

1st Annual Central Kenai Peninsula Community Prevention Profile 2006

Executive Summary

The Central Kenai Peninsula Community Prevention Profile is a presentation of indicators and corresponding data that are intended to help us measure risk and protective factors in the community related to problem behavior among youth, such as substance use and juvenile criminal behavior. This report was prepared and funded by the Community Action Coalition (CAC), whose mission is to identify and coordinate comprehensive, research based community programs and to prevent problem behaviors, beginning with reducing substance abuse among our youth.

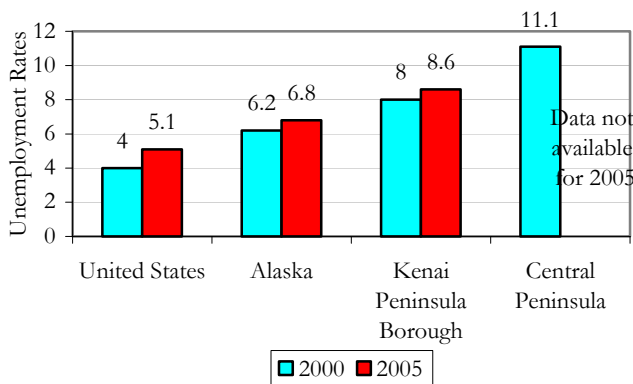
In February 2006, the CAC sponsored a Prevention Needs Assessment Youth Survey which was administered to 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th graders throughout Central Peninsula schools. Some of the results of this survey are presented in this report, as well as existing archival data about our community, including economic and population information, which experts have shown to be related to the likelihood of problem behavior among youth.

The purpose of this profile is to give the community information in order to begin a dialogue about what factors in our local neighborhood are supporting healthy, safe children and what areas might need to be improved. Through understanding the factors that contribute to problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among youth, we can target programs and community efforts at preventing the negative consequences associated with children engaging in harmful behaviors.

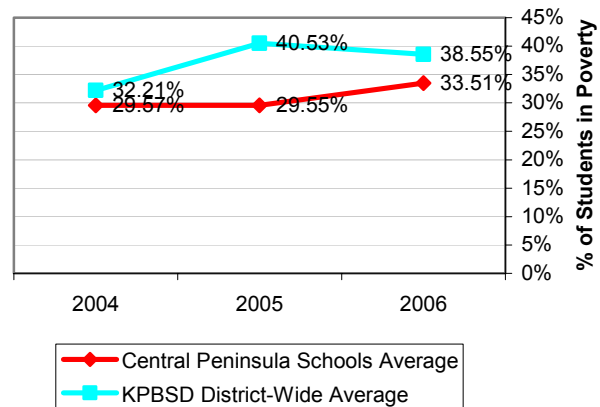
Some of the key findings in this report include:

- Central Peninsula unemployment rate was 11.1% in 2000. This is higher than Alaska or U.S. unemployment rates.
- More than 1/3 of children enrolled in Central Peninsula schools are living in poverty, based on eligibility for free and reduced lunch programs. The overall picture suggests that although many in our community are doing well, there are a significant number of people living in poverty.

Unemployment Rates (2000 & 2005)
Source: US Census, AK Community Database



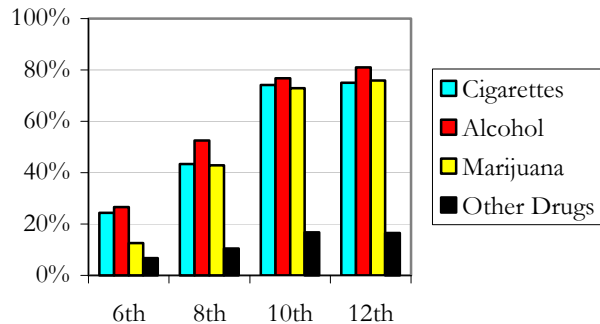
Students Eligible for Free & Reduced Cost Lunch
Source: KPB School District



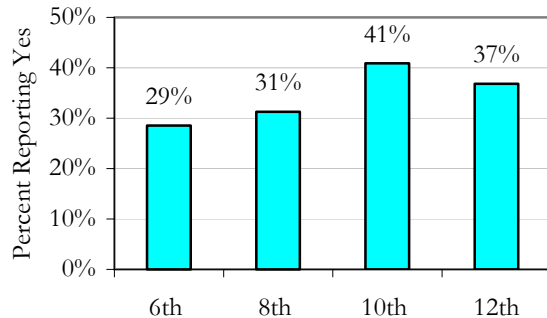
- Students who were surveyed did not perceive difficulty in accessing the most commonly used substances and do not believe they are likely to get in legal trouble for using alcohol and marijuana.
- 1 out of every 3 students surveyed reported family history of substance abuse and the most commonly used substances among youth (alcohol, sedatives, inhalants, cigarettes and marijuana) are those most likely to be available in the family household.

2006 PNA Youth Survey Results

Percentage of Students Reporting “Very” or “Sort of” Easy to Get ATOD*



Percent Reporting Family Members Ever Had Substance Abuse Problem

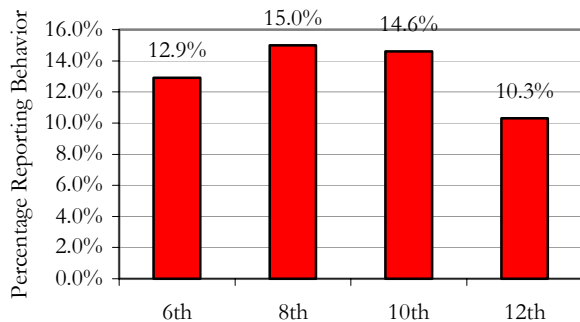


*ATOD= Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

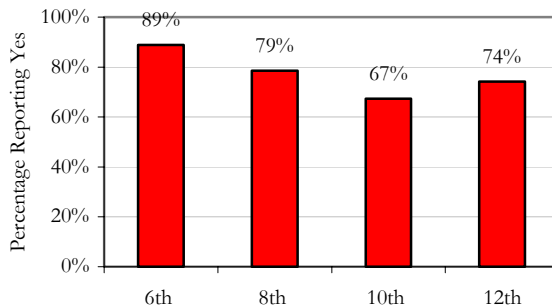
- Antisocial behavior, including vandalism, fighting and getting suspended, are occurring at higher rates than might be expected. Although it is only a minority of students engaging in these behaviors, this needs to be looked at in light of the long term costs and implications of criminal behavior among youth.
- There is a significant amount of good news including the fact that students surveyed reported high levels of neighborhood attachment and the availability of rewards for positive behavior in schools. These and the other positive results should be celebrated and examined so that the things in our community that work well are recognized and replicated.

2006 PNA Youth Survey Results

Percent Reporting Attacked Someone in Past 12 Months



Percent of Students Reporting My Teacher Notices When I Do a Good Job



The Community Prevention Profile is only a starting point for a discussion about these results and what they might mean. There are additional indicators and data that will need to be included in future profiles for a more comprehensive picture of risk and protective factors in the Central Peninsula communities. This profile is not intended to blame any individual or institution in our community. Instead, it is hoped that this information will help begin the conversation about what works, what doesn't and what should be done next in our community to ensure a safe environment for Central Peninsula children today and in the future.