

# Monroe County Adult Survey Report

## Methodology and Purpose

The Monroe County Family Connection in conjunction with the Center for Community Studies, Inc. conducted a community assessment during 2008. The community assessment is part of developing a new Three-Year Operating Plan for submission to the Family Connection Partnership.

As part of the assessment process, a one-page paper opinion survey was distributed by the Family Connection organization to Monroe County residents through schools and in the community. A web survey was available as an alternative to the paper version. 262 respondents completed the survey. The following is a summary report of the survey results.

## Adult Community Issues

The survey asked respondents to rate a series of community issues for adults. They were asked to rank issues as, "Not Serious," "Somewhat Serious," "Serious," "Very Serious," or "No Opinion or Don't Know." The issues were ranked by the adults with "1" being the Most Serious Issue below.

1. Poverty, low income families
2. Jobs/job training for adults
3. Dysfunctional families (with problem relationships)
4. Affordable housing that meets standard codes
5. Access to health/medical service (doctor, hospital, health dept....)
6. Domestic violence
7. Crime, property related
8. Affordable quality child care
9. Access to mental health services (counseling, support groups, etc.)
10. Violent Crime (rape, murder, assault)
11. Easy access to law enforcement services

## Youth Community Issues

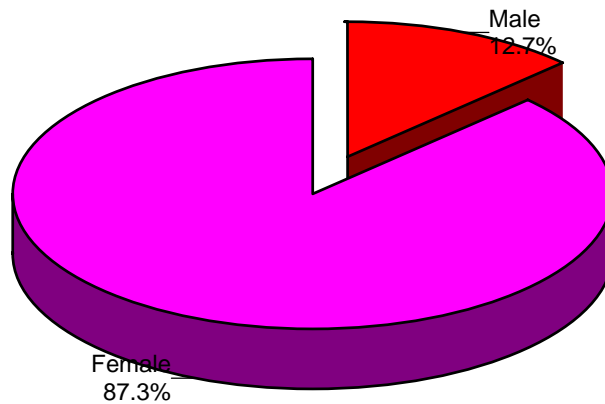
The survey asked respondents to rate a series of community issues for youth. They were asked to rank issues as, "Not Serious," "Somewhat Serious," "Serious," "Very Serious," or "No Opinion or Don't Know." The issues were ranked by the adults with "1" being the Most Serious Issue below.

1. Substance abuse - drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
2. No positive place for teens to "hang out" after school or on weekends
3. Having a baby before finishing high school
4. High school drop outs
5. Jobs/job training for youth
6. Child abuse or neglect
7. Recreational facilities/facilities for everyone
8. Gangs
9. Conveniently located post-secondary education (college, technical college)
10. Truancy

## Demographics of Respondents

Respondents' gender, age group, ethnicity, and county of residence are shown in figures 1 - 4 below.

### Gender of Respondents



Gender

Figure 1

### Age of Respondents

Your age:				
	Counts	Percents	0	100
Under 21	3	1.1%		
21 - 30	43	16.4%		
31 - 40	102	38.9%		
41 - 50	73	27.9%		
51 - 60	33	12.6%		
61 - 70	7	2.7%		
Over 70	1	0.4%		
No Answer	0	0.0%		
Totals	262	100.0%		

Figure 2

### Ethnicity of Respondents

(Optional) Your Ethnicity:

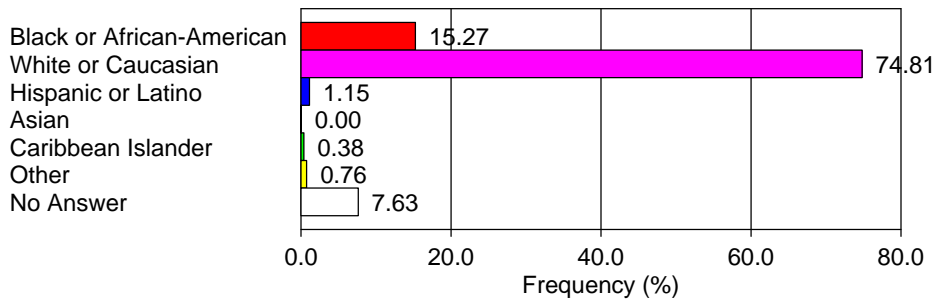
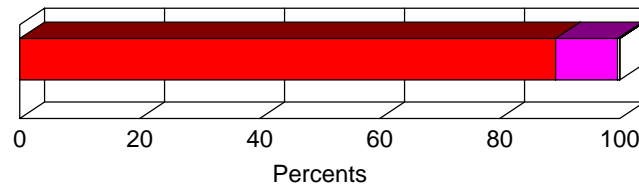


Figure 3

## Demographics of Respondents Continued

### Monroe County Residents



Do you live in Monroe County?

■ Yes

■ No

No Answer

Figure 4: Yes - 89.3% No - 10.3% No Answer - 0.4%

## Number of Children Living with Respondents

The majority of respondents have two or fewer children living in their homes as shown below in Figure 5.

How many children under 18 live in your home?

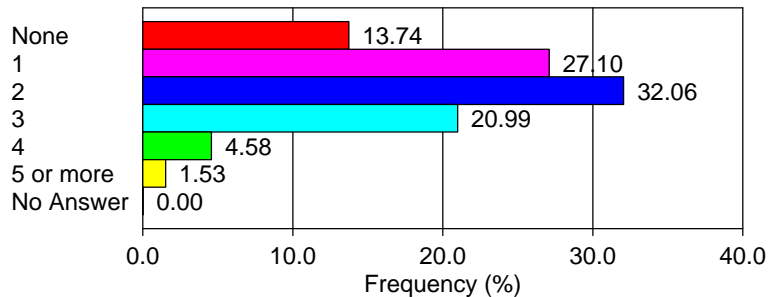


Figure 5

## Reading the Report

### Written Comments

If any written comments were recorded for any section, the written comments were **transcribed as written by the respondent**. Numbering of the comments may have been added for clarity. Incorrect punctuation was not corrected. We did not add exclamation points or question marks to statements written by respondents.

Misspelled words were not corrected. Incorrect grammar usage was not corrected. Profane language was not deleted.

If the respondent's handwriting was illegible, three question marks (???) are in place of the illegible word or words. Individual comments are shown with a "bullet" or dot in front of each new comment.

### Additional Comments

Are there any other issues or concerns that you have about Monroe County which were not included in this survey? If so, please tell us about your issues or concerns in the space below. Any additional comments would be welcomed.

- All other counties around us seem to be expanding as far as restuarants, stores, etc. I feel that we are not progressing very much as far as industry is concerned.
- Bullying within the schools
- ----
- how the police always messing with black people for know reason
- It would be nice if there were more diversity training throughout the county to inform the citizens of the different cultures existing in the area. There should also be more multicultural activities created in the community that will bring people together. The Rose Theater should host a variety of productions that will influence African Americans, Caucasians, Asians and Hispanics to work together in harmony.

There needs to be more African American male Principals, Teachers, Board Members, Central Office Directors and Volunteers represented throughout the district in order to motivate black male youths who represent a high population of incarceration statistics. It can't be a dream, this needs to be a reality if the school system is planning on closing the achievement gaps between minorities, economically disadvantaged and other sub-groups in comparison to the majority. If the parents and older youth observe this disparity of promotions at the top, what incentives do they see to remain a part of this culture or try to make progress?

As they say, everything is based on perception and if you want to convince a child to read, it must be demonstrated through the actions of the adult teachers and the same applies to our community leaders who are responsible for removing such barriers that would impede the advancement of minorities. All this does is create dissention, resentment, hate, frustration and isolation which leads to stagnation of growth as it pertains to per capita, revenue and industry.

A good rule of thumb to apply is to ask ourselves what would Jesus do as a community leader. Would he serve the less fortunate and those in need? Would he discriminate against females, minorities and the economically disadvantaged? Or would he tell us that in as much as you do unto the least of these little ones, you have done it unto me? In other words, if God held Pharaoh accountable for the way he treated the Israelites, don't you think he holds others accountable for the way they treat his people of today? Love, Respect and Charity should be the foundation of this community and God will bless our children.

- I'd like to stress that completing high school seems to be a serious problem. And although we have a wealth of post secondary options in the area, offering evening classes in Forsyth might be great.
- My biggest concerns are crime and teenagers with nothing to do!!! Get them something positive to do.....bowling alley, skating rink, anything.....
- I would like to see a business route that carries heavy trucks around town rather than through town. It worries me that our county commissioners work at a dysfunctional level. They are primary leaders of our community and should work together for the community, leaving their personal agendas and feelings outside of the meetings. The Nation has been made aware of what the results of weak leadership can result in from the Clayton County School System.
- Elder care...services are needed for social interaction for elders.
- Public Transportation-we need a train system. That would help cure most of this county's ills. Granted, there would be more folks from other areas into Forsyth but that's going to happen anyway with all of the growth but the fact that people cannot easily get to meaningful employment or schools outside of this town is keeping Forsyth in the dark ages.
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Figure 6