

SEPTEMBER 2007

- **NEARLY 8 PERCENT OF THE CALIFORNIA POPULATION IS BETWEEN AGES 13 AND 17.**

The state is home to more than 2.8 million youngsters in this age group. Nearly half (47%) are Latino, 31 percent are white, 10 percent are Asian, and 8 percent are black. Three in ten (30%) live in households earning less than \$40,000 a year; nearly four in 10 (37%) live in households earning more than \$80,000 a year. A majority reside in the southern areas of the state, including Los Angeles (28%) and the Other Southern California region (28%), while fewer live in the Central Valley (19%) and San Francisco Bay Area (16%). Seventy-one percent live in California counties with one million or more residents; the remaining 29 percent live in less populated counties.

- **MOST OF THESE TEENAGERS SELDOM ENGAGE IN TEAM SPORTS OR NATURE ACTIVITIES.**

Many parents (41%) said that over the past summer, their child never participated in outdoor team activities such as soccer, softball, baseball, or football. About the same percentage said their child never (30%) or only once (17%) took part in outdoor nature activities such as camping, hiking, or backpacking. Some teenagers (17%) did not even engage in individual outdoor activities such as biking, tennis, running, or swimming, and 17 percent never or only once visited a playground, public park, or public beach. Overall, forty percent of the parents said that their child participated in all four activities at least once during the summer, while only five percent said that their child did not participate in any of the four activities.

- **RACIAL/ETHNIC DIFFERENCES ARE APPARENT ...**

Although the sample sizes for Asians and blacks were too small to report, considerable differences were evident between Latinos and whites. Latino parents are twice as likely as white parents to say their child never participated in an outdoor nature activity such as camping, hiking, or backpacking over the past summer (41% to 19%), three times as likely to say their child never went to public parks, playgrounds, or beaches (16% to 5%), and nearly seven times as likely to say their child did not participate in individual activities such as biking, tennis, running, or swimming (33% to 5%). However, white parents are much more likely than Latino parents to say their child did not play in team sports such as baseball or football over the past summer (50% to 34%).

- **... AND INCOME DIFFERENCES ARE LARGE.**

Parents with incomes below \$40,000 are much more likely than those with higher incomes to say their child never engaged in nature activities (42% to 23%) or individual activities such as biking (32% to 10%) over the past summer. Income differences are less pronounced in the case of parks and playgrounds (19% to 7%), and upper-income parents (43%) are about as likely as lower-income parents (39%) to say their child did not participate in team sports.

- **PARENTS' OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR CHILDREN IS HIGH.**

Over eight in 10 parents of 13 to 17 year old children say they are very satisfied (51%) or somewhat satisfied (34%) with the outdoor opportunities available for their teenager, while just 14 percent say they are dissatisfied. Whites (60%) are much more likely than Latinos (47%), and upper-income parents (57%) are much more likely than lower-income parents (38%) to report high levels of satisfaction with outdoor opportunities.



California Youth and Outdoor Activities

<i>Thinking about your oldest or only child between the ages of 13 and 17, please tell me how often they participated in the following activities this summer. This summer, how often did that child ...</i>	Responses of parents of children ages 13-17	Race/Ethnicity		Income		
		Latinos	Whites	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 or more	
<i>... Participate in outdoor nature activities such as camping, hiking, backpacking, or an outdoor educational program?</i>	Never	30%	41%	19%	42%	23%
	1 time	17	22	13	17	19
	2 to 5 times	24	22	25	23	25
	6 to 10 times	14	6	22	5	17
	More than 10 times	15	9	21	13	16
<i>... Participate in outdoor team activities such as soccer, softball, baseball, or football?</i>	Never	41	34	50	39	43
	1 time	4	4	3	6	4
	2 to 5 times	14	21	8	22	10
	6 to 10 times	7	5	6	6	7
	More than 10 times	34	36	33	27	36
<i>... Participate in outdoor recreation such as activities on playgrounds, public parks, or public beaches?</i>	Never	11	16	5	19	7
	1 time	6	8	4	10	4
	2 to 5 times	27	31	25	31	25
	6 to 10 times	17	12	25	10	22
	More than 10 times	39	33	41	30	42
<i>... Participate in individual outdoor activities such as biking, tennis, running, or swimming?</i>	Never	17	33	5	32	10
	1 time	4	9	1	6	3
	2 to 5 times	17	18	14	17	16
	6 to 10 times	15	17	13	17	14
	More than 10 times	47	23	67	28	57
<i>Overall, how satisfied are you with the outdoor activities that are available to that child?</i>	Very satisfied	51	47	60	38	57
	Somewhat satisfied	34	41	27	42	30
	Somewhat dissatisfied	10	8	9	10	10
	Very dissatisfied	4	2	3	5	3
	Don't know	1	2	1	5	-

Source: (1) PPIC Statewide Survey, September 2007 (includes 333 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, Sacramento, CA, May 2004. (3) U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2007.