

PATCH (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health) Program: Implementation in Central Wisconsin

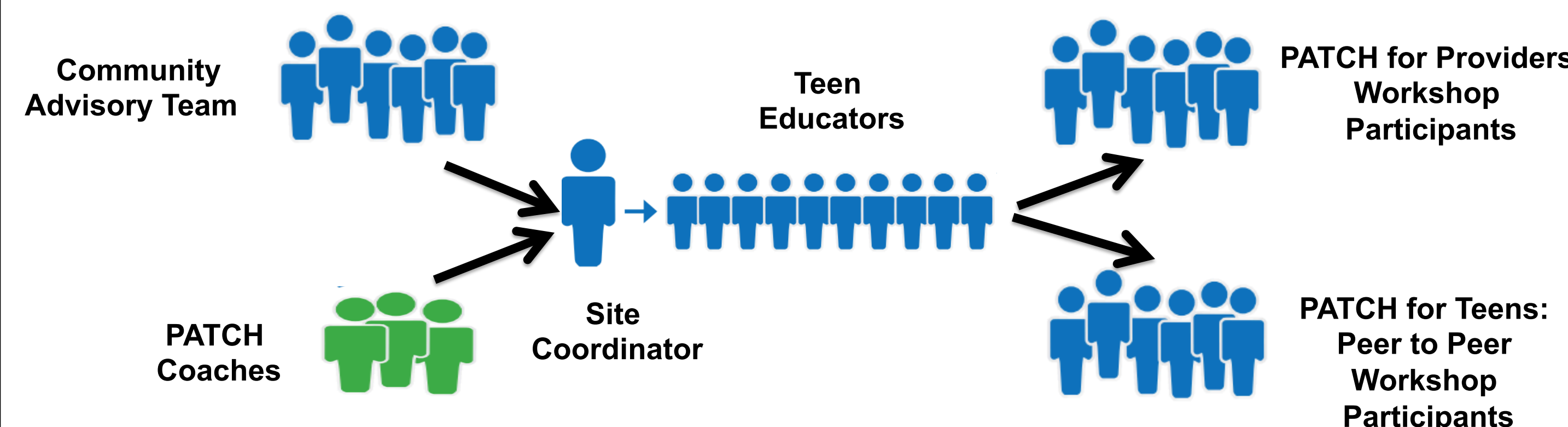
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Introduction

Adolescents demonstrate a need for access to sexual health, mental health, and substance use counseling, but many report never having discussed these sensitive health topics with a healthcare provider¹. Healthcare providers are a reliable source of knowledge, but there is a critical gap in communication with adolescent patients². The PATCH (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health) Program aims to bridge communication gaps between adolescent patients and healthcare providers by facilitating open and honest conversations about sensitive health topics.

Methods

Figure 1: The PATCH Site Architecture illustrates the holistic and collaborative approach to program implementation.



Teen Educators, a diverse group of Central Wisconsin students, are hired to lead 2 types of workshops:

1. PATCH for Providers Workshop

- Participants will understand adolescents' concerns, attitudes, and preferences in healthcare settings.
- Participants will explore ways to provide high-quality, youth-friendly health care services.
- Participants will acquire confidence and skills to communicate effectively and build relationships with teens.

2. PATCH for Teens: Peer to Peer Workshop

- Participants will understand the importance of learning to manage their own healthcare.
- Participants will explore steps they can take to make sure they're getting the care they need and deserve.
- Participants will gain new skills to help them advocate for their own health and well-being.

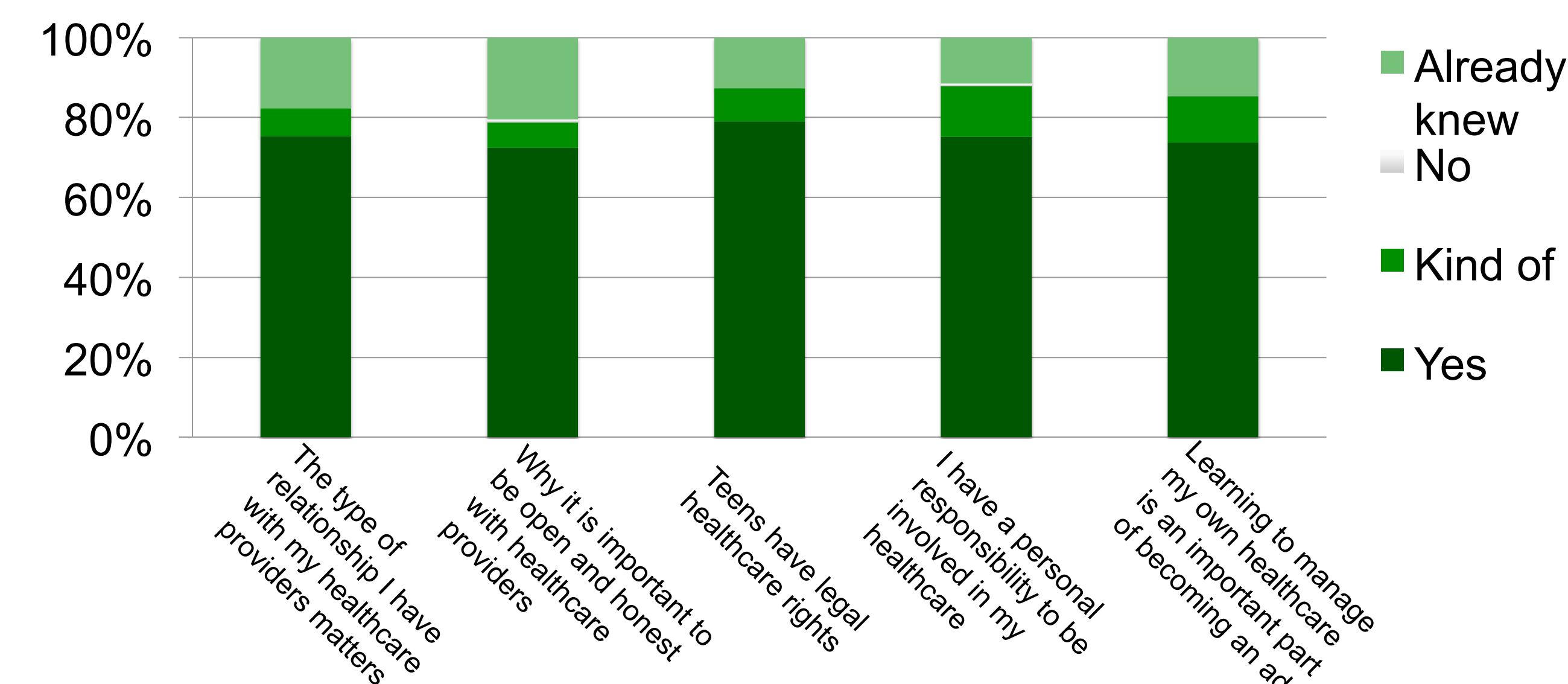
Workshops are based on activities developed by the National Institute for Reproductive Health, which include skits, small and large group discussions, and worksheets. The curriculum was first implemented in Madison, WI, in 2010, and effectiveness was demonstrated in a 2015 publication³. It was adapted and implemented in Central Wisconsin in 2018. Program activities and analysis are approved under MCW IRB # PRO00031805. During the 2018-2019 year, PATCH-CW implemented 11 peer and 2 provider workshops. Evaluations were administered to all participants. 74 providers participated in a workshop; 22 evaluations were returned. 300 teens participated in a workshop; 158 evaluations were returned.

Results

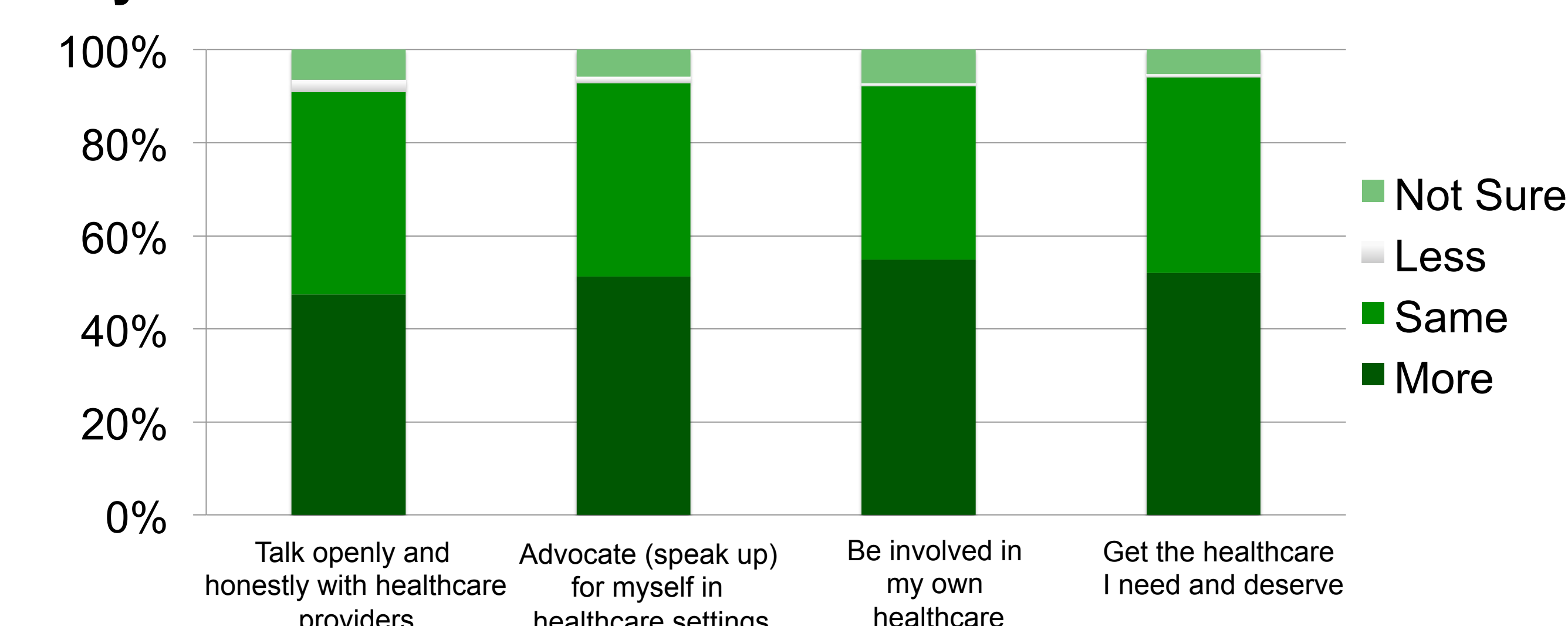
PATCH for Teens: Peer to Peer Workshop

Figures 2-4: Teen participant responses.

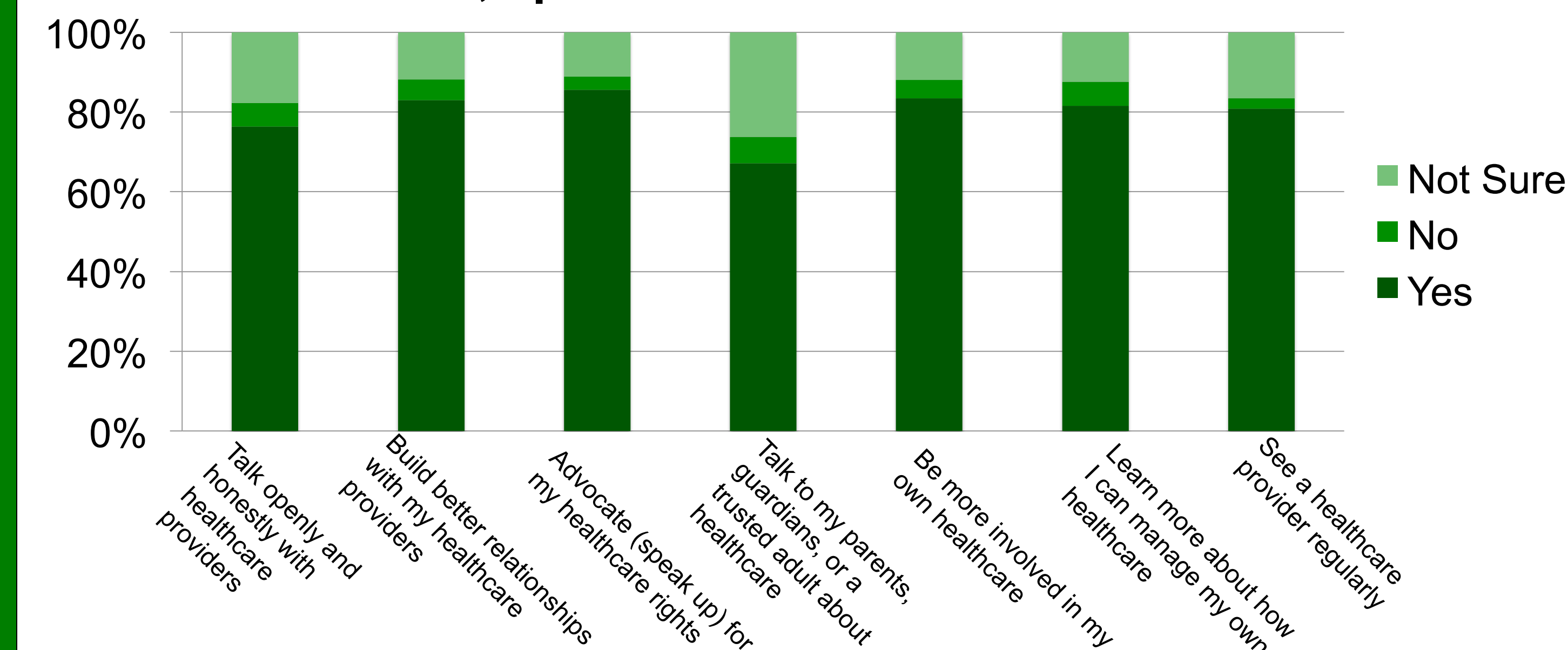
Because of PATCH, I now know...



Because of PATCH, I am (more? Same? Or less?) confident in my ability to...



Because of PATCH, I plan to...



Acknowledgments



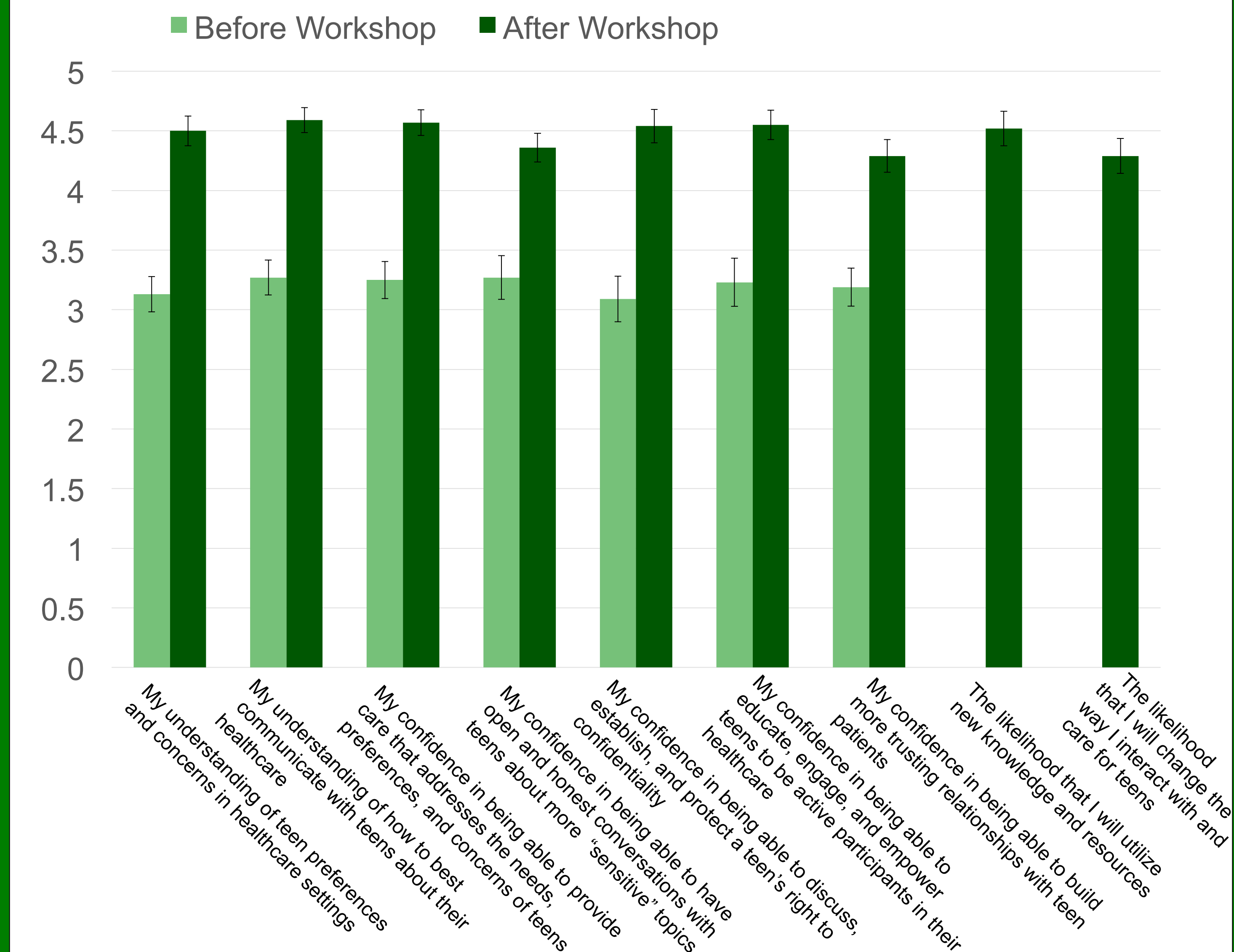
Ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and expansion are conducted by the PATCH Central Wisconsin Community Advisory Team with members from MCW – Central WI, North Central and Northern Highlands Area Health Education Centers, Wausau School District, Boy Scouts of America, and The Women's Community, Inc.

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PATCH for Providers Workshop

Figures 5: Provider participant responses.

Rate each statement by indicating a response for both PRIOR and AFTER...



Conclusions

Teen participants demonstrated increased:

- Understanding of the importance of patient/provider communication.
- Self-efficacy.
- Confidence in talking to providers about sensitive health topics.

Provider participants demonstrated increased:

- Knowledge of adolescent concerns and preferences.
- Understanding of best-practices to ensure honest conversations about health history.
- Knowledge of minors' rights in Wisconsin.

References

- Hoff, T., Greene, L., Davis, J., *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences*. Kaiser Family Foundation. 2003.
- Klein, J.D., Wilson, K.M., Delivering quality care: adolescents' discussion of health risks with their providers. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2002.
- Olejniczak, A., et. al., *Evaluation of a curriculum to improve clinician communication with adolescents*. Wisconsin Medical Journal. 2015.