

Data Walk: Reading Summit

MENTAL HEALTH



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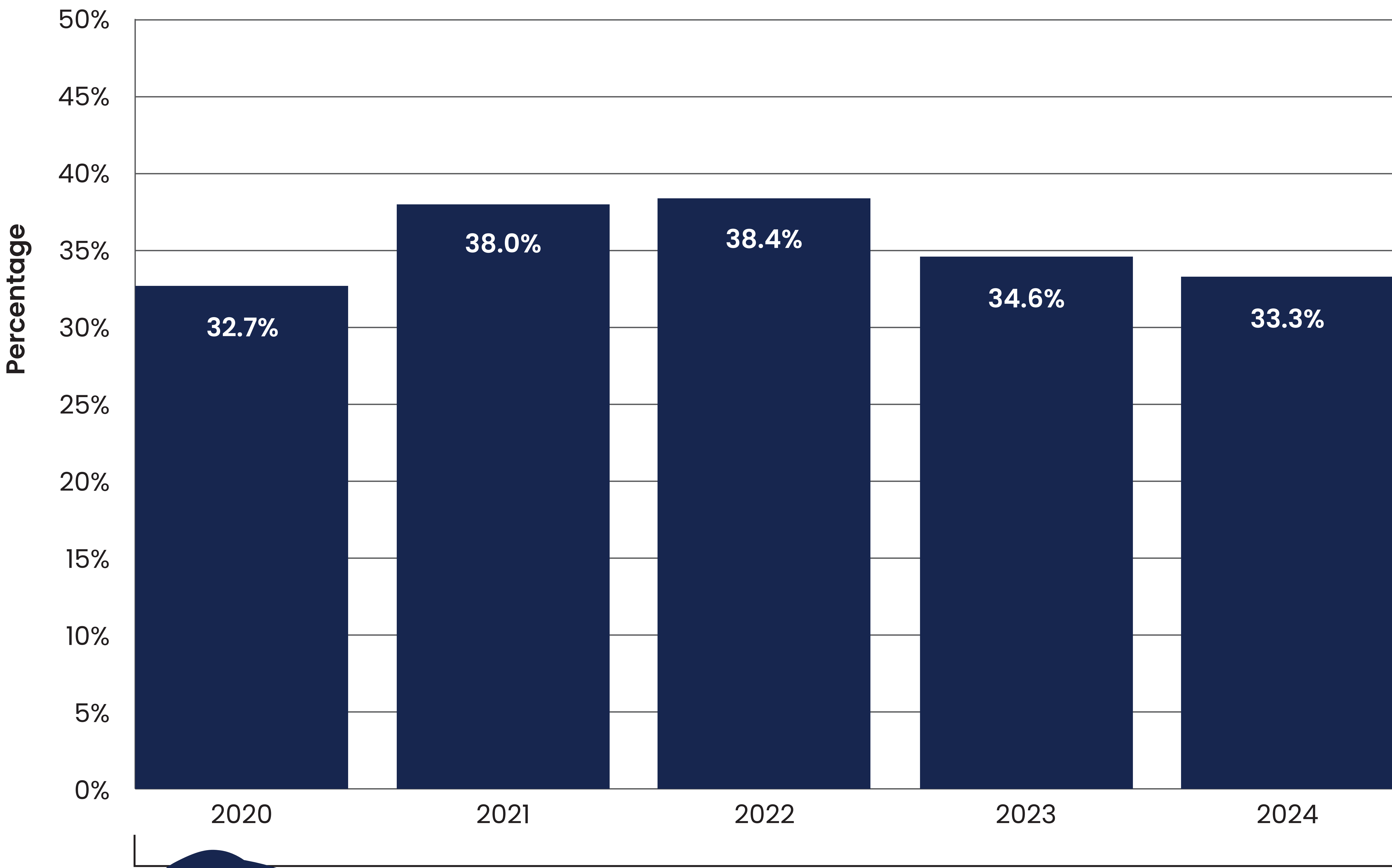
What This Measures:

Percent of Kansas students in the 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades that felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months.

Depression

One in 3 Kansas students surveyed show signs of depression in 2024.

Percent of Students in 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th Grades Reporting Depression During the Past 12 Months in Kansas, 2020-2024



During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?

Note: Response rates for this question are lower in 2023 and 2024 data years, with 25,992 and 27,907 student respondents. Denominators for 2020–2022 data years ranged from 52,970 to 59,151 respondents.
Source: Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey, 2020–2024.



Why this is important: When children feel persistent sadness and hopelessness, they may be diagnosed with depression. **Extreme depression** can lead a child to think about **suicide** or plan for suicide. For youth age 10-24 years, suicide is among the **leading causes of death**. Untreated, poor mental health can make it difficult to concentrate, limit academic performance and can lead to dropping out of school.

(Source: Centers for Disease and Prevention; Suicide Prevention Resource Center.)