

Attitudes of *Table Talk* Youth Participants

2019 Central Florida Foundation *Table Talk* 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.

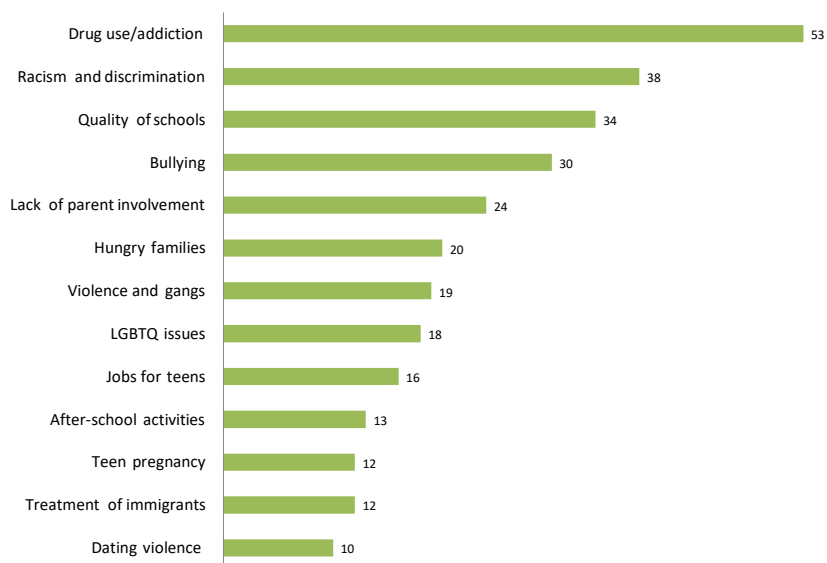
A positive outlook on their community: Majorities of youth participants hold positive views on key dimensions of their community.

- The vast majority (85%) of surveyed youth agree that their community is changing for the better.
- By greater than two to one (69% to 31%), youth believe members of their community to be more united than divided when it comes to addressing important goals and challenges.
 - Boys are more likely than girls to view their community as more united than divided in addressing important goals and challenges.
- They also broadly agree that residents have shared goals and priorities for their community (82%) and that their community provides opportunities for everyone (79%).

Issues facing youth in their community: These youth identify drug use and addiction as the top issue that they would like to see their community address.

- Among the 13 issues listed, drug use and addiction ranks as the foremost issue, with more than half (53%) of respondents identifying it as a priority.
- Second-tier priorities include racism and discrimination (38%), the quality of schools (34%), and bullying (30%).
 - Drug use and addiction is the top priority for youth across the region.
 - Youth in Downtown/East Central identify hungry families at higher rates than their peers, and youth from South Central identify bullying at higher rates than youth from other communities.

Top Three Issues Facing Youth That They Would Like the Community to Address



Getting involved: Youth participants are personally motivated to be involved and engaged by a number of different factors.

- ✓ Youth participants are excited about the potential they see for their community and their desire to help shape it (52% select it as one of the two most motivating reasons to be involved).
 - ✓ Half (51%) say that they are personally motivated to be involved because they want their community to be strong for the future.
 - ✓ Others respond that there are specific issues and causes that interest them and motivate them to get involved (37%).
 - ✓ Some identify concern about the direction that their community is heading and a desire to be a part of working to address those concerns (29%), or believe that it is their moral responsibility (19%).
- Time is the primary obstacle to greater involvement in working to address issues affecting their community, but a significant proportion of youth also relate challenges in knowing how to become involved.
 - Nearly half (47%) of youth participants cite a lack of time, despite wanting to be more involved.
 - Significant numbers are prevented from getting more involved because they are unsure how to get involved or where to find out about opportunities (37%), do not know what they can do that would be helpful (37%), or are unable to find opportunities to be involved near where they live or where they go to school (14%).
 - Girls are particularly likely to cite uncertainty as to how to get involved or where to find out about opportunities, with more than double the number of girls than boys selecting this response (46% to 21%).
 - Youth participants in South Central Florida are also more likely than their peers from other areas to say they are unsure how to get involved.

On October 24, 2019, Central Florida Foundation hosted its 2019 Table Talk conversations with youth. Central Florida Foundation estimates that approximately 300 youth participated in the conversations. This memo presents findings among 154 Table Talk youth participants who completed the post-conversation online survey.