



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

YOUTH RIGHT NOW



Full Survey Results 2024

BGCA.org/YouthRightNow



The Nation's
Largest Data Set
on Kids & Teens

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The Nation's
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About the Survey

Youth Right Now features survey findings from more than 140,000 kids and teens ages 9-18 in 2024. This is the largest data set on youth in the nation, to our knowledge.

In 2024, we checked in on the state of tween and teen mental health, how young people perceive their academic and workforce futures, as well as the issues facing youth today. Read the insights at BGCA.org/YouthRightNow.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America has annually surveyed our youth members nationwide since 2012. Survey respondents are youth 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 5,400 Boys & Girls Clubs in improving services to youth.

We began sharing this data publicly in recent years to provide an annual temperature check on the state of our nation's youth for parents and caregivers, educators and policymakers, communities, fellow youth-serving organizations and more, so we can partner toward ensuring all youth achieve a great future.

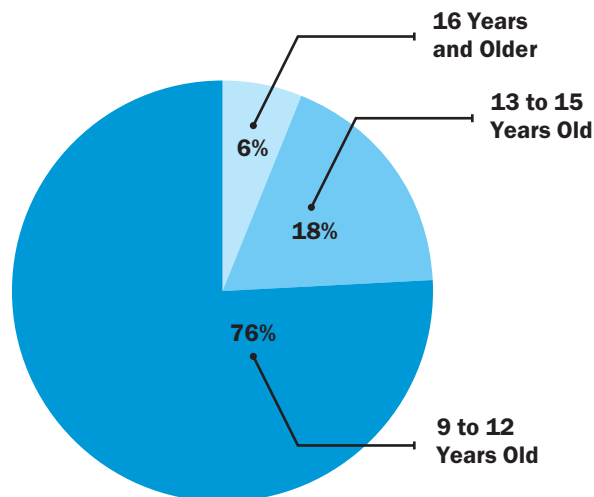
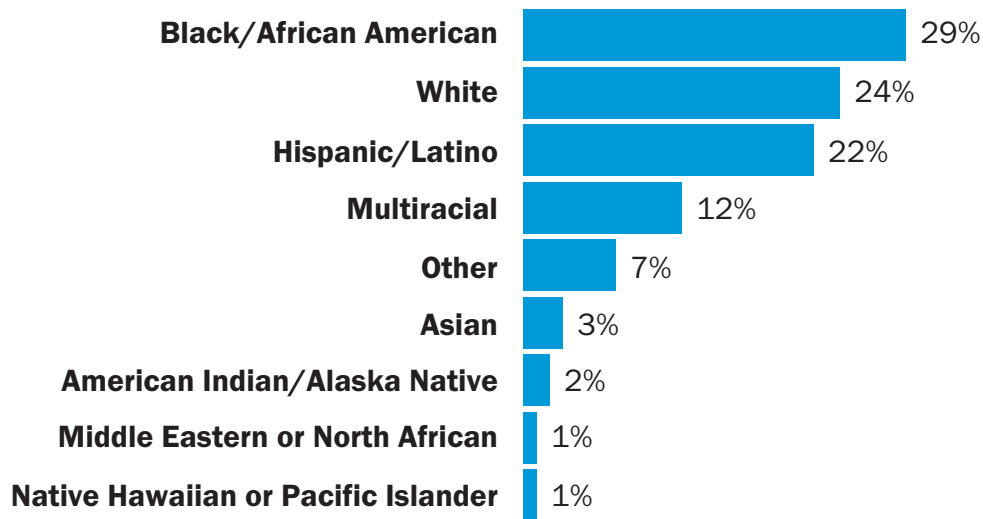
Methodology

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 2024, representing more than 140,000 kids ages 9-18 at more than 3,600 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.

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

YOUTH RESPONSES = 141,090

About the youth survey responders:



Within the full survey results, “youth” refers to ages 9-12 and “teen” to ages 13+. All other survey responses refer to all young people (ages 9-18) or are specified as a specific grouping (i.e. “11th and 12th graders”).

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Academics: Arts

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I'm interested in art.	51%	30%	11%	7%
I would like to have a career in the Arts in the future.	27%	25%	32%	17%
I'm comfortable using the equipment and materials in my art program.	48%	37%	10%	6%
I can communicate my emotions and feelings through art.	35%	33%	20%	12%
I'm interested in future programs and opportunities in art.	36%	30%	21%	13%
I am able to give others feedback on their art in a helpful way.	43%	38%	12%	7%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Academics: Expectations

	COLLEGE	HIGH SCHOOL	SOME HIGH SCHOOL	GRADE 8
How far in school do you think you will get in school? (Youth)	74%	17%	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)	27%	29%	19%	5%	15%	4%

	4 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE OR GREATER	JUNIOR COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL	NO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
Expectation of Post-Secondary Education Completion (Teen)	56%	25%	19%

	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?	42%	30%	21%	4%	2%

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I enjoy learning new things.	56%	34%	6%	3%
I choose activities that push me to learn new things.	47%	35%	13%	5%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Academics: 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?	43%	38%	15%	3%	2%

	NO	YES
Expect to Graduate High School (Youth & Teen)	8%	92%

	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%

Academics: 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)	35%	41%	19%	5%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Academics: 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)	25%	32%	29%	15%
I want to take math courses after high school. (9th to 12th Grade Only)	21%	30%	32%	17%
I know the steps a student needs to take if they want to be in a science-related career.	28%	34%	25%	13%

Academics: STEM Efficacy

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
Math is easy for me.	39%	35%	18%	8%
Science is easy for me.	29%	42%	22%	8%
I am good at solving science-related problems.	27%	38%	26%	9%

Academics: STEM Interest

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I like to participate in science projects.	44%	38%	12%	6%
Science is something I get excited about.	35%	34%	21%	10%
I am curious to learn more about science, computers or technology.	43%	36%	15%	6%
I would like to have a STEM-related job in the future.	25%	23%	29%	23%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

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?	37%	63%
If you were electronically bullied, did you tell an adult about it?	55%	45%

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)	53%	42%	5%	1%
I know what costs to expect for the education or training I will need after high school. (11th to 12th Grade Only)	46%	44%	9%	1%

	NO	YES
I have taken the SAT, ACT or another college entrance exam. (12th Grade Only)	18%	82%
I have submitted the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). (12th Grade Only)	30%	70%
I have applied for scholarships. (12th Grade Only)	25%	75%
I have applied for any post-secondary education. (12th Grade Only)	11%	89%
I have applied to a 4-year college or university. (12th Grade Only)	25%	75%
I have applied to a 2-year college. (12th Grade Only)	48%	52%
I have applied to a vocational or trade school. (12th Grade Only)	74%	26%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

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.	42%	38%	14%	5%

Concern for Others/Empathy

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I try to help when I see people in need.	50%	44%	5%	2%
When I make a decision, I try to think about how other people will be affected.	39%	46%	12%	3%
I want to help when I see someone having a problem.	52%	39%	7%	2%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Conflict Resolution

	NO FIGHTS		ONE OR MORE FIGHTS	
Physical Fighting in the Past 12 Months (Teen Only)	77%		23%	

	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.	40%	34%	16%	10%
When I have problems with other people my age, I talk things over with them.	36%	36%	17%	11%

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
When I have problems with other people my age, I push or hit the other person so that it doesn't happen again.	17%	17%	22%	45%
When I have problems with other people my age, I yell at them.	16%	23%	25%	36%
When other people my age try to hit or push me around, I fight back.	33%	24%	17%	26%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Emotional Well-being: 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.	60%	32%	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%	32%	12%	8%
When something important goes wrong in my life, I tell myself I'll do better next time.	58%	27%	9%	6%
	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
When something important goes wrong in my life, I just can't stop worrying about it.	39%	30%	17%	13%
When something important goes wrong in my life, I try to keep people from finding out.	37%	29%	18%	15%
If I don't understand something right away, I stop trying to understand.	23%	25%	24%	28%
When I have trouble doing something, I give up.	17%	18%	25%	40%

Emotional Well-being & Stress

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I am able to stay calm when I feel stressed.	35%	37%	17%	11%
I know ways I can calm myself down.	47%	33%	12%	7%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

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.	60%	34%	4%	1%
I can express my thoughts and ideas clearly.	50%	38%	10%	2%
I can work with people who are different than me.	62%	31%	5%	2%
I feel comfortable asking questions when I don't understand something.	51%	36%	10%	4%
I finish things on time.	35%	46%	15%	4%

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.	32%	24%	28%	10%	6%
If I set goals, I take action to reach them.	39%	27%	21%	9%	4%

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.	49%	37%	9%	5%

Leadership

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I am pretty good at organizing a team of kids to do a project.	34%	41%	18%	6%
If I'm the leader of a group, I make sure that everyone in the group feels important.	50%	38%	9%	3%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

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%	12%	10%	14%	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?	14%	17%	18%	16%	10%	26%		
During the past 24 hours, how many times did you eat vegetables?	24%	20%	17%	13%	9%	18%		
During the past 24 hours, how many times did you drink water?	5%	6%	7%	10%	9%	63%		
	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	52%		20%			28%		

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Problem Solving & Self-Efficacy

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I think about what might happen before making a decision.	43%	40%	12%	5%
I can think of different ways to solve a problem.	49%	39%	9%	3%
When I have a problem, I work to figure out a solution.	51%	39%	8%	2%
If I try my best, I can do most things.	64%	31%	4%	2%

Relationship Building

	VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	NOT VERY TRUE	NOT TRUE AT ALL
I am good at making friends.	54%	30%	10%	5%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Risk Behavior (Teen Only)

	DID NOT ABSTAIN	ABSTAINED
Lifetime Cigarette Use	10%	90%
Lifetime Alcohol Use	16%	84%
Lifetime Marijuana Use	11%	89%
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)	6%	94%
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	25%	75%
Current Marijuana Use by Youth who have used Marijuana in their Lifetime	29%	71%
Current Vapor Product Use by Youth who have Vaped in their Lifetime	48%	52%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

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%	4%
	NOT TRUE AT ALL	NOT VERY TRUE	SORT OF TRUE	VERY TRUE
I have trouble going along with other people's ideas.	20%	29%	33%	19%
I get frustrated if I can't do things my way.	31%	28%	23%	18%

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)	35%	25%	22%	9%	10%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Work Experience (9th-12th Grade Only)								
	NO				YES			
Work Experience in the Past 12 Months	44%				56%			
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	66%				34%			

	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%	17%	7%	5%	2%	50%	15%