

# Youth Development Measurement Tool Overview

Understanding the impact of youth development programs is critical to their success. This means measuring factors that lead to positive outcomes for young people, like identity development and social connection. The Youth Development Measurement Tool is a survey developed in collaboration with King County Best Starts for Kids grantees, youth program participants, and a team of University of Washington researchers. It is designed to help organizations learn how their programs are supporting young people ages 11-24.

## What does the survey measure?

The Youth Development Measurement Tool includes four key themes. Each theme has multiple modules, or sets of questions, that ask about specific topics:

Social and Emotional Development	Identity Development	Program Environments	Health and Well-Being
13 questions	10 questions	12 questions	10 questions
Self-Awareness	Racial Identity	Opportunities to Explore Racial and Ethnic Identity	Physical and Social Well-Being
Growth Mindset	Ethnic Identity	Opportunities to Explore Gender Identity	Mental Health
Relationships	Gender Identity	Adult Support and Expectations	School Engagement
Community		Peer and Adult Relationships	

## How can this survey benefit my organization?

Surveys are one of several evaluation activities to help organizations understand how their program is doing, how young people are experiencing the program, and what changes or improvements might be necessary. Surveys are also easy to administer over multiple timepoints to help capture changes over time.

The Youth Development Measurement Tool was created for the King County service provider community and incorporated community feedback at every stage of development. This means that young people and Best Starts for Kids programs weighed in on the outcomes that were most important to their programs, as well as what survey questions would be most appropriate to measure them. The initial set of questions was then pilot tested with over 500 young people from diverse gender, racial, and ethnic backgrounds to ensure the final survey was clear, accessible, and measured the intended outcomes.

## Where can I learn more?

If you or your organization is interested in using the Youth Development Measurement Tool, you can find more resources here:

- [Click here](#) for information about how to administer and score the Youth Development Measurement Tool.
- [Click here](#) to access all survey modules and questions.