Haddam-Killingworth 2026

Youth Voices Count Survey Report, Fall 2025

Grades 7-12

youth VOICES count

Survey Conducted by:

B. WEYLAND SMITH

CONSULTING

PROGRAM EVALUATION • GRANT PREPARATION • CAPACITY BUILDING

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Haddam-Killingworth Youth Voices Count Survey Report

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Introduction

The following report is a summary of data that was gathered during December 2025 from public schools in Haddam-Killingworth for grades 7-8 and 9-12. Data collected from this year's student survey will be used in the planning and development of strategies, policies, and practices for the school district and community partners.

This survey was administered to youth enrolled in Haddam-Killingworth schools to ensure a representative sample and reliable data. Please note that the findings presented in this report are not reflective of the school but are intended to reflect the greater community.

The Youth Voices Count Survey fulfills the following objectives:

1. Describes youth's perceptions and experiences regarding substance use, mental health, school environment, social media and online gaming school environment, and other related behaviors among students in grades 7-12.

2. Utilizes information provided by youth, allowing leaders to systematically **"hear" from youth**, in order to enhance and **plan initiatives and activities for youth** in the community.

Youth Voices Count Survey Background:

The Youth Voices Count Survey (YVCS) is adapted from the "ERASE Student Survey" which originated out of the Governor's Prevention Initiative for Youth (GPIY) Student Survey, a school survey that was distributed throughout the State of Connecticut in 2000. Other survey influences include: The CT School Health Survey, The Center for Prevention Evaluation and Statistics (CPES) Young Adults Statewide Survey and most importantly, emerging issues for youth today—including vaping, online gaming, and social media related behaviors.

The Youth Voices Count Survey is a product of B. Weyland Smith Consulting, LLC. Located in Wethersfield, CT. B. Weyland Smith Consulting researchers have over 50 years combined experience of survey and statistical research regarding youth behaviors, perspectives, and experience, specific to substance use, mental health and related risk and protective factors.

The Youth Voices Count Survey was established with support of many youths and professionals in the field of survey development, program evaluation, internet safety and school mental health staff. They provided feedback through document review and focus groups.
The core elements of the YVCS are designed to understand youth's current substance use and mental health behaviors and perceptions. These data are aligned with Federal National Outcome Measures for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This allows for competitive grant applications and ongoing evaluation requirements to be met.

Topics assessed in the YVCS include: substance use, anxiety, depression, e-sports/online gaming, social media perspectives, gambling and accessing resources and supports in the community. Optional add-on topics include bullying/school climate, sexual behaviors, and extracurricular activities and connected and thriving factors.

Survey Methodology

Survey Consent:

The Youth Voices Count Survey was administered in 2025 to students at Haddam-Killingworth Public Schools. Students' guardians received e-mail letters notifying them of the purpose and content of the survey and were able to return a signed "passive consent" form to the school if they did not want their children to participate in the school survey. Guardians were provided with an opportunity to review the survey document.

Survey Administration:

All surveys were administered using SurveyMonkey.com website and software. Students received an email with the survey link and a link to a video including an overview of the survey, ensuring anonymity, resources if the survey brought up uncomfortable feelings and informing of their option to decline participation. Any question could be skipped if a student was not comfortable answering a question. Students who chose not to participate in the survey were asked to sit quietly until all classmates finished the survey.

Data Analysis

Data Processing:

The student survey data was exported from the SurveyMonkey.com website and imported into SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) for data analysis. A total of 7 surveys (1.1% of original 630 sample surveys) were omitted from the Haddam-Killingworth pool due to lack of any responses other than demographics (5) or implausible responses (2). The final Haddam-Killingworth sample size after surveys were omitted was 623 surveys for grades 7-12.

Haddam-Killingworth Response Rates:

Response rates by grade level are listed in the table below. Response rates are calculated as a proportion of the number of surveys included in the sample to the number of total students enrolled in the 2025-2026 school year. Note that total sample counts only contain surveys that were used in the survey report; surveys that were omitted from the sample pool are not included in the following counts.

Response Rates	Sample Count	Population Count	Response Rate (%)
Grade 7	121	134	90.3%
Grade 8	124	129	96.1%
Grade 9	112	127	88.2%
Grade 10	88	99	88.9%
Grade 11	95	116	81.9%
Grade 12	81	124	65.3%
Grades 7-8	245	263	93.2%
Grades 9-12	376	466	80.7%
Grades 7-12	621*	729	85.2%

*2 students did not select a grade and are not included in table

The next table below shows the confidence intervals calculated for grades 7-8, 9-12 and 7-12, using a 95% confidence level. A confidence interval means the percentage range you can expect the accurate rates to fall within. Smaller confidence intervals give you more accurate estimates of the actual use rates in the school population (and larger confidence intervals give you less accurate estimates of the actual use rates in the school population).

For example, if 25% of your sample reported using alcohol in the past month, a confidence interval of 2.0 means that if you randomly re-sample your population 100 times, 95 of those times you would find past month alcohol use rates to fall somewhere between 23% (25-2) and 27% (25+2). In contrast, if your confidence interval is 5 (and 25% of your sample reported using alcohol in the past month), you would typically find past month use rates ranging between 20% (25-5) and 30% (25+5) if you repeatedly re-sample students in this population.

	Confidence Level	Confidence Interval
Grade 7-8	95.00%	1.64
Grades 9-12	95.00%	2.22
Grades 7-12	95.00%	1.51

Data Reporting:
The survey tool utilized several skip patterns to reduce the time spent on the survey for students, in addition, no question was required to be answered by respondents. Unless otherwise stated, data presented represent the percent of students responding to each question. However, survey response and completion rates are high enough for those questions to make strong estimates of the total population's behavior and perceptions.

Survey Sample Demographics

The student survey sample consisted of a total of 1,197 students (583 males, 596 females; 10 students did not specify their biological sex). Refer to the table below for more descriptions of the sample by grade level.

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Total	121	124	112	88	95	81
Female	61	61	60	44	47	40
Male	60	63	52	44	48	41

*2 students did not select a grade and are not included in table

Statistical Analyses:
Statistical comparisons by sex (male/female) and race/ethnicity were conducted separately for grades 7-8 and grades 9-12 using the Chi-Square (χ^2) technique for key substance use measures (core GPRA measures for alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana, prescription drug use, and gambling).

No statistical analyses for grade level differences in substance use will be included in this report, but substance use percentages by grade level will be included for core GPRA measures for alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana, prescription drugs, and gambling.

Statistical Comparisons by Race:
We must be careful not to unfairly identify or stereotype a handful of students as using or misusing drugs, given the smaller sample size within specific minority groups in these schools. As also done in the CDC's YRBSS (Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System) National Survey, we classified students exclusively as Hispanic or Latino even if they also selected being one or more of the races, such as Black or African American, White, and/or the other category. Thus, the core race/ethnicity groups included in the statistical analyses for race differences were: White, Hispanic or Latino, Black, or All Other Races (organized in table below by row color).

Race/Ethnicity Category	Grade 7-8	Grades 9 - 12	Grades 7-12
White	82.5%	83.0%	82.8%
Hispanic or Latino	6.9%	8.0%	7.5%
Other (2 or more races selected or race not Hispanic)	4.9%	5.6%	5.3%
Black or African American	2.4%	0.8%	1.4%
Asian	1.2%	1.6%	1.4%
Middle Eastern or North African	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.2%	0.0%	0.5%
Not Specified	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

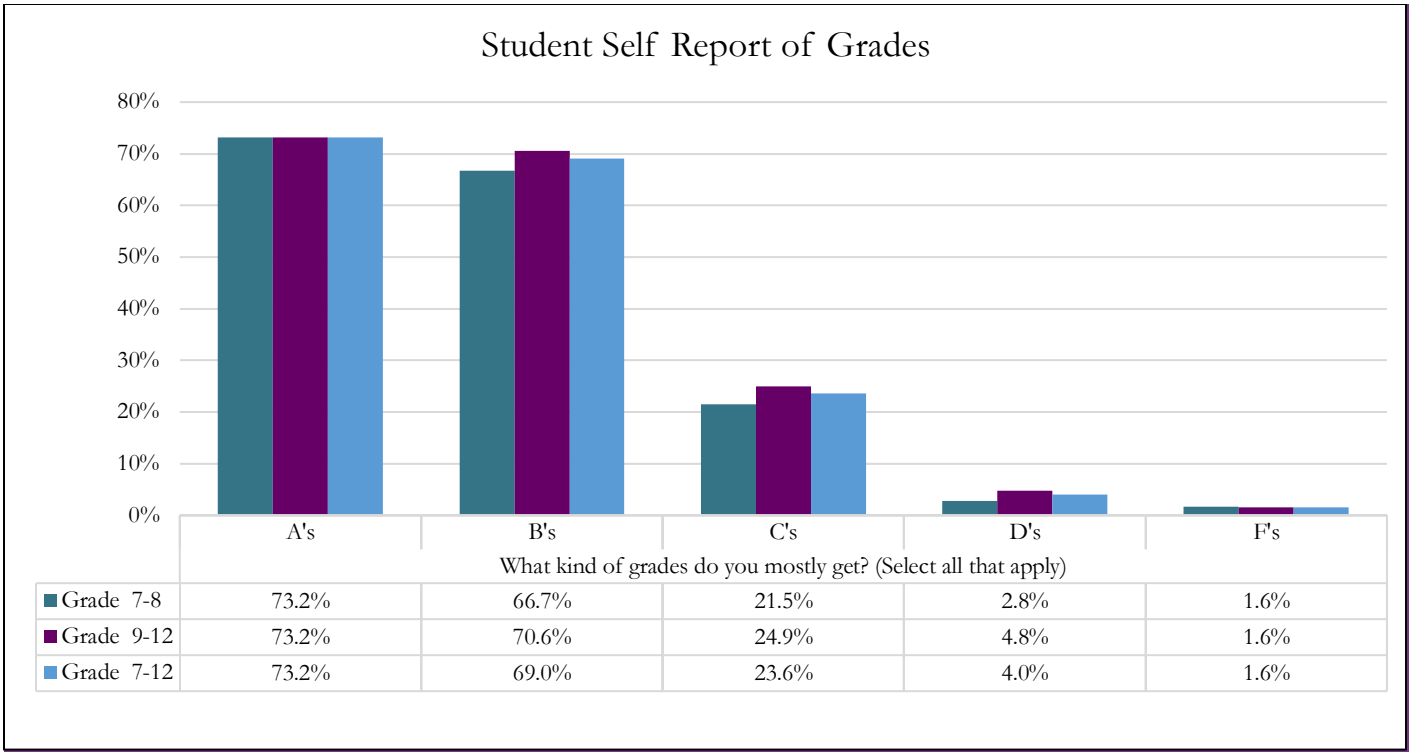
For information regarding race and ethnicity differences in substance use, refer to the national survey reports, such as the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh.htm) or the Monitoring the Future Survey (http://monitoringthefuture.org).

Social Determinants of Health:
When evaluating statistically significant differences between population groups it is essential to consider historical, political, and cultural context. Stigma is an important consideration, "because of its pervasiveness, its disruption of multiple life domains (e.g., resources, social relationships, and coping behaviors), and its corrosive impact on the health of populations, stigma should be considered alongside the other major organizing concepts for research on social determinants of population health." (Hatzenbuehler ML et al. *Stigma as a fundamental cause of population health inequalities.* Am J Public Health. 2013 May)

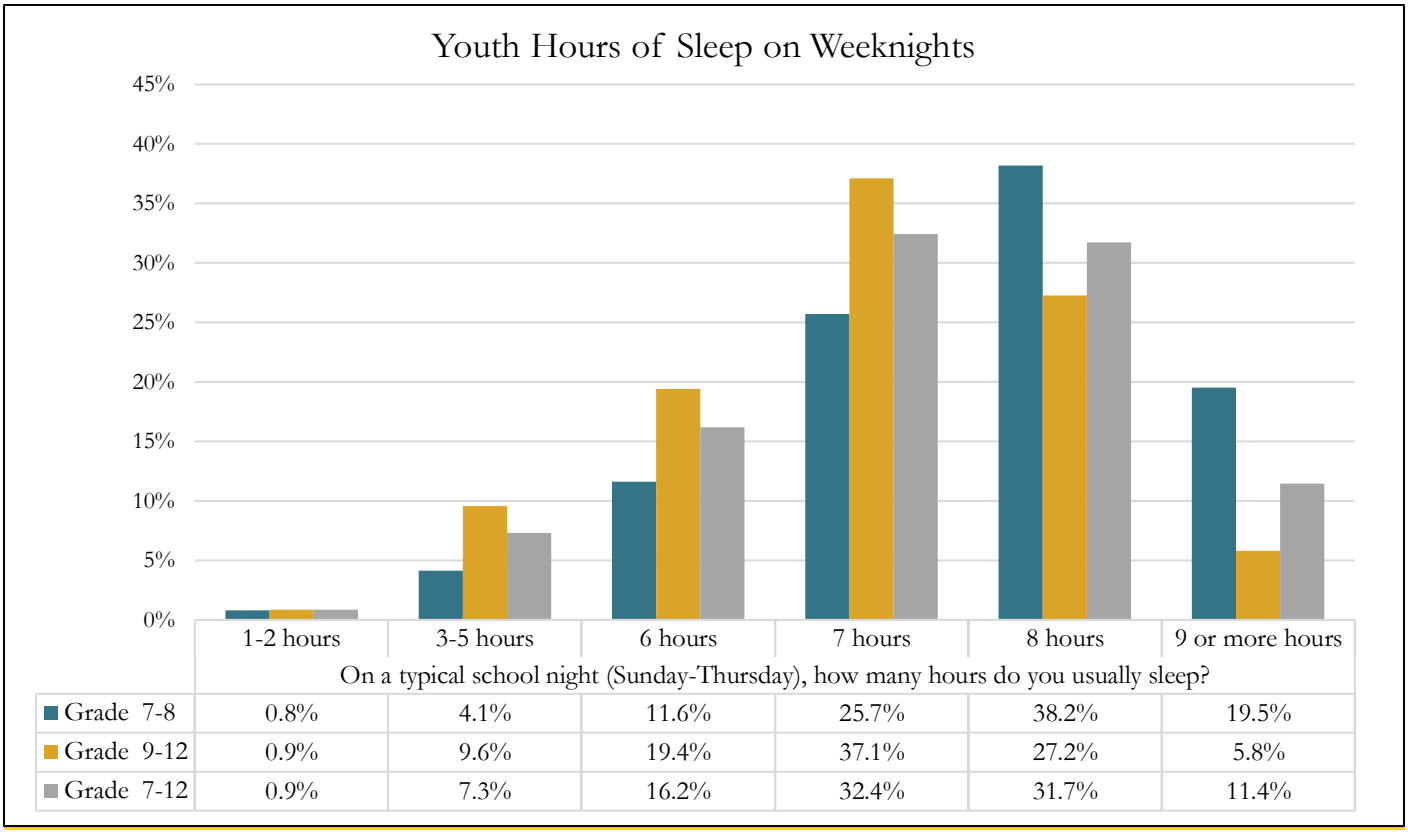
Haddam-Killingworth Youth Voices Count Survey Report

For the following sections, tests for statistically significant differences were performed by sex and race and ethnicity for grades 7-8 and 9-12. Race was grouped into categories to allow for accurate statistical analysis and to ensure that students in race categories that represent a small number of students are not inadvertently identified. The categories are white, Hispanic or Latino, or All Other Races. Any statistically significant differences in these groups are reported in an addendum to this report within Excel. This document allows for filtering between risk and protective factors for all significance testing and serves to inform which groups are experiencing more favorable outcomes due to protective factors and which groups would benefit from thoughtful or tailored approaches to address disparities seen within the data.

Youth Lifestyles

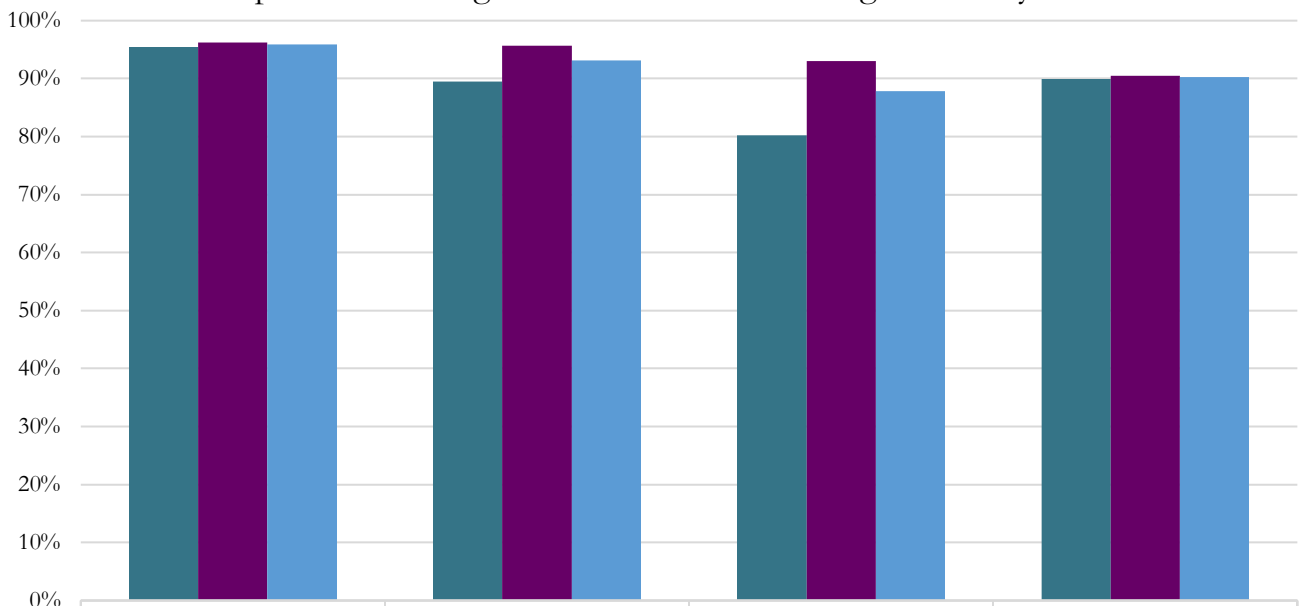


	A's	B's	C's	D's	F's
	What kind of grades do you mostly get? (Select all that apply)				
Grade 7-8	73.2%	66.7%	21.5%	2.8%	1.6%
Grade 9-12	73.2%	70.6%	24.9%	4.8%	1.6%
Grade 7-12	73.2%	69.0%	23.6%	4.0%	1.6%



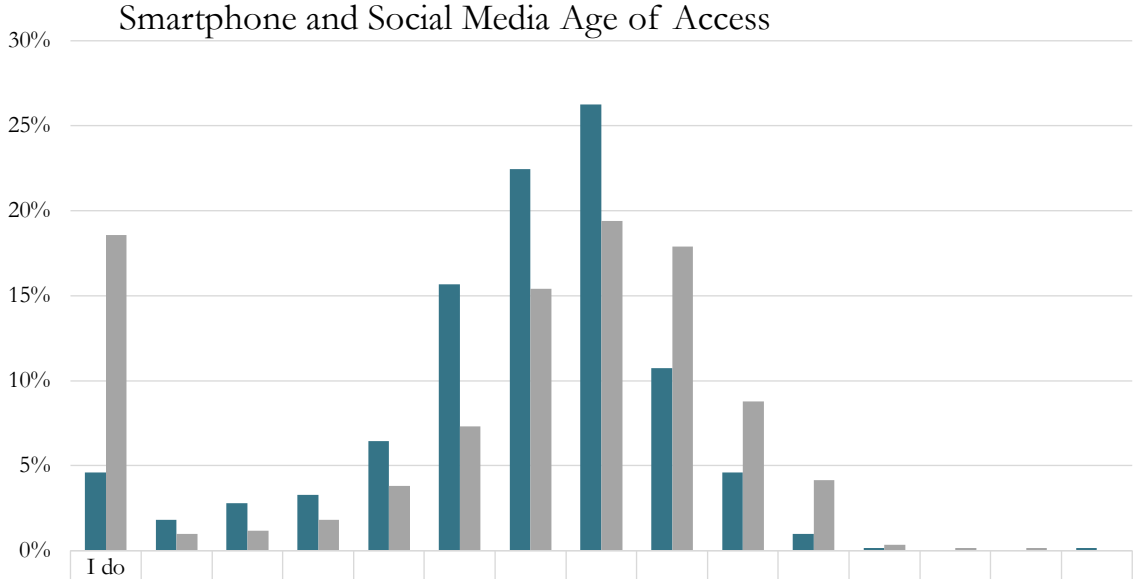
	1-2 hours	3-5 hours	6 hours	7 hours	8 hours	9 or more hours
	On a typical school night (Sunday-Thursday), how many hours do you usually sleep?					
Grade 7-8	0.8%	4.1%	11.6%	25.7%	38.2%	19.5%
Grade 9-12	0.9%	9.6%	19.4%	37.1%	27.2%	5.8%
Grade 7-12	0.9%	7.3%	16.2%	32.4%	31.7%	11.4%

Perception of Having Trusted Adult and Feelings of Safety



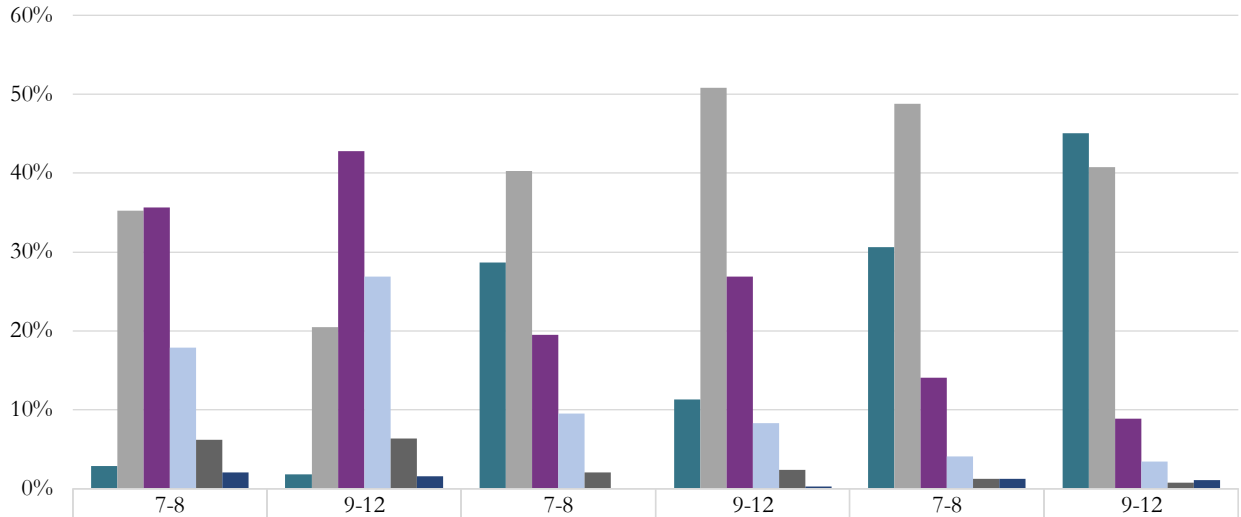
	Agree One adult I can share with	Agree I feel safe in my community	Agree I feel safe at school	Agree Know how to get help
Grade 7-8	95.4%	89.5%	80.3%	90.0%
Grade 9-12	96.3%	95.7%	93.1%	90.5%
Grade 7-12	95.9%	93.2%	87.9%	90.3%

Smartphone and Social Media Age of Access



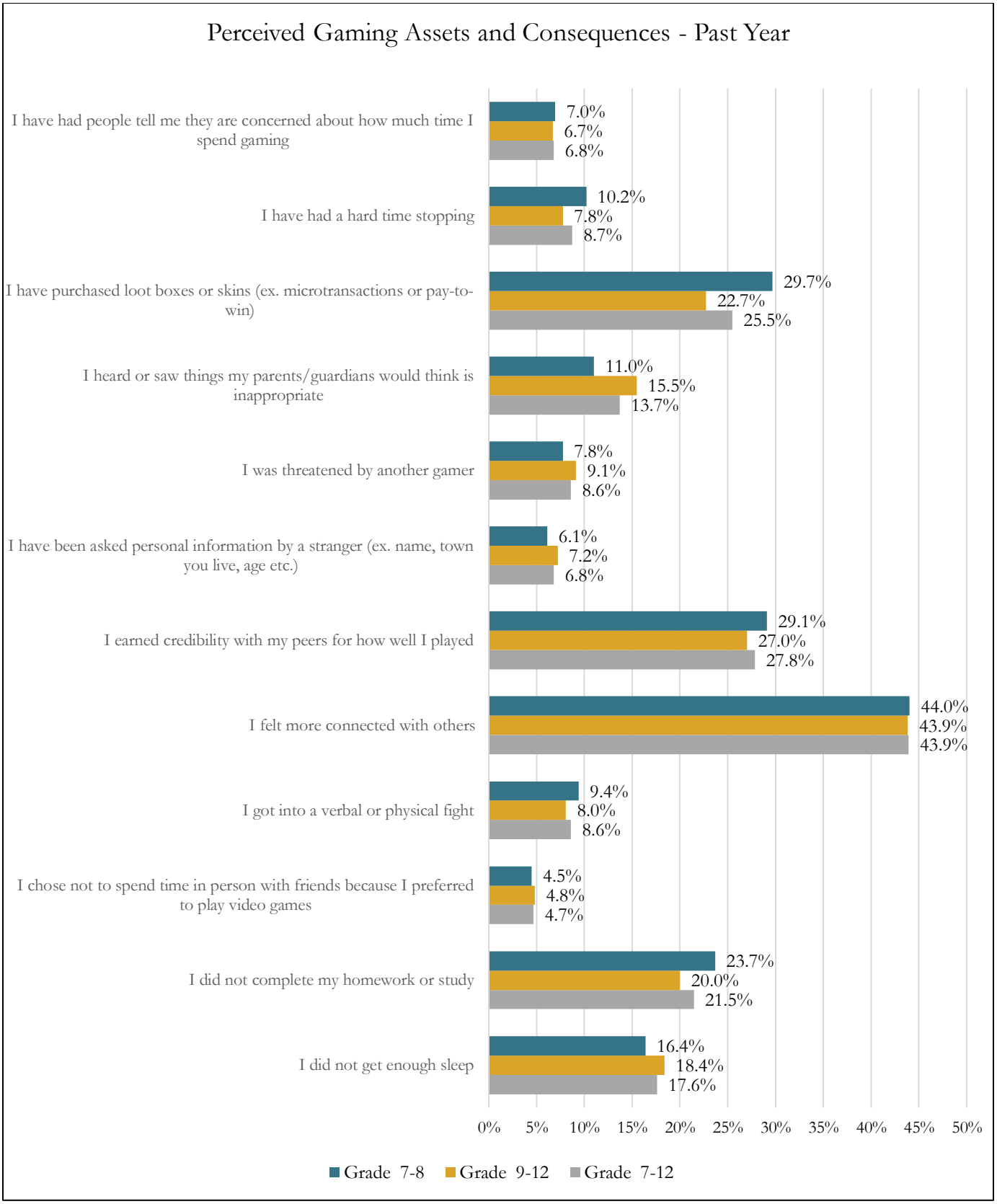
	I do not have this	6 or less	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Smartphone or iPhone - Age	4.6%	1.8%	2.8%	3.3%	6.4%	15.7%	22.4%	26.2%	10.7%	4.6%	1.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Social media account - Age	18.6%	1.0%	1.2%	1.8%	3.8%	7.3%	15.4%	19.4%	17.9%	8.8%	4.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%

Daily Hours Using Internet, Social Media, or Gaming

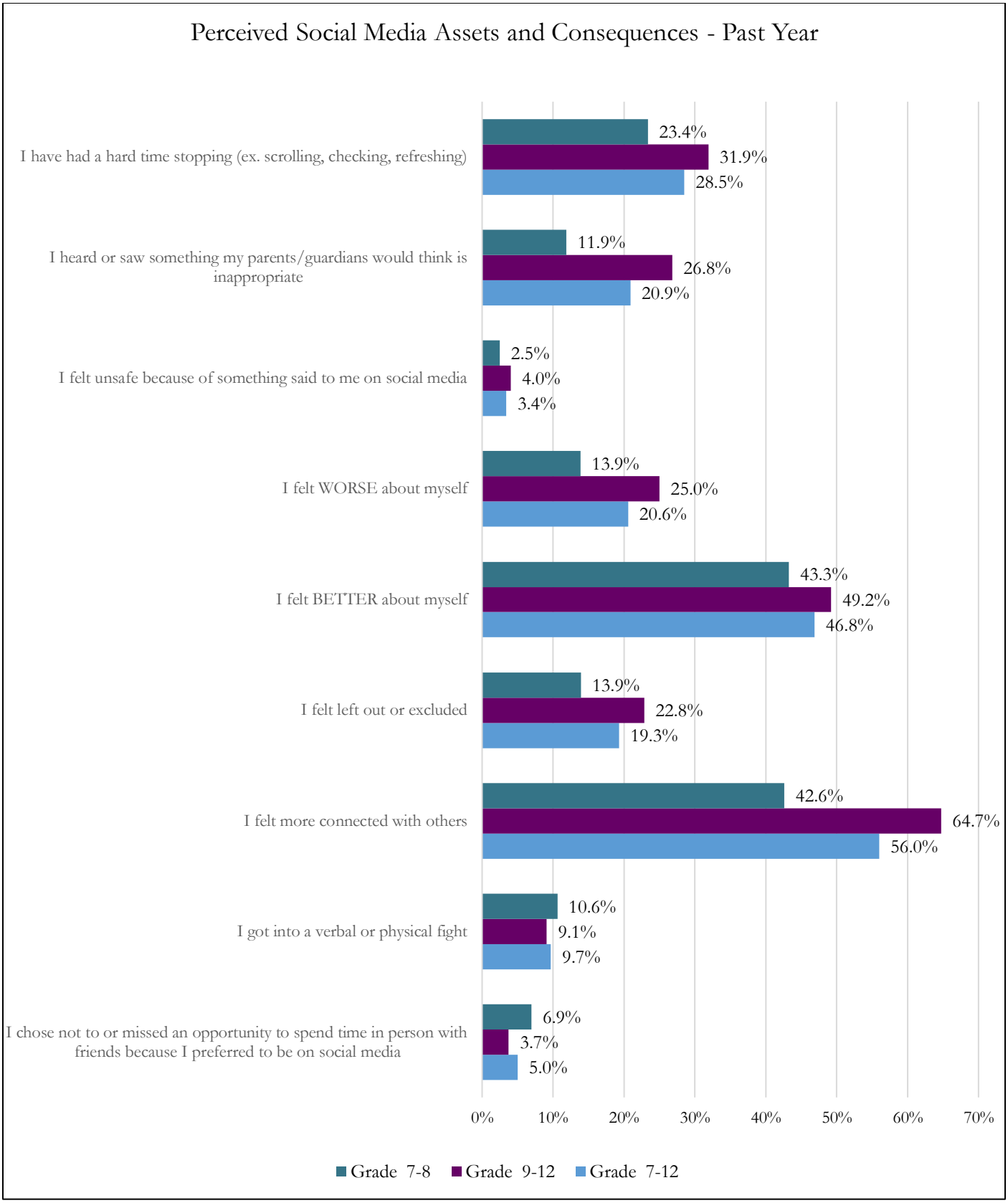


	Internet Overall		Social Media		Gaming	
	7-8	9-12	7-8	9-12	7-8	9-12
None	2.9%	1.9%	28.6%	11.3%	30.6%	45.0%
1-2 hours	35.3%	20.5%	40.2%	50.8%	48.8%	40.8%
3-4 hours	35.7%	42.8%	19.5%	26.9%	14.0%	8.8%
5-7 hours	17.8%	26.9%	9.5%	8.3%	4.1%	3.5%
8-10 hours	6.2%	6.4%	2.1%	2.4%	1.2%	0.8%
11 or more hours	2.1%	1.6%	0.0%	0.3%	1.2%	1.1%

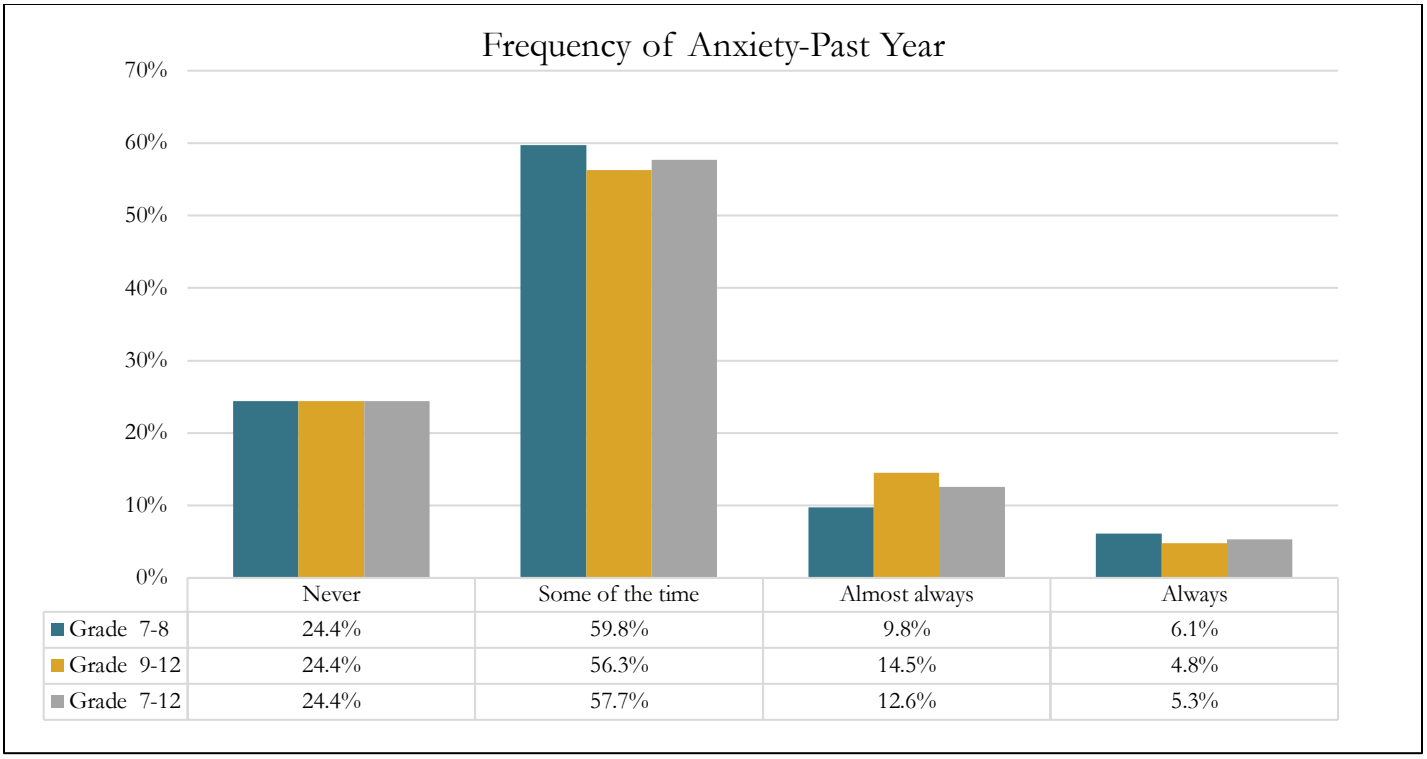
Gaming


Perceived Gaming Assets and Consequences - Past Year
I have had people tell me they are concerned about how much time I spend gaming
7.0%
6.7%
6.8%
I have had a hard time stopping
10.2%
7.8%
8.7%
I have purchased loot boxes or skins (ex. microtransactions or pay-to-win)
29.7%
22.7%
25.5%
I heard or saw things my parents/guardians would think is inappropriate
11.0%
15.5%
13.7%
I was threatened by another gamer
7.8%
9.1%
8.6%
I have been asked personal information by a stranger (ex. name, town you live, age etc.)
6.1%
7.2%
6.8%
I earned credibility with my peers for how well I played
29.1%
27.0%
27.8%
I felt more connected with others
44.0%
43.9%
43.9%
I got into a verbal or physical fight
9.4%
8.0%
8.6%
I chose not to spend time in person with friends because I preferred to play video games
4.5%
4.8%
4.7%
I did not complete my homework or study
23.7%
20.0%
21.5%
I did not get enough sleep
16.4%
18.4%
17.6%
0%
5%
10%
15%
20%
25%
30%
35%
40%
45%
50%
Grade 7-8
Grade 9-12
Grade 7-12

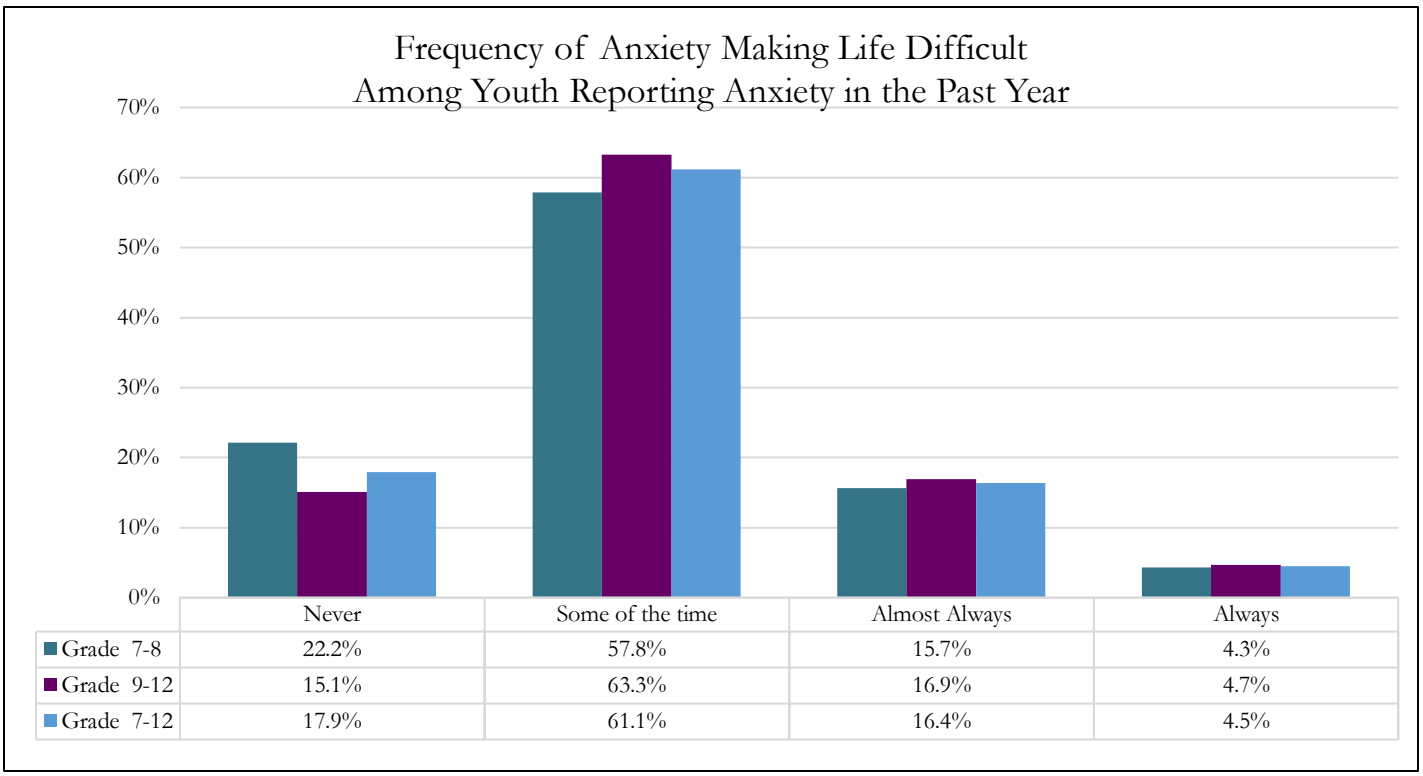
Social Media



Emotional Health

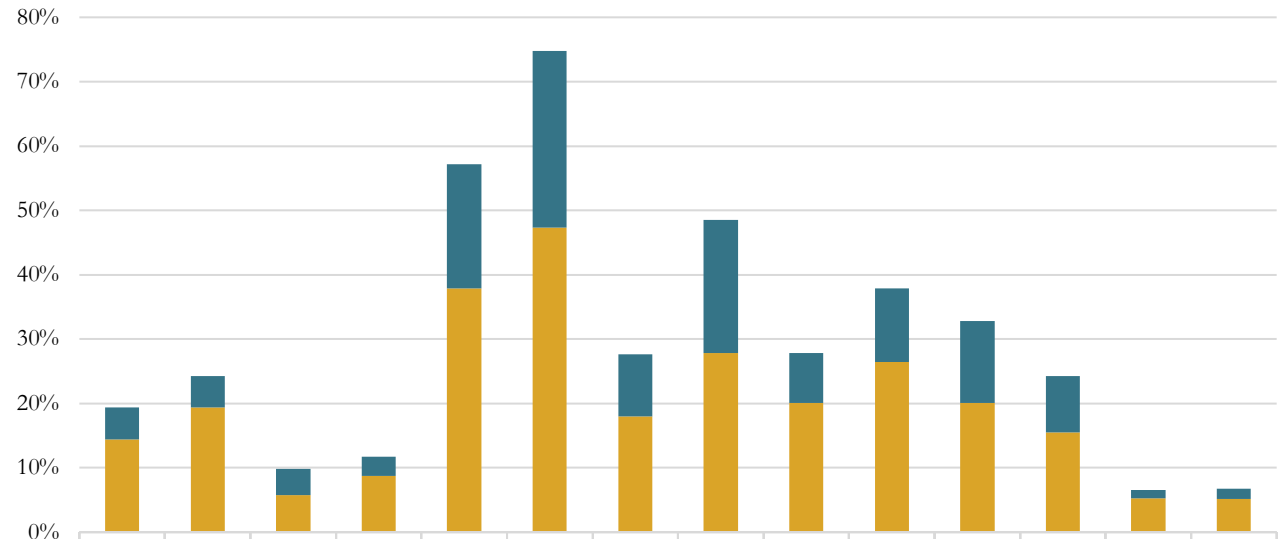


	Never	Some of the time	Almost always	Always
Grade 7-8	24.4%	59.8%	9.8%	6.1%
Grade 9-12	24.4%	56.3%	14.5%	4.8%
Grade 7-12	24.4%	57.7%	12.6%	5.3%



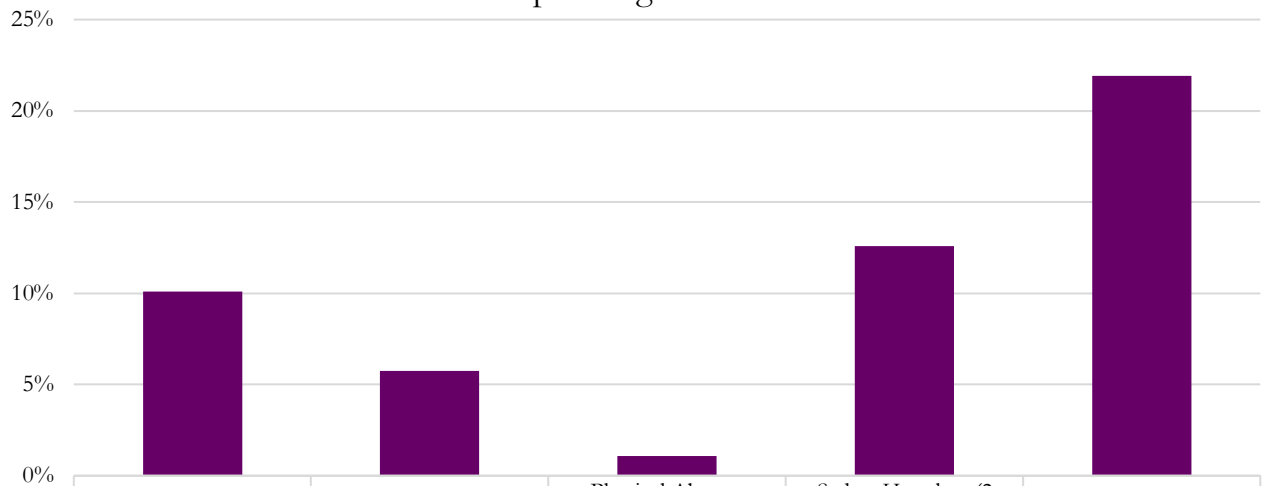
	Never	Some of the time	Almost Always	Always
Grade 7-8	22.2%	57.8%	15.7%	4.3%
Grade 9-12	15.1%	63.3%	16.9%	4.7%
Grade 7-12	17.9%	61.1%	16.4%	4.5%

Sources of Stress, Anxiety, or Worry

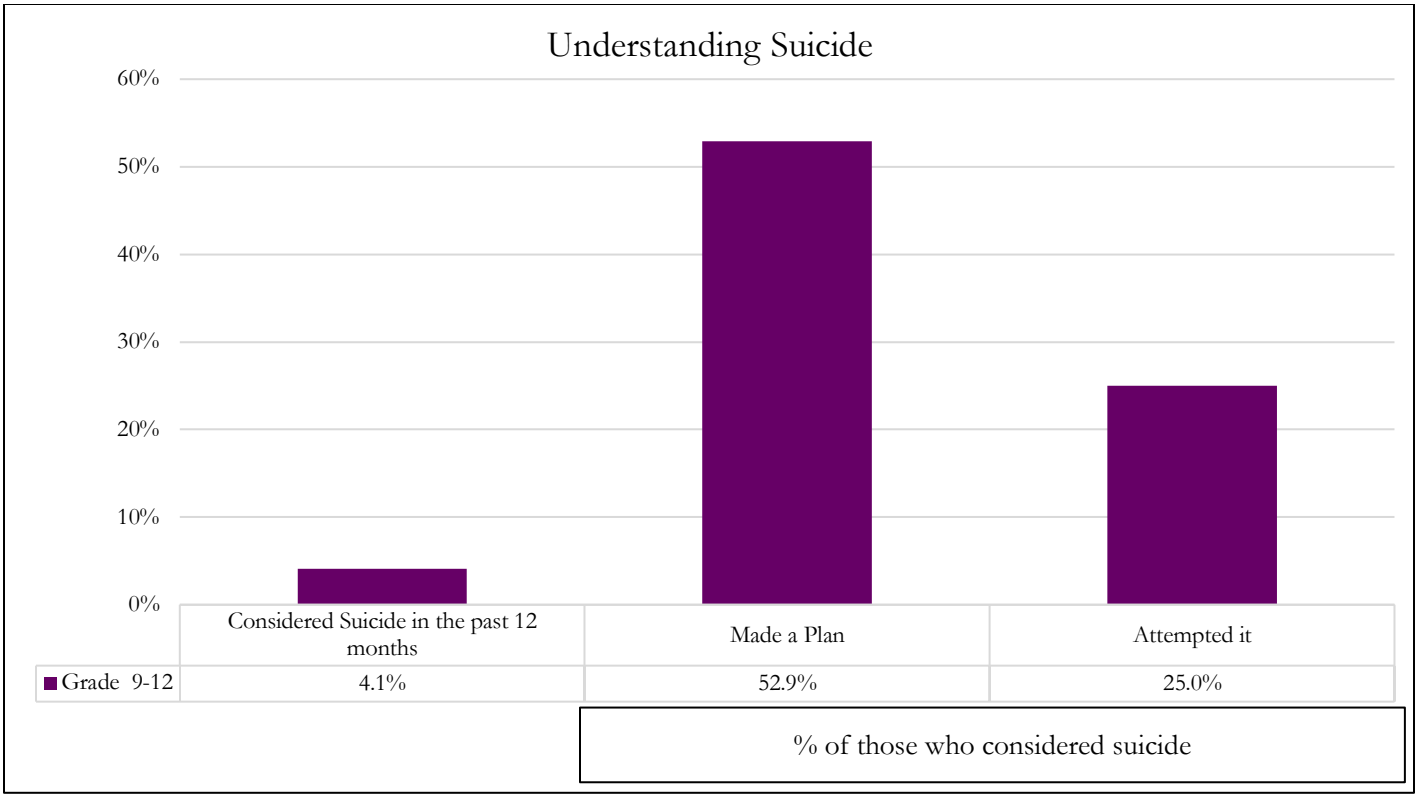


	G 7-8	G 9-12	G 7-8	G 9-12	G 7-8	G 9-12	G 7-8	G 9-12	G 7-8	G 9-12	G 7-8	G 9-12	G 7-8	G 9-12
	Home/family life		Financial Security		Academics		Post High School Plans		Schedule		Peers		Social media	
High	4.9%	4.9%	4.1%	3.0%	19.3%	27.4%	9.6%	20.7%	7.8%	11.4%	12.7%	8.7%	1.2%	1.6%
Medium	14.4%	19.3%	5.8%	8.7%	37.9%	47.3%	18.0%	27.8%	20.1%	26.4%	20.1%	15.5%	5.3%	5.2%

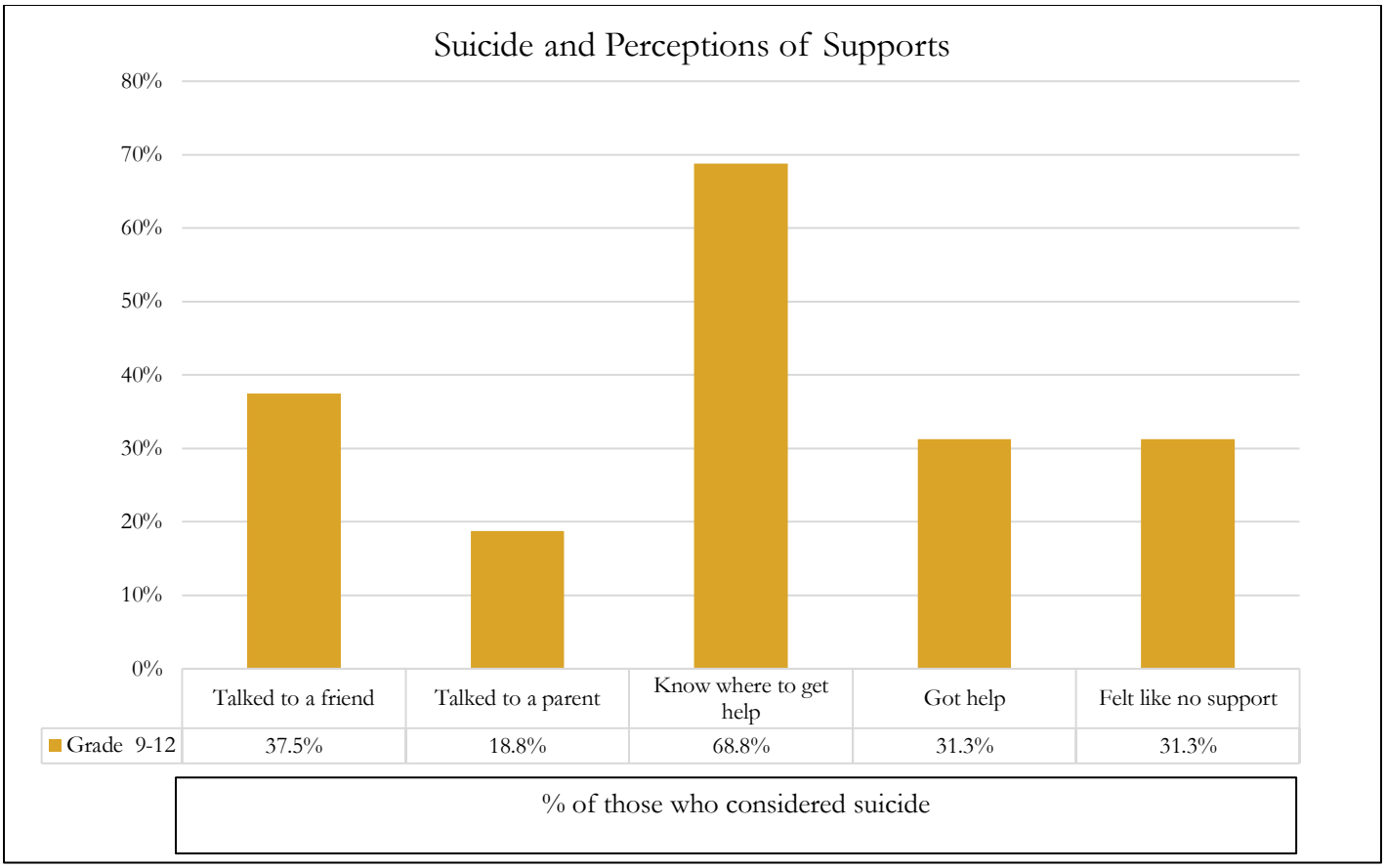
Other Emotional Health Indicators in the Past Year
% Responding "Yes"



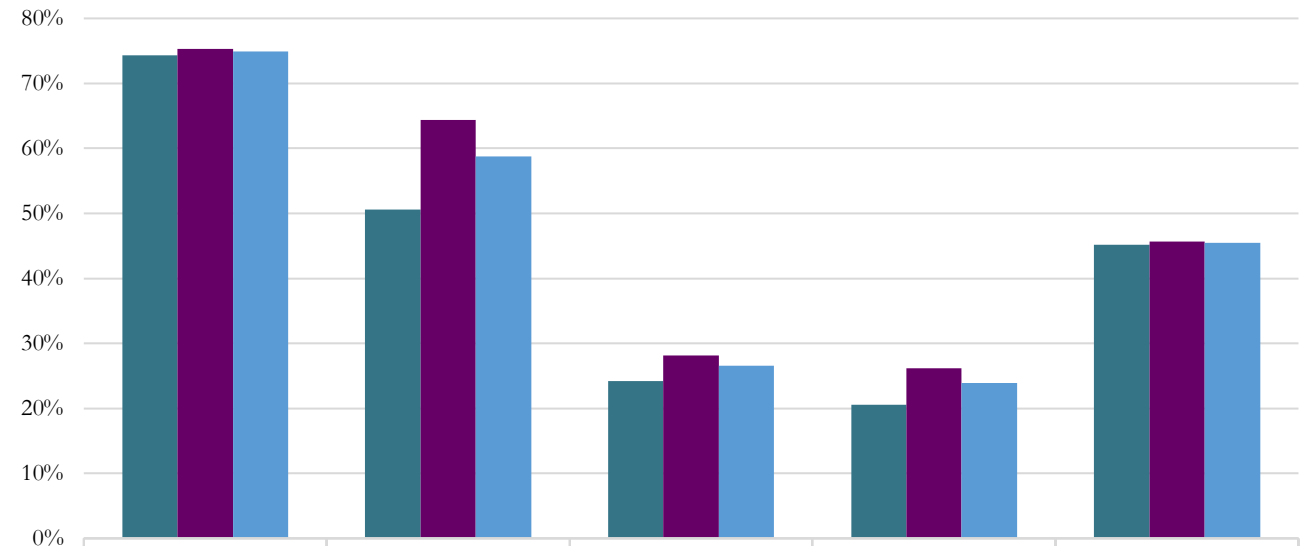
	Thoughts of Self Harm	Self Harm	Physical Abuse - Intimate Partner	Sad or Hopeless (2 weeks in a row)	Felt Lonely Often
Grade 9-12	10.1%	5.7%	1.1%	12.6%	21.9%



Note: State data for grades 9-12 (CSHS 2023) indicate that 35.2% of students felt sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks in a row, 15.7% considered suicide.

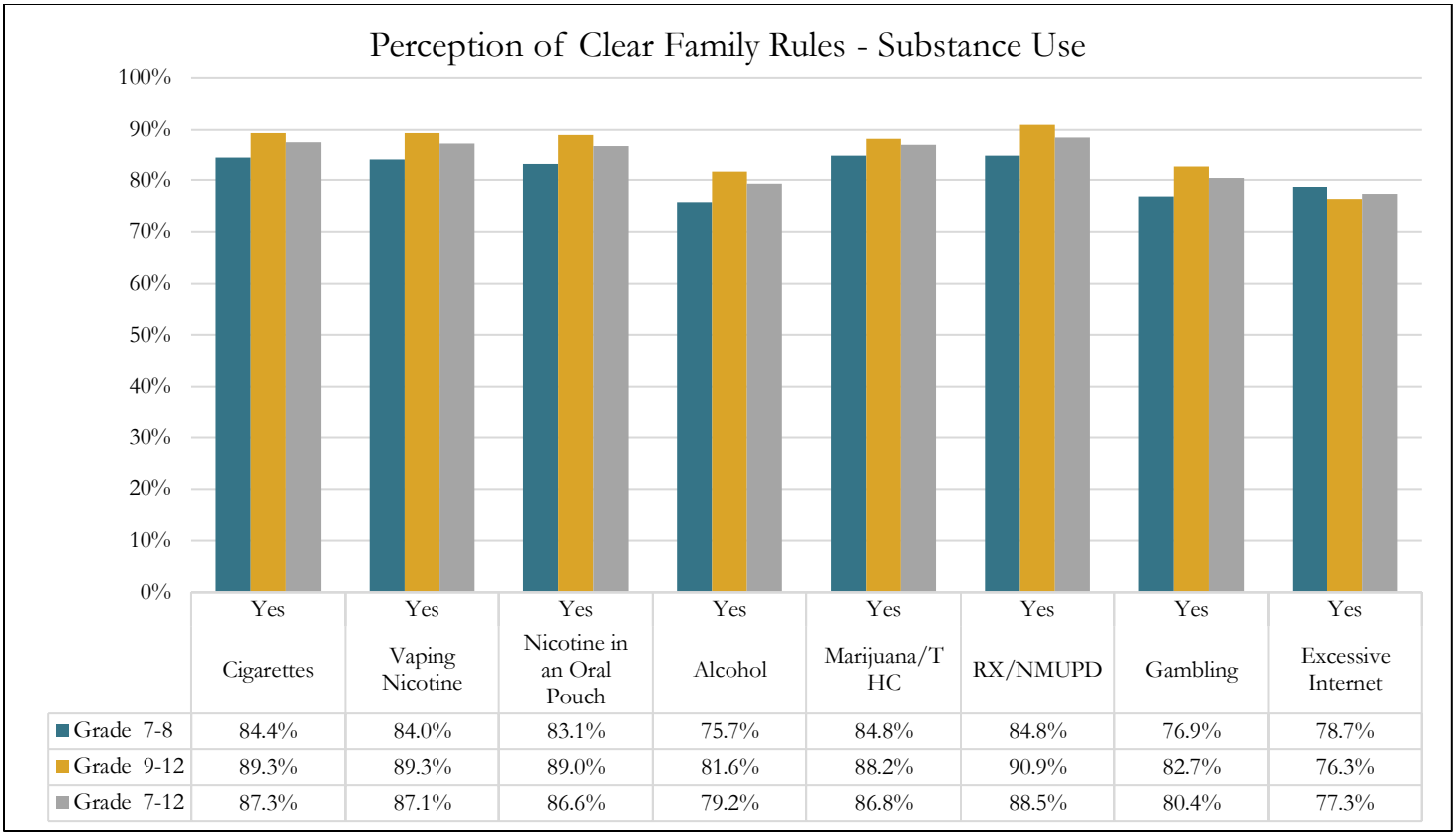


Comfort Seeking Help by Source-Family and School

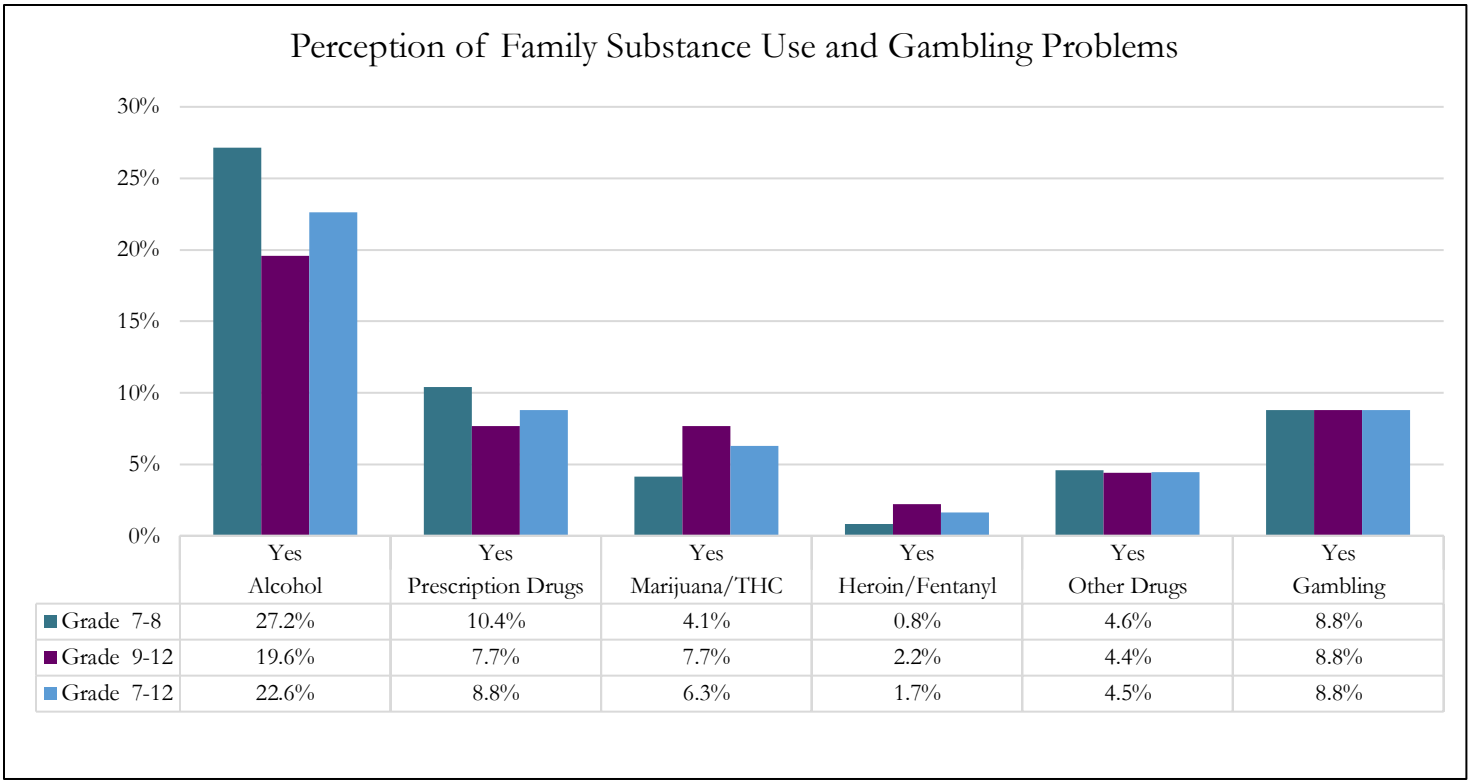


	Yes Parent/guardian	Yes Friends	Yes School staff-teacher, counselor, social worker, nurse etc.	Yes Coach	Yes A trusted adult besides my parent/guardian or school staff
Grade 7-8	74.3%	50.6%	24.2%	20.6%	45.2%
Grade 9-12	75.3%	64.4%	28.2%	26.1%	45.7%
Grade 7-12	74.9%	58.8%	26.5%	23.9%	45.5%

Perceptions of Substance Use, Family Rules and Experiences

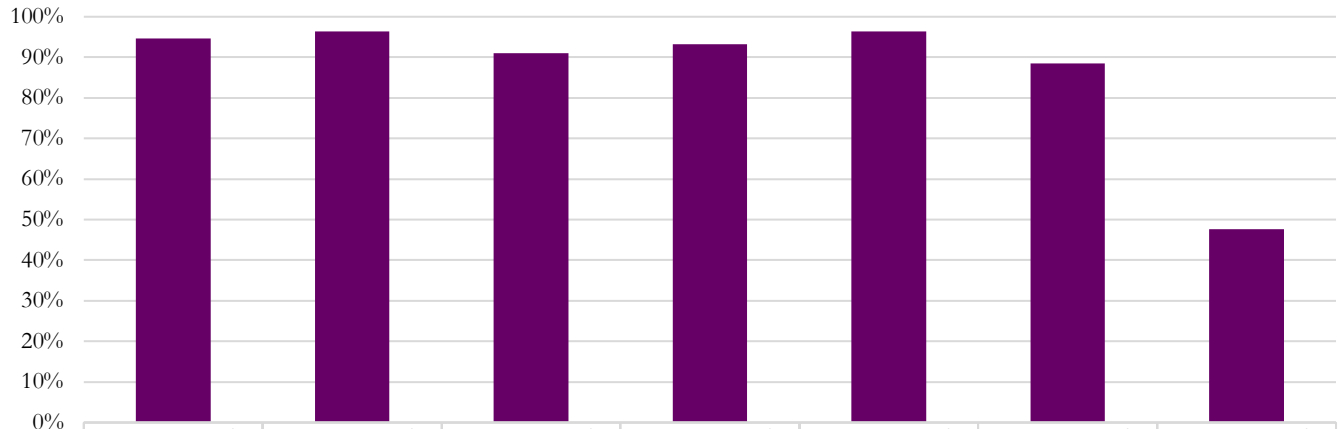


	Yes Cigarettes	Yes Vaping Nicotine	Yes Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Yes Alcohol	Yes Marijuana/THC	Yes RX/NMUPD	Yes Gambling	Yes Excessive Internet
Grade 7-8	84.4%	84.0%	83.1%	75.7%	84.8%	84.8%	76.9%	78.7%
Grade 9-12	89.3%	89.3%	89.0%	81.6%	88.2%	90.9%	82.7%	76.3%
Grade 7-12	87.3%	87.1%	86.6%	79.2%	86.8%	88.5%	80.4%	77.3%



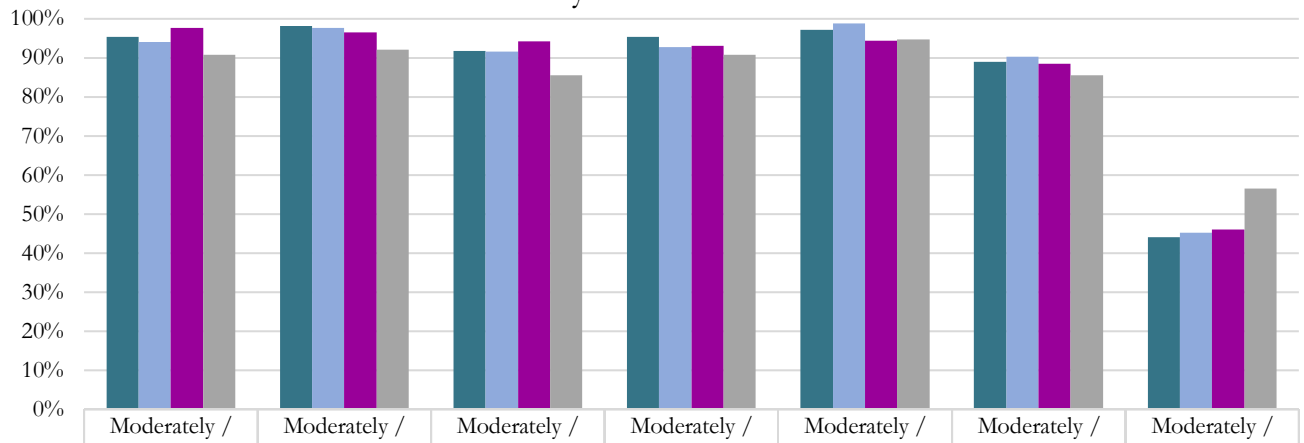
	Yes Alcohol	Yes Prescription Drugs	Yes Marijuana/THC	Yes Heroin/Fentanyl	Yes Other Drugs	Yes Gambling
Grade 7-8	27.2%	10.4%	4.1%	0.8%	4.6%	8.8%
Grade 9-12	19.6%	7.7%	7.7%	2.2%	4.4%	8.8%
Grade 7-12	22.6%	8.8%	6.3%	1.7%	4.5%	8.8%

Perception of Parental Disapproval

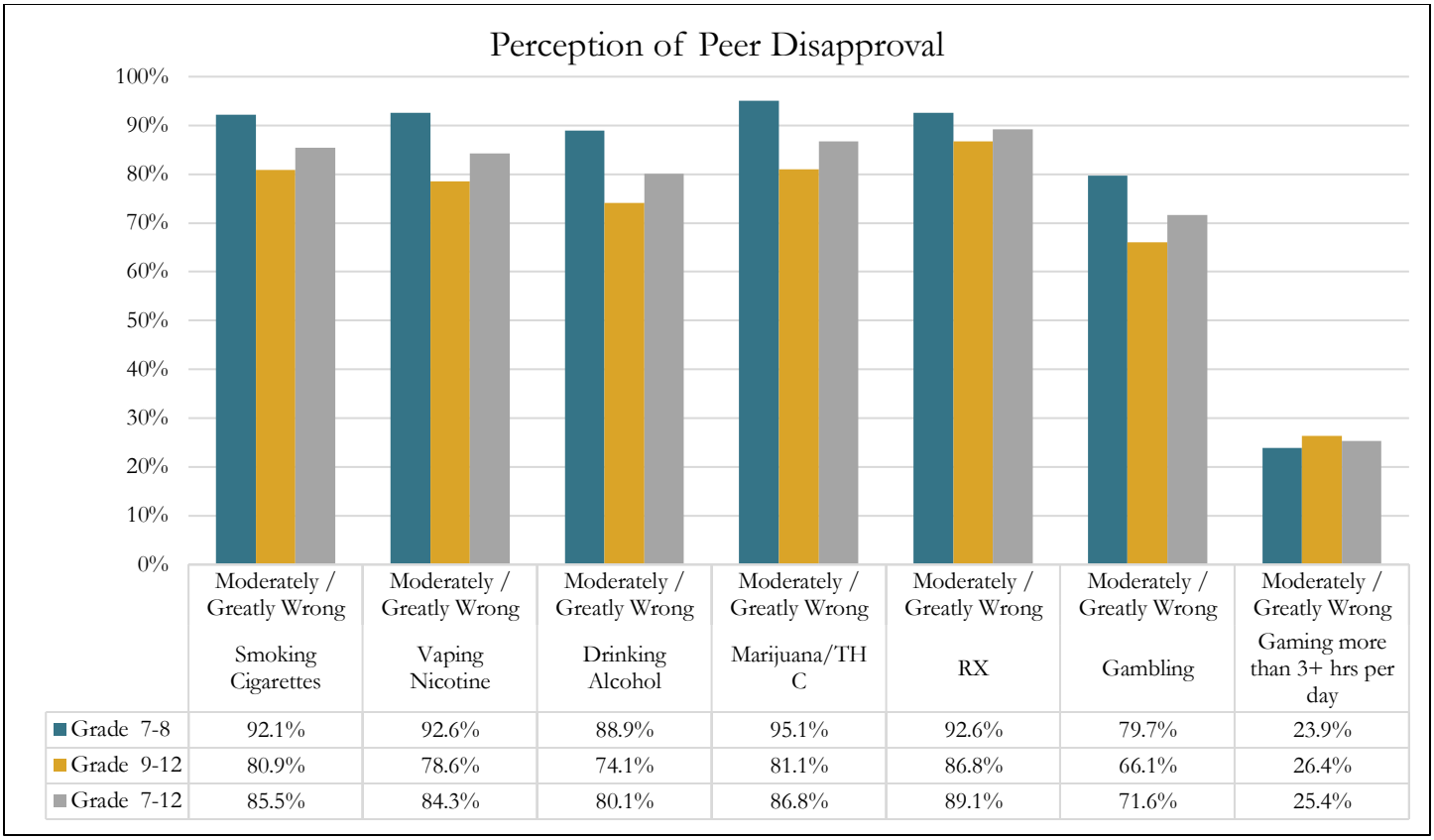


	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Smoking Cigarettes	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Vaping Nicotine	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Drinking Alcohol	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Marijuana/THC	Moderately / Greatly Wrong RX	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Gambling	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Gaming more than 3+ hrs per day
Grade 9-12	94.7%	96.3%	91.0%	93.3%	96.4%	88.5%	47.6%

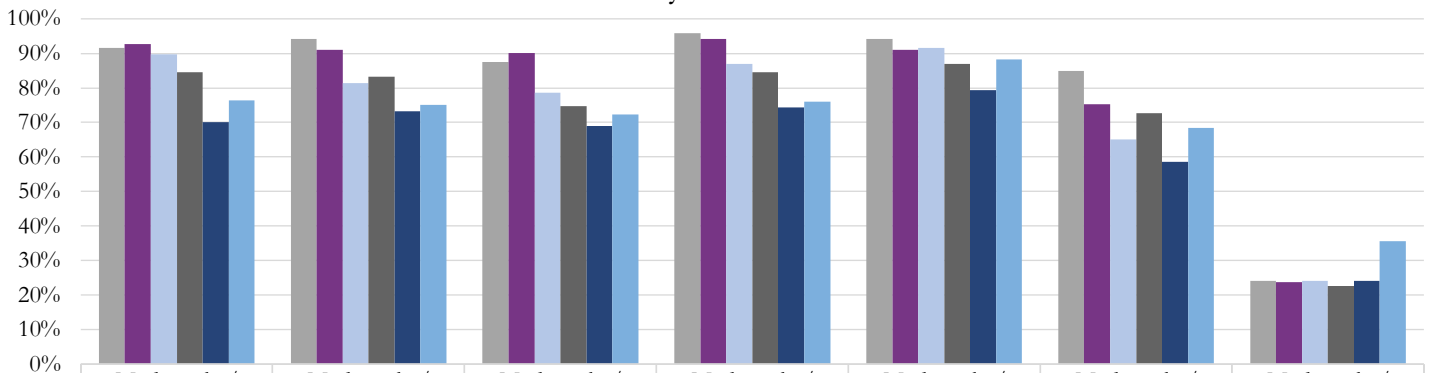
Perception of Parental Disapproval By Grade



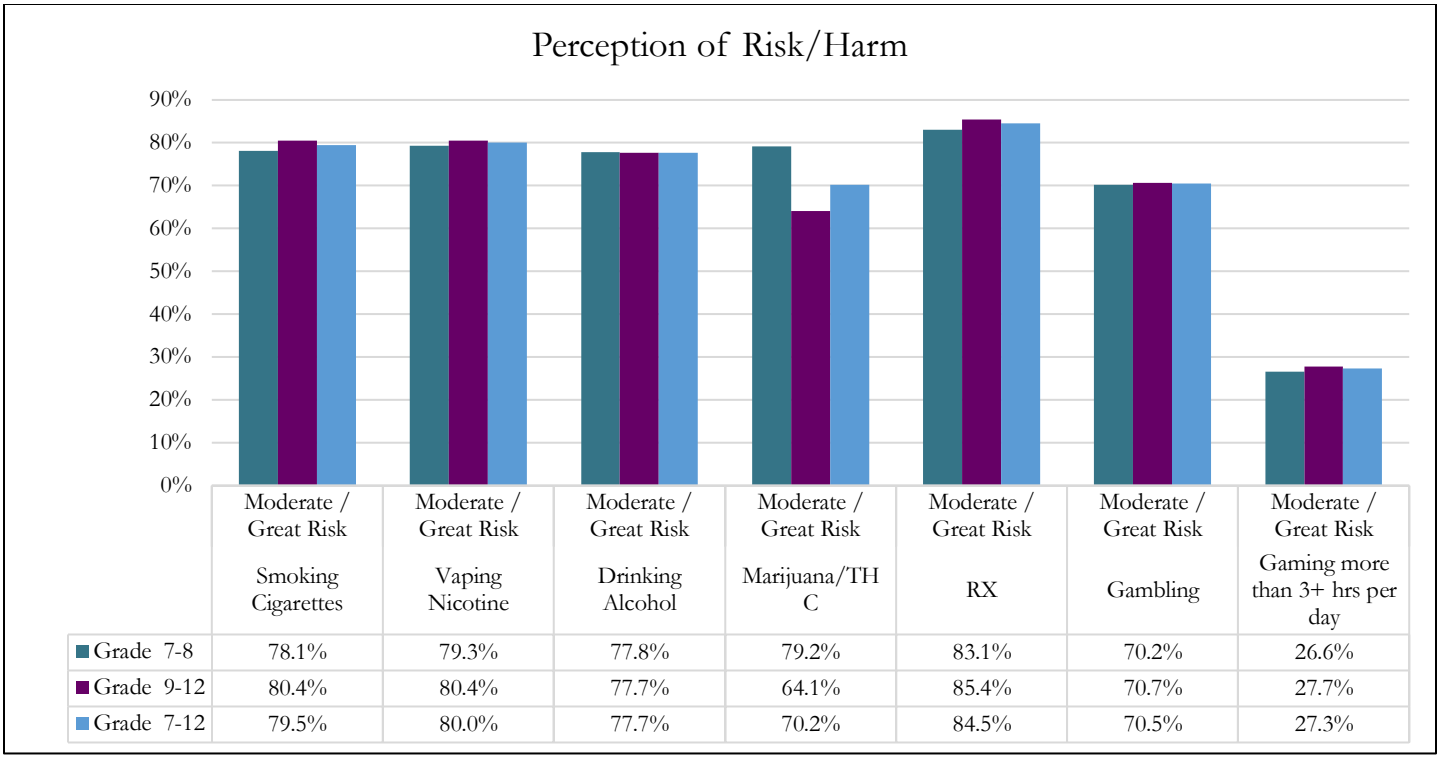
	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Smoking Cigarettes	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Vaping Nicotine	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Drinking Alcohol	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Marijuana/THC	Moderately / Greatly Wrong RX	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Gambling	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Gaming more than 3+ hrs per day
9	95.4%	98.1%	91.7%	95.4%	97.2%	89.0%	44.0%
10	94.0%	97.6%	91.7%	92.8%	98.8%	90.4%	45.2%
11	97.7%	96.6%	94.3%	93.1%	94.3%	88.5%	46.0%
12	90.8%	92.1%	85.5%	90.8%	94.7%	85.5%	56.6%



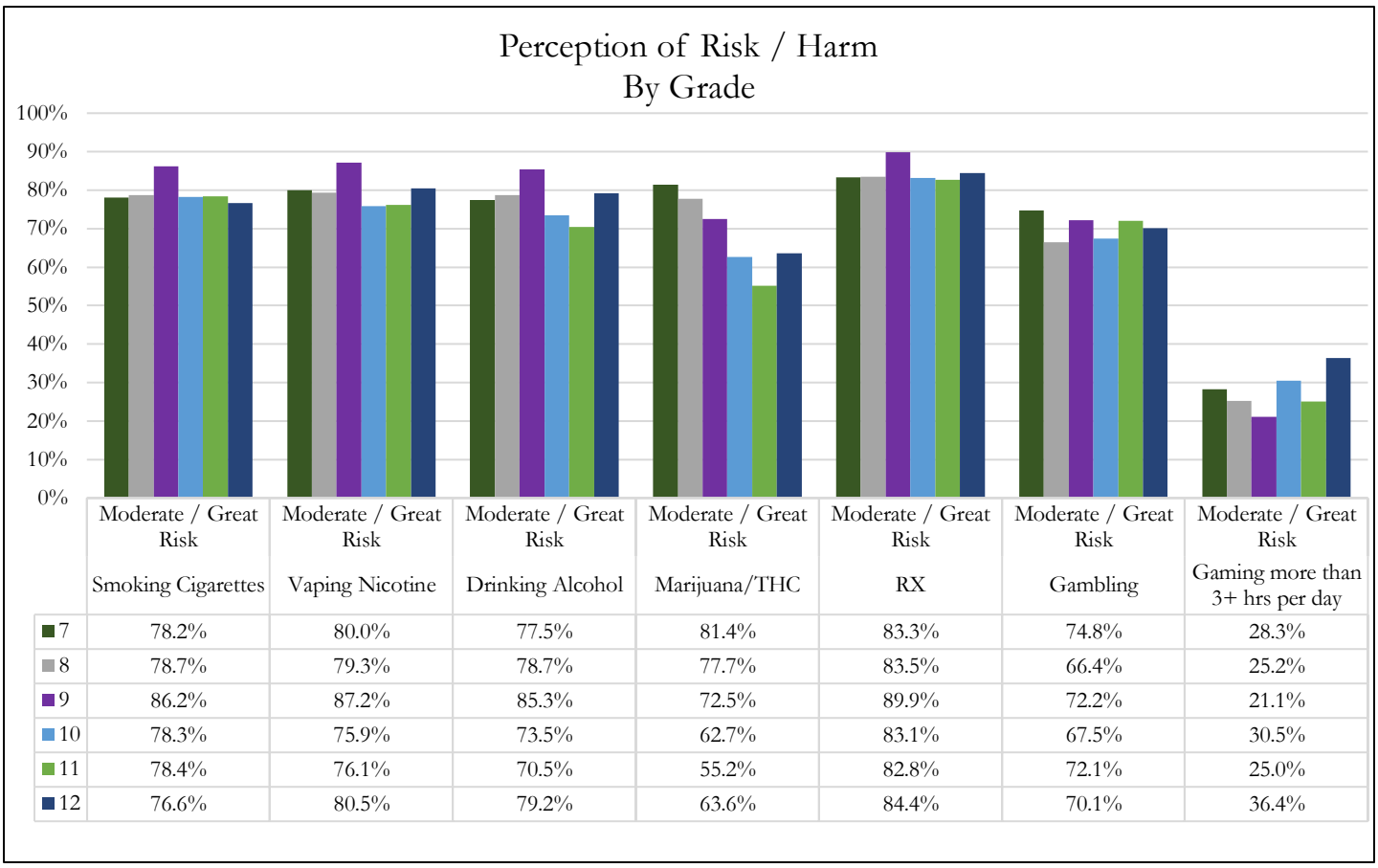
	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Smoking Cigarettes	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Vaping Nicotine	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Drinking Alcohol	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Marijuana/THC	Moderately / Greatly Wrong RX	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Gambling	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Gaming more than 3+ hrs per day
Grade 7-8	92.1%	92.6%	88.9%	95.1%	92.6%	79.7%	23.9%
Grade 9-12	80.9%	78.6%	74.1%	81.1%	86.8%	66.1%	26.4%
Grade 7-12	85.5%	84.3%	80.1%	86.8%	89.1%	71.6%	25.4%



	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Smoking Cigarettes	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Vaping Nicotine	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Drinking Alcohol	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Marijuana/THC	Moderately / Greatly Wrong RX	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Gambling	Moderately / Greatly Wrong Gaming more than 3+ hrs per day
7	91.6%	94.1%	87.5%	95.8%	94.2%	84.9%	24.2%
8	92.6%	91.1%	90.2%	94.3%	91.0%	75.2%	23.8%
9	89.8%	81.5%	78.7%	87.0%	91.7%	65.1%	24.1%
10	84.5%	83.3%	74.7%	84.5%	86.9%	72.6%	22.6%
11	70.1%	73.3%	69.0%	74.4%	79.3%	58.6%	24.1%
12	76.3%	75.0%	72.4%	76.0%	88.2%	68.4%	35.5%

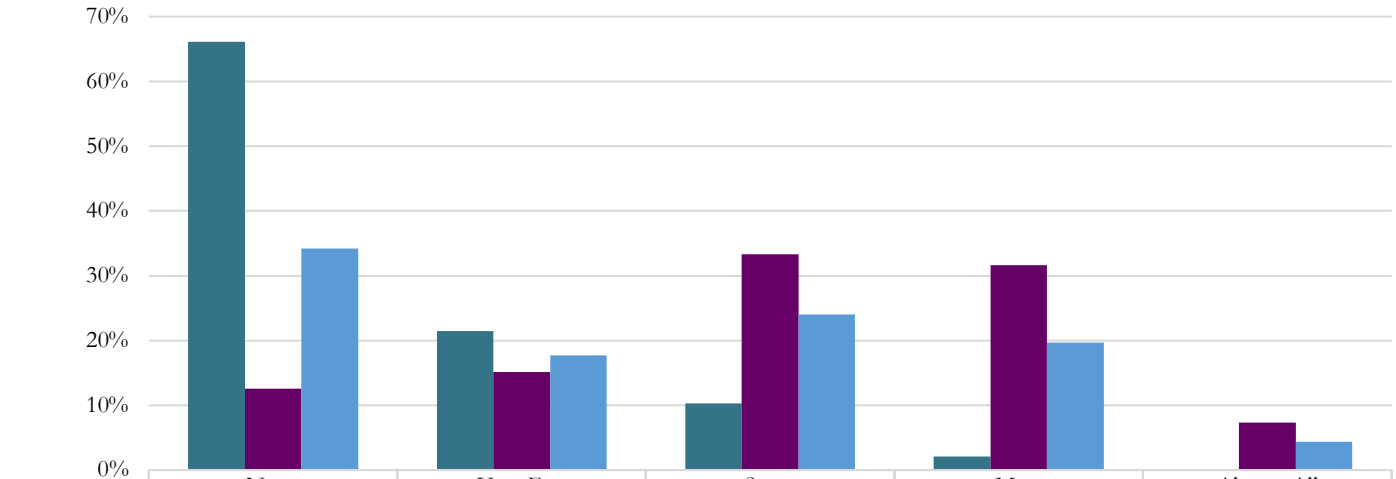


	Moderate / Great Risk Smoking Cigarettes	Moderate / Great Risk Vaping Nicotine	Moderate / Great Risk Drinking Alcohol	Moderate / Great Risk Marijuana/THC	Moderate / Great Risk RX	Moderate / Great Risk Gambling	Moderate / Great Risk Gaming more than 3+ hrs per day
Grade 7-8	78.1%	79.3%	77.8%	79.2%	83.1%	70.2%	26.6%
Grade 9-12	80.4%	80.4%	77.7%	64.1%	85.4%	70.7%	27.7%
Grade 7-12	79.5%	80.0%	77.7%	70.2%	84.5%	70.5%	27.3%



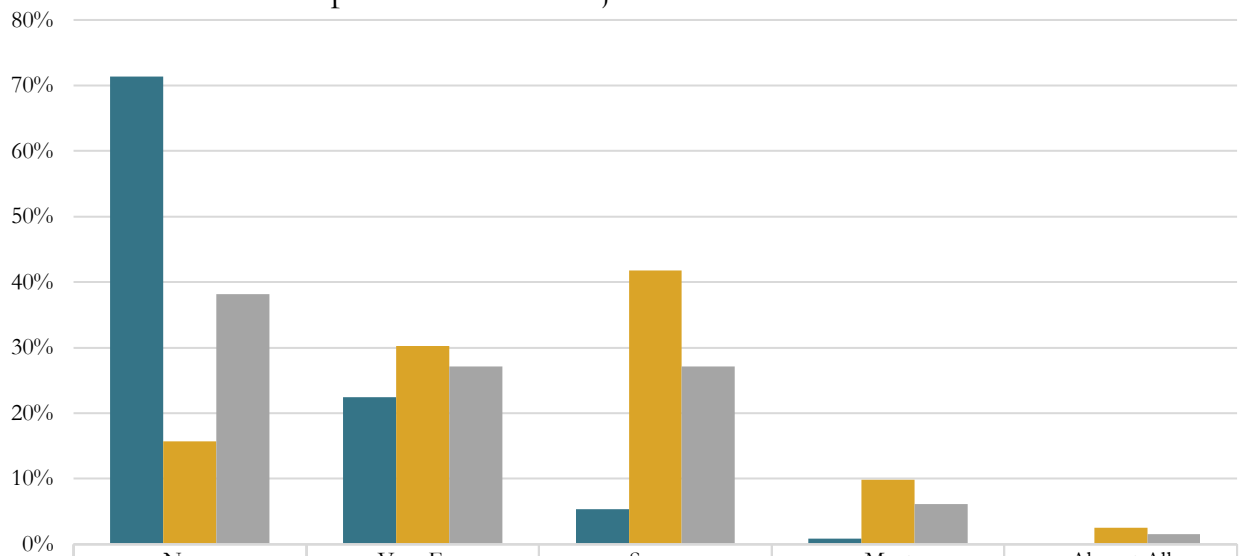
	Moderate / Great Risk Smoking Cigarettes	Moderate / Great Risk Vaping Nicotine	Moderate / Great Risk Drinking Alcohol	Moderate / Great Risk Marijuana/THC	Moderate / Great Risk RX	Moderate / Great Risk Gambling	Moderate / Great Risk Gaming more than 3+ hrs per day
7	78.2%	80.0%	77.5%	81.4%	83.3%	74.8%	28.3%
8	78.7%	79.3%	78.7%	77.7%	83.5%	66.4%	25.2%
9	86.2%	87.2%	85.3%	72.5%	89.9%	72.2%	21.1%
10	78.3%	75.9%	73.5%	62.7%	83.1%	67.5%	30.5%
11	78.4%	76.1%	70.5%	55.2%	82.8%	72.1%	25.0%
12	76.6%	80.5%	79.2%	63.6%	84.4%	70.1%	36.4%

Perception of Peer Alcohol Use in Past Month



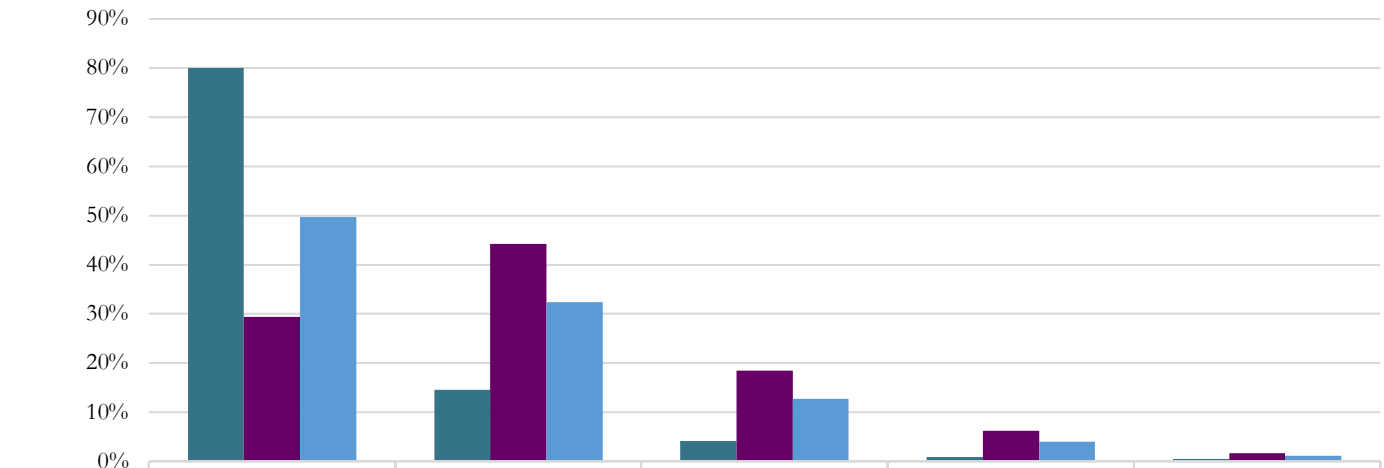
	None	Very Few	Some	Most	Almost All
	Alcohol-beer, wine, spiked seltzers, hard liquor etc.				
Grade 7-8	66.1%	21.5%	10.3%	2.1%	0.0%
Grade 9-12	12.6%	15.1%	33.3%	31.7%	7.3%
Grade 7-12	34.2%	17.7%	24.0%	19.7%	4.3%

Perception of Peer Marijuana Use in Past Month



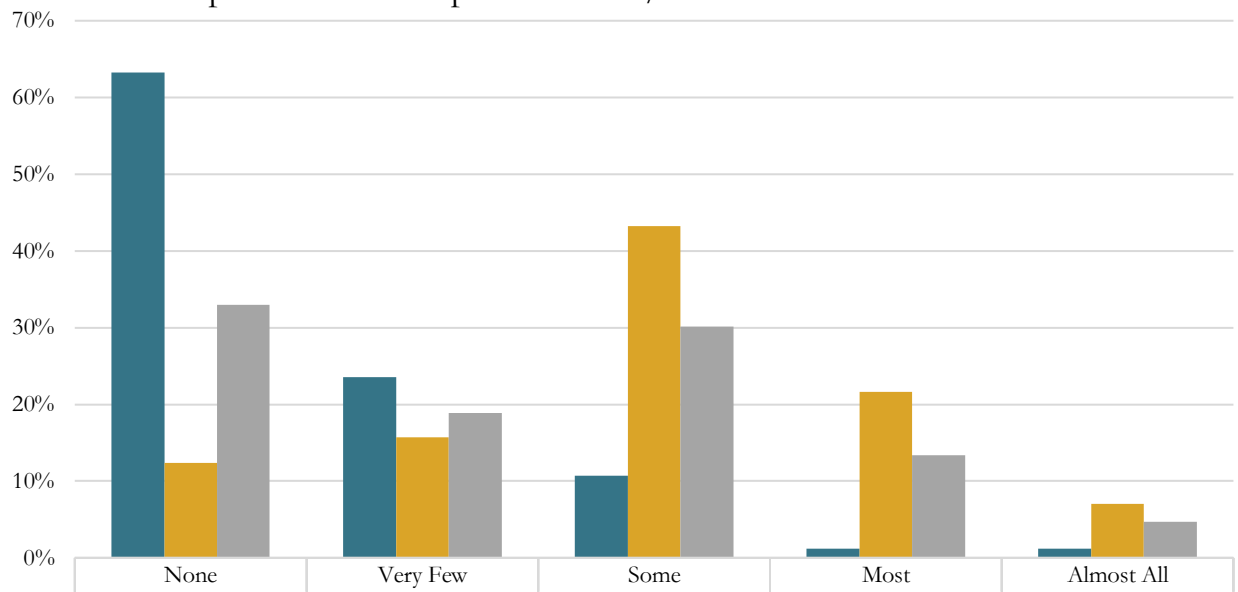
	None	Very Few	Some	Most	Almost All
	Marijuana/THC				
Grade 7-8	71.4%	22.4%	5.4%	0.8%	0.0%
Grade 9-12	15.7%	30.3%	41.7%	9.8%	2.5%
Grade 7-12	38.1%	27.1%	27.1%	6.2%	1.5%

Perception of Peer Prescription Drug Use in Past Month

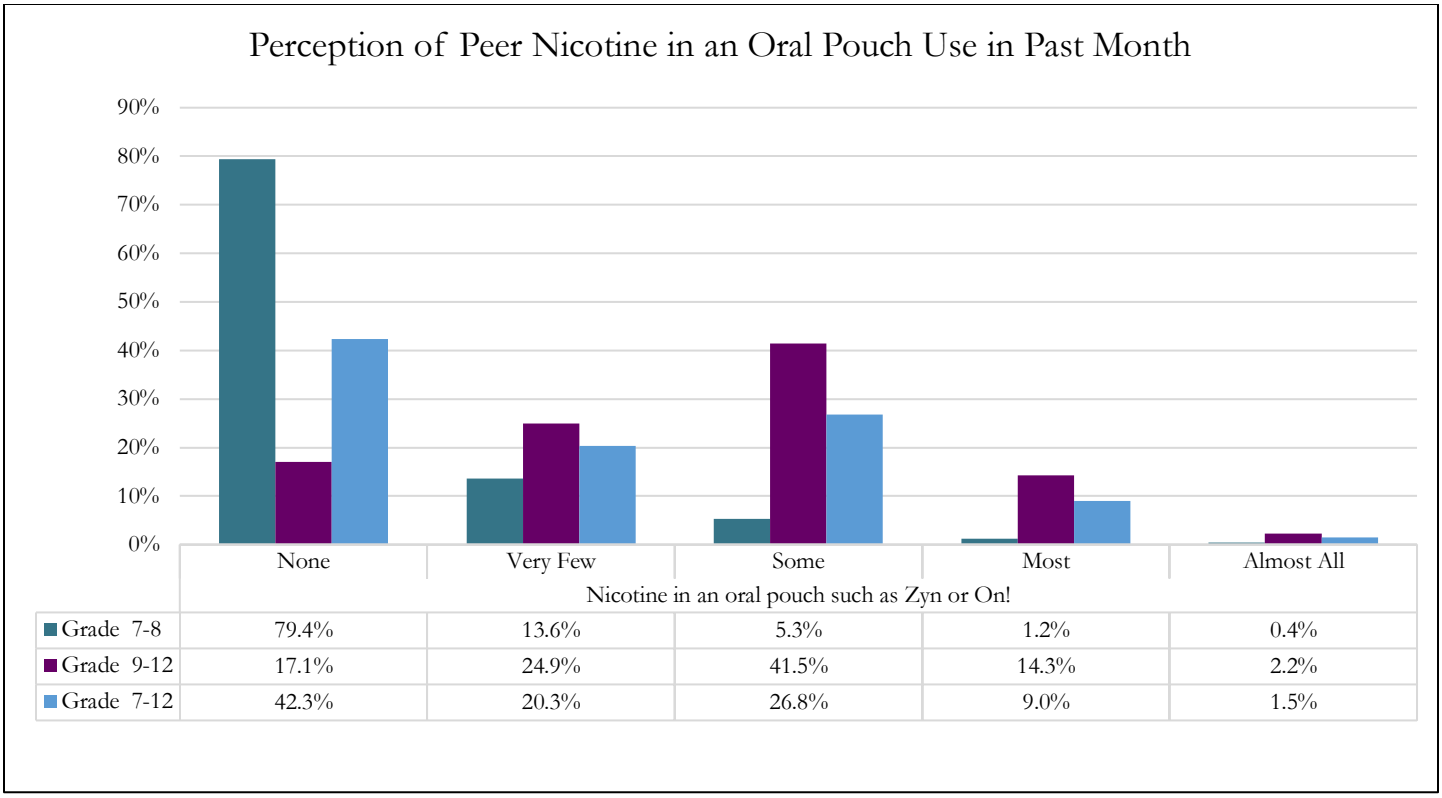


	None	Very Few	Some	Most	Almost All
	Prescription drugs for the purpose of "getting high"				
Grade 7-8	80.0%	14.6%	4.2%	0.8%	0.4%
Grade 9-12	29.4%	44.3%	18.5%	6.2%	1.7%
Grade 7-12	49.7%	32.3%	12.7%	4.0%	1.2%

Perception of Peer Vape Product w/ Nicotine Use in Past Month

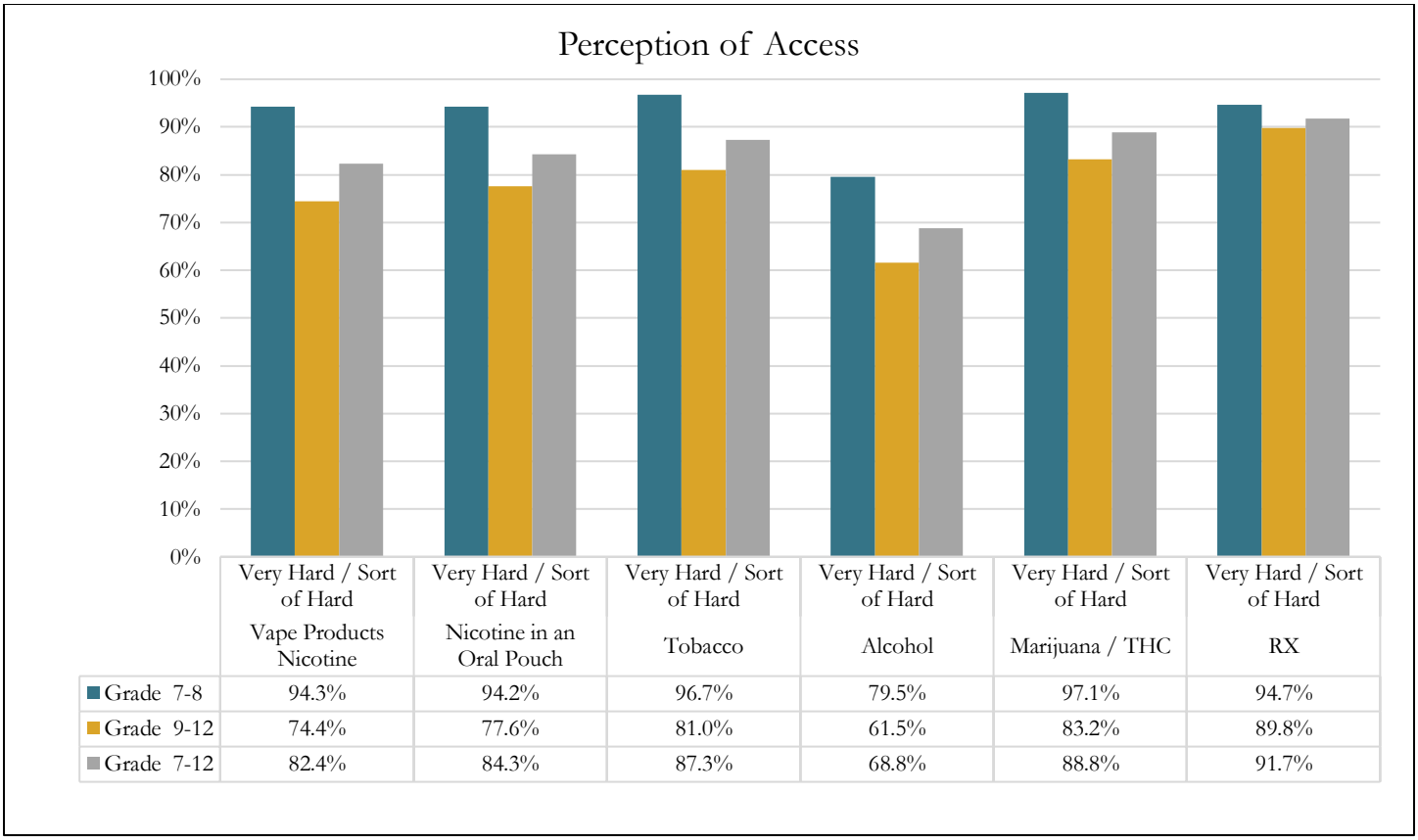


	None	Very Few	Some	Most	Almost All
	Vape Products with Nicotine				
Grade 7-8	63.2%	23.6%	10.7%	1.2%	1.2%
Grade 9-12	12.4%	15.7%	43.3%	21.6%	7.0%
Grade 7-12	32.9%	18.9%	30.1%	13.4%	4.7%



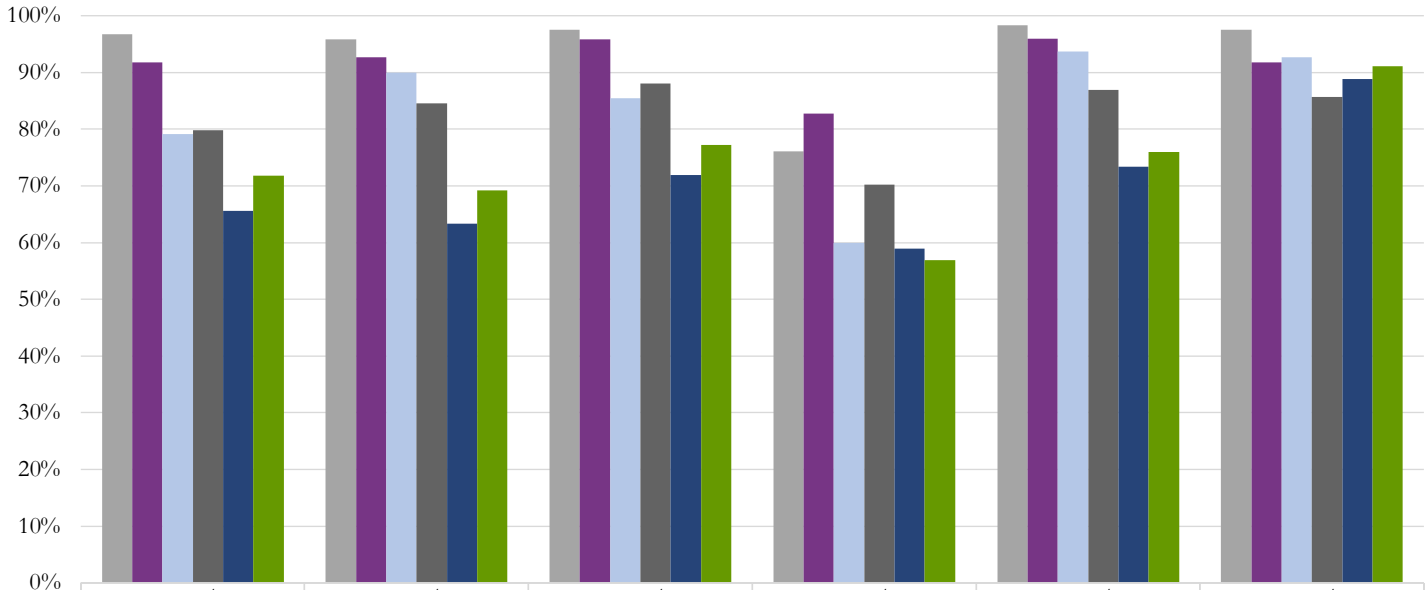
	None	Very Few	Some	Most	Almost All
	Nicotine in an oral pouch such as Zyn or On!				
Grade 7-8	79.4%	13.6%	5.3%	1.2%	0.4%
Grade 9-12	17.1%	24.9%	41.5%	14.3%	2.2%
Grade 7-12	42.3%	20.3%	26.8%	9.0%	1.5%

Ease of Access



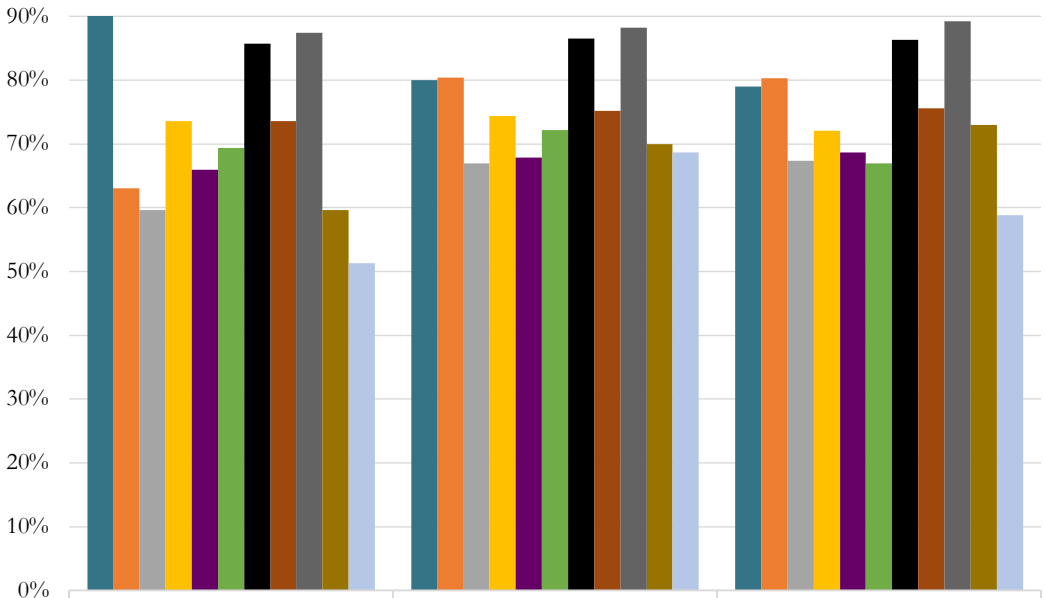
	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Vape Products Nicotine	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Tobacco	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Alcohol	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Marijuana / THC	Very Hard / Sort of Hard RX
Grade 7-8	94.3%	94.2%	96.7%	79.5%	97.1%	94.7%
Grade 9-12	74.4%	77.6%	81.0%	61.5%	83.2%	89.8%
Grade 7-12	82.4%	84.3%	87.3%	68.8%	88.8%	91.7%

Perception of Access
By Grade



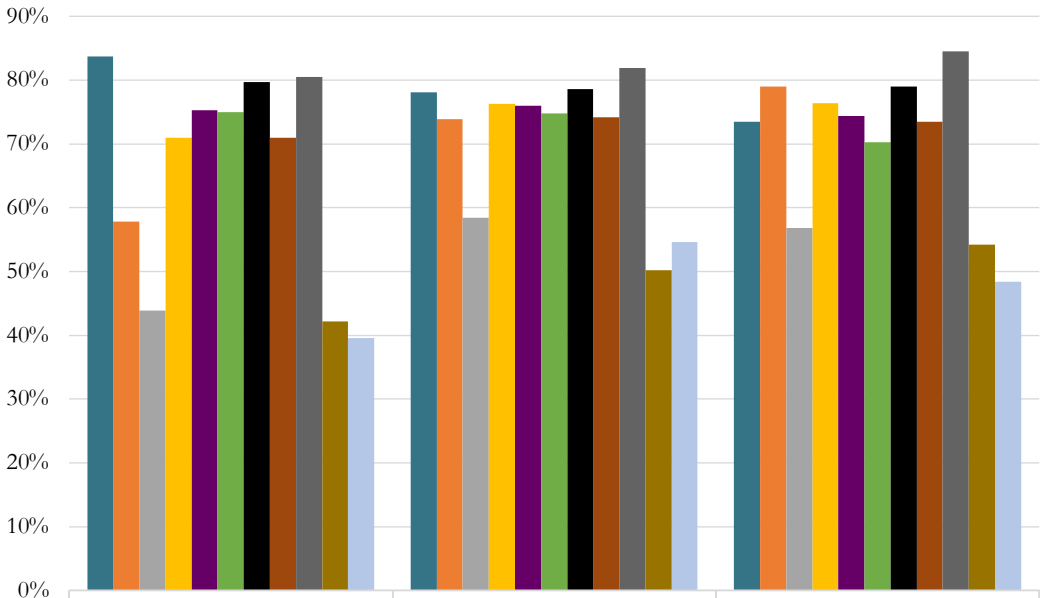
	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Vape Products Nicotine	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Tobacco	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Alcohol	Very Hard / Sort of Hard Marijuana / THC	Very Hard / Sort of Hard RX
7	96.7%	95.8%	97.5%	76.0%	98.3%	97.5%
8	91.8%	92.6%	95.9%	82.8%	95.9%	91.7%
9	79.1%	90.0%	85.5%	60.0%	93.6%	92.7%
10	79.8%	84.5%	88.1%	70.2%	86.9%	85.7%
11	65.6%	63.3%	71.9%	58.9%	73.3%	88.9%
12	71.8%	69.2%	77.2%	57.0%	75.9%	91.1%

Reasons Why Substances are not Used
Grades 7-8



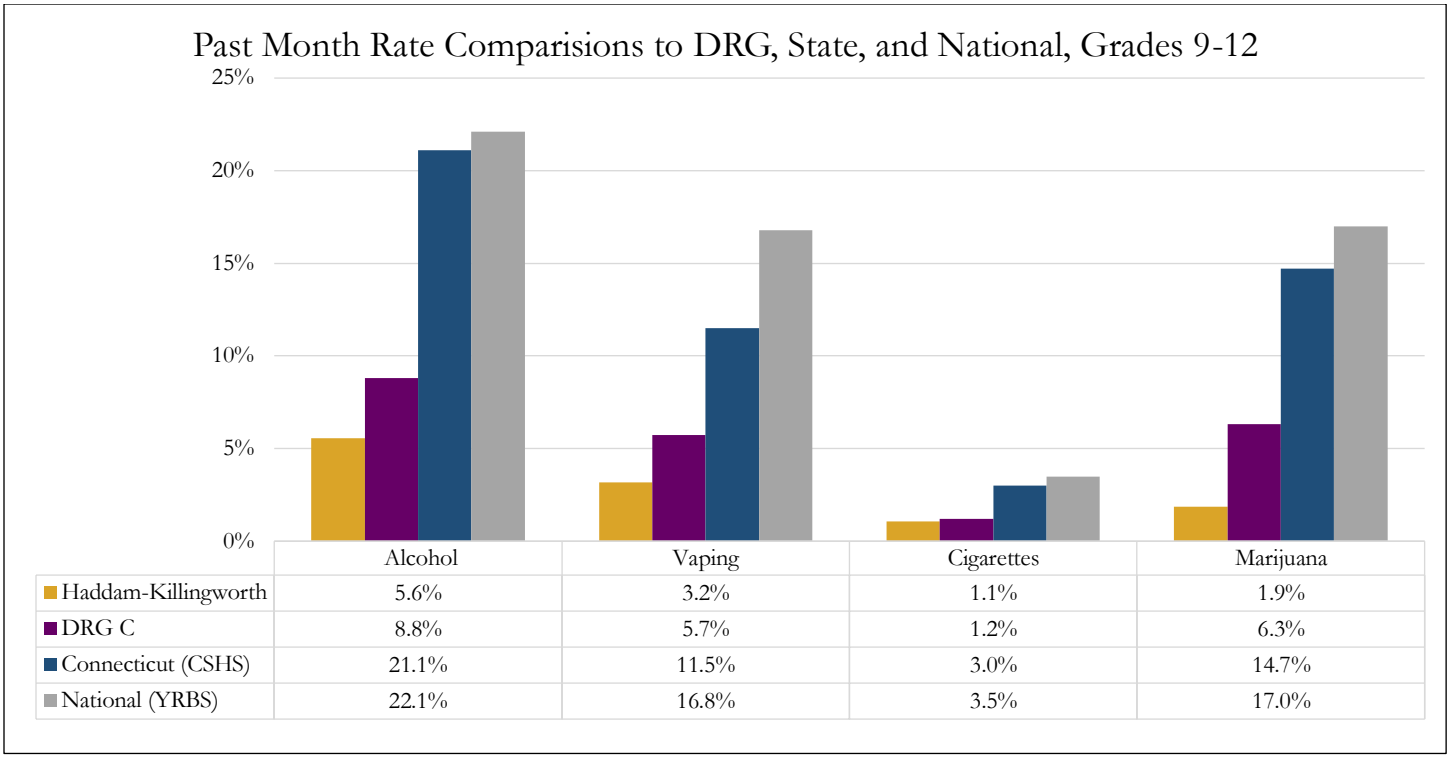
	Grade 7-8 Alcohol	Grade 7-8 Marijuana	Grade 7-8 Vaping
Underage	92.4%	80.0%	79.0%
I don't approve	63.0%	80.4%	80.3%
My friends don't approve	59.7%	67.0%	67.4%
Fear of Consequences - Parent/Guardian	73.5%	74.3%	72.1%
Fear of Consequences - School	66.0%	67.8%	68.7%
Fear of Consequences - Police	69.3%	72.2%	67.0%
Don't Want to Lose Control	85.7%	86.5%	86.3%
School Work	73.5%	75.2%	75.5%
Physical Health	87.4%	88.3%	89.3%
Enviromental Impacts	59.7%	70.0%	73.0%
I don't know how to get it	51.3%	68.7%	58.8%

Reasons Why Substances are not Used
Grades 9-12



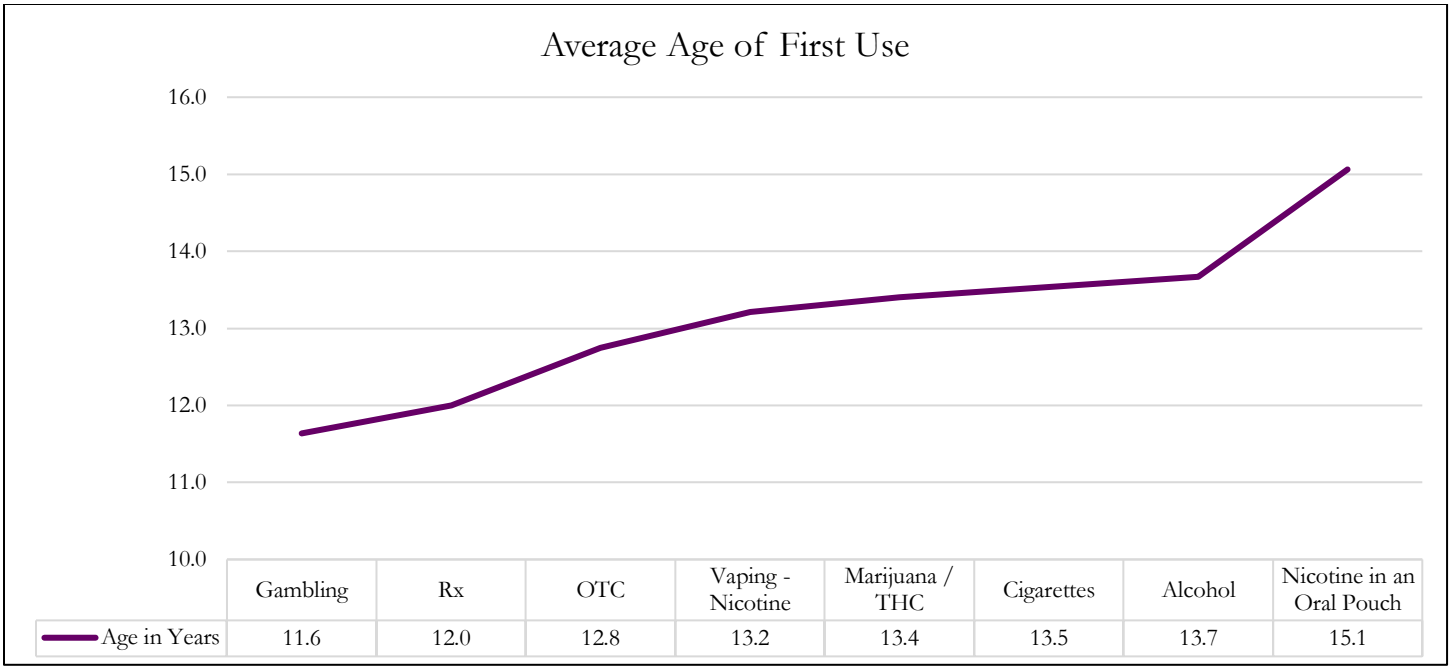
	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	Grade 9-12 Vaping
Underage	83.7%	78.0%	73.5%
I don't approve	57.8%	73.9%	79.0%
My friends don't approve	43.9%	58.5%	56.9%
Fear of Consequences - Parent/Guardian	70.9%	76.3%	76.4%
Fear of Consequences - School	75.3%	76.0%	74.3%
Fear of Consequences - Police	75.0%	74.8%	70.3%
Don't Want to Lose Control	79.7%	78.6%	79.0%
School Work	70.9%	74.2%	73.5%
Physical Health	80.5%	81.9%	84.5%
Enviromental Impacts	42.2%	50.1%	54.2%
I don't know how to get it	39.5%	54.6%	48.4%

Substance Use and Gambling



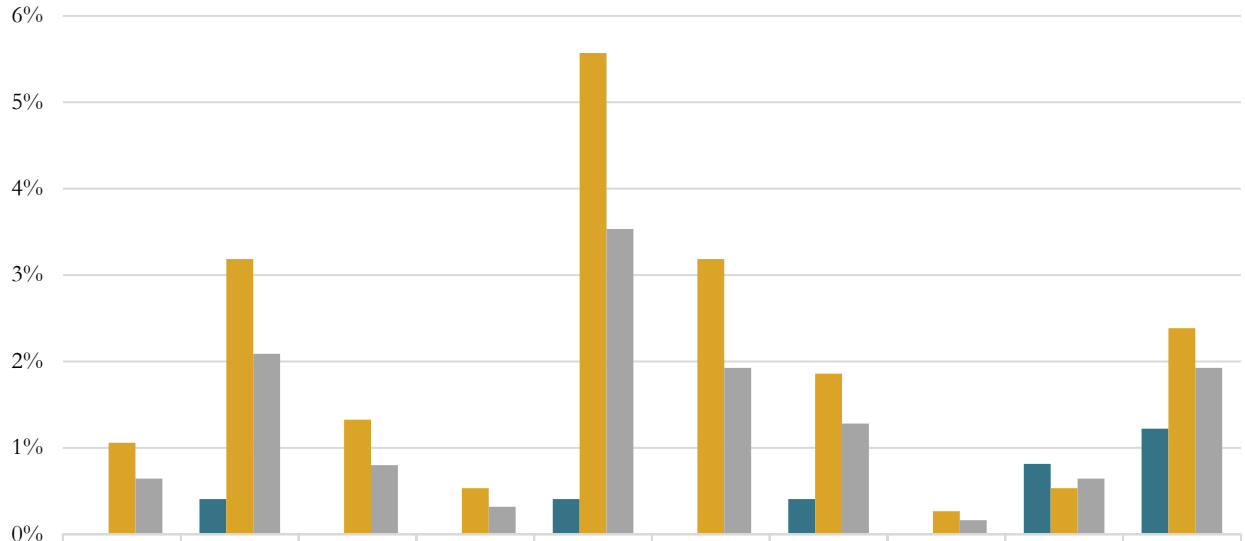
	Alcohol	Vaping	Cigarettes	Marijuana
Haddam-Killingworth	5.6%	3.2%	1.1%	1.9%
DRG C	8.8%	5.7%	1.2%	6.3%
Connecticut (CSHS)	21.1%	11.5%	3.0%	14.7%
National (YRBS)	22.1%	16.8%	3.5%	17.0%

- CSHS and YRBS, 2023
-DRG reflects aggregated data from Youth Voices Count Surveys administered in communities within the same District Reference Group. District Reference Groups come from the Connecticut State Department of Education and are a classification system grouping school districts with similar socioeconomic status and need in order to make comparisons. For more information, see the following: https://sdeportal.ct.gov/cedar/files/pdf/reports/db_drg_06_2006.pdf



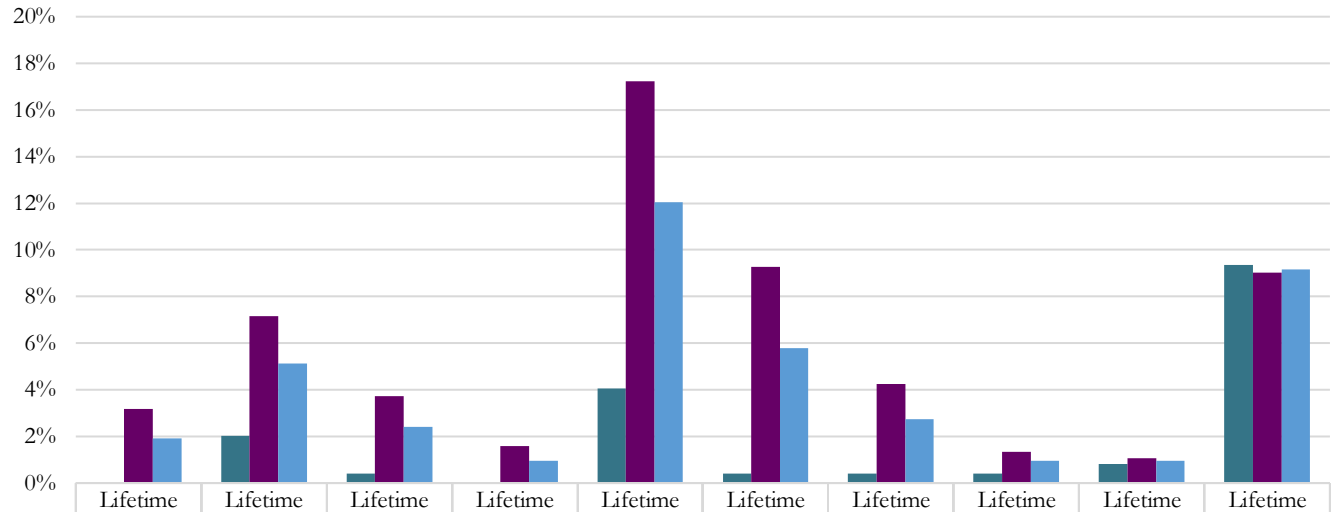
	Gambling	Rx	OTC	Vaping - Nicotine	Marijuana / THC	Cigarettes	Alcohol	Nicotine in an Oral Pouch
Age in Years	11.6	12.0	12.8	13.2	13.4	13.5	13.7	15.1

Past Month Use of CORE Substances and Gambling



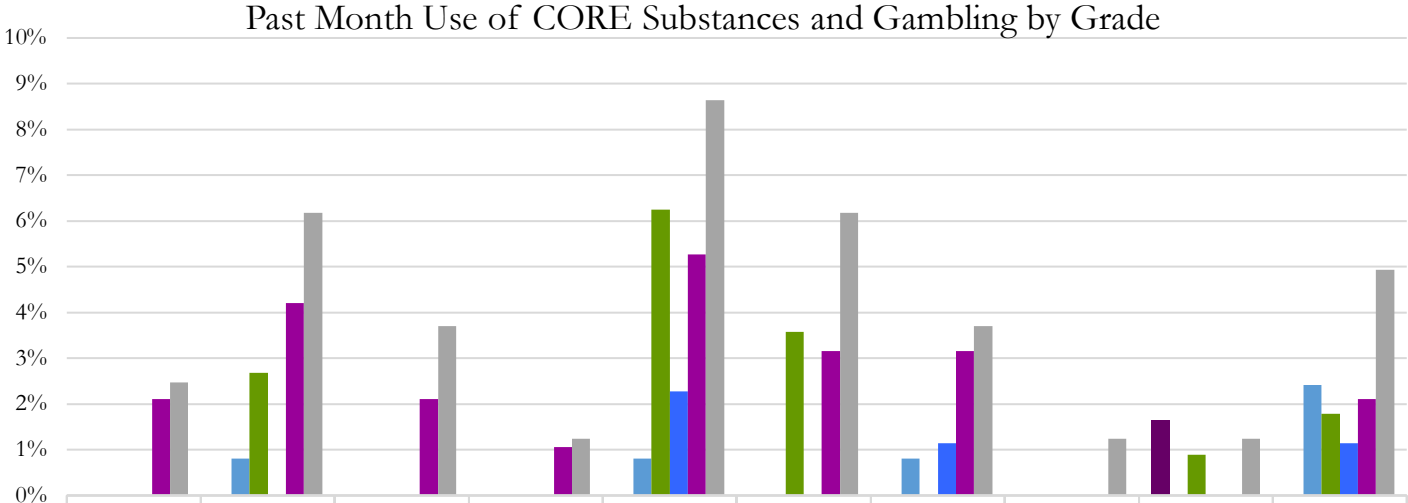
	Past Month Cigarettes	Past Month Vape Products Nicotine	Past Month Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Past Month Tobacco	Past Month Alcohol	Past Month Alcohol - 4 or more	Past Month Marijuana / THC	Past Month RX	Past Month OTC	Past Month Gambling
Grade 7-8	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.8%	1.2%
Grade 9-12	1.1%	3.2%	1.3%	0.5%	5.6%	3.2%	1.9%	0.3%	0.5%	2.4%
Grade 7-12	0.6%	2.1%	0.8%	0.3%	3.5%	1.9%	1.3%	0.2%	0.6%	1.9%

Lifetime Use of CORE Substances and Gambling



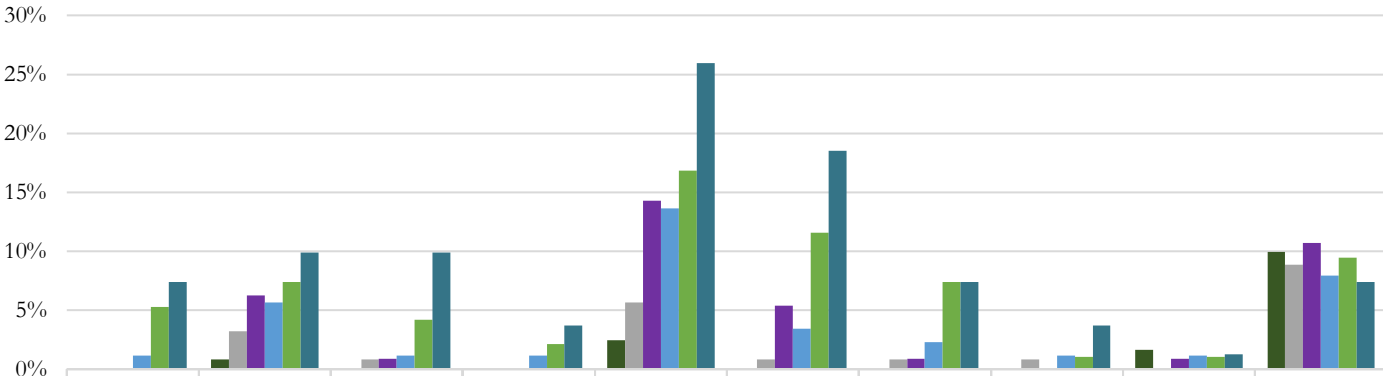
	Lifetime Cigarettes	Lifetime Vape Products Nicotine	Lifetime Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Lifetime Tobacco	Lifetime Alcohol	Lifetime Alcohol - 4 or more	Lifetime Marijuana / THC	Lifetime RX	Lifetime OTC	Lifetime Gambling
Grade 7-8	0.0%	2.0%	0.4%	0.0%	4.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.8%	9.3%
Grade 9-12	3.2%	7.2%	3.7%	1.6%	17.2%	9.3%	4.2%	1.3%	1.1%	9.0%
Grade 7-12	1.9%	5.1%	2.4%	1.0%	12.0%	5.8%	2.7%	1.0%	1.0%	9.1%

Past Month Use of CORE Substances and Gambling by Grade



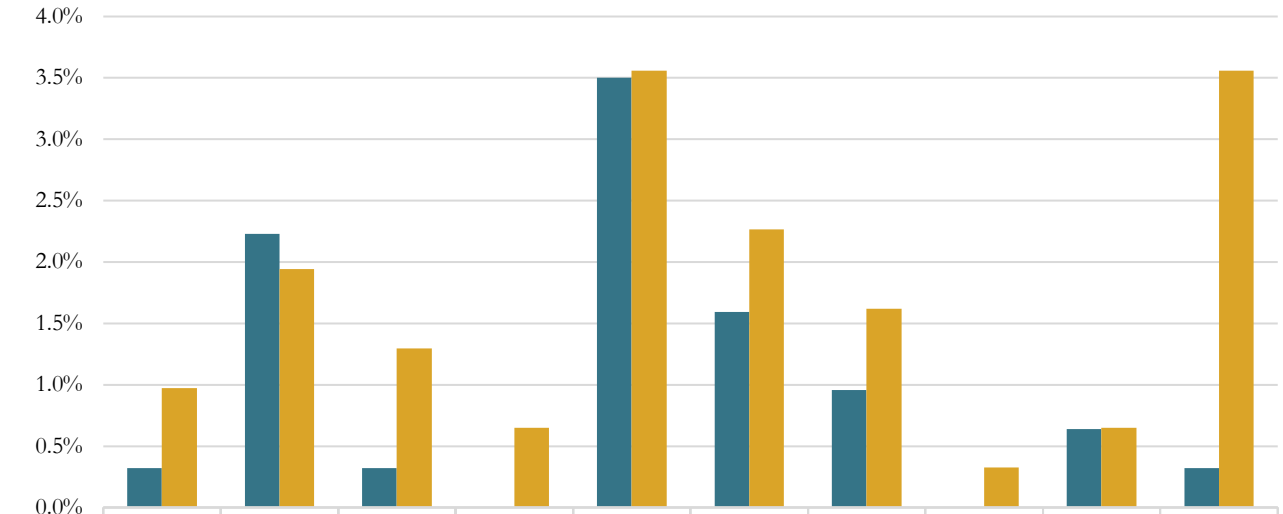
	Past Month Cigarettes	Past Month Vape Products Nicotine	Past Month Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Past Month Tobacco	Past Month Alcohol	Past Month Alcohol - 4 or more	Past Month Marijuana / THC	Past Month RX	Past Month OTC	Past Month Gambling
7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
9	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	1.8%
10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
11	2.1%	4.2%	2.1%	1.1%	5.3%	3.2%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
12	2.5%	6.2%	3.7%	1.2%	8.6%	6.2%	3.7%	1.2%	1.2%	4.9%

Lifetime Use of CORE Substances and Gambling by Grade



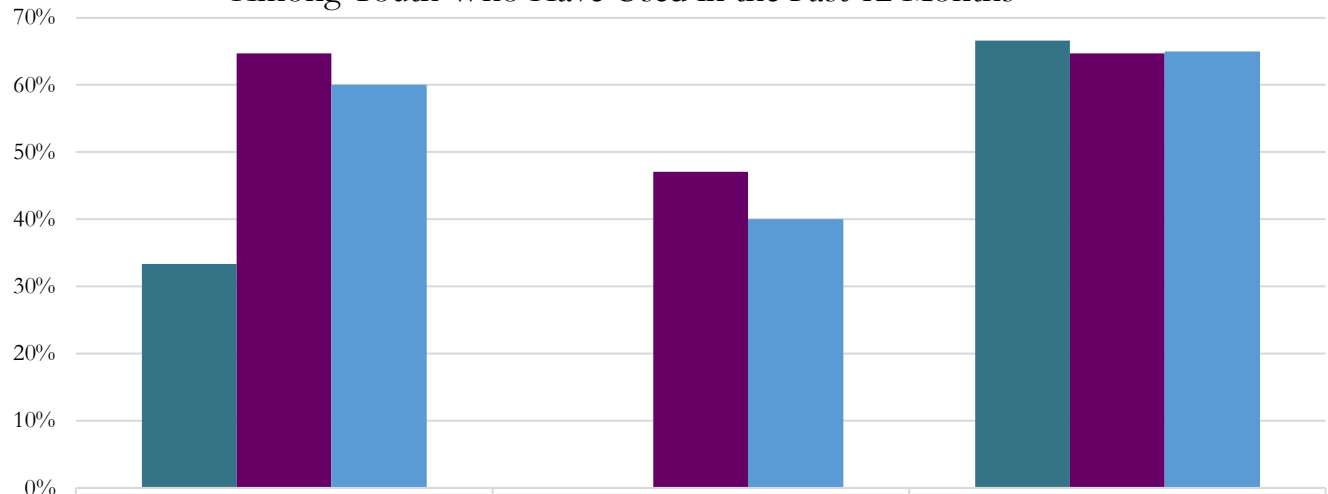
	Lifetime Cigarettes	Lifetime Vape Products Nicotine	Lifetime Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Lifetime Tobacco	Lifetime Alcohol	Lifetime Alcohol - 4 or more	Lifetime Marijuana / THC	Lifetime RX	Lifetime OTC	Lifetime Gambling
7	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	9.9%
8	0.0%	3.2%	0.8%	0.0%	5.6%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	8.9%
9	0.0%	6.3%	0.9%	0.0%	14.3%	5.4%	0.9%	0.0%	0.9%	10.7%
10	1.1%	5.7%	1.1%	1.1%	13.6%	3.4%	2.3%	1.1%	1.1%	8.0%
11	5.3%	7.4%	4.2%	2.1%	16.8%	11.6%	7.4%	1.1%	1.1%	9.5%
12	7.4%	9.9%	9.9%	3.7%	25.9%	18.5%	7.4%	3.7%	1.2%	7.4%

Biological Sex Differences in CORE Substance Use and Gambling Grades 7-12



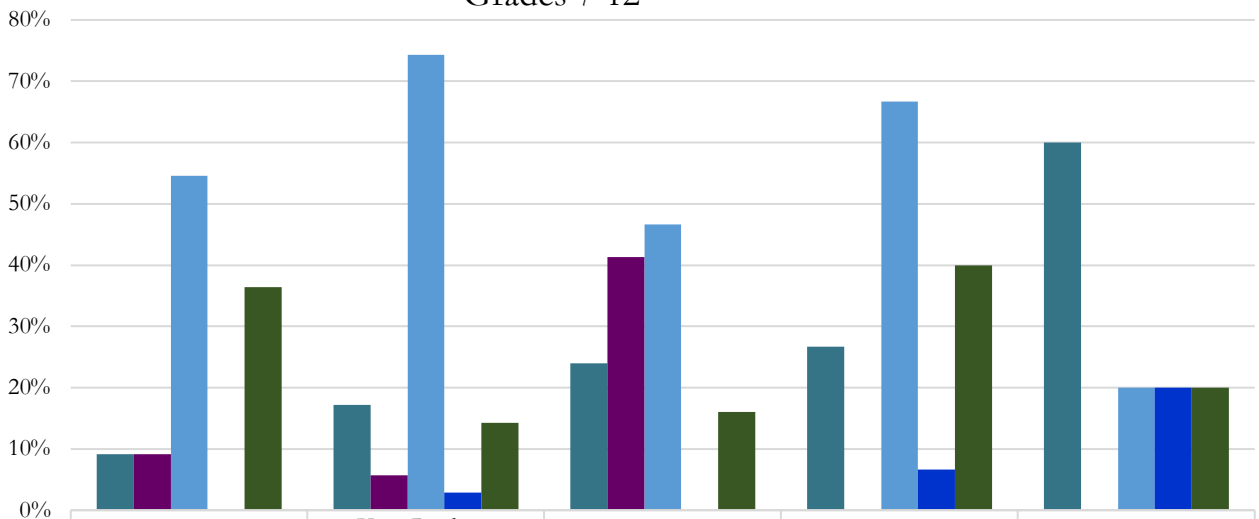
	Past Month Cigarettes	Past Month Vape Products Nicotine	Past Month Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Past Month Tobacco	Past Month Alcohol	Past Month Alcohol - 4 or more	Past Month Marijuana / THC	Past Month RX	Past Month OTC	Past Month Gambling
Female	0.3%	2.2%	0.3%	0.0%	3.5%	1.6%	1.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%
Male	1.0%	1.9%	1.3%	0.6%	3.6%	2.3%	1.6%	0.3%	0.6%	3.6%

Methods of Marijuana Use Among Youth Who Have Used in the Past 12 Months



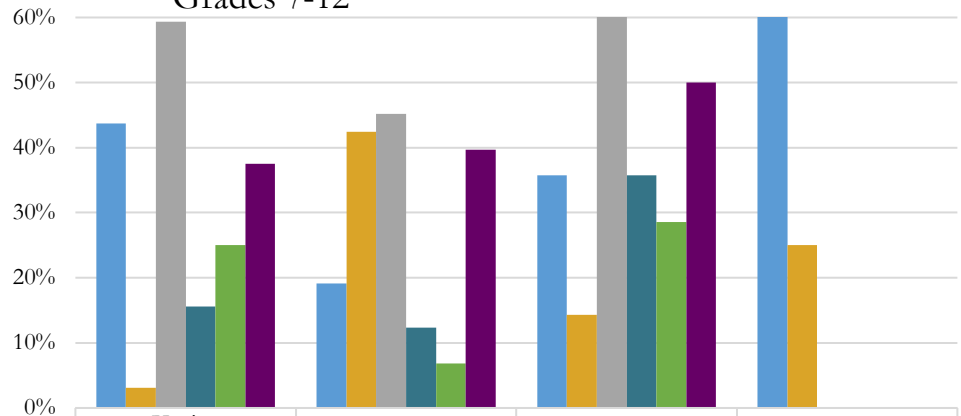
	Smoked or inhaled (e.g. joint, bong, bowl, dabbed, waxed etc.)	Eaten edibles (e.g. baked goods, gummies, or other candy that contain marijuana or THC in them)	In a vape
Grade 7-8	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Grade 9-12	64.7%	47.1%	64.7%
Grade 7-12	60.0%	40.0%	65.0%

Where Substances Are Acquired Most Often Amongst Lifetime Users Grades 7-12



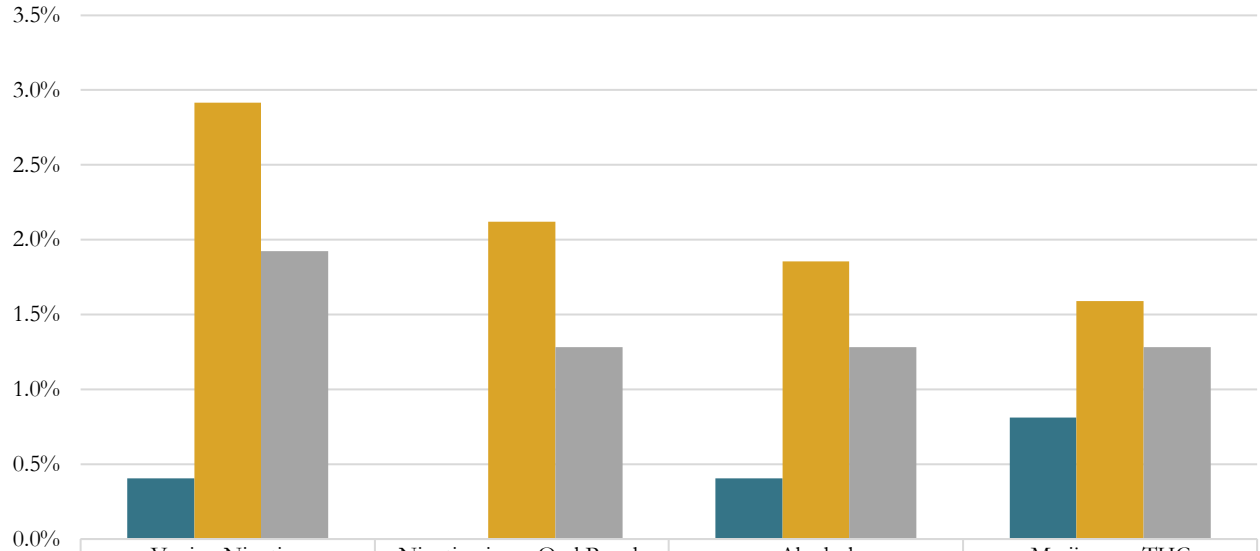
	Tobacco	Vape Products Nicotine	Alcohol	Marijuana / THC	RX
Home w/o Parents	9.1%	17.1%	24.0%	26.7%	60.0%
Home w/ parents	9.1%	5.7%	41.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Friends/Peers	54.5%	74.3%	46.7%	66.7%	20.0%
Internet	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	6.7%	20.0%
Store	36.4%	14.3%	16.0%	40.0%	20.0%

Where Substances Are Used Most Often Amongst Lifetime Users Grades 7-12

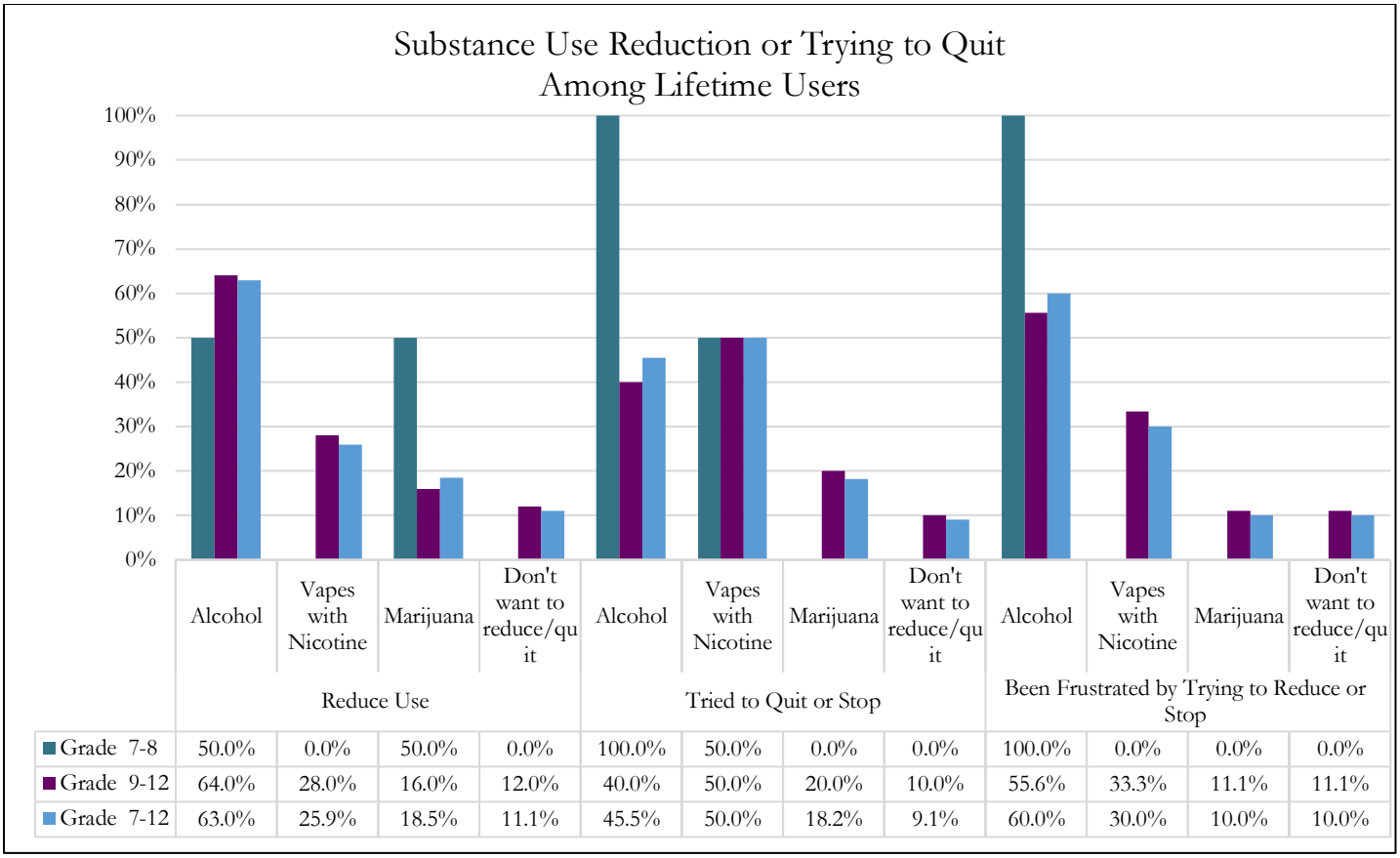


	Vaping Nicotine / Liquids	Alcohol	Marijuana / THC	RX
At home, alone	43.8%	19.2%	35.7%	75.0%
At home with my parent(s)/guardian present	3.1%	42.5%	14.3%	25.0%
With friends at my home or my friends' home	59.4%	45.2%	71.4%	0.0%
In the woods, at the park, beach, or on the street	15.6%	12.3%	35.7%	0.0%
In a car	25.0%	6.8%	28.6%	0.0%
At a party	37.5%	39.7%	50.0%	0.0%

Youth Use of Substances at School- Including School Events

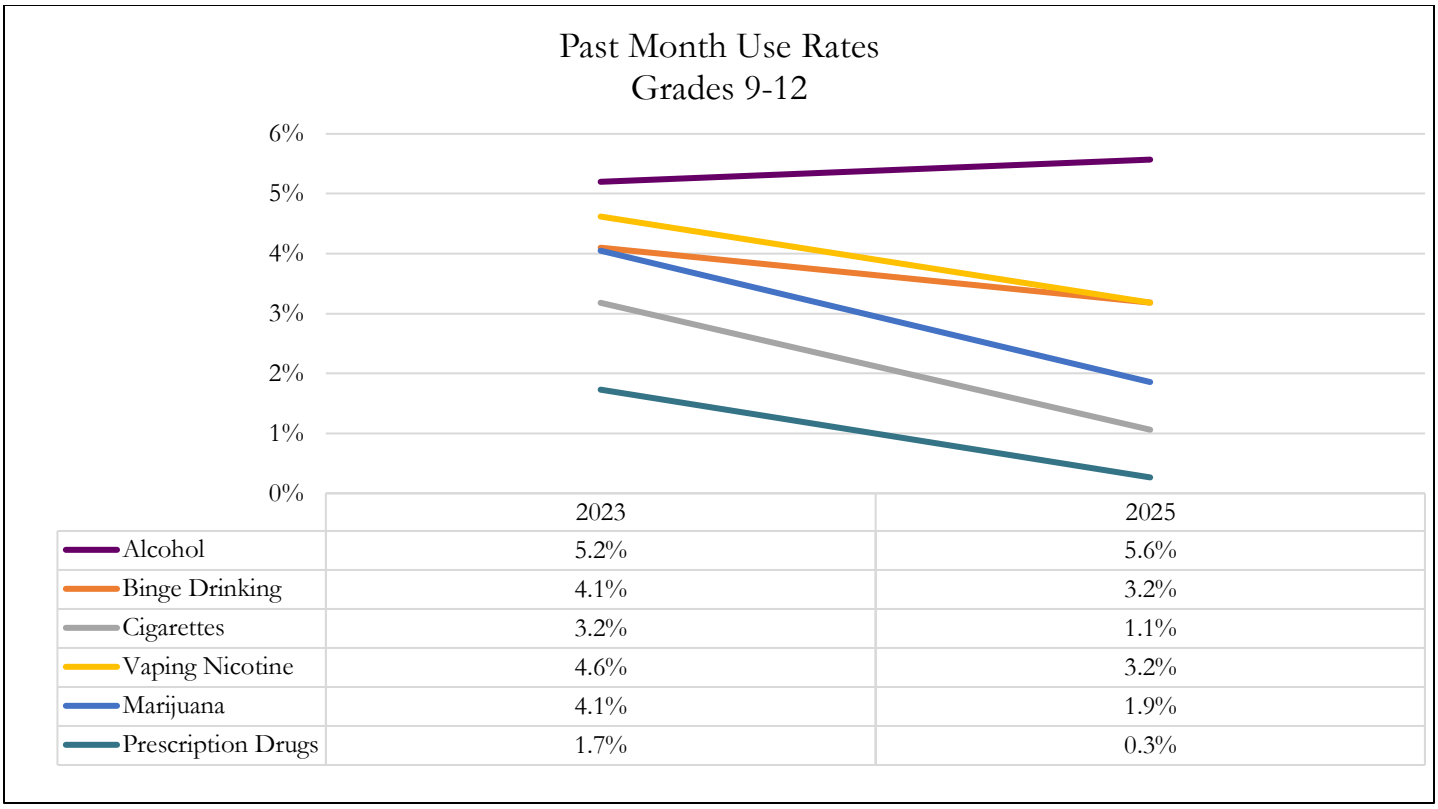


	Vaping Nicotine	Nicotine in an Oral Pouch	Alcohol	Marijuana - THC
Grade 7-8	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%
Grade 9-12	2.9%	2.1%	1.9%	1.6%
Grade 7-12	1.9%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%

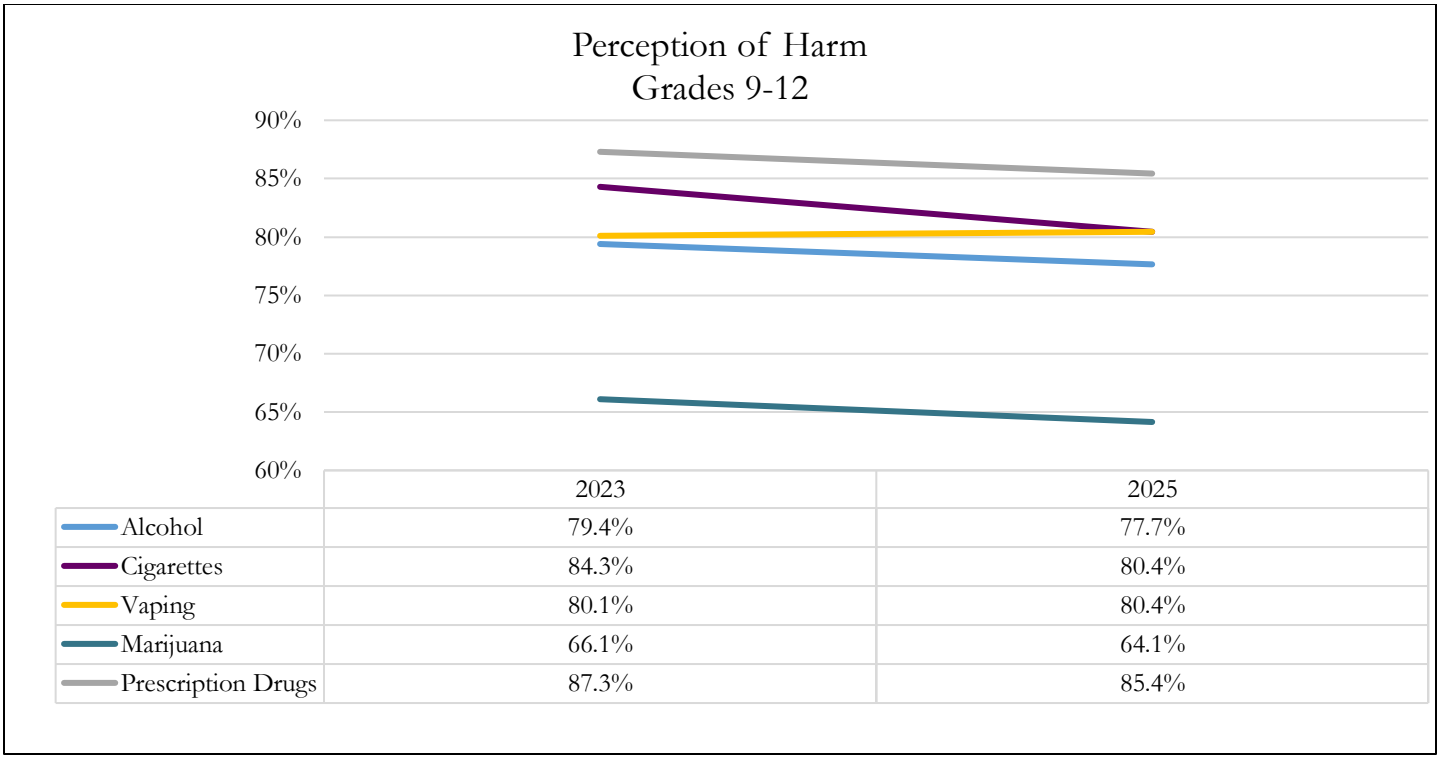


	Reduce Use				Tried to Quit or Stop				Been Frustrated by Trying to Reduce or Stop			
	Alcohol	Vapes with Nicotine	Marijuana	Don't want to reduce/quit	Alcohol	Vapes with Nicotine	Marijuana	Don't want to reduce/quit	Alcohol	Vapes with Nicotine	Marijuana	Don't want to reduce/quit
Grade 7-8	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Grade 9-12	64.0%	28.0%	16.0%	12.0%	40.0%	50.0%	20.0%	10.0%	55.6%	33.3%	11.1%	11.1%
Grade 7-12	63.0%	25.9%	18.5%	11.1%	45.5%	50.0%	18.2%	9.1%	60.0%	30.0%	10.0%	10.0%

Trend

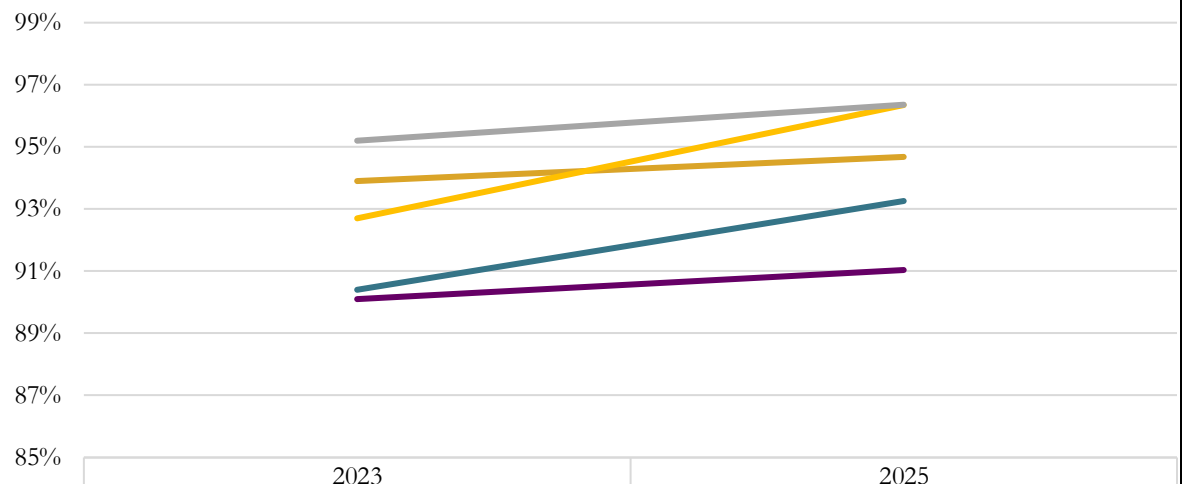


	2023	2025
Alcohol	5.2%	5.6%
Binge Drinking	4.1%	3.2%
Cigarettes	3.2%	1.1%
Vaping Nicotine	4.6%	3.2%
Marijuana	4.1%	1.9%
Prescription Drugs	1.7%	0.3%



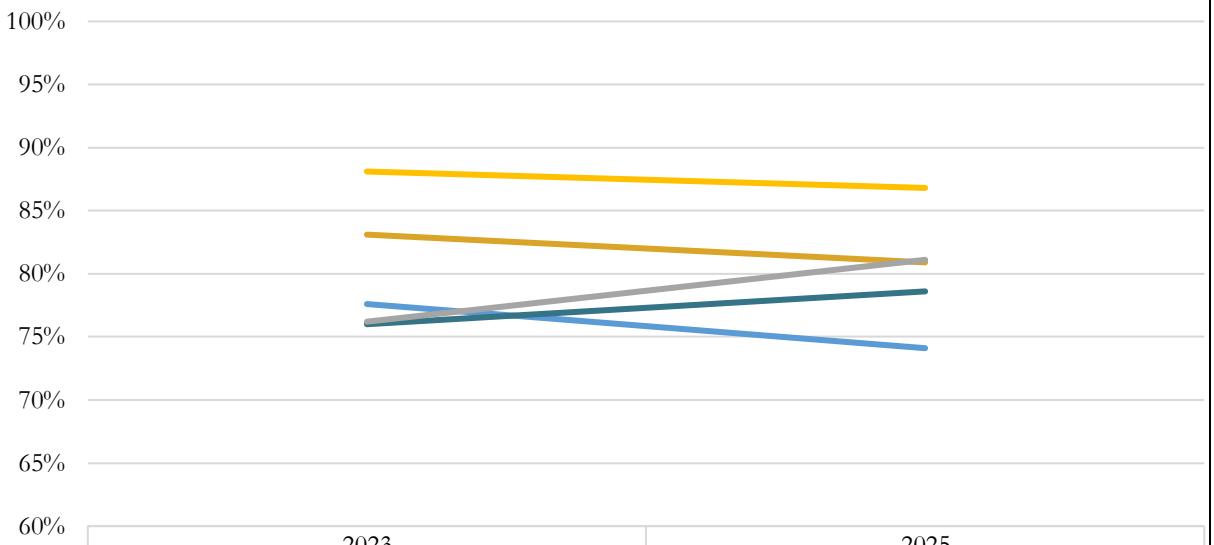
	2023	2025
Alcohol	79.4%	77.7%
Cigarettes	84.3%	80.4%
Vaping	80.1%	80.4%
Marijuana	66.1%	64.1%
Prescription Drugs	87.3%	85.4%

Parental Disapproval
Grades 9-12

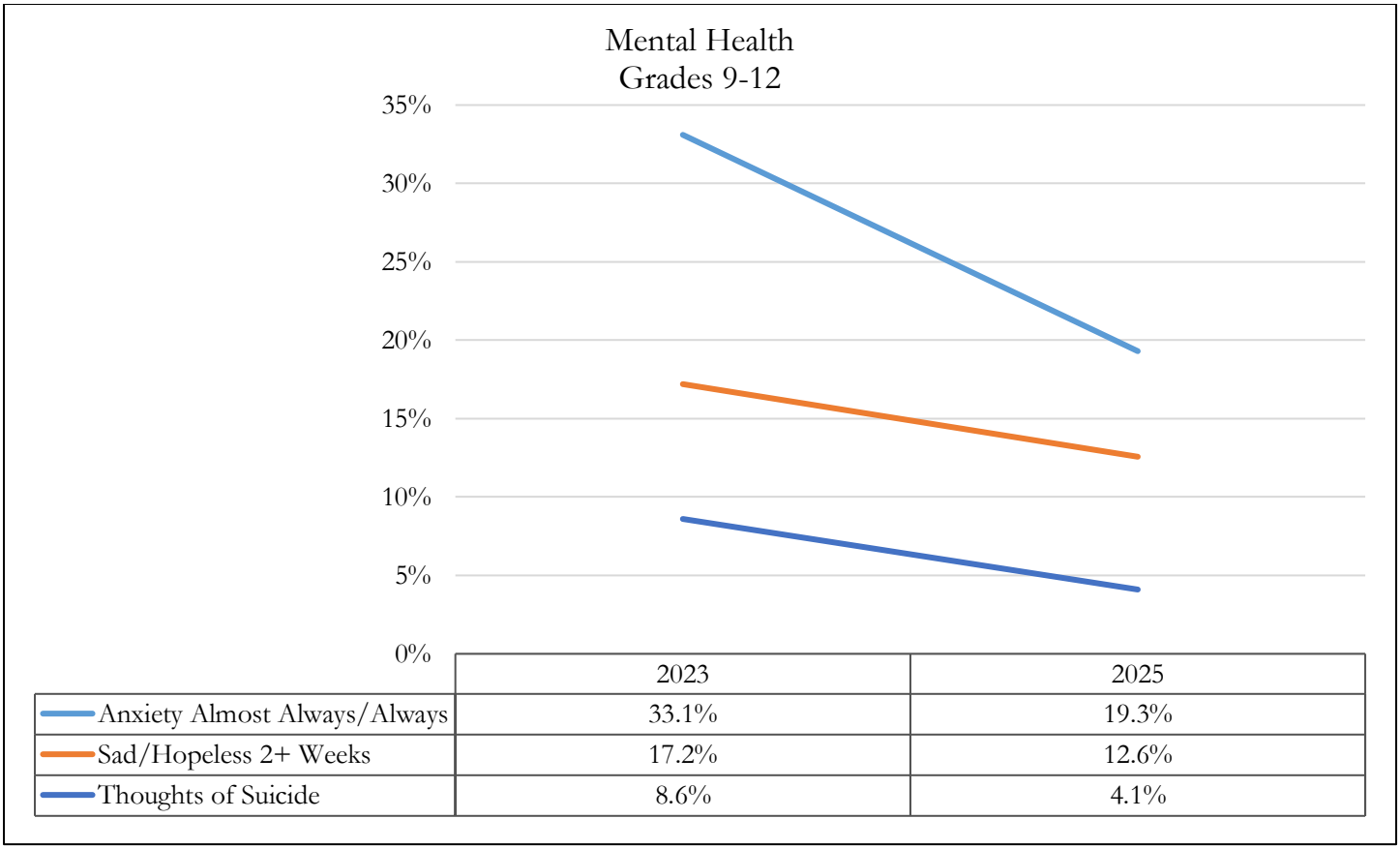


	2023	2025
Alcohol	90.1%	91.0%
Cigarettes	93.9%	94.7%
Vaping	92.7%	96.3%
Marijuana	90.4%	93.3%
Prescription Drugs	95.2%	96.4%

Peer Disapproval
Grades 9-12

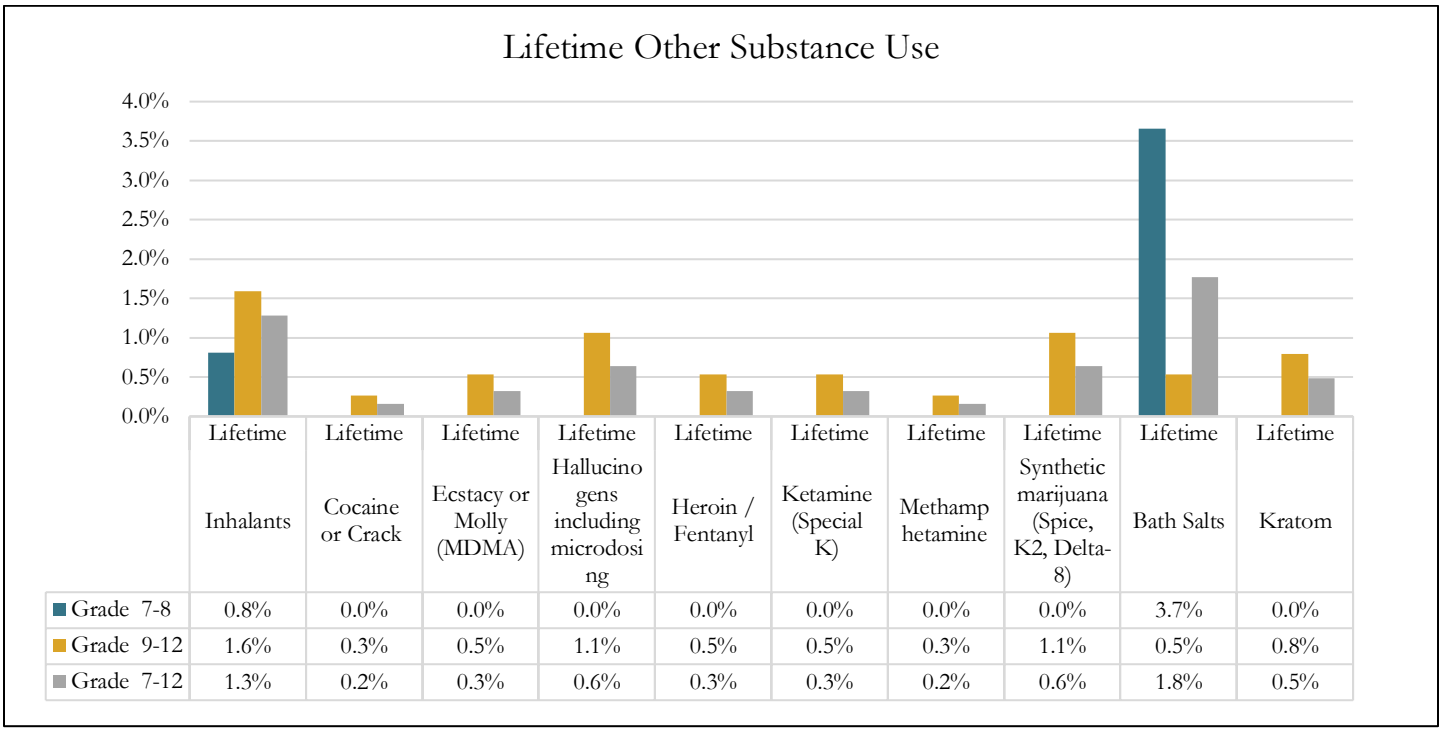


	2023	2025
Alcohol	77.6%	74.1%
Cigarettes	83.1%	80.9%
Vaping	76.0%	78.6%
Marijuana	76.2%	81.1%
Prescription Drugs	88.1%	86.8%

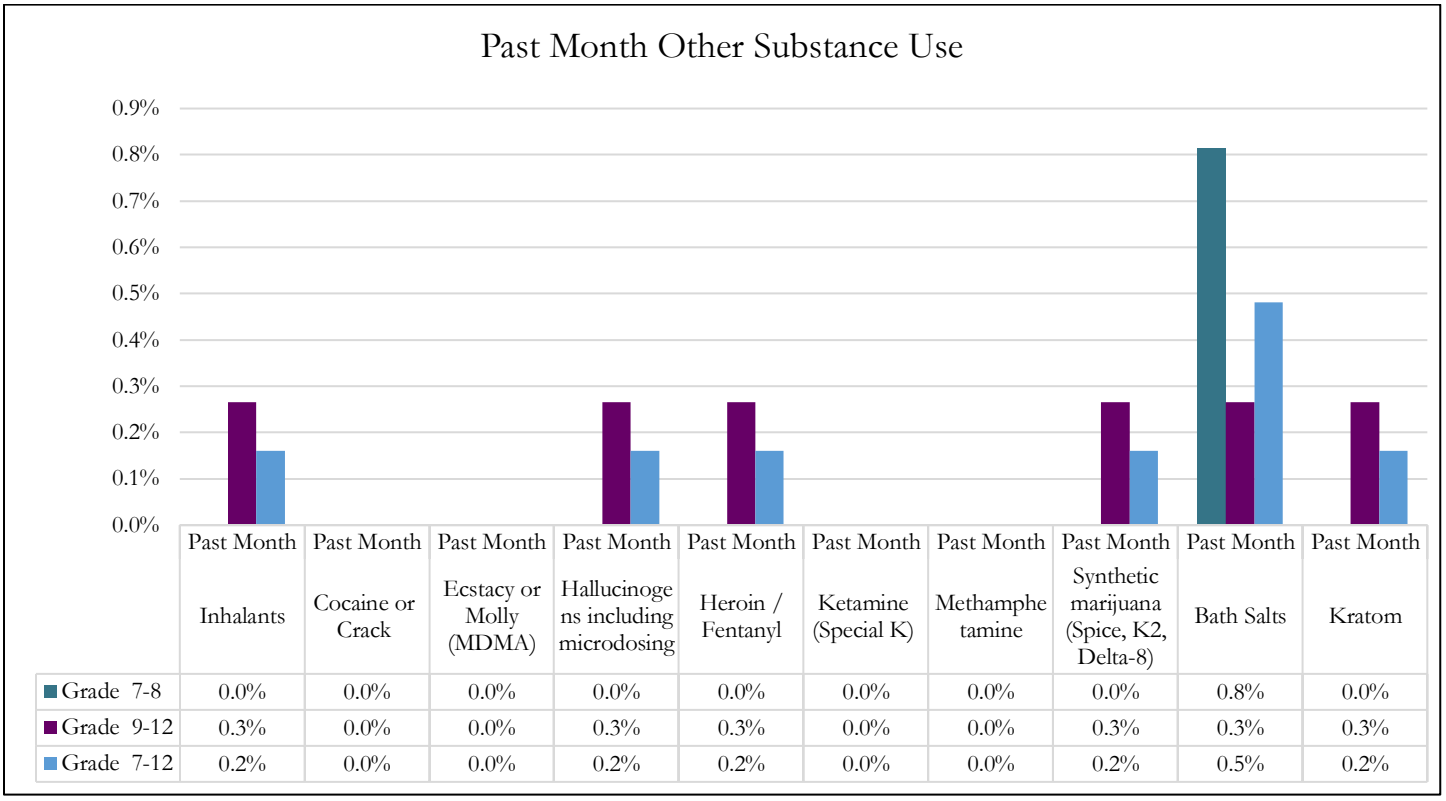


	2023	2025
Anxiety Almost Always/Always	33.1%	19.3%
Sad/Hopeless 2+ Weeks	17.2%	12.6%
Thoughts of Suicide	8.6%	4.1%

Other Substance Use

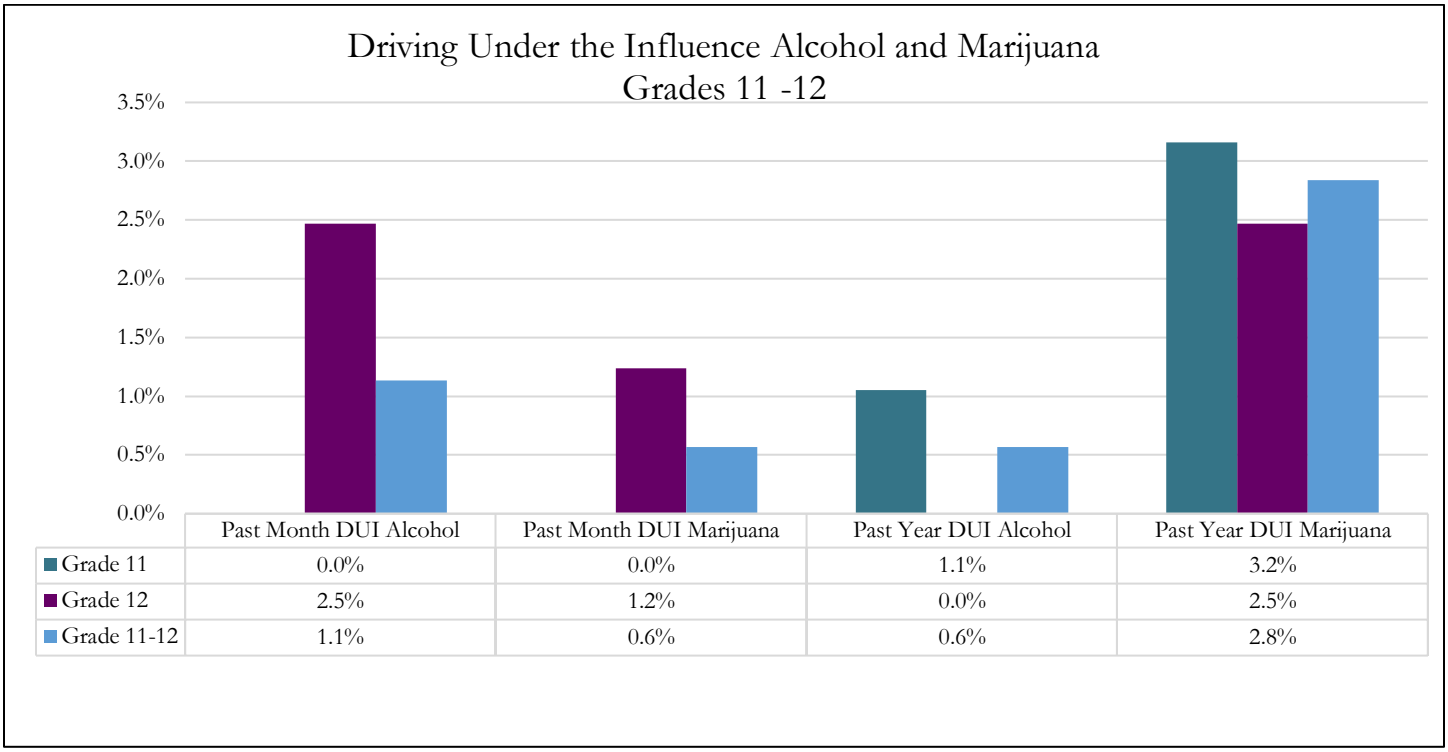


	Lifetime Inhalants	Lifetime Cocaine or Crack	Lifetime Ecstacy or Molly (MDMA)	Lifetime Hallucinogens including microdosing	Lifetime Heroin / Fentanyl	Lifetime Ketamine (Special K)	Lifetime Methamphetamine	Lifetime Synthetic marijuana (Spice, K2, Delta-8)	Lifetime Bath Salts	Lifetime Kratom
Grade 7-8	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%
Grade 9-12	1.6%	0.3%	0.5%	1.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	1.1%	0.5%	0.8%
Grade 7-12	1.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.6%	1.8%	0.5%

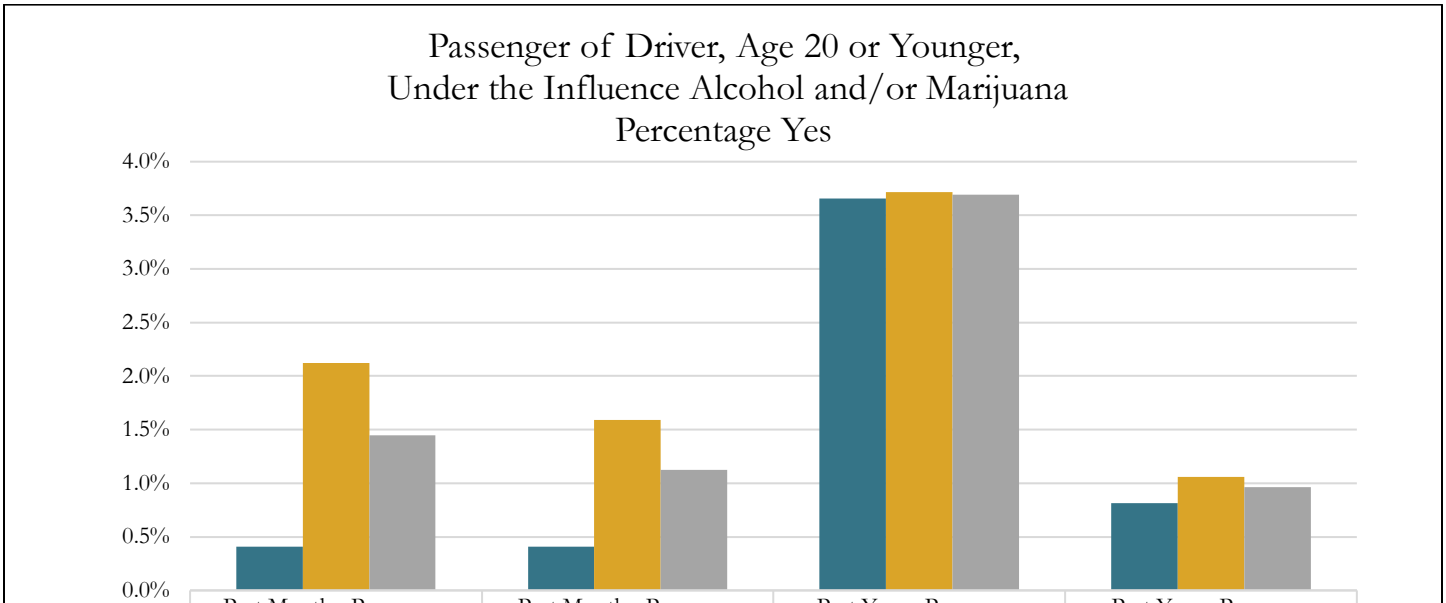


	Past Month Inhalants	Past Month Cocaine or Crack	Past Month Ecstacy or Molly (MDMA)	Past Month Hallucinogens including microdosing	Past Month Heroin / Fentanyl	Past Month Ketamine (Special K)	Past Month Methamphetamine	Past Month Synthetic marijuana (Spice, K2, Delta-8)	Past Month Bath Salts	Past Month Kratom
Grade 7-8	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%
Grade 9-12	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Grade 7-12	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%

Driving Under the Influence

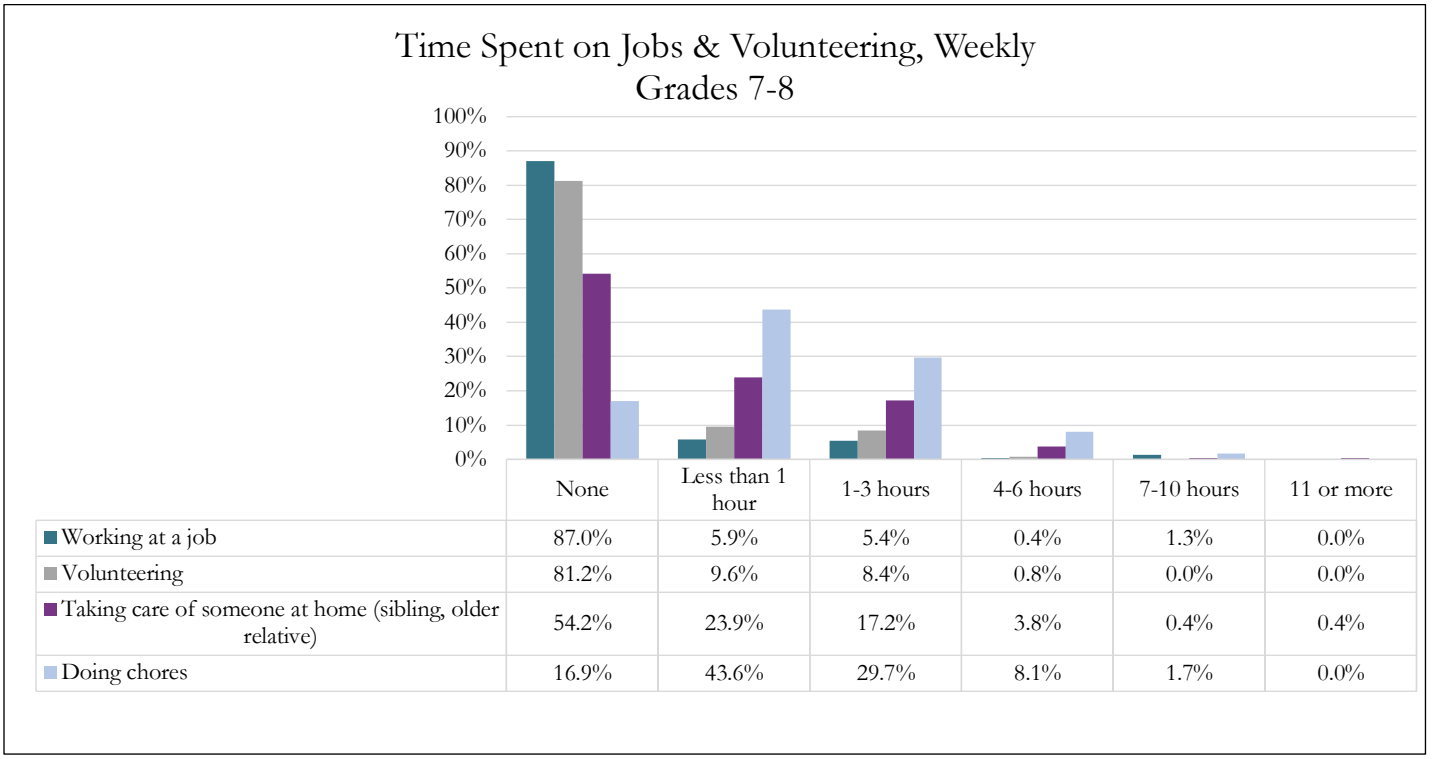


	Past Month DUI Alcohol	Past Month DUI Marijuana	Past Year DUI Alcohol	Past Year DUI Marijuana
Grade 11	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	3.2%
Grade 12	2.5%	1.2%	0.0%	2.5%
Grade 11-12	1.1%	0.6%	0.6%	2.8%

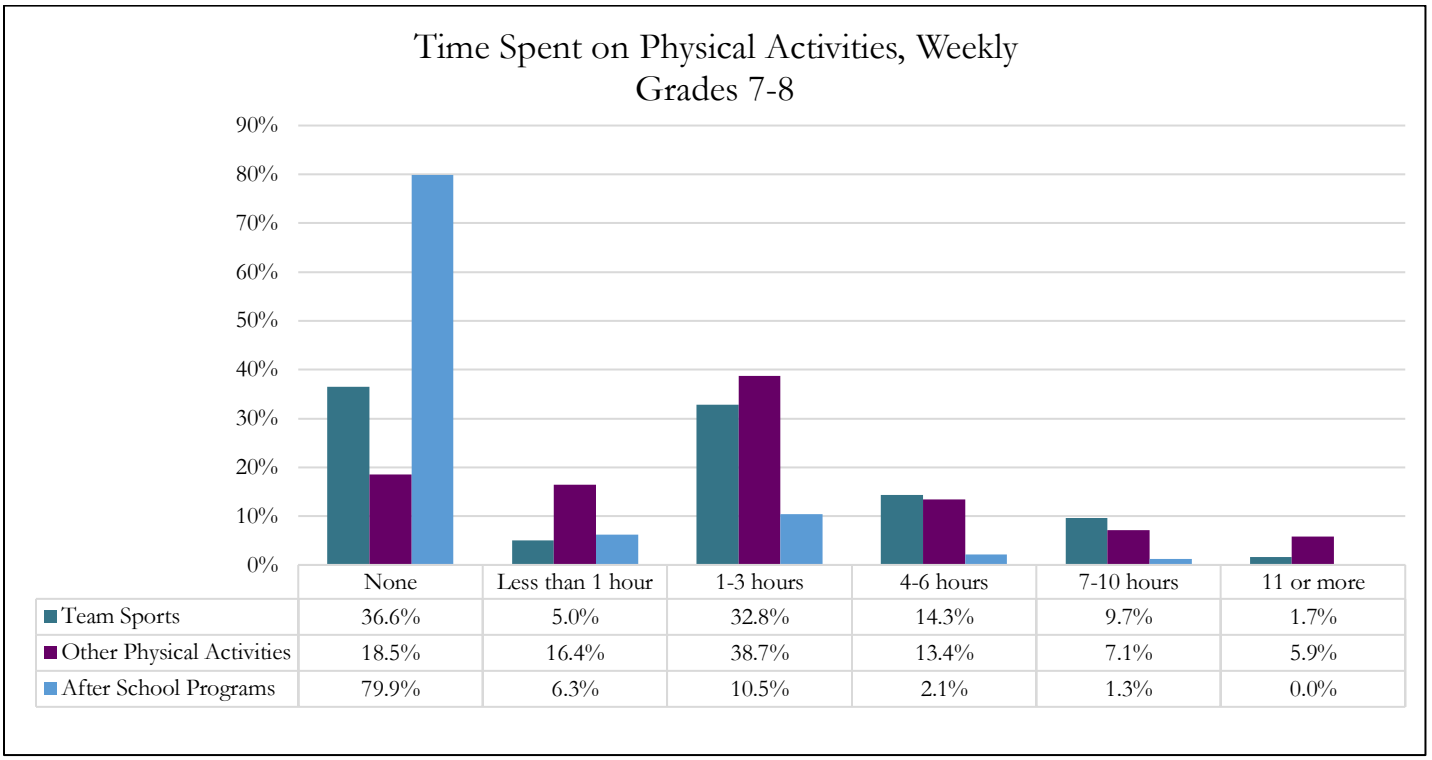


	Past Month - Passenger DUI Alcohol	Past Month - Passenger DUI Marijuana	Past Year - Passenger DUI Alcohol	Past Year - Passenger DUI Marijuana
Grade 7-8	0.4%	0.4%	3.7%	0.8%
Grade 9-12	2.1%	1.6%	3.7%	1.1%
Grade 7-12	1.4%	1.1%	3.7%	1.0%

Extracurricular Activities

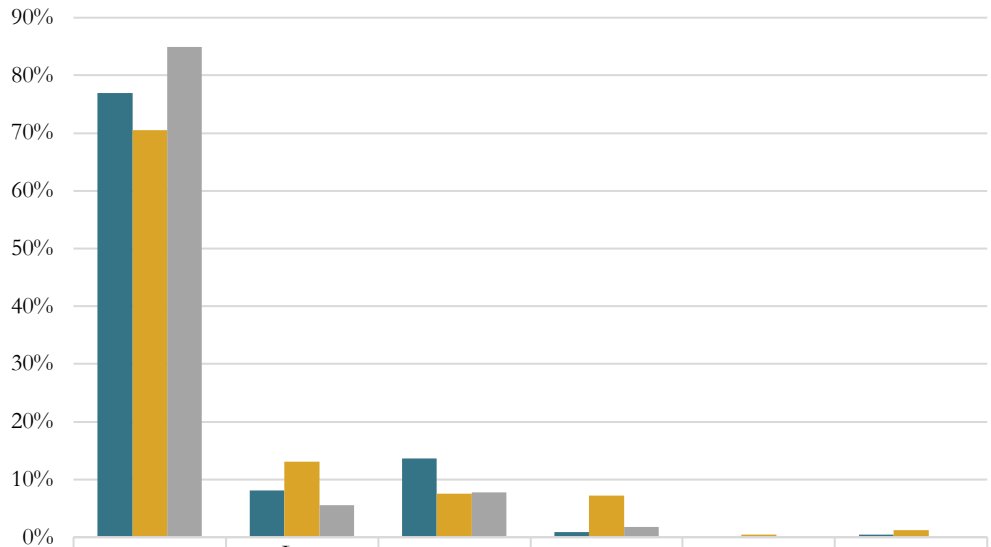


	None	Less than 1 hour	1-3 hours	4-6 hours	7-10 hours	11 or more
Working at a job	87.0%	5.9%	5.4%	0.4%	1.3%	0.0%
Volunteering	81.2%	9.6%	8.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Taking care of someone at home (sibling, older relative)	54.2%	23.9%	17.2%	3.8%	0.4%	0.4%
Doing chores	16.9%	43.6%	29.7%	8.1%	1.7%	0.0%



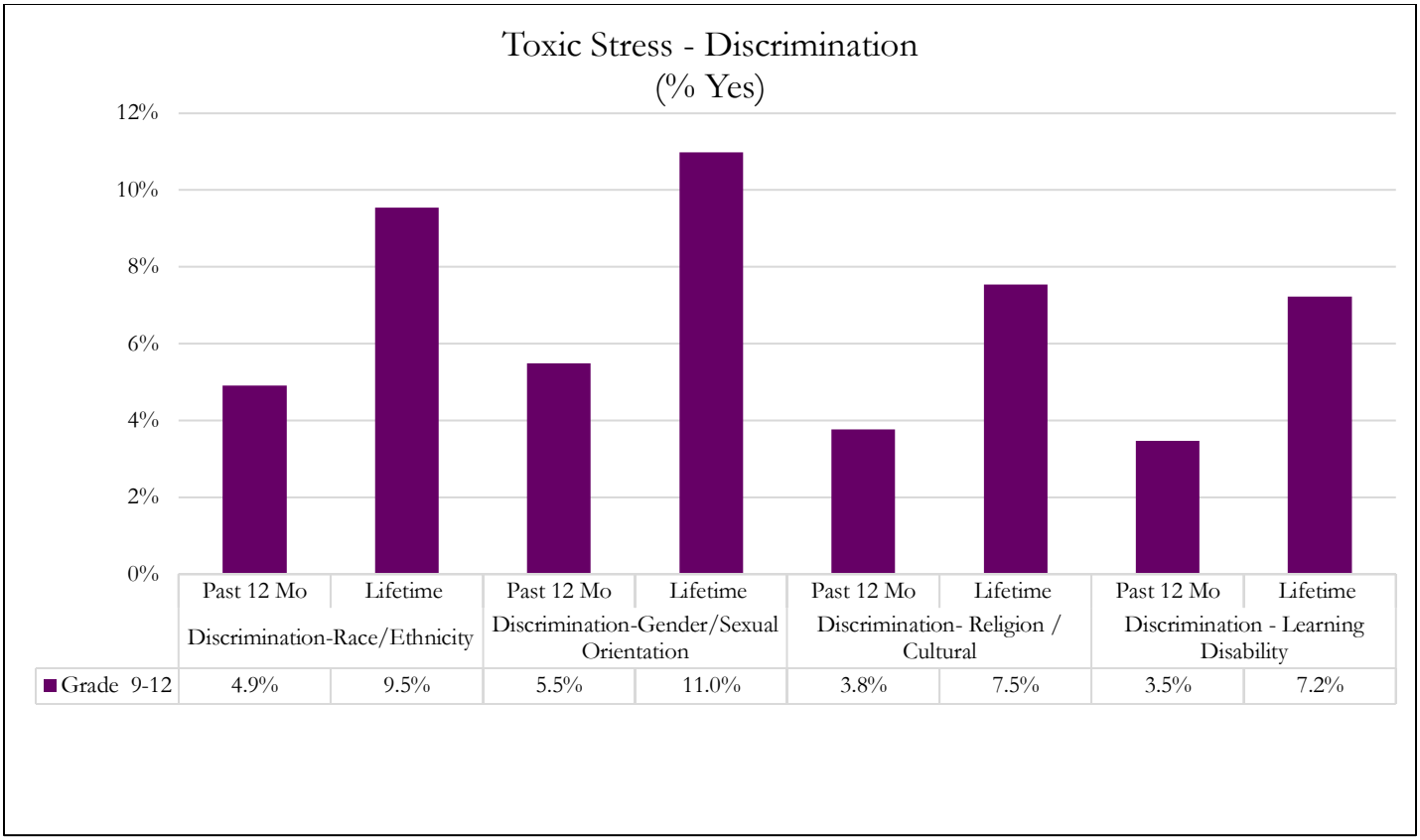
	None	Less than 1 hour	1-3 hours	4-6 hours	7-10 hours	11 or more
Team Sports	36.6%	5.0%	32.8%	14.3%	9.7%	1.7%
Other Physical Activities	18.5%	16.4%	38.7%	13.4%	7.1%	5.9%
After School Programs	79.9%	6.3%	10.5%	2.1%	1.3%	0.0%

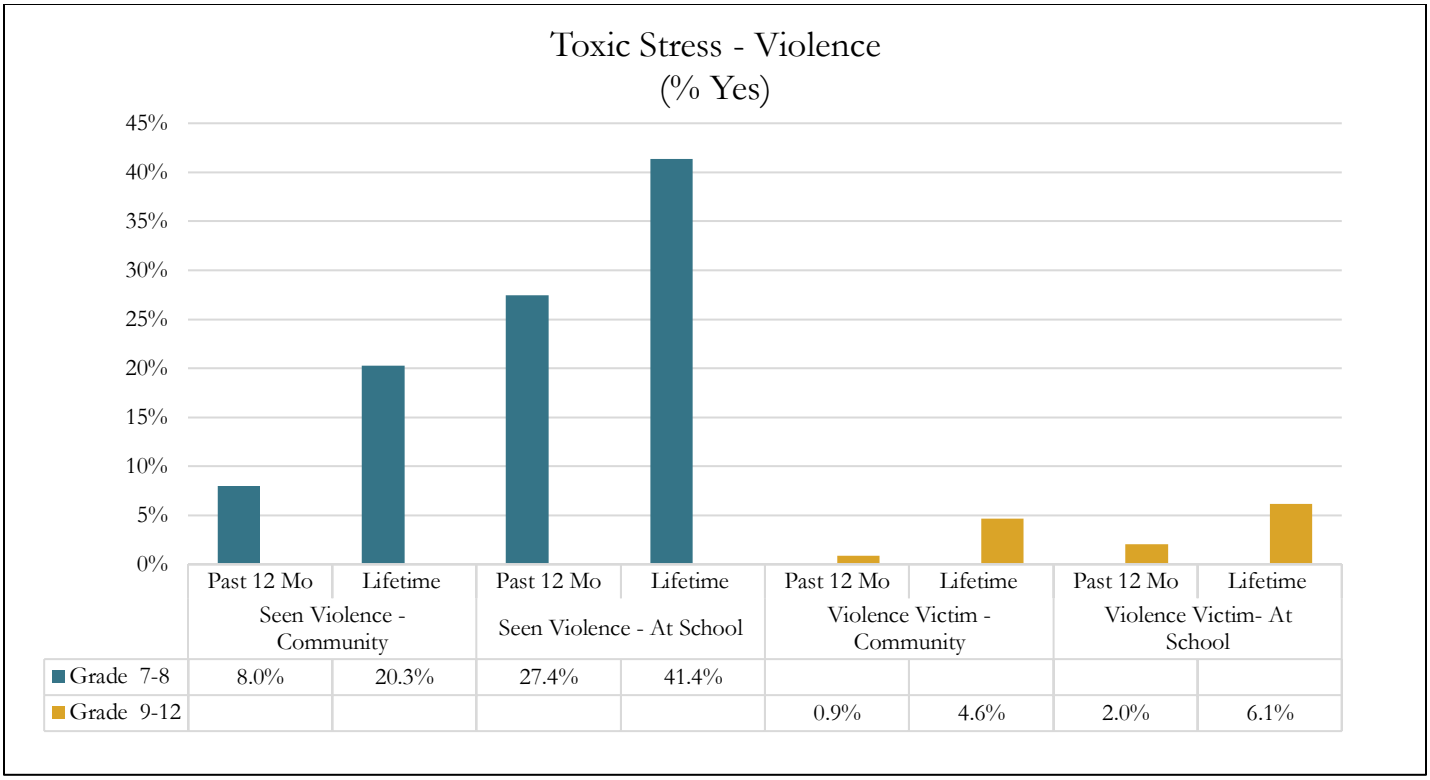
Time Spent on Faith-based Activities, Taking Lessons, Clubs or Orgs, Weekly, Grades 7-8

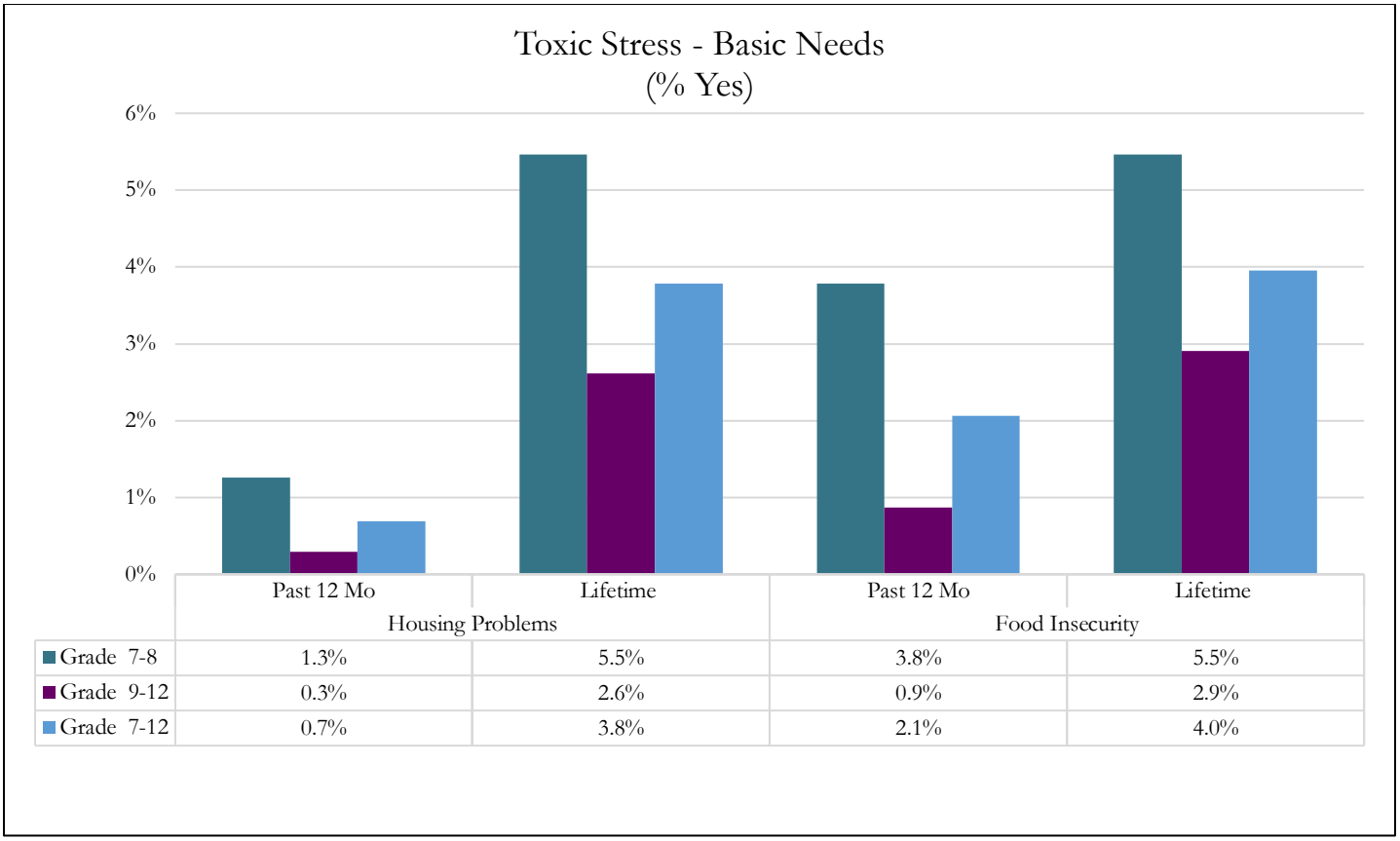


	None	Less than 1 hour	1-3 hours	4-6 hours	7-10 hours	11 or more
Faith or Religious Activities	76.9%	8.1%	13.7%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%
Practicing /Taking lessons (music, art)	70.5%	13.1%	7.6%	7.2%	0.4%	1.3%
Club or organization (theater, Scouts)	84.9%	5.6%	7.8%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%

Toxic Stress

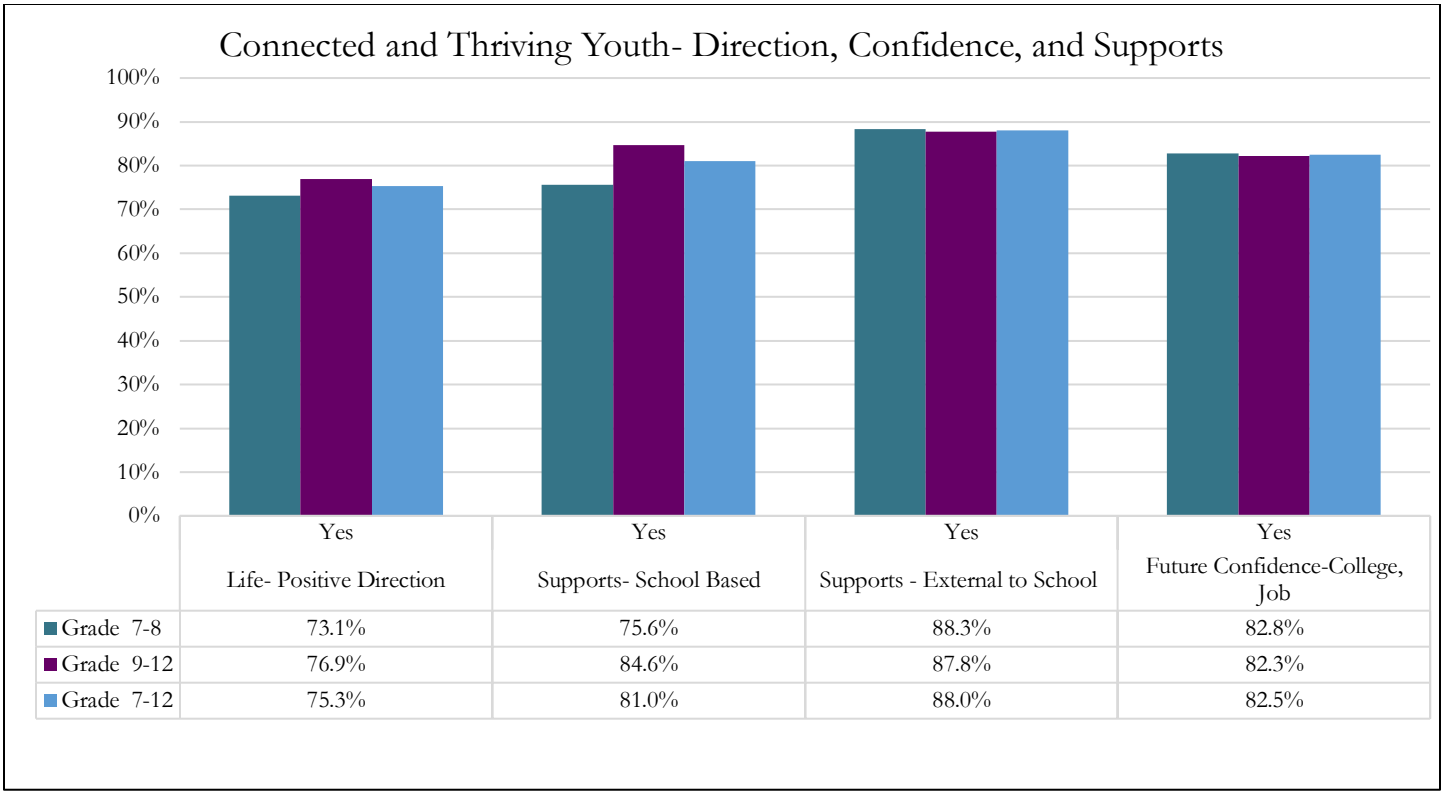




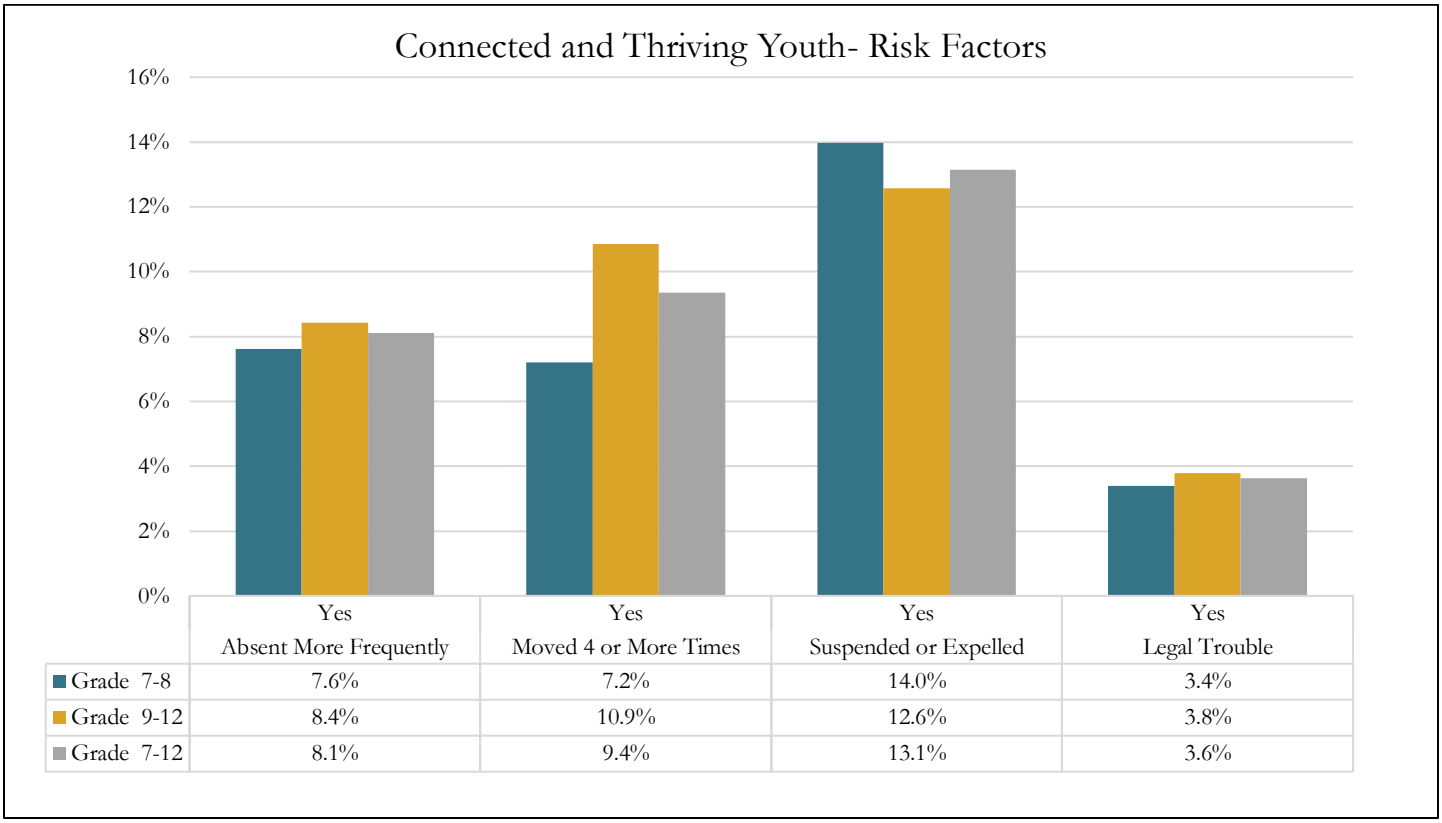


	Housing Problems		Food Insecurity	
	Past 12 Mo	Lifetime	Past 12 Mo	Lifetime
Grade 7-8	1.3%	5.5%	3.8%	5.5%
Grade 9-12	0.3%	2.6%	0.9%	2.9%
Grade 7-12	0.7%	3.8%	2.1%	4.0%

Connected and Thriving Youth

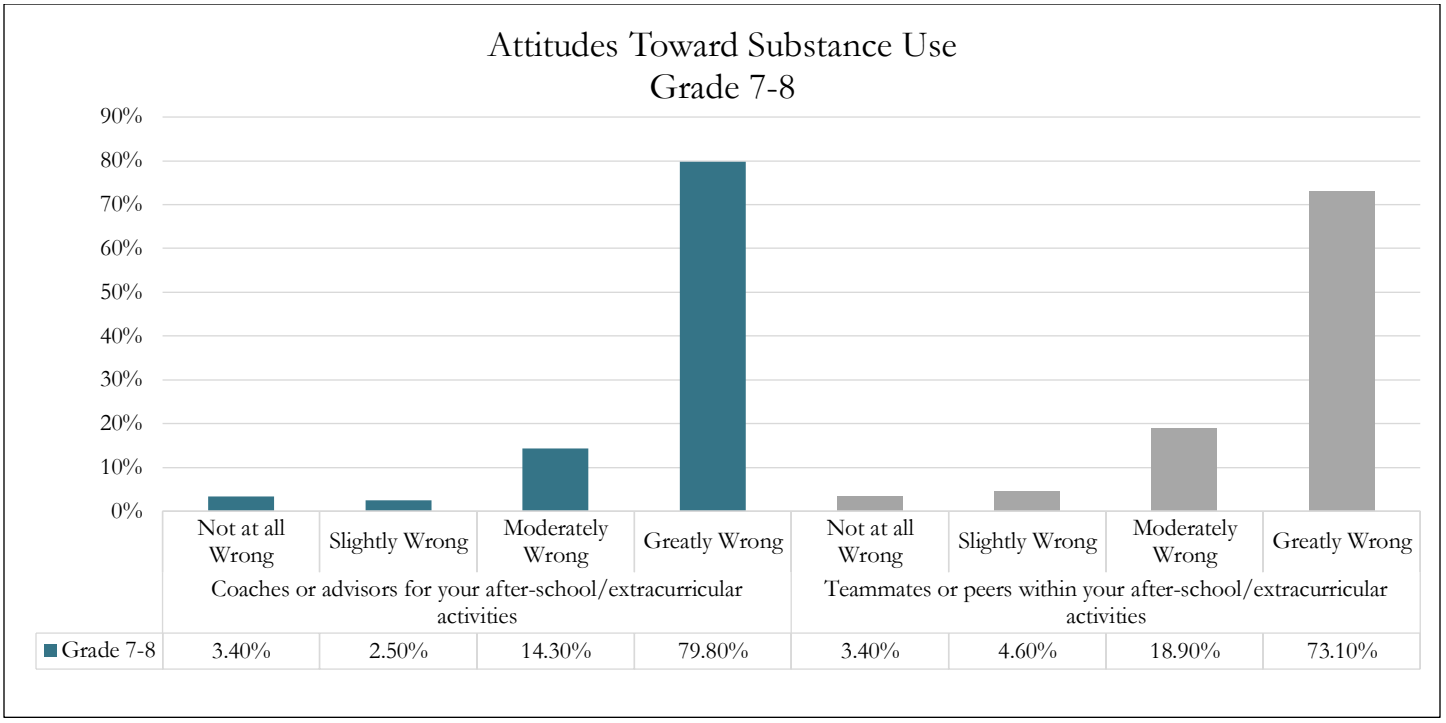
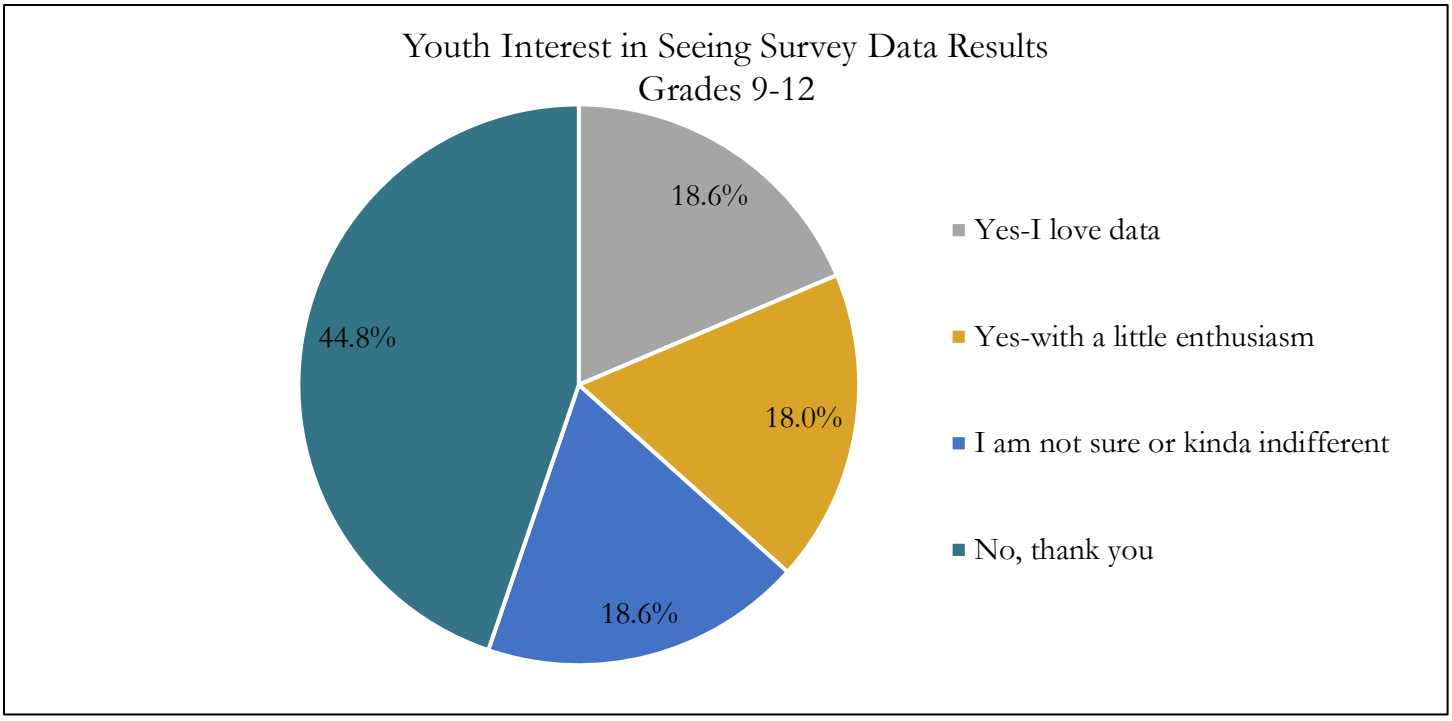


	Yes Life- Positive Direction	Yes Supports- School Based	Yes Supports - External to School	Yes Future Confidence-College, Job
Grade 7-8	73.1%	75.6%	88.3%	82.8%
Grade 9-12	76.9%	84.6%	87.8%	82.3%
Grade 7-12	75.3%	81.0%	88.0%	82.5%



	Yes Absent More Frequently	Yes Moved 4 or More Times	Yes Suspended or Expelled	Yes Legal Trouble
Grade 7-8	7.6%	7.2%	14.0%	3.4%
Grade 9-12	8.4%	10.9%	12.6%	3.8%
Grade 7-12	8.1%	9.4%	13.1%	3.6%

Custom Questions



Youth Interest in Survey Results