

# Engaging youth in the BC AHS results



There are many ways for youth to engage with the BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) results. These include using the findings as a spring board for discussion, and developing projects which can address the youth health and wellness issues they see in their school and community.

McCreary has trained youth engagement staff who work with young people aged 12–19 in their schools and through community groups. An event, workshop, or series of workshops can be tailored to meet the needs of young people across the province and to discuss local youth health issues. For more details, please email [evelyn@mcs.bc.ca](mailto:evelyn@mcs.bc.ca)

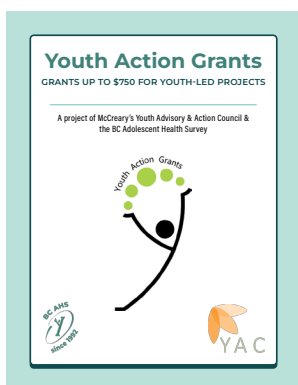
There are also resources available to support teachers, youth workers, and other adults who want to engage youth in the survey data. The most popular is the Next Steps toolkit.

## Next Steps toolkit



The toolkit provides adult facilitators with a workshop template that can be used to share results of the BC AHS with youth aged 12 to 19. It includes a trivia quiz to introduce youth to the results, interactive activities to learn about risk and protective factors, and discussion questions to explore local youth health issues. There is also an interactive grant writing curriculum which can support youth to apply for a Youth Action Grant. More information and the toolkit are available at [mcs.bc.ca/next\\_steps](https://mcs.bc.ca/next_steps).

## Youth Action Grants (YAGs)



YAGs offer up to \$750 for youth-led projects that address findings from the BC AHS and that seek to support or improve youth health. For more information on how youth can apply, please visit [mcs.bc.ca/youth\\_action\\_grants](https://mcs.bc.ca/youth_action_grants).

Examples of youth-led projects which have been developed by youth in response to the 2023 BC AHS

results and supported by the YAGs include a 2SLGBTQ Prom Night, an introduction to non-competitive physical activity, a diversity book club, an edible garden, and a mental health peer support program.

## Research Slam

The Research Slam program is a fast-paced weekend or week-long program which teaches youth basic community-based research skills, including ways to answer their research questions using BC AHS data.

## Arts-based activities

Arts-based activities which can engage youth with the data include zine-making, photovoice, spoken word, and hip hop. A video created by young hip hop artists in Vancouver sharing some of the comments provided by participants in the 2023 BC AHS is available on our YouTube channel [[youtube.com/@McCrearyCentre](https://youtube.com/@McCrearyCentre)].

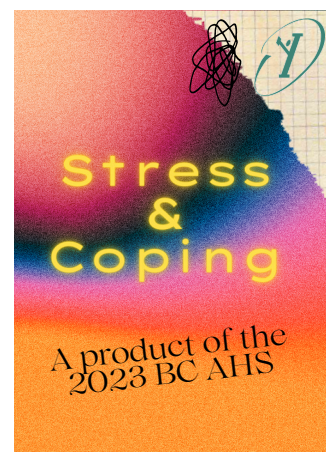


I chose this photo for balance. The way that the beach wraps around the water, with the sunset behind it, is very calming to me. It feels balanced and relaxing.



I have lived near the ocean or shorelines my whole life, and being able to connect to these places is a sense of connection to the local environment. In this photo, I am learning about the marine animals that reside near me through a school whale-watching tour.

Examples of photovoices created by McCreary's Youth Health Ambassadors for the launch of the 2023 BC AHS [[mcs.bc.ca/pdf/2023\\_bcchs\\_photovoice.pdf](https://mcs.bc.ca/pdf/2023_bcchs_photovoice.pdf)]



For examples of zines created by McCreary's Youth Advisory & Action Council for the launch of the 2023 BC AHS, please visit [mcs.bc.ca/about\\_bcchs](https://mcs.bc.ca/about_bcchs)

## Youth Health Ambassadors (YHA)



The YHA are a team of school-aged youth across BC who are employed to facilitate conversations with their peers about youth health topics, and support the sharing of the BC AHS data.