

Update on API Risk & Protective Factors Study

This juncture represents an exciting time for the research team and community members in Honolulu and Oakland as we begin to unravel the causes and correlates of Asian and Pacific Islander youth delinquency. To date, API research staff in Honolulu have completed 343 youth surveys and 209 parent surveys of Filipino, Native Hawaiian, and Samoan ethnic groups; Oakland staff have surveyed 411 parents and 368 youths of Cambodian, Chinese, Laotian/Mien, Vietnamese, and African American ethnic groups. Surveys of Japanese and Caucasians are also being conducted in Honolulu.

In addition, API research staff are in the process of completing several manuscripts, exploring the relationship between delinquency and school, peer, family, and other factors. We hope to generate not only manuscripts for journal submission but also valuable information for community partners who are helping to make this research possible. Toward this end, both sites are enlisting input from community groups by convening advisory board meetings and collaborating with interested independent investigators. We feel that a collaborative model, whereby the community helps to define important research topics and assist in disseminating the findings, is an effective and ethical approach.

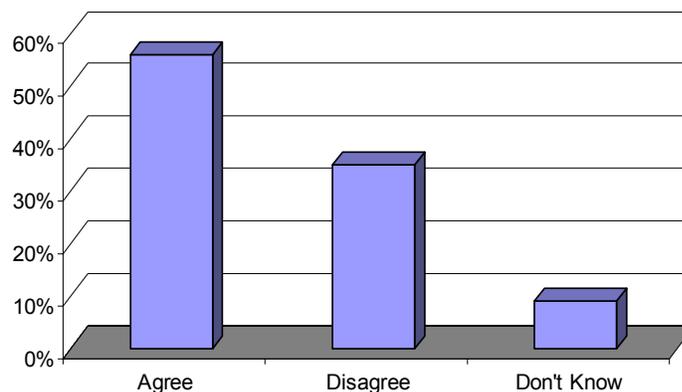
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Survey Reveals that Californians Want Prisoner Rehabilitation

Over the past several decades, California has experimented with a variety of sentencing policies to reduce crime. Most of those reforms have emphasized increasing punishment. In May, NCCD commissioned the Field Research Corporation, through a generous donation from the Roney Family Foundation, to ask a sample of the state's residents a series of questions about their attitudes toward correctional policies and the related use of public money. The survey data suggest that the public is looking for a reconsideration of existing policies. Californians are now saying that punishment alone does not deter crime and that they favor a correctional system that includes rehabilitation as a core operating principle.

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"The crime problem would be reduced if fewer offenders were sent to prison and instead were re-educated and rehabilitated out of prison."



A total of 56% of respondents agree that education and rehabilitation would help reduce California's crime problem. When a similar question was asked by the Field Research Corporation in 1982, only 35% of Californians agreed.

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Looking Back after Three Years: *The API Youth Violence Prevention Center:*

Almost every national study of youth ignores Asian and Pacific Islander (API) youngsters. Between 1980 and 2000, arrests of API youths nationwide increased by 11%; during this same period, arrests of African American youths declined by 47%. APIs were the fastest growing youth populations of all ethnic groups in the US during this 20-year period. Traditionally, the statistics underplay the issues for these youths because they lump together diverse groups. New and older immigrant populations and diverse Asian and Pacific Islander ethnicities have unique cultures, languages, and experiences in the US.

Arrests for API youth as a group are low, and many policy makers think that this population is the “model minority,” functioning well and in need of no special help. However, when disaggregated by API ethnicity, youth arrest data indicate a wide-ranging set of issues that must be addressed. The “model minority” label is just the latest in a series of racist stereotypes that have plagued these communities and masked urgent issues.

For the past three years, NCCD has partnered with the University of Hawai‘i Department of Psychiatry to conduct research on violence prevention in API communities. Funding for this project is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Until the Asian Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (API Center), there was no credible research on risk and protective factors or the differential rates of juvenile justice involvement for various ethnicities, nor any solid

information on effective prevention and intervention programs.

Our research has allowed us to focus on various subgroups such as Southeast Asians or Pacific Islanders. When one disaggregates the data, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian youth do not appear to be doing very well. For example, the 1990 Census showed that Laotian and Hmong Americans had poverty rates that were six times that of other Americans. Those youth have high arrest rates. Samoan youths have an arrest rate that is second only to African Americans in San Francisco. In California, Asian youths are more likely to be placed in out-of-home settings than their white counterparts. In Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiian youths are vastly overrepresented in the detention center and training school populations. In California, API youths rose from under 4% to over 13% of the CYA population in the 1990s. API girls have some of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy. Drug abuse and gangs are common. School failure rates are very high. The “invisibility” of these groups due to “benign neglect” only makes the problem worse, producing consequences evident in recent media reports:

- A 15-year old Laotian American honor student in Richmond, California, was killed by gang members as she answered her door.
- A 22-year old Cambodian American GI was murdered in his Southern California backyard after surviving a tour of duty in Iraq.
- A young Vietnamese mother was killed by San Jose police who could not understand her

language and felt threatened by an Asian vegetable peeler she was waving.

The challenges of API youth are exacerbated by the challenges facing their families. As a result of the immigrant or refugee experience, many parents and grandparents have language difficulties and are unfamiliar with the social service and juvenile justice systems. Interpreters are either unable to meet the demand or simply unavailable. There is very little culturally competent programming. Immigration issues also plague API communities with many adults and youths subject to arbitrary and capricious INS policies and practices. Juvenile justice personnel often harbor racist attitudes and treat these youths with hostile and negative responses.

API issues need to receive greater attention at the national level with the collaboration of national and local API organizations that focus upon the many issues facing these communities. Foundations need to look to ways in which API families and youth can be supported. These communities need almost everything in terms of youth services.

In order to focus attention on the issues facing API youth, the API Center, in close partnership with API communities, has pioneered innovative research strategies that work. After three years, the following are among our accomplishments.

- We produced community action plans for Oakland and San Francisco, in California, and Waipahu, in Hawai‘i.
- We are completing a Risk and Protective Factors Survey of Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino,

Hawaiian, Laotian/Mien, Samoan, and Vietnamese youth and parents.

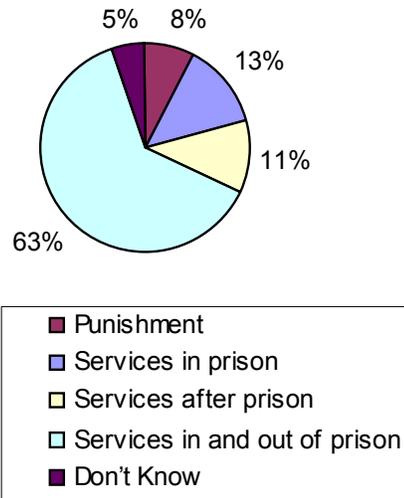
- We published disaggregated juvenile justice data for Alameda and San Francisco counties.
- We are completing a curriculum for health professionals on violence prevention focused on the API population.
- We examined culturally competent programming for API groups.
- We forged collaborations with community partners that intend to address the many issues facing API communities.
- We provided API high school and college students with research and community involvement opportunities through paid internships.

Moving forward, we will continue to bring attention to the unique needs of API youth through our research, develop culturally sensitive tools, work collaboratively with communities, and be a gathering place for those committed to these issues.

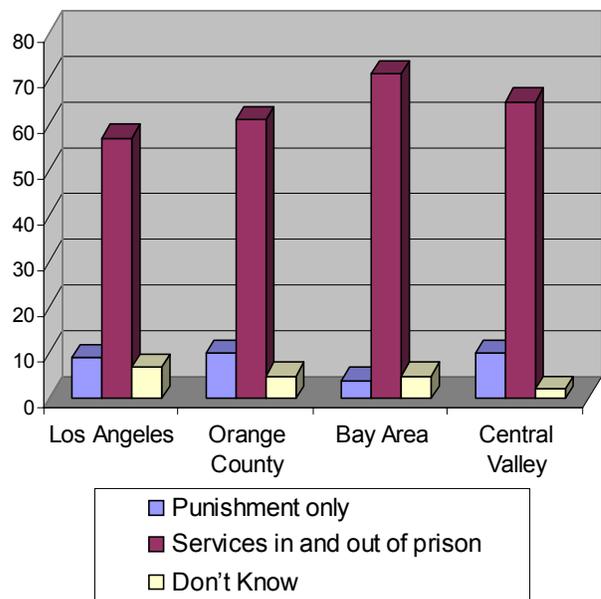
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Q: Following are four alternative prison policies that California’s prison system could follow for people who have committed property crimes or drug-related offenses. Which would you prefer the state implement?

- Treat prison as punishment, and do not offer rehabilitation services to inmates either during their time in prison or after their release.
- Make state-funded rehabilitation services available to inmates only while they are serving time in prison.
- Make state-funded rehabilitation services available to inmates only after they have been released from prison.
- Make state-funded rehabilitation services available to inmates both while they are serving time and after they have been released from prison.



Californians clearly (almost 8 to 1) favor using state funds for rehabilitation over a system that only punishes inmates for drug and property offenses. Merely 8% favor punishment only, while 63% favor rehabilitation both during prison time and after release. Some prefer education and rehabilitation only during detention (13%) and some only post-release (11%). A small number (5%) are uncertain.



Even areas that are typically conservative, whose residents have in the past opposed such measures, now are largely in support of a rehabilitation model.

For the full report, visit www.nccd-crc.org

NCCD Interns

NCCD currently has one of its largest and most energetic groups of young interns. They are working on a variety of projects including the Parents Anonymous evaluation, the API Youth Violence Prevention Center, and Educational Connections. The permanent staff here value the work the interns do and strive to make their experience at NCCD a rewarding one.



Raina Lee

I have a BA in sociology from UC Berkeley, where I am now a psychology research assistant. My research interests lie in the areas of immigrant family issues, domestic violence issues, and youth development.



Chris Lim

I graduated in 2000 with a BS in Business Administration from UC Berkeley, where I was actively involved with the API community, working with various student organizations and as an intern at the Asian Pacific American Student Development Office.



Idean Ettekal, Janet Kim, Miranda Meyerson, Kneccaya Green, Michelle Phelps, Kelly Young-Wolff, Patti Jeng



Drew Friedman, Josh Edlin, Vicky Lin

Josh Edlin

I am tiger-striped ambition. Should you blatantly presume to generalize me, then please do so after business hours.



Sarah Irby

I am pursuing a major in sociology and rhetoric, with hopes of earning a joint JD/MSW degree. My research interests are in youth and education and labor rights for Latino citizens.



Krista Loynachan

I have an MA in Education, with a special interest concentration in cross-cultural issues in education, psychology, and special education. I love traveling and have been able to backpack around Africa, Central America, SE Asia, Europe, Mexico, and Israel.



Do Kim

After graduation, I'm planning to go to graduate school in either psychology or social welfare. I'm interested in learning more about mental health issues and community involvement.



May Fang

I am working on a double major in molecular cell biology and interdisciplinary studies field major. My goal is to pursue a MD and/or MPH in the near future.



Cynthia Manuel

I'm glad that I am here at the API Center/NCCD to soak up so much information to further guide me in my career path. I am interested in looking at mental health and educational issues within the multicultural and API communities.

NCCD Board of Directors Meeting

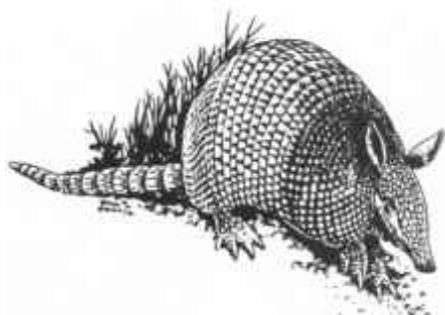
Some may shy away from the extreme Texas climate, but not our intrepid board members. In early June we gathered in the heart of Texas—Austin—sometimes referred to as “a blue island in a red sea.” The heat was indeed in force.

Despite our fast-paced technology, we still find that meeting face to face has no substitutes and always fosters a sense of deeper understanding, whether we are discussing regular tasks or those completely out of the ordinary. Our meeting included some annual features, such as deciding on Special Awards Recipients and dealing with organizational business. In addition, we heard updates on various projects and initiatives. One of our Board Members local to Austin, Vicki Spriggs, from the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, presented on the current state of juvenile justice in the third most populous state in the union. We also heard from Estella Medina of the Travis County Juvenile Probation Commission.

Our current board chair, Juan Sanchez, showed us some true southern hospitality by arranging a delicious Mexican lunch and a visit to an alternative high school operated by his highly successful organization, Southwest Key. At school, the students took time to present themselves to us and lead us through a simple activity that taught even the most accomplished among us a few things about planning and communication.

There was still time after all that to enjoy some of Austin’s famous music and barbecue.

We adjourned our brief visit and said our goodbyes to Austin, leaving just as the temperate rose and as 50,000 Harley-Davidson riders convened there for this big, little city’s famous event, “Rolling Thunder.”



NCCD Special Recognition Awards for 2004

Following its annual tradition, the NCCD Board of Directors selected its slate of Special Recognition Award recipients for 2004. The newest such award is named for activist Katie Nichols and was awarded to **Don Specter** of the **Prison Law Office** for outstanding contributions to juvenile justice reform through community service. Don almost single-handedly drew attention to conditions at the California Youth Authority that is proving to be essential to changing those conditions.

For her outstanding academic contributions to criminology, **Professor Deborah Prothrow-Stith** of the **Harvard School of Public Health** was awarded the Donald Cressey Award. Professor Prothrow-Stith has, through her work, been instrumental in defining violence as an issue of public health.

This year’s Roscoe Pound Award goes to **John J. Wilson** of the **U.S. Department of Justice** for outstanding leadership and commitment to corrections reforms. No other individual has played a more important role in federal efforts to improve the juvenile justice system.

The Albert Elias Award for outstanding contributions to juvenile justice was awarded to **Bart Lubow** of the **Annie E. Casey Foundation**. Mr. Lubow has shown a sustained and significant commitment to the betterment of services for troubled young people.

Chris Baird of the **Children’s Research Center** earned the Grace B. Flandreau award for outstanding contributions to the compassionate care of young people. This award was granted unanimously by the board for Baird’s unflagging energy and insightful work to improve protective services for children.

Finally, for his forthright position on the problems posed by mandatory sentencing, **Justice Anthony Kennedy** of the **United States Supreme Court** was awarded the Ira A. Lipman award. Each year the Lipman award goes to an elected or public official. NCCD will arrange a personal presentation for each of these awards according to each recipient’s preferences. We celebrate them one and all.

Congratulations!

Juvenile Justice in Florida: What Kind of Future?

Florida is experiencing its lowest levels of juvenile crime since the creation of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in 1994. One would expect a corresponding decline in youth commitments. However, the number of admissions to secure detention has remained over 50,000 each year. The rate of detention of youth in Florida is 25% greater than the national average (Snyder & Sickmund, 1999).

NCCD conducted a study to determine the potential benefits to Florida of adopting a data-driven approach to juvenile corrections based on the best national research. The study focused on three central questions: 1) Are current detention and commitment policies driven by research?, 2) Is the state maximizing its fiscal resources to ensure public safety and rehabilitate youth?, and 3) Are local community needs reflected in state programming?

1) Florida is making modest progress in operating programs that are informed by the best research, but much more needs to be done. The DJJ possesses a sophisticated research capacity, but it is not being fully utilized. Programs such as drug courts, Multisystemic Therapy (MST), and wraparound services need to be more available to the juvenile court. Also, Florida needs a stronger aftercare component for the most serious, chronic offenders.

2) Presently, there is no effective system that matches the control and supervision needs of youth with the residential programs that are funded. There is no sound forecasting system used by the department to determine future needs for beds or program spaces. Ad hoc decisions to defund suc-

cessful programs, remove day treatment as a front-end alternative, and use moderate-risk programs for low-risk youth (due to lack of low-risk programs) are not cost-effective strategies and appear to not consider systemic consequences.

3) Floridians are calling for more early prevention and treatment options and recognize the importance of them at a time when significant cuts to such programs have been proposed. Responding to questions about gaps in services and needed new programs, local representatives

Is the state maximizing its fiscal resources to ensure public safety and rehabilitate youth?

suggested a range of things, from specialized services for youth, to wraparound, intensive services for entire families. At the system level, the need for trained, quality staff, proper assessment and appropriate placement, education, support for youth with children, life skills, and aftercare would improve outcomes.

If Florida implemented research-based programs that are responsive to local needs, the state could make better use of current fiscal resources. NCCD estimates that as much as \$42 million of existing DJJ expenditures could be spent on smarter placement strategies. These monies could enrich prevention and early intervention programs and treatment in residential programs, and could recruit and train better staff. NCCD simulated the cost-savings

effect of three options for implementing research-tested alternative programs and policies. These are very conservative estimates about the proportion of youth that could qualify for alternative programming and the boldness of the options themselves.

Proposed options

1) *Divert youth in low- or moderate-risk residential programs into intensive home-based programs.*

This option assumes that 50% of youth in low-risk residential programs could be safely diverted into intensive home-based care for 140 days and 25% of youth in moderate-risk residential programs for 240 days. Intensive home-based care programs provide effective, research-based, intensive wraparound services that include whole families in their homes. This could save \$24.7 million.

2) *Reduce length of incarceration and increase intensive, home-based aftercare.*

The length of stay for 50% of the remaining youth in moderate-risk residential facilities could be reduced by 120 days. They could then receive home-based care during that period for a total of 240 days. This could save \$12.9 million.

3) *Slightly reduce the length of stay for a small proportion of youth in high-risk and maximum-risk facilities coupled with intensive aftercare services.*

Florida's already higher-than-average length of stay for high-risk offenders could be reduced from 595 days to 505 days, adding 90 days of intensive aftercare. If this option were implemented for 20% of these offenders, it could save \$4.4 million.

This study was funded by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

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API research staff have begun to share some of the preliminary findings at both national and international conferences such as the VOICES from the Community Conference in Washington, DC, and the 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Vienna, Austria.

In addition, we are exploring the roles of culture, cultural attitudes and beliefs, ethnic identity, and acculturation, which have not been explored in traditional research studies on youth and delinquency. Will cultural attitudes and beliefs provide any additional explanatory variance in delinquency beyond these commonly identified risk factors? In addition to examining group differences, we will also explore individual level differences. Indeed, this is an exciting time for the API Center and API Research staff.

www.api-center.org

NCCD MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency, founded in 1907, is a nonprofit organization which promotes effective, humane, fair, and economically sound solutions to family, community, and justice problems. NCCD conducts research, promotes reform initiatives, and seeks to work with individuals, public and private organizations, and the media to prevent and reduce crime and delinquency.

Improving Standards for Protecting Children

The American Society for Quality (ASQ) recently awarded a grant to the Children's Research Center (CRC) to develop a curriculum for quality improvement in child protective service (CPS) agencies. The curriculum will use SafeMeasures® data and will integrate quality improvement techniques as managers gain skills interpreting their data, creating strategies for improvement, and implementing steps for improved outcomes.

CPS agencies are required to have quality review systems to pass their federal reviews. While many states were able to show that some quality review system was in place, others had no system at all. For many agencies, quality improvement concepts have yet to take hold.

SafeMeasures is a web-based reporting service offered by CRC, currently in use in California and Minnesota and under development in New Jersey. Using information that workers enter into their statewide computer systems, SafeMeasures conducts analyses of the existing data and produces easy-to-read graphic representations on a variety of quality measures, both process and outcome. For example, most states have regulations about how quickly a worker must respond when a report of child abuse or neglect has been made. The report will show the percentage of responses that occurred within required time frames and the percentage that did not. Most importantly, SafeMeasures includes the ability to "drill down" to find the actual cases that comprise the groups. Supervisors and managers can thus find all instances of untimely response and analyze these for patterns.

The new curriculum will teach supervisors and managers how to review the various SafeMeasures reports, how to analyze the data in an effort to discover the barriers to compliance, and how to develop and implement strategies to improve performance. The curriculum will include four quarterly

For many agencies, quality improvement concepts have yet to take hold.

sessions. Each session will build on previous skills and allow a review of progress. This approach has been piloted in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where supervisors demonstrated exceptional improvement in the quality measures that were addressed.

The ASQ, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is a 104,000-member professional association whose mission is to advance learning, quality improvement, and knowledge exchange to improve business results. ASQ launched the Community Good Works Program, providing matching grants and knowledge transfer to improve local communities and create a body of evidence that documents the efficacy of quality. CRC was awarded a Good Works Program grant to support development of this curriculum. ASQ volunteers will provide review of the curriculum and, as available, will help present the curriculum for CPS supervisors and managers.

New Publications

- “Reforming Juvenile Justice Through Comprehensive Community Planning” *March, 2004*
“Juvenile Justice in Florida: What Kind of Future?” *March, 2004*
“NCCD Focus: Attitudes of Californians Toward Effective Correctional Policies” *June, 2004*
“API Currents” *API Center Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 1*

New Projects

- JDAI Evaluation, *The Annie E. Casey Foundation*
Human Workforce Study, *The Annie E. Casey Foundation*
Technical Assistance, *Each One Reach One Organization*
Safe Passages, *The East Bay Community Foundation*
Educational Connections, *W. R. Hearst Foundation*
Juvenile Detention Study, *Jessie Ball duPont Fund*
Mental Health Survey, *The California Endowment*
Crime Prevention Act 2000 FY04/05, *County of San Mateo*
Structured Decision Making, *City of Philadelphia*
Juvenile SDM III, *State of New Mexico*
Structured Decision Making, *State of Virginia*
Detention Utilization Evaluation, *District of Columbia*
TANF Risk Assessment, *Orange County*
Structured Decision Making, *Tehama County*
Risk Revalidation, *State of Rhode Island*
Structured Decision Making, *Del Norte County*
Structured Decision Making Training, *State of New Jersey*
Structured Decision Making, *Cuyahoga County*
California Redesign, *California Dept. of Social Services*
Technical Assistance, *TALC New Vision*
TA & Case Management Services, *City of Los Angeles*
SafeMeasures-Olmsted County, MN
SafeMeasures-Santa Cruz, CA
Contra Costa Safe Measures
SafeMeasures-Siskiyou, CA
SafeMeasures-Butte, CA
SafeMeasures-Fresno, CA



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
1970 BROADWAY, SUITE 500
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612



Deadline: December 31, 2004
2004 Call for Entries available at
www.nccd-crc.org
Go to More About NCCD,
then PASS Awards

Upcoming Events

- Board Meetings—**January 13-14, 2005, Monterey, CA; September 8-9, 2005, Madison, WI**
Structured Decision Making Conference—**October 13-14, 2004, Long Beach, CA**
API Center Community Response Plan Meetings—**September 8 (tentative), October TBD**

For additional information, please visit www.nccd-crc.org or phone (510) 208-0500