



# The All Important First Impression

## Parent & Guardian Perceptions of their First Year in 4-H

JoLynn Miller<sup>1</sup>, Kendra Lewis<sup>1</sup>, Marianne Bird<sup>1</sup>, John Borba<sup>1</sup>, Timothy Ewers<sup>2</sup>,  
Russell Hill<sup>1</sup>, Nancy Shelstad<sup>2</sup>, Kali Trzesniewski<sup>1,3</sup>



**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

<sup>1</sup>University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources

<sup>2</sup>University of Idaho

<sup>3</sup>University of California, Davis

# Background

A baseline



University of California  
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
4-H Youth Development Program

California 4-H Youth Development

Welcome to 4-H Online

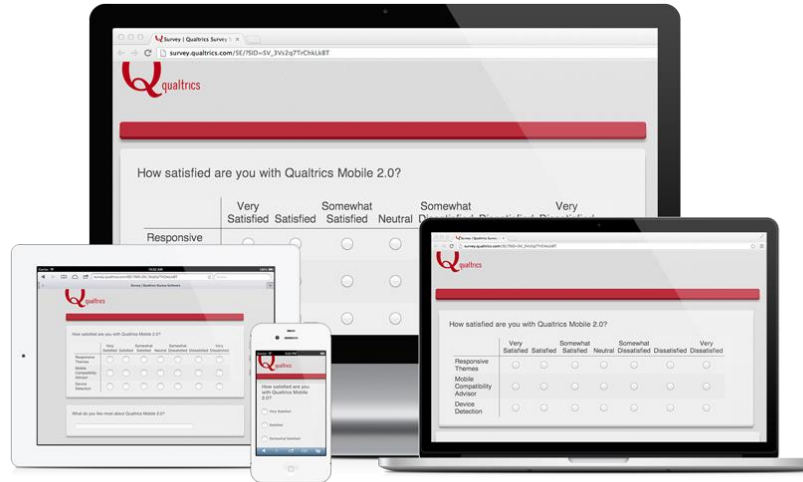
Returning Families	New Families	Current Enrollment Status	Child Record Book
<p>If your child was Active in 4-H in previous years, they should already have a profile. DO NOT use the "I need to setup a profile" link. Creating a new profile will cause a duplicate record and delay your file enrollment.</p> <p>If you don't remember your Family Email, please contact either your Club Leader or your county 4-H office.</p> <p>If you know your email, but not your password, select "I forgot my password" below.</p> <p><b>Resources to Use with 4HOnline:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recommended internet browser to use is Google Chrome, as it works for Mac and PC users.</li> <li>Mobile Tablets is another option for users. Please follow the steps how to adjust settings on Tablets and allow viewing of pdf documents with Mobile Apps.</li> <li><b>As of September 28, 2016, 4HOnline will no longer support Internet Explorer 10 and older versions due to security concerns.</b></li> </ul> <p>4-H helps young people to reach their full potential as competent, confident, leaders of character who contribute and are connected to their communities. 4-H gives youth throughout California an option, volunteer and lead opportunities. In 4-H, youth design and participate in their own programs and activities. The unique learn by doing model teaches essential skills that youth will use throughout their lives, such as identifying specific, setting knowledge, setting goals, self-reflection, adapting to new situations, communicating, and responding to the needs of others. Whether youth are baking cookies, raising companion-dogs, or planting vegetables, 4-H gives young people the skills they need</p>	<p>Select "I need to set up a profile" below and fill in the required fields to create a family profile.</p> <p>For more information about enrolling on 4HOnline for youth and adults:</p> <p>Paper enrollment forms are also available:</p> <p>Youth Enrollment Packet - English</p> <p>Youth Enrollment Application - English</p> <p>English users: Click here to adjust settings to view pdf documents.</p>	<p>Spanish language enrollment in 4HOnline is not available. Please visit the area below to download Spanish language enrollment documents:</p> <p>Youth Enrollment Packet - Spanish</p> <p>Youth Enrollment Application - Spanish</p>	<p>Please click on the Child Log in link. Check for instructions on how to change your Child password.</p>



Phone Interviews



Surveys



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program

# Topics

Why their  
child joined  
4-H

How they  
heard about  
4-H

Intent to re-  
enroll

Family history  
in 4-H

Expectations  
(open ended)

Best part of  
4-H  
(open ended)

Changes  
they'd make  
(open ended)

General  
experience  
(scale)



**University of California**

Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

# Why did your child join 4-H?



To try new things  
(53%)



To have fun (40%)



To show at fair(34%)



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

# But....what did they say?

*I had fun in 4-H,  
maybe she will too!*

*Maybe she'll learn  
something valuable!*



**University of California**

Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

# How did you hear about 4-H?



From another parent (35%)



Family History (19%)



From a friend of my child (16%)



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program

New People  
and Friendships

# The "BEST" Part of 4-H

Showing or  
Competition



Animals

Learning  
Experiences



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program

# Program Improvements



Too Complex  
(33%)



Lack of organization  
(30%)



Adult Leadership  
(16%)

Communication  
Issues (15%)



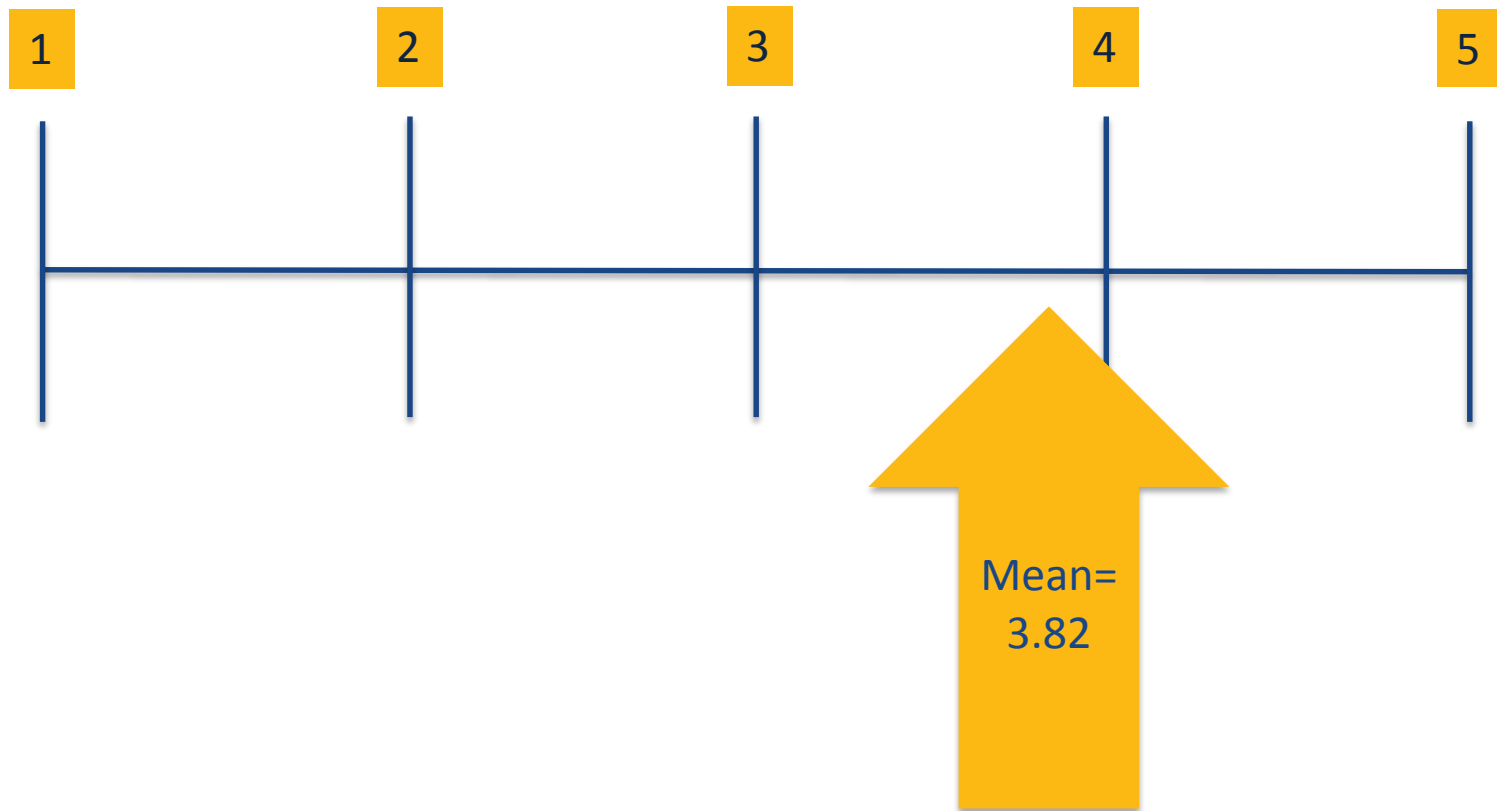
**University of California**

Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

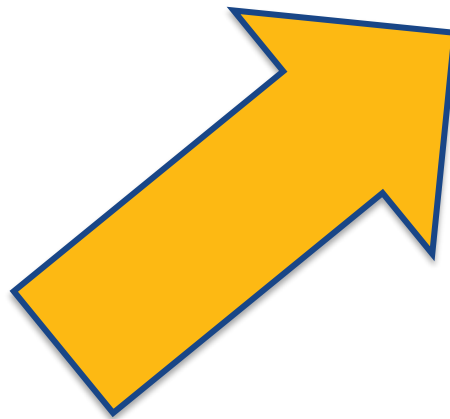


# Overall Positive Experience!





More positive experience



3.55x



Intend to re-enroll

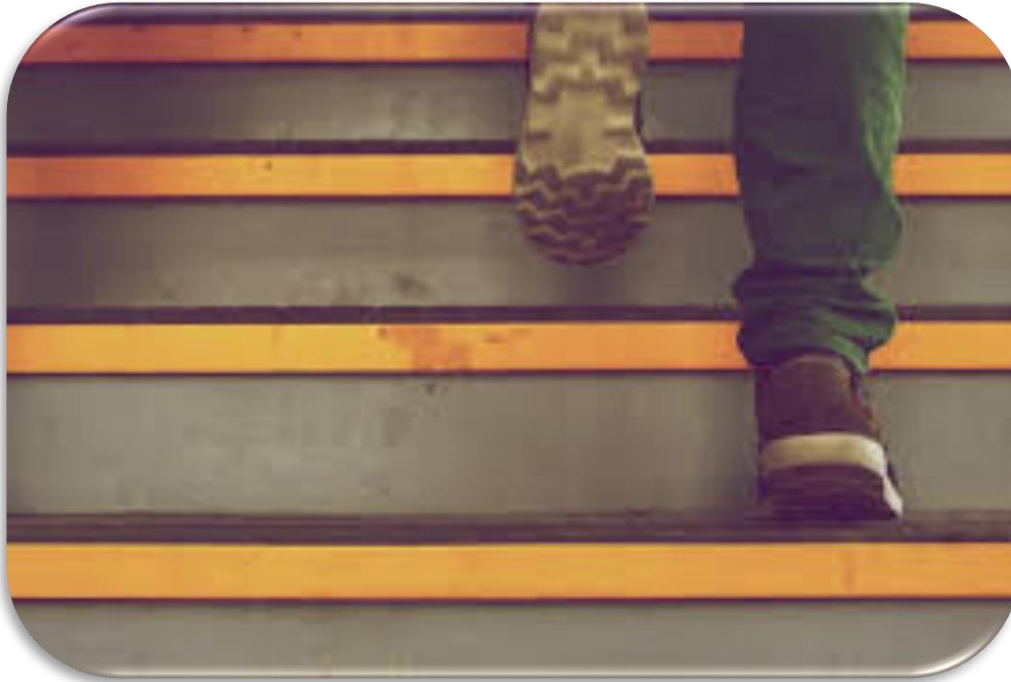


University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program

# Next Steps



- More states
- More data
- New Family Handbook
- Checklists



**University of California**

Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

# Interested?

Contact:

JoLynn Miller

[jlmiller@ucanr.edu](mailto:jlmiller@ucanr.edu)

Kendra Lewis

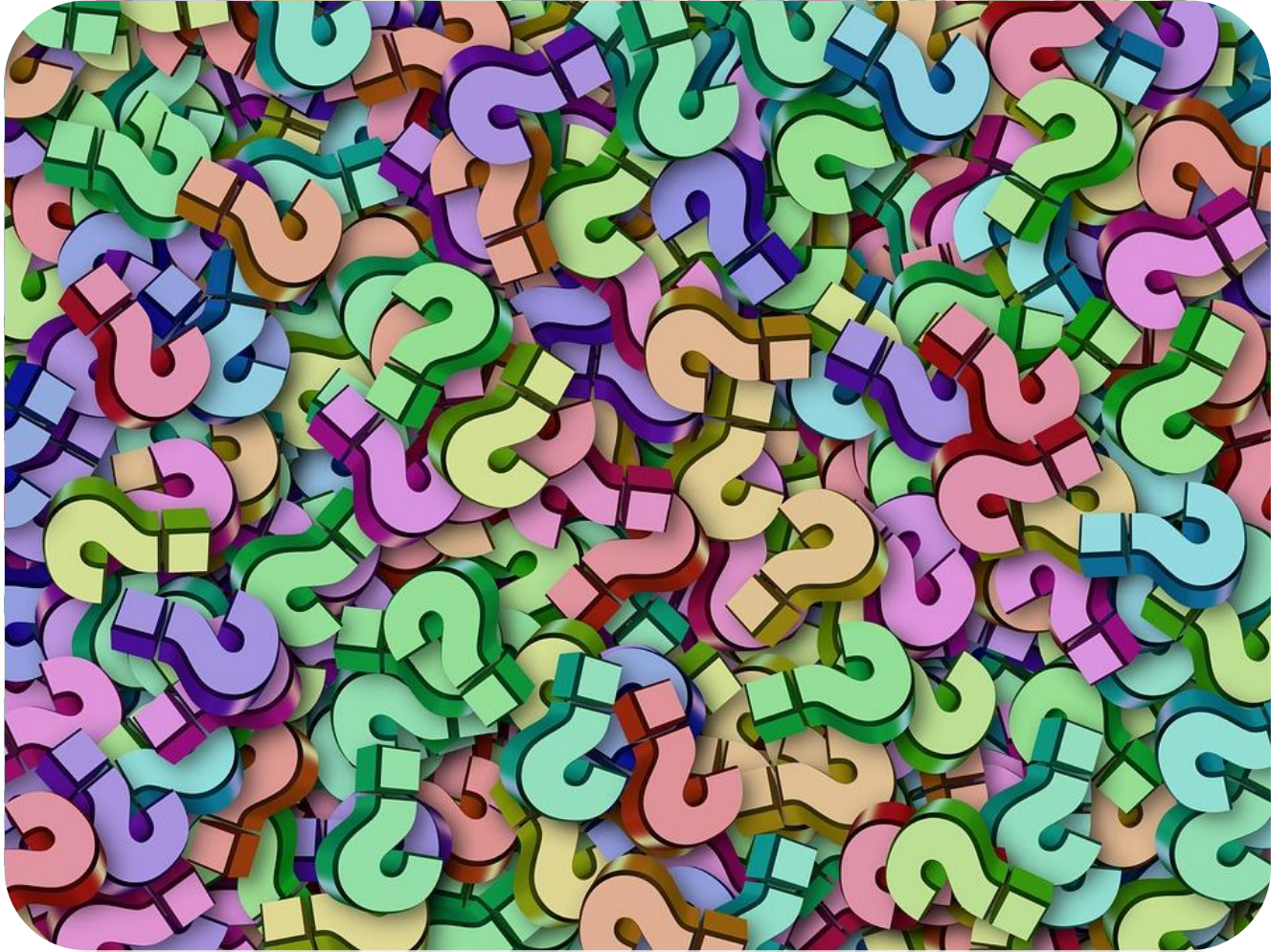
[kmlewis@ucanr.edu](mailto:kmlewis@ucanr.edu)



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

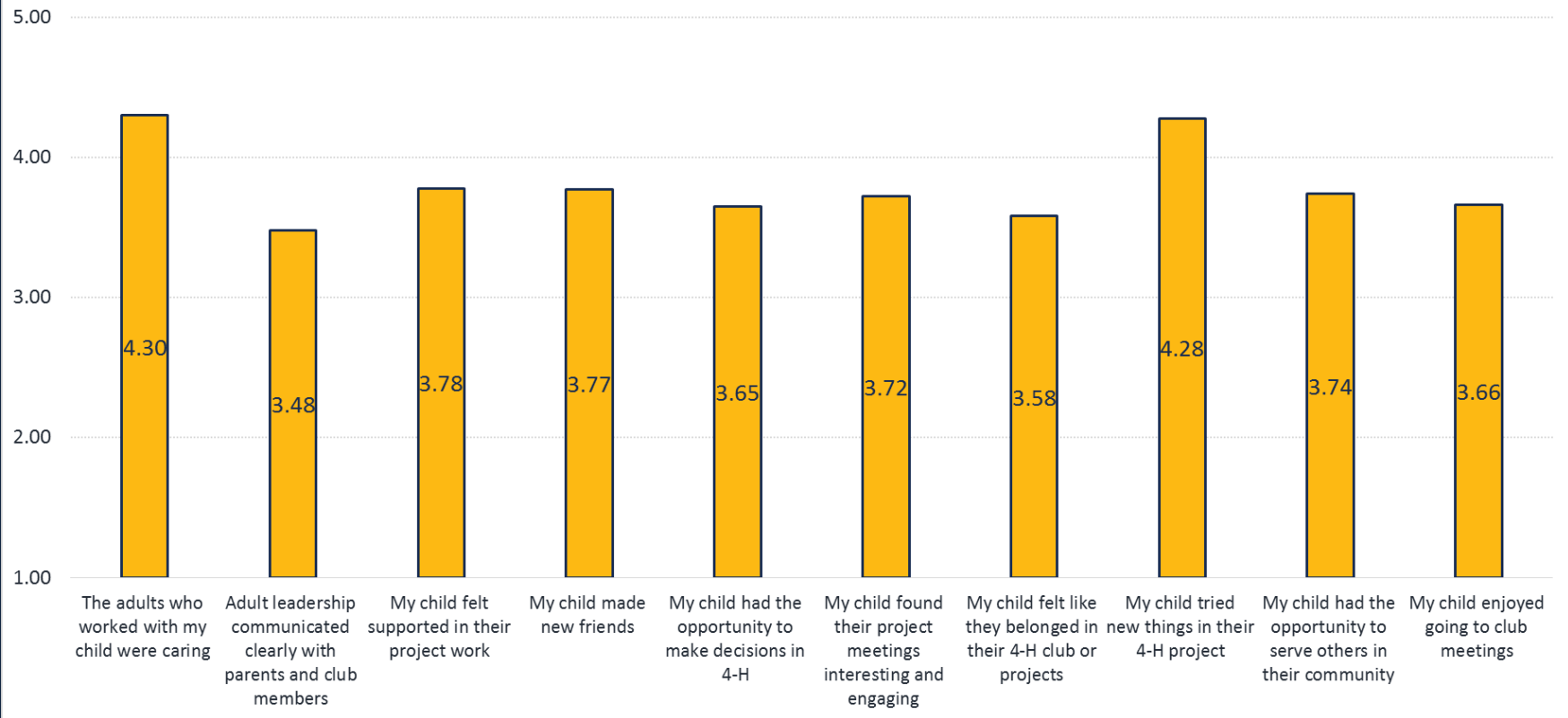


**University of California**

Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program

### Item Means-Experience Scale



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program



**University of California**

Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ 4-H Youth Development Program