



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

YOUTH RIGHT NOW



Full Survey Results 2023

BGCA.org/YouthRightNow



The Nation's
Largest Data Set
on Kids & Teens

About the Survey

Youth Right Now features survey findings from more than 130,000 kids and teens ages 9-18 in 2023 on how they are feeling about their academics, relationships, emotional well-being and readiness for life after high school.

Since 2012, Boys & Girls Clubs of America has surveyed our youth members nationwide, kids from all different backgrounds, ethnicities and communities, who share one thing in common – they participate in a Boys & Girls Club. This data supports more than 5,200 Boys & Girls Clubs in improving services to youth.

Over the years, our annual survey has grown to an incredible scale, with more than 130,000 kids and teens participating. To our knowledge, Boys & Girls Clubs of America now operates the nation's largest private data set on kids and teens.

With questions about young people's safety, interests and readiness for college and career, it's also a window into how America's children are feeling in a unique time to grow up.

Methodology

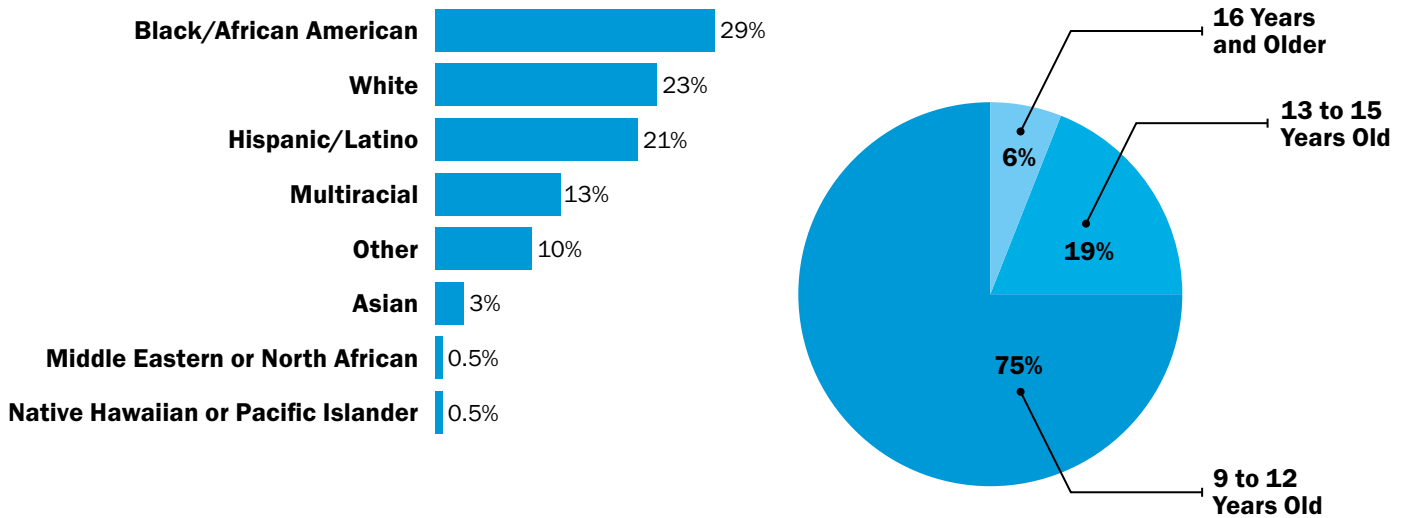
Youth Right Now contains data points from Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth Outcomes Initiative Member Survey. This data was collected over an 8-week period beginning in February 2023, representing more than 130,000 kids ages 9-18 at nearly 3,500 Boys & Girls Clubs. Youth take the survey via computers on-site at Boys & Girls Clubs across the nation. This survey and data set is owned and conducted annually by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, with a dedicated Measurement & Data Operations division aggregating and finalizing data to provide at the national level to Boys & Girls Clubs of America and local level to all Club participants.

A small selection of data included on the Youth Right Now landing page on BGCA.org are responses from the 2022 Boys & Girls Clubs of America Teen Survey. This survey was administered to teens at Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Keystone Conference held July-August 2022 and includes responses from 600+ teens from across the country.

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

YOUTH RESPONSES = 133,795

About the youth survey responders:



To see demographic breakdowns of survey results by race/ethnicity, [click here](#).

Bullying		
	NO	YES
During the past year, have you been bullied on school property?	60%	40%
During the past year, have you been electronically bullied?	82%	18%
If you were bullied on school property, did you tell an adult about it?	38%	62%
If you were electronically bullied, did you tell an adult about it?	55%	45%

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Academic Success

	ON TRACK	ON TRACK WITH SOME RISK	OFF TRACK
On Track to Graduate from High School (5th to 12th Grade Only)	51%	21%	28%

Academic Expectations

	COLLEGE	HIGH SCHOOL	SOME HIGH SCHOOL	GRADE 8
How far in school do you think you will get in school? (Youth)	75%	16%	4%	5%

	MASTERS DEGREE, PH.D., M.D., OR EQUIVALENT	4 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE	1 OR 2 YEARS OF COLLEGE	FINISH VOCATIONAL OR TRADE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	SOME HIGH SCHOOL
How far in school do you think you will get in school? (Teen)	26%	30%	19%	5%	16%	4%

	4 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE OR GREATER	JUNIOR COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL	NO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
Expectation of Post-Secondary Education Completion (Teen)	56%	24%	20%

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	IN THE MIDDLE	NOT THAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL
How important are the things you are learning in school going to be for you later in life?	44%	29%	21%	4%	2%

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I enjoy learning new things.	57%	34%	6%	3%
I choose activities that push me to learn new things.	47%	35%	12%	5%

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On Track to Graduate

	NONE	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 TO 5 DAYS	6 TO 10 DAYS	11 OR MORE DAYS
How many whole days have you missed school because you skipped or "cut"? (Last 4 Weeks)	63%	11%	8%	6%	6%	3%	3%

	MOSTLY A'S	MOSTLY B'S	MOSTLY C'S	MOSTLY D'S	MOSTLY F'S
What were your grades like last year?	46%	37%	13%	3%	2%

	NO	YES
Expect to Graduate High School (Youth & Teen)	7%	93%

	ON GRADE LEVEL	OFF GRADE LEVEL BY ONE YEAR OR LESS	OFF GRADE LEVEL BY MORE THAN ONE YEAR
On Grade Level for Age (5th to 12th Grade Only)	95%	5%	0%

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College/Career Preparation (11th or 12th Grade Only)

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I know what education or training I will need for the career I want. (11th to 12th Grade Only)	51%	42%	6%	1%
I know what costs to expect for the education or training I will need after high school. (11th to 12th Grade Only)	47%	44%	9%	1%
			NO	YES
I have taken the SAT, ACT or another college entrance exam. (12th Grade Only)			20%	80%
I have submitted the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). (12th Grade Only)			19%	81%
I have applied for scholarships. (12th Grade Only)			26%	74%
Applied for any post-secondary education. (12th Grade Only)			14%	86%
I have applied to a 4-year college or university. (12th Grade Only)			27%	73%
I have applied to a 2-year college. (12th Grade Only)			53%	47%
I have applied to a vocational or trade school. (12th Grade Only)			79%	21%

Academically Post-Secondary Ready (10th-12th Grade Only)

	MOSTLY A'S	MOSTLY B'S	MOSTLY C'S	MOSTLY D'S OR F'S
Post-Secondary Ready: Self Reported Grades (10th to 12th Grade Only)	36%	40%	19%	5%

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STEM Efficacy

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
Math is easy for me.	37%	36%	18%	9%
Science is easy for me.	29%	41%	22%	8%
I am good at solving science-related problems.	27%	37%	26%	10%

STEM Interest

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I like to participate in science projects.	45%	38%	11%	5%
Science is something I get excited about.	36%	34%	21%	9%
I am curious to learn more about science, computers or technology.	45%	36%	14%	5%
I would like to have a STEM-related job in the future.	24%	23%	30%	23%

STEM Commitment

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I intend to take science-related courses after high school (e.g. technology, biology, engineering). (9th to 12th Grade Only)	24%	30%	30%	15%
I want to take math courses after high school. (9th to 12th Grade Only)	21%	28%	33%	18%
I know the steps a student needs to take if they want to be in a science-related career.	29%	33%	25%	13%

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Arts				
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I'm interested in art.	53%	29%	11%	8%
I would like to have a career in the Arts in the future.	28%	24%	31%	17%
I'm comfortable using the equipment and materials in my art program.	50%	36%	9%	6%
I can communicate my emotions and feelings through art.	36%	32%	19%	12%
I'm interested in future programs and opportunities in art.	37%	29%	21%	13%
I am able to give others feedback on their art in a helpful way.	44%	36%	13%	7%

Teamwork				
	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I listen to what other people say.	54%	36%	7%	4%
I am willing to do whatever the group needs me to do.	54%	35%	8%	3%
	NOT TRUE AT ALL	NOT VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	VERY TRUE
I have trouble going along with other people's ideas.	20%	28%	33%	19%
I get frustrated if I can't do things my way.	33%	27%	22%	18%

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Leadership

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I am pretty good at organizing a team of kids to do a project.	35%	41%	19%	6%
If I'm the leader of a group, I make sure that everyone in the group feels important.	52%	37%	9%	3%

Integrity

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I feel like I can stand up for what I think is right, even if my friends disagree.	50%	36%	9%	5%

Goal Pursuit

	EXACTLY LIKE ME	A LOT LIKE ME	SOMEWHAT LIKE ME	A LITTLE LIKE ME	NOT AT ALL LIKE ME
I develop step-by-step plans to reach my goals.	33%	23%	27%	11%	6%
If I set goals, I take action to reach them.	40%	26%	21%	9%	4%

Volunteering

	NEVER	ABOUT ONCE A YEAR	ABOUT ONCE A MONTH	ABOUT ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS	ABOUT ONCE A WEEK OR MORE
Volunteered in school, neighborhood or community? (Teen Only)	34%	26%	21%	9%	10%

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Conflict Resolution

	NO FIGHTS		ONE OR MORE FIGHTS	
Physical Fighting in the Past 12 Months (Teen Only)	76%		24%	

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
When I have problems with other people my age, I talk to an adult about it.	39%	34%	17%	11%
When I have problems with other people my age, I talk things over with them.	36%	36%	17%	12%

	NOT TRUE AT ALL	NOT VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	VERY TRUE
When I have problems with other people my age, I push or hit the other person so that it doesn't happen again.	45%	21%	17%	16%
When I have problems with other people my age, I yell at them.	37%	24%	23%	16%
When other people my age try to hit or push me around, I fight back.	26%	16%	24%	34%

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Concern for Others				
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I try to help when I see people in need.	50%	43%	5%	2%
When I make a decision, I try to think about how other people will be affected.	39%	46%	12%	4%
I want to help when I see someone having a problem.	53%	39%	7%	2%

Concern for Community				
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I spend time on projects with other people to help the community.	36%	42%	18%	5%
I have done things to help people in my community.	40%	45%	12%	3%
I believe that I can make a difference in my community.	43%	38%	14%	5%

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Physical Well-being								
	0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS	5 DAYS	6 DAYS	7 DAYS
During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day?	9%	7%	9%	11%	10%	13%	6%	34%
						5 OR MORE DAYS	LESS THAN 5 DAYS	
Physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes on 5 or more days.						53%	47%	
	0 TIMES	1 TIME	2 TIMES	3 TIMES	4 TIMES	5 OR MORE TIMES		
During the past 24 hours, how many times did you eat fruit?	16%	18%	18%	15%	9%	24%		
During the past 24 hours, how many times did you eat vegetables?	25%	20%	17%	13%	8%	17%		
During the past 24 hours, how many times did you drink 100% fruit juices such as orange, apple or grape?	26%	20%	19%	13%	6%	16%		
During the past 24 hours, how many times did you drink water?	5%	6%	7%	10%	9%	62%		
	5 OR MORE FRUITS/ VEGETABLES PER DAY			3 TO 4 FRUITS/VEGETABLES PER DAY		LESS THAN 3 FRUITS/ VEGETABLES PER DAY		
Total Fruit and Vegetable Consumption	50%			20%		29%		

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Risk Behavior (Teen Only)

	NO FIGHTS	1 FIGHT	2 OR MORE FIGHTS
During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?	76%	11%	13%
	DID NOT ABSTAIN	ABSTAINED	
Lifetime Cigarette Use	10%	90%	
Lifetime Alcohol Use	17%	83%	
Lifetime Marijuana Use	12%	88%	
Lifetime Illicit Use of Prescription Pain Medicine	6%	94%	
Lifetime Inhalant Use	5%	95%	
Lifetime Sexual Activity	10%	90%	
Current Use of Cigarettes (Last 30 Days)	3%	97%	
Current Use of Alcohol (Last 30 Days)	6%	94%	
Current Binge Drinking (Last 30 Days)	3%	97%	
Current Use of Marijuana (Last 30 Days)	6%	94%	
Current Use of Vapor Product (Last 30 Days)	8%	92%	
Current Use of Cigars, Cigarillos or Little Cigars (Last 30 Days)	3%	97%	
Current Use of Chewing Tobacco, Snuff or Dip (Last 30 Days)	2%	98%	
Current Cigarette Use by Youth who have Smoked in their Lifetime	25%	75%	
Current Alcohol Use by Youth who have Drank Alcohol in their Lifetime	26%	74%	
Current Marijuana Use by Youth who have used Marijuana in their Lifetime	33%	67%	
Current Vapor Product Use by Youth who have Vaped in their Lifetime	55%	45%	

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Risk Behavior (Teen Only) *continued*

	NOT CURRENTLY SEXUALLY ACTIVE	CURRENTLY SEXUALLY ACTIVE
Currently Sexually Active (Last 3 Months)	97%	3%
	DID NOT HAVE SEX BEFORE AGE 13 (INCLUDES NEVER HAD SEX)	HAD SEX BEFORE AGE 13
Sexual Activity Before Age 13	98%	2%
	DID NOT USE ALCOHOL OR DRUGS	DID USE ALCOHOL OR DRUGS
Alcohol or Drug Use Before Last Sexual Intercourse (Among Currently Sexually Active Youth)	80%	20%
	DID NOT USE CONDOM	DID USE CONDOM
Condom Use During Last Sexual Intercourse (Among Currently Sexually Active Youth)	39%	61%

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Coping with Challenges

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
When something important goes wrong in my life, I try to figure out how to do better next time.	61%	31%	5%	3%
If something is really hard, I keep working at it.	57%	34%	6%	3%
When something important goes wrong in my life, I talk about it with someone to understand what happened.	48%	31%	12%	8%
When something important goes wrong in my life, I tell myself I'll do better next time.	58%	26%	9%	7%

	NOT TRUE AT ALL	NOT VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	VERY TRUE
When something important goes wrong in my life, I just can't stop worrying about it.	13%	16%	30%	40%
When something important goes wrong in my life, I try to keep people from finding out.	16%	17%	29%	38%
If I don't understand something right away, I stop trying to understand.	29%	24%	25%	22%
When I have trouble doing something, I give up.	41%	25%	18%	17%

Stress Management

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I am able to stay calm when I feel stressed.	36%	36%	17%	11%
I know ways I can calm myself down.	49%	31%	12%	8%

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Identifying Emotions

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I know what emotions I am feeling.	63%	27%	6%	3%
I understand how my feelings influence my actions.	60%	30%	7%	3%

Problem Solving

	VERY EASY	EASY	DIFFICULT	VERY DIFFICULT
I think about what might happen before making a decision.	43%	40%	12%	6%
I can think of different ways to solve a problem.	51%	37%	8%	3%

Relationship Building

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I am good at making friends.	54%	30%	11%	5%

Self-Efficacy

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
When I have a problem, I work to figure out a solution.	51%	38%	8%	2%
If I try my best, I can do most things.	64%	31%	4%	2%

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Empathy

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I try to help when I see people in need.	50%	43%	5%	2%
When I make a decision, I try to think about how other people will be affected.	39%	46%	12%	4%
I want to help when I see someone having a problem.	53%	39%	7%	2%

Work Experience (9th-12th Grade Only)

	NO	YES
Work Experience in the Past 12 Months	42%	58%
Paid Full-time Job/Internship Past 12 Months	86%	14%
Paid Part-time Job/Internship Past 12 Months	26%	74%
Unpaid Internship Past 12 Months	82%	18%
Obtained or Obtaining a Certification	67%	33%

	ENROLL IN A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OR CAREER PREPARATION PROGRAM	TAKE A GAP YEAR TO VOLUNTEER	I DON'T KNOW	GO STRAIGHT TO WORK	JOIN THE MILITARY	ENROLL IN AN INDUSTRY APPRENTICESHIP	ENROLL IN A 4-YEAR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	ENROLL IN A 2-YEAR COMMUNITY OR TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Immediate Plans After High School	2%	2%	18%	8%	5%	2%	51%	14%

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Employability Skills				
	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I feel like I have the skills needed to be successful in a job.	62%	32%	4%	1%
I can express my thoughts and ideas clearly.	50%	37%	9%	3%
I can work with people who are different than me.	64%	30%	4%	2%
I feel comfortable asking questions when I don't understand something.	51%	35%	10%	4%
I finish things on time.	35%	45%	15%	5%