COMMUNITY OUTREACH SURVEY

SUMMARY REPORT

Compiled by the Partnership for Youth Development
September 2014

Introduction

The YouthShift Community Outreach survey provided community members a direct way to give feedback on the YouthShift Blueprint and the draft components of a citywide vision for youth success. The survey was developed and reviewed by the YouthShift Steering Committee and disseminated to individuals who were engaged through the YouthShift community engagement strategy described in the Blueprint. It was also featured in Partnership for Youth Development's special announcements, Facebook updates, and available via PYD's website from June 23rd through August 18th 2014.

The survey captured opinions on the overall vision and goals of YouthShift and the priority areas and local conditions identified by local youth systems stakeholders. While the survey was not representative of all youth systems stakeholders nor of the community as a whole, it did broaden the points of view represented in YouthShift and will inform the work moving forward. The data is representative only of those who responded to the survey. The number of respondents per question varies depending on how many people chose to respond to each question.

Additional feedback has been received through the YouthShift community engagement strategy and will be included in the revised YouthShift Blueprint to be released this Fall. For more information visit nolayouth.org, or email youthshift@nolayouth.org.

Respondents

- 74 responses; 46 semi-completed; 28 complete
- 4 responses summarized feedback from a group presentation
- 40 reported attending a presentation
- 30 reported hearing about YouthShift on their own
- 13 respondents chose to remain anonymous

Organizations Responding

Agenda for Children	The Data Center
Urban League of Greater New Orleans-Project Ready	Mos Chukma Arts AS Healing/Dr.King Charter School
Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans	swamplily, llc.
Royal Castle CDC	College Track
Crescent City Media Group/BMBI	Institute for Quality & Equity in Education at Loyola
504HealthNet	Partnership for Youth Development
Youth Empowerment Project	Tulane University HSC
Accelerated Career Education	New Orleans Museum of Art
Freret Neighborhood Center	Trinity Christian Community
the COOL Cooperative	Start the Adventure in Reading-STAIR
New Orleans Kids Partnership	Brickman Nonprofit Solutions
GNOF	Girls On The Run New Orleans
Total Community Action	New Orleans Public Library
BreakOUT!	Recovery School District
Opportunity Youth Coalition	

Aspirational Goal Statements

- 37 of 39 respondents agree or strongly agree that their hopes and desires for NOLA youth are reflected in the list of YouthShift goals.

Comments:

- The goals seem very comprehensive.
- Many of these seem to overlap.
- Goals are broad and probably difficult to measure.

41 respondents listed the five goal statements that they believe are most important. In order of frequency, those listed most often were:

Acting together to ensure all youth and children in New Orleans

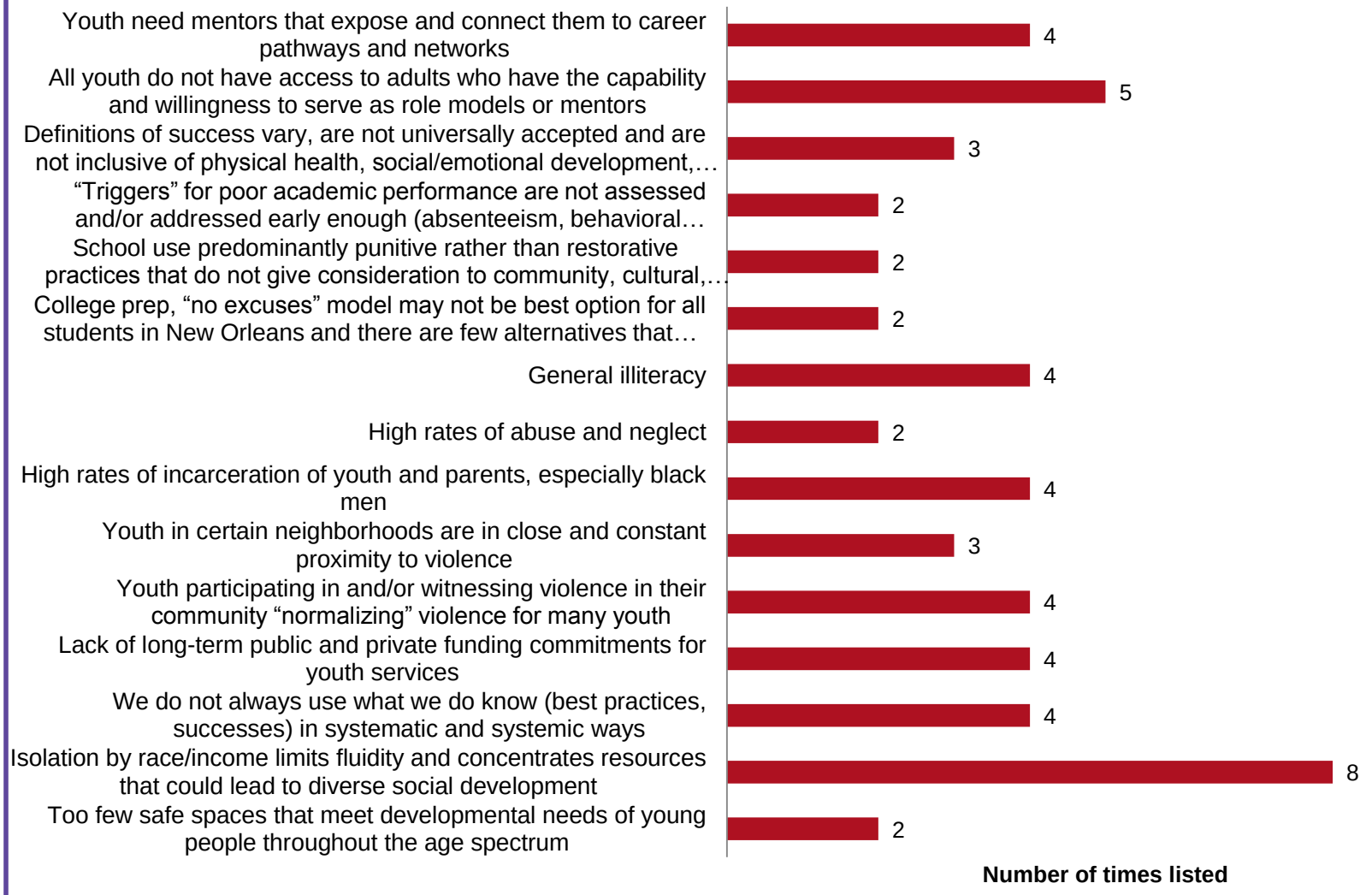
1. Experience equity regarding access to opportunities, resources, and information
2. Live, learn, work, and play in healthy environments
3. Demonstrate proficiency and achieve academic success
4. Are physically and mentally safe
5. Have positive, supportive relationships within their communities
6. Progress along the continuum of emotional development, demonstrating appropriate self-regulation, self-control, and self-identity
7. Are free from violence but if they come into contact with the juvenile justice system, the contact is rare, fair, and provides opportunity for future success
8. Have the soft and technical skills necessary to succeed in sustainable careers
9. Are confident, competent, and hopeful
10. Are significantly literate to succeed in the work force

Local Conditions

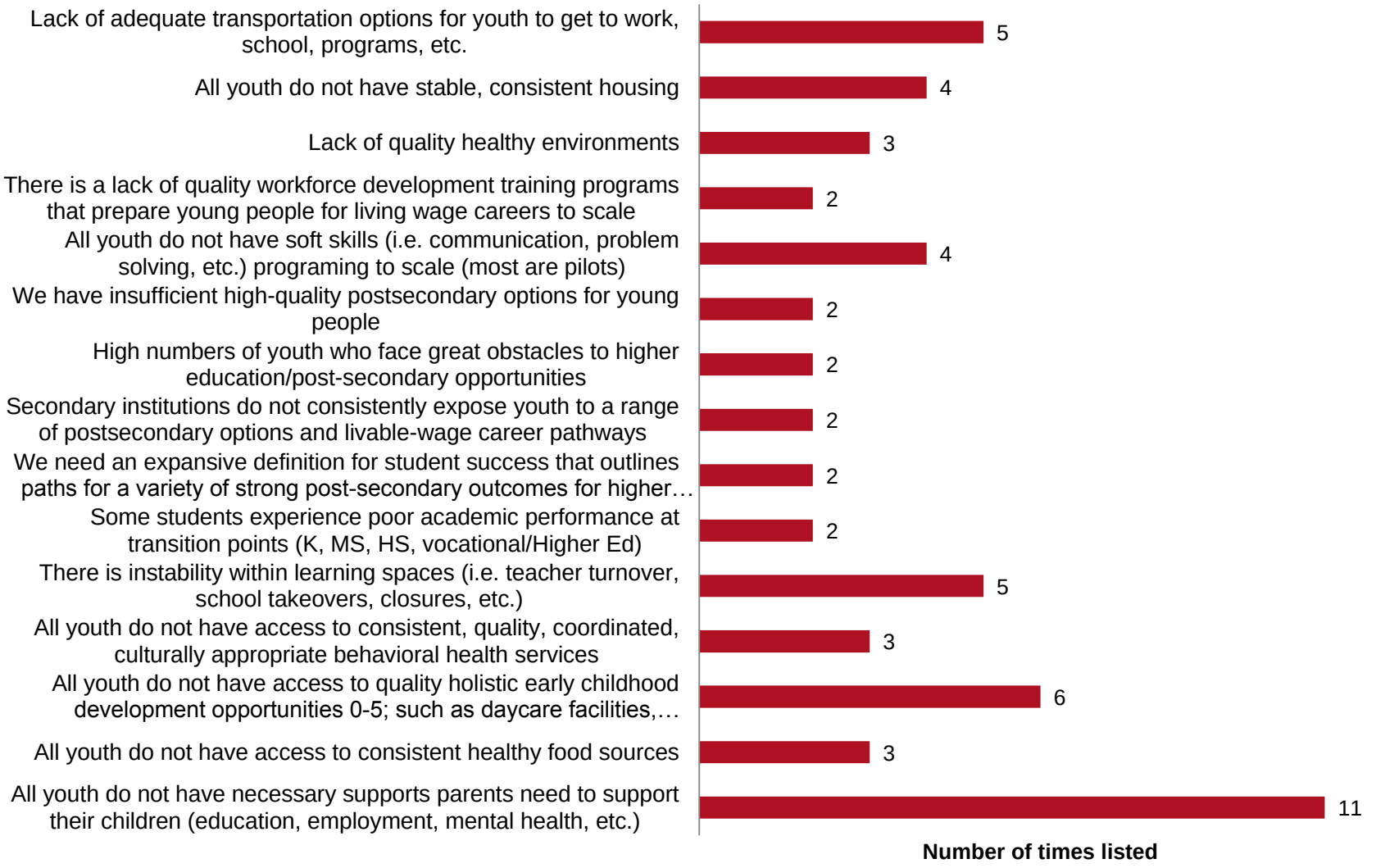
Developed through a group problem analysis process, local conditions are meant to reflect the features of community life that are contributing to the problems and hindering the community from realizing its aspirations- the specific conditions that keep children and youth from realizing positive youth outcomes. They are meant to set the stage for action. Respondents were presented with 70 local conditions that are perceived to exist in New Orleans.

- 26 of the 27 respondents agree or strongly agree that the local conditions accurately reflect the challenges that impact young people in New Orleans.
- Only 10 respondents gave feedback on local conditions within a specific priority area, but responses did not indicate strong disagreement with any particular local condition.
- Respondents were asked which Local Conditions they think are the most important in order for all youth in New Orleans to succeed, and to list the corresponding number. Respondents had the opportunity to list up to five local conditions. 25 of the 75 respondents completed this question. The following tables reflect the local conditions listed more than once.

Local Conditions by Perceived Importance



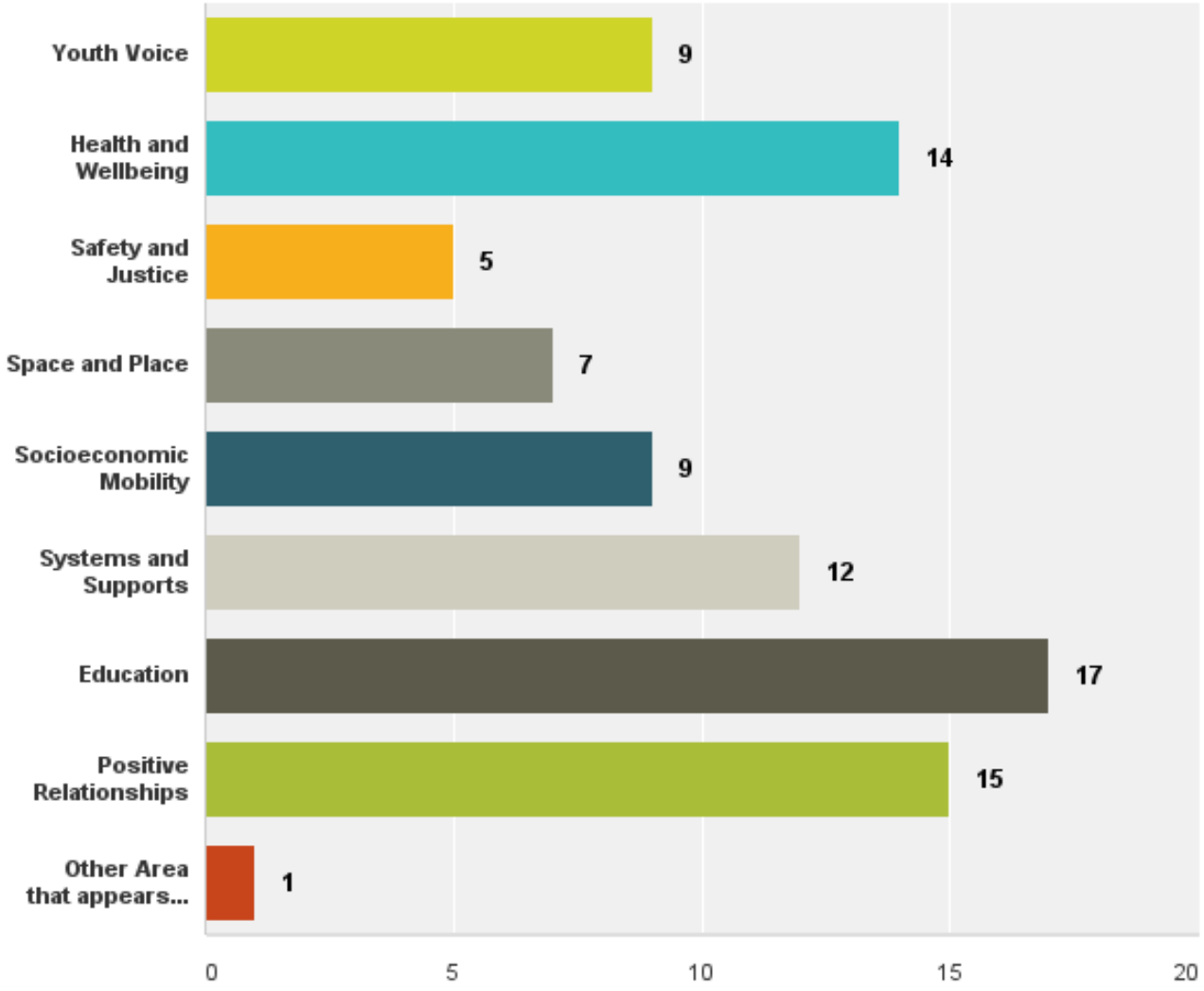
Local Conditions by Perceived Importance



Participating in YouthShift

- 25 of 27 responses agreed or strongly agreed that the implementation of YouthShift will move the community in a direction they believe the community should be going.
- 23 of 27 responses agreed or strongly agreed that their personal and/or organization's work can and will contribute to the goals and priorities of YouthShift.

Respondents were also asked to identify the Priority Areas in which they see their work contributing most significantly:



Local Condition Write-ins

In addition to listing the five local conditions they thought were the most important, respondents had the opportunity to name things that seemed to be missing. The unedited write-ins were:

- Parents lack of trust in school system(s) that are an unstable, moving target(s)
- There is very little publicly funded early care & education available, which puts most high-quality early care and education programs beyond the financial reach of most low- and moderate-income families.
- Families with children with special needs continue to struggle to find schools that can adequately meet their children's needs.
- I know 30 gets at it, but I think we need to be more explicit about how hundreds of years of racism and racist policies have resulted in a city where opportunity and assets are very unevenly distributed.
- Insufficient local business engagement on challenges facing youth
- Restrictive terms of probation and parole, dearth of community/restorative justice programs (Lack of alternatives to incarceration in general)
- Lack of access to empowering technological tools
- Our children start behind; therefore as I indicated earlier, they need a better start in life! Better early care, and social/emotional development
- The need to grow up in more economically secure environments!
- The decentralized system of charter schools has reached it ceiling; there is not much more room for it to improve educational outcomes and therefore longer-term conditions.
- Parents are not educated on child development and on how not to resort to harsh discipline
- Single parent households is a major problem - African American children need to grow up in 2-parent households. That is, fathers need to be present physically, emotionally, and financially.