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ADOLESCENT  
HEALTH

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Health & Opportunity Partnership (HOPE) Project:  
A Community-Based Participatory Approach

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# The Center for Adolescent Health

- Mission: To work in partnership with youth, people who work with youth, community residents, public policymakers and program administrators to help urban adolescents develop healthy adult lifestyles
- Founded 1994 as a CDC Prevention Research Center (PRC)

# PRC Guiding Principle: Public Health & Community Partnerships

- Create and foster partnerships among public health and community organizations to address health promotion and disease prevention issues.
- Respect the values and priorities of public health and community partners.
- Encourage public health and community partners to participate in shaping, promoting, and evaluating research priorities.

# PRC Guiding Principle: Public Health & Community Partnerships

- Conduct, interpret, and disseminate research in partnership with public health professionals and community members.
- Collaborate with partners to build local capacity and resources that can sustain interventions after studies are completed.

# What is the HOPE Project?

- CDC Core Prevention Project
- Intervention Research Project to implement and evaluate *mental health promotion programming* into an employment and training setting
- Goal is to improve mental health status for out-of-school youth in a setting that does not typically address health needs

# Who are the Community Partners?

- Eastside Youth Opportunities (YO!) Program
- Mayor's Office of Employment Development
- Baltimore City Health Department
- Community Agencies
- East Baltimore Residents
- Young People

# What is the YO! Program?

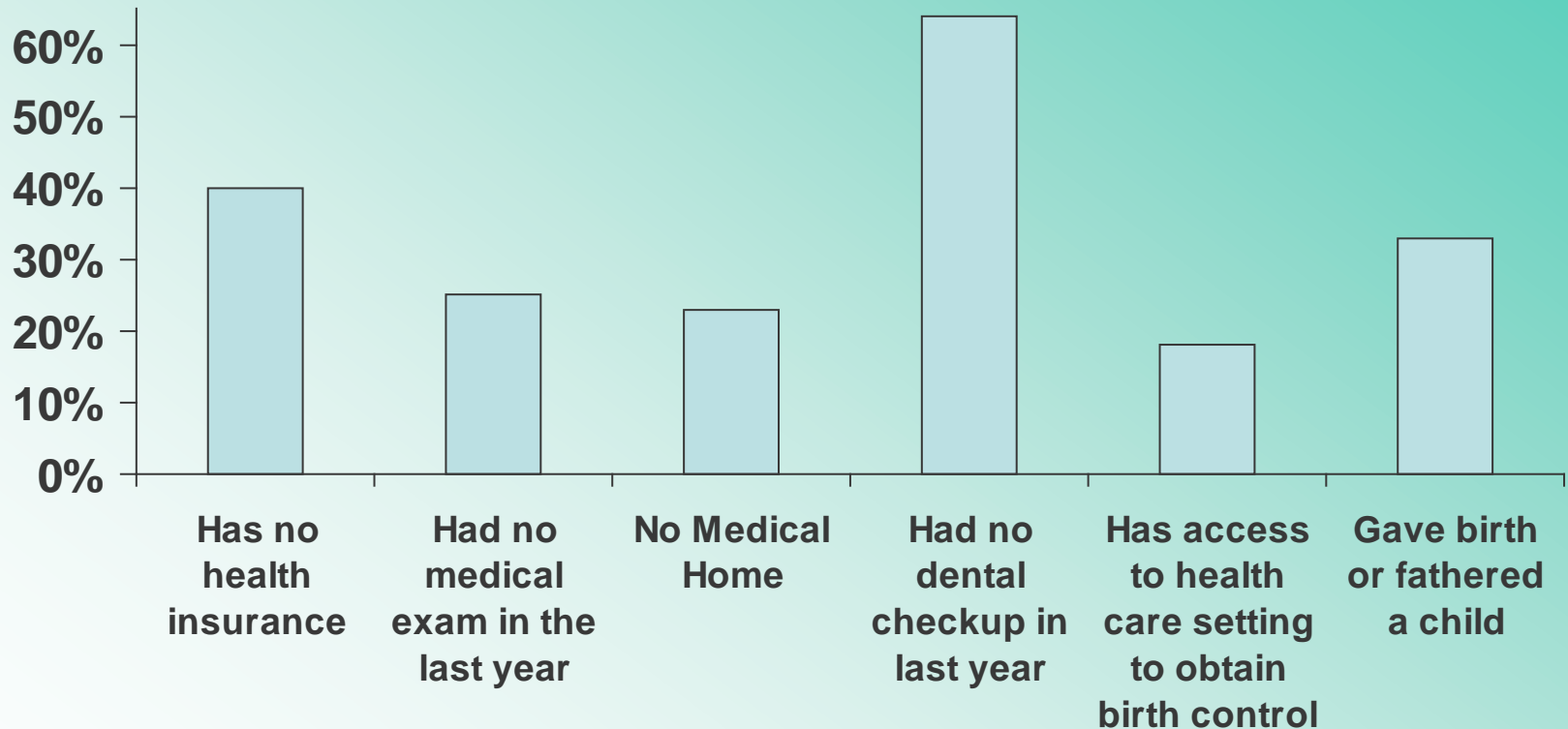
- Classes and tutorials to support academic achievement
- Assistance enrolling in college
- Clubs to support job seekers and the newly employed
- Career training classes
- Internet access
- Recreational activities
- Assistance with substance abuse or mental health issues



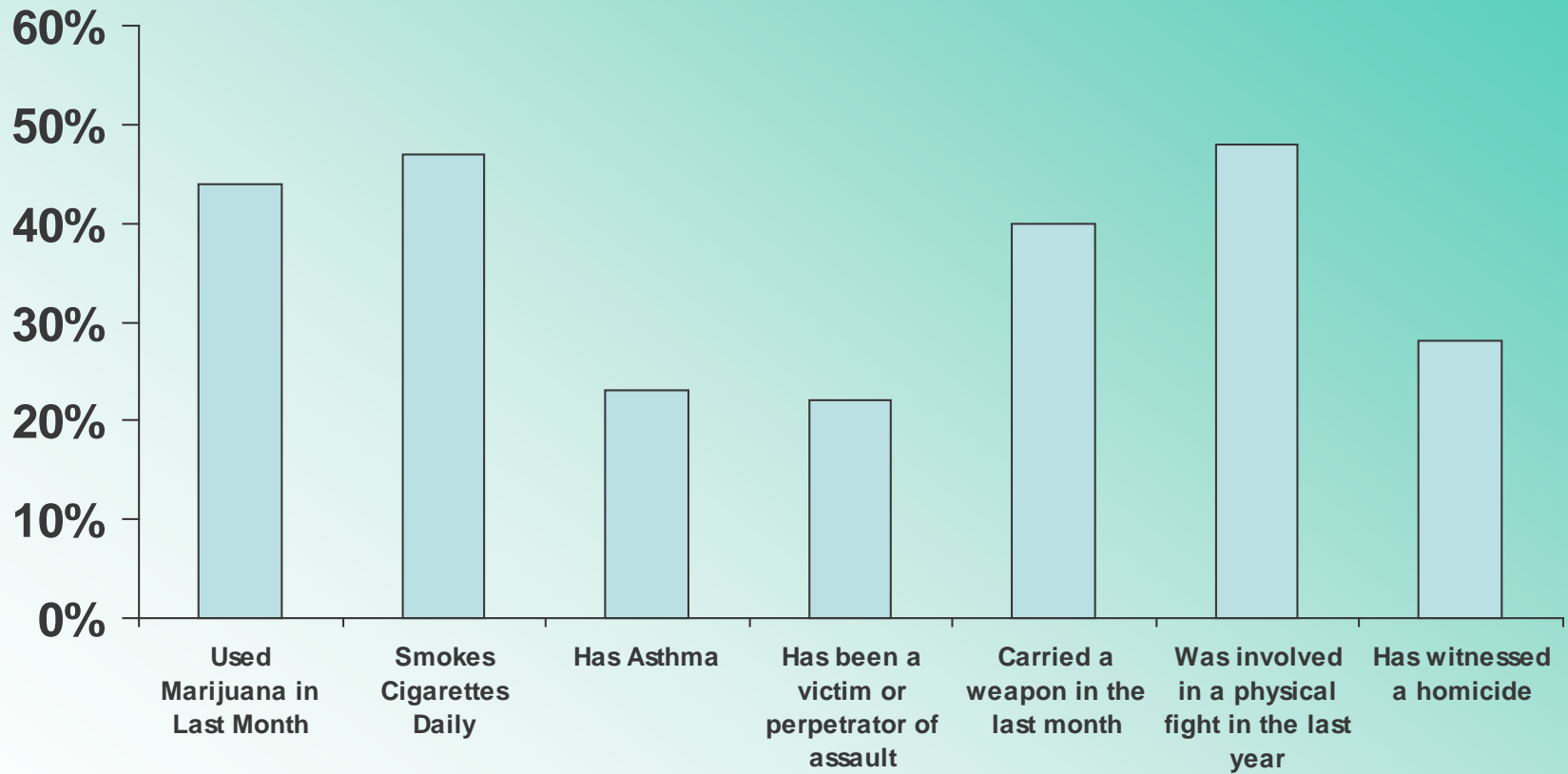
# How was the Mental Health Focus Chosen?

- Formation of Advisory Board
- Analysis of health data (survey and focus group results)
- Prioritization process

# Health Problems Among YO! Participants



# Health Problems Among YO! Participants II



# Three Phases of Intervention

1. Providing access to a mental health professional on site as well as through community services and a provider inventory,
2. Training YO! staff advocates to identify and address mental health issues, and
3. Developing a peer to peer mental health program manned by YO! program participants and supported by a mental health professional.

# CBPR v. Traditional Research Approach

- Researchers are service providers; they are informed about problem
- Constant feedback available on process
- Target audience is in place; partners care about results
- Data analysis more rigorous
- Evaluator has more control over the process
- More time available for research and potentially a stronger guarantee of funding