

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA): Impactful federal and state reporting

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Need

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) was developed as a comprehensive curriculum, focusing on food safety, animal well-being, and life-skill development. This national effort was initiated and championed (2013) by producer groups, university educators, and livestock show leaders. In addition to the need for a comprehensive program for youth food animal producers, it was paramount to have a science-based peer reviewed curricula. The curricula could then mirror across counties and states in a unified national programming effort and could be implemented and used with little input. Additionally, YQCA addresses all food animal and food producing species (beef, dairy cattle and goats, sheep, swine, meat goats, rabbits, and poultry).

Goal

It is YQCA's mission to offer a learning environment, supporting a learner engaged experience, while providing tools (such as data) to our partners to better the program and to validate its use. Learn how combining science (food safety and animal well-being) with life skills development makes YQCA a well-rounded youth-based curriculum piece offering a data set to support thoughtful impact reporting.

Program Results/Implications

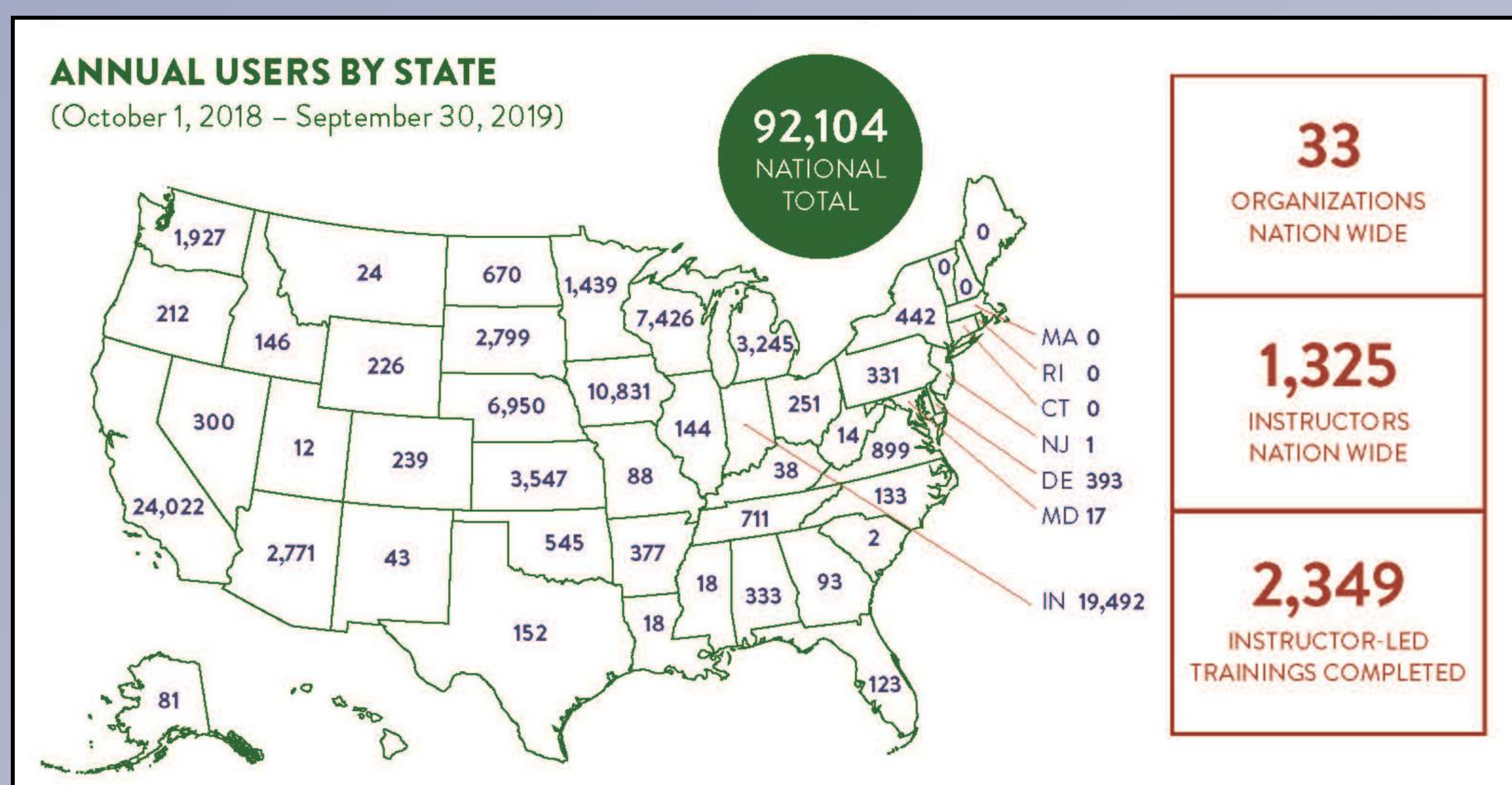


Figure 1: YQCA completion by year, October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019. Note, the 2019-2020 year figures were not used, as the year has not yet been completed.

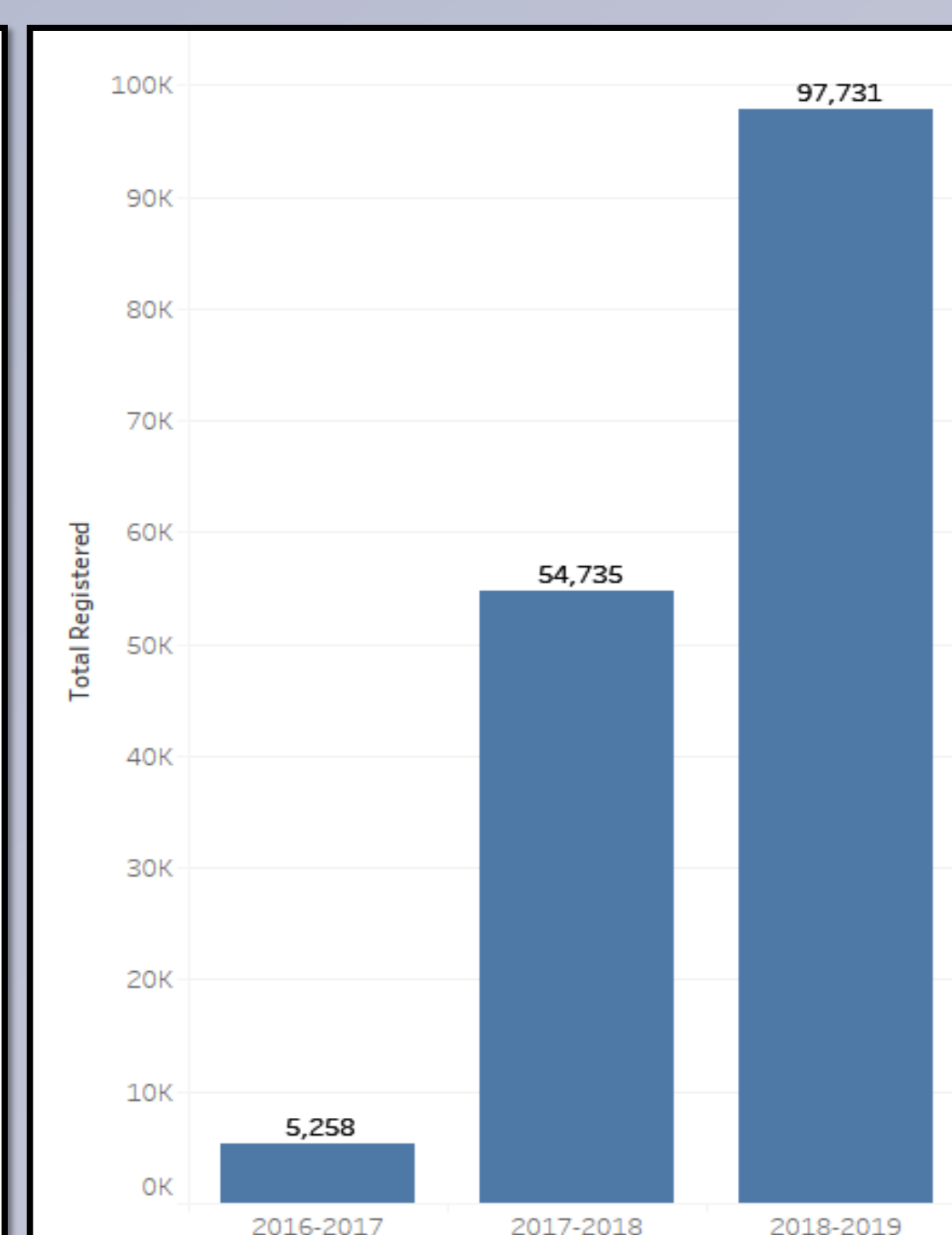


Figure 2: Annual registrations by year. Note, approximately 95% of all course registrants complete the course.

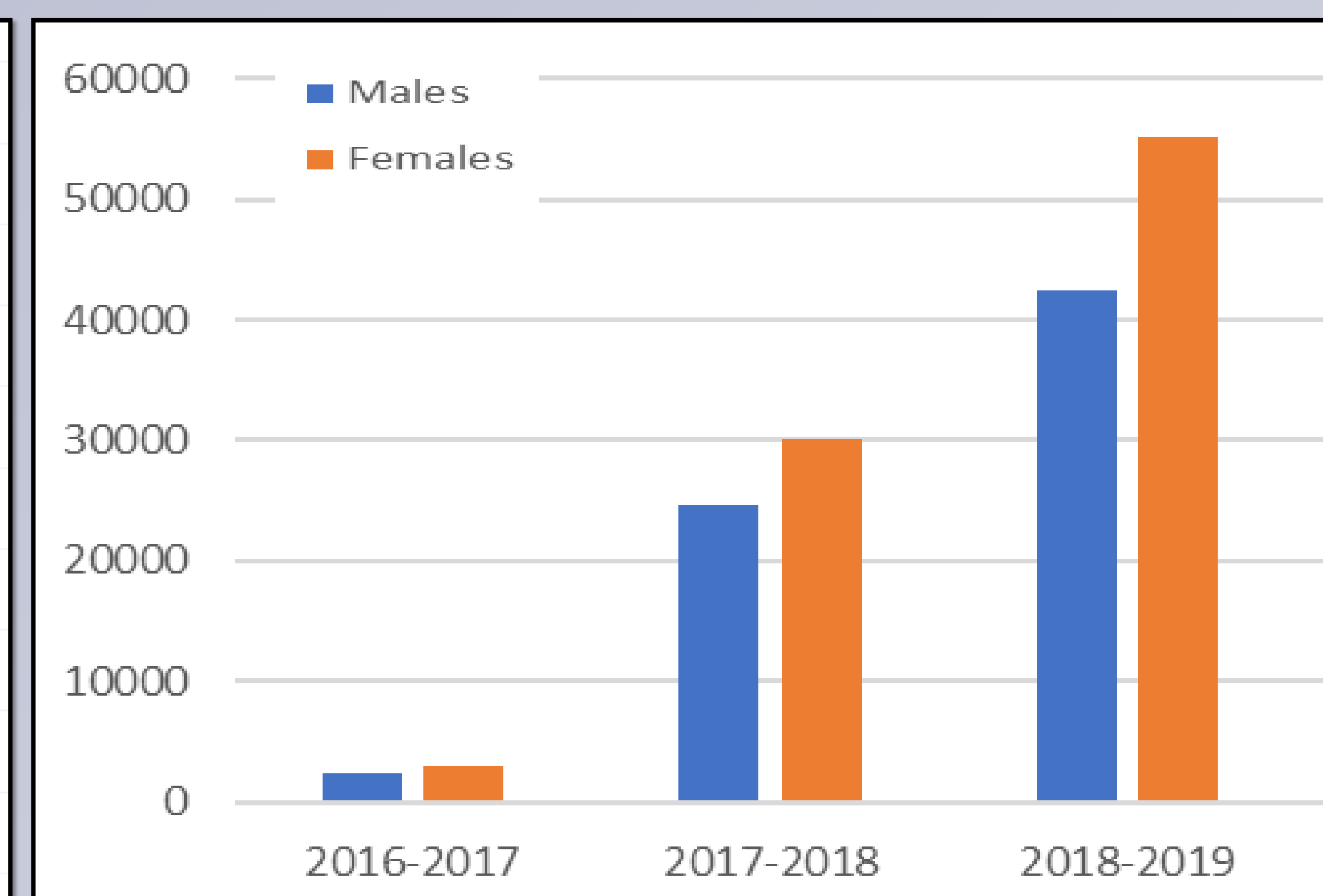


Figure 3: Annual registrations by gender. Youth female users are larger users of the YQCA program than youth male users.

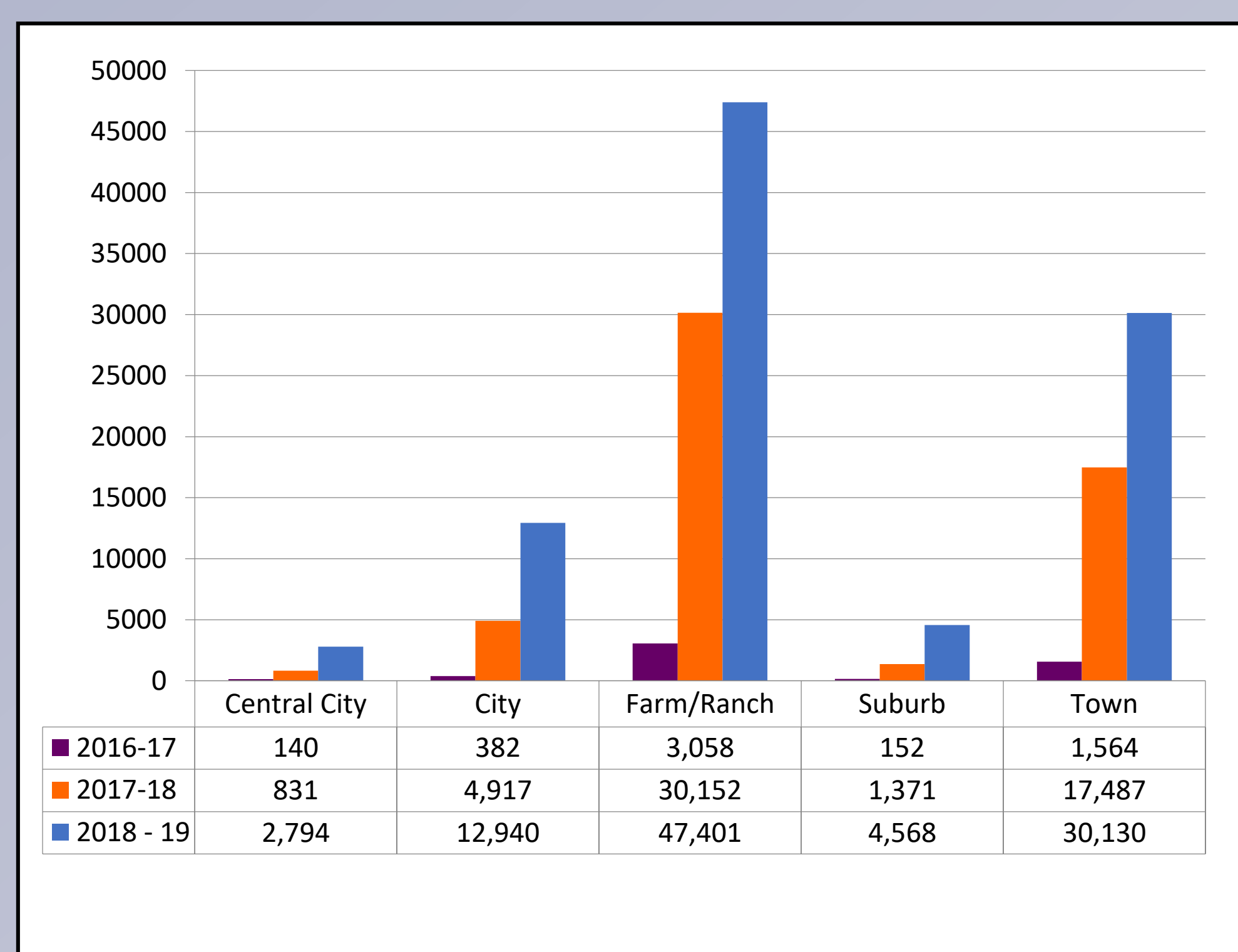


Figure 4: Youth residence location by year. Residence locations same as used in 4-H Online.

Conclusion and Impact Statements

- The YQCA Program has reached youth in the majority of states in the U.S. with registration and certification continuing to grow annually.
- Female youth, over the male youth, tend to be the bigger use demographic, which mirrors what we see on a National 4-H enrollment level¹.
- We also see an increase in residence type over the first three full years of the program, as expected farm/ranch are the highest residence user. Interestingly, growth in city and town follows the farm/ranch residence distinction.
- As with many 2020 programs involving youth, YQCA was challenged with an online only offering. Removing the face-to-face offering may impact growth in the current year but usage (not reported) seems to be paralleling 2018-2019 numbers indicating the importance of the curriculum and certification in order to sell animals intended for food even during a year of fair cancellations.

Sources Cited

¹ USDA: National 4-H Enrollment Report. (2014) Retrieved from https://reis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/4H1-1-Total-Enrollment-Duplications-Eliminated_0.xls

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