

## **Youth: A Year in Your World Fact Sheet**

### **Some General Facts: Size & Diversity**

- Houston is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in the nation
- Harris County has Over 1 million children/youth under the age of 18
  - 1/3 of them are teens between the ages of 12 – 17, that's roughly half the size of Fort Worth or Austin
- 1 of every 3 people living in Harris County speaks a language other than English at home.
- Houston is home to at least 300 people groups representing 140 nations.
- In almost all of Houston, there is a better than 50% chance that any two people chosen at random from any zip code will be a different race or ethnicity.
- All major world religions are represented in Houston and many have places of worship: temples, mosques, synagogues, and churches.

### **How many of our million Harris County children/youth are in harm's way?** In one year,

- 456 babies died before they were year old
- 1 of every four children live in poverty
- Over 24,000 were born to women who did not receive adequate medical care during their pregnancy
- Over 6,000 experienced child abuse
- 4,622 children/youth are in foster care
- 1,792 of them resided in a Family Violence Shelter as some point during the year
- 173 teens aged 15 – 19 died a violent death

### **What kinds of choices are Houston teens faced with?**

- On third to as many as half never finish high school
- 6,400 babies were born to an unmarried teen-aged mother
- Over 1,000 youth in Harris County were arrested for violent crime (aged 10 – 17)
- About half the high school students surveyed nationally reported having had sexual intercourse at least once; \*\*
- 4 out of 10 drank during the past month\*\*
- 3 out of 10 had ridden with someone who had been drinking;\*\*
- 2 out 10 had carried a weapon in the past month\*\*
- 2 out of 10 smoked\*\*

### **One local high school survey\*** concluded that in that school

- 45% of high school students say they could buy marijuana in an hour or less
- 66% of students said their school was not drug free
- Teens rated drugs as the single most important problem facing them

Sources: (data from most recent year available)

- The State of Texas Children 2008: Harris County [http://www.cppp.org/factbook08/county\\_profile.php?fipse=48201](http://www.cppp.org/factbook08/county_profile.php?fipse=48201)
- \*<http://www.fifthwardhouston.org/en/articles/printview.asp?38>
- \*\* [http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/pdf/yrbs07\\_us\\_summary\\_trend\\_all.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/pdf/yrbs07_us_summary_trend_all.pdf)