



Program efforts addressing youth issues are critical to improving behaviors related to health, well-being, and life skills. In Texas, children account for more than 7.4 million of our population; therefore, Texas 4-H Youth Development has a responsibility to empower these youth with knowledge and decision-making abilities.

## TEXAS COMMUNITY FUTURES FORUM YOUTH ISSUES 2021

### Ag Awareness & Literacy

#### Health & Wellness

- Distracted Driving
- Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping
- Mental Health
- Obesity/Physical Activity

#### Youth Engagement

- Financial Management
- Leadership
- Life Skills
- Service

#### Higher Education

- Career Exploration
- Job Readiness
- Transitions/Readiness
- Vocational Training

#### Technology

- Awareness & Safety
- Cyber Bullying
- Sex Trafficking
- Social Media
- STEM Education

## TEXAS YOUTH STATISTICS

### Child Population Facts <sup>1</sup>

- 7,398,099 children in Texas
- 49.5% Hispanic
- 31.4% White
- 11.8% Black
- 4.7% Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander
- 2.7% Two or more races

### Tobacco Use <sup>4, 5</sup>

- 7.4% of high school students in Texas smoked cigarettes on at least one day in the past 30 days.
- 10.3% of high school students in Texas used electronic vapor products on at least one day in the past 30 days.
- 5.4% of high school students in Texas used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip on at least one day in the past 30 days.

### Passenger Safety <sup>6, 7</sup>

- Vehicle crashes are leading cause of death among teenagers. 42% of those killed were not wearing their seat belts.
- Fatalities in traffic crashes in rural areas of the state accounted for 54.99% of the state's total.
- 46% of all child safety seats are misused.
- Only 55% of HS students reported they ALWAYS wear their seatbelt.

### Overweight and Obesity <sup>2, 3</sup>

- 32 percent of Texas children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2017.
- 15.5% of those 10 to 17 years old are obese.
- 20.7% of high school students watched television 3 or more hours per day
- 43% of high school students played video games or used a computer for 3 or more hours per day

### Mental Health <sup>5</sup>

- 34% of HS students reported they felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks.
- 18% of HS students reported they seriously contemplated suicide.
- 12% of HS students reported they attempted suicide.

### Technology <sup>5, 8, 9</sup>

- 15% of HS students report being electronically bullied
- 45% of teens say they are online on a near-constant basis
- 95% of teens say they have access to a smart phone, a 22% increase from 2015
- 561 human trafficking cases in Texas were reported to the National Human Trafficking hotline in 2019; 148 of those cases involved minors.

# TEXAS YOUTH STATISTICS

## Education Readiness <sup>10</sup>

- 71% of 4th graders are not proficient in reading.
- 67% of 8th graders are not proficient in math.
- 19% of children live in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.

## Alcohol Use <sup>6</sup>

- 17% of HS students reported they drank before age 13.
- 7.1% of HS students drivers drove a vehicle after drinking alcohol.
- 20.8% of HS students reported they rode in a car with someone who had been drinking.

## STEM <sup>8, 13, 14</sup>

- The US placed 38th of 71 countries in math, and 24th in science.
- Only 36% of all high school grads are ready to take a college-level science course.
- STEM jobs are projected to grow 13% by 2027.
- The average median hourly wage for STEM jobs is \$38.85 (vs \$19.30).

## Financial Literacy <sup>11, 12</sup>

- 11.5% of 2014 college graduates have loans in default.
- From 2004 to 2009, the median credit card debt among college students increased 74%.
- Only 23% of kids surveyed indicated that they talked to their parents frequently about money.

## Ag Awareness <sup>15, 16, 19, 20</sup>

- Only 34% of Houston ISD elementary students believed that agriculture was involved in their daily lives.
- In 2018, the 10 largest sources of cash receipts from the sale of U.S.-produced farm commodities were (in descending order): cattle/calves, corn, soybeans, dairy products/milk, broilers, hogs, miscellaneous crops, chicken eggs, wheat, and hay.
- Agriculture, food, and related industries contributed \$1.053 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017

- Only 25% of Americans surveyed believe U.S. meat is derived from humanely treated animals.
- Only 30% of Americans surveyed strongly agreed that U.S. farmers take good care of the environment.

## Natural Resources <sup>17, 18</sup>

- Only 6% of children aged 9-12 play outside in unstructured play in the course of a week.
- Since the 1970s, children have had a 25% decrease in play and a 50% decrease in unstructured outdoor activities.
- Children now spend more time in vehicles being transported from one indoor activity to another than in nature.
- Between 1981 and 1997, the amount of time U.S. children aged 6-8 spent playing outdoors decreased by four hours per week while the amount of time they spent indoors in school increased by almost 5 hours per week.



## 4-H'ERS EXCEL <sup>21</sup>

- 4-H'ers in Grades 7-12 are nearly 4 times more likely to make contributions to their communities
- 4-H'ers in Grades 8-12 are about 2 times more likely to be civically active
- 4-H'ers in Grade 10-12 are nearly 2 times more likely to participate in science programs during out-of-school time
- 4-H'ers in Grade 7 are nearly 2 times more likely to make healthier choices



# FINDING LOCAL DATA

The following resources are recommended for identifying local/regional data related to youth issues. Please note that some sites may be limited to state or specific geographic locations and/or age specific data.

<sup>10</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Kids Count Data Center | <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<sup>3,4</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/yrbs/>  
500 Cities: Local Data for Better Health | <https://www.cdc.gov/500Cities/>

Community Commons  
Maps & Data | <http://www.communitycommons.org/collections/Maps-and-Data>

Education Commission of the States  
<sup>14</sup> Change the Equation | <https://vitalsigns.ecs.org/state/United-States/demand>

<sup>20</sup> Food Integrity  
<https://www.foodintegrity.org/>

<sup>16</sup> Journal of Extension  
<https://joe.org/joe/2013june/rb3.php>

<sup>11</sup> National Financial Educators Council  
<https://www.financialeducatorsCouncil.org/youth-financial-literacy-statistics/>

<sup>7</sup> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving>

<sup>9</sup> National Human Trafficking Hotline  
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/texas>

<sup>13</sup> National Math & Science Initiative  
<https://www.nms.org/Portals/0/Docs/STEM%20Crisis%20Page%20Stats%20and%20References.pdf>

National Science Foundation State Indicators  
<https://nces.nsf.gov/indicators>

<sup>21</sup> National 4-H  
<https://4-h.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/4-H-Study-of-Positive-Youth-Development-Full-Report.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Pew Research Center  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/05/31/teens-social-media-technology-2018/>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
City Health Dashboard | <https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/>  
County Health Rankings & Roadmaps | <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

<sup>2</sup> State of Childhood Obesity | <https://stateofchildhoodobesity.org/>

Rural Health Information Hub  
Rural Data Explorer | <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/data-explorer>

<sup>18</sup> Sandra Hoffert & John Sandberg (2000)

Stem in Sight  
<https://www.steminsight.org/Pages/educator-resources.aspx>

Texas Children in Nature  
<https://www.texaschildreninnature.org/>

Texas Department of State Health Services  
Obesity Data | <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/Obesity/Data/>  
Texas Health Data | <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/>  
Texas Health Facts Profiles | <https://dshs.texas.gov/chs/cfs/Texas-Health-Facts-Profiles.aspx>  
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) | <http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/youth-risk-behavior-survey>

<sup>6</sup> Texas Department of Transportation  
Texas Motor Vehicle Crash Statistics | <https://www.txdot.gov/government/enforcement/annual-summary.html>  
\*Specific information can be requested via this form: [https://www.txdot.gov/apps-cg/crash\\_records/form.htm](https://www.txdot.gov/apps-cg/crash_records/form.htm)

Texas STEM Coalition  
<https://txstem.org/>

Texas Teachers of Tomorrow  
<https://www.teachersoftomorrow.org/texas/teacher-resources/high-need-areas/stem>

Texas Workforce Commission  
<https://www.twc.texas.gov/students/science-technology-engineering-math-stem-programs>

<sup>17</sup> The Children & Nature Network  
<https://www.childrenandnature.org>

<sup>1</sup> The State of America's Children in Texas  
[https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SOAC-2020\\_Texas.pdf](https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SOAC-2020_Texas.pdf)

United States Census Bureau  
American Community Survey Data | <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html>

US Bureau of Labor Statistics  
<https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2017/science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem-occupations-past-present-and-future/pdf/science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem-occupations-past-present-and-future.pdf>

United States Department of Agriculture  
<sup>15</sup> Economic Research Service | <https://www.ers.usda.gov/faqs/#Q1>  
<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/ag-and-food-sectors-and-the-economy/>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Texas Adolescent Health Facts | <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/facts-and-stats/national-and-state-data-sheets/united-states-adolescent-health-facts/texas/index.html>

<sup>12</sup> Youth.gov  
<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/financial-capability-literacy/facts>

# COUNTY PROGRAMMING SUGGESTED RESPONSES FOR YOUTH ISSUES

Below you will find suggestions of curriculum and/or programs that can help address youth issues. Please confer with your Regional Program Leader, District 4-H Specialist, and/or State 4-H Specialist for additional resource suggestions.

## *Health & Wellness (Drugs, Alcohol, and Vaping; Distracted Driving; Mental Health; Obesity, Nutrition, and Physical Activity)*

- Texas 4-H Explore Guides
- Watch UR BAC
- Sean Speaks
- Teens in the Drivers Seat
- Mindful SELF
- Choose Health, Food, Fun and Fitness
- Balancing Food & Play
- Learn, Grow, Eat, Go
- Health Rocks Curriculum
- National 4-H Curriculum
- Reality Education for Drivers
- Passenger Safety Programs
- Mental Health First Aid
- Take a Stand
- Walk Across Texas
- Dinner Tonight
- Healthy Kids Out of School

## *Youth Engagement (Financial Management; Leadership; Life Skills; Service)*

- Texas 4-H Explore Guides
- High School Financial Planning
- Money Smart
- Character becomes you
- Take a Stand
- Keys to the Courthouse
- National 4-H Curriculum
- Welcome to the Real World
- Wi\$e Up
- Putting the Pieces Together
- Texans Building Character
- Patriotism through Preparedness

## *Ag Awareness & Literacy*

- Texas 4-H Explore Guides
- Path to the Plate Youth Expo
- “Let’s Get Started” Livestock Project Resources
- Texasyouthlivestock.com
- Texas Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom
- National 4-H Curriculum
- Path to the Plate Resources
- “Quality Counts” Online Curriculum
- Texas 4-H Ag Product ID
- Various Commodity Group Lesson Plans and Curriculum

## *Technology (Awareness & Safety; Cyber Bullying; Sex Trafficking; Social Media; STEM Education)*

- Texas 4-H Explore Guides
- Resources linked on Texas 4-H STEM project pages
- National 4-H Tech Changemakers
- National 4-H Curriculum
- AgriLife Online – Texas 4-H Basics of Robotics

## *Higher Education (Career Exploration; Job Readiness; Vocational Training)*

- Texas 4-H Explore Guides
- Rural Student Success Initiative Resources
- National 4-H Curriculum

# ADDRESSING YOUTH ISSUES IN COUNTY

Agents should work together as a staff along with District 4-H Specialists and Regional Program Leaders to develop a plan to improve the lives of youth in their county. Curriculum, programs, and activities should be evidence/science based and support the mission of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas 4-H Youth Development.

Youth Population Data | use this section to identify youth population (birth to 19 years) in your county  
 [source for demographics: <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/>]

<i>Texas</i>	<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>County</i>
49.5 %	Hispanic	
31.4 %	White	
11.8 %	Black	
4.7 %	Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander	
2.7 %	Two or more races	
7,398,099	Total Youth Population	

County Programming Response | use this section to identify potential 4-H and Youth Development program opportunities in your county for the upcoming year

<i>4-H Program Opportunities</i>	<i>Texas Youth Issues</i>	<i>Youth Development Outreach Opportunities</i>
	<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	
	Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping	
	Distracted Driving	
	Mental Health	
	Obesity/Physical Activity	
	<b>Youth Engagement</b>	
	Financial Management	
	Leadership	
	Life Skills	
	Service	
	<b>Technology</b>	
	Awareness & Safety	
	Cyber Bullying	
	Sex Trafficking	
	Social Media	
	STEM Education	
	<b>Higher Education</b>	
	Career Exploration	
	Job Readiness	
	Transitions/Readiness	
	Vocational Training	
	<b>Ag Awareness &amp; Literacy</b>	
	<b>County Based Youth Issues</b>	