Families, Adolescents, & Neighborhoods in Context

Early Findings

Dawn Witherspoon, PhD & The FAN-C Team
The Pennsylvania State University

Parent Involvement with Teens

Parents
- enjoyed spending time with their teens and watching them grow.
- knew where their children were and what they were doing.
- were often involved in their academics at home and sometimes at school.

Fears of Danger
- Steelton: most adolescents did not worry about getting stabbed, shot, or beaten up.
- Harrisburg: most adolescents thought about getting shot, stabbed, or killed at least once a month.

Deviant Behavior
- Some teens skipped school, damaged property, or stole.

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For more information about the FAN-C Project, please contact:
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**EARLY FINDINGS**

**Families, Adolescents, & Neighborhoods in Context**

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### Purpose & Method

The FAN-C Project explored parents’ and adolescents’ thoughts about their neighborhoods, academics, everyday activities, and family interactions. Families filled out surveys and had group conversations.

### Participant Characteristics

#### Parent Ethnicity

- **HARRISBURG**
  - African American: 46%
  - Latino: 26%
  - Other: 21%

- **STEELTON**
  - African American: 48%
  - Latino: 17%
  - Other: 35%

#### Adolescent Ethnicity

- **HARRISBURG**
  - African American: 46%
  - Latino: 14%
  - Other: 40%

- **STEELTON**
  - African American: 50%
  - Latino: 10%
  - Other: 40%

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### Neighborhood Connectedness

The charts above show how connected parents and teens feel to their neighborhoods.

- **HARRISBURG**
  - Very true: 17%
  - Sort of true: 40%
  - Not very true: 32%
  - Not true at all: 11%

- **STEELTON**
  - Very true: 25%
  - Sort of true: 45%
  - Not very true: 20%
  - Not true at all: 10%

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### Purpose & Method

The FAN-C Project explored parents’ and adolescents’ thoughts about their neighborhoods, academics, everyday activities, and family interactions. Families filled out surveys and had group conversations.

### Participant Characteristics

#### Parent Ethnicity

- **HARRISBURG**
  - African American: 8%
  - Other: 17%

- **STEELTON**
  - African American: 11%
  - Other: 15%

#### Adolescent Ethnicity

- **HARRISBURG**
  - African American: 8%
  - Other: 12%

- **STEELTON**
  - African American: 12%
  - Other: 12%

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### Adolescents’ Goals

The charts above show how far teens and their parents would like to see teens go in their education.

- **HARRISBURG**
  - Very true: 11%
  - Sort of true: 45%
  - Not very true: 38%
  - Not true at all: 6%

- **STEELTON**
  - Very true: 15%
  - Sort of true: 41%
  - Not very true: 33%
  - Not true at all: 11%

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### Parent Involvement with Teens

Parents who participated in the FAN-C Project.

- Enjoyed spending time with their teens and watching them grow.
- Knew where their children were and what they were doing.
- Were often involved in their academics at home and sometimes at school.

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### Adolescents’ Goals

Adolescents were between 11 and 17 years old. On average, adolescents were 13 years old.

- **HARRISBURG**
  - African American: 12%
  - Other: 15%

- **STEELTON**
  - African American: 19%
  - Other: 17%

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### Fear of Danger

- **HARRISBURG**
  - Most adolescents thought about getting shot, stabbed, shot, or beaten up.

- **STEELTON**
  - Most adolescents did sometimes worry about getting shot, stabbed, or killed at least once a month.

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### Ideas for Improvement

- Parents and community partners can work together to make their neighborhood a safe place for youth.
- More neighborhood youth organizations can help promote youth success.

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