



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

YOUTH RIGHT NOW



Full Survey Results 2026

BGCA.org/YouthRightNow



The Nation's
Largest Data Set
on Kids & Teens

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About the Survey

Youth Right Now features survey findings from nearly 145,000 young people ages 9 to 18 — to our knowledge, the nation's largest data set on youth.

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 nearly 5,500 Boys & Girls Club locations in improving services for young people.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America conducts this annual survey to better support the youth we serve through high-quality after-school programming. We share our insights with educators, policymakers and other youth-focused organizations to help inform policies and services that champion a brighter future for us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim L. Clark'.

Jim Clark

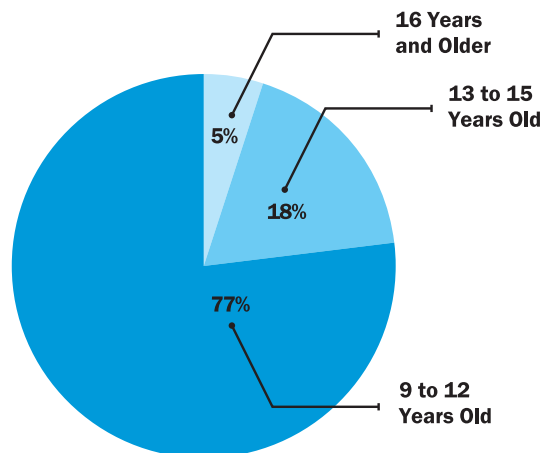
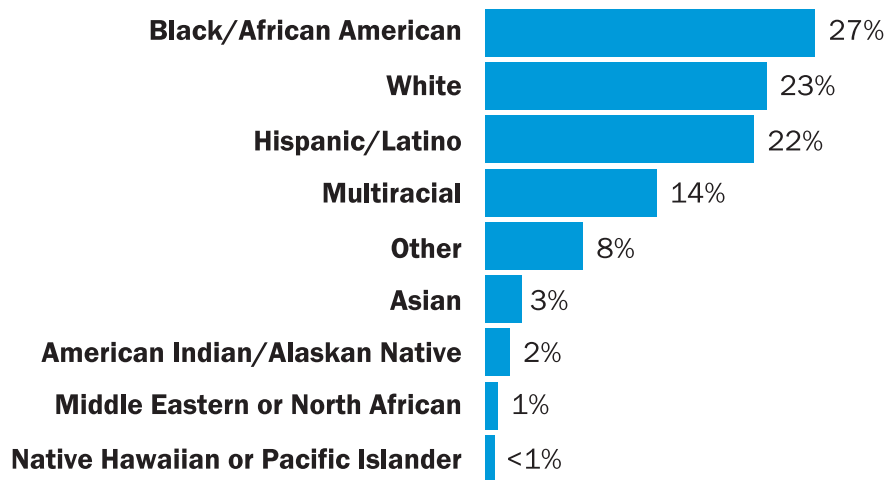
President & CEO

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

YOUTH RESPONSES = 144,972

About the Youth Survey Respondents



Within the full survey results, “youth” refers to ages 9-12 and “teen” to ages 13-15. 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”).



Survey Data Overview

Academic Success

On track for graduation.	85%
I enjoy learning new things.	90%
I believe I can do well in school.	93%

Character & Leadership

Volunteering (at least monthly). (Youth & Teen)	52%
I do what's right, even if no one is watching.	79%
I can make a positive difference in my community.	75%

Health & Well-being

Physically Active (5+ days).	43%
Eating healthy is important to me.	80%
I take care of my feelings and emotions.	78%

Life & Workforce Readiness

I know what career I want to work toward.	86%
I set goals for myself.	89%
I am prepared to manage my finances. (Teen)	82%



Academic Success

Academic Expectations

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I'm learning things in school that will be important for me later in life.	52%	35%	8%	4%
	YES		NO	
Will you be the first person in your family to go to college?	22%		78%	
	4 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE OR GREATER	JUNIOR COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL	NO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION	
Expectation of Post Secondary Education Completion (Teen)	45%	10%	45%	

Arts

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I'm interested in art.	52%	29%	12%	7%
I would like to have a career in the Arts in the future.	32%	23%	27%	17%
I can communicate my emotions and feelings through art.	43%	30%	17%	11%

College/Career Preparation (12th Grade Only)

	YES	NO
I have taken the SAT, ACT or another college entrance exam. (12th Grade Only)	73%	27%
I have submitted the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). (12th Grade Only)	73%	27%
Applied for any post secondary education. (12th Grade Only)	80%	20%



Academic Success continued

Engagement in Learning

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I enjoy learning new things.	43%	46%	7%	3%
When I'm interested in something new, I try to learn more about it.	52%	40%	6%	2%
I try to do my best in school.	60%	34%	4%	2%
I believe I can do well in school.	46%	40%	10%	4%
When I need help at school, I ask for it.	66%	30%	3%	2%

On Track to Graduate

	NONE	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 TO 5 DAYS	6 TO 10 DAYS
How many whole days have you missed school because you skipped or "cut"? (Last 4 Weeks)	84%	6%	3%	3%	2%	1%

	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%

	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)	96%	4%	0%

	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%

	ON TRACK	ON TRACK WITH SOME RISK	OFF TRACK
On Track to Graduate From High School (5th to 12th Grade Only)	52%	33%	15%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Academic Success continued

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)	31%	29%	30%	10%
I want to take math courses after high school. (9th to 12th Grade Only)	26%	30%	30%	14%

STEM Efficacy

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
Math is easy for me.	42%	37%	15%	6%
Science is easy for me.	36%	44%	16%	5%
I am good at solving science-related problems.	33%	39%	20%	7%

STEM Interest

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I like to participate in science projects.	50%	34%	12%	4%
Science is something I get excited about.	39%	34%	21%	7%
I am curious to learn more about science, computers or technology.	45%	33%	16%	6%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Character & Leadership

Concern for Others and Community

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
I care about other people's feelings.	52%	29%	14%	3%	3%
I try to take time to help others.	49%	28%	16%	4%	3%
I can make a positive difference in my community.	46%	30%	17%	4%	3%

Empathy

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
I care about how my actions affect other people.	50%	30%	14%	3%	2%
I ask questions to try to understand how others feel.	50%	29%	14%	4%	3%
When someone I know is hurting, I try to help.	57%	29%	11%	2%	2%

Inclusion

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
I listen to everyone's ideas, even if they are different than mine.	52%	31%	13%	2%	2%
When I see someone being left out, I do something about it.	48%	29%	16%	4%	2%

Integrity

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
I feel like I can stand up for what I think is right, even if my friends disagree.	46%	31%	15%	4%	3%
I admit my mistakes.	40%	34%	18%	4%	3%
I do what's right, even if no one is watching.	47%	32%	16%	3%	2%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Character & Leadership continued

Self-Awareness and Management

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
I can deal with how I feel when I'm upset.	42%	33%	17%	5%	4%
I think about what might happen before making a decision.	40%	30%	19%	7%	5%
When something is really hard, I keep working at it.	43%	36%	16%	3%	2%
When I work hard, I see the benefits.	48%	31%	15%	4%	3%

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. (Youth & Teen)	29%	19%	19%	13%	19%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Health & Well-being

Attitudes

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
I enjoy being physically active (for example, exercising, dancing, or playing sports).	54%	27%	14%	3%	2%
Eating healthy is important to me.	49%	31%	16%	3%	2%
It's important for people to talk about how they feel.	58%	23%	13%	3%	3%
I take care of my feelings and emotions.	51%	27%	15%	4%	4%

Communication

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
I can share my thoughts clearly with others.	35%	27%	21%	9%	8%
I am good at communicating with different types of people.	42%	35%	17%	3%	3%
I am comfortable sharing my opinions, even if others disagree.	40%	30%	19%	6%	5%

Emotional Regulation

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
I know the emotions I feel.	59%	24%	11%	3%	3%
I understand how my feelings affect what I do.	57%	28%	11%	2%	2%
I know ways I can calm myself down.	49%	27%	16%	5%	4%

YOUTH RIGHT NOW

Health & Well-being continued

Physical Well-being

	5 OR MORE DAYS	LESS THAN 5 DAYS
Physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes on 5 or more days.	43%	57%

	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	56%	19%	25%

	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?	5%	8%	12%	12%	18%	8%	37%	0%

	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?	12%	14%	18%	18%	10%	28%
During the past 24 hours how many times did you eat vegetables?	22%	17%	17%	15%	10%	19%

Relationship Skills

	ALL OF THE TIME	MOST OF THE TIME	SOME OF THE TIME	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER
When I have problems with other people my age, I talk to an adult about it.	35%	26%	21%	10%	8%
When I have problems with other people my age, I talk things over with them.	31%	28%	22%	11%	19%
I can understand how other people feel.	47%	32%	15%	3%	3%



Life & Workforce Readiness

Adult Life Skills

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I am prepared to take care of my health and well-being (e.g., cooking meals, scheduling appointments). (Teen)	55%	38%	5%	1%
I am prepared to take care of household responsibilities (e.g., cleaning, doing laundry). (Teen)	53%	41%	5%	1%
I am prepared to manage my finances (e.g., paying bills, saving money). (Teen)	43%	38%	14%	4%
I am prepared to take care of others (e.g., siblings, grandparents). (Teen)	56%	37%	6%	2%
I am prepared to get a job (e.g., searching, interviewing). (Teen)	53%	35%	9%	3%

Career Awareness and Interest

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
When I grow up, I can have any job I want to have.	52%	36%	10%	3%
I know about a lot of different types of careers.	48%	39%	10%	2%
I know what career I want to work toward.	59%	27%	10%	3%
I know the steps a student needs to take if they want to be in a science-related career.	32%	35%	23%	10%
I would like to have a STEM related job in the future.	28%	25%	29%	18%



Life & Workforce Readiness continued

Plans After High School

	YES	NO
Do you believe you will graduate from high school? (Youth & Teen)	97%	3%
Do you plan to go to college? (Youth)	93%	7%
Will you be the first person in your family to go to college? (Teen)	22%	78%

	ENROLL IN MORE SCHOOL	TAKE AN INTERNSHIP	JOIN THE MILITARY	GO STRAIGHT TO WORK	TAKE A GAP YEAR	I DON'T KNOW
What are your immediate plans after high school? (Teen)	45%	6%	7%	17%	5%	20%

	VOCATIONAL OR TRADE SCHOOL	2-YEAR COMMUNITY OR TECHNICAL COLLEGE	4-YEAR COLLEGE	MASTER'S OR DOCTORAL DEGREE
How far do you expect to go in school? (Teen)	6%	12%	52%	30%

Self-Planning

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I advocate for change if something isn't working for me. (Teen)	46%	45%	8%	1%
I understand how to budget money. (Teen)	44%	41%	12%	3%
I set goals for myself.	54%	35%	8%	3%