National Voices Project

Understanding barriers
Measuring opportunities
Informing initiatives for change

For children – through the voices of adults in their communities

Local Impact Report
Cook County, IL
2014-2015
Introduction

The NVP offers an unprecedented perspective on community-level opportunities for children throughout the country, in the domains of health and nutrition, education and learning, and economic security - through the eyes of adults whose occupations and volunteer work affect such opportunities. In other words, the NVP reflects the perceptions of individuals throughout the United States who are in a position to improve children's opportunities in the future. We generally use the word "children" throughout the report to describe children from age 0-18 years, unless otherwise noted.

With support and collaboration from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation through the America Healing Initiative, researchers at the University of Michigan are leading the National Voices Project (NVP) from 2011-2016. The central goals of the NVP are to examine the sources of racial/ethnic inequity and other disparities for children in the United States today and identify interventions that address disparities effectively.

Key Findings

• In 2014, Cook County was added as a special sampling site along with other communities participating in Collaboratives for Health Equity. Over 250 different residents of Cook County responded to questions in 2014 and 2015.

• Along with other communities participating in Collaboratives for Health Equity, a growing proportion of respondents from Cook County perceived many racial/ethnic inequities over the years 2014-2015.

• Residents in Cook County most commonly perceived racial/ethnic inequities related to housing, neighborhood safety, and education. They less commonly perceived racial/ethnic inequities related to food and nutrition, and health and healthcare. All of these perceptions were reported more commonly than residents of other communities across the United States that do not participate in Collaboratives for Health Equity.

• In Cook County, residents commonly perceived lots of opportunities for children and teens to have clean air, water, and outdoor spaces. They perceived lots of opportunity for children and teens to have neighborhoods without violence in 2015 than in 2014.

• Respondents in Cook County most commonly and consistently perceived the most availability of hospital care and primary care for children and teens, and much less availability for specialty care and mental health care. Reproductive care was also perceived infrequently as being widely available for teens.

• In Cook County in most years of the NVP annual survey, about one-quarter of respondents rated multiple aspects of education and child care for young children as “excellent”. For young children, they were least positive about forms of financial support to help low-income families afford high-quality child care. For teens, they were most positive about opportunities for advanced classes and least positive about school support for teens at risk of dropping out.

• In both years of NVP annual surveys where Cook County was specifically sampled, the proportion of Cook County residents who perceived that family financial situations had worsened over the past year was more than twice the proportion that perceived they had improved.

• Regarding programs nominated by the Collaboratives for Health Equity team in Cook County to present to respondents in a 2015 survey about boys and young men of color, the majority of respondents had not heard of the programs. The program that had gained the greatest community-level awareness was Urban Prep Academies.
The Importance of Perceptions of Inequities

Perceptions of inequities in communities are strongly associated with:
- Lower measures of "lots of opportunity" for health
- Less healthcare availability
- Lower ratings of "excellent" for aspects of quality education
- Barriers to school success
- Perceptions that financial situations have "gotten worse" over the last 12 months

Respondents’ perceptions of inequities in their communities was more strongly associated with their perceptions of children’s and teens’ opportunities than was respondents' age, gender, education, or household income.
Perceptions of Racial/Ethnic Inequities among Children and Teens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inequities</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Nutrition+</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Healthcare</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education∞</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing+</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Safety+</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Opportunities∞</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice System/Law Enforcement∞</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Only respondents who perceived few/some/many racial ethnic inequities were asked about inequities in specific areas.
Response options included "Yes," "No," and "Don't know"

P<.05 for comparison across Collaboratives for Health Equity in 2014
∞ P<.05 for comparison across Collaboratives for Health Equity in 2015

Perception of "Lots of Opportunity" for Health & Nutrition

Young Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Places to get Physical Activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhoods without Violence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Fruits &amp; Vegetables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Air, Water &amp; Outdoor Spaces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Air, Water &amp; Outdoor Spaces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Response options included "Lots of opportunity," "Some opportunity," and "Little or no opportunity"
Perception of "Lots of Availability" of Healthcare

Young Children

Teens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Cook</th>
<th>2015 Cook</th>
<th>2014 CC</th>
<th>2015 CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Care</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Care</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Care</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Care</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Care</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Care</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>40%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Care</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive Care</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Response options included "Lots of availability," "Some availability," and "Little or no availability"
Education Opportunities Rated as "Excellent"

Young Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Environment at Elementary Schools*+∞</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships, Vouchers, or other Financial Support to Help Low-Income Families Afford High-Quality Child Care*+∞</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Resources*+t</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity Programs*+∞</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Child Care</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Preschools+</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Elementary Schools+</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to Participate in Extracurricular Activities∞</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of After-School Care t</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Response options included "Excellent," "Good," "Poor," and "Don't know"
*P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across response option rated as "Excellent" in 2014
∞P<.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across all response options in 2015
Education Opportunities Rated as "Excellent"

Teens

- Safe Environment at Middle and High School
- Classroom Resources
- Opportunities to Participate in Extracurricular Activities
- Cultural Diversity Programs
- Overall Quality of Education for Teens
- School Support for Teens at Risk of Dropping Out
- Opportunities for Advanced Classes

Note: Response options included "Excellent," "Good," "Poor," and "Don't know"
 disparate effect size: <0.05 for comparison of Collaboratives for Health Equity respondents across response option rated as "Excellent" in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe Environment at Middle and High School</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity Programs</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Resources</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of Education for Teens</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to Participate in Extracurricular Activities</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Support for Teens at Risk of Dropping Out</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for Advanced Classes</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cook County, IL
Change in Family Financial Situation over the Past 12 Months

Gotten Better

- Cook County: 20% in 2014, 17% in 2015
- Comparative Communities: 21% in 2014, 23% in 2015

Gotten Worse

- Cook County: 49% in 2014, 45% in 2015
- Comparative Communities: 30% in 2014, 27% in 2015

Note: Response options included "got much worse/got slightly worse," "stayed the same," and "got slightly better/got much better."
Change in Job Opportunities for Teens from Low Income Families in the Next 12 Months

**Job Opportunities Will Get Better**

- **Cook County**
  - 2014: 19%
  - 2015: 14%

- **Comparative Communities**
  - 2014: 10%
  - 2015: 13%

**Job Opportunities Will Get Worse**

- **Cook County**
  - 2014: 14%
  - 2015: 19%

- **Comparative Communities**
  - 2014: 13%
  - 2015: 11%

Note: Response options included "will get better," "will stay the same," and "will get worse."
2015 Boys and Men of Color Survey: Collaboratives for Health Equity Initiatives

Survey Question:
How familiar are you with these programs in Cook County?

- Dovetail Project
- Youth Guidance (Becoming a Man)
- Black Star Project
- Urban Prep Academies

Awareness of Programs in Cook County

- **Dovetail Project**
  - Know Someone Who Has Benefited: 6%
  - Have Heard of This Program: 17%
  - Have Not Heard of This Program: 77%

- **Youth Guidance (Becoming a Man)**
  - Know Someone Who Has Benefited: 3%
  - Have Heard of This Program: 6%
  - Have Not Heard of This Program: 91%

- **Black Star Project**
  - Know Someone Who Has Benefited: 2%
  - Have Heard of This Program: 24%
  - Have Not Heard of This Program: 74%

- **Urban Prep Academies**
  - Know Someone Who Has Benefited: 12%
  - Have Heard of This Program: 34%
  - Have Not Heard of This Program: 54%
Boys & Young Men of Color (BYMOC) Qualitative Analysis
Cook County, IL
n=268

Research Question: How is your community creating opportunities for boys and young men of color?

Most Commonly Reported Efforts:
- Education/job training
- City partnerships/involvement of organizations
- Sports programs/rec centers/after school programs

“Job opportunities have increased. There is food and shelter from the cold when it is very cold outside. There [are] opportunities for working in service agencies.”
- African American Respondent, Chicago

“There are organizations in place for boys and young men of ALL colors to join, such as scouts, sports, church groups. [They] are there not just for [BYMOC], but for ALL boys and young men.”
- White Respondent, Oak Lawn

“These programs are becoming less because when they try to balance the budget these programs are the ones affected...”
- Hispanic/Latino Respondent, Chicago

BYMOC are helped by...

- Education and job training
- City partnerships and involvement of organizations
- Sports programs/rec centers/after school programs
- Community events
- Social programs

No differences by race

No different opportunities regardless of color

Other themes

- Don't know/I am the wrong person to ask
- Opportunities are not being created

Race/ethnicity of respondent

- African American
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Arab American
- Asian American/Pacific Islander
- Hawaiian Native
- Hispanic/Latino
- White
- Other

Each person represents one comment. Views with at least ten comments are displayed.
Mission of the National Voices Project

Led by researchers at the University of Michigan, the National Voices Project (NVP) is an effort to bring the perspectives of thousands of people in communities across the United States to the national dialogue about opportunities and barriers for children related to race/ethnicity.

Boys and Young Men of Color (BYMOC) Survey

The BYMOC survey was conducted in January-February 2015 via GfK, a survey research organization that maintains KnowledgePanel®, a nationally representative web-enabled panel of adult members of households across the U.S.

GfK invited 11,644 people 18 years or older to participate. 2,081 respondents completed the survey and indicated they have jobs and/or volunteer in ways that affect education, health/healthcare/nutrition, economic opportunities, social justice or community and civic engagement for children.

This qualitative summary was conducted with respondents residing in the following Place Matters locations: Cook County (IL), Alameda County (CA), Wayne County (MI), Fresno County (CA), King County (WA), Suffolk County (MA), and Bernalillo County (NM).

Methods

Open-ended responses were analyzed to assess for themes and sentiment of the responses from this question: “How is your community creating opportunities for BYMOC?” Each question was coded by two reviewers. All discrepancies between the two reviewers were discussed and recoded as necessary. If a reviewer decided not to change their coding, a third reviewer was invited to decide how the response should be coded. Responses were broken down into 22 main themes:

- Education/jobs/skills training
- School programs
- Volunteer opportunities
- Sports/rec centers/ afterschool clubs
- Mentors
- Community events
- Organizations/other sectors (religious, civic, etc.)
- Social programs
- Policy changes
- No different opportunities regardless of color
- No differences, great education for all
- No differences, EEO
- No differences, equal access
- Opportunities not created
- Parent’s role
- Teachers/discipline limitations
- Not enough is being done
- Effort is needed by BYMOC
- BYMOC get better opportunities than other races
- They are doing everything they can
- Nationwide issue
- Don’t know/wrong person to ask

Partner: National Collaborative for Health Equity

For this BYMOC survey, NVP partnered with the National Collaborative for Health Equity (NCHE). The mission of the NCHE is to promote health equity by catalyzing collaboration among racial equity advocates, grassroots and community-based organizations, researchers, public health professionals, and other key stakeholders. For more information, visit their website: NationalCollaborative.org.
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Led by researchers at the University of Michigan, the National Voices Project is an effort to bring the perspectives of thousands of people in communities across the United States to the national dialogue about opportunities and barriers for children related to race/ethnicity.

The National Voices Project conducts major national surveys twice each year among adults who work and volunteer on behalf of children. These surveys focus on racial/ethnic inequities at the community level that affect children's health, education, and economic security. For more information, visit the project website: NationalVoicesProject.org.

The National Voices Project team is grateful for the support and collaboration of the W.K.Kellogg Foundation, through the America Healing Initiative.

The Team

Director
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MAPP

Faculty Collaborator
Kathryn L. Moseley, MD, MPH

Faculty Collaborator
Susan Woolford, MD, MPH

Project Manager
Dianne C. Singer, MPH

Data Analyst
Amilcar Matos-Moreno, MPH

Web & Communications Specialist
Anna Daly Kauffman, BA

Research Associate
Sara L. Schultz, BA