



Kathleen Boyce Rodgers, Ph.D.

Department of Human Development

Collaborative Community Research on

- Youth Risk and Resilience
- Adolescent Sexuality and Parenting
- Adolescent – Parent Relationships
- Positive Youth Development



Youth Empowerment

Engaging Youth in Community
Research and Action



Youth Empowerment Zones

- The Spokane model
 - Building youth capacity
 - Engaging multiple partners
 - Youth as resources
 - Youth asset mapping
 - Youth empowerment projects (4-H)



Goals of the Project

- Identify and visually display existing resources (assets) and gaps in resources
- Engage youth as agents of change
- Strengthen partnerships
- Establish attitudes, policies, and programs necessary for positive youth development
- Create a model project for replication



City of Promise

- Spokane's five promises to youth
 - Mentoring
 - Volunteerism
 - Health
 - Safety in non-school hours
 - Workforce preparation



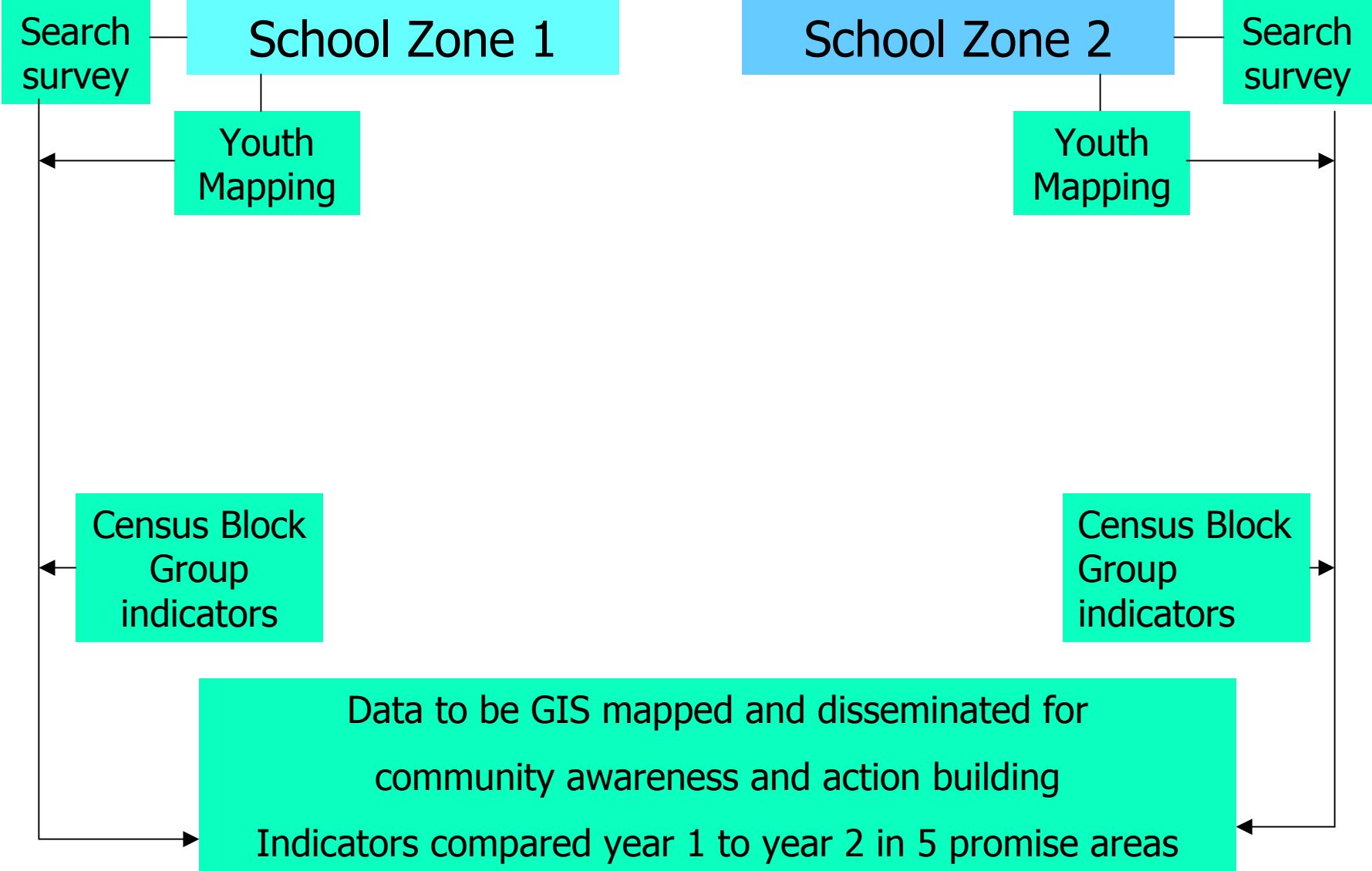
Positive Youth Development

Domains of Development

- Confidence
- Character
- Connectedness
- Competence
- Contribution
 - (Pittman & Ferber, 2001)
- Physical
- Intellectual
- Psychological and emotional
- Social
 - (Eccles et al., 2002)

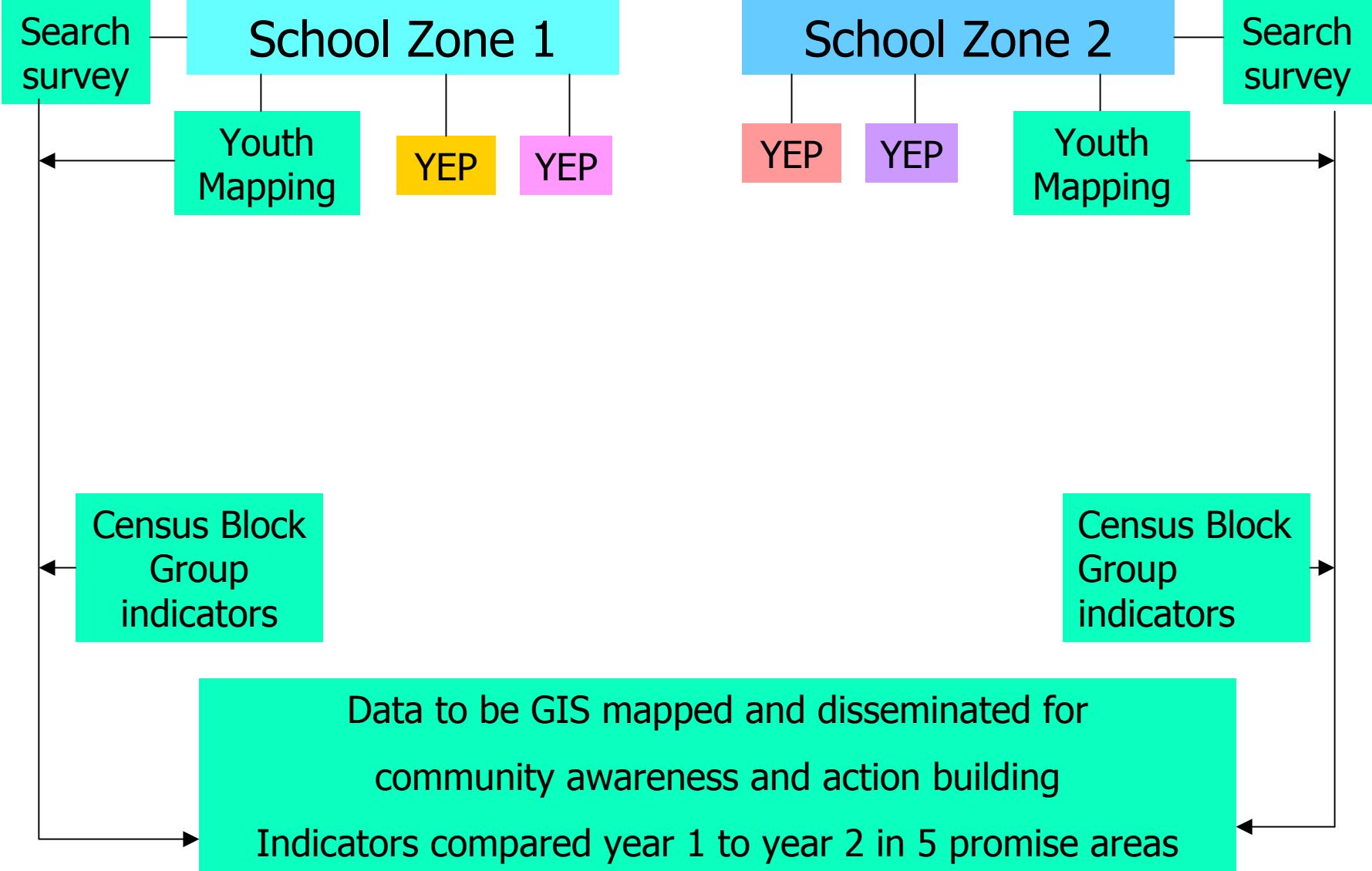
Youth Empowerment Project

Building Youth Capacity in Spokane



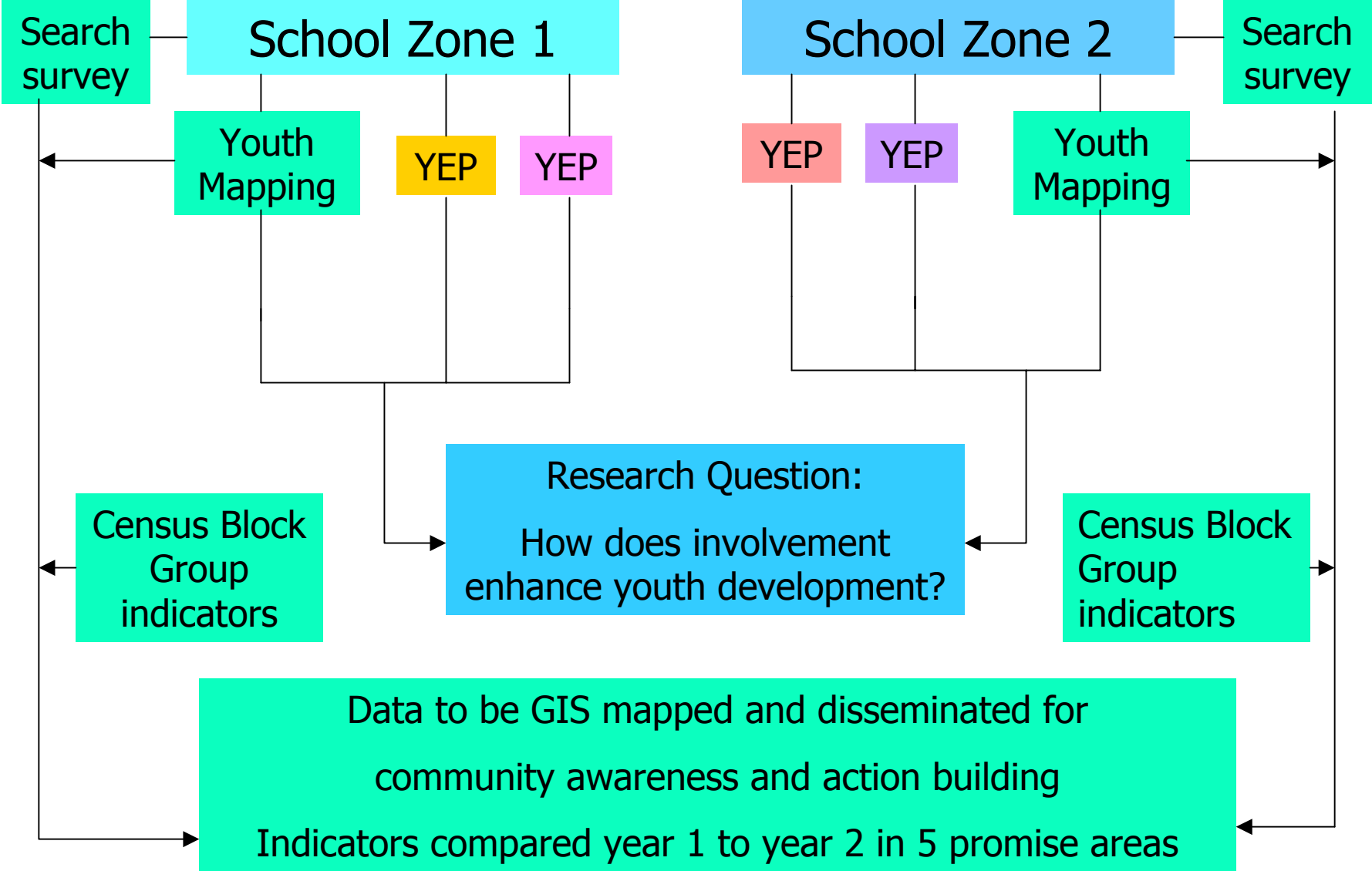
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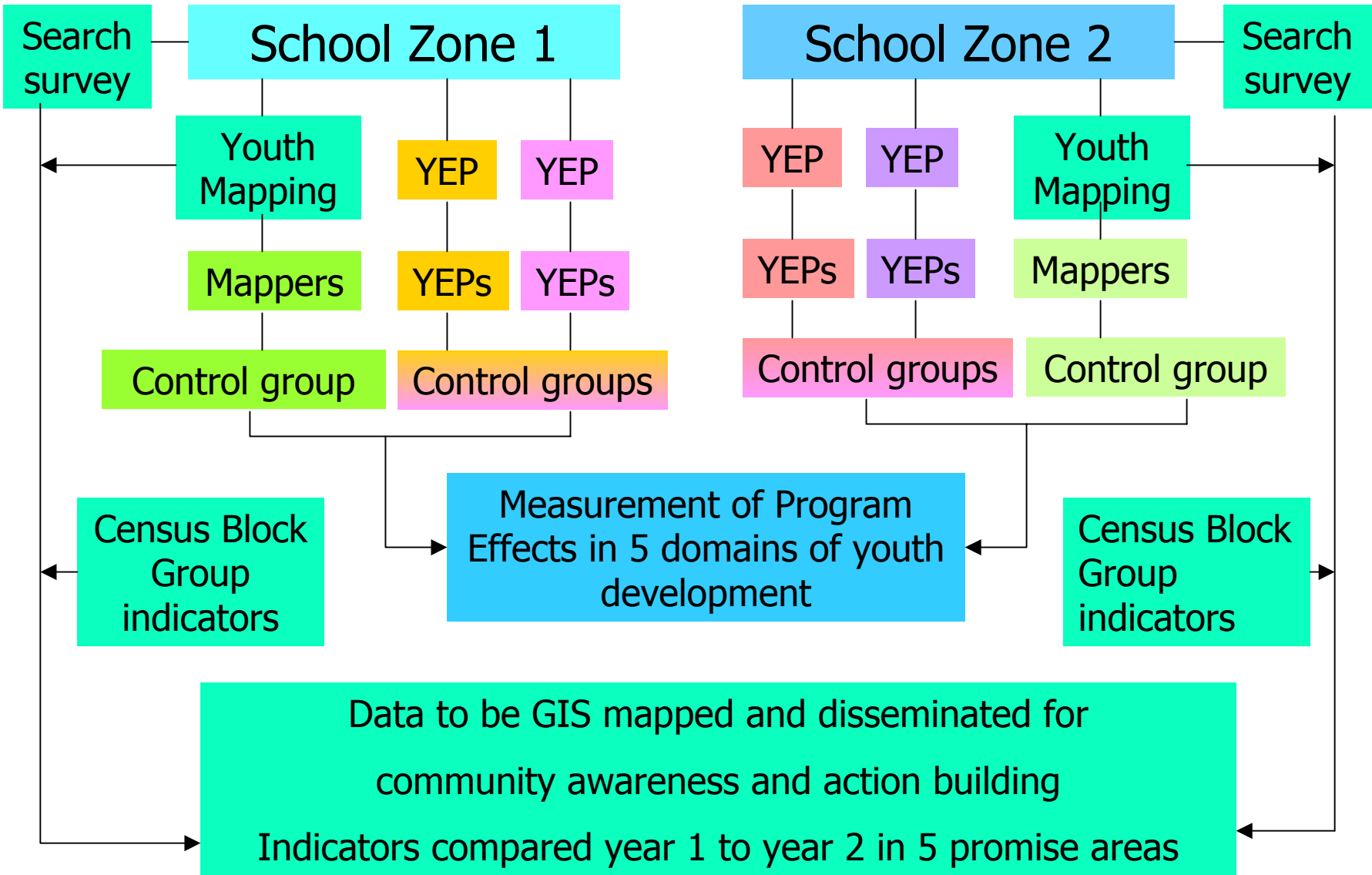
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Youth Empowerment Project

Building Youth Capacity in Spokane





Youth Asset Mapping

- Integrated into high school curriculum
 - Leadership class
 - Social studies
 - Geography class
- Youth collect data from
 - Peers
 - Phone book – resources for youth in the 5 promise domains (work opportunities, afterschool hours, employment, mentoring, volunteerism)



Youth Asset Mapping

- Door to door surveying
 - Adult attitudes toward teens/youth
 - Adult sense of community connectedness
 - Adult willingness to monitor or become involved in lives of youth
- Recording neighborhood physical characteristics
 - Graffiti, gang signs, art murals, parks, empty lots



Dissemination of findings

- Data from asset mapping are GIS mapped by designated school zone area mapping
- Youth present findings from
 - Surveyed 9th graders
 - Mapping of assets and deficits in community
- To.....
 - local policy makers, parents, program personnel, teachers, and middle-school YEPs



Youth Empowerment Projects

- After-school program for at-risk middle school youth
- Directed by a 4-H promise fellow
- Youth identify needed resources for service projects and determine projects they want to work on
- Goals of program
 - Establish a sustained 4-H club at the school
 - Increase natural and formal mentoring relationships
 - Increase youths sense of connectedness with peers, community, teachers



Evaluation

- For the overall project...
 - Have indicators in the five promise areas changed?
 - Attitudes toward youth? Policies? Programs?
- For youth involved in youth mapping and empowerment projects...
 - Do youth feel more connected?
 - More empowered?
 - More willing to contribute or help others?
 - More competent in their skills or abilities?