



# Youth Retention Study

2014-2018



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



College of Natural  
& Applied Sciences  
University of Guam | Unibetsdät Guåhan



# Acknowledgements

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And our  
State  
Leaders!

# Retention Rates

Youth=64%

Volunteers=77%



# Topics from surveys

Why joined  
4-H

How they  
heard about  
4-H

Intent to re-  
enroll

Family history  
in 4-H

Expectations (adult  
only; open ended)

Best part of 4-H  
(open ended)

Changes they'd  
make (open ended)

General  
experience (scale)

Reasons may not  
return (youth only)

# Results to Date\*



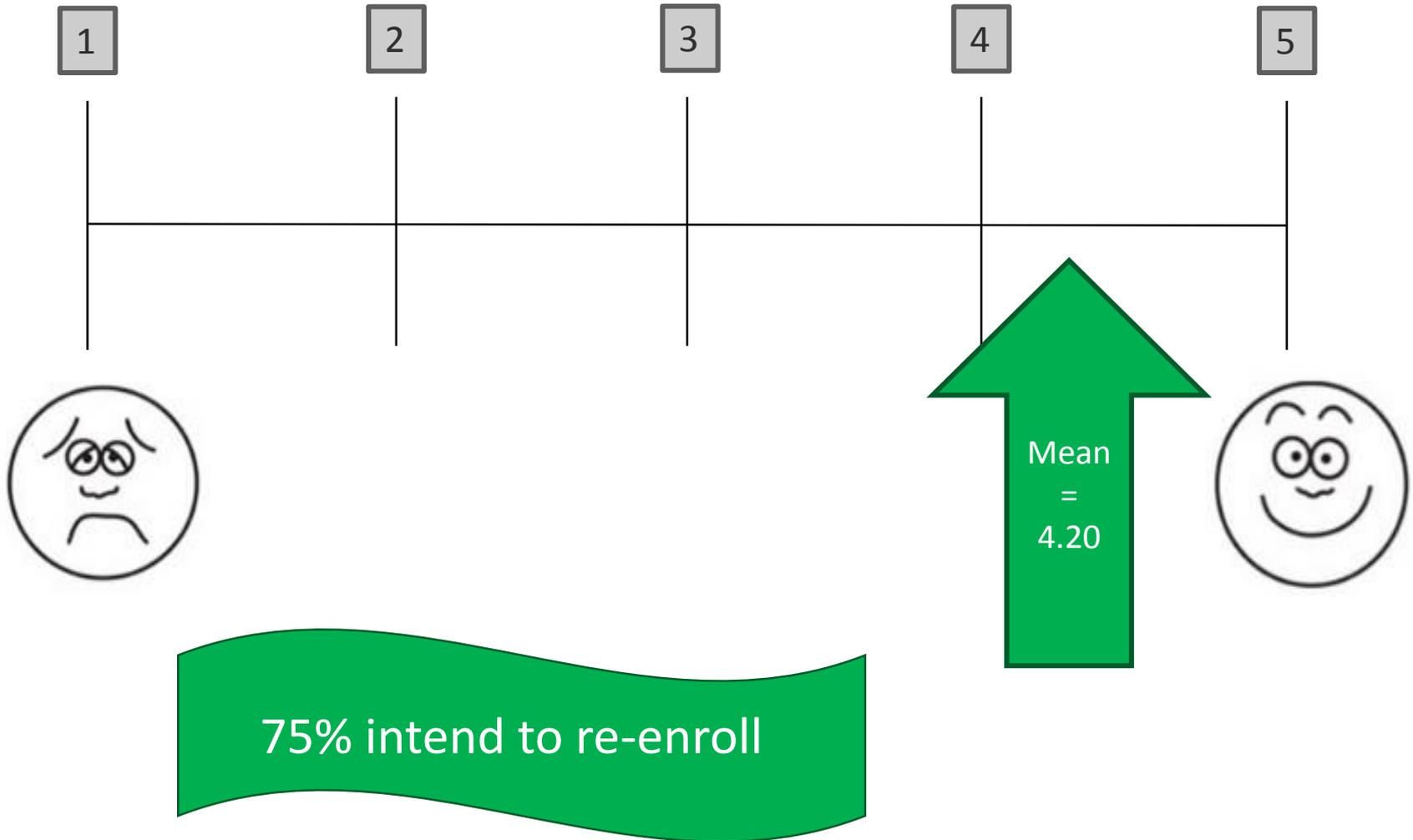
\*based on 2016-17 as not all states have completed 2017-18 data collection. Youth results unless specified.

# Why did you join 4-H?

- Try new things (58%)
- Have fun (48%)
- Family History (36%)
- Skill Building (32%)



# Overall Positive Experience



# Why youth might not come back...

- Didn't feel connected to other youth (19%)
- Don't have time (15%)
- Didn't know when club or project met (12%)

% represents % that said "a little true" or "completely true"

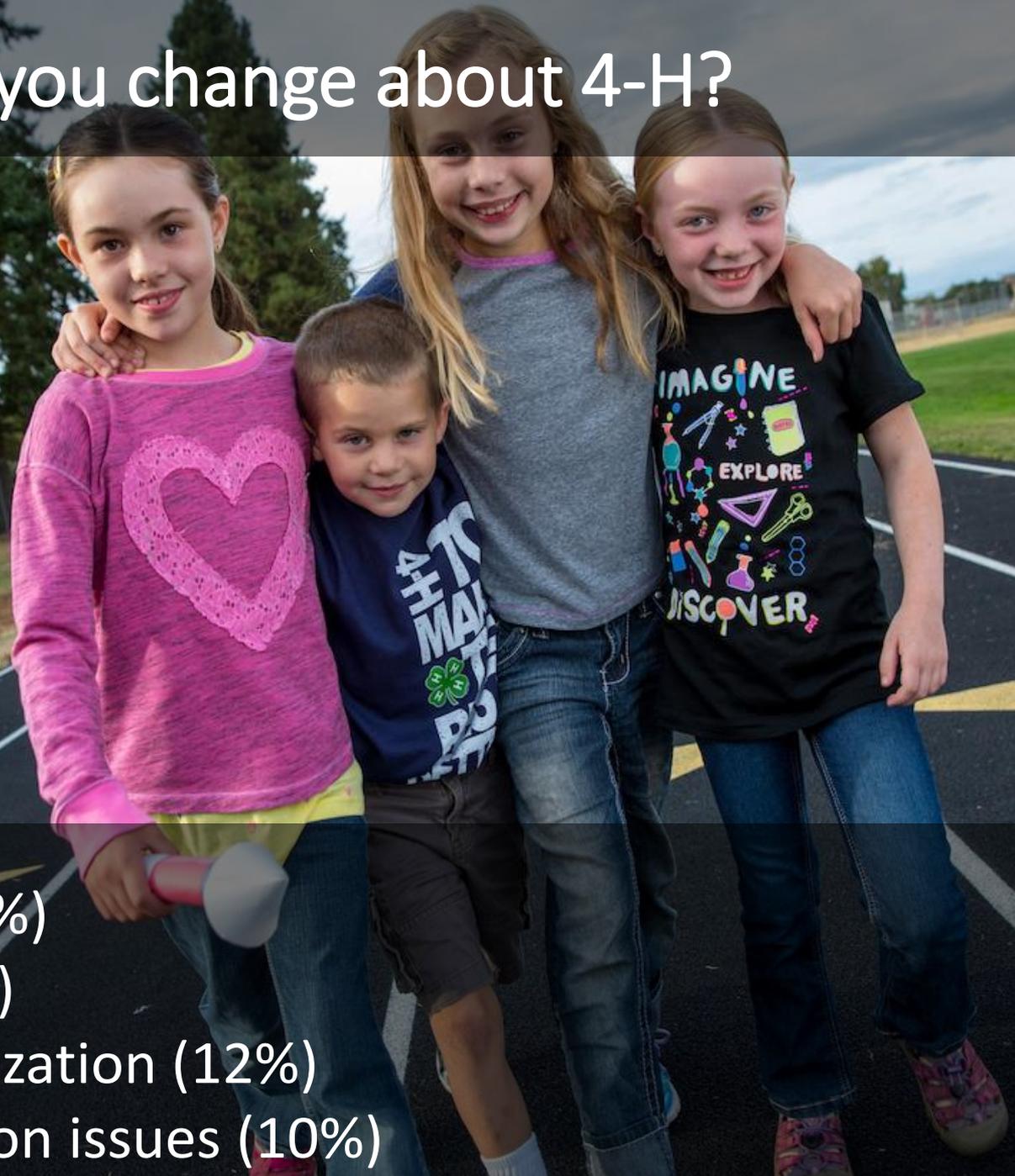


# What is the best part about 4-H?

- Project activities (34%)
- Fair/Showing animals (18%)
- New people and friendships (15%)
- Learning opportunities (13%)



# What would you change about 4-H?



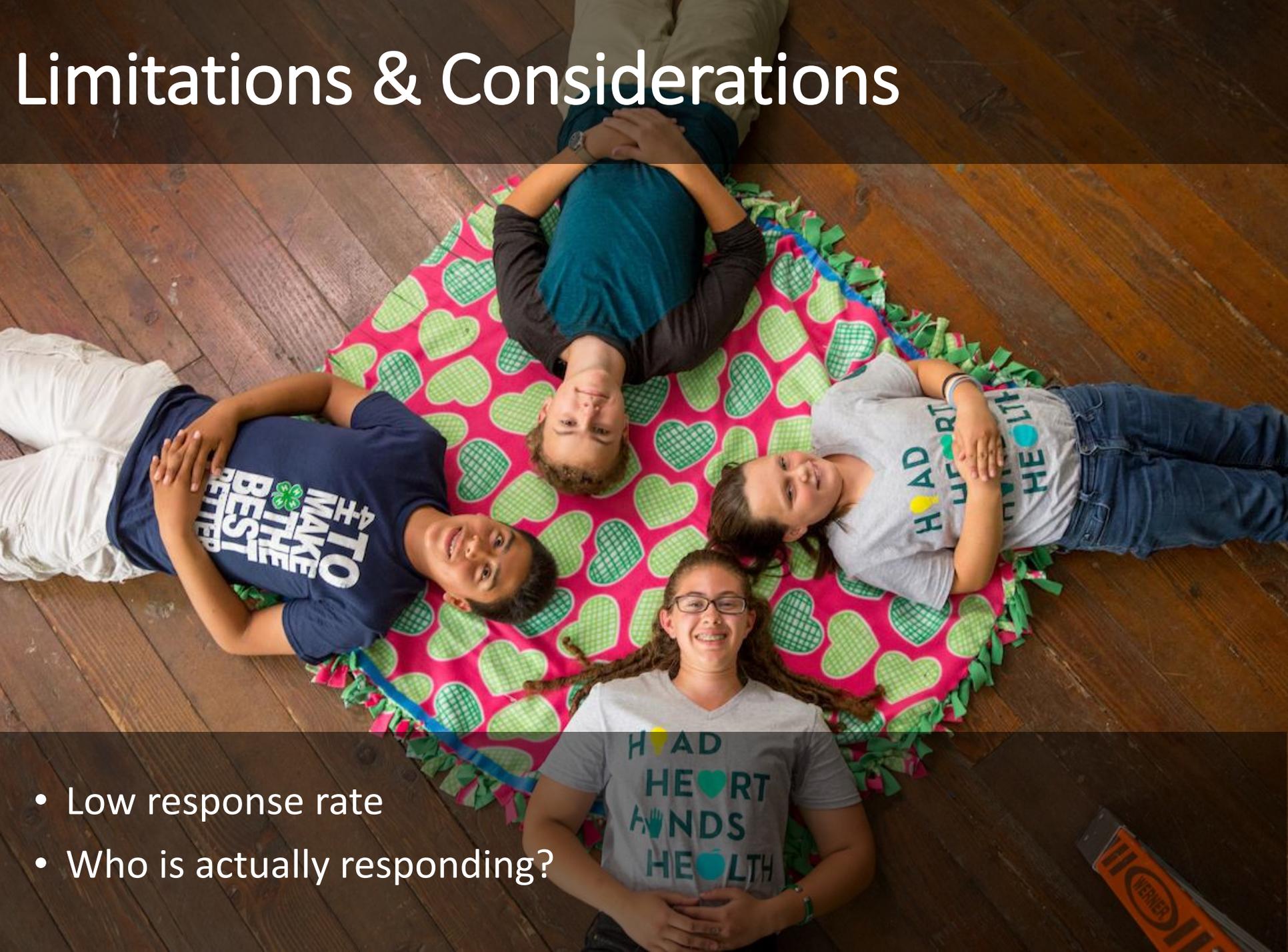
- Meetings (20%)
- Nothing (19%)
- Lack of organization (12%)
- Communication issues (10%)

# Outreach

- Family Handbooks
  - CA (English & Spanish)
  - ID
  - WY (under development)
- Project Leader Checklist (CA)
- County Information Sheet (CA)
- Data Parties
- <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/271860.pdf>
- <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/254367.pdf>
- <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/271859.pdf>
- <https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/Uidaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/4-H/4-H-Family-Handbook-201607.ashx?la=en&hash=7D1ED98249B0BD5D508464AD34219F70BF73A490>



# Limitations & Considerations



- Low response rate
- Who is actually responding?

# Next Steps

- Multistate Project Objectives
  - Enrollment data trends
  - Culture of 4-H
  - Perceptions from those that have left or never joined
- Role of family history/involvement in 4-H
- Best practices checklists



# Contact Information



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