

Quick Facts (2017)

Measuring the Value of Safe City Mississauga's Crossroads Youth Academy Programming



Valerie Briffa, Program Coordinator & Researcher
Safe City Mississauga
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Crossroads Youth Academy

About

Crossroads is a no-cost crime prevention program delivered by Safe City Mississauga (SCM) in the form of educational crime prevention presentations and skills development workshops. The Crossroads Youth Academy (CYA) delivery option targets Mississauga high schools, and offers seven curriculum-based crime prevention lessons conducted by SCM, and program partners including Peel Regional Police, Division 11 and 12 School Resource Officers (SROs) and Bank of Canada. CYA lessons focus on several topics including local crime trends, youth law, warning signs to recognize and avoid criminal opportunity, strategies to keep youth safe, and how to report crime.

Study Details

Based on
2017 data

16 CYA series in **12** Mississauga high schools

538 students participated in the CYA

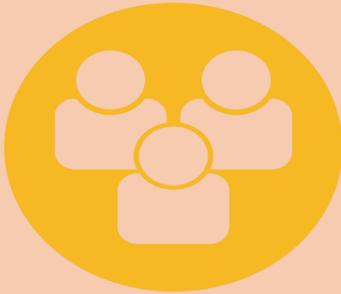
Program Objectives

- **Raise awareness** about localized crime issues & trends – This way youth can keep themselves & others around them safe.
- **Encourage youth to be forward-thinking, active citizens** in their own communities.
- **Support community policing** – Improve perception of law enforcement/bridge the gap between youth and law enforcement

Mandatory Topics	Presenter
Introduction to Crime Prevention	Peel Regional Police - School Resource Officers
Youth and the Law	
Social Media Awareness	Peel Regional Police - Crime Prevention Services
Identifying Vulnerabilities in Youth (<i>Human Trafficking</i>)	
Drug Awareness	
Counterfeit Detection	Bank of Canada
Intimate Partner Violence	Safe City Mississauga

Teacher Experience

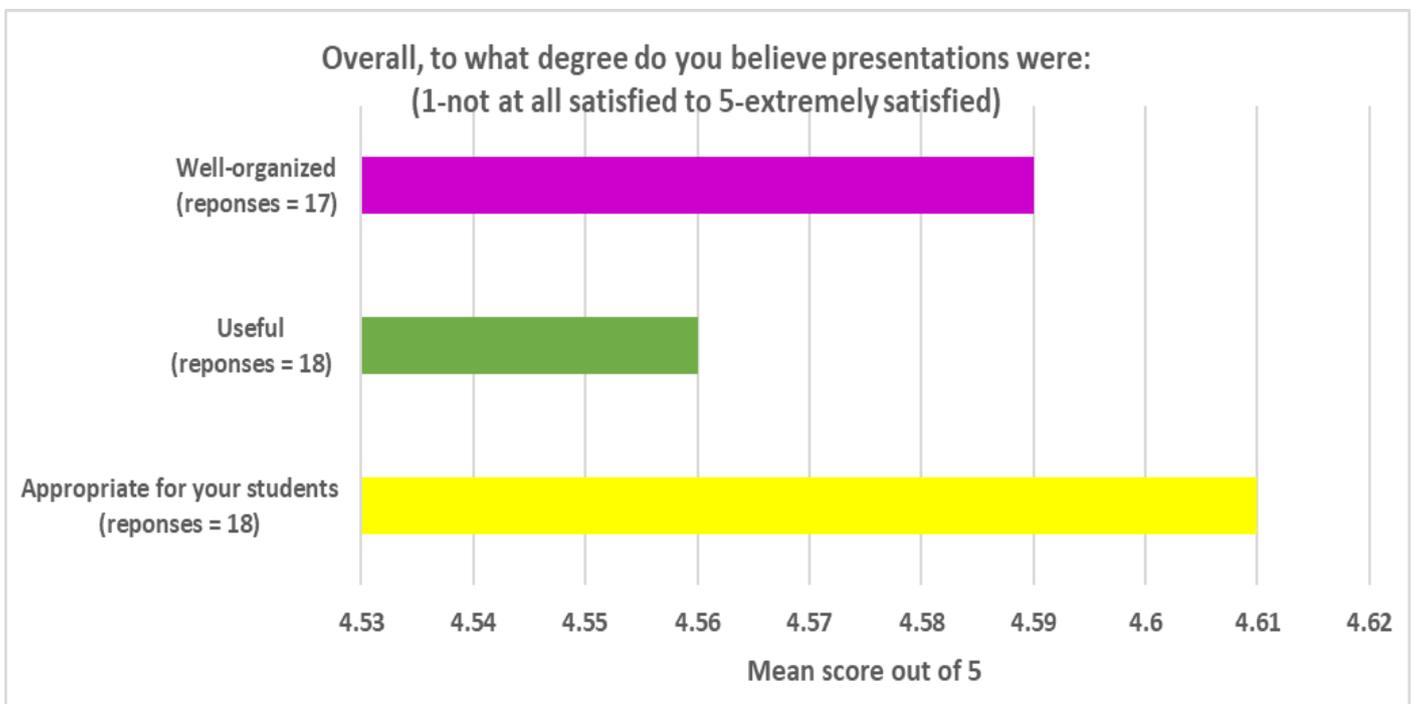
Meeting of Expectations



100%

of teachers answered “Yes” to the question, “*Did the Crossroads Youth Academy help you achieve your goals as a teacher?*”

Levels of Satisfaction



In Their Own Words

“It provided students with a range of topics related to the criminal justice system, while still being presented in a manner that would engage them. The balance of presenters from police officers to others in various fields really helped give a diverse set of viewpoints and perspectives.”

“It covered a variety of topics that were all relevant to my students and allowed them to engage with police officers in a way that they normally do not get to.”

“The Academy presented interesting topics, some of which I would not have been able to speak as much to as the guest speakers did. I expected the presentations to be interactive and engaging - and they were!”

Student Experience

CYA's Impact on Youth Perception of Police

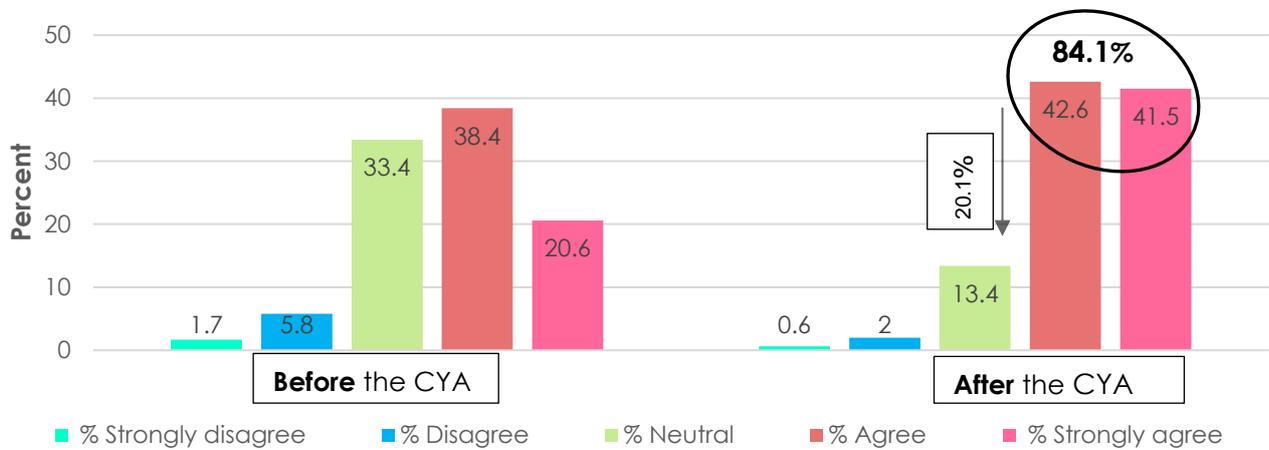
We asked youth to rate how much they agree(d) with a particular statement, both *before* and *after* participating in the Academy. Students were given four statements related to perceptions of police: *police officers, care about my community; are connected to my community; are needed to protect my community; and, treat people fairly.*

Students marked their response, from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

What We Found:

10-20% REDUCTION in 'Neutral' responses regarding police, *after* the CYA
14-25% INCREASE in positive 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' statements *after* the CYA

Police Are Connected To My Community

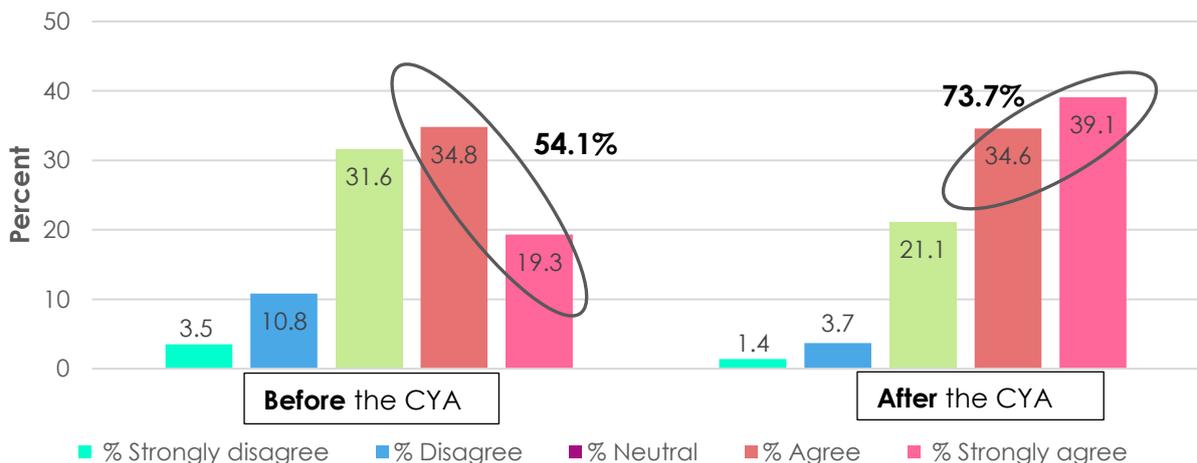


"They do things that will benefit and keep us safe. I also don't think I am scared of them anymore because they are actually pretty good people."

"Police officers seem like nice people and I feel like if I have problem I can speak to them about it."

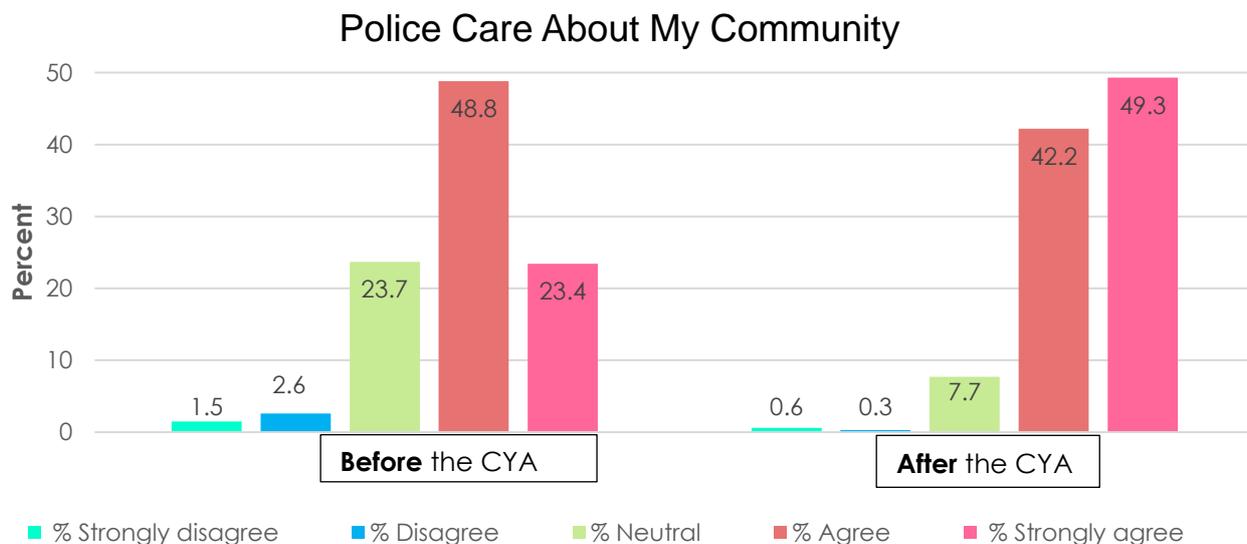
"After the presentations, I learnt that underneath the badge and bullet proof vest is a normal person with a normal life, just doing their job."

Police Treat People Fairly



Student Experience

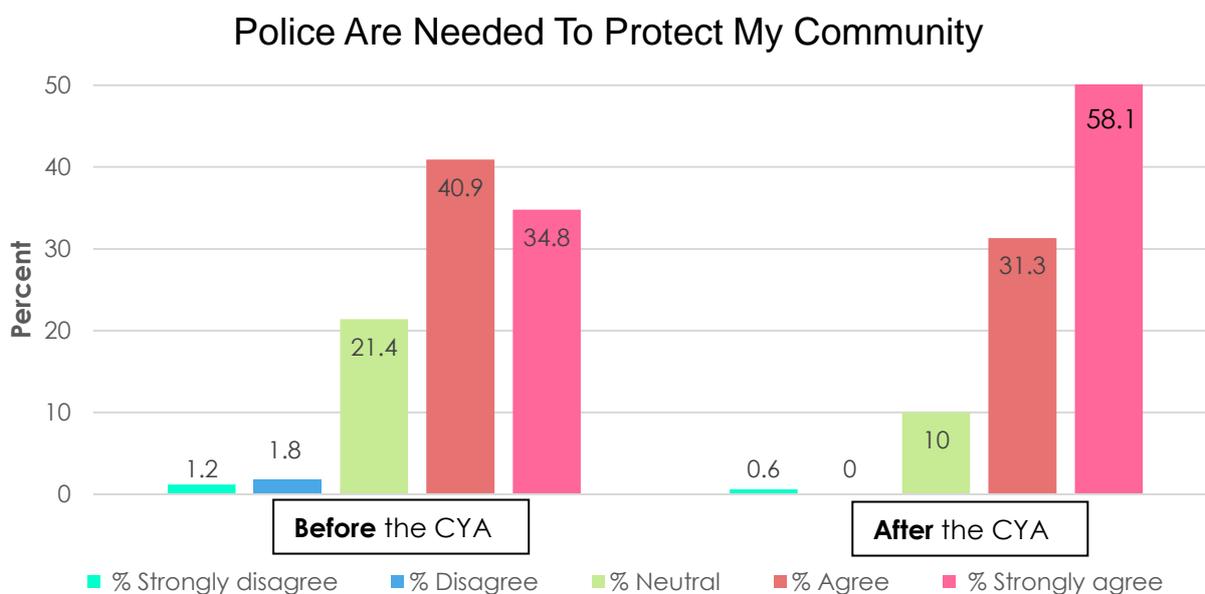
CYA's Impact on Youth Perception of Police



“After seeing these presentations, I can really see that they care about the community. The presentations taught me about how engaged certain police officers are within the community.”

“I knew they cared about the community but seeing them and hearing them say it over and over, made me sure they do.”

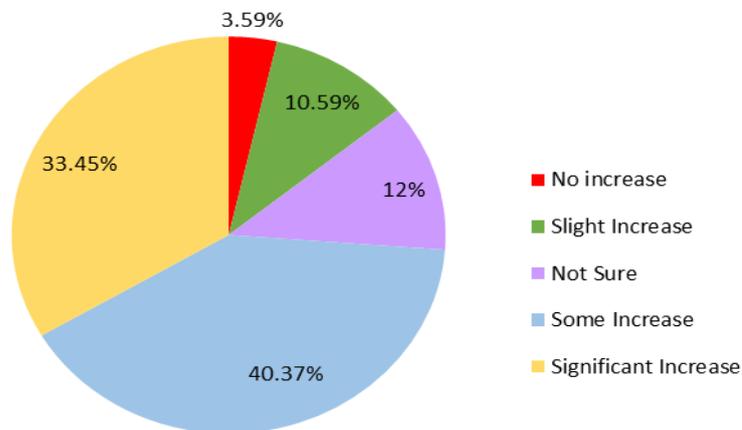
“Through the presentations, I was able to see that they are obviously people too – they have family to go home to at the end of the day.”



Student Experience

Extent of Knowledge Gain

Extent of Overall Knowledge Gain for Crossroads Youth Academy topics



"The human trafficking presentation was very enlightening to find out all the bad things that go on in Mississauga under our noses."

"They all stood out to me because they are relevant in my life being a teenager. I liked the videos and personal stories they all shared and the hands on activities in counterfeit detection."

"In order to prevent crime from happening I plan on removing the opportunity for crime. For example, I have become increasingly aware of where I am keeping my belongings that are important and keeping cars locked."

Impact of Crossroads on Discouraging Acts of Crime

"The content presented during Crossroads presentations will discourage youth from engaging in acts of crime"

(1- strongly disagree to strongly agree)

