

The analysis of data from the pilot test of youth forms revealed few findings of interest. Only one survey question (#11 “If I had a problem at school or in my neighborhood, I would feel comfortable asking a police officer for help) showed a statistically significant shift in response as measured by both the t-test and chi-square analyses. The attitudinal change was in the expected direction (i.e. increased agreement with the statement) and suggests that the youth participants gained some comfort with police officers during the program.

The analysis of the police data from the pilot test found no statistically significant change in responses between the pre- and post-training surveys. It was unlikely that any difference would be identifiable given the small size of the response group. The individual survey responses also seem to suggest that the police participants simply enter the program with more positive attitudes in general.

In addition to the questions on attitude and the open-ended questions, the post-training surveys also queried both youth and police participants about their general satisfaction with the program. On the five questions covering the program experience, nine of the 10 youths responded, with a majority rating their experience on each aspect of the program as being either “good” or “excellent.” The police participants rated the program highly as well; all six respondents rated the four aspects of their program experience as being either “good” or “excellent.”

The pilot test of the new pre- and post-training survey forms provides some evidence that the new data collection instruments should be effective at collecting the desired data on participant attitudes as they are implemented at other YPI program sites in the future. There were no apparent problems with item non-response or participant comprehension. Although the analysis of the data from the pilot was too small in number to reveal many statistically significant results, the responses generally followed expected patterns of change and suggest that the new measures will be able to capture attitudinal change in the future. The follow-up survey instrument remains to be field tested, however, and will play a crucial role in collecting medium-term outcomes for both the youth and police participants.

Closing Thoughts and Summary

This evaluability assessment generally indicates that the YPI program can be ready to undergo an evaluation with some modifications to its current practices. The major things needed for the program to be ready for evaluation are as follows:

- Refocus the program logic model and outcome goals to be concrete and measurable.
- Collect and save consistent data on program participants over a longer period of time.
- Build data collection requirements into the relationships that the YPI develops with communities.

The YPI program also has many strengths that will help them to prepare for and engage in evaluation. The following are key elements of evaluability that were identified during the study.

