



Chapel Hill Youth Initiative Update

January 30, 2019

Town Council Business Meeting



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Town Staff Team

- **Chris Blue**, Chapel Hill Police Chief
- **Susan Brown**, Chapel Hill Public Library Director
- **Loryn Clark**, Executive Director for Housing and Community
- **John French**, Resident Services Coordinator
- **Molly Luby**, Library Special Projects Coordinator
- **Megan Peters**, Community Connections Coordinator
- **Linda Smith**, Interim Executive Director for Parks and Recreation
- **Beth Vazquez**, Town Ombuds
- **Sarah Viñas**, Assistant Director, Housing and Community

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Council Considerations

- Receive the Youth Initiative Report
- No action required



Background

Town Mission

“learning, serving, and working together to build a community where people thrive”

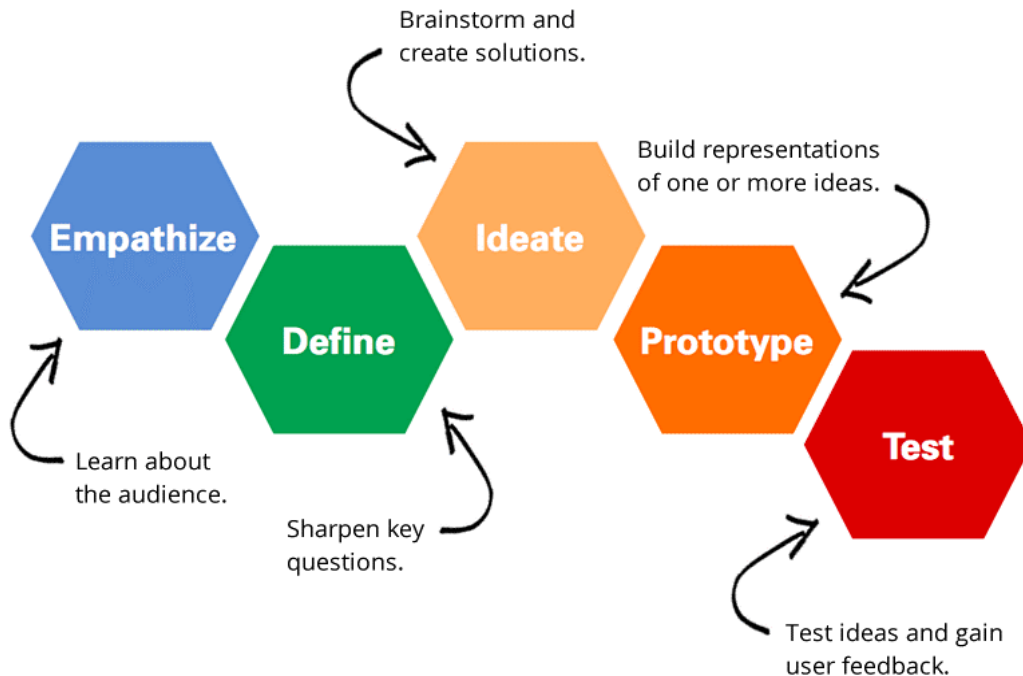


Who are youth?

Community members in 6th
through 12th grade

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“Empathy is the capacity to step into other people’s shoes, to understand their lives, and start to solve problems from their perspectives.”



Our Approach: Human-Centered Design

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Research Process

- Gathered and analyzed data on youth
 - 14 focus group discussions with 180 youth in Fall 2018
 - Secondary data (e.g. American Community Survey, etc.)
- Convened youth-serving organizations

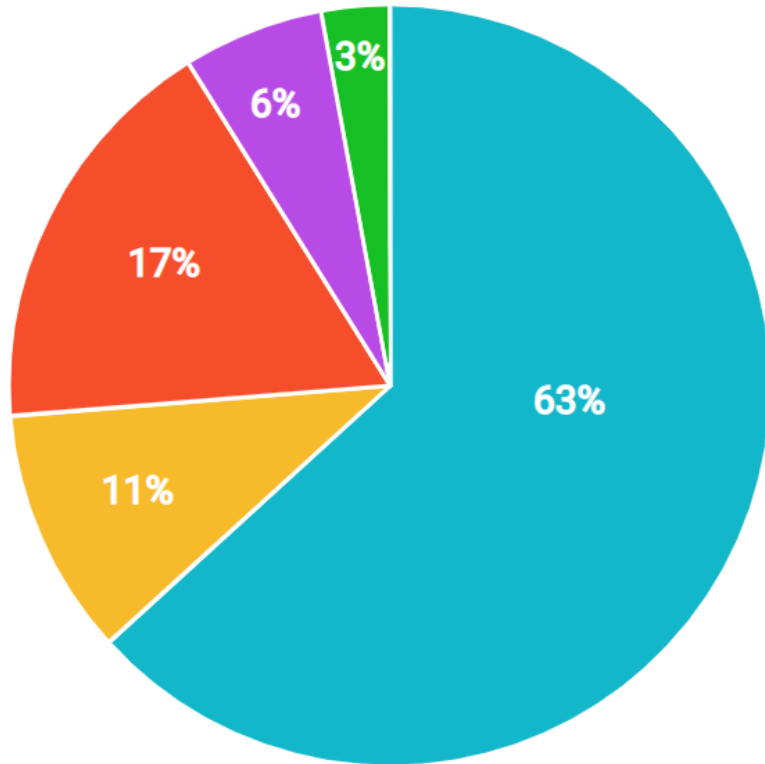


Focus group set-up

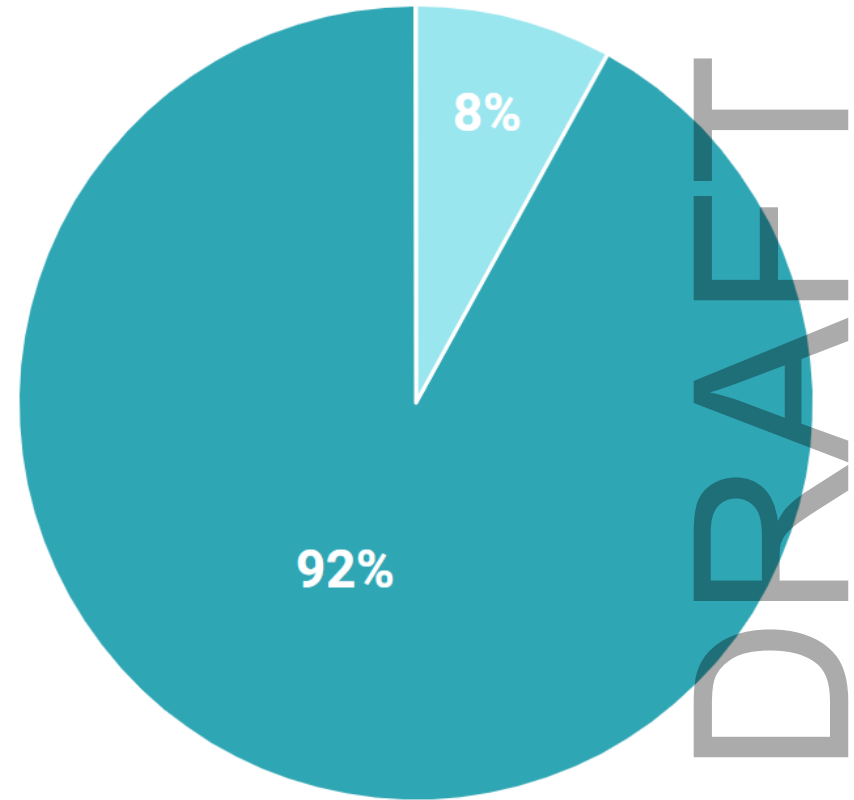
Chapel Hill Youth Demographics

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Chapel Hill youth are diverse.



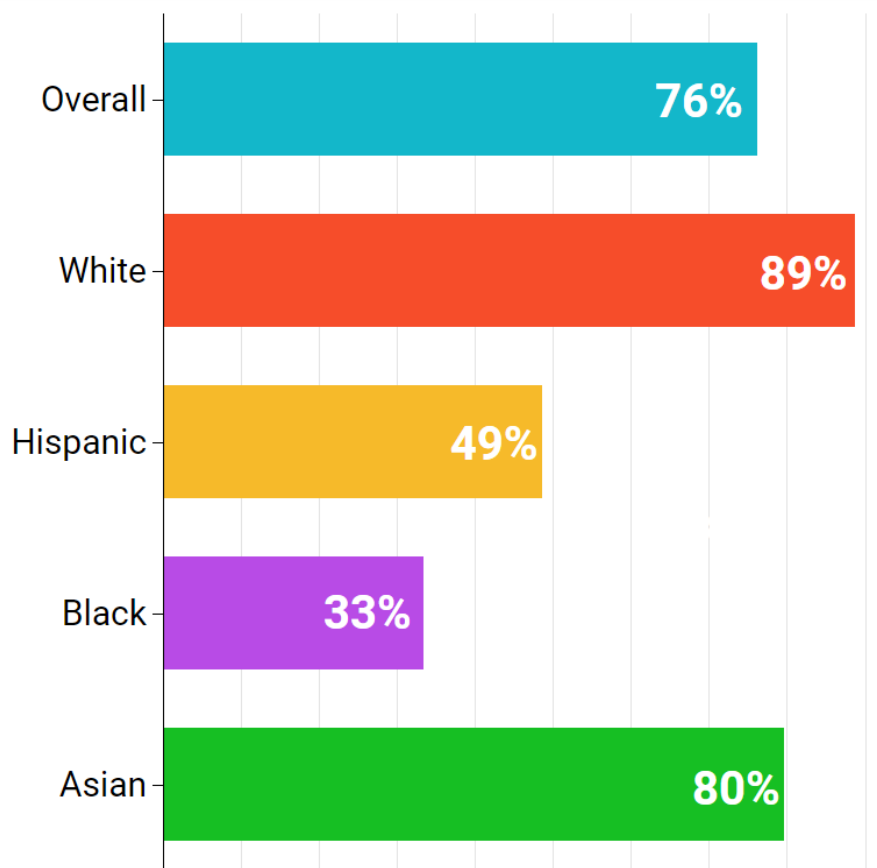
- White (63%)
- African American (11%)
- Asian (17%)
- Two or more races (6%)
- Other (3%)



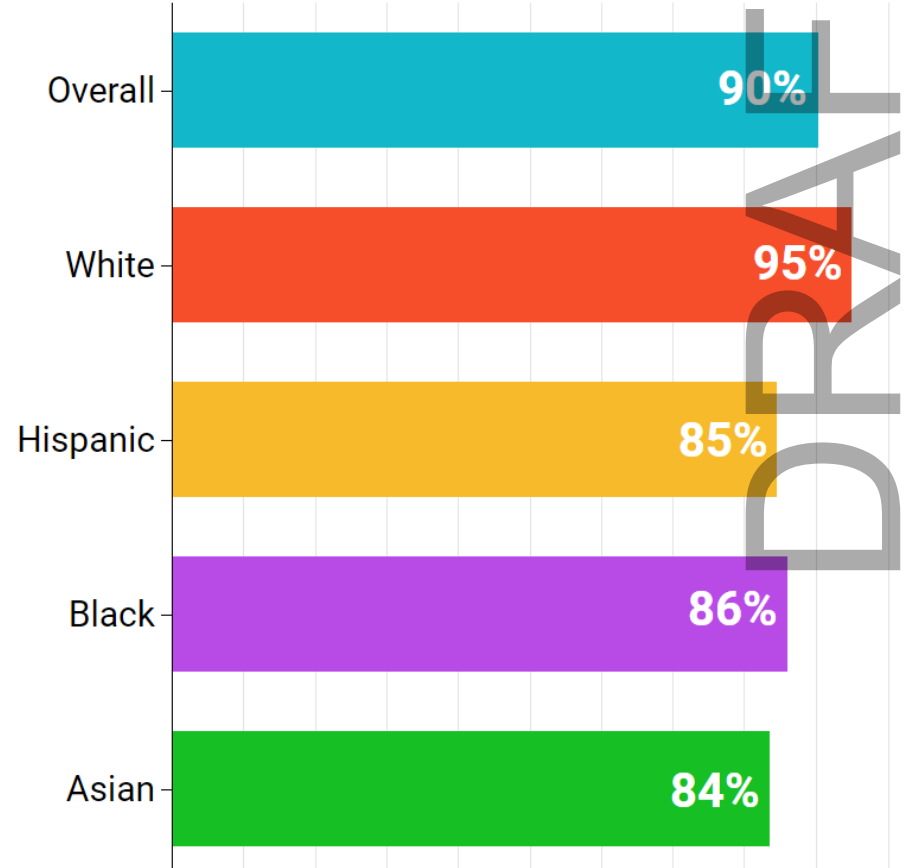
- Hispanic (8%)
- Not Hispanic (92%)

Inequities exist in educational achievement and attainment.

2016-'17 College and Career Readiness in Chapel Hill/Carrboro high schools

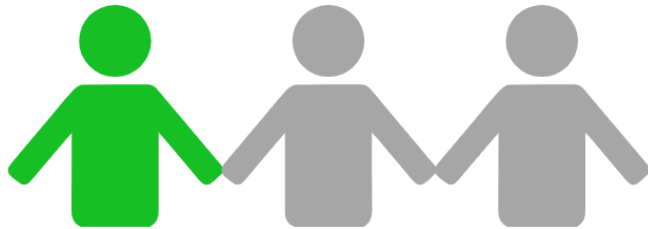


2017-'18 Graduation rates among Chapel Hill/Carrboro high schools



Some youth and families are burdened by financial stress.

Financial stress



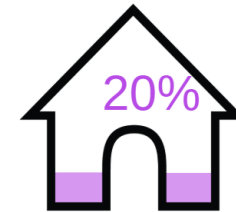
1 in 3

Chapel Hill & Carrboro middle and high school students' families experience financial stress

Chapel Hill Household Income



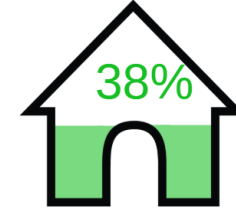
earn less than \$25,000



earn \$50,000-\$99,999



earn \$25,000 - \$49,999

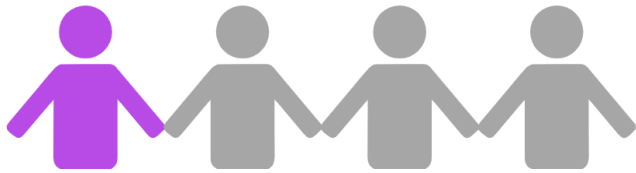


earn \$100,000 or more

*Includes all households, not just those with youth

Mental health and wellness are challenges facing our youth.

Mental Health



1 in 4 high school



1 in 5 middle school

Chapel Hill & Carrboro students felt sad or hopeless enough for 2 weeks or more and stopped usual activities

Sleep



< 8 hours

70% of Chapel Hill & Carrboro high school students get less than 8 hours of sleep

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Chapel Hill Youth Focus Groups

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What are the sections of the focus groups?

Section 1: My World

- Participants share the places, activities, people, wishes, and challenges in their lives
- To understand the lives of Chapel Hill youth















What are the sections of the focus groups?

Section 2: Chapel Hill Photos

- Participants react to photos of various Chapel Hill locations
- To understand what youth do and do not like about various locations



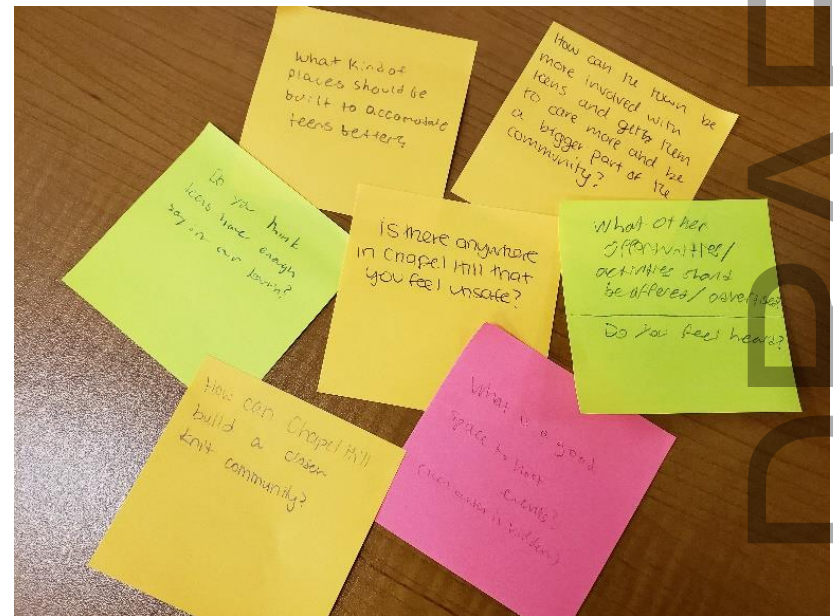
Photo Reaction!

			
Why did you react this way?			
			
Why did you react this way?			
			
Why did you react this way?			

What are the sections of the focus groups?

Section 3: Question Storming

- Participants tell us what questions Chapel Hill should be asking them



Who did we target?

- A diverse group of youth with a focus on minority populations

Who did we reach?

- 180 middle and high school aged Chapel Hill residents
- ~30 youth focused organizations attended convening



Focus group findings



Places

- Home
- School
- Franklin St.
- Friends' House
- Local cities
- Other cities and destinations



Activities

- School
- Sports
- Clubs
- Hanging out with friends
- Video Games
- Volunteering



People

- Friends
- Family
- Teachers
- Siblings
- Coaches
- Pets

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Focus group findings



I want to...

- Do well in school
- Go to college
- Find a job
- Travel
- Spend time with family/friends
- Help others
- Be happy



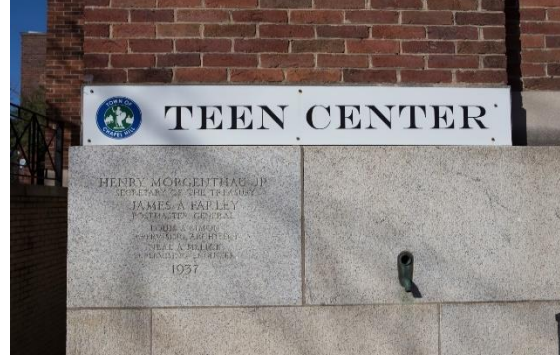
Obstacles in my way...

- Too little time/busy
- Money
- School work and college prep
- Mental health – anxiety, depression, disorders
- Pressure
- Age
- Spaces that feel unwelcoming

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Focus group findings

- Teens react differently to places in Chapel Hill
 - **Positive:** Franklin Street, outdoor spaces, University Place, Chapel Hill Transit, Halloween on Franklin
 - **No reaction:** The Corner Teen Center, Church
 - **Negative:** Silent Sam



Focus group findings

Questions youth identified that the Town should ask:

- Society and cultural issues
 - How do you feel about gun violence?
- General support and resource needs
 - What resources/support do you need that you do not have now?
- Town specific items
 - How can we build unity between diverse communities within Chapel Hill?
- Personal life
 - What do you like?

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Key Themes

- Safe and inclusive spaces
- Busy schedules and pressures to succeed
- Discrimination impacts youths' lived experiences
- Youth face mental health challenges

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Proposed Next Steps

- Identify strategies to make existing spaces be safe and inclusive for youth
- Continue conversations with the community – youth, parents, and community partners
- Continue Town cross-departmental collaboration and communication

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Council Considerations

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