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Youth Update 2019

“We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.”

-Mary Mcleod Bethune

Community Input

- 130 youth survey responses
- 3 youth forums
- 11 key informant interviews
- 21 organization survey responses
- 1 Safety Forum
- 160 individuals participated in Kent Service Providers Network meetings
- 19 Core team members met monthly

A look at past efforts

- Kent At Risk Community Council (became Kent Communities in Schools)
- South King County Youth Violence Prevention Committee, led by former Chief of Police Ed Crawford
- Lighthouse – Late Night Program
- King County Youth Action Plan
- Kent Best Starts

National to Local

- Conducted a review of national, regional and local reports
- Utilized national and local research in what works to improve youth outcomes



Big Picture Approach

Works at multiple levels – from top leadership groups to neighborhood coalitions

- Aligning structures, goals and strategies.
- Assuring mutually reinforcing interventions.
- Assessing through shared measurements.



The Big Picture Approach

Guides leaders through the steps while adhering to these guidelines:

- Take a whole person or whole family perspective.
- Promote alignment with other community actors, across silos.
- Focus on local diagnoses of root causes and on broad systems change.
- Address immediate problems as part of an aspirational strategy for long-term well-being.

Youth Voice

“Youth should be at the center of informing programs and policies that impact them.” (Stakeholder interviews and focus groups)

- Glover Empowered Mentoring held 3 forums to hear directly from Youth about their experiences in Kent.
- 132 Surveys from Youth in Kent were collected.
- Research shows that involvement in youth organizing contributes to the social-emotional and academic development of young people in powerful ways, while also promoting their civic engagement. (Transforming Young People and Communities, Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing)



Why Us and Why Now?

The data trends paint a rich and complex picture of evolving child and youth well-being in Kent.

- We can no longer ignore the disproportionality in outcomes for youth of color in the child welfare, juvenile justice, education, mental-health, and health-care systems;
- There are too many youth in our community that have limited access to high quality culturally relevant programs and services;
- There are too many youth who are disconnected from school, work and their community, which maybe contribute to some youth engaging in risky behaviors;
- There is limited coordination between providers and there are opportunities for increased partnerships; and
- There are unstable and underutilized resources.

Core system challenges impacting youth

- Youth are not centrally involved in developing policies and programs that impact them.
- Silos exist between key players impacting youth.
- Mistrust exists between some communities of color and the City of Kent and the Kent School District.
- There is a lack of accessible youth-oriented spaces in Kent and lack of accessible transportation to existing spaces and programs.
- The definition of public safety is too narrow.
- There is not enough funding and support for existing culturally responsive services and programs and a need to develop more.

Catalyst to changing the odds for youth in Kent

VISION

All youth in Kent have what they need, when they need it, to be empowered and engaged in their community.

Priorities:

- Opportunities to learn and grow
- A safe neighborhood to call home
- A healthy lifestyle and environment



Values Guiding the Kent Call to Action

- Race and Social Justice
- Community Engagement
- Innovation
- Shared Leadership
- Multi-Sector Collaboration
- Integrated Approach
- Efforts across a Continuum

Improve
health,
academic,
and economic
outcomes for
youth.

Youth are
engaged in
and have
positive
attachment to
community.

RESULTS



Build on and expand existing partnerships, programs and services for young people and coordinate public and private programs to better serve our young people.

Children, youth and families access and actively participate in high quality, culturally responsive, and engaging programs that promote positive child, youth and family development.

Promote safe and supportive environments that foster healthy youth and families.

Youth access and continue to utilize effective resources to support their positive development and ability to fully participate in community life.

GOALS

Recommendations to build a sustainable structure

Establish	Establish a Leadership Roundtable
Develop	Develop processes to ensure Youth Voice
Continue	Continue the work of the Core Team
Promote	Promote effective city-school collaboration
Continue	Continue to expand the Youth Providers Network

City Role

- Keeping the collaborative moving along, focus on systems level work, and support aligned strategies;
- Cultivating community engagement and ownership;
- Connecting and brokering relationships between business and cultural organizations;
- Connecting to regional youth-focused efforts;
- Providing staff support to the Core Team, Youth Leadership Core Team, Provider Network and workgroups;
- Hosting the Youth Initiative on the City's website; and
- Strengthening internal relationships between departments serving or engaged in improving youth outcomes. An internal team including Police, Human Services, Recreation, Human Resources and the Mayor's Office has been meeting.

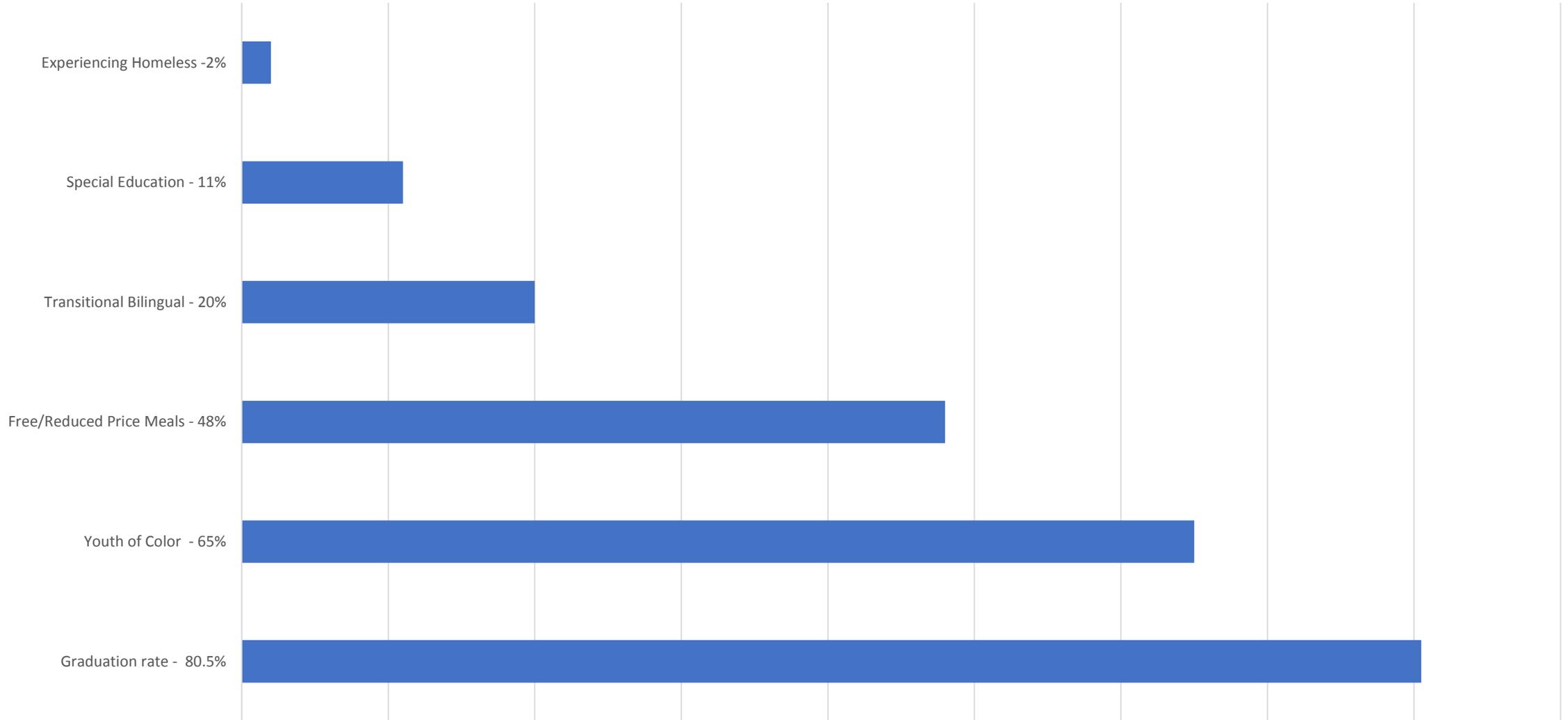
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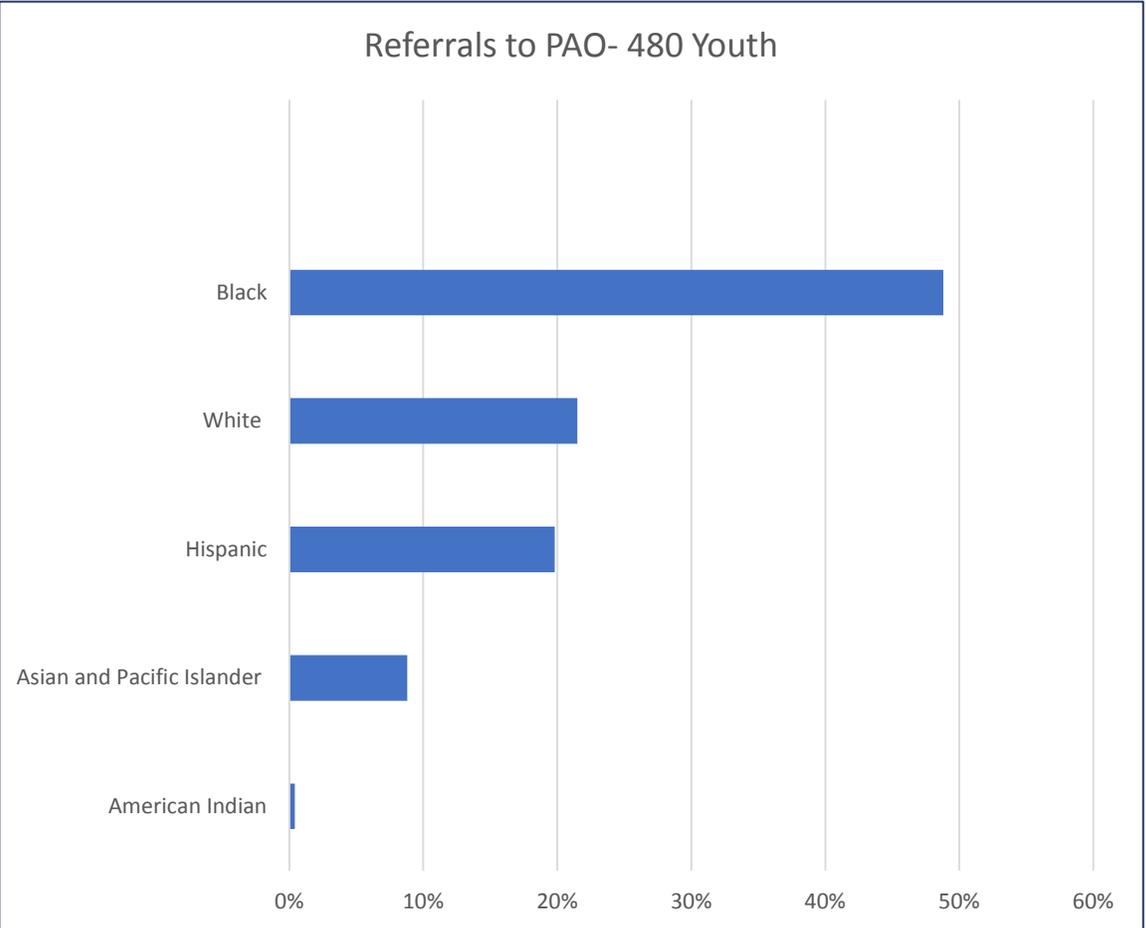
-Mary Mcleod Bethune

QUESTIONS and Discussion

Data and other information

27,916 Students





SOURCE: 2016 JUVENILE JUSTICE REFERRALS. KING COUNTY OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE, WA.

Youth In Foster Care

Youth in foster care drop out of school at alarmingly high rates: fewer than half of youth in foster care graduate on time.

- Nearly 25% of those living in foster care will become homeless as adults;
- 33% lie below the poverty line; and they will receive public benefits at five times the national rate
- During the last 15 years, 82% of all Kent youth who entered foster care were removed from their families and community and placed outside of Kent.

Youth in Gangs

- Self-reports of gang membership among 8th grade youth was higher than the state average in all LINC districts except for Renton and Tukwila, with the highest rate reported in Kent.
- Among 10th grade youth statewide, 5 percent of youth self-identified as a gang-member (in 2016), with this percentage higher in both Federal Way and Kent.
- In Kent, more than one-in-ten 10th grade youth admitted to being in a gang.

*Data from the 2016 Healthy Youth Survey

LINC – a program of Center for Children and Youth Justice, focus in Highline, Tukwila, Renton, Federal Way, Auburn, Kent, Bellevue and Seattle.