

Title: 4-H Enrollment Trends in Pennsylvania: Implications for Extension Research and Programming

**Authors: Rama Radhakrishna
Francisco Leite
Philip Hoy**

Year: 2003

Source: *Proceedings of the National Agricultural Education Research Meeting*

Description: The purpose of this study was to examine 4-H enrollment trends in Pennsylvania from 1990-91 through 2001-02. Enrollment trends were examined in terms of age, gender, race, program delivery methods, residence and projects. Trend analysis was used to describe the findings.

Major Findings: Overall, analysis of 12 years of data reveals that Pennsylvania 4-H enrollment has slightly declined. When 4-H enrollment data were examined by gender, race, age, and residence, several trends were evident. More girls than boys enroll in 4-H programs/projects. The percent of girls enrolled in 4-H programs remained constant around 50-51% during the 12-year period.

Enrollment of 4-H members by race and age indicated several trends. 4-H enrollment by race was representative of several ethnic groups. The 12-year analysis revealed that enrollment of African Americans in 4-H programs declined while the enrollment of Hispanics and Asian Americans slightly increased. Enrollment of 4-H members, especially younger ages (8-12 years), has declined during this 12-year analysis, while enrollment in age groups of 13-15 years and 16-19 years has slightly increased.

Enrollment of 4-H members by residence showed some interesting trends. First, enrollment in cities, suburbs, and farms has declined in the last 12 years. Second, 4-H enrollments show increasing trends in towns with a population of 50,000 or more.

The 4-H school enrichment program is the predominant method used to deliver 4-H programs, followed by organized club activities, and 4-H special interest or short term programs.

Four-H members in Pennsylvania are completing a number of programs/projects. Animal science, individual and family resources, and plant science programs/projects showed the largest enrollment. Over the years, enrollment in specific program/projects has declined. For example, individual and family resources, and health and safety programs have declined in the last 12 years.

