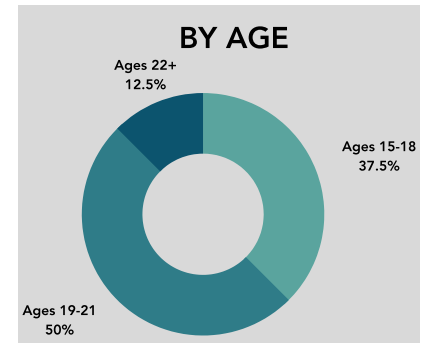
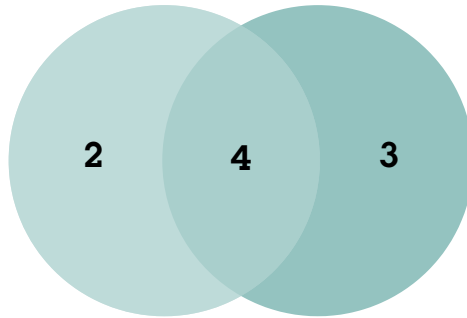
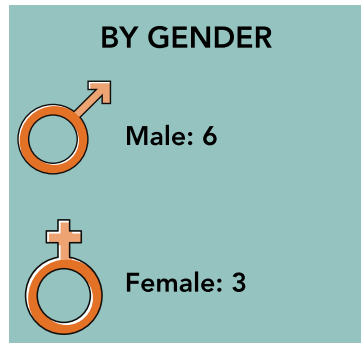


Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization (AOPYO) and Social Connectedness

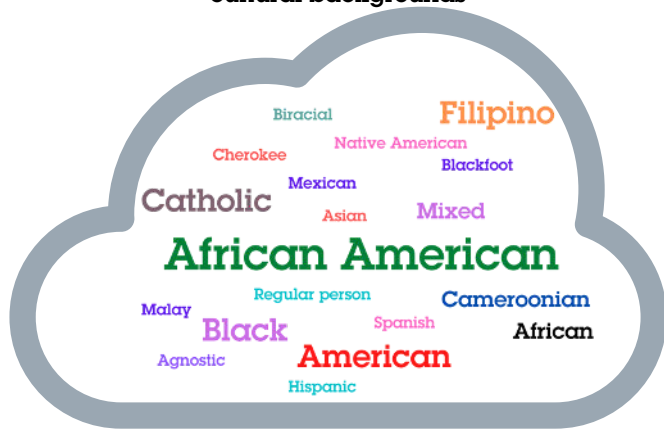
AOPYO Young Adult Council

Time 1

Time 2



How the Young Adult Council described their racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds



In the spring and early summer of 2022, the Young Adult Council (YAC) from the Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization worked with Visible Network Labs and the Social Support Youth Fellows to understand how measuring social connectedness and social support networks could be valuable to young adults. The YAC used the PARTNERme tool to measure social connectedness in April 2022 (T1) and June 2022 (T2).

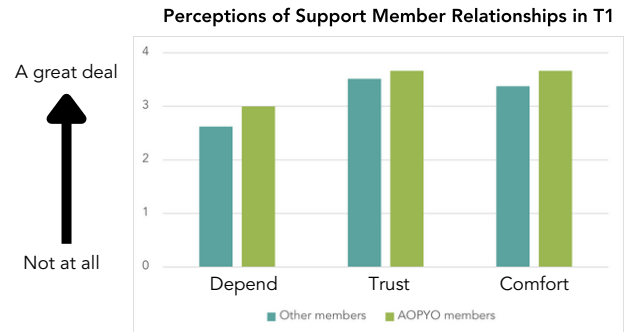
This brief talks about some of the ways measuring social support networks and social connectedness among the youth served by AOPYO could be valuable.

Young Adult Perceptions of AOPYO

AOPYO is an important part of YAC members' support networks. YAC included AOPYO in over 80% of their networks in April 2022 (T1) and over 70% of their networks in June 2022 (T2). In addition to simply being a part of these networks, it's important to understand the quality of youth members relationships with the organization. These relationships are measured along several dimensions: dependence upon, trust in, and comfort in asking for help. We hypothesize that support members may be most helpful to young people when the young person has high trust and comfort in asking for help and also has a low level of dependency on them. While we do not think depending on others is inherently negative, we believe that being overly dependent on someone can be a problem if, for example, there is a situation where that person is not able to provide support. Dependency can be especially problematic in relationships without a foundation of trust. In other words, it may be difficult for a young person to get valuable support from someone who they depend on but do not trust.

Baseline perceptions of dependence upon, trust in, and comfort in asking for help are seen in the bar graph. The young people's perceptions of AOPYO staff are in green, while their perceptions of others from who they receive support are in teal. Direct comparisons between T1 and T2 are limited because the sample is small and not all individuals completed both timepoints.

Over time, we might expect that the youth served by AOPYO perceive more value in their relationship with the organization, leading to higher levels of trust and comfort in asking for help and lower levels of dependence as the organization strives to empower them.



Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization (AOPYO) and Social Connectedness

How AOPYO helps Young People

The Young Adult Council described several different areas where the AOPYO was helping them or they believe that the AOPYO could help them. Tracking this over time can make sure that the AOPYO priorities and the needs of the young adults they serve are aligned.



Balancing school/work and personal life



Body (or body image)



Feeling anxious



Feeling sad or depressed



Learning disabilities



Sexuality



Talking about my feelings

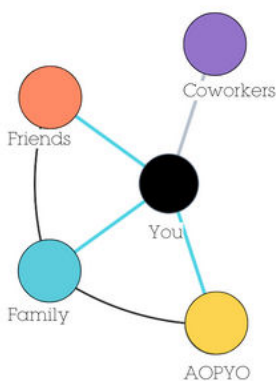


Having a reliable place to stay

How do support networks change over time?

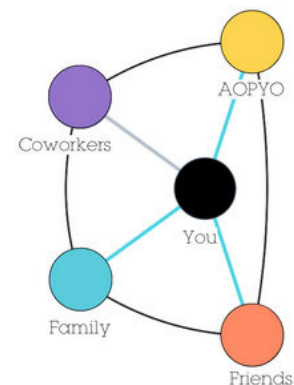
There are many ways that youth support networks may change over time. For example, someone's network may become more interconnected over time, as is the case for the respondent whose network is depicted here. In time 1, AOPYO was perceived as able to work with family members when youth needed help, whereas, in time 2, they were also seen as able to work with friends, teachers, coworkers, and others. Tracking this over time can help us understand how AOPYO functions in these networks and the relationship quality of those perceived as able to work together in times of need.

Support Network Time 1



— high dependency on and high trust in support member — low dependency on and high trust in support member

Support Network Time 2



— high dependency on and high trust in support member — low dependency on and high trust in support member

Allowing for Self Expression

YAC focus group respondents suggested that it would be nice to be able to customize their support networks within the PARTNERme social connectedness tool, such as creating their own avatars, being able to add pictures or icons for the members in their networks and modifying colors or fonts. Rather than having colored circles as displayed in the maps to the left and right, focus group participants indicated that it would be more engaging if they could customize the look and feel of their network maps.

Find out more about Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization:

<https://www.aopyo.org/>