I'M THE BOSS of my life
YOUTH CONFERENCE

Impact Metrics





I'm the Boss of My Life Youth Conference

7th Annual Event · held on **April 3, 2026**

ITBOML 2026

Participation at a Glance



463

Registrations completed*



350+

Youth attended



84

Individual post-event surveys completed**

Youth mean age: **16.1 years** (SD 2.2)

*All participant characteristics reported come from the aggregate registration survey results (N=463), inclusive of the youth who attended the event (N=299). **Post-event survey completed by youth who attended (N=84).

Community Reach

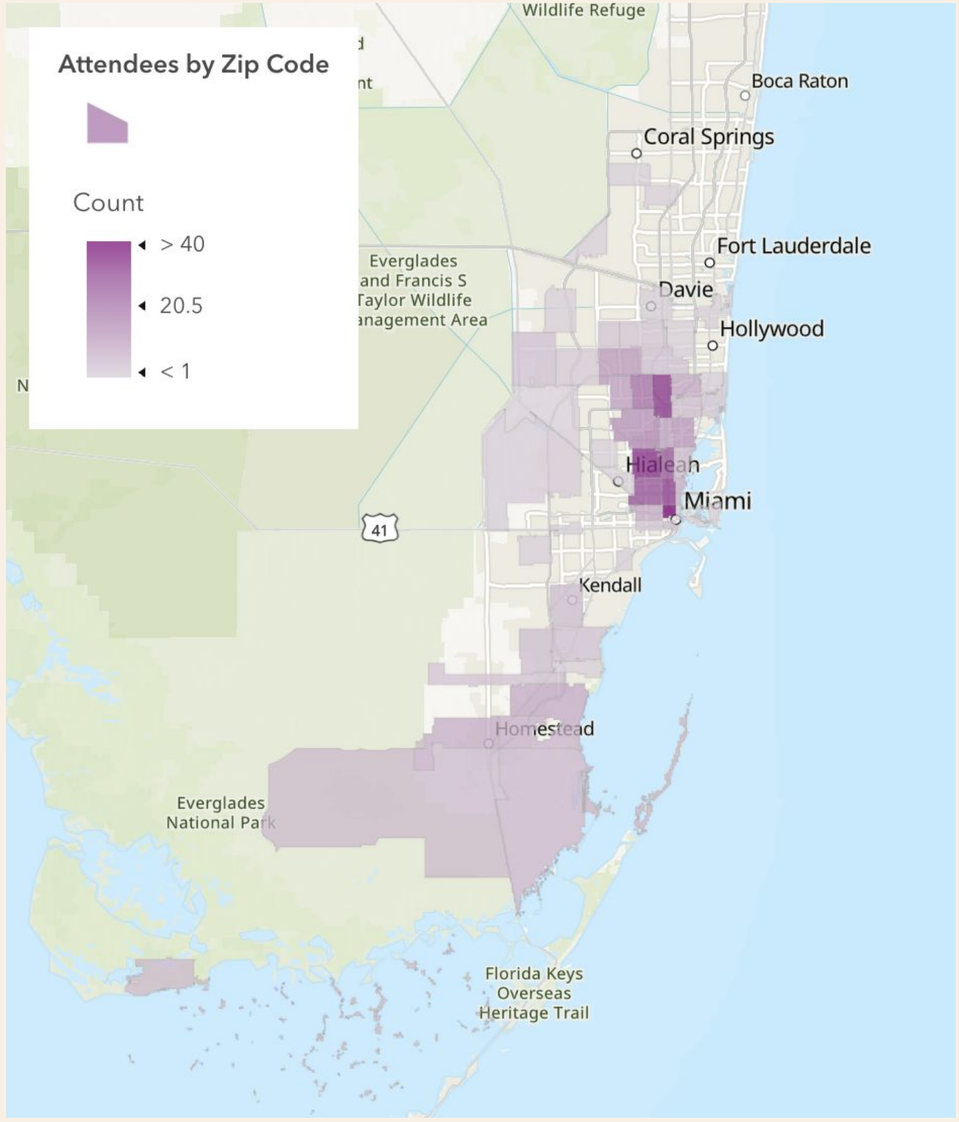
57 Unique zip codes reported across youth registrations

115 Unique schools reported across youth registrations

58 Unique programs & organizations reported across youth registrations

Top Zip Codes

51	33136 — Overtown	33	33127
35	33147	30	33142
34	33169	29	33150



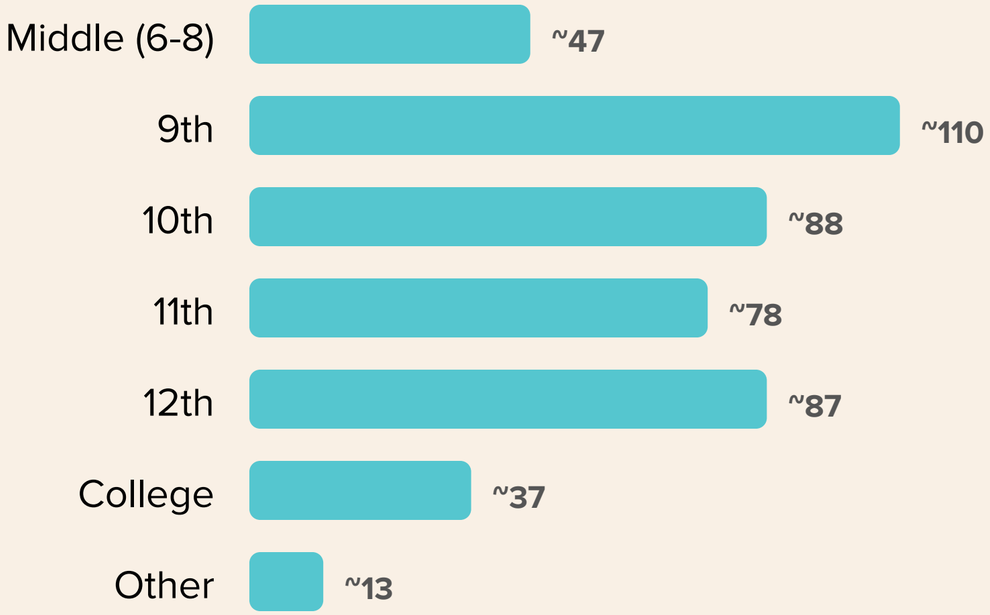
Top Schools Attended

45	William H Turner Technical Arts HS
37	Booker T Washington HS
31	Miami Northwestern Senior HS
25	Miami-Dade College
25	Miami Norland Senior HS
21	Paul L Dunbar K-8 Center
16	Frank C Martin K-8
16	Law Enforcement Memorial HS
14	Miami Central HS
13	Miami Edison HS
13	SLAM Middle School
11	Homestead Senior HS

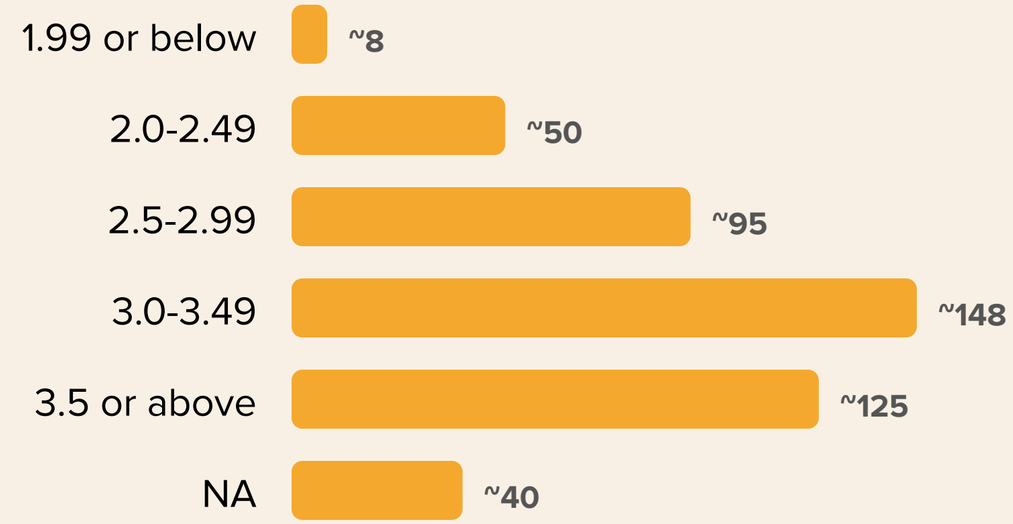
ITBOML 2026

Grade & GPA

Grade



GPA



Pre-Event Stats

Do you have a job for this summer?

47 (10%)

Yes

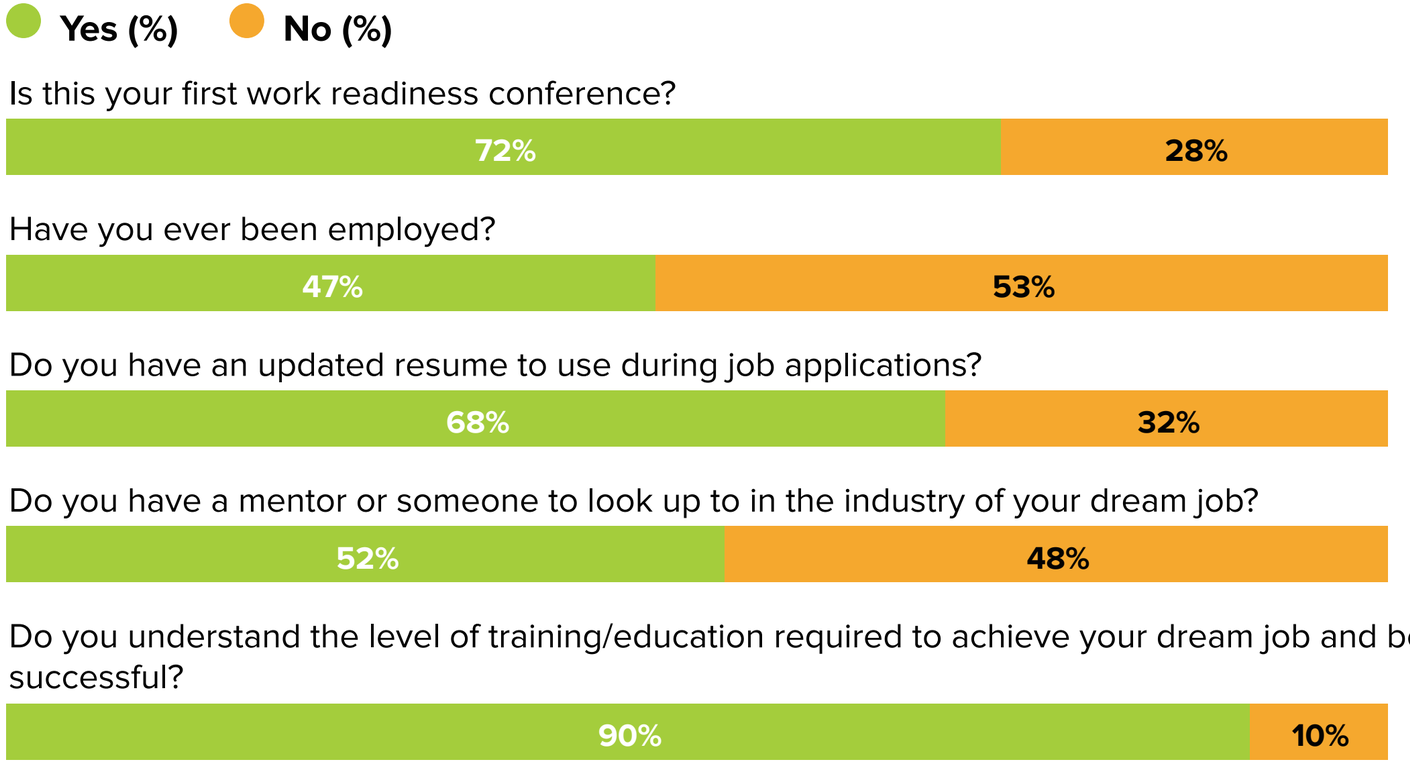
208 (45%)

Not yet (but I applied)

208 (45%)

No, and I haven't applied yet

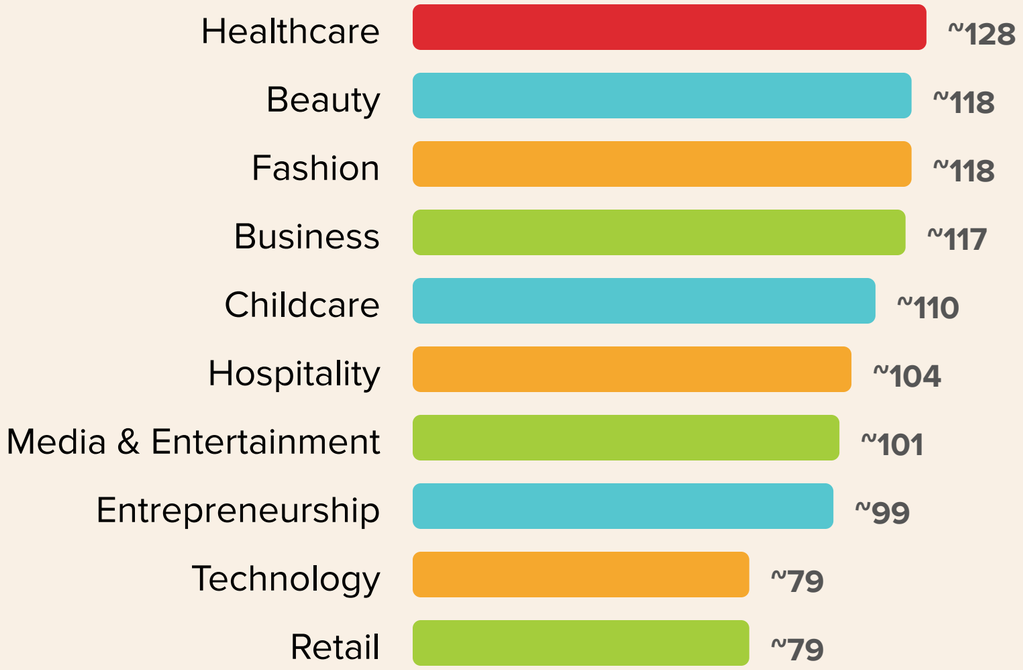
Job Readiness & Experience

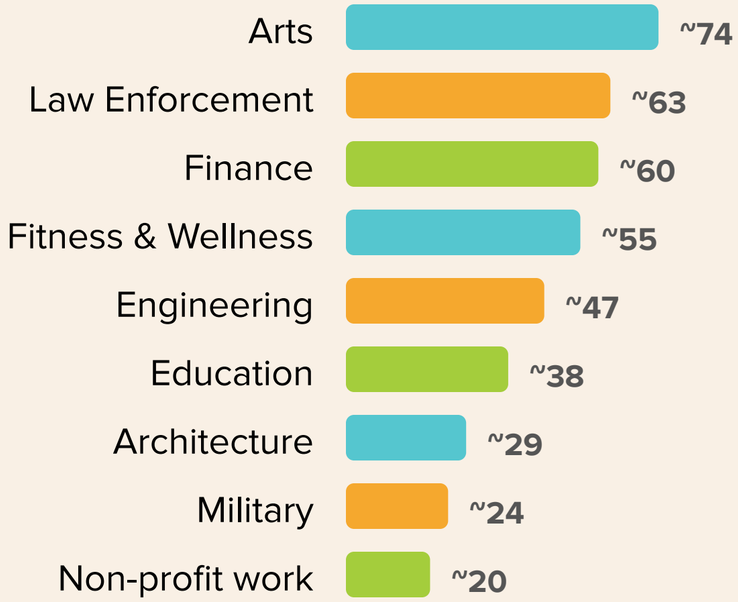


PRE-EVENT STATS | REGISTRATION SURVEY (N=463)

Industry Interests

Youth asked to select all that apply





PRE-EVENT STATS | REGISTRATION SURVEY (N=463)

Pre-Event Sentiment

I am excited about my job and career future signing up for this work readiness fair.



64.8% Strongly Agree

27% Agree

8.2% Neutral



I feel my community believes in me and is supporting me as I develop my job and career path.



54.4% Strongly Agree

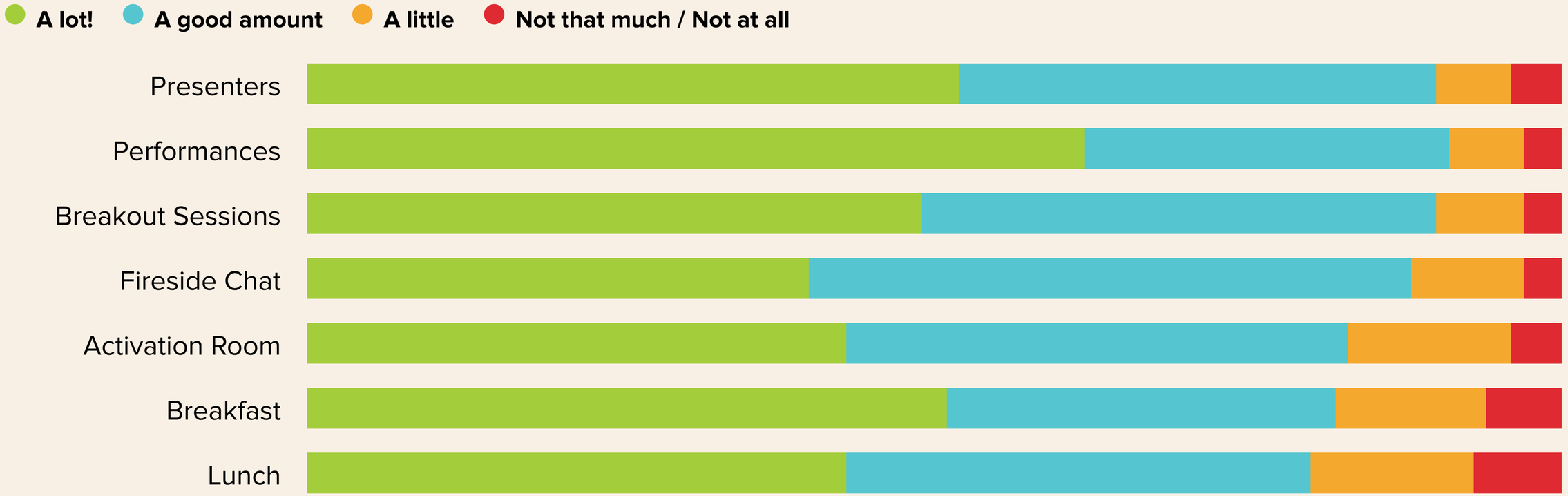
30.5% Agree

14.5% Neutral

POST-EVENT STATS | POST-EVENT SURVEY (N=84)

Post-Event Ratings

How much did you enjoy each of the following?



POST-EVENT STATS | POST-EVENT SURVEY (N=84)

Breakout Session Feedback

“...the session gave me helpful information about different career paths and what to expect in the future. It helped me better understand opportunities related to my interests and how I can start preparing now.”

“...this session gave me a better understanding of careers in law and order and how people in these jobs protect, serve, and advocate for others.”

“I’m planning on possibly exploring a degree in a STEM field in college, so this breakout was very informative toward my future.”

“I enjoyed hearing about a different job in the medical field which made me think about how I have a variety of options to pick from.”

“It was very interactive, I’ve got to know a lot of hospitality rules & how to be a boss of my life.”

POST-EVENT STATS | POST-EVENT SURVEY (N=84)

Level of Agreement

Please share your level of agreement with each item:

87% of youth who completed the post-event survey reported that the conference helped prepare them for their future career



POST-EVENT STATS | POST-EVENT SURVEY (N=84)

I learned... I wonder...

I learned...

“New strategies to apply in my academic and professional life.”

“To dress like you already have the job”

“New career opportunities”

“How to be more outspoken”

“First impressions are very important”

“How to stand up for what I believe in”

“That I am the boss of my life, and I choose my future.”

I wonder...

“What more will I learn at the next conference.”

“What steps I should take next to reach my goals”

“What the real world has for me after I graduate.”

“What internships, training programs, or opportunities are available for students who are interested in these career fields”

POST-EVENT STATS | POST-EVENT SURVEY

Top Supports for Success

Thinking about entering the job market, what would be the top 3 things that would be most helpful in preparing you to be successful?



Staying in the Neighborhood

What opportunities would make you want to stay in or come back to your neighborhood as you build your future?

“Opportunities to better the neighborhood.”

“Giving back to the future generation.”

“More jobs, internships, and programs that help young people get started in their careers.”

“Scholarships and building connections.”

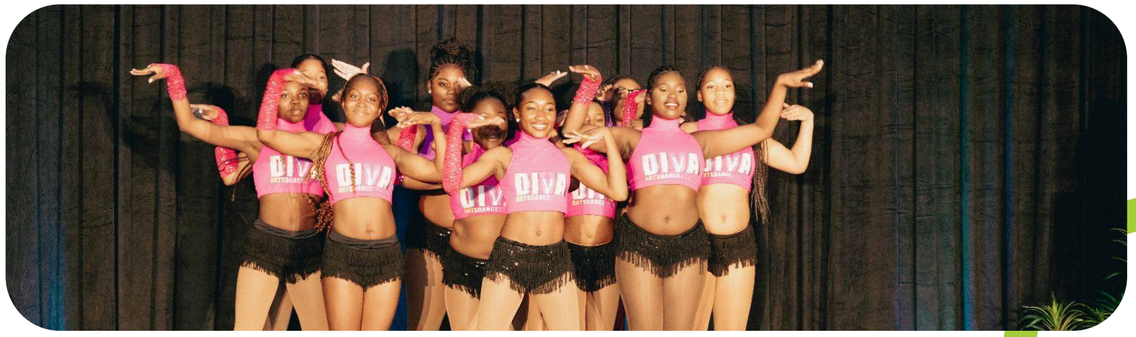
“...helping everyone to see them grow and be successful.”

“The support from friends and family.”

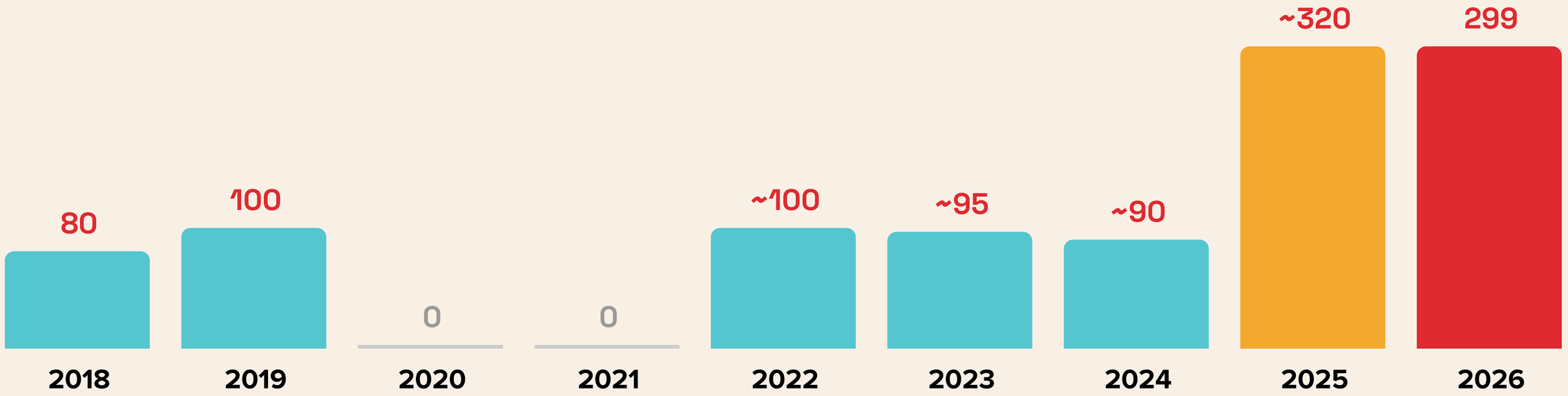
“If there are good job prospects, especially in fields I’m interested in, that’s a huge draw. It’s not just about having a job, but having fulfilling work that offers growth.”

“...professional growth, financial stability, and community connection.”





Attendance Over the Years



1st annual conference held in 2018 for **80 youth**

Conference scheduled for April 2020 was **impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**

The 2025 conference **more than tripled** the attendance rates of previous years, which was **maintained in 2026**

Key Takeaways & Questions

Started in 2018 with 80 youth — 2026 attendance is nearly 4x that

463 registered and 299 attended — there is a ~35% drop-off
Why — is it due to lacking transportation, communication?

Only 84 surveys returned from 299 attendees

We reached 58 programs across 57 zip codes and youth attended from 132 distinct schools
With reach this broad, how do we maintain Overtown's identity and mission at the center?

416 out of 463 youth do not have a summer job
Is there any follow up needed to support job application and attainment?

Hands-on internships/jobs was the #1 thing youth said would help them
How can we strengthen the pathways for internship programming and opportunity?



Key Takeaways & Questions

A significant share of youth lack mentors in their dream field

How can OCYC activate a matching or exposure effort?

Breakout sessions and presenters were the highest-rated elements. 9 in 10 attendees left excited about their career future, and many made new connections and learned how to prepare

Healthcare was the #1 interest

Can we connect youth to healthcare pathway programs, certifications, or mentors in that field?

Beauty, Fashion, Business, and entrepreneurship were among other top interests

Are we preparing youth for creating jobs and self-employment opportunities?

Non-profit work, Military, and Architecture were the lowest interests

Is that a reflection of what youth actually want, or what they've been exposed to?

Youth said they'd stay in their neighborhood for jobs, fulfilling work, scholarships, and connection, as well as opportunities to give back to their community



OVERTOWN
children & youth coalition

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Report created June 25, 2026