Social and Economic Context

Teens with supportive adult at school

Connection with a supportive adult contributes to positive youth development and a host of health behaviors correlated with physical and mental health. Having a connection with an adult at school is associated with higher academic achievement and high school graduation.

Overall, approximately 71% of eighth-graders and 76% of 11th-graders reported the presence of a supportive adult at school (“very much true” or “pretty much true”).

![Diagram showing youth with supportive adult at school, 8th & 11th graders by sex, Oregon, 2013.](Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey)
Fewer eighth-graders than 11th-graders report having an adult at school who cares about them. In 2013, similar proportions of males and females reported having a supportive adult at school.

**Additional Resources:** [Oregon Healthy Teens Results: 2001-2013](#): Question 17, Personal beliefs.

**About the Data:** Data source is the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey (OHT). OHT is a pencil and paper or online survey conducted every two years among Oregon 8th and 11th graders within schools. Data include responses of “Yes” to statement: “There is at least one teacher or other adult in my school that really cares about me.”

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