

Summer Youth Development and Empowerment: FY18-19

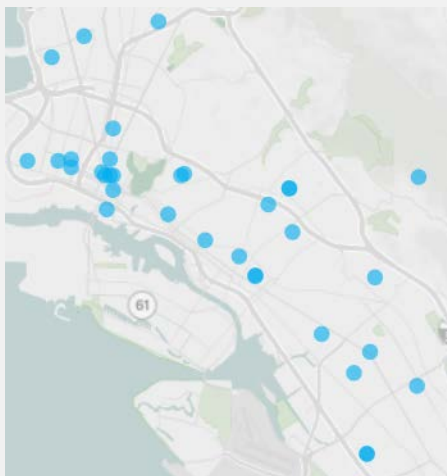


“ Prescott Circus has helped me become a leader because it helps me learn more about responsibility. It made me more prepared [and] organized. It's just **helped me mostly with responsibility in becoming a leader.**

-Participant, Prescott Circus Theatre

Programs funded under OFCY's Summer Youth Development and Empowerment strategy aim to help youth stay academically engaged over the summer while developing leadership skills, contributing to their community, and having fun. Youth receive academic support and participate in opportunities such as field trips, arts programming, project-based learning, and community activism. Five of these programs operated community-based summer camps and seven provided enrichment for students enrolled at OUSD summer school programs (OUSD Summer Hubs). In the summer of 2018, Social Policy Research Associates visited two programs (Edventuremore's Camp Edmo and Prescott Circus Theatre's Summer Program) to learn more about this strategy.

Programs at a Glance



\$1,075,218 invested

2,450 youth served

12 programs

39 sites

Photo courtesy of Edventuremore! Camp Edmo

Participants

During FY2018-2019, 2,450 children and youth participated in Summer Youth Development and Empowerment programs. These programs share a commitment to **keeping youth with limited access to enriching summer experiences engaged in learning** over the summer. Seven of the programs provided enrichment activities to students who were attending OUSD summer learning hubs at the recommendation of their school. The remaining programs tailored their services to specific groups, including foster youth, girls, and youth from under-resourced neighborhoods.

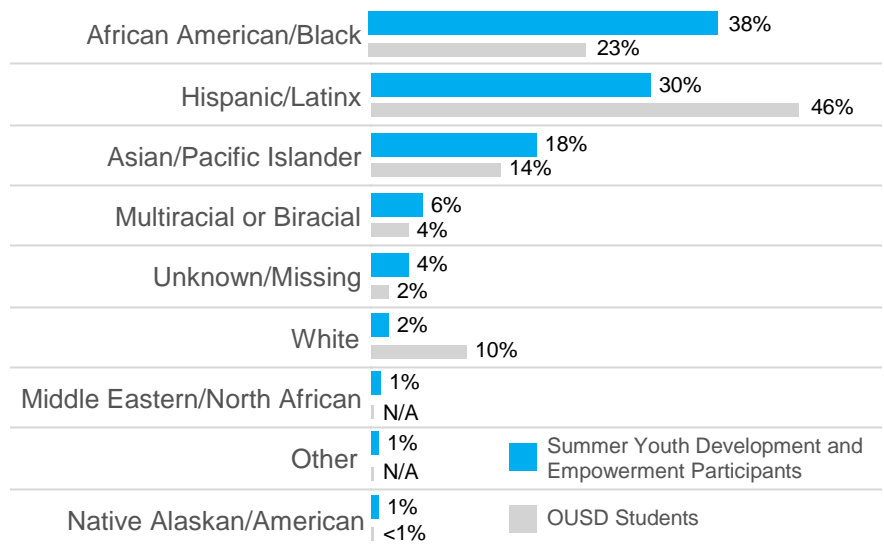
“My favorite part about coming here is: One is it makes me **feel special**. Everyone claps for you like "Yay, good job". Two is **the friends you make** after, so it's not just like we meet here and then we're done. Most of us have phones so we're like, "your number, Snapchat, or Instagram"

-Youth, Prescott Children’s Circus

Close to 70% of participants identified as Latinx or African American, indicating that the strategy is serving OFCY’s priority populations.

Compared to OUSD, these programs served a larger proportion of African American youth.

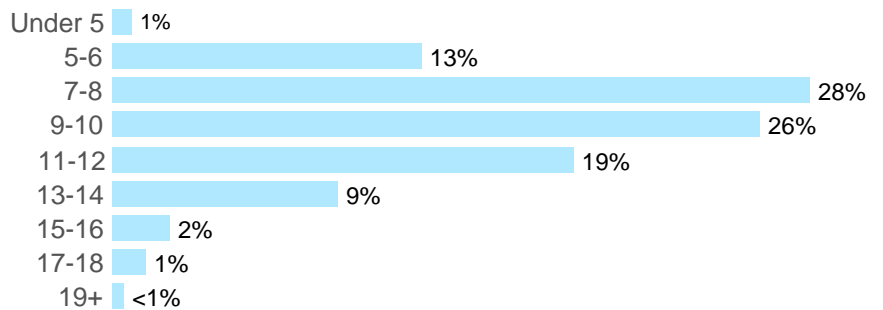
Race/Ethnicity of OFCY Youth Participants and OUSD Students



Over half of Summer program participants were between the ages of seven and ten.

Only 12% of participants were over 12 years old.

Age of Participants



Participation

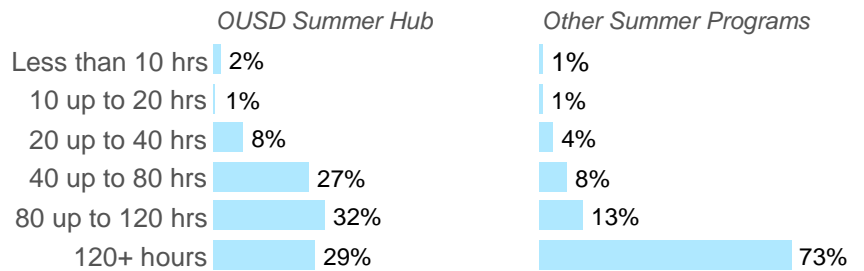
Operating during the summer months, *Summer Youth Development and Empowerment* programs were able to provide intensive services to participants. In fact, the average participant spent over 100 hours in their program over a four- to eight-week period. The level of participation was higher for summer programs that did not operate as OUSD summer hubs because some participants at OUSD summer hubs attended academic classes in the morning and attended OFCY programs in the afternoon only.

About three-quarters of participants at community-based summer programs spent at least 120 hours in their programs.

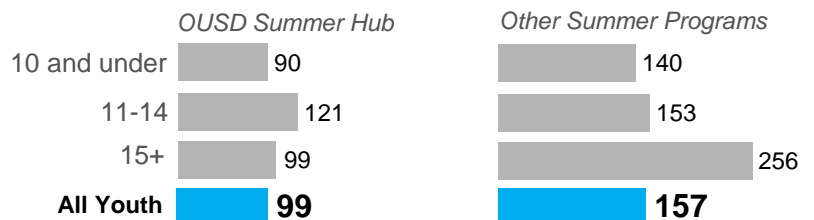
Older youth spent more hours in programming than younger participants; these older youth often led their peers as mentors and camp counselors.

For example, at *East Oakland Youth Development Center's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program*, youth leaders aged 13-20 planned and led educational and enrichment classes for participants ages 5-12.

Hours of Participation by Program Type



Average Hours of Participation by Age and Program Type



[We] have **positive activities** to engage in. [Otherwise], they might sit at home and watch TV and play games and get into trouble. At Camp EDMO, we have different types of enrichment activities they engage in and we teach **conflict resolution skills** and things like that.

-Staff, Edventuremore! Camp Edmo



Photo Courtesy of Prescott Circus Theatre Summer Program 69

Program Activities

Summer Youth Development and Empowerment programs provide academics, leadership development, arts and enrichment, recreation, and supportive services to children and youth. All programs promote positive youth development with a focus on summer learning, but with an understanding that **programs need to be tailored to the diverse interests and identities of Oakland youth**. As a result, the activities and approaches used to engage young people vary. Below are examples of the different types of programs that fall into this strategy.

Leadership and Civic Engagement

- Service learning projects
- Career readiness/internships
- Youth-led enrichment classes
- Community service
- Activism and public speaking
- Conflict resolution and restorative justice
- Community farming

Youth leaders at **East Oakland Youth Development Center’s Summer Cultural Enrichment Program (SCEP)** lead planning for their summer program and provide mentorship and instruction to young students. **Oakland Leaf Peace Camp** offers a project-based camp rooted in social justice, which aims to empower youth and promote community activism and cultural literacy.



[Our program] helps give these children opportunities to develop the tools and skills to channel these experiences... to **communicate in peaceful ways, self-regulate, [and] bring in an element of play** and fun to reframe the experience of being a child.

-Staff, Prescott Circus Theater

Academics

- Literacy support
- Math and STEM
- Project-based learning

Lincoln’s Oakland Freedom Schools uses a culturally responsive model that includes intensive academic literacy and reading instruction to increase self-esteem and advance academic skills.

Camp Edmo grounds its program in science, technology and nature, engaging youth in Maker Projects that combine collaborative design challenges with art and individual expression.



Students work in groups and lead projects together: Examples include building boats, airplanes, and boardgames. This allows them to **work collaboratively, listen to one another, and contextualize learning**. For example, after they build a rocket model, then they have discussions about gravity. This makes teaching and learning more engaging.

-Staff, Edventuremore! Camp Edmo

Art, Music, and Culture

- Circus training
- Theater
- Visual arts
- Dance
- Martial arts
- Field trips

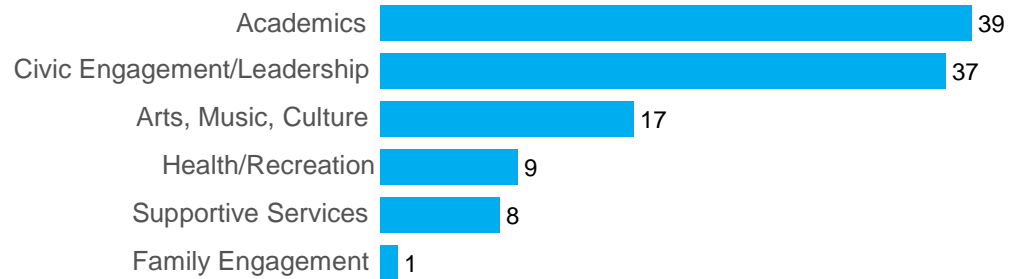
Prescott Circus Theater participants learn about the circus arts and develop performance skills. Youth often showcase their skills by performing at events throughout the community.

The tables below illustrate the amount of time youth spent in the activities offered by *Summer Youth Development and Empowerment* programs.

On average, youth spent the most time engaged in academic activities.

This was followed by enrichment activities, such as youth leadership and civic engagement, arts, music, and culture.

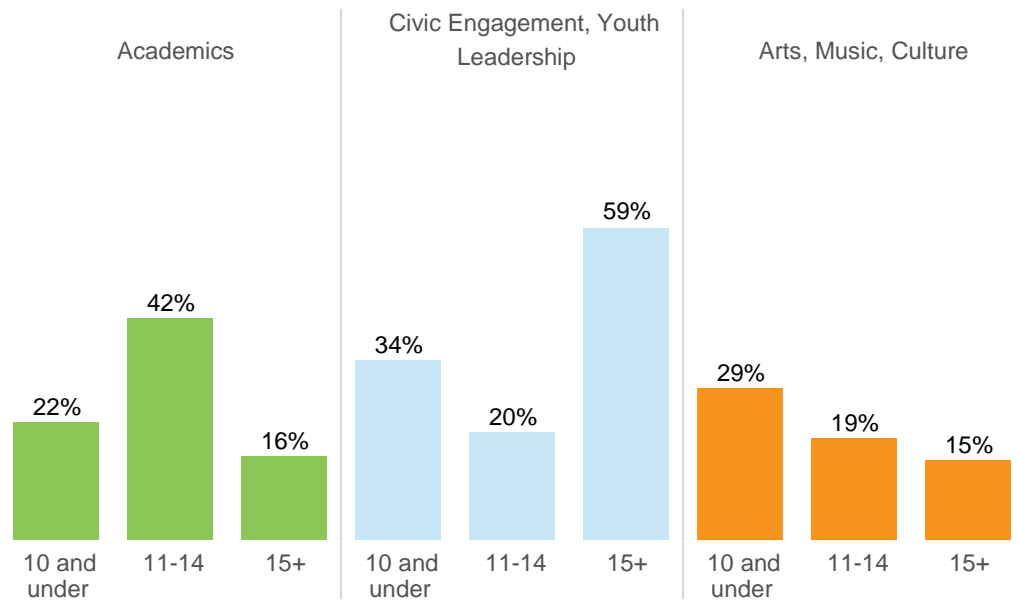
Average Hours by Type of Activity



Programs tailor services to the developmental needs of children at different ages.

Older youth spent the majority of their time in civic engagement and youth leadership because of their role as mentors and program leaders. Middle school-aged youth spent close to half of their time in academic activities, and younger students spent more time than others in arts, music, and culture.

Percent of Time Engaged in Most Common Activities by Age Group



“By the end of the summer, students gained an appreciation for **community, advocacy, the environment, Oakland, art, and culture**. They gained workplace experience through a wide range of externships. They gained self-confidence, the ability to work as a team, and honed skills including public speaking, research, critical thinking, and community outreach.

-Staff, Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment’s New Voices Are Rising

Outcomes

All youth participants had the opportunity to provide direct feedback on their program experience and their achievement of key outcomes via a survey. In all, 1,317 youth in summer programs identified how strongly they agreed with various statements tied to the key outcome areas illustrated below and on the following page. **On average, 70% of youth respondents agreed with statements related to youth development outcomes**, indicating that *Summer Youth Development and Empowerment* programs successfully supported youth in these areas.

“ There's the level of confidence... that comes with that empowerment sense of **achieving something you did not think you were going to be able to do before**. And that's in reflective work. We give students an opportunity to share that a lot.

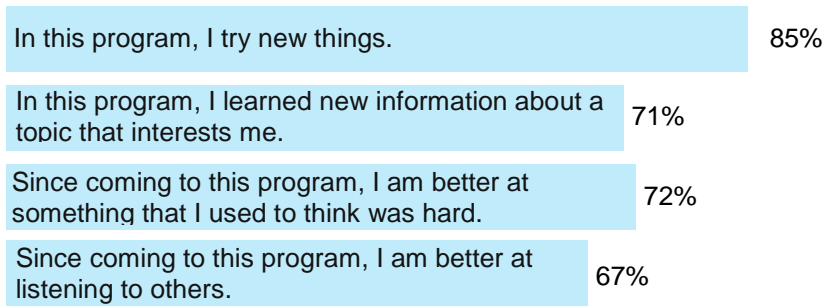
-Participant, Prescott Children's Theater

“ I truly believe that in the one summer that I've been here, it has changed my life. I love the **relationships I've built with the staff** and the way that the kids now look up to me and trust me with little bits of their lives.

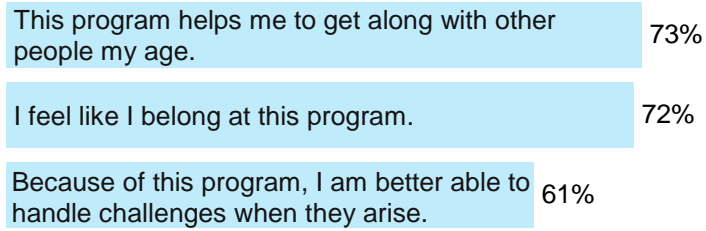
-Participant, East Oakland Youth Development Center's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program

Achievement of Youth Development Outcomes (frequency that youth agreed with questions tied to each outcome)

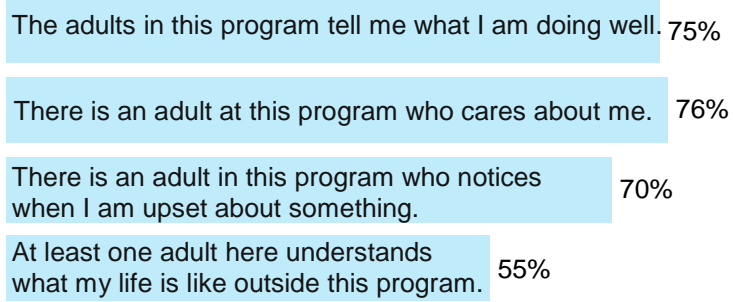
Development & Mastery of Skills



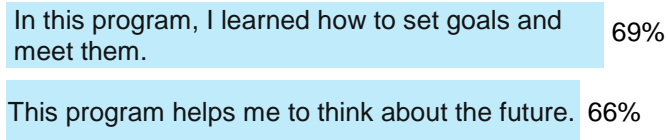
Increased Confidence & Self-Esteem



Greater Connections to Adults



Improved Decision-Making and Goal setting



Youth in the *Summer Youth Development and Empowerment* programs also had the opportunity to give feedback regarding their achievement of youth empowerment outcomes related to leadership, agency, and conflict resolution. These results are displayed below.

“

[One program] site focused on homelessness. Youth took an active role in providing the homeless community with tangible supplies. They delivered the packages and books to homeless encampments. This gave scholars an opportunity to not just do a good deed, but also **interact with one of our most vulnerable populations in the city.**

-Staff, Lincoln's Oakland Freedom Schools

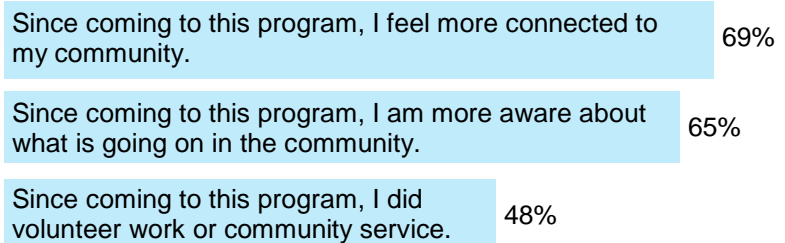
“

The program has taught me mindfulness because when other people get angry, you can calm them down with mindfulness and just tell them, "take a couple deep breaths," and then they're all good, and the person that they got into the conflict with, they can both be friends again.

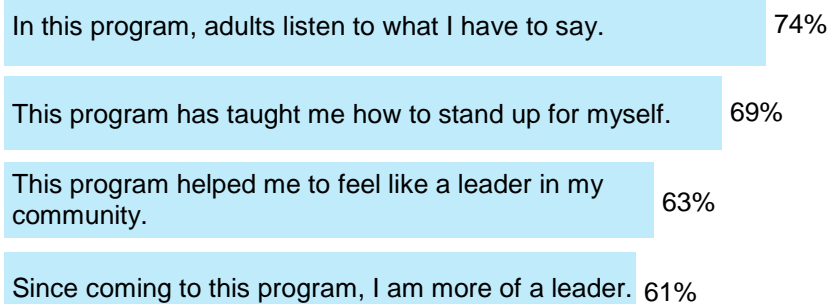
-Youth, Prescott Circus Theatre

Achievement of Youth Empowerment Outcomes
(frequency that youth agreed with questions tied to each outcome)

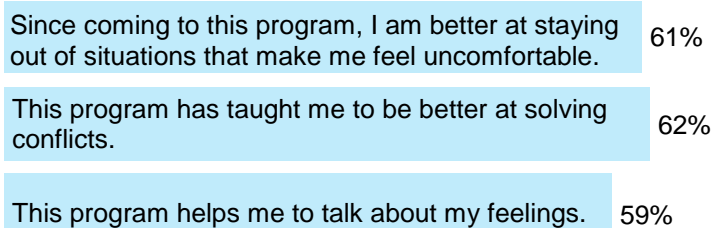
Increased Knowledge of and Engagement in Community



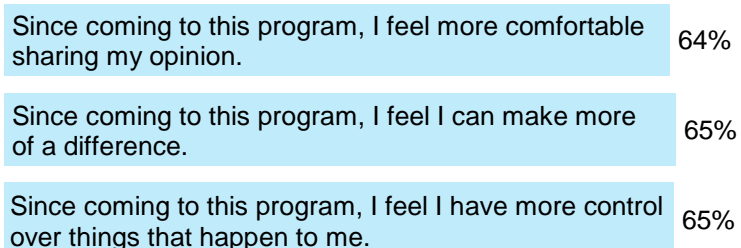
Increased Leadership Capacity



Increased Risk Avoidance and Conflict Resolution



Greater Empowerment & Agency

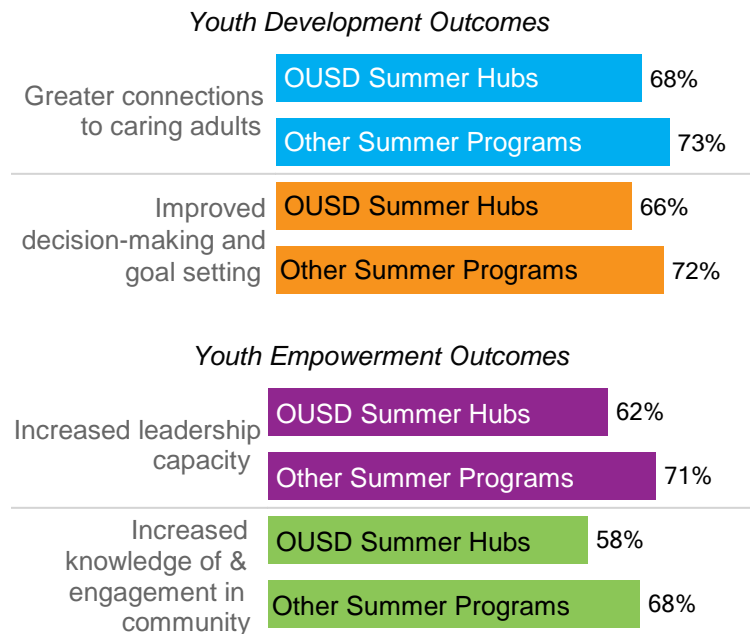


Some groups of youth reported stronger youth development and empowerment outcomes than others. Youth who participated in OUSD Summer Hub programs reported lower outcome scores than those who participated in other OFCY-funded summer programs. Participants at the community-based summer programs may have reported higher outcome scores because they were more likely to attend programs by choice and spent more time engaged in enrichment activities (arts, recreation, etc.). Participants at OUSD Summer Hub programs were required to attend academic intervention over the summer.

Youth development and empowerment outcome scores were higher among participants of community-based summer programs compared to OUSD summer hubs.

Students at OUSD summer hubs were required to attend academic intervention with OUSD teachers in the mornings and participated in enrichment from OFCY programs in the afternoon.

Youth Outcomes by Type of Program



“ We provide [trainings] where kids can help and manage their emotions as well as **make smart, safe choices** that they could use not only at camp, but beyond this. And that's one thing that Camp EDMO tries to do is try to give students **skills that impact their character** and their actions when they can take it beyond just summer camp.

-Staff, Edventuremore! Camp Edmo

“

I like the fact that I get to come here every day and **be part of a community**. It also gives me another family, a place that I feel I can be part of, knowing that they will be there for me, and they will help me through situations that I can't help myself through. So being in **Prescott Circus** makes me feel more ... **I guess, loved and cared for.**

-Participant, Prescott Circus Theatre



Photo Courtesy of East Oakland Youth Development Center's Summer Cultural Enrichment Program

Summer Youth Development and Empowerment Programs

- Aim High for High School-Aim High/Oakland
- Destiny Arts Center-Summer with Destiny
- East Bay Asian Youth Center-Camp Thrive
- East Oakland Youth Development Center-Summer Cultural Enrichment Program
- Edventuremore!-Camp Edmo
- Family Support Services of the Bay Area-Kinship Summer Youth Program
- Girls Incorporated of Alameda County-Concordia Summer
- Lincoln-Oakland Freedom Schools
- Oakland Leaf Foundation-Oakland Peace Camp (OPC)
- Prescott Circus Theatre-Prescott Circus Theatre Summer Program
- Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment-New Voices are Rising
- Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.-Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project