Problems Faced by Youth: Young People in Mentoring Are at Risk

YOUTH PROBLEMS

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Most Young People in Mentoring Relationships Are at Risk for One or More Problems

- No Problems: 20%
- Some Problems (1-5): 57%
- Many Problems (5 or More): 23%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Youth in Mentoring: Family Income
Nearly Half Live in Low-Income Families

- Comfortable: 46%
- Struggling Financially: 38%
- Financially Desperate: 7%
- Don't Know: 1%
- Well-Off: 8%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People

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Youth in Mentoring: Family Structure
Barely Half Live in Two-Parent Families

- Live in Two-Parent Family: 56%
- Live with Single Parent: 30%
- Live with Someone Other than Parent: 11%
- Other: 3%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Mentoring Impact on Youth Problems
Mentors Believe They Made a Difference

Percent of mentors who believe they "helped a lot" with the youth problem

- Negative Feelings About Self: 62%
- Trouble at School: 49%
- Poor Grades: 48%
- Hang Out with Wrong Crowd: 42%
- Poor Family Relationships: 35%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Mentors View Mentoring as a Positive Experience

- **Positive Experience**: 97% Very Positive, 24% Somewhat Positive
- **Likely to Mentor Again**: 84% Very Positive, 30% Somewhat Positive
- **Likely to Recommend to a Friend**: 91% Very Positive, 32% Somewhat Positive

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Adults Are Motivated to Mentor Because They Believe the Young Person Needs Help

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Prevalence of Mentoring in the Population
Nearly One of Three Adults Has Mentored

Have Mentored
31%

Previously Mentored
17%

Current Mentors
14%

Never Mentored
69%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Adult Volunteer Activities with Youth: Mentoring Is a Prevalent Activity

Percent of adults who have ever participated in activity

- Sunday School/Other Religious Activity: 47%
- Girl/Boy Scouts: 38%
- Little League/Sports Team: 37%
- Mentoring: 31%
- Community Recreation Program: 26%
- Academic Tutoring: 21%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Adults Who Mentor Are Likely to Be Involved in Volunteer Activities with Children

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Who Is Likely to Mentor?

- **College-Educated**: 32% Mentor, 20% Never Mentored
- **Family Income Above $35,000**: 44% Mentor, 31% Never Mentored
- **Had Mentor as a Child**: 69% Mentor, 42% Never Mentored

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Longer Relationships Are More Likely to Help with or Prevent Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Problems</th>
<th>Two or More Years</th>
<th>Up to Two Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negative Feelings About Self</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang Out with Wrong Crowd</td>
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<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trouble Out of School</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Smoking and Drugs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People

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Mentors Participate in a Variety of Activities with Youths They Mentor

- Teach Social Skills: 83%
- Stand up for Youth When in Trouble: 75%
- Provide Social, Cultural Experiences: 71%
- Expose to Own Work: 68%
- Career Introductions: 62%
- Teach Job-Related or Work Skills: 54%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Mentoring Relationships Work Best with a Wide Variety of Activities

PERCENT WHO HELPED WITH OR PREVENTED ALL IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Informal Mentoring Relationships Are Most Prevalent

- Informal Mentor: 83%
- Formal Mentor: 17%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Sponsors of Formal Mentoring Programs

- Church: 31%
- School, College, or University: 33%
- Private Business: 10%
- Government Agency: 16%
- Private Non-Profit Organization: 3%
- Community and Other: 7%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Mentors’ Views of Skills and Personality Traits of a Good Mentor

- Understanding & Patience: 22%
- Good Listener and Available to Mentee: 22%
- Caring and Kind Person: 14%
- Well-Educated, Accomplished, Employed: 13%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People
Both Mentors and Mentees Are Committed to the Relationship

- Mentor Hardly Ever or Never Cancels: 77%
- Mentee Hardly Ever or Never Cancels: 73%
- Spend at Least 11 Hours per Month Together: 48%

Source: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Adults Mentoring Young People