The safety and security in communities is key to maintaining a healthy environment in which residents can thrive. Safety is influenced by the crime rate, but also by perceptions of safety and by social connectivity of residents. The ability for a community to withstand a disaster is linked strongly to social cohesion and to the preparation of residents. The role of institutions, such as city government, schools and public health, helps residents maintain a sense of security and be resilient.

Violent crime rates have been declining and homicide counts are down. The sense of security for Richmond residents is improving as residents feel more secure in their neighborhoods. Social cohesion and connectivity are a key metrics, but are difficult to measure. Civic participation through voter turnout, and reported perceptions of the community are proxies for the overall cohesion of the community. For youth, the school setting is essential to their perceptions of safety, and Richmond students overall feel safe in their schools and report bullying in low numbers. Disaster preparedness is key for resilience and we expect that lower income residents are less prepared for a disaster and have lower confidence in the public health system in the event of a disaster.
MAP 1. NUMBER OF VIOLENT CRIMES BY POLICE BEAT
Violent Crime
Violent crime has decreased by 49% between 2005 and 2012 (Chart 1). As homicide counts are much lower, it is difficult to ascertain a statistically significant difference over time. However, homicide counts appear to be declining in Richmond, especially in light of the overall decline of violent crime (Chart 2). The highest number of violent crimes remain in the downtown area of Richmond (Map 1).

CHART 1. RICHMOND: NUMBER OF VIOLENT CRIMES (2005-2012)

Source: Richmond City Police Department

CHART 2. RICHMOND: NUMBER OF HOMICIDES (2000-2012)

Source: Richmond City Police Department

Perceptions of Violent Crime
Richmond residents report improving perceptions about violent crime safety in the city. In 2013 61% of respondents reported that they felt somewhat or very unsafe, compared to 75% in 2007. These results differed by race/ethnic group. White and Black residents reported improved perception of safety from violent crime, compared to Hispanic and Other groups. (Chart 3)

CHART 3. PERCENT OF RICHMOND RESIDENTS WHO REPORT FEELING SOMEWHAT OR VERY UNSAFE DUE TO VIOLENT CRIME (E.G. RAPE, ASSAULT, ROBBERY)

MAP 2. RICHMOND PROPERTY CRIMES BY POLICE BEAT

Richmond: Number of Property Crimes in 2012, by Police Beat

Number of Property Crimes
- 260 - 293
- >293 - 351
- >351 - 471
- >471 - 904
- >904 - 1,233

Outside City of Richmond Boundary
Open Space and Parks
Richmond Industrially Zoned Areas

Source: Richmond Police Department
**Property Crime**
Over the period analyzed for this report, there was no detectable decline in property crime in the city of Richmond (Chart 4). The highest number of property crimes occurred in the downtown area of Richmond (Map 2).


Source: Richmond City Police Department

**Perceptions of Property Crime**
Richmond residents report their perception of safety due to property crimes (e.g. burglary and theft). In 2013, 71% of residents reported feeling somewhat or very unsafe. This was lower, but not significantly lower than the percent in 2007, when 79% of residents reported feeling somewhat or very unsafe. Results differed by race ethnicity, with fewer Blacks reporting that they felt somewhat or very unsafe compared to the other race/ethnic groups.

**CHART 5. PERCENT OF RICHMOND RESIDENTS WHO REPORT FEELING SOMEWHAT OR VERY UNSAFE DUE TO PROPERTY CRIME (E.G. BURGLARY, THEFT)**

Perceptions of neighborhood safety
Richmond residents report their perceptions of their neighborhood during the day. Responses to this question were unchanged from 2007 to 2013. In 2013, 17% of residents reported that they felt somewhat or very unsafe during the day. The response to this question differed by race/ethnic group, with Hispanic residents reporting a higher level of unsafety (28%) and White residents reporting a lower level of unsafety (9% (Chart 6).

**Chart 6. Percent of Richmond residents who report feeling their neighborhood is somewhat or very safe during the day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic White</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic Black</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic Other</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Richmond residents report their perceptions of their neighborhood at night. Responses to this question were unchanged from 2007 to 2013. In 2013, 44% of residents reported that they felt somewhat or very unsafe during the day. The response to this question differed by race/ethnic group, with Hispanic residents reporting a higher level of unsafety (58%) than other residents (Chart 7).

**Chart 7. Percent of Richmond residents who report feeling their neighborhood is somewhat or very safe after dark**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic White</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic Black</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic Other</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Arrest rates for City of Richmond**

The rate of arrest for the City of Richmond was analyzed for juveniles by race/ethnicity. The rate takes into account the number of juvenile arrests compared to the population of juveniles in that age group (aged 10-17) in the City of Richmond. The rate has seen little decline between 2005 and 2012. The rate was highest for Non-Hispanic Blacks, and it varied for Non-Hispanic Blacks over these years (Chart 8).

**Chart 8. Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate City of Richmond, per 10,000 People Aged 10-17**

![Chart 8](chart8.png)

Source: [http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/arrests](http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/arrests)

The arrest rate for adult felonies was analyzed for the City of Richmond from 2005-2012. The rate accounts for the number of adult felony arrest compared to the population 18 and older residing in Richmond. Felony arrests have been steady in Richmond and Contra Costa over this time period. The arrest rate in Richmond remains above that for the County overall (Chart 9).

**Chart 9. Rate of Adult Felony Arrest per 10,000 People over 18 and older**

![Chart 9](chart9.png)

Source: [http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/arrests](http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/arrests)
MAP 3. VOTER TURNOUT, NUMBER OF VOTES CAST PER REGISTERED VOTE

Voter Turnout: Percent of Votes Cast in 2010 General Election by Precinct

Voter Turnout
- >74% - 100%
- >68% - 74%
- >61% - 68%
- >52% - 61%
- 0% - 52%

Quintiles presented.

Outside City of Richmond Boundary
Open Space and Parks
Richmond Industrially Zoned Areas

Source: Contra Costa County Elections Division.
Voter turnout is calculated for each precinct as the number of ballots cast divided by the total number of registered voters.
Social Connectivity
Social connectivity is an important indicator of community health, but it is difficult to measure and is often excluded from health surveys. Often civic participation is used as a metric of social connectivity and engagement. Voter turnout in Richmond differs by precinct. Fewer votes were cast by registered voters in the Iron Triangle neighborhood compared to downtown and the Marina neighborhoods (Map 3).

The Richmond City Survey asks residents multiple questions which reflect neighborhood cohesion. For instance residents were asked how frequently they speak with their neighbors. In 2013, 68% of respondents reported that they spoke to their neighbors daily or several times per month. The response to this question differed by race/ethnic group, with Non Hispanic Whites reporting a higher frequency of communication with neighbors (85% report daily or several times per month) (Chart 10).

**Chart 10 Neighbourhood cohesion, percent reporting frequent contact with neighbors**

![Chart 10](chart10.png)

Residents were also asked about their sense of community. Responses improved between 2007 and 2013, with 17% or respondents reporting that their sense of community was excellent in 2007, which improved to 27% from 2009-2013. The responses differed by race/ethnic group, with Non-Hispanic Whites with 35% responding excellent or good, comparing to 30% among Non-Hispanic Blacks and 26% among Hispanics (Chart 11).

**Chart 11. Community, percent reporting excellent or good sense of community**

![Chart 11](chart11.png)

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1 About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?
Positive Adult Figures
A greater percentage of African American and White students report that they feel that an adult outside of school and home cares about them, as compared to Hispanic and Asian students in Richmond schools (Chart 12).

**Chart 12 Percent of Students reporting that an adult outside of school and home cares about them**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other or Unknown</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2009-2011 California Healthy Kids Survey, grades 9-11. Responses for Richmond were modeled to account for sample variation at schools surveyed. Schools included in the sample were: Richmond High School, DeAnza High School, Kennedy High School.

School Safety and Bullying
When asked about their feeling of safety in the school setting, White students in Richmond schools report feeling a higher level of safety in school than other Richmond students (Chart 13).

**Chart 13 Percent of students reporting they feel neutral, safe, or very safe at school**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other or Unknown</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2009-2011 California Healthy Kids Survey, grades 9-11. Responses for Richmond were modeled to account for sample variation at schools surveyed. Schools included in the sample were: Richmond High School, DeAnza High School, Kennedy High School.

Richmond students reported bullying due to various causes. There were few detectable difference in the experience of bullying by race/ethnic group for Richmond students. Asian students reported a higher percentage of bullying due to their race and faith, while students who identified as Other were more likely to report bullying due to sexual orientation and any other reason (Chart 14).

**Chart 14. Percent of students reporting they experienced bullying in the past 12 months by cause**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any other Reason</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Orientation</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2009-2011 California Healthy Kids Survey, grades 9-11. Responses for Richmond were modeled to account for sample variation at schools surveyed. Schools included in the sample were: Richmond High School, DeAnza High School, Kennedy High School.
Overall Disaster Preparedness

An estimated one-fifth (19.9%) of Contra Costa adults reported feeling unprepared for a major disaster in 2009; similar to Bay Area adults (22.6%).

Adults from high poverty households in the county and Bay Area Hispanics and Asians are more likely to report feeling "not prepared" for a major disaster. Adults in the county from high poverty households (<200%FPL) were more likely (40.3%) to report feeling “not prepared” compared to those from lower poverty households (14.4%). Although local data were unstable by race/ethnicity, Bay Area estimates indicate that Hispanics (31.0%) and Asians (29.5%) are more likely to report feeling "not prepared" for a major disaster than NH whites (17.1%) and NH African Americans (15.8%).

Prepared with Enough Medication

When asked about disaster preparedness related to medication, an estimated 10.7% of Contra Costa adults reported in 2009 that they felt they did not have enough medication; similar to Bay Area adults (9.3%).

California adults from high poverty households were LESS likely to report being unprepared with enough medication for an emergency and

NH whites in the Bay Area are more likely to report feeling like they do not have enough medication. No differences were detected by poverty level locally or regionally but California adults from high poverty households (<200%FPL) were LESS likely (8.9%) to report being unprepared than those from lower poverty households (10.8%). Although local data were unstable by race/ethnicity, Bay Area estimates indicate that NH whites (12.9%) were more likely than Hispanics (5.2%) and NH Asians (3.7%) to report being not prepared with enough medication for an emergency. NH Blacks/African Americans (12.9%) were also more likely to report being unprepared compared to NH Asians (3.7%).

Number of days can remain homebound before shopping for more supplies

Estimates indicate that most Contra Costa adults (80.8%) reported in 2009 the ability to remain homebound for more than 3 days in an emergency before shopping for supplies; similar to Bay Area adults (77.8%).

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2 California Health Interview Survey respondents were asked a series of questions regarding the number of days to stay in home without additional supplies and medicine supply. Prepared respondents have 4+ days of additional supply and 2 week medication supply, if necessary.

3 California Health Interview Survey respondents were asked: “Do you have at least an extra two week supply of all the prescription drugs you take every day?” and “Could you get an extra two week supply of all your prescription drugs?”

4 California Health Interview Survey respondents were asked: “Think about what you have in your home right now. For how many days would you be able to stay in your home, without anyone shopping for additional supplies – 1 to 3 days, 4 to 6 days, 7 to 9 days, or 10 days or more?” This variable is not asked of everyone: Asked of all adults, not including proxy respondents.
Contra Costa adults from high poverty households and Bay Area Hispanics and NH Asians are less likely to report being able to remain homebound for more than 3 days. Contra Costa adults from high poverty households (<200% FPL) are less likely (60.0%) than those from lower poverty household (86.3%) to report being able to stay home form more than 3 days. Although local data were unstable by race/ethnicity, Bay Area estimates indicate that Hispanics (69.0%) and NH Asians (70.8%) are less likely than NH whites (83.3%) and NH Blacks/African Americans (84.9%) to report being able to remain homebound for more than 3 days in an emergency.

Confidence in County Public Health System to Respond to Major Disasters\(^5\)

Estimates indicate that approximately one-third (31.6%) of Contra Costa adults reported feeling “not at all confident” or “not very confident” about how the public health system responds to major disasters in 2009; similar to Bay Area adults (28.5%).

Reported confidence in the system varies by poverty level in the county and by race/ethnicity in the region. Contra Costa adults from higher poverty households (<300% FPL) were more likely (44.1%) to report this lack of confidence than those from lower poverty households (25.1%). Although local data were unstable by race/ethnicity, Bay Area estimates indicate that Hispanics (22.5%) are more likely to report feeling “very confident” about the system’s response to disasters compared to NH whites (15.1%).

When asked about whether the county public health system responds fairly to their needs, fewer adults indicated lack of confidence in 2009.\(^6\) An estimated 18.9% of adults in Contra Costa and 19.2% in the Bay Area reported feeling “not at all confident” or “not very confident” that the county public health system responds fairly.

Confidence in a fair response by the county public health system was also lower among poorer people. Sentiments about fairness varied by race/ethnicity but somewhat differently than confidence about the system’s response overall. Contra Costa adults from high poverty households (<200% FPL) are more likely (31.9%) to be "not too confident" or "not at all confident" than those from lower poverty households (15.4%). Although local data were unstable by race/ethnicity, Bay Area estimates indicate that Hispanics (27.1%), NH Black/African Americans (17.7%) and NH Asians (29.4%) are less likely to report feeling "very confident" that the county public health system responds fairly than NH whites (37.7%). And Hispanics (27.5%) are more likely than NH whites (14.9%) to report feeling "not too confident" or "not at all confident" about this issue.

\(^5\) California Health Interview Survey respondents were asked: "How confident are you that your county’s public health system can respond in a way to protect the health of your family and neighbors – very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?"

\(^6\) California Health Interview Survey respondents were asked:"How confident are you that the County’s public health system will respond fairly to your health needs, regardless of your race, ethnicity, income or other personal characteristics – very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?"