

YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES



**2020
SUMMER
REPORT**

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WHO WE ARE

Beginning in 1994, Youth Enrichment Services, YES, was created to paint portraits for youth from urban communities of themselves as successful, empowered, and confident leaders. With a research-driven programming model and a youth-centered focus, YES has created a lasting legacy of successfully preparing youth for their academic, career, and overall futures. Through strong relationships with a variety of community entities, YES provides youth with chances to realize their goals and interests through empowerment, experiential opportunities, academic enrichment, and summer employment.

Mission

Provide socially and economically at-risk teens with opportunities to achieve success through mentorship, education, and enrichment programming

Vision

Empower communities to become their own best resource

Ethos

Every student matters and there are no throw away children

INTRODUCTION

Summer employment can have numerous economic and social benefits for young people, particularly those living in low-income communities. Yet, there are significant gaps in access and quality of summer programming for youth that fall along racial and class lines. These gaps have only widened as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to disproportionately impact Black and low-income families.

However, at YES we made the most of these circumstances and provided meaningful summer employment opportunities for over 100 young people. YES used this unique environment to reimagine summer programming and, as a result, increased the territory of youth served and created new opportunities in career experiences. This summer, we provided young people with an opportunity to engage in a variety of virtual, project-based career experiences that allowed for them to navigate career interests of their choice.

We are so proud of the students, mentors, staff, and stakeholders involved in YES's 2020 summer programming. Everyone involved navigated the challenges of working from home in a virtual environment, often with limited resources, to advance YES's mission.



VALUE OF SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Summer employment has a number of key benefits related to the social development of young people (Heller 2014; Gelber, Isen, and Kessler 2014; Sum, Khatiwada, and Ross 2014). For youth growing up in low-income neighborhoods these opportunities for summer employment can often represent even greater benefit as they provide critical opportunities for economic advancement.

Without
summer support,

1/3

of first-generation
college students fail to
enroll in the subsequent
Fall semester.

(Castleman et al. 2014)

Our society and economy are ever changing and it is vital that we provide our young people with the experiences and skills necessary to be competitive in these modern systems. Summer employment for youth, particularly youth in low-income families, allows youth to invest in themselves, their families, and their communities.



Skills Development



Increased Earnings



**Improved
Educational Outcomes**



Pipeline of Skilled Workers



**Reduced involvement in
the criminal justice system**

SUMMER PROGRAMMING & COVID-19

Across all communities, out-of-school providers are struggling to continue providing high-quality, accessible programming for youth as the economic, social, and political impact of the COVID-19 pandemic plays a role in both short and long-term decision-making. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic there were gaps in the accessibility and quality of summer programming along racial and economic lines that have only widened as the consequences of the pandemic continue.

Based on a recent survey of out-of-school programming providers,

81%

are concerned about losing funding for programming.

64%

are concerned about closing permanently.

There are significant concerns amongst summer programming providers for low-income youth around food insecurity and the lack of technological equipment and resources that do not exist for providers in higher-income areas. Overall, many summer programming organizations have faced serious challenges in ensuring the young people they serve are receiving both basic needs and resources and high-quality program opportunities to continue their social and emotional development.

Programs serving primarily higher-income youth are more likely to be physically open than those serving primarily lower-income youth.

SUMMER 2020: BY THE NUMBERS

Over
11,000
hours worked

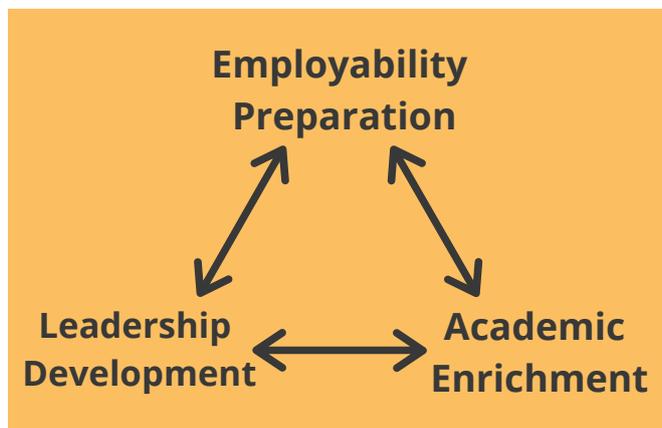
Over
\$7,000
in training wages

Over
1,000
training hours

Almost
\$84,000
in student wages

PROGRAM MODEL

YES's summer program model pushes beyond summer employment opportunities and provides participants with experiences that combine these career exposure programs with leadership development and academic enrichment skills.



These interconnected tenants of the program model ensure youth participating in YES summer programming gain skills that transcend their summer employment experiences.

	Leadership Development	Employability Preparation	Academic Enrichment
Summer Scholars (Ages 14-15)	Pre-Employment Training	Summer Work for Success	Summer Magic
Advanced Summer Scholars (Ages 14-18)	Pre-Employment Training	Summer Work Placement	Summer Study for Success
YES Veterans + Alumni (Ages 18-21)	Project Management Plans	Internships	Independent Project

SUMMER SCHOLARS

Summer Scholars began their summer undergoing pre-employment trainings that prepared them for their 30-hour apprenticeship experiences. These trainings provided participants with a wide variety of skills and knowledge including self-

interest identification and how it impacts their career interests, the job application process, and workplace etiquette. Within these topics youth successfully developed resumes, cover letters, job applications, business cards, and participated in practice job interviews.

Background

- Ages 14-15
- Entering high school
- Limited work experience
- Cohort-based



SUMMER WORK FOR SUCCESS

After pre-employment training, youth engaged in the Summer Work for Success program in which they participated in apprenticeships that allowed them to complete professional-quality deliverables while having access to one-on-one mentoring. These apprenticeships spanned a wide range of topics in order to best align with each participants interests and skillsets.

Social Media Content Specialist

Managed health-focused social media campaigns by producing weekly posts, promoting the work of their peers, and learning social media-related skills.

Community Engagement Specialist

Assisted staff by communicating with the community through the distribution of surveys, educational materials, and materials related to YES research.

Graphic Designer

Assisted staff with the creation of health-focused visual materials to engage the larger community on organizations social media and blogs.

YES Blogger

Developed weekly, community-focused content to connect stakeholders with Summer Scholars in a variety of formats to engage with the greater community.

SUMMER MAGIC

The 2020 Summer Magic program, “Exploring Health Literacy Through Community-Based Research”, provided academic enrichment for youth. Through the six-week program youth gained knowledge on the inequities present in the social and structural determinants of health.

They also gained skills in community-based research and working within a team-setting. The program culminated with all participants engaging in group research projects related to a topic within health literacy.

Week 1 CliftonStrengths Youth Explorer

Week 2 Health Literacy Definitions

Week 3 Health Literacy Big Picture Model

Week 4 Problem-solving model based on freedom, responsibility & social stability

Week 5 Participation and Collaboration

Week 6 Collecting, analyzing and reporting data



Public Transportation and Public Health

Abiha Syed, Trinity Donald, Ca'Myia Snowden, James Kronenbitter
Youth Enrichment Services | Annual Research Expo | August 13, 2020



Background

This project is about finding how the public is affected healthwise by public transit. We are also trying to see how the public feels about public transportation. We are asking these questions because public transportation has been linked to health problems, due to overcrowding and unsanitary conditions.

Problem Statement

Transportation is one of the major determinants of health given it can easily affect the health of passengers in a negative way. Transportation is not accessible for everybody depending on their conditions. Transportation impacts one's ability to access healthcare, as those without it have difficulty receiving the proper medical attention. Those who have public transportation available to them have to deal with poor conditions and overcrowding leading to health concerns. Therefore, public transportation plays an important role in the health of the community.

Research Question

To what extent does riding public transit impact families' health?

Purpose

The purpose of our experiment was to see if public transportation has an impact on one's health.

Race	African American (55%)
Age	15 or under and 21-25 (20% each)
Gender	Women (85%)
Education	Bachelor's Degree (30%)
Household status	Two Parent Home (35%)
Household Income	\$50,000 or more (37.5%)

Targeted Population

When sending out our survey, we were targeting people who used public transportation.

Hypothesis

There is a relationship between one's public transportation use and their health.

Results

Our results reveal that most people have not gotten sick from public transportation, and they feel safe (healthwise) while riding publicly. The respondents think that the transit was not terribly clean. Most respondents ride the bus, and they mainly ride multiple times a week. The respondents ride publicly for various reasons. Not having access to public transportation would affect the community's ability to get to school and work. It would make some people helpless, and others would feel terrible.

Call to Action

A general theme that was found in the people we surveyed was that the majority of them relied immensely on public transportation, and if that was taken away from them, then many of them could not get to their destinations. Therefore, public transportation should be as safe and sanitary as possible.

Survey Question	Majority Opinion	Total Respondents	Percentage of Majority
On a scale of 1-5 how sanitary is public transportation?	3	40	47.5%
Do you feel safe while riding publicly (healthwise)?	Yes	40	55%
How has the overcrowdedness affected your health?	No impact	40	80%
How often do you ride public transportation?	Multiple times a week	40	30%

Summer Magic Research Poster



ADVANCED SUMMER SCHOLARS

Similarly to YES's Summer Scholars, this summer the Advanced Summer Scholars cohort participated in pre-employment training. This training provided youth with a variety of learning opportunities in order to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for them to be successful in

their summer work placements. After learning about how their self-interest can manifest in their career interests, youth were tasked with producing job applications, resumes, cover letters, and business cards in order to prepare them for formal job interview practice.

Background

- Ages 14-18
- High school students
- Prior work experience
- Cohort-based



SUMMER WORK PLACEMENT

As previously mentioned, the transition into virtual programming limited the style of work experiences YES could provide youth. Rather than the traditional career exposure process, this summer our Advanced Summer Scholars were able to engage in one of six courses taught by industry mentors. These courses varied greatly in the topics they focused on but all aimed to provide knowledge, skills, and career exposure to the young people involved. Within each course youth learned from industry mentors, engaged in enriching activities, and gained an understanding of the potential career paths within the given field. Work placements culminated in projects that demonstrated participants gained understanding and skills.



Sport Management & Marketing



Culinary Arts



African American History & Social Justice



Gaming & Technology



Business & Entrepreneurship

SUMMER STUDY FOR SUCCESS

Similarly to this year's Summer Magic program, the 2020 Summer Study for Success program focused on developing community-based research skills amongst participants. Youth in this program were able to select their own topics to research in small groups, providing them with greater agency over their academic enrichment journeys this summer. Through virtual survey distribution, youth were able to collect, analyze, and report data out on their topics of research

- Week 1** Purpose of research, research context, and research problem
- Week 2** Develop testable question, hypothesis, and literature review
- Week 3** Research methodology development
- Week 4** Data Collection and Analysis
- Week 5** Poster Creation and Development

Summer Study for Success Schedule

SUMMER STUDY FOR SUCCESS

Background

Studies have shown that people of color, particularly black individuals, are not receiving proper medical treatment. Some are misdiagnosed with common disorders like ADHD and Schizophrenia. While misdiagnosis occurs, there are also individuals living with unaware disorders. The mental health of many black people are not valued or prioritized.

Problem Statement

Medical examinations often neglect the mental health of those in the black community. False or no diagnosis is a risk and can negatively impact those individuals. This issue is prevalent in our schools, hospitals and social justice system. Results can be reflected on the physiological behaviors in such communities.

Research Question

How does data display the negative impact on black communities due to inaccurate or no physiological examinations? How can we address the issue and help those in these communities?

Hypothesis

Race/ethnicity determines your diagnosis and/or mental health support and does affect specific groups of people or communities.

Purpose

We seek to better understand how psychological misdiagnosis within this group of people affects whole communities.

The Psychological State of the Black Community

Deja S. Leveige and Abigail E. Armah-Lyle
Youth Enrichment Services | Annual Research Expo | August 13, 2020

Race	Black/African American
Age	15 and under
Gender	Female
Education	9 - 12 (highschool)
Household status	Single parent home
Household Income	Unsure



Survey Question	Respondents	Total	Percentage
Have you ever had a professional mental health assessment?	31 (No)	40	77.5%
Do you have access to a counselor?	17 (No)	40	42.5%
Have you or anyone that you know been misdiagnosed by a healthcare professional?	14 (Yes)	40	35%
Have you or anyone around you developed an addiction as a coping mechanism? (drugs, drinking etc.)	20 (Yes)	40	50%
Has money ever affected your decision to seek or receive psychological support?	36 (No)	40	90%

Targeted Population

African Americans of any age, from any neighborhood with any amount of education.

Results

We sought to explore the mental health in the black community. Results reveal that our findings are true: the mental health in the black community is a prominent issue. We were curious to know if race or ethnicity was a determining factor as to the amount of mental health support or the diagnosis a black person will receive. In our survey we asked if any of our respondents were having or had trouble seeking help due to money and though only 10% answered yes, many said they do not have access to a counselor. This suggests that members of the black community are likely not receiving proper support when it comes to their mental health. Although only 35% of our survey respondents answered yes to being misdiagnosed, it's an alarming number to reveal that many black community members are given false or misinformation. Lastly, we asked our respondents if they have a stigma, fear or disliking of hospitals and 50% said yes. This reveals that the treatment of Black Americans has instilled a fear or resentment of medical fields that will lead to many black people going psychologically untreated.

Conclusion

As our research concluded, black american's mental health is an important and relevant topic that deserves to be further studied. Other researchers should further evaluate how or why black mental health issues have been on an incline. They should also look into the reason for psychological physicians misdiagnosing african american at an alarming rate. It should be noted or made a priority to find out how we can make counselors more accessible in predominantly black communities. As well as figuring out how we can support the black members of our community.

Do Violent Video Games Make People More Violent?

Jaden Andrews

Youth Enrichment Services | Annual Research Expo | August 13, 2020

Introduction

Simply put, consistent exposure to violent video games may have lasting effects on how people behave in their real world experiences. The problem is that even with the ratings of all the games that are played, people are not playing them at the correct ages. There is no system to regulate minors from buying games that are rated M for mature. Consumption of violent video game playing has been linked to societal violence, in previous studies. It is unclear how relevant this is currently. Investigation is necessary.

Research Question

To what extent does consistent exposure to violent video games translate into real world violence?

Hypothesis

There is little to no connection between violent video game consumption and worldly violence. Players who engage in violent video gaming are not more violent.

Methods

Researcher conducted a survey, developed in a course session, on how violent video games affected a person's violent acts in life.

The first set dealt with the consent agreement, the demographics of the person taking the test and community needs.

The second set included my research related questions.

Respondents were asked questions like:

1. Do you believe that video games have a bad effect on your mental state?
2. Is there an increase in your aggression when you play violent video games?
3. Would you like to see a better system in place that stops people from playing video games that might be inappropriate?

Results

Descriptive Statistics

Of those surveyed, my typical survey respondent fits a unique profile. This unique profile consists of being an African American male between the ages of 16-20 with a highest level of education being between the 9th and 12th grade that lives in a two parent home, with a household income of more than \$50,001.

Inferential Statistics

My study sought to explore how in-game violence affects violence in the real world. Results show that the majority of the people who participated in the survey didn't think that in-game violence affects real world violence.



Discussion

When asked, "Do you think the current rating M for Mature 17+ stops younger aged people from playing those video games." Most survey respondents said no it does not. In the following question, "Would you like to see a better system in place that stops people from playing video games that might be inappropriate." It was a split between yes and no which was not to be expected due to the last question.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study's findings will help those who are willing to make a change to the current system of games. In following studies, researches should keep in mind that not everyone thinks video games are detrimental to society.

YES VETERANS + ALUMNI

YES Veterans and Alumni have already experienced many opportunities for career exposure through their previous experiences with the YES summer program model. As such, youth in this group were provided with creative freedom to conceptualize, develop, and pick projects that aligned with their self- and career interests. The project management plans included detailed timelines and goals that had to be approved by program staff. Once participants received project approval they carried out these projects for 25 hours per week.

Background

- Ages 18-21
- High school graduates
- Ample work experience
- Independent work



INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

Below are just four examples of the impressive, creative, and thought-provoking final products our YES veterans produced over a six-week period. This program format allowed for our youth to express their own interests while also developing key professional and personal skills that would help them in their future endeavors.



Uplifting Black Women Initiative

Photo Essay Collection by
Jaquan Brockman



ArchAngel T-Shirts

Small business created by
True Magwood



Deconstructing Male Fragility

A podcast by
Glen Almon, Keith Jamison, Selena Williams



Keep Goin'

An album by
Jordan McNeal and Selena Williams

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Engrained in the mission of YES is a passion for preparing youth for future success. This organizational tenet did not disappear as programming shifted to a virtual space. Rather, YES staff seized the summer employment program to prepare youth for the new virtual working environment that they will likely be entering. This shift allowed for youth to continue building their economic capacity while also preparing themselves for virtual career opportunities and academic success.

The ability to quickly and smoothly transition into virtual program implementation is a testament to the strength of YES as an organization along with the strength of YES students, staff, and communities. That being said, as virtual programming continues on, the lessons learned from this initial experience must be utilized to further address the accessibility and equity concerns this virtual environment presents. Finally, with future virtual programming YES strives to amplify the youth-focused development that has led to the ample success YES and its youth have continued to achieve.



CONCLUSION

In closing, YES would like to acknowledge the students, staff, industry mentors, and everyone involved in 2020 summer programming for their hard work, flexibility, and perseverance. This summer presented unforeseen challenges and everyone involved ensured YES's programming could be a bright spot in a difficult year. We are extremely proud of the young people who pushed through technical and other challenges to prepare themselves for successful futures in our ever-changing world and produce incredible products during their time in the program.



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