Family Friendly Communities

1. Planners regularly confront issues that affect families. We are interested in how planners can support family friendly communities, especially for families with children. Family friendly communities are communities where families enjoy housing at affordable prices, child care, parks to play in, pedestrian pathways, quality public schools, and safe neighborhoods, among many other potential features that promote family well-being. All questions that ask about "your community" refer to the community in which you work now. If you practice planning in multiple locations, please answer questions by thinking of what you most often encounter as a planning professional. Each question can be answered in terms of you or your organization's typical level of involvement. This survey is divided into 4 sections: • Attitudes about Family Friendly Communities • What Planners Can Do • Barriers to the Creation of Family Friendly Communities • Your Background We estimate that the survey will take you no more than 15 minutes to fill out. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Fesperman at the American Planning Association. Her email is cfesperman@planning.org. PRIZES for completing this survey!!!! The APA is awarding: • 1 Grand Prize: iPod Nano, valued at $250 • 10 Runners Up: $25 APA PlanningBooks.com Gift Certificate

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, I would like to be eligible for a prize, and I will fill in my contact information at the end of this survey.		**100.0%**	777
	answered question		**777**
	skipped question		**167**

2. 1.1 Do you think planners can play a role in helping communities become family friendly?

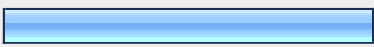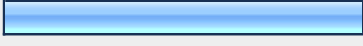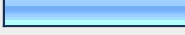|		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		**97.7%**	801
No		0.4%	3
Not sure		2.0%	16
	answered question		**820**
	skipped question		**124**

3. 1.2 What interest groups are needed to help communities become more family friendly?

	1 (Not needed)	2	3	4 (Somewhat needed)	5	6	7 (Greatly needed)	Response Count
A. Pressure from local elected officials	1.5% (13)	1.2% (11)	2.7% (24)	16.2% (143)	18.8% (166)	25.5% (225)	**34.0% (300)**	882
B. Citizen Interest	0.6% (5)	0.1% (1)	0.6% (5)	3.5% (31)	9.4% (83)	22.9% (202)	**63.0% (556)**	883
C. Business community or chamber of commerce	0.8% (7)	1.9% (17)	3.6% (32)	20.9% (184)	**26.6% (235)**	26.1% (230)	20.1% (177)	882
D. Parents	0.6% (5)	0.1% (1)	1.5% (13)	8.2% (72)	14.9% (131)	26.8% (236)	**48.1% (424)**	882
E. Advocacy organizations	1.4% (12)	1.2% (11)	3.5% (31)	16.3% (144)	25.1% (222)	**26.8% (237)**	25.6% (226)	883
F. Other (specify below)	9.7% (22)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	10.6% (24)	13.3% (30)	22.1% (50)	**42.9% (97)**	226
							Other	198
							answered question	888
							skipped question	56

4. 1.3 Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Disagree somewhat	Neutral	Agree somewhat	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Count
A. Families are important to community growth, sustainability, and diversity.	0.2% (2)	0.6% (5)	0.5% (4)	1.9% (17)	7.6% (67)	35.0% (309)	**54.3% (480)**	884
B. Most families do not generate sufficient tax revenue to cover the cost of services they demand.	2.5% (22)	12.4% (109)	13.1% (115)	19.4% (171)	**22.2% (196)**	20.8% (183)	9.6% (85)	881
C. The needs of families are similar to the needs of the elderly with regards to the physical environment (e.g. parks, transportation, affordable housing).	2.1% (19)	11.8% (104)	15.7% (139)	6.3% (56)	22.4% (198)	**26.4% (233)**	15.3% (135)	884
D. Communities that keep people for the whole life cycle (children, single adults, parents, elderly) are more vibrant.	0.3% (3)	1.1% (10)	2.7% (24)	5.7% (50)	11.1% (98)	26.5% (234)	**52.6% (465)**	884
E. Families represent a valuable consumer population.	0.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.2% (2)	3.0% (26)	11.2% (98)	39.0% (342)	**46.5% (408)**	877
F. Families are the most likely population group to reinvest in their community through time, money, and other forms of civic engagement.	0.7% (6)	2.7% (24)	8.0% (71)	10.9% (96)	23.8% (210)	**29.2% (258)**	24.8% (219)	884
						answered question		886
						skipped question		58

5. 1.4 Have any of the communities that you have worked with branded themselves as family friendly?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		**40.6%**	356
No		39.6%	347
Don't know		19.8%	174
	answered question		877
	skipped question		67

6. 2.A.1 Does your community's comprehensive plan expressly address family needs and services in:

	Yes	No	Don't know / NA	Response Count
A. Goals and Objectives / Vision Statement	**40.1% (351)**	35.4% (310)	24.5% (214)	875
B. Existing Conditions and Trends (including data on family services and facilities)	**40.3% (351)**	34.1% (297)	25.6% (223)	871
C. Recommendations & Action Plans	**40.2% (350)**	33.7% (293)	26.1% (227)	870
			answered question	**875**
			skipped question	**69**

7. 2.B.1 Do your community's zoning regulations advance the INTERESTS OF FAMILIES in the following areas?

	Yes	No	Don't know / NA	Response Count
A. Affordable housing (e.g. expedited review, impact fee exemptions/refunds, price, tenure)	39.2% (327)	**47.9% (400)**	12.9% (108)	835
B. Multi-family housing	**65.7% (549)**	25.2% (211)	9.1% (76)	836
C. Family-sized housing (2+ bedrooms)	**60.3% (502)**	24.5% (204)	15.2% (127)	833
D. Accessory apartments by right	25.1% (209)	**50.5% (421)**	24.5% (204)	834
E. Accessory apartments by special permit	34.6% (286)	**36.6% (302)**	28.8% (238)	826
F. Open space/parks	**81.6% (681)**	11.3% (94)	7.2% (60)	835
G. Transportation choices	42.9% (357)	**45.7% (380)**	11.4% (95)	832
H. Siting community facilities	**47.6% (396)**	32.5% (270)	20.0% (166)	832
I. Family child care in residential units by right	34.0% (283)	**39.6% (330)**	26.4% (220)	833
J. Family child care in residential units by special permit	**45.8% (381)**	25.6% (213)	28.6% (238)	832
K. Siting child care centers	**40.7% (336)**	33.2% (274)	26.2% (216)	826
			answered question	**839**

8. 2.B.2 Do your community's zoning and subdivision regulations:

	Often	Sometimes	Not at all	Don't know	Response Count
A. Allow for mixed use	36.2% (303)	**54.1% (453)**	5.3% (44)	4.5% (38)	838
B. Provide for density bonuses	20.5% (172)	**37.8% (317)**	26.6% (223)	15.0% (126)	838
C. Require parks or playgrounds	32.7% (274)	**36.6% (307)**	19.5% (163)	11.2% (94)	838
D. Mandate sidewalks	**53.9% (452)**	26.1% (219)	11.9% (100)	8.0% (67)	838
E. Require street connectivity with adjacent developments	**39.4% (330)**	35.8% (300)	12.2% (102)	12.6% (106)	838
				answered question	839
				skipped question	105
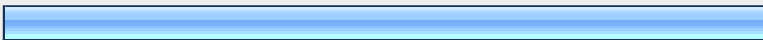
9. 2.C.1 Does your community have:

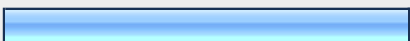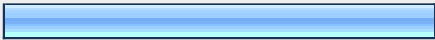|	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
A. Site plan reviews that consider pedestrian needs and issues?	**73.7% (612)**	16.3% (135)	10.0% (83)	830
B. Design guidelines (e.g. sidewalks, benches) that facilitate interaction between neighbors?	**52.8% (439)**	35.1% (292)	12.0% (100)	831
C. Lighting design guidelines or regulations that address/promote safety?	**60.4% (501)**	25.6% (212)	14.0% (116)	829
D. Street furniture on main streets to facilitate "eyes on the street?"	36.5% (303)	**49.3% (410)**	14.2% (118)	831
			answered question	833
			skipped question	111

10. 2.C.2 Does your community offer any traffic calming measures in residential neighborhoods?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, all neighborhoods		4.7%	39
Yes, some neighborhoods		**69.6%**	578
None		25.7%	213
		answered question	**830**
		skipped question	**114**

11. 2.D.1 Does your community:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
A. Promote a variety of housing types and prices to enable an economically and socially diverse community?	**66.7% (550)**	29.1% (240)	4.1% (34)	824
B. Promote cooperative housing or common living spaces (e.g. several single-family homes share yard)?	18.6% (153)	**68.1% (560)**	13.3% (109)	822
C. Have an adequate supply of 2+ bedroom rental apartments and homes (family-size housing)?	**45.3% (373)**	37.4% (308)	17.4% (143)	824
D. Have special services for homeless families with children?	31.8% (262)	**39.8% (328)**	28.5% (235)	825
			answered question	**825**
			skipped question	**119**
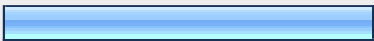
12. 2.E.1 What kind of transit is available? (check all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Bus		**84.2%**	668
Train/Subway		28.9%	229
No transit available		16.1%	128
Other			114
	answered question		793
	skipped question		151

13. 2.E.2 Does your community promote transit-oriented development (TOD)?
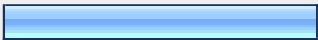
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		44.7%	361
No		**47.3%**	382
Don't know		8.1%	65
	answered question		807
	skipped question		137

14. 2.E.3 Does TOD in your community restrict family-sized housing?
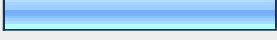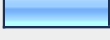
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		3.0%	24
No		40.7%	327
Don't know / NA		**56.4%**	453
	answered question		803
	skipped question		141

15. 2.E.4 Does your community:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
A. Have a policy for low traffic speeds in residential neighborhoods to promote safety?	**69.8% (563)**	19.1% (154)	11.2% (90)	807
B. Promote alternatives to a privately owned vehicle?	35.6% (287)	**59.2% (478)**	5.2% (42)	807
C. Consider the route to work for parents (i.e. grocery stores and child care on primary transit paths) in transportation plans?	17.2% (139)	**59.6% (480)**	23.2% (187)	806
			answered question	808
			skipped question	136

16. 2.E.5 Does your community have:

	Many	Some	None	Don't know	Response Count
A. Kneeling buses to accommodate strollers & wheelchairs	**30.0% (242)**	27.5% (222)	21.8% (176)	20.8% (168)	808
B. Sidewalks	**62.1% (494)**	35.3% (281)	2.4% (19)	0.3% (2)	796
C. Pedestrian pathways (i.e. informal routes, shortcuts through open space)	27.0% (218)	**57.7% (466)**	11.8% (95)	3.5% (28)	807
D. Walk-to-School program (i.e. Safe Routes to School Program)	17.7% (143)	**34.0% (274)**	24.8% (200)	23.5% (190)	807
E. Bicycle lanes	21.0% (170)	**55.0% (444)**	23.3% (188)	0.7% (6)	808
F. Free transportation to school	**42.2% (340)**	23.0% (185)	12.0% (97)	22.8% (184)	806
G. Family transit passes or children's rate	17.6% (142)	18.3% (148)	29.2% (236)	**34.9% (282)**	808
				answered question	808
				skipped question	136

17. 2.F.1 Are planners in your community working to improve the quality of public schools?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		34.3%	274
No		**37.2%**	297
Don't know / NA		28.5%	228
		answered question	799
		skipped question	145

18. 2.F.2 Do planners in your community collaborate with the school board to:

	Yes	No	Don't know / NA	Response Count
A. Reuse school buildings	30.4% (244)	**36.8% (295)**	32.8% (263)	802
B. Site new schools	**44.6% (358)**	29.4% (236)	26.0% (209)	803
C. Co-locate schools with parks, recreational areas, libraries, and community centers	**42.9% (342)**	29.7% (237)	27.4% (218)	797
			answered question	804
			skipped question	140

19. 2.F.3 Do schools function as a center of your community (i.e. buildings are used for a wide variety of community functions, including child care, continuing education courses, public meetings, community recreation, library, computer facilities)?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		**58.7%**	470
No		29.8%	239
Don't know		11.5%	92
		answered question	801
		skipped question	143
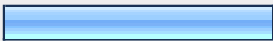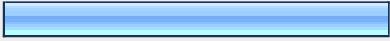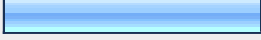
20. 2.G.1 Does your community:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
A. Have an adequate supply of quality, affordable child care?	20.0% (161)	36.7% (295)	**43.2% (347)**	803
B. Provide financial support for development or operation of child care facilities?	13.5% (108)	**48.4% (387)**	38.1% (305)	800
C. Maintain data on child care (location, cost, enrollment, hours)?	18.0% (144)	40.3% (323)	**41.8% (335)**	802
D. Have a local child care plan?	5.0% (40)	**52.0% (416)**	43.0% (344)	800
			answered question	803
			skipped question	141

21. 2.H.1 Does your community assess impact fees to subsidize:

	Yes	No	Don't know / NA	Response Count
A. Child care facilities and pre-K programs	6.5% (52)	**64.4% (512)**	29.1% (231)	795
B. Additional public school classrooms	22.1% (175)	**50.8% (402)**	27.1% (214)	791
C. Parks and recreation facilities	**44.9% (357)**	36.2% (288)	18.9% (150)	795
D. Community centers	17.1% (136)	**56.3% (447)**	26.6% (211)	794
E. Transit	16.1% (128)	**59.7% (474)**	24.2% (192)	794
			answered question	796
			skipped question	148

22. 2.H.2 Does your community routinely use local, state, or federal funding to support:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
A. Child care	20.9% (165)	34.0% (269)	**45.1% (357)**	791
B. Affordable housing	**57.3% (453)**	22.9% (181)	19.8% (157)	791
C. Neighborhood parks	**58.3% (459)**	18.6% (146)	23.1% (182)	787
D. Community facilities (i.e. community center)	**51.8% (411)**	20.9% (166)	27.2% (216)	793
E. Road, streetscape, curb, & sidewalk improvements	**80.0% (633)**	7.0% (55)	13.0% (103)	791
			answered question	**795**
			skipped question	**149**

23. 2.H.3 Does your community use Tax Increment Financing to finance projects that support families, such as school or park improvements, traffic control, or other public improvement projects?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		29.5%	233
No		**42.3%**	334
Don't know		28.2%	223
	answered question		**790**
	skipped question		**154**

24. 2.I.1 How frequently does your community engage families in the planning process by:

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don't know	Response Count
A. Providing child care for public meetings	1.8% (14)	10.5% (83)	19.0% (150)	**54.5% (430)**	14.2% (112)	789
B. Running public meetings at times convenient for working families	**46.3% (365)**	32.6% (257)	9.5% (75)	5.7% (45)	5.8% (46)	788
C. Running public meetings in facilities (such as schools, religious centers) convenient for working families	**36.9% (291)**	35.8% (282)	13.6% (107)	8.0% (63)	5.7% (45)	788
					answered question	790
					skipped question	154

25. 2.I.2 Does your community:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
A. Encourage youth participation in the planning process?	39.1% (308)	**45.1% (355)**	15.8% (124)	787
B. Organize family events, such as reading festivals or school-age environmental awareness events?	**64.6% (509)**	22.0% (173)	13.5% (106)	788
C. Have recreational facilities or activities for teens?	**78.9% (619)**	11.8% (93)	9.3% (73)	785
D. Consider creating jobs for all age levels (teens, young adults, parents, elderly) in economic development plans?	24.9% (196)	36.9% (290)	**38.2% (300)**	786
			answered question	790
			skipped question	154

26. 2.I.3 Do business improvement districts and malls restrict teen gathering in your community?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		16.2%	127
No		**55.2%**	433
Don't know		28.6%	224
		answered question	784
		skipped question	160

27. 3.1 How frequently has your community faced the following challenges in trying to become family friendly?

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don't know	Response Count
A. Regulatory barriers	8.3% (64)	**37.0% (285)**	14.4% (111)	5.7% (44)	34.5% (266)	770
B. Developer driven development that does not prioritize family housing	25.9% (200)	**41.6% (321)**	14.2% (110)	3.8% (29)	14.5% (112)	772
C. No financial support	29.7% (230)	**37.9% (294)**	7.0% (54)	3.1% (24)	22.3% (173)	775
D. Complexity of issue	25.0% (192)	**40.6% (312)**	10.4% (80)	2.6% (20)	21.5% (165)	769
E. Unaware of what is required to begin	20.5% (158)	**35.7% (275)**	15.3% (118)	5.2% (40)	23.3% (180)	771
F. Lack of authority	17.5% (134)	**35.9% (275)**	18.4% (141)	6.1% (47)	22.1% (169)	766
G. Lack of voice for young families	24.5% (189)	**40.4% (312)**	13.7% (106)	3.4% (26)	18.1% (140)	773
H. Insufficient political interest	24.0% (185)	**38.7% (298)**	16.8% (129)	4.8% (37)	15.7% (121)	770
I. Lack of community interest	16.6% (127)	**40.0% (307)**	23.5% (180)	5.6% (43)	14.3% (110)	767
J. NIMBYism	**35.8% (274)**	35.6% (273)	10.4% (80)	2.3% (18)	15.8% (121)	766
					Other	26
					answered question	775
					skipped question	169
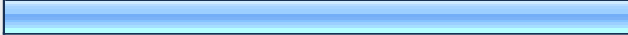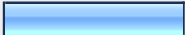
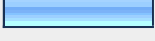| 28. 3.2 Which barriers currently exist in your community that prevent it from being more family friendly?				
	Yes	**No**	**Don't know**	**Response Count**
A. Property taxes too high	**44.9% (348)**	42.8% (332)	12.3% (95)	775
B. Insensitive urban design	45.1% (347)	**46.2% (356)**	8.7% (67)	770
C. Lack of quality education	29.7% (228)	**61.9% (475)**	8.3% (64)	767
D. Lack of affordable housing	**66.0% (510)**	26.8% (207)	7.2% (56)	773
E. Lack of services	38.7% (298)	**51.6% (398)**	9.7% (75)	771
F. High crime or perception of lack of safety	25.3% (196)	**67.8% (525)**	6.8% (53)	774
G. Exclusionary and single-use zoning	**46.2% (356)**	42.7% (329)	11.2% (86)	771
H. Parking requirements	32.0% (247)	**53.7% (414)**	14.3% (110)	771
			Other	37
			answered question	**777**
			skipped question	**167**
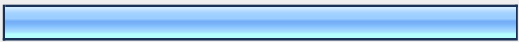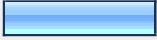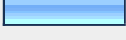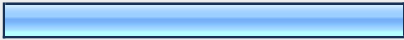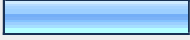
29. 3.3 Has the general public ever attempted to block efforts to include the following family friendly conditions, amenities, or developments?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
A. Multi-family, high-density housing	**76.0% (591)**	12.9% (100)	11.2% (87)	778
B. Mixed-use development	**53.9% (418)**	31.1% (241)	15.1% (117)	776
C. Affordable housing	**64.9% (504)**	21.0% (163)	14.0% (109)	776
D. Child care facilities development	21.0% (163)	**44.8% (348)**	34.2% (266)	777
E. Neighborhood grocery stores	20.1% (156)	**55.9% (434)**	24.0% (186)	776
F. Schools	15.0% (116)	**63.4% (491)**	21.7% (168)	775
G. Public library	5.8% (45)	**74.7% (578)**	19.5% (151)	774
H. Neighborhood park/playground	12.7% (98)	**68.1% (527)**	19.3% (149)	774
I. Recreation or teen centers	19.6% (152)	**49.6% (385)**	30.8% (239)	776
J. Sidewalks	22.7% (176)	**60.2% (466)**	17.1% (132)	774
			answered question	**777**
			skipped question	**167**
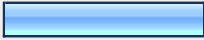
30. 4.1 Please indicate your primary position:

		Response Percent	Response Count
A. Practicing public planner		**68.9%**	486
B. Planning consultant		19.6%	138
C. Private developer		1.4%	10
D. Community advocate		4.3%	30
E. Government official other than a planner		4.5%	32
F. Elected official		1.3%	9
		Other	86
		answered question	**705**
		skipped question	**239**

31. 4.2 At what scale do you work?

		Response Percent	Response Count
A. Local		**56.7%**	434
B. County		16.6%	127
C. Regional		8.2%	63
D. State		4.6%	35
E. Federal		0.9%	7
F. Multiple scales		13.1%	100
	answered question		**766**
	skipped question		**178**

32. 4.3 Please indicate where you most often work:

		Response Percent	Response Count
A. City		**44.2%**	337
B. Suburb		20.2%	154
C. Rural area		10.0%	76
D. County		9.6%	73
E. Multiple jurisdictions		16.1%	123
	answered question		**763**
	skipped question		**181**

33. 4.4 Please indicate the population of the municipality you most often work:

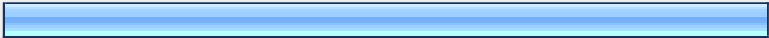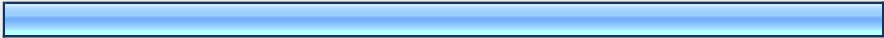|		Response Percent	Response Count
A. Less than 10,000		13.1%	100
B. 10,001 – 50,000		**32.2%**	245
C. 50,001 – 150,000		21.8%	166
D. 150,001 – 500,000		16.7%	127
E. More than 500,001		16.3%	124
		answered question	**762**
		skipped question	**182**
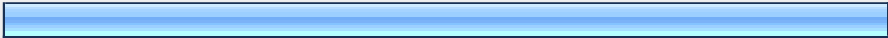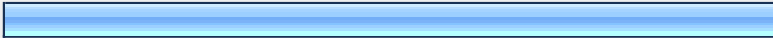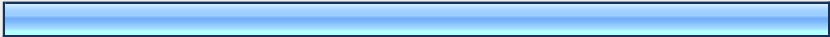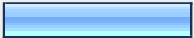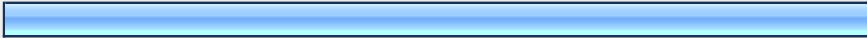
34. 4.5 APA is interested in collecting case profiles of family friendly initiatives. Even small efforts can make an impact. If you know of one, please share an initiative that that you, your community, or your organization has been engaged in.

		Response Count
		113
	answered question	**113**
	skipped question	**831**

35. (follow-up to 4.5) In what community did the initiative take place?

		Response Count
		104
	answered question	**104**
	skipped question	**840**

36. Please provide the following OPTIONAL contact information.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Name:	97.8%	654
Organization and Title:	85.2%	570
Address:	91.2%	610
Address2:	20.5%	137
City/Town:	93.9%	628
State:	95.4%	638
County:	84.5%	565
ZIP/Postal Code:	95.1%	636
Email Address:	97.3%	651
Phone Number:	83.7%	560
	answered question	**669**
	skipped question	**275**