Student Safety at Oakland High: A report from the Wellness Youth Council

Who We Are

We are a group of motivated, smart-minded students researching problems happening at Oakland High. Our goal is to find solutions to fix these problems and improve the community in our school.

Our Project

Our mission this year was to improve school safety. We thought all students should feel safe, and wanted to see what students thought should be done to improve safety at Oakland High.



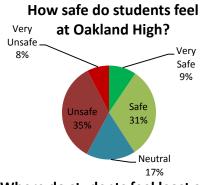
(R to L) Emanuel Baxter, Cynthia Lau, Jamie Tran, Ky Gia Phan, Elaine Cheng, Stephanie Hang Not Pictured: Mylishia Henderson, Caroline Le, Leanne Kim, Lily Chan, Hyowon Lihinag-Tam

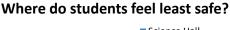
Our Process

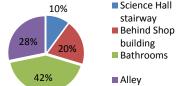
- 1) Came up with a research question focused on school safety.
- 2) Created a survey with questions about student safety and what should be done.
- 3) Surveyed 250 students from grades 9-12.
- 4) Presented our findings in Sacramento to legislators and the CA Department of Education.
- 5) Designed recommendations for Oakland High to improve safety.

Results

- 43% of students at Oakland High feel unsafe or very unsafe.
- 82 % of students thought adults responded ok, well, or very well to safety concerns at Oakland High.
- If students felt unsafe, they were much more likely to tell their friends or parents than an adult on campus (teacher, administrator, security).
- Nearly half of students listed the Wellness Center as the place they felt the most safe on campus.
- Almost 70% of students utilize the services offered at the Wellness Center (most for physicals and first aid), but 30% of students had never been to the Wellness Center.







Recommendations

- Oakland High can be made a safer place by implementing adult supervision in areas such as the back alleyway and the science hall stairway during lunch time and after school.
 These areas are particularly empty during these times which make students feel unsafe.
- There is a lack of awareness from students at Oakland High about the Wellness Center and the services offered there. As one of the safest places on campus, we recommend that the Wellness Center do more outreach to the main building. This can include ongoing projects such as passing out flyers, making announcements, and holding an assembly.