



Madera County Probation Department

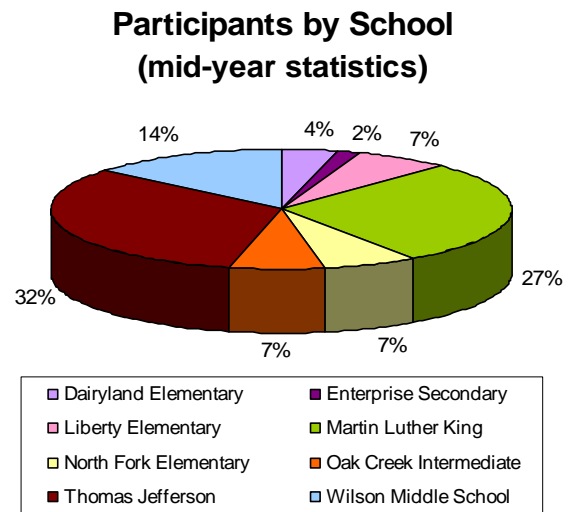
Stop Truancy Opportunity Program (STOP) Mid-Year Performance Report Performance period: August 2003 to January 2004

The Stop Truancy Opportunity Program (STOP) is currently in its third year of operation and a mid-year analysis of the program was conducted to track program advancements and participants' progress. This report covers a period from August 2003 to January 5th, 2004. Eight schools in 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

The total student population at the time of this mid-year report was 181. Students from Martin Luther King and Thomas Jefferson combined make up more than half of the STOP population while smaller schools such as Dairyland and Enterprise account for 5% of the participant population.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS	Participants reported from at this period	
	Number	Percent
Dairyland Elementary	7	3.87%
Enterprise Secondary	3	1.66%
Liberty High	12	6.63%
Martin Luther King Middle	51	28.18%
North Fork Elementary	12	6.63%
Oak Creek Intermediate	12	6.63%
Thomas Jefferson	59	32.60%
Wilson Middle	25	13.81%
TOTAL	181	100.00%

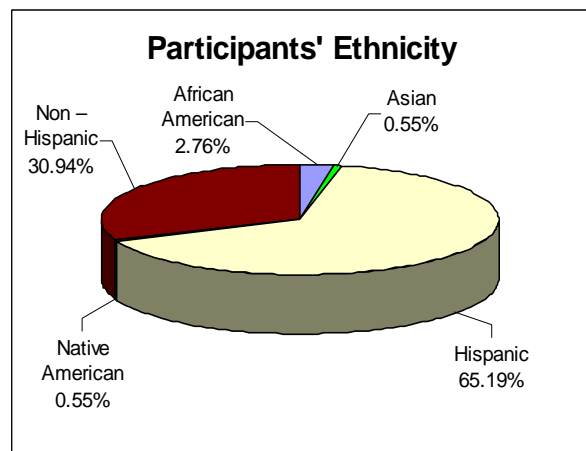
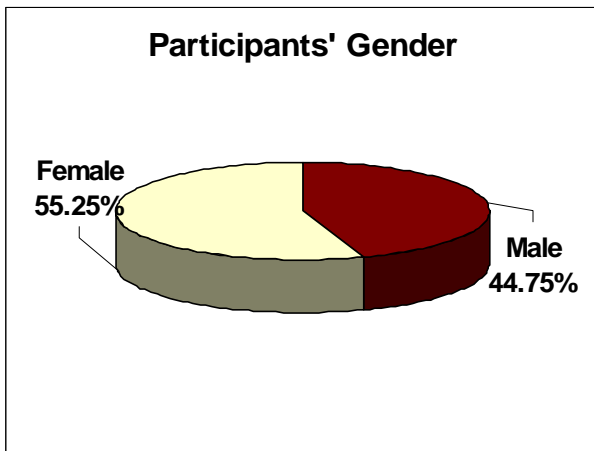


The 181 participants in the program are primarily Hispanics (65%) with Non-Hispanic Whites as the second largest ethnic population (31%).

Participating School	Ethnicity					TOTAL
	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	Non-Hispanic White	
Dairyland Elementary	0	0	4	0	3	7
Enterprise Secondary	0	0	1	0	2	3
Liberty Elementary	0	0	4	0	8	12
Martin Luther King	2	0	42	0	7	51
North Fork Elementary	1	0	0	1	10	12
Oak Creek Intermediate	0	1	3	0	8	12
Thomas Jefferson	2	0	51	0	6	59
Wilson Middle School	0	0	13	0	12	25
TOTAL	5	1	118	1	56	181
Percent	2.76%	0.55%	65.19%	0.55%	30.94%	100.00%

Of the 181 participants, Fifty-five percent of participants are males and forty-five percent are females.

GENDER	Schools								TOTAL	Percent
	Dairyland	Enterprise	Liberty	Martin Luther King	North Fork	Oak Creek	Thomas Jefferson	Wilson		
Female	2	1	5	24	3	6	23	17	81	44.75%
Male	5	2	7	27	9	6	36	8	100	55.25%
TOTAL	7	3	12	51	12	12	59	25	181	100.00%



II. PROGRAM STATISTICS

In this reporting period, the program did not place any participant on probation for truancy offense. Participants in the program are still moving through the five Step Sequences and none have reached Step 5 yet, at which time they are placed on probation.

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

Participants who did not proceed with the program left due to reasons shown below:

REASONS FOR DROPPING PROGRAM	Number of participants
Moved to another city or state	32
Transferred to another school	5
602 W & I, wards	1
TOTAL	38

No STOP participants were arrested or incarcerated prior to or after the STOP referral.

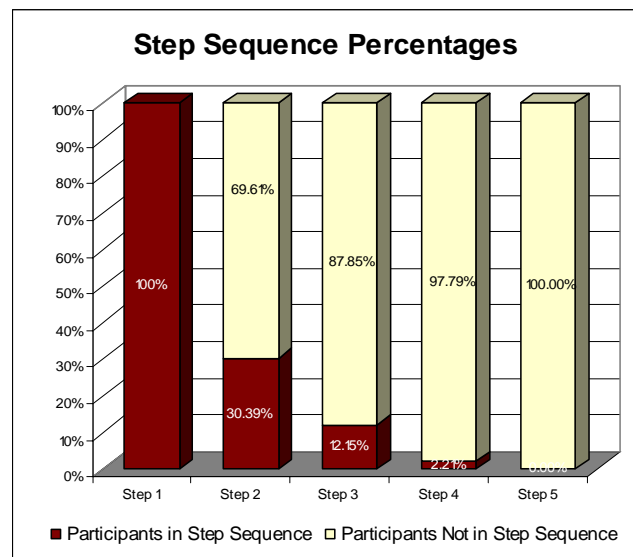
PARTICIPANTS' ARREST RATES					
Arrested Prior to STOP Referral			Arrested After STOP Referral		
Reason	Number	Rate	Reason	Number	Rate
For status offense	0	0%	For status offense	0	0%
For felony offense	0	0%	For felony offense	0	0%
For misdemeanor offense	0	0%	For misdemeanor offense	0	0%
Total	0	0%	Total	0	0%

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	0	0%	For felony offense	0	0%
For misdemeanor offense	0	0%	For misdemeanor offense	0	0%
Total	0	0%	Total	0	0%

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 a school official will soon follow. Step 3 is when a fifth unexcused absence occurs, the District Attorney mails a third notification to parents where a required Truancy Mediation Team Meeting is to be attended by students and parents. Step 4 is when a 6th unexcused absence occurs and a SARB meeting is held. The last step is Step 5, when the 7th unexcused absence occurs. The student is referred to court as a habitual truant and formal probation is requested.

The table and charts below shows the number of participants in each step sequence. Due to the fact that all the participants in the STOP were enrolled because of truancy, all participants are at least Step 1 participants.

STEP SEQUENCE	Number of Participants	Percent of Total (N=181)
Step 1	181	100.00%
Step 2	55	30.39%
Step 3	22	12.15%
Step 4	4	2.21%
Step 5	0	0.00%



III. SCHOOL STATISTICS

The combined attendance rate (calculated using unexcused absences only) for all schools for this reporting period was an impressive rate of 95%. Attendance rates with excused absences included is at a lower rate of 87%. All the schools maintained a rate of at least 80% unexcused attendance. In regards to STOP participants' academic achievements, the overall average GPA was 1.6, with two schools above the 2.0 mark.

SCHOOLS	Attendance Rates		Mean GPA
	<i>Calculated with Unexcused Absences only (includes suspensions)</i>	<i>Calculated with Unexcused <u>and</u> Excused Absences (includes suspensions)</i>	
Dairyland (N=7)	96.67%	87.66%	1.61
Enterprise (N=3)	83.46%	80.45%	2.06
Liberty (N=12)	96.42%	91.70%	1.75
Martin Luther King (N=51)	95.44%	89.14%	1.61
North Fork (N=12)	98.36%	88.24%	2.33
Oak Creek (N=12)	90.61%	78.67%	1.52
Thomas Jefferson (N=59)	92.84%	87.56%	1.54
Wilson (N=25)	97.11%	83.46%	1.31
All Schools (N=181)	94.49%	86.88%	1.60

A total of 79 students at the eight schools were suspended during this reporting period which is 44% of the total STOP population. The high number of days suspended can be attributed to 18 students who had a total of 134 days of suspensions all together. These 18 students had at least 5 suspensions or more, with the most number of suspension days of 22 by a student from Thomas Jefferson School.

SCHOOLS	Number of Students Suspended	Number of Students with 5 or more Suspensions	Total Days of Suspension	Percent of Students Suspended
Dairyland (N=7)	4	0	9	57.14%
Enterprise (N=3)	1	0	3	50.00%
Liberty (N=12)	5	1	18	41.67%
Martin Luther King (N=51)	27	5	95	52.94%
North Fork (N=12)	0	0	0	0.00%
Oak Creek (N=12)	3	0	5	25.00%
Thomas Jefferson (N=59)	28	10	121	47.46%
Wilson (N=25)	11	2	38	44.00%
All Schools (N=181)	79	18	289	43.89%

Aside from tracking grades and attendance, STOP also follows participants' involvement with other programs and services provided by the schools and by STOP. Forty-five percent of STOP participants were eligible for free and reduced lunches, while 33% were provided with tutoring services. During this reporting period, 107 students and their families were involved with the Child Protective Services due to complaints or interventions. No students were involved with Cal-Learn. Oak Creek also has seven STOP participants in their Boys and Girls Club. Four students in the category "Other" participated in Club Yes at North Fork Elementary. The following table shows STOP participants' involvement with other programs and services.

SCHOOLS	Dairyland	Enterprise	Liberty	MLK	North Fork	Oak Creek	TJ	Wilson	TOTALS	Percent of Students who Receive Services
Eligible for Free/ Reduced Lunch	3	3	2	42	0	6	15	11	82	45.30%
ESL	3	0	0	4	0	2	1	3	13	7.18%
Previous therapy	0	1	2	4	0	6	5	3	21	11.60%
Referred to New Hope Clinicians	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	8	16	8.84%
Referred to Madera County Clinicians	1	1	3	0	0	10	4	19	38	20.99%
Referred to STOP Tutoring	0	0	14	2	1	11	2	30	60	33.15%
Referred to Boys & Girls Club	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	3.87%
Other	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	2.21%
TOTALS	7	5	21	53	11	43	27	74		

IV. PARTICIPANTS' BACKGROUND

Family dynamics can be an important factor in a student's behavior. One of the purposes of the STOP program is to uncover the underlying factors behind truant behavior by developing a better picture of the home environment of individual students. However, as this information is provided by students at the students' discretion, the reliability of this information is uncertain.

The following table below shows the number of participants' family members that were incarcerated, on parole, and/or on probation during this reporting period. Of the one hundred and eighty-one STOP participants, 4% have a family member that is currently incarcerated, and 11% have a family member that is on probation. Ten percent of the STOP participants have a family member that is on probation. A total of thirty-two participants (19%) indicated that they had family members who encountered trouble with the law.

PARTICIPANTS' FAMILY BACKGROUND										
SCHOOLS	Dairyland	Enterprise	Jefferson	Liberty	MLK	North Fork	Oak Creek	Wilson	TOTALS	PERCENT
Family member incarcerated	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	7	3.87%
Family member on parole	1	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	8	4.42%
Family member on probation	1	2	1	0	3	1	5	6	19	10.50%
MID-YEAR TOTALS	2	4	1	0	7	1	9	10	34	18.78%

V. CONCLUSION

With this preliminary report, it can be seen that students' school attendance is very high at 95% indicating the program's effectiveness in preventing truancy. The number of students in Step 3, 4, and 5 has also decreased slightly since last year's annual report, showing that the early intervention and prevention measures of the STOP program have been effective in limiting the number of participants being referred for court action. A majority of participants remained in the first two steps, indicating that probation officers and clinicians are providing effective services at these levels thus ceasing the escalation from the initial steps to the final court action step. Student GPAs for this mid-year analysis were much lower than last year's mid-year results and thus will be a focus area for the program for the remainder of the year.

At the end of the second semester in May, these statistics will be compared with statistics for spring 2004 to provide a full, detailed and more informative look into the effectiveness of the Madera Probation Department's Stop Truancy Opportunity Program.