

FACING A PANDEMIC WHILE BLACK: **BLACK YOUTHS** ON COVID CHALLENGES AND POSTSECONDARY TRANSITIONS



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In Canada **94% of Black youths aspire to obtain university degrees** (compared with 82% of their non-Black peers) but only **60% believe it is attainable** for them to meet this goal (compared with 79% of their non-Black peers)

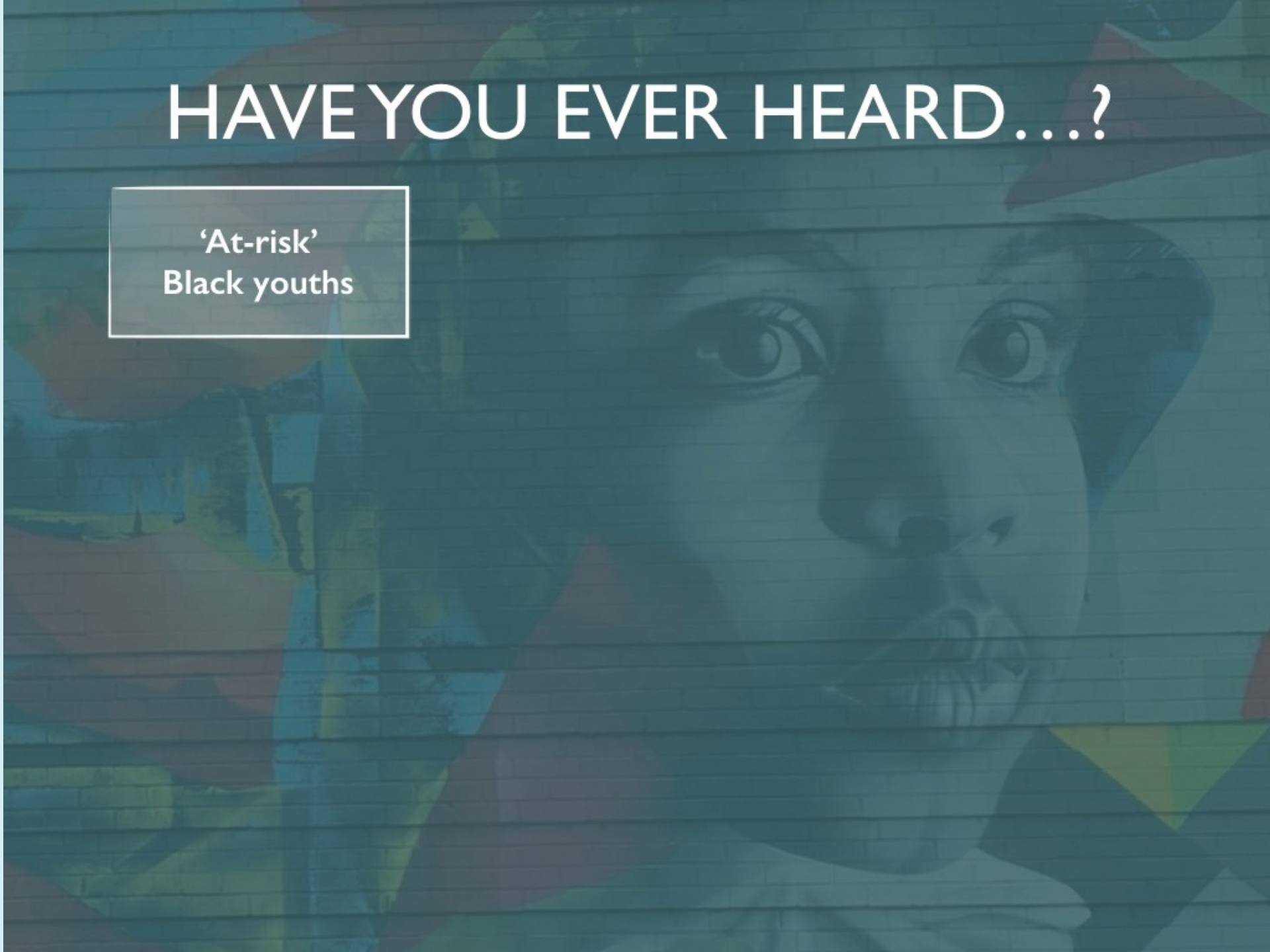
(Statistics Canada, 2020)

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD...?



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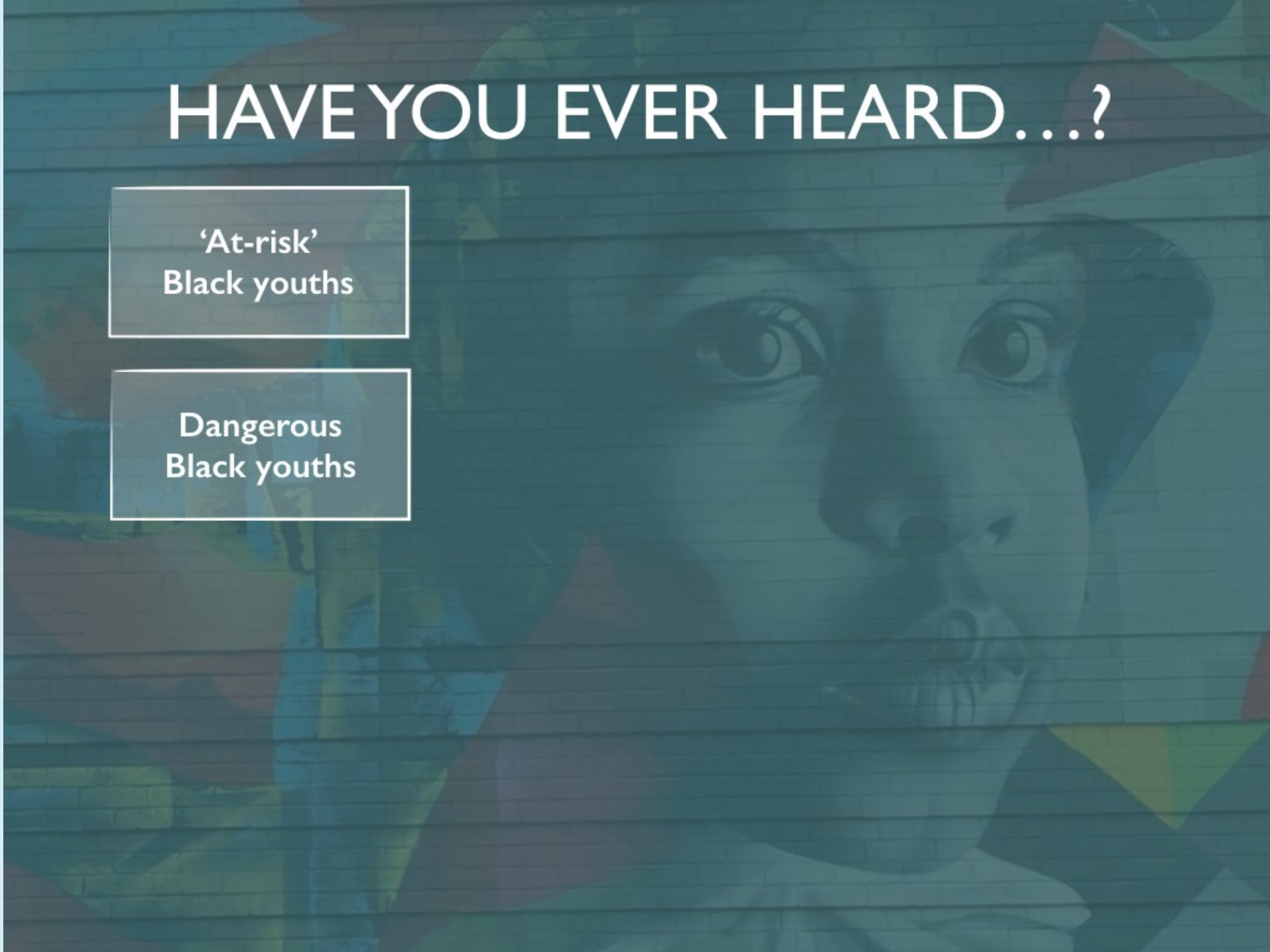
'At-risk'
Black youths



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD...?

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**Dangerous
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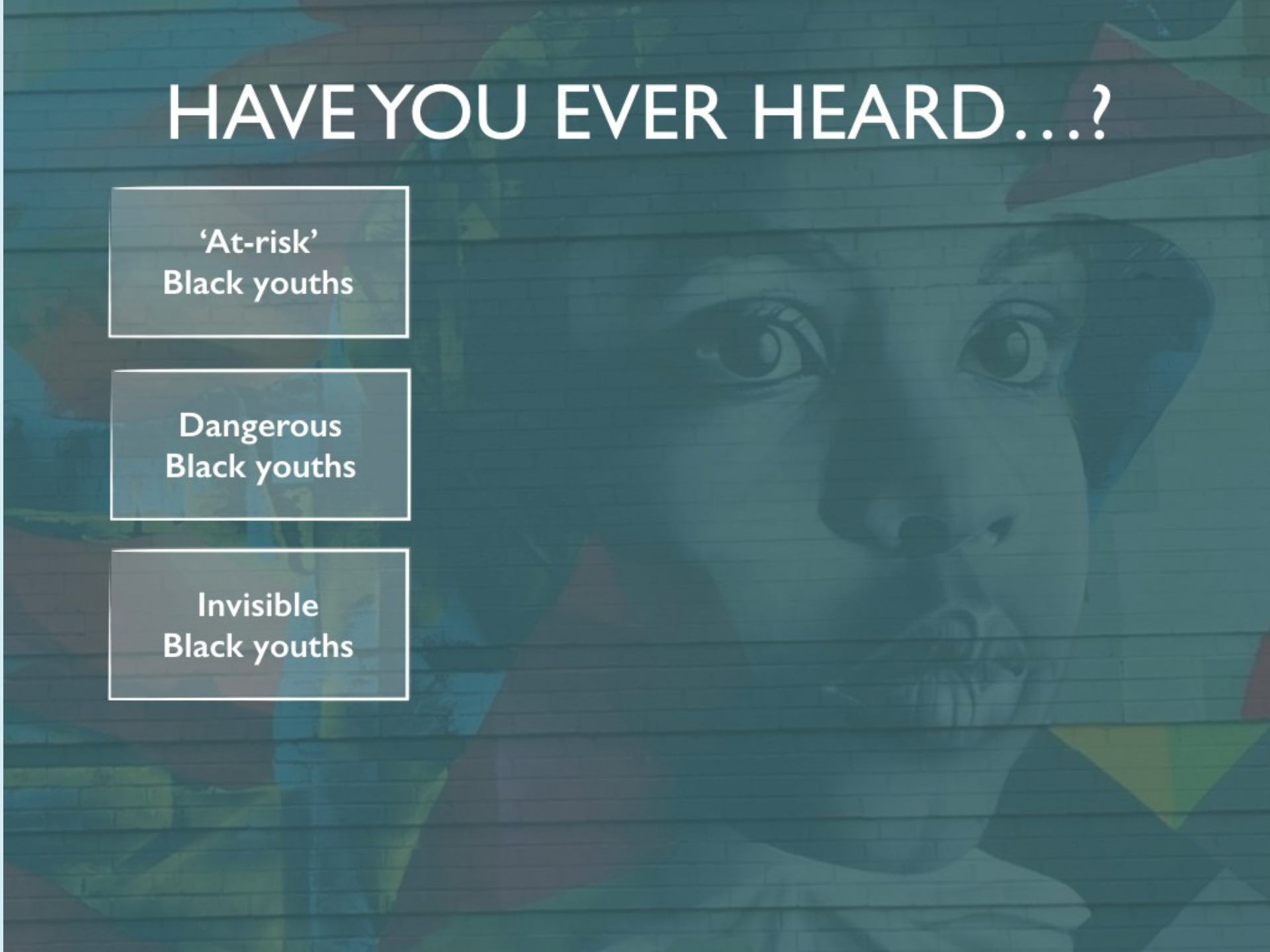


HAVE YOU EVER HEARD...?

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Monolith
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NARRATIVES ON BLACK YOUTH



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(Debrosse, Kapo, & Métayer, 2022)

NARRATIVES ON BLACK YOUTH

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Low expectations ignoring resilience (Spencer et al., 2006)
Overemphasizing merit suggests that people of colour are responsible for inequitable outcomes (Clycq et al., 2014)

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Black children seen as requiring more discipline
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Downplaying differences does not erase inequities and stigma (Rosenthal & Levy, 2010)

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Denying intersectional and complex experiences by arguing that there is an essence to Blackness
(Haslam, 200; James; 2012; Pauker et al., 2018)

(Debrosse, Kapo, & Métayer, 2022)



The **COVID-19** pandemic has exacerbated **existing challenges**, by eroding youths' mental health, and disproportionately impacting Black communities.



**What is the connection between
COVID-19 and postsecondary
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PARTNERSHIP STUDY



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138 Black Youths

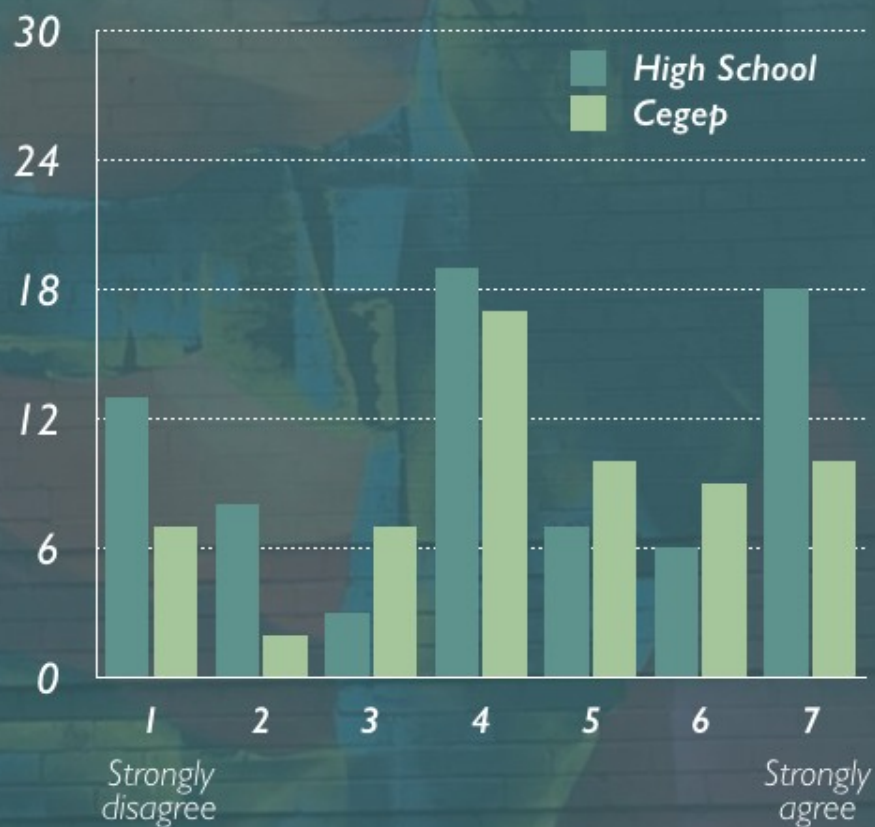
- 74 Jean Grou High School Seniors + 64 Marie-Victorin Cegep Students
- 47 boys, 80 girls, 1 genderqueer, 2 non-binary, 8 other identification
- $M = 18.47$ years-old
- 40% first-generation, 52% second-generation, 8% third-generation
- 58% RDP, 21% Montréal-Nord, 7% PAT

We surveyed them about...

- Their pandemic experiences
- Their aspirations
- Their motivation in school
- Their well-being

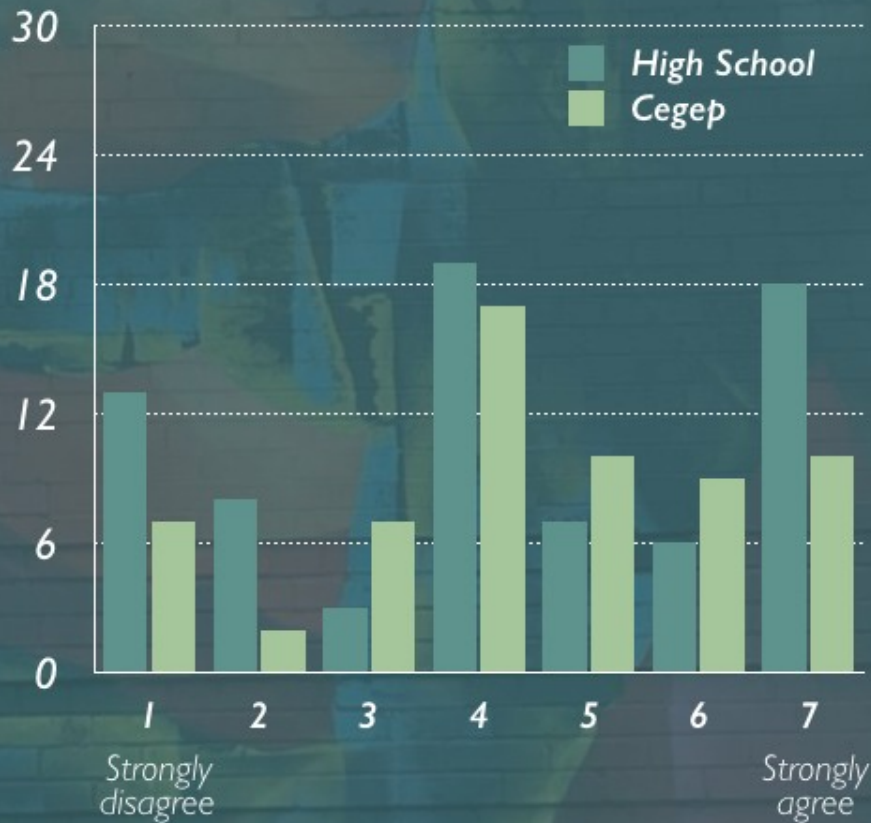
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The pandemic has influenced my motivation towards postsecondary education.



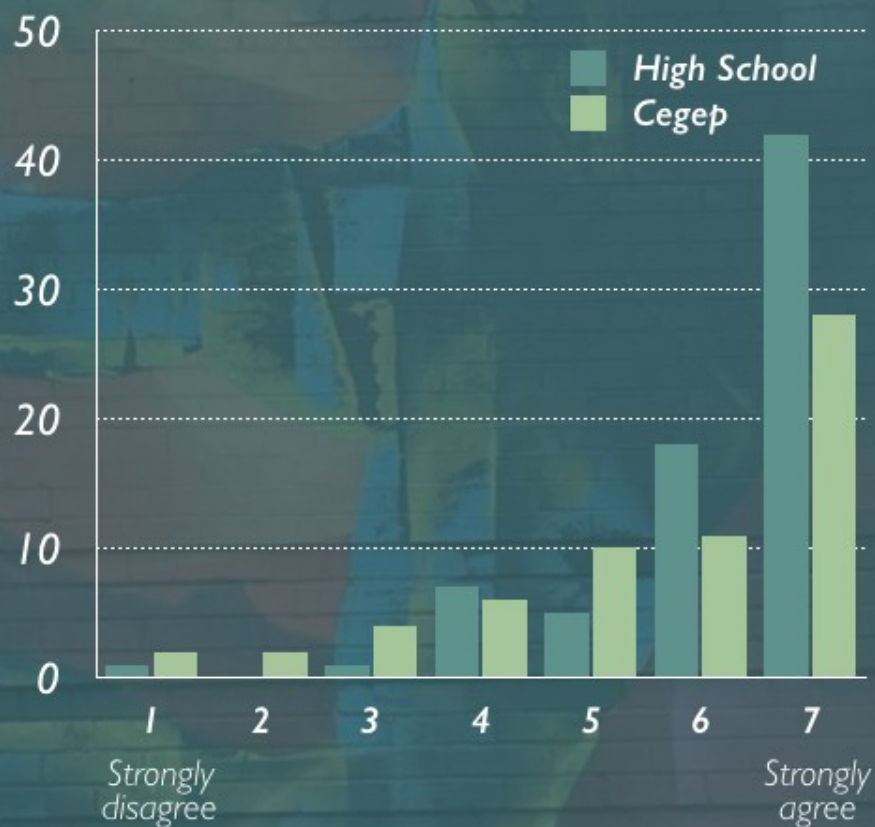
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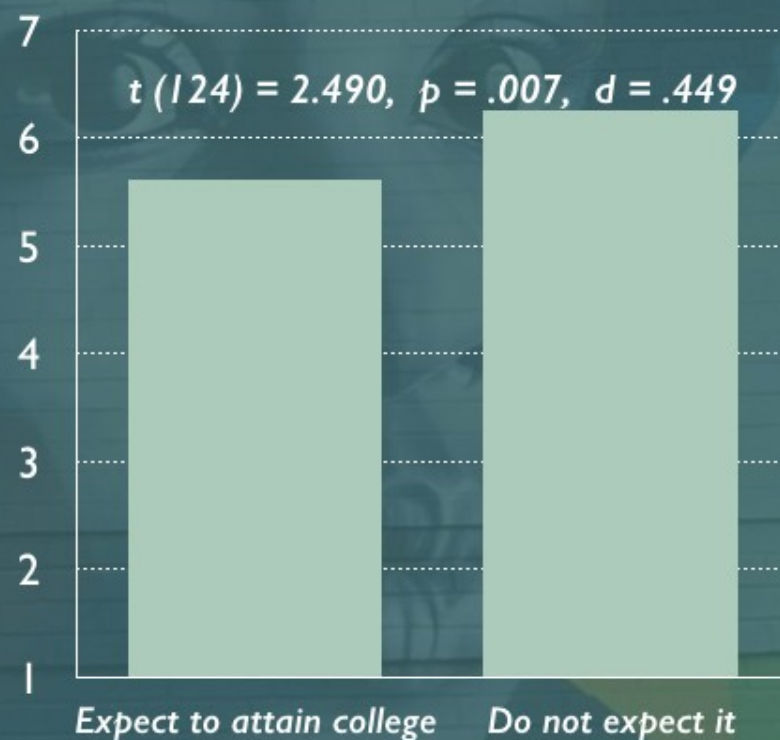
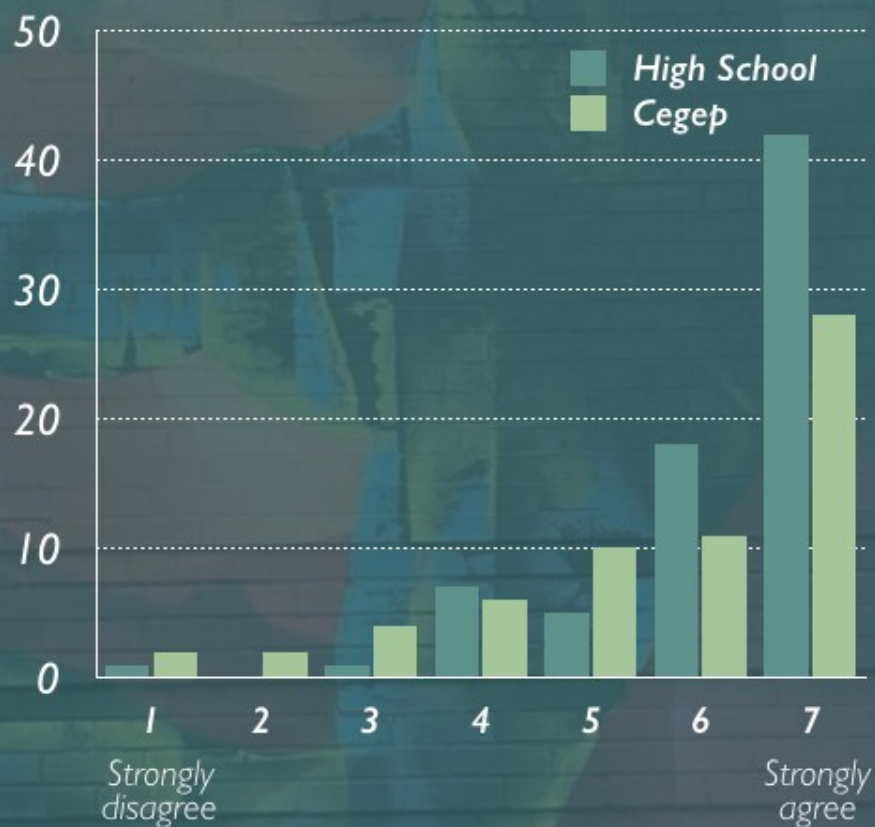
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During the pandemic, I have been able to connect easily to the internet.



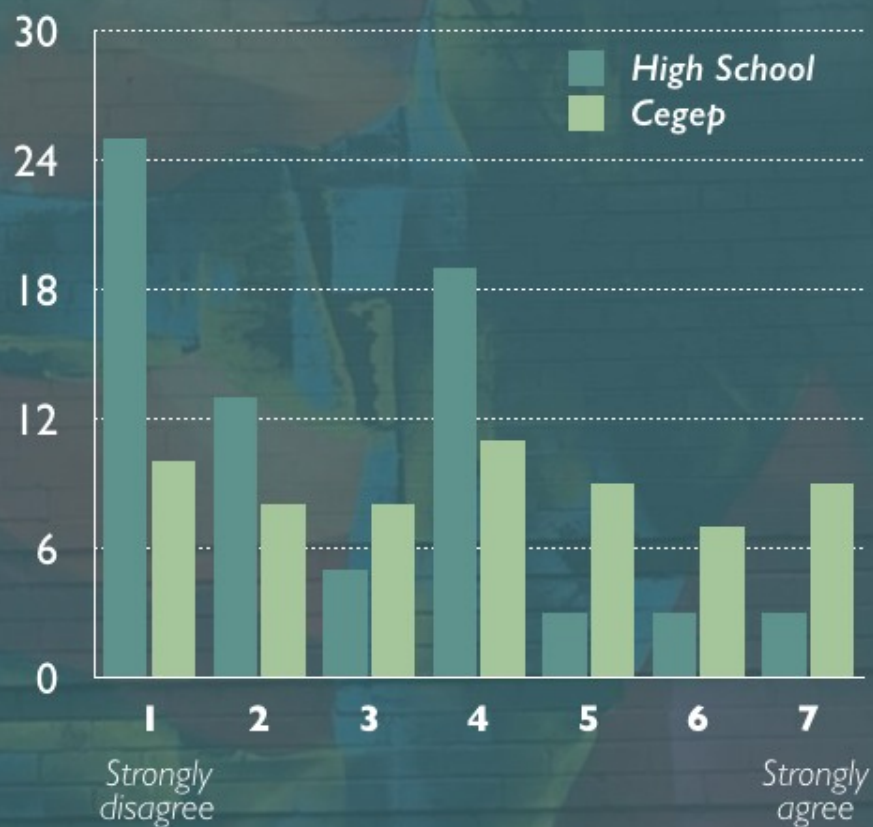
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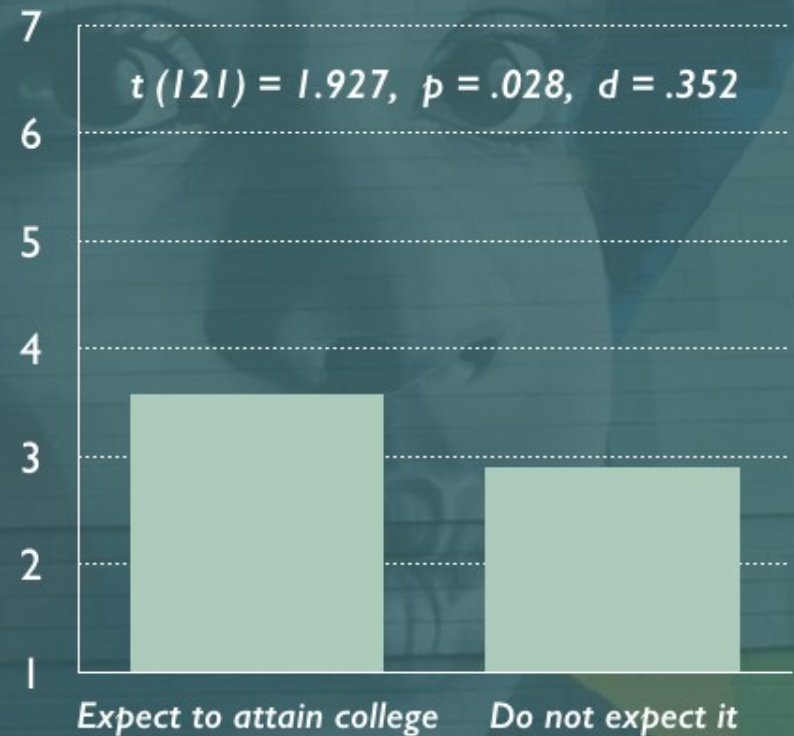
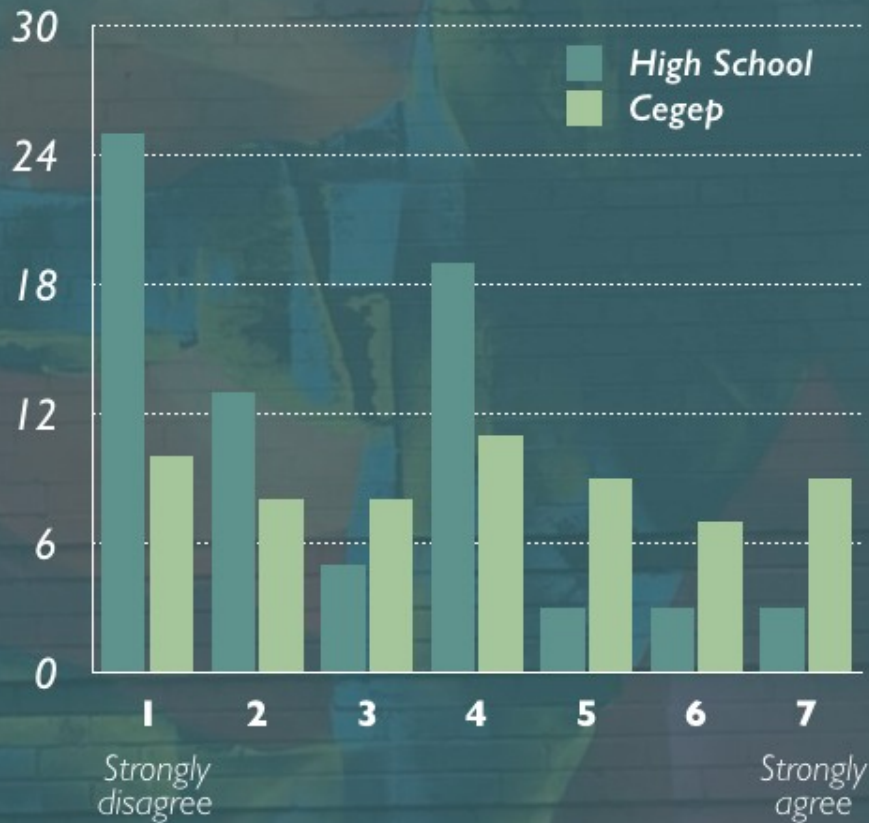
PARTNERSHIP STUDY

The pandemic has worsened the financial situation of my family.



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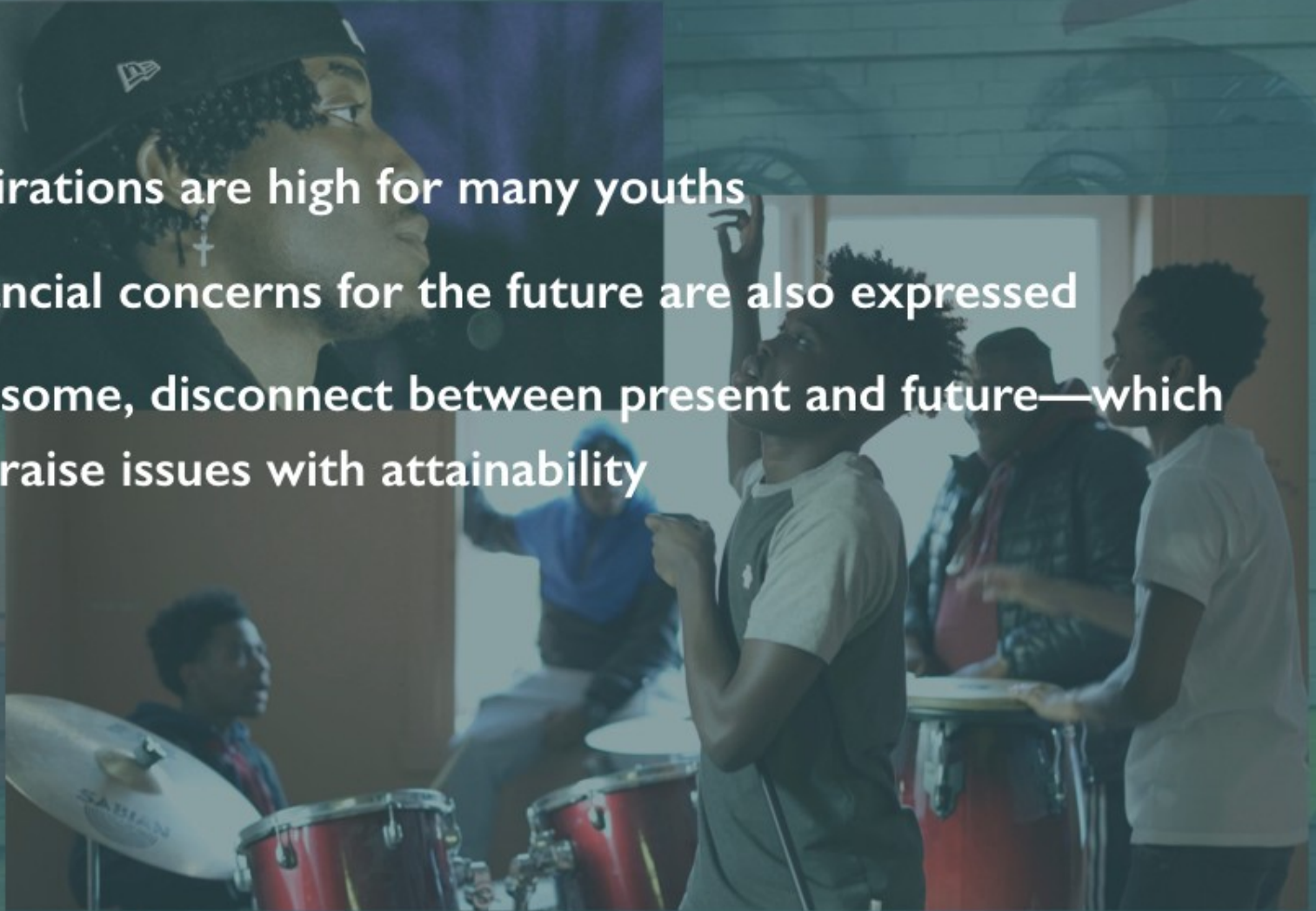


COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



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- Aspirations are high for many youths
- Financial concerns for the future are also expressed
- For some, disconnect between present and future—which can raise issues with attainability



THANK YOU!!



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