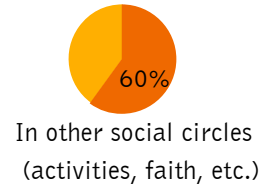
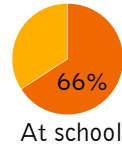
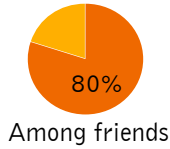


CONNECTIONS

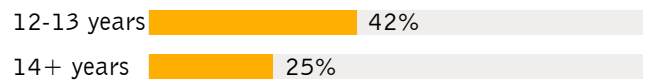
Feeling connected helps support youth and prevent substance misuse.

Most Colorado youth feel a sense of belonging.



Some youth are more likely to say they feel they belong than others.

Younger youth are more likely to say they completely belong at their schools.



Less than half of teens say they feel completely supported by their friends (44%).



While only a quarter (25%) of African American youth say they feel completely supported.



Youth identifying as LGBTQ* are the least likely to feel like they belong at their schools (47%)...



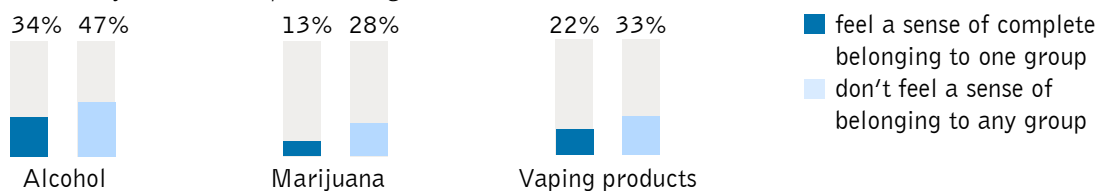
... and to connect with people outside of school (37%)



Teens who feel connected are significantly less likely to have used substances.

Teens who feel like they completely belong to at least one group (their friends, school, or a community group) are also significantly less likely to have used substances.

% of teens who report having used substances:



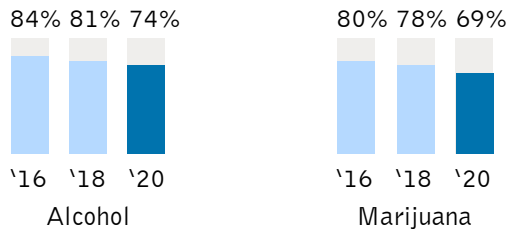
*LGBQ refers to youth whose sexual orientation is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer.

ADULT CONNECTIONS & PREVENTION

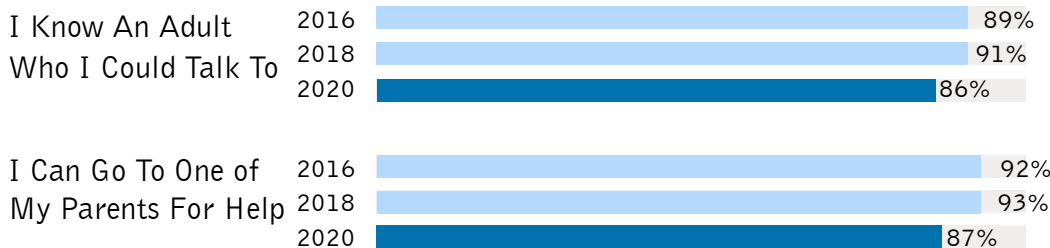
Fewer teens are having conversations with their parents.

Research consistently shows that conversations between trusted adults and youth are effective at preventing substance misuse. While most teens report having conversations with their parents about alcohol and marijuana, the number has declined to record lows.

% of youth who report having conversations with their parents about substances:

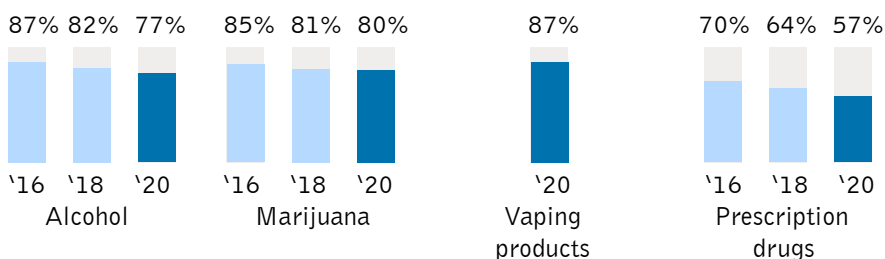


Fewer teens say they know a trusted adult, but the numbers are still high.



Fewer teens are now seeing prevention information in their school or community.

% of youth that report seeing prevention information:



“I Rise Above’ means staying strong against peer pressure in order to keep myself safe and healthy.”
- Youth Participant



The Rise Above Colorado Youth Survey (RACYS) is a data source for behavioral health and substance use attitudes and behaviors among Colorado youth ages 12–17. With funding support from the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, the 2020 data of more than 600 youth is based on a representative sample of the entire state. For more information and complete survey data, visit www.riseaboveco.org.