



2021 RE-ENGAGEMENT SURVEY SUMMARY

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SURVEY SUMMARY

Background

The City of Hamilton Youth Engagement Strategy project was established in 2018. The project collected input and information from youth service providers and a youth steering committee about youth services, youth service gaps and youth related priorities in Hamilton. A report summarizing the top five identified youth priorities was prepared and scheduled to be presented in March 2020. With the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic in March 2020, this project was put on hold until the pandemic situation started to improve in early 2021. Given the length of time since the initial report was prepared and the many impacts the pandemic has had on the community, the project wanted to re-engage youth and stakeholders to review the identified youth priorities and whether there have been changes.

As part of this re-engagement, a survey was developed to collect feedback from youth, parents and community stakeholders about youth-related issues in Hamilton. The survey also collected some information about what people love about Hamilton, how they like to get information and challenges faced by youth, parents and youth service providers. The survey was developed based on the 2018 engagement work and input from the HamOnt Youth Group. The 2021 Youth Re-engagement Survey tool can be found in Appendix A.

The 2021 Youth Re-engagement Survey was made available online between July 22, 2021 and October 8, 2021. Paper copies of the youth version of the survey were made available at Good Shepherd Notre Dame House, Routes Youth Centre and the Living Rock Ministries between September 7, 2021 and September 30, 2021.

A total of 523 surveys were collected; 506 online and 17 paper surveys.

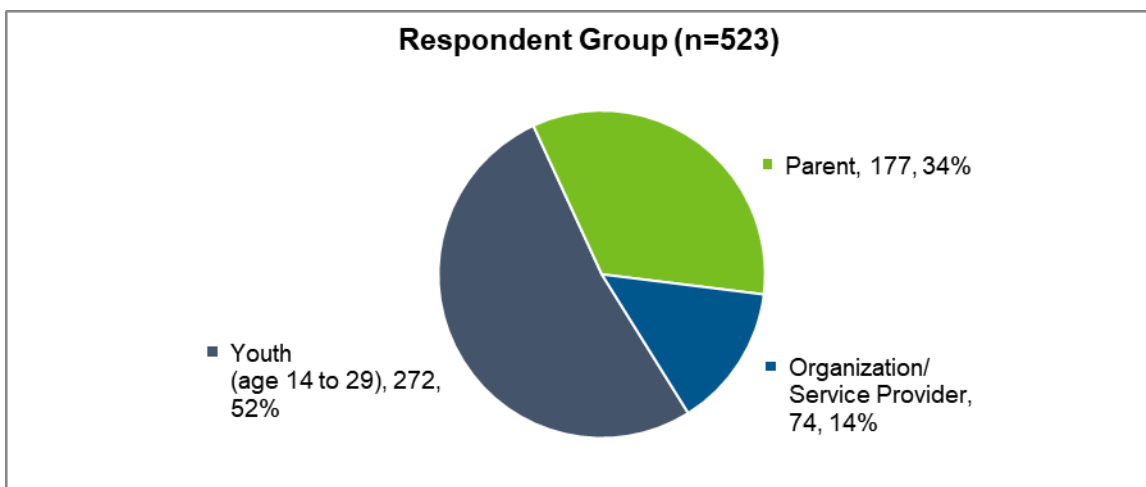
This document provides a summary of the results collected. The universe of respondents (n) is provided in brackets for each question.

A detailed breakdown of survey responses is provided in Appendix B of this report.



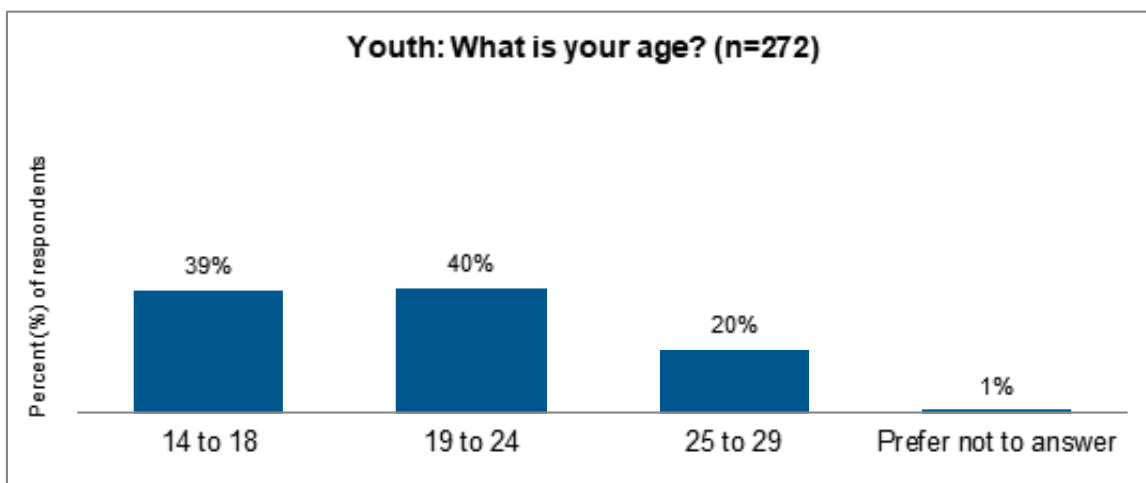
THE RESPONDENTS

This section provides a summary of respondent descriptors collected for the three survey respondent groups; youth, parents and organization/service providers. The following is a breakdown of the 523 survey responses by respondent group.

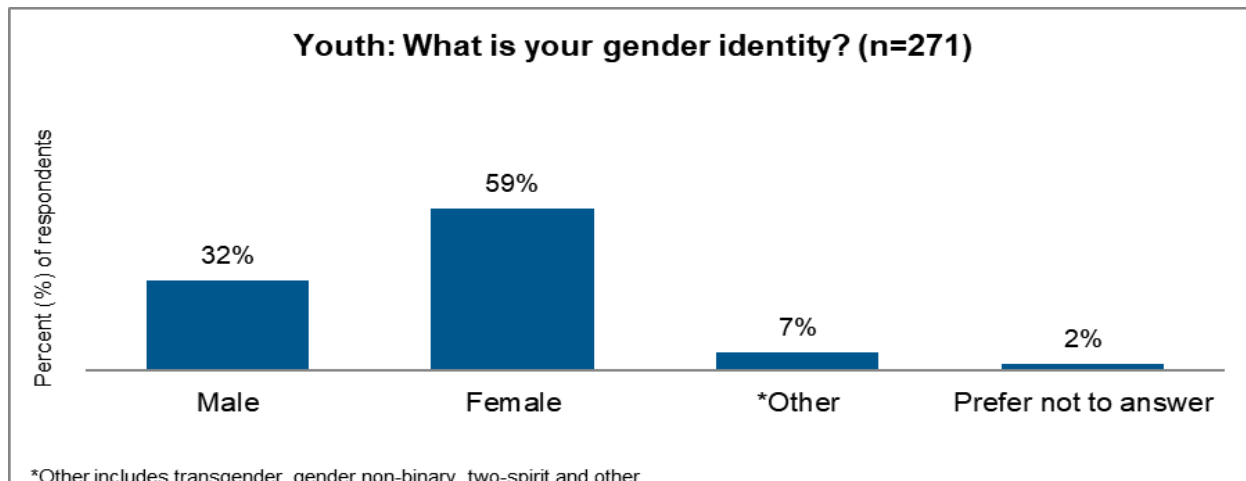


Youth

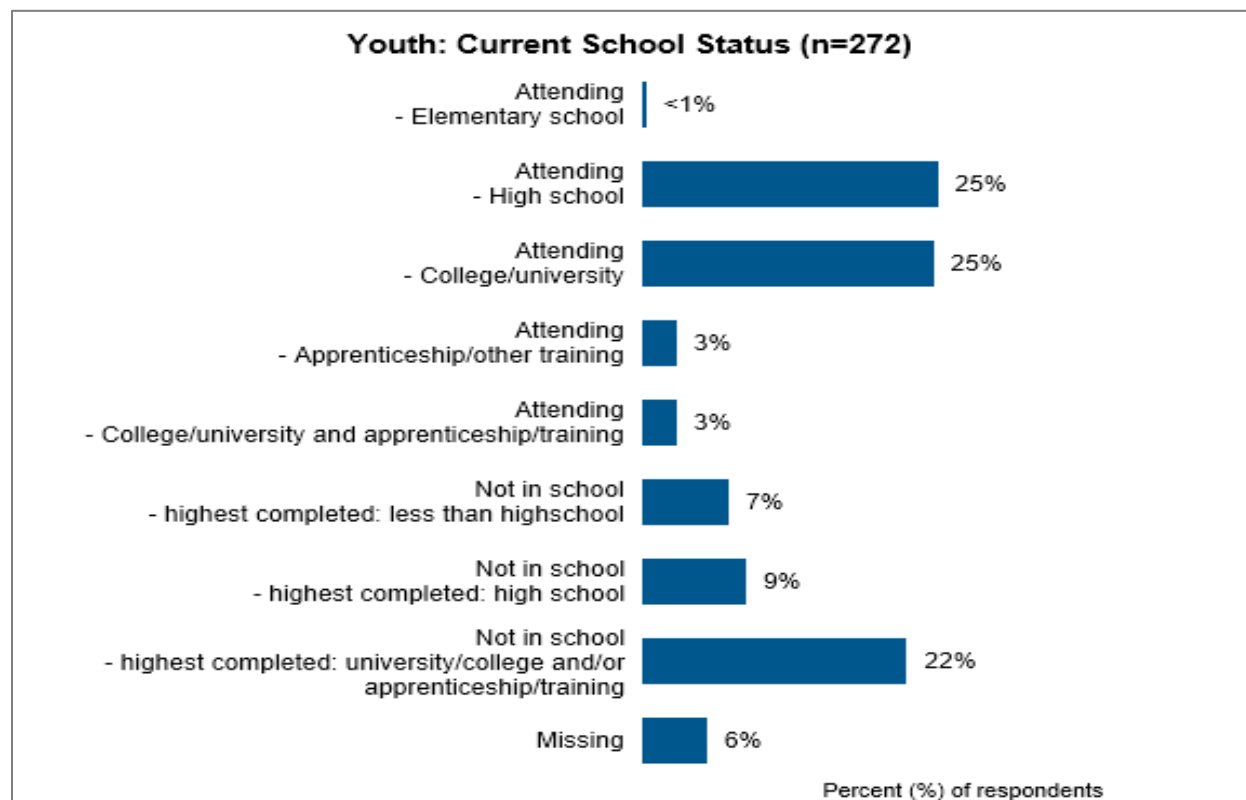
There were 272 surveys completed by youth. The majority (79%) of youth respondents were between the ages of 14 to 24.



There was a higher proportion of female youth respondents compared to males.



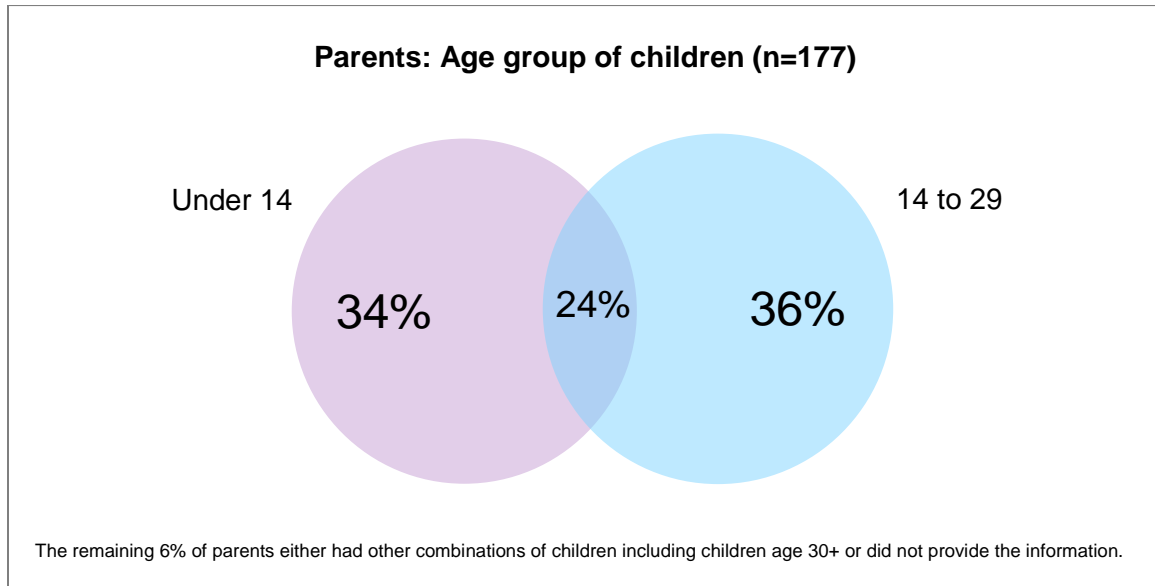
Approximately 25% of youth respondents were in high school; just over 30% of respondents were attending some form of post-secondary education/training and 22% were not in school but had already completed university/college and/or apprenticeship/training.



Approximately 31% of youth respondents indicated working full-time and 24% working part-time. There were more youth respondents looking for part-time work than full-time work.

Parents

The majority (60%) of parent respondents had at least one child between the age of 14 to 29.

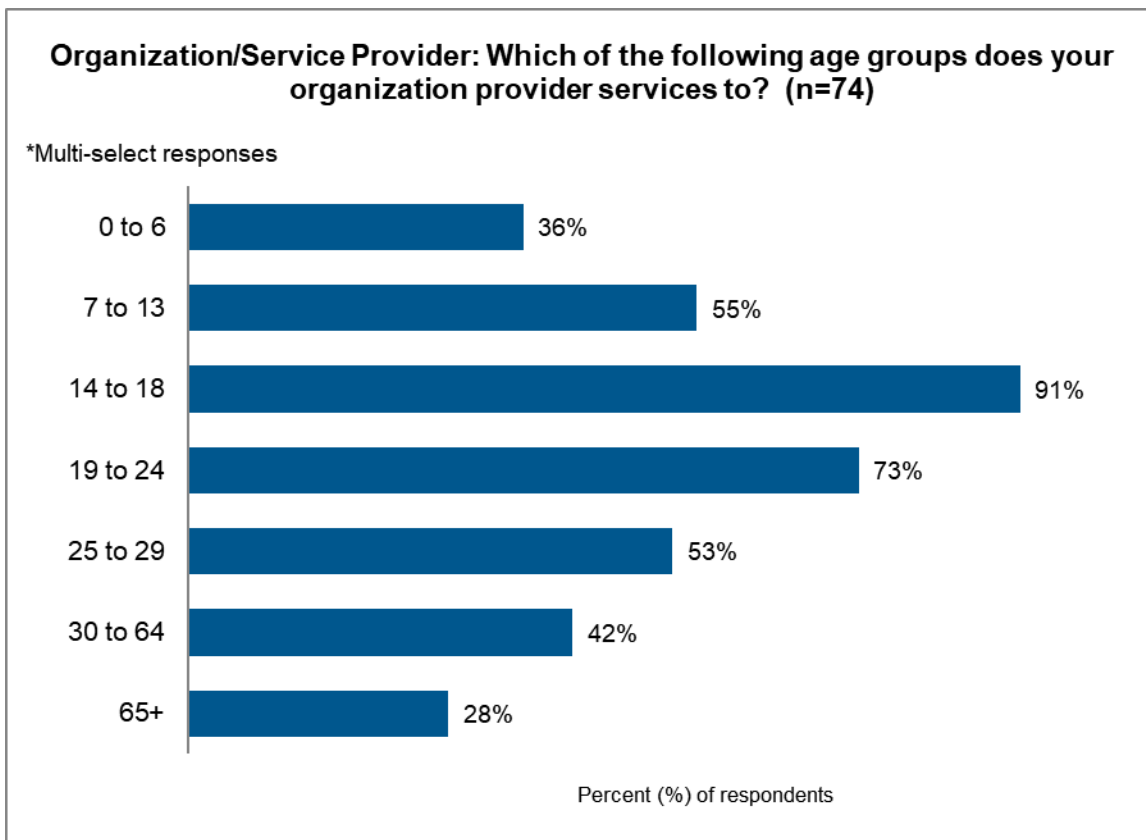


Details for children were often not fully provided by parent respondents. Based on information that was provided, children of the parent respondents were most often:

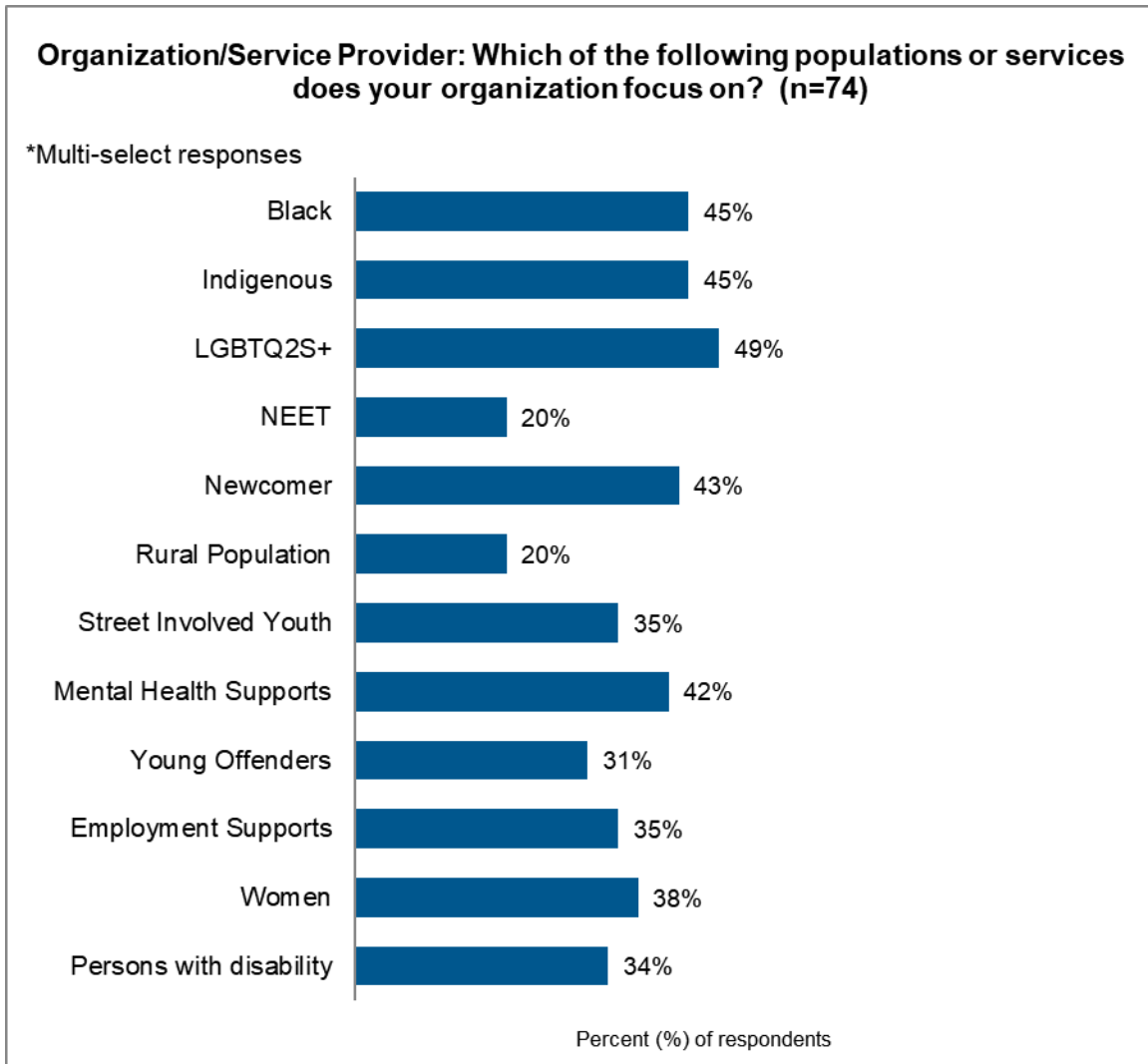
- attending high-school
- not working and not looking for work

Organization/Service Providers

The majority of organizations/service provider respondents provide services to youth ages 14 to 18 (91%) and 19 to 24 (73%).



The organizations/service provider respondents provide services to a range of different populations including LGBTQ2S+, Indigenous, Black, Newcomer and those needing mental health supports.



Organization/service providers most often prided their service for the following:

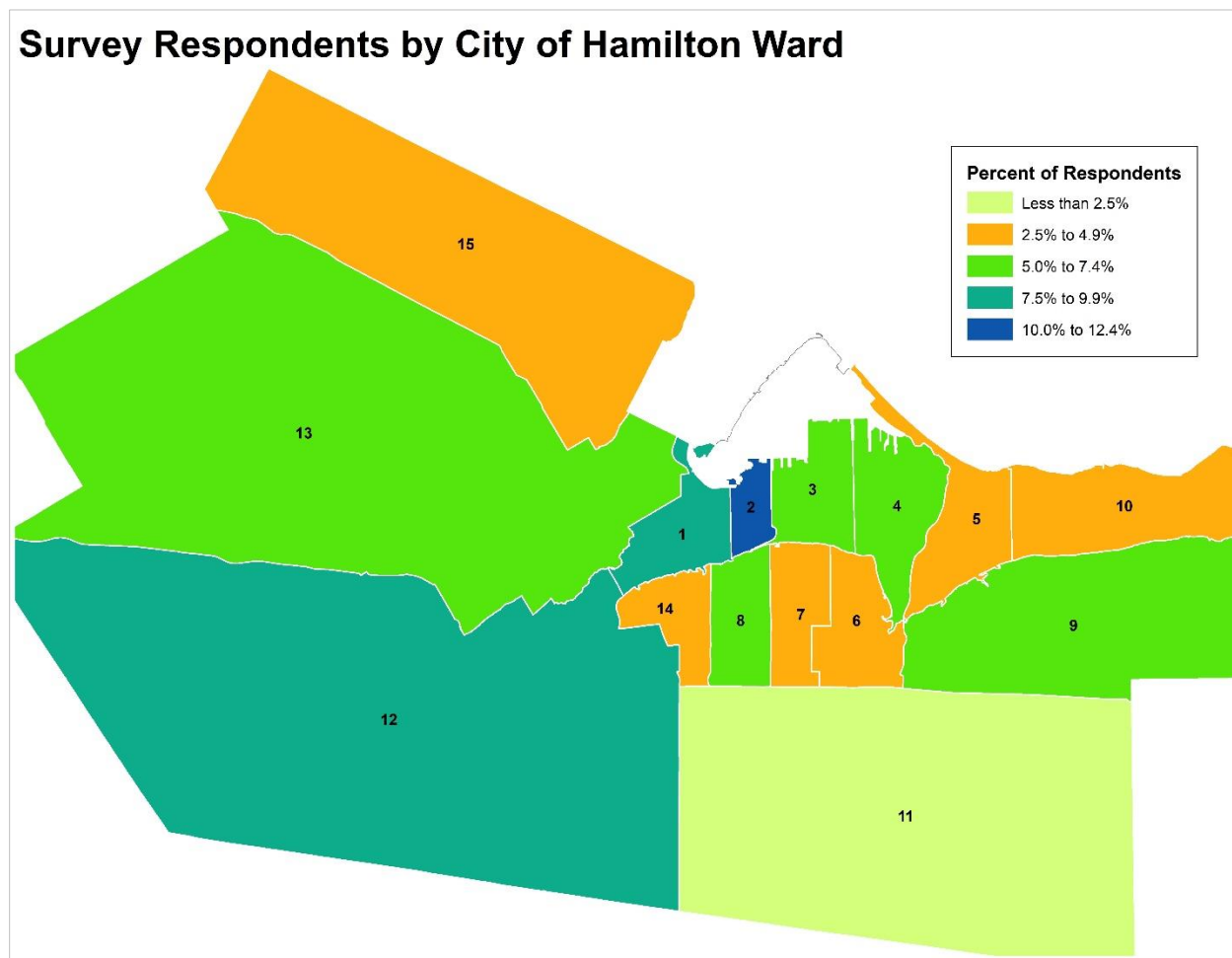
- the range of supports and programs provided and their ability to provide connections to other community resources
- their ability to be flexible, accommodating and customizing services based on different individual needs
- providing friendly, welcoming and/or a safe environment for youth

Note: since the completion of the re-engagement report, the City of Hamilton now acknowledges 2SLGBTQIA+



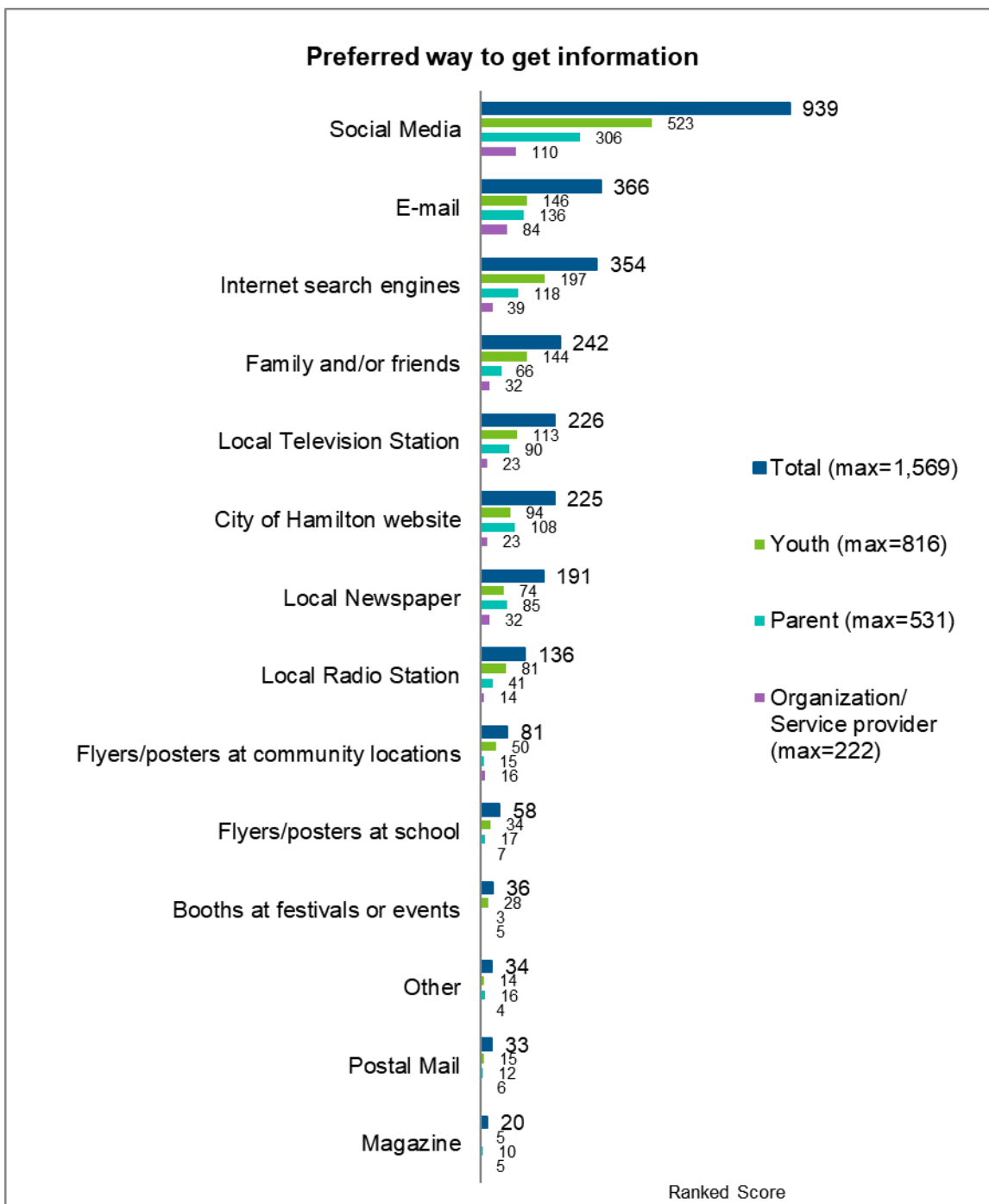
Location of Respondents

Approximately 82% of respondents provided a valid postal code that could be mapped to a City of Hamilton Ward. The following map shows the distribution of all respondents by Ward.



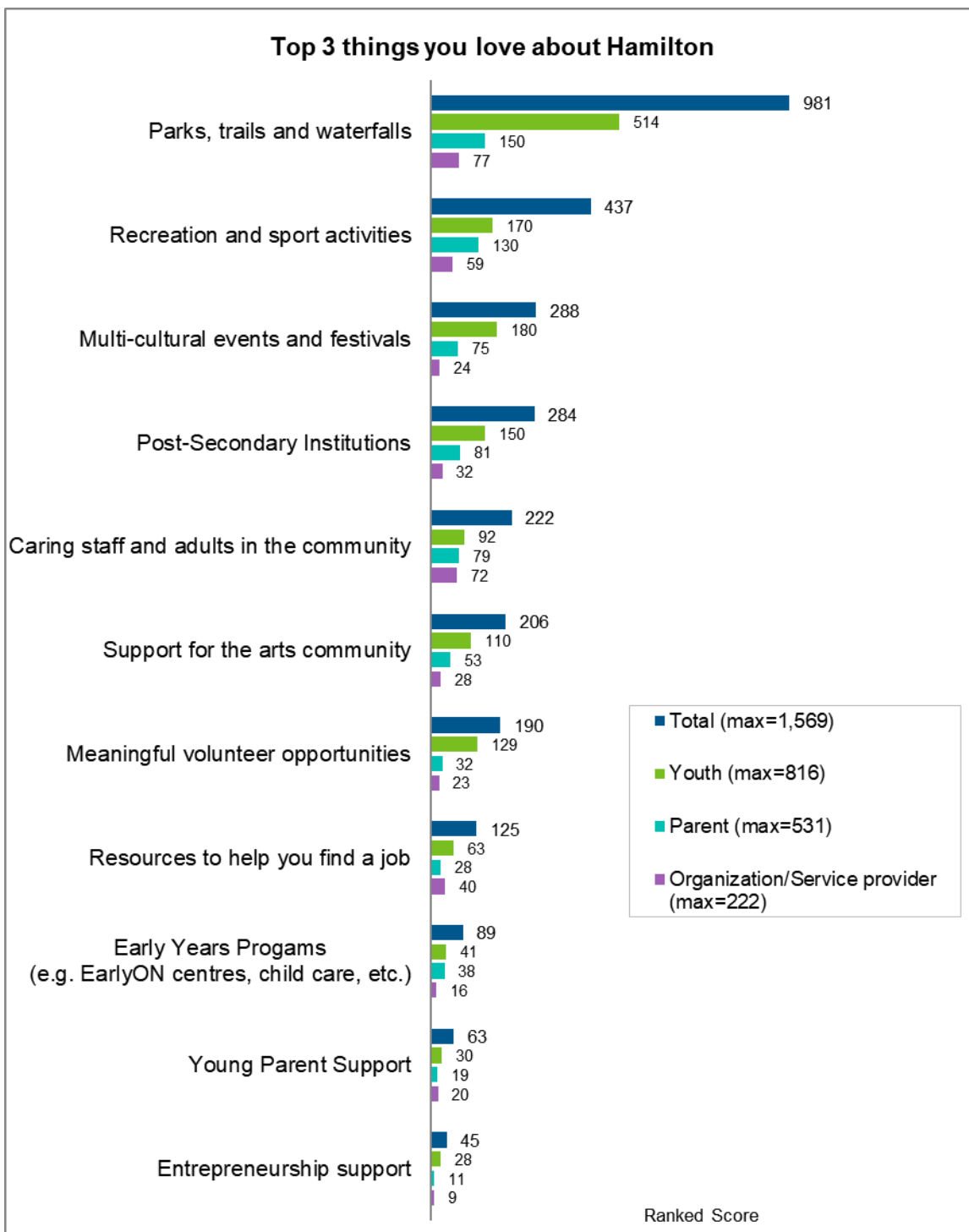
PREFERRED WAY OF GETTING INFORMATION

Social media was ranked highest as the preferred way to get information overall and by each of the survey respondent groups.



TOP 3 LOVES ABOUT HAMILTON

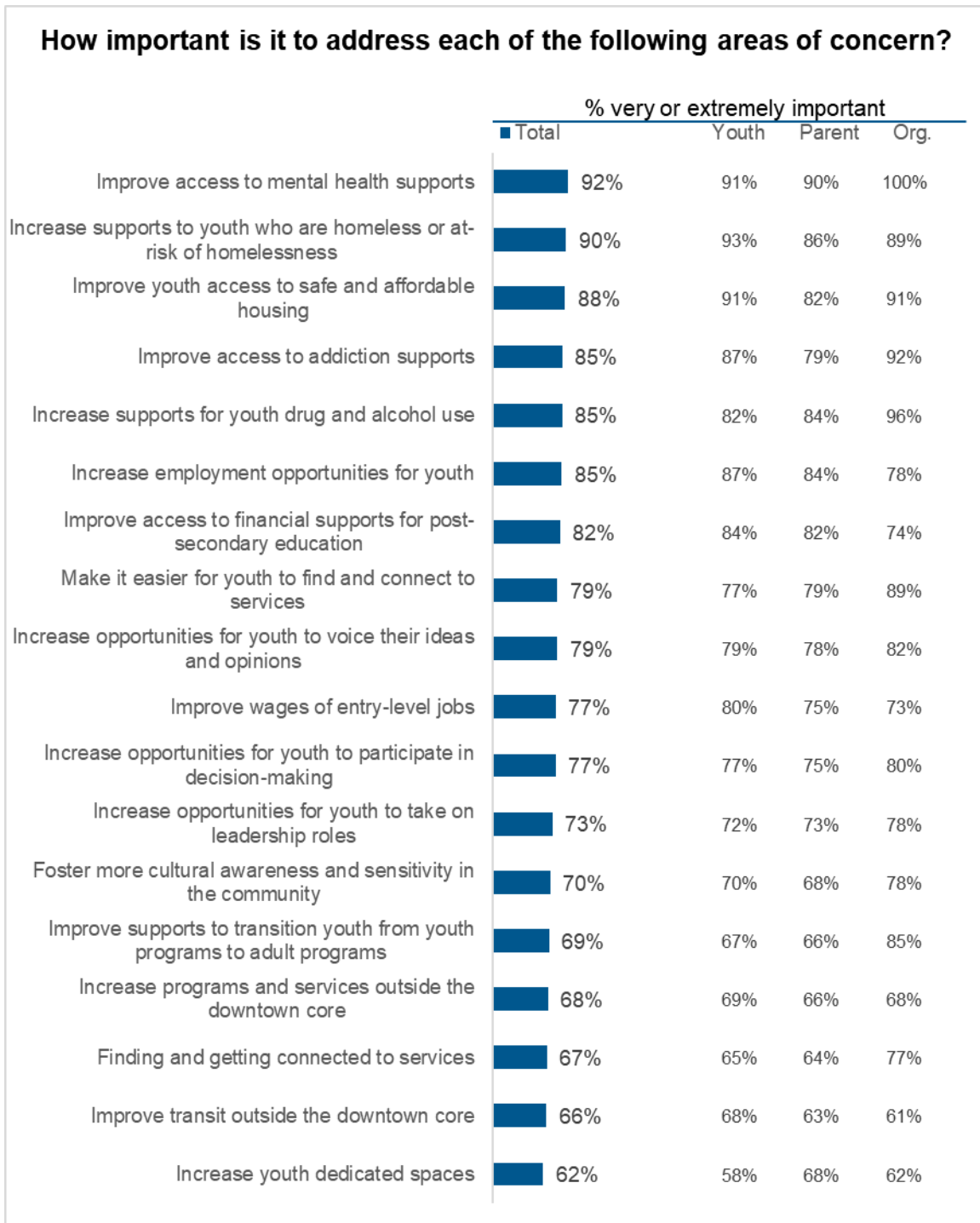
Parks, trails and waterfalls was identified as the most loved thing about Hamilton overall and by each of the survey respondent groups.



PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN

Overall, survey respondents felt most strongly that it is very or extremely important to:

- improve access to mental health supports (92%)
- increase supports to youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness (90%)
- improve youth access to safe and affordable housing (88%)



OTHER CONCERNS

There were 196 respondents that provided an additional response about concerns related to youth in Hamilton. The following are the most common themes of responses with the more common ones listed first.

- Support programs – need more youth programs
- Housing – affordability of
- Employment – need more opportunities, need more programs and supports
- Crime – violence, gangs, guns, etc.
- Mental health services – need more supports and programs
- Transit – costs, improving and expanding service
- Addictions and substance abuse – addressing and education
- Spaces for youth – need more

YOUTH: USING \$1,000,000 TO HELP HAMILTON

Approximately 230 (85%) youth respondents provided ideas of how they would use \$1,000,000 to help Hamilton. The following are the most common themes of responses with the more common ones listed first.

- Housing – need more social/affordable housing, housing programs, housing
- Homeless – helping/supporting homeless
- Support programs – need more youth programs
- Mental health services – need more supports and programs
- Addictions services – need more supports and programs
- School and education – need to improve
- Transit – need to improve, expand
- Employment – need more opportunities, more related programs and supports
- Parks and greenspaces – need to improve, maintain
- Activities and recreation programs – need more
- Revitalize/update Hamilton

PARENTS: CHALLENGES AS A PARENT OF YOUTH IN HAMILTON

Approximately 118 (67%) parent respondents provided some input on the biggest challenge of being a parent of youth in Hamilton. The following are the most common themes of responses with the more common ones listed first.

- Activities and recreation programs – need more for youth, reducing costs
- COVID-19 pandemic – effects on youth
- Schools and education – improvements needed
- Mental health services – need more supports and improving access
- Youth support programs – need more, increase promotion/awareness
- Safety – generic reference to safety and/or community safety

ORGANIZATIONS/SERVICE PROVIDERS: BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATION

Approximately 59 (80%) organization respondents provided input on the biggest challenge faced as a youth serving organization in Hamilton. The following are the most common themes of responses with the more common ones listed first.

- Engaging and recruiting youth
- Promoting and raising awareness of services
- COVID-19 pandemic – effects on programs

SUMMARY

The 2021 youth re-engagement survey has found the following to be the priority areas of youth related concerns in Hamilton that need to be addressed.

1. Improve access to mental health supports
 - This has remained a youth-related priority since 2018.
2. Increase supports to youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
 - This has newly emerged as a youth-related priority in 2021.
3. Improve youth access to safe and affordable housing
 - This has newly emerged as a youth-related priority in 2021.
4. Improve access to addiction supports; increase supports for youth drug and alcohol use.
 - This has newly emerged as a youth-related priority in 2021.
5. Increase employment opportunities for youth
 - This has remained a youth-related priority since 2018.

The recent iteration of engagement has shown that while mental health and employment has remained priority areas for youth since 2018, there has been some new priority areas that have emerged. Concerns about issues related to homelessness, housing and addictions supports have superseded previous identified priorities around transit, expanding youth services outside of the downtown core and better communication and promotion of available services.

In addition, all respondents were asked an open text question about concerns or challenges related to youth and youth services in Hamilton. There were clear differences in the focus areas of the input provided from the different respondent groups.

- Youth were focused on homelessness, mental health and addictions supports.
- Parents were primarily focused on ensuring more activities, recreation and programs were available for youth.
- Organizations and service providers most often indicated needing to engage more youth and students and promote awareness of their services.
-

This input along with the youth and youth services priorities identified will be used to inform the development of the Youth Strategy and ensuring a plan that focuses on the most relevant priorities for the community.

APPENDIX A: SURVEY TOOL

The City of Hamilton would like to know how the pandemic has changed youth priorities that were identified in 2018.

Please complete this survey to help us identify the concerns for youth in Hamilton that need to be addressed.

Your voice is important, please use it!

Important information about the survey:

- The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.
- Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. You can choose to answer or skip any question in the survey.
- Your responses will be kept confidential and will only be reported at a group level that will not identify you.
- Results will be included in a report that will be presented to City council as part of the Youth Engagement Strategy by the end of 2021.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact:

Jesse Williamson

Project Manager, Strategic Youth Initiatives

Phone: 905-546-2424 ext.2599

Email: jesse.williamson@hamilton.ca

Q01 Would you like to participate in this survey as a

- Youth (age 14 to 29)
- Parent
- Organization / Service provider

Youth Questions

Please tell us a little about yourself.

Y01 What is your age?

- 14 to 18
- 19 to 24
- 25 to 29
- Prefer not to answer

Y02 What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Gender non-binary
- Two-spirit
- Other
- Unknown
- Prefer not to answer

Y03 What is your postal code? * If you don't know your postal code you can enter your address in the [Canada Post online tool](#) to find it.

Y04 Which of the following statements best describes your experience in each level of education?

- a) Elementary school
- b) High school
- c) College or university
- d) Apprenticeship or other training

Youth Questions (con'td)

Response options for Y04 a) to d)

- I am currently attending - full-time.
- I am currently attending - part-time.
- I have fully completed this.
- I have partially completed this.
- I have never attended this.

Y05 Are you currently ...

Select all that apply.

- Working full-time
- Working part-time
- Looking for full-time work
- Looking for part-time work
- Not working and not looking for work

Parent Questions

P01 What is your postal code?

P02 How many children do you have in each of the following age groups?

- a) Age 13 and under
- b) Age 14 to 29
- c) Age 30 and over

Parent Questions (cont'd)

Please tell us about each of your children age 14 to 29.

(P03 to P06 is repeated for the number of children indicated by respondent.)

P03 What is the age of child ?

- 14 to 18
- 19 to 24
- 25 to 29
- Prefer not to answer

P04 What is the gender identity of child?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Gender non-binary
- Two-spirit
- Other
- Unknown
- Prefer not to answer

P05 Please tell us about your child's educational experience.

- a) Elementary school**
- b) High school**
- c) College or university**
- d) Apprenticeship or training**

Response options for P05 a) to d)

- Completed
- Currently attending - full-time
- Currently attending - part-time
- Never attended

P06 Is child currently ...

Select all that apply.

- Working full-time
- Working part-time
- Looking for full-time work
- Looking for part-time work
- Not working and not looking for work

Organization/Service Provider Questions

SP01 Organization name

SP02 What is the postal code of your organization?

SP03 Which of the following age groups does your organization provide services to?

Select all that apply.

- 0 to 6
- 7 to 13
- 14 to 18
- 19 to 24
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 64
- 65 and over

SP04 Which of the following populations or services does your organization focus on?

Select all that apply.

- Black
- Indigenous
- LGBTQ2S+
- NEET
- Newcomer
- Rural Population
- Street Involved Youth
- Mental Health Supports
- Young Offenders
- Employment supports
- Women
- Persons with a disability

SP05 Are there other groups your organization supports or provides services to?

Note: since the completion of the re-engagement report, the City of Hamilton now acknowledges 2SLGBTQIA+

Organization/Service Provider Questions (cont'd)

SP06 For each of the focus areas of your organization, please tell us how many programs and services are offered specifically for youth age 14 to 29?

If you don't have the details available for each program, please provide us with an approximate total number of programs and services offered for youth age 14 to 29 in the TOTAL PROGRAMS box below.

Black	▼ 1 ... 20+
Indigenous	▼ 1 ... 20+
LGBTQ2S+	▼ 1 ... 20+
NEET	▼ 1 ... 20+
Newcomer	▼ 1 ... 20+
Rural Population	▼ 1 ... 20+
Street Involved Youth	▼ 1 ... 20+
Mental Health Supports	▼ 1 ... 20+
Young Offenders	▼ 1 ... 20+
Employment supports	▼ 1 ... 20+
Women	▼ 1 ... 20+
Persons with a disability	▼ 1 ... 20+
TOTAL PROGRAMS for youth age 14 to 29 _____	

Note: since the completion of the re-engagement report, the City of Hamilton now acknowledges 2SLGBTQIA+

All Respondents

A01 In 2018, Hamilton youth identified a list of things they love about Hamilton as well as areas that needed improvement.

We know that a lot has changed since 2018, especially with the pandemic. We would like to see if what was identified in 2018 is still relevant today.

Which of the following are the top 3 things you love about Hamilton?/ Thinking about your children, which of the following are the top 3 things you love about Hamilton?/ Thinking about youth, which of the following are the top 3 things you love about Hamilton?

- Parks, trails and waterfalls
- Recreation and sport activities
- EarlyOn Centres
- Caring staff and adults in the community
- Post-Secondary Institutions
- Meaningful volunteer opportunities
- Resources to help you find a job
- Entrepreneurship support
- Multi-cultural events and festivals
- Support for the arts community
- Young Parent Support
- Other, please specify:

A02 How important is it to address each of the following areas of concerns?

- a) Increase supports for youth drug and alcohol use
- b) Improve access to mental health supports
- c) Improve access to addiction supports
- d) Increase supports for youth drug and alcohol use

All Respondents (cont'd)

- e) Improve access to mental health supports
- f) Improve access to addiction supports
- g) Improve youth access to safe and affordable housing
- h) Increase supports to youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness
- i) Increase youth dedicated spaces
- j) Foster more cultural awareness and sensitivity in the community
- k) Improve supports to transition youth from youth programs to adult programs
- l) Make it easier for youth to find and connect to services
- m) Improve access to financial supports for post-secondary education
- n) Increase employment opportunities for youth
- o) Improve wages of entry-level jobs
- p) Increase opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles
- q) Increase opportunities for youth to voice their ideas and opinions
- r) Increase opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making
- s) Improve transit outside the downtown core
- t) Increase programs and services outside the downtown core
- u) Finding and getting connected to services

Response options for A02 a) to A02r):

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Moderately important
- Slightly important
- Not at all important

A03 Do you have any other concerns related to youth in Hamilton?

A04 How do you like to get information about community news and events? Please rank your top 3 methods.

- _____ Local Newspaper
(e.g. The Hamilton Spectator, Dundas Star News, Flamborough Review, Hamilton Mountain News, Stoney Creek News, The Sachem & Glanbrook Gazette, Bay Observer)
- _____ Local Radio Station (e.g. FM 102.9 K-Lite, FM CHML 900, FM 95.3 Fresh Radio)
- _____ Local Television Station (e.g. CHCH, Cable 14)
- _____ City of Hamilton website (www.hamilton.ca)
- _____ Internet search engines (e.g. Google, Bing)
- _____ Social Media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube)
- _____ Postal Mail
- _____ E-mail
- _____ Flyers/posters at community locations
- _____ Flyers/posters at school
- _____ Booths at festivals or events
- _____ Magazine (e.g. View, snapd Hamilton, Best Start, Hamilton Recreation Guide)
- _____ Family and/or friends
- _____ Other - please specify

Open Text Questions

Youth

1. If you were given \$1,000,000 to help Hamilton, what would you do with it?

Parent

1. What are your biggest challenges as a parent of youth in Hamilton?

Organization / Service provider

1. Tell us what makes your organization "great" for youth?
2. Aside from funding, what is the biggest challenge you are facing as a youth serving organization?

APPENDIX B: DETAILED RESPONSE SUMMARY OF QUANTITATIVE QUESTIONS

