



## EXTENSION

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# 2021 Nevada 4-H Annual Survey Summary Report

Jill Baker-Tingey, Extension Educator, Elko County; Brian Luckey, 4-H Youth Development Special Projects Manager; William Evans, Extension Specialist for Evaluation and Youth Development; Carrie Stark, Nevada 4-H Youth Development Director; Sarah Chvilicek, Rural 4-H Youth Development Coordinator and Washoe County 4-H Program Manager; Nora Luna, Urban 4-H Youth Development Program Manager; Lindsay Chichester, Extension Educator, Douglas; Hayley Maio, Extension Educator, Southern Nye County

## Introduction

The Nevada 4-H Evaluation and Assessment Working Group administered an annual survey to Nevada 4-H members to assess the impact of 4-H on statewide participants. This fact sheet presents the results of the 2021 statewide survey and helps to demonstrate the general value of 4-H in quantifiable measures (Goodwin, 2007).

## Methods

A working group using the Common Measures framework developed two surveys in 2018, a short version for youth in grades four through seven and an extended version for grades eight through 12. The Nevada 4-H Annual Survey uses two scales from the 4-H Common Measures 2.0, the 4-H Experience and Universal scales, including nine demographic items (National 4-H Council, 2017). The two frames of the statewide survey reported here included 15 4-H Experience items, and the instrument for older youth asked an additional 15 Universal items. Additional items included asking youth in which Nevada county they participated in 4-H and asking older youth about their plans after high school. The survey for younger youth consisted of 28

items, and the survey for older youth contained 53 items.

The 4-H Experience and Universal items were measured using a four-point Likert scale (4 = yes, 3 = usually, 2 = not really, 1 = no). Fifteen items in the survey formed the 4-H Experience scale, designed to measure participants on the eight essential elements of positive youth development (Kress, 2004). This scale had an excellent reliability score of .83, indicating that all scale items align with the essential elements. The 19 items that comprised the 4-H Universal scale measure the personal growth mindset and social skills necessary to be competent members of society (National 4-H Council, 2017). The 4-H Universal scale items were only given to youth in eighth through 12th grades. Youth completed surveys both online via Qualtrics and in person through paper copies.

## Participation

Survey participation came from diverse-aged youth across the state, with ages ranging from 9 to 18. Of the youth who participated in the survey, 82% were between 10 and 15 years old. Participation was higher among female youth (51%) than males (32%) and was largely non-Hispanic (77%) and White (67%). See Tables 1-3

below for a breakdown of participant gender, race and ethnicity.

Of the respondents, 57% participated in 4-H for three or more years, and 43% of youth participated for two or fewer years. See Figure 1 for a breakdown of respondents' years in 4-H. Most survey respondents reported that their 4-H participation occurred at the county level (75%), with 96% of

respondents participating in a 4-H club. Thirty-three percent of respondents also reported participating in online/virtual meetings or activities. This virtual component of 4-H allowed youth to continue their involvement in club and program activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of surveys returned by county is found in Table 4.

Table 1: Participant Gender

Answer	Count
Male (boy)	69
Female (girl)	108
Gender Not Listed	0
Prefer Not to State	5
No Response	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>

Table 2: Participant Race

Answer	Count	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	3.31
Asian	1	0.47
Black or African-American	1	0.47
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.00
White/Caucasian	143	67.77
Some Other Races	8	3.79
Two or More Races	18	8.53
No Response	33	15.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3: Participant Ethnicity

Answer	Count	Percent
Yes (Hispanic or Latinx)	15	7.11
No (Not Hispanic or Latinx)	164	77.73
No Response	32	15.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 1: Participant Number of Years in 4-H

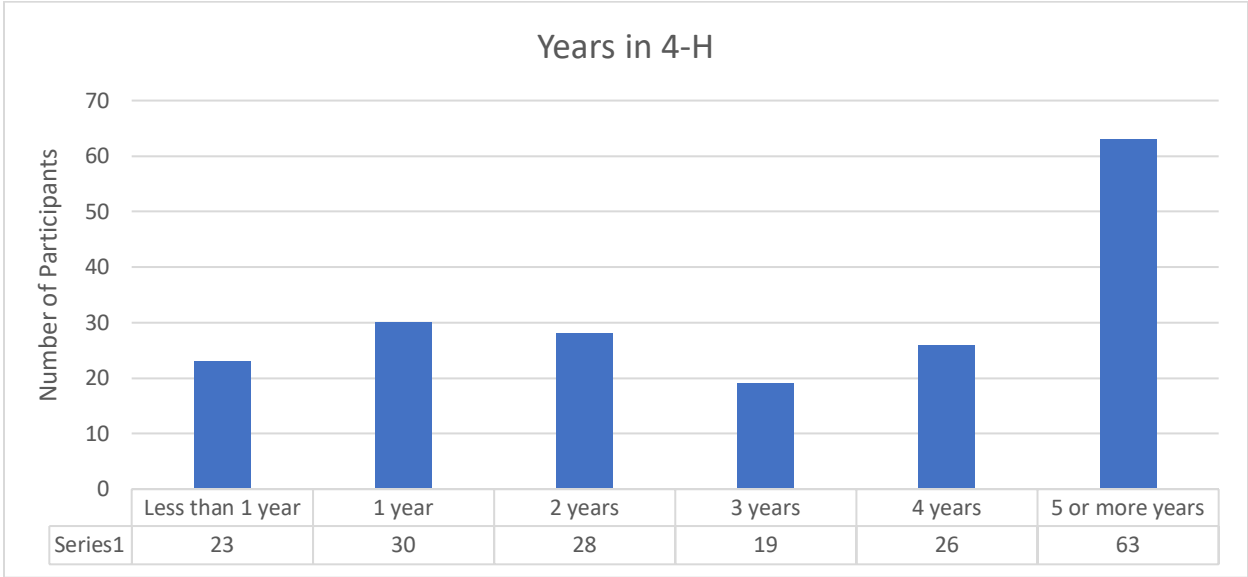


Table 4: Completed Surveys by County

County	Grades 4-7 Surveys Returned	Grades 8-12 Surveys Returned	Total by County
Carson City/Storey	10	2	12
Churchill	0	1	1
Clark (three offices)	8	15	23
Douglas	3	4	7
Elko	9	5	14
Eureka	0	0	0
Humboldt	34	29	63
Lander	2	3	5
Lincoln	3	1	4
Lyon	4	3	7
Mineral	0	0	0
Nye/Esmeralda	0	0	0
Southern Nye	2	2	4
Pershing	0	2	2
Washoe	9	11	20
White Pine	12	9	21
No Response	17	11	28
Total	113	98	211

## Program Impacts

### 4-H Experience Scale

The average mean of items for the 4-H Experience scale was 3.53, with “Is 4-H a place where you feel safe?” having the

highest mean response ( $M = 3.80$ ). These scale results suggest that Nevada 4-H is an environment where young people feel physically and emotionally safe and feel like they belong. A sense of belonging encourages youth to try new things and

understand that they can learn from mistakes (M = 3.75). Those feelings of accepting mistakes create a positive setting for youth to explore their interests. The question “Is 4-H a place where you get to do things that you like?” elicited a mean response of 3.74, which suggests that 4-H participants have opportunities to pursue interests and hobbies that create constructive learning experiences. Nevada 4-H youth participants also suggested that 4-H is a place where adults care about them (M = 3.71). An essential component of positive youth development is a warm, respectful and trusting relationship between a 4-H leader and member. A reverse-coded item, “Is 4-H a place where you feel left out?” (M = 1.51), suggests that youth in 4-H feel connected to their peers and adult volunteers. The scale results suggest that youth feel comfortable and safe in 4-H, allowing them more opportunities to make their own decisions. The survey item, “Is 4-H a place where you’re encouraged to plan for your future?” decreased from the 2020 survey, which could suggest the need for more goal-setting activities and guest speakers, field trips, and camps to facilitate career exploration.

#### 4-H Universal Scale

The average mean of the 4-H Universal scale was 3.55. Items “Do you like to learn new things?” and “Do you try to learn from your mistakes?” elicited the highest means (3.80), possibly suggesting that youth are developing a healthy personal mindset necessary for individual, school and workplace success. “Are you willing to work hard on something difficult?” (M = 3.75) suggests youth have a growth mindset, a belief that abilities can be cultivated through effort, and are open to trying new things and navigating challenges. All but two of the 19 items in the 4-H Universal scale increased in mean from the previous survey year. This

could possibly be explained by decreased COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

#### Additional Items

Other survey items note that 97% of respondents selected “yes” or “usually” when asked, “Can you be counted on to follow through on things you say you will do?” and 96% of respondents agree that it is important for them to give their time to help others. When asked, “Is 4-H a place you can stay connected with others during the pandemic?” 81% of youth respondents answered “yes.” This response suggests that implementing virtual 4-H activities helps youth feel connected and important during the pandemic. The complete list of 4-H Experience and Universal scale items, the number of responses, and their means (2020 and 2021) can be found in Appendices A, B and C.

#### Post-Graduation Plans

Finally, respondents in grades eight through 12 were asked about their plans following high school. Most (67%) answered, “Go to college.” “Go to trade school had the next highest response rate (15%), followed closely by “Other” (12%) and “Find a full-time job” (4%). This response suggests that many wish to continue their education. Of respondents indicating that they wanted to go to college, 33% answered that they plan to attend a college or university outside of Nevada; 19% of respondents wish to pursue their education at the University of Nevada, Reno; and 42% of respondents are undecided on where to go.

#### Discussion/Next Steps

Overall results from the 4-H Experience (Mean = 3.53) and Universal (Mean = 3.55) scales, both on a 1-to-4 scale, reveal that youth engaged with the Nevada 4-H Program are reporting high levels of positive engagement and skill development throughout their participation in 4-H. Youth

participating in Nevada 4-H indicate that they are developing character, growth mindset, persistence, decision-making, and ethics skills, all of which are important for academic and workplace success. These findings also confirm that Nevada 4-H participants can grow positive relationships with caring adults in a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment. Creating positive relationships with caring adults and thriving in supportive environments can be a buffer to stress and trauma youth may be experiencing (Ludy-Dobson & Perry, 2010). 4-H has the unique opportunity to continue to champion and facilitate positive youth development opportunities that promote youth well-being and a sense of purpose and identity during and after the pandemic (Arnold & Rennekamp, 2021).

## References

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## Appendix A

### 4-H Experience Scale – Outcome

Item	N (responses)	Mean	% yes or usually	2020 Mean (N ranged from 241 to 247)
Is 4-H a place where you feel safe?	191	3.80	98.95	3.79
Is 4-H a place where it's okay for you to make mistakes?	190	3.75	97.36	3.67
Is 4-H a place where you get to do things that you like?	190	3.74	98.42	3.73
Is 4-H a place where adults care about you?	190	3.71	95.79	3.80
Is 4-H a place where you feel you belong?	187	3.61	96.79	3.62
Is 4-H a place where you learn about ways to help your community?	188	3.57	89.89	3.63
Is 4-H a place where you have a chance to be a leader?	187	3.55	88.77	3.44
Is 4-H a place where you get to teach others what you've learned?	190	3.51	88.42	3.56
Is 4-H a place where you get to help make group decisions?	188	3.49	89.89	3.47
Is 4-H a place where others like you?	190	3.47	97.37	3.50
Is 4-H a place where you get to choose what you want to do?	189	3.45	92.07	3.40
Is 4-H a place where you're encouraged to plan for your future?	187	3.41	85.56	3.61
Is 4-H a place where you get to figure things out for yourself?	190	3.35	88.94	3.40
Is 4-H a place where adults make the decisions?*	187	2.35	34.76	2.68
Is 4-H a place where you feel left out?*	190	1.51	5.79	3.56
4-H Experience Scale (reliability = .865)	191	3.46	N/A	3.52

\*Responses were reverse-coded for ease of comparison. Survey participants were asked to respond to each item on a four-point Likert scale: 4 = Yes, 3 = Usually, 2 = Not really, 1 = No.

## Appendix B

### 4-H Universal Scale – Outcome

Item	N (responses)	Mean	% yes or usually	2020 Mean (N ranged from 89 to 91)
Do you like to learn new things?	91	3.80	97.80	3.75
Do you try to learn from your mistakes?	91	3.80	100.00	3.66
Are you willing to work hard on something difficult?	91	3.75	100.00	3.69
Do you show respect for others' ideas?	90	3.74	100.00	3.72
Do you treat others the way you want to be treated?	91	3.73	100.00	3.61
Do you look for ways to involve all members of a group?	90	3.66	97.78	3.52
Do you follow the rules even if no one is watching?	91	3.65	98.90	3.51
Do you like to learn about people who are different from you?	90	3.64	96.67	3.50
Do you set goals for yourself?	91	3.63	93.41	3.35
Do you get along with others who are different from you?	90	3.62	96.67	3.46
Do you keep trying until you reach your goals?	90	3.56	97.78	3.47
Are you comfortable working in groups?	90	3.56	95.56	3.41
Do you think about how your choices affect others?	90	3.46	91.11	3.37
Before making a decision, do you stop to think about your choices?	91	3.44	94.51	3.25
Do you help others reach their goals?	89	3.40	86.52	3.45
Do you think about other people's feelings before you say something?	89	3.35	89.34	3.35
Are you comfortable being a leader?	90	3.32	83.33	3.33
When someone makes you upset, can you still work with them?	90	3.19	86.66	3.15
Is it easy for you to speak up in a group?	90	3.11	77.78	3.09
Universal Scale (reliability = .894)	91	3.55	N/A	3.49

^4-H Universal items were only asked of respondents in the eighth through 12th grades.



## Appendix C

### Additional Items – Outcome

<b>Item</b>	<b>N (responses)</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>% yes or usually</b>
Can you be counted on to follow through on things you say you will do?	90	3.60	97.78
Is it important for you to give your time to help others?	88	3.58	96.59
Is school very important for later success to you?	87	3.44	83.91
Do you think the things you learn in school are useful?	90	3.26	82.23
Is 4-H a place you can stay connected with others during the pandemic?	186	3.25	77.96
Is being a student one of the most important parts of who you are?	87	2.64	48.27