

apiCurrents

NEWSLETTER

Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Gregory Yee Mark,
D. Criminology

Welcome to the second edition of *API Currents*, the official newsletter of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center. The Center's Honolulu office opened in May 2001 and is located at the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children. Please come by and visit our office at 1319 Punahou Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826.

The Honolulu office is overseen by Research Manager, David Mayeda, and also consists of four Research Associates-Thomas Tsutsumoto, Joy Andrade, Ben Alefosio, and Vanessa Cunanan. In addition, Patricia Hallmark is now on board, serving as Honolulu Center's Administration Officer.

On July 27, 2001, the Center Advisory Board met in Honolulu. One outcome of the meeting was that the Board decided to fund two pilot projects: "Understanding Delinquency Among Samoan Adolescents" and "Hui Malama o ke Kai" (please see **PILOT PROJECTS**, pg. 4). The Center will fund additional pilot projects in the upcoming year. Questions may be directed to Isami Arifuku (510) 208-0500, ext. 333 or David Mayeda (808) 945-1521.

Juvenile Arrest Trends in Hawaii

by David Mayeda, M.A., and Meda Chesney-Lind, Ph.D.



Youth from the "Hui Malama o ke Kai" pilot project.

See PILOT PROJECTS, pg. 4

As early as 1991, the State of Hawaii's Office of Youth Services recognized the need for programming specific to Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Filipino youth. Then Director and long time youth worker Wayne Matsuo noted (1991):

"The cultural and ethnic backgrounds of those in need of, for example, literacy education, financial assistance or parole supervision, routinely are identified as the following vulnerable groups: Hawaiian, part-Hawaiian, Filipino, and Samoan. These

same cultures and ethnicities also are reflected in the populations of Hawaii's at-risk youth" (pg. 11).

When examining Hawaii's recent juvenile arrest trends by ethnicity, one can clearly see that youth from these three ethnic groups are still over represented relative to their overall population in the state. It also appears that the disparity is increasing over time, particularly with Native Hawaiian youth. As the chart on page 4 demonstrates, although Native Hawaiian youth make up just over (see **TRENDS**, pg. 4)

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Census Data and Multi-ethnicity

by David Mayeda, M.A., and Ben Alefosio B.A.

Among the most significant changes for the 2000 Census was that census respondents had the option of selecting more than one option when defining themselves racially. According to Census 2000 data, the vast majority of United States respondents (roughly 98%) reported association with only one racial group. Nonetheless, nearly seven million (6,826,228) respondents claimed two or more races (Census 2000a). This new national system of defining and understanding race in the United States impacts Hawaii more so than any other state, in particular for indigenous Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

As Nordyke (1989) states, "...most Hawaiians are Part Hawaiians who can trace mixed background with Whites, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Portuguese, and other ethnic peoples who came as foreigners to the land of the Hawaiians" (p. 30). Thus, while only about 2% of the entire United States claimed more than one ethnic group, over one fifth (21.4%) of all respondents from Hawaii asserted affiliation with more than one ethnic group (Census 2000b). Hawaii's unique history of extensive ethnic mixing means 2000 Census data must be examined taking multiethnicity into account. The following data demonstrate how multiethnicity affects the population of "Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders" in the states of California and Hawaii, and within specific regions of Honolulu County.

Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Populations

Region	One race only	Alone or in combination with one or more other races	Percent Increase
State of Calif.	116,961	221,458	89.3
State of Hawaii	113,539	282,667	149.0
Island of Oahu	77,680	189,292	143.7
Honolulu	25,457	58,130	128.4
Waianae	2,864	6,511	127.3
Nanakuli	4,348	8,181	88.2
Kahuku	572	1,101	92.5

The increase in number of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders as a result of respondents having the opportunity to select more than one race is overtly evident in California and Hawaii as a whole and within different regions of Oahu (Hawaii's most populated and urban island). As Cornell and

Hartmann (1998) assert, "Most Pacific Islanders have long recognized and embraced both the idea of being multiethnic and the existence of a community composed of typically multiethnic persons. Multiethnicity was common in much of the Pacific long before Europeans appeared" (p. 237). With the 2000 Census now documenting multiethnicity, it is particularly important that policy makers note its importance pertinent to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. For instance, in the United States as whole, respondents who marked "White" only on the 2000 Census numbered 211,460,626; "White alone or in combination with one or more other races" rises to 216,930,975, a slight 2.6% increase. Comparatively, the total United States population of "Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders" only stands at 398,835, but if tallied with Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders claiming multiethnicity, the national population increases to 874,414, a far more significant 119.2% increase.

Likewise, population increases emerge for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in specific regions of Hawaii (as detailed above). Consequently, acknowledging multiethnicity is important because as "Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander" populations rise, community organizers can point to this population size as an additional indicator for culturally specific programming. Thus, as increasingly detailed information emanates from the 2000 Census pertinent to youth, ethnicity, and other prevalent rates, it is imperative that multiplicity is respected when determining population demographics.

References

- Census (2000a). Overview of race and Hispanic origin: Census 2000 brief. (www.census.gov).
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- Cornell, S., & Hartmann, D. (1998). *Ethnicity and race: Making identities in a changing world*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
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fast fact

Over 40% of all identified gang members in Hawaii are Filipino.

Chesney-Lind, M., et al, *Dimensions of Youth Gang Membership and Juvenile Delinquency in Hawaii*: vol. 1 (pp.41, 42).

Community Response Plan



by Isami Arifuku,
D. Criminology

An aim of the API Center is the development of a community response plan in the areas where the Center is located and working. Using the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) *Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Offenders* as a model, NCCD has initiated the community response plan for Oakland. The intent is to identify issues related to delinquency, violence, and conversely, healthy youth development, and develop a data-driven and research-focused plan for addressing the community's priorities.

Method: Two trainers from NCCD's Comprehensive Strategy project will provide the format for developing this plan. Annie Lu, a student at San Francisco State College, long-time resident and community activist, is the Community Involvement Coordinator. She is assisted by police officer Tam Dinh from the Chinatown substation who has been very involved with the Asian Youth Services Committee. AYSC provides learning and social activities for approximately 800 youths during a year.

The steps in developing the community response plan include:

- **Mobilization** of the community
- **Assessment** – examining data from a number of sources to understand what is happening with API youth
- **Planning** – develop a plan identifying issues, and priorities for addressing community issues
- **Implementation** – putting the plan into action via meetings



Officer Tam Dinh (far left) and Oakland Police Department's Asian Youth Services Committee (AYSC).

with city and community agencies who can address the priorities identified by the community or other funding agencies who can assist in helping the community implement its plan

this process.

Ms. Lu and Officer Tam have received training on the curriculum that will be used to guide the community in developing their plan, and a list of community organizations and leaders has been drawn up.

Progress to Date: The API Center has been endorsed by the Asian Advisory Committee on Crime, an umbrella organization in which Oakland Police Officers, community members, and community organizations discuss issues related to crime and safety in the city, and particularly in the Chinatown area. We have been meeting with community organizations to disseminate information about the API Center and the community response plan and encourage their participation in

Next Steps:

- Contact organizations individually to solicit their participation in the process
- Participate in the Oakland Chinatown Streetfest to disseminate information about the community response plan
- Plan and organize the first meeting of community leaders in October 2001
- Plan and organize subsequent meetings of community

API RESIDENTS IN COMPARISON TO API OFFICERS: ALAMEDA COUNTY

Cities:	% API Officers	% API Residents	# API Officers per 1000 API Residents	# White Officer per 1000 White Residents
Alameda	7.2	26.5	0.4	1.9
Albany	3.7	25.0	0.2	2.3
Berkeley	12.1	16.4	1.4	2.0
Emeryville	5.7	25.7	1.1	8.4
Fremont	3.4	37.1	0.1	1.7
Hayward	5.9	20.5	0.4	3.3
Livermore	4.7	5.9	0.9	1.3
Newark	3.7	22.0	0.2	2.5
Oakland	10.3	15.6	1.3	3.7
Piedmont	0.0	15.8	0.0	2.0
Pleasanton	8.6	11.7	0.9	1.5
San Leandro	4.8	23.5	0.2	2.0
Union City	6.8	43.9	0.2	4.0
Alameda County	6.7	20.9	0.6	3.1

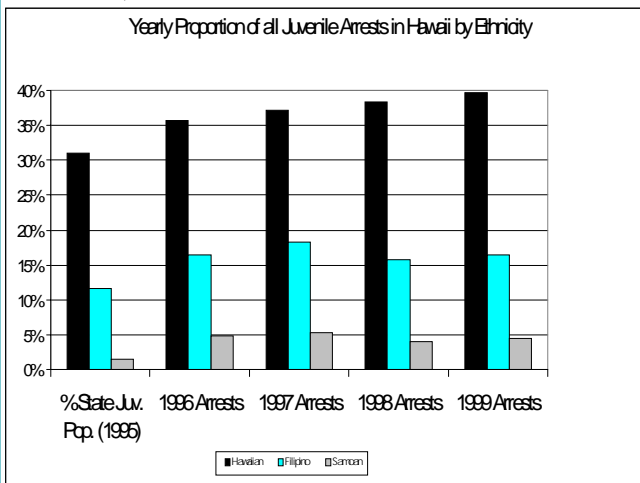
Source: California Department of Finance, Demographics Unit, 2001; California Commission on Peace Officers Standards & Training, 2001

Pilot Projects

Hui Malama o ke Kai (HMK), “The group who takes care of the ocean”, began in late 1998 when a group of community leaders identified the need for a program to serve the children of Waimanalo (East Oahu). HMK is an ocean-based program aimed at preventing violence through community building and youth development, serving 5th, 6th, and 7th grade at-risk youth and their families. Rooted in Native Hawaiian culture, the program provides education, skills building, and hands-on activities to develop physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of Native Hawaiian children and their families. The program offers academic support, family bonding, and ocean recreation, while emphasizing Hawaiian values and culture.

Receiving pilot project funds, HMK hopes to revise its current curriculum, incorporating new components that address cultural relevance, ethnic pride, multiculturalism, and gender-specific aspects of violence. A second pilot project to be funded is (see **PILOT PROJECTS**, pg. 5)

TRENDS, from front



(Kassebaum 1995; Richmond and Perrone 1997, 1998, 1999; Perrone, Richmond, and Allen 2000). (Note: State juvenile populations by ethnicity not available for years 1996-1999)

30% of Hawaii’s total juvenile population, they consistently represented well over 30% of all juvenile arrests between 1996 and 1999; as an example, in 1999 they were 39.7% of all youth arrested. Arrests of Filipino and Samoan youth are also significantly more prevalent than their overall juvenile population would indicate. Finally, it is important to note that between 1996 and 1999, the total number of juvenile arrests in Hawaii dropped by 24.1% (from 17,516 arrests in 1996 to 13,299 arrests in 1999). This means that although Filipino, Native Hawaiian, and Samoan youth continue to be arrested at rates disproportionate to their overall

population, fewer youth from these three ethnic groups are being arrested in absolute number. Nonetheless, their disproportionately high arrest rates remain a concern worth addressing.

Just as arrest rates follow racialized patterns, gender frequently matters. For example, girls accounted for nearly two-thirds (63.5%) of all 1999 runaway arrests in Hawaii. Unfortunately, current arrest data do not intersect race and gender. Therefore, determining if girls or boys from specific ethnic groups were more prone to be arrested for particular offenses is impossible to ascertain without examining original arrest files. Still, recent research (Freitas, Chesney-Lind, and Marker 2000) has found that over 63% of all girls confined to the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility in 1999 were Native Hawaiian and further investigated many of the risk factors impacting these girls’ lives.

The current media fascination with all crime trends makes collecting and interpreting crime data an ethical nightmare. What academicians, youth providers, and media forces do with crime data can follow very divergent avenues. On the one hand, irresponsible sensationalistic stories, unfortunately not uncommon to crime reporting, can use data like these to reify injurious mainstream stereotypes regarding Filipino, Native Hawaiian, and Samoan youth. We hope however, that highlighting these arrest trends will not result in this undesirable outcome.

In fact, what these data on arrest proportionality do not point out are the majority of Filipino, Native Hawaiian, and Samoan youth in absolute numbers who do not engage in criminogenic behaviors. Moreover, it is likely that increased police enforcement in neighborhoods where higher concentrations of Filipino, Native Hawaiian, and Samoan families reside influences the higher arrest rates of these youth. Instead, we hope that accenting these data will result in an increased drive for ethnic and culturally specific youth programming, rather than ratifying racial stereotypes that ultimately contribute to ethnic over representation in the juvenile justice system.

References:

Freitas, K., Chesney-Lind, M., and Marker, N. (2000). Programs matter: Girls’ offenses and gender specific programming in Hawaii. Honolulu: Office of Youth Services and University of Hawaii Social Science Research Institute.

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Richmond, J., and Perrone, P. (1997). Crime in Hawaii 1996: A review of uniform crime reports. Honolulu: Department of the Attorney General.

**MacArthur Foundation sponsors
Foundation Briefing by Mary Lai, M.Ed.**



Karen Umemoto, Center Investigator, presenting on "Hate Crimes".

The John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation sponsored a two day conference in June at the Oakland site of the API Center convening foundations, researchers, policy experts and community leaders to discuss key policy areas in regards to Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities. The foundations present at the conference were the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, California Wellness Foundation, and the Haas Fund.

The goal of the conference was to raise the consciousness and profile of APIs, and provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary activities and understanding between foundation representatives, the speakers and their respective organizations, and the API Center. Although the API Center's focus is upon violence prevention, speakers addressed other core issues intertwined in developing effective approaches to violence prevention, such as: API violence and delinquency, victimization and hate crimes, challenges facing the Southeast Asian community, immigration, employment discrimination, community capacity, cultural competency, mental health, domestic violence and education.

The conference was an unique opportunity for both researchers and practitioners to share their knowledge and action agendas for API communities. While all the speakers gave specific recommendations for their respective areas, the general consensus was to continue the research on API communities, increase opportunities to dialogue and share information (such as the Foundation Briefing), educate API communities and the larger society about these issues, and provide comprehensive treatment and prevention services that are culturally relevant.

Notes from the Foundation Briefing are available on the API Center website at www.api-center.org under "Information sharing."

Data Sharing

The API Center announces the availability of data pertaining to 10 year arrest trends of API youth in Alameda and San Francisco County. This series titled "Not Invisible", attempts to depict a more accurate count of API youth involved in the criminal justice system.

With the cooperation of the Alameda and San Francisco County Probation Departments, the API Center has been able to re-classify many of the API youth labeled as "Other Asian" into an API sub-ethnic group.

For example, before recategorization, 77% of the API youth referred to Alameda County Probation were labeled as "Other Asian." By associating surnames to a specific API sub-ethnic group, the API Center was able to reduce the number of "Other Asian" youth to 10%.

This unique investigation of API youth arrest trends provides much needed insight for a community that has been far overlooked.

"Not Invisible" is available on the API Center website at www.api-center.org under "information sharing."

Pilot Projects, continued from page 4

titled "Understanding Delinquency Among Samoan Adolescents" (Meripa Godinet, Timena Brown, and Tiva Mageo Aga). The objectives of the research project are to understand the social, cultural, systemic, and economic factors that place Samoan youth in the state of Hawaii at risk for delinquency activities, and to understand how these factors deter delinquency involvement among Samoan adolescents. Twenty-five adolescents of Samoan ancestry (13-16 years) who were or currently are involved in the juvenile justice system, and 25 adolescents who have no involvement will be recruited for the study, as well as their respective parents/guardians. The participants will be interviewed based on a grounded theory approach.

fast fact

In 1997, 25% of Asian/Pacific Islander high school students reported that drugs were made available to them on school property in the last 12 months.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

community calendar

for the months of fall

September

- 8,15,22 Assemblywoman Wilma Chan is organizing a series of volunteer projects in an effort to improve community facilities in Oakland and Alameda. For more information, please call (510) 286-1670.
- 26 Lecture Series: Dr. Tony Guerrero, 5:30-6:30 p.m. "Violence Prevention Curriculum Development", Kapiolani Medical Center, 6th Floor, Ewa Conference Room, Honolulu, HI.
- 28 The Asian Youth Services Committee is hosting their "Back to School Dance" For more information, please call (510) 238-7930.

October

- 6 Asian Domestic Violence Clinic fundraiser. Master Chef Sam Choy will be at Dunsmuir House and Gardens in Oakland, CA. For more information, please call (415) 567-6255.
- 19,20 Job Fair and Workshops for API's with disabilities at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center. Email: apidc@yahoogroups.com
Website: <http://apidc.freeservers.com>.

If your organization would like to post events in future issues of API Currents, please email requests to info@api-center.org

CONTACT

The API Center has offices in two sites:

Honolulu Office

Dept. of Psychiatry, Univ. of Hawai'i
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children
1319 Punahou Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: (808) 945-1517

Oakland Office

National Council on Crime & Delinquency
1970 Broadway, Suite 500
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 208-0500

Visit us on the web at:
www.api-center.org

You can also reach us via e-mail:
info@api-center.org
apiyvpc@jabsom.biomed.hawaii.edu



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
1970 BROADWAY, SUITE 500
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612