



Estill County Youth Survey Summary - 2022

Undertaken by Estill Development Alliance in cooperation with Estill County Schools from April 22 to May 10, 2022 and including 6th through 12th graders at Estill County Middle School and Estill County High School

HIGHLIGHTS (“we” and “here” refer to Estill County)

- Over 83% felt we need more fun outdoor activities for youth.
- Over 80% of respondents felt youth should have more of a voice in our community’s future.
- Over 78% felt we need more programs allowing youth involvement.
- Over 77% felt we need better internet and cell phone access.
- Over 76% felt we need to focus on being healthier as a community.
- Over 73% felt we need more youth arts and culture programs.
- Over 71% felt we need better technology in schools.
- Over 70% felt we should have more youth leadership training.
- Over 70% felt we need to better educate youth on opportunities that exist here.
- Over 69% felt they could find a good job here after high school or college.
- Over 64% planned to pursue some sort of higher learning after high school.
 - By a large margin, the most had plans to attend ECU (33.3%), with UNH (20.9%) being second.
 - The top 3 intended fields of study were nursing (8.8%), health/medicine (8%), and education (6.7%).
- Over 58% were generally happy living in Estill County.
 - Top positives for living here were friends (9.1%), good schools/teachers (7.6%), family (7%), nice people/inclusive (6.5%), and that it’s home (4.9%).
 - Top negatives for living here were not enough to do (by a large margin) (12.9%), not enough jobs/opportunities (7.8%), people are mean/closed-minded (4.7%), and unsafe/crime/drug use (2.5%).
- Over 52% felt their community cares about them.
 - Positive reasons for that were that they feel welcome/included (21.1%), have family here/feel loved (20.1%), and that people will do anything for you (17.4%).
 - Negative reasons were that they’re not known (16.8%), people are selfish/fake/don’t care (16.1%), and discrimination (6%).
- Less than 48% said someone has talked to them about starting a business as a possible career path.

- Over 47% felt they have the opportunity to make Estill a better place to live, while over 34% say “maybe”.
- Over 40% struggled with depression, anxiety, or other mental/emotional health issues, and 41% felt there isn’t enough support for young people dealing with those issues.
- Only 40% said someone has talked to them about opportunities here after graduation.
- For those inclined to volunteer, they wished to have opportunities for cleanup (30%), decorating (20.5%), community events (17.1%), building/landscaping (13.4%), and animal shelter (6.1%) the most.
- The top qualities that make a community they want to live in were: good jobs (10%), good schools (9.7%), a good place to raise children (9.4%), and a clean environment (9%).
- For those not pursuing higher ed, most planned to go to work (51.4%), followed by owning their own business (20%).
- Finding out about community events came from friends or family (24.1%), social media (22.1%), or school announcements (17.7%) the most.
- Their social media usage included Snapchat (20.2%), Tiktok (18.9%), Youtube (18.4%), and Instagram (15.9%) the most. Facebook (11.7%) was the fifth most used social media.
- Picturing themselves at age 22, most saw themselves living in Kentucky but not Estill County (27.8%), followed closely by living in Estill County (26.9%).
- The largest portion of respondents were age 14 (21%) with the smallest portion being 19 (1%). Likewise, the largest portion of respondents were in 8th grade (24%) with the smallest portion being in 12th grade (6%).
- When addressing “something for the kids to do,” they felt the most popular “things for kids to do” would be: more and better parks (11.3%), more sports (10.9%), places to hang out (9.9%), more outdoor activities (7.3%), bowling (7.1%), more/better events (6.9%), and a community center/fun stuff (6.9%).
- The top things we don’t have right now that would make it a better place to live were entertainment/more fun things to do (20%), restaurants (14.5%), and shopping (10.6%).
- The top things they believed adults should know about being a young person in Estill County were: it’s harder than adults think (40.4%), they want to be heard (17%), bullying/discrimination/mental health need more attention (15.3%), the community is boring (13.2%), and kids like to hang out and have fun (10.6%).

Scan the QR code below or visit www.estill.org/youth-report to view complete report.

