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grounded theory. Three to seven axial codes were identified for each question. Results showed that youth want to have more access to outdoor recreational activities. However, there are frequently considerable constraints for the youth to overcome including draws of technology, family obligations, and laziness. Safety was a recurring concern among participants. Understanding youth attitudes and perceptions allows managers to meet youth needs, program for youth interests, and provides a strong foundation for marketing and as a rational for funding grants.

An Agricultural Apprenticeship Program for Youth in Trinidad, West Indies: Can it Meet the Caribbean's Urgent Need for Younger Farmers? [Article 100501FA004]

Ganpat, Wayne G.; Webster, Nicole

To address the aging farmer population in Trinidad, W.I., a situation common to the Caribbean region, a Youth Apprenticeship Program in Agriculture (YAPA) was initiated. An assessment of its effectiveness was conducted in 2007. Results indicated that present trainees went into agriculture to make "additional" income and for self employment, with "contributing to national food security" being ranked lower. They were generally satisfied with the extent of field work, the experience gained and trainers' knowledge and skills. However, they would leave agriculture if they received other employment opportunities or if they were not provided with key resources such as land and soft loans. Past YAPA trainees had significantly changed (p<.05 level) attitudes regarding farming; being less optimistic than present trainees about the future of farming. Recommendations included greater involvement of young persons in the restructuring of the program and overall curriculum redesign to make it more technology oriented.

Investigating an Intervention Program Linking Writing and Vocabulary Development for Homeless Children [Article 100501FA005]

Sinatra, Richard; Eschenauer, Richard

The presented study investigated the effects of a four-week academic and activity – enriched summer program on vocabulary development and writing achievement of homeless children residing in traditional shelter facilities. When compared to controls the experimental students did not reveal gains in vocabulary and spelling as measured by two norm referenced tests. They did however demonstrate highly significant gains in writing ability based on the New York State standards criteria, reflecting five qualities of writing. On two project-developed instruments designed to measure improvement in book vocabulary and tennis skills, they showed significant increases based on analyses of their pre- and posttest scores. The program closed achievement gaps, fulfilled standards criteria, and may be the first of its kind in the homeless literature whereby students' writing development was compared to matched controls as vocabulary development occurred based on literary readings.

Effectiveness of School Based Recruitment Procedures and Modular Data Collections [Article 100501FA006]

Ahmed, Rashid; Leatherdale, Scott T.; Manske, Steve; Reid, Jessica; Burkhalter, Robin

Purpose: The School Health Action, Planning and Evaluation System (SHAPES) is a school-based data collection and knowledge exchange system designed to improve the health of youth. This paper outlines the design of the SHAPES study, examines the impact of different school recruitment models on participation rates, and examines the impact of using two different research modules during data collection on the prevalence of core behaviours being measured. Methods: In total, 76 schools were recruited from seven health regions and data were collected using the SHAPES Tobacco (TM) and Physical Activity Modules (PAM). Results: It was found that school recruitment rates were higher when both the researchers and the

health unit, worked together to recruit schools. Significant differences were found between students who completed the TM and students who completed the PAM with respect to body mass index, smoking susceptibility, the number of friends who smoke, and the number of active friends. Conclusions: This paper provides valuable real-world insight for future researchers interested in performing population-level school-based studies of youth risk behaviours. Our experience suggests that a modular approach to data collection is feasible and that recruitment rates are improved when researchers work in collaboration with health unit staff who have existing relationships with schools.

Program Articles

Engaging Youth in the Curriculum Development Process with Technology: The Nebraska State 4-H Youth Curriculum Committee [Article 100501PA001]

Garwood, Michelle J.; Fairchild, Patricia

Technology is changing the way youth learn and lead. This paper illustrates a successful case study of a program that actively engaged youth in the decision-making process through the use of an online community and virtual conferencing. Synergy was generated when the youth were mentored (virtually and in-person) by members of a parallel adult committee. Utilizing technology resources proved to be the key to building a vibrant, innovative and inclusive program that could overcome the barriers of time and travel constraints.

The Rhode Island Teen Institute: Positive Youth Development in Practice [Article 100501PA002]

Apsler, Robert; Puerini Del Sesto, Sandra; Formica, Scott W.; Mulligan, Maureen

This article describes the application of the positive youth development approach to promote and enhance leadership skills among middle and high school age peer leaders. The article reviews the goals of the positive youth development approach and describes how this approach was adopted and implemented by the Rhode Island Teen Institute (RITI), a comprehensive, residential prevention program founded in 1989. Data are presented from pretests and posttests administered during each of seven annual Institutes delivered between 2002 and 2009 with 775 youth. Participants in the RITI demonstrated significant gains in their leadership skills; an effect that persisted at a 3-month follow-up survey administered with high school age youth. Other significant findings and anecdotal effects are also discussed, such as creation by RITI graduates of a youth-led prevention program for elementary and middle school children.

Can 4-H/FCS Curricula and Program Activities Increase Self-Esteem in At-Risk Youth Ages 8-15? [Article 100501PA003]

Baker, Walter; Curry, Elizabeth

Nationally 4-H programs develop educational strategies and provide opportunities for youth and adults to work in partnership as they develop life skills. This study looks at some curricula that enhance self-esteem in at-risk youth ages 8 to 15. The *Coopersmith Self-Esteem Instrument (CSI)* measured changes in participants' self-esteem while the *Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI),* used only at the onset of the study, alert the staff of potential mental/emotional distress and other behavior that might require an immediate response. The *CSI* results showed increases in self-esteem. Girls showed a higher increase in self-esteem over the boys.

Extension Staffing Models to Serve 4-H Clientele in Changing Times [Article 100501PA004]

Gillespie, Donna R.; Kinder Cindy A.

In response to budget cuts in 2002, 4-H staffing models were restructured. The response by University of Idaho Extension was intended to continue meeting the needs of Idaho's citizens

with fewer UI Extension faculty. This staffing reorganization led to the formation of the District III 4-H Team who united to bring stronger 4-H programs to south central Idaho and expand programs to underserved audiences.

Information from surveys and interviews over the past seven years reflects the effectiveness, challenges and successes of the District III 4-H Team. In Making the Best Better: 4-H Staffing Patterns and Trends in the Largest Professional Network in the Nation (2007), author Kirk A. Astroth notes a nationwide change in 4-H leadership at the county level from 4-H faculty to program assistants or coordinators. The information gathered in our research may help other states determine staffing models to meet the needs of clientele in these changing times.

Research and Evaluation Strategies
Evaluating Youth Programs: An Overview of Practitioner Led Evaluations
[Article 100501RS001]

Duerden, Mat D.; Witt, Peter A.

Youth programs are prime contexts for the intentional facilitation of positive development. However, not all youth programs achieve positive outcomes equally. In order to promote the identification and dissemination of the characteristics and processes of effective youth programs, increased focus needs to be given to program evaluation. This article briefly reviews the main tenets of evaluation science in order to provide practitioners a roadmap for conducting their own evaluations. This includes an overview of different types of evaluations and key issues to consider when constructing an evaluation strategy such as targeting outcomes and developing program logic models.