

Reviewing the Survey Results

ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE...

Objectives: For students to review and analyze the results of their survey and for them to develop group decision-making and presentation skills

Time: At least 30-45 minutes, including the reports

Space: Room to divide into four groups, movable chairs preferable

Introduce the activity to students as a time to examine and think about the significance of the survey results. Explain to the students that they will be divided into four groups and each group will be assigned a section of the survey to review. They will have 15-30 minutes (you decide) to review the findings and prepare a 2-3 minute presentation on the most significant and/or interesting results in their section of the survey.

During the discussion period, have staff float around to make sure each group is progressing in their dialogue and in the development of the presentation.

Note: The student worksheets are specific to the sample survey provided in the handbook (SA-3).

Reviewing the Survey Results

What did we find?

Working in teams, review and identify key findings in the section of the survey assigned to your group. Each group should be prepared to give a 2-3 minute presentation on the most significant and/or interesting results in their section of the survey.

For Sections I and II, consider the following questions:

- Beginning with the top ranked items, and working your way down, please briefly discuss each item. Is this ranking what you would expect? Is this a surprise? What is your explanation?
- Among the top ten, do you notice any big gap in the totals between any two items, or group of items? What is your explanation for this?
- Among the items ranked eleven or lower, which do you believe are significant or noteworthy? Why?
- If you examine some of the lower ranked problems, and you combine their totals with any other related problems on the list, does the combined total significantly elevate that problem? Into the top ten? To the very top? What does that tell you about what kind of reforms that we might identify as priorities?

Notes:

For Section III, consider these questions:

- What types of communities and neighborhoods do most of those surveyed live in? Do you think this is representative of the United States as a whole?
- What do the responses say about how those surveyed get from place to place? What does this indicate about how these communities are designed?
- How do people's responses to questions #6 match-up with how the responses to questions #3 and #4? What does this mean?
- Is air pollution a concern? Does this answer surprise you?

Notes:

For Section IV, consider these questions:

- In each of the four topics, what results are as you expected? Which ones, surprised you?
- Do those surveyed have strong opinions on these topics, or is everyone in the middle?
- What happens when you combine “strongly agree” with “agree”? “Strongly Disagree” with “Disagree”?
- What policies do you think those surveyed might support? Would they be supportive of or opposed to Smart Growth concepts?

Notes:

Survey Reports

Findings from Survey Section I, Elements of the Ideal Community:

Findings from Survey Section II, Obstacles Facing Your Community:

Findings from Survey Section III, Community Assessment:

Findings from Survey Section IV, Perspective on Planning Policy: