

Youth Participatory
Action Research
(YPAR)
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Gender Based Violence And Bullying.

A group of seven young people are on a balcony with a metal railing. They are looking towards the camera. Below them is a large, colorful mural on a wall. The mural features gears, a globe, and the words 'IMOND' and 'CENTER'. A man in a denim jacket is standing in front of the mural, with his arms outstretched. Two 'NO PARKING' signs are visible on the balcony railing.

Does your gender define you?

Every day we experience some type of violence/bullying based on gender stereotypes

Topic: Gender Justice



A photograph of three young people at a community event. In the foreground, a young man with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue patterned button-down shirt, is smiling broadly and looking upwards and to the right. To his left, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored jacket, is looking towards him with a slight smile. In the background on the left, a young man with short dark hair, wearing a white and black striped hoodie, is looking away. The background features colorful murals, including a large orange and yellow abstract shape and a purple and blue abstract shape. The overall lighting is dim, suggesting an indoor or evening setting.

Issue:

Young people experience Gender and Sexual Based Violence/Bullying in the community.

Purpose:

Our purpose is to understand how young people experience and are impacted by Gender and Sexual Based Violence.

We want to create a safer space and culture of education and prevention.



A row of colorful, graffiti-painted planters in an outdoor garden setting. The planters are painted in vibrant colors like blue, green, and yellow, with various patterns and designs. The foreground planter contains dark soil and several small green seedlings. The background shows more planters and some foliage.

Research Questions:

How are young people impacted by Gender/ Sexual Based Violence?
What supports do young people need in order to feel safe?

A woman with dark hair, wearing a brown sweater, is smiling and sitting at a desk in a classroom. The room is decorated for a birthday with a colorful 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY!' banner at the top. The walls are covered with various posters, including one that says 'INVEST IN GRADUATIONS NOT INCARCERATION', another with a portrait of a man, and one with the text 'SI QUIERES CAMBIO VELOZMENTE PUES CAMINA DIFERENTE'. There are also drawings and other educational materials on the wall. A man in a grey hoodie is standing next to her, partially visible. The overall atmosphere is bright and celebratory.

Theoretical Frameworks:

Gender Justice a world where all genders are valued equally, and are able to share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge and resources. Where all people are free from cultural and interpersonal systems of privilege and oppression, and from violence and repression based on gender

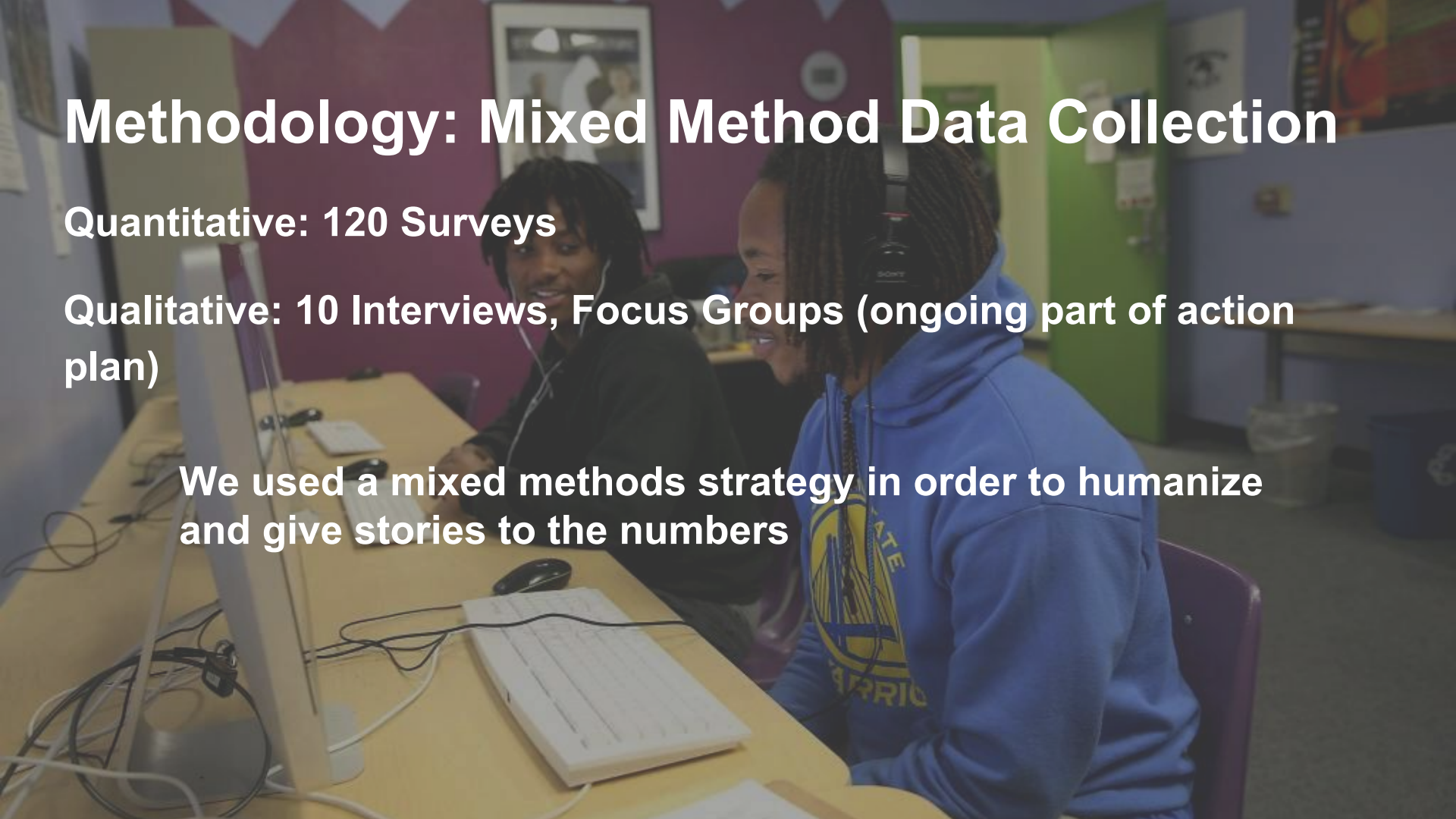
Intersectionality: the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Methodology: Mixed Method Data Collection

Quantitative: 120 Surveys

Qualitative: 10 Interviews, Focus Groups (ongoing part of action plan)

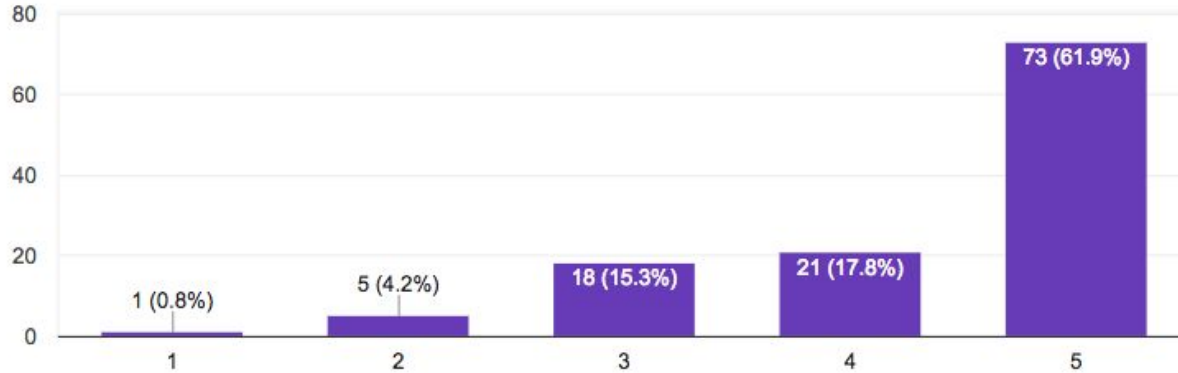
We used a mixed methods strategy in order to humanize and give stories to the numbers



Quantitative Findings.

Rate how safe you feel based on your Gender (Male, Female, Transgender, etc.)

118 responses

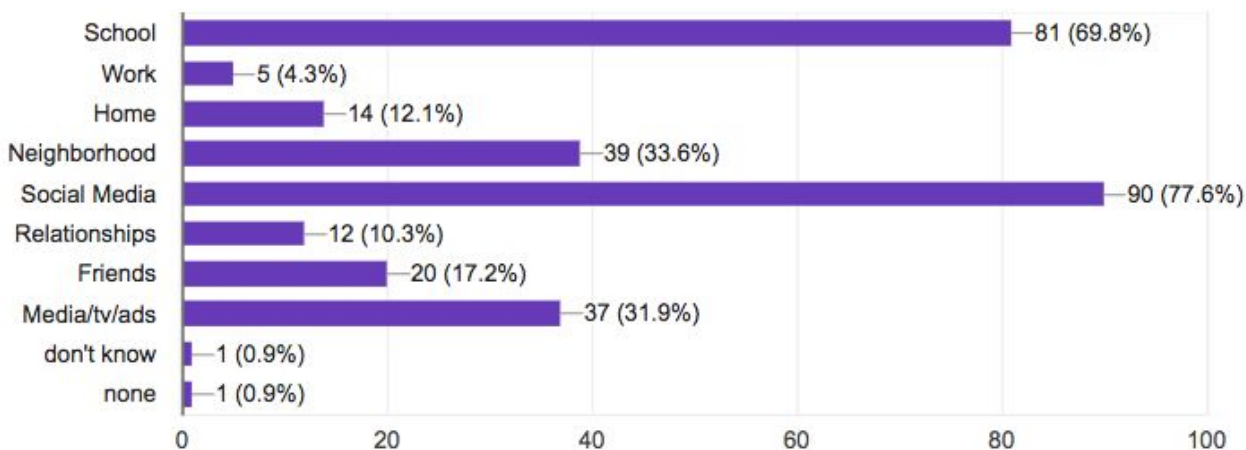


- Majority of respondents that indicated a 5 were straight male-identified youth
- About 90% of male respondents indicated a 5, however only 40% of female identified indicated a 5

Quantitative Findings.

Where do you see Violence or Bullying against someone's Gender Identity? (check all that apply)

116 responses

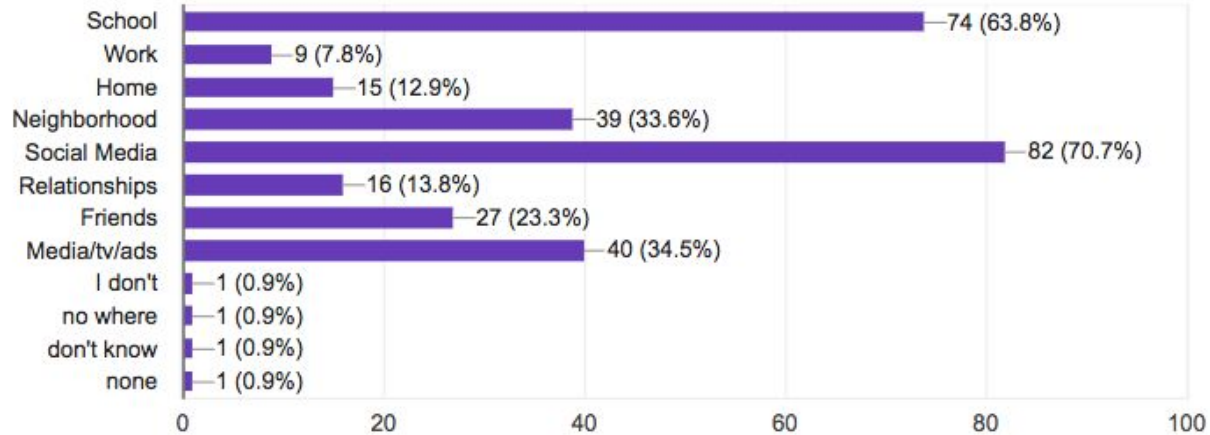


Close to 100% of our respondents indicated that they saw violence based against someone's gender identity in at least 1 or more of these places

Quantitative Findings.

Where do you see Violence or Bullying against someone's Sexuality? (check all that apply)

116 responses

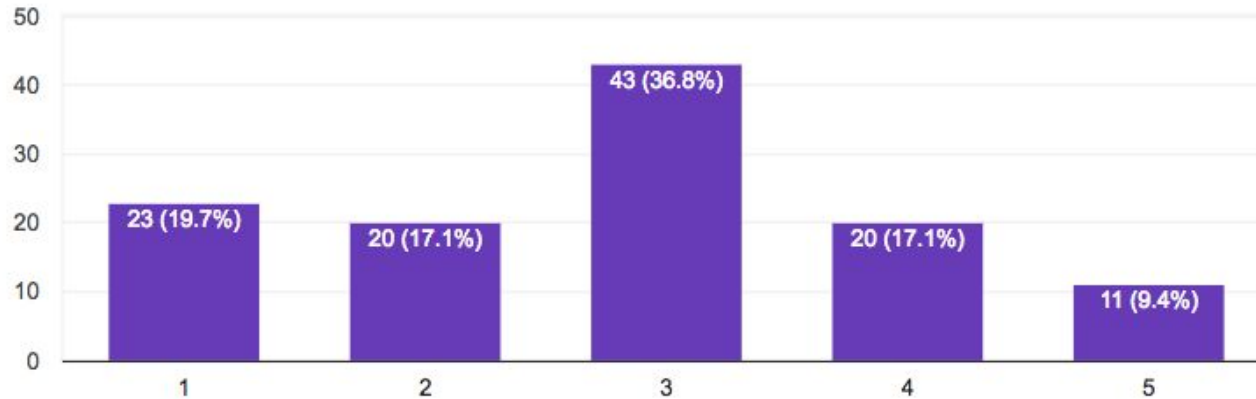


This is a chart of violence/bullying based on sexuality. Similar to the previous graph on gender identity, violence and bullying happens most in social media and in schools

Quantitative Findings.

How familiar are you with the different forms of Gender Based Violence?

117 responses



This graph shows us that students really need workshops and to be educated on gender based violence.

Qualitative Quotes

“They aren’t as accepted because they are different.”

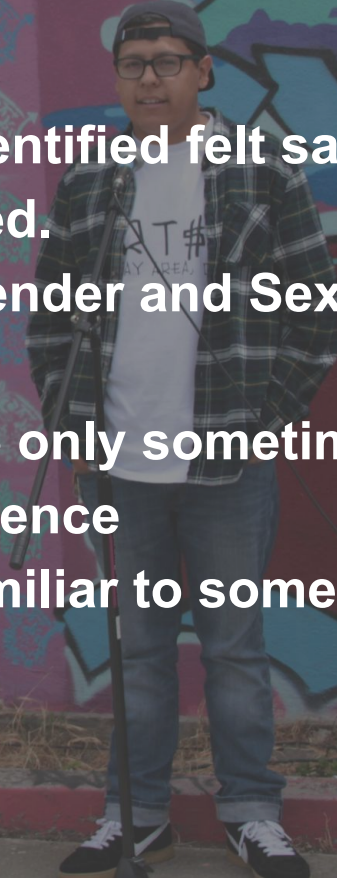
“Well it (violence/bullying) happens to girls all the time...in social media...girls who like girls are sexualized. For guys who like guys it’s wrong.”

“People aren’t ready for change”

“People are asleep. They are not woke. You see it all the time. You get on your phone you see it. You turn on the TV you see it. You walk on the street. You see it. People are looking but they are not trying to see nothing. They think it doesn’t affect them.”

Data Analysis Conclusion

- According to our surveys, 76% of Male Identified felt safe based on their gender vs 40% of Female Identified.
- Participants saw stereotypes based on Gender and Sexuality in School, Social Media, TV, Neighborhood.
- Majority of the participants said they were only sometimes likely to step in when seeing Gender Based Violence
- 76% of respondents answered 1-3; not familiar to somewhat familiar with Gender Based Violence



Data Analysis cont...

- Young people say that they see gender and sexual based violence everywhere, but they indicated that they feel safe. This shows that young people are normalizing violence.
- Most young men indicated that they believe that gender justice was a “gay issue” and that they don’t have anything to do with it
- Most straight male and female identified students feel safe compared to LGBTQ students
- Female-identified youth express that women are sexualized

Research Questions Revisited:

How are young people impacted by Gender/ Sexual Based Violence?

Students see gender/sexual based violence everywhere. They experience it and they normalize it. There is a sense of hopelessness when it comes to change. Female and LGBTQ identified youth don't feel as safe and experience it the most.

What supports do young people need in order to feel safe?

Students need more education and workshops. They want to get involved but don't know how. We need more opportunities to talk about this issue.

Action Plans:

- **Conduct focus groups and workshops for RYSE's identity programs including: Alphabet LGBTQ Group, Sister Circle, and Young Men's Group. We want to educate others on Gender Stereotypes, and Gender Justice**
- **Presentations to RYSE staff, service providers, teachers, administrators, other youth (5 lined up including this one)**
- **A Media and/or Art campaign to bring awareness to gender and sexual based violence.**

Recommendations:

- Trainings/workshops for teachers, admin, and students on Gender Justice and how to address gender and sexual based violence with youth.
- Since a majority of students see stereotypes at school, we need more opportunities and events to really educate each other and make the school more inclusive
- Support groups for young women and young men and lgbtq students, connecting with resources in school and organizations outside of school

Our Experiences...

What was it like interning with PHS and at RYSE Center?

How did it feel conducting this YPAR project?

How has this experience helped you personally, academically, professionally?

How has this impacted your perspective?

