What Affects Our Health

















- How safe is the neighborhood?
- Is the air clean?
- Is the water clean?
- Are there green spaces?

How much money do the schools have?

How close are the schools to home?

What about the teachers?

Are there grocery stores in the neighborhood?

Is the food affordable?

Is the food healthy?

Are there jobs in the neighborhood?

What about buses or trains to get to a job?

Do the jobs pay fairly? Do they have benefits?

Are the jobs safe?

Are there clinics and hospitals nearby?

Are there physical and mental health services?

How much money does it cost?

How are the doctors?

Part 1. Michael and Anthony: Thinking about Our Communities

Directions: What parts of their lives might affect their development? Positive or negative?



Michael, Age 4

- Lives in a part of the city with high asthma rates
- Eats a lot of fruits and vegetables and drinks lots of water
- Most meals are at home with mom or grandparents
- Dad works two jobs and is gone 14-16 hours a day
- Mom goes to work in the day and goes to school some nights
- Grandma and Grandpa take care of him other times
- Goes to the library in the morning for storytime

Anthony, Age 4

- Has no health problems, has vaccines, and has been to the dentist
- Goes to daycare every day near his mom's work
- Loves apple juice
- Usually eats fast food 2-3 times a week since the family is very busy
- Sleeps about 10 hours a night
- Parents work 9-5 every day in stressful jobs
- Parents each travel at least one hour to and from work every day
- Spends time with family or friends on weekends
- Likes to watch cartoons and use his mom's ipad

Plays at the park near his house every day

Part 2. Michael and Anthony: Fast Forward 15 Years

Directions: Talk about these questions.

- How has each boy been affected by his environment?
- Who has more opportunities?

Michael, 17

- Goes to high school near his house
- Gets pretty good grades
- Comes home right after school usually to avoid neighborhood violence and take care of younger siblings
- Plays basketball but the team has the gym only a few hours a week
- Really good at video games
- Thinking about college but not sure how to pay for it or what to study
- Takes the bus if he leaves the neighborhood

Anthony, 17

- Goes to high school with a good technology and science program
- Interested in being a doctor or a computer programmer
- On the tennis team
- Got a scholarship to go to college
- Uses after school tutoring program when he has trouble with advanced classes he is taking
- Drives his mother's car to his parttime job