

The Future of Long Beach is YOUTh: Preparing the Next Generation for Career Readiness

ChangeMakers Collaborative

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INTRODUCTION

Project Purpose & Description

The project aims to reduce homelessness in the 90806-zip code of Long Beach by providing career readiness tools and educational resources for local youth. ChangeMakers Collaborative hosted four workshops intended to assist youth in resume building, interview skills, career vision, confidence, and networking tools, culminating in a career exploration day at the Long Beach Airport during workshop four.

Social Problem & Focus Population

Homelessness has been a rising concern within the United States, especially within Los Angeles County within the last decade. Youth are at higher risk of physical, mental, and behavioral challenges when they are faced with housing instability. This project primarily aims to assist youth who are currently or are at risk of becoming unhoused, specifically within the 90806-zip code of Long Beach.

Scope of Social Problem

Community Stakeholder Interviews

- Amongst the interview responses, all community residents and professionals were concerned about the increased amount of homelessness in 90806.

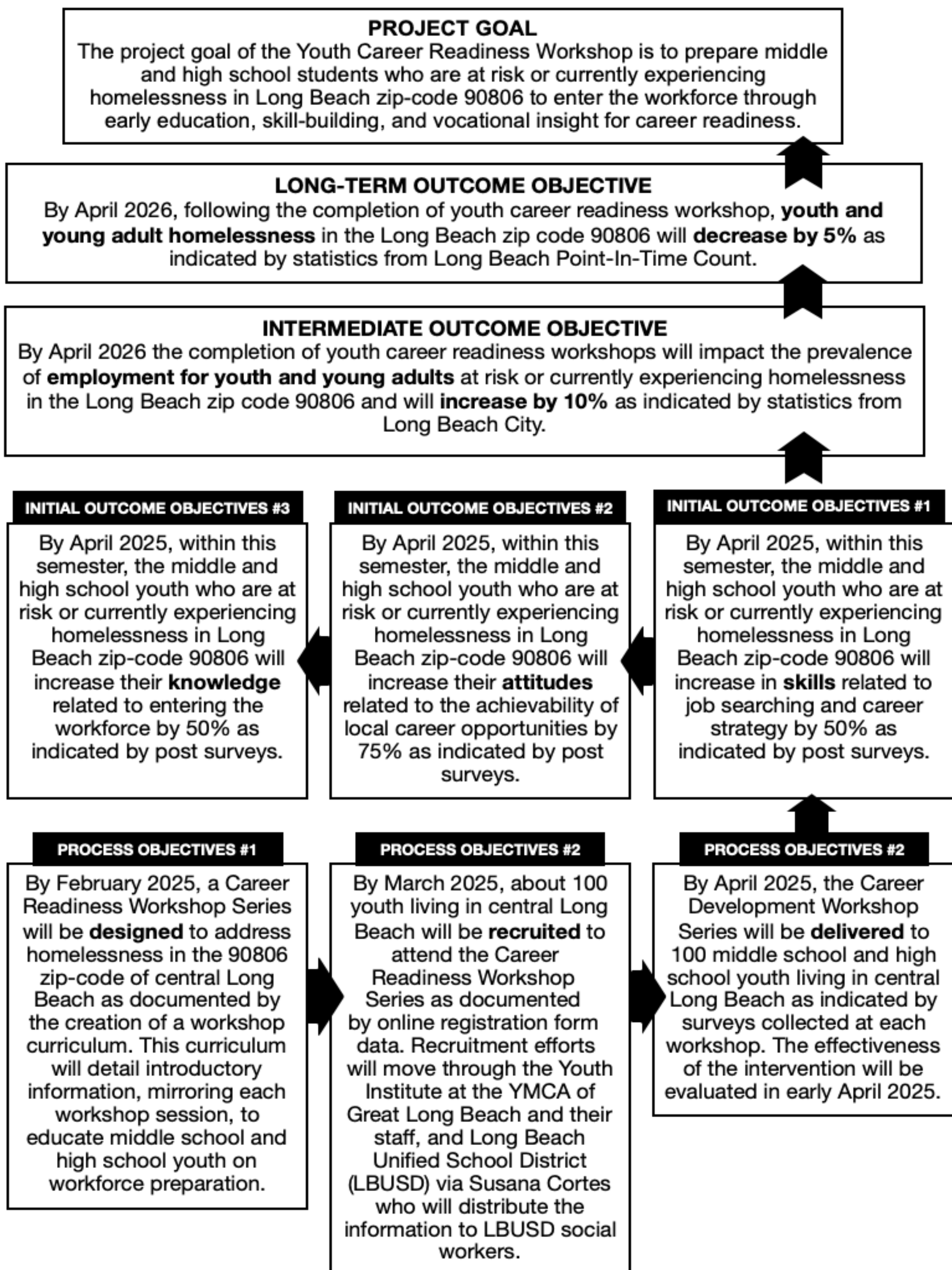
Secondary Data

- 90806 recorded 3,376 homeless individuals as of 2024 (Long Beach, 2024).
- 50% of children experiencing homelessness show clinically significant behavioral problems (Marçal et al., 2021).
- Homelessness has also been associated with physical health issues, such as respiratory and cardiovascular ailments and increased risk for substance abuse (Brown et al., 2019).

Alignment to Specialization

The project amplifies our comprehension of child and family well-being by developing career readiness workshops tailored for the youth in 90806.

PROJECT OVERVIEW, OBJECTIVES, & OUTCOMES

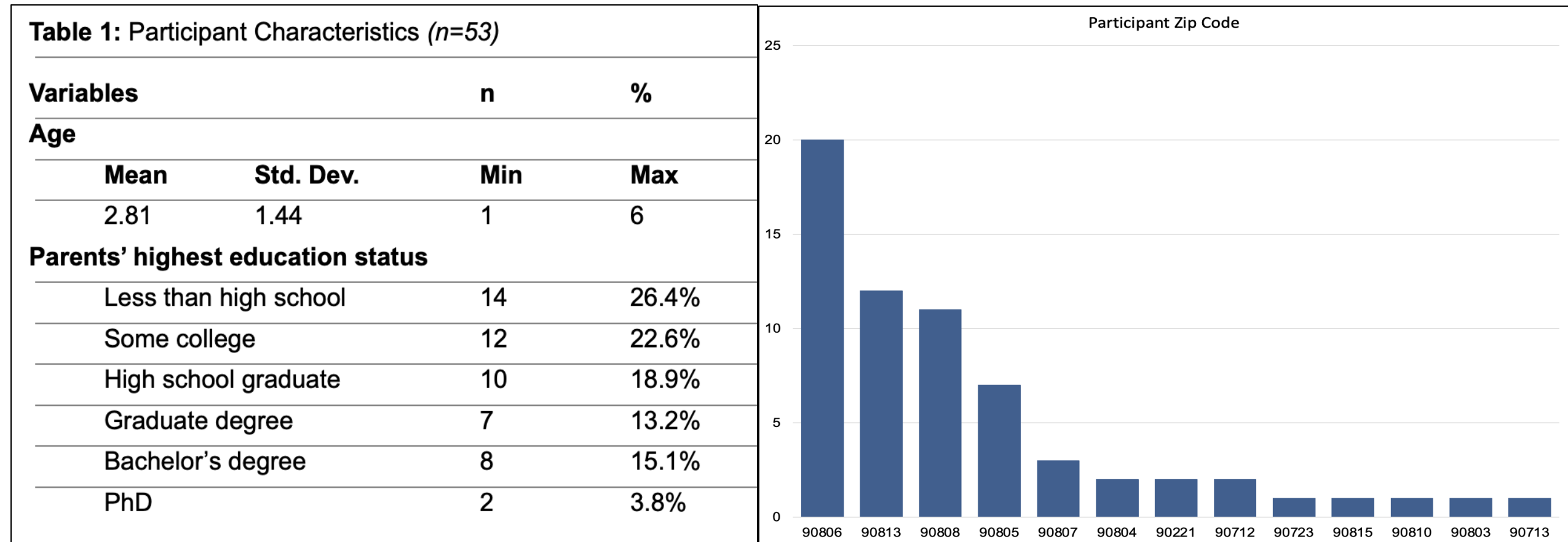


METHODS

Post-test surveys were utilized to gather data on the participants' skills, knowledge, and attitudes related to career readiness, as a one-shot case study with a mixed-method design. Across all four workshops, 80 students were sampled after they received the intervention. A content analysis was conducted for the scaled questions and thematic analysis for the open responses. The results were analyzed using the percentage breakdown and summary tool on Google Forms.

RESULTS

Participant Characteristics



Qualitative Results

85% of surveyed participants reported feeling more prepared to have a job after high school. Over half of all surveyed participants, 54.2%, indicated “I feel confident in my ability to find a job that fits my strengths.” Additionally, **82.5% agreed that the workshop helped them feel hopeful about their future employment.** In an open response, **99% of students expressed highly positive feedback about the learning experience and preparation for the workforce.**

Themes	Participant Responses
Confidence & motivation	“It made me feel confident and ready to enter the workforce.” “It gave me confidence that there is a job for me out there.” “It confirmed my ability to be capable for this career.” “Gave me confidence to apply for internships and future jobs.” “It let me know I'm not alone. There's always a way.”
Practical skills	“I learned how to make a resume that I can be proud of.” “It helped me learn how to find a job online and search for programs near me.” “This workshop taught me how to apply for a work permit.”
Personal growth & takeaways	“It helped me decide to become a pilot.” “It taught me what my strengths are and how to use them to find a career that matches me.” “This workshop helped me narrow down which careers best align with my interest & personality.” “It made me feel more open minded.”

RESOURCES

The Community Development YMCA. (n.d.). *Engaging, educating and empowering all communities*. <https://www.lbymca.org/locations/community-development-ymca>

Long Beach Unified School District. (n.d.). *Vision 2035*. <https://www.lbschools.net/>

Mayor's Fund for Long Beach. (n.d.). *Mayor's Fund for Long Beach*. <https://lbmayorsfund.org/>



Scan for a digital fact sheet with more information & project photos

CONCLUSION

Analysis of Findings

After analyzing the post-test surveys, results indicate a positive correlation between attending the workshops and participants' confidence related to career readiness. The data indicated a positive impact from the workshop series, highlighting the interventions effectiveness and exceeding initial outcome objectives.

Limitations & Improvements

A limitation was not providing enough variety in job options in the workshop. Another limitation was the focus on job readiness. An improvement is to provide insights on job readiness and different topics such as volunteer and internship readiness for middle school aged group participants.

Implications & Recommendations

Practice

- If youth attend the workshop series, then they will have more confidence in their abilities to create their own resumes.
- A recommendation is to provide an emphasis on interactive activities throughout the workshop series.

Policy

- If youth attend the workshop series, then they will feel more prepared to have a job after high school.
- A recommendation is to use the workshop series data to support policy changes that will ensure schools have funding specific to career education.

Research

- If youth attend the workshop series, then they will feel more knowledgeable about job opportunities in Long Beach.
- A recommendation is to create a career readiness program that follows participants throughout high school and evaluates their progress.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Development YMCA

Partnering with communities through engagement, education, and empowerment (The Community Development YMCA, n.d.)

Mayor's Fund for Long Beach

To widen opportunities for youth, children, and families of Long Beach (Mayor's Fund for Long Beach, n.d.)

Long Beach Unified School District, Division of Student Support Services

To foster the development of every student for a prosperous future (Long Beach Unified School District, n.d.)

Name of Collaborator	Contributions
Jonathan Gray <i>Associate Executive Director</i> Community Development YMCA jonathan.gray@lbymca.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted with recruitmentProvided supplies/location for workshops 1-3Facilitated workshop 4 transportationTranslated recruitment flyers, parent handouts, and workshop materials
Elizabeth Alvarado <i>Program Director</i> Community Development YMCA Elizabeth.Alvarado@lbymca.org	
Karissa Selvester <i>Executive Director</i> Mayor's Fund for Long Beach kselvester@lbmayorsfund.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted with recruitmentDeveloped, recruited community organizations for, and co-hosted workshop 4Provided funding
Susana A. Cortes, LCSW <i>Assistant Director</i> Long Beach Unified School District, Division of Student Support Services SCortes@lbschools.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted with recruitmentDistribution of completed curriculum

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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