



College and Career Readiness

4-H COMMON MEASURES 2.0, 2019-20



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

Introduction

4-H learning experiences are based on the principles and practices of Positive Youth Development (PYD). PYD views young people as vital resources with assets and potentials to be developed rather than as problems to be managed.¹ 4-H programs prepare youth to be successful in college and workforce ready. Addressing the career readiness skill gap in youth, 4-H experience provides youth with learning opportunities to develop skills necessary to thrive in life and prepare for a career after high school. 4-H staff and volunteers create an environment conducive for the youth to explore career paths, learn the skills, practice, and experience the career through activities.¹

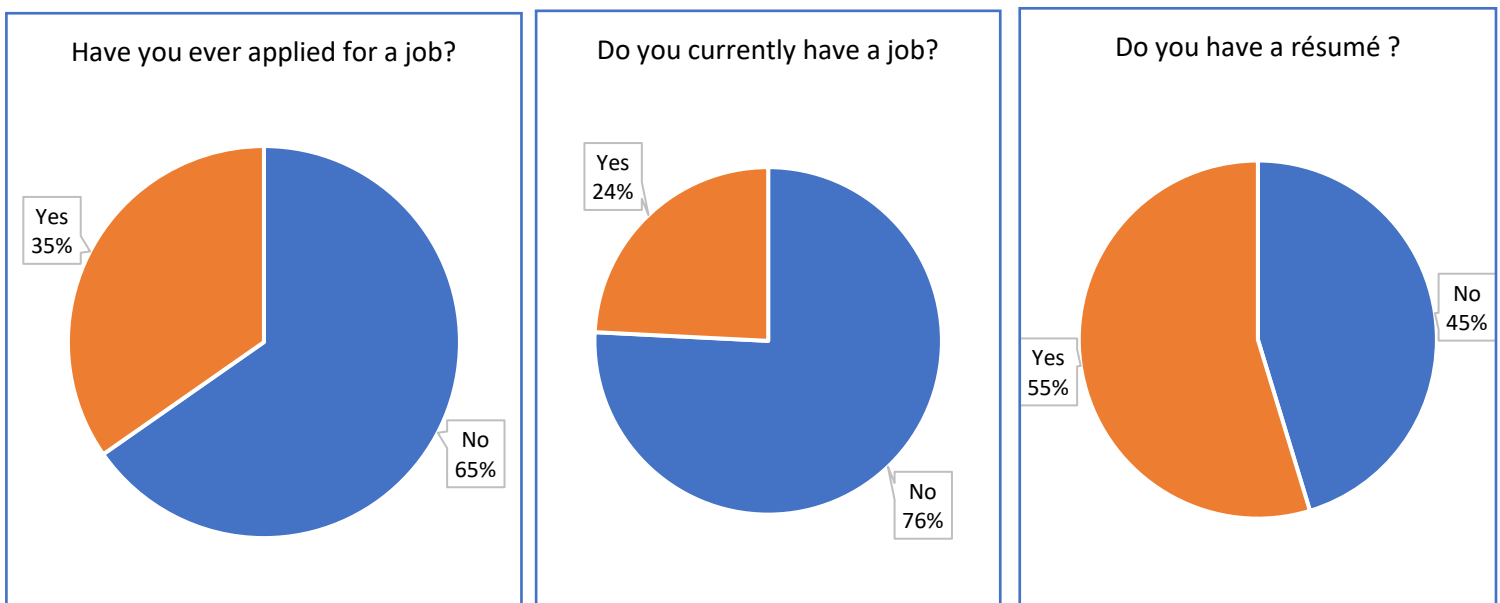
This report summarizes findings from a College and Career Readiness Survey completed by a sample of 4-H members during the 2019-20 program year. The College and Career Readiness Survey is a part of the National 4-H Common Measures 2.0 developed to measure PYD outcomes. The College and Career Readiness Survey focuses on indicators primarily related to professionalism and college and career decision making.

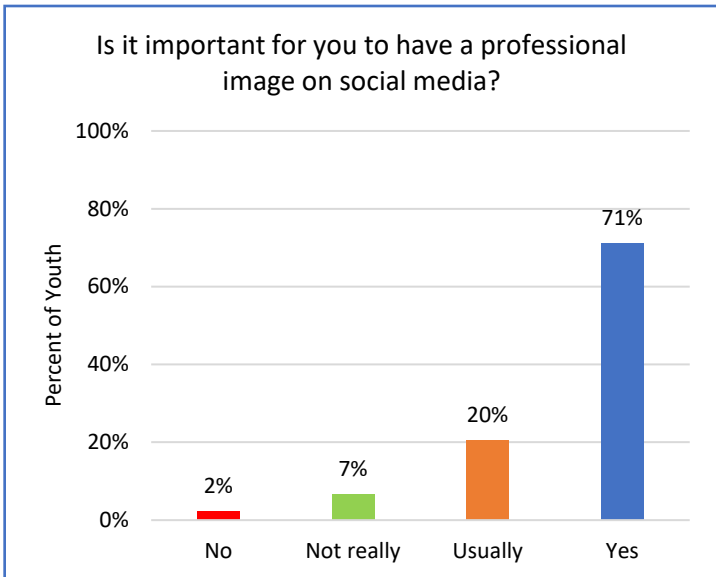
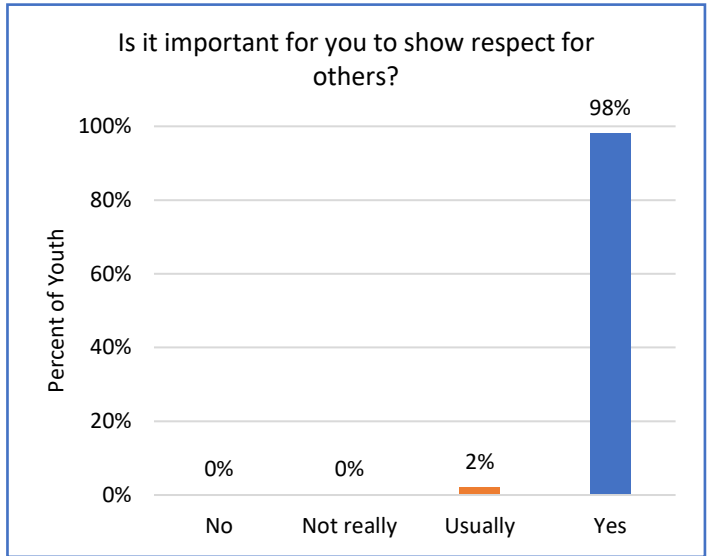
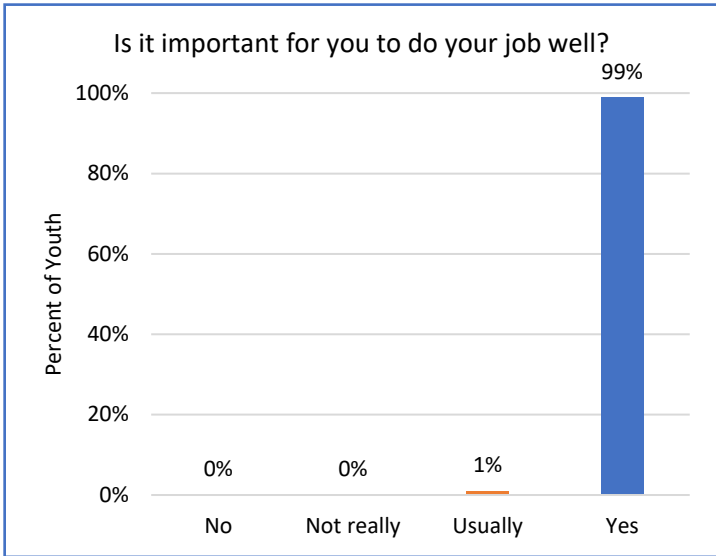
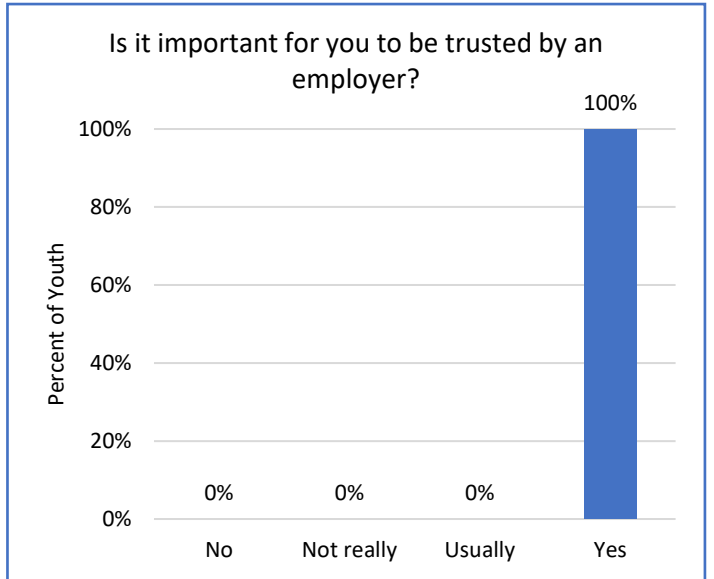
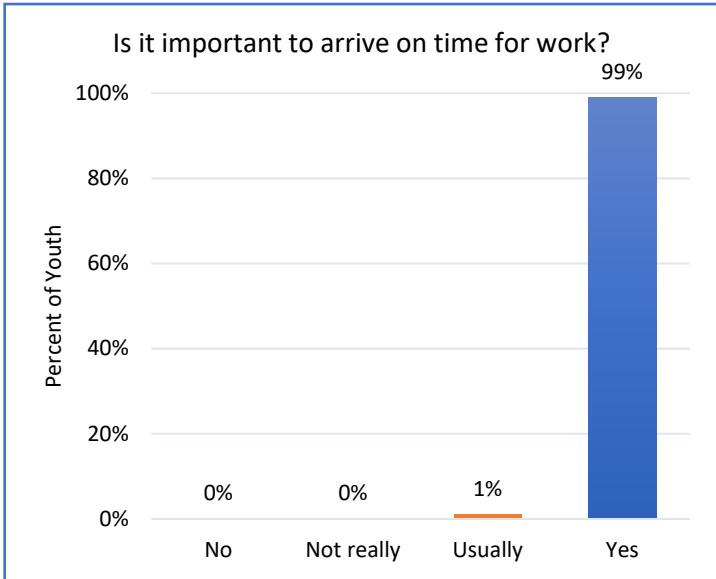
Participants' 4-H Experience

Demographics

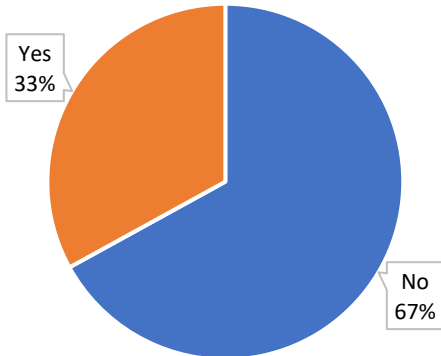
In total, 95 youth completed the College and Career Readiness survey. Youth were between the ages of 14 and 19, with the average age being 15.92 years (standard deviation= 1.41 years). Nearly 86.7% of respondents spent three or more years in 4-H. The sample was 77% female and 23% male. The racial breakdown of the sample was: 61.3% White, 2.7% African American, 6.7% Asian, 10.7% Multiple, 16.0% Hispanic or Latino and 2.7% Undetermined. Youth reported living on farms (17.3%), in rural areas (25.3%), towns (22.7%), suburbs (16%), and city areas (18.7%). Results are shown in the figures that follow. (Percentages may add up to 99% or 101% due to rounding.)

Professionalism

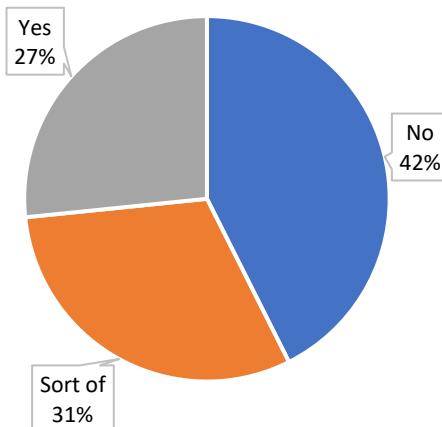




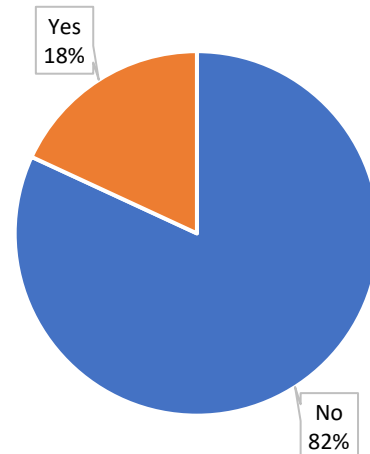
At 4-H, did you work on your résumé?



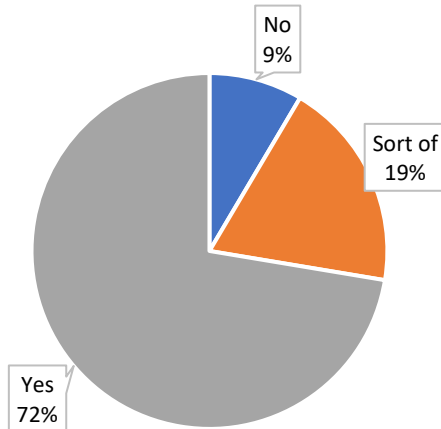
At 4-H, did you learn how to prepare for an interview?



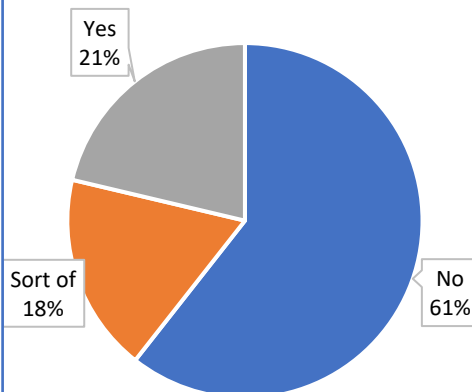
At 4-H, did you do a mock interview?



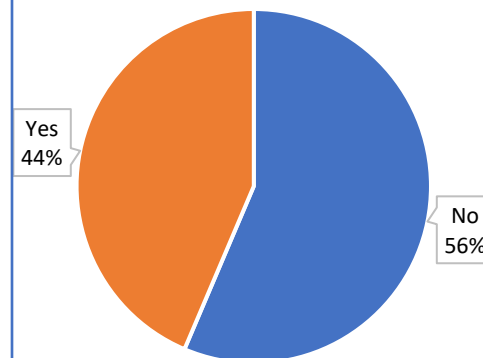
At 4-H, did you learn how to act professionally?



At 4-H, did you talk about how to have a professional image on social media?

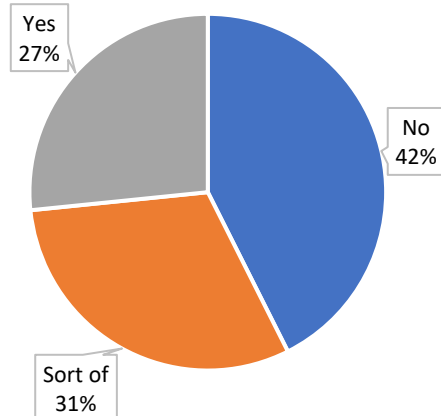


Have you encouraged your friends to have a professional image on social media?

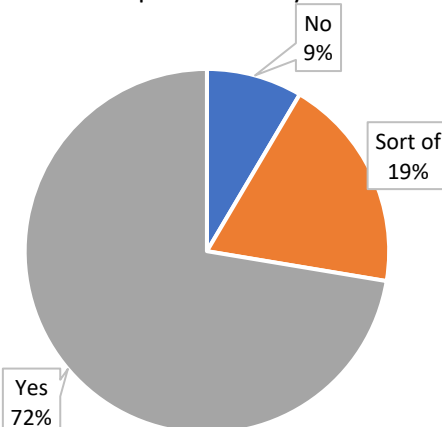


College Decision Making

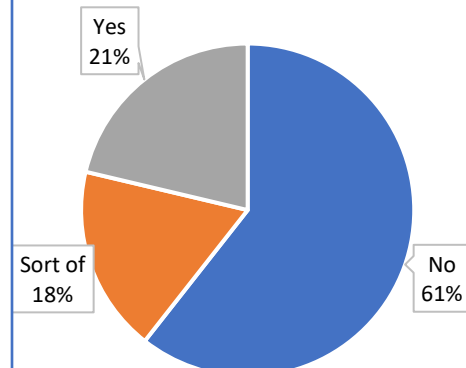
At 4-H, did you learn how to prepare for an interview?



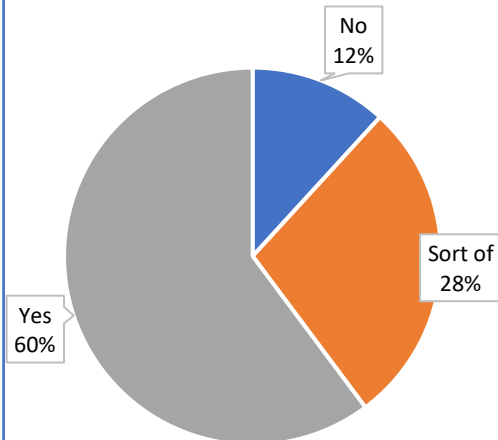
At 4-H, did you learn how to act professionally?



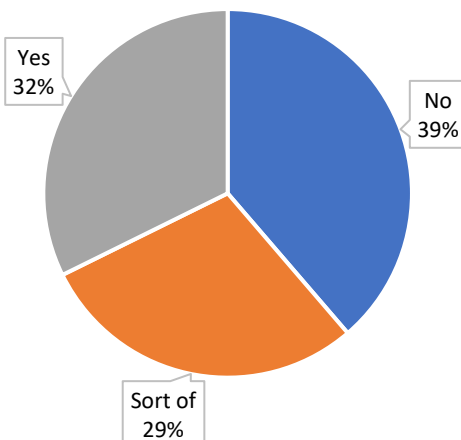
At 4-H, did you talk about how to have a professional image on social media?



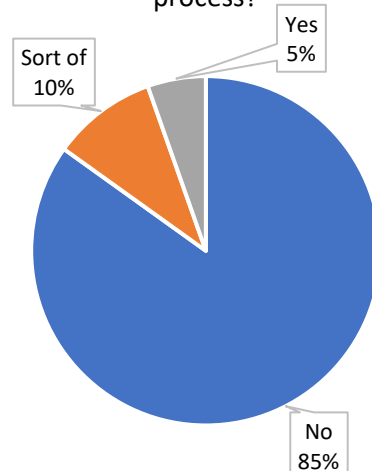
Do you have an idea of what you would like to major in?



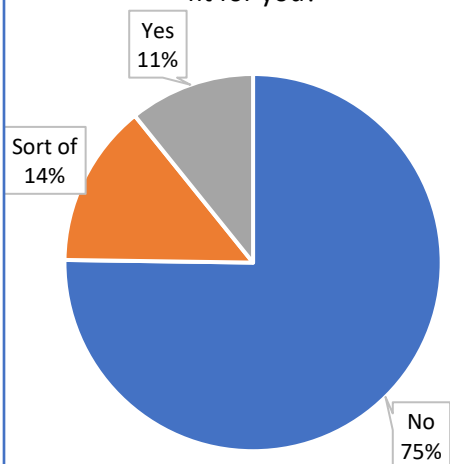
At 4-H, did you learn about scholarships?



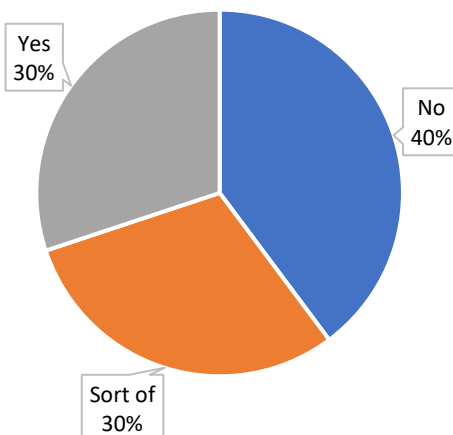
At 4-H, did you learn about the college application process?



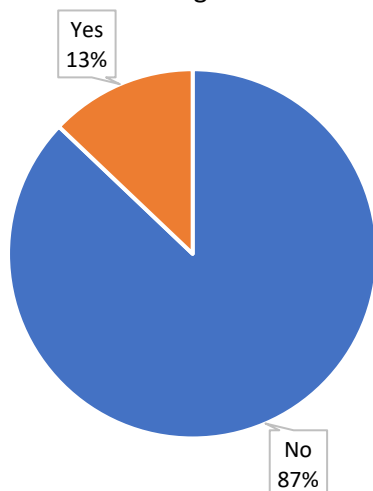
At 4-H, did you learn about colleges that might be a good fit for you?



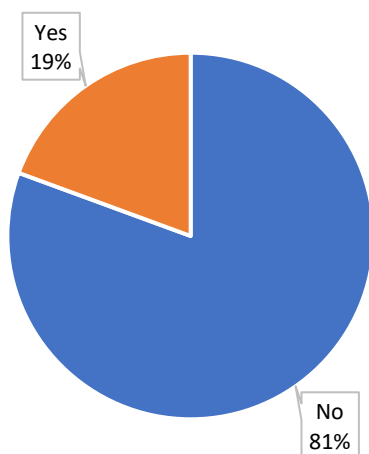
Have you shared what you learned about preparing for college with others?



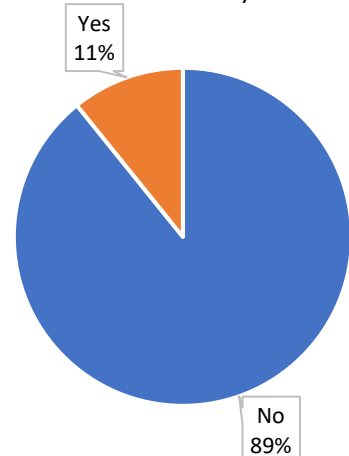
At 4-H, did you research colleges?



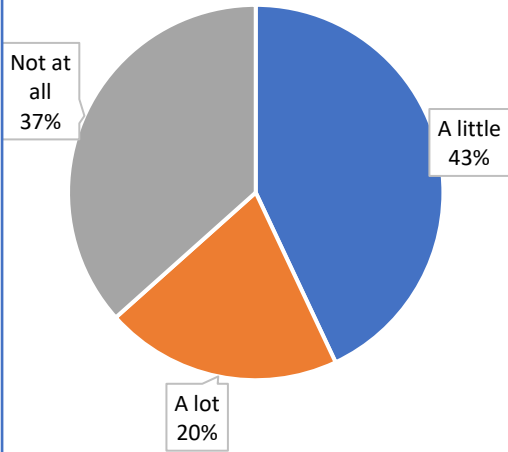
At 4-H, did you tour a college?



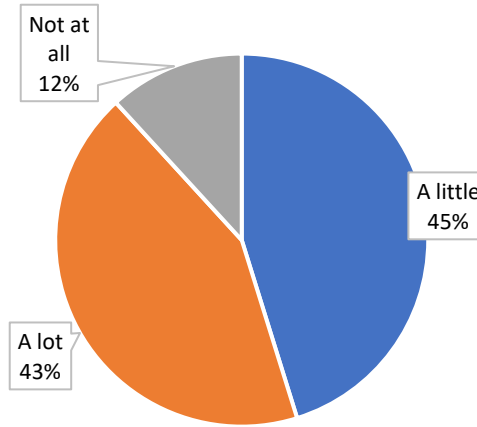
Have you filled out FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?



How much has 4-H helped you in your decisions about college?

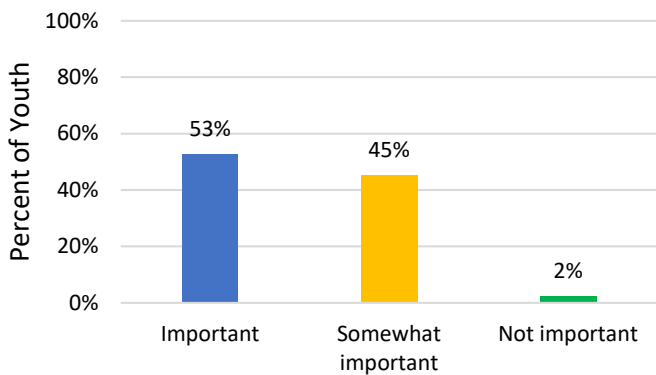


How much have you thought about how to pay for college?

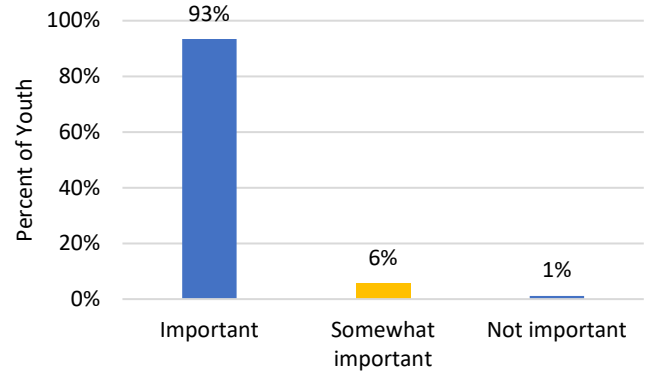


Career Decision Making

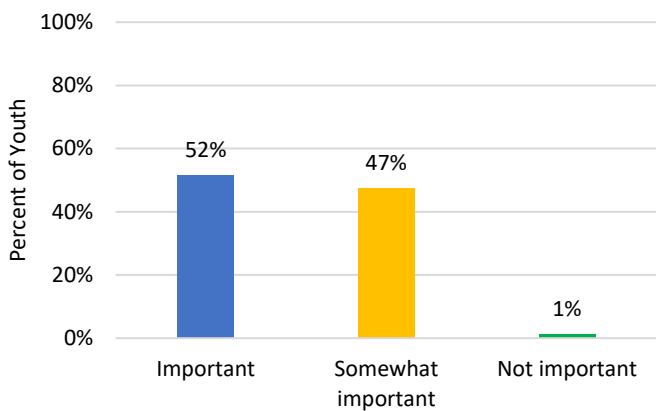
When choosing a career, how important is it for you to live where you want?



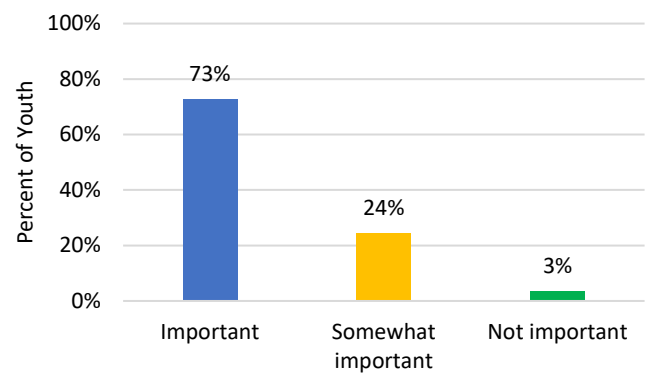
When choosing a career, how important is it to be passionate about the work you do?

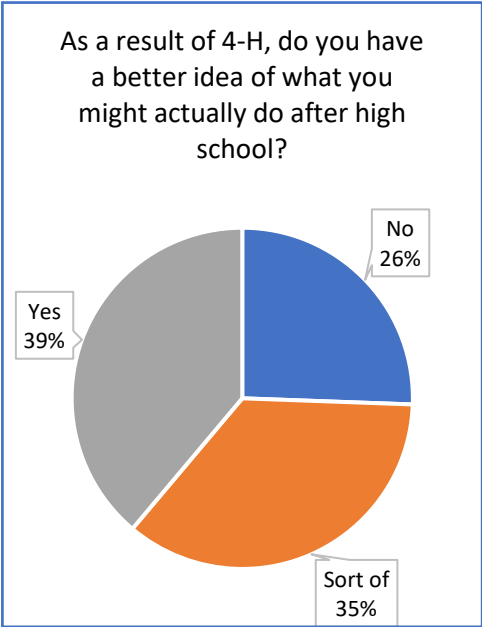
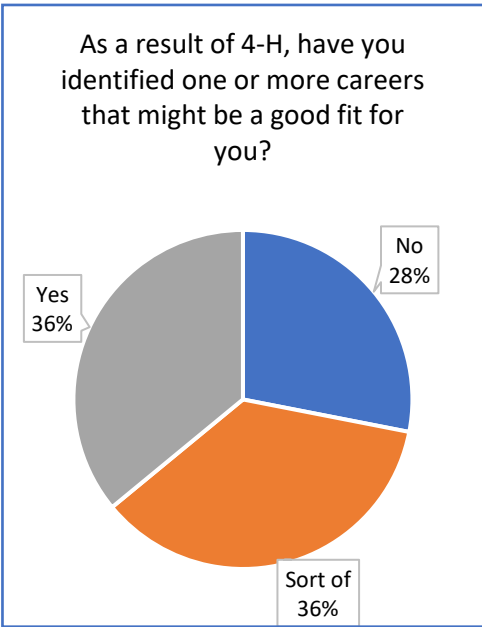
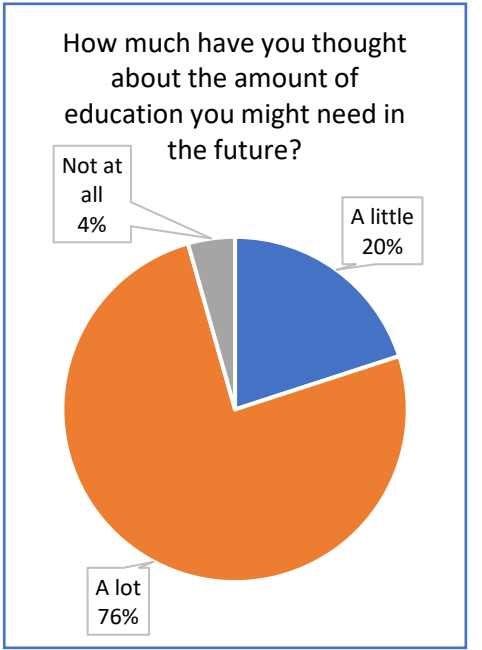
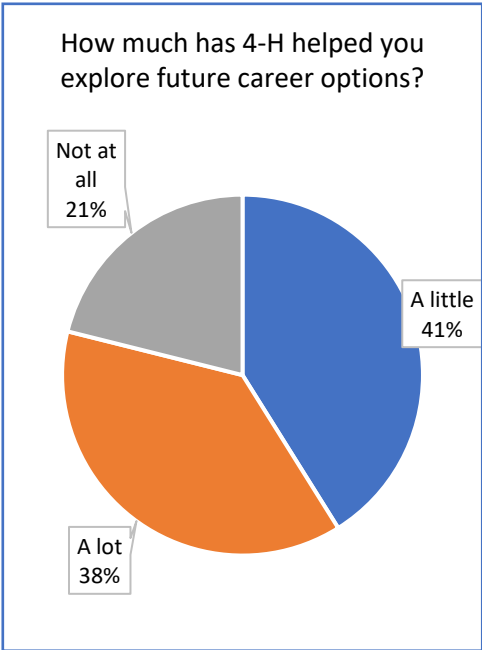
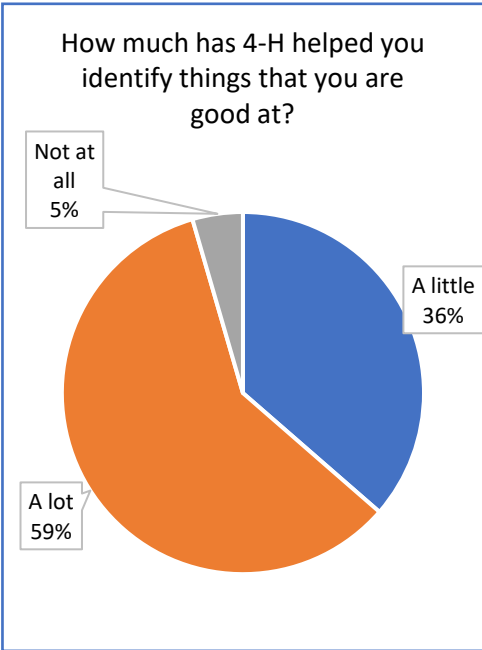
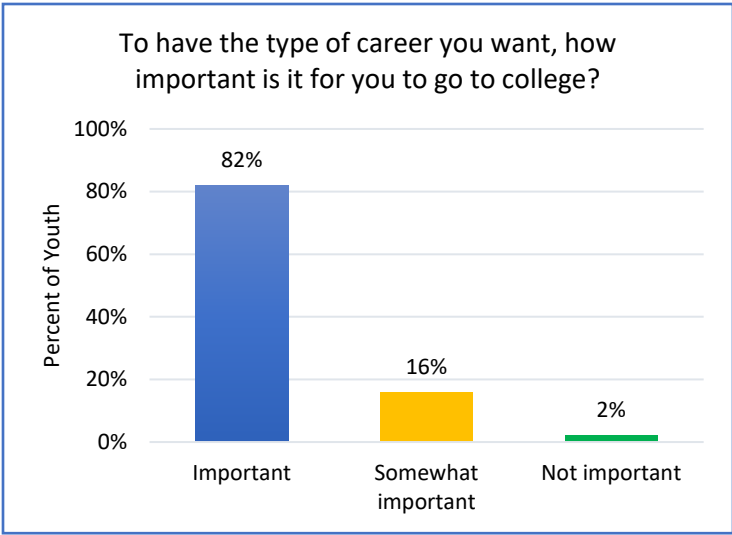


When choosing a career, how important is your salary?

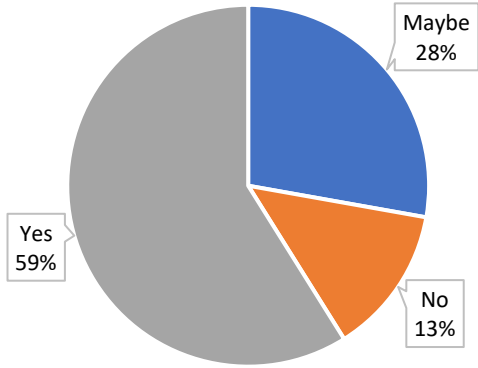


How important is it for you to have a career where you can make a difference in the lives of others?

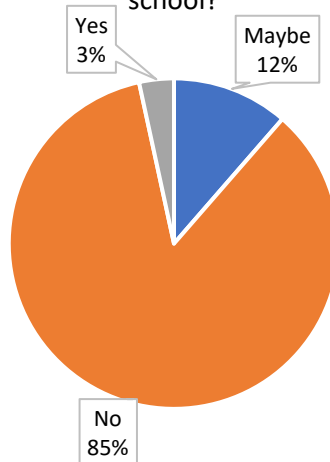




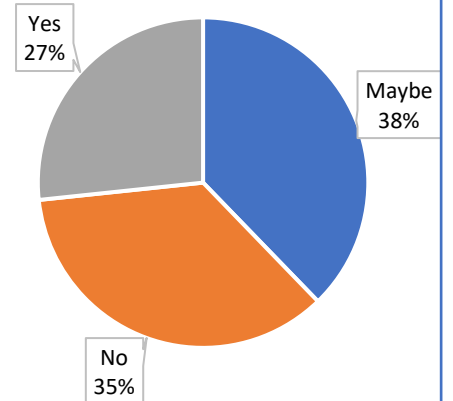
Are you thinking about getting a job in the year after you finish high school?



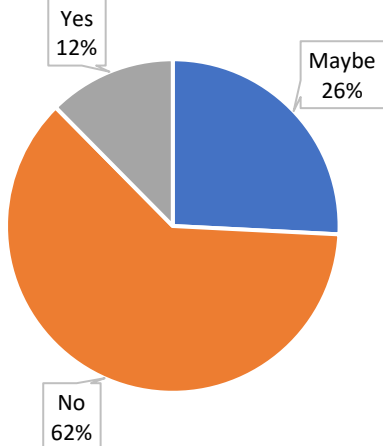
Are you thinking about joining the military in the year after you finish high school?



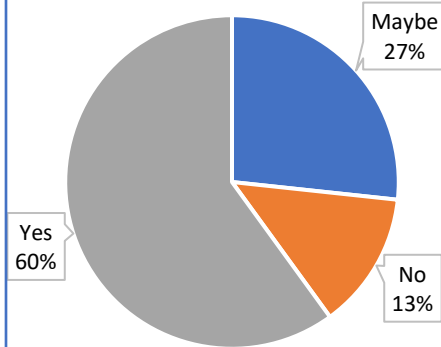
Are you thinking about attending a community college in the year after you finish high school?



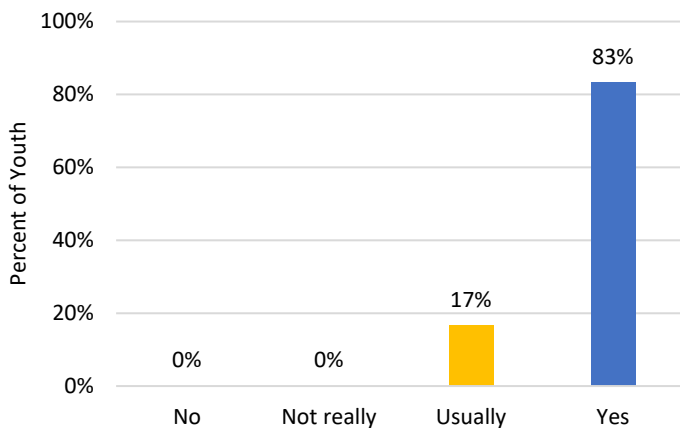
Are you thinking about attending a vocational or technical college in the year after you finish high school?



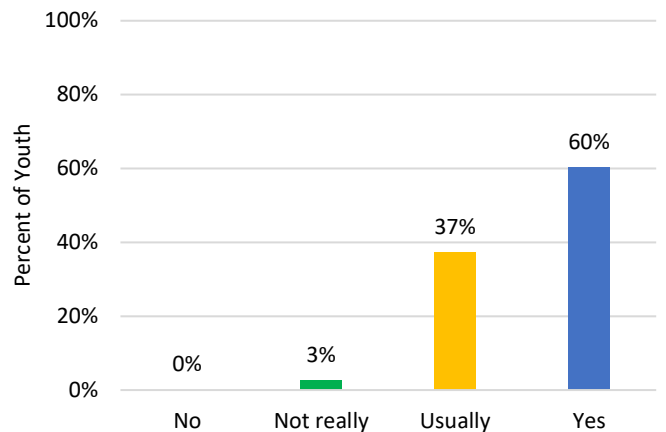
Are you thinking about attending a 4-year college in the year after you finish high school?

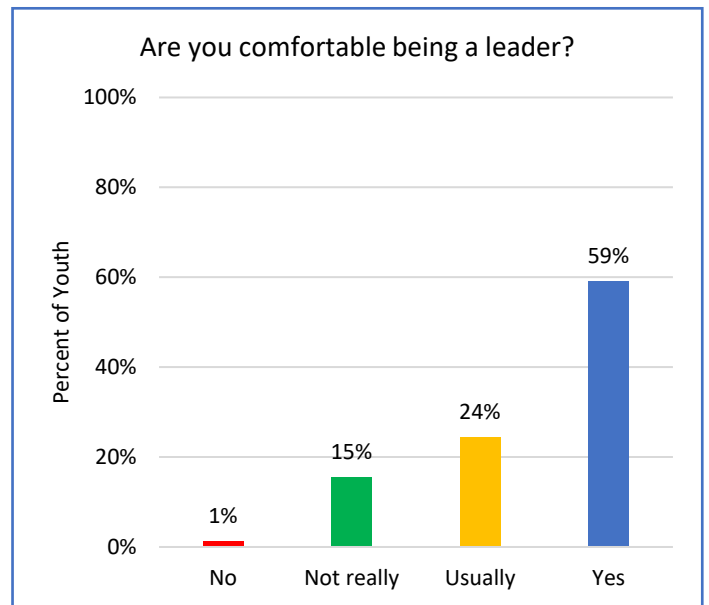
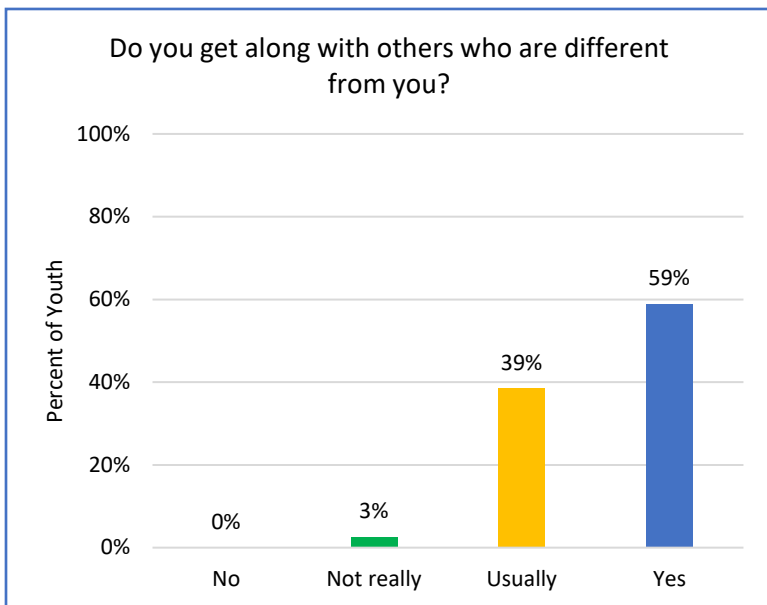
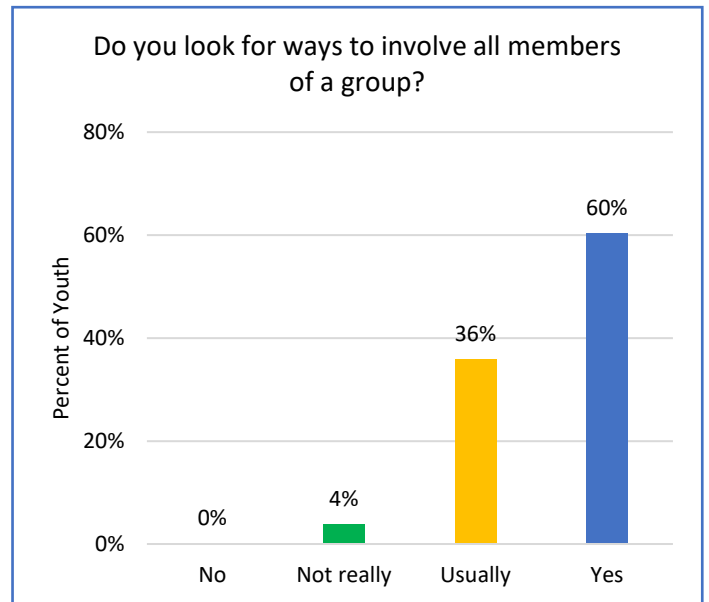
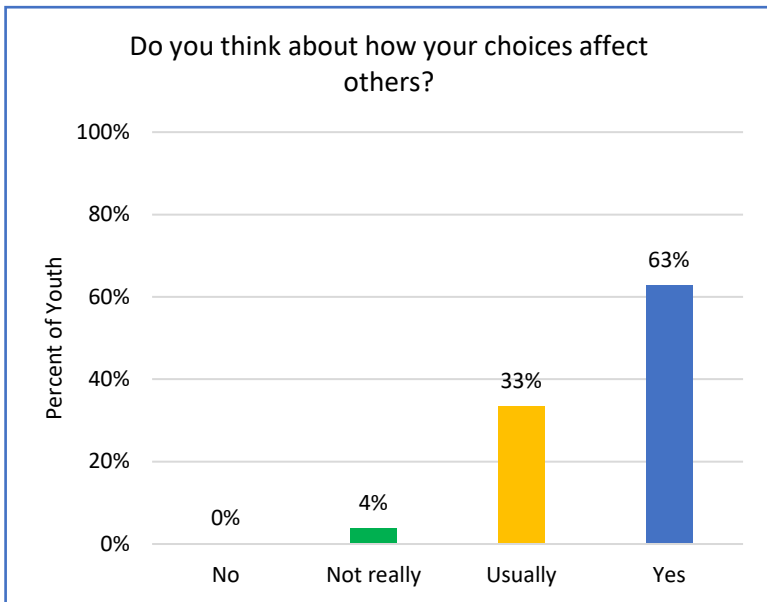


Are you willing to work hard on something difficult?



Before making a decision, do you stop to think about your choices?





Conclusion

Youth-driven 4-H experiences help develop life skills, competencies, and resiliency to address life's challenges to actively contribute to society. The structured learning, encouragement, and adult mentoring that youth receive through their participation in 4-H plays a critical role in assisting them to achieve future life successes. In our dataset, a higher majority (82%) of respondents acknowledged the importance of college education to pursue a career of their choice. Youth who participate in 4-H report better grades, higher academic competence levels, and an elevated level of engagement at school. They are also nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college.² 4-H programs continue to provide young people with the knowledge necessary for career exploration and the critical skills necessary to succeed in their careers.

References

¹National 4-H Council. (2015). *4-H Career Readiness Framework: Growing a Generation Prepared to Succeed in Life & Career*. Retrieved from: https://4hcspathways.extension.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/4-H_Career_Readiness_02.04.15-2.pdf

²U.C.A.N.R. (2018). *Universal (Positive Youth Development): 4-H Common Measures report 2017-18*. <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/289453.pdf>