

UCSC Reclaiming Futures Youth Survey

Santa Cruz County Children's Mental Health Prop 63 Mental Health Services Act Youth Input From Court & Community Schools

One of the strengths of our local Children's Interagency System of Care is the on-going needs assessment, quality improvement, and strategic planning engaged in by all partners. This community input is included as a key part of our local Prop 63 planning.

Our local Robert Wood Johnson *Reclaiming Futures* Grant is helping to promote systems improvements in our dual diagnosis mental health/substance abuse services to court wards and at-risk youth. Michael Flaxman, a student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, conducted a survey of 86 youth in 8 focus groups at Alternative Education schools in Watsonville, Felton, and Santa Cruz. This information is being used to infuse our Prop 63 planning process for children, youth and families.

The following represents a brief overview of key needs identified by youth, and linked to our preliminary Prop 63 recommendations (see longer summary of key points on page 2 of UCSC report):

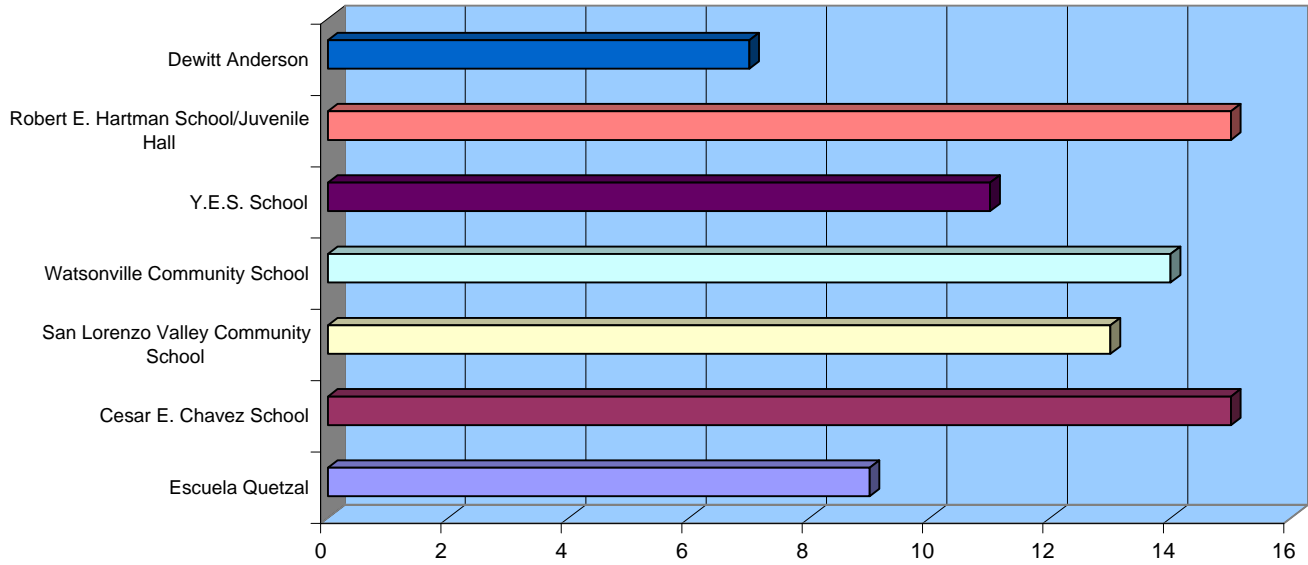
- 1) A majority of youth respondents identified needing more supportive services related to job and vocational preparation as key to their futures.
- 2) A majority of youth respondents identified needing more information regarding community programs, resources, training and supports.

Relevance to Children's Prop 63 Recommendations

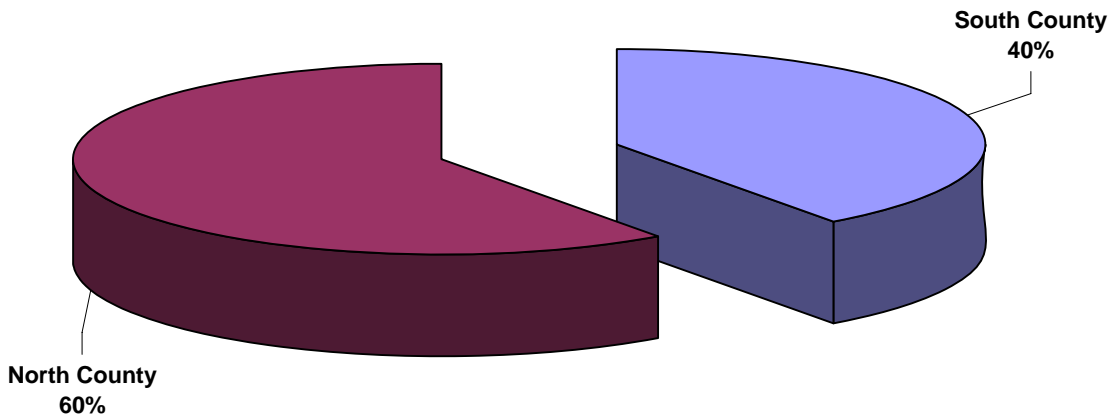
- ❖ **Increased transition-age services linked to job preparation and related training & supports.** (*Child Welfare recommendation # 3*)
- ❖ **Increased access to supportive counseling, support and linkages (across the Probation, Child Welfare, Schools, and Community populations).** (*Identified in recommendations by each subcommittee*)

University Of California Santa Cruz
Reclaiming Futures Youth Survey
Total Participants - 84

Schools

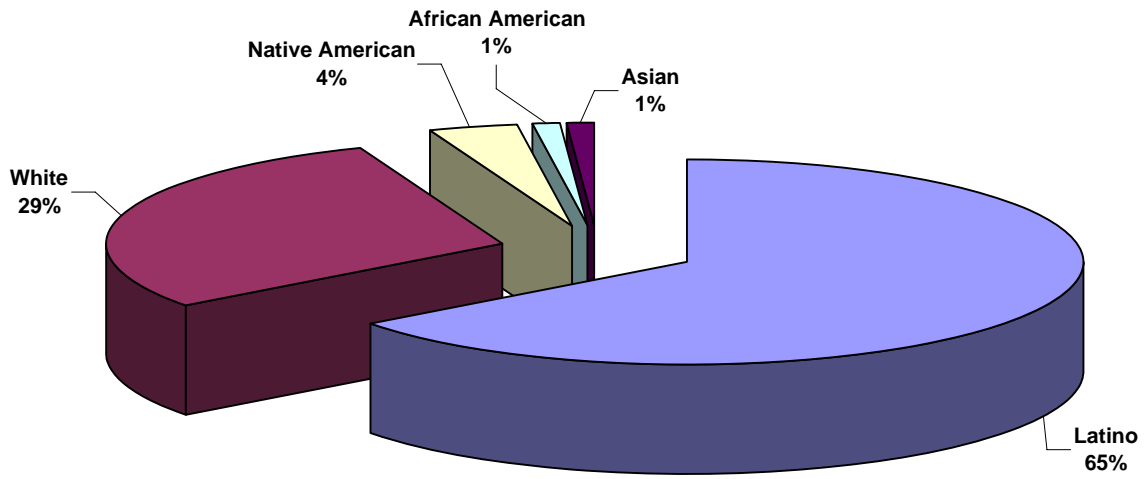


Location



University Of California Santa Cruz
Reclaiming Futures Youth Survey
Total Participants - 84

Ethnicity



Gender

