Youth Engagement Research & Resources

"Development of a Youth Civic Engagement Program: Process and Pilot Testing with a Youth-Partnered Research Team," Alegría, M., *et al., American Journal of Community Psychology,* 69(1-2), pp. 86-99 (2022).

- "[M]aintaining a focus on youth perspectives and priorities helped us transform a proposed mental health intervention into a civic engagement and leadership program, focused on working systematically on neighborhood challenges to improve well-being. Program evaluation results indicate that sharing power and building youth-researcher partnerships can direct institutional power toward neighborhood problems linked to health outcomes."

"Use of Research Evidence Generated by Youth: Conceptualization and Applications in Diverse U.S. K-12 Educational Settings," Ozer, E.J. *et al., American Journal of Community Psychology,* 66(1-2), pp. 81-93 (2020).

- "Youth-Led Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is a social justice-focused approached for promoting social change and positive youth development in which youth conduct systematic research and actions to improve their schools and communities." YPAR "seeks to transform dominant assumptions about who holds and creates knowledge and what 'counts' as knowledge, alter power structures, and promote changes in inequitable systems, policies, and practices."

"Youth-Adult Partnerships in Work with Youth: An Overview," Ramey, H.L., *et al., Journal of Youth Development,* 12(4), pp. 38-60 (2017).

- "[Y]outh-adult partnerships should maintain youth at the center of decision making, provide sufficient resources, integrate youth-adult partnership throughout the larger organization and engage the broader community, operate through a social justice lens, evaluate program effectiveness, and address the unique needs of each youth-adult partnership."

"Youth Civic Engagement: Do Youth Councils Reduce or Reinforce Social Inequality?," Augsberger, A. *et al., Journal of Adolescent Research,* 33(2), pp. 187-208 (2018).

- Youth engagement in municipal government benefits both the youth and the community. However, some forms of youth civic engagement may perpetuate socioeconomic disparities amongst social class and race. The study examines how youth councils may reduce or reinforce social inequality among young people at the city level coming up with a thematic framework for the analysis of such occurrences.

[“Youth Engagement at the Federal Level: A compilation of strategies and practices,”](#) Policy Research Associates, Inc., Youth.gov (2020).

- This report outlines the "youth engagement efforts of 12 [federal] agencies and departments [and] describes the accomplishments and basic mechanisms of these strategies while also noting barriers, challenges, and vision for the future. The conversations that informed this report consistently clarified that federal policymakers engaging young adults do so with two clear goals in mind: 1) to better support the completion of their agencies' missions, and 2) to support the development of young adults."

[“Youth Engagement in Collective Impact Initiatives,”](#) Shakesprere, J., Urban Institute (2020).

- "This brief discusses the importance of expanding youth voice and agency in collective impact work, outlines a continuum of youth engagement strategies, highlights Promise Neighborhoods grantees that are providing a platform for young people to spur change, and presents promising practices for organizations to empower young people in their programs."

[“Youth Engagement in Policy, Research, and Practice,”](#) Falkenburger, E., et al., Urban Institute (2021).

- "This toolkit shares some ideas and considerations that will help to strategically and safely incorporate young people into a project. Key features of this component are a snapshot of the benefits of youth engagement; the Urban Institute's models for youth engagement and practitioners' methods and tools; questions to ask before, during, and after engaging young people; and a youth engagement project evaluation worksheet."

[“Youth Engagement in Practice,”](#) Young, J., American Institutes for Research (2021).

- "The American Institutes for Research (AIR) interviewed six youth development organizations in Chicago to learn about their youth engagement strategies. This brief highlights lessons learned and real life examples for practitioners seeking practical youth engagement strategies."

[“Youth Voices in Youth Employment: A roadmap for promoting meaningful youth engagement in youth employment programs,”](#) Plan International, Inc. (2021).

- The report "outlines the steps that funders and implementers can take along the various phases of a youth employment program to strengthen youth engagement and amplify youth voices, regardless of where they are in their youth engagement journey. Together, these elements help to bridge the knowledge gap that exists in the youth employment sector around what meaningful engagement means and how to engage youth in employment programs that impact them."