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Participants

- 33 forced immigrant youth
 - 21 males, 12 females
 - *M* age = 12.6 years old
 - Born in 6 different countries
- YMCA Management + Settlement staff members
- Laurentian Academic Research Team

Program Under Development

- Open to all newcomer youth
- 4 week, 2 session/week program
- **Week 1 focus:** Engendering feeling of physical, psychological, emotional safety
- **Week 2 focus:** Fostering sense of belonging
- **Week 3 focus:** Developing improved self-confidence
- **Week 4 focus:** Supporting sharing of ethnic identities

Methodology

- Critical theoretical paradigm underpinned by social constructionist epistemology
- Community-based participatory action research (CBPAR)

Data Collection Methods

- 33 arts-based conversational interviews (*M* = (37m) Field journal kept by lead academic research assistant
- Informal conversations between all participants

Data Analysis Methods


- Reflexive thematic analysis
- Collaborative re-telling of stories

Key Take-Aways


- Involve potential program participants in development of new programs that reflect participants' needs and values
- Developing a safe context for forced immigrant youth entails an ongoing, deliberate, and flexible approach
- Forced immigrant youth often prefer to be with other newcomers when learning new sport skills
- Developing improved confidence in sport-specific skills can translate to confidence in other skills (i.e., language)
- Use storytelling approaches that empower youth to share home culture

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