



Youth Retention Study

2014-2018



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



College of Natural
& Applied Sciences
University of Guam | Unibetsdät Guåhan



New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

About the co-leads

Kendra Lewis,
Academic
Coordinator for
Evaluation



JoLynn Miller
4-H Youth
Development
Advisor

States involved

	2014-15 Survey	2015-16 Survey	2016-17 Survey	2017-18 Survey
California	X	X	X	X
Idaho	X	X	X	X
Montana		X		
New Jersey		X	X	X
Wyoming			X	X
Florida				X
Washington				X
Louisiana				X
New Mexico				X

Alaska: part of the 2014-15 planning team

University of Guam: joined planning team in 2018

Background



1. Baseline information from 4hOnline data
2. Phone interviews
3. Initial survey

Survey Development: <https://joe.org/joe/2018june/tt3.php>

Topics from surveys

Why joined
4-H

How they
heard about
4-H

Intent to re-
enroll

Family history
in 4-H

Expectations (adult
only; open ended)

Best part of 4-H
(open ended)

Changes they'd
make (open ended)

General
experience (scale)

Reasons may not
return (youth only)

Results to Date*



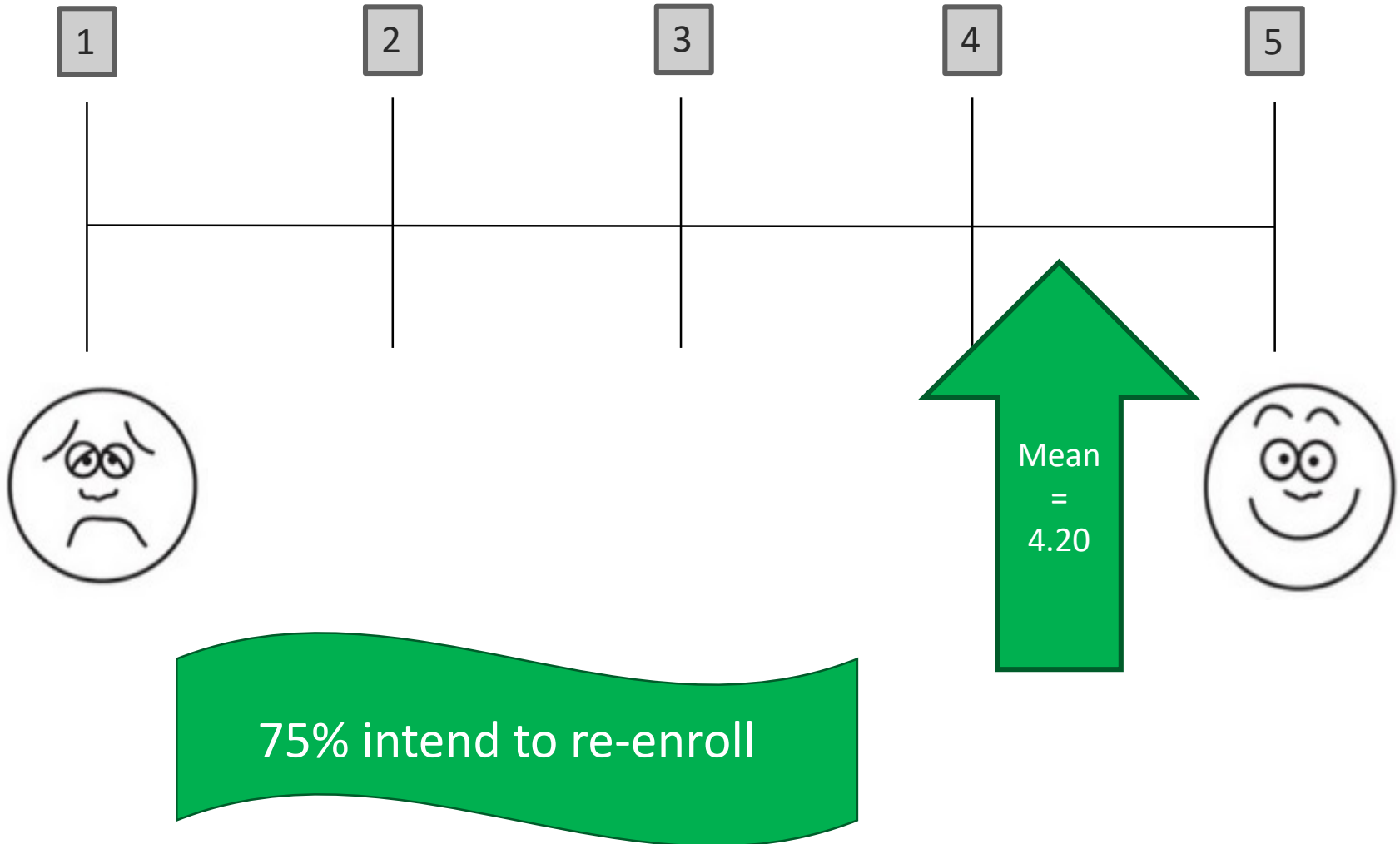
*based on 2016-17 as not all states have completed 2017-18 data collection. Youth results unless specified.

Why did you join 4-H?

- Try new things (58%)
- Have fun (48%)
- Family History (36%)
- Skill Building (32%)



Overall Positive Experience

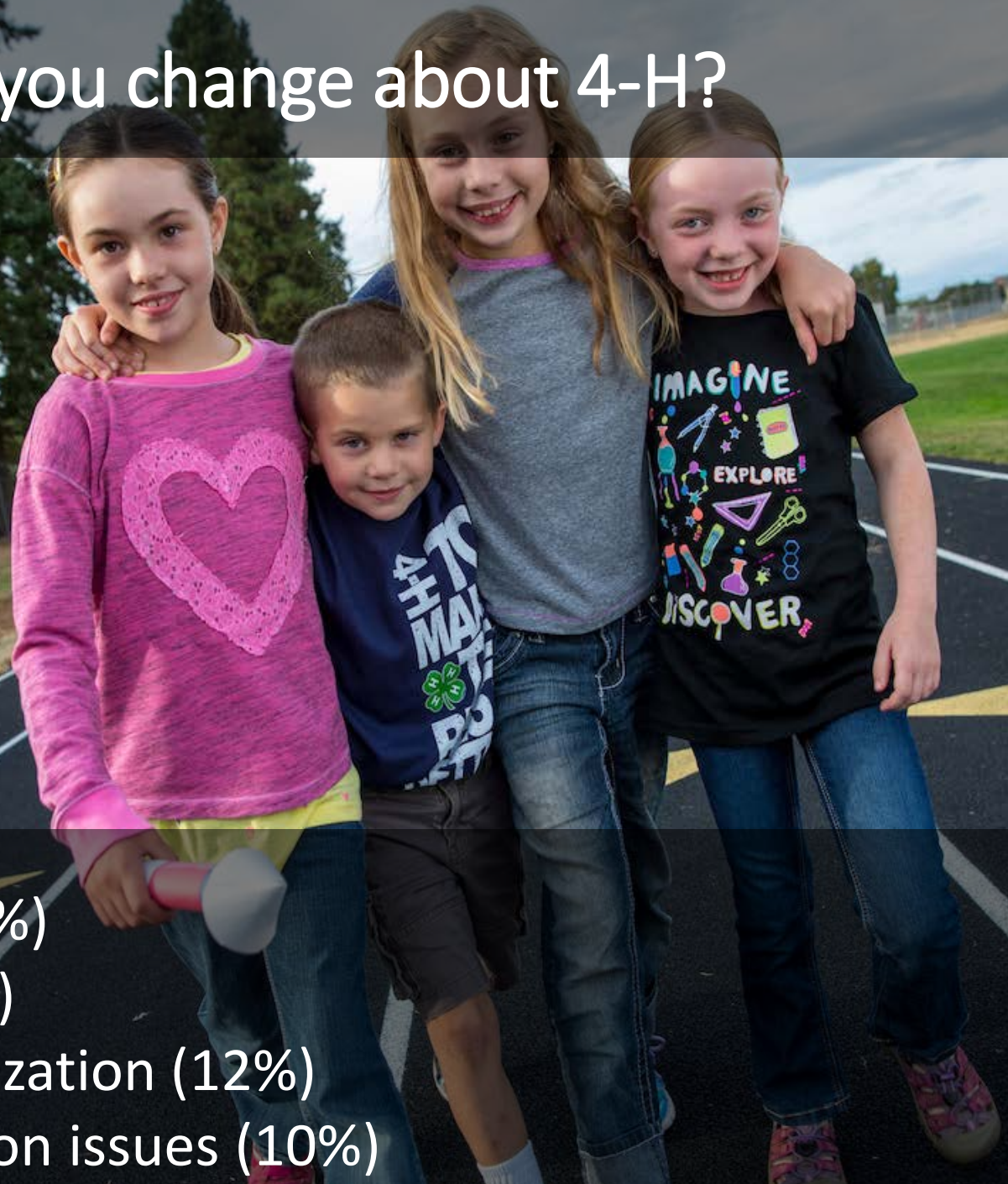


What is the best part about 4-H?

- Project activities (34%)
- Fair/Showing animals (18%)
- New people and friendships (15%)
- Learning opportunities (13%)



What would you change about 4-H?



- Meetings (20%)
- Nothing (19%)
- Lack of organization (12%)
- Communication issues (10%)



Why youth might not come back...

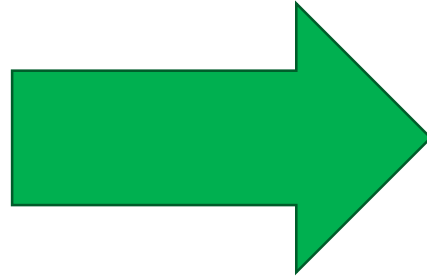
- Didn't feel connected to other youth (19%)
- Don't have time (15%)
- Didn't know when club or project met (12%)

% represents % that said "a little true" or "completely true"

Adults: Expectations

55%

had expectations



Of those, 57% felt expectations were met

- “Learn something and achieve goals”*
- “Guidance and leadership on 4-H and project subject matters”*
- “Meet people with similar interests”*
- “To learn valuable skills”*

Outreach

- Family Handbooks
 - CA (English & Spanish)
 - ID
 - WY (under development)
- Project Leader Checklist (CA)
- County Information Sheet (CA)
- Data Parties (3 to date, 2 more planned)

- <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/271860.pdf>
- <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/254367.pdf>
- <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/271859.pdf>
- <https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/Uidaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/4-H/4-H-Family-Handbook-201607.ashx?la=en&hash=7D1ED98249B0BD5D508464AD34219F70BF73A490>



Presentations, Posters, & Publications


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

- Hill, R., & Miller, J.C., (2015, November) *Retaining Youth in the 4-H Positive Youth Development Program*. Presentation at California State Leaders Forum. San Diego, CA
- Lewis, K. M., Horrillo, S. J., Worker, S. M., Miller, J., & Trzesniewski, K. (2015, November). *Retaining youth: An examination of California 4-H youth enrollment trends*. Paper presented at the American Evaluation Association, Chicago, IL.
- Lewis, K. M., Miller, J., Withrow-Clark, R., Bird, M., Hill, R., Borba, J., . . . Trzesniewski, K. (2015, October). *Retaining youth in the 4-H Positive Youth Development Program*. Poster presented at the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources Joint Strategic Initiatives Conference, Sacramento, CA.
- Miller, J., Lewis, K. M., & Trzesniewski, K. (2016, October). *Adult perceptions of youths' first year experience in 4-H*. Poster presented at the American Evaluation Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Miller, J., Lewis, K. M., Bird, M., Borba, J., Ewers, T., Hill, R., . . . Trzesniewski, K. (2016, October). *The all important first impression: Parent & guardian perceptions of their first year in 4-H*. Paper presented at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, New Orleans, LA.
- Miller, J.C., Rea-Keywood, J., Lewis, K.M. (2017, November) *Understanding First-Year Experiences in 4-H*. Poster presented at the annual conference of National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. Indianapolis, IN

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Lewis, K. M., Ewers, T., Miller, J. C., Bird, M., Borba, J., Hill, R., . . . Trzesniewski, K. (2018). *Retention in youth programs: Developing a survey to understanding families' experiences*. *Journal of Extension*, 56. Retrieved from <https://joe.org/joe/2018june/tt3.php>

Awards

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- A smiling woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt, is holding a small, grey, felt elephant in her right hand. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a bulletin board covered in photos on the left and a table with flowers on the right.
- Excellence in Teamwork Award (2017). Awarded by National Association for Extension 4-H Agents at the State (California), Regional (Western), and National levels.
 - ANR Distinguished Research Award (2018). Awarded by University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources.
 - NIFA Multistate Project

Limitations & Considerations



- Low response rate
- Who is actually responding?

Next Steps

- Multistate Project Objectives
 - Enrollment data trends
 - Culture of 4-H
 - Perceptions from those that have left or never joined
- Planning meeting: September
- Focus on teens?
- Role of family history/involvement in 4-H
- Four-year summary report
- Best practices checklists



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- Kali Trzesniewski

Idaho

- Tim Ewers
- Nancy Shelstad

Florida

- Sarah Hensley

Louisiana

- Janet Fox
- Veronica Del Bianco

Montana

- Meghan Phillippi

New Jersey

- Jeannette Rea-Keywood

New Mexico

- Cheryl Butterfield

Washington


- Missy Cummins

Wyoming

- Megan Brittingham
- Sarah Tolbert

University of Guam

- LaJoy Spears



And our
State
Leaders!

Contact Information



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