



Providers And Teens Communicating for Health

2022-2023



YEAR IN REVIEW!

www.patchprogram.org

What a year!

Hello from PATCH!

It's still hard for me to believe, but this year was big for PATCH. Why? We turned **13** years old! As an adolescent health program, we're pretty dang proud of being a teenager.

And while we have grown and changed over our 13 years, we're still the same old PATCH keeping youth voice at the center of all we do. Our 2022-2023 program year was filled with the most incredible, curious, compassionate, and powerful voices. From lending youth perspectives on an equitable COVID response to advocating for better mental health services in schools (and SO much more), our youth were out there making an impact!

Thanks for joining us as we take a trip down memory lane with our 2022-2023 Year in Review!



Amy Olejniczak, MS, MPH
PATCH Program Founder & Director



Sincerely,

Amy Olejniczak, MS, MPH
PATCH Founder & Director

Where were we this year?

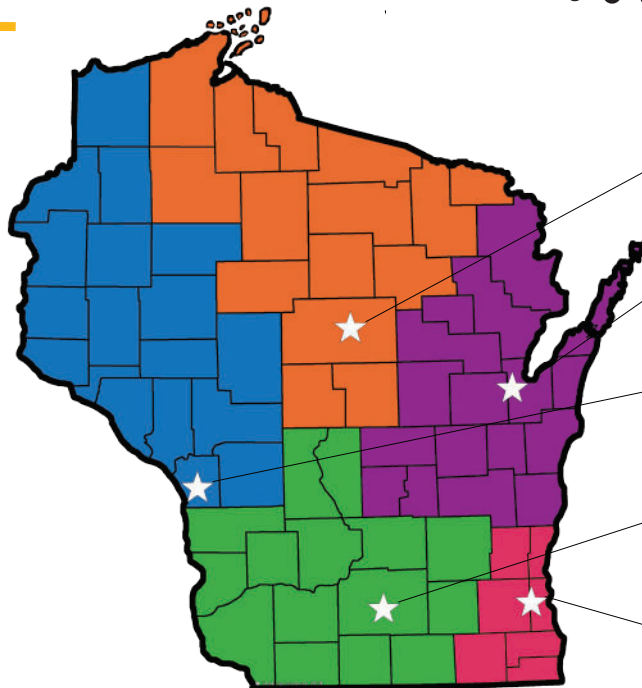
Wisconsin PATCH

Born and raised in Madison, WI, PATCH has expanded to include youth from all corners of our home state. This year, we had **5** Teen Educator Programs (one in each public health region) and **3** topic-specific Fellowships. We loved that our Youth Advocates were able to hone in on particular topics of interest in either our General Health & Wellness, Sexual & Reproductive Health, or Social & Emotional Health Fellowship. Our staff was incredible. We had **11** adults who supported **53** Teen Educators and **41** Youth Advocates! **59** were brand new to PATCH, and **35** were returners. Wowza, what a year!



Youth Fellowship

Serving as consultants for state-based efforts



PATCH Wausau

Serving all northcentral Wisconsin communities

PATCH Green Bay

Serving all northeastern Wisconsin communities

PATCH La Crosse

Serving all western Wisconsin communities

PATCH Madison

Serving all southcentral Wisconsin communities

PATCH Milwaukee

Serving all southeastern Wisconsin communities

PATCH Replication Partners

In the 2022-2023 PATCH program year, 3 Replication Partners were fully implementing a PATCH Teen Educator Program in their community and 1 new state began planning for a PATCH Youth Advocacy Fellowship! We get so excited when others join our efforts and we love coaching them through all the things we've learned so far! They also teach us a lot about how we adapt our programs, as each bring their own unique priorities.

PATCH Denver

Hosted by Denver Health, the PATCH Denver Teen Educator Program is making a huge impact better linking youth to their school based health centers!

PATCH WoCo

The Wood County Health Department in central Wisconsin is prioritizing drug and alcohol prevention as a key topic in their local PATCH efforts!

PATCH Ohio

The Ohio Department of Health is prioritizing youth engagement at the state level as they prepare for replication of the PATCH Youth Advocacy Fellowship!

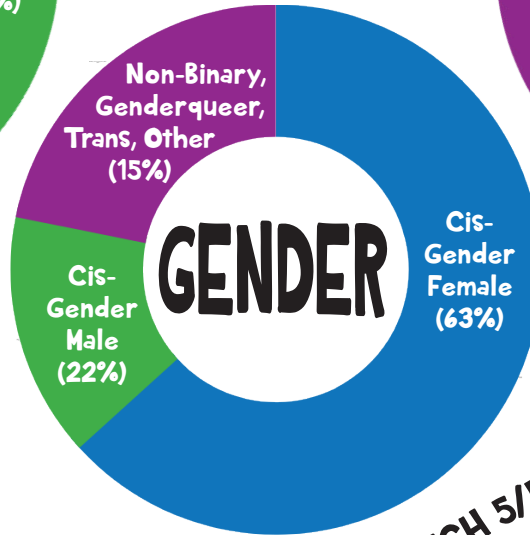
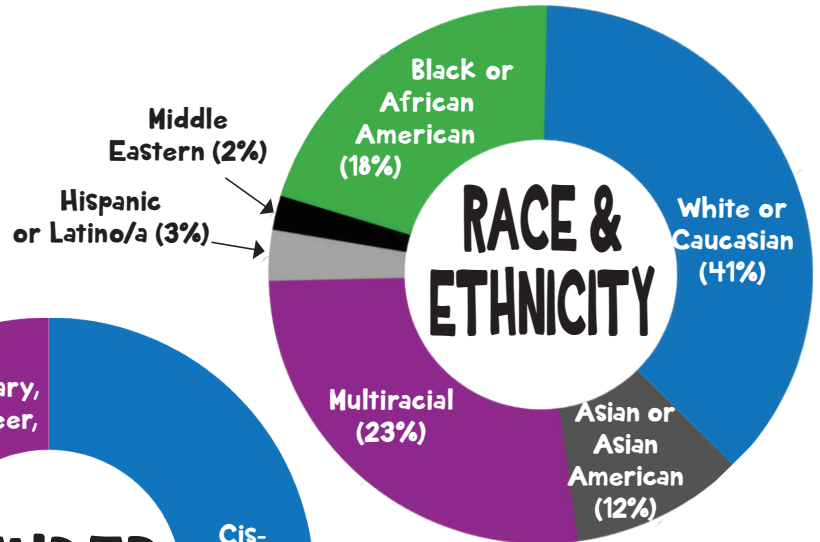
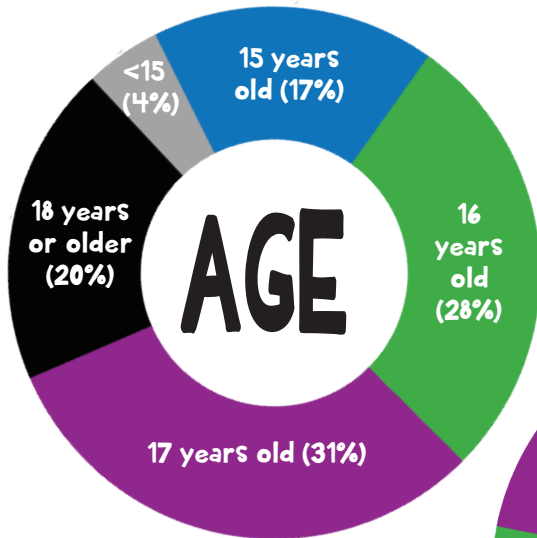
PATCH of HOPE Buffalo

The PATCH Teen Educator Program in Buffalo, New York is part of a community based collective impact effort to improve adolescent health outcomes!



Tell us about the youth!

Our 2022-23 PATCHies were...



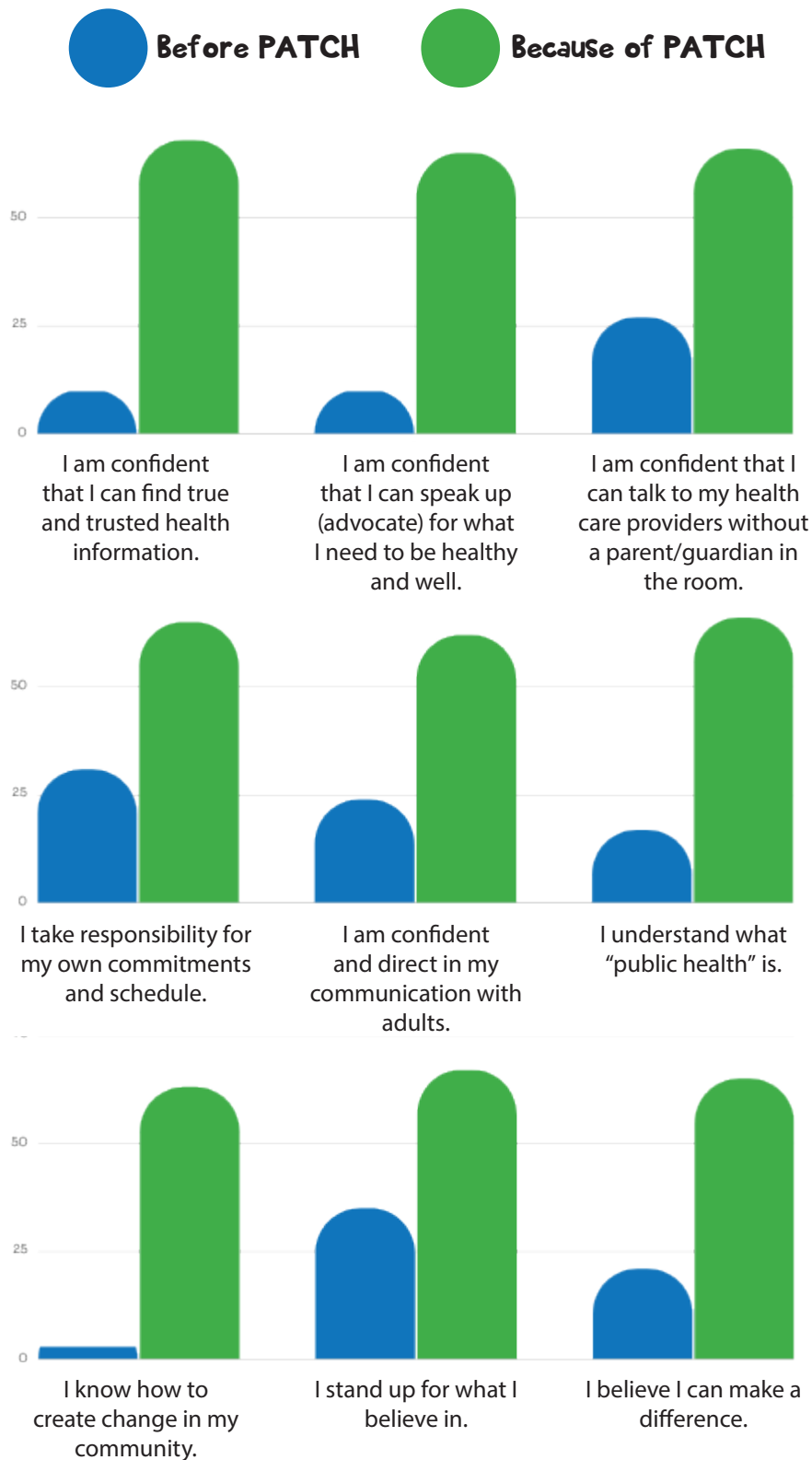
The topics they were most excited to learn about and discuss during enrichment:

- Social Isolation & Loneliness
- COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy
- Social Media Impacts
- Financial Health
- Voting & Advocacy
- Health Care Mapping
- COVID & Youth Mental Health
- Disinformation on the Internet
- Law Enforcement Violence
- Reproductive Justice
- Sexual Violence Prevention
- Food Justice
- Birth Equity

95% of them rated PATCH 5/5 stars!



They grew in SO many ways!



These are just a few highlights...of many! Percentages represent the number of youth who marked "Yes - Completely Agree".

"I am WAY more involved in my health care. I do everything on my own - from making appointments, to asking questions. I am 100% involved. Before PATCH I wasn't at all."

"PATCH helped me have better conversations, especially when I disagree. I am better at admitting when I'm wrong, considering other points of view, and rectifying it when I harm others."

"PATCH really solidified my interest in public health. When I joined, I wasn't 100% sure what public health was. But, I'm pursuing a BS/MPH in the fall and at least 75% of the reason why is PATCH."

"I definitely thought I didn't have the qualities to create change through leadership but PATCH proved me wrong and gave me the skills to do so."

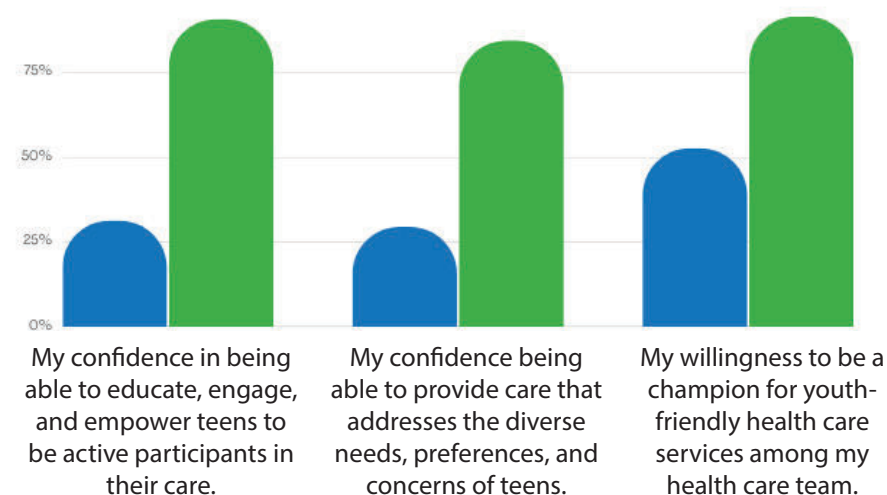
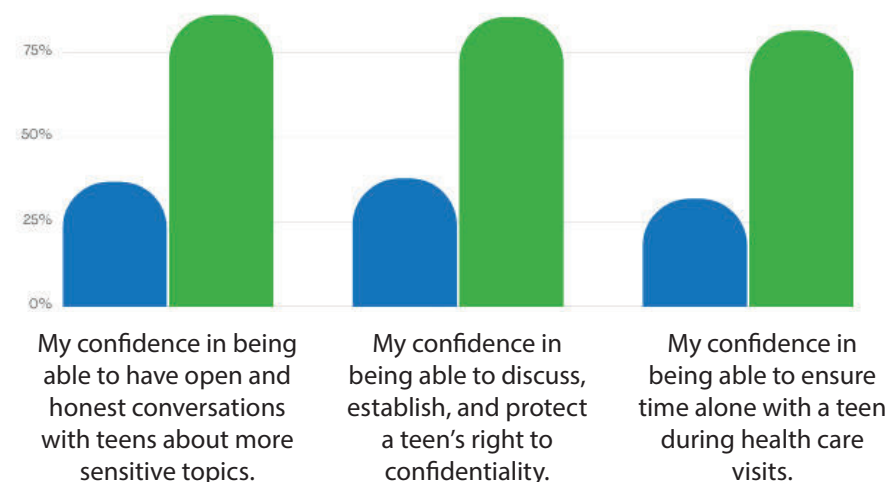
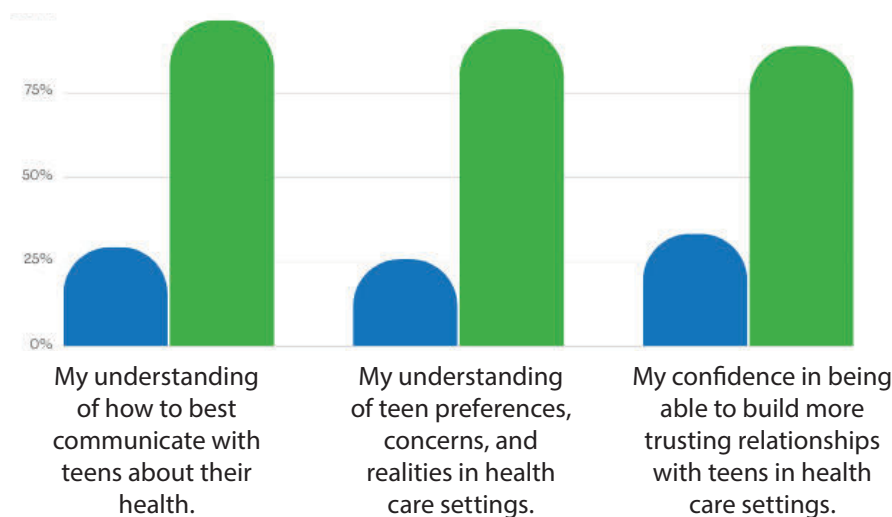
PATCH Teen Educator Program

PATCH Teen Educators facilitated **40** provider workshops and **59** teen workshops engaging, educating, and empowering **1,000+** Health Care Professionals and **1,000+** of their peers!



What Providers had to say!

Before PATCH Workshop After PATCH Workshop

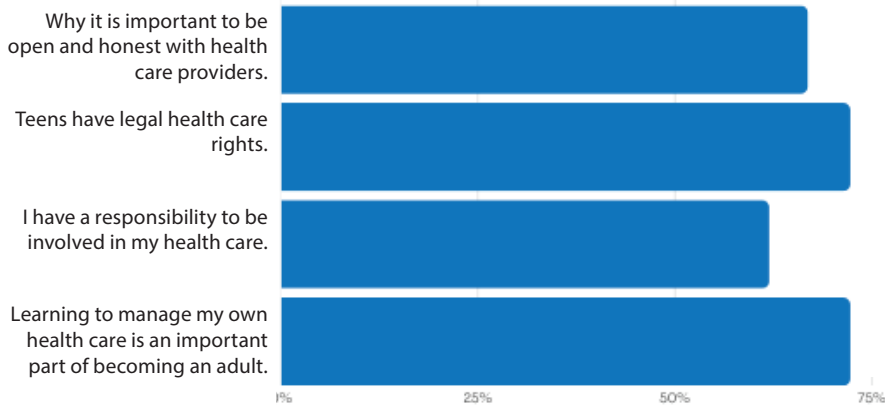


This information is based on those who completed a workshop evaluation and marked "Very High" or "High".

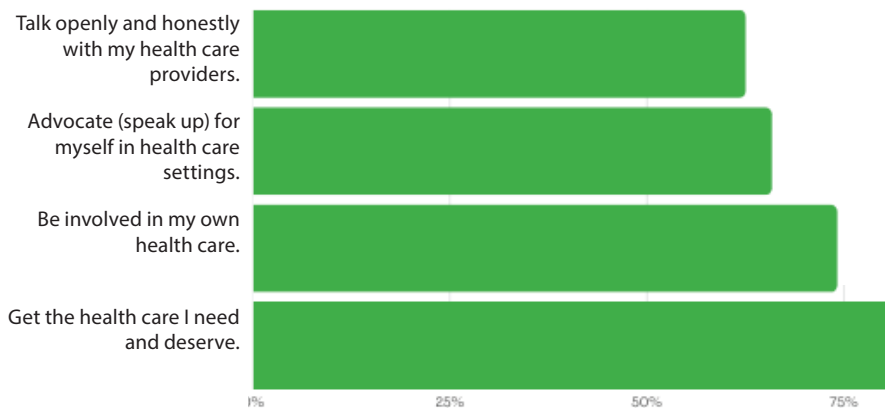
"I feel more confident now that teens WANT to hear from us and build a relationship. If I put in the effort, hopefully they will too!"

What Teens had to say!

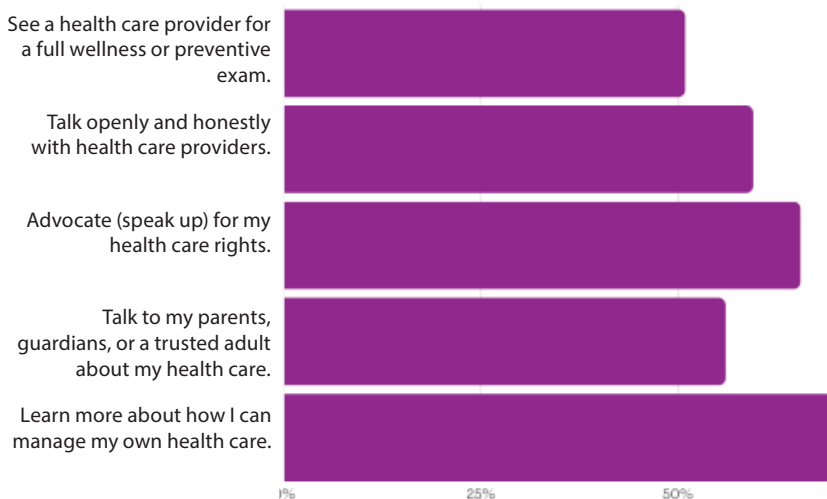
"Because of this PATCH Workshop, I now KNOW..."



"Because of this PATCH Workshop, I am more CONFIDENT in my ability to..."



"Because of this PATCH Workshop, I PLAN to..."



This information is based on those who completed a workshop evaluation and marked "Yes" or "Kind Of".

Some things they learned:

"I can be more independent when it comes to health care."

"Be open with your parents about your health."

"I have the right to be involved in my health care."

"It is important to be honest, because if you are not, something bad can happen and it could be prevented if you are honest."

"I can talk to my health provider on my own."

"I learned about the rights teens have in health care."

PATCH Youth Advocacy Fellowship

Our **3** topic-specific Fellowships facilitated **21** Consulting Sessions while also independently completing the **7**-step PATCH Youth Advocacy Learning Series!



PATCH Youth Consulting



"The youth were open, articulate, reflective and willing to share their experiences, opinions, and insight."

"The feedback will be used in the actual development of the lessons. A super big thank you again to your youth - they were awesome!"

"The youth truly demonstrated the importance of incorporating young voices in community planning and prevention."

Advocacy Learning Series

Youth created advocacy plans to:

Improve mental health resource lists on school websites.

Eliminate stigma around eating disorders in young men.

Get students access to hygiene products.

Improve quality of school lunches.

Ensure sex ed curricula is reviewed by students and other key stakeholders.

Create a community support database to use instead of calling the police.

Raise awareness of the importance of sleep for teens.

And SO MUCH MORE!

Just a few other fun highlights!

We Hosted A Summer COVID Fellowship

15 youth from all corners of Wisconsin worked toward equitable COVID response through an intensive 8-week summer Fellowship!

We went to AMCHP

PATCH Directors attended the Association of Maternal Child Health Programs Conference with many amazing partners - including those preparing to launch a PATCH Teen Educator Program in the Northern Mariana Islands in 2023-24!

Engaging Youth in Public Health: Evaluation of Short-term and Long-term Participation in the PATCH Youth Advocacy Fellowship

Chelsea J. Aeschbach, MPH, CHES; Mary M. Kusch, PhD; Erica R. Koepsel, MA

We Published!

Yet another PATCH publication is available to demonstrate impact related to the PATCH Model for Youth Engagement. Check it out in the *Journal of Public Health*, September/October 2022, Volume 28, Number 5!

ABSTRACT

Context: Authentic youth engagement is widely recognized as a key component of public health practice.

Program: The Providers and Teens Communicating (PATCH) Program is a community-based participatory research program that engages youth in public health practice.

Implementation: The Fellowship hires and trains youth to serve as peer educators, providing youth with opportunities to consult on adolescent-focused health issues and to participate in an advocacy learning series, which culminates in an advocacy project.

Evaluation: An evaluation was conducted to assess the impact of the PATCH Program on youth outcomes as well as depth and extent of youth engagement. Half of the youth who participated in the PATCH Program demonstrated significant improvements in youth engagement outcomes.

Discussion: When considering youth engagement, it is important to consider the needs, capacities, and resources of both youth and the organizations that are implementing the health education strategy, providing youth important knowledge and skills that may result in more meaningful engagement, fruitful projects, and sustainable health education programs.

KEY WORDS: adolescent health, advocacy, positive youth development, public health, youth engagement

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Many public health departments and programs have prioritized meaningful youth engagement as a strategy to improve adolescent health.^{1,2} Emerging evidence indicates that engaging and partnering with youth and their families and organizations

We Filmed Videos!

In partnership with Ninjas for Health, PATCH Teen Educators filmed meaningful messages to health care providers and to their peers. Check out these short videos at: www.patchprogram.org

...and so so SO much more!

...AND THAT'S A WRAP FOR 2022-2023!

**THANKS FOR HANGING WITH US.
SEE YA NEXT TIME!**



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