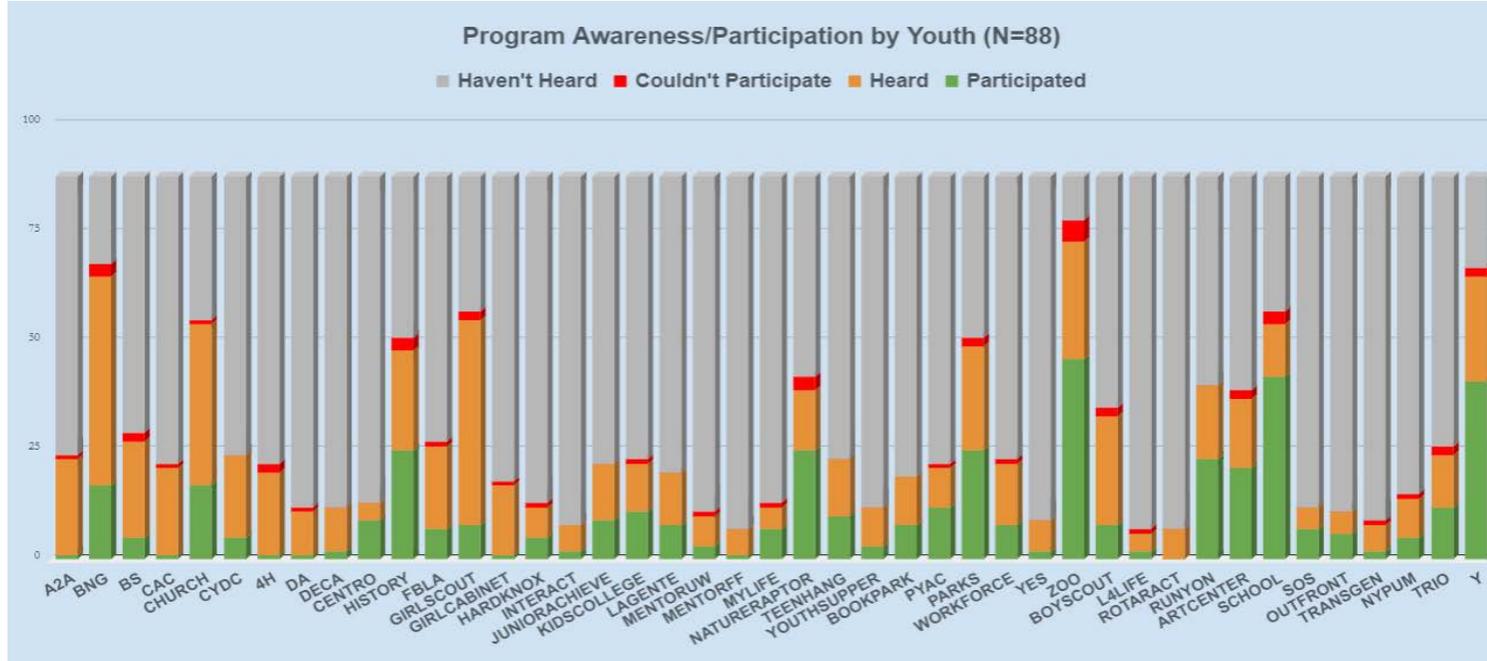


Pueblo Youth Focus Group Data Brief

excerpt from full Data Report

What does youth participation in programming look like in Pueblo County?



Spaces: Where do youth hang out often and why? (see QR code for map)

Number of times mentioned as a reason for youth hanging out at a space

Physical Activity (53): 13 unique locations including YMCA, parks, school, trails, and gyms

Food (17): 10 unique locations including The Hanging Tree Cafe, Cold Stone Creamery, Little Caesars Pizza

Shopping (17): Two main hubs – Eagleridge Shopping Center and Union Avenue/Downtown

Programs (26): Schools, libraries, Boys & Girls Club

Productivity (14): School, work, church

Access (6): Places youth hang out while getting to other locations like parks, East Side, river trail

Mischief (6): Cliff diving, Lime Road speeding, Skate City, old Safeway building



bit.ly/PuebloYouth19

What are teens saying?

"Many teens are just looking for a screen."

"Kids go to coffee shops and play on phones."

"The mall is for middle-schoolers."

"Many kids see the skate parks as dangerous."

"Make skateboarding more acceptable!"

"Pueblo has bad lighting all over, and our parents don't think it's safe."

"Some of us like to explore random places."

"Not enough nature in Pueblo to enjoy."

Barriers: Youth want to go more often but don't... Why?



Also identified as barrier for parents

Safety (27): Youth feel unsafe/uncomfortable

Riverwalk at night: "Unsafe for girls"
 Parks (Briarwood, Mitchell, Bessemer): "Parks have bad lighting that doesn't cover slopes"
 Midtown: "I feel uncomfortable there"
 Central Plaza downtown: "Bad lighting"
 Skate City: "Friday night drama"



Also identified as barrier for parents

Transportation (27): Youth can't access the location as frequently as they wish

YMCA: "It's a little too out there to go often."
 "I have to get my mom to take me."
 Walking and longboarding were cited frequently as means, biking and bussing less
 Mesa Drive-In, Lake Pueblo, and Motorsports Park: "Little too out there to go often"



Cost (25): Youth find it too costly to go frequently

"Everything" ...but most frequently cited: Cinemark, YMCA, Pueblo Mall, restaurants
 Youth seem to thrive on free spaces at a higher frequency than adults



Engagement (15): Some places youth feel less engaged to attend

The Mall: "They never keep the cool places"
 Lake Pueblo: Groups only
 Mesa Drive-In – "Why don't they have playgrounds there anymore?"



Schedules (10): Spaces that have hours that aren't accommodating

Bus Station, Pueblo Ice Arena, libraries
 "We don't really like to go to parties, but there's nothing better to do at night"



Time (8): Not enough personal time to go

Pueblo Mall
 Lake Pueblo
 Seasonal events/facilities: Mesa Drive-In, Colorado State Fairgrounds

Wishes: Spaces and opportunities youth want most in Pueblo

Teen Clubs (93%)



"hookah without hookah"
 "free to attend"
 "support with volunteers"
 "low adult supervision"

Gamer Club/Arcades (87%)



"we miss the mall's arcade"
 "role-playing nights"
 "nerd emporium"

Culture Café/Music Venues (80%)



"host arts, music, animals"
 "multicultural backgrounds"
 "mix between music and café"

Other Opportunities



Mentorship, job, and volunteering (47%)
 Sports Camp: "Ability to try out many different sports" (40%)
 Mental Health/Peer Talk Groups (33%)
 Life Skills: "Changing tires, doing taxes, etc." (33%)

"We are all unique."

"Tag along with us."

"Pueblo West is the party zone."

"Spend more time with youth and take an interest in us."

"Not enough free things to distract from parties."

"We want to be independent without many adults around."

"Parties don't go to programs or activities."

"There's social pressure to go parties, but nothing better to do at night."

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