



Engaging Youth and Creating Community Partnerships Through Community YouthMapping (CYM)

**Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of
Alexandria (SAPCA)**

February 7, 2012



Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria

What is SAPCA?

- Created in 2007 as part of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
- A CADCA Member
- Formal Board of Directors established January 2009
 - Three youth sit on the Board

Our Mission

To engage diverse sectors of the community in collaborative, cross-cultural and comprehensive substance abuse prevention activities that reduce underage substance use and abuse in Alexandria.



Learning Objectives

- Creating successful community partnerships with important stakeholders to carry out a CYM project
- Training youth and adults in CYM
- Partnering youth and adult leaders to develop and share data and effectively use the data to create community improvements



What is CYM?

- Involves youth going door-to-door surveying organizations by interviewing owners, managers, and representatives
- Identifies resources and gaps in resources for children, youth, and families
- Coordinated by a local public/private/non-profit partnership
- A program of FHI 360

Our Mappers and Adult Supervisors!





Why did we do it?

- Identify and provide baseline data on current resources for youth and adults in the City
- Identify gaps in available resources
- Create an opportunity for youth to provide significant information to City policy-makers
- Provide information about organizations' perceptions of at-risk behaviors
- Provide information about where youth go and why they go there

How did we train the mappers?

- Mappers attended two days of training which covered:
 1. *world of work (protocols about professionalism)*
 2. *conflict resolution*
 3. *oral and written communication*
 4. *team building*
 5. *inter-personal relations*
 6. *youth/adult partnership*
 7. *history of Community YouthMapping*
 8. *small group problem-solving*
 9. *survey tool review*
 10. *daily expectations and schedule*



CYM Surveys

- Survey for organizations – what resources are available to children, youth, and families in the City of Alexandria
- Peer to peer survey – where do youth go after school and in the summer, and why do they go there
- Youth helped design both surveys



Why “youth” mappers?

- Youth feel more connected to their community
- Youth learn about the resources and gaps in resources in their community
- Youth get a paid summer work experience
- Youth learn to work in a professional environment with other youth and adults



Youth-Adult Partnership

- Adults and youth both set expectations for themselves and each other. Examples:
 - Be on time; call if you will be late
 - Come prepared (adults bring list of locations and surveys; youth bring backpacks with all materials and supplies)
 - Ask questions
 - Debrief at the end of each day – discuss successes and areas for improvement



Communicating with Organizations

- Learning to approach strangers
- Handling questions
- Dealing with rejection
- Following up if necessary

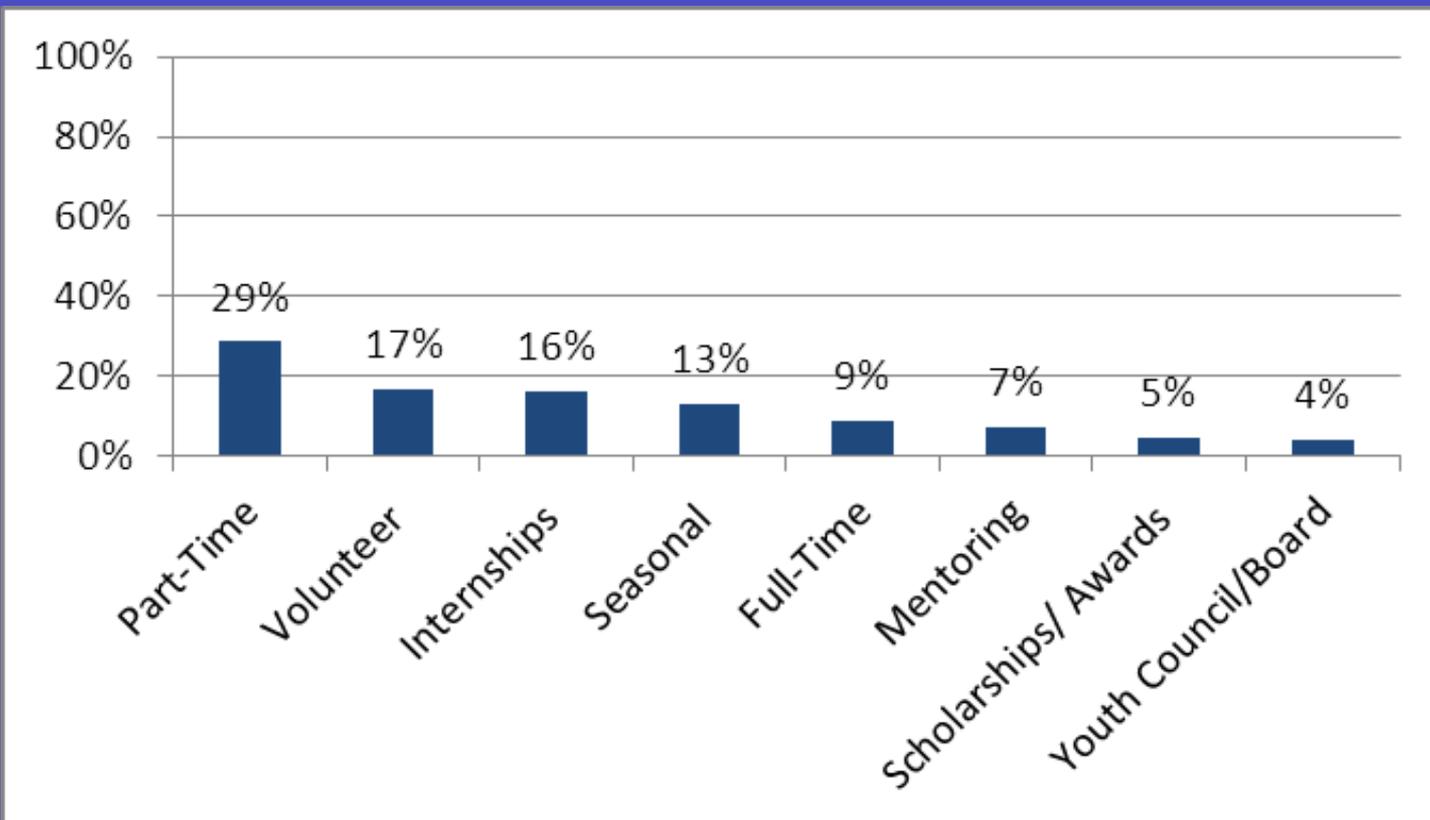


YouthMapper in Action



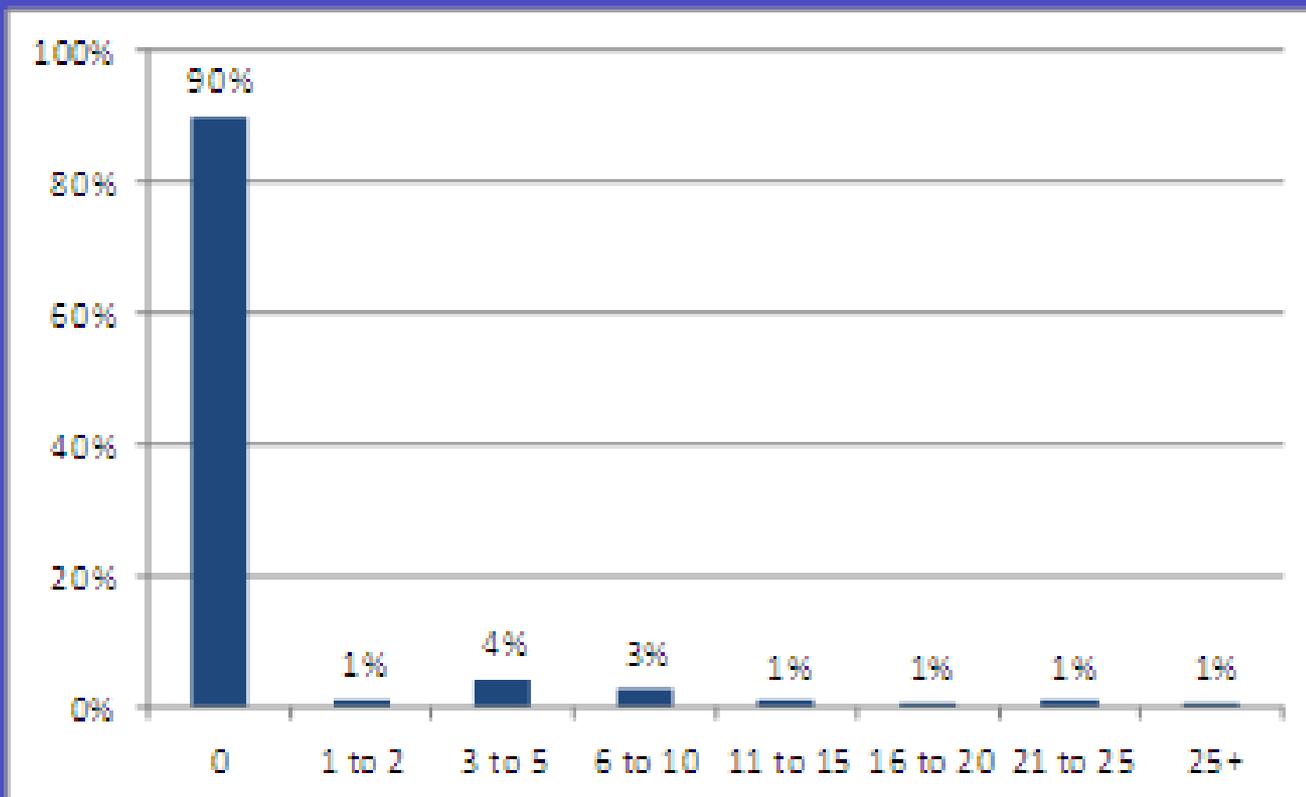
What did we find out?

Current opportunities offered to youth by organizations



How many youth work in City organizations?

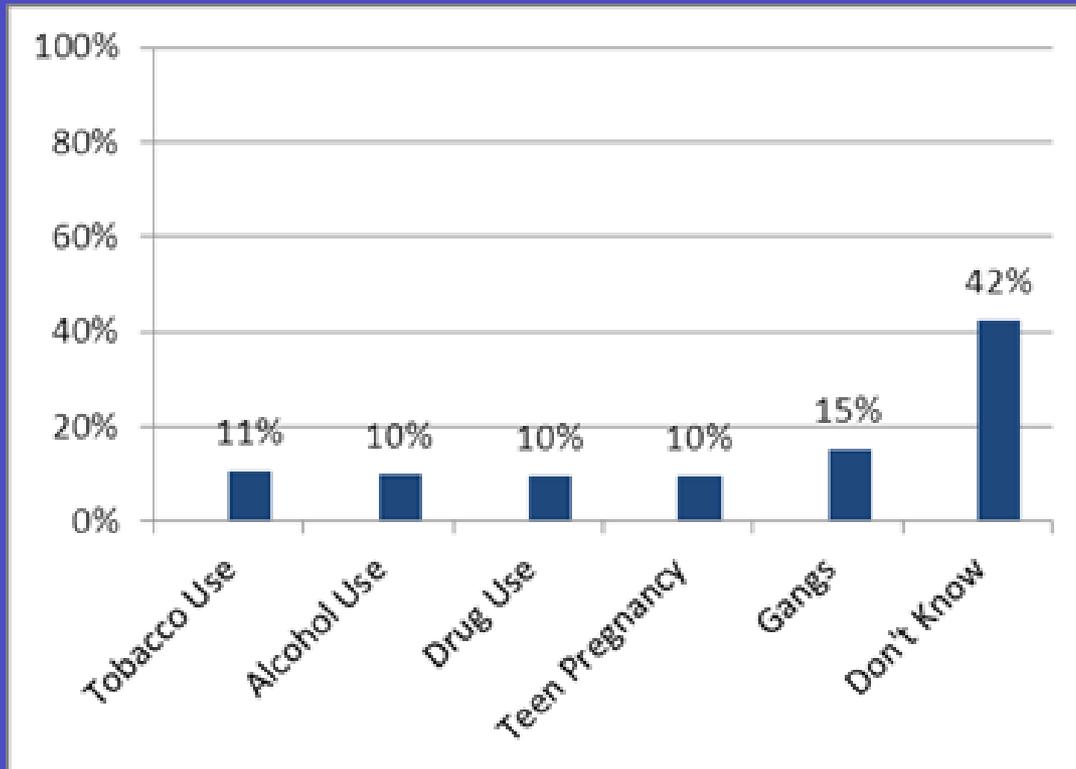
Number of youth employed at businesses and organizations





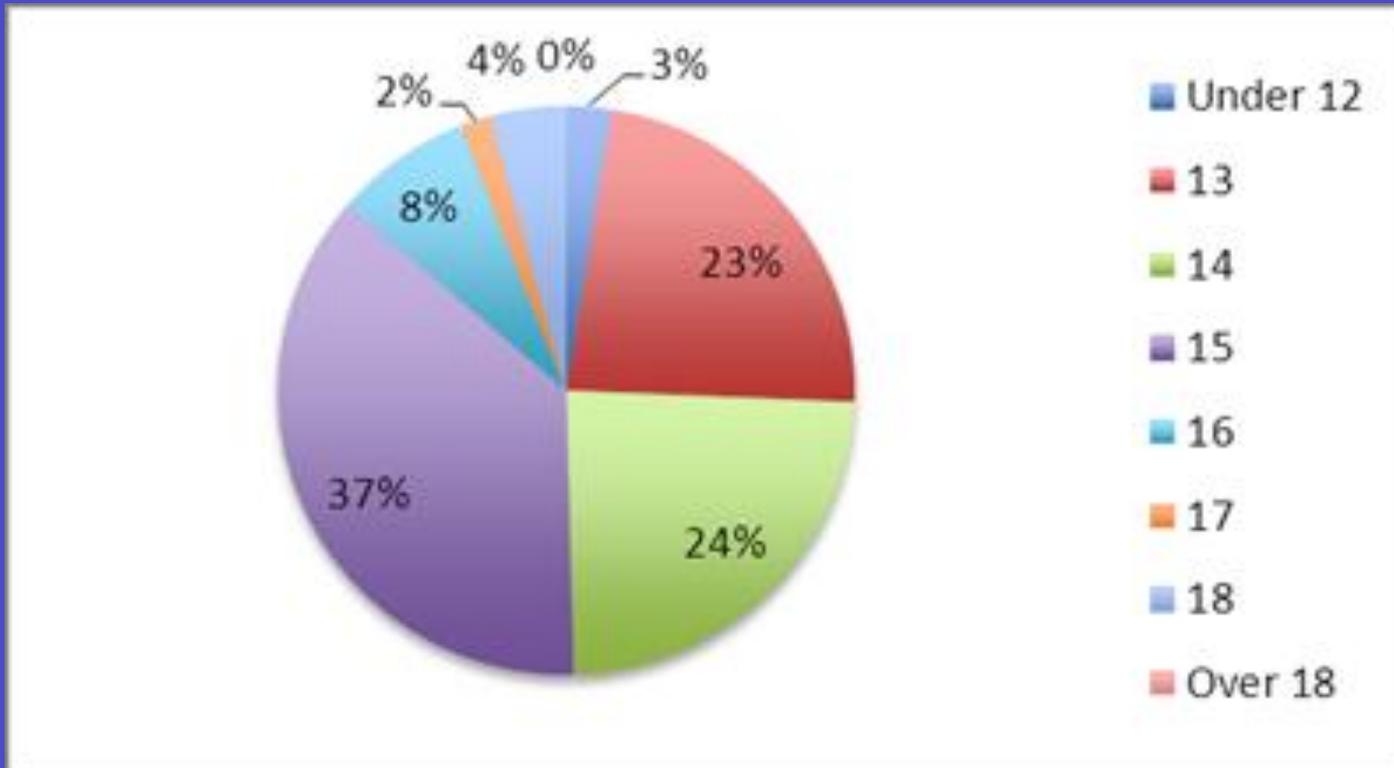
Are risky behaviors a problem?

Organizations that felt alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, teen pregnancy, and gangs were a problem in their neighborhood



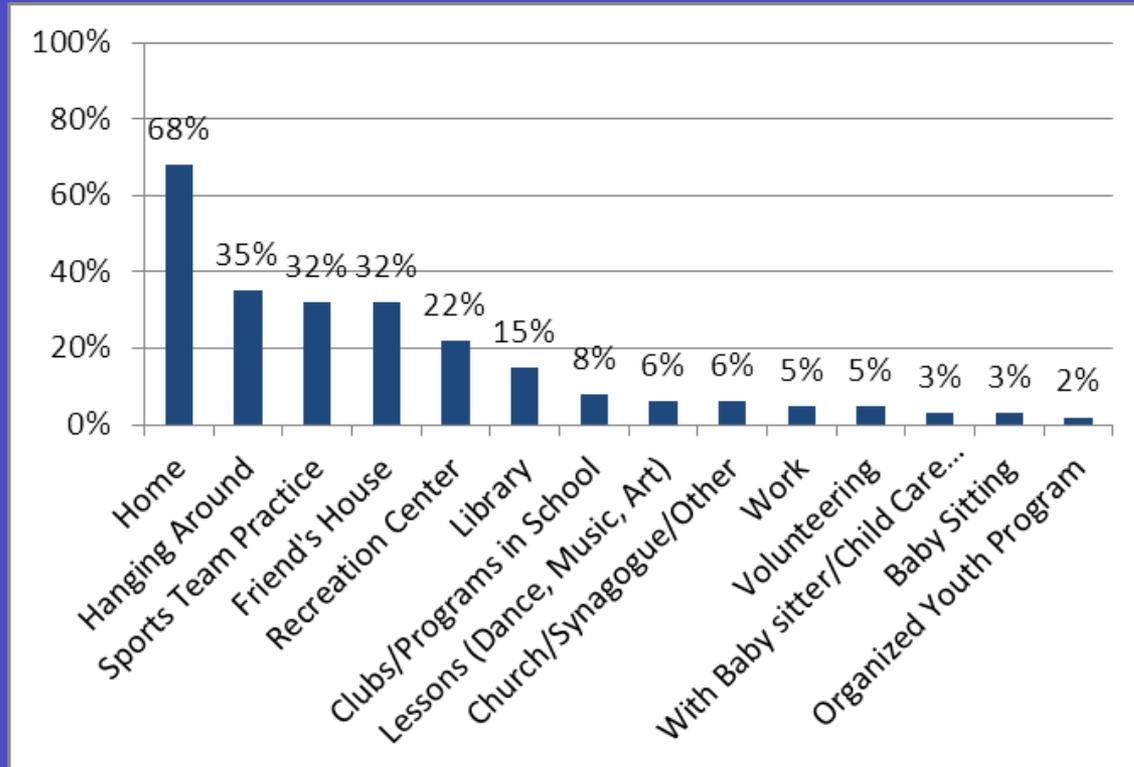
Youth to Youth Survey Info

Ages of 100 youth surveyed



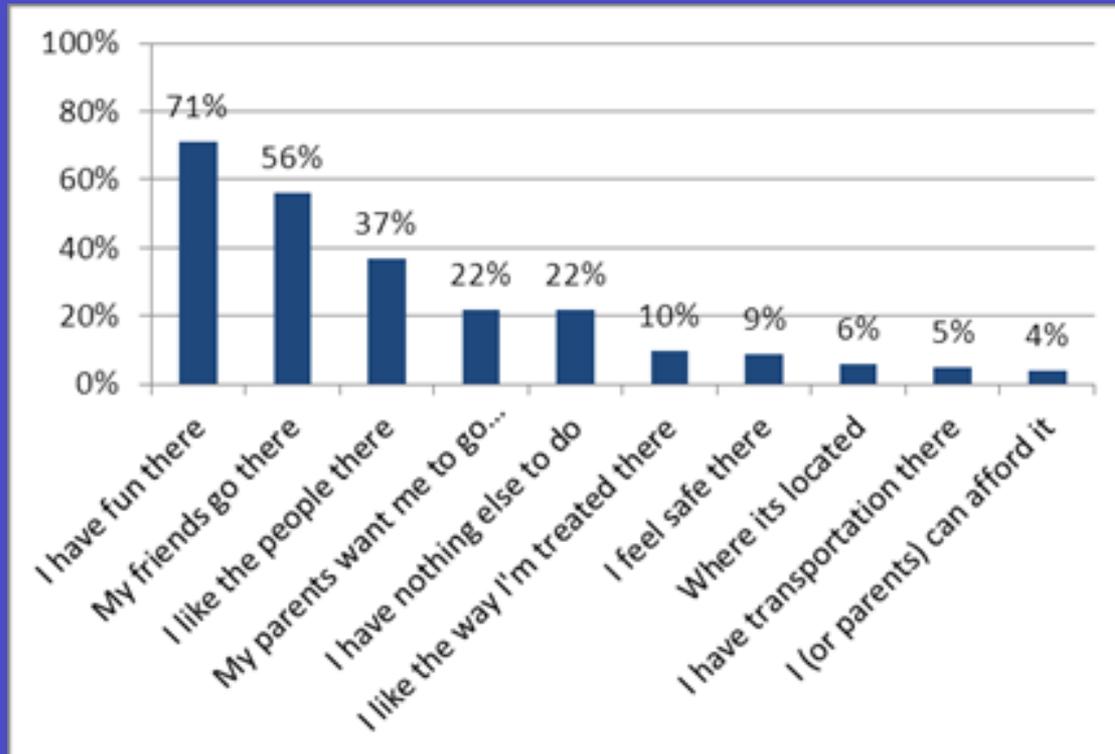
Where do students spend their time – School Year?

Where students spend most of their time in the afternoon during the school year



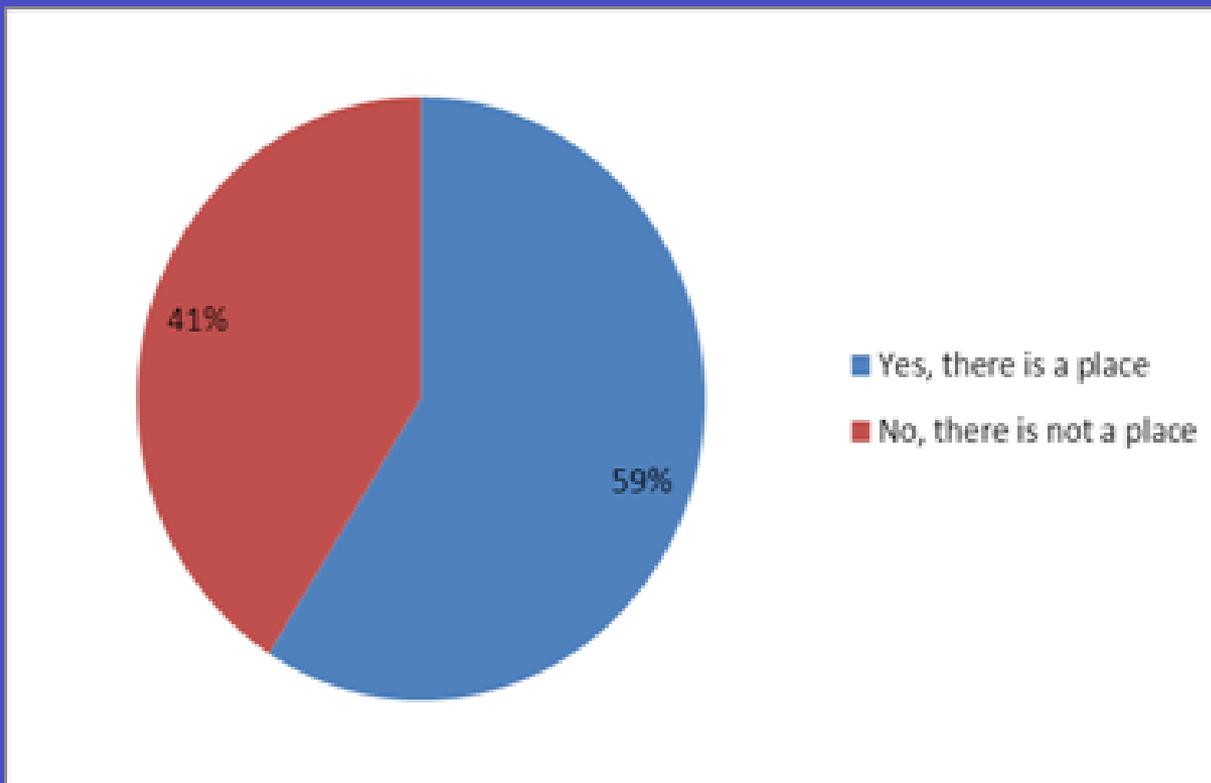
Why?

Three most important reasons youth go to the location



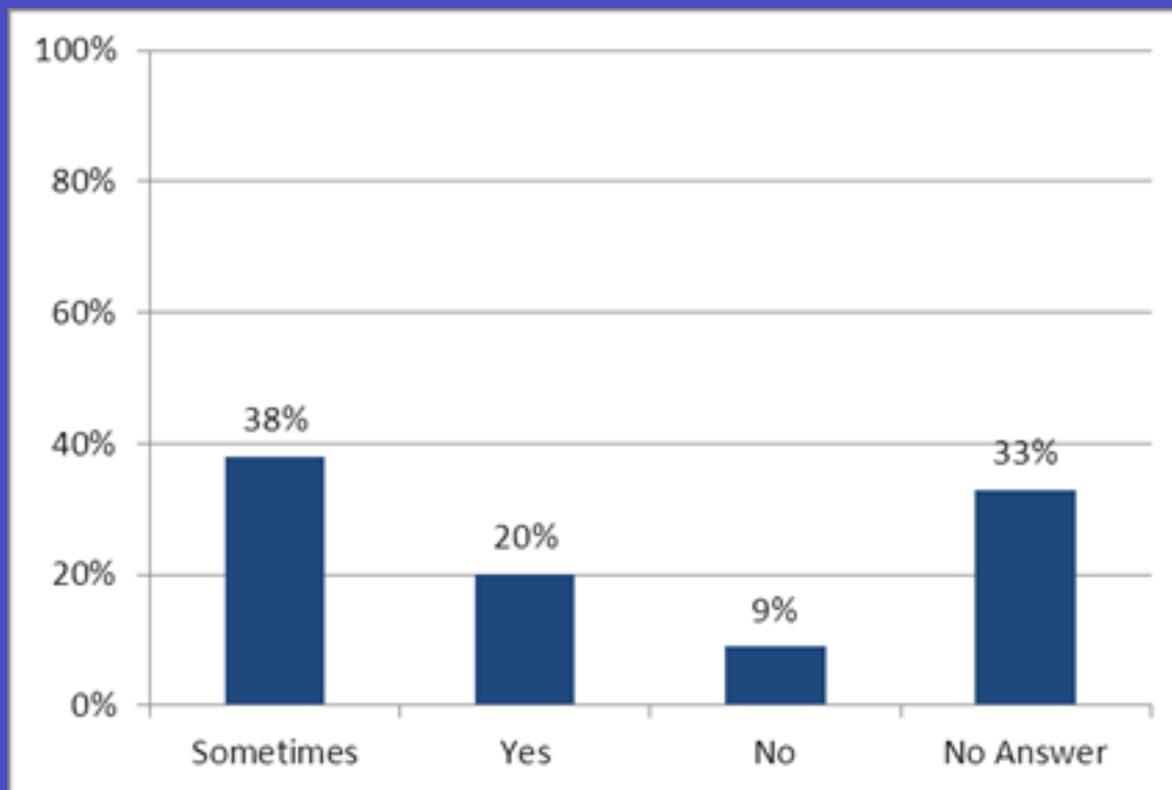
Are there places to go in their neighborhood?

Places in youth's neighborhood to go after school



Do they go there?

Youth response to whether they go to the places





What's in it for you?

- Development of personal and professional skills
- Improvement of communication and interpersonal skills
- Development of leadership and management skills
- Knowledge of resources offered in your community



Recommendations for our City

- Hold town forums to discuss and brainstorm possible solutions and options for the City regarding issues that pertain to youth
- Provide youth with lists of organizations that offer opportunities, and promote the opportunities offered
- Ask youth what programs and services they want to see offered at different locations
- Encourage businesses and organizations to support youth development by highlighting how it benefits them and the community



Recommendations cont'd

- Network and partner with businesses and other organizations in Alexandria to provide and promote more job training and job opportunities for youth
- Develop, expand and promote more after-school activities and programs
- Work with Volunteer Alexandria and other youth-serving organizations to provide more volunteer opportunities for the youth in the City
- Work with the Alexandria City Public Schools in the Community School planning effort to identify and close gaps in programs and services in the City



How to conduct CYM in your community

- Contact FHI Development 360 -Tel: 202-884-8295, rratclif@fhi360.org
- Engage partners and establish a lead organization or advisory group – this group must have youth
- Determine what information you want to gather and why
- Figure out how to fund it



Thank You! Questions?

Allen Lomax
SAPCA Chair
703-578-3054
aclomax@aol.com

Noraine Buttar, MPH
SAPCA Coordinator
703-746-3670
noraine.buttar@alexandriava.gov

Derek Bibbs
SAPCA Board Member
TC Williams Student
dbibbsjr@gmail.com

www.preventialexandria.org