

Key Findings

FROM THE SEVENTEENTH BIENNIAL CALIFORNIA STUDENT SURVEY

2017/19

The Biennial California Healthy Kids Survey is conducted over a two-year period among a representative state sample of 7th, 9th, and 11th graders.



7TH
GRADE



9TH
GRADE



11TH
GRADE

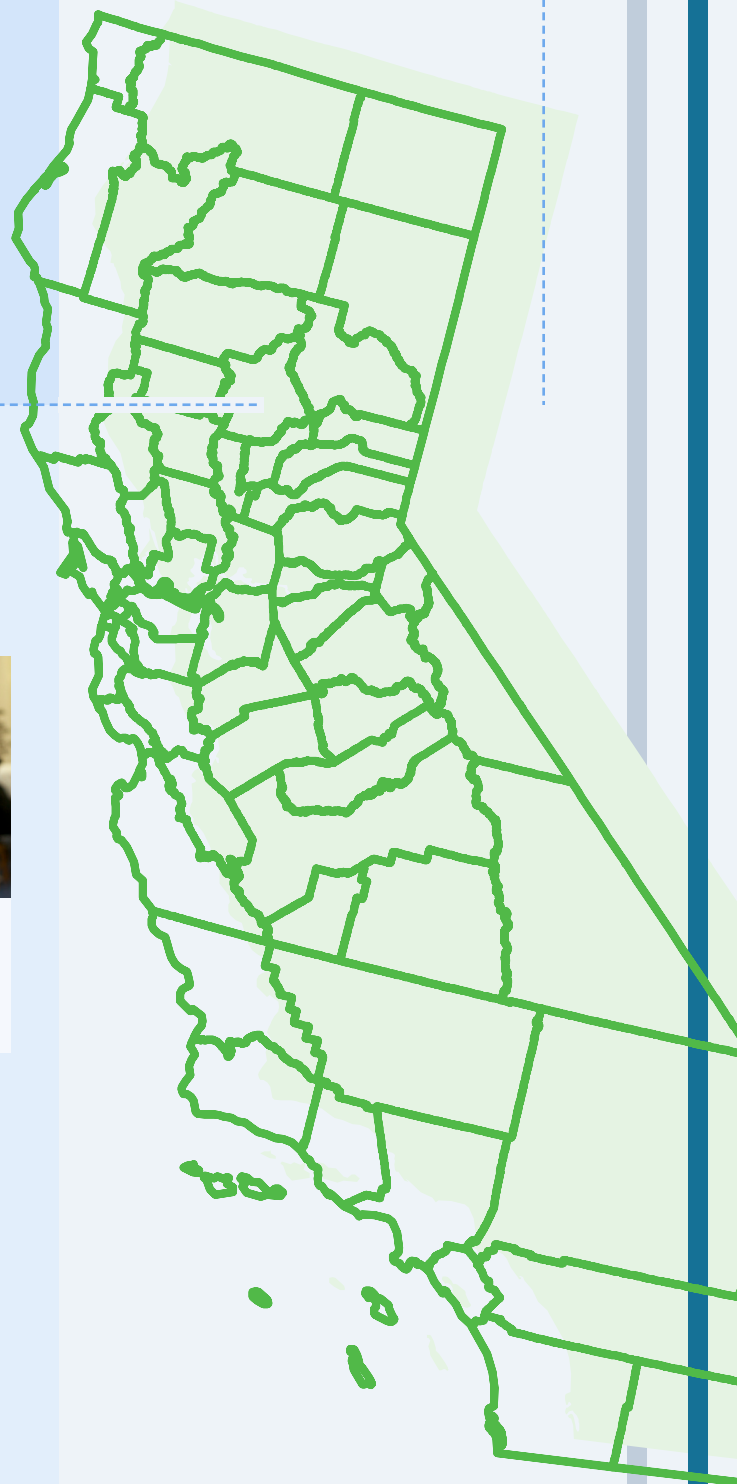


45,000
Students



114
Public schools

The biennial survey assesses school climate and student supports, engagement, and well-being. Over 45,000 students from 114 public schools participated in the 2017/19 survey.



PUPIL ENGAGEMENT, SCHOOL CLIMATE, & SAFETY

There has been a lack of progress since 2011/13 in indicators of learning engagement and school climate, state improvement priorities under the Local Control and Funding Formula, with the exception of school attendance. The most negative trend has been for school safety. Generally, engagement and climate indicators become more negative as grade level increases.

NOTABLE CHANGES

Trends since 2015/17.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

7 TH GRADE	50%	↗ +5
9 TH GRADE	44%	↗ +6
11 TH GRADE	39%	↗ +8

11TH GRADE TRUANCY

8% ↘ -2

PERCEIVED SCHOOL SAFETY

7 TH GRADE	61%	↘ -9
9 TH GRADE	55%	↘ -4
11 TH GRADE	54%	↘ -6

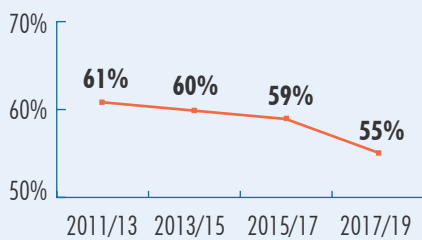
7TH GR. ACADEMIC MOTIVATION

75% ↘ -5

7TH GR. SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS

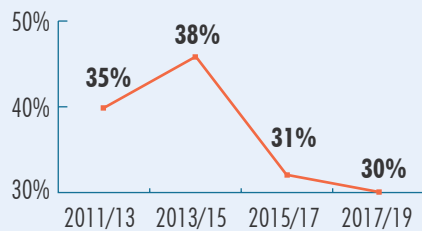
62% ↘ -6

PERCEIVED SCHOOL SAFETY 9TH GRADE

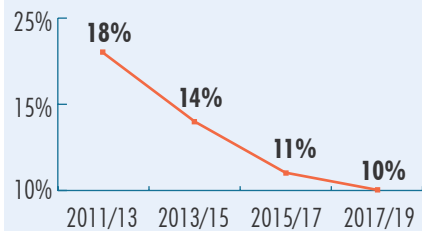


Students' perceived safety at school went down in 2017/19 compared to 2011/13, but simultaneously they also reported decreases in bullying, fighting, and seeing firearms at school.

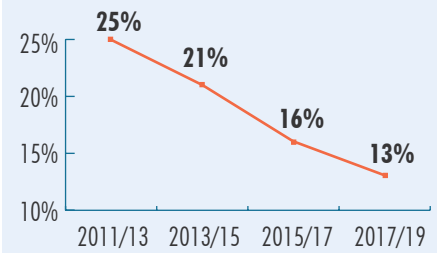
HARASSMENT AND BULLYING 9TH GRADE



PHYSICAL FIGHTS 9TH GRADE



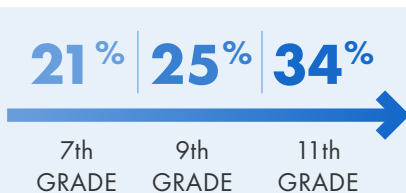
SEEN A WEAPON ON CAMPUS 9TH GRADE



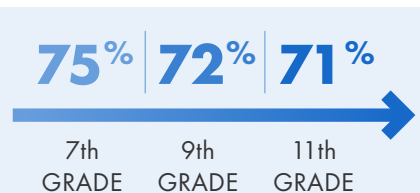
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INCREASINGLY NEGATIVE

Across several indicators, we observe student engagement becoming increasingly negative as they progress through the school system.

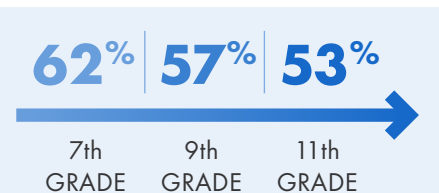
TRUANCY



ACADEMIC MOTIVATION



SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS



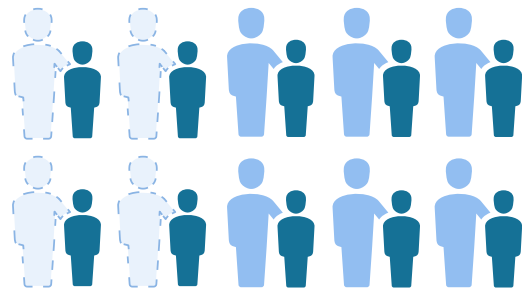
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORTS

Supports for students from adults at school that have been linked to positive development, resilience, academic success, and health are all lower than in 2011/13 and in most cases also lower than in 2015/17.

Only about **one-in-three** students reported having **experienced opportunities for meaningful participation** —down 7 percentage points from 2011/13.



Four-in-ten secondary students report having **no caring adult relationships** —down 6 percentage points from 2011/13.

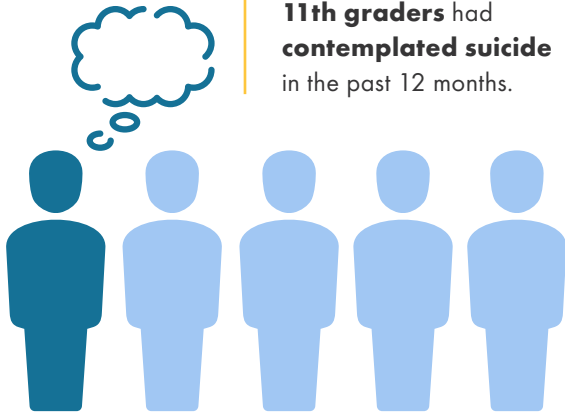


MENTAL HEALTH

Chronic, debilitating sadness or hopelessness rose markedly in all grades to the highest levels in the past six years, to 30%, 33%, & 37%, reversing small improvements that occurred in 2015/17 among 7th, 9th, and 11th graders.

16% of 9th graders and 17% 11th graders had contemplated suicide in the past 12 months, little changed from 2015/17, when it declined notably.

Nearly **one-in-five** **11th graders** had **contemplated suicide** in the past 12 months.

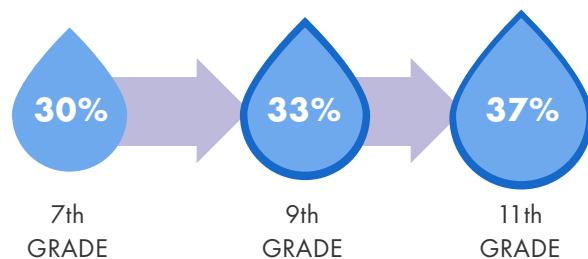


PRONOUNCED INCREASES IN CHRONIC SADNESS EVEN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC – A WARNING SIGN

More than one-in-three students report chronic, debilitating sadness in every age group polled.



Not only are students reporting more sadness over time, more students are reporting that they are chronically sad as they get older.



SUBSTANCE USE

Pronounced declines in alcohol drinking and cigarette use have occurred since 2011/13, with current use (past 30 days) dropping to 16% and 2% among 11th graders.

Less progress is evident for marijuana. Current marijuana use appears to have leveled off after four years of substantial declines and use at school increased slightly. For 11th graders, 16% were current marijuana users, the same rate as for alcohol for the first time in the survey's history, and 13% had not only smoked it at some time (ever) but also both vaped and ingested it orally (in edibles, drinks).

Just over one-in-ten (11%) reported current use of a vaping device and they were more likely to consume marijuana in it than a tobacco/nicotine product.

Across grades, perceived harm from occasional marijuana use and personal disapproval declined, indicating that marijuana acceptance has increased among youth. These changes may have contributed to the shift in marijuana use.

CURRENT USE BY THE NUMBERS:

11th grade, 2017/19



2%

Smoke **cigarettes**



11%

Use of a **vaping device**



16%

Drink **alcohol**



16%

Use **marijuana**

STUDENT MORE LIKELY TO VAPE MARIJUANA THAN TOBACCO

Among 11th graders who vaped any substance in their lifetime:

34%

marijuana
or THC

24%

tobacco
or nicotine

30%

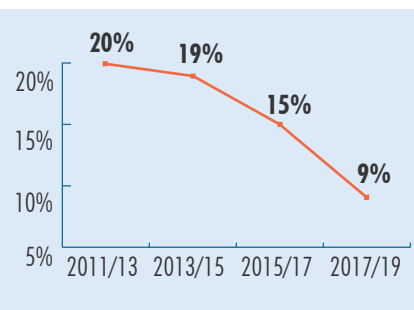
other flavored
products

12%

other
substances

ALCOHOL USE DECLINED

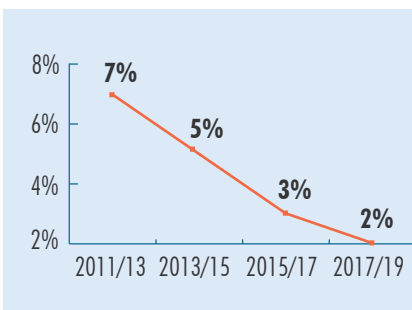
9TH GRADE



Alcohol use has gone down 11% since 2011/13, by 6% since 2015/17.

TOBACCO USE DECLINED

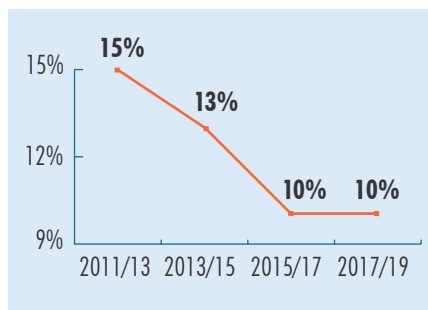
9TH GRADE



Tobacco use has gone down 5% since 2011/13, by 1% since 2015/17.

MARIJUANA USE LEVELED OFF

9TH GRADE



Marijuana use has ceased its downward trend and has levelled off since 2015/17.

The 2017/19 Biennial State CHKS was conducted by researchers at WestEd under a contract from the California Department of Health Care Services with the support of the California Department of Education.

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