

School-Age Children & Youth

According to the SOAR *King County School Age Action Agenda*, it is critical that a community prioritizes children and youth as both a future investment and a reflection of our current quality of life. Bellevue as a community clearly values that priority. Responding to the needs of and creating a strong foundation for healthy growth and development for all youth, especially those for whom there is limited access to resources they need to succeed, can improve the overall health of the community. This is even more important during the current economic downturn: research shows that children living in low-income families experience more negative life outcomes, such as poor health, lost economic potential and involvement with crime.

What's Working?

- Staff at Youth Eastside Services (YES) report that during the 2008-2009 outcome period, of the 299 youth who received counseling, 87% said that they were better able to cope with at least one of their problems. During the same time period, at Asian Counseling and Referral Service, of the 48 school-age youth clients involved in counseling, 98% of them either advanced to the next grade, or graduated.
- Of 171 Bellevue School District students who were matched with VIBES volunteers, 100% improved in personal growth, work habits and academics.
- Though during the 2009 State Legislative session, funding was not included in the 2009-2011 biennial budget for grants to afterschool programs, language was kept in the budget that discontinued rather than eliminated the Washington Community Learning Center, a big win despite the State's huge budget deficit.
- Also during the 2009 session, advocates for children and youth in foster care succeeded in preserving the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee and secured funding for a research study about whether the Department of Social and Health Services practices reduce racial disproportionality.
- Bellevue Youth Court, a three year pilot project in partnership with King County Superior Court and the King County Prosecutors Office, is one of the Action Teams of Youth Link. In 2008, Bellevue Youth Court worked with 13 youths involved in the King County Juvenile Justice System; 16 cases were heard in Bellevue Youth Court; and 85 youth and 22 adults were trained and volunteered in the program.

Prevalence Demographics

- According to the 2006-2008 American Community Survey, school-age children and youth 5-19 made up 17.4% of the Bellevue population. This age group grew at a slower rate between 1990 and 2000 than Bellevue's overall population. However, since 2000, this segment of the population has grown at a faster rate. Bellevue has a smaller proportion of school-age children and youth than does the nation (21%) and state (20%) but a larger proportion than did Kirkland (14%), Redmond (16%) and Seattle (13%).

Education

- As of October 2009, the Bellevue School District's (BSD) enrollment was 17,311. The last time there were more than 17,000 students was in 1982. Enrollment in the Kelsey Creek Home School Center, a support program for home schooling, was 149 in 2009-10, a 71% increase since 2001.¹
- Funding for Head Start and the State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program in King County is insufficient to meet the need for quality early learning for children from families with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level. In 2007, in King County, it was projected that only 27% of the children eligible for both

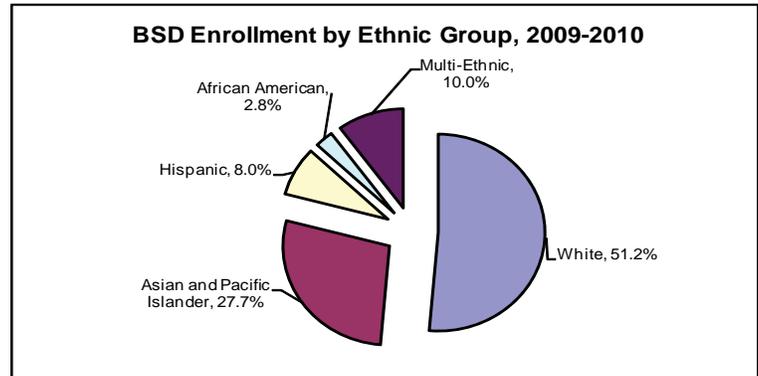
programs (9,141) were served. Bellevue School District and Bellevue College provided Head Start program services to 820 children in 2007, which was projected to be only 18% of the need.²

- Research shows that school dropouts have a tougher time finding employment and earn significantly less than those students who finish high school and go on to at least some college. Other studies indicate that high school dropouts are three and one-half times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested, and over eight times more likely to be in jail or in prison.³ The State of Washington defines dropouts as 1) those who actually drop out of school before graduation and 2) those who withdraw from the district before graduation without giving information about whether or not they enrolled in another district (these students are called “unknown withdrawals”). Bellevue School District has an overall (4-year cohort, not an annual rate) dropout rate of 8% for the Class of 2008. Dropout rates still disproportionately affect students of color. Another major factor impacting dropout rates is student mobility - when students enroll in the district late in their school career - i.e., after Fall of their 9th grade year. For example, among Hispanic/Latino students who enrolled after 9th grade, more than half left (unknown withdrawal) or dropped out before graduation, compared to 18% of Hispanic/Latino students who were enrolled at the beginning of their 9th grade year. Six percent of White students in the Class of 2008 dropped out of school. It should be noted that with small population groups, such as African-American or Hispanic/Latino students, slight changes in numbers of students can result in large rate fluctuations from year to year.⁴

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

- In the past ten years, the percentage of Hispanic students in the Bellevue School

District has increased by almost 50%. The percentage of Hispanics in 1996-1997 was about 5.3%; in 2006-2007, it was 8.1%. As of October 2009, the percentage is similar at 8%.⁵ The rate of Asian students increased 30% over the last ten years.

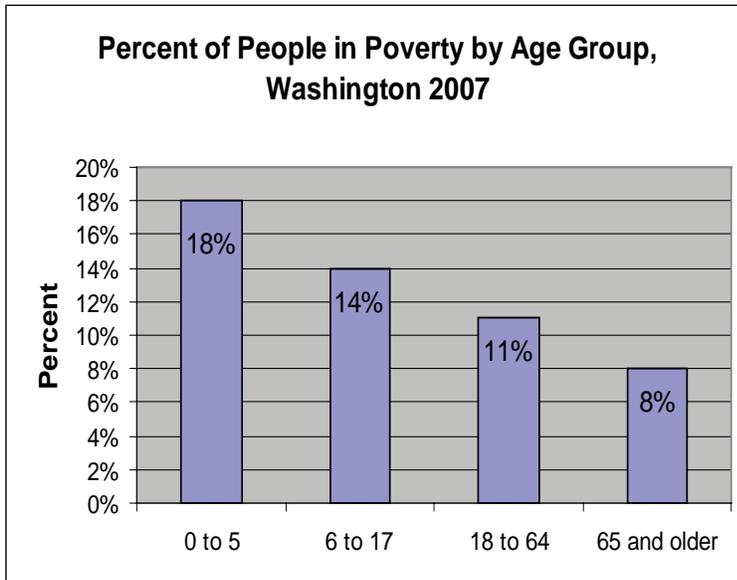


- The percentage of White students has declined every year, which reflects the increasing diversity in the district. In 2009, 51.2% of Bellevue’s students were White, compared to 71.4% in 1996.
- African American student numbers have remained relatively stable in the past few years after a slight decline.⁶
- Including English, Bellevue School District students speak 81 first languages, increasing from 72 in 2008. Over a quarter (30.2%) of students speak a language other than English as their first language. Spanish is the most common language after English, followed by Korean, Chinese-Mandarin and Chinese-Cantonese, Russian, Vietnamese, and Japanese.⁷
- About 9.2% of Bellevue School District students are enrolled in English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes. This is slightly above the average for King County schools. The majority of ESL students are in grades K-5.⁸

Children and Youth Living in Poverty

- The official measure of poverty in the U.S. was developed in 1963 to track the impact of the Johnson Administration’s War on Poverty. Children are referred to as “poor” if they live in families who earn below 100% of the federal poverty level (\$22,050 for a

family of four in 2009) and “low-income” if they live in families below 200% of the poverty level (\$44,100 for a family of four in 2009). In Washington State, 16% of children (one of every six) lives in a family experiencing poverty. As the chart below shows, the largest percentage of people living in poverty in Washington according to the 2007 American Community Survey are children birth to 5 years old.⁹



Source: American Community Survey 2007/The State of Washington’s Children 2008-2009

- In 2007, it is estimated that 14.3% (56,230) of King County children ages 0-17 are living in poverty. The 2000 Census reported that 4.7% of East King County children lived below the poverty level.¹⁰ Bellevue saw significant increases in poverty levels since 2000. The rate for families increased from 3.8% to 5.0% in 2006-2008. Families with a female householder, no husband present and related children under the age of 18, had the highest

family poverty level of 30%. (Note: For more information, see *Bellevue: A Community Profile* section in this report.)

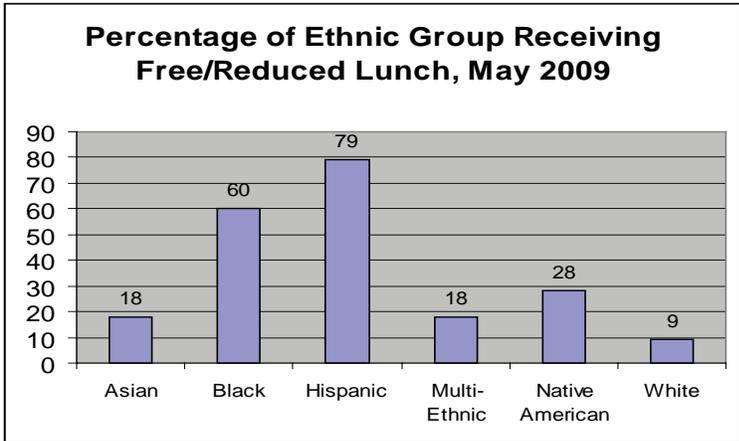
- Another measure of poverty and low-income status in the area of food security is the percentage of students who receive free and reduced-cost lunch. According to the Bellevue School District, the total percentage of students qualifying for lunch assistance has remained relatively steady until 2009. Over a ten year period, the percentage peaked at 19.2% during the 2004-05 school year. Since then it has declined marginally, from 18.9% in 2005-06 to 17.7% in 2008-2009. The percent of students qualifying for free/reduced lunch varies by school. As shown in the chart below, there are ten schools out of 31 in the district with more than 30% of students eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches, and over half (16) of the district schools reported that at least 20% of their students qualified. Data collected during the 2009-2010 school year revealed that, likely due to the recession, more families are unemployed and now qualify for this program. As of October 1, 2009, the percentage increased to 20.8%, a 3% increase from 2008’s 17.7%.¹¹ Another indicator of poverty in BSD is the increase of students eligible to receive services for the homeless. In 2008, 48 qualified; in 2009, the number jumped to 93.
- Students of color are disproportionately represented in the free and reduced lunch program. This is clear in the chart on the

% of School Enrollment Qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch (Based on 10/1/09 Counts)				
	Elementary (16)	Middle (7)	High (6)	Other (2)
0-10%	Bennett, Cherry Crest, Clyde Hill, Medina, Somerset, Puesta del Sol	International	International	Kelsey Creek (K-12)
11-20%	Eastgate, Enatai, Newport Heights	Tyee, Chinook	Bellevue, Newport	
21-30%	Spiritridge, Woodridge,	Tillicum, Odle	Interlake	
31-40%	Stevenson, Phantom Lake		Sammamish	
41-50+%	Lake Hills, Sherwood Forest, Ardmore	Robinswood, Highland	Robinswood	Transition

Source: Bellevue School District (2009)

page below that shows the percentage of students by racial/ethnic group, and the percentage of students in these categories enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program. Research conducted in Washington schools found that while ethnicity explained six percent or less of the variance in academic achievement, it explained over a quarter of the “variance for poverty in the school.”¹²

“My mom’s unemployment benefits are too high for me to qualify for free or reduced lunch but I can’t afford lunch. All our money is going to pay our rent.”
Community Conversation, B-GLAD participant, 15 years old



Source: Bellevue School District, August 2009

Health Issues

- Beginning in July 2007, all children birth to 18 years old in families with incomes up to 250% of the FPL in Washington State became eligible for health care coverage, with no waiting lists. Due to the huge State budget deficit in 2009, funding for that program, called *Apple Health for Kids*, was at risk. Changes in federal law, however, made states eligible for Children’s Health Insurance Program funds, so the program was preserved, and expanded to uninsured children living in families earning up to 300% of the FPL.¹³ However, budget cuts in 2010 could reduce that rate to former levels.
- Pregnancy rates among teens 15-17 years old in Washington State declined steadily from 59.0 per 1,000 females in 1989 to 27.6 per 1,000 in 2006, which was the lowest in

over 20 years. In 2007, the rate increased slightly, to 28.7. The State’s birth rate for this age group was 16.1/1,000 in 2006, a slight increase after dropping steadily since 1998.¹⁴ This compares to a national teen birth rate of 22.0 in 2006, a 3% increase over the

previous year.¹⁵ One of the reasons this age group is tracked is because it is at the highest risk for poor birth outcomes, such as low birth weight and prematurity which puts the infant at risk for infant death, blindness and deafness. Children born to single teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of school, give birth out of wedlock, and become dependent on welfare, compared to children with older parents. In 2004, public costs in Washington State totaled \$115 million which includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid and food stamps.¹⁶

- Between 2004-2006, the average teen birth rate in King County for females ages 15-17 was 10.0/1,000 births. During the same time period, average teen birth rates in South King County (15.1) and Seattle (9.5) were higher than in East (3.8) or North King County (4.4). The Bellevue School District is among those in the county that have the lowest adolescent birth rates. Between 2004-2006, there were 4.4 births/1,000 girls 15-17 years old.¹⁷
- Average teen birth rates from 2004-2006 in King County were higher among Hispanics/Latinas (53.4 per 1,000), American Indian/Alaska Natives, (23.6 per 1,000), and African Americans (19.1 per 1,000) than among Whites (9.0 per 1,000) and Asians reporting a single race (4.6 per 1,000).¹⁸
- According to the findings from the most recent Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, conducted in 2008 with middle and high school students across the state, 11% of 10th grade students were overweight. In King County in 2008, 11.6% of youth in grade

8, 16% of youth in grade 10, and 13.7% of youth in grade 12 were overweight. In the Bellevue School district, 13% of 8th graders, 9.7% of 10th graders, and 9.7% of 12th graders were overweight.¹⁹ Factors contributing to the increasing rates of overweight in children include fewer opportunities for physical activities, media and marketing, and increased time in sedentary activities, such as watching television or using computers. Obesity contributes to a host of chronic diseases such as heart disease and causes a greater likelihood of premature death.²⁰

- The Washington Healthy Youth Survey also provides information about substance use by youth. (Note: For more information about this topic, see Goal 4 in this report.)

Mental Health

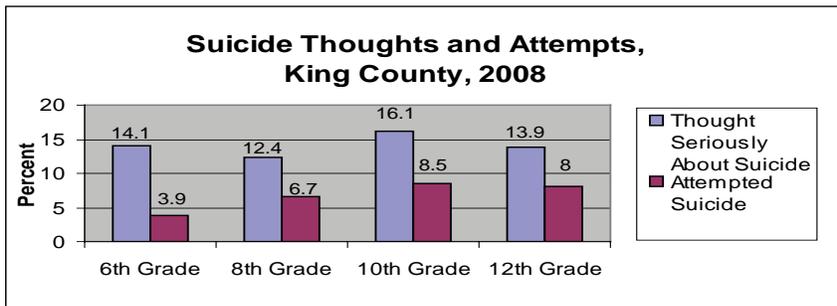
- A study released in September 2008 by the National Institute of Mental Health found that suicides in children and youth aged 10-19 appear to be on the rise after a 15 year decline. Researchers thought a spike in youth suicides in 2004 may be an anomaly, but the study found that the increase continued in 2005. Some possible factors contributing to this trend include higher rates of untreated or undiagnosed depression, an increase in suicide rates among U.S. troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and the decreased use of antidepressants among children, due to increased side effects, such as suicidal thoughts.²¹
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Washington youth ages 15-

week. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, Washington has the 16th highest overall suicide rate in the nation.²²

- In 2008, about 14% of King County sixth graders and 14% of twelfth graders said they had thought seriously about killing themselves. Eleven percent of twelfth graders reported making a suicide plan and eight percent said they had actually tried to kill themselves. Almost four percent of sixth graders have attempted suicide. Almost eight percent of sixth graders and 16% of twelfth graders in King County feel that there are not adults they can turn to for help when they're feeling sad or hopeless. In Bellevue, almost seven percent of sixth graders and 13% of twelfth graders reported there were no adults they could turn to.²³

Youth Violence

- In 2007, 35,865 juveniles were arrested in Washington State, a rate of 49.8 for every 1,000 juveniles in the state age 10-17, an increase from 2006 when the rate was 48.0. There were 1,650 violent offense arrests of youth for a violent arrest rate of 2.3 per 1,000 youth age 10-17, a 15% increase between 2006-2007. There was a 30% decrease from 1998-2007. Girls represented 29% of the total juvenile arrests in 2007, no change compared to 2006. From 1998-2007, the percentage increased eight percent for girls, compared to three percent for males.²⁴
- Juvenile court offense referrals, incarceration and juvenile arrests disproportionately affect youth of color. Forty-nine percent



Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2008

of young people in care of the State's Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) are youth of color, yet youth of color make up only 24% of the state's juvenile population. For example, Black youth make up less than 4% of the State population, but are 18% of the population in JRA.²⁵

24. Between 100 and 120 youths complete suicide each year, at a rate of two suicides a

- In 2008, the JRA reported that more than 60% of youth held in JRA facilities have "significant mental health

issues,” and 85% of the youth in residential care are substance abusers or chemically dependent.²⁶

- In 2008, while 90% of King County sixth graders feel safe at school, only 56.7% report actually enjoying school, similar to 2006. About the same number of twelfth graders reported feeling safe (86.8%), and enjoyed school (38.5%) also similar to 2006. In Bellevue, almost 93% of sixth graders and 92.2% of twelfth graders felt safe at school; 64% of sixth graders and 38% of twelfth graders reported enjoying school.²⁷
- Almost seven percent of twelfth graders in King County reported having brought a weapon to school in the past month at least once in 2008, similar to 2006. Twenty-six percent of sixth graders in King County reported that they’d been bullied in the past 30 days. By twelfth grade, this rate had dropped to 14.5%. In Bellevue, 25.3% of sixth graders were bullied, and almost 14% of twelfth graders reported being bullied.²⁸
- In 2008, almost seven percent of King County eighth graders report having been a member of a gang in the past 12 months; almost six percent of Bellevue eighth graders reported gang membership.²⁹ According to Bellevue police statistics, in 2008 there were 11 gang related cases, and 35 malicious mischief/graffiti incidents, several of which were related to gangs. None of the gang related incidents occurred in schools.³⁰ Examples of youth behavior observed by the School Resource Officers (SROs) and other police officers in the community range from students dressing in gang colors and using “gangster talk” to fighting, under-age drinking, and shoplifting.³¹
- In 2007, there were 6,758 juvenile arrests in King County, a nine percent increase compared to 2006.³² In Bellevue in 2008, 475 youth were arrested, a 16% decrease compared to 2006 when there were 570.³³

- In King County in 2006, there were 416 juvenile violent crime arrests (murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault). The rate of arrests for these crimes was 2.4 per 1,000 juveniles ages 10-17. This rate is slightly higher than in 2006.³⁴ In 2008 in Bellevue, 19 juveniles were arrested for violent crimes, similar to 2006.³⁵

Service Trends

Support for Youth in the Community

- The VIBES (Volunteers in Bellevue’s Education System) program works in all Bellevue schools to provide one-on-one mentoring and tutoring to students. There are currently over 450 volunteers in the program. Staff report that they recently have been seeing a number of new volunteers who had lost their jobs and wanted to “give back” to the community. Needs vary by school; for example, in some schools, there are fewer parent volunteers as more parents are working multiple jobs. In another school in which more children read below grade level, VIBES volunteers provide more support to pre-school through second grade students needing one-on-one literacy help.³⁶
- Youth Eastside Services’ SUCCESS Mentoring Program recruits mentors to encourage youth to develop the skills and qualities they need to be successful in life, help them build self-esteem and provide them with continual support and guidance. Research shows that mentoring can decrease involvement in high-risk behavior. Staff have seen an increase in demand for their program in the last two years, especially for male mentors, and more family stress due to meeting basic needs due to the recession.³⁷
- Bellevue Youth Link, a youth leadership and empowerment program co-sponsored by the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue

“Jobs are very competitive now. It is hard for young people who don’t have much experience to get jobs with many qualified people in the job market.”

Community Conversation, Jubilee REACH Center

School District, gives middle and high school age teens an active voice in the community and an opportunity to make change in their community. Every two years, Youth Link hosts a city-wide youth conference to decide what issues and concerns most impact them. In 2008, the 443 students who attended identified a number of priorities including having more translators for English Language Learner parents and students, eliminating Internet predators on social networking sites such as Facebook, increasing the number of public buses as well as more weekend bus routes, and creating more parks and recreation centers.³⁸

- Providers of recreation programs for children and youth report an increase in requests for scholarships as the recession has reduced many family's budgets. Staff at the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA are receiving more requests for financial assistance for programs, including summer camp scholarships. Child Care Resources has seen an increase in requests for after-school programs subsidies. Lake Hills Elementary School staff report a long wait list for students needing scholarships for the after-school Boys and Girls Club program there because parents cannot afford the full cost of care.³⁹

Health and Mental Health Issues

- YES has a variety of Early Intervention Programs for individuals, families or groups in all three departments-- General Counseling, Substance Abuse, and Outreach. They see clients with a wide range of problems including those who have experienced trauma and abuse, but also many people with challenges around family communication, parenting skills, peer and social problems, or needing skills to cope with anxiety, depression and anger. The numbers they serve keep growing with

"Finding afterschool care for working parents is difficult; kids are home by themselves for hours."
Community Conversation, Youth Eastside Services Counselors

an increase of immigrant families, many Hispanic. While the children and teens usually speak English, there is a growing need for bilingual counselors to work with the parents.⁴⁰ Staff in the YES school-based counseling program report that the children and youth they work with are exhibiting more stress and mental health issues due to the economic downturn, as their parents are becoming unemployed and are in financial crisis. This can lead to academic problems, more health issues due to poor nutrition and kids coming to school sick if their parents cannot stay home from work with them. An overarching issue is that many parents do not know where to find resources or how to navigate complex systems.⁴¹

- Friends of Youth staff report that the stress of the recession has affected many of the families they see. Children and youth of all ages are feeling the effects. Depression, stress and anxiety, and divorce are primary issues, along with conduct disorder and school refusal. The drugs abused by youth are mainly alcohol, marijuana and tobacco, however some are also using methamphetamines, and abusing prescription drugs.⁴²
- Asian Counseling and Referral Service provides counseling at Lake Hills Elementary School and Odle Middle School for children and their families in partnership with the Wrap Around Services Project.

Staff report that they are serving more youth and family members in mental health counseling services; expected funding cuts will reduce their ability to

serve the increased numbers.

- Because almost two-thirds of youth depression goes undetected and untreated, public awareness and youth education is critical. Washington's Youth Suicide Prevention Program (YSPP) works to increase public awareness of depression and suicide, provides training to teachers, parents

and students and promotes community-based suicide prevention plans.⁴³ The Crisis Clinic's Teen Link provides a youth-answered help line open evenings to respond to calls from youth on a wide variety of topics, including crisis intervention. Teen Link also offers suicide prevention training in junior, middle and high schools, and youth serving organizations. Teen Link handles about 1,000 calls annually, with about one quarter of those typically from North and East King County.⁴⁴

Refugee and Immigrant Youth

- According to the most recent Washington State Refugee and Immigrant Service Delivery Plan, refugee and immigrant students face a number of barriers when attending school for the first time in this culture. For example, research has shown that English Language Learners (ELL) tend to have lower levels of academic performance in math and reading, high rates of grade retention, and much higher dropout rates than their English-fluent peers.⁴⁵ Based on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test scores for 2005-2006, students with limited English proficiency scored significantly lower than students who are fluent in English. For example, of the 10th grade students in Washington State who took the WASL in reading, 61.2% of ELL students did not meet the standard, compared to only 14.5% of all students.⁴⁶
- Washington State's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance received a five-year Refugee School Impact Grant from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement in 2005. The grant works to support local school systems impacted by significant numbers of refugee children. In Washington State, the grant is focused on these outcomes: (1) Increase the skills and the pool of qualified bilingual paraeducators,

tutors and teachers; (2) Improve the academic performance and graduation rates of refugee students; and (3) Bridge the cultural gap between refugee parents, communities and schools by increasing parental involvement in school activities and increasing the cultural competency of school staff. In King County, during the 2008-2009 school year, these seven districts served over 600 refugee students: Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Northshore, Seattle, Shoreline and Tukwila. During the 2009-2010 school year, increased outreach efforts will be made to East King County to participate in the program.

- Some students who are Bellevue residents attend schools in the Issaquah School District, Sunset and Cougar Ridge Elementary Schools and Issaquah Middle School. Staff report that in particular, Sunset has an increasing ELL population: 14

"How do we support parents in their efforts to learn English when they are isolated in their communities and their children are acting as "interpreters" of their cultures, of school?"
Community Conversation, VIBES Volunteers

different languages are spoken, with the largest growing group Spanish speaking, followed by Chinese, Korean, and Indian. ESL classes

for parents and caregivers of the students are very much needed, with two currently provided by Hopelink and a local church.⁴⁷

- Since 2004, the Bellevue School District has sponsored a program called Parent Action and Advisory Council (PAAC) serving families of students of color and English Language Learners by improving cross cultural communication skills, hiring interpreters when needed, and offering more parent education tailored to the needs of these families. Examples of activities include sponsoring curriculum nights for Spanish speaking parents, developing video orientations in Korean, Japanese and Mandarin for the district website, and college night for African American 10th and 11th graders.⁴⁸
- In key informant interviews, members of the some of the diverse cultural communities in

Bellevue (Iranian, Chinese, Latino) identified the need for more opportunities for youth to participate in community service projects, and to be mentored and supported to feel more included. Many youth, in particular, feel disconnected or caught between two cultures, that of their family, and that of their school and friends from the mainstream culture.⁴⁹

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth

- B-GLAD, sponsored by Youth Eastside Services, is a drop-in support group open to kids ages 12 to 19 who may identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender or who may be questioning their sexuality. Co-facilitated by trained professionals, B-GLAD is a safe environment for youth to meet their peers, share common concerns, ask questions, and receive information and support in a professional setting that encourages responsible decision-making. B-GLAD has an active youth speakers bureau to give presentations in schools and in community-based settings. The group also produced and premiered a film called “PUT THIS ON THE MAP” about LGBTQ youth residing in East King County in October 2009.⁵⁰

Emergency Shelter, Transitional and Long-Term Permanent Housing Options for Homeless Youth

- Friends of Youth (FOY) provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, case management and foster care to homeless teens. The agency runs two emergency shelters in East King County (one in Bellevue, one in Kenmore) for youth ages 11-17, serving 83 youth annually. The emergency shelter turns away one youth for every three requests received. New Ground Kirkland is the newest addition to FOY’s Transitional Living Program, beneficial to single young adults ages 18-21 for up to

18 months. Participants receive supportive case management services, life skills training and educational guidance to help them move towards permanent housing. New Ground served 197 youth in 2008. FOY reports an increase in the number of youth using methamphetamines, although drugs of choice remain alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.⁵¹ (*Note: For more information about this topic, see Goal 1 in this report.*)

- FOY, in partnership with the Bellevue YMCA, provides a shelter for young adults ages 18-24 years old in Bellevue called The Landing. They serve 212 young adults/year. Staff provide case management and work to engage participants in services needed to get them off the streets. During a Community Conversation with participants in the Leadership Council and staff from this program, many issues were identified that act as barriers to obtaining permanent housing. These include lack of resources for first and last month’s rent and deposits, lack of quality legal assistance to address complex financial or criminal histories that make getting housing difficult, and difficulty getting mental health and substance abuse services. Staff report that the majority of these youth have a history of physical abuse, and an even higher percentage have experienced sexual abuse. This is equally prevalent with males and females. Many could be diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, however, most are still in the midst of their trauma. Rates of anxiety, mood disorders and conduct disorders have remained consistent. The drug of choice of current ‘guests’ is primarily alcohol and marijuana, with some methamphetamine and crack cocaine usage. Eighty-five percent of the guests at the Landing are male. Of the males, approximately 85% are using drugs. Of the females, approximately 95% are using.⁵²

Youth Violence

- Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) provides a youth prevention and

early intervention program, as well as a skills group for young women. The Teen Peer Advocate Program (TPAP), trains and recruits girls from Interlake and Sammamish High Schools to educate their peers and the broader community on teen dating violence, sexual assault prevention

“Money is tight. I was cut down to two days/week at work, but I need 5 days. I give my mom money to help with expenses.”
Community Conversation, B-GLAD participant, 16 years old

and community resources. This program addresses the need for a culturally relevant program for Asian Pacific American young women. Staff report an increase in the need for a teen dating violence support group.⁵³ (Note: For more information about this topic, see Goal 3 in this report).

- VIBES volunteers outlined a variety of the needs of the students they tutor. Some middle and high school students who are bright but disengaged from school tend to get in trouble more frequently at school. VIBES volunteers were concerned that these kids may at some point turn to gangs to help them feel connected.⁵⁴

Community Perceptions

- Only five percent of 2009 phone survey respondents reported that *not having quality K-12 education for children in the household* was a major/moderate problem, identical to that reported in 2007.
- Nineteen percent of phone survey respondents ranked *teens dropping out of school* as a major/moderate community problem. This continues to be fairly consistent with ratings from previous phone surveys from 2005 and 2007.
- The same percentage of people (19%) ranked *lack of services for children and youth/teens* as a major/moderate community issue in the 2009 phone survey. Since 2001, this problem area shows a slightly decreasing trend.
- Thirteen percent of phone survey respondents rated *teen pregnancy* as a major/

moderate community problem, somewhat lower than in 2007.

- Fifteen percent of phone survey respondents rated *effects of gang activities* as a major/moderate community problem, similar to the last survey in 2007.
 - In a Community Conversation held with members of the B-GLAD LGBTQ group, members reported a mix of acceptance levels in the community and in schools for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and questioning youth. Many schools have supportive teachers that they can talk to, and feel safe; some school classmates are less accepting, and youth do not come “out” and remain invisible. Overall, however, the B-GLAD members agreed they felt safe in the community.

Implications for Action

- Access to programs for children and youth to ensure their health and well-being is even more important in a weak economy. As more families face unemployment and loss of income, they struggle to provide the basics for their children. Lack of these resources can put children and youth at risk for poor outcomes, and eventually take an economic toll on the community.
- With the growing diversity in Bellevue, there is a need for more culturally sensitive programs and activities for school-aged children and youth and their families who may be coping with adjusting to a new country or to gender-based differences.
- As families experience more stress due to the economic downturn, many children are internalizing this stress, exhibiting problems in school, and depression. Prevention oriented services are needed to help minimize more serious problems, such as substance abuse and involvement in gangs, in the future.
- There is a gap in the “safety net” for homeless youth and young adults, up to age

24. More housing with services and outreach to this at-risk population is needed to help them move on to productive lives. Some have “aged out” of the foster care system; others are employed or going to school, but lack family or community support.

Endnotes

1. Bellevue School District. (2009). <http://bs-dresource.wordpress.com>
2. Public Health-Seattle & King County. Communities Count 2008: Social and Health Indicators Across King County. Available at: <http://www.communitiescount.org>.
3. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Washington. (2008). School or the Streets: Crime and Washington Dropout Prevention.
4. Lindberg, Chris. (2009, August). Bellevue School District. Personal Correspondence.
5. Lindberg, Chris. (2009, October). Bellevue School District. 2009-10 Demographics.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. University of Washington Human Services Policy Center. (2009, Summer). The State of Washington’s Children, 2008-2009. Available at: http://www.hspsc.org/publications/pdf/cp2009/SWC08_FINALCOPY.pdf
10. Communities Count: Social and Health Indicators Across King County. Op.cit.
11. Bellevue School District, Op. cit.
12. Mandell, D., Hill, S., Carter, L., Brandon, R. (2002). The Impact of Substance Use and Violence/Delinquency on Academic Achievement for Groups of Middle and High School Students in Washington. Washington Kids Count, Human Services Policy Center, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington.
13. Children’s Alliance Legislative Update. (2009). Available at <http://www.childrensalliance.org>
14. State of Washington Department of Health. Center for Health Statistics. Available at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/chs/chs-data/abortion/download/Intro_tb3.xls
15. Center for Disease Control Fact Sheet. (2008). Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf
16. Washington Department of Health. (2007). Public Health Fact Sheet Teen Pregnancy. Available at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/cahcp/teenpreg2.htm/>
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Washington State 2008 Healthy Youth Survey Results. (2009, August).
20. Washington State Department of Health. (2009, February). Obesity in Washington State.
21. Reinberg, Steven. (2008, September 2). Youth Suicides Continue to Rise in the U.S. The Washington Post.
22. Washington State Department of Health. (2006). What’s up? Available at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/injury/suicide.htm>
23. Healthy Youth Survey, 2008. Op. cit.
24. Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. (2008). 2008 Annual Report. Available at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/OJJ/Section-3-ExecutiveSummary.pdf>.
25. Juvenile Justice in Washington. Children’s Alliance (2008)
26. Ibid.
27. Healthy Youth Survey, 2008. Op.cit.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Zirkle, Lynne. (2009, August). Bellevue Police Department. Personal Correspondence.
31. Sellers, Lt. David. (2009, August). Bellevue Police Department. Personal Correspondence.
32. Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Op. cit.
33. Zirkle, Lynne. (2009). Op.cit.
34. Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, Op. cit.
35. Zirkle, Lynne. (2009). Op. cit.
36. Bellevue School District VIBES Program. (2009). Provider Survey.
37. Mioduszewski, Janel. Youth Eastside Services SUCCESS Program. (2009). Personal Correspondence.

38. Bellevue Youth Link's 2008 Youth Involvement Conference. (2008). Final Report.
39. Child Care Resources, Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, YMCA. (2009). Provider Surveys. Lake Hills Elementary School staff. (2009, May). Key Informant Interview.
40. Conrad, Bertie. Youth Eastside Services. (2009, August 10). Personal Correspondence.
41. Youth Eastside Services. School Based Counselors. (2009, April 15). Community Conversation.
42. Friends of Youth. (2009, August). Personal Correspondence.
43. Youth Suicide Prevention Program. <http://www.yspp.org/>
44. Crisis Clinic. Teen Link Program. (2009). Agency Information.
45. State of Washington Refugee and Immigrant Assistance. 2007-2008 Washington State Refugee Service Delivery Plan.
46. State Superintendent of Public Instruction. "Educating English Language Learners In Washington State". (2008, January).
47. La Mare, Heidi. (2009, March 26). Issaquah School District. Key Informant Interview.
48. Bellevue School District website. (2008). Available at: <http://www.bsd405.org>.
49. Key Informant Interviews. (2009). Susan Amini, Negin Almassi, Rev. Phillip Wong.
50. Youth Eastside Services B-GLAD. (2009, March). Community Conversation.
51. Friends of Youth. Op. cit.
52. Friends of Youth. The Landing. (2009, April). Community Conversation. Staff Comments. (2009, August).
53. Asian Counseling and Referral Service. (2009, April). Provider Survey.
54. VIBES Volunteers. (2009, May 7). Community Conversation.