

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



EXTENSION

4-H Youth Development Program



March 9, 2012

Program Planning & Accountability Committee Statewide 4-H “Graduate” Status Summary “In-Process” Update*

(*in process, means more counties have yet to report their data)

Background

Referenced to a model first developed in Spokane in 2008, during the summer of 2011 all Washington County 4-H staff and faculty were invited to participate in a statewide ***pilot*** to begin exploring “what happens to our kids when they ‘age-out’ of 4-H?” The WA State 4-H [ad hoc] Program Planning and Accountability (PPA) Committee facilitated this project. The goals:

1. Develop a simple protocol allowing counties to gather and share conveniently available data related to what happens to our 4-H’rs once they graduate from HS/ “age-out” of 4-H. The club leaders, as the hub of club knowledge and activity were used as the reporting agents.
2. Determine a simple set of preliminary “metrics” that may be shared with all 4-H staff and interested stakeholders from the local to state level
3. Successfully engage at least 1/3 of all counties in this first pilot statewide study (i.e., at least 13 counties)

Tools and Participation

The actual protocol was developed based upon Spokane model, as well as with input from Pierce County, which had also begun to track graduate data over time. (See attached protocol and data reporting tool)


Twenty-six counties indicated an interest in participating. Of those counties, 19 have provided data thus far; therefore, this is the “in-process” pilot report. The balance of the counties will be contact by Varrella or Deen to determine if they have reportable data.


The preliminary results, including the 19 counties reporting to date

Category	Total	% of total
Total number of 4-H youth reported on:	398	(100%)
Enrolled/attending a post-secondary program & <u>not working</u>	156	(39%)
Enrolled/attending a post-secondary program & <u>working</u>	153	(38%)
Working, but not <u>enrolled/attending</u>	57	(14%)
Not working or going to school	8	(2%)
We just do not know	24	(6%)

The Key “Metric”



 **78% of our youth are entering organized post-secondary programs***

 I say “4-H” ... you say “Rocks!”

 Former 4-Hrs are not couch



*Varrella and Brandt have found recent studies and reports indicating that the average entrance rate into post-secondary programs for Washington HS graduates ranges between 47% and ~50%. (Could/will change with new studies.)

What next ... from the Program Planning & Accountability Group?

- A final pilot report for the 2010-11 4-H year
- A webinar to discuss making sense of and reporting results to local stakeholders, as well as references and comparisons to the current literature base
- Consideration of strengths/weaknesses in the current pilot with the goal of a better, broader reaching approach for 2011-12 to further explore potential trends

