

K-STATE

Research and Extension



2024 Kansas 4-H Thriving Model Survey

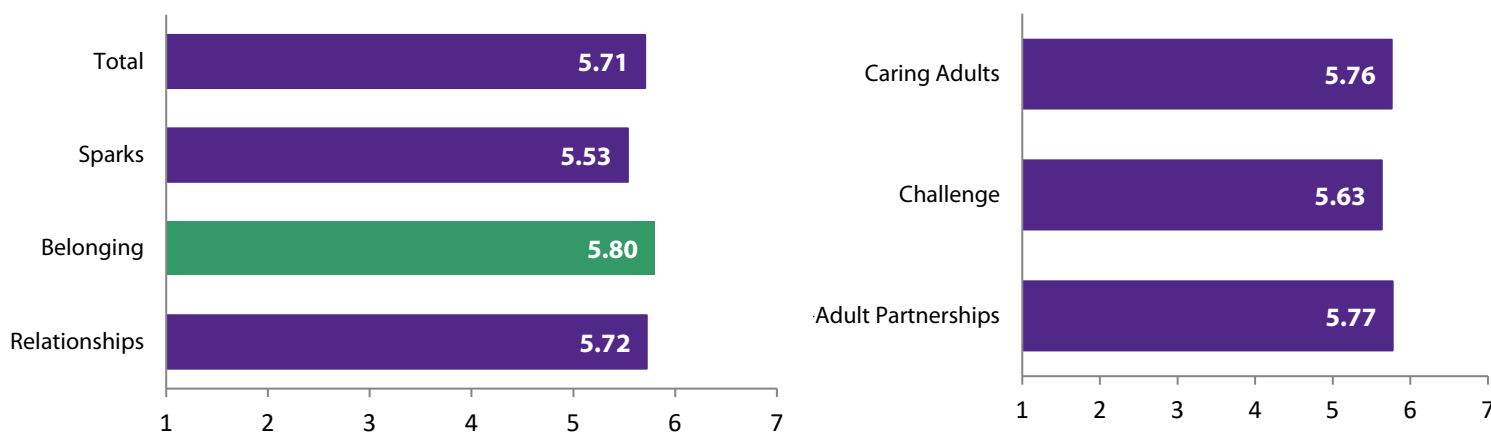
Kansas 4-H conducted an evaluation of youth programming in the summer of 2024, using the research validated 4-H Thriving Model Program Evaluation Instruments. Youth thrive when they have the chance to develop and practice skills which lead to social, emotional, and cognitive growth. What did Kansas 4-H members report on a survey of youth thriving connected to their 4-H participation? Read on to learn more.

Overall **880** youth completed the survey, with a response rate of nearly 10% of the total 4-H population. A total of 429 youth ages 10-12 completed the survey, and 451 youth ages 13 and older completed the survey.

In 4-H, youth are experiencing **high-quality** learning environments.

For youth to thrive, they need to be part of high-quality programs that give youth opportunities to explore their sparks, experience a sense of belonging, and develop supportive relationships. Developmental relationships are built with caring adults who challenge youth to grow together with the support of a youth-adult partnership.

Kansas youth reported being in high-quality programs, with **belonging as the highest rated component.** Experiences rated 4.9 or above are considered high quality.

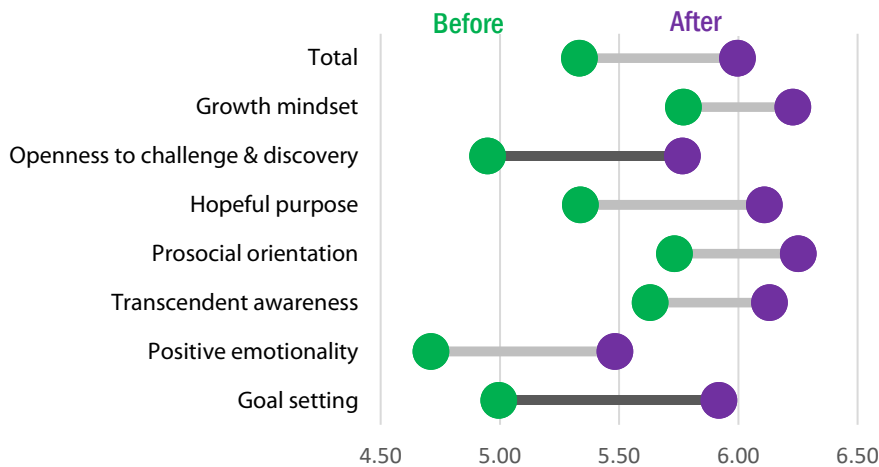


All items were scored on a 7-point scale, with 1 (not true at all) to 7 (very true). All component average scores fall into the 'high quality' category, which ranges from 4.9-6.1.

Youth are growing their thriving skills.

Thriving youth build their skills in seven areas: growth mindset; openness to challenge and discovery; hopeful purpose; prosocial orientation; transcendent awareness; positive emotionality; and goal setting.

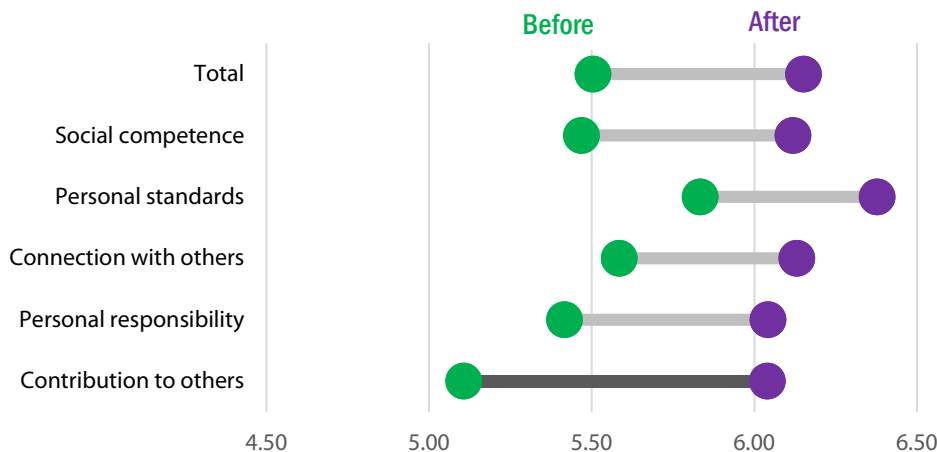
Results below show reported growth before and after 4-H. Youth grew in all areas, and top areas of growth for Kansas youth were **goal setting** and **openness to challenge and discovery**.



Youth are reaching thriving outcomes.

Kansas youth are achieving long-term thriving outcomes. The evaluation assessed five developmental outcomes: social competence; personal standards; connection with others; personal responsibility; and contribution to others.

Kansas youth grew most in **contribution to others**.



I love to help the youth in my community and so they can believe they can do anything. I want them to have fun and enjoy the activities.

~Kansas 4-H youth, age 15

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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