

On The Table Macon Youth Participants Face Issues with Optimism

2018 *On The Table Macon* youth participants who completed the post-conversation survey hold a broadly positive view of their community, believe that they can help improve their community, and have clear priorities for issues facing youth that they would like their community to address.

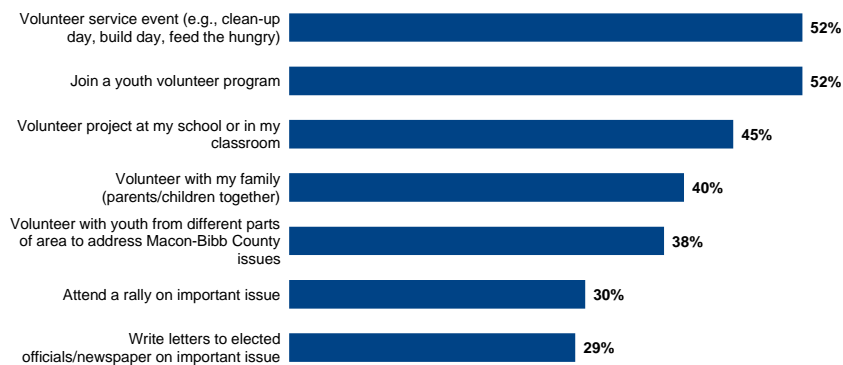
A positive outlook on their community: Most youth participants view their community positively on key dimensions.

- ✓ More than three in four (77%) say that their community is changing for the better.
- ✓ Fully 72% feel that the area where they live has a strong sense of community.
- ✓ Nearly three in four (74%) think that residents have shared goals and priorities for the community.
- ✓ More than seven in 10 (72%) agree that their community provides opportunities for everyone.
 - In comparison, adult participants who completed a parallel survey are more divided on whether their community provides opportunities for all: 53% say it does and 47% say it does not.

Optimistic about effecting change: Most youth participants believe they can help make their community a better place to live, and they express the most interest in volunteering.

- ✓ More than nine in 10 youth (93%) feel they can have an impact in making their community a better place to live, including nearly two in three (64%) who think they can have a big impact.
- ✓ Youth are most interested in getting involved in addressing issues and challenges facing their community through volunteering—either by joining a youth volunteer program (52% select it as one of three things they are most interested in doing), participating in a volunteer service event (52%), participating in a volunteer service event at their school or in their classroom (45%), volunteering together with their family (40%), or volunteering with youth from different parts of Macon-Bibb County (38%). They are slightly less interested in attending a rally (30%) or writing letters to elected officials or the local newspaper (29%) on issues that are important to them.

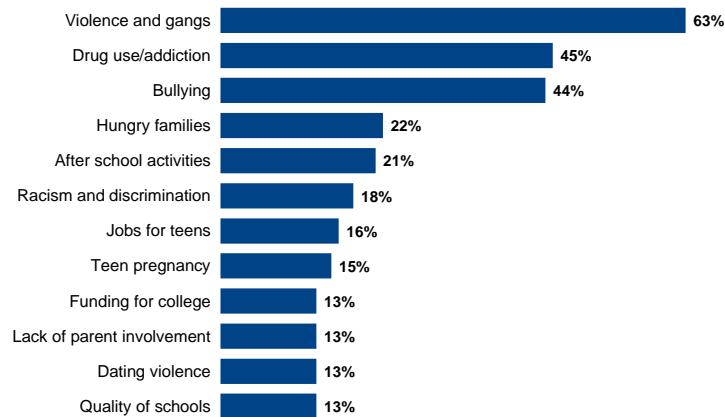
THREE Ways in Which I Would Be Most Interested in Getting Involved in Challenges Facing My Community



Issues facing youth in their community: Violence and gangs is the clear priority when it comes to the most important issues facing youth that they would like their community to address.

- ✓ Among the 13 issues tested, youth prioritize violence and gangs (63% select as one of top three issues) as the most pressing issue facing youth that they would like their community to address.
- ✓ In their view, the second-tier priorities facing youth that they would like to see addressed are drug use and addiction (45%) and bullying (44%).
- ✓ Approximately one in five feels that hungry families (22%) and after school activities (21%) are the most important issues facing youth. Fewer than one in five youth select any of the other issues as most important.

**THREE Most Important Issues Facing Youth
that I Would Like My Community to Address**



On October 17, 2018, the Community Foundation of Central Georgia hosted its 2018 On The Table Macon conversations with youth in association with its partners in Macon-Bibb County, with generous support from the Knight Foundation. This memo presents findings among 82 On The Table Macon youth participants whose parents provided consent to the Community Foundation of Central Georgia or its partners and completed the post-conversation, online survey.