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TITLE
Integrating Youth Voice in Pediatric Community-Based Participatory Research

ABSTRACT
Often, underrepresented youth are not engaged in health research, including in CBPR. In this study examining awareness and perceptions regarding criminalization, legalization, and racialization of cannabis among Black, Indigenous, and Youth of Color (BIYOC), we aim to apply CBPR principles by partnering with the California School-Based Health Alliance (https://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/) and the Stanford Reach Lab Youth Action Board (YAB) (https://www.instagram.com/stanfordreachyab/?hl=en).

We will utilize mixed methods, both qualitative (focus groups) and quantitative (survey) data, using an explanatory sequential design with connected integration to answer the research question. Youth voice has been integrated into each stage of the research process, including the planning, implementation, analysis, and dissemination stages. Youth collaborated in the development of the research question, grant submission, qualitative question development, and study recruitment. They will also collaborate in the qualitative data analysis, quantitative survey development, and interpretation and dissemination of results. Additionally, we are prioritizing capacity building by hosting monthly workshops for YAB members to build research skills.

Across literature, studies have not examined the processes of criminalization and racialization and its effects on BIYOC. The study will better inform health care professionals on the lived experiences of BIYOC and provide insight on how to navigate smoking cessation interventions in BIYOC communities through validating lived experiences and understanding the social and environmental determinants that drive racial health inequities. Through a CBPR approach, this study has potential for policy implications and to serve as a model for future studies done with BIYOC communities. The intended lessons learned and implications from the Speak Up study:

BIYOC perspectives on cannabis use
How cannabis laws impacted BIYOC lives Treatment towards BIYOC when caught using cannabis BIYOC awareness towards stereotypes or implications for people who use or sale cannabis and how these stereotypes affect their lives How to create a study or project that is youth facing Ways to increase youth awareness and engagement in their health outcomes and improving personal wellness Ways to share findings with community-dissemination of research.