



Preliminary Report: Findings from the City Heights Building Healthy Communities House Meetings. *A Snapshot*

Mid-City CAN House Meeting Leaders reached out to 1550 residents living in City Heights. The meetings took place in different parts of City

Heights to reach out to residents from different cultures and languages such as, Burmese, Somali, Arabic, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Residents' Perception of Community Health:

1. 45% of the survey respondents found the community to be **unhealthy**.
2. **20.5% surveyed were unemployed**.
3. "Feeling safe" in their homes, community and schools is **below average**.
4. 75% afraid of gangs and drugs in the neighborhoods.
5. 18.6% feel unsafe to walk during daytime and 46.6% feel unsafe in the night.
6. Women feel unsafe more in the night.
7. Men feel unsafe more in the daytime.
8. 62% of the families were concerned that their child won't finish High School.
9. 13% reported either they or their family members had asthma or diabetes.
10. 70% of those who were diagnosed with asthma or diabetes not receiving treatment.

Residents want:

1. Community Center to provide support services for them to learn new skills and get training to be able to work and be able to have a better quality of life.
2. **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Streets and Alleys** Lighting.
3. Surveillance and monitoring of alleys.
4. Neighborhood watch and community block parties.

Law Enforcement changes:

1. More police patrols.
2. Less racial profiling and cultural sensitive policing.
3. Effective law enforcement through prompt response to calls.
4. "Safe place" for the undocumented to report crimes.

Access and Quality of Health Care

1. Access to and quality of health care is way below average.
2. 51.2 percent of the surveyed had no health insurance.
3. 70 of the Latinos surveyed didn't have health insurance.
4. Many homeowners in City Heights do not have health insurance.
5. 49.2% were unhappy with the current medical service.

Residents want:

1. Better service in the clinics with courteous doctors and nurses.
2. Immediate access to health care for their children.
3. More health screenings and preventive care.
4. Better access to dental care and cheaper medicine.
5. Culturally sensitive sex education and domestic violence counseling.
6. Workshops on healthhomes.

Housing in City Heights

1. Affordable Housing is below average majority live in rental units.
2. Quality of Housing is below average residents complained about molds, roaches, and other health hazards.
3. Home ownership was lowest (4%) among the first generation Asian and African immigrants.
4. 13 percent of the surveyed Latino population owned homes.

Residents want:

1. More affordable housing based on their incomes (Average Income is \$25,000).
2. Renter's councils to assist with rent control and housing code enforcement.

To read the full report visit our website at [http://www.midcitycan.org/files/Data/100119-BHC Preliminary Findings.pdf](http://www.midcitycan.org/files/Data/100119-BHC_Preliminary_Findings.pdf)

For more information regarding the House Meeting Leaders and the Building Healthy Communities Initiative, please contact Nohelia Patel Lead Organizer at 619/283-9624 x 217 and by email at npatel@midcitycan.org.



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Eating out and Food Preferences:

1. Residents eat out on an average eat out 4 times a month.
2. Fast food restaurants are popular.
3. Children also prefer to eat pizza and burgers the most.
4. Fruit servings among children are less than the daily recommended 3-5 servings. Amount of fruits and vegetable eaten drops a lot towards the end of the month.
5. 30% of the respondents get their fruits and vegetables from the farmer's market.

Residents want:

1. To learn about community gardens and participate.
2. To have more labeled cultural foods in the grocery stores (such as halal meat).
3. To have healthier food in the schools.

How do the residents travel?

1. 58.4% of the residents rely on cars for travel, (national average 82.4%).
2. Walking is important means of getting around (10.9 percent).
3. Bus transit use is 13.2% (National average is 2.96%).
4. 17.9% of the Latino and 14.8% of the African American use transit.
5. Users were not happy with the quality of transit.

Residents want:

1. Walkable and transit-oriented community.
2. More bus service.
3. Flexible transportation to welfare services and the disabled.
4. Better designed bus stops with amenities.

Children and Youth of City Heights:

1. Inadequate services and opportunities for the children and youth.
2. There were not enough parks and recreational activities.
3. Limited access to quality afterschool, recreation or summer programs.
4. Safety in schools were below average because of the presence of gangs in schools.
5. 40.9% of the respondents rated the quality of education as poor.

The residents want:

1. More after school and summer programs for the youth designed by the youth.
2. Programs designed by youth to reduce delinquency and absenteeism.
3. Stronger support systems for the teens in custodial systems.
4. The School based intervention for at-risk youth in middle school.
5. More diversity and better trained teachers in the schools to reduce "brain drain".
6. More Counselors so that the teachers did not have to take up multiple roles.

Residents want:

1. Accountability from the agencies offering services.
2. Transparency in the Building Healthy Community Process
3. Communication (30% do not have internet access).
4. Money should stay in the community not "sucked up" by agencies.

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