months they have been afraid of being beaten up at school, by gender and grade level.

Grade Level	Female				Male			
	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
7th Grade	72.3%	16.3%	5.3%	6.1%	71.0%	17.6%	5.6%	5.8%
9th Grade	83.1%	9.6%	3.6%	3.7%	79.3%	9.7%	6.0%	5.0%
11th Grade	90.4%	5.6%	3.3%	0.7%	83.8%	8.3%	3.8%	4.0%
Non-Traditional	83.7%	8.3%	5.4%	2.6%	76.5%	7.9%	8.7%	6.9%
All	81.8%	10.4%	4.3%	3.5%	77.3%	11.8%	5.7%	5.3%

Physical Fighting at School

Students also reported less physical fighting at Oakland Unified schools as they progressed from 7th to 9th and 11th grades, with the biggest decline occurring after the transition from middle school (7th grade) to high school (9th grade). One-third of 7th graders reported being in a physical fight one or more times in the past 12 months at school. Asian students were

least likely to report being in a physical fight (14.9%), while American Indian/ Alaskan Native (34.7%), students of another race/ethnicity (Other: 31.9%), and white students (29.2%) were most likely to report being in fight one or more times during the past 12 months at school.

Grade Level	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
7th Grade	66.4%	16.3%	8.2%	9.1%
9th Grade	80.0%	10.1%	4.2%	5.6%
11th Grade	87.8%	6.4%	3.5%	2.3%
Non-Traditional	76.4%	10.1%	6.9%	6.6%
All	77.2%	11.1%	5.7%	6.0%

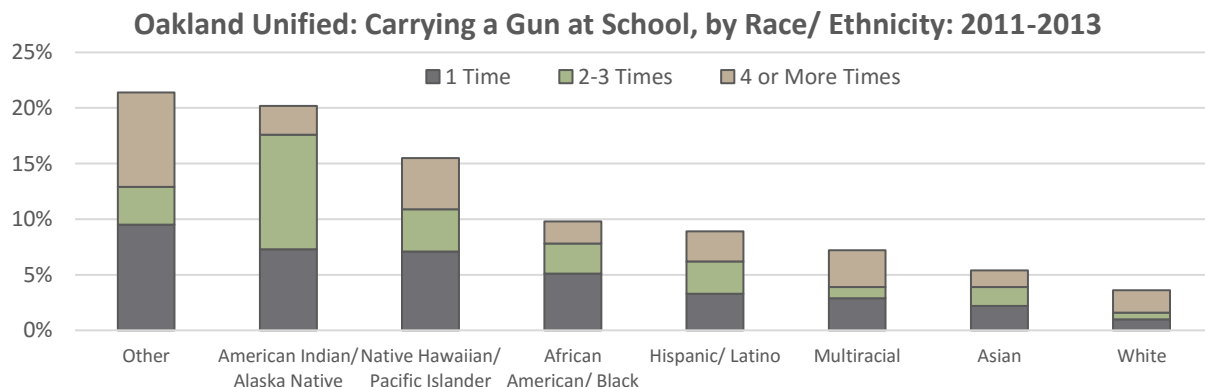
Grade Level	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
African American/ Black	74.4%	10.9%	6.9%	7.8%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	65.3%	15.1%	13.8%	5.8%
Asian	85.1%	7.9%	3.9%	3.2%
Hispanic/ Latino	77.3%	11.7%	6.0%	5.1%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	75.0%	10.4%	3.3%	11.3%
White	70.8%	12.8%	5.1%	11.2%
Multiracial	76.4%	13.2%	4.7%	5.6%
Other	68.1%	13.6%	6.8%	11.4%

Carrying a Gun to School

One out of ten 9th grade students reported carrying a gun at school at least one time during the past 12 months of school. Non-traditional students were more likely to have reported carrying a gun to school than students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades. For male students, 11.9% reported carrying a gun to school at least one time, while only 5.2% of female students reported carrying a gun to school.²⁴

Students identifying as another race/ethnicity (Other: 21.4%), American Indian/ Alaskan Native (20.2%), and Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander (15.5%) were most likely to report carrying a gun to school one or more times during the past 12 months at school, while Asian (5.4%) and white (3.6%) students were least likely.

Grade Level	0 Times	1 Time	2-3 Times	4 or More Times
7th Grade	92.4%	3.1%	1.8%	2.7%
9th Grade	90.5%	4.7%	2.3%	2.5%
11th Grade	93.1%	2.3%	2.1%	2.5%
Non-Traditional	86.9%	5.1%	5.1%	2.9%
All	91.4%	3.6%	2.5%	2.6%

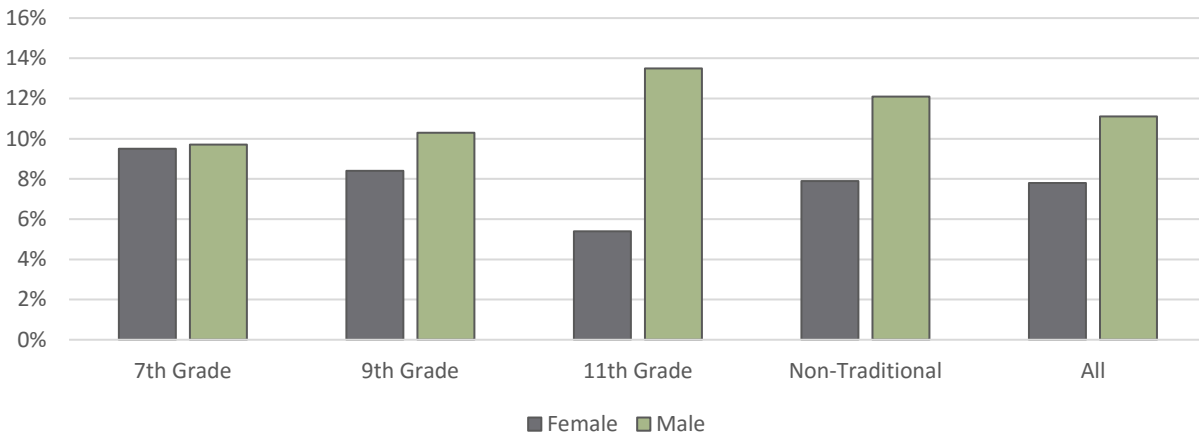


Gang Involvement

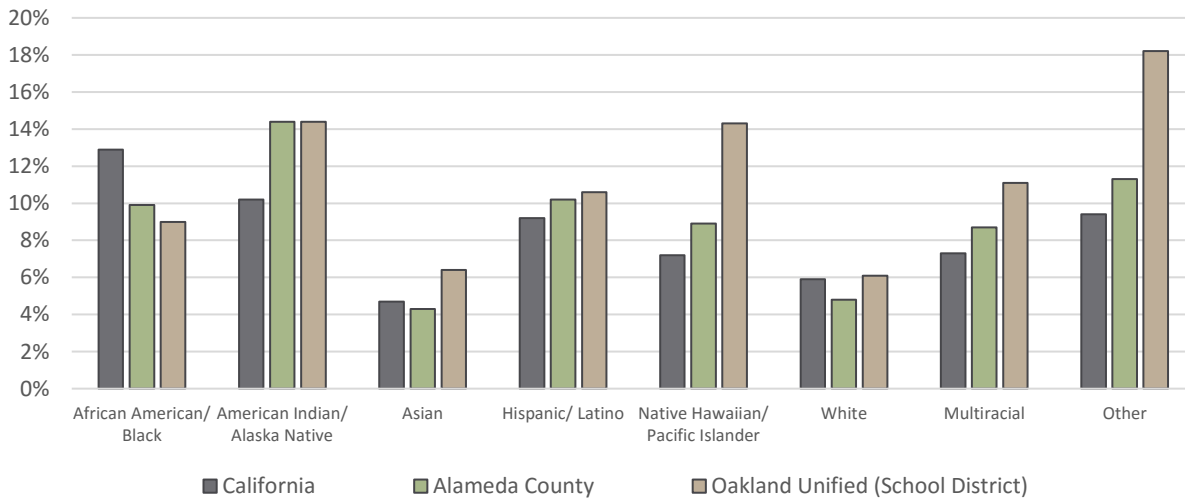
Female students in Oakland Unified public schools are less likely to report whether they currently consider themselves a member of a gang as they progress from grade 7 to grades 9 and 11, while male students are more likely to currently consider themselves a member of a gang as they progress.²⁶

A lower rate of African American / Black students in Oakland identify as belonging to a gang compared to rates in Alameda county and statewide. However, students across all other race/ ethnicities report higher levels of gang involvement than rates reported by students in Alameda county or statewide.²⁷

Oakland Unified: Student Reported Gang Membership by Gender and Grade Level: 2011-2013



Student Reported Gang Membership, by Race/ Ethnicity: 2011-2013



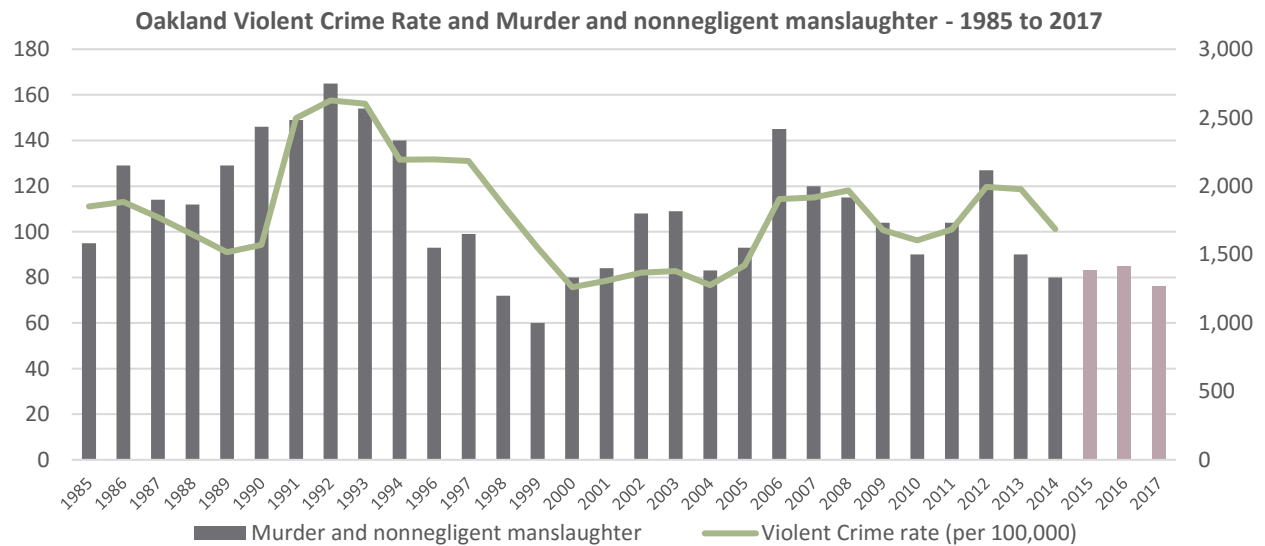
Rates of Violent Crime

Oakland’s rate of violent crime is over four times higher than the rate for the state of California, with a rate of 1,685 per 100,000 residents in Oakland in 2014 compared to a rate of 396 per 100,000 residents statewide.²⁸ In the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Oakland’s violent crime rate in 2014 is comparable to its rate in 2011 (1,682 per 100,000); 2009 (1,679 per 100,000), and 1988 (1,644 per 100,000). The number of murders and nonnegligent manslaughter is markedly lower in 2014 compared to rates in those years, as seen in the table to the right.

Year	Violent Crime rate (per 100,000)	Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter
2014	1,685.4	80
2011	1,682.7	104
2009	1,679.1	104
1988	1,644.7	112

Homicide rates in 2015, 2016, and 2017 have been below 90 per year, according to local media reports (not verified via FBI’s UCR Program), indicating a downward trend comparable to the late 1990s.²⁹

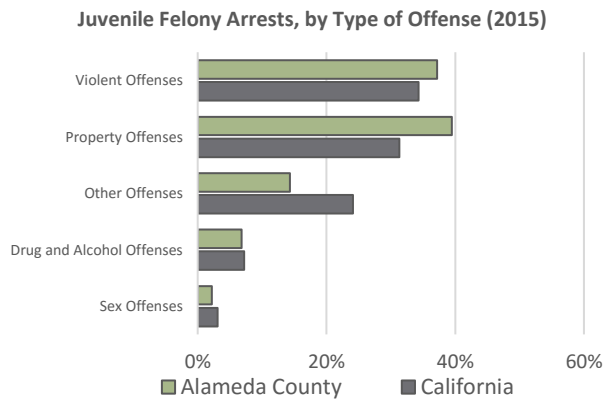
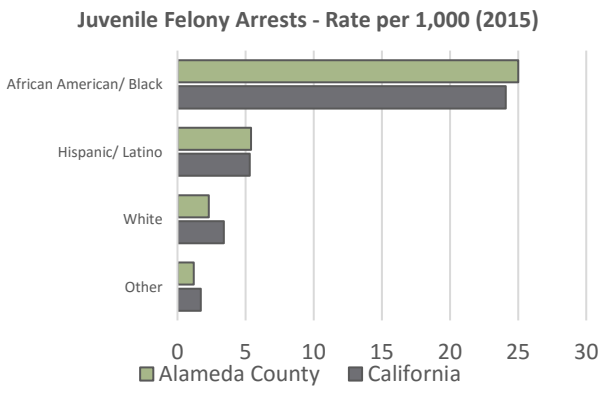
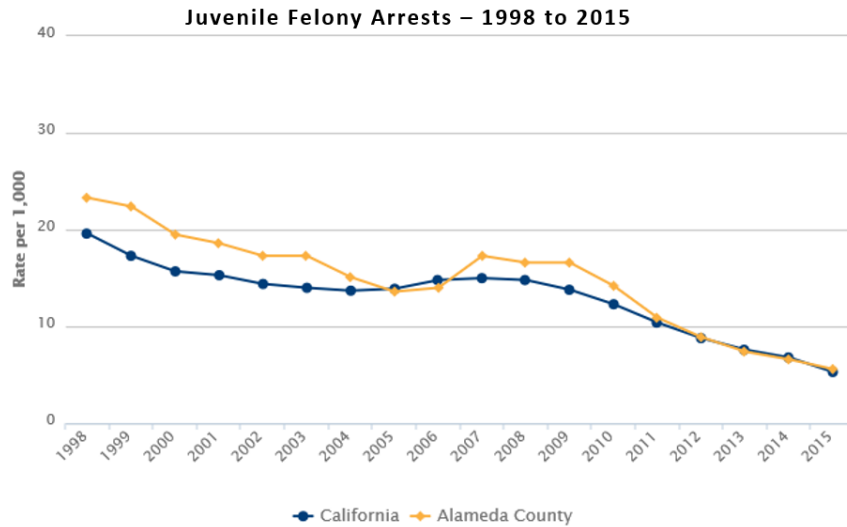
Overall, the rates of violent crime in Oakland have been and continues to be near the highest in the nation for cities with populations over 100,000.



Juvenile Felony Arrests

Juvenile felony arrests have declined significantly over the past two decades, from 20 per 1,000 youth ages 10-17 in 1998 (19.6 per 1,000 statewide, and 23.3 per 1,000 in Alameda County) to just over five per 1,000 youth ages 10-17 in 2015. Alameda County juvenile felony arrests have declined in a trend seen statewide, and were 5.6 per 1,000 youth ages 10-17 in 2015 (compared to statewide rates of

5.3 per 1,000).³⁰ Juvenile felony arrest rates for African American/ Black youth were nearly five times greater than the state and county averages.³¹ African American/ Black youth accounted for 53% of juvenile felony arrests in Alameda County.³² Arrests are more likely to be for violent offences and property offences in Alameda County than compared to statewide arrests.



Citations

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