

For best viewing, please change your Zoom settings  
to Speaker View and ensure you are muted

# Welcome!

Before we begin, enjoy listening to this  
playlist of songs curated by youth  
inspired by this year's symposium  
theme, Centering Student Voice:



YDi CHART 

# Second Annual YDI Symposium: Centering Student Voice

## Dr. Hasina Samji

Assistant Professor,  
Faculty of Health Sciences,  
Simon Fraser University

Senior Scientist in  
Population Mental Well-being,  
BC Centre for Disease Control

Director,  
Capturing Health and Resilience  
Trajectories (CHART) Lab

# Land Acknowledgment



**Elder Syexwaliya (she/her)**  
Squamish Nation  
Indigenous Student Centre, SFU



**CHART** 

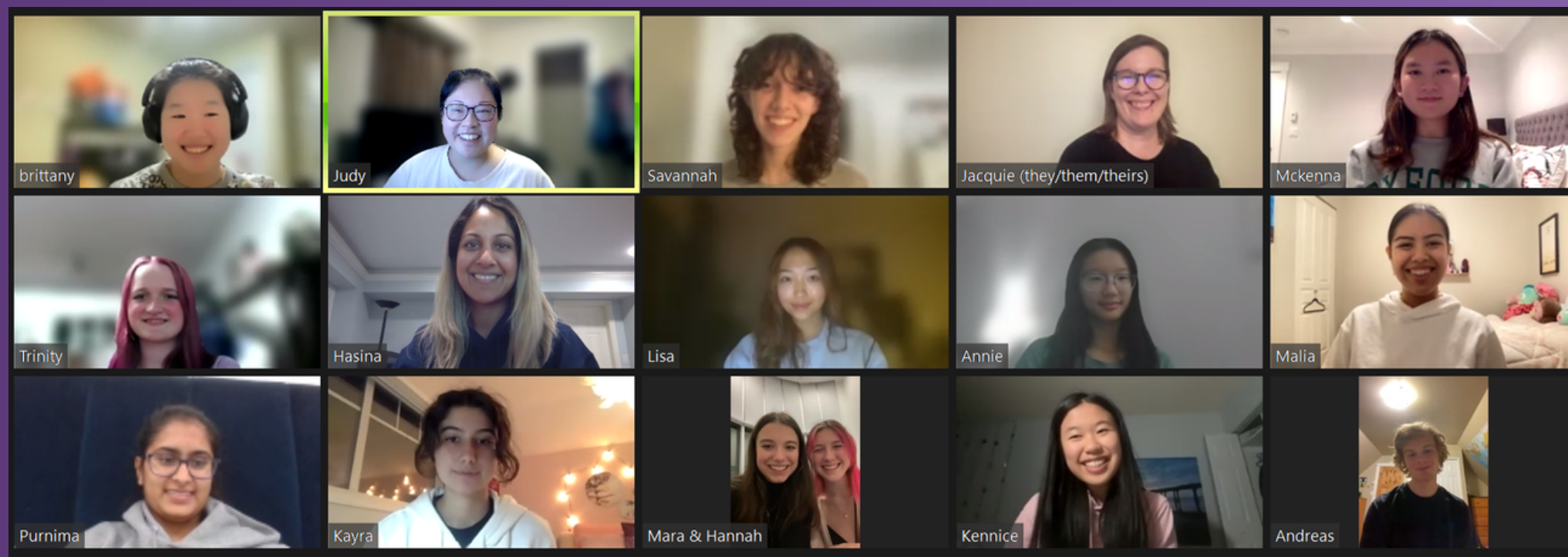
Lab

Research Team



# : Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

16 members on the 2022/2023 council



Greatest challenges facing young people according to the YAC

# Provincial Advisory Board (PAB)

- Alayna Ewert
- Amiti Mehta
- Annie Smith
- Dzung Vo
- Emilie Sia
- Evelyn Stewart
- Faizel Rawji
- Geoff McGee
- Jeremy Church
- Nicole Gardner



- Kelly Angelius
- Krystal Dash
- Liza McGuinness
- Maddison Spenrath
- Michelle Cianfrone
- Nathan Ngieng
- Nick Seredick
- Scott Carlson
- Stephen Smith
- Tanya Walton

# Symposium Objectives

- ▶ Present 2021/2022 YDI key findings
- ▶ Opportunity for representatives from various sectors to convene and collaborate
- ▶ Develop ways to mobilize YDI data to better support young people in BC
- ▶ Showcase student voice and engage with youth themselves

# AGENDA

\*Please note: with the exception of breakout rooms, the event will be recorded

<b>9:00 - 9:15</b>	<b>Welcome and Land Acknowledgement</b> Elder Syexwaliya
<b>9:15 - 10:00</b>	<b>Highlights from the YDI 2021/22 and Youth Reflections</b> Dr. Hasina Samji, Adya Gupta, Manuel Boada, and Brandon Stellaard
<b>10:00 - 10:30</b>	<b>Session 1: Co-Constructing School with Student Voice</b> Gino Bondi, David De Wit, and Nathan Ngieng
<b>10:30 - 10:40</b>	<b>Session 1 Discussion</b> Breakout Rooms
<b>10:40 - 11:10</b>	<b>Session 2: Youth Engagement in Theory and Practice</b> Alex Gist, Sabrina Khan, and Rehanna Thiara
<b>11:10 - 11:20</b>	<b>Session 2 Discussion</b> Breakout Rooms
<b>11:20 - 11:50</b>	<b>Keynote Address: Perseverance</b> Corey Hirsch
<b>11:50 - 11:55</b>	<b>Closing Prayer</b> Elder Syexwaliya
<b>11:55 - 12:00</b>	<b>Closing Remarks and Thank You</b> Dr. Hasina Samji



We asked youth:  
"What comes to mind when  
you think of student voice?"

Thank-you to these students who participated in this creative task:

- Joseph Tsai
- Kennice Wong
- Trinity Bell
- Malia Mercado
- Purnima Verma
- Mckenna Lawson
- Manuel Boada
- Mckenna Lawson
- Savannah Klynsoon
- Annie Wu
- Hannah Bigioli



# RESILIENCE

"I just wanna let them know that they didn't break me."  
- Molly, 'Pretty In Pink', 1986



# COURAGE

"Student voice constitutes the bravery and fortitude it takes to speak out as a young individual in a world governed by adults. It means standing out in the face of adversity, even when one is below the age of majority."

# LEADERSHIP

"By letting students lead other students, we create a close-knitted community and better relationships between peers."



"Young people need models, not critics."  
- John Wooden

"...traditional events, sports, etc. give students confidence in voicing opinions and generating connections within the community."



"Never tell a young person that anything cannot be done."  
- G. M. Trevelyan



# RESPECT

"Before students feel comfortable enough to use their voices, they need to feel like a valued member of society. They need to know that they are going to be listened to and that their opinions matter."

"Student voice is the reality of a mutual respect between youth and adults; it is the promise that these voices will be heard and considered."

# EMPOWERMENT

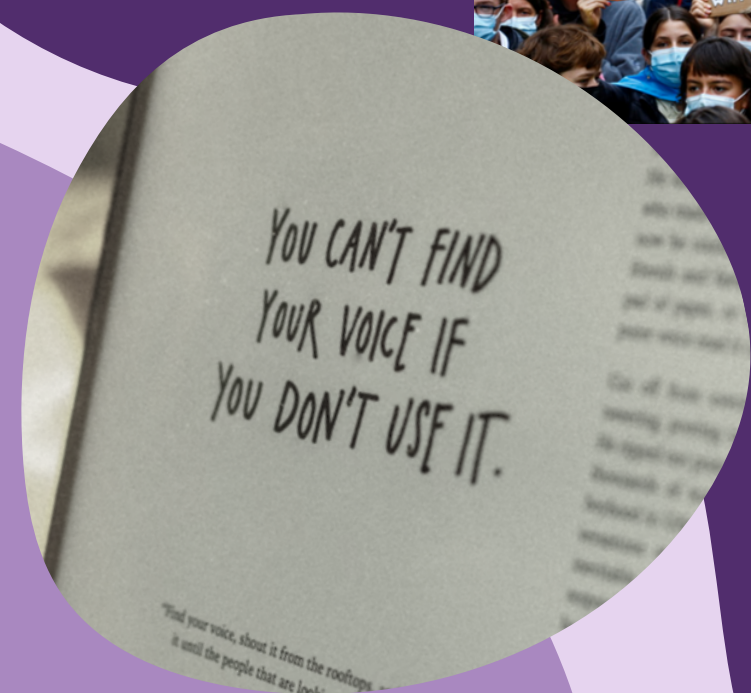
"Student voice means...being heard, being acknowledged, and being helped in order to better the collective student body."



"When adults work collaboratively alongside students rather than dictate what they should do, students...feel a sense of belonging and investment in their education."

# COLLABORATION

"...getting youth input on things that impact just makes sense to me...it makes sense to me to ask from the source."



"...we can instill confidence in students to use their voice by showing that teachers or adults are actually listening and taking in suggestions...and then showing how they are implementing their input."

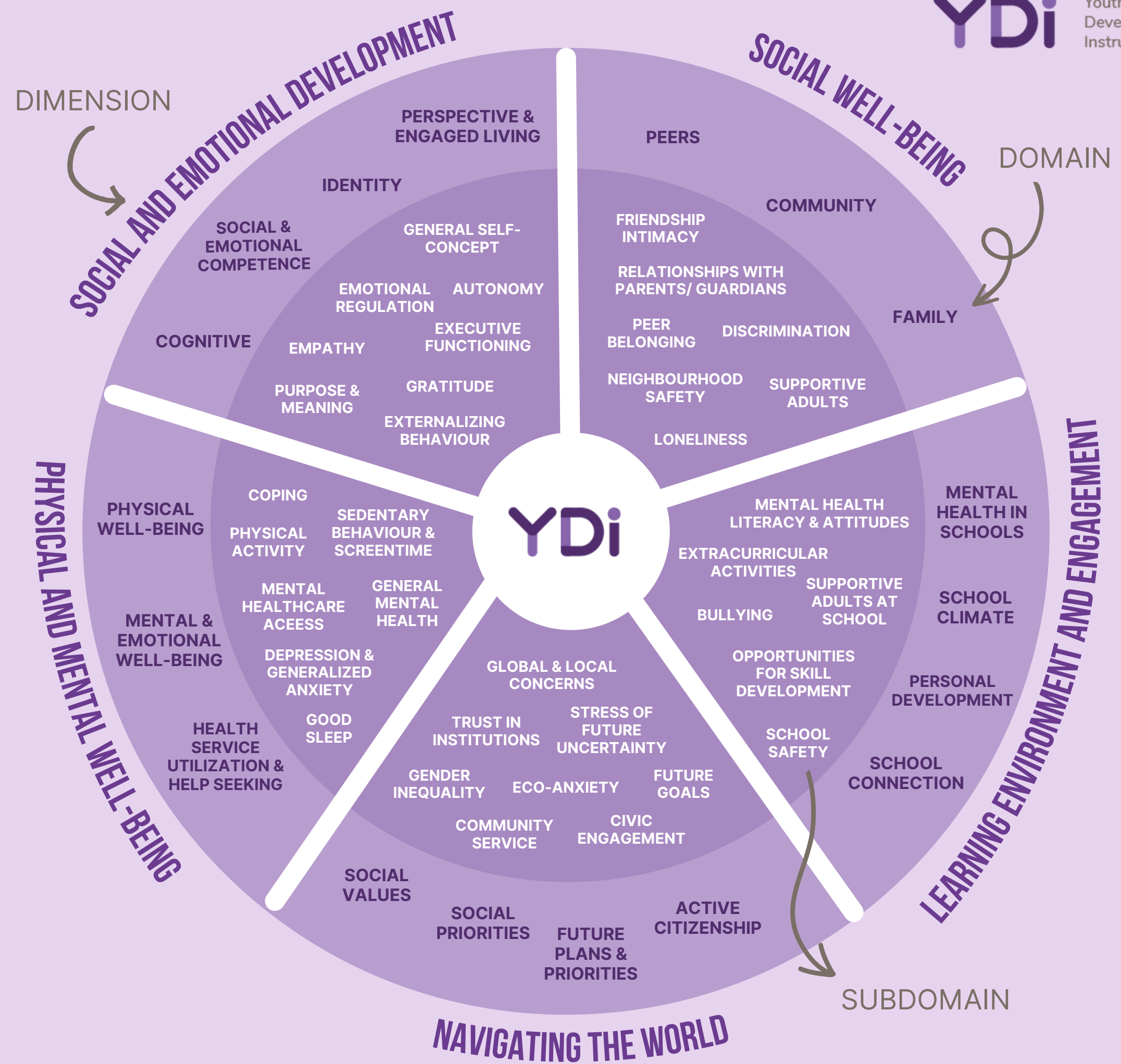
# Significance of Youth

- ▶ 70% of Canadians living with mental illness have onset of symptoms **before the age of 18**
- ▶ Adolescence is a **developmental transition period** between childhood and early adulthood involving the navigation of new physical, hormonal, cognitive, and emotional changes as well as social challenges
- ▶ This period presents a critical time for **mental illness prevention and promotion of mental health and well-being**

# YDI Objectives

- ▶ Identify **key assets** developed during adolescence that create foundations for positive mental health and well-being trajectories
- ▶ Provide education, health, clinical, and community partners with resources and tools to understand and address youth well-being
- ▶ Link YDI data to **past student responses** in childhood and early adolescence and **prospectively to health services data** to identify factors that predict youth flourishing
- ▶ Meaningfully contribute to and shape public health interaction with the BC education system

# YDI Dimensions and Domains



# YDI 2021/2022 Dimensions, Domains, and Sub-domains

## Social & Emotional Development

### Social and Emotional Competence

- Emotionality
- Emotional regulation
- Sociability
- Empathy
- Responsible decision-making

### Identity

- General self-concept
- Purpose and meaning
- Self-efficacy
- Accomplishment
- Autonomy
- Growth mindset
- Perseverance

### Cognitive

- Executive functioning
- Externalizing behaviour
- Engaging
- Gratitude
- Curiosity

## Social Well-being

### Peers

- Friendship intimacy
- Peer belonging
- Peer support
- Romantic relationships

### Community

- Supportive adults in the community
- Neighbourhood experience
- Neighbourhood safety
- Sense of community belonging
- Community reciprocity
- Support
- Loneliness
- Discrimination

### Family

- Relationship with parents/guardians
- Supportive adults at home
- Eating with adults
- Family communication
- Parent/guardian positive reinforcement
- Parental supervision

## Learning Environment & Engagement

### Personal Development

- Extracurricular activities
- Opportunities for skill development

### School climate

- Victimization
- Reason for being bullied
- School safety

### School connection

- School belonging
- Supportive adults at school
- School environment

### Mental Health in Schools

- Perceptions about mental health in schools
- Mental health literacy and attitudes

## Physical & Mental Well-Being

### Physical well-being

- General health
- Health conditions
- Eating behaviours
- Food security
- Good sleep
- Physical activity
- Screen time and sedentary behaviour
- Social media usage
- Sexual health
- Substance use

### Mental and emotional well-being

- Life satisfaction
- Positive feelings
- Depression
- Social anxiety
- Generalized anxiety
- Trauma
- Coping
- Behavioural self-control
- General mental health
- Positive mental health

### Health service utilization and help-seeking

- Routine healthcare
- Mental healthcare navigation
- Mental healthcare
- Mental healthcare access

## Navigating the World

### Social values

- Gender inequality
- Trust in institutions
- Views on multiculturalism
- Prosocial orientation

### Social priorities

- Global and local concerns
- Climate concern
- Eco-anxiety

### Active Citizenship

- Community service
- Civic engagement

### Future plans and priorities

- Future goals
- Stress of future uncertainty
- Stress of financial pressure
- Priorities for the future

### COVID-19

- Impacts generally and socially
- Impacts on specific worries
- Positive Impacts
- COVID-19 Optimism

# Wave 2 Participating Districts

- ▶ 9,255 student respondents
- ▶ 22 school districts (~37% of BC SDs)
- ▶ 5 Independent Schools
- ▶ Data collection Spring 2022





# Demographics

## GENDER IDENTITY

Boy or man	50%	Non-binary	3%
Girl or woman	46%	In another way	2%

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Straight or heterosexual	77%	LGBTQIA	23%
--------------------------	-----	---------	-----

## RACE/ETHNICITY

Indigenous	7%	East Asian	18%
White	60%	Southeast Asian	6%
Black	3%	South Asian	8%
Latinx	4%	West Asian	3%
Arab	2%	Other	4%

# Demographics

<b>IMMIGRATION</b>			
Born in Canada	73%	Born outside of Canada	26%
<b>LANGUAGES</b>			
English only			60%
English and other language(s)			13%
Other language(s) only			27%
<b>RURALITY</b>			
Urban	12%	Rural	88%
<b>FAMILY AFFLUENCE</b>			
High			39%
Medium			44%
Low			17%

# YDI 2022 vs. CANADA CENSUS

RACE/ETHNICITY	2022 YDI	2016 CANADA CENSUS
Arab	2%	0.5%
Black	3%	1.5%
East Asian	17.7%	16.2%
Indigenous	7.7%	9%
Latinx	4%	1.1%
South Asian	8.1%	9.6%
Southeast Asian	6.4%	6.2%
West Asian	3.2%	1%
White/European	60.2%	61.9%

# Key Messages

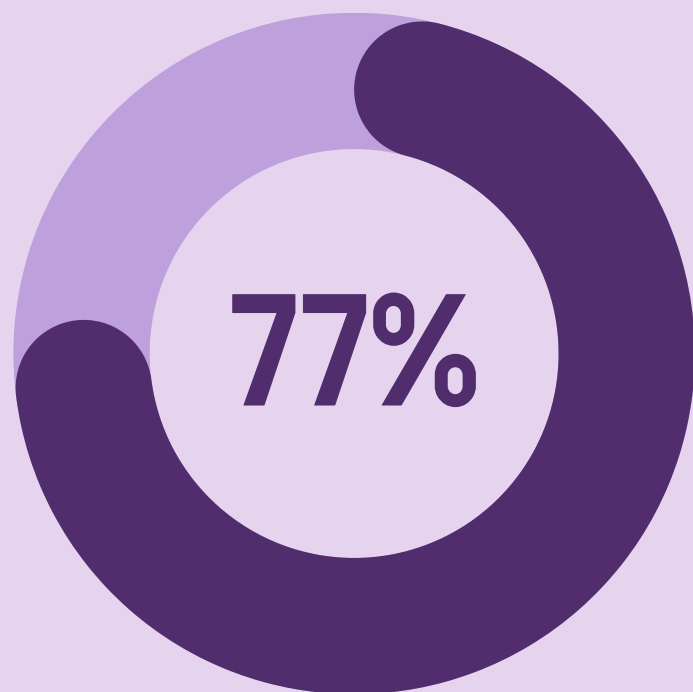
- ▶ More work needs to be done to support young people's well-being
- ▶ Although worries about COVID-19 among youth have decreased since 2021, mental health issues have increased
- ▶ 2SLBGTQIA+ youth are experiencing significantly greater mental health challenges than other subpopulations of youth
- ▶ Key protective factors include: supportive home and school environments, spending time with friends, sleep, and social and emotional competencies
- ▶ Efforts should be guided by youth perspectives



# What is going well for youth?

## Assets Index Indicators

after-school activities



participate in at least one extracurricular activity on a weekly basis

peer relationships



had strong peer relationships, based on friendship intimacy and sense of peer belonging

adult relationships



had strong adult relationships with adults at home, at school, and in the community

nutrition and sleep



eat breakfast, eat with adults, and/or get a good night's sleep 3+ times a week

# What is going less well?

## Well-being Index Indicators

1. General health
2. Self-esteem
3. Life satisfaction
4. Absence of depression
5. Positive mental health



**46%**

of youth reported their general mental health as 'fair' or 'poor'

**46%**

**34%**

**20%**

low well-being

medium well-being

high well-being

# Protective Factors

# Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)

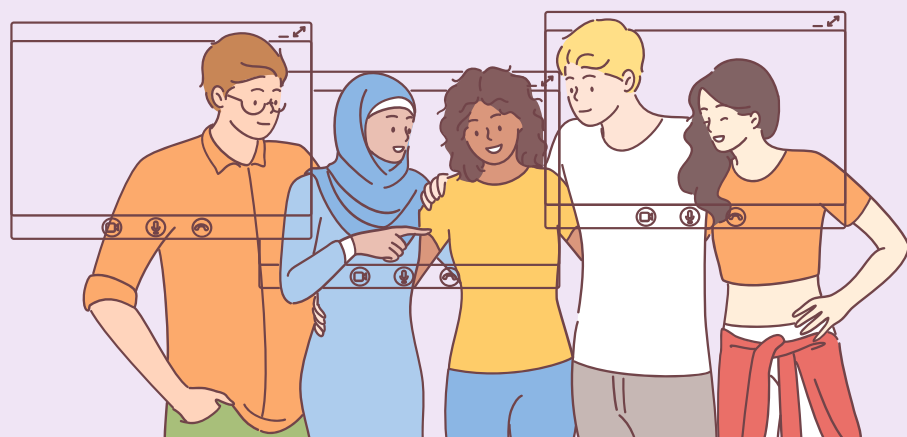
► Protect against poor development and health outcomes during times of challenge



Warm, supportive home



Participating in community traditions



Positive relationships with peers



Positive school experiences



# YDI Findings: PCEs (2021 & 2022)

## PCEs most strongly related to mental well-being

▶ Social and emotional competencies (self-esteem, optimism, emotion regulation)

▶ Positive experiences at home (e.g., supportive caregivers, feeling safe, connection)

▶ Positive school experiences (e.g., feeling safe at schools, feeling a sense of belonging)

▶ Spending time with supportive peers

▶ Good sleep

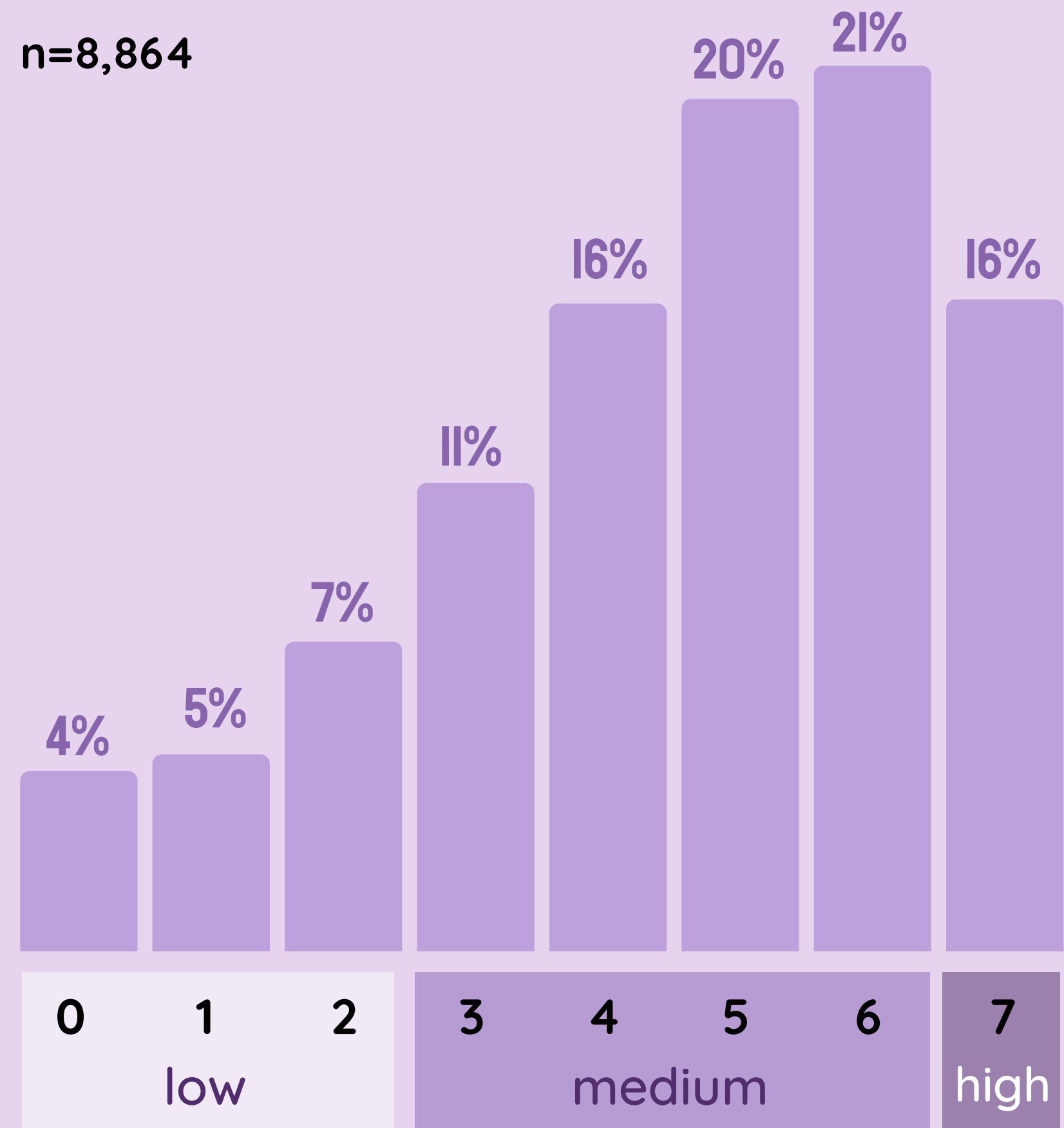


# Number of PCEs

➤ Beneficial experiences before the age of 18 that are thought to promote resilience

- Examples:
- Could talk about their feelings with family
  - Enjoyed participating in community traditions
  - Felt supported by friends

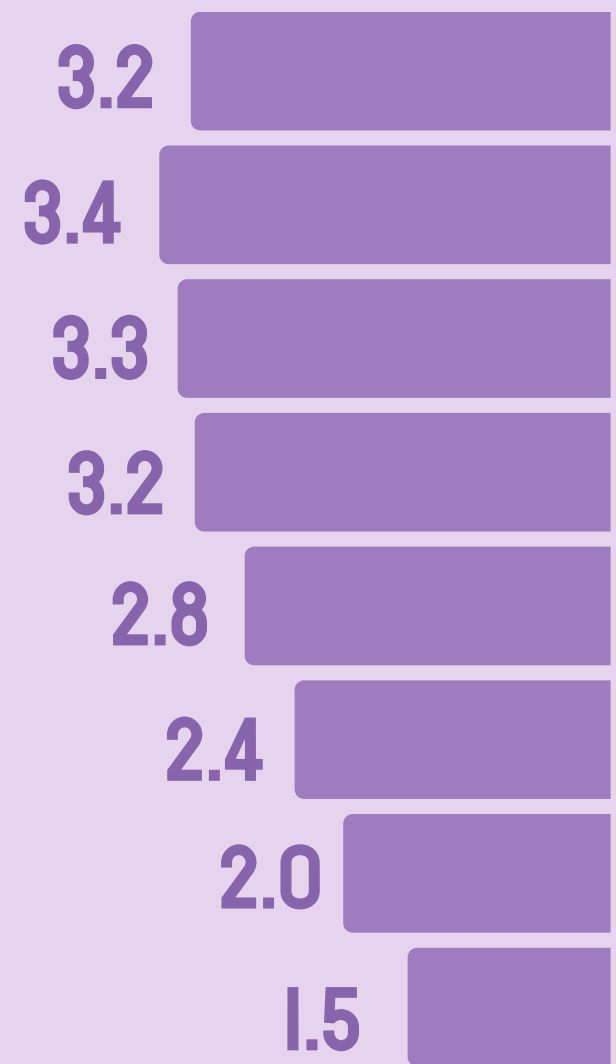
n=8,864



Score (Number of PCEs)

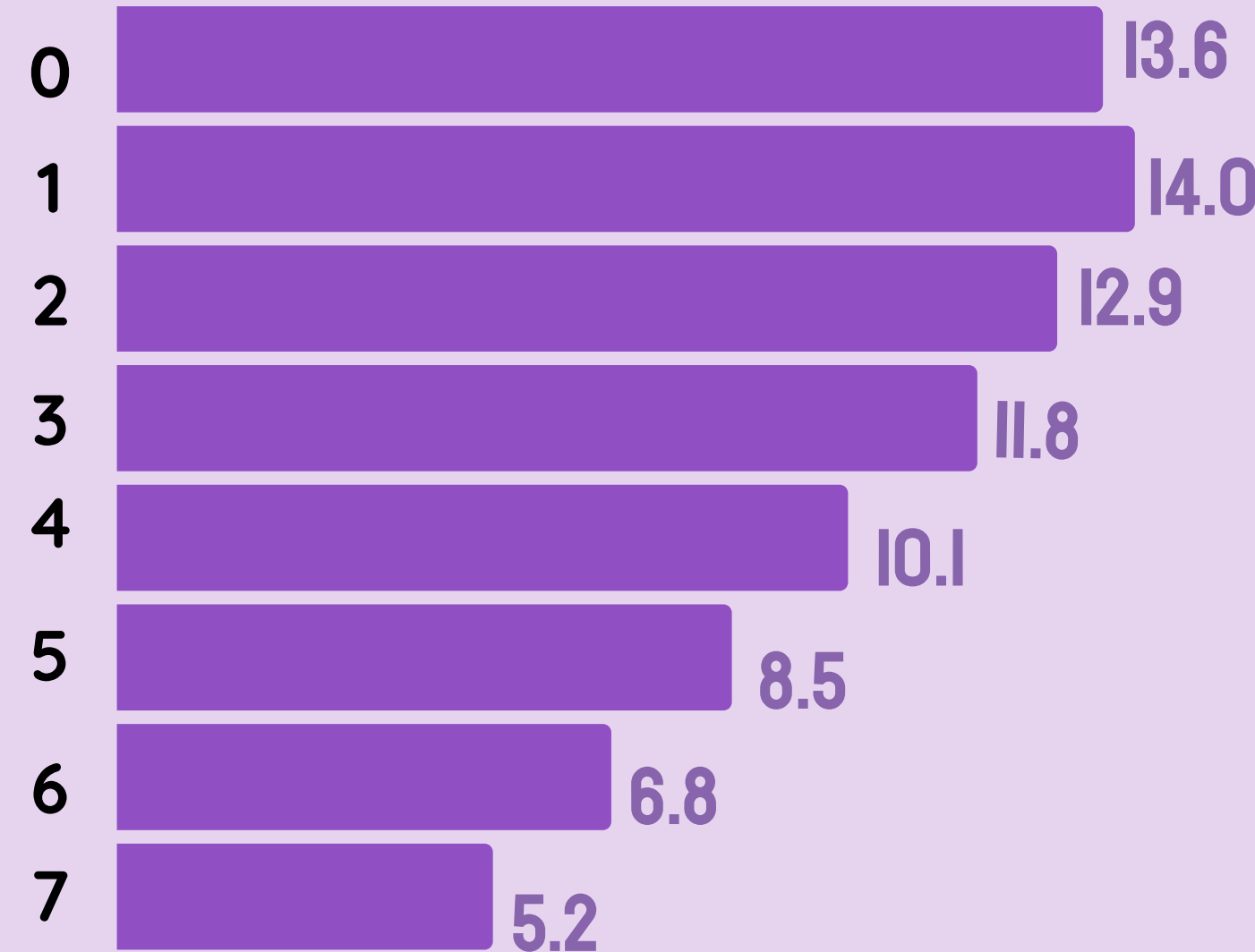
# Number of PCEs

Anxiety (GAD-2) Score



**Positive screening**  
**≥3**

Depression (PHQ-8) Score



**Positive screening**  
**≥10**

n=8,864

# COPING

Youth selected all the activities that they do to cope with distressing events, such as COVID-19. Which activities were the most youth engaging in and how helpful were they?

	ACTIVITY	# OF YOUTH WHO ENGAGED	% WHO FOUND IT HELPFUL*
1	Being on your personal device	5525	51%
2	Connecting with friends or romantic partner(s)	5281	70%
3	Watching TV or digital media	5205	54%
4	Physical activity/exercise	4787	68%
5	Connecting with family	4710	53%
6	Spending time outdoors	4662	65%
7	Playing video games	4344	59%
8	Playing with a pet	4181	59%

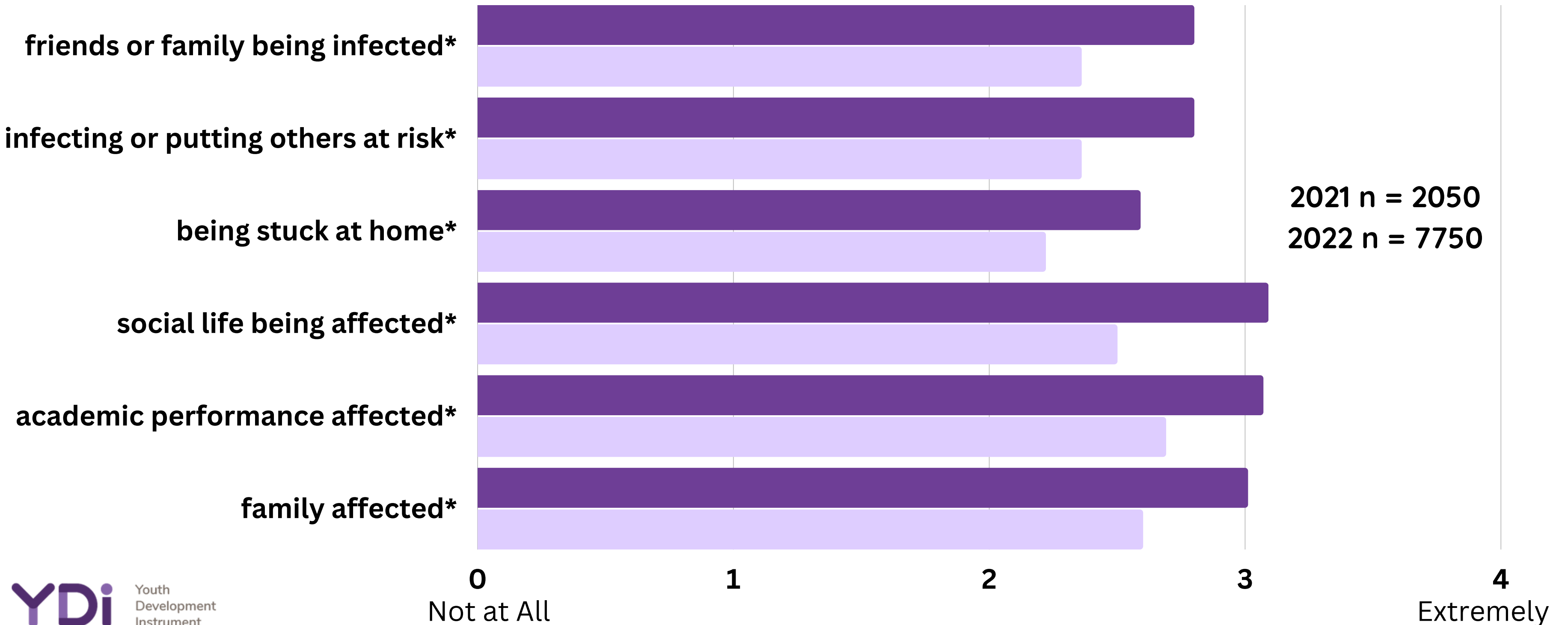
\*rated the activity as 'a lot' or 'extremely' helpful

# Impacts of COVID-19

# COVID-Related Worries 2021 vs 2022

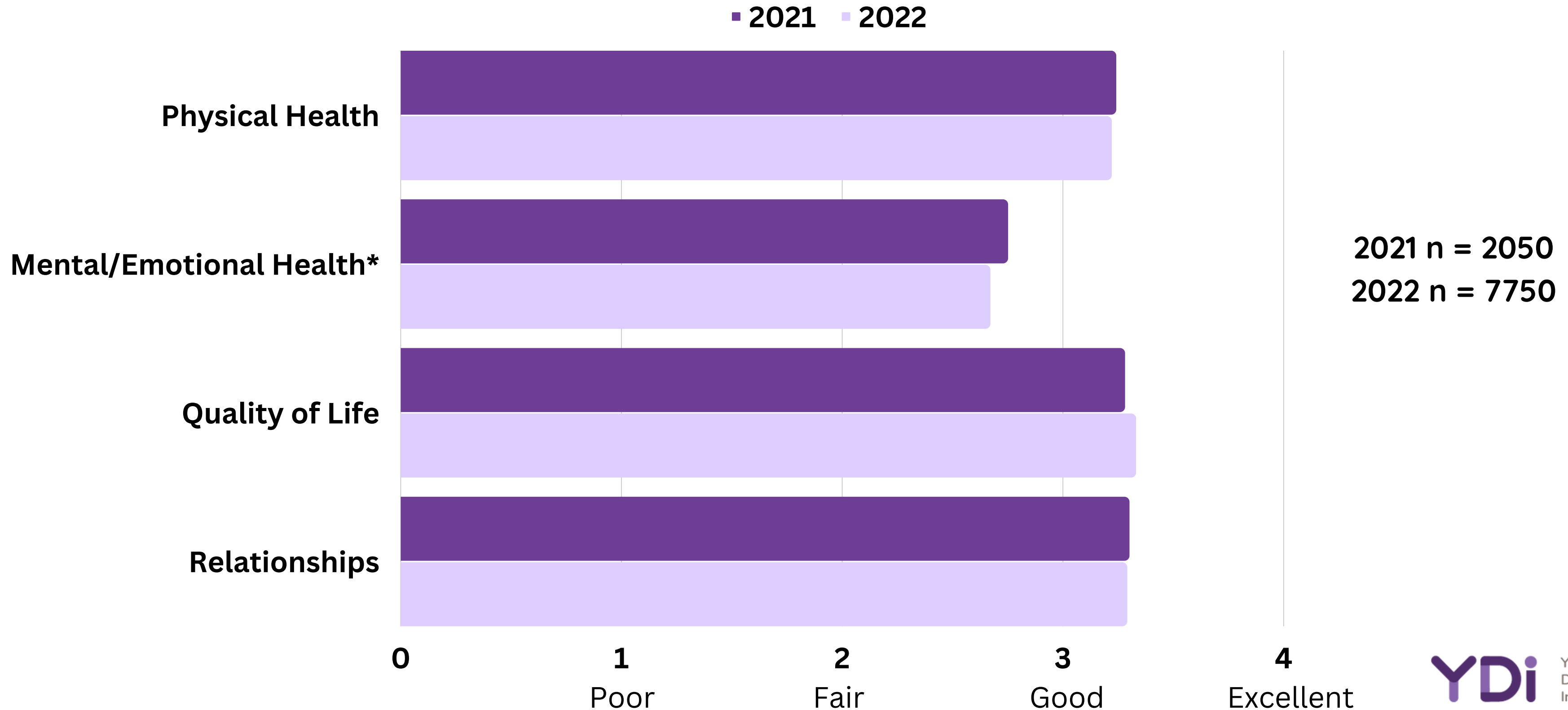
During the past 2 weeks, related to coronavirus/COVID-19, how worried were you about...

■ 2021 ■ 2022

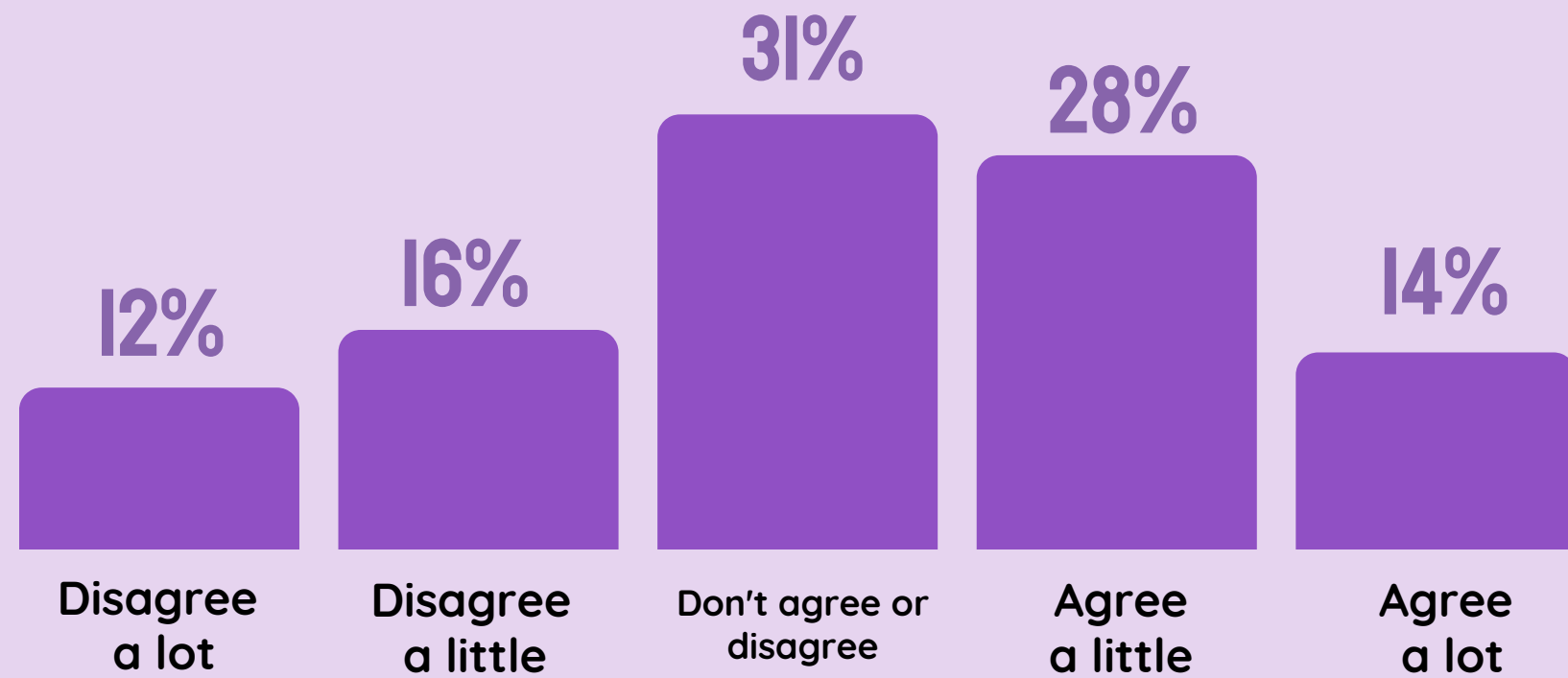


# Well-being during COVID 2021 vs 2022

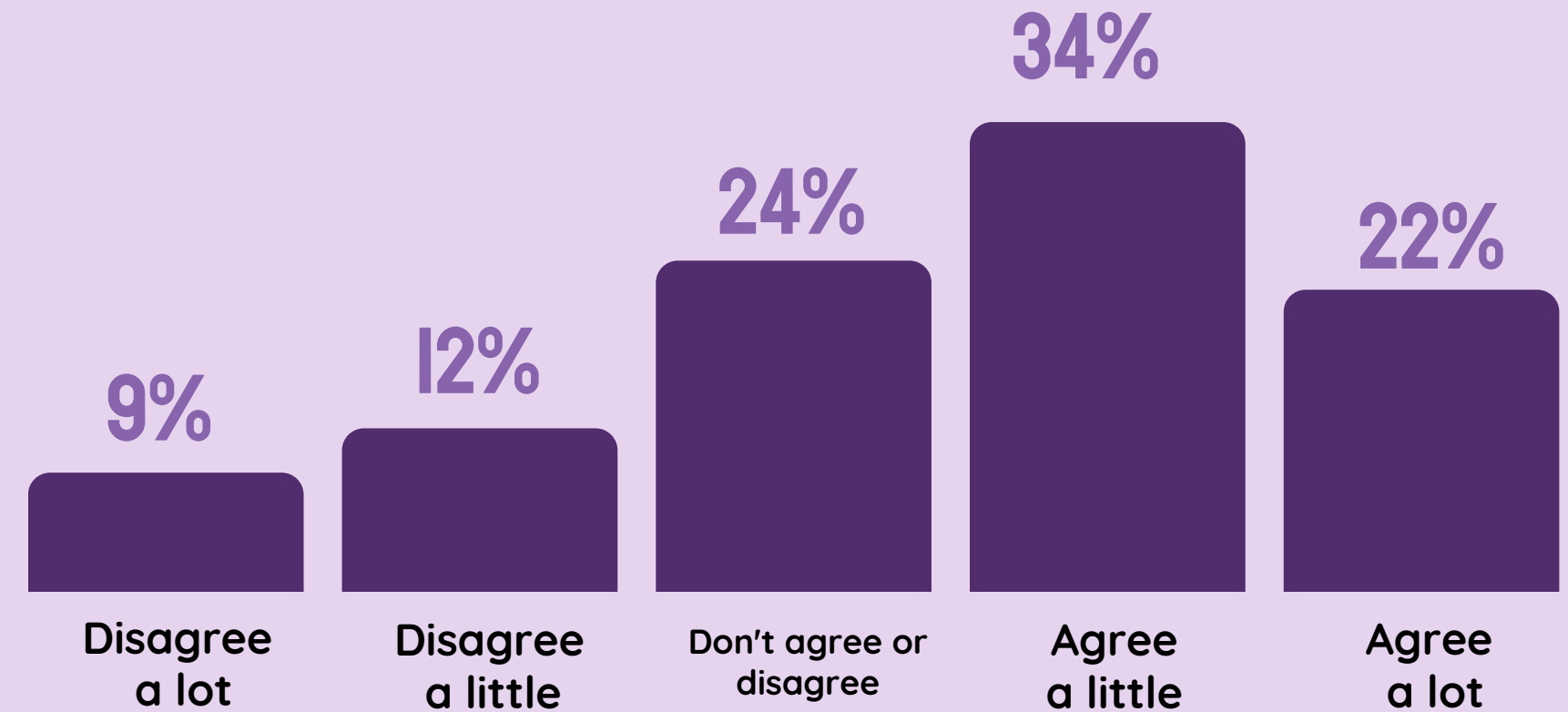
In the past 2 weeks, how would you rate your...



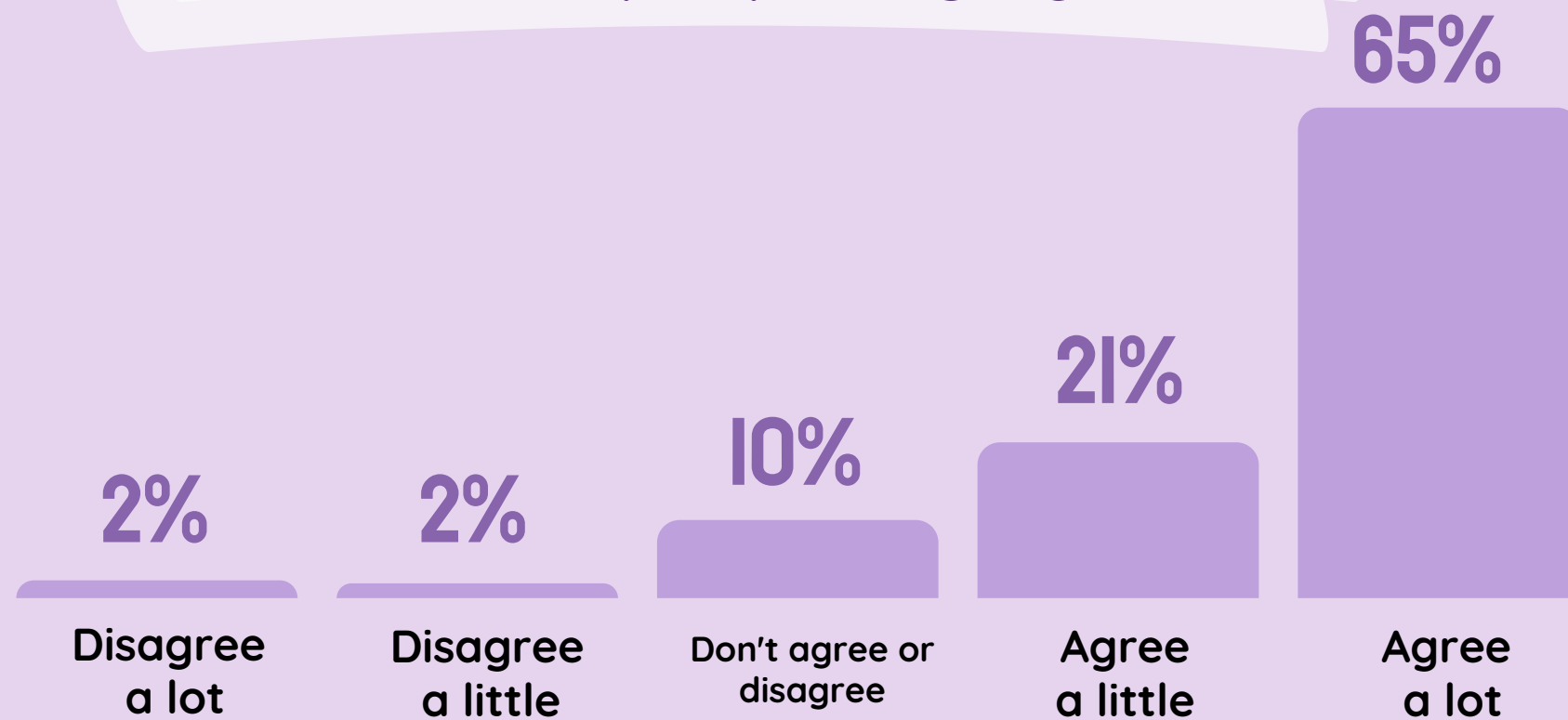
People at my school talk openly about mental health.



My school encourages students to take care of their mental health.



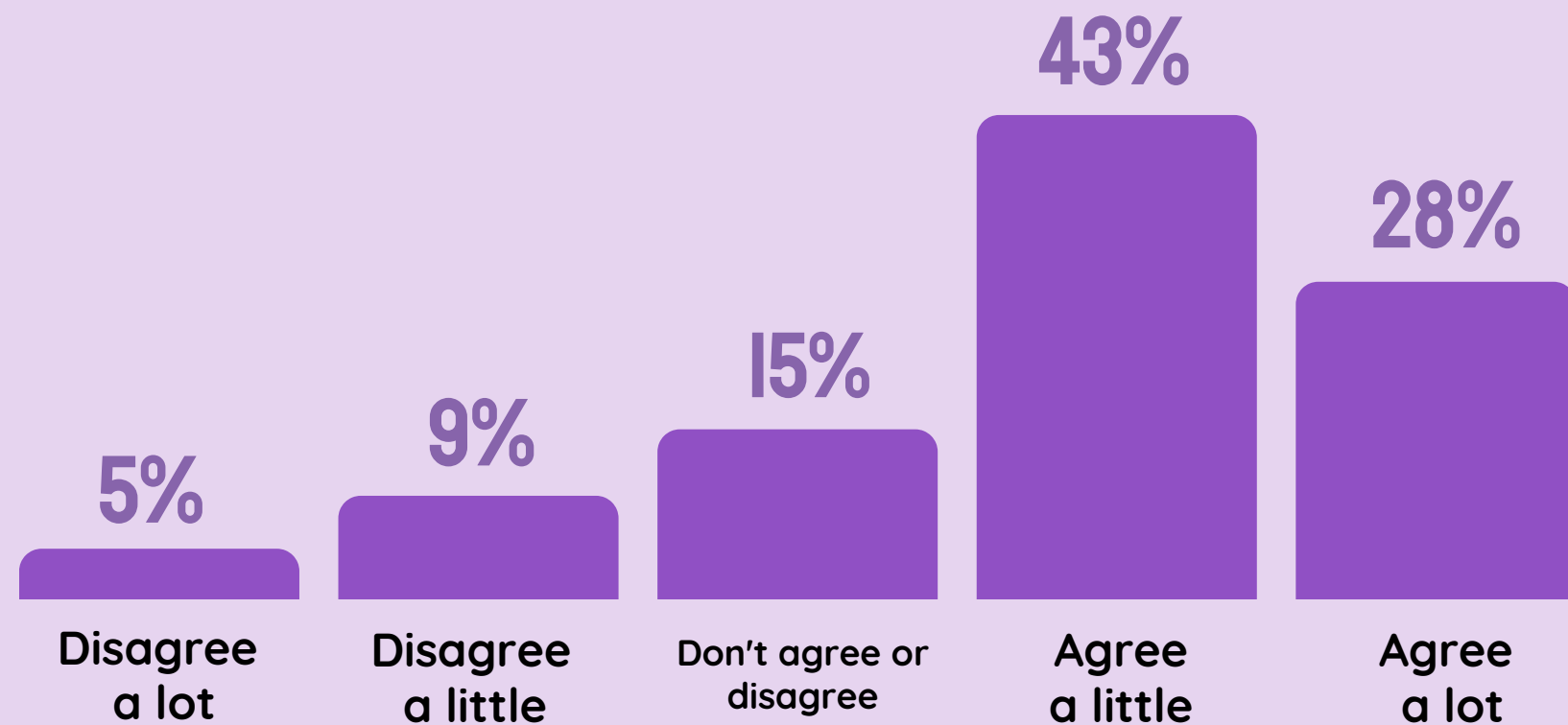
Mental health is an important issue for people my age.



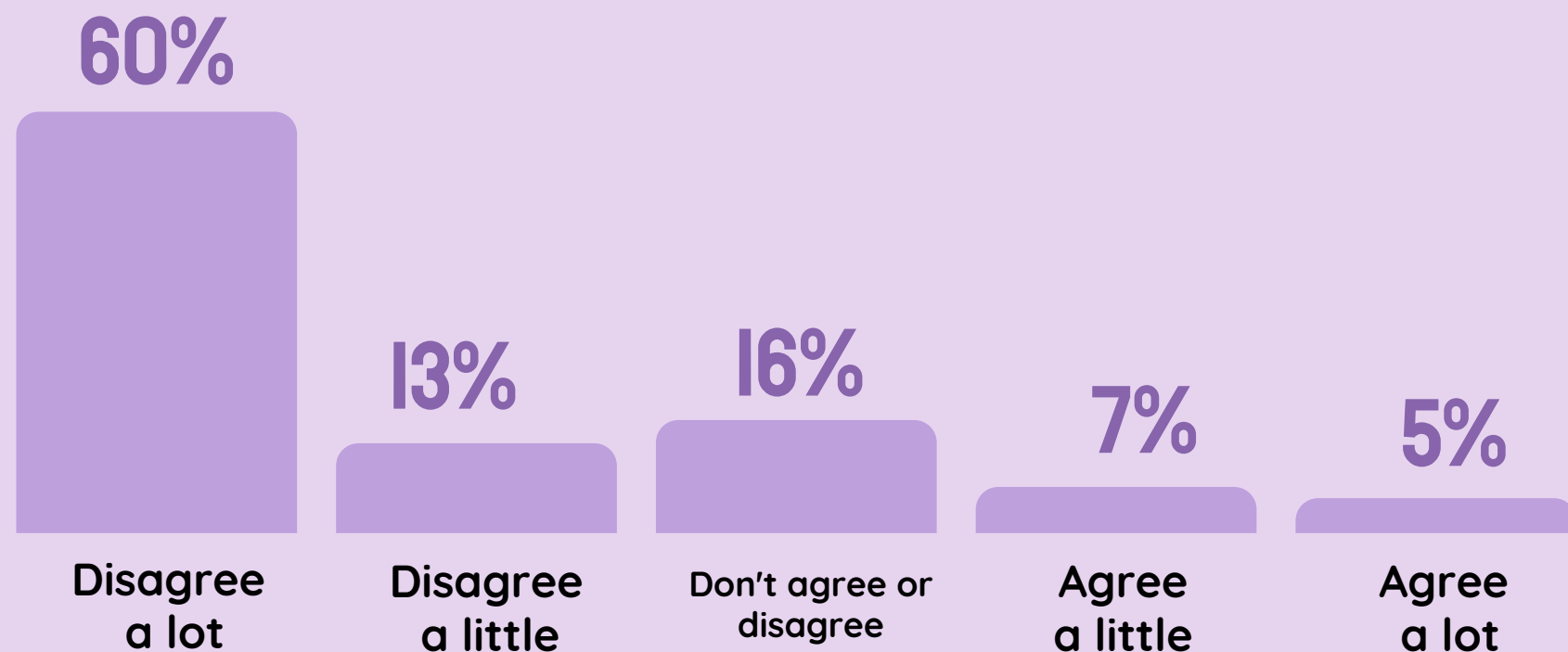
# Perceptions about MH in Schools



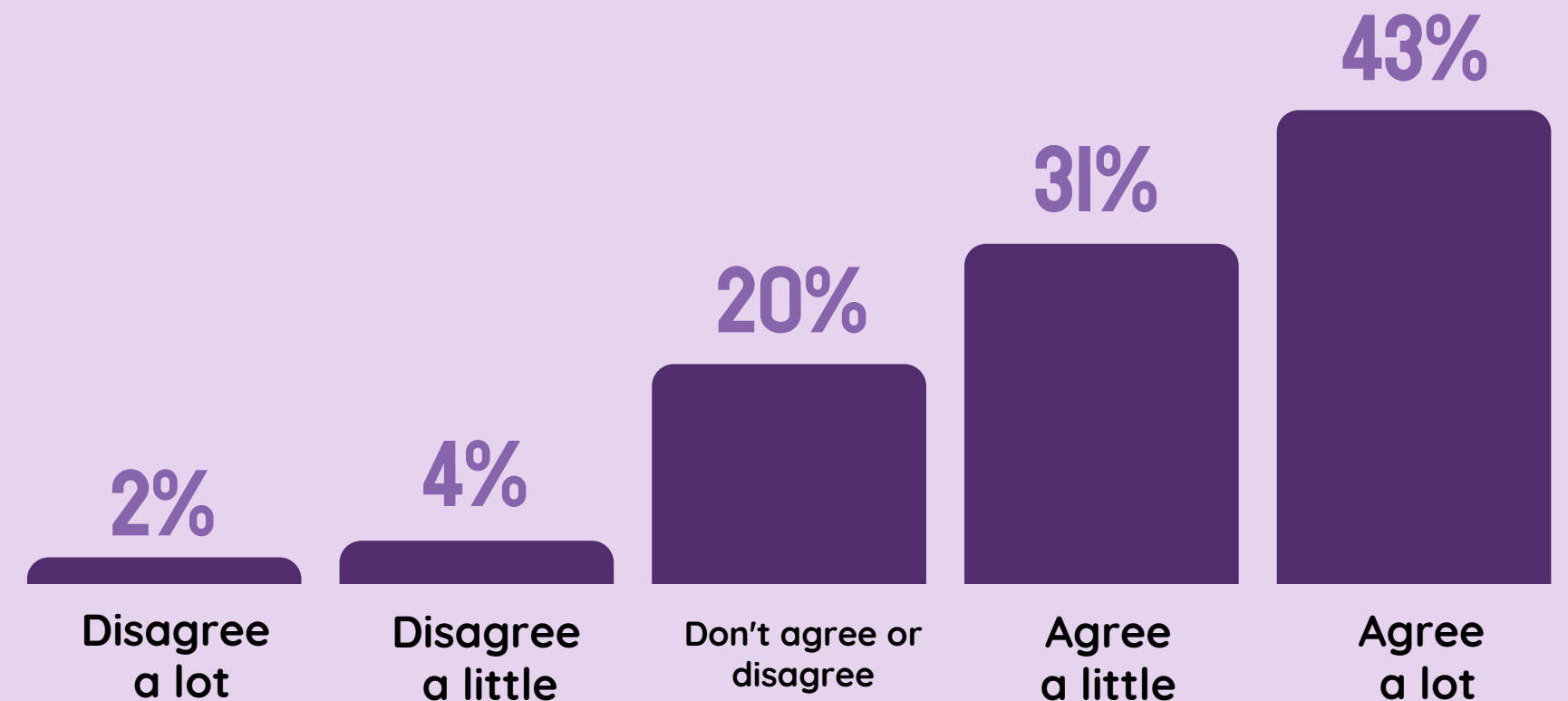
I would know how to help a friend who is constantly feeling worried, nervous or down all the time.



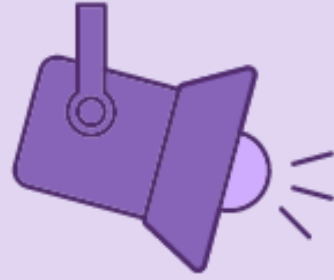
People with mental health issues could “snap out of it” if they wanted.



I would be happy to develop a close friendship with someone who has a mental health issue.



## Mental Health Literacy and Attitudes



# A SPOTLIGHT ON 2SLGBTQIA+ YOUTH: MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SUPPORT



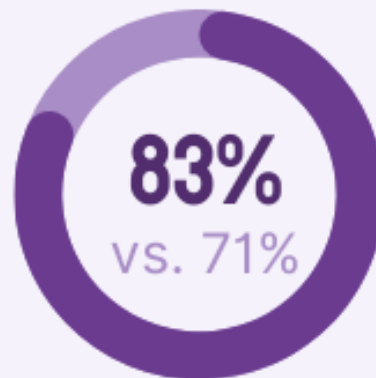
**29%** vs. **63%**  
2SLGBTQIA+ non-2SLGBTQIA+  
reported having 'good' to 'excellent' mental health

**33%**

reported sexual orientation as a reason for having experienced discrimination

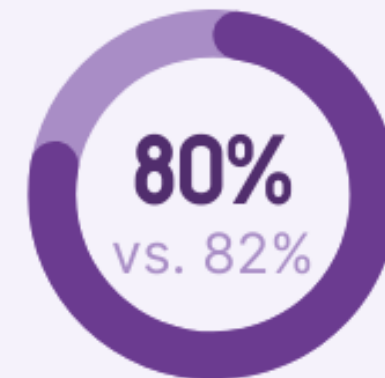
## STRONG SOCIAL RESOURCES MAY REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF ADVERSE EXPERIENCES, SUCH AS DISCRIMINATION, ON HEALTH.

Compared to non-2SLGBTQIA+ youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth were:



more likely to report being happy to develop a close friendship with someone who has a mental health issue

just as likely to have a supportive friend to talk to about their problems



# Mental Well-being

# Key Findings: Mental well-being

- ▶ 86% reported that mental health is an important issue facing youth today
- ▶ 54% rated their mental health as 'good' to 'excellent'
- ▶ 40% met PHQ-8 screening criteria for depression
- ▶ 41% met GAD-2 screening criteria for generalized anxiety
- ▶ 38% reported an unmet mental health need

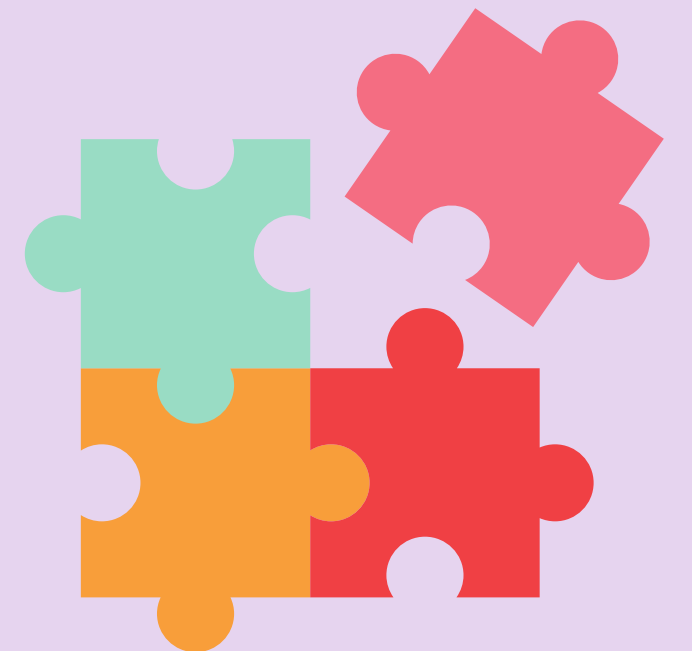
# Supporting Action

## Community-Level Recommendation 3

- ▶ Support and increase mental health knowledge and knowledge holders

## Structural-Level Recommendation 5

- ▶ Improve youth's knowledge of and connection to mental health resources

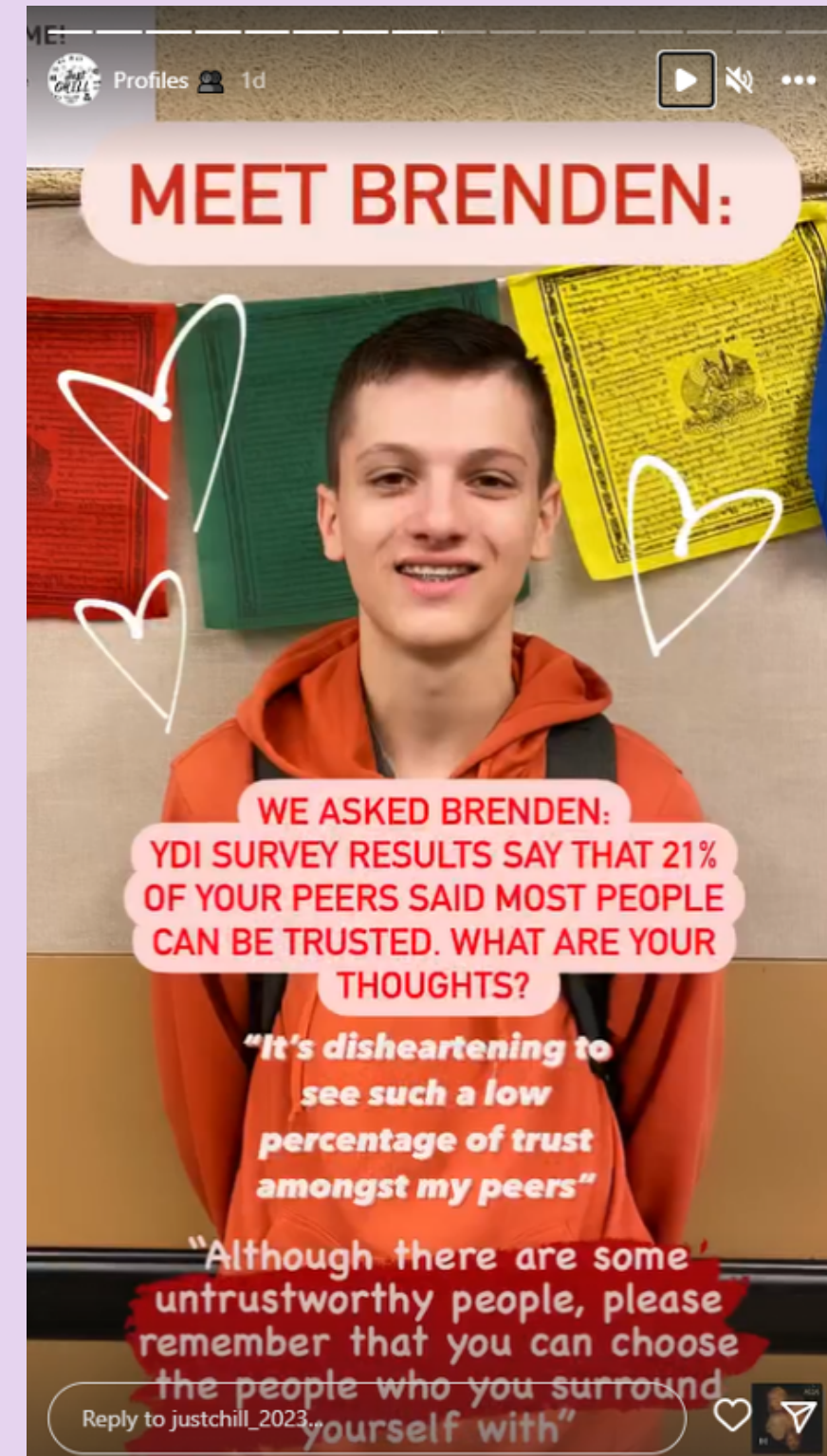
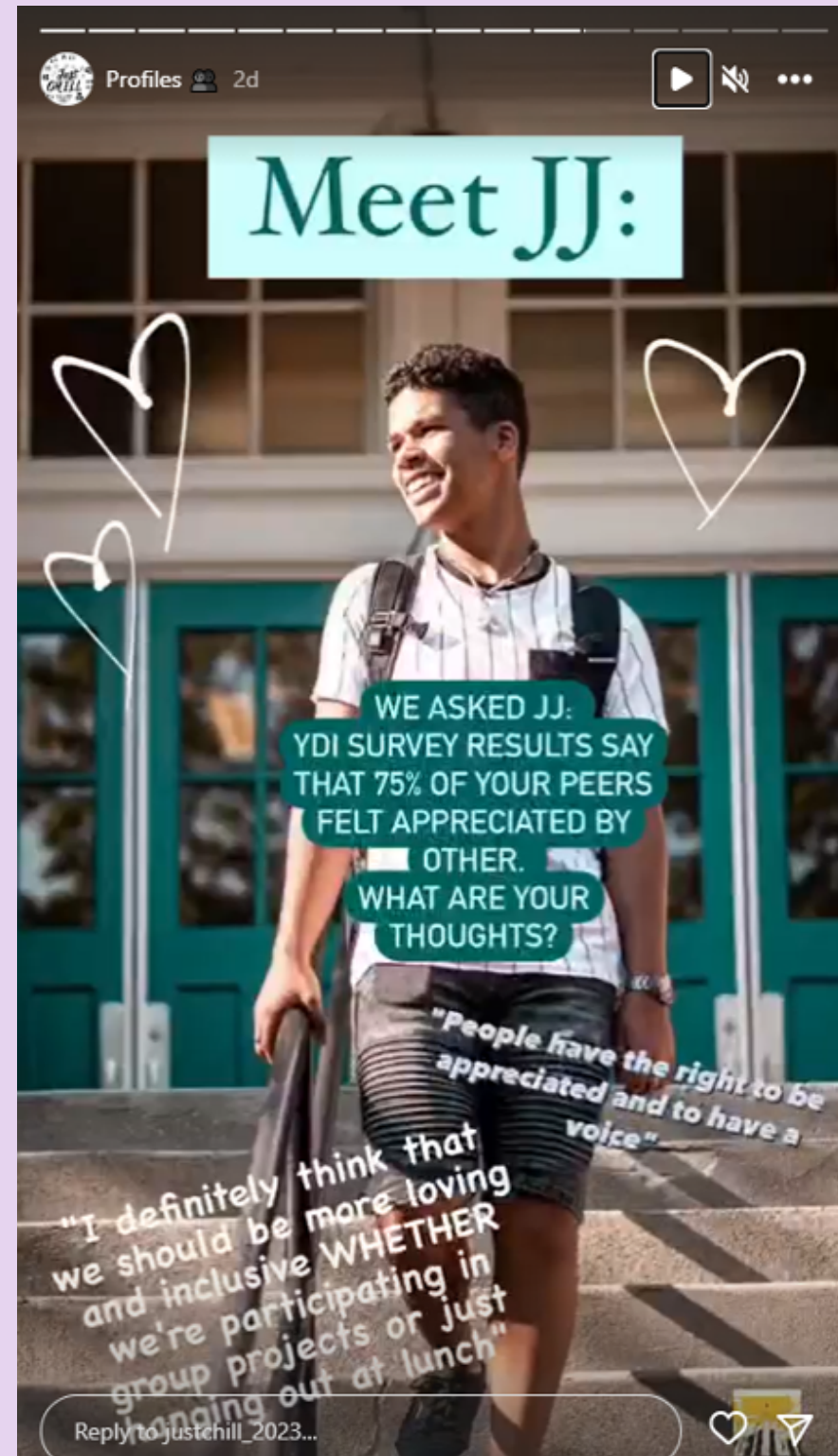


# Social Well-being

# Student-led initiative to promote school belonging: Just Chill Club



# Student-led initiative to promote school belonging: Just Chill Club





# Student-led initiative to promote school belonging: Just Chill Club



# Key Findings: Social well-being

- ▶ 46% felt like they fit in with their peers
- ▶ 35% felt quite positively about their school environment
- ▶ 45% reported experiencing any form of bullying (i.e., physical, social, verbal, or cyberbullying) at least once this school year

# Supporting Action

## Community-Level Recommendation 4

- ▶ Enhance or strengthen SEL strategies within school curricula and community programming



# Future & Goals



# A SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE & GOALS

The 2021/2022 YDI asked 9255 youth about their life's sense of purpose, plans for the future, and long-term goals.

**44%** said that their life has a clear sense of purpose

**56%** reported achieving most of their goals

**76%** plan to enrol in post-secondary education

**74%** reported feeling stressed about their future

**71%** said they decide most of their life decisions

**78%** felt that their life has been a continuous process of learning, changing, and growing

Future

## TOP 3 PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

- 1 Building self-esteem and confidence, and finding personal fulfillment
- 2 Having leisure/free time
- 3 Being successful in work

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Percent who reported having opportunities to develop skills that will be useful later in life...

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL **78%**

IN SCHOOL **66%**

Present

# Key Findings: Future & Goals

- ▶ 74% reported feeling stressed about their future
- ▶ 56% reported achieving most of their goals
- ▶ 66% reported having opportunities to develop skills that will be useful in later life in school
- ▶ 76% plan to enrol in post-secondary education

# Supporting Action

## Structural-Level Recommendation 2

- ▶ Increase youth representation and inclusion in youth mental health research, program development and evaluation



# Questions?

Please feel free to share your question in the chat!



# Session #1: Co-Constructing Schools with Student Voice

Speakers: Gino Bondi, David De Wit,  
and Nathan Ngieng

# Breakout Rooms

- ▶ Opportunity to network - introduce yourselves!
- ▶ Chat about the previous session or the event overall:

What stands out to you?

What are some key takeaways so far?

What is something new you've learned?

# Breakout Room Small Group Discussion

Rooms will close at 10:39



# Session #2: Youth Engagement in Theory and Practice

Speakers: Alex Gist, Sabrina Kahn, and Rehanna Thiara

# Breakout Rooms

- ▶ Opportunity to network - introduce yourselves!
- ▶ Chat about the previous session or the event overall:

What stands out to you?

What are some key takeaways so far?

What is something new you've learned?

# Breakout Room Small Group Discussion

Rooms will close at 11:19



# Keynote Address:

## Corey Hirsch

# Key Messages -What's Next?

- ▶ Challenges remain
- ▶ Protective factors
- ▶ Intersectoral collaboration
- ▶ Provincial coordination
- ▶ Need for best practices and data



# Thank you!

Questions?



[chartlab.ca](http://chartlab.ca)



[hsamji@sfu.ca](mailto:hsamji@sfu.ca)



[@yditeam](https://twitter.com/yditeam)



[@yditeam](https://www.instagram.com/yditeam)



Youth Development Instrument



Youth  
Development  
Instrument



Canadian Institutes of  
Health Research  
Instituts de recherche  
en santé du Canada



Social Sciences and  
Humanities Research  
Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches  
en sciences humaines  
du Canada



# Closing Prayer



**Elder Syexwaliya (she/her)**  
Squamish Nation  
Indigenous Student Centre, SFU

# Upcoming

- ▶ YDI Symposium Feedback Survey
- ▶ 2021/2022 Provincial Report
- ▶ BCCH COVID & Kids Report
- ▶ 2022/2023 YDI implementation

Let us know how today was!  
Link to feedback survey:

