INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS ISSUES IN KIDS' SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY & THE COUNTRY

THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC



KID'S VIEWS ON THEIR ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING, THEIR RIGHTS,

DECISION-MAKING, THEIR RIAND ISSUES IN CANADA

CONDUCTED FOR CHILDREN FIRST CANADA

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS FROM CANADA'S LEADING PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MARKET RESEARCH EXPERTS

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted with 750 children aged 12 to 17 from October 20 to 27, 2020. Kids were recruited through their parents who received the original invitation and were asked to have their child complete the survey. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.

It should be noted that kids were recruited through their parents and those parents may have been close by when the child completed the survey.

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/-3.57%, 19 times out of 20.

The data were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada's population of children according to age, gender, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

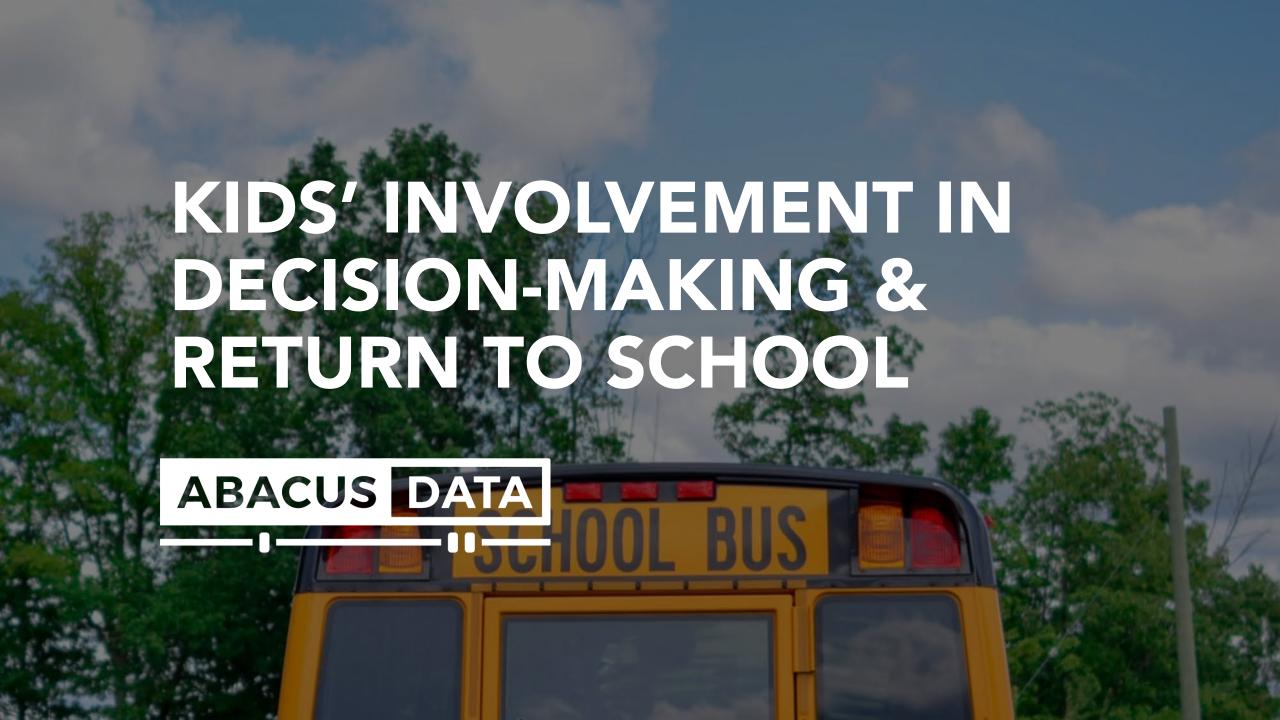
- 1. In 1991 Canada ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child but today only just over half of kids (56%) are aware that they have rights. Even fewer know what do do if they feel their rights have been violated (26%). Those who know what to do list calling the police and talking to a parents or teacher as appropriate courses of action. Overall there is a lot of room for education in this area.
- 2. A number of challenges facing Canada are identified by kids. Most notably, only 43% of kids think that all people in Canada are treated equally. Many also challenge the idea that Canada is doing its best for specific groups such as children in poverty (only 50% think we are doing our best), racialized communities (53%), and First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples (46%).
- 3. Kids have a desire to have their voices heard. Most notably, they believe (76%) the government should have consulted students about the decisions on returning to school safely.
- 4. The good news is that most children are involved in the decisions that impact their life (only 2% are not involved). Four in ten kids say their opinions are a <u>big</u> part of decisions being made about these things. Importantly, those who say their opinions have a big impact on decisions made about their life are more engaged and hopeful about life. They were also more likely to know they have rights, which suggests a potentially reinforcing impact of being involved in decisions.
 - Decisions around returning to in-person schooling are a good case study in how parents of 12-17 year olds engage their children in decisions. Overall most kids were involved and listened to. In the end, four out of five got their most preferred outcome.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 5. Almost all kids feel that Canada is a great place to be a kid (95% agree), that they get the support they need to reach their potential (85%), and that investing in kids now may save money later (85%).
- 6. Kids list being happy about their life at home, their friends and mental health as the most positive aspects. Nevertheless, three in ten kids say that their quality of life is not very good or great right now pointing to a significant inequality among children in Canada. The good news is that almost all feel hopeful about life (only 2% are not at all hopeful).
- 7. While kids are positive about Canada and hopeful, they are acutely aware of problems. Economic ones (cost of tuition, poverty, the economy) and social (mental health and bullying) top the list. In fact, mental health is a highly important issue to kids throughout the survey. It is ranked as one of the top problems in Canada and a top priority. Furthermore, mental health is ranked as one of the biggest issue in kid's schools (along with bullying) and communities.



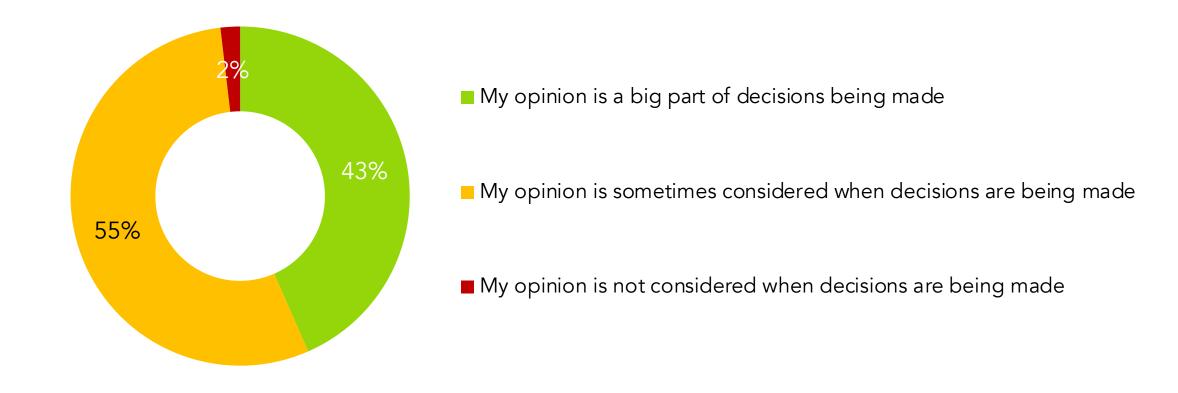


EMPOWERMENT: RETURNING TO SCHOOL

- Most children and youth are involved in decisions that affect their life. Only 2% think their opinion is not considered. For 4 in 10, their opinions are a big part of decisions being made. The feeling that one's opinions are a big part of decisions being made is more prevalent among older youth (47% of 17 year olds compared with 39% of 12 year olds) but remains significant for all kids.
- Almost 8 in 10 kids report that they were involved in the decision about returning to school. And, among these, most (93%) said they were listened to. One in five would have made a different decision.
 - The older the child the more likely they were involved in the decision but even 67% of 12 year olds felt involved.
 - Those who felt that their opinions were listened to and taken seriously are far more inclined to feel that they are happy with the decision that was made about attending school in-person or online this fall.
- A large majority feel that children and youth's opinions should have been included in the government's decision with respect to returning to in-class school safely. Those children and youth who think their opinion is a big part of decisions made about them are more likely to feel that youth's voice should be heard.

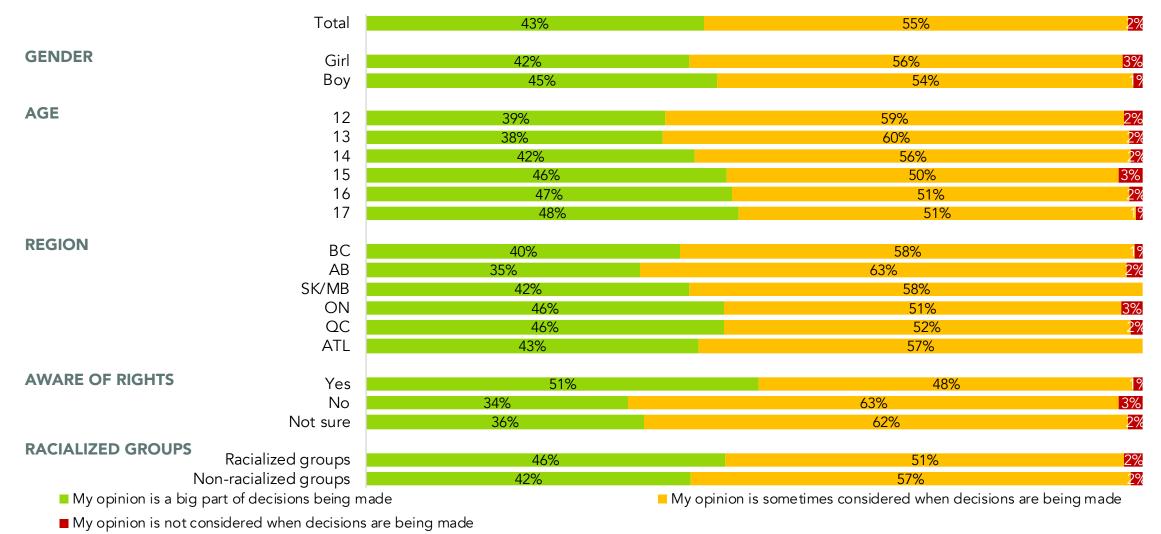


MOST KIDS FEEL THEIR OPINION IS CONSIDERED AT LEAST SOMETIMES WHEN DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE



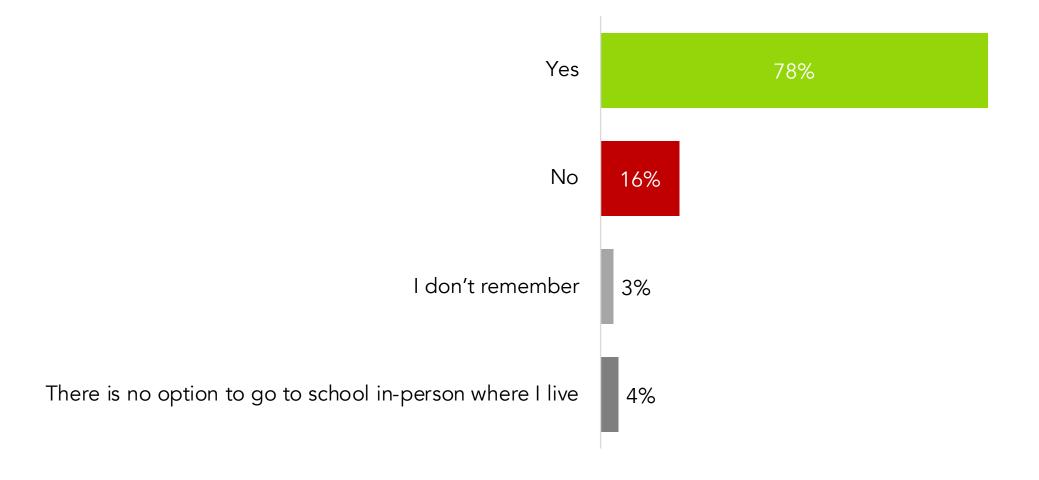


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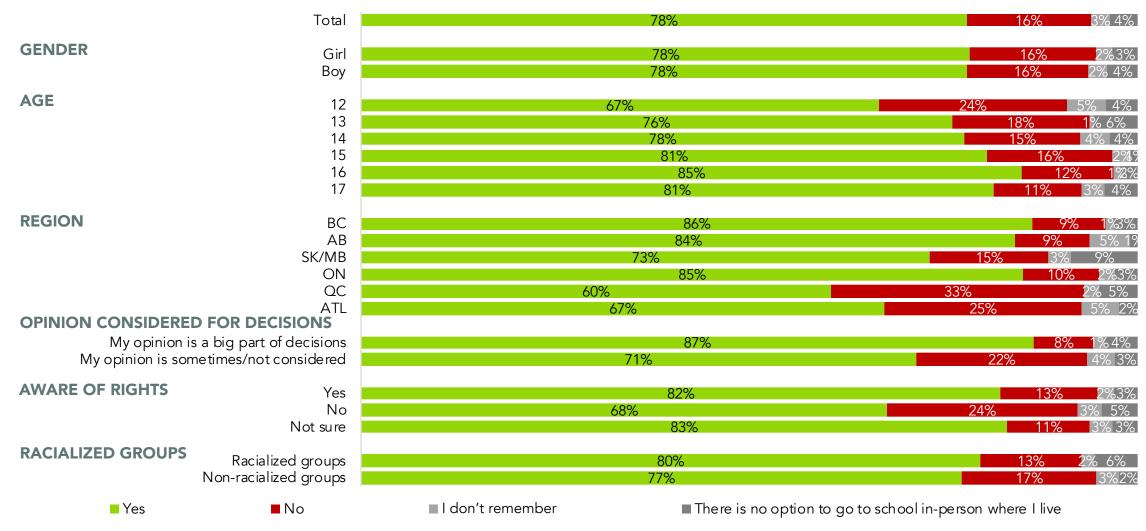


8 IN 10 WERE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION WHETHER THEY WOULD RETURN TO SCHOOL IN-PERSON OR NOT



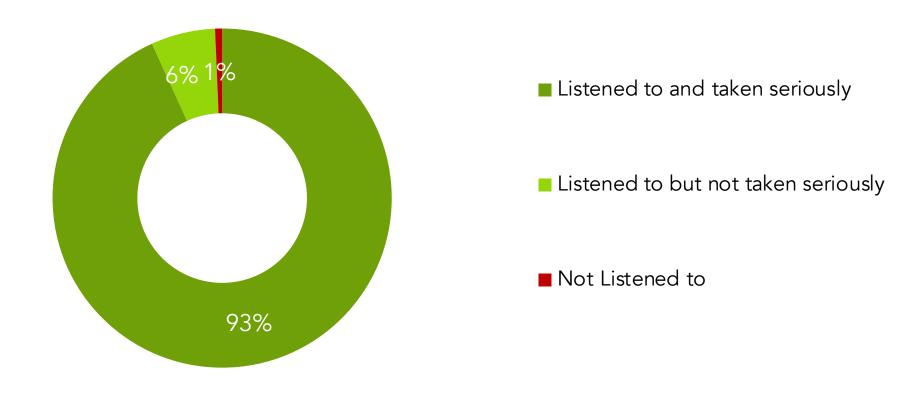


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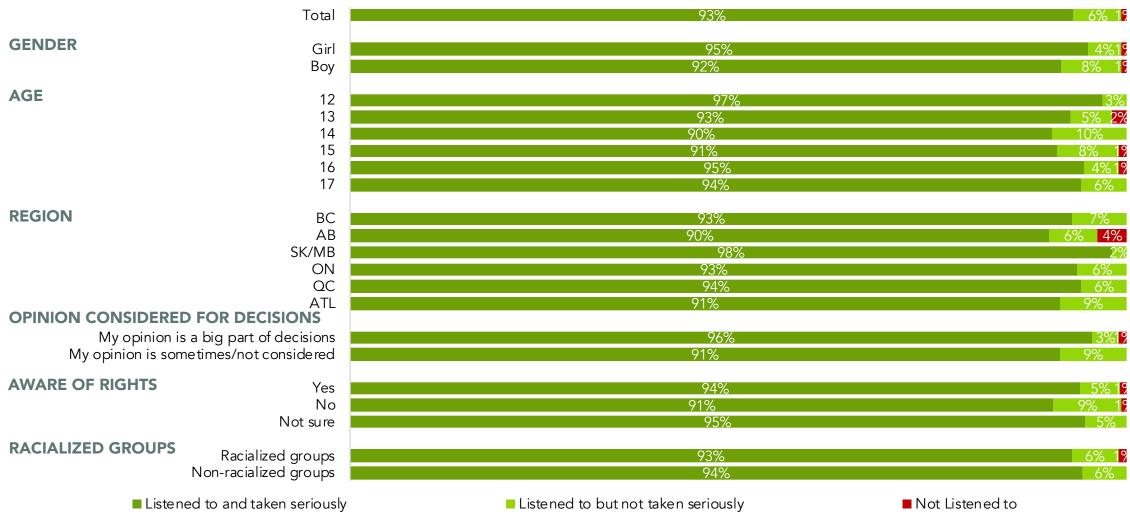


ALMOST ALL KIDS FELT THEIR OPINION ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL WAS LISTENED TO AND TAKEN SERIOUSLY



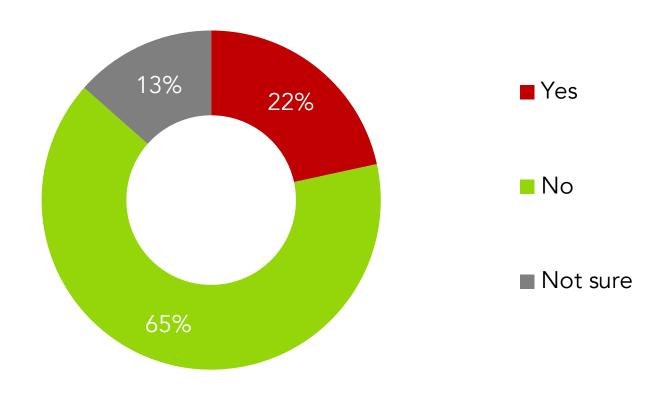


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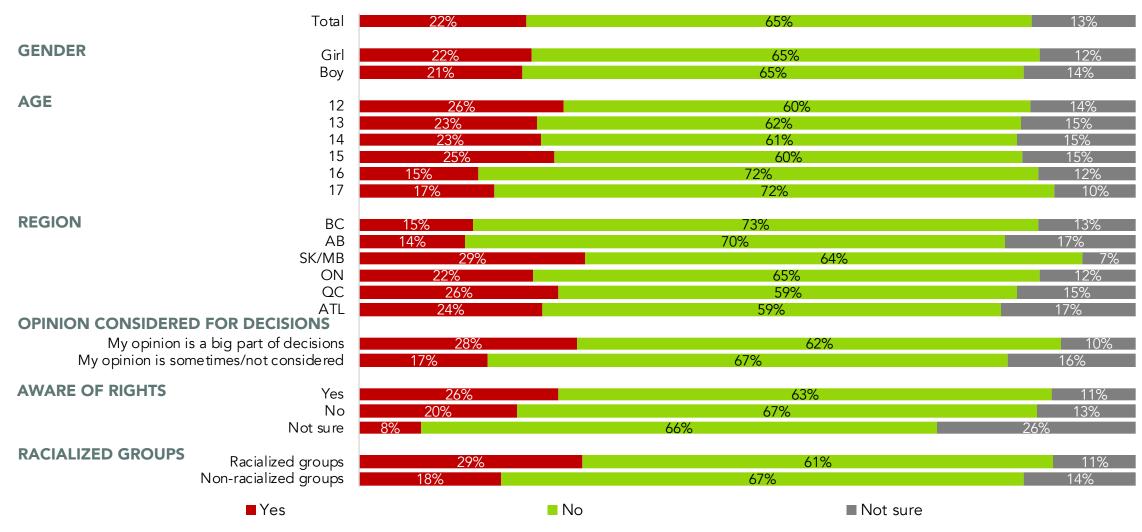


2 IN 3 WOULD <u>NOT</u> HAVE MADE A DIFFERENT DECISION ABOUT ATTENDING SCHOOL IN-PERSON OR ONLINE



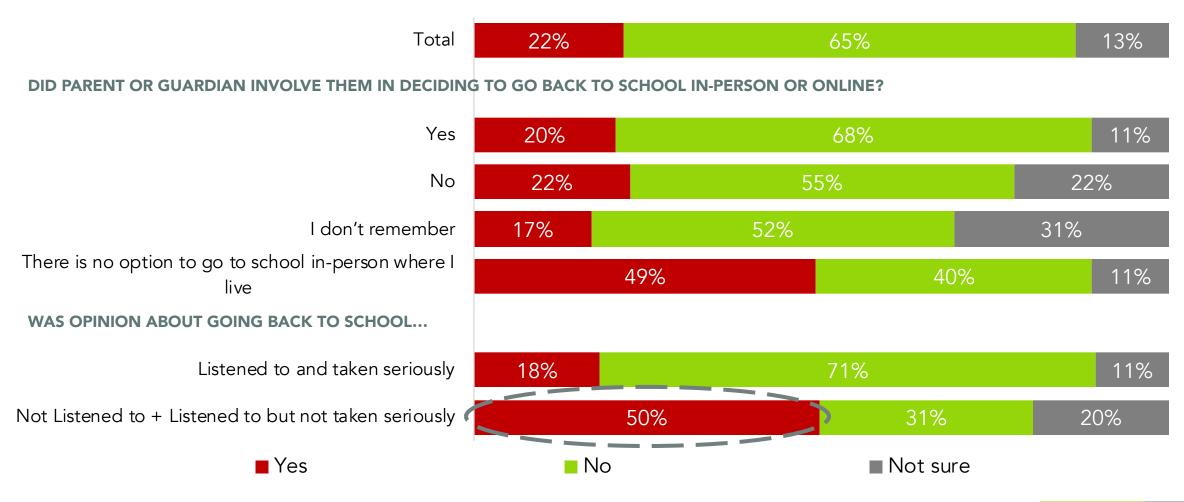


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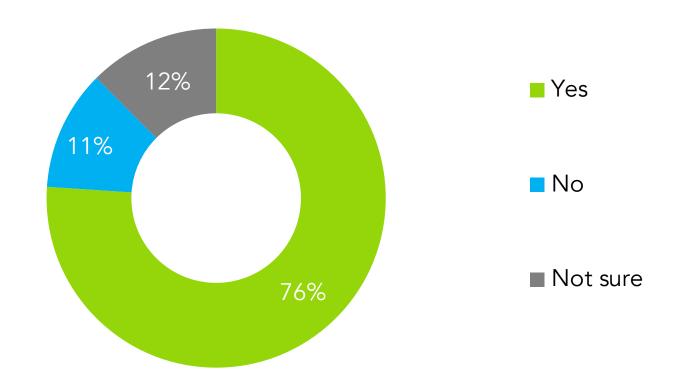


KIDS WHO FELT THEY WERE NOT LISTENED TO/TAKEN SERIOUSLY MORE LIKELY TO SAY THEY WOULD HAVE MADE A DIFFERENT DECISION ABOUT ATTENDING SCHOOL



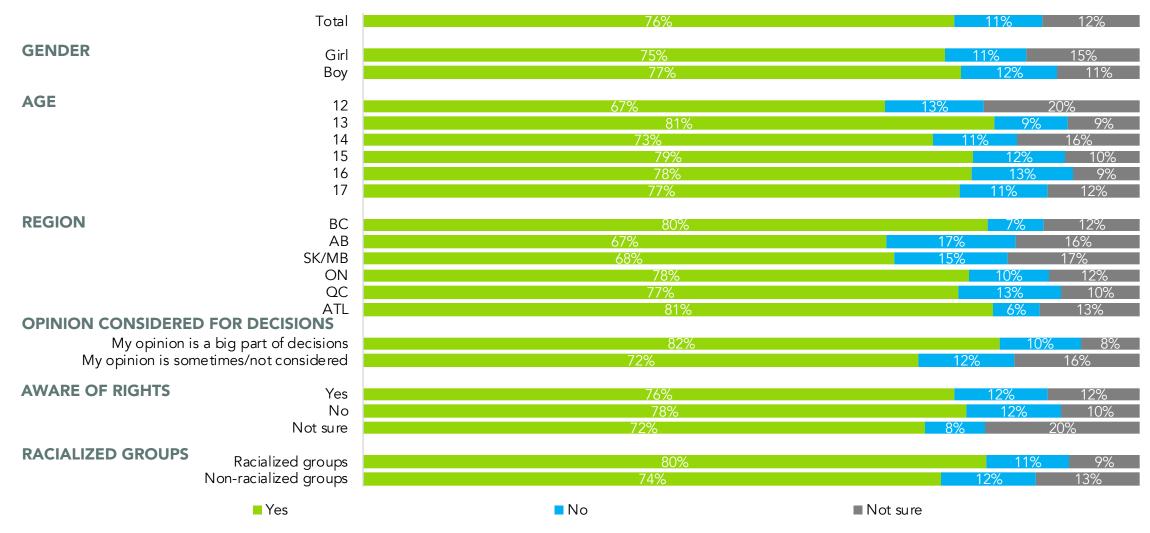


8 IN 10 FEEL THAT CHILDREN & YOUTH'S OPINIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DISCUSSION ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL SAFELY





8 IN 10 FEEL THAT CHILDREN & YOUTH'S OPINIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DISCUSSION ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL SAFELY





The government spoke to a lot of experts about how children and youth could return to in-class school safely. Do you think that children and youth's opinions should have been included in this?

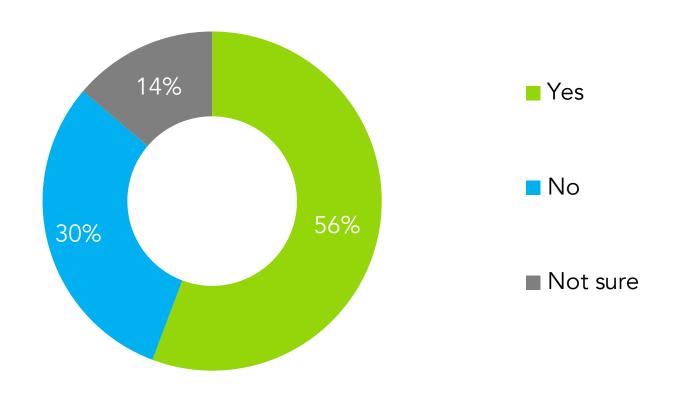


AWARENESS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

- Over half of kids are aware that they have rights. The most top-of-mind rights are the right to education, to the right to safety and security, freedom of speech, and the right to food and water.
- When asked if they know what to do if they're rights are violated, 4 in 10 kids were unsure, with only 26% saying that they know what to do. Of those who know what to do when they feel their rights are being violated, the most common actions they would take are to talk to a parent or guardian call the police, and talk to a teacher or someone at their school.
- 4 in 10 kids are at least somewhat familiar with the United Nations Convention on the Rights
 of the Child. Older kids (14 to 17 year olds) are more aware of their rights and aware of the
 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children than younger kids.
- Kids who feel their opinions make a big difference on life decisions are particularly likely to know they have rights, and be aware of the UN convention.

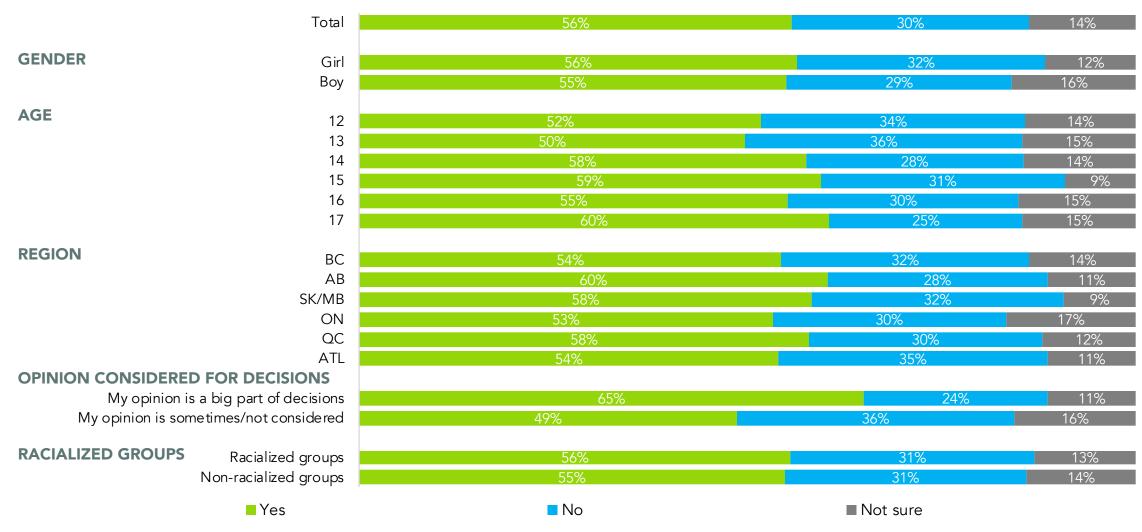


A MAJORITY OF KIDS ARE AWARE THAT THEY HAVE RIGHTS



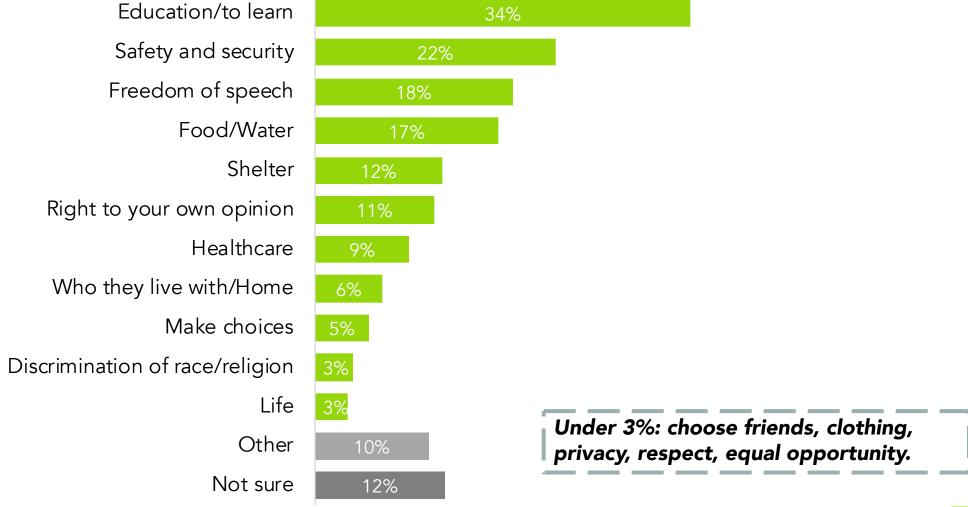


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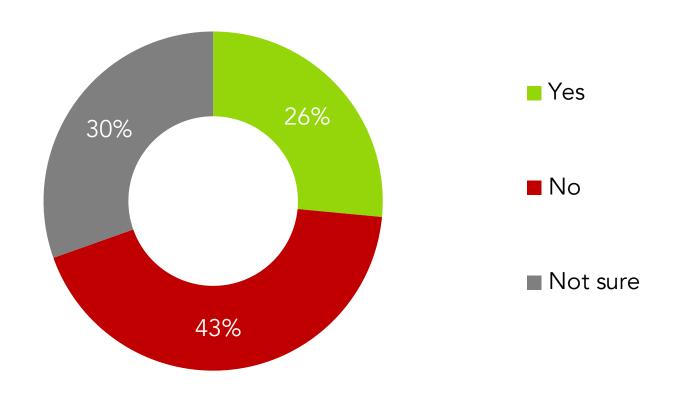


TOP-OF-MIND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



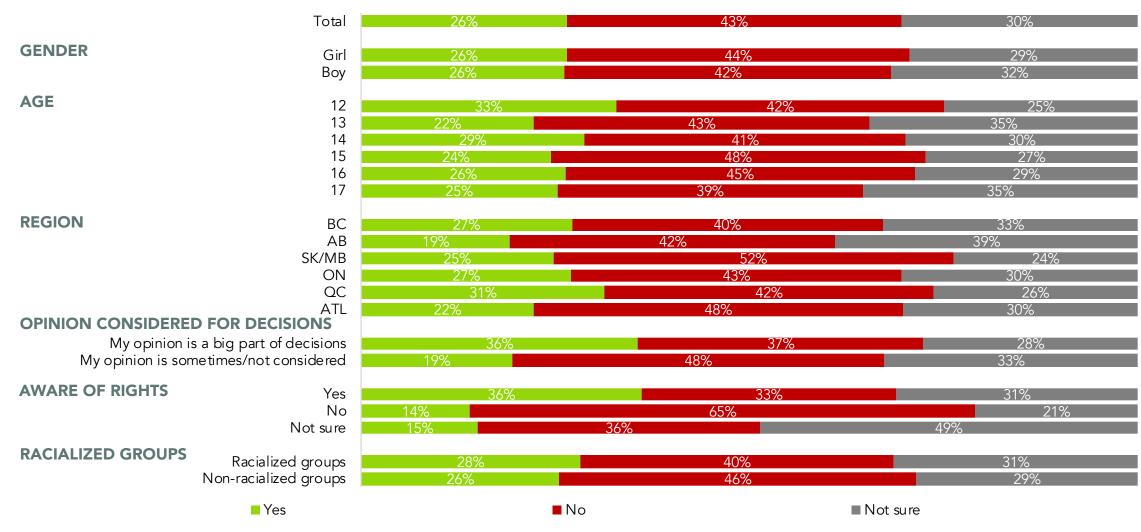


4 IN 10 DON'T KNOW AND 3 IN 10 ARE NOT SURE WHAT TO DO IF THEY FEEL THEIR RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED



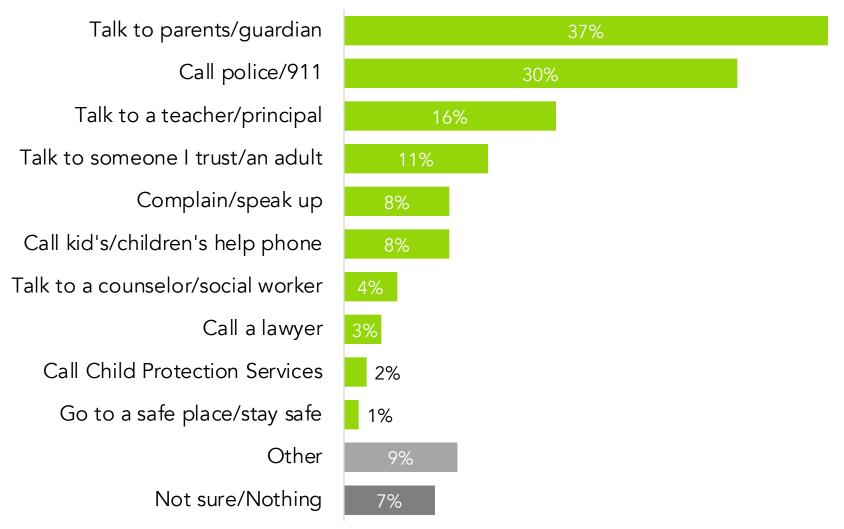


4 IN 10 ARE <u>DON'T KNOW</u> WHAT TO DO IF THEY FEEL THEIR RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED



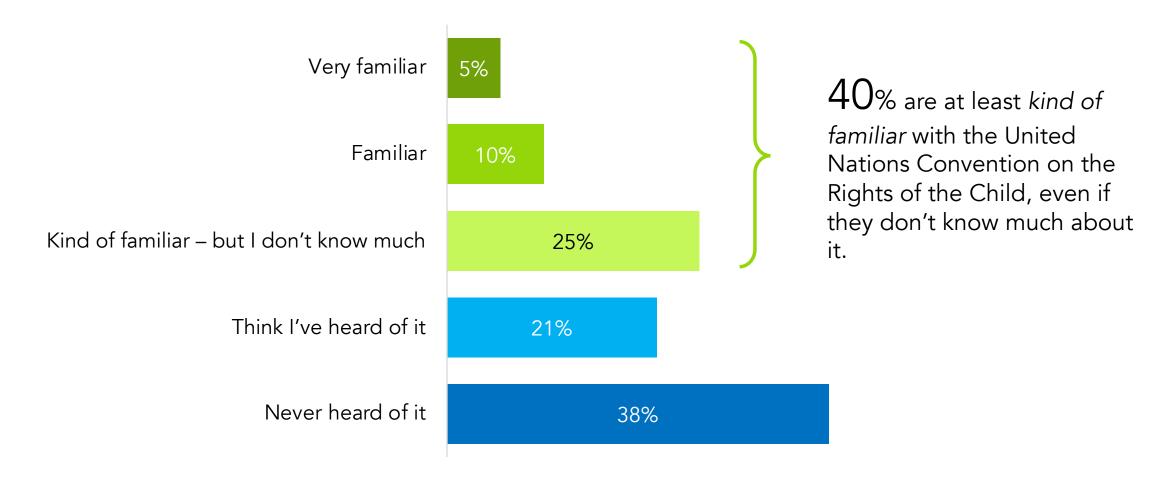


IF MY RIGHTS WERE BEING VIOLATED, I WOULD...



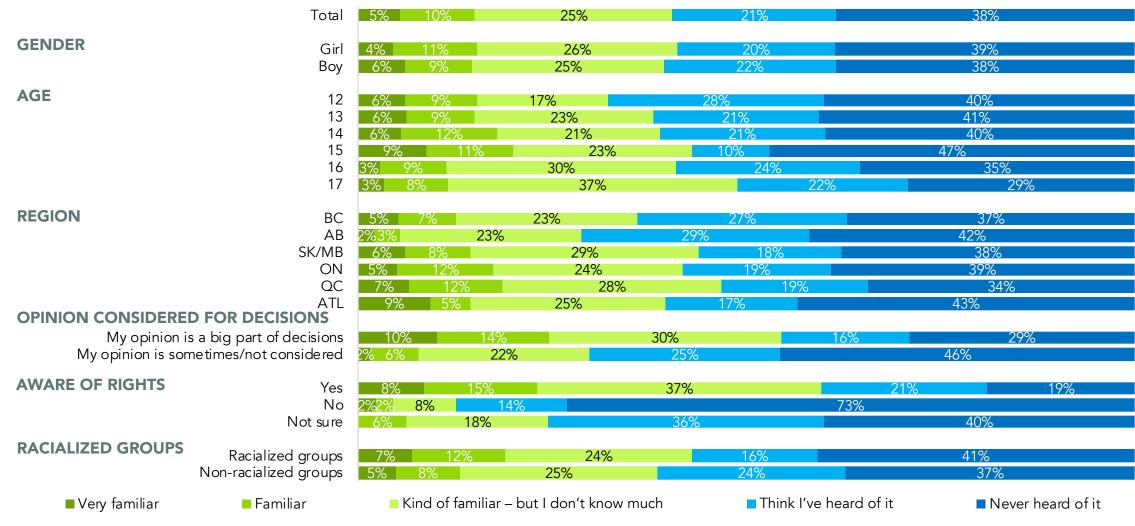


4 IN 10 ARE AT LEAST KIND OF FAMILIAR WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

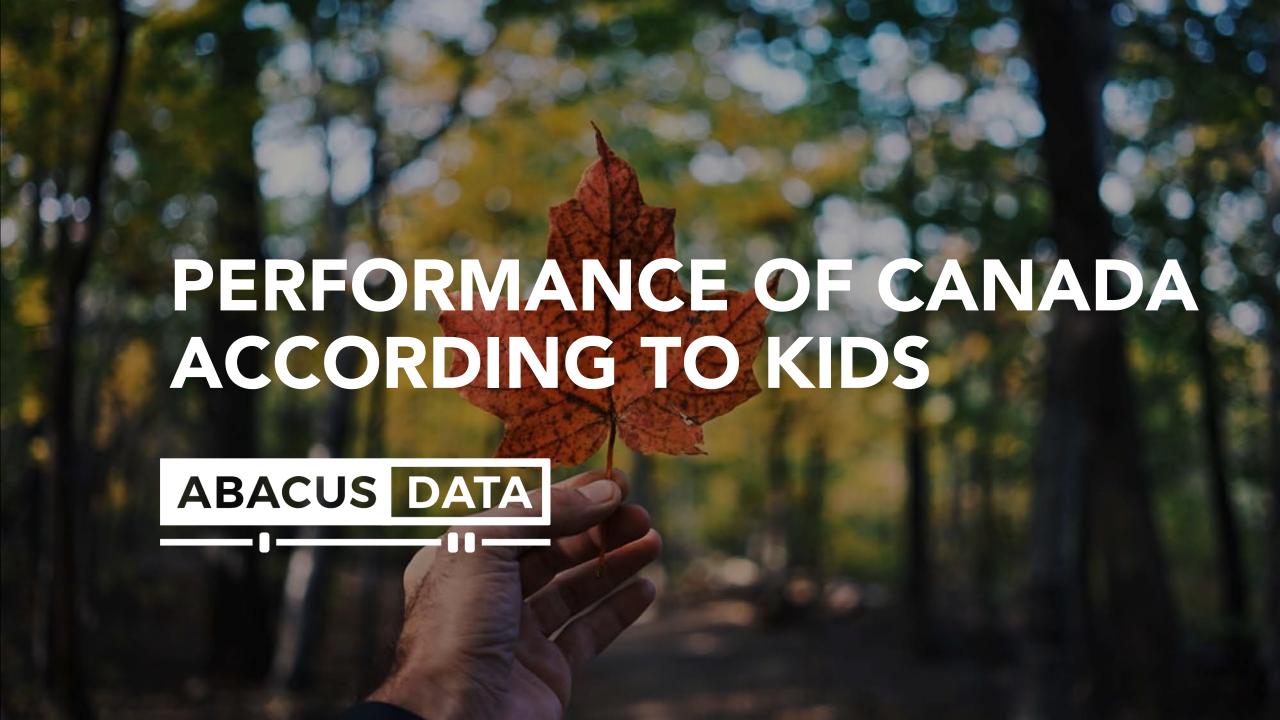




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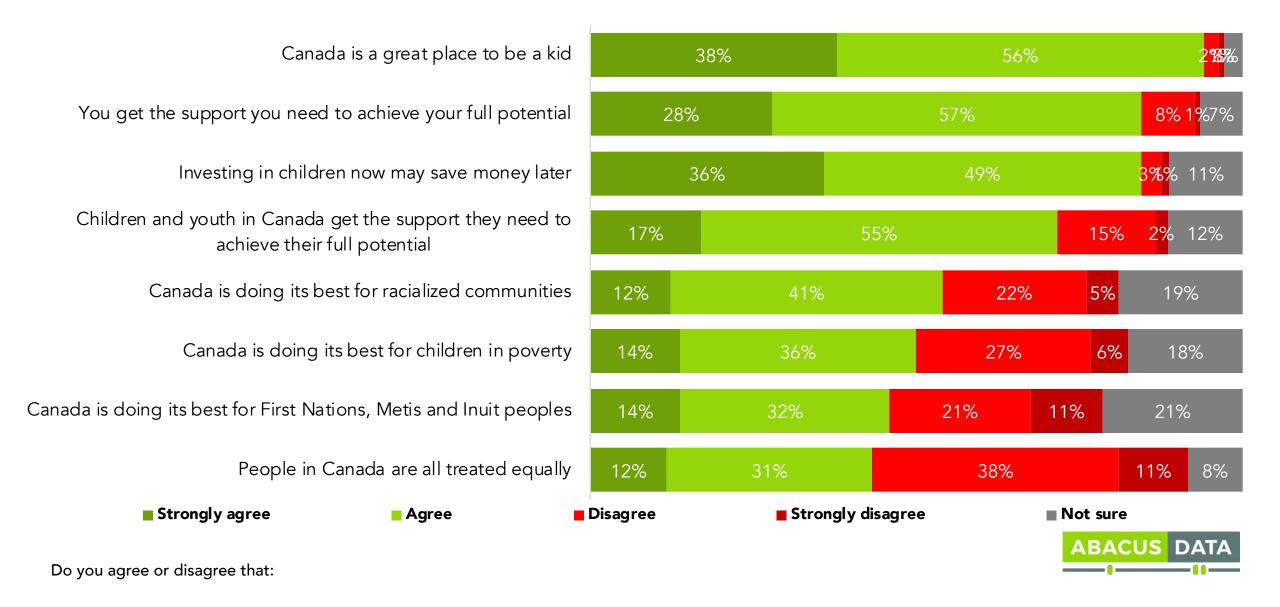


PERFORMANCE OF CANADA ACCORDING TO KIDS

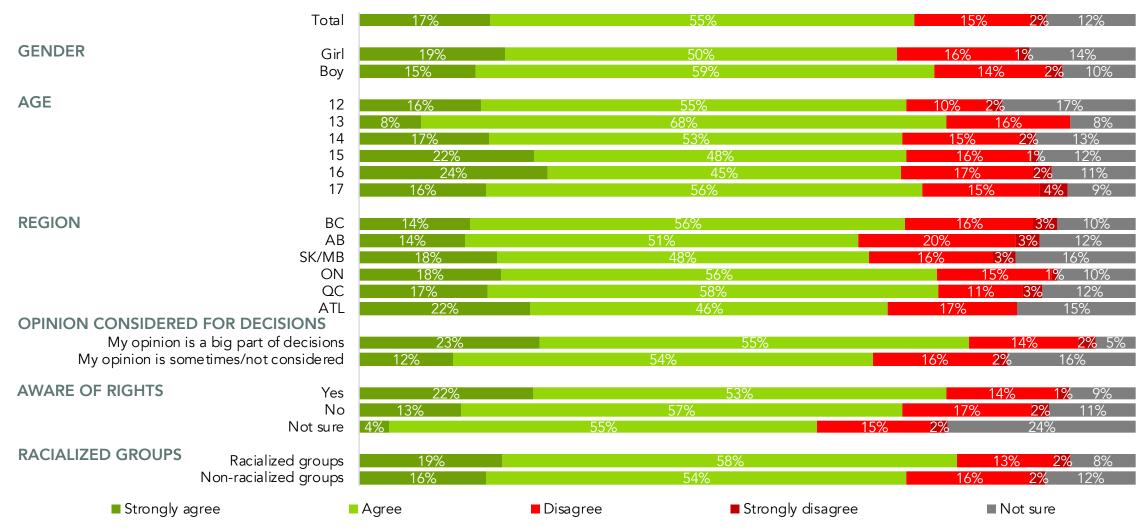
- Almost all kids agree that Canada is a great place to be a kid, kids gets what they need to reach their full potential, and investing in children now will save money later.
- There is less agreement when it comes to whether Canada is doing its best for racialized communities, children in poverty and First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples. In fact, 2 in 10 kids are unsure about these issues.
 - Those born outside of Canada view Canada's efforts more positively than others.
- There is more doubt about how equally people are treated in Canada. In fact kids are more likely to disagree (49%) than agree (43%) on this question.
- Kids who feel their opinion is considered when decisions are being made are more likely to have a positive outlook on how kids are being treated in Canada.



AGREE/DISAGREE STATEMENTS

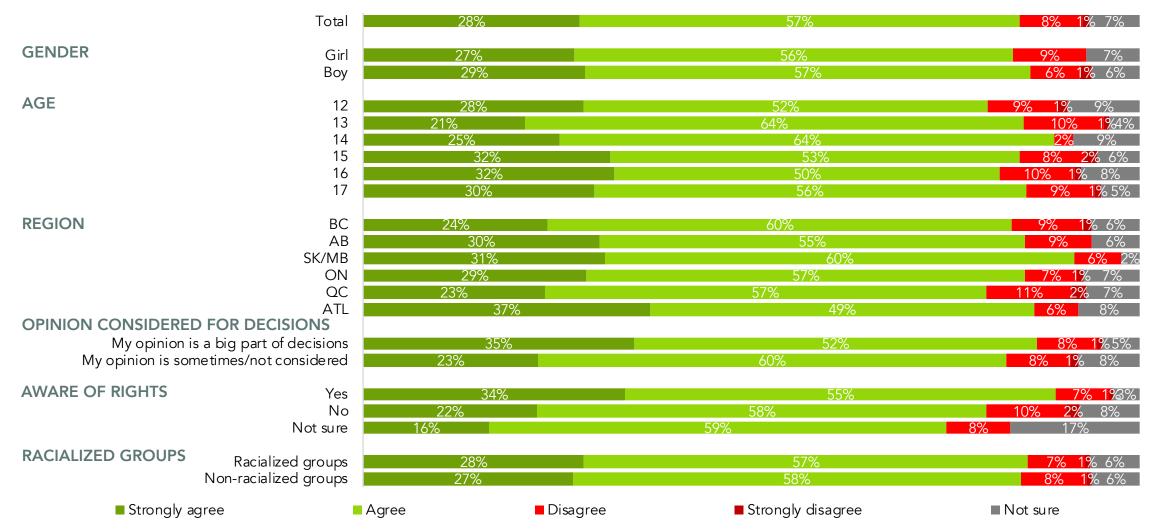


CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CANADA GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



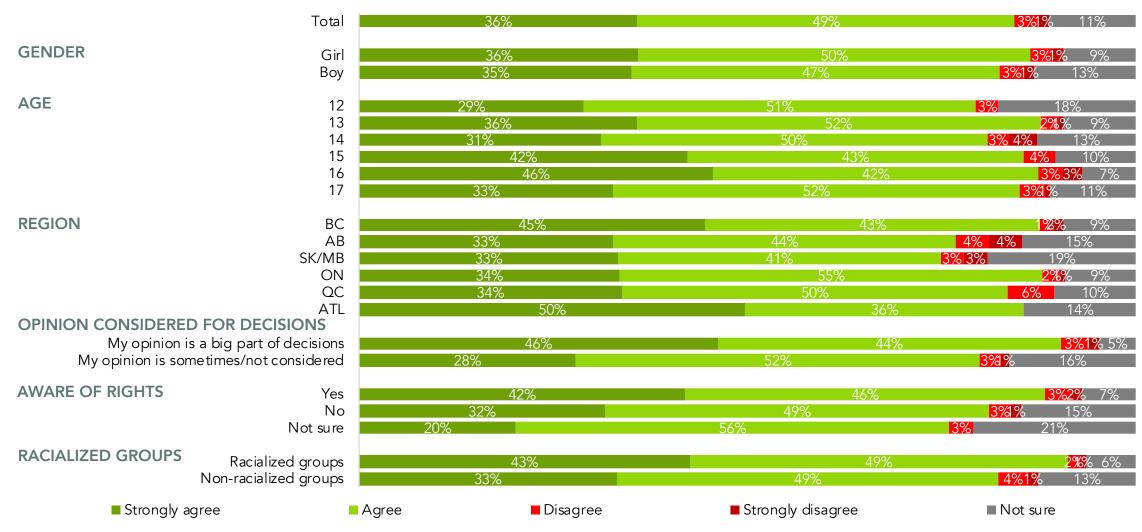


YOU GET THE SUPPORT YOU NEED TO ACHIEVE YOUR FULL POTENTIAL



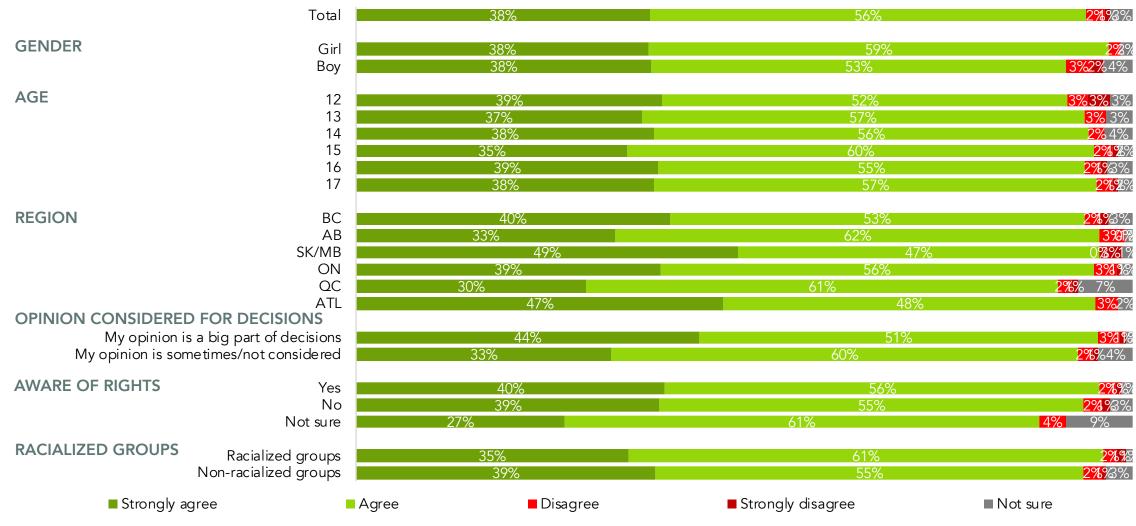


INVESTING IN CHILDREN NOW MAY SAVE MONEY LATER



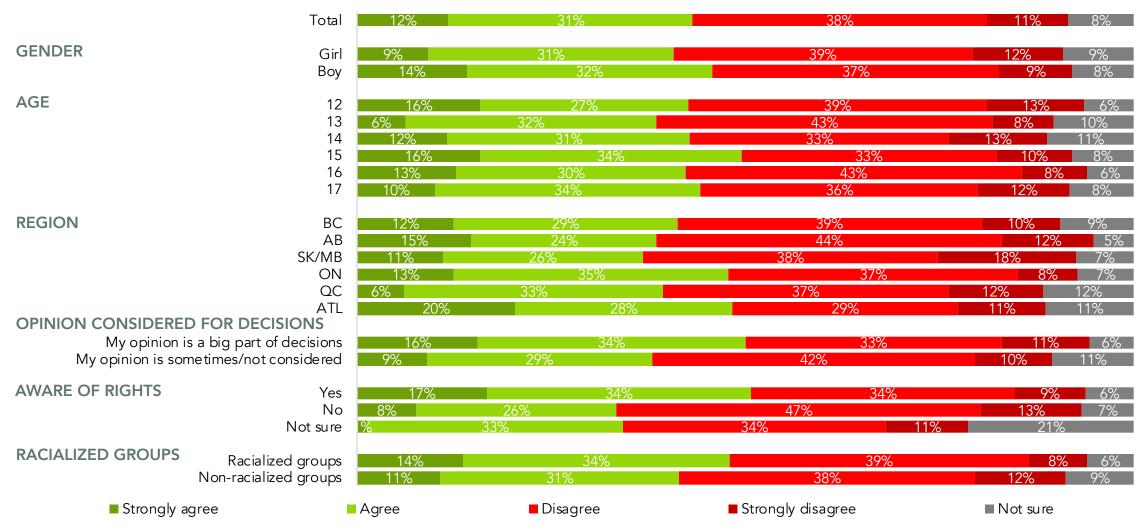


CANADA IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE A KID



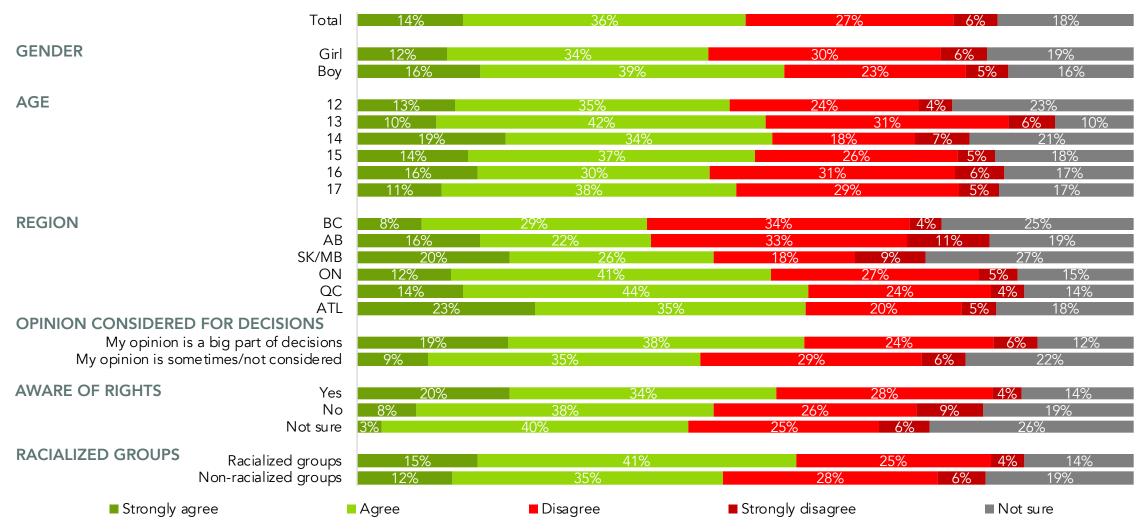


PEOPLE IN CANADA ARE ALL TREATED EQUALLY



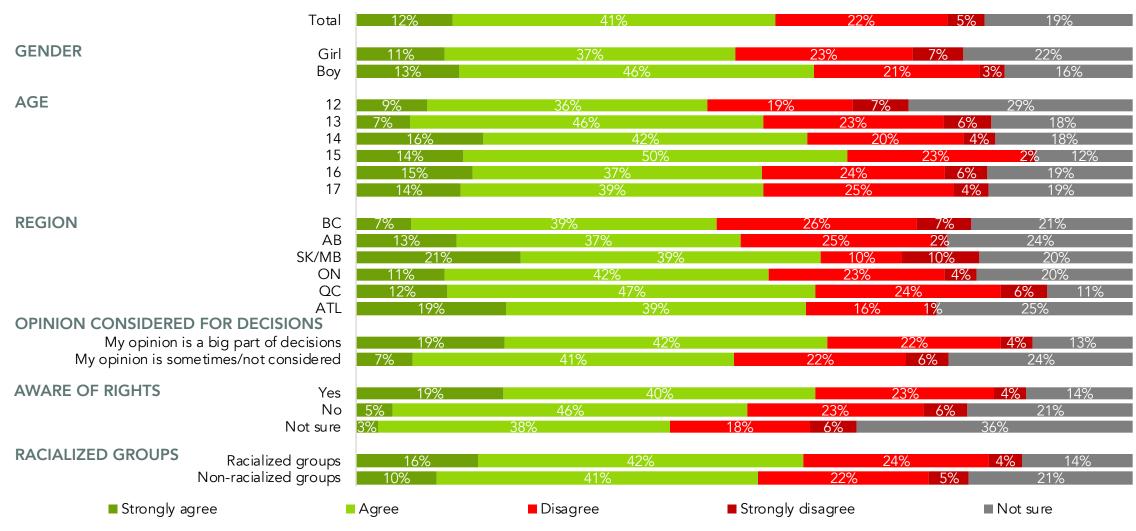


CANADA IS DOING ITS BEST FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY



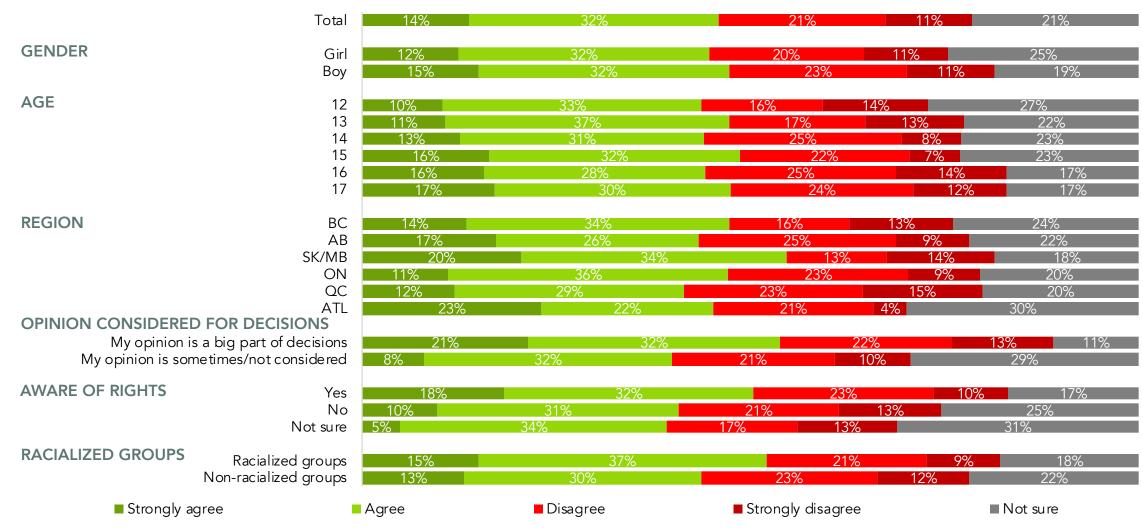


CANADA IS DOING ITS BEST FOR RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES

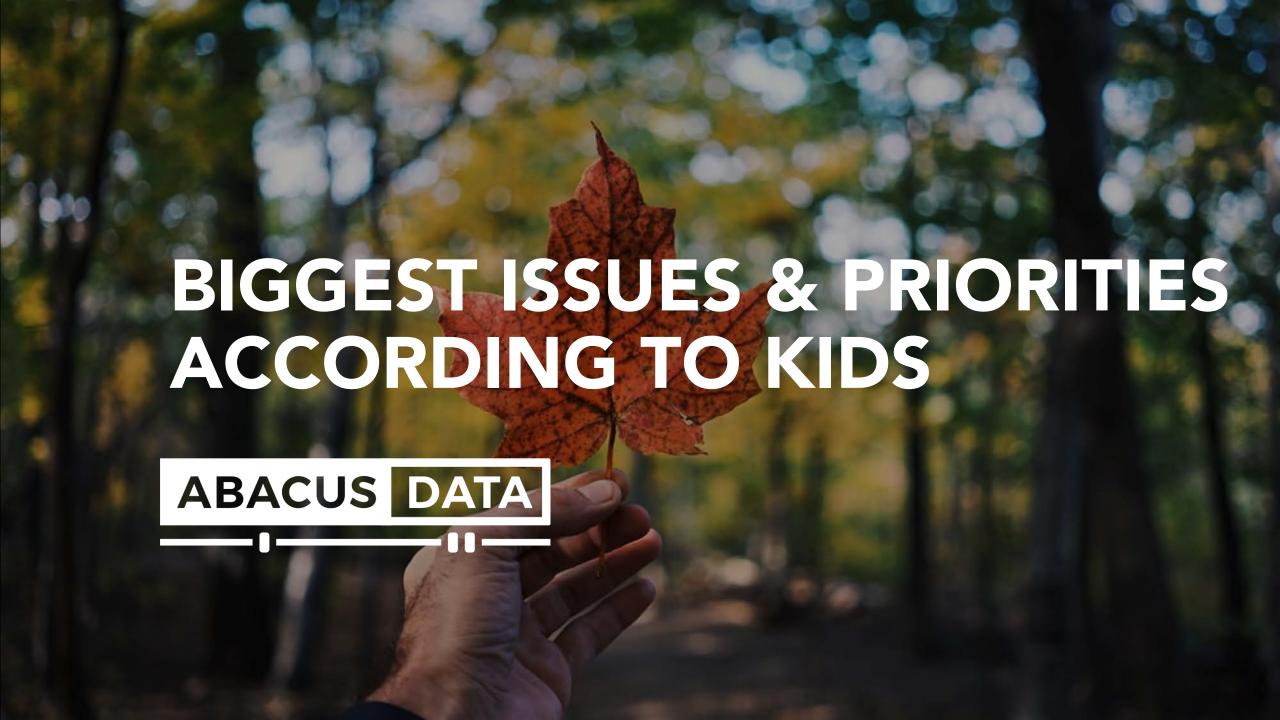




CANADA IS DOING ITS BEST FOR FIRST NATIONS, METIS AND INUIT PEOPLES



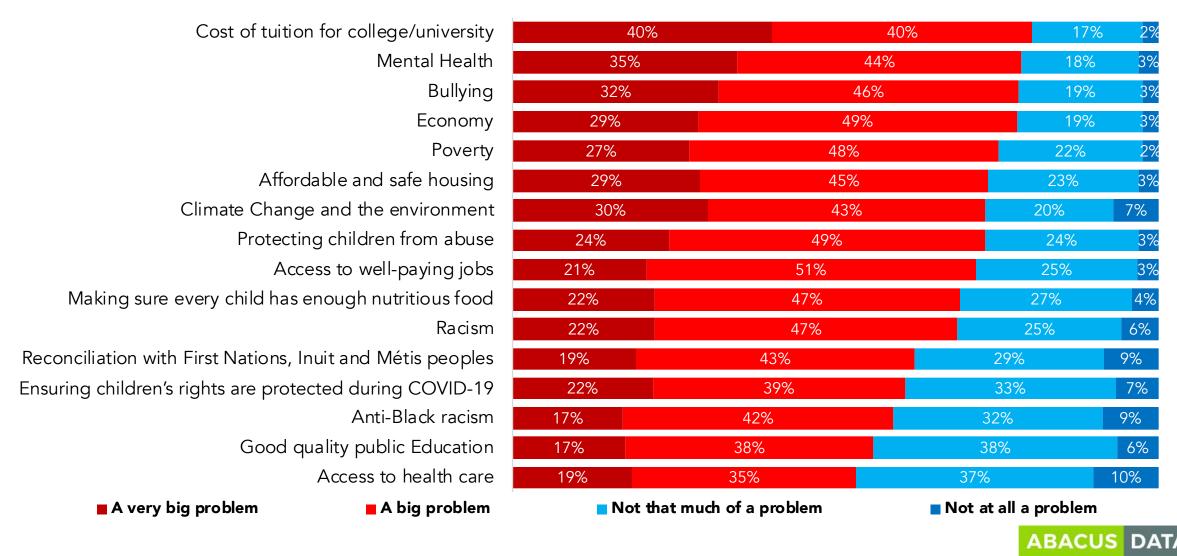




BIGGEST ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

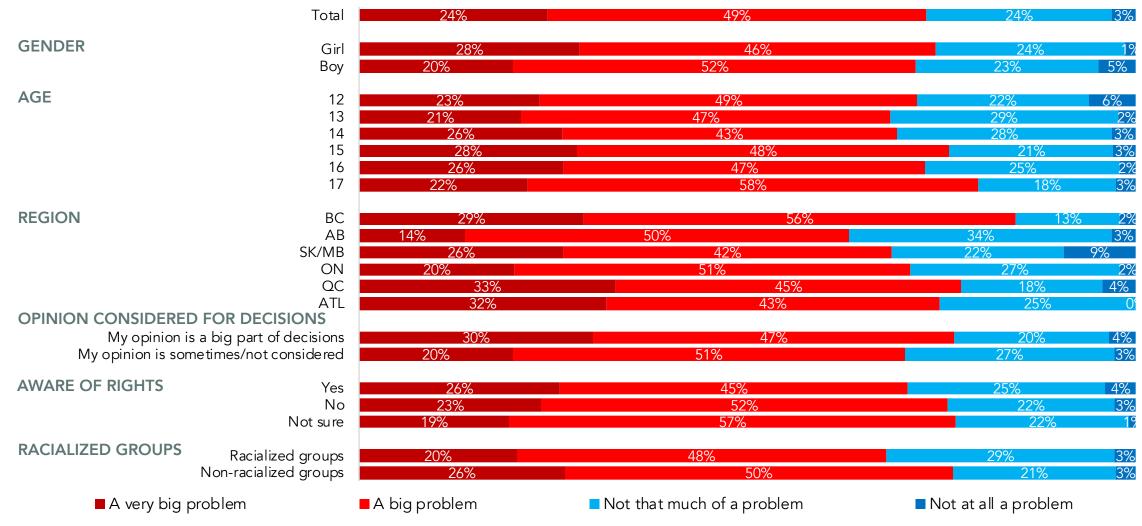
- The biggest problems in Canada according to kids revolve around affordability and mental health. Access to health care is the area that kids consider to be less of a problem. Relatively speaking issues that are directly about kids tend to be viewed as secondary problems. For example, 24% think protecting children from abuse is a big problem.
- In most cases, the biggest problems identified by kids line up with the importance they place in terms of priorities for those issues. One exception is protecting kids from abuse. This is not ranked as a big problem in Canada but it is ranked as most important among all priorities listed.
- Kids select mental health as one of the biggest problems in their school, community and in the country, and feel that this issue is the most important to be tackled. In schools, bullying and mental health are considered the top 2 problems.





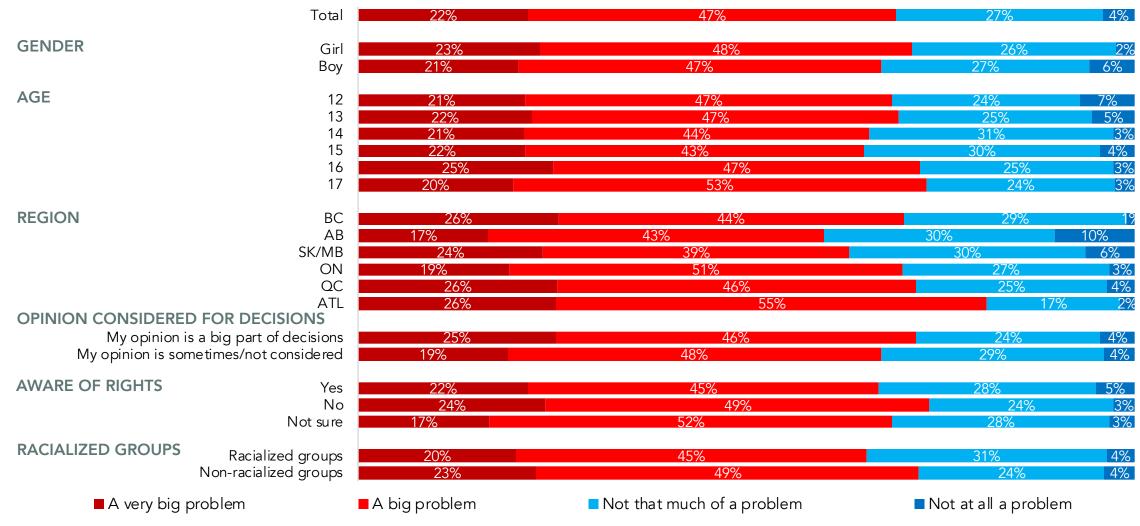
How big of a problem do you think these are in Canada?

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE



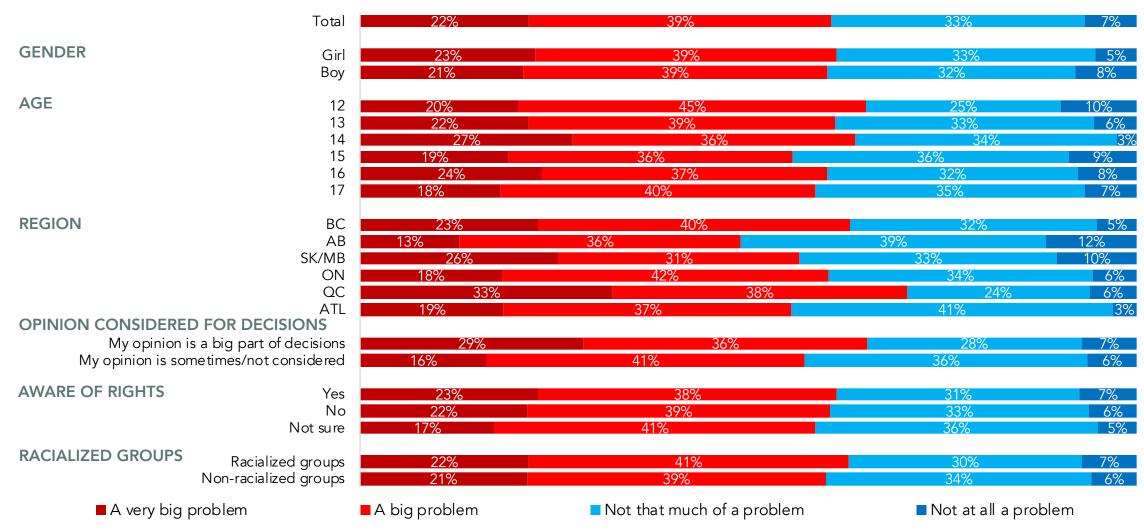


MAKING SURE EVERY CHILD HAS ENOUGH NUTRITIOUS FOOD

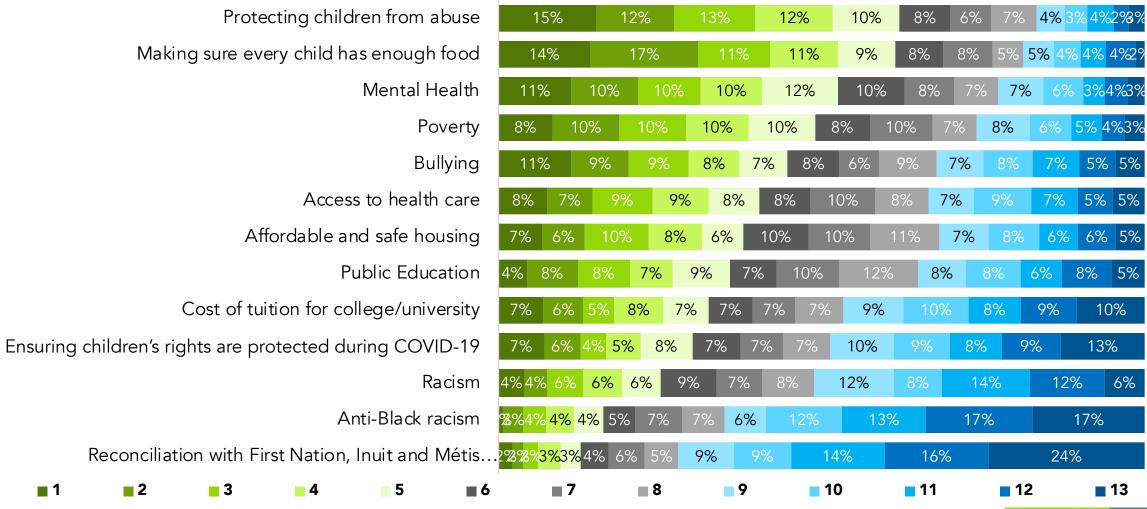




ENSURING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED DURING COVID-19

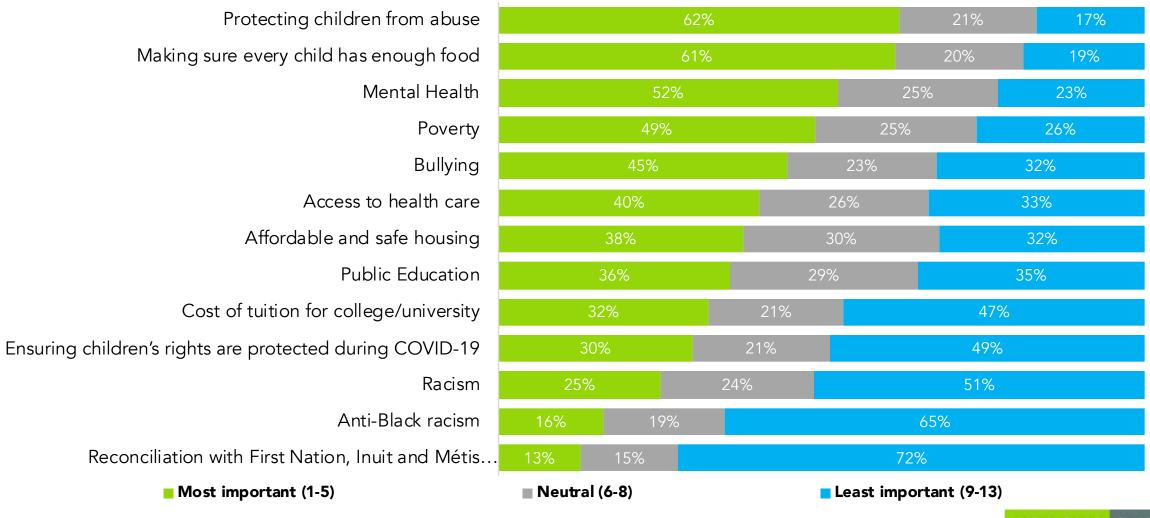






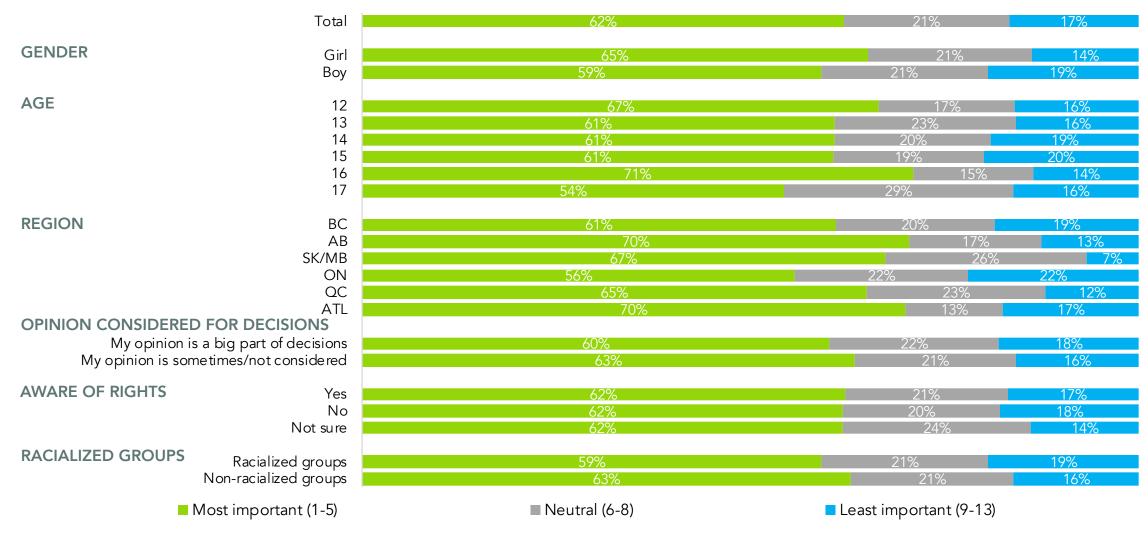


IMPORTANCE OF PRIORITIES ACCORDING TO KIDS COMBINED GROUPS



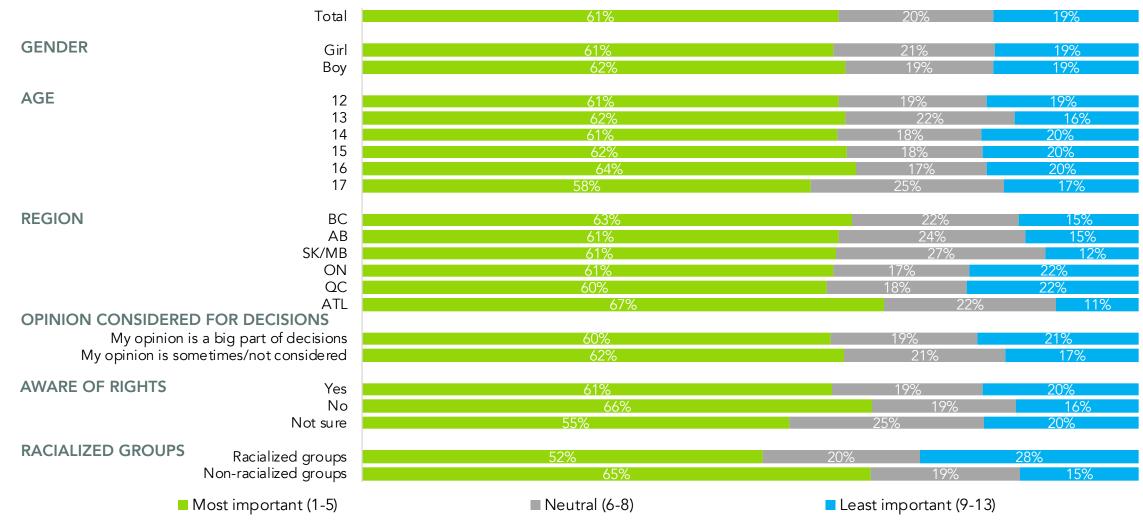


PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE



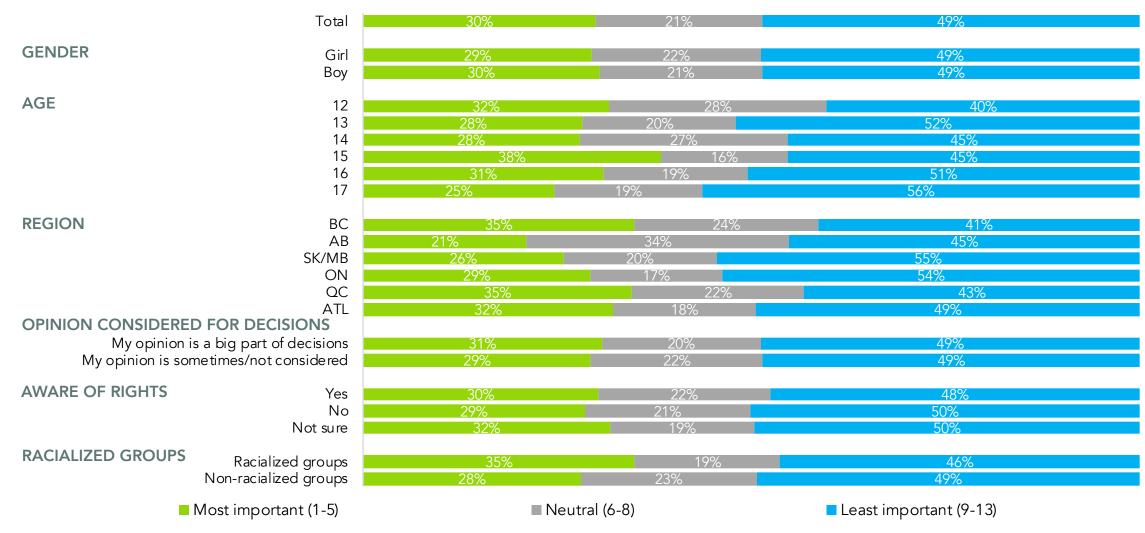


MAKING SURE EVERY CHILD HAS ENOUGH FOOD



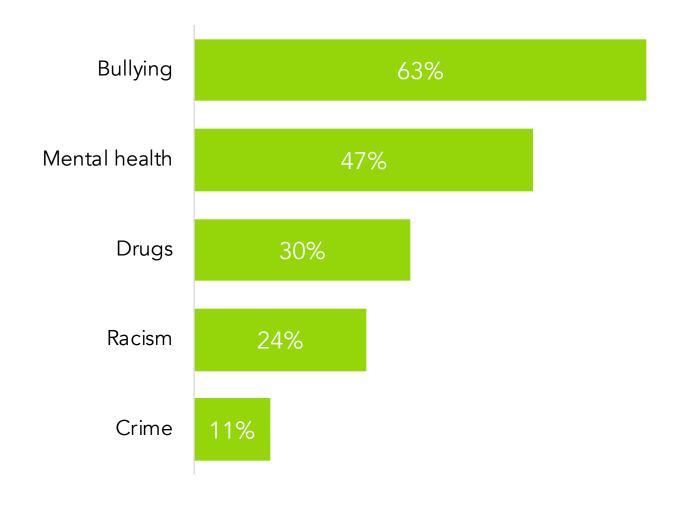


ENSURING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED DURING COVID-19



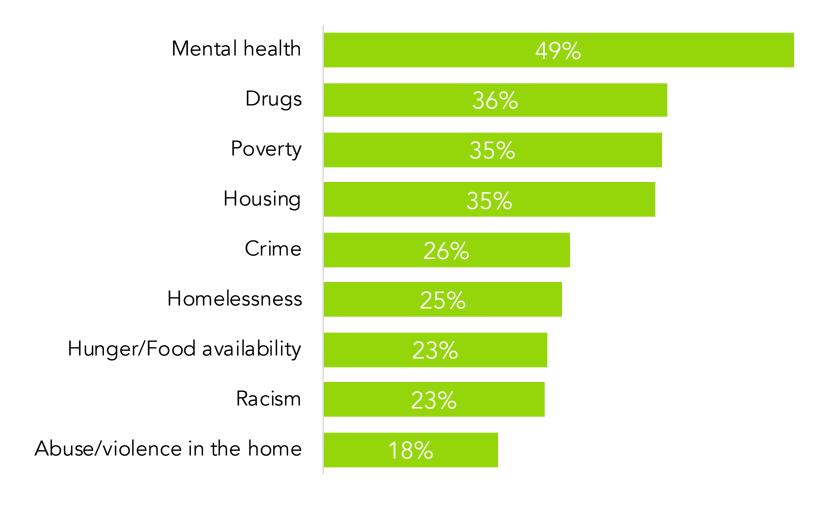


BIGGEST ISSUES IN CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS



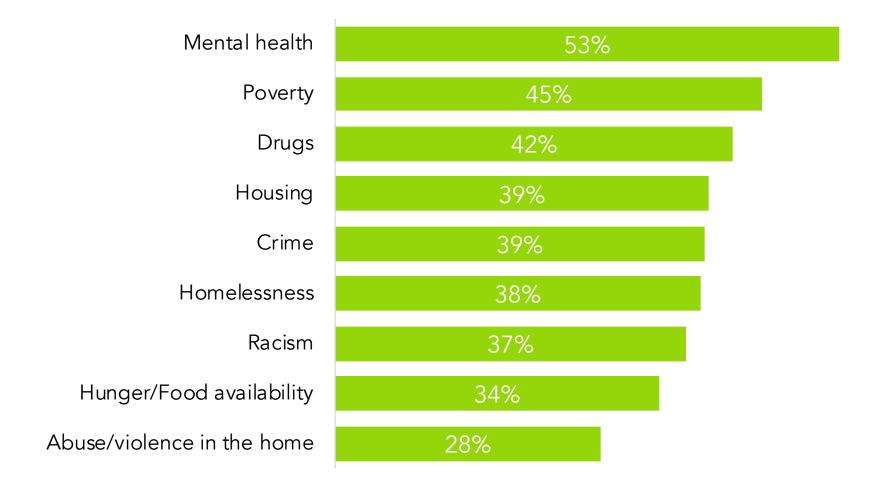


BIGGEST ISSUES IN CHILDREN'S COMMUNITIES



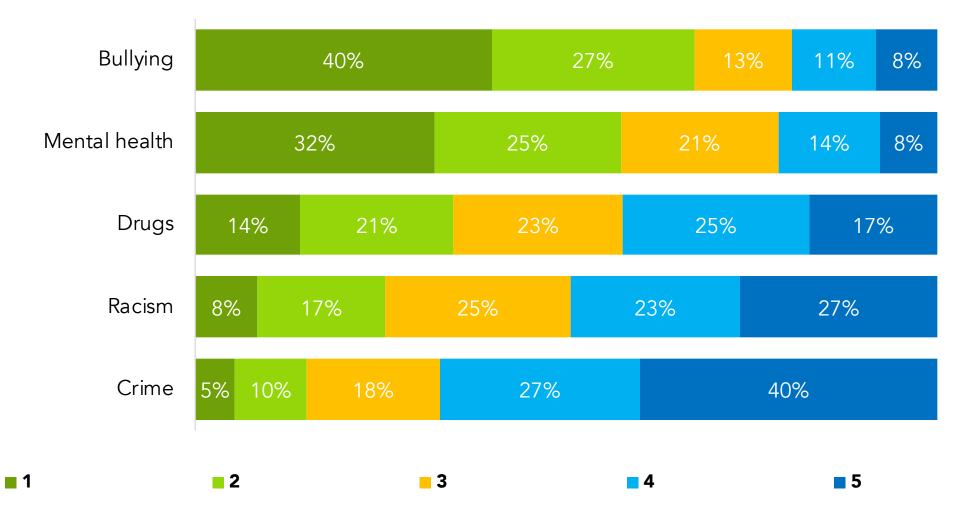


BIGGEST ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY



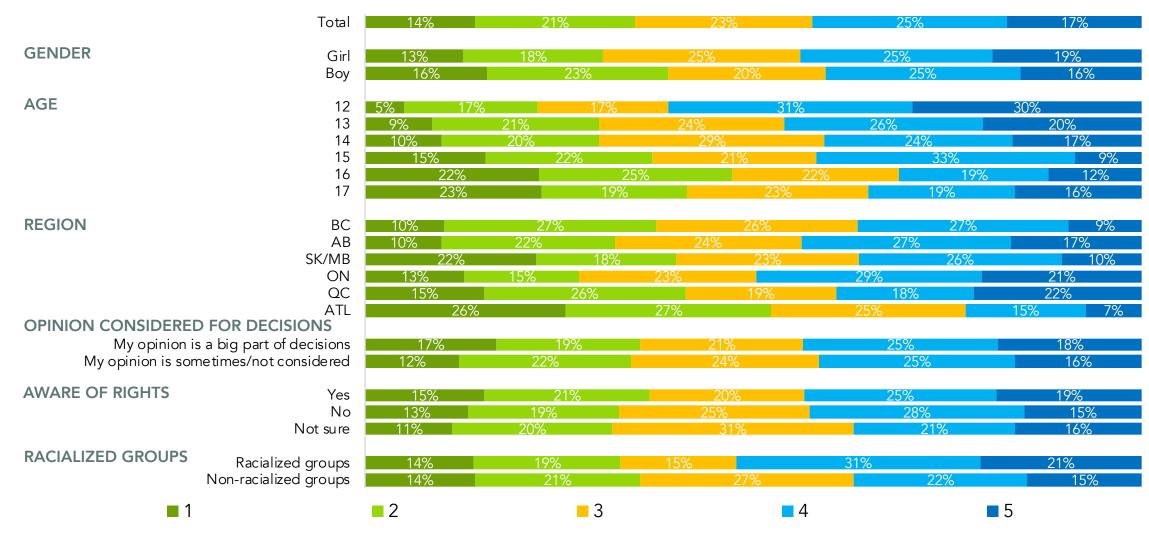


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN SCHOOL



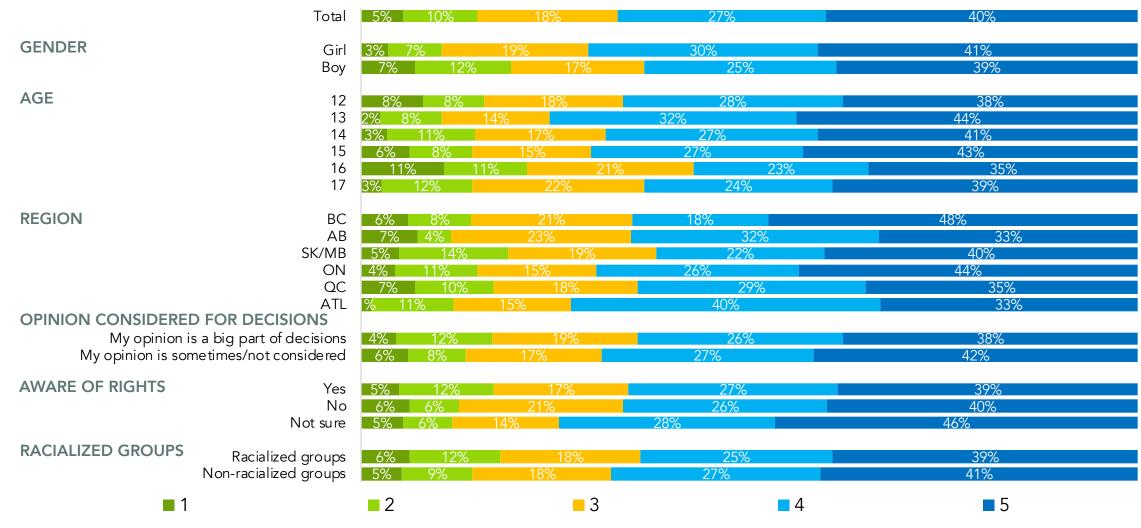


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN SCHOOL DRUGS



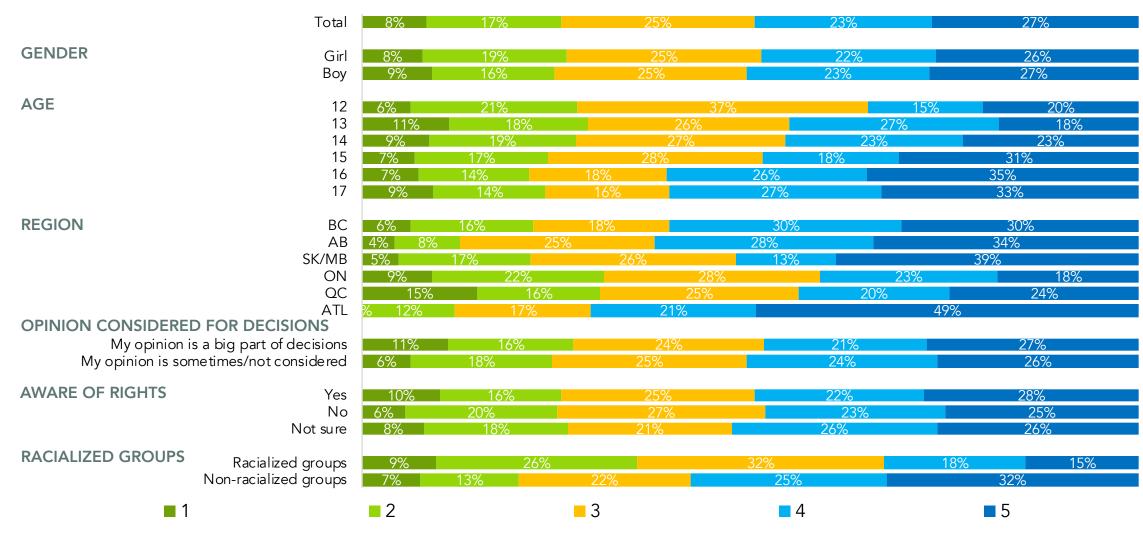


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN <u>SCHOOL</u>





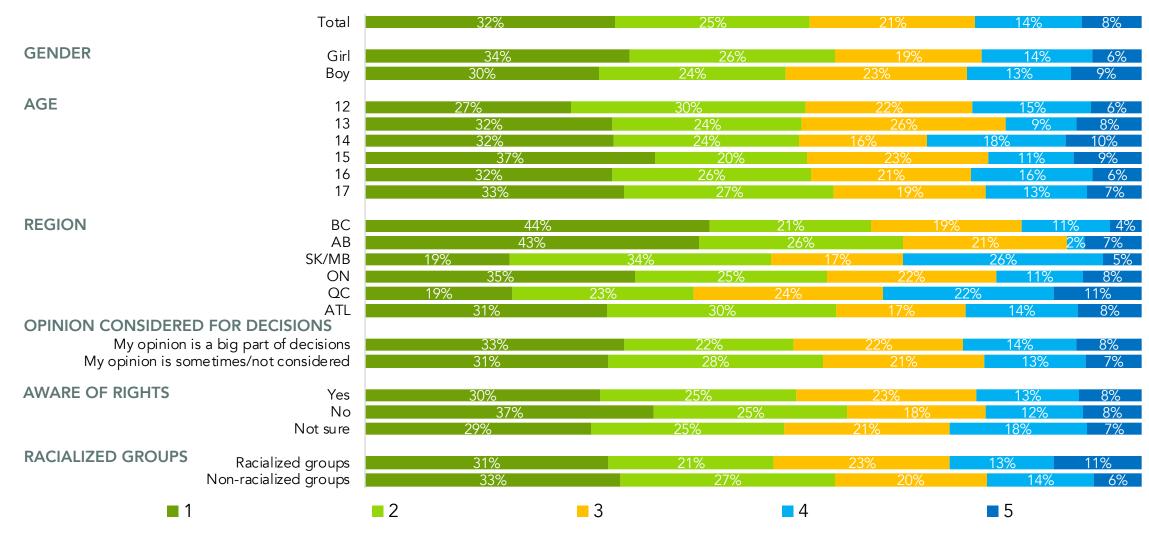
MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN SCHOOL RACISM





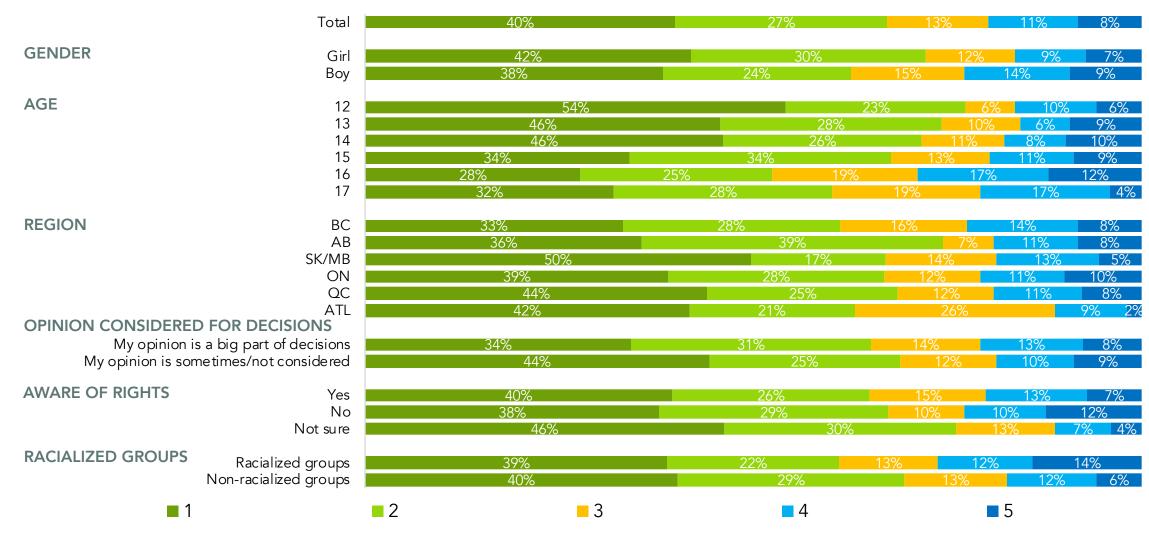
MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN <u>SCHOOL</u>

MENTAL HEALTH



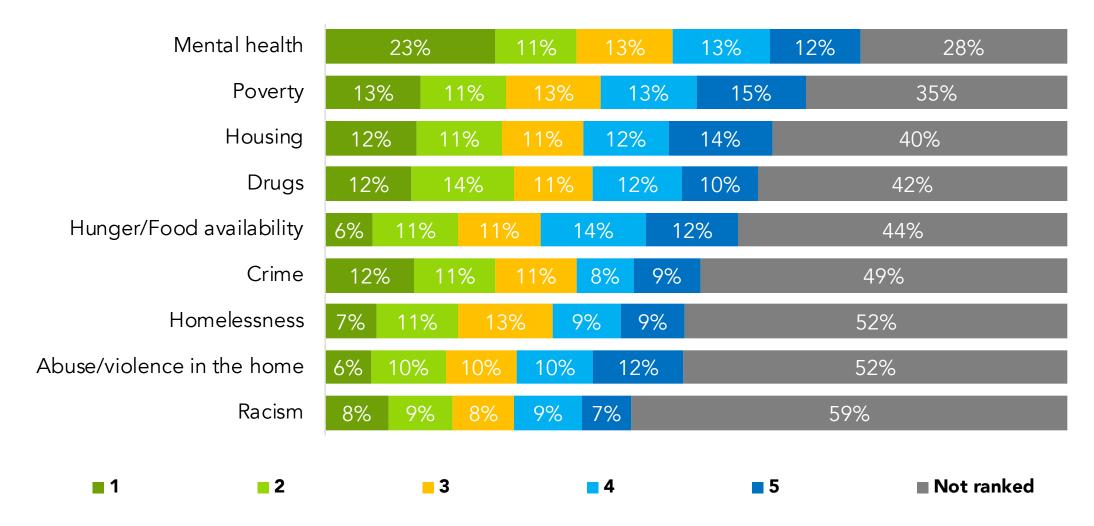


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN SCHOOL BULLYING



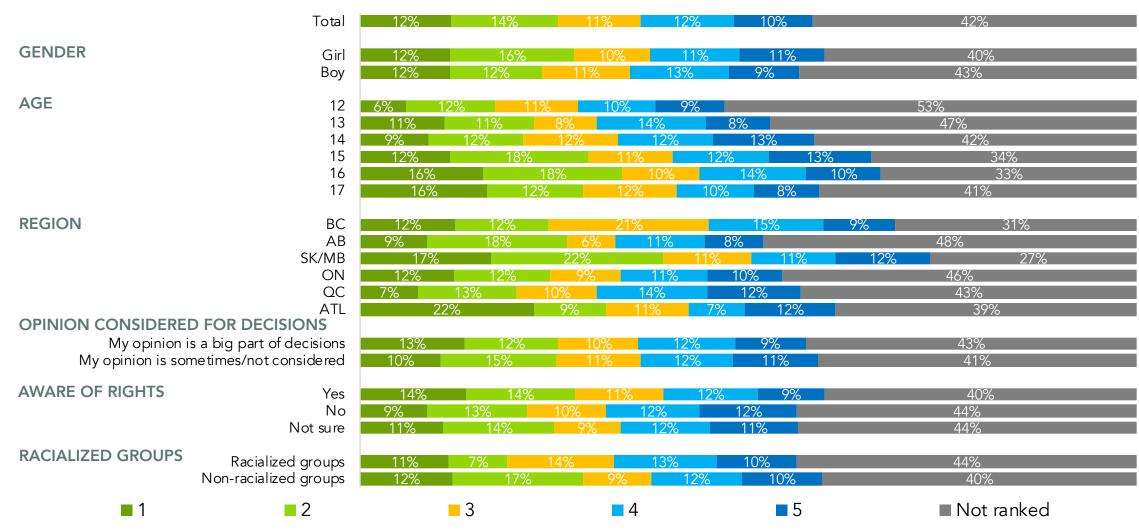


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES



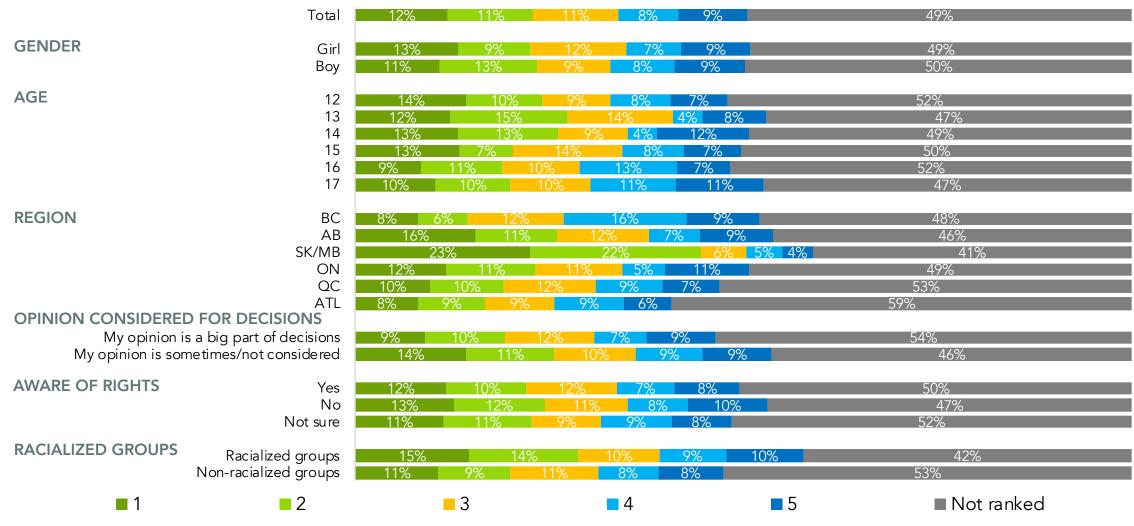


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES DRUGS



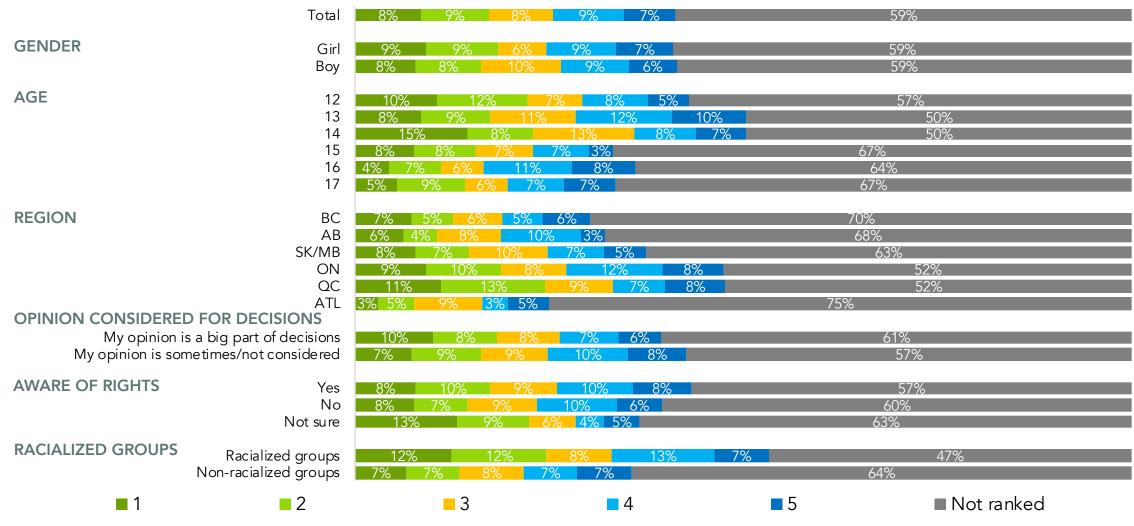


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES





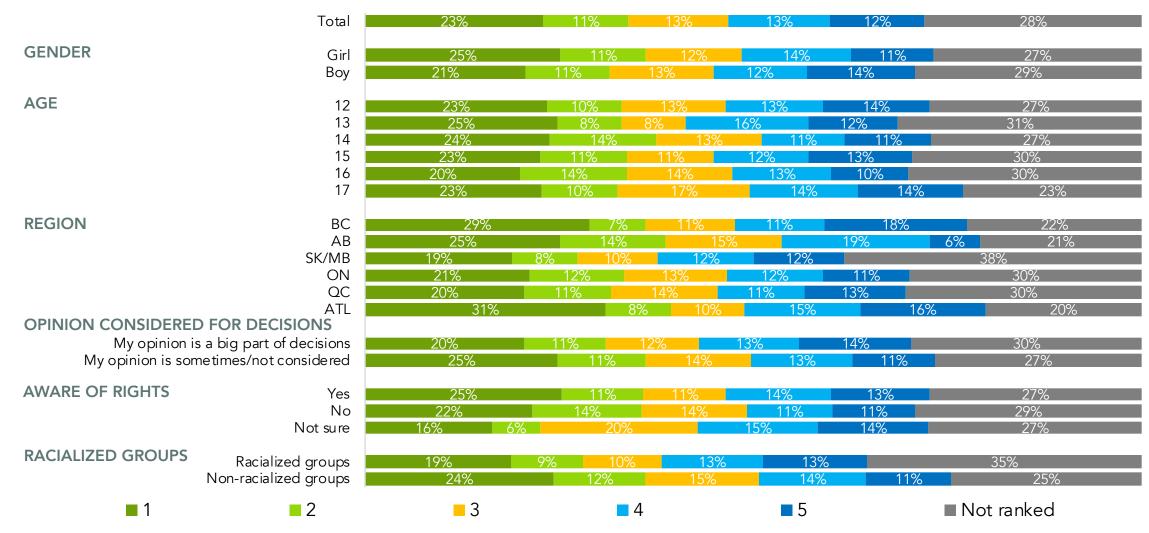
MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES RACISM





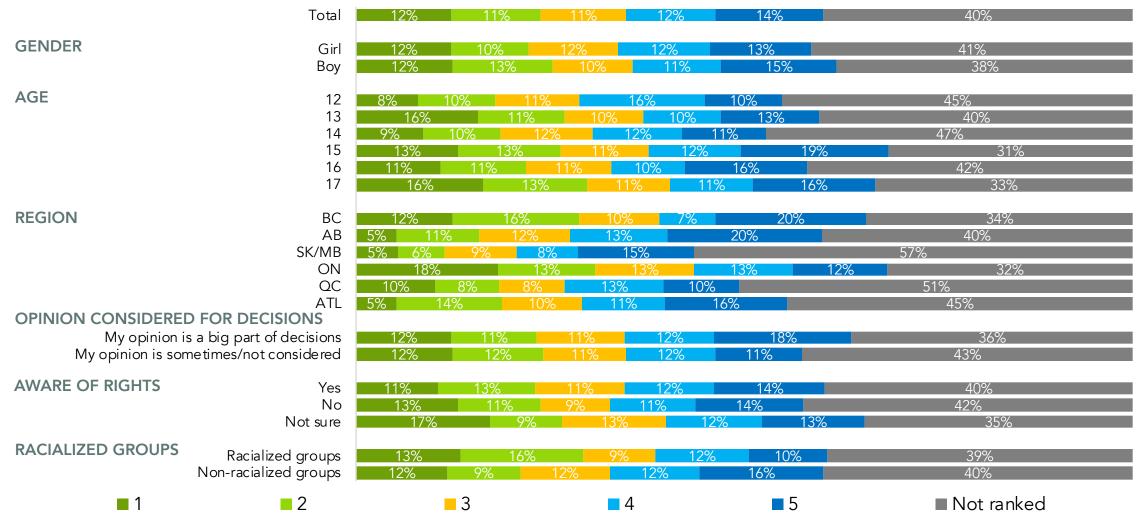
MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES

MENTAL HEALTH



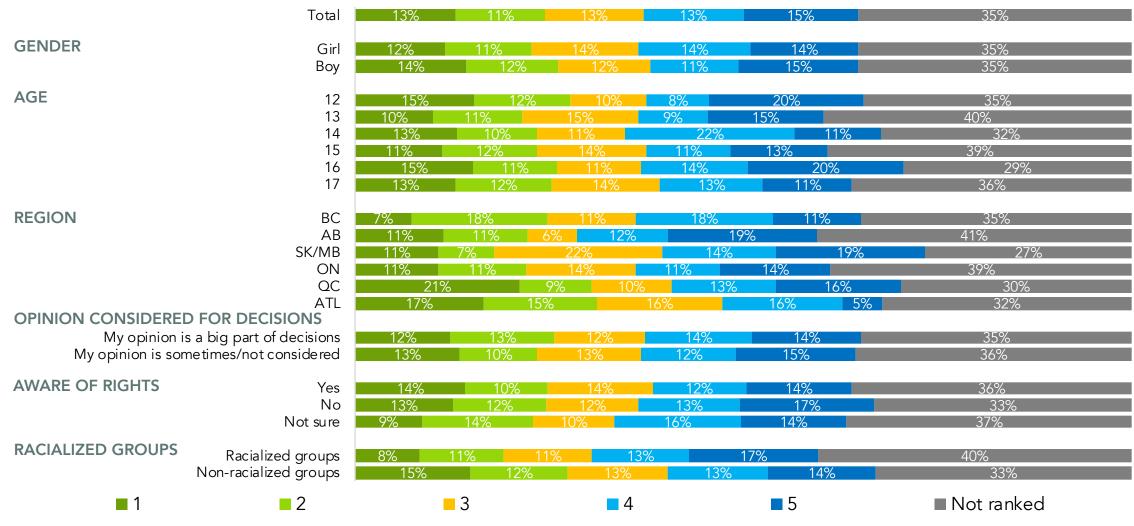


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES HOUSING





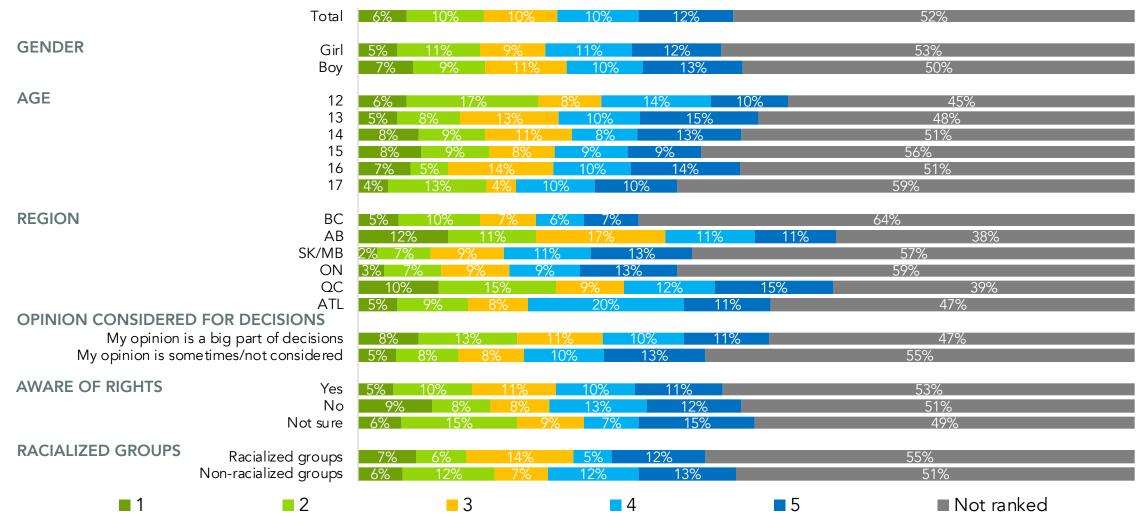
MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES POVERTY





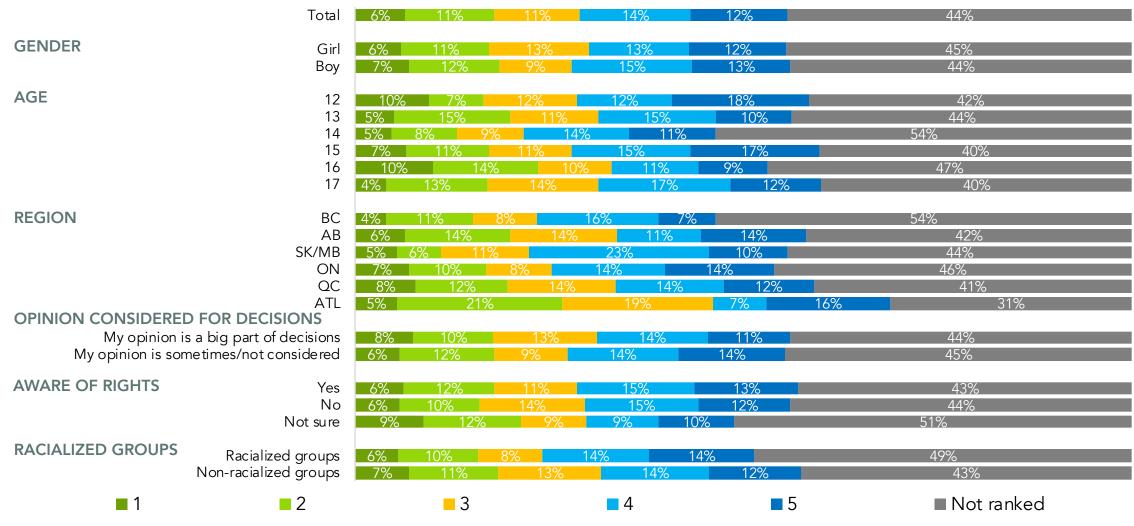
MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES

ABUSE/VIOLENCE IN THE HOME





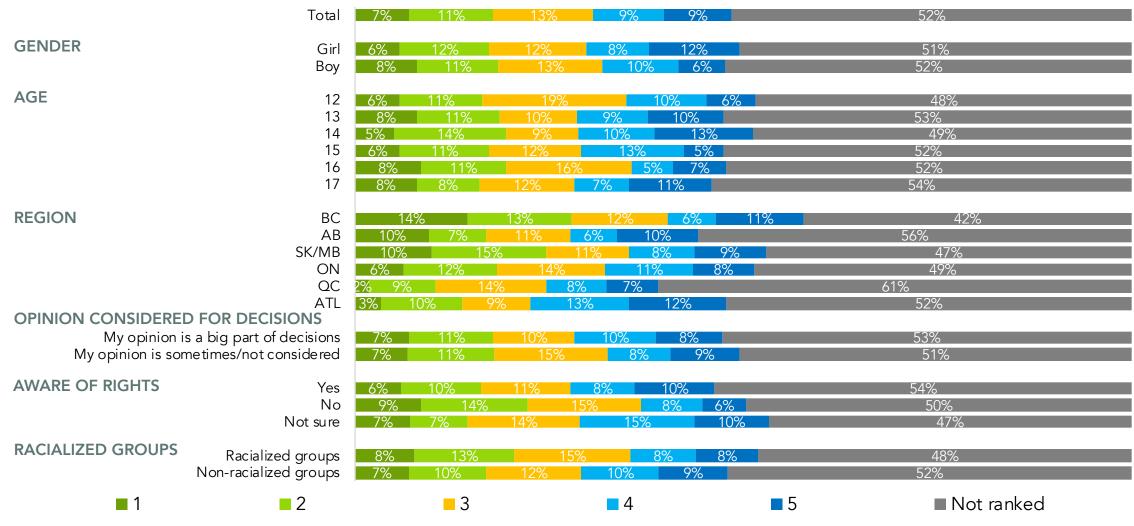
MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN COMMUNITIES HUNGER





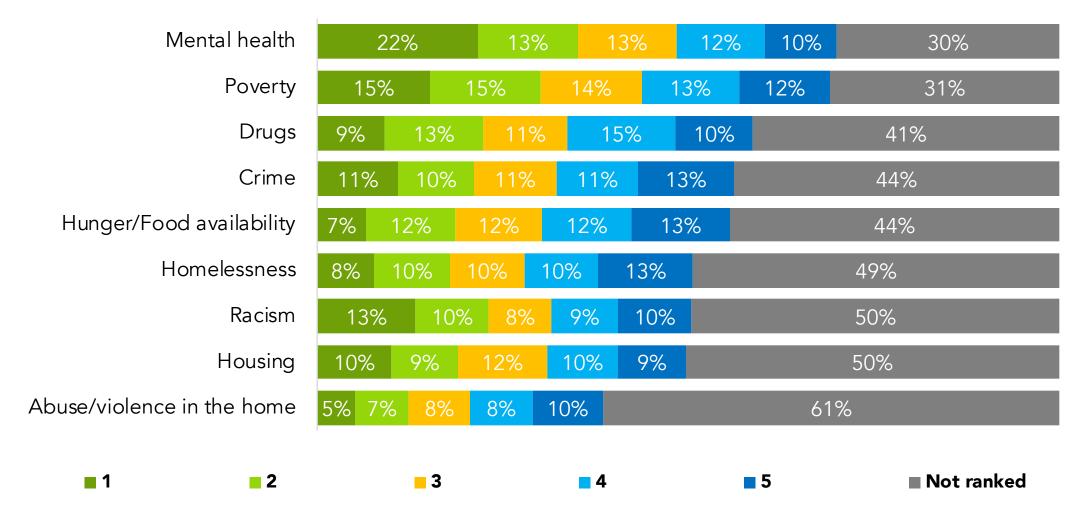
MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN <u>COMMUNITIES</u>

HOMELESSNESS



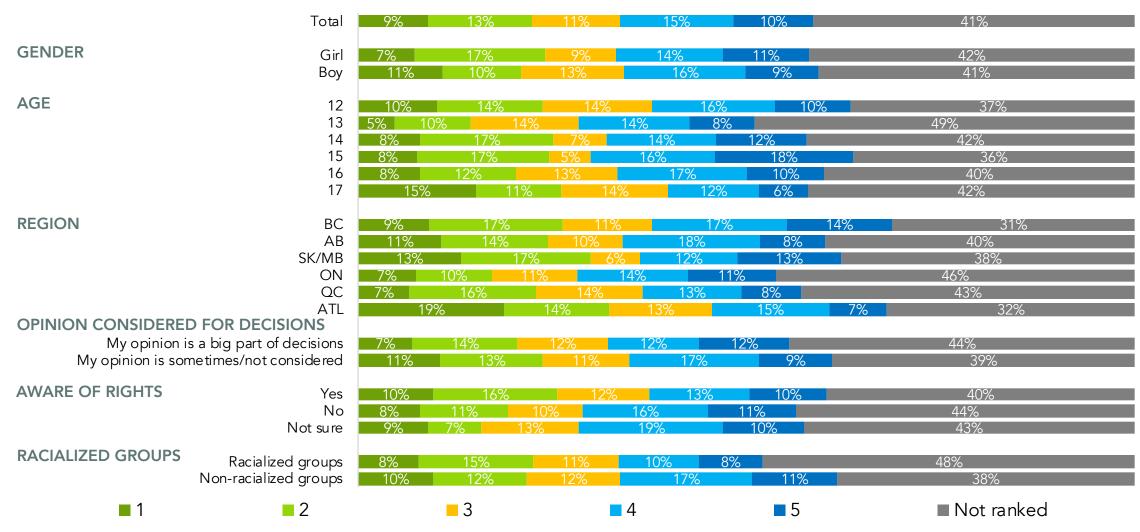


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN THE COUNTRY



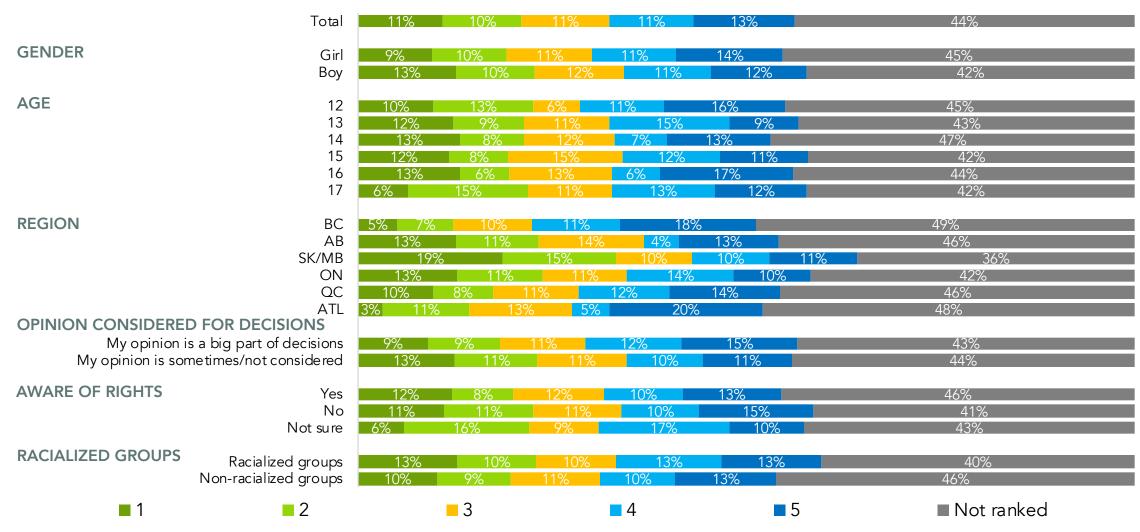


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN THE COUNTRY DRUGS



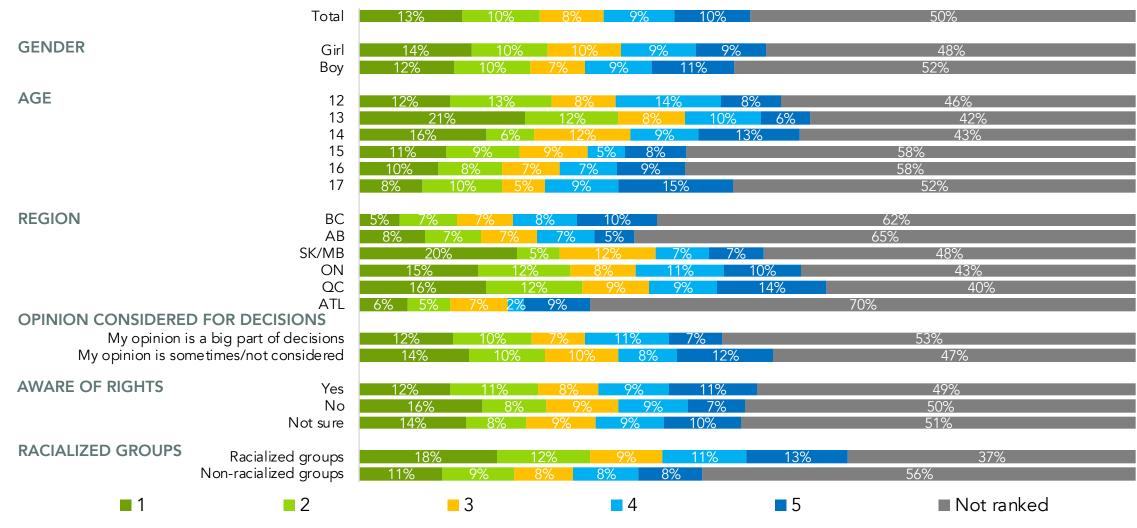


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN THE COUNTRY



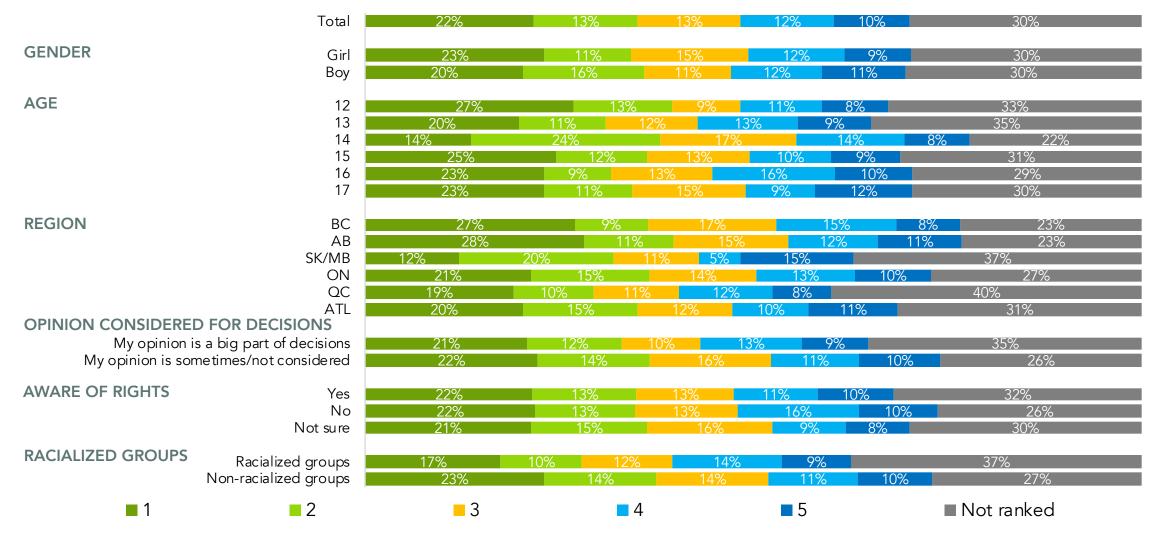


MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO TACKLE IN THE COUNTRY

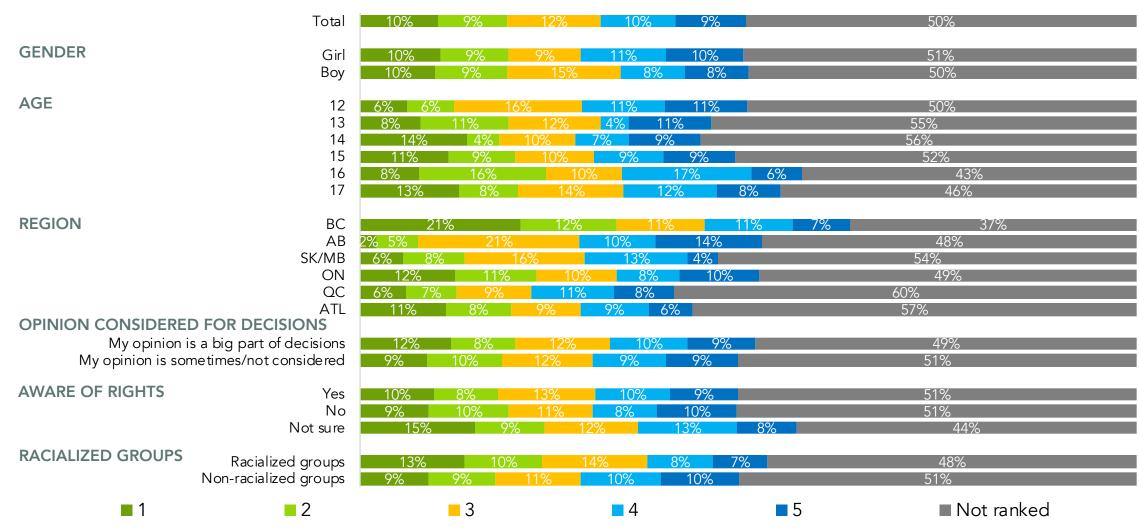




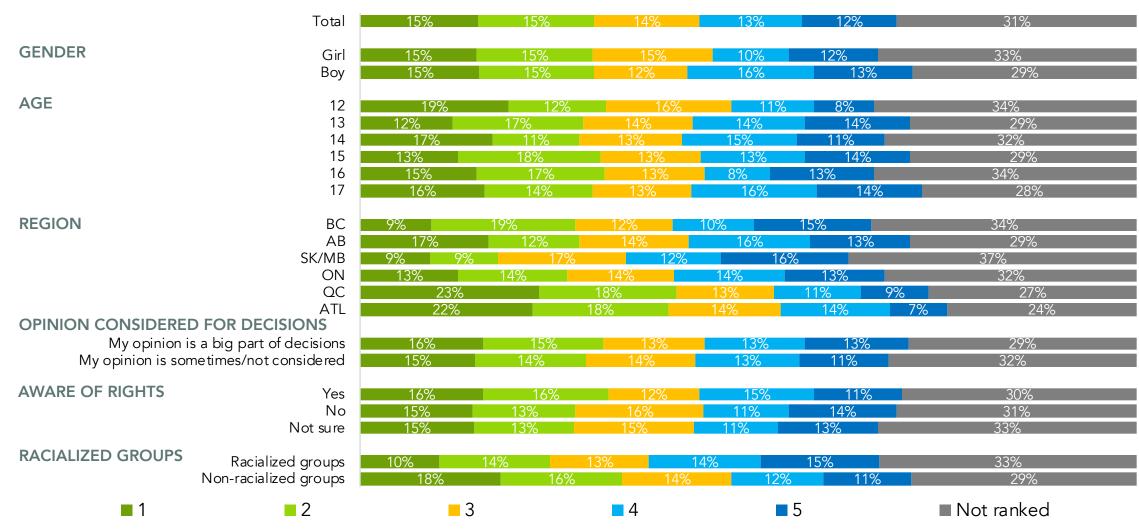
MENTAL HEALTH





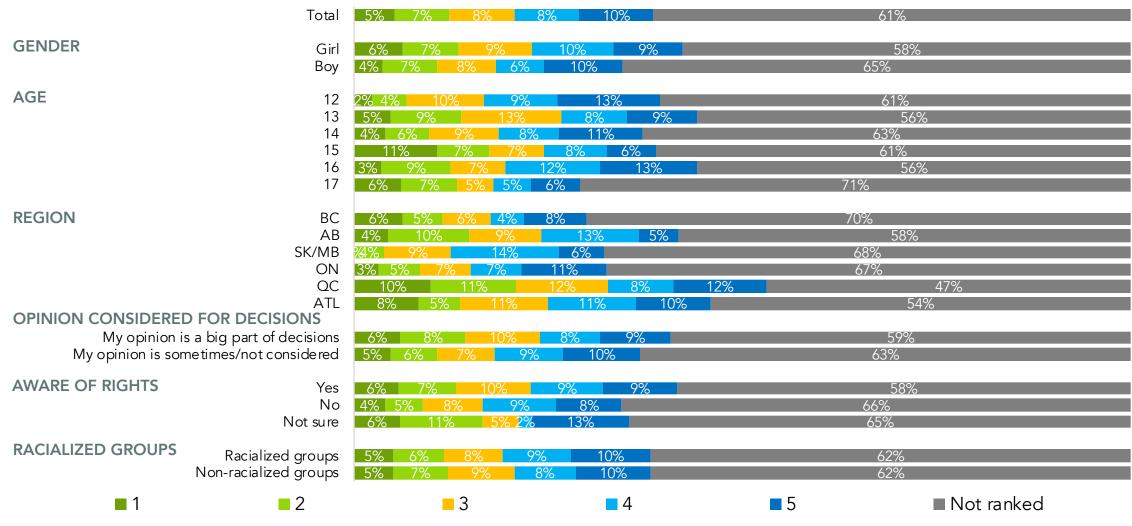






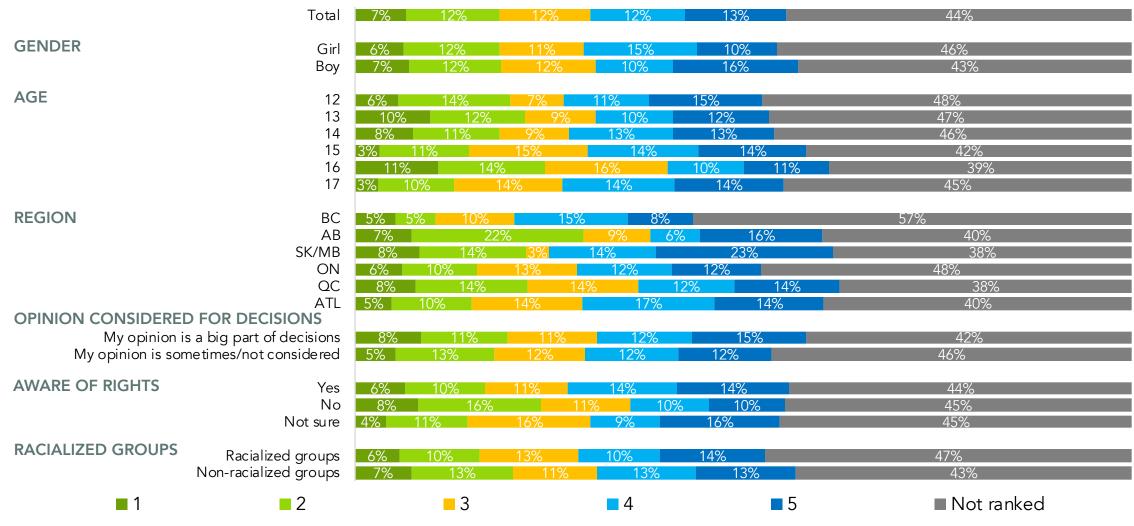


ABUSE/VIOLENCE IN THE HOME



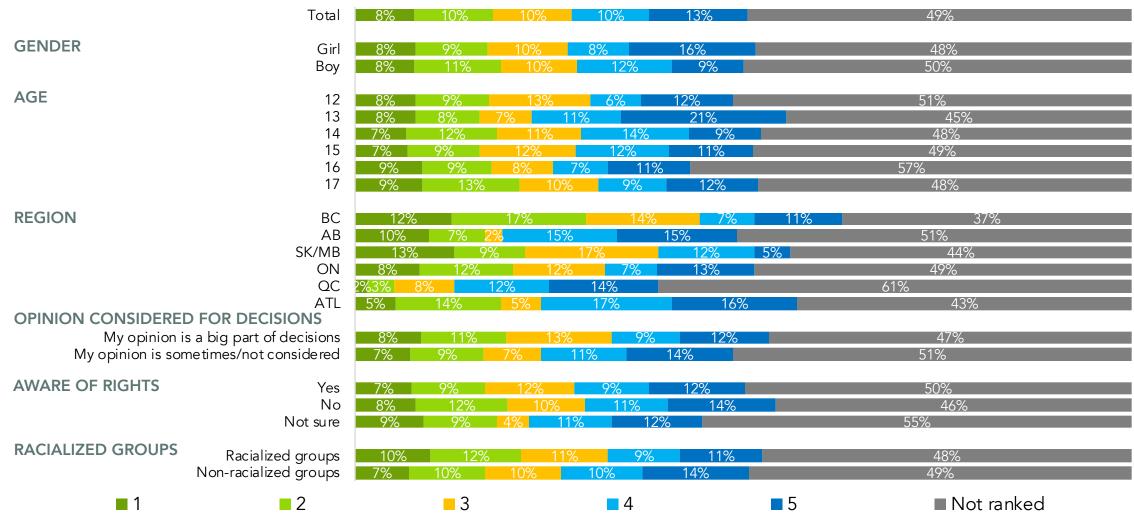


HUNGER/FOOD AVAILABILITY





HOMELESSNESS





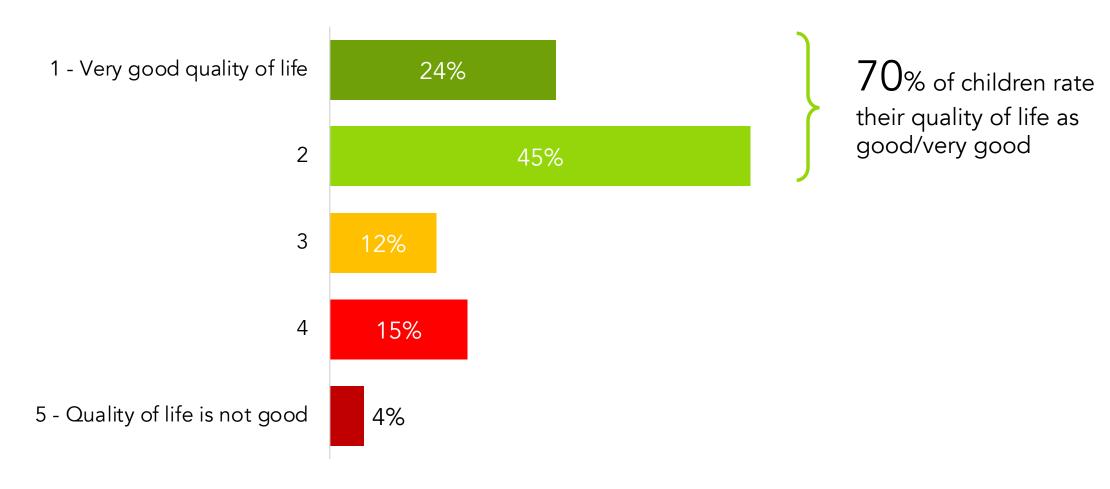


HAPPINESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Most kids rate their quality of life positively (70% as good/very good) but there are about 1 in 5 who rate it poorly. Notably, those born outside of Canada and those living in Quebec are less positive.
- When it comes to the different aspects of life, kids are happiest about their life at home, their friends and their mental health. There is less overall happiness with education and school.
- Nine in ten kids are at least somewhat hopeful about life. Those who feel
 their opinions have a big impact on decisions that affect them are more likely
 to feel hopeful than those who think their opinions only sometimes or never
 have an impact.
- Seven in 10 are somewhat or very happy with their mental health but even more kids feel that they are at least somewhat supported (92%) in their mental health.

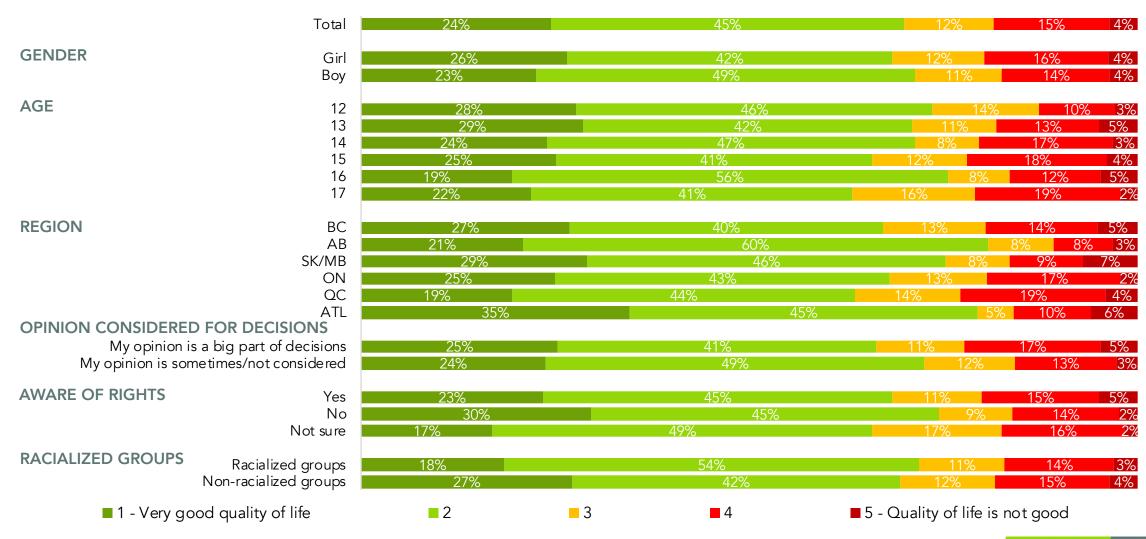


7 IN 10 RATE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE AS VERY GOOD/GOOD



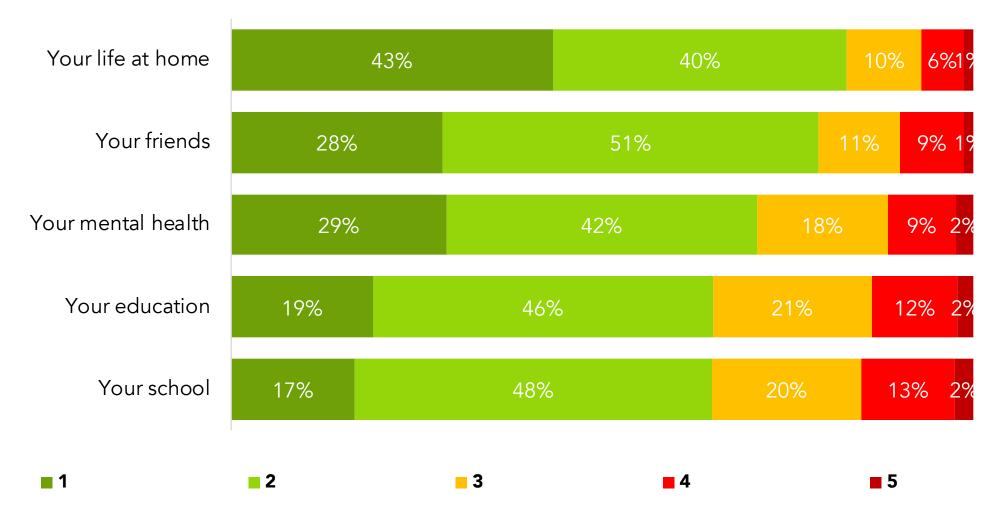


7 IN 10 RATE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE AS VERY GOOD/GOOD



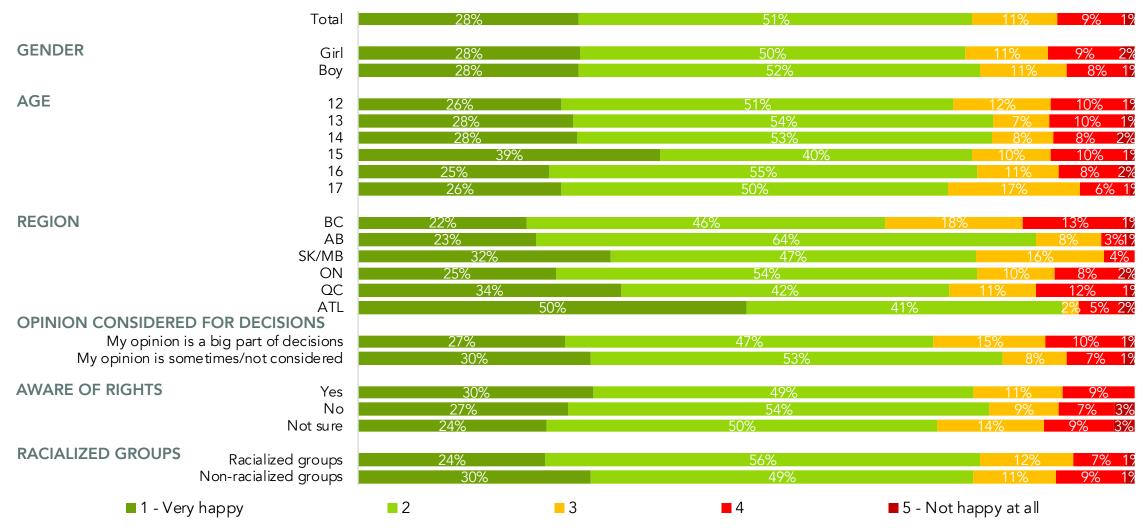


KID'S HAPPINESS IN AREAS OF LIFE



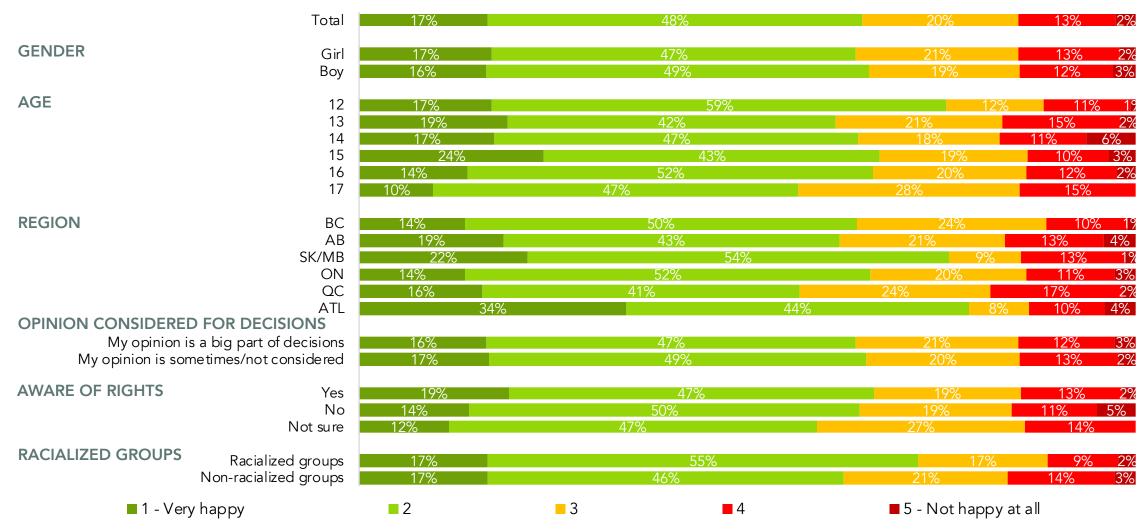


KID'S HAPPINESS IN AREAS OF LIFE - FRIENDS



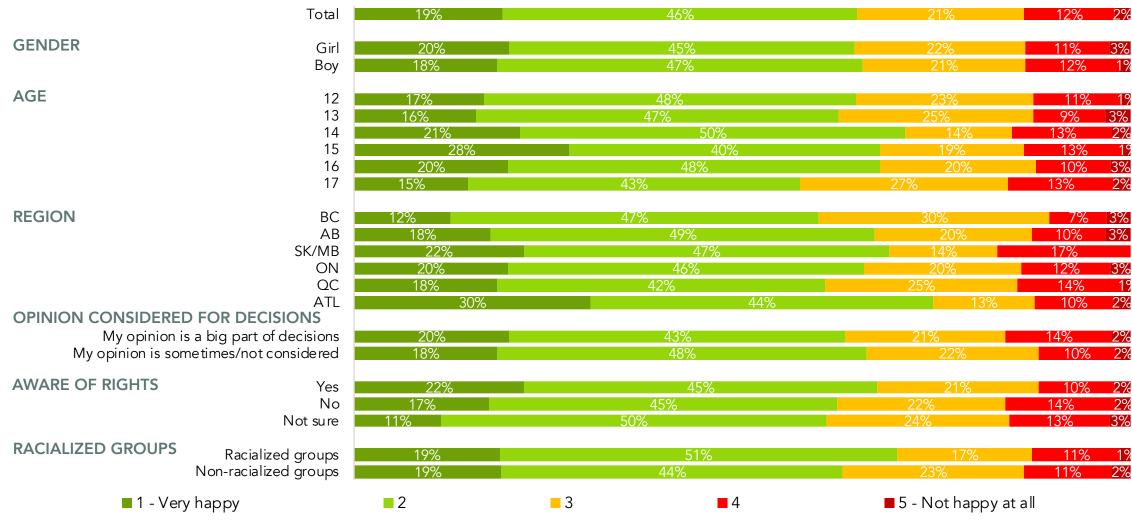


KID'S HAPPINESS IN AREAS OF LIFE - SCHOOL



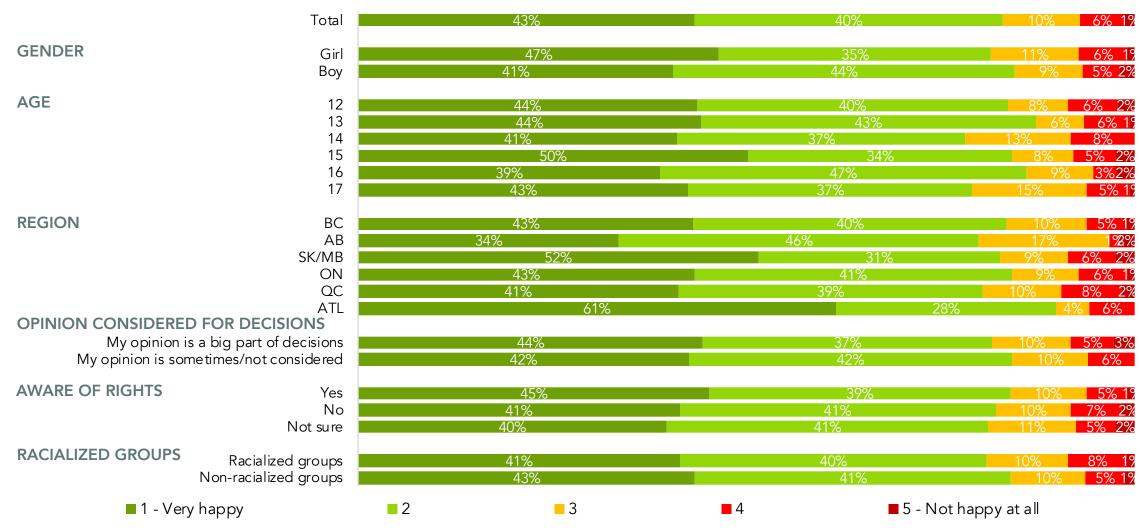


KID'S HAPPINESS IN AREAS OF LIFE - EDUCATION



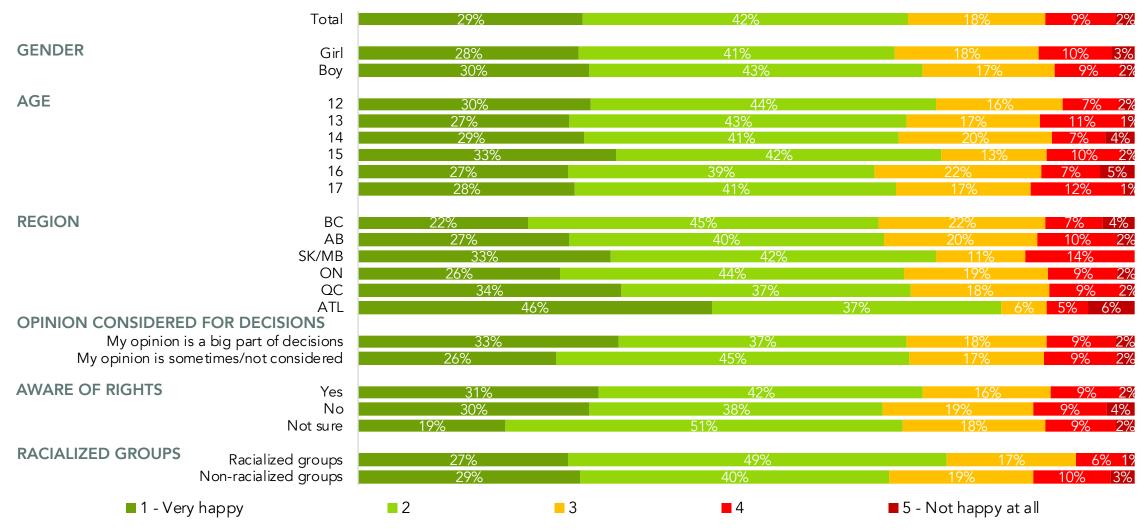


KIDS' HAPPINESS IN AREAS OF LIFE – LIFE AT HOME



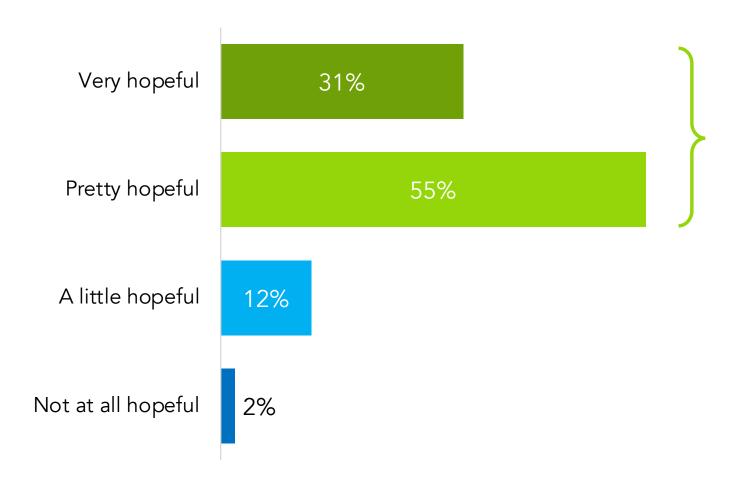


KID'S HAPPINESS IN AREAS OF LIFE - MENTAL HEALTH





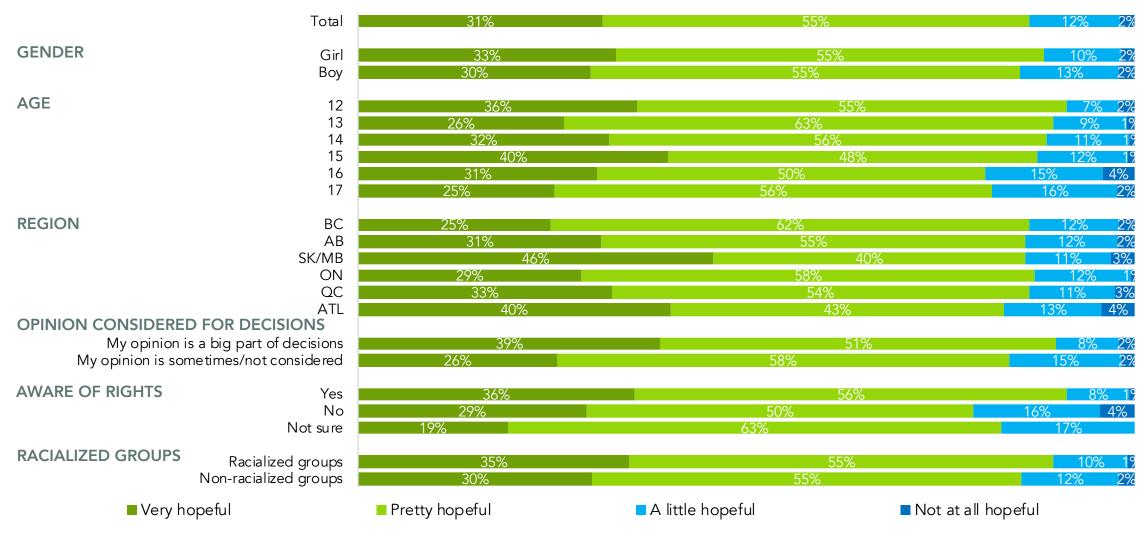
MOST KIDS FEEL PRETTY/VERY HOPEFUL IN THEIR LIFE OVERALL



86% of children report that they feel pretty/very hopeful in their life.

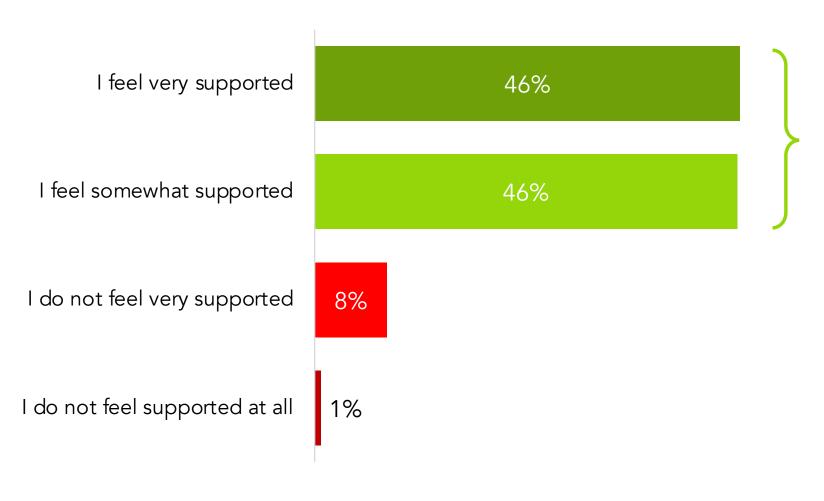


MOST KIDS FEEL PRETTY/VERY HOPEFUL IN THEIR LIFE OVERALL





ALMOST ALL KIDS FEEL THEY ARE SUPPORTED WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR MENTAL HEALTH



92% of children feel at least somewhat supported in terms of their mental health



ALMOST ALL KIDS FEEL THEY ARE SUPPORTED WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR MENTAL HEALTH

