

# Promoting Community Belonging

## Identifying and Exploring Youth Programs and Organizations that Promote a Sense of Community Belonging

### Background and Purpose

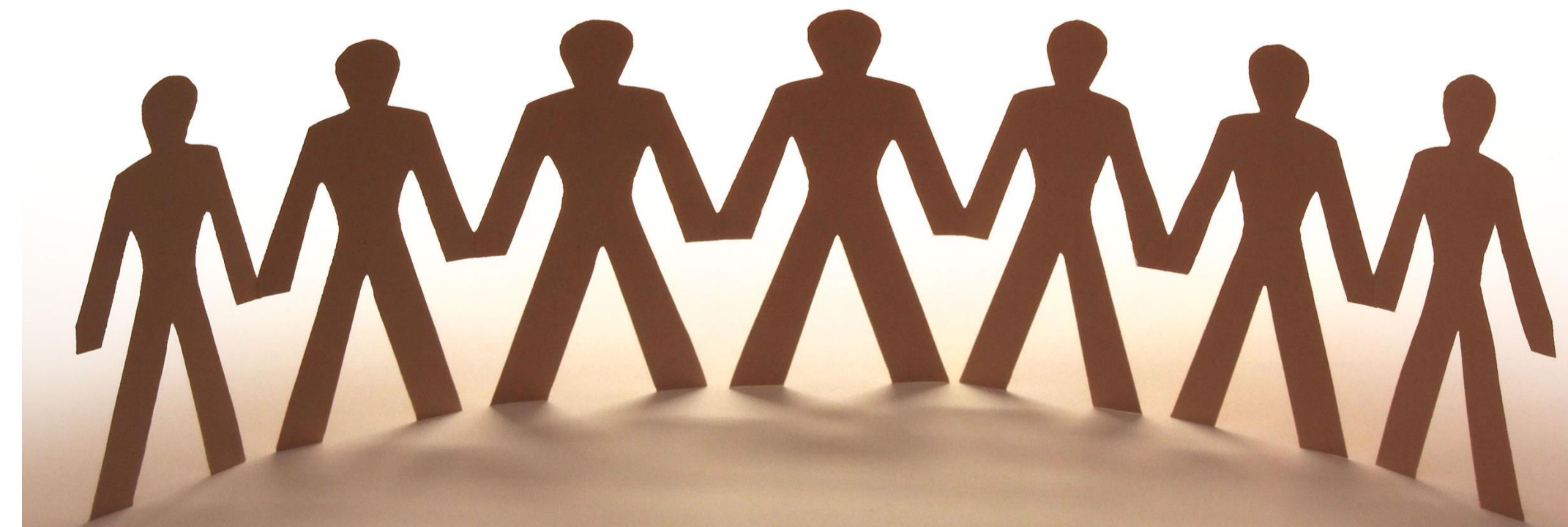
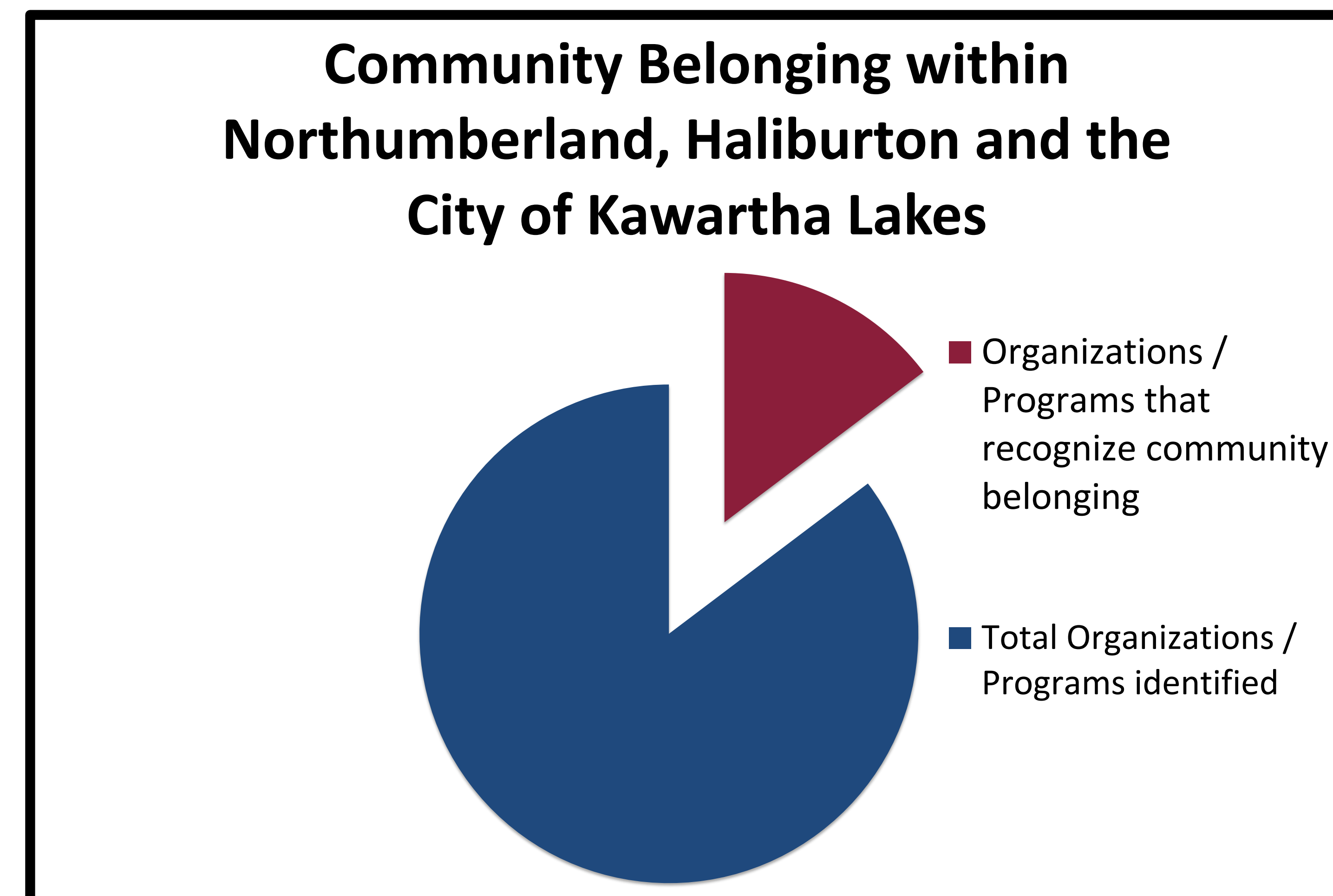
Previous research has suggested that having a positive sense of community belonging helps reduce youth's criminal involvement and can impact youth's development. The purpose of this project is to identify programs that promote or hold the potential to enhance community belonging for youth throughout the research areas.

### Significance

Findings will help courts offer alternative choices in youth diversion programs and court orders. The data will inform the Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Pine Ridge (HKPR) Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) of the range of programs available to further aid in preventing youths contact with the justice system. Results also hold potential to lead to the development of an ideal program for enhancing youth's sense of belonging.

### Methodology

- Collection of Population Characteristics
- Literature Review
- Environmental Scan
- Interviews



imgkid.com/sense-of-belonging-community

### Research Questions

1. What types of youth programs / organizations best promote community belonging?
2. Where are these types of programs / organizations located throughout Northumberland, Haliburton and the City of Kawartha Lakes?
3. How are these programs / organizations structured in terms of barriers and commonalities?

### Findings

- Wide range of indicators and program types that connect to community belonging
- Less than 15% of programs / organizations identified a focus of community belonging, however, a fair amount focus on indicators (34)
- Programs are not evenly distributed
- Most common barriers are accessibility and financially related
- Interview data suggests programs that don't specifically focus on community belonging still believe it to be an important consideration

### Recommendations

- Continue more extensive research on youth programs and community belonging
- Inform programs / organizations of the impacts community belonging can have on youth
- Make programs more aware of barriers that prevent youth from participation
- **Involve youth in future research!**

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