



# Region 3

# Needs Assessment

October 2007

Lisa Muttiah  
Consultant  
817.361.8461  
muttiah@swbell.net

Prepared for

The Prevention Resource Center  
Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse



## SUMMARY

This regional needs assessment was conducted for Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (GDCADA), Region 3 Prevention Resource Center. The purpose of the assessment was to measure the efforts of GDCADA to encourage community-based responses to the problems of alcohol and drug use, and to help identify possible areas of concern.

The methodology used for data collection was collecting secondary alcohol, drug, crime and family bonding indicator data that is reported to state and federal agencies. In addition, a focus group was conducted to gather supplemental information. The data is the most current available for each indicator.

### Key findings:

- 1) DWI arrest rates have declined annually, 2004 – 2006, for metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties in Region 3.
- 2) Region wide, confirmed cases of child abuse increased 24.9 percent from 2004– 2006.
- 3) Arrests for possession of controlled substances are on the rise in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties.
- 4) Juveniles in metropolitan counties are more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana in close proximity to schools.

## **PROFILE OF PUBLIC HEALTH REGION 3**

### **GEOGRAPHIC AREA**

The 19 counties that comprise Public Health Region 3 are: Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise.

Located in north central Texas, these counties are mostly urban with 96 percent of the population clustered around large cities such as Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Plano, and Garland. The forementioned cities are 5 of the 10 largest in Texas. Cooke, Ector, Hood, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto and Somervell counties are non-metropolitan. The remaining 12 are metropolitan.

### **DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS**

*Region 3* Population Growth is 15.8%.

As of 2006, there are an estimated 6,354,131 people living in Region 3 (Figure 1). The population of Region 3 accounted for 27.02 percent of the Texas population, and 7.8 percent of the United States population. It is estimated that between 2000 and 2006, the Texas population has grown 12.7% while the Region 3 population has grown by 15.8% percent (United States Census Bureau, 2006; Texas State Data Center 2006). Region 3 is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in population among Texas Public Health Regions (Department of State Health Services Substance Abuse Services (DSHS), n.d.).

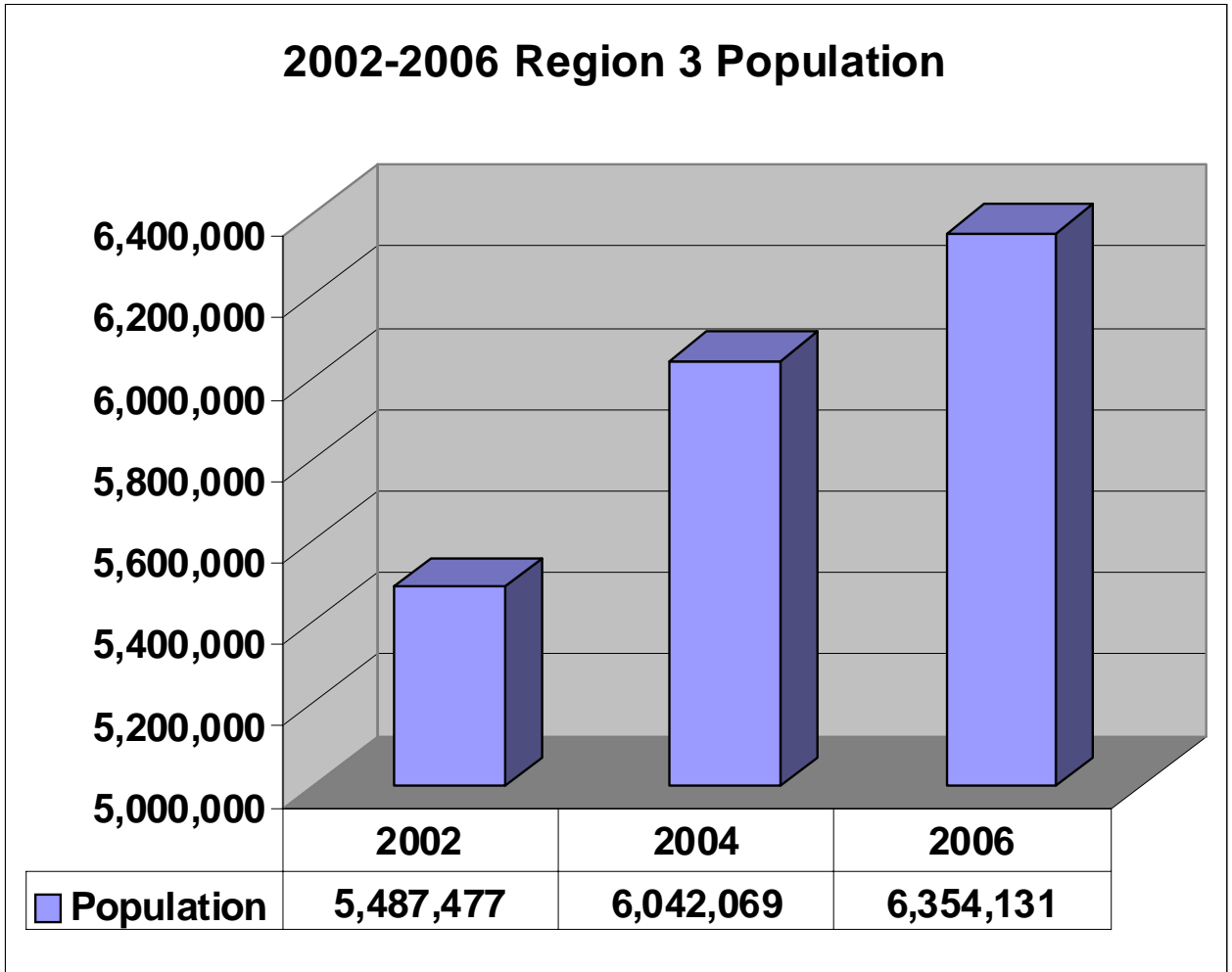


Figure 1. Region 3 population growth rate since 2002 is 15.8%.

*The racial and ethnic composition of Region 3 is fairly diverse.*

In 2006, 56.02% of the Region 3 population was White, 25.52% was Hispanic, 13.16% was African-American, and 5.52% was other (Figure 2). In comparison, 48.6% of the 2006 Texas population was White, 36.19% was Hispanic, and 11.34% was African-American, and 3.9% was Other (DSHS, n.d.).

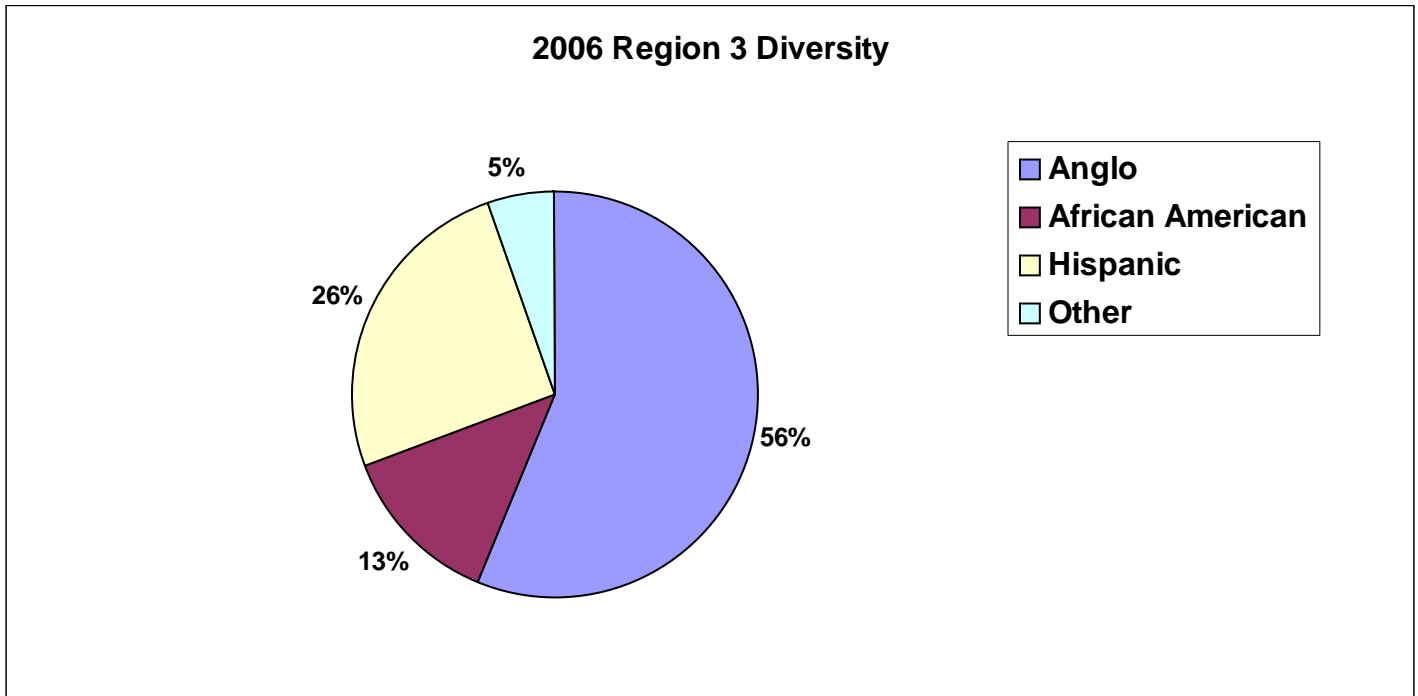


Figure 2. The ethnic make up of Region 3.

**SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS**

*Poverty rates are lower than the state average.*

In 2004, 12.5% of the population lived in poverty. For children under the age of 18, 19.7% lived in poverty. The state of Texas reports 16.2% for the total population, and 22.7% for children under the age of 18 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004). In Region 3 non-metro counties, the poverty rate for children under 18 years is 24.2% higher than metro counties.

*The median income is above Texas average.*

The median income in Region 3 for 2004 was \$46,412. This is higher than the Texas median income of \$41,465 (U.S. Census Bureau). Although the region's median income is above the state average, it is worth noting that the median income in non-metro counties is 8.6% lower than the state and 26.2 % lower than metro counties (Figure 3).

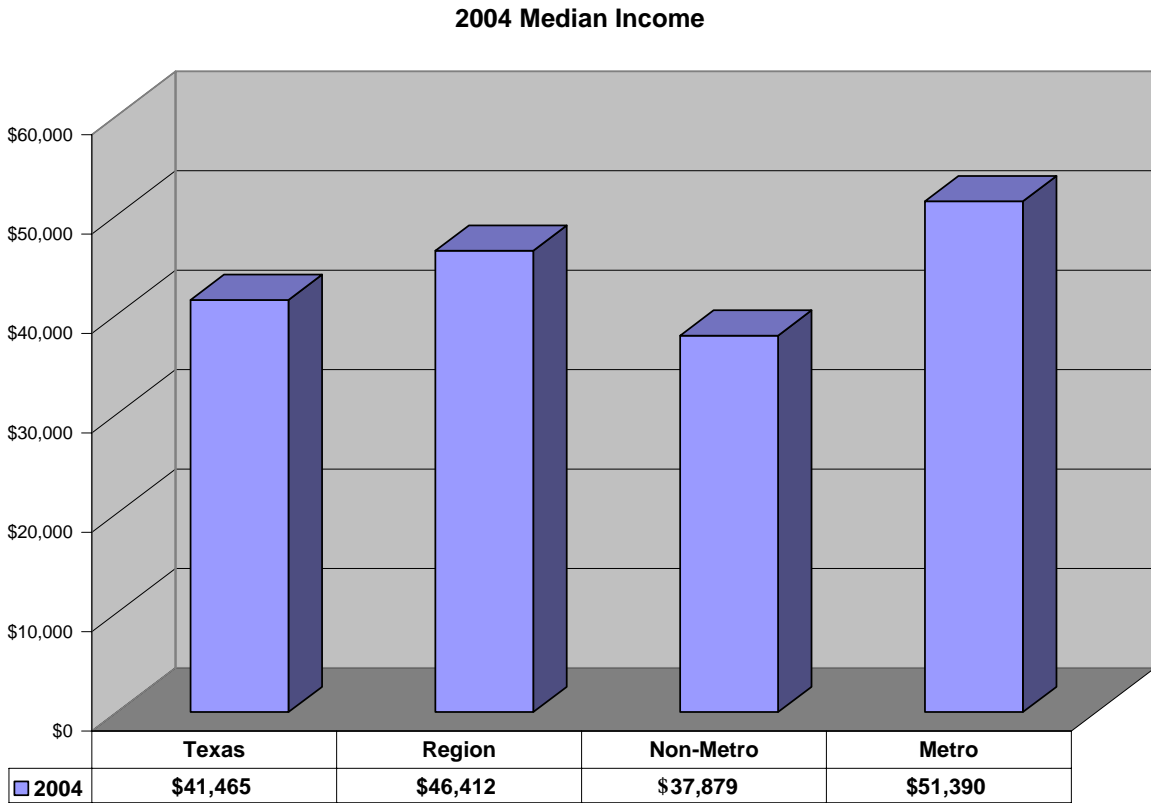


Figure 3. Median income for metro and non-metro counties in Region 3 compared to state and region median incomes.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **FOCUS GROUPS**

Focus groups provide useful supplemental information to needs assessment. Focus groups allow researchers to target a particular group, or to learn more about what a group thinks about policy issues. The main drawback of focus groups is that the data cannot be generalized to a larger population.

A focus group was held to determine what young adults thought about social norms surrounding alcohol use. The focus group was held in a Dallas suburb on July 6, 2007. Participants were recruited by Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse employees.

### **INDICATOR DATA**

The Texas Statewide Epidemiological Workgroup (TEW) assessed substance abuse trends and consequences for the state of Texas. Indicators of consequences were identified as rates of alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities, crime, and youth delinquency. There was only one protective factor that was found to exist across all regions: the number of confirmed child abuse/neglect cases by CPS was used as a measure of family bonding. There was not a regional indicator for consumption trends.

Indicators were picked for their validity, reliability, and accessibility (see Table 1 for a list of all the indicators). All data reflects 2006 unless otherwise noted.

To compare counties, rates were calculated by dividing the numerator (number of events) by its appropriate denominator (population) and multiplying the result by the appropriate factor (e.g. rate per 1,000 people). After compiling data by region, the region was divided further into metro and non-metro counties (See Table 1).

Table 1 Comparison of Metro and Non-Metro Counties in Region 3 with Corresponding Data Source

Indicator	Data Element Description	Metro		Non-Metro		All Counties	
		Rate per 1,000	Total	Rate per 1,000	Total	Rate per 1,000	Total
DWI (2006)	Total DWI Arrests in region per 1,000 people	3.18	18225	3.18	1139	3.91	19,394
Youth Delinquency (2005)	Total delinquencies per 1,000 juveniles	28.56	22,579	23.83	612	26.82	23,191
Family Bonding (2006)	CPS victims per 1,000 children	8.86	14,646	12.38	722	11.53	15,368
Possession of Illicit Drugs (2006)	Total arrests per 1,000 people	5.49	32,654	6.43	1,125	5.52	33,684
Possession of Illicit Drugs by Juveniles (2005)	Total arrests per 1,000 juveniles	2.20	1,487	2.05	53	2.13	1,540

Indicator	Data Element Description	Metro		Non-Metro		All Counties	
		Rate per 100,000	Total	Rate per 100,000	Total	Rate per 100,000	Total
Alcohol Related Vehicular Fatalities (2006)	Total fatalities in region per 100,000 people	7.21	322	15.56	32	10.29	354
Violent Crime (2005)	Total violent crimes per 100,000 people	551	32,582	207.6	498	295.97	33,080

## Focus Group Findings

### Focus Group Report

Date: July 6, 2007

Where: suburban city

Describe group participants' gender, and their self-reported ethno/racial identification.

4 Men 3 Women

7 White (non-Hispanic/Latino/a)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Black/African American (non-Hispanic/Latino/a)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Asian/Pacific Islander  
\_\_\_\_\_ Native American/American Indian  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic/Latino/a

Participant age range: 18-22

Number of:

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 PRC staff  
\_\_\_\_\_ Service provider staff  
\_\_\_\_\_ Community representatives/stakeholders (specify)

---

Responses to each question are summarized below:

**1. What area do you consider to be your community (where you live, work, go to school, socialize)?**

The participants all identified the Dallas suburbs as their community.

**2. What are some of the alcohol related problems that you are aware of in your community?**

The participants identified drinking and driving, alcohol poisoning, witnessing people getting ill as a result of alcohol consumption. When asked, "Would they know what to do if someone had alcohol poisoning, how would they react?" Everyone agreed that if they were unconscious they would take the person to the hospital. A female said that she has had alcohol poisoning and had to get her stomach pumped.

**3. Do you think young people are encouraged or discouraged to drink alcohol? Why?**

The majority of the group said that the most encouragement came from their peers followed by parents who weren't strict. A male stated that his family discourages drinking, but they know he probably will drink anyway. When asked why drinking was encouraged, everyone said that it was to fit in or to develop an image.

**4. Why do young people in your area drink and drive?**

The primary reason stated for drinking and driving was not having a designated driver. Participants said that most of the time they drive themselves because they believe they could handle driving. When asked, “Do you ever get in a car with someone driving who’s been drinking?” A male said that he and his friends ask each other who is ok to drive and more than likely the more “seasoned veteran” of drinking and driving would take the wheel.

**5. How easily is it for youth to obtain alcohol in your area(s)? Where are they getting it?**

The participants indicated it was very easy to buy alcohol. They responded with laughter based on the relative ease. The participants stated it was more difficult in high school because you had to drive further to find a place in the rural areas that would sell alcohol to minors. A male stated that he would go to a liquor store in the Highland Park area because a guy who ran the store would sell to minors. He has heard that the man who ran the store is currently in jail for selling alcohol to minors.

**6. Do you think young people in your community are aware of the consequences of drinking and driving? Why?**

All participants stated they were aware of the consequences because they either knew people who or they themselves have had some sort of a previous alcohol citation (ex. DWI, DUI, MIP, MIC). A female said she had two previous alcohol citations and just got a third one, (DWI) two weeks shy of her 21st birthday. She said that when stopped by the officers, they didn’t take her IDs or fake IDs. Also each participant knew of or heard of someone getting injured or being killed due to a drunk driver. One person mentioned that the majority of kids think they are invincible and naïve, thinking that nothing will ever happen to them.

**7. What are some of the drugs you are familiar with?**

The following drugs were familiar to the participants: Coke, Xanax (prescription), t-bars, weed, acid/mushrooms (mentioned that they were becoming popular again), heroin, and meth. When asked who’s using what? The response was that the kids with money use the “higher quality” drugs like cocaine. They also said no one does meth because it is dirty and its’ about image and people who use meth have a bad image.

**8. Why do young people in your community use drugs?**

Participants stated the primary reasons were boredom, to feel good, and to just party hard. Also, no one cards you in order to buy drugs, there is some peer pressure, and there is an “everyone is doing it” mentality. Participants stated that girls do drugs to lose weight.

**9. What do you consider to be the consequences of drug use?**

Participants cited death, addiction and jail as consequences of drug use.

**10. Do you or anyone you know currently use drugs? If so, what are the drugs?**

The participants stated that they know people who smoke pot. “Harder” drugs such as meth and heroin were labeled as too intense, and efforts are made to stay away from people who used these particular drugs. A female stated that she was a former meth user.

**11. What would prevent you or your friends from using drugs?**

The participants agreed that it would take someone dying to prevent them from using drugs.

**12. Are you more or less likely to be friends with someone who uses drugs? Why?**

The participants agreed that they would be friends with someone using marijuana. In fact, they viewed marijuana as being a safe drug. One male stated that he would be a friend to someone using a “dirty” drug like meth. All agreed they wouldn’t be friends with anyone shooting drugs.

**13. Have your parents talked to you about using drugs? If so, what advice did they offer?**

All participants indicated their parents had given them personal experience and or advice. A male joked about how he wished he lived in that era his parents did when drugs were safer. A female said her parents used to deal and use drugs in Irving. Currently, she said her mom is clean and her dad is still in prison. She stated even with the knowledge of her parents being involved in drugs she still experimented with drugs growing up. The reason she gave was that she was curious and had to find out for herself. A male said his dad told him that when you’re sober you have problems and when you’re high you still have your problems, they don’t go away.

**14. Do you think it is dangerous to use drugs? If so, why?**

The participants said yes drugs are dangerous for the obvious reasons: death, addiction, and jail time. Someone said that now, drugs are scarier because you never know what drugs are being cut or mixed with, like rat poison. Also in response, a male stated that it just depends how you take it or balance it out in usage. It also depends on self control and what drug it is. Also a female said she “believed weed wasn’t dangerous because it’s even been prescribed by doctors for patients to use.”

**15. Have you heard of a drug called “cheese?” If so, what have you heard about it?**

All but one in the group has heard of cheese heroin. They said they knew it was a combination of heroin and Tylenol PM. Also, they knew about the death toll and that mostly middle school kids are using the drug.

**Additional Information**

The group ranked the top 5 drugs they believe are common in their community.

1. Alcohol
2. Marijuana
3. Xanax
4. Prescription pills (pain killers)
5. Cocaine

When asked what prevention programs have they had in school these are the programs mentioned: Shattered Dreams (prom night prevention), Health classes, and MADD.

## INDICATOR DATA FINDINGS

### DWI RATES

*DWI rates are higher in non-metro counties than metro counties in Region 3.*

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, there were 19,394 DWI arrests in 2006 for a rate of 3.91 per 1,000 residents. In metro counties, there were 18,255 DWI arrests for a rate of 3.18 per 1,000 while in non-metro counties there were 1,139 for a rate of 5.15 per 1,000 (Table 2).

Table 2. 2006 DWI Arrest Rates per 1,000 Residents

*In non-metro counties, Erath had the highest rate of DWI arrests while Navarro had the lowest.*

<b>Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Total Rate per 1,000</b>	
35,042	Erath	301	8.59
30,513	Palo Pinto	204	6.69
7,793	Somervell	50	6.42
39,948	Cooke	209	5.23
34,081	Fannin	167	4.90
49,288	Hood	139	2.82
50,067	Navarro	69	1.38
<b>246,732</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>5.15</b>

*In metro counties, Rockwall had the highest rate of DWI arrests while Navarro had the lowest.*

<b>Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000</b>
56,141	Rockwall	364	6.48
153,111	Johnson	790	5.16
120,145	Grayson	519	4.32
129,845	Ellis	561	4.32
461,199	Denton	1,680	3.64
2,590,165	Dallas	8,127	3.14
615,042	Collin	1,916	3.12
1,635,326	Tarrant	3,829	2.34
58,303	Wise	103	1.77
100,891	Parker	162	1.61
91,594	Kaufman	116	1.27
84,882	Hunt	88	1.04
<b>6,096,644</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,255</b>	<b>3.18</b>

*DWI arrest rates have declined annually between 2004 – 2006 in Region 3 for both Metro and Non Metro counties.*

The 2006 DWI arrest rate for non metro counties fell 15.01% when compared to 2004. Rates for metro counties fell 5.35% between 2004 and 2006, and region wide rates fell 10.32%. Although DWI arrest rates are falling the following Metro counties have shown increases in their DWI arrest rates: Collin, Denton, Kaufman, Johnson and Rockwall. Among non metro counties, Erath was the only county with an increase in DWI rates when comparing 2004-2006. The charts below (Figures 4-6) demonstrate regional and county changes.

**2004-2006 DWI Arrest Rates**

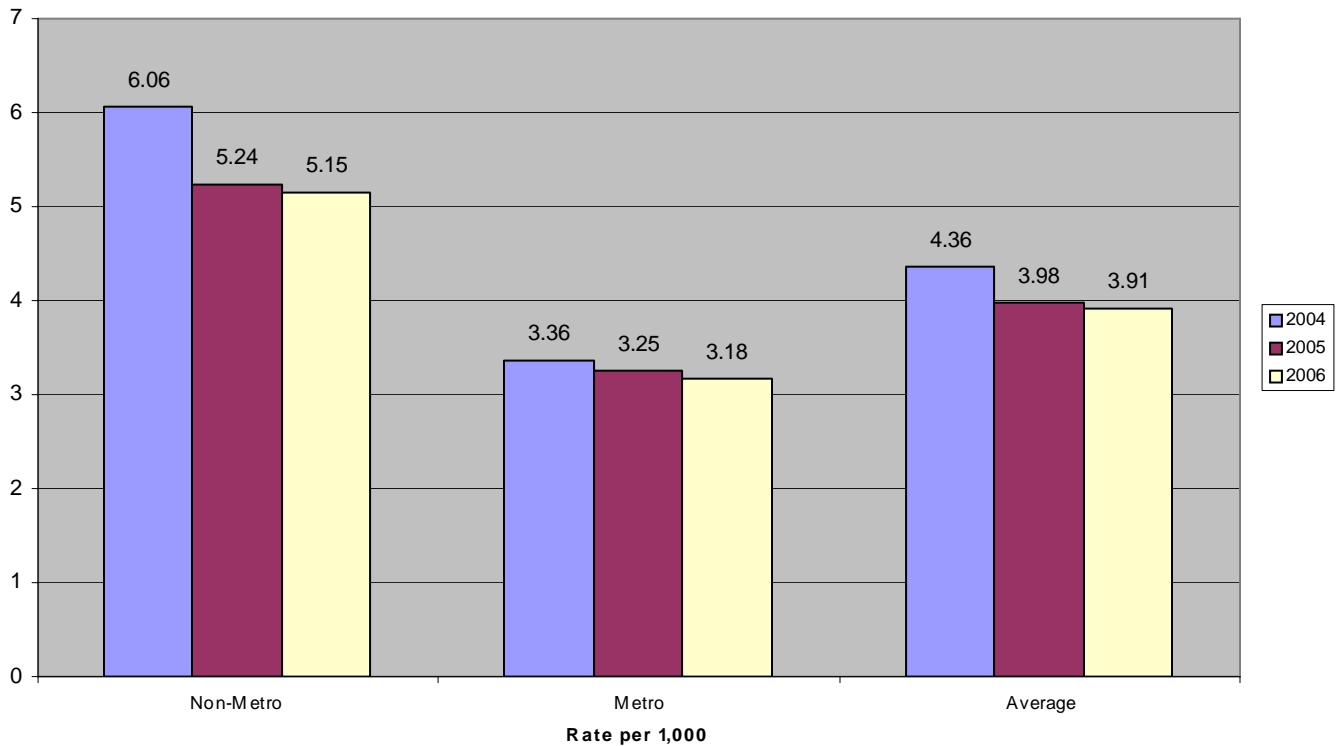


Figure 4. DWI Arrest rates in non-metro and metro counties along with regional averages.

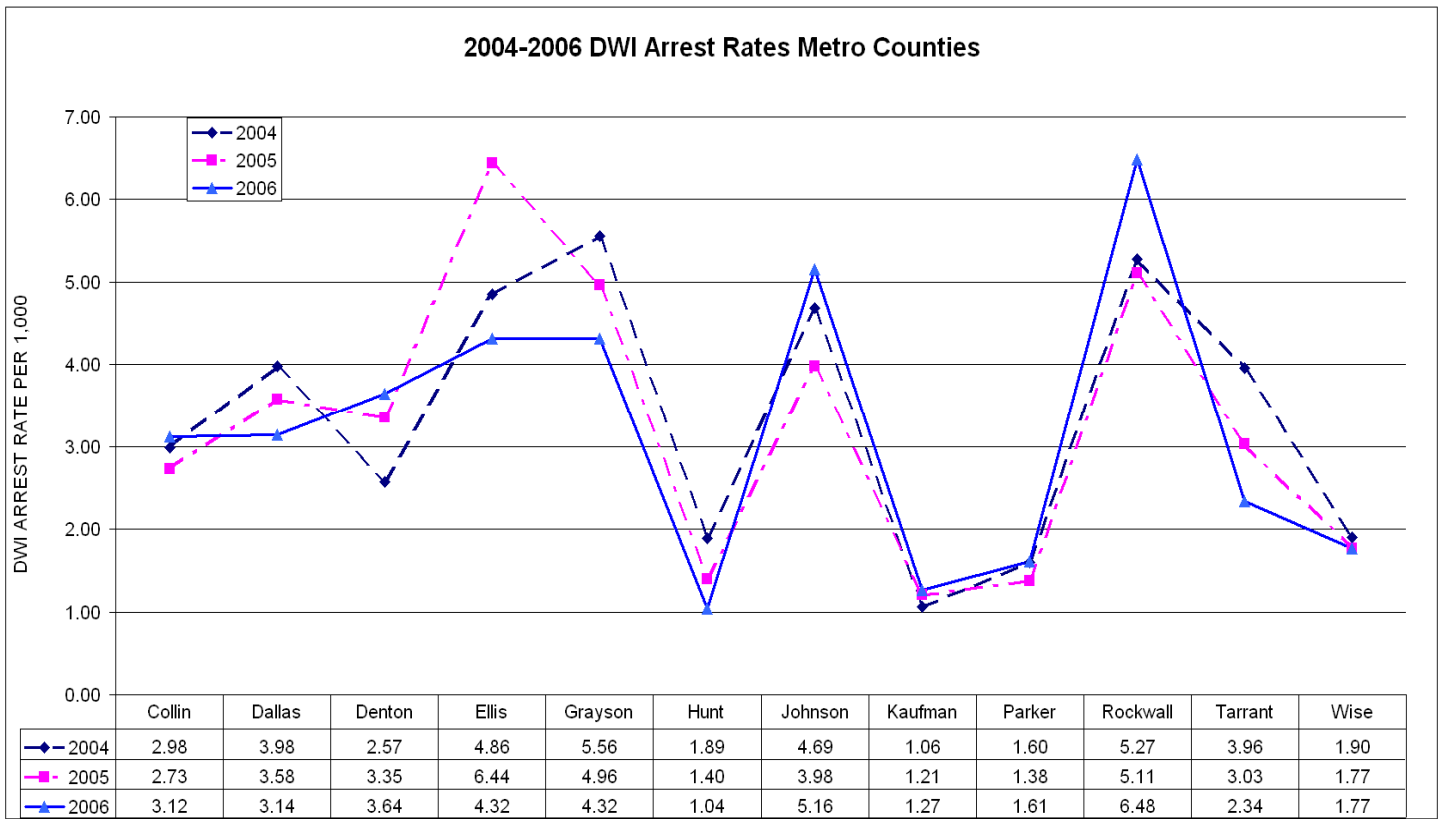


Figure 5. DWI arrest rates in Region 3 metro counties by year.



Figure 6. DWI arrests by non-metro counties by year.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

*Schools in Region 3 are not tracking underage drinking trends.*

The Texas School Survey is the most comprehensive survey on underage drinking available in Texas. Unfortunately, only 24 out of a 214 school districts in Region 3 participated in the Texas School Survey during 2004 and 18 participated in 2005. Collectively, only 71 schools in the region have participated in the past five years; hence, there is not enough data to use to estimate regional rates. There are no other reliable regional sources available to track these variables.

YOUTH DELINQUENCY

*Youths in metro areas are slightly more likely to become involved with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.*

There were a total of 28,726 juveniles in Region 3 referred to the Juvenile Probation Commission in 2005 according to the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission for a rate of 26.82 per 1,000 juveniles. In metro counties, there were 27,581 offenses for a rate of 28.56 per 1,000 (Table 3). In non-metro counties there were 1,145 offenses for a rate of 23.83 per 1,000. Rates in both Metro and Non Metro counties declined between 2004 and 2005 (Figure 7).

Table 3. Youth Delinquency per 1,000 Juveniles

<i>In non-metro counties, Hood had the highest rate of youth delinquency while Somervell had the lowest rate.</i>				<i>In metro counties, Hunt had the highest rate of youth delinquency while Wise had the lowest.</i>			
<b>2005 Juvenile Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Total delinquencies</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 Juveniles</b>	<b>2005 Juvenile Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Total delinquencies</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 Juveniles</b>
4,552	Hood	180	39.54	9,018	Hunt	399	44.24
2,994	Palo Pinto	84	28.06	252,253	Dallas	10,206	40.46
3,319	Fannin	86	25.91	169,211	Tarrant	6,788	40.12
5,269	Navarro	114	21.64	11,207	Grayson	366	32.66
3,517	Erath	62	17.63	17,095	Johnson	518	30.30
4,106	Cooke	72	17.54	55,680	Denton	1,566	28.13
849	Somervell	14	16.49	7,053	Parker	312	25.15
<b>24,606</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>23.83</b>	7,008	Rockwall	174	24.83
				10,294	Kaufman	234	22.73
				73,234	Collin	1,610	21.98
				15,697	Ellis	326	20.77
				7,053	Wise	80	11.34
				<b>634,803</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>22579</b>	<b>28.56</b>

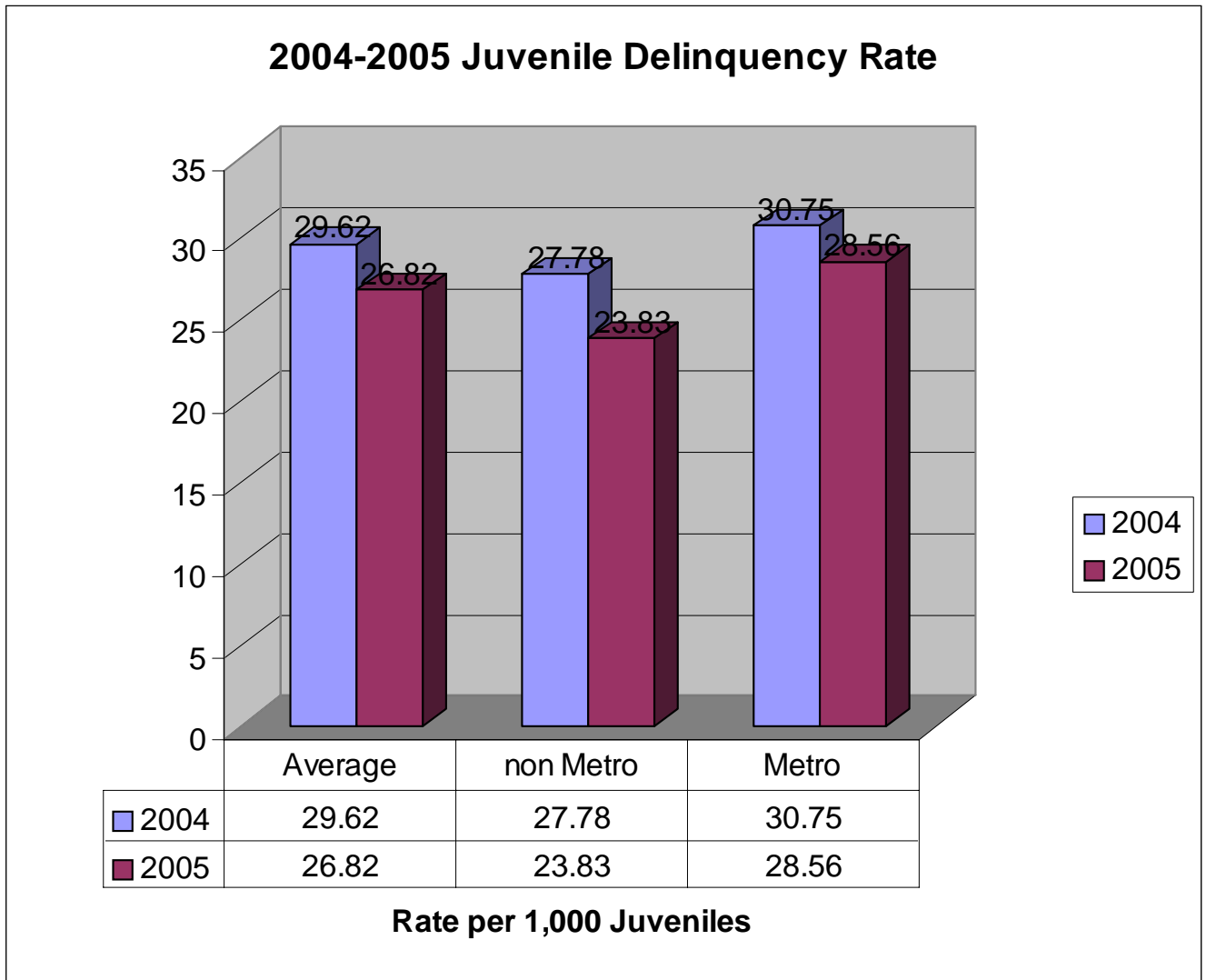


Figure 7. Juvenile delinquency rates for 2004 and 2005.

#### FAMILY BONDING INDICATOR

*Children in non-metro counties are more likely to become a confirmed victim of child abuse and/or neglect in Region 3.*

According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, there were a total of 15,368 confirmed victims of child abuse and/or neglect in 2006 for a rate of 11.53 per 1,000 children. In metro counties, there were 14,646 cases for a rate of 8.86 per 1,000 children while in non-metro counties there were 722 for a rate of 12.38 per 1,000 children.

*Confirmed child abuse increased between 2004 – 2006 in Region 3 for both Metro and Non Metro counties.*

The 2006 confirmed child abuse rate for Non Metro counties increased 7.37% when compared to 2004. Rates for Metro counties increased 17.67% between 2004 and 2006, and region wide rates increased 24.91%. Metro counties with the most significant increases in their confirmed child abuse cases include Ellis, Hunt, Johnson and Parker. Among Non Metro counties, Cooke, Erath, Fannin and Hood all had increases in confirmed child abuse rates when comparing 2004-2006 (Table 4). The charts (Figures 8-10) demonstrate the changes on regional and county levels.

Table 4. Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/Neglect per 1,000 Children

<i>In non-metro counties, Hood had the highest rate of confirmed child abuse while Somervell had the lowest rate.</i>				
<b>2006 Child population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/Neglect</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 Children</b>	
10,049	Hood	181	18	
9,812	Cooke	157	16	
7,012	Palo Pinto	95	13.2	
7,922	Fannin	99	12.5	
13,024	Navarro	104	8	
8,444	Erath	7.3	8.6	
1996	Somervell	13	6.5	
<b>58,329</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>12.38</b>	

<i>In metro counties, Hunt had the highest rate of confirmed child abuse cases while Rockwall had the lowest rate.</i>				
<b>2006 Child population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/Neglect</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 Children</b>	
20,872	Hunt	388	18.6	
40,935	Johnson	662	16.2	
38,354	Ellis	530	13.8	
28,133	Grayson	340	12.1	
26,670	Parker	273	10.2	
647,458	Dallas	5,532	8.5	
15,222	Wise	143	9.4	
452,441	Tarrant	4,463	9.9	
24,183	Kaufman	221	9.1	
186,601	Collin	1,090	5.8	
155,239	Denton	952	6.1	
17,694	Rockwall	52	2.9	
<b>1,653,808</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,646</b>	<b>8.86</b>	

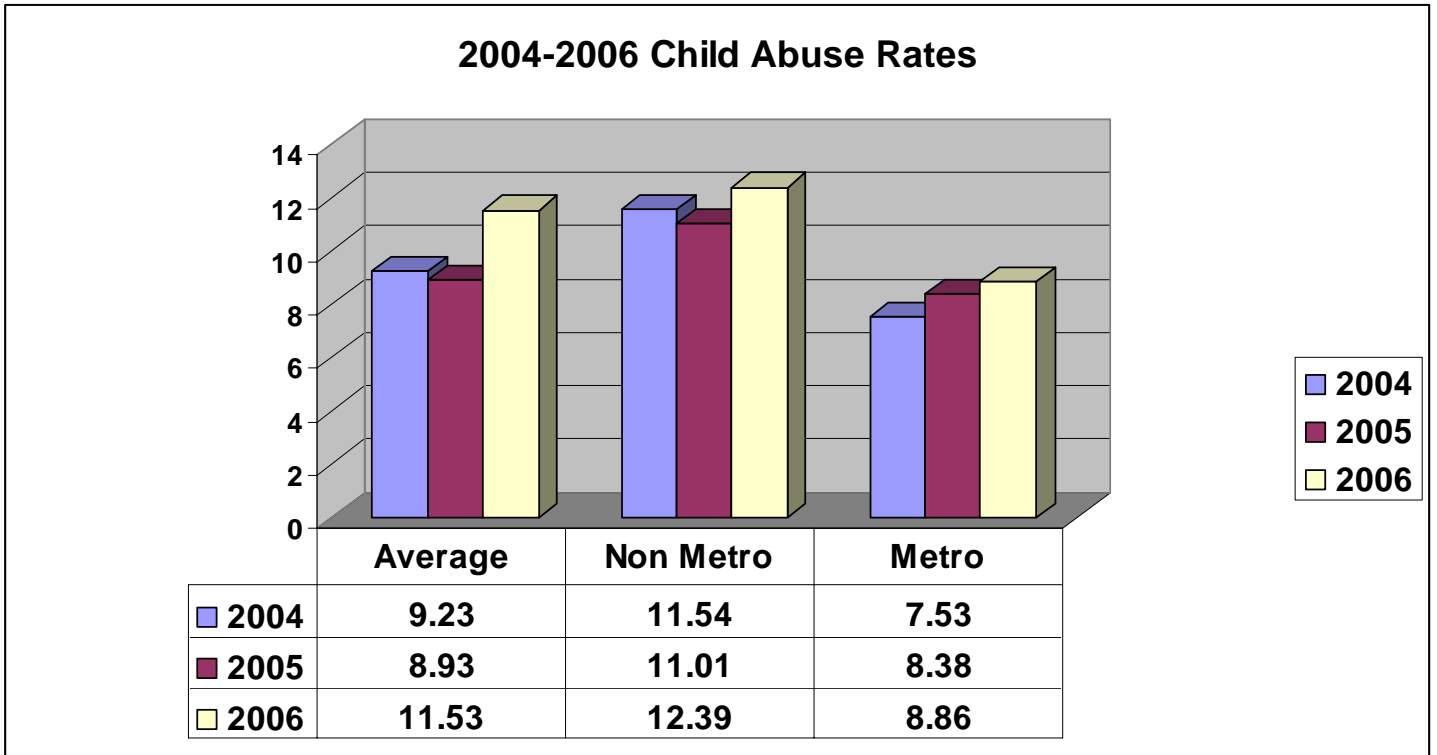


Figure 8. 2004 to 2006 child abuse rates in Region 3.

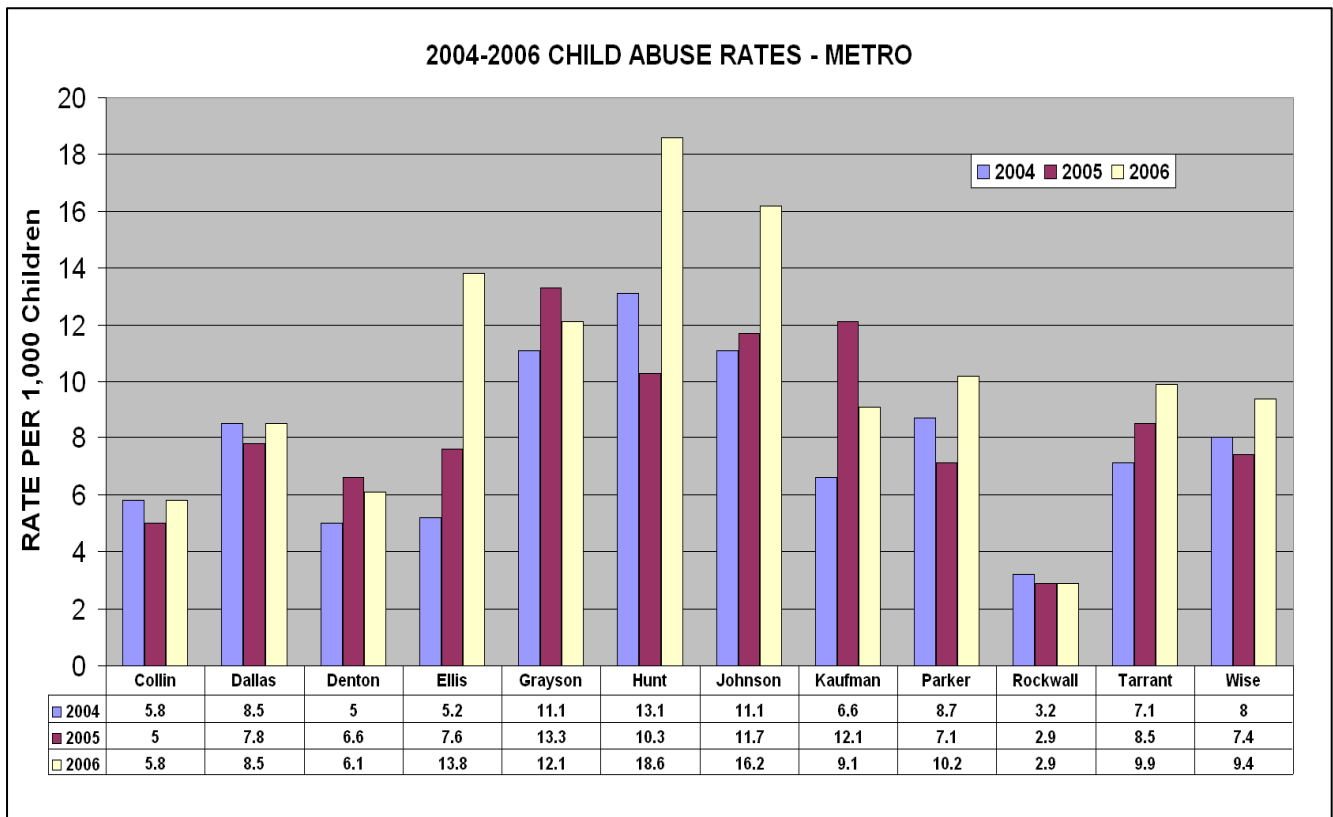


Figure 9. Child abuse rates in Region 3 metro counties.

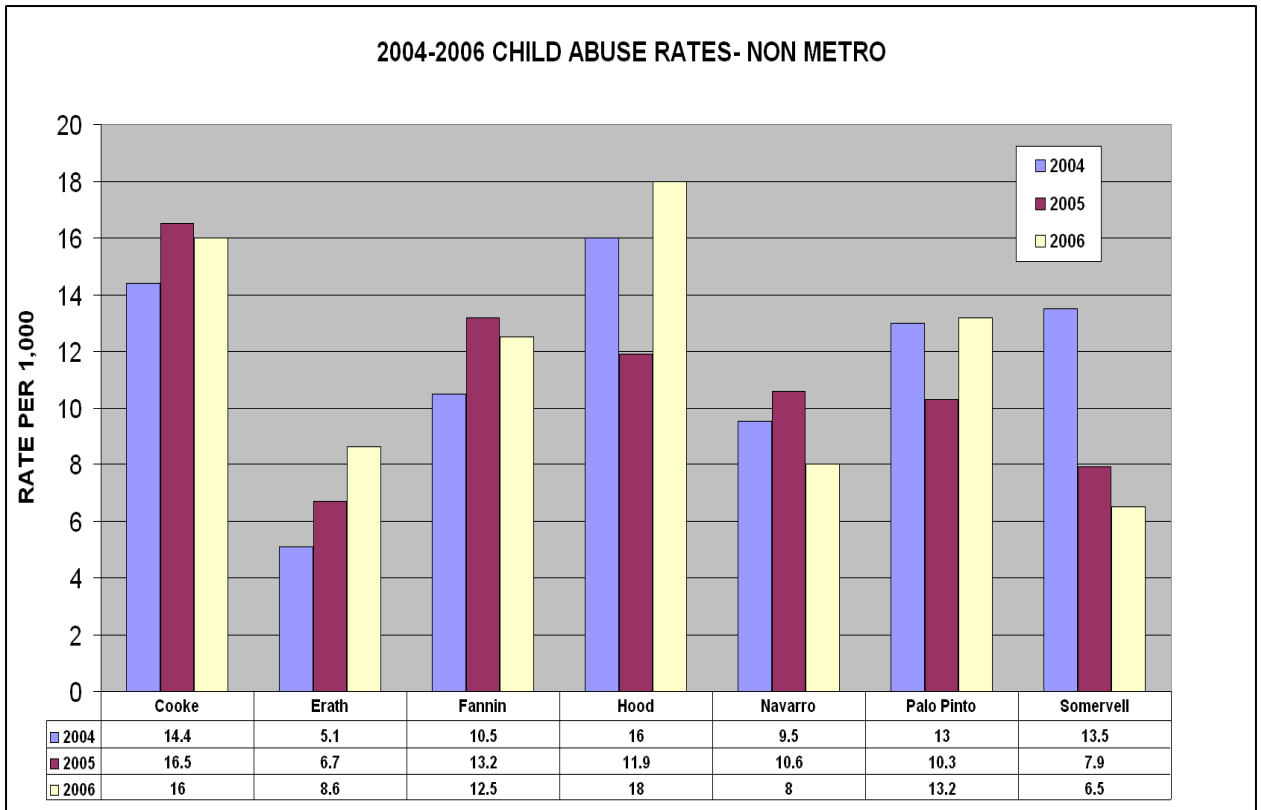


Figure 10. Child abuse rates in Region 3 non-metro counties.

### POSSESSION OF ILLICIT DRUGS

*Juveniles in metro counties are more likely to be arrested for possessing illegal drugs than those in non-metro counties.*

Metro juveniles were arrested for 1,487 offenses for a rate of 2.20 per 1,000 juveniles, while non-metro juveniles were arrested for 53 drug possession offenses for a rate of 2.05 per 1,000 juveniles. Arrests for possession of a controlled substance accounted for 12.37 percent of all drug possession arrests in metro counties (Table 5).

Table 5. 2005 Arrest Rate for Possession of Illicit Drugs per 1,000 Juveniles

<i>In non-metro counties, Hood had the highest rate for possession of illicit drugs, while Palo Pinto had the lowest.</i>				<i>In metro counties, Ellis had the highest rate of arrest for possession of illicit drugs while Wise had the lowest rate.</i>			
<b>Juvenile Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Arrests</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000</b>	<b>Juvenile Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Arrests</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000</b>
4,552	Hood	21	4.61	15,697	Ellis	53	3.38
849	Somervell	2	2.35	169,211	Tarrant	503	2.97
3,517	Erath	8	2.27	7,053	Parker	21	2.97
4,106	Cooke	9	2.2	17,095	Johnson	49	2.86
5,269	Navarro	9	1.71	9,018	Hunt	20	2.22
3,319	Fannin	4	1.2	252,253	Dallas	554	2.20
2,994	Palo Pinto	0	0	55,680	Denton	114	2.05
<b>24,606</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>2.05</b>	7,008	Rockwall	14	2.00
				11,207	Grayson	20	1.78
				73,234	Collin	118	1.61
				10,294	Kaufman	14	1.36
				7,053	Wise	7	0.99
				<b>634,803</b>		<b>1487</b>	<b>2.20</b>

*Juveniles in metro counties are more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana in close proximity to schools.*

Possession in a Drug Free Zone is defined as being within 1,000 feet of a school. In 2006, 42 percent of metro marijuana possession arrests were in Drug Free Zones. The range was from 66.7 percent in Wise County to 21.10 percent in Grayson County (Figure 11). In non-metro areas, 31.7 percent of marijuana possession arrests were in Drug Free Zones with 50 percent of Erath County arrests (Figure 12).

**2006 Metro Arrests Possession of Marijuana in a Drug Free Zone**

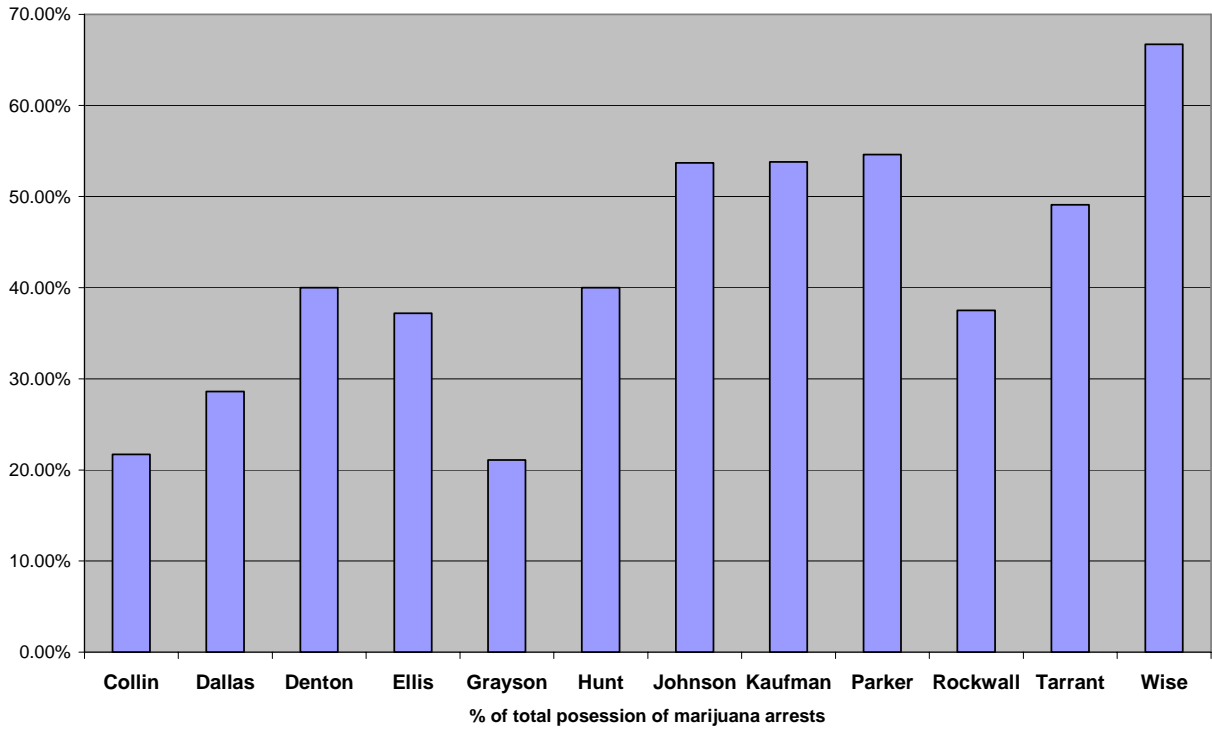


Figure 11. Possession of marijuana in drug free zone in Region 3 metro counties.

**2006 Non Metro Possession of Marijuana in a Drug Free Zone**

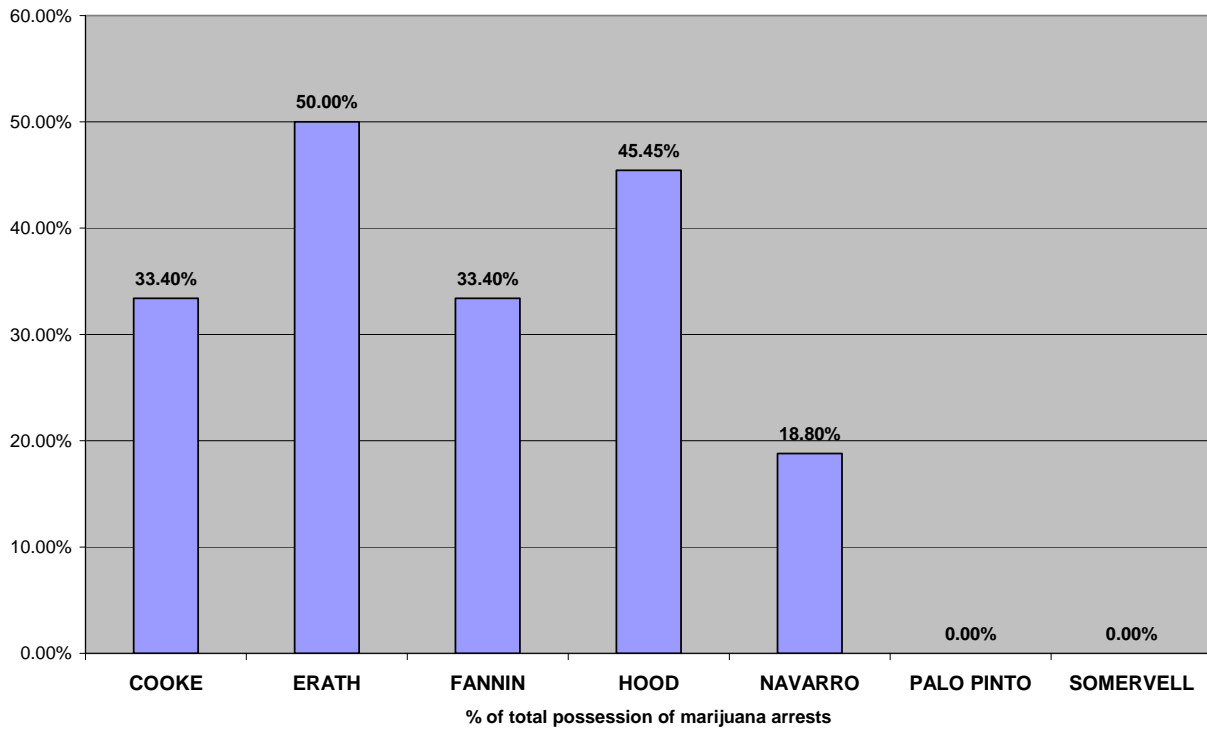


Figure 12. Possession of marijuana in drug free zone in non-metro counties.

*In 2006, the majority of juveniles arrested in both Metro and non-Metro counties for drug possession were white males.*

DPS data includes Hispanics in the “white” race category. In non-Metro counties, Whites accounted for almost 94 percent of juvenile drug arrests, and the remaining 6 percent were Black Males were arrested in 82.7 percent of the time in Metro counties; 91.9 percent of the time in non-metro counties (Texas Department of Public Safety).

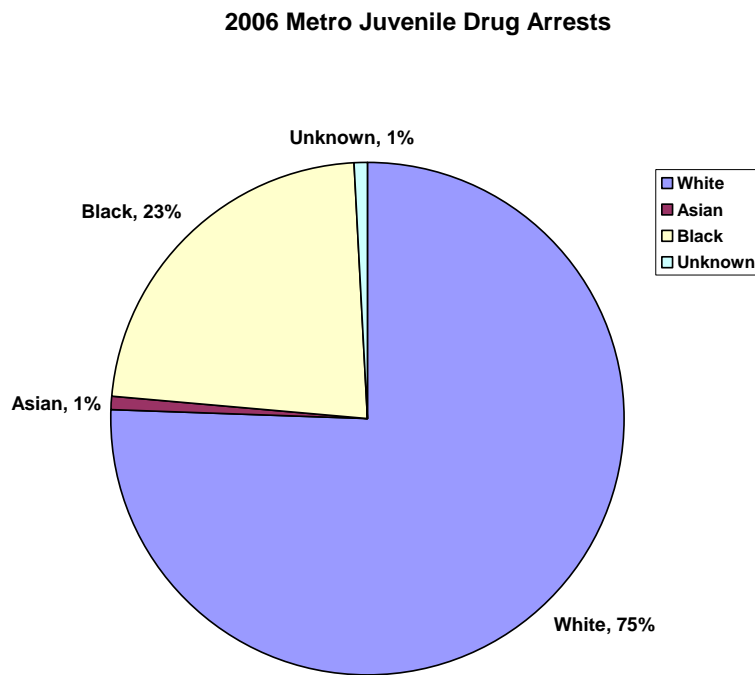


Figure 13. Juvenile drug arrests by race.

*Arrests for possession of illicit drugs increased in metro counties, while decreasing in non metro counties.*

The arrest rate for metro counties increased 35 percent when comparing 2004 - 2006. The arrest rate for non-metro counties decreased 16.5 percent during the same time period.

**2004-2006 Possession of Illicit Drugs Arrest Rates**

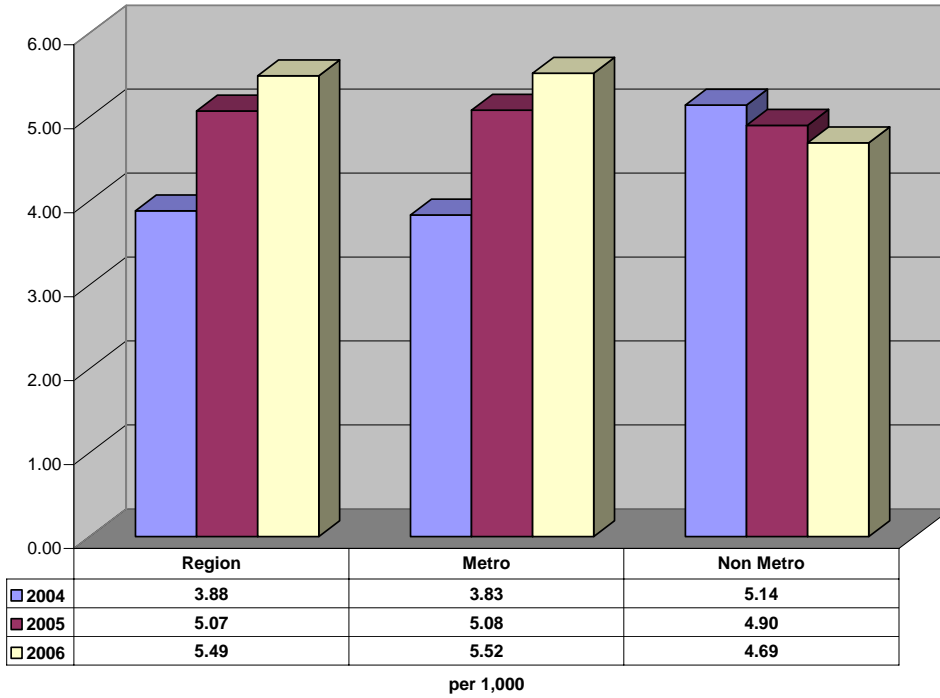


Figure 14. Arrest rates for possession of illicit drug for Region 3.

*Arrests for possession of controlled substances are on the rise in both metro and non metro counties.*

Between 2005– 2006, arrests for possession of controlled substances accounted for more than 60 percent of all arrests for possession of illicit drugs across Region 3 (Figure 15).

## 2005-2006 Illicit Drug Arrests

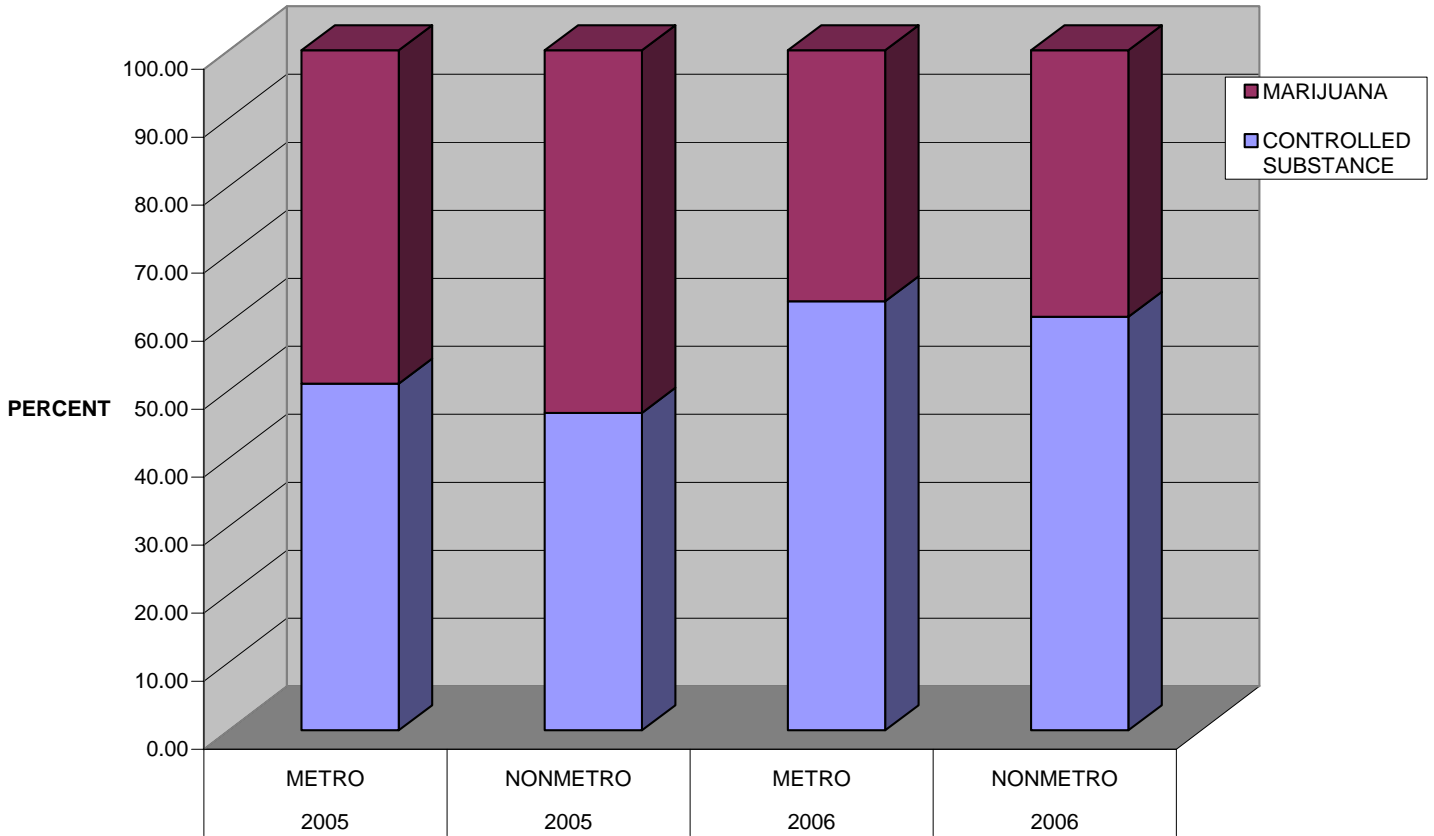


Figure 15. Drug arrests by type of substance.

### EMERGING DRUG TRENDS

*“Cheese” heroin is a growing problem especially among Hispanic teens.*

Currently “Cheese” is primarily being found in Dallas and a few suburbs. “Cheese” is Black Tar heroin which has been turned into brown heroin powder by mixing the Tar with Tylenol PM ®. Table 6 shows an increase in the number of heroin inhaler admissions from 2005 through May, 2007. Over time, these clients are becoming younger, and the number of Hispanics is increasing (Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center).

Table 6. Admissions to DSHS Funded Programs in the Dallas Value Options Area: Clients with a Primary Problem Inhaling Heroin

	2005	2006	2007**
# Admission	237	268	195
Age (Years)	30	28	26*
% First Tmt Admits	36	38	26
% Male	59	59	60
% IV History	20	13	16
% Black	25	12	13
% White	34	29	15
% Hispanic	39	56	71

\*\*Thru 5/31/2007

Table 7 shows that at admission, other drug problems are identified, and while 42% of those Clients in the Dallas area ages 10-14 reported no other drug or alcohol problem, 42% reported a problem with marijuana. Those clients who were older teens were more involved with drugs, with 34% reporting problems with marijuana and 17% reporting problems with powder cocaine (Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center).

Table 7. Secondary Problem Drug of heroin inhalers entering treatment in the DSHS Funded Dallas Value Options Area January-May 2007

Age Group	None	Cocaine	Marijuana	Crack	Other Drugs
10 to 14	42%	8%	42%	0%	8%
15-19	35%	17%	34%	2%	12%
20-24	50%	11%	18%	7%	14%
25-29	45%	19%	23%	3%	10%
30+	31%	25%	10%	14%	20%

## ALCOHOL RELATED VEHICULAR FATALITIES

*Alcohol related vehicular fatality rates are higher in non-metro than metro counties in Region 3.*

According to the National Highway Traffic Administration, there were 354 alcohol related vehicular fatalities in 2006 for a rate of 10.29 per 100,000. In metro counties, there were 322 alcohol related fatalities arrests for a rate of 7.21 while in non-metro counties there were 32 alcohol related vehicular fatalities for a rate of 15.56 (Table 8; Figure 16).

Table 8. Alcohol Related Motor Vehicular Fatalities (MVF) per 100,000 Residents

<p><i>In non-metro counties, Fannin had the highest rate of alcohol related vehicular fatalities while Hood had the lowest rate.</i></p>				<p><i>In metro counties, Rockwall had the highest rate of alcohol related vehicular related fatalities while Hunt had the lowest.</i></p>			
2006 Population	County	Total	Rate per 100,000	2006 Population	County	Total	Rate per 100,000
34,081	Fannin	9	27	58,303	Wise	8	13.82
7,793	Somervell	2	25.73	91,594	Kaufman	11	11.8
50,067	Navarro	7	14.16	153,111	Johnson	15	10.07
30,513	Palo Pinto	2	10.79	120,145	Grayson	11	9.28
35,042	Erath	6	17.5	100,891	Parker	9	8.47
39,948	Cooke	3	7.7	84,882	Hunt	7	8.4
49,288	Hood	3	6.09	129,845	Ellis	10	7.18
<b>246,732</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15.57</b>	1,635,326	Tarrant	101	6.04
				2,590,165	Dallas	113	4.82
				461,199	Denton	16	2.74
				615,042	Collin	17	2.43
				56,141	Rockwall	4	1.45
				<b>6,096,644</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>7.21</b>

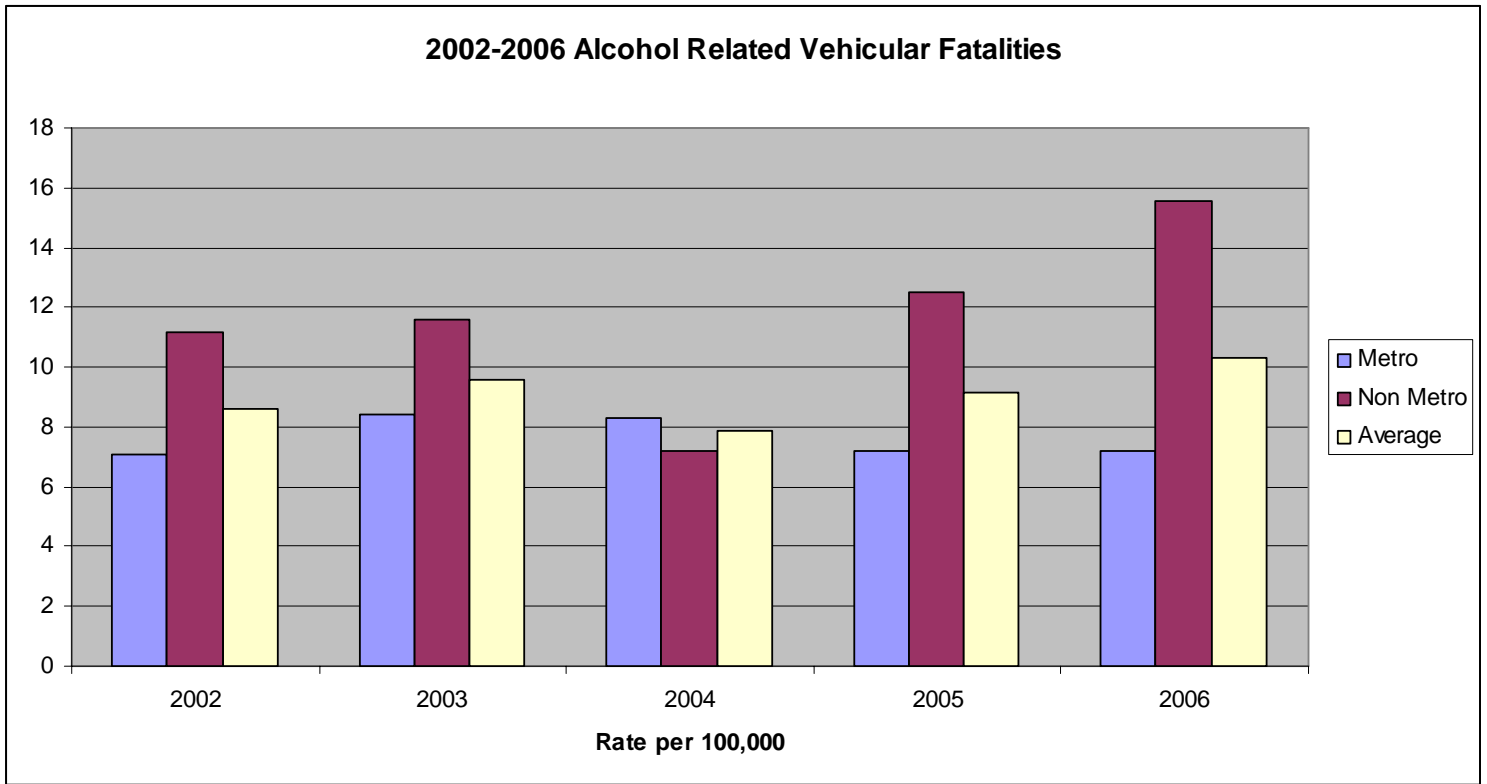


Figure 16. Vehicular fatalities for Region 3 metro and non-metro counties.

## VIOLENT CRIME

*People in metro areas are more likely to become a victim of a violent crime in Region 3.*

There were a total of 33,080 instances of violent crime committed in 2005 according to the Uniform Crime Report for a rate of 294.97. In metro counties, there were 32,582 instances of violent crime for a rate of 347.73 per 100,000 residents while in non-metro counties there were 498 instances for a rate of 204.5 per 100,000 residents (Table 9; Figures 17-19).

Table 9. Violent Crimes per 100,000 Residents

<p><i>In non-metro counties, Cooke had the highest rate of violent crime while Hood had the lowest rate.</i></p>				<p><i>In metro counties, Dallas had the highest rate of violent crime while Parker had the lowest rate.</i></p>			
2005 Population	County	Number of Violent Crimes	Rate per 100,000 Residents	2005 Population	County	Number of Violent Crimes	Rate per 100,000 Residents
39,261	Cooke	121	308.2	2,545,948	Dallas	19,810	778.1
33,157	Fannin	83	250.3	1,583,345	Tarrant	8,332	526.2
30,001	Palo Pinto	75	250.0	86,733	Kaufman	353	407.0
49,037	Navarro	119	242.7	82,946	Hunt	331	399.1
7,576	Somervell	12	158.3	124,069	Ellis	494	398.2
34,258	Erath	43	125.5	148,073	Johnson	477	322.1
46,620	Hood	45	96.5	56,453	Wise	178	315.3
<b>239,910</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>204.5</b>	117,840	Grayson	332	281.7
				50,839	Rockwall	122	240.0
				574,828	Collin	1,220	212.1
				443,744	Denton	829	186.8
				97,917	Parker	104	106.2
				<b>5,912,735</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>32,582</b>	<b>347.73</b>

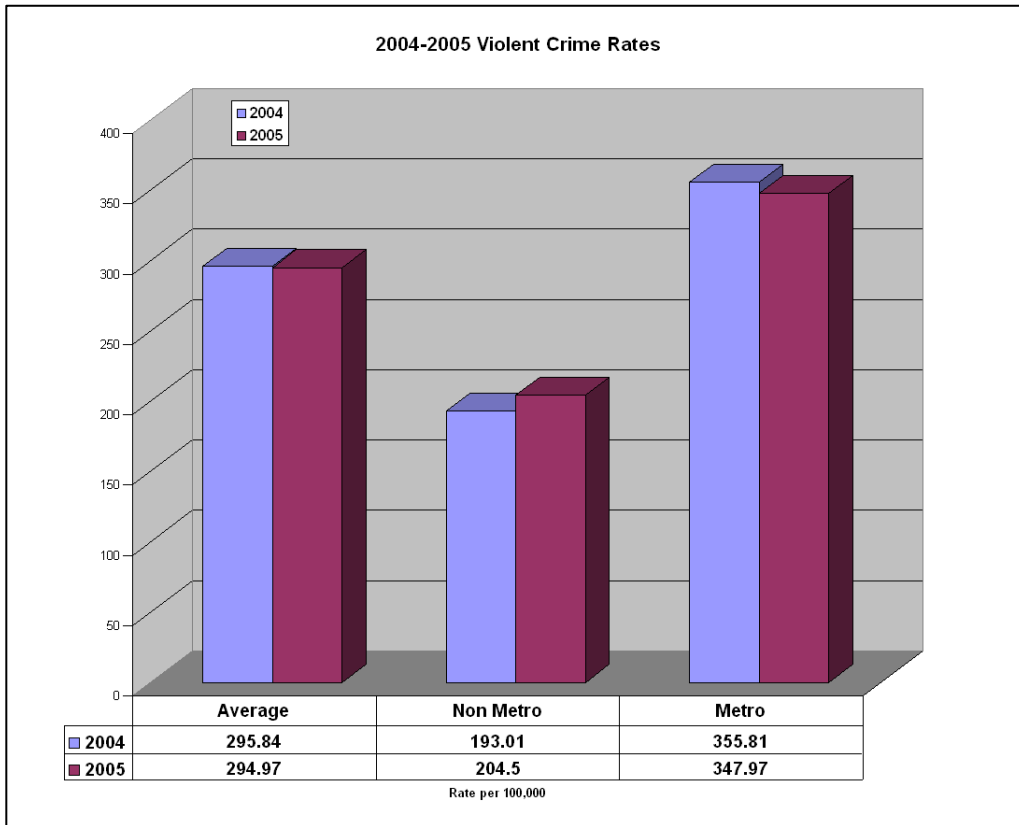


Figure 17. Violent crime rate per 100,000 in Region 3.

## VIOLENT CRIME - NON METRO

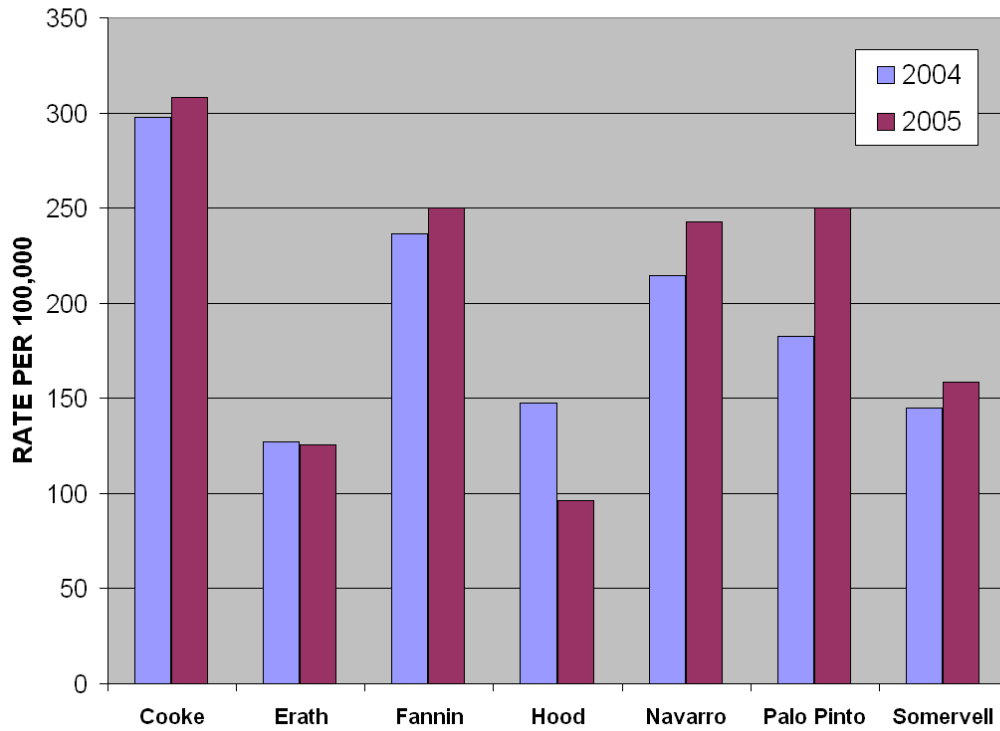


Figure 18. Violent crime rate per 100,000 in Region 3 non-metro counties.

## VIOLENT CRIMES - METRO

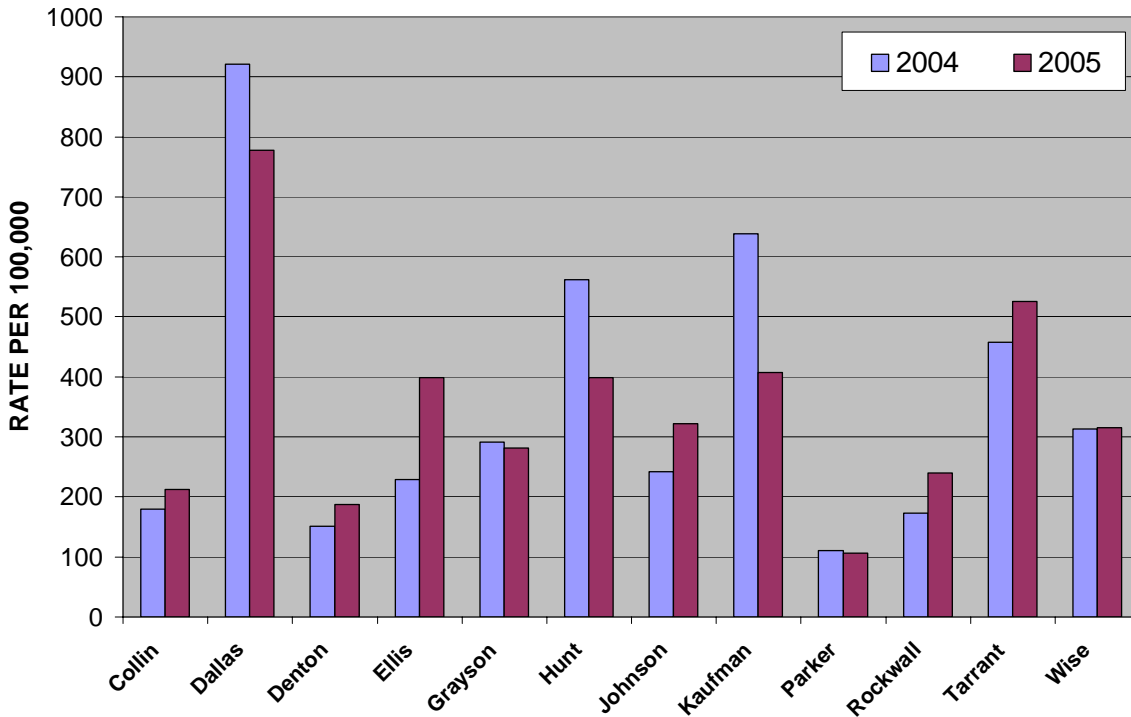


Figure 19. Violent crime rate per 100,000 in metro counties of Region 3.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Possession of marijuana in Drug Free Zones is occurring at fairly high rates. Schools should be made aware of how frequently marijuana is being possessed on or near school property. Students should be made aware of the legal penalties for possessing marijuana in a Drug Free Zone. Further study is recommended to increase understanding of this problem.

The increase in child abuse rates is cause for concern. Community coalitions should be encouraged to consider this family bonding issue by involving family –based prevention programs. Programs should be implemented which focus on intervening early in a child’s development to strengthen protective factors before problem behaviors develop (National Institute on Drug Abuse).

During the focus group session, it was apparent that participants didn’t perceive any problems with using marijuana. It is recommended that programs be implemented that would raise awareness of the risks of marijuana use.

Although the “cheese” heroin abuse is primarily in the Dallas area, non-metro law enforcement agencies, schools and hospitals should stay informed of this troubling drug combination. Ongoing epidemiological monitoring is needed to identify the problem in an area early so that culturally sensitive community based prevention and education programs can be targeted to the population at risk (Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center, 2007).

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR IMPROVING DATA IN THE REGION**

Prevention leaders should encourage schools to participate in the Texas School Survey as this is the most comprehensive survey on underage drinking and substance abuse. Leaders should help schools understand how this data will help schools meet their own goals while helping the community. To supplement secondary data, prevention workers should continue using focus groups to learn more about particular groups and their social norms. Perhaps most importantly, data should be made more accessible at all levels. Data should be easy to locate for community coalitions, researchers, and community members.

## WORKS CITED

- Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center, "Cheese" Heroin Status as of June 2, 2007. Retrieved from [http://www.utexas.edu/research/cswr/gcattc/documents/cheeseheroin6-2-07\\_000.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/research/cswr/gcattc/documents/cheeseheroin6-2-07_000.pdf)
- Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center, Substance Abuse Trends in Texas: June 2007. Retrieved from [http://www.utexas.edu/research/cswr/gcattc/documents/June2007\\_000.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/research/cswr/gcattc/documents/June2007_000.pdf)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Alcohol Related Vehicular Deaths. Retrieved from [http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/STSI/48\\_TX/2006/Counties/Texas\\_Dallas\\_County\\_2006.HTM](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/STSI/48_TX/2006/Counties/Texas_Dallas_County_2006.HTM)
- Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, Annual Statistical Report. Retrieved from <http://www.tjpc.state.tx.us/publications/reports/RPTSTAT2005.pdf>
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2005 and 2006 Data Book. Retrieved from [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data\\_Books\\_and\\_Annual\\_Reports/](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/)
- Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime Records Service. Retrieved from [http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime\\_records/pages/index.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/pages/index.htm)
- Texas Department of State Health Services Substance Abuse Services (n.d.) Texas Strategic Plan Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant. [www.dshs.state.tx.us/sa/SIG/TexasSPFSIGStatePlan1205.doc](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/sa/SIG/TexasSPFSIGStatePlan1205.doc)
- Texas Department of State Health Services Substance Abuse Services (n.d.) Public health region 3. Retrieved from <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/pubs/healthy/hp032000.pdf>
- Texas State Data Center, 2006 Population Estimates for Texas Counties. Retrieved from <http://txsdc.utsa.edu/tpepp/txpopest.php>
- Texas Workforce Development Commission, Labor Market Information. Retrieved from <http://www.tracer2.com/>
- U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Population Estimates. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/>