

White Center Community Development Association

2017 Community Survey Report

White Center CDA
605 SW 108th St
Seattle, WA 98146

September 2017



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Summary

This report presents key findings from the 2017 Community Survey administered by the White Center Community Development Association. The survey asked about community strengths, the community's vision for the future, and community priorities by topic. A total of 505 individuals (311 adults and 194 youth) completed the survey in person and online from March to July 2017.

The White Center Community Development Association and its partner organizations will use information from the 2017 Community Survey to develop strategies, organize residents, and advocate for community priorities. Activities will be grouped into four strategic areas: family development, community building, neighborhood revitalization, and data and evaluation.

For more information or to get involved, please contact:

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Methods

The White Center Community Development Association administered the 2017 Community Survey as a follow-up to the 2016 Community Survey. A 2017 Youth Survey was also developed for middle and high school students.

The 2017 Community Survey was available from March 1 through July 31, 2017. The survey was available both online and on paper for respondents who live, work, worship, or shop in White Center. Five pre-scheduled in person survey sessions were advertised on electronic and paper flyers posted in the neighborhood in English and Spanish. Staff from the White Center Community Development Association and its partner organizations recruited respondents from diverse backgrounds and provided language interpretation when necessary. Outreach strategies were tailored to capture a survey sample that approximates the demographics of the neighborhood.

The 2017 Youth Survey was available during the same time frame, in person for middle and high school students who live, go to school, or attend after school programs in White Center.

Incentives were provided in the form of Safeway gift cards. Adult and youth who completed the 2017 Community Survey received \$10 as appreciation for their time. All the surveys received were completed by respondents on paper and manually entered in Survey Monkey by WCCDA staff.

At the end of the survey, respondents had the option to provide their contact information and language preferences so they could be informed of the survey results.

Respondent Demographics

A total of 505 people took the surveys: 311 adults and 194 middle and high school students. This sample size provides a 95% confidence level that it reflects the opinions of the White Center community (+/- a 5% margin of error).

Community Connection:

- 71% of adult respondents reported they live in White Center, 29% reported they work in White Center, and 95% reported they worship, shop, eat, or play in White Center.
- 91% of youth reported they go to a public neighborhood school in White Center (Mount View Elementary, White Center Heights Elementary, Cascade Middle School, or the Evergreen High School Campus).

Racial and Ethnic Diversity:

- 71% of adults and 57% of youth in our sample reported that they speak a language other than English at home.
- 84% of adults and 87% of youth reported that they identify as people of color or mixed race.

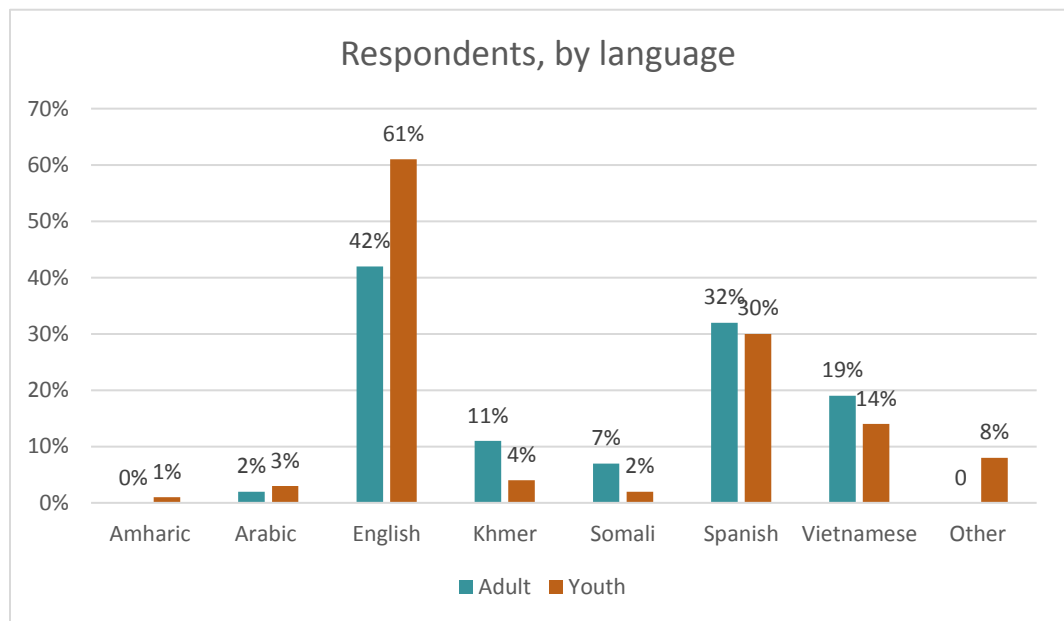


Figure 1. Percent of respondents who reported speaking each language at home. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%

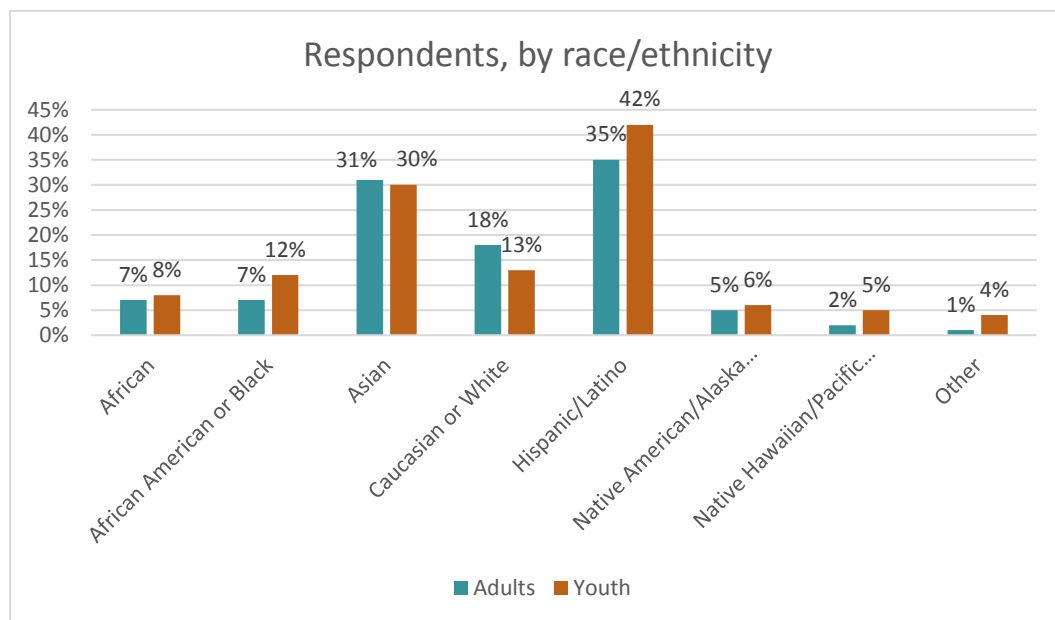


Figure 2. Percent of respondents who identified with each race. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%.

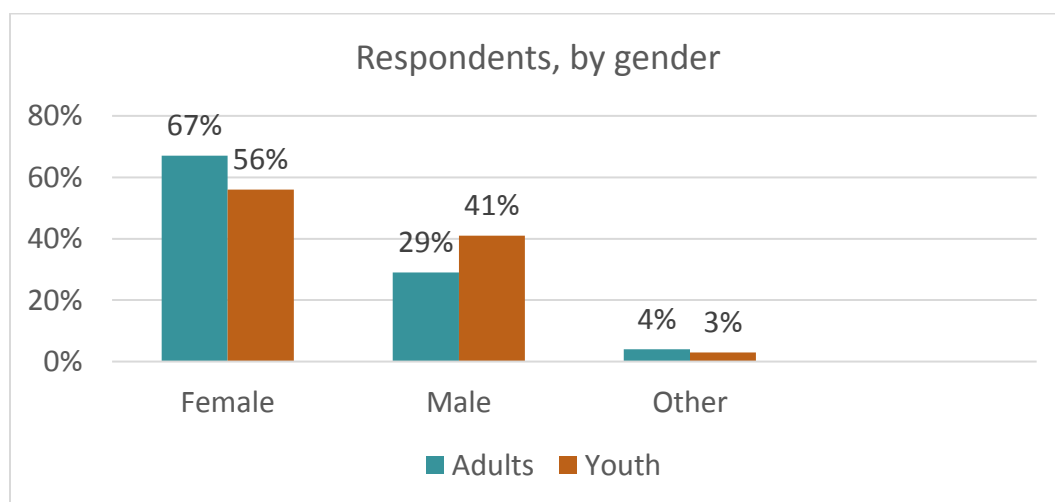


Figure 3. Percentage of respondents by gender. Some individuals who self-reported as “other” described themselves as “two spirit” “trans” or “queer.”

Age and Life Stage:

- 18% of youth reported they were in grades 6-8, and 82% reported they were in grades 9-12.
- 64% of adults were between 18-49 years old, and 15% reported they were age 60 or older.
- The percent of adults in our sample reporting that they are a parent or guardian for one or more children age 0-18 increased from 38% in 2016 to 48% in 2017.

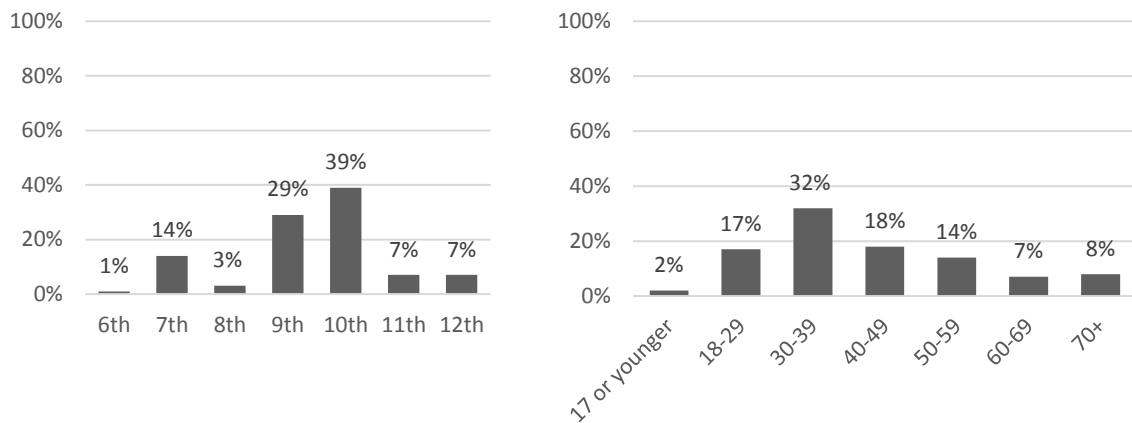


Figure 4. Percent of youth respondents in each grade (left), and percent of adult respondents in each age group (right).

Key Findings

Community Strengths

- 57% of adults and 48% of youth reported they were “Satisfied” or “Very satisfied” with White Center as a community. This reflects a small increase in the satisfaction rates of adults (53%) and youth (46%) from 2016.
- Adults and youth were asked the open-ended question, “What do you like about White Center as it is now?” Top themes from adult and youth responses are ranked by prevalence in Tables 1 and 2.

*Table 1. Top White Center strengths (assets) identified by **adults**.*

Rank	Theme	Selected Quotes
1	Diversity	“I love the diversity and how it feels like a home” “We have people from all over the world” “The cultural interactions”
2	Convenience and access to everything	“Easy to get around” “I buy food close to where I stay” “Stores are near proximity and metro system, library and restaurant”
3	Businesses and restaurants	“I love going to McClendon's, the diversity of places to eat and shop” “I like the market near the bus stop” “I like the many businesses here that are being supported”
4	Community connectedness	“My people are all here, family, the food...” “I love meeting my neighbors” “Community, culture, small town feel - people are connected” “I love that people care about creating and maintaining community”
5	Safety & security	“I like that I have not seen violence in the streets” “White Center is safe”

Table 2. Top White Center strengths (assets) identified by youth.

Rank	Theme	Selected Quotes
1	Services & amenities	<p>"I like the recreation activities"</p> <p>"Libraries"</p> <p>"They have programs to help people in need"</p> <p>"They have more libraries now"</p> <p>"The basketball courts"</p> <p>"Everything is close by"</p>
2	Don't Know/ None	
3	Diversity	<p>"I like that it is a very strong diverse place and most people get along and they share their needs to help"</p> <p>"We have different types of people"</p> <p>"Diverse, not as busy but a good busy"</p> <p>"A lot of informational meetings, improving on more translation"</p>
4	Community identity	<p>"We are a mellow community, really laid back"</p> <p>"People going out in the community"</p> <p>"Chill"</p> <p>"It's clean and the people live in there are nice so it makes it great Community"</p> <p>"I like that the people are friendly"</p> <p>"The people are nice"</p> <p>"It has stayed consistent over the years"</p>
5	Businesses & restaurants	<p>"The shops around here are great"</p> <p>"The food we have"</p> <p>"Taco trucks"</p> <p>"The food stands"</p> <p>"The parks"</p>

Key Findings

Community Vision

- Adults and youth were asked, “What should community organizations focus on to improve White Center?” Top three adult priorities were safety, affordable housing, and civic engagement. Top youth priorities were health, safety, the economy and K-12 education.

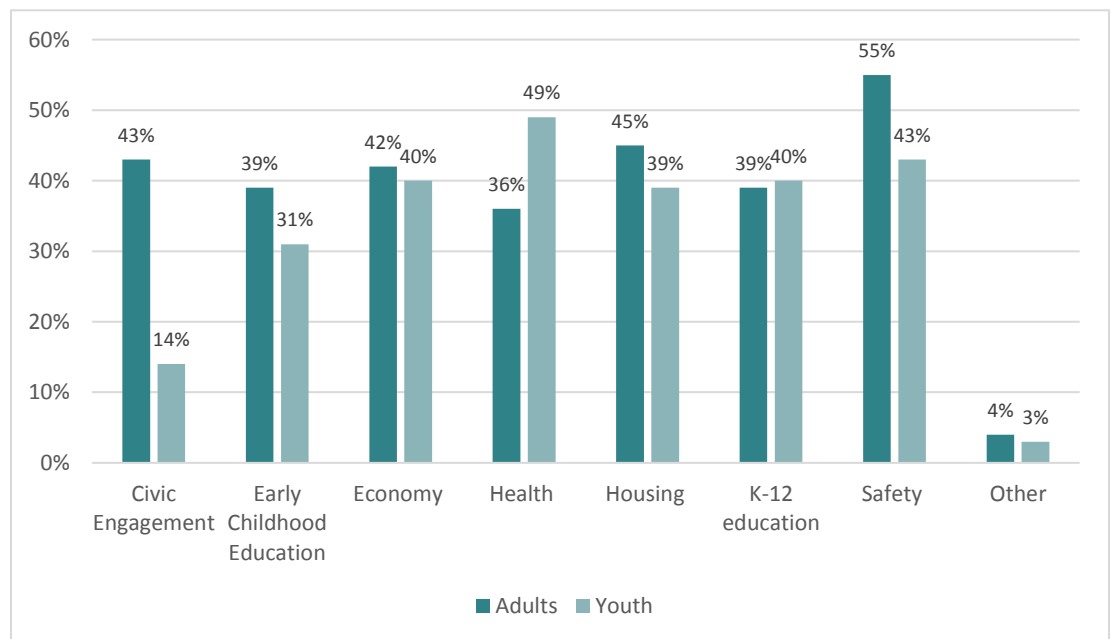


Figure 5. Topics that adults and youth think community organizations should focus on to improve White Center. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%.

- Youth were asked the open-ended question, “What would make White Center a better place for kids and teenagers?” Adults were asked, “What is your vision for the future of White Center?” Top themes from adult and youth responses are ranked by prevalence in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3. **Adult** vision for the future of White Center.

Rank	Theme	Selected Quotes
1	Continued Economic Development	<p>“A place where everyone has opportunity to succeed with housing for people of all incomes and continued diversity in business district”</p> <p>“Growth in everything, economy, housing, businesses”</p> <p>“A vibrant commercial core”</p> <p>“Night Market”</p>
2	Increased safety and security	<p>“A great community that's safe and a place people will want to raise a family”</p> <p>”Safer streets”</p> <p>“To be able to walk through with no fear at night”</p> <p>“For my grandkids to enjoy the parks”</p> <p>“A clean safe area for my kids to grow up in”</p>
3	Continued Diversity	<p>“Would like to see more halal food and food for Muslim people”</p> <p>“More acknowledgment of all faiths”</p> <p>“Taking pride in diversity, embracing differences and respecting all”</p> <p>“That everybody gets along, no matter what culture they come from”</p> <p>“No more gentrification”</p>
4	Increased Community connectedness	<p>“A vibrant connected community with opportunities for all”</p> <p>“For people to love each other and live in harmony”</p> <p>“Community for elders and the disabled”</p>
5	Improve built environment	<p>“More sidewalks”</p> <p>“Road surface improvements, more street trees”</p> <p>“A playground for kids”</p> <p>“Streetlights”</p> <p>“To run like a real city, get resources, funding, don't have to go through the county, but still keeping WC WC”</p>

Table 4. **Youth** vision for the future of White Center.

Rank	Theme	Selected Quotes
1	Increase safety and security	<p>“Make it safer to walk at night”</p> <p>“More police in White Center”</p> <p>“Make it more safe and kid friendly”</p> <p>“Less gang violence”</p> <p>“Less crime”</p> <p>“Make the bad people go away”</p> <p>“More safe places to hang out”</p>
2	More support for youth	<p>“Access to good education, food, programs appropriate for the cultural differences of the people”</p> <p>“More community service fun activities”</p> <p>“Equity vs. equality. Not everybody needs the same thing”</p> <p>“Keep Evergreen as three schools”</p> <p>“Support for LGBT and youth of color”</p>
3	Improve built Environment	<p>“Every kid to have a place to stay”</p> <p>“More parks and arcades”</p> <p>“More recreational parks”</p> <p>“More safe places to hang out”</p> <p>“Library for kids to do school work”</p> <p>“Playgrounds to stay healthy”</p> <p>“Cleaner buildings and nicer streets”</p> <p>“Please rebuild the schools building are falling apart”</p>
4	Reduce drug use and abuse	<p>“Get all the drugs out of White Center”</p> <p>“No smoke shops”</p> <p>“Decrease the availability of drugs”</p> <p>“Less drugs”</p> <p>“For all the drugs out of White Center”</p>
5	More community engagement	<p>“Monthly events, raffles”</p> <p>“More community activities”</p> <p>“Build better connection to school community”</p> <p>“More games”</p>

Community Priorities by Topic

Safety

Overview of Community Priorities

Community members identified the following priorities for improving safety in White Center:

- Reduce drug activity
- Reduce crime and violence
- Make public spaces more welcoming

Drug Activity

- The number one challenge adults reported regarding safety in White Center was “Drug activity” (64%).
- Adult suggestions for reducing drug activity included: “Talk about the consequences of drugs” “Get help for the drug users” “More police involvement, better/faster responses from police,” “More community-based options for youth and families; community group and activities; more activities after school” “More police security and drug rehabilitation centers” “More opportunity for community building and investment from government to quality of life infrastructure” “Creating programs to keep students busy.”

Crime and Violence

- The next three challenges adults reported regarding safety in White Center was “Burglary and robbery” (47%), “Gangs” at 41% and “Violent crimes” at 29%.
- 19% of adults reported they called the police to report a crime in White Center in the past 12 months. Of those who reported a crime, 57% reported they were “Satisfied” or “Very satisfied” with the police response,” an increase from last year’s 46%.
- 74% of adults agreed their home is safe, 62% agreed local schools are safe, and 41% agreed businesses in White Center are safe.
- 73% of youth agreed or strongly agreed that their school is safe, and the percentage of youth agreeing or strongly agreeing that they feel safe traveling to school increased from 73% last year to 81% this year.
- Adult suggestions for reducing crime and violence included: “a dedicated police force” and “More police of color representing the community at large” “More recreation activities” “Install surveillance cameras” “Block watches” “Bars to close earlier” “Speed bumps and other automatic speed reduction measures.”

Welcoming Public Spaces

- The next set of most prevalent challenge adults reported regarding safety in White Center was “Litter, trash, or dumping” (39%) and “Abandoned or vacant buildings” (23%) and “Not enough street lighting” (22%.)
- 64% of adults agreed that during the day it is safe to walk around White Center, and 17% agreed that at night it is safe to walk around White Center.
- Adult suggestions for improving public spaces included: “Better lighting on 16th” “Different parking pattern - totally hate the back in parking” “Housing for the homeless” “Clean up the streets” “Control or assess overcrowding” “More neighborhood watches and more street lights.”

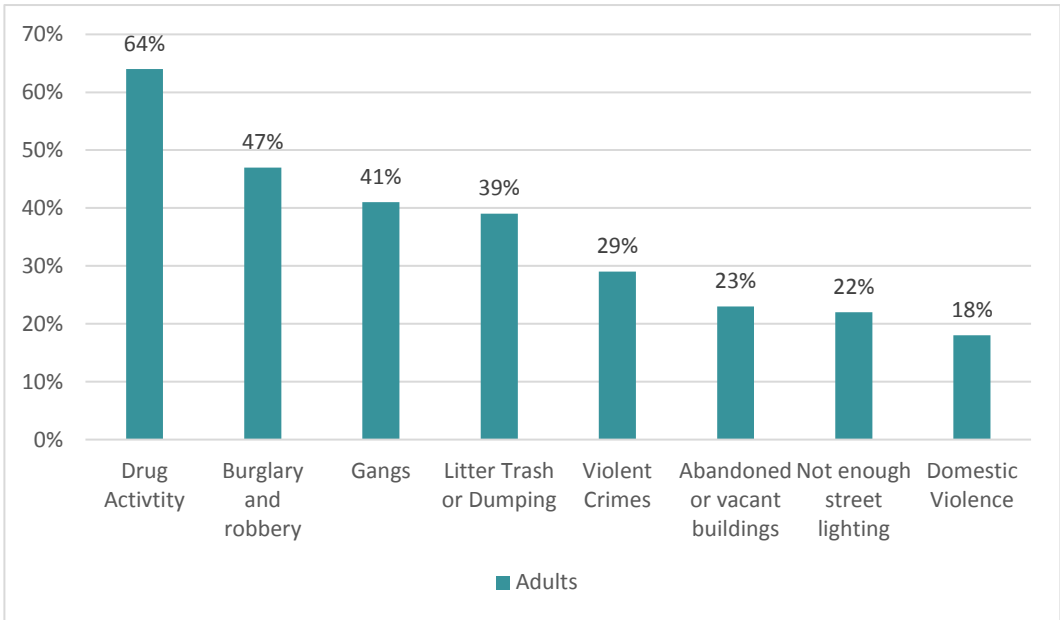


Figure 10. Top challenges to safety in White Center, with percent of adults who agreed. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%.

Community Priorities by Topic

Health

Overview of Community Priorities

Community members identified the following priorities for improving health in White Center:

- Reduce alcohol and drug use
- Make healthy food more affordable
- Reduce cigarette and tobacco use

Alcohol and Drug Use

- The number one challenge adults reported regarding health in White Center was “Alcohol or drug abuse” (58%) with 19% of adults reporting having used alcohol, 7% reporting cigarette or tobacco use, and 5% reporting marijuana use in the last 7 days.
- The percentage of youth reporting alcohol or marijuana use in the past 30 days decreased slightly, from 9% (alcohol) and 11% (marijuana) in 2016 to 8% and 8% this year, respectively.
- Adult suggestions for reducing the prevalence of drugs and alcohol included: “Many people feel safer by getting rid of all the drugs. Let people want to walk in community” “Encourage people to seek employment.”
- Youth suggestions for reducing the prevalence of alcohol and drugs included: “Stay active” “Teach them about health and drugs.”

Healthy Food

- The number two challenge adults reported regarding health in White Center was “Cost of healthy food” (34%).
- 19% of adults reported there are “Not enough places that sell healthy food,” and 15% reported that “Hunger or food insecurity” is a top challenge in the neighborhood.
- The percentage of adults who reported that they ate fresh fruits or vegetables every day in the past 7 days decreased from 40% in 2016 to 33% in 2017. Of the people who identified as people of color or mixed race, 30% reported they ate fresh produce every day, compared to 37% of people who identified as white only.
- Adult suggestions for making healthy food more accessible included: “Open a fresh vegetable and fruit market like Burien” “Have healthy fast food accessible at a manageable price” “A Farmer’s Market” “A cooperative farm or p-patch” “More farmers markets.”
- 34% of all youth said that they ate green salad 1 to 3 times in the past 7 days, and an additional 29% reported that they did not eat any green salad at all in the same timeframe. 31% of youth respondents did not drink any 100% fruit juice in the last week while 29% said that they ate fruit 4 to 6 times a week. 53% of POC or multiracial

youth said that they physically active 4 to 7 days in the last week, compared to only 1% of youth who identified as White.

- Youth suggestions for making healthy food more accessible included: “Community potluck with healthy food or cooking classes like FEEST but a bigger scale” “Showing them more options and demonstrating to them how to make healthier foods” “Reducing the amount of fast food in our Community. Replace with health food places.”

Cigarettes and Tobacco

- The third most prevalent challenge adults reported regarding health in White Center was “Cigarette or tobacco use” (30%, up from 25% last year).
- 7% of adults and 3% of youth admitted to using cigarettes or tobacco in the past 7 or 30 days.
- Adult suggestions for reducing cigarette and tobacco use included: “Cut down on smoke shops and bars,” and “Less smoking by creating more non-smoking areas.”
- Youth suggestions for reducing the prevalence of drugs included: “Have fewer smoke shops near schools” “Stop opening 24/7 smoke shops” “Ban smoking and have an age limit of smoking on/out near campus.”

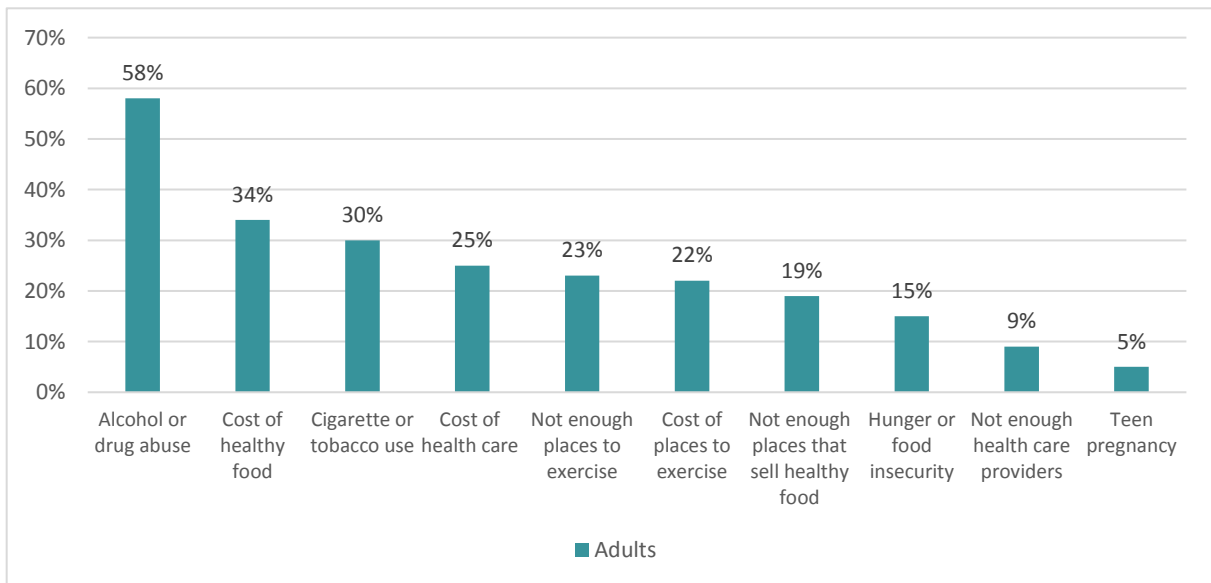


Figure 9. Top challenges to health in White Center, with percent of adults who agreed. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%.

Community Priorities by Topic

Housing

Overview of Community Priorities

Community members identified the following priorities for improving housing in White Center:

- Access to affordable housing
- Support people experiencing homelessness
- Housing upkeep and maintenance

Affordable Housing

- The number one challenge 61% of adults reported regarding housing in White Center was “Cost of rent or mortgage”, an increase of 60% from those who reported it last year (38%).
- Of those who reported having a child age 0-18, 52% reported that “Cost of rent or mortgage” is a top challenge, compared to 29% of those without children.
- 6% of adults reported that “Eviction or foreclosure” was a top challenge in the neighborhood.
- 50% of adult respondents have lived in White Center for 6- 10 years or more.
- Adult suggestions for reducing the cost of housing included: “Stabilize the cost of rent, find a way so the low-income families can own a house” “Lower rent prices, fair housing, less money up front for rent” “Landlords raise rent without making improvements” “More sliding scale/fair housing” “Lower market value homes so renters, leasers could potentially move into home ownership.”

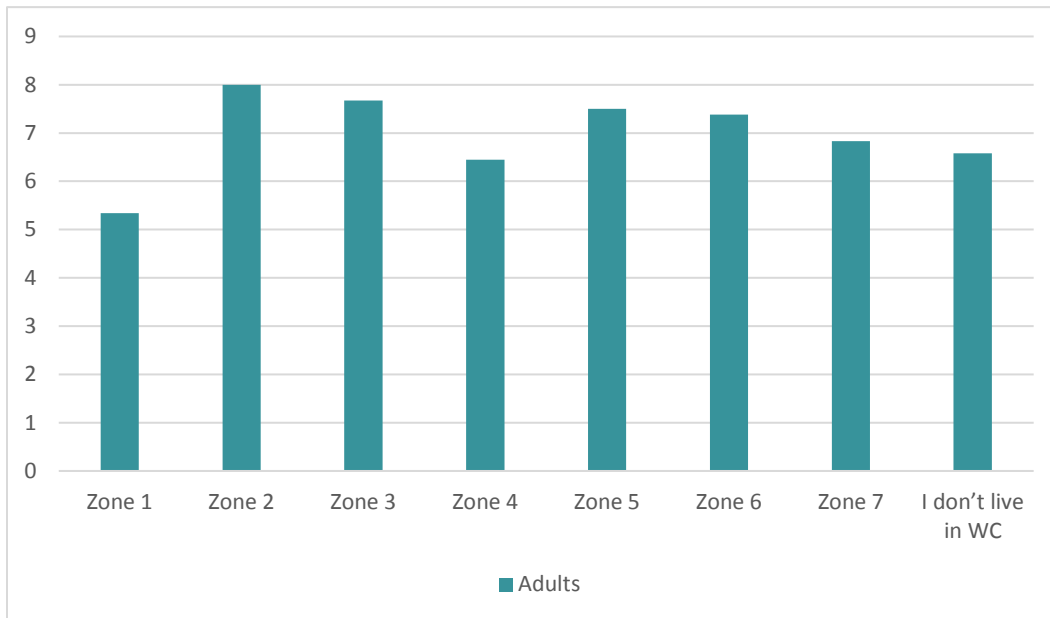


Figure 7. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your home as a place to live (1 is worst, 10 is great)? Adults, by zone of residence.

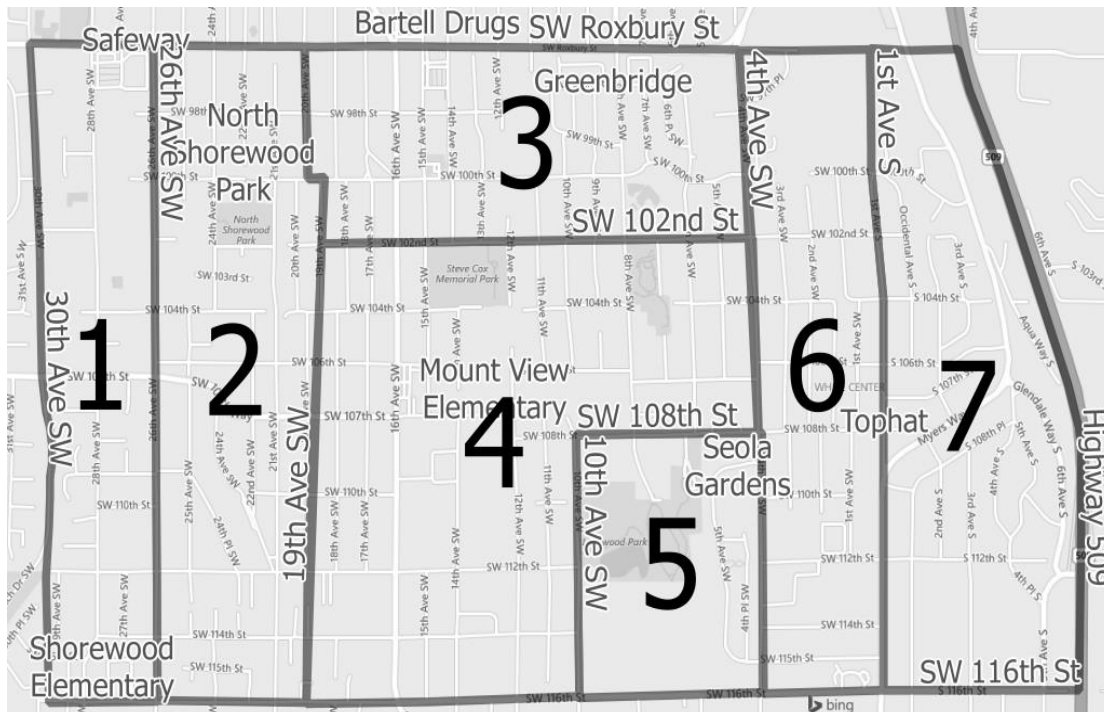


Figure 8. Map of White Center by zones

Supporting people experiencing homelessness

- The number two challenge adults reported regarding housing in White Center was “Homelessness” (from 20% in 2016 to 30% in this year’s survey).
- Adult suggestions for supporting people experiencing homelessness included: “More housing for low income families” “Increase stock available to low income residents” “Facilitate co-housing arrangements” “Recently, housing has risen a lot making rent very expensive. Lowering rent would decrease homelessness.” “

Housing Upkeep and Maintenance

- The third most prevalent challenge adults reported regarding housing in White Center was “Cost of home repair” (up from 17% in 2016 to 30% in 2017.)
- 40% of adults reported their home needs repairs for at least one of twelve conditions listed. Most prevalent conditions were “Carpet needs replacement” (from 16% in 2016 to 30% this year), “Mold or bad ventilation/air flow” (from 13% to 25% this year), “Broken locks, doors, or windows” (from 10% to 18% this year), and “Peeling paint or broken plaster” (from 10% to 16% in 2017).
- Adult suggestions for improving housing quality included: “Subsidizing renovations to bring low income housing up to code” “Community group help in yard/home maintenance,” “Help landlords to maintain properties better” Have mortgage support to help pay for home repairs” “Sensitivity training for landlords who rent to non-English speaking families.”

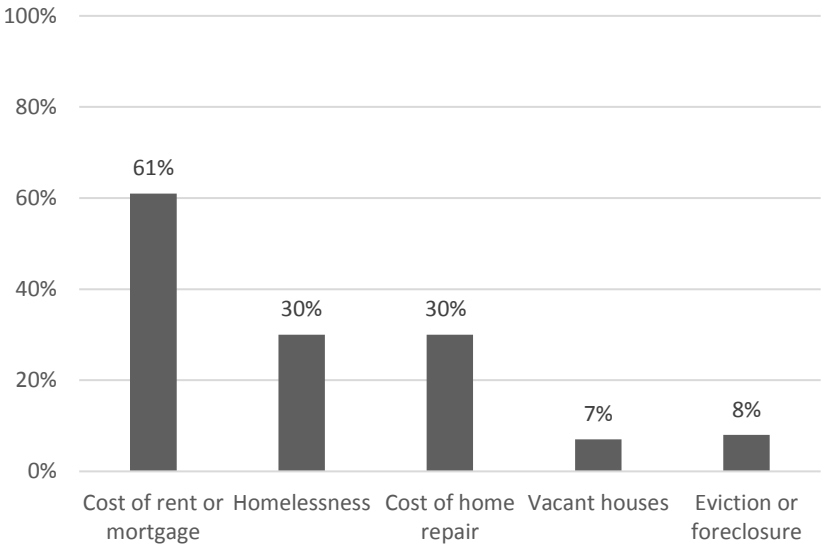


Figure 9. Top 5 challenges to housing in White Center, with percent of adults who agreed.

Community Priorities by Topic

Civic Engagement

Overview of Community Priorities

Community members identified the following priorities for improving civic engagement in White Center:

- Getting to know neighbors
- Organize more community events
- People from different cultures don't know each other

Getting to know neighbors

- The number one challenge adults reported regarding civic engagement in White Center were "Neighbors don't know each other" (48%).
- 62% of adults reported they interact with someone of a different race at least once a day.
- 93% of adults reported they view the many different races and cultures of White Center as a strength.
- 24% of adults have experienced discrimination on the street or in a public setting in the past 12 months. 13% felt discriminated against at work, and another 11% felt discrimination from police or in the courts in the last 12 months.
- Adult suggestions for getting to know neighbors included "Neighbors night out" "More opportunities for neighbors to get together" "Meet ups" "People need to show up" "Cross cultural organizing" "Cultural programs" "Collectivizing the work of different cultural communities" "Focus on similarities, not differences; we all have our issues if we all could see that through empathy."

Community Events

- The second and third most prevalent challenge adults reported regarding civic engagement in White Center was "Language barriers limit civic engagement" (47%) and "People from different cultures don't know each other" (34%).
- The percentage of adults participating in a community event in White Center in the past 12 months increased from 32% in 2016 to 42% this year. 65% of adults born outside the U.S. reported they attended a resident or tenant meeting, a community meeting or a neighborhood association meeting, compared to 34% of US-born residents.
- Adult suggestions for improving community events included: "Regular community gatherings for all" "Car shows, community activities" "A community calendar billboard" "Breaking language barriers" "Have the Jubilee parade on Saturday instead of during church time."

People from different cultures don't know each other

- 30% of adults reported they are not registered to vote. Of those not registered, 14% reported they “Don’t know how to register.”
- The percentage of those who know “Nothing” about possible White Center annexation increased from 37% to 54% of adults and from 62% last year to 71% of youth in this year’s survey.
- 60% of adults and 66% of youth reported they usually use phone calls to communicate or access information. 52% of adults and 57% of youth reported they use Facebook. 44% of adults and 75% of youth reported they usually use texting. 58% of adults and 58% of youth reported they usually use email as well.
- Approximately 10% of adults wrote in suggestions relating to civic engagement and outreach.
- Adult suggestions for improving outreach about civic issues included: “We need to unite all ethnic groups, and make a strong coalition” and “More opportunities to plug in, in different ways depending on the time/interest” “More opportunities that are relevant to people's lives, that they can see the direct benefits to their being involved” “Have meetings with the community on a regular basis for a long time.”

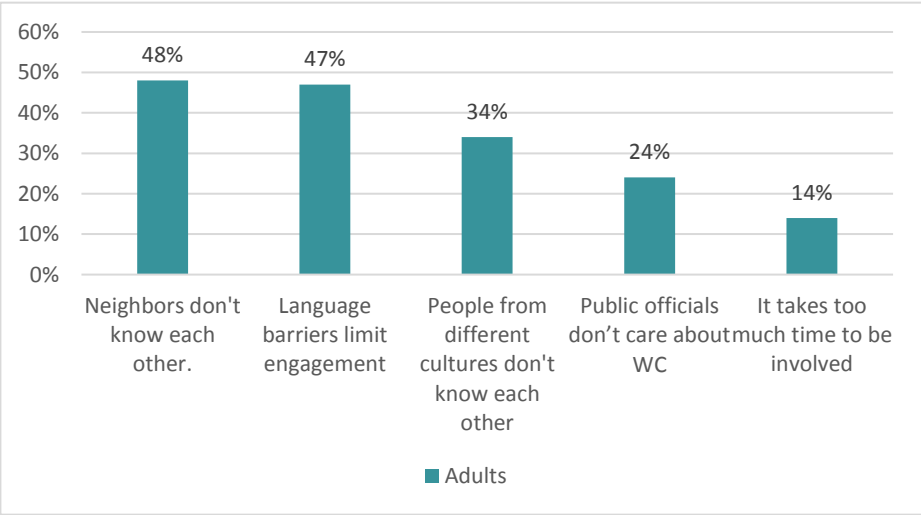


Figure 10. Top 5 challenges to civic engagement in White Center, with percent of adults who agreed. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%.

Community Priorities by Topic

Economy

Overview of Community Priorities

Community members identified the following priorities for improving the economy in White Center:

- Create more and higher paying jobs
- Language and Job Training
- Support small businesses

More and Higher Paying Jobs

- The top two challenges adults reported regarding the White Center economy were “Not enough jobs” (38%), and “Jobs don’t pay well” (36%).
- 59% of adults reported that they have a job. Of adults that have a job, 32% reported that they work in the fields of education or health.
- 48% of adults reported annual household incomes of under \$30,000. Of the people who receive financial or resource assistance, more than half receive Food stamps or SNAP, Medicaid or WIC.
- 35% of youth respondents said that the biggest challenge they have to overcome to graduate from high school is “Not having enough money.”
- Adult suggestions for improving the economy included: “More jobs” “Less requirements for employment” “Organize to support small businesses” “Better transit options and increased density of housing; I live far from work due to lack of available options” “More employment opportunities for non-English speaking families.”

Language and Job Training

- Overall, the top challenges to finding a job reported by adults were “English Language” (24%), and “Need more education or training” (24%). Lack of childcare (24%) was also cited as a top challenge to finding a job.
- For parents with children age 0-18 years old, the top two challenges were “Child care” (17%), which decreased from the previous year of 35%, and “English language” (19%) a decrease from the previous year of 25%.
- Adults were asked what skills they would want to use in a job, if such a job was available. Top skills reported were: “Cooking” (28%), “Sales or Business” (20%), and “Art, music or dance” (19%).
- Among youth, 18% reported currently having a job outside of school. Working while in school is a challenge 29% of youth respondents felt they will have to overcome to graduate from high school.

Support Small Businesses

- The third most prevalent challenge adults reported regarding the White Center economy is “Too hard to keep a small business running” (18%).
- Of adults that reported having a job, 9% reported they work for “My own business/self-employed.”
- Adult suggestions for supporting small businesses included: “Community loan program of some kind to support community members to start their own businesses with low interest rates “ “Gentrification is inevitable, however, when and if it happens, maintaining support to historic demographics and business” “Generating new ways to attract customers, visitors and tourists to White Center.”

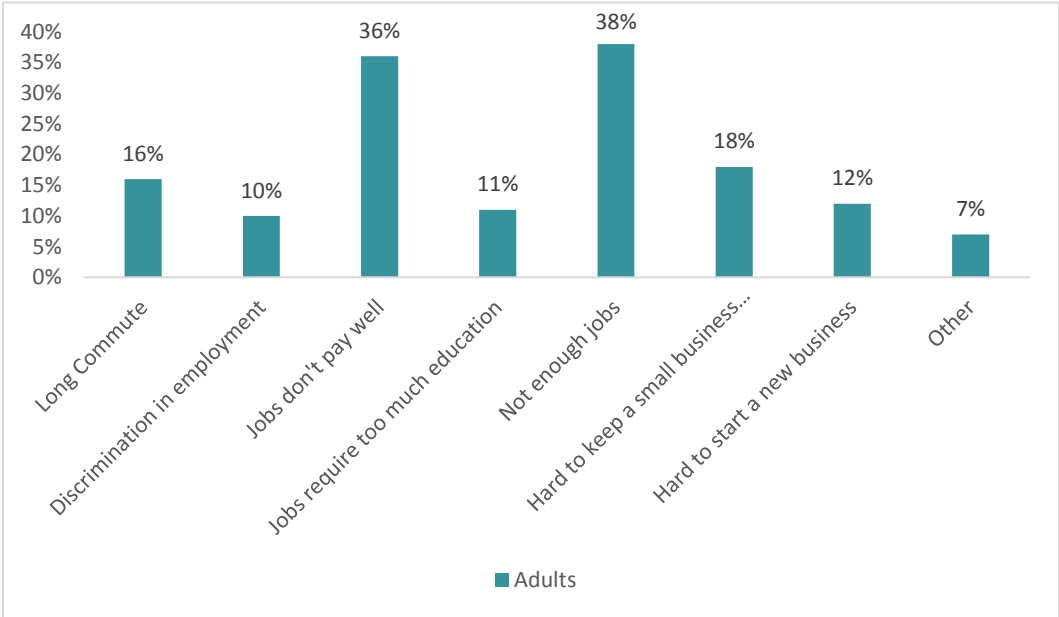


Figure 11. Top 5 challenges to the economy in White Center, with percent of adults who agreed. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%.

Community Priorities by Topic

Early Childhood Education

Overview of Community Priorities

Parents of young children identified the following priorities for improving early childhood education in White Center:

- Make child care more affordable
- Improve accessibility of early learning opportunities
- Improve the quality of child care available

Cost of Child Care

- The number one challenge parents of young children reported regarding early childhood education in White Center was “Child care is too expensive” at 65%, an increase from last year’s rate of 54%.
- 68% of parents of young children reported that their child goes to a doctor’s office when they are sick.
- Only 8% of parents of young children reported that someone besides a parent or guardian takes care of the child at least 10 hours per week. Of those using a caregiver, 73% reported that a relative takes care of the child. 69% of parents declined to answer this question.
- Suggestions from parents of young children for reducing cost of child care included: “More accessibility regardless of income,” “Better rates,” “Remove income limits,” “No income barriers,” “Upgrade the existing facilities and educate the caretakers; let’s give them fun activities that will enrich their learning abilities.”

Accessibility of Early Learning

- The number two challenge parents of young children reported regarding early childhood education in White Center was “Child care hours are not convenient” (26%).
- Suggestions from parents of young children for improving accessibility of early learning included: “Accept all children especially during summer” “Many more locations for students to learn.” “More childcare for handicapped children.”

Improve quality of child care

- The third most prevalent challenge parents of young children reported regarding early childhood education in White Center was that “Childcare is low quality” (17%).
- Suggestions from parents of young children for improving the quality of services included: “We need structure. Parents to learn and practice with their children,” “Add more classes so parents can take it and teach their children.”

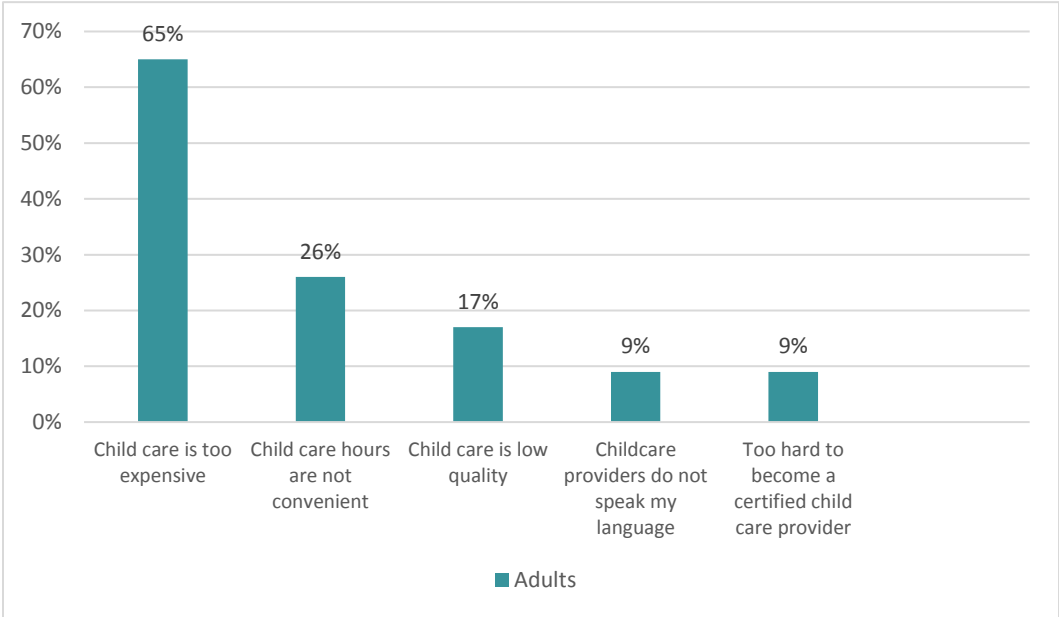


Figure 12. Top 5 challenges to early childhood education in White Center, with percent of parents of young children who agreed. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%.

Community Priorities by Topic

K-12 Education

Overview of Community Priorities

Parents of school-age children, and youth in grades 6-12 identified the following priorities for improving K-12 education in White Center:

- Set high standards for students
- Improve Family-School Relationships
- Increase student attendance

Setting High Standards for Students

- 38% of adult respondents reported being the parent or guardian for school age children and youth in grades 6-12. The number one challenge both English and non-English speaking parents of school-age children reported regarding K-12 education in White Center was “Standards for students are too low” (30%).
- Open ended responses of youth revealed that 19% of youth felt that “academics” is what they like least about their school. Comments included “Boring classes” “A little easy” “Too many tests” “Homework” “The classes are too long sometimes.”
- 85% of parents of school-age children reported they talk to their child about selecting programs or courses at school “Sometimes” or “Often,” and 60% reported they talk about jobs the child might apply for after high school “Sometimes” or “Often.”
- When asked what structure they prefer for Evergreen High School, 57% of youth preferred the three smaller schools model.
- Suggestions from parents of school-age children for raising student standards included: “More parent support” and “Ending racism and bullying” and “Increasing retention of school staff.”

Improving Family-School Relationships

- The number two challenge parents of school-age children reported regarding K-12 education in White Center was “School administrators are not responsive to families” (30%) and “Teachers are not responsive to families” (25%).
- 44% of adults felt that the school did not involve them in meaningful ways in improving the school and 27% did not feel that teachers worked closely with them to meet their child’s needs. 46% did not know about special programs available at the school or district to help their children.

- When asked what do you like least about school, open ended responses from youth included the following: “Teachers” “How racist and homophobic the teachers are” “A lot of new teachers, less connection.”
- 40% of youth report that they have to translate for their parents most of the time or always.
- This year, 35% of youth reported that to graduate from high school they will have to overcome “Not enough money,” “Have to work a job outside of school” (29%) and English Language fluency (17%). 19% of youth responded with “Other” – which included “Homelessness” “Mental health” “Not enough credits.”
- Suggestions from parents of school-age children for improving family – school relationships included “Increasing retention of school staff” “Find linguistically appropriate support for parents who lack English” “Teachers and staff should be representative of the students. Everyone working with kids should understand cultural humility and regularly work on examining and checking their biases.” “Families need to be centered in all district work, which means being present and with decision making power; curricula should be culturally rooted.”
- Suggestions from youth for improving Family-School relationships include “We are becoming one school...students don’t have a voice” “Build school spirit.”

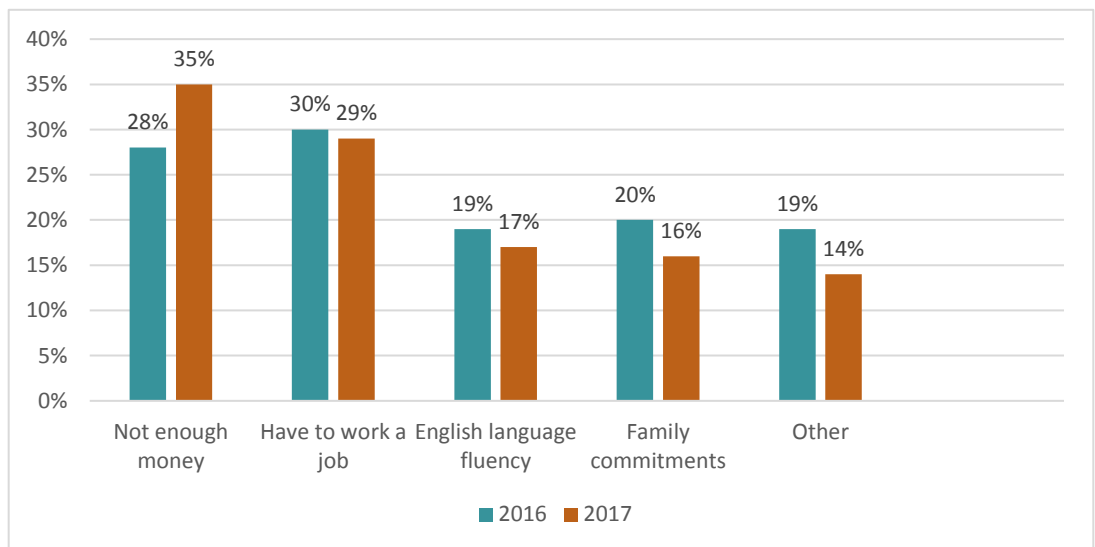


Figure 13. Youth’s top 5 challenges to overcome to graduate from high school, with percent of youth from 2016 and 2017.

Improving School Attendance

- The third biggest problem with K-12 education in White Center is student attendance. When asked if their child missed over a week of school, 26% of parents said “Yes”. The most common reason why was “illness” (71%) followed by “travel out of the area” (17%).
- 29% of parents of school-age children reported their child missed over a week of school this year. Of those whose child missed more than a week of school, 47% missed school due to “Illness,” 19% were “Traveling out of the area,” and 17% were “Not interested in going to school.”
- Suggestions from parents of school-age children for increasing student attendance include “Wrap around services at school” “More resources for K-8 schools” “More parent participation” “More opportunities for students to get motivated about school.”

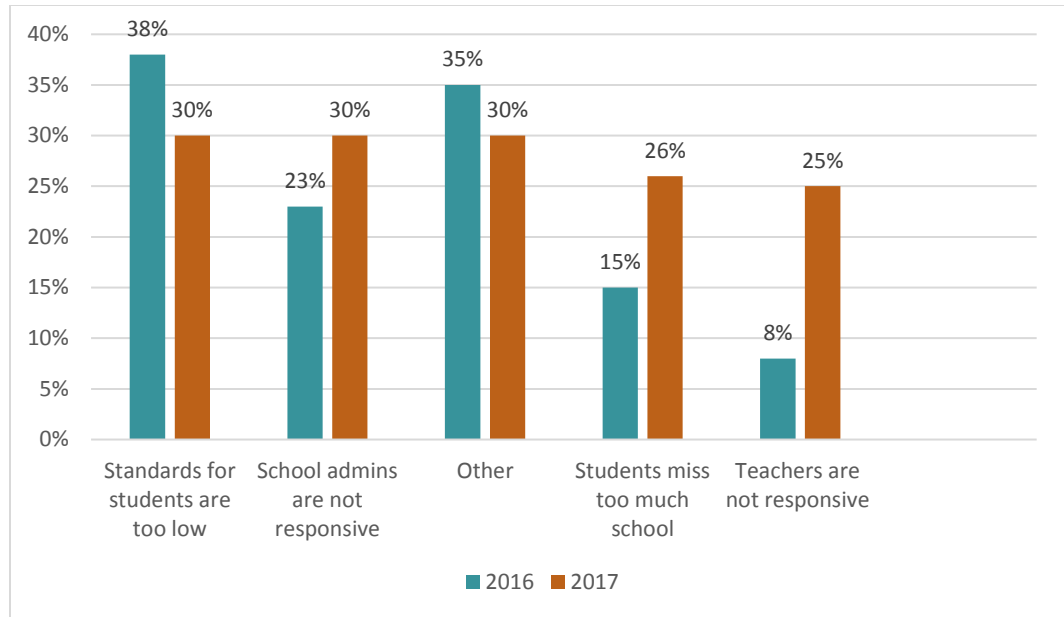


Figure 14. Top 5 challenges to K-12 education in White Center for 2016 and 2017, with percent of parents of school-age children who agreed. Totals for this “Check all that apply” question may exceed 100%.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The White Center Community Development Association wishes to thank the entire White Center community - its residents, families, youth, business owners, organizations, leaders, teachers, workers, visitors - and everyone who made this assessment possible.

THIS DATA IS FOR YOU – we hope you find this report helpful in guiding your planning, organizing, decision-making, and actions. Let us know if you have any input or questions about this or WCCDA activities.

Thank you!



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