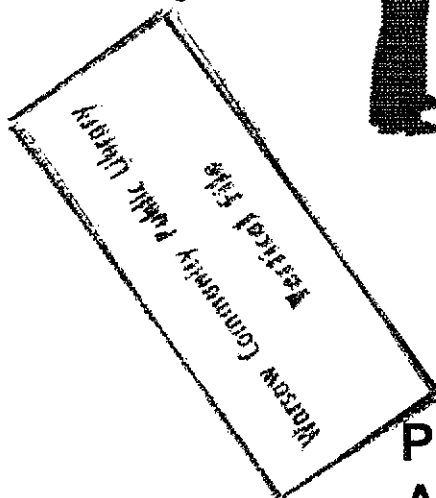


Assessment of Youth Needs in Kosciusko County



Project Proud
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Introduction

Youth organizations across the nation are experiencing participation increases. This is due to many factors, but the most often cited is youths are looking for a role model. In today's world with increasing single parents and dual career parents, kids are not getting the attention they need at home. Therefore, lacking a role model to model themselves after, young adults seek other ways of finding a role model by joining youth organizations or gangs.

This paper is a result of our understanding the need for a decision-making tool to help organizations evaluate their activities offered and participation factors. This is a summarized version of detailed questionnaires sent to various youth organizations throughout Kosciusko county and randomly conducted youth surveys. The paper's intent is to give organizations a reference to aid in the decision-making process for the surveyed topics. The topics included organization mission and activities, participation age and sex, participation factors, funding, and short and long range goals.

Activities Offered

The services offered by the surveyed organizations vary greatly but most seem to have a common mission of teaching values, citizenship, teamwork and building self-esteem. The most common activities offered are as follows:

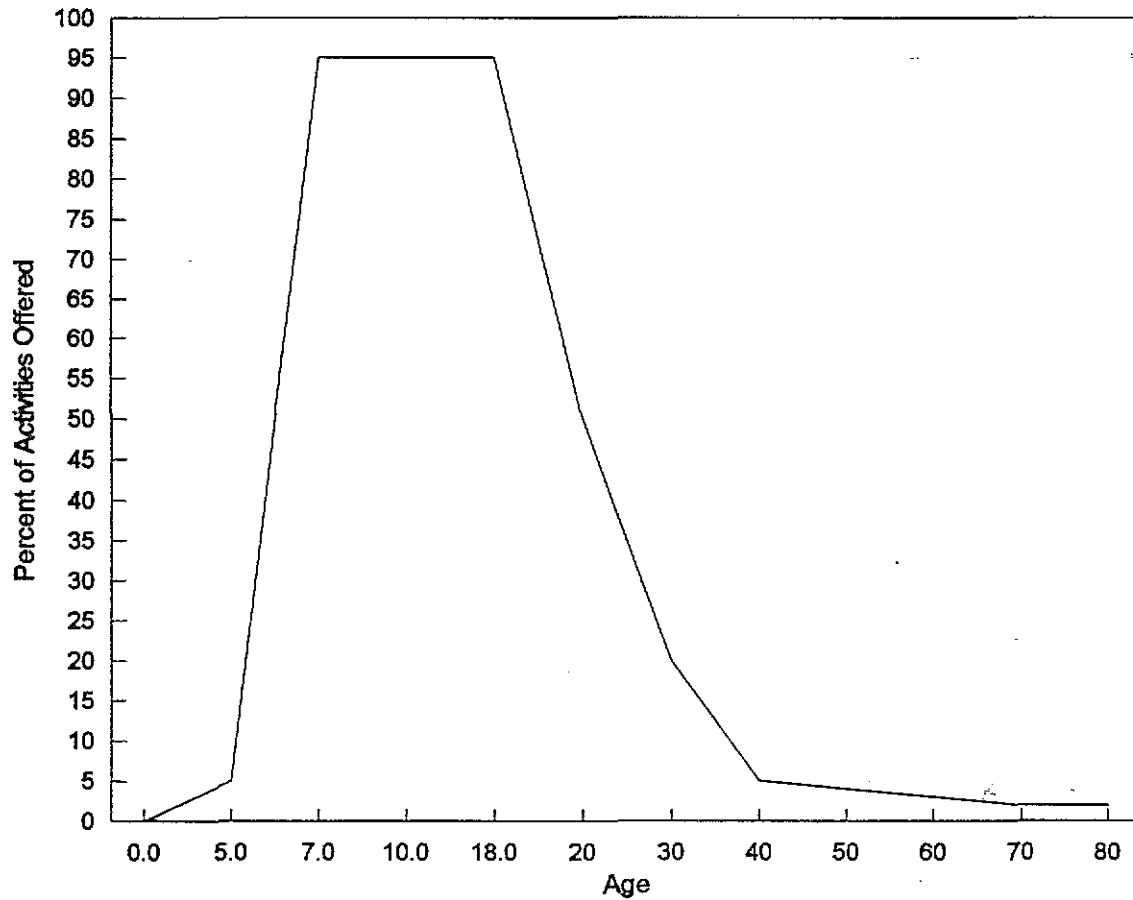
<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percentage of Organizations Offering Activity</u>
Social Activities	55%
Sports	36%
Camps - Summer, Day, Church, Work	27%
Mentoring	18%
Family Recreation	9%

Participation Sex

In general, the percentage ratio of male and female participation in organizations is 52 : 48 respectively. In an attempt to not skew our results, we excluded the percentage ratios for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts since both of these ratios are 100% of their respective gender.

Participation Age

Our survey concluded that the majority of the organizations target individuals between the ages of seven years old and eighteen years old. An interesting point to note is that most organizations offer either limited activities directed toward certain age groups or they offer a wide range of activities for infants through senior citizens. This is what gives us the following bell shaped curve derived from our statistics.



Participation Factors

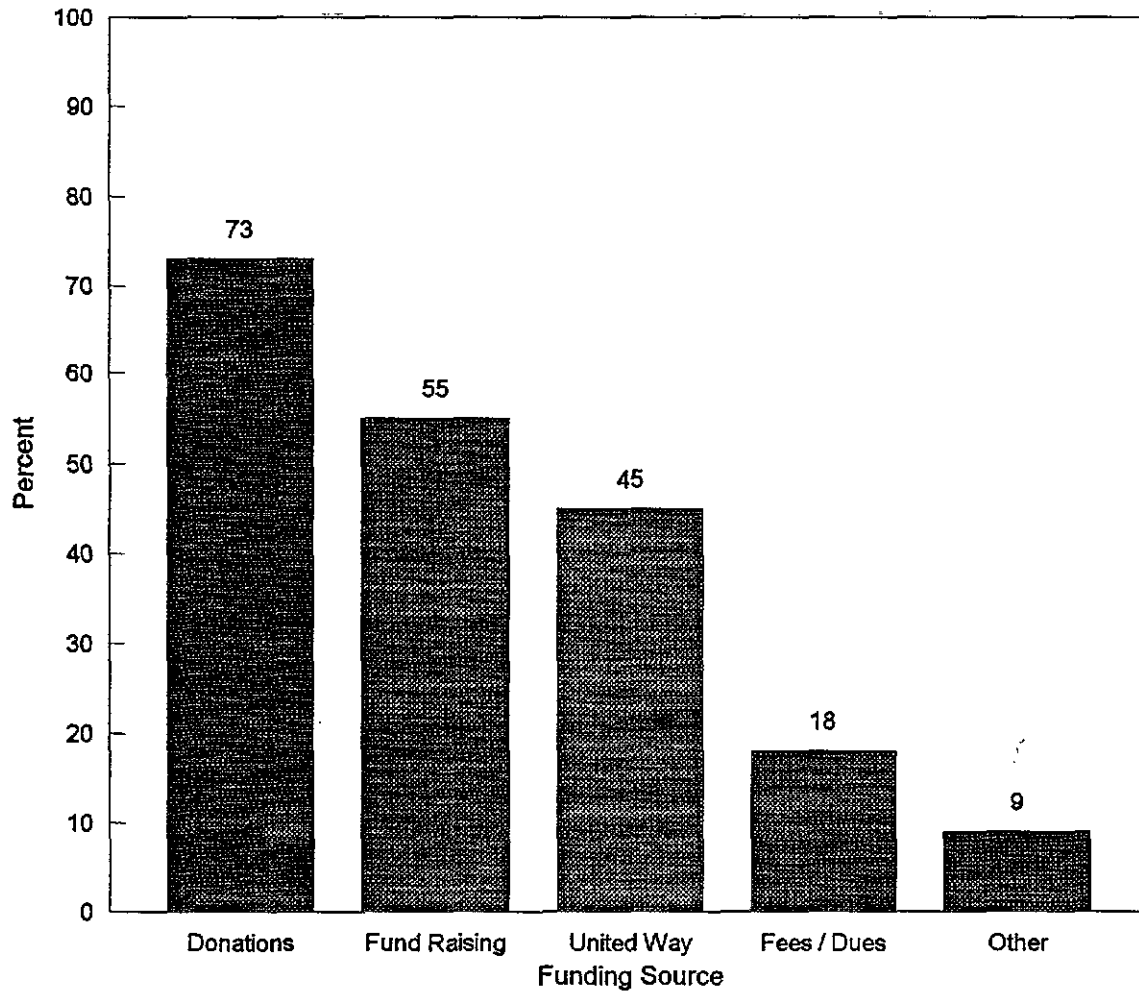
In general, the surveyed organizations believed the most common factors that would increase participation are as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percent of Organizations believe activity would increase participation</u>
Parental Support	75%
Advertisement	50%
Peer Acceptance	25%
Expansion of Offered Programs	17%
Other	8%

It is interesting to note that organizations believe that parental support is the number one contributing factor that influences participation and it is the number two contributing factor as perceived by young adults. This clearly shows a direct correlation between the amount of parental support and youth involvement in organizations. As parental support increases, youth participation in organizations increases. As parental support decreases, youth participation in organizations decreases.

Funding

Our survey found that most organizations funding comes from donations and contributions, fund raising, United Way, and membership fees. The graph below depicts the percentage of organizations that use each type of funding. Note that the other source of funding includes all other types of funding that are immaterial percentages individually.



Youth Survey

We randomly surveyed the youth in Kosciusko county. Our intent was to determine what influenced youths to participate in various activities and organizations. There was several reasons given but basically there were three factors that influenced the youths' decisions. The number one reason that youths cited for determining if they would participate in organizations was peer pressure. The second factor was parental support. The third reason was the programs or activities offered by organizations.

We can conclude from this that even if an organization offered the ideal activities as perceived by young adults, peer pressure would still be the determining factor for participation.

Conclusion

The generalized statistics in this paper were calculated from the responses to our questionnaires. Please keep in mind that the statistics were generalized so that any organization could use this paper as a comparison tool for their own purposes. This paper is not all inclusive and did not cover all questions addressed in our questionnaire since it was difficult to make any generalization from the responses.

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