2026 **Mental Health** By the Numbers

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Youth and young adults experienced a unique set of challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic - isolation from peers, adapting to virtual learning, and changes to sleep habits and other routines.

We must recognize the significant impact of these experiences on young people's mental health - and the importance of providing the education, care and support they need.

Among U.S. **ADOLESCENTS** (aged 12-17): 1 in 6 experienced a major depressive episode (MDE)

MILLION had serious thoughts of suicide

31% increase in mental health-related emergency department visits

Many increasingly used alcohol or drugs to cope with stress or self-medicate. Among U.S. **YOUNG ADULTS** (aged 18-25):

1 in 3 experienced a mental illness



1 in 10 experienced a serious mental illness



had serious thoughts of suicide

l in 5

young people report that the pandemic had a significant negative impact on their mental health.



of adolescents of young adults



of young people with mental health concerns negative impact.

in 10 people under age 18 experience a mental health condition following a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Increased use of alcohol among those who drink:

5

of adolescents

8 of young adults Increased use of drugs among those who use:



of adolescents

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