Amanda Purington Drake

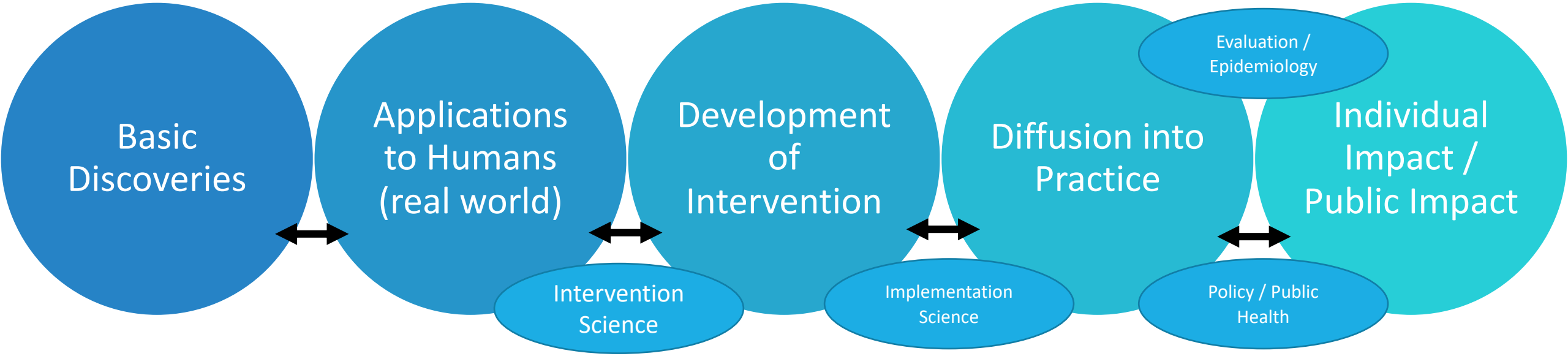
Heather Wynkoop Beach

Parenting Project & ACT for Youth Joint In-Service 2023

Advancing Positive Youth Development and Adolescent Well-Being

ACT for Youth connects research to practice on behalf of young people. We offer guidance to the positive youth development approach to adults who care about the well-being of young people

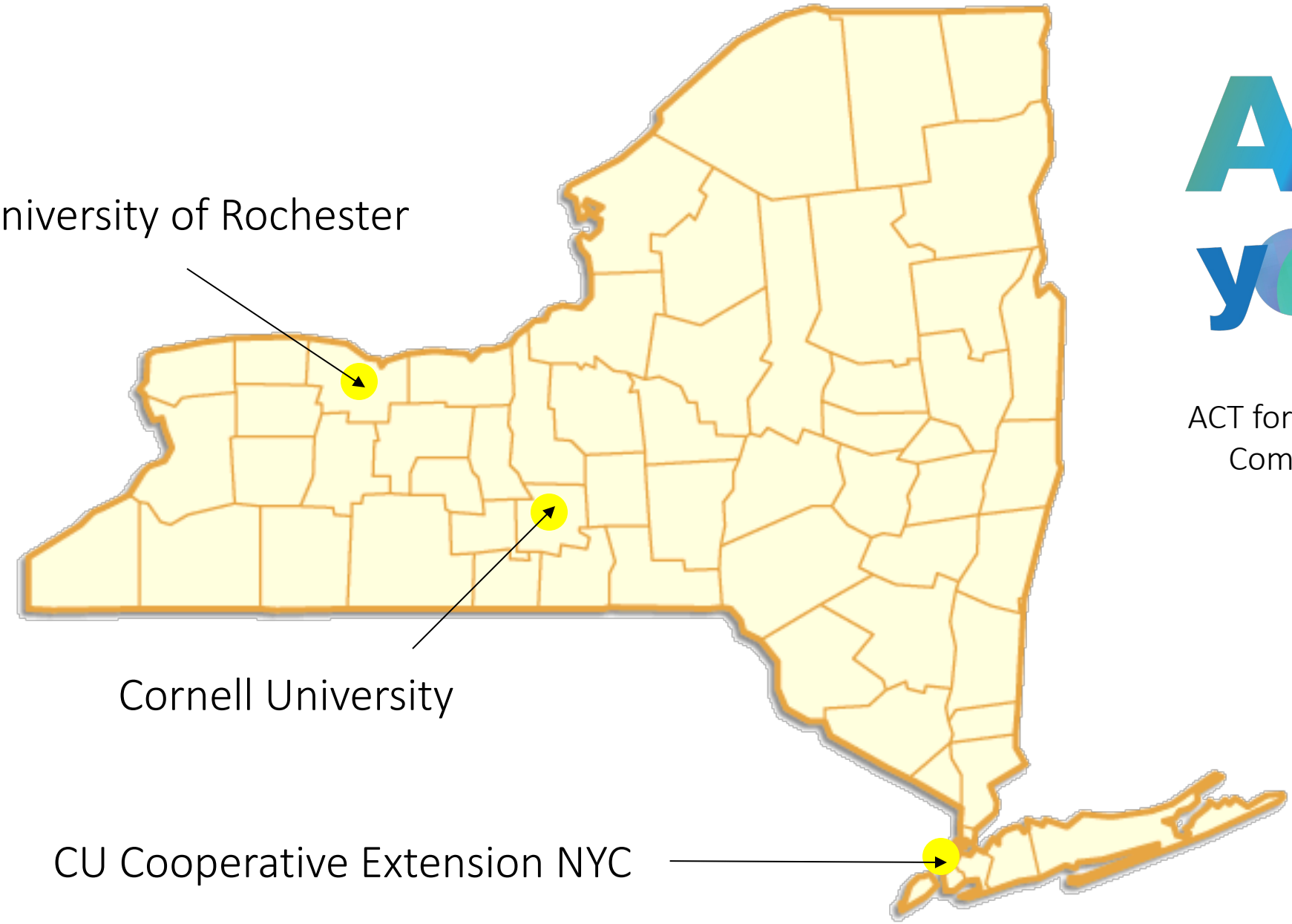
Translational Research Cycle



ACT for youth

Capacity-building, evaluation, & information clearinghouse for adolescent health initiatives	New York State Department of Health Department of Health and Human Services
Positive Youth Development (PYD) curriculum development, training, & resources	
Youth Engagement: Curriculum development, consultancy & resources	Office of Population Affairs
Research synthesis	
Youth program evaluation	

University of Rochester



Cornell University

CU Cooperative Extension NYC

ACT for Youth Center for Community Action

www.actforyouth.net

Our team!

ACT Structure & Staff

Director: Amanda Purington Drake
Administration: Paula Aiken

Training & Capacity-Building

Director:
Heather Wynkoop Beach

Marisol DeLeon
Michele Luc
Mary Maley

Evaluation & Research

Director:
Amanda Purington Drake

Vicki Baum
Brian Maley
Jenny Parise

Information Clearinghouse

Director:
Karen Schantz

Research Synthesis & Translation

Director:
Mary Maley

Medical Expertise

Richard E. Kreipe, MD, FAAP, FSAHM, FAED
Taylor B. Starr, DO, MPH

We support

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Providers:
48 CAPP
7 PREP

SRAE:
12 Partners

HIV/STD/HPC Prevention Providers:
21 YMSM
7 YHA

through

- Technical assistance (TA)
- Training
- Evaluation and research
- Dissemination of information on current research and best practices

Training and Capacity Building

- In Person Trainings
  - Facilitation Fundamentals
  - Positive Youth Development
  - Curriculum (with Teach Backs)
- Online webinars
  - Answering Tough Questions
  - Puberty and Adolescence
  - Mindfulness

- Online Learning Communities
  - Supervisors
  - New Educators
- Individualized support
- Observations and feedback
- Contracted Trainings with
  - Reality Check
  - Buffalo Charter School
  - Boys and Girls Club of Harlem

Evaluation

Process & Outcome Evaluation:

- Develop systems for collecting, reviewing & synthesizing data
- Summaries and facilitation of continuous quality improvement
- Evaluation summaries for reporting
- Participant survey data collection, analysis & synthesis

Research: Answering Questions

From existing research

From youth

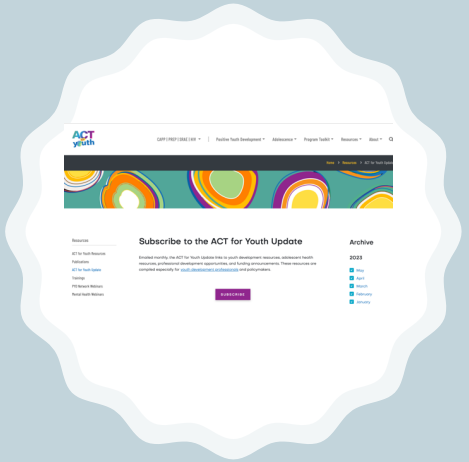
From programs

Research Methods

- Systematic reviews & research synthesis
- Experimental design
- Surveys
- Focus groups
- Interviews (including dyads)
- Concept mapping
- Participatory action research
- PhotoVoice

Clearinghouse

- Website: www.actforyouth.net
  - DOH program-specific resources, tools, & online trainings
  - Nationally recognized Positive Youth Development expertise
    - Information, training manuals, online training, “toolkits” to support PYD at program/ organization/community levels
- Publications & Presentations
- Newsletters
  - ACT for Youth Update
  - ACT for Adolescent Health



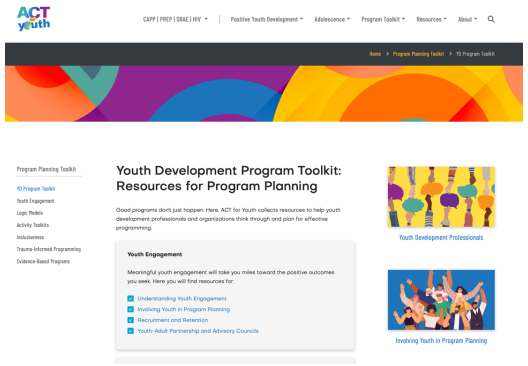
Who Needs to Know? Confidentiality in Adolescent Sexual Health Care

by Karen Schantz

This information is between us. Anything you tell me is confidential, which means that we will not inform your parents or anyone else without your consent. I would only tell someone else if I thought you had been abused or hurt, or if I believed you were at serious risk of harming yourself or someone else. If that were the case and I needed to talk to someone else, I would first talk to you and we would make a plan together.

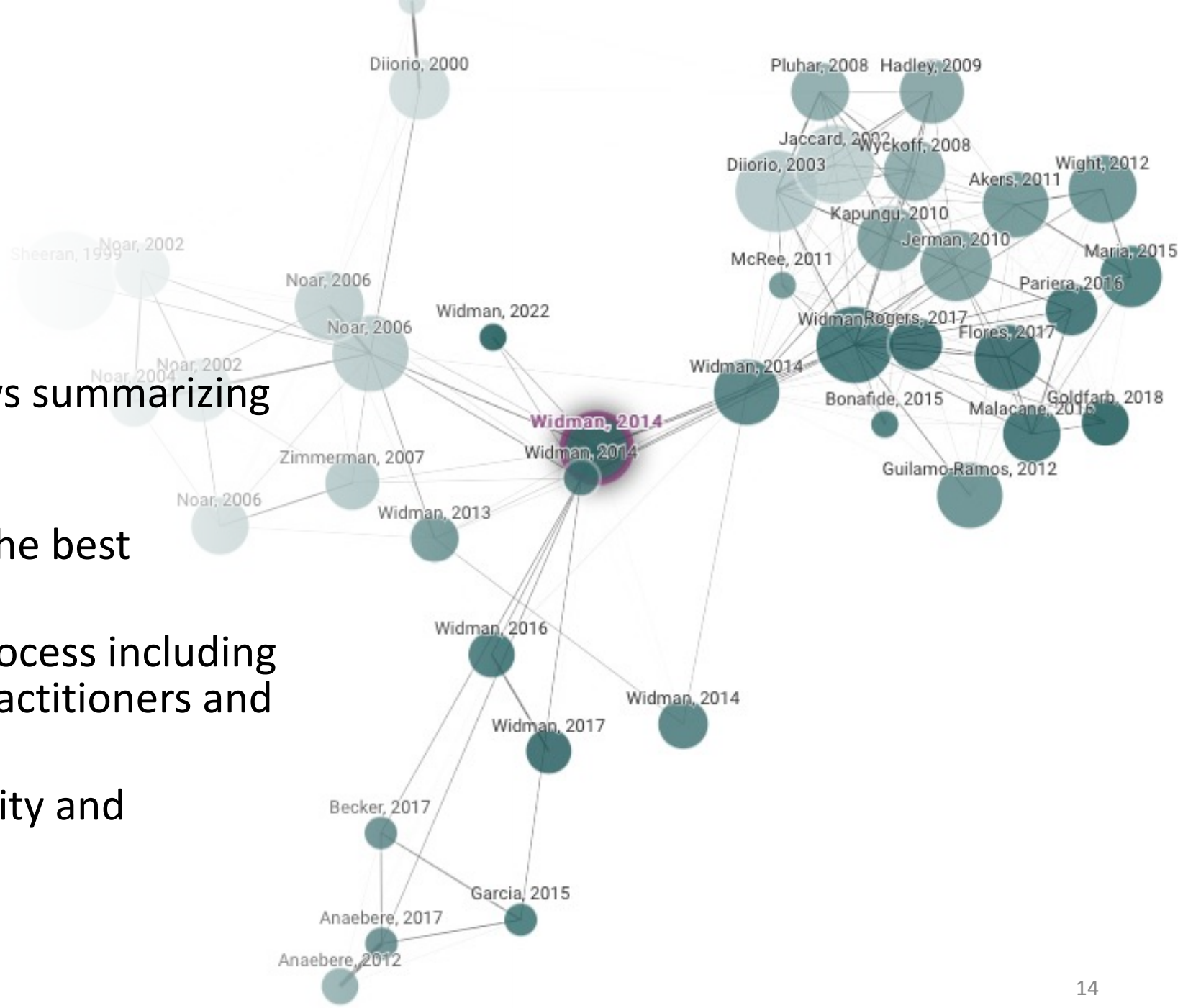
Adolescents seeking sexual and reproductive health care are likely to hear a version of this speech—but does it fully address their privacy concerns? What does confidential care mean in practice, and can it be improved to meet young people’s needs? In view of rising rates of sexually transmitted disease (STD) among young people, ACT for Youth reviewed recent research to update our understanding of the importance and practice of confidentiality for adolescents seeking sexual and reproductive health care.

How do adolescents view confidentiality?



Research Synthesis and Translation

- Brief systematic reviews summarizing current research
- Answers practice and policy questions with the best available evidence
- Uses a participatory process including expertise from both practitioners and researchers
- Assesses research quality and relevance



Special Projects

- Statewide Provider Meetings
- Adolescent Sexual Health Symposium
- Statewide Youth Development Team Representation
- Research Synthesis: Health equity/disparities
- Community social network analyses
- Focus Group Projects - examples:
  - Family planning
  - Preconception health
  - Sugar-sweetened beverages
- Adolescent Health Research Project (multi-component)
- RCT Study – collaboration with DOH (Brothers as Allies, additional Rural/Tribal project)
- Rigorous Evaluation of Educational Support Programming with foster care-involved youth
- Peer-reviewed Journal Articles
  - Special issue of the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice

Website Highlights: www.actforyouth.net

Positive Youth Development: https://www.actforyouth.net/pyd/

Adolescent Development: https://www.actforyouth.net/adolescence/

Youth Development Program Toolkit: https://www.actforyouth.net/program-toolkit/

Activity Toolkits:

https://www.actforyouth.net/program-toolkit/yd-activities/

https://www.actforyouth.net/program-toolkit/yd-activities/sel/

https://www.actforyouth.net/program-toolkit/yd-activities/adulthood/

https://www.actforyouth.net/program-toolkit/yd-activities/media.cfm

Other Resources: https://www.actforyouth.net/pro-resources/

Connecting With

- Access information and resources on our website:
  https://www.actforyouth.net
- Join the ACT for Youth Update:
  https://www.actforyouth.net/pro-resources/update.cfm
- Participate in an upcoming training: Facilitating Programs with Youth
  https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0lKV0WCfnEGpZC6
- Contact us with your research questions or training needs!
  act4youth@cornell.edu

Thank you!

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