

- In 2004-2006, 11th graders in San Mateo County were more likely than their counterparts in California to report use of alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes within the past month.
- Death rates for youth and young adults ages 15-24 increased from 44.3 to 54.7 per 100,000 from 1999-2001 to 2002-2004.

This report also reveals areas in which additional data and analyses would be useful. The data presented in this report primarily examine one issue at a time without exploring how different issues interact to affect children. For example, low-income households are likely to be located in the same neighborhoods that have high crime rates and low-performing schools. The children who are most vulnerable are those facing multiple risk factors, and future analyses could explore and track the progress of those very vulnerable children and youth. Also, more data on factors that promote children's development and resiliency would provide a more complete picture of children's well-being.

***This report does not prescribe specific actions but, instead, highlights critical issues that need additional attention.*** It is designed to promote collaboration among government agencies, community-based organizations, policymakers, business leaders and residents to address the most pressing concerns in San Mateo County. Only through concentrated and coordinated efforts can the county help all its children reach their full potential.

## Demographic Snapshot

In 2007, San Mateo County had a total population of approximately 733,000,<sup>1</sup> including 167,000 children and youth ages 0-17.<sup>2</sup> About 10,000 children are born to San Mateo County residents each year.<sup>3</sup> In 2007, 41% of all children and youth in the county were Caucasian/white, followed by Latinos/Hispanics (31%), Asians (19%), multiracial children (5%), African Americans (2%), Pacific Islanders (2%), and Native Americans (0.4%).<sup>4</sup> In the 2006-2007 school year, 23% of students in San Mateo County schools were English Learners, of whom about three-quarters were Spanish-speaking.<sup>5</sup>

### Local Action

Public and private organizations across the county are actively leading community initiatives that aim to reduce disparities and improve children's well-being. Examples of such initiatives include efforts to provide health insurance for all children, offer preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, increase child care affordability, increase children's preparedness for kindergarten, decrease childhood obesity, prevent youth violence, promote positive youth development, expand affordable housing, and redesign the child welfare system.

For more information, see [www.kidsdata.org/sanmateoreport](http://www.kidsdata.org/sanmateoreport).

<sup>1</sup> All endnotes for this report are available online at [www.kidsdata.org/sanmateoreport](http://www.kidsdata.org/sanmateoreport).