ECPAT-USA IMPACT REPORT
YOUTH AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING REPORT
2017 – 2018

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Program Description

Our Youth Against Child Trafficking (Y-ACT) Program is designed to educate, empower and develop the leadership skills of young people. Y-ACT empowers youth to be the voices of their communities who are advocating against the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. Taking a holistic approach to the issue, we offer the following workshops: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) 101, Healthy Relationships (HR) 101, and Healthy Virtual Identities (HVI) 101

To assess participants, pre and post testing was used to examine the net change in overall comprehension and reflection of the material.

Program Highlights

During the program’s first year in 2015, two students self-identified as victims of sexual exploitation and since then, several other students have come forward; both of these facts clearly demonstrates the critical need for this type of education to be provided within the school system. Additionally, in conjunction with our workshops, Y-ACT leaders across NYC participated in activities such as:

- Advocacy: students spoke on the United Nations’ Commission on the Status of Women panel
- Education: students facilitated trafficking awareness workshops to their peers
- Leadership: students hosted assemblies during Trafficking Awareness Month
- Activism: students raised funds & conducted clothing drives to benefit anti-trafficking organizations
Demographics

For the 2017-2018 academic school year (September 2017 - June 2018), the Y-ACT program served 2,187 youths between the ages of 12 - 22 years. Y-ACT workshops were conducted at 30 organizations, including middle schools and high schools across New York City, and other not-for-profit institutions.

Of the 2,187 youths that received our workshops, 1,664 (76%) youths received and completed the 3 question, pre/post-test survey for our Child Sexual Exploitation Workshop, 1,365 (62%) for our Healthy Relationships workshop, and 1,494 (68%) for our Healthy Virtual Identities Workshop. Comprehensively, the data showed that there was a positive increase in scores on the post-test illustrating the effectiveness of the workshops as an intervention.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) 101

1,664 youths received both the CSE 101 workshop and completed the pre and post-test assessments. The average age of youths that participated in the workshop was 15 years old. The gender distribution is highlighted in the pie chart.

There was a significant, positive increase on the average grade on the survey from 56% on the pre evaluation to 79% on the post evaluation.
60% of youths who did not know or incorrectly answered, “What is sex trafficking?” were able to define it correctly on the post evaluation as, “a person under 18 is convinced to participate in commercial sex.” 70% of youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.

75% of the youths who did not know or incorrectly answered whether or not, “Boys and girls are victims of child sex trafficking” were able to answer correctly on the post evaluation as, “true.” 91% of youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.

67% of the youths who did not know or incorrectly answered “How do traffickers usually lure in their victims?” were able to correctly answer on the post evaluation, “Targeting specific individuals then building trusting relationships with them.”

75% of total youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.
Healthy Relationships (HR) 101

1,365 youths received both the HR 101 workshop and completed the pre and post-test assessments. The average age of youths that participated in this workshop was 15 years old. The gender distribution is highlighted in the pie chart. There was a significant, positive increase on the average grade on the survey from 73% on the pre evaluation to 81% on the post evaluation.

Gender Distribution, HR 101

- Females: 62%
- Males: 34%
- Unknown: 3%
- Non-Binary: 0%
- Other: 1%
55% of youths who did not know or incorrectly answered, “What is dating violence/abuse?” were able to define it correctly on the post evaluation as, “A pattern of behaviors used to show power & control over a romantic partner.” 76% of youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.

53% of the youths who did not know or incorrectly answered whether or not, “Boys and girls are victims of dating violence/abuse” were able to answer correctly on the post evaluation as, “true.” 91% of total surveyed youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.

46% of the youths who did not know or incorrectly answered “What is consent?” were able to correctly answer on the post evaluation, “Giving permission for something to happen without being forced, tricked, or coerced.” 76% of youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.
Healthy Virtual Identities (HVI) 101

1,494 youths received both the HVI 101 workshop and completed the pre and post-test assessments. The gender distribution is graphed in the pie chart. There was a significant, positive increase on the average grade on the survey from 63% on the pre evaluation to 79% on the post evaluation.
61% of youths who did not know or incorrectly answered, “What is child/youth sexual exploitation?” were able to define it correctly on the post evaluation as, “The desire to be with someone under 18 in a sexual way.” 81% of youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.

64% of the youths who did not know or incorrectly answered whether or not, “Sexual exploitation of children/youth takes place online” were able to answer correctly on the post evaluation as, “true.” 80% of youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.

57% of the youths who did not know or incorrectly answered “The information I put on social media belongs to me if my profile is private,” were able to correctly answer on the post evaluation, “False.” 77% of youths answered this question correctly on the post evaluation.
Teacher / Admin Feedback

23 teachers and/or administrators completed our feedback survey about the Y-ACT Program. 91.3% of participants said that CSE 101 was “Extremely Useful,” while 87% said that HR 101 and HVI 101 were “Extremely Useful.”
Student Feedback

On their questionnaires, participants had the option to provide feedback on the workshop. For CSE 101, 61% of students were interested in learning more about child trafficking and 69% were interested in raising awareness about child sex trafficking.

Students were also able to write any comments they had about the workshop. Some are listed below.

“I liked how we learned something so severe that’s going on. Child sex trafficking is a serious problem that can happen to anyone including me.”

“Presentation was insightful, informative, as well as involving for the staff and the viewers. The two staff members in this presentation were passionate, intellectual, and polite. I would recommend this to other schools.”

“It was very informative and I learned many things about the signs of a victim of child trafficking, common victims of trafficking, how to fix or change our word choices, and how to raise awareness. Overall everything was really good.”

“One thing I liked was that we got to hear the story of someone that went through this experience. Also the presentation was really clear and had a lot of important information.”
Student Feedback

For HR 101, 83% of young people said they will use the knowledge learned from the session, and 72% said they will share this knowledge with people they know.

“This lesson opened my eyes to the signs of toxic relationships. Especially about power and individuality some things I struggle with in my relationships with my friends”

“I like how you taught us to keep our boundaries and that you can’t agree with someone if they force you.”

“It really helped me realize what I need to do make and maintain my relationships, especially the ones I want to keep.”

“I will inform my friend about this since I think she is in a toxic relationship too.”
Student Feedback

HVI 101

For HVI 101, 63% of students were interested in learning more about child trafficking online and 69% were interested in raising awareness about child sex trafficking.

“I liked the fact that we did group work and spoke about it because it really just relates to kids our age and the things we might be faced with as we grow.”

“I learned a lot about the dangers of social media and sexting. I know to be cautious with everything that happens online.”

“I liked it and the conversations we had because it opened my eyes to other possibilities about what can happen when sharing sexual messages and phones.”

“Today’s lesson was really interesting and made me interested in this kind of topics. I wasn’t thinking about this kind of issues before. I wasn’t paying attention but how I will and I’m interested. I want to hear more; I want to know more.”
Protecting every child’s human right to grow up free from the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking.