

Reporting Back and Reporting On

08

GUIDEBOOK
SECTION

Youth Engagement
in Health Research



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**WELLBEING
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Overview

Often, the last step in the engagement process of reporting back can be an after-thought, or even missed altogether! Reporting back on the outcomes of young people's involvement is important for continuing the journey of mutual trust and accountability.

Reporting back can be a one-off activity, but it is better practice for this to be an ongoing process. For example, a regular email update or closed online group post to keep young people who have been involved informed about how their contributions to health research are resulting in different outcomes.

It is also good to publicly communicate the outcomes of youth participation – and to let young people know that you've done this. This also helps to challenge negative stereotypes of young people and promote understanding of the benefits of engaging with young people in research.



Prepare

Consider creating an engagement, communications and publications plan at the outset of a project. Better still, co-create this with the young people you are working with.

Build in how you will communicate with and about youth engagement. This should be informed by the ideas and preferences of the young people you're working with.



Connect

What to report

You should aim to report back all and any activities, outputs and outcomes of the research you conduct. At the WH&Y, this has included:

- Changes to research questions, design or recruitment methods arising in response to young people's advice
- New research grants submitted
- Articles submitted and published
- Meetings with MPs to discuss and advocate for research findings
- New partnerships which have been developed as a result of the research
- Events, workshops and conferences where our research is presented (ideally with young people)
- Any public communication materials which have been generated
- Media mentions

How to report

Keeping young people in the loop on the outcomes of their involvement doesn't have to be complex. You might send out a regular email update to the group, have an agenda item on your regular meetings (if you are doing this), or simply post updates into a closed WhatsApp or Facebook group.

Closing the loop

At the completion of your research project, it is best practice to "close the loop" with all young people (and other stakeholders) involved in the outcomes of their involvement, regardless of when and how they were involved.

Some key steps to consider when closing the loop:

- Work with the young people involved to identify the best method of closing the loop (E.g. a short video, one-page infographic, thank you dinner/celebration, Zoom gathering)
- Communicate the process and status of different activities and actions which have been taken or are coming up
- Review your records of all the young people and other key stakeholders/researchers involved in the process to make sure that the reporting back is disseminated to everyone involved
- Consider inviting young people to either co-present or attend key events where the findings of the health research they were involved in are disseminated
- Highlight opportunities for ongoing involvement
- Collect one final round of feedback from young people about their overall experience of being involved in the research (E.g. an exit interview)



Acknowledging young people's input

When you report back on outcomes of health research projects that have involved young people, be sure to acknowledge how young people have contributed and what will be done with their work. You must seek permission from young people prior to doing this.

This could include:

- Young people being listed as co-authors on papers and articles
- Young people being named as contributors in research publications
- Young people's involvement along the research process being profiled in documentation such as social media, newsletters etc.

It is also good practice to thank and acknowledge young people directly for the specific contributions they have made (see the Package of Thanks section of the Guidebook).



Reflect

Applying the WH&Y framework: reflection questions

Mutual trust & accountability

How are you positioning yourself/your team as researchers together with young people, with equal expertise to contribute?

How will you communicate with young people throughout and at the end of a project?

How will you communicate with a wider audience about the role young people have played in your work and the difference this has made?

Equity & responsiveness

Have you planned from the outset when and how you will communicate with young people about how their contributions are informing your work?

How can your future research endeavours build greater opportunity for youth participation in research?

Diversity & inclusion

How are you identifying and working with the unique interests and skills the diverse young people you are engaging bring?

How can your communication with young people and about youth participation contribute to wider understandings and support for youth engagement in research?

What opportunities exist for young people to communicate with you about their participation?