

# Adapting to the New Normal During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Innovative Approaches in Youth-Engaged Learning and Research in a Virtual Environment

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## Introduction

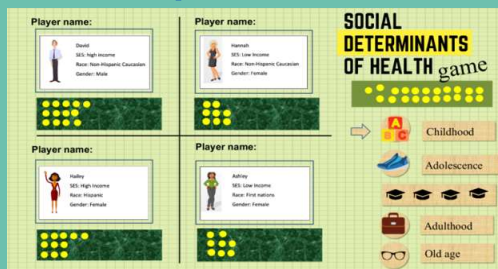
Despite a growing number of immigrants and refugee (IR) youth, a limited knowledge exists concerning the challenges that these youth face that can impact their health. We aimed to address this knowledge gap in two ways:

- 1) Summer education program for IR youths to increase their knowledge of health and wellness
- 2) Conduct focus groups and collected survey forms from the participants to learn about their challenges

## Problem

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, we transitioned to online learning, which required us to come up with creative ways to engage the students.

## Example



We would like to acknowledge RISE for health and wellness team members for their contributions in creating and applying the virtual adaptations – Adibba Adel, Amira Kalifa, Amy Chen, Amy Omusuku, Aria Ardebili, Chin Tan, Ife Onabola, Ini Adeboye, Jarrah Aburezaq, Jovita Shroff, Kaitlyn Paltzat, Karam Senjar, Katherine Liu, Kim Davarani, Naomie Bakana, Nour Hassan, Omar Razavi, Sanam Sekandary, Sophia Lu, Thompson Luu, Tobi Souza, and Whitney Ereyi-Osas.

## Results

### IN-PERSON PROGRAM

#### Content delivery



- In-person classroom
- Whiteboard

#### Learning activities



- Field Trip
- Crafts
- Exercise

#### Learning support



- In-person guidance
- Socializing
- Feedback forms

### VIRTUAL PROGRAM

#### Content delivery



- Zoom
- Screenshare
- Virtual bulletin board

#### Learning activities



- Human Library
- Simulation
- Game-based learning

#### Learning support



- Virtual mentorship
- Online feedback forms

3

### TEACHING & RESEARCH ADAPTATIONS:

We utilized these different tools to meaningfully engage learners by promoting conversations and collaborations. We facilitated a virtual focus group and utilized a secure database to store confidential materials for research.

## Discussion



The pandemic encouraged us to adopt new ways to carry out our learning program and research.

### DIVERSIFIED and INTERACTIVE learning



We learned that virtual environment provides the opportunity to connect with diverse individuals. Students have informed us that they enjoyed hearing from diverse panels.

### LIMITATIONS of VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT



Online learning may have reduced accessibility for students who do not have the suitable technology or environment. In the future, we will make asynchronous study materials available for students. We will also dedicate time for socialization between the students.

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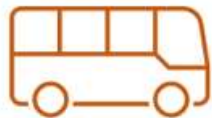
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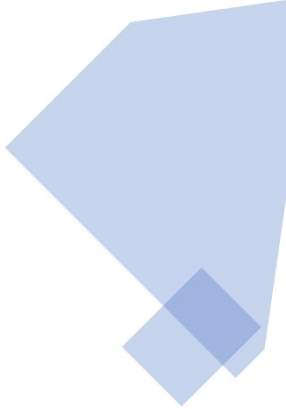


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