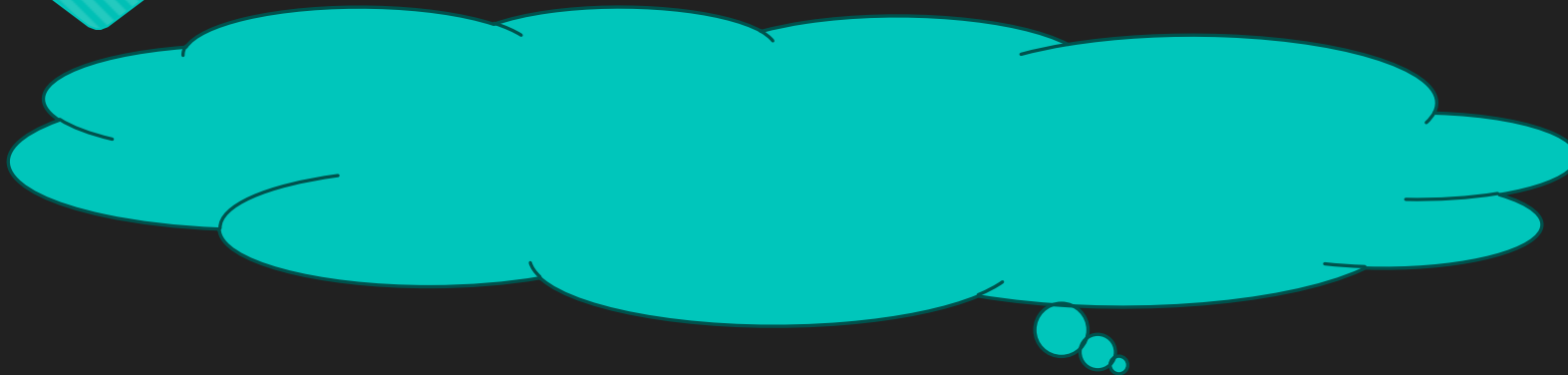


UNPUZZLING OUR STUDENTS

MINDSETS FOR BETTER MENTAL

HEALTH By: Dr. Danielle Hyles



WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH?

Mental Health explained – for primary aged children



schoolwork

**conflict
with
friends**

family



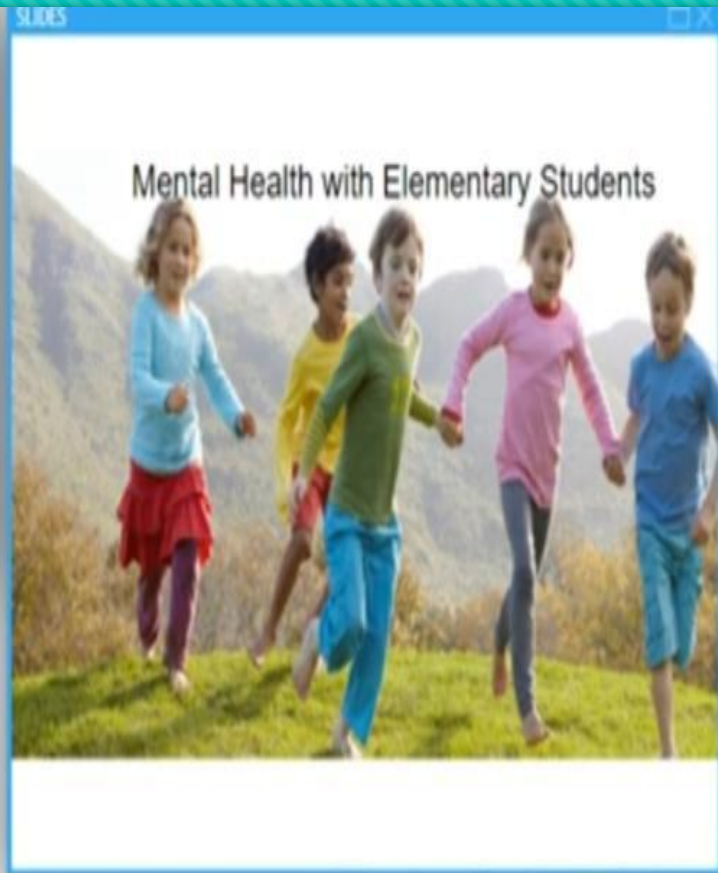
Mental health: What it is and why it matters



MENTAL WELLNESS



School-Link: Caring for the mental health needs of children and young people



Mental Health with Elementary Age Students

What Mental Health Is and Why It's Important to Take Care of It? - Kids



What Mental Health Is and Why It's Important to Take Care of It? - Kids



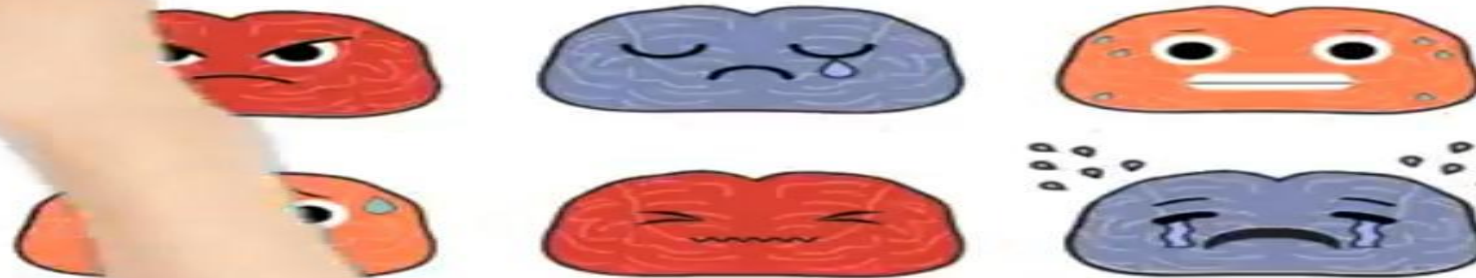
What is good mental health?

How do we deal with poor mental health?

What can we do if some kids find it difficult to do what's easy for others?



HOW TO CONTROL BIG EMOTIONS FOR KIDS





YOU GOT THIS!

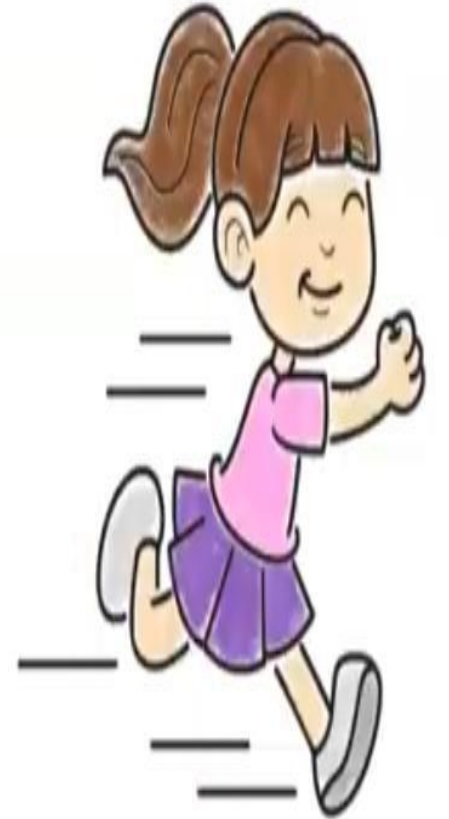
YOU ARE DOING GREAT!

KEEP PUSHING!

What's a more positive way
of looking at this situation?

4. Thinking Skills

3. Movement Skills



Feelings Thermometer

Agitated
Angry
Devastated
Frightened
Furious
Jealous
Stressed Out



Confused
Embarrassed
Excited
Irritated
Nervous
Shy
Worried



Confident
Fine
Focused
Happy
Hopeful
Peaceful
Proud



Bored
Disappointed
Lonely
Sad
Shy
Sick
Tired



How Do You Act?

Arguing, Refusing
Tantrum, Shutting Down
Yelling, Stomping



Count to
10 or 100

Tell an
adult

Move your
body or
exercise

What Can You Do About It?



Stop, and
walk away



Take a nap



Take deep
breaths



Practice
grounding
techniques

Avoiding, Pacing
Clings, Hyper
Shutting Down
Overstimulated



Take deep
breaths

Take a
break

Pause, and
ask for help



Use positive
self-talk



Relax and
try again



Tense and
relax your
muscles



Think of a
peaceful
place

Smiling, Relaxed
Laughing, Engaged
Paying Attention
Enjoying Yourself



Smile &
practice
gratitude

Help
someone
else



Use kind &
positive words

Take steps
toward
your goals

Exercise



Keep
listening



Write
about your
successes

Withdrawn, Disengaged
Crying, Slowed Down
Understimulated
Depressed



Get or give
a hug

Talk to friends
or family

Get some
fresh air



Stretch



Listen to
music



Move your
body or
exercise



Do a hobby
you enjoy

Feelings Wheel

A feelings wheel is a circular tool used to help children identify and express their emotions. It is divided into sections representing different feelings, such as happy, sad, angry, and scared. Children can use the wheel to talk about how they are feeling and what might be causing those feelings.



GROWTH MINDSET VS. FIXED MINDSET

GROWTH MINDSET



GROWTH MINDSET VS. FIXED MINDSET



CHARACTERISTICS OF A GROWTH MINDSET



HOW TO DEVELOP A GROWTH MINDSET

3. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF



4. THE POWER OF "YET"



FIXED MINDSET



VS.

GROWTH MINDSET



FLEX YOUR MINDSET MUSCLE

with these 4 simple steps





Mindset is Everything



4 FLEX YOUR MINDSET MUSCLE

ways to

**FIXED
MINDSET**

**GROWTH
MINDSET**

**CHANGE
YOUR
PERSPECTIVE**

**TAKE A
DIFFERENT
VIEW**

**KNOW
YOUR
LIMITS**

**WATCH
YOUR
WORDS**

LET'S GET
OUR
MINDSET
IN SHAPE



**DON'T
COMPARE**



**BE
YOU**



**NO
REGRETS**



**LESS
THINKING
MORE
DOING**





IF YOU CAN NAME IT, YOU CAN TAME IT



NOTICE YOUR EMOTION



CALL IT OUT BY NAME ("I FEEL SCARED")



TAKE A FEW DEEP BREATHS



GO ON WITH YOUR DAY





90 SECOND RULE

IF YOU CAN NAME IT
YOU CAN TAME IT!



**SO WHAT
CAN WE DO?**

**LEARN TO
RESPOND
INSTEAD OF
REACT**

**PREFRONTAL
CORTEX**



How Do You Feel Right Now?



Sad



Scared
Anxious



Mad
Angry



Happy



I don't
want to do
anything

Your Body



Sad, Depressed, Down, Hurt,
Lonely, Upset, Discouraged,
Gloomy, Disappointed, Drained



Scared, Anxious, Worried,
Afraid, Stressed Out,
Nervous, Panicking



*This is so
much fun*

*I feel really
good right
now*

*I wish this
could last
forever!*

*What if
something
bad happens?*

*I don't
want to
do this*

*I'm going
to get in
trouble*





You'll never guess what happened!

I'm feeling sad

And it's OK to feel sad

It's OK to feel how you feel

I'm feeling scared

But it's OK to be scared

I'm feeling angry

And it's OK to be angry

*Feelings don't
last forever
And you're
going to be OK*

*I'm
feeling
sad*

*And
it's OK to
feel sad*

*It's OK to feel
how you feel*

*I'm
feeling
scared*

*But it's
OK to be
scared*

*I'm
feeling
angry*

*And it's
OK to be
angry*



Brighten Up!



Shake Off Those Icky Feelings



Take a
Break



BREATHE





THE **ZONES** OF REGULATION™

A CURRICULUM DESIGNED
TO FOSTER SELF-REGULATION AND
EMOTIONAL CONTROL

Written and Created by
Leah M. Kuypers, MA Ed. OTR/L

Foreword and Selected Lessons by
Michelle Garcia Winner

25! Social
YRS! Thinking

Ready-to-print
reproducibles
available for
download

5 Point Feelings Scale

5



Angry

*I've lost control.
I'm not listening anymore.
I could hit, kick or bite.
I need a quiet place to calm down.*

4



Overwhelmed

*Everything is too hard.
I'm losing control and need to
leave the environment I'm in.
Give me space.*

3



Frustrated

*I'm not getting it,
I'm showing signs of stress.
I should take a break now.*

2



Anxious

*Trying to stay focused,
But having a hard time staying on
task.
Use calming strategies now.*

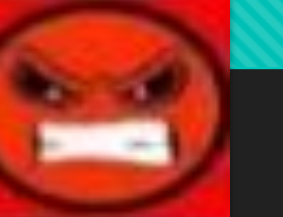
1



Happy

Ready and willing to work.

What Zone Are You In?

Blue Zone	Green Zone	Orange Zone	Red Zone
 SAD  HURT	 HAPPY  RELAXED	 SURPRISED  CONFUSED	 ANGRY  RAGING
 SCARED  TIRED	 CALM  EXCITED	 WORRIED  SILLY	 TERRIFIED  ANNOYED
What can I do?	What can I do?	What can I do?	What can I do?
REST	GO	SLOW DOWN	STOP
Take a break Ask for help Talk to someone Breathe in and out 5 times I can do this!	Think happy thoughts Stretch and move Help others Thank God I can do this!	Stop what you're doing Take a deep breath Do not rush Count down I can do this!	Take a time out Run a lap Squash a stress ball Drink water I can do this!

What Zone Are You In?

@Coach Bolger's Power PE

RED ZONE

I am ...

- mad
- mean
- scared
- yelling / hitting
- out of control



Balloon Breathing



YELLOW ZONE

I am feeling ...

- frustrated
- worried
- silly / wiggly
- excited
- a little out of control



GREEN ZONE

I am feeling ...

- ★ happy
- ★ okay
- ★ focused
- ★ calm
- ★ ready to learn



Half Sun Salute



BLUE ZONE

I am feeling ...

- sad
- sick
- tired
- bored
- slow-moving



Bunny Breathing





What is Mindfulness?

An illustration of a person with dark hair and a yellow headband, seen from behind, sitting at a purple desk. They are looking at a large computer monitor that displays the text 'YOU CAN PRACTICE MINDFULNESS ANYWHERE, AT ANY TIME'. The background features a blue bookshelf filled with various colored binders and books. A small brown trash can is on the desk to the left of the monitor.

**YOU CAN PRACTICE
MINDFULNESS
ANYWHERE, AT ANY TIME**

PAY ATTENTION



LIVE IN THE MOMENT



ACCEPT YOURSELF



FOCUS ON BREATHING



POTENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

HANDLE STRESSFUL EVENTS



IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS



INCREASE AWARENESS



SITTING MEDITATION



"That's Insane" – How Our Language Stigmatizes Mental Illness



Instead of:
Disturbed, crazy, lunatic, psycho

Better term:
A person living with schizophrenia (or bipolar disorder, PTSD, etc.)

Why:
Negative labels like disturbed or crazy tend to be stigmatizing. Describing the mental health disorder that they're living with is a better use of mental health words.

Instead of:
Mentally ill person

Better term:
A person with a mental illness

Why:
People aren't defined by their mental illness. There's much more to them than that.

Instead of:
Suffering from mental illness

Better term:
Living with a mental illness

Why:
A mental illness isn't always a negative thing.

Instead of:
Schizophrenic, bipolar, borderline

Better term:
A person living with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, etc.

Why:
People aren't bipolar, schizophrenic, or borderline. Instead, they're living with a diagnosable mental health disorder.

Instead of:
Suffers from substance abuse

Better term:
Has a substance use disorder

Why:
Avoiding the use of words like suffers and abuse and substituting the diagnosable disorder when talking about drug and alcohol addiction is less hurtful.

Mental Health STIGMA

MENTAL HEALTH IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS PHYSICAL HEALTH

Over half of college students
say they do not know where
to go to seek help

HERE'S A PLACE TO
ANONYMOUSLY START:



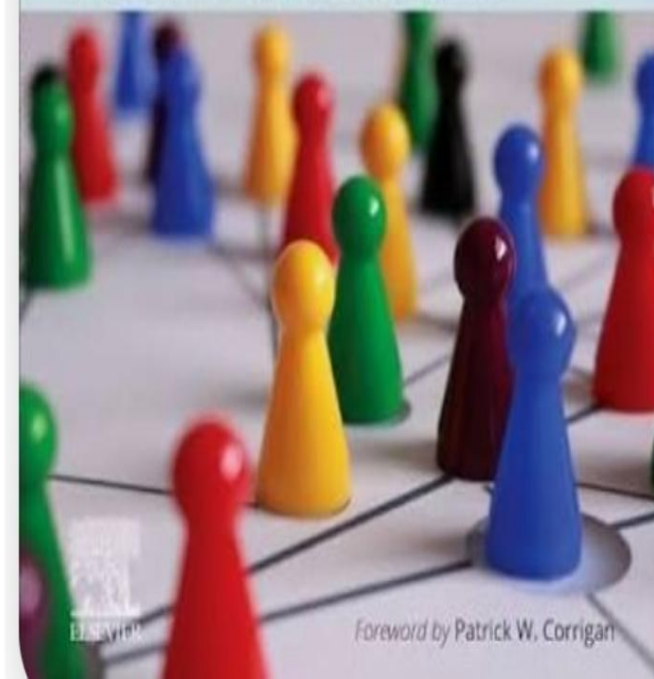
Nicolas Rüsch

Adaptation author
Shoshana Lauter

The Stigma of Mental Illness

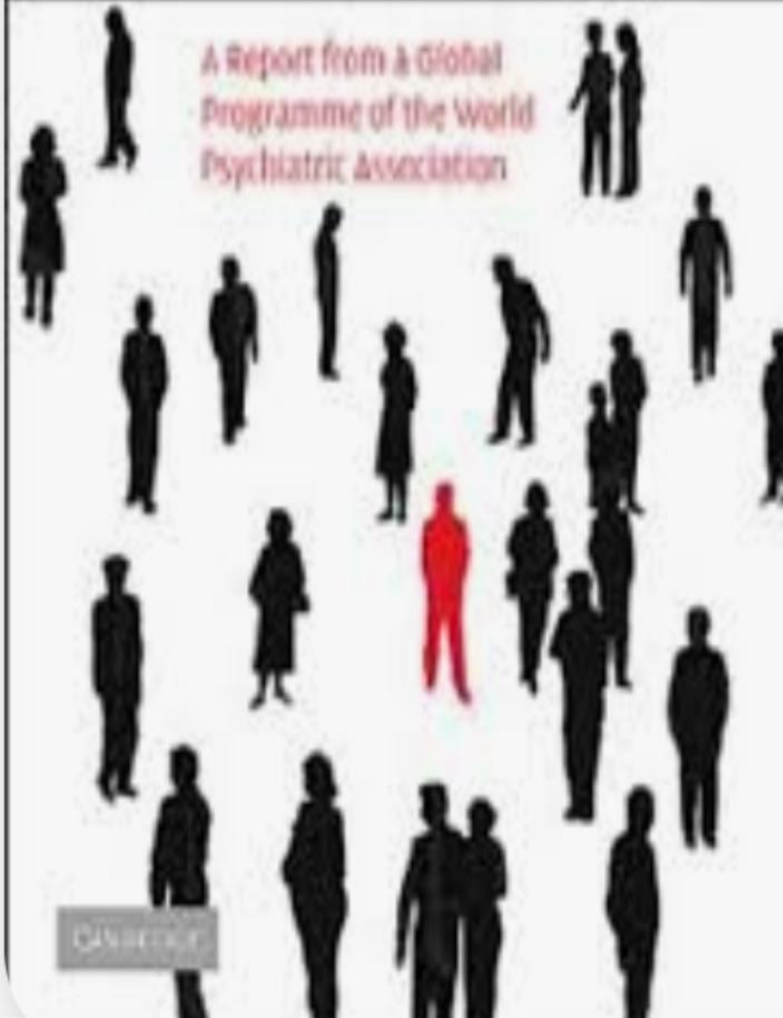
Strategies Against Social
Exclusion and Discrimination

Contributions from Yukti Ballani, Janine Berg-Peer, Anish V. Cherian,
Petra C. Gronholm, Martina Heland-Graef, Santosh Loganathan,
Gurucharan Bhaskar Mendon and Graham Thornicroft



Reducing the Stigma of Mental Illness

A Report from a Global Programme of the World Psychiatric Association



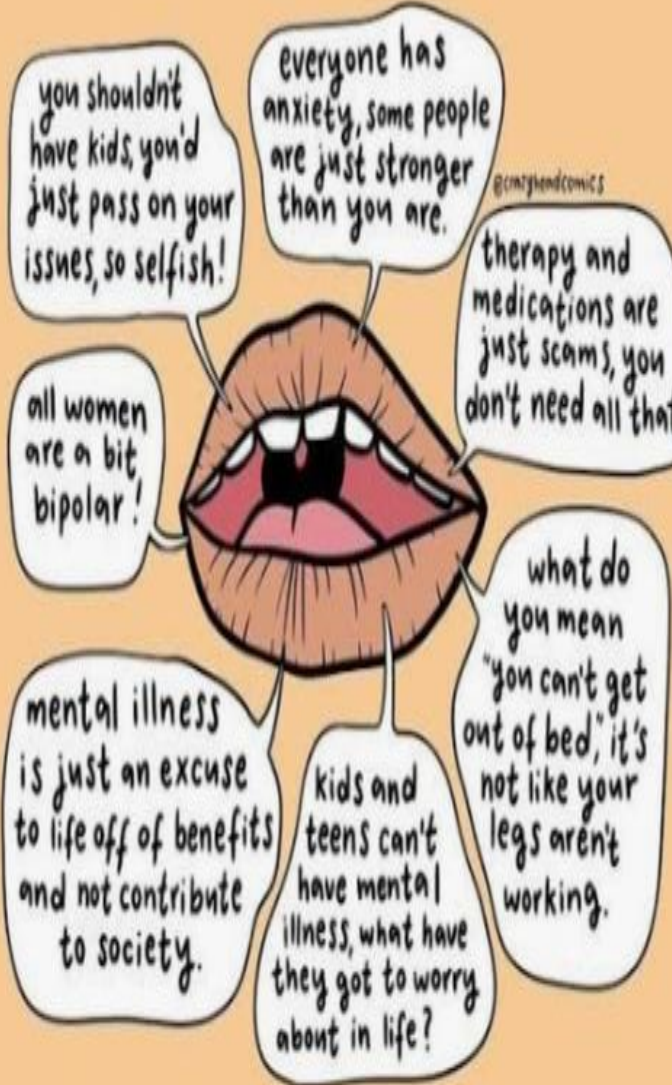
Student Mental Health Toolkit...

**Speak up,
Speak out.**
**Mental Health
Matters**

macombgov.org/CHA



mental health stigma
looks like



Mental MATTERS



CHART 3 Attitude towards mental illness

People with mental illnesses should not be given any responsibility



One of the main causes of mental illness is the lack of self-discipline and will-power



Mentally unhealthy people should have their own groups - healthy people need not be contaminated by them



Most women who were once patients in a mental hospital cannot be trusted as babysitters



One should keep safe a distance from someone who is depressed



People suffering from mental illness are always violent



Sitting with / talking to a mentally unhealthy person could deteriorate the mental health of a healthy person

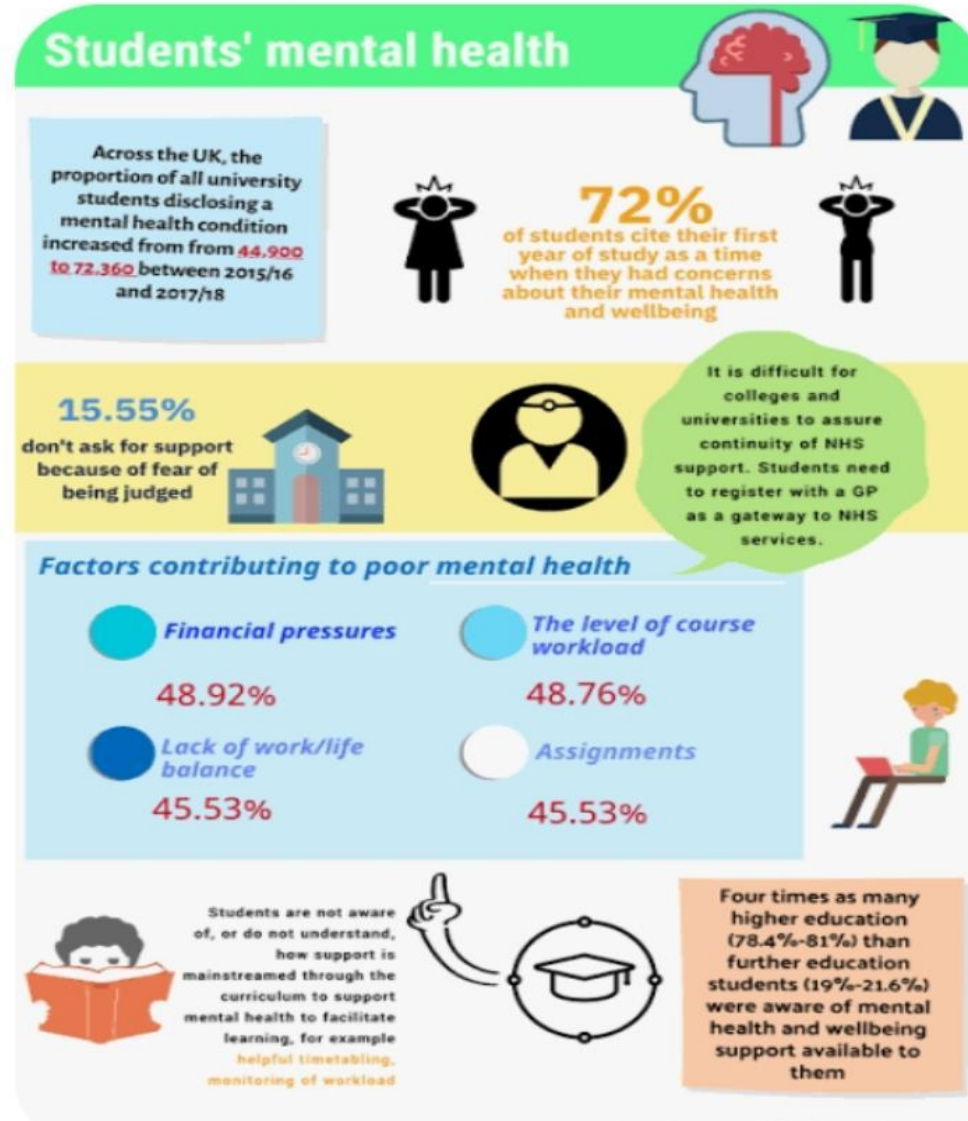


It is frightening to think that people with mental problems live in our neighborhoods



% of people agreeing
Base: All 3556







Navigating mental health...



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTIVE
RESPECTIVE
STOP STIGMA
STIGMA ALIST
FORM RECOVER

Student mental health stigma is a pervasive issue driven by negative attitudes, misconceptions, and a lack of understanding, which can prevent students from seeking help, lead to social isolation, and negatively impact academic and social life. This stigma is fueled by factors like academic pressure, fear of judgment, and a lack of mental health education, but can be combatted through increased awareness, open conversation, and educational programs. 

Contributing factors to student mental health stigma

- **Academic pressure:** Competitive environments can lead to intense pressure to succeed, making students feel they must hide any struggles to appear "successful".
- **Lack of understanding:** Mental illness is often viewed as opaque, leading to myths and misconceptions that fuel negative stereotypes.

- **Fear of consequences:** Students worry about retaliation or negative judgment from peers, faculty, or employers if they seek help for a mental health issue.
- **Societal and cultural influences:** Stigma can be influenced by community, religious, or cultural beliefs and biases that affect how mental health is viewed and discussed.
- **Perceived vs. personal stigma:** Students may believe that others hold more stigmatizing views than they do personally, but can still internalize and perpetuate some of these same negative stereotypes, [according to ScienceDirect.com](#). 

Consequences for students

- **Barriers to treatment:** Students may be too embarrassed or scared to talk to someone, preventing them from seeking necessary support.
- **Social and emotional impact:** Stigma can affect a student's ability to be themselves and belong to social circles, notes ScienceDirect.com.

- **Impact on academic performance:** The stress of hiding a mental health issue can negatively affect a student's ability to function and thrive academically. 

Ways to combat stigma

- **Implement mental health education:** Programs in schools can help educate students and staff about mental health, reduce misconceptions, and build more inclusive environments.
- **Promote open conversations:** Encouraging open dialogue can help normalize mental health issues and make it easier for students to talk about their experiences.
- **Increase awareness of resources:** Students need to know what services are available to them, such as on-campus counseling or other support systems.
- **Encourage empathy and understanding:** Recognizing and validating students' feelings, listening to their concerns, and avoiding stigmatizing language can create a more supportive atmosphere.

Mental Health Stigma

Refers to negative attitudes, beliefs, and stereotypes towards people who experience mental health conditions (CDC, 2024).

Stigma can lead to:

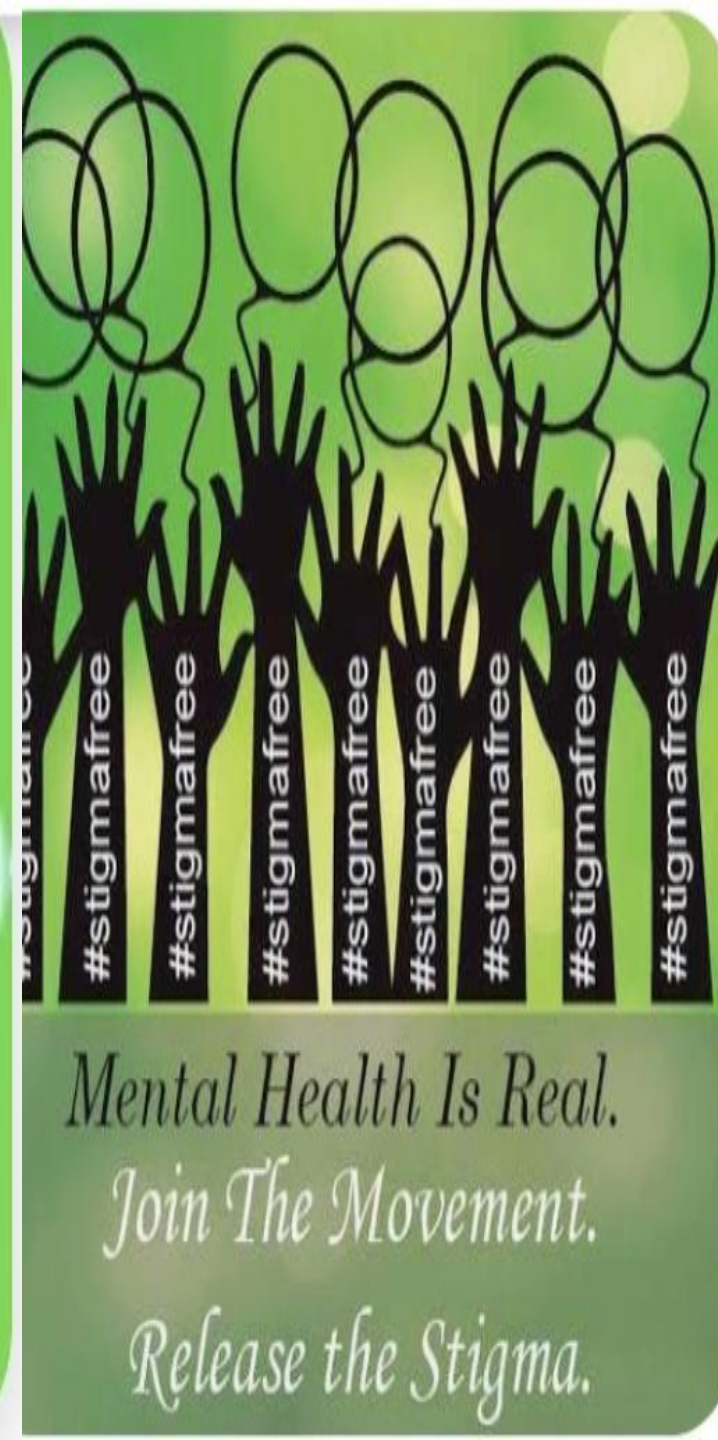
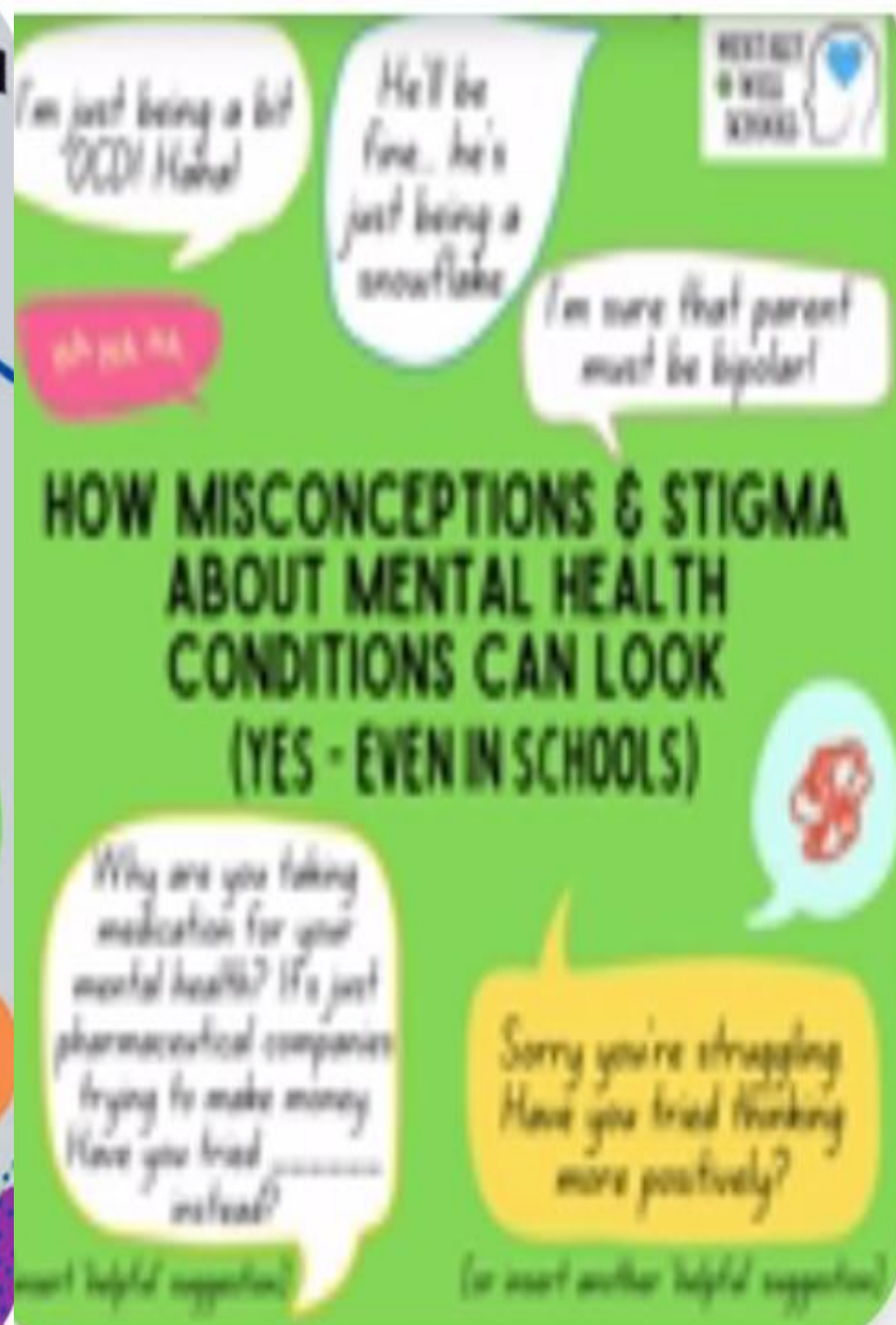
Experiencing a lot of distress before seeking help

Fear of judgment

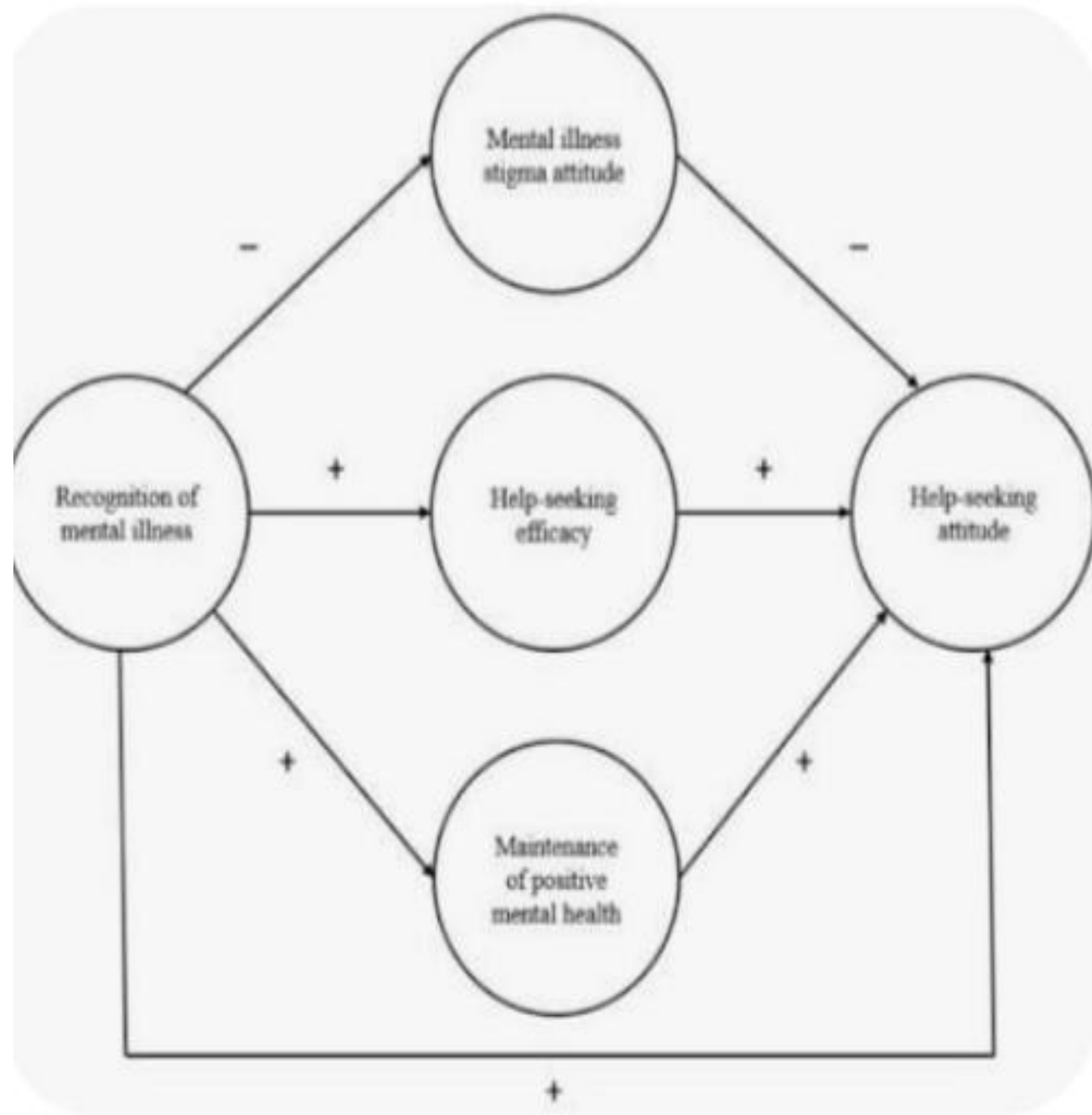
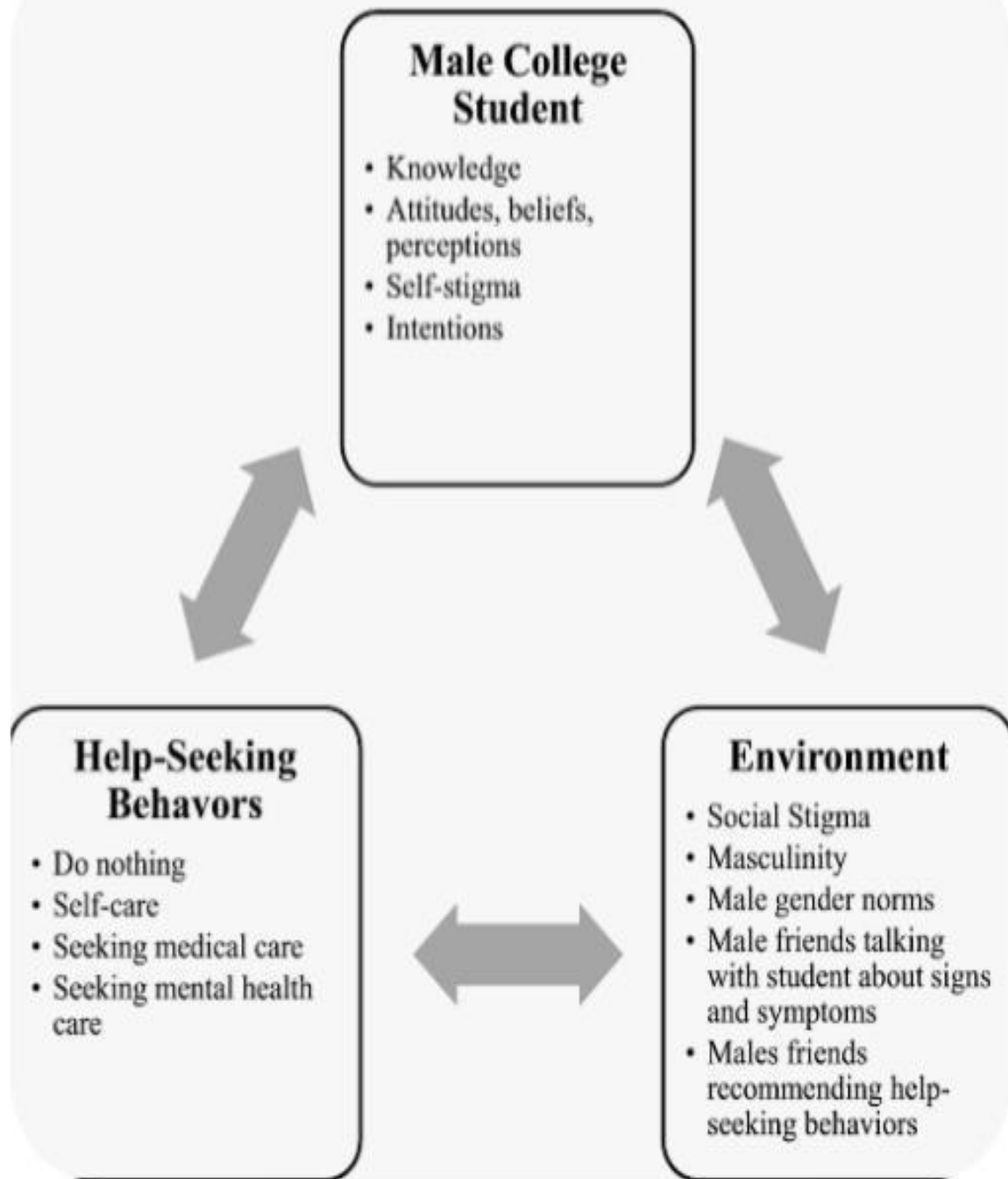
Decreased understanding of the signs of mental distress

Feelings of shame about your mental health

Struggling in silence



Male Mental Health Literacy Triadic Interplay



The Truth About Mental Illness

Judgement	Symptom	Experience
"They don't care enough to pay attention"	Concentration Difficulties	"I care about this but I can't seem to focus "
"They're lazy for staying in bed"	Low energy / Fatigue	"Why does my body struggle to move so much?"
"They're rude for cancelling plans last minute"	Sudden Panic / Overwhelm	"If I leave home I'll meltdown & burden others"
"They're ungrateful and need to cheer up "	Numbness	"Why can't I feel the joy I used to experience?"

♥ Please understand the **experience** before judging the **symptom** ♥

@RealDepressionProject



MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA SOUNDS LIKE

"Why can't you just be happy?"

"I'm fine, other people have it worse than me."

END THE STIGMA



SCAN FOR RESOURCES



"College is supposed to be this stressful."

"I'd rather handle it myself or go talk to my friends."

ANONYMOUS RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE



Mental Distress

Knowing what to look for can help you to recognize when you need mental health support. Getting help can improve your quality of life, school performance, and social life.

- Sudden mood changes
- Changes in sleep patterns
- Changes in appetite
- Withdrawing from previously enjoyed activities
- A drop in functioning
- Increased nervousness or worrying
- Increased use of substances



5 ways to end mental health stigma

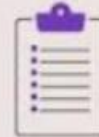
Educate yourself and your children about mental health



Share real-life examples of people with mental health disorders



Explain mental health has a range of symptoms



Listen to and support others with mental health concerns



Share stories of overcoming mental health disorders



children'shealth?



55% of college students report having fair or poor mental health.

You are not alone.

Your mind matters.

50% of adults will experience a mental health issue in their lifetime.

It's okay not to be okay.

SCAN FOR RESOURCES



5 ways to end mental health stigma

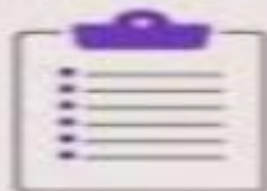
Educate yourself and your children about mental health



Share real-life examples of people with mental health disorders



Explain mental health has a range of symptoms



Listen to and support others with mental health concerns



Share stories of overcoming mental health disorders



Infographic

STOPPING STIGMA

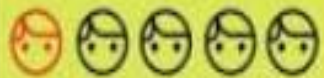
The stigma surrounding mental illness is extremely harmful. It can lead to many negative affects, including fear, mistrust, and even violence against those with mental disorders.

IMPROVE EDUCATION

Less than 1/2 of Woodside students have learned about mental health, even though education is an important aspect of reducing stigma



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AT SCHOOL



1 IN 5 CHILDREN AGE
13-18 HAVE OR WILL
HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS

THAT MEANS IN A CLASSROOM OF 25 STUDENTS,
5 WILL EXPERIENCE A MENTAL ILLNESS



SUICIDE

2ND
LEADING CAUSE
OF DEATH
FOR AGES
10-24

50%

OF STUDENTS AGE 14
AND OLDER WITH A
MENTAL ILLNESS DROP
OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL

EVERY DAY IN THE UNITED STATES
OVER **5,240 STUDENTS**
IN GRADES 7-12 **ATTEMPT SUICIDE**

4 OF 5
HAVE GIVEN
CLEAR WARNING
SIGNS

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CAN HELP YOU START A CONVERSATION THAT
COULD SAVE A LIFE.

THIRD TIER

Specialized consultation and
assessment, family caregiver
support, and therapy services

SECOND TIER

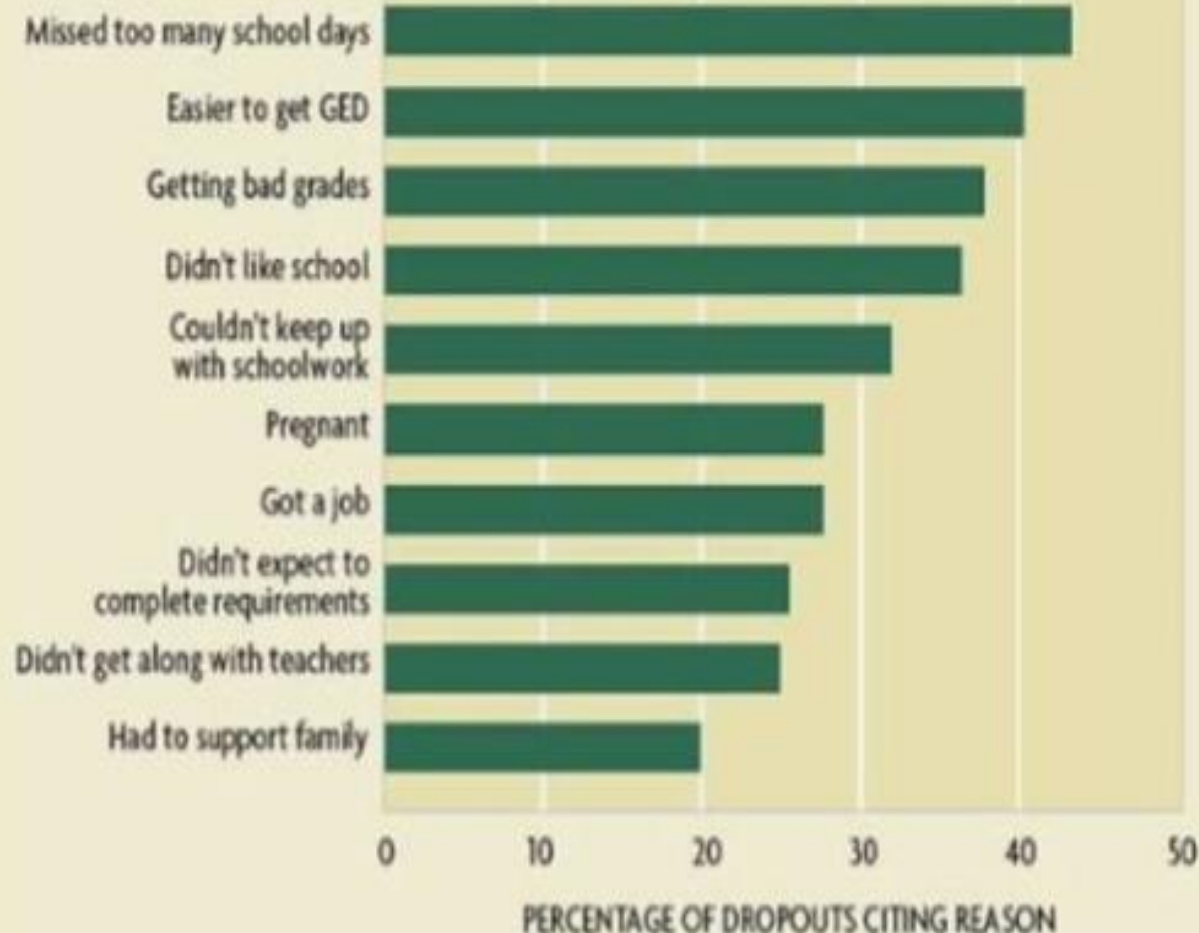
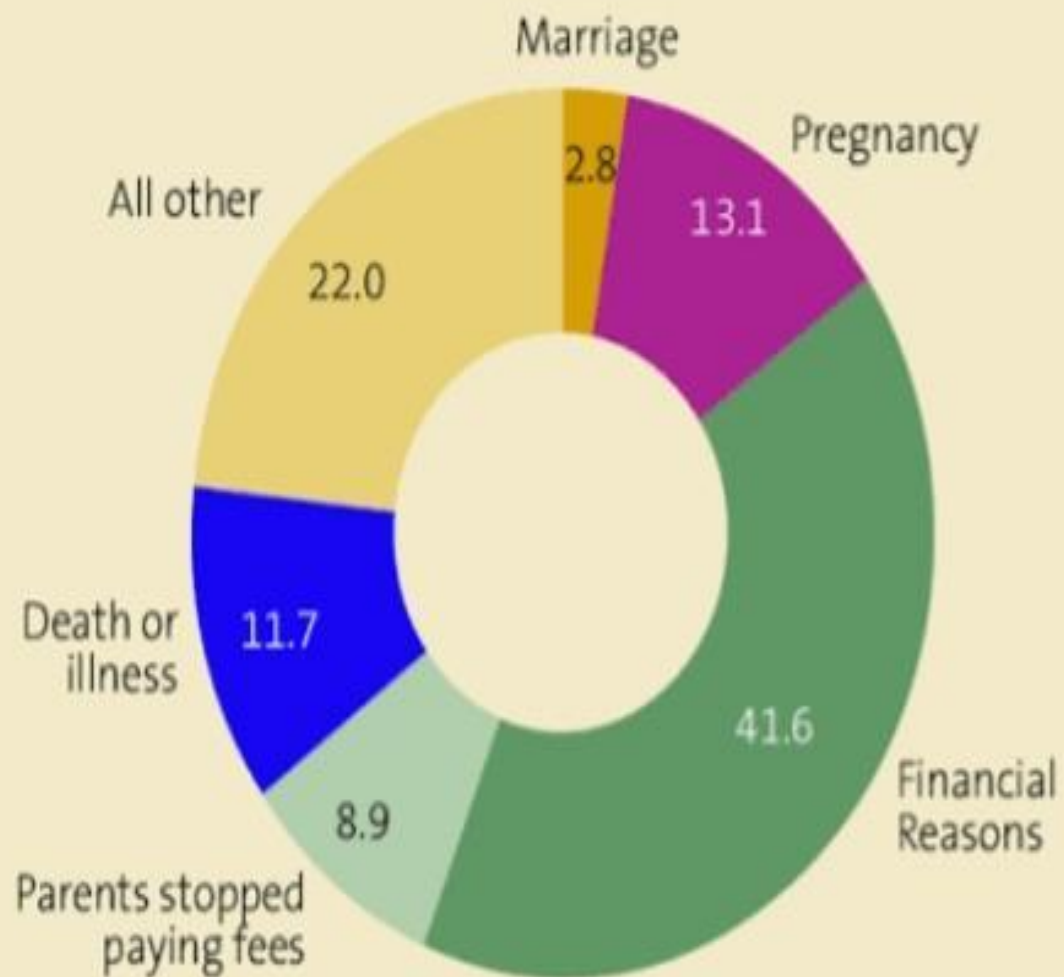
Targeted prevention
and brief services

FIRST TIER

Mental health
promotion

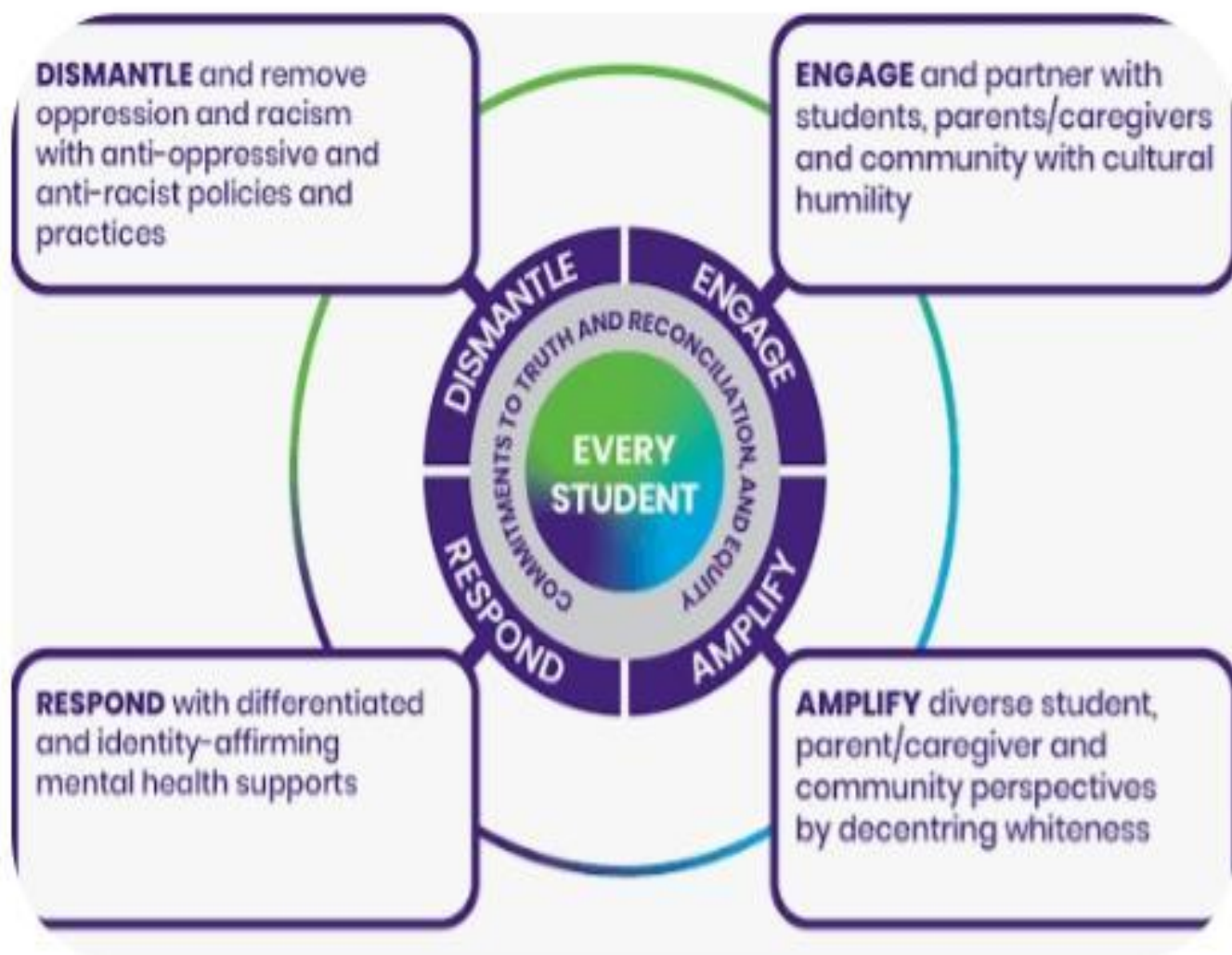
School Based Mental Health

Most Common Reasons for Dropping Out



NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 because students could list more than one response. The percent of students citing pregnancy refers to female students only.
 SOURCE: Dalton, Glennie, Ingels, and Wirt (2009); Department of Education's Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002

Main Reason For Dropping Out... The Dropout Dilemma |...



Identity and student mental...

 School Mental Health...



Stressors and Turning Points i...

Students with disabilities are more likely to drop out of high school.

10.7%

Dropout rate for
Students With
Disabilities



4.7%

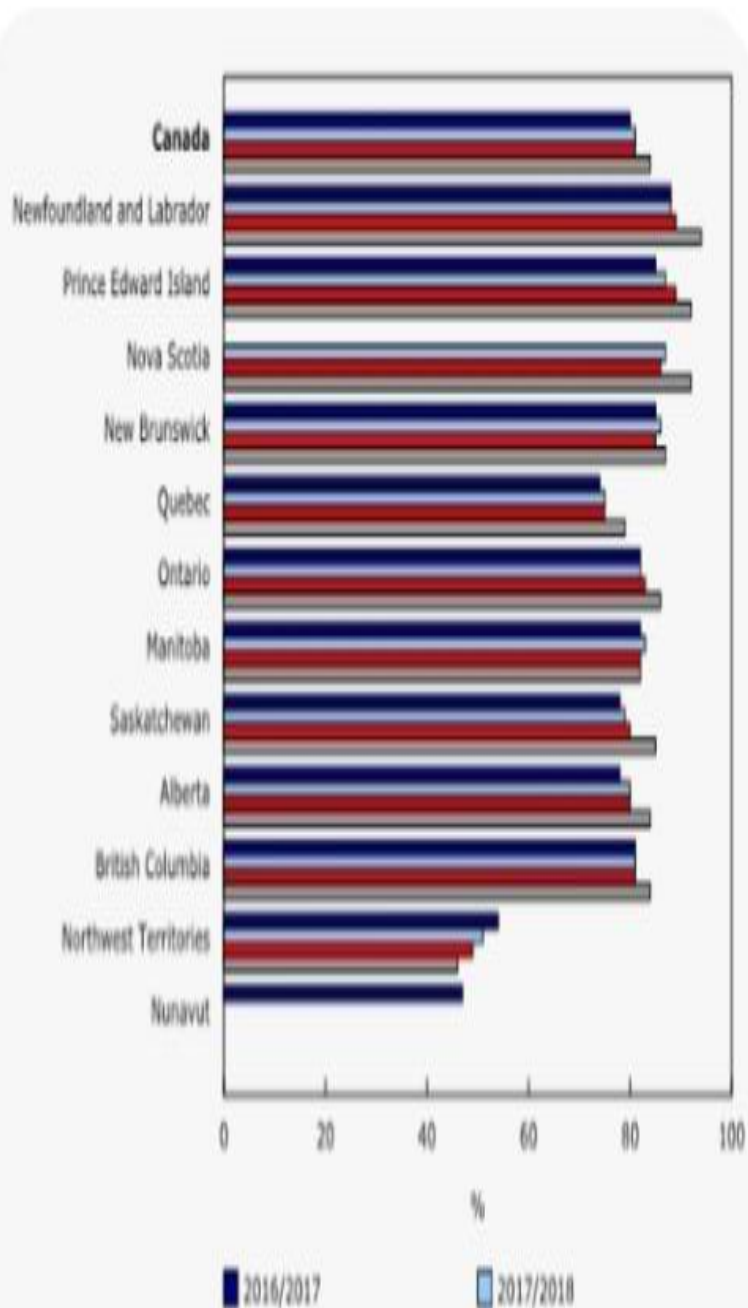
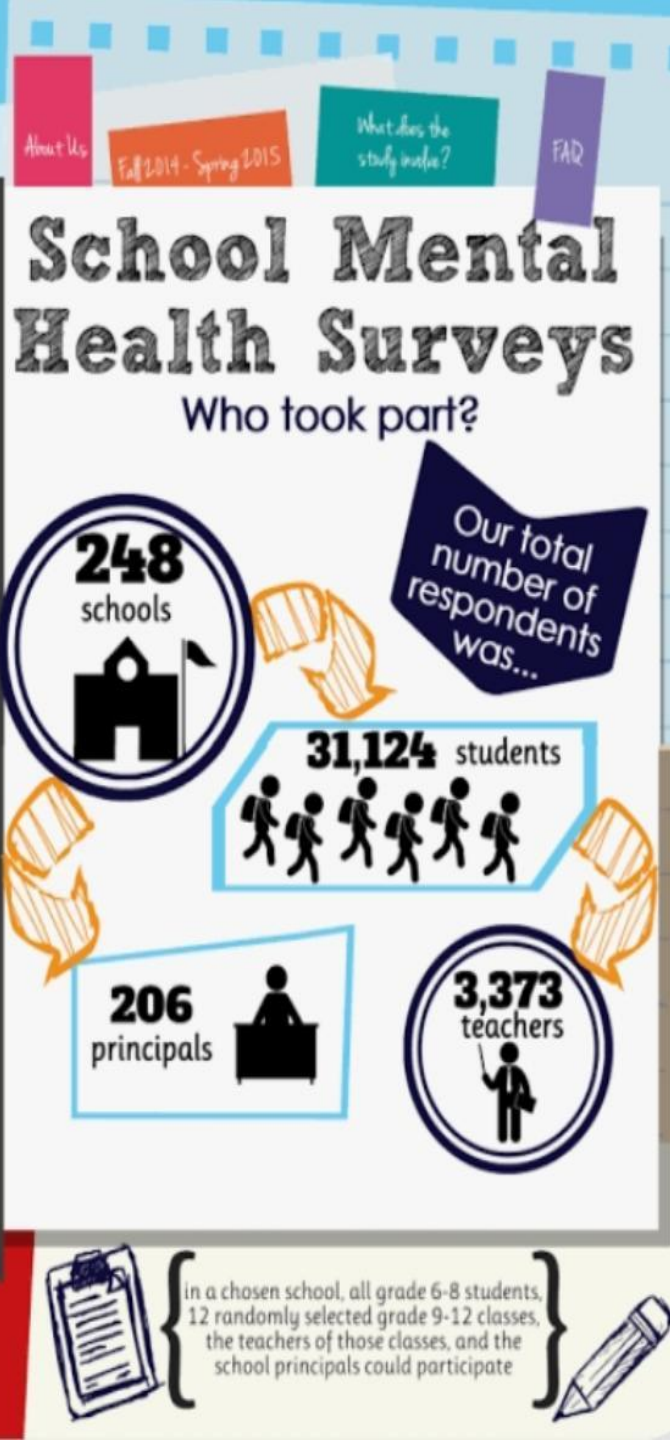
Dropout rate for
Students Without
Disabilities

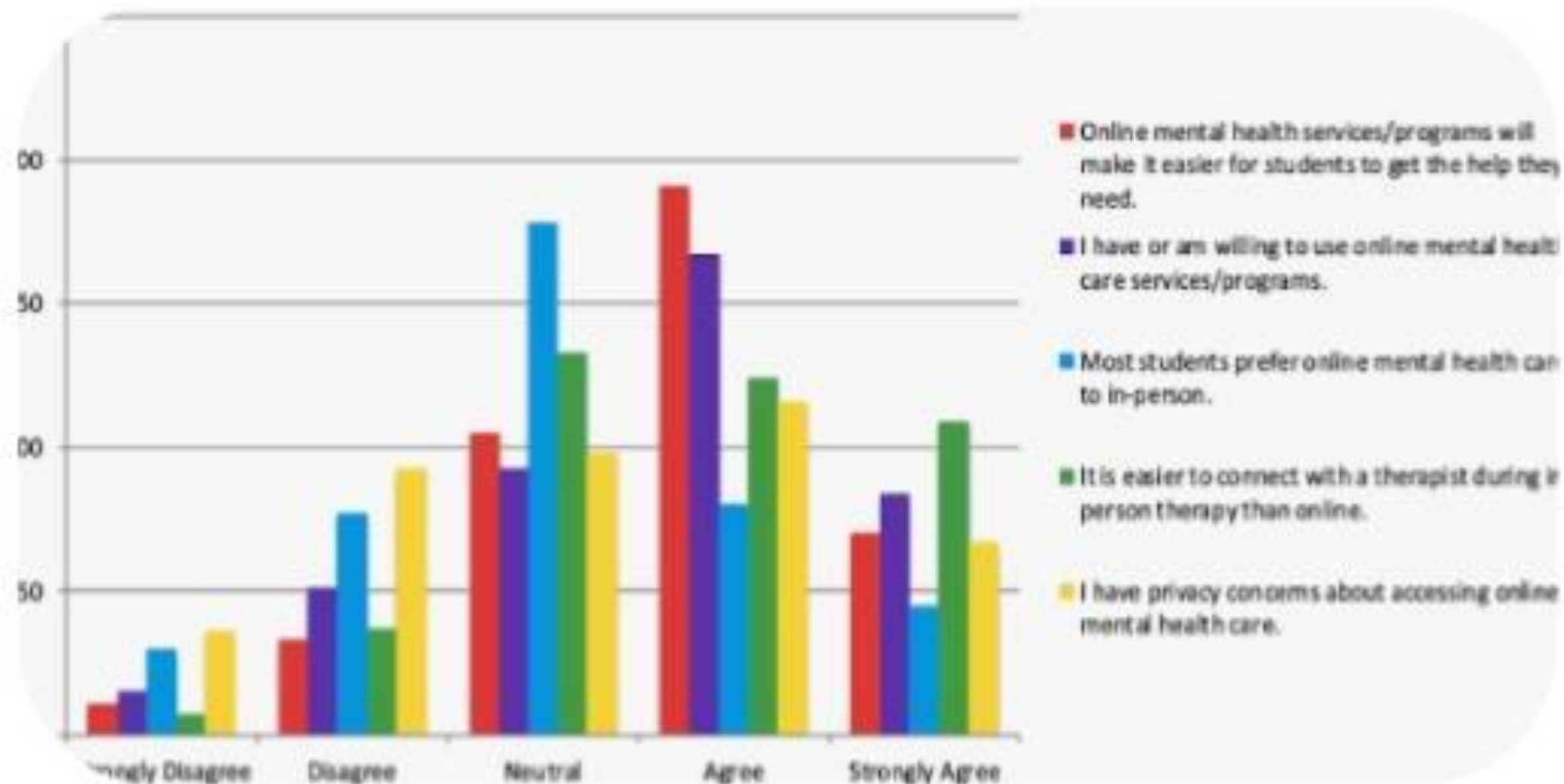


*ource: NCES, 2021

Research.com

High School Dropout Rate Is...

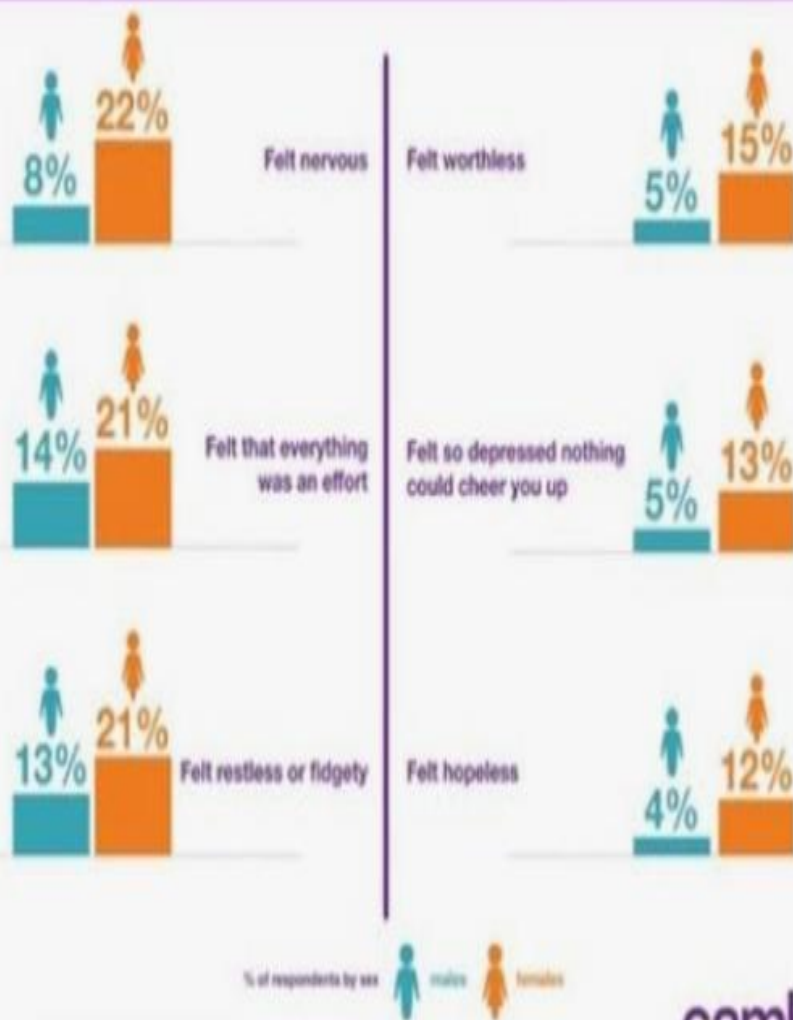




Mental health challenges...

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

GIRLS MORE LIKELY THAN BOYS TO EXPERIENCE DISTRESS



Summary of Psychological Distress Experienced: 'Most of the Time' or 'All of the Time' in the Past Month by Sex, 2015 OSDHS (Grade 7-12)

camh
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

	2013		2015
Moderate to serious psychological distress	24%	↑	34%
Serious psychological distress	11%	↑	14%
	2007		2015
Rate mental health as fair or poor	11%	↑	17%
	1999		2015
Visited mental health care professional in previous year	12%	↑	21%
	2001		2015
Were prescribed medication for anxiety, depression or both in previous year	3%	↑	6%
	2007		2015
Used a prescribed opioid pain reliever (e.g., Tylenol 3, Percocet) in previous year	41%	↓	21%
	2003		2015
Performed any gambling activity in previous year	57%	↓	32%

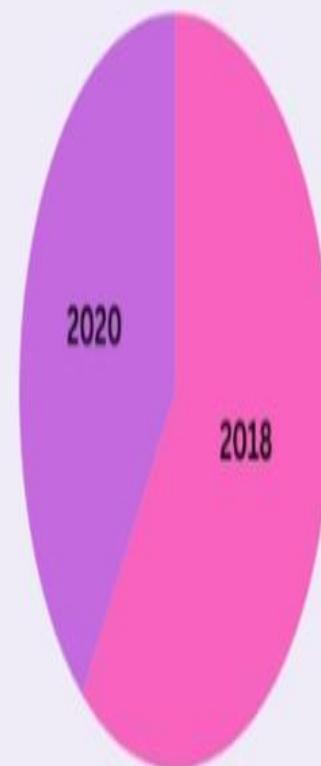


camh
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Source: 2015 OSDHS Mental Health and Well-Being Report

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH RATES

- THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DROP IN MENTAL HEALTH WAS SEEN AMONG CANADIAN YOUTH AGED 15 TO 24.
- ONLY 40 PER CENT OF YOUTH REPORTED EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD MENTAL HEALTH IN 2020.
- IN 2018 THIS WAS 62 PER CENT.

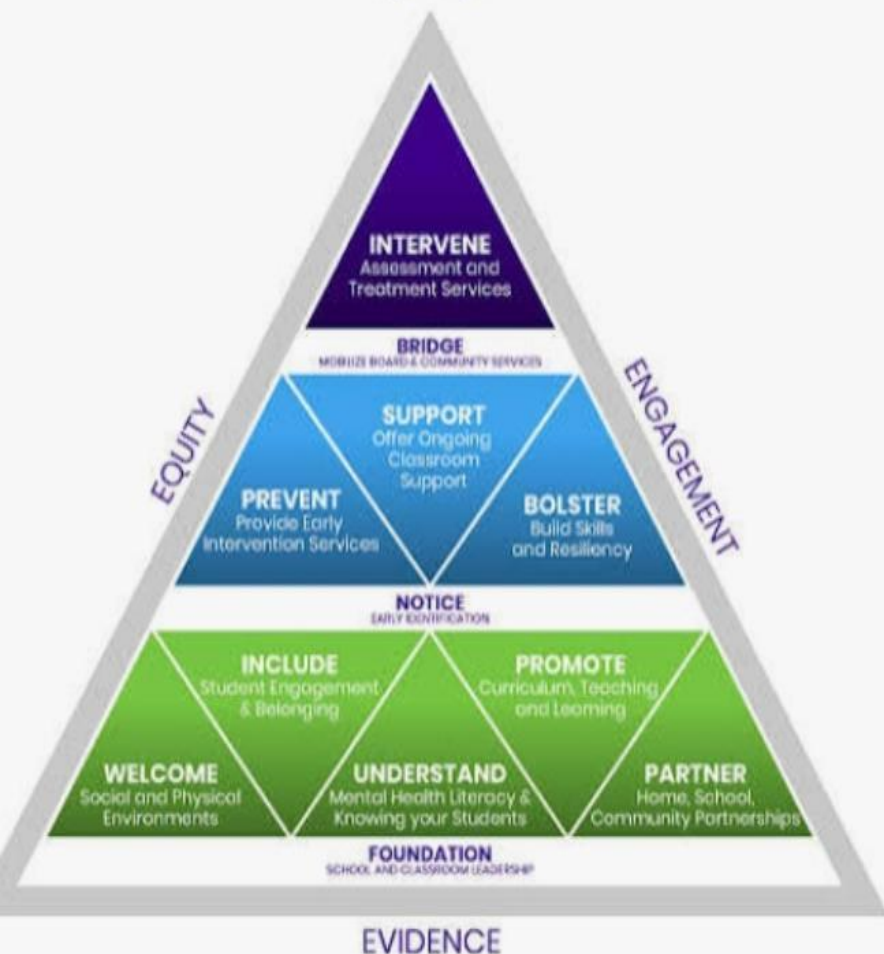


*MADE WITH STATISTICS FROM STATISTICS CANADA

One-third of Ontario student

Ontario government commits...

Aligned & Integrated Model (AIM)



Students in Ontario – School Mental Health Ontario wants to hear your perspectives on:

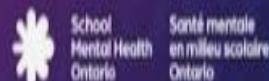
- Mental health learning needs
- How to make services and resources more accessible for students
- How to address mental health stigma in your school

Survey is open until **December 5**.



This is a research study approved by Western University Research Ethics Board (reference number 125187).

Please feel free to reach out to Eligor, project coordinator, at eligor@smho-smso.ca if you have any questions about this initiative.



Mental health & well-being of students

THREE YEARS INTO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



According to the 2022-23 Annual Ontario School Survey (AOSS), publicly funded schools across Ontario are facing increased challenges related to the mental health and well-being three years into the pandemic. Multiple sources across the country confirm that **Canadian youth are struggling more with their mental health since 2019**.



Percentage of youth 12-17 that reported very good or excellent mental health (Statistics Canada)



Percentage of increase in emergency visits from youth related to self-harm (Toronto Public Health)



Percentage of students feeling depressed about the future since the pandemic (CAMH/OSDUHQ)

When asked to report the level of support needed from boards and the Ministry of Education for COVID-19 recovery: (AOSS 2022-2023)



Access to regularly scheduled mental health professionals in schools differ across Ontario.



Percentage of schools with regularly scheduled in-person psychologists (AOSS 2022-2023)

Access to mental health professionals is critical to supporting student and staff well-being in schools, but over the last 10 years, the percentage of elementary and secondary schools with NO access to psychologists has nearly doubled.

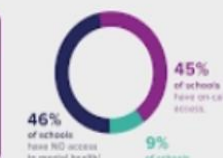


Percentage of schools with NO psychologists

According to the World Health Organization, adolescent mental health conditions often extend into adulthood and will be the world's leading cause of disability by 2030.

"Supporting increased children's mental health needs with no increases in resources stresses the staff and leads to increased absenteeism. The lack of replacement staff, especially for Educational Assistants (EAs) and designated Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) causes this problem to snowball."

Elementary School Principal, Southwestern Ontario



Ontario schools have **three key messages for the Ministry of Education** as we plan for the rest of 2022-23 school year:

- 1 Focus on funding human resources, especially support staff for mental health and well-being.
- 2 Increase access to family and community supports.
- 3 Recognize how difficult the pandemic has been on school communities.

People for Education's Annual Ontario School Survey (AOSS) provides valuable insights about how schools are doing. The 2022-23 AOSS is the 26th annual survey of elementary schools and 23rd annual survey of secondary schools in Ontario. The 2022-23 cycle received responses from 1,044 principals across all 72 publicly funded school boards in the province.



School Mental Health Ontario...

Principals sound the alarm...

about student mental health i...

While **specific drop-out rates due to mental health in Ontario are not precisely tracked**, evidence shows a strong link: Ontario youth report high levels of psychological distress, anxiety, and depression, and many miss school because of these issues. A significant portion of students struggle with their mental health, leading to disengagement and difficulties coping, which directly impacts their ability to stay in school. 

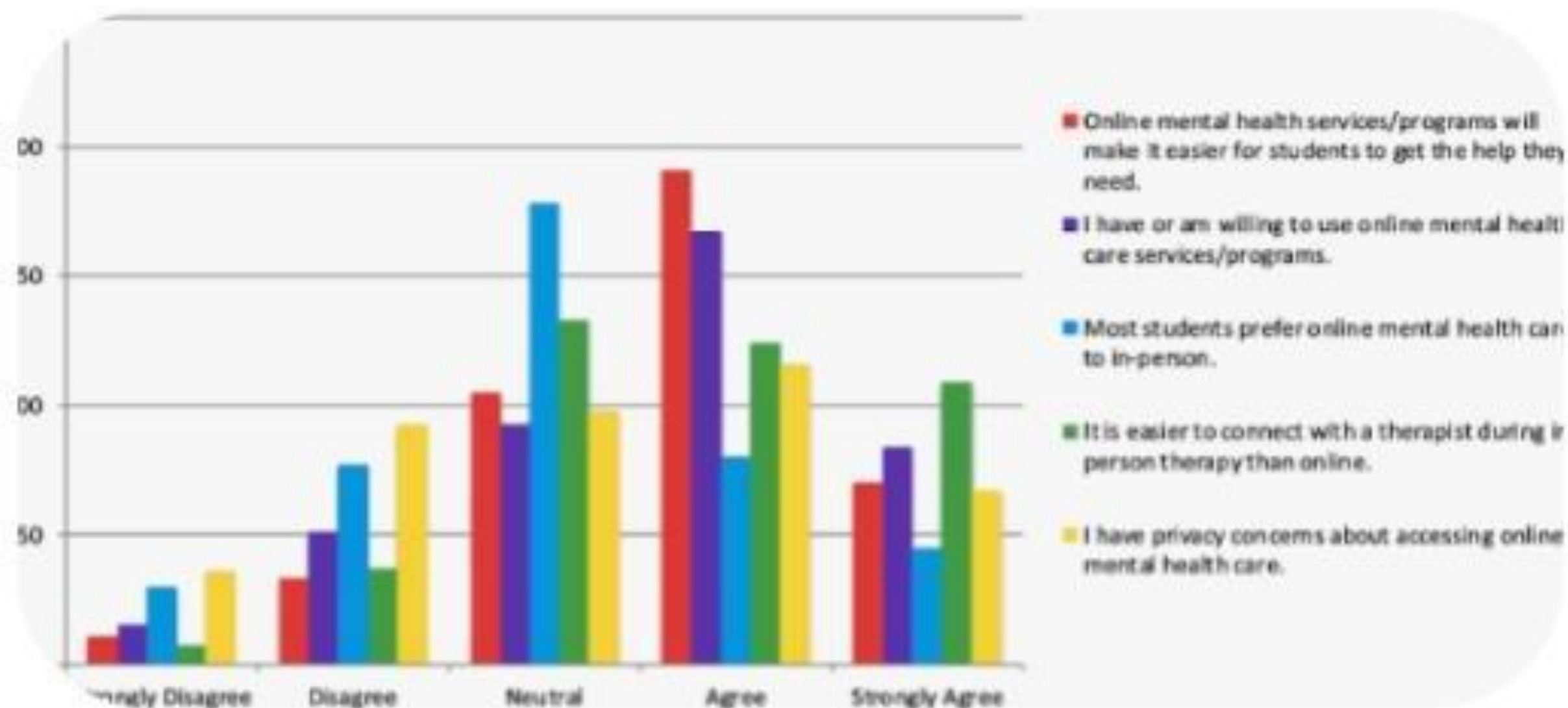
Impact of mental health on school attendance and performance

- **Missing school:** Nearly half of Ontario youth have reported missing school due to anxiety, with a similar number of their parents reporting having to miss work to care for them.
- **Psychological distress:** A recent survey found that over half of middle and high school students in Ontario experienced a significant level of psychological distress, a figure that has doubled in the past decade.
- **Coping ability:** Over a third of Ontario

- **Coping ability:** Over a third of Ontario students (31%) rate their ability to cope with challenges as fair or poor, indicating a struggle to manage stress and a higher risk of negative outcomes.
- **Disengagement:** A study found that 26% of students requiring high-intensity mental health services were identified as being disengaged from school. 

Broader trends in youth mental health

- **Declining mental health:** There has been an overall decline in the mental health of young people, with a drop in the percentage of youth aged 12 to 17 describing their mental health as "very good" or "excellent" from 73% in 2019 to 61% in 2022.
- **Increased severity:** Moderate distress in students increased from 24% in 2013 to 51% in 2023, and serious distress increased from 11% to 27% in the same period.
- **Increased help-seeking:** Hospitalizations for children and youth seeking mental health treatment in Ontario have increased significantly since 2006. 



Mental health challenges....

Our Safeguarding Framework





The need for youth safeguarding is **essential to protect children and young people from harm, abuse, and neglect by ensuring their physical and mental well-being and promoting a safe environment for their development.**

Safeguarding involves preventing harm in both offline and online spaces, enabling children to grow up in safe environments, and taking action to address maltreatment and other risks. This is crucial because children are vulnerable, and spaces meant for their growth and development can also pose risks if not managed properly. [🔗](#)

Core reasons for safeguarding

- **Promoting well-being:** Safeguarding ensures children's physical and mental health and promotes their overall well-being, including their development and quality of life.
- **Preventing abuse and neglect:** It protects young people from various forms of abuse and neglect, which can include physical, emotional, sexual, and neglectful acts, as well as institutional and discriminatory abuse.

- **Addressing online risks:** It is vital for protecting youth from online dangers, such as exploitation and human trafficking, which can occur through social media and other internet platforms.
- **Ensuring safe environments:** Safeguarding ensures children grow up in safe and effective care settings, whether at home, in schools, or within other organizations.
- **Protecting vulnerable youth:** It addresses the unique risks faced by different individuals and groups, including those based on gender, race, disability, or other characteristics, and takes steps to prevent harm related to discrimination.
- **Upholding children's rights:** Safeguarding frameworks are built on the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and affirm the child's right to safety and well-being. [🔗](#)

How safeguarding is implemented

- **Risk assessment:** Identifying, analyzing, and evaluating potential risks to youth.
- **Policy and procedures:** Establishing clear safeguarding policies and procedures within organizations, such as schools and community centers.
- **Training:** Providing staff, volunteers, and others who work with children with training on recognizing signs of abuse and knowing how to respond and report concerns.
- **Reporting:** Creating systems for reporting and responding to concerns about a child's safety in a timely and appropriate manner.
- **Partnership:** Involving children, parents, and communities in safeguarding efforts and ensuring their voices are heard. [🔗](#)

CHILD AND YOUTH SAFE STANDARDS

Universal Principle:
Cultural Safety for
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander
Children



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the right to:

- Cultural safety
- Services that respect their cultural identity
- Being treated with cultural understanding and respect

Standard 1:
Leadership Cares
About the Safety of
Children and Young
People



- Everyone in the organisation puts children's safety first
- Leaders show how to keep children safe
- Safety is the most important thing

Standard 2:
Children and Young
people Have a Voice



- Children and young people learn about their rights and get to share their opinions
- Adults listen and take children seriously

Standard 3:
Families and
Communities are
Involved



- Families know about child safety activities
- Communities help keep children safe
- Everyone works together

Standard 4:
Fairness for Everyone



- Every child is treated with respect
- Differences are celebrated
- Every child's rights are protected

Standard 5:
Safe and Supportive
Workers



- People working with children are carefully checked
- Workers learn how to keep children safe
- Staff are trained to be kind and respectful

Standard 6:
Listening to Concerns



- Children can speak up if something feels wrong
- Families can share their worries
- Staff and volunteers listen carefully
- Everyone's concerns are taken seriously

Standard 7:
Ongoing Learning



- Staff keep learning about child safety
- Training helps workers understand how to protect children
- Everyone stays up-to-date on safety

Standard 8:
Safe Spaces



- Physical spaces are designed to keep children safe
- Online spaces are protected
- Potential risks are minimized

Standard 9:
Always Improving



- Organisations regularly check their safety practices
- They look for ways to get better
- Safety is an ongoing process

Standard 10:
Clear Written Rules



- Safety rules are written down
- Everyone can see and understand the policies
- Make rules transparent

Understanding Child and Youth Safeguarding

Myth vs Fact

Myth

Usually children are abused by strangers.

Fact

While abuse by strangers does happen, most abuse are caused by people known to the children like family members or others close to the children and their families.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



A child means everyone under the age of 18.



Children need the right help at the right time to address risks.



Remember 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.



We are all responsible for the welfare of children and keeping the environment safe, whatever our job.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.



What do I need to do?



ALWAYS ACT
in the best interests of the child. Never promise confidentiality.



KNOW HOW
to identify children who may benefit from early help.



KNOW THE DIFFERENT
types of abuse and neglect, so that you can identify children who may be in need of help or protection.



Know what to do if a child tells you they are being abused or neglected.



Know who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is and talk to them as soon as you are concerned.



Everyone must read Keeping Children Safe in Education Part One and Annex A, Child Protection policy, staff behaviour policy.



Any staff member can make a referral to children's social care, but they should always discuss safeguarding first as soon as possible.



If a teacher finds a child in need of help, they should refer it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.



All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for these decisions should be recorded in writing.

Staff Behaviour



If you are concerned about the behaviour of any staff member, you should speak to the Headteacher. Concerns about the Headteacher should be referred to the Chair of Governors.

Whistleblowing



If you're worried about poor or unsafe safeguarding practices, or potential failures in the school, talk to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, any senior leader, or the Chair of Governors. If you feel unable to talk someone in school, you can call the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline on 0800 028 0285 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

What is Child Safeguarding

Child safeguarding refers to the activities, measures, and mechanisms that SOS Children's Villages undertakes to ensure that its co-workers, operations, and programs **do no harm to children and youth** and **do not expose them to the risk of harm and abuse.**

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN **CHILD SAFEGUARDING** **AND CHILD PROTECTION**

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Child safeguarding refers to a set of policies, procedures and practices employed to make a business safe for all children they work with.

VS

CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection is about making the world safe for children. It refers to actions done to protect specific children from concerns of risk or harm.

We want all children to feel:

- ❤ Safe
- ❤ Comfortable
- ❤ Cared for
- ❤ Respected



It's not ok for anyone to hurt a child's feelings or their body.

We encourage children to:

Say no to an adult who makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Tell a trusted adult they are not feeling comfortable or safe, or if they are hurt.

Our Safeguarding Framework



Pre Assessment Checklist

Children whose needs are met

1

Children whose health or development may be affected
Single agency, Single need

2

Early Intervention Panel

Children whose health or development is being impaired
Multiple agencies, Multiple needs

3

Single Assessment / Specialist Assessments

FIT / Social Care Lead Professional

Children whose health or development is being impaired
Multiple agencies have not met the needs identified or reduced the concerns

4

Social Care Lead Professional

Children at risk of, or who have experienced, significant harm

5

Advice & Guidance

Advice & Guidance



Health & Environment Factors



The Continuum of Need - ...





SAFEGUARDING COMPLIANCE VS SAFEGUARDING CULTURE

**YOUTH
MUSIC**

COMPLIANCE

- Safeguarding understood as child protection.
- Reactive actions or box ticking in response to incident or regulation.
- Seen as DSL's responsibility.
- Generic policies and procedures.
- Little or no workforce involvement.

CULTURE

- Safeguarding is a value and key priority.
 - Fed by, and crucial to, inclusion, equity, diversity, access and youth voice.
- Proactive actions, designed to promote safety and welfare of all.
- Seen as everyone's responsibility.
- Practices evolve regularly and are reflected in policies and procedures.
- Children and young people and workforce are actively engaged.

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR YOUTH

If you or someone you know needs assistance. Contact:



13 11 14
lifeline.org.au



Beyond
Blue

1300 224 636
beyondblue.org.au



kids**helpline**
Anytime Any Reason

1800 551 800
kidshelpline.com.au

**1800
RESPECT**

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT DOMESTIC
FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au



headspace

1800 650 890
headspace.org.au



Suicide
Call Back
Service

1300 659 467

yarrowplace
rape and sexual assault service

1800 817 421
bit.ly/3rmcfee

CONVERSATIONS
MATTER

For more resources for discussing suicide have
the support. Those who need help and what warning signs to
look for, visit conversationsmatter.com.au



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**
EDUCATING GIRLS. INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1 Our Purpose & Principles

"Donegal Youth Service aims to offer young people the opportunities to learn and develop through youth work processes in a safe and enjoyable way."

Donegal Youth Service is a Youth and Community Agency operating an Integrated Youth Service Model providing services to young people aged 12 to 25 and the adult volunteers that support them locally across a range of community venues across the county.

2 Principles of Safeguarding Children

Donegal Youth Service is committed to the principles laid out in Children First Act 2015: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. These are:

- The Safety and Welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionately to support families to keep children safe from harm.
- Children have the right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding. They should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/ carers and families.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.

3 Risk assessment of potential harm to children whilst availing of our services:

Donegal Youth Service has included the risk of harm to a child as a new category in the organisations Risk Management Policy & Procedures. A comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted to identify potential areas of harm and to implement measures to reduce the risk as per the Risk Management process.

4 Procedures:

Donegal Youth Service Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services.

- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff/ volunteers to work with young people
- Procedure for information and training with regard to safeguarding of children, young people and/or vulnerable adults, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers by a child while availing of our service
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of Donegal Youth Service 'mandated persons'
- Procedure for appointing a Donegal Youth Service 'relevant person'

All procedures listed are available on request in relation to all DYS clubs, projects and programmes.

5 Implementation:

Donegal Youth Service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 21 October 2023 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:  
Frank Dooley Chairperson Lorraine Thompson Regional Director

For further details contact: Lorraine Thompson, Donegal Youth Service, 16-18 Port Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Regulate, Not Suppress, Your Emotions

When it comes to regulating difficult emotions, there are two ways most people respond: they act out or they suppress.

Emotion Regulation Skills

- Help us understand and manage our emotions
- Help to reduce our vulnerability to overwhelming emotions



STOP Skill

Stop

Take a
step back

Observe

Proceed
mindfully



Goals of Emotional Regulation

- Naming and understanding our own emotions
- Decrease the frequency of unpleasant emotions
- Decrease our vulnerability to emotions
- Decrease emotional suffering.

STOP

Opposite Action

ABC Please

TIPP

Cope Ahead

Positive Self Talk

Stop

- When you feel that your emotions seem to be in control, stop! Don't react. Just freeze. Taking a moment to freeze may help prevent you from doing what your emotions want you to do (to act without thinking).
- Name the emotion – put a label on it.

Take A Step Back

- When you are faced with a difficult situation; give yourself some time
- Take a step back from the situation. Take a deep breath. Do not let your emotions control what you do.

Observe

- Observe what is happening. Listen to the Automatic Negative Thoughts.
- Do NOT jump to conclusions. Gather the relevant facts. Understand the options.

Proceed Mindfully

- "What do I want from this situation?"
- "What are my goals?"
- "What choice might make this situation better or worse?"
- "What act will allow for success?"
- *Stay calm, stay in control*

Opposite Action



- **Anger** gets us ready to attack/ It activates us to attack or defend.
- **Opposite** show kindness/concern or walk away.
- **Shame** gets us ready to hide. It activates us isolate.
- **Opposite** raise your head up, give eye contact, shoulders back.
- **Fear** gets us ready to run or hide. It activates us to escape danger.
- **Opposite** go towards, stay involved in it, build courage.
- **Depression** gets us ready to be inactive. It activates us to avoid contact.
- **Opposite** get active.
- **Disgust** gets us ready to reject or distance ourselves. It activates us to avoid.
- **Opposite** push through and get through situation.
- **Guilt** gets us ready to repair violations. It activates us to seek forgiveness.
- **Opposite** apologize and mean what we say.

ABC Please Skill

- Taking good care of ourselves so that we can take care of others.
- When we take good care of ourselves, we are less likely to be vulnerable to emotional crisis.



- The TIP skill is intended to change your body chemistry quickly in order to reduce the effects of an overwhelmed emotional mind; where your thinking and behaviors are controlled by your overwhelming emotions.



Situation: "Today when I woke up, I felt very empty and down. It didn't help that the weather has been dull for days now. All of this reminded me how 2 years ago, this time of the year, I was feeling very depressed and was coping with the dysfunctional relationship I have with my father. This memory made me spiral down, and in no time I didn't want to go on with my day, finish the work responsibilities that I have, or do anything. As the morning went on I felt even more depressed and empty."

- **T - Temperature:** I chose to have a hot bath, something that will make me feel warmer, both physically and potentially emotionally as well. It felt like an act of self-kindness, and it really did help me not to fall even more into this sad memory lane.
- **I - Intense exercise:** I put on some music since I could use having a little fun time, and I put the effort to get my muscles going and dance. I did this for 10 minutes, and I felt more energized after.
- **P - Paced breathing:** I did two minutes of the paced breathing technique.
- **P - Progressive muscle relaxation:** By step four, I already felt better doing the previous three. Nevertheless, I sat comfortably and did the progressive muscle relaxation instructions. I feel like the TIPP technique really helped me not to feel more empty and depressed, and I went on with my day.

Cope Ahead Skill

Rehearse ahead of time so that you are prepared to cope skillfully with emotional situations

1. Describe the situation that is likely to prompt uncomfortable emotions. Check the facts. Be specific in describing the situation. Name the emotions and actions likely to interfere with using your skills.

2. Decide what coping or problem-solving skills you want to use in the situation. Be specific. Write out in detail how you will cope with the situation and with your emotions and action urges

3. Imagine the situation in your mind as vividly as possible. Imagine yourself in the situation now, not watching the situation.

4. Rehearse in your mind coping effectively. Rehearse in your mind exactly what you can do to cope effectively. Rehearse your actions, your thoughts, what you say, and how to say it. Rehearse coping effectively with new problems that come up. Rehearse coping effectively with your most feared catastrophe.

5. Practice relaxation after rehearsing.

Positive Self-Talk Skill

The Backwards Brain Bicycle

- Did you know we start to practice our ANTs (Automatic Negative Thoughts) since the time we are 7!?
- Identify the few repeating ANTs that occur most often and change those quickly to something we prefer to believe.

Feeling Overwhelmed With Emotion?

Remember **RAIN**

R- Recognize what is going on, what emotion we are feeling

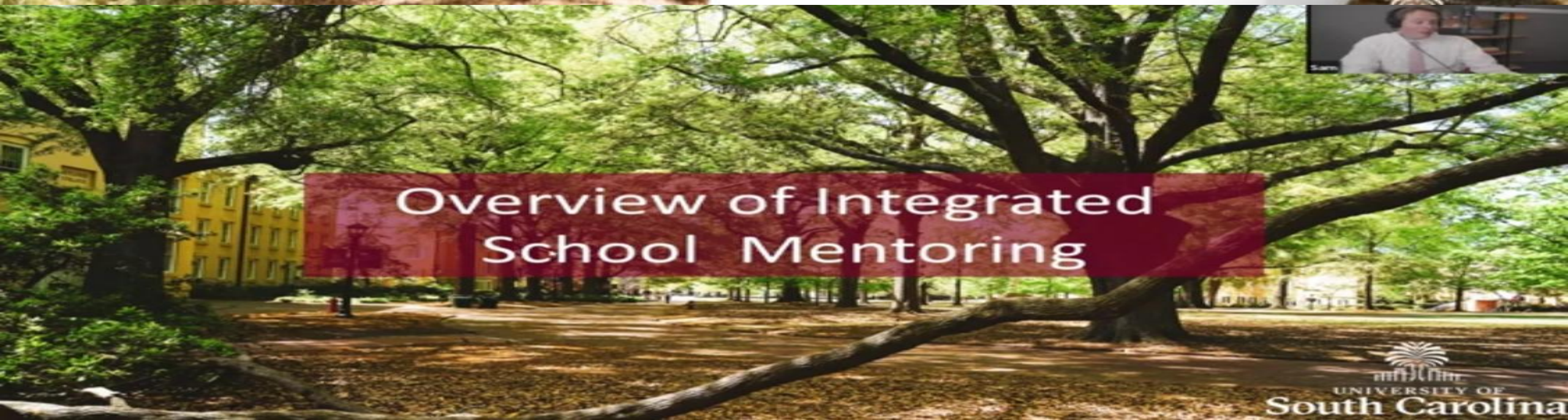
A – Allow the emotion

I – Investigate with kindness

N – Natural awareness, which comes with sitting with the emotion and identifying with it



- Introductions
- Youth Mental Health Crisis
- Overview of Integrated School Mentoring
- Example
- Benefits
- Key Considerations for Success
- Discussion: Needs and Barriers An
- Q&A / Open Discussion



Overview of Integrated School Mentoring



WHY MENTORING?

CIGNA U.S. LONELINESS INDEX



U.S. Loneliness Index Report, Cigna, 2018.





MENTORING AS A MEANS AND AN END

Mentoring relationships can serve as both a means and an end in promoting child well-being

As an end:

- Goal: provide safe, stable, nurturing relationships
- Program efforts: recruit, support, & train long-term mentors

As a means:

- Goal: provide prevention and intervention focused activities via the relationship
- Program efforts: problem/need-focused mentoring, training mentors in skills and evidence-based interventions

Integrating mentoring into school mental health systems





The 3 Core Components



Universal Screening

Identifies students who may be at risk for poor outcomes and need additional supports.

Ideally screen 3x/year

Enhances early identification compared to teacher referrals (Eklund et al., 2009)



Tiered Support Systems



Progress Monitoring

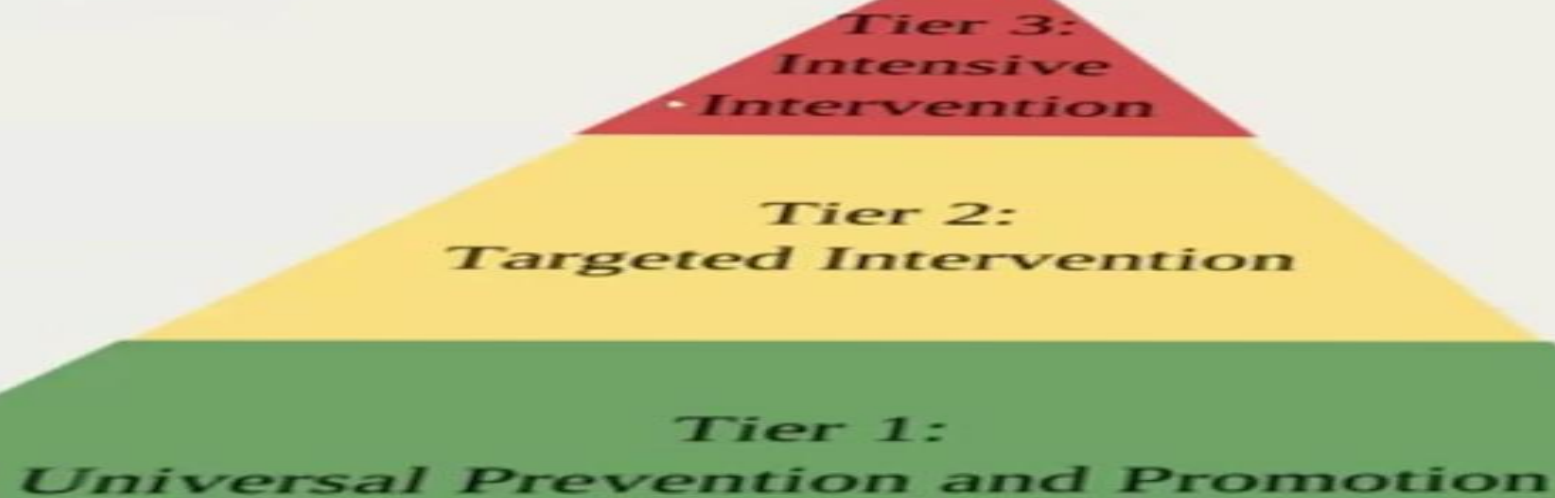
Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Academic outcomes and supports

BUT WHY SCHOOLS?

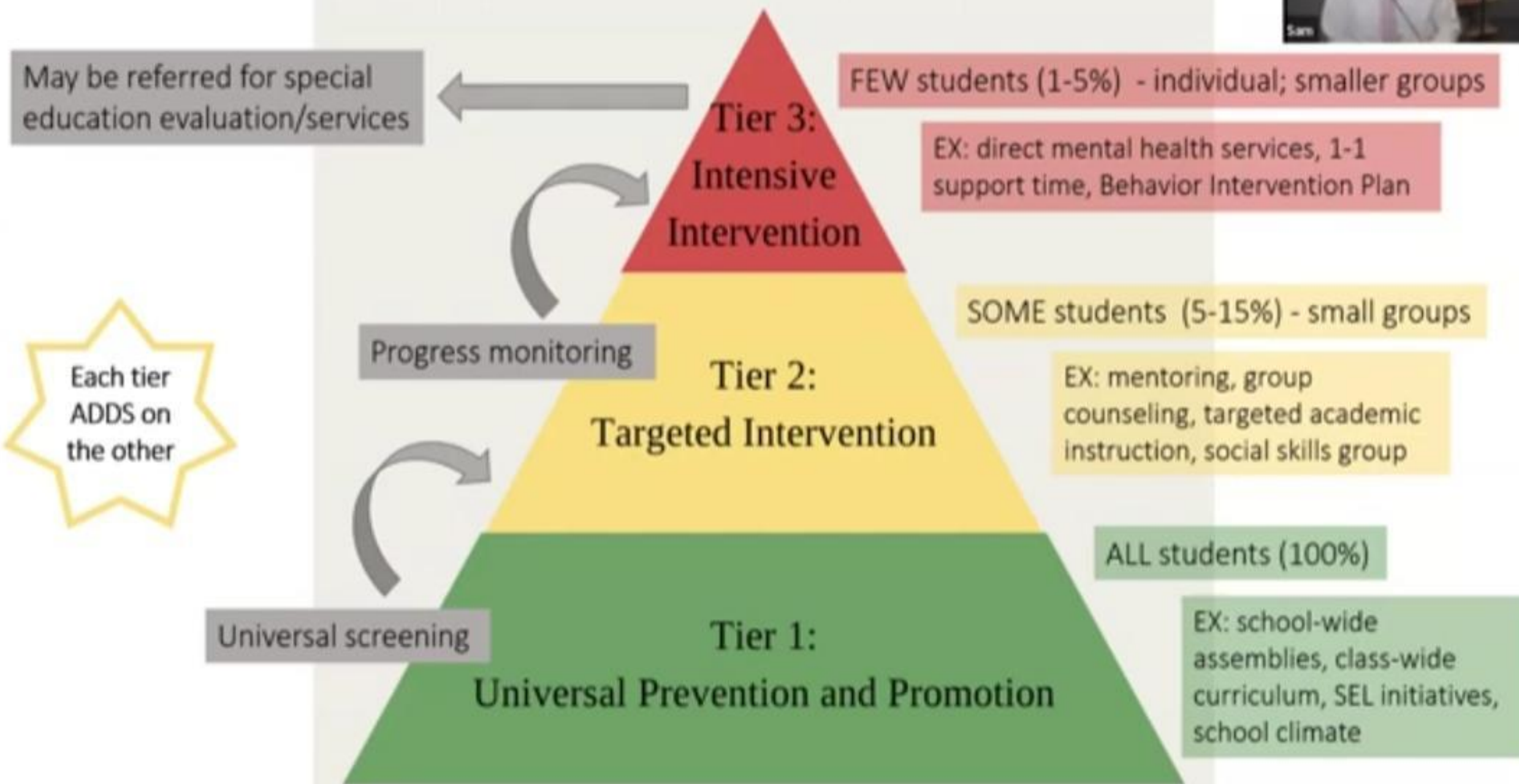


- 1) Schools have systems in place: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- 2) Schools are a unique context
- 3) Schools are where the kids are

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)



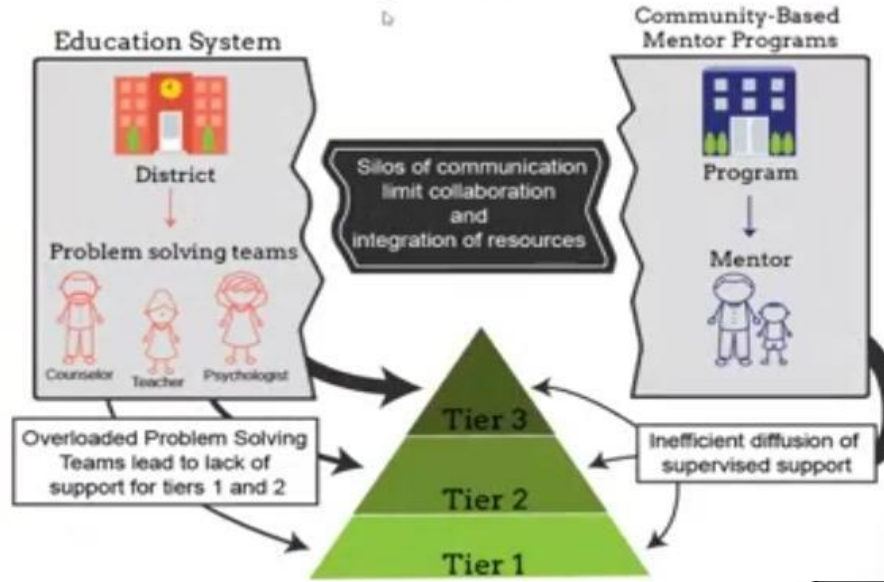
MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)



The Problem

WITHOUT INTEGRATION, BOTH SERVICES SUFFER.

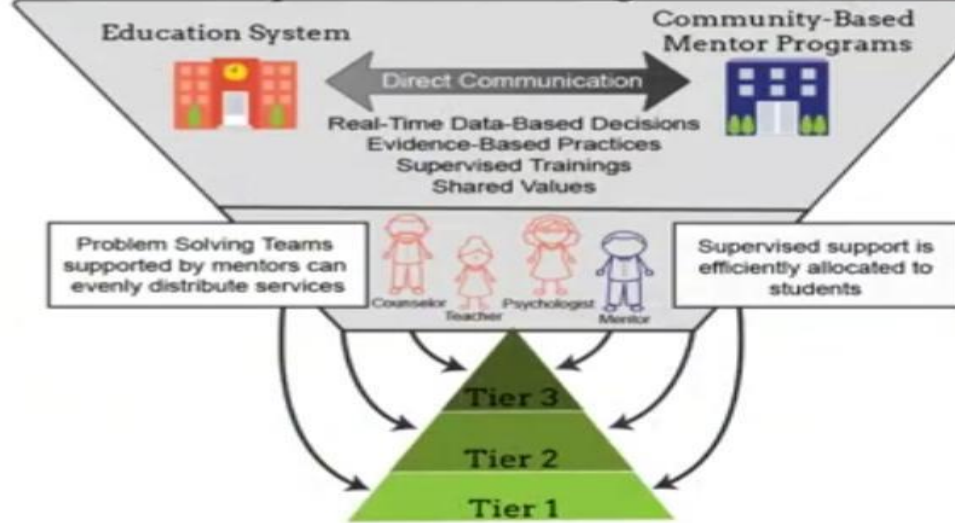
Misaligned Practices



The Solution

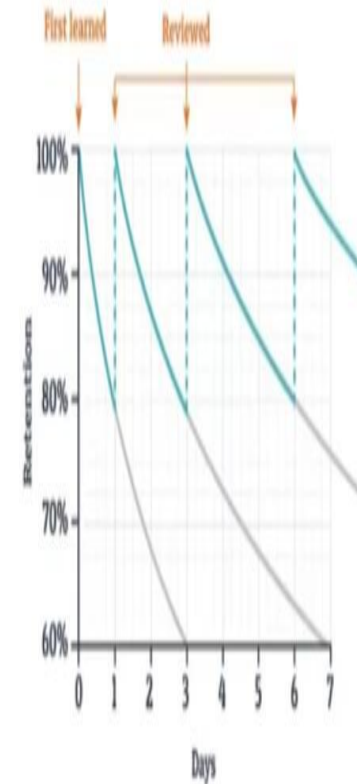
WITH INTEGRATION, BOTH SYSTEMS ARE STRENGTHENED, AND MORE CHILDREN RECEIVE STRONGER SERVICES.

Systematic Integration



BUT WHAT ABOUT TRAINING?

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



Some task-shifting efforts require competency in specific helping skills (e.g., Motivational Interviewing) that are neither innate, easy to learn, or retained indefinitely.

TASK-SHIFTING WITH MENTORS

Strengthening and Expanding Child Services in Low Resource Communities: The Role of Task-Shifting and Just-in-Time Training

Samuel D. McQuillin,¹ Michael D. Lyons,² Kimberly D. Becker,¹ Mackenzie J. Hart,² and Katie Cohen³

Highlights

- Task-shifting refers to redistributing tasks from professionals to workers who have less training.
- Task-shifting may be a key strategy in expanding child services in low resource communities.
- Just-in-Time Training (JITT) refers to efficient, on-demand training experiences.
- JITT may strengthen task-shifting efforts.
- Task-shifting and JITT involve unique ethical considerations.

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Abstract In the United States, the demand for child mental health services is increasing, while the supply is limited by workforce shortages. These shortages are unlikely to be corrected without significant structural changes in how mental health services are provided. One strategy for bridging this gap is task-shifting, defined as a process by which services that are typically delivered by professionals are moved to individuals with less extensive qualifications or training. Although task-shifting can increase the size of the workforce, there are challenges related to training new workers. In this paper, we propose Just-in-Time Training (JITT) as one strategy for improving task-shifting efforts. We define JITT as on-demand training experiences that only include what is necessary, when it is necessary, to promote competent service delivery. We offer a proof of concept from our own work shifting counseling and academic support tasks from school mental health professionals to pre-baccalaureate mentors, citing lessons learned during our iterative process of JITT development. We conclude with a series of key considerations for scaling up the pairing of task-shifting and JITT, including expanding the science of JITT and anticipating how task-shifting and JITT would work within the context of dynamic mental health service systems.

Keywords Task-shifting · Just-in-time training · Workforce · Paraprofessionals

Introduction

Despite continuous advancements in psychological prevention and intervention sciences, mental and behavioral disorders remain a tremendous burden on societal wellbeing worldwide. Children in low resource communities carry the brunt of this burden, where they are exposed to more risk and fewer protective factors than children in higher resource communities (World Health Organization, 2010). Between 20% and 30% of children in the U.S. need mental health services, yet only 36% of children in need receive services (Costello, Foley, & Angold, 2006; Merikangas, He, Brady et al., 2010; Merikangas, He, Burstein et al., 2010; Merikangas et al., 2011), with an even greater gap for children who are cultural or ethnic minorities, or who live in under resourced environments (U.S. Public Health Service, 2000). This gap is maintained in part by the geographic distribution of service providers, wherein only 63% of counties in the United States have a mental health facility that treats children and adolescents (Compton, Wu, & Doss, 2013), and by widespread





WHAT IS JUST-IN-TIME TRAINING (JITT)?



“An efficient form of on-demand training designed to improve performance on specific tasks.”

WHY MENTORING?



Relationships matter

- Relationships are part of our “species normal environment” (Scarr, 1992)
- Our brains are hardwired for relationships (Banks, 2015; Siegel, 2015)
- Without relationships, our physical and mental health suffer (Murthy, 2020; Lunstad et al., 2017; Holt-Lunstad, et al 2010)
- Social isolation in childhood predicts poor prognosis in adulthood (Caspi et al., 2006; Lacey, et al. 2014)

Mentoring may be one way to satisfy this basic human need

WHY MENTORING?



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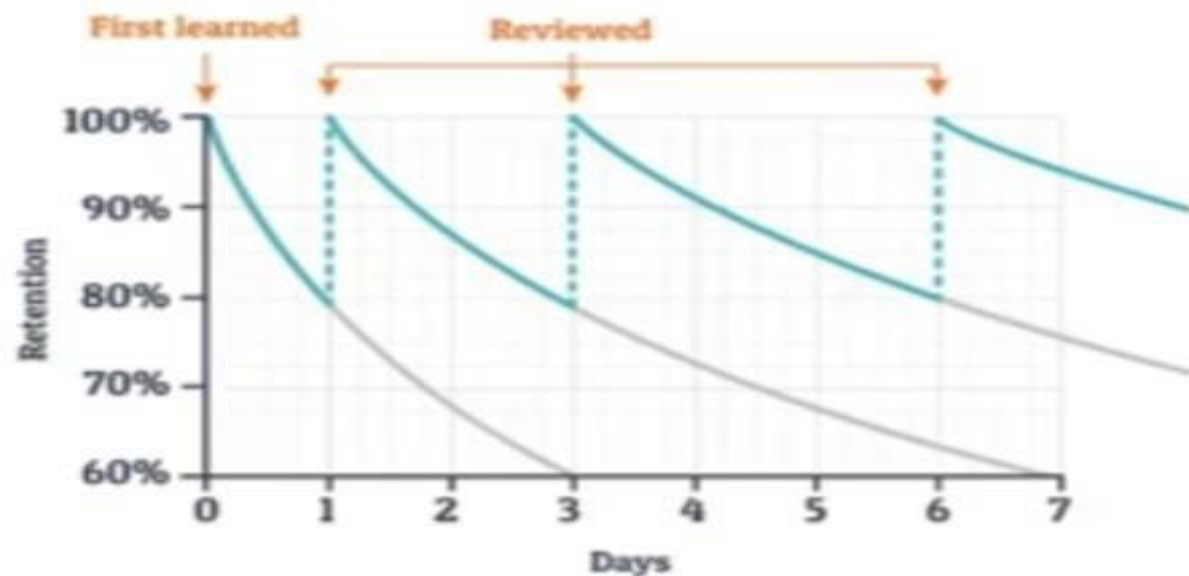
Multi-level organization of supports for students that includes a continuum (3 tiers) of integrated instructional and intervention supports.



Progress Monitoring

Assesses performance, quantifies improvement and/or responsiveness to intervention and instruction, and evaluates the effectiveness of instruction, interventions, and supports.

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



Some task-shifting efforts require competency in specific helping skills (e.g., Motivational Interviewing) that are neither innate, easy to learn, or retained indefinitely.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)



Interdisciplinary, problem-solving teams

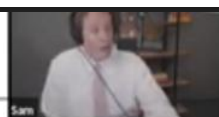


- principal
- general education teachers
- special education teachers
- content specialists (e.g., district behavior specialists)
- student support personnel (e.g., school counselors)
- school MTSS coordinator



- Re-distributing school-based mental health professional tasks to mentors
- School-based mental health professionals supervise the mentors, further expanding their expertise and reach
- Mentors provide necessary increase in personnel to address mental and behavioral health needs of students
- By embedding mentors into a structured system like MTSS in schools, they can be leveraged to provide efficient support and strengthen the school's service delivery

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)



Interconnected Systems Framework:

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) + School Mental Health (SMH) services
- Greater depth and quality of prevention and intervention through multiple tiers of support across outcomes

Benefits:

- Improves identification and provision of Tier 2 and 3 intervention for students in need
- Reduces student discipline
- Improves school safety perceptions

Strategic partnerships between mentoring organizations and schools

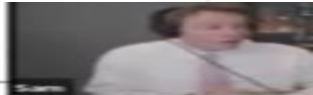
- Data sharing agreements/MOUs
- School MTSS systems/teams that include mentors
- Universal screening of SEBA used to guide matching/training
- Progress monitoring of student functioning and ongoing supervision of mentor
- Integration of evidence-based practices within the context of the mentoring relationship



- **Design:** RCT, students (N=67) randomly assigned to school supports as usual or an integrated Tier 2 BISBM
 - **Pre-post:** BESS, grades, misconduct
 - Full semester of mentoring
 - **Program**
 - **Integrated:** Mentors were supervised by school psychologist trainee, counselor, and social worker
 - Data and incidence reports were shared with mentors/program staff
 - Mentors received JITT training the day prior meeting with young people and proactive supervision on campus



- Re-distributing school-based mental health professional tasks to mentors
- School-based mental health professionals supervise the mentors, further expanding their expertise and reach
- Mentors provide necessary increase in personnel to address mental and behavioral health needs of students
- By embedding mentors into a structured system like MTSS in schools, they can be leveraged to provide efficient support and strengthen the school's service delivery



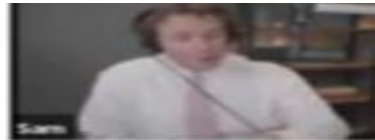
- Strategic partnerships between mentoring organizations and schools
 - Data sharing agreements/MOUs
 - School MTSS systems/teams that include mentors
 - Universal screening of SEBA used to guide matching/training
 - Progress monitoring of student functioning and ongoing supervision of mentor

Interdisciplinary, problem-solving teams

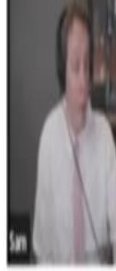


- principal
- general education teachers
- special education teachers
- content specialists (e.g., district behavior specialists)
- student support personnel (e.g., school counselors)
- school MTSS coordinator

SCHOOLS ARE A UNIQUE CONTEXT



Youth are 20x more likely to engage in school-based supports relative to community-based clinics.



- The supervised redistribution of tasks (e.g., mild to moderate mental health services) from professionals to people with less training or fewer credentials
- Strong global empirical support in a wide range of health professions

- **Design:** RCT, students (N=67) randomly assigned to school supports as usual or an integrated Tier 2 BISBM
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Interconnected Systems Framework:

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) + School Mental Health (SMH) services
- Greater depth and quality of prevention and intervention through multiple tiers of support across outcomes

Benefits:

- Improves identification and provision of Tier 2 and 3 intervention for students in need
- Reduces student discipline
- Improves school safety perceptions

Where We've Been:

Our Conversation So Far

The Solution

WITH INTEGRATION, BOTH SYSTEMS ARE STRENGTHENED, AND MORE CHILDREN RECEIVE STRONGER SERVICES.

