Growing True Leaders: Investing in 4-H Makes a Difference

**Purpose of National Call for Data:** The purpose was to draw a nationwide data sample, utilizing the 4-H Common Measures 2.0 Universal instrument, to assess outcomes experienced by 4-H youth ages 5-19 and to examine the influence of variables, such as delivery mode, age, gender and involvement level.

**Key Findings**  The Universal Total Scale was used to assess youth outcomes. Percentages rounded to the nearest 1%.

A majority of the youth (88%) obtained a high score, responding “usually” or “yes” to all 20 items, showcasing their strong personal mindset and social skills. Though the majority of youth responded positively, variables such as age, gender and time spent in 4-H were all significant in a youth’s likelihood to report a high universal score. Time spent in 4-H was found to be the strongest predictor among these variables.

![Graph showing youth participation by age group and gender]

Older youth had higher odds of reporting a higher overall score. Girls had higher odds of reporting a higher overall score. Youth who spent more hours on 4-H activities each week reported a higher overall score.

**Demographic Info** Data collection occurred throughout 2018 and into the spring of 2019.

19 Land Grant Universities (LGU) from 18 states and one commonwealth* participated in the National Call for Data.

*Mariana Islands is not pictured

19,497 YOUTH PARTICIPATED

Sample snapshot:
- 12.3 years old was the mean age
- 60% identified as female
- 73% identified as white or Caucasian

54% of youth were engaged in 4-H through multiple delivery modes, including:
- Camp
- Club
- After School
- In-School

54% YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
What Makes a True Leader?

Every child has the potential to be a true leader. However, youth often report lacking life experiences to build the skills they need to reach their full potential as leaders, including perseverance, decision-making, integrity, inclusivity, and positive relationship and leadership skills. Below are six survey items, isolated from the 4-H Common Measures 2.0 Universal instrument, that support the True Leaders initiative. **Consistent with the results of the larger sample, the more time youth spend in 4-H is positively associated with the development of the True Leaders outcomes.**

### Perseverance
**Are you willing to work hard on something difficult?**
- Yes: 70%
- Usually: 25%
- Not Really: 4%
- No: 1%

### Decision-Making
**Before making a decision, do you stop to think about your choices?**
- Yes: 39%
- Usually: 47%
- Not Really: 11%
- No: 3%

### Integrity
**Do you think about how your choices affect others?**
- Yes: 48%
- Usually: 39%
- Not Really: 10%
- No: 3%

### Inclusivity
**Do you look for ways to involve all members of a group?**
- Yes: 60%
- Usually: 32%
- Not Really: 6%
- No: 2%

### Relationships
**Do you get along with others who are different from you?**
- Yes: 53%
- Usually: 38%
- Not Really: 6%
- No: 3%

### Leadership
**Are you comfortable being a leader?**
- Yes: 58%
- Usually: 24%
- Not Really: 12%
- No: 6%

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*The sample is not nationally representative of all youth enrolled in 4-H and thus inferences do not necessarily generalize to this population.*