Methods and Results

A three-year effort from early-2016 to mid-2019 to develop, adapt, implement, and evaluate culturally relevant and responsive 4-H youth development programs. Seven counties — Kern, Merced, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, and Sonoma — were selected representing rural, suburban, and urban communities. Each county received funding to hire a bilingual and bicultural 4-H program staff position (community education specialist). Additionally, ANR funds were used to hire a state assistant director for diversity and expansion.

Latino Youth Outcomes

After programs concluded, 240 children responded to a simple survey asking about their 4-H experience. Results painted a positive picture of program environments, adult volunteers, and meeting spaces.

Reflections

Three years is a swift timespan to build trust with communities unfamiliar with Cooperative Extension (CE). That we achieved such relative success speaks to what may be accomplished given staff are able to speak the language and have a better familiarity with the communities they were serving.

The 4-H Latino Initiative demonstrated that the reach of ANR may be expanded, given resources to hire staff with a focus on forming new strategic partnerships, adapting models to be culturally relevant, and building trust with new families.

References