

Monroe County 2008 Community Assessment Summary

The Center for Community Studies, Inc. assisted with the data collection and the data analysis. The assessment allowed the collaborative to identify the needs, problems, and assets of local children and families. In addition, the collaborative was able to gauge the amount and types of services available to them. The assessment process ended in October 2008.

The following surveys were distributed:

- A one-page opinion survey to adults in the community through civic organizations;
- A three-page comprehensive survey to service providers to identify unmet needs and barriers to services; and
- A two-page youth survey distributed to students at local middle and high schools.

Adult Survey

A one-page adult survey was distributed by the Family Connection organization to Monroe County residents. A web survey was available as an alternative to the paper version. 262 forms were returned. The top eleven most serious adult community issues chosen by the adults as being, "Very Serious," or "Somewhat Serious" were:

1. Poverty, low income families;
2. Jobs/job training for adults;
3. Dysfunctional families (with problem relationships);
4. Affordable housing that meets standard codes;
5. Access to health/medical service (doctor, hospital, health dept....);
6. Domestic violence;
7. Crime, property related;
8. Affordable quality child care;
9. Access to mental health services (counseling, support groups, etc.);
10. Violent Crime (rape, murder, assault); and
11. Easy access to law enforcement services.

Additionally, the adults were asked to rank the seriousness of a series of youth community issues. The top ten most serious youth community issues chosen by the adults as being, "Very Serious," or "Somewhat Serious" were:

1. Substance abuse - drugs, alcohol, or tobacco;
2. No positive place for teens to "hang out" after school or on weekends;
3. Having a baby before finishing high school;
4. High school drop outs;
5. Jobs/job training for youth;
6. Child abuse or neglect;
7. Recreational facilities/facilities for everyone;
8. Gangs;
9. Conveniently located post-secondary education (college, technical college); and
10. Truancy.

Social Service Provider Survey

A three-page provider survey was distributed to front-line community service providers. A web survey was available as an alternative to the paper version. 43 surveys were returned for analysis. Providers were asked to rank the seriousness of unmet needs in the county as being, "Very Serious," "Serious," "Somewhat Serious," or "Not Serious." The top five unmet needs are listed below in order of importance:

1. Services for victims of rape and domestic assault;
2. Crime prevention;
3. Child abuse and neglect;
4. Alcohol-abuse prevention and outpatient treatment;
5. Tie - Law enforcement protection; and
5. Tie - Inpatient treatment for drug use.

Social Service Provider Survey Continued

Providers, who were Monroe County residents, as a sub-group, had similar rankings of the top most serious issues as shown below.

1. Services for victims of rape and domestic assault;
2. Crime prevention;
3. Child abuse and neglect;
4. Law enforcement protection; and
5. Short-term inpatient treatment for mental illness.

Non-residents, as a sub-group, had differing rankings of the top issues to residents.

1. Alcohol-abuse prevention and outpatient treatment;
2. Tie - Drug-abuse prevention and outpatient treatment;
2. Tie - Inpatient treatment for drug use;
3. Financial assistance;
4. Tie - After school care;
4. Tie - Crime prevention;
4. Tie - Inpatient treatment for alcohol use; and
5. Child abuse and neglect.

Providers were asked to rank the barriers preventing people from using or accessing services. The top barriers are listed below in order of importance:

1. Lack of transportation;
2. Lack of information about available services;
3. Lack of child care;
4. Lack of agency resources (funding, staffing); and
5. Cost of services.

Youth Survey

A two-page youth survey was distributed to students at the local middle and high schools. A web survey was available as an alternative to the paper version. 203 surveys were returned for analysis. The survey asked the youth to rank the seriousness of unmet needs in the county as being, "Very Serious," "Serious," "Somewhat Serious," or "Not Serious." The top unmet needs are listed below in order of importance:

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| 1. Health education (pregnancy prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention); | 7. Health management (nutrition, self-management of chronic conditions such as asthma); |
| 2. Health; | 8. Alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention classes or activities; |
| 3. Tie - Harassment (sexual and physical) prevention; | 9. Academic Support (enrichment, tutoring); |
| 3. Tie - Recreation programs (sports, games, clubs); | 10. Leadership development; |
| 4. Job readiness, work experience; | 11. Conflict resolution or violence prevention activities (bullying); |
| 5. Internet safety; | 12. Cultural programs (music, trips, art or drama performances); and |
| 6. Mental health services (counseling, referrals for treatment); | 13. Summer activities. |

The youth were also given open-ended questions. Approximately twelve pages of text summary are available for review.