

Youth Ambassador Program



190 Youth Ambassadors (YA) from 16 schools attended:

- 12 were public schools
- Two were parochial schools
- Two provide alternative education

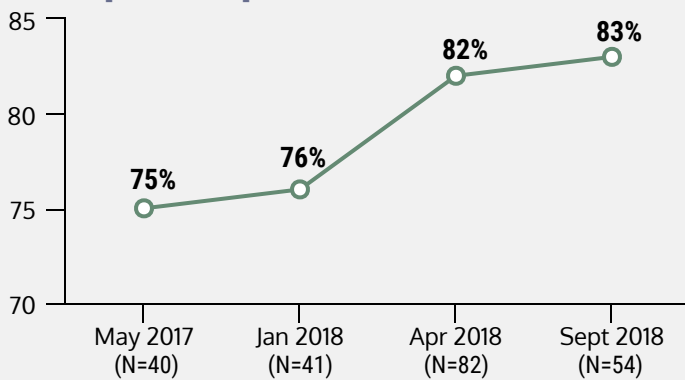
124 YAs (65%) completed a survey:

- 63 (51%) were current YAs
- 61 (49%) were new.
- Average age of attendees was 15 years.



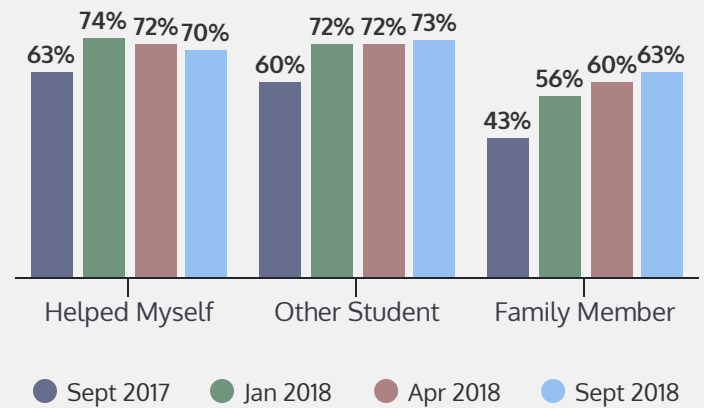
CURRENT YOUTH AMBASSADORS REPORT:

Improved Opinions on Mental Illness



The percent of current YAs who report their opinions on mental illness changed as a result of attending YAP events has increased over time - from 75% in May 2017 to 83% in Sept. 2018.

Using Info to Help Self and Others



More than 50% of current YAs reported using information they learned through YAP to help themselves or others with mental illness. These trends have increased over time.

72% of all YAs reported lived experience with mental illness, homelessness, poverty, and/or trauma. Mental illness and trauma were most common.



The majority of current YAs (85%) indicated they would know how to access help for themselves or others, as compared with 75% of new YAs.

Accessing Help

CURRENT YAs:

NEW YAs:

85%
(N=57)

75%
(N=56)

63%
(N=57)

48%
(N=56)

System of Care

Current YAs (63%) were more aware of services provided through the Beaver County System of Care, as compared with new YAs (48%).

BENEFITS OF YAP FOR CURRENT YOUTH AMBASSADORS (N=52):

Helping Others: 58%



Helping others, especially peers/fellow students, who may be struggling with mental illness

Education: 39%



Learning how to help others and personally learning how to deal with difficult or stressful situations

Connecting with Others: 14%



Meeting new people, especially from other schools, who have similar experiences and are committed to making a difference

YAP IMPROVEMENTS REQUESTED BY CURRENT YAs (N=46):

Most YAs thought the program was already effective. Of those who had recommendations for improving YAP, the top requests were:

Host More Events/Meetings:



“ We need more than two events to raise awareness of mental illness. It should be a constant thing. ”

“ Having community settings and opening the community into the [YA] program. ”

Get More People Involved:



- Expand YAP membership
- Bring in more speakers

Provide Conversational Opportunities:



“ I feel like the link between students and ambassadors and teachers can be strengthened. ”

“ Have a student from one school get someone from a different school and talk about each other's problems and help. ”

Raise Awareness of YAP:



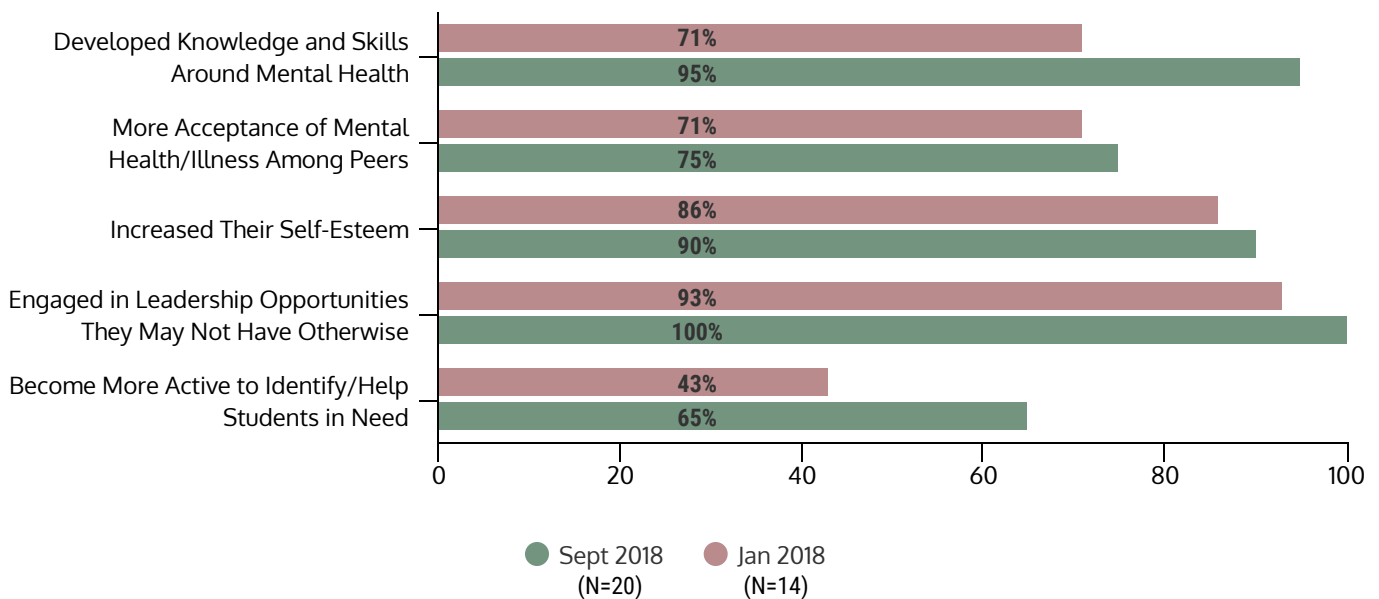
- Especially through social media

School Representatives

20 School Staff representing 212 Youth Ambassadors responded to a survey:

- 6 (30%) had attended 1-2 Times
- 14 (70%) had attended 3-8 Times

School Representatives Reported that as a Result of YAP, Youth Ambassadors Have:



YAP IMPROVEMENTS REQUESTED BY SCHOOL REPs (N=11):

Program Expansion:



Expanding YAP into the schools directly as well as across school districts/the entire county.

Enhanced Communication:



Receiving more information, more frequently from YAP leadership, such as "dates planned out in advance".