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Dropout Data Analysis

The California Department of Education (CDE) has released the preliminary dropout counts for the 2006-07 school year. Because all California students are now assigned Statewide Student Identification (SSID) numbers, CDE was able to collect dropout data at the student-level through the October 2007 Annual SSID Maintenance data (Information Day) submission process.

This new precision in data collection allows CDE to more accurately calculate the dropout rate. When these student-level data were submitted by LEAs and processed by the CDE, they found two types of new information concerning dropouts:

- (1) students reported by the LEA with a dropout exit-code were subsequently re-enrolled in another California school district (re-enrolled dropout); and
- (2) students reported by the LEA as a transfer to another California public school, but could not be located in another California public school by CDE (lost transfer).

CDE has adjusted the dropout count by subtracting re-enrolled dropouts from and adding lost transfers to the dropout count. Since there are substantially more lost transfers than re-enrolled dropouts, this adjustment resulted in a considerable increase in the number of grade seven through twelve dropouts attributed to schools. The adjustment reflects a significant step forward in efforts to more accurately track student enrollment over time and to better determine what happens to students who leave school before graduation.

There is one more opportunity for local educational agencies (LEA) to submit student-level data corrections to California School Information Services (CSIS). All corrections submitted and certified by the LEA prior to August 28 will be posted to CDE's database by September 15, 2008.

Santa Clara County Office of Education's Standards and Assessment Department prepared the following analysis of the preliminary 2006-07 dropout data for your review. Analyses are based on the adjusted dropout counts – with the exception being the grade level analyses. For now, CDE is presenting the reported dropout counts at the individual grade levels, not the adjusted counts.

Santa Clara County Compared to California

- The Santa Clara County grade 9 – 12 four year dropout rate of 20.2% was lower than the rate for California (24.2%) (*table 1*).
- The Santa Clara County grade 9 – 12 one year dropout rate (4.6%) was smaller than the California rate (5.4%).
- Santa Clara County Hispanic/Latino students had a four year dropout rate that was higher than the California Hispanic/Latino students (37.1% vs. 30.3%). All other Santa Clara County ethnic groups (except Pacific Islander) had lower dropout rates than their California counterparts (*table 1*).
- Higher percents of Santa Clara County students than California students dropped out in the twelfth and ninth grades. In Santa Clara County and California the majority of dropouts dropped out of school in the twelfth grade (55.6% of Santa Clara County dropouts and 43.4 % of California dropouts). In Santa Clara County, the second largest percent of dropouts came from the ninth grade (17.4% of Santa Clara County dropouts dropped out in the ninth grade compared to 13.6% of California dropouts) (*figure 2*).
- Santa Clara County's socioeconomically disadvantaged students had a four year dropout rate of 35.3%, which is higher than the 28.8% rate that California's socioeconomically disadvantaged students had (*table 3*).

Summary of Results for Santa Clara County Schools

- Santa Clara County Hispanic/Latino students had a four year dropout rate (37.1%) that was 3.75 times greater than White students (9.9%) and 5.6 times greater than Asian students (6.6%) (*table 1*). Hispanic/Latino students accounted for 32.9% of Santa Clara County's grade 9 – 12 enrollment and 64.0% of the grade 9 – 12 dropouts (*figure 1*). There were more than nine times more grade 9 Hispanic dropouts (557) than grade 8 Hispanic dropouts (60) (*figure 3*).
- Like their CA counterparts, Santa Clara County males had a higher four year dropout rate than Santa Clara County females (22.8% vs. 17.4%) (*table 3*).
- The four year drop out rates for unified and high school districts ranged from below 3% (Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High: 1.7%; Palo Alto Unified: 2.5%) to above 26% (Gilroy Unified: 26.7%; East Side Union High: 27.9%) (*figure 4*).

Table 1: Santa Clara County and California 2006-07 Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate* by Ethnicity

Ethnic Category	Santa Clara County		California	
	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Dropout Rate	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Dropout Rate
Hispanic or Latino	2,684	37.1%	69,035	30.3%
White	598	9.9%	26,165	15.2%
Asian	317	6.6%	4,462	10.2%
Multiple/No Response	221	29.8%	4,099	30.6%
African American (not Hispanic)	195	26.5%	19,440	41.6%
Filipino	103	9.5%	1,687	11.9%
Pacific Islander	44	30.3%	964	27.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	34	30.5%	1,440	31.3%
Total	4,196	20.2%	127,292	24.2%

* The 4-year derived dropout rate is an estimate of the percent of students who would drop out in a four year period based on data collected for a single year.

CDE defines a dropout for the October 2007 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) data collection as a person who meets the following criteria:

- 1) Was enrolled in grades seven through twelve at some time during the 2006-07 school year
AND left school prior to completing the 2006-07 school year

OR

- 2) Successfully completed the 2005-06 school year but did not begin attending the next grade (seven through twelve) in the school to which he or she was assigned or in which he or she had pre-registered or was expected to attend during the 2006-07 school year

AND

- 3) Is not enrolled and attending school as of Information Day (October 3, 2007).

Figure 1: Santa Clara County and California 2006-07 Grade 9 – 12 Enrollment and Adjusted Dropouts by Ethnicity

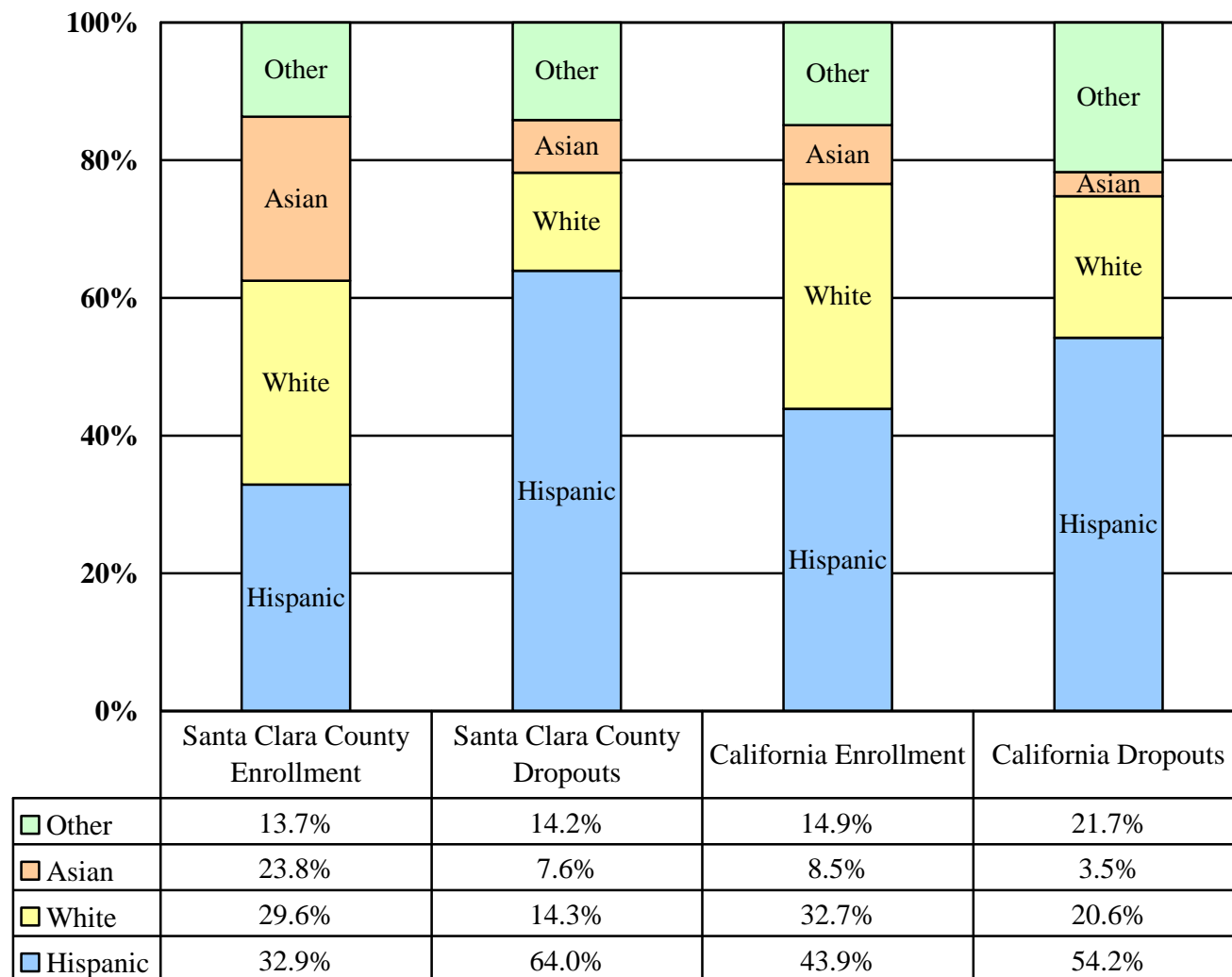


Figure 2: Santa Clara County and California Grade Levels of 2006-07 Reported Dropouts shown as Percent of Total Dropouts

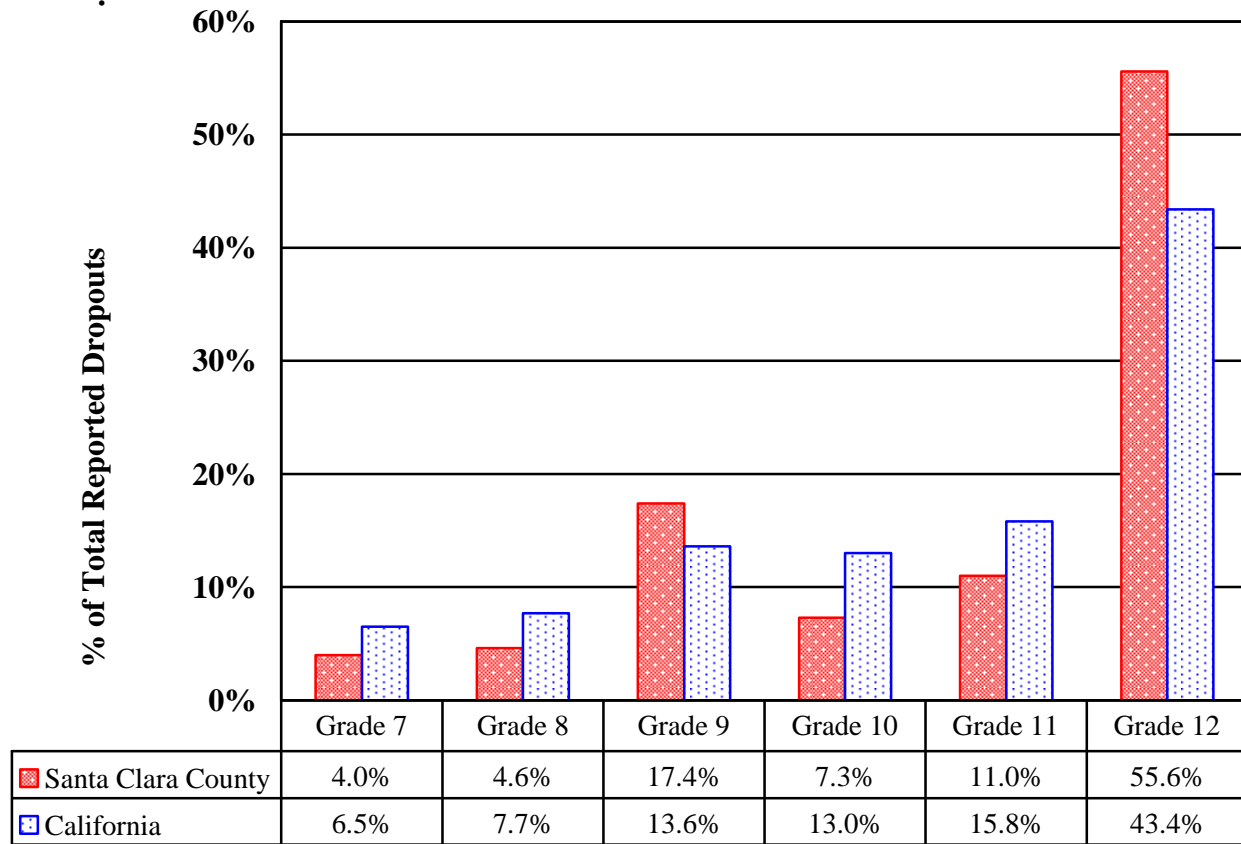
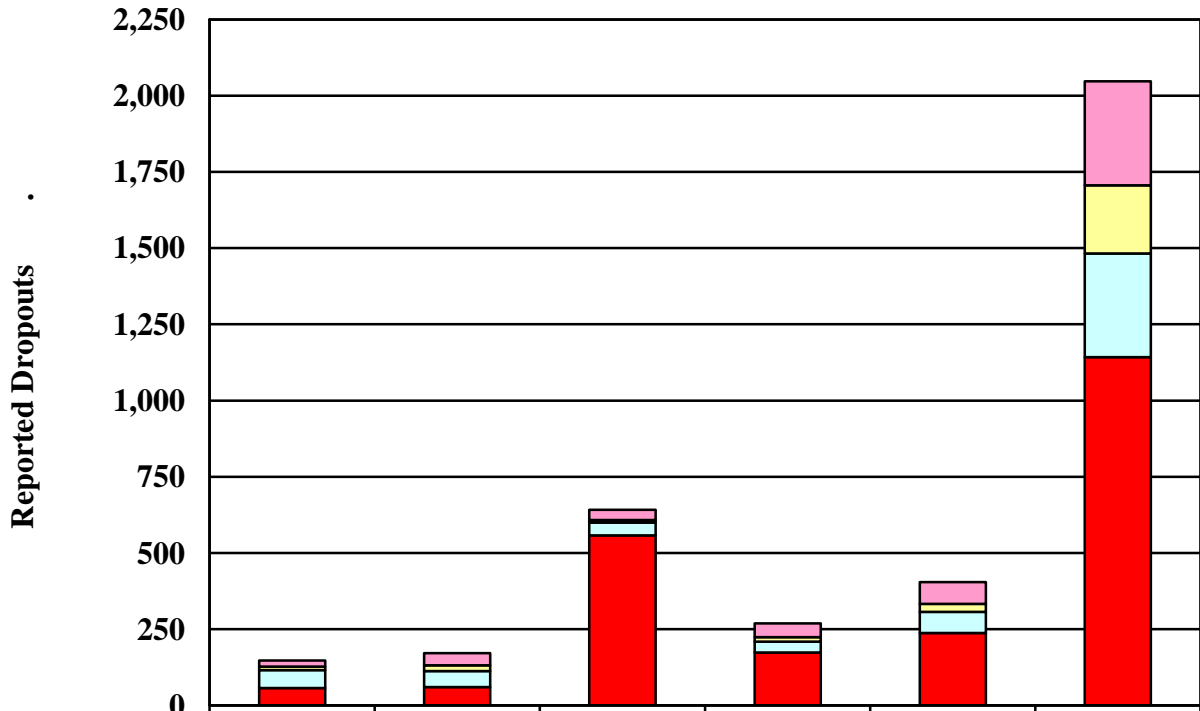


Table 2: Santa Clara County and California Grade Levels of 2006-07 Reported Dropouts shown as Percent of Total Dropouts

Reported Dropouts (Grades 7 - 12)	Santa Clara County		California	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Grade 7 Dropouts	147	4.0%	6,629	6.5%
Grade 8 Dropouts	171	4.6%	7,817	7.7%
Grade 9 Dropouts	642	17.4%	13,853	13.6%
Grade 10 Dropouts	269	7.3%	13,160	13.0%
Grade 11 Dropouts	404	11.0%	16,015	15.8%
Grade 12 Dropouts	2,047	55.6%	44,113	43.4%
Total	3,680	100%	101,587	100%

Figure 3: Santa Clara County 2006-07 Reported Dropouts by Grade and Ethnicity



	Reported Grade 7 Dropouts	Reported Grade 8 Dropouts	Reported Grade 9 Dropouts	Reported Grade 10 Dropouts	Reported Grade 11 Dropouts	Reported Grade 12 Dropouts
Other	20	40	34	45	71	341
Asian	12	19	9	15	26	223
White	58	52	42	36	70	341
Hispanic or Latino	57	60	557	173	237	1,142

Table 3: Santa Clara County and California 2006-07 Adjusted Four Year Dropout Rates by Subgroups

Subgroup	Santa Clara County		California	
	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Dropout Rate	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Dropout Rate
Male	2,471	22.8%	74,632	27.5%
Female	1,725	17.4%	52,660	20.6%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	1,968	35.3%	54,086	28.8%
LEP NCLB Definition*	1,636	28.5%	36,462	26.1%
Special Education Students	419	20.9%	13,164	30.3%
Migrant Education Students	115	31.4%	2,059	19.8%

* Limited English Proficient (LEP) No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Definition includes English Learners (EL) and Fluent-English Proficient (FEP) students that have not yet tested at the proficient or above level for three years on the California Standards Test (CST) English Language Arts (ELA) test.

Figure 4: Santa Clara County Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Dropout Rate by District

