

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUTH IN HOPE SF COMMUNITIES

July 2014

WHAT WE DID

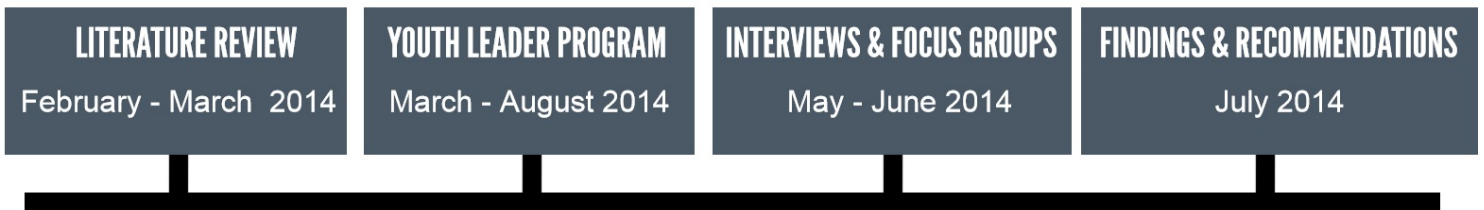
The purpose of this assessment was to look at what is needed to support the health of youth age 12-24 living in the HOPE SF public housing communities of Alice Griffith, Huntersview, Potrero Terrace & Annex and Sunnydale.

Nine young people from the HOPE SF sites were hired by the Youth Leadership Institute and worked as Youth Assessment Leaders. They partnered with 20 Master of Public Health students from San Francisco State University to develop and do all steps of this assessment.

WHAT WE WANTED TO LEARN

- ✓ The services important for youth health
- ✓ What youth need to access services
- ✓ The policy changes needed to support youth health
- ✓ The issues that undermine and support youth health
- ✓ Who youth turn to for support
- ✓ What youth need to be leaders in HOPE SF communities

HOW DID WE DID IT



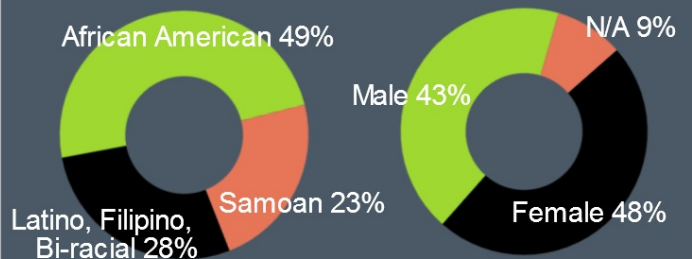
WE HEARD FROM



- 109 Youth Residents of HOPE SF Communities (12-24 yrs)
- 21 Adult Residents of HOPE SF Communities
- 8 Youth Assessment Leaders
- 20 Program Staff
- 22 Key Informants

YOUTH WE TALKED TO

Alice Griffith	30
Huntersview	18
Potrero	30
Sunnydale	31



PARTNERS



SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY



FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.healthequityinstitute.org

WHAT WE HEARD



MENTAL HEALTH & SUPPORT

Violence at sites results in youth trauma and isolation; Substance use may be how youth cope

Negative public perception of youth from HOPE SF sites is destructive to their health

Desire for mental health services for youth on-site; Stigma around getting care is a barrier

Youth at sites need support and services to foster healthy sexual relationships. Young parents need support programs to promote positive parenting

Youth at HOPE SF sites turn to peers for emotional support, practical assistance and safety



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT

Youth want job training and help getting jobs

Youth at HOPE SF sites are exposed to a run-down environment and have limited access to healthy food or places to be physically active



PROGRAMS & POLICY

Stable, youth driven and relevant programs are needed for youth at HOPE sites. There are few programs for youth age 16-24 or LGBTQ youth

Safety and transportation barriers limit HOPE youth from accessing programs and services

Violence and trauma at HOPE SF sites impact program staff who work with youth

Social and criminal justice policies compromise the health of youth at HOPE SF sites, but engagement in policy change efforts is lacking



VIOLENCE & POLICE

There is a strained relationship between youth and law enforcement

Some youth are engaged in a cycle of violence perpetuated by a number of community factors

WHAT WE RECOMMEND



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Provide on-site jobs so youth earn income, contribute to community change and develop professional and personal skills



COMMUNITY PEACE

Make violence prevention and improving youth-police relationships a priority; Hire Community Safety Ambassadors, adopt restorative justice approach and do a youth-led media campaign



POLICY

Develop a HOPE SF youth policy agenda should be developed and advocate for change

Provide flexible & long-term funding for programs



PROGRAMS, STAFF SUPPORT & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Create on-site youth centers to engage older youth; Provide activities, access to wellness and support services, and promote youth development; Centers should be coordinated and foster unity across sites

Expand on-site engaging youth activities and serve youth often overlooked by other programs

Provide field trips specifically for youth ages 12-24 living in HOPE SF neighborhoods

Support leadership of HOPE SF youth; Provide opportunities for youth to connect with their peers, elevate youth voices in HOPE SF

Introduce or expand training and support for program staff to promote their well-being

