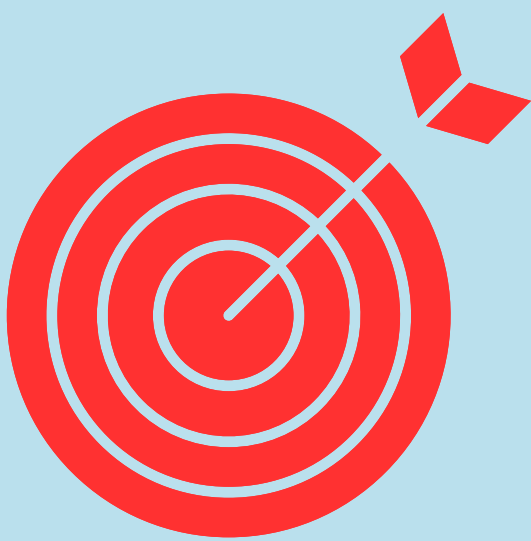


EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF YOUTHLINK CALGARY'S CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to explore the short-term impacts of YouthLink's one day and weeklong crime prevention programming on youth.

BACKGROUND

Early intervention or crime prevention programs are recognized as more effective than other forms. However, there is a need to explore the effectiveness of existing crime prevention programs as organizations struggle to measure their effectiveness.



RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the impact of the YouthLink crime prevention and youth education program?



DATA COLLECTION

Student surveys were administered immediately after attending the program and 3 months later. Teacher surveys were administered 3 months later.



KEY FINDINGS



COMFORT AND OPENNESS TO LEARNING

Students were comfortable and open to learning while attending YouthLink.

AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

Pedagogical approaches such as authentic experiences and interactive and hands-on investigative activities were helping students learn.



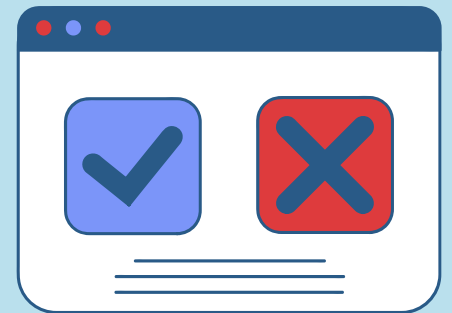
APPLICATION OF LEARNING

Students were applying what they learned after attending YouthLink. They were recalling messaging or strategies learned before making decisions.



SAFE DECISION MAKING

Students are making safe decisions when faced with crime related pressures and challenges and using tools and strategies provided at YouthLink.



IMPLICATIONS



Continue to use pedagogical approaches that offer authentic experiences (e.g., storytelling, hearing from police officers, first hand stories), interactive, and hands on activities.



- Explore blended programming
- Examine and integrate new Alberta Curriculum into program content.
- Explore additional programming with virtual formats to support immersive experiences.
- Consider lengthening the programming
- Consider expanding the program audience
- Adopt a community mobilization strategy
- Recommend ongoing evaluation
- Explore long term retention of programming
- Develop a research strategy plan