



Moses Jackson Community Center

2008 Westside Needs Assessment



Prepared by:
City of Savannah – Bureau of Public Development
Community Planning & Development/Community Services Departments
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Moses Jackson Family Advancement Center

2008 Neighborhood Service Area Needs Assessment

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I. INTRODUCTION

Expanding the One-Stop Service Model to Westside Neighborhoods

As part of its strategic plan and mission, the Youth Futures Authority created the St. Pius X Family Resource Center, a neighborhood-based, family-centered facility which houses a multitude of social service programs under one roof, to assist families in need. Located at 705 East Anderson Street in Savannah, Georgia, the St. Pius X Center has served as a central neighborhood nucleus for families since its beginning in 1994. Through this “one-stop” service delivery model, the St. Pius X Center has been a primary contributor to the well-being of families and children of neighborhoods in Savannah’s urban core.

With the success of the Family Resource Center model in the central city and the long-range plan to duplicate the model in other high need areas of the city, in the Fall of 2007 the Savannah City Council approved the design and development of a similar model to serve westside residents. Subsequent to City Council’s approval, the Public Development Bureau’s Community Planning & Development/Community Services Department was assigned program research, design and development functions for the new center model.

The neighborhood facility identified as the site for the new one-stop model is the Moses Jackson Community Center, located at 1410 Richards Street in the West Savannah neighborhood. The Moses Jackson Center is a City-owned neighborhood center that is home to a number of City Leisure Services Bureau programs, a Golden Age Center, and the Lady Bamford Early Childhood Education Center. While the facility is located in the West Savannah neighborhood, programs would be initially targeted to serve a five neighborhood service catchment area, to include: West Savannah, Hudson Hill/Bayview-Clearview, Woodville, Carver Heights/Brickyard, and Cloverdale.

The Family “Advancement” Center Concept

Since the Family Resource Center’s beginnings, the City of Savannah’s understanding of issues affecting lower income families and its efforts to work with families to address a myriad of socio-economic issues have evolved and expanded over time. Most notable has been City Council’s identification of Poverty Reduction as a central priority of the Administration, and its aggressive pursuit of programs and initiatives which directly assist families in not only connecting to supportive services but also in removing barriers to economic advancement.

Building upon the core tenets of the St. Pius Family Resource Center “one-stop” model, the City Council priorities, and the best aspects of multiple local, state and national programs, the proposed model under development for the Moses Jackson neighborhood-based center is the creation of a multi-faceted Family “Advancement” Center. The center would provide multiple services under one roof as well as outside referrals, to assist families with the specific needs of their households. The overarching goal, however, would be to enlist families in a long-range

commitment to “family advancement.” The program would be individually-tailored to each family and include the development of Family Advancement Plans, targeting *specific* action steps to tackle *specific* barriers experienced by household members. Families also would be linked to a support network of fellow participants, program staff and “community support coaches” who would encourage, motivate, check on and hold accountable participating families who have expressed the desire to change the future for their families. Outcomes or “advancement goals and milestones” would be measured through a uniform, family-specific reporting and performance tracking system.

The 2008 Westside Needs Assessment

To ensure all proposed programs associated with the new Family Advancement Center are able to meet the specific needs of westside families, a five-tiered needs assessment research process was undertaken in the westside target service area over a four month period. The five-tiered process included:

- Assembly and analysis of available household, youth and neighborhood statistical data for the targeted service area.
- Completion and analysis of a Household Needs Assessment Survey undertaken by individual westside households.
- Coordination and analysis of a Community Leaders Assessment of Westside Needs.
- Coordination and analysis of a Service Providers Assessment of Westside Needs.
- Coordination and analysis of a series of neighborhood-based Youth Focus Groups, to elicit youth feedback regarding youth crime & safety issues as well as youth development needs.

The Household Needs Assessment

A seven-paged Household Needs Assessment questionnaire was developed to elicit the experiences and needs of individual westside households along a continuum of issues, to include: neighborhood crime and safety, social services needs, health care services needs, senior and disabled services needs, youth needs (youth crime and safety and youth development), adult employment and education needs, and income and financial needs.

To identify families willing to participate in the lengthy survey questionnaire and openly share quite personal information about household issues and experiences, it was necessary to secure the support and involvement of neighborhood, church and community leaders to work along with Neighborhood Coordinators to identify families. Through the personal visits and phone calls of trusted family members, friends, community leaders, and City staff, a total of 369 families agreed to participate in the survey. Of this number, however, 35 surveys were invalidated due to non-responses to a significant portion of the survey instrument or a later determination that respondents lived outside of the westside service area boundaries. The final number of valid surveys totaled 334, and a presentation of these survey findings is presented in the remaining sections of this report.

The Community Leader and Service Provider Assessments of Needs

Community leaders and service providers answered similar questions to the households that completed the survey; however, specific questions were framed from a “service delivery” standpoint, rather than the more personal “experiences”-styled questions asked of household respondents. On March 24 and March 27, 2008, the Community Planning and Development Department hosted sessions at the Moses Jackson Community Center with area community leaders and social services providers, respectively. Staff shared the Moses Jackson Family Advancement Center concept, based on the Family Resource Center one-stop model, and the westside needs assessment research that was underway. During the sessions, both survey groups completed questionnaires which included not only basic information about their organizations and interest in partnering but also feedback on the primary needs of families in westside neighborhoods. These groups also provided feedback on the perceived ability of local services to meet a variety of needs. A total of 37 community leaders and 28 separate service agencies completed surveys. The outcomes of these surveys are presented throughout this report.

The Youth Focus Groups

A series of Youth Focus Groups were held over a four week period in each of the five target neighborhoods. Community Services staff facilitated the after-school focus groups at neighborhood community centers and libraries within the neighborhoods, per the following completed schedule:

- Woodville: Woodville Community Center on April 8, 2008.
- West Savannah: Moses Jackson Center on April 11, 2008.
- Hudson Hill/Clearview-Bayview: Hudson Hill Center on April 16, 2008.
- Carver Heights: Carver Heights Center on May 5, 2008.
- Cloverdale: Forest City Library on May 7, 2008.

During breakout sessions, youth input regarding youth crime and safety issues, youth development needs, and proposed services for their parents and families was solicited. Youths individually and collectively identified issues of concern as well as their development needs. The outcomes of neighborhood youths will be presented in great detail in the Youth Needs section of this report.

II. RESEARCH FINDINGS

The following sections detail the research findings of the Community Planning and Development Department regarding the Westside neighborhoods that make up the Moses Jackson Family Advancement Center target service area. Demographic data for the study area originates from household survey responses as well as U.S. Census data (2000). Crime statistics were derived from the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department's Annual Neighborhood Crime Statistics report unless otherwise noted. School performance data originates from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement and the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, unless otherwise noted.

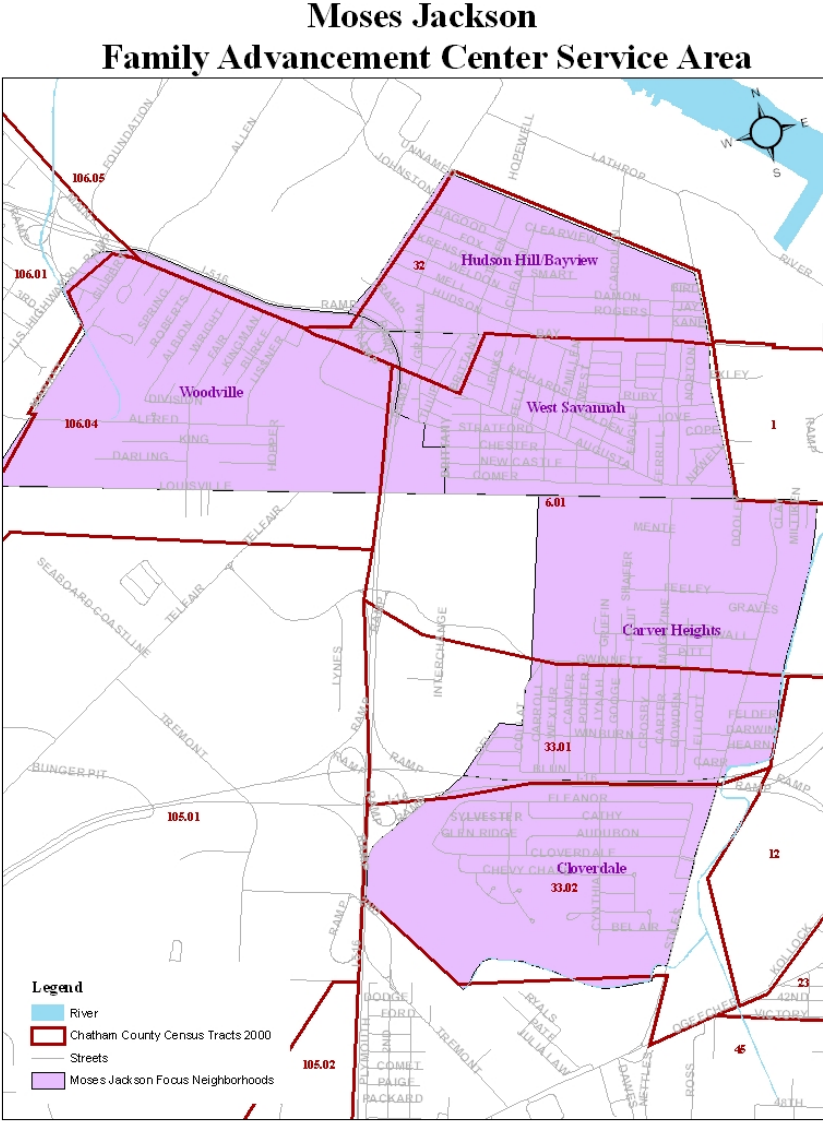
When reviewing the content of this report as it relates to *survey data only*, it is important to note that the total number of responses can differ from section to section, where certain sections either did not apply to a particular respondent's household, scenarios were not experienced by the household, or the respondent felt the questions were too invasive. For example, households that did not have a senior or disabled person in the household generally did not respond to questions in the "Senior and Disabled Services Needs" section of the questionnaire. Likewise, 15% of household respondents opted out of sharing their personal financial habits and challenges of the last year.

Survey outcomes are presented based upon the actual number of respondents who answered the question. For reference, the total number of respondents for each section is provided throughout the report.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The Moses Jackson Family Advancement Center will target an immediate service catchment area of five westside neighborhoods. These neighborhoods include: Carver Heights, Cloverdale, Hudson Hill/Bayview-Clearview, West Savannah and Woodville. These neighborhoods coincide with Census Tracts 6.01, 32, 33.01, 33.02, and 106.04. The map below shows the area in more detail, with census tract boundaries in bold.

Figure A-1: Family Advancement Center - Service Area Map



Population

The westside neighborhoods in the Moses Jackson service area make up nearly 8% of the City of Savannah’s total population. From 1990 to 2000 the westside population decreased nearly 15%, according to U.S. Census figures. (Table A-1) The majority of this westside population loss during the 1990’s can likely be attributed to the relocation of residents from two Housing Authority of Savannah (HAS) home sites, including Bartow and Fellwood Homes.

It is likely that this Westside population decline has continued since 2000 with the final vacancy and demolition of Fellwood Homes. However, there has more recently been some infill housing construction throughout the target area, and continued new construction is slated for the future with the development of Sustainable Fellwood.

Table A-1

Census: Population	Westside		Savannah city	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total Population	11,839	10,103	137,557	132,985

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population, SF3 data (CT 6.01, 32, 33.01, 33.02, 106.04)

Note: 2000 U.S. Census population total listed for Savannah (city) includes Census Challenge results.

The neighborhoods in the service area all experienced a decrease in population in the decade between 1990 and 2000. Hudson Hill had the greatest decline, losing close to 25% of its population. Woodville experienced the least, losing only 9.7% of its population. The rate of decline in the remaining neighborhoods was similar to the area as a whole.

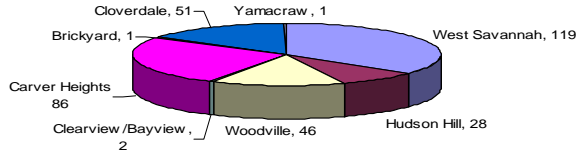
Table A-2

Census: Population by Neighborhood	Total Population	
	1990	2000
Carver Heights (including Brickyard)	2,298	2,017
Cloverdale	2,238	1,791
Hudson Hill/Bayview (including Clearview)	1,531	1,149
West Savannah	4,544	4,037
Woodville	1,228	1,109

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Figure A-2

**Households:
Neighborhood of Residence**



n: 334

Among household survey respondents, the neighborhood with the most households surveyed was West Savannah, followed by Carver Heights, Cloverdale, Woodville, and Hudson Hill, respectively. The majority of the respondents in the household survey were long-term residents of the neighborhoods in which they reside, at twenty-five or more years. (Table A-3) The second largest group was the relative “newcomers” to the neighborhood, at five years or less. The fact that many of the respondents have lived in the neighborhood for quite some time provided additional historical perspective regarding neighborhood and household issues.

Table A-3
Household Survey Respondents: Years of Neighborhood Residency

Years of Residency	Total # of Households	Percentage of Respondents
0-5 Years	41	12.3%
6-10 Years	18	5.4%
11-15 Years	30	8.9%
16-20 Years	34	10.2%
21-25 Years	37	11.1%
25+ Years	156	46.7%
No Response	18	5.4%

n:334

Age

Age groups and the comparative percentage of the population they comprise in westside neighborhoods match the city totals fairly closely, with a few notable exceptions. There appears to be a stark contrast in the young adult population. In the westside neighborhoods, young adults aged 20 to 34 years make up only about 15% of the total population, while the young adult population of the city as a whole accounts for nearly 25% of the total population. (Table A-4) Youths aged 0 to 19 years make up a slightly higher percentage of the total westside population as compared with the city total. Further, the middle age populations are nearly equal percentages, while the westside actually has a considerably higher percentage of senior adults.

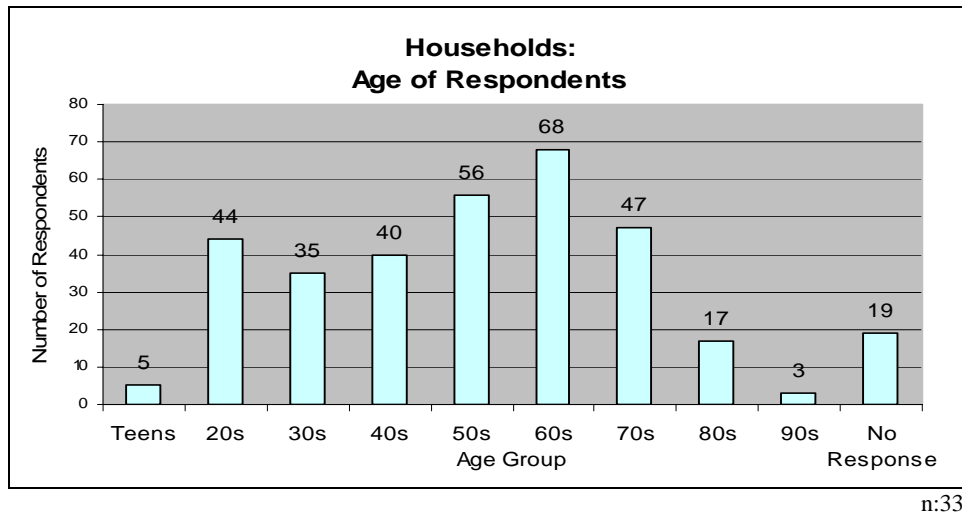
Table A-4

Census: Age Group as Percent of Pop.	Westside		Savannah city	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Youth 0-19 years	3,180	31.5%	38,311	29.1%
Young Adult 20-34 years	1,559	15.4%	32,072	24.4%
Middle Age 35-59 years	2,908	28.8%	38,943	29.6%
Senior Adult 60+ years	2,456	24.3%	22,184	16.9%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Among household survey respondents, 40% were 60 years of age or older, while 54% were below the age of 60. (Figure A-3) Most notable is the strong representation of household respondents between the ages of 18 and 40. A total of 84 respondents, or 25%, were in this age range, providing feedback from an often under-represented population in many neighborhood associations.

Figure A-3



Gender

As a total, men represent 44% of the population of the Westside and females represent 56%. A majority of household survey respondents were women, at 68%. The number of female survey respondents is higher than the percentage of women in the westside. However, it should be noted that westside neighborhoods have a much higher percentage of female-headed households than the city as a whole, making this group a key target group for additional outreach. This population segment will be discussed in greater detail in the following section.

Table A-5

Gender	Household Respondents	Westside (2000 Census)
Male	31%	44%
Female	68%	56%
No Response	1%	

n:334

Household Marital Status

According to the 2000 Census data, the westside neighborhoods have a higher percentage of family households with fewer married-couple families than the city population, at 32.2% and 36.6% respectively. (Table A-6) The greatest difference in the comparative data would be the percentage of female-headed households in the Moses Jackson Family Advancement Center target service area. Nearly one in three households in the westside neighborhoods (31.9%) are headed by a single female with no husband present, compared with one in five for the city population, at 20.9%.

Table A-6

Census: Households by type	Westside		Savannah city	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households	3,817	-	51,378	-
Family Households	2,622	68.7%	31,586	61.5%
Married-couple households	1,228	32.2%	18,813	36.6%
Male-Headed, no wife	178	4.7%	2,021	3.9%
Female-Headed, no husband	1,216	31.9%	10,752	20.9%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

The number of female-headed households becomes especially significant when young children are present in the family. As Table A-7 below indicates, in the city of Savannah, one half of all children are in single-parent families. In the westside neighborhoods, two of every three children are in single-parent homes, with the overwhelming majority in single female-headed families (64%). The significance of these numbers is not limited to changing family structures, but more importantly, is tied directly to family economic standing and poverty status. Of children in single female-headed families, more than half (54%) are living below the poverty line. The city fares little better with almost half (47%) of children in single female families living in poverty. The numbers are drastically different for children in married-couple families, where only one in ten or fewer children live in poverty. Even single male-headed families fare much better, at 38% and 23% of children in poverty for the westside and city respectively. There should be great concern for single mother's with young children living in the westside.

Table A-7

Census: Children in Poverty & Family Status	Westside		Savannah city	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Children under 18	2,013	-	27,331	-
In Married-couple family	628	31.0%	13,514	49.0%
Percent below poverty	-	10.1%	-	8.3%
In Single Male family	106	5.0%	1,478	5.0%
Percent below poverty	-	37.7%	-	22.7%
In Single Female family	1,385	64.0%	12,339	45.0%
Percent below poverty	-	54.1%	-	46.8%
Total percent children below poverty		42.0%		25.5%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

School-Aged Children

The youth populations within each Westside neighborhood make up varying percentages of the total neighborhood populations. (Table A-8) For instance, the youth population in the Cloverdale neighborhood accounts for 24.7% of the total population, well below the youth population percentage in the city of 29.1%. Conversely, in the Woodville neighborhood, youths account for 37.1% of the total population, well above the city total. Each of the other neighborhoods falls between this range, but still above the percentage of youth citywide.

Table A-8

Census: Youth as Percent of Population by Neighborhood	Youth (age 0-19)
Carver Heights (CT 6.01, BG 5; CT 33.01, BG 1,2,3)	31.3%
Cloverdale (CT 33.02, BG 1,2)	24.7%
Hudson Hill/Bayview (CT 32, BG 1,2)	32.3%
West Savannah (CT 6.01, BG 1,2,3,4,5)	34.3%
Woodville (CT 106.04, BG 1)	37.1%
Savannah city	29.1%

Westside data from Census Tracts 6.01, 32, 33.01, 33.02, 106.04
Source: Youth Futures Authority

Household survey respondents reported a total of 198 school-aged children. The breakdown of school-aged children appears below in Table A-9, with the majority of children in high school, followed by middle school.

Table A-9

Household Respondents: School-aged Children	Number
Infant/Pre-school	23
Elementary	49
Middle School	61
High School	65
Total Number of School-Aged Children Reported	198

n:334

Housing

Housing data reveals that housing in the westside is remarkably similar to the entire city. Housing vacancy rates are nearly the same at 12% and 11% for the westside and city, respectively. The financial constraints that renters and owners face are similar, with a slightly higher percentage of Westside owners and renters paying more than the recommended 30% of net household income on housing.

The greatest difference between the westside and city populations is the higher percentage of owner-occupied units in the westside neighborhoods. The other notable difference is the dominant home owner age group for westside neighborhoods. At 65 to 74 years of age, the

dominant homeowner age group in the westside is 20 years older than the dominant homeowner age group in the city, at 45 to 54 years of age. With homeownership the single most significant asset of U.S. households, significant attention is needed to increase homeownership among young and middle-age adults in westside neighborhoods, if affordable.

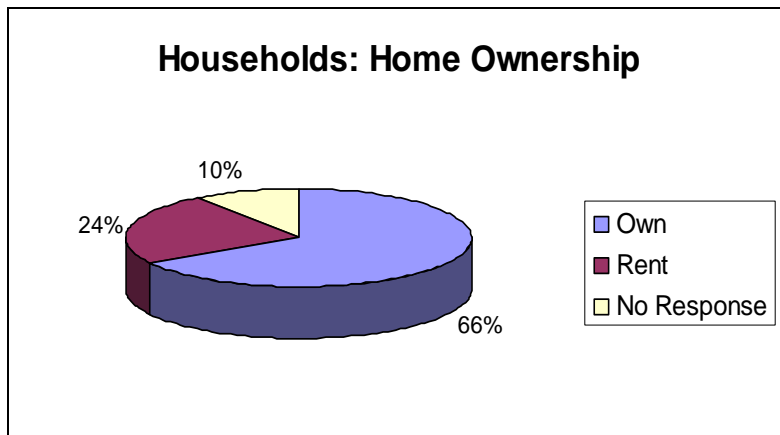
Table A-10

Census: Housing	Westside		Savannah city	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	4,280	-	57,496	-
Vacant Housing Units	498	12.0%	6,070	11.0%
Occupied Housing Units	3,782	88.0%	51,426	89.0%
Owner occupied units	2,297	54.0%	25,888	45.0%
Renter occupied units	1,485	35.0%	25,538	44.0%
Owners paying more than 30%	682	29.7%	6,757	26.1%
Renters paying more than 30%	680	45.8%	11,415	44.7%
Dominant Owner Group	65 to 74 years		45 to 54 years	
Dominant Renter Group	35 to 44 years		35 to 44 years	
Average monthly gross rent	\$454		\$576	

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Sixty-six percent (66%) of household respondents surveyed reported that they owned their home. This is 12% higher than the 54% owner-occupied housing units noted in the 2000 U.S. Census for the westside area. *Figure A-4* shows the homeownership breakdown among household survey respondents.

Figure A-4



n:334

Race and Ethnicity

From its time as a more rural and sparsely populated area to the Civil Rights era, West Chatham has historically been a racially mixed, if not integrated, community. Following World War II and especially during school integration, the African-American population continually grew as a percentage of the total population.¹ The 2000 U.S. Census figures show the area population as almost exclusively African-American at 98.3% of the total population. These numbers stand out against the city comparison where the black population still made up a majority of the City of Savannah but only at 57%. According to the 2000 Census data, the Hispanic population was just 0.5%, however this is a growing demographic in certain portions of the Westside neighborhoods, and the numbers may not fully represent the current population.

Table A-11

Census: Race & Ethnicity	Household Respondents		Westside		Savannah city	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	334	-	10,103	-	131,510	-
African American	330	98.8%	9,930	98.3%	75,072	57.1%
White	0	-	106	1.1%	51,108	38.9%
Other	3	1.0%	67	0.7%	5,330	4.0%
Hispanic	1	.2%	52	0.5%	2,938	2.2%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

The racial breakdown of household survey respondents nearly matches that of the total westside population identified in the Census. Nearly all of the respondents to the household survey were African-American, with only four identifying their race/ethnicity as other than African-American. One respondent each identified themselves as Hispanic or Other; two respondents identified themselves as American Indian.

¹*Low Land and the High Road*, www.savannahneighborhoods.org

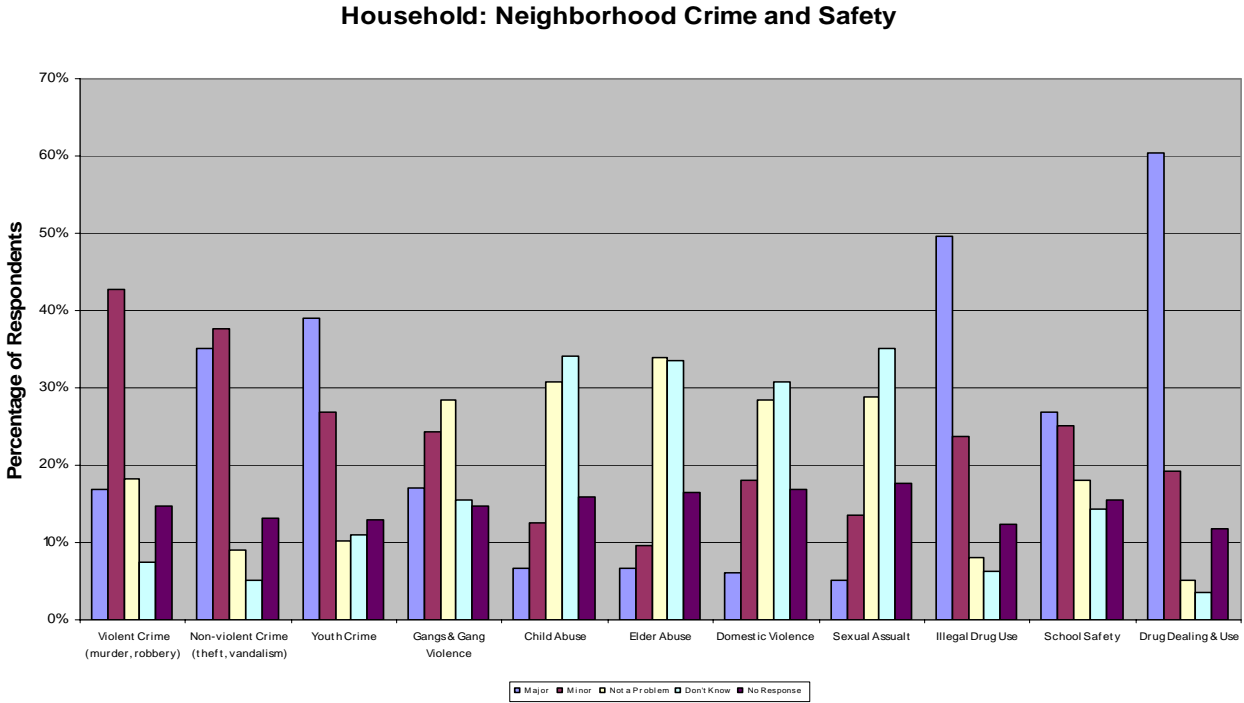
B. NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME AND SAFETY

This section presents the perceptions of household respondents and community leaders to issues of neighborhood crime and safety along with crime data released by the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (SCMPD). Perceptions regarding youth crime issues will be addressed in the Youth Needs section of this report.

Household Feedback

Household survey respondents were asked to consider a series of neighborhood crime and safety issues and to identify those issues as being either a major problem, minor problem, not a problem or don't know. *Figure B-1* below shows the results of the household survey.

Figure B-1

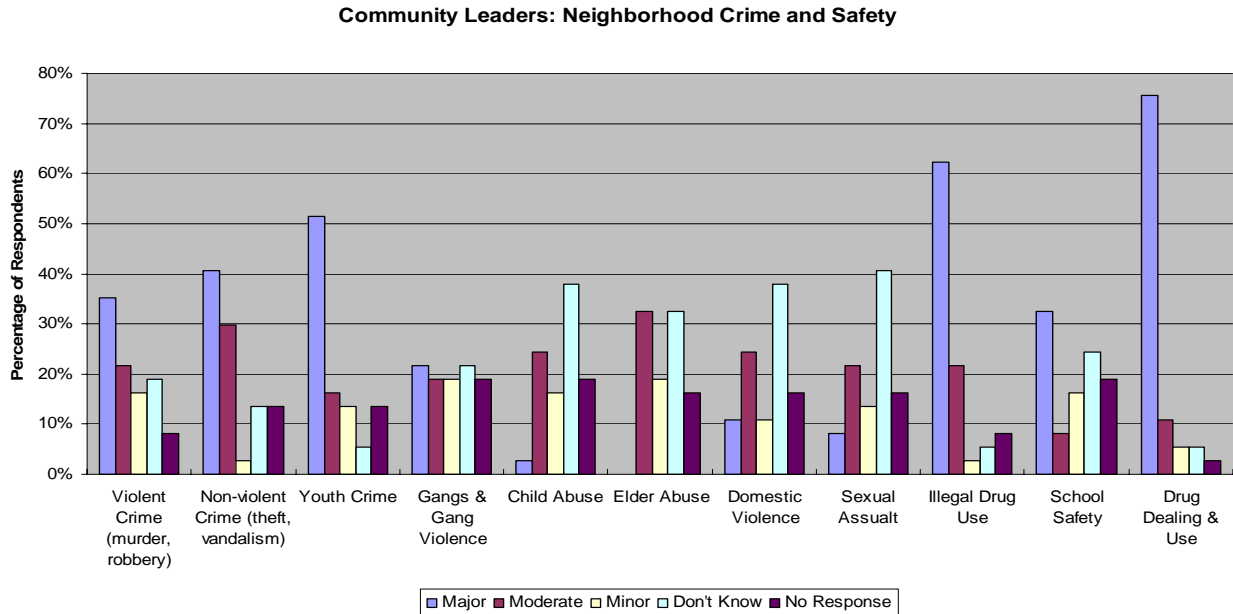


As *Figure B-1* illustrates, respondents overwhelmingly identified drug dealing and illegal drug use as the most serious crime and safety issues in the community, followed by youth crime which is covered in more detail in the Youth Needs Section of the report. A total of 60% of respondents identified drug dealing as a major issue within their neighborhood, while 50% identified illegal drug use as a major issue. Violent and non-violent crimes were identified as concerns by 35-40% of households, but these were seen as minor in relation to neighborhood drug-related crimes. Issues more internal to the home, such as child and elder abuse, domestic violence, and sexual abuse, were identified as either not a problem or respondents stated they did not know enough to make a determination. Gangs and gang violence were not seen as a major issue among the majority of household respondents in the westside service area.

Community Leaders Feedback

Community leaders also were asked to identify crime and safety issues as a major problem, minor problem, not a problem, or don't know. *Figure B-2* below shows the results of the community leaders' responses.

Figure B-2



Most striking is the fact that both community leaders and household survey respondents identified the exact same top three crime issues and in the same order. As with household respondents, the top three major issues most identified among community leaders were drug dealing, drug use, and youth crime. Variations arise when community leaders rated the seriousness of child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Where household respondents identified these issues as not a problem or “don't know,” community leaders identified these issues as moderate problems in the westside service area. This may be due to the broader perspective which community leaders gain by virtue of their leadership and family assistance roles in the community. Community leaders also saw violent and non-violent crime as a major issue among the majority of respondents.

SCMPD Crime Data

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (SCMPD) tracks Part I crime data regularly through weekly precinct reports and incident maps, as well as annual crime reports for each precinct and neighborhood. The annual report was used to gather Part I crime data for the Moses Jackson service area for the past three years (2005-2007). Part I crimes comprise the most serious offenses to include violent crimes, such as homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and serious property crimes, such as burglary, larceny, and auto theft.

According to 2007 data, homicide, rape, robbery, burglary, and auto theft are down overall since 2005, though there has been an increase in crime incidents since 2006. According to the data for the three year period, 2006 had the lowest rate of incidents of Part I crime. By a large margin, however the most common Part I crimes in the target area are property crimes, and specifically larceny and burglary. Overall, property crimes make up 85% of all crime reported in the target area. However, when compared to the entire SCMPD jurisdiction, it is clear that there is a higher rate of violent crime in the five neighborhood target area. The entire SCMPD jurisdiction reported 88% of Part I crimes as property crimes.

When comparing westside crime rates to SCMPD crime data jurisdiction-wide, it is important to note that the five neighborhood westside service area has a population that represents just fewer than 5% of the total population for SCMPD's jurisdiction. However, the targeted service area contributes to jurisdiction totals at a disproportionate rate in the areas of aggravated assault and burglary. Aggravated assault reports in the five neighborhood area accounted for 9.1% of all assaults reported to SCMPD, while burglaries in the target area accounted for 5.4% of all burglaries reported to SCMPD. There is no evidence from the data that would indicate a clear causation for area crimes, whether economic, gang related, or other contributing factors.

Table B-1 *2005-2007 Part I Crimes (SCMPD Data)*

	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Rape</u>	<u>Robbery</u>	<u>Assault</u>	<u>Burglary</u>	<u>Larceny</u>	<u>Auto Theft</u>	<u>Part I Totals</u>
2007	Carver Heights	0	0	4	10	40	48	14	116
	Cloverdale	0	0	0	5	6	24	2	37
	Hudson Hill/Bayview	0	1	15	10	16	60	16	118
	West Savannah	1	0	11	14	47	93	13	179
	Woodsville/Bartow	0	0	3	4	16	37	9	69
	5 Neighborhood total	1	1	33	43	125	262	54	519
	% of W. Chatham total	25%	8%	31%	42%	24%	24%	24%	25%
% of SCMPD total	4.0%	1.3%	4.4%	9.1%	5.4%	4.1%	4.6%	4.6%	
2006	Carver Heights	0	0	12	8	30	48	14	112
	Cloverdale	0	0	0	0	5	26	5	36
	Hudson Hill/Bayview	0	1	14	5	27	54	12	113
	West Savannah	0	0	4	5	40	62	19	130
	Woodsville/Bartow	0	0	4	2	10	32	11	59
	5 Neighborhood total	0	1	34	20	112	222	61	450
	% of W. Chatham total	0%	9%	35%	34%	25%	27%	27%	22%
% of SCMPD total	0.0%	1.5%	4.9%	5.0%	5.5%	3.3%	5.0%	4.1%	
2005	Carver Heights	0	1	7	9	30	54	23	124
	Cloverdale	1	0	0	2	25	23	8	59
	Hudson Hill/Bayview	1	0	20	6	26	58	25	136
	West Savannah	1	2	8	9	33	70	36	159
	Woodsville/Bartow	0	0	4	4	27	36	11	82
	5 Neighborhood total	3	3	39	30	141	241	103	560
	% of W. Chatham total	43%	12%	43%	36%	29%	21%	41%	26%
% of SCMPD total	9.7%	3.5%	6.0%	6.3%	5.5%	3.1%	7.3%	4.3%	

Priority Crime and Safety Issues

As part of the household survey, respondents were asked to identify the top three neighborhood crime and safety issues which they would like to receive the highest priority for action. The following table shows the collective feedback of household respondents. (*Table B-2*) Again, the major theme repeated by households centers upon drug-related activity in the westside.

Table B-2

Households: Top Three Priorities Neighborhood Crime and Safety Issues	
Priority 1	Drug Dealing
Priority 2	Illegal Drug Use
Priority 3	Non-Violent Crime (theft, vandalism, etc.)

n:334

Drug crime in the service area is predominantly associated with the possession of cocaine and marijuana. *Table B-3* below shows the activity by offense for the service area; however, it should be noted that the table does not present total counts of drugs but rather criminal offenses where the incidence of drugs is predominant. Criminal offenses which may involve the presence of drugs are coded under the predominant offense.

Table B-3

Drug Crime Activity 2006- May 2008	
<i>Offense</i>	<i>Number</i>
Amphetamine Manufacture	0
Amphetamine Possession	2
Amphetamine Selling	1
Barbiturate Selling	0
Cocaine Possession	103
Cocaine Selling	58
Dangerous Drugs Free Text	51
Equipment Possession	10
Heroin Free Text	0
Heroin Possession	0
Heroin Selling	0
Marijuana Free Text	0
Marijuana Possession	89
Marijuana Producing	0
Marijuana Selling	18
Marijuana Smuggling	0
Synthetic Narcotic Possession	0
Synthetic Narcotic Selling	0

Source: SCMPD

Cocaine possession is largely cited in Hudson Hill and West Savannah, while Carver Heights had the second highest rate of marijuana possession offenses, though marijuana possession was fairly spread out among all of the neighborhoods. (See Table B-4) The selling of drugs, especially cocaine, was mainly limited to Hudson Hill and West Savannah. The other neighborhoods in the service area had drug sale arrests but nothing more than a handful.

Table B-4

	Drug Offenses by Police Neighborhood						
	Carver Heights	Cloverdale	Hudson Hill/ Bayview	Stiles Avenue	West Savannah	Woodville/ Bartow	
Amphetamine Possession	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Amphetamine Selling	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cocaine Possession	4	1	52	3	34	9	
Cocaine Selling	1	1	22	2	29	3	
Dangerous Drugs Free Text	7	0	25	1	16	2	
Equipment Possession	1	1	3	1	2	2	
Marijuana Possession	24	3	14	4	32	12	
Marijuana Selling	2	4	3	0	8	1	
	40	10	120	11	122	29	

Source: SCMPD

C. SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDS

Household Experiences

Household respondents were asked to indicate the types of social services issues that the household experienced within the last twelve months. A total of 137 households (41%) reported experiencing one or more of a range of social service issues. *Table C-1* below shows the range of issues and the percentage of household respondents reporting that they had experienced the issue. The issues are presented in order of greatest percentage of respondents to least percentage of respondents. The most cited social service issue experienced in the last year among households was the need for parenting skills help, identified by 39.4% of these respondents. This experience was followed closely by anxiety and depression (37.2%); emergency housing (34.3%); alcohol/drug problem (30.7%); and not having enough food (28.5%).

Table C-1
Westside Households Survey

Social Services Issues Experienced in the Last Year	Percentage of Respondents
Needed parenting skills help	39.4%
Anxiety & Depression	37.2%
Emergency Housing	34.3%
Alcohol, drug problem	30.7%
Not enough food	28.5%
Teen Pregnancy	24.1%
Difficulty finding affordable child care	22.6%
Difficulty finding child care during work hours	22.6%
Child with Social, Behavioral, or Developmental Problems	21.9%
Needed help with unruly child	16.8%
Needed elderly, disabled care	16.1%
Victim of serious crime	10.9%
Severe Mental Health Problem	9.5%
Family violence	6.6%
Family/friend with HIV/AIDS	5.1%
Sexual Assault, Rape or Incest	3.6%

n:137

Accessing Services and Public Assistance

While approximately 40% of household respondents cited experiencing one or more social services issues in the last year, far fewer accessed assistance from social services agencies in the same time period. When asked whether they had received help from a social service agency in the past twelve months, only 14.8% of respondents reported having received help.

Households also were asked about the types of public assistance they had applied for in the last twelve months. The greatest percentage of respondents reported applying for food stamps, at 14.8%, followed by Medicaid and Medicare benefits. (Table C-2) Households also were asked whether they had experienced difficulty applying for or receiving public assistance. A total of 14.5% of respondents responded affirmatively to this question.

Most notable was the low number of households filing for the Earned Income Tax Credit, with only 8% of households indicating having applied for the credit in the past 12 months. With one in four individuals in the westside service area living in poverty, broader efforts will be necessary to outreach to this population and assist these households in getting the tax credits for which these households are eligible.

Table C-2
Household Survey Respondents

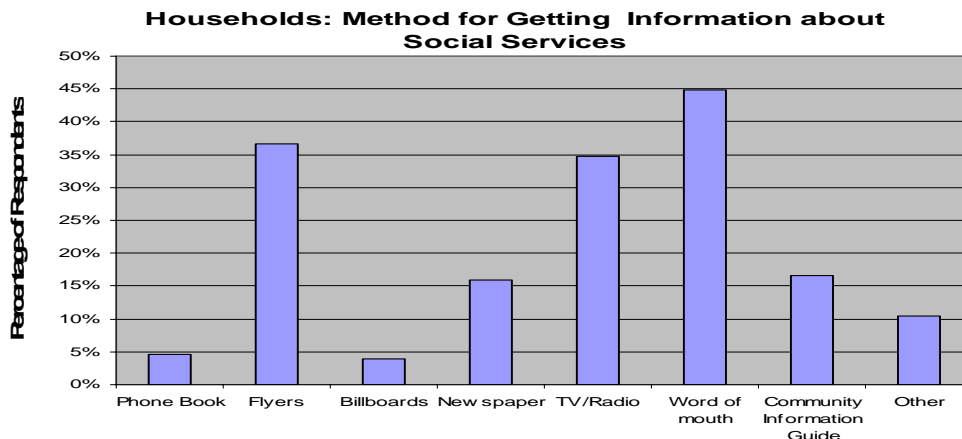
Public assistance applied for in past 12 months	Percentage of Respondents
Food Stamps	14.8%
Medicaid/Medicare	12.0%
EITC	8.0%
Social Security/Pension	5.2%
Housing Subsidies	4.9%
WIC	4.0%
TANF	2.8%
SSI	2.8%

n: 325

Access to Information about Available Social Services

The Household Questionnaire asked how respondents learned about available social services and other assistance programs, allowing for multiple selections. Figure C-1 below identifies methods for getting information and the percentage of respondents for each of these categories.

Figure C-1



n:325

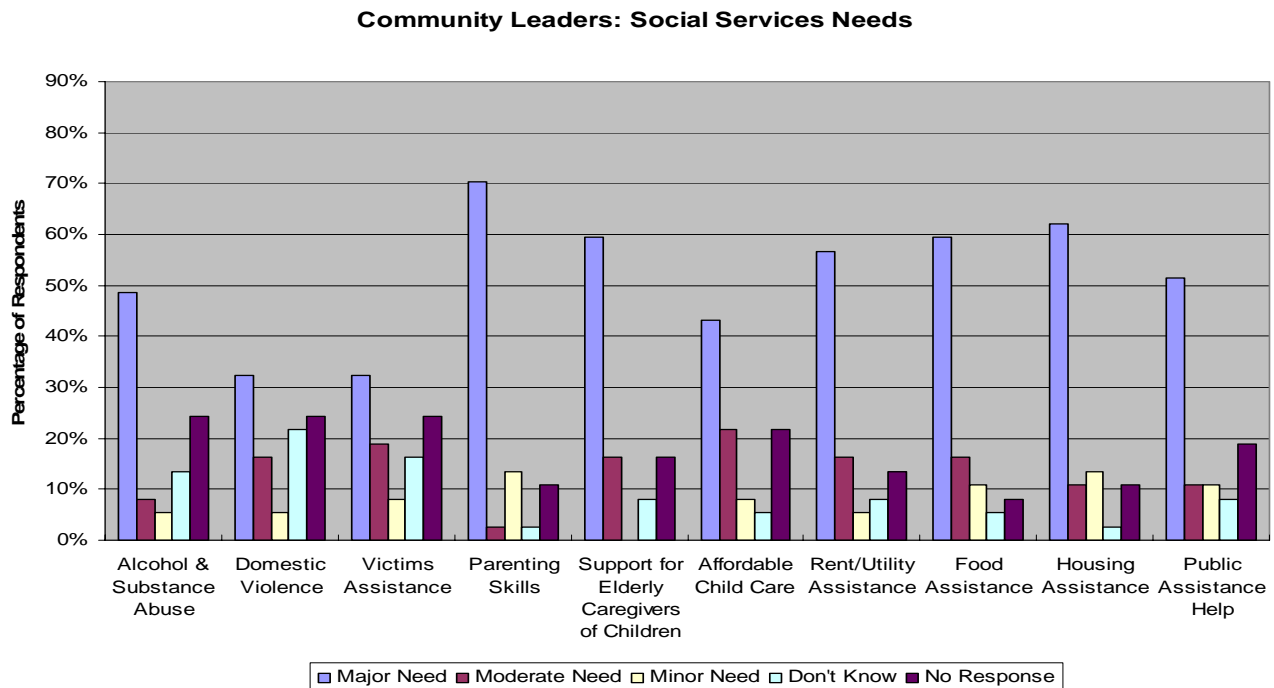
The most identified method by which respondents indicated they get information about social services programs was by “word of mouth” (44.9%). Flyers ranked second at 36.6%, and television and radio ranked third at 34.8%.

The 2-1-1 telephone service is a free service operated by the United Way of the Coastal Empire, which provides area citizens with a streamlined process of getting health and human services information through an easy to remember phone number (2-1-1). The telephone service is available to the public twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. When household respondents were asked whether they knew about 2-1-1, approximately one-third, or 114 respondents, indicated that they knew they could dial 2-1-1 to receive information about community resources.

Community Leader and Service Provider Feedback

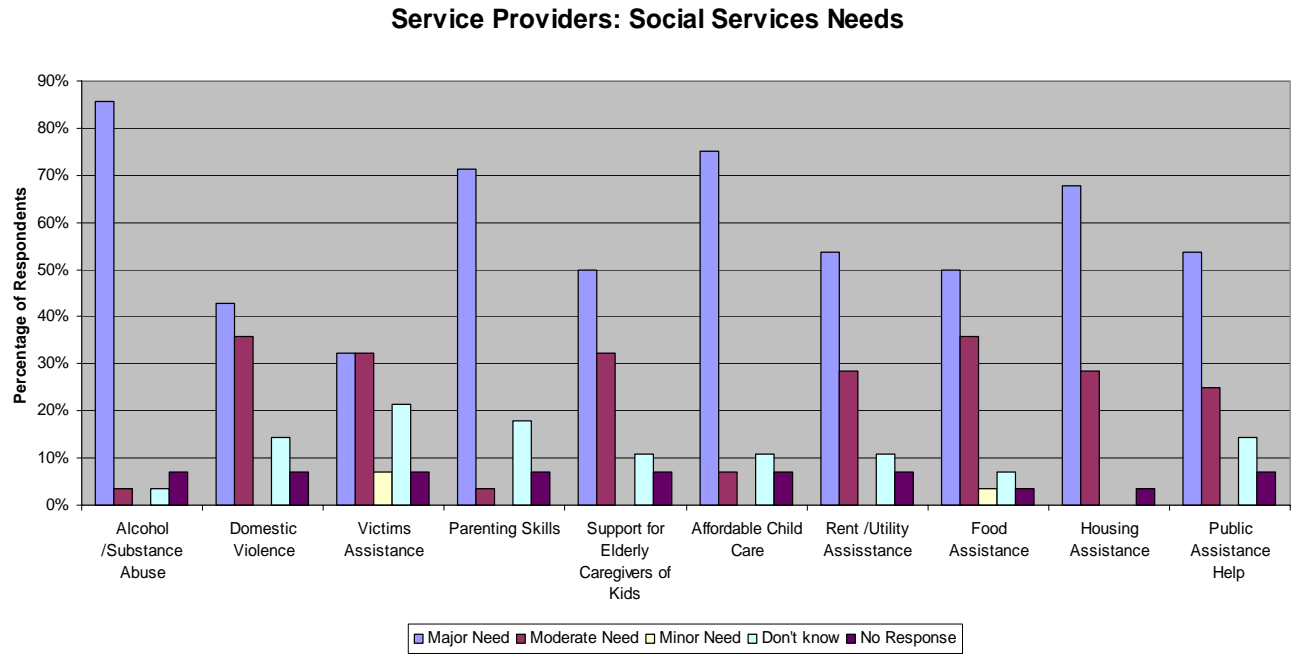
Community leaders and service providers were asked to rate the level of need among westside neighborhoods for different types of social services. As shown in *Figures C-2 and C-3*, among these issues community leaders indicated that the greatest need existed in the areas of parenting skills (70.3%), housing assistance (62.2%), food assistance (59.5%), and support for elderly caregivers of children (59.5%). Service providers indicated that major need existed in the areas of alcohol and substance abuse (85.7%), affordable child care (75.0%), parenting skills (71.4%), and housing assistance (67.9%).

Figure C-2



n:37

Figure C-3



n:28

What is most striking is the consistency of opinion among each group surveyed. Both community leaders and individual households identified the need for parenting skills as the predominant experience and social service issue. With the exception of anxiety and depression, which was the second most identified experience among households, all of the household top five issues were among the top issues identified by community leaders and service providers.

Both community leaders and service providers were asked to rate the *ability* of local services to meet the needs of westside residents in the area of social services. As shown in *Figures C-4* and *C-5*, the majority of service provider and community leader respondents consider the ability of local services to meet the social services needs as either “fair” or “poor.”

None of the areas had greater than a 7.1 percent response rate for “very good.” The greatest percentage of community leader respondents selected “poor” in the areas of housing assistance (37.8%), public assistance help (37.8%), support for elderly caregivers of children (32.4%), and parenting skills (32.4%). The greatest percentage of service provider respondents selected “fair” ratings for most services. Exceptions to this were food assistance which received the highest “good” rating and affordable child care which received the highest “poor” rating.

Figure C-4

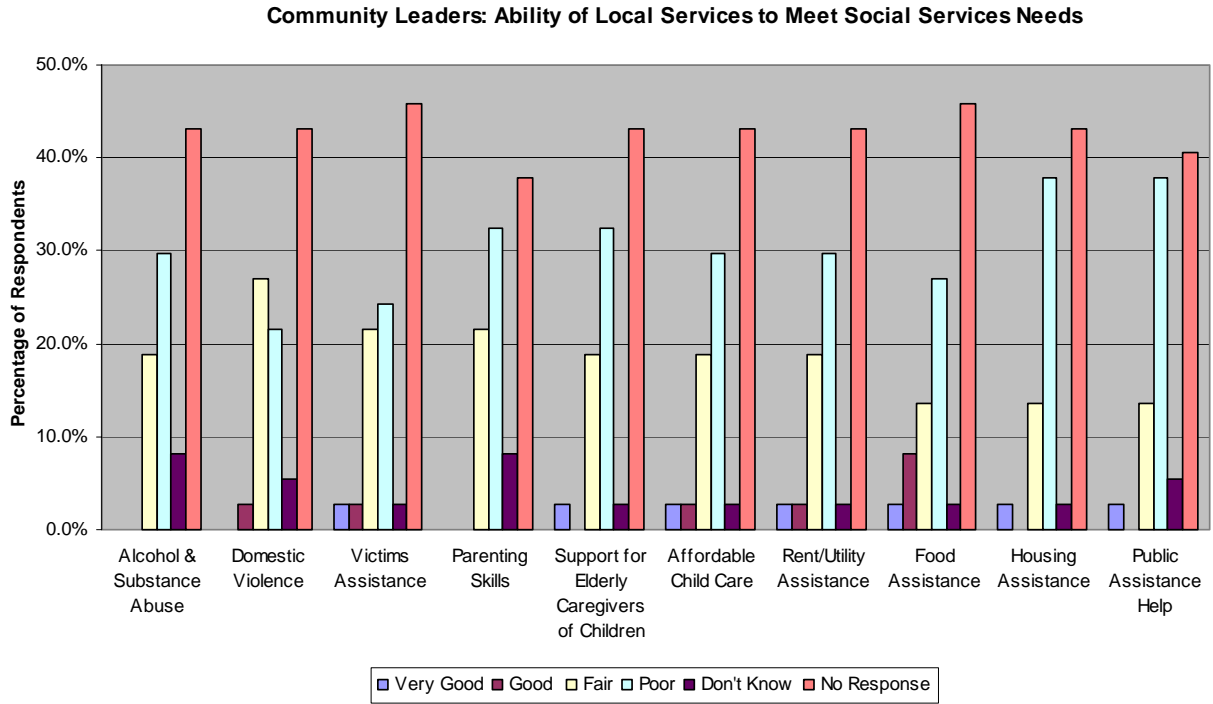
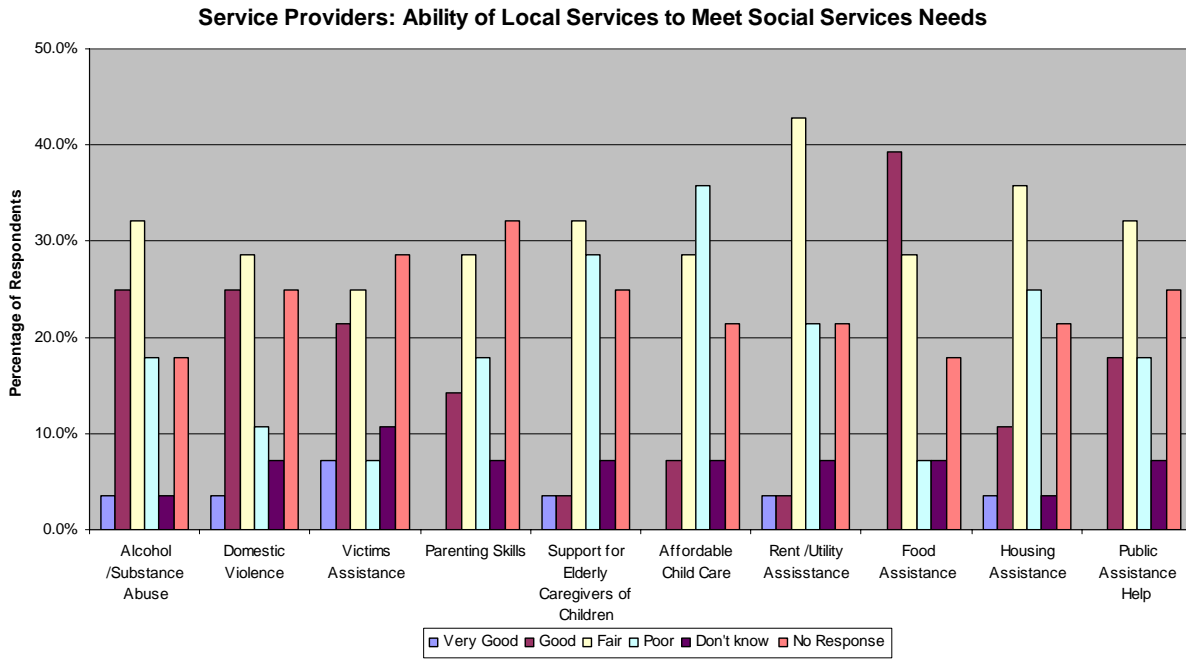


Figure C-5



Service Provider Waiting Lists

Another method for assessing the level and types of community needs is to survey local social service providers regarding their program waiting lists. Of the twenty-eight social service providers surveyed, twelve providers responded that their organizations typically have a waiting list for services each year. (Table C-3) The agencies with waiting lists exceeding one-hundred persons are Senior Citizens, Inc., Economic Opportunity Authority for Savannah-Chatham County, the Housing Authority of Savannah, and Wesley Community Centers of Savannah. These agencies provide senior services, housing assistance and services for the homeless, low-cost child care services, workforce development services, and recidivism prevention.

Table C-3
Service Providers with Waiting Lists

Service Provider	Number of Persons Typically on Waiting List
Senior Citizens, Inc.	1500
Economic Opportunity for Savannah Chatham County	1000
Housing Authority of Savannah	300
Wesley Community Centers of Savannah, Inc.	189
Hodge Memorial Day Care Center	50
Living Independence for Everyone	50
AWWIN, Inc. (A Working Women In Need)	40
Ash Tree Org. Inc.	15
Kicklighter Resource Center	4

n:28

D. HEALTH CARE SERVICES NEEDS

In the area of health care, the Westside Needs Assessment did not focus upon determining the specific health and/or physical conditions of individuals but rather the health care “services” needs of westside households.

Household Health Insurance Coverage

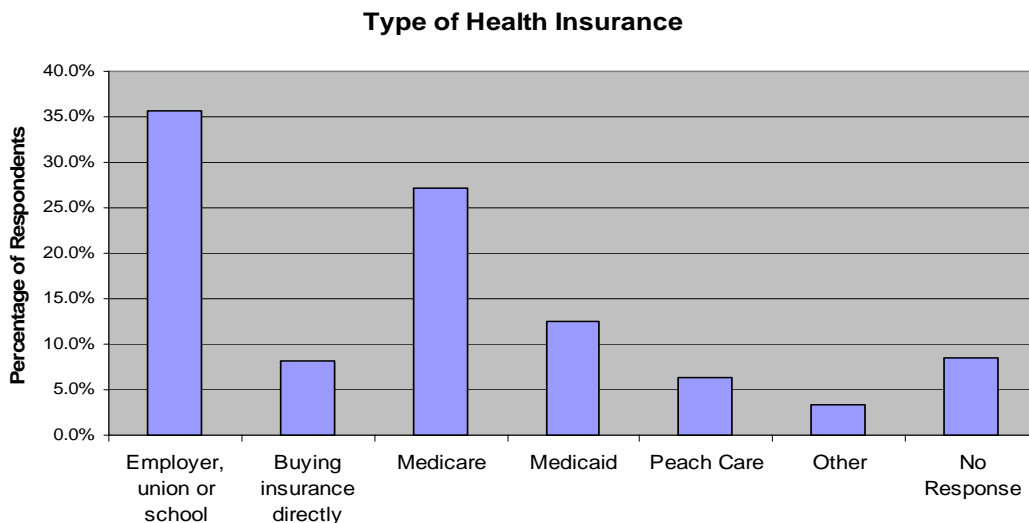
Household respondents were asked to indicate whether everyone in their household was covered by health care insurance and the types of health insurance coverage utilized by the household. As *Table D-1* and *Figure D-1* indicate, the majority (72.3%) of households reported having health insurance coverage. A total of 35.7% reported coverage under a health care insurance plan associated with their employer, union, or school. Medicare ranked second at 27.1%, and Medicaid ranked third at 12.5%. Peach Care is being accessed by slightly more than 7% of the households surveyed.

Table D-1
Household Health Care Insurance Coverage

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	237	72.3%
No	58	17.7%
Don't Know	15	4.6%
No Response	18	5.5%

n:328

Figure D-1
Household Respondents

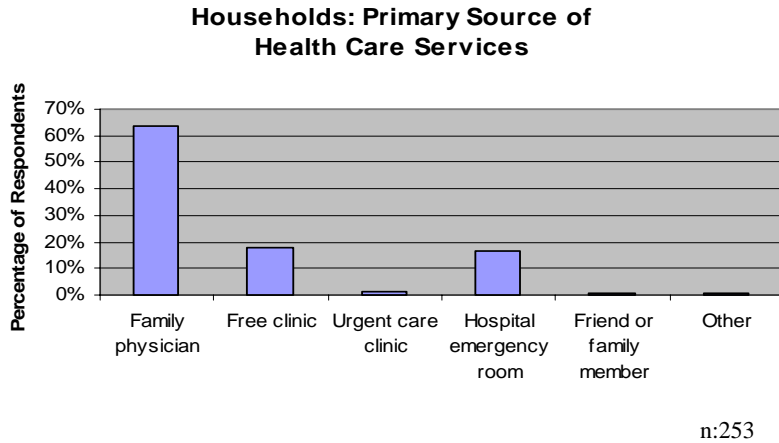


n:328

Accessing Health Care Services

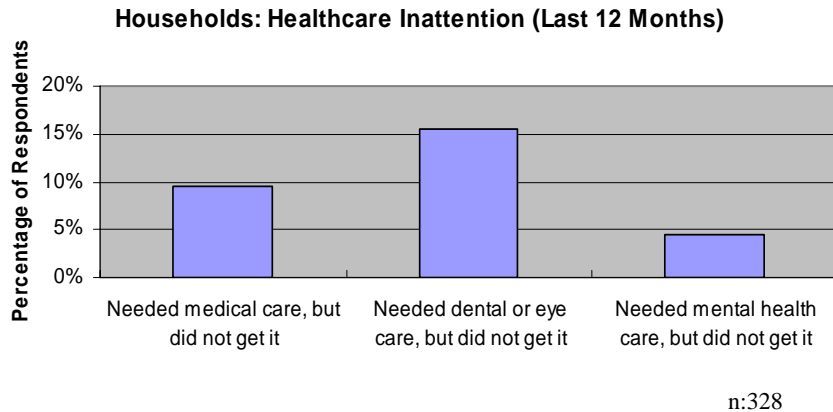
In the Household Questionnaire, respondents were asked where they typically go to receive regular healthcare or medical attention. *Figure D-2* below reflects that 63.6% of respondents primarily use a family physician for health care services. Of concern, however is the percentage of households utilizing hospital emergency rooms and urgent care clinics as their primary source for regular health care services. A total of 17.8% of households reported utilizing these emergency care units as their source of regular health care.

Figure D-2



Household respondents were asked whether they needed but did not get health care or medical attention in the last year, in the areas of medical care, dental or eye care, or mental health. (*Figure D-3*) Overall, 18% of responding households reported being in need of medical, dental, eye or mental health care but not getting it. The area which most respondents cited as receiving health care inattention was dental or eye care at 15.5%.

Figure D-3



When asked to indicate the reasons for not seeking health care attention, respondents most cited the cost of the care, followed very closely by the type of care not being covered by their insurance. (*Table D-2*) This would help explain the inattention to eye and dental care, as many basic health care insurance plans do not include eye and dental care coverage.

Table D-2
Most Cited Reasons for Health Care Inattention

Reason	Number
Cost too much	41
Not covered by insurance	40
No transportation	11
The wait was too long	10
Could not get an appointment	9
Didn't know where to go	7
Insurance company hassles	5
Too nervous or afraid	5
Denied services	5
No one to take care of children	4
Could not get off work	4
Could not find a doctor who accepts Medicaid	3
Other	3
Couldn't find a doctor that speaks my language	1

n:328

Obesity

Obesity is a major concern nationally across the United States, not only among adults but also among young children. The household survey sought to determine the extent that obesity was an issue among survey households as well as the level of interests households may have in learning about good nutrition and achieving a healthy body weight. As *Figure D-4* indicates, being overweight is a health concern for the households surveyed. Nearly two out of every five household respondents said that obesity was an issue confronting one or more of their household members. When asked about their interest in being better informed about achieving a healthy weight and eating nutritiously, almost two out of every three households responded positively. (*Figure D-5*)

Figure D-4

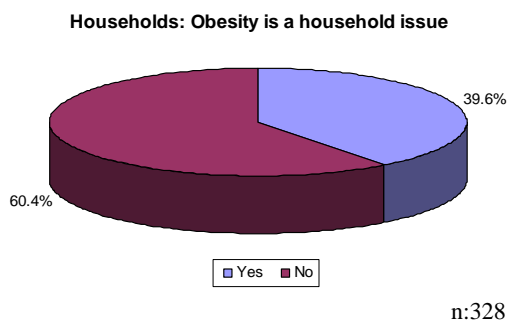
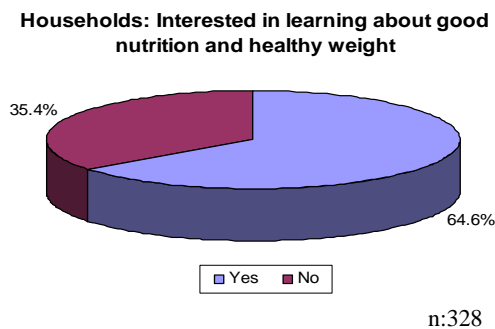


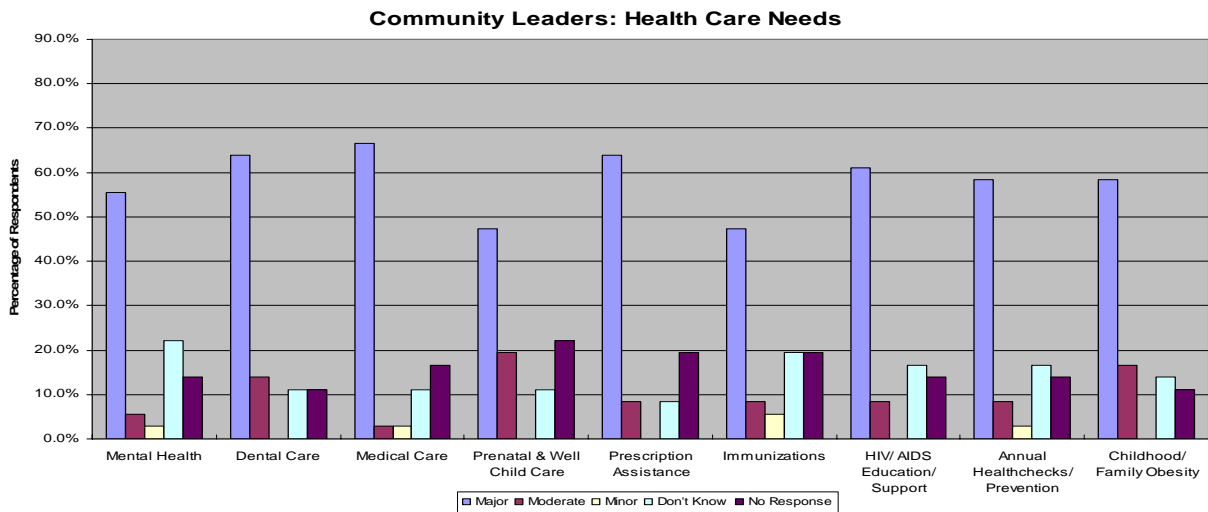
Figure D-5



Community Leader and Service Provider Feedback

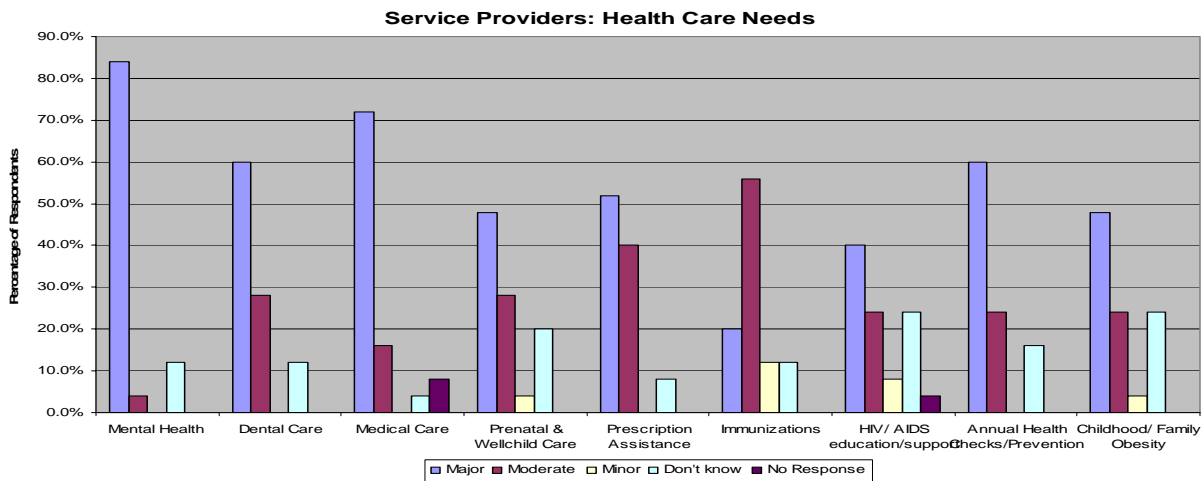
Both community leaders and service providers were asked to rate the level of need in westside neighborhoods for different types of health care services. As *Figure D-6* and *Figure D-7* indicate, community leaders identified every health care category predominantly as a major need, however among these, the greatest level of need existed in the areas of medical care (66.7%), dental care (63.9%), and prescription assistance (63.9%). With the exception of immunizations, service providers also predominantly identified each health care category as a major need. Among these, the greatest level of need existed in the areas of mental health (84.0%), medical care (72.0%), and dental care (60.0%).

Figure D-6



n:36

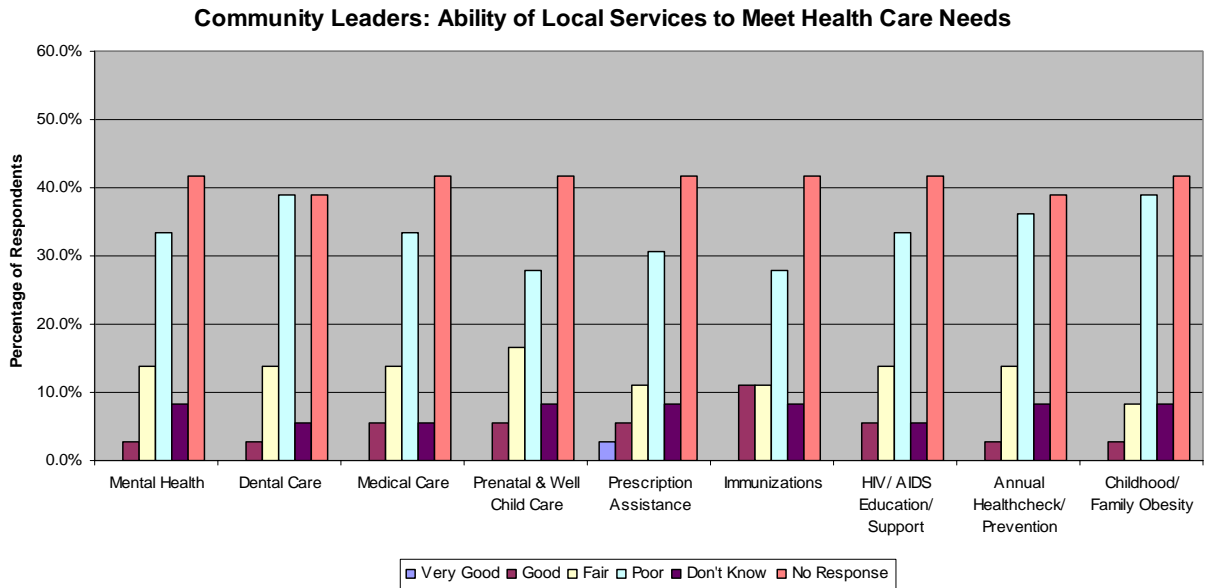
Figure D-7



n:25

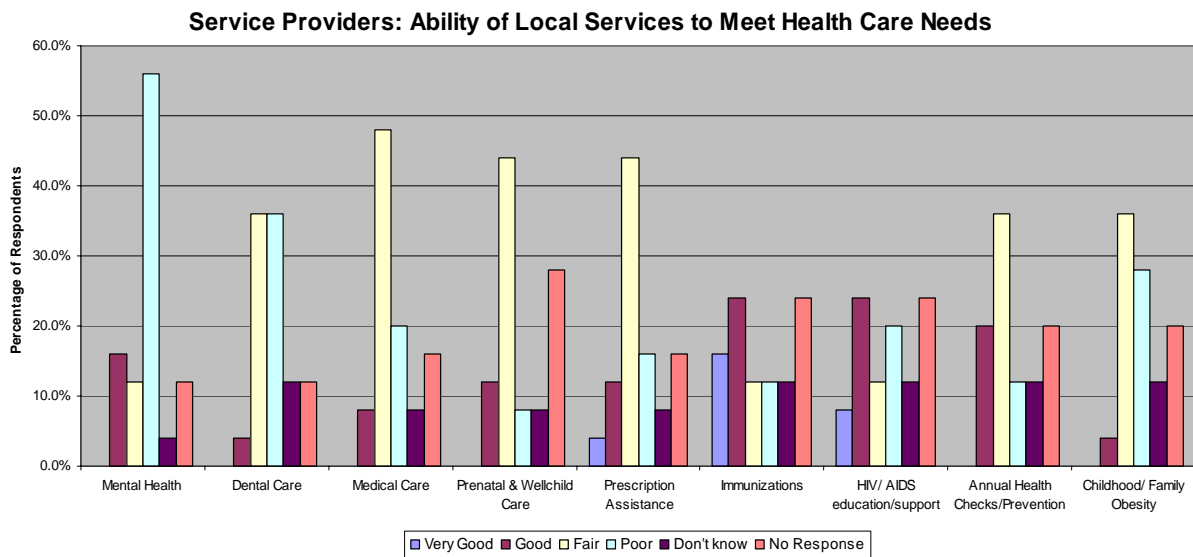
Finally, community leaders and service providers were asked to rate the *ability* of local services to meet the need for different types of health care services. As reflected in *Figure D-8* and *Figure D-9*, the majority of service provider and community leader respondents consider the ability of local services to meet the health care services needs of the area as either “fair” or “poor.” None of the areas had greater than a 16.0% response rate for “very good.” The greatest percentage of community leader respondents selected “poor” in the areas of childhood/family obesity (38.9%), dental care (38.9%), and annual health check and prevention (36.1%). The greatest percentage of service provider respondents selected “poor” in the areas of mental health (56%), dental care (36.0%), and childhood/family obesity (28.0%).

Figure D-8



n:36

Figure D-9



n:25

E. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES NEEDS

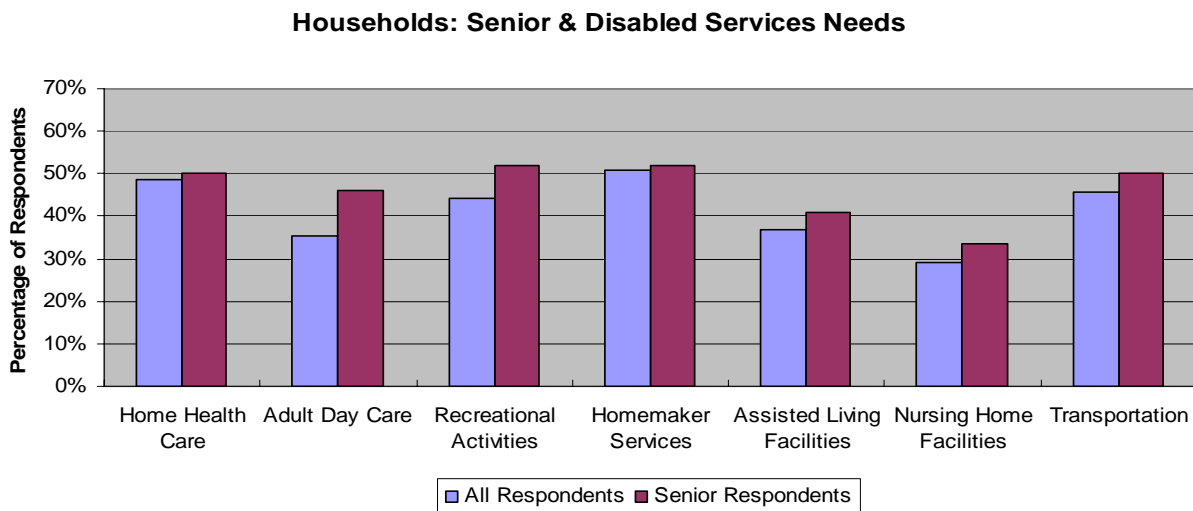
Household and Senior Feedback

Providing for the needs of senior and disabled residents is critically important for any community to be healthy. The community survey process solicited information on the needs of senior and disabled residents and the ability of local services to meet those needs. The responses are detailed in the following figures and tables.

Figure E-1 and *Table E-1* reflect the collective feedback of 248 household respondents as well as the breakout of those household respondents who identified themselves as senior residents (sixty years of age or older). This allows the results of the entire survey population to be compared directly with the known needs of seniors according to their own responses. Interestingly, the results were quite similar among all households and seniors only.

Figure E-1 shows the percent of respondents that have or know someone who has a need for the services identified in the bar chart below. The most identified needs among all respondents included homemaker services (50.8%), home health care (48.8%), transportation (45.6%), and recreational activities (44.4%). Homemaker services include basic home cleaning, shopping and other home-related chores and errands. Among senior respondents, homemaker services also were identified as the greatest service need of seniors. This was closely followed by recreational activities, home health care, and transportation. All four of these services were considered to be a needed service by 50% or more of the senior respondents.

Figure E-1



Priority Needs among Respondents

Table E-1 below indicates the top three senior and disabled priorities as rated by household and senior respondents. Again, the senior respondents provided results quite similar to the total household response, with the one difference being senior respondents identifying recreational activities as the third priority.

Table E-1

Households: Top Three Priorities for Senior & Disabled Services	
Among All Households	Seniors Only (60+ years)
Priority 1 Home Health Care Services	1 Home Health Care Services
Priority 2 Homemaker Services (meals, chores)	2 Homemaker Services (meals, chores)
Priority 3 Public Transportation Services	3 Senior Recreational Activities

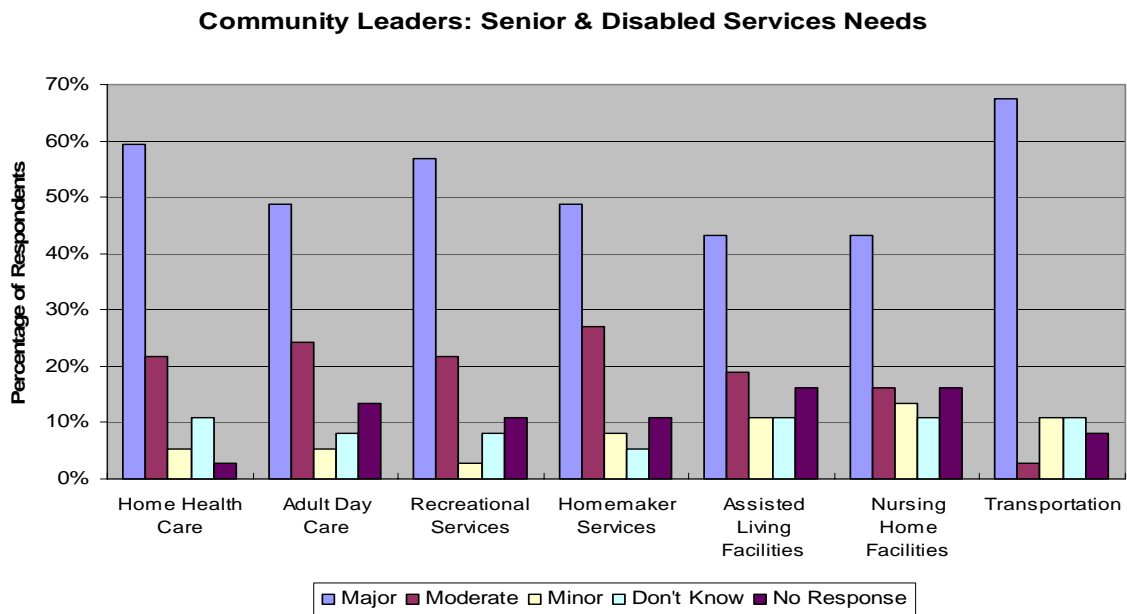
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Community Leader and Service Provider Feedback

When defining the greatest needs, community leaders and service providers had similar responses. *Figure E-2* shows the community leaders’ responses, and *Figure E-3* shows the responses of service providers. The two areas of greater need according to both survey populations were transportation services and home health care. Both of these service needs were rated as major needs by close to or more than 60% of respondents in both surveys. The least identified service needs for both surveys were assisted living facilities and nursing home facilities.

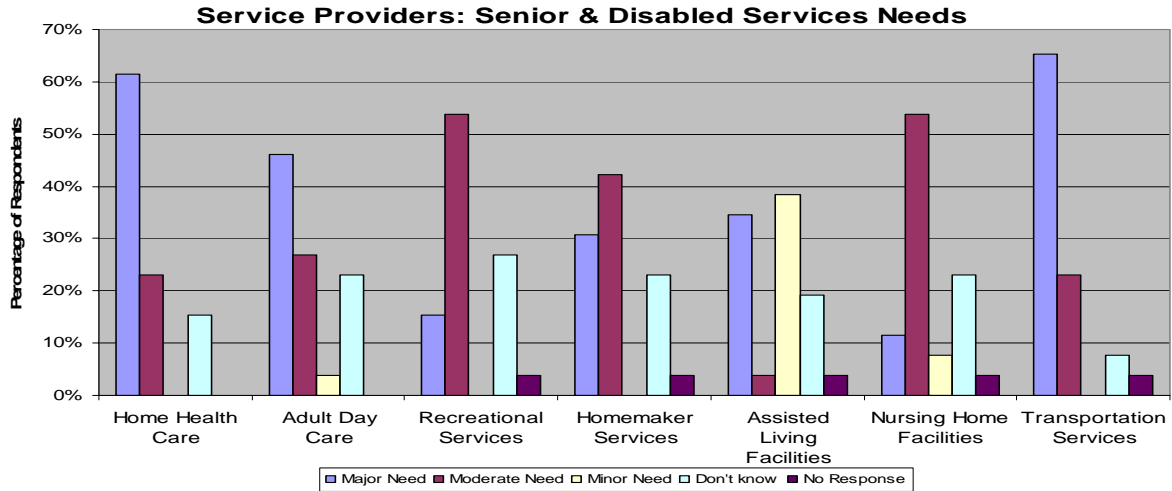
While community leaders tended to rate everything as a major need, the service providers were more varied in their responses to perceived needs. For instance, more than 50% of community leaders rated senior and disabled recreation activities as a major need. Less than 20% of service providers rated recreation activities as major, though more than 50% rated it as moderate.

Figure E-2



n:37

Figure E-3

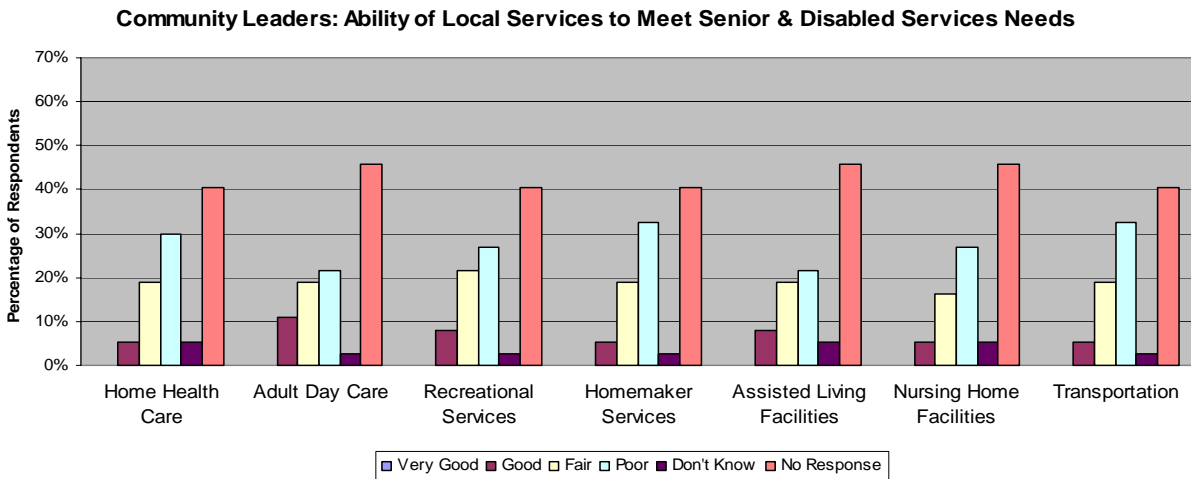


n:26

Figure E-4 and Figure E-5 display the perceptions of community leaders and service providers in regard to the ability of local services to meet the needs of senior and disabled residents. Similar to other comparisons between the community leaders and service providers, there are clear disparities between the two groups’ perceived ability of local services to meet the demand of area needs. Community leaders overwhelmingly rated the ability of local services to meet needs as “Poor” or “Fair”. For each service area, no more than 5% of community leaders surveyed responded that the ability of local services to meet the given need was “Good”.

The service providers generally responded across the board that the ability of local services to meet specific senior and disabled needs is “Fair” or that they “Don’t Know.” However, the responses were diverse and can be seen in Figure E-5 below. Interestingly, the highest rated service according to the service providers was home health care followed by adult day care and transportation services, an area which scored poorly on the community leaders’ survey.

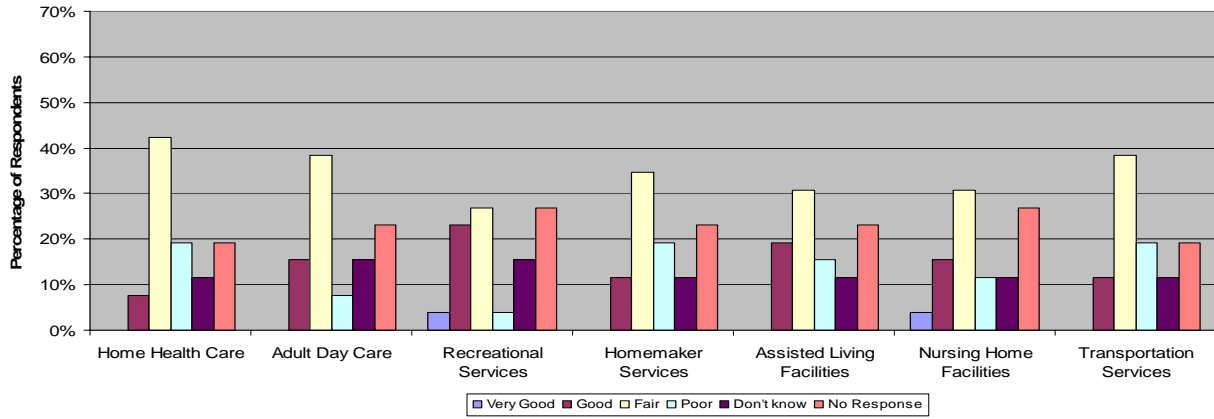
Figure E-4



n:37

Figure E-5

Service Providers: Ability of Local Services to Meet Senior & Disabled Services Needs



n:26

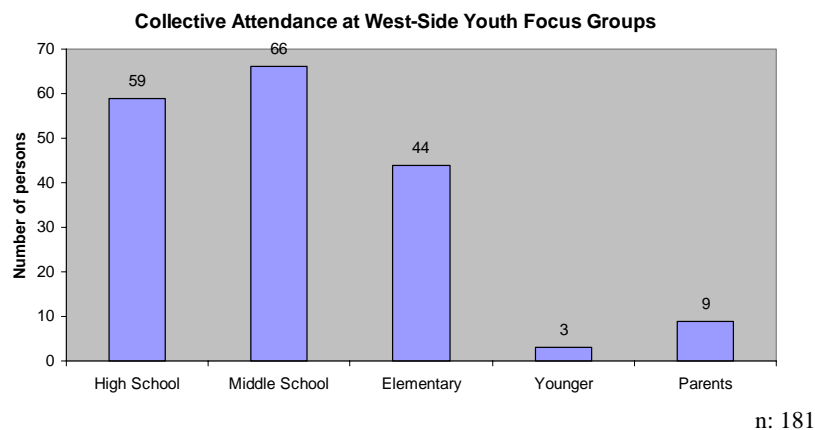
F. YOUTH NEEDS

A series of youth focus group sessions were held within each of the five targeted westside neighborhoods throughout April and May of 2008. The intent of these sessions was to gain the insight and feedback of youths living in each neighborhood regarding issues affecting youths as a group and their families. The primary goals of the sessions were to determine the following:

- (1) The youth crime and safety issues of greatest concern among youths and to what degree;
- (2) The types of youth support and development programs/activities which youths feel would be most beneficial for themselves and area youths; and
- (3) The programs and services youths would like offered to assist their parents, family members and their neighbors' families.

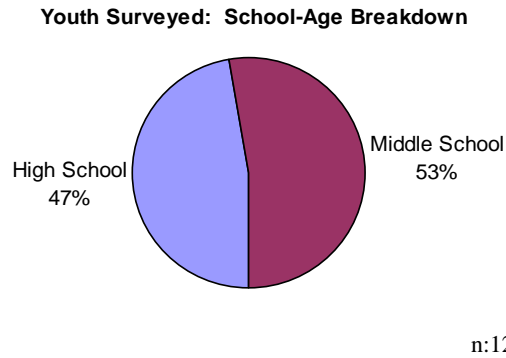
Collectively, 181 persons attended the five youth sessions throughout the westside neighborhoods. However, as *Figure F-1* indicates, a healthy number of elementary-aged children attended these sessions along with nine parents. Parents who proactively accompanied children to the sessions were asked to complete an anonymous household needs assessment survey; seven of the nine parents complied with this request.

Figure F-1



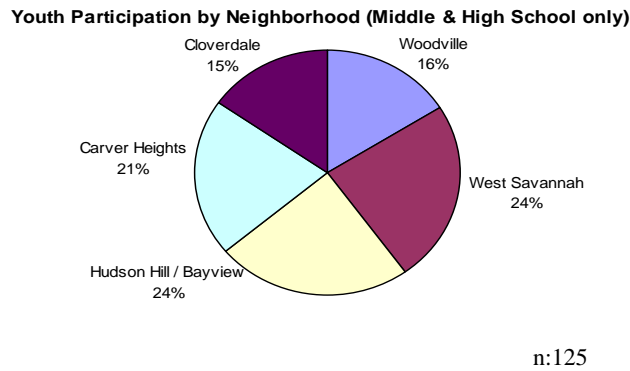
The elementary-aged children participated in discussions about their neighborhoods and interests, however based on level of maturity, decision-making skills, and the nature of discussion topics, only feedback of high school and middle school-aged youths was transcribed for the purposes of this needs assessment. Among these two age groups, a total of 125 youths were present and participated in the exercises and discussions. There was a fairly even breakdown of participants surveyed, with middle school participation slightly higher at 53% than high school at 47%. (*Figure F-2*)

Figure F-2



As *Figure F-3* illustrates, there also was a fairly well-rounded turnout of youths among the five neighborhoods, with the highest percentages stemming from West Savannah and Hudson Hill, both at 24% respectively.

Figure F-3



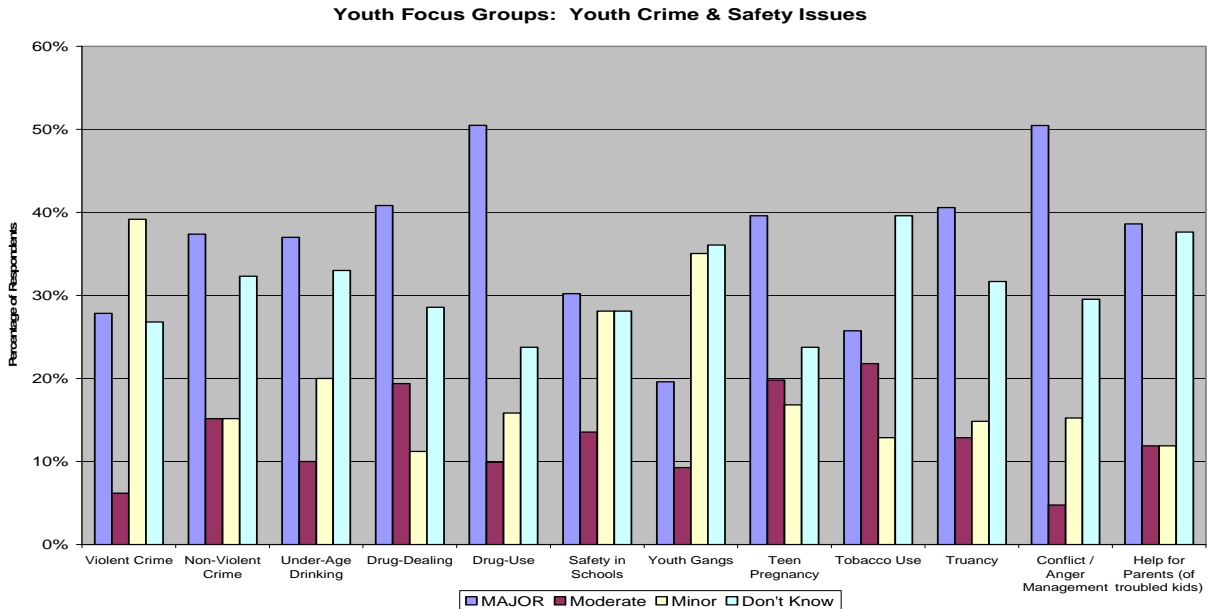
Youth Crime and Safety

Youth Focus Group Feedback

To capture youth perceptions pertaining to issues of youth crime and safety, youths were asked to identify a series of crime and safety issues as either a major problem, moderate problem, minor problem or don't know.

As *Figure F-4* shows, a collective view of youth feedback from all five neighborhoods identified nine of twelve crime and safety issues as major issues among youths. Among these, drug use and conflict/anger management emerged as the dominant issues, each with 50.5% of respondents citing these issues as a major concern. These issues were followed by drug dealing and truancy, with aggregate perceptions of 40.8% and 40.6% respectively. Other major areas of concern worth noting are: teen pregnancy at 39.6%, help for parents (dealing with troubled children) at 38.6%, non-violent crime at 37.4%, and under-age drinking at 37.0%.

Figure F-4



n:105

In addition to tracking an aggregate measurement of the issues by level of concern, middle school youths and high school youths were asked to prioritize the top three youth crime and safety issues among youths. Middle school youths in three of five neighborhoods identified violent crime and drug use the #1 and #2 priorities respectively. (Table F-1) The focus differentiated at the high school level, with five unique #1 priority issues and four unique #2 and #3 priority issues. (Table F-2) The only consistency among priority issues is drug use and drug dealing in the priority #2 and #3 categories, respectively.

Table F-1

Top Three Youth Crime & Safety Issues Among Middle School Respondents (by Neighborhood)			
Neighborhood	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3
Woodville	Conflict /Anger Management	Non-Violent crime	Help for Parents
West Savannah	Violent Crime	Drug-Use	Truancy
Hudson Hill / Bayview	Violent Crime	Drug-Use	Tobacco Use
Carver Heights	Violent Crime	Drug-Dealing	Tobacco Use
Cloverdale	Conflict /Anger Management	Drug-Use	Drug-Dealing

n: 66

Table F- 2

Top Three Youth Crime & Safety Issues Among High School Respondents (by Neighborhood)			
Neighborhood	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3
Woodville	Non-Violent Crime	Truancy	Drug-Dealing
West Savannah	Violent Crime	Drug-Use	Truancy
Hudson Hill / Bayview	Teen Pregnancy	Drug-Dealing	Non-Violent Crime
Carver Heights	Under-Age Drinking	Teen Pregnancy	Drug-Dealing
Cloverdale	Drug-Dealing	Drug-Use	Conflict /Anger Management

n: 59

To further consolidate youth feedback at each age bracket (middle school and high school), a weighted point system was assigned to issues identified as priority #1, priority #2, or priority #3. The category or issue with the greatest summed value is the consolidated first priority; the next greatest summed category is second priority, and so on. *Table F-3* indicates the weighted results. As the table shows, clearly the greatest level of concern revolves around drug use and drug dealing.

Table F-3

Collective Top Three Youth Crime & Safety Issues:			
	Middle School	High School	Combined Middle & High
Priority #1	Violent Crime	Drug-Dealing	Violent Crime
Priority #2	Conflict /Anger Management & Drug-Use	Teen Pregnancy	Drug-Use
Priority #3	Drug-Dealing	Drug-Use & Non-Violent Crime	Drug-Dealing

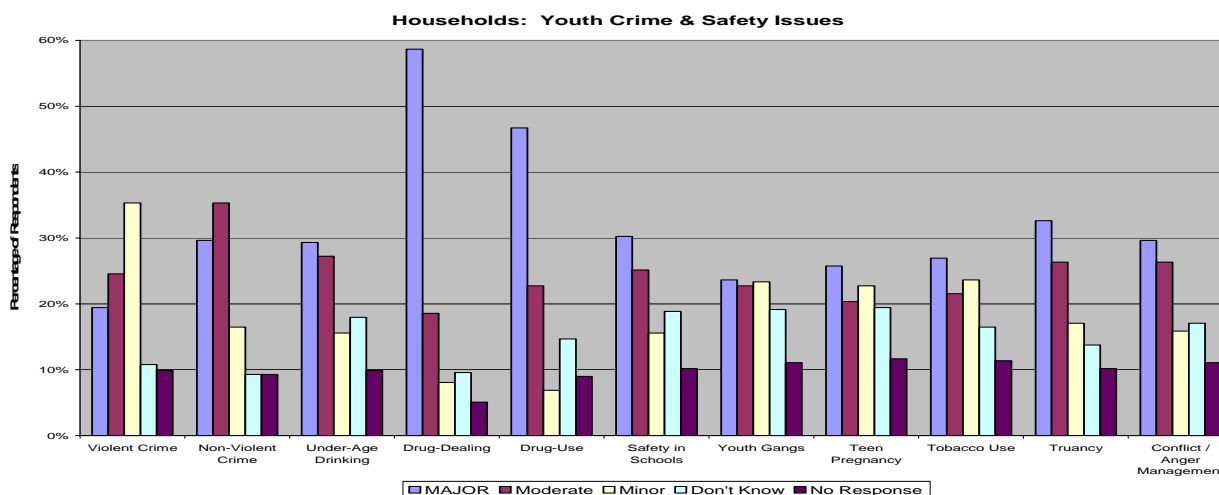
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The last column in *Table F-3* combines the middle and high school rankings to present a collective youth view of the top three crime and safety issues affecting youth in westside neighborhoods. Collectively, youth perceived violent crime as the most critical issue, followed by drug use and drug dealing.

Household Feedback

Household respondents were also asked to identify youth crime and safety issues, along the same scale as youth focus group participants. *Figure F-5* presents the adult views on this topic. One interesting observation is that, on average, household respondents determined issues to be a major problem only 20 – 30 % of the time, a rate of about 10% less than that of the youth respondents. Another noteworthy pattern not seen among the youth is how adults were fairly evenly split between identifying issues as major or moderate problems. Issues were identified as both major and moderate within 5% of each other. The only exceptions to both of the previously mentioned trends are drug dealing and drug use. Significantly greater than the other issues, drug dealing and drug use were identified as major issues by 77.3% and 69.5% of households, respectively.

Figure F-5



n:334

While drug dealing and drug use were identified by the majority of respondents as major problems, when household respondents were asked to prioritize the most pressing youth crime issues, households identified non-violent crime ahead of drug use. (Table F-4) However, the most noteworthy aspect of the data is that both youths and now adult household respondents have indicated the highest level of concerns again revolve around drug-related activity.

Table F-4

Households: Top Three Youth Crime & Safety Issues	
Priority #1	Drug-Dealing
Priority #2	Non-Violent Crime
Priority #3	Drug-Use

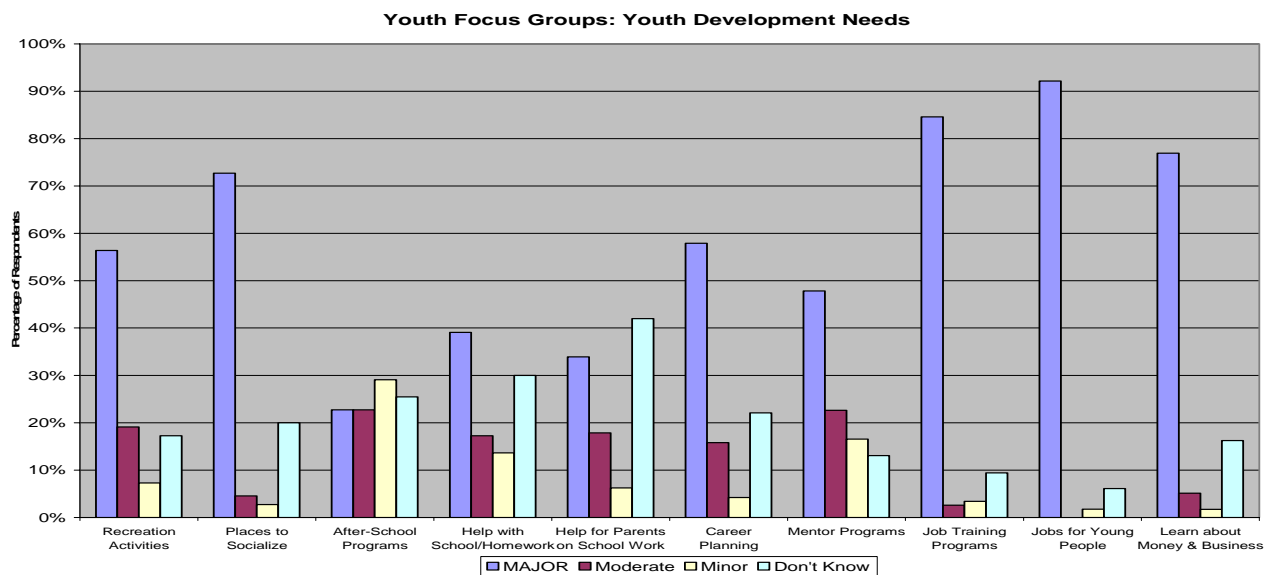
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Youth Development Needs

Youth Focus Group Feedback

Youths were asked to identify youth development needs among ten categories. (Figure F-6) Six of the ten categories were identified as a major need by at least 50% of the youths, with four of the six registering above 70%. While traditional views might suggest youths most want places to socialize or recreational activities, the two categories actually fell below employment and financial interests. The greatest need identified by youths was jobs for young people, at over 90% of participants. This was followed closely by youth job training programs and learning about money and business, among over 75% of youths. After-school programs and help with home/school work for youths and parents yielded the lowest major need levels among youth participants. However, school and academic performance is clearly a very pressing need among the westside youth population. This issue will be explored in greater detail in the School Performance section of this report.

Figure F- 6



n:117

Table F-5 and Table F-6 present the top three youth development needs cited among neighborhood youths at the middle and high school levels respectively. As the tables illustrate, when youths were asked to collectively discuss and prioritize the top three youth development needs, places to socialize and recreational activities began to shift and gain added importance. Cloverdale was the only neighborhood in which middle and high school youths reflected precisely the same needs in the same order. However, the middle and high school students of both Woodville and Carver Heights were nearly identical in prioritizing their needs.

Similar to the youth crime and safety issues, the same four needs – jobs for young people, job training programs, recreation activities and places to socialize – recurred throughout all five neighborhoods at both school-age levels. In fact, West Savannah middle school students were the only group to deviate from the norm, by uniquely prioritizing mentor programs as #2 and career planning as #3.

Table F-5

Top Three Youth Development Needs Among Middle School Respondents (by Neighborhood)			
Neighborhood	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3
Woodville	Recreation Activities	Places to Socialize	Jobs for Young People
West Savannah	Recreation Activities	Mentor Programs	Career Planning
Hudson Hill / Bayview	Jobs for Young People	Learn about Money & Business	Job Training Programs
Carver Heights	Job Training Programs	Jobs for Young People	Recreation Activities
Cloverdale	Jobs for Young People	Job Training Programs	Places to Socialize

n: 66

Table F-6

Top Three Youth Development Needs Among High School Respondents (by Neighborhood)			
Neighborhood	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3
Woodville	Recreation Activities	Places to Socialize	Job Training Programs
West Savannah	Jobs for Young People	Learn about Money & Business	Job Training Programs
Hudson Hill / Bayview	Places to Socialize	Jobs for Young People	Job Training Programs
Carver Heights	Jobs for Young People	Job Training Programs	Recreation Activities
Cloverdale	Jobs for Young People	Job Training Programs	Places to Socialize

n: 59

Again, the application of a simple weighted point system allowed for collective analysis of the top three priorities at the middle school, high school, and combined school levels. As Table F-7 indicates, jobs for young people is the overall consensus #1 priority among the participating youth, with job training programs a close second. The obvious theme expressed here is the need for jobs and job-skill training in and around the westside neighborhoods of Savannah.

Table F- 7

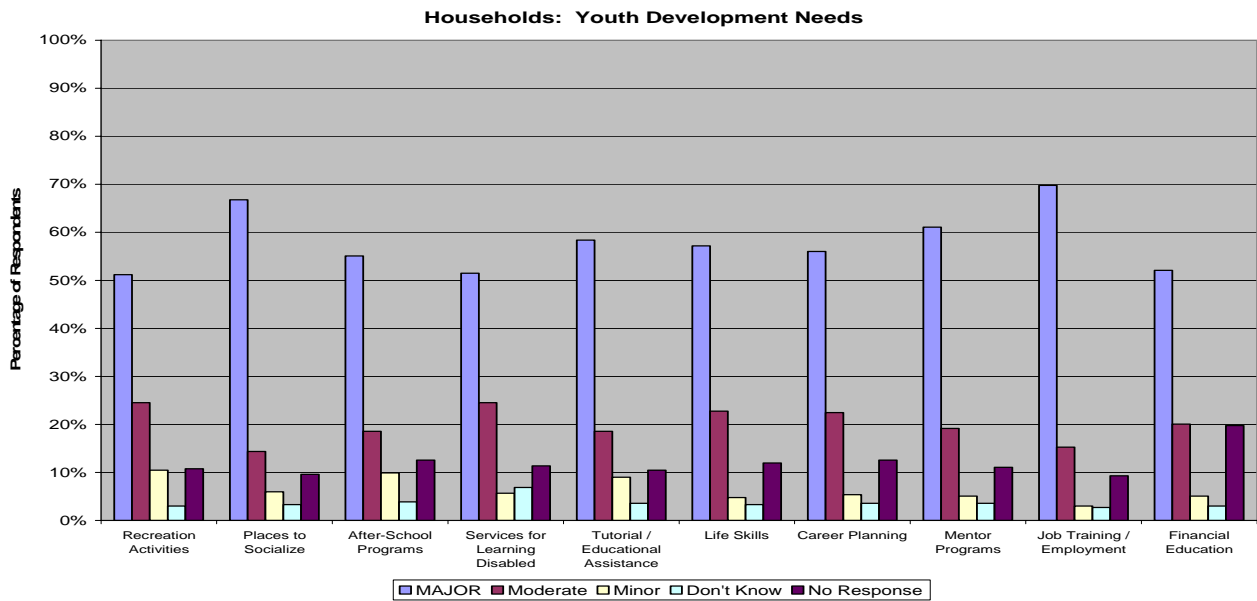
Collective Top Three Youth Development Needs:			
	Middle School	High School	Combined Middle & High
Priority #1	Jobs for Young People	Jobs for Young People	Jobs for Young People
Priority #2	Recreation Activities	Job Training Programs	Job Training Programs
Priority #3	Job Training Programs	Places to Socialize	Recreation Activities

n: 125

Household Feedback

Within the household survey, a number of the pre-determined categories were modified from the youth survey to more accurately evaluate youth needs from an adult perspective. For instance, some new categories include: services for learning disabled, tutorial/educational assistance, and life skills. *Figure F-7* shows remarkable consistency across all ten categories, not only for the major need designations but also among the other four response levels as well. Another constant is that households determined every single category to be a major need 50% to 70% of the time, inferring that the vast majority of households realize the importance of each of these activities in the lives of youths in westside communities. It is clear that support and development programs that can successfully engage and build opportunities for youths would be welcomed.

Figure F-7



n:334

When household respondents were asked to identify the top three youth development needs, places to socialize edged job training/employment by a mere 1.3% of the weighted total points, to become priority #1 and #2 respectively. This was followed by recreation activities and life skills, which earned the same number of points at priority #3. (*Table F-8*) Again, adult household respondents were in tune with the needs of youths, as their top three priorities closely mirrored those of neighborhood youths.

Table F- 8

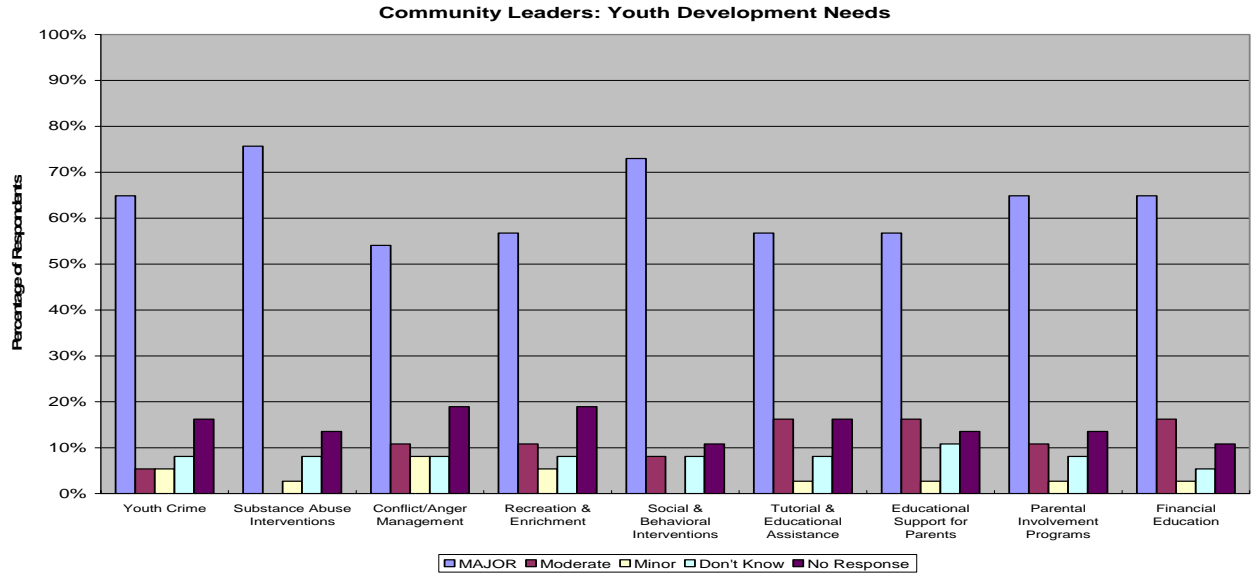
Households: Top Three Youth Development Needs	
Priority #1	Places for Youth to Socialize
Priority #2	Job Training / Employment
Priority #3	Recreation Activities & Life Skills

n: 296

Community Leader and Service Provider Feedback

In five of the nine categories, community leaders identified issues as a major need at a rate of 60% or more, and all nine categories were above 50%. The most cited major needs were substance abuse interventions (75.7%) and social & behavioral interventions (73%).

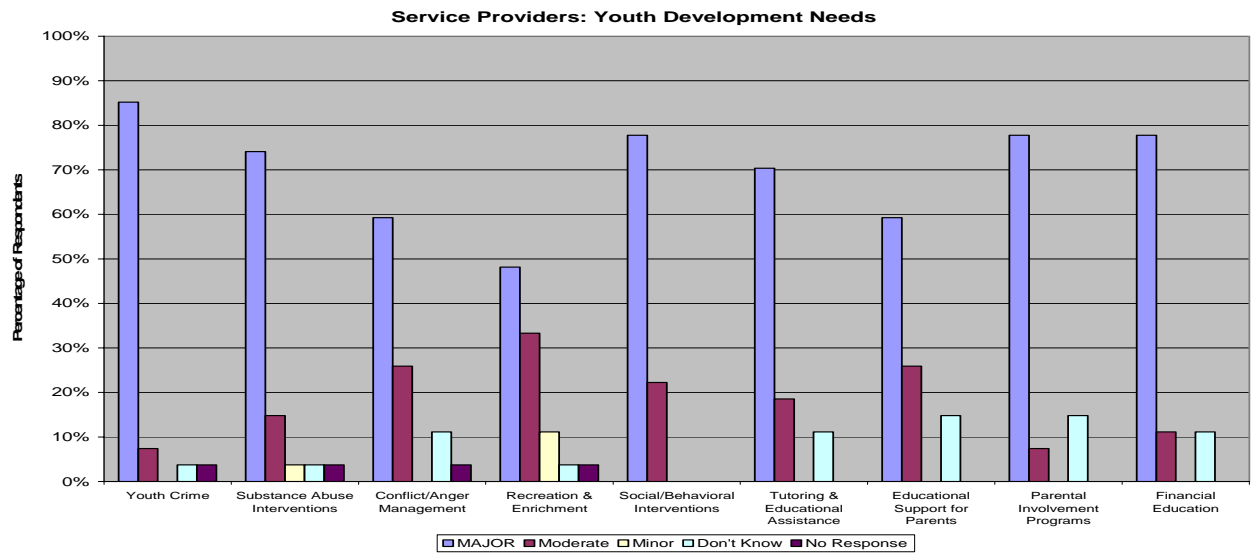
Figure F-8



n:37

Service providers posted similar levels of need as the community leaders. (Figure F-9) Youth crime was the most identified major need at 85%. Social and behavioral interventions, parental involvement programs, and financial education were identified as major needs 77.8% of the time.

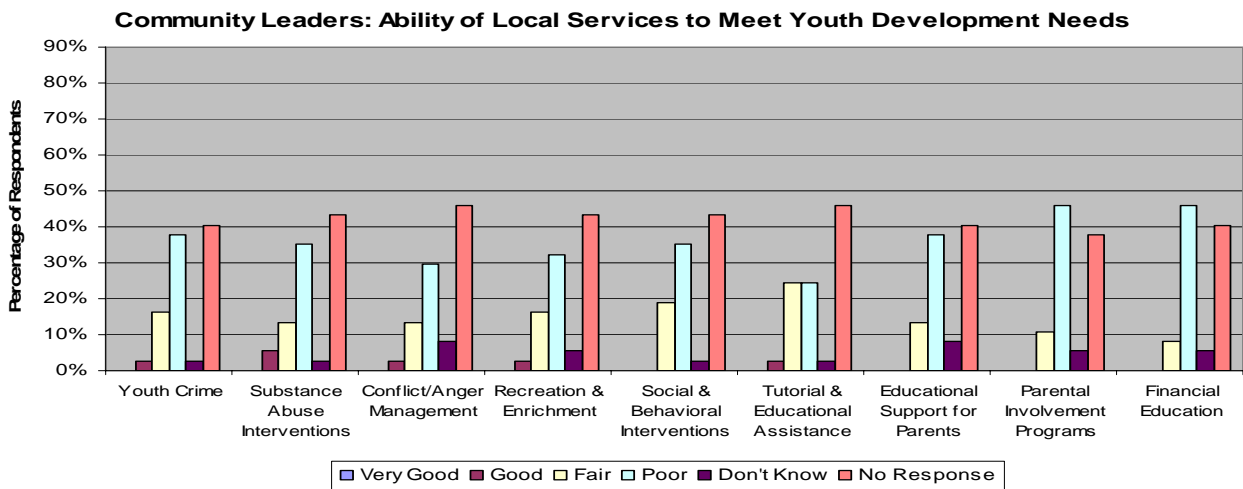
Figure F-9



n:27

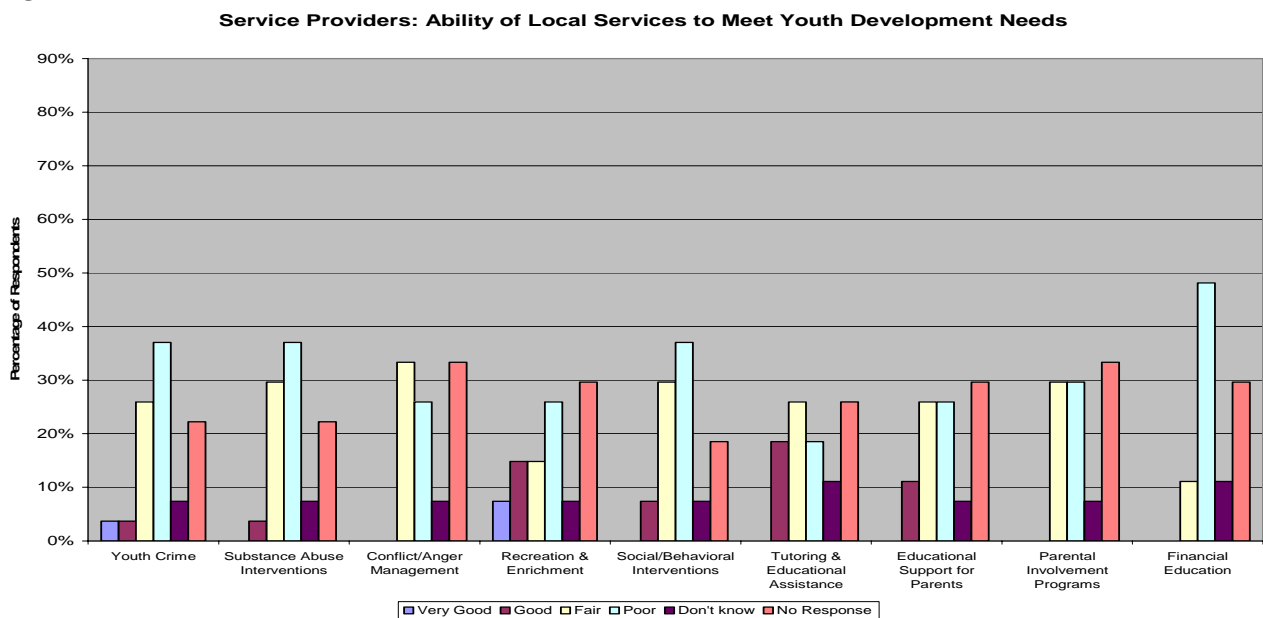
Both community leaders and service providers were asked from a service delivery standpoint to rate the ability of local services to meet youth needs. As *Figures F-10* and *F-11* show, on average, 36% community leaders rated the ability of local services to meet youth development needs as “poor.” Only one area, tutorial & educational assistance, received a “fair” rating by over 24% of respondents. Service providers were significantly less critical of the ability to meet youth development needs; although their responses should not be interpreted as an indication of satisfaction. Four of nine categories received a “fair” to “fair/poor” rating, while five received a “poor” rating. Again, tutorial and educational assistance received the highest number of “good” ratings among service providers.

Figure F-10



n:37

Figure F-11



n:27

School Performance

When determining the needs of the Moses Jackson Center's service area, census data only offers insight into adult educational attainment. To gain a better understanding into the school performance of youth in the public school system, this report uses data found on the accountability website developed by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement and the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, as well as data provided by the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

The targeted five neighborhood service area includes catchment zones for five elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. The elementary schools include Bartow, Butler, Garden City, Garrison, and Port Wentworth; the middle schools include Mercer and Hubert; and the high schools include Beach and Groves, of which Groves draws the vast majority of area students. Of these, only Bartow Elementary in West Savannah and Butler Elementary in Cloverdale are actually within the boundaries of the five neighborhood target area. It is important to note when reviewing the data that Bartow, Butler, and Mercer all have Academy programs within their schools as well.

Elementary School Performance

Overall, the elementary schools score pretty well on basic indicators. As *Table F-9* indicates, all five elementary schools met Adequate Yearly Progress, while the district and state as a whole did not. All five schools had fewer retained students when compared to the district and state, and all had similar attendance records to the district and state averages.

The clear difference in performance becomes evident when looking at grade level achievement. Grade level achievement is reached when a student meets or exceeds state standards for all subjects tested by the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT).

Port Wentworth and Bartow either exceeded or nearly matched the district achievement averages and some state averages, in Port Wentworth's case. However, the other three elementary schools fell considerably below the district and state averages, with only about one-third of Butler students in 3rd through 5th measuring at grade level on the CRCT.

Garden City showed similar numbers in 2006-2007, although less than 30% of 5th graders measured at state standards. Garrison Elementary had less than one quarter of students in any grade level (3rd – 5th) measure at state standards or above. In fact, less than 5% of 4th graders measured at or above state standards in all subject matter tested. Clearly, there are grave issues with several schools and student performance on standardized state tests. This may be an area of early intervention that could possibly be addressed through programs at Moses Jackson or other community initiatives.

Table F-9

Data*	Year	Bartow	Butler	Garden City	Garrison	P Wentworth	District	State
<i>3rd Grade Achievement</i>	2006-07	50.5%	35.3%	37.9%	24.6%	60.0%	55.0%	66.6%
<i>4th Grade Achievement</i>		54.2%	34.0%	40.6%	4.7%	58.9%	53.8%	64.4%
<i>5th Grade Achievement</i>		53.5%	36.1%	28.3%	14.6%	95.7%	51.8%	63.6%
<i>Retained</i>		1.9%	2.7%	0.6%	4.2%	1.7%	8.6%	4.3%
<i>Attendance</i>		96.7%	96.9%	95.7%	95.6%	95.7%	96.0%	95.5%
<i>AYP Status</i>		Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Did Not Meet	
<i>Students Qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch**</i>	2005-06	79%	81%	91%	81%	70%	61%	50%

*All data from The Governor's Office of Student Achievement unless otherwise noted. <http://www.gaosa.org/report.aspx>

**Data from the U.S. Dept. of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

Middle School Performance

Beginning in middle school and continuing through high school, there are additional indicators and test scores that can be used to determine student achievement. Again, when examining the performance for Mercer and Hubert middle schools, it is important to note that Mercer Middle School contains a Specialty Program, the Renzulli School Wide Enrichment Academy. Both Mercer and Hubert met Adequate Yearly Progress. Attendance rates at Mercer were comparable to district rates, and just below the state's overall rate. However, Hubert fell below the state and district attendance rates, raising some concern about student attendance and therefore performance.

When reviewing academic achievement, there is a clear gap between the two schools, between Hubert and the district, and between both schools and the state. (*Table F-10*) Mercer Middle School matches or out performs the district averages for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade achievement but falls below the state averages for achievement. Hubert's scores for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade achievement in 2006-2007 fell well below the district and even further below the state. Only one in fourteen 6th graders at Hubert met or exceeded state standards in 2006-2007. Less than one in four 7th graders and less than half of 8th graders tested at state standards. Subsequently, Hubert Middle School had a retention rate more than three times the state average. These numbers show clear deficiencies in student performance that will continue to affect future performance as the high school data will show.

Table F-10

Data*	Year	Mercer	Hubert	District	State
<i>6th Grade Achievement</i>	2006-07	32.1%	6.9%	32.5%	51.5%
<i>7th Grade Achievement</i>		53.6%	23.3%	44.2%	62.4%
<i>8th Grade Achievement</i>		61.3%	41.1%	52.3%	66.5%
<i>Retained</i>		6.6%	14.0%	8.6%	4.3%
<i>Attendance</i>		94.4%	91.6%	94.4%	95.5%
<i>AYP Status</i>		Met	Met	Did Not Meet AYP	
<i>Students Qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch**</i>	2005-06	68.0%	94.0%	61.0%	50.0%

Source: * The Governor's Office of Student Achievement. ** U.S. Dept. of Education's National Center for Education Statistics

Another indicator used to track middle school performance is the 8th grade writing achievement test. This test helps to measure reasoning and communication that cannot be tested by basic subject matter testing such as the CRCT. With this measure also, Mercer Middle School matches or outperforms the district and state not only in 2006-2007 but in the previous two years as well. (*Table F-11*) Hubert Middle School 8th graders, however, fell below district and state averages all three years, though they nearly matched the district and state in 2005-2006. It appears that across the board, for all levels, writing achievement was down considerably in 2006-2007. The specific reasons for this are unclear, but may be in part related to a change in the test material, testing procedure, or other outside variables. It also becomes evident when reviewing this data that a gap is developing in performance between male and female students. This is a trend that will appear and even widen in the high school data.

Table F-11

Data*	Year	Mercer		Hubert		District	State		
8th Gr. Writing Achieve. (met or exceeded)			Male	Female	Male	Female			
	2006-07	64.0%	58.0%	70.0%	48.0%	55.0%	69.0%	62.0%	67.0%
	2005-06	91.0%	89.0%	94.0%	85.0%	84.0%	93.0%	88.0%	87.0%
	2004-05	87.0%	80.0%	93.0%	78.0%	75.0%	87.0%	82.0%	84.0%

Source: * The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement.

An additional measure for middle and high school is to examine how students are performing in certain subject areas. At Hubert and Mercer, it is both math and science competency scores that are typically the lowest of all subject areas. In 2006-2007, at Hubert 91% of 6th graders did not meet state standards in science, while 73% failed to meet standards in math. The numbers were similar but not as low in both the 7th and 8th grades. In fact, both the 7th and 8th grade scores showed improvement over their previous academic years. Mercer students showed similar improvements from 2005-2006 to 2006-2007, with their lowest competency also coming in science and math.

It is important that outreach and education assistance strategies be developed and implemented to assist these students with improving subject performance, as the problem only increases when students reach high school.

High School Performance

The data for Groves High School and Beach High School offer insight into the academic performance of those students who will soon be entering the adult workforce or moving on to higher education. The analysis here will focus slightly more on Groves, due to the fact that students in the Moses Jackson service area overwhelmingly attend Groves compared with Beach.

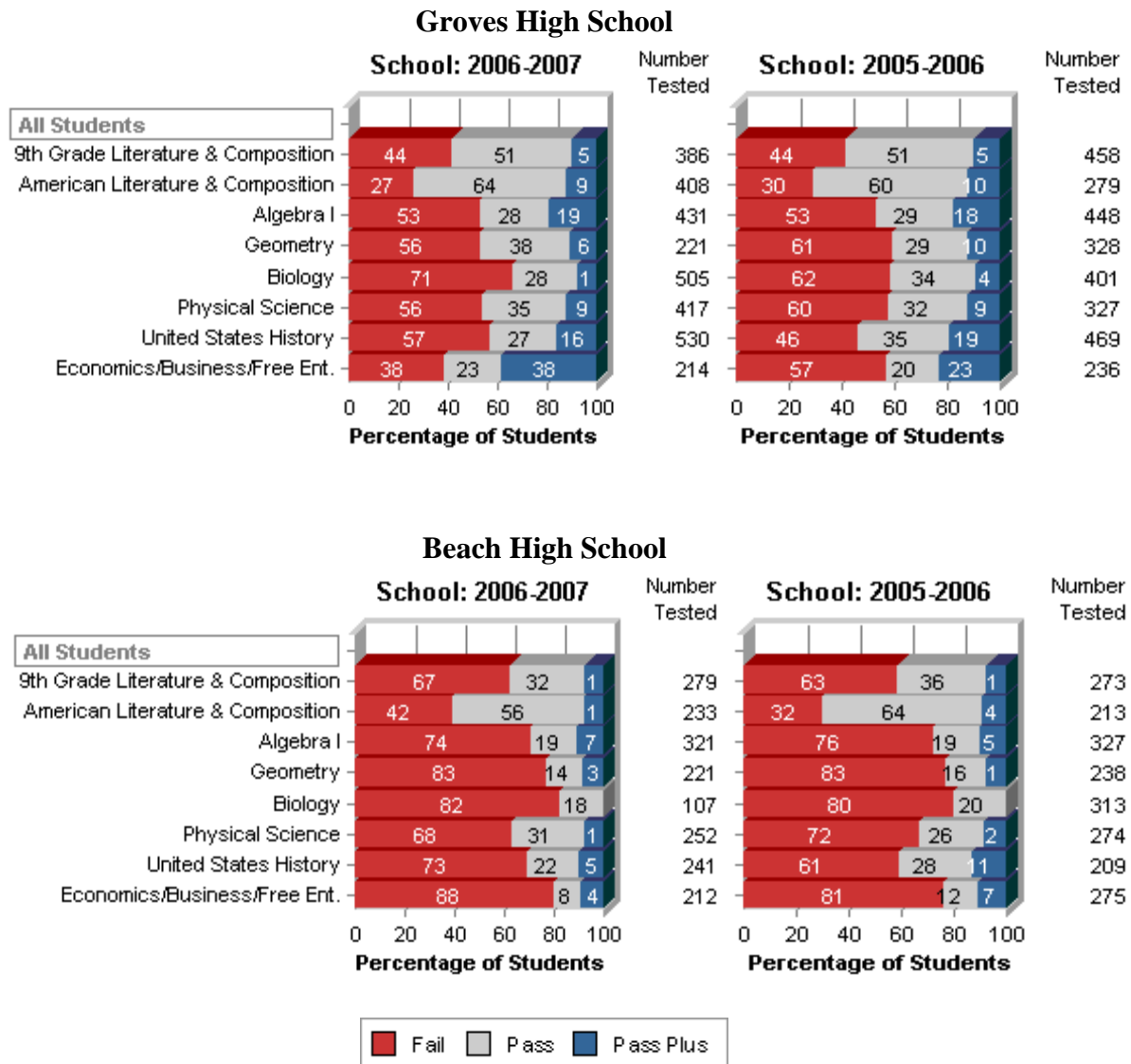
The high school data stands out from the elementary and middle school data in several ways. Unlike the elementary and middle schools, neither Groves nor Beach high schools met Adequate Yearly Progress. The high schools also break down subject matter into more specific courses and test students in each of these areas, in what is known as “End of Course Tests,” or EOCT.

When examining the data for end of course testing, a similar pattern to the middle schools is noted. (*Figure F-12*) All of the categories have less than 75% of students passing end of course tests, with the math and science courses having the lowest rate of passing students. At Groves, in

2006-2007 only 29% of students passed the end of course test for Biology. In Physical Science, Geometry and Algebra, students passed at rates of 44%, 44% and 47% respectively. At Beach High School, test passing percentages were actually much lower. Economics, Biology, Geometry, and Algebra I had the lowest rates of passing scores at 12%, 18%, 17%, and 26% respectively.

Figure F-12

End-of-Course Tests All Students

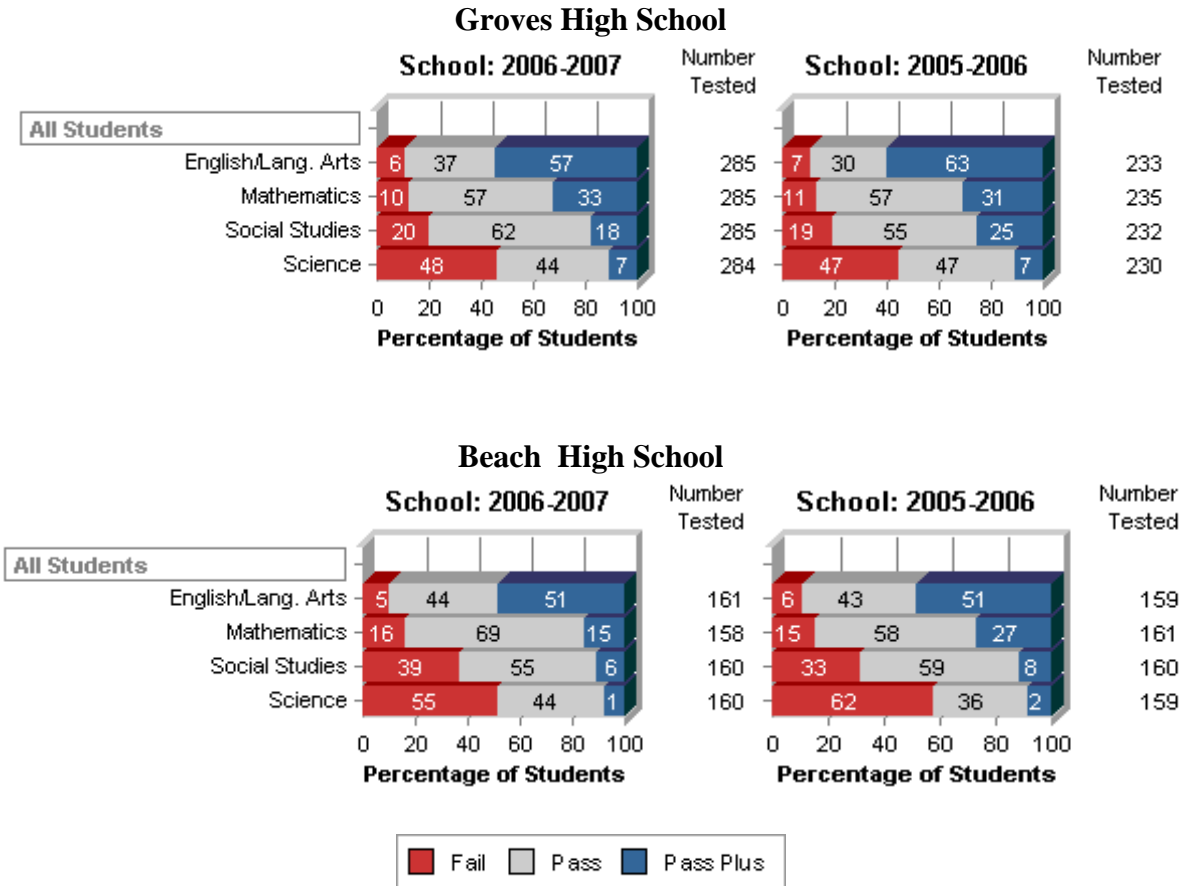


Source: The Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

When reviewing Georgia High School Graduation Tests taken by 11th graders, again it is clear that science scores are far and away the lowest of any subject matter. Only 52% of Groves 11th graders and 45% of Beach 11th graders passed the science portion of the 2006-2007 graduation tests. Serious challenges exist with academic performance in the areas of science and math education for students in Westside neighborhoods. (Figure F-13)

Figure F-13

**School Graduation Tests (GHS GT)
Percentage of 11th-Grade 1st-Time Test Takers at Each Performance Level:
Comparison for All Students**



Source: The Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

Other key school performance indicators that apply to high schools include graduation and dropout rates, national test scores, Hope Scholarship eligibility, and post-secondary education. These indicators are especially important because they speak directly to the challenges students are likely to face after leaving the school system.

As Table F-12 indicates, in 2006-2007 Groves High School had a graduation rate of 58%, while Beach High School had a graduation rate of 49%. At Groves, female students graduated at a rate of 66%, and only 50% of male students graduated. Male students also dropped out at a higher rate in both schools. At Groves, the dropout rate was 11%, with 14% of males and 9% of female students dropping out. At 6.1%, Beach had a dropout rate that was actually better than the district rate of 6.6%, and both male and female students beat the district rate.

Table F-12

Data*	Year	Groves		Beach		District		State	
<i>Graduation Rate</i>	2006-07	58.0%	Males 50.3%	Females 65.8%	49.4%	Males 49.7%	Females 49.1%	62.0%	72.3%
	2005-06	61.4%	58.1%	65.2%	55.9%	51.7%	59.6%	65.4%	70.8%
	2004-05	61.4%	62.1%	60.8%	78.3%	73.9%	82.1%	69.0%	69.4%
<i>Dropout Rate</i>	2006-07	11.2%	Males 13.7%	Females 8.7%	6.1%	Males 6.2%	Females 5.9%	6.6%	4.1%
	2005-06	7.5%	8.7%	6.3%	10.2%	11.0%	9.3%	7.2%	4.7%
	2004-05	8.3%	10.0%	6.6%	7.7%	8.9%	6.6%	7.0%	5.0%
<i>Retained</i>	2006-07	20.7%	Males 55.5%	Females 44.5%	22.9%	Males 53.9%	Females 46.1%	8.6%	4.3%

Source: * The Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

The state also maintains statistical data related to college preparation, to include ACT and SAT scores. Both Groves and Beach high schools scored below the district and state averages on the ACT and SAT tests. (Table F-13) Perhaps more telling however is the percentage of students that are eligible for the Hope Scholarship. The scholarship makes a college education more affordable and achievable for Georgia students. Where 38% of Georgia students and 25% of district students qualify for the performance-based scholarship, only 20% of Groves' students and 16% of Beach students are eligible for the free in-state tuition. Further, only about one-fourth of Groves and Beach graduates go on to a Georgia public college or university, compared with one-third of graduates in the district and 40% of graduates from the whole state. It is important to note, however, that both high schools have a much higher rate of students attending Georgia technical colleges as compared to the district and state. Strategies that could lead to an improvement in post-secondary achievement alone could go a long way in improving the education and financial standing of the young adults in the Moses Jackson target service area.

Table F-13

Data*	Year	Groves	Beach	District	State
<i>Hope Eligible</i>	2006-07	19.6%	15.8%	24.6%	38.1%
<i>Graduates Entering Georgia Public Colleges/Universities</i>		26.5%	22.7%	37.0%	41.6%
<i>Graduates Entering Georgia Technical Colleges</i>		20.2%	16.5%	14.4%	10.1%
<i>Average ACT Score</i>		16.6	15.1	17.9	20.3
<i>Average SAT Score</i>		1259	1128	1349	1472
<i>Attendance Rate</i>		93.2%	91.4%	92.7%	95.4%
<i>AYP Status</i>		Did Not Meet AYP			
<i>Students Qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch**</i>	2005-06	55%	71%	61%	50%

Source: * The Governor's Office of Student Achievement. ** U.S. Dept. of Education's National Center for Education Statistics

Along with examining schools individually and by grade level, it is important to look at the data on a continuum from kindergarten to graduation. First grade readiness of kindergartners is measured using the Georgia Kindergarten Assessment Program-Revised (GKAP-R). The GKAP-R score includes 32 various indicators including Literacy, Mathematics, and Social/Emotional

activities. The GKAP-R summary scores for each elementary school have been provided by Savannah-Chatham County Schools. A school is given an overall readiness score and students are identified in three categories including those ready for 1st grade, those ready with instructional assistance, and those that are not ready. The overall scores and percentages can be seen in *Table F-14*. Bartow Elementary, with 99% of students ready for 1st grade, scores well over the School District as a whole. The remaining elementary schools just met or performed under the District average in terms of preparing students for 1st grade.

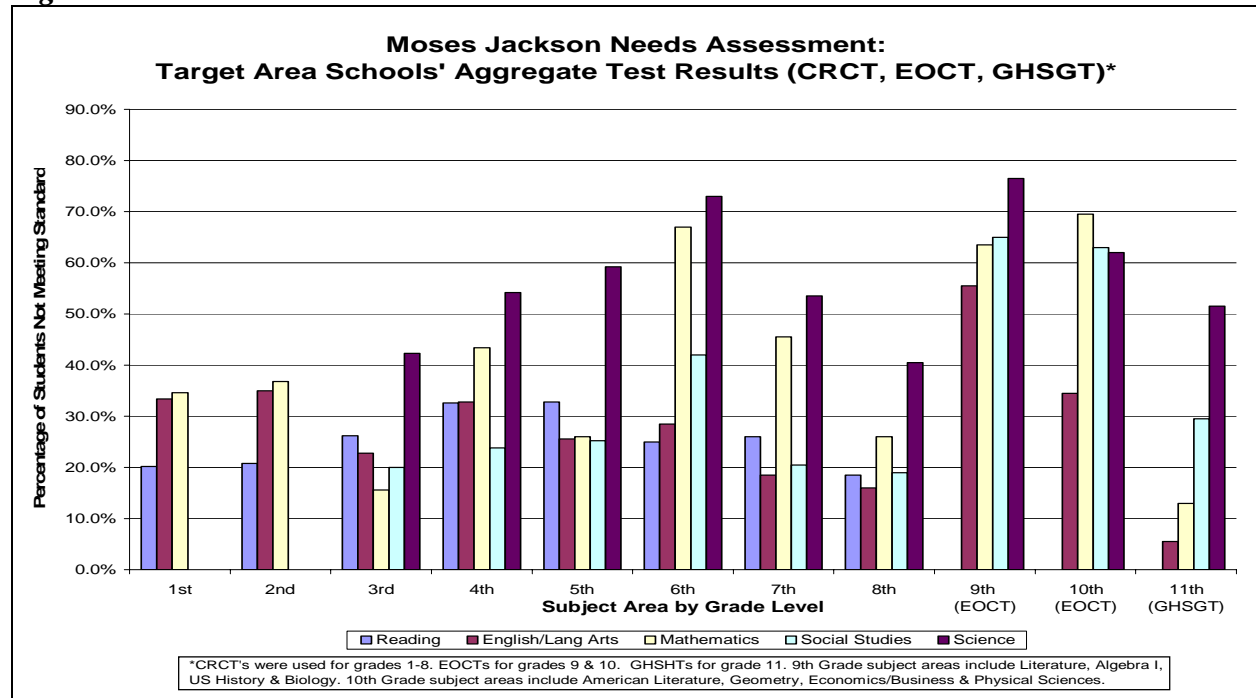
Table F-14

Kindergartners Ready for First Grade: GKAP-R Summary Results by Elementary School*							
Data*	2007-08	Bartow	Butler	Garden City	Garrison	P Wentworth	District
Overall Readiness Score		194	185	185	183	188	188
Ready for 1st Grade		99%	96%	93%	94%	95%	95%
Ready with Instructional Assistance		0%	3%	5%	6%	3%	4%
Not Ready		1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%

* Georgia Kindergarten Assessment Program-Revised (GKAP-R) data provided by Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

Figure F-14 presents the percentages of the student body by grade level that did not meet state standards for the subject area tested. The scores are an aggregate of all schools studied in the Moses Jackson Family Advancement Center service area. The table details student performance by subject area and grade level and offers a clear view of academic needs for westside youth.

Figure F-14



Source: The Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

Subject matter proficiency declines throughout the elementary grade levels. Test scores are actually quite similar in 1st and 2nd grade; however there is a noticeable peak in failure to meet state standards in the transition years of 6th and 9th grade. Reading proficiency declines as students move through elementary school but then improves slowly but steadily through the

middle grades until entry into high school, where reading is no longer tested. English-Language Arts scores tend to be fairly good compared with other subject areas; however that trend is broken in 9th grade, which is when Literature and Composition EOCT is measured. The results for Mathematics are similar to the English-Language Arts results in that generally they climb through elementary school and peak in both 6th and 9th grade, while scores improve in middle school and high school respectively. Math results do break from the general trend by showing greater proficiency in 3rd and 5th grade.

Social Studies and Science testing begins in 3rd grade and generally follows the same trend noticed in the other subject areas. In Social Studies, proficiency is comparably strong, with sharp peaks again in 6th, 9th, and 10th grades as well. It should be noted that the subject matter tested in high school EOCTs are more subject-specific than the general subject areas of the CRCT.

Science scores also follow the general trend, but once again they show an overwhelming difference in proficiency. For the aggregate, Science results at every grade level show less than 60% of students meeting or exceeding state standards. In most cases less than 50% of students are meeting state standards, including less than 25% of 9th graders meeting state standards for Science testing.

A summary review of the data shows that, overall, there is a great need to engage young people early in their education and to find ways to keep them involved as they progress into middle school and high school. Since course material builds upon the previous year's material from one year to the next, it is critical that academic intervention programs be implemented that can successfully engage under-performing students and keep them from falling further behind.

Finally, there is a great need to educate students much more proficiently in mathematics and the sciences; to ensure that teenage male students remain in school and graduate; to ensure that all graduating students are prepared to attend college or trade schools; and to make use of programs that make college more affordable.

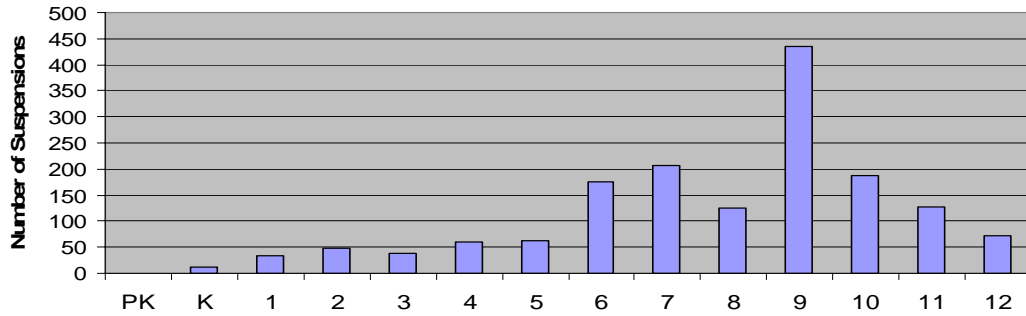
School Behavior

Academic performance and educational supports are incredibly important, but school behavior also greatly affects student achievement. *Figure F-15* shows the number of out of school suspensions by grade level for the schools that draw students from the Moses Jackson Family Advancement Center target service area.

The number of suspensions climbs slowly with each grade in elementary school. There is a significant rise in the number of suspensions in middle school, with an incredible spike in 9th grade, when the number of out of school suspensions reaches a sharp peak. While additional investigation is necessary to determine the factors driving the number of out of school suspensions, ultimately substantial interventions with the schools, the youths and parents will be necessary to address this serious issue.

Figure F-15

**Westside Out of School Suspensions by Grade Level
(2006-07)**



Source: SCCPSS Out of School Suspension Statistics, As of 5/25/2007

Table F-15 shows 2006-2007 data on the number of students suspended and the out-of-school suspension rates for schools serving youths from the westside targeted service area. Two westside elementary schools have a much higher rate of suspension compared to the average suspension rate across the district. At 11.4%, Bartow had nearly twice the rate of suspensions, and Garrison at 18.2% had nearly three times the district elementary rate of 6.6%. Garden City Elementary School is also noteworthy in having a uniquely low out-of-school suspension rate of less than 1%. Further research is recommended to discover the policies and practices at work in this school which resulted in the low out-of-school suspension rate.

Table F-15

Out of School Suspension Rates (2006-07)	Enrollment	# Suspended	% Suspended
<i>All SCCPSS Elementary Schools</i>	20,013	1,322	6.6%
Bartow Elementary	577	66	11.4%
Butler Elementary	948	63	6.6%
Garden City Elementary	653	5	0.8%
Garrison Elementary	523	95	18.2%
Port Wentworth Elementary	524	26	5.0%
Westside Elem. School Total & Average	3,225	255	7.9%
<i>All SCCPSS Middle Schools</i>	8,804	2,313	26.3%
Hubert Middle	523	266	50.9%
Mercer Middle	988	240	24.3%
Westside Middle School Total & Average	1,511	506	33.5%
<i>All SCCPSS High Schools</i>	9,913	2,462	24.8%
Beach High	1,311	388	29.6%
Groves High	1,789	432	24.1%
Westside High School Total & Average	3,100	820	26.5%
District All Grades Total	39,875	6,703	16.8%
Westside All Grades Total	7,836	1,581	20.2%

Source: SCCPSS Out of School Suspension Statistics, As of 5/25/2007

At the middle school level, out-of-school suspension rates spike considerably from elementary school, both within the westside schools and the district as a whole. Mercer’s rate was just under the district’s middle school average, however Hubert was strikingly higher. Hubert Middle School had 266 out of school suspensions in 2006-2007. With a student body of only 523 students in the course of the year, this is a rate of nearly 51%.

High schools in Savannah-Chatham County see the highest number of out of school suspensions, though the rate is lower than that of the middle schools. At 24.1%, Groves High School has a suspension rate just below the district high school average of 24.8%, while Beach High School has a rate about 5% higher than the average, at 29.6%. The westside high school average comes in just a little higher than the district high school average. Overall, the westside schools have a suspension rate that is 3.4% above the district average. The westside schools, which account for 19.7% of the district enrollment, accounted for 20.2% of all out of school suspensions in 2006-2007.

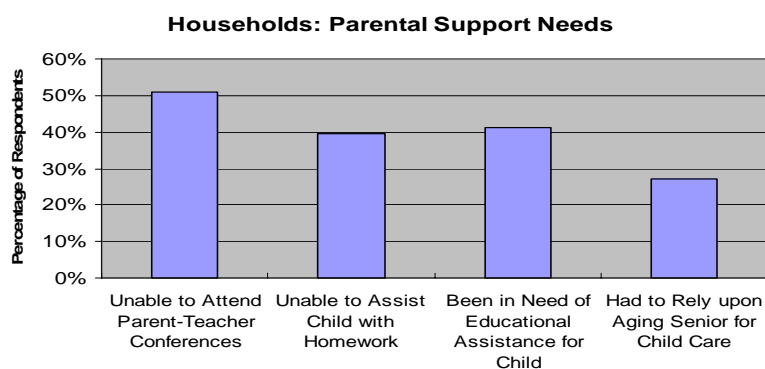
While the data reveals the number of students receiving out of school suspensions in 2006-2007, it does not include the number of times these students were suspended during the course of the year. This data would be needed to more fully understand the extent of the problem occurring in these schools.

Parental Involvement

A major influence on youth academic performance is the role and involvement of parents, to include: the importance of education and learning at home; involvement and contact with the school and teachers; and the ability of parents to assist children with understanding and correctly completing their homework assignments.

Figure F-16 reveals the areas in which household respondents identified having been unable to provide adequate support, or were in need of help, related to their child’s school performance. More than 50% of parents shared they were unable to attend parent-teacher conferences for one reason or another. Further, about 40% of households stated they were unable to assist their child with their school work as well as needed additional educational assistance for one or more of their children.

Figure F-16



n:126

Youth Focus Groups: Open Ended Questions

During the final portion of the Youth Focus Group sessions, two open-ended questions were asked of youth participants regarding outreach to the “hard-to-reach” youths and services that youths would like to see in the proposed Family Advancement Center. The collective responses from the five focus groups have been compiled and are presented below.

Open-ended Question #1: How do we reach the “hard-to-reach” young people and get them involved?

Youth Responses:

- Provide food, entertainment, door prizes, and money
- Offer educational assistance – uniforms, backpacks, school supplies, etc.
- Have a party for a cause that interests young people
- Have physical activities for youth
- Have fundraisers
- Put in a pool (for westside youths)
- Bribes – incentives (money, food)
- Offer more options (i.e. games)
- Bring in compatible staff (to work with youths)
- Sports, food, entertainment, celebrities
- Use other teens to reach out to their peers
- My Space & Face Book (internet sites)
- Talk to youths to get them involved

Open-ended Question #2: If a center was created to help families, what would you like to see for your parents, family members or other families in your neighborhood?

Youth Responses:

- College funds
- Gym
- Help with reading and education
- Place to pay bills, help with bills; place to pay bills online
- Help with basic needs: food, clothes
- Home buying help
- Help finding a home
- Give money
- Help with groceries
- Help getting jobs
- Help finding and affording housing
- Help to stop smoking
- Job training and job opportunities
- Financial counseling
- GED Training
- New homes and a cleaner community

G. ADULT EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Two variables that often have a direct relationship to one another and greatly impact the economic standing of families are employment and education. The following section examines adult employment and adult education data in the westside target service area.

Adult Employment

According to Census data, at 10.6% the unemployment rate for the westside is nearly twice that of the United States but only 2.4% higher than the city of Savannah. (*Table G-1*) Another striking difference in westside employment status appears in labor force participation. Labor force participation is an important indicator of economic well-being, because it portrays the percent of the population that is actively employed or actively seeking employment. Survey respondents engaged in the labor force is 61.3% compared to the 50.1% in the entire westside population as reported in the 2000 Census data. The westside labor force participation is significantly less than the city labor force participation, which in turn is less than the U.S. labor force participation of 64%.

Table G-1

Census: Employment Status	Westside	Savannah	U.S.
Population Age 16+	7,552	101,525	217,168,077
In Labor Force	50.1%	60.5%	63.9%
Civilian Unemployment	10.6%	8.2%	5.8%
Male Unemployment	10.6%	8.5%	5.7%
Female Unemployment	10.5%	8.0%	5.8%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

This study does not include an analysis of the reasons for low labor force participation, however possible reasons could include: a high number of retirement age residents or young adults in school full-time; a high number of institutionalized or incarcerated individuals; or individuals experiencing a number of other employment barriers. While westside unemployment rate is high in conjunction with low labor force participation, further research and community information would be needed to better determine the factors contributing to these employment figures.

Table G-2 shows the employment status of household survey respondents at the time they completed the survey. Some 40% of 286 respondents reported being employed full time; nearly one-third were retired; and just fewer than 11% were employed part-time. Only 4.2% of survey respondents listed their current status as unemployed and seeking work, which is significantly lower than the westside and citywide rate.

Table G-2

Respondents Current Employment Status	Number	Percent
Employed full-time	115	40.2%
Retired	93	32.5%
Employed part-time	31	10.8%
Unemployed and seeking work	12	4.2%
Self-employed	10	3.5%
Disabled or too ill	7	2.4%
Unemployed and not seeking work	7	2.4%
Working more than 1 job	7	2.4%
Homemaker	4	1.4%
Student	0	0.0%

n:286

To better determine the range of issues affecting the employment status of westside households, respondents were asked to identify their employment experiences over the past two years. The most cited experiences among 325 respondents and the rate of response is presented below. (Table G-3) The majority of respondents stayed employed continuously over the last two years. However, the next three cited experiences raise areas of concern; cited respectively by nearly 20% of respondents. 19.4% of respondents indicated that they have been out of work and looking for a job. 19.4% of respondents indicated that in the last two years they needed assistance in increasing job skills or skills in seeking employment. Additionally, 18.2% of respondents indicated they had a lack of job skills to keep them from getting a better paying job. Each of these three issues suggests the greatest reported need from respondents is an increase in job skills that will open up more options for employment. The remaining issues cited can be seen in the table below.

Table G-3

Households: Employment Experiences in the Last Two Years	Respondents	Percentage
Stayed employed continuously for the last two years	131	40.3%
Been out of work and looking for a job	63	19.4%
Needed assistance increasing job skills or job seeking skills	63	19.4%
Had a lack of job skills or education to keep you from getting a better paying job	59	18.2%
Missed out on work or a job interview because you did not have transportation	28	8.6%
Needed assistance with increasing reading or writing skills	26	8.0%
Had a lack of reliable child care to keep you from getting or keeping a job	25	7.7%
Unable to get or keep a job because transportation was not available during that work shift	21	6.5%
Missed out on a job because bus routes did not run near the job site needed	21	6.5%
Had difficulty finding a job because of past incarceration	13	4.0%
Needed assistance with learning to speak English	9	2.8%

n:325

Adult Education

Educational attainment is often indicative of employment status, household income, and other widely used measures of well-being. The westside needs assessment process sought to gain insight from households, community leaders, and service providers concerning the issues surrounding adult education needs and services in the target service area.

Table G-4 below identifies adult educational attainment as of the 2000 Census for the westside and city as a whole. Adult educational attainment in the Moses Jackson Center target area lags behind that of the city as a whole. The westside has twice the rate of individuals with less than a 9th grade education. Roughly one in three westside residents did not graduate from high school, compared to one in four in the city population. The number of people in westside neighborhoods with no high school education is nearly twice the city rate.

Table G-4

Census: Educational Attainment	Westside		Savannah city	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population Age 25+	6,285	-	80,319	-
Less than 9th grade	830	13.2%	5,724	7.1%
9th to 12th Grade, no diploma	1,478	23.5%	13,451	16.7%
High School Graduate/GED	2,006	31.9%	22,777	28.4%
Some College, no degree	1,099	17.5%	18,381	22.9%
College Degree	872	13.9%	19,986	24.9%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

A difference also emerges between westside and city data when looking at the number of adults who have graduated from high school and those with a college degree. The data shows that the westside has a higher rate of adults with a high school diploma or GED as their highest level of education. Conversely, the city has a much greater percentage of adults with a college degree. This data is also consistent with the educational attainment of household respondents.

More than one-third of residents in the westside neighborhoods do not have a diploma or GED, compared with just less than one-fourth of residents city wide. When household respondents were asked whether any adult household members did not have a high school diploma or GED, nearly one in three households indicated there was at least one adult in their household that did not have a high school diploma or GED. (*Table G-5*)

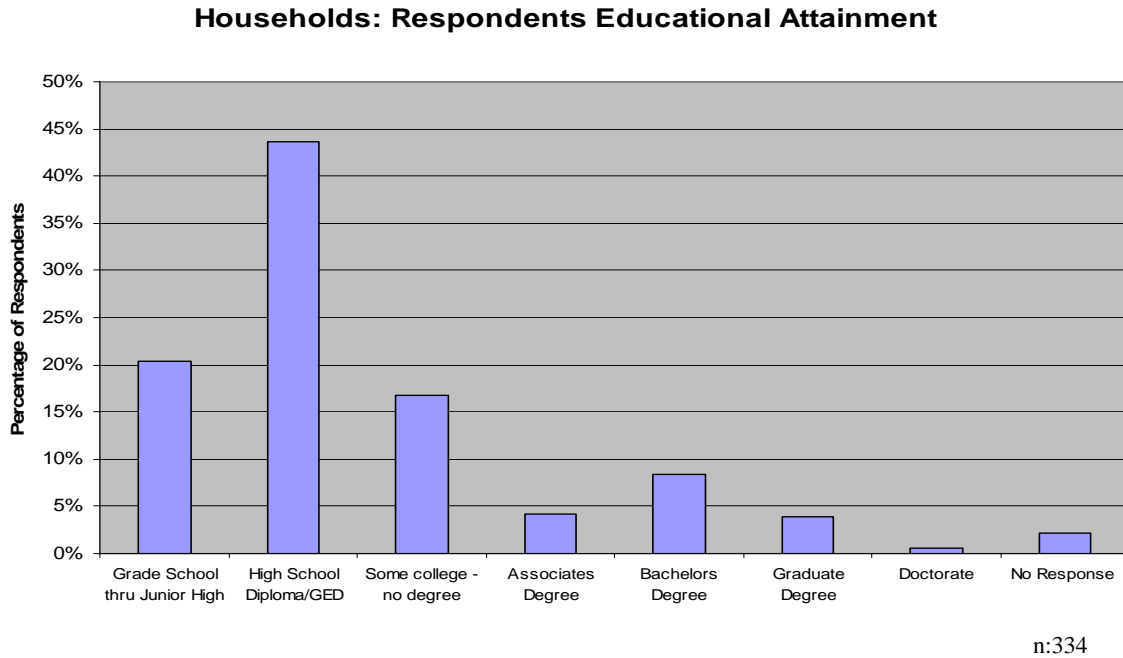
Table G-5

Households with Adult Members who did not obtain a Diploma/GED		
	Number	Percentage
Yes	91	30.4%
No	208	69.6%

n:299

Figure G-1 shows the highest level of educational attainment among household respondents. The largest percentage attained a high school diploma or GED, at nearly 45%. Just over 20% of respondents indicated they have less than a completed high school education. Approximately 16% of respondents indicated having a college degree, whether an associates or higher.

Figure G-1

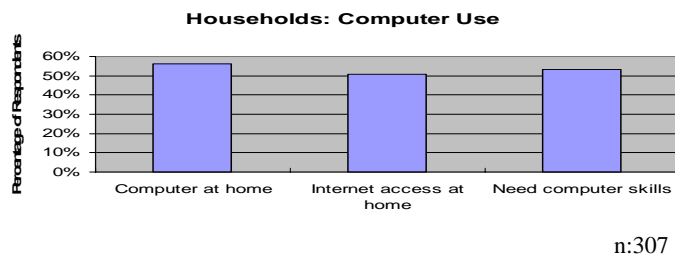


While westside numbers are better at the high school graduate level than the city overall, there still exists a large education gap at the college level. As noted in the earlier review of school performance data, it is clear that post-secondary education is a gap that is not being bridged sufficiently to reduce the disparity between westside and citywide educational attainment.

Computer Access and Knowledge

Another level of education in the household survey was the extent to which westside households had access to and could operate computers. Household respondents were asked about home access to a computer and the internet, as well as their need for increased computer skills. As Figure G-2 shows, among 307 respondents more than 50% indicated that their household had a computer and internet access in the home. However, a similar percentage reported needing computer skills.

Figure G-2



Non-Participation in Available Programs

A number of GED and job training programs are available in Chatham County, however service providers experience challenges in getting enough participation. The household survey sought to elicit the opinions of respondents about possible reasons why they or others they know do not take part in existing GED or job training programs.

Nearly 150 respondents indicated the primary reason for non-participation is a lack of knowledge about available programs. Additionally, more than 100 respondents cited a lack of transportation to available programs. (Table G-6) Other reasons for non-participation in training programs which should be noted by service providers include the hours of program operation, program costs, and child care needs.

Table G-6

Households: Most cited reasons for non-participation in GED or Job Training programs	Respondents
1. Don't know about available programs	149
2. Don't have transportation	112
3. Have to be at work	91
4. Family/life issues in the way	89
5. No one to watch their/my children	82
6. Cost too much money	74
7. Information is too difficult	40
8. Don't meet the requirements	39
9. Programs have waiting list	26
10. Other	16

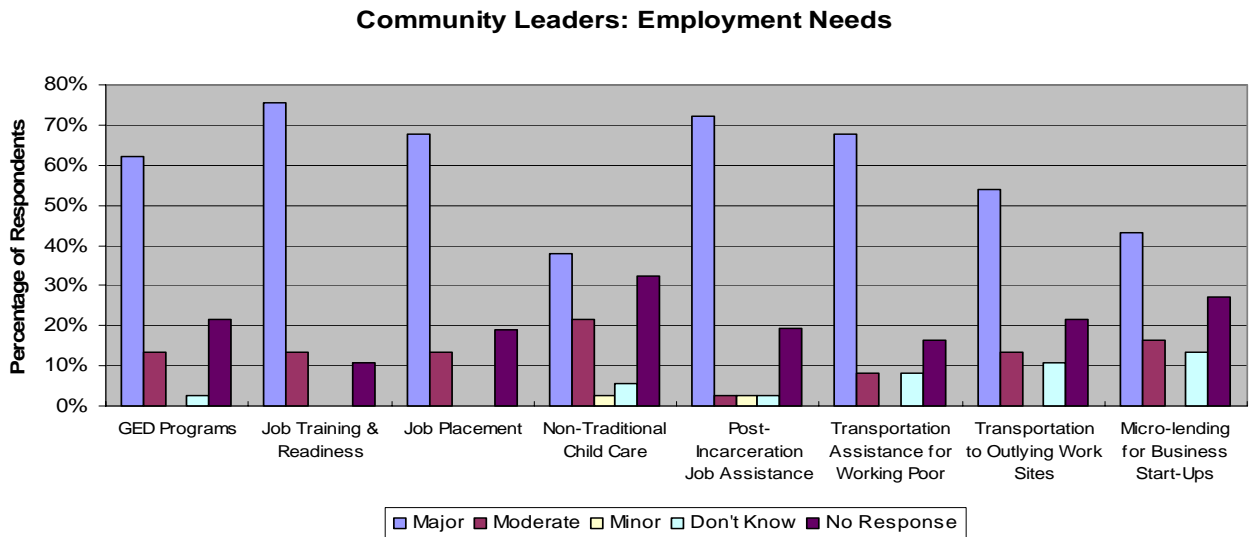
n:334

Community Leader and Service Provider Feedback

This section presents the perceptions of community leaders and service providers as they relate to westside employment needs and the ability of local services to meet those needs. Figures G-3 and G-4 show the employment needs identified by community leaders and service providers, respectively, which are interestingly quite similar.

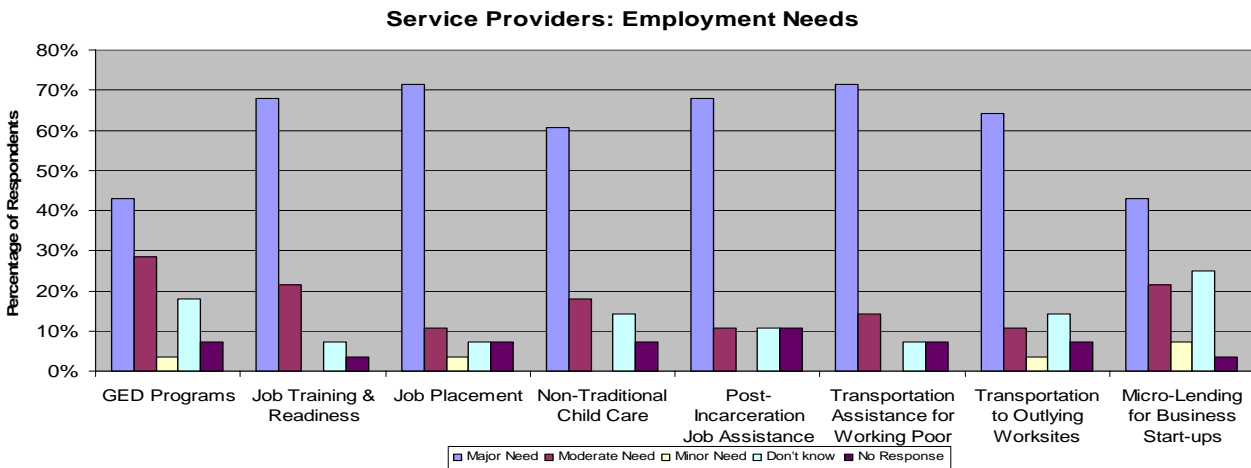
The top four needs are the same among each group, though they appear in a different order. Among community leaders, the top four employment needs include job training & readiness, post-incarceration job assistance, job placement, and transportation assistance for the working poor. Service providers ordered them job placement, transportation, job training and readiness, and post-incarceration job assistance. The top four issues were considered to be “Major” needs by close to or more than 70% of respondents of both groups.

Figure G-3



n:37

Figure G-4



n:28

The only significant difference in perceived major needs fell in the areas of GED programs and non-traditional child care. More than 60% of community leaders listed GED programs as a major need compared to only 43% of service providers. For non-traditional child care only 38% of community leaders listed it as a major need, compared to 61% of service providers.

Figure G-5 and G-6 show community leader and service provider feedback regarding the ability of local services to meet employment needs. As might be expected, there is a greater degree of difference in the perceptions of the two groups surveyed. Only one service, GED Programs, registered a slight number of “good” ratings among any of the community leaders. Every other service was rated predominantly as “poor” for their ability to meet needs, many at a rate of more than 37% of respondents.

Figure G-5

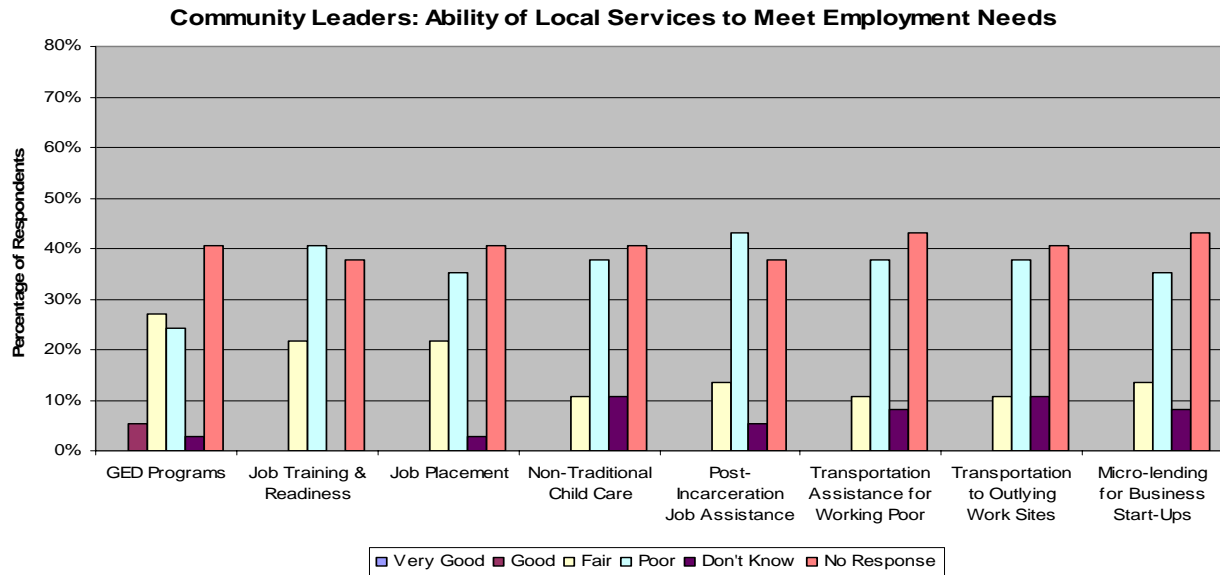
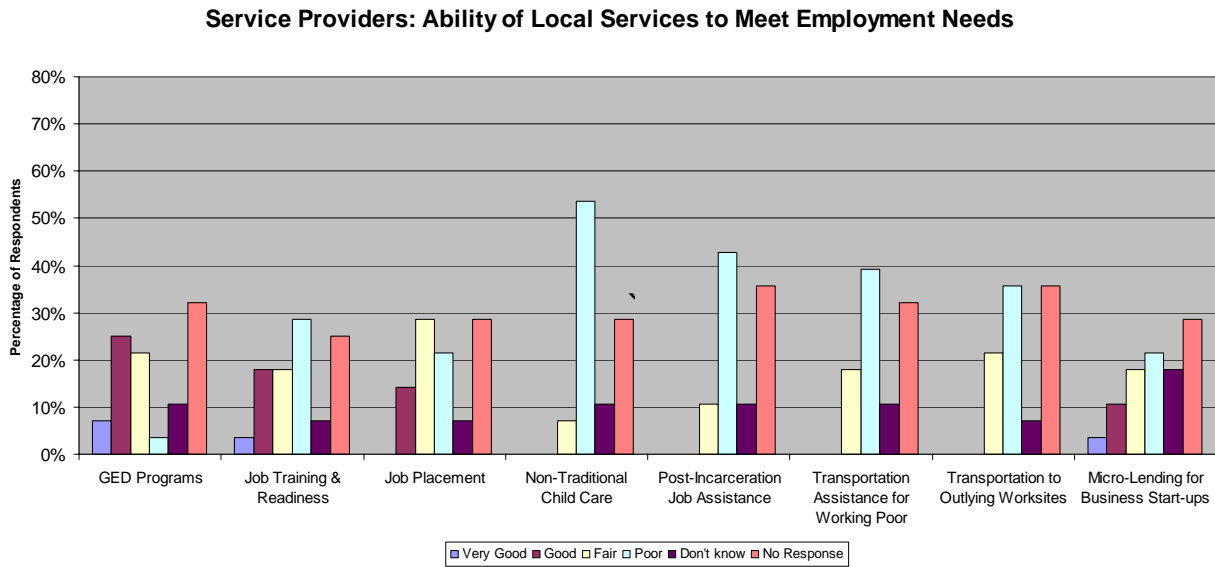


Figure G-6



The service providers were much more varied in their responses. The services that community leaders rated the poorest were most likely to be rated as “fair” by the service providers, including non-traditional child care, post-incarceration job assistance, transportation assistance for the working poor, and transportation for outlying worksites. The services with the highest rating from the service providers included job training & readiness and GED programs, similar to the community leaders. These two programs were the only ones that any service provider rated the ability of local services to meet the need as “very good.”

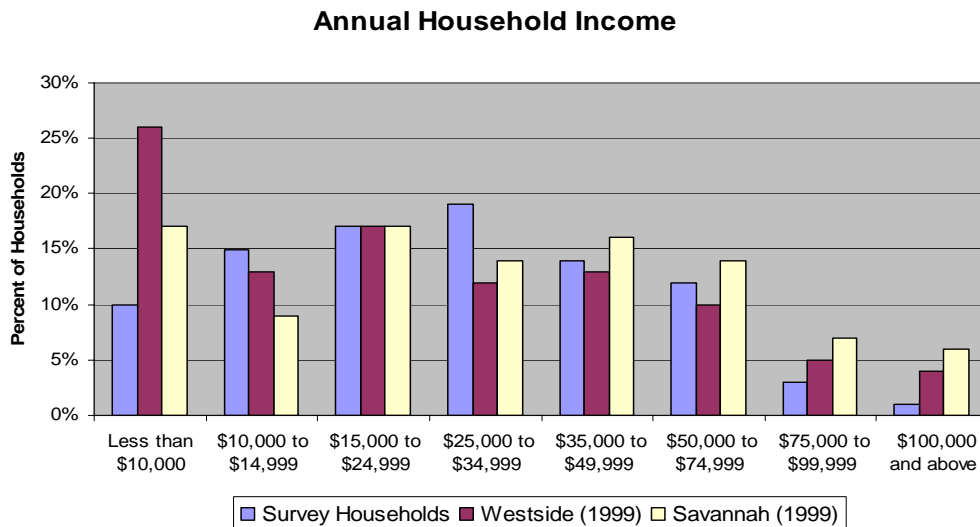
H. INCOME AND FINANCIAL NEEDS

Income and Poverty

The Moses Jackson Family Advancement Center target service area covers a portion of Savannah that is well below average in terms of personal income and wealth. As the following data will reflect, not only do many financial needs exist but also a clearly communicated level of desire among household respondents to work at improving financial understanding and well-being. The following figures and tables use data from the westside needs assessment survey process as well as U.S. Census data to highlight financial standing, needs, and household/community desires.

Figure H-1 shows household incomes as reported by household survey respondents, and 2000 Census data for the westside, and city of Savannah as a whole. As the figure illustrates, westside neighborhoods have a much greater percentage of low income households, with one in four households earning less than \$10,000 annually in 1999. Neither the survey respondents group nor city wide total comes close to that percentage. Through the remaining income categories the household survey population generally resembles the neighborhood income totals. It is interesting to note that an equal percentage of households in the survey group, westside, and city populations making between \$15,000 and \$24,999 annually. This category also serves somewhat as a “dividing line.” Below this point, westside neighborhoods have a higher percentage of households at each income level than the city as a whole. However, for each income category above \$24,999, westside neighborhoods have fewer households at each income level than the city as a whole.

Figure H-1



n: 334 (survey households)

Median household income is a standard income measure which defines the midpoint at which half of all households earn either above or below this point. According to U.S. Census data the median household income in 2000 for westside neighborhoods was \$21,233. This figure is about \$8,000 less than the city's median household income of \$29,108. (Table H-1) The income disparity is even more apparent in the percentage of individuals living below the poverty line. The Census Bureau defines a family of four with an annual income of less than \$21,200 to be in poverty. More than one in four (27.4%) individuals in the Moses Jackson service area were determined to be in poverty in 2000, compared with one in five in the city of Savannah (21.8%), and just over 1 in 10 in Georgia (13%) and the U.S. (12.4%).

Table H-1

Census: Household Income & Poverty	Westside		Savannah	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Median household income	\$21,233	-	\$29,108	-
Individuals below Poverty	2,768	27.4%	27,490	21.8%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Median household incomes also vary greatly by neighborhood and race as well. As Table H-2 illustrates, median household income was lower in the westside neighborhoods for both African-American households and White households. Hispanic households in the westside neighborhoods actually had a higher median household income compared with city data. In both westside and citywide data, African-American households had a much lower median household income. African-American median household income is about \$8,500 less annually compared to white households in the westside, and more than \$14,000 less than White households in the city of Savannah. Hispanic median household income was about \$16,500 greater than African-American household income in the westside, with slightly less of a difference in the city data.

Table H-2

Census: Household Income by Race	Westside	Savannah
<i>Median household income</i>		
African-American	\$20,969	\$23,456
White	\$29,500	\$37,815
Hispanic	\$37,500	\$36,000

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Household Financial Challenges

To better assess the financial needs of westside families, the needs assessment survey sought to identify financial challenges experienced by individual households in the last year. Table H-3 summarizes the experiences reported by household respondents. Of the 334 households surveyed, 284 or 85% were willing to share their financial challenges. Of these respondents, the financial challenge identified most among households was missing a utility payment because they could not afford to pay. One in three households identified this as a financial challenge in the past year.

The table also draws attention to some of the financial practices among a portion of westside households which must be addressed to change the financial direction of these families. One in

four households reported using fee-based tax preparation services rather than free tax preparation services which are available. Other practices include obtaining “pay-day” and “car-title” loans as well as using fee-based bill paying services. Presumably, however the most alarming statistic in *Table H-3* is that 22.5% or almost one-quarter of the households experienced difficulty paying their rent or mortgage in the last twelve months.

Table H-3

Households: Financial Challenges in Last Year	Respondents	Percentage
Missed a utility payment you couldn't afford to pay	103	36.3%
Were denied credit in the past year	94	33.1%
Used fee-based tax prep services rather than free service	68	23.9%
Had difficulty affording apartment/house payment	64	22.5%
Have not had enough money for family food or clothing	55	19.4%
Used a "pay day"/"car title" loan to pay for basic living expenses	42	14.8%
Paid bills through fee-based bill pay service	40	14.1%

n: 284

Household Interest in Financial Education

Household respondents showed great interest in increasing their financial knowledge and skills. When household respondents were asked to identify the financial topics for which they would like to receive more information and skill-building assistance, the most desired financial education assistance at practically 60% of respondents was learning to manage money better. (*Table H-4*) This topic was followed very closely by: learning to build savings and family assets; building a plan to get out of debt; credit-repair; and learning about wills. Every financial topic received interest among over 40% of respondents, suggesting that all of these topics should be included in the Financial Education component of the Family Advancement Center program model.

Table H-4

Households: Interest in Financial Education	Respondents	Percentage
Learning to manage my money better	169	59.5%
Building savings and family assets	166	58.5%
Building a plan to get out of debt	158	55.6%
Importance of wills at any income	149	52.5%
Credit repair: how to rebuild credit	149	52.5%
How to plan/prepare for retirement	133	46.8%
Filing taxes and getting tax breaks	128	45.1%
Understanding and avoiding credit traps	125	44.0%
Types of insurance and getting insured	123	43.3%

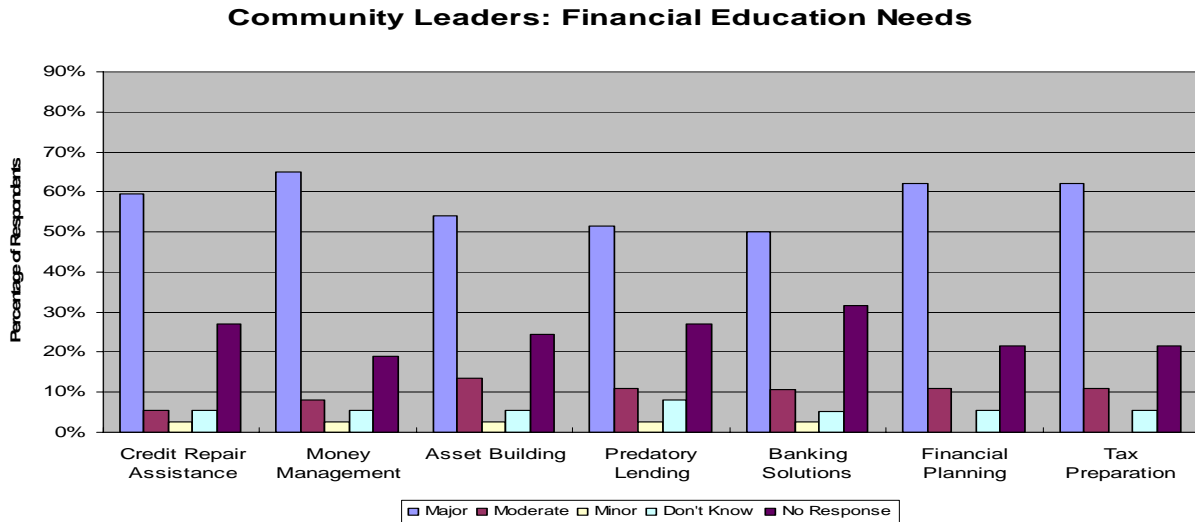
n: 284

Community Leader and Service Provider Feedback

In the area of financial education, community leaders identified every topic as a major need. Among these, money management was the major need identified most frequently to help westside residents, at a rate of 65%. (*Figure H-2*) This assessment directly correlates with the

feedback of westside household respondents. Financial planning and tax preparation also surpassed the 60% mark of respondents identifying these topics as major needs.

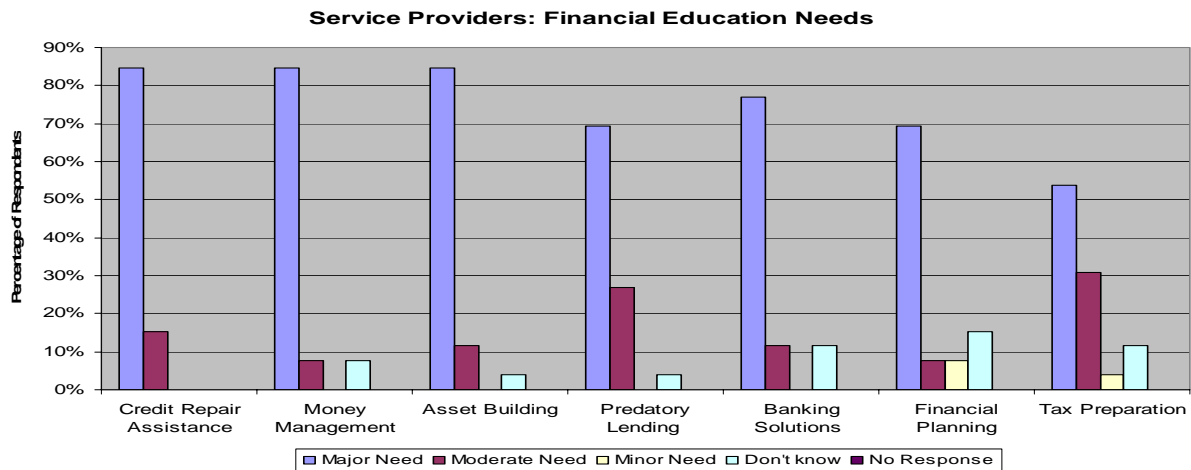
Figure H-2



n: 37

Like community leaders, service providers identified every financial education topic as a major need, however at much higher majorities. Among service providers, the most pressing financial education issues were: credit repair assistance, money management, and asset-building; all of which were identified as a major need by 84.6% of service provider respondents. (Figure H-3) Again, every category eclipsed the 50% mark among respondents, and four out of seven surpassed 70%. The issue of asset building offered the most contrasting point of view of the two groups, as the service providers believed it to be a major need by 30.5% greater intensity than the community leaders.

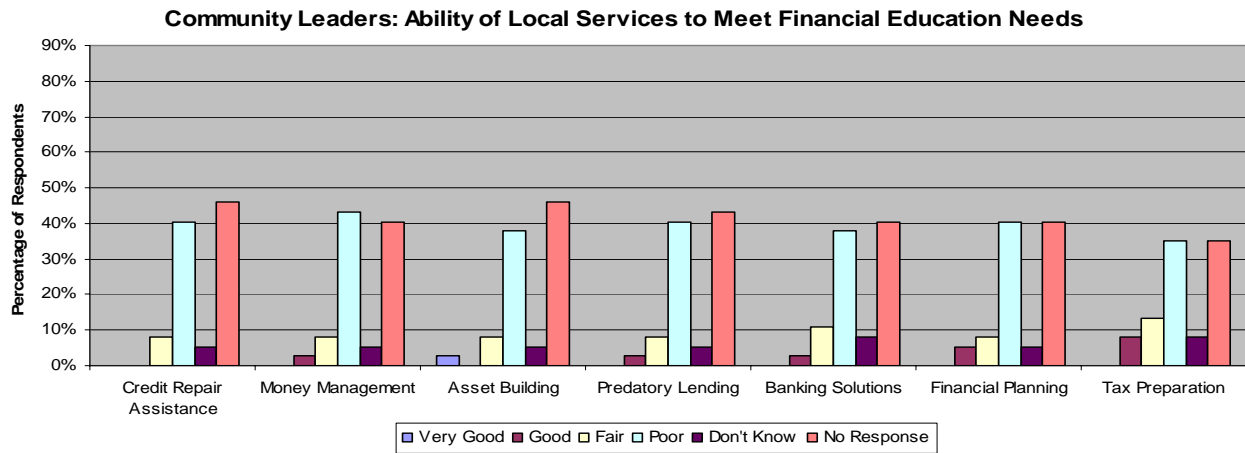
Figure H-3



n: 26

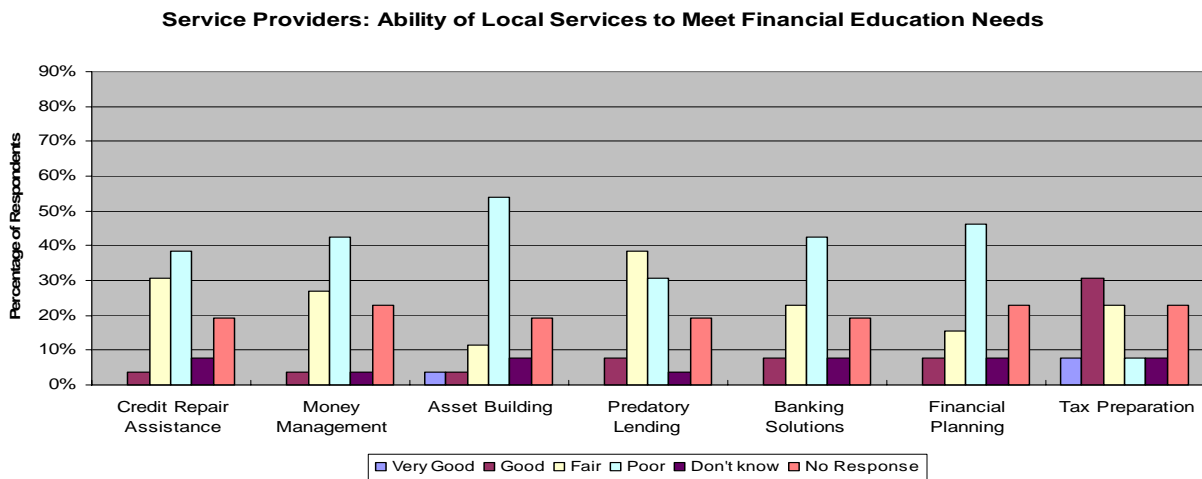
Figure H-4 and H-5 reflect community leaders and service provider feedback regarding the ability of local services to meet the financial education needs of residents. As in other service areas reviewed throughout this report, community leaders did not feel local services are able to meet the financial education needs of westside neighborhood residents. Credit repair assistance, money management, predatory lending, and financial planning all exceeded the 40% “poor” rating level. Only tax preparation services indicated a slightly positive perception, with 8.1% identifying the ability of local services to meet needs as “good.”

Figure H-4



Again, service providers were much less critical of the current ability of local services to meet given needs. (Figure H-5) Ironically, the one category identified by service providers to be the least successful at meeting needs, asset-building, happened to be the one category to have received positive ratings among some community leaders. As with community leaders, very good and good ratings were few, with tax preparation as the exception with nearly 40% of service providers rating current service levels as “very good” or “good.”

Figure H-5



III. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The cumulative review of household, neighborhood and U.S. Census data, along with the collective feedback of hundreds of adult household members, community leaders, service providers and youths, strongly supports the need for a neighborhood based, family-centered, multi-service program to assist families in these neighborhoods with a range of issues.

What is most striking in the review of the data from each of the independent survey groups is the consistency among these groups in the identification of the major needs of westside neighborhoods. In multiple instances throughout the report, it is noted that individual households, community leaders, youth focus groups, and even service providers quite often identified the same or similar major needs. The consistency of perceptions and prioritization of needs by these groups helps to paint a clearer picture of the current issues facing westside households.

While the previous sections of this report go into much greater detail regarding westside needs, the most pressing issues are summarized below.

Family Status and Poverty

Nearly one in three households in these neighborhoods is headed by a single female with no husband present, compared with one in five for the city population. The number of female-headed households becomes especially significant when young children are present in the family. In the city of Savannah, one half of all children are in single-parent families. In westside neighborhoods, two of every three children are in single-parent homes, with the overwhelming majority in single female-headed families. The significance of these numbers is tied directly to family economic standing and poverty status. Of children in single female-headed families, more than half (54.1) are living below the poverty line. The city fares little better with almost half (46.8%) of children in single female families living in poverty. There should be great concern for single mother's with young children living in the westside.

Housing

Housing data reveals that housing in the westside is remarkably similar to the entire city. Housing vacancy rates and financial constraints that renters and owners face are nearly the same. A substantial difference is the dominant homeowner age group for westside neighborhoods. At 65 to 74 years of age, the dominant homeowner age group in the westside is 20 years older than the dominant homeowner age group in the city, of 45 to 54 years of age. Housing assistance and emergency housing were identified as a major need among all four survey groups, including youths who identified help finding and affording homes as assistance they would like for their families. With homeownership the single most significant asset of U.S. households, significant attention is needed to increase homeownership among young and middle-age adults in westside neighborhoods, if affordable.

Crime and Safety

Westside survey groups all identified drug dealing, illegal drug use and youth crime as the most serious crime and safety issues in the community. Community leaders and household survey respondents identified these exact top three crime issues, and in the same order. Among youth focus groups, youth collectively perceived violent crime as the most critical issue, followed by drug use and drug dealing. When comparing SCMPD crime data jurisdiction-wide, it is also worth noting while the five neighborhood westside service area represents just fewer than 5% of the total population for SCMPD's jurisdiction, it contributes to jurisdiction crime totals at a disproportionate rate in the areas of aggravated assault and burglary. Area aggravated assaults accounted for 9.1% of all assaults reported to SCMPD, while area burglaries accounted for 5.4% of all burglaries reported to SCMPD.

Social Services

A total of 137 or 41% of households cited experiencing one or more social service needs identified in the survey questionnaire over the last twelve months. The most cited social services issue experienced in the last year among 40% of these households was the need for parenting skills help. This issue was closely followed by anxiety and depression, emergency housing needs, alcohol/drug problems, and not having enough food. Interestingly, both community leaders and service providers identified the need for parenting skills as the predominant issue. Further, with the exception of anxiety and depression, all of the household top five issues were among the top issues identified by community leaders and service providers. For each of these top five social service issues, nearly one in every three households reported experiencing the issue during the last twelve months. More alarming, however is that while household respondents cited experiencing these issues in the last year, far fewer (14.8%) accessed assistance from social services agencies in the same time period.

Health Care Services

The Westside Needs Assessment focused on health care "services" needs not the specific health or medical conditions of individuals. The most interesting data from the assessment was the high percentage of households (72.3%) reporting health insurance coverage. One area of concern is the 17.8% of household respondents who reported using hospital emergency rooms and urgent care clinics as their primary source for regular health care attention.

A total of 51 households reported neglecting dental and eye care. When asked to indicate the reasons for not seeking health care attention, respondents most cited the cost of the care, along with the type of care not being covered by insurance. This could be linked to private health care insurance plans which often do not include eye and dental care coverage.

Finally, one in three households identified obesity as an issue in their household, while two in three households expressed interest in learning more about good nutrition and healthy weight management. Any new program will need to consider the integration of on-site dental, eye and health care checks as well as nutritional education and exercise/weight management for participants.

Senior and Disabled Services

The most identified needs among 248 respondents were homemaker services, home health care, transportation, and recreational activities. Homemaker services include basic home cleaning, shopping and other home-related chores and errands. Among household and senior respondents, homemaker services were identified as the greatest need of seniors. The clear theme from seniors is the need for additional support for aging residents which allows them to enjoy a healthy and productive life while remaining in their own homes.

Youth Development Needs

While traditional views might suggest youths most want places to socialize or recreational activities, the two categories actually fell below employment and financial interests. The greatest need identified by youths was jobs for young people, at over 90% of participants. This was followed closely by youth job training programs and learning about money and business, among over 75% of youths. When asked to collectively discuss and prioritize the top three youth needs, places to socialize and recreational activities gained added importance. Again, adult household respondents were in tune with the needs of youths, as they also identified places to socialize and job training and employment as top needs, followed by recreation and life skills. In seeking to address these needs, new activities geared to youths should explore the integration of “places to socialize” under the same roof with opportunities for youth to gain job, financial and business skills.

In the area of school performance, data reveal a great need for aggressive intervention into the academic performance of westside youths. While all five elementary and two middle schools serving the westside area met Adequate Yearly Progress in 2006-2007, grave issues exist in school academic performance when looking at grade level achievement. From elementary to high school, the majority of students are not performing at grade level across a number of academic performance indicators. Positive statistics do exist, such as Mercer Middle School matching or outperforming the district and state in the 8th grade writing achievement test, not only in 2006-2007 but also in the previous two years. However, the academic challenges far outweigh these positives. Hubert Middle School 8th graders fell below district and state averages all three years in writing achievement and the school’s retention rate was more than three times the state average. Further, neither Groves nor Beach high schools met Adequate Yearly Progress in 2006-2007; and both had graduation rates of 58% and 49% respectively.

There is also significant reason for concern regarding school behavior and related sanctioning. Westside schools have a suspension rate that is 3.4% above the district average. The number of out-of-school suspensions climbs slowly with each grade in elementary school and significantly rise in middle school, with an incredible spike in 9th grade. Bartow had nearly twice the rate and Garrison had nearly three times the district elementary suspension rate. Hubert Middle School had 266 students who received out of school suspensions in 2006-2007, with a student body of approximately 523 students. Grove and Beach high schools are averaging out of school suspensions at a rate of one in every four students.

Overall, there is a great need to engage young people early in their education and to find ways to keep them in school as they progress through middle and high school. It also is critical that academic intervention programs be implemented that can successfully engage under-performing students and keep them from falling further behind. Finally, parent involvement in school performance is also of great concern. Among 126 parents, more than 50% of household respondents shared they were unable to attend parent-teacher conferences and about 40% stated they were unable to assist their child with homework and need additional assistance.

Adult Employment and Education

At 10.6% the unemployment rate for the westside is nearly twice that of the United States and 2.4% higher than the city of Savannah. Most household respondents reported they stayed employed continuously over the last two years. However, nearly 20% of respondents, respectively, indicated that they have been out of work and looking for a job; they needed assistance in increasing job skills or seeking employment; or they had a lack of job skills to keep them from getting a better paying job. These issues suggest the greatest reported need is an increase in job skills that will open up more opportunities for employment.

Adult educational attainment also lags behind that of the city as a whole. The westside has twice the rate of individuals with less than a 9th grade education. Roughly one in three westside residents did not graduate from high school, compared to one in four in the city population. Further, nearly one in three household survey respondents indicated there was at least one adult in their household that did not have a high school diploma or GED.

Income and Financial Needs

The targeted service area is well below average in terms of personal income and wealth. Westside neighborhoods have a much greater percentage of low income households, with one in four households earning less than \$10,000 annually in 1999. According to U.S. Census data the median household income in 2000 for westside neighborhoods was \$21,233. This figure is about \$8,000 less than the city's median household income of \$29,108. Median household incomes also vary greatly by neighborhood and race, with lower median incomes in westside neighborhoods for both African-American and White households. African-American median household income is about \$8,500 less annually compared to white households in the westside, and more than \$14,000 less than White households in the city of Savannah.

Of the 334 households surveyed, 284 or 85% were willing to share their financial challenges. The financial challenge identified most among households was missing a utility payment because they could not afford to pay. One in three households identified this as a financial challenge. Almost one-quarter of the households experienced difficulty paying their rent or mortgage in the last twelve months, and one-quarter reported using fee-based tax preparation services rather than free tax preparation services. Other practices include obtaining "pay-day" and "car-title" loans as well as using fee-based bill paying services. Most notable was the low number of households filing for the Earned Income Tax Credit, with only 8% of households indicating having applied for the credit in the past 12 months.

While many financial needs exist for this population, there has also been a clearly communicated desire among household respondents to work at improving financial understanding and well-being. Household respondents expressed great interest in increasing their financial knowledge and skills, with nearly 60% of respondents wanting to learn to manage money better. This topic was followed very closely by learning to build savings and family assets; building a plan to get out of debt; and credit-repair.

Conclusion

Issues of crime and safety, income and poverty, educational attainment, health services, employment, parenting and youth development all contribute to limited opportunities for growth for families in these neighborhoods. Collective action on part of neighborhood and community leaders, service providers, local government, public institutions and the private sector, in a multi-faceted program can help to stem the tide of poverty and create opportunities among westside families. A thoughtful, well-constructed program is needed which:

- responds to current needs;
- addresses core issues linked to generational poverty;
- engages service providers in a cohesive service delivery model;
- works with the entire family on a long-term basis to identify and remove barriers;
- connects families to services to build knowledge and skills;
- helps families identify and change negative practices and perspectives;
- includes “accountability mechanisms” for both parents and youths;
- creates opportunities for advancement among household members; and
- uniformly tracks performance goals, activities and milestones.

Most important, however is the integration of the guiding principal of “advancing” families, rather than simply “servicing” families. History has taught that the simple provision of services to families in need, with no exploration into the factors which contribute to the family condition or a plan of action to resolve those issues, often results in a “rotating door” cycle of families returning again and again with the same crises.

It is likely that a number of westside families will choose not to participate in a program that will undoubtedly require much of them in order to achieve the desired results. However, when 334 westside households were asked, “*If a neighborhood-based program was created that could help you and your family to address issues you shared today, would you and your family use the center?*” eighty-two percent (82%) of households responded affirmatively to this question. Across all survey groups, the interest in utilizing and supporting a westside child-focused and family-centered advancement model has been overwhelmingly positive.