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| Community Themes & Strengths Assessment 2016**Louisa County Results** |

**Summary**

To obtain feedback from community members living in Virginia’s Planning District 10 (PD10) which includes Charlottesville City and Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson counties, a three-question survey was distributed between May 7, 2016 and June 12, 2016. The survey was designed to be minimally invasive – no personal information was collected, answer choices were closed-ended, and the survey length was one page. The survey team worked to reach community members by offering the survey in multiple languages, at several community events and partner sites, and online. In total, 2,885 PD10 residents completed the survey.

**Background**

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) is an important component for community health improvement planning as it is designed to gather input from community members on the health of their communities. According to the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), *“The CTSA answers the questions: "What is important to our community?" "How is quality of life perceived in our community?" and "What assets do we have that can be used to improve community health?" This assessment results in a strong understanding of community issues and concerns, perceptions about quality of life, and a map of community assets.”[[1]](#endnote-1)*

**Survey Design**

In an effort to perform true community-based data collection, the Thomas Jefferson Health District, UVA Department of Public Health Sciences, and Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital, with a team of Masters-level public health students, designed the CTSA survey and data collection to take place with residents in their communities. With input from each of the district’s Community Health Assessment (CHA) locality councils, planners designed a short survey to collect broad feedback from residents. Initially, fifty questions were drafted to assess community themes and opportunities for improvement, but given the goal of creating a non-invasive survey, the questions were fine-tuned and narrowed down to three questions. Planners developed answer choices based upon previously identified strategic issues and the social determinants of health. Question 2 – “What makes your community a health place to live?” had the same answer choices for each locality. Table 1 provides a summary of the answer choices provided for Question 3 – “What should your community improve?” with Louisa CHA Locality Council’s selected indicators for inclusion.

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| Table 1. Question 3 Indicators |
|  | Louisa |
| Aging |  |
| Alcohol and drug |  |
| Children and youth |  |
| Dental care |  |
| Education |  |
| Food |  |
| Housing |  |
| Jobs |  |
| Medical care |  |
| Mental health |  |
| Obesity |  |
| Pregnancy and infant |  |
| Recreational opps |  |
| Tobacco |  |
| Transportation |  |

**Next Steps**

The CTSA is one of four assessments within the MAPP process. The information gathered in this phase is intended to provide community-driven input into areas that need improvement in communities and potential strengths for overcoming the identified needs.

Results from the CTSA will feed into the phase of priority selection by the MAPP partners, and will be distributed widely when the full Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plan is published in December 2016.

Thank you to the partnering agencies (Appendix A) that supported conducting this survey effort. For the results of this assessment for Louisa County, please review pgs. 2 – 5. For more information, contact the Thomas Jefferson Health District at (434) 972-6200.

**Question 1 – *Where do you live?***

**Louisa County Respondents**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In-Person & Partner Site Respondents | **294** |
| Online Respondents | **170** |
| **Total**  | **464** |

**Question 2 – *What makes your community a healthy place to live?***

**Question 2 – *What makes your community a healthy place to live?***

**Top 5 responses in each locality**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Louisa** | **Albemarle** | **Charlottesville** | **Fluvanna** | **Greene** | **Nelson** |
| **1** | Outdoors | Healthcare | Healthcare | Outdoors | Local schools | Outdoors |
| **2** | Spiritual Life | Outdoors | Food options | Recreation | Outdoors | Healthcare |
| **3** | Healthcare | Food options | Outdoors | Spiritual Life | Spiritual Life | Recreation |
| **4** | Local schools | Recreation | Safe Streets | Local schools | Healthcare | Food options |
| **5** | Recreation | Culture and arts | Culture and Arts | Healthcare | Safe Streets | Local Schools & Spiritual Life |

**Question 2 – *What makes your community a healthy place to live?***

**Commonalities across Virginia’s Planning District 10**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **# of Planning District 10 Localities in which the indicator is ranked within top five**  |
| Outdoors | 6 |
| Healthcare | 6 |
| Recreation | 4 |
| Spiritual life | 4 |
| Food options | 3 |
| Local schools | 3 |
| Culture and arts | 2 |
| Safe streets | 2 |

**Question 2 – *What makes your community a healthy place to live?***

**Comments & Write-Ins**

|  |
| --- |
| Community Animal Response Team |
| the pool |
| Parks + Rec |
| community animal response team |
| Fresh country air! Wide open spaces! Well water! |
| These are the things we need more of |
| 1) Housing, 2) Jobs, 3) Outdoors. "Healthy" written next to Food options. |
| farmers markets with fresh produce and opportunities for local businesses |
| We are a rural community and need to keep the atmosphere of it. We have people moving in who want the convenience of a city. You can't have both. |
| nothing |
| Outdoors: Fresh air, rural area |
| Lake Anna |
| lack of traffic congestion |
| Lake living |
| Good police force |
| You need to define "healthy" for me to answer this. |
| A quiet place to retire |
| Impossible to narrow it down to 3... |
| Welcoming and caring neighbors -- positive people -- lots to do ! |

**Question 3 – *What should your community improve?***

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**Top 5 responses in each locality**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Louisa** | **Albemarle** | **Charlottesville** | **Fluvanna** | **Greene** | **Nelson** |
| **1** | Jobs | Mental health | Mental health | Children and youth | Jobs | Children and youth |
| **2** | Children and youth | Obesity | Housing | Aging | Children and youth | Aging |
| **3** | Alcohol and drug | Children and youth | Alcohol and drug | Transportation | Alcohol and drug | Transportation |
| **4** | Medical care access | Aging | Children and youth | Mental health | Obesity | Alcohol and drug |
| **5** | Mental health | Alcohol and drug | Education | Obesity | Mental health | Medical care access |

**Question 3 – *What should your community improve?***

**Commonalities across Virginia’s Planning District 10**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **# of Planning District 10 Localities in which the indicator is ranked within top five** |
| Children and youth | 6 |
| Mental health |   | 5 |
| Alcohol and drugs | 5 |
| Aging |   | 3 |
| Obesity |   | 3 |
| Transportation | 2 |
| Jobs |   | 2 |
| Medical care access | 2 |
| Housing |   | 1 |
| Education |   | 1 |

**Question 3 – *What should your community improve?***

**Comments & Write-Ins**

|  |
| --- |
| new to area- TV/meter hook-up, garbage-where to go. Lack of information services |
| affordable housing needed |
| better water |
| recreational activities for youth |
| "Nutrition" written next to Food |
| community center near zion x-roads |
| special attention to heroin and meth misuse prevention and recovery |
| not enough health care specialists |
| Children and youth services around Zion Crossroads area |
| not enough variety in jobs (professional and lay) |
| food: healthy options/restaurants |
| safe drinking water |
| Louisa Co. has more sexual offenders living in it than the whole state of Va. |
| jobs jobs jobs |
| more restaurants |
| medical services for children and youth |
| recreation for children |
| "hospital" written next to Medical care access |
| need internet service for those who are not in the town of Louisa |
| Safe walking paths for seniors. |
| We need to promote our community without losing our sence of neighbor. |
| Recreation areas |
| Housing options |
| Not sure which of the above are available. Most do not apply to me. Worked out of Louisa so I have resources out of town. |
| potable water |
| Primary/Urgent Care @ Lake Anna |
| Need movie theater. |
| Activities for special needs children |
| variety of shopping choices |
| Public safety |
| domestic violence |
| Again... All are important. But I believe if Mental Health is addressed, it would improve other things. |
| Safe biking/walking trails |
| transportation and urgent care facilities |
| Services for seniors |
| aging services |

1. <http://archived.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/mapp/framework/phase3ctsa.cfm>

**Appendix A**

**Louisa County CTSA Partnering Agencies**

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| Health & Wellness Center of Louisa |
| Jefferson Area CHiP  |
| Jefferson Area Board for the Aging  |
| Louisa County Department of Human Services |
| Louisa County Resource Council  |
| Louisa Health Department |
| Louisa Inter-Agency Council |
| Mineral Farmers’ Market |
| Sponsoring Agencies of the Community Extravaganza  |
| Spring Creek Family Medicine – Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital  |
| Veterinary Service of Louisa  |

 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)