

# YOUTH RIGHT NOW

The Nation's Largest Data Set  
on Kids & Teens



## SURVEY SUMMARY

Youth Right Now features survey findings from **more than 140,000 young people** ages 9-18 — to our knowledge, the nation's largest data set on youth — and a spotlight survey featuring nearly 3,000 teens and tweens. 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. Boys & Girls Clubs of America shares our annual survey of young people to support parents and caregivers, educators and policymakers, fellow youth-serving organizations and more in partnering toward ensuring all youth achieve a great future. Read the full survey results at [BGCA.org/YouthRightNow](https://BGCA.org/YouthRightNow).



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
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## WHERE YOUTH ARE THRIVING

**YOUTH FEEL CONFIDENT IN THEMSELVES.** They have a solid grasp on the importance of their emotional well-being. This generation intends to go to college, but they want to do so without taking on debt. Over the past five years, high school seniors' applications for scholarships and postsecondary education have increased, while their applications for federal financial aid decreased in 2024.

- 95% of youth say if they try their best, they **CAN DO MOST THINGS**.
- Roughly 80% of youth report knowing **TECHNIQUES FOR CALMING THEMSELVES DOWN**.

## SPOTLIGHT ON TEENS & TWEENS

**MENTAL HEALTH IS TEENS' AND TWEENS' TOP ISSUE** and the area in which they feel their generation will make the most difference. When asked how often they feel certain emotions, teens and tweens said they always or often feel happy (72%), motivated (61%) and hopeful (61%). But teens and tweens also reported always or often feeling anxious (30%) and overwhelmed (32%).\*

### Issues Teens & Tweens Say Are Most Important\*

- ✓ **Mental Health**
- ✓ **Freedom of Speech**
- ✓ **Racial Justice**
- ✓ **Women's Rights**
- ✓ **Community Violence**

### Teens & Tweens Think Their Generation Will Make the Most Difference in These Issues\*

- ✓ **Mental Health**
- ✓ **LGBTQ+ Issues**
- ✓ **Freedom of Speech**
- ✓ **Climate Change**
- ✓ **Community Violence**

\*These survey results are comprised of responses from 2,985 Boys & Girls Club teens and tweens from 46 states and the District of Columbia collected between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. For many of the survey questions, teens and tweens were allowed to select multiple answers. Because of this, the percentages provided reflect the proportion of respondents who selected each of those answers.

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## ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a 160-year-old youth development organization that serves more than 3 million young people each year at over 5,400 Boys & Girls Clubs across the nation and on U.S. military installations worldwide. Committed to empowering all youth to reach their full potential, Boys & Girls Clubs of America provide safe spaces, caring adult mentors and life-enhancing programs. Recognizing the issues facing youth today, we are actively working to address the youth mental health crisis; provide life and workforce readiness programs that support young people in securing first jobs and navigating vibrant careers; and ensure all young people have the resources and access they need to achieve great futures. Learn more at [BGCA.org](https://www.bgca.org).



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## WHERE YOUTH NEED SUPPORT

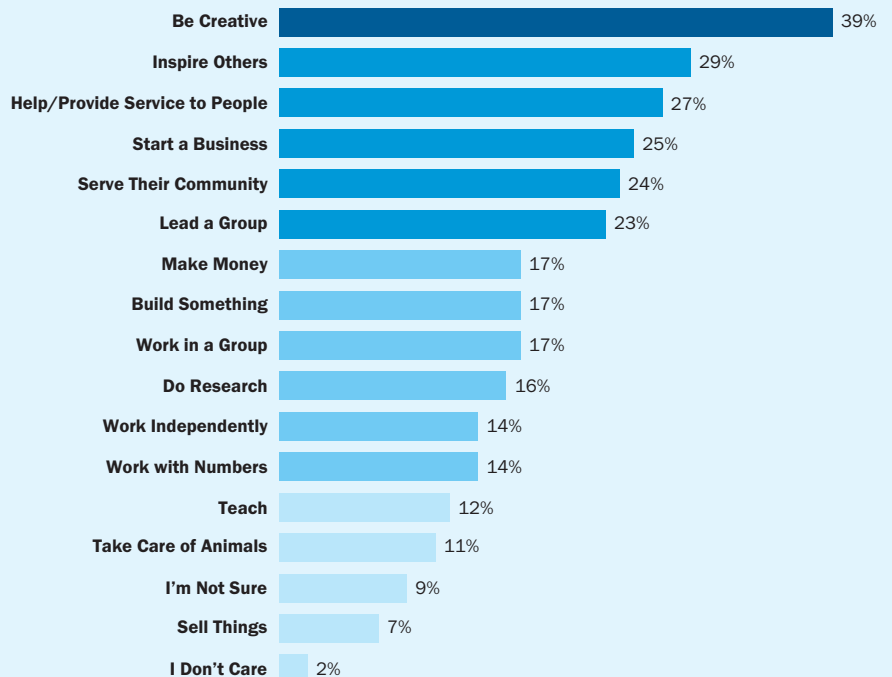
Some of the challenges facing youth center around **RESILIENCY SKILL-BUILDING, SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS AND ADULTS, AND NOT KNOWING WHERE TO START** when it comes to finding a job.

- **CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM** continues to be a national challenge. 12% of youth report skipping more than 4 days of school in the last month.
- More than a quarter (26%) of youth say when they have problems with their peers, they **DON'T TALK TO AN ADULT** about it.

## SPOTLIGHT ON TEENS & TWEENS

The majority of Gen Z and Gen Alpha **PLAN TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**. They're interested in careers that **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**.

### Teens & Tweens are Interested in Jobs Where They Can\*...



[BGCA.org/YouthRightNow](https://www.bgca.org/YouthRightNow)