



SOCIAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON CANADIAN YOUTH

PREPARED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES (ACS)

MAY 21, 2020

INTRODUCTION

- The [Association for Canadian Studies' COVID-19 Social Impacts Network](#), in partnership with [Experiences Canada](#) and the [Vanier Institute of the Family](#), recently conducted the largest and most detailed nation-wide COVID-19 survey to-date among the 12 to 17 year old population in Canada.
- Survey aimed to:
 - Uncover the social impacts the COVID-19 crisis has had on the *attitudes and behaviours* of Canada's youth; and
 - Understand the lived experiences of Canadian youth during these unprecedented times.

CONTEXT

Methodology

- Web survey via Survey Monkey platform
- Administered from April 29-May 5, 2020
- 1191 responses from 12 to 17 year olds across Canada
- Probabilistic margin of error of $\pm 3\%$

Highlights include:

- Fear of catching the virus
- Sources of COVID-19 information
- Behaviours and attitudes during pandemic
- Feelings towards school
- Views on the future

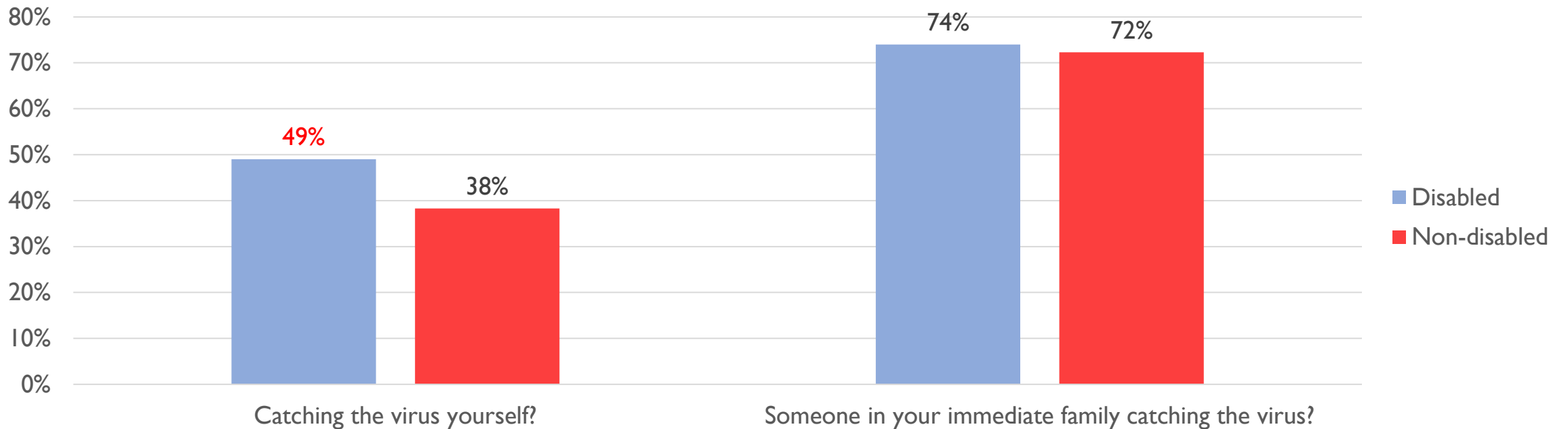


FEAR OF CATCHING THE VIRUS

WHO ARE THE MOST AFRAID OF CATCHING COVID-19?

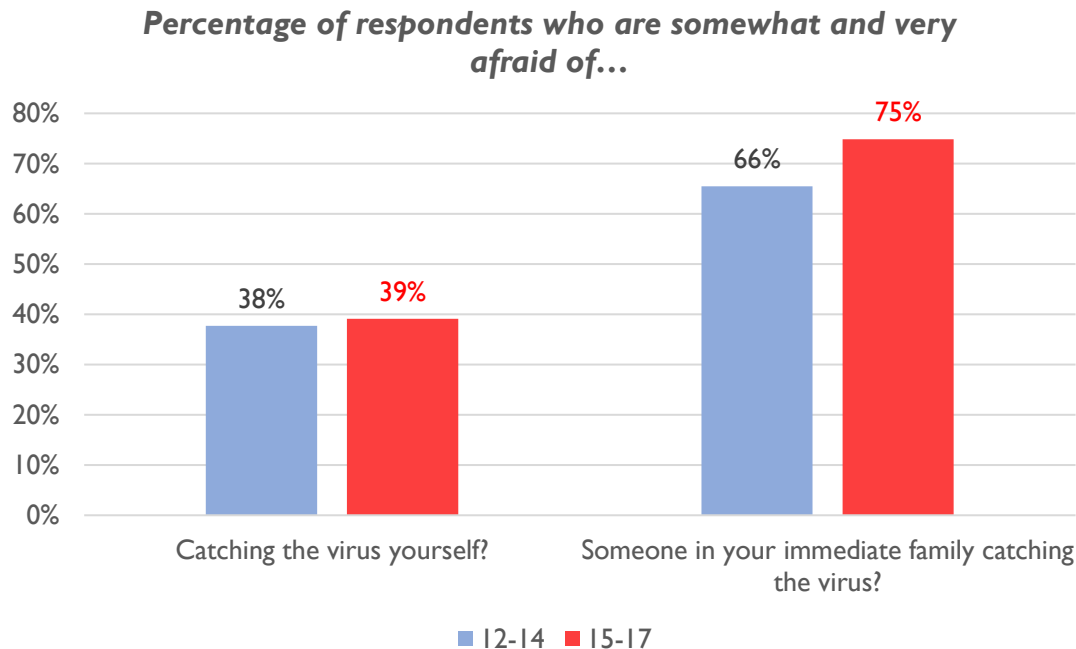
- Youth with disabilities have significantly higher levels of fear in terms of catching the virus themselves.

Percentage of respondents who are somewhat and very afraid of...

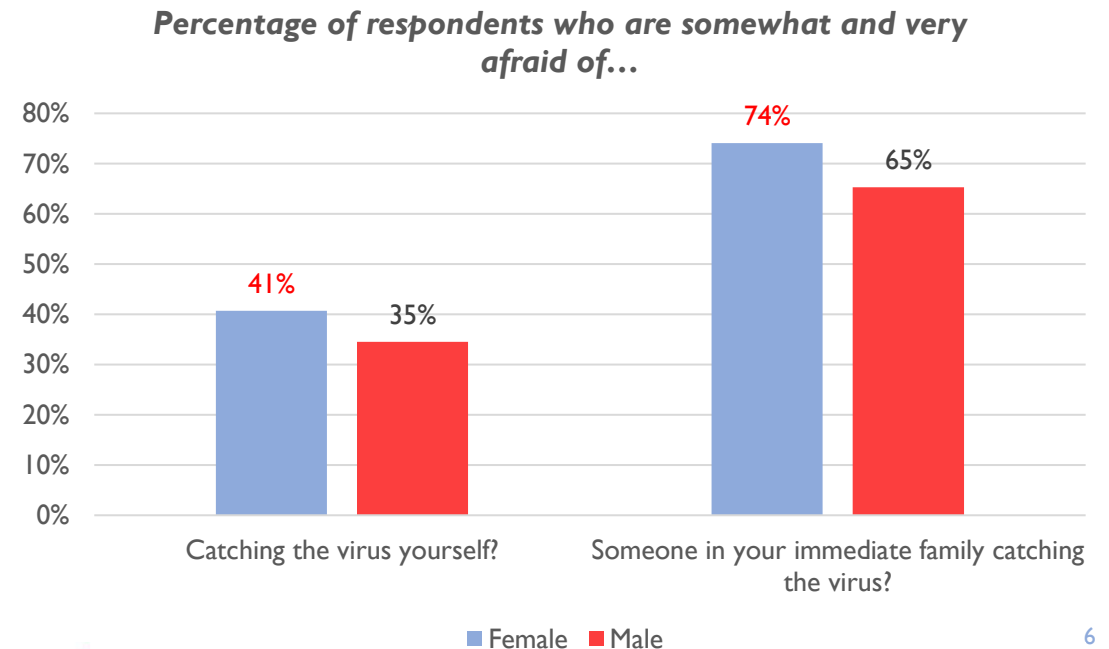


WHO ARE THE MOST AFRAID OF CATCHING COVID-19?

- Older youth are more afraid than the 12-14 age cohort.



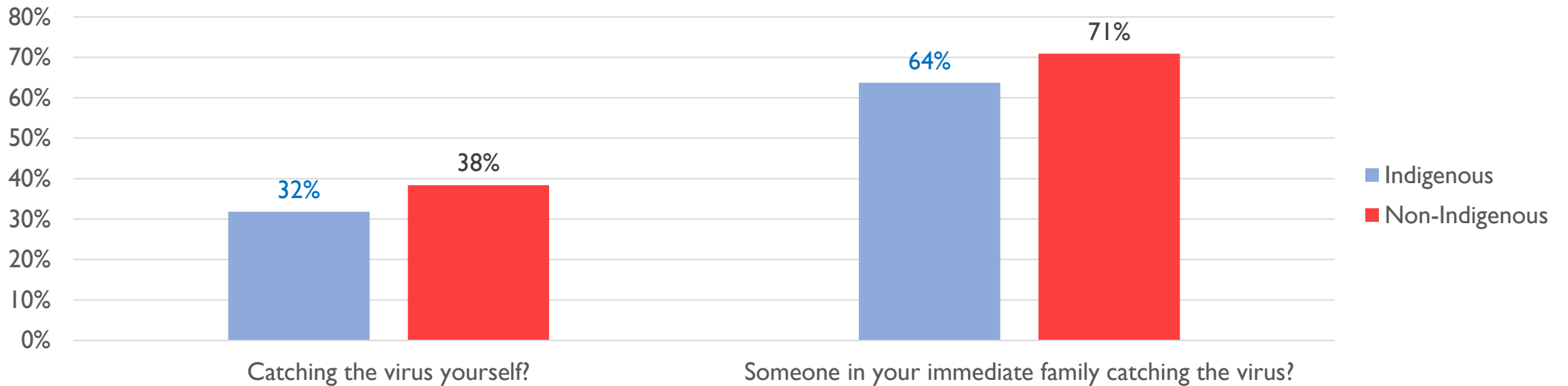
- Female youth have higher levels of fear than males.



WHO ARE THE MOST AFRAID OF CATCHING COVID-19?

- Indigenous youth have lower levels of fear when compared to their counterparts.

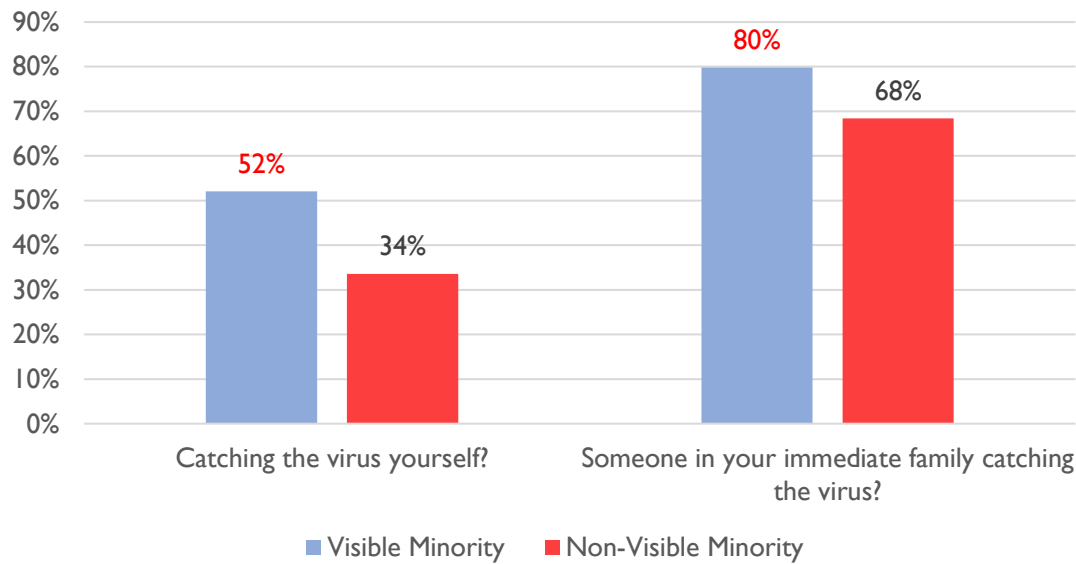
Percentage of respondents who are somewhat and very afraid of...



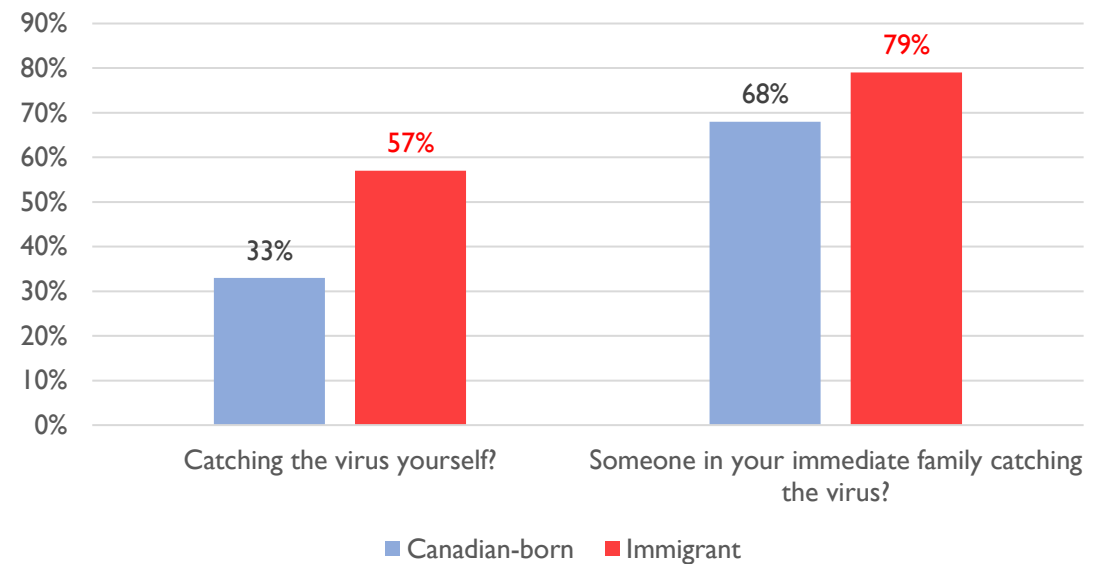
WHO ARE THE MOST AFRAID OF CATCHING COVID-19?

- Visible minority and immigrant youth have significantly higher levels of fear relative to their counterparts.

Percentage of respondents who are somewhat and very afraid of...



Percentage of respondents who are somewhat and very afraid of...

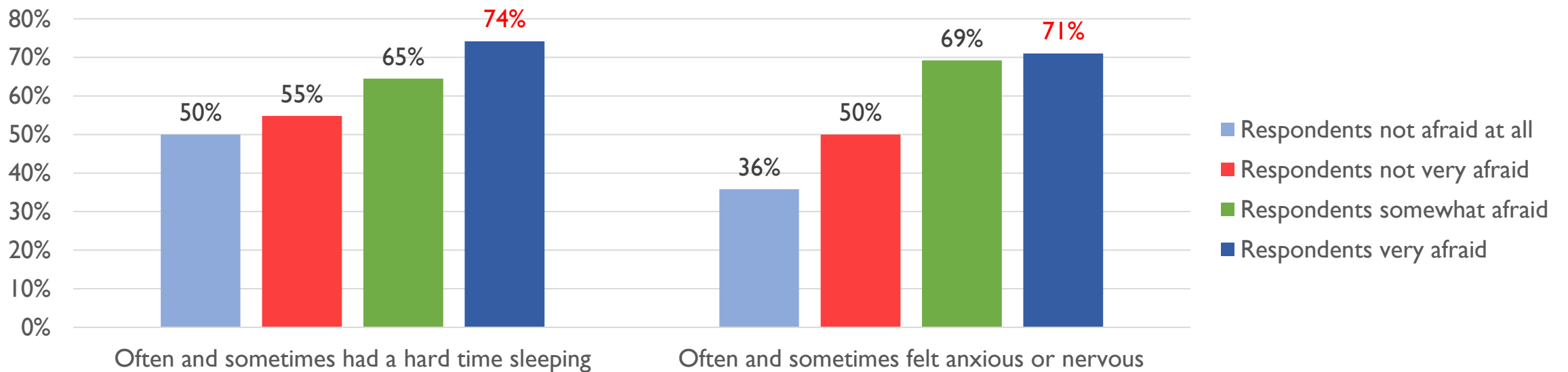


*Visible minority: Someone who is non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour and is NOT an Indigenous Person

IF THEY'RE AFRAID OF CATCHING THE VIRUS, HOW DOES THAT IMPACT THEIR SLEEP AND ANXIETY?

- Youth who are the most afraid of catching the virus have had a harder time sleeping and have felt more anxious/nervous since the beginning of the pandemic.

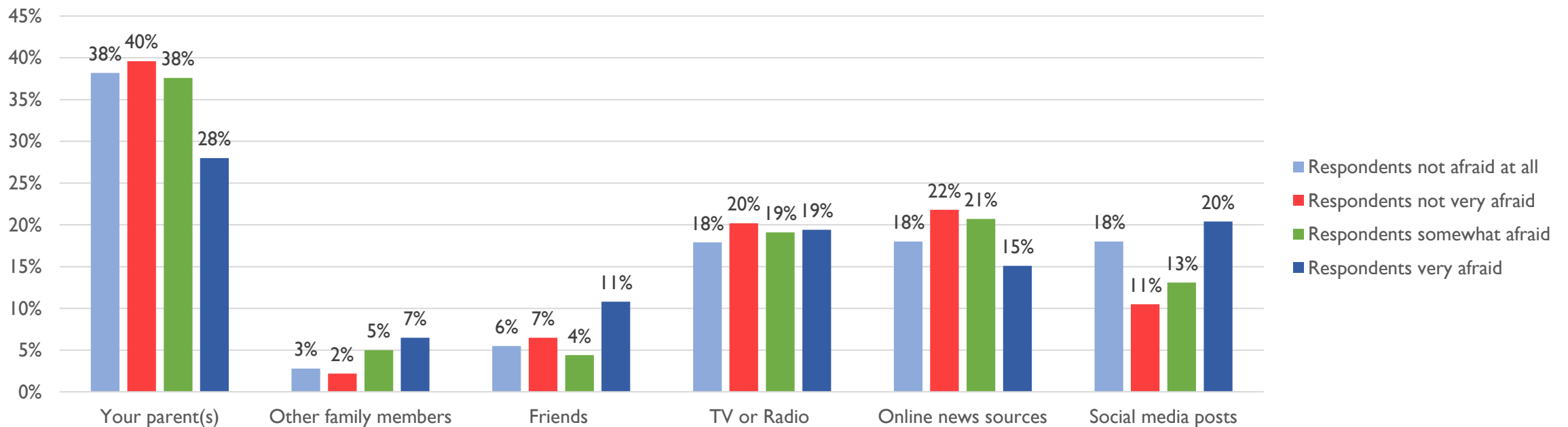
Percentage of respondents who are afraid of catching the virus vs. having a hard time sleeping or feeling anxious/nervous



IF THEY'RE AFRAID OF CATCHING THE VIRUS, WHERE ARE THEY GETTING THEIR INFORMATION FROM?

- Youth who are not as afraid of catching the virus tend to get their COVID-19 information mainly from their parents.

Percentage of respondents who are afraid of catching the virus vs. main way you get COVID-19 information



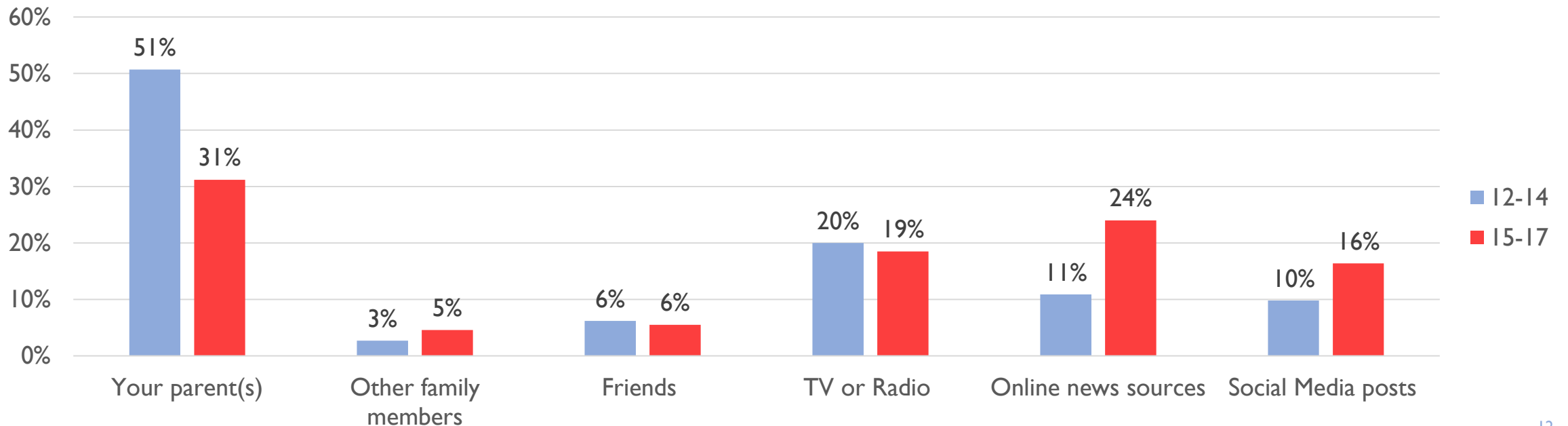


SOURCES OF COVID-19 INFORMATION

WHERE ARE THEY GETTING THEIR INFORMATION FROM?

- Both age ranges primarily get their information from their parents.
- 15-17 year olds prefer online news sources and social media more than those in the 12-14 age range.

Percentage of respondents who get their COVID-19 information from the following...





TOP 50 RESPONSES FOR ONLINE SOURCES OF COVID-19 INFORMATION

- Some youth reported being too sad, anxious or scared to look up any COVID-19 information online.

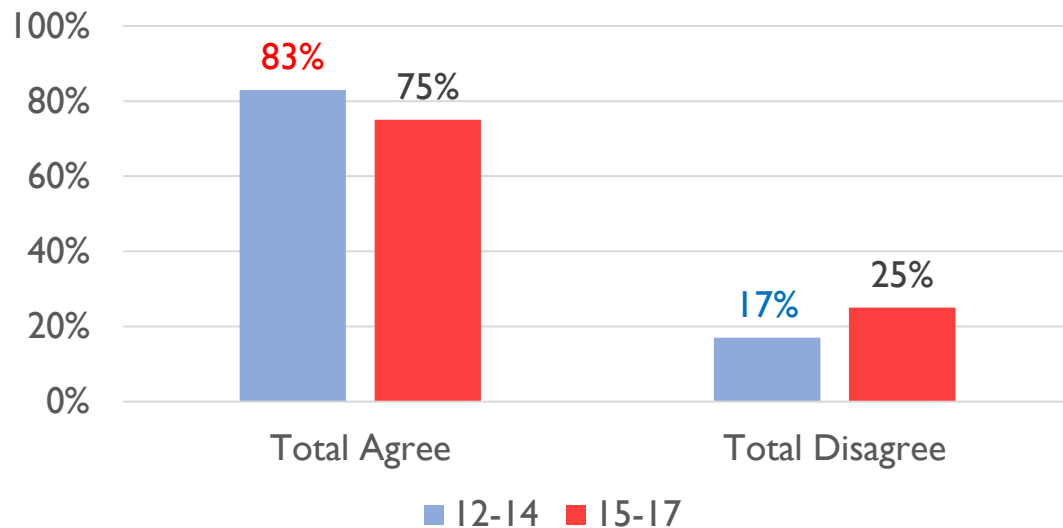


YOUTH BEHAVIOURS & ATTITUDES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHO'S HAVING MORE MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS?

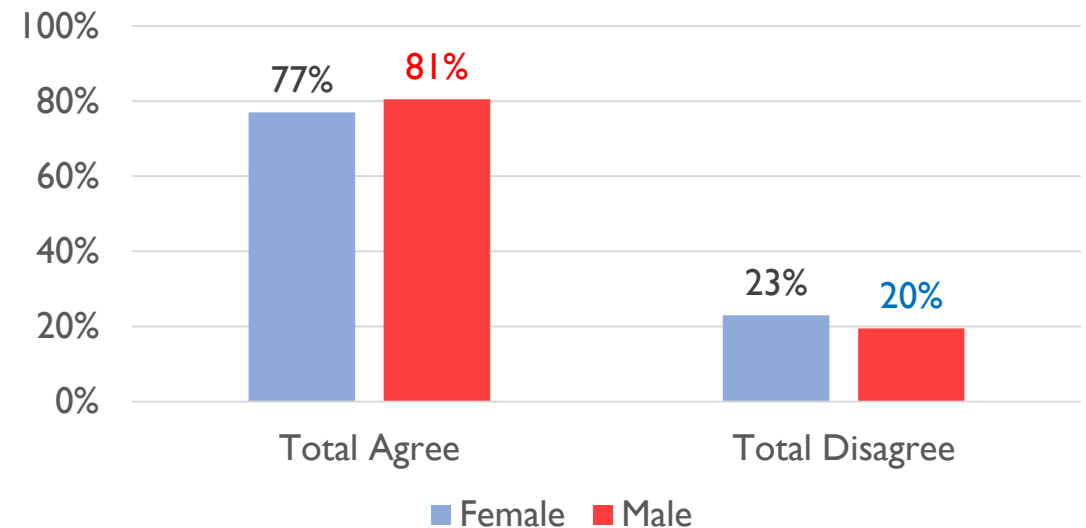
- The younger age cohort are having more meaningful conversations than 15-17 year olds.

Percentage of respondents who are having more meaningful conversations



- Male respondents are having more meaningful conversations than females.

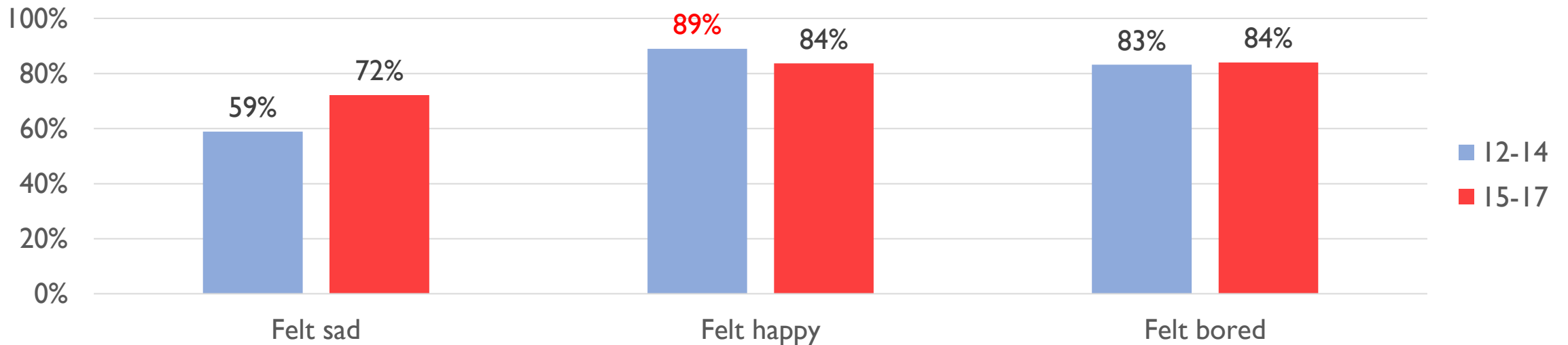
Percentage of respondents who are having more meaningful conversations



SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC, HOW HAVE THEY BEEN FEELING?

- Although youth do have high reports of feeling often and sometimes sad, they are more likely to report often and sometimes feeling happy.
- 12-14 year olds report being happier than older youth.

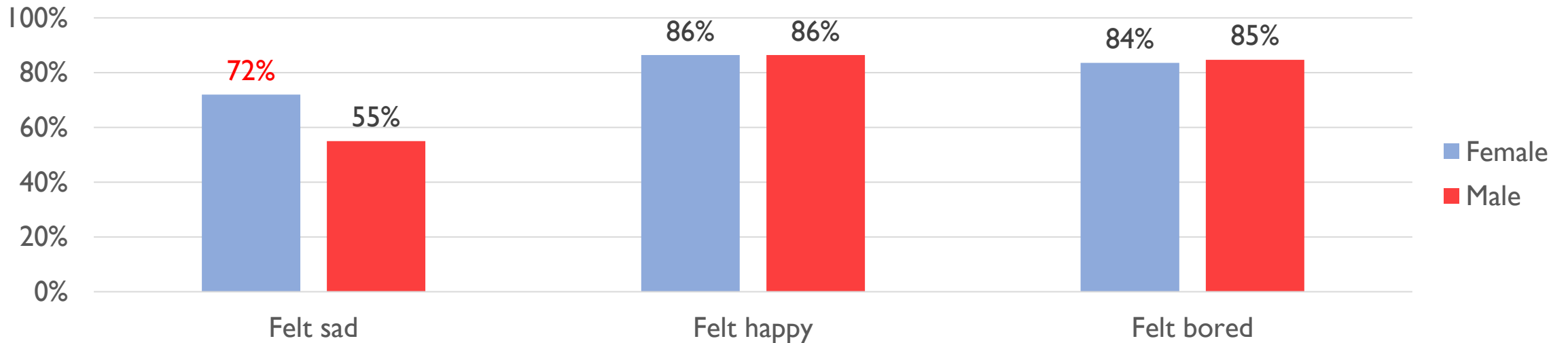
Percentage of respondents who have often and sometimes felt the following since the start of the COVID-19 crisis...



SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC, HOW HAVE THEY BEEN FEELING?

- Female youth are more likely than males to often and sometimes feel sad, but both groups are more likely to feel happy.
- Male youth are just as likely as females to report feeling happy and bored.

Percentage of respondents who have often and sometimes felt the following since the start of the COVID-19 crisis...



SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC, HOW HAVE THEY BEEN FEELING?

- Youth experience mixed emotions in dealing with COVID-19.
- Despite feeling sad often and sometimes since the start of the crisis, many of those respondents often and sometimes felt happy as well.

		Felt happy		
		Often	Sometimes	Rarely
Felt sad	Often and Sometimes	47%	76%	88%
	Rarely and Never	53%	25%	12%



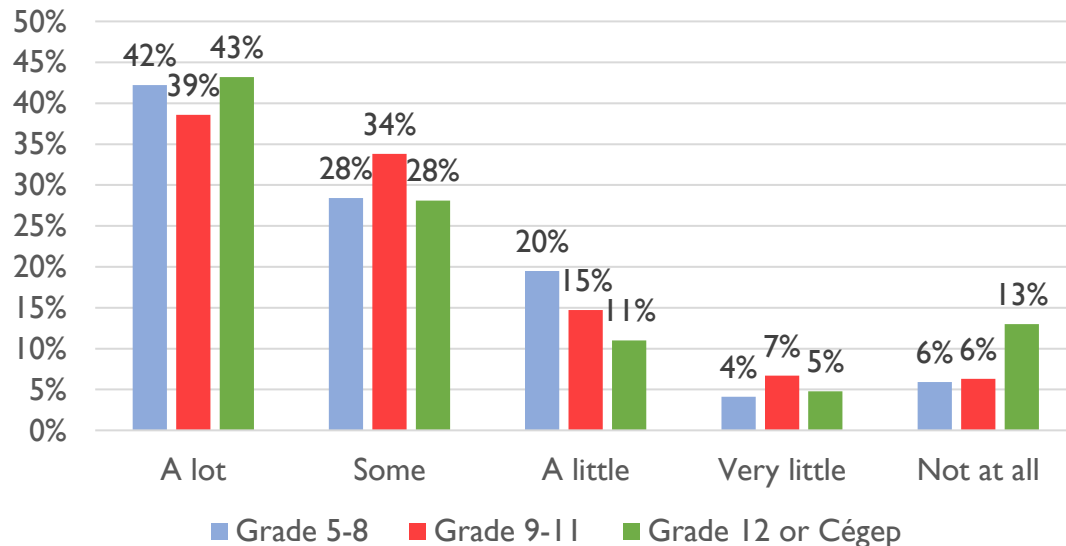
FEELINGS ABOUT SCHOOL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DO THEY MISS GOING TO SCHOOL?

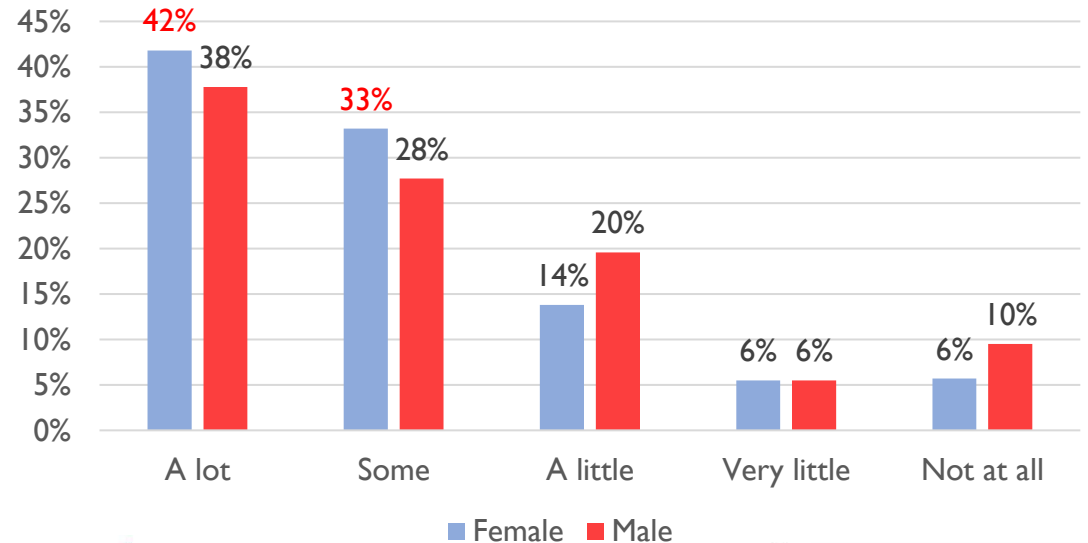
- All grade ranges miss school a lot or somewhat.
- Grade 12 or Cégep respondents are more likely to not miss school at all.

- Female respondents are more likely than males to miss school.

Percentage of respondents that miss going to school...



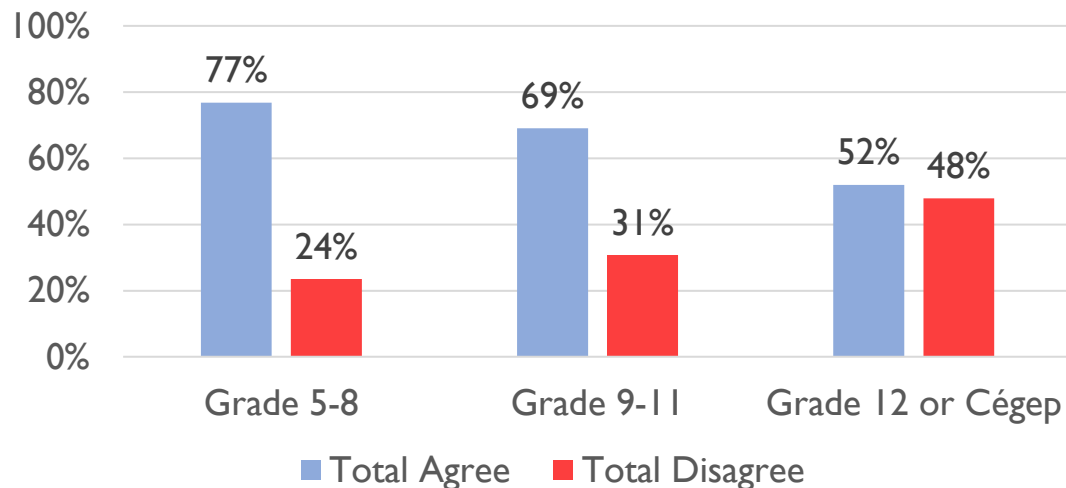
Percentage of respondents that miss going to school...



DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING WELL AT GETTING THEIR SCHOOL WORK DONE FROM HOME?

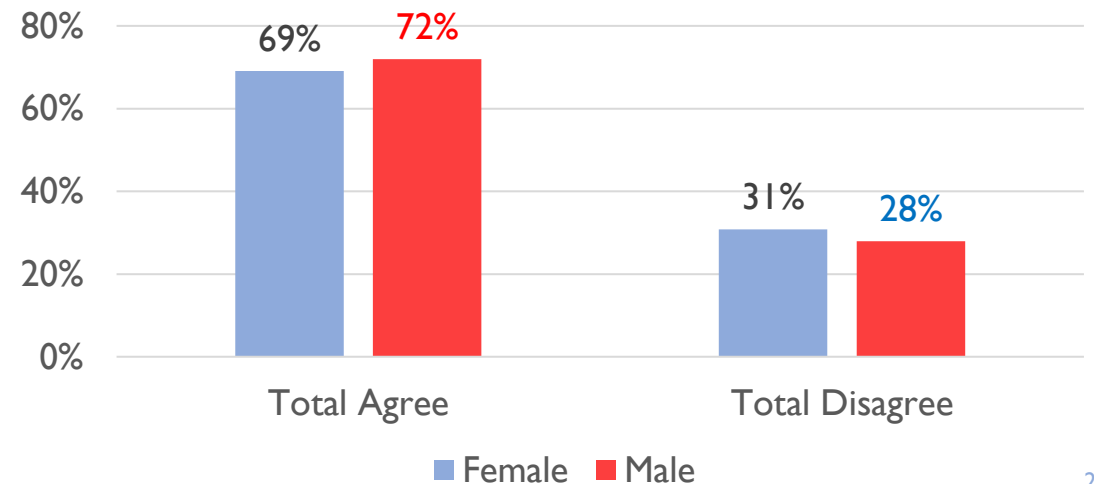
- Youth respondents are less confident they are doing a good job at their school work in upper grades.

Percentage of respondents that agree they are doing a good job at getting their school work done from home



- Males are slightly more likely to agree they are doing a good job at getting their school work done than females.

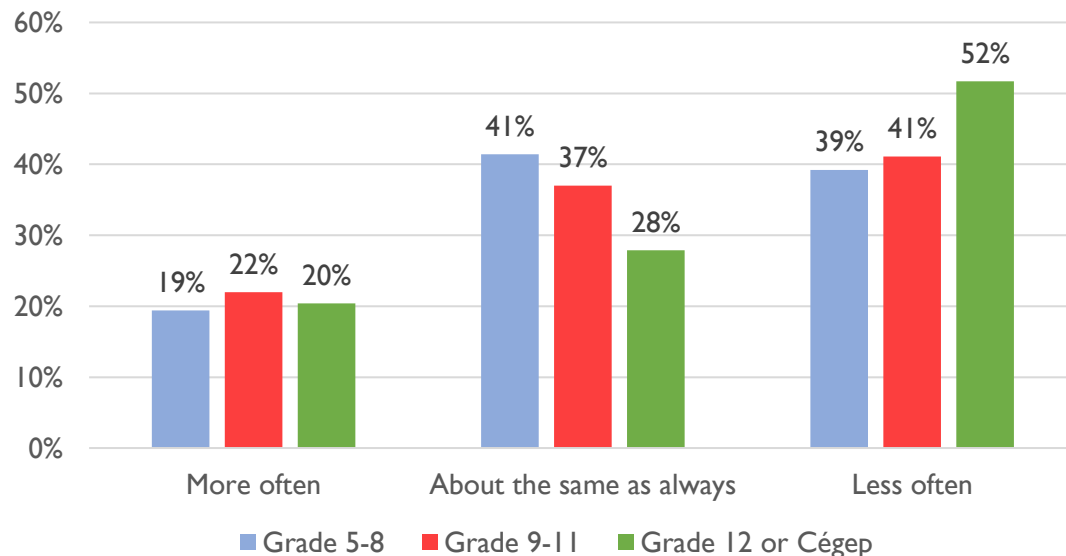
Percentage of respondents that agree they are doing a good job at getting their school work done from home



HOW OFTEN HAVE THEY BEEN DOING THEIR SCHOOL WORK COMPARED TO BEFORE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC?

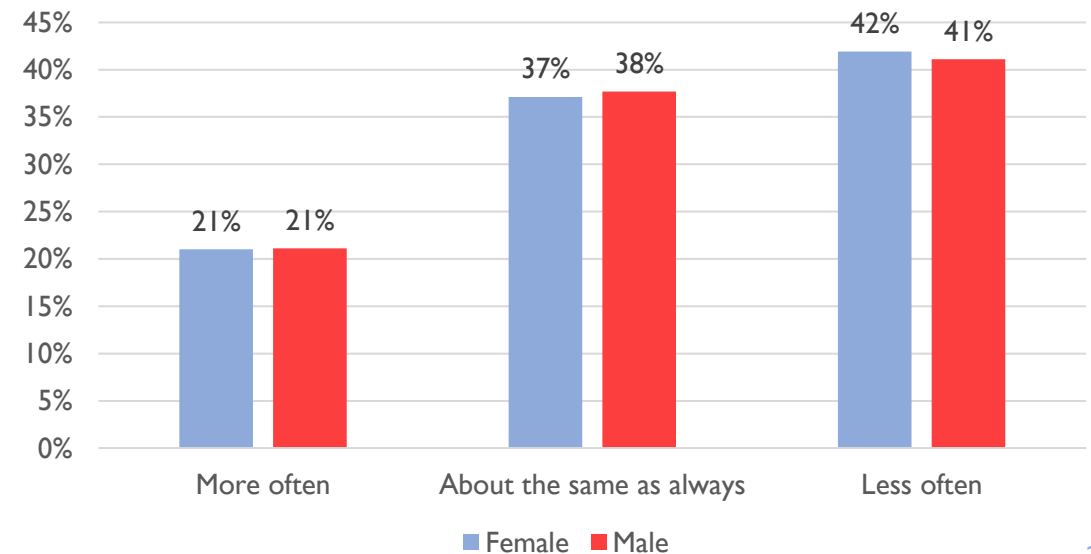
- Twice as many say they're doing school work less often than more often.
- Grade 12 or Cégep students are doing school work the least often.

Percentage of respondents who, since the start of the pandemic, have been doing their school work...



- No significant gap between male and female respondents.
- The number of respondents doing their school work less often is double that of more often.

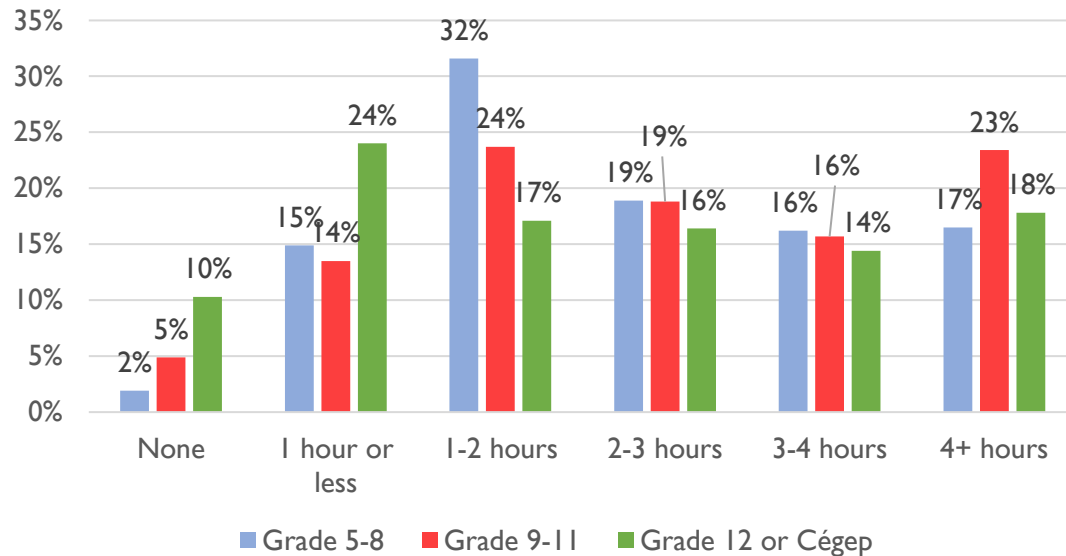
Percentage of respondents who, since the start of the pandemic, have been doing their school work...



IN THE PAST WEEK, HOW MANY HOURS HAVE THEY SPENT DOING SCHOOL WORK?

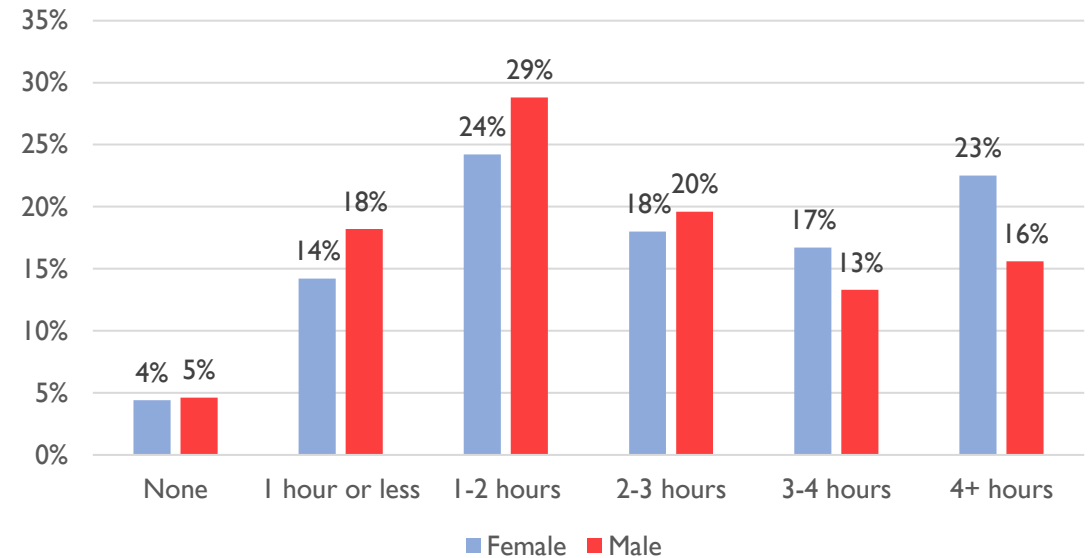
- Grade 12 or Cégep students spent less time on school work than other grades.

Percentage of the no. of hours in the past week respondents spent doing school work



- Female respondents spent more time a week on school work than males.

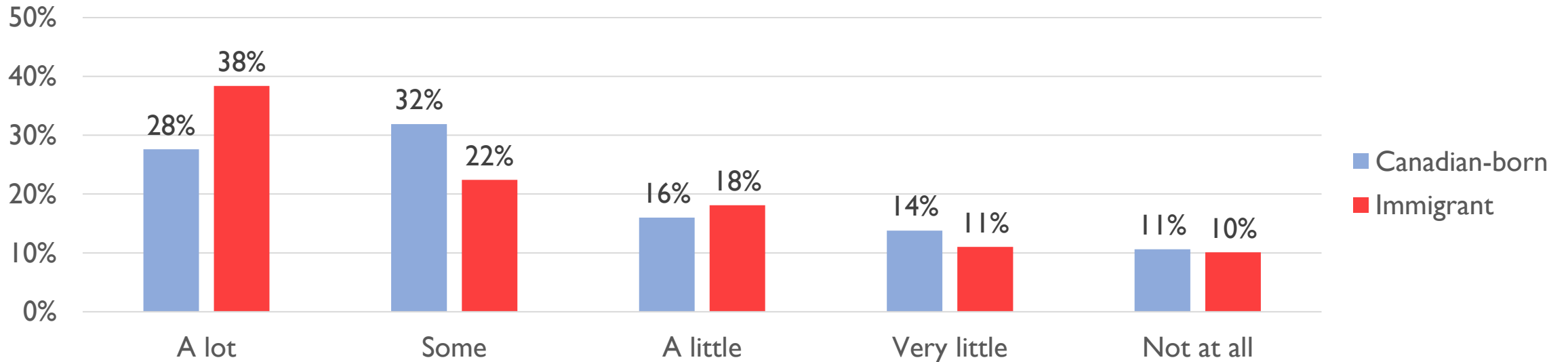
Percentage of the no. of hours in the past week respondents spent doing school work



WHO FEARS THAT COVID-19 WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT THEIR SCHOOL YEAR/ACADEMIC SUCCESS?

- Immigrant youth more likely to feel that COVID-19 has had a lot of negative impact on their school year/academic success.

Percentage of respondents that feel that COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their school year/academic success



“People will be more **thankful** of the time we have with each other and being more **grateful** of physical touch and having the presence of people you care about in your life available to you whenever you need. People will have a **hard time adjusting** ex: mental health, hopefully people are lot more considerate of others.”

“I feel that a lot of people will be **overwhelmed** when life starts to resume to normal because they’ve been grounded at home for such a long time, that trying to accustom to how they once lived their life may prove to be **difficult**.”

“I think that social distancing will become more of a social norm in the future and people will be more conscious of health safety. I also think that most people will not take their freedom for granted and we will be more **appreciative** of our daily lives. But I do think that COVID-19 will create more **racism** in our world.”

“Appreciate connecting with friends and family **more meaningful**. Loss of school year and sports makes me **sad**.”

“I just hope I get better at dealing with **stress** and **sadness**.”

“I’m **worried** about school and how I’ll get back on track.”

“I think my education will be different. I may have to take online university classes and I think this will be **worse** for me than regular classes..”

WHEN THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE, IN WHAT WAYS DO THEY THINK LIFE WILL BE DIFFERENT, BETTER OR WORSE?

- Optional open question with 879 responses out of 1191

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