

TYPS YOUTH SURVEY ANALYSIS:

Background

Study was conducted through a participatory research approach involving youth and adults who originally determined the questions for the survey, during the TYPS 2002 Conference. To date, 48 youth centres have been involved. The youth answer questions in an anonymous reporting form, during a focus group session in their home youth centre. The questionnaires were then placed directly into a mailing envelope and mailed to TYPS. The data was then entered into a SPSS+ program for the quantitative results. Comments were then grouped into a matrix and reported for qualitative analysis.

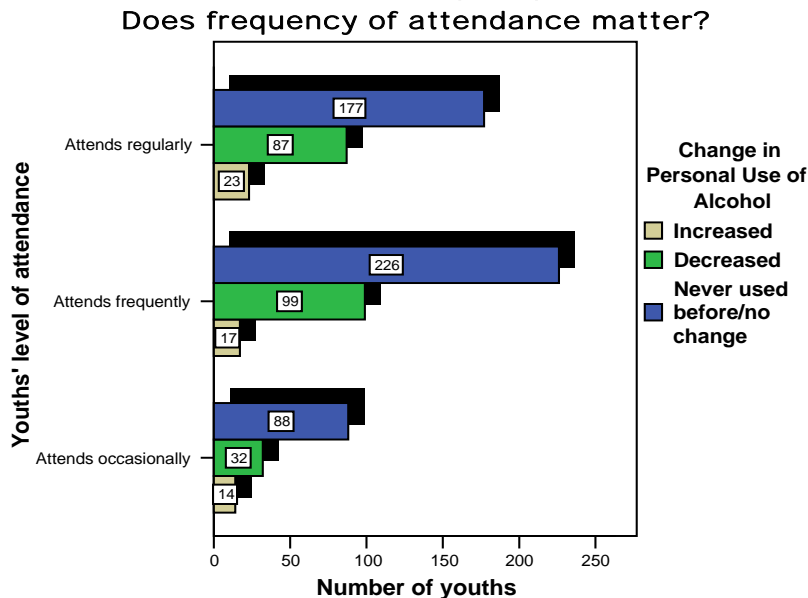
This report is still a draft until the youth centres and the youth have the opportunity to review the findings and respond.

The youths surveyed reported on their patterns of alcohol consumption, use of other drugs, and the amount of fighting they engage in since attending a youth centre. The results speak favourably about the value of a youth's continued participation at a youth centre.

Youth and Alcohol: Does Attending a Youth Centre Make a Difference?

Figure 1 illustrates the alcohol consumption levels of youth centre attendees:

Figure 1: Youths' Alcohol Consumption Patterns Since Attending a Youth Centre (n=763)



Since attending a youth centre, *only 7% of those sampled reported an increase in alcohol use*, while a further 28% of youths stated that they have *decreased* the amount of alcohol previously consumed. Further, the remaining 65% respondents noted that they

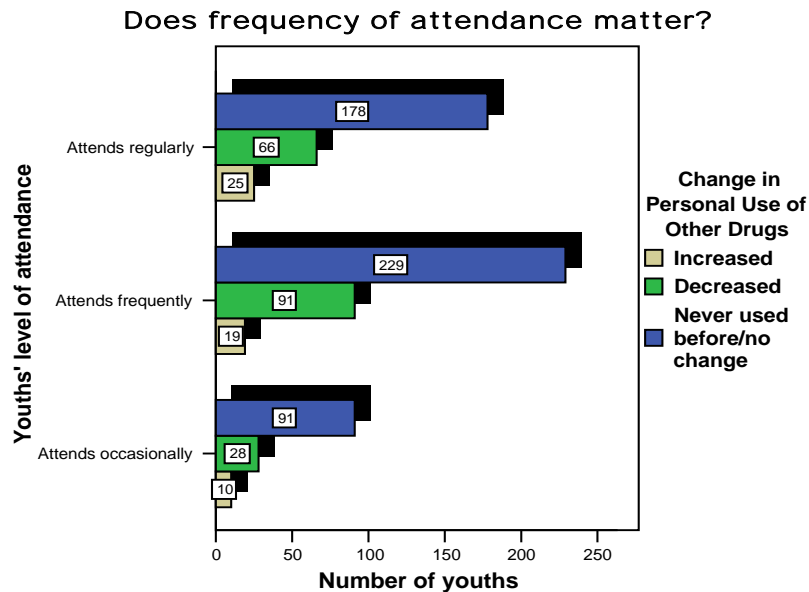
either *have not drunk alcoholic beverages before* or drink so few times that their respective levels of alcohol consumption qualified as virtually negligible.

More specifically, a youth is almost *8 times more likely to have never tried alcohol or drink only occasionally* than one who increased consumption when s/he attends a youth centre *regularly*.

Youth and Other Drugs: Does Attending a Youth Centre Make a Difference?

The level of use of other drugs by youth centre attendees is presented in Figure 2, the results of which are not dissimilar from those in the previous section:

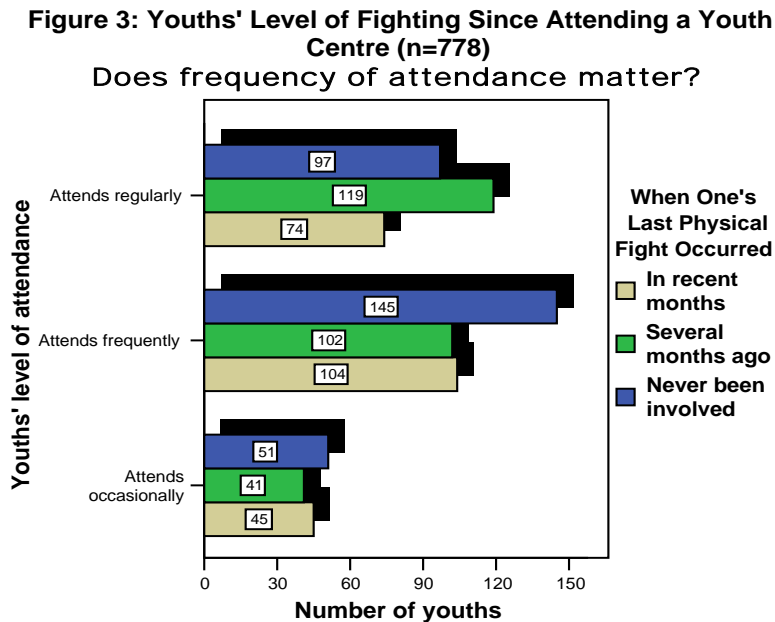
Figure 2: Youths' Use of Other Drugs Since Attending a Youth Centre (n=737)



68% of the youths surveyed have *never used drugs outside of alcohol* or have only “experimented” with such substances, and a further 25% of the sample admitted that their individual usage of other drugs *decreased* since they have attended a youth centre. Again, *only 7% of the youths reported that they had increased their personal levels of other drug usage*. Also, a youth is at minimum *7 times more likely to abstain from other drugs* regardless if his/her attendance is regular, frequent, or occasional.

Youth and Physical Altercations: Does Attending a Youth Centre Make a Difference?

Youths were also asked about the last time they had engaged in a physical fight, with the results shown in Figure 3.



Of those sampled, 38% of the youths had *never been involved in a physical fight before*, with a further 34% of the respondents who reported they *had not fought for several months* since they have attended a youth centre. And, while over a quarter of the youths surveyed (28%) admitted that they had last fought in recent months, this result also represents the lowest total of youths in the three categories. Coupled with the relationship between higher youth attendance levels and the tendency for a youth to have never used alcohol or other drugs or decreased usage of them, the results of the survey thus far provides evidence to support the argument that youth centre involvement can result in a healthier lifestyle for patrons.

One's Gender: Does it Affect Youth Centre Attendance, Alcohol Consumption, Use of Other Drugs, and Engaging in Fighting?

In Figures 4 – 7, one is given a breakdown of youth centre attendance levels, use of alcohol, use of other drugs, and the last time one had a fight, respectively, by the respondent's gender.

Figure 4: Youths' Level of Attendance (n=793)

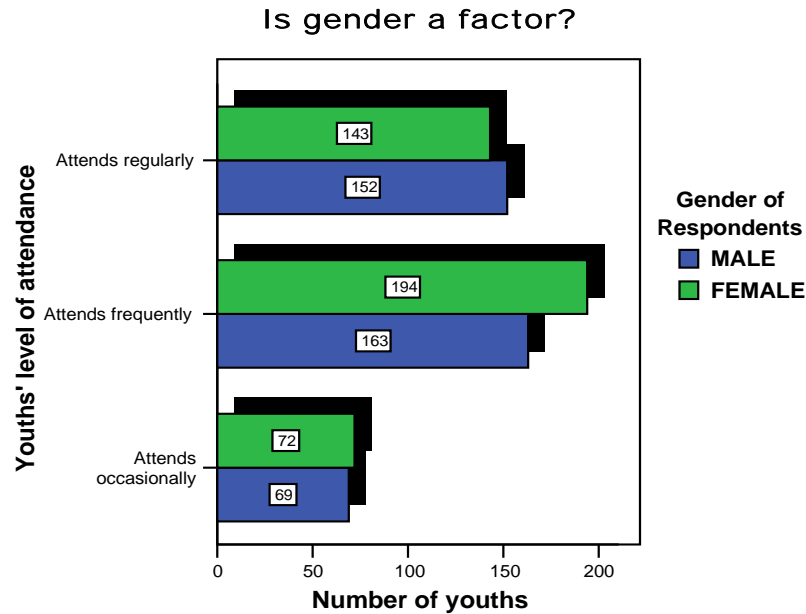
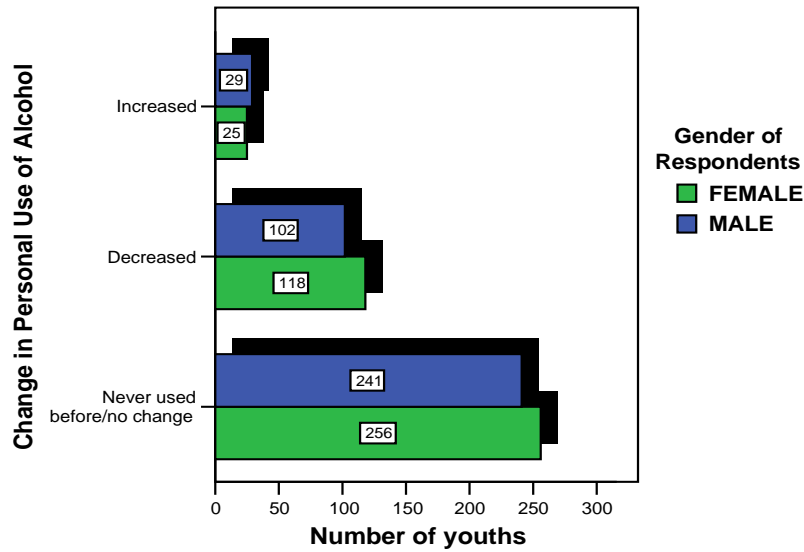


Figure 4 (above) confirms that *youth centres in general are neither “boys’ clubs” or “girls’ clubs”*, as there is practically an even split between males and females across the levels of youth centre attendance.

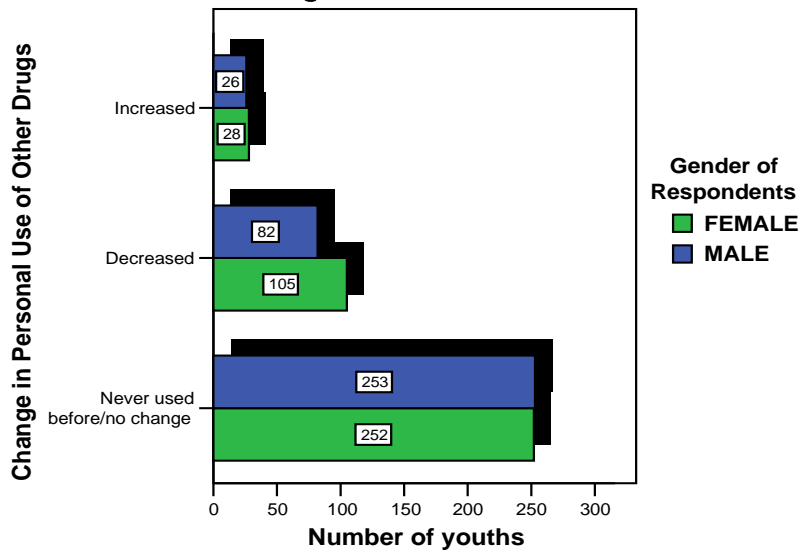
Similarly, *gender does not appear to make a marked impact on one's alcohol consumption* (see Figure 5). The male to female ratio for having never used/drinks only occasionally is 48% to 52%; 46% to 54% for youths who lowered the frequency of their alcohol use; and, 54% to 46% for those respondents who have increased their alcohol consumption since attending a youth centre.

Figure 5: Youths' Consumption of Alcohol Patterns Since Attending a Youth Centre (n=771)
Is gender a factor?



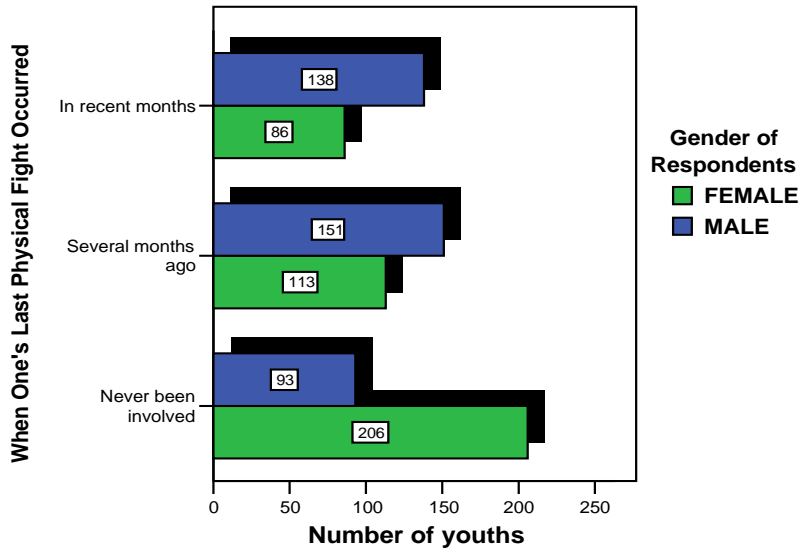
With regard to gender having an effect on one's use of other drugs, there is no difference between males and females expect in one category (see Figure 6): *of the youths who reported a decrease in personal usage of drugs other than alcohol, female attendees are represented more (56%) than their male peers (44%).*

Figure 6: Youths' Use of Other Drugs Since Attending a Youth Centre (n=746)
Is gender a factor?



In Figure 7 one can see if gender affects a youth centre attendee's fighting patterns:

Figure 7: Youths' Level of Fighting Since Attending a Youth Centre (n=787)
Is gender a factor?



Of the youth sampled that have never been involved in a physical fight before, 69% of them are female. Males, conversely, are more likely to partake in physical fights. 57% of males (compared to 43% females) engaged in a fight several months ago, while for those who had such an altercation in recent months 62% of the youths in this category were male.