Endnotes
16 For additional information and resources related to access, equity and belonging within 4-H, or to contact our committee, visit our website: access-equity-belonging.extension.org

Note: Some of the data reﬂected within the national trends may not fully reﬂect the audiences represented. The research conducted within marginalized communities may be limited due to the various levels of trust, willingness, comfort and/or ability to participate in such research. Additionally, marginalized voices have historically been excluded or minimized within youth development research and practices.

YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE
Children are placed in foster care when a child protective services worker and a court determine that it is not safe for the child to remain at home because of the risk of maltreatment, including neglect and physical or sexual abuse.

- Foster care arrangements include nonrelative foster homes, relative foster homes (also known as “kinship care”), group homes, institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.

- 25% of youth become homeless after exiting foster care and only 3% of youth in foster care graduate from college. 

YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES
Disability is defined as someone who (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more “major life activities,” (2) has a record of such an impairment, or (3) is regarded as having such an impairment.

- 13.2 percent of individuals age 3-21 are served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

- Adolescents with disabilities, like all adolescents, thrive when they believe they can meet challenges. Providing opportunities for adolescents to take action and overcome obstacles can help adolescents increase self-efficacy. 

Note: Some of the data reﬂected within the national trends may not fully reﬂect the audiences represented. The research conducted within marginalized communities may be limited due to the various levels of trust, willingness, comfort and/or ability to participate in such research. Additionally, marginalized voices have historically been excluded or minimized within youth development research and practices.

Endnotes
The 4-H Program Leaders Working Group for Access, Equity and Belonging (AEB) supports the 4-H system in reaching its 4-H Growth Vision. The AEB Committee aims to increase the capacity of 4-H and Cooperative Extension to equitably engage under-represented and marginalized populations across the country. The AEB committee is composed of the following champion groups:

- Immigrant and Refugee Youth
- Incarcerated Youth
- LGBTQ+ Youth/Community
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- Youth in Foster Care
- Youth Living in Poverty
- Racial and Ethnic Youth Groups:
  - African American Youth
  - Asian American Youth
- Native American/Pacific Islander Youth
- Latinx Youth (Latinx Advisory Committee)
- Youth with Disabilities

This publication includes data gathered from ES-237 reports collected by NIFA’s Division of Youth and 4-H (4-H National Headquarters) and national data sets as referenced within the endnotes. We recognize that this is not a complete picture of the 4-H story and acknowledge the limitations due to data that is not collected through the 4-H system. This publication serves as a preliminary resource to explore our system’s reach and opportunities to engage diverse audiences. We will continue to evolve this resource as our committee gathers additional data and resources. To explore your local data, visit: census.gov, datacenter.kidscount.org, or childtrends.com.

### AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH

Black or African American refers to a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. It also includes Afro-Caribbean people, such as Haitian and Jamaican.

- African American youth between the ages of 5-17 are 18.3% of the black population (41,393,491).  
- More than 75% of Black children born between 1985 and 2000 grew up in “high disadvantage” neighborhoods.  
- By 2050 immigrant youth are projected to make up 1/3 (33M) of more than 100 million U.S. youth.

### LATINX YOUTH

Latinx youth are very diverse and may identify with racial, ethnic or cultural groups from Central, South and North America and the Caribbean.

- Hispanics constituted 18.3 percent of the nation’s total population making people of Hispanic origin the nation’s largest ethnic or cultural minority.
- Latinx culture places family at its center creating strong bonds to support all members.

### IMMIGRANT YOUTH

Youth under age eighteen residing in the United States who were not U.S. citizens at birth.

- In 2016, more than 17 million immigrant lived in the U.S.  
- By 2050 immigrant youth are projected to make up 1/3 (33M) of more than 100 million U.S. youth.
- Immigrants are an important part of US international competitiveness, especially in technology-intensive and service industries.

### INCARCERATED YOUTH

Youth ages 13 and 18 years of age who are incarcerated or have been incarcerated at any point in their life.

- Approximately 53,000 youth under the age of 18 are incarcerated.
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience mental illness each year.
- 35% of individuals with mental illness started experiencing symptoms by age 15.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in individuals aged 10-34.

### YOUTH LIVING IN POVERTY

Youth under age 18 who lack adequate nighttime residence at any point in the year.

- In 2017, 18% of children (13 million) lived in families with incomes below the poverty line.
- This rate fell from 21% (15 million) in 2015.

### LGBTQ+ YOUTH

Youth who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and all other marginalized sexes, gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations.

- 8% of high school aged youth identify as LBGTQ+.
- 0.7% of high school aged youth identify as transgender.
- 2.7% of high school aged youth identify outside of the male/female binary (including transgender).
- LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to be assaulted, bullied, experiment with alcohol and drugs, attempt suicide, & experience homelessness.
- LGBTQ+ youth thrive, are resilient, and are more likely to experience positive health outcomes when:
  - they have supportive and accepting families
  - they have access to culturally competent and affirming mental health care; and
  - they participate in programs with inclusive curriculum, policies and practices, and are supported by trained and competent staff.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Mental health includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps to determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make decisions. Biological factors, life experiences, and environments all contribute to mental health.

- 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience mental illness each year.
- 35% of individuals with mental illness started experiencing symptoms by age 15.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in individuals aged 10-34.

### YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Youth under age 18 who lack adequate nighttime residence at some point during the school year. This could include youth living in homeless shelters and transitional housing, boats or cars, unfinished homes, garages, and other similar settings, and also couch surfing, doubling up, or staying with others due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.

- In 2018, 1.36 million students

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**National Trends Facing Today’s Youth**

- 18.3% of the nation’s total population are of Hispanic origin. The largest ethnic minority.

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**4-H Demographics of Youth, Volunteers and Professionals**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hispanic or Latinx</td>
<td>Hispanic or Latinx</td>
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</tbody>
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**Race and Ethnicity of 4-H Volunteers**

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Black Not of Hispanic Origin
- Hispanic
- White Not of Hispanic Origin

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**Race and Ethnicity of 4-H Faculty and Staff (2019)**

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Black Not of Hispanic Origin
- Hispanic
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White Not of Hispanic Origin

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**Note:** Data gathered through 2019 program leader survey. n = 24,1862 LEGI institutions and 2,1508 institutions. The following states are represented: AK, AR, CA, DE, HI, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, ME, MI, MD, MI, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, SC, SD, WI and WV

*Data gathered from the most recent ES-237 report (2016) compiled by NIFA’s Division of Youth and 4-H (4-H National Headquarters).