

Written Proponent Testimony on HB 2719
House Education Committee
February 19, 2024

Greenbush appreciates the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 2719, a bill related to the processes for ensuring informed parental consent prior to the administration of certain tests, questionnaires, surveys, or examinations. **Our testimony today is intended to support the provision regarding the extension of the timeframe from 4 months to 6 months between when parents provide written consent and the administration of certain tests, questionnaires, surveys, or examinations.**

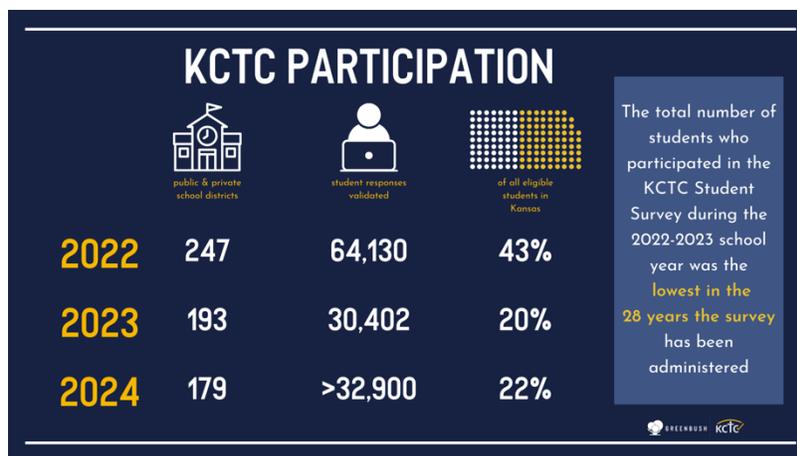
Since 1995, Greenbush has administered the Kansas Communities that Care (KCTC) Student Survey on behalf of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). From the beginning, protocols have been in place to ensure parents/guardians were informed about the survey’s content, purpose, and how data would be utilized. KDADS makes the survey available to Kansas schools at no cost, although the decision to administer the survey is left to local school districts.

There is no other instrument in Kansas with a focus on providing local-level data to inform school and community efforts to prevent risky behaviors such as substance use and bullying. The KCTC Student Survey is the only statewide data source to inform schools, communities, and families about how many of their kids are experiencing feelings of depression or who have seriously thought about killing themselves, have made a plan to kill themselves, or tried to kill themselves.

From 1995 until 2014, the procedure for parents/guardians to give consent for their child to participate in KCTC required parents to notify their school if they did not want their child to participate. This “OPT OUT” process was a common practice in obtaining informed consent from parents/guardians when collecting data from students. In 2015, Kansas enacted the Student Data Privacy Act requiring an active consent process through which parents/guardians would be required to give written permission to allow their child to participate in the KCTC Student Survey.

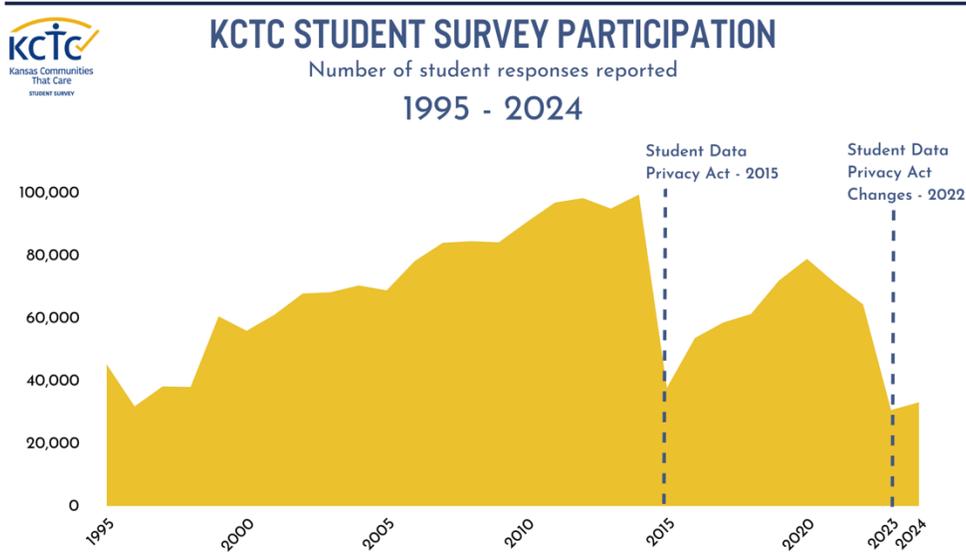
The Student Data Privacy Act was further amended in 2022 to add more specific requirements regarding informed consent. Most of the changes enacted in 2022 aligned with the protocols already in place.

Specifics about the timeframe for **obtaining parents’/guardians’ signatures within four months of the administration of the survey and obtaining separate signatures** for each test, questionnaire, survey or examination of this type were the most significant changes. Greenbush worked with schools to implement these changes within a relatively short period of time between May and November of 2022.





To provide some context regarding the outcome of changing protocols, the percentage of student responses reported over the past decade is shown below. These are calculated based on the number of students whose survey responses are reported and the total number of students enrolled in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades as reported by KSDE. Changes in parental consent protocols are noted in 2015 and 2022 when participation levels were at their lowest. There was a 2% increase in total participation in 2024.



Our aim has always been to help the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services ensure that local data is available to guide prevention work at the local level. Because of their investment in the Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey, these data resources are available at no cost to all Kansas public and private schools and each county that participates. An overview illustrating the type of information available from the 2023 KCTC Student Survey is attached.

Greenbush continues to support protocols to maintain the highest ethical and legal standards to ensure student privacy, informed consent by parents/guardians and students, and accurate data reporting. Obtaining informed consent from parents/guardians within six months of the administration of tests, questionnaires, surveys or examinations will assist schools in operationalizing parent consent procedures as part of their enrollment processes while ensuring that parents/guardians are fully informed and continue to have the option to decline participation by their student.

We welcome any questions and stand ready to share more specifics regarding the protocols that are in place at any time.

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From the beginning, protocols have been in place to ensure parents/guardians were informed about the survey's content, purpose, and how data would be utilized. In 2022, amendments to the Student Data Privacy Act required changes in the administration protocols that impacted this year's survey participation.

Our team is dedicated to help Kansas schools navigate the changes. Greenbush continues our commitment to helping Kansans by providing local data and maintaining the highest ethical and legal standards to ensure student privacy, informed consent by parents/guardians and students, and accurate data reporting.

OVER
30,000
student responses



193 PUBLIC & PRIVATE
school districts participated



Results published by
early spring

20%

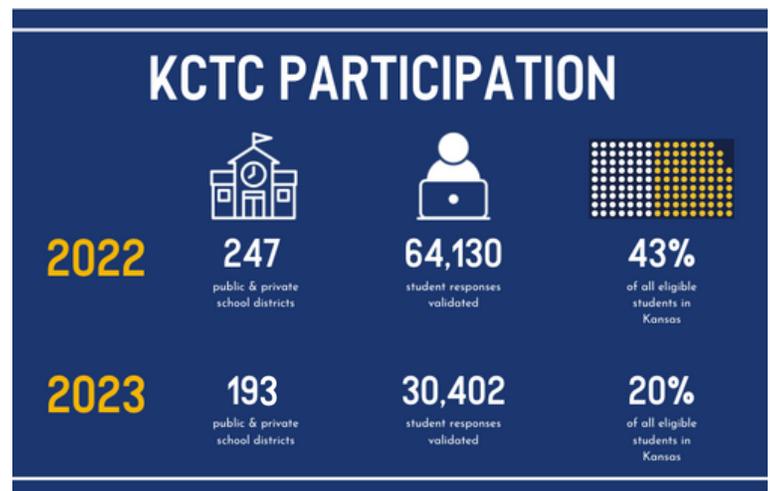
20% of eligible
6th, 8th, 10th, & 12th
graders participated



**THE SURVEY TAKES APPROXIMATELY
27 MINUTES TO COMPLETE**

On average, KCTC requires about two hours of students' time throughout their entire K-12 educational experience.

The total number of students who participated in the KCTC Student Survey during the 2022-2023 school year was the lowest in the 28 years the survey has been administered.



The Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) Student Survey is built on a prevention framework to inform local and state programs, policies, and practices and support healthy youth development. Greenbush administers the KCTC Student Survey on behalf of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS).

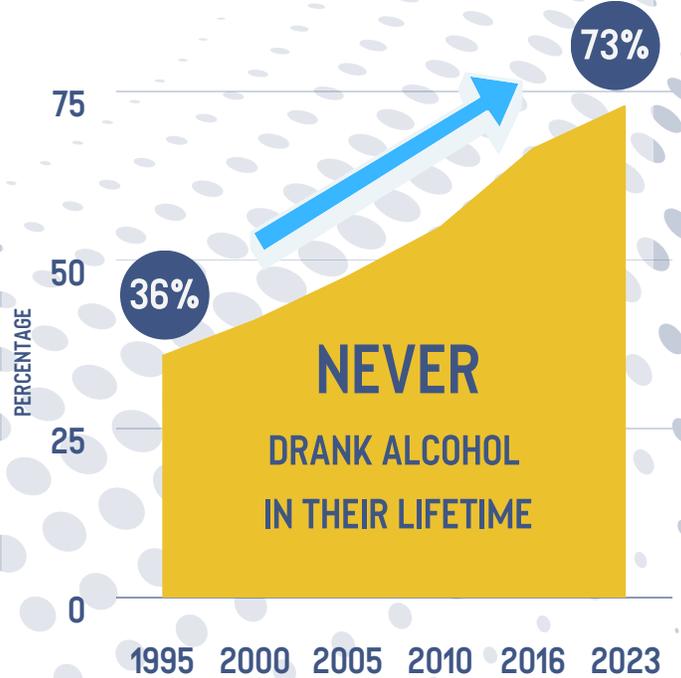
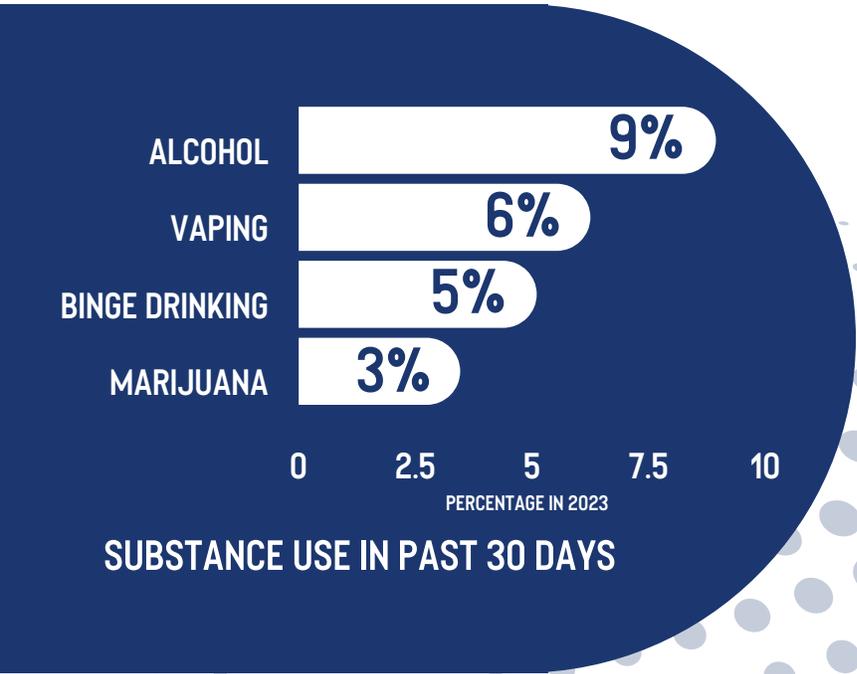
CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS kctc@greenbush.org



2023

Less than
1 in 10
Kansas kids surveyed reported they drank alcohol in the past 30 days.

Over the past 28 years, a steadily increasing number of kids report that they have NEVER drank alcohol.



DATA ILLUSTRATES RESPONSES FROM STUDENTS SURVEYED IN 2023 WHO ANSWERED EACH QUESTION.

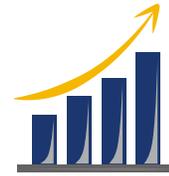
KCTC EVOLUTION

Kansas was a pioneer in substance abuse prevention needs assessment & local data access

1995	2007	2008	2016	2021	2023
COMMUNITIES THAT CARE SURVEY INITIATED Federally funded six-state project to develop a prevention needs assessment	+ GAMBLING When Kansas expanded state-owned casinos, questions were added to monitor youth gambling	+ BULLYING Used to inform building-level crisis plans in accordance with the Jason Flatt Act	+ DEPRESSION & SUICIDE As concerns about youth mental health arose, questions about depression and suicidal ideation were added	FULLY ONLINE ADMINISTRATION Reduced # of items Streamlined with skip logic Embedded instructions Accessibility features Reports available sooner	CHANGES IN INFORMED PARENT CONSENT PROTOCOLS Changes to the Student Data Privacy Act increased the steps and limited the timeframe for obtaining parent consent

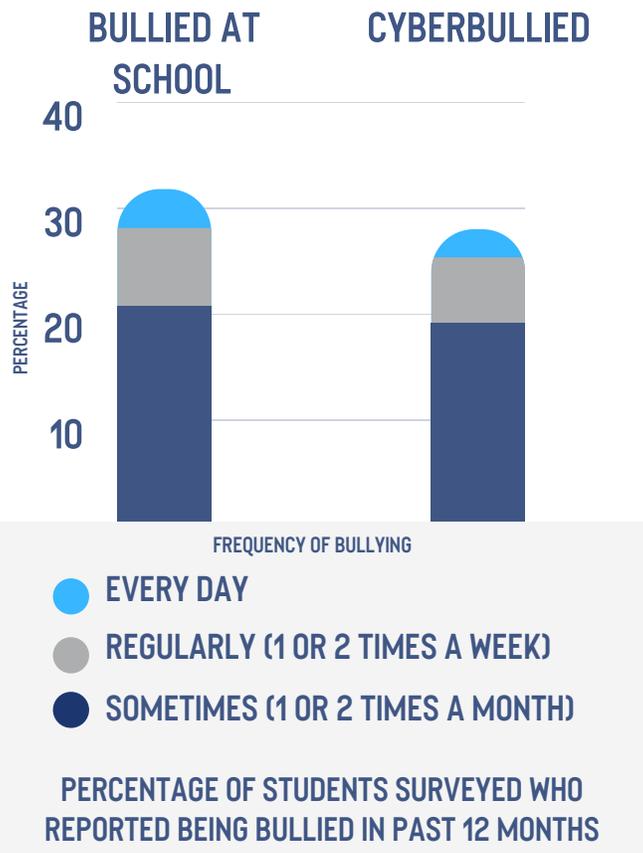
SUICIDAL THOUGHTS, PLANS & ATTEMPTS IN THE PAST YEAR REPORTED BY STUDENTS IN 2023

- 18% seriously thought about killing themselves
- 12% made a plan to kill themselves
- 5% tried to kill themselves

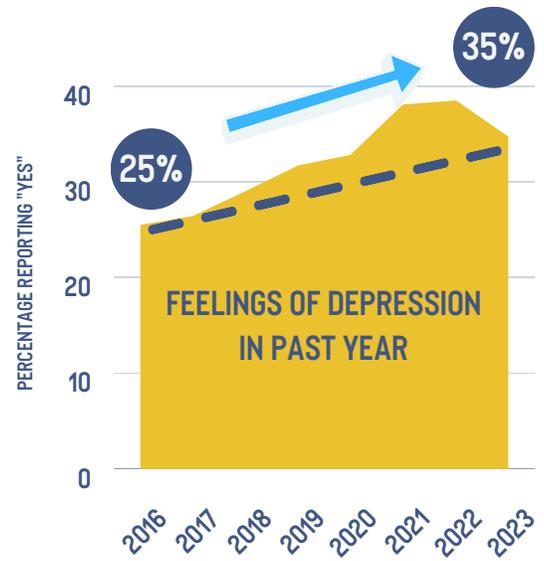


35%

of students surveyed reported feelings of depression in the past year.

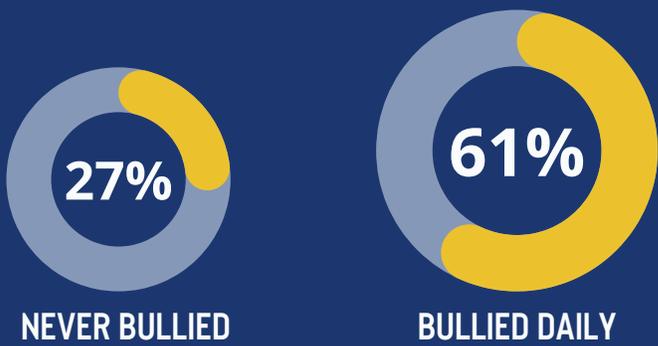


In 2023 there was a **DECREASE** in the percentage of students reporting feelings of depression **FOR THE FIRST TIME** since we began asking in 2016.



DATA ILLUSTRATES RESPONSES FROM STUDENTS SURVEYED IN 2023 WHO ANSWERED EACH QUESTION.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SURVEYED WHO REPORTED FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION BASED ON HOW FREQUENTLY THEY WERE BULLIED



Kids who reported being bullied daily reported feelings of depression twice as much as kids who reported they had never been bullied.

Being bullied once or twice a week also showed higher reported levels of depression.