

YOUTH CENTRE REIMAGINED



WHAT WE
HEARD REPORT

DECEMBER
2023



BACKGROUND

A fun & safe dedicated youth space

The Okotoks Youth Centre is intended for youth ages 12-17 (teens 18 years are welcome until they graduate Grade 12).

The Okotoks Youth Centre is located on the lower level of the Okotoks Recreation Centre, adjacent to the skate park. It has been equipped specifically for youth with a TV lounge that includes a flat screen TV, a PlayStation 4 gaming console, a pool table, air hockey table, a homework area with computers and workstations, and a multi-purpose area for games, programs, and activities.

The Okotoks Youth Centre is supervised by trained, responsible staff on-site during all operational hours.

Challenges

The current lower level, multi-room location poses accessibility and supervisory challenges.

Our Goal

To create a fun, dedicated youth space at the Okotoks Recreation Centre that makes youth feel safe and welcome.

2023-2024 TIMELINE

SEPT - NOV: In-person youth engagement opportunities at schools, local youth events and at Town of Okotoks Youth Night.

OCT - NOV: Seek input from parents and guardians through online survey.

DEC 11: Present findings to Council.

Q1, 2024: Begin construction

Q1, 2024: Youth engagement for Youth Centre colour scheme and furnishings

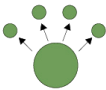
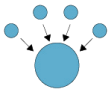
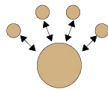

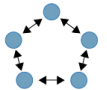
Q3, 2024: Complete construction

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We are committed (through the Town's Community Engagement Policy) to give the community an opportunity for input into decisions that will affect residents and businesses.

Who did we engage?

Okotoks youth ages 12-17, as well as parents and guardians of youth ages 12-17.

					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
GOAL	To provide balanced and objective information in a timely manner.	To obtain feedback on analysis, issues, alternatives, and decisions.	To work with public to make sure concerns and aspirations are considered and understood.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision-making.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE	"We will keep you informed."	"We will listen to and acknowledge your concerns."	"We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the decisions made."	"We will look to you for advice and innovation and incorporate this in decisions as much as possible."	"We will implement what you decide."
	input zone		engagement zone		

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This project falls within the **CONSULT** level



387
youth provided feedback

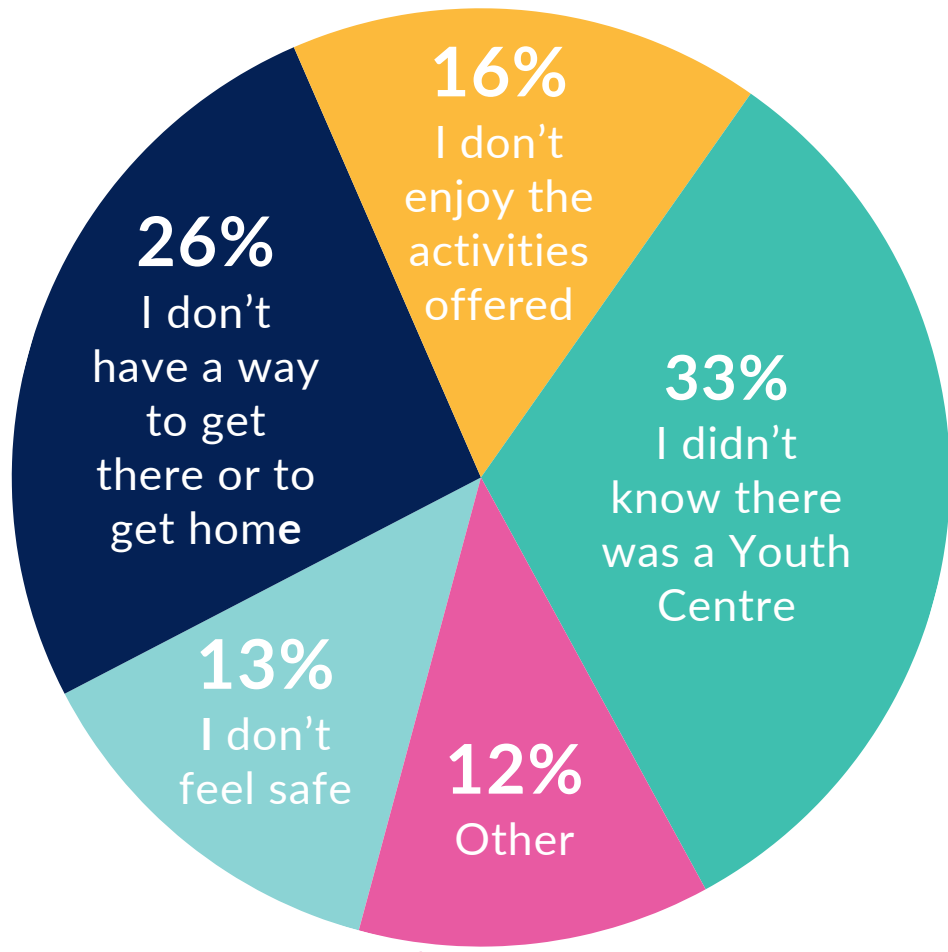


164
parent & guardian survey responses



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

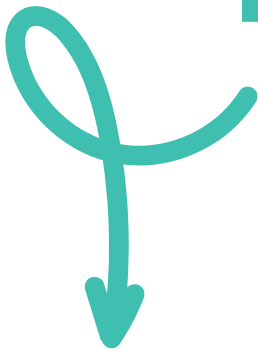
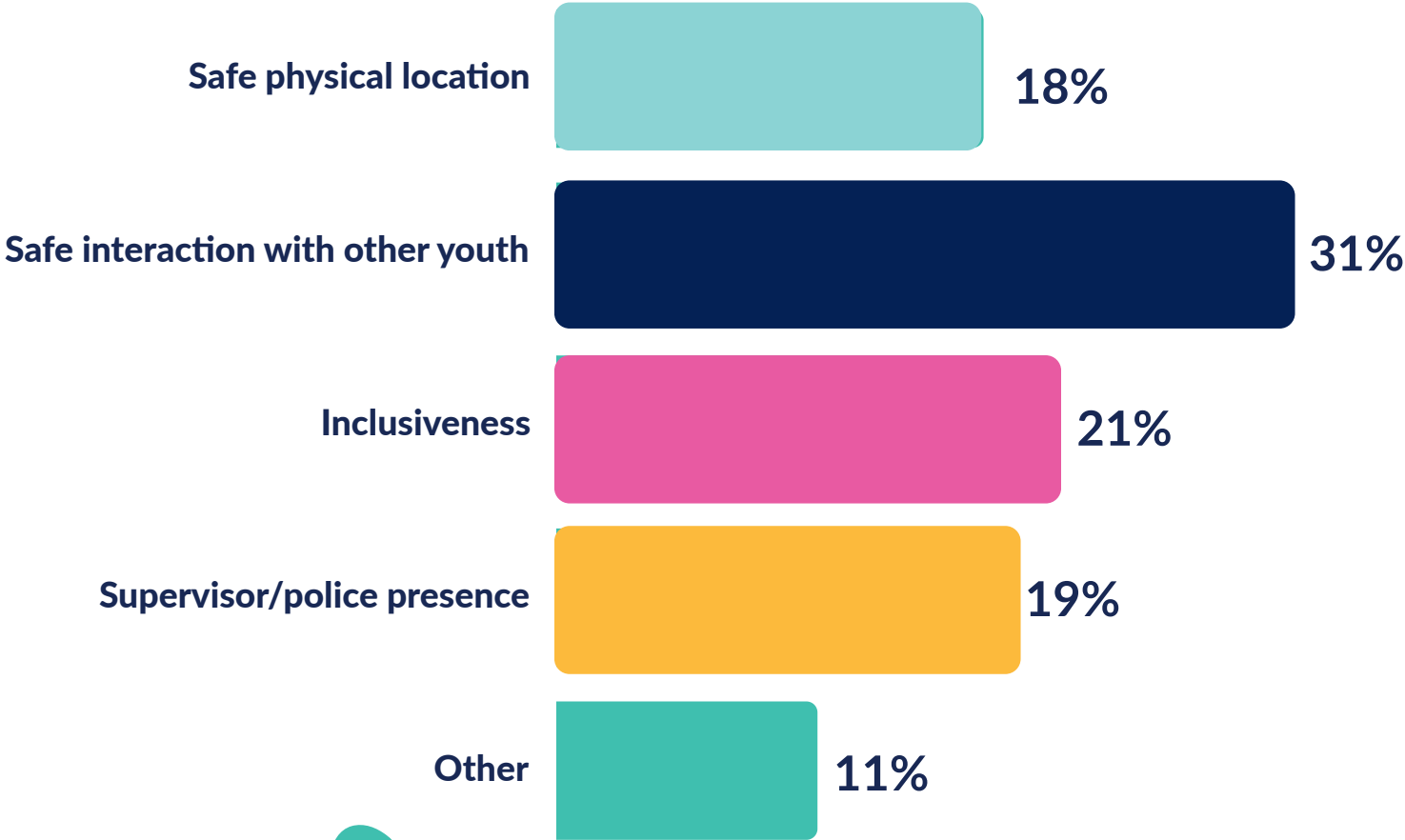
Q1: What might stop you from hanging out at the Youth Centre?



going-alone
transportation
accessibility
atmosphere
staff



Q2: We want you to feel safe at the Youth Centre. What does safety look like to you?



less scary people
skatepark-security
drug-free supervision

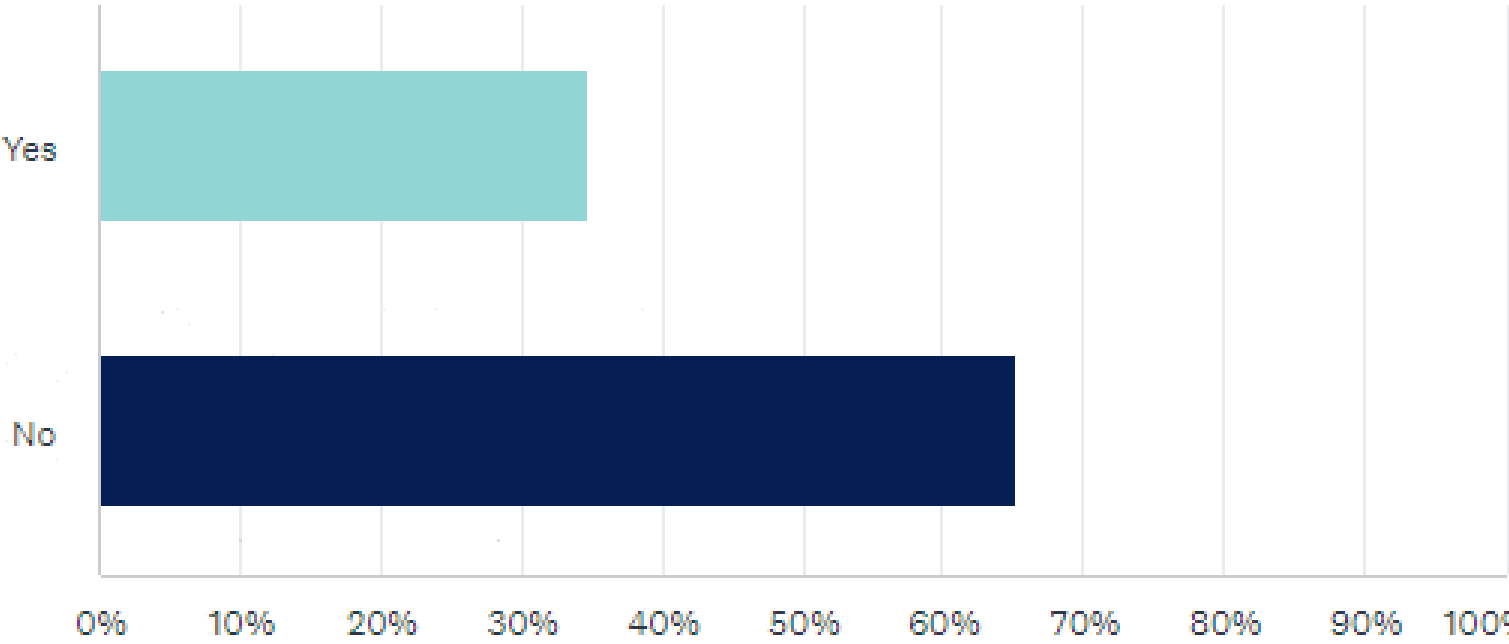


Q3: What would make the Youth Centre a place you would want to hang out more often?

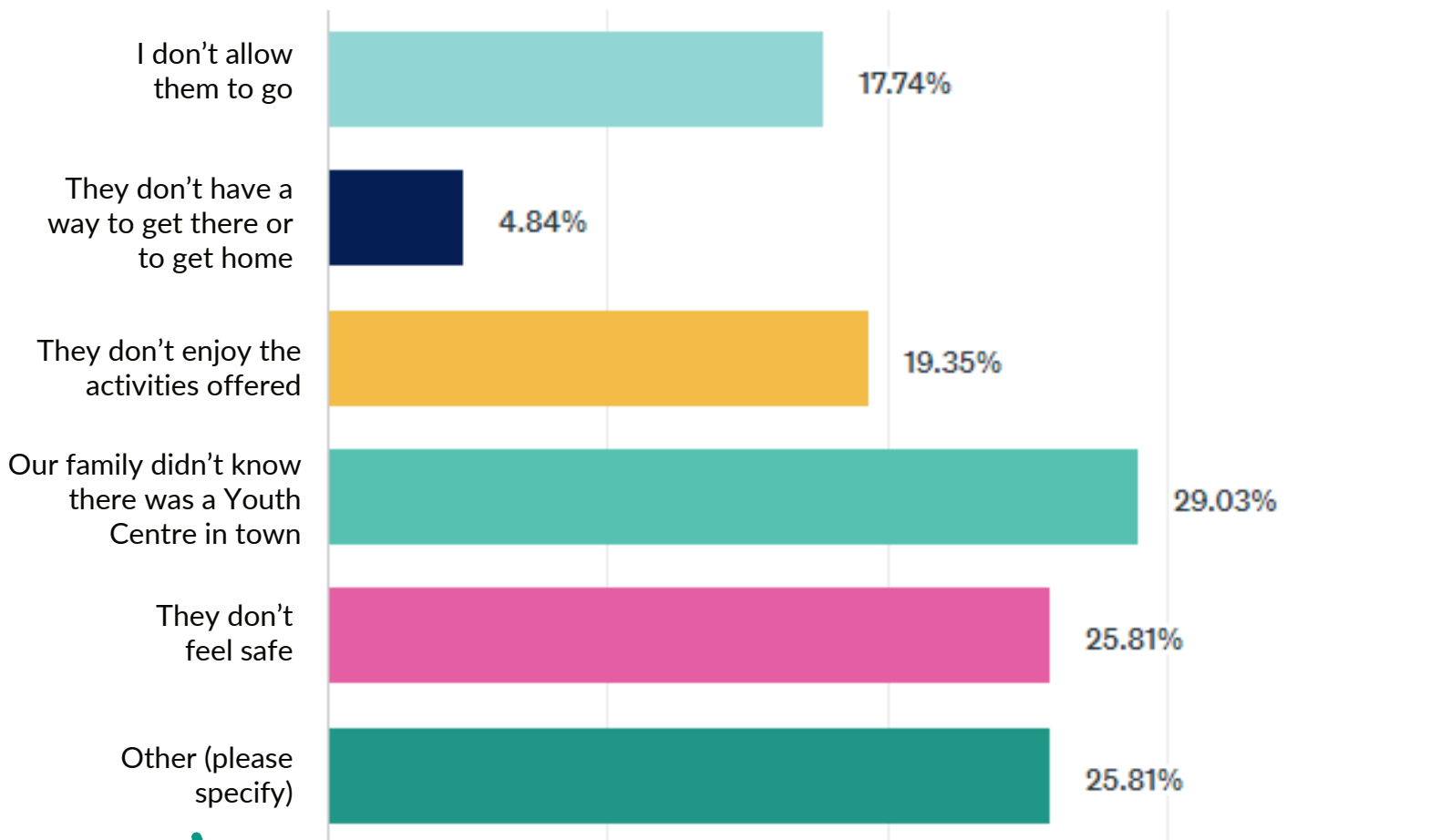


PARENT & GUARDIAN ENGAGEMENT

Q1: If you have youth ages 12-17 in your home, do they regularly (at least once per month) attend the Youth Centre?



Q2: Why do youth in your home choose not to attend the Youth Centre regularly?



Q3: What do you like most about the Youth Centre?



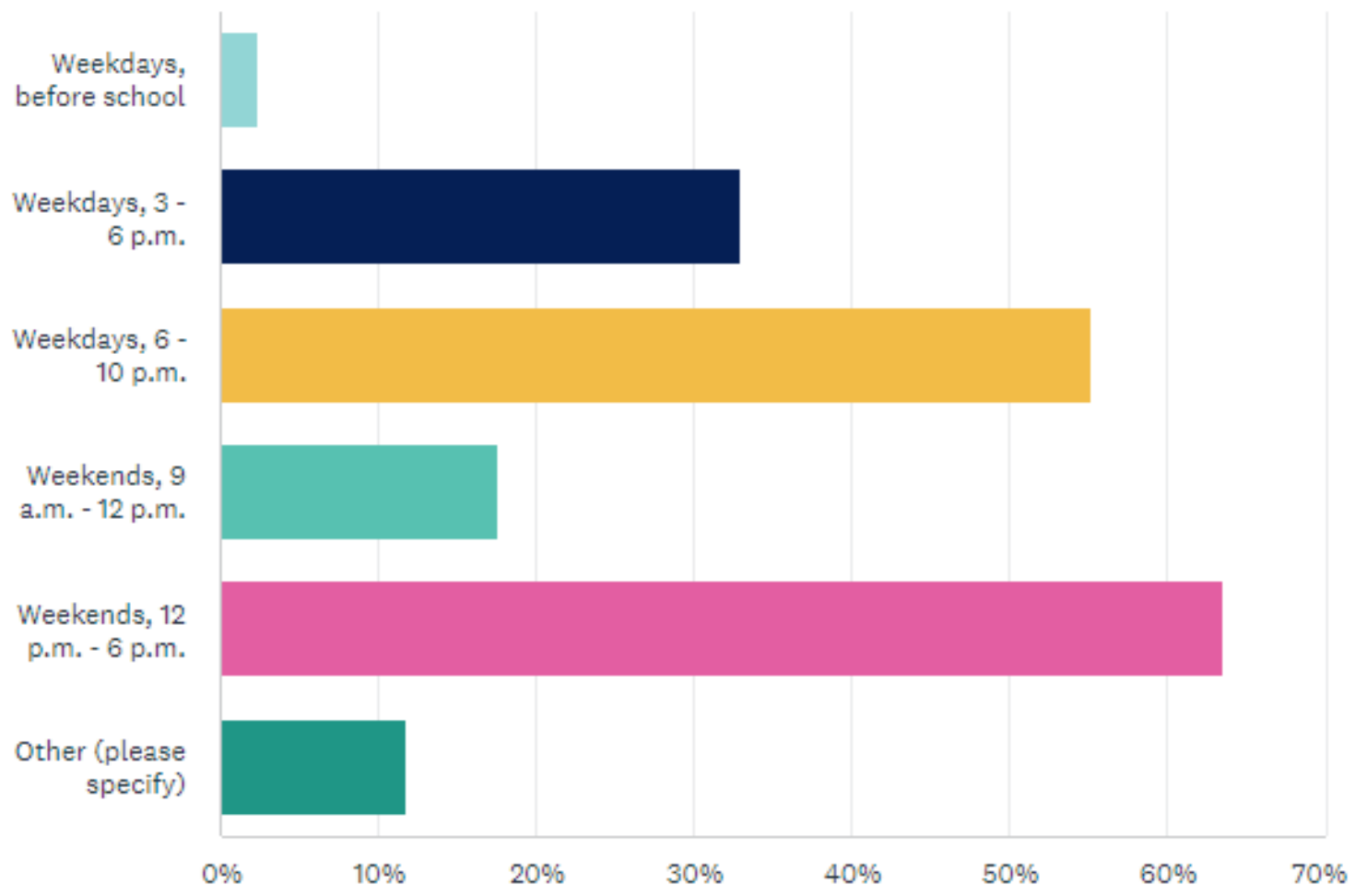
Q4: What would you like to see improved at the Youth Centre?



Q5: Please rank the following options from 1 to 4, with 1 being the most important. As a parent or guardian, what is most important to you as we move forward with building a new Youth Centre?

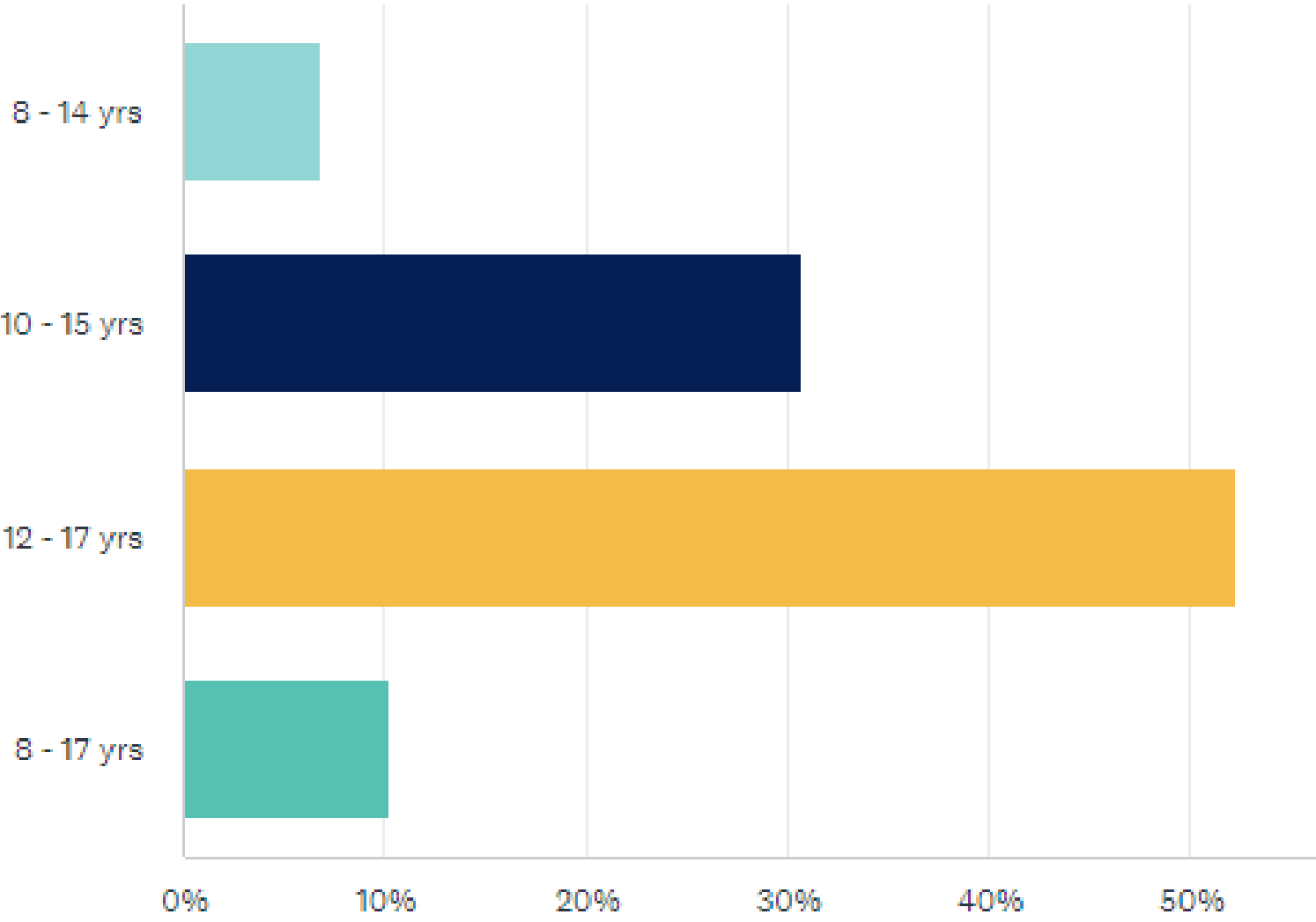


Q6: What hours would work best with your family for your child to attend the Youth Centre?



Weekdays, 3:30-8 PM
Weekends, 5-10 PM
Not Fridays *Variety of Hours*

Q7: In your opinion, what age range should the Youth Centre be for?



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings from the youth and parent/guardian engagement, the new Youth Centre should meeting the following requirements:

- Focus on accessibility, inclusion, diversity, safety and affordability
- Increase awareness of the youth centre
- Consider transportation options to improve access
- Provide diverse activities and programming within the Youth Centre
- Provide access to affordable food options
- Increase supervision of the Youth Centre
- Align hours of Youth Centre with demand
- Continue serving ages 12-17 years

NEXT STEPS

Q4, 2023: Present engagement findings to Council at the Regular Council Meeting on December 11.

Q1, 2024: Move forward with the Youth Centre relocation and construction to create a new space on the main floor of the Okotoks Recreation Centre that will improve accessibility and safety for youth within the facility.

Proposed project cost: \$125,000

Approved by Council at the Special Council Meeting on November 27, 2023.

Q1, 2024: Engage youth in the interior design colour scheme and furnishings.

Q3, 2024: Grand opening of new Youth Centre. Stay tuned for a grand opening celebration.

okotoks.ca/youth-centre-reimagined

