



Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024

Outcomes Report





We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia and pay our respects to Elders past and present. The Hervey Bay Community Centre is located on the country of the Butchulla people, in the Great Sandy region on the South East Coast of Queensland.

About the Fraser Coast Youth Survey

Every year, Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre (HBNC), in partnership with local Fraser Coast high schools and Youth Service providers, surveys young people in years 7 to 12 to gather information on the issues and challenges youth are experiencing. This includes information around homelessness, safety, mental health, and alcohol and other drugs. The purpose of the survey is to gather data and address the lack of evidence available within the Fraser Coast youth sector around homelessness and the social issues coinciding with homelessness.

Throughout May-September 2024, a total 533 students participated across the Fraser Coast. The survey is now in its sixth year and a multi-year snapshot has now been developed as a result of the survey being completed annually. The Fraser Coast Youth Survey is now delivered under the Social Shift Institute, the research, innovation and community development arm of HBNC.



How are youth doing?



MENTAL HEALTH

- 40% of youth have accessed mental health services
- 32% of those who accessed services were supported for anxiety
- 24% were supported for depression
- 25% were supported for stress

1



LIVING SITUATION

- 1% of youth are currently homeless
- 15% of youth report experiencing homelessness at some point in their life
- 61% said they didn't know where they would get help from if they were ever in a situation where they couldn't go home
- 15% of youth said they had run away from home at some point
- 10% of youth had felt unsafe at home

2



ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

- 20% of youth report drinking alcohol
- 11% of those feel that alcohol is a problem for them
- 7% of youth report using drugs
- 17% of those feel that drugs are a problem for them
- 9% of youth report they smoke or vape
- 35% of those who do feel it is a problem for them

3



TOP 5 CONCERNS YOUTH HAVE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

1. Safety and Crime
2. Mental Health
3. Housing & Homelessness
4. Environment
5. Equity & Discrimination

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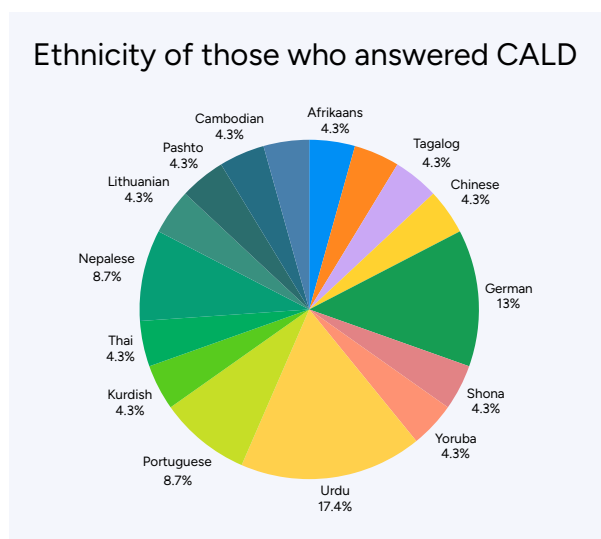
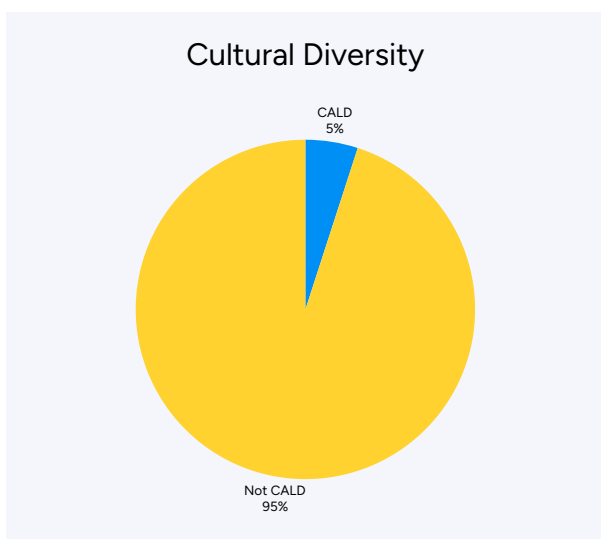
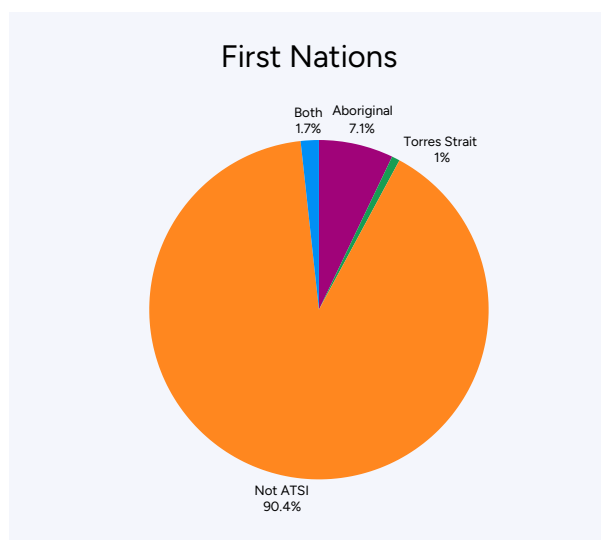
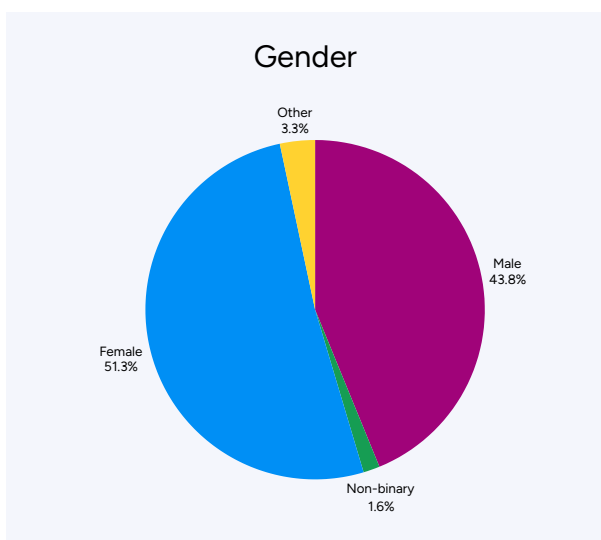
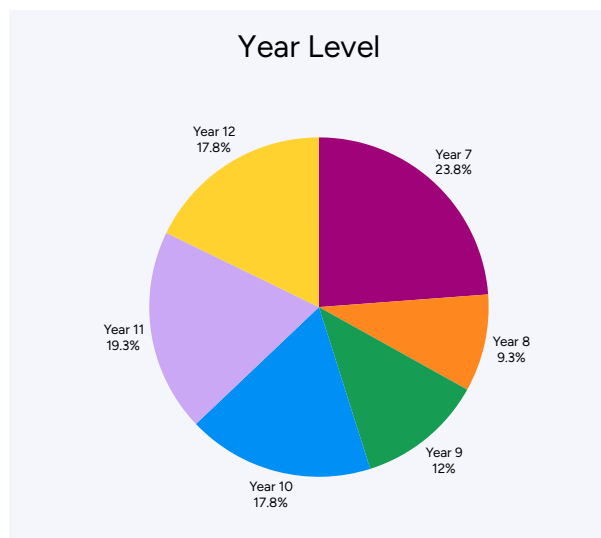
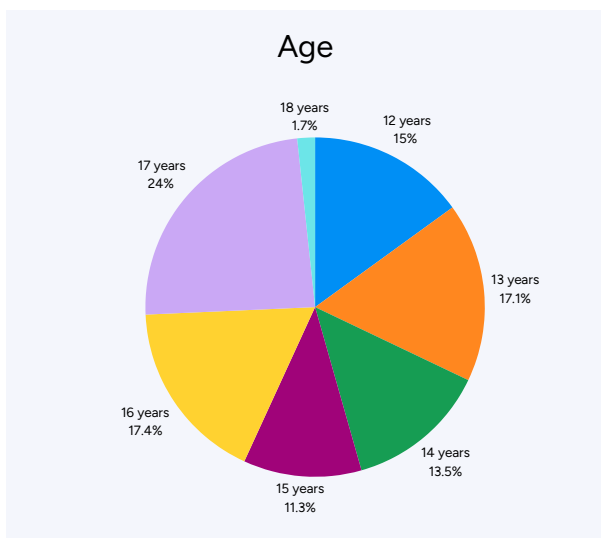
TOP 3 PERSONAL CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH

1. School Challenges
2. Mental Health Challenges
3. Relationship Challenges

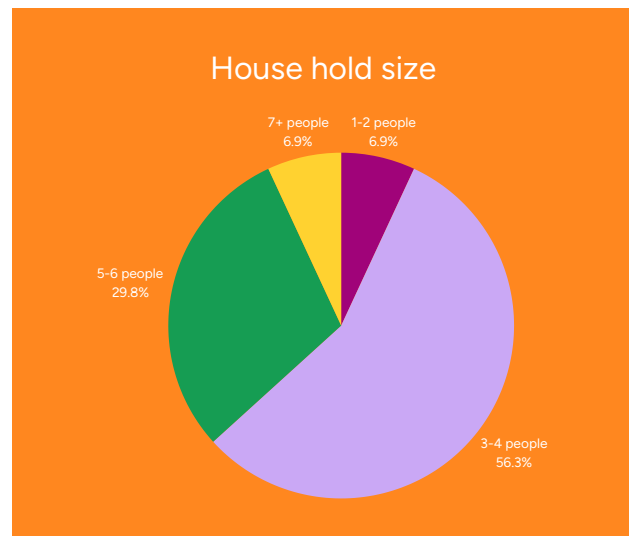
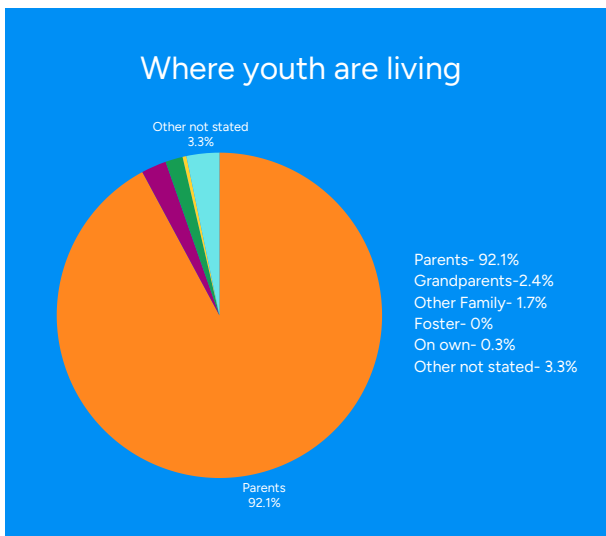
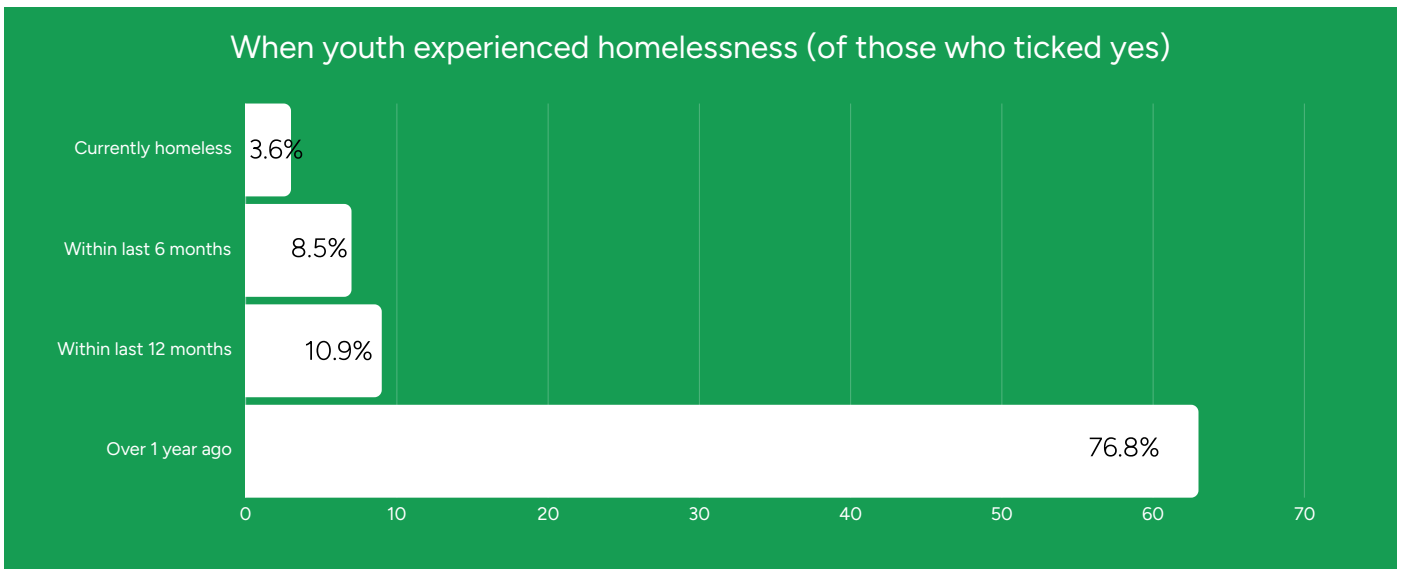
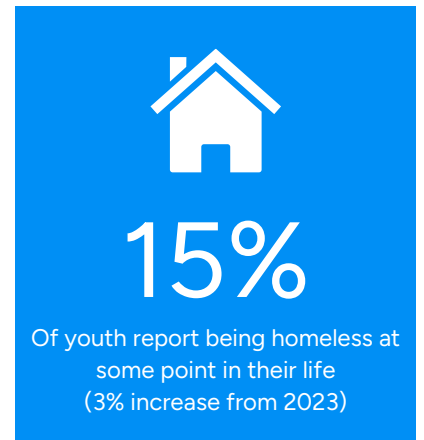
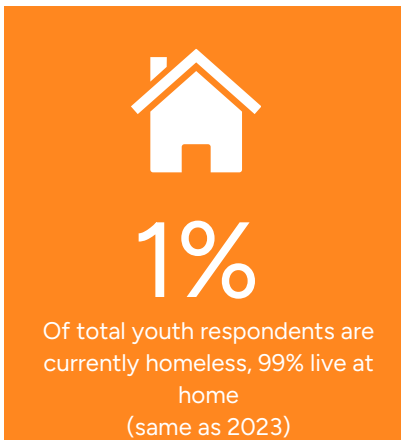
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FC Youth Survey 2024

Participant Demographics



Living Situation



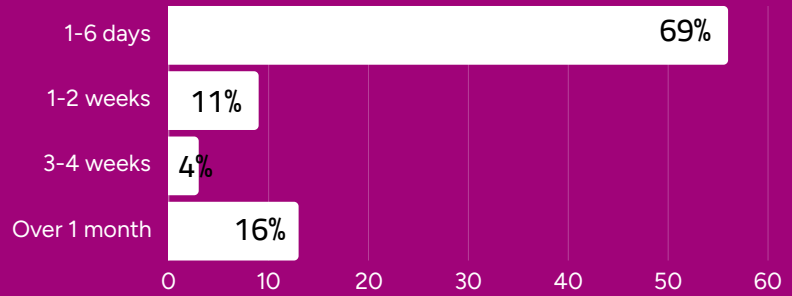
Safety



15%

Of youth report they have run away from home at some point (same as 2023)

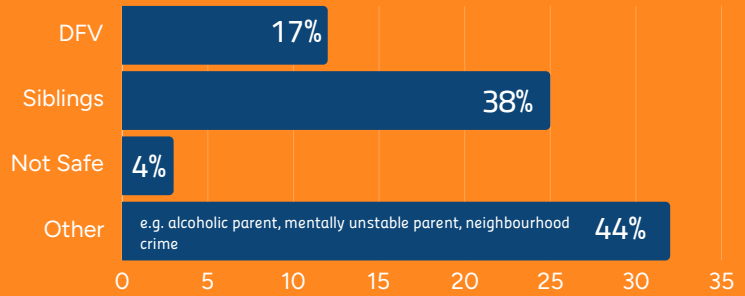
How long youth ran away for



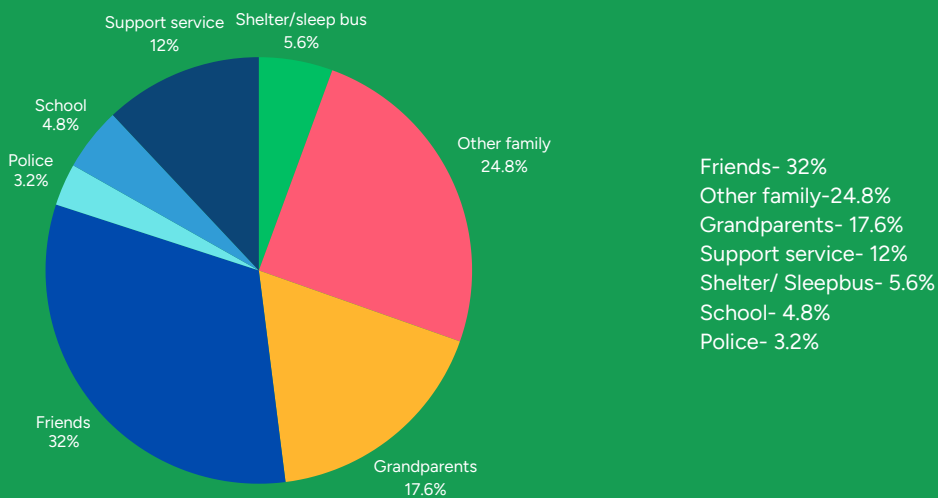
10%

Of youth report they have felt unsafe at home (2% decrease from 2023)

Reasons for feeling unsafe at home



Where youth would seek help from if they can't go home or it is unsafe

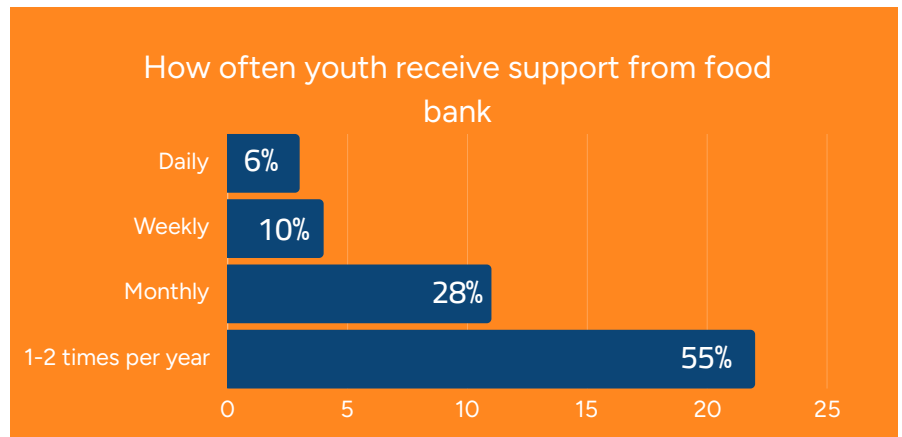


Disadvantage



7%

Of youth report they have received support from a food bank (2% increase from 2023)

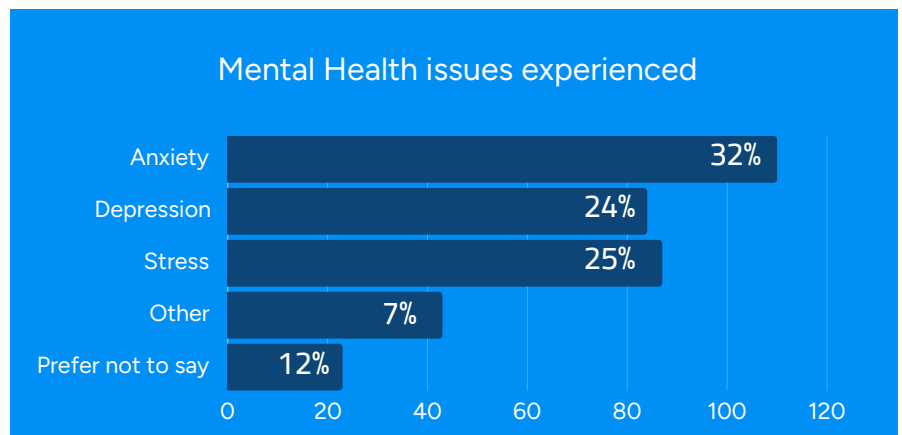


Mental Health



40%

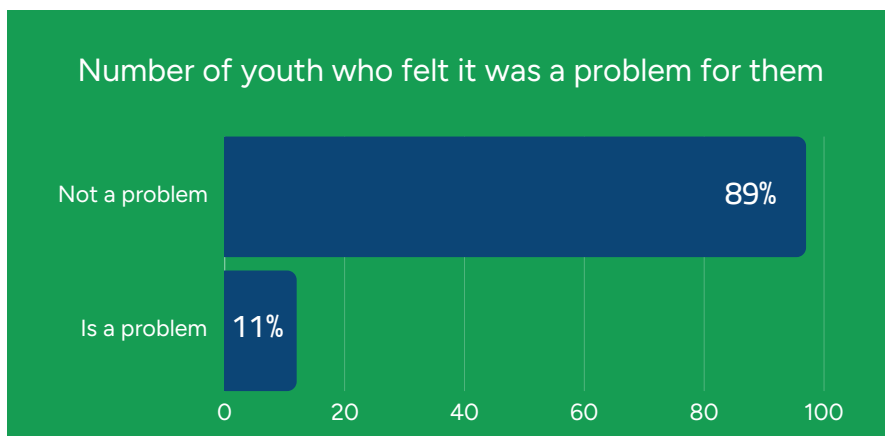
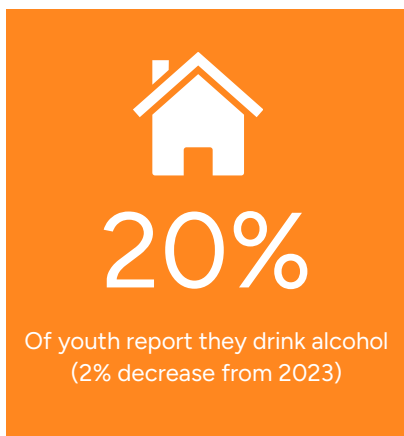
Of youth report they have used mental health services (4% increase from 2023)



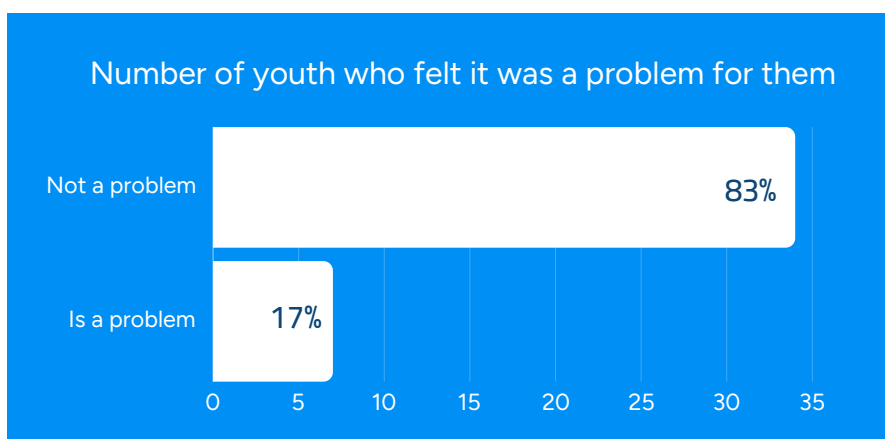
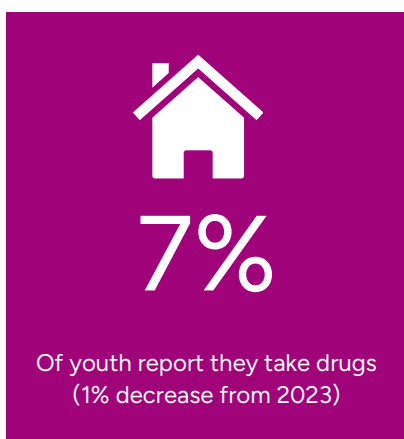
Mental Health Issues listed in "Other"

- OCD, PTSD
- Manic episodes
- School issues
- ADHD
- Eating disorders
- Self-harm
- Autism

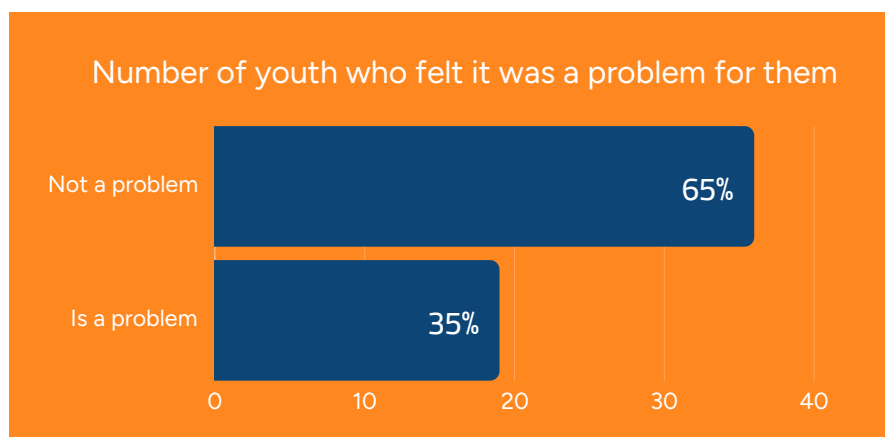
Alcohol



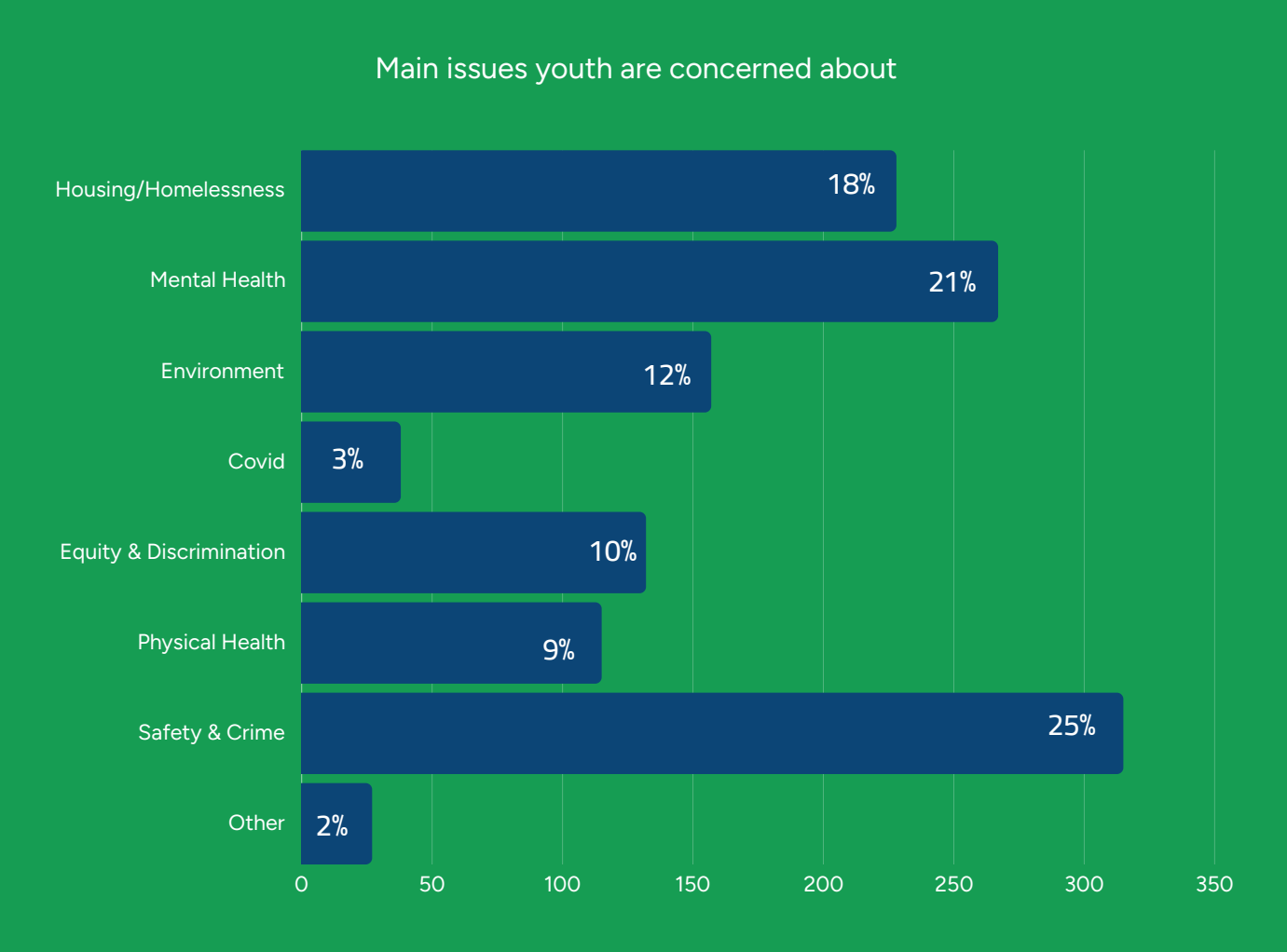
Drugs



Smoking & Vaping



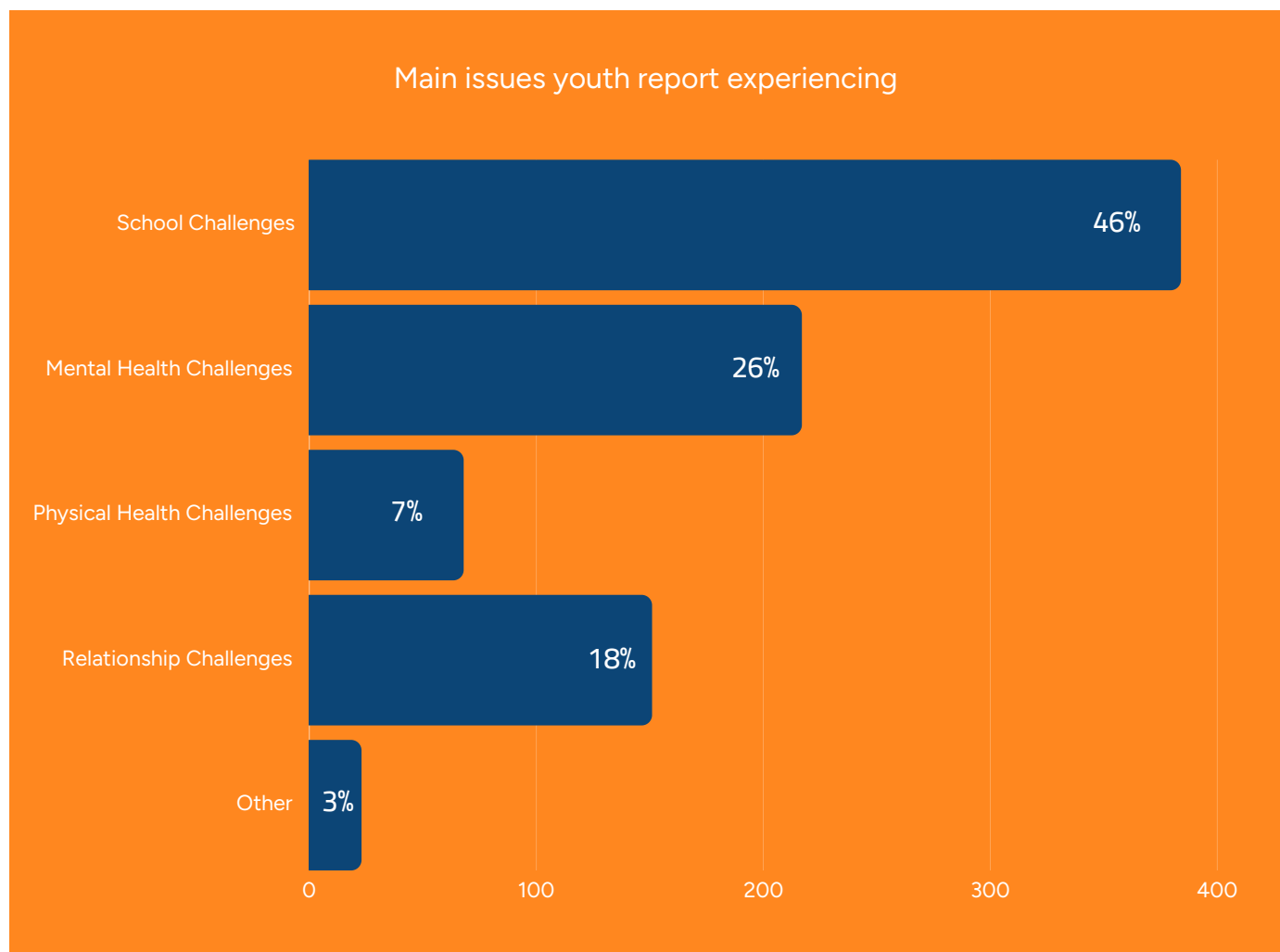
Main issues youth are concerned about in the local community



Youth were asked what they were most concerned about in the community. For the second year in a row, youth reported they were most concerned about safety & crime in our local community, followed by mental health and housing and homelessness.

Other issues specified by youth under "other" included alcohol and drugs, bullying, and population expansion of area

Main challenges youth are experiencing

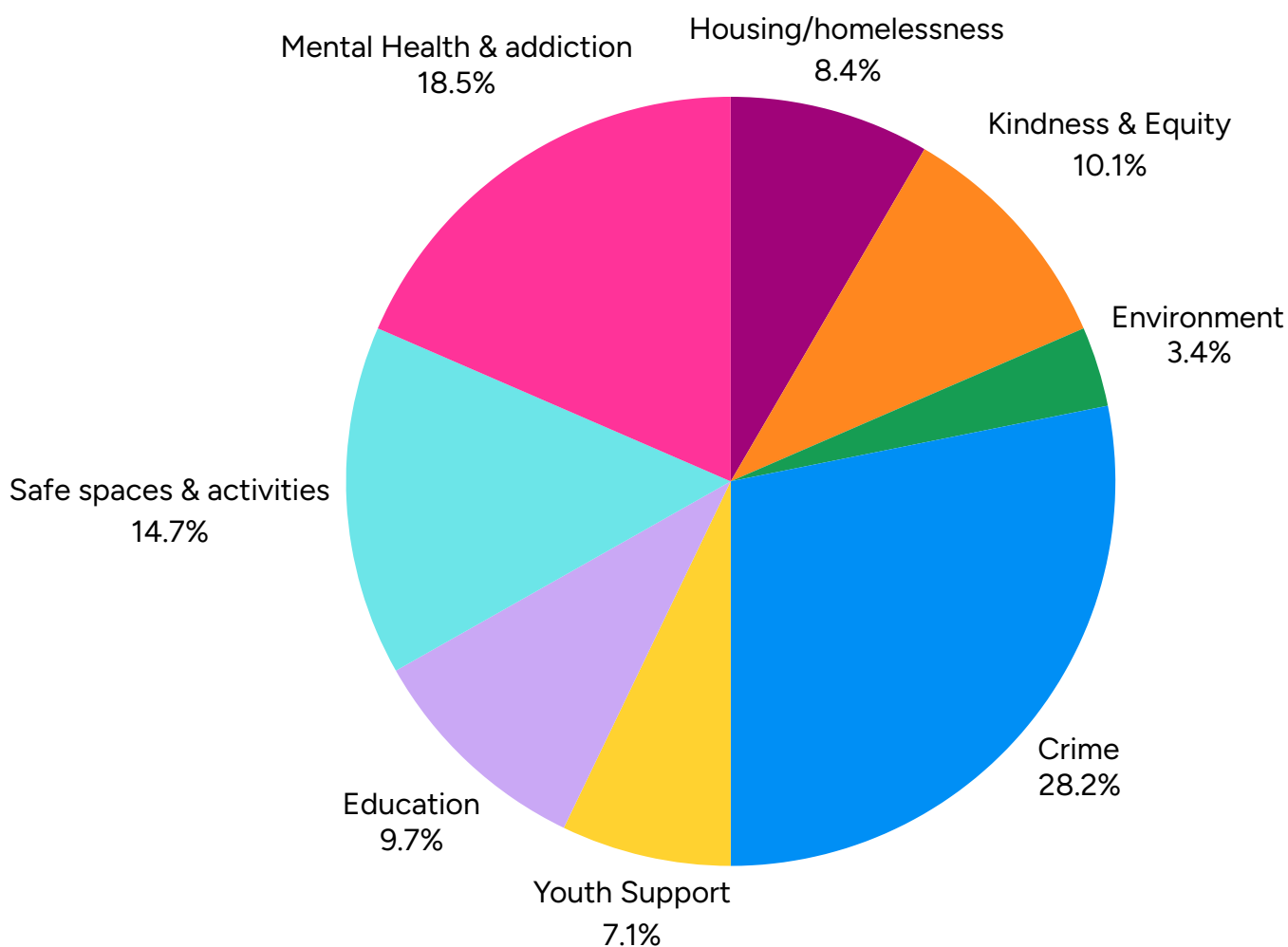


Youth were asked what are the main challenges they are experiencing in their lives.

School challenges (e.g. study, high workload) was the main challenge reported, followed by mental health relationship challenges, which were the same top 3 concerns from 2023.

In "other", answers included having time to do stuff, vaping, ADHD and grief.

What would youth change in our local community?

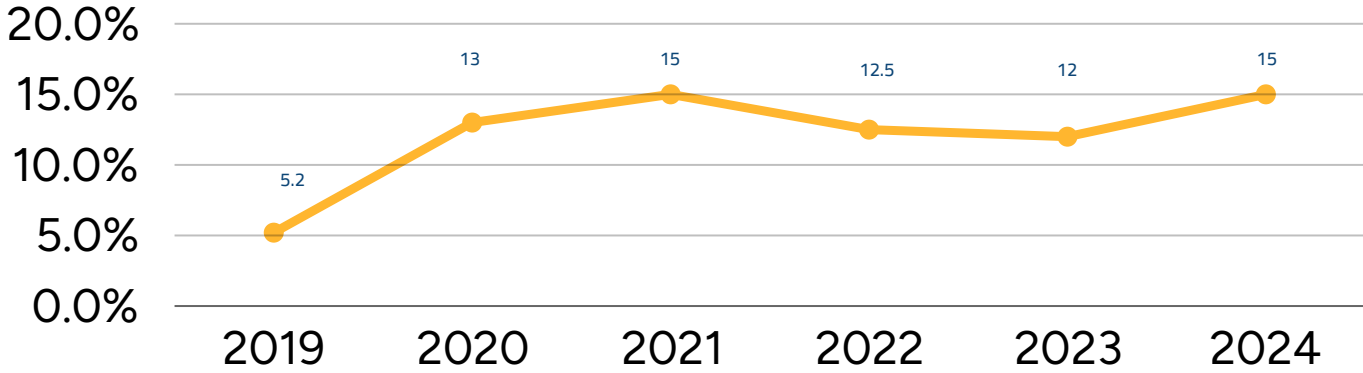


Youth were asked what is the one thing in our community they would change if they could.

The top 5 issues youth would most like to change included crime in the community, mental health & addiction, having more safe spaces, activities & opportunities for youth locally, more kindness in the community, and housing/ homelessness support.

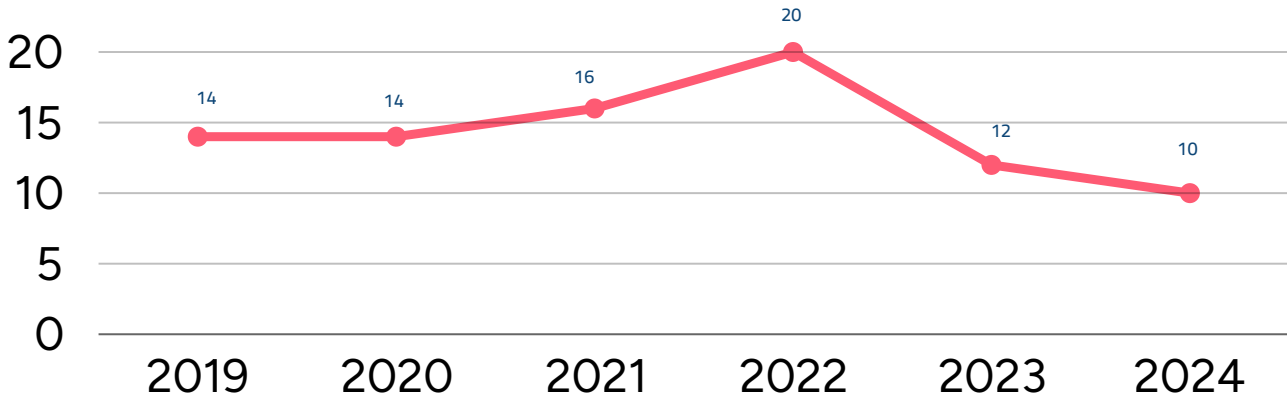
6 Year Comparison

Reported Youth Homelessness



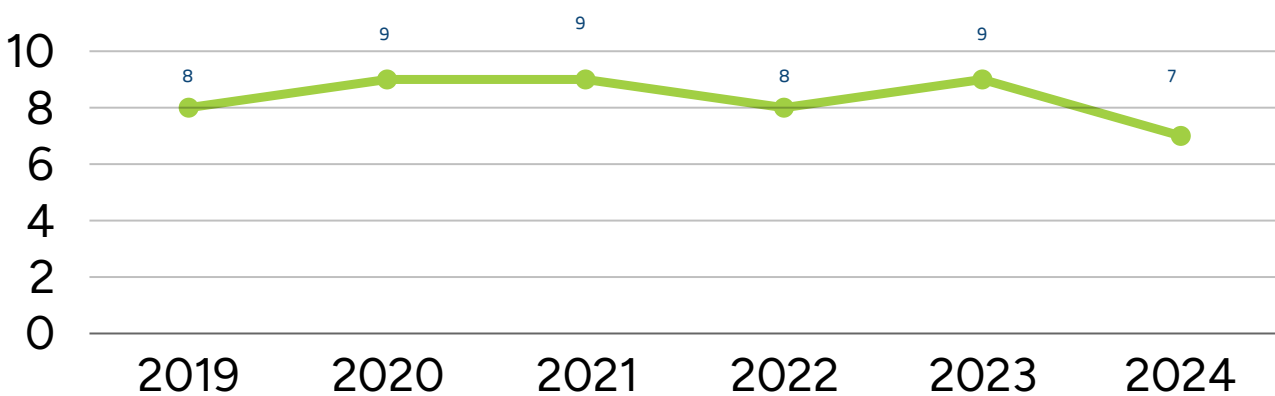
% of youth who reported they had experienced homelessness

Safety



% of youth who reported they had felt unsafe at home

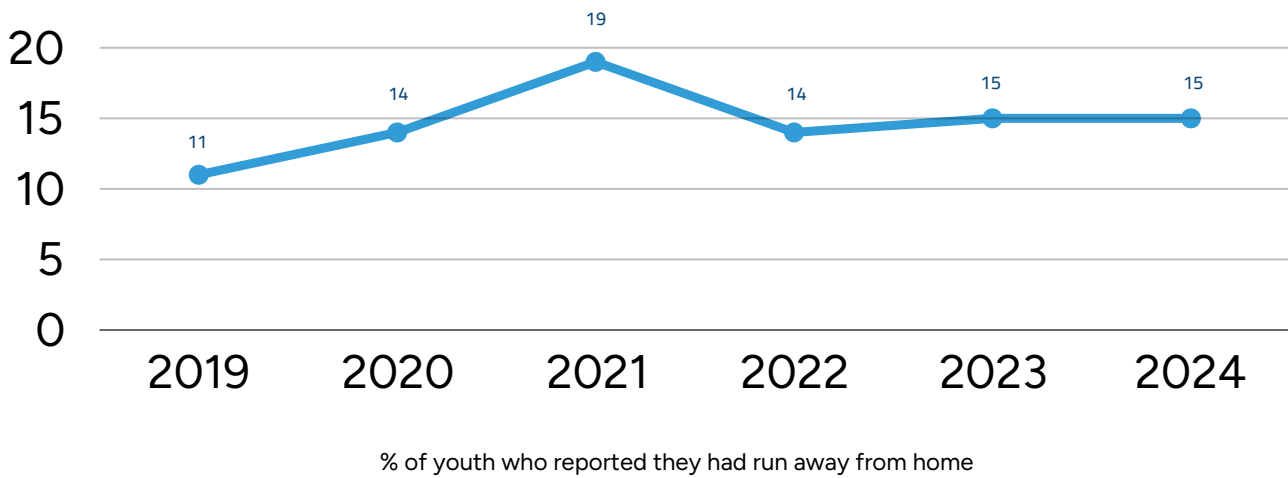
Disadvantage



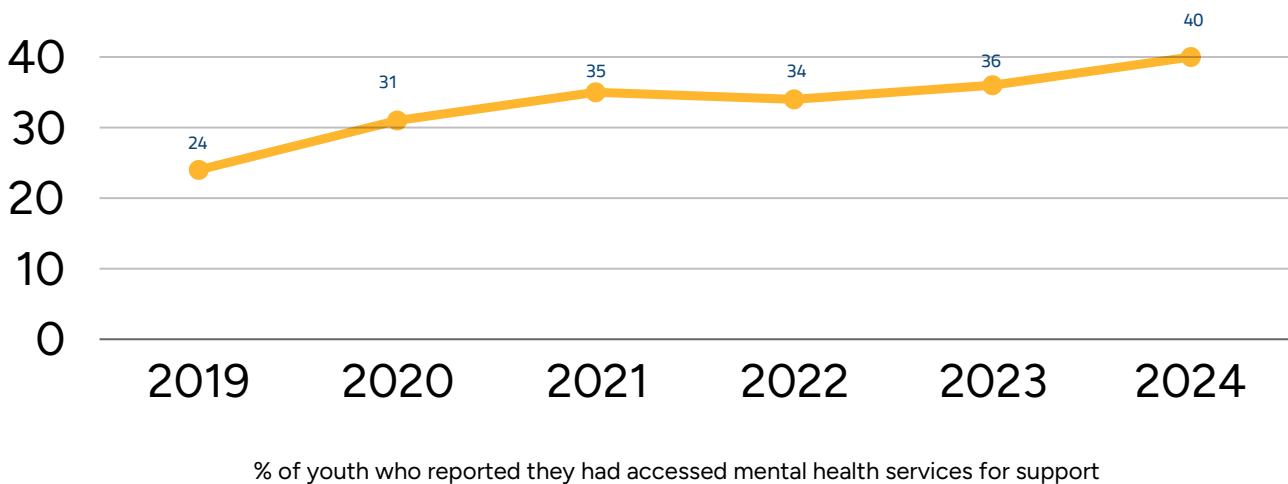
% of youth who reported they had accessed food bank assistance

6 Year Comparison

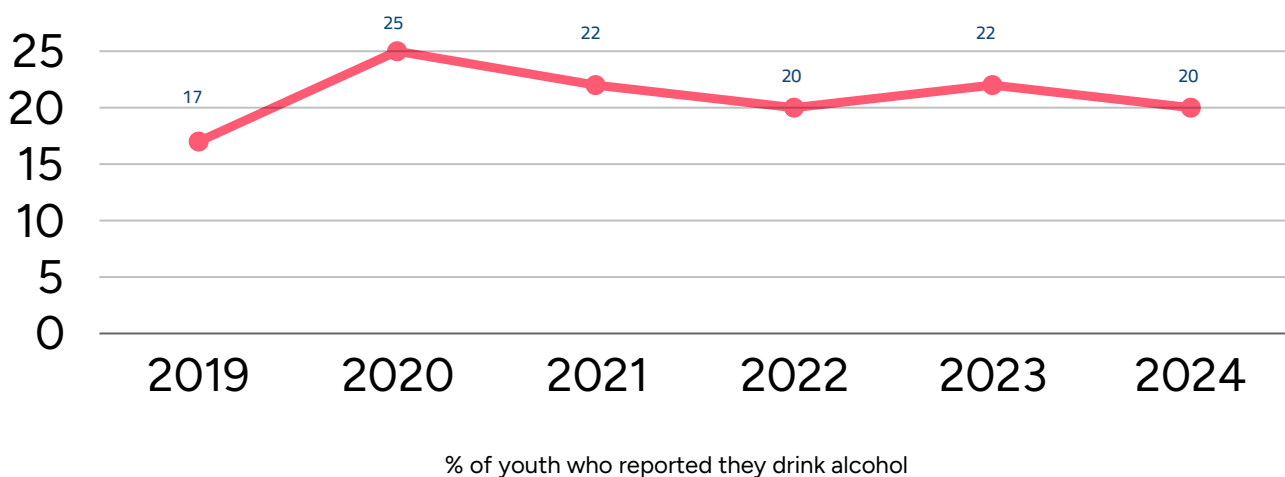
Run Away From Home



Mental Health

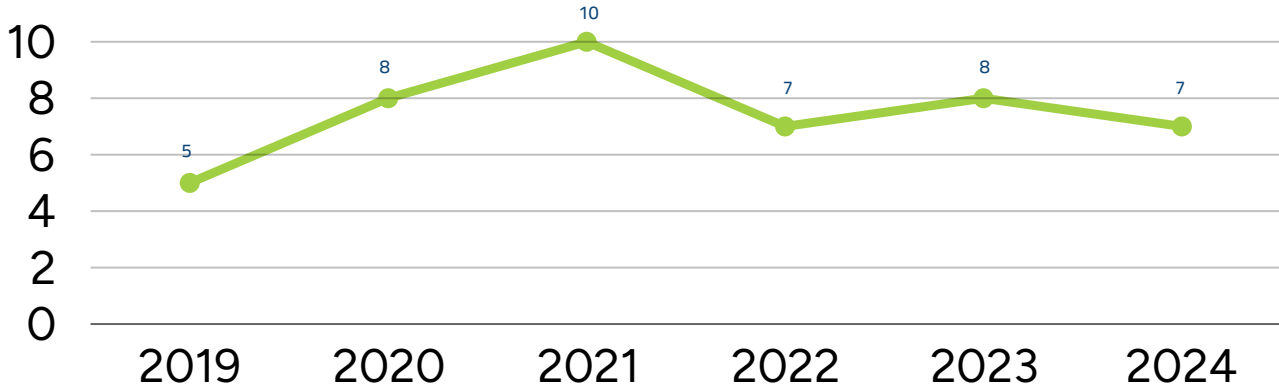


Alcohol



6 Year Comparison

Drugs



% of youth who reported they use drugs

The 6 year comparison for the Fraser Coast shows changing trends including:

- Youth homelessness is rising again with 15% of youth reporting they had experienced homelessness at some point in their life (up 3% from last year)
- Youth accessing mental health services has steadily risen since 2019 from 24% and is now at 40% in 2024
- Alcohol use has dropped from 25% in 2020 to 20% in 2024
- Drug use has remained relatively steady over the last 3 years with 7% of youth reporting they used drugs in 2024

Recommendations:

- The number of youth participating has dropped from when the survey was first implemented. There are issues in using the survey monkey platform as this is not on the list of approved sites to access at schools by Department of Education. Recommend looking a paper system again to engage more schools to participate.

Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2025

School Information Brochure



SOCIAL
SHIFT
INSTITUTE



HBNC

Creating Connected Communities



What is the survey?

Every year, the HBNC partners with local high schools to run the Fraser Coast Youth Survey. The survey is aimed at finding out what issues youth 12-18 y.o. are experiencing in their lives. This helps us to create a snapshot of youth in our region to help direct local community resources to where they are needed most. 2025 is our 7th year of running the survey. The survey is now run under the Social Shift Institute of HBNC.

How do schools implement the survey with students?

Social Shift Institute will send schools a link to the online survey where students can anonymously complete the survey. Alternatively, we can deliver paper copy surveys if that is easier for schools. We will liaise with you as to what suits best. We recommend schools do the survey in form class for better completion rates. We can also provide support if required.

Survey Timeline

2nd-28th March : Liaise with schools to prep to do survey



11th May-27th June: Schools implement survey with Years 8-12



20th-27th July: Data collection of all completed surveys



4th-24th August: Collected data is analysed



14th September- FC Youth Survey Report completed and released to schools &

For more information please contact: socialshift@hbnc.com.au