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| Community Themes & Strengths Assessment 2016  **Virginia Planning District Ten 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 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 the selected indicators for inclusion broken down by locality.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Albemarle | Cville | Fluvanna | Greene | Louisa | Nelson |
| 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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The following figures provide a district-wide overview of the results for each question included in the CTSA survey.

**Question 1 – *Where do you live?***

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

**Top five responses by PD10 Locality**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Albemarle** | **Charlottesville** | **Fluvanna** | **Greene** | **Louisa** | **Nelson** |
| **1** | Healthcare | Healthcare | Outdoors | Local schools | Outdoors | Outdoors |
| **2** | Outdoors | Food options | Recreation | Outdoors | Spiritual Life | Healthcare |
| **3** | Food options | Outdoors | Spiritual Life | Spiritual Life | Healthcare | Recreation |
| **4** | Recreation | Safe Streets | Local schools | Healthcare | Local schools | Food options |
| **5** | Culture and arts | Culture and Arts | Healthcare | Safe Streets | Recreation | 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 3 – *What should your community improve?***

**Top five responses by PD10 Locality**

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

The majority of the CTSA respondents believe that healthcare options, the outdoors, recreational opportunities, and spiritual life help to keep PD10 communities healthy. Survey respondents in all six localities perceive that children and youth services need improvement. Additionally, respondents from five of the six localities believe alcohol and drug misuse prevention and treatment services and access to mental health services need improving. Aging services and obesity prevention were perceived as needing improvement in three of PD10’s localities.

**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. For more information, contact the Thomas Jefferson Health District at (434) 972-6200.

1. <http://archived.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/mapp/framework/phase3ctsa.cfm> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)