

 edCHOICE

TEENS AND THEIR SCHOOLING PERSPECTIVES

A National Polling Report

September 2023

KEY FINDINGS

1. Less than 60 percent of teens say their schools offer mental health services, and less than half say their schools offer online class options. Teens whose schools do not offer these supportive resources want mental health services the most.
2. Nearly one out of five teens self-report and observe close friends missing more than 15 days of school last year.
3. The proportion of teens who have heard “a lot” or “some” about ChatGPT has risen sharply since March – reaching nearly 60 percent.
4. Half of teens have used artificial intelligence in their free time or at school, compared to less than one-third of adults. Male and private school teens are the most likely to report using AI.
5. Approximately 40 percent of teens indicate they have used AI for tests and assignments. A similar proportion observe other students doing the same.
6. Compared to March, at the start of this school year teens reported feeling much more positively in a number of ways. Their reported net improvements with anxiety and stress have increased most but continue to be the lowest rated categories.
7. Teens feel more supported when it comes to their future and their academics, but less so when it comes to mental health. Teens are less likely to say their schools address bullying less well than other issues like guns, violent behaviors, and mental health.
8. At least half of teens feel “hopeful,” a “sense of purpose,” and “happy.” Less than 40 percent of teens “feel in control” of their lives. Teens are most satisfied with their life direction, academic performance, and their relationships with their family members.
9. One in four teens either say they have no specific post-high school plans or do not know what they will do. Compared to this time last year, the proportion of teens expecting to enroll in an in-state 4-year college has stayed the same.

Methodology: This poll was conducted between August 18 – August 27, 2023 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 3.3 percentage points.

AGENDA

TEEN PERSPECTIVES

SCHOOLING EXPERIENCES

SUPPORT FOR TEENS

SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



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

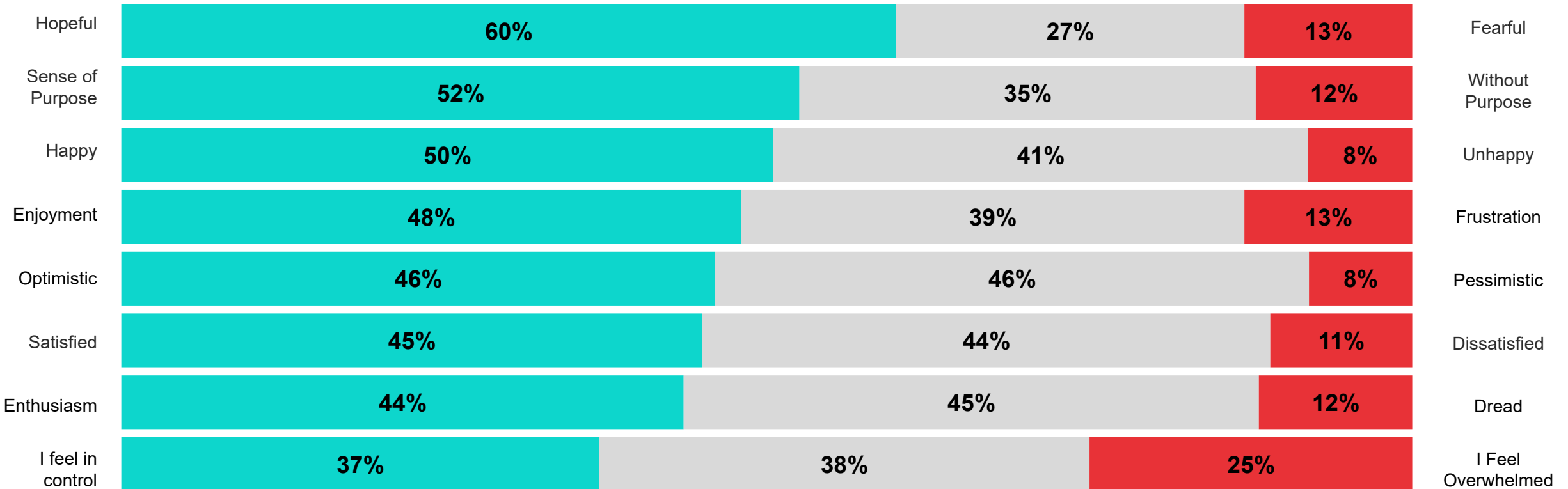
When thinking about the future, please select which of these words best describes how you feel right now?

Teens

Agree more with this statement ←

Neutral

→ Agree more with this statement

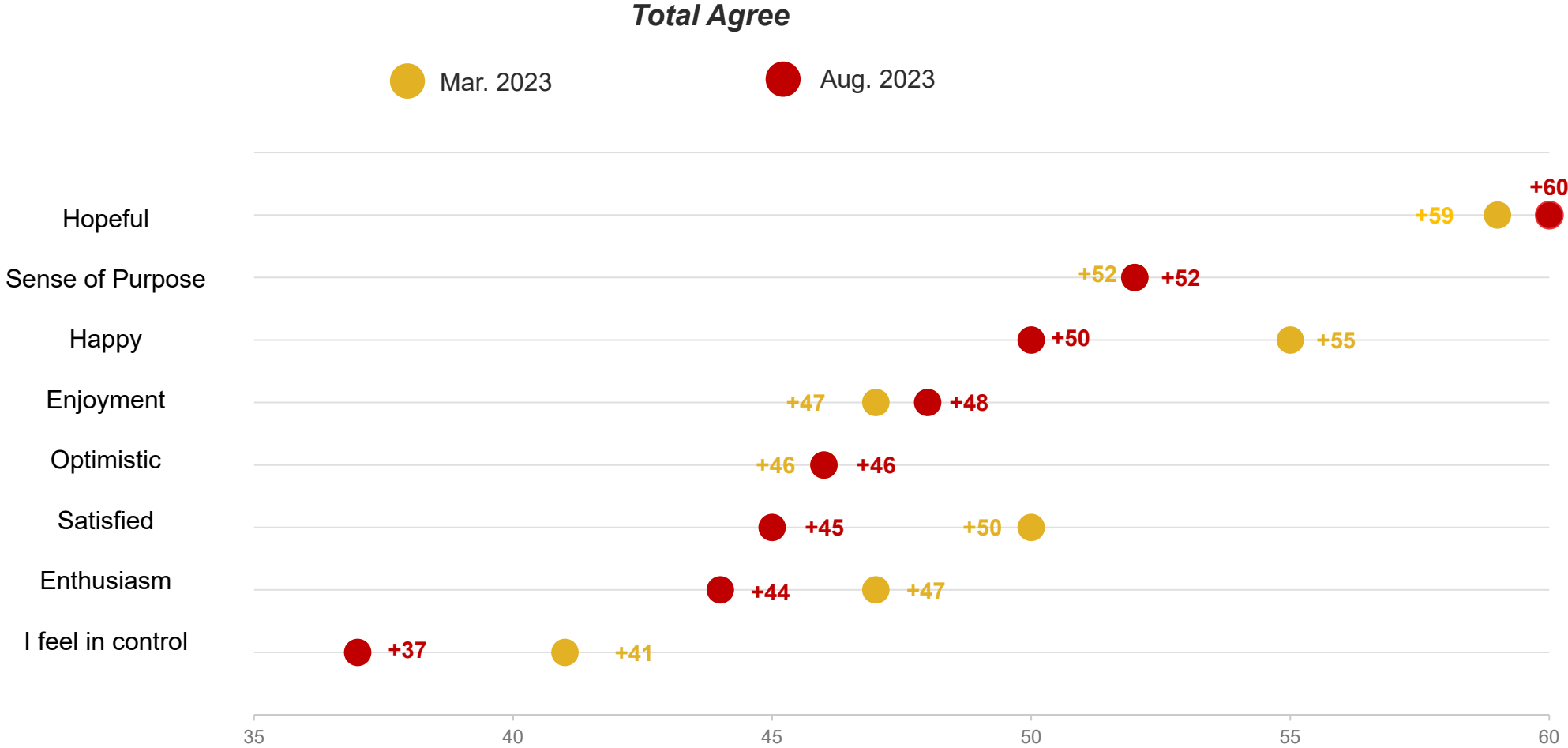


Fearful
Without Purpose
Unhappy
Frustration
Pessimistic
Dissatisfied
Dread
I Feel Overwhelmed

Since March, the number of Teens who feel “hopeful” has remained about even, while the proportion of Teens who feel “happy,” “satisfied,” or “in control” has fallen.

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

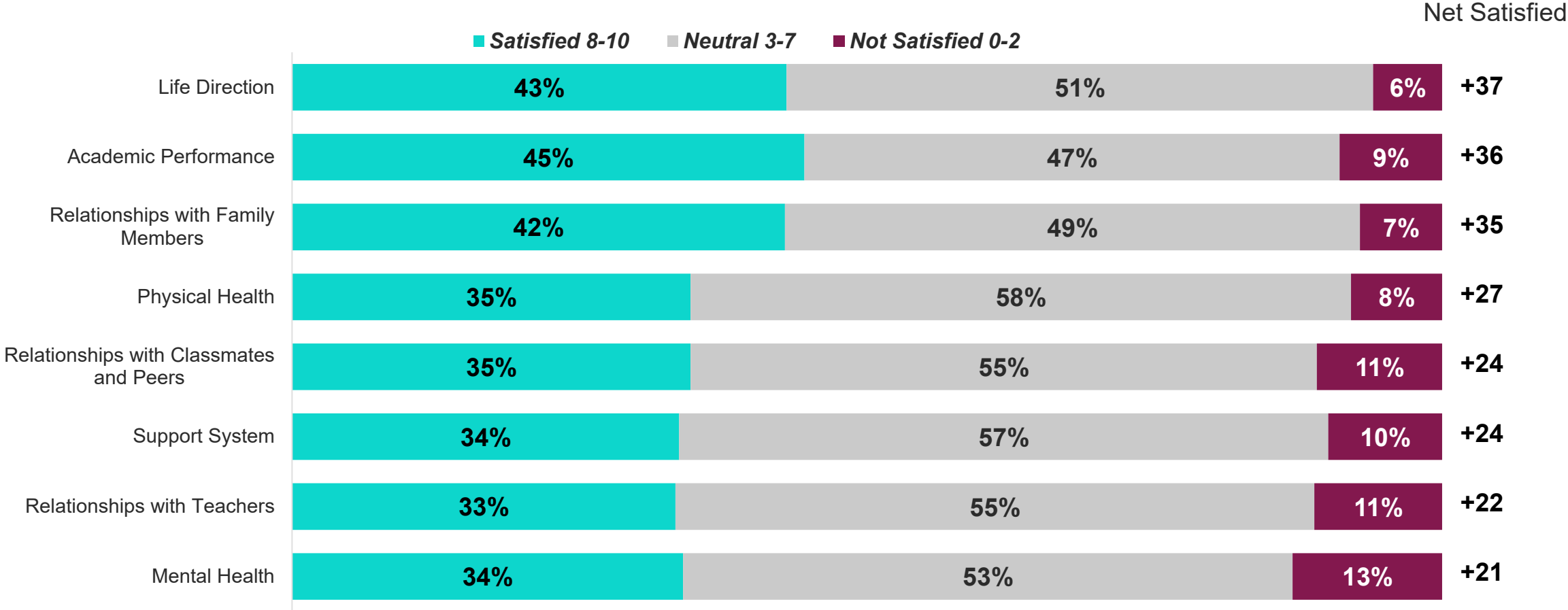
Teens



Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Teens are most satisfied with their academic performance, life direction, and their relationships with their family members.

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.

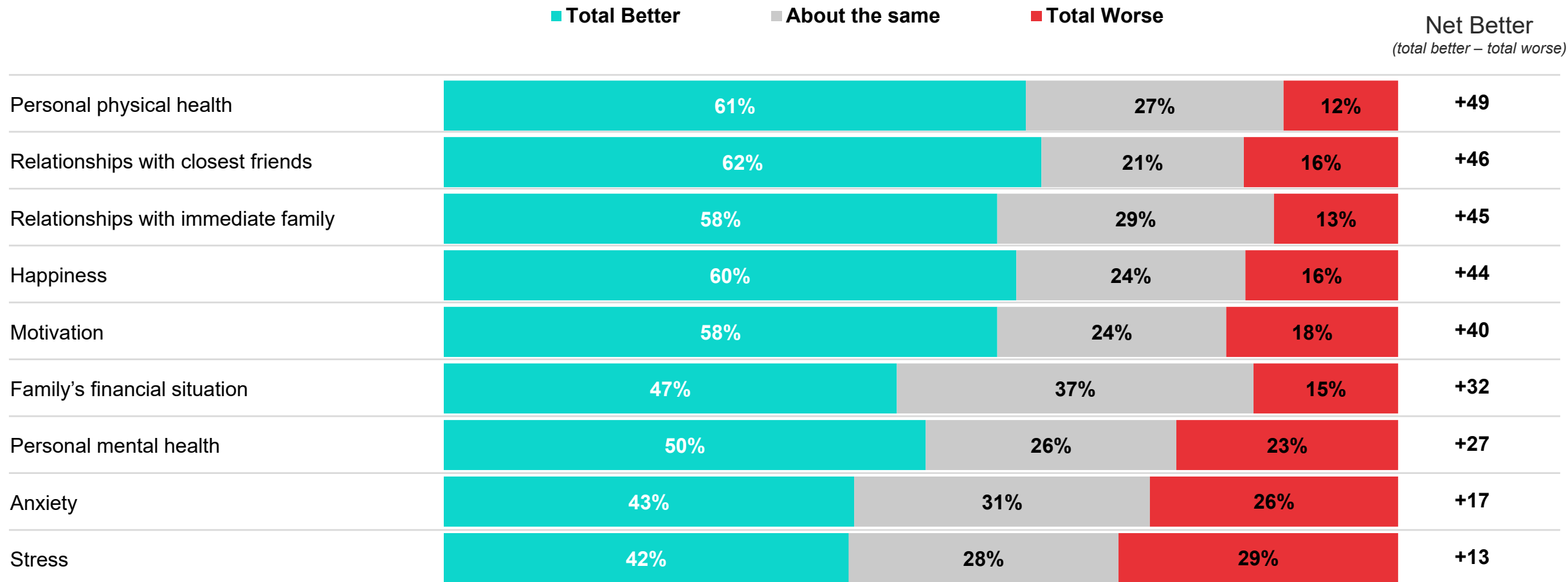


Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Compared to last year, teens indicate they are improving across nine different areas in their lives. Largest improvements relate to physical health and relationships with close friends and family. They report least improvement regarding anxiety and stress.

Compared to this time last year, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

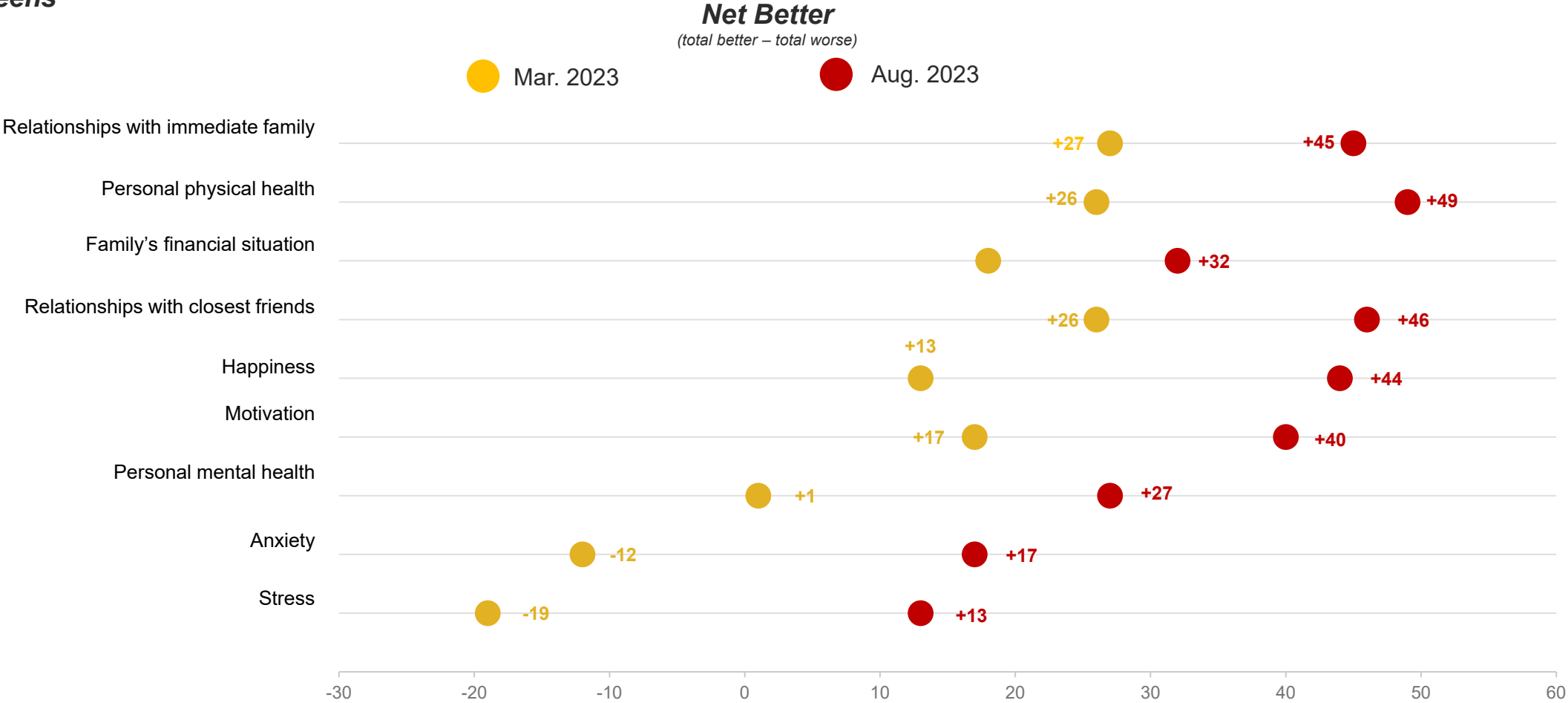
Teens



Compared to March, teens reported feeling much more positively in a number of ways. Their reported net improvements with anxiety and stress have increased most but continue to be the lowest rated categories.

Compared to this time last year, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

Teens

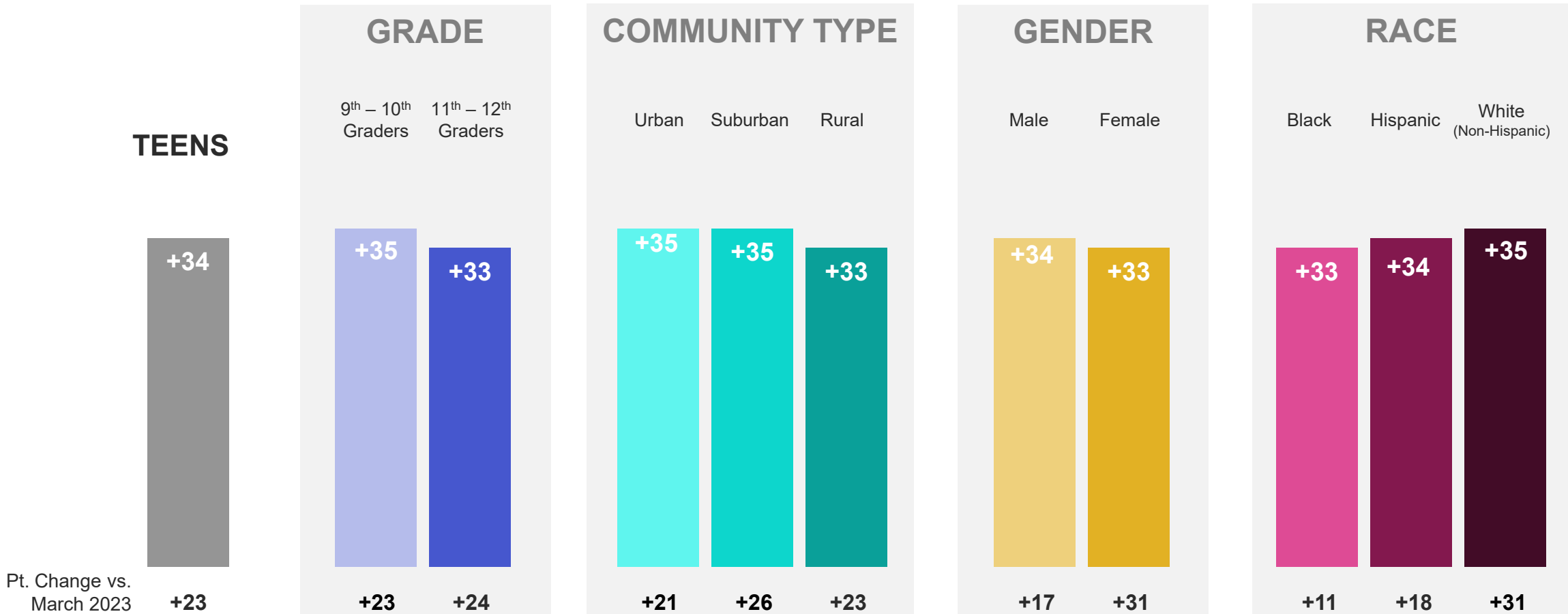


Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Many demographics reported a big jump in improvement since March of this year when it comes to their quality of life and relationships.

Compared to this time last year, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

Average Net Better Score by Demographic

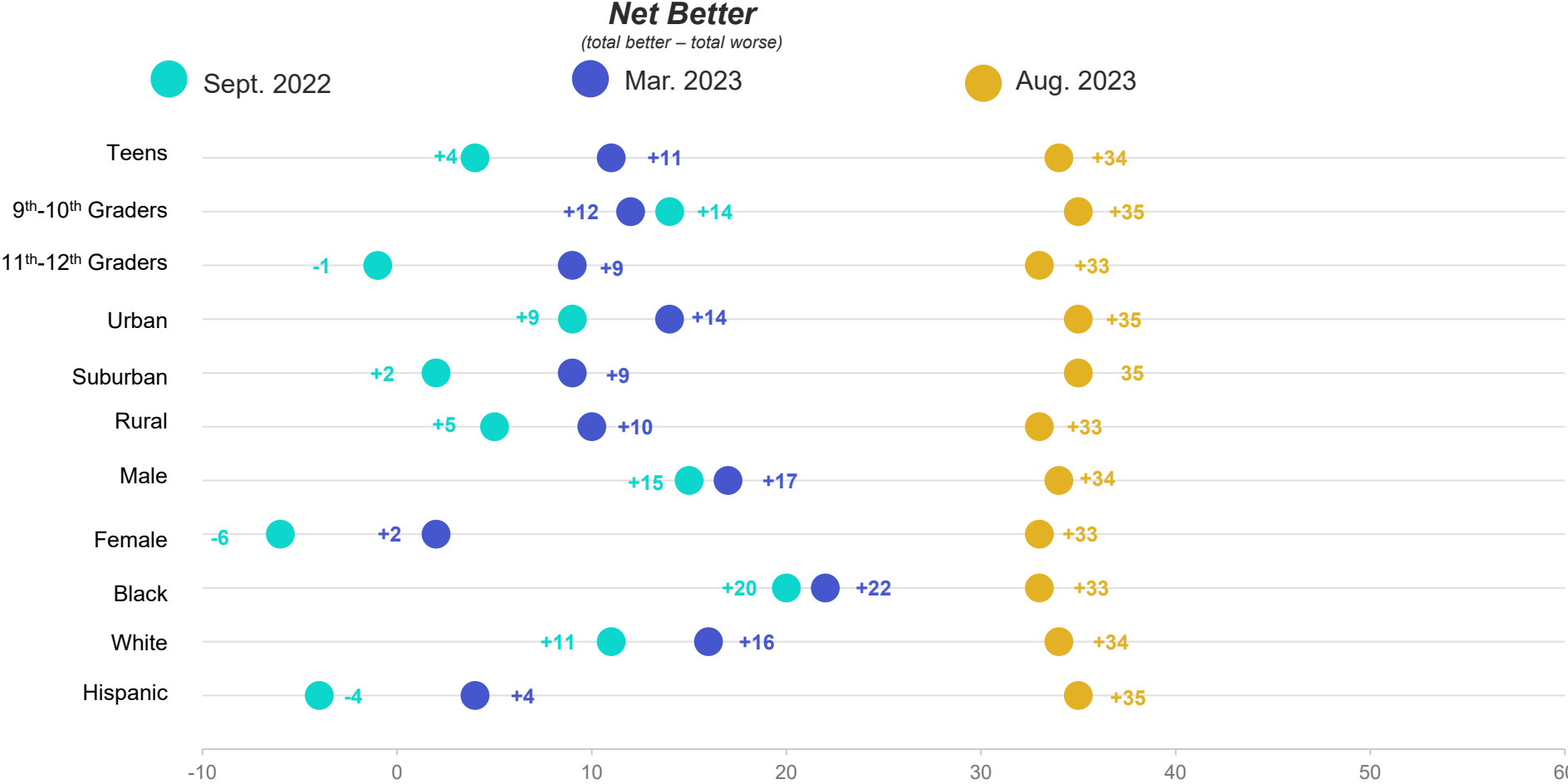


Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Teens have shown significant improvements across several demographics since this time last year. Net improvement gaps between demographics groups have mostly closed.

Compared to this time last year, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

Teens

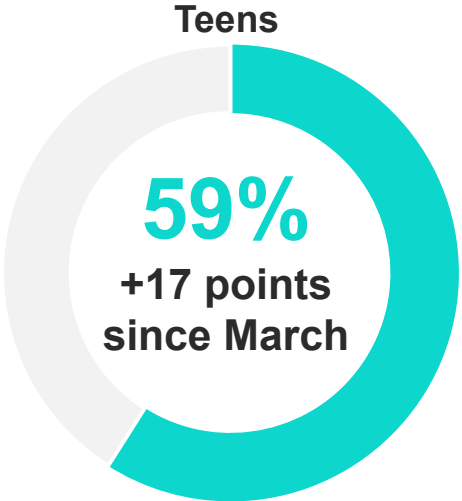


Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

The proportion of teens who have heard “a lot” or “some” about ChatGPT has risen sharply since March - toward nearly 60 percent.

To what extent, if at all, have you ever heard of ChatGPT?

Teens



% Heard A Lot/Some About ChatGPT

To what extent, if at all, have you ever heard of ChatGPT?

A lot	37%
Some	22%
Not much	13%
Not at all	18%

Top % Have Heard A Lot/Some

Male	79%
Private School	78%
Asian	77%
Liberal	71%

Bottom % Have Heard A Lot/Some

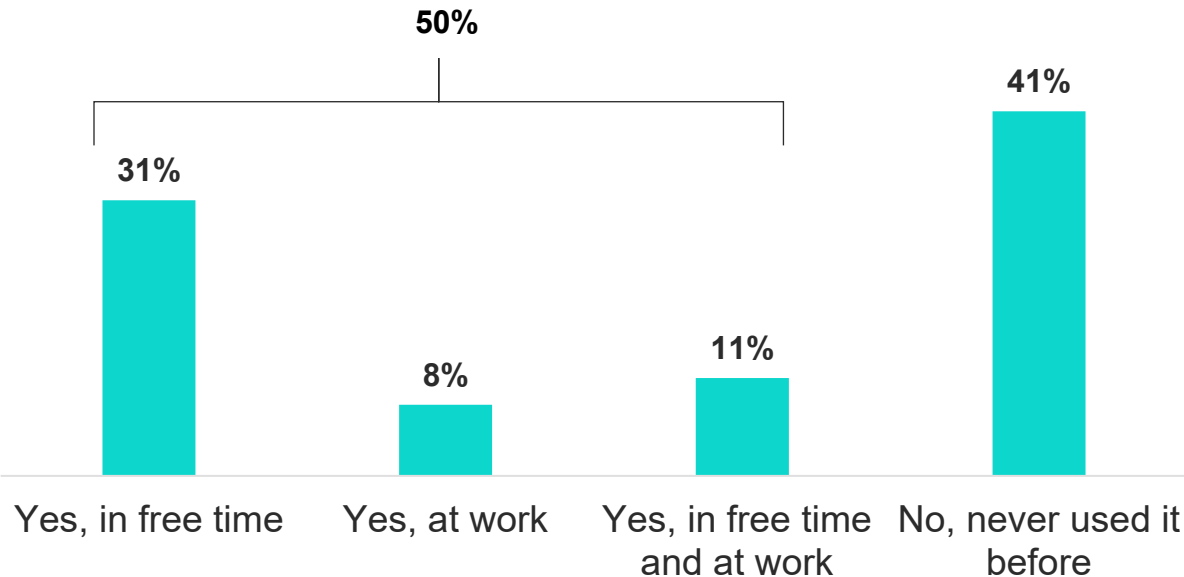
Midwest	53%
Rural	51%
Black	50%
Female	39%

Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Half of teens have used artificial intelligence in their free time or at school compared to less than a third of adults. Male and private school teens are the most likely to have used AI.

Have you ever used artificial intelligence before in your free time or at school? Examples include ChatGPT, ChatSonic, and Bloom.

Teens



% Yes, have used

All Adults*	31%
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Top % Yes, have used

Male	64%
Private	62%
Liberal	60%
Age 13	55%

Bottom % Yes, have used

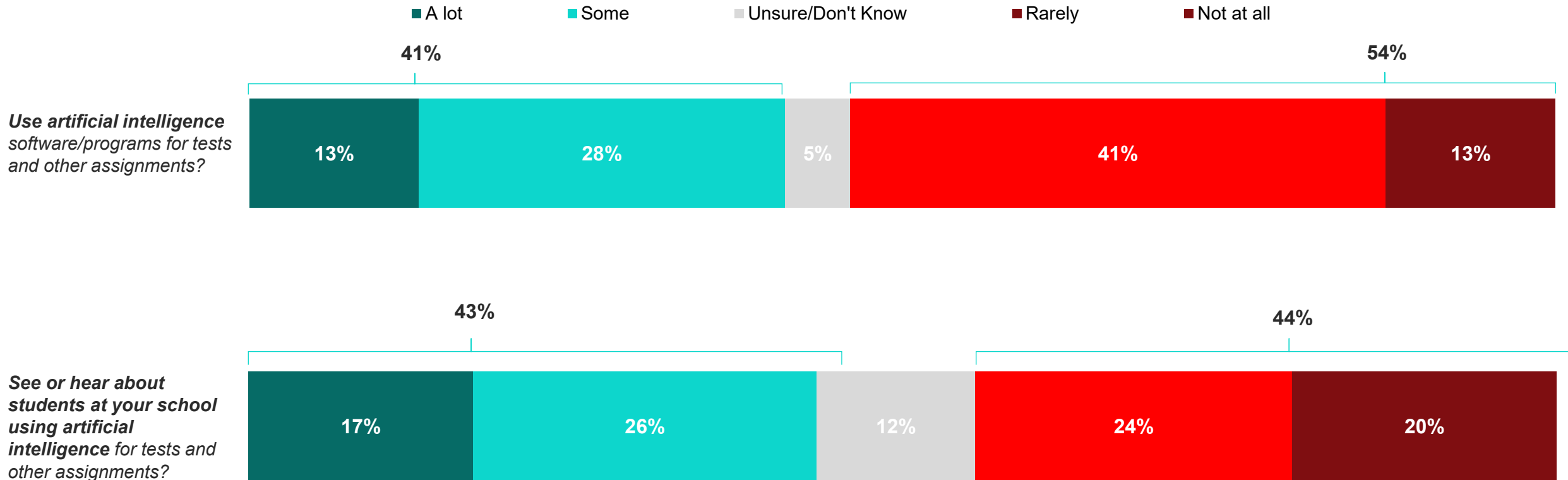
Midwest	46%
Hispanic	46%
Age 17	44%
Female	35%

Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)
 Adults Data Source: Survey conducted August 10 – August 13, 2023, among U.S. adults
 Note: Right-hand side data showing % “Yes, have used” includes “Yes, in free time”, “Yes, at school”, and “Yes, in free time and at school”

Approximately 40 percent of teens indicate they have used AI for tests and assignments. A similar proportion observe other students doing the same.

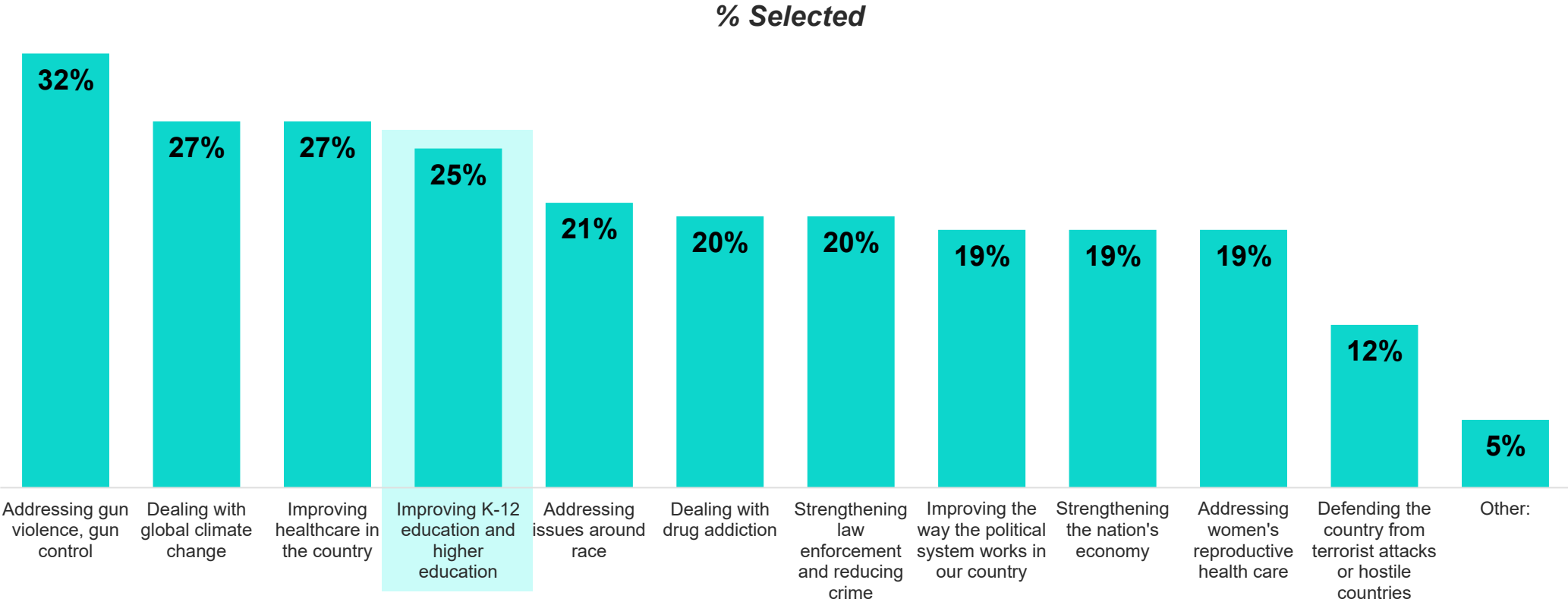
Thinking about last school year, how often, if at all, did you...

Teens



Addressing gun violence, dealing with global climate change, and improving healthcare remain the top priorities for teens. Defending the country against terrorist attacks is of lowest importance.

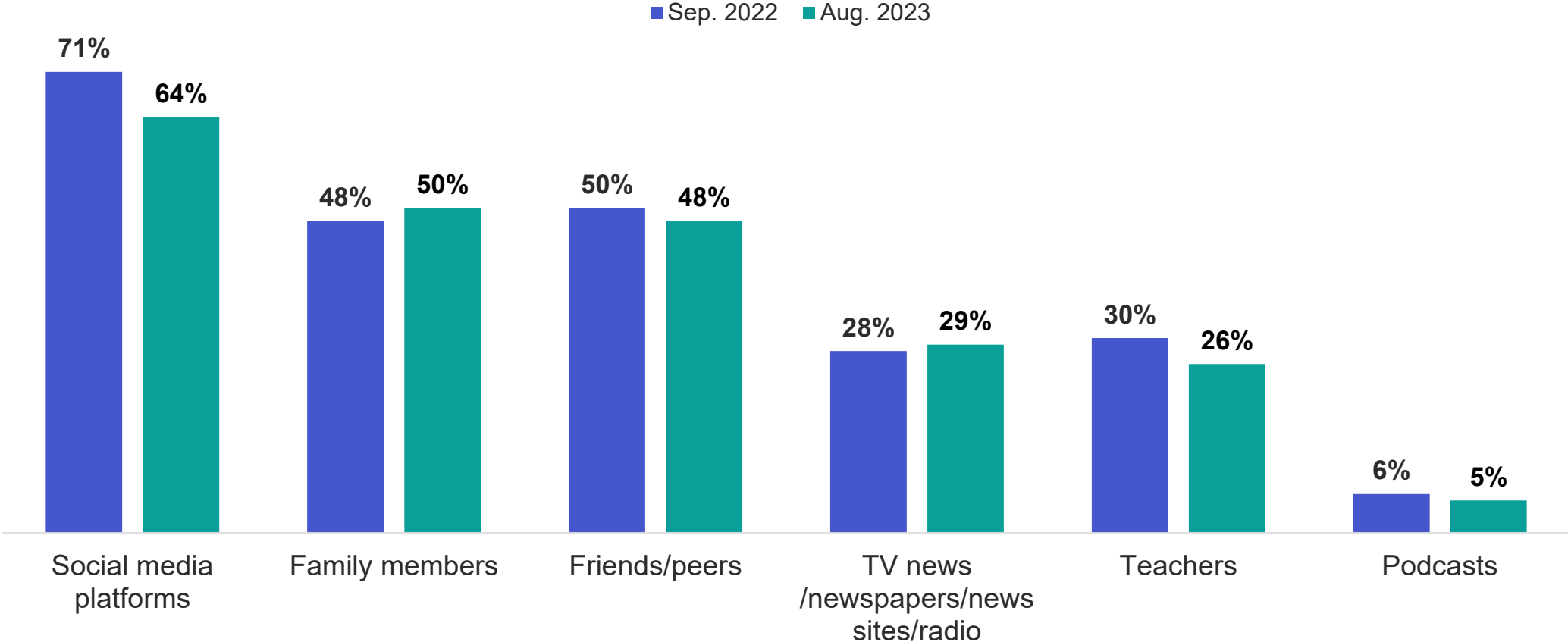
Right now, which of these public policy issues are most important to you? Please select three.



Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Teens remain most likely to rely on social media to get information about current events, though the proportion who do has fallen since last September.

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



Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

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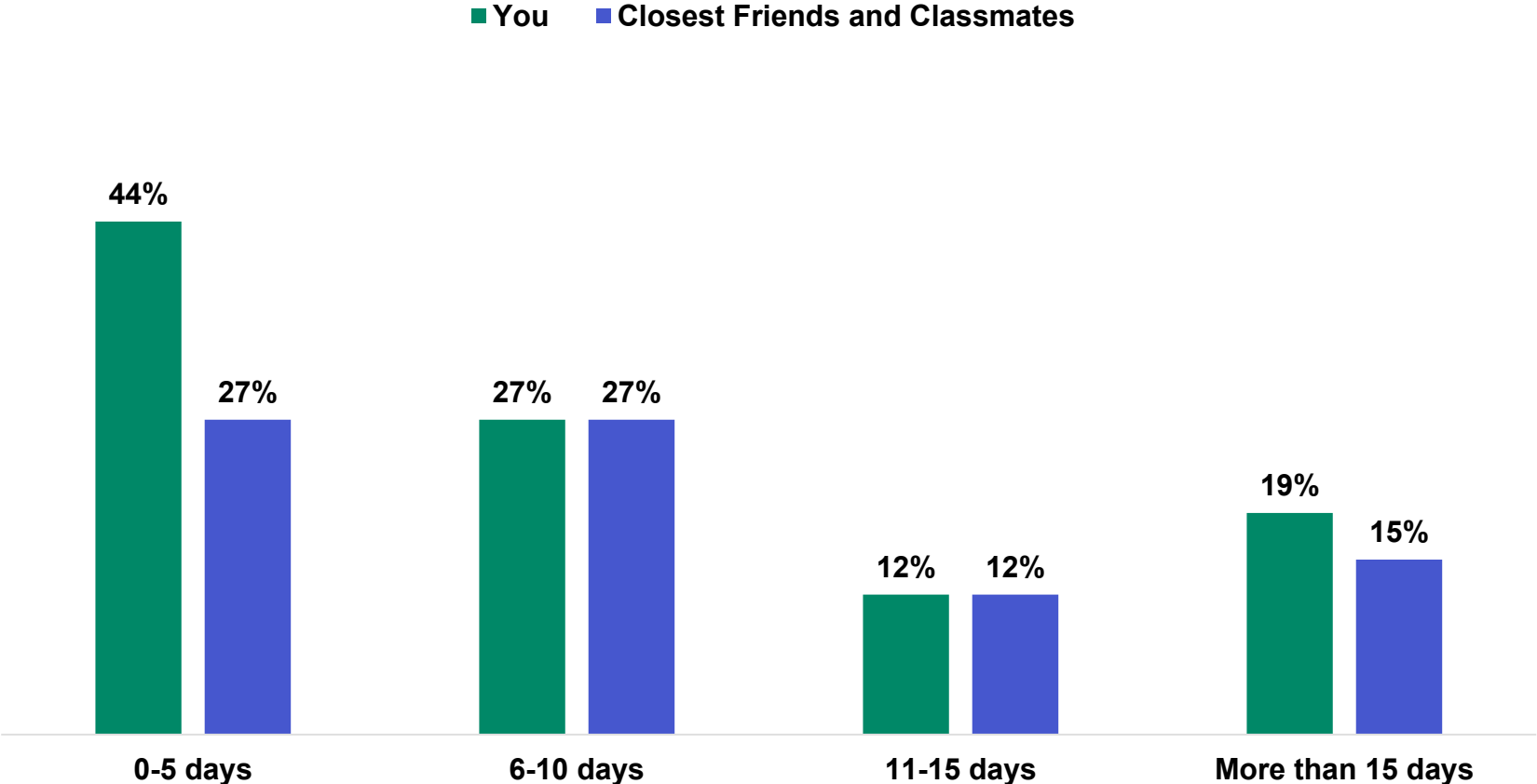


Nearly one out of five teens self-report and observe close friends missing more than 15 days of school last year.

Thinking about last school year, how many WHOLE DAYS of school did you miss and were absent?

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

Teens



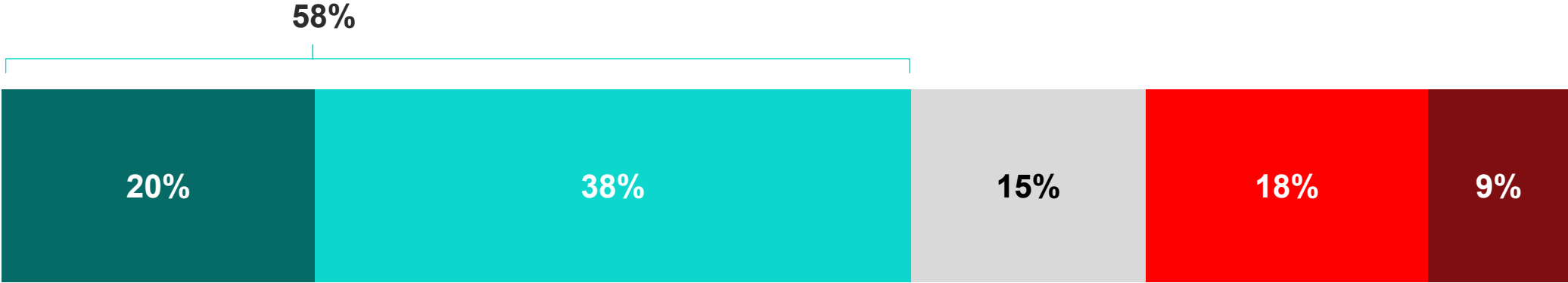
Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

A majority of teens say that school contributes to their personal happiness, but more than one-fourth say that school is hurtful.

Teens

To what degree does your school contribute to your personal **happiness**?

■ Contributes a lot ■ Contributes a little ■ Does not contribute anything at all ■ Hurts a little ■ Hurts a lot

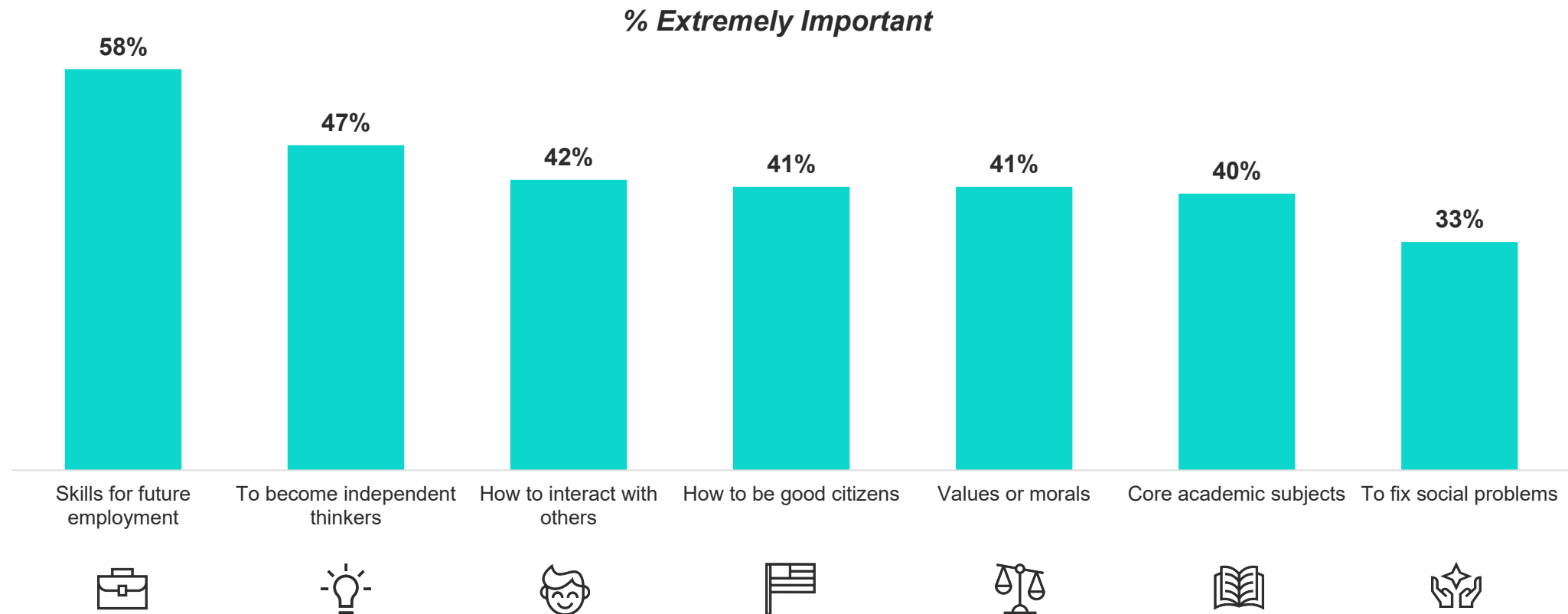


Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

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?

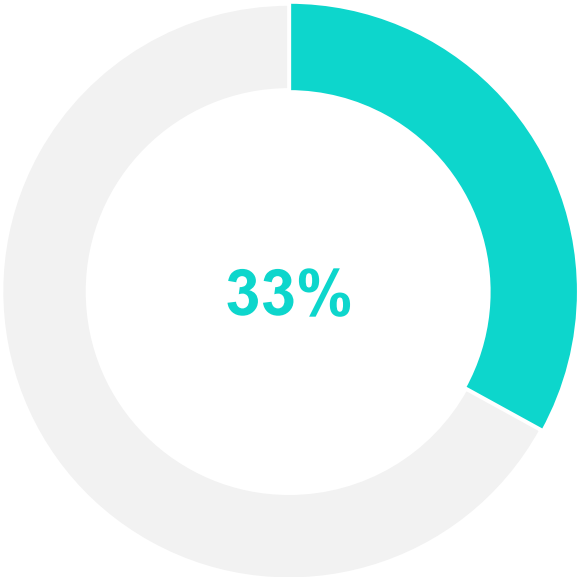
Average % selected “Extremely Important”: **43%**



Parents are much more likely than teens to be at least very concerned about a violent intruder entering school. One-third of teens indicated this fear.

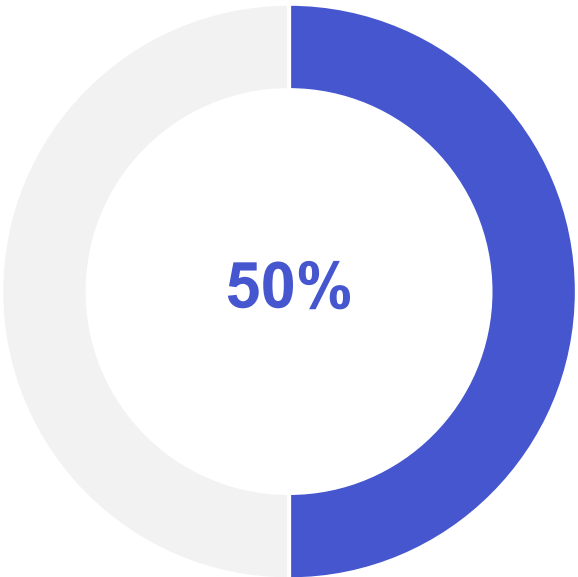
How concerned are you about a violent intruder, like a mass shooter, entering your school/your child's school?

Teens



Teens

Total Concern (Extremely + Very Concerned)



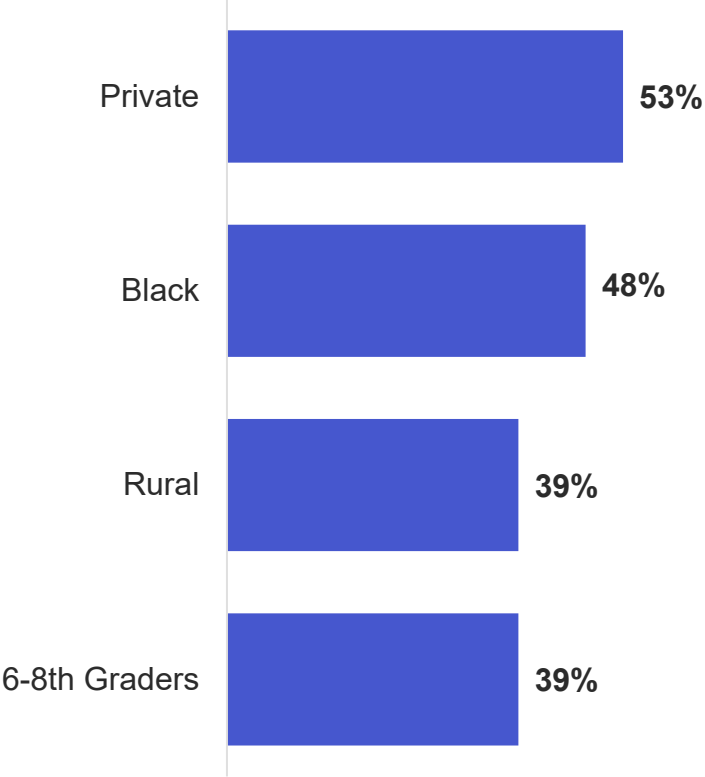
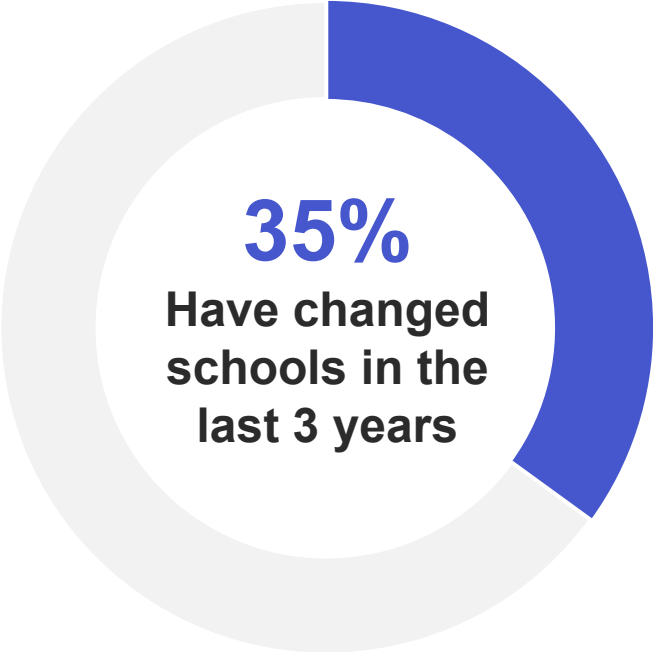
School Parents

Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Parent Data Source: Survey conducted August 10 – August 13, 2023, among U.S. adults

More than one-third of teens report changing schools in the last three years. Private school and Black teens are the most likely to have changed schools.

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

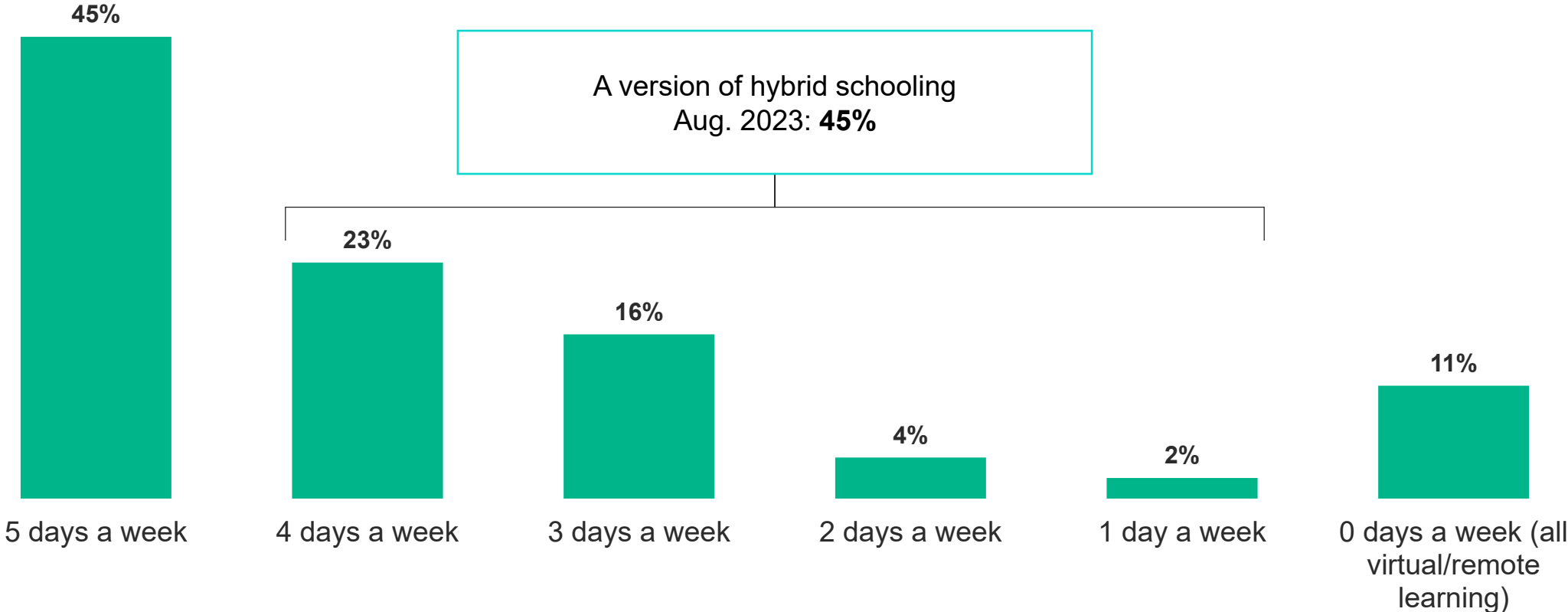


Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Teens are split on their preferences between full-time regular schooling and hybrid schooling. Almost half of teens prefer some version of hybrid schooling.

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

Teens

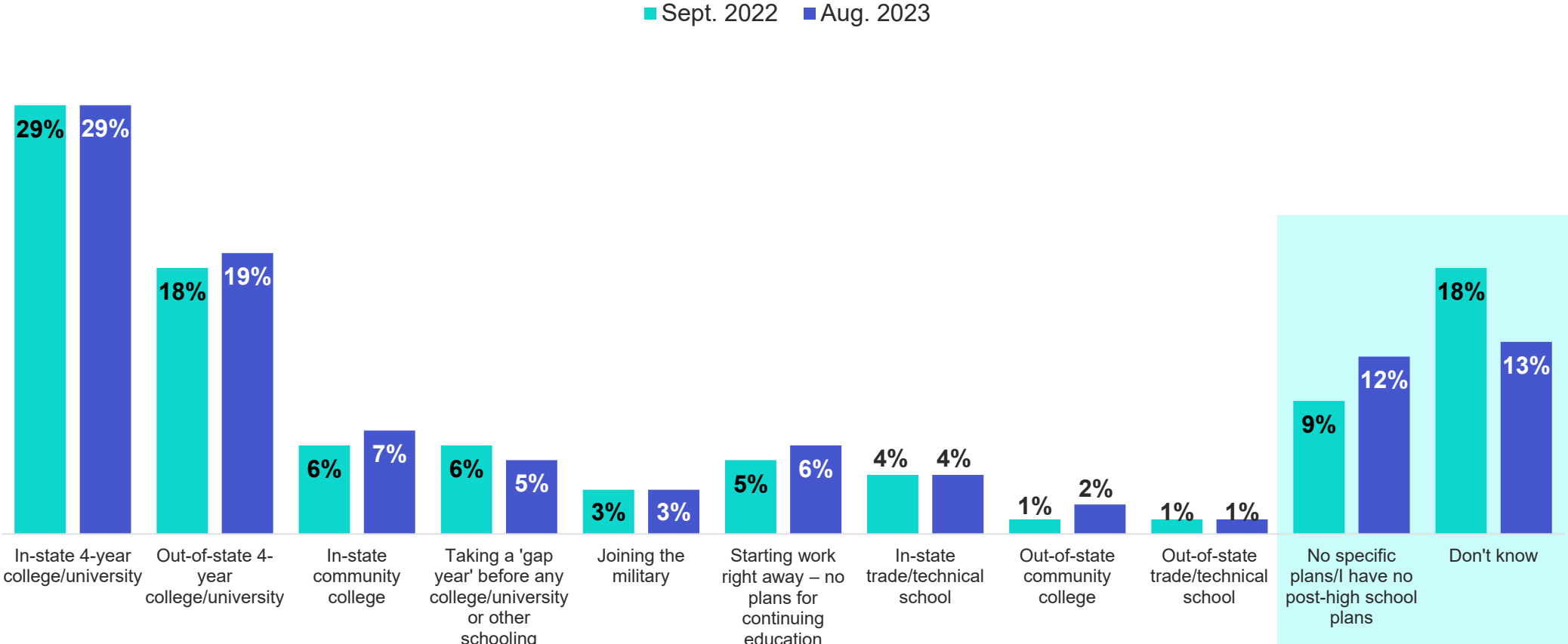


Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

One in four teens either say they have no specific post-high school plans or do not know what they will do. Compared to this time last year, the proportion of teens expecting to enroll in an in-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

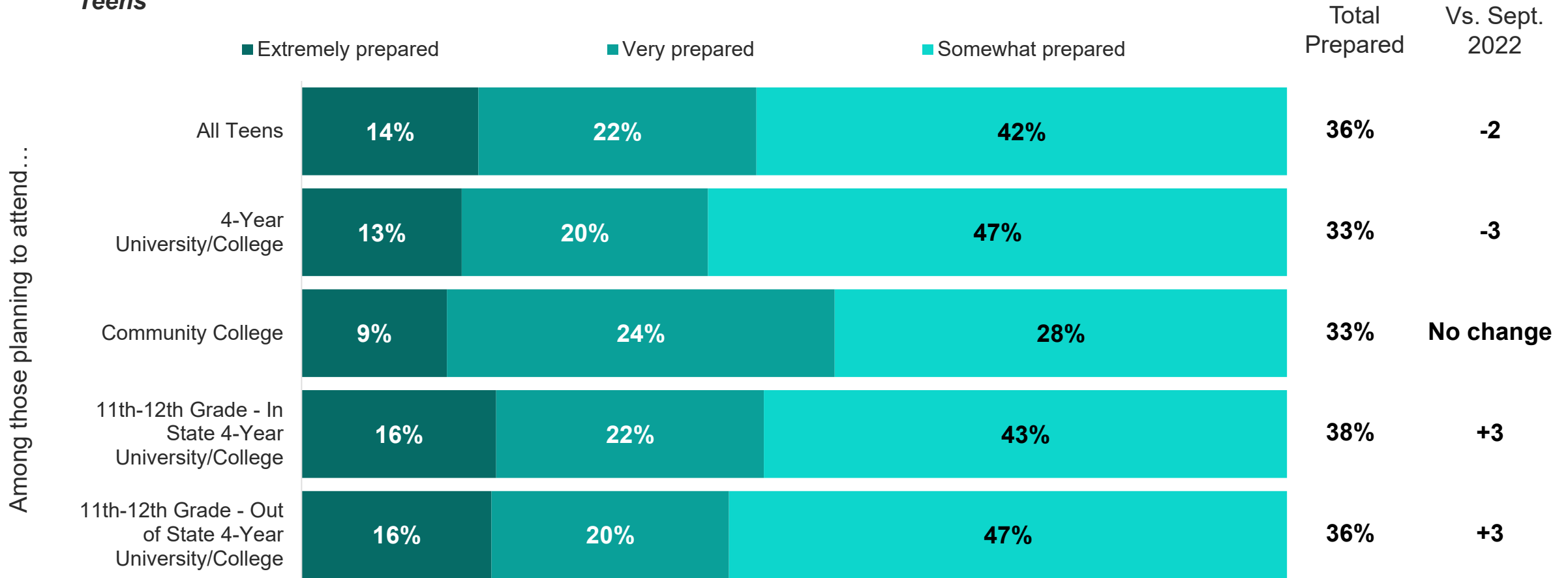


Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Compared to last September, teens feel slightly less 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



Among those planning to attend...

Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)
 Note: "Not that prepared", "not at all prepared" and "don't know/no opinion" responses not shown

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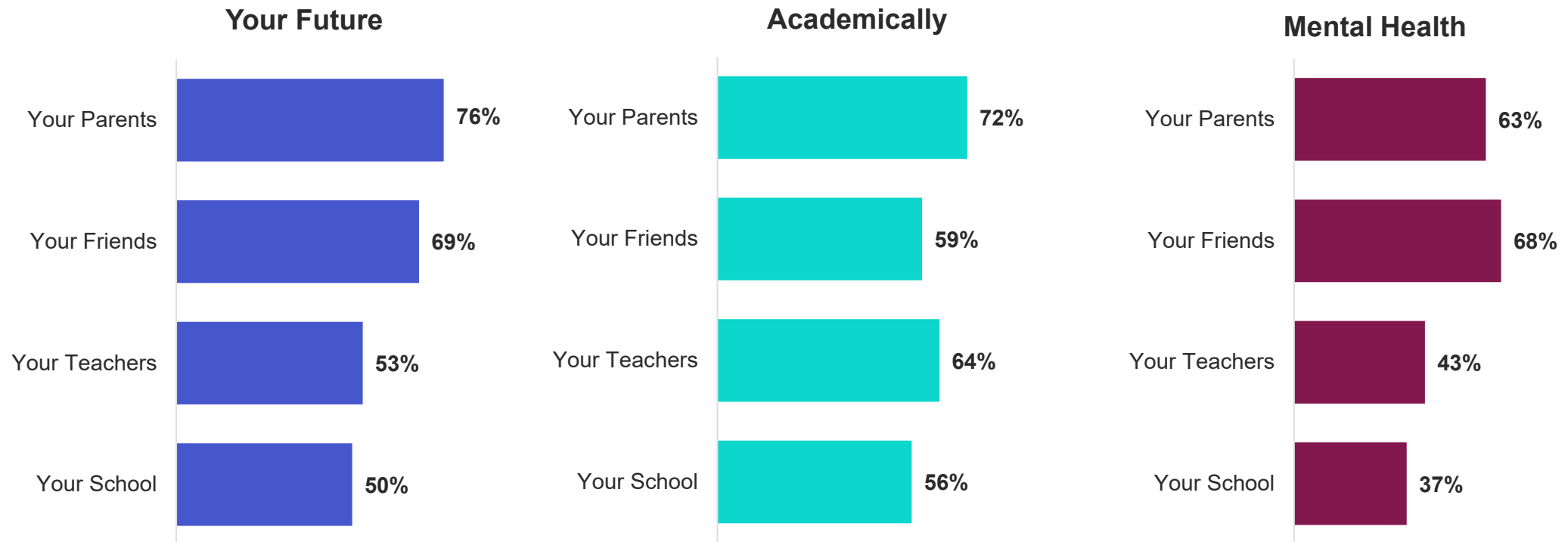


Generally, teens feel more supported when it comes to their future and academics than when it comes to mental health.

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

Teens

% Supported
(Extremely + Very well)



Different demographic groups among teens express a wide range of feeling supported when it comes to thinking about the future, academics, and mental health.

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

Teens

Most Positive (Top 5) *(Extremely + Very well)*

Your Future	
Black	60%
Age 13	57%
Male	55%
6-8 Grade	55%
Urban	54%

Academically	
Age 14	63%
Urban	61%
Male	60%
9-10 Grade	60%
Suburban	58%

Mental Health	
Urban	46%
Age 13	46%
6-8 Grade	44%
Black	43%
Male	43%

Least Positive (Bottom 5) *(Extremely + Very Well)*

Your Future	
Female	46%
Suburban	45%
Non-Hispanic White	45%
LGBTQ	43%
Rural	42%

Academically	
Female	53%
Midwest	52%
Age 17	50%
Rural	49%
LGBTQ	48%

Mental Health	
Rural	33%
11-12 Grade	31%
Female	31%
LGBTQ	28%
Age 17	25%

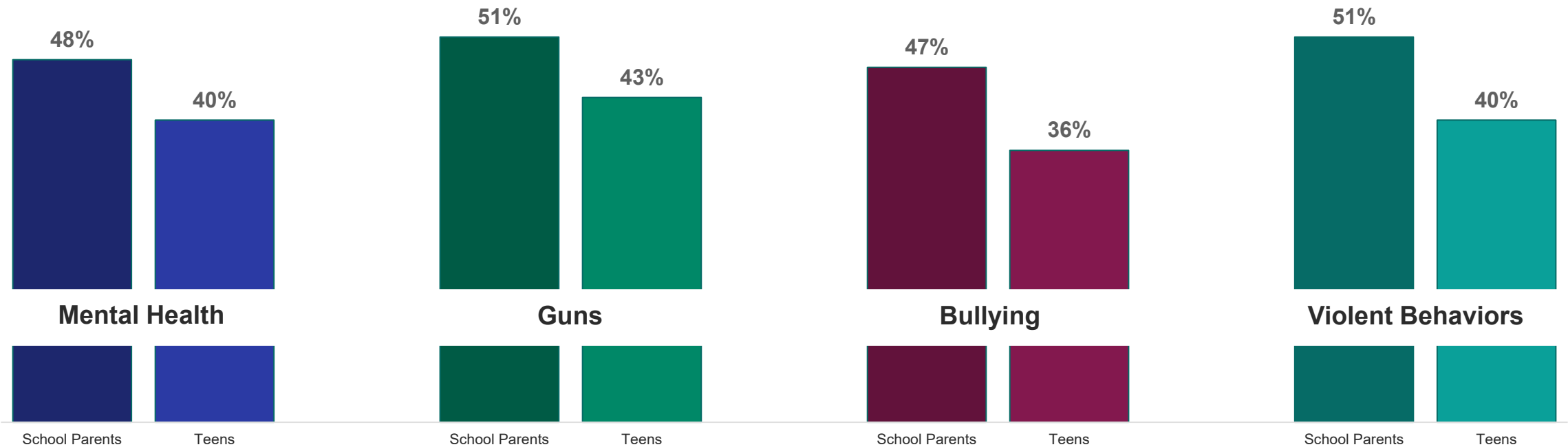
Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

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.

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

Teens

Most Positive
(Extremely + Very Well)



Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

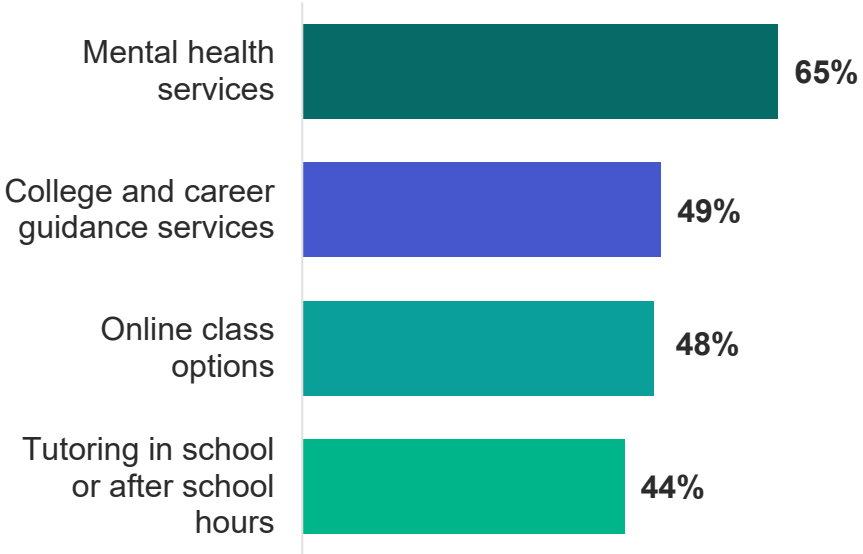
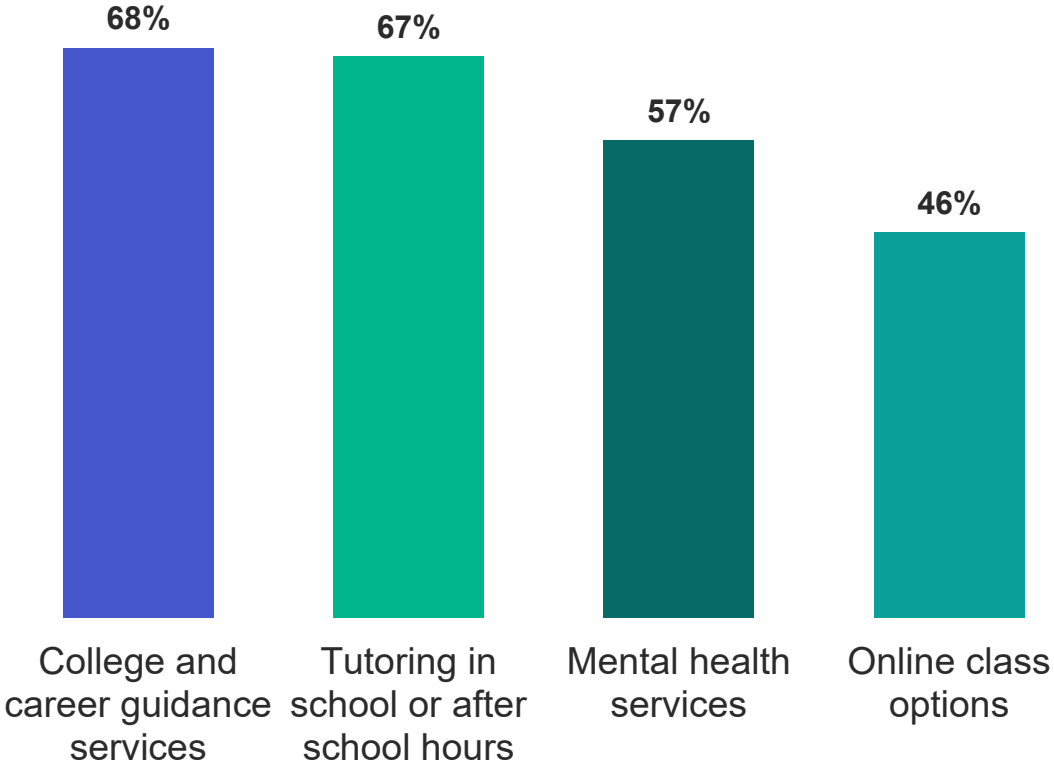
Parent Data Source: Survey conducted August 10 – August 13, 2023, among U.S. adults

Less than 60 percent of teens say their schools offer mental health services, and less than half say their schools offer online class options. Among teens whose schools do not offer these services, on average they prioritize mental health services.

To your knowledge, does your school currently offer any of the following resources to students who need it?

Would you like for your school to offer the following resources to students who need or want it?*

Teens



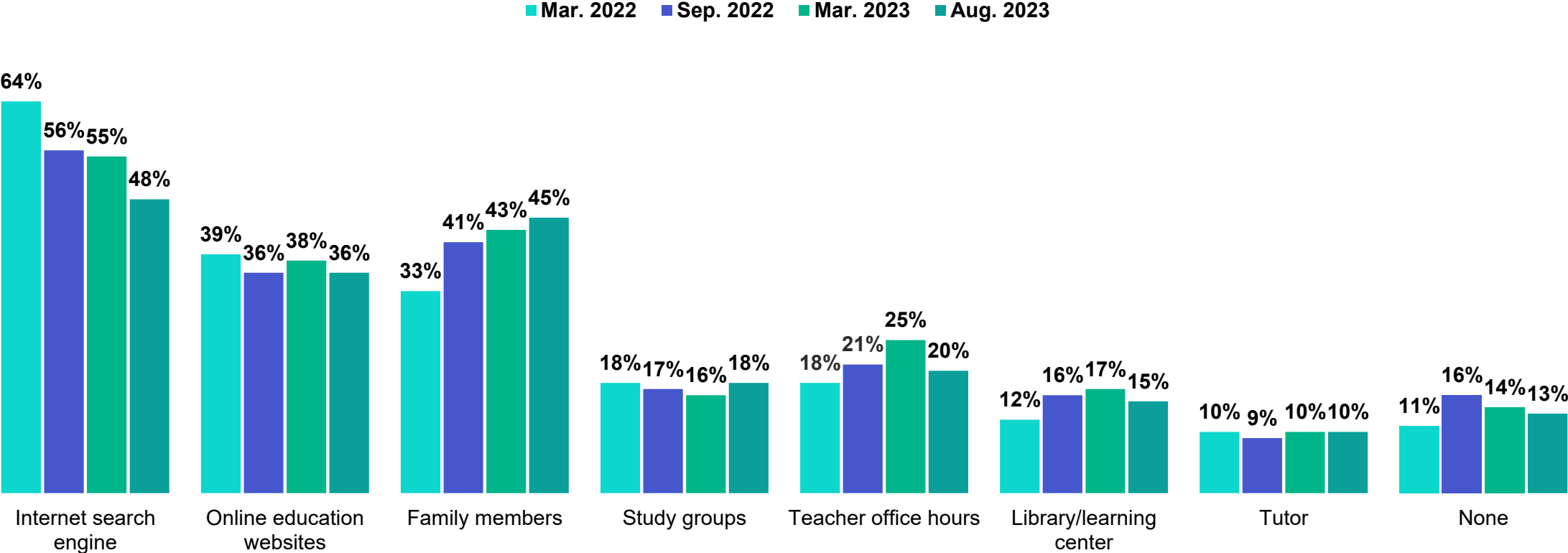
*Among those who say their school does not offer these services

Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

Teens continue to view internet search as the most beneficial tool to help with their schoolwork, though that proportion fallen since March 2022. Over the same time period, teens have grown increasingly reliant on family members.

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

Teens



Source: Survey conducted August 18 – August 27, 2023, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18)

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Survey Profile, 1

Dates	August 18 – August 27, 2023
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 = 9.93 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 = ± 3.31 percentage points
Participation Rate	Teens = 37.89%
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	509
Female	492
6-8th Graders	141
9th-10th Graders	345
11th-12th Graders	515
Urban	285
Suburban	471
Rural	245

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
White (non-hispanic)	415
Hispanic	267
Black	220
Asian	86
Northeast	211
Midwest	198
South	403
West	189

Teen Demographic Groups by Unweighted, Weighted, and Target Percentages

Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target
Age: 13	11%	18%	17%
Age: 14	15%	18%	17%
Age: 15	17%	17%	16%
Age: 16	17%	17%	16%
Age: 17	16%	17%	16%
Age: 18	25%	14%	18%
Male	51%	51%	51%
Female	49%	49%	49%
White	42%	49%	52%
Hispanic	27%	26%	24%
Black	22%	16%	14%
Other	12%	12%	10%
Northeast	21%	16%	16%
Midwest	20%	21%	21%
South	40%	39%	39%
West	19%	24%	24%

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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