



Project iRISE

A Strength-Based Model for Survivor
Leadership and Empowerment

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Learning Network,
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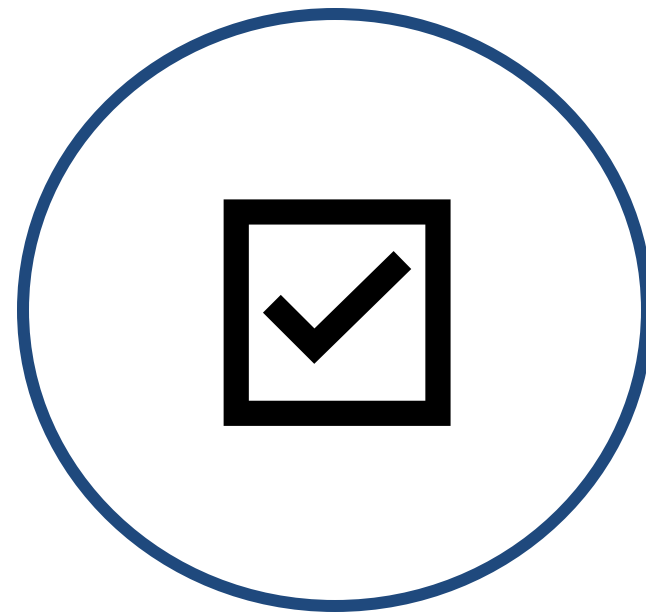


Disempowering Practices

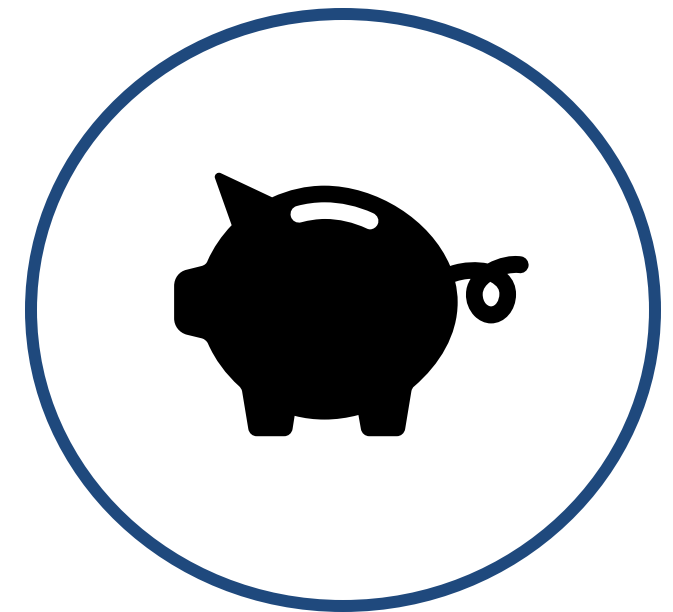
In Anti-Trafficking Services and Care



Saviour Complex



Tokenism



Exploitation

Project iRISE

A survivor-led, community-based, not-for-profit organization

Innovative skills & leadership development programs & opportunities for survivors of human trafficking and those at risk.

- Education
- Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Mentorship





Branding Tattoo Removal:

Free branding tattoo removal for survivors of human trafficking.

Survivor Leadership:

A comprehensive, trauma-informed, one-year training that combines experiential learning, leadership development, and upskilling for employment.



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The Program

Programmatic Strategy

Survivor Leadership Programming



Lived Experience



Survivor Mentorship



Local Partnerships



Outcome Evaluation

Survivor Leadership Programming

- Determine the success of the Survivor Leadership program in helping survivors of human trafficking improve educational and employment outcomes.
- Mixed method approach with surveys, focus groups, and interviews.
- Evaluation will help inform future interventions for survivors of human trafficking, targeting community re-integration and career development.
- Participatory research completed by staff of Project iRISE with the support of an evaluation specialist.

Methods

Survivor-Leadership Programming

■ Focus Groups

- **Pre to assess:**
 - Perceived Challenges/Strengths
 - Future Goals Relating to Education and Career Pathways
- **Post to determine:**
 - Changes in Perceived Challenges and Strengths
 - Unintended Benefits of the SL Program
 - Built Personal Network and Connectedness Module Rating and Feedback

■ Surveys

- Pre/post-Rosenberg Survey (self-esteem)
- Pre/post survey regarding their built professional network

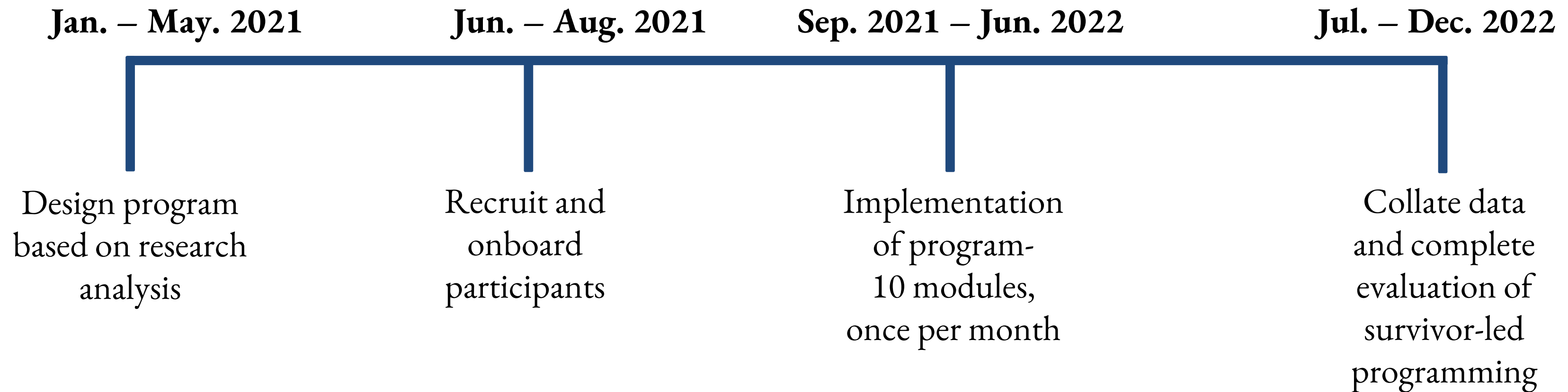
■ Workbooks

- Satisfaction with Module Content
- Utility of Module Content
- Areas of Improvement



Project Timeline

Survivor-Leadership Programming



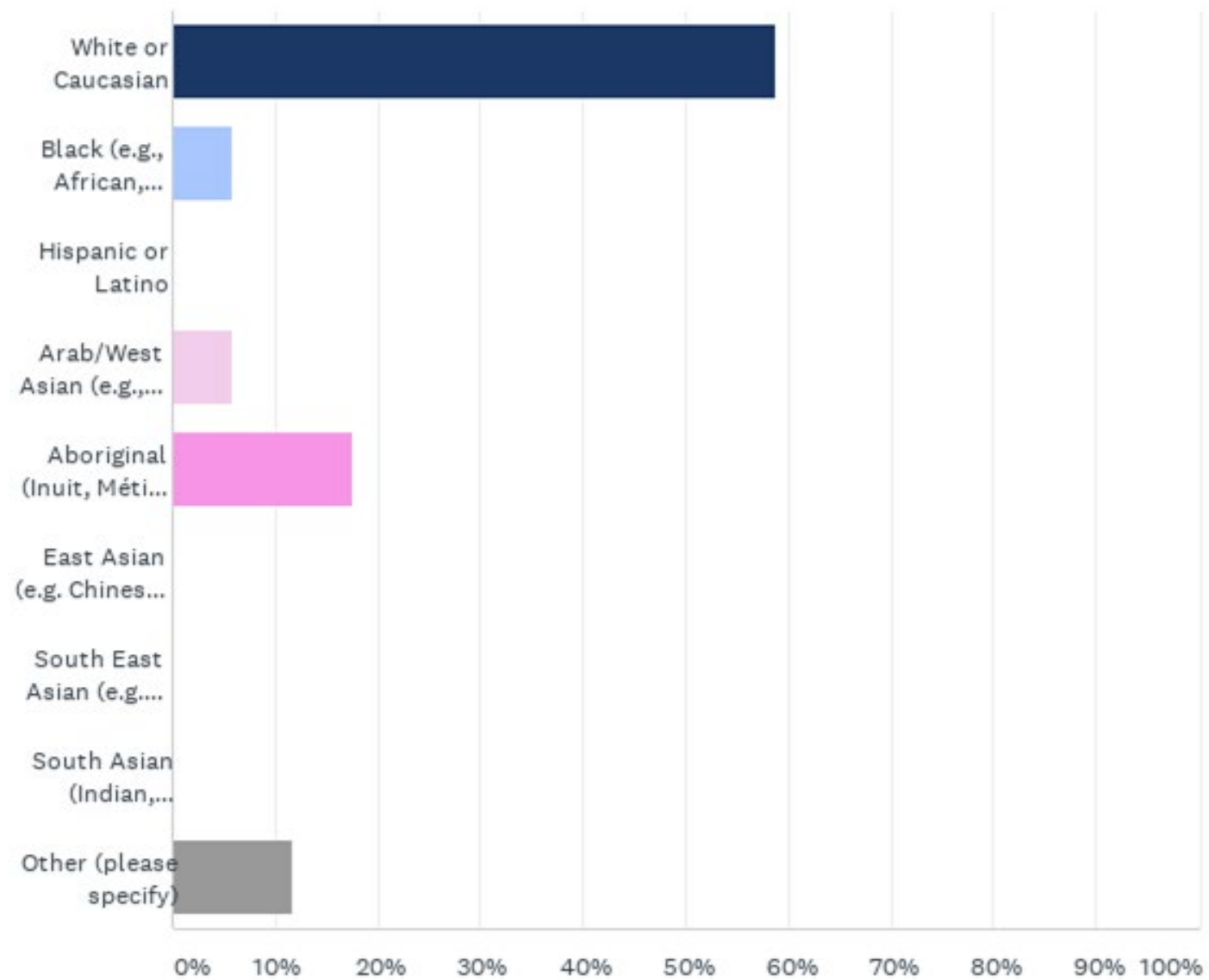


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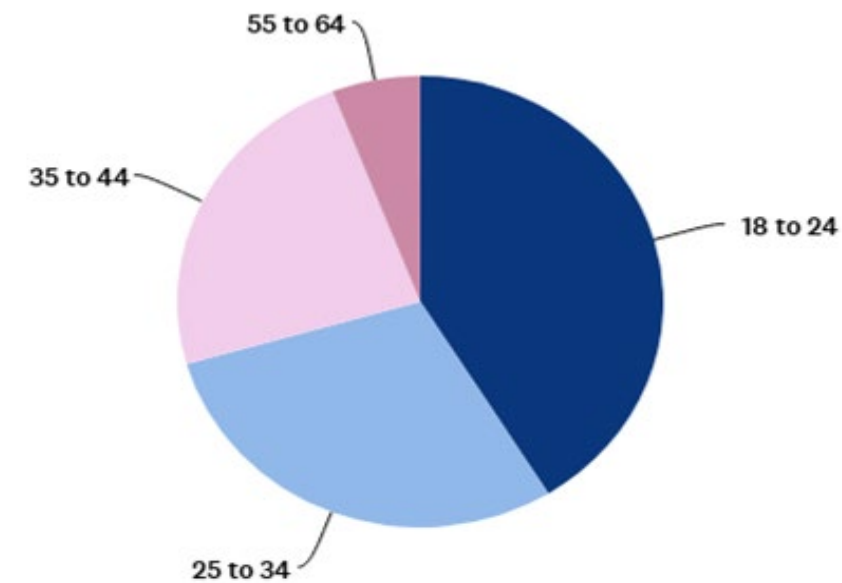
The Results

Participants Demographics

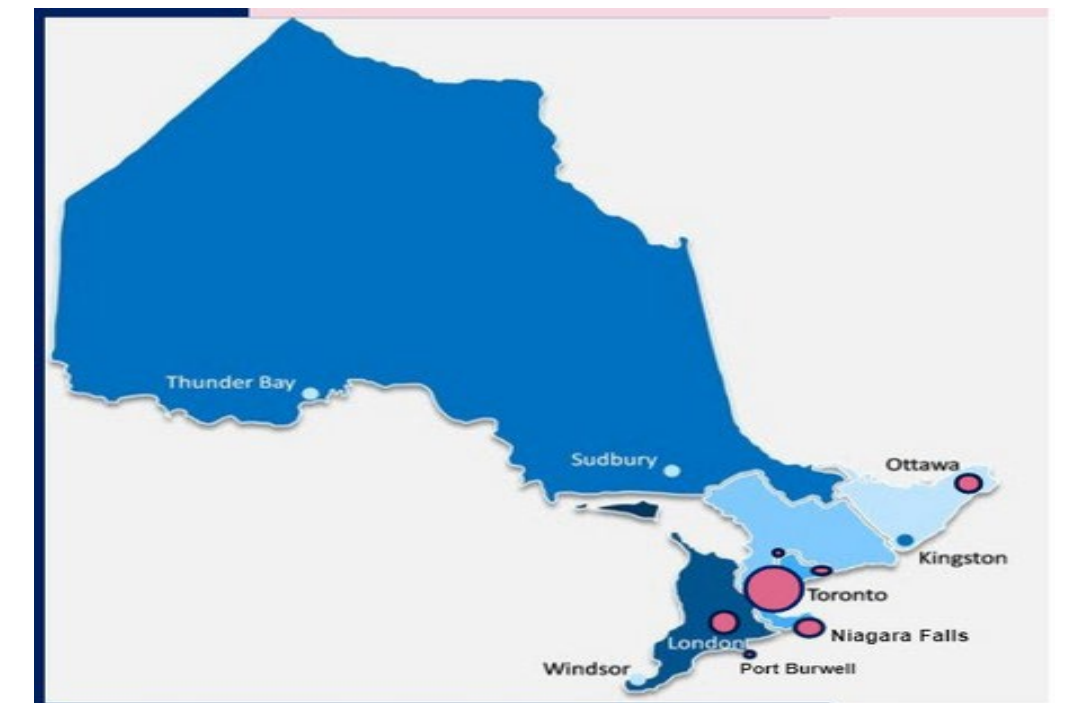
Ethnicity



Age



Location



Leadership Sessions

Training Modules

- Survivor Leadership & Storytelling
- Public Speaking & Media Strategies
- Research Skill Development & Consultation
- Mental Health and Personal Development
- Financial Planning & Career Development
- Resume Building & Professionalism
- Education Pathways & Managing Trauma
- Building Boundaries & Healthy Relationships
- Legal Navigation & Community Services
- Indigenous Healing & Resilience



Participant Results

Survivor Leadership Programming

Sense of Worth

- Most participants felt an increase in their self-worth due to learning more skills and recognizing their strengths.

Challenges Towards Education

- Most participants continue to struggle with resources, disabilities, and time to invest in education.

Challenges Towards Career

- Some participants struggle with confidence, whereas other individuals have worries regarding their safety.

"I'm concerned about funding and whether I can mentally manage working full time and doing school part time."

"I feel like I have a heightened sense of worth after this program. It allowed me to challenge myself and address areas that maybe I wasn't so confident."



"This program is
INCREDIBLE! I feel alive... I
get why the project is called
iRISE. I feel risen! Like out of
the ashes. Not sure how to
explain what is going on inside
me, but I feel like I'm on a
whole new level of awareness.
This is a really cool feeling. I like
me and don't know what's
happening, but I like it."

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The Takeaways

Challenges

- Limited resources
- Lack of ongoing therapeutic support
- Diversity of needs
- Lack of services for older survivors

Policy

- Reduce barriers to services
- Increase services for survivors over the age of 35
- Expand services throughout jurisdictions
- Increase funding for survivor-led agencies
- Incentivize agencies to hire survivors



Program

- Be intentional with diversity
- Provide multidisciplinary care and wraparound services
- Offer more individualized programming
- Provide culturally competent programming



Thank You!

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