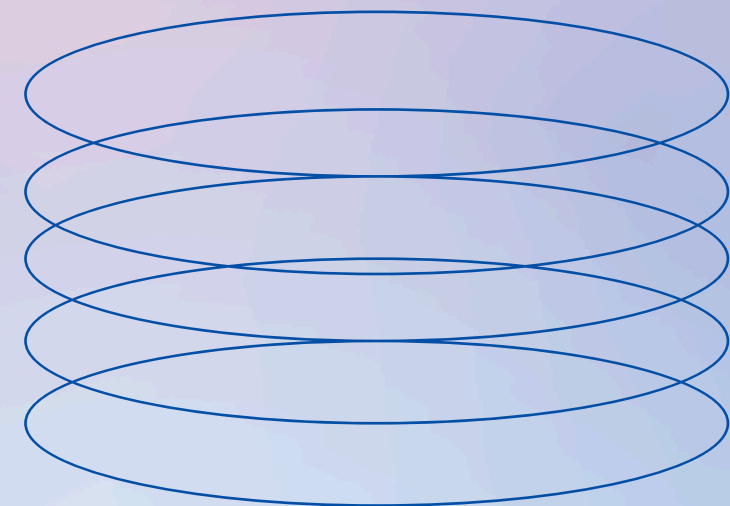


“Strategies used to Improve Youth Engagement in Community Gardens”

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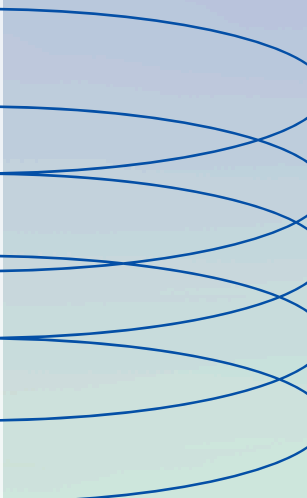
Why you are interested in topic

This interests us because in the CODES (Community Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars) Program at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville we take on the responsibility of working with the community, especially the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Because of this, we feel it is important for younger people to be involved with their community. We think it is important for the youth to get involved with science, community gardens are a great opportunity for children to learn and engage.

Research Question



What strategies are used to improve youth engagement in community gardens?





Summary of Evidence

This is a review article that focuses on the Northern region of Minneapolis. The University of Minnesota and Northern Minneapolis community partners have created an experiential learning program for youth ages 14 and 15. The youth visit various garden sites and are educated on food justice, food accessibility, food production systems, and horticulture science. – North Minneapolis: Connecting Youth and Community through Garden-based Experiential Learning (Experiential Learning/Mentorship)



Summary of Evidence

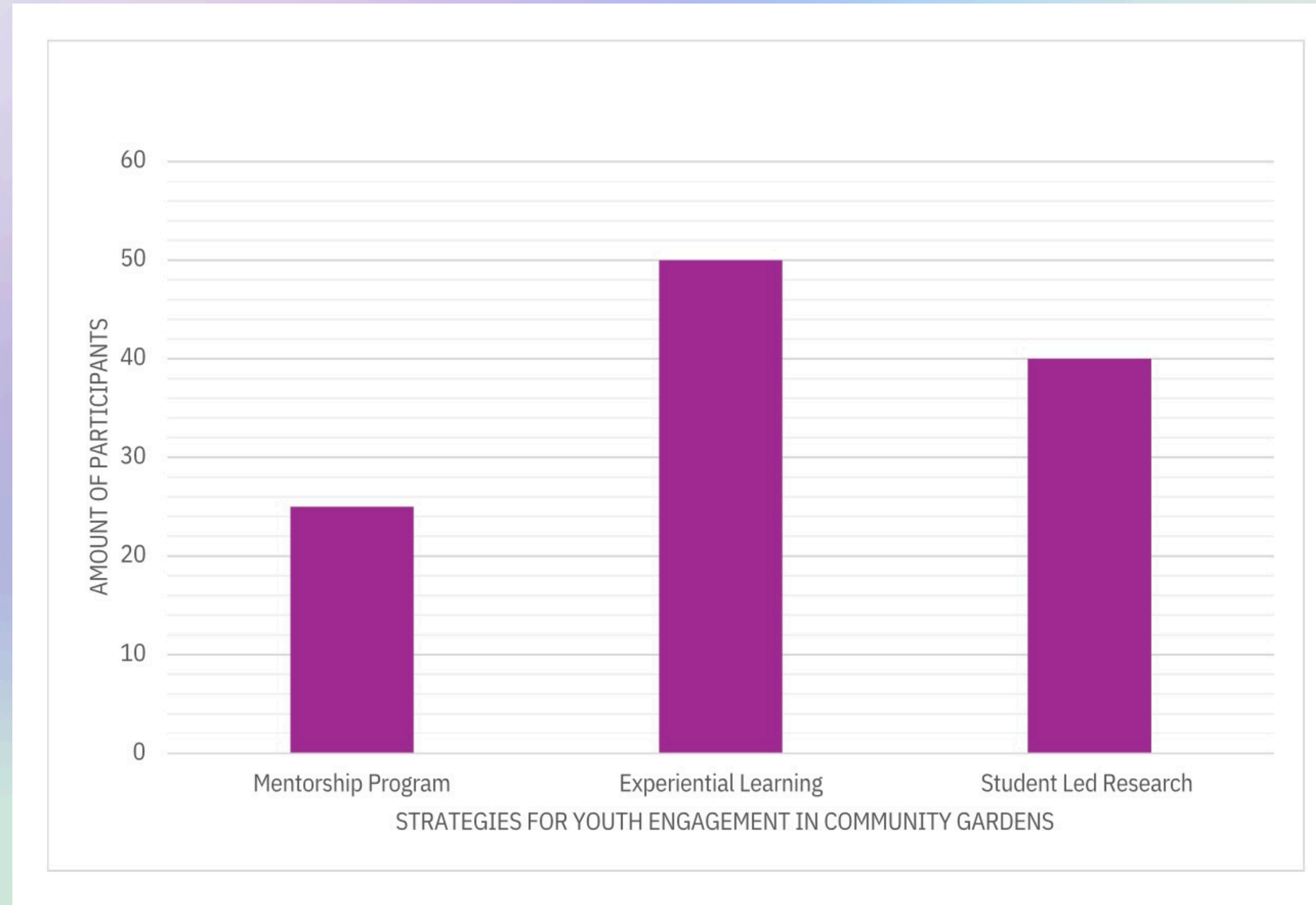
The study looked at Project Green Reach, a program at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, which has been teaching kids about gardening and science since 1914. PGR involves K-8 students from local schools in a fun, hands-on learning using both indoor and outdoor spaces. Overall, the study concluded that PGR has a positive impact on students, helping them appreciate gardening, science, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden itself. (Student Led Research)



Summary of Evidence

- This research study investigates the partnership of the Royal Botanic Gardens and a few of their youth programs to showcase collaborative practices between educational contexts within communities and to encourage how community partnerships can help the younger generation. **"Sowing and Growing" Life Skills Through Garden-Based Learning to Reengage Disengaged Youth" (Mentorship)**

Proposed Experiment?





Summary & Reflections

Within the CODES program, we are partnering with the Missouri Botanical Gardens to bring reparative justice to the legacies of indigenous and enslaved individuals who helped make the Garden what it is today. Researching strategies used to improve youth engagement in community gardens helps us reach the youth audiences surrounding MOBOT youth could be a strong strategy for us to help with youth engagement at MOBOT. Overall, strategies used to improve youth engagement in community gardens is through creating an experiential learning program, activating student led research in relation to environmental science, and through peer mentorship programs.

References

- Rogers, M., Livstrom, I., Roiger, B., & Smith, A. (2019). Growing North Minneapolis: Connecting Youth and Community through Garden-based Experiential Learning. HortTechnology, 30(1), 25–30. <https://doi.org/10.21273/horttech04308-19>
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