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| Community Themes & Strengths Assessment 2016**Nelson 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 Nelson Community Health Assessment Locality Council’s selected indicators for inclusion.

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| Table 1. Question 3 Indicators |
|  | 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 |  |

**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 Nelson 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?***

**Nelson County Respondents**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In-Person & Partner Site Respondents | **272** |
| Online Respondents | **87** |
| **Total**  | **359** |

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

**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**

|  |
| --- |
| NONE of the ABOVE |
| clean water and clean air |
| quality of local farms |
| clean air and clean water |
| Quiet, no traffic. |
| Environmentally friendly to include less stressful atmosphere |
| low crime rate |
| Rural living- quiet, peaceful, promotes restoration and renewal, tranquility and beauty |
| mental health support - Nelson Counseling Center |
| Nothing. Nelson County Needs a lot of work!!!  |

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

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

**Top 5 responses in each locality**

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

**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**

|  |
| --- |
| cultural activities |
| Bicycle Lanes on highways |
| dental health |
| Some sort of Youth Job Bank so we could hire youth who would lilke to make extra money. For instance, I could use help weeding |
| All of these items are important. I don't think your survey is going to accurately portray what I think is important. There's no narrowing down and being fair. |
| Broadband Internet |
| corruption in police & politics |
| keep the pipeline out because of health concerns |
| bike trails |
| "teach social security and Medicare, it/they are overwhelming to learn about." - written next to Medical care access. |
| emphasis on alcohol prevention |
| recreation when it is not summertime |
| " :( " written next to Transportation |
| We need a public swimming to teach our Nelson Co. kids to swim!!! |
| Nursing home |
| access to eye care and dental care |
| domestic violence services for victims - a safe house |
| solar and wind energy |
| Make Nelson county number one in job growth. |
| Domestic Violence - prevention and care for victims |
| Domestic violence shelter in Nelson County. |
| prevent sewage sludge and industrial waste sludge from being used as fertilizer |
| Add sidewalks; Re-dredge rainwater drainage 'ditches' so that they actually drain to culverts - NOT provide standing water for mosquitoes to breed (Stoney Creek community as just ONE example) |
| Employer should either provide CLOSE BY access to gym and/or subsidize gym membership.  |
| Trails for Jeeps |
| Housing |

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

**Appendix A**

**Nelson County CTSA Partnering Agencies**

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| Afton Family Medicine of Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital |
| Blue Ridge Medical Center  |
| Nelson Health Department |
| Nelson County Pantry |
| Nelson Farmers’ Cooperative |
| Nelson Region 10 CSB |
| Rockfish Valley Community Center |

 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)