

# Better Together

## Phase 2 Findings




### Project Goals & Overview

**Better Together** is a multiphase research project designed to **prevent early substance use** among Black youth exposed to household challenges. In Phase 2, we conducted focus groups with **young people, parents,** and **library staff** to assess the acceptability of a library-based substance use prevention intervention. This work is led by Dr. Terrinieka Powell and is funded by the Bloomberg American Health Initiative.

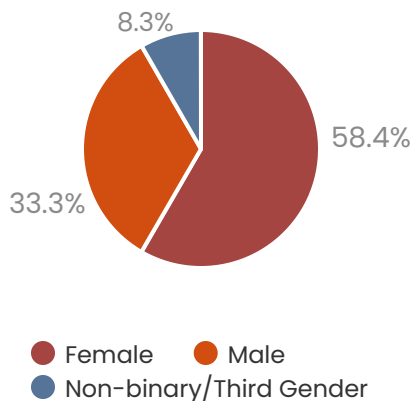
## FOCUS GROUPS DEMOGRAPHICS (N=24)

**Focus groups** were conducted with **9** young people, **6** parents and **9** library staff.

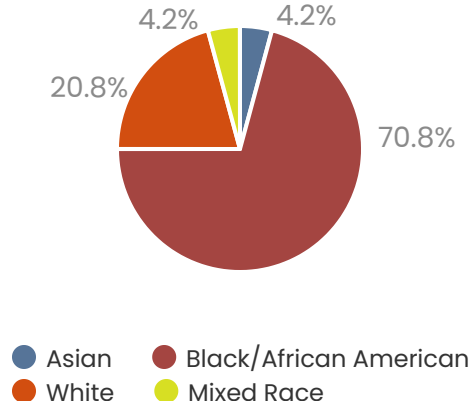
### Age Range

Young People		11-15
Parents		31-60
Library Staff		24-48

### Gender



### Race



## RESULTS

This study highlighted the following:

### Strengths-focused narrative

"I like how there's a sense of like they're not bad people. They're troubled people. They have their own trauma. They have their history."

### Positive coping strategies

"I like the idea of sensory objects to take out your emotions like maybe give them a little squeaky toy one...Something to take home."

### Age-appropriate messaging

"I love the framing of body, heart, and time. I think that's clear and relatable...It's something that I can hear a teen saying that and owning that."

### Interactive games

"I think the game of telephone would be really fun. I think they'll enjoy that."

### Next Steps

We are revising the **library-based intervention**, based on focus group feedback, to prevent early substance use among youth exposed to household challenges. We are partnering with Cleos Studios to **animate** the central stories. We will **partner with local and school libraries** to deliver the intervention to middle school students.