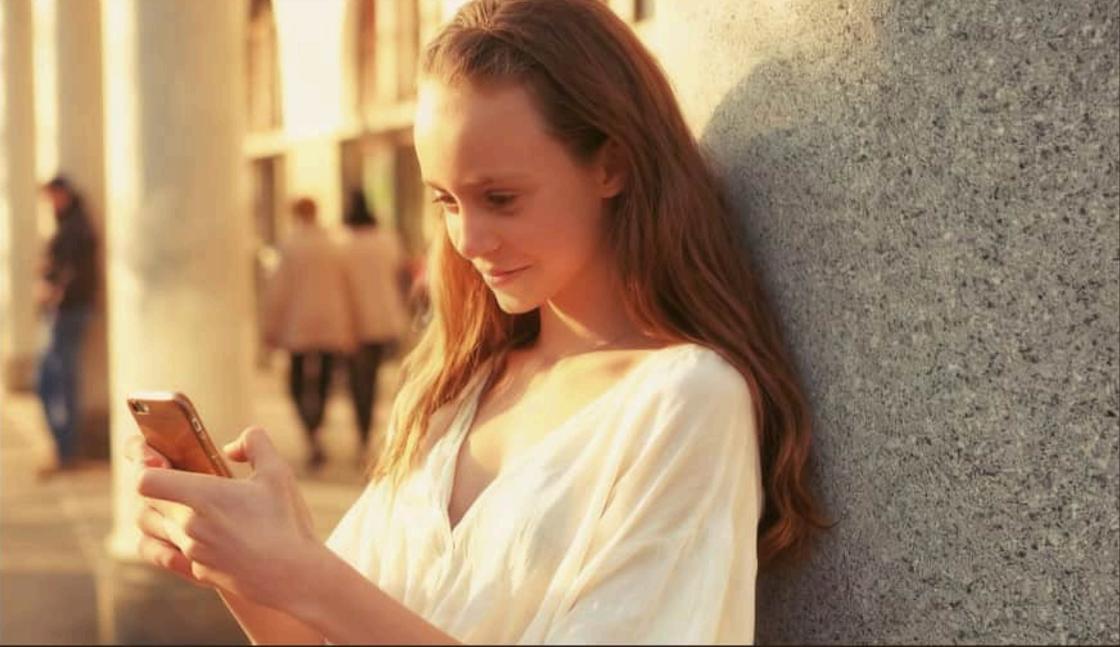


VALTION
NUORISO-
NEUVOSTO



**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
LEISURE SURVEY 2024:
RESULTS SUMMARISED**



SUMMER AND MOBILE PHONES

The 2024 Children and Youth Leisure Survey focused especially on summer activities and views related to mobile devices.

In addition, the survey also always looks at the leisure activities and use of free time of children and young people aged between 10 and 29 years. The questions repeated in the survey implemented every two years make it possible to use time series to monitor long-term trends.

Children and young people's personal experiences of summer activities, the advantages and disadvantages of mobile devices, and social media are important themes to study. In addition to hanging around and spending time

together, summer activities also include themes that reveal inequalities between young people, such as challenges related to summer jobs.

Not much research has been conducted on the ways children and young people spend their summer. Summer and mobile phones – Children and Youth Leisure Survey 2024 aims to fill this vacuum.

The data of the survey (n=1,419) was collected using an online questionnaire in autumn 2024.

Children and Youth Leisure Survey is a joint publication of the State Youth Council and the Finnish Youth Research Society.

OBSERVATIONS IN A NUTSHELL

1

OPPORTUNITIES DURING SUMMER ARE NOT EVENLY DISTRIBUTED

There was strong differentiation in the ways of spending summer according to the family's financial and social background. For those with a secure financial background, summer included a wide variety of activities.

SUMMER WITHOUT A JOB

A large number of young people who applied for a summer job did not find one. Sixty-two per cent of young people whose native language was other than Finnish or Swedish did not have a summer job.

2

3

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTRIBUTES TO WELLBEING

A majority of children and young people felt that social media use had had a positive impact on their lives. In addition, respondents living in the countryside and those belonging to minorities found friends on social media more often.

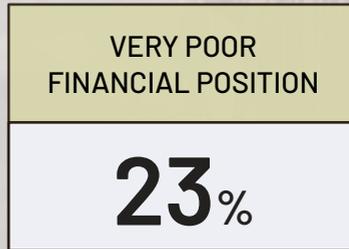
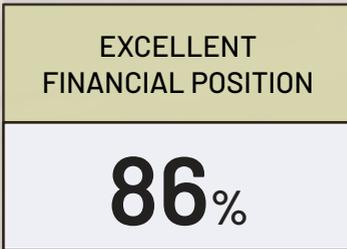
FREE TIME IS NOT ONLY LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Spending time with friends or in larger groups is an important part of free time. Children and young people hang around at youth centres, homes, outdoors and in commercial spaces.

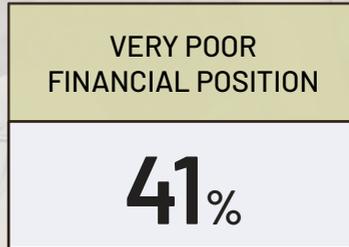
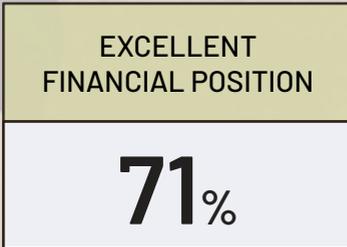
4

**“AT LEAST SOMEWHAT
SATISFIED WITH THE SUMMER”**

15-19 YEARS



20-24 YEARS



Satisfaction with the summer was asked about in the following way: "All in all, I am happy with what kind of summer I had." In the percentages, respondents who agreed somewhat or completely with the statement were added up.

The financial position was asked about with the following question: "How do you find the financial situation of your household at the moment?" The respondents have themselves selected the most applicable option for their situation.

“WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE SUMMER?”

86%

I SPENT TIME WITH MY FAMILY

I EXERCISED INDEPENDENTLY

73%

25%

I PARTICIPATED IN SUPERVISED EXERCISE

I TRAVELLED IN FINLAND

51%

35%

I TRAVELLED ABROAD

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING SPECIAL

3%

APPLYING FOR AND FINDING A SUMMER JOB

Applied, did not have a summer job

14%

Did not apply, did not have a summer job

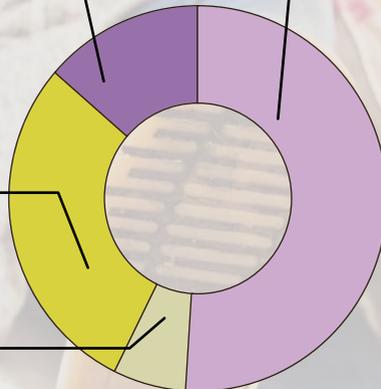
51%

Applied, had a summer job

28%

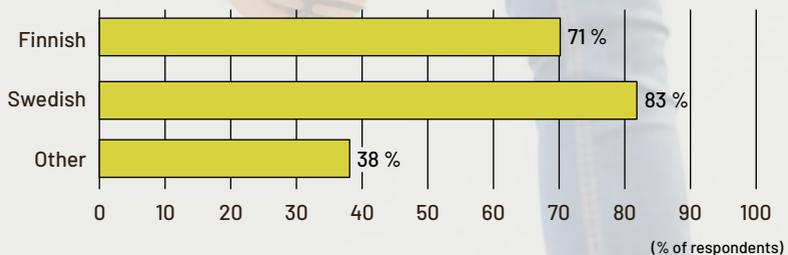
Did not apply, had a summer job

7%



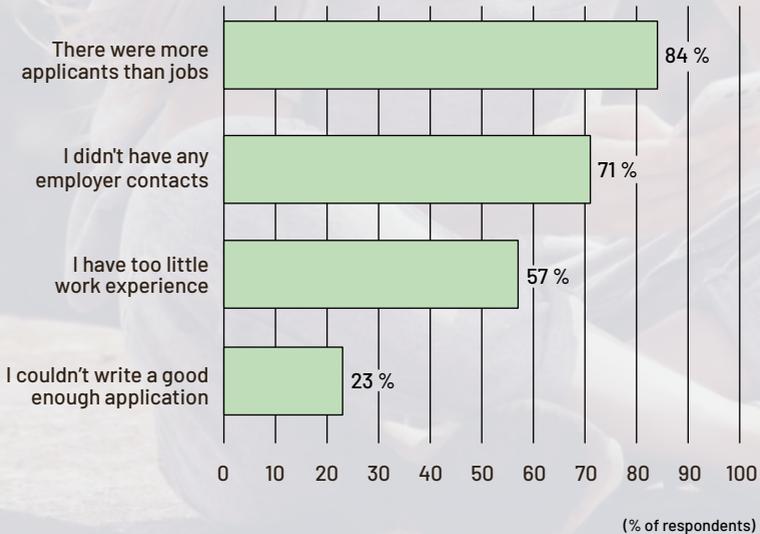
“DID YOU HAVE A SUMMER JOB?”

APPLICANTS ACCORDING TO NATIVE LANGUAGE

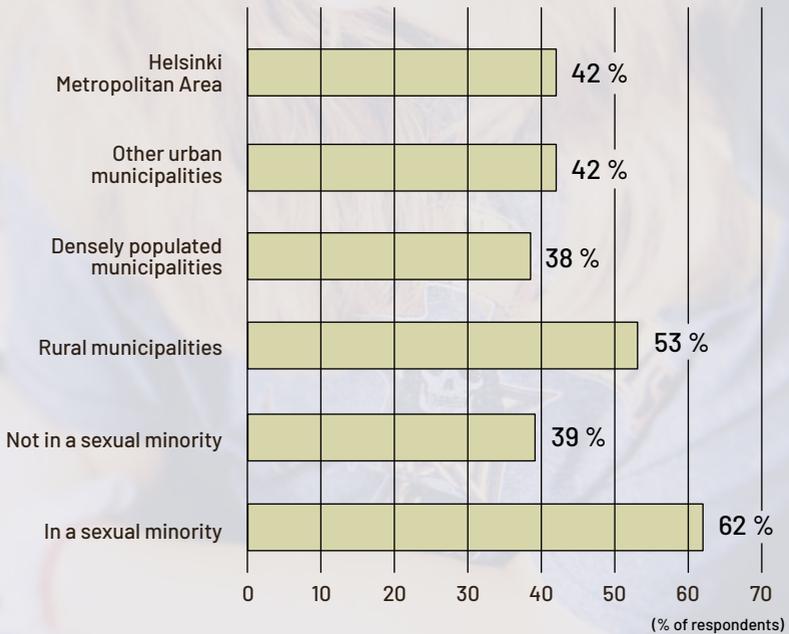


“WHY WERE YOU NOT SELECTED?”

RESPONDENTS WHO HAD APPLIED AND AGREED COMPLETELY OR SOMEWHAT WITH THE STATEMENTS



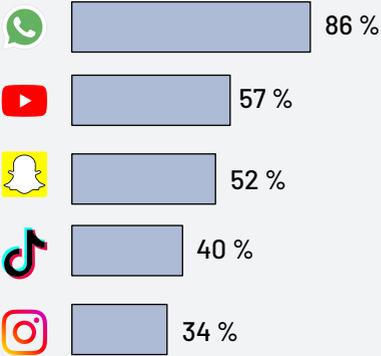
"HAVE YOU FOUND NEW FRIENDS ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA?"



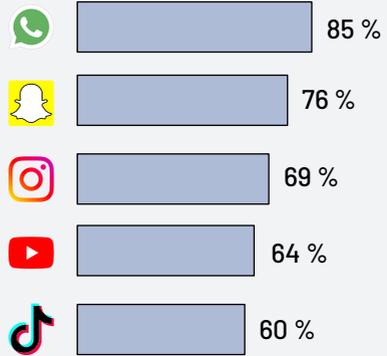
“HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THE FOLLOWING SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS?”

THOSE USING ALMOST DAILY OR MORE OFTEN.

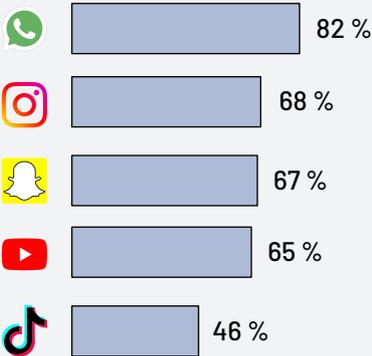
10-14 YEARS



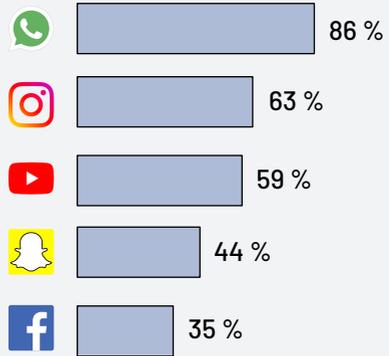
15-19 YEARS



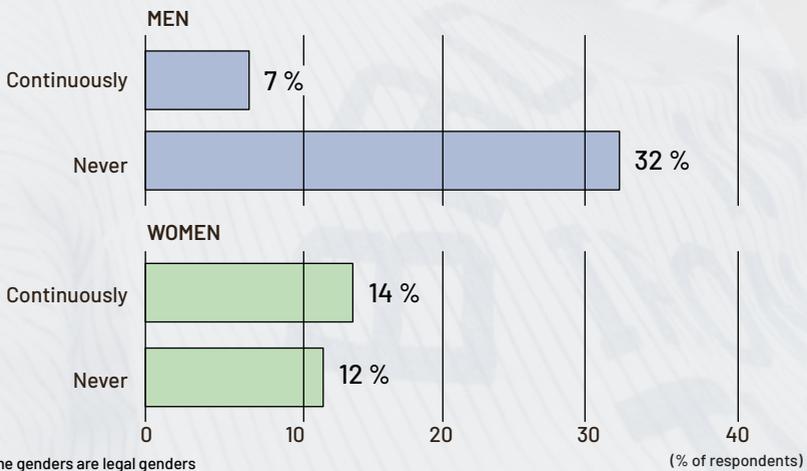
20-24 YEARS



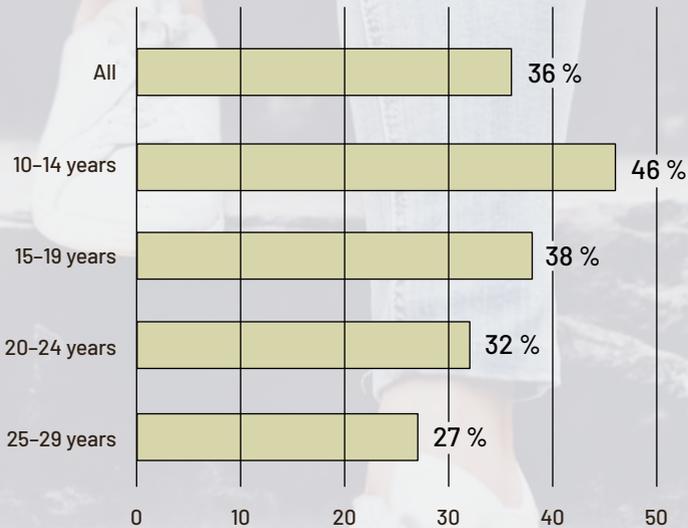
25-29 YEARS



“COMPARE THEIR OWN APPEARANCE TO OTHERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA”

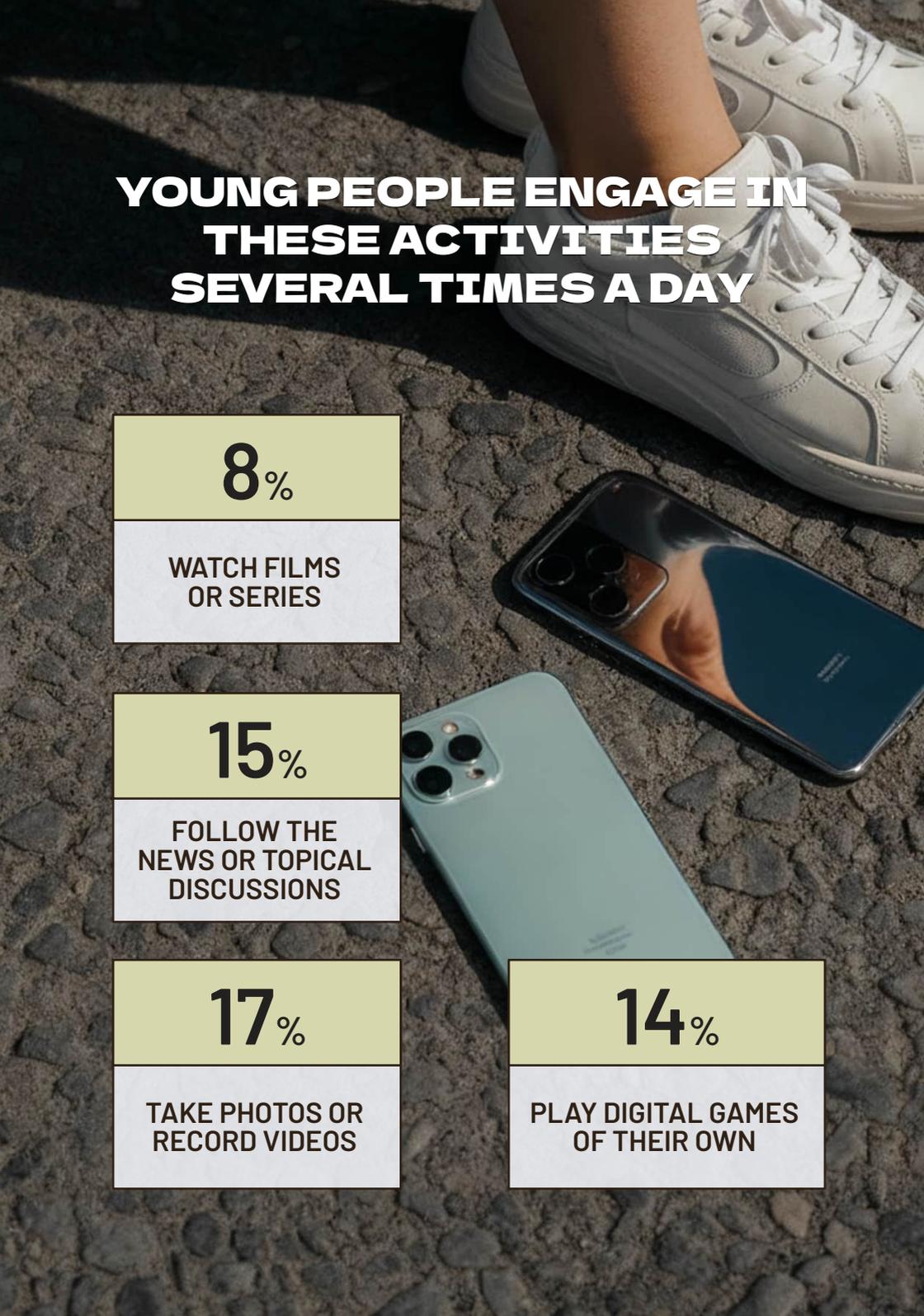


“SOCIAL MEDIA HAVE HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY LIFE”



Respondents who rated the impact of social media most positively by answering 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5 to the following question: “How would you rate the impact that your social media use has on your life? As a whole, the impact has been...”

(% of respondents)



YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGE IN THESE ACTIVITIES SEVERAL TIMES A DAY

8%

WATCH FILMS
OR SERIES

15%

FOLLOW THE
NEWS OR TOPICAL
DISCUSSIONS

17%

TAKE PHOTOS OR
RECORD VIDEOS

14%

PLAY DIGITAL GAMES
OF THEIR OWN

“IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONFISCATE PHONES THAT DISTURB TEACHING”

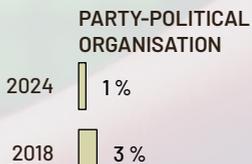
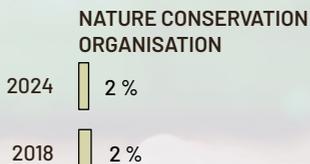
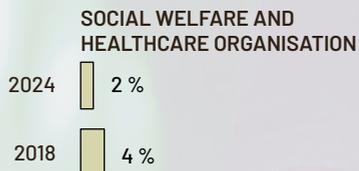
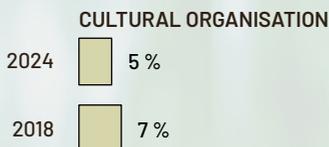
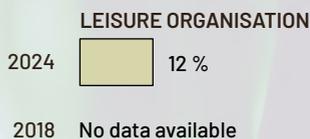
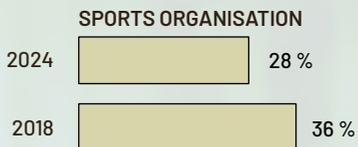
AGREE COMPLETELY OR SOMEWHAT



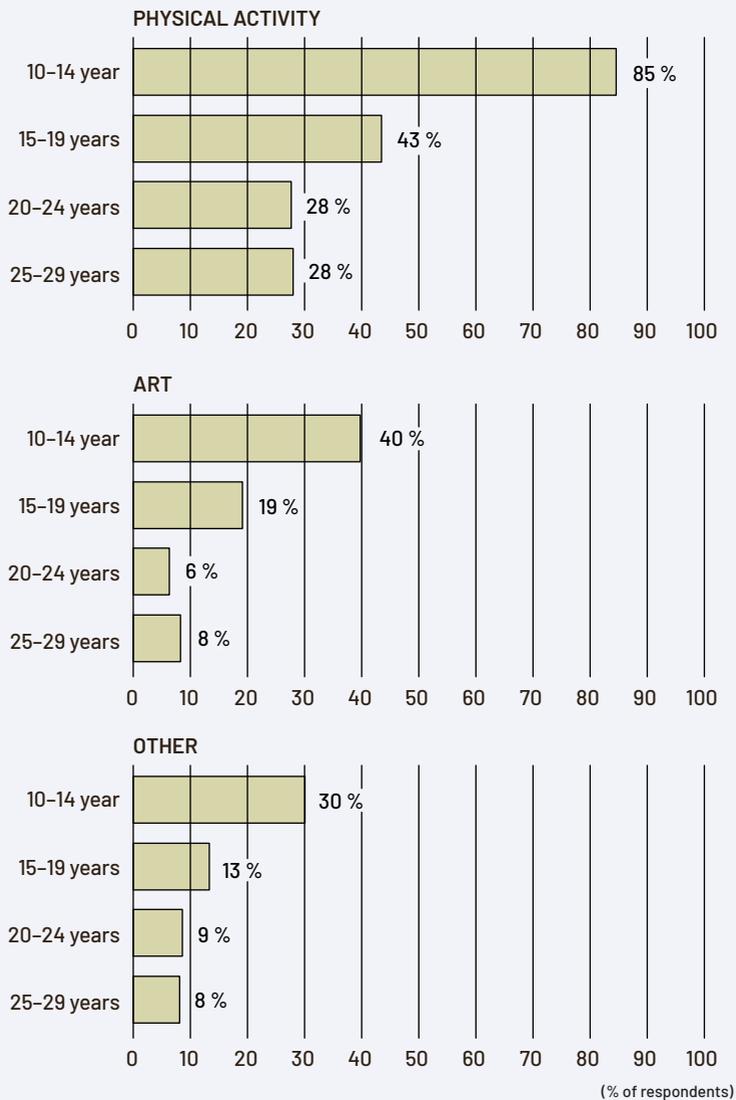
**A LARGE PROPORTION
OF YOUNG PEOPLE
BELONG TO AN
ORGANISATION**



“WHAT KIND OF ORGANISATION IS IT THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF OR WHOSE ACTIVITIES YOU PARTICIPATE IN?”

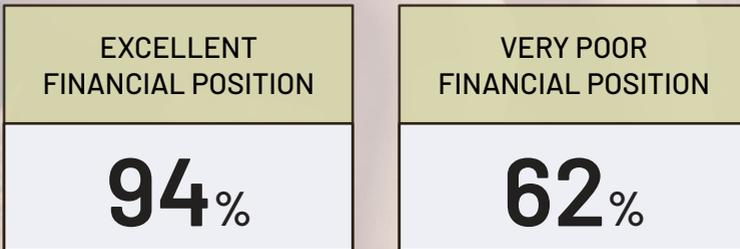


“PARTICIPATES WITH SUPERVISION ALMOST WEEKLY”

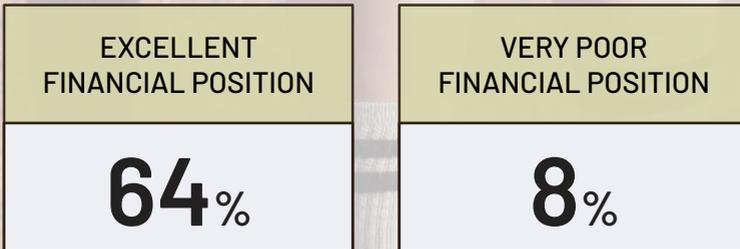


“PARTICIPATES IN SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT LEAST WEEKLY”

10-14 YEARS



15-19 YEARS

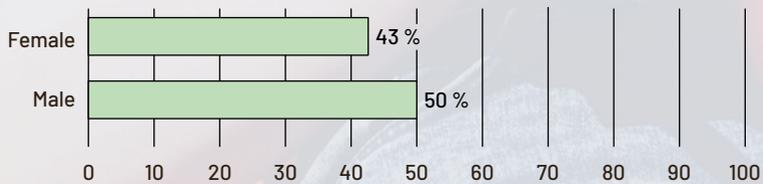


Participation in supervised activities includes physical activity, art and other leisure activities.

The financial position was asked about with the following question: “How do you find the financial situation of your household at the moment?” The respondents have themselves selected the most applicable option for their situation.



“RESPONDENTS WHO GAVE AT LEAST THE SCHOOL GRADE 9 FOR LIFE SATISFACTION”



“How satisfied are you with your life in general?” Asked on a scale of 4 to 10.
The genders are legal genders

(% of respondents)

A young woman with long, wavy blonde hair is sitting at a wooden table in a brightly lit cafe or youth center. She is wearing a light blue denim jacket over a dark top and is looking intently at a smartphone held in her hands. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and colorful decorations on the walls.

**30% OF 10-19-YEAR-OLDS
GO TO YOUTH CENTRES
AND CAFES**

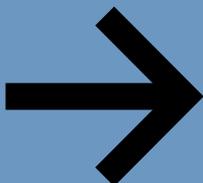


THE STATE YOUTH COUNCIL'S POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUMMER JOBS MUST BE INCREASED AND EQUALITY PROMOTED IN MUNICIPALITIES

All young people should have the opportunity to have a summer job and learn about the world of work. Summer jobs strengthen young people's inclusion, self-confidence and faith in the future. Especially foreign-language speakers and those who do not have previous work experience face obstacles to finding employment. Municipalities have a key role in providing these opportunities.



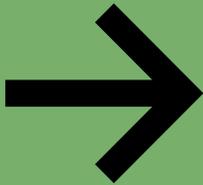
MEASURES

- Municipalities will increase the summer job opportunities aimed at young people.
- In line with the principle of positive special treatment, summer job vouchers will be allocated, for example, to young people whose native language is a foreign language and to those who do not have any work experience.
- Municipalities will strengthen cooperation with local companies and associations to promote the use of the summer job vouchers. Municipalities will offer advice and practical support for the summer job voucher process to employers so that as many actors as possible would employ young people.

2

COOPERATION IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MUST BE STRENGTHENED IN ORDER TO PROMOTE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Youth employment is not just labour market policy, it is part of youth policy. At the moment, matters concerning young people are fragmented and handled in different administrative branches, which impairs the comprehensive approach. The needs of young people must already be taken into account before their transition from studies to working life.



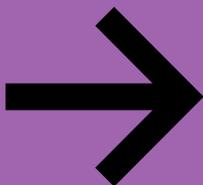
MEASURES

- Cross-administrative cooperation to promote youth employment will be strengthened.
- Summer employment for young people will be treated as part of youth policy, not as a separate part of labour market policy.
- Cooperation between the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Education and Culture on youth employment will be intensified.

3

PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING THE MOBILE PHONE BAN WILL BE STRENGTHENED

Everyday lives of children and young people are regulated, but their views are not always heard. Restricting the use of mobile devices in comprehensive schools affects young people's daily lives, and information is needed on its impacts. Young people's participation in decision-making is a central part of a well-functioning and fair society.



MEASURES

- Children's and young people's opinions on restricting the use of mobile devices will be consulted. Young people's experience that opinions are important will be strengthened.
- The need to develop the mobile phone ban will be recorded in the government programme in spring 2027.

**THE EMPLOYMENT OF
YOUNG PEOPLE HAS A
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON
THEIR FUTURE AND
POSITION IN
THE LABOUR MARKET**



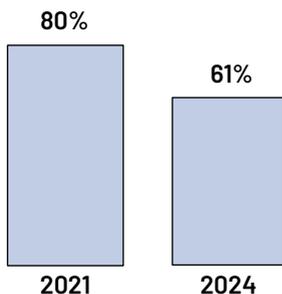
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INFORMATION ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE FACTS ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS

Our indicators visualise statistics and other indicators on young people's wellbeing.

FAITH IN THE FUTURE

Young people with an optimistic attitude towards their future



Source: Youth Barometer

POLITICS

Very interested in politics



Source: Youth Barometer





 Finnish Youth
Research Society

**VALTION
NUORISO-
NEUVOSTO**

Leisure survey 2024 in its entirety (in Finnish) at:

<https://edition.fi/nuorisotutkimusseura/catalog/category/vapaa-aikatutkimus>

Antti Kivijärvi & Konsta Happonen (Eds.) Kesä ja kännykät. Lasten ja nuorten vapaa-aikatutkimus 2024.