

Youth Stats

Snapshot of Adolescent Health in Contra Costa County

Contra Costa Health Services

No. 2, April 2010

The Demographics of Contra Costa Youth

Current and timely information on the demographics of Contra Costa youth is critical to helping schools, communities, and public and private agencies, including health care systems, meet the needs of this diverse and growing population.

This fact sheet presents data that describe Contra Costa youth in terms of race/ethnicity, sex, poverty level, place of birth, language spoken and health insurance coverage. Age ranges for these demographic variables differ slightly based on the data source.

Highlights

- The youth population in Contra Costa grew twice as fast as the total county population (2000 – 2008).
- More than 50% of Contra Costa youth were youth of color (2008).
- More than one in four youth in Contra Costa lived in a low-income household (2008).
- Approximately 37,000 children and youth in Contra Costa were born outside of the U.S (2008).
- One-third of 5- to 17-years olds in Contra Costa spoke a language other than English at home (2008).
- Youth 18 to 24 years old in the Bay Area were more likely to be without health insurance than younger youth 12 to 17 years (2007).

The youth population in Contra Costa grew twice as fast as the total county population between 2000 and 2008.¹

- Between 2000 and 2008, the population of youth 10 to 24 years of age grew 20% to approximately 227,826. During this same time period, the total county population grew by 10%.
- The greatest increase in the number of youth occurred among Hispanics and Whites, and the fastest rates of growth were among Hispanics (40%), Pacific Islanders (38%) and American Indians (34%).

Population Growth by Race/Ethnicity Among Youth 10- 24 Years of Age, Contra Costa, 2000 to 2008

Race/Ethnicity	2000	2008	Population Change
White	92,949	106,135	14%
Hispanic	45,384	63,521	40%
Asian	22,075	26,350	19%
Black	21,188	22,705	7%
Pacific Islander	856	1,179	38%
American Indian	772	1,031	34%
Multiracial	7,323	6,905	-6%
Total	190,547	227,826	20%

Source: California Department of Finance

In 2008, more than 50% of Contra Costa youth were youth of color.¹

- In 2008, approximately 228,000 youth 10 to 24 years of age lived in Contra Costa. Youth accounted for 22% of the county population.
- Males accounted for 51% of the youth population and females accounted for 49%.
- While the single largest racial/ethnic group was Whites (46.6%), the majority (53.4%) of the youth population was comprised of youth of color. Hispanics (27.9%) were the largest group of youth of color, followed by Asians (11.6%), Blacks (10.0%) and multiracial youth (3.0%).
- Compared to the county population overall, the youth population was comprised of a higher percentage of Hispanics and Blacks and a lower percentage of Whites and Asians.

Population by Race/Ethnicity, Contra Costa, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Youth 10 to 24 Years (n=227,826)	Contra Costa All Ages (n=1,053,710)
White	46.6%	53.5%
Hispanic	27.9%	22.7%
Asian	11.6%	12.4%
Black	10.0%	8.3%
Multiracial	3.0%	2.1%
Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.5%
American Indian	0.5%	0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

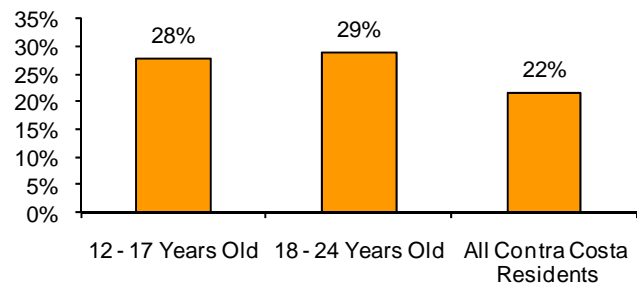
Source: California Department of Finance

More than one in four youth in Contra Costa lived in a low-income household in 2008.²

- Among youth 12 to 17 years of age in Contra Costa, 28% lived in households with incomes less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).^{*} Among 18 to 24 year olds, 29% lived at less than 200% of the FPL. Together, this represented approximately 51,000 youth in Contra Costa.
- In Contra Costa, 22% of all residents lived in households with incomes less than 200% of the FPL.

^{*}As an example, in 2008 200% of the Federal Poverty Level for a family of four was \$42,400.³

Population Living in Households with Incomes Less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, Contra Costa, 2008

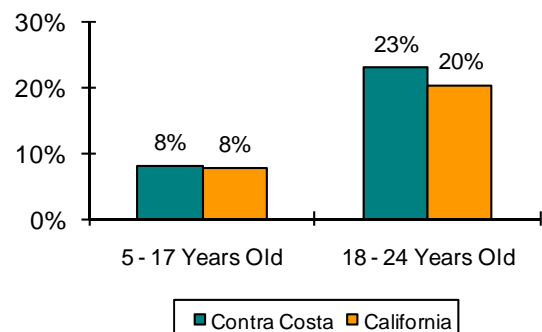


Source: American Community Survey

Approximately 37,000 children and youth living in Contra Costa in 2008 were born outside of the U.S.²

- Approximately 15,000 children and youth ages 5 to 17 years were born outside of the U.S. This represented 8% of the population in this age group.
- Among youth 18 to 24 years of age, approximately 22,000, or 23% of this age group, were born outside of the U.S.
- The proportion of Contra Costa children and youth who were born outside the U.S. were not different from the levels among children and youth in California.

Population Born Outside the U.S., Contra Costa, 2008

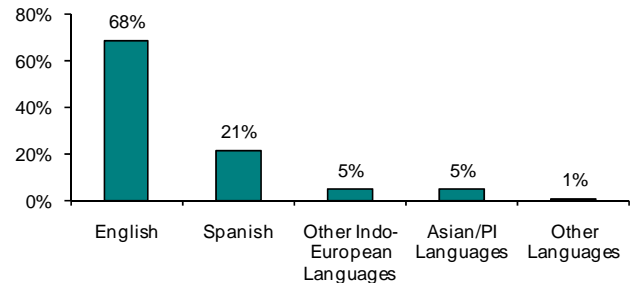


Source: American Community Survey

One-third of children and youth in Contra Costa spoke a language other than English at home in 2008. ²

- Approximately one-third of children and youth age 5 to 17 years spoke a language other than English at home. This represents approximately 58,000 children and youth.
- After English, Spanish was the language most commonly spoken.

Language Spoken at Home, 5 to 17 Years of Age, Contra Costa, 2008

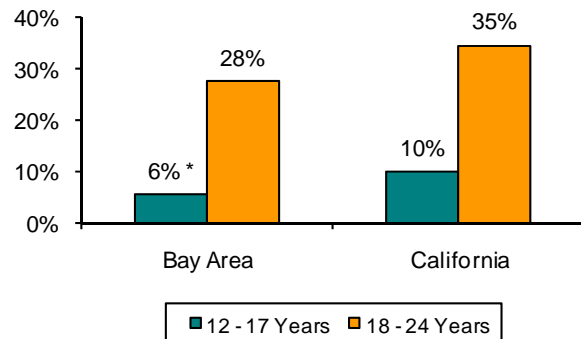


Asian/PI = Asian/Pacific Islander
Source: American Community Survey

Youth 18 to 24 years old in the Bay Area were more likely to be without health insurance than youth 12 to 17 years in 2007. ⁴

- Based on a 2007 telephone survey, 6% of Bay Area youth 12 to 17 years of age were without health insurance at some point in the previous 12 months. This was lower than the level among youth in this age group in California (10%).
- Older youth in the Bay Area, 18 to 24 years of age, were more than four times (28%) as likely to have been without health insurance at some point in the previous 12 months than younger youth. This was not significantly different than the level among 18- to 24-year olds in California (35%).

Youth Population Without Health Insurance at Any Time Within the Last 12 Months, 2007



*Significantly different than the level for California.
Source: 2007 California Health Information Survey

Sources and Other Notes

Note: Because of the high cost of living in Contra Costa, poverty is defined in this fact sheet as gross incomes less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

1. California Department of Finance. Estimated Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail 2000-2050. Sacramento, CA; July 2007.
2. U.S. Census. 2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/2008/index.html>.
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior HHS Poverty Guidelines and Federal Register References [Internet]. Available from: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/figures-fed-reg.shtml>.
4. 2007 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) [Internet]. Regents of the University of California. Available from the AskCHIS data query system at <http://www.chis.ucla.edu>.



For more Youth Stats fact sheets and additional data resources visit:
www.cchealth.org/services/teenage_program

TeenAge Program (TAP), Family, Maternal and Child Health Programs, Contra Costa Health Services

