

Citywide Youth Coalition surveys New Haven youth, finds signs of a 'college-going culture' and family support for success

November 29, 2011 – New Haven, CT - Citywide Youth Coalition undertook a survey of youth ages 13 to 21, over the summer of 2011, to find out more about their attitudes, beliefs, and plans for the future. Of the 142 New Haven high school students who completed the survey, an overwhelmingly majority reported they plan to continue their education beyond high school (89%). They believe they are on target to graduate high school (92%), and that their future looks bright (94%).

Among the home supports identified by these youth, a large majority of students report that they have a parent/guardian (83%) or other adult (9%) in their home who is checking with them about homework completion, who expects them to follow the a (95%), who is interested in their school work (88%), and who wants them to continue their education after high school (93%).

Many young people have a family member who has attended college: a mother or female guardian (54%), a father or male guardian (27%), a sibling (35%), a grandparent (28%), or another relative or caring adult (56%). Maternal educational attainment is a very strong predictor of student educational attainment. Note: these figures exceed 100% as young people have more than one family member who attended college.

Some young people (11%) responded that they may not continue their education due to cost concerns, a need or desire to work, an interest in joining the military, or that their grades are not good enough to attend college.

How can our community support these youth to succeed?

Young people stated they need help with: applying to college (68%); finding scholarships to pay for college (66%); completing their high school graduation requirements (57%); and managing their time to complete high school homework (57%). Further, a small portion of the youth surveyed report that they are not confident in their ability to understand their own moods and feelings (10%), work out their own problems (11%), or have control over their future careers (8%).

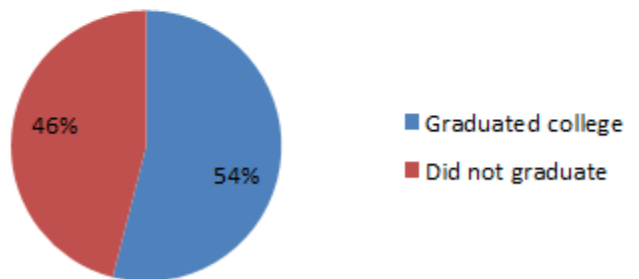
While most young people have supports at school, some stated they do not have a teacher or someone else at school to talk about: understanding courses needed to graduate high school (27%), grades needed to graduate (19%), and what courses they need to take to prepare for college (26%). In addition, some youth indicated that they do not have a parent or guardian at home who has attended school meetings, appointments or events: often (51%), sometimes (35%), or not at all (7%).

It is important to note that all of the young people participating in this survey are connected with an afterschool program, summer camp, and/or jobs program. We know that many more youth in our community can benefit from additional services, supports and opportunities.

Citywide Youth Coalition, Inc. is a network of over 500 youth-serving staff, community stakeholders, and individuals working together to build a courageous community in which all youth can succeed.



Mother or Female Head of Household College Graduation



College graduation by mothers is a very strong predictor of student college graduation.