

**THE HARAMBEE
COMMUNITIES THAT
CARE PROJECT
REPORT 2005**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	2
Project Target Area	3
Goal	5
Method	5
Risk Factor Analysis.....	6
Problem Behavior Indicators	10
Conclusions	15
Contact Information.....	16
References.....	16

INTRODUCTION

Risk-focused prevention is based on the premise that to prevent a problem from happening, the factors that increase the risk of that problem developing must be identified and ways to reduce the risks so as to enhance protective or resiliency factors must be found. After decades of work, researchers have identified risk factors for children becoming prone to substance abuse, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy, and dropping out of school. These factors are in the following categories:

- Community
- Family
- School
- Individual/Peer

The Harambee Communities That Care Project mobilized a diverse team of people back in 1998 to conduct an ongoing risk and resource assessment of the Dunbar-West Dunbar-Institute-So. Charleston High School community. The main goal of the team is to determine how likely youth in the target area are to develop adolescent problem behaviors (i.e. substance abuse, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy, and dropping out of school). This year the target area was widened and Kanawha County data was also evaluated.

Data on risk factors in the community, family, and school domain were updated and evaluated. Significant risks that were identified in these categories were:

- Availability of drugs.
- Extreme economic deprivation.
- Family conflict.
- Academic failure beginning in late elementary school (especially among African-Americans).

The data collected will be disseminated to the community through the Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action's (KISRA) website - www.kisra.org.

PROJECT TARGET AREA

The Harambee Communities that Care Project targets the following areas:

- West Dunbar-Institute (Census Tract 104).
- Dunbar.
- South Charleston High School.
- Kanawha County

Overall, the population of the target area is steadily decreasing and the racial demographic is changing, with more African-Americans and less Caucasians now residing in the target area.

Population information on the project target areas is given below:

West Dunbar-Institute			
Year	Total Population	% African- American	% White
1980	3,606	50	49
1990	2,305	61	39
2000	1,638	65	32

There was a 55% decrease in population overall in West Dunbar-Institute between 1980 and 2000, 15% more of the population is now African –American and the percentage of Whites decreased 17%.

Dunbar			
Year	Total Population	% African- American	% White
1980	9,285	5	95
1990	8,697	7	91
2000	8,154	11	86

There was a 12% decrease in population overall in Dunbar between 1980 and 2000, 6% more of the population is now African –American and the percentage of Whites decreased 9%.

So. Charleston			
Year	Total Population	% African- American	% White
1980	15,968	3	96
1990	13,645	4	96
2000	13,390	7	91

There was a 16% decrease in population overall in So. Charleston between 1980 and 2000, 4% more of the population is now African –American and the percentage of Whites decreased 5%.

Kanawha County			
Year	Total Population	% African- American	% White
1990	207, 619	6.6	92.5
2000	200,073	7.6	91.6

There was a 4% decrease in population overall in Kanawha County between 1990 and 2000, 1% more of the population is now African –American and the percentage of Whites decreased 0.9%.

GOAL

To continue to collect risk and resource assessment data for the Dunbar-West Dunbar-Institute-So. Charleston High School area in order to determine how likely youth are to develop adolescent problem behaviors (i.e. substance abuse, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy, and dropping out of school) and to further refine our community prevention plan.

METHOD

The Communities That Care Model is being used. This model identifies indicators of each risk factor, as well as sources of these data. Updated data on our priority risk factors were gathered, where available. Additional data on risk factors not previously assessed is also included in the analysis.

RISK FACTOR ANALYSIS

Risk Factor: Extreme Economic Deprivation

Indicator: Persons Below the Poverty Level

Definition: Percentage of the persons living below the poverty level

Source: US Census

The West Dunbar-Institute area, which is where KISRA is located, has more than two times the percentage of people living in poverty than in the United States, as seen in the Table below.

The poverty rate in Kanawha County is also 11% less and the poverty rate of the state of West Virginia is 7% less than the West Dunbar-Institute area.

Area	Persons living below the poverty level (%)	Persons living below the poverty level (%)
	1990	2000
West Dunbar-Institute	33	25
Dunbar	12	15
So. Charleston	11	12
Charleston	19	17
Kanawha County	15	14
West Virginia	20	18
United States	13	12

Risk Factor: Academic Failure

Indicator: West Test Scores

Definition: Standardized test scores of children in Kanawha County Schools

Source: Kanawha County Schools

Academic failure is a significant risk factor among children in Kanawha County Schools; especially among African-American children (West Dunbar is 65% African-American and Dunbar is 11% African-American). In fact, there is an academic achievement gap between African-American children and Caucasian children. Academic failure can lead to substance abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, and school drop-out among our youth.

The 2003-04 school year WESTEST data for Kanawha County showed that only 45% of African-American high school students were at mastery or above in math compared to 69% of Caucasian students. In reading, 64% of African-American students were at mastery or above compared to 83% of Caucasian students. The data also showed that for the middle school age group, African-American students at mastery and above in math was 48% compared to 66% of Caucasian students and for reading, 66% compared to 79% of Caucasian students. For the elementary age-group, 54 % of African-American students were at mastery and above in math and 60% at mastery and above in reading. However, for Caucasian students, 72% of them were at mastery and above in math and 78% at mastery and above in reading.

2004 ACT performance data for West Virginia showed African-American students had an average math score of 16.8 compared to 19.4 for Caucasian students. In reading African-American students scored an average of 17.6 compared to 21.2 for Caucasian students. The average composite score for African-American students was 17.5 compared to 20.5 for Caucasian students.

Risk Factor: Family Conflict

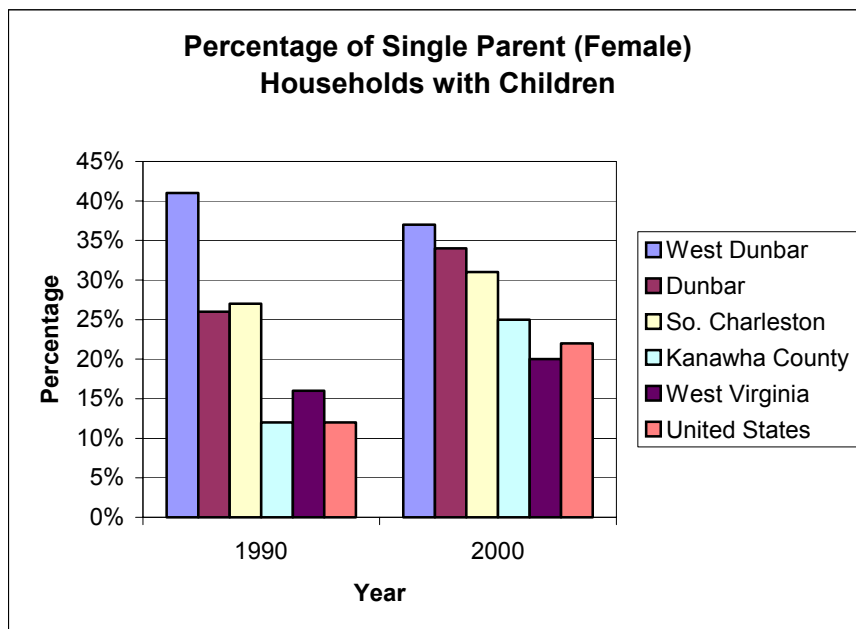
Indicator: Single Parent (Female) Family Households With Children

Definition: Percentage of households with spouse absent

Source: US Census

Family conflict is on the rise, as seen in the Table and Chart below. Per the 2000 US Census, the percentage of single-parent households in Kanawha County is higher than that of the state of West Virginia and the United States. Twenty-five percent of households in Kanawha County are led by a single, female parent compared to 20% of household in West Virginia and 22% of households in the United States. Family conflict can lead to substance abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, and school drop-out among our youth.

Percentage of Single (Female) Parent Households with Children						
Year	West Dunbar	Dunbar	So. Charleston	Kanawha County	West Virginia	United States
1990	41%	26%	27%	12%	16%	12%
2000	37%	34%	31%	25%	20%	22%



Risk Factor: Availability of Drugs

Indicator: Alcohol Sales

Definition: Sales from State of WV to retailers in Kanawha County

Source: State Alcohol Beverage Control Administration

Wholesale alcohol sales steadily increased between the 2000-01 and 2003-04 fiscal years in Kanawha County, as seen in the Table below. The total increase during the period was 15%. The increased availability of alcohol increases the risk of our youth having access to alcohol. The availability of alcohol and other drugs can lead to substance abuse, violence, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, and school drop-out among our youth.

Year	Sales
2000-2001	\$8,652,689.17
2001-2002	\$9,162,894.15
2002-2003	\$9,322,358.58
2003-2004	\$9,964,771.88

PROBLEM BEHAVIOR INDICATORS

Indicator: Referrals to Kanawha County Juvenile Court

Definition: An offense is defined as a signed document alleging an act of delinquency or status offense as defined by the West Virginia State Code.

Source: 2004 Annual Report Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Kanawha County, WV

Between 2000 and 2003 the number of youth referred to Kanawha County Juvenile Court decreased steadily, as seen in the Table below. However, this number is on the increase again, rising 15% between 2003 and 2004. The number of youth referred was highest in 2000 (787) and so was the total number of offenses referred (1,779). The total number of offenses referred fluctuated between 1999 and 2004.

Year	Total Youth Referred	Total Offenses Referred
1999	733	1,391
2000	787	1,779
2001	676	1,435
2002	602	1,269
2003	599	1,406
2004	686	1,394

Indicator: Offenses that led to formal juvenile court interventions

Source: 2004 Annual Report Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Kanawha County, WV

Misdemeanors were the offense most frequently committed by youth, as seen in the Table below. The number of these offenses fluctuated between 1999 and 2004, peaking at 1,045 in 2001. After misdemeanors, felonies were the next most common offense committed by youth. The number of felonies peaked in 2000 and fluctuated during the period 1999-2004. The number of violations, although low, increased steadily between 2001 and 2004. The number of status offenses increased by over 800% between 1999 and 2004

Year	Misdemeanor	Felony	Violations	Status
1999	357	271	63	17
2000	499	353	65	53
2001	1045	244	52	94
2002	886	198	107	78
2003	979	216	111	100
2004	905	218	113	158

Indicator: Formal Court Interventions

Definition: Formal interventions are for cases where the youth was charged with a serious or violent offense; the youth was charged with multiple offenses; the youth was a repeat offender; the youth was uncooperative and/or unsuccessful with informal attempts to resolve the matter; the best interest of the child and/or public interest required a potential removal of the child from the home.

Source: 2004 Annual Report Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Kanawha County, WV

There is a rise in the number of formal interventions per the Table below. There was a 21% increase in formal interventions between 1999 and 2004. The number of formal interventions peaked in 2000 at 350. The year 2000 also had the largest number of offenses that required formal interventions (970).

Year	Youth Formal Intervention		Offenses Formal Intervention	
	Number	%	Number	%
1999	274	37	708	51
2000	350	44	970	55
2001	310	46	925	64
2002	316	52	836	66
2003	311	51	914	64
2004	332	48	808	58

Indicator: Pride Survey Results

Source: Kanawha County Schools

The Pride Survey gathers data on student tobacco, alcohol, illicit drug use and related behaviors and violence. Key data gathered from the 2004-05 Pride Survey of Kanawha County's 6th – 12th graders is shown below:

Beer Use

GRADE	PERCENT REPORTING BEER USE WITHIN THE PAST YEAR	2003-04 PRIDE NATIONAL AVERAGE
6	16.1	13.8
7	26.2	21.2
8	40.7	32.5
9	50.5	40.4
10	48.1	48.3
11	54.6	54.2
12	57.3	57.3

The following observations can be made from the above Table on beer use:

- More 6th through 9th graders in Kanawha County reported beer use within the past year than the national average. This difference was greatest amongst 9th graders (10%).
- 10th through 12th graders reporting beer use was in line with the national average.
- 12th graders reported the highest percentage of beer use in Kanawha County and nationally.

Marijuana Use

GRADE	PERCENT REPORTING MARIJUANA USE WITHIN THE PAST YEAR	2003-04 PRIDE NATIONAL AVERAGE (%)
6	8.1	4.2
7	15.5	7.1
8	24.1	14.3
9	32.9	22.1
10	33.0	28.0
11	36.5	33.0
12	40.8	35.5

The following observations can be made from the above Table on marijuana use:

- Marijuana use increased steadily among 6th through 12th grade in Kanawha County and nationally.
- Marijuana use in Kanawha County was higher than the national average at all grade levels. The difference was greatest among 9th graders (10.8%).

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the updated data, the following risk factors continue to be significant in the West Dunbar-Institute-Dunbar-So. Charleston High School Community:

- Availability of drugs
- Extreme economic deprivation
- Family conflict
- Academic failure

Youth in Kanawha County are at-risk because of:

- Availability of drugs
- Family conflict
- Academic failure

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