

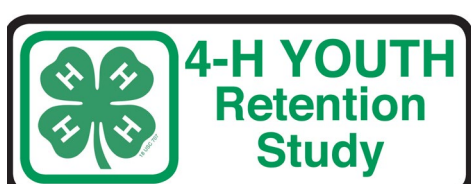
# WHY YOUTH LEAVE 4-H

Youth were asked 9 questions about why they might leave the program. Means are presented below. REMINDER: low scores are better for these items/scale because it indicates that this **wasn't** a reason for them to leave. It is on a scale of 1 ("Not True at All") to 5 ("Completely True"). It's important to note that teens from CA and NJ helped us develop these questions and reasons based on their experience or the experience of their peers. Below is the scoring for each item (2016-2019).

| Question  | % that said "A Little True" or "Completely True" |
|---|--|
| 1. I was bullied by other youth in my club or project   | 2.5%   |
| 2. I was bullied by adults in my club or project  | 3.0%   |
| 3. I didn't feel connected to other youth in the club   | 19.9%  |
| 4. I didn't feel welcomed in my club  | 9.1%   |
| 5. 4-H isn't for kids like me   | 3.3%   |
| 6. Parents in 4-H don't get along   | 5.1%   |
| 7. I don't have time for 4-H because of my other activities (like sports, church, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA) | 18.2%  |
| 8. 4-H is too expensive   | 6.4%   |
| 9. I didn't know when my club or project met  | 13.3%  |

*Discuss with your walking partner:*

- 1. Do any of these reasons **resonate** with you?*
- 2. Have you felt like this is an **issue** in your club or in other clubs?*
- 3. What are some ways we can **address** these reasons for leaving?*



The 4-H Youth Retention Study (YRS) is a multi-state project involving 8 states (CA, FL, ID, LA, MO, NJ, WA and WY). The goal of this research is to retain more youth in the 4-H program nationwide, as well as to recruit more youth to the program annually. This study surveys first-year members and their parents (adults) to better understand their experiences in the 4-H program and their intent to re-enrollment in the program for a second year. For more information, visit [ucanr.edu/4-hyouthretentionstudy](http://ucanr.edu/4-hyouthretentionstudy)

