

 edCHOICE

TEENS AND THEIR  
SCHOOLING PERSPECTIVES

A National Polling Report

April 2024

# KEY FINDINGS

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1. Approximately 13 percent of teens self-report being absent more than 15 days this school year. A larger proportion (19%) see their closest friends missing 15+ days so far this school year.
2. Nearly 2 in 3 teens feel that “school is boring”, while almost 1 in 3 say “school is a waste of time.” Just 41 percent say they “like going to school.” Seventy percent of teens say “all” or “most” of their classmates are bored in class.
3. Teens are more likely to feel a child should be older to be able to access social media, compared with the age to be allowed to own a cell phone.
4. Three in four teens say they are on social media at least “very” often. Middle schoolers are more likely to say they are on social media “extremely” often compared to high schoolers. Forty percent of teens say social media has had a negative impact on their mental health and self-confidence.
5. More than 90 percent of teens feel they should be allowed to have cell phones in school. Compared to school parents, they are much more likely to want to permit cell phones in the classroom or school.
6. Middle schoolers are much more likely to say student disruptions happen often in their classes than teens in high school. Like classroom disruptions, middle school teens say student misbehaviors are more frequent in their classes compared to what high school student indicate.
7. Teens are much less likely than parents to be concerned about a violent intruder entering school. About 3 in 10 indicated this fear.
8. Almost three-fourths of teens say they have at least one role model helping them figure out their career plans. Black teens are 10-points less likely to say they have a role model compared to white teens.
9. One-quarter of teens either say they have no specific post-high school plans or do not know what they will do. Compared to August of last year, the proportion of teens expecting to enroll in an in-state or out-of-state 4-year college has stayed the same.

**Methodology:** This poll was conducted between February 27 – March 6, 2024 among a national sample of 1,002 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 3.1 percentage points.

AGENDA

**TEEN PERSPECTIVES**

**SCHOOLING EXPERIENCES**

**SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS**



More than half of teens feel “hopeful,” “happy,” a “sense of purpose,” and “enjoyment.” Less than 40 percent of teens “feel in control” of their lives.

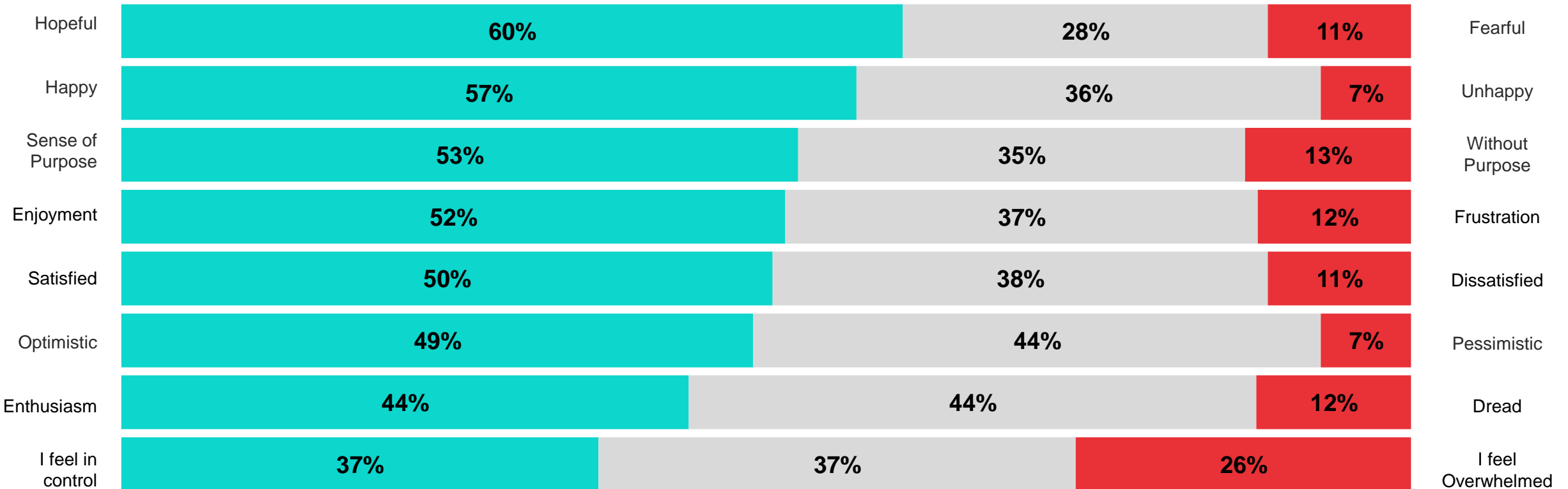
When thinking about the future, please select which of these words best describes how you feel right now?

**Teens**

Agree more with this statement ←

Neutral

→ Agree more with this statement

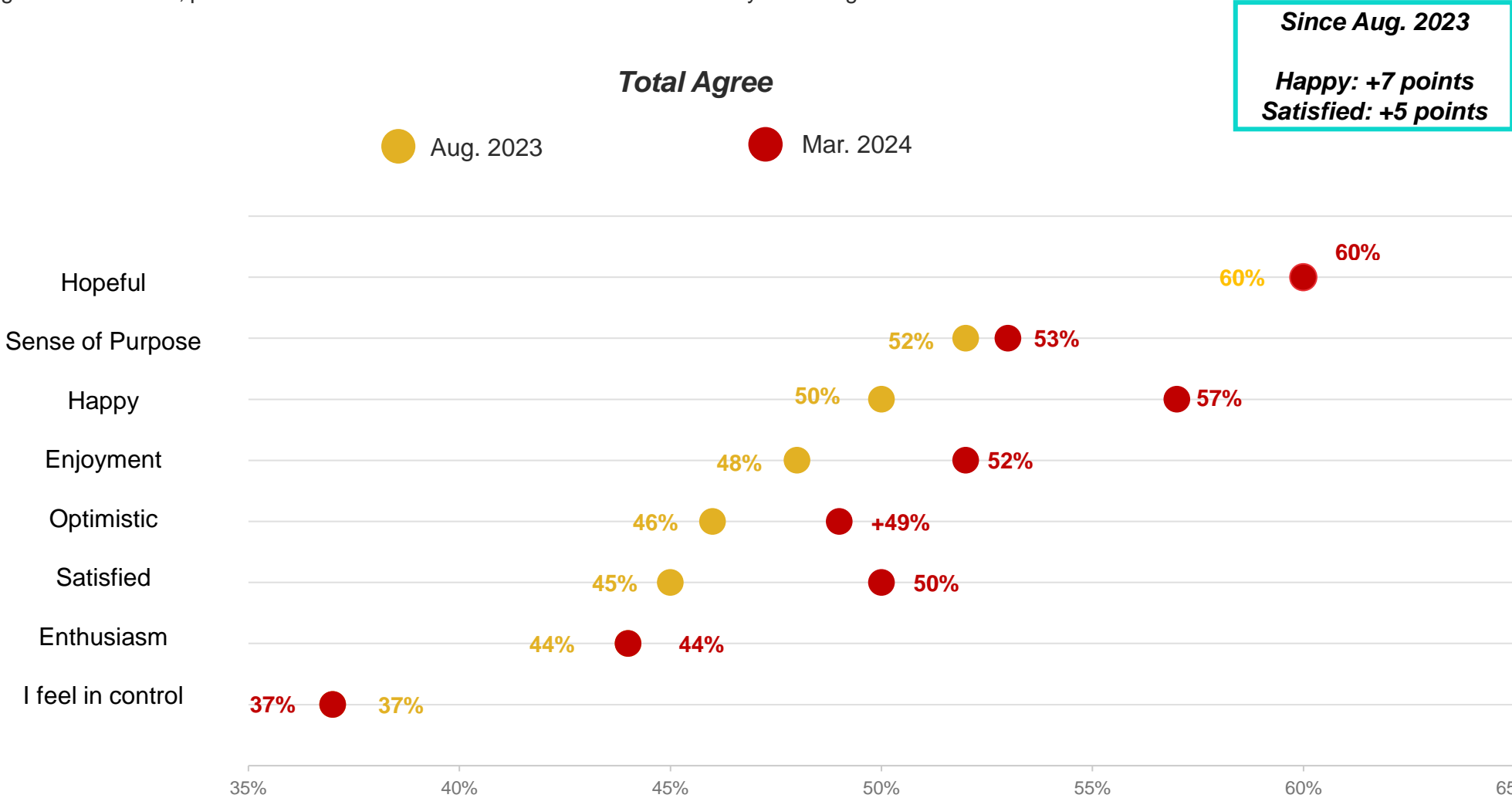


Fearful  
Unhappy  
Without Purpose  
Frustration  
Dissatisfied  
Pessimistic  
Dread  
I feel Overwhelmed

Since this fall, the number of teens who feel “happy” and “satisfied” about the future has increased, while the proportion of those feeling “hopeful,” “enthusiasm” and “in control” remains unchanged.

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

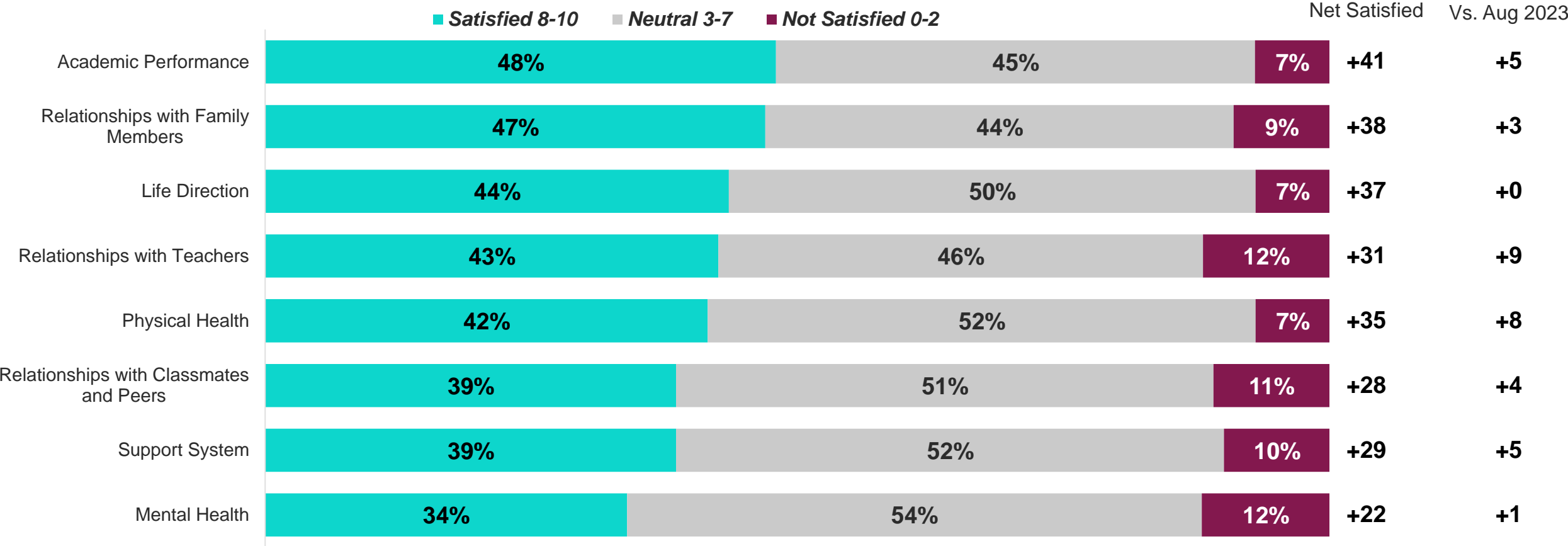
**Teens**



Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

# Teens are most satisfied with their academic performance, their relationships with their family members, and life direction. Net satisfaction increased noticeably among relationships with teachers and physical health since last fall.

For each of the following, please rate how personally satisfied you are in these areas on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you are not at all satisfied and 10 means you are completely satisfied.

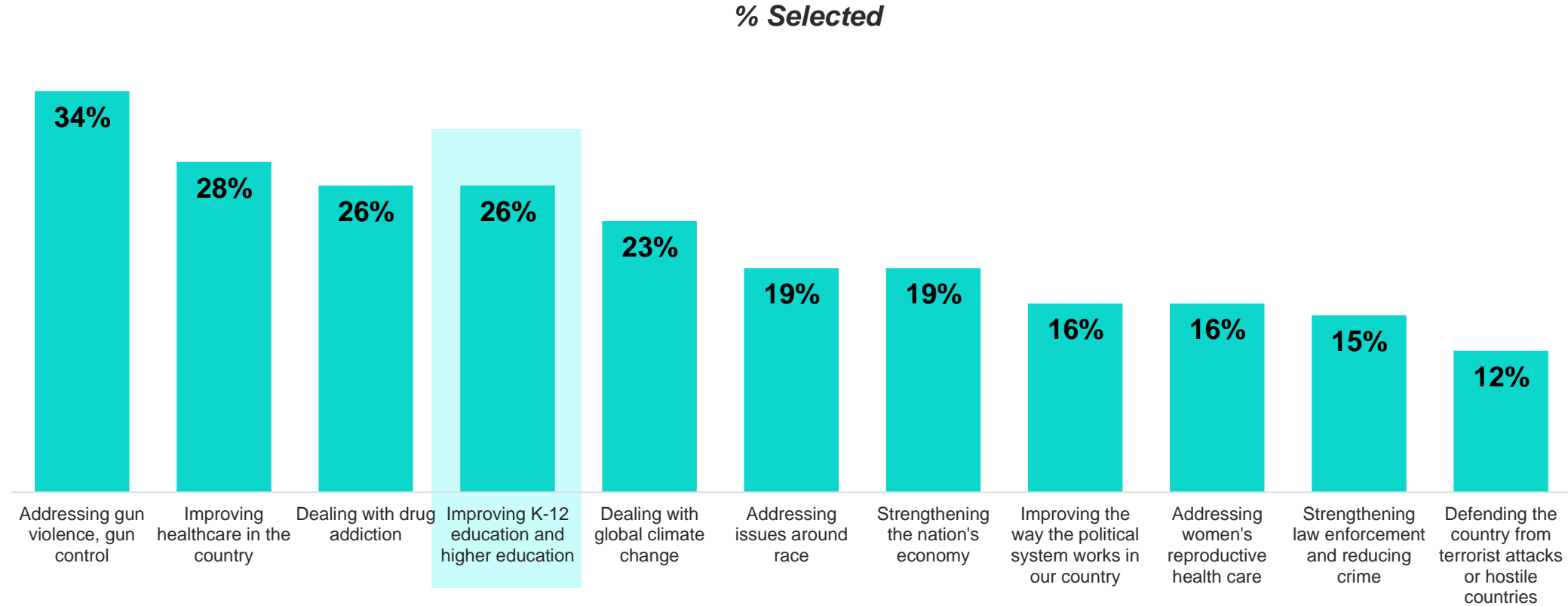


Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

# Addressing gun violence and improving healthcare remain the top priorities for teens. Defending the country against terrorist attacks is of lowest importance.

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

## Teens



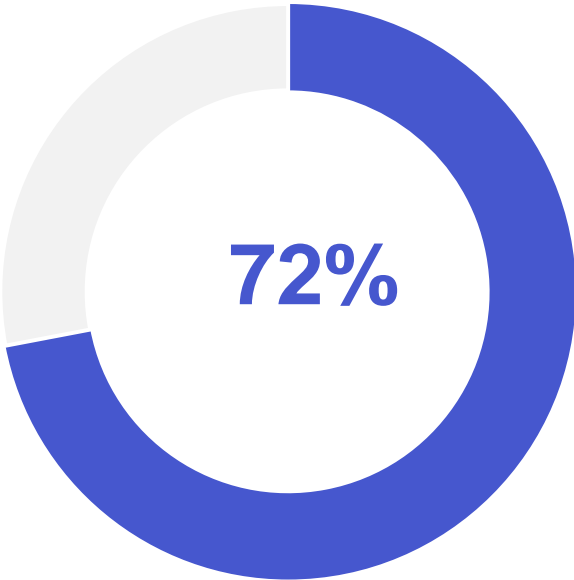
Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Almost 3 in 4 teens say that they have at least one role model helping them figure out their career plans. Black teens are 10 points less likely to say they have a role model compared to white teens.

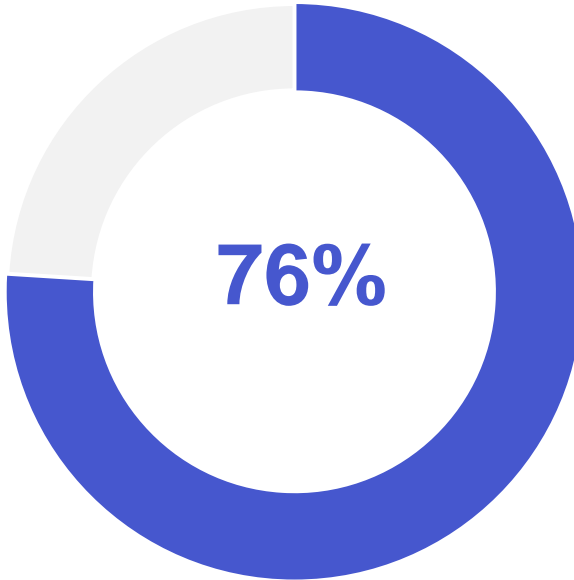
Do you feel you have at least one role model that is helping you better understand what you would eventually like to do for your career?

**Teens**

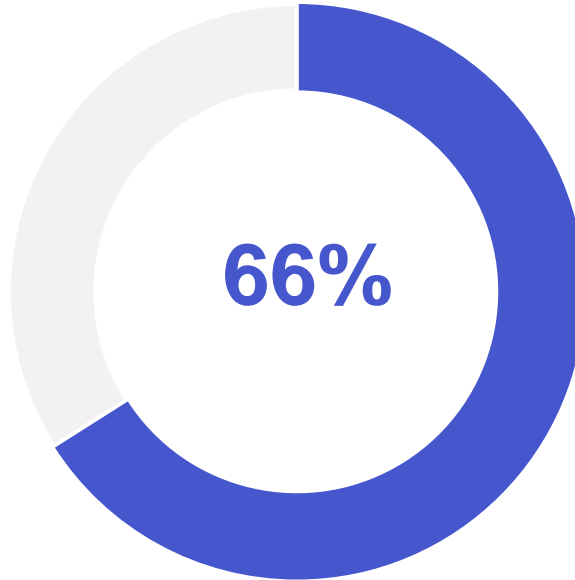
**Total % "Yes"**



**Teens**



**Non-Hispanic White  
Teens**



**Black Teens**

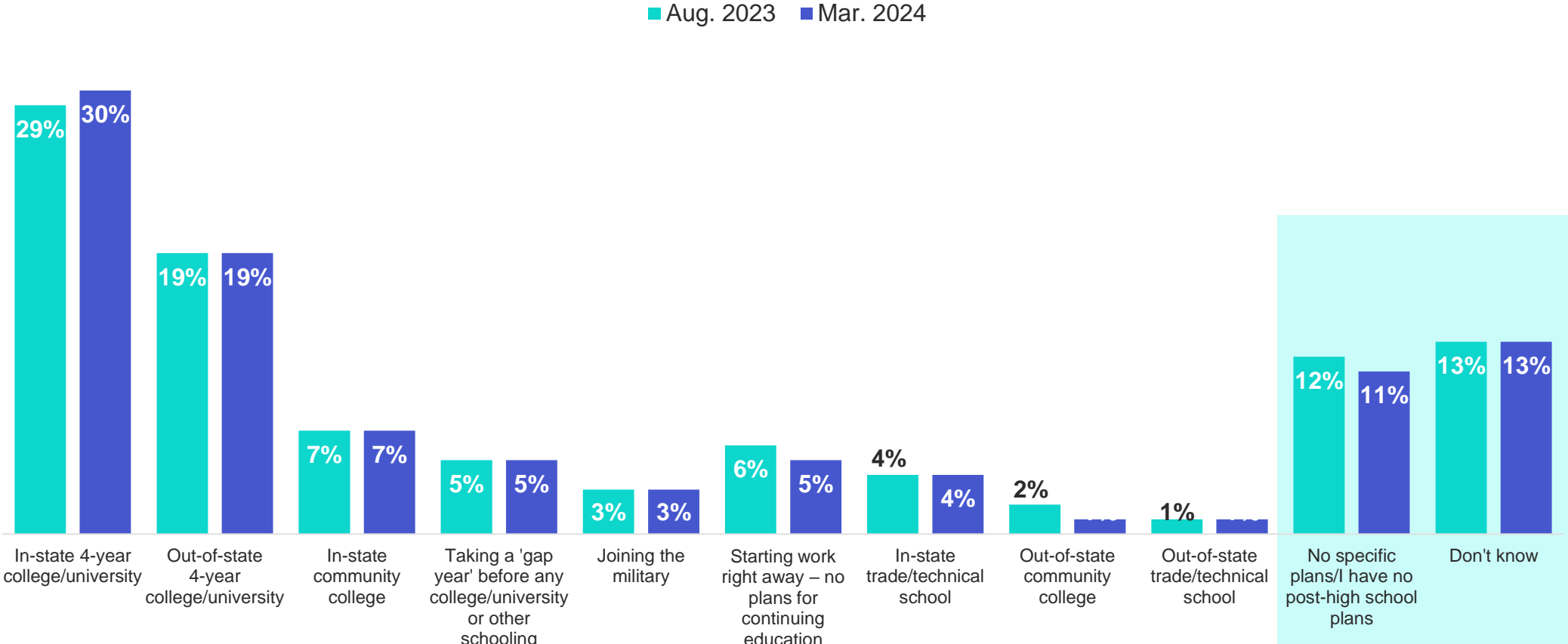
Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)



One in four teens either say they have no specific post-high school plans or do not know what they will do. Compared to August of last year, the proportion of teens expecting to enroll in an in-state or out-of-state 4-year college has stayed the same.

Thinking about your plans following high school, please select what your plans are now for the next school year.

**Teens**

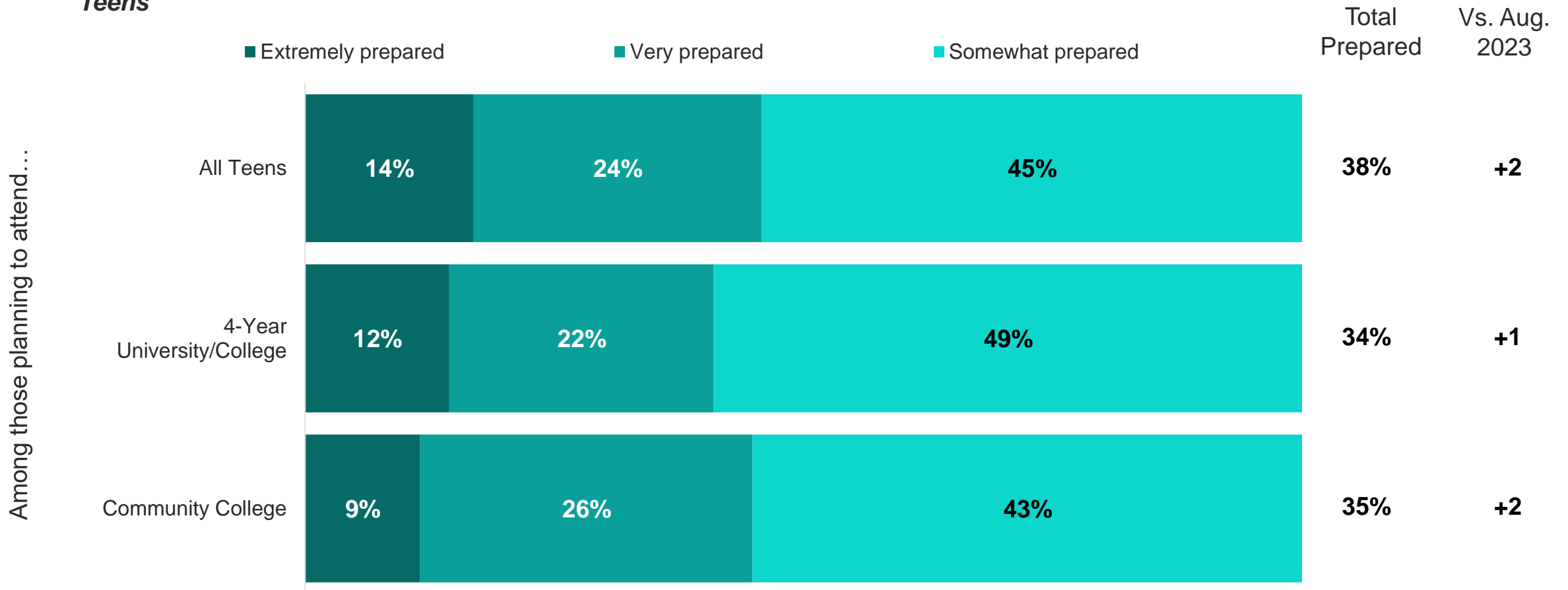


Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Compared to last August, teens feel slightly more prepared for an education beyond high school. Those planning on attending a community college feel just as prepared as those who are pursuing a 4-year university or college.

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

**Teens**

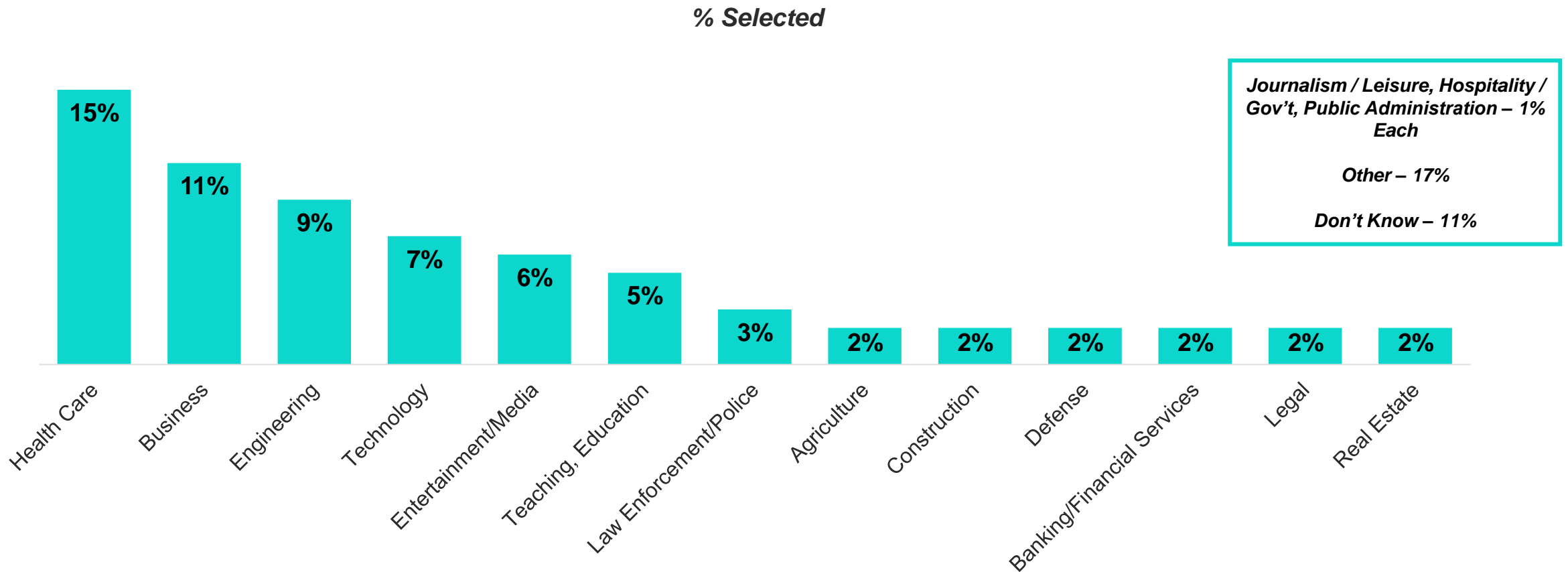


Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)  
 Note: "Not that prepared", "not at all prepared" and "don't know/no opinion" responses not shown

# A relatively small plurality of teens see themselves working in health care by 2035.

If you can imagine what kind of job you will have in 2035, in what profession or industry can you see yourself working in?.

## Teens

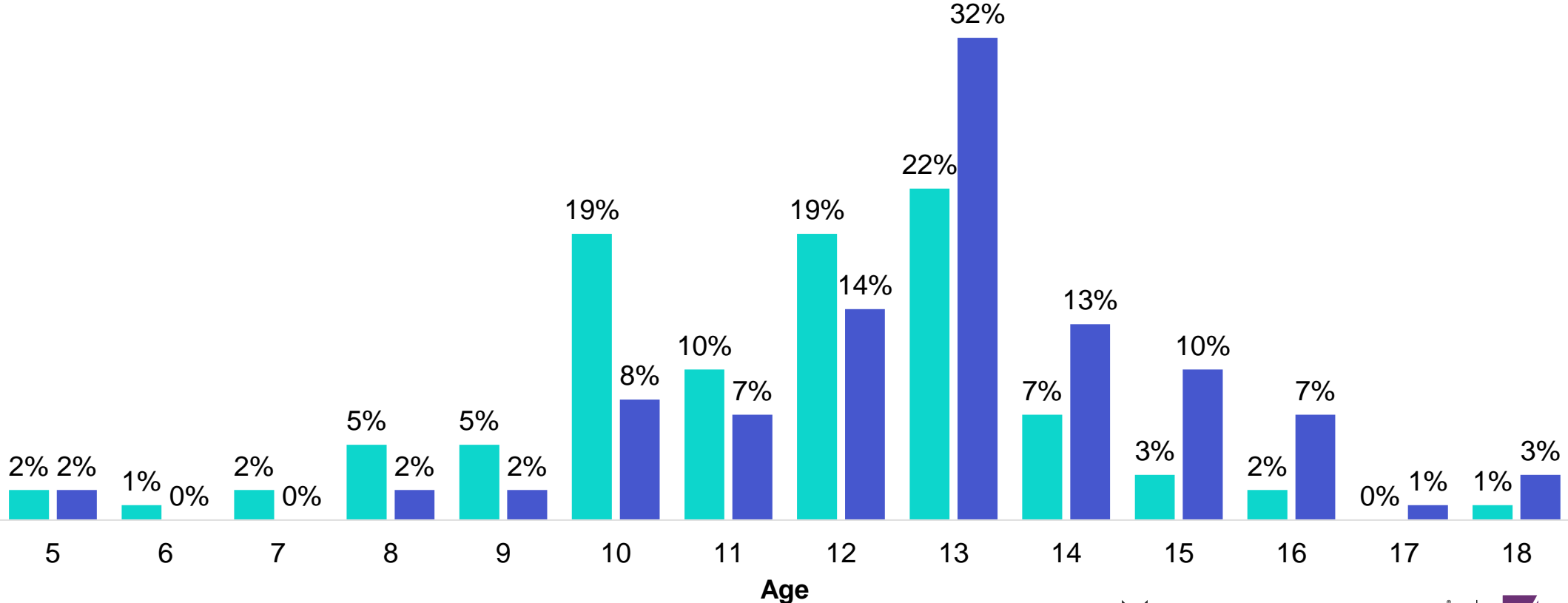


Teens are more likely to feel a child should be older to be able to access social media, compared with the age to be allowed to own a cell phone.

What do you think should be the youngest age for someone to...

**Teens**

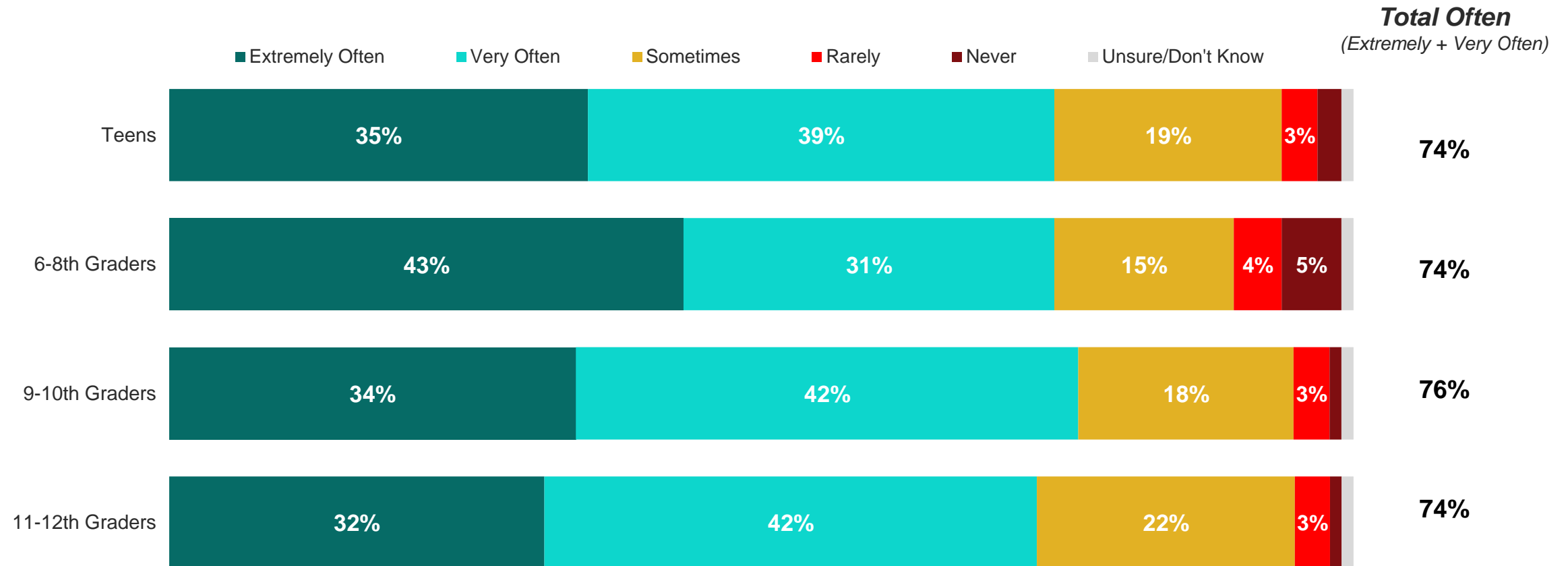
■ Own a Cell Phone   ■ Be Able to Access Social Media



Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Three in four teens say they are on social media at least “very” often. Middle schoolers are more likely to say they are on social media “extremely” often compared to teens in high school.

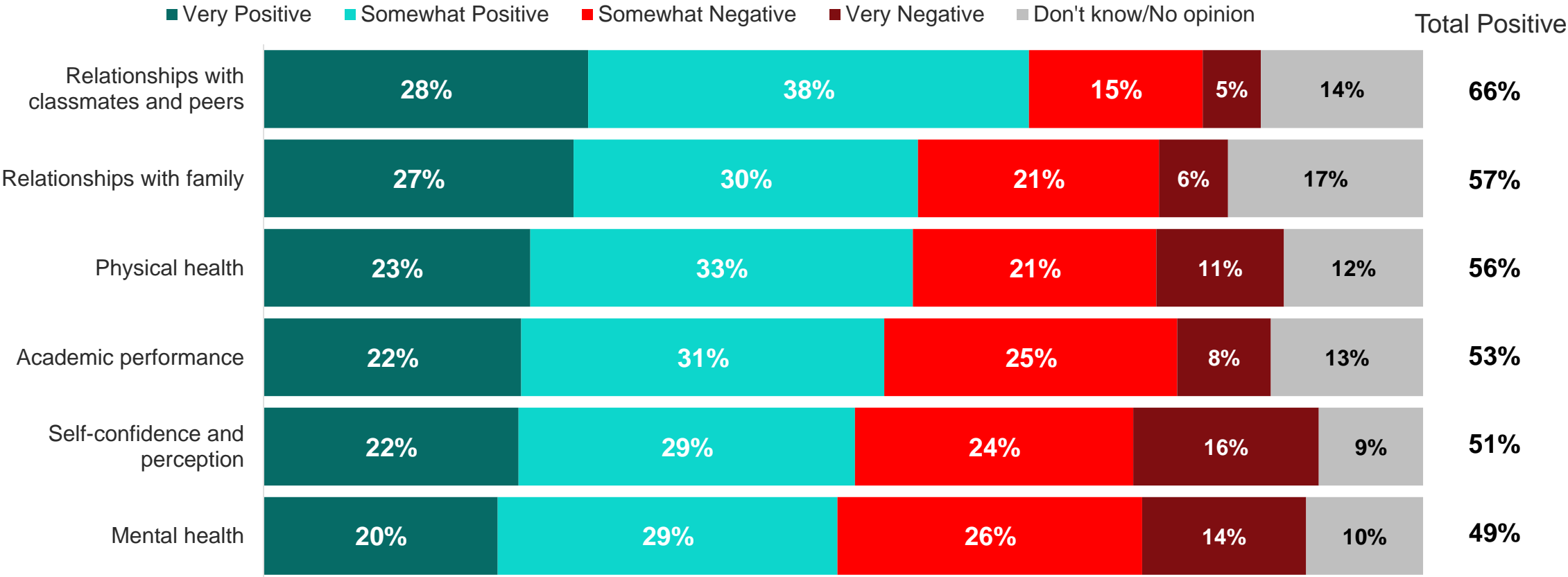
Overall, how often would you say you spend time on social media?



# Forty percent of teens say that social media has had a negative impact on their mental health and self-confidence.

What kind of impact do you think social media access has had on you in each of the following?

**Teens**

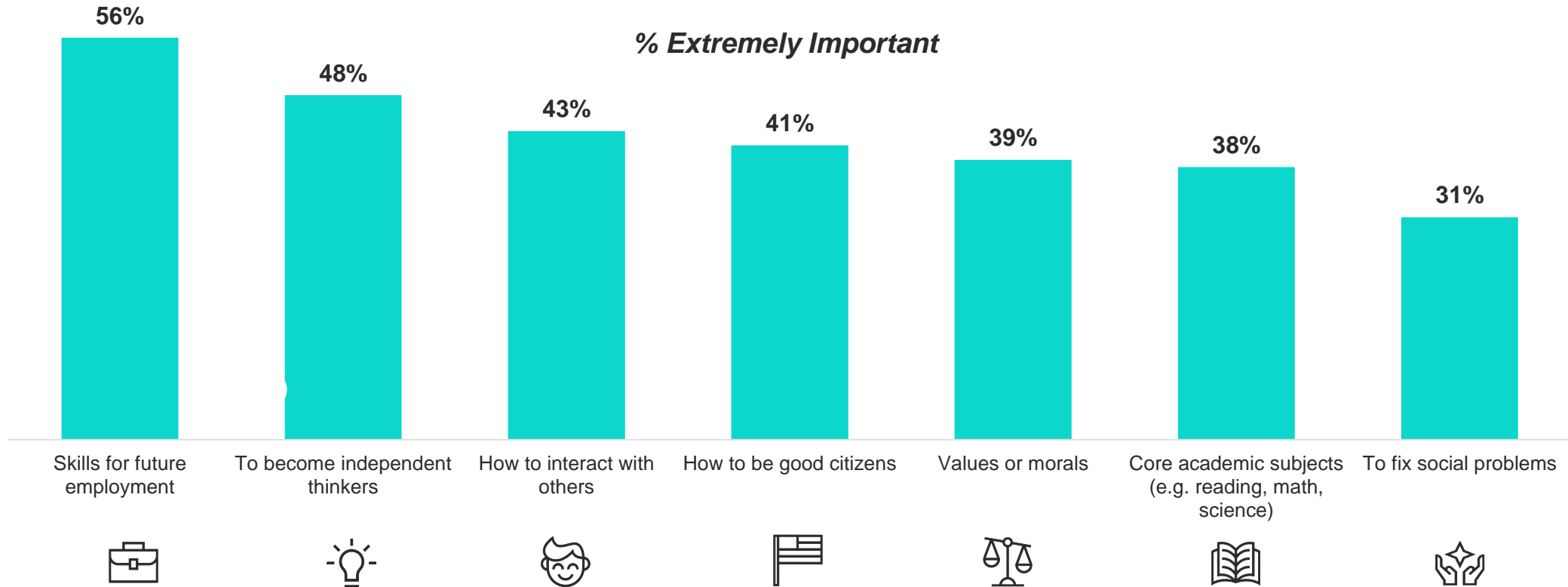


Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

# Teens cite skills for future employment as the most important thing to learn while at school. Fixing social problems is of least importance.

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

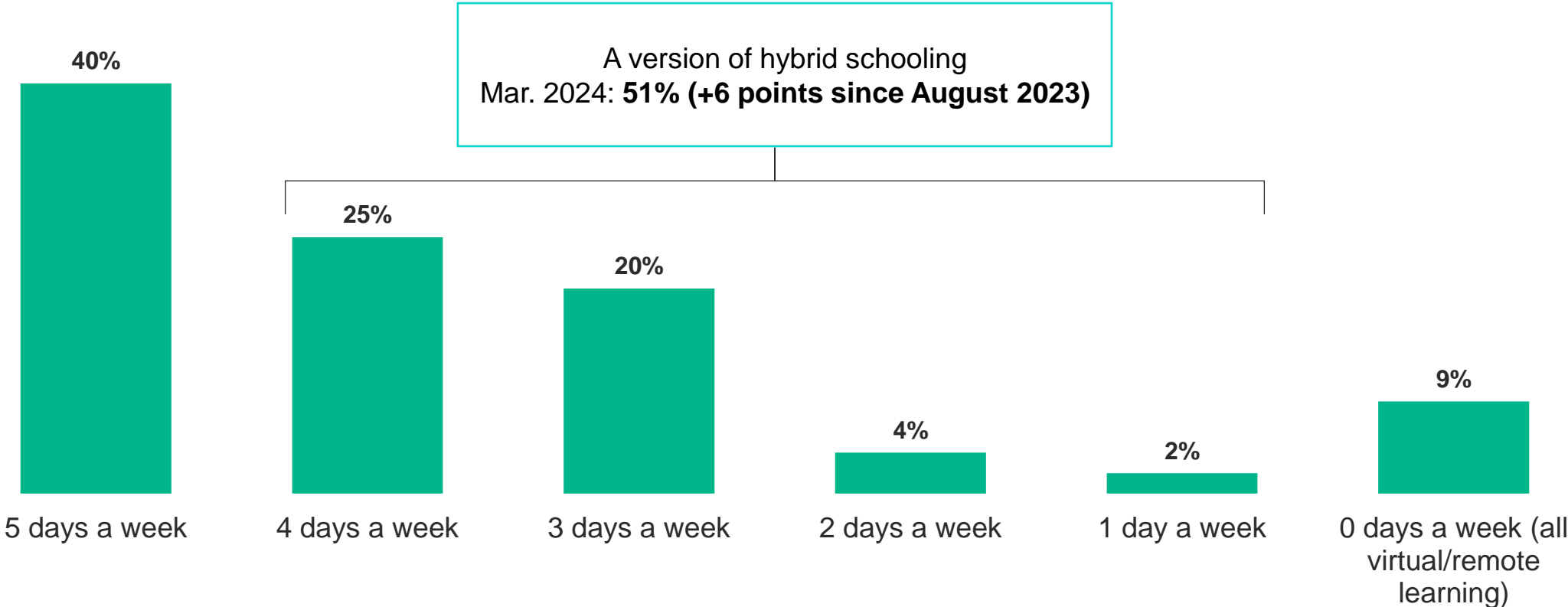
Average % selected “Extremely Important”: 42%



# Just over half of teens prefer some version of hybrid schooling.

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

## Teens



Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)



AGENDA

TEEN PERSPECTIVES

**SCHOOLING EXPERIENCES**

SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

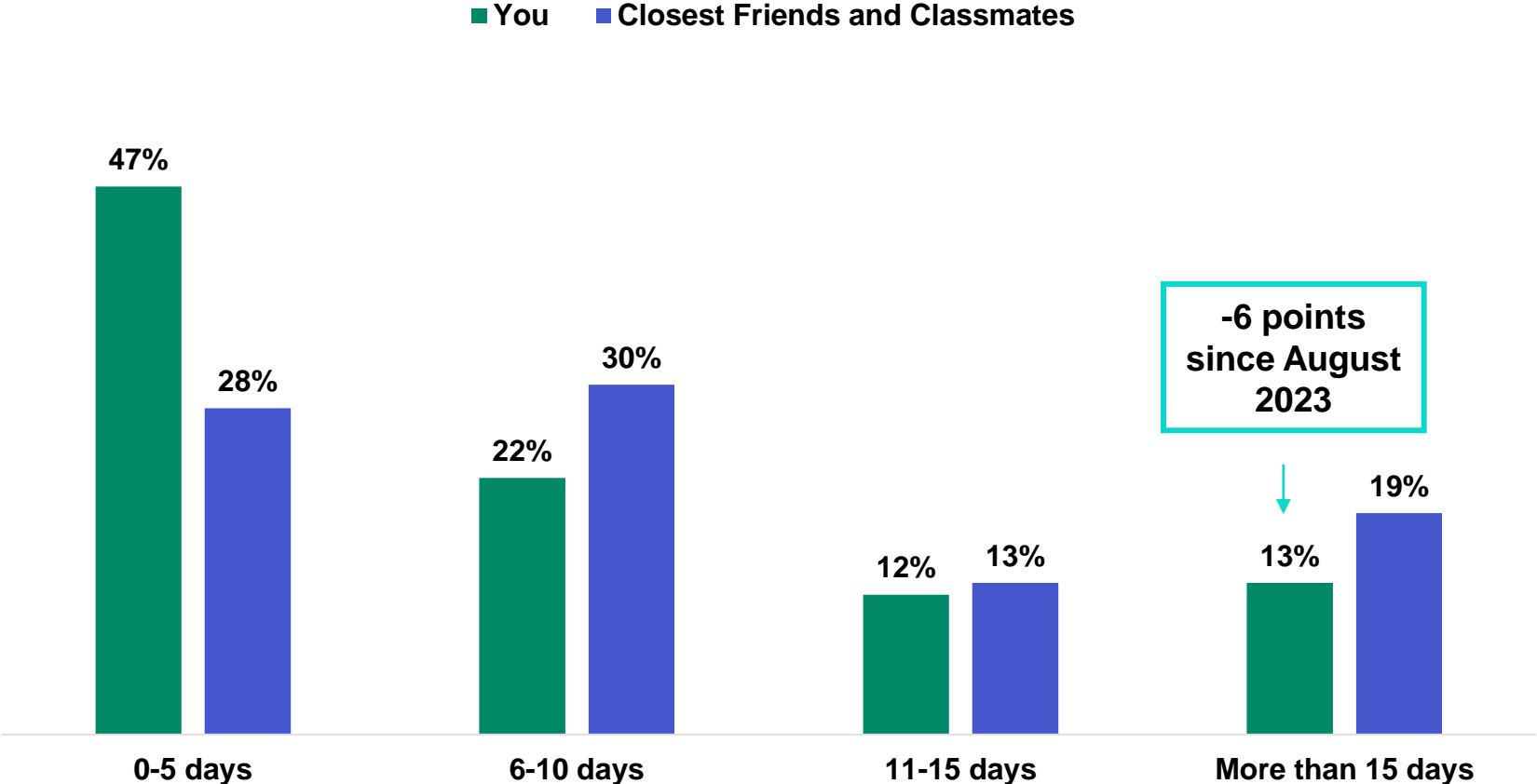


# Approximately 13 percent of teens self-report being absent more than 15 days of school this year. A larger proportion see their closest friends missing 15+ days so far this school year.

Thinking about this school year, how many WHOLE DAYS of school have you missed and were absent?

Thinking about last school year, on average, how many WHOLE DAYS would you say your **closest friends and classmates** have been absent from school?

## Teens



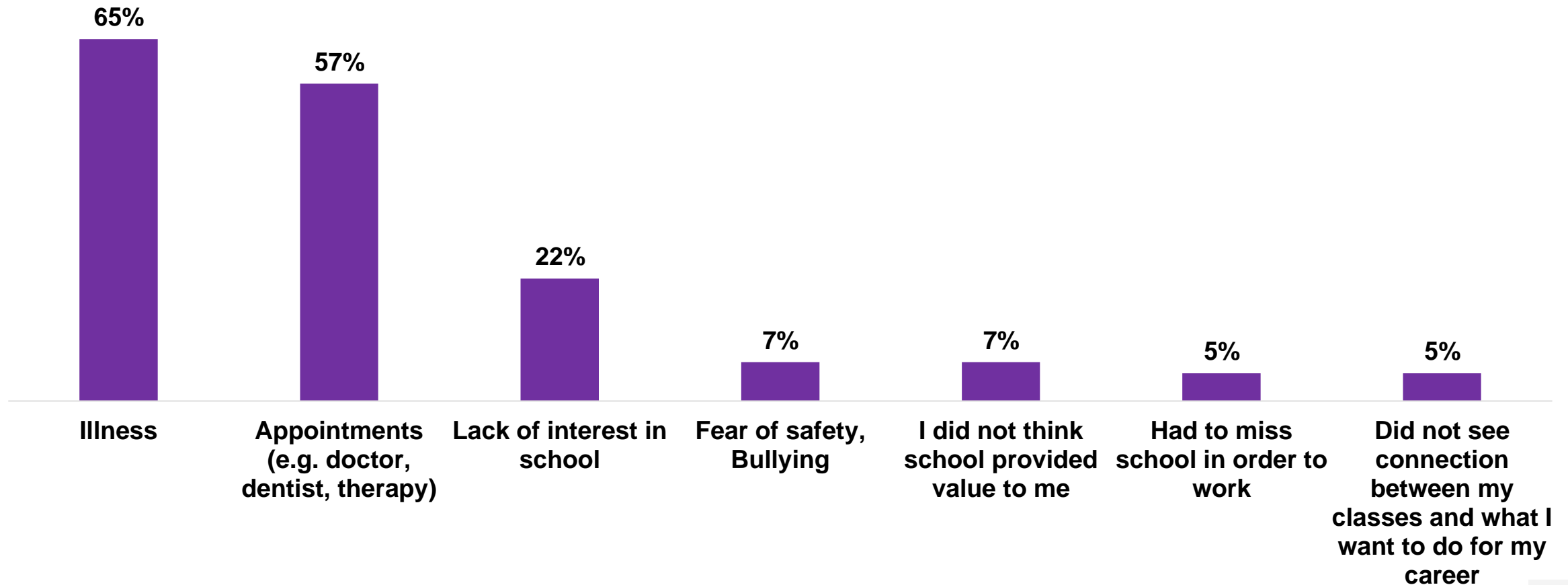
Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

# Teens are most likely to have missed class this year due to illness or for an appointment like the doctor or the dentist.

And what are the reasons why you've been absent this school year? Select all that apply. ?

## Teens

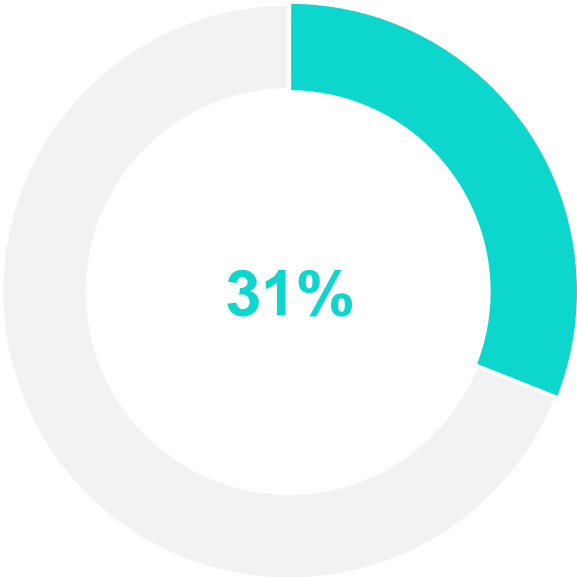
*% Selected*



# Teens are much less likely than parents to be concerned about a violent intruder entering school. About 3 in 10 indicated this fear.

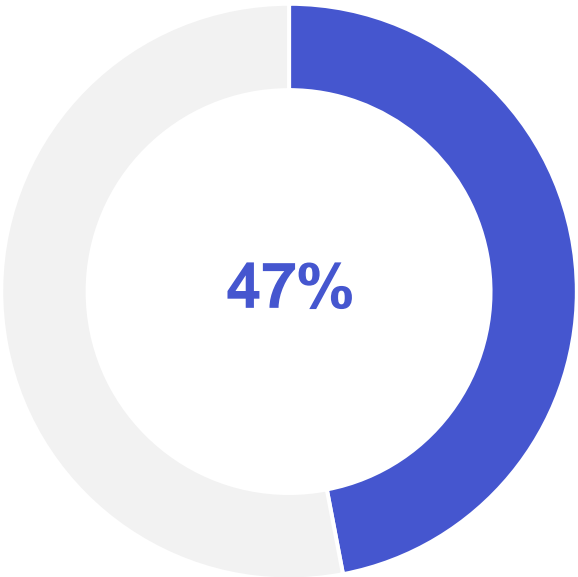
How concerned are you about a violent intruder, like a mass shooter, entering your school/your child's school?

### Teens



Teens

### Total Concern (Extremely + Very Concerned)



School Parents

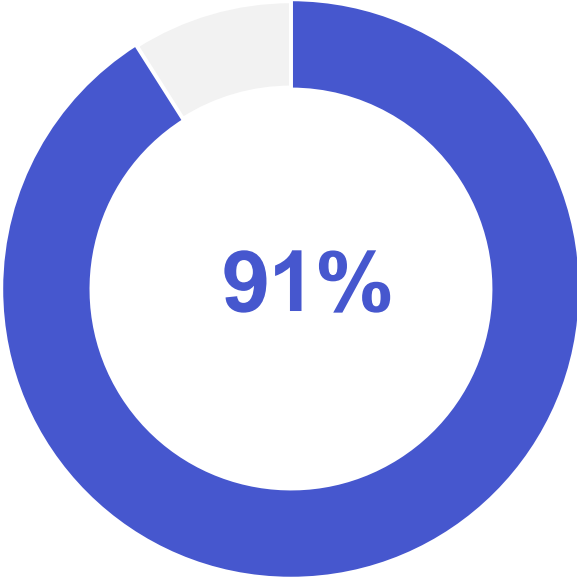
Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Parent Data Source: Survey conducted March 7 – March 12, 2024, among U.S. adults

More than 90 percent of teens feel they should be allowed to have cell phones in school. Compared to school parents, they are much more likely to want to permit cell phones in the classroom or school.

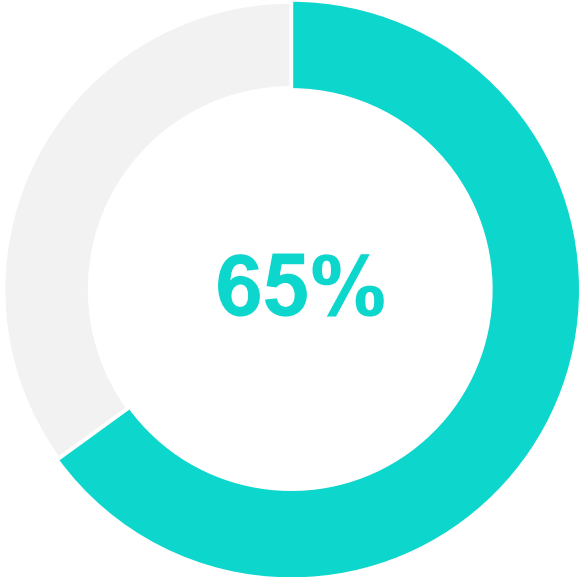
When it comes to cell phones, do you feel students should be allowed to have...

**Teens**



**Cell phones in school**

**Total % "Yes"**



**Cell phones in the classroom**

**School Parents**  
Cell Phones in School: **71%**  
Cell Phones in Classroom: **38%**

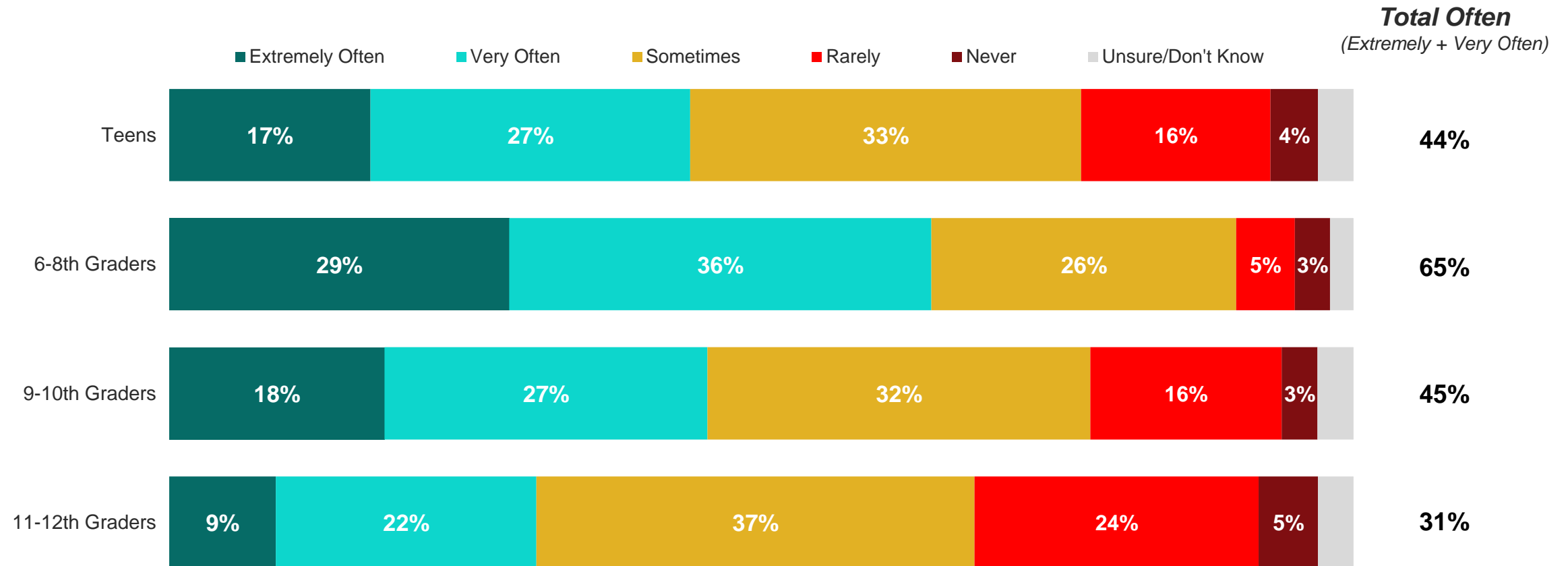
Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Parent Data Source: Survey conducted March 7 – March 12, 2024, among U.S. adults

# Middle schoolers are much more likely to say student disruptions happen often in their classes than teens in high school.

How often would you say that students cause disruptions in your classes?

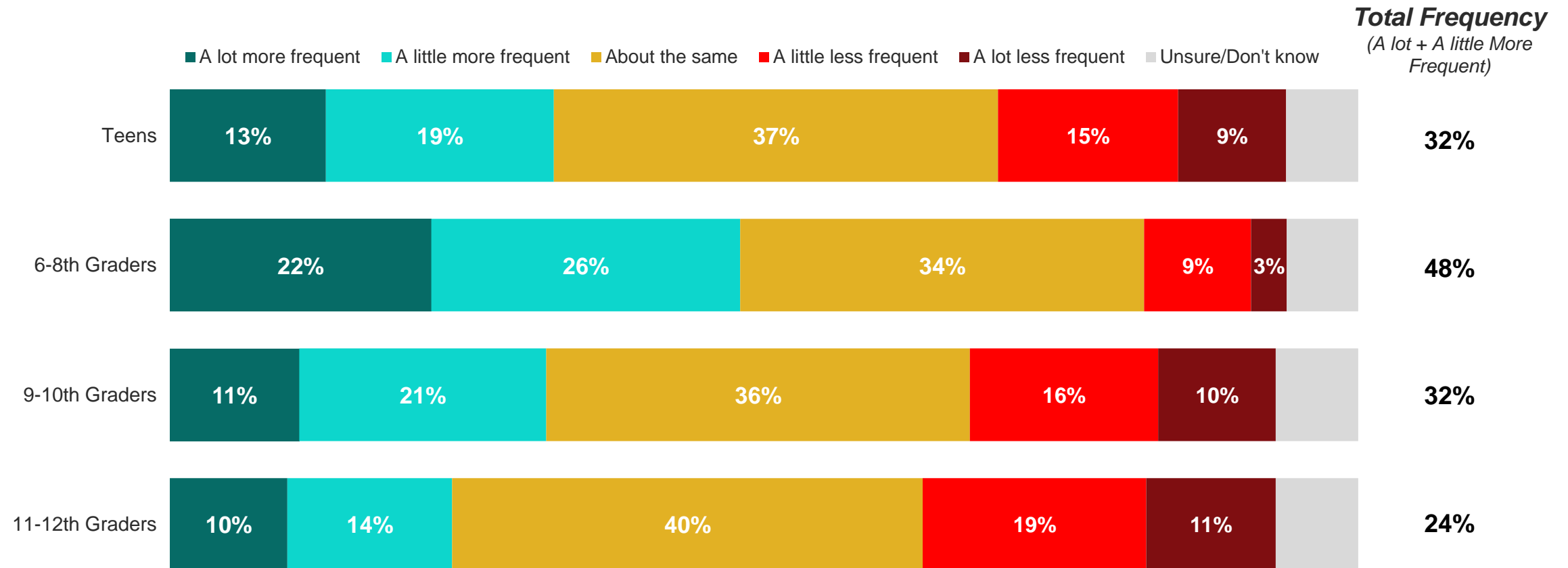
## Teens



# Like classroom disruptions, middle schoolers say that student misbehaviors are more frequent in their classes compared to high school students.

Generally speaking, and comparing to this time last school year, do you think student misbehaviors in your classes are...?

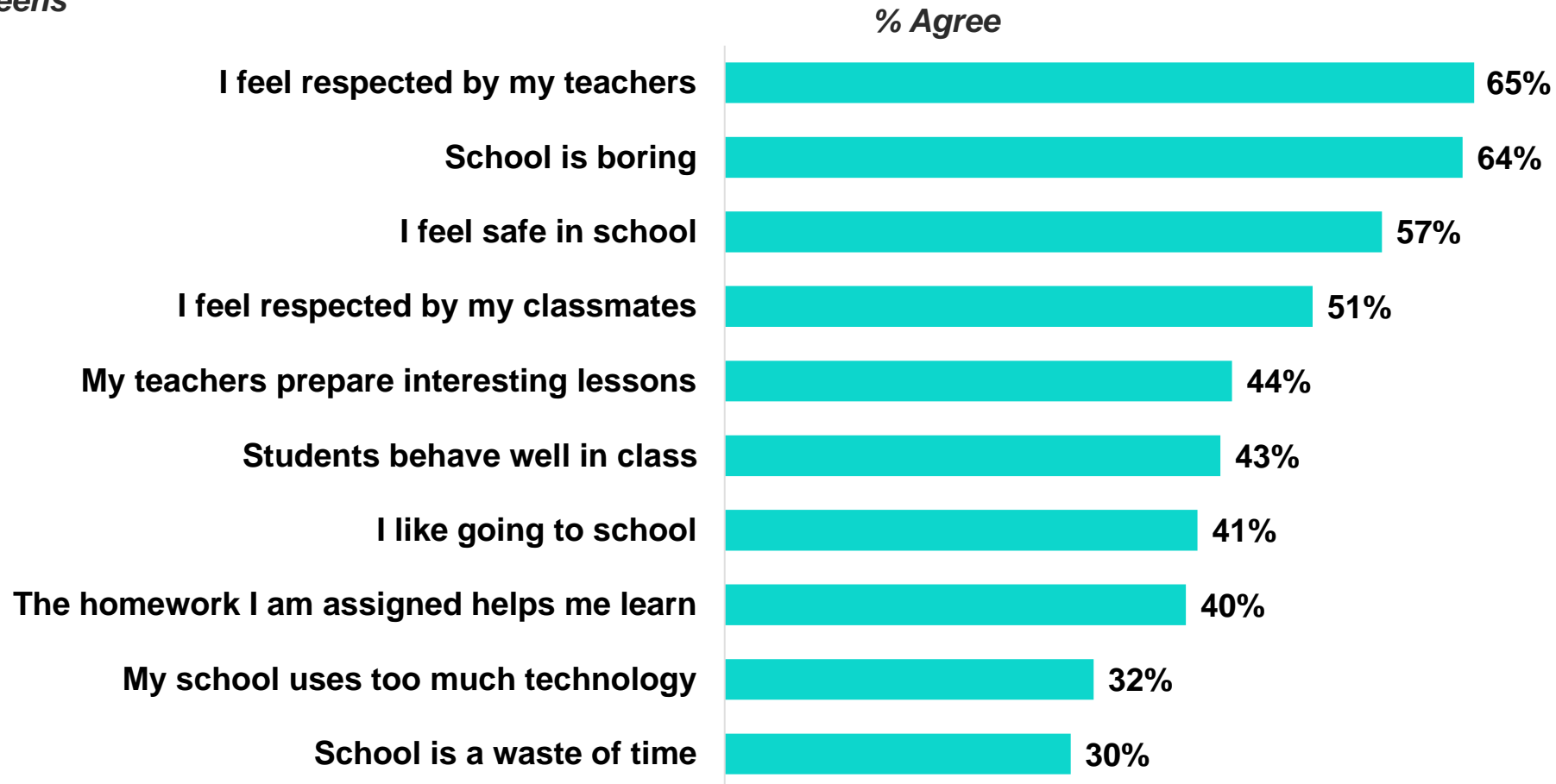
## Teens



Nearly 2 in 3 teens feel that “school is boring” and 30 percent see school as a “waste of time.”  
Just 41 percent say they “like going to school.”

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

**Teens**

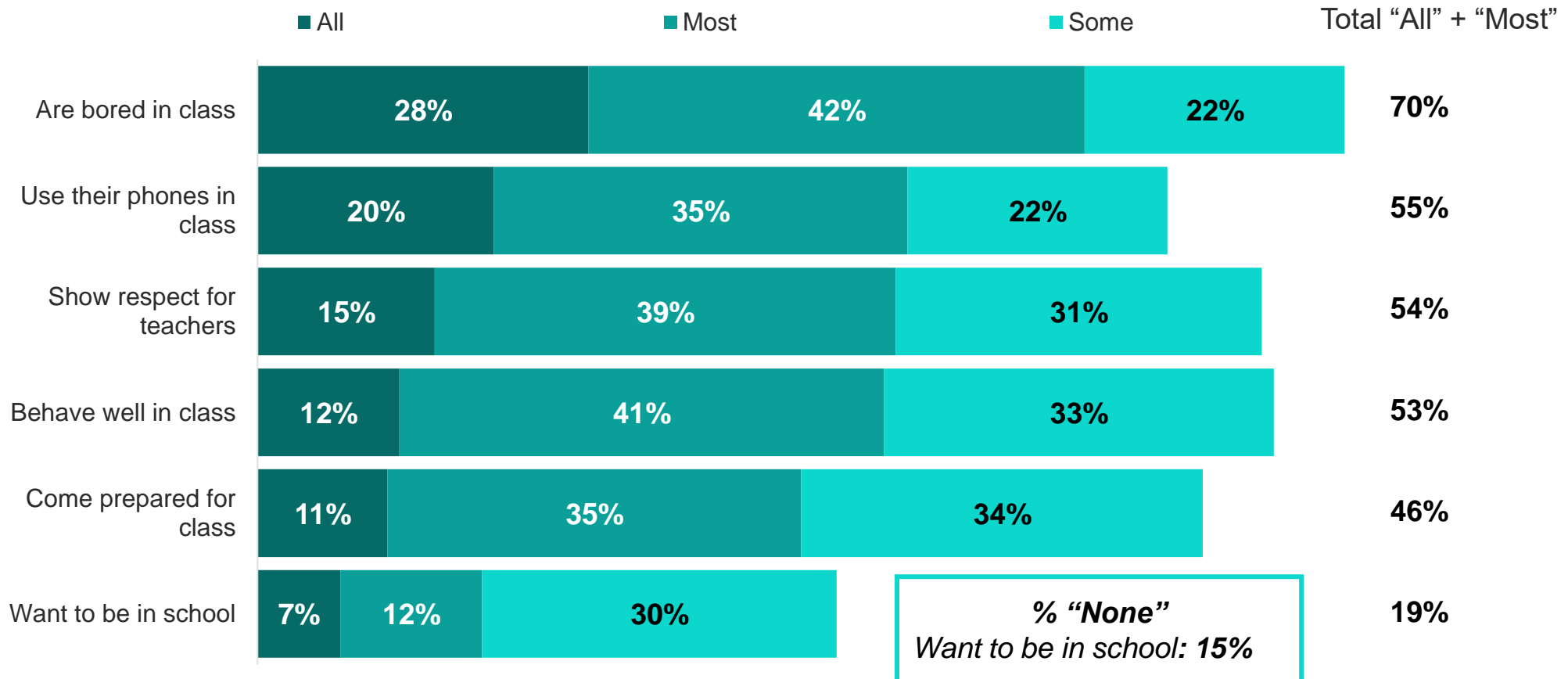




# Seventy percent of teens say “all” or “most” of their classmates are bored in class. Just 19 percent say at least “most” classmates want to be in school.

When thinking about your classmates, would you say that few, some, most, or all students...

## Teens



Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Note: "Few" and "None" responses not shown

Teens feel most negative about how bullying is handled at their schools. They are more likely to hold negative opinions about how these issues are addressed compared to school parents, particularly on addressing violent behaviors.

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

**Teens**

**Most Positive**  
(Extremely + Very Well)



**School Parents**

Guns: 49% (+1)

Mental Health: 49% (+12)

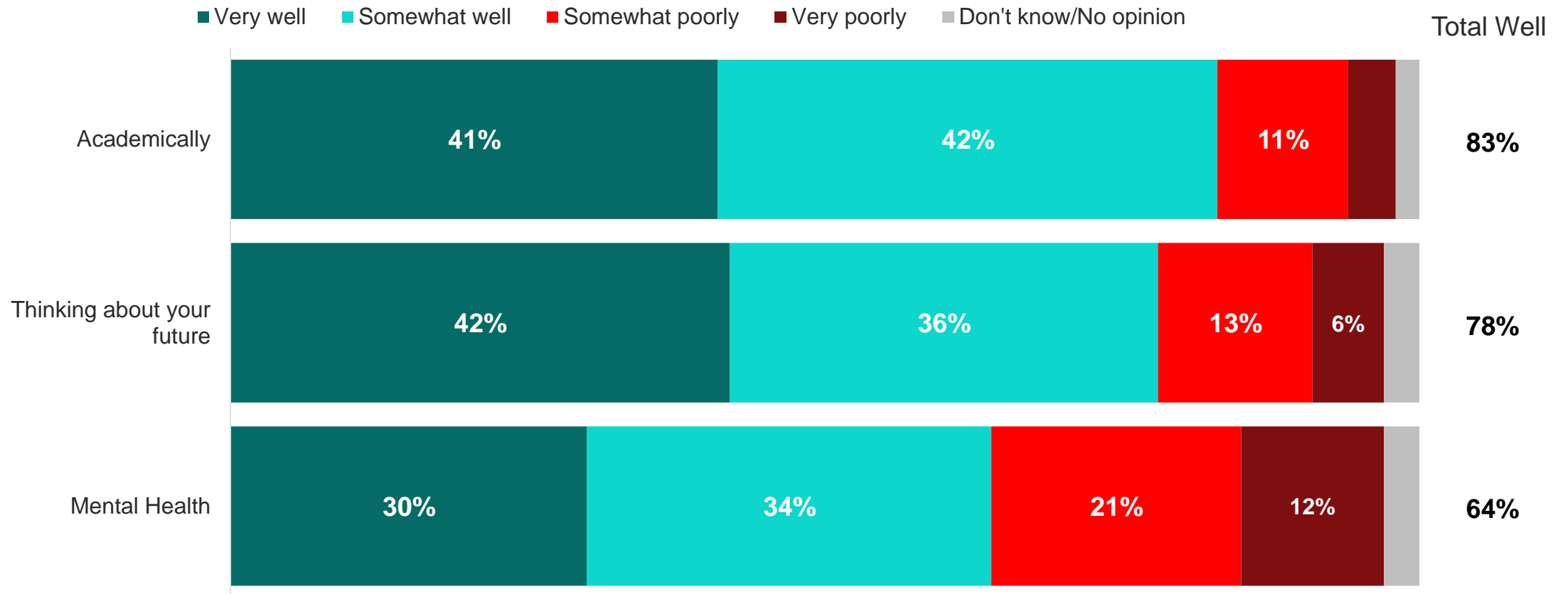
Violent Behaviors: 50% (+15)

Bullying: 46% (+13)

More than three-fourths of teens feel well-supported academically and for when it comes to thinking about their future. Teens feel the least supported when it comes to their mental health.

How supported do you feel in each of the following aspects?

**Teens**



Source: Survey conducted February 27– March 6, 2024, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

AGENDA

TEEN PERSPECTIVES  
SCHOOLING EXPERIENCES

**SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS**



# Survey Profile, 1

<b>Dates</b>	February 27 – March 6, 2024
<b>Survey Data Collection &amp; Quality Control</b>	Morning Consult
<b>Survey Sponsor</b>	EdChoice
<b>Population</b>	Teens (ages 13-18) <i>**NOTE survey done in March 2021 did not include 18-year-olds</i>
<b>Sampling Frame</b>	National sample of teens (age 13-18) living in the United States, including the District of Columbia
<b>Sampling Method</b>	Non-Probability
<b>Mode</b>	Online Survey
<b>Language</b>	English

## Survey Profile, 2

<b>Survey Time</b>	Teens = 9.83 minutes (median)
<b>Sample Size</b>	Teens Total, N = 1,002
<b>Quotas</b>	N/A
<b>Weighting</b>	Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Census Region
<b>Measure of Precision (adjusted for weighting)</b>	Teens = $\pm 3.10$ percentage points
<b>Participation Rate</b>	Teens = 40.38%
<b>Methods Page</b>	<a href="https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology/">https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology/</a>
<b>Project Contact</b>	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

## Teen Demographic Groups with Unweighted Sample Sizes

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Male	460
Female	542
6-8th Graders	170
9th-10th Graders	378
11th-12th Graders	454
Urban	285
Suburban	467
Rural	250

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
White (non-hispanic)	428
Hispanic	296
Black	220
Asian	56
Northeast	173
Midwest	182
South	406
West	241

# Teen Demographic Groups by Unweighted, Weighted, and Target Percentages

Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target
Age: 13	11%	18%	17%
Age: 14	17%	18%	17%
Age: 15	17%	17%	16%
Age: 16	15%	17%	16%
Age: 17	17%	16%	16%
Age: 18	23%	14%	18%
Male	46%	51%	51%
Female	54%	49%	49%
White	43%	49%	52%
Hispanic	30%	26%	24%
Black	22%	17%	14%
Other	9%	10%	10%
Northeast	17%	16%	16%
Midwest	18%	21%	21%
South	41%	39%	39%
West	24%	24%	24%



WHO WE ARE

 **MORNING CONSULT**<sup>®</sup>

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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