

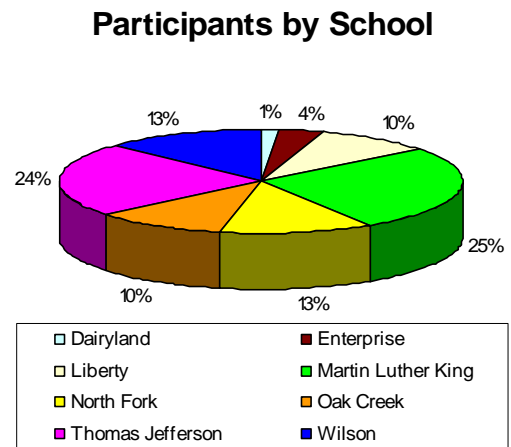
Madera County Probation Department
Stop Truancy Opportunity Program (STOP) Mid-Year Report
 Performance period: 08/01/02 – 01/24/03

The Stop Truancy Opportunity Program (STOP) is currently in its second year of operation and a mid-year analysis of the program was conducted to track program advancements and participants' progress. The reporting period is from August 2002 to January 24th, 2003. Eight schools in the Madera County participated in the STOP: Dairyland Elementary, Enterprise Secondary, Liberty High, Martin Luther King Middle, North Fork Elementary, Oak Creek Intermediate, Thomas Jefferson Middle, and Wilson Middle.

I. PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

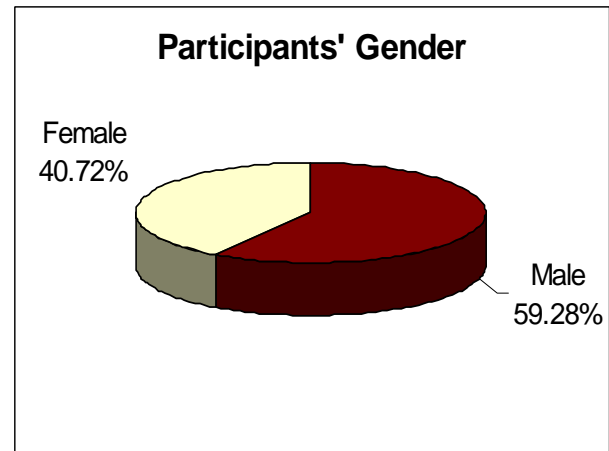
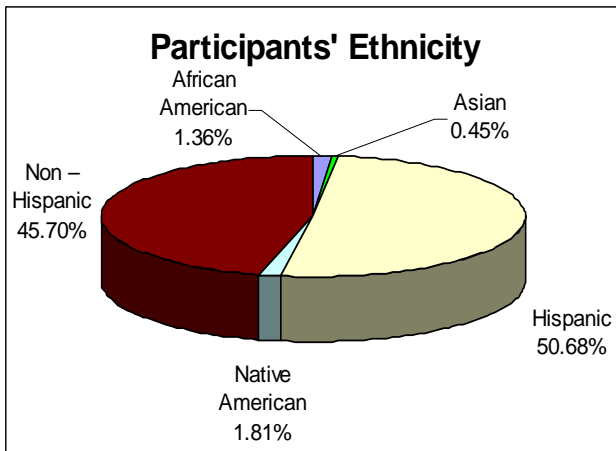
Students from Martin Luther King and Thomas Jefferson make up almost half of the STOP population while smaller schools like Dairyland and Enterprise account for less than 5% of the population.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS	Number of participants for whom results reported
Dairyland Elementary	3
Enterprise Secondary	8
Liberty High	21
Martin Luther King Middle	58
North Fork Elementary	28
Oak Creek Intermediate	23
Thomas Jefferson	52
Wilson Middle	28
Total	221



Total number of STOP participants for this performance period is 221. Participants in the program are primarily Non-Hispanic Whites (46%) and Hispanics (51%). Of the 221 participants, Fifty-nine percent of participants are males and forty-one percent are females.

ETHNICITY	Dairyland	Enterprise	Liberty	MLK	North Fork	Oak Creek	Thomas Jefferson	Wilson	TOTALS
African American	0	0	0	2	0		1	0	3
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hispanic	3	6	5	44	4	1	36	13	112
Native American	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Non – Hispanic	0	2	16	12	20	21	15	15	101
TOTALS	3	8	21	58	28	23	52	28	221



GENDER	Dairyland	Enterprise	Jefferson	Liberty	MLK	North Fork	Oak Creek	Wilson	TOTALS
Male	1	5	30	15	35	16	13	16	131
Female	2	3	22	6	23	12	10	12	90
TOTALS	3	8	52	21	58	28	23	28	221

II. PROGRAM STATISTICS

In this reporting period, the program has placed one participant on probation for truancy offense and court ordered community service. Since this is a mid-year report, the participant has yet to complete probation or community service.

PARTICIPANTS' PROBATION STATUS	Number of Participants	Rate
Placed on probation for truancy offense	1	0.45%
Violated terms of current probation	0	0%
Completed probation	0	0%
RESTITUTION & COMMUNITY SERVICE		
Given court ordered community service	1	0.45%
Successfully completed court ordered community service	0	0%

There were also a number of participants who did not proceed with the program due to reasons shown below:

REASONS FOR DROPPING PROGRAM	Number of participants
Moved to another city or state	2
Transferred to another school	6
Participant adjudged 602 W&I ward	11
Completed program	4
TOTAL	23

In last year's report, participants' year-end arrest, incarceration and probation violation rates were collected. This year, the program not only tracks participants' arrest, incarceration, and probation violation rates, the program specifically identifies whether a participant's arrests, incarcerations, or probation violation occurs before or after referrals to the STOP. In this reporting period, there were no participants that violated terms of probation through this reporting period.

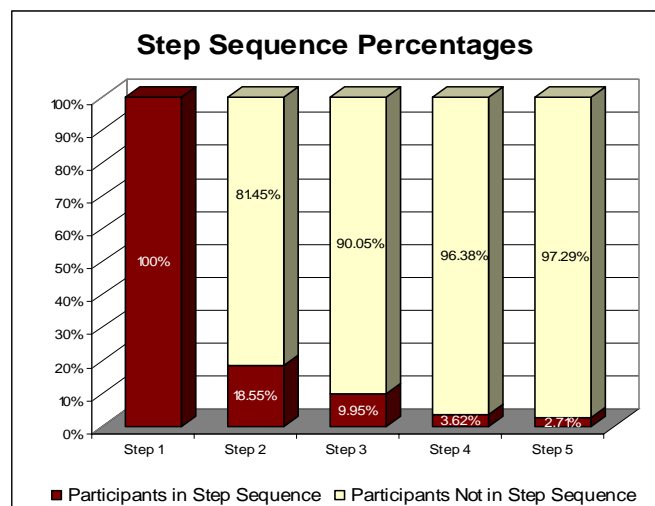
PARTICIPANTS' ARREST RATES					
Arrested Prior to STOP Referral			Arrested After STOP Referral		
Reason	Number	Rate	Reason	Number	Rate
For status offense	0	0%	For status offense	0	0%
For felony offense	2	0.90%	For felony offense	1	0.45%
For misdemeanor offense	1	0.45%	For misdemeanor offense	4	1.81%
Total	3	1.36%	Total	5	2.26%

PARTICIPANTS' INCARCERATION RATES					
Incarcerated Prior to STOP			Incarcerated After STOP		
Reason	Number	Rate	Reason	Number	Rate
For status offense	0	0%	For status offense	0	0%
For felony offense	2	0.90%	For felony offense	1	0.45%
For misdemeanor offense	1	0.45%	For misdemeanor offense	4	1.81%
Total	3	1.36%	Total	5	2.26%

The STOP uses a step sequence to determine students' level of truancy. Step 1 is when the student has 1 to 3 unexcused absences and a letter has been sent to the parents notifying them of the student's truant behavior. Step 2 is when the student incurs a fourth unexcused absence at which time another notification is mailed to the parents. A meeting between the probation officer, the parents, and school official soon follow. Step 3 is when a fifth unexcused absence occurs and the District Attorney then mails a third notification to parents and a required Truancy Mediation Team Meeting is set up for students and parents to attend. Step 4 is when a 6th unexcused absence occurs and a SARB meeting is held. The last step is Step 5, when a student is absent for the 7th time at which time the student has reached the point of placement on formal probation, as per 601(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

STEP SEQUENCE	Number of Participants	Percent of Total (N=221)
Step 1	221	100%
Step 2	41	18.55%
Step 3	22	9.95%
Step 4	8	3.62%
Step 5	6	2.71%

Due to the fact that all the participants in the STOP were enrolled because of truancy, all participants are in Step 1



III. PARTICIPANTS' BEHAVIOR

To measure STOP participants' behavior, the program looks at the number of students suspended during Fall 2002, and also the total days of suspensions. This data will be compared with Spring 2003 suspension data collected in May.

SCHOOLS	Number of students suspended in Fall 2002	Total days of suspensions
Dairyland	1	2
Enterprise	0	0
Liberty	8	36
Martin Luther King	10	40
North Fork	7	33
Oak Creek	4	14
Thomas Jefferson	18	123
Wilson	8	67
TOTAL	56	315

Aside from tracking STOP participants' suspensions, the program also collects background information on participants' family members. Family dynamics can be an important factor in a student's behavior. Therefore, the program attempts to understand some of these truant students' behavior at a deeper level by developing a better picture of each individual student's home environment. However, this information is provided by students at their discretion and because it is based solely on students' statements, this information may not be 100% reliable.

PARTICIPANTS' FAMILY BACKGROUND									
SCHOOLS	Dairyland	Enterprise	Jefferson	Liberty	MLK	North Fork	Oak Creek	Wilson	TOTALS
Family member incarcerated	0	1	0	0	5	3	2	3	14
Family member on parole	0	0	3	0	2	3	0	4	12
Family member on probation	0	1	3	0	4	2	3	9	22
TOTALS	0	2	6	0	11	8	5	16	48

IV. SCHOOL STATISTICS

For this mid-year report, 221 participants are on file, however, only 175 participants' academic and attendance data were available for this report. School attendance rate for all 175 participants is at 91.08%. Fall 2002 average GPA for the 175 STOP participants is 1.94. Twenty-four participants repeated their grade levels.

SCHOOL	Attendance rate per school (N=175)	Mean GPA per school (N=175)	Repeated grade (N=221)
Dairyland	85.71%	1.00	1
Enterprise	88.53%	2.73	0
Liberty	92.79%	2.48	1
Martin Luther King	93.10%	1.90	8
North Fork	88.59%	2.65	3
Oak Creek	89.47%	2.47	1
Thomas Jefferson	91.33%	1.41	5
Wilson	90.95%	1.21	5
ALL SCHOOLS	91.08%	1.94	24

One hundred and thirty-four (61%) participants are eligible for free and reduced lunches, while one hundred and seven (48%) of the students' families have been involved with the Child Protective Services due to complaints or interventions. Only one student was involved with Cal-Learn in this reporting period. The category "Other" refers to the Club Yes at North Fork Elementary and one participant in Oak Creek is involved in a special education class. Oak Creek also has 23 students in their Boys and Girls Club. The following table shows STOP participants' involvement with other programs and services.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES										
SCHOOLS	Dairyland	Enterprise	TJ	Liberty	MLK	North Fork	Oak Creek	Wilson	TOTALS	PERCENT
Free/ Reduced Lunch	2	7	38	2	46	4	15	20	134	60.63%
TANF	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.71%
Cal-Learn	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.45%
ESL	2	2	2	0	21	0	1	7	35	15.84%
Previous therapy	0	5	6	2	4	3	7	9	36	16.29%
New Hope Clinicians	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	4.52%
Madera County Clinicians	0	5	11	2	10	0	2	0	30	13.57%
STOP Tutoring	0	0	4	0	9	21	16	2	52	23.53%
CPS	1	6	31	7	23	10	8	21	107	48.42%
B & G Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	23	10.41%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	25	1	0	26	11.76%
TOTALS	5	26	97	13	113	63	83	60		100%

V. CONCLUSION

With this preliminary report, it can be seen that students' school attendance is relatively high (91%), indicating the program's effectiveness in preventing truancy. Compared with last year's annual report, students in Step 2, 3, and 4 have also decreased slightly, showing that fewer students have unexcused absences. Student GPAs, though maintained almost the same as last year's, should now be a focus for the program.

With the end of the second semester in May, these statistics can then be compared with statistics for Spring 2003 to provide a full, detailed and more informative look into the effectiveness of the Stop Truancy Opportunity Program.