

For event details and  
registration go to:

<https://wrdatf.ie/training-awareness-week.php>

# DRUG & ALCOHOL WRDATF AWARENESS WEEK

NOVEMBER  
10 - 14TH  
2025

Monday	10	11AM	The European Drug Report 2025	...
		2.30PM	Cannabis & Pregnancy	...
		7PM	Support our Teens When They're Feeling Socially Excluded	...
Tuesday	11	10:30AM	Substance Use and Intergenerational Trauma	...
		1PM	Target; Test; Hook; Trap:	...
		3PM	Introduction to the WRDATF Parent Hub	...
Wednesday	12	10AM	DRIVE Project	...
		11AM	Silent Voices – Ending the Omerta	...
		12.30PM	The Student Voice on Higher Education	...
		1PM	Information Session on Spiking & Family Support	...
		3PM	Neurodiversity and Substance Use	...
Thursday	13	10AM	Recovery for Family Members impacted by Substance Use	...
		2PM	Reducing Alcohol Harm - A practical guide for groups and organisations	...
		7PM	The Importance of Sleep for our Teens	...
Friday	14	9.30AM	WRDATF Drug & Alcohol Health-Based Needs Assessment Stakeholders Consultation	...

Keep an eye on our website and social media for additional events

More Information



[www.wrdatf.ie](http://www.wrdatf.ie)

# The importance of sleep for our teenagers

A webinar for the parents of teens

With  
**Lucy Wolfe**  
Sleep Consultant and Author



A webinar for parents that explores the importance of sleep, the reasons behind typical sleep challenges, and how parents can practically support their teenagers to understand and prioritise their sleep.

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**Thursday the 13th of November**

**19.00 – 20.15**

Register at: <https://bit.ly/40K0DUn> or





## Growing up in the West

The lives and  
lifestyles of our  
young people

[VIEW REPORTS](#)

info@planetyouth.ie



PLANET  
youth

# What is Planet Youth



**A public health project, based on the Icelandic Prevention Model, designed to improve health and life outcomes for our school-going population.**

**An interagency project, led by the WRDATF.**



**gretb**

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin  
*Galway and Roscommon  
Education and Training Board*



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



## Growing up in the West

The lives and  
lifestyles of our  
young people

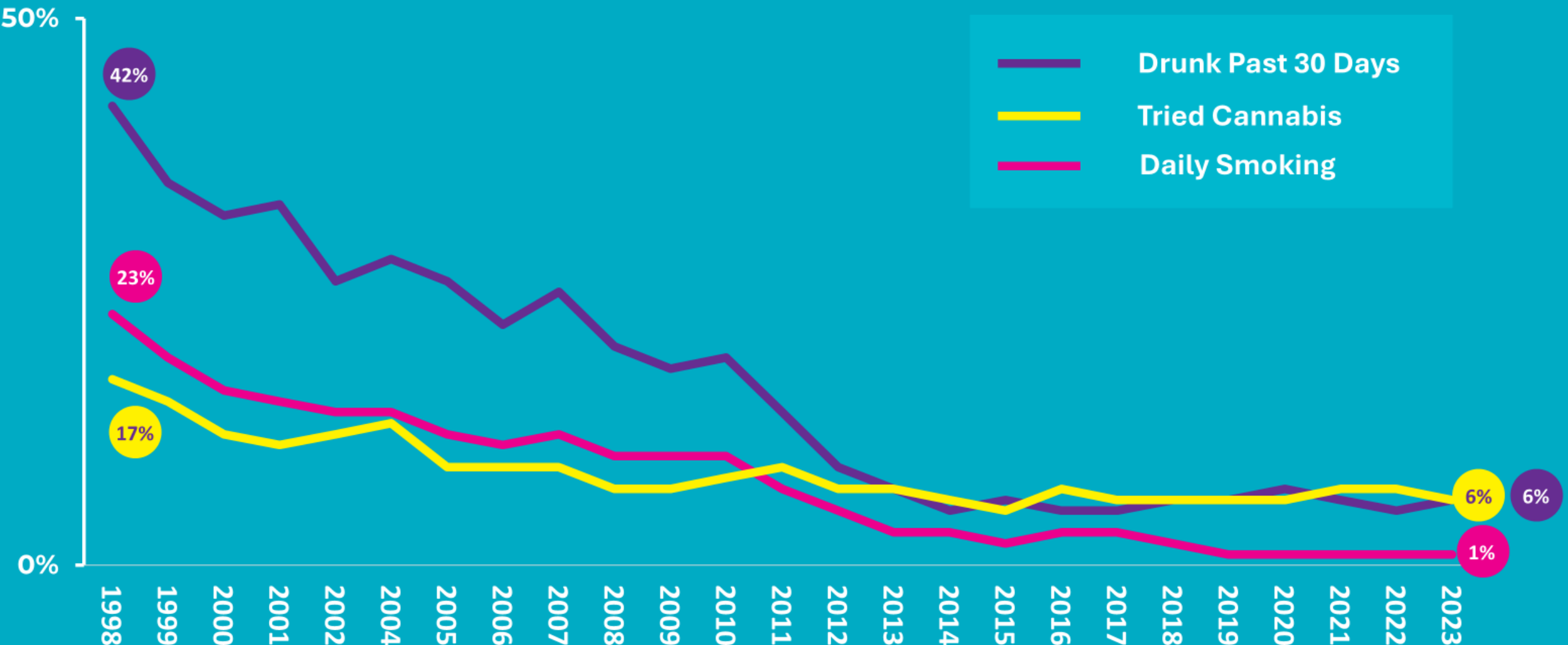
[VIEW REPORTS](#)

[west.planetyouth.ie](http://west.planetyouth.ie)



# CHANGE THROUGH PRIMARY PREVENTION

SUBSTANCE USE IN ICELANDIC 15-16 YEAR OLDS (1998 – 2023)



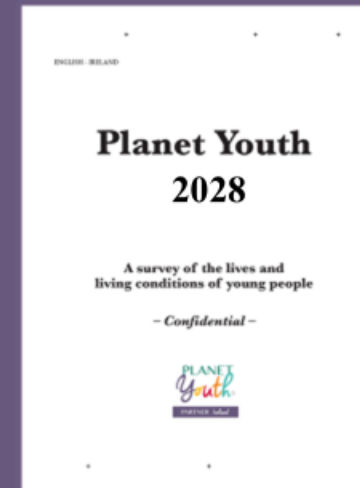
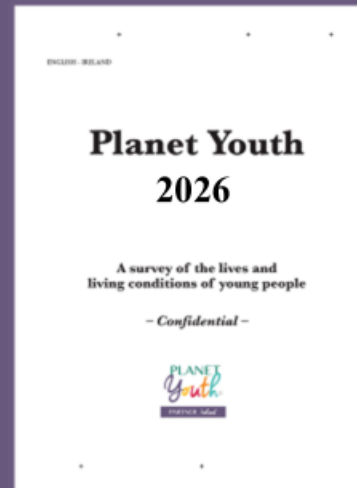
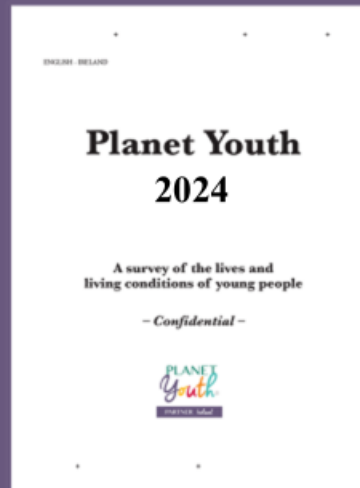
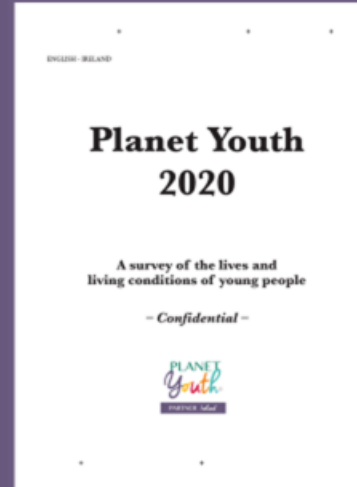


**The primary prevention approach will be used here to address many areas related to the health and wellbeing of our young people.**

**Including:**

- **Alcohol and other drugs**
- **Excessive screen use**
- **Poor mental health**
- **Lack of sleep**

# Biennial surveys

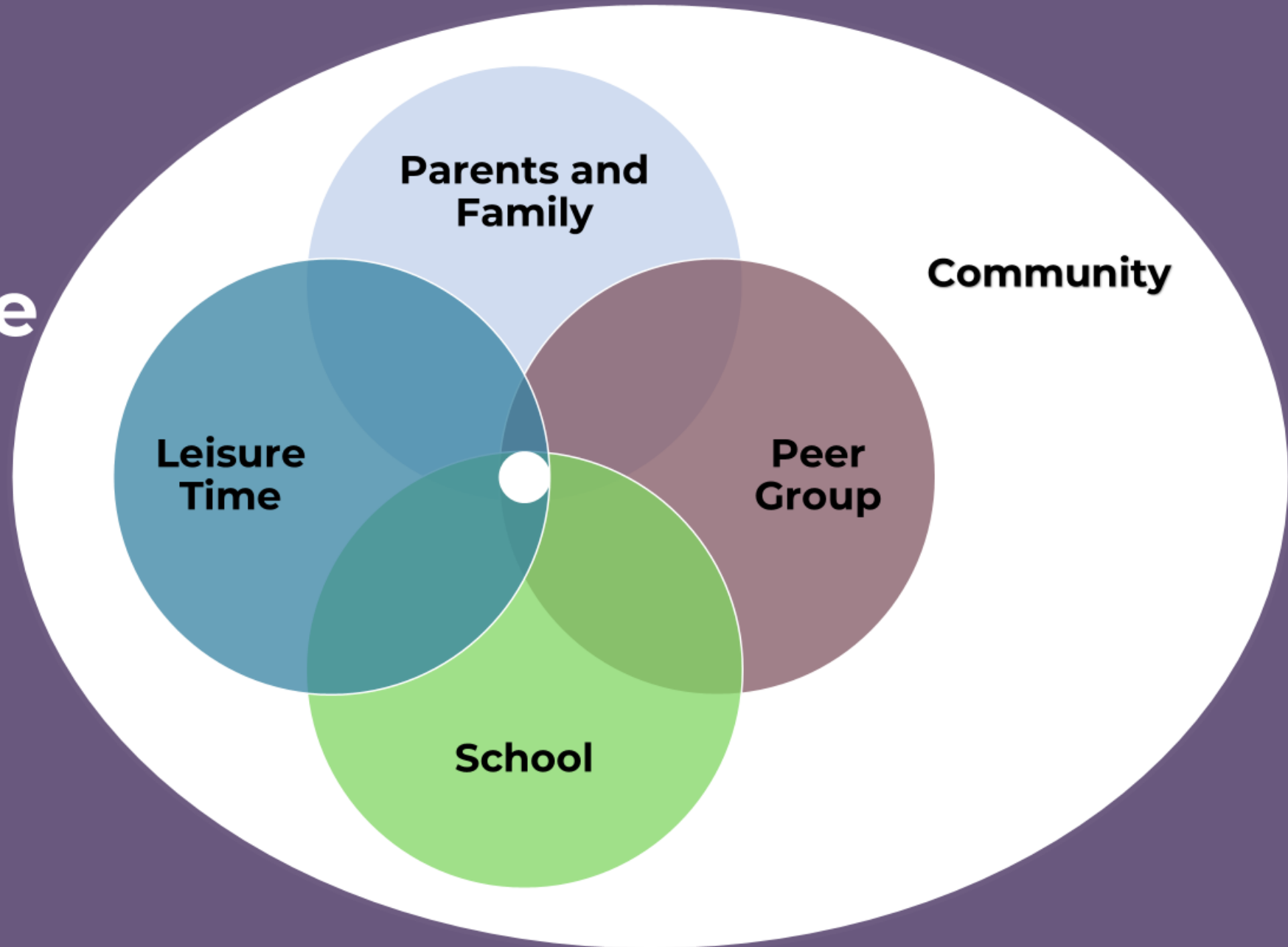




# Schools Surveys 2018 2020



**Preventative  
actions  
that influence  
risk and  
protective  
factors in  
these  
domains**





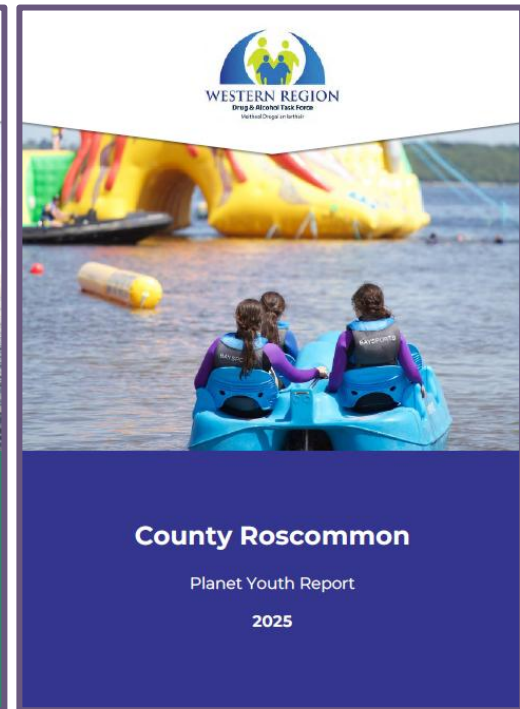
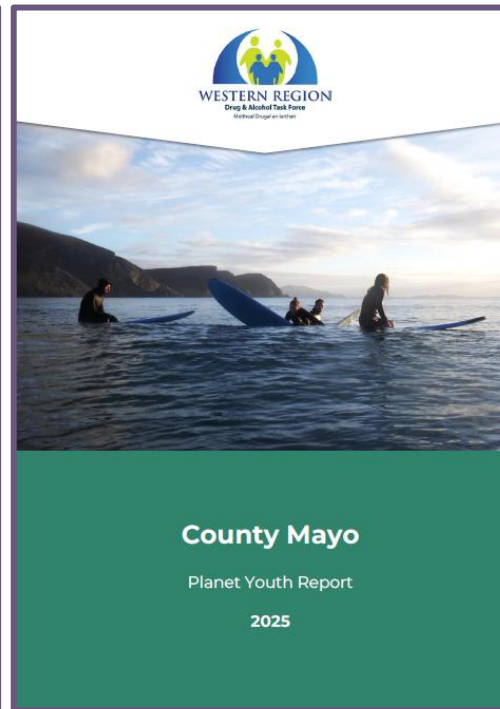
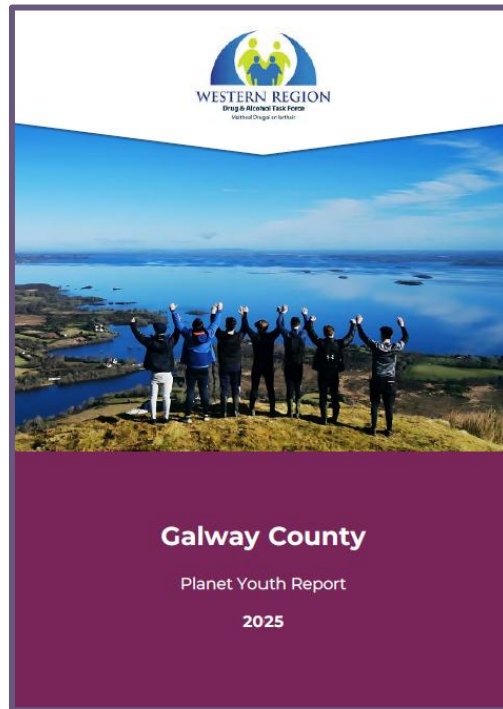
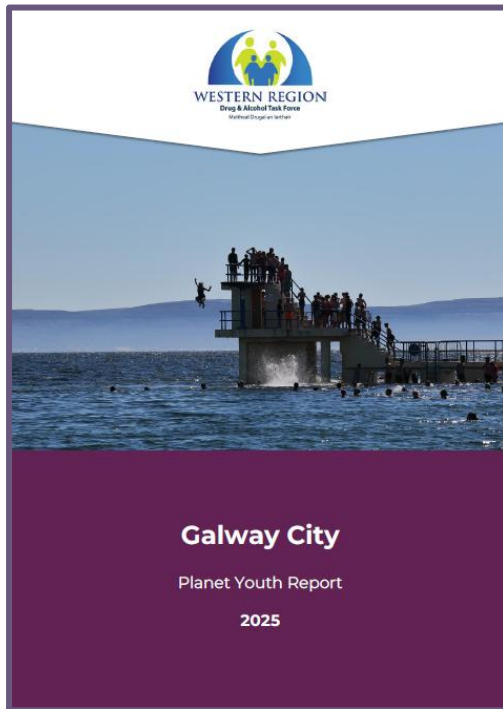








# Municipal Reporting



# The Facts Website



**THEFACTS**  
SPHE · CSPE · RSE · PLANET YOUTH SURVEY






HOMEABOUTCONTACT

1Select your  
County

2Choose the  
Topic

3Learn the  
Facts

Select Your County



### The Facts

This website has been developed for use as a teaching resource. Its purpose is to provide teachers with up-to-date and local information that will help inform discussion in the classroom and support the delivery of modules within the SPHE curriculum.

6



# Step Up Website



**Helping students and parents  
with the move from primary  
school to secondary school**



# Sleep teaching module

## Lesson 1: About Sleep

### Presentations

[Download the PowerPoint version \(PPTX\)](#)

[Download the PDF version \(PDF\)](#)

***Please note:** the PDF version of the presentation does not contain slide notes.*

### Resources

[Download the Diamond 9 Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Download the 3-2-1 Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Download the Sleep Questionnaire Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)

### Teaching Plan

[Download the Teaching Plan \(PDF\)](#)

### Video



**Lesson 1 video: The Importance of Sleep**

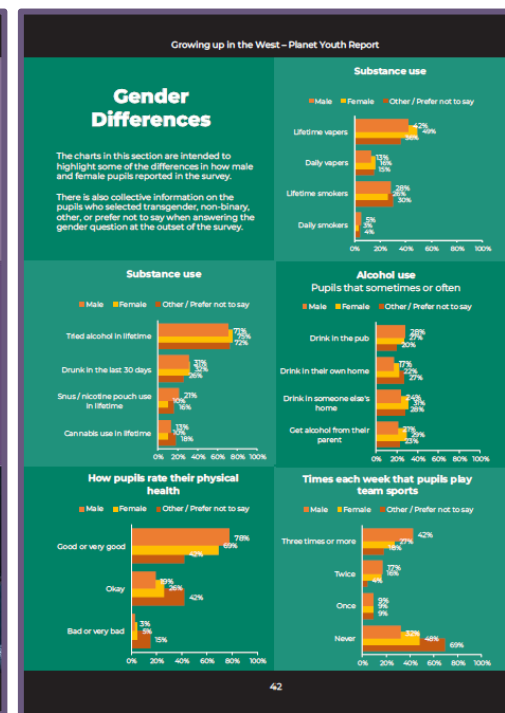
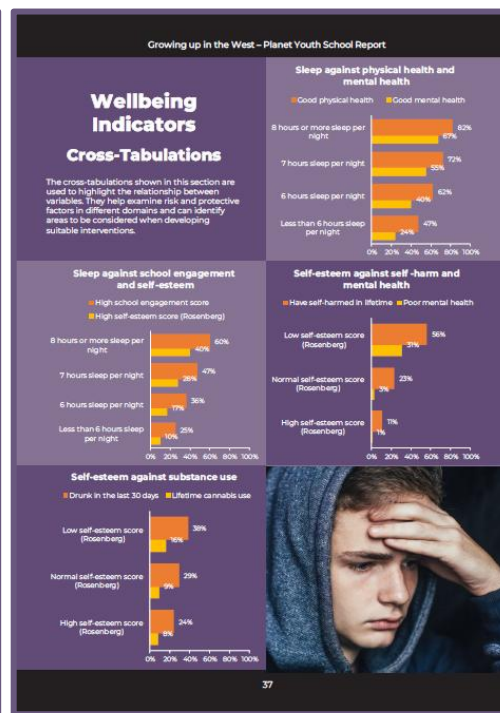
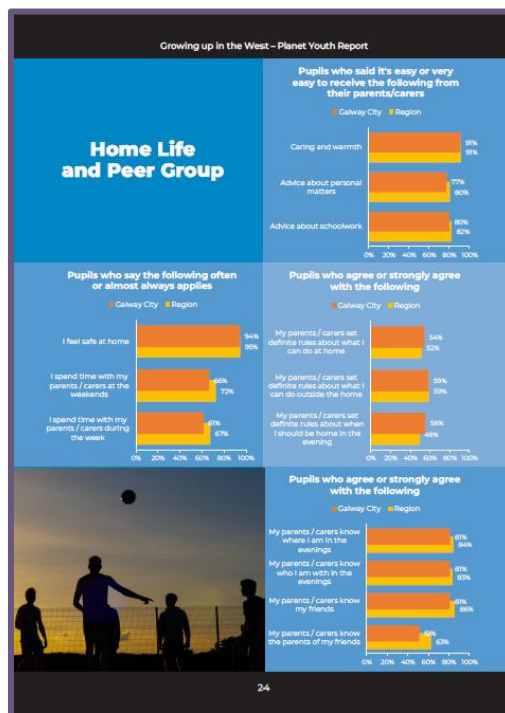
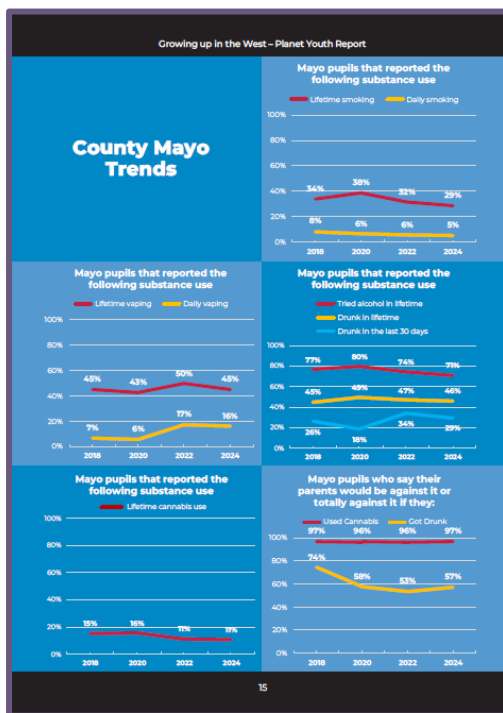
[Click here](#)

# Sleep teaching module





# Local data

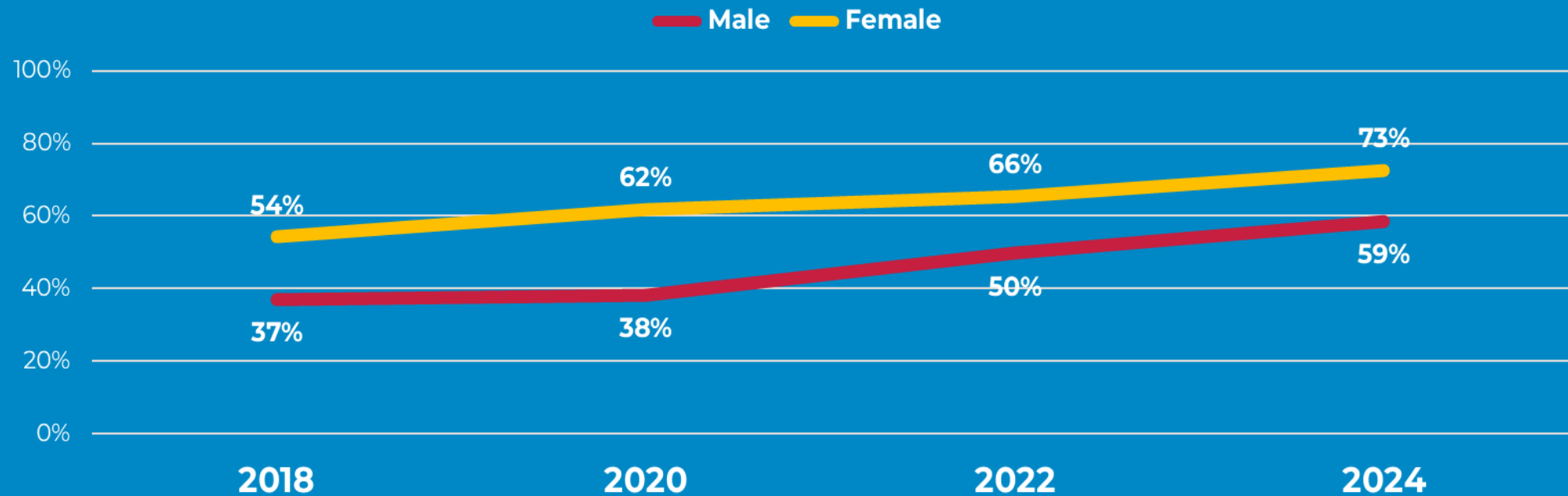


# Local trends



# Regional trends

## Pupils that spend 3 hours or more each day on social media

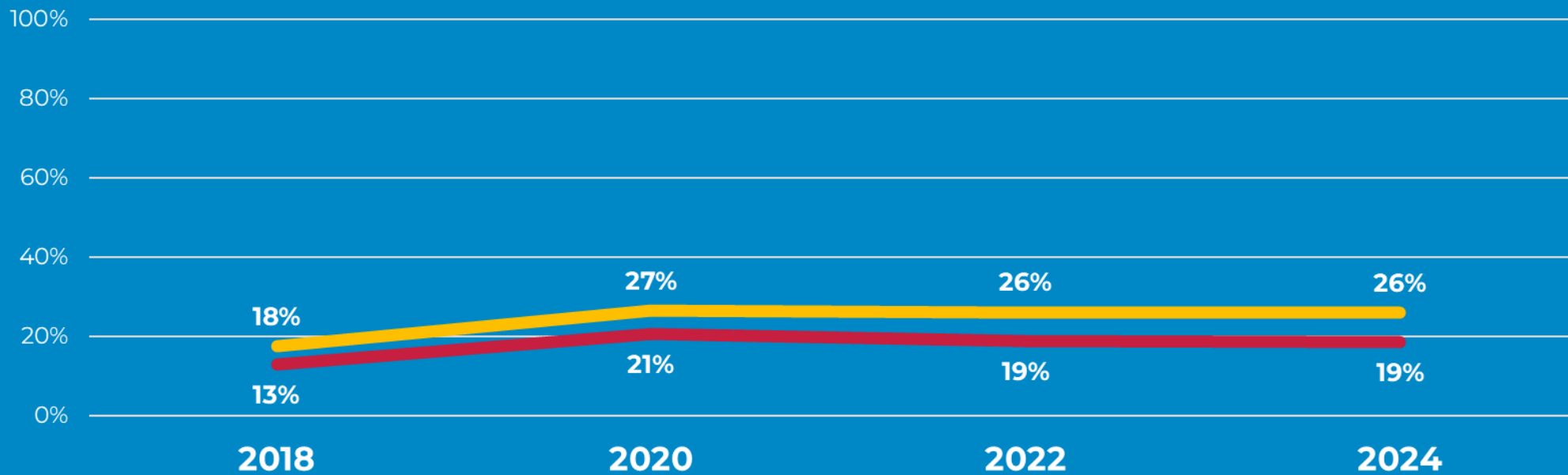




# Regional trends

## Pupils that report getting 6 hours or less sleep (sleep deficit)

Male Female

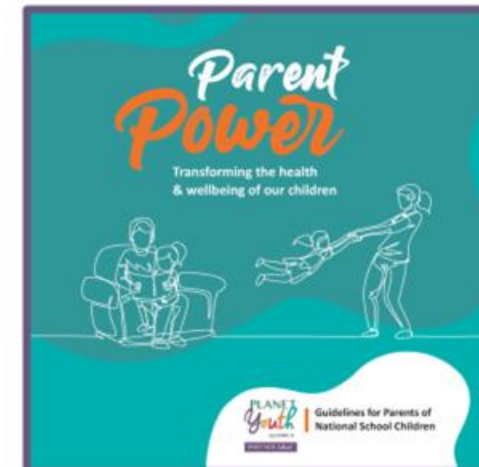


# Information for parents



Literature is developed to highlight these issues. Booklets are printed after each survey and distributed every year, across the region, to the incoming first-year parents and the incoming junior-infant parents.

The Parent Power booklet, materials, and associated website, are for the parents with children in junior infant class.



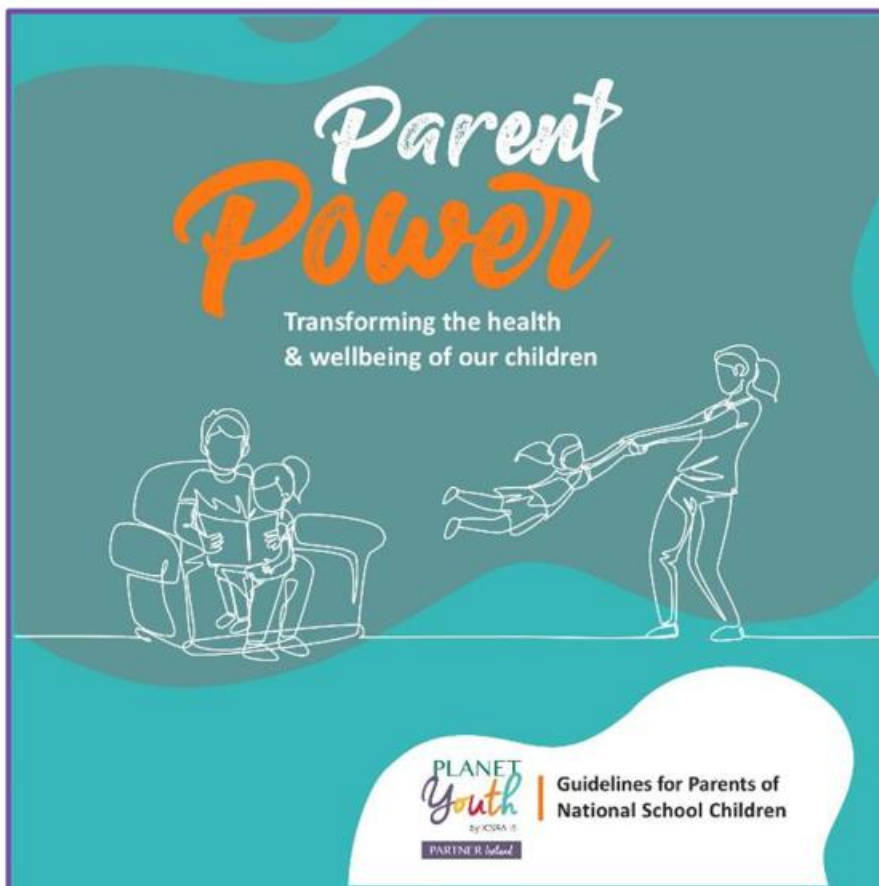
# Booklet distribution





# Parent Power

## National School Booklet





### Bedtimes

Junior infants	7:15pm
Senior infants	7:30pm
1st Class	7:45pm
2nd Class	8:00pm
3rd Class	8:15pm
4th Class	8:30pm
5th Class	8:45pm
6th Class	9:00pm

National school children typically require 9-12 hours of sleep each night and the younger they are, the more sleep they need. These bedtimes are based on getting up at 7.30am and are the lights-out times. Wind-down and bedtime routines start earlier. A good guide at this age is to move their bedtime up by 15 minutes each school year.



### Screen Time

Overuse of screens is not good for the health and wellbeing of children.

The suggested guideline is to limit their use to a maximum of 1 hour per day in total. This should be after completion of homework and other activities.

Screens should be put away at least one hour before bedtime and there should be no screens in bedrooms.

[www.parentpower.planetyouth.ie](http://www.parentpower.planetyouth.ie)

# Parent Power

## First Year Parent Booklet



### GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS



#### BEDTIMES

FIRST YEAR	09:30PM
SECOND YEAR	09:45PM
THIRD YEAR	10:00PM
TRANSITION YEAR	10:15PM
FIFTH YEAR	10:30PM
LEAVING CERT YEAR	10:45PM



It is recommended that teenagers get 8 to 10 hours of undisturbed sleep per night

### SCREEN TIME & SOCIAL MEDIA

Overuse of screens and social media is not good for the health and wellbeing of young people.

The suggested guideline is to limit their use to a maximum of 2 hours per day in total. This should be after completion of homework and other activities and screens should be put away at least one hour before bedtime.

No screens in bedrooms after bedtime.



[WEST.PLANETYOUTH.IE](http://WEST.PLANETYOUTH.IE)



# Parent Power

## First Year Parent Booklet



### ABOUT PLANET YOUTH

Planet Youth is an evidence-based primary prevention project that provides us with the opportunity to improve the long-term health and wellbeing of our children. Every two years, we survey all of the 15 and 16 year olds in our schools in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon, and this gives us the information we need to make positive changes for the younger children coming behind them.

This booklet has been developed to bring some of that information to parents who have children starting post-primary school and we hope you find it useful.

The 5,079 teenagers that participated throughout the region in the November 2024 Planet Youth survey told us that:

**91%**

Easy to get caring and warmth from parents



**66%**

Spend 3 hours or more on social media daily



**80%**

Have a phone in their bedroom at night



**35%**

Out after midnight



**55%**

Not getting enough sleep



**25%**

Get alcohol from parents

**56%**

Report good mental health



**73%**

Report good physical health

**86%**

Feel safe in their community



**33%**

Reported self-harm once or more



**61%**

Exercise 3 times a week or more



**31%**

Drunk last month



**14%**

Are daily vapers



**12%**

Have tried Cannabis

**28%**

Tried alcohol by 13

### FAMILY TIME

This was the fourth Planet Youth survey, and it had some really positive findings related to family life and the relationships that our teenagers have with their parents. 91% stated that it's easy to receive caring and warmth from their parents. Teens also report spending a lot of time with their parents and 84% stated that their parents know where they are in the evenings.

As they get older, it is important to maintain good quality communication with our teens and to stay connected, interested and engaged in what's happening in their lives. The survey showed that we are doing well here too, as 80% of our teens said that it's easy to talk to their parents or carers about personal matters.

Having shared interests, regular family mealtimes, family activities and family meetings creates enjoyable time and space to chat with, and listen to, our teenagers.

As parents, we are the most important role models or our teens so it is important that we set a good example with our own behaviours.

**91%**

Easy to get caring and warmth from parents





# Parent Power

## First Year Parent Booklet



### INTERESTS, HOBBIES & SPORTS

It is important that young people are encouraged to keep engaging in quality supervised, structured activities that interest them as they get older.

Physical activity is important for good health and wellbeing but not every child is interested in sports. Other hobbies and interests that provide opportunities to get involved in their community outside of school allow our children to further develop their social skills and build emotional resilience.

Good quality supervised and structured activities are also a known protective factor against substance use and anti-social behaviour.

**34%**

Play team sports 3 times a week or more



**61%**

Exercise 3 times a week or more



### VAPING, SMOKING, NICOTINE POUCHES AND CANNABIS

Daily smoking and monthly cannabis use rates have decreased slightly since the last survey. However, daily vaping rates remain high at 14% and the use of nicotine pouches has become common also.

The use of nicotine is unsafe for teenagers as it is a substance that is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development.

Using nicotine in adolescence can affect the parts of the brain that regulate attention, learning, mood, and impulse control. It may also increase the risk of future addiction to other drugs. Additionally, vaping or inhaling any substance can cause harm to the lungs and respiratory tract.

Experimentation with vapes is not uncommon in first-year, so talk to your teen about why vaping is harmful for them, and set a good example by being nicotine free.

**14%**

Are daily vapers



**4%**

Are daily smokers



**5%**

Used cannabis in the last month



**16%**

Have tried nicotine pouches



# Parent Power

## First Year Parent Booklet



**73%**

Have  
tried  
alcohol



**31%**

Drunk in  
the last  
month



### ALCOHOL AND PARENTS

Alcohol is the most commonly used substance among young people in Ireland. As our teenagers get older, they will increasingly ask parents for access to alcohol to use before or at parties and events. These requests can start as early as second year and become more common by transition year.

Use of alcohol at a young age can impair brain development and will increase the chances of developing a dependency later in life. This is in addition to increasing the risk of other alcohol-related harms. The best thing we can do for our teenagers is to try and defer all alcohol use until they are 18 years of age.

The Planet Youth survey shows us just how important parental attitude and parental alcohol supply is when it comes to adolescent binge drinking. Teenagers that get alcohol from a parent are getting drunk at two and half times the rate of those that don't. Introducing alcohol to teenagers at home, in the pursuit of teaching them to drink responsibly, may have the opposite effect.

The chart opposite clearly shows the importance of parental disapproval. Parents don't have to be at one end of the scale or the other, every conversation and effort made to defer alcohol use is important.

**25%**

Regularly get  
alcohol from  
their parent



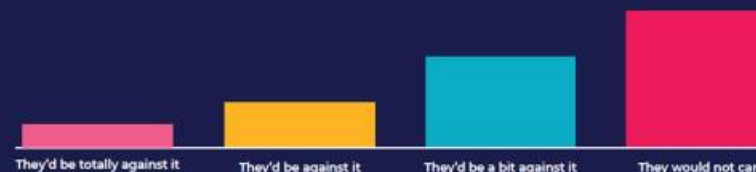
**27%**

Regularly  
drink at a  
friend's home



### OF THE 31% OF PUPILS THAT WERE DRUNK IN THE LAST MONTH

How would your parents react if you got drunk?



# PERCEIVED PARENTAL TOLERANCE FOR SUBSTANCE USE

MY PARENTS WOULD BE TOTALLY AGAINST IT OR AGAINST IT IF I:

97%



USED CANNABIS

94%



SMOKED CIGARETTES

90%



VAPED

57%



GOT DRUNK



# Parent Power

## First Year Parent Booklet



### SCREEN TIME GUIDELINES

The Planet Youth survey showed us that 66% of our young people are spending 3 hours a day or more on social media. We know that too much screen time impacts upon homework and hobbies and can be detrimental to good mental health. **Screen use should be kept to a maximum of 2 hours per day** after homework and other activities are completed.

Screens should be off at least one hour before bed and kept out of bedrooms at night.

If you can have these guidelines in place from first year they will become increasingly important as your child gets older. Talk to your child about their online life and be a good role model with your own screen use.

**66%**

Spend 3 hours or more on social media daily



**80%** have a phone in their bedroom at night



### BEDTIME GUIDELINES

**55%**

Don't get enough sleep



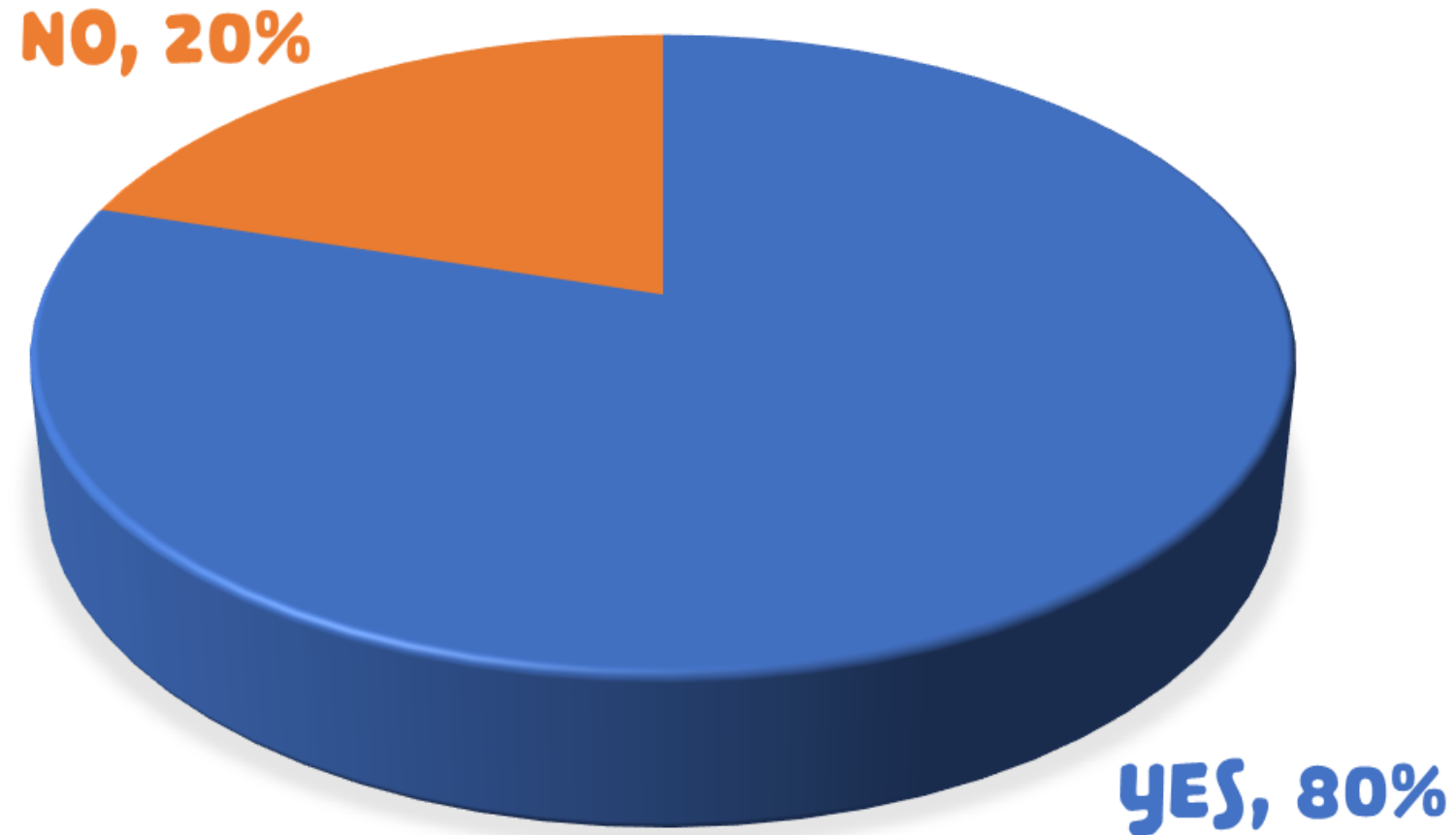
The Planet Youth survey revealed that over half of our young people are not getting enough sleep. The suggested guidelines for bedtime are:

FIRST YEAR	09:30PM
SECOND YEAR	09:45PM
THIRD YEAR	10:00PM
TRANSITION YEAR	10:15PM
FIFTH YEAR	10:30PM
LEAVING CERT YEAR	10:45PM



It is recommended that teenagers get a minimum 8 to 10 hours of undisturbed sleep per night. For example, a first year that has to get up at 07.30am should be asleep by 09.30pm in order to get their 10 hours of sleep. No child should have a phone in their bedroom at night, a regular alarm clock is enough.

# DO YOU HAVE A PHONE IN YOUR BEDROOM AT NIGHT?



# Parent Power

## First Year Parent Booklet



### THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

The Planet Youth survey has shown us just how little sleep our teens are getting. This is a significant problem because sleep plays a critical role in a teenager's development, it is every bit as important as nutrition and physical activity.

Without sufficient quality sleep, every aspect of a teen's life becomes more challenging. Physical health and mental health are affected, school becomes harder, self-esteem, resilience, and emotional development are impacted, and small problems often appear insurmountable.

Don't underestimate the importance of helping your teenager to get sufficient, good quality sleep. That could just be improving their sleep environment, but good sleep hygiene, limited screen time, reduced caffeine, and a consistent sleep routine can all help also.

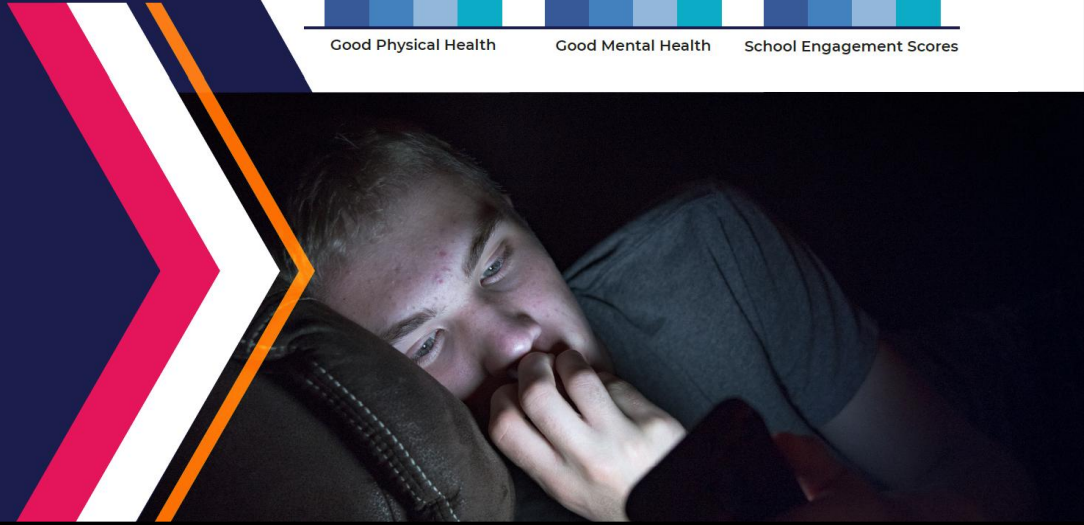
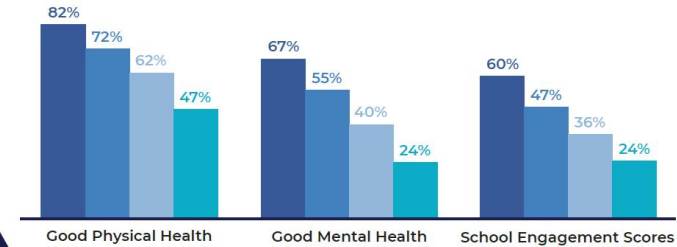
By creating a sleep positive culture in your home, you will be helping your teenager optimise their potential in many aspects of their development, health and wellbeing.

### HOW MUCH SLEEP DO OUR TEENS GET?



### THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

■ 8 hours or more sleep ■ 7 hours sleep ■ 6 hours sleep ■ Less than 6 hours sleep





# HOW MUCH SLEEP DO TEENS GET?

4,975 15 AND 16 YEAR OLDS IN ROSCOMMON, MAYO AND GALWAY

45%



8 HOURS OR MORE SLEEP

32%



7 HOURS SLEEP

15%



6 HOURS SLEEP

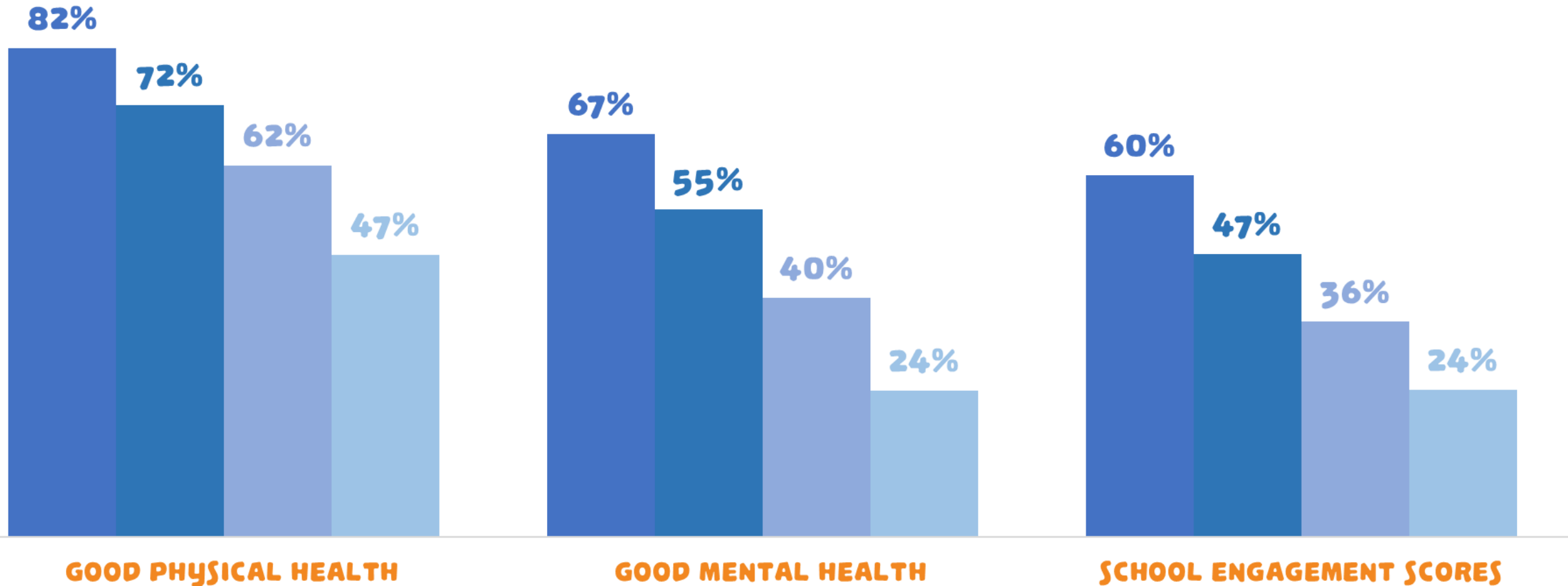
8%



LESS THAN 6 HOURS SLEEP

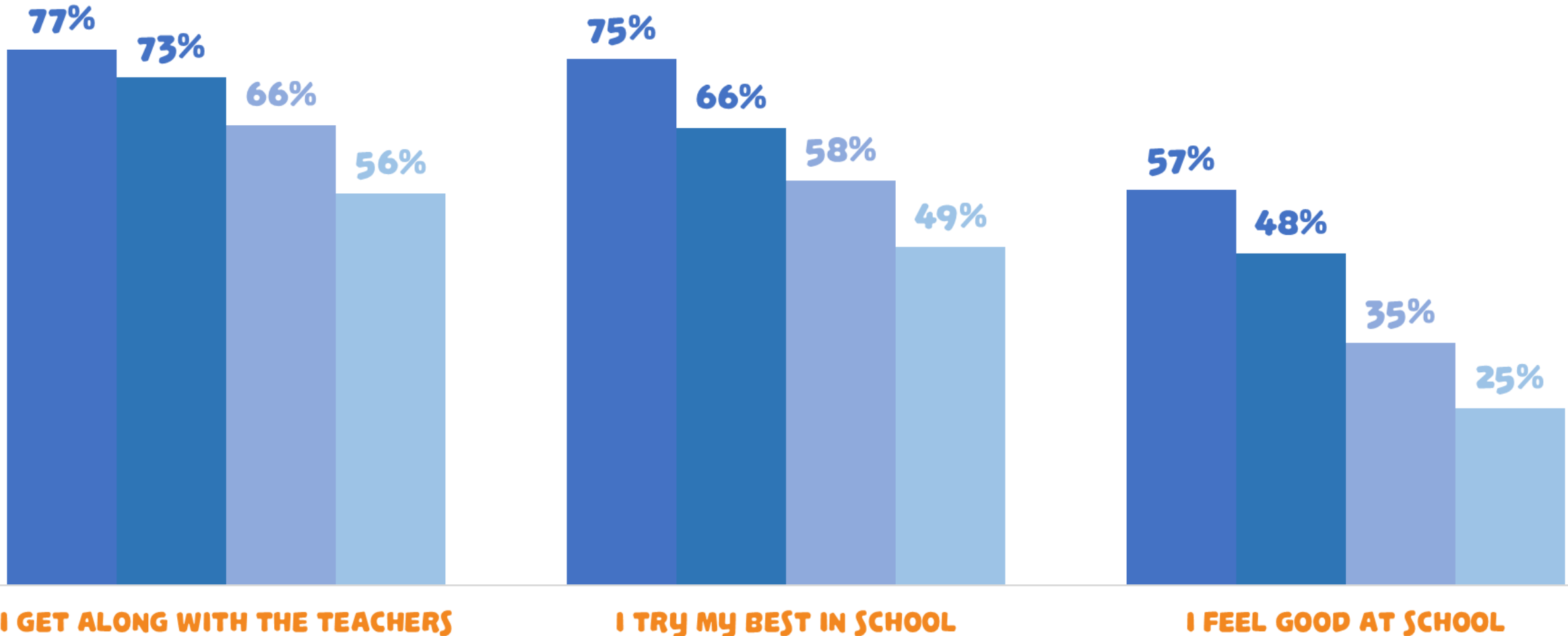
# THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

■ 8 HOURS OR MORE SLEEP ■ 7 HOURS SLEEP ■ 6 HOURS SLEEP ■ LESS THAN 6 HOURS SLEEP



# THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

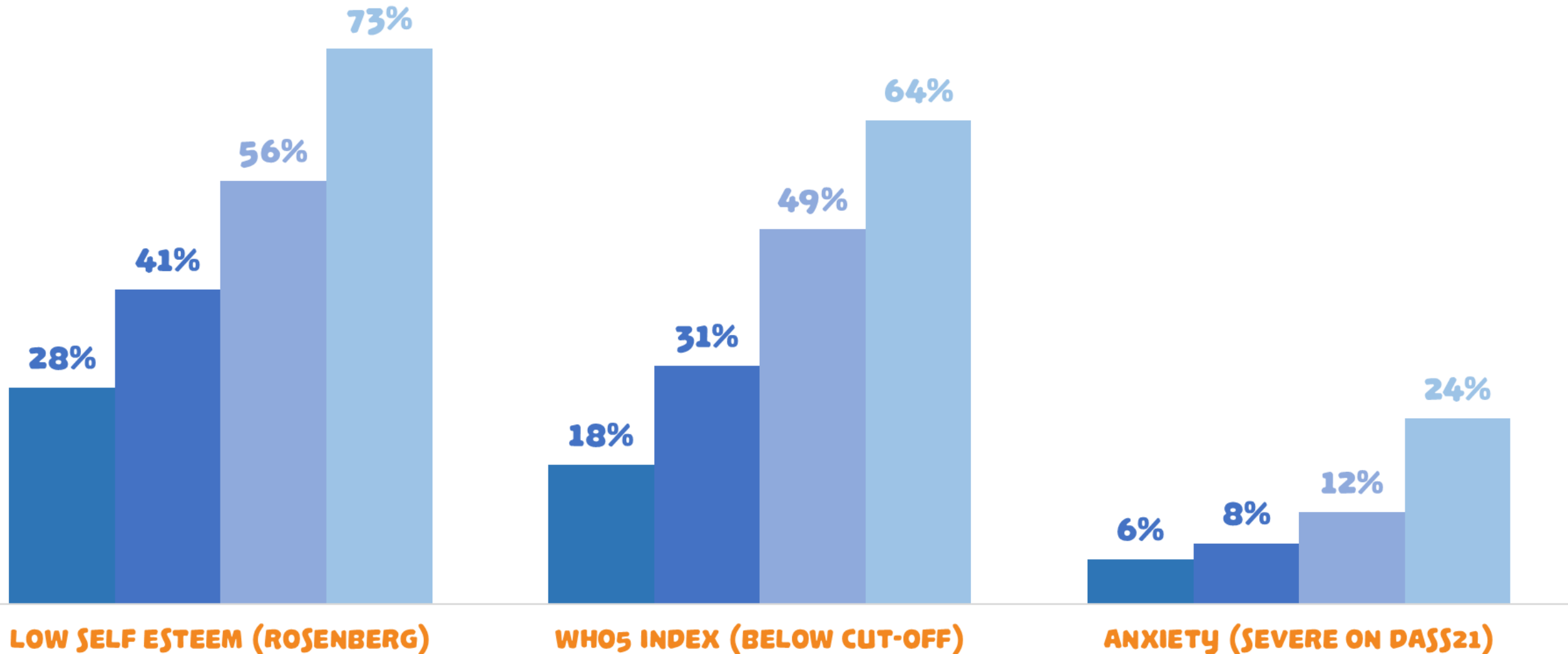
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# THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

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