

Oakland Fund for Children and Youth

2011-2012 Evaluation of 2011 Summer Strategy Area

MINI REPORT



OVERVIEW OF SUMMER EVALUATION

The Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY) funded 12 summer programs in 2011. See Change, Inc. was engaged to evaluate this strategy area of OFCY, wherein 1,335 Oakland children and youth were provided with 199,193 hours of service.

The OFCY Summer Strategy funds a wide variety of programming, thus providing opportunities for all children and youth to engage in positive, enriching, and fun activities during the summer months. Program foci are diverse, spanning a range that includes performance circus arts, outdoor physical programs, and academic enrichment.

The 2010-13 OFCY Strategic Plan tasks Summer Programming with the following outcomes which are examined in this report: sustained learning and reduction of “learning loss” associated with summer school breaks, increased community engagement, increased confidence/self-esteem, increased fitness level, and increased connection to caring adults.

This mini-report provides data for the following additional Summer Program outcomes, as well: relationships with peers, respect, diversity and future outlook. Lastly, evaluators used a site-based, OFCY-specific Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) evaluation tool to determine a program quality score for each grantee.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The following methodologies comprised See Change’s 2011 evaluation of OFCY Summer Programming:

- 1) **Participation and Service Data** See Change analyzed data on youth/child participation rates (program enrollment) and hours of service delivered from June 2011 to August 2011.
- 2) **Program Quality Site Visits** See Change assessed the quality of the programs at structured site visits guided by a nationally tested, research-based observation tool, the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA), developed by the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality. Program staff were also interviewed. Numerous studies have shown that high program quality is associated with positive outcomes for youth and children.
- 3) **Surveys of Children and Youth** See Change surveyed children and youth about their program experiences to gain insight into youth outcomes.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE

Summer Programs served 1,335 youth and provided 199,193 hours of programming.

In 2011, 12 programs made up the OFCY Summer Strategy Area, which engage a wide span of topics from academic science programming to circus arts training for youth in Oakland. Collectively, these programs provided 1,335 youth with 199,193 hours of service. Overall, the Summer Programs exceeded their goals for number of participants served (110% fulfillment) and service hours provided (113% fulfillment).

The table below reports on participation and service by program, including: projected and actual total participants, projected and actual service hours, and percentage fulfillment of service goals. (Data for some programs was not yet available as of October, 2011.)

2011 OFCY Summer Programs Participation & Service Outcomes

Program Name	Projected Total Participants	Actual Total Participants	% Participants Fulfillment	Projected Service (Hours)	Actual Service (Hours)	% Service Fulfillment
Aim High	223	190	85%	34,320	31,344	91%
Bella Vista: San Antonio Summer Learning Initiative	210	328	156%	20,160	27,744	138%
College Track	50	86	172%	4,501	5,251	117%
Destiny Arts Center: Camp Destiny	80	87	109%	3,750	4,604	123%
EOYDC: Summer Cultural Enrichment Program	300	326	109%	238,095	117,626	49%
FSSBA: Kinship Summer Youth Program	50	49	98%	6,550	7,162	109%
Girls Inc.: Concordia Park	50	65	130%	6,536	8,913	136%
Girls Inc.: Eureka!	59	83	141%	5,900	7,087	120%
Leadership Excellence: Oakland Freedom School	120	92	77%	2,550	16,251	637%
OASES Summer Science Series	40	44	110%	3,368	5,085	151%
OPR: Summer Camp Explosion	300	303	101%	85,120	89,328	105%
Prescott Circus Theatre	30	34	113%	3,456	4,027	117%
TOTAL	1,212	1,335	110%	176,960	199,193	113%

PROGRAM QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Using a nationally validated Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) tool, all 12 OFCY Summer Programs were rated as Performing or Thriving.

Research indicates that children and youth outcomes from youth development programs are, in part, determined by the quality of those programs.¹ Thus, program quality assessment is an essential part of any program evaluation process. The YPQA tool used in this evaluation rates a program's practices and style of delivery across four areas:

Safe environment – e.g., mutual respect, healthy foods, emergency procedures, no health hazards)

Supportive environment – e.g., welcoming atmosphere, appropriate pacing, active engagement, encouragement, conflict resolution

Interaction – e.g., structured opportunities for team-building or sharing, small group activities, peer mentoring, youth/adult partnerships

Engagement – e.g., goal-setting, choice and decision-making, reflection

For the summer programs, each observer scored the above criteria on 1-3-5 scale:

1 = Item not observed OR negative examples of item observed

3 = Item observed infrequently OR positive and negative examples of item observed

5 = Item integrated into program OR positive examples of item observed

There are two ways in which evaluators tabulate these scores to gain a picture of program quality. To provide an overall **Program Quality Rating**, evaluators averaged the scores for the first two criteria: Safe and Supportive Environment. Weikart, the YPQA designer, designates these two areas as the most critical to program success, and the primary indicators of program quality. Consequently, researchers focused on these areas to determine an overall program quality rating. Finally, these Program Quality ratings have been translated into three performance categories:

Thriving – Program Quality score is 80% or more of the maximum score (between 4.00 and 5.00)

Performing – Program Quality score 60% to less than 80% of the maximum score (between 3.00 and 3.99)

Emerging – Program Quality score is less than 60% of the maximum score (between 1.00 and 2.99)

¹ Vandell, D. L., Shumow, L., & Posner, J. (2005) After-school programs for low-income children: Difference in program quality. In J. L. Mahoney, R. W. Larson, & J. S. Eccles (Eds.), *Organized activities as contexts of development: Extracurricular activities, after school and community programs* (pp. 437-456). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

The table below provides outcome scores for both overall program quality and individual rating categories for each program. **All 12 OFCY Summer Programs were rated as *performing* or *thriving* in terms of the program quality criteria**, and the average Program Quality score across all programs, on all measures was 3.98.

2011 YPQA Scores for Summer Programs

Program	Program Quality Rating	Safe Environment	Supportive Environment	Interaction	Engagement	Program Quality Average Score*
Aim High	<i>thriving</i>	4.87	4.06	3.92	3.33	4.04
Bella Vista: San Antonio Summer Learning Initiative	<i>thriving</i>	5.00	4.53	4.25	4.00	4.44
College Track	<i>thriving</i>	4.73	4.78	5.00	5.00	4.88
Destiny Arts Center: Camp Destiny	<i>thriving</i>	5.00	4.13	3.25	2.17	3.64
EOYDC: Summer Cultural Enrichment Program	<i>thriving</i>	5.00	4.17	3.79	3.50	4.11
FSSBA: Kinship Summer Youth Program	<i>thriving</i>	4.80	3.96	3.38	2.67	3.70
Girls Inc: Concordia Park	<i>thriving</i>	4.80	3.95	3.42	2.50	3.67
Girls Inc: Eureka	<i>thriving</i>	5.00	4.61	4.50	4.17	4.57
Leadership Excellence: Oakland Freedom School	<i>thriving</i>	4.58	3.88	3.67	1.83	3.49
OASES: Summer Science Series	<i>thriving</i>	5.00	4.66	3.96	3.00	4.15
OPR: Summer Camp Explosion	<i>performing</i>	4.70	3.09	2.96	2.17	3.23
Prescott Circus Theatre	<i>thriving</i>	5.00	4.28	4.17	3.50	4.24
Summer Programs Overall:	<i>thriving</i>	4.87	4.18	3.85	3.15	4.01
National YPQA Average	<i>performing</i>	4.42	3.84	3.01	2.56	3.12

*Score is an average of the all the observed areas.

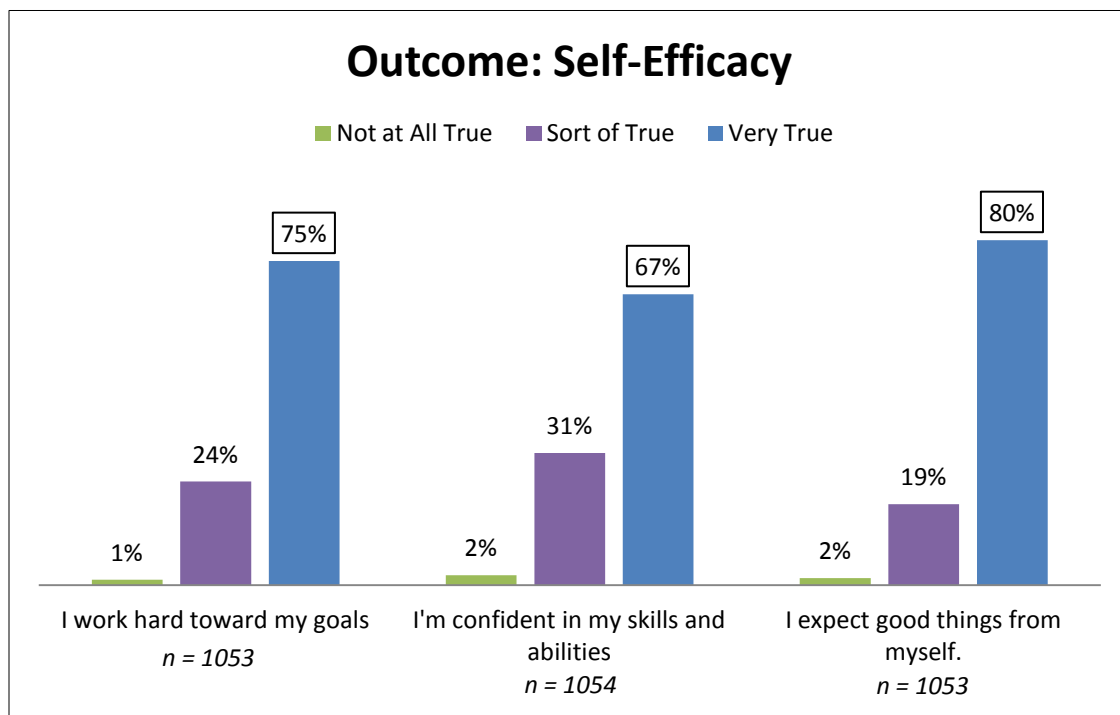
SURVEY RESULTS

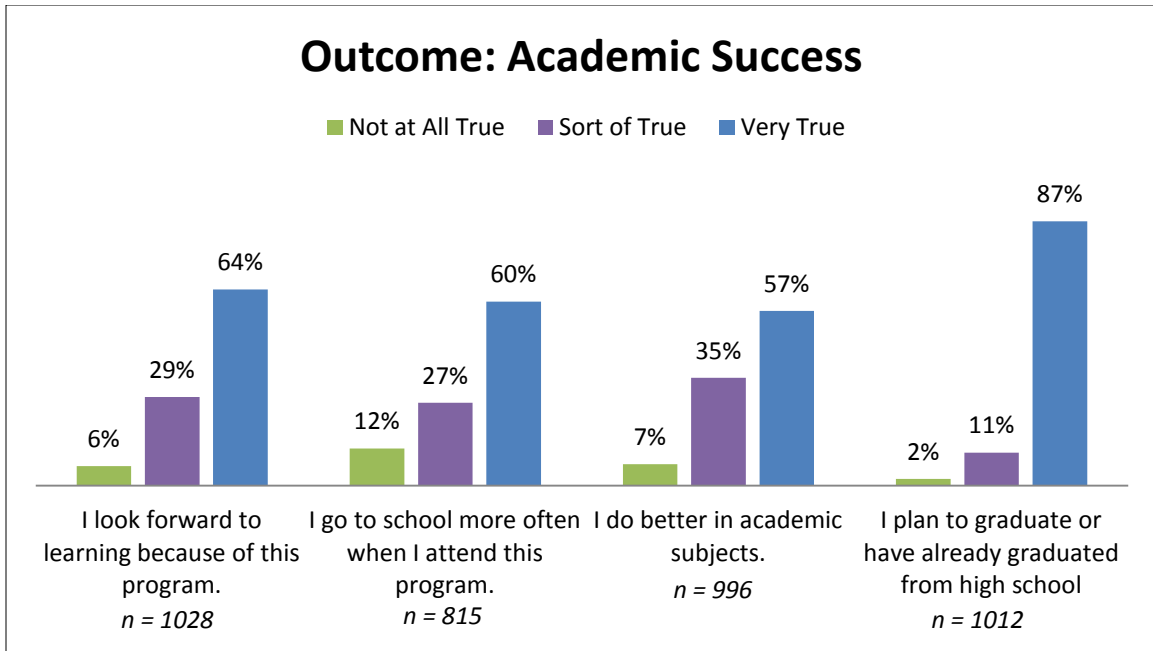
Using a customized survey tool, based on the Strategic Plan, all Summer OFCY grantees were found to create high levels of positive outcomes for youth.

The student survey instrument assessed youths' positive behaviors and attitudes toward themselves and their futures, their peers, adults and their communities. Across all programs, 1054 surveys were returned, resulting in an 80% return rate. An 80% return rate on surveys is generally considered very high.

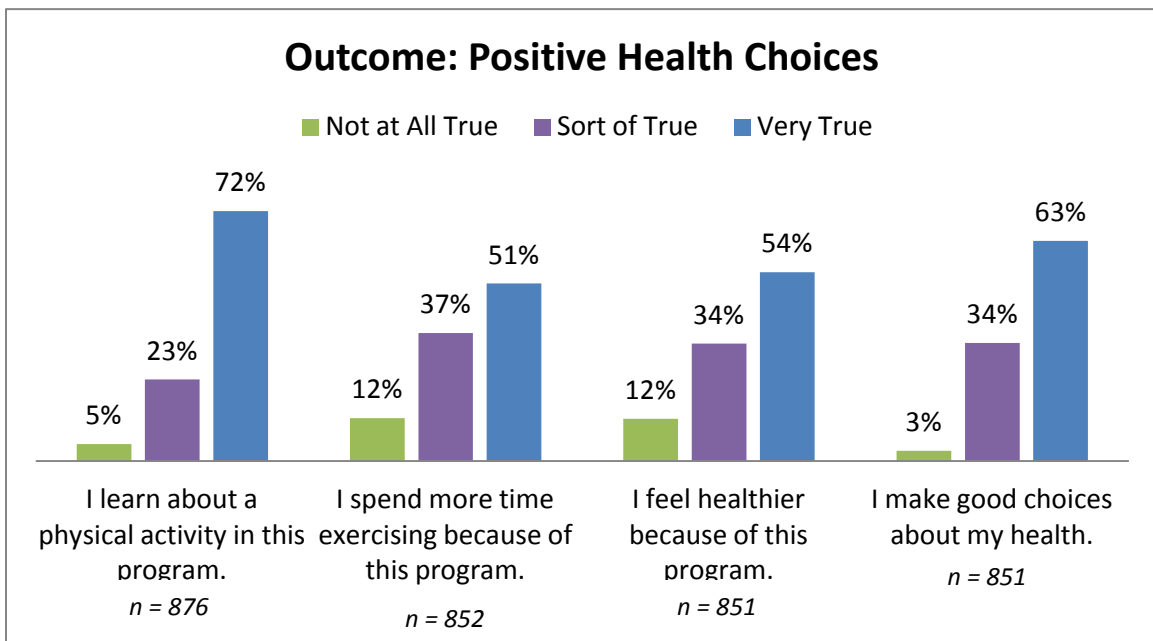
YOUTH OUTCOMES: POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD SELF & FUTURE

Youth in the OFCY Summer Programs reported positive attitudes with respect to their abilities to affect their futures, academic success, and their health. Underlying these positive outcomes, **nearly all young people in the programs believed they were capable of reaching their goals (75% very true) and expected good things from themselves (80% very true)**, as the Self-Efficacy chart shows.





Most young people felt that attending the Summer Programs positively affected their academic success. As the chart above demonstrates, more than half indicated it was *very true* that because of the program they: look forward to learning (64%), go to school more often (60%), and do better in academic subjects (57%). Further, 87% of youth have either graduated from or plan to graduate from high school, and nearly all young people (93%) reported between *sort of* to *very true* that they learned about careers and opportunities for their futures in their program.

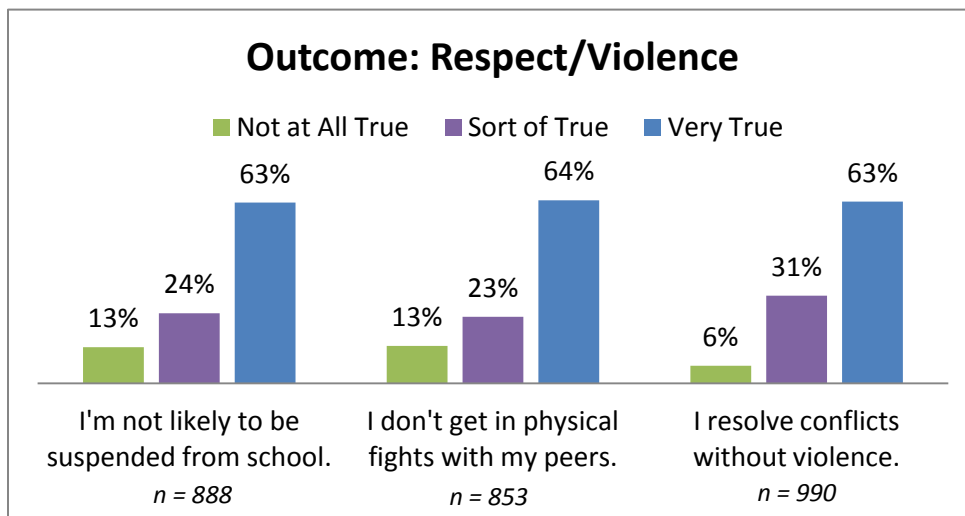


Youth also reported positive health outcomes as a result of their summer program attendance. A majority indicated it was *very true* that because of the program they: learned about physical activity (72%), spent more time exercising (51%), felt healthier (54%), and made good health choices (63%).

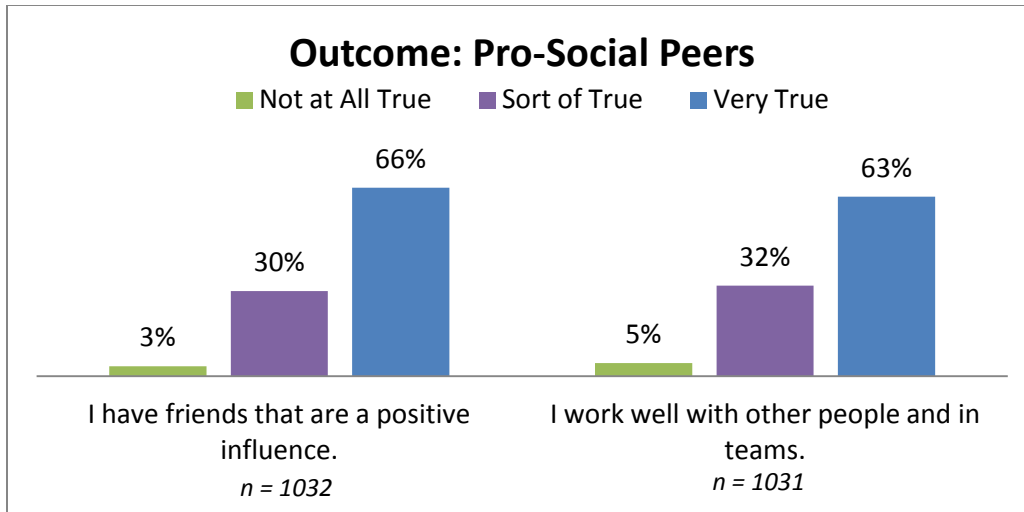
YOUTH OUTCOMES: POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD PEERS AND COMMUNITIES

Young people in the summer programs reported positive behaviors and attitudes toward dealing with conflict and relating to their peers, adults, their communities and diverse individuals.

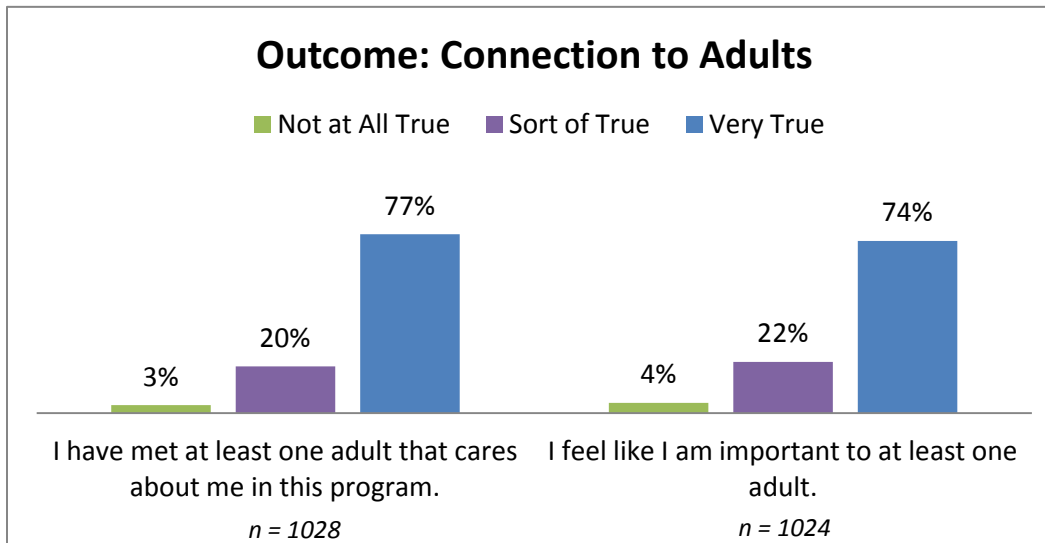
As the chart on the next page indicates, **nearly two-thirds of young people reported positive attitudes and behaviors with respect to resolving conflict and avoiding violence at school and with their peers.**

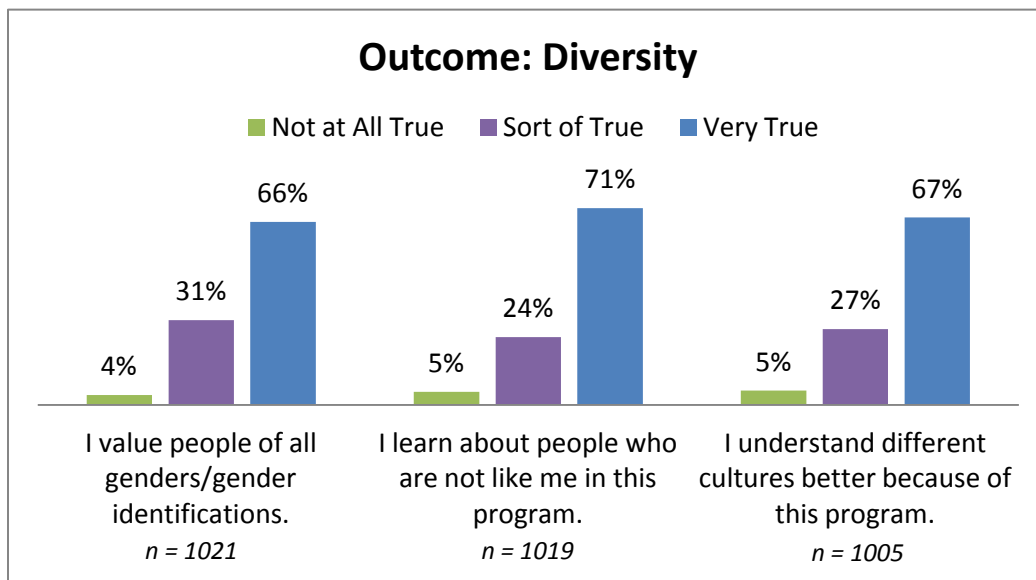
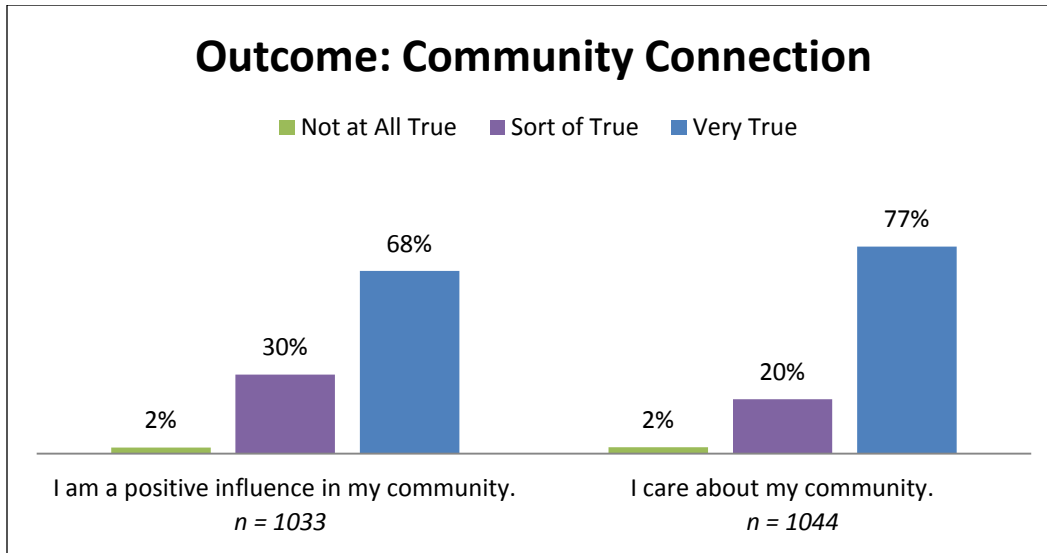


In addition to avoiding negative or violent behaviors, young people reported pro-social peer behaviors: 66% felt it was *very true* that they had friends who were a positive influence, and 63% indicated it was *very true* that they worked well with others and in teams.



As the charts on the next page show, **youth also reported positive outcomes with respect to adults in their lives and their communities.** Approximately three-fourths of young people indicated it was *very true* that they had met an adult who cared about them in the program, they were important to at least one adult, and they cared about their community. Further, 98% felt it was *sort of* to *very true* that they were a positive influence in their communities.

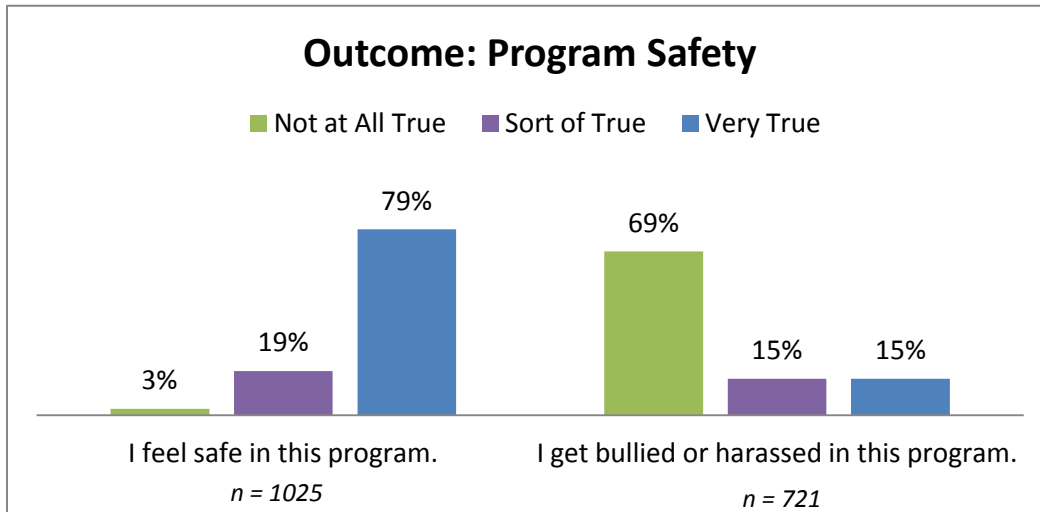




Youth also reported positive outcomes toward diverse people and cultures, reporting that it was *very true* that they: valued people of all gender identifications (66%), learned about people who were not like them (71%), and understand different cultures better because of their summer program (67%).

Finally, young people felt safe in their summer programs (79% *very true*) and did not get bullied or harassed in their program (69%). Bullying is a nationwide issue, often having serious consequences. Youth

in OFCY summer programs reported being bullied slightly less (15%) than the state wide average (17-22%)².



² California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>
Retrieved from: http://www.kidsdata.org/cache/pdfs/Kidsdata-Overview_Bullying-and-Harassment-at-School.pdf

SUMMARY

Overall Summer programs performed well on all of the three evaluative measures. The overwhelming majority met or exceeded their projected goals for participation and service. Program quality was observed to be high at all locations, with 11 out of the 12 programs ranked as Thriving. These observations of quality programming by the evaluators were corroborated by the positive outcomes reported by youth participants on the surveys.