

- **NEARLY 8% OF THE CALIFORNIA POPULATION IS BETWEEN AGES 13 AND 17.**  
The state is home to a little over 3 million residents in the 13 to 17 age group – 47% are Latino, 33% white, 10% Asian, and 7% black. About one-third of these children (30%) live in households earning less than \$40,000 a year, and 37% live in households earning more than \$80,000 a year. A majority of these youth reside in the southern areas of the state, including Los Angeles (29%) and the Other Southern California region (28%), while fewer live in the Central Valley (19%) and San Francisco Bay Area (16%). Most (71%) live in California counties with more than one million residents; the remaining 29% live in less populated counties.
- **FEWER THAN HALF OF PARENTS ARE VERY SATISFIED WITH CHILDRENS' OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES.**  
Although 44% of parents say they are very satisfied with the outdoor opportunities available for their teenager, 36% say they are only somewhat satisfied, and 19% say they are dissatisfied. Whites (55%) are much more likely than Latinos (31%), and upper-income parents (48%) are much more likely than lower-income parents (31%), to say they are very satisfied.
- **MOST PARENTS CONSIDER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES VERY IMPORTANT...**  
Most parents (76%) say it is very important that their teenager participate in outdoor activities, and another 20% say that participation in outdoor activities is at least somewhat important. The percentages saying outdoor activities are very important are high among Latinos (78%) and whites (76%), as well as among both lower-income parents (73%) and upper-income parents (81%).
- **...YET LESS THAN HALF ARE VERY SATISFIED WITH THE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT OUTDOORS.**  
Although a strong majority of parents view outdoor activities as very important, only 43% are very satisfied with the amount of time that their child spends on outdoor activities, while 37% are somewhat satisfied, 14% are somewhat dissatisfied, and 5% are very dissatisfied. Similar percentages of Latino parents (46%) and white parents (44%), and lower-income parents (43%) and upper-income parents (44%), are very satisfied with the time their child spends on outdoor activities.
- **TELEVISION, COMPUTERS, AND ELECTRONIC ENTERTAINMENT CUT INTO OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.**  
When parents are asked why their children are not spending more time on outdoor activities, 55% say that too much time is spent on television, computers, and electronic entertainment. More than half of Latino and white parents, as well as both lower-income and upper-income parents, agree that electronic entertainment is a primary reason why their children spend less time on outdoor activities. More than three in 10 parents say that safety or crime concerns in their area (37%), the money or expense to participate in outdoor activities (33%), or the lack of outdoor activities in their area (32%) are reasons why their children are not spending more time on outdoor activities.
- **RACIAL/ETHNIC AND INCOME DIFFERENCES ARE APPARENT.**  
Latino parents are much more likely than white parents, and lower-income parents are much more likely than upper-income parents, to say that concerns about safety or crime, the expense of participating in outdoor activities, or the lack of outdoor activities in their area are the reasons why their child is not spending more time on outdoor activities.



## California Youth and Outdoor Activities

		Parents of children ages 13-17	Race		Income	
			Latinos	Whites	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 or more
<i>Overall, how satisfied are you with the outdoor activities that are available to your child?</i>	Very satisfied	44	31	55	31	48
	Somewhat satisfied	36	47	27	44	33
	Somewhat dissatisfied	13	12	14	17	12
	Very dissatisfied	6	10	3	8	6
	Don't know	1	-	1	-	1
<i>How important to you is it that your child participates in outdoor activities?</i>	Very important	76	78	76	73	81
	Somewhat important	20	19	20	21	16
	Not too important	2	1	1	1	2
	Not at all important	1	2	2	3	1
	Don't know	1	-	1	2	-
<i>Thinking about the past three months, how satisfied are you with the amount of time that your child has spent on outdoor activities?</i>	Very satisfied	43	46	44	43	44
	Somewhat satisfied	37	41	35	39	35
	Somewhat dissatisfied	14	8	17	11	16
	Very dissatisfied	5	3	2	6	3
	Don't know	1	2	2	1	2

**“I’m going to read you some reasons people give for why children are not spending more of their time on outdoor activities. For each of the following, please tell me if this applies to your child.”**

		Parents of children ages 13-17	Race		Income	
			Latinos	Whites	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 or more
<i>How about too much time spent on television, computers, and electronic entertainment?</i>	Yes	55	56	51	53	57
	No	44	44	48	46	43
	Don't know	1	-	1	1	-
<i>How about safety or crime concerns in your area?</i>	Yes	37	50	29	48	34
	No	61	49	70	51	65
	Don't know	2	1	1	1	1
<i>How about the money or expense to participate in outdoor activities?</i>	Yes	33	51	22	52	26
	No	64	47	77	46	72
	Don't know	3	2	1	2	2
<i>How about a lack of outdoor activities in your area?</i>	Yes	32	41	26	43	30
	No	66	57	74	55	69
	Don't know	2	2	-	2	1

**Sources:** (1) PPIC Statewide Survey, March 2008 (includes 329 parents with a margin of error of +/-5.5%). Parents are defined as those respondents having at least one child between the ages of 13 and 17 living in their household. The sample sizes for blacks, Asians, multi-racial, 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, Current Population Survey, March 2007.

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