

# MEASURING THE IMPACT OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Executive Summary of the 2017 National Outcomes Report

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**NYOI**  
National Youth Outcomes Initiative



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**

Over the past decade, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) has built the capability of Club organizations to collect and use data to measure youth outcomes and demonstrate their impact to stakeholders. This data provides Clubs insights with which to adjust their practices and implement quality improvements to have a greater beneficial effect on youth.

BGCA continues to enhance the tools of its National Youth Outcomes Initiative (NYOI) and expand its capacity to conduct more sophisticated analytics and program evaluation.

Among many positive findings presented in BGCA's 2017 outcomes report, the key insights are:

- Ongoing analyses show that when youth report an optimal Club Experience and attend the Club more regularly, they are more likely to achieve positive outcomes.
- When youth development staff and their managers consistently employ certain key practices, they can create a higher-quality Club Experience.
- Regularly attending Club members tend to do better than their peers nationally on key indicators in all three BGCA priority outcome areas.

These insights are particularly relevant as Clubs embark on a new strategic plan, Great Futures 2025. The plan urges all Club organizations to improve program quality and strengthen capacity. Equipping Club professionals with the tools to enhance the Club Experience and deepen their impact on youth is critical for achieving these goals.

## Evolving NYOI's Capabilities



BGCA makes changes to the NYOI system and its tools to facilitate more effective use of data and a deeper understanding of how Club members are faring. In 2017, BGCA developed an application on its internal website for Club professionals and volunteers called My Data. This tool gives Clubs centralized access to member outcome and operations data they need to inform their strategic planning and decision making. By the end of 2017, My Data will provide Club professionals and board members with their organizations' annual membership and attendance, financial, and NYOI member survey and staff survey data. BGCA's ongoing development of My Data includes enhancing report-generation options and linking Club users to resources to help them analyze their data and use it for continuous quality improvement.

As of late 2017, 94 percent of nonmilitary organizations were participating in NYOI. Nearly 190,000 Club youth completed the member survey in some 3,000 Club sites in spring 2017.

*These findings are for regularly attending members, those who attended the Club on average once per week or more in the six to 12 months prior to taking the survey.*

## A High-Quality Club Experience: Essential for Positive Youth Development



Since NYOI's inception, BGCA has examined the relationship between members' Club Experience and the outcomes they achieve. The findings have been consistent: **when members have a high-quality Club Experience and attend regularly, they are more likely to achieve positive outcomes** in the priority outcome areas of Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles.

When comparing members who attend the Club regularly and report an optimal Club Experience to members who report their Club Experience needs improvement, the findings show:

- Older teens (16 and older) are **38 percent more likely to be on track to graduate** from high school.
- Younger teens (13 to 15) are **51 percent more likely to volunteer** on a monthly basis.
- Youth (9 to 12) are **38 percent more likely to believe that school work is meaningful**.



## Developing Globally Competitive Graduates

- Among teen-aged Club members, **97 percent expect to graduate from high school**, 87 percent expect to complete some kind of post-secondary education, and 70 percent expect to complete a four-year college degree or higher.
- A comparison of survey data from NYOI and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows that **73 percent of low-income Club members ages 12 to 17 report earning mostly As and Bs in school, whereas 69 percent of their peers nationally report doing so.**
- A comparison of survey data from NYOI and the Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America suggests that **more than twice as many 12th-grade Club members (56 percent) express an interest in a STEM career as 12th-graders nationally (25 percent).** The percentage of Club girls who are interested in a STEM career (51 percent) is more than three times greater than that of their peers nationally (14 percent).



## Developing 21st Century Leaders

- A comparison of NYOI and Monitoring the Future survey data shows that regularly attending Club members in eighth, 10th and 12th grades have significantly higher rates of volunteering than their same-grade peers nationally. **By 12th grade, almost twice as many Club members report that they volunteer at least monthly (68 percent) than their peers nationally (39 percent).**
- The NYOI survey asks about Club members' level of concern for others and community: **92 percent say they try to help when they see people in need**, and 87 percent say they believe they can make a difference in their community.
- Regarding leadership behaviors, **91 percent of NYOI survey respondents say they can stand up for what is right, even if their friends disagree.**



## Developing a Healthier Generation

- A comparison of survey data from NYOI and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) shows that higher percentages of regularly attending Club members report being physically active every day than their peers nationally. **Among youth in middle school, 42 percent of Club boys and 27 percent of Club girls exercise daily, compared with 37 percent of boys and 23 percent of girls nationally.**
- Teens who stay connected to their Boys & Girls Club as they get older seem better able to resist engaging in health-risk behaviors than their peers nationally. For instance, NYOI and YRBSS data show that **91 percent of Club ninth-graders report abstaining from drinking alcohol in the past 30 days, compared with 77 percent of ninth-graders nationally. By 12th grade, 84 percent of Club seniors and 58 percent of seniors nationally report doing so.**

# NYOI

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