



2017 State of the Youth



OUR MISSION: Lee's Summit CARES is a non-profit community coalition dedicated to preventing youth substance use and violence, empowering positive parenting and promoting exemplary character.





Drug & Alcohol Prevention

Bully & Suicide Prevention

Parenting Education

Character Education

We ask youth: what are the things that help you succeed and make healthy choices?

Data from Search Institute (April 2017) &



Community Focus Groups (fall 2017)



40 Developmental Assets

1,275 8th, 10th, 12th graders in LSR7 schools were surveyed in April 2017.

WHAT ARE ASSETS?

-  Support
-  Empowerment
-  Boundaries & Expectations
-  Constructive Use of Time
-  Commitment to Learning
-  Positive Values
-  Social Competencies
-  Positive Identity

WHY DO WE CARE?

The more assets young people experience across the contexts of their lives, the more likely they are to:

- Be healthier, safer and more caring;
- Do better in school;
- Be prepared for post-high school education and careers;
- Contribute more to their communities and society; and
- Avoid high-risk behaviors, such as violence and substance use.

Sample questions (58 Total)

Check If item is true: not at all, sometimes, often, almost always

I...

I have.....

Feel good about myself

A safe neighborhood

Build friendships with other people

Parent(s) who try to help me succeed

Do my homework.

A school that cares about kids and encourages them

Seek advice from my parents

Support from adults other than my parents

Think it is important to help other people

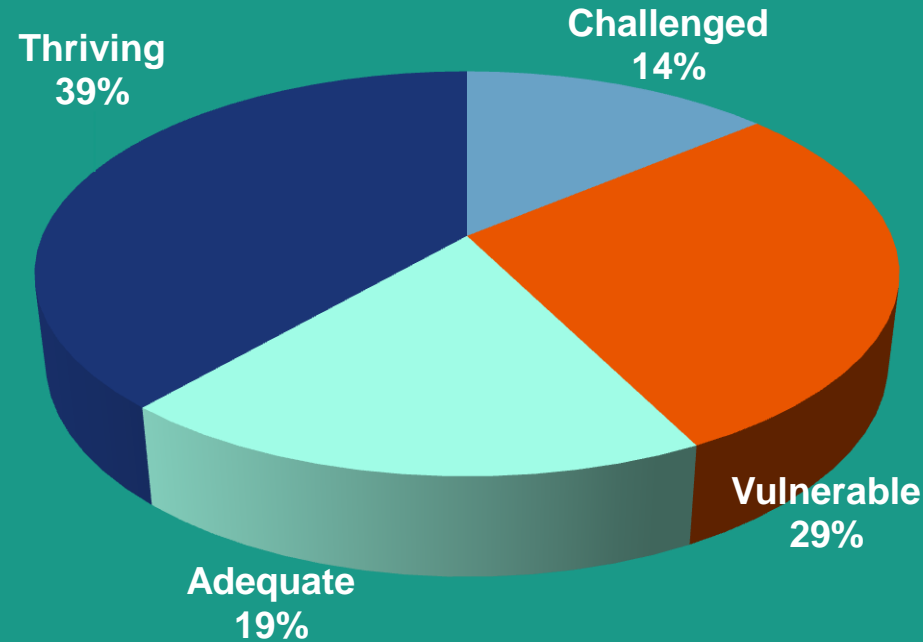
Friends who set good examples for me

Feel safe at school



Support

Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate and accept them.



Strong Asset



Support

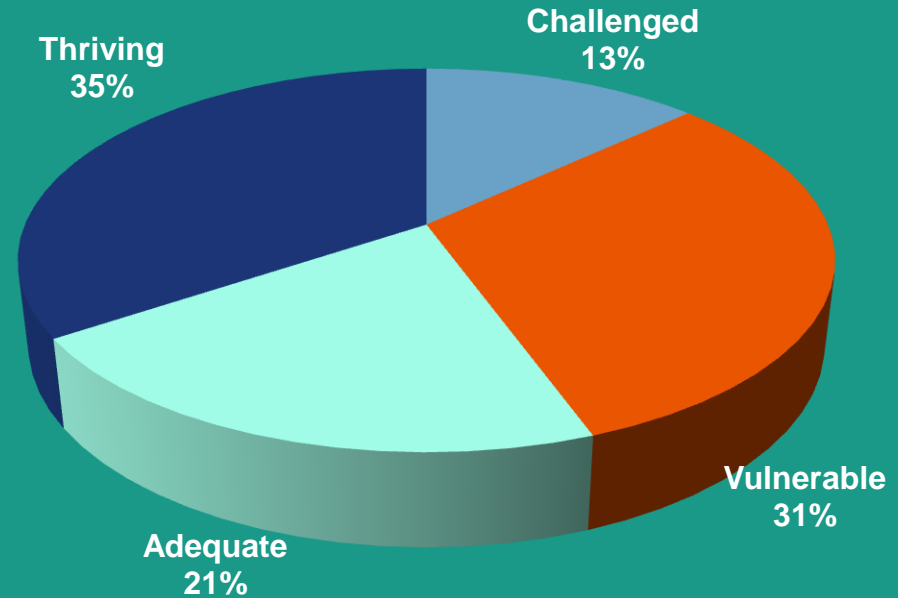
FOCUS GROUP THEMES

- Strong parent support
- Need for outside supports
- Peer influence
- Vulnerable and hard-to-reach youth
- Mentors



Boundaries and Expectations

Young people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking rules, and encouragement to do their best.



Moderate Asset



Boundaries and Expectations

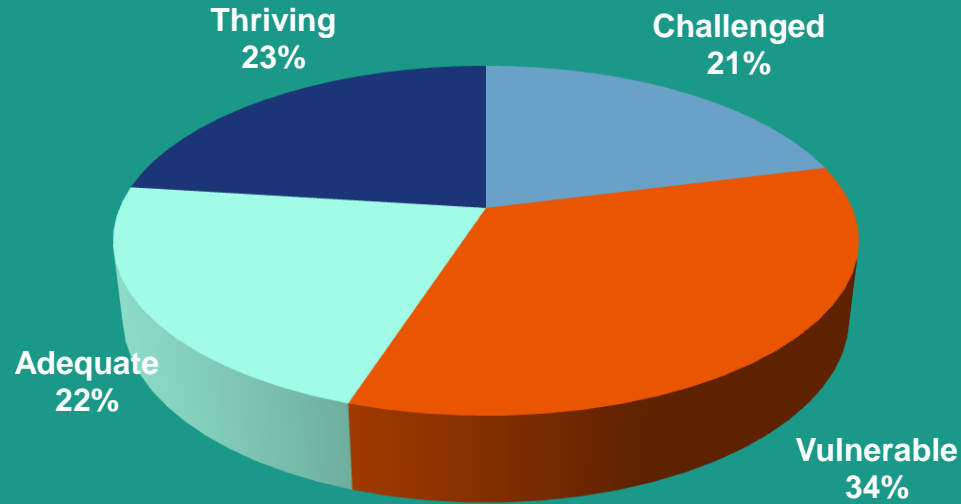
FOCUS GROUP THEMES

- High achieving community
- High levels of stress and anxiety
- Difficulties finding balance
- Need for family resources



Commitment to Learning

Young people need a sense of the lasting importance of learning and a belief in their own abilities.



Moderate Asset



Commitment to Learning

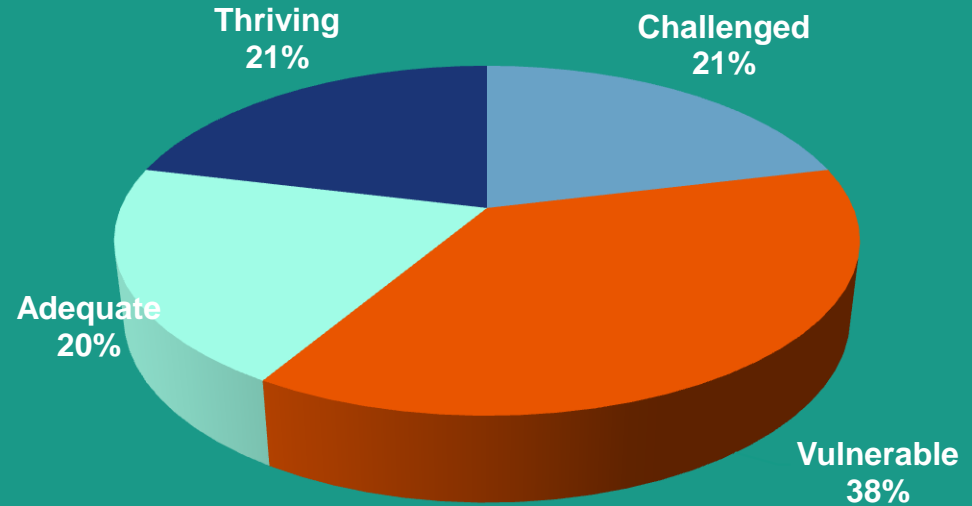
FOCUS GROUP THEMES

- Positive and negative teacher impact
- Engaging instruction
- Career path pressure
- Shadowing and vocational programs
- Social media distraction



Positive Identity

Young people need to believe in their own self-worth and to feel that they have control over things that happen to them.



Weak Asset



Positive Identity

FOCUS GROUP THEMES

- Misguided expectations
- Low self-esteem as norm
- Comparisons to social media
- Negative self-talk
- Isolation and marginalization of minorities

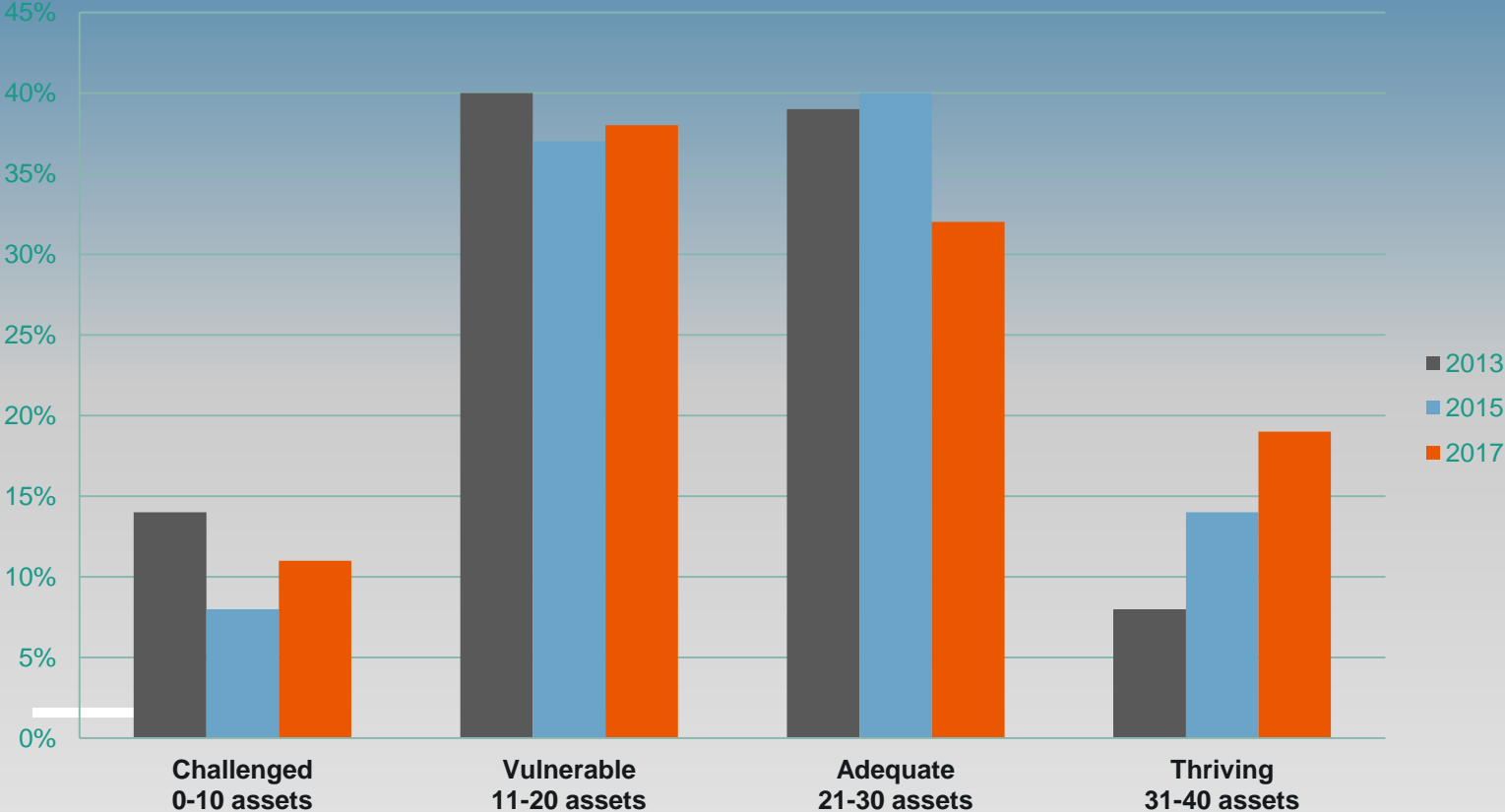



40 Developmental Assets

General Themes

- High empowerment and support
- Low constructive use of time and positive identity
- Assets decline with age
- Females report more assets than males
- Some groups report the fewest supports

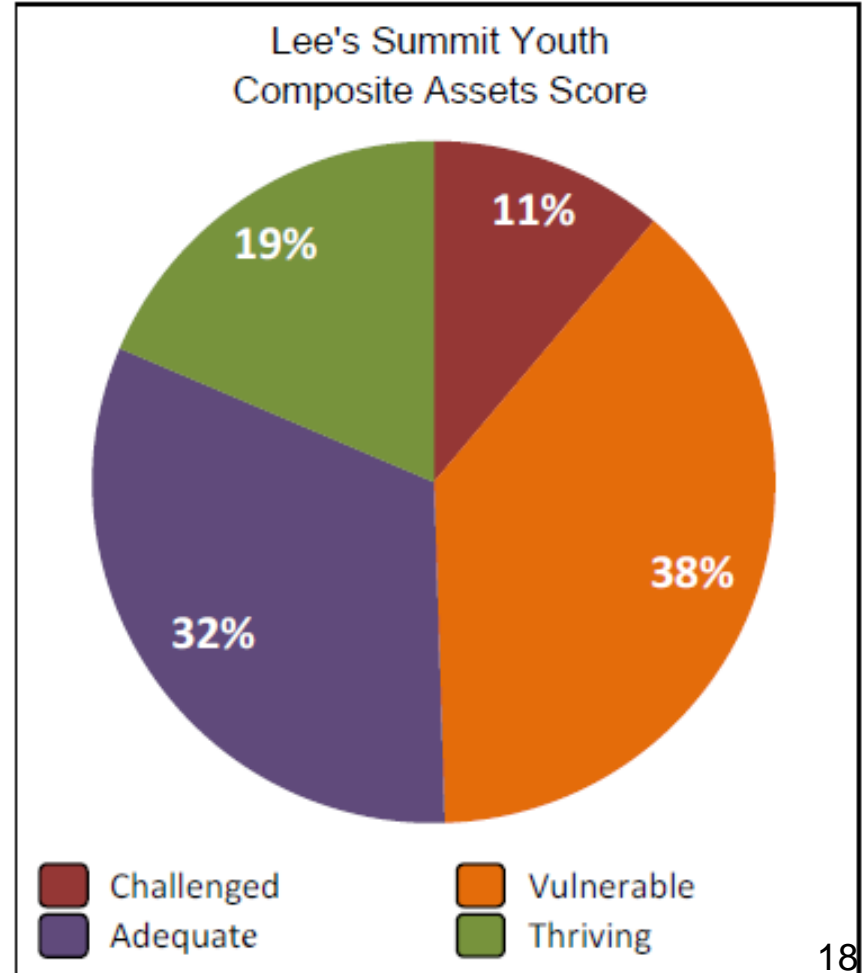
Composite Score Comparison



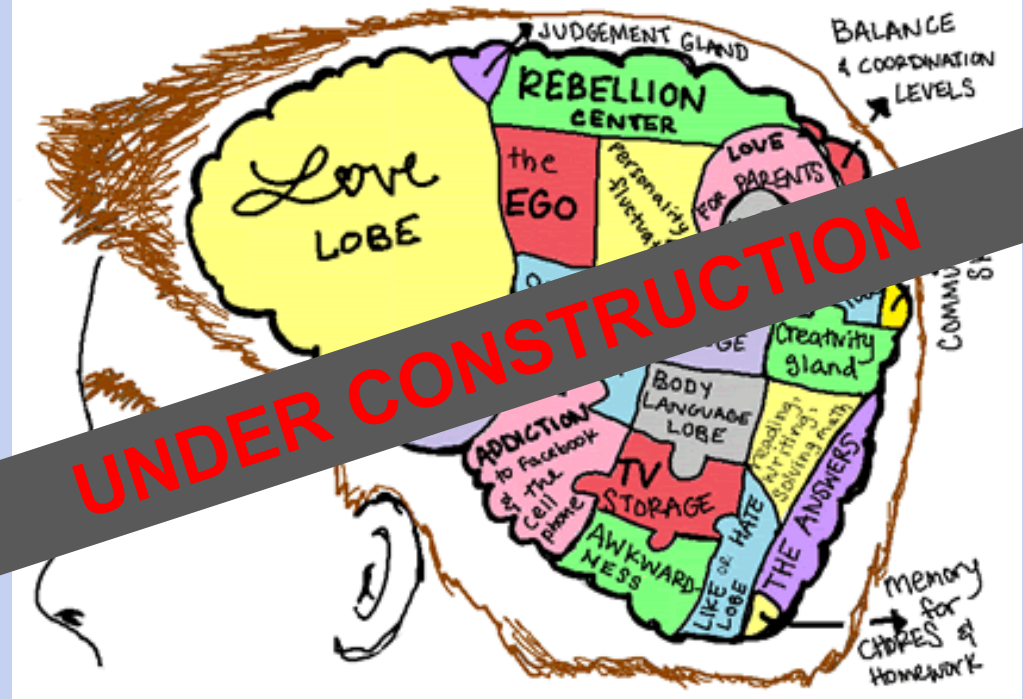


Why do teens engage in risky behaviors?

- Stressors from school, work, homelife
- Fitting in
- Escaping anxieties or fears
- Disengaged



Why We Care



Substance Use Data

First Time Alcohol Use in Missouri

QUESTION



On average, at what age does a child take their first drink of alcohol?

First Time Alcohol Use in Missouri

QUESTION



On average, at what age does a child take their first drink of alcohol?

ANSWER



13 YEARS OLD

Source: 2016 Missouri Student Survey data

First Time Marijuana Use in Missouri

QUESTION



On average, at what age does a child first try marijuana?

First Time Marijuana Use in Missouri

QUESTION



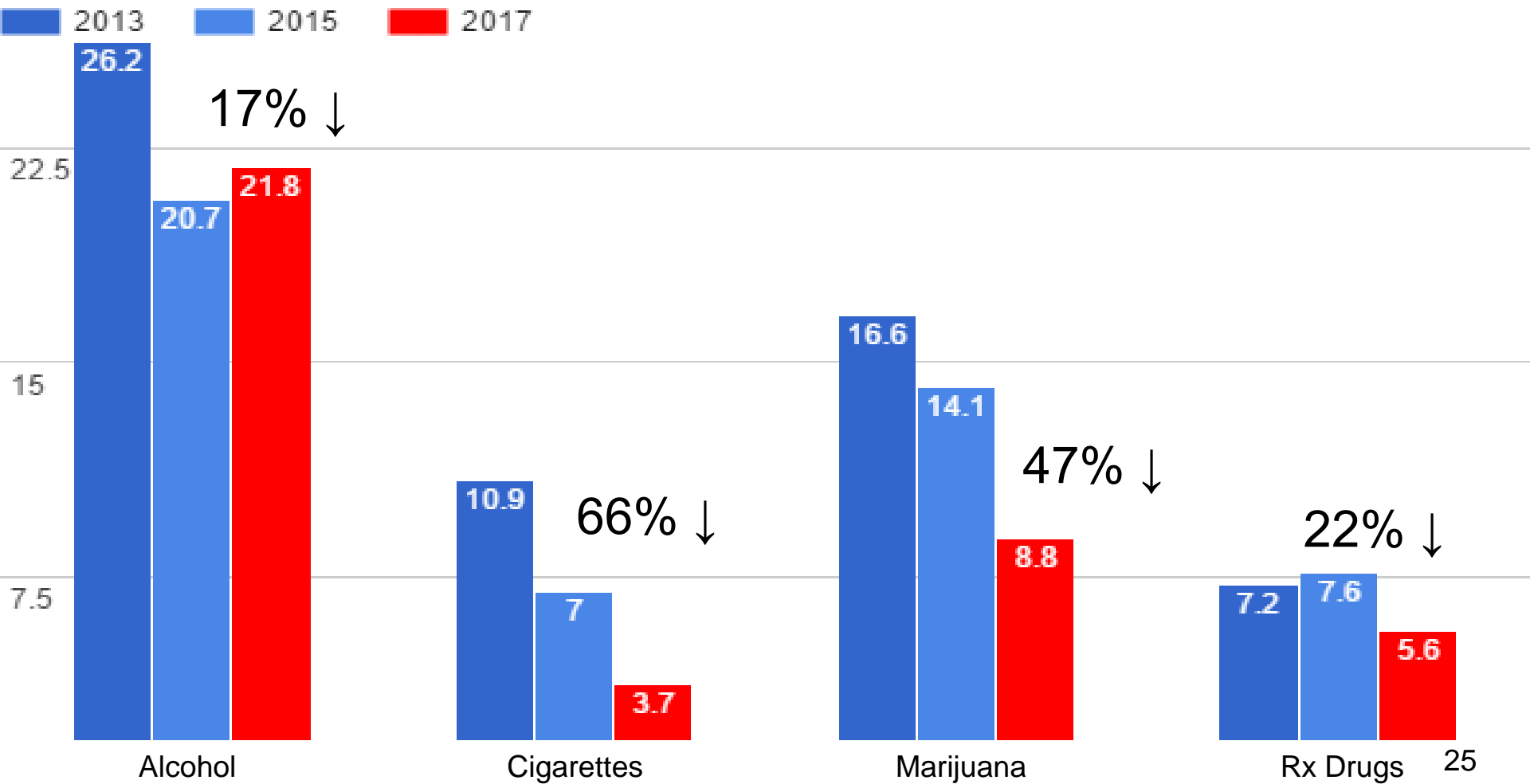
On average, at what age does a child first try marijuana?

ANSWER

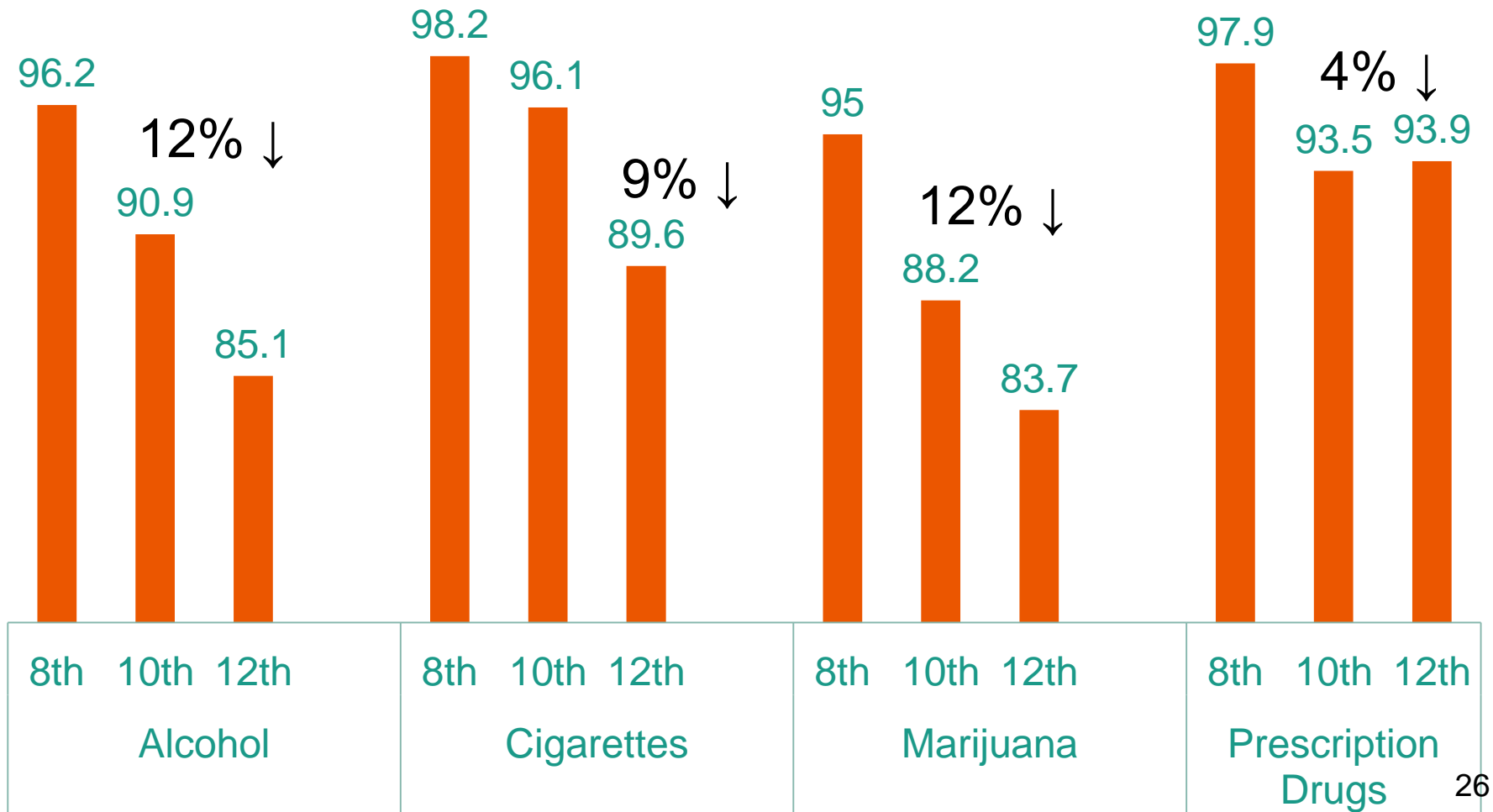


Source: 2016 Missouri Student Survey data

5 Year Fluctuation of Past 30 Day Use



2017 Perception of Parental Disapproval (in %)



LS students report on friend use:

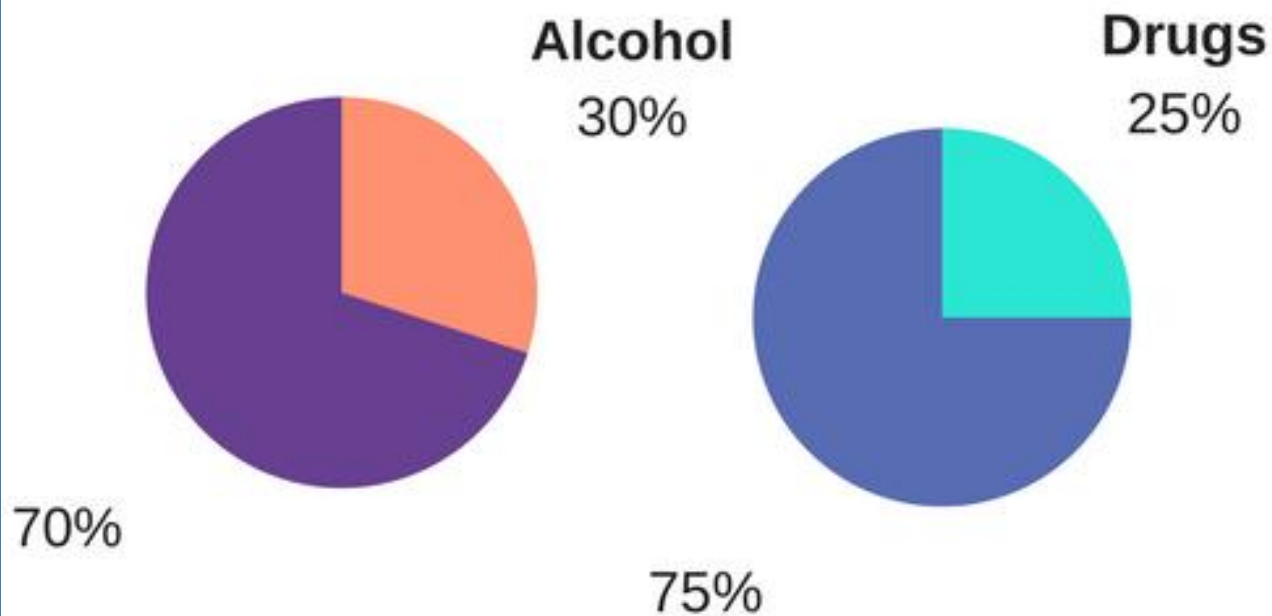
friends who drink alcohol once a week or more:



friends who have ever used drugs:



% of LS students who have been to a party where kids were using:



under the influence of **alcohol or drugs**
in the last year

Driven

Ridden

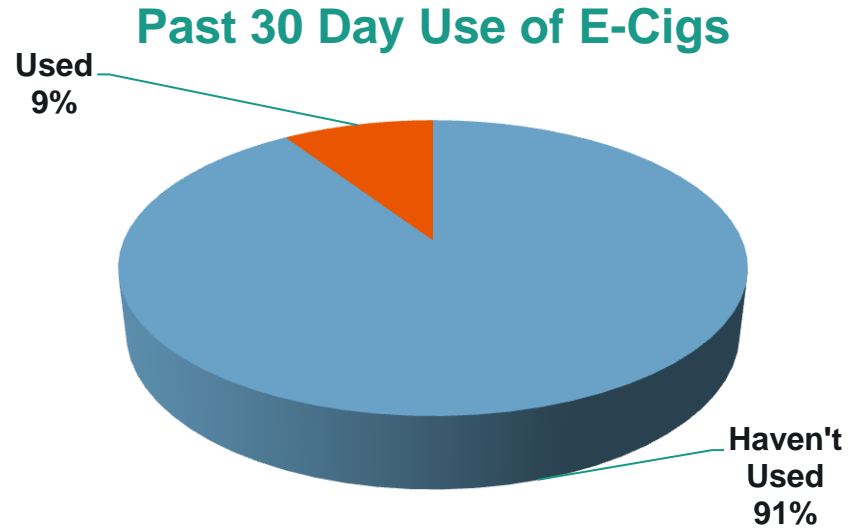
6%



19%

Lee's Summit Statistics

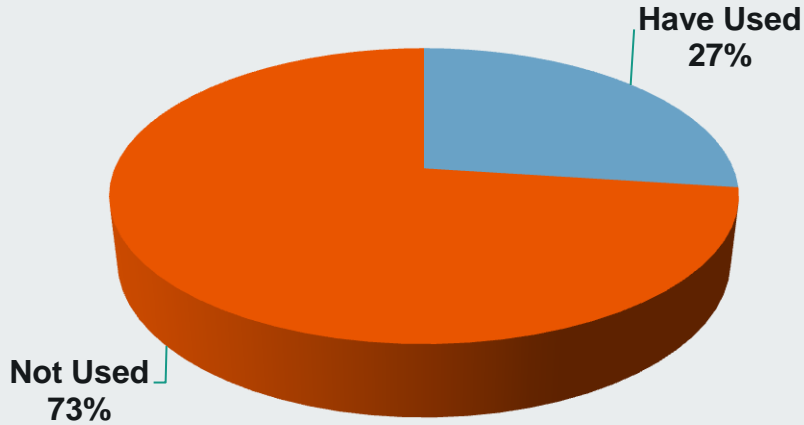
Electronic cigarette use in the past
30 days



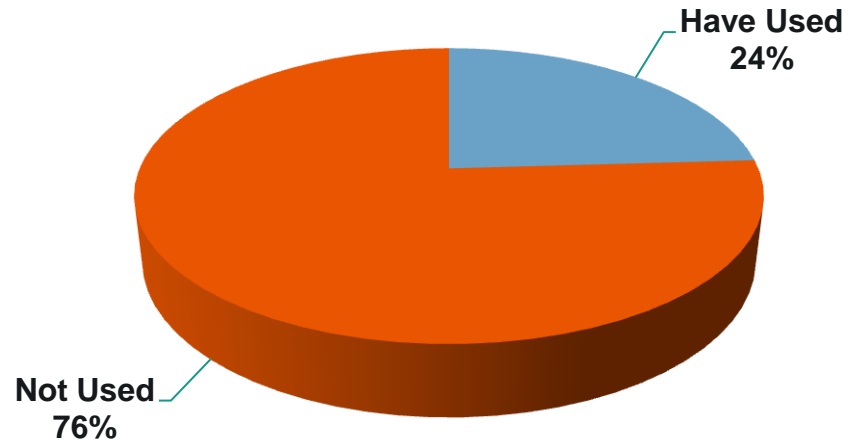
Use Triples



E-Cigarettes



Marijuana





Lee's Summit Statistics

2016 Underage Alcohol Enforcement

Provided by LSPD

2016 Underage Alcohol Enforcement

- 78 Minors in Possession of Alcohol
- 2 Social Host Ordinance violations
- 22 Alcohol Retailer Compliance Check violations

Note: Lee's Summit youth are also traveling to surrounding communities to access alcohol.



Lee's Summit Statistics

2016 Sex Offenses Against Youth

Provided by LSPD

2016 Youth Victims of Sex Offenses

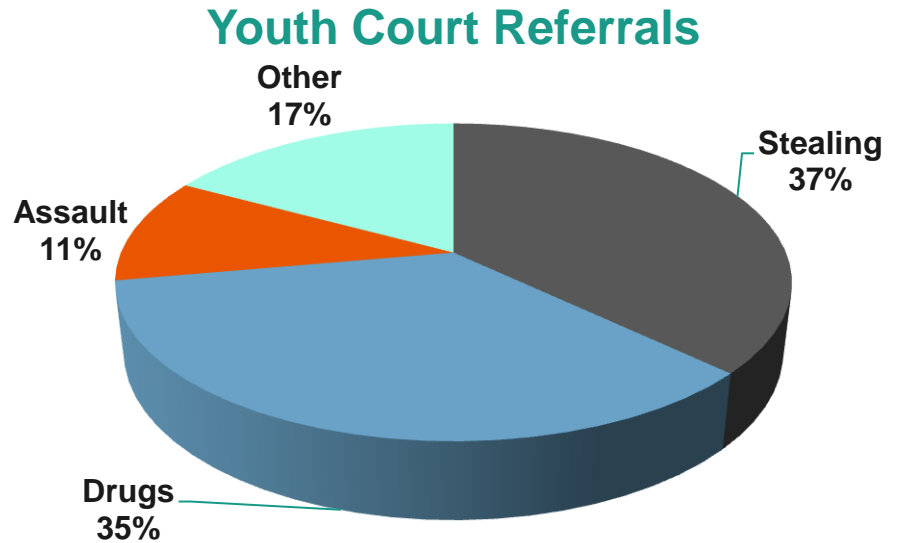
- Approx. 200 youth, ages 11 – 16
- Offense reported about every two days
- Most incidents involve 11 year old youth
- Frequently occur during summer months

Note: Only about 1 in 3 sexual offenses are reported.

Lee's Summit Statistics

2016 Youth Court Referrals

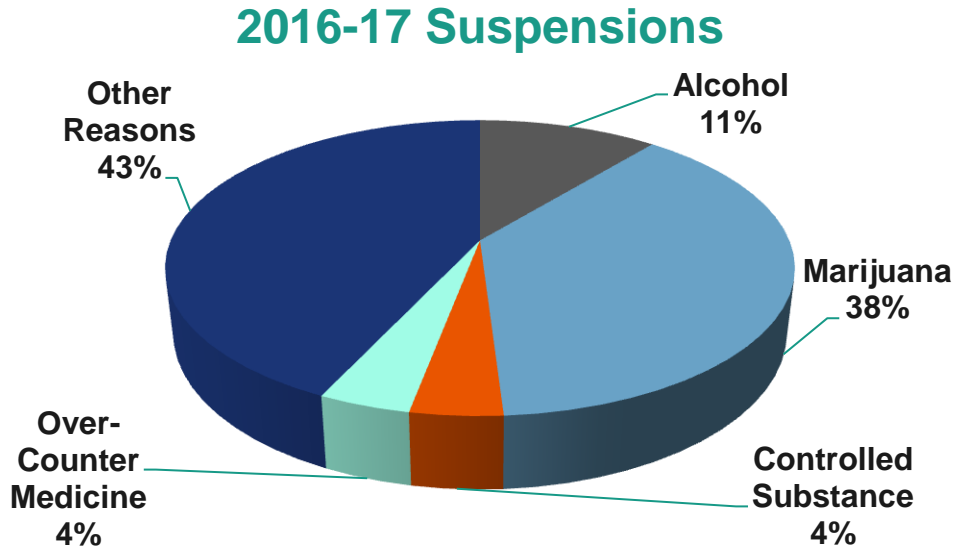
Provided by LSPD



Lee's Summit Statistics

2016-2017 Substance Related
Suspension Data

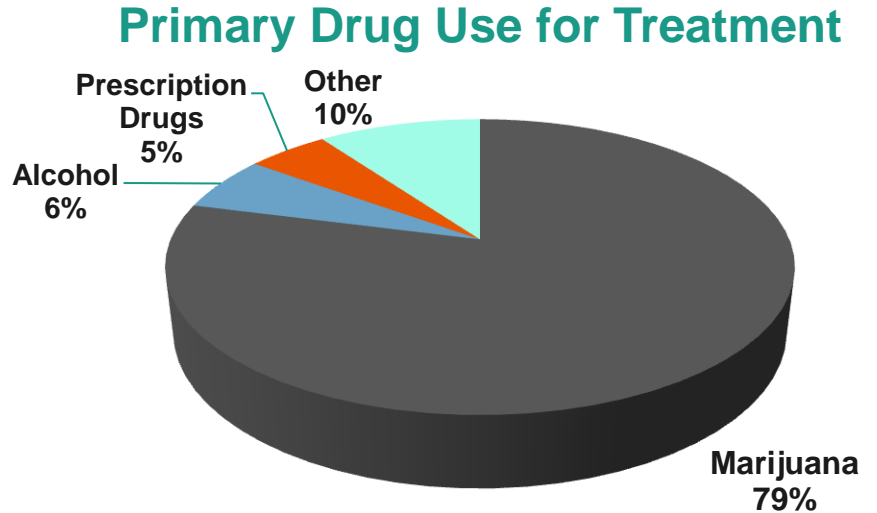
Provided by LSR7



Lee's Summit Statistics

2016 Treatment Data

provided by Preferred Family
Healthcare



2017 Lee's Summit Past Month Use Among 8th, 10th & 12th Graders

21.8%



9.3%



8.8%



5.6%



3.7%



LS students **grade 8-12** who used alcohol in the last month



LS students in **grade 12** who used alcohol in the last month



8th Grade

12th Grade



2.4%

5 X

greater use



16%

Less than half (44.7%) of 12th graders perceive **marijuana** to be harmful

A silhouette of a tree with a thick trunk and many thin, bare branches. The tree is leaning significantly to the right, its trunk and branches curving under the weight of the sky. The background is a dramatic sky with heavy, dark clouds, but a bright light source, likely the sun, is breaking through the clouds, creating a golden glow and illuminating the edges of the clouds. The foreground is a dark, silhouetted horizon line, possibly a field of grass or a low wall.


Do You Bend or Break?

RESILIENCE



Celebrate
SOBER





How can adults support youth?

Suggestions from Search Institute

- Open communication
- Support disconnected youth
- Consistent messages through teen years
- Recognize personal best
- Offer parent and family resources
- Focus on mastery, not memorization
- Identify mentors
- Value diversity

Here's what YOU can do



Ask us for details!

Join

- Lee's Summit CARES
- LSC Business of Character
- Youth Mental Wellness/Suicide Prevention Committee




Attend

- Trauma Informed Care training
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Partnership to Prevent Risky Behaviors committee
- Parenting Committee



LEE'S SUMMIT CARES

prevention - parenting - character

- Follow us on   
- Access resources and register for classes at LSCares.org