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# Youth and Families Survey

Western Washington University. Office of Survey Research

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## YOUTH AND FAMILIES SURVEY

PHONE PREFIX: _____	GENDER OF RESPONDENT: M F	ID: _____
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1. Most people would agree that it's a big challenge for families to succeed nowadays. I'm going to read a list of things some parents have identified as helpful. Based on your experience, how important is each to help families assure the well-being of children like yours. Is each thing extremely important... important... or... not too important? First, good schools. Would you say they are extremely important, important, or not too important?

	EXTR.	IMTNT.	NOT
a. GOOD SCHOOLS	1	2	3
b. Home supervision after school	1	2	3
c. Neighbors who know you and your kids well	1	2	3
d. Family membership in organizations such as churches or scouts	1	2	3
e. Available services for children and families in trouble	1	2	3
f. Public family facilities such as parks	1	2	3
g. Good public transportation	1	2	3
h. A strong sense of community	1	2	3
i. Good communication between schools and parents	1	2	3
j. Effective police and juvenile justice systems	1	2	3

1b. Is there anything else that comes to your mind as especially important? (RECORD IN BOX)

2. Now I'm going to read this list again and ask you to evaluate your experience living in Bellingham or Whatcom County. For your family, has each of these been positive, somewhat lacking, or seriously lacking?

	POS.	LACK	SER. L.	D.K.
a. GOOD SCHOOLS	1	2	3	9
b. Home supervision after school	1	2	3	9
c. Neighbors who know you and your kids well	1	2	3	9
d. Family membership in organizations such as churches or scouts	1	2	3	9
e. Available services for children and families in trouble	1	2	3	9
f. Public family facilities such as parks	1	2	3	9
g. Good public transportation	1	2	3	9
h. Friendly people with a sense of community	1	2	3	9
i. Good communication between schools and parents	1	2	3	9
j. Effective police and juvenile justice systems	1	2	3	9

3. Have you moved residences within the last five years?

1. No --> **skip to question 7**

2. Yes -> **continue**

4. Did you move from... 1. outside or 2. inside Whatcom County?

5. How long have you lived in your present home? \_\_\_\_\_ YRS \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS

6. After your move, how easy or difficult was it to make friends and feel included in the community? Was it....

1. very easy 2. relatively easy 3. relatively difficult or 4 very difficult

7. At present, do you feel...

1. well integrated into the community here, 2. somewhat integrated into the community,  
3. somewhat isolated, or 4. very isolated

8. Even if family supports are working well, children face many risks. I'm going to read a list of possible risks to youth mentioned by various Whatcom parents. We would appreciate your sharing whether in your own experience each has been a very serious risk.... a somewhat serious risk... or... not much of a risk for your own children during the last two years or so. First, gangs and other irresponsible peers.

(IF NEC: CAN REMIND THEM ALL IS CONFIDENTIAL.)

(A "RISK" IS A THREAT THE KID EXPERIENCED DIRECTLY ENOUGH TO BE A POTENTIAL PROBLEM.)

(SCORE AN ANSWER OF 'DON'T KNOW' AS A 3, "NOT.")

	VERY	SOME	NOT	ON OWN	FRND /FAM	FORMAL ASST.
a. GANGS / IRRESPONSIBLE PEERS	1	2	3	1	2	3
b. Availability of alcohol or drugs	1	2	3	1	2	3
c. Inadequate family income	1	2	3	1	2	3
d. Lack of safe places to be after school	1	2	3	1	2	3
e. Negative community attitudes toward kids	1	2	3	1	2	3
f. Lack of friends	1	2	3	1	2	3
g. Negative media influences	1	2	3	1	2	3
h. Skipping school or not doing homework	1	2	3	1	2	3
i. Dropping out of school	1	2	3	1	2	3
j. Lack of safe affordable activities for kids	1	2	3	1	2	3
k. Abusive adults	1	2	3	1	2	3
l. Lack of knowledge about sex or drugs	1	2	3	1	2	3
m. Lack of time parents can spend with kids	1	2	3	1	2	3
n. Lack of affordable childcare	1	2	3	1	2	3
o. Lack of controls over kids	1	2	3	1	2	3
p. Family disruption from divorce	1	2	3	1	2	3
q. Changing values in the community	1	2	3	1	2	3
r. Lack of job opportunities for youth	1	2	3	1	2	3

**IF NONE OF ABOVE LIST WAS MARKED "1, VERY SERIOUS," GO TO THE "SKIP TO HERE" BOX ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

9. Now I'll go back through that list and read the problems you said were serious risks for your family. For each, would you please indicate whether that issue was something you dealt with just within the immediate family.... or if you sought support and comfort from friends or other family.... or if you sought assistance from others such as counselors, schools, or agencies. [REPEAT LIST, READING ONLY ITEMS THAT WERE MARKED "1, VERY SERIOUS", AND RECORD COPING STRATEGY]

10. Were there particular ages when your children faced the greatest risk from the problems we have just been discussing? (IF YES: PROBE FOR WHICH AGES)

0. NO YES: age(s) (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

11. On the whole, how satisfied are you with the support and assistance available to you from all sources as your family dealt with these risks? Would you say....

1. very 2. mostly 3. somewhat or 4. not at all satisfied?

12. It is also important to identify the greatest barriers parents face when trying to help their children cope with the risks they face. Please indicate how serious each possible barrier I will read has been for your family as you have tried to cope with the types of challenges we've been talking about. Has each been very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious a barrier? First, lack of transportation.

	VERY	SOME	NOT TOO
a. TRANSPORTATION	1	2	3
b. Not knowing where to look for help	1	2	3
c. Finding that no affordable services are available for my family	1	2	3
d. Concern that our child would be singled out and face more problems if we sought help	1	2	3
e. The feeling that others would condemn me as a bad parent if we sought help	1	2	3
f. Lacking the knowledge to cope with my children's problems	1	2	3
g. The concern that counselors or agencies would take too much control over my family's life.	1	2	3
h. Having difficulties communicating with my child	1	2	3
i. Lacking a support system of other people with similar situations	1	2	3

**SKIP TO HERE**

*The next questions ask you to indicate your opinions about various issues. I will read some statements and ask whether you agree or disagree with each, and also how strong your opinion is.*

13. There is not enough recognition of how important and difficult it is to raise a family.

1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Undecided 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree

14. One of the biggest problems in my area is the isolation and lack of connection among people.

1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Undecided 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree

15. Parental authority is often undercut by the changing values in our world

1. Strongly agree    2. Agree    3. Undecided    4. Disagree    5. Strongly disagree

16. Mostly, I prefer to be left alone to deal with life on my own.

1. Strongly agree    2. Agree    3. Undecided    4. Disagree    5. Strongly disagree

17. I find it difficult to make myself heard when there is something I want or need.

1. Strongly agree    2. Agree    3. Undecided    4. Disagree    5. Strongly disagree

18. Based on your experience as a parent, how much do you think each of the possible changes I will read would improve life for families like your own? Would you say... a lot, some, or not much? First, expanded public transportation...

	A LOT	SOME	NOT MUCH
a. EXPANDED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	1	2	3
b. A single place where parents could learn about all the services available to families	1	2	3
c. Available instruction and support in parenting skills	1	2	3
d. More affordable, high quality child care	1	2	3
e. More affordable, high quality after-school activities	1	2	3
f. A network for getting people in your area acquainted	1	2	3

19. Is there any other change that you think would be especially helpful?

1. No
2. Yes: What? (RECORD IN BOX)

20. If you have an emergency need such as a ride somewhere or someone to watch the kids, how many family, friends, or neighbors are there who you can count on for help?

\_\_\_\_\_

21. How many, if any, of those are neighbors living within one mile of you?

\_\_\_\_\_

22. How many family, friends, or neighbors are there who you can count on to talk to you and help you feel better when you are depressed or upset? \_\_\_\_\_

23. At this point, is there any organization or group you get particular personal or emotional support from?

1. No
2. Yes: --> (RECORD TYPE OR ORGANIZATION OR ORG. NAME IN BOX)

24. Great. Now all we need is a little background information to help us understand the group of people we interviewed. First, what is your marital status? (PROBE IF NEC)

1. MARRIED    2. DIVORCED; SEP.    3. WIDOW    4. NEV. MARRIED    5. LIVING TOGETHER

25. To begin, I'd like to get the ages and sex of each of your children (AT HOME, UNDER 19; RECORD AGE AND CIRCLE NUMBER BY GENDER)

AGE			AGE		
a. _____	1. M	2. F	d. _____	1. M	2. F
b. _____	1. M	2. F	e. _____	1. M	2. F
c. _____	1. M	2. F	f. _____	1. M	2. F

NUMBER OF KIDS MENTIONED 19 OR OVER: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF KIDS MENTIONED UNDER 19, NOT LIVING AT HOME \_\_\_\_\_

26. Are you working for pay ...

1. Full-time    2. part-time    or    3. not at all

27. ASK ONLY IF MARRIED OR LIVING TOGETHER:

Is your [HUSBAND/WIFE/PARTNER] working for pay ...

1. Full-time    2. part-time    or    3. not at all

28. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (PROBE IF NEC.)

1. BELOW H.S.    2. HIGH SCHOOL    3. AA OR SOME COLL    4. BACHELORS    5. BACH. +

29. Does your total family annual income fall....

1. under \$8,000
2. Between \$8,000 and \$12,000
3. Between \$12,000 and \$16,000
4. Between \$16,000 and \$20,000
5. Between \$20,000 and \$25,000
6. Over \$25,000

**THANKS VERY MUCH FOR TAKING TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY!  
THE RESULTS WILL BE VERY HELPFUL IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.**

**DO NOT FORGET TO RECORD GENDER AND PHONE PREFIX ON FRONT PAGE**

RECORD ANY COMMENTS THEY HAVE TO ADD HERE: