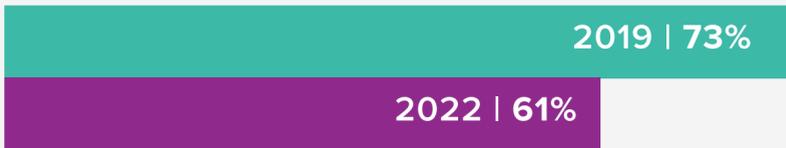


Mental health & well-being of students

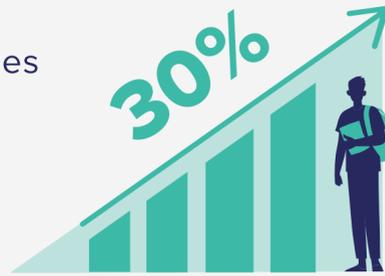
THREE YEARS INTO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



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)



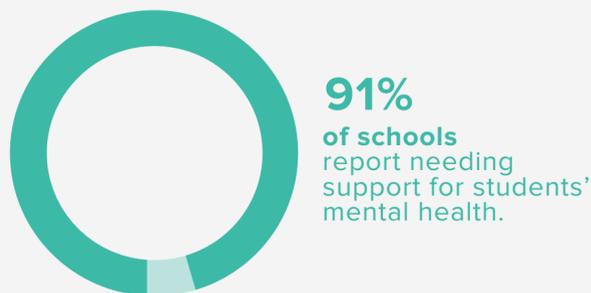
Percentage of increase in emergency visits from youth related to self-harm
(Toronto Public Health)



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

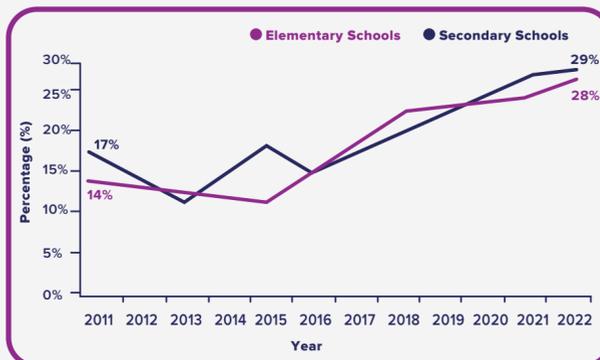
When asked to report the **level of support needed from boards and the Ministry of Education for COVID-19 recovery:**

(AOSS 2022-2023)



91% of schools report needing support for students' mental health.

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.**



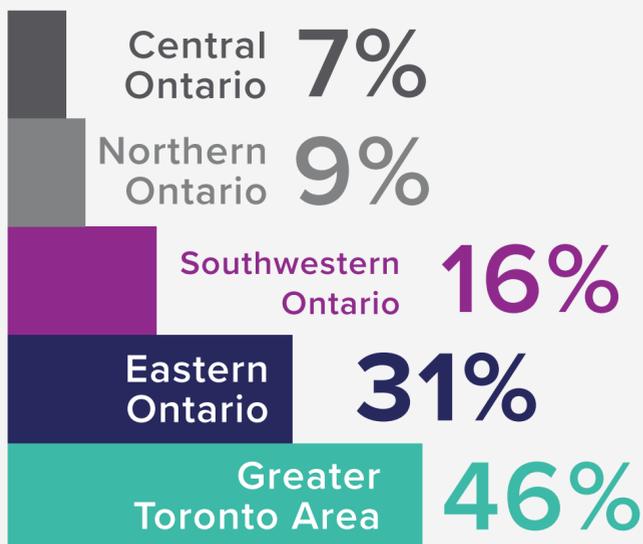
Percentage of schools with NO psychologists



46% of schools have NO access to mental health/addiction specialists or mental health nurses.

45% of schools have on-call access.
9% of schools have regularly scheduled access.

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



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

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 (DECEs) 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.