

Attitudes of *On the Table* Youth Participants

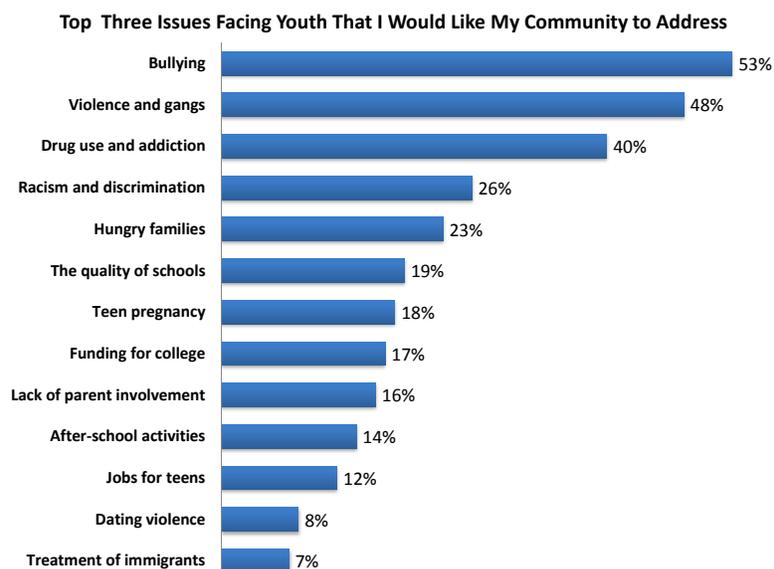
2019 Community Foundation of Central Georgia *On the Table Macon* youth participants who completed the post-conversation survey assess their community positively along a number of important dimensions. They have clear priorities for issues facing youth in their community and they are motivated to become involved by the prospect of building a strong community for future generations.

A positive outlook on their community: Majorities of youth participants hold positive views on key dimensions of their community.

- ✓ The vast majority (80%) of surveyed youth agree that residents have shared goals and priorities for their community.
- ✓ Nearly as many (79%) believe their community provides opportunities for everyone, and that their community is the perfect place for people like them (78%).
- ✓ The majority (59%) also agree that people like them can make a big impact in making their community a better place to live.
 - This includes 68% of youth participants between the ages of 14 and 19, who are more optimistic than their younger peers (55%).

Issues facing youth in their community: Bullying ranks as the top issue facing youth that participants would like to see their community address. Violence and gangs and drug use and addiction are also key priorities for youth.

- ✓ Among the 13 issues listed, bullying ranks as the foremost issue, with more than half of (53%) respondents identifying it as a priority.
 - Youth participants age 13 and under are twice as likely as those ages 14 to 19 to select bullying as one of the three most important issues they would like their community to address (63% to 31%).
 - A greater number of male than female youth participants select bullying as a top priority (61% to 48%).
- ✓ Other high priorities include violence and gangs (48%) and drug use and addiction (40%).
- ✓ These are followed by issues such as racism and discrimination (26%) and hungry families (23%).
- ✓ Youth also select issues including the quality of schools (19%), teen pregnancy (18%), funding for college (17%), lack of parent involvement (16%), after-school activities (14%), jobs for teens (12%), dating violence (8%), and the treatment of immigrants (7%).



Motivations for getting involved: Youth participants are personally motivated to be involved and engaged by a number of different factors, and particularly by the desire for the community to be strong for youth.

- ✓ The majority of respondents say that they are personally motivated to be involved and engaged because they want their community to be strong for youth and future generations (55% select this as one of the two most motivating reasons to be involved).
- ✓ Youth participants are also excited about the potential they see for their community and want to help shape it (38%).
- ✓ Others respond that there are specific issues and causes that interest them and motivate them to get involved (29%), that they are concerned about the direction in which their community is heading (27%), and that they believe they have a moral responsibility to get involved (25%).

Ways to get involved: Youth participants are most interested in getting involved in addressing issues and challenges facing their community through volunteering.

- ✓ More than half of youth (57%) participants express interest in participating in a volunteer service event in their community.
 - Female youth participants are more interested in participating in a volunteer service event than their male counterparts (67% to 46%).
- ✓ Additionally, the majority (51%) select participation in a volunteer project at school or in their classroom as one of three ways they would be most interested in getting involved.
- ✓ Significant numbers also select volunteering with family (44%) or joining a youth volunteer program (44%) as ways they would be interested in becoming involved.
- ✓ Fewer youth express interest in attending a rally or march on an issue that is important to them (30%), writing letters to elected officials or the local newspaper (28%), or volunteering with youth from different parts of Macon-Bibb County to address issues affecting the region (25%).

On October 30th, 2019, Community Foundation of Central Georgia hosted its 2019 On the Table conversations with youth, with generous support from the Knight Foundation. Community Foundation of Central Georgia estimates that approximately 400 youth participated in the conversations. This memo presents findings among 242 On the Table youth participants who completed the post-conversation online survey.