

October 2017
From the 4-H Youth Development Advisor



Results from the 2016-2017 4-H Youth Outcome Survey

The ultimate goal for 4-H is to support youth in reaching their fullest potential. To accomplish this, we help them develop their competence, confidence, character, caring, connections, and contribution. We know anecdotally that 4-H Community Clubs help youth develop these skills – and more! – but we don't always collect rigorous evaluation data to provide clear evidence.

Last program year, 2016-2017, we set out to assess 4-H members positive youth development (competence, character, connection, caring, confidence, and contribution), teamwork skills (leadership, communication, interpersonal skills, and appreciation for diversity). We also sought to explore 4-H members' perceptions of their 4-H experience (physical safety, engagement, etc.).

The standard California 4-H youth surveys were administered in the Online Record Book and by invitation in hardcopy. We received 141 responses (Sonoma=31, Napa=115, and Marin=30). The average age was 13 years old, with 63% female.

Summary of Findings:

The results showed that 4-H members report high levels (above 80% overall) on indicators of positive youth development and teamwork. This is great news and also means we can continue to improve in the coming years!

- Positive Youth Development: The highest indicators were character (88% average), with caring and confidence tied for second (85%), followed by contribution (83%), connection (82%) and competence (80%). Individual county averages varied.
- Teamwork: The highest factor was appreciation for diversity (85%), followed by interpersonal skills (81%), and leading a team and communication tied for third (80%).

The North Bay counties consistently had higher scores compared to statewide averages. The largest gap was teamwork: interpersonal (9-point gap) followed by confidence (7-point gap).

Regarding program experience, 4-H members reported factors with the highest averages being relationship building (86%), extended learning (86%), emotional safety (85%), and appreciation for diversity (85%). The lowest factors – and areas for concern – were skill building (75%) and physical safety (77%).

These findings will help the 4-H office, 4-H Club Leaders, and 4-H Council Executive Boards prioritize program improvements during the coming 4-H program year. For the full report, please visit: <http://cemarín.ucanr.edu/files/269250.pdf>