

# **Burnsville Youth Needs Assessment**

## **Report of Findings**

**Prepared for:  
The City of Burnsville**



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# Executive Summary

## Background

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The City of Burnsville received a grant from Youthprise to complete a community-wide needs assessment for youth in Burnsville. The last study was in 1995, called Partnerships for Tomorrow, which identified the need for increased programming for youth. Out of the work, THE GARAGE was opened in 1999, serving youth grades 6-12. The City of Burnsville determined it was time to update the work and see where the current gaps were regarding youth services. It was hypothesized that there is need to expand programs to grades K-12, offer more extensive programming, including after school hours activities, evening hours, and possibly serving meals. Information obtained from the Youth Needs Assessment will help the City of Burnsville to develop strategies to create a comprehensive for Burnsville youth.

The Youth Needs Assessment Research took place from April-June 2013. Wendy Lutter, of Lutter Marketing LLC, was the consultant who led the project.

## Components of Needs Assessment

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The components of the Youth Needs Assessment were:

- Gathering background research on National, State-wide and Local trends for youth as well as Burnsville youth demographics
- Interviewing Key Stakeholders
- Conducting Youth Focus Groups
- Conducting Surveys with Parents and Youth
- Holding a Youth Summit
- Presenting findings to Burnsville City Council

# Key Findings & Recommendations

The following findings and recommendations are based on *all* the components of the Youth Needs Assessment.

Findings	Recommendations
<b>Programs and Services</b>	
<p><i>Parents and youth agree: there is a need for <b>more programming for youth after school in Burnsville</b>. Parents surveyed want more athletic opportunities and supervised park and gym time. Fourth graders want open gym and supervised play at the parks.</i></p>	<p>Work with partners to explore and examine more awareness, access and availability for additional youth programming, with an emphasis on coordinating efforts to address grades K-12.</p>
<p>There was no consensus on whether a central facility or multiple locations for a youth center is more favorable in terms of offering new programming.</p>	<p>Have further discussion on central versus multiple locations for activities, services and programs. There are some underutilized locations with space available.</p>
<p>Youth are interested in future programs focused on <b>arts, music and dance</b>.</p>	<p>Consider creating affordable programs to reach out to students interested in the arts, specifically music and dance.</p>
<p><b>Part-time job and volunteer opportunities</b> are seen as missing in Burnsville. Focus group participants and 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed want part-time jobs and access to a career or job center to help them.</p>	<p>Develop job training, career center or school to work and volunteer opportunities within the community for older students.</p>
<b>Demographics and Socio-Economics</b>	
<p><i>According to recent research, the demographics regarding youth in Burnsville are changing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free and reduced lunch numbers have almost doubled since 2006 from 26% to almost 44%.</li> <li>• Four in ten youth surveyed only had access to meals and snacks after school sometimes or not at all, mirroring Burnsville’s free and reduced lunch numbers of 44%.</li> <li>• Youth have <b>more responsibilities at home</b> for caring for younger siblings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate expanding the meal programs for after school hours in Burnsville.</li> <li>• Create more coordinated, yet age-appropriate, programming to allow for siblings of varying ages to participate at the same time, at the same place.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety</b>	
<p><b>Safety</b> is a perceived an issue by some of the youth. Focus group participants and 16% of 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed do not always feel safe after school.</p>	<p>Consider further research to evaluate why 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> graders feel less safe during after school hours, particularly around bullying and fighting.</p>
<b>Collaboration</b>	

<p>Getting <b>information through schools or word of mouth</b> are the most common ways to receive information about youth programming. The Internet, particularly Facebook, is another way parents and youth find out about what is happening for youth in Burnsville.</p>	<p>Promote new events and programs through schools and on the Internet, including social media.</p>
<p>The agencies serving youth in Burnsville have a strong desire to <b>come together to collaborate and partner</b>. These agencies report the main areas missing for youth include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More basic needs like food, clothing and shelter</li> <li>• Resources and funding</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Integration of current services</li> </ul> <p>The outcome of the Summit was a desire to <b>form a Youth Council</b> and continue to have dialog about how best to partner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider creating a Youth Council with individual task forces addressing the following areas:</li> <li>• Create a collaborative website hub for all programs and services serving youth in Burnsville that incorporates all youth service providers.</li> <li>• Cost effective recreation opportunities including organized and non-organized games and sports.</li> <li>• Collaboration on new non-sports related activities such as arts, theater and technology</li> <li>• Transportation and access</li> <li>• Volunteerism</li> <li>• Improved communication and collaboration on offerings of programs and services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accessibility</b></p>	
<p>Youth have more difficulty accessing after school and summer programs due to <b>transportation and costs</b>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accessible <b>transportation</b> is the most common barrier to participation in after school programs.</li> <li>2. Four in ten parents <b>lack an awareness about the existence of scholarships</b> for after school programs.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find creative ways to increase youth access to transportation to after school and summer activities including partnerships with MVTA to address routes and explore the possibility of creating a youth pass.</li> <li>• Investigate ways to offer more free and low cost programs for youth in Burnsville and continue to pursue resources for scholarships to existing programs.</li> <li>• Increase awareness of financial assistance programs.</li> </ul>
<p>Youth and parents reported that they are <b>most likely to stay at home</b> with other adults or by themselves after school than go to an after school program. Barriers to participating in after school programs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Parent's job responsibilities</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of programs</li> <li>• Lack of interest in what is offered</li> </ul>	<p>Communicate about current programs as well as options for financial assistance. Promote various free youth opportunities currently available.</p>

# Trend Research and Demographics

# Research on National, State-wide and Burnsville Trends for Youth Programming

## Benefit of Early Learning and After School Programs

A large body of research from the last two decades validates the efficacy of early learning programs and after school programs. Much research has demonstrated that having access to preschool type programs can substantially reduce a child's likelihood to commit a violent crime and increases their later educational success (Reynolds, et.al., 2001 & Schweinhart, et. al, 2005). Research by the Boy's and Girls Clubs in the 1990's showed that housing projects without the club had a significantly increased rate of vandalism and drug use than the projects who did have access to a Boy's and Girls Club.

Across many different states, having sufficient after school programs for middle school and high school students has reduced crime and delinquency and increased student safety and parental involvement (After School Alliance, 2010). Additionally, multiple after school programs have demonstrated that children who participate in after school programs go to school more, behave better in school, receive better grades and test scores, and therefore are more likely to graduate (Durlak, Weissberg, & Pachan, 2010). After school programs are also linked to positive gains in social skills, self-esteem, and physical health. Some experts argue that youth involved in after school programs make healthier choices in all aspects of their lives, being less likely to get into fights, have babies, use drugs, or gain unhealthy amounts of weight.

According to the National After School Association (2012) more than 82% of school superintendents across the country agree that after school programs are important and 92% of working mothers believe that these programs are very important. And although good after school programs are undoubtedly expensive, the Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College found that each dollar invested in a child who would be considered at-risk, including those who are responsible for themselves during after school hours, can save \$8 to \$13 dollars in state monies.

## Crime and After School Programs

*Fight Crime, Invest in Kids*, a national organization committed to preventing children from becoming criminals argues that providing high quality early learning programs and having effective during and after school programs can prevent at risk children and young adults from becoming delinquents or violent offenders. They have documented, among many others, that the hours directly after school, which account for 20 to 25 hours per week have the highest incidence of juvenile crime (Snyder and Sickmund, 2006). Boredom and self-care have been shown to be related to an increase in experimentation of drugs and alcohol, by as much as half. While not participating in any type of after school program and having no supervision increases the likelihood teens will skip school and engage in sexual activity.

## What Programs Are Effective

The Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (CRESST; 2012) has identified five key components for successful after school programs: clearly defined **goals** that are supported across the program in structure and content, **leadership** that was experienced and set high expectations, **staff** that motivates and engages students and works well within the team, **programs** that provide time for kids to learn, study, and practice and frequently uses technology, science, and arts to support youth development, lastly **evaluation** that is both internal and external and use of data that accurately measures goals.

More specifically, the research found that most successful programs, measured in terms of academic and health indicators, had clearly delineated goals, involved the students in the process of deciding on content and programming, and many had a specific emphasis, such as science, technology, homework support, community involvement, etc. Additionally, the leaders of these programs had a clear mission statement and took a bottom up leadership approach, utilizing the expertise of their staff. Program staff at high quality programs generally had higher education levels, lower turnover, and a highly positive attitude about learning.

The most successful sites had programs that offered more than three activities a day. Most included some type of academic focus, with other activities available depending on the specific sites focus (i.e. technology, science, arts, recreation, or health enrichment). Programs considered high quality included social and character development as part of their daily curriculum. The programs considered successful used diverse strategies to keep students engaged including cross-content integration, real world application, cooperative learning, and cultural awareness. Many times learning was embedded within games, sports, or discussions.

Additionally, a meta-analysis of 75 different after school programs (Durlak, et. al., 2010) demonstrated positive changes in youths' self-perceptions, bonding to school, positive social behaviors, school grades, and achievement test scores in programs that utilized sequenced (coordinated activities), active (active learning of new skills), focused (a component devoted to developing personal or social skills), and explicit (targets specific personal/social skill) learning/training. Programs that incorporated these features when promoting personal and social skills training were more effective than those programs that did not.

Specific examples of programs that have demonstrated positive improvement in academic, social, or behavior include 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Boys and Girls Club, LA's Best, and Project Exploration in Chicago. 21<sup>st</sup> Century participants displayed improved class behaviors, homework completion, and improved test scores. Youth who participate in the Boys and Girls Club or LA's Best are less likely to be delinquent or participate in criminal behavior. Lastly, participation in Project Exploration increased the likelihood a student would graduate.

## After School Programs in Minnesota

There is a great need for after-school programming in Minnesota. According to the *After School Alliance* (2012), in Minnesota, 32% of youth ages K-12 are responsible for caring for themselves after school hours and 33% of youth would participate in an after school program if one were available to them. Currently, approximately 12% of youth in Minnesota participate in some type of after school program. The *After School Alliance* compared Minnesota with the national average:

**National Comparison and Trends – 2004 to 2009**

	2009		2004	
	Minnesota %	National %	Minnesota %	National %
<b>Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs</b>	12	15	8	11
<b>Percentage of Kids in Self Care</b>	32	26	35	25
<b>Percentage of Kids in Sibling Care</b>	14	14	13	11
<b>Percentage of Parents Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied with Afterschool Program</b>	94	89	75	91
<b>Percentage of Kids Who Would Participate if an Afterschool Program were Available</b>	33	38	22	30

## Increased Need in Burnsville

The demographics are changing in Burnsville to include more immigrants and a minority population of 22.5%. This has almost doubled in ten years as reported in the US Census. In 2000, 12.5% of the Burnsville population was minorities. According to the 2010 US Census, nearly 10% of Burnsville residents speak a language other than English in their homes. 9.2% of Burnsville residents live below the poverty level. In 2010 there were approximately 14,500 youth, 24% of the population, under the age of 18 in Burnsville.

The statistics often used to associate need of after-school programs are free and reduced lunch numbers. The Burnsville area has seen a large increase in numbers over the past few years. Of the 9,478 K-12 students attending school in District 191, roughly 44% of the students attending are eligible for free or reduced price lunch. (State of Minnesota 2012.) The *Star Tribune* (2011) reports that since 2006, the number of students receiving free or reduced-price meals in Burnsville-Eagan-Savage district schools has jumped from 26 to 40 percent.

Service organizations in Burnsville express a greater need for basic amenities for youth in Burnsville: food, safe spaces, access to caring adults, and transportation to after-school activities. The following table summarizes the primary programs serving youth in Burnsville.

## Burnsville Community Organizations Serving Youth

Program	Mission	Youth Programming	Facilities/ Space	Youth Served	Hours	Cost	Scholarship	Capacity for Growth
<b>ISD 191</b>	Community Education is a pragmatic philosophy of education which works to improve the quality of life of the community and the self-esteem of its citizens through the process, programs and potential of lifelong learning.	<p><b>Physical Fitness/Health:</b> <i>Smart Choices</i>- student wellness program focused on improving student nutrition and physical activity <i>The Edge</i>- Summer activity program focused on building community, independence and positive communication A variety of sports and athletic programs available</p> <p><b>Academics:</b> A variety of early learning programs</p>	16 buildings	12,000 (with some overlap)	Varying times throughout the day and after school hours.  Summer programs are offered through the day.	Cost varies-many free	Yes, need based on free and reduced lunch	Yes Space in buildings, room for more youth in programs
<b>360 Communities</b>	360 Communities provides hope and support through a network of five food shelves, two domestic violence shelters, two resource centers and three programs that support school success from birth through high school graduation.	<p><b>Physical Fitness/Health:</b> <i>Dakota Healthy Families</i>-enhances the parenting skills of first-time parent, creating a family environment where children are safe, healthy, and nurtured. <i>Child Care Aware</i>-works with parents and providers to help promote the availability, affordability, and quality of child care</p> <p><b>Academic:</b> <i>Partners for Success</i>-helps students and families overcome problems that prevent a successful school experience</p>	40 locations	2,000 K-12	Vary	Free	No	Yes, great amount of capacity to provide more services and counselors

Program	Mission	Youth Programming	Facilities/ Space	Youth Served	Hours	Cost	Scholarship	Capacity for Growth
<b>BAC Youth Athletic Association</b>	The BAC is dedicated to the development of the community's young people through sports. The BAC provides sports supervision and administration for youth athletic activities.	<b>Athletics:</b> local and traveling teams for baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball	None-rely on District 191 and Burnsville Parks and Recreation	5,000	Afterschool hours and evenings throughout the year	Range from \$130 to \$1000 for traveling teams	Yes, based on free and reduced lunch	Yes, room for more youth on teams
<b>BALC Burnsville Area Learning Center</b>	Have students graduate on time. In a small setting, there is more personal attention and focus on social/emotional	An alternative high school and learning center providing youth a smaller setting	A high school. Space in Burnsville schools	Up to 185 in high school 1000 in after school and summer programs	School year and summer	No cost for programs	N/A	Yes, room for growth in programs
<b>Berean Baptist Church</b>	Epic Student Ministries exists to make disciples by spiritually impacting the students in our church and community, developing with them a passion to be disciples who make disciples.	A variety of faith based activities for teens and families.	Gym, teen room, youth room, kitchen, music and sound studio	90 kids Wednesday nights 1,300 families belong	Evenings and weekends	Free	N/A	Yes, room for growth in youth program

Program	Mission	Youth Programming	Facilities/ Space	Youth Served	Hours	Cost	Scholarship	Capacity for Growth
<b>Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities</b>	The Boys and Girls Clubs enables all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.	<b>Physical Fitness:</b> Sports skills guidance, punt-pass-kick, sports leagues, lifetime fitness hour, nutrition guidance <b>Arts/Performance:</b> Photography, fine arts, performing arts, dance, painting, gardening, cooking <b>Academic/Social:</b> Homework help, team building, leadership groups, technology training, goal setting, money management, girls circle, passport to manhood, youth for unity, life skills practice <b>Special Events:</b> Dances, movies, bowling, trips to mall, lock-ins, talent shows Meals: Healthy snack provided every day at 5:00PM	8 clubs, 5 stand-alone clubs.  Facilities depend on locations. Usually include: gym, kitchen, computer lab, meeting space. One camp.	12,500 (45% teens)	School year: 2PM-9PM Summer: 8:30AM-5:30PM	\$5/year. \$20 for camp	Work scholarships	Yes, with funding
<b>City of Burnsville Parks and Recreation</b>	To promote healthy lifestyles by providing quality recreation and leisure programs and facilities to people through exceptional customer service and doing so in a fiscally responsible way that shows we are good stewards of our resources for Burnsville residents.	<b>Physical Fitness:</b> Kids of summer program, preschool soccer, rookie t-ball, tennis  <b>Academic/Social:</b> Rockin' Readers	66 parks	Approx. 4500 in youth and family programs Kids of summer programs	School year: mostly evening activities  Summer: daytime activities	Varies by program	Yes, asked to \$1 for every \$10 Available up to \$240	Yes, programs can accommodate more youth

Program	Mission	Youth Programming	Facilities/ Space	Youth Served	Hours	Cost	Scholarship	Capacity for Growth
<b>City of Burnsville/ THE GARAGE</b>	THE GARAGE provides a safe, fun and nurturing environment where participants create their own spaces to interact and acquire a sense of belonging, gain self-esteem, build friendships, explore ideas, try out various roles and cultivate a capacity to enjoy life through the arts, music and dance.	<b>Academic/Social:</b> Homework help, pizza parties, booking meetings for special events, support groups, speakers  <b>Arts/Performance:</b> Dance classes, art workshops, music classes	1 facility including: gym, music space, kitchen, multi-purpose room, and cafe	40-50 weekday 250-weekends	Weekdays 2:30 to 6 Fri & Saturday 5:30 to 11:00	Free during the week  \$3-weekend shows. \$1 daily admission \$3 weekend show	No formal scholarships for shows	Yes, can serve more youth in programs
<b>Dakota County Library-Burnsville</b>		Year-round programs, robust summer reading programs	Meeting rooms, tutor rooms. Large community room for 250	1,265 kids last summer 250 teens	Monday-Saturday	No cost for programs	No formal scholarships	Yes, meeting and conference space
<b>Kids in Kinship</b>	Kids 'n Kinship's Mission is to provide friendships to children ages 5-16 who are in need of a positive role model	Match adult mentors with kids from age 5-16. They engage in group and individual activities on a weekly basis.	No facilities	80 youth and 45 on waiting list	Generally evenings and weekends	None	N/A	Yes, in need of more volunteers
<b>Mary Mother Catholic Church</b>	Faith Formation for youth takes a holistic approach. It begins by emphasizing the importance of being connected and committed as a family to the Sunday liturgy. Youth are encouraged to participate in the formation sessions prepared for them.	Evening and summer faith based youth programs.	Huge teen room and meeting rooms, kitchen	135 kids on Wednesday nights 1,700 families belong	Wednesday evenings and summers during the day	Summer program \$175/week	Yes	Yes, youth program has room for more students

Program	Mission	Youth Programming	Facilities/Space	Youth Served	Hours	Cost	Scholarship	Capacity for Growth
<b>Prince of Peace</b>	A movement committed to the restoration and transformation of our world through the love of Jesus Christ as partners in the movement of God in our world.	Evening and summer faith based youth programs	40 meeting rooms, 2 buildings on campus	Pre-K to 5 <sup>th</sup> : 530 kids 6-12 <sup>th</sup> grades: 400 kids	Wednesday evenings and summers during the day	\$45/year \$10/special events	Yes, if families ask. No formal program	Yes, with more volunteers
<b>Valley Athletic Association (VAA)</b>	The purpose of VAA is to benefit the youth in the communities of ISD 196 by providing a means of athletic and social development through organized sports.	<b>Athletics:</b> local and traveling teams for baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball	Small storage space	4,000-5,000 with some duplication	Mostly evenings and Saturdays	Range \$30-\$300 for traveling teams	Yes, based on free and reduced lunch	Yes
<b>YMCA-Burnsville</b>	The Y is an inclusive organization joined together by a shared commitment to nurturing the potential of kids, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility	<b>Physical Fitness/Health:</b> Swim lessons, exercise classes, indoor pool, fitness center, basketball court, indoor pool, youth sports <b>Academic/Social:</b> Teen center, computer lab, homework help, leadership training, YIG	Gym, pool, teen center, meeting rooms	2,800	8AM until 8PM Monday-Friday	\$38/month youth membership	Yes, need based	Yes, in all youth programming areas

## **Key Stakeholder Interview Results**

# Background

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Twenty-two community and youth leaders in Burnsville were interviewed about needs for youth in grades K-12 during April 2013. The purpose of the interviews was to get in-depth input and opinions from key community and education leaders in Burnsville. Specifically, the interviews discussed:

- Numbers and ages of youth served by their organization
- Fee structure
- Capacity for growth
- Evaluation process
- Current trends in youth programming
- Needs for youth in Burnsville
- Gaps and missing services for youth in Burnsville
- Ideas for a gathering place for youth in Burnsville
- Visions for a facility for youth
- Perception of THE GARAGE
- Amenities, services, programs needed
- Possible location of a new youth facility
- How to avoid duplication of services
- How each organization would like to be involved moving forward

Wendy Lutter, of Lutter Marketing LLC, conducted the interviews. All interviews were over the phone and lasted between thirty minutes to an hour and a half.

# Caveat

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In-depth interviews and focus groups develop insight, direction, and general trends. They do not provide quantitatively precise or absolute measures due to the relatively small number of participants. In-depth interviews and focus groups are a forum for ideas and comprehensive discussions. All findings presented in this report are exploratory in nature and cannot be projected to the population as a whole or to any sub-groups.

# Participants

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The following organizations were included in the research:

- Burnsville Athletic Club (BAC Sports)
- Berean Baptist Church
- Boys and Girls Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul
- City of Burnsville Parks and Recreation
- Dakota County Library-Burnsville location
- District 191 Community Education
- District 191 Alternative Learning
- District 196
- 360 Communities
- Kids in Kinship
- Mary Mother Catholic Church
- Prince of Peace Church
- Valley Athletic Association (VAA Sports)
- YMCA of Burnsville



# Key Findings

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Overall, agencies serving youth in Burnsville perceive the needs of youth from their own perspective. Many interviewees had very strong opinions, based on their organization and their expertise. While there are great opposing views about who should deliver services and what services should be for the youth of Burnsville, there is a general agreement about four key areas regarding youth: access, equity, resources and integration.

## Access and Equity

Six of the community agencies reported that large disparities between socio-economic groups exist. There are groups of youth in Burnsville who are very involved and sometimes over-programmed. They are more likely to have both parents involved in their lives. These youth play on traveling sports teams and are involved in after school activities and church groups. Transportation is not an issue to get to activities, programs or services because parents provide rides, or some teens have access to cars to drive themselves.

Professionals who work with this group of kids and were interviewed say there are not gaps or missing programs or services for these youth. In fact, often times there are too many choices. According to all the youth workers in the faith organizations and the athletic associations, the kids they serve are over-scheduled. They have to decide between traveling teams, community volunteering, youth groups, working part time and other after school activities.

In contrast, there is a group of youth who are in the lower economic bracket who do not have the same access to choices, as reported by eight of the agencies interviewed. Their parents may be working one or two jobs just to make ends meet. Some have only one parent involved in their lives. These youth are often on free and reduced lunch. As many as 44% of Burnsville students received free and reduced lunch in the 2012-2013 school year, according to ISD 191. All the agencies, except the faith youth groups, report that many youth have no transportation to get to an after school or weekend youth activity even if they had interest.

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For youth in the K-12 range in Burnsville who have the means and support, there are plenty of youth programs and services. For the youth who do not have parental support, access to information about programs, access to funding or access to transportation, there are gaps in services, as reported by 75% of the agencies.

## Current Youth Programs and Services

All of those interviewed agree that there are many wonderful, meaningful and important organizations serving youth in Burnsville-and serving them well. The perception is that there are experts in youth development who have implemented programs successfully and with good outcomes in Burnsville.

The biggest barrier seems to be resources. On the youth side, the issue is not being able to afford the activity or program. From the organization side, the issue is not enough funds to implement and deliver the program at an affordable rate so that all youth can have access. Transportation is also viewed as an issue and barrier for getting youth to programs that are already in place.

Another identified problem is that the services and programs for Burnsville youth are perceived to be all in silos, according to the leaders interviewed. There is no common place that is a hub of information or coordination for families and youth to discover opportunities available. According to 50% of the agencies, there is not enough integration of information or coordination across services and programs.

## Gaps/Needs

As the demographics have changed in Burnsville, there is a greater number of youth who are having difficulty getting their basic needs met of food, clothing, shelter and a sense of belonging. Five of the agencies reported an increased need, including more requests and higher demand at food shelves in the community and more requests for the *Brainpower in a Backpack* program, where High School students provide food for students in need.

There is a need to provide social/emotional support, including adult positive role models, according to three agencies.

Opportunities for youth who are not interested in sports is also perceived as a gap. There are many organizations and places for youth to participate in sports, from the most basic to the very competitive. Yet, there are limited programs specifically for arts, theater, and technology for interested youth as perceived by three agency leaders.

In addition, parents complain to youth organizations that there are not enough opportunities for part-time employment in Burnsville. Youth want places that offer flexible employment to earn some money; parents want their children to learn work ethics, as well as to help pay for their activities.

## Trends

The downturn in the economy has directly impacted the youth organizations in Burnsville in two ways. First, there is less discretionary income available to youth to use to participate in programs. Secondly, youth do not have access to enrichment programs due to lack of transportation, parents working multiple jobs and youth's responsibilities at home.

A positive national trend for engagement is to offer family friendly events and activities for the entire family. Four organizations included in this research have had great success if the entire family is asked to come to an event. There can be specific areas and programs for certain ages, but also food and training for parents. This has worked well for organizations trying to access the Somali and Hispanic communities in particular.

A common trend seen by the key stakeholders is the desire for youth to be entertained instead of the ability to be engaged. Interviewees say that youth get access to electronics at a younger and younger age. They are constantly "plugged in." They no longer go to friends' houses to hang out play outside or play interactive board games. It is difficult for some agencies serving youth to find new ways to authentically engage youth instead of entertain them.

## THE GARAGE

The most unique youth service in Burnsville is THE GARAGE. Many people say they do not know of another place like it in the Twin Cities that provides youth interested in music such a special opportunity. Many of those interviewed praised THE GARAGE for meeting the needs of youth who do not have other places of interest to go.

However, there were a few opponents to THE GARAGE. They view THE GARAGE negatively based on their perceived lack of adult supervision, as well as questioning the background of some of the youth who they observed at THE GARAGE. There is also a perception that too much money is spent serving too few youth.

## Possibilities for a New Youth Center

There are mixed feelings about a new youth center in Burnsville. While the majority of those interviewed are very much in favor of a more coordinated, comprehensive effort to deliver youth programming and services, only half think a physical space has to be a part of it.

Those who are in favor of a new youth center view it as a Community Center or a Family Center. They would like it to have year-round facilities like gyms, a pool, and multi-purpose meeting rooms. They see potential as a revenue generator by having space to host all kinds of youth activities and tournaments. It could be an option to bring people from all over the Twin Cities for day and weekend tournaments, where they will spend money on concessions, food, gas and lodging in Burnsville, boosting the local economy.

Some suggested locations include: on top of the bowling alley, on top of the MTC

building, on part of an existing park, and a huge expansion of the current GARAGE.

Others think that the most important thing is quality, trained youth-specialized staff. They believe that going to the youth to deliver services and programs is the best model. They also think there are enough spaces in Burnsville as of now, as long as efforts are coordinated such as school gyms, church youth rooms, apartment community rooms, and parks in the summer.

There are advantages and disadvantages with using a school that is no longer in use. The positive are that the facilities would include gyms and pool, as well as lots of space. The perceived issues are that it is too much space, schools are expensive to maintain and the kids don't want to be in school after the school day is over.

## Concerns

The concerns about a new youth center are:

- Funding-both to build it and maintain it
- Location
- Leadership-who will be run and maintain it
- Duplication of services
- Collaboration-how will all the youth organizations work together?
- Loss of THE GARAGE-concern that the program will be terminated, leaving the youth currently being served without a place to go

## Capacity for Growth

All of those interviewed believe their organizations have capacity for growth in youth programming and services. The biggest caveat is "if there is funding." Many of the organizations are experiencing a decline in membership or participation. Youth sports numbers are decreasing. Faith-based organizations are seeing the biggest decline, with one example losing half their youth members over the past two years. The service based organizations, like 360 Communities and Kids in Kinships, have a greater need to provide services and are receiving more requests for help. The exception is the YMCA where their youth memberships and involvement are increasing, yet there is still room for growth in youth organizations.

## **Solutions:**

### **Funding and need for a catalyst and a framework**

Funding is scarce and a concern. In order to deliver and implement successful, meaningful programs to youth that have a lasting impact, there needs to be resources. It will be important in moving forward that funding is considered a part of planning. There is some worry that big dreams will be planned but will not be able to be implemented because of costs.

Those interviewed want a lead organization or catalyst to drive the changes and coordination with youth in Burnsville. Most believe that partnerships are the way to go, in order to collaborate with brainpower and expertise, as well as to pool resources and share costs.

Having a lead organization could provide a framework for moving forward with a common goal in mind: how to best serve the youth of Burnsville. Fostering a spirit of collaboration moving forward will be essential. Stating a clear definition of the vision will be important to capture the energy around serving youth in Burnsville. The leaders of the organizations interviewed are willing to help make it happen and want to be successful together.

## **Focus Group Results**

# Background

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As part of the grant received by Youthprise, it was essential to get feedback directly from youth to get their input into specific needs and wants in the Burnsville community. The focus groups were a starting point of gathering information to then be developed into a survey for a larger number of youth.

# Methodology

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Three focus groups were conducted in May 2013. Focus groups are the preferred methodology to discover and understand motivations and reason for decision-making, as well as to uncover feelings and emotions. The focus group feedback helped determine what specific information to include in the survey.

The focus groups were held at Nicollet Junior High, THE GARAGE and the YMCA in Burnsville. There was a total of 27 youth participating in the focus groups. Staff from each of the organizations recruited youth to participate. A letter was sent to parents describing the research and asking for permission. A diverse mix of grades (from 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade,) gender and ethnicities were represented in the focus groups. As a thank you for participating, youth received a choice of a day pass to the YMCA or to a concert at THE GARAGE.

The objective of the focus group research was to gauge from youth what they felt was missing in Burnsville for them. Specifically, the question areas covered:

- Current activities in Burnsville
- Perception of current offerings, programs and activities
- What is missing in Burnsville for youth
- Interest in specific new programs, services or activities desired
- Barriers to participating
- Perceptions of safety
- Access to supportive adults
- Definition of supportive adults
- Decision making for activities-whether it is parent or youth driven
- Preferred communication methods

Wendy Lutter, of Lutter Marketing LLC, conducted the focus groups.

# Key Findings

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Common themes emerged from all three focus groups. Participants said the most important missing elements for youth in Burnsville are transportation, volunteer and part-time employment opportunities and safe, affordable places to hang out, be active and engaged. The idea of a Community or Recreation Center for youth was brought up unsolicited by participants in the Nicollet Junior High and THE GARAGE focus groups.

There was a difference in the participation level in after school activities from the youth in the three focus groups. All of the youth in the Nicollet Junior High group currently participate in some sort of after school sport or school-based or community-based activity whereas four youth from the Y group and three from THE GARAGE group currently participate in programs or activities. The remaining four youth from the Y and seven from THE GARAGE do not participate in any other programs (other than going to the Minnesota Valley YMCA in Burnsville or THE GARAGE.)

For those youth who did participate, the current programs included:

- Art classes at Brushstrokes
- BAC (traveling soccer and football)
- BALC
- Community Ed 191
- Dakota County Library Programs
- Marching Band
- Sports through the high school

Many had participated in programs in Burnsville in the following programs in the *past*:

- BALC
- Kids of Summer
- Project Kids
- THE GARAGE
- YMCA: programs at Minnesota Valley in Burnsville
- YMCA Summer Camp Streefland
- Youth church groups

None of the youth in any of the focus groups had heard of or participated in Kids in Kinship or 360 Communities.

The youth from the focus groups say that after school, they like going home, hanging out with friends, sleeping, doing homework, eating good food, listening to music and playing soccer. Some talked about hanging out at Caribou, Applebee's, Red Lobster and Cherry Berry.

## Safety

In every focus group, participants brought up, unaided, the prevalence of fighting among youth in Burnsville as a problem. Specially, youth discussed fighting outside school, in parks and outside THE GARAGE. It concerned them and made them uncomfortable.

*“We need less fights. Some people, they have trouble at home and they get angry. Then they start fighting and a bad string of things start happening at school.”*

For the group at Nicollet Junior High, the biggest area missing was supervision and safety. All ten in the group talked about places they feel uncomfortable, including some parks, Skateville, and THE GARAGE. Seven out of ten agreed that Burnsville lacked enough safe places for all kids to go be themselves.

*“We need more adult supervision. There would be less fights.”*

## Caring Adults

Youth in all three groups discussed feeling like there was a lack of caring adults with whom they had access. There was agreement from 75% of the youth that they sometimes had difficulty finding an adult who listened, took time to get to know them, and genuinely seemed to have an interest in their well being. Youth defined a caring adult as someone who understood youth their age, made an effort to initiate the conversation and who listened without judgment or advice. There were some good examples singled out by youth from the YMCA and THE GARAGE as taking an interest, i.e. making eye contact and making an effort to connect.

*“People who look at you in the eye, instead of assuming things about you just by looking at you. More adults who actually listen to you without telling you what to do.”*

In addition, the youth in the Nicollet Junior High group discussed wanting more help in making decisions. Two of the youth talked about peers making bad decisions without recognizing the consequences, while another five were in agreement.

*“I wish there was a way for kids to be more aware of the things they do. It seems like nowadays kids say; let’s just do this. It is not until after they have consequences, they think about it. By then it is too late. We need more help with that.”*

Four of the youth from the focus group at THE GARAGE and two from the group at the YMCA expressed problems with adults at home, particularly their mothers (as the fathers

do not live with them.) Home life is not a fun, comfortable place for these youth as they reported arguments, younger siblings to care and lists of chores to do. Home is not the preferred place for these youth to be after school.

*“I just don’t want to go home after school. I have problems with my mom. My crib is not somewhere I want to go. It is hostile.”*

## Barriers to Participation

Lack of transportation was the reason given the most often for not participating in more activities in Burnsville. All of youth in the focus groups have parents who work, so they cannot rely on them for transportation. Some of the youth walk or ride their bikes, but only when the weather allows them to do so. There were complaints about the lack of public transportation in Burnsville, especially to get to activities and programs in the summer. Twelve out of 27 said they don’t live on an easily accessible public transportation route.

*“Parents are at work so you have no way to get anywhere. You have to sit at home. Transportation is huge.”*

Cost is another barrier to participation. Twenty-five out of 27 youth mentioned cost as one of the reasons they do not participate in more activities. They talked about everything costing money, so they have to limit their choices.

*“You always have to spend money, but my parents always ask if there are ways for me to do something without spending money. They want me to find things to do in Burnsville that doesn’t cost money.”*

Responsibility of younger siblings is the reason that six youth report they cannot participate in more activities. Sometimes, parents do not trust the youth to take their younger siblings far from home. If they do any activity, it is usually playing outside near their apartment complex.

*“I have two brothers and a sister I take care of. It makes it hard to do things. My parents don’t trust me to take them anywhere.”*

Another reason for not participating was lack of awareness. Some of the participants in all groups reported they did not know where to find out about new programs or activities.

## Volunteer or Job Opportunities

Youth in the focus groups wanted more job opportunities in Burnsville. Twelve of the youth expressed frustration in having applied for jobs but had not been successful. They wished there were more places to go to get experience.

*“More weekend jobs that are flexible to a student’s schedule. Somewhere that you could walk and not have to get a ride everyday and can be younger than 16.”*

Four of the youth in different groups talked about looking for volunteer opportunities. Some of them did not know where to go or how to do look for possibilities.

*“More volunteering opportunities. I was trying to volunteer for Fairview Hospital but you have to apply months in advance. How do you find out that information about places to volunteer?”*

Approximately half the youth had a positive reaction to the idea of a career or job center where they could go get skills and help with how to find a job. They reported that schools did not offer this service, or if they did, these youth were unaware of it.

*“That would actually be really great. I would like that.”*

## Community or Recreation Center

A recreation center was seen as missing in Burnsville. Half of the youth in all the groups had lived elsewhere before Burnsville including St. Paul, Minneapolis, Apple Valley, Mankato and California and had past experience with a recreation center that welcomed and embraced youth. The recreation centers they had experience with were affordable for youth, often times with a daily entrance fee of \$2-\$5, which they thought was a reasonable cost.

These youth wanted a place where they could go play basketball, swim, hang out, and find out about other activities. Youth centers in St. Paul and Apple Valley were discussed as examples. The Y in Burnsville received high marks. Twenty of the youth had been to the YMCA at least once. It is just too expensive for most to use on a regular basis. In fact, only three of the participants in the group held at the YMCA were members. The others were there on a day guest pass.

*“They don’t have a rec center in Burnsville. That would be great. That’s what my brother and me always used to do. More kids would go if they had open gym for soccer and basketball.”*

A couple youth of discussed the idea of being able to volunteer or work at a recreation center to be able to pay for membership.

*“If there could be job opportunities for teens to work at the rec center and also maybe jobs, that would be cool.”*

## Additional Ideas

Five participants wished there was a community pool or water park to go to in Burnsville. They talked about ideas like a wave pool and water slides like in Eagan. No one goes to the beach in Burnsville. Three of the youth were not aware there was a beach. Some kids had access to pools at their apartment complex, so did not feel that was a need for them.

*“I’d like a water park with slides and a wave pool.”*

More easily accessible art and theater classes were mentioned by 3 kids, as were more opportunities to sample a variety of activities to learn more about interests.

*“There are a lot of artist kids but they can’t afford to take lessons. Then there are kids who are musically talented but they lack instruments. There are things even like beat boxing but adults are like, that’s it? So kids are left feeling unimportant.”*

According to the youth in the focus groups, organized sports are offered in good quantity in Burnsville. They do not see sports as lacking. However, there is a need for more informal games like dodge ball or pick up basketball and soccer. Many of the youth, particularly at the group held at the YMCA, liked the idea of a supervised game time at a park where there was a variety of balls and games to use.

*“I would like to go to a park where with my friends and other teenagers and be able to play some games and sports. It would be better if there was someone there, like a college kid. Then my mom would let me go.”*

There were ideas to offer free movies outside in the summer for all ages and families. It was suggested that a movie could be projected on the wall of the exterior of the YMCA.

*“It would be cool to have movies where you could come watch them outside for free. They do that in Minneapolis.”*

Two youth mentioned the idea of more activities in the center of Burnsville, like free music and concerts to draw youth together for something positive.

*“I’d like more things for the whole community like in heart of the city where you can go and meet up with other people, like different festivals or music.”*

## THE GARAGE

THE GARAGE was discussed in every focus group, however there were great differences of opinions and feelings between groups. THE GARAGE was brought up, unaided, by participants.

The focus groups held at THE GARAGE was much more positive about it and saw value in it, although they discussed many changes that have occurred in the last year since the original director left.

*“It has changed a lot. There used to be more organized games like Dodge ball back then than now. Now there is no sass, more rules, nobody can do anything.”*

Seven out of ten participants think THE GARAGE has gone downhill particularly as related to staff and more restrictions, but still come to THE GARAGE because there is no other place to go.

*“I think THE GARAGE should stay. It is a place to come after school so you don’t want to go home. I don’t like being home. I fight a lot with my mom. I think we should have more here. More activities and things to do.”*

The youth in the other two focus groups had mixed reactions to THE GARAGE. All of the participants had heard of THE GARAGE and had opinions about it whether they had been there or not. Three of the youth each of the groups at Nicollet and the YMCA had first hand experience with THE GARAGE. Only two out of the six had positive experiences.

*“It can be a fun place to go. It is an okay place, not a really, really bad place. It is your own choice to hang out with the people you like. But I wish it were stricter.”*

The other participants knew of youth who went to THE GARAGE. They thought the ‘bad’ kids went there and said they would not be comfortable going to anything at THE GARAGE. The reputation was that THE GARAGE was where youth went to fight or where trouble occurred.

*“The stories I hear are the kids that go are trouble. They have lots of fights or whatever so I’d rather not go.”*

## Parent Involvement in Activities

The older the youth are, the less likely their parents have influence over their after school and summer activities. In Junior High, most youth say they make the decisions with their parents and usually have veto power if their parents bring an idea to them that they don't like. The youth in high school usually choose all their after school activities themselves, sometimes with guidance from a parent, sometimes without.

*"I bring ideas to my mom and she brings them to me about things to do."*

## Communication

Overwhelmingly, Facebook is the most used vehicle of communication for the youth in these focus groups. Only three out of 27 do not actively use Facebook. The majority of them find out about what is going for youth on through Facebook by using accessing it on their mobile phone. They pay attention to what their friends suggest and recommend on Facebook.

*"Everyone finds out through Facebook. Have a Facebook page with updates."*

Twitter was a close second as a preferred communication method, with six of the youth saying they are switching to Twitter from Facebook as more of their parents get on Facebook. Half of the youth in the focus groups use Instagram or Snap Chat, but didn't see either of those as a way for the City of Burnsville or similar organizations to communicate to youth.

*"I use both but only with my friends."*

None of these youth use email regularly as a way to find out information nor do they watch Burnsville Cable TV. Word of mouth is a popular way to find out about youth activities in Burnsville. Youth find out from parents, friends or coaches about what is happening just by talking to them.

*"I talk to my friends and they tell me things going on. Or I hear about things at my apartment or at school."*

## **Survey Results**

# Background

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Surveys were developed and implemented to include a larger number of voices and opinions throughout Burnsville. The surveys were built from focus group results as well as past Youth Assessment surveys. The purpose of the surveys was to collect quantitative and comprehensive data to understand further what programs and services were wanted for youth in Burnsville. Specifically, the surveys asked:

- Past and current participation in youth programs in Burnsville
- Specific programs and services youth had participated in
- Perceptions of youth programs
- Barriers to participation in programs
- Need and awareness of financial aid (parents only)
- Access to transportation to an after school activity
- Need for more after school programming
- Where youth currently go after school
- Interest level in future programs
- Availability of healthy food and snacks (youth only)
- Perceptions of safety
- Information and communication sources (not 4<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Parent demographics

# Methodology

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Three separate but similar surveys (parents, youth grade 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and youth in 4<sup>th</sup> grade) were designed in collaboration with City of Burnsville representation. Youth surveys were shortened to accommodate the allocated time allowed.

Parents completed the survey using web methodology from May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>. They were invited to participate via the City of Burnsville's website as well as an email sent out to city residents. In addition, the partner organizations and key stakeholders also emailed out a link to the survey and put it on their website.

Youth completed the survey using paper and pencil methodology during class. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders had the same survey, whereas the 4<sup>th</sup> graders took an age-appropriate, shortened survey.

# Key Findings

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Overall, youth and parents agree there needs to be more youth programming and services available in Burnsville. Many youth currently participate in programs in Burnsville. The Burnsville Athletic Club, Community Education 191, and YMCA programs are the most utilized and have positive reputations among parents and youth in the community

## Parent Survey Results Highlights

- Parents are most interested in their children participating in after school opportunities that involve organized athletic activities, supervised gym time, supervised park games, and part time jobs.
- Parents believe that cost of programs, their job responsibilities, and transportation are restrictions to their children's involvement in afterschool programs. Among those for which cost is a concern, only about six in ten parents are aware that financial assistance is available.
- There is a lack of parent awareness for some programs including Kids in Kinship, The Boys and Girls Club, 360 communities, and VAA sports.
- Parents are most likely to get information about Burnsville area programs and events from local web pages, through their child's school, or from word of mouth.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Results Highlights

- Over half of fourth graders have participated in an afterschool program in Burnsville and fewer than half have participated in a summer program.
- BAC/VAA sports and YMCA programs are the programs they were most likely to have utilized.
- After school most fourth graders stay at home with an adult or a sibling.
- Most say they have healthy meals and snacks available at **least** sometimes
- Almost all feel safe near their home, school and after school.
- More than half say more programs are needed in their area for their age group
- They are most interested in participating in organized physical activities after school and **least** interested in participating in family activities. Most wanted after school programs: Open Gym Organized Sports Music/Dance Art/Drawing.

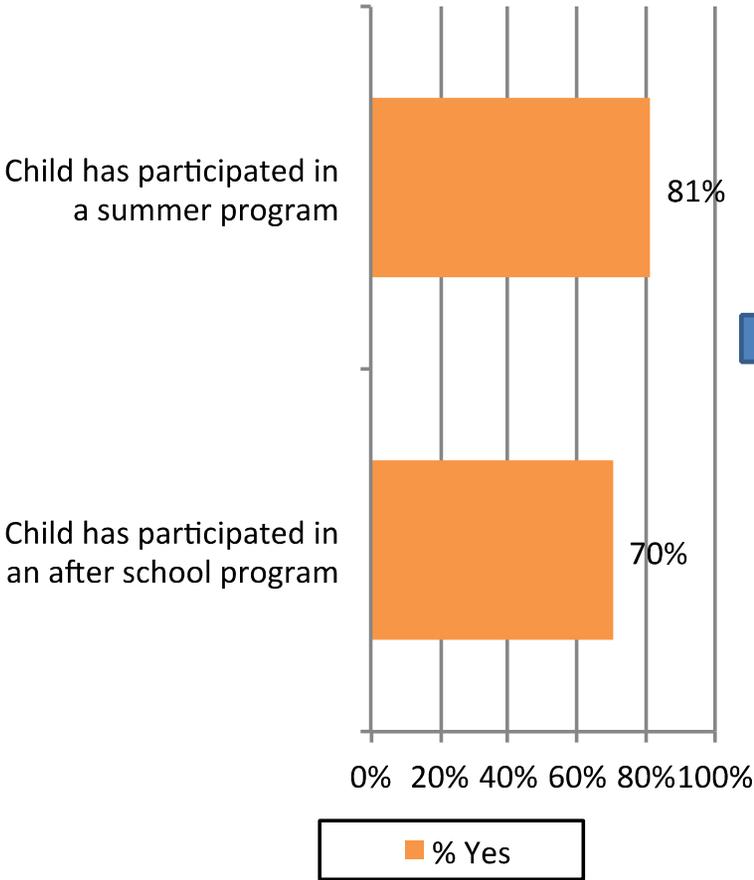
- Most wanted summer Programs: Field Trips, Open Gym, Organized Sports , Water Sports Day Camp

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Results Highlights

- Almost three quarters 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders have participated in an afterschool program in Burnsville and about half have participated in a summer program.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders were most likely to indicate that after school they **stay at home with siblings** or **do something other than** staying at home by themselves, with siblings, with an adult, or going to an after school program.
- No interest in the current programs and cost are the two main reasons that they don't currently participate.
- They are most likely to have participated in activities with the BAC, ISD 191-Community Education, and the YMCA. About one-quarter have used The Garage, while fewer have participated with the BALC or the Parks and Recreation programs.
- Most say they have healthy meals and snacks available at **least** sometimes, however there is still almost ten percent who do not have access.
- Most feel safe near their home, school, and after school **however about fifteen percent do not feel safe.**
- Just over half say more programs are needed in their area for their age group and have access to transportation to an after school program.
- They are most interested in participating in part-time job opportunities, career center, and organized physical activities They are least interested in adult mentors and family activities.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders use their school their friends (69%), the Internet and social media to find out about events in the area

# Participation in Youth Programming *Parents*

**Eight in ten parents said their child has participated in a summer program and seven in ten said their child has participated in an after school program.** Their children were most likely to have participated in Burnsville Athletic Clubs sports, Community Education 191, or YMCA Youth programs.



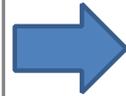
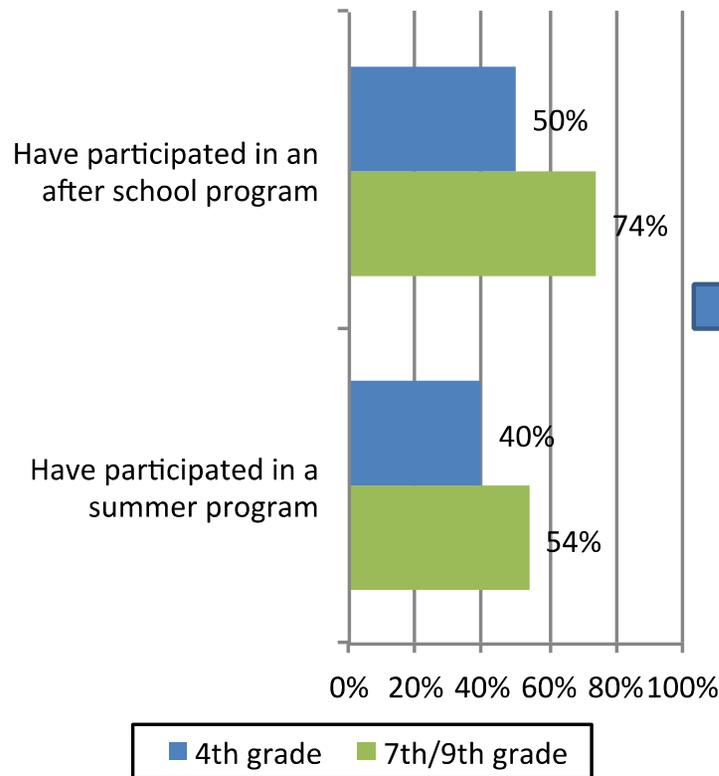
Program	Parents N=347
Burnsville Athletic Clubs Sports	75%
Community Education 191	55%
YMCA Youth Programs	48%
Burnsville Parks and Recreation	41%
Project Kids 191	39%
Sports through school	28%
Church Youth Group	27%
Kids of Summer	21%
Valley Athletic Association Sports	11%
Burnsville Area Learning Centers	8%
THE GARAGE	7%
Kids in Kinship	1%
Other	12%

Parents N=347

# Participation in Youth Programming

## Youth

Half of fourth graders and nearly three-quarters of seventh/ninth graders have participated in an afterschool program in Burnsville, fewer have participated in a summer program. All youth, regardless of grade, were most likely to have participated in Burnsville Athletic Clubs sports.



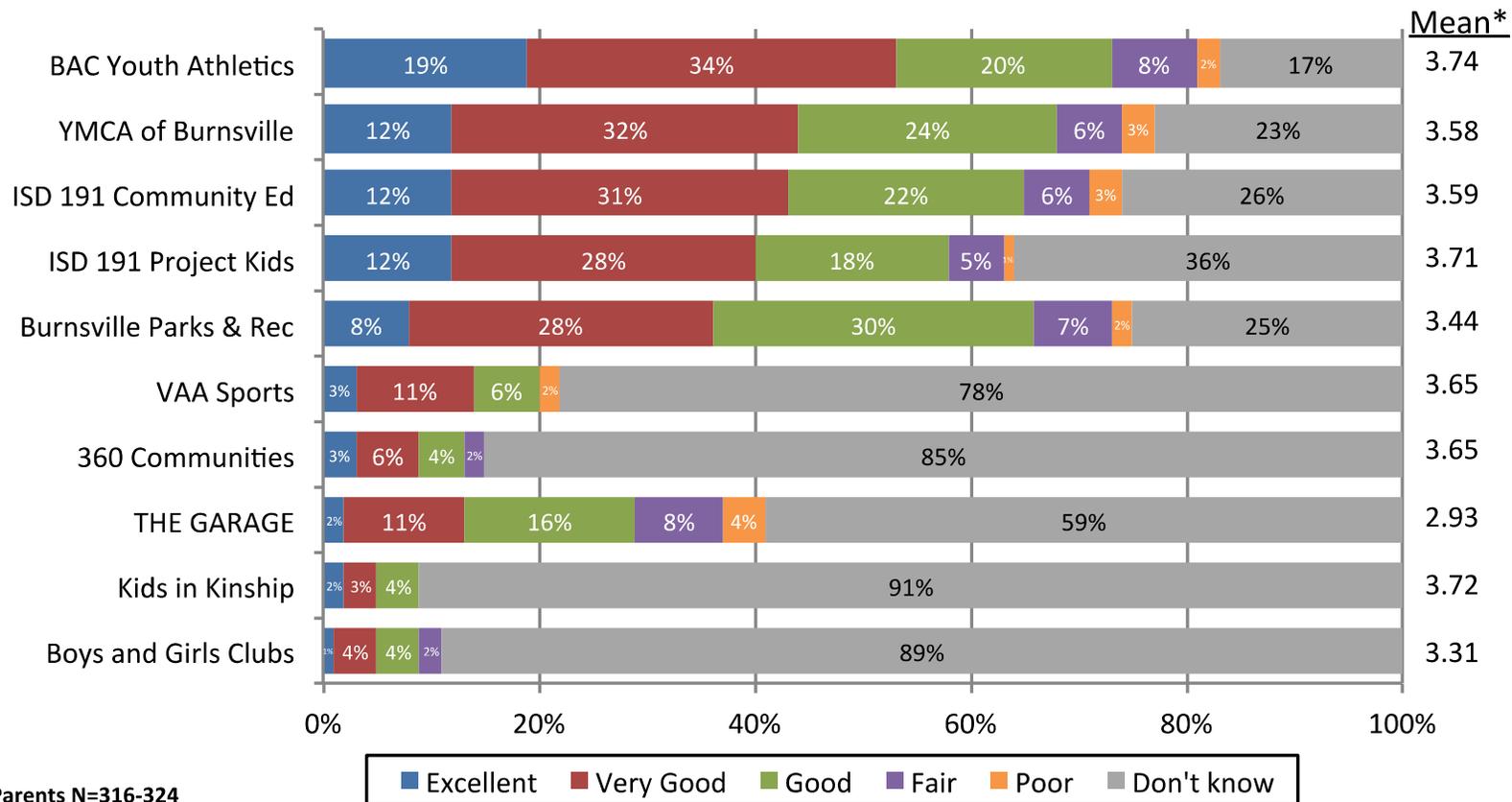
Program	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade N=116	7 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> Grade N=667-715
Burnsville Athletic Clubs	44%	55%
Community Education 191	30%	40%
YMCA Youth Programs	34%	37%
THE GARAGE	N/A	25%
Burnsville Area Learning Centers	24%	21%
Parks and Recreation	21%	19%

4<sup>th</sup> Grade N=147; 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Grade N=697-712

# Perceptions of Current Youth Programming *Parents*

More than half of parents believe that perceive BAC Youth Athletics is *very good or excellent*. Four in ten parents or more believe that Project Kids, Community Education, and the YMCA of Burnsville are also *very good or excellent*. Very few parents are knowledgeable about Kids in Kinship, Boys and Girls Clubs, 360 communities, or VAA sports.

Mean is on scale where 1= poor 5= excellent

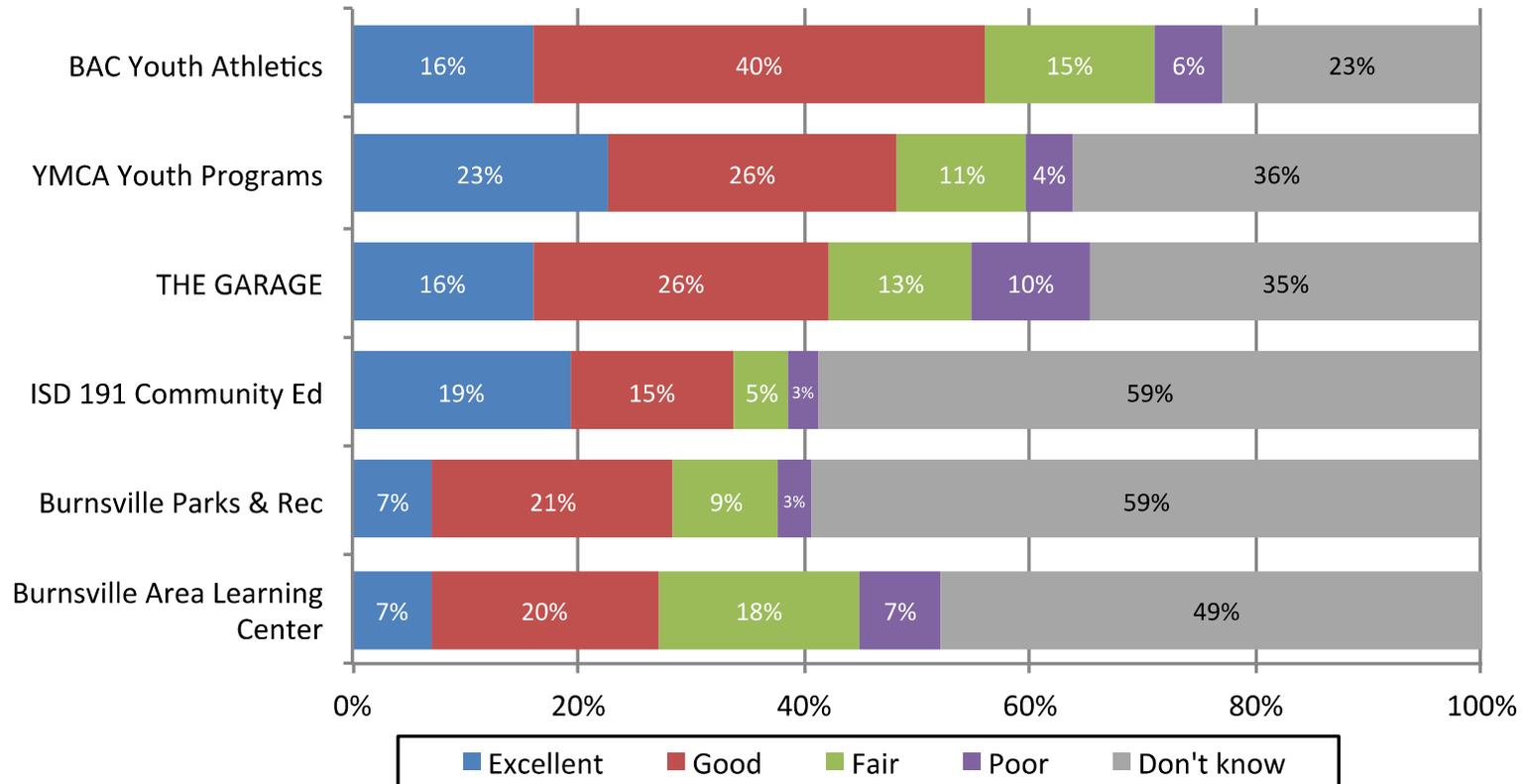


Parents N=316-324

\*Don't know responses not included

# Perceptions of Current Youth Programming *Seventh and Ninth Grade*

Similar to parents, over half of seventh/ninth grade youth believe BAC Youth Athletics is *very good* or *excellent*. Additionally, more than four in ten seventh/ninth grade youth believe that the YMCA of Burnsville and THE GARAGE are also *very good* or *excellent*.



7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Grade N=316-324

# Barriers to Afterschool Participation

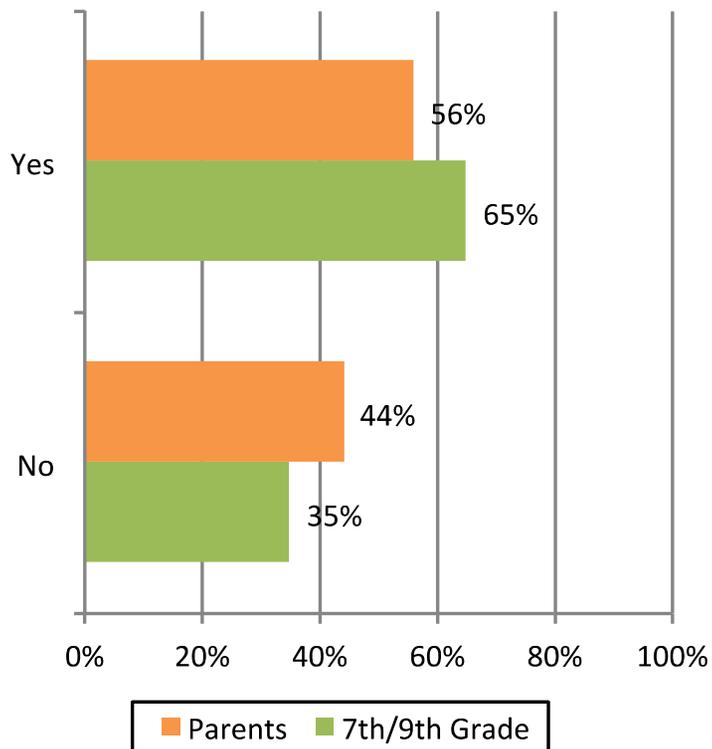
Parents indicated that the cost of programs prevent their children from participating. Parent job responsibilities and transportation are also perceived to be barriers to participation by parents. **Seventh/ninth graders said they don't participate because they are not interested in available programs**

Reason Preventing Participation	Parents N=299	7 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> Grade N=435
Cost	42%	27%
Parent job responsibilities	40%	N/A
Transportation	39%	20%
Not interested in available programs	29%	41%
Not sure what is available	20%	19%
Have responsibilities at home or a job	7%	16%
Language is a barrier	2%	N/A
Other	17%	N/A

# Transportation and Financial Assistance

More than half of parents and about two-thirds of seventh/ninth graders indicated their youth/they have access to transportation to an after school program. Among those for which cost of programs is prohibitive only about six in ten are aware that financial assistance is available.

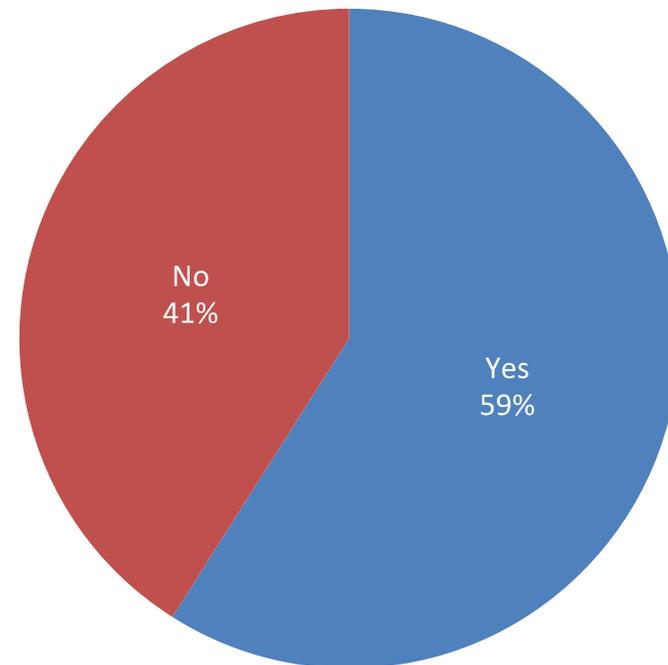
Transportation to Afterschool Program



Parents N=300; 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> N=670

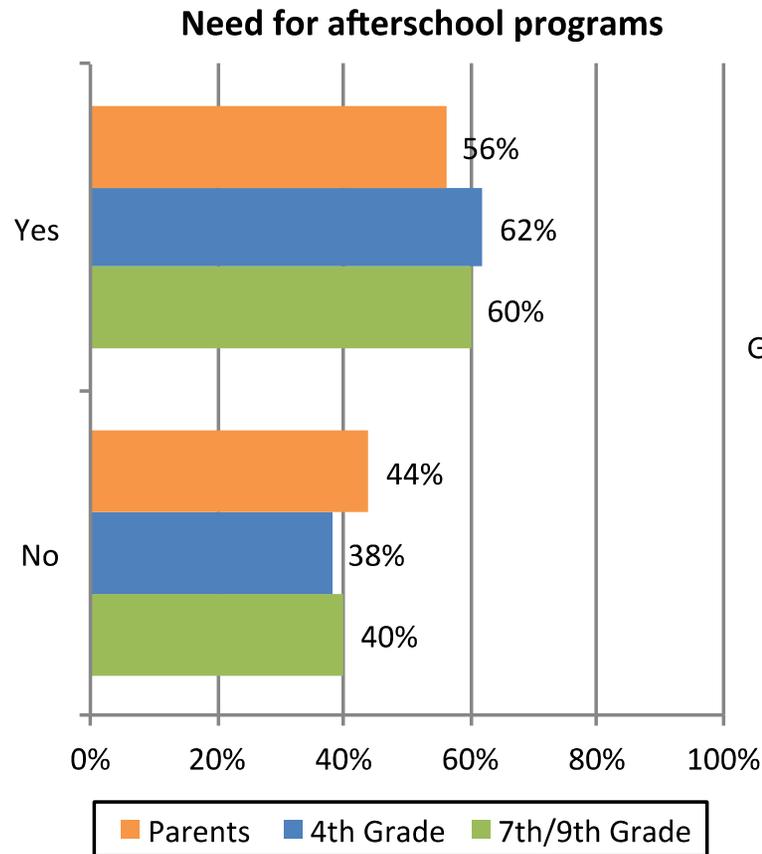
Aware of Financial Assistance

Parents: N=144

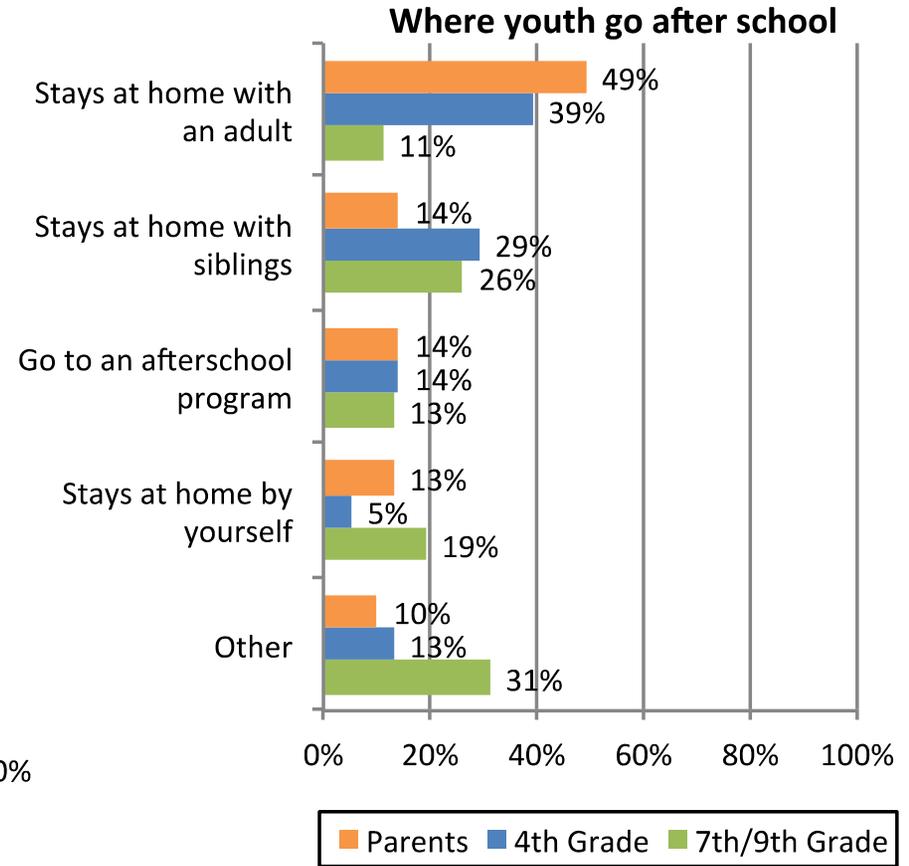


# Need for More Youth Programming

More than half of parents and youth agree that there is a need in Burnsville for more after school programs. Additionally, a majority of parents and youth indicated that typically youth stay at home with an adult or with siblings.



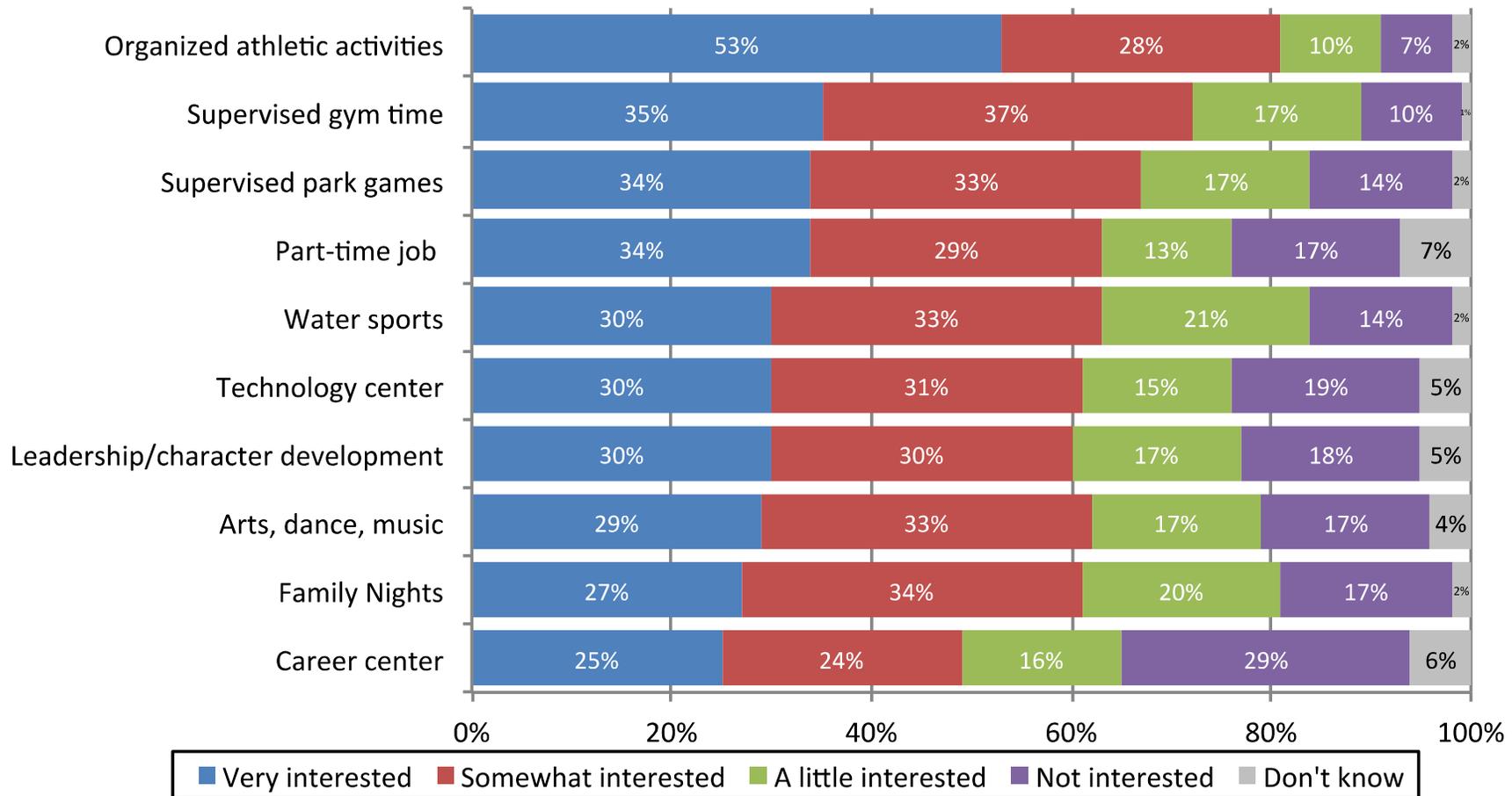
Parents N=339  
 4<sup>th</sup> Grade N=143-147; 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Grade N=667-715



# Interest in Future Programs

## Parents

More than seven in ten parents said their children would be *somewhat* or *very interested* in organized athletic activities and supervised gym time. About one third of parents said their children would be *very interested* in part time job opportunities and supervised park games.

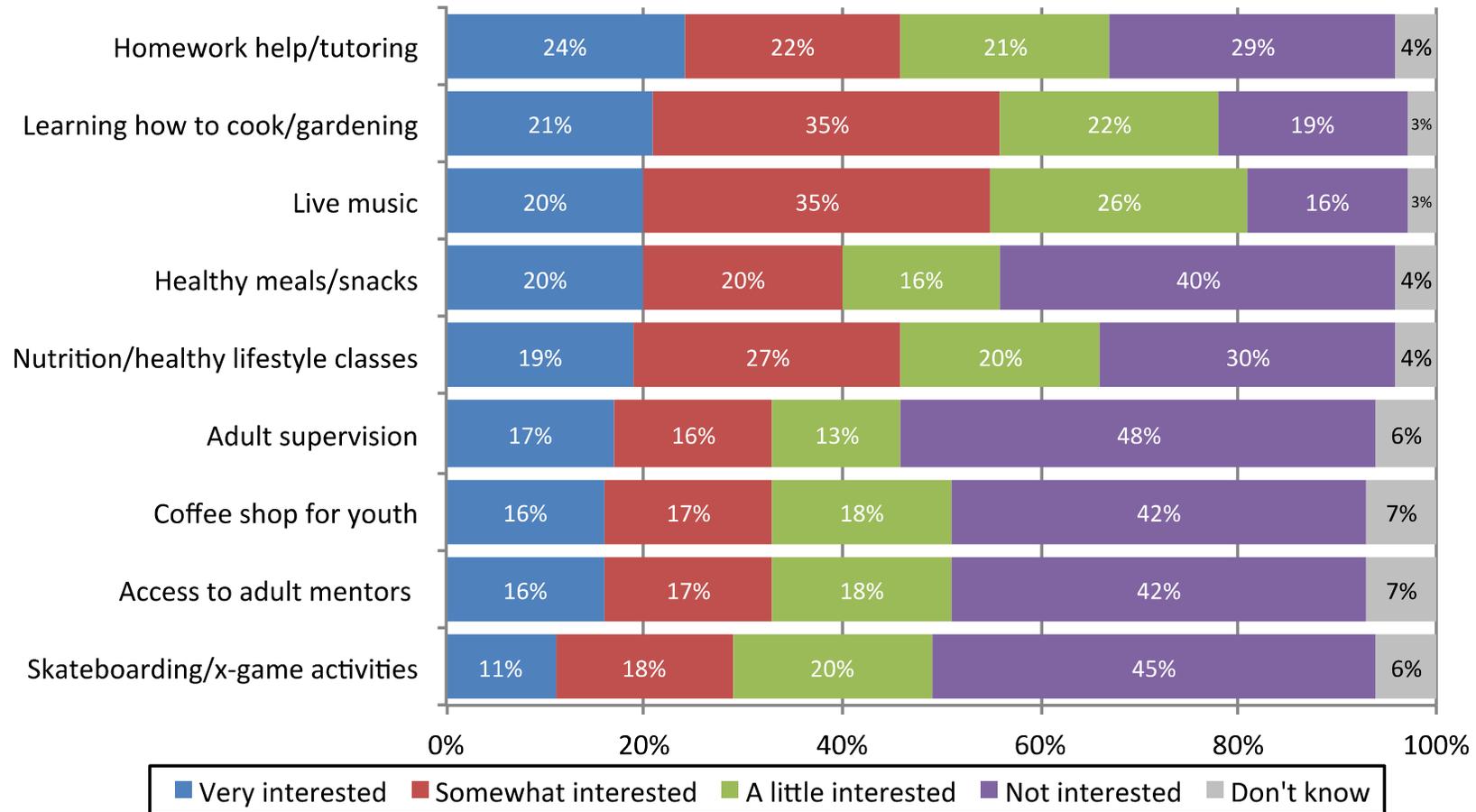


Parents N=297-303

# Interest in Future Programs

## Parents

Homework help and tutoring are interesting to parents whereas they believe their children would be least interested in skateboarding/x-game activities, adult mentors, and access to a coffee shop run by youth.



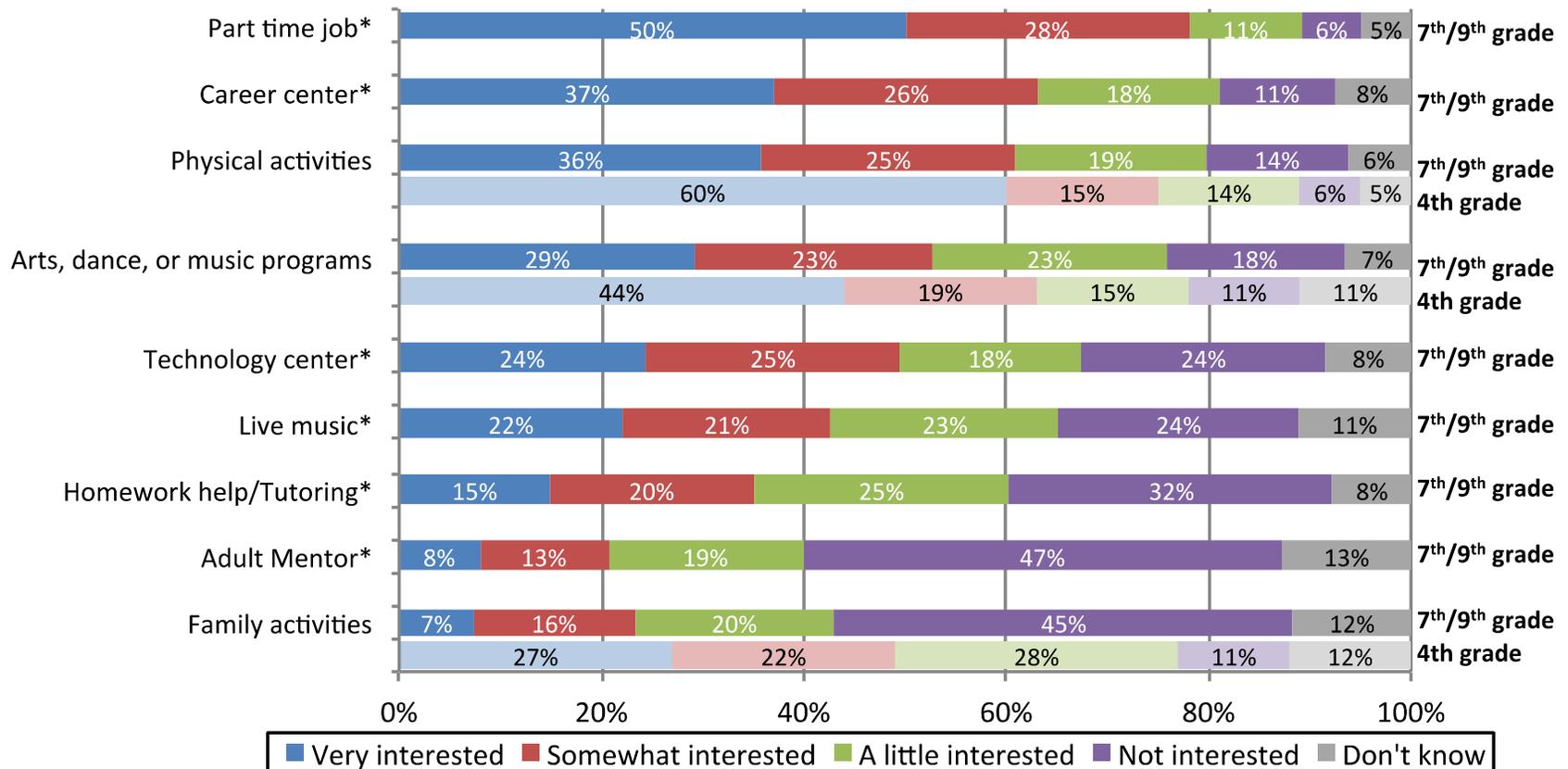
Parents N=297-303

## Interest in Future Programs: Means on Scale of 1 (not interested) to 5 (Very interested)

Rank order of interest in Future Programs	Parents N=297-303
Organized athletic activities	3.29
Supervised open gym time	2.99
Supervised games at Burnsville parks	2.88
More part-time job opportunities for youth	2.86
Water Sports	2.81
Arts, dance, or music programs	2.78
Leadership and character development programs	2.76
Technology center	2.75
Family Activities	2.72
Live music	2.61
Learning how to cook/gardening	2.6
Career center	2.49
Homework help/Tutoring	2.44
Nutrition/healthy lifestyle classes	2.37
Healthy meals/snacks	2.21
Access to adult mentors	2.09
Hangout at a coffee shop run by youth	2.08
Adult supervision after school	2.01
Skateboarding or other x-game activities	1.95

# Interest in Future Programs Youth

More than six in ten seventh/ninth graders are *somewhat* or *very interested* in part time job opportunities, access to a career center, and organized physical activities. A majority of fourth graders were *very interested* in organized physical activities, including open gym and sports after school.



4<sup>th</sup> N=141-145; 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> N=661-699

\*Asked only of 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> graders