

SOCIAL HEALTH:

Juveniles

Goal: Development which provides learning and recreational opportunities for teens and which minimizes social conflict and substance abuse. Healthy and well-adjusted teens who are likely to contribute to the sustainable growth and quality of life in the community.

Measured by: Statistics for teen birth rates, teen motor vehicle deaths, alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths, juvenile misdemeanor vandalism arrests, juvenile felony drug arrests, and total juvenile felony arrests.

Findings: Ventura County teen birth rates are lower than statewide rates by almost half. Ventura teen birth rates are about half those of Oxnard (1998 rates of 19 and 40/1000 respectively). Motor vehicle deaths for the 16-20 year old group were 8 & 10 for 1997 and 1998 in Ventura County. Injured were 71 and 65 respectively. Total juvenile arrests for 1999 were 2410 for Oxnard and 747 for Ventura. Total juvenile felony arrests were 180 and 210 for 1998. Juvenile misdemeanor vandalism arrests were 185 and 45 and juvenile felony drug arrests were 6 and 13 for Oxnard and Ventura respectively. Alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths and injuries (19 and 617) for Ventura County were down slightly from previous years.

Context: Many factors affect youth statistics. The family and community support that teens experience and perceive is critical as are actual economic opportunities in their communities. They have a keen sense of social justice also. Development which provides recreational and learning opportunities for teens will contribute to their collective welfare. Development that provides more opportunities for families and neighbors to spend quality social time together also may contribute to the healthy development of teens. For example more family time and less stress could be benefits of reducing time spent in traffic.

Source: <http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/hisp/chs/phwceh/cprofile2000/profile2000.htm>
http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjc_stats/prof99/56/17.htm
http://www.dhs.ca.gov/epic/html/injury_date.html
<http://www.chp.ca.gov/>
Ventura County Public Health Community Health Status Report & Program
Review, 2000. www.ventura.org/hca/