

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE **2025 END-YEAR REPORT**

Los Angeles County Youth Commission

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth Engagement Committee's 2025 survey asked young people across Los Angeles County about their priorities, experiences with public systems, and visions for the future. Most responses came from paper surveys (80%), reflecting strong in-person outreach in schools, community programs, and high-need areas. Both system-involved and non-system youth participated, providing a broad view of challenges and goals. **For some questions, many youths selected multiple options, while others skipped the item entirely.** Percentages may exceed 100% or fall short. Figures reflect the share of respondents, not strict totals.

Representation by District

Youth from all five Supervisorial Districts participated, with a balance of system-involved and non-system youth. In total, **881 youth responded**, including **551 system-involved (63%)** and **330 non-system (37%)**. This mix allows the Commission to compare experiences and highlight the distinct needs of system-impacted youth while also reflecting the broader youth population.

- **First District:** 72 system youth - 171 non-system youth
- **Second District:** 198 system youth - 43 non-system youth
- **Third District:** 82 system youth - 78 non-system youth
- **Fourth District:** 92 system youth - 16 non-system youth
- **Fifth District:** 107 system youth - 22 non-system youth

Key Priorities Identified by Youth

Across the county, **mental health was the top concern**, with education and employment close behind. Housing and foster care also emerged as important issues, showing the need for both stability and supportive environments.

Interests and Engagement

Youth expressed the strongest interest in **music, sports, and art**. Many also favored physical activities like boxing, dancing, and martial arts. Smaller but meaningful groups highlighted creative expression and wellness practices such as poetry, journaling, yoga, and nutrition.

System Experiences and Mental Health Supports

System-involved youth overwhelmingly called for **safe spaces** where they feel respected and supported. They also prioritized better access to resources, reduced age barriers, and flexible, healing-centered care such as non-traditional therapy and trauma-informed practices.

Looking Ahead

The findings show that youth want both **immediate supports** (mental health, housing, safe spaces) and **long-term opportunities** (education, jobs, leadership). The Commission has a clear mandate to:

- Expand youth-centered mental health services
- Strengthen education and employment pathways
- Advocate for reforms in foster care and juvenile justice
- Ensure equitable access to safe, creative, and wellness-focused opportunities

By grounding its strategies in these insights and tailoring outreach by district, the Commission can advance **youth-driven, data-informed, and equity-focused** policies and programs.

About the Survey

This year's survey highlights how young people in LA County use public systems, what services they value, and the changes they want. Working with Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation Department, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and community-based organizations, we connected with youth in person, capturing perspectives that might have been missed online. Most surveys (80%) were completed on paper, showing both preference and limited access to phones or internet. This approach matches national trends that in-person outreach better reaches youth who are often overlooked. The survey spanned from February 27 to September 20, 2025. Our combined on-the-ground outreach and stronger partnerships helped us hear from more youth than ever before - laying the foundation for youth - led policy recommendations.

Survey Questions: Why They Matter

What is your Age?

These insights guide how we target future outreach and ensure our programs and recommendations reflect the needs of youth at different stages of life.

What is your zip code?

This helps us track engagement across LA County, spot areas where youth voices may be missing, and focus outreach in neighborhoods with the greatest needs. Zip code data also allows us to compare responses with County equity maps to ensure our work is fair, inclusive, and reflective of youth from all regions.

What is your ethnicity?

This helps us see which communities are represented in our outreach and identify groups whose voices may be missing. Understanding this diversity allows us to create programs, policies, and advocacy efforts that are culturally relevant, inclusive, and reflective of the youth we serve across LA County.

What is your gender?

This ensures all genders are heard and helps shape inclusive, respectful, and responsive programs for youth.

What is your sexual orientation?

This ensures LGBTQ+ youth are included, their voices valued, and programs shaped to create safe, affirming spaces for all.

What would you be most interested in?

By centering youth interests and priorities, we can design activities and policies that ensure their voices drive real change. The data will guide how we incorporate engagement strategies into future youth and community events.

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?

We'll use the data to set a minimum of three priority focus areas, guiding advocacy and ensuring our 2025 Strategic Plan reflects youth needs and aspirations.

What is your current involvement?

This shows where youth are engaged, where gaps exist, and guides the Commission to expand access through stronger programs, partnerships, and outreach. It also highlights opportunities to reach opportunity youth - those disconnected from school and/or work - and encourage their reconnection through targeted support.

What systems have you encountered?

These insights show which systems impact youth most, guiding advocacy to focus on reforms that improve their experiences and outcomes.

Did you experience mental health concerns at any of the following times?

These insights help us spot patterns, provide timely support, and push for programs that address mental health early and effectively.

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems?

Youth feedback highlights the need for mental health supports that are timely, accessible, and inclusive. Young people want care they can access quickly, from providers who understand and reflect their backgrounds and experiences. This points to a demand for faster, fairer, and more youth-centered mental health care that builds both trust and access.

How would you prefer to learn about resources available to you?

Knowing youth preferences helps us use outreach methods they connect with, ensuring services are easier to find and more youth friendly.

Community Engagement Approach

We used a mix of outreach strategies to reach youth and gather feedback:

- Grassroots Outreach: Meeting youth in parks, county facilities, neighborhood markets, schools and colleges and community centers remain our most effective approach. Face-to-face conversations and word-of-mouth generate 80.0% of our connections.
- Social media: Regular posts strengthen our presence and keep youth informed.
- E-Newsletter ("Youthful Insider"): Sent quarterly to over 14,000 subscribers with strong open rates.
- Youth Commission Website: Offers event information, meeting details, and youth spotlights in one accessible location.
- Text Messaging: Our new SMS outreach allows youth on probation to share feedback without attending in person.

Spotlight On Youth Engagement

This year, Commissioners took an active role in getting the survey out to youth across LA County. We've included photos showing our in-person outreach with students, community partners, and the public. This section provides a narrative of our ongoing outreach activities, highlighting key partners such as schools, youth-serving nonprofits, community organizations, **and more**. These images and summaries show how Commissioners engaged across diverse settings, met youth where they are, built connections, and gathered meaningful feedback.

LAUSD Mental Health Awareness Symposium

On May 2, 2025, at East Los Angeles College, Youth Commission Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson—joined by Commissioners Christian Gudiel, Jessica Castillo, and Evelyn Karina Rodriguez—led Fluid Emotions, an interactive workshop at the 3rd Annual LAUSD Mental Health & Wellness Symposium. The session encouraged open conversations on emotional awareness, challenged stigma, and highlighted the power of peer leadership in supporting youth mental health.



LA City Youth Expo

The Youth Commission hosted an information table at the L.A. Youth Expo, sharing resources and answering questions from young people and their families. Outreach team engaged youth in conversations about their experiences, encouraged them to take the survey, and promoted opportunities to get involved in shaping policies that impact their lives.

DCFS ILP Foster Youth High School Graduation Celebration

On July 11, the Youth Commission joined the Department of Children and Family Services at Cal State Dominguez Hills to celebrate the achievements of foster youth graduates. This event honored students in the ILP Program who are advancing to college or university, highlighting their hard work, resilience, and promising futures. Representing the LA County Youth Commission, Commissioners Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Mercedes Jackson, Luisa Flores Urrutia, and Amanda Hernandez attended to celebrate, uplift, and support these remarkable young scholars. More than a ceremony, the event was a powerful testament to the strength of foster youth and the community standing behind them.



Youth Civic Leadership Summit at USC with LA City Youth Development Department

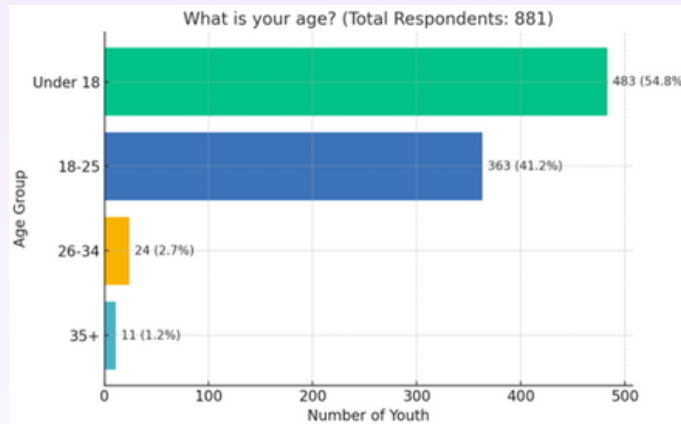
LA City's Youth Summit took place at USC on March 22, bringing together youth leaders, city partners, and community groups to talk policy, share resources, and spotlight youth-led solutions. Sessions covered education, foster care, and youth justice, with young people presenting their research and recommendations to decision-makers. Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez served as a presenter.

2025 Survey Analysis

The survey had two parts: demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, and location) to show who participated, and questions on experiences, priorities, and recommendations to shape this report. Both system-involved and non-system youth responded, for some questions, many youths selected multiple options, while others skipped the item entirely. Percentages may exceed 100% or fall short. Figures reflect the share of respondents, not strict totals.

DEMOGRAPHICS

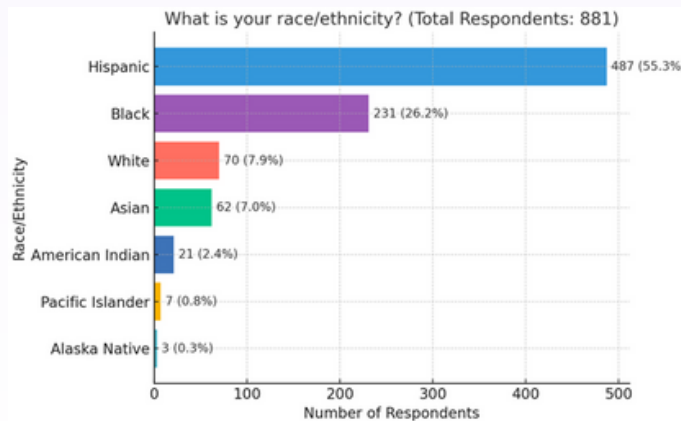
What is your age?



96.0% of Responses Came from Youth Ages 25 And Under.

Most participants were under 18, with a large share also ages 18–25. Smaller groups of older youth took part, showing outreach reached beyond school-aged respondents.

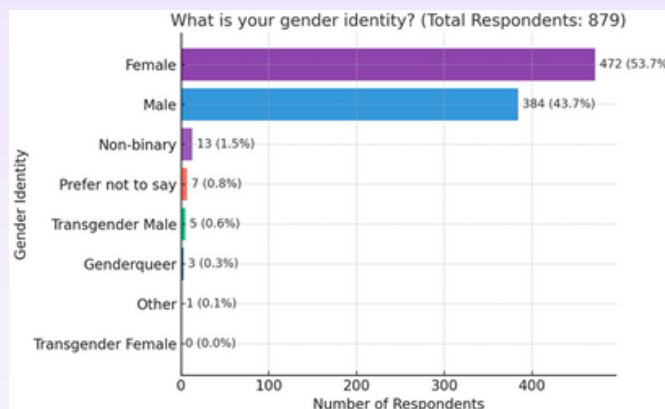
What is your ethnicity?



Nearly 8 in 10 Respondents Were Hispanic and Black.

Nearly eight in ten identified as Hispanic or Black. Smaller numbers identified as White, Asian, or other groups, reinforcing the need for culturally relevant supports.

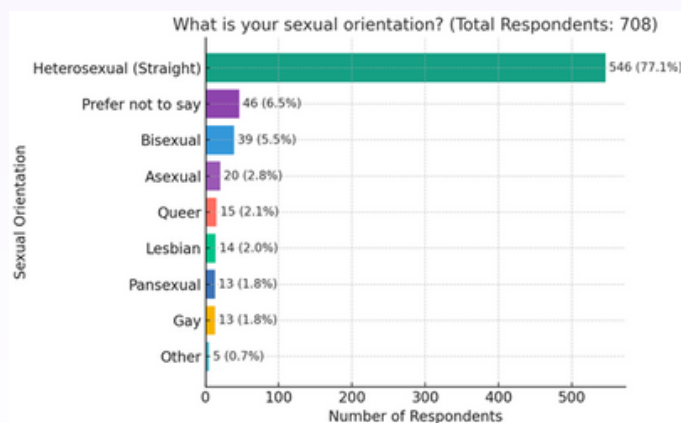
What is your gender?



Just Over Half of Respondents Were Female.

Responses were balanced between female and male, with a small share identifying as non-binary or other genders.

What is your sexual orientation? (this question is optional)



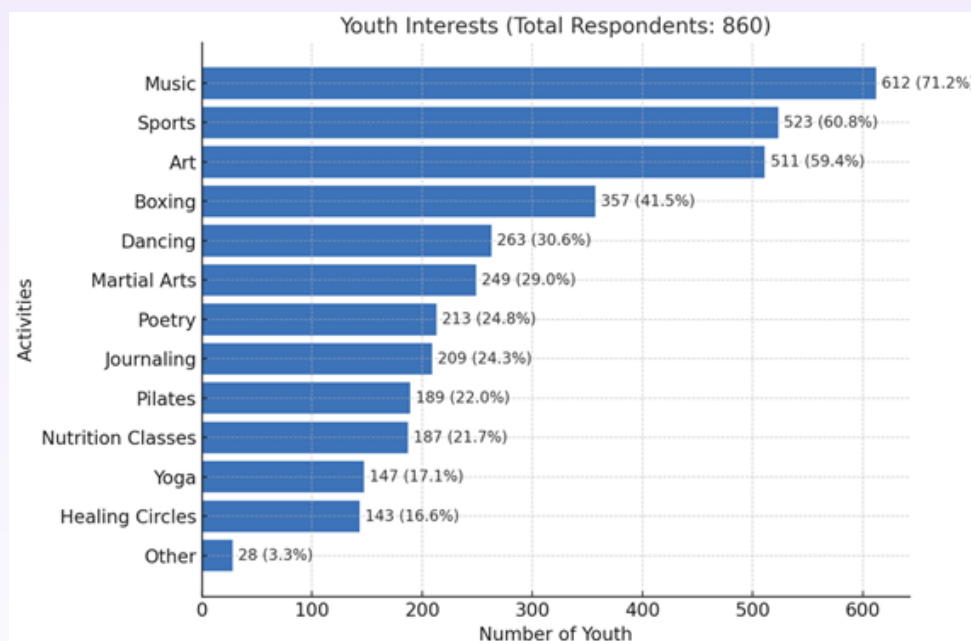
3 in 4 Respondents Identified as Heterosexual (Straight).

Most identified as heterosexual, while a meaningful share identified as LGBTQ+, underscoring the need for inclusive and affirming services.

YOUTH EXPERIENCES Q1-7

Note: For Questions 1-7, youth could select multiple priorities. **For some questions, many youths selected multiple options, while others skipped the item entirely.** Percentages may exceed 100% or fall short. Figures reflect the share of respondents, not strict totals.

Q1: What would you be most interest in?

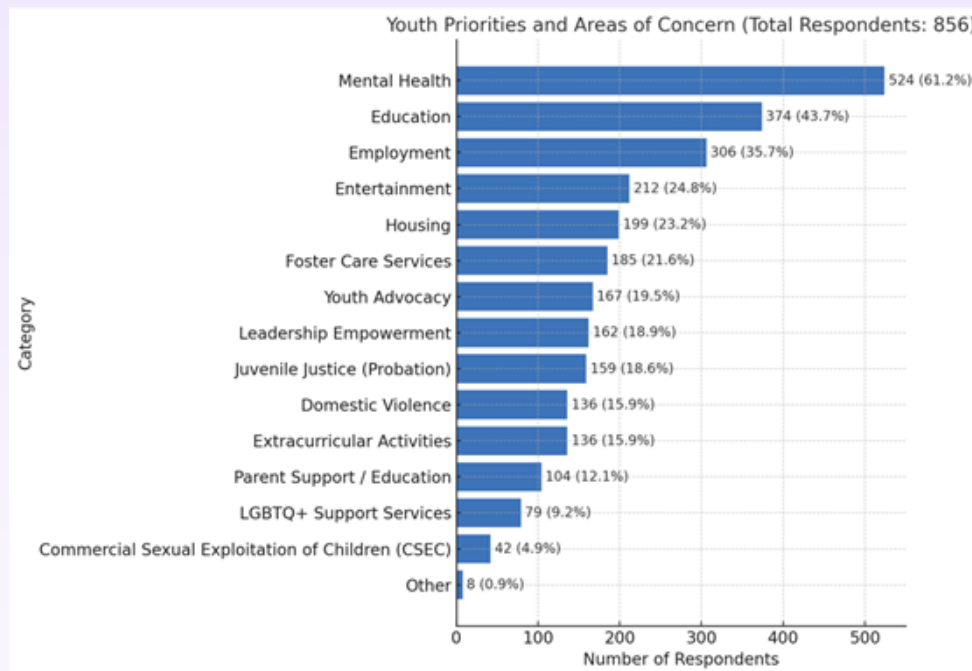


7 in10 Respondents Chose Music as a Top Activity.

Takeaway: Youth are most engaged by music, sports, and art, with strong interest in physical activities like boxing and dancing. Smaller groups value wellness and creative practices such as journaling and yoga.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (860)
Music	612	71.2%
Sports	523	60.8%
Art	511	59.4%
Boxing	357	41.5%
Dancing	263	30.6%
Martial Arts	249	29.0%
Poetry	213	24.8%
Journaling	209	24.3%
Pilates	189	22.0%
Nutrition Classes	187	21.7%
Yoga	147	17.1%
Healing Circles	143	16.6%
Other	28	3.3%

Q2: What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3)

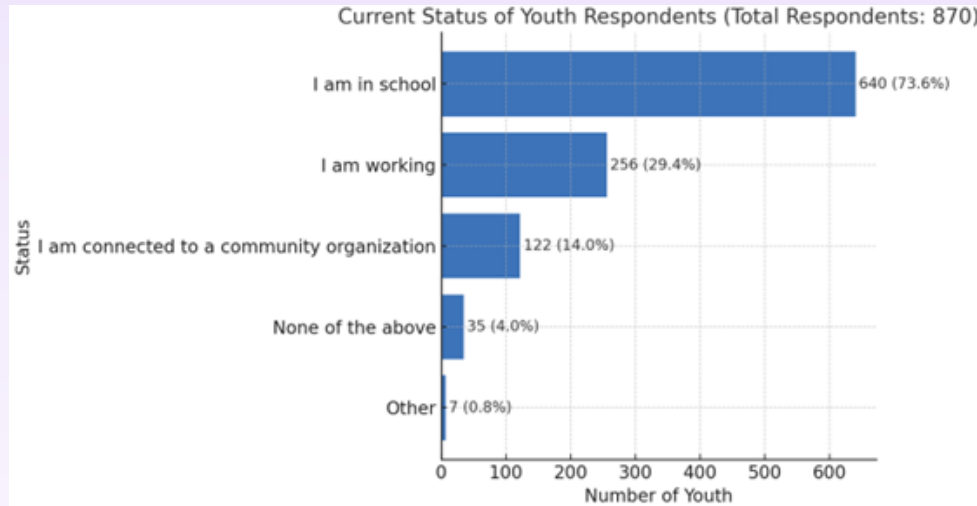


Nearly 2 in 3 Respondents Prioritized Mental Health.

Takeaway: Mental health leads youth priorities, followed by education and employment. Housing and foster care also rank highly, while fewer youth emphasized areas like LGBTQ+ support or parent education.

Category	# Youth	% of Total (856)
Mental Health	524	61.2%
Education	374	43.7%
Employment	306	35.7%
Entertainment	212	24.8%
Housing	199	23.2%
Foster Care Services	185	21.6%
Youth Advocacy	167	19.5%
Leadership Empowerment	162	18.9%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	159	18.6%
Extracurricular Activities	136	15.9%
Domestic Violence	136	15.9%
Parent Support / Education	104	12.1%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	79	9.2%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)	42	4.9%
Other	8	0.9%

Q3: What is your current involvement?

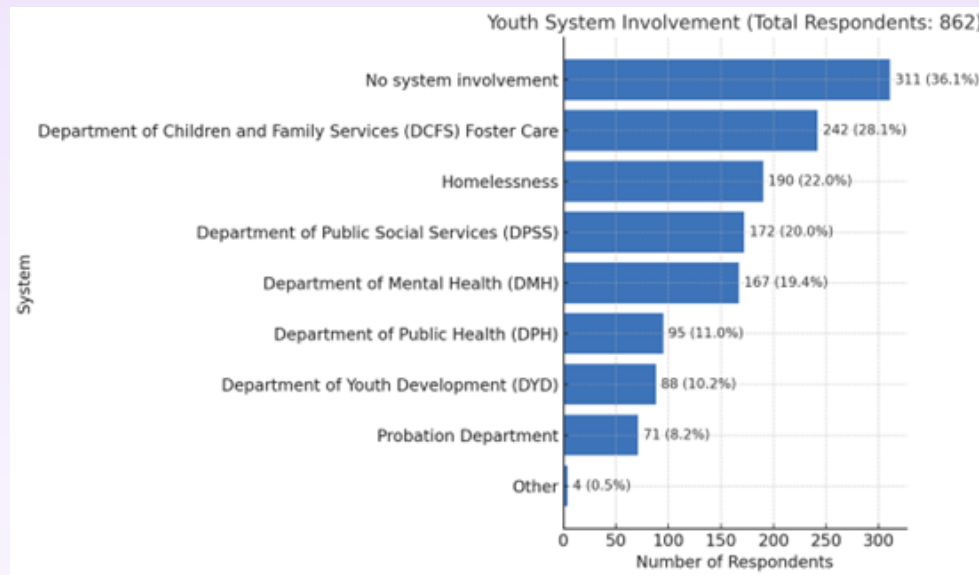


7 in 10 Respondents Are Currently in School.

Takeaway: Most youth reported being in school, with smaller groups working, connected to community programs, or disconnected from both.

Status	# Youth	% of Total (870)
I am in school	640	73.6%
I am working	256	29.4%
I am connected to a community organization	122	14.0%
None of the above	35	4.0%
Other	7	0.8%

Q4: What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)

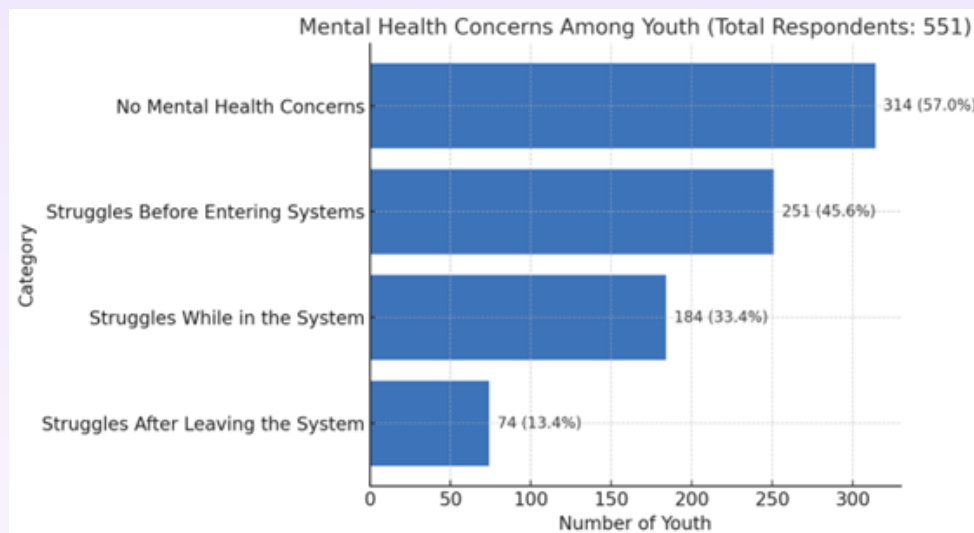


Nearly 2 in 3 Respondents Reported System Involvement.

Takeaway: Nearly two-thirds reported some system involvement, most often with foster care, homelessness services, or social services. A significant share reported no system involvement.

System	# Youth	% of Total (862)
No system involvement	311	36.1%
Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Foster Care	242	28.1%
Homelessness	190	22.0%
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	172	20.0%
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	167	19.4%
Department of Public Health (DPH)	95	11.0%
Department of Youth Development (DYD)	88	10.2%
Probation Department	71	8.2%
Other	4	0.5%

Q5: Did you experience mental health concerns at any of the following times? (Select all that apply)

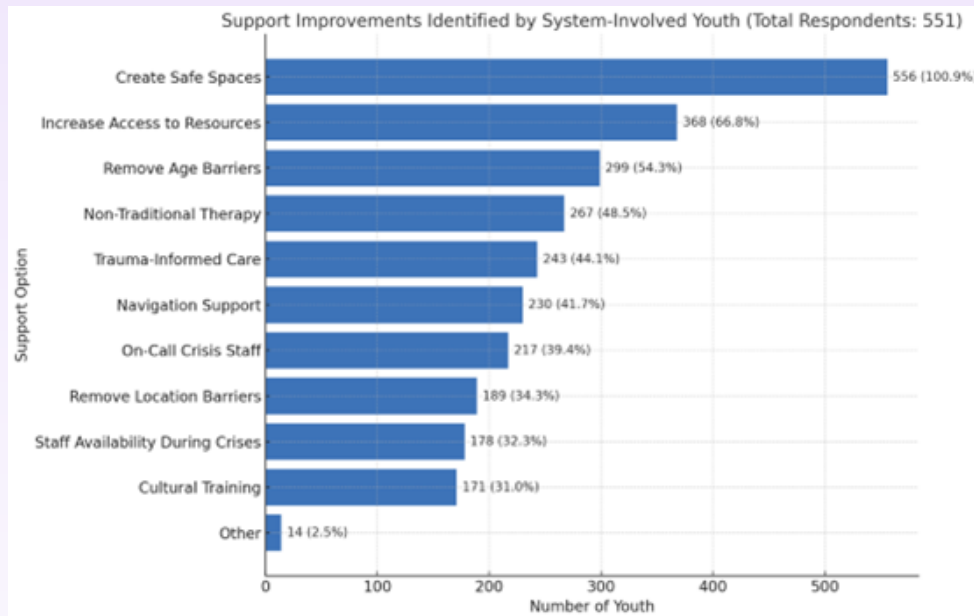


Over Half of Respondents Reported No Mental Health Concerns.

Takeaway: Over half reported no mental health concerns. Among those who did, challenges were most common before or during system involvement.

Category	# Youth	% of Total (551)
No Mental Health Concerns	314	57.0%
Struggles Before Entering Systems	251	45.6%
Struggles While in the System	184	33.4%
Struggles After Leaving the System	74	13.4%

Q6: What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems? (Choose your top 3)

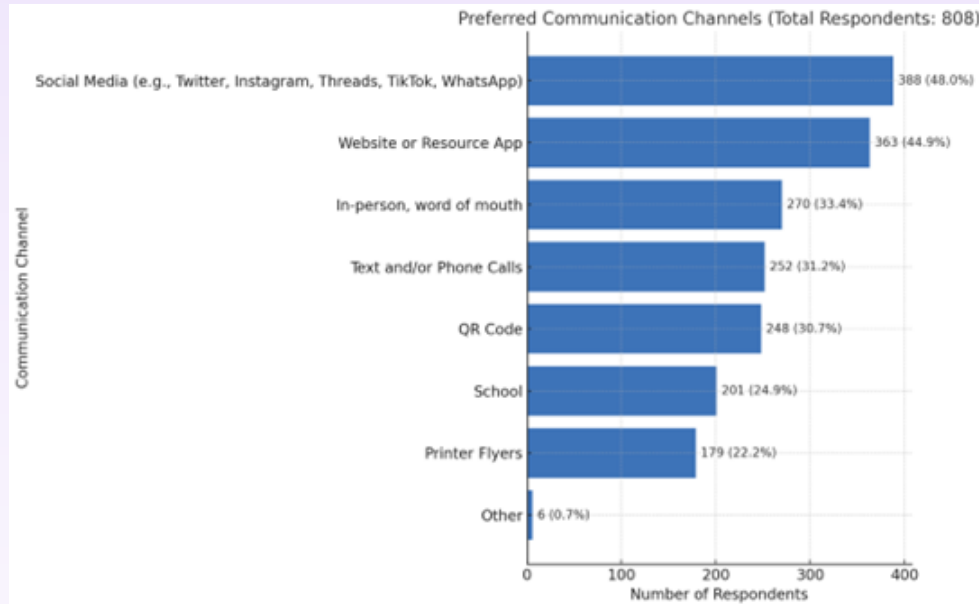


Over Half of Respondents Reported No Mental Health Concerns.

Takeaway: Over half reported no mental health concerns. Among those who did, challenges were most common before or during system involvement.

Support	# Youth	% of System Youth (551)
Create Safe Spaces	556	100.9%
Increase Access to Resources	368	66.8%
Remove Age Barriers	299	54.3%
Non-Traditional Therapy	267	48.5%
Trauma-Informed Care	243	44.1%
Navigation Support	230	41.7%
On-Call Crisis Staff	217	39.4%
Remove Location Barriers	189	34.3%
Staff Availability During Crises	178	32.3%
Cultural Training	171	31.0%
Other	14	2.5%

Q7: How would you prefer to learn about resources available to you? (Select all that apply)



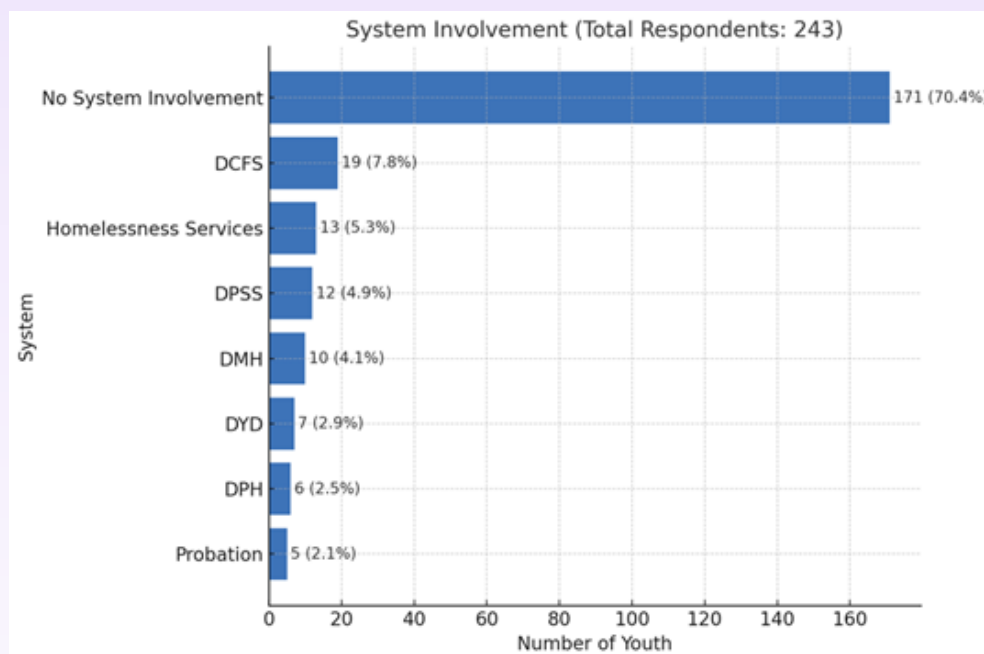
Social Media Was the Most Preferred Way to Learn About Resources.

Takeaway: Youth prefer to get information from **social media** and **websites/apps**, followed by word of mouth and text/phone communication. Flyers and school-based methods were less effective.

Category	# Youth	% of Total (808)
Social Media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, Threads, TikTok, WhatsApp)	388	48.0%
Website or Resource App	363	44.9%
In-person, word of mouth	270	33.4%
Text and/or Phone Calls	252	31.2%
QR Code	248	30.7%
School	201	24.9%
Printer Flyers	179	22.2%
Other	6	0.7%

First District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



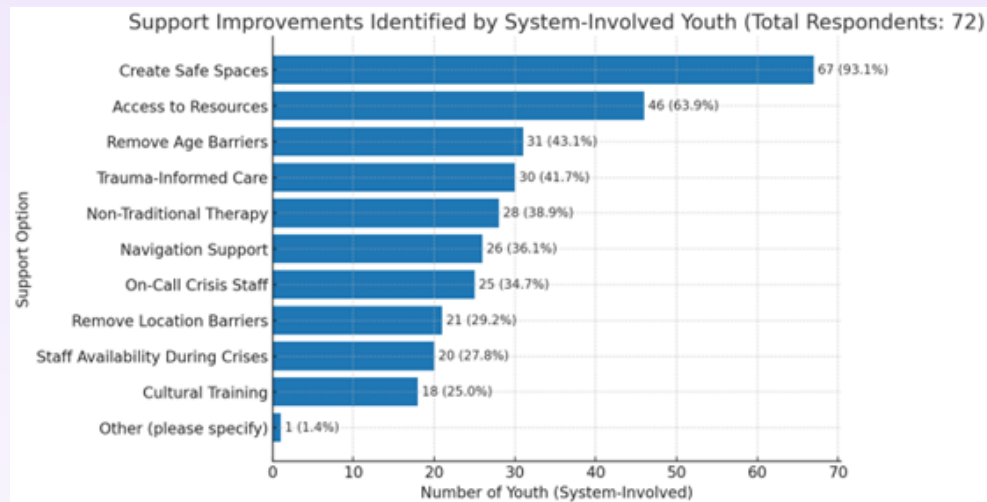
Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 72
- Non-system youth: 171
- Total surveyed: 243

Takeaway: Most youth reported no system involvement. For those who did, DCFS, homelessness services, and DPSS were the most common, with fewer connected to mental health, youth development, public health, or probation.

System	# Youth	% of Total (243)
No System Involvement	171	70.4%
DCFS	19	7.8%
Homelessness Services	13	5.3%
DPSS	12	4.9%
DMH	10	4.1%
DYD	7	2.9%
DPH	6	2.5%
Probation	5	2.1%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems (Choose your top 3).



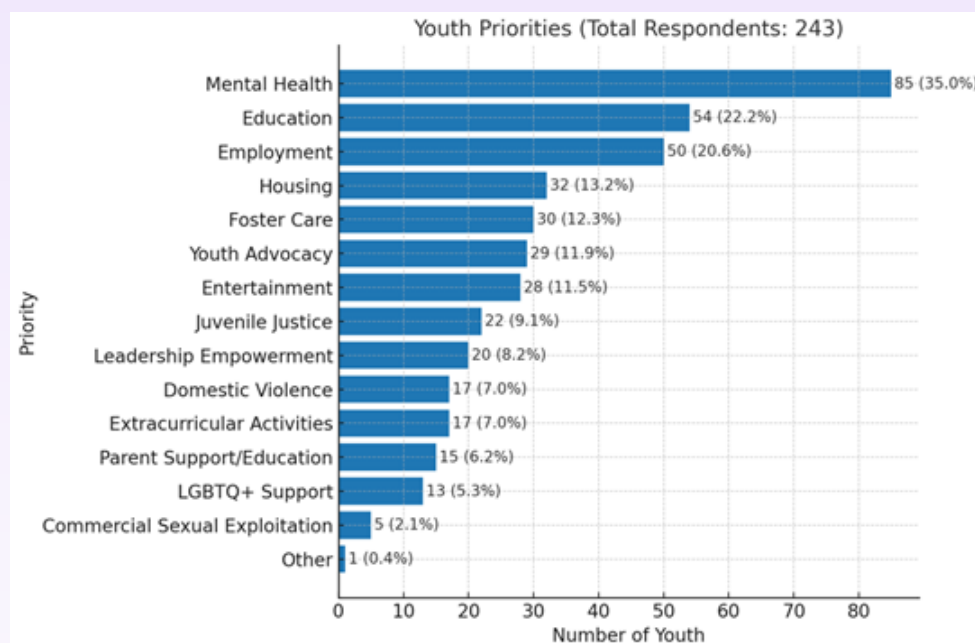
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 72

Takeaway: Youth prioritized safe spaces first, followed by access to resources and reducing age barriers. Trauma-informed care was also a recurring need.

Support Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (72)
Create Safe Spaces	67	93.1%
Access to Resources	46	63.9%
Remove Age Barriers	31	43.1%
Trauma-Informed Care	30	41.7%
Non-Traditional Therapy	28	38.9%
Navigation Support	26	36.1%
On-Call Crisis Staff	25	34.7%
Remove Location Barriers	21	29.2%
Staff Availability During Crises	20	27.8%
Cultural Training	18	25.0%
Other (please specify)	1	1.4%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3).

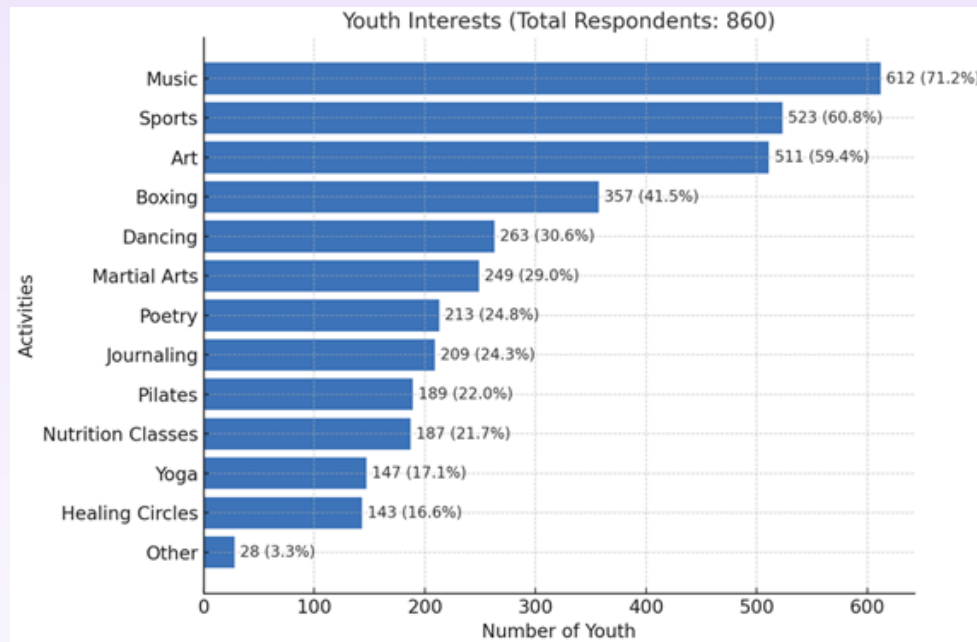


Advocacy Priorities: All Youth: 243

Takeaway: Youth prioritized mental health, education, and employment, showing a balance between immediate well-being and future opportunities.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (243)
Mental Health	85	35.0%
Education	54	22.2%
Employment	50	20.6%
Housing	32	13.2%
Foster Care	30	12.3%
Youth Advocacy	29	11.9%
Entertainment	28	11.5%
Juvenile Justice	22	9.1%
Leadership Empowerment	20	8.2%
Domestic Violence	17	7.0%
Extracurricular Activities	17	7.0%
Parent Support/Education	15	6.2%
LGBTQ+ Support	13	5.3%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	5	2.1%
Other	1	0.4%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



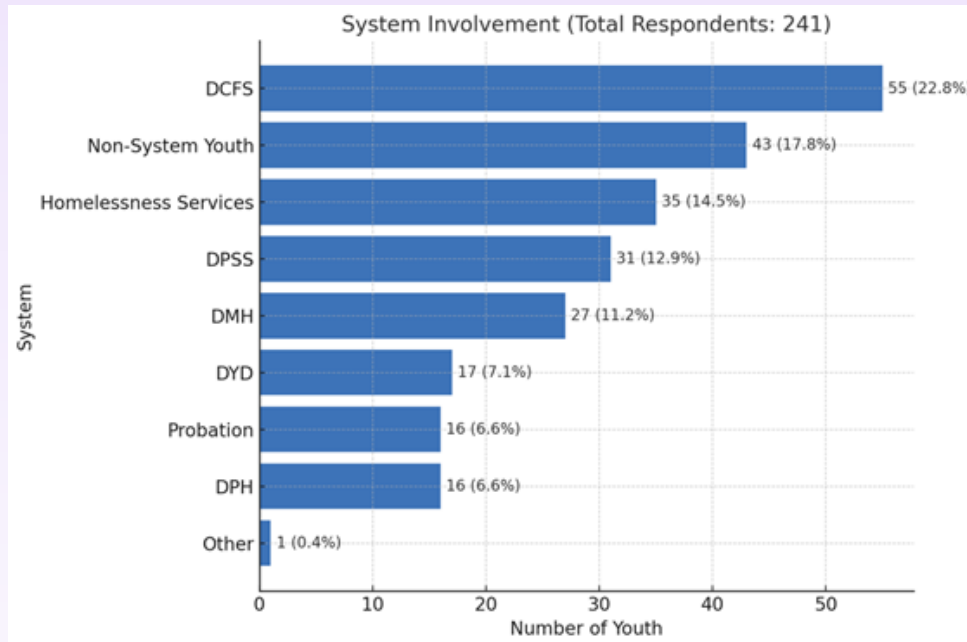
Youth Interests: All Youth: 243

Takeaway: Music was the top interest, followed by sports and art. Many also enjoyed wellness and movement-based activities.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (243)
Music	84	34.6%
Sports	56	23.0%
Art	48	19.8%
Dancing	35	14.4%
Boxing	27	11.1%
Martial Arts	22	9.1%
Poetry/Journaling	19	7.8%
Pilates	15	6.2%
Yoga	15	6.2%
Healing Circles	14	5.8%
Nutrition	13	5.3%
Other	3	1.2%

Second District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



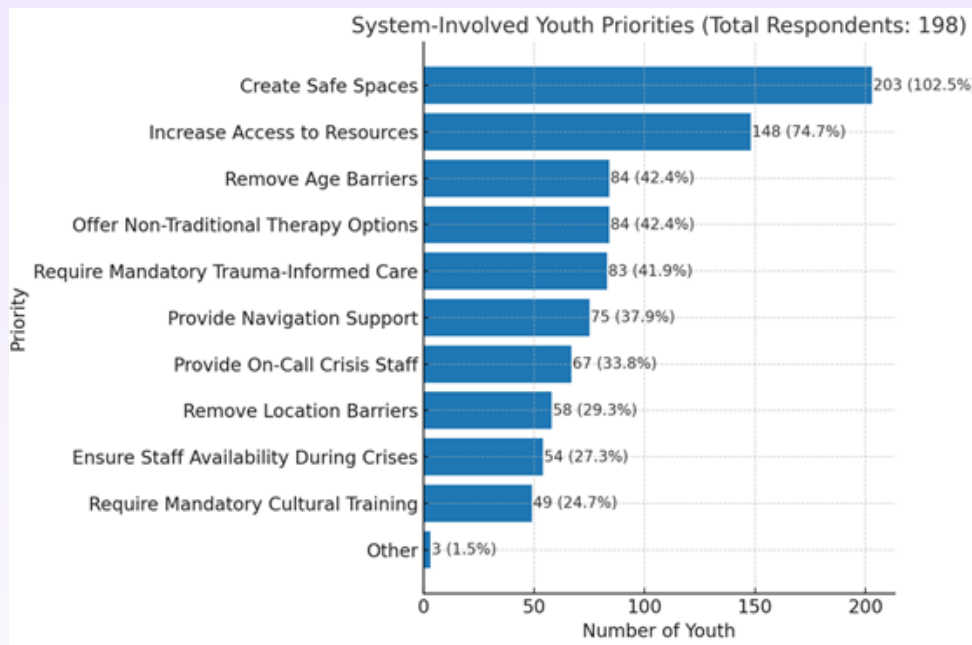
Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 198
- Non-system youth: 43
- Total surveyed: 241

Takeaway: Many youths reported system involvement, most often with DCFS, followed by homelessness services, DPSS, and DMH. Smaller groups mentioned youth development, public health, or probation.

System	# Youth	% of Total (241)
DCFS	55	22.8%
Non-System Youth	43	17.8%
Homelessness Services	35	14.5%
DPSS	31	12.9%
DMH	27	11.2%
DYD	17	7.1%
DPH	16	6.6%
Probation	16	6.6%
Other	1	0.4%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems (Choose your top 3).



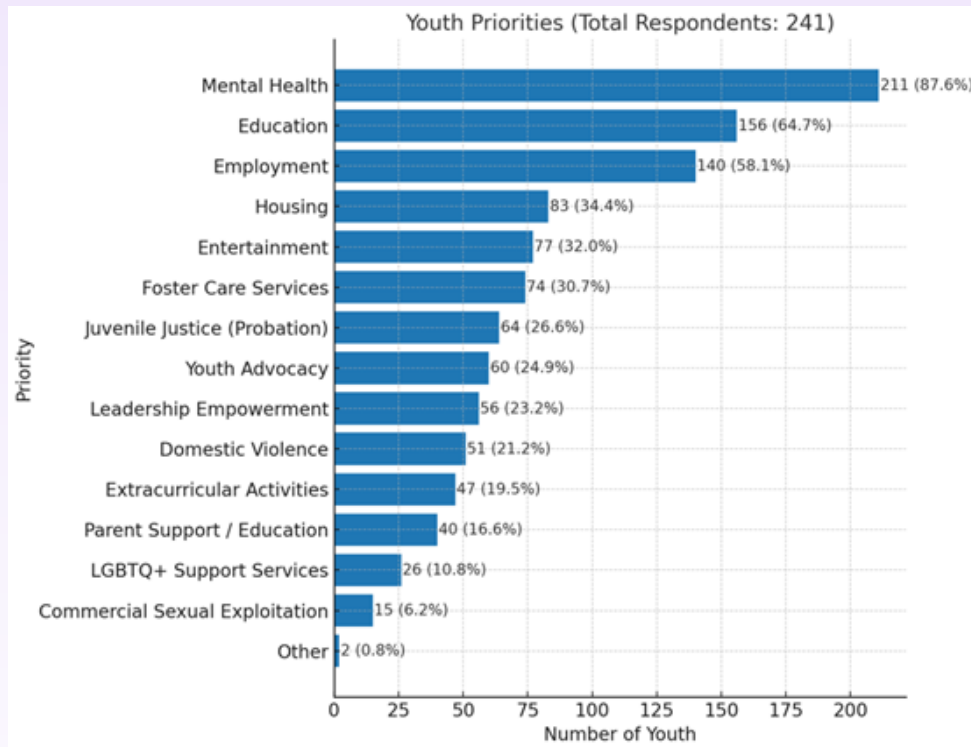
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 198

Takeaway: Safe spaces and resource access were the top needs. Youth also called for therapy, trauma-informed care, and removing age barriers, with fewer emphasizing staff or training supports.

Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (198)
Create Safe Spaces	203	102.5%
Increase Access to Resources	148	74.7%
Remove Age Barriers	84	42.4%
Offer Non-Traditional Therapy Options	84	42.4%
Require Mandatory Trauma-Informed Care	83	41.9%
Provide Navigation Support	75	37.9%
Provide On-Call Crisis Staff	67	33.8%
Remove Location Barriers	58	29.3%
Ensure Staff Availability During Crises	54	27.3%
Require Mandatory Cultural Training	49	24.7%
Other	3	1.5%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3).

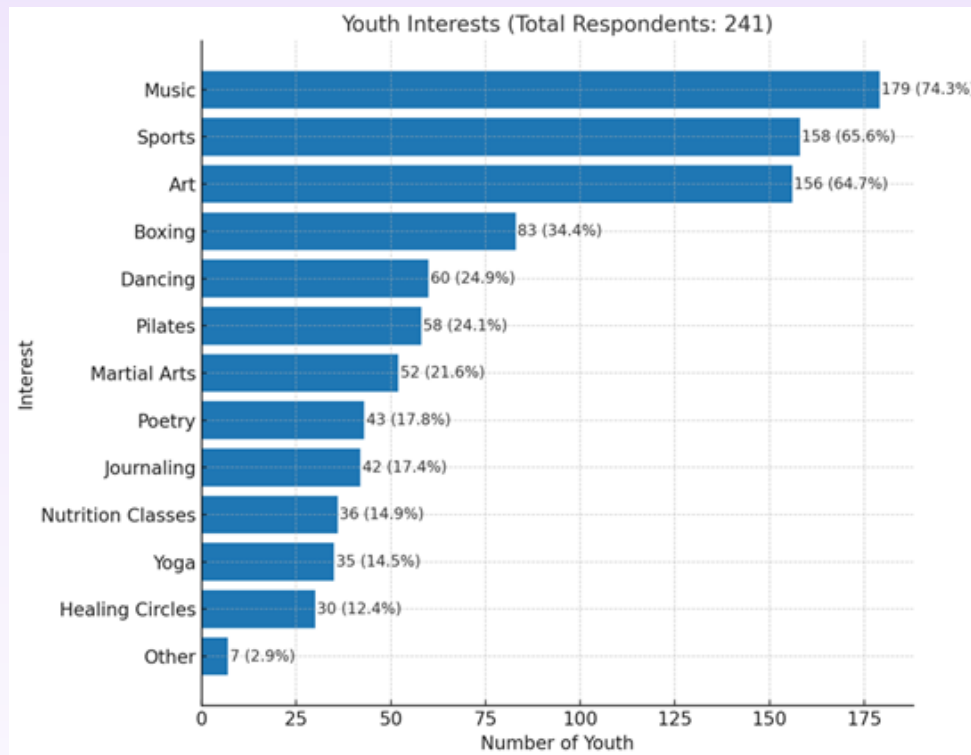


Advocacy Priorities: All Youth: 241

Takeaway: Mental health, education, and employment led priorities. Housing and foster care followed, while fewer youth emphasized parent support, LGBTQ+ services, or CSEC.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (241)
Mental Health	211	87.6%
Education	156	64.7%
Employment	140	58.1%
Housing	83	34.4%
Entertainment	77	32.0%
Foster Care Services	74	30.7%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	64	26.6%
Youth Advocacy	60	24.9%
Leadership Empowerment	56	23.2%
Domestic Violence	51	21.2%
Extracurricular Activities	47	19.5%
Parent Support / Education	40	16.6%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	26	10.8%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	15	6.2%
Other	2	0.8%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



Youth Interests: All Youth: 241

Takeaway: Youth showed strong interest in music, sports, and art, with notable engagement in boxing, dancing, and Pilates. Fewer were drawn to journaling, nutrition, yoga, or healing circles.

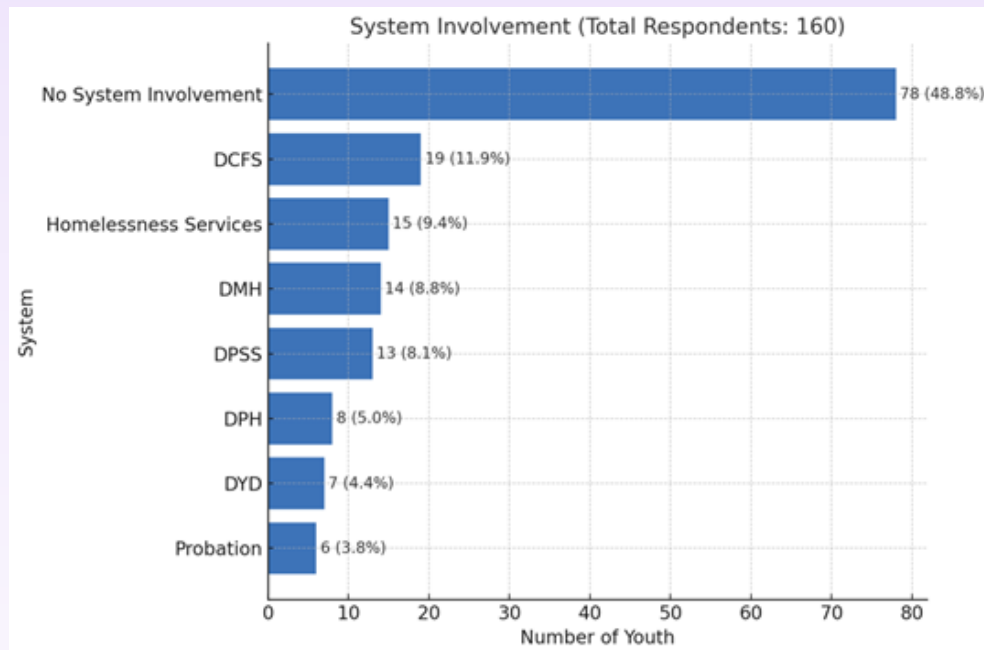
VEC

OPS

2024

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (241)
Music	179	74.3%
Sports	158	65.6%
Art	156	64.7%
Boxing	83	34.4%
Dancing	60	24.9%
Pilates	58	24.1%
Martial Arts	52	21.6%
Poetry	43	17.8%
Journaling	42	17.4%
Nutrition Classes	36	14.9%
Yoga	35	14.5%
Healing Circles	30	12.4%
Other	7	2.9%

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



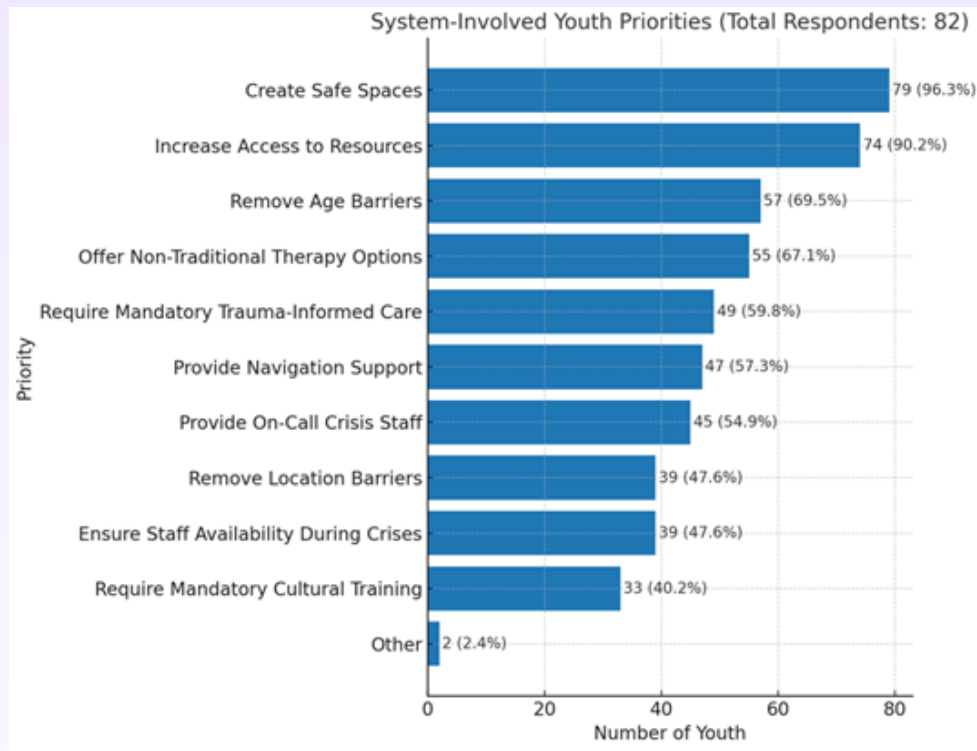
SD3 – Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 82
- Non-system youth: 78
- Total surveyed: 160

Takeaway: Nearly half reported no system involvement. Among those who did, the largest shares were connected to DCFS, homelessness services, DMH, and DPSS, with smaller numbers in public health, youth development, or probation.

System	# Youth	% of Total (160)
No System Involvement	78	48.8%
DCFS	19	11.9%
Homelessness Services	15	9.4%
DMH	14	8.8%
DPSS	13	8.1%
DPH	8	5.0%
DYD	7	4.4%
Probation	6	3.8%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems (Choose your top 3).



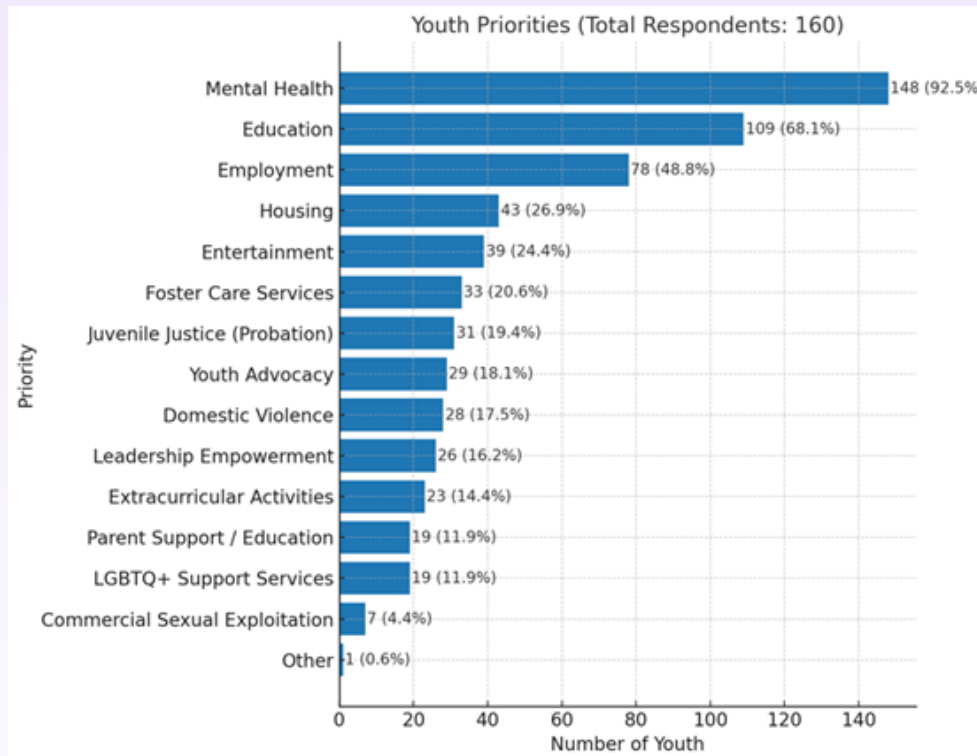
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 82

Takeaway: Youth emphasized safe spaces and access to resources, with mid-level interest in therapy, trauma-informed care, and reducing age barriers. Cultural training and staffing were less of a focus.

Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (82)
Create Safe Spaces	79	96.3%
Increase Access to Resources	74	90.2%
Remove Age Barriers	57	69.5%
Offer Non-Traditional Therapy Options	55	67.1%
Require Mandatory Trauma-Informed Care	49	59.8%
Provide Navigation Support	47	57.3%
Provide On-Call Crisis Staff	45	54.9%
Remove Location Barriers	39	47.6%
Ensure Staff Availability During Crises	39	47.6%
Require Mandatory Cultural Training	33	40.2%
Other	2	2.4%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3).



Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

OPS

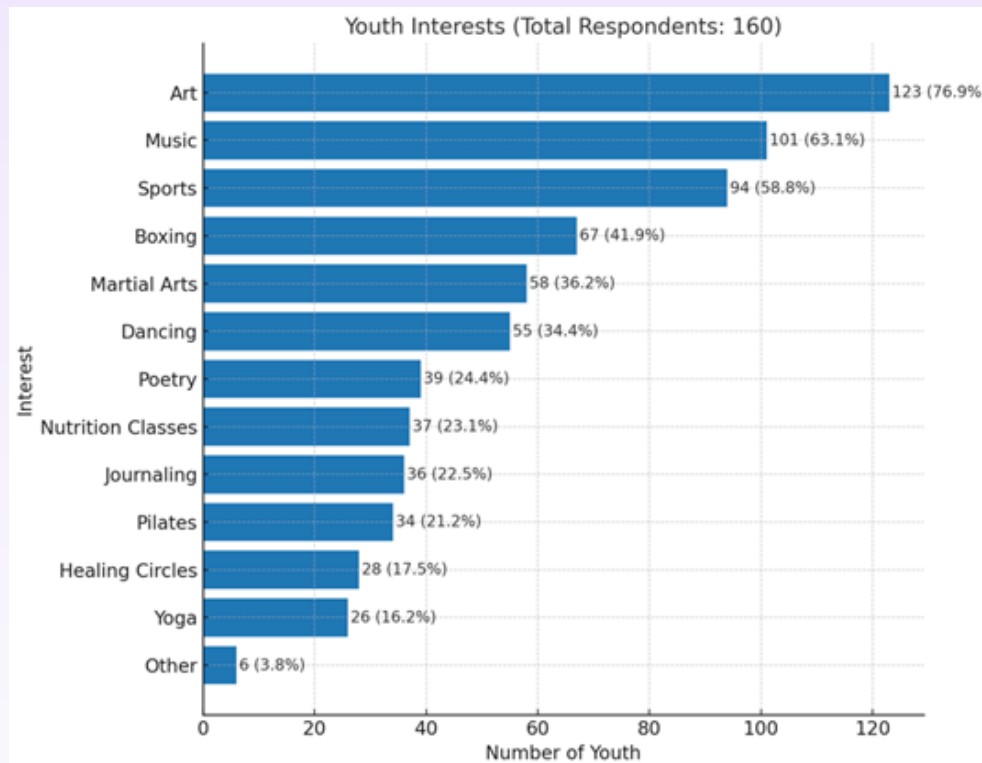
2024

- System-involved youth: 82

Takeaway: Youth emphasized safe spaces and access to resources, with mid-level interest in therapy, trauma-informed care, and reducing age barriers. Cultural training and staffing were less of a focus.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (160)
Mental Health	148	92.5%
Education	109	68.1%
Employment	78	48.8%
Housing	43	26.9%
Entertainment	39	24.4%
Foster Care Services	33	20.6%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	31	19.4%
Youth Advocacy	29	18.1%
Domestic Violence	28	17.5%
Leadership Empowerment	26	16.2%
Extracurricular Activities	23	14.4%
Parent Support / Education	19	11.9%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	19	11.9%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	7	4.4%
Other	1	0.6%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



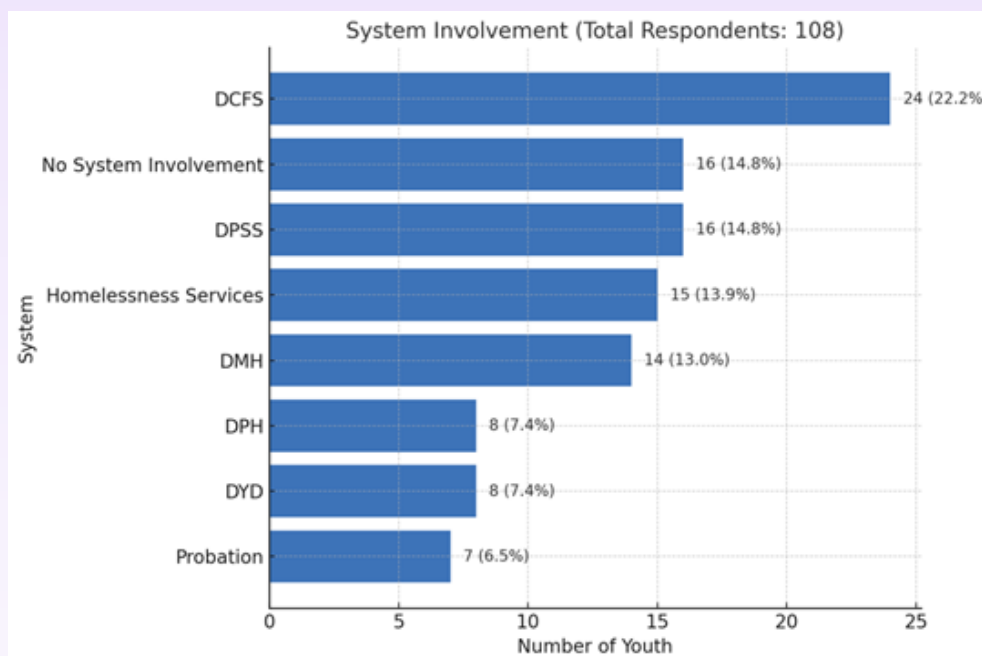
Youth Interests: All Youth: 160

Takeaway: Art, music, and sports were most popular, with moderate interest in boxing, martial arts, and dancing. Smaller groups leaned toward creative and wellness activities like poetry, journaling, and yoga.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (160)
Art	123	76.9%
Music	101	63.1%
Sports	94	58.8%
Boxing	67	41.9%
Martial Arts	58	36.2%
Dancing	55	34.4%
Poetry	39	24.4%
Nutrition Classes	37	23.1%
Journaling	36	22.5%
Pilates	34	21.2%
Healing Circles	28	17.5%
Yoga	26	16.2%
Other	6	3.8%

Fourth District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



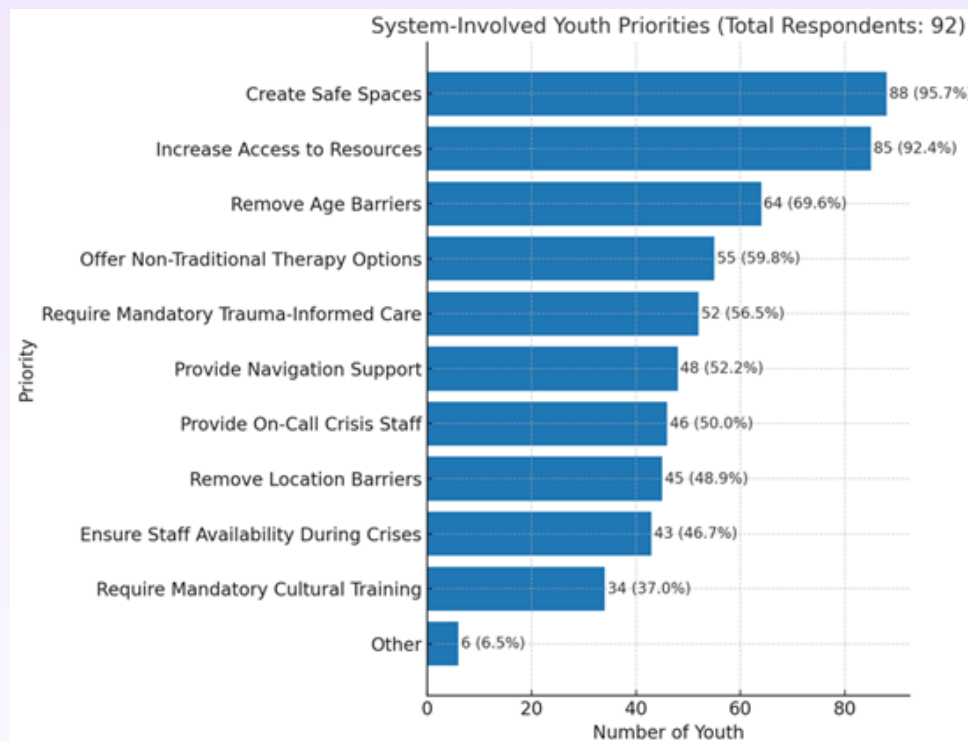
SD4 – Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 92
- Non-system youth: 16
- Total surveyed: 108

Takeaway: System involvement was most common with DCFS, DPSS, homelessness services, and DMH. Few youths reported no system involvement, while youth development, public health, and probation were rarely selected.

System	# Youth	% of Total (108)
DCFS	24	22.2%
DPSS	16	14.8%
No System Involvement	16	14.8%
Homelessness Services	15	13.9%
DMH	14	13.0%
DYD	8	7.4%
DPH	8	7.4%
Probation	7	6.5%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems? (Choose your top 3).



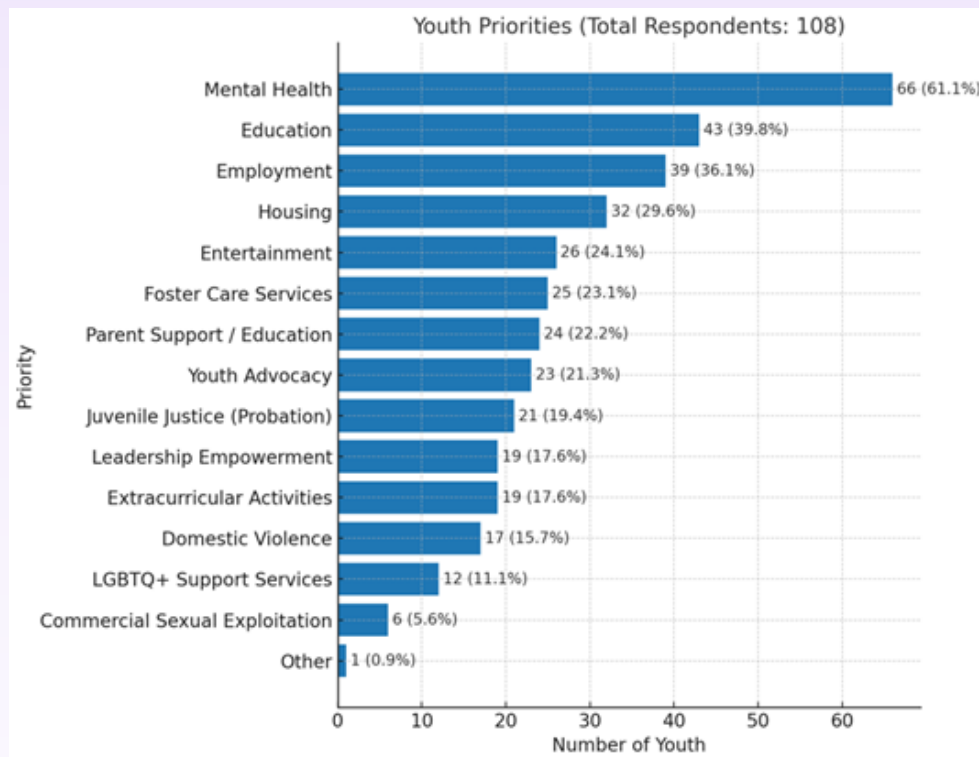
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 92

Takeaway: Safe spaces and resource access led priorities, followed by age barrier removal and therapy. Training and staffing were mentioned less often.

Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (92)
Create Safe Spaces	88	95.7%
Increase Access to Resources	85	92.4%
Remove Age Barriers	64	69.6%
Offer Non-Traditional Therapy Options	55	59.8%
Require Mandatory Trauma-Informed Care	52	56.5%
Provide Navigation Support	48	52.2%
Provide On-Call Crisis Staff	46	50.0%
Remove Location Barriers	45	48.9%
Ensure Staff Availability During Crises	43	46.7%
Require Mandatory Cultural Training	34	37.0%
Other	6	6.5%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3).

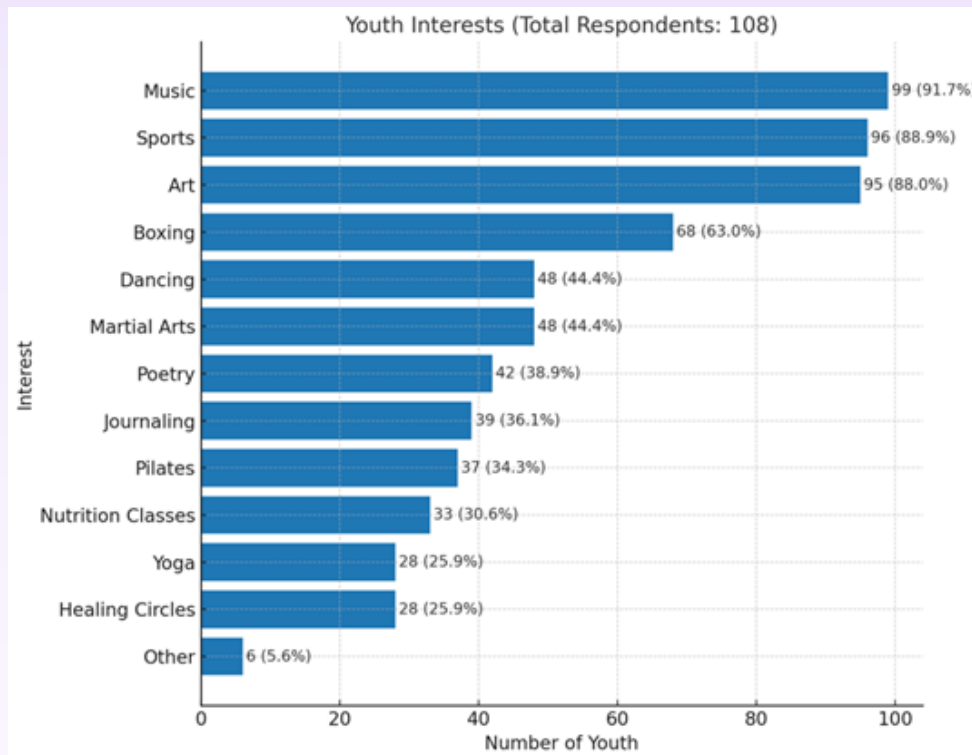


Advocacy Priorities: All Youth: 108

Takeaway: Mental health, education, and employment were the strongest priorities. Housing, parent support, and foster care were secondary, with fewer highlighting LGBTQ+ support or CSEC.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (108)
Mental Health	66	61.1%
Education	43	39.8%
Employment	39	36.1%
Housing	32	29.6%
Entertainment	26	24.1%
Foster Care Services	25	23.1%
Parent Support / Education	24	22.2%
Youth Advocacy	23	21.3%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	21	19.4%
Leadership Empowerment	19	17.6%
Extracurricular Activities	19	17.6%
Domestic Violence	17	15.7%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	12	11.1%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	6	5.6%
Other	1	0.9%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



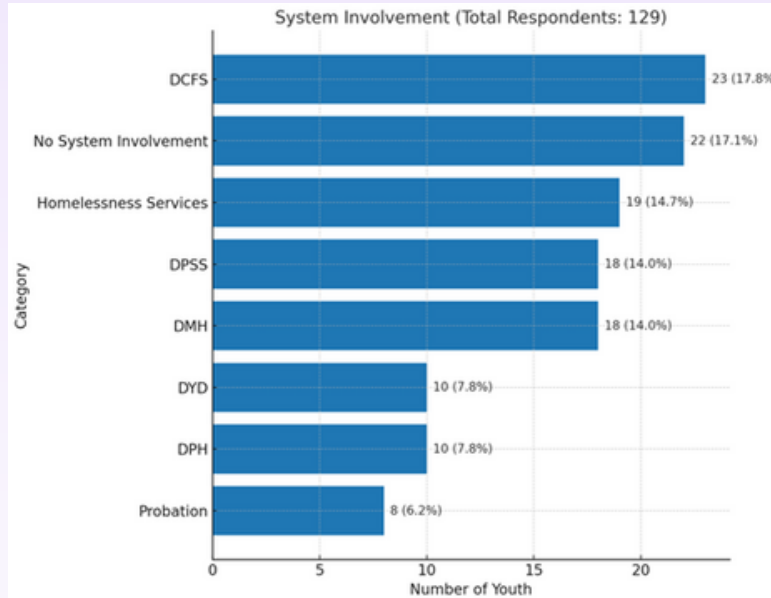
Youth Interests: All Youth: 108

Takeaway: Music, sports, and art led interests, with strong participation in boxing, dancing, and martial arts. Creative and wellness activities like poetry, journaling, and nutrition also appealed to some.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (108)
Music	99	91.7%
Sports	96	88.9%
Art	95	88.0%
Boxing	68	63.0%
Dancing	48	44.4%
Martial Arts	48	44.4%
Poetry	42	38.9%
Journaling	39	36.1%
Pilates	37	34.3%
Nutrition Classes	33	30.6%
Yoga	28	25.9%
Healing Circles	28	25.9%
Other	6	5.6%

Fifth District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



SD5 – Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 107
- Non-system youth: 22
- Total surveyed: 129

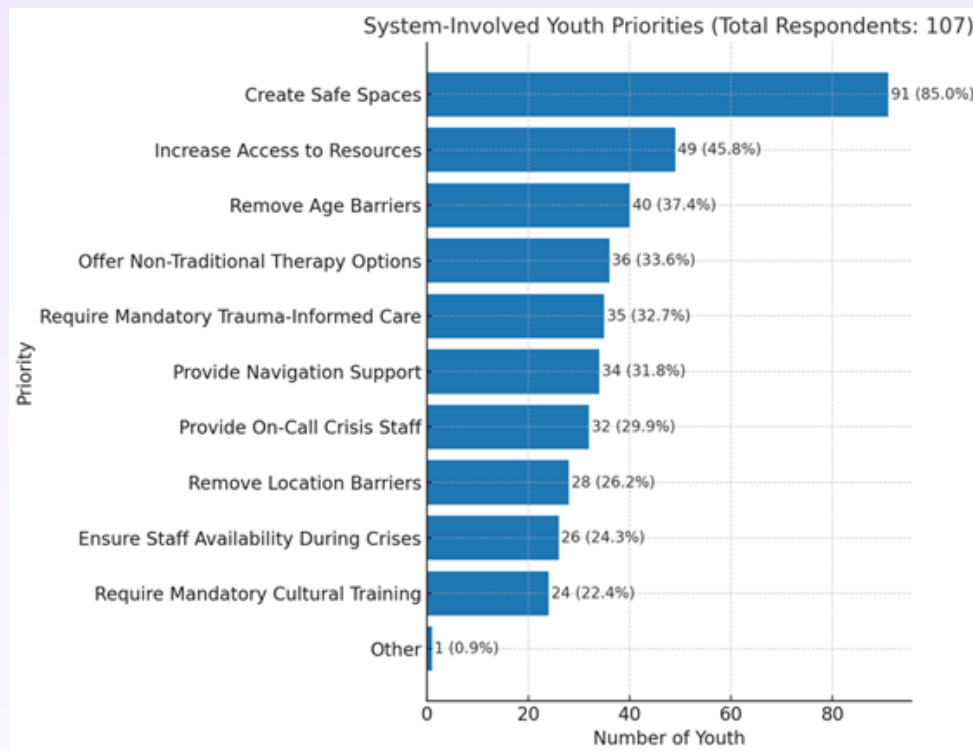
OPS

2024

Takeaway: Youth were most often connected to DCFS and homelessness services, with notable shares also in DPSS and DMH. Smaller groups engaged with youth development, public health, or probation, while non-system youth made up a significant portion.

Category	# Youth	% of Total (129)
DCFS	23	17.8%
No System Involvement	22	17.1%
Homelessness Services	19	14.7%
DPSS	18	14.0%
DMH	18	14.0%
DYD	10	7.8%
DPH	10	7.8%
Probation	8	6.2%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems (Choose your top 3).



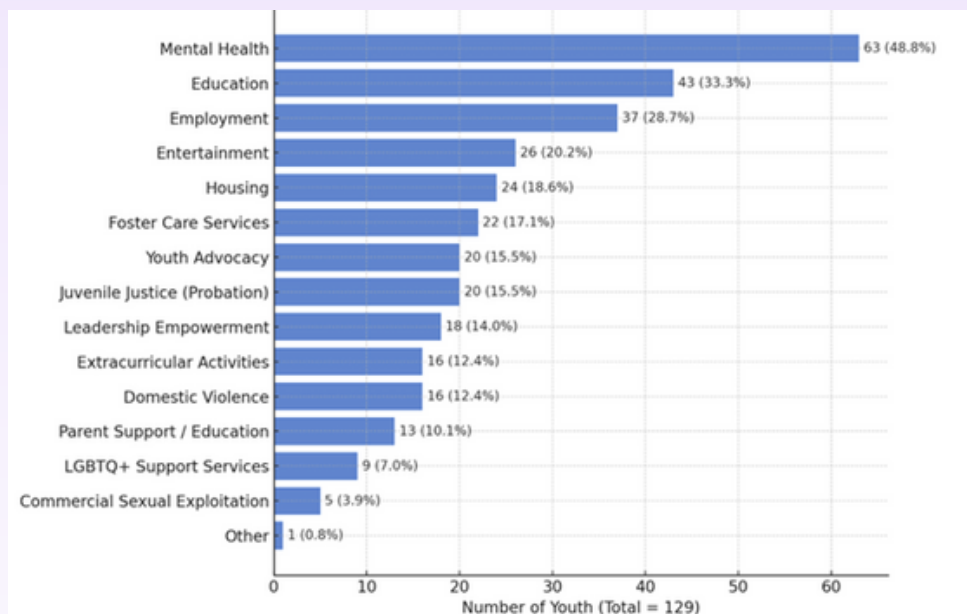
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 107

Takeaway: Youth placed the strongest emphasis on safe spaces and resource access. Secondary needs included therapy, trauma-informed care, and age barrier removal, with fewer highlighting training or staffing.

Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (107)
Create Safe Spaces	91	85.0%
Increase Access to Resources	49	45.8%
Remove Age Barriers	40	37.4%
Offer Non-Traditional Therapy	36	33.6%
Require Trauma-Informed Care	35	32.7%
Provide Navigation Support	34	31.8%
Provide On-Call Crisis Staff	32	29.9%
Remove Location Barriers	28	26.2%
Ensure Staff Availability Crises	26	24.3%
Require Cultural Competency	24	22.4%
Other	1	0.9%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3).

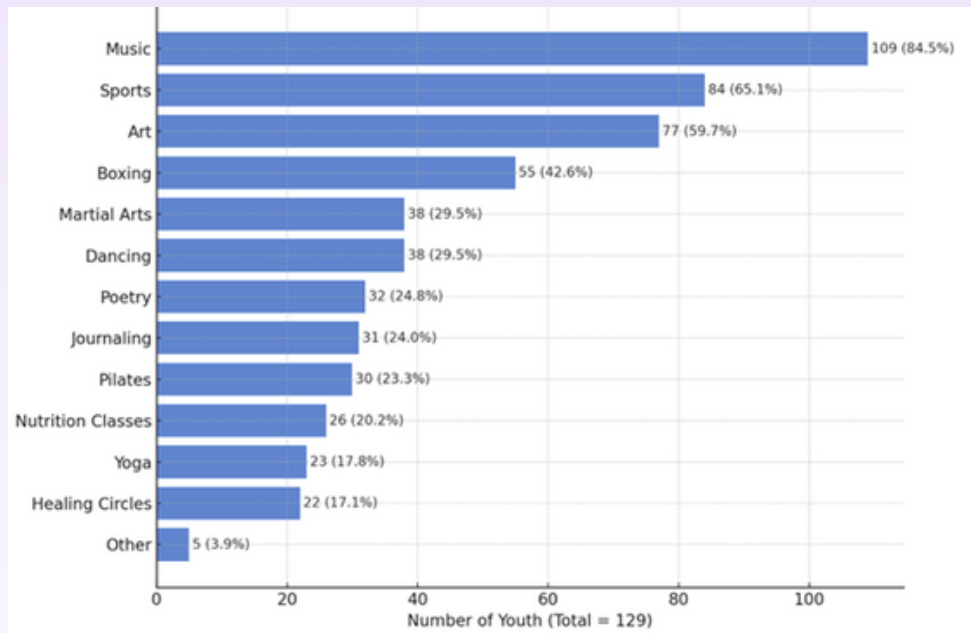


Advocacy Priorities: All Youth: 129

Takeaway: Youth prioritized mental health above all, followed by education and employment. Housing, entertainment, and foster care were secondary, while justice, leadership, family, and LGBTQ+ support were less emphasized.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (129)
Mental Health	63	48.8%
Education	43	33.3%
Employment	37	28.7%
Entertainment	26	20.2%
Housing	24	18.6%
Foster Care Services	22	17.1%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	20	15.5%
Youth Advocacy	20	15.5%
Leadership Empowerment	18	14.0%
Domestic Violence	16	12.4%
Extracurricular Activities	16	12.4%
Parent Support / Education	13	10.1%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	9	7.0%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	5	3.9%
Other	1	0.8%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



Youth Interests: All Youth: 129

Takeaway: Music was the leading interest, followed by sports and art. Youth also showed enthusiasm for physical and creative activities like boxing, dancing, and poetry.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (129)
Music	109	84.5%
Sports	84	65.1%
Art	77	59.7%
Boxing	55	42.6%
Dancing	38	29.5%
Martial Arts	38	29.5%
Poetry	32	24.8%
Journaling	31	24.0%
Pilates	30	23.3%
Nutrition Classes	26	20.2%
Yoga	23	17.8%
Healing Circles	22	17.1%
Other	5	3.9%

Recommendations

- **Enhance Safe Spaces:** Create environments where youth feel welcome, respected, and supported, particularly those with lived experiences in child welfare and juvenile justice.
- **Improve Access to Services:** Work with County partners to ensure timely, youth-friendly, and culturally relevant supports are available across systems.
- **Develop a Centralized Hub:** Partner with the TAY Table to establish a single, accessible hub for services and resources that reduces duplication and confusion.
- **Expand Outreach to Disconnected Youth:** Design strategies to connect with youth who are outside traditional systems, including neighborhood-based, school-based, and digital engagement.

Next Steps

- **Convene Stakeholders:** Host year-end discussions with County departments, community-based organizations, and youth to refine strategies.
- **Engage Thought Partners:** Bring in both County and non-County partners to co-create approaches that are practical and responsive.
- **Leverage Data:** Use findings from surveys and listening sessions to inform engagement strategies and align with Board priorities.
- **Prepare for 2026 Strategic Planning:** Begin drafting a roadmap that connects current recommendations to the Commission's future strategic plan.

Looking Ahead (2026)

By 2026, the Youth Commission will be positioned to deepen youth engagement and influence systems change through expanded partnerships, stronger outreach, and data-driven planning. This long-term vision ensures sustainability and alignment with the Board of Supervisors' goals.

- **Strategic Convenings:** Hold countywide gatherings with stakeholders to shape the 2026 strategic planning retreat.
- **Expand Partnerships:** Strengthen relationships with community-based organizations, particularly those serving child welfare and justice-impacted youth.
- **Reach Youth Where They Are:** Explore new ways to connect with youth in schools, STRTPs, neighborhoods, and digital platforms.
- **Amplify Youth Voices:** Continue building trust, lifting youth experiences, and advancing policy recommendations that reflect real needs.

Appendix 1

2/27/2025 v6

Los Angeles County Youth Commission Survey

Please note this is a VOLUNTARY and OPTIONAL survey

Age _____
(What is your age?)

Ethnicity
(Select all that apply)

- ☐ American Indian
- ☐ Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Hispanic
- ☐ Pacific Islander
- ☐ White

Zip Code _____

Gender

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Transgender Male
- ☐ Transgender Female
- ☐ Genderqueer
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other
(please specify _____)

Sexual Orientation
(This question is optional)

- ☐ Asexual
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Heterosexual (Straight)
- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Pansexual
- ☐ Queer
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other
(please specify _____)

1. What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)

- ☐ Music
- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Sports

- ☐ Healing Circles
- ☐ Pilates
- ☐ Journaling
- ☐ Nutrition Classes

- ☐ Yoga
- ☐ Martial Arts
- ☐ Boxing
- ☐ Dancing

☐ Other (please specify) _____

2. What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3)

- ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Juvenile Justice (Probation)
- ☐ Entertainment
- ☐ Extracurricular Activities
- ☐ Parent Support/Education
- ☐ Leadership Empowerment
- ☐ Employment

- ☐ LGBTQ+ Support Services
- ☐ Youth Advocacy
- ☐ Foster Care Services
- ☐ Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
- ☐ Domestic Violence
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

3. What is your current involvement? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ I am in school
- ☐ I am working
- ☐ I am connected to a community organization

- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

4. What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc)
- ☐ Probation Department
- ☐ Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
- ☐ Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- ☐ Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Foster Care
- ☐ Department of Youth Development (DYD)
- ☐ Department of Public Health (DPH)
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ No system involvement (please proceed to Question 7)

5. Did you experience mental health concerns at any of the following times? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Before interacting with the system
- ☐ While in the system
- ☐ After leaving the system
- ☐ I did not experience mental health concerns

6. What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems?

(Choose your top 3)

- ☐ Remove age barriers
- ☐ Remove location barriers
- ☐ Create safe spaces
- ☐ Provide navigation support
- ☐ Increase access to resources regardless of income
- ☐ Offer non-traditional therapy options (e.g., art, music, poetry, drumming, dance)
- ☐ Ensure staff are available during non-traditional work hours
- ☐ Provide on-call staff for crisis support
- ☐ Require mandatory trauma-informed training for staff
- ☐ Require mandatory cultural competency training for staff
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

7. How would you prefer to learn about resources available to you? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ QR Code
- ☐ Website or Resource App
- ☐ Printed Flyers
- ☐ In-person - word of mouth
- ☐ School
- ☐ Text and/or Phone Calls
- ☐ Social Media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, Threads, TikTok, WhatsApp)
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Appendix 2

The LA County Youth Commission works closely with a broad network of partners to ensure youth voices are heard and acted upon. Key partners include:

826LA, A Place Called Home, Alliance for Children's Rights, All Saints Church, Asian Youth Center, Barrio Action Youth and Family Center, Beloved Village, Better Youth, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, Boyle Heights Tech YouthSource Center, Boys Republic, Brotherhood Crusades, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Calibrate, California Institute of Health & Social Services, Inc., CASA LA, Children's Institute, Commission for Children & Families, Communities in Schools of LA Inc., Compton YouthBuild, Covenant House, Danza Azteca, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Department of Youth Development (DYD), DYD Youth Expo, East LA College, First Place for Youth, Foster Care Project, Foster More, Friends of the Children, Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined, Heidi Duckler Dance Co., Hillside, Homeboy Industries, I Am Treasure, Jail Guitar Doors, Jenni's Flowers, Journey House, Kaimore, Khmer Girls, Kids in the Spotlight, Kollab Youth, Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC), LA City Youth Expo, LA County Fire Department, LA County Library, LA County LGBTQ+ Commission, Lancaster Unified School District, Long Beach City (OYD) Youth Week, Long Beach City Office of Youth Development (OYD), Long Beach Forward, Long Beach Unified School District, Los Angeles City Youth Council (YDD), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Los Angeles Valley College, Magnolia Public Schools, Next Shift Learning, OMBUDSPERSON for Youth in STRTPs, Pasadena City College, Pasadena City Youth Commission, Peace Over Violence, Penny Lane Center, Probation Department, Probation Oversight Commission, Proyecto Pastoral, Rainbow Labs, Rightway Foundation, Santa Monica-Malibu USD, Simon Rodia Continuation School, Soledad Enrichment Action, The Board of Supervisors, The Village Nation, UNICEF USA, United Friends of Children, Valley Oasis, Valley Oasis Shelter, Youth Justice LA, You Are Enough Foundation, and Young Women Freedom Center and More.