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| Community Themes & Strengths Assessment 2016**Albemarle 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 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 Charlottesville/Albemarle CHA Council’s selected indicators for inclusion.

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| Table 1. Question 3 Indicators |
|  | Albemarle |
| 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 Albemarle County, please review pgs. 2 – 6. For more information, contact the Thomas Jefferson Health District at (434) 972-6200.

**Question 1 – *Where do you live?***

**Albemarle County Respondents**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In-Person & Partner Site Respondents | **268** |
| Online Respondents | **427** |
| **Total**  | **695** |

**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** | **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 | Spiritual Life & Local Schools |

**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**

|  |
| --- |
| Affordable housing |
| Tolerance/Acceptance and Safety (low crime) |
| senior friendly |
| no transportation |
| outdoors trails |
| no transportation! only walking |
| 1) quality jobs (this will help w/housing), 2) quality healthcare, 3) safe streets/neighborhoods |
| Healthcare: Alternative, not "traditional"; Housing: Affordable, not for the wealthy only; Jobs: with decent hours and pay; Local business: same as Jobs; Local schools: not public institutions; Neighborhoods: with parks and the like. |
| Walking on my farm |
| General physical environment. (These three choices refer only to health, not other areas of quality of life.) |
| Walk-ability throughout community (not sure if that's what "safe streets" means) |
| Nature. The beautiful place we live in the mountains |
| farms |
| Family |
| all of the above |
| Resources |
| natural world altogether: clean water/air/soil, local food production, connection with natural world through recreation in healthy environment |
| strong social services network |
| environmental sensitivity |
| multiple area races that meets different levels of fitness |
| Education |
| Civic Engagement |
| The Senior Center is a great resource. |
| Senior Center Inc. where older people like me can connect, learn, continue to grow, & feeling part of community |
| location near to almost all of the above |
| Climate |
| all of the above |

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

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

**Top 5 responses in each 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 |

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

**Comments & Write-Ins**

|  |
| --- |
| mental health care services particularly in crises |
| Transportation to outlying counties?? |
| A real commitment to providing bicycling routes to UVA off route 29N corridor |
| bathroom access |
| bike and walking trails! |
| racial integration |
| grocery store and post office availability |
| price of parking |
| Veteran Services |
| Children and Youth Services: for low income families |
| internet service |
| affordable wifi services |
| Rent to own home that is more accessible would be helpful and productive for the community |
| Homeless. Domestic Violence |
|  "low income" written next to Housing |
| mental health care services <--yes! very important |
| access to and from housing communities |
| computer services for seniors |
| "prevention" written next to Children and youth services |
| education for all ages |
| stopping funding for the children's band does not seem like a good choice to me. |
| Employment |
| Access to affordable healthy food for low income citizens; expand public transportation |
| Safe area for children and elderly. Better police presence. |
| Transportation |
| Public Transportation |
| Exercise |
| Life course-oriented systems: education, social services, health services, neighborhood housing, etc. should be INTENTIONALLY and EFFECTIVELY inter-generational and cross-generational |
| Rural poverty issues |
| less government interference in our food  |
| Smart meters should be banned. |
| too many breweries here. many accidents related to DUI. people speed coming down afton mtn. area |
| Traffic enforcement of state and local laws. This has become a dangerous place to be on the road! |
| Mental Health #1 |
| Neighborhood gang control |
| Affordable Housing |
| Relocate too many panhandlers - every street corner - really? |
| Transportation |

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

**Comments & Write-Ins**

|  |
| --- |
| City planning - roads, traffic, construction and lack of parking makes people anxious and C'ville a less desirable place to live |
| Smaller livable houses for Seniors, Control Growth. |
| transportation from public transport to walkability and bikability, sidewalks, and more |
| Affordable housing for ALL of our citizens, not just the UVa population. |
| Spend more money and allocate more resources for these things. They are sorely underfunded and have significantly less offerings than in other communities. |
| Parks and recreation including bike trails |
| transportation |

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

**Appendix A**

**Albemarle County Partnering Agencies**

|  |
| --- |
| Albemarle/Charlottesville Health Department |
| Charlottesville City Market |
| Church of the Incarnation  |
| Christian Salon |
| JABA |
| Jefferson Area CHiP |
| Latino Market  |
| Martha Jefferson Medical Group |
| Pilgrim Baptist Church  |
| Scottsville Farmers’ Market |
| Southwood May Market  |
| Super Amanecer |
| Take Nako |

 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)