

University City Mayor's Youth (Teen) Task Force Survey Summary

In an effort to ensure that the City of University City is focusing enough energy, attention and funding on two important constituent groups in our community – elders and youth – a Mayor's Task Force on Seniors & Youth has been established.

This task force is being charged with doing the education and community outreach needed to determine:

- the assets that exist within University City and the larger regional community (aka “asset inventory”) that are accessible to University City seniors and youth; and
- the needs and desires of each group (aka “needs survey”) that are currently not being met or fulfilled by existing assets available to the above groups.

Below is the summary of the 6 month needs survey completed by 509 University City teens conducted by the University City Mayor's Youth (Teen) Task Force.

Housing

91.5% teens surveyed believe that housing is safe, with 54.1% indicating that housing is also located near needed services.

Around the issue of homelessness of teens and families in University City: 43.8 % are undecided as to whether or not there are homeless teens in the area; while 38.9% indicated ‘yes’ there are homeless teens in the area. As it relates to homeless families, the results mirror the homeless finding for teens, with 44.6% indicating ‘yes’ there are homeless families; 41.8% ‘undecided’ 47.1% of teens surveyed (18-21) indicated transition housing is available for teens.

60.1% affirmed that there are gang turfs in University City; with 26% undecided; 13.8% revealing ‘no’.

Education

90.2% of teens indicated that the community should work together with teens to improve schools; 63% admitted to knowing teens who have dropped out of schools with 48.7% not having knowledge of programs that exist to help teens that drop out. They also believe that a lot of teens are suspended from school (70%).

49.7% do not believe their voices are listened to when adults are making decisions of issues affecting them.

59.5% showed that they know that teens are using resources that are available to them in assisting teens in entering post-secondary education. 61% shared that there are adequate tutoring services available.

52.9% of teens know of teens in a mentoring program; 31.1% were not aware of teens using such a service, and 23% undecided.

76.5% revealed that there are extra-curricular activities available after school.

62.6% agreed that there are educational opportunities available to youth during the summer.

49.4% of teens surveyed acknowledge having financial aid available for them to attend enrichment programs.

With teens and post-secondary education, 52.4% of teens acknowledge knowing other teens that go to college, while 21.3% responded not knowing other teens going on to college. 26.3% were undecided.

On the issue of raising test scores (what about raising test scores?) 31.1% are undecided; 25.6% indicated no; 43% concluded yes teens want to focus their efforts in this area.

Health

49% admitted through the survey that they were concerned about their health; while 34% were not and 16.9% were undecided. 57% indicated there is a weight issue among teens in University City, while 22% indicated that there is no weight issue for teens in the community; 20.5% were undecided.

More teens are undecided (25.3%) and affirmed that there is no programming (33.3%) to encourage a healthy lifestyle among teens in University City. However, 41.1% reported that 'yes' that such programming does exist.

62.2 % affirmed that teens are becoming pregnant a lot in University City.

68% revealed that teens are smoking with 60.3% indicating they are using drugs as well.

76.3% of teens who completed the survey report that teens in University City are receiving or are in the need of free/reduced lunch.

29.6% responded that there are no programs in University City to discourage unhealthy lifestyles; 26.3% were undecided if such programs exist, while 44.1% reported that 'yes' such programs do exist.

36.6% indicated there is not a city-wide effort to encourage youth to exercise regularly; 73% of the teens surveyed indicated that teens do not exercise regularly.

54.4% of teens surveyed shared that they know of teens in the community that are hungry.

52% of those teens that completed the survey shared that they were unaware, as to, whether or not nutritious food is available for teens that wanted it. 47.2% did agree that nutritious food is available.

Teens are split on the issue of the availability of places in University City for teens to go to seek medical treatment. (49.7%-yes; 30.8 %- no; 19.5% undecided)

Work

When asked if there is sufficient employment opportunities in University City for teens, teens responded that yes, 39.9% believe there are, while 34% indicated no; finally 26.1% were undecided.

Data obtained from the survey on the existence of job training program for teens, resulted in the following: 41.1% replied yes they do exist; 32% replied no they don't; 26.8% were undecided if they exist at all.

Data on the survey related to teen's acknowledgement of agencies/organization assisting University City teens in finding jobs indicates the following: 39.3 % acknowledge yes they know of agencies/organizations; while 31% indicated 'no' they were not aware; with 29.7% being undecided on the topic.

When asked if local businesses were encouraged to hire University City Teens the responses were: 32% yes; 34% No; 33.4% undecided.

57.4% of teens responded that University City Teens are encouraged to volunteer in the community; 18.7% revealed 'no' they are not; 23.4% were undecided.

Social

In the area of socializing for University City Teens, Teens indicated that yes (70.5%) there are places in University City where socializing occurs; 71.1% shared they thought the Delmar Loop was a good place for teens to hang out; 75% of the Teens opposed the changing of the Delmar Loop Curfew from 9PM to 6PM for teens under the age of 17 without an adult. 57.1% responded that teens from outside of University City are causing most of the trouble in the Delmar Loop; (17.4%-no they were not; while 25.5% were undecided.)

60.7% shared that yes teens from both public and private school hang out together 13.5% indicated no; 25.9% were undecided. Also 66% responded that 'yes' teens from various backgrounds get together.

On the interaction of University City Teens with seniors, that is, do they interact well with each other; 39.9%-undecided; 33% yes-; 26%- no

When asked if they feel welcomed in University City by businesses, teens responded: 37.7%- yes; 28.1% -no; 34%- undecided.

52.2% of University City teens indicated that teens with special needs are welcomed by other teens (15.4%- No; 32.3%- undecided)

50.6% of University City teens surveyed revealed that they enjoy living in University City over other parts of St. Louis area. 19.9% shared that they did not; 29.5% were undecided.

On the issue of teens being respected by University City residents and City staff: 34.6% responded yes; 32.9%- no; 29.4%-undecided. Also on the question of University City Teens being seen as an asset: teens revealed that 'yes' 34.6% believe they are seen as an asset. 24.8%-no; 40.6%-undecided.