Table Talk 2021

Participant Perspectives

Key findings from a survey among adults who participated in Central Florida Foundation’s TableTalk conversations, October/November 2021
About

Table Talk provides everyone in the Central Florida region with a way to share their voice. Participants share insights about Central Florida Communities today and offer ideas for how our communities can be even better in the future.

Across the region, participants gather at tables (virtual and in-person) to talk about issues and ideas that matter to community building.

In 2021 approximately five hundred adults took part in Table Talk events across six Counties.

Table Talk participants encourage each other, create connections, and build community. The changemaking doesn’t stop with Table Talk, but rather begins.
Why Table Talk Data Matters

Table Talk is an unparalleled event in the region that invites residents from every walk of life in the truest sense of democratic representation, to join in, represent their views, and let their perspectives be known.

Each year that Table Talk is held, attendees complete feedback surveys. These data sets are meaningful portraits of the ideas, concerns, and motivations of Central Florida residents.

Funders, policymakers, service providers, and community members all benefit from the portraits of insight created through the Table Talk events and subsequent survey analysis.
Table Talk
Youth Results
Youth Community Outlook
Community Youth Outlook

Hopeful Vs. Worried About the Future

- 42% More worried
- 58% More hopeful

Perceptions of unity and division when addressing important goals and challenges

- Somewhat more divided: 46%
- Somewhat more united: 42%
- Much more united: 8%
- Much more divided: 4%

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number
Community Youth Involvement
Youth Community Involvement

What Impact the Youth Can Have on Making Communities Better Places to Live

- A Big Impact: 42%
- A Moderate Impact: 50%
- A Small Impact: 8%

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number
Youth Community Involvement

Motivating reasons to be involved and engaged

- I want my community to be strong for our youth and future generations (58%)
- There are specific issues and causes that interest me and motivate me to get involved (42%)
- I am concerned about the direction that my community is heading, and I want to be a part of working to address those concerns (33%)
- I am excited about the potential I see for the future of my community, and I want to be a part of shaping it (33%)
- I believe it is my moral responsibility (25%)

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number.*
**Youth Insight Snapshot**

**Top Issues To Be Addressed by the Community**

- Drug Use/Addiction: 63%
- Lack of Parental Involvement: 46%
- Racism and Discrimination: 33%
- Violence and Gangs: 25%
- Bullying: 21%
- Teen Pregnancy: 21%
- Hungry Families: 21%
- LGBTQ Issues: 17%
- After School Activities: 17%
- Dating Violence: 17%
- Jobs for Teens: 13%

**Top Issues of Concern to Youth**

- Education and youth development: 33%
- Equity and social inclusion (e.g., discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or)
- Drugs and addiction: 17%
- Public safety and the judicial system (e.g., crime, police, courts, prisons): 17%
- Economic issues and poverty (e.g., unemployment, income inequality): 4%

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number.*
Table Talk
Adult Results
Survey Methodology

The survey was provided at the close of all events. The survey was actively promoted for a period thereafter of approximately one month.

Out of nearly 500 potential respondents a total of 202 participants completed the survey.

Percentages within this report are based on the total number of respondents answering each question.

The terms “Participants” and “respondents” are used interchangeably and refer to persons who attended a Table Talk event and completed the survey.
Table Talk
Issues Insights
Community Outlook

How 2021 challenged and changed our community

- Lack of in person contact
- Affordable housing
- Food insecurity
- Resilience
- Wealth inequality
- Polarization
- Mental health
- Lack of resources
- Workforce Issues
- Loss of jobs
- Healthcare issues
- Racial injustice
- Homelessness
Community Wide Top Issues of Concern to Participants

- Housing issues (e.g., affordable housing, reducing homelessness) - 59%
- Poverty, economic security, and upward economic mobility - 42%
- Good-paying jobs and economic development - 32%
- Healthcare (e.g., insurance/access, quality of care, public health) - 26%
- Social justice issues (e.g., equality, civil rights, police-involved) - 26%
- Education (e.g., K-12, higher ed) - 23%
- Race relations (e.g., racism, and racial discrimination) - 18%
- Crime, violence, and public safety - 17%
- Environmental issues (e.g., air, water) - 15%
- High quality childcare and early childhood education - 15%
- Other - 11%
- Parks and recreational areas - 6%
- Drug and alcohol addiction - 6%
- The treatment of immigrants in our community - 1%

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
## Issues Insight

### Florida Wide Top Issues of Concern to Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>All Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Stability (e.g., jobs, poverty, housing, businesses)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and Social Connection (e.g., civic engagement/voting, social justice)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livability (e.g., neighborhoods, parks, environmental issues, arts and culture)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number*
Issues Insight

On average, housing, economic stability, and job opportunities were at the top of people’s concerns for both community-based and state-wide based issues that people feel matter.

GenX’rs shared the same concerns as the average of respondents. But other age groups differed.

Among GenY & GenZ respondents, the top three community issues are housing, economy, and healthcare.

Baby Boomers put housing, economic issues, and environmental issues in their top three community concerns.
Table Talk
Demographics
Demographics

Racial Identity of Participants

- White/European American: 57%
- Black/African American: 23%
- Asian/Asian American: 8%
- Multiracial/Mixed Heritage: 6%
- Decline to Share: 6%
- Other: 4%
- Arab/Arab American: 1%
- American Indian/Native American or Alaska Native: 1%

Participants with Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin

- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano: 1%
- Yes, Puerto Rican: 7%
- Other Hispanic/Latino: 10%
- No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin: 81%

31% Are Parents
Demographics

**Age**

- **Gen Y/Gen Z**: 18 to 39 years old, 29%
- **Gen X**: 40 to 59 years old, 51%
- **Boomers**: 60/Older, 20%

**Gender**

- **Female**: 72%
- **Male**: 24%
- **Decline to share**: 1%

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number*
Demographics

Educational Levels

- High school graduate/ GED or less: 5%
- Vocational training/2-year college degree: 12%
- Some college, no degree: 4%
- 4-year college degree: 36%
- Postgraduate coursework/ or degree: 42%

Counties that Participants Reside in

- Orange: 72%
- Seminole: 13%
- Lake: 3%
- Osceola: 3%
- Volusia: 1%
- Polk: 1%
The overall number of Table Talk participants decreased in 2021 due to COVID19 impacts. But several demographic indicators among survey respondents stayed similar to the prior year.

Rates of participation among men (24%) and women (72%) as well as among Hispanic & Latino community members (19%) reflected the prior year.

Changes to the audience demographic included a decrease in respondents between 18-34 (17%). Representation among all Central Florida Counties also shifted more to Orange & Seminole County attendees.

African American participation rose to 23% - up 7% from the prior year.
Table Talk Changemakers
Table Talk Changemakers

Experiences Participants Had Through Table Talk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I learned about new or different points of view.</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I spoke with at least one person that I did not already know.</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned about important issues in my community.</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I met someone new that I want to connect with again.</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt empowered to take action in my community.</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned a new way to get involved in my community.</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned how to access community services.</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these apply to me.</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number*
Table Talk Changemakers

Topics Discussed at Table Talk Events

Community and social issues (e.g. civic engagement/voting, social justice) - 68%
Economic stability (e.g., jobs, poverty, housing businesses) - 55%
Neighborhood issues (ex: parks, safety, environmental issues, art and culture) - 42%
Education - 30%
Healthcare - 25%
Other - 19%
COVID19 - 10%

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number
## Table Talk Changemakers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voted in an election</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteered</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated money to charity</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belonged to a community group</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended public meetings</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended neighborhood meetings</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted public officials</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bought or boycotted a product</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table Talk Changemakers

Actions Participants would like to take by County

- Orange
- Seminole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Orange</th>
<th>Seminole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work with neighbors on a local problem</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join a community group</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend neighborhood meetings</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend public meetings</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote in an election</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact or visit public officials</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate money to Charity</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy or boycott a product</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number
Table Talk Changemakers

Actions Participants took as a result of attending table talk

- Volunteer: Men 10%, Women 12%
- Donate money to charity: Men 4%, Women 6%
- Join a community group: Men 8%, Women 10%
- Vote in an election: Men 8%, Women 6%
- Contact or visit public officials: Men 2%, Women 6%
- Attend public meetings: Men 8%, Women 6%
- Attend neighborhood meetings: Men 5%, Women 5%
- Work with neighbors on a local issue: Men 3%, Women 2%
- Buy or boycott a product: Men 4%, Women 2%
- Other: Men 1%, Women 1%

Actions Participants would like to take in the future

- Work with neighbors on a local problem: Men 58%, Women 65%
- Volunteer: Men 48%, Women 56%
- Join a community group: Men 46%, Women 46%
- Attend neighborhood meetings: Men 38%, Women 46%
- Attend public meetings: Men 50%, Women 50%
- Vote in an election: Men 27%, Women 28%
- Contact or visit public officials: Men 26%, Women 31%
- Donate money to charity: Men 17%, Women 21%
- Other: Men 8%, Women 12%
- Buy or boycott a product: Men 6%, Women 10%

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number.*
# Table Talk Changemakers

## Actions Participants took as a result of attending table talk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Description</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate money to charity</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join a community group</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote in an election</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact or visit public officials</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend public meetings</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend neighborhood meetings</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with neighbors on a local problem</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy or boycott a product</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number*

## Actions Participants would like to take in the future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Description</th>
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<th>Black</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work with neighbors on a local problem</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join a community group</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend neighborhood meetings</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend public meetings</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote in an election</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact or visit public officials</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate money to charity</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number*
People’s experience and ideals about community actions varied by racial/ethnic identity as well as by gender category.

44% and 46% of Latino and White participants respectively felt empowered to take action because of Table Talk.

57% of Black participants felt empowered to take action.

33% of men vs 45% of women felt empowered to action by Table Talk.
Community Involvement
Community Involvement

% of Participants Who Want to be Part of Table Talk 2022

- Very likely: 82%
- Somewhat likely: 15%
- Not too likely: 1%
- Not at all likely: 1%

% of Respondents Who Participated in 2020 Table Talk

- Yes: 75%
- No: 25%
Community Involvement

What Impact “People Like You” Can Have on Making Communities Better Places to Live

- A big impact: 51%
- A moderate impact: 39%
- A small impact: 10%
- No impact: 1%
- No impact at all: 1%

Community Involvement
Community Involvement Insights

Table Talk members are just that - members. They want to and will participate again under the right conditions.

While half of people believe they can make a big impact, the other half present an opportunity for communicating the power of individuals to create better communities.

Neither race nor gender affected people’s sense of impact capacity.
Community Involvement Insights

Some areas of identity do relate to differing responses:

People of Hispanic/ Latino ethnicity were less likely (46%) to believe in a big impact capacity than other groups (51%).

Those who are more worried about the future had a lower rate of belief in big impact by individuals (41%).

People with a 4 year degree have the lowest rate of believing in big impacts among all educational levels.
Community Involvement Insights

27% of boomers

62% of GenXrs

56% of GenZ & GenY

Believe in their capacity for making a big impact on their communities better places to live.
Community Outlook
Community Outlook

Perceptions of unity and division when addressing important goals and challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much more united</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat more united</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat more divided</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much more divided</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agree/Disagree of Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The area in which I live has a strong sense of community</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My community is changing for the better</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My community provides opportunities for everyone</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents have shared goals and priorities for our community</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Outlook

Hopeful Vs. Worried About the Future

31% More worried
69% More hopeful

Being more or less hopeful has a clear link to how people perceive and prioritize key issues in communities.

More Hopeful
- Resilience: 19%
- Connections: 17%
- Leadership: 13%
- Community stepping up: 11%
- Growth: 10%
- Awareness: 9%
- Positive changes: 9%
- Improved Communication: 7%
- Community engagement: 6%
- Non-Profit organizations: 4%

More Worried
- Affordable housing: 13%
- Leadership Issues: 10%
- Negative changes: 8%
- Wealth inequality: 8%
- Over development: 6%
- Gentrification: 5%
- Political Division: 4%
- Food Insecurity: 2%
- Lack of jobs: 2%
Three Groups Having the Most Impact on Your Community

- Nonprofits and community organizations: 74%
- Local Government: 45%
- Residents in your community: 45%
- Employers and the Business community: 37%
- Public school teachers and leaders: 29%
- Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Faith Comm.: 28%
- Youth in your community: 16%
- News media: 15%
Community Outlook Insight

69% of respondents are hopeful about the next five years in Central Florida’s future

The importance of this high rate of optimism is underscored by how much hardship people said they experienced in the prior year.

Beliefs about which groups have the most impact in communities varied notably according to age, gender, race, and ethnicity. The variations were also found within groups.
Covid Impact
Covid Impact

Extent to Which Covid Has Impacted People

- To a great extent: 42%
- Somewhat: 47%
- Very little: 10%
- Not at all: 10%
Covid Impact

How Covid Has Impacted People

- **Death of someone near**
  - Women: 32%
  - Men: 29%

- **Working remotely**
  - Women: 60%
  - Men: 54%

- **Loss of work**
  - Women: 25%
  - Men: 27%

- **Created new business**
  - Women: 24%
  - Men: 25%

- **Other**
  - Women: 27%
  - Men: 25%

- **Children at home/virtual**
  - Women: 29%
  - Men: 29%

- **Medical bills**
  - Women: 6%
  - Men: 4%

- **It has not impacted me**
  - Women: 8%
  - Men: 6%

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number*
Covid Impact

How Covid Has Impacted People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death of someone near</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working remotely</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of work</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Created new business</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children at home/virtual</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical bills</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has not impacted me</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number*
1/3rd of participants reported losing a loved one due to COVID-19. Nearly 1/5th of participants said that a lack of in person contact creates challenges of isolation and decreased opportunities for community activities.

Impacts were markedly different by groupings with extreme differences most notable in racial categories.

COVID19 hardships did not correlate to more or less optimism among respondents.
To the Future

Opportunities to Show Table Talk’s Impact
Through Table Talk people make new connections, discover new views, & get inspired to make a difference

Opportunities to Grow Table Talk’s Impact
In the future, people can learn more about community organizations, charitable giving, ways to volunteer & join organizations