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| Community Themes & Strengths Assessment 2016**Charlottesville City 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 |
|  | Cville |
| 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 Charlottesville City, please review pgs. 2 – 5. For more information, contact the Thomas Jefferson Health District at (434) 972-6200.

**Question 1 – *Where do you live?***

**Charlottesville City Respondents**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In-Person & Partner Site Respondents | **368** |
| Online Respondents | **282** |
| **Total**  | **650** |

**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** | **Charlottesville** | **Albemarle** | **Fluvanna** | **Greene** | **Louisa** | **Nelson** |
| **1** | Healthcare | Healthcare | Outdoors | Local schools | Outdoors | Outdoors |
| **2** | Food options | Outdoors | Recreation | Outdoors | Spiritual Life | Healthcare |
| **3** | Outdoors | Food options | Spiritual Life | Spiritual Life | Healthcare | Recreation |
| **4** | Safe Streets | Recreation | 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**

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| All of these exist if you're a part of the higher economic group. If not, these services are not positively impactful |
| 1) culture and arts, 2) local business, 3) food options |
| "walking" written near Transportation |
| bike lanes |
| increase speed on certain streets |
| "(AFFORDABLE) housing!" written next to Housing |
| Daily community habits (cooking, walking together, etc.) |
| Very difficult to narrow choices to only three. Every single option is important to making Charlottesville a healthy community. |
| This survey conflates what makes a community healthy and desirable |
| all of the above but primarily the choices that we make for our family (e.g. diet & exercise) |
| accessibility to UVA library and aquatic fitness center (AFC) |
| Educational opportunities |
| economic opportunities |
| Urban nature in close proximity to neighborhoods |
| public transportation, bike friendly lanes |
| Gyms |
| Better low-income housing that is truly low income and affordable |
| Nothing for me; I can no longer afford to enjoy living here but I’m not poor enough for welfare. You try living on 20K! |
| Creating a trolley system that makes a loop from central parking centers to shopping area. The parking situation here is HORRIBLE... especially for those of us with disabilities |
| residents need to have the value of health |
| Clean drinking water and clean air quality; exercise opportunities |
| walkability  |
| It fails in so many ways. 30 year resident of city (THE city), 8th generation Virginian |

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

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

**Top 5 responses in each locality**

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

|  |
| --- |
| Education, housing, more access for walkers |
| it's perfect |
| police |
| culture diversity |
| no complaints |
| traffic issues & parking downtown |
| aging services re: snow and sidewalks |
| walking/biking access |
| "for elders (so they don't have to resort to statins, cholesterol meds etc)" written next to Obesity prevention and healthy weight services. "Houses further out" written next to Transportation. |
| "our gap for minorities and others" written next to Education |
| integrating friendships! :) |
| "need education to back this up" written near Alcohol and drug misuse and prevention services. |
| more parks for children and youth |
| affordable housing |
| better transportation and bus services |
| MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE FIRST RESPONDERS THAT SERVICE THE COMMUNITY BUT CAN'T AFFORD TO LIVE HERE. |
| Revert real estate tax due from persons over 65 to the amount due when they purchased the property - or some comparable freeze. Too many elderly are being forced out of their homes because their taxes have risen beyond what they can pay. Allow seniors to rent out apartments in their homes by creating a specific grandfathering clause for those seniors who have owned property in the city for more than 10 years. Also, incorporate dog parks in multiple locations, such as the redo of McIntire Park, somewhere at each county lake park, etc. Open all undeveloped city land for those who wish to garden.  |
| security |
| not just "housing", but "affordable housing" |
| Affordable dental care for those without coverage |
| The Mental Health care services should target those that have lost sight of the important things in life, most specifically, people with more money than sense. |
| Vagrancy situation |
| reliability of electrical power (Dominion Power service)  |
| safer cycling by creating more bike paths and walking paths |
| None. It's not the government's job to do any of these things. |
| economic opportunity through "right sizing" government |
| Getting the homeless people off the streets, the downtown Mall and street corners. Nothing more upsetting and frustrating than to be constantly harassed for money and food. |
| Nutrition education and support. |
| Better sidewalks and overpasses to encourage walking |
| Support Parks and Recreation and activities in the community |
| Safe streets -- need more/better sidewalks in our neighborhood.  |
| community involvement |
| Assistance for those who do not have health insurance or Medicaid |
| Question 3 – *What should your community improve?*Comments & Write-Ins |
| Resource Education- Making sure people know what is available. |
| Safe and efficient Public Transportation |
| Sexual education |
| Charlottesville is fantastic all around other than the high cost of housing and difficulty of getting around without a car |
| Veterans help in this area and the homeless population of veterans and in general the people that are homeless in the Charlottesville area and surrounding counties. |
| Expense |
| affordable village style housing for seniors |
| Parking options. |
| More recreation / activities for children and youth  |
| opportunities to be active |
| Active transportation - skills development, infrastructure, destination-housing connections |
| healthy transportation |
| separated bike lanes, more sidewalks in Albemarle County, pedestrian crossing at large intersections in Alb Co- hydraulic & 29, the mall and 29, etc. no more frogger!!  |
| Mixed income/mixed use development |
| Dental Services |
| Translation services and immigrant/refugee health services |

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

**Appendix A**

**Charlottesville City Partnering Agencies**

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| Albemarle/Charlottesville Health Department |
| Charlottesville City Market |
| Charlottesville Department of Social Services |
| City of Promise  |
| JABA |
| Jefferson Area CHiP |
| Neighborhood Family Health Center |
| Pilgrim Baptist Church  |
| Reid’s Super Saver |
| Sin Barreras  |

 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)