NEW | SOLUTIONS FOR NONPROFITS

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Washtenaw County Youth Needs Assessment

2020

OVERALL PROCESS

The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation engaged NEW to consult with the Youth Council to develop the Washtenaw County Youth Needs Assessment Tool and to analyze the results of the survey. The survey results are expected to be used by the Youth Council to inform the priorities for future youth-related grants in the community.

10/04/20, 3-4 pm
NEW Consultant meeting with Leadership Team

- Discuss expectations for the needs assessment process
- Identify what we know and what we need to know

10/11/20, 3-4 pm
NEW Consultant meeting with Leadership Team

- NEW Consultant provided survey design pointers and practices
- Leadership Team brainstormed survey questions and approach, after reviewing benchmark surveys

NEW Consultant developed draft survey and received feedback from Leadership Team

11/01/20, 1-2 pm
NEW Consultant met with Full Youth Council

- Overview of survey process
- Review draft survey
- Solicit feedback to draft

11/8/20, 3-4 pm
Leadership Team

- Review updated survey
- Finalize implementation approach

11/11/20 – 11/15/20
Final survey completed, including translations into Spanish and Arabic

11/16 - 11/30
Dissemination of the survey

11/30
Surveys closed

METHODOLOGY

The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Youth Council was responsible for dissemination of the needs assessment survey. They developed a poster and social media posts and disseminated the survey through connections at the high schools through the region. The survey was disseminated via SurveyMonkey and took the average respondent less than 5 minutes to complete. The survey was translated into both Spanish and Arabic to increase accessibility within the community. In total, 1162 students responded to the survey over a period of 15 days.

In addition to looking at the data as a whole, the survey includes assessment by community to determine if there are differences across the county. The data is broken up into charts for some of the communities but not all. Ann Arbor includes zip codes 48103 through 48108; Chelsea is 48118; Dexter is 48130. Saline is 48176; and Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township is 48197 and 48198.

The data is also broken up by race/ethnicity. White students are those that selected White/Caucasian for question #11. Students of Color include those that selected Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Indian American, Middle Eastern/Arab American, or Native American/American Indian.

Finally, the data is also broken up by gender: Men and Transgender Men; Women and Transgender Women; and Non-binary students.

KEY FINDINGS

Suggested top priorities for programs and services to fund include:

- Mental health services
- Academic support programs
- College prep programs
- Anti-racism programs
- LGBTQIA+ programs/services

Mental health services should attend to multiple different areas of need, including: anxiety, body image issues, social anxiety, and depression.

COVID has impacted the high school population in Washtenaw County by limiting the number of activities students have participated in, as well as increasing their feelings of isolation, stress, anxiety, and depression.

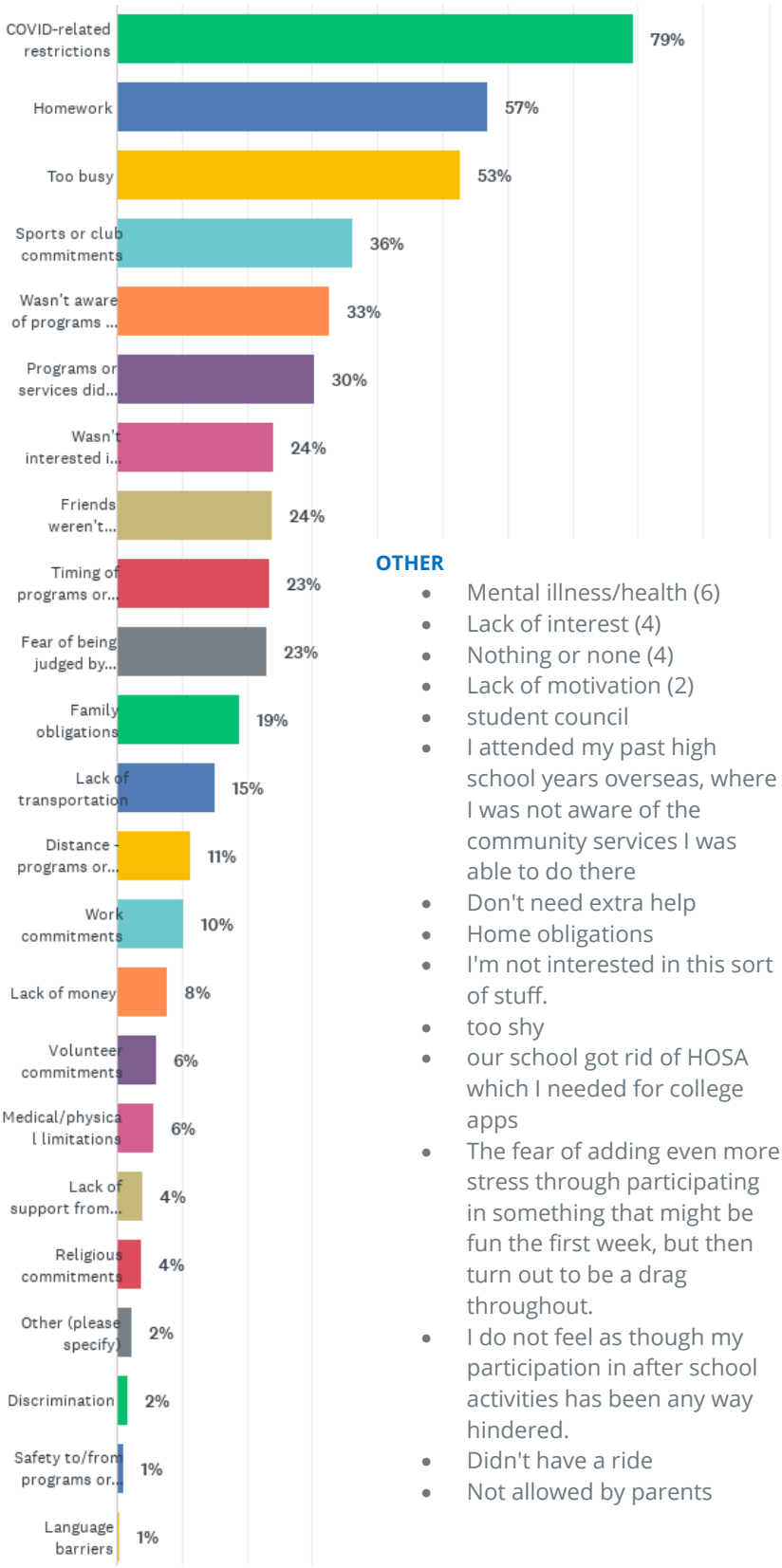
It is important to note the differences among Washtenaw County high school youth by zip code, race/ethnicity, and by gender. Additional information about the specific needs and challenges are detailed in latter parts of the report. These should be taken under consideration by the Youth Council as they consider the different populations being targeted by programs under consideration for funding.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT TIME:

- Add “None Applicable” or “None” as an option for questions #1, 3, and 4.
- Consider listing cities/townships instead of zip codes for question #8.

Q1: In the past two years, what has limited you from participating in after-school or weekend programs or services in your community? Select all that apply. Answered: 1,155 Skipped: 7

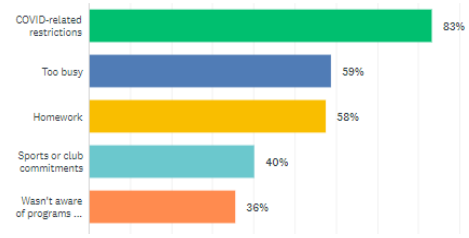
- Over ¾ of students indicated COVID-related restrictions impacted their participation in after-school or weekend programs. This was the top limiting factor, regardless of demographic.
- Over ½ of students identified homework and busy schedules as limiting factors.



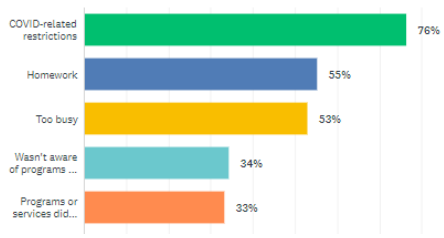
OTHER

- Mental illness/health (6)
- Lack of interest (4)
- Nothing or none (4)
- Lack of motivation (2)
- student council
- I attended my past high school years overseas, where I was not aware of the community services I was able to do there
- Don't need extra help
- Home obligations
- I'm not interested in this sort of stuff.
- too shy
- our school got rid of HOSA which I needed for college apps
- The fear of adding even more stress through participating in something that might be fun the first week, but then turn out to be a drag throughout.
- I do not feel as though my participation in after school activities has been any way hindered.
- Didn't have a ride
- Not allowed by parents

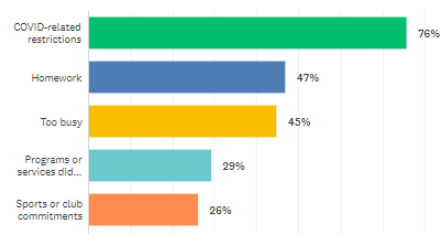
Ann Arbor



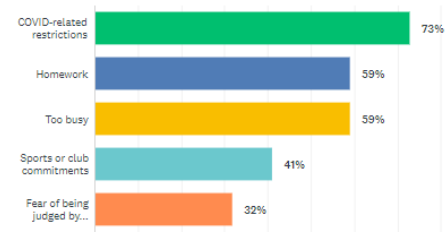
Students of Color



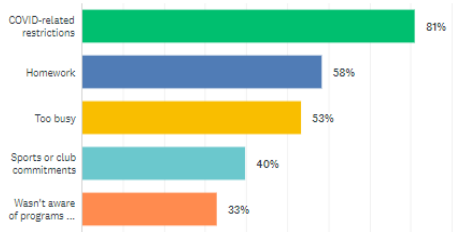
Man/Transgender Man



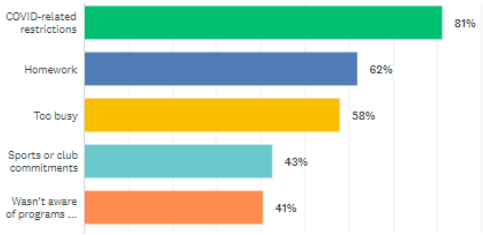
Chelsea



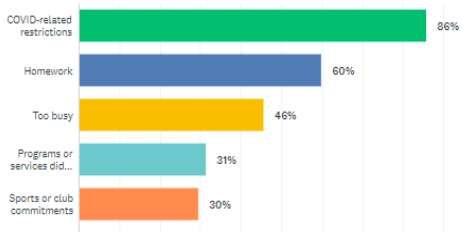
White Students



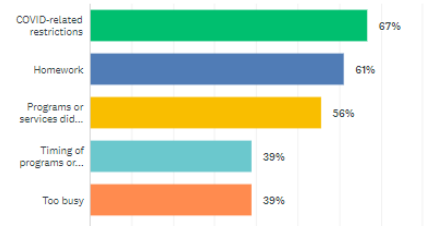
Woman/Transgender Woman



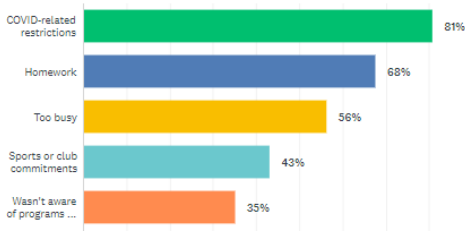
Dexter



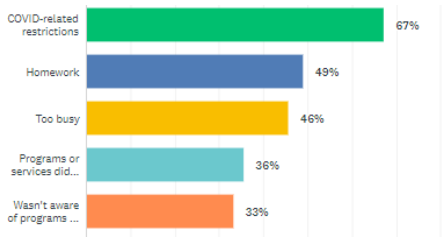
Non-binary



Saline



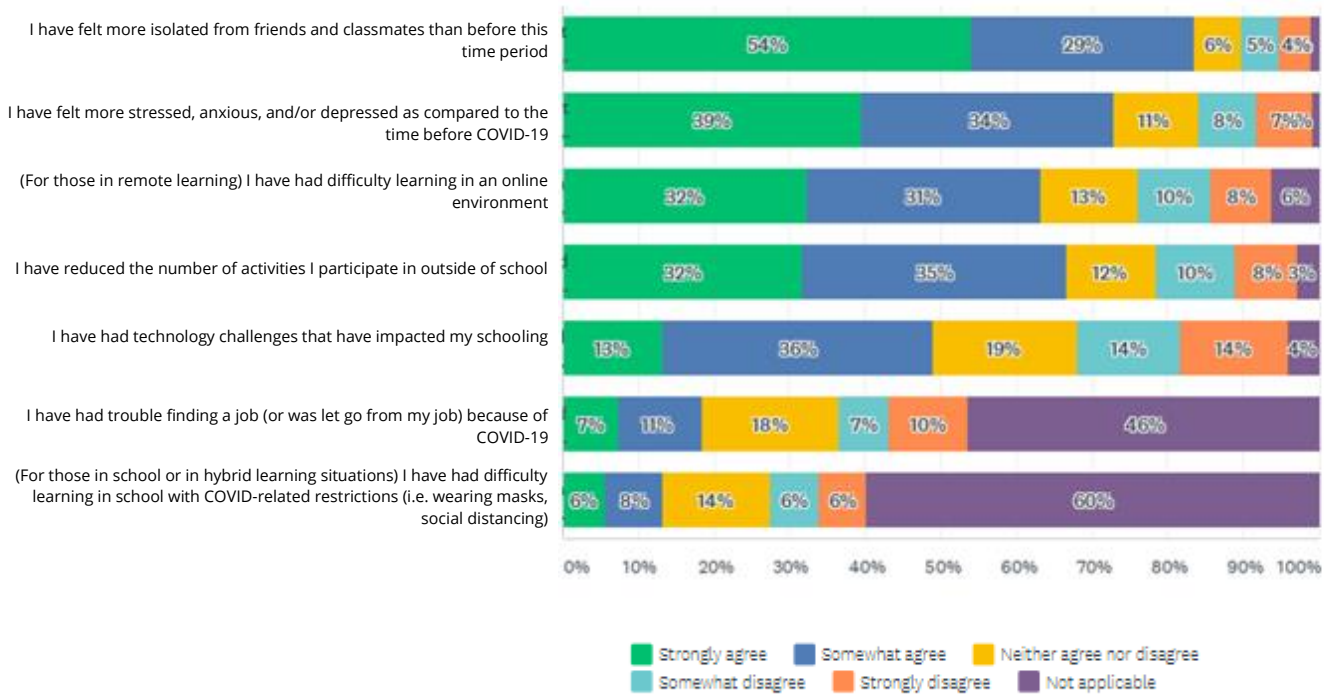
Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township



- COVID-related restrictions were noted by a greater percentage of students in Ann Arbor (83) and Dexter (86%) and Saline (81%) as compared to Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township (67%).
- Sports and club commitments varied as a limiting factor among the different demographics. Around 40% of students in Ann Arbor, Chelsea, and Saline identified this a top limitation while less than a third of students in Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township listed this a top 5 barrier.
- 40% of White students indicated that sports and club commitments were a limiting factor while only 32% of Students of Color selected this response.
- Over 60% of women/transgender women and non-binary students indicated homework is a limiting factor while 47% of men/transgender men selected homework as a top limitation.
- 41% of women/transgender women said that they were not aware of programs and services; 19% of men/transgender men selected this option in the survey.

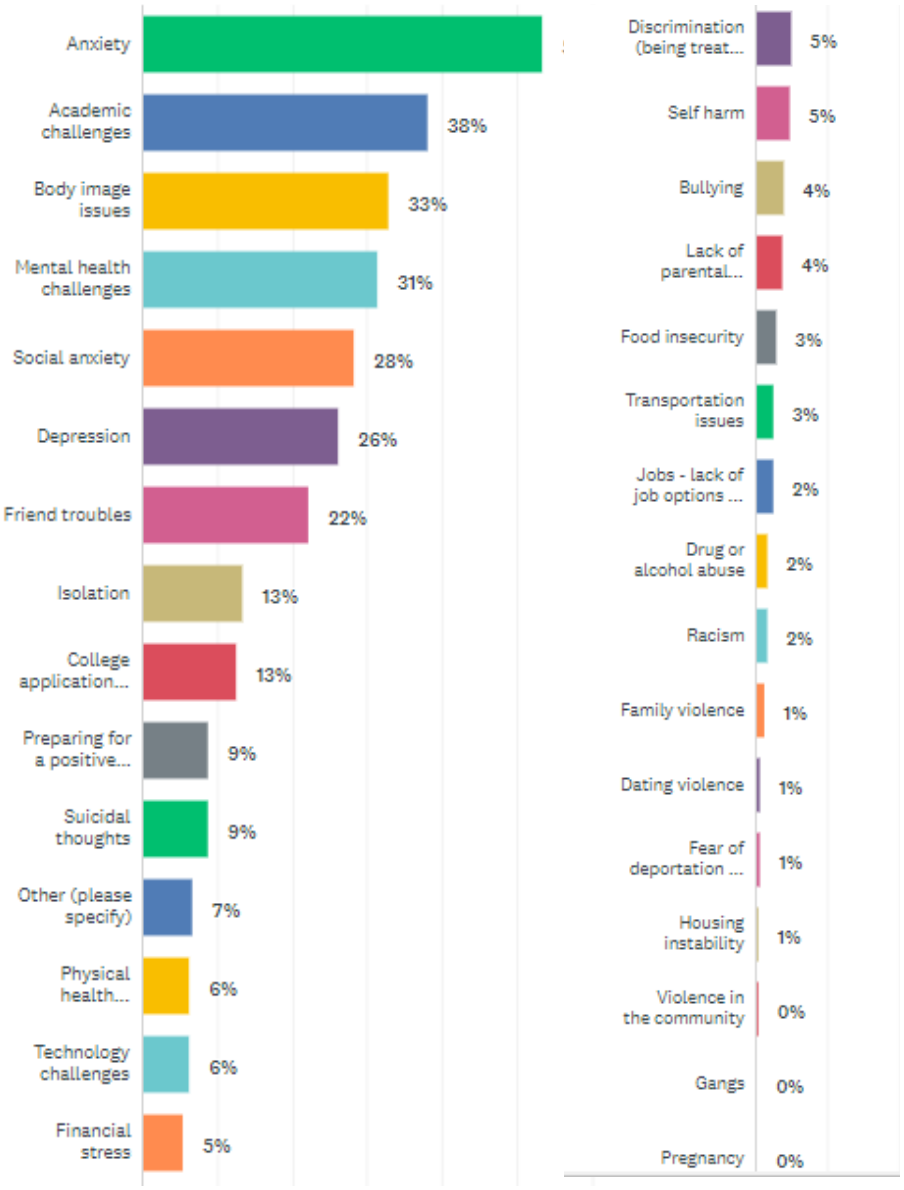
Q2: To what extent do you agree with the following statements? Since March 2020...

Answered: 1,159 Skipped: 3



- Not surprisingly, 83% of respondents indicated that they strongly agree or somewhat agree with feeling isolated from friends and classmates during the COVID pandemic.
- Nearly ¾ of all respondents strongly agree or somewhat agree that they have felt more stressed, anxious, or depressed as compared to the time before the pandemic.
- 64% of all students strongly agree or somewhat agree that they have had difficulty learning in an online environment.

Q3. In the past two years, what have been the biggest challenges or issues that you have faced? Select up to FIVE options. Answered: 1,162 Skipped: 0

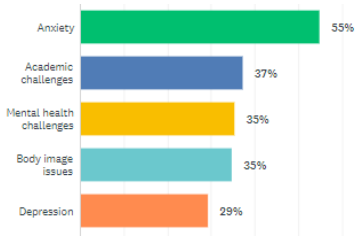


- Mental health is prevalent among the top challenges/issues highlighted for the survey participants. These include anxiety (53%), body image issues (33%), mental health challenges (31%), social anxiety (28%), and depression (26%).
- Academic challenges were also highlighted as a top challenge or issue for 38% of survey respondents.

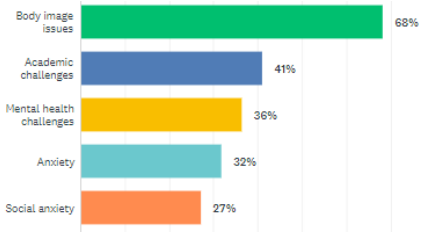
OTHER

- None/Nothing (31)
- Stress (homework, school, perfectionism, COVID, restrictions) (7)
- Family problems/fighting (6)
- Moving (4)
- Family health/death in the family (4)
- Not believing in myself
- Focusing
- I think only within the past year it would be online school
- overworked, exhausted, need a break
- not being able to go to places I wanted to go to
- circles of lies/talking behind backs
- having something else going own at the same time.
- I used to be shamed and oppressed for having long hair
- Not having any time for myself to do things
- Learning problems
- general social issues surrounding me being autistic
- uh this is not for this year so the only problem in 7th/8th grade was just friends
- Feeling spaced out because we go to school but don't live near school therefore don't live near any of my friends because we can't afford it causing me to feel space between them and my teams.
- Adjustment Disorder from preexisting health condition
- I have had difficulty focusing on school.
- procrastination
- Cancel Culture
- Toxic work environment
- Too much schoolwork
- Seeing Racism, Sexism, and Homophobia on Social Media
- Trump
- Gender identity

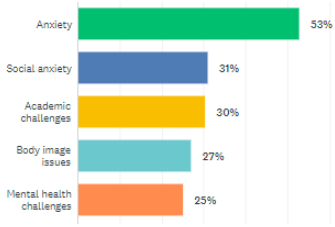
Ann Arbor



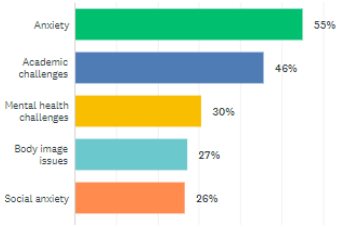
Chelsea



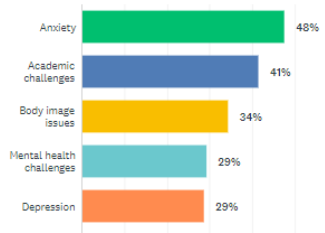
Dexter



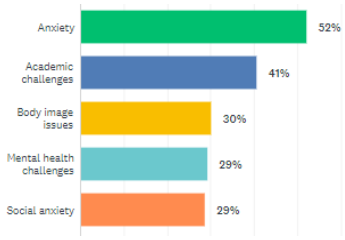
Saline



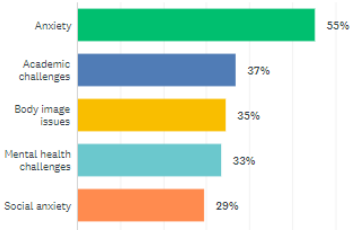
Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township



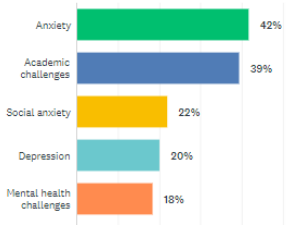
Student of Color



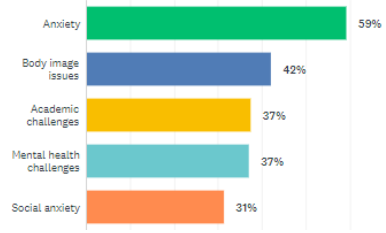
White Students



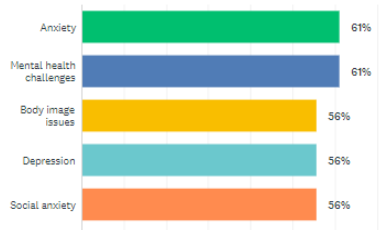
Man/Transgender Man



Woman/Transgender Woman

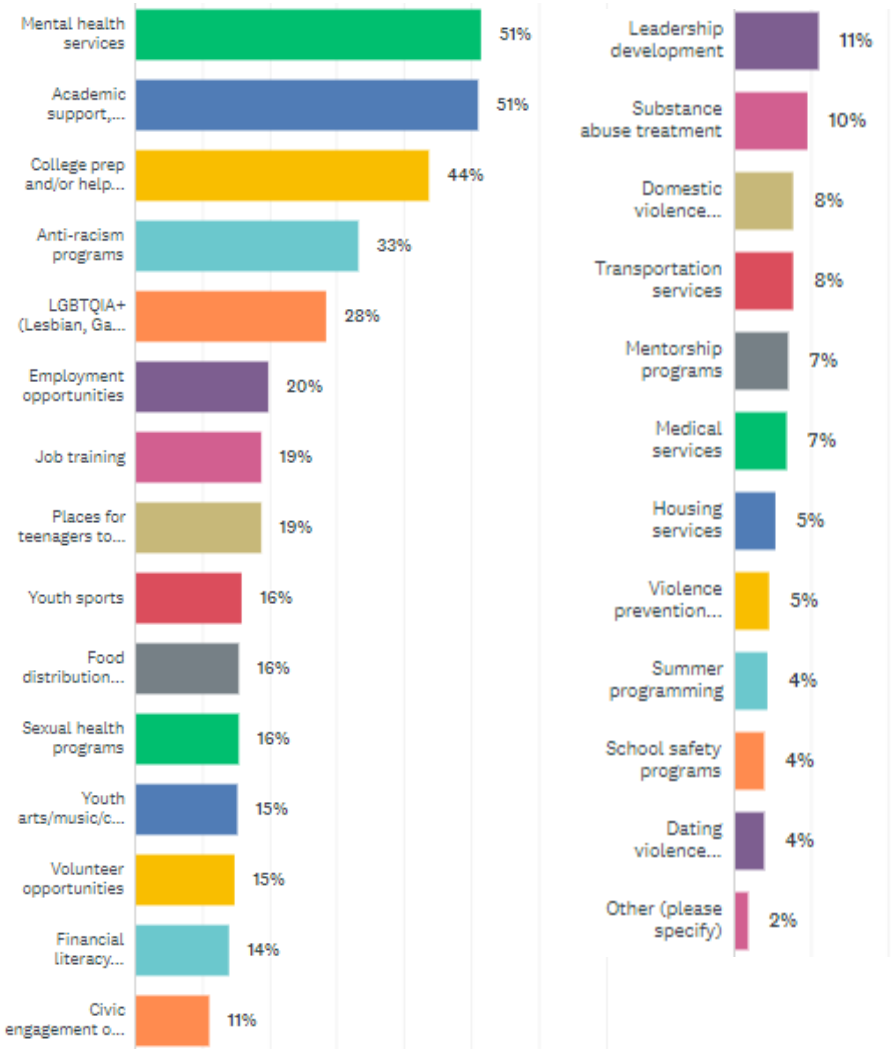


Non-binary



- While respondents in most communities identified anxiety as the biggest challenge, body image issues topped the list in Chelsea. However, it should be noted this community had the fewest number of respondents so a few people could sway the outcome more than in other communities.
- Academic challenges were selected by more students in Saline (46%), Chelsea and Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township (41% each) as compared to Ann Arbor (37%) and Dexter (30%).
- There weren't significant differences in the rankings of top challenges between Students of Color as compared to White students.
- Anxiety was selected by 61% of binary respondents and 59% of women/transgender women as compared to 42% of men/transgender men.
- Body image issues were selected by 42% of women/transgender women and 56% of non-binary students. This category did not make the top five responses for men/transgender men.

Q4 What do you think are the top five services or programs most needed by high schoolers in Washtenaw County? Answered: 1,162 Skipped: 0

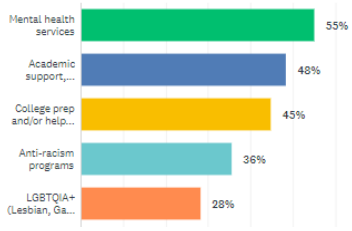


- Just over half of respondents selected mental health services and academic support (including homework help and tutoring) as top services or programs needed by high schoolers in Washtenaw County.
- College prep and/or help with the application process was selected by 44% of all survey respondents.
- Rounding out the top five programs/services identified by survey respondents were anti-racism programs (33%) and LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual) programs (28%).
- Almost 1/5 of all respondents also indicated a need for job training and employment opportunities for high schoolers.

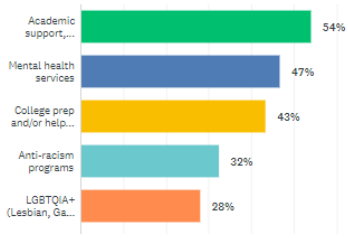
OTHER

- I don't know (4)
- I am not in high school (3)
- Nothing (2)
- More science clubs
- Health classes/programs
- a quarterly town hall for the school board from students
- mental health support
- LGBT inclusive sexual health
- Self-Defense and Sexual harassment/assault programs
- Religion
- How to do adult stuff (taxes and deal with money)
- Relavent Education like how to file taxes, financial advice, etc.
- Everything
- I skatepark would be awesome
- Protections against excessive work from teachers and advocate for a less stressful school environment, basically an advocate on behalf of students to administration.
- Life skills program (for those who don't have room to take the class in school)
- Youth (teens 13+) employment opportunities

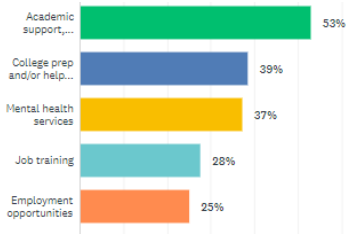
Ann Arbor



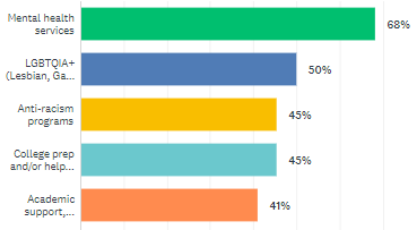
Students of Color



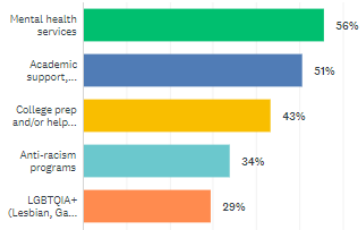
Man/Transgender Man



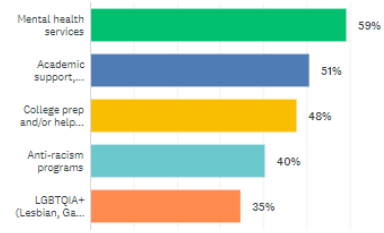
Chelsea



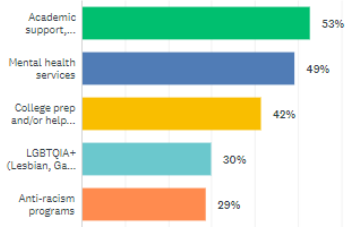
White Students



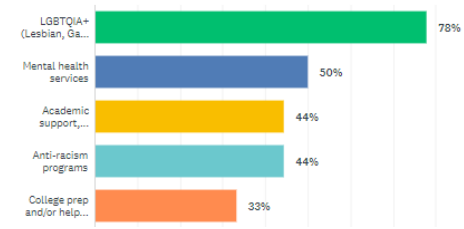
Woman/Transgender Woman



Dexter

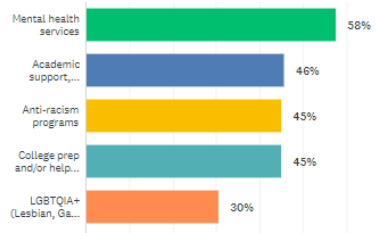


Non-binary

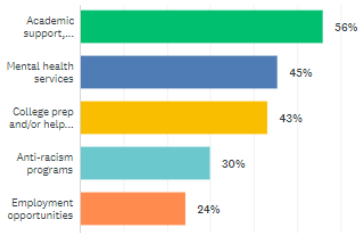


- When looking at the top needed services/programs identified by community, mental health services topped the list in Ann Arbor, Chelsea, and Saline, but academic support was the top response in Dexter and Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township.

Saline

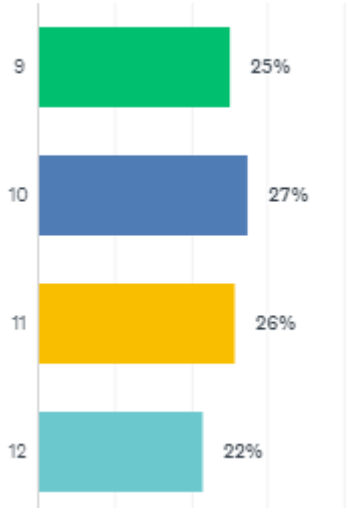


Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township



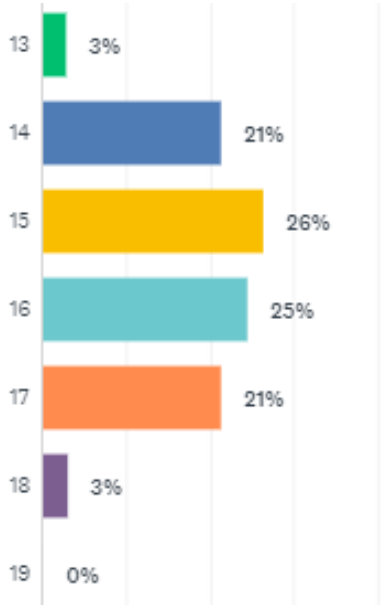
- LGBTQIA+ services were identified as a need by 50% of respondents in Chelsea but less than a third in other communities and it did not make the top five needs identified by students in Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township.
- Anti-racism programs were identified as a need by 45% of Saline and Chelsea students; fewer students identified this as a need in Ann Arbor, Dexter, and Ypsilanti.
- 56% of White students identified mental health services as a need as compared to 47% of Students of Color.
- Mental health services were identified as a need by 59% of women/transgender women and 50% of non-binary students, as compared to 37% of men/transgender men.
- Job training and employment opportunities made the top 5 list for men/transgender men but did not do so for women/transgender women nor non-binary students.
- LGBTQIA+ services were identified as a need by 78% of non-binary students; this was far higher than for women/transgender women and men/transgender men.

Q5 What grade are you in? Answered: 1,111 Skipped: 51

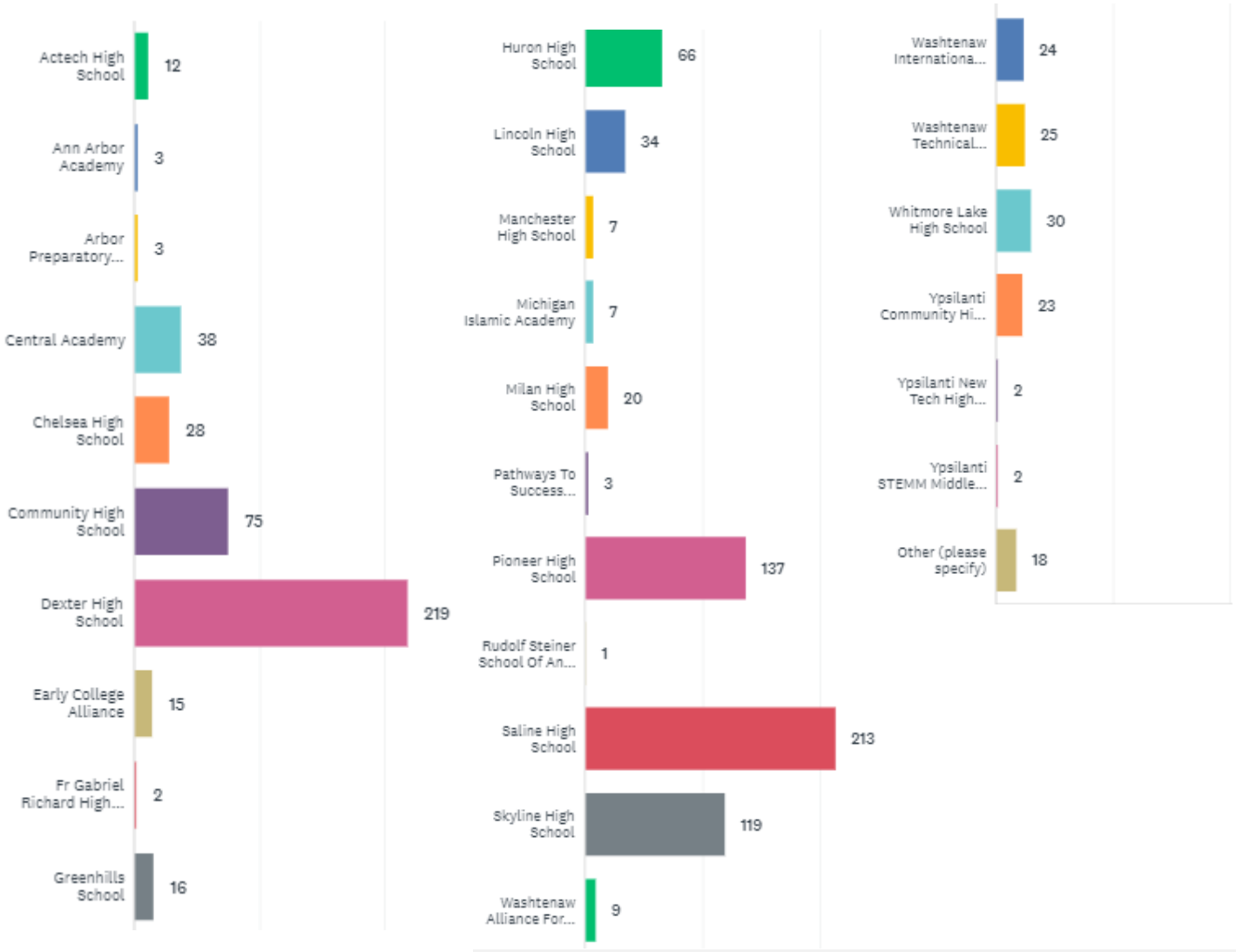


The distribution of survey responses was relatively equal among different grades and different ages (14-17). There were slightly more students in middle high school grades and ages, but not significantly more so.

Q6 What is your age? Answered: 1,156 Skipped: 6



Q7 What school do you attend? Answered: 1,151 Skipped: 11



OTHER

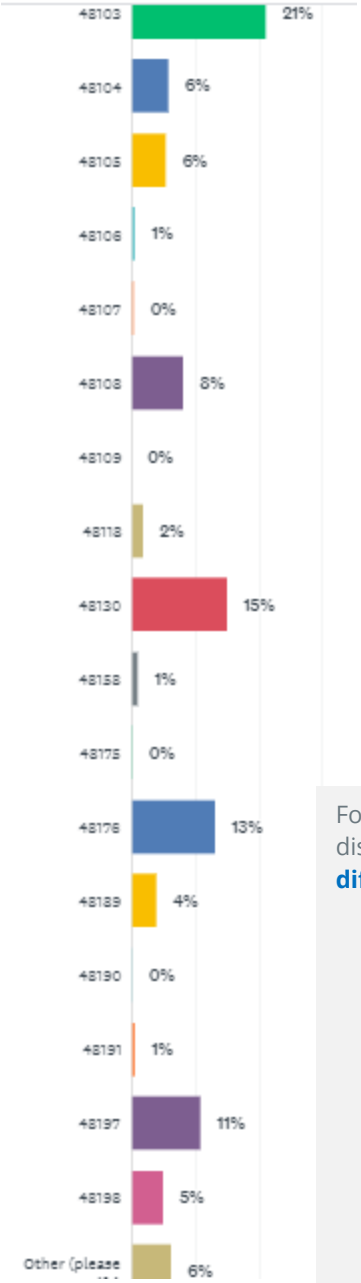
- Mill Creek Middle School (11)
- ACCE (2)
- Detroit Catholic Central High School (2)
- ACCE
- ECA@EMU
- Michigan State University
- Whitmore Lake High School

There is a disproportionate number of respondents from Dexter and Community High Schools and limited survey respondents from Lincoln, Pioneer, and Huron High Schools.

2019-2020 WISD Data - the high school students population sizes of the largest high schools in Washtenaw County	The schools with the largest number of survey respondents:
Pioneer 1952	Dexter 219
Saline 1732	Saline 213
Huron 1633	Pioneer 137
Skyline 1395	Skyline 119
Dexter 1186	Community 75
Lincoln 1066	Huron 66

A surprising number of middle school students completed the survey.

Q8 What is the zip code where you primarily live? Answered: 1,141 Skipped: 21



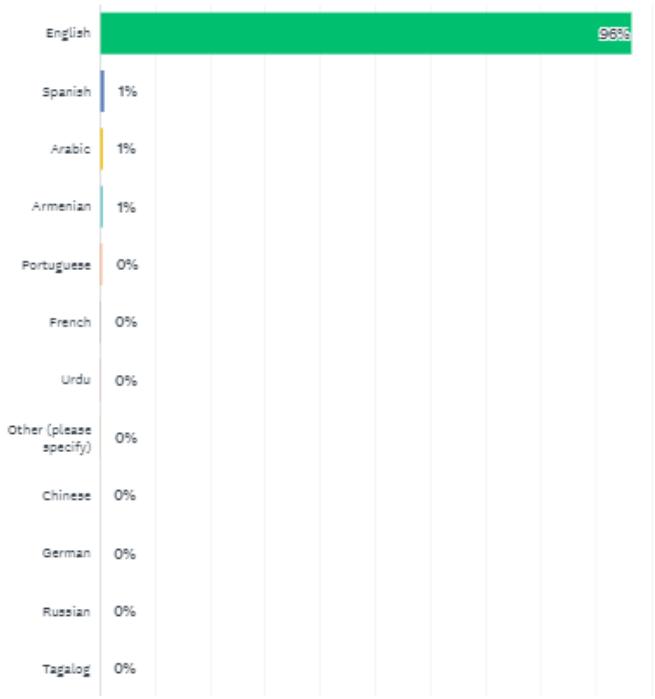
OTHER

- 48111 (10)
- 48116 (4)
- 48127
- 48130 (4)
- 48137 (3)
- 48154
- 48160 (17)
- 48164
- 48169 (4)
- 48170
- 48174
- 48176 (2)
- 48178 (3)
- 48186
- 48187 (3)
- 48188 (4)
- 48239
- 48336
- 48374
- 48760
- 49236
- 49240
- 49270
- 49286
- Don't remember/Don't know (3)

For the purposes of this survey analysis, several zip codes were combined and referred to as distinct communities. **This is an oversimplification that is merely being used to call out differences between the communities.**

- The most populous community in Washtenaw is Ann Arbor (zip codes 48103 - 48108). 335 respondents were from these zip codes or 29% of the people who answered this question.
- There were 22 respondents from 48118 (2%). They are referred to in charts elsewhere in this report as Chelsea.
- There were 171 respondents from 48130 (15%). They are referred to in charts elsewhere in this report as Dexter. Dexter had a population of 4,603 in 2018.
- There were 151 respondents from 48176 (13%). They are referred to in charts elsewhere in this report as Saline.
- 48197 and 48198 were combined and referred to as Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township. There were 181 respondents from these zip codes, or 16% of the overall survey respondents.
- There were 10 responses from students in 48111 – a zip code in Wayne County.

Q9. In what language do you speak most fluently? Answered: 1,157 Skipped: 5

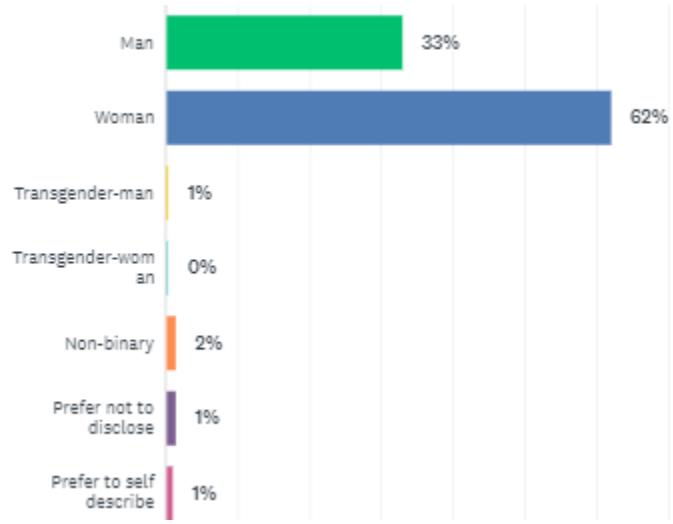


OTHER

- English
- Konkani
- Tamil and English

42 survey respondents in total indicated that they speak a language other than English most fluently.

Q10 What best describes your gender? Answered: 1,156 Skipped: 6

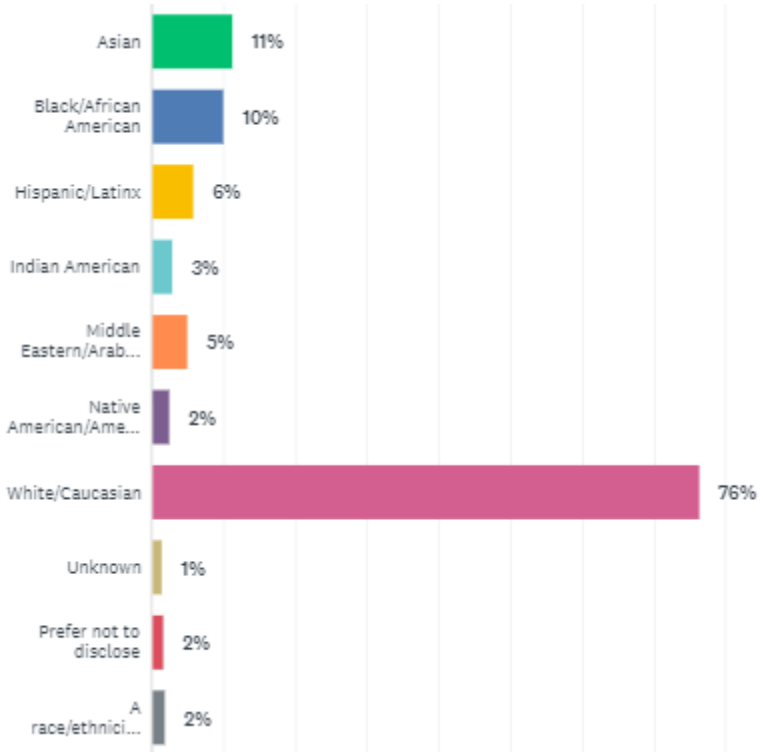


There are nearly double the number of high-school aged women as compared to high-school aged men that completed the survey.

PREFER TO SELF DESCRIBE

- Boy
- Transgender He/Him and they/them (I think its called demigender) also I don't want my parents to know that I think I'm transgender yet
- stud
- Hu-man with a ge after u
- She/they
- Transsexual male
- She/They
- Gender - Fluid
- transgender man, though not entirely binary. somewhat genderfluid
- Agender
- Demigirl
- woman, but questioning—have been trying she/they pronouns recently
- Identify as female, will use all pronouns

Q11 Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic background? Select all that apply. Answered: 1,159 Skipped: 3



A RACE/ETHNICITY NOT LISTED ABOVE

- irish
- Hispanic/American
- British
- Hawaiian and filipino
- I'm mixed race
- Ashkenazi
- Scottish, Romanian, Irish
- mixed
- Pacific Islander
- Some traces of scottish, ando other european things
- White/Greek
- Indian
- jewish
- Trinidadian
- Autistic
- Romanian
- Greek
- White/Italian
- Italian
- South-Asian American
- Mixed (Mexican and African American)

This chart (below) of the racial/ethnic breakdown of Washtenaw County from the US Census does not have the exact same categories used in the Youth Assessment. However, it does serve as a rough comparison and shows that the racial/ethnic breakdown of students that completed the survey is similar to what is seen across the county.

White alone, percent	74%
Black or African American alone, percent	12%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	0%
Asian alone, percent	9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0%
Two or More Races, percent	4%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	70%