

Town of Wolcott

Youth Voices Count
Survey Report, Fall 2022

Grades 7-12

youth
VOICES
count

Survey Conducted by:

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C O N S U L T I N G

PROGRAM EVALUATION • GRANT PREPARATION • CAPACITY BUILDING

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Introduction

The following report is a summary of data that was gathered during the fall semester of 2022 at Tyrell Middle School (grades 7-8) and Wolcott High School (grades 9-12). Data collected from this student survey will be used in the planning and development of strategies, policies, and practices for the sponsoring organization, Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA), as well as other educational and social service organizations.

This survey was administered to youth enrolled in Town of Wolcott 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 of Wolcott.

It is important to note that COVID-19 greatly disrupted lives beginning in March 2020, which may have ongoing impacts on youth substance use rates and mental health concerns.

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, and other related behaviors among students in grades 7-12 in the year 2022.
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 Connecticut 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.

Youth Voices Count Survey is a product of B. Weyland Smith Consulting, LLC. Located in Wethersfield, Connecticut, B. Weyland Smith Consulting researchers have over 48 years combined experience of survey and statistical research regarding youth behaviors, perspectives, and experiences, specific to substance use, mental health and related risk and protective factors.

Youth Voices Count Survey was established with the support of many youth 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 behavioral and electronic communications, extracurricular activities and toxic stress.



Survey Methodology:



Survey Consent:

The Youth Voices Count Survey was administered in Fall of 2022 to students in Wolcott. 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 an opportunity to review the survey document.

Survey Administration:

All surveys were administered using SurveyMonkey.com website and software. Students were directed to access a link to the survey and an instructional 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 to not 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 the Social Sciences) for data analysis. A total of 18 surveys (2.1% of original sample of 864 surveys) were omitted from the sample pool due to lack of any responses other than demographics (16) and survey responses that were implausible (2). The final sample size after surveys were omitted was 846 surveys for grades 7-12.

Sample Response Rates:

Response rates by grade level and school 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 2022-2023 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.

Sample Response Rates	Sample Count	Population Count	Response Rate (%)
Grade 7	147	167	88.02%
Grade 8	159	173	91.91%
Grade 9	150	162	92.59%
Grade 10	139	165	84.24%
Grade 11	127	160	79.38%
Grade 12	124	172	72.09%
Grades 7-8	306	340	90.00%
Grades 9-12	540	659	81.94%
Grades 7-12	846	999	84.68%

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-sampled 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-sampled students in this population.

	Confidence Level	Confidence Interval
Grades 7-8	95.00%	1.77
Grades 9-12	95.00%	1.79
Grades 7-12	95.00%	1.32

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 846 students (414 males, 429 females; 3 students did not specify their biological sex.) Refer to the Table below for more descriptions of the sample by grade level.

	7 th grade	8 th grade	9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
Total	147	159	150	139	127	124
Female	77	78	79	72	61	62
Male	69	80	71	67	65	62
Did not Identify	1	1	0	0	1	0

Statistical Analyses:

Statistical comparisons by biological sex (male/female) 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 African American, White, and/or the other category. Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Other (2 or more races) were combined into an aggregate category titled “All Other Races”, to simplify analyses and ensure that no individuals are inadvertently identified due to small sample sizes of specific racial groups. Thus, the core race/ethnicity groups included in the statistical analyses for race differences were: White, Black, Hispanic or Latino, or All Other Races (organized in table below by color).

Race/Ethnicity Category	Grades 7 thru 8	Grades 9 thru 12	Grades 7 thru 12
White	73.20%	68.89%	70.45%
Black or African American	4.58%	4.63%	4.61%
Hispanic or Latino	14.38%	17.59%	16.43%
Asian	2.61%	2.96%	2.84%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.98%	0.74%	0.83%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.98%	0.00%	0.35%
Other (2 or more races selected or race not Hispanic)	2.29%	4.81%	3.90%
Not Specified	0.98%	0.37%	0.59%

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>).

Statistical Comparisons by Gender Identity:

In the interest of assessing how gender identity may impact youth behavioral health, analysis was done to determine statistically significant differences among students identifying as the same gender as their biological sex (cisgender), and those that reported their gender as “non-binary,” “transgender,” or “I am not sure right now.” Because of the smaller sample size for these categories, they were grouped together for analyses. Statistically significant differences reported are significant at $p < 0.05$. It should be noted that gender identity is different than sexual orientation. Gender identity reflects who you are, while sexual orientation is about who you’re attracted to. 30 students (3.6%) identified as non-binary, transgender, or “I am not sure right now.”

Gender Identity	
Male	411
Female	405
Non-binary	12
Transgender	7
I am not sure right now	11
Did not Identify	0

Statistical Comparisons by Sexual Identity:

In the interest of assessing how sexual identity may impact youth behavioral health, analysis was done to determine statistically significant differences among students describing themselves as heterosexual, and those that described themselves as gay or lesbian, bisexual or pansexual, “I describe myself some other way,” and “I am not sure right now.” Statistically significant differences reported are significant at $p < 0.05$. 163 (19.3%) students described themselves as gay or lesbian, bisexual or pansexual, “I describe myself some other way,” or “I am not sure right now.”

Sexual Identity	
Heterosexual (straight)	655
Gay or Lesbian	23
Bisexual or Pansexual	83
I describe myself some other way	22
I am not sure right now	35
I do not know what this question is asking	26
Did not Identify	2

Executive Summary:

Student Mental Wellbeing:

Anxiety: For grades 7-12, 24.5% of youth reported feelings of anxiety in the past year as occurring almost always (17.8%) and always (6.7%). 24.5% of youth report their feelings of anxiety make things difficult for them in their lives always or almost always.

Sources of Anxiety: For grades 7-8, the most reported sources of stress or worry in their lives are academics, peers, and post-high school plans. For grades 9-12, it was academics, post-high school plans, and schedule. For all grades, social media and financial security ranked as the lowest source of anxiety among the provided choices.

Self-Harm: 14.3% of youth in grades 7-8 reported having thoughts of self-harm and 9.6% report having harmed themselves in their lifetime. For grades 9-12, 13.5% reported having thoughts of self-harm and 9.9% report having harmed themselves in their lifetime.

Depression: 17.9% of youth in grades 7-8 and 17.7% of youth in grades 9-12 reported having “felt sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row so much it stopped me from doing my usual activities.”

Suicidal Ideation in the Past Year: 6.0% of youth in grades 7-8 and 9.4% of youth in grades 9-12 reported having considered attempting suicide within the past year.

Comfort Seeking Help: For grades 7-12, the sources youth felt most comfortable seeking help from were parents (63.8%) and friends (59.4%).

Having a Trusted Adult: 89.1% of youth in grades 7-12 agreed with the statement, “I have at least one adult in my life that I can share my thoughts and feelings with.”

Community and School Safety: For grades 7-12, 89.7% of youth agreed with the statement, “I feel safe in my community” and 88.5% agree with the statement, “I feel safe at school.”

Bullying:

Bullying Frequency: 50.9% of youth in grades 7-12 report having been bullied in their lifetime, of those youth. 5.9% experienced this 1 to 5 days in the past month, 1.1% 6 to 10 days in the past month and 1.2% for 21 days or more in the past month.

Bullying Types: The types of bullying most frequently reported among youth grades 7-12 were mean names or comments, exclusion, and rumors.

Bullying Locations: Bullying most frequently occurs in the classroom or online, and in the hallways.

Gaming and Social Media:

Gaming Assets and Consequences: For grades 7-12, 54.9% of youth indicated that as a result of gaming they “felt more connected with others.” The most common negative consequence of gaming was “I did not get enough sleep” (24.8%), followed by “I did not complete my homework or study” (20.3%).

Social Media Assets and Consequences: For grades 7-12, 60.8% of youth indicated that as a result of social media they “felt more connected with others.” 31.1% of youth reported they had a hard time stopping using social media (ex. scrolling, checking, refreshing) and 30.1% reported hearing or seeing something their parents would think was inappropriate.

Substance Use and Gambling Rates:

Youth in Grades 7-8: Alcohol (2.7%) was most used in students' lifetimes, followed by vaping nicotine, cigarettes, and marijuana, all at 1.0%. For past month use, cigarettes, marijuana, and over the counter medicines (not for medical use) were the most common at 0.7%.

Youth in Grades 9-12: Alcohol (17.7%) was most used in students' lifetimes, followed by marijuana (12.2%) and vaping nicotine (12.0%). For past month use, alcohol was used most frequently (8.6%), followed by marijuana (6.7%), and vaping nicotine (5.4%).

Substance Use Perceptions and Behaviors:

Perceived Risk: For grades 7-8 and 9-12, non-medical use of prescription drugs had the highest perceived risk. Gaming 3+ hours and gambling had the lowest perceived risk, followed by marijuana.

Parental Disapproval: For grades 7-8 perceived parental disapproval was highest for smoking (97.7%), followed by non-medical use of prescription drugs (97.6%), and vaping nicotine or marijuana (96.6%). For grades 9-12 parental disapproval was highest for non-medical use of prescription drugs (94.7%), followed by smoking (94.3%), and vaping nicotine (93.2%).

Peer Disapproval: For grades 7-8 perceived peer disapproval was highest for smoking, followed by non-medical use of prescription drugs and marijuana. For grades 9-12, perceived peer disapproval was highest for non-medical use of prescription drugs, followed by smoking, and drinking alcohol.

Accessibility of Alcohol and Other Drugs-Perception of Ease of Access: For grades 7-8 and 9-12, alcohol was perceived as the easiest to obtain, followed by vaping products with nicotine. For youth in grades 7-8 and 9-12, prescription drugs were reported to be the hardest to obtain.

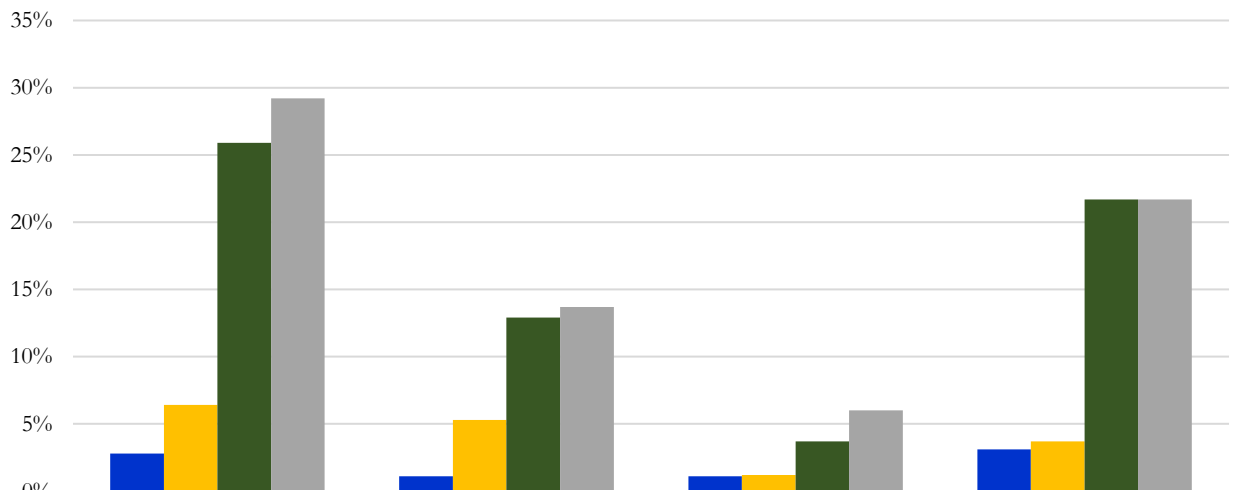
Accessibility of Alcohol and Other Drugs-Sources: Overall, students in grades 7-12 most frequently access tobacco, vape products, and marijuana from friends/peers. Alcohol is most frequently accessed from home with parents' permission, and prescription drugs are most accessed from home without parents' permission or friends/peers.

Locations of Substance Use: Vaping products and marijuana are most used "with friends at my home or my friends' home," while alcohol is most used at home with parents/guardians present. Prescription drugs not for medical use are the only substance most often used "at home, alone."

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Marijuana/THC: Among youth in grades 11-12, more drove under the influence of marijuana/THC (0.8% in the past month) than alcohol (0.4% in the past month).

Other Substance Use: Of substances less commonly used, the highest lifetime use rates for grades 7-12 were CBD products (3.2%), and inhalants (2.5%), followed by synthetic marijuana (2.0%). Heroin/fentanyl was 1.2%, noted here due to community concerns regarding the opioid epidemic in our state and nation.

Past Month Rate Comparisons to State and National, Grades 9-12



	Alcohol	Binge Drinking	Cigarettes	Marijuana
■ Wolcott	2.8%	1.1%	1.1%	3.1%
■ DRG F	6.4%	5.3%	1.2%	3.7%
■ Connecticut (YRBSS)	25.9%	12.9%	3.7%	21.7%
■ National (YRBSS)	29.2%	13.7%	6.0%	21.7%

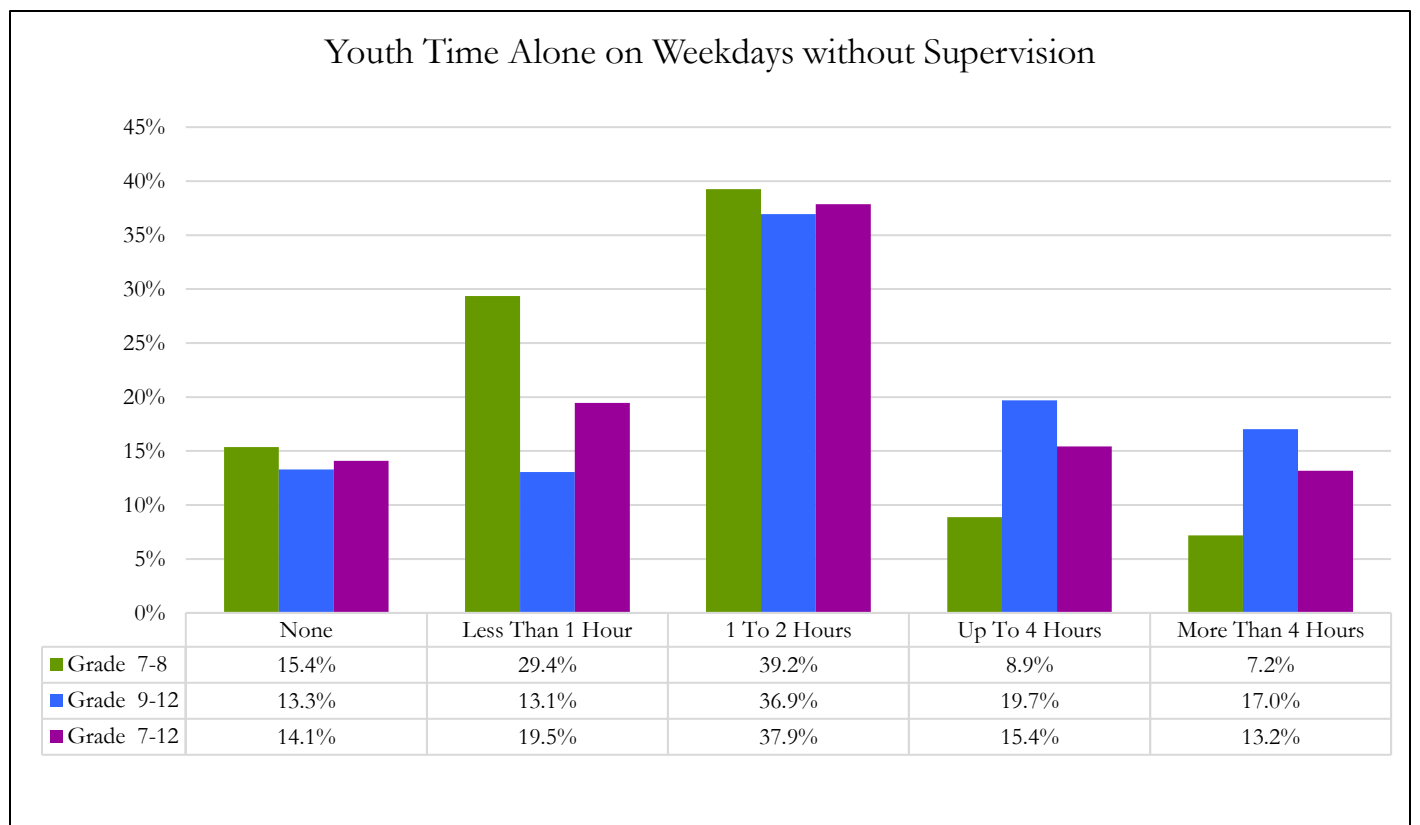
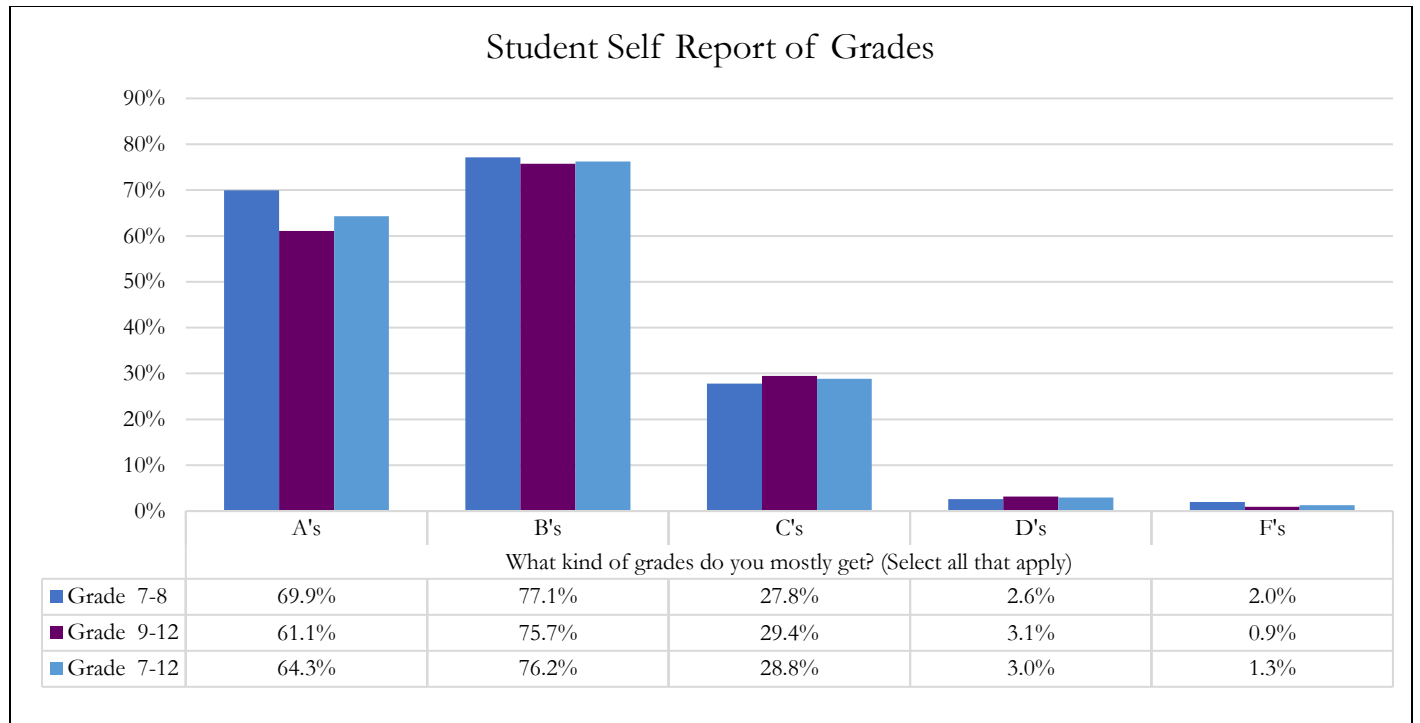
-YRBSS 2019* It should be noted that YRBSS data presented here is from 2019, the most recent year available, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many youth report less substance use and less access to substances during the pandemic, thus comparisons during this time period should be interpreted with caution.

-DRG reflects aggregated data from Youth Voices Count Surveys administered in communities within the same DRG.

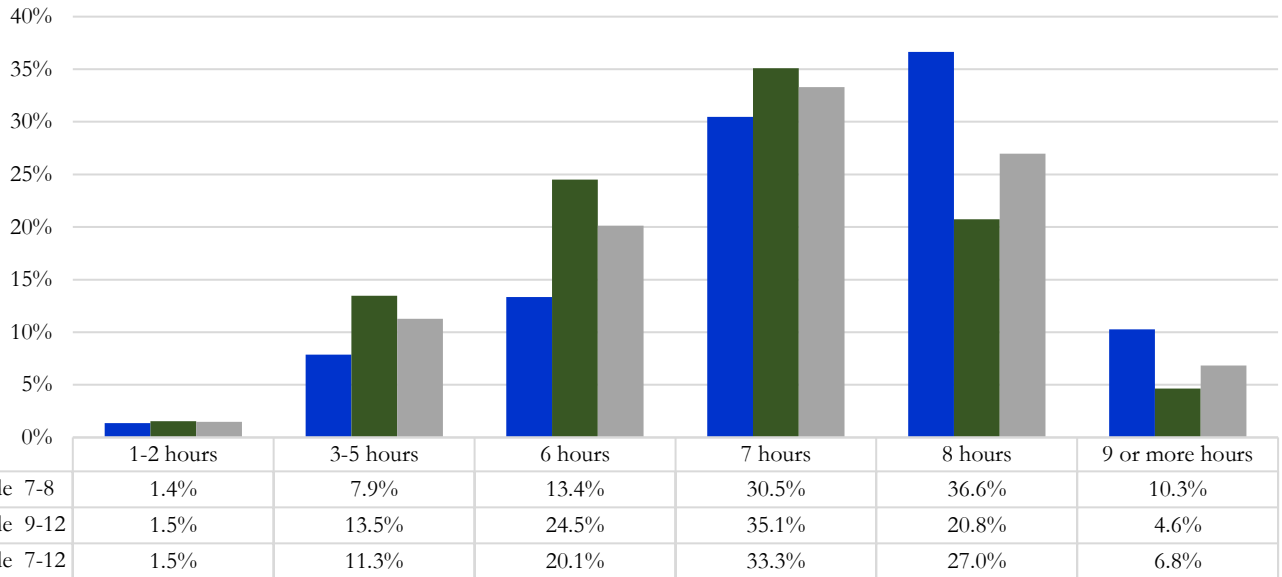
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For the following sections, tests for statistically significance difference were performed by biological sex, gender identity, sexual identity, and race and ethnicity for grades 7-8 and 9-12. Sexual Identity responses were grouped into three categories, heterosexual, LGBS, and those who didn't know what the sexual identity question was asking. LGBS is an aggregate of gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, and those that describe themselves some other way. 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, Black, Hispanic, and All Other Races. Any statistically significant difference in these groups is noted under the chart it applies to and on page 29 where a list of associations with substance use are provided. There are instances where significance testing indicates differences among categories, however they are less statistically reliable due to small numbers and thus are not reported here.

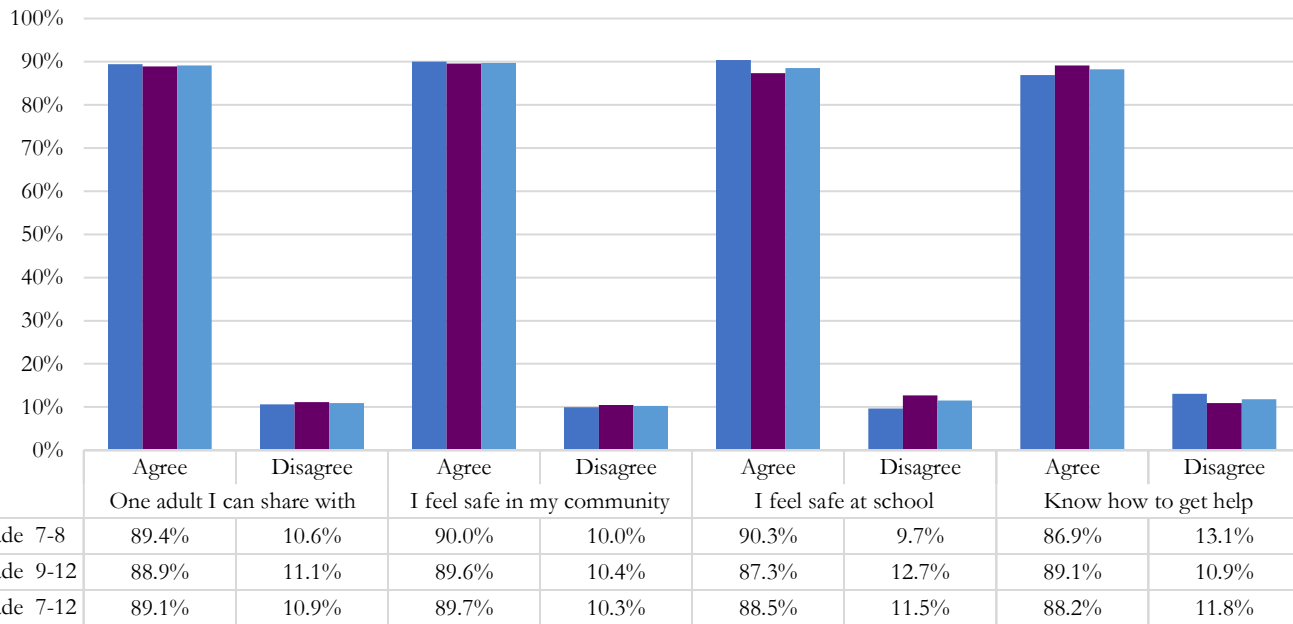
Youth Lifestyles:



Youth Hours of Sleep on Weeknights



Perception of Having Trusted Adult and Feelings of Safety



*High school females are less likely to report feeling safe at school.

*Middle school Hispanic youth are less likely to report feeling safe in their community, at school, and knowing how to get help for mental health or substance use than white youth.

*Middle and high school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were less likely to report feeling safe in their community than cisgender youth.

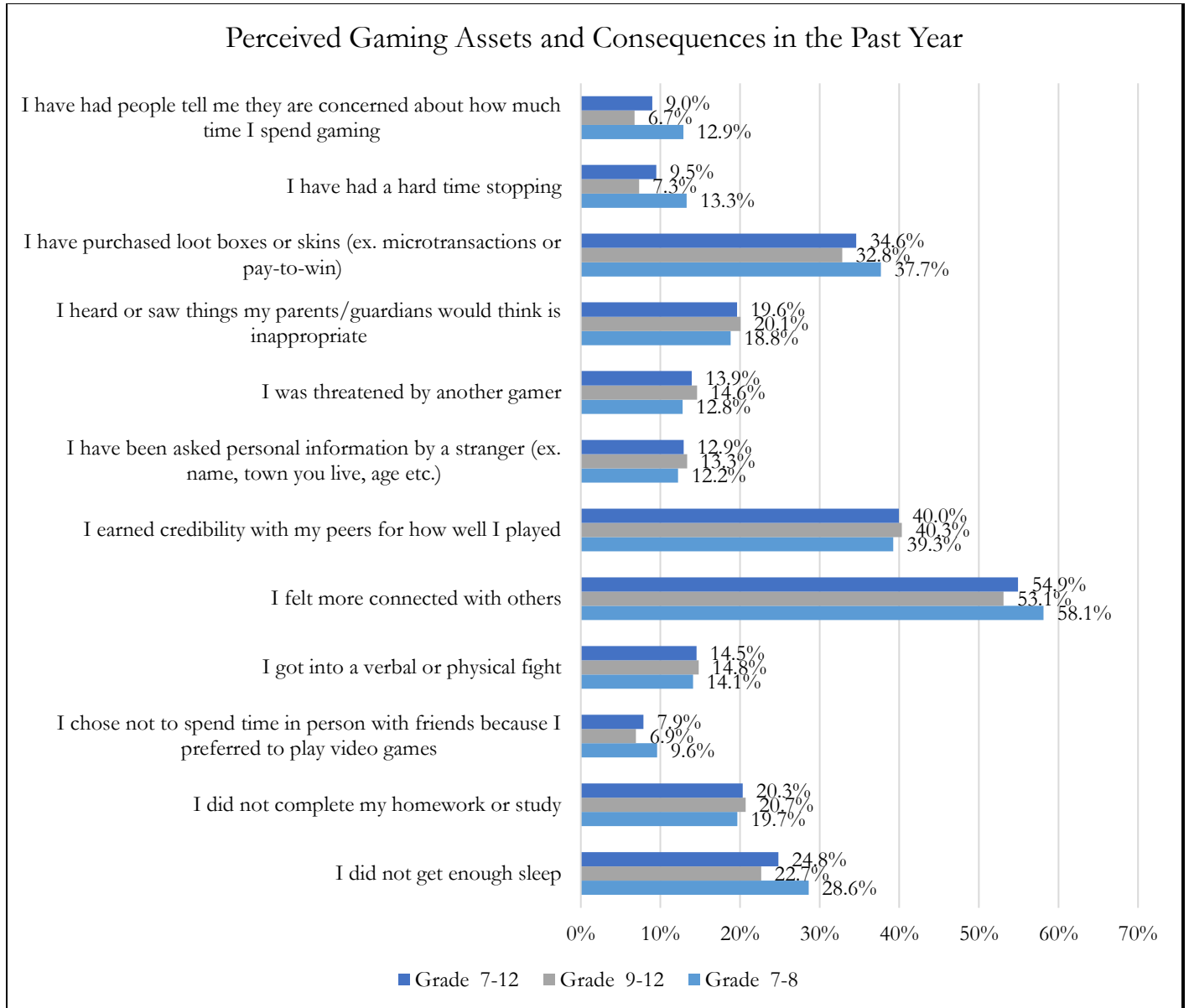
*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were less likely to report having an adult they could share feelings with, feeling safe at school, and knowing how to get help than cisgender youth.

*High and middle school youth who identify as LGBS were less likely to feel safe in the community.

*High school youth who identify as LGBS were less likely to have a trusted adult or feel safe at school.

*Middle school youth who identify as LGBS were less likely to know where to get help for themselves or peers for mental health or substance use problems.

Gaming:



*High school and middle school males were more likely than females to report feeling more connected to others, feeling they earned credibility, threats, and purchasing loot boxes.

*High school males were more likely than females to report not completing homework or studies, getting into verbal or physical fights, and having seen something their parents would think was inappropriate.

*Middle school males were more likely than females to report people sharing concern about how much time they spent gaming.

*High school white youth were less likely to report not getting enough sleep due to video games, being asked personal information, and seeing inappropriate things than Hispanic youth.

*High school youth in the “all other races” group were more likely to report not completing homework and receiving threats than white youth.

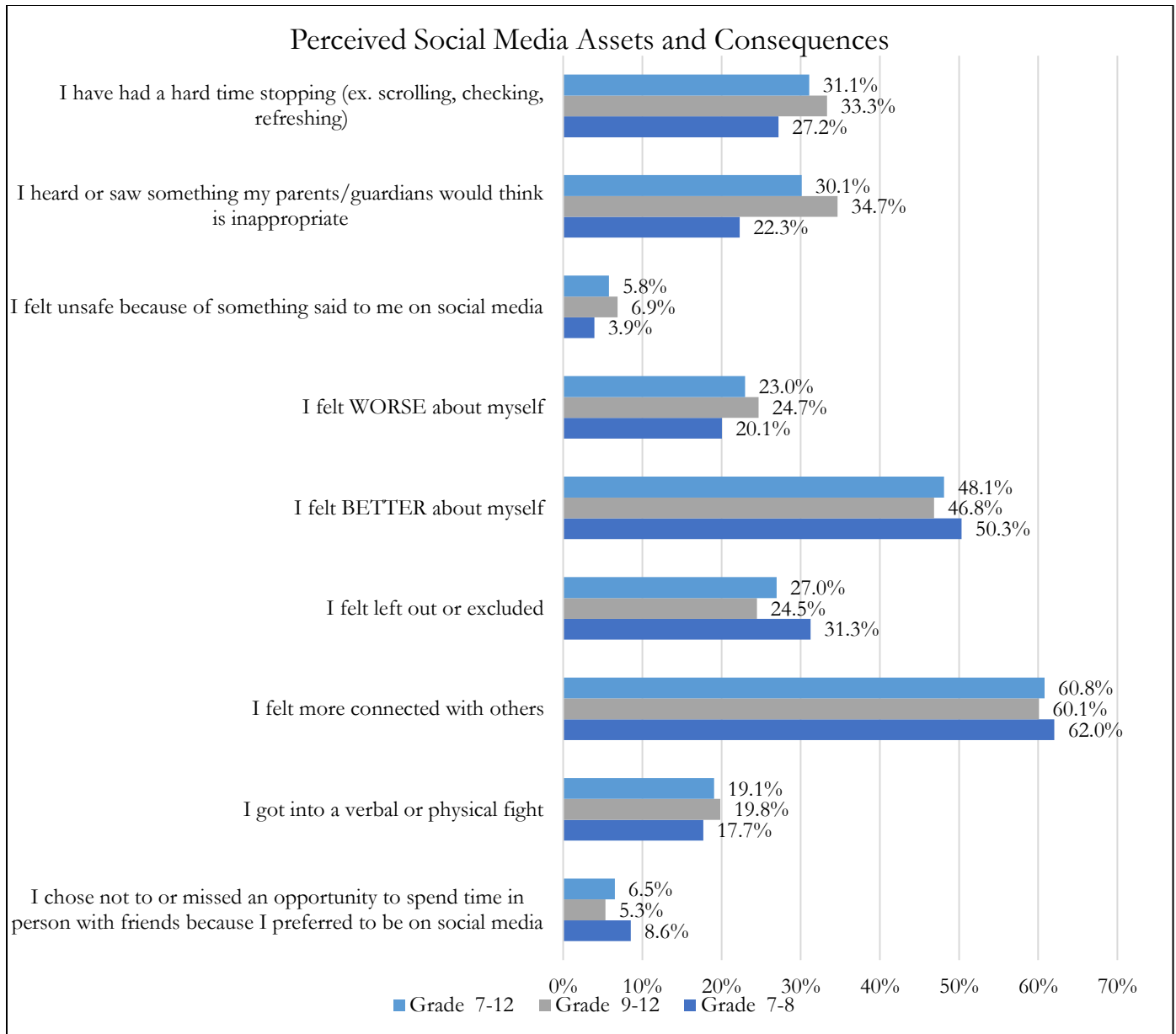
*High school Black youth were more likely to report having difficulty stopping than white and Hispanic youth.

*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure, were more likely to report not getting enough sleep and having a hard time stopping than cisgender youth.

*Middle school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to report not spending time in person with friends due to gaming.

*High and middle school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to choose not to spend time with others due to gaming and to have a hard time stopping.

Social Media:



*Middle and high school females were more likely than males to report feeling left out or excluded, feeling worse about themselves, and having a hard time stopping.

*High school females were more likely to report not spending time with friends in person, feeling better about themselves, and feeling unsafe because of social media than males.

*Middle school white youth were more likely to report feeling not missing opportunities to spend time in person because of social media than youth in the “all other races” group.

*Middle school Black youth were more likely to report getting into physical or verbal fights because of social media than white youth.

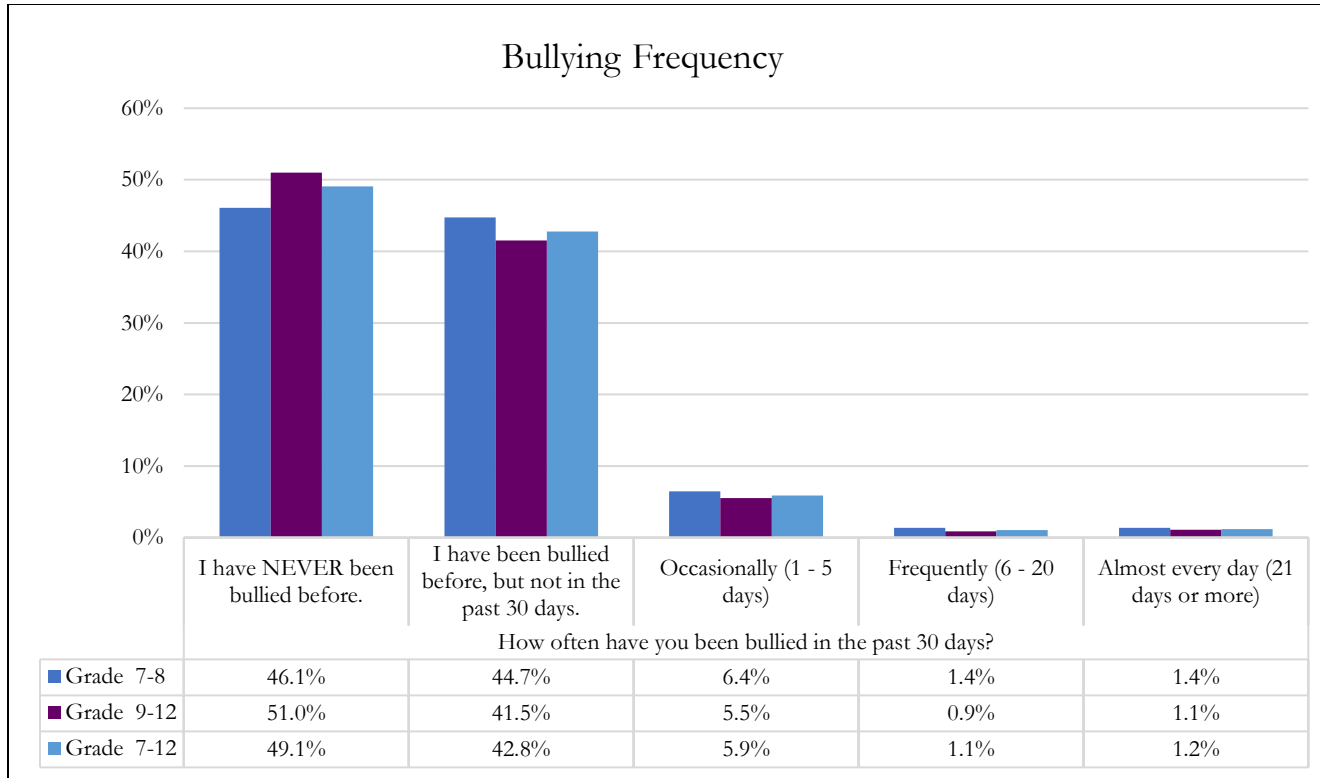
*High school and middle school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to report, feeling excluded and feeling worse about themselves because of social media.

*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to report having a hard time stopping use of social media.

*High and middle school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to feel left out or excluded due to social media.

*High school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to choose not to spend time with others, feel unsafe, and to have a hard time stopping.

Bullying:

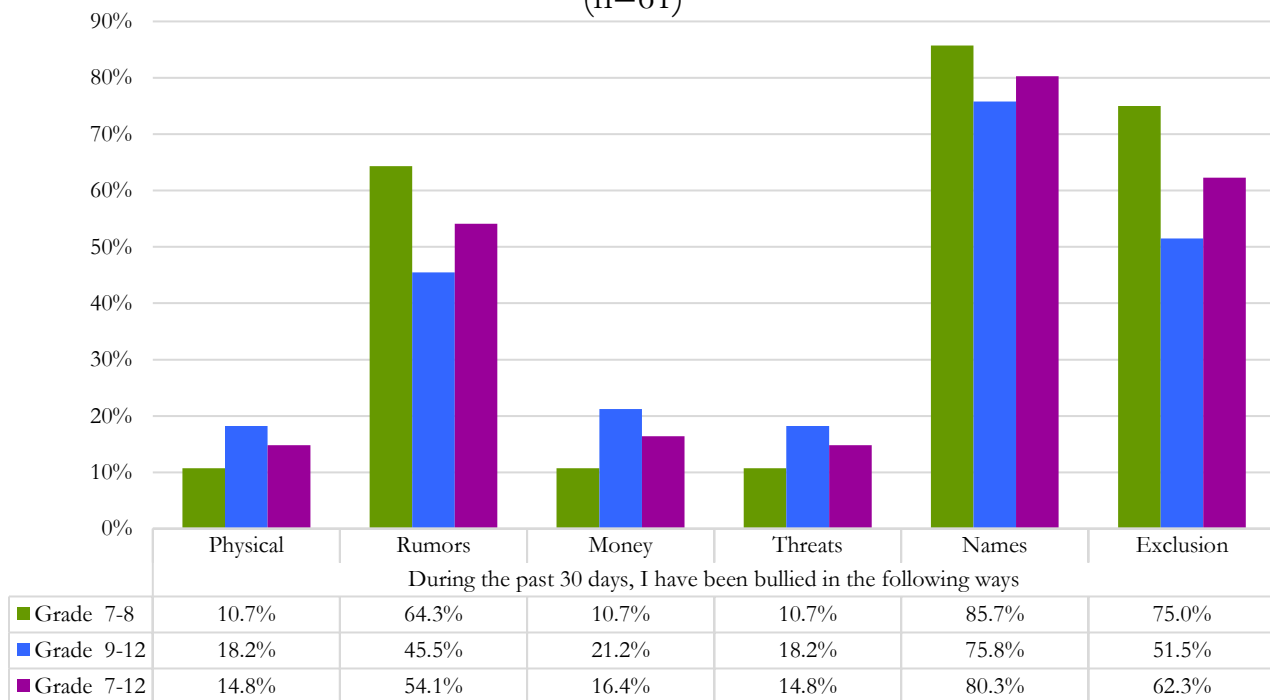


*Middle and high school females were more likely to report ever having been bullied than males.

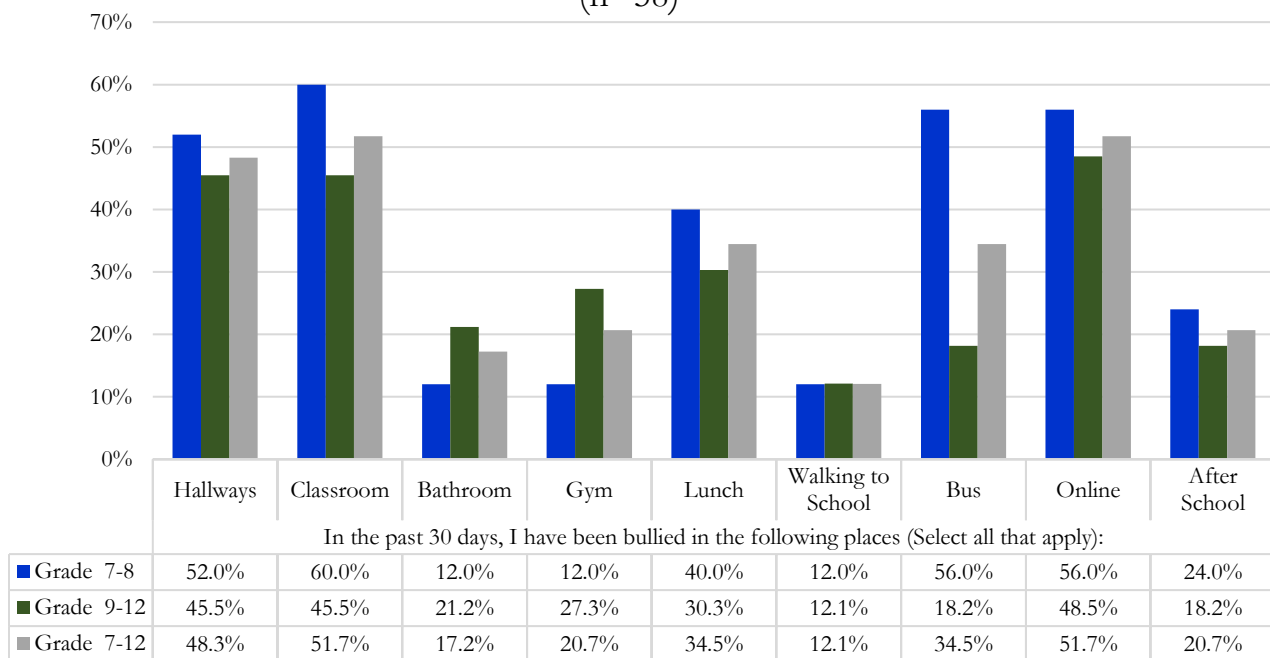
*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to report ever having been bullied than cisgender youth.

*High school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to have been bullied.

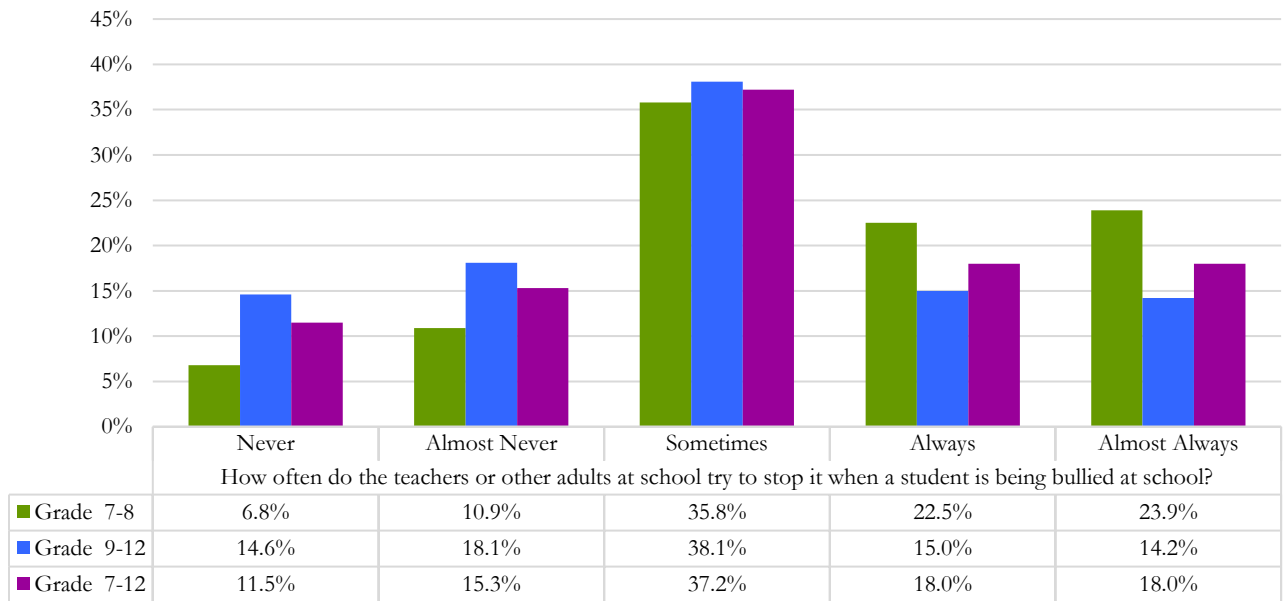
Types of Bullying (n=61)



Locations of Bullying (n=58)

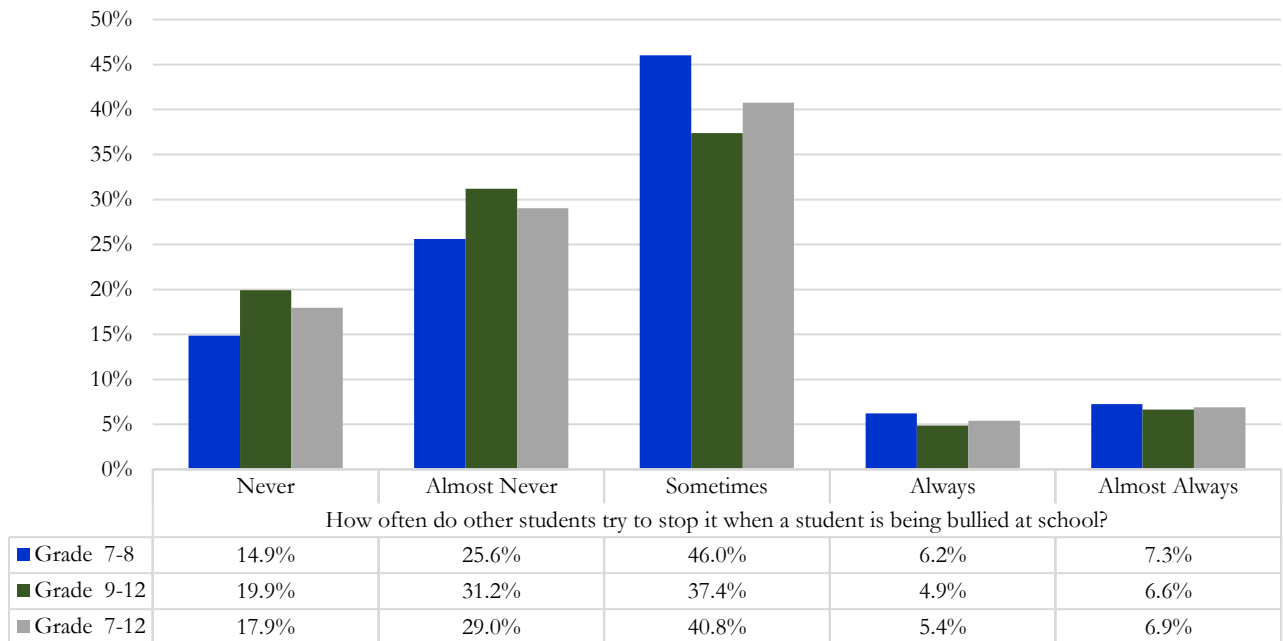


Frequency of Teachers/Adults Intervening When Bullying Occurs



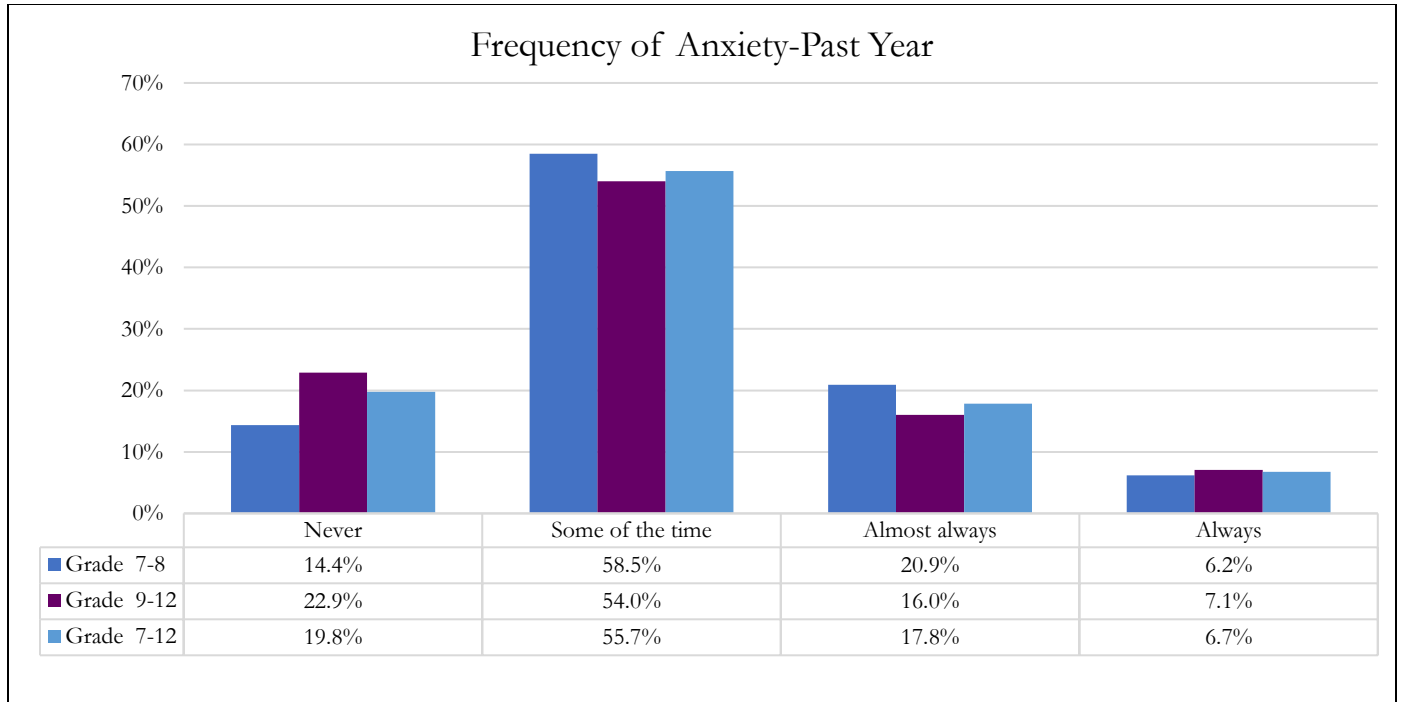
*Middle school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to report that teachers “sometimes” intervene when a student is being bullied.

Frequency of Students Intervening When Bullying Occurs



* Middle school Black youth are more likely to report that students almost never intervene than youth in the “all other races” group.

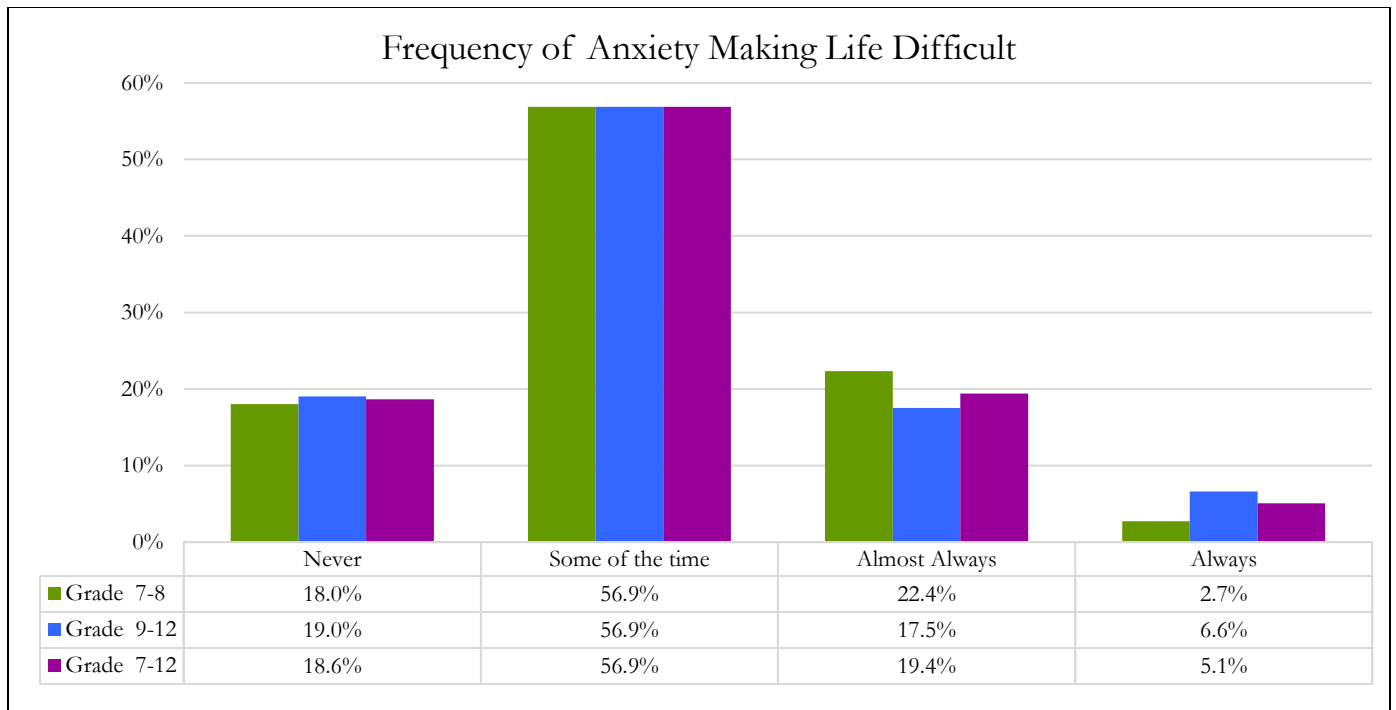
Emotional Health:



*Middle and high school females report more past year anxiety than males.

*Middle and high school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure are more likely to report past year anxiety.

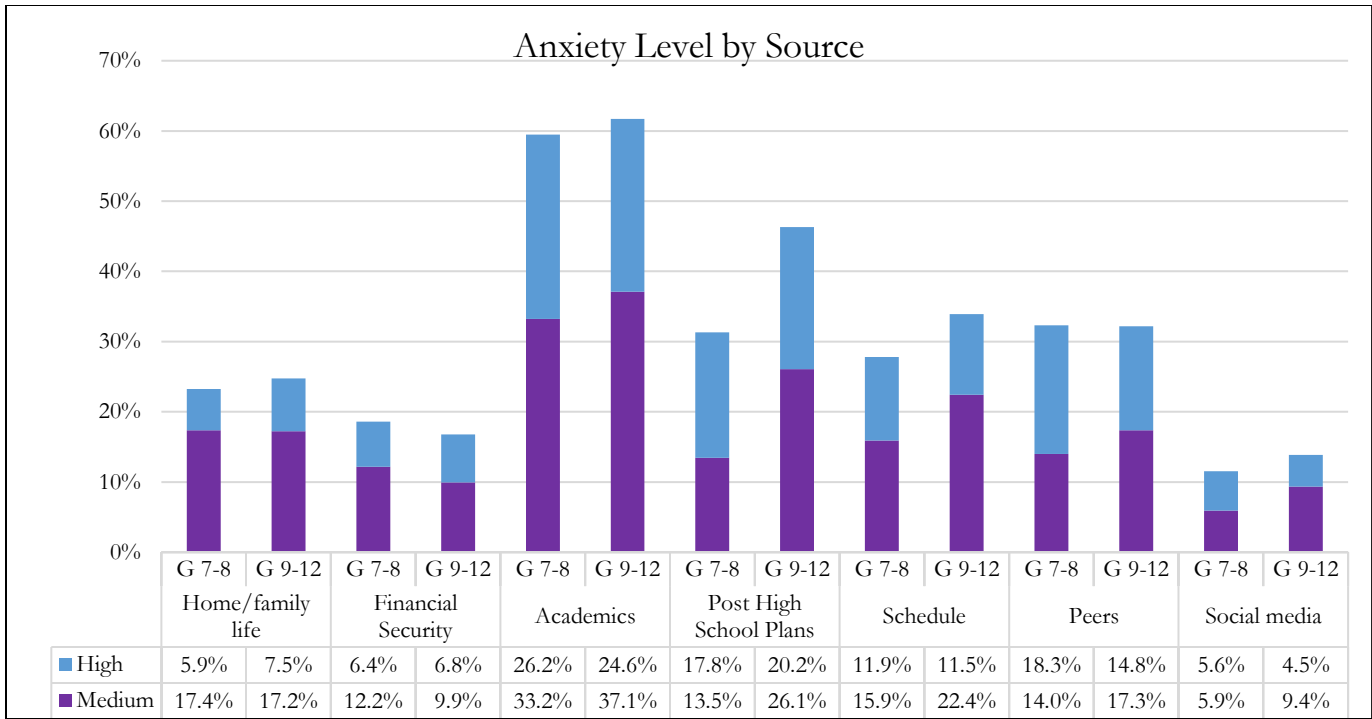
*High school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to report past year anxiety.



*Middle and high school females are more likely to report having anxiety make life difficult.

*Middle and high school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure are more likely to report anxiety making their life difficult.

*Middle and high school youth who identified as LGBS are more likely to report anxiety making their life difficult.



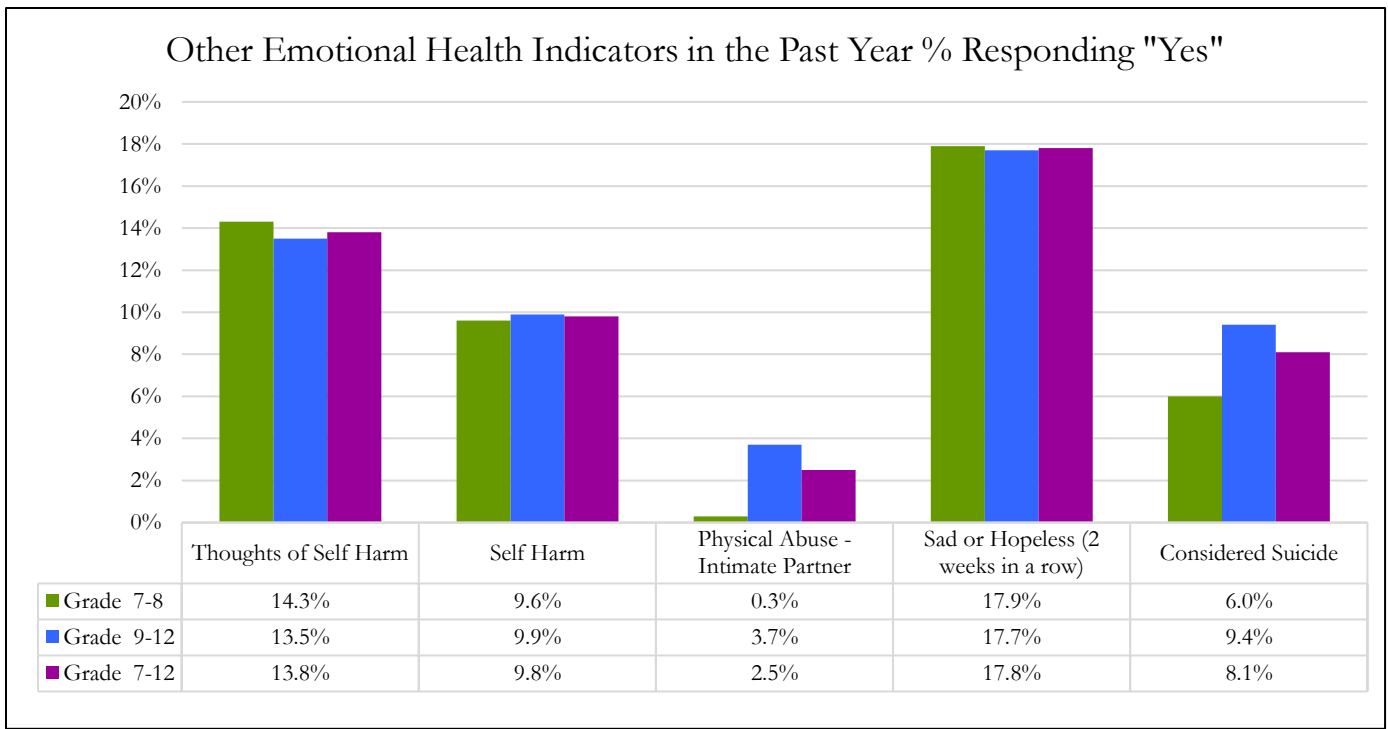
*Middle and high school females were more likely than males to report sources of anxiety as financial security, academics, schedule, peers, and social media.

*High school females were more likely than males to report sources of anxiety as home/family life and post high school plans.

*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to report home/family life and peers as sources of anxiety.

*High and middle school youth who identify as LGBS identified peers and social media as a source of anxiety.

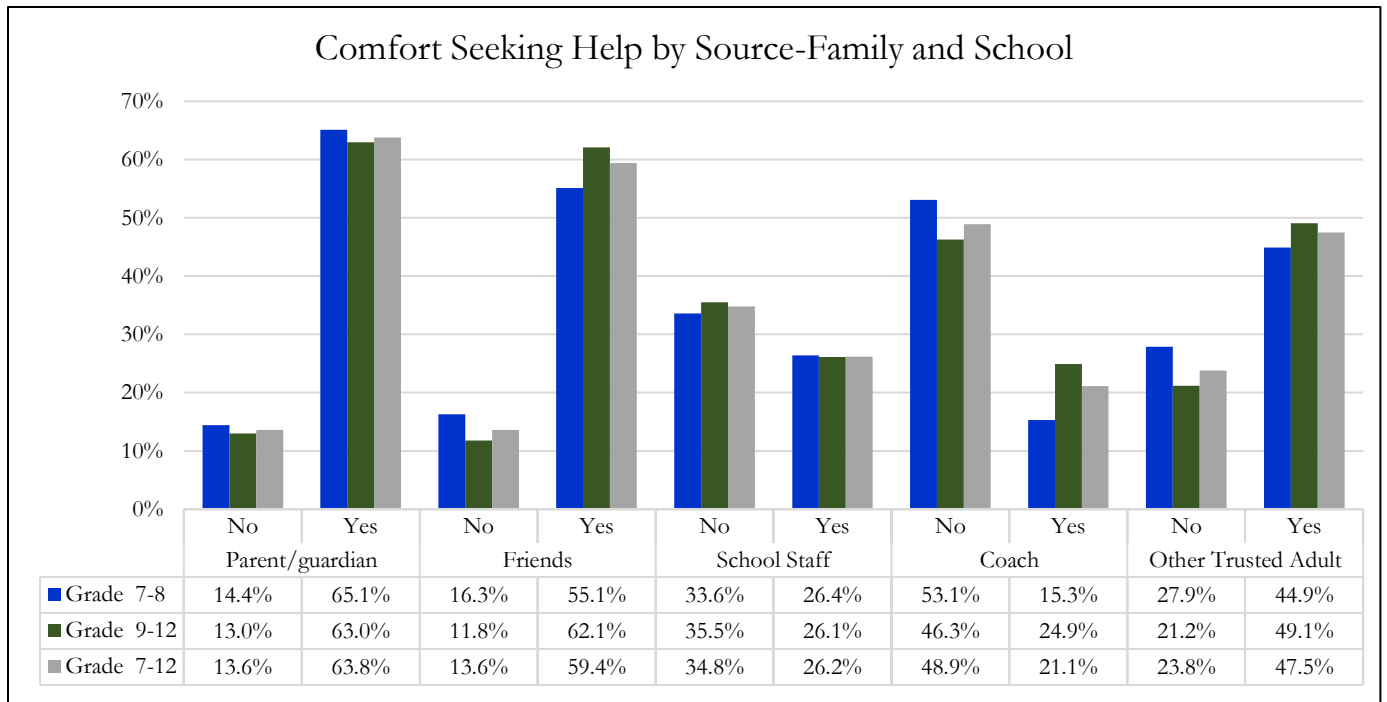
*High school youth who identify as LGBS noted home and family life, financial security, academics, and post high school plans as a source of anxiety.



Note: State data for grades 9-12 (YRBSS 2019) indicate that 30.6% of students felt sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks in a row, 12.7% considered suicide, 15.4% harmed themselves in the past year.

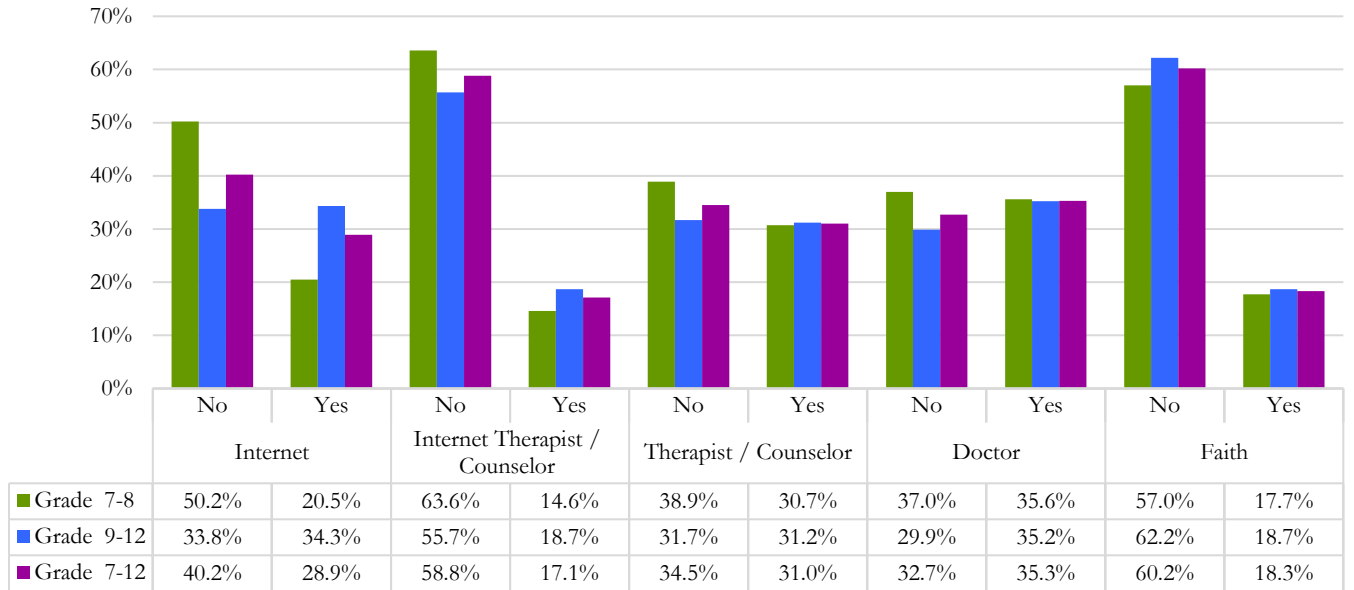


- *Middle and high school females were more likely than males to report thoughts of self-harm and feeling sad or hopeless two or more weeks in a row.
- *High school females were more likely to report self-harm behaviors than males.
- *High school Hispanic youth were more likely to report feeling sad or hopeless two or more weeks in a row than white youth.
- *Middle and high school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to report having thoughts of self-harm, self-harm behaviors, feeling sad or hopeless two or more weeks in a row, and having considered suicide in the past year.
- *Middle and high school youth who identified as LGBS were more likely to report having thoughts of self-harm, self-harm behaviors, feeling sad or hopeless two or more weeks in a row, and having considered suicide in the past year.
- *High school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to experience physical abuse.



- *High school females were more likely than males to report feeling comfortable seeking help from a friend.
- *High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were less likely to feel comfortable seeking help from a parent/guardian or coach.

Comfort Seeking Help by Source-Community and Internet



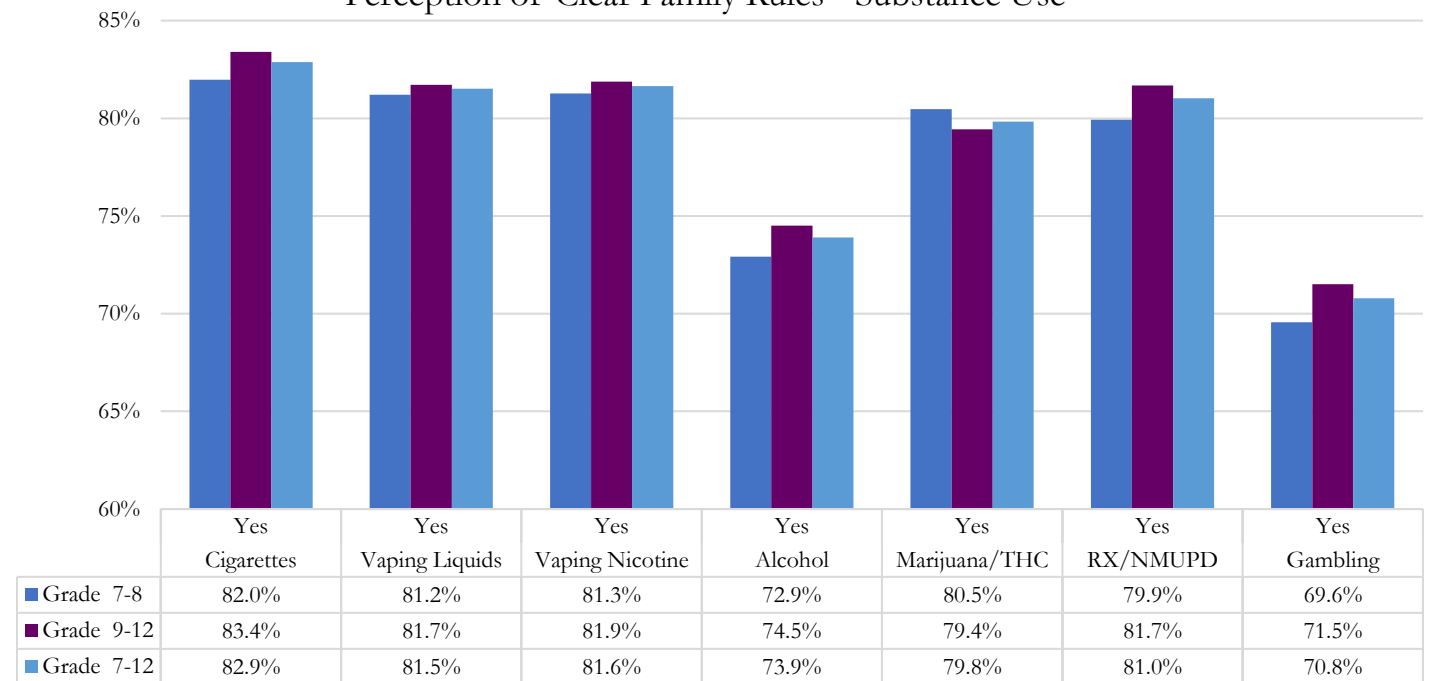
*High school females were more likely than males to report feeling comfortable using the internet to access an online therapist or counselor and in their community. They were also less likely than males to seek help from a faith or religious leader.

*High school Black youth were more likely to report comfort seeking help from a faith or religious leader than white youth.

*High school youth who identify as LGBS were less likely to report comfort seeking help from a faith or religious leader.

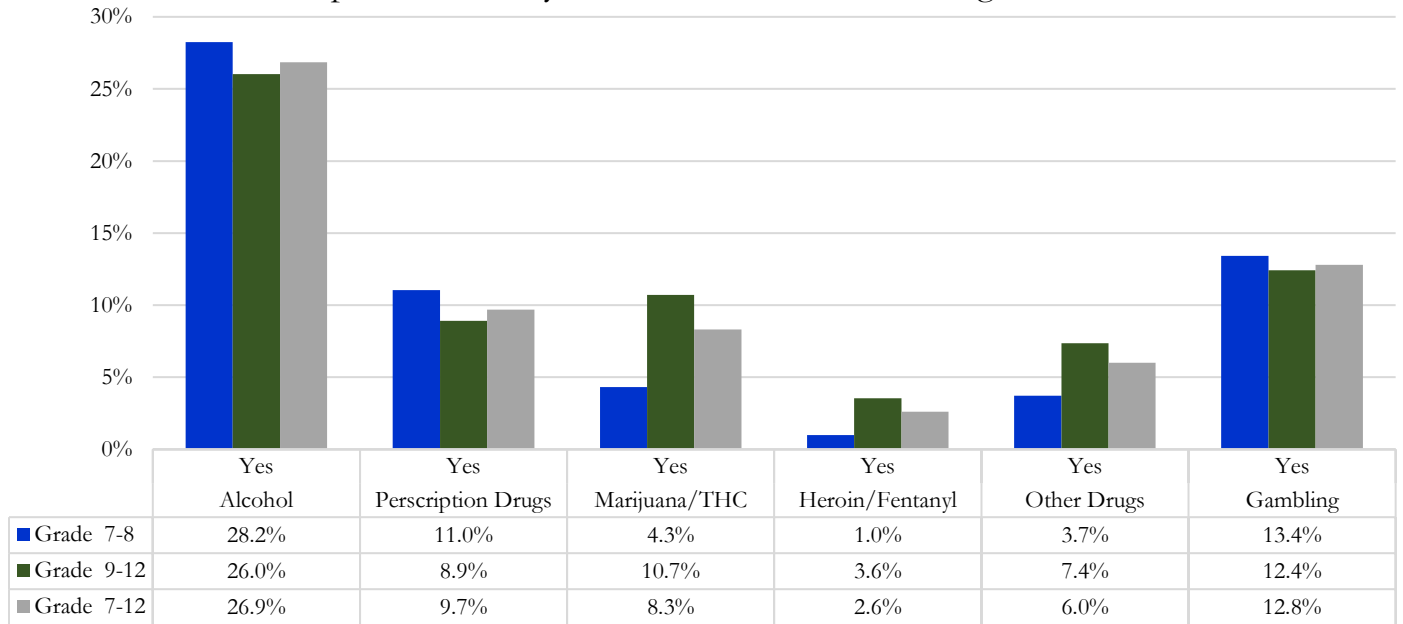
Perceptions of Substance Use, Family Rules and Experiences:

Perception of Clear Family Rules - Substance Use



*High school females were more likely than males to report clear family rules around vaping, alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs and gambling.

Perception of Family Substance Use and Gambling Problems



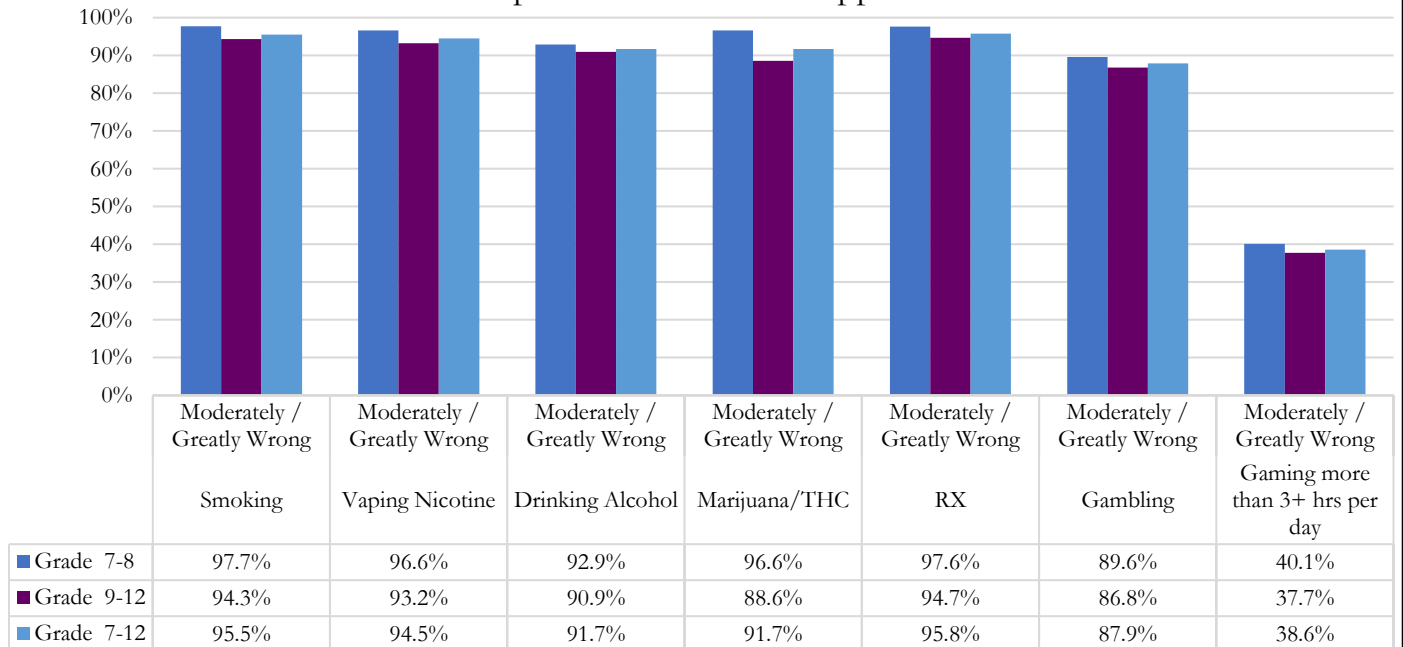
*High school Hispanic youth were more likely than white youth to report family problems with marijuana, heroin, and gambling.

*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely than their cisgender peers to report having family problems with other drugs.

*Middle school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely than their cisgender peers to report having family problems with alcohol.

*High school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to report family problems with other drugs.

Perception of Parental Disapproval



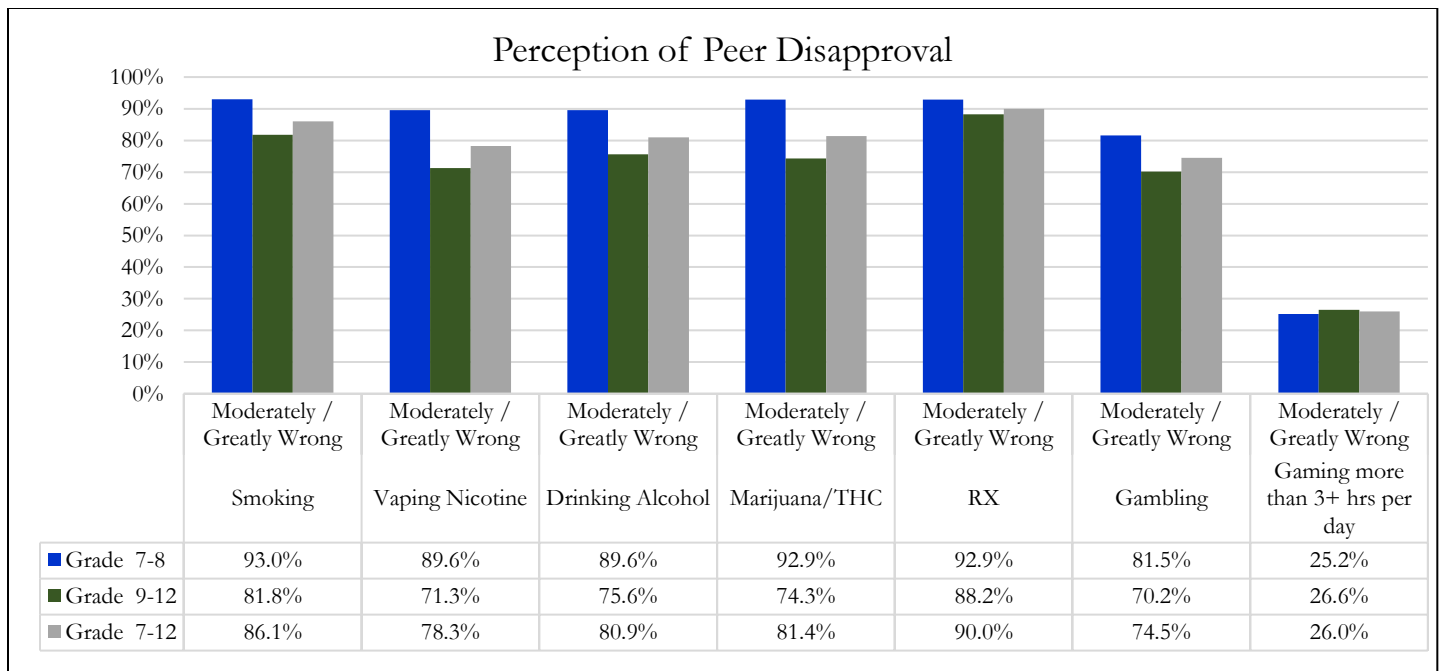
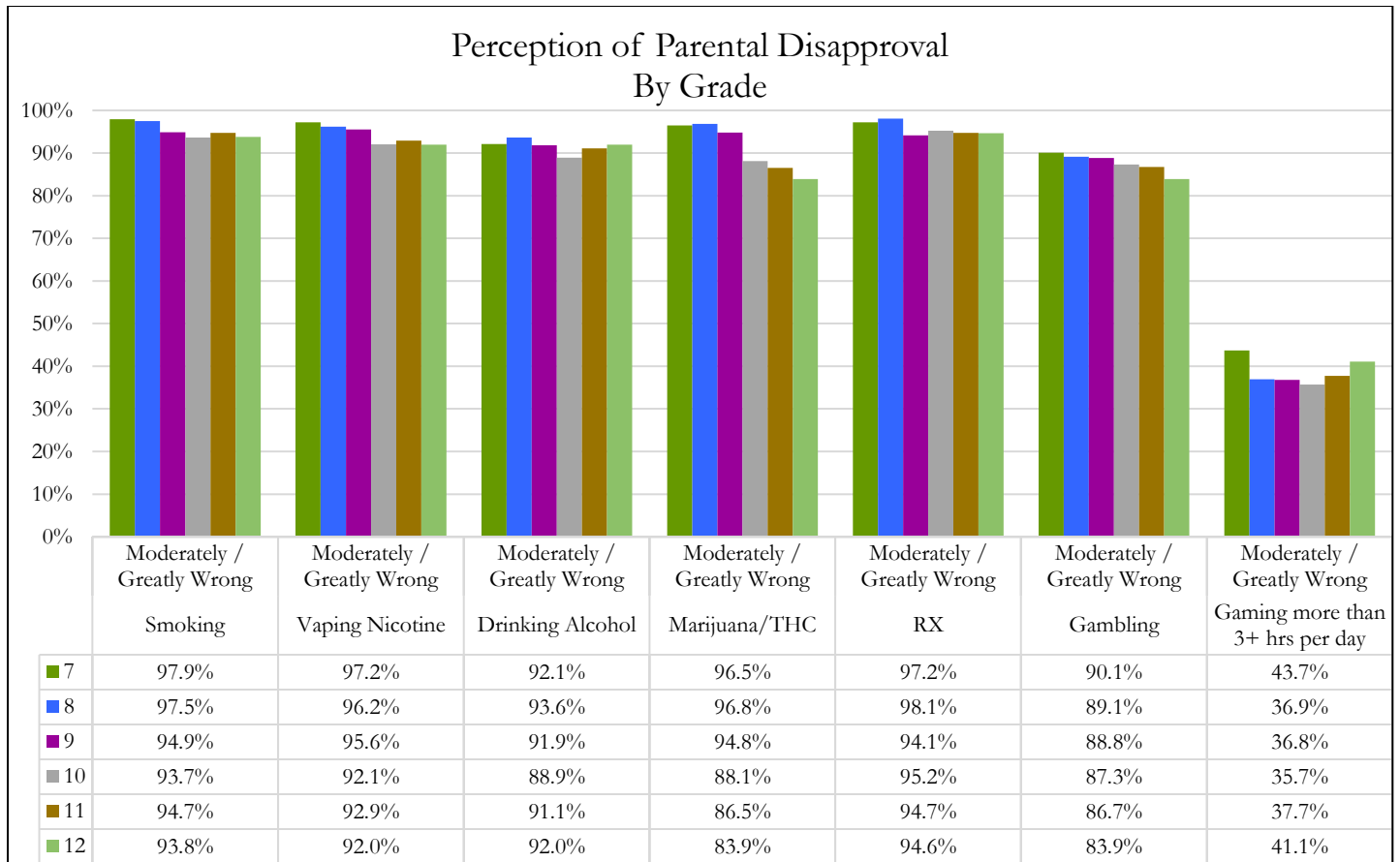
*High and middle school females report more parental disapproval for gambling and gaming than males.

*Middle school females report more parental disapproval for alcohol than males.

*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were less likely to report parental disapproval for marijuana and prescription drugs than their cisgender peers.

*Middle school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were less likely to report parental disapproval for smoking cigarettes than their cisgender peers.

*High school youth who identify as LGBS reported less parental disapproval of marijuana use.

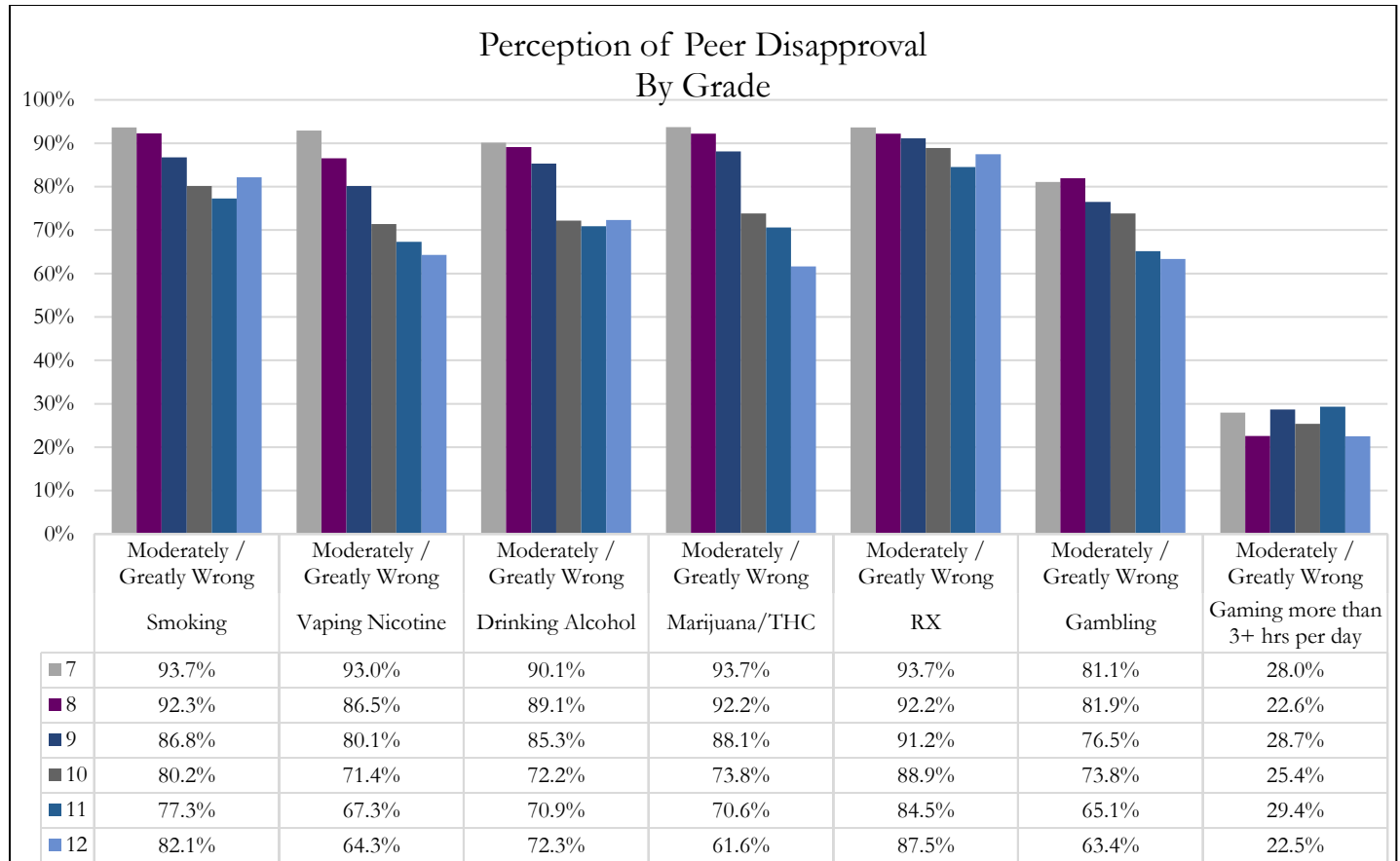


*High and middle school females report more peer disapproval of gambling

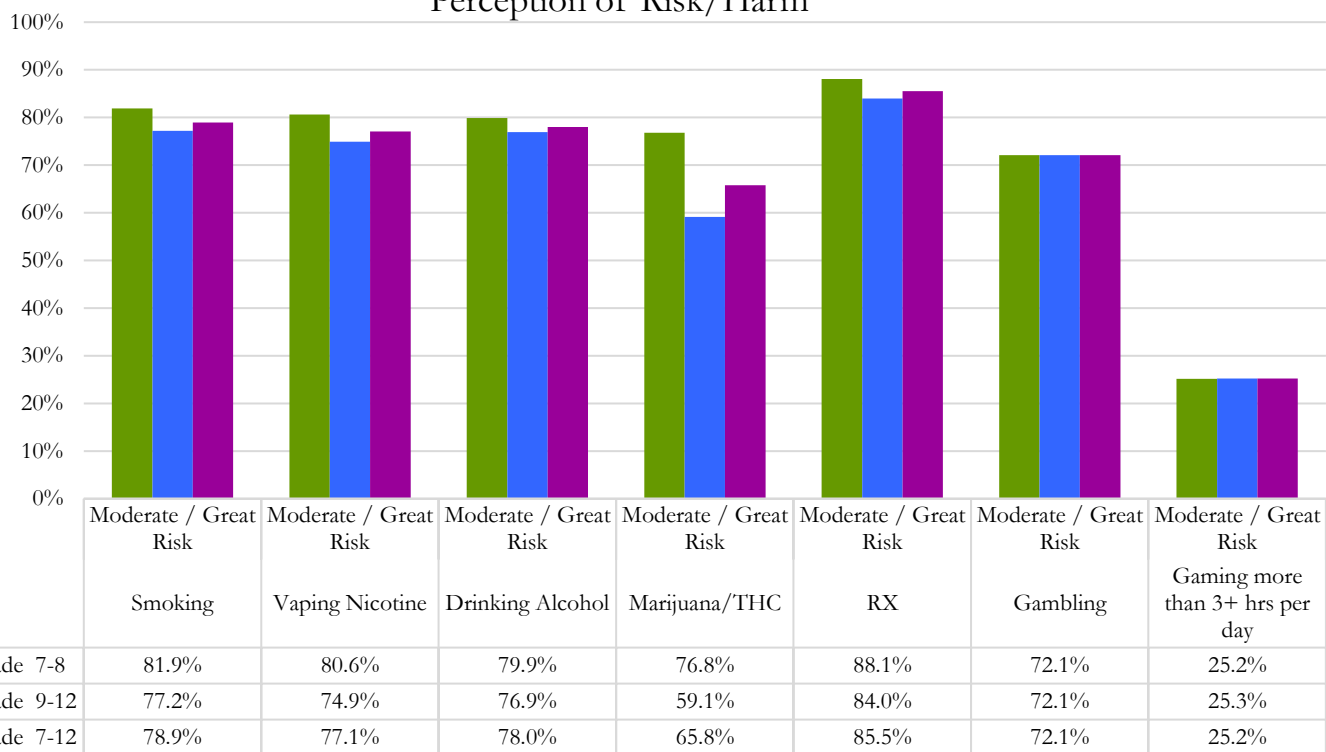
*Middle school Black youth perceive less peer disapproval of vaping than white youth

*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to report less peer disapproval of alcohol and prescription drugs.

*High school youth who identify as LGBS reported less peer disapproval of marijuana use.



Perception of Risk/Harm

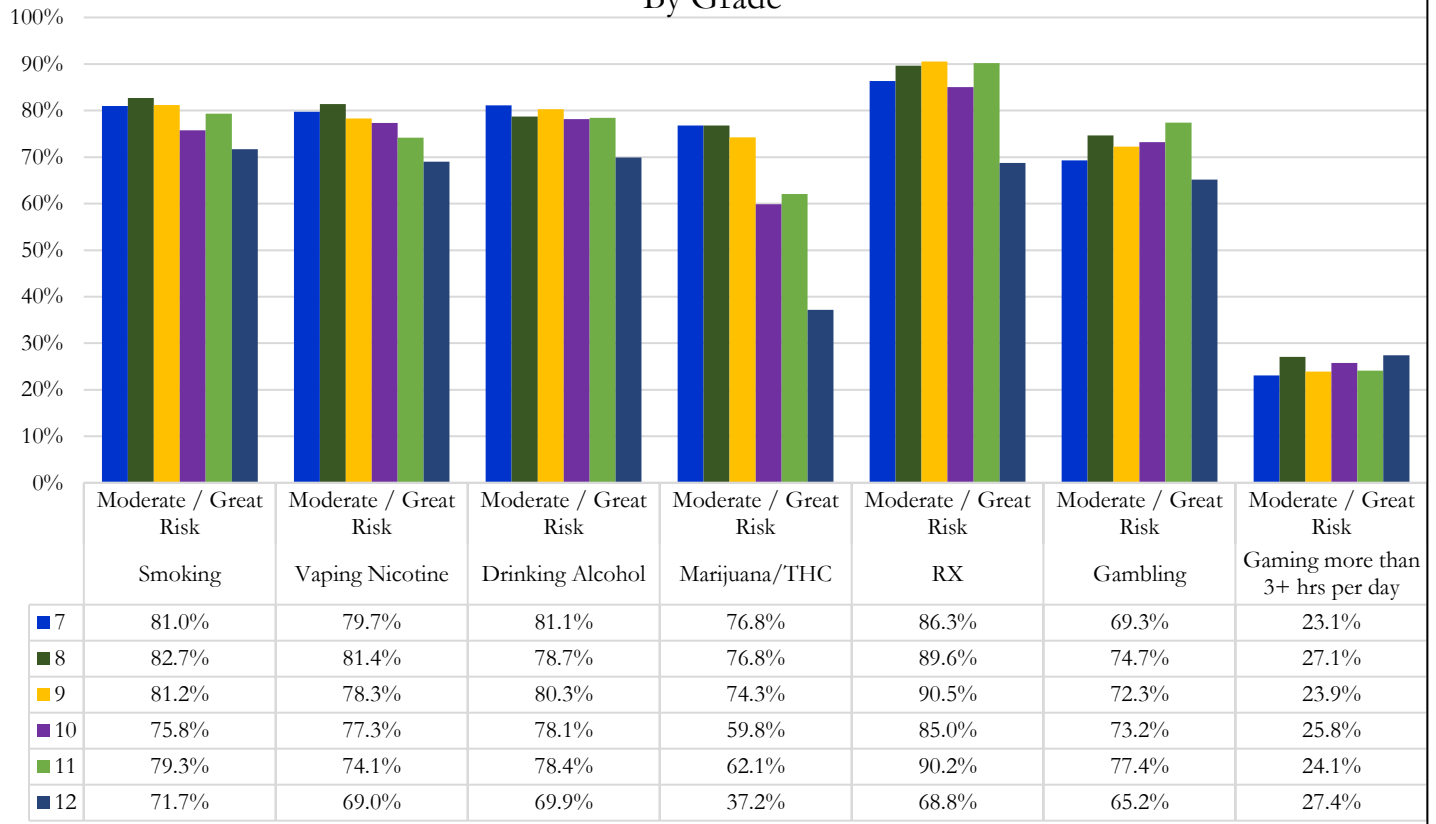


*Middle and high school females reported greater perception of risk for gaming three or more hours per day than males.

*High school females reported greater perception of risk than males for alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs.

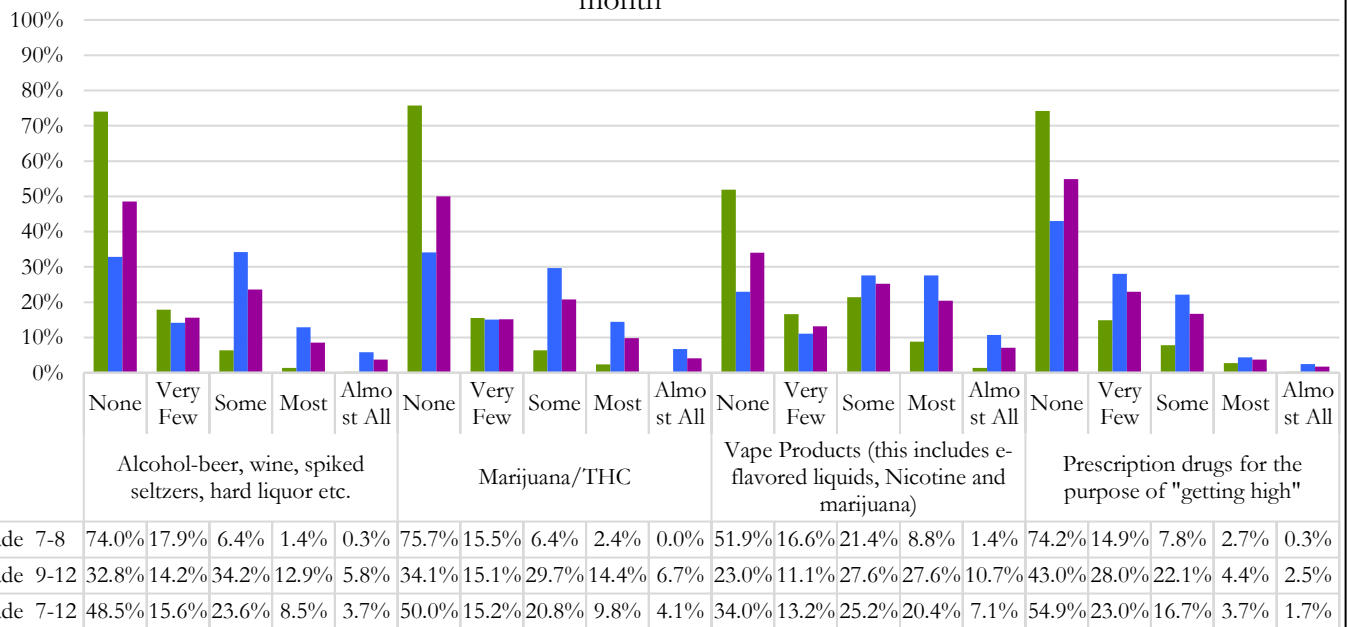
*High school Hispanic youth perceived less risk in vaping than youth in the “all other races” group.

Perception of Risk / Harm By Grade



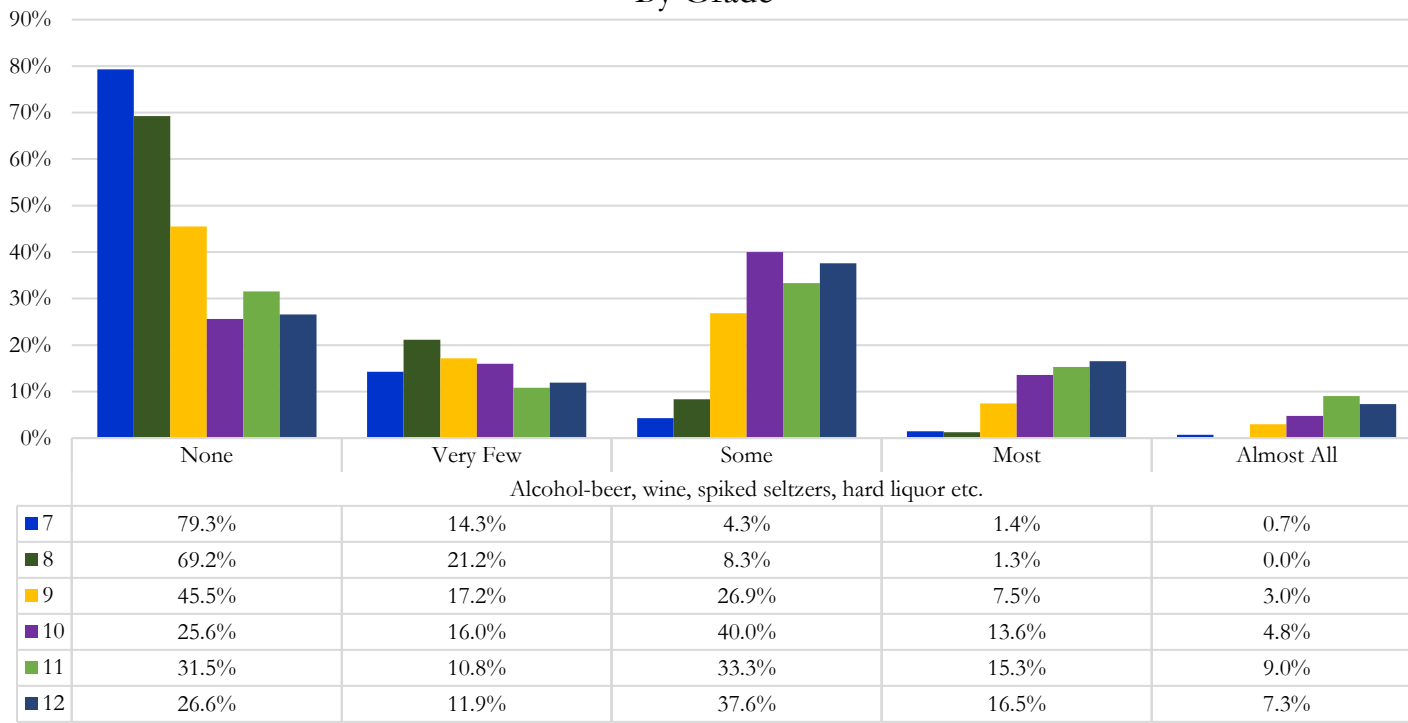
Perception of Peer Use in Past Month

"Estimate the percentage of peers that have used the following substances in the past month"

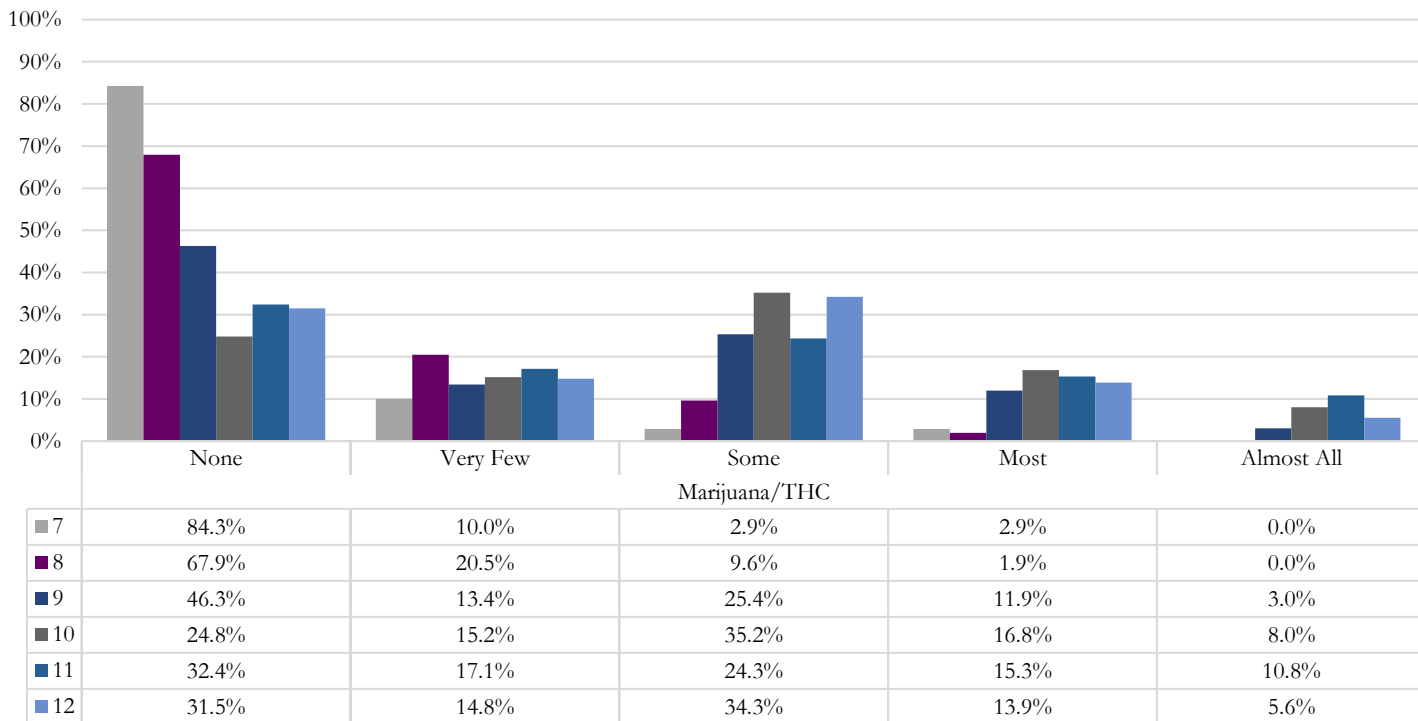


*High school white youth perceive more peer use of prescription drugs than Hispanic youth.

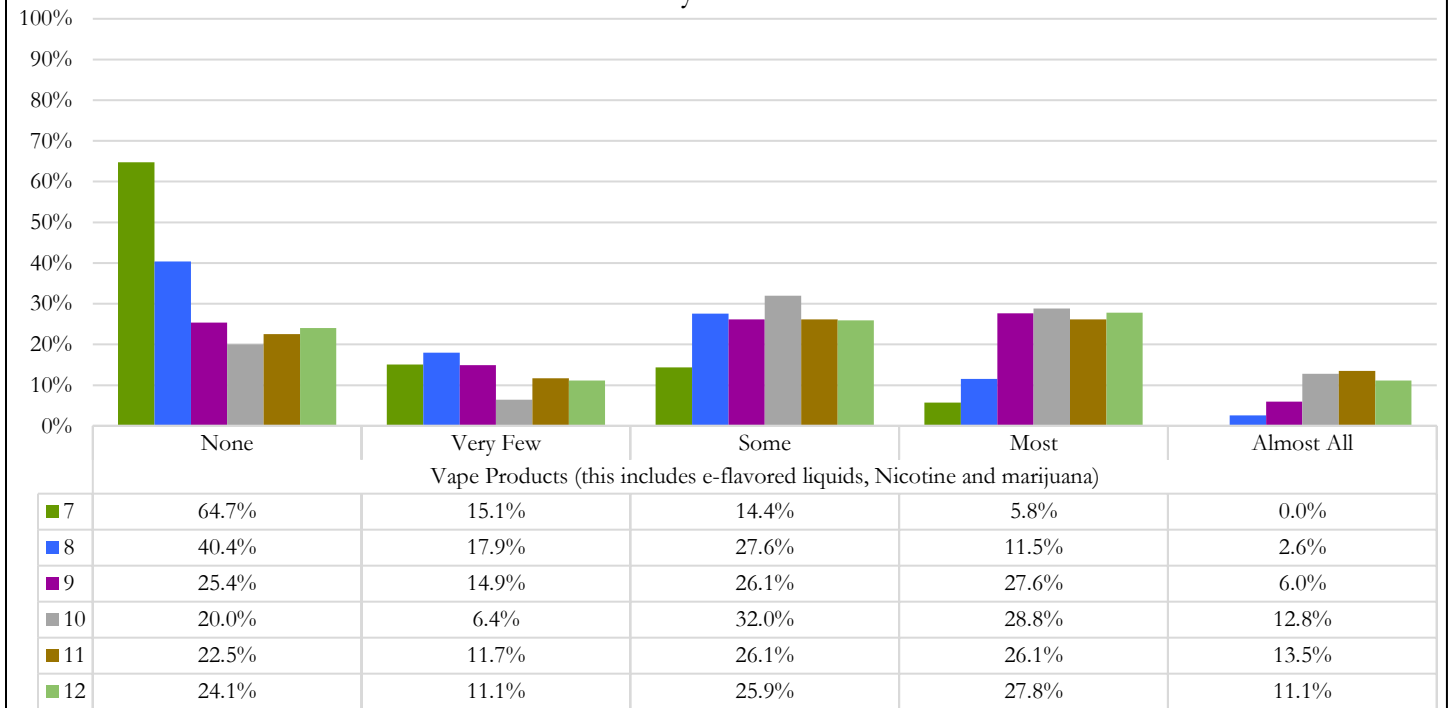
Perception of Peer Alcohol Use in Past Month By Grade



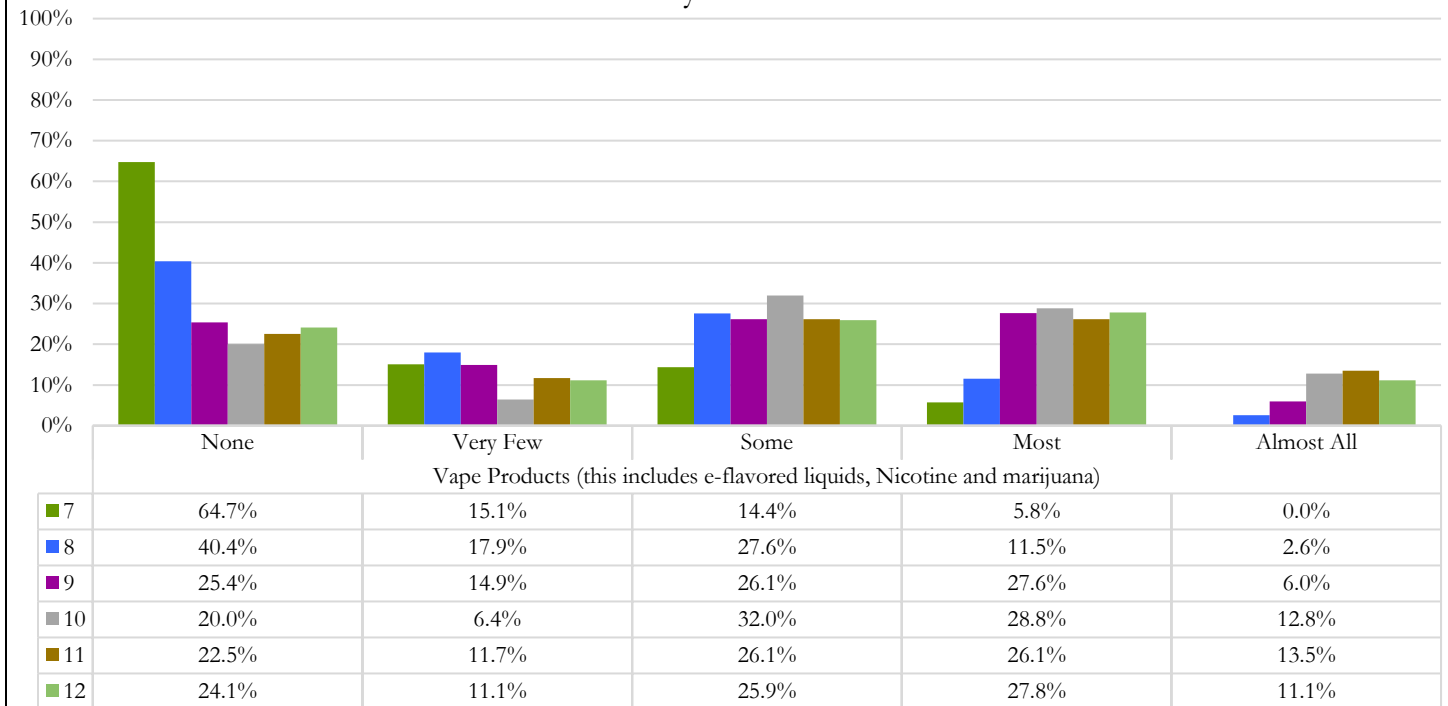
Perception of Peer Marijuana Use in Past Month By Grade



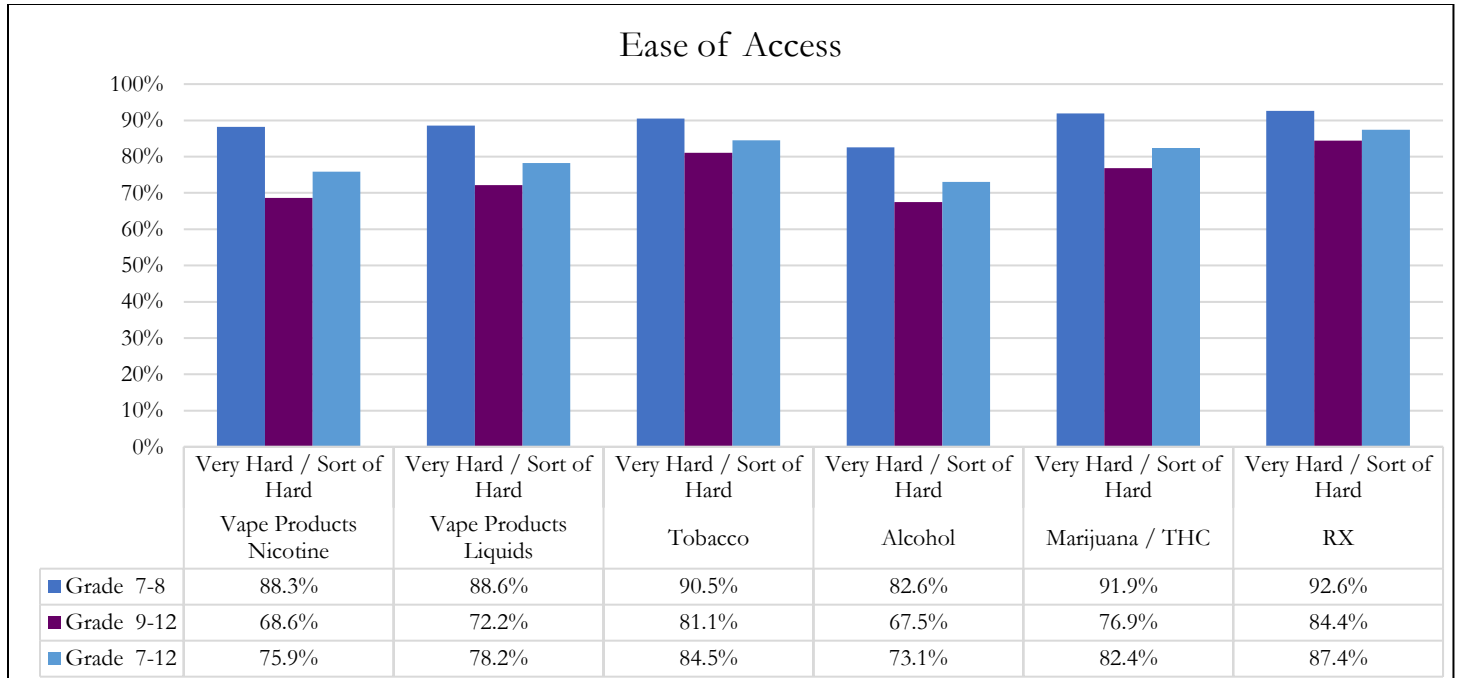
Perception of Peer Vaping Use in Past Month By Grade



Perception of Peer Vaping Use in Past Month By Grade



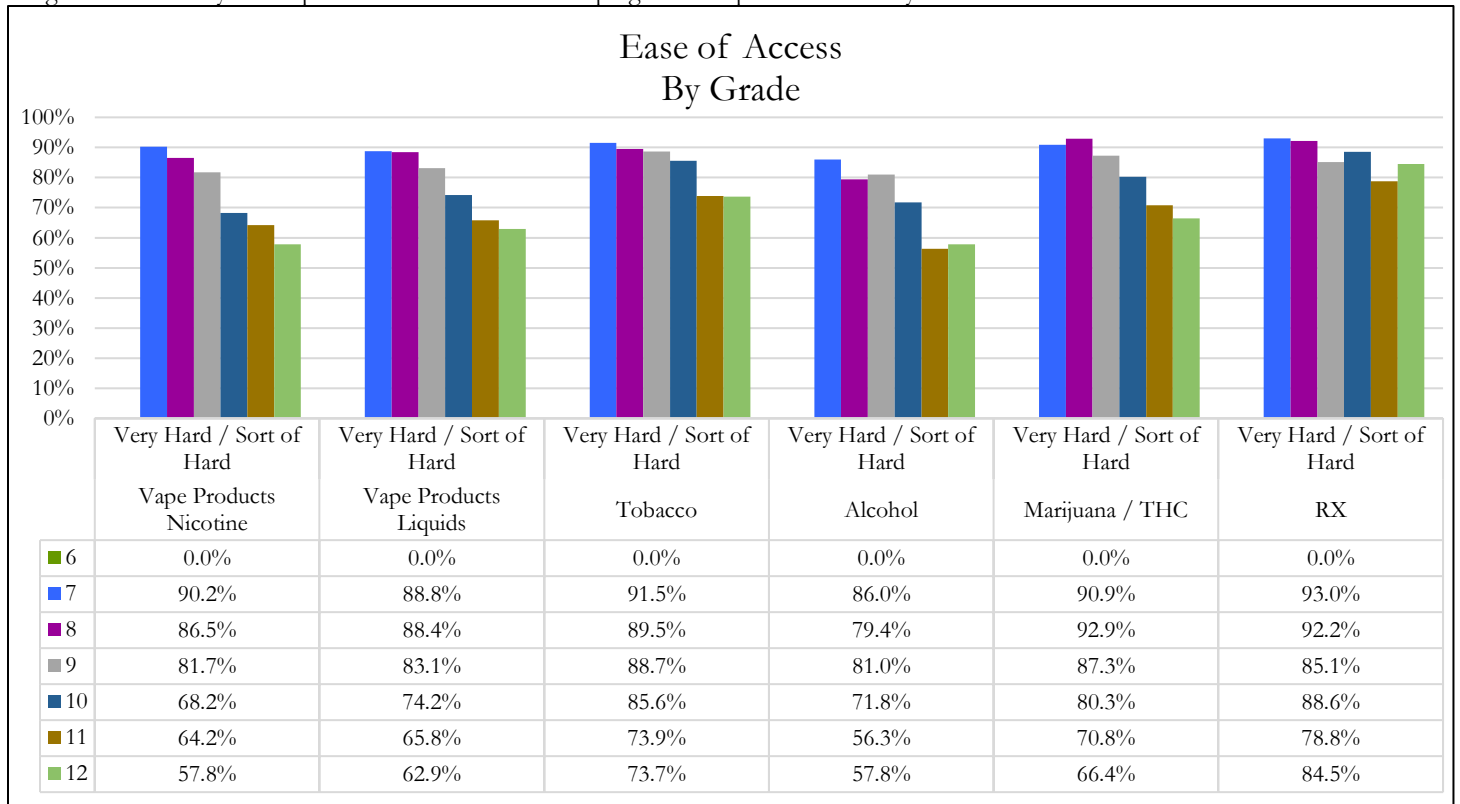
Ease of Access:



*Middle school females perceive more ease of access for prescription drugs than males.

*Middle school Hispanic youth report more ease of access for vaping than white youth.

*High school Black youth report less ease of access to vaping than Hispanic and white youth.



Substance Use and Gambling:

Risk Factors for Any Substance Use in Youth's Lifetime, Grades 7-12:

The following list includes youth reported experiences and perceptions that are statistically associated with lifetime use of any substance use. It is important to note association should not be considered causation.

Wolcott Middle & High School youth who have used **any substance in their lifetime** are more likely to:

- Spend more time home alone
- Not have a trusted adult they can share thoughts and feelings with or feel safe in their community
- Not complete homework or study due to gaming, be threatened, or have seen or heard in appropriate things due to gaming
- Have seen something inappropriate because of social media
- Have thoughts about self-harm, and have self-harm behaviors
- Have felt sad or hopeless two or more weeks in a row
- Have considered suicide in the past year
- Feel less comfortable seeking help from a parent/guardian.
- Not report clear family rules around gambling.
- Report having family problems around marijuana
- Report less parental disapproval for cigarettes, e-cigarettes, marijuana, prescription drugs, and gambling
- Report less peer disapproval for cigarettes, e-cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs, gambling, and gaming
- Perceive less risk in vaping, marijuana and gaming
- Perceive more peer use of alcohol and marijuana
- Report more ease of access to vape products, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs

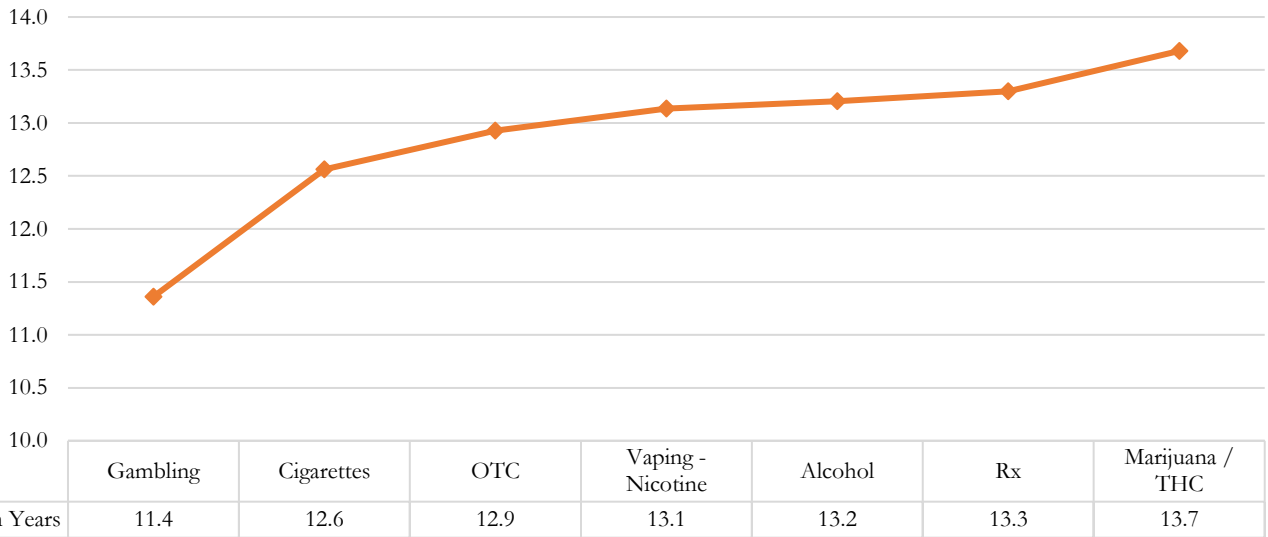
Wolcott High School youth who have used **any substance in their lifetime** are more likely to:

- Have gotten into physical or verbal fights and been asked personal information due to gaming
- Have gotten into physical or verbal fights, feel more connected to others, feel excluded, feel worse about themselves, and feel unsafe, due to social media.
- Report that teachers almost never intervene when a student is being bullied
- Have experienced physical abuse from an intimate partner
- Not report having clear family rules about alcohol and marijuana
- Report family problems around alcohol, other drugs, and gambling
- Perceive less risk in cigarettes and alcohol
- Perceive more peer vaping
- Engaged in sexual intercourse or oral sex
- Have talked with their parent/guardian about birth control, risks of STI and delaying pregnancy
- Have had sex under the influence, felt pressure to have sex, sent and received a sext, and felt pressure to send a sext

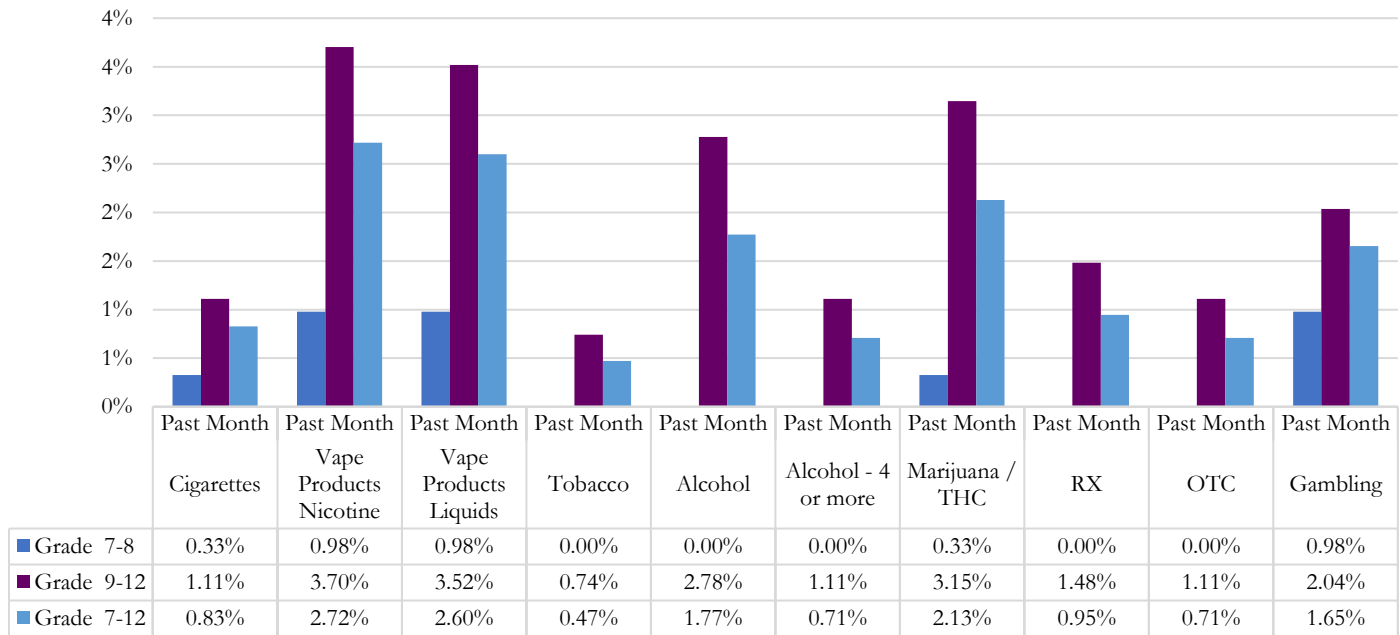
Wolcott Middle School youth who have used **any substance in their lifetime** are more likely to:

- Not feel safe in school or know how to find help for substance use or mental health problems
- Report people share concerns about the amount of time spent gaming
- Report family problems around prescription drugs
- Report less parental disapproval for alcohol and gaming
- Perceive less risk in gambling

Age of First Use



Past Month Use of CORE Substances and Gambling



*High school males were more likely than females to have gambled in the past month.

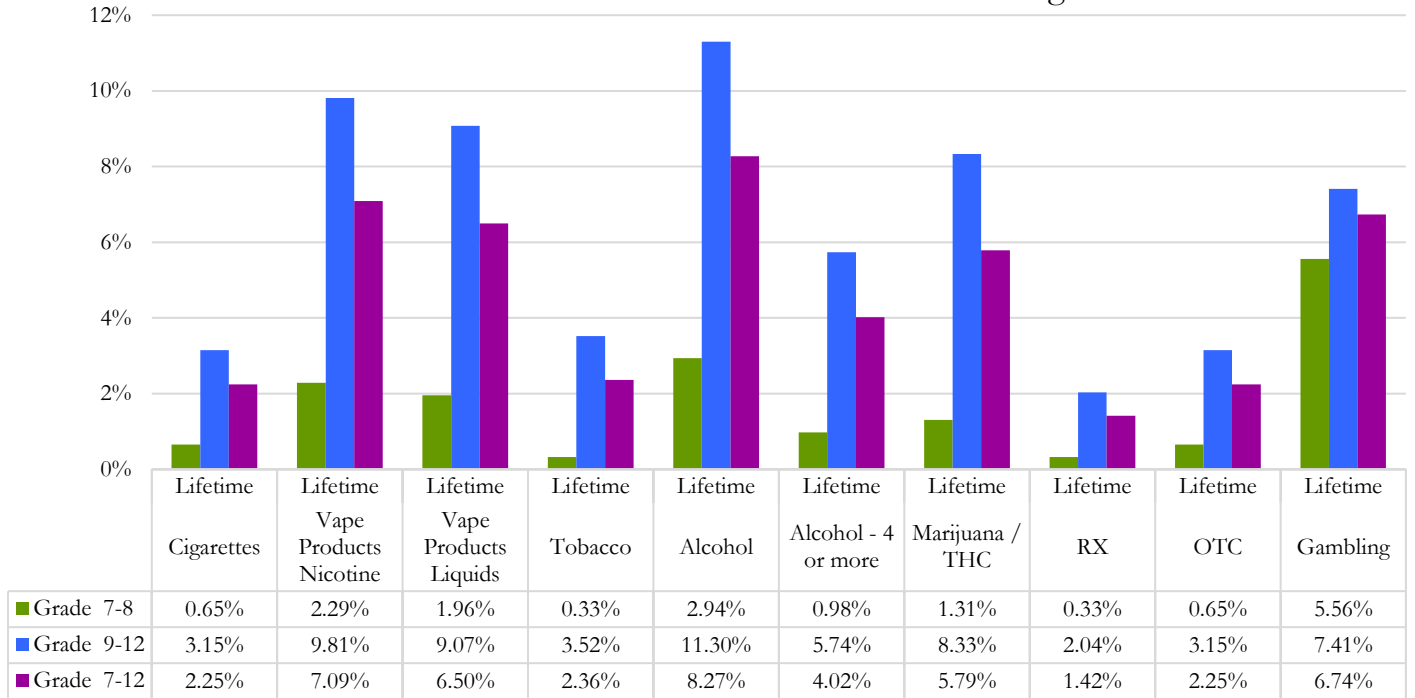
*High school white youth were less likely to report past month vaping (nicotine and other liquids), and marijuana use than Black and Hispanic youth.

*High school white youth were less likely to report past month cigarette use and other tobacco than Black youth.

*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were less likely to report past month usage of other tobacco products than their cisgender peers.

*High school youth who identified as LGBS were more likely to report past month usage of cigarettes, alcohol, and binge drinking.

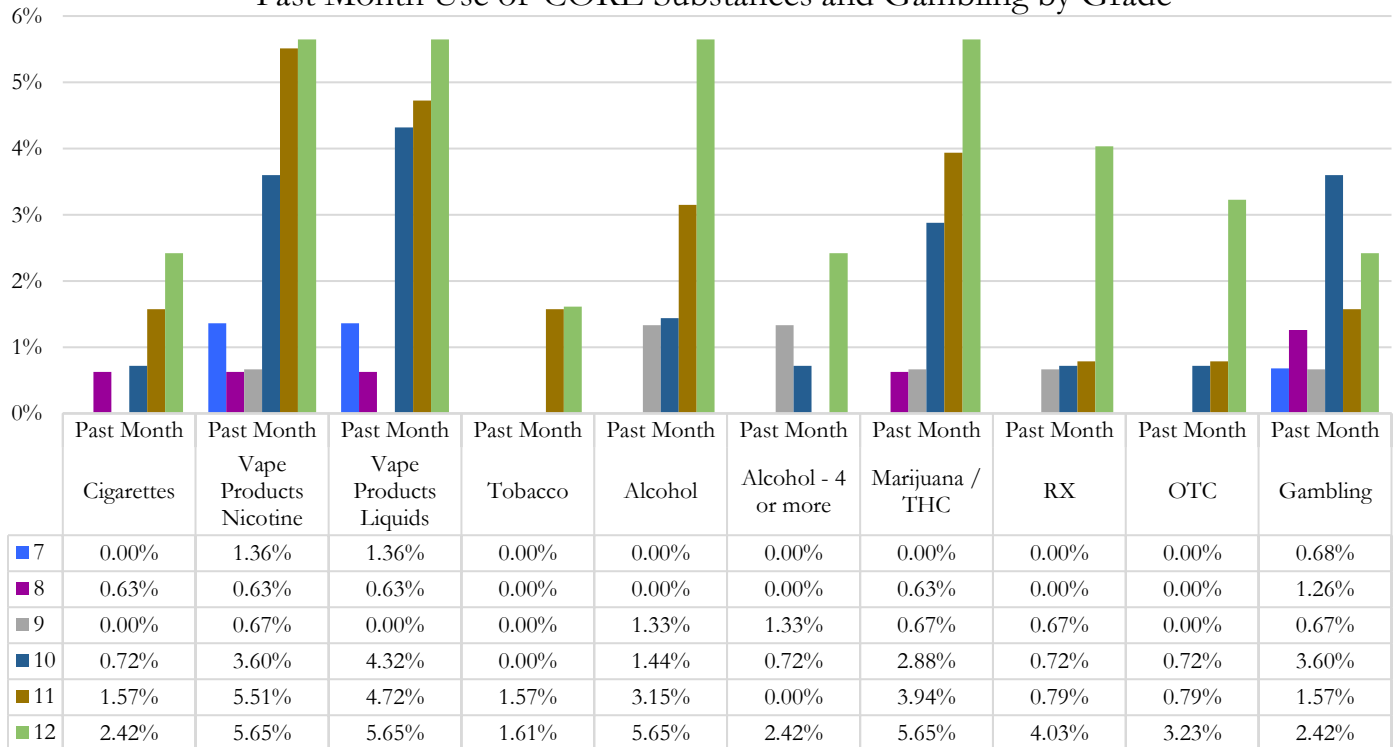
Lifetime Use of CORE Substances and Gambling



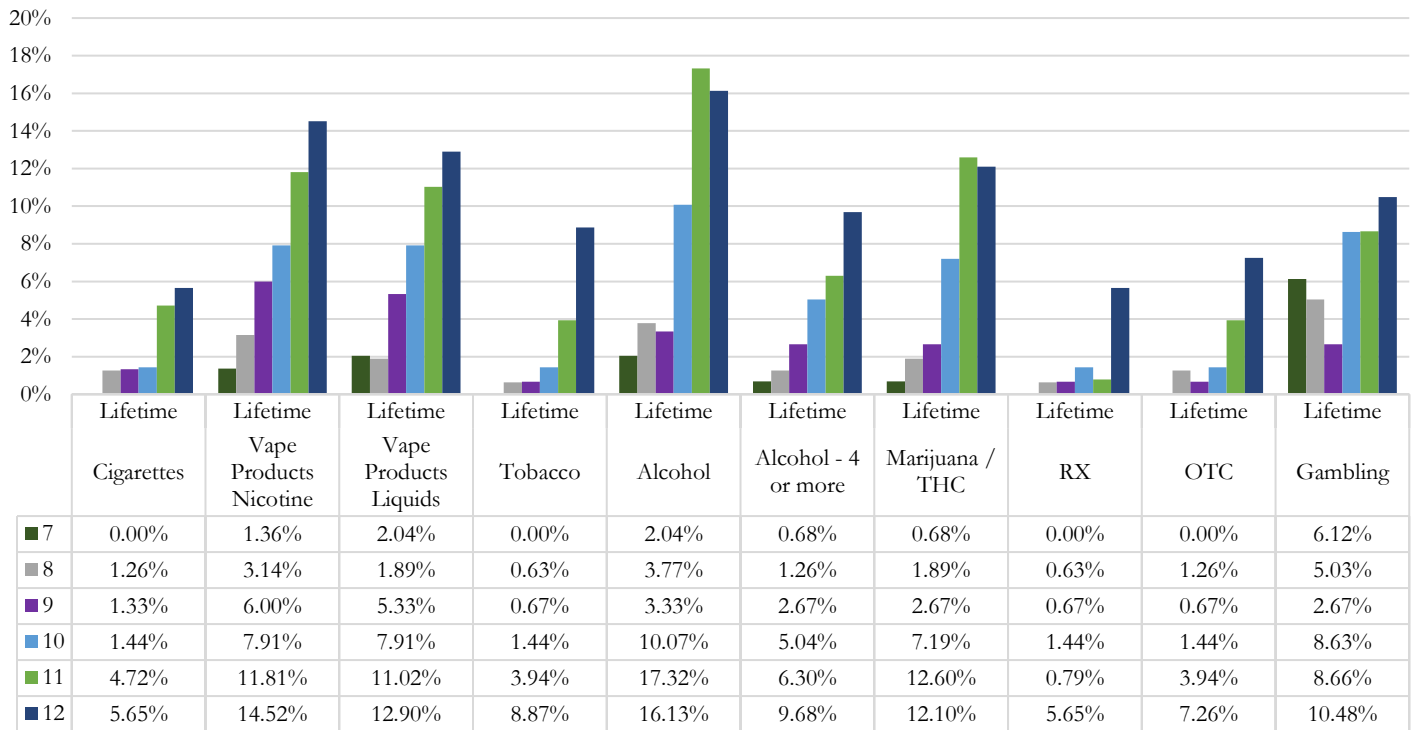
*High school Hispanic youth reported more lifetime use of other tobacco than white youth.

*High school youth who identify as LGBS reported more lifetime use of vaping liquids.

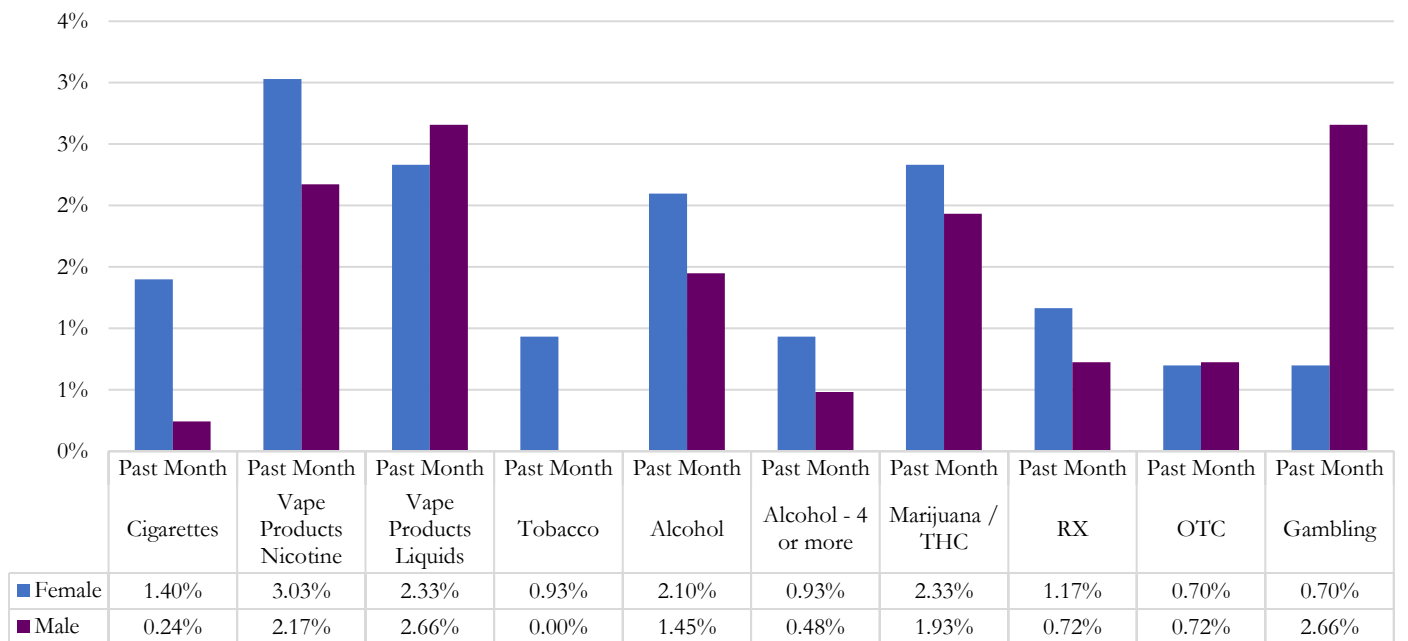
Past Month Use of CORE Substances and Gambling by Grade



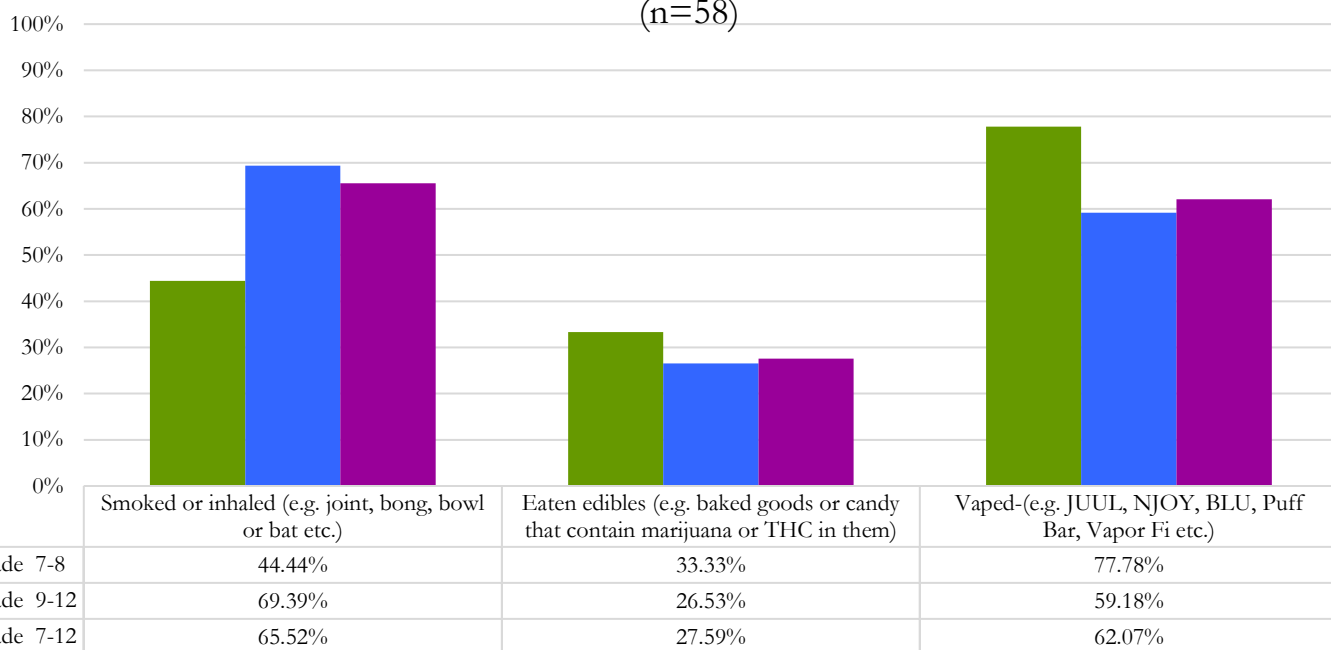
Lifetime Use of CORE Substances and Gambling by Grade



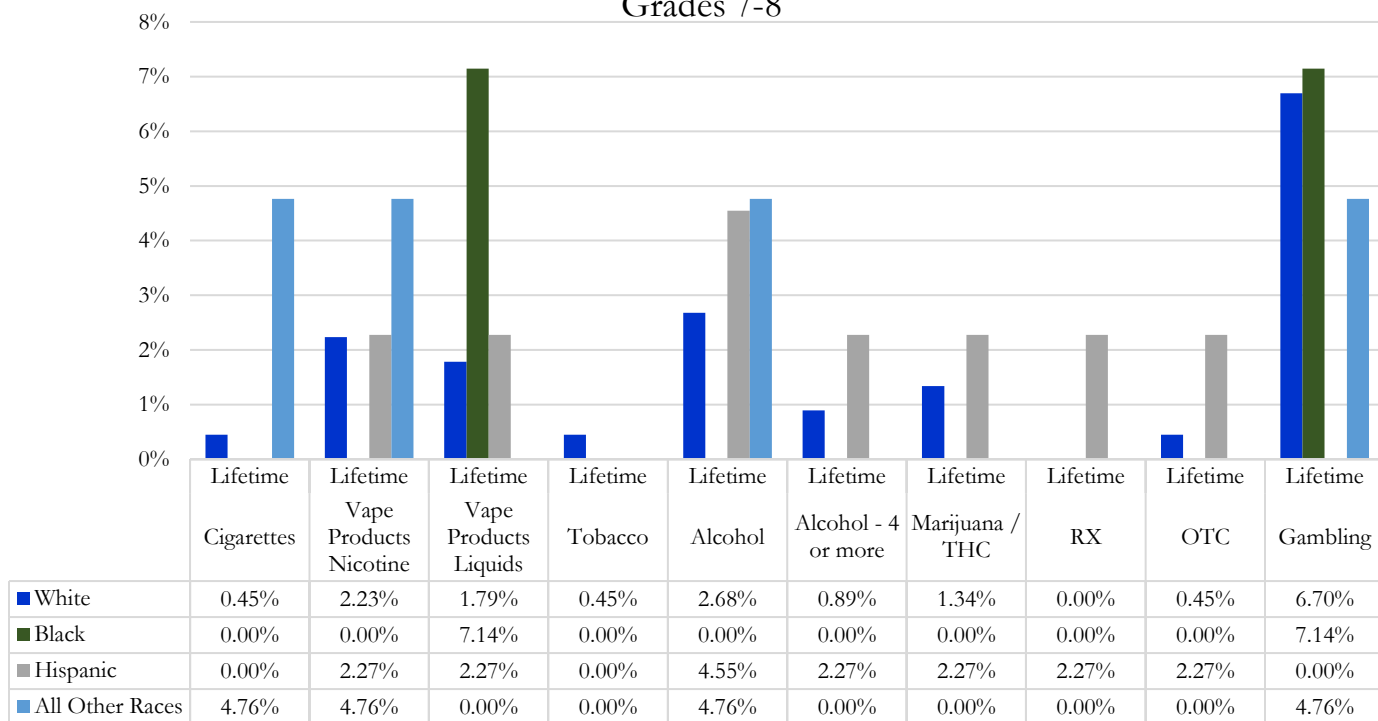
Biological Sex Differences in CORE Past Month Substance Use and Gambling Grades 7-12



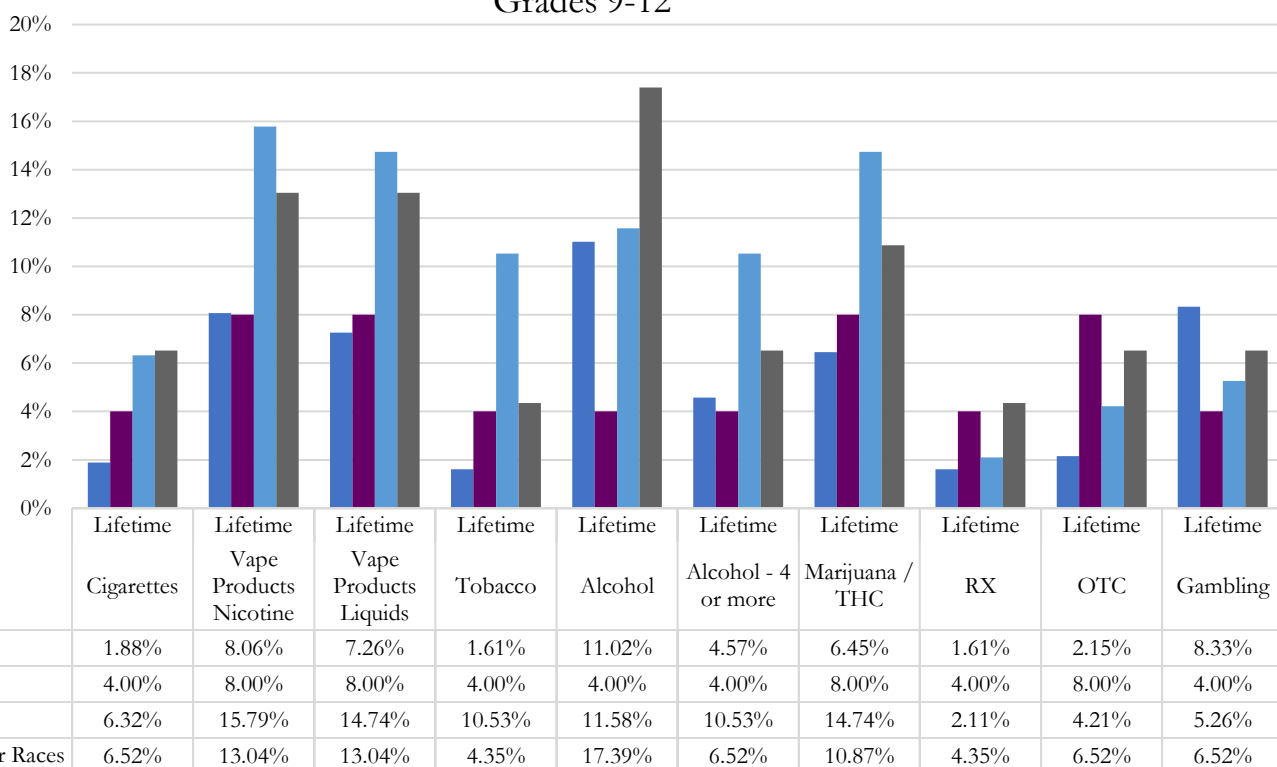
Methods of Marijuana Use Youth Who Have Used in the Past 12 Months (n=58)



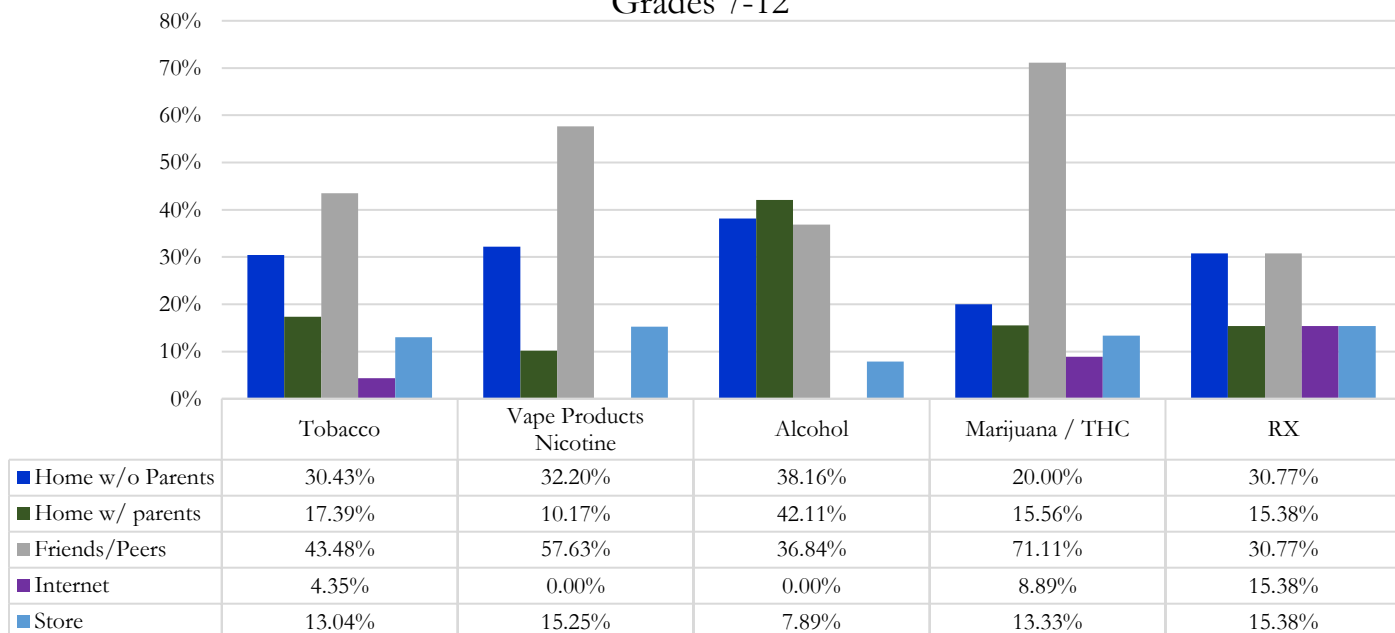
Substance Use By Race/Ethnicity- Amongst Lifetime Users Grades 7-8



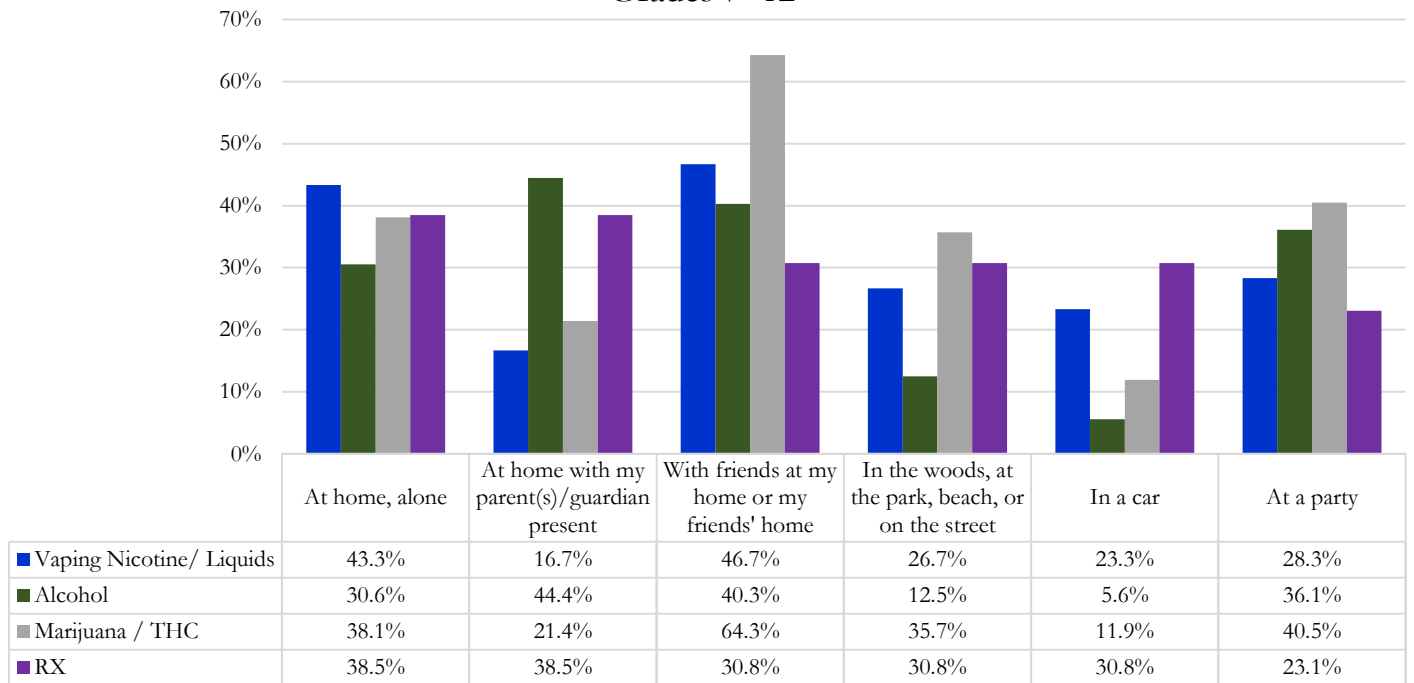
Substance Use by Race/Ethnicity- Amongst Lifetime Users Grades 9-12



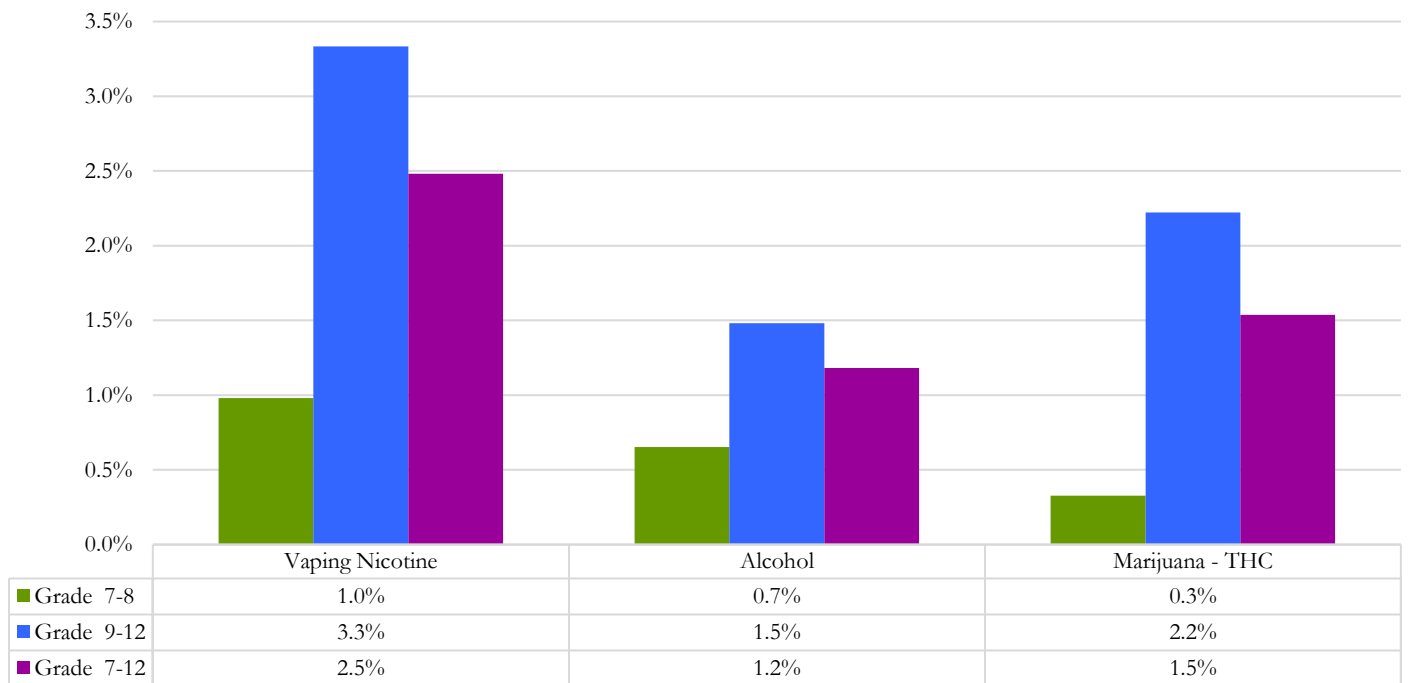
Where Substances Are Acquired Most Often Amongst Lifetime Users Grades 7-12



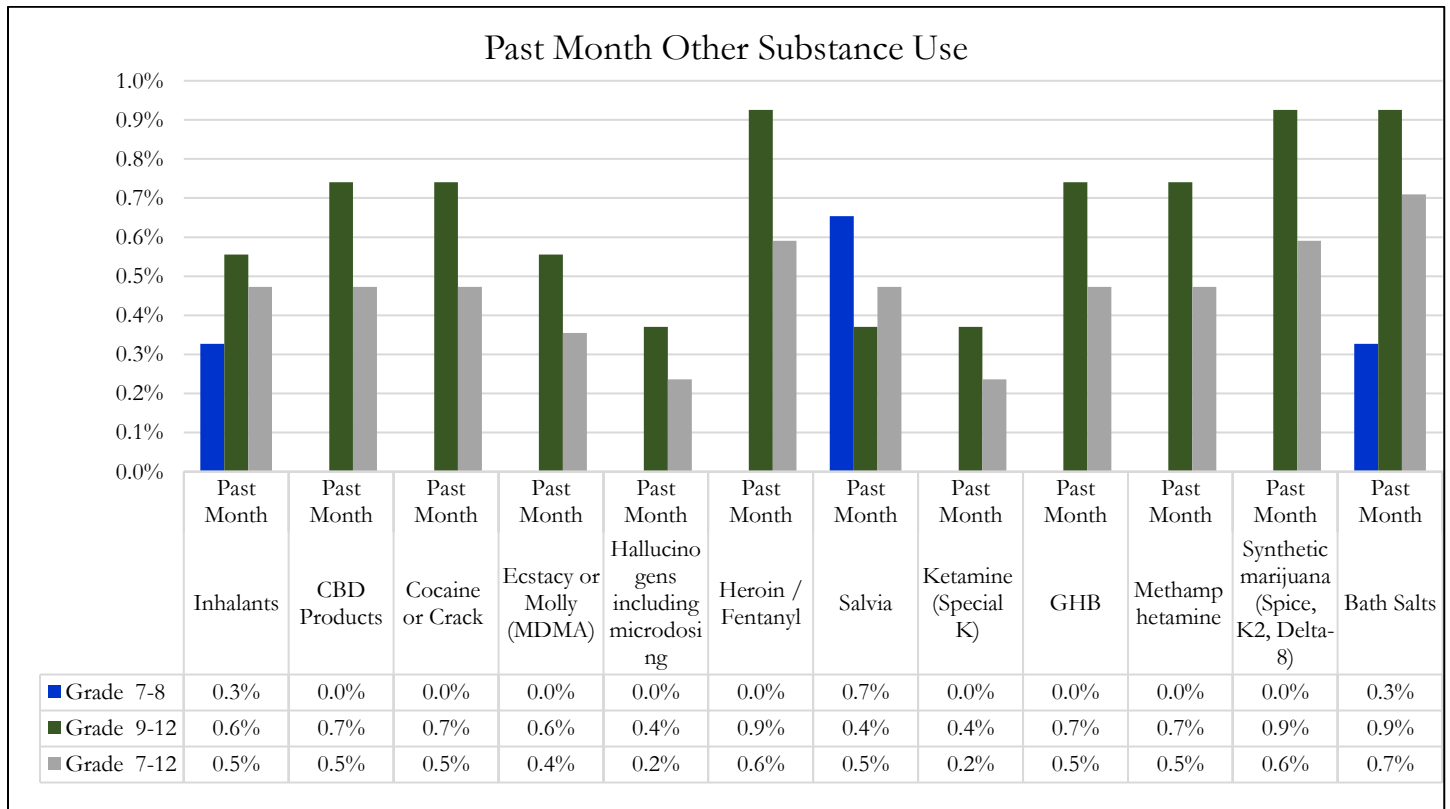
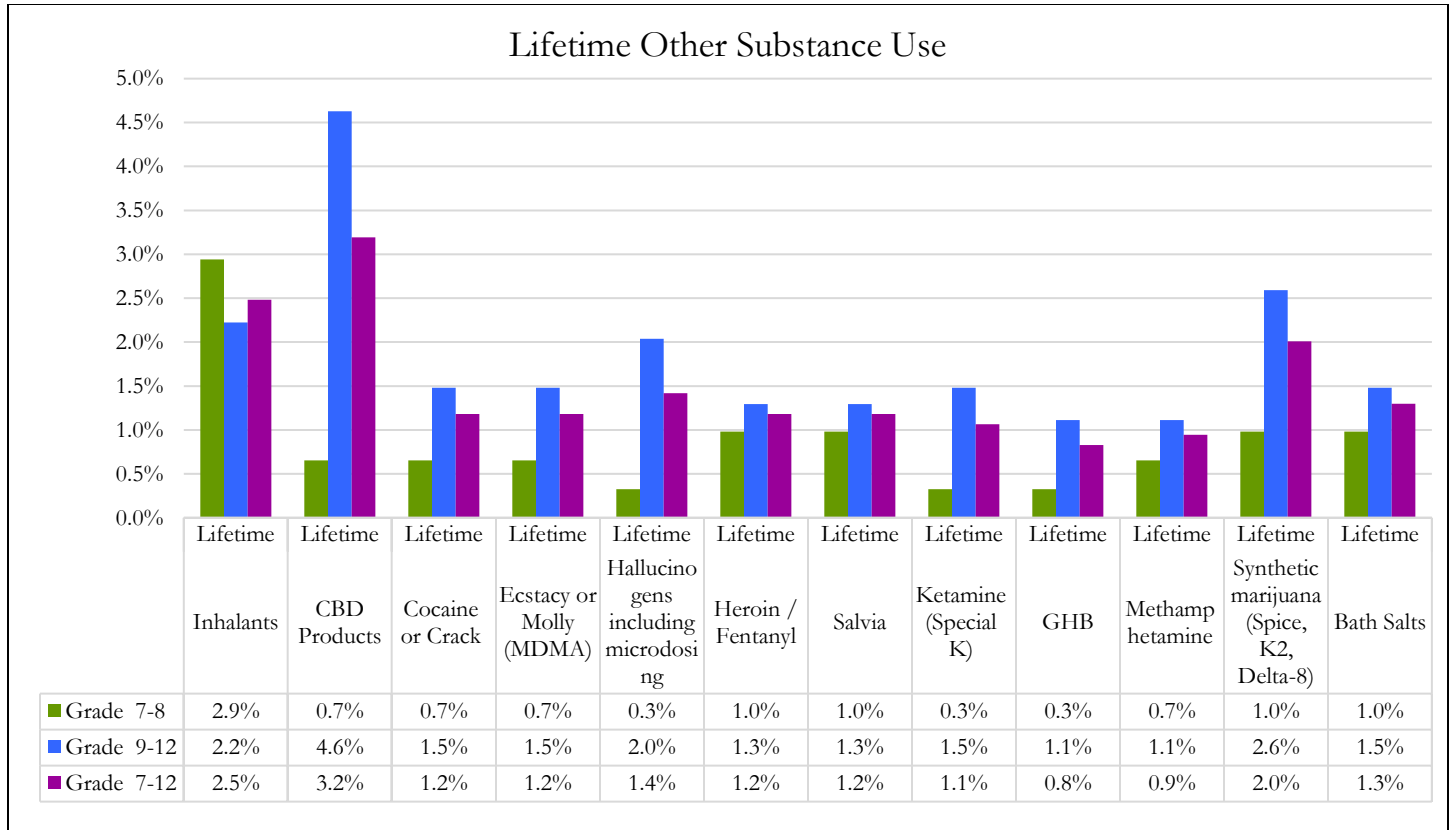
Where Substances Are Used Most Often Amongst Lifetime Users Grades 7 -12



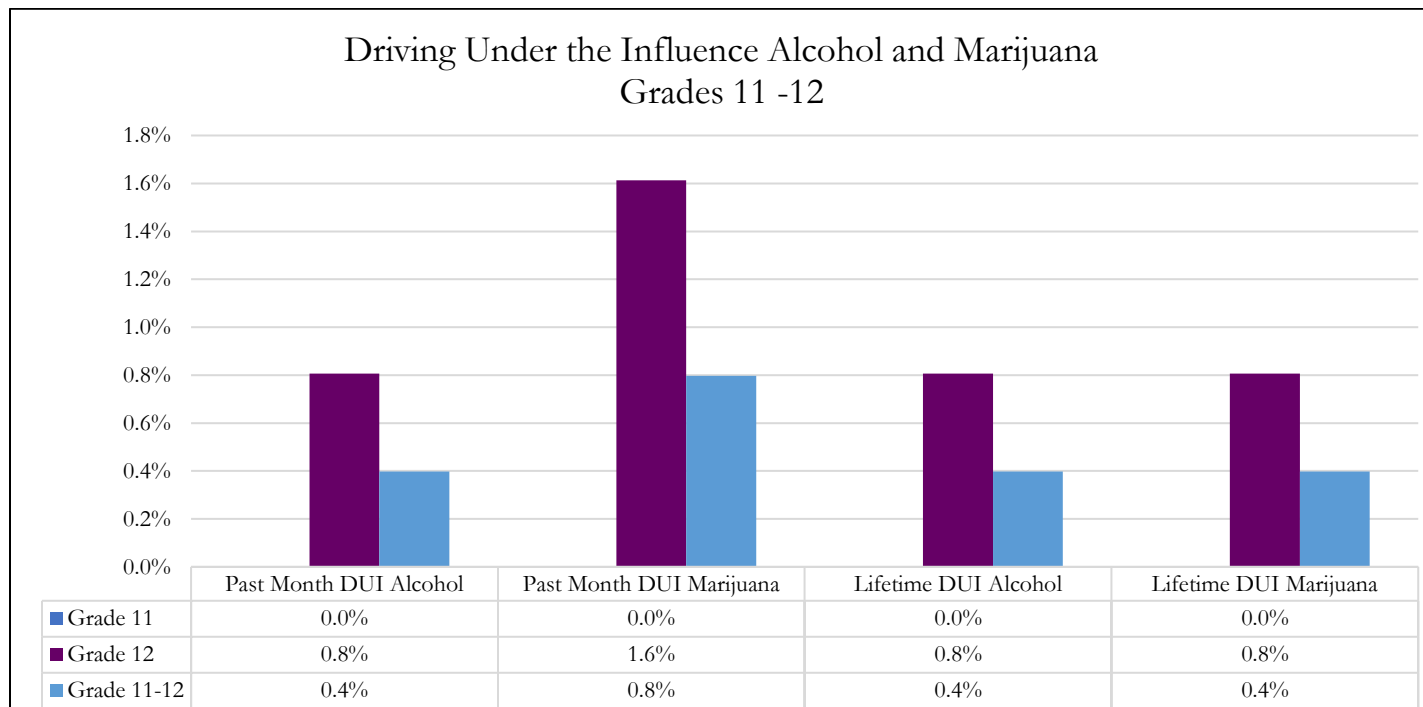
Youth Use of Substances at School- including school events



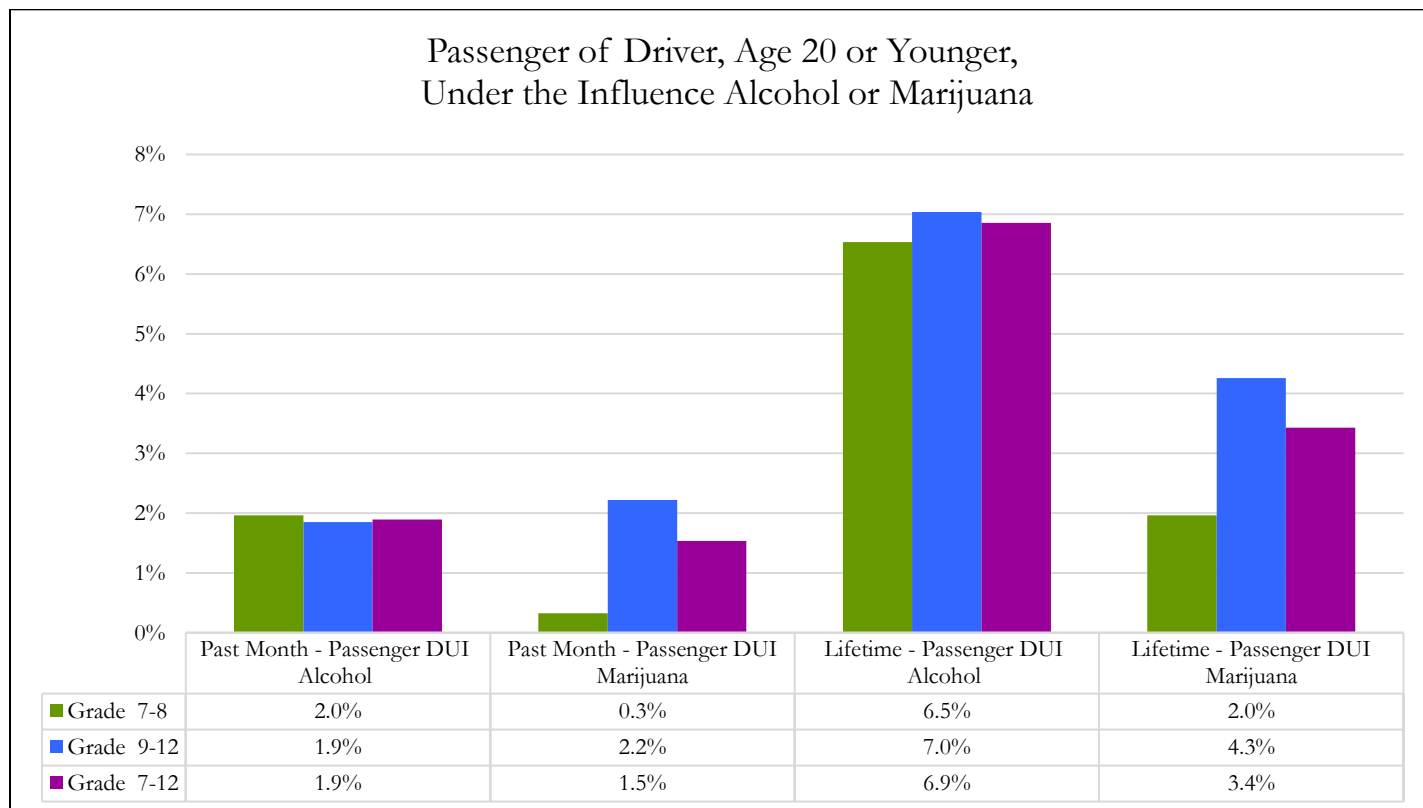
Other Substance Use:



Driving Under the Influence:



Note: one student reported past month DUI marijuana but not lifetime DUI for marijuana, the analysts chose to keep this response in the data set.



Wolcott 2022 Substance Use Rates Compared to 2016, 2018, 2020:

It is important to note when comparing 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 data that the survey tool and administration of the tool changed during this period. While the substance use questions remained consistent and continue to be aligned with national measures, in 2020, a different survey tool and survey company was utilized and to support student comfort with providing online answers, an instructional video, rather than a teacher script, be presented prior to students taking the survey. This video emphasized confidentiality and anonymity, including noting that IP addresses would not be collected.

Past Month Substance Use and Gambling 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022, Grades 9-12					
	Wolcott 2016	Wolcott 2018	Wolcott 2020	Wolcott 2022	Percent Change 2020-2022
Alcohol	35%	28%	6.42%	2.8%	-56.73%
Binge Drinking	-	-	5.25%	1.1%	-78.84%
Cigarettes	8%	6%	1.17%	1.1%	-5.03%
E-Cigarettes	-	-	Vaping-Nicotine 4.28%	3.7%	-13.55%
Marijuana	24%	18%	3.70%	3.1%	-14.91%
Prescription Drugs	5%	6%	0.39%	1.5%	279.87%

Perception of Risk/Harm (Moderate/Great Risk) 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022, Grades 9-12					
	Wolcott 2016	Wolcott 2018	Wolcott 2020	Wolcott 2022	Percent Change 2020-2022
Alcohol	73%	74%	78.3%	70.4%	-10.13%
Cigarettes	84%	86%	81.7%	70.7%	-13.41%
E-Cigarettes	-	-	Vaping-Nicotine 79.5%	68.7%	-13.58%
Marijuana	49%	53%	58.9%	53.9%	-8.51%
Prescription Drugs	89%	87%	88.9%	75.9%	-14.59%

Perception of Parental Disapproval (Moderately/Greatly Wrong) 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022, Grades 9-12					
	Wolcott 2016	Wolcott 2018	Wolcott 2020	Wolcott 2022	Percent Change 2020-2022
Alcohol	92%	92%	88.9%	81.7%	-8.14%
Cigarettes	94%	92%	94.4%	85.0%	-9.96%
E-Cigarettes	-	-	Vaping-Nicotine 93.9%	83.9%	-10.65%
Marijuana	86%	84%	90.1%	79.4%	-11.83%
Prescription Drugs	95%	95%	96.6%	85.4%	-11.62%

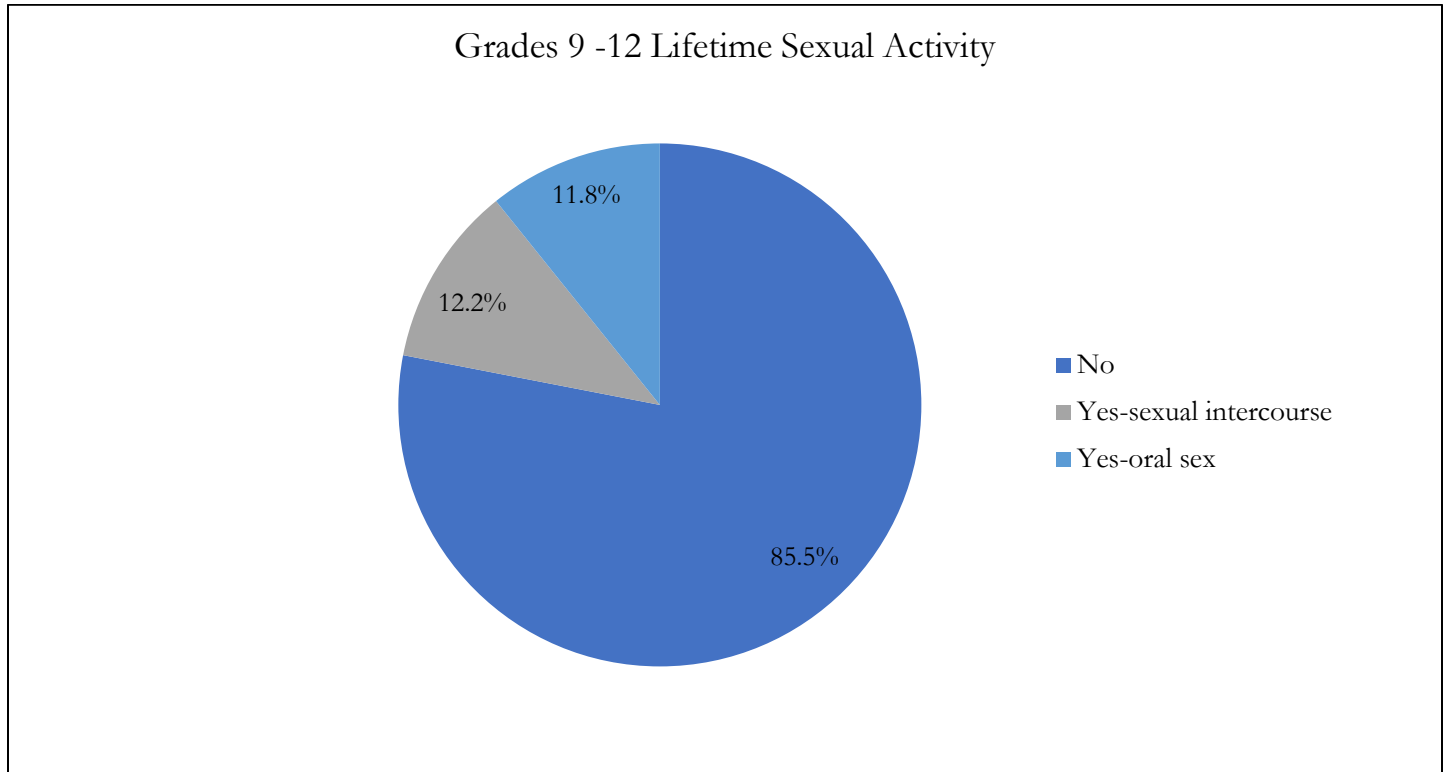
Perception of Friends/Peer Disapproval (Moderately/Greatly Wrong) 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022, Grades 9-12					
	Wolcott 2016	Wolcott 2018	Wolcott 2020	Wolcott 2022	Percent Change 2020-2022
Alcohol	64%	80%	70.7%	67.8%	-4.13%
Cigarettes	78%	85%	81.1%	73.3%	-9.58%
E-Cigarettes	-	-	Vaping-Nicotine 64.4%	63.9%	-0.77%
Marijuana	49%	62%	66.2%	66.3%	0.15%
Prescription Drugs	84%	88%	89.8%	79.1%	-11.94%

Wolcott Emotional Health Indicators 2020 and 2022, Grades 9-12			
	Wolcott 2020	Wolcott 2022	Percent Change 2020-2022
Anxiety (almost always or always)	27.0%	23.1%	-14.4%
Sad or Hopeless 2+ weeks in a row*	21.6%	17.7%	-18.1%
Considered Suicide	3.0%	9.4%	213.3%

*Note in Youth Voices Count 2022, all emotional health indicators were changed to reflect “past year” rather than lifetime, thus comparisons of feeling “sad or hopeless two or more weeks in a row” across these time periods should be interpreted with caution. Anxiety and thoughts of suicide have always been in the past year in Youth Voices Count.

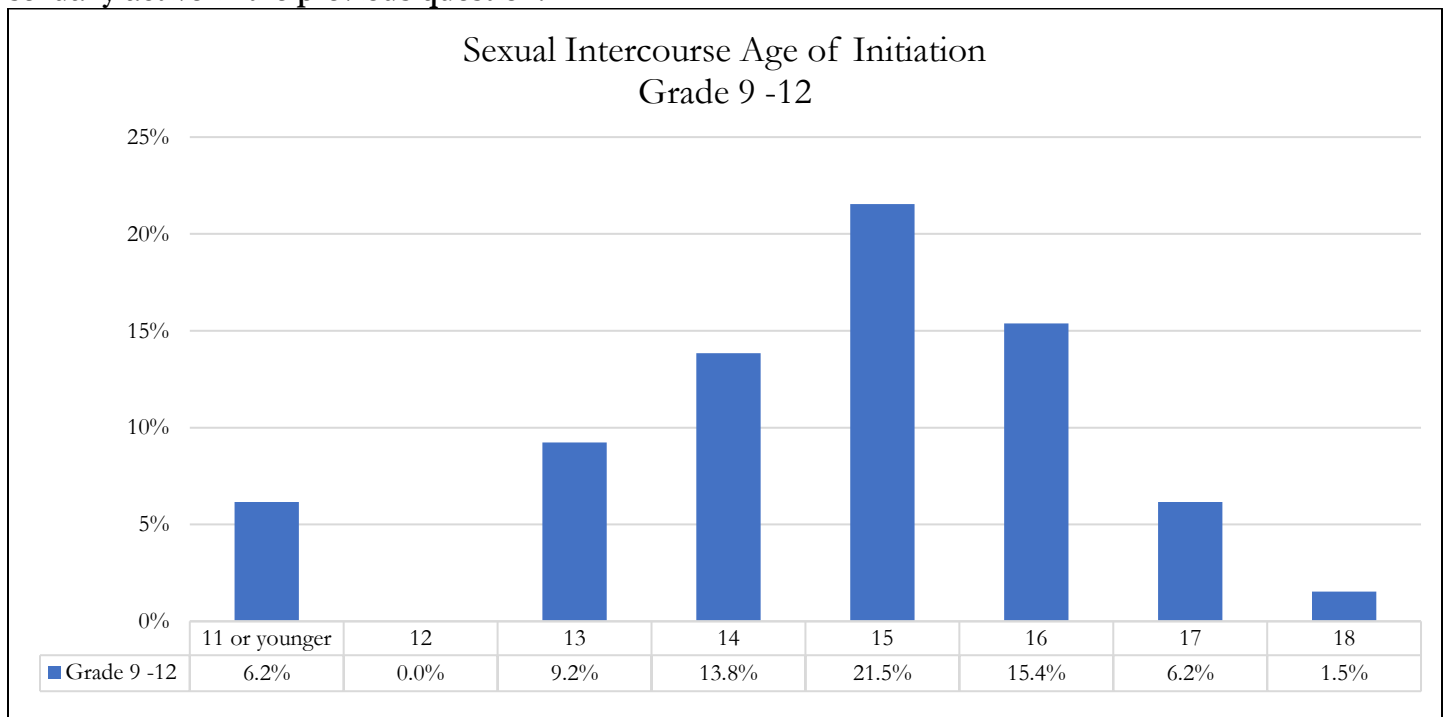
**Search Institute’s (2016 and 2018 surveys) depression indicator was “felt sad or depressed most or all of the time in the last month” and the suicide indicator was “attempted one or more suicides” rather than considering suicide, thus they are not shown here due to lack of comparability.

Sexual Behaviors-High School Only:

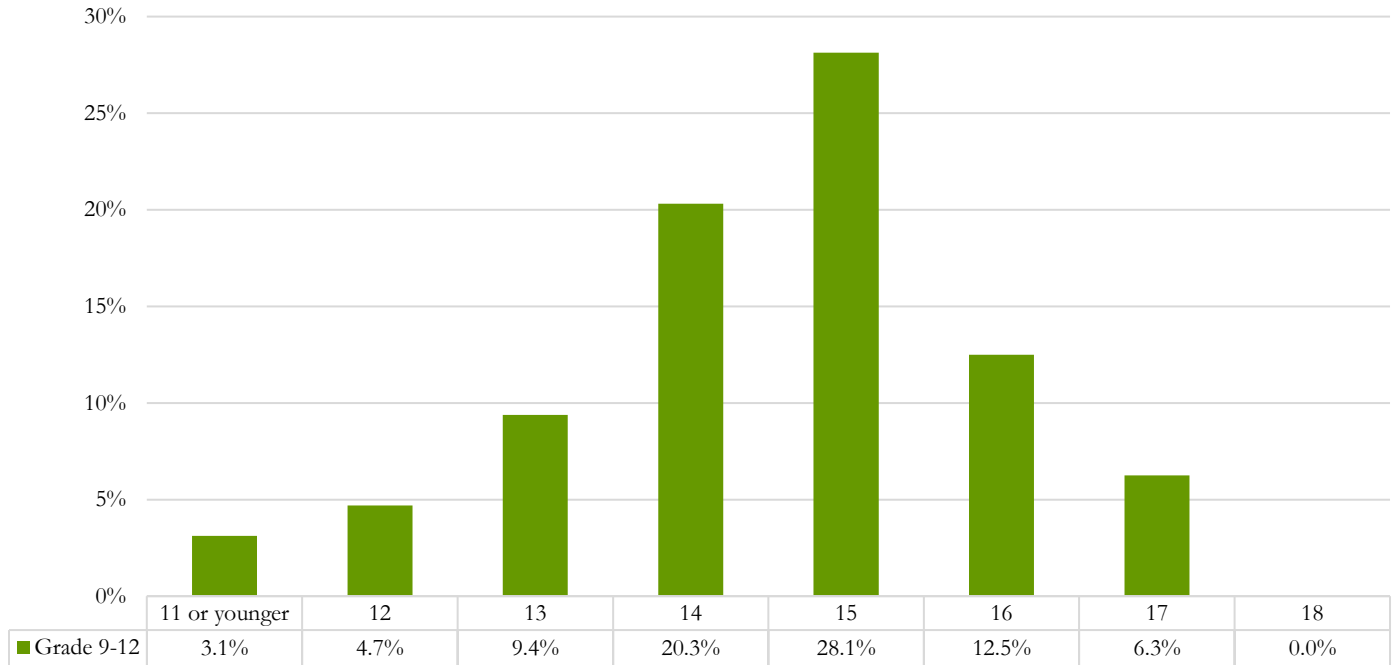


*High school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to have engaged in oral sex.

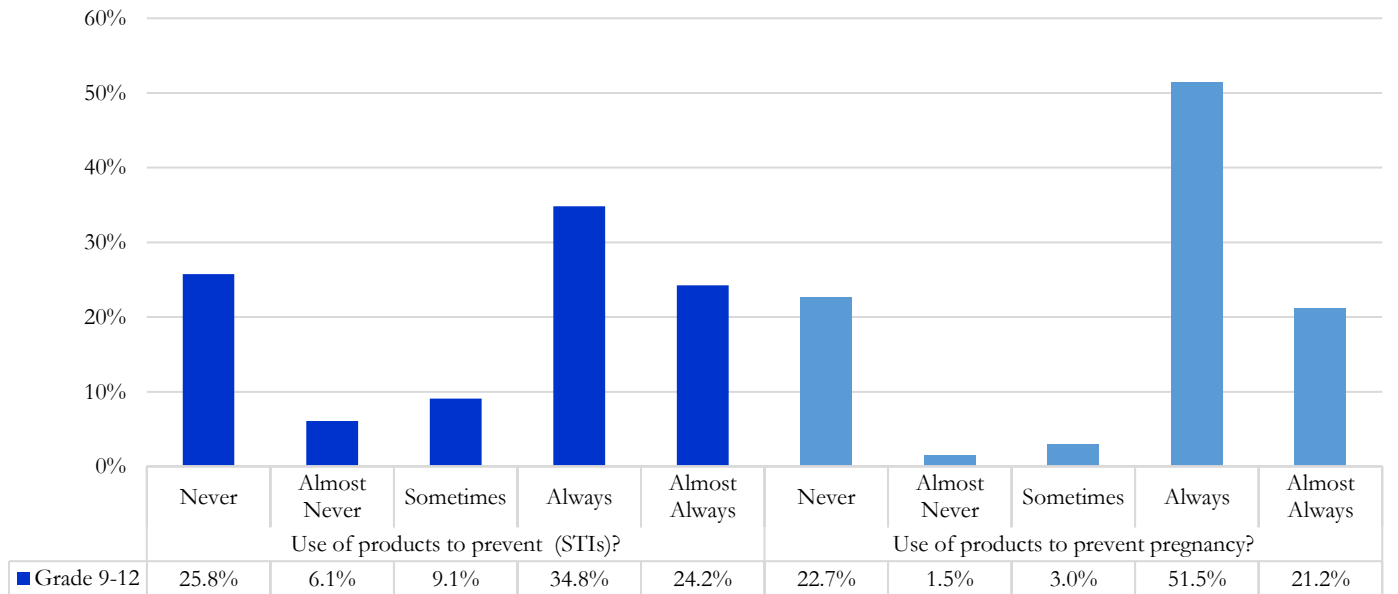
For the following 4 figures, data represent **only the population of students who reported being sexually active in the previous question.**



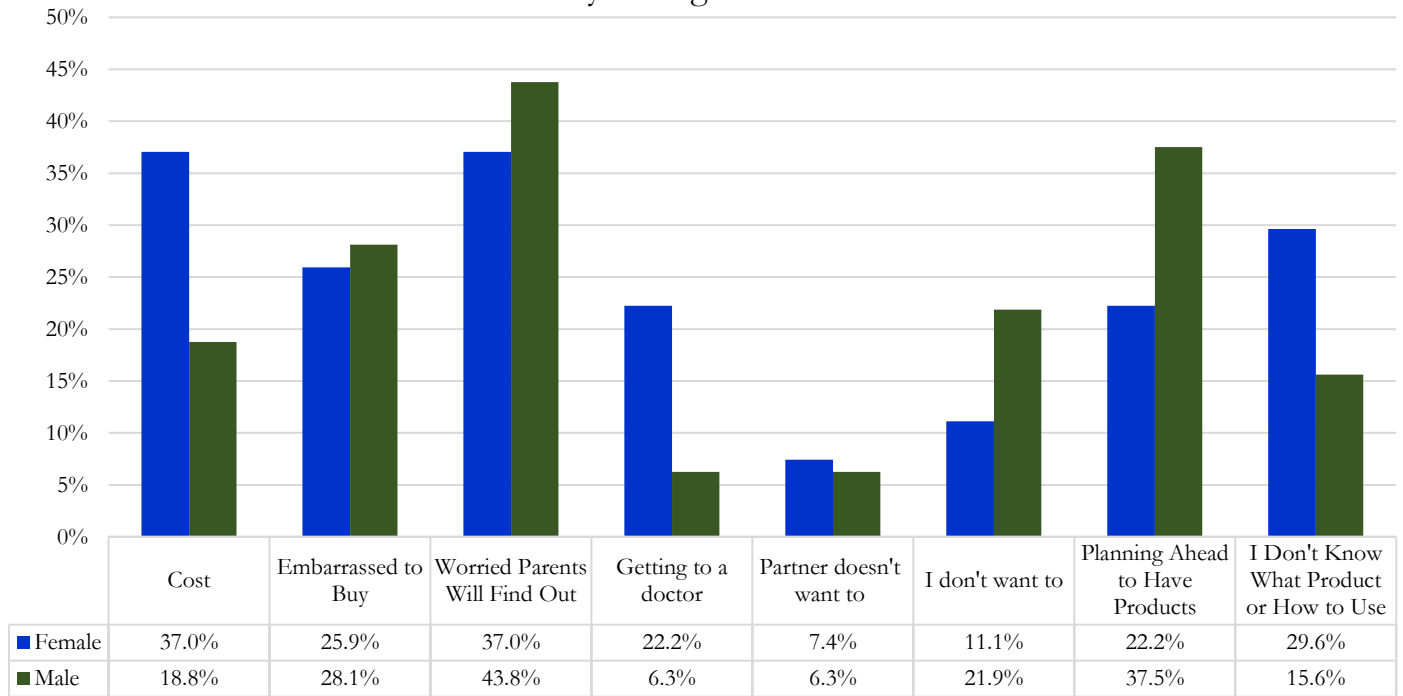
Oral Sex Age of Initiation Grade 9 -12



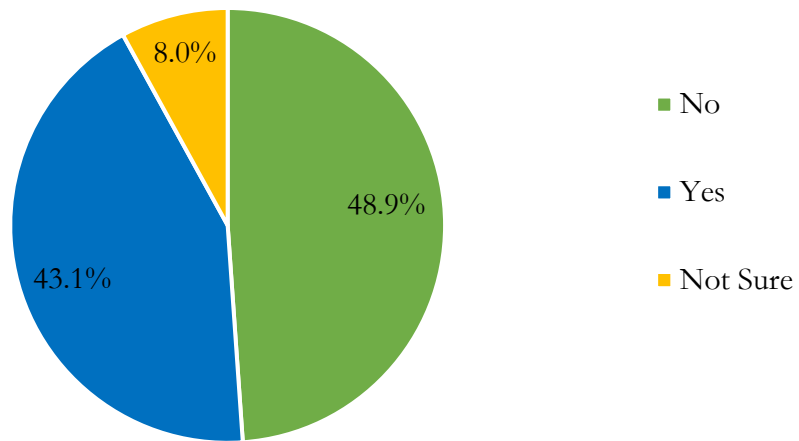
Sexually Transmitted Infection and Pregnancy Prevention Grade 9-12



Perceived Barriers to Prevention of STIs and Pregnancy Grade 9-12 by Biological Sex



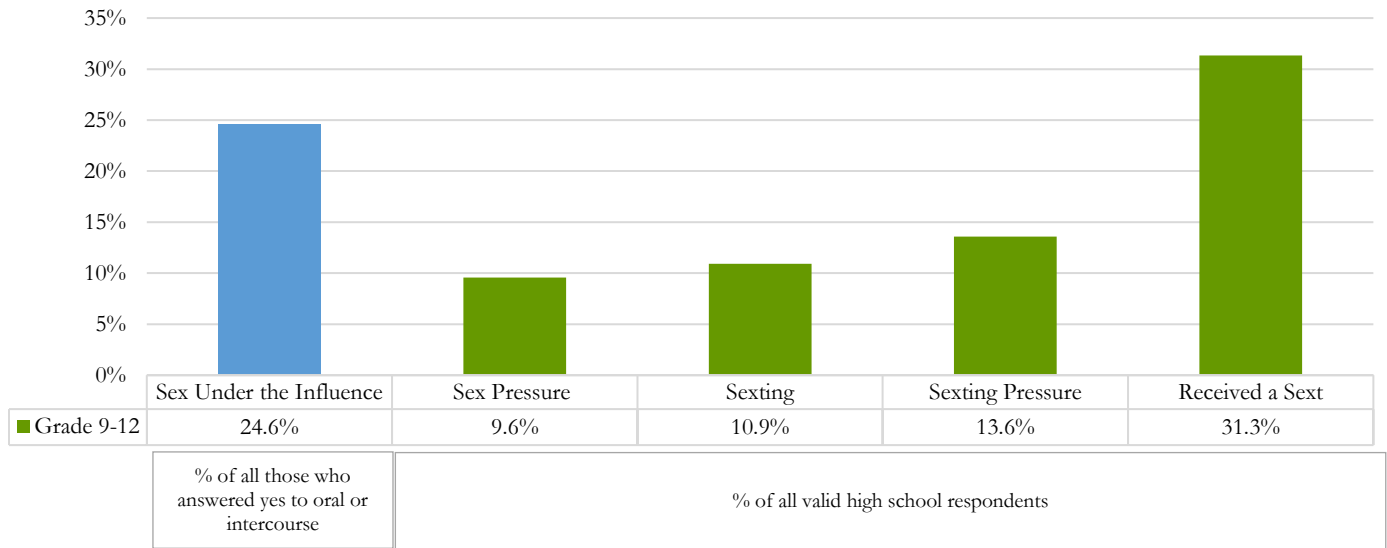
Sex Talk with Parents- Status of Having Talked with Parent/Guardian About Birth Control, Risks of STI's, Delaying Pregnancy - All Respondents



*More females than males have talked with their parent/guardian about birth control, risks of STI and delaying pregnancy.

*More Hispanic youth reported having talked with their parent/guardian about birth control, risks of STI and delaying pregnancy than youth in the "all other races" group.

Sexual Behavior Risk Factors Grade 9 -12



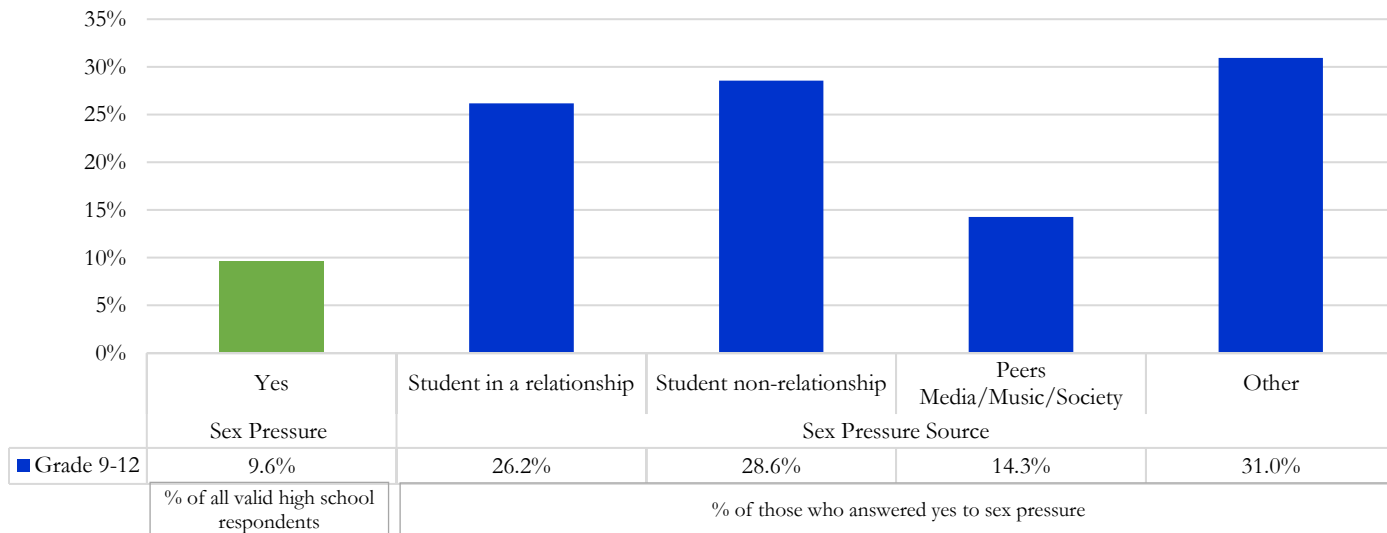
*More females have felt pressure to have oral sex or sexual intercourse, felt pressured to send a sexually explicit photo or sext and have received a sexually explicit photo or sext, than males.

*Hispanic youth are more likely to have had sex under the influence than white youth.

*High school youth who identified as transgender, non-binary, or unsure were more likely to have felt pressure to have sex and send a sext than their cisgender peers.

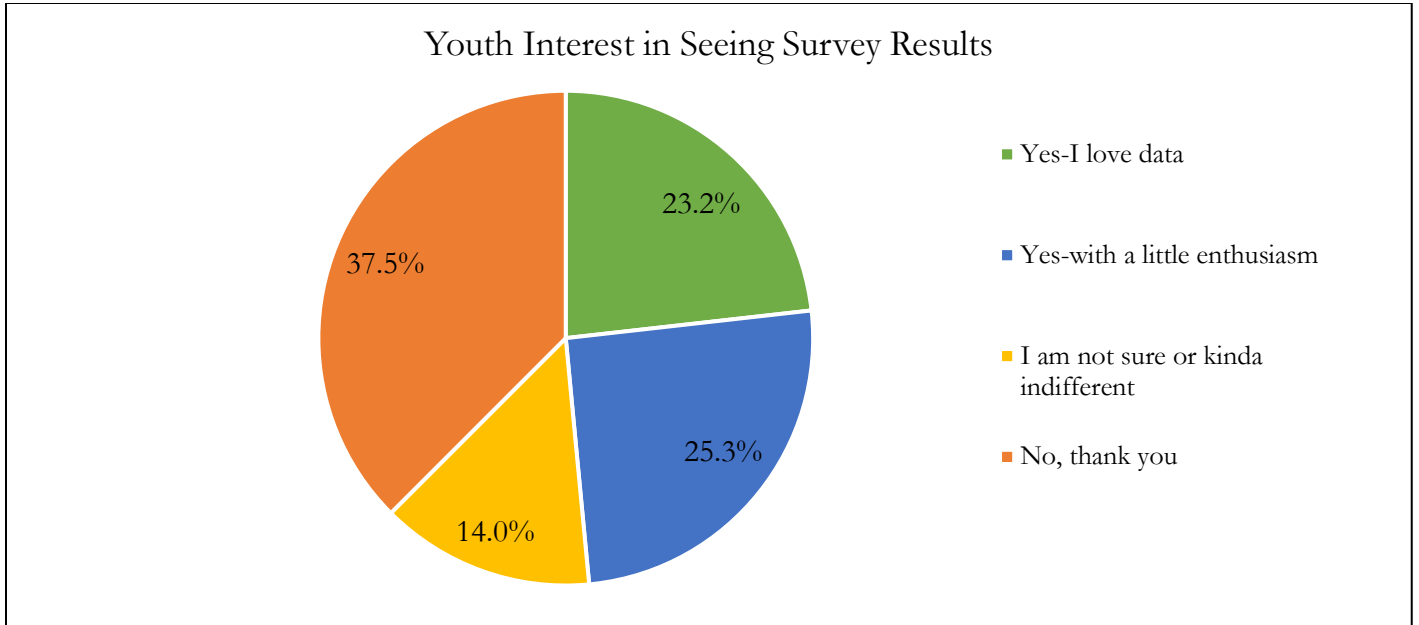
*High school youth who identify as LGBS were more likely to have had felt pressure to have sex and send a sext, sexted, and received a sext.

Sources of Pressure for Sexual Behaviors Grade 9 -12



*Females felt less pressure from peers, media, music, and society, but more from students they are not in a relationship with compared to males.

Youth Interest in Survey Results:



Addendum:

Substance Use and Other Emotional Health Indicators

Percentage of Responses

		Non-User*	Lifetime Substance User*	Past Month Substance User*
Depression	No	82.1%	73.2%	42.4%
	Yes	13.4%	26.8%	57.6%
Anxiety	Never/Some	74.9%	73.2%	57.6%
	Almost/Always	22.7%	26.8%	42.4%
Considered Suicide	No	90.8%	81.9%	60.6%
	Yes	4.4%	18.1%	39.4%

Number of Responses

		Non-User*	Lifetime Substance User*	Past Month Substance User*
Depression	No	563	93	14
	Yes	92	34	19
Anxiety	Never/Some	514	93	19
	Almost/Always	156	34	14
Considered Suicide	No	623	104	20
	Yes	30	23	13

Non-User: youth who had not reported any substance use in their lifetime

Lifetime Substance User: youth who reported use of one or more core substances in their lifetime but NOT in the past month

Past Month Substance User: youth who reported use of one or more core substances in the past month or 30-days.

The following are statistically significant differences between groups:

Lifetime Substance Users were more likely to experience depression than Non-Users.

Past Month Substance Users were more likely to experience depression than Non-Users and Lifetime Users.

Past Month Substance Users experience anxiety more frequently than Non-Users.

Lifetime Substance Users were more likely to consider suicide than Non-Users.

Past Month Substance Users were more likely to consider suicide than Non-Users and Lifetime Users.

Depression and Other Emotional Health Indicators and Risk Factors

All analysis in the tables below reflects youth grades 7-12. Emotional health indicators (depression, anxiety, thoughts of self-harm, considered suicide, etc.) reflect the past year.

Past Year Depression and Anxiety:

		Sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks in a row			
		No		Yes	
		Count	Col. %	Count	Col. %
Anxiety	Almost Always/ Always	114	17.0%	86	59.3%
	Some of the time	400	59.7%	52	35.9%
	Never	156	23.3%	7	4.8%

These results are statistically significant.

- Among youth who have reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 59.3% reported feeling anxiety always/almost always, compared to 17.0% of youth who did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row and felt anxious always/almost always.

Past Year Depression and Other Emotional Health Indicators:

		Sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks in a row			
		No		Yes	
		Count	Col. %	Count	Col. %
Thoughts of Self Harm	No	624	93.1%	78	53.8%
	Yes	45	6.7%	67	46.2%
Self Harm	No	637	95.1%	98	67.6%
	Yes	33	4.9%	47	32.4%
Physical Abuse- Intimate Partner	No	659	98.4%	133	91.7%
	Yes	11	1.6%	9	6.2%
Considered Suicide	No	651	97.2%	96	66.2%
	Yes	17	2.5%	49	33.8%

These results are statistically significant.

- Among youth who have reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 46.2% reported having thoughts of self-harm, compared to 6.7% of youth who had thoughts of self-harm but did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row.
- Among youth who reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 32.4% reported self-harm behaviors, compared to 4.9% who reported self-harm behaviors but did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row.

- Among youth who reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 6.2% reported experiencing physical abuse from an intimate partner, compared to 1.6% who reported experiencing abuse but did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row.
- Among youth who reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 33.8% reported considering suicide, compared to 2.5% of youth who reported considering suicide but did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row.

Past Year Depression and School/Community Connectedness

		Sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks in a row			
		No		Yes	
		Count	Col. %	Count	Col. %
One adult I can share with	Agree	558	83.3%	103	71.0%
	Disagree	54	8.1%	27	18.6%
I feel safe in my community	Agree	570	85.1%	95	65.5%
	Disagree	41	6.1%	35	24.1%
I feel safe at school	Agree	559	83.4%	96	66.2%
	Disagree	51	7.6%	34	23.4%
I know how to get help for myself/my peers for mental health or substance use problems at my school	Agree	558	83.3%	94	64.8%
	Disagree	52	7.8%	35	24.1%

These results are statistically significant.

- Among youth who reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 71.0% of youth reported they had at least one adult they could share thoughts and feelings with, compared to 83.3% who had at least one adult they could share with and did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row.
- Among youth who reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 65.5% of youth reported feeling safe in their community, compared to 85.1% who reported feeling safe and did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row.
- Among youth who reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 66.2% reported feeling safe at school, compared to 83.4% who reported feeling safe at school and did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row.
- Among youth who reported feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row, 64.8% reported knowing how to get help for themselves or a peer for mental health or substance use problems at school, compared to 83.3% who reported knowing how to get help and did not report feeling sad or hopeless 2+ weeks in a row.