

Annual Evaluation Report

Buffalo Police Athletic League

April 2023

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Executive Summary

The Police Athletic League of Buffalo (Buffalo PAL) has been in operation since the 1950s, providing Buffalo youth with enriching, recreational program activities designed to promote their development into successful adults. The goals of Buffalo PAL are:

- 1 Youth lead active, healthy lifestyles where they regularly participate in physical activity.**
- 2 Youth learn life skills (e.g., safety, wellness, and conflict resolution).**
- 3 Youth have confidence in their abilities and are actively engaged in their academic achievement.**
- 4 Youth begin to develop workforce development (e.g., job skills, build networks, and gain certifications).**

With funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, Buffalo PAL has been working with VIA since 2021 to refine data collection and review implementation data to prepare for a more robust program evaluation in 2023. They have made significant progress, but gaps in data quality remain.

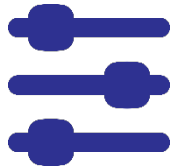
According to available data, in 2022, Buffalo PAL offered 19 different types of programs ranging from sports to cooking classes to giveaway events. Demographic data was available for **3,522** participants. And there were **60,006** program touchpoints reported. Families who completed surveys indicated that youth gained skills associated with Buffalo PAL goals.

Buffalo PAL programming reached youth throughout the City of Buffalo, and beyond. Almost half of those youth live in single-parent households. Nearly 2/3 are members of households classified as very low- or low-income. The largest concentration of families who provided data reside on the east and southeast sections of Buffalo, which are under-resourced areas.

In early 2023, Buffalo PAL has already put in place several changes to ensure data are collected and entered in a timely manner. VIA and Buffalo PAL will continue to work together to complete a more comprehensive evaluation in 2023.

Highlights in 2022

There were many program successes for Buffalo PAL in 2022, which are reflected in the survey responses received from families at various points throughout the year.



Buffalo PAL has defined their program goals for each program.

In 2022, Buffalo PAL revisited the goals of the program and began to make plans to address the recommendations offered in their 2021 report. By clearly defining the goals of each activity offered, they can better explain the impact of programming to funders and the community.



“I love the programs, [there’s] always something for children.”

Buffalo PAL offered 19 different types of programs ranging from sports to cooking classes to giveaway events. There were **60,006** program touchpoints as reported by activity attendance and audience member tracking.

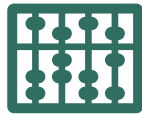


“My daughter was able to learn skills and training that I couldn't get at the [beginning] of the summer because of financial reasons.”

Buffalo PAL families provided overwhelmingly positive feedback about Buffalo PAL programming. They stated that youth gained leadership and social skills. They also noted that their youth were more active at home and had increased confidence in their academic skills.

Opportunities for 2023

In addition to refining systems to allow for the 2023 evaluation, opportunities for 2023 include:



Incorporate family and community engagement in an intentional way that promotes attendance and data tracking.

Buffalo PAL offers programming that engages the entire community, including youth, families, community members, and local police. Staff stated that they informally track other data points that are not currently reported to the board on a regular basis, including family engagement and Buffalo police attendance. These directly relate to Buffalo PAL goals and thus should be operationalized and included in future reporting.



“Easier website site enrollment. Please allow for one enrollment that allows parents to choose the various clinic dates all at once.”

Buffalo PAL families noted difficulties with using the registration form through SurveyMonkey because of programs having multiple forms. Some families also noted that a clearer program calendar on the website would help to ensure that they are aware of all the offerings available. Buffalo PAL staff are working on consolidating SurveyMonkey registrations to improve the data collection process.



Update formatting of feedback surveys to align with program goals.

Buffalo PAL refined goals for each of the programs that are offered into athletics, wellness, educational attainment, and workforce development. A survey respondent noted that they could not answer some of the questions on the survey about education and workforce development because their youth only participated in athletics. The format of the survey should be modified to allow families to only answer questions based on which activities they participated in.



Introduction

The Police Athletic League of Buffalo (Buffalo PAL) has been in operation since the 1950s, providing City of Buffalo youth with enriching, recreational program activities that promote their development into successful adults. The goals of the Buffalo PAL program are:

- 1 Youth lead active, healthy lifestyles where they regularly participate in physical activity.**
- 2 Youth learn life skills (e.g., safety, wellness, and conflict resolution).**
- 3 Youth have confidence in their abilities and are actively engaged in their academic achievement.**
- 4 Youth begin to develop workforce development (e.g., job skills, build networks, and gain certifications).**

To achieve these goals, Buffalo PAL offers a variety of enrichment, physical activity, and academic programs throughout the year. Buffalo PAL partners with community centers and schools to offer programming at convenient locations for participants in the greater Buffalo area. They also host events in local neighborhoods for opportunities to provide bike helmets and play equipment to children and families in the area. There were also drive-up giveaway events for families to receive free car seats. Some examples of the programs offered included:

- Sports Camps & Clinics
- Passport to the World of Cooking Class
- Literacy Star
- Youth Opportunity Connect.

With funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, Buffalo PAL has been working with VIA since 2021 to refine data collection and review implementation data to prepare for a more robust program evaluation in 2023. VIA presents key implementation data to the Buffalo PAL board quarterly to foster discussion about what is going well and what needs to improve; this presentation includes recommendations for systems improvement.

Much of years 1 and 2 (2021 and 2022) for this project have focused on continually refining legacy data systems and tracking procedures. Buffalo PAL relies on multiple funders with different and specific reporting requirements. For example, Buffalo PAL is required to ask all of the questions on the Client Characteristics Form to receive Community Development

Block Grant Program (CDBG). In response, systems have been built to accommodate cumbersome (and not always the most meaningful) data reporting over the years.

Buffalo PAL has been primarily tracking and reporting “touchpoints” (i.e., how many instances of programming were accessed) for many years. VIA and Buffalo PAL have worked together to restructure and track data in a way that allows for reporting of individual-level participation as well, which is more challenging but essential to do outcome evaluation.

Data for 2022, the focus of this report, are more comprehensive and accurate than in 2021 (which was also deeply impacted by COVID shutdowns). And, activities have been more clearly categorized by goal (see Table 1 below).

Table 1

Buffalo PAL Programming Aligned to Goals

Athletics & Active Lifestyles	Wellness & Social/Emotional Health	Educational Engagement	Workforce Development & Social Justice
Game Changers	Bike Helmets	Literacy Star	Ford Critical Conversations
NFL Flag Football	Car Seat Programs	Mayor Brown’s Reading Rules	Youth Opportunity Connect
PAL PLAYSTREETS	City of Buffalo/PAL Mentoring Program	School Partnerships	MSIP Workplace Development
Sports Camps & Clinics	Passport to the World of Cooking Class	Secure Detention Facility, Erie County	Lifeguard Certification
Sports Leagues	Summer Day Camp		
Sports Sampling Saturdays			

This report presents information about the evaluation approach and methods, findings, and conclusions and recommendations for the 2022 program year. Preliminary data from the various events are reported for the 2022 year, but as noted already, there is continued work needed to ensure accuracy.

In early 2023, Buffalo PAL has already put in place several changes to ensure data are collected and entered in a timely manner. VIA and Buffalo PAL will continue to work together to complete a more comprehensive evaluation in 2023.



Evaluation Approach & Methodology

In early 2022, Buffalo PAL and VIA staff met to discuss the evaluation, data collection, and reporting plans for the upcoming year. VIA has over 25 years of experience providing evaluation services to clients and takes a Utilization-Focused Evaluation approach to the work. This utilization focus means VIA does not take data at face value and run a bunch of outcome analysis statistics. VIA works with clients to ensure data systems and reporting meet their many needs and are as accurate as possible. This is a challenge for organizations such as Buffalo PAL that have built systems around cumbersome funder reporting that was required to focus on reporting outputs (e.g., how many touchpoints, demographics) rather than outcomes (e.g., do youth feel empowered).

The data collection tools used in 2022 included:

- an online family registration form for participants and their family members,
- an online database for tracking activity-level attendance, and
- online participant and family feedback surveys.

Most data collection tools are hosted on Buffalo PAL's SurveyMonkey account. Buffalo PAL staff were trained on how to create registration forms when adding new offerings to the calendar. The feedback surveys were transferred to Buffalo PAL's SurveyMonkey account in summer 2022 to allow them to freely create collectors and update their program offering list. Buffalo PAL staff collected attendance from various programs and then entered the information into a VIA-developed Excel database that auto-calculated total program touchpoints by activity.

As described in the Program Touchpoints section of this report, there are no formal procedures at Community Centers for tracking attendance. At Community Centers, site staff (not Buffalo PAL staff) used client characteristic forms once to receive youth full names and then handwrote attendance lists each day. When Buffalo PAL administrative staff received the final attendance, it was difficult to decipher handwriting and at times only nicknames would be written on the attendance sheet. Thus, they were only able to count the total number of names listed instead of using the VIA attendance database to track youth-level attendance at Community Centers. The situation was similar for some community events (e.g., Bike Helmet giveaway).

Buffalo PAL staff collected the data and VIA analyzed and reported on it quarterly. Each time, gaps in data quality were noted and addressed.. VIA reported on data from the previous quarter at Board of Directors meetings in March, June, September, and December of 2022. This report presents data for the entire year.



Findings & Implications

This section includes program implementation and preliminary outcome information for Buffalo PAL programs in 2022, including participant demographics, program touchpoints, and survey feedback. Regarding survey feedback, although there were youth and family surveys created, there was only 1 survey response received from a youth so that feedback is not included in this report. There were 19 different program types offered in 2022: athletics, wellness/social-emotional development, academic engagement, and workforce development. We cannot provide a total youth served value due to missing registration data for certain events but instead provide the total number of youth for which participant demographic information was received.

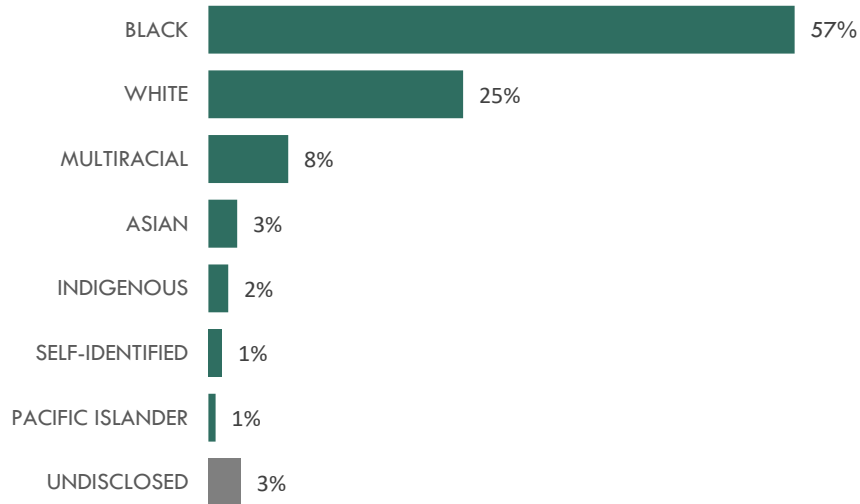
Participant Demographic Information

As a requirement by CDBG, Buffalo PAL collects client characteristic forms from all program participants as part of the registration process. The forms include contact information for guardians, household information, youth demographics, and youth school information. A copy of the most recent Client Characteristic Form is included in Appendix A. Although youth can participate in multiple activities over the course of the year, their demographic information is only included once in this section.

Preliminary demographic data for 2022 are reported below. Buffalo PAL staff noted that they were unable to collect complete client characteristics forms for some of their popular events like Bike Helmets due to the fast pace of the single day registration and programming. Although registration questions were set as required in SurveyMonkey, there were several youths registered with incomplete or inaccurate demographic information. Demographic data are included for **3,522** participants between January and December 2022.

Figure 1

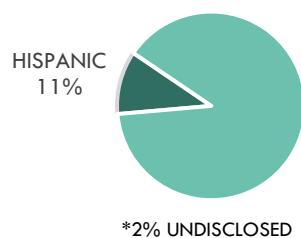
Racial Identity



Most participants identified as Black or African American, excluding those who identified as Multiracial and selected Black among their other racial identities (Figure 1). Self-identified races include Arabic, Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Somali. Some (less than 1%) self-identified their race as Hispanic in addition to their ethnicity. About 10% of participants identified their ethnicity as Hispanic (Figure 2).

Figure 2

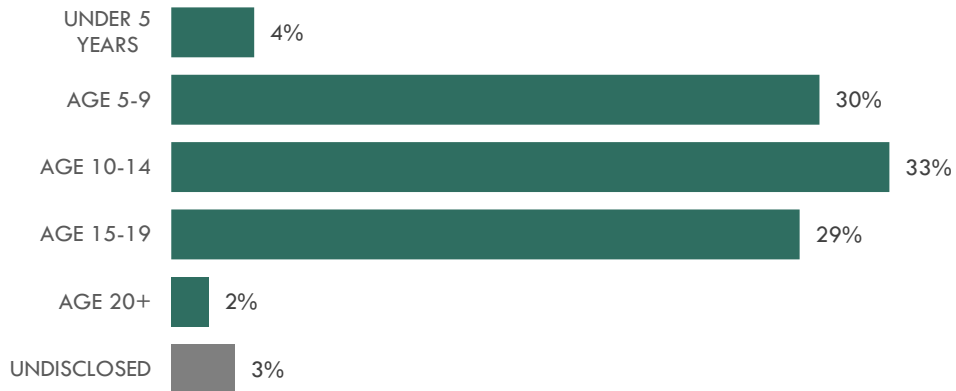
Ethnicity



Although most activities were designed for youth participation, Buffalo PAL served a range of ages from under 5 years old to 20+. The largest group of participants were between ages 10-14 years old (Figure 3). On the registration form, families were given a calendar to select each youth's date of birth. Some families (75, less than 1%) inadvertently selected the current year, which was re-coded under Undisclosed in the final demographic report.

Figure 3

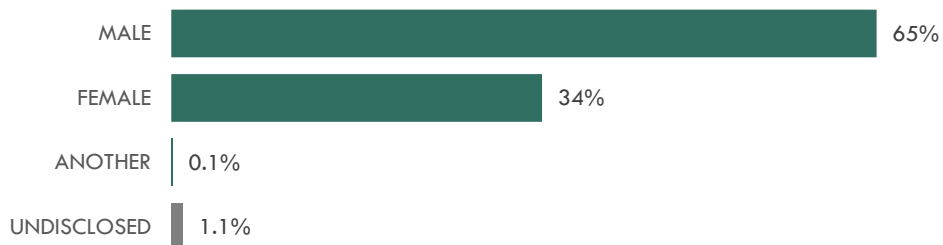
Age Groups



Most Buffalo PAL participants identified as male (Figure 4 below). While most programs are offered to all genders, there are more boys Basketball League teams. This likely contributes to the differences in participation.

Figure 4

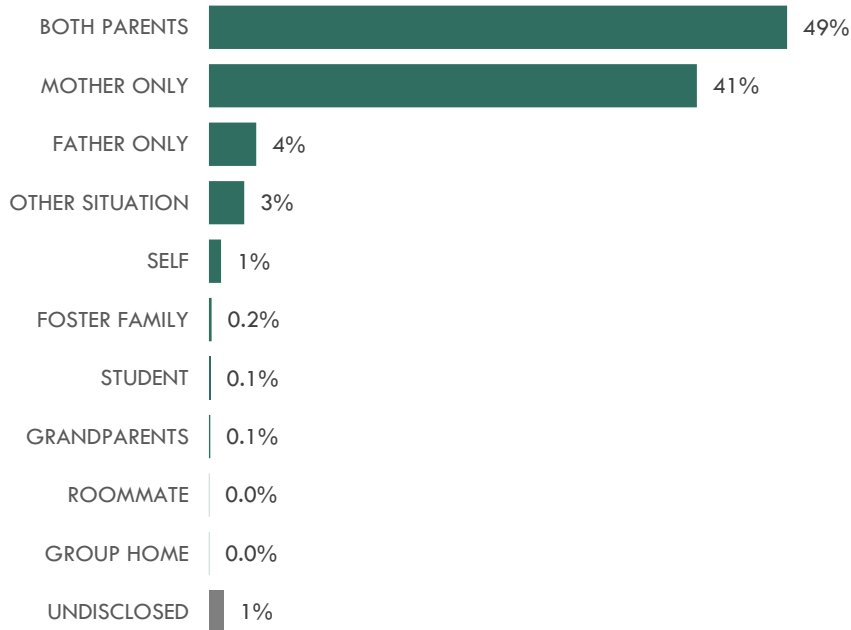
Gender



Buffalo PAL also collected household information when families completed registration. One question asked, “Who does this child live with?” to determine the household members associated with the participant. Almost all youth were noted as living either with both parents (49%, Figure 5 on the next page) or only their mother (41%).

Figure 5

Household Members



Families also noted their household size and then provided the household income. The paper version of the client characteristics form included a table (Table 2 on the next page) that is used to calculate the income level for households between 1 and 8 occupants.

The online registration form on SurveyMonkey was set up with logic where, when a family member stated their household size, they were prompted to select their income bracket based on that household.

This information was then used to calculate and assign an income level category for each family. Income level categories included: extremely low (XL), very low (VL), low to moderate (LI), and moderate (M).

Table 2

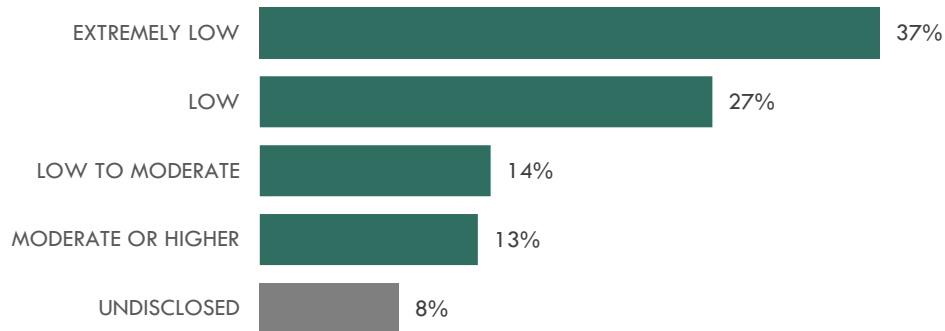
Income Level Breakdowns on Client Characteristic Form

Income Limits	1 Person Household	2 Person Household	3 Person Household	4 Person Household
30% median (XL)	<input type="radio"/> \$16,600 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$18,950 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$21,300 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$23,650 or less
50% median (VL)	<input type="radio"/> \$27,650 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$31,600 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$35,550 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$39,450 or less
80% median (LI)	<input type="radio"/> \$44,200 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$50,500 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$56,800 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$63,100 or less
81-100% median	<input type="radio"/> \$44,201 or more	<input type="radio"/> \$50,501 or more	<input type="radio"/> \$56,801 or more	<input type="radio"/> \$63,101 or more
Income Limits	5 Person Household	6 Person Household	7 Person Household	8 Person Household
30% median (XL)	<input type="radio"/> \$25,550 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$27,450 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$29,350 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$31,250 or less
50% median (VL)	<input type="radio"/> \$42,650 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$45,800 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$48,950 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$52,100 or less
80% median (LI)	<input type="radio"/> \$68,150 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$73,200 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$78,250 or less	<input type="radio"/> \$83,300 or less
81-100% median	<input type="radio"/> \$68,151 or more	<input type="radio"/> \$73,201 or more	<input type="radio"/> \$78,251 or more	<input type="radio"/> \$83,301 or more

Because the moderate-income bracket was described as “or more” in the client characteristic form, income levels above the median are included in as “moderate or higher” in Figure 6 below. Some day-of programs like Car Seats did not collect income information to streamline registration, thus this section of the demographic report has the most undisclosed information.

Figure 6

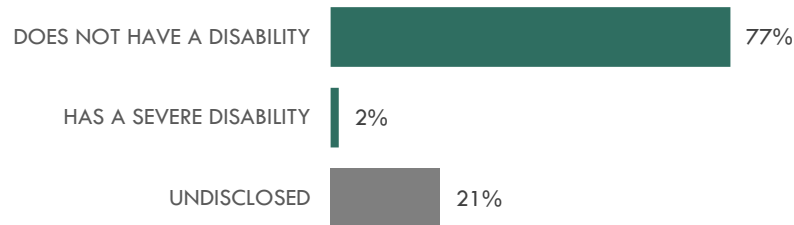
Income Levels



In registration for athletic programs, families were asked whether their youth had a severe disability. In addition to answering “yes” or “no”, they were asked to provide the name of the disability. As this question was not on all registration forms, there were many youth (21%, Figure 7 on next page) who did not disclose this information. Additionally, some families did not name the disability specifically although they responded “yes” so they are included in the 2% of youth with a severe disability.

Figure 7

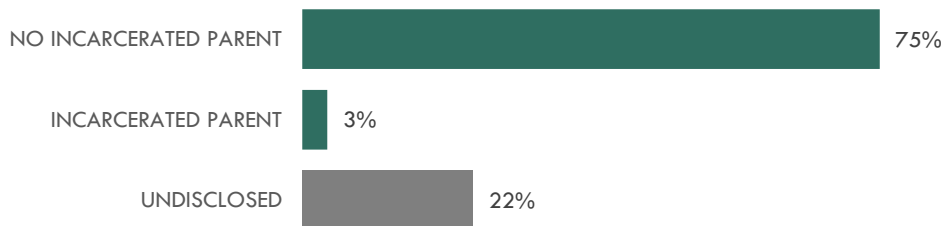
Severe Disability Status



There was an optional question on the registration form that asked whether youth had an incarcerated parent. Buffalo PAL stated that this question was for one of their other grantors but that the information is not used for most of their programs. Due to the optional nature of the question, there were a large percentage of youth (22%, Figure 8) who did not provide a response. Of those that answered, most (75%) did not have an incarcerated parent.

Figure 8

Incarcerated Parent



Program Reach

Buffalo PAL offers programming in various places around Buffalo to promote accessibility of their activities and expand program reach. They host events at community centers, schools, parks, and within neighborhoods to ensure that as many youth as possible can participate.

As part of the client characteristics form, Buffalo PAL staff collect participant addresses. This allows them to see what areas most of the youth are coming from as well as which districts may need additional programming. Although address information was required on the form, there were discrepancies in how much information was entered (e.g., only listing a house number instead of the full street name).

A map of participant addresses is included in Figure 9 below to show the range of locations from which youth attend Buffalo PAL programming. Larger circles represent a higher count of addresses within the zip code. Notably, 83% of participants that provided addresses were Buffalo residents. However, there were also a considerable number of participants that lived well outside of the Buffalo area.

Figure 9

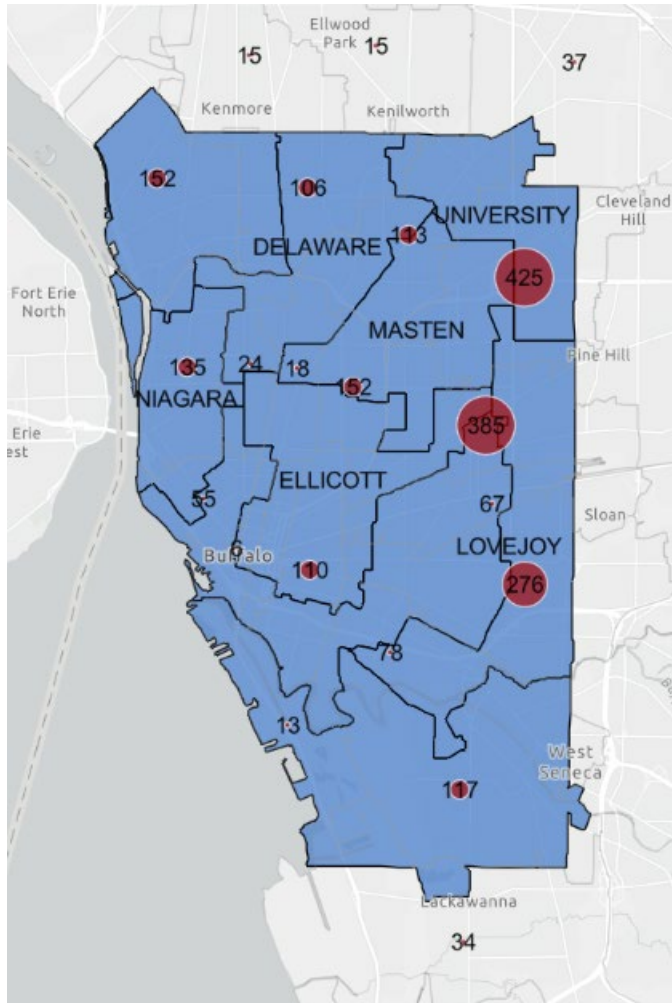
Map of Participant Addresses



Buffalo PAL board members are representatives from several Buffalo council districts. For this reason, at Board of Directors meetings, VIA staff provide heat maps of the residences of Buffalo PAL participants. Figure 10 below represents the count of addresses by zip code, separated by Buffalo council districts. Larger circles represent more addresses within the zip code and within the council district. The most frequent zip code was 14215 in the University Council District (425, 12%).

Figure 10

Heat Map of Participant Addresses by Zip Code



Program Touchpoints

The Police Athletic League of Buffalo offers several programs throughout the year with different funding sources and reporting requirements. Thus, their definition of youth served by programs differs from the traditional sense. Through partnership with VIA, Buffalo PAL defined participation as “program touchpoints” where session attendance at each activity is counted separately. For example, a youth who attended each of the 3 sessions for a 6-week Golf program would have 18 program touchpoints.

To capture the total program touchpoints for each activity, VIA created an attendance tracking database for Buffalo PAL administrative staff. Staff were able to list all the participants in each activity by location, division, and other differentiating factors. There were some activities where youth could participate with multiple teams, such as in Basketball Leagues. In those instances, the youth’s name would be entered in the database for each team. See Table 3 below for reference.

Table 3

Sample Attendance Database

Youth Name	Youth DOB	Activity Name	Division	# Days Attended
Youth 1	1/1/2015	Basketball	12U	18
Youth 1	1/1/2015	Basketball	14U	9
Youth 2	5/7/2008	Basketball	12U	18
Total Program Touchpoints				45

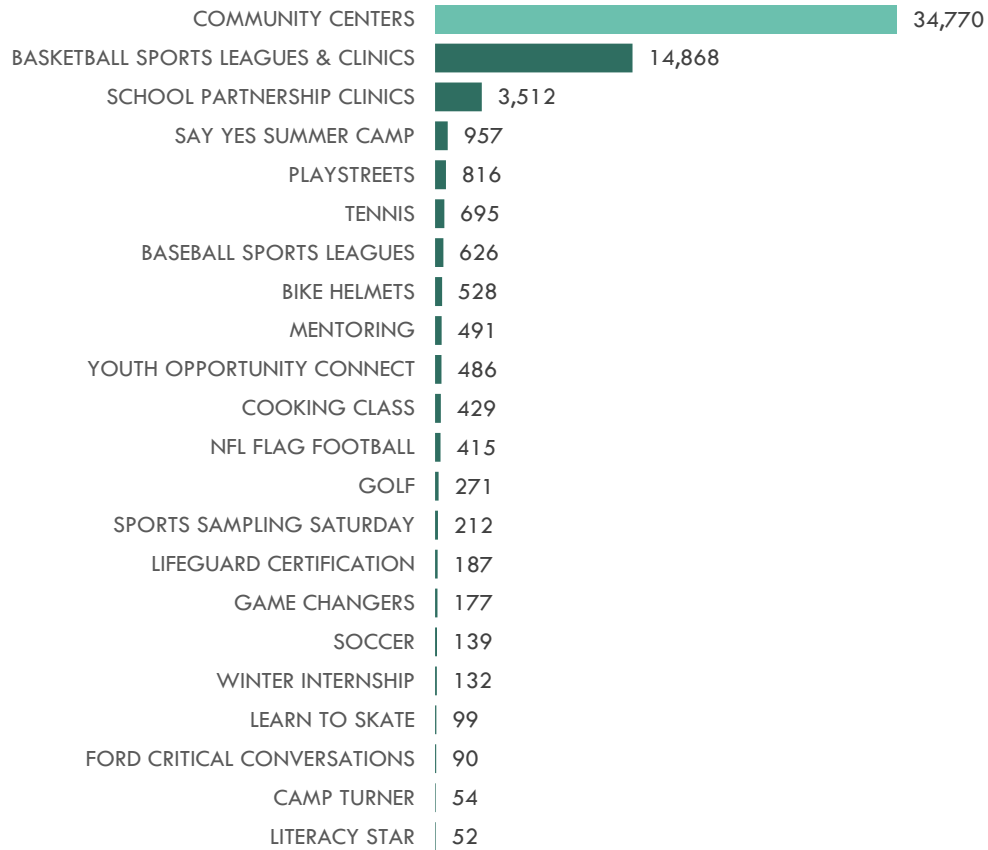
To calculate total program touchpoints, the evaluator summed the number of days attended by each youth. Due to the various types of programs offered, all physical activities were grouped by sport when applicable. In the above example, the total program touchpoints for Basketball would be 45 (Table 3).

Attendance was tracked by program site staff at each event. Buffalo PAL administrative staff received attendance from each of their programs and the entered data into the VIA attendance database. Community Center program touchpoints were reported as totals to the evaluator; Buffalo PAL staff noted that youth-level attendance was not uniformly tracked at community centers. As well for Community Centers, spectators that attended events were counted and provided to the evaluator as totals for community engagement.

Figure 11 on the next page provides a breakdown of program touchpoints by activity in 2022, totaling **60,006** program touchpoints. Community Center Clinics had the most program touchpoints, with many of the sites offering weekly programming throughout the year. Due to the difference in attendance data for that program, the bar in is slightly lighter than the others. Other highly attended programs include Basketball and School Partnership Clinics. Basketball had several leagues in which youth could participate and were offered in multi-week sessions. School Partnerships offered a variety of sports and occurred at partnering schools throughout the year.

Figure 11

Program Touchpoints by Activity



Most youth attended multiple Buffalo PAL programs and events. Among registered youth with individual level tracked attendance, 86% (3,030) participated in more than one event. **In fact, 3,023 youth participated in 22 or more Buffalo PAL programs during 2022.**

“[I like] the variety of programs and the various days and times they were offered!”

Program Survey Feedback

Buffalo PAL and VIA partnered to develop 2 new surveys in 2021: youth and family surveys. These surveys were designed to gauge program satisfaction and perceived program impact. Youth and families were able to take the survey multiple times throughout the year, at the conclusion of each season. Each time, they were given the option to select all the activities that they recently participated in during that season. The evaluator compiled all survey data to measure overall program satisfaction and perceived impact.

In 2022, 1 youth and 82 family surveys were completed, representing a small number of program participants and their families. Due to low response rate on the youth survey (1 response), only family feedback is included in this report. Similarly, there were only 82 responses to the family feedback survey so results may not be generalizable to all Buffalo PAL families. These results may not represent the true impact of the Buffalo PAL program but can be used to begin to understand patterns related to their goals.

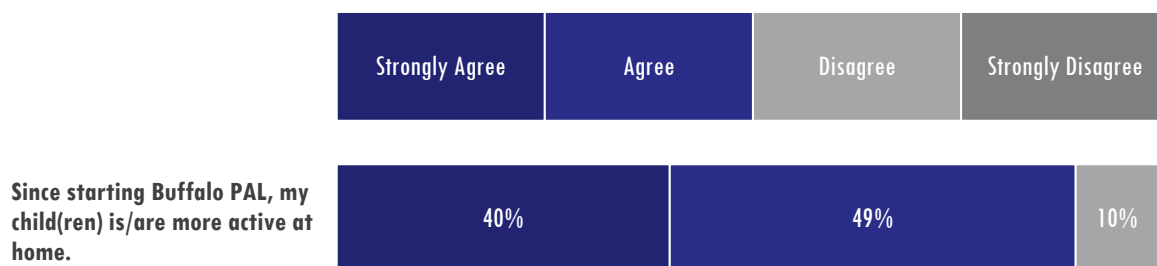
The complete family feedback survey report is included in Appendix B.

Buffalo PAL Goal: Athletics

One of the primary goals of Buffalo PAL is to promote healthy lifestyles in participating youth through offering a variety of athletic programs. Some of the programs include Game Changers, Basketball, and PLAYSTREETS. On the family and youth feedback surveys, there was one survey item related to how their activity changed at home since participating in Buffalo PAL.

Figure 12

Family Feedback, Active at Home



As noted in Figure 12 above, most families agreed that their youth were more active at home since participating in Buffalo PAL (89%).

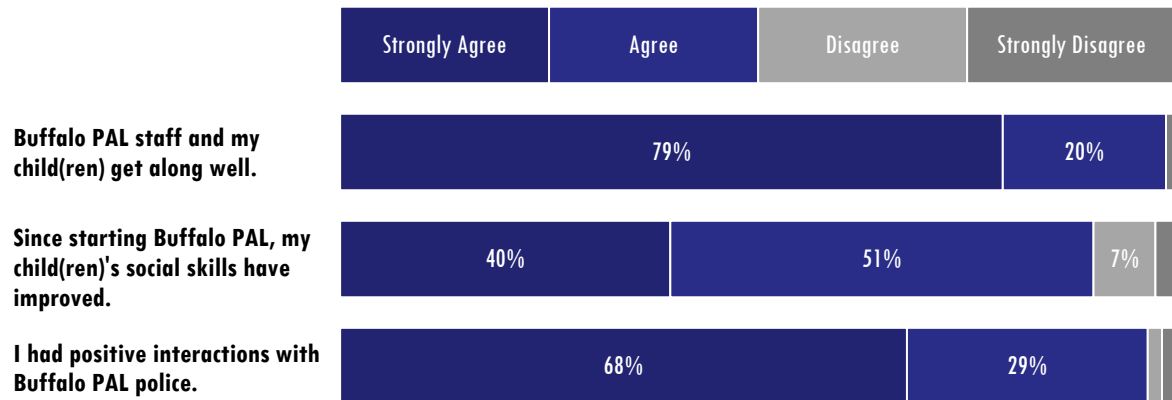
Buffalo PAL Goal: Wellness & Social-Emotional Development

Buffalo PAL offers a variety of programs to improve the wellness and social-emotional development of youth. There were several survey items related to this topic, including

getting along with PAL staff and improved social skills. Additionally, the youth survey asked whether they felt more confident in being on a team, although this is not reported due to the low response rate to the youth survey.

Figure 13

Family Feedback, Wellness & Social-Emotional Development



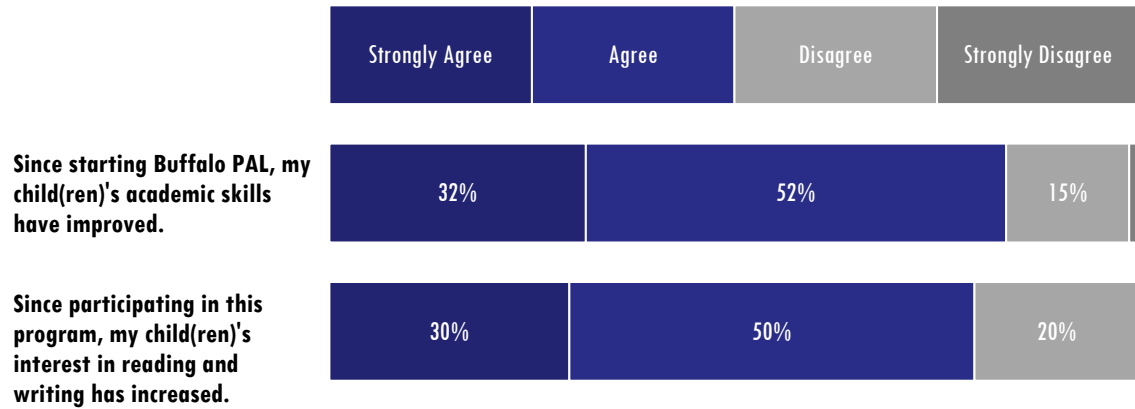
As noted in Figure 13, families generally felt that Buffalo PAL helped improve their youth's social skills and provided positive relationships with staff and Buffalo PAL police.

Buffalo PAL Goal: Educational Engagement

In addition to athletic programming, Buffalo PAL offers activities that promote educational engagement. One such program is Literacy Star, where youth receive assistance with completing their schoolwork in an out-of-school setting. Buffalo PAL families were asked about their youth's academic skill development and interest in reading and writing. These goals had lower agreement, but one respondent noted **"There are a lot of questions about [PAL] affecting academics, but my kids just did tennis and golf, and it didn't really relate."** Figure 14 below showed that less than 85% of families agreed that their youth's academic skills or interest in reading and writing improved.

Figure 14

Family Feedback, Educational Engagement

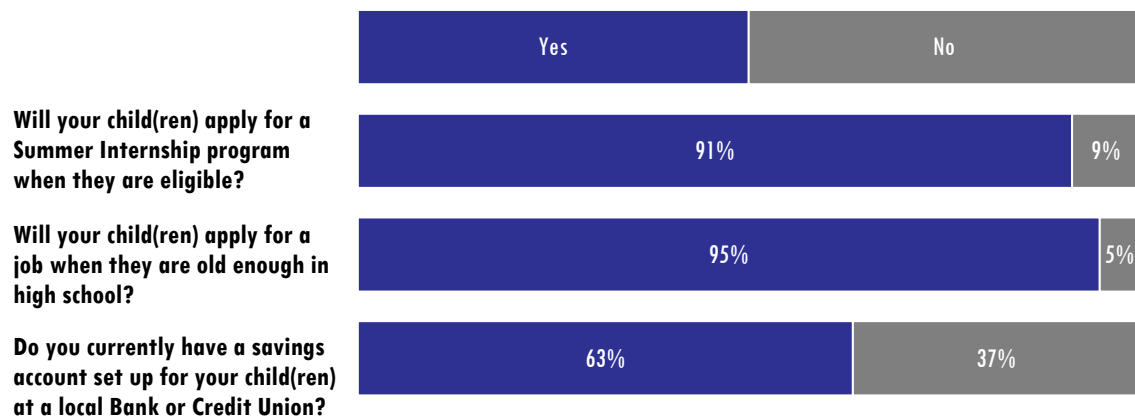


Buffalo PAL Goal: Workforce Development

There were fewer Buffalo PAL programs related to workforce development than athletics and wellness. Indeed, staff noted that programs like Winter Internship were newer offerings in 2022. Despite this, there were more survey items related to this goal in the family and youth surveys. This was partially due to specific reporting requirements for activities like Youth Opportunity Connect. More parents noted that the youth would apply for a Summer Internship or a job when appropriate (91% and 95%, respectively) than setup a savings account (63%; Figure 15).

Figure 15

Family Feedback, Workforce Development



Program Satisfaction

In addition to feedback about Buffalo PAL goals, staff also collected feedback on overall program satisfaction. Buffalo PAL families were given the opportunity to share open-ended responses about what they liked about the programs and what could be better. Figure 16 below is a summary of themes of the feedback provided.

Figure 16

Summary of Family Feedback

What Participants Liked	What Could Be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good/fun programs• Program staff.• Variety of programs.• Free/Low cost.• Convenient (times, length, locations).• Child learned a lot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different program length (longer or shorter).• Better communication with families.• Better registration & payment process.• More information and outreach about available programs.• Provide transportation.• Clearer activity/program schedules

Complete survey feedback of program satisfaction and goals is included in Appendix B.



Conclusions & Recommendations

Over the past two years, Buffalo PAL has made significant progress in data tracking, which should allow for a more accurate 2023 program evaluation. They have differentiated individual clients for demographic reports from program touchpoints for calculating activity-level participation. Buffalo PAL also has revisited the goals of the program. In 2023, Buffalo PAL will work with VIA to clearly define which programs will be included in the evaluation, audit data quality regularly, administer more surveys, and discuss progress.

Preliminary 2022 data show many bright spots. Buffalo PAL offered 19 different types of programs ranging from sports to cooking classes to giveaway events. Demographic data was available for 3,522 participants. There were 60,006 program touchpoints as reported by activity attendance and audience member tracking. These encompass youth participants at activities and their families who also choose to engage with the program (at Community Center activities). Many of those who attend at least one program were likely to attend multiple activities throughout the year.

Among the 82 family survey respondents, most noted that youth gained skills associated with Buffalo PAL goals. Due to the small sample size, though, results may not be representative of the true impact of Buffalo PAL. However, the high participation in activities and preliminary survey results appear to show that communities enjoy the program offerings.

Beyond the general recommendations already noted (e.g., monitor data quality, determine how to administer more surveys), the following more specific recommendations are provided to inform future program activities:

Incorporate family and community engagement in an intentional way that promotes attendance and data tracking.

Buffalo PAL offers programming that engages the entire community, including youth, families, community members, and local police. Staff stated that they informally track other data points that are not currently reported to the board on a regular basis, including family engagement and Buffalo police attendance. These directly relate to Buffalo PAL goals and thus should be operationalized and included in future reporting. Some examples of tracking would be to ask Buffalo PAL police to report their weekly hours by activity or to have parents sign in when they participate in programming.

Update Buffalo PAL registration forms in SurveyMonkey.

Buffalo PAL families noted difficulties with using the registration form through SurveyMonkey because of programs having multiple forms. One example given was Golf, which had a different registration for each week of the clinic. Buffalo PAL staff are working on consolidating SurveyMonkey registrations to improve the data collection process. Some families also noted that a clearer program calendar on the website would help to ensure

that they are aware of all the offerings available. As of this time of reporting, Buffalo PAL has made updates to their website to address the calendar issues.

Update formatting of feedback survey questions.

Buffalo PAL refined goals for each of the programs that are offered into athletics, wellness, educational attainment, and workforce development. A survey respondent noted that they could not answer some of the questions on the survey about education and workforce development because their youth only participated in athletics. The format of the survey should be modified to allow families to only answer questions based on which activities they participated in. An example would be to modify the survey sections to match Table 2 so that families are aware of the goals of each program by type.



Appendices

Appendix A: Client Characteristics Form

CLIENT CHARACTERISTIC FORM - YEAR 46

Public Services - Limited Clientele Activities

Staff Reviewed Initial _____

PARTICIPANTS MUST FILL AND COMPLETE ENTIRE FORM FOR ELIGIBILITY. THIS INFORMATION IS FOR RECORD KEEPING ONLY AND WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY SHARED.

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

1. Household Income: Please check **one** from the below based on your income and the number of members living in your household.

Income Limits	1 Person Household	2 Person Household	3 Person Household	4 Person Household
30% median (XL)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$16,600 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$18,950 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$21,300 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23,650 or less
50% median (VL)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27,650 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$31,600 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35,550 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39,450 or less
80% median (LI)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$44,200 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,500 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$56,800 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$63,100 or less
81-100% median	<input type="checkbox"/> \$44,201 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,501 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> \$56,801 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> \$63,101 or more
Income Limits	5 Person Household	6 Person Household	7 Person Household	8 Person Household
30% median (XL)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,550 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27,450 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$29,350 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$31,250 or less
50% median (VL)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$42,650 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45,800 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$48,950 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$52,100 or less
80% median (LI)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68,150 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$73,200 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$78,250 or less	<input type="checkbox"/> \$83,300 or less
81-100% median	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68,151 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> \$73,201 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> \$78,251 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> \$83,301 or more

2. Individual Age: Please check **one** from the below based on your (or the participant's) age.

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-15 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-24 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 62 and older
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-9 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-20 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-44 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 55-61 years	

3. Gender: Please check **one** from the below based on the individual's gender

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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4. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity? Ethnicity and Race are different, please answer #5 as well:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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5. Please check **one** race from the below chart

<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian and Black or African American
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native and White
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native and Black or African American
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and White
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and Black or African American
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American and White	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Multi Racial
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian and White	

6. Do you (or the participant) have a severe disability?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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7. Are one or both of your parents currently incarcerated?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

8. Who do you (or the participant) live with?

<input type="checkbox"/> Both Parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Father Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Self	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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Certification (If participant is a youth, this form may be signed by a parent or guardian): *I acknowledge that this information as submitted above has been examined by me and is true and correct.*

Name or Initials: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH PARTICIPANT AND A PERMANENT FILE MUST BE KEPT FOR 7 YEARS FOR GOVERNMENT VERIFICATION. STAFF MUST VERIFY FORM IS COMPLETE IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED IN THE MONTHLY AND CAPER REPORTS

Appendix B: Annual Family Survey Report, 2022

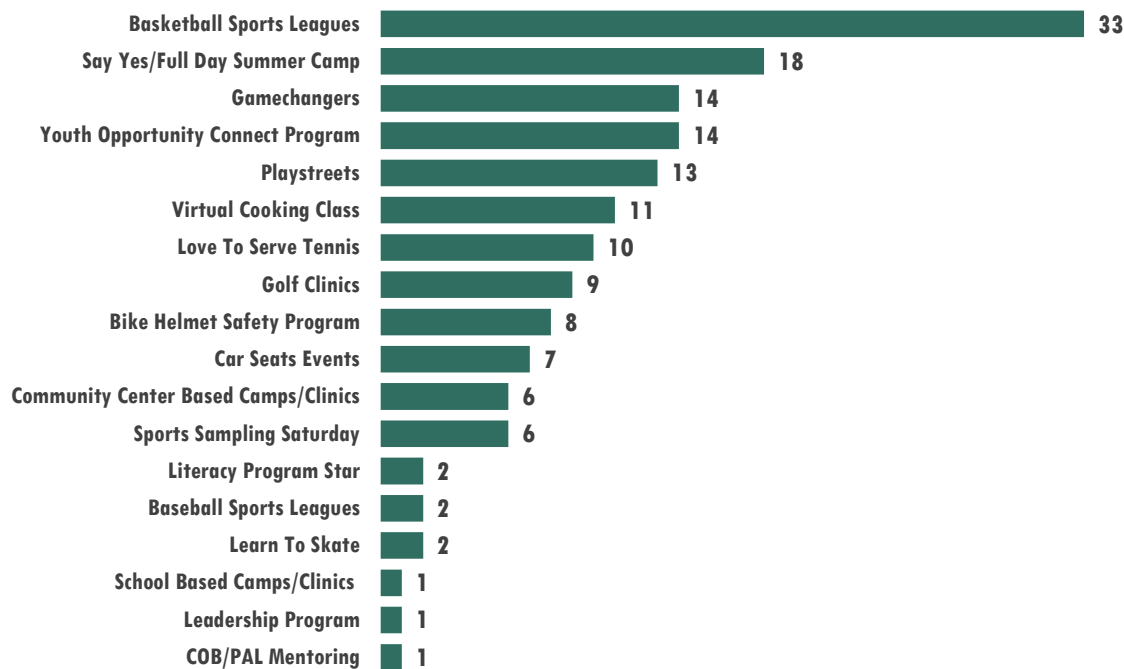
Buffalo PAL Cumulative Family Survey Report 2022



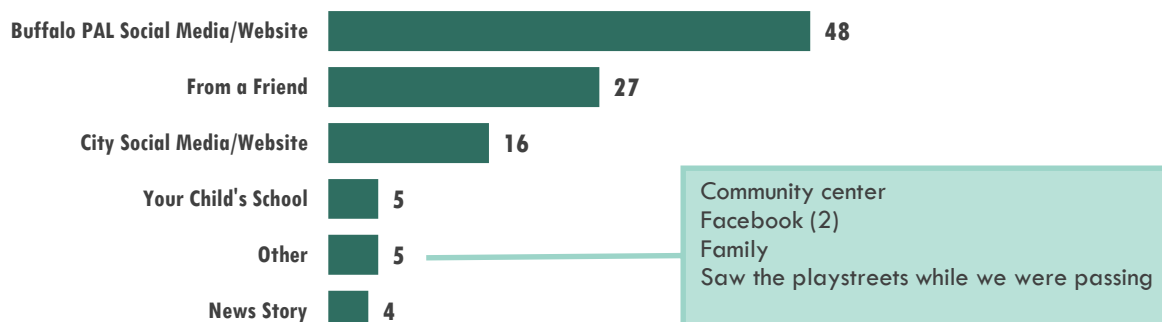
Number of Responses: 82

This report covers all of the survey responses received since the start of the year. Respondents are able to select any and all activities that their youth have participated in recently and are able to take the survey multiple times through the year.

In what PAL activities did respondents' youth participate?

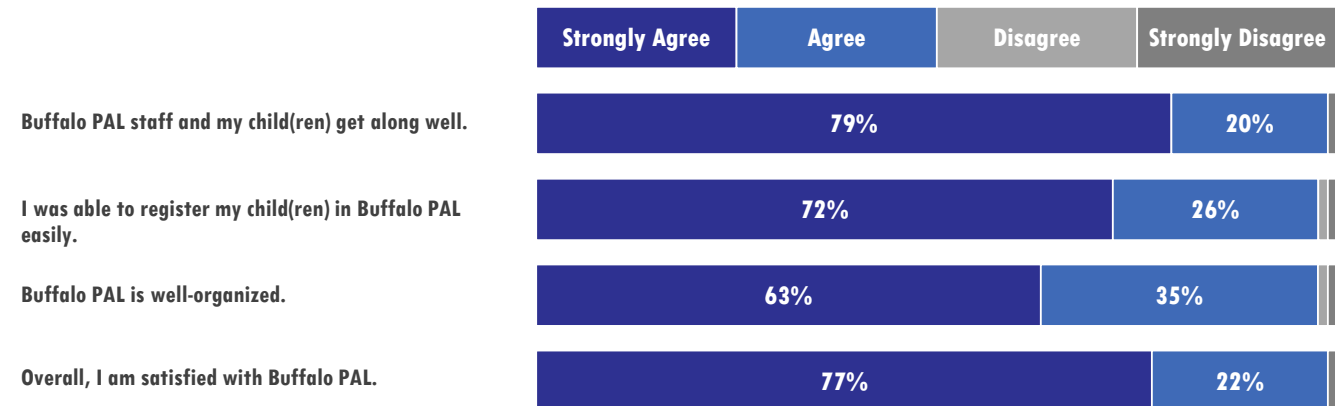


How did families hear about PAL?



What impact did PAL programming have on family respondents?

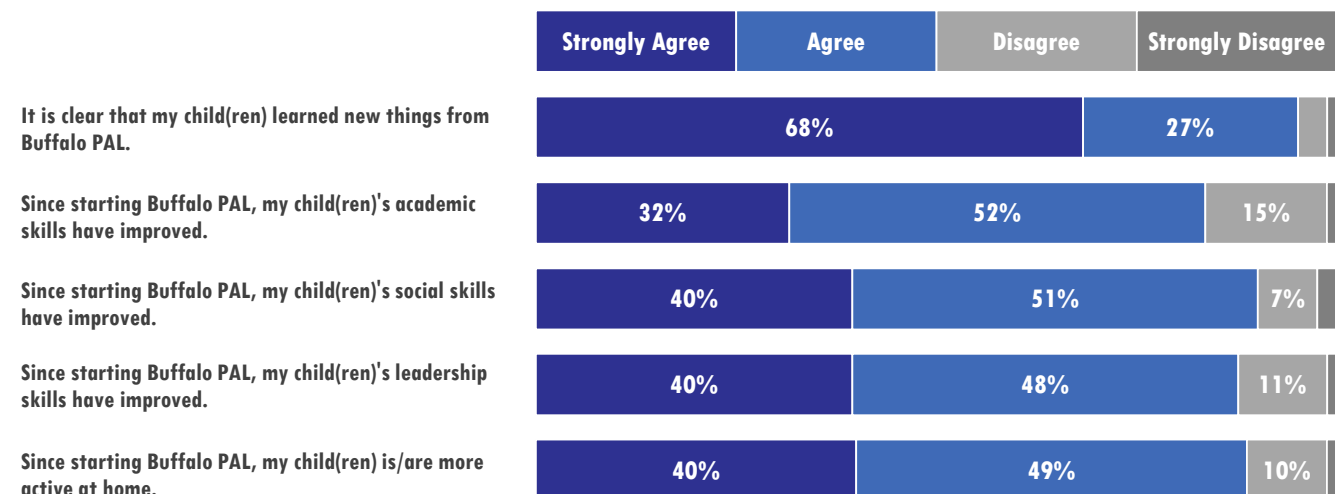
Overall Satisfaction with PAL



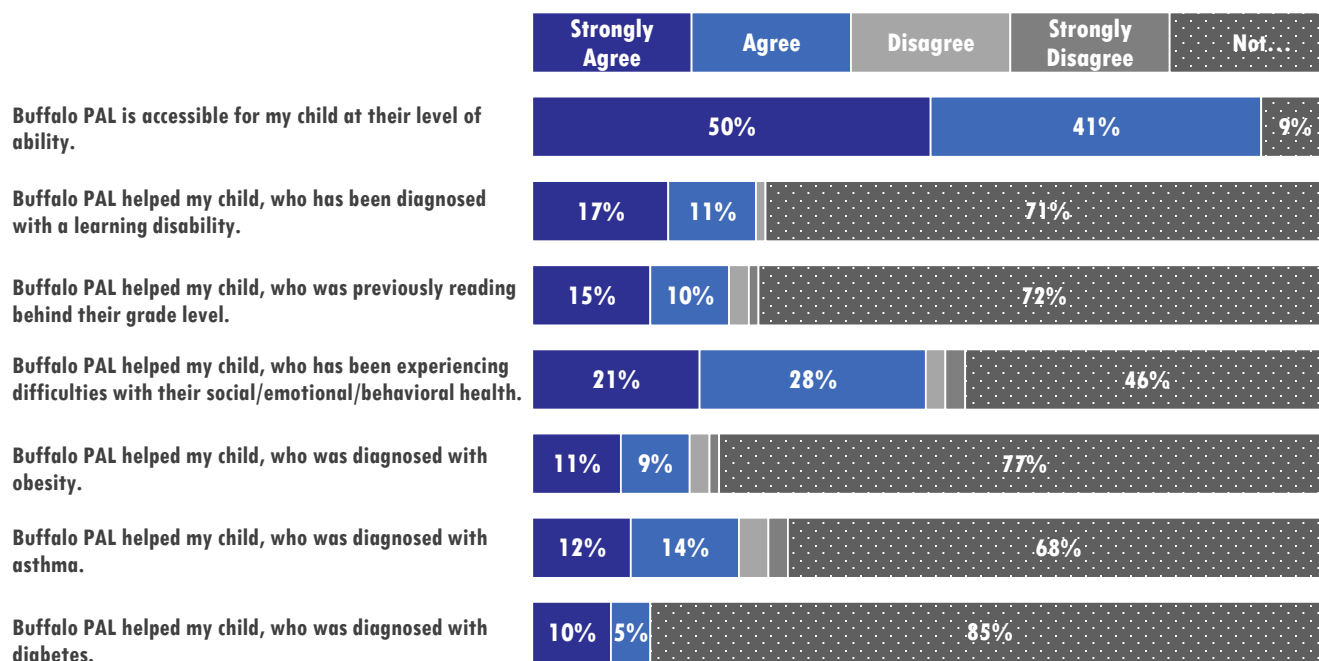
The entire survey was optional, thus families could skip any questions that they preferred not to answer. This question had a lower response rate than other sections (number of responses=59).



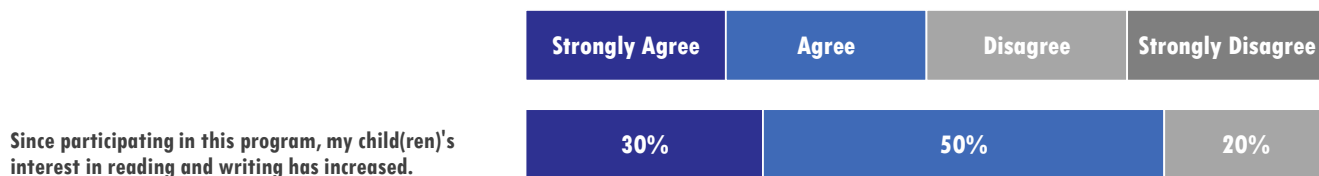
Youth Physical and Academic Skill-Building



PAL & Accessibility



The following questions were added later in the survey administration and so not all respondents had the opportunity to respond to these questions (number of responses=60).



98% would enroll their children in the program again



98% of their children will apply for a summer internship



98% of their children would apply for a job in high



98% of their children have a savings account

Qualitative Questions

Families had the opportunity to provide additional feedback about their experience with Buffalo PAL. Most common themes from qualitative responses are summarized below. Complete survey comments are included at the end of this report.

What did you like about Buffalo PAL?

Good/fun programs
Program staff
Variety of programs
Free/Low cost
Convenient (times, length, locations)
Child learned a lot

What could make Buffalo PAL better?

Different program length (longer or shorter)
Better communication with families
Better registration & payment process
More information and outreach about available programs
Provide transportation
Clearer activity/program schedules

Complete Qualitative Responses

What did you like about Buffalo PAL?

Activities all summer long

At no cost to my family, I was able to place both my children into a summer camp without offsetting my work schedule. The camp was very well organized and the communication from both camps were great.

Buffalo PAL offers a variety of programs at convenient times.

Collaboration with other community resources

Consistency and structure

Consisy

Everything (3)

everything very great program

Fun free programs, nice mentors, keeps kids active

fun, affordable, active

Good program for kids (2)

Great staff!

great way to get my child into activities in a very organized structure.

How much they encourage and push the children

I didn't

I enjoyed spending the summer with Ms.Chardnay she has been in my life for a couple of years now since I was in the K-6th program. I really appreciate everything she do she is one of a kind.

i enjoyed the interactions they had with police and their field trip to bisons game during summer camp.

I liked that there were 3 things happening on Saturdays during the winter season. And although my child could not attend every session when the child was there the child was able to participate from 11-4 PM

I love how my children. Learned to get along, and their confidence has enhanced significantly.

i love the activities we do we stay busy but have fun at the same time

I love the programs it's always something for children.

I loved how they interact with the children how they take them on trips my child was able to experience thing and places he's never seen or been before thanks again we'll be back next year

I really liked how involved the staff were. The staff has so much patience with the beginner's and that really helped with the confidence in my child.

Inclusion

It got kids out at the playground to play together. So often there aren't other kids there when we go.

It was a fun place

It was fun to go there on the weekend to get out energy.

It was very informative, My son walked away with alot of gems that I believe he will take with him on life. The financial literacy was his favorite.

It's a community vibe

It's great

It's a very inclusive program, far better than any Buffalo Public School program that continues to show discrimination against children with disabilities. Thank you PAL!

Keeps the kids active

Length of programming and diversity of sporting activities.

Low cost programs to keep my children active in the city during the summer. Positive interactions with older young people in a diverse environment.

Mentoring, gets the kids active, free or low cost

My child has been doing the tennis program for years and he simply loves it, the instructors, being outdoors, the games, the learning, etc. So much so that he want to be a counselor when he is of age.

My daughter was able to learn skills and training that I couldn't get at the being of the summer because of financial reasons. Happy I didn't disappoint her because I was able to find the Game Changer program. She and I loved it and she will attend next year!

My grandson enjoyed the different activities offered.

Nice coaches, keeps kids active, close to home

Nice, friendly helpful

Positive activities and interactions for youth

Price!!!! Sooo helpful!

Programs

Sports

Staff

That Buffalo PAL offers various programs for all ages.

That golf was offered. My son was very interested in learning golf.

That it is available to my child. Especially that there is no cost associated with it. The versatility of the programs and the desire to keep the children active and involved.

The ability to have access to many programs and the staff

The collaboration with other community organizations

The community of instructors are patient and available to the children as needed.

The convenience of the Saturday schedule and the fact it wasn't a fee attached.

The employees

The fun activities and trips

The hours and the fact that they help with summer homework packets.

The people helping

The summer program for tennis was 6 weeks and low/no cost. You could sign up for as little or as many as you wanted.

The variety of offerings that open exposure to the kids.

The variety of programs and the various days/times they were offered!

The various speakers from the community that came and talked to the children about different social and emotional tools and skills they could use to be better people.

The way the kids could interact and learn new things

They were hands-on and taught my son a lot

Time and program offerings

Very friendly staff and well organized in the park. Plenty of equipment for the children to use.

Very outgoing and structured for kids

Well organized

What I liked about pal is that everyone was able to get along

What could make Buffalo PAL better?

A better schedule. Sometimes the schedule was outdated.

A longer season

Actually assist students with summer homework packets not just the day yes curriculum. Each day when asked was advised the packet is worked on daily.. the last day of camp we take all her belongings only to find that 4/60 pages have been completed. When questioned, I was told they will only assist when there is time after the say yes curriculum is completed as well as the fact that the person who was supposed to complete the say yes curriculum with them has called out everyDay for 2weeks. So while she spent her summer be active and social... now she has less than a week to complete a packet required when school starts. I would also suggest more professional and caring camp counselors. I would sometimes sit at the park after signing my daughter out to let her finish playing. Coaches were constantly hurdled together talking away from the kids instead of being active. One day while they were hanging out talking, I witnessed a lil girl with a metal nail file in her back pocket, the kids were all playing tag, when she was about to be tagged she pulls the file, points it and says you know you no supposed to mess with me when I have my weapon! I had to get up and walk all the way over the the coaches, interrupt their convo to advise. They should have already been around paying attention. It only takes 1 sec for something very bad to Being able to register multiple kids at once on your website.

Better communication. Honestly very poor communication prior to camps.

Better staff

Better supervision during drop off and pick up.

Bring back some of the older kids as workers

Clearer communication on dates and registration

Continue to do what they are doing

Easier registration process. Also a bunch of the questions on the survey might benefit from a does not apply. There are a lot of questions about Paul affecting academics, but my kids just did tennis and golf, and it didn't really relate.

Easier website site enrollment. Please allow for one enrollment that allows parents to choose the various golf clinic dates all at once as opposed to registering 5 different times for the different golf clinics.

Everything is perfect

Having a longer summer

Hope they have programs like this every year

I believe transportation to or from would be a great addition.

I like it the way it is

I think a shorter day because 8-4 was really long for the summer maybe a 9-2 or 9-3

i think if they had a schedule of things the first day of camp that wouldve been more helpful. Communication between parent and child at summer camp also could be improved. Some kids dont listen and misbehave, and the kids who are listening deal with the same consequence. It wouldve been better if they could take the kids who were listening and behaving to another room instead of making them sit in silence.

I think that on Saturday during winter for things to flow much easier for children that want to do every sport there should be 15 minute lapse in between for winding down/mentoring moments/acknowledging youth that had a good workout/clean up.

This would be helpful for youth the want to do all sports. Also it will help coaches not lose part of the youth in the middle of teaching a skill. It was allowed earlier in the season but later parents were being asked to wait until the skill was finished or to choose one sport & learn to skate for that day.

Having basketball for 3 hours is ok but not for the younger ones that wanted to also do soccer for 2 hours. I think 1 1/2 hr - 2 hours for each would have been good and the learn to skate started earlier than all of them but was never super busy like soccer and basketball was. Starting the skating sessions at 10/11AM, then basketball 12:00 - 1:30/2:00 then soccer from 1:45/2:15 - 3:45/4:15 would have been good way for the youth that stay all day. I definitely see a need for youth to be recognized for their efforts during play AND after to encourage them to keep coming and for others to want to do better as well.

I think you guys are doing a wonderful job... only thing I would say is transportation

I wish there was an easily readable list on the website of all the available programs to register in. I am always wondering if there are more programs that my son could participate in

I'd really like to know more about what's offered and when so I can get my kids more involved.

Incentives for attendance so that numbers do not drop throughout the summer.

Just having an extra week

Marketing programs a little sooner so families can plan better.

Maybe add on site counseling

More accessible programs

More engagement with the parents beyond email or text.

more flag football :)

More intimate sessions

More learning

More programming that was longer in duration. 10-4p, instead of 10-2p. Also serve a healthy snack, eg. fruit, veg, and water, not processed snacks.

More programs for kids

More time 😊

more trips for all ages

More westside offerings

N/A (3)

Nothing (4)

Nothing it's amazing

Notification of cancelation of programming due to rain.

One hour

Overall buffalo pal did a fantastic job and the only thing I think maybe can be improved and beneficial would be extra weeks or more opportunities for the community with advanced notice or advertisement .

Overall, I'm very satisfied with what Buffalo PAL has offered.

Perhaps nutrition for youth classes.... Focus groups to help the children engage more with one another

Please let us know when programs are available for registration

Provide transportation

Registering process and confirmations on line are still a bit confusing.

That the staff could be friendlier and engage with the parents.

The registration/paying/email are not always easy or clear

Unsure