



California Healthy Kids Survey Santa Cruz County 2014-2019



INTRODUCTION

The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is an anonymous assessment that students in Santa Cruz County schools take every other year. For traditional schools the survey is taken during grades 7th, 9th and 11th. The CHKS is focused on the five most important areas for guiding school and student improvement:

1. Student connectedness, learning engagement/motivation and attendance
2. School climate, culture, and conditions
3. School safety, including violence perpetration and victimization/ bullying

4. Physical and mental well-being and social-emotional learning
5. Student supports, including resilience-promoting developmental factors (caring relationships, high (caring relationships, high expectations, and meaningful participation).

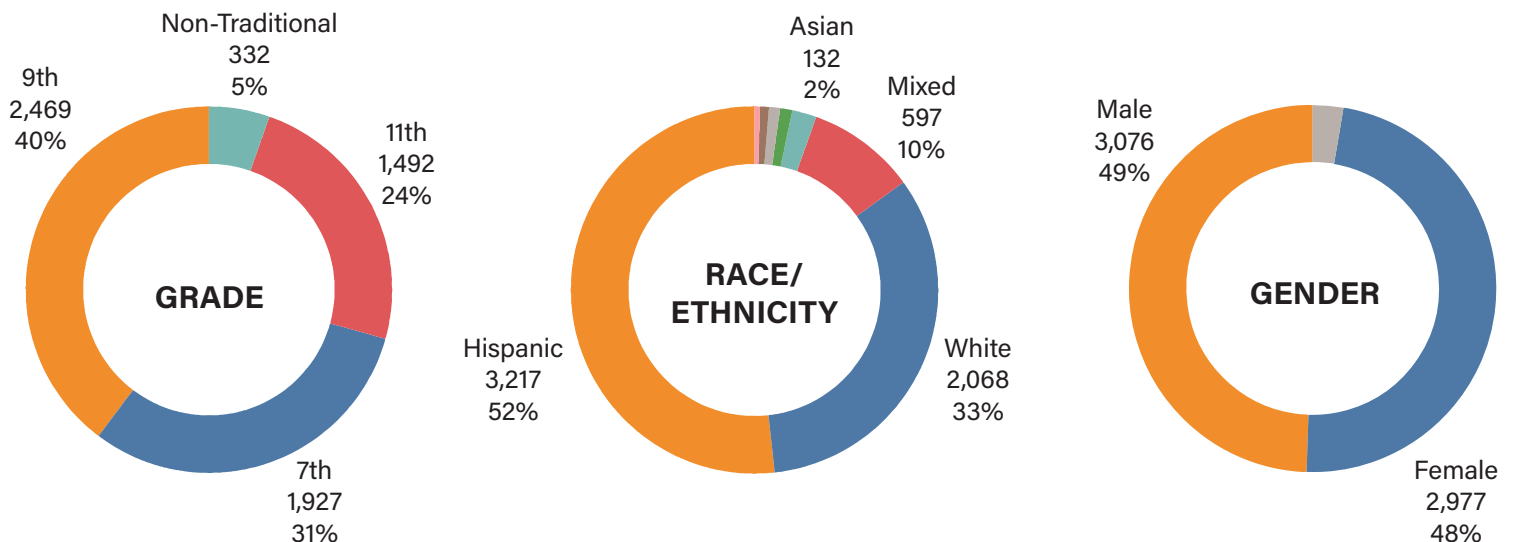
This report is a descriptive overview of a selected set of questions and indicators from the Santa Cruz CHKS dataset.

To dive deeper the Santa Cruz COE is providing tools to the public such as the Santa Cruz CHKS Indicators Dashboard and the Santa Cruz CHKS Demographics Dashboard that can be found at the [Santa Cruz COE Data Portal](https://sccoe.link/dataportal) (sccoe.link/dataportal).

DEMOGRAPHICS

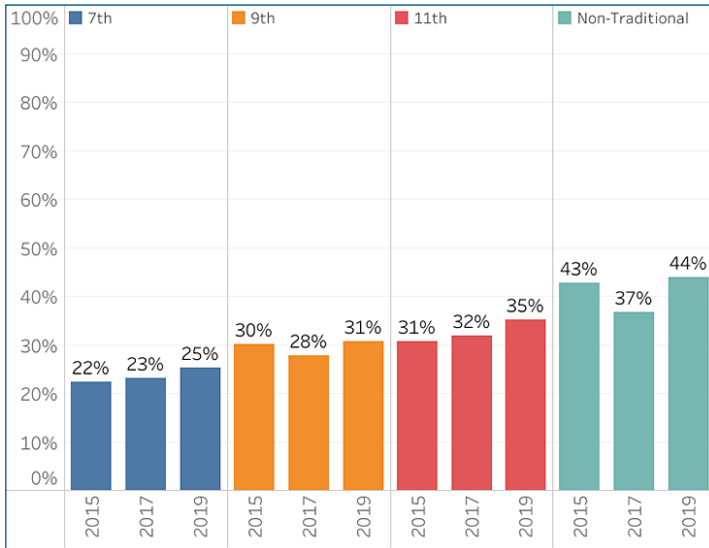
Below is demographic information from the CHKS administered in Santa Cruz County schools during the 2018-2019 year. An interactive view of these and other demographics, and for previous years, is available at the [Santa Cruz CHKS Demographics Dashboard](https://sccoe.link/chks-demographics) (sccoe.link/chks-demographics).

To disaggregate the data presented in this document by Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity and other demographic subgroups, visit the [Santa Cruz CHKS Trends Dashboard](https://sccoe.link/chkstrends) (sccoe.link/chkstrends).



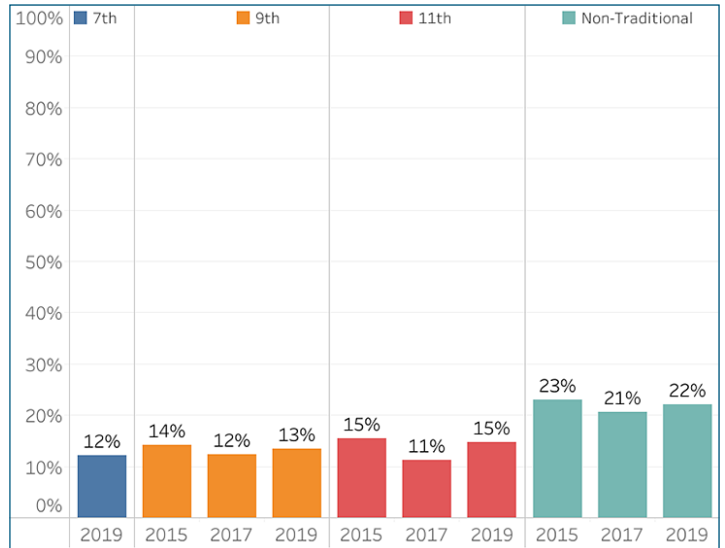
MENTAL HEALTH

Students experiencing chronic sadness are more elevated on a wide range of educational, health, social and emotional problems, including lower school attendance, performance, and connectedness.



Chronic Sadness/Hopelessness

The percentage of **students that responded YES** to experiencing chronic sadness.

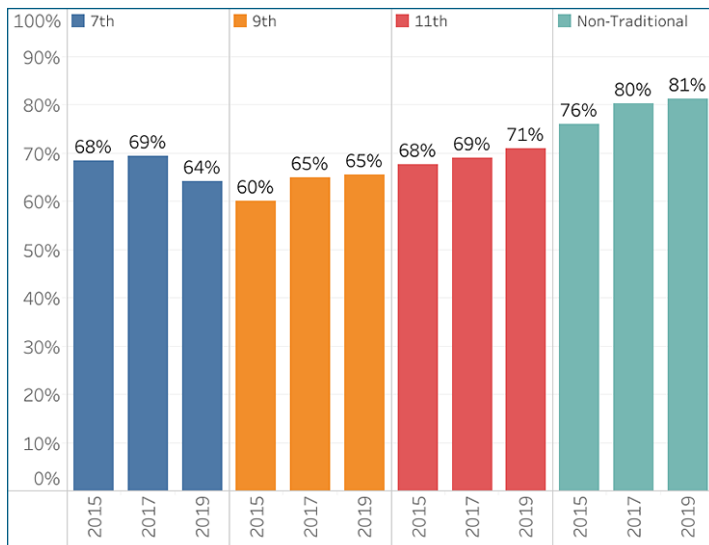


Considered Suicide

The percentage of **students that responded YES** to having considered suicide.

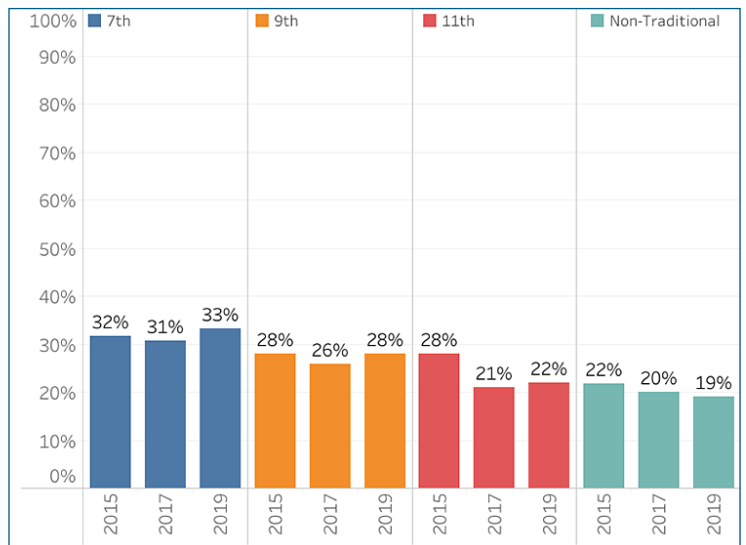
SCHOOL SAFETY

The range and nature of physical/verbal violence, victimization and overall perception of school safety impacts not only students' ability to learn and their willingness to attend school, but also their overall school environment and ability of teachers to teach.



Perception of Feeling Safe at School

The percentage of students that responded feeling **SAFE or VERY SAFE** at school.

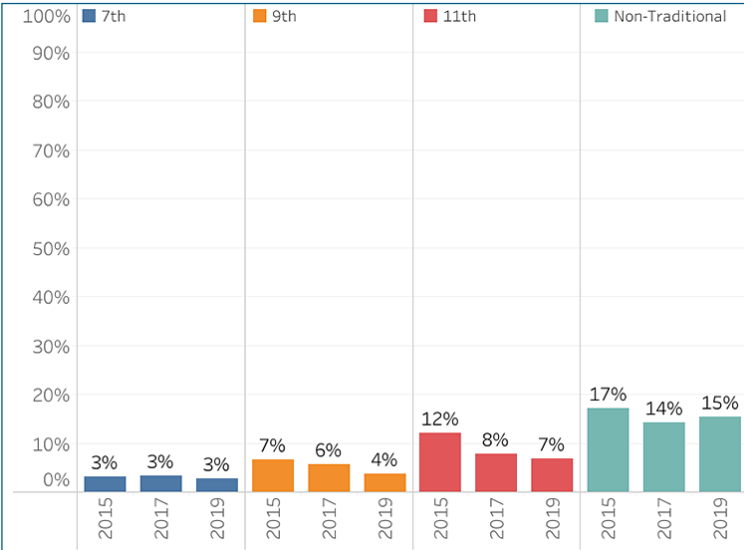


Harassment or Bullying

The percentage of **students that responded 1 OR MORE TIMES** to harassment or bullying in the past 12 months.

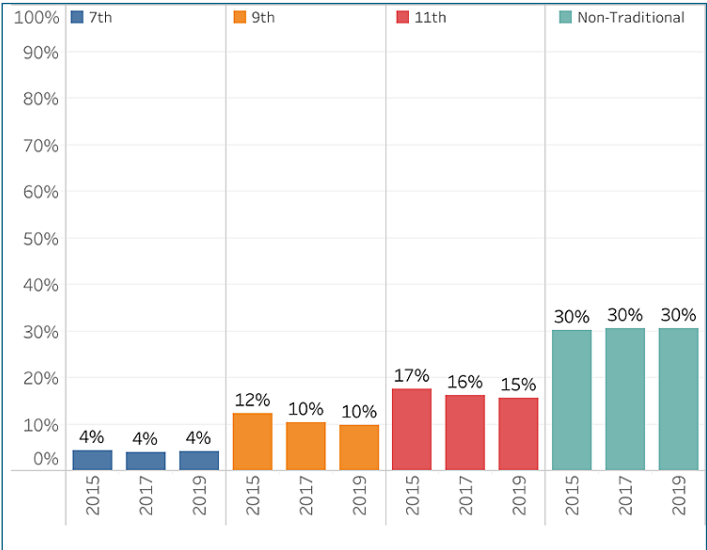
SUBSTANCE USE

Barriers to learning, possible youth development and health include the misuse of alcohol and other drugs. Years of research shows that substance misuse is connected to academic performance, and contributes to truancy, disciplinary problems, and disengagement.



Current (past 30 days) Alcohol or Drug Use

The percentage of **students that responded** using alcohol or drugs **1 OR MORE DAYS** in the past 30 days.

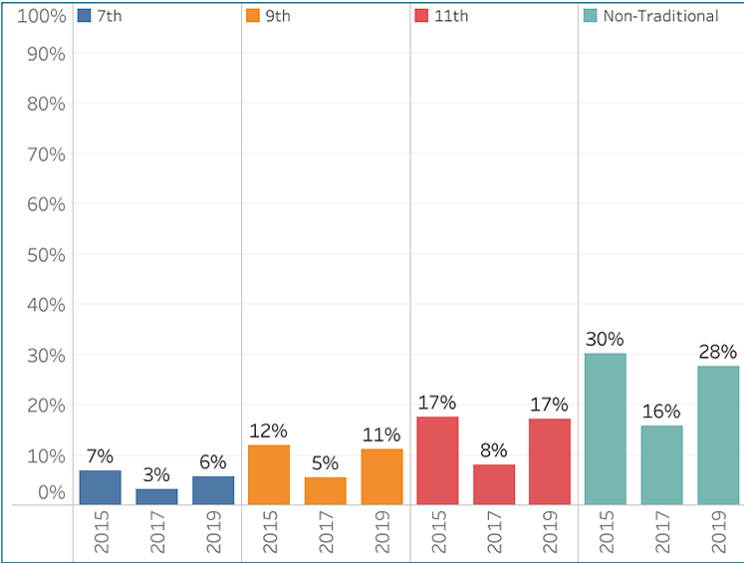


Current (past 30 days) Marijuana Use

The percentage of **students reporting** using marijuana **1 OR MORE DAYS** in the past 30 days.

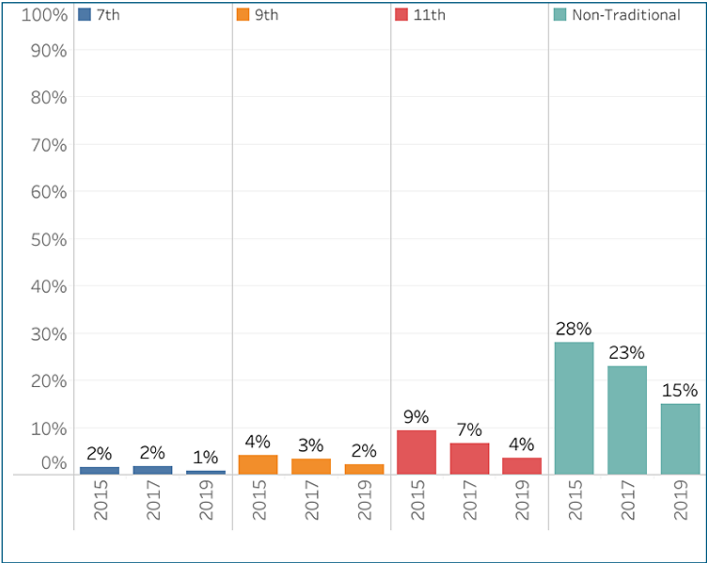
CURRENT TOBACCO USE

Students engaging in tobacco use engage more in other drug and alcohol use, and experience school, health and other related challenges.



Current (past 30 days) Electronic Cigarette Use

The percentage of **students reporting** having vaped tobacco **1 OR MORE DAYS** in the past 30 days.

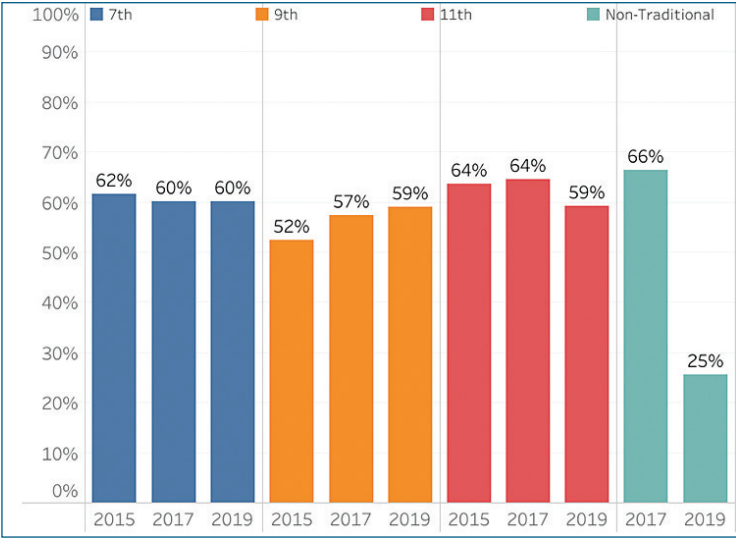


Current (past 30 days) Cigarette Use

The percentage of **students reporting** having used cigarettes **1 OR MORE DAYS** in the past 30 days.

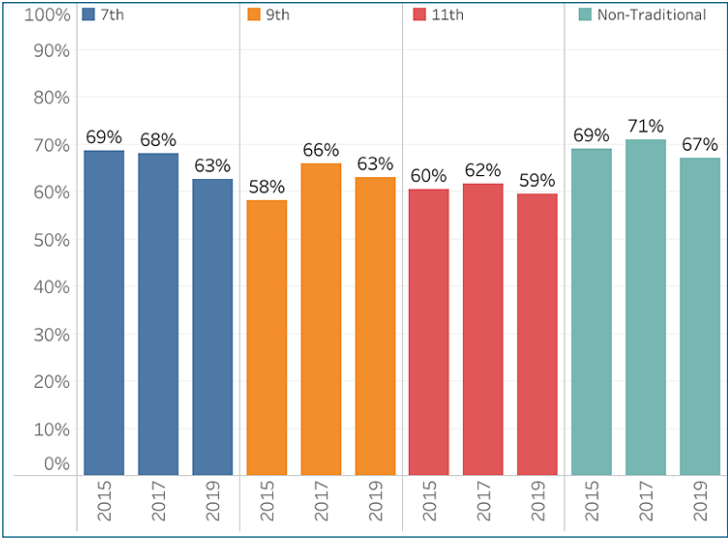
SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT and SUPPORTS

School connectedness is associated with multiple positive academic, social-emotional, and health outcomes. Youth who feel safe at school, experience caring adults, and have opportunities for engagement, are more likely to feel connected to school.



Caring Adult Relationships

The percentage of **students that responded PRETTY MUCH TRUE or VERY MUCH TRUE** to having a caring adult relationship.



Perception of Feeling Connected to School

The percent of **students that responded AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE** to feeling connected to school.

RESOURCES

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) is committed to using the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) to monitor student well-being, identify areas of success and prioritize areas of need.

You can learn more about the Santa Cruz COE initiatives and programs related to school climate, safety and emergency at the [School Climate, Safety & Emergency Resources \(sccoe.link/schoolclimate\)](https://sccoe.link/schoolclimate) page of the [Santa Cruz COE](https://santacruzcoe.org) website (santacruzcoe.org).