During the summer of 2020, stakeholders were engaged in a process to prioritize improvements to the Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) Student Survey. In addition to parents, students, counselors, and administrators, Greenbush considered recommendations documented by the Attorney General’s Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Kansas Mental Health Advisory Council, and the Kansas Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying.

From this process, two primary goals were established for the 2021 survey administration.

1. reduce the length and time required for administration
2. expedite reporting survey results for use by school, community, and state stakeholders

Online administration of the statewide survey began in 2009. By 2020, 93% of districts utilized the online option. As plans formed to end the use of paper surveys, the pandemic accelerated transition to fully online administration in 2021. This important milestone unleashed multiple opportunities to improve administration protocols.

To reduce the amount of time required to complete the 2021 survey, 35 questions were removed and language was modified to improve readability. An updated survey platform allowed the use of logic to skip past questions based on previous responses.

Improvements continue based on annual review of processes, stakeholder input, and feedback from student focus groups.

The Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) Student Survey is built on a prevention framework to inform local and state programs, policies, and practices and support healthy youth development. Greenbush administers KCTC on behalf of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS).

2022 KCTC Student Survey results will be published by April 1st.
1 in 10 applicants from 2021 reported they drank alcohol in the past 30 days.

Over the past 25 years, kids who reported they never drank alcohol has increased by 40 percentage points.

### Substance Use in Past 30 Days

- **Alcohol:** 74% never drank alcohol in their lifetime
- **Vaping:** 36%
- **Binge drinking:** 1 in 10
- **Marijuana:** 1 in 10

### Kansas Communities That Care Evolution

- **1995:** Communities That Care Survey initiated
  - Federally funded Six-State project to develop a prevention needs assessment
- **2007:** Gambling added
  - When Kansas expanded state-owned casinos, questions were added to monitor youth gambling
- **2008:** Bullying added
  - Used to inform building-level crisis plans in accordance with the Jason Flatt Act
- **2009:** Fully Online Administration offered
  - Reduced # of items
  - Streamlined with skip logic
  - Embedded instructions
  - Accessibility features
  - Reports available sooner
- **2016:** Depression & Suicide added
  - As concerns about youth mental health arose, questions about depression and suicidal ideation were added
- **2021:** Online administration offered

**Data illustrates responses from students surveyed in 2021 who answered each question.**
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SURVEYED WHO REPORTED BEING BULLIED IN PAST 12 MONTHS

3% 5% 3%

AGE OF STUDENTS SURVEYED WHO REPORTED THEY HAVE TRIED TO KILL THEMSELVES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

The percentage of Kansas students surveyed who reported feelings of depression has been steadily increasing since we began asking in 2016. The average percentage point increase from year-to-year has been 2.5. From 2020 to 2021, this increase was even higher at 5 percentage points.

SUICIDAL THOUGHTS, PLANS & ATTEMPTS IN THE PAST YEAR DAYS REPORTED BY STUDENTS IN 2021

18% thought about killing themselves
11% made a plan about how to kill themselves
4% tried to kill themselves

38% of students surveyed reported feelings of depression in the past year

38% of students surveyed reported feelings of depression in the past year

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SURVEYED WHO REPORTED FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION BASED ON HOW FREQUENTLY THEY WERE BULLIED

Kids who reported being bullied at least once a week reported feelings of depression nearly twice as much as kids who reported they had never been bullied. Being bullied once or twice a month also resulted in higher reported levels of depression.