

 edCHOICE

TEENS AND THEIR
SCHOOLING PERSPECTIVES

A National Polling Report

OCTOBER 2022

KEY FINDINGS

1. Teens continue to be much more positive about the future rather than feeling negative.
2. As a result of the pandemic, teens feel their relationships have improved. Teens also report that both their personal and their family's wellness have gotten better when compared to the earlier phases of the pandemic.
3. Roughly one-third of teens reported changing schools sometime in the past three years. Home school students were the most likely to say they have changed school types and most teens only changed school one time in that timeframe.
4. When compared to school parents, teens have much more negative feelings about how their school addresses several issues related to mental health, guns, violent behaviors, and bullying. Despite this, teens tend to feel supported by their school, parents, teachers, and friends when it comes to their future and their academics. They feel more supported by their friends and parents when it comes to mental health.
5. Teens are much more likely to hear opinions about issues or current events from other students rather than teachers, such as LGBTQ issues. Opinions on masking and vaccinations being shared by teachers and fellow students have decreased since March 2022.
6. About one-third of teens express concern over a violent intruder entering their school, while nearly half of school parents have the same fear.
7. When compared to March 2022, teens are less likely to view education as a top issue. They are more inclined to place importance on current hot-button issues such as gun control and reproductive health care.
8. Teens who are planning on entering the workforce, or taking a gap year right after graduating high school, report feeling more prepared than those who are planning on attending college. However, most teens report sticking to the post-high school plans they had before the pandemic.

Methodology: This poll was conducted between September 21 – October 3, 2022 among a national sample of 1,000 Teens. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Teens based on gender, age, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a measure of precision of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

AGENDA

POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

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SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



Roughly half of teens express positivity when it comes to their current feelings. The largest decline was in hope which decreased by five points compared to March 2022.

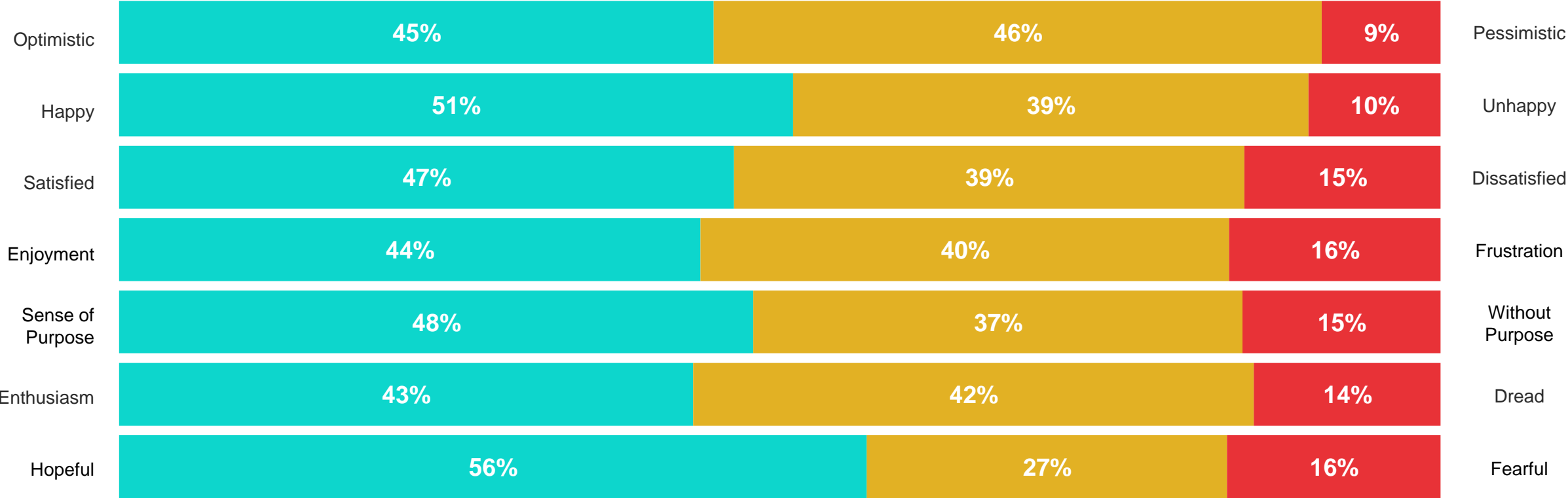
When thinking about the future, please select which of these words best describes how you feel right now?

Teens

Agree more with this statement ←

Neutral

→ Agree more with this statement

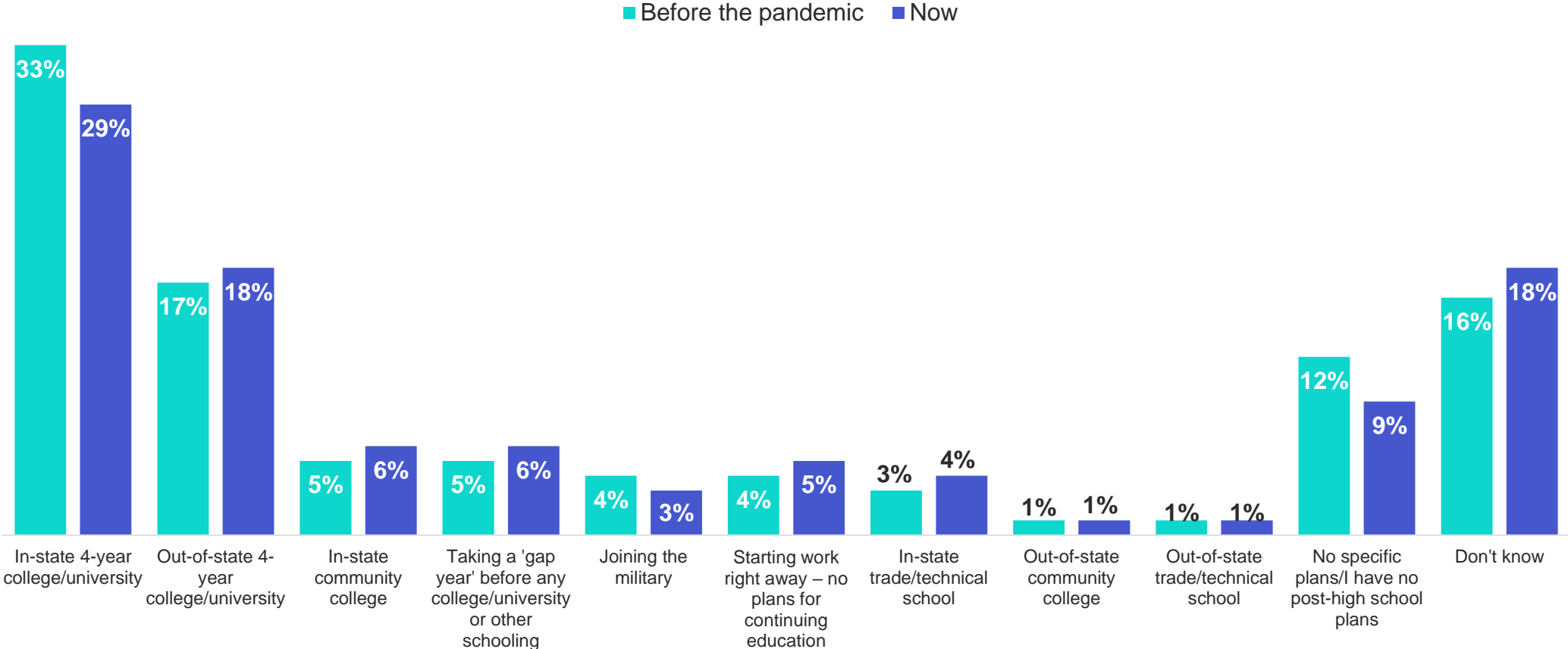


Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Despite a slight dip in the proportion of teens who are planning on attending an in-state four college, the majority of teens are sticking to the post-high school plans they had before the pandemic.

Thinking about your plans following high school, please select what you were planning to do before the pandemic... And what are your plans following high school now?

Teens



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Teens who have changed their post-high school plans point to the impact of the pandemic, personal growth, and their personal situations.

Teens

Why have your post-high school plans changed?

IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

“Before COVID, my life was moving very smoothly but after COVID hit everything changed and there is now a lot more pressure and mental (issues) happening.”

“COVID happened and I don’t want to risk getting sick.”

“COVID has taught me how to reflect on myself and figure out what I want to do with myself.”

LEARNED MORE ABOUT MYSELF/OTHER PATHS

“I think mainly because of what’s been going on in the world my perspective on what I wanted to do in my life changed.”

“Grew up and became more knowledgeable on what is the right choice for me.”

“I have a better idea of what I want to do and am able to make a more informed decision due to having more information.”

PERSONAL SITUATION HAS CHANGED

“Due to inflation, I don’t think I can afford college and basic living necessities.”

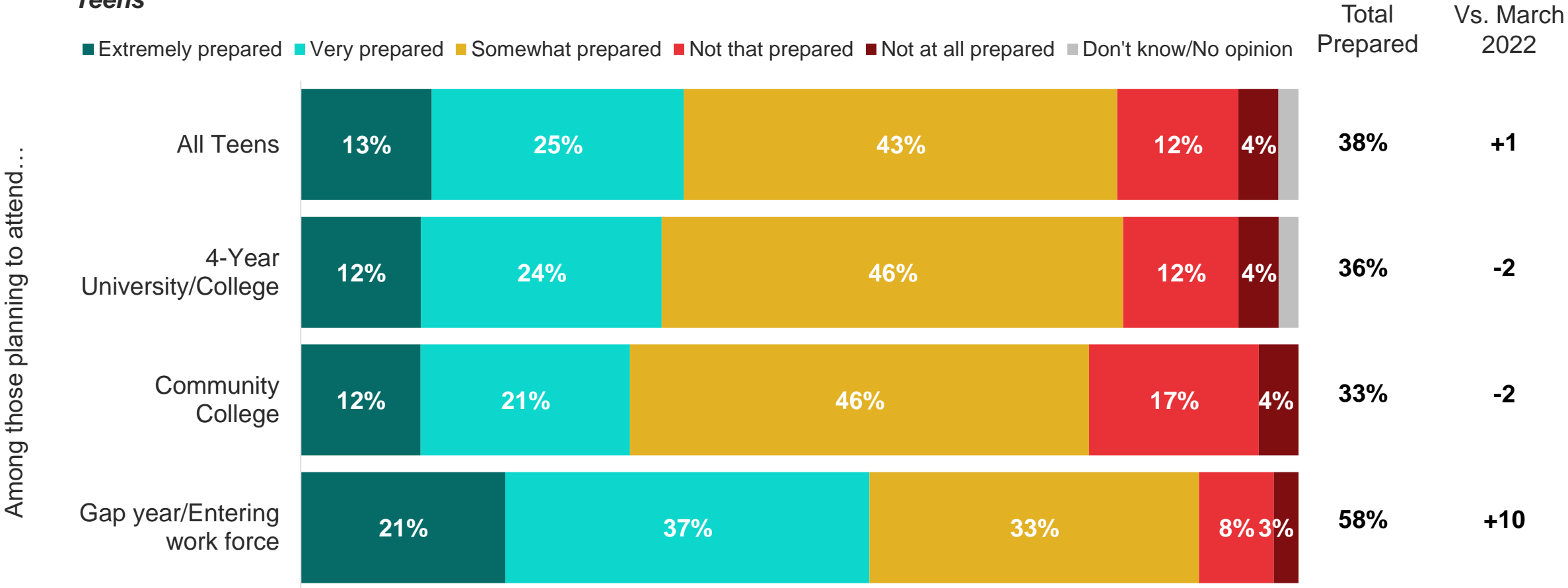
“I’m more focused on my career than education at the moment and I feel like 2 years would be better for me than 4 years.”

“Because my family might move so I don’t know where I’m going to end up at.”

Teens who are planning on taking a gap year, or are entering the work force, report feeling much more prepared than those who are planning on attending college.

To what extent do you feel prepared for...?

Teens



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

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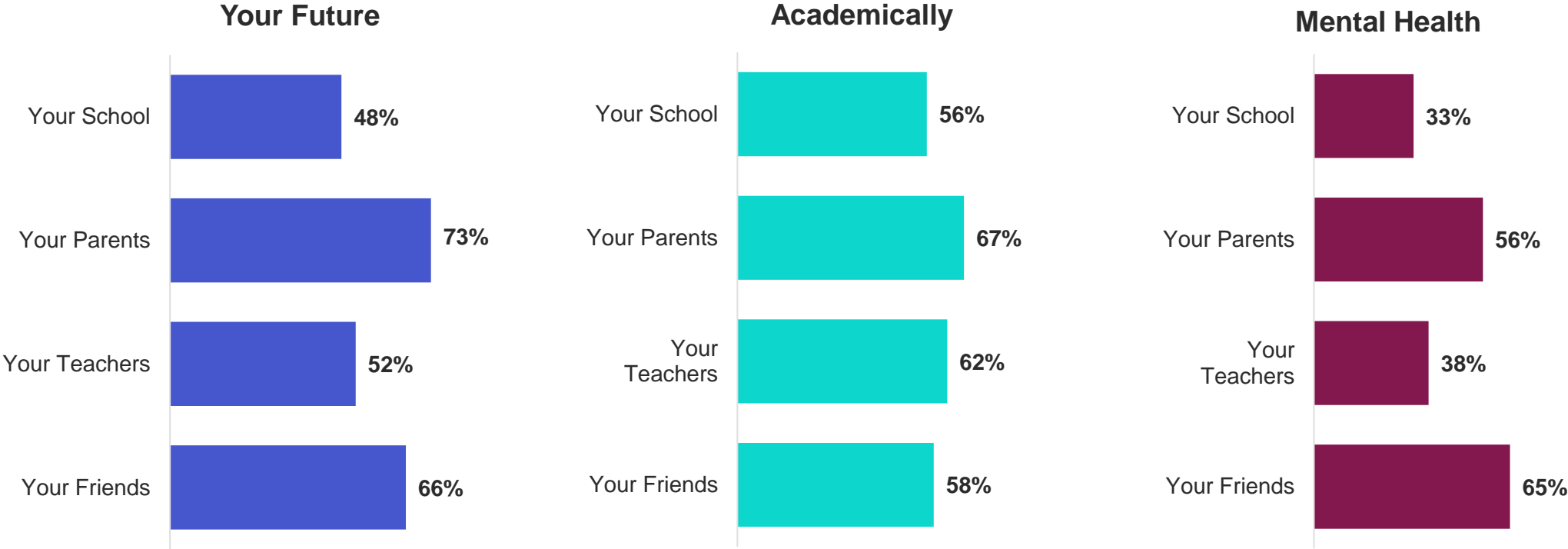


Teens feel less supported by their school and teachers when it comes to their mental health. Generally, they feel supported by their school, parents, teachers, and friends when it comes to their future and their academics.

Thinking about your future/academically/mental health, how supported do you feel by...

Teens

% Supported
(Extremely + Very well)



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Across demographics, teens report being more supported by their school academically and in regards to their future, especially when compared to the support they receive for their mental health.

Thinking about your future/academically/mental health, how supported do you feel by **your school**?

Teens

Your Future		Academically		Mental Health	
Northeast	55%	Family Income: Under \$50k	63%	Black Teens	41%
Black Teens	54%	Suburban	60%	9-10 th Graders	40%
Hispanic Teens	53%	Midwest	60%	Hispanic	37%
Home School Students	53%	Male	59%	Urban	37%
Midwest	52%	Asian Teens	58%	Home School Students	37%
Least Positive <i>(Not that + Not at all supported)</i>		Least Positive <i>(Not that + Not at all supported)</i>		Least Positive <i>(Not that + Not at all supported)</i>	
Your Future		Academically		Mental Health	
6-8 th Graders	26%	Hispanic Teens	21%	LGBTQ Teens	47%
Rural	25%	Northeast	19%	South	42%
Family Income: \$75k+	24%	Rural	19%	Asian Teens	42%
Non-Hispanic White	22%	LGBTQ Teens	18%	Rural	40%
District School Students	22%	Home School Students	18%	Female	39%

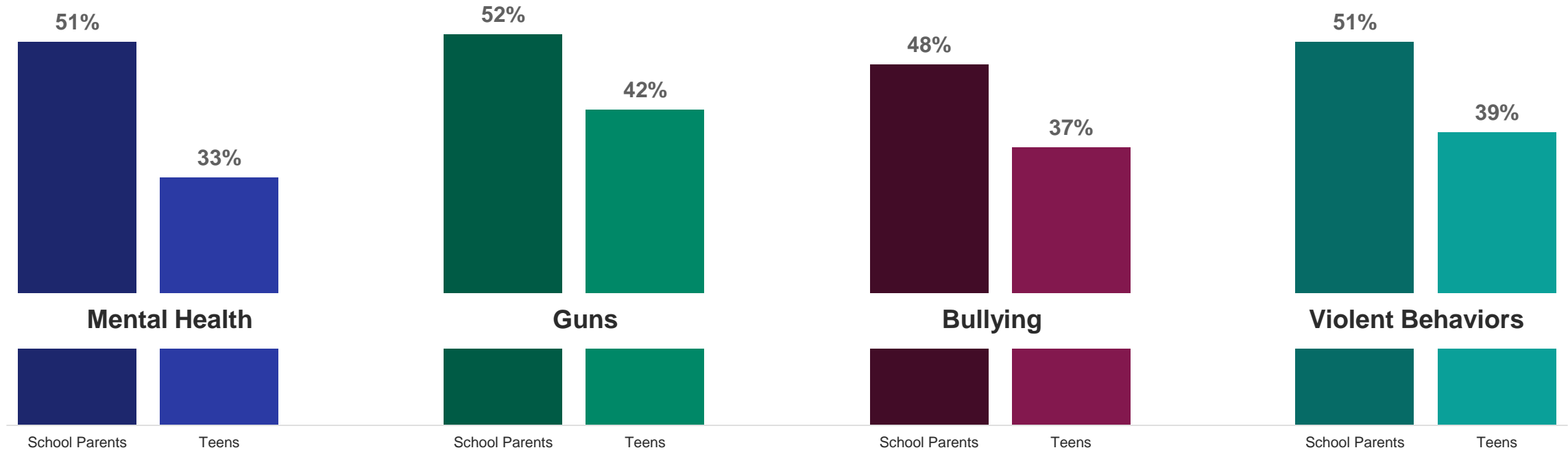
Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Teens are most negative about how their school is dealing with mental health. They express much more negative feelings than school parents regarding how their school addresses several issues.

How well do you feel your school addresses the following among its students?

Teens

Most Positive
(Extremely + Very Well)



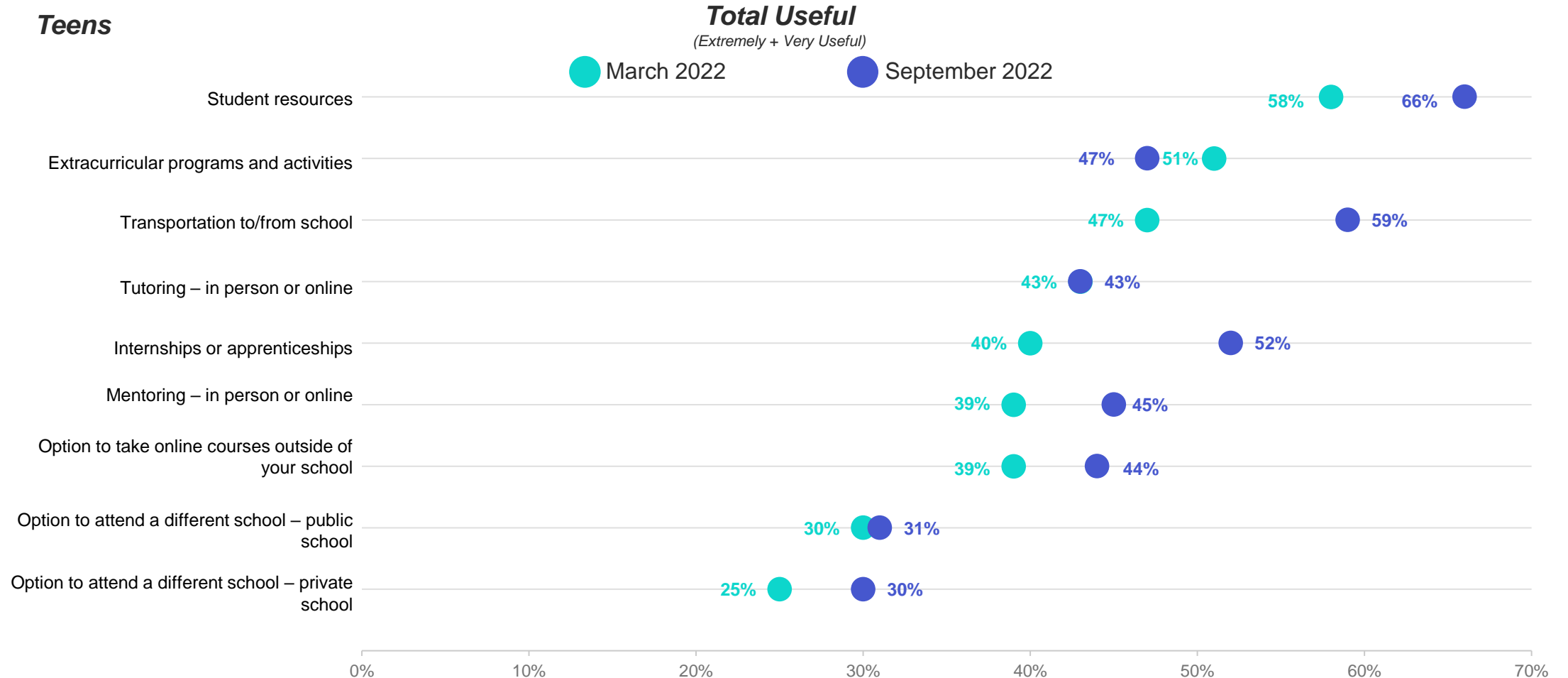
Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Note: School Parents results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.

Since March, teens are more likely to say transportation, internships or apprenticeships, and student resources would be useful to support their education.

Right now, how useful would each of the following be to support your education?

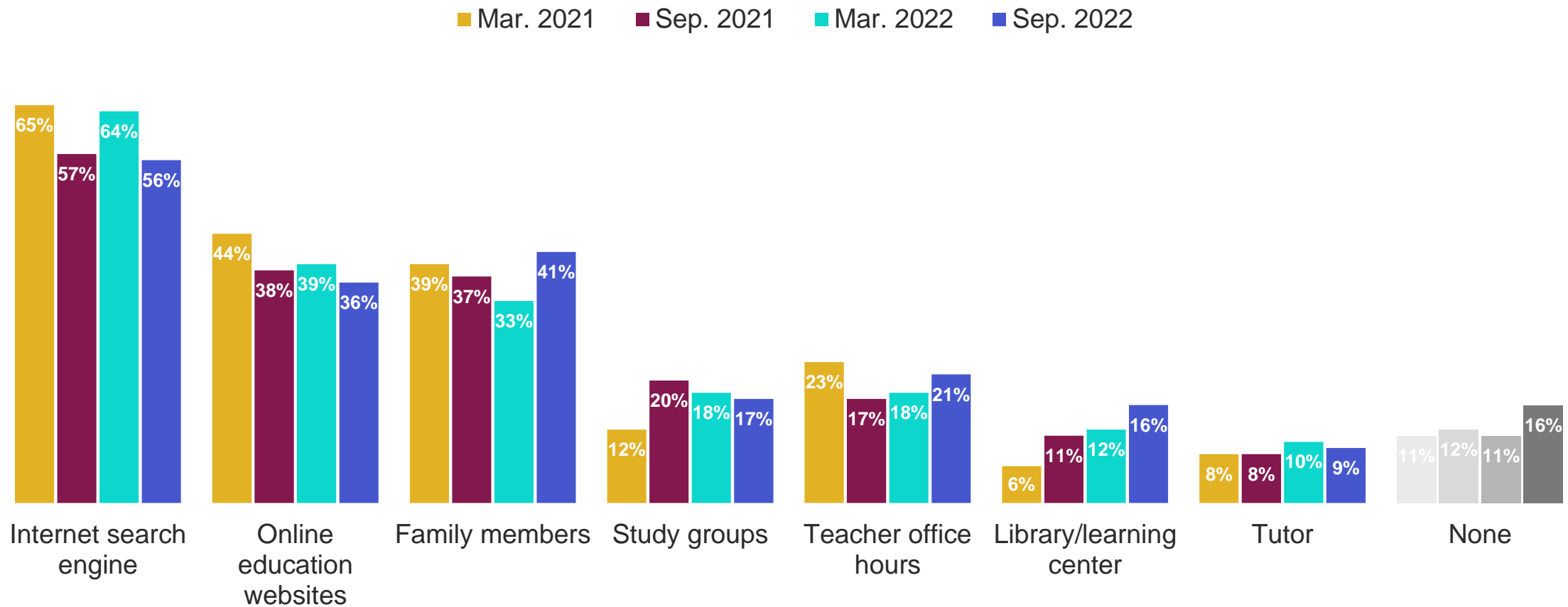
Teens



Despite a decrease since March, teens continue to view internet search engines as the most beneficial tool to help them with their schoolwork.

Right now, which of the following do you currently use to help you with schoolwork? Select all that apply.

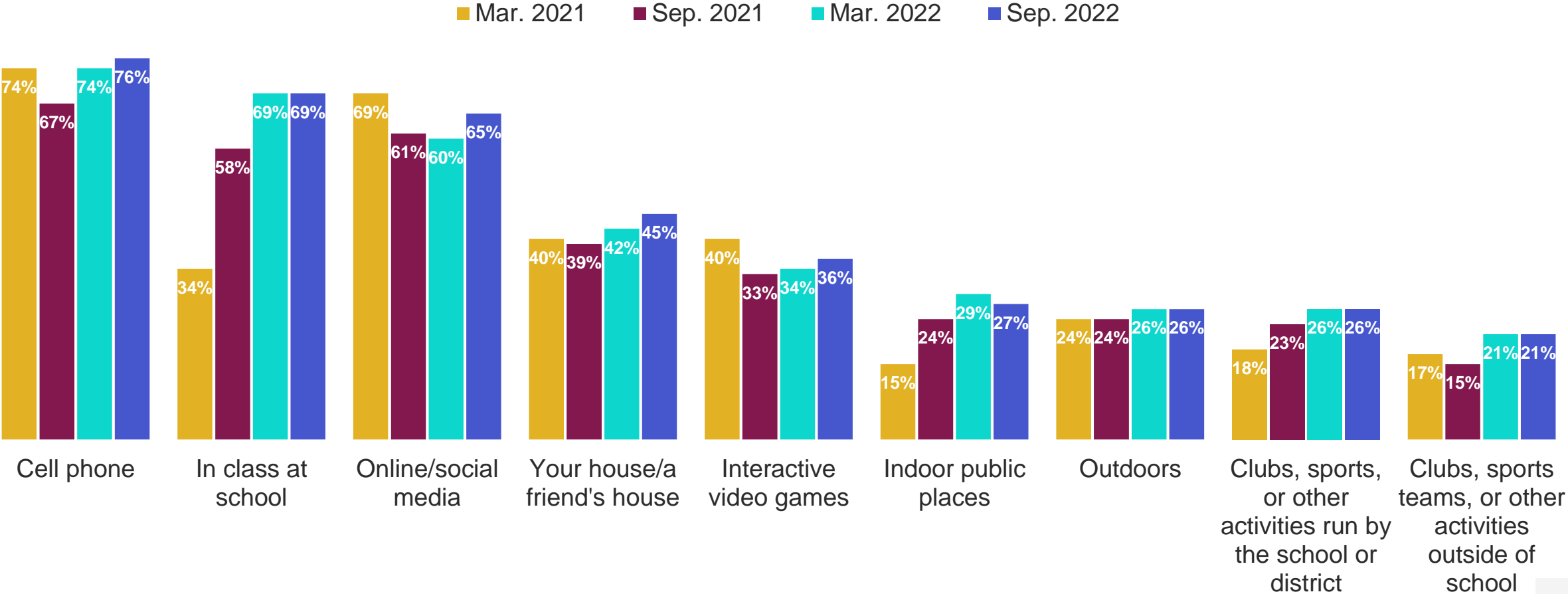
Teens



Teens remain heavily reliant on their phone to connect with peers, with social media connection increasing significantly since March. Connecting in class remains much higher than in 2021.

Right now, where do you connect with friends and other students? Select all that apply.

Teens



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

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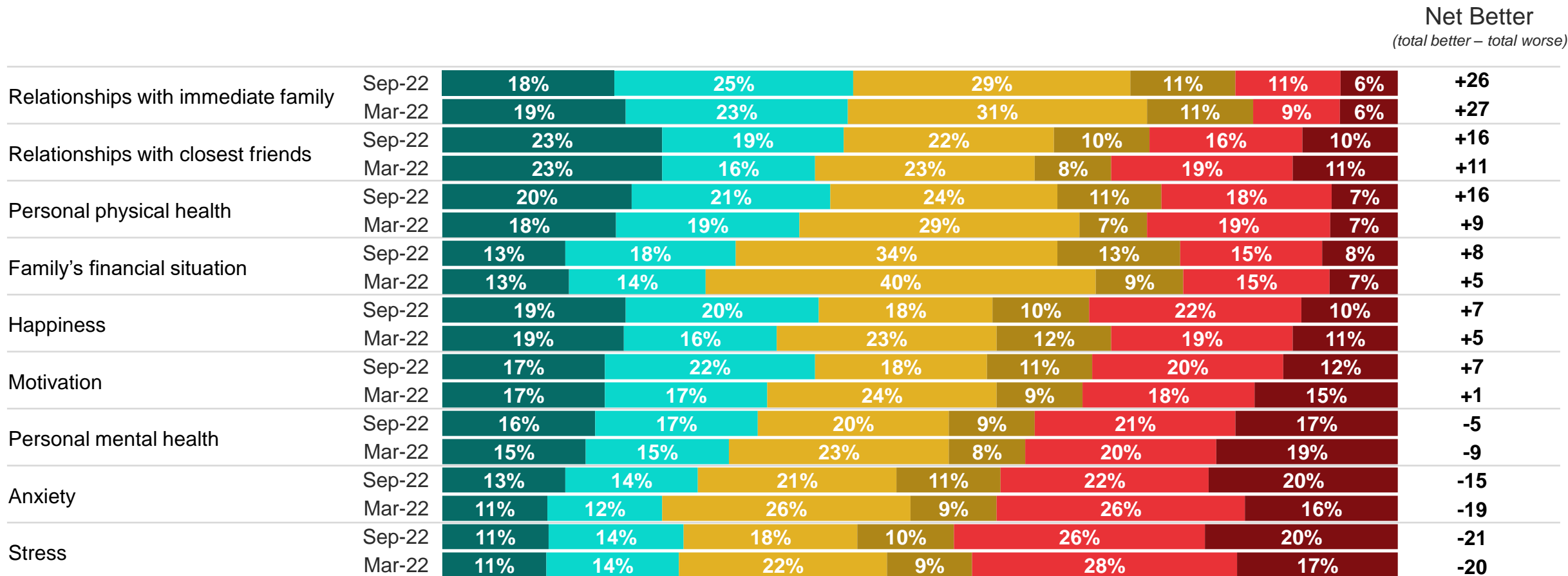


Teens are feeling better about their relationships with their close friends since March. Relationships, in general, appear to be improving since the start of the pandemic.

Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic started in March of 2020, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

Teens

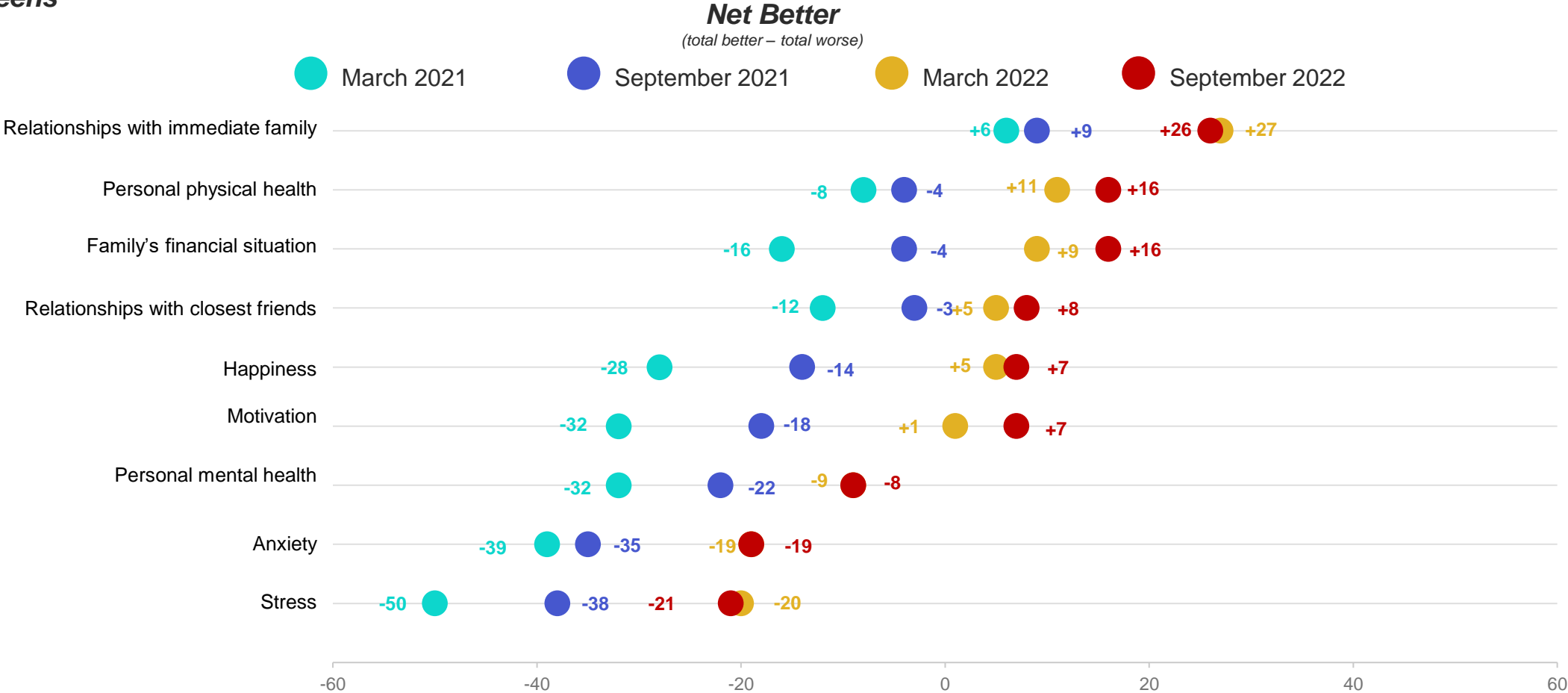
■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ Stayed about the same during the pandemic ■ Back to about the same as before the pandemic ■ Somewhat worse ■ Much worse



In early fall 2022, teens were feeling much better about both their personal and their family’s wellness when compared to earlier phases of the pandemic.

Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic started in March of 2020, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

Teens

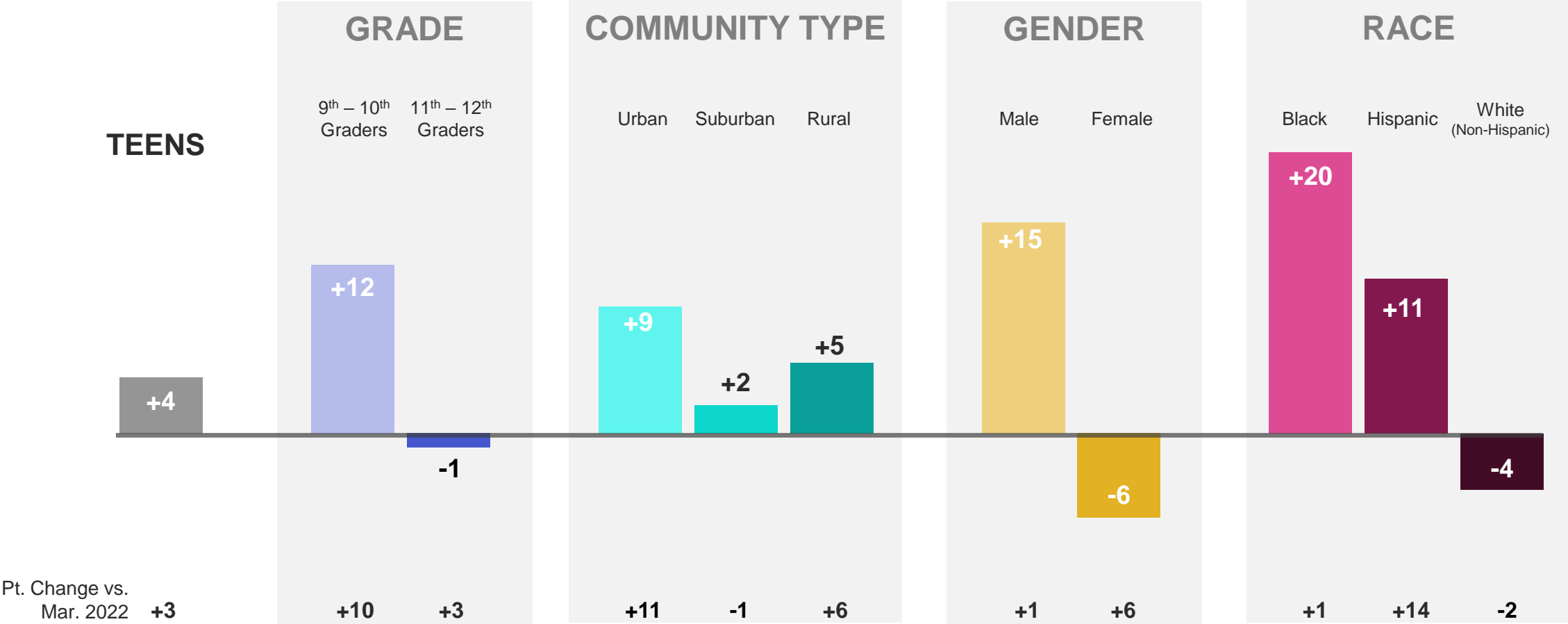


Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Female teenagers still report being much worse off than males as a result of the pandemic. However, many demographic groups have been feeling better about various wellness areas since March 2022 – especially Hispanic and Urban students.

Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic started in March of 2020, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

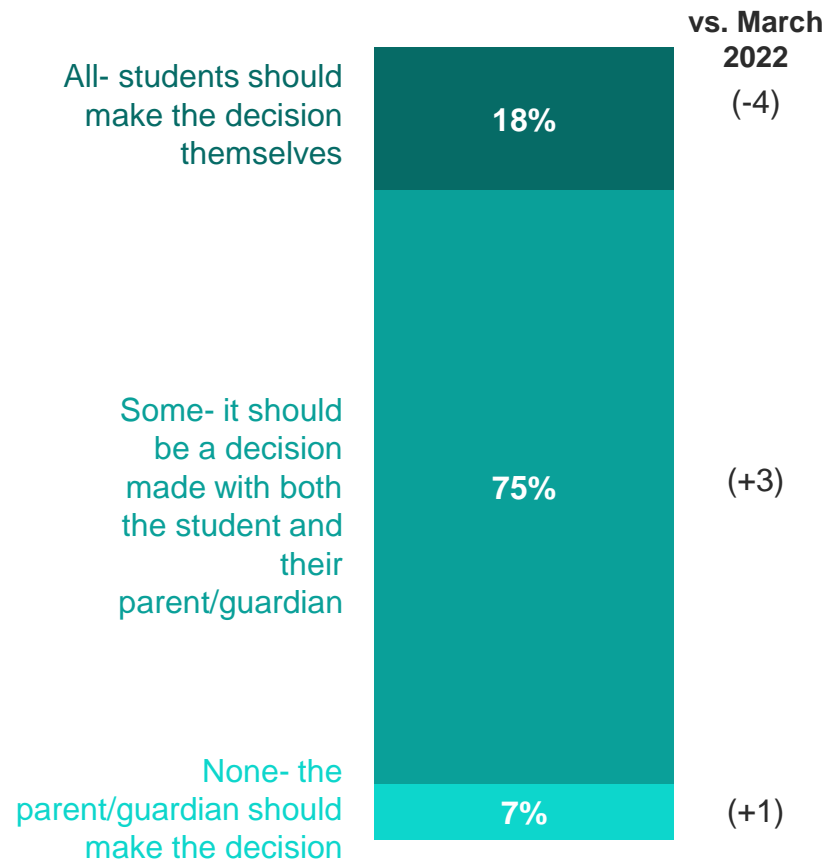
Average Net Better Score by Demographic



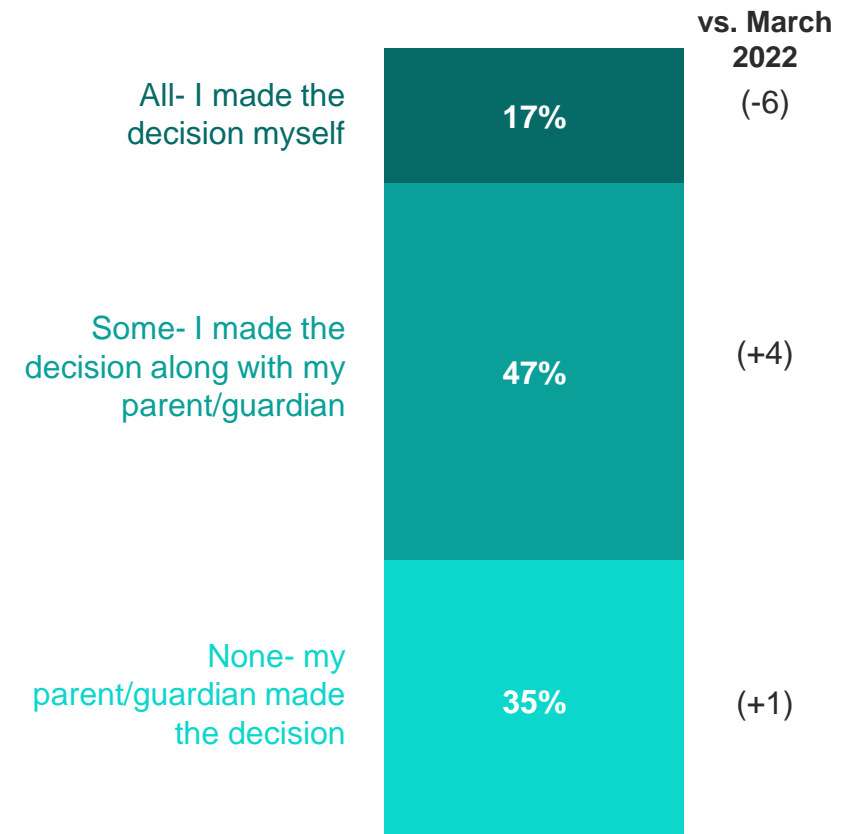
Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Although three in four teens say students and parents should share responsibility for choosing which school type they attend, but just under half said there was such shared decision-making this school year.

How much of a say do you think students should have in the type of school they attend?

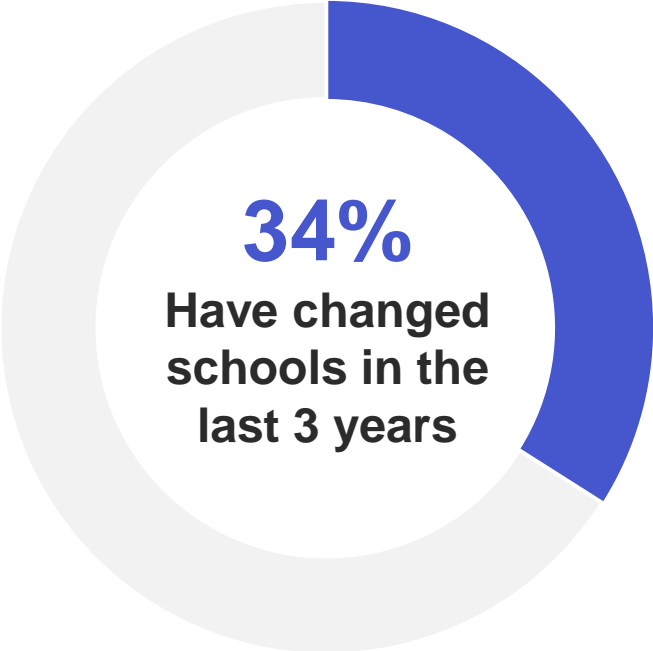


How much of a say did you have in the type of school you are attending this current school year?



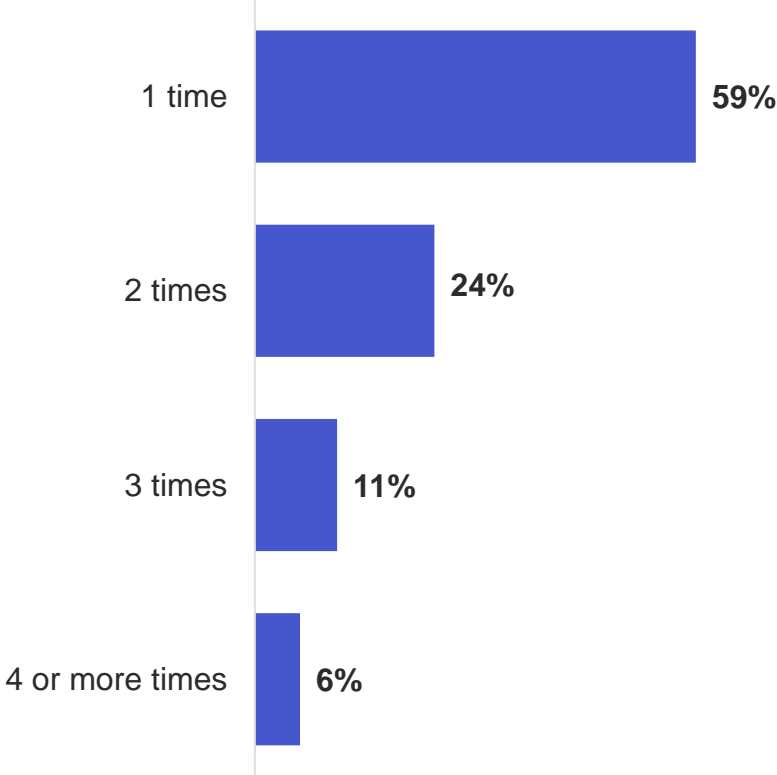
Roughly one-third of teens have changed schools in the last three years. Among that group, most have changed schools once. Home school students were more likely to say they have changed schools than teens overall.

Other than moving from junior high/middle school to high school, have you changed schools in the last three years?



Students being homeschooled this year were more likely to say that they have changed schools in the last three years.

You said you've changed schools in the last three years. How many times did you change schools?

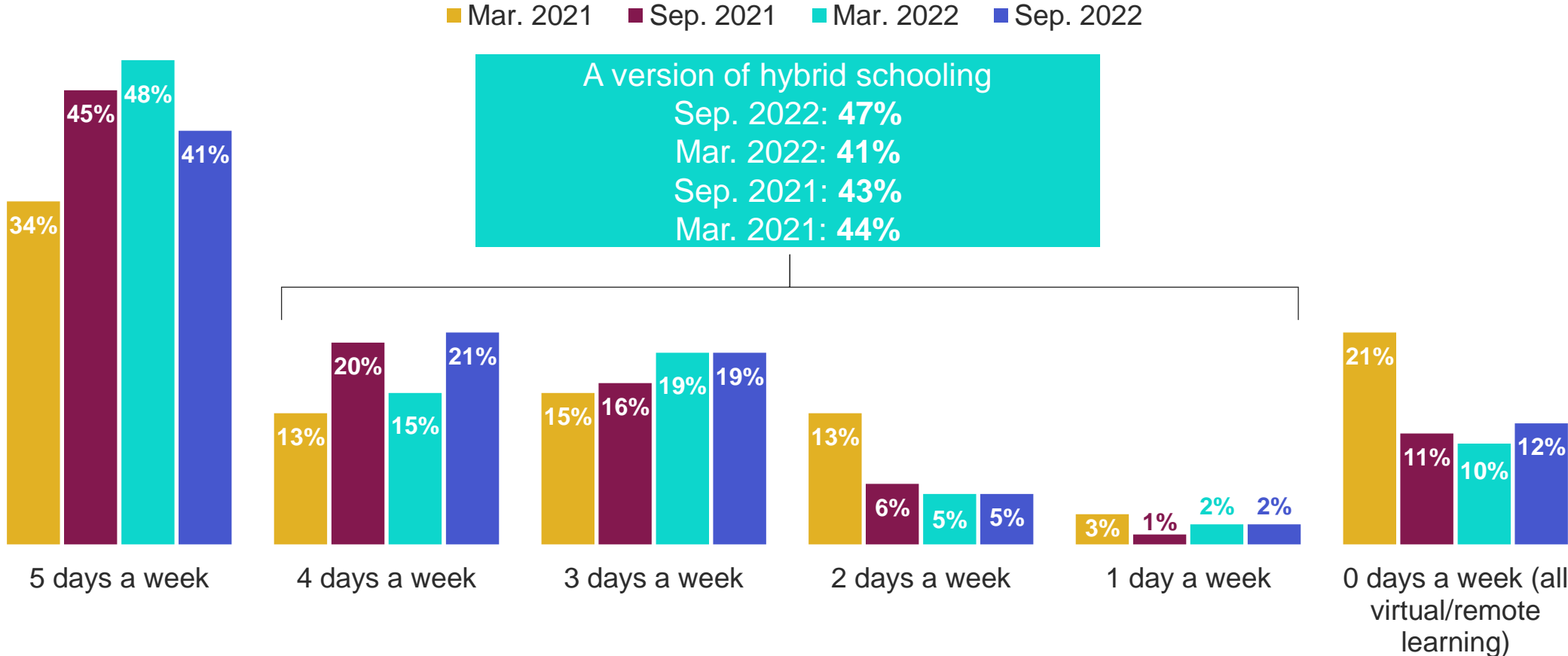


Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Compared to March 2022, there was a significant decline in the number of teens who want to attend classes fully in-person. Teens are split on their preferences between full-time regular schooling and hybrid schooling.

After the pandemic, if given the option, how many days per week would you like to attend classes in-person?

Teens

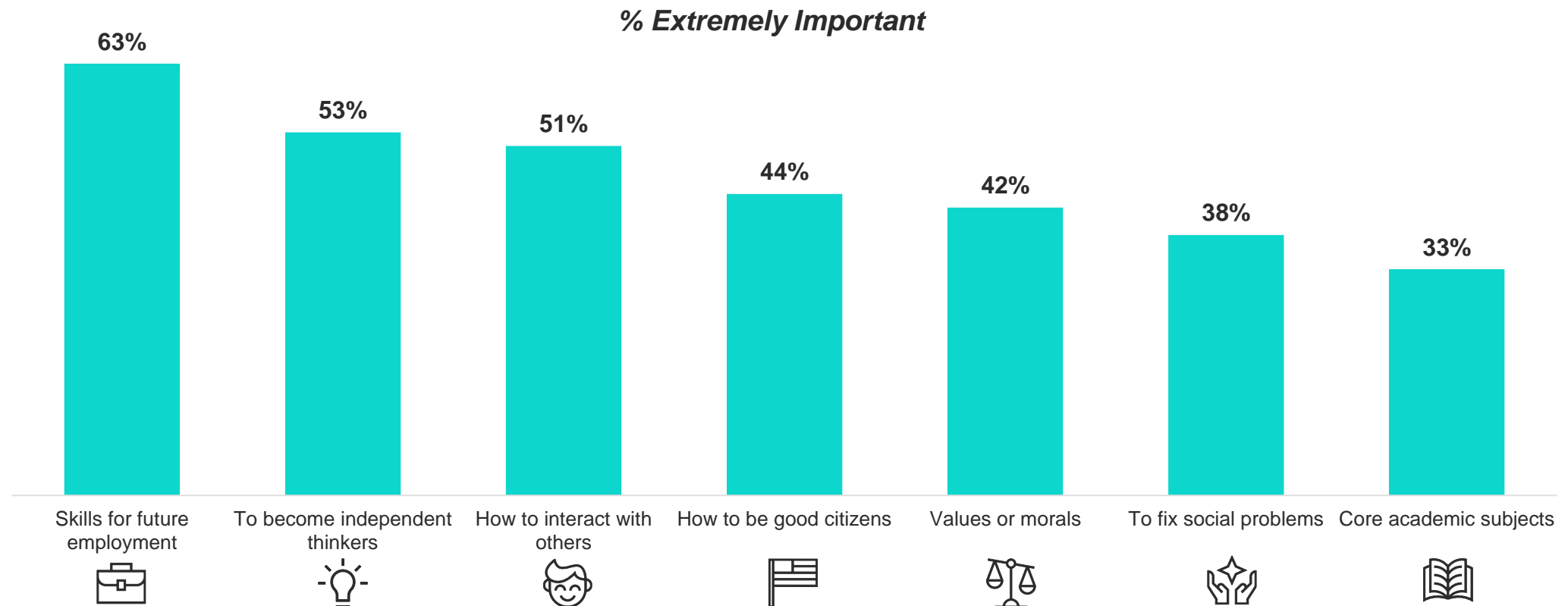


Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Teens cite skills for future employment as the most important thing to learn while at school. Core academic subjects are the least important to teens.

In your opinion, how important is it for you to learn each of these at school?

Average % selected Extremely Important: **46%**



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

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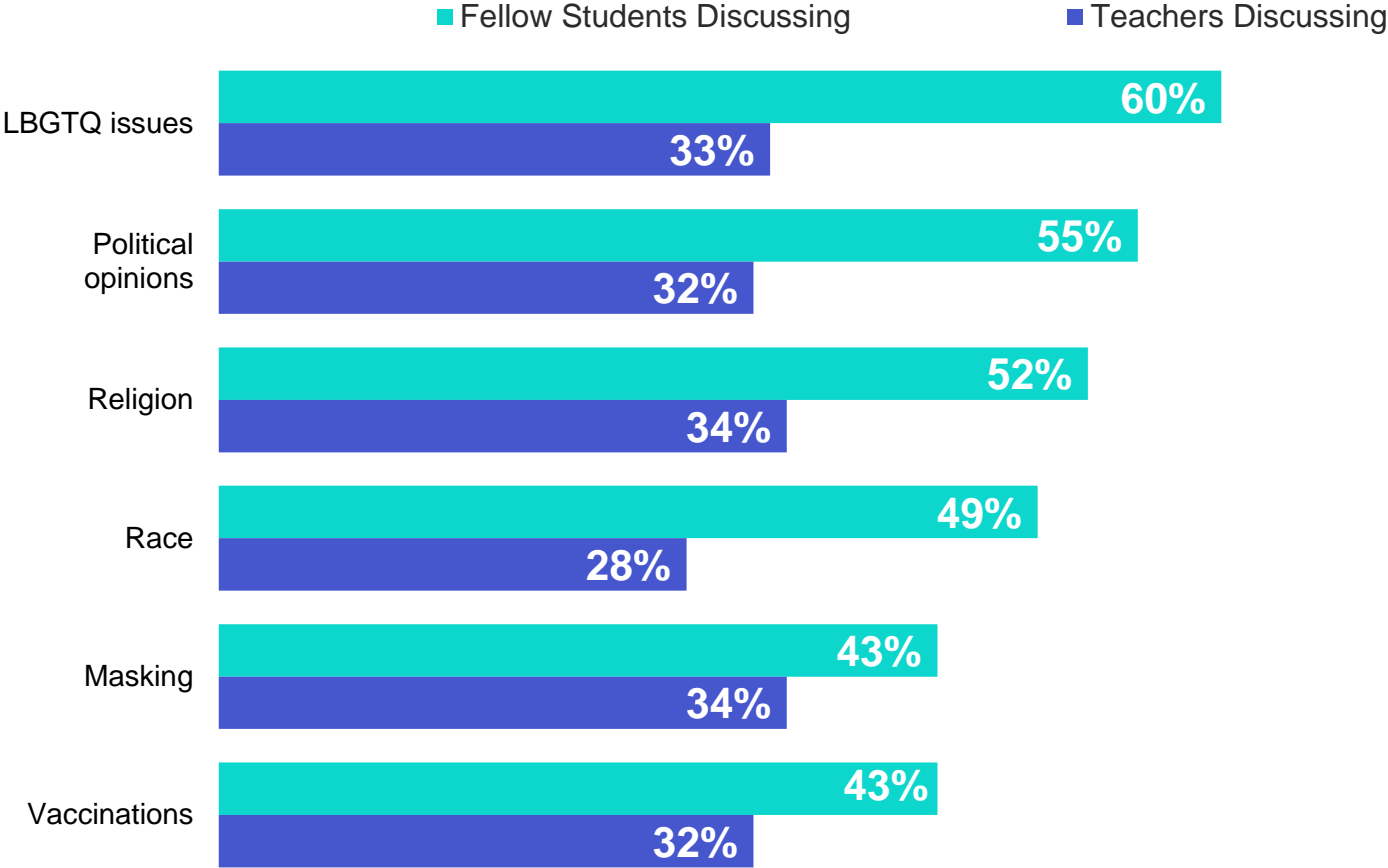
SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



Teens are much more likely to hear opinions about issues or current events from other students rather than teachers. They also are more likely to hear opinions from other students about LGBTQ issues than other listed topics.

Of the following, which have you observed or experienced in school in the past month?

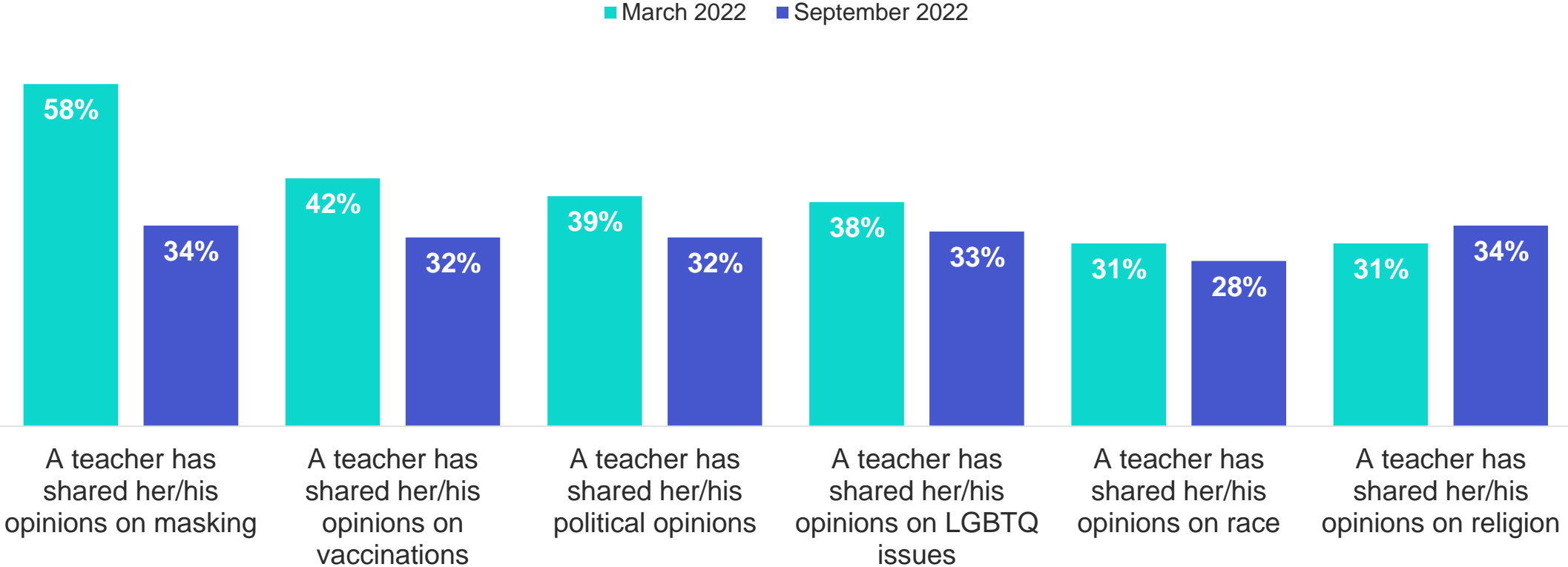
Teens



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

From March to early fall, there was a decrease in the proportion of teens who reported a teacher sharing their opinions on masking and vaccinations.

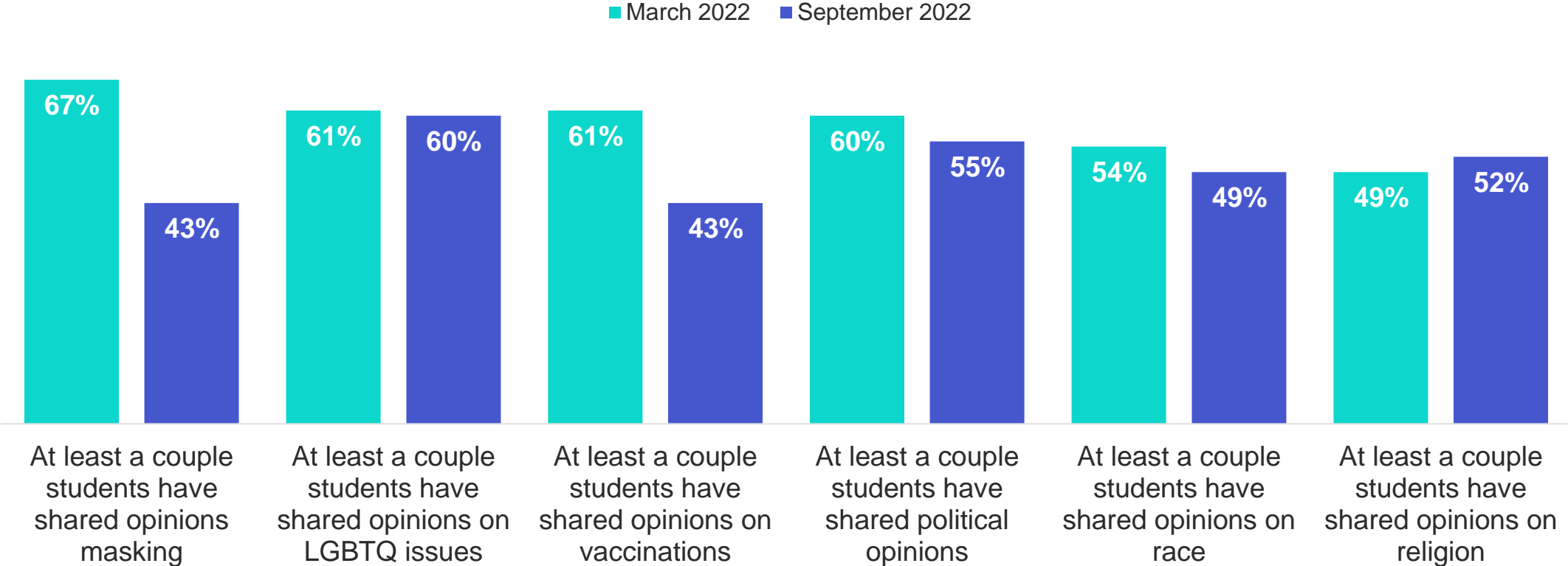
Of the following, which have you observed or experienced in school in the past month?



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

There was also a substantial decrease in the proportion of teens who reported that fellow students were sharing their opinions on masking and vaccinations.

Of the following, which have you observed or experienced in school in the past month?

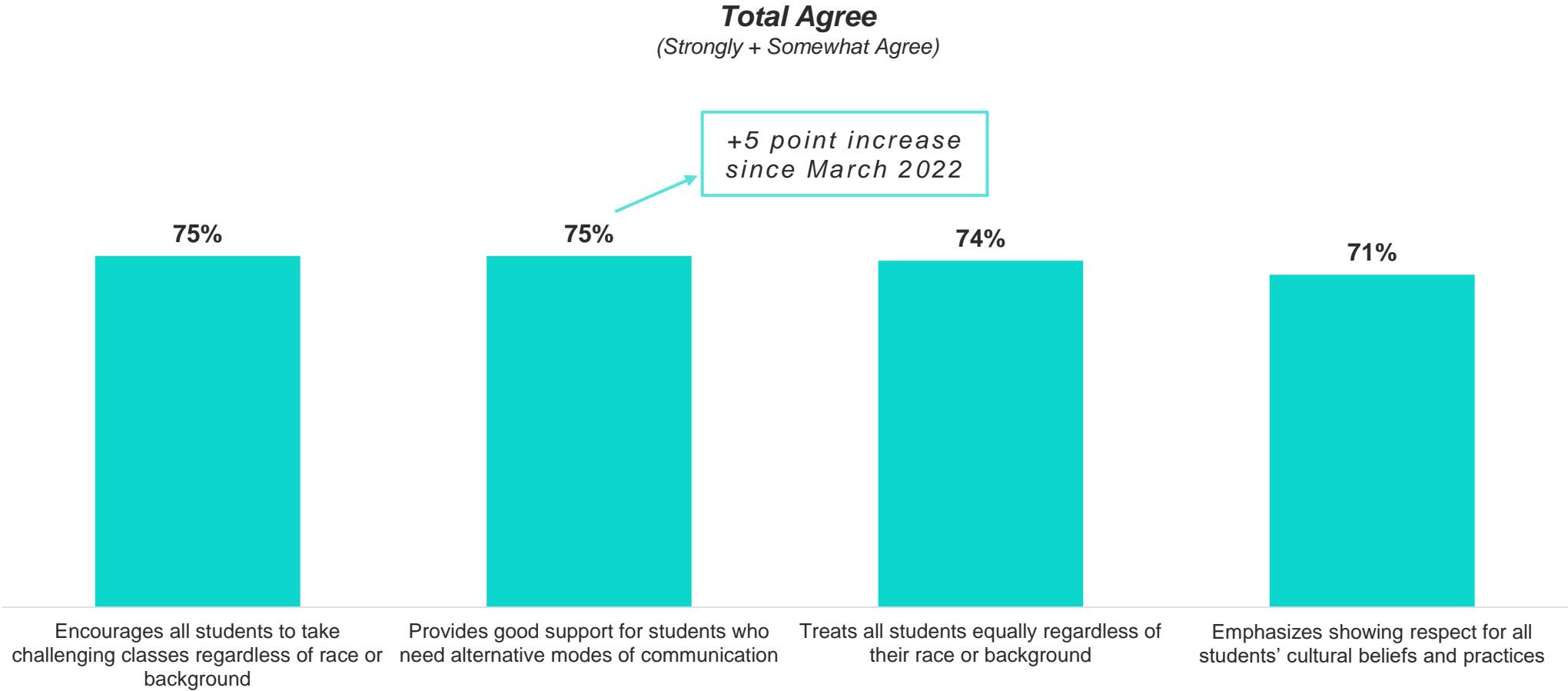


Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Across the board, around three-fourths of teens agree that their school promotes equality, fairness, respect, challenge, and/or provides communication supports.

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements as it relates to the school you attend?

Teens

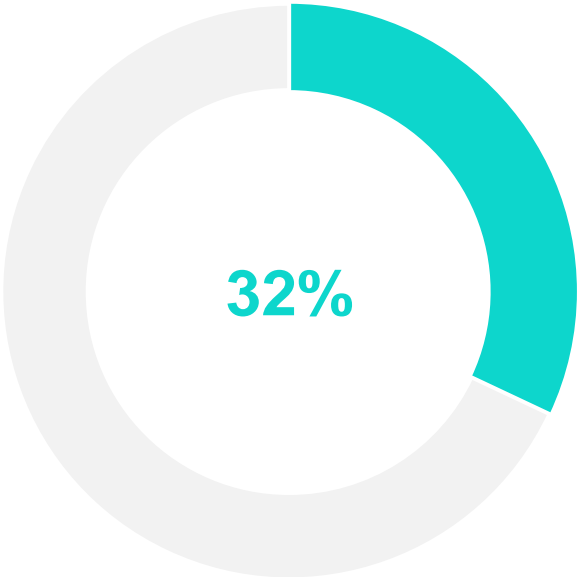


Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

About one-third of teens are at least very concerned about a violent intruder entering their school. That number is lower than the proportion of parents who have the same fear.

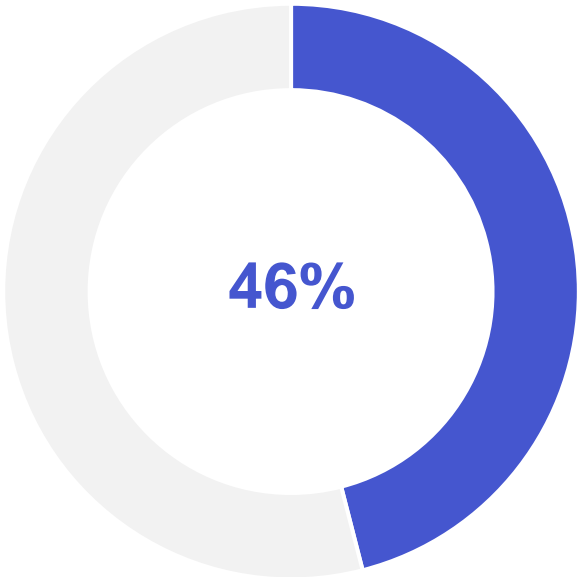
How concerned are you about a violent intruder, like a mass shooter, entering your school/your child's school?

Teens



Teens

Total Concern
(Extremely+ Very Concerned)

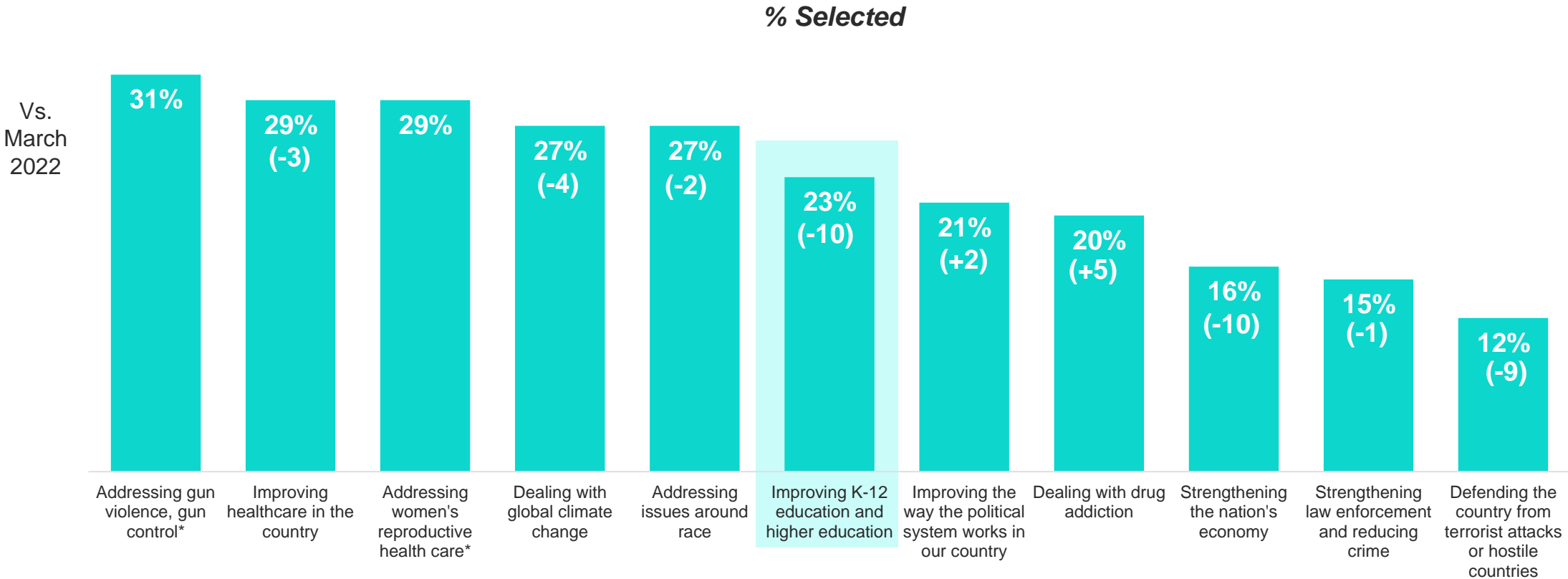


School Parents*

Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)
Note: School Parents results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.

In early fall 2022, teens are less likely to view education as a top issue and are more inclined to place importance on others issues such as gun control and reproductive health care.

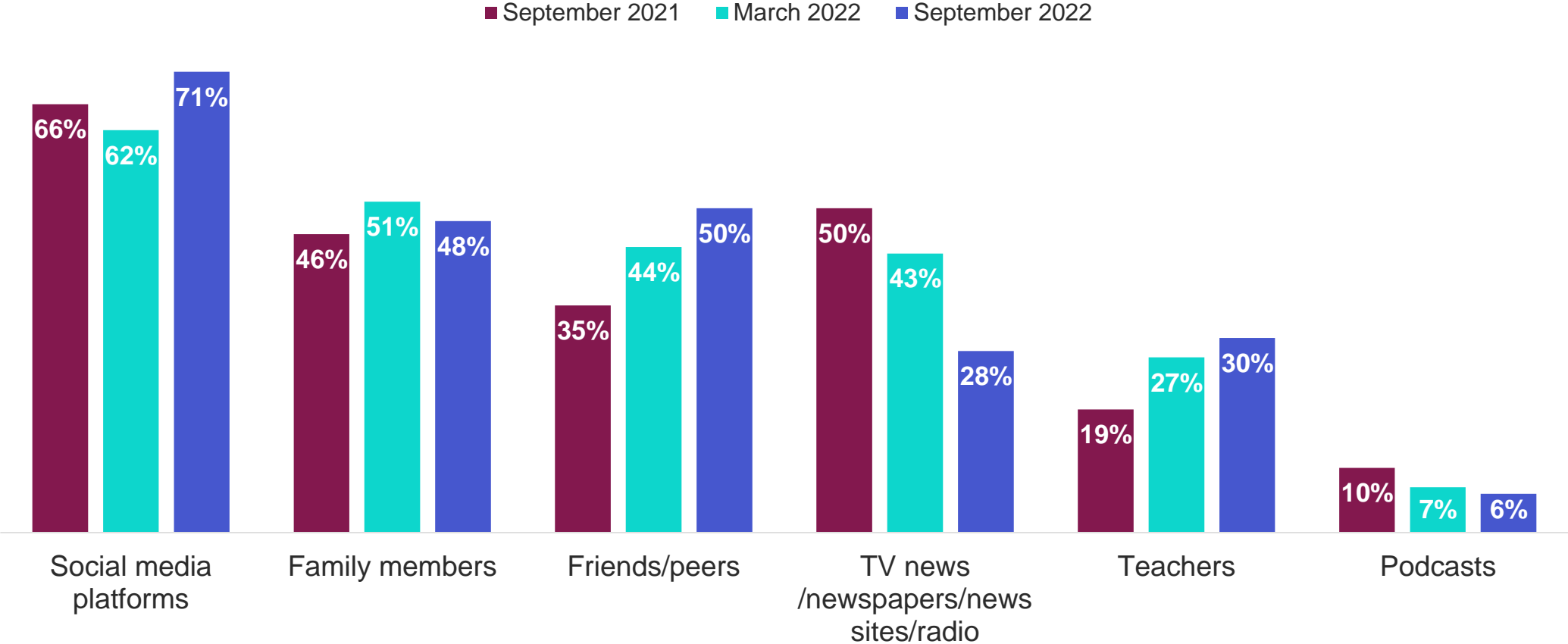
Right now, which of these public policy issues are most important to you? Please select three.



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)
 * Indicates a response option was not asked in March 2022

Teens remain more likely to rely on social media to get information about current events. Teens are much less likely to utilize TV news/newspapers/news sites/radio compared to last year.

What sources do you primarily get your information about current events from?



Source: Survey conducted September 21– October 3, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

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Survey Profile, 1

Dates	September 21 – October 3, 2022
Survey Data Collection & Quality Control	Morning Consult
Survey Sponsor	EdChoice
Population	Teens (ages 13-18) <i>**NOTE survey done in March 2021 did not include 18-year-olds</i>
Sampling Frame	National sample of teens (age 13-18) living in the United States, including the District of Columbia
Sampling Method	Non-Probability
Mode	Online Survey
Language	English

Survey Profile, 2

Survey Time	Teens = 10.58 minutes (median)
Sample Size	Teens Total, N = 1,000
Quotas	N/A
Weighting	Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Census Region
Measure of Precision (adjusted for weighting)	Teens = \pm 3.63 percentage points
Participation Rate	Teens = 20.0%
Methods Page	https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology/
Project Contact	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

Teen Demographic Groups with Unweighted Sample Sizes

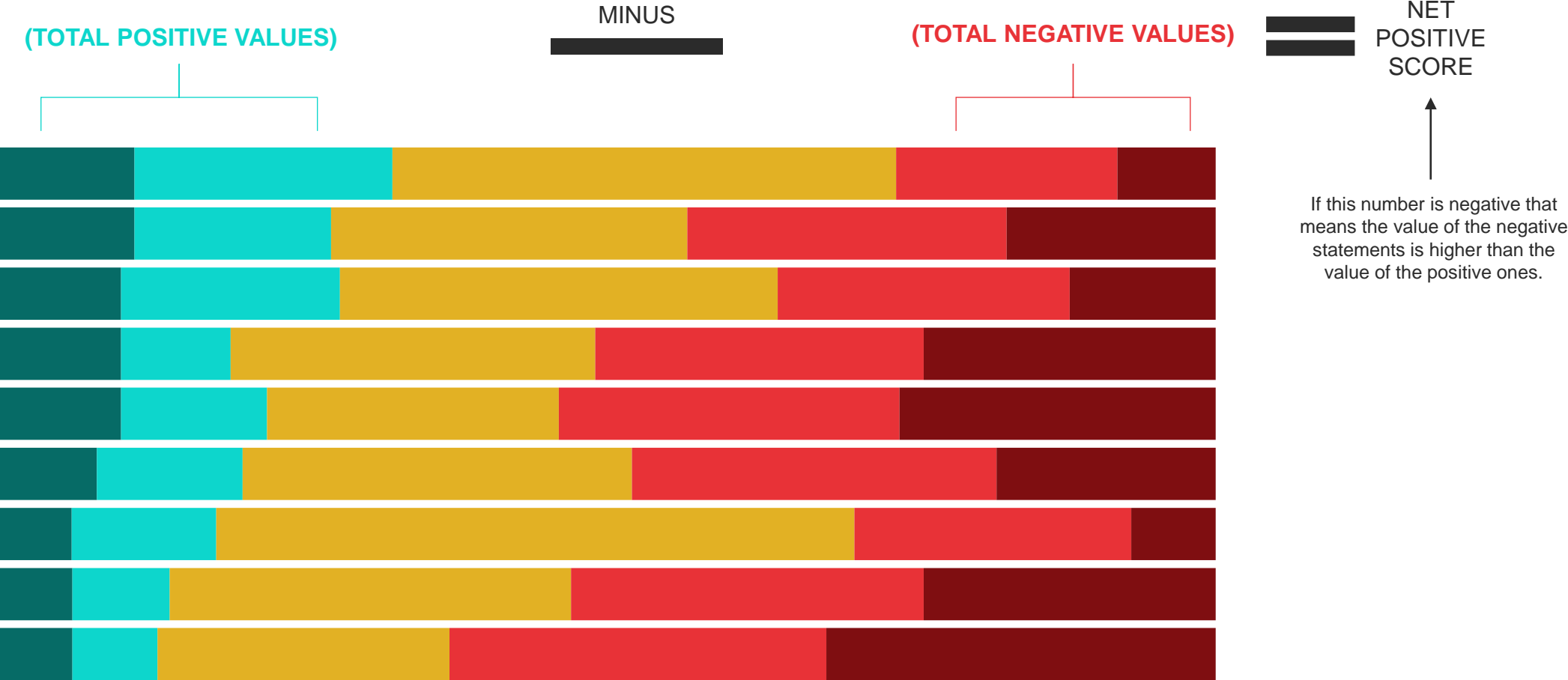
Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Male	391
Female	609
6-8th Graders	93
9th-10th Graders	310
11th-12th Graders	597
Urban	281
Suburban	468
Rural	251

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
White (non-hispanic)	382
Hispanic	281
Black	229
Asian	83
Northeast	143
Midwest	186
South	436
West	235

Teen Demographic Groups by Unweighted, Weighted, and Target Percentages

Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target
Age: 13	7%	17%	17%
Age: 14	11%	17%	17%
Age: 15	17%	16%	16%
Age: 16	21%	16%	16%
Age: 17	21%	16%	16%
Age: 18	23%	18%	18%
Male	39%	51%	51%
Female	61%	49%	49%
White	38%	52%	52%
Hispanic	28%	24%	24%
Black	23%	14%	14%
Other	9%	10%	10%
Northeast	14%	16%	16%
Midwest	19%	21%	21%
South	44%	39%	39%
West	24%	24%	24%

HOW TO CALCULATE NET SCORES:



WHO WE ARE

 **MORNING CONSULT**[®]

Morning Consult is a global data intelligence company delivering insights on what people think in real time.

By surveying tens of thousands across the globe every day, Morning Consult is unmatched in scale and speed: It determines the true measure of what people think and how their decisions impact business, politics and the economy.

Industry leaders rely on Morning Consult's proprietary technology and analysis for real-time intelligence to transform information into a competitive advantage.



 **CHOICE**

EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our mission is to advance educational freedom and choice for all as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. We are committed to understanding and pursuing a K–12 education ecosystem that empowers every family to choose the learning environment that fits their children's needs best.

Learn more at: [EDCHOICE.ORG](https://edchoice.org)



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