



McCreary
Centre Society



Engaging experiential youth in community-based research to improve youth health

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Adolescent
Health
Surveys



Evaluations



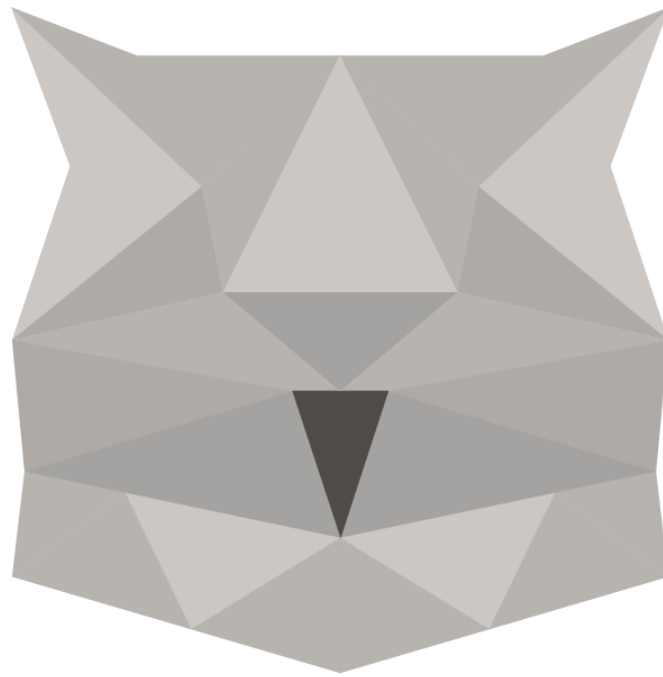
Youth
Research
Academy



Youth
Advisory
Council



Youth Research Academy (YRA)



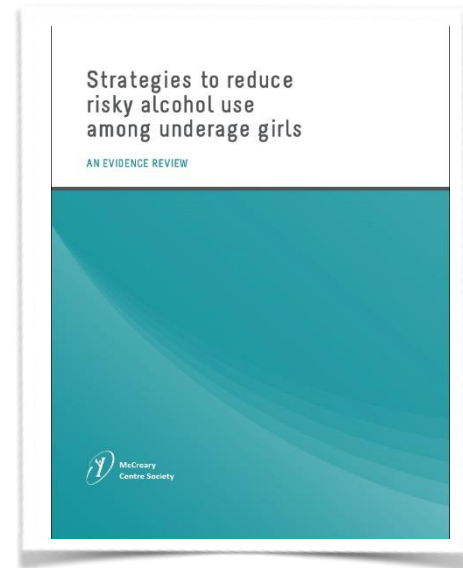
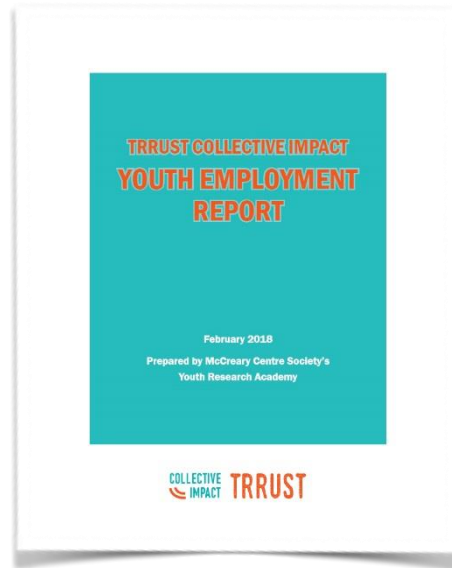
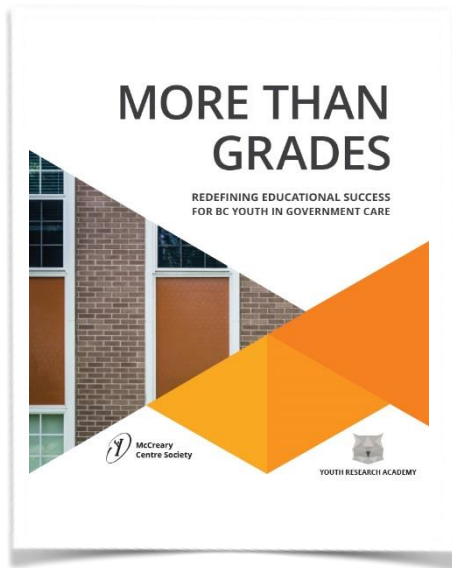


Purpose

- Increase youth-led/driven research
- Train youth in/from care research skills
- Assist youth to develop employment skills
- Offer agencies access to trained youth researchers
- Offer evidence of the success of the model

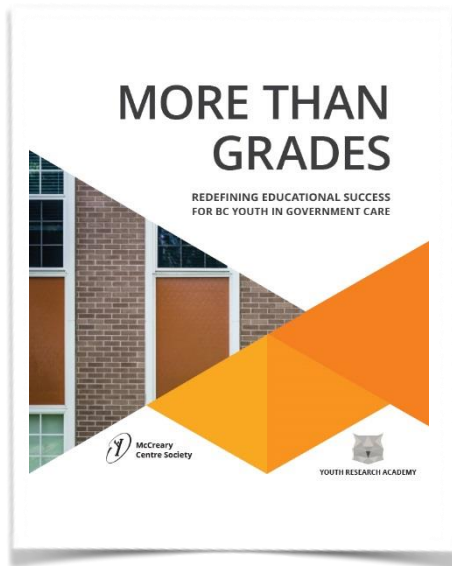


Projects



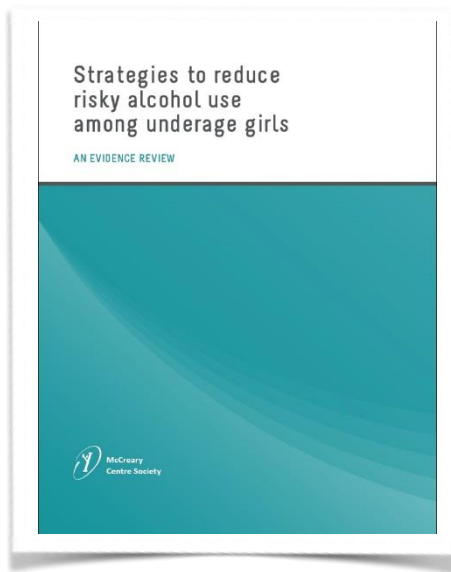


Improving education outcomes for youth in care



- BC Office of the Representative for Children and Youth
- YRA shared results through presentations, Pro-D for teachers and other school staff
- Navigator positions developed to better support youth in care in school

Reducing risky alcohol use among underage girls



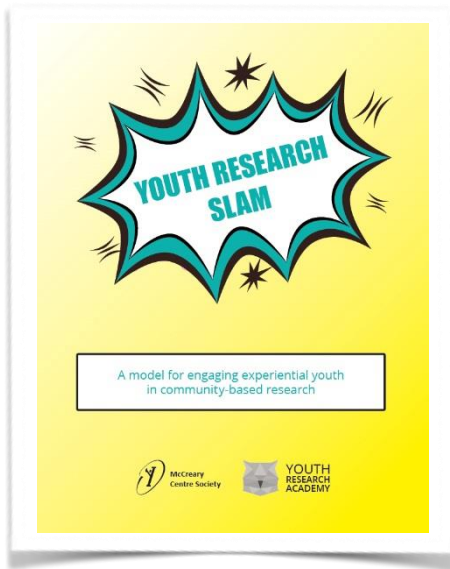
- BC Ministry of Health
- Informing work by the Community Action Initiative
- Led to current YRA project investigating psychoactive substance among BC youth

Promising practices for culturally relevant substance use treatment



- Federal Department of Youth Justice
- Phase I—Full-time attendance programs; Phase II—non-residential programs
- Youth involvement increased credibility with participants

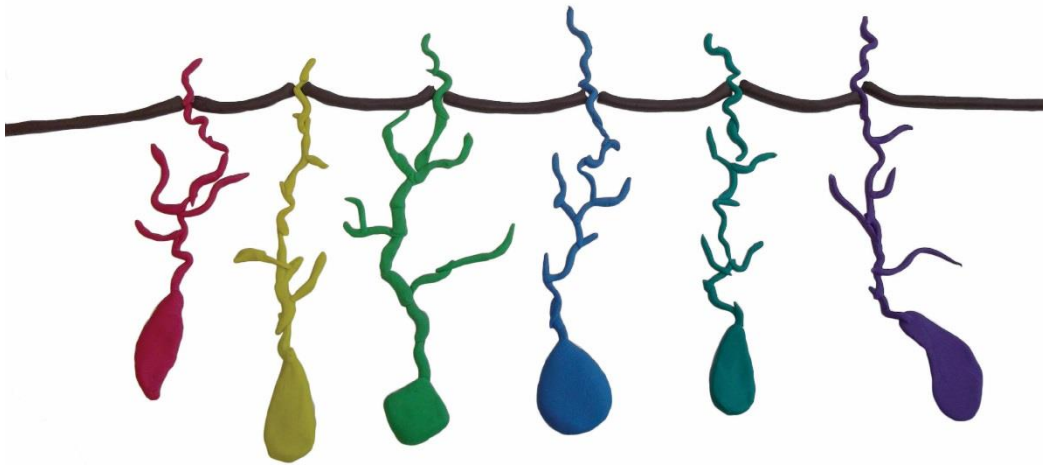
Youth Research Slam



- 2-week research project co-facilitated by members of the YRA
- Topics have included stress and coping (2017) and nutrition and mental health (2018)
- 27 youth have taken part in the two events

YRA evaluation

Ground Breaking Research



“This film represents what we are trying to do—change and grow over time. As we are growing, the research is growing with us.”



Evaluation findings

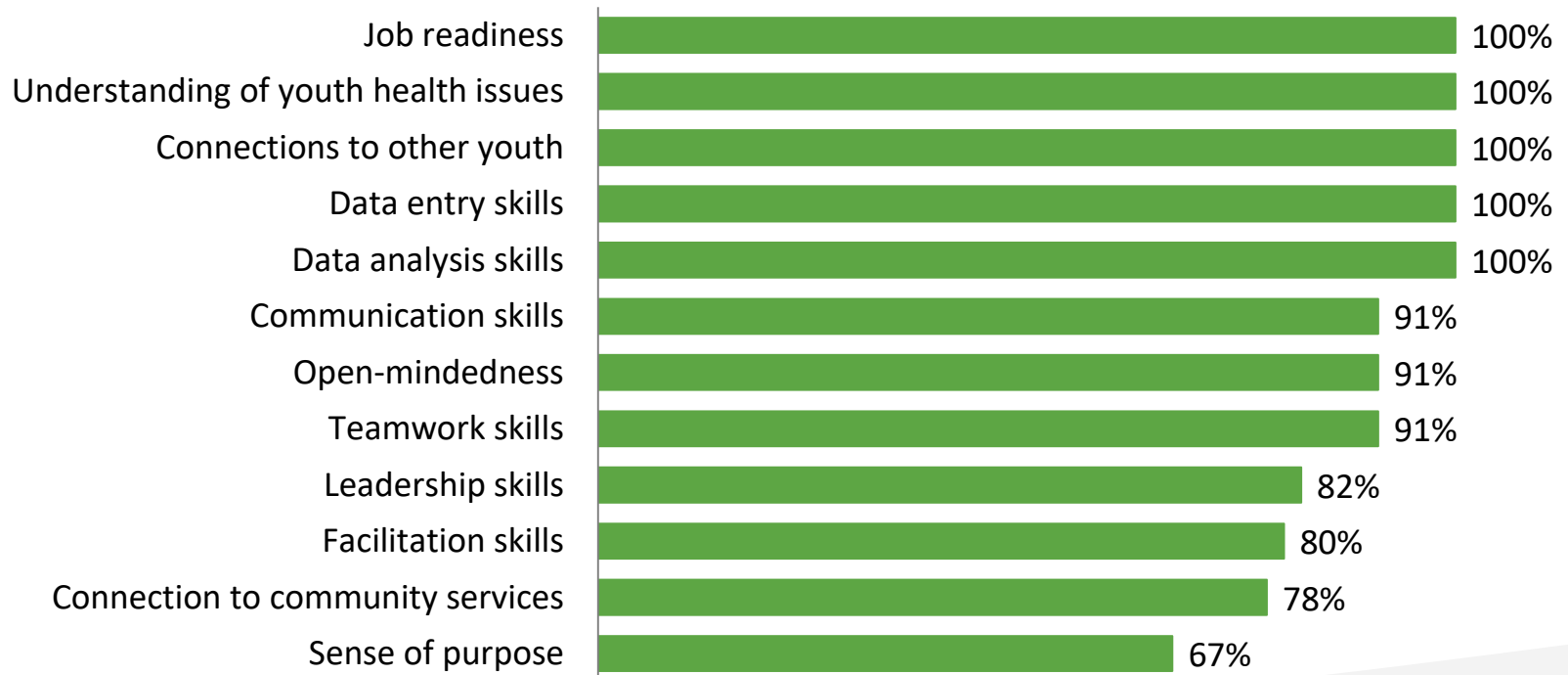
What participants most commonly hoped to gain from their involvement in the YRA (Time 1 survey; 3 cohorts, n=18)





Evaluation findings

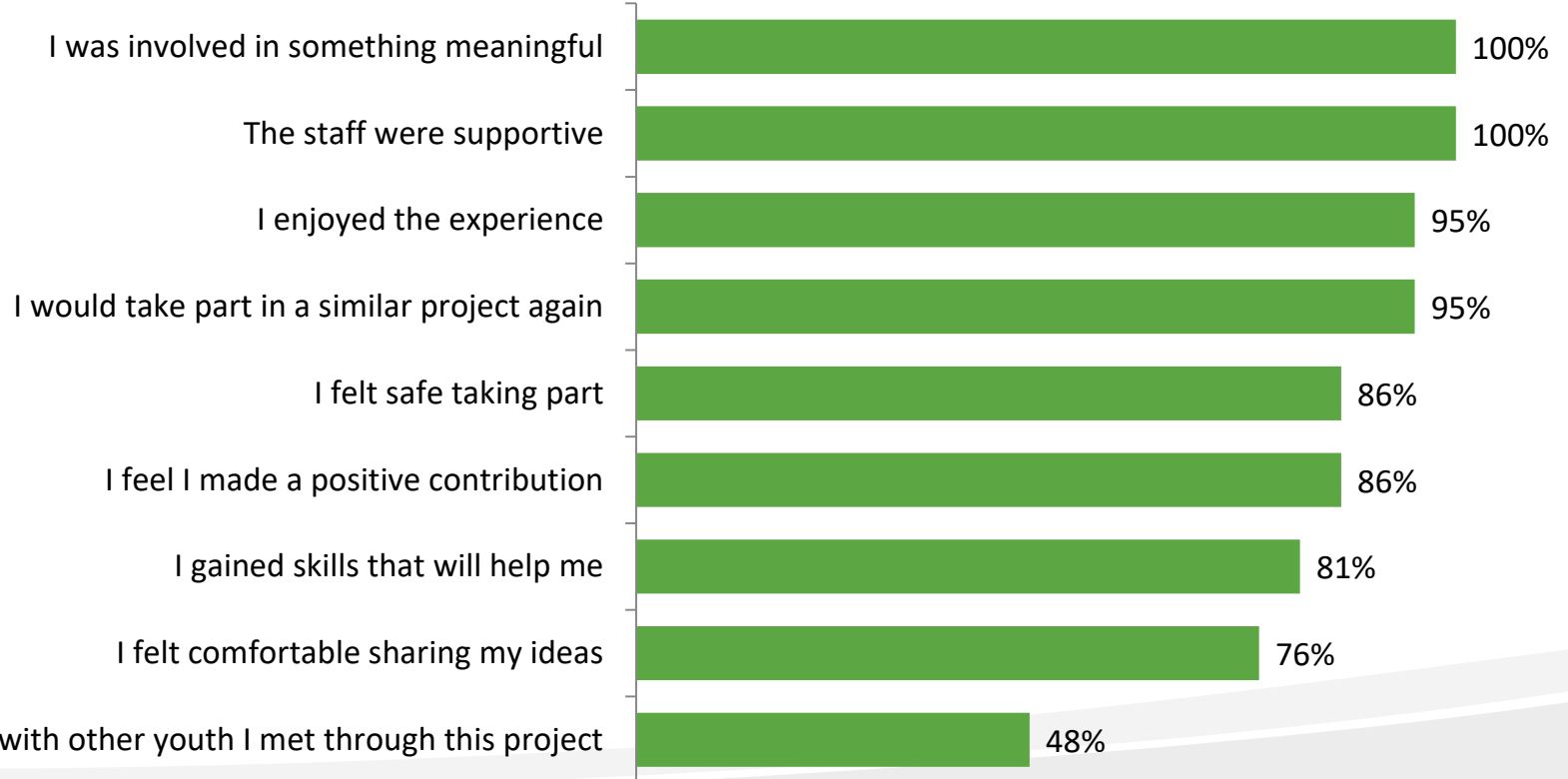
Improvements due to involvement in the YRA (youth who indicated 'quite a bit' or 'very much' improvement; Time 2 survey; 2 cohorts, n=11)





Youth Research Slam Evaluation

Youth's feedback at the end of their involvement in the Research Slam
(agreed or strongly agreed; Survey 2)





Conclusion

- Support youth to build life and employment skills.
- Promote community inclusion and help youth to build positive connections.
- Ensure policies and programs in BC are informed by experiential youth.

“My involvement has impacted me in ways that are very positive. I’m learning more about myself and what I’m capable of.”

“Being in the YRA gave me something to look forward to every day. It gave me something to be excited about, and gave meaning to my life.”



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Thank you

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