



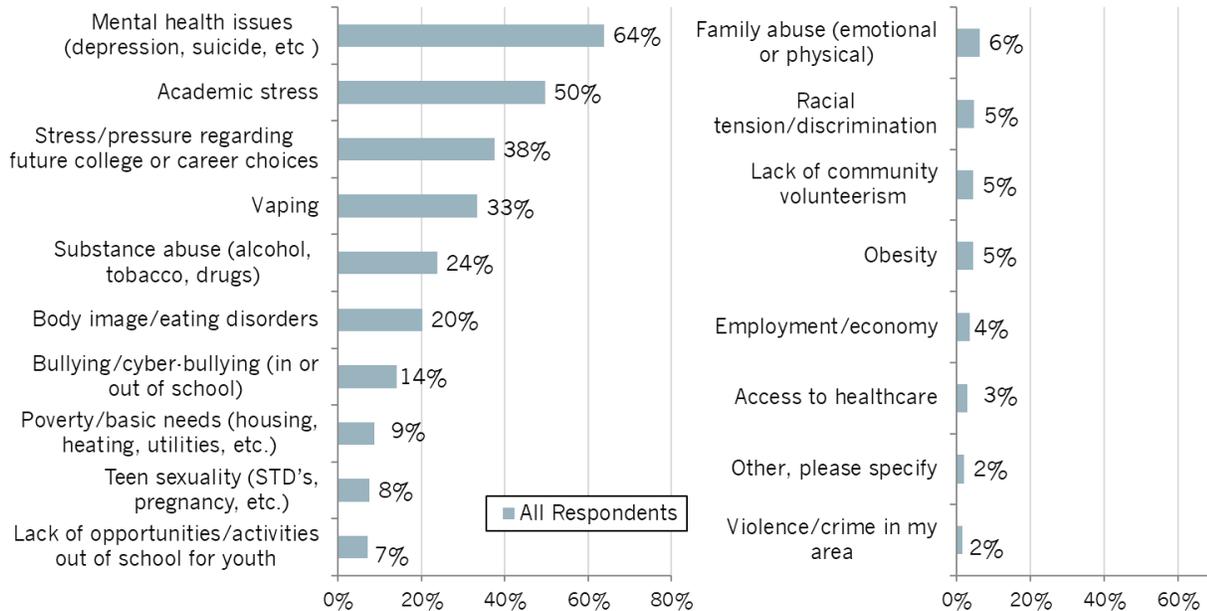
2020 Youth Needs Assessment

Every three years the Community Foundation surveys young people (9th through 12th grade of high school) in the five-county region of Northwest Lower Michigan (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau). The main purpose of the survey is to understand the evolving needs of regional youth so that the Community Foundation and Youth Advisory Council can set funding priorities. The following is a summary of the findings of the most recent Youth Needs Assessment.

Identified Needs

- Mental health issues, academic stress, and stress regarding future college and career are the top three issues facing youth in our region.
- Vaping and other substance abuse issues are also near the top.
- Antrim County youth are more likely to emphasize bullying; Leelanau respondents are more likely to rank vaping as a significant issue.

Top Issues Young People Face in Five-County Region

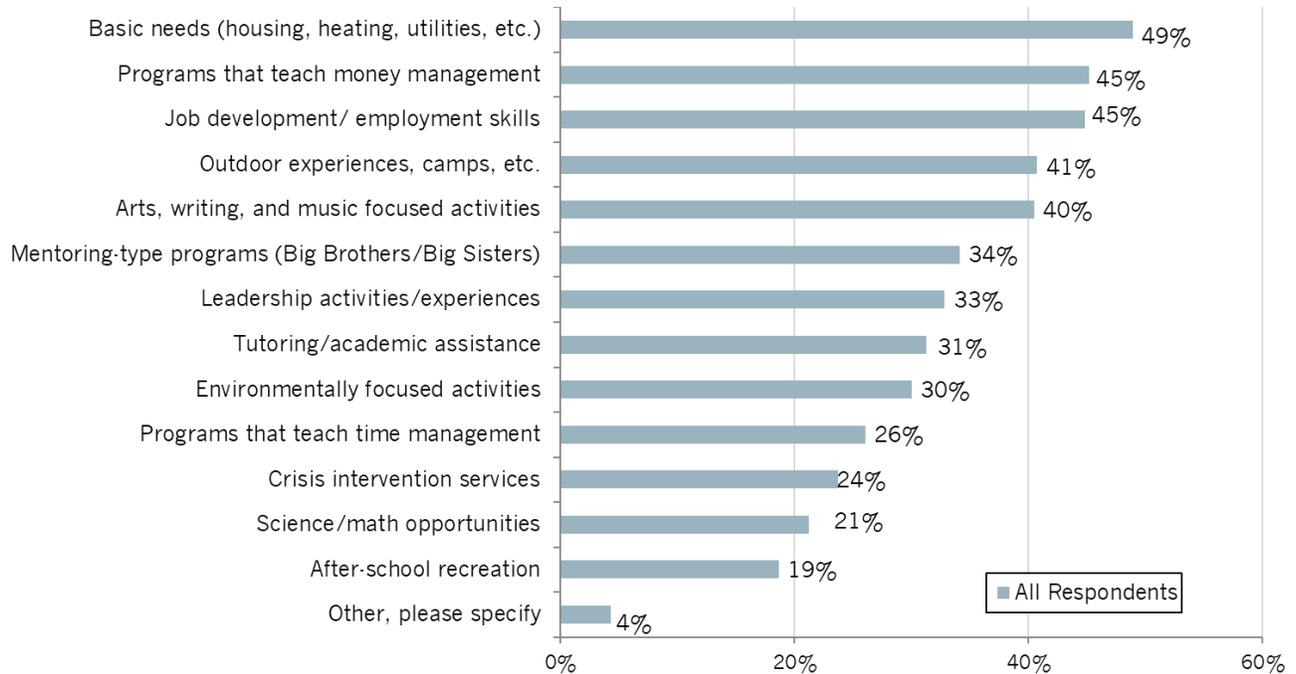


Question: Please select what you see as the top three most important issues you and your peers face as young people, specifically in our five-county area. Please select only three options.

Programs/ Activities to Support

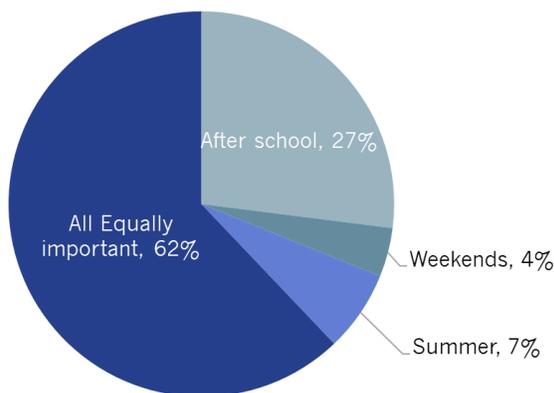
- Basic needs, money management and job development/ employment skills are the programs that area young people are most likely to prioritize.
- Leelanau County youth are more likely to select after-school recreation
- Antrim County youth are less likely to select job development/ employment skills and arts, writing, and music focused activities.

Programs Area Youth Would Choose to Fund



Question: The Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC) empowers youth to make annual grants to youth programs and activities in our five-county region. If you were given the opportunity to participate, which programs or activities would you fund? (Please select all that apply)

Best Time for Activities



Question: When is it most important that activities be available?

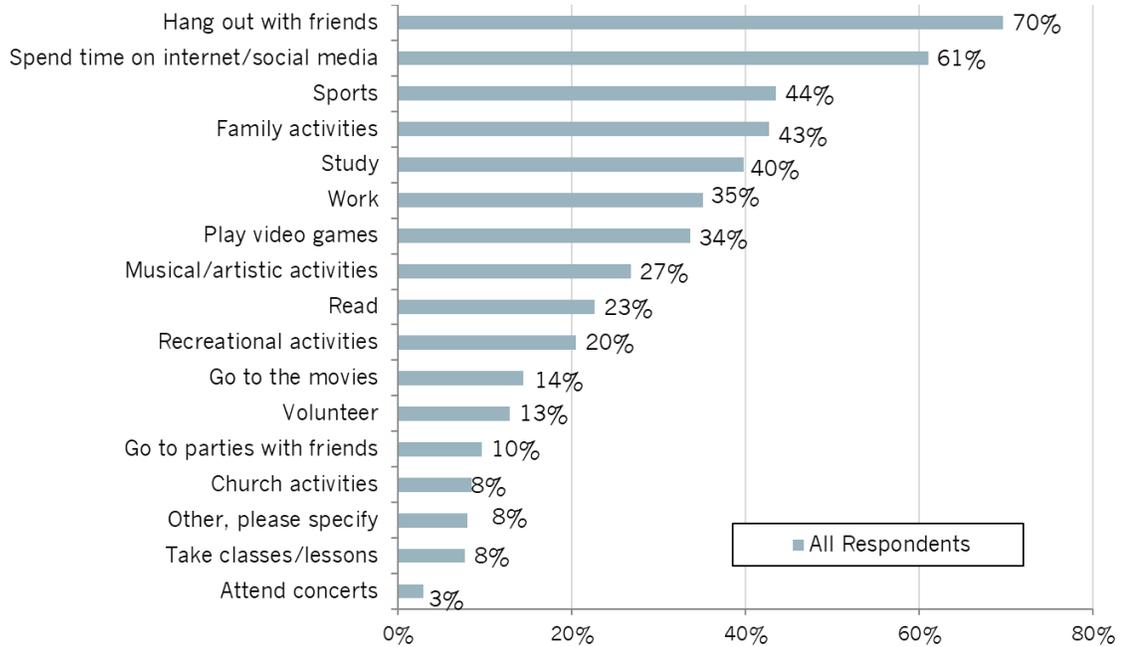
Student Activities

- The majority of students indicated that after school, weekends and summer are all equally important for activities to be available
- 27% indicated after school is most important

Student Activities Cont.

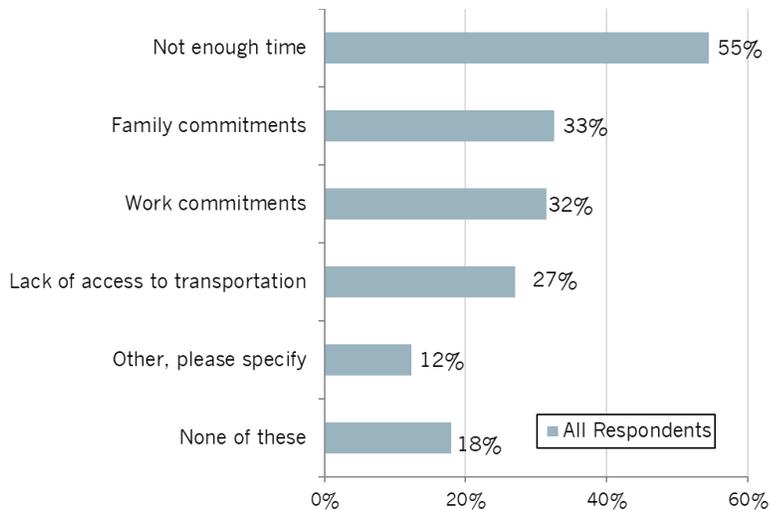
- Hanging out with friends and spending time on the internet/social media are the top two ways youth spend their free time.

Activities Youth Participate In During Free Time



Question: What do you currently do during your free time. Select your top five.

Circumstances That Prevent Participation
In Activities Offered to Youth



Question: Do any of the following prevent you from participating in after school or weekend activities? Please select all that apply.

- Many young people cite a lack of time as the number one reason they do not participate in activities offered to youth.

Survey Participant Summary

- Unique school-specific survey links were sent to principals and counselors of 29 area high schools in the 5-county region (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau)
- Survey respondents are more likely to be female-identified and to be from Grand Traverse, Leelanau or Antrim county; otherwise we believe the survey is broadly representative of the region.
- Survey results were collected both before and after the global COVID-19 pandemic; results did not differ substantially between these times.

828 responses from 14 high schools in five counties

Bellaire	Buckley	Central Lake	Ellsworth
Frankfort	Forest Area	Glen Lake	Kalkaska
The Leelanau School	Leland	Suttons Bay	Traverse City Central
Traverse City St. Francis	Traverse City West		

Grade

9th Grade: 26.8%	10th Grade: 22.2%
11th Grade: 24.0%	12th Grade: 27.1%

Gender

Female: 61.98%	Male: 26.8%
Transgender: 0.2%	Nonbinary: 1.5%

Ethnicity

Caucasian: 78.9%	Hispanic/Latinx: 5.6%	Native American: 4.2%	Asian: 2.9%
Black/African: 2.9%	Middle Eastern: 1.8%	Pacific Islander: 0.4%	

* Not listed in table for ethnicity; other (8.9%), Prefer to not answer (4.8%)