

DECEMBER 2008

- **NEARLY 16 PERCENT OF THE CALIFORNIA POPULATION IS BETWEEN AGES 5 AND 15.**

More than 6 million Californians are 5 to 15 years old—49% are Latino, 31% white, 10% Asian, and 6% black. Three in 10 (31%) live in households earning less than \$40,000 a year, and seven in 10 (69%) live in households earning more than \$40,000 a year. A majority of California youth live in the southern region of the state, including 28% in the Los Angeles region and 28% in Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties, while fewer live in the Central Valley (19%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (17%)—about proportional to the state’s adult population.

- **PARENTS WANT TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN ACTIVE DURING THE SUMMER.**

Parents believe it’s important for their child to partake in summertime physical activities: 98% say that it is either very (87%) or somewhat (11%) important. More than eight in 10 parents across all demographic groups report that their child’s engagement in summer activities is very important.

- **A MAJORITY OF PARENTS ARE SATISFIED WITH AVAILABLE SUMMER PROGRAMS.**

Nearly two in three parents of children between ages 5 and 15 (64%) say they are generally satisfied with organized activities available to their children during the summer, while 34% say they are not satisfied. Parents nationwide are much less satisfied, according to a Public Agenda survey (50% satisfied, 48% not satisfied). Still, disparities are evident in California: White parents (73%) are much more likely than Latino parents (60%) to express satisfaction. Parents ages 35 and older (68%) are more likely to say they are satisfied than younger parents (56%).

- **YET AN OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF PARENTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT AFFORDING SUMMER ACTIVITIES.**

Seven in 10 parents are at least somewhat concerned about being able to afford the things their children may want to do during the summer. Income differences are stunning: 90% of those with annual household incomes below \$40,000 are concerned about affordability, compared to 58% of those with household earnings over \$40,000. Latinos (59%) are far more likely than whites (26%) to be very concerned.

- **PARENTS ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN FALLING BEHIND IN SCHOOL ...**

Many parents (57%) are at least somewhat concerned that their child will fall behind in academics in the summer. Again, Latinos (59%) and parents with household incomes under \$40,000 (66%) are far more likely to say they are very concerned than whites (17%) and those earning \$40,000 or more (24%). Parents under age 35 (50%) are far more likely than older parents (33%) to be very concerned.

- **... AND WORRY ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN BECOMING BORED OVER THE SUMMER.**

A majority of parents (54%) are concerned that there are not enough things to capture their child’s interest. Latino parents (47%) are very concerned, while nearly half of white parents (49%) are not at all concerned. Concern decreases sharply with higher age, education, and income.

- **FEWER ARE WORRIED ABOUT FINDING CHILD CARE DURING THE SUMMER.**

Four in ten parents are either very (26%) or somewhat (15%) concerned about finding child care during the summer. Latino parents are twice as likely as white parents, and lower income earners are twice as likely as higher income earners, to express this concern.



California Youth and Summer Activities

		Parents of children ages 5-15	Race		Household Income	
			Latinos	Whites	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 or more
<i>How important is it to have your child engaged in physical activities and the outdoors during the summer?</i>	Very important	87%	84%	89%	91%	85%
	Somewhat important	11	13	10	8	13
	Not too important	2	2	1	1	2
	Don't know	–	1	–	–	–
<i>Are you generally satisfied with the organized activities and programs available to your child during the summer months, or do you find that you really don't have enough good options?</i>	Generally satisfied	64	60	73	61	64
	Don't have enough good options	34	38	24	38	32
	Don't know	2	2	3	1	4
<i>How about that you won't be able to afford the things she or he wants to do?</i>	Very concerned	45	59	26	70	30
	Somewhat concerned	25	22	30	20	28
	Not too concerned	12	11	15	7	15
	Not at all concerned	18	8	29	2	26
	Don't know	–	–	–	1	1
<i>How about that she or he will fall behind in academics?</i>	Very concerned	39	59	17	66	24
	Somewhat concerned	18	19	20	16	20
	Not too concerned	13	8	18	5	17
	Not at all concerned	29	13	44	12	38
	Don't know	1	1	1	1	1
<i>How about that there's not enough things to capture his or her interest?</i>	Very concerned	33	47	14	53	21
	Somewhat concerned	21	29	14	29	17
	Not too concerned	15	10	22	10	18
	Not at all concerned	30	13	49	7	44
	Don't know	1	1	1	1	–
<i>How about that you might have trouble finding someone to take care of him or her?</i>	Very concerned	26	38	13	43	16
	Somewhat concerned	15	15	14	16	14
	Not too concerned	17	16	17	15	18
	Not at all concerned	42	30	56	24	51
	Don't know	–	1	–	2	1

Sources: (1) PPIC Statewide Survey, September 2008 (includes 588 parents with a margin of error of $\pm 4\%$). Parents are defined as those respondents having at least one child between the ages of 5 and 15 living in the household. The sample sizes for blacks, Asians, multiracial, and other racial/ethnic subgroups are not large enough for separate analysis. (2) State of California Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000–2050, July 2007. (3) U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007. (4) Public Agenda, *All Work and No Play?* 2004.

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