

2017 VERMONT MENTORING SURVEY REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | MOBIUS

BACKGROUND

First launched in 2014, the Vermont Mentoring Surveys are designed to provide mentoring programs in Vermont with a way to track common data about the effects mentoring is having on youth served by their program, and to allow Mobius to track aggregate data about mentoring throughout the state. In 2015, Mobius staff and the Program Leadership Council (PLC), with guidance from evaluation expert Heather Bouchey, the Deputy Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Education, revised the surveys to focus on the following six core areas:

1. Mentee's resiliency
2. Mentee's pro-social skills
3. Mentee's future aspirations
4. Mentee's connectedness to community
5. Mentee's attitude toward school
6. Match/program feedback

Since 2016, Mobius has made participation in the surveys mandatory for any mentoring agency that receives funding through the Vermont Mentoring Grants. Mobius offers a two-path approach for meeting this requirement: administer the full mentor and mentee surveys to their participants or include the core questions from those surveys in their existing program-specific surveys. Agencies that choose to adopt the full surveys are eligible to receive additional funding. Mobius also offers optional teacher/counselor and parent/guardian surveys.

FORMAT

Since 2015, Mobius has used SurveyMonkey, an online, form-based survey application, to track/tabulate survey results. This significantly reduces the need for data entry and allows for Mobius staff to create custom set-ups for each agency, ensuring all agencies using the full surveys have the option to add their own unique questions in addition to the base surveys. To maintain anonymity of information in the aggregate data, Mobius has all agencies assign a unique ID number to each mentee and share basic demographic information for each youth.

DEMOGRAPHICS

In total, there are around 40 adult-to-youth mentoring agencies, and more than 140 adult-to-youth mentoring program sites throughout the state. In total, these sites serve approximately 2,300 adult-to-youth mentor matches. The ages of the youth in these mentoring programs ranges from five to 22. All mentors are adults, ages 18 and older.

This grant year, 27 mentoring agencies, representing 109 program sites, used the Vermont Mentoring Survey sets to evaluate at least their mentors and mentees through "during-match" surveys. All surveys were conducted in a three month window between April 1 and June 30, 2017, to ensure a common snapshot in time. Individual agencies surveyed their constituents over a period of no more than six weeks. Surveys were considered only for pairs that had been matched for at least six months by the end of the survey period. While some programs ran the full Vermont Mentoring Surveys, including surveys of parents and guardians and teachers and counselors, this summary focuses on the core questions for mentors and mentees, which represents a more statistically relevant statewide data pool.

Core Survey Respondents:

1,120 Mentees

1,072 Mentors

Mentee Gender Breakdown:

Male: **56.45%**

Female: **43.55%**

Other: **<0.01%**

Percentage of Mentors and Mentees Surveyed

48.7% of all mentees in VT

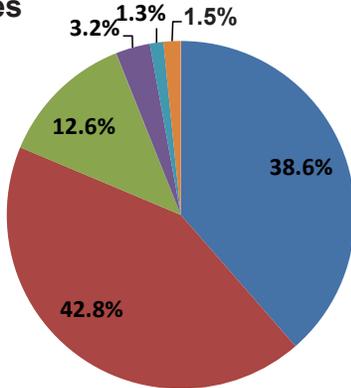
46.6% of all mentors in VT

RESULTS

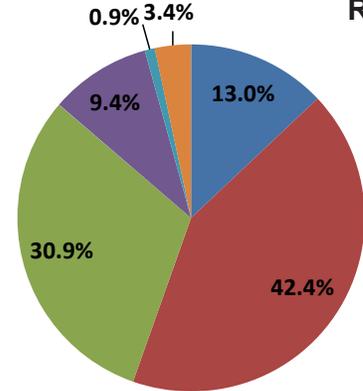
Mentee's Resiliency

The mentee group overwhelmingly agreed or strongly agreed (**81.4%**) that they knew who they “can turn to for help.” A little more than half (**55.4%**) of the mentors responded positively to the question “when something is bothering my mentee, he/she talks to me about it.”

Mentee Responses



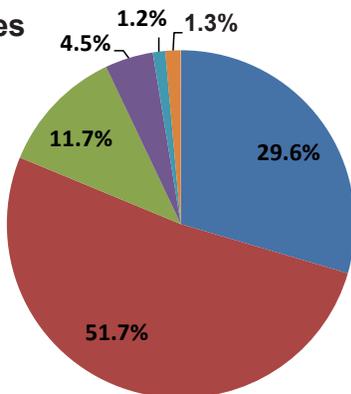
Mentor Responses



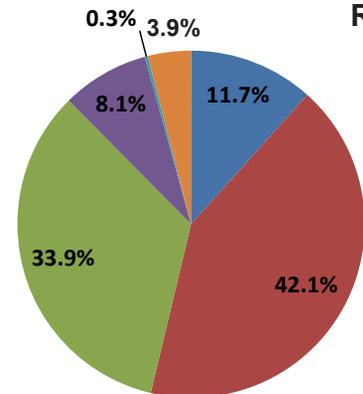
Mentee's Pro-Social Skills

81.3% of the mentees surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that “when [they] disagree with friends, [they] are able to work it out.” **53.8%** of mentors agreed or strongly agreed that their mentee had positive conflict resolution skills, and **33.9%** provided a neutral response.

Mentee Responses



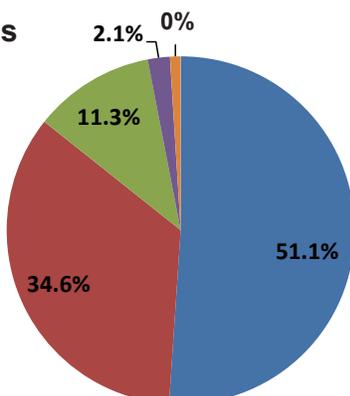
Mentor Responses



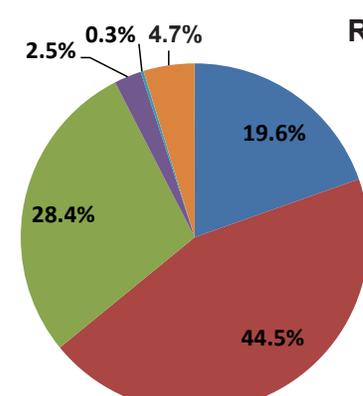
Mentee's Future Aspirations

85.7% of mentees agreed or strongly agreed that they were “hopeful about [their] future.” **64.1%** of mentors responded positively when asked if their mentee was “hopeful about his/her future.”

Mentee Responses



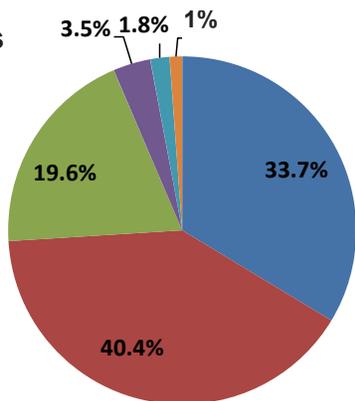
Mentor Responses



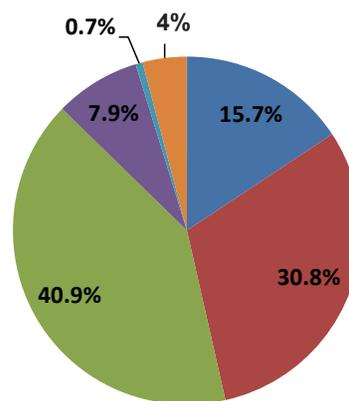
Mentee's Connectedness to Community

74.1% of mentees agreed or strongly agreed that they “matter to people in [their] community.” Only **46.5%** of mentors responded that their mentee had “another adult outside their family, other than the mentor, whom they turn to for support.”

Mentee Responses



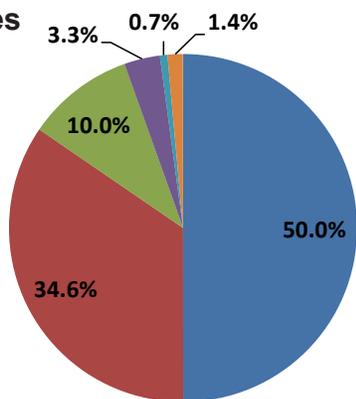
Mentor Responses



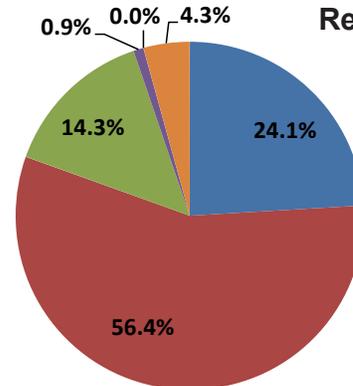
Match/Program Feedback

84.6% of mentees reported that “having a mentor has made a difference in [their] life.” **80.5%** of mentors reported that they had “noticed positive changes in [their] mentee since [they] started meeting.”

Mentee Responses



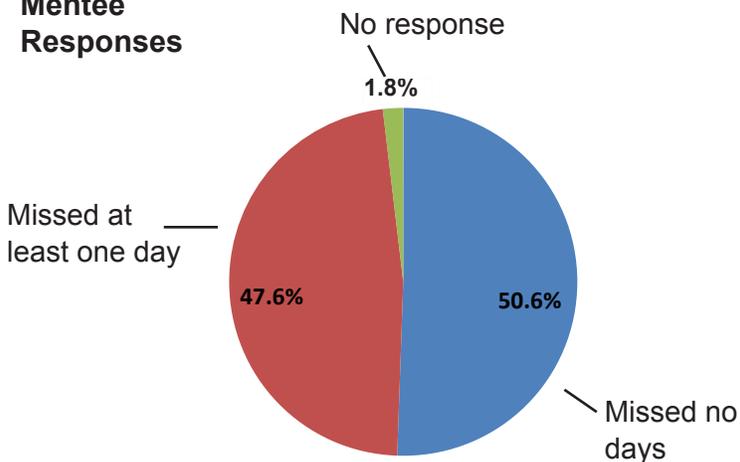
Mentor Responses



Mentee's Attitude Toward School

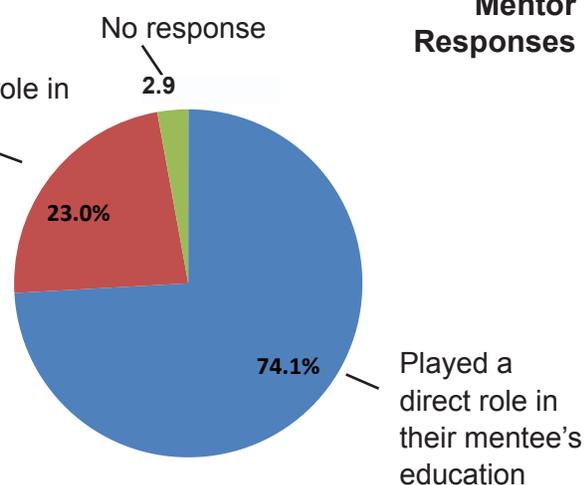
50.6% of mentees reporting that they had not missed a single day of school in the last four weeks. **74.1%** of mentors reported playing one or more direct roles in their mentee's education.

Mentee Responses



Played no direct role in their mentee's education

Mentor Responses



COMPARATIVE RESULTS

Mentee Responses

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Mentee's Resiliency			
2016	82.1%	11.8%	5.3%
2017	81.4%	12.6%	4.5%
Mentee's Pro-Social Skills			
2016	80.1%	12.0%	7.1%
2017	81.3%	11.7%	5.7%
Mentee's Future Aspirations			
2016	85.6%	10.1%	3.4%
2017	85.7%	11.3%	2.1%
Mentee's Connectedness to Community			
2016	72.8%	18.6%	7.5%
2017	74.1%	19.6%	5.3%
Match/Program Feedback			
2016	82.1%	11.2%	5.0%
2017	84.6%	10.0%	4.0%
Mentee's Attitude Toward School			
School Missed (last 30 days)	Missed 1+ Days of School	Missed No Days of School	
2016	44.3%	50.7%	
2017	47.6%	50.6%	

Mentor Responses

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Mentee's Resiliency			
2016	55.3%	29.9%	12.3%
2017	55.4%	30.9%	10.3%
Mentee's Pro-Social Skills			
2016	49.5%	39.8%	8.8%
2017	53.8%	33.9%	8.4%
Mentee's Future Aspirations			
2016	69.0%	26.7%	1.9%
2017	64.1%	28.4%	2.8%
Mentee's Connectedness to Community			
2016	42.8%	45%	9.9%
2017	46.5%	40.9%	8.6%
Match/Program Feedback			
2016	80.4%	15.6%	1.7%
2017	80.5%	14.3%	0.9%
Mentee's Attitude Toward School			
Role in Mentee's Education	Played a Direct Role	Played No Direct Role	
2016	74.3%	22.8%	
2017	74.1%	23.0%	

The results of the 2017 core survey questions largely confirm the positive trends seen in the 2016 survey results, with a slight overall increase in positive responses and slight decrease in negative responses. 2017 marks the second year that Mobius feels comfortable that it has captured a statistically relevant sample size of data. This year's responses represented 48.7% of all the mentees, and 46.6% of all the mentors in the state. That sample size is comparable to 2016, with slightly fewer mentees, and slightly more mentors represented in the data.

Prior to 2016, the scale for the questions was structured so that the respondent needed to choose either a positive response, a negative response, or leave it blank. One key takeaway from both the 2016 and 2017 survey results is the higher than expected percentage of neutral responses for many of the questions. For the past two years, at least 10% of respondents have responded neutrally to all of the core questions that had a neutral option. During that same timeframe, four of the mentor questions generated more than 26% neutral responses. Feedback from programs has also called into question whether or not younger mentees understood the meaning of some of the core questions.

Now that Mobius has established a two-year baseline of survey data, it is looking to review questions for 2018 to make sure they are accessible for all mentees, and that they are accurately gathering data in the given focus area. Nonetheless, the results of the 2017 Vermont Mentoring Surveys highlight encouraging trends and positive impacts that mentoring is having on youth across the state.



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