

# **2011 YOUTH SUMMIT:**

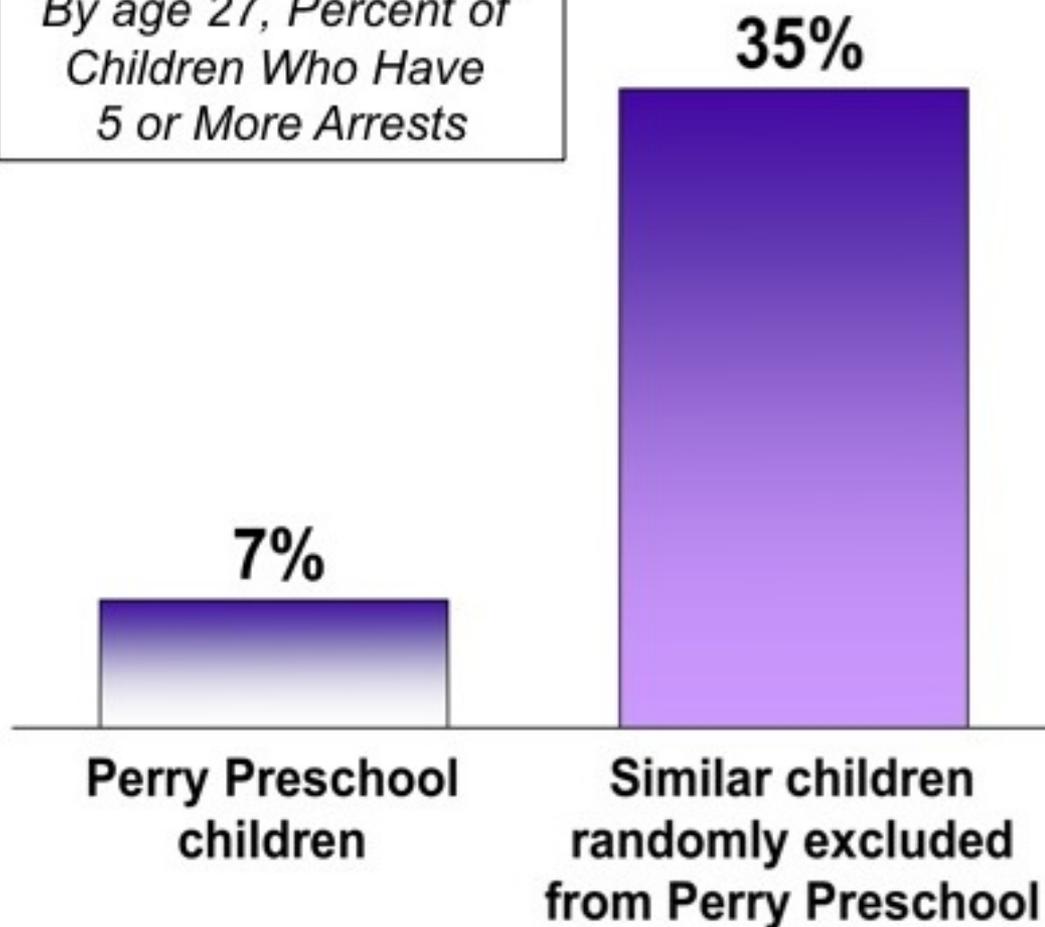
*Reducing Crime by Reducing  
Truancy*

Presented by Solano County DA  
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# Quality Preschool Prevents Chronic Crime

*By age 27, Percent of Children Who Have 5 or More Arrests*



# Perry Preschool Program

By age 40, those who did not attend:

- 2x more likely to be arrested for violent crimes
- 4x more likely to be arrested for drug felonies

# What is Truancy

## ◆ Truant

- Student missing more than 30 minutes of instruction w/o excuse 3x during school year

## ◆ Habitual Truant

- Truant 3 or more times in one school year

## ◆ Chronic Truant

- Absent from school w/o excuse 10% or more of school days in school year

# Who is truant

- ◆ Truant

- Nearly 40% are elementary school students

- ◆ Chronically truant

- 1 of 10 kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students

- California Department of Education

# Truancy vs. Dropouts

- ◆ Up to 75% of habitual truants will eventually drop out of school

- American Bar Association (2009)

# Dropouts are a Crime Problem

- Over **8 times** more likely to end up in jail or prison compared to high school graduates.
- **68%** of state prison inmates nationwide are high school dropouts.

# California Pays the Price for Dropouts

For each year's worth of high school dropouts, California suffers an estimated **\$46.4 billion in economic losses**.

Impact	Cost
Crime Victims	\$9.5 billion
State/Local Criminal Justice Systems	\$2.5 billion
State/Local Other Government Spending (Welfare, Health, Taxes*)	\$3.8 billion
Reduced Earnings	\$22.3 billion
Less Economic Growth	\$8.3 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46.4 billion</b>

Lochner, L. & Moretti, E. (2004)

# Solano County Dropout Rates

- ◆ 28% dropout rate county-wide
  - Vallejo City Unified: 49%
  - Benicia: 4%
  - Fairfield/Suisun: 27%
  - Travis Unified: 6%
  - Vacaville City Unified: 19%
  - Dixon: 21%

California Department of Education  
Adjusted Grades 9-12, 4-year derived rate  
2008-2009

# Boosting High School Graduation Rates Will Improve Public Safety

*Researchers found:*

A **10%** increase in graduation rates in California would reduce murder and assault rates by about **20%**.

Lochner, L. & Moretti, E. (2004)  
CA DOJ Criminal Justice Profile (2009)