



# Research **2** Action

Uncommon Schools + Rutgers University Partnership



# Rutgers University & Lincoln Park High School Partners

## Uncommon/Lincoln Park HS:

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## Rutgers Partners:

- **Joanna Williams**, Associate Professor, School Psychology
- **Adrienne Gillespie**, Project Coordinator
- **Renée Roundy**, GSE Doctoral student & Curriculum coordinator
- **Nia Simmons & Medha Tulsyani**, Undergrad Assistants



# Research 2 Action: Objectives & Activities

## Program Objective(s):

- Provide opportunities for youth to explore and discover, build relationships, strengthen decision-making skills, reflect on and deepen values and identities, and make meaningful contributions to communities through youth participatory action research (YPAR)

## R2A Youth Leaders:

- Receive training in research methods
- Identify critical issues impacting us, our school, and/or our community
- Engage in team building and leadership development
- Visit Rutgers University
- Build skills we can use to support our educational and career goals
- Use research to inform social action and social change

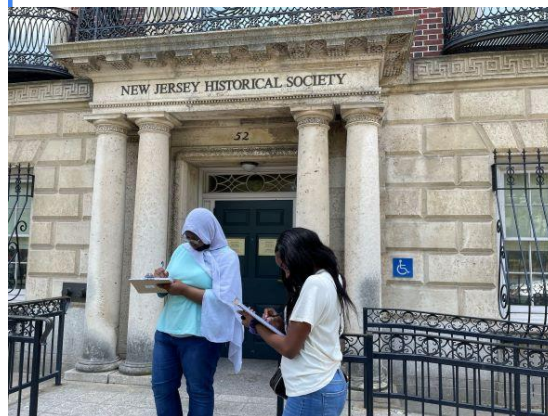


## Research 2 Action (R2A) Youth Leader Application [Summer 2022 - Spring 2023]

Are you interested in being part of a group where you can learn to do research about issues that impact you, your school, or your community? Would you like to grow your leadership skills and work on using research to create change?

If so, apply to be a Research Action Youth Leader!

Youth have the right to be involved in identifying and researching issues of concern in their communities, and the right to use their knowledge to inform solutions. Research2Action (R2A) will provide a space for students from Lincoln Park & Washington Park High Schools and Rutgers University to learn and grow with one another.



# Research 2 Action: What is North Star Academy?



## North Star Academy

- Free public charter school founded in 1997 serving Newark families.
- New Jersey's #1 highest performing public charter school
- Supports students' academic and personal growth
- Prepares students from low-income communities to succeed in college and beyond
- Dedicated to closing the opportunity gap They build intellectual expertise through rigorous coursework and AP classes

# What Is Our **Vision**?

## **Our Vision**

We envision a community that is welcoming, open, has a thriving celebratory school culture, is safe and clean with support/awareness towards mental health, where voices are heard with accessible resources/help for students.



# Research Question & Methods

## Research Question

How can we change the way funds are allocated in order to help the environment of the students and have access to better mental health resources?  
How can we provide mental health resources and raise awareness?

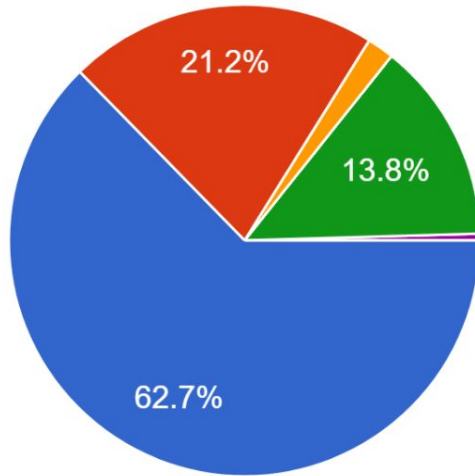


**Research Methods:**  
Surveys + Interviews

# Who took our survey?

At LPHS I am:

217 responses



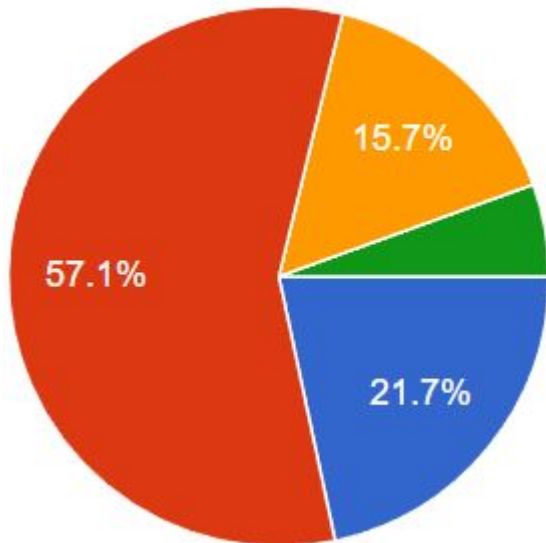
- a 9th grade student
- a 10th grade student
- an 11th grade student
- a 12th grade student
- a teacher
- a staff member (other than teacher)

# Our Findings (so far...)

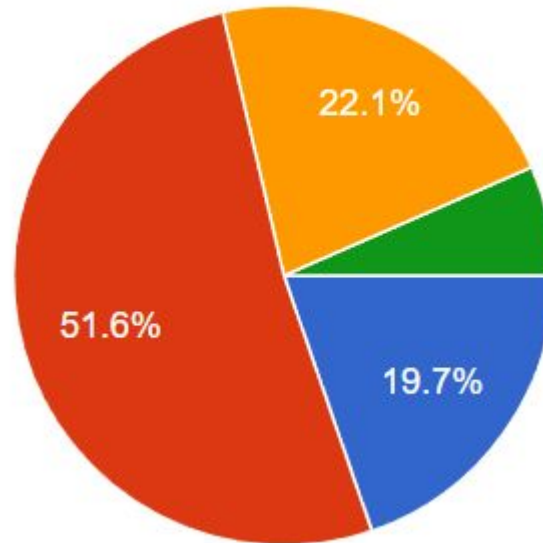
- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied

## How Satisfied Are You With:

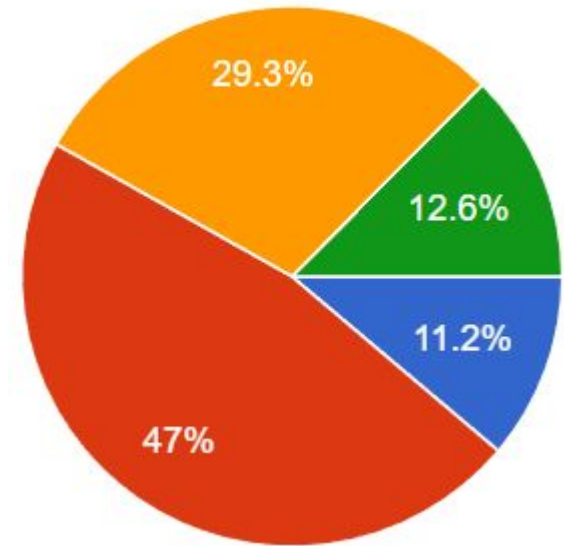
General Resources



Extracurriculars



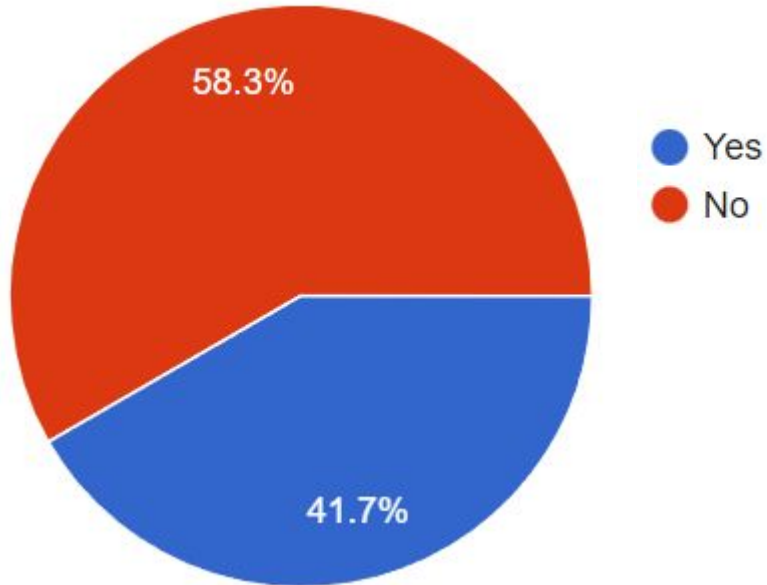
Mental Health Resources



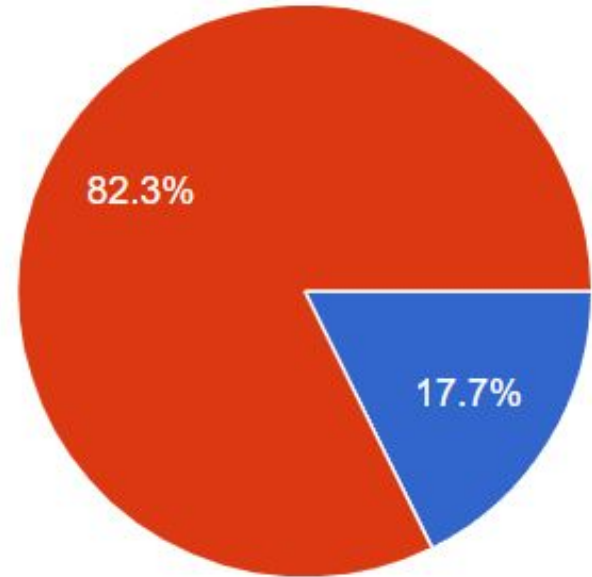


# Our Findings (so far...)

Do you think it's easy to access mental health services at our school?



Do you know what the "Uwill" mental health resource is?



# Moving forward

## ❑ **Additional Data Collection**

- ❑ Conduct in-person student interviews
- ❑ Collect additional survey responses

## ❑ **Implement action plan**

- ❑ Uncommon Media Wellness Wednesdays
- ❑ Advertise UWill: Uncommon Media + fliers
- ❑ Mental Health May Day



## **Thank You!**

*Special thanks to the Bezos  
Foundation, Pahara Institute,  
and Spring Point Partners for  
supporting our work!*

