

Meriden Youth Voices Count Survey Results 2025



Background

- April 2025, students from Meriden Public Schools in grades 6-12 participated in the Youth Voices Count Survey on youth lifestyles, substance use, mental health, bullying and related risk and protective factors
- The survey was completely anonymous, no identifying information was collected
- Students were provided an instructional video informing them of confidentiality, right to opt out and resources if the survey brought up uncomfortable feelings

Analysis

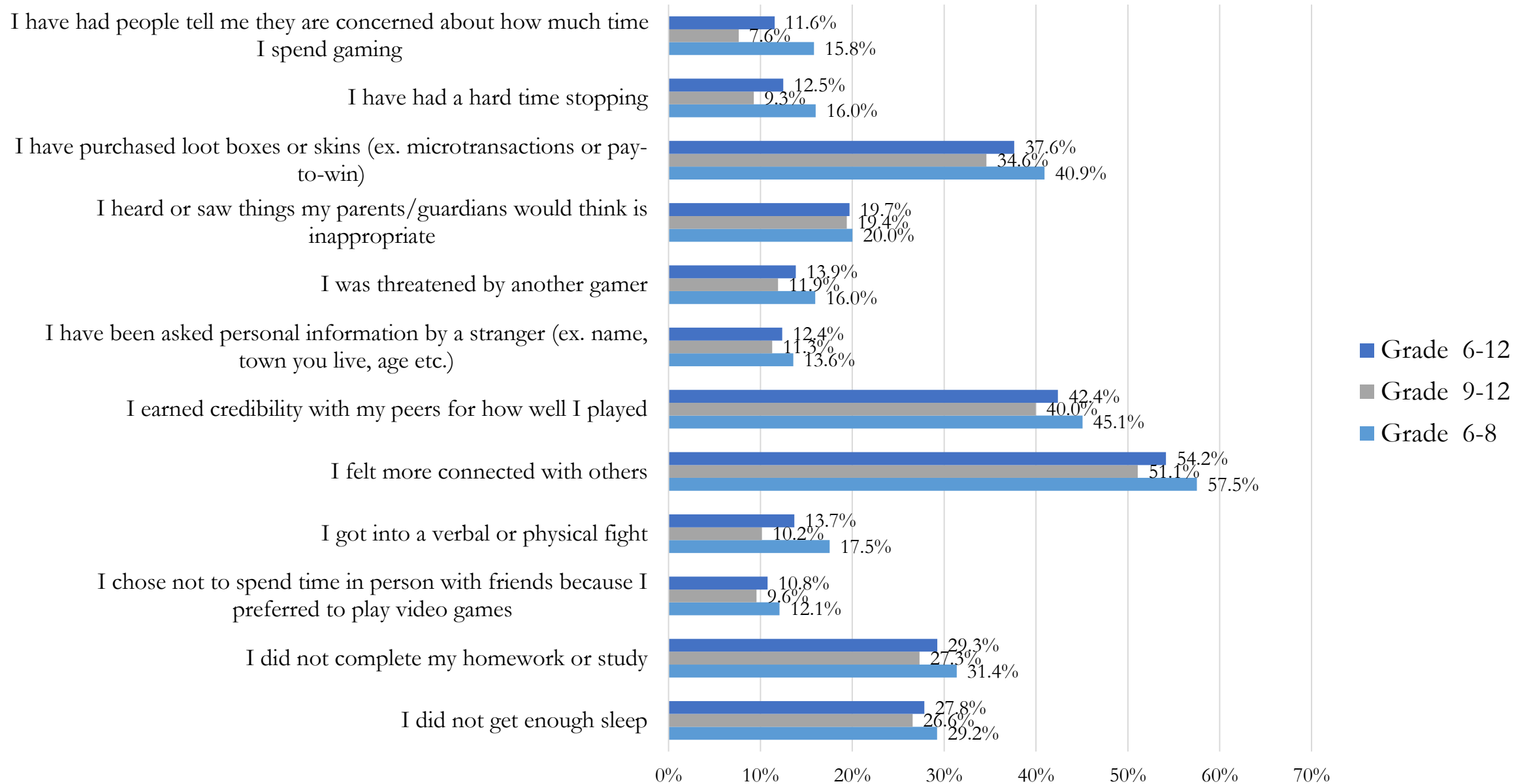
- Subgroup analysis was performed by biological sex, race/ethnicity, gender identity and sexual identity to allow for the Local Prevention Council and other organizations to utilize the data to target groups experiencing greater behaviors of concern.
- These findings are available within an Excel report that allows for filtering between risk and protective factors for these groups.

Response Rate

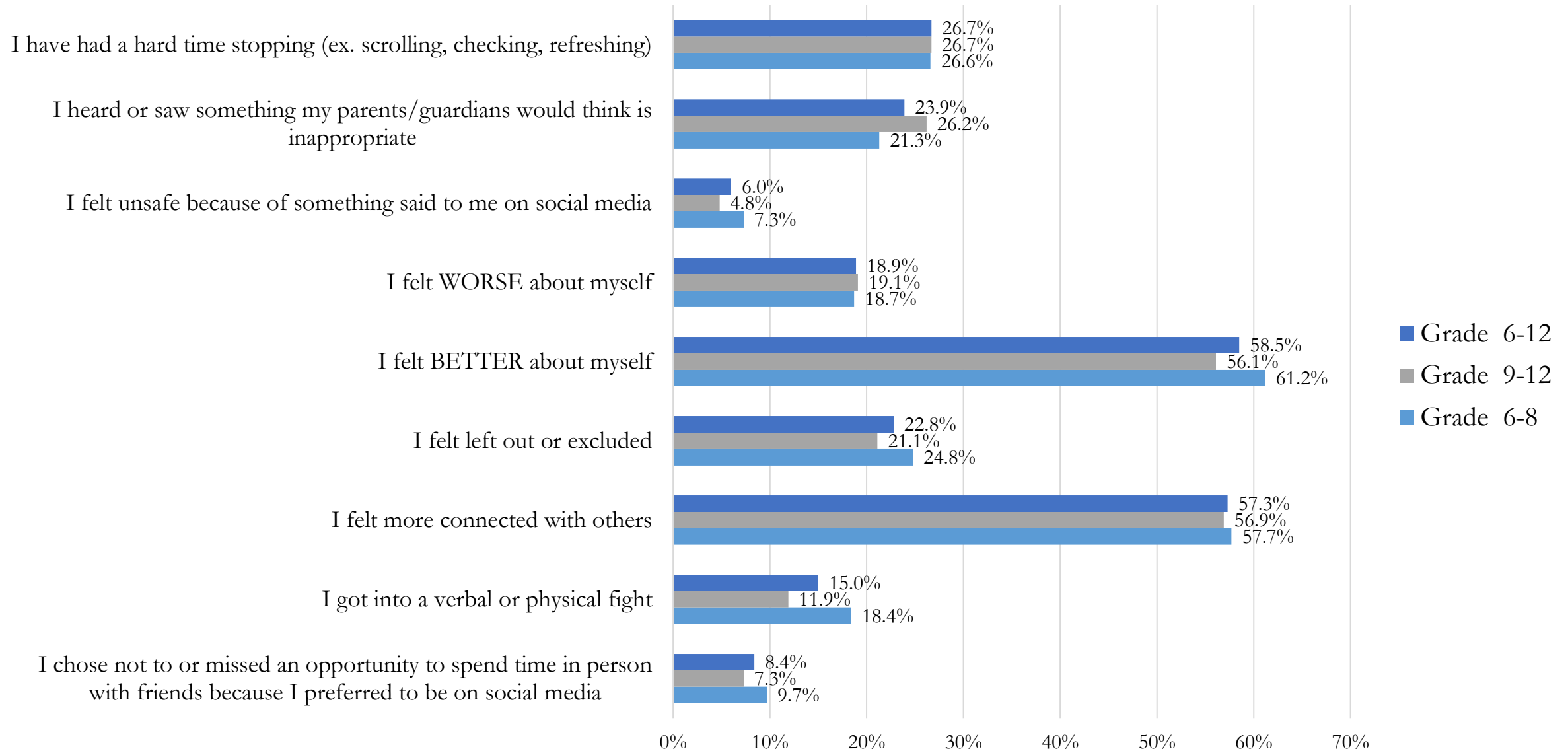
Sample Response Rates	Sample Count	Population Count	Response Rate (%)
Grade 6	578	674	85.76%
Grade 7	592	693	85.43%
Grade 8	585	710	82.39%
Grade 9	505	707	71.43%
Grade 10	523	688	76.02%
Grade 11	461	603	76.45%
Grade 12	404	567	71.25%
Grades 6-8	1755	2077	84.50%
Grades 9-12	1893	2565	73.80%
Grades 6-12	3648*	4642	78.59%

*12 students did not select a grade and are not included in the table above.

Perceived Gaming Assets and Consequences – Past Year

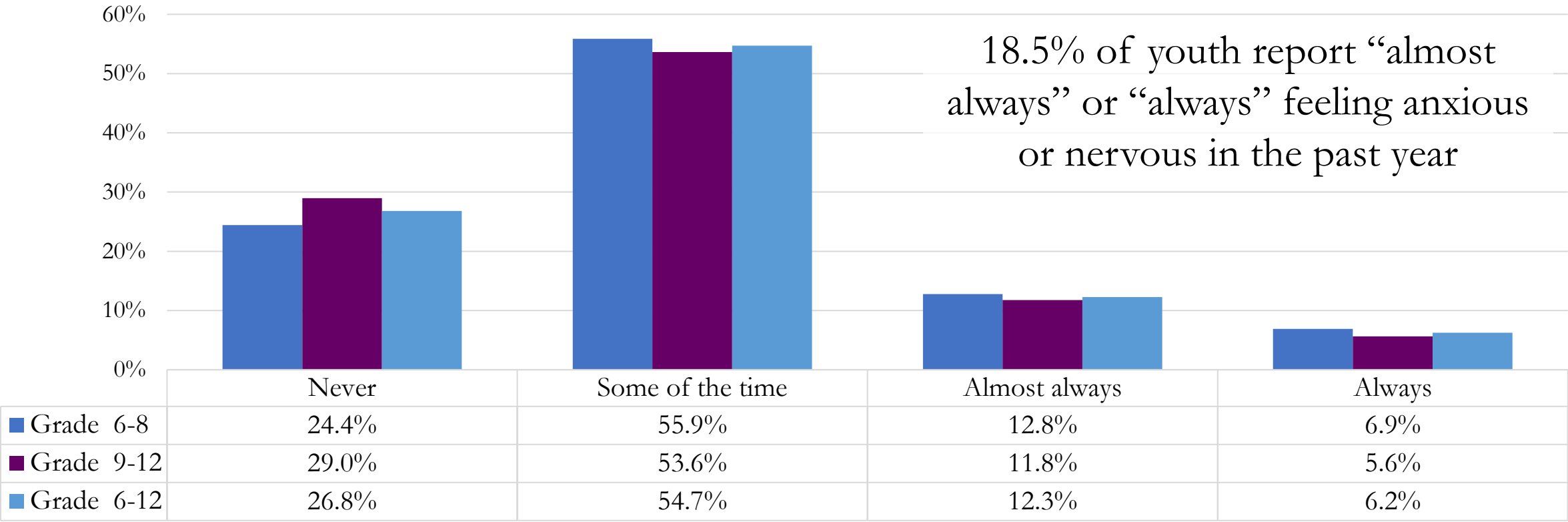


Perceived Social Media Assets and Consequences- Past Year

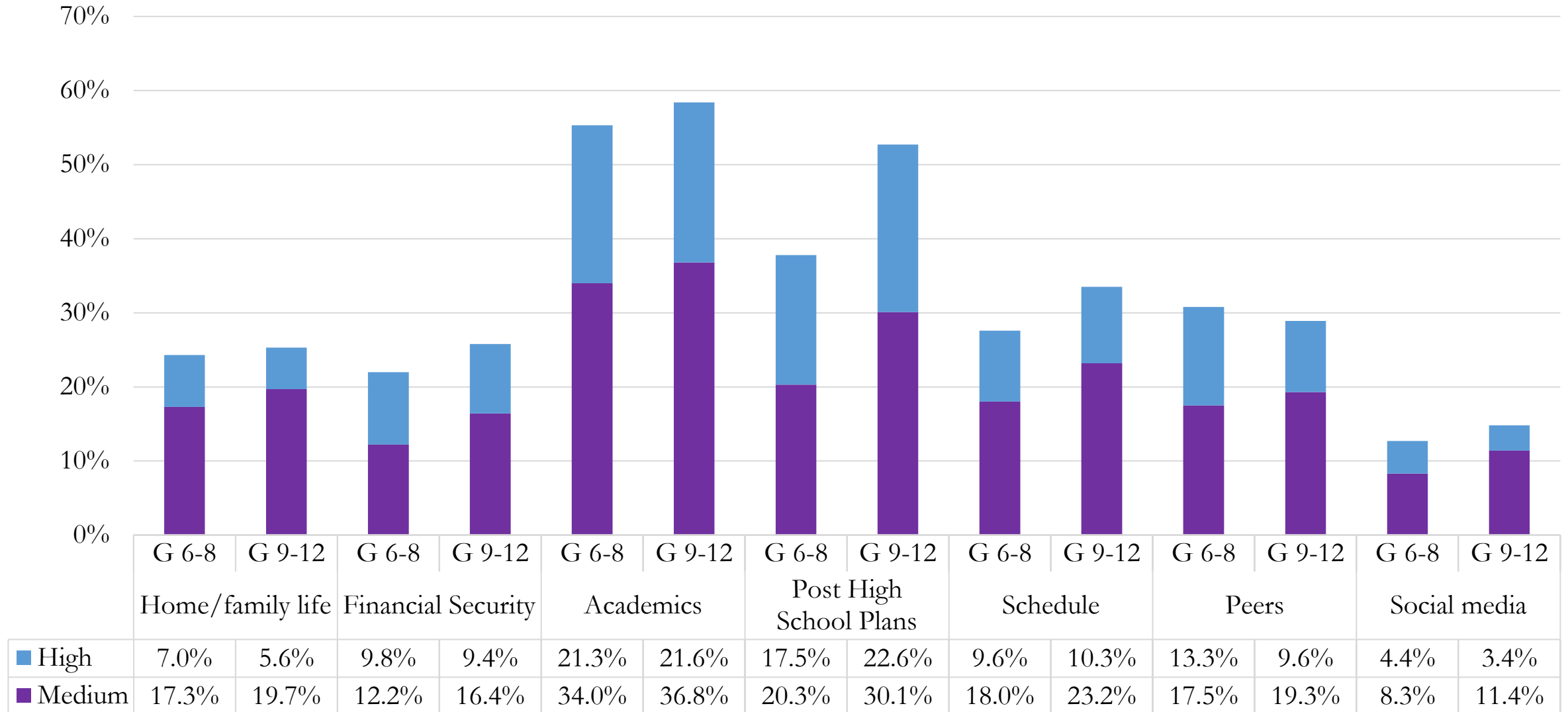


Emotional Health

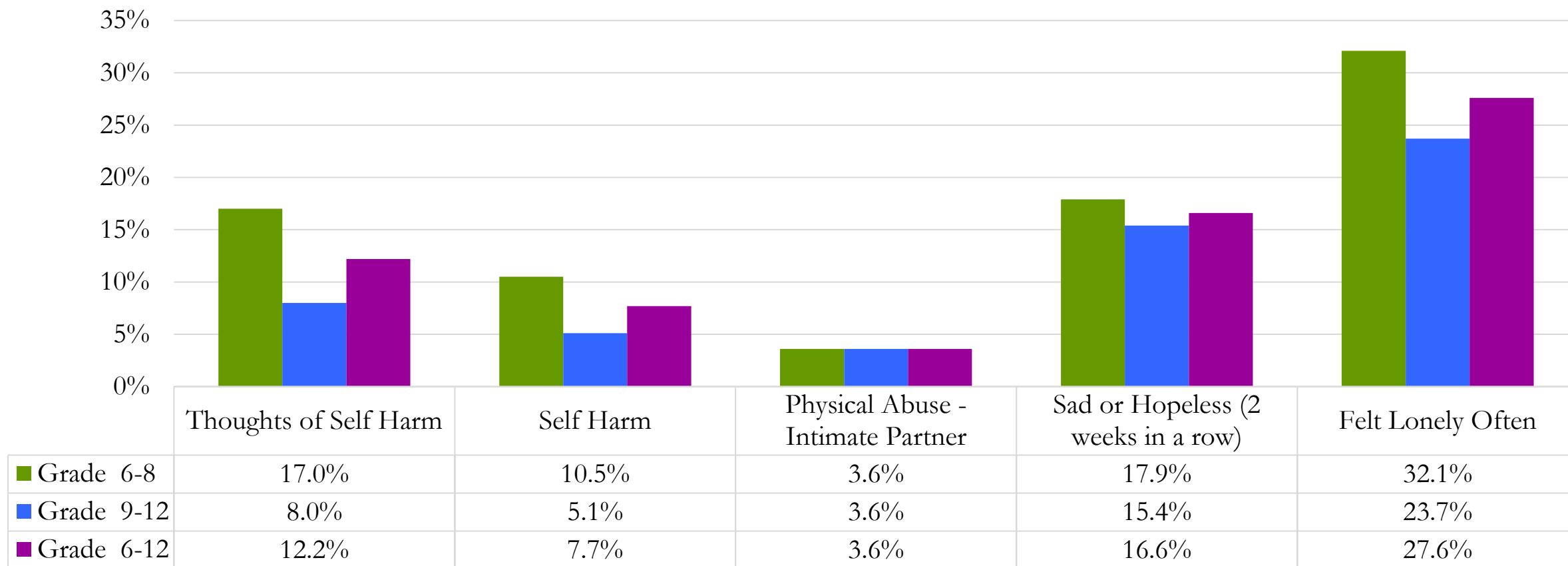
Past Year Stress, Worry or Anxiety



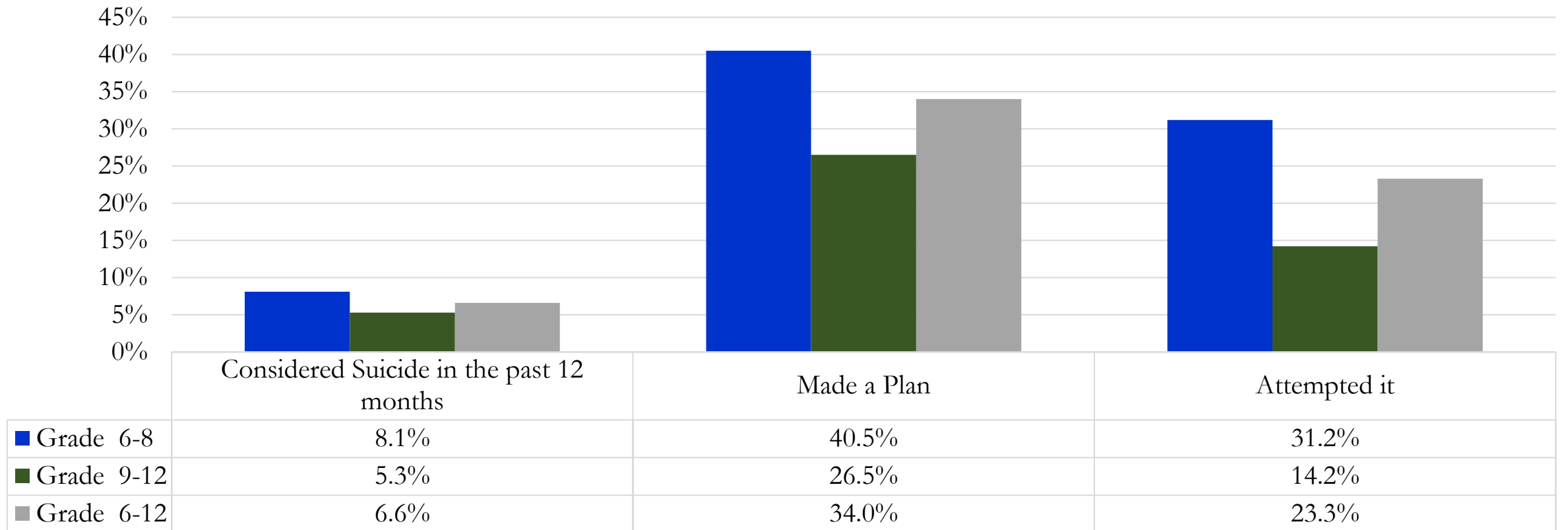
Sources of Stress, Anxiety, or Worry



Other Emotional Health Indicators, % Responding “Yes”

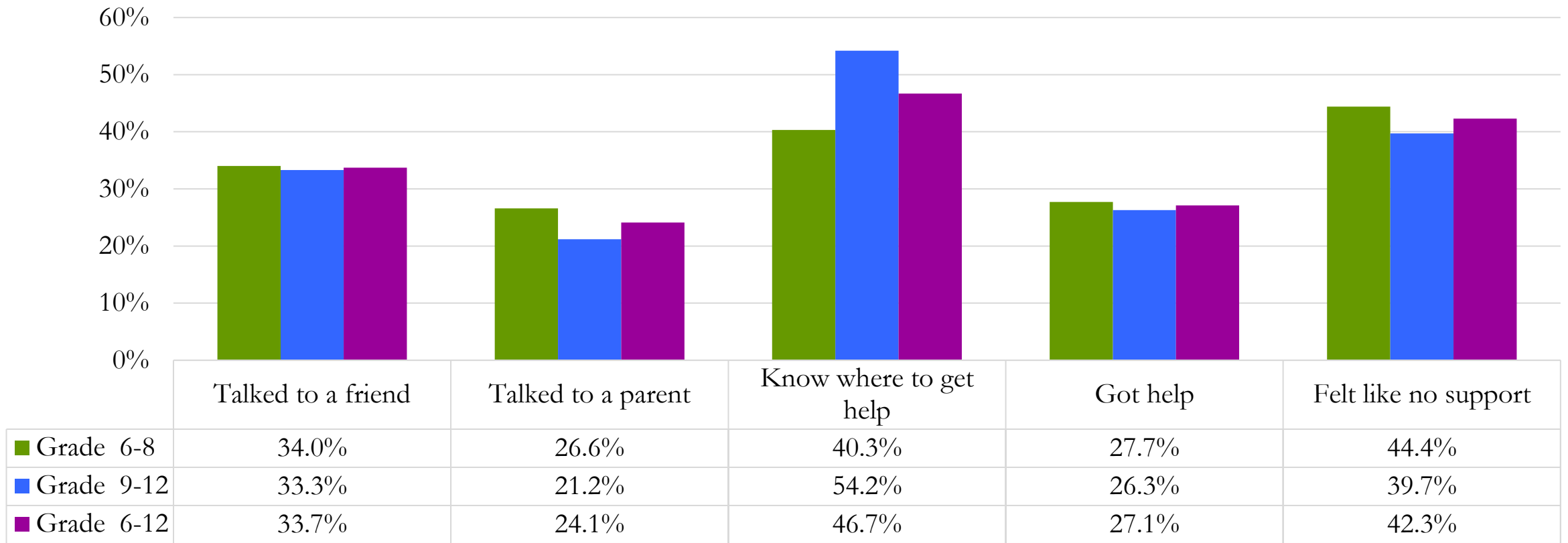


Past Year Thoughts of Suicide



% of those who considered suicide

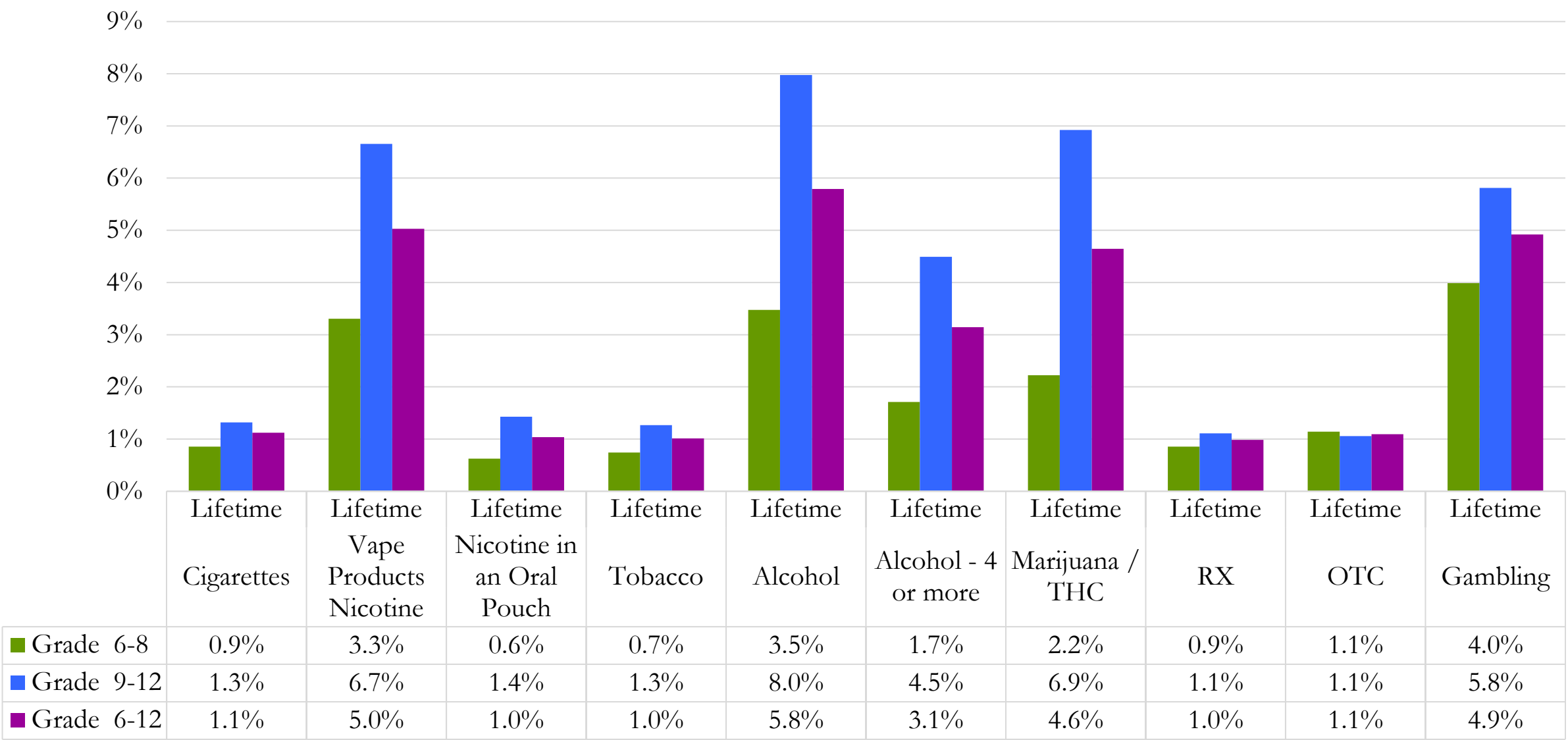
Suicide and Perceptions of Supports



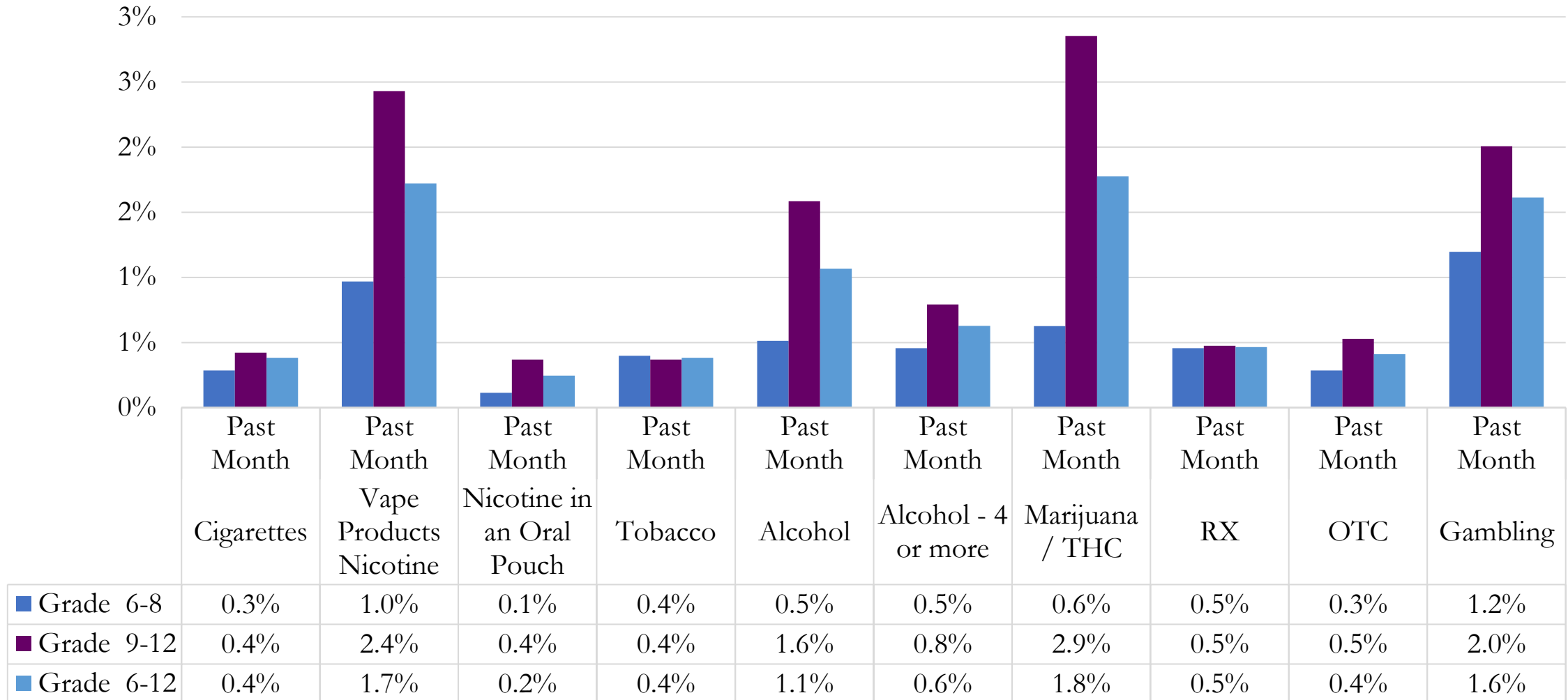
% of those who considered suicide

Substance Use and Perceptions

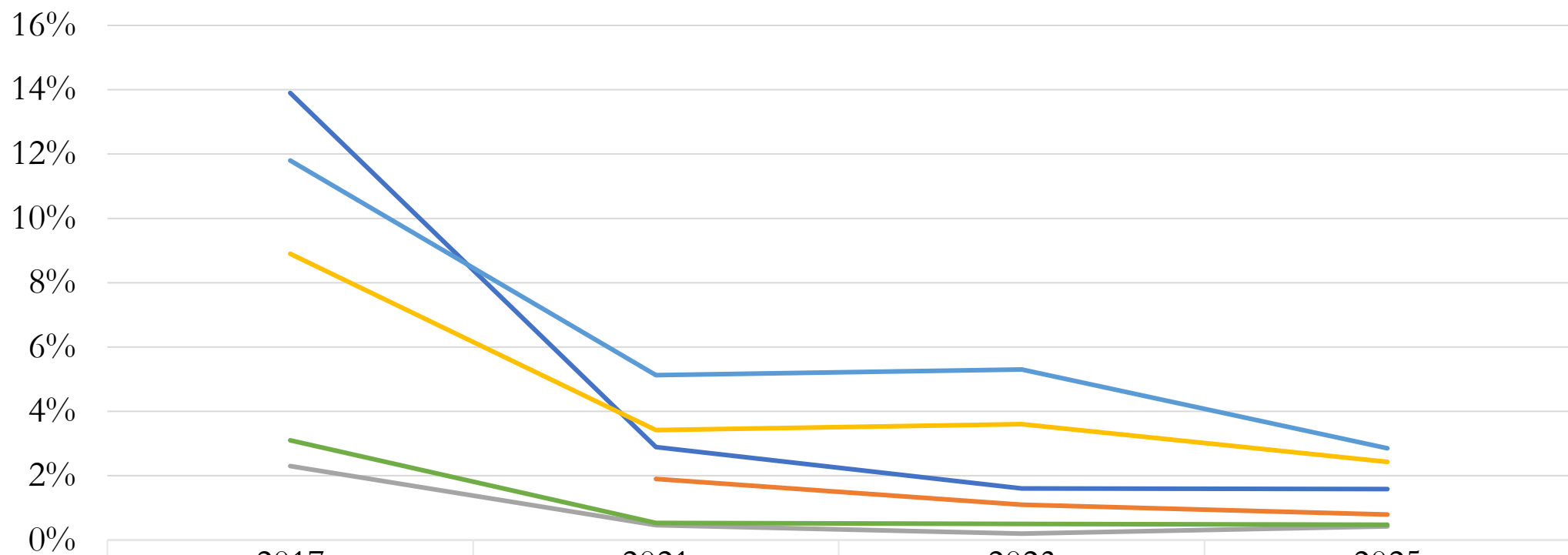
Lifetime Use of CORE Substances and Gambling



Past Month Use of CORE Substances and Gambling

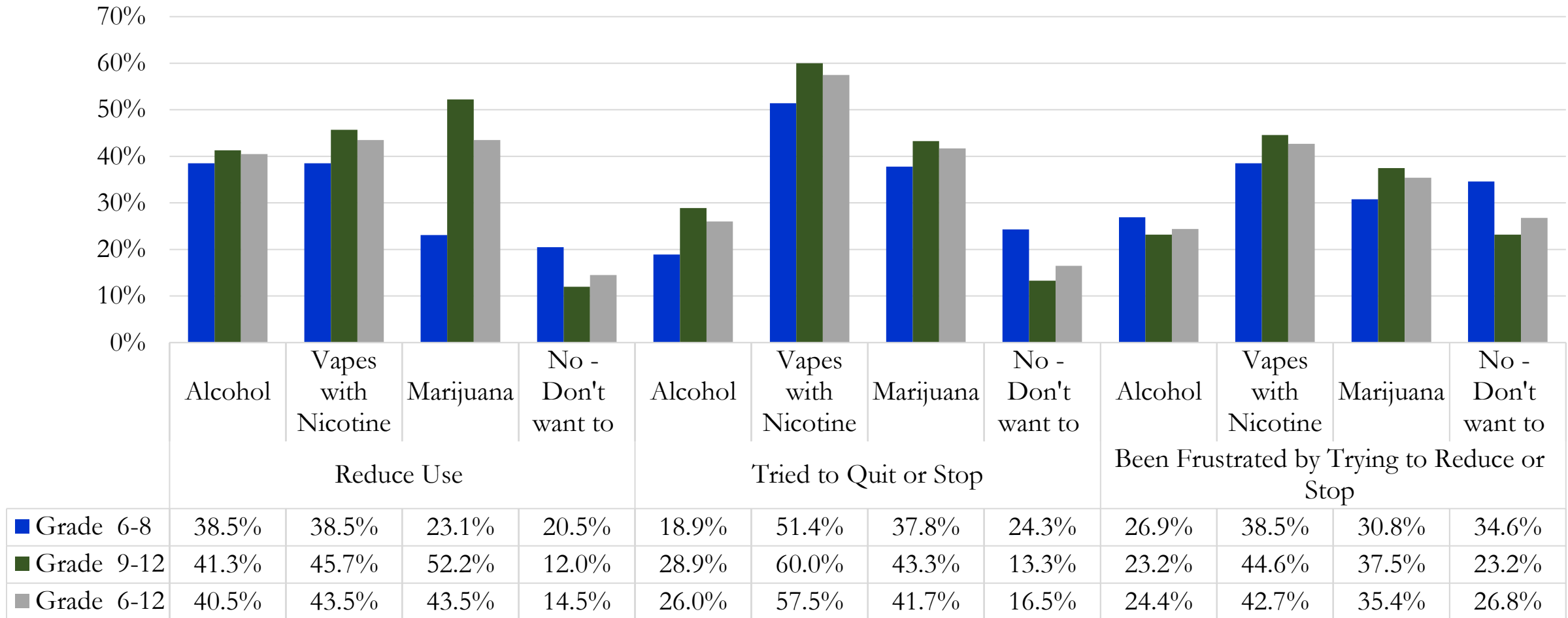


Trend Past Month Use of CORE Substances, Grades 9-12

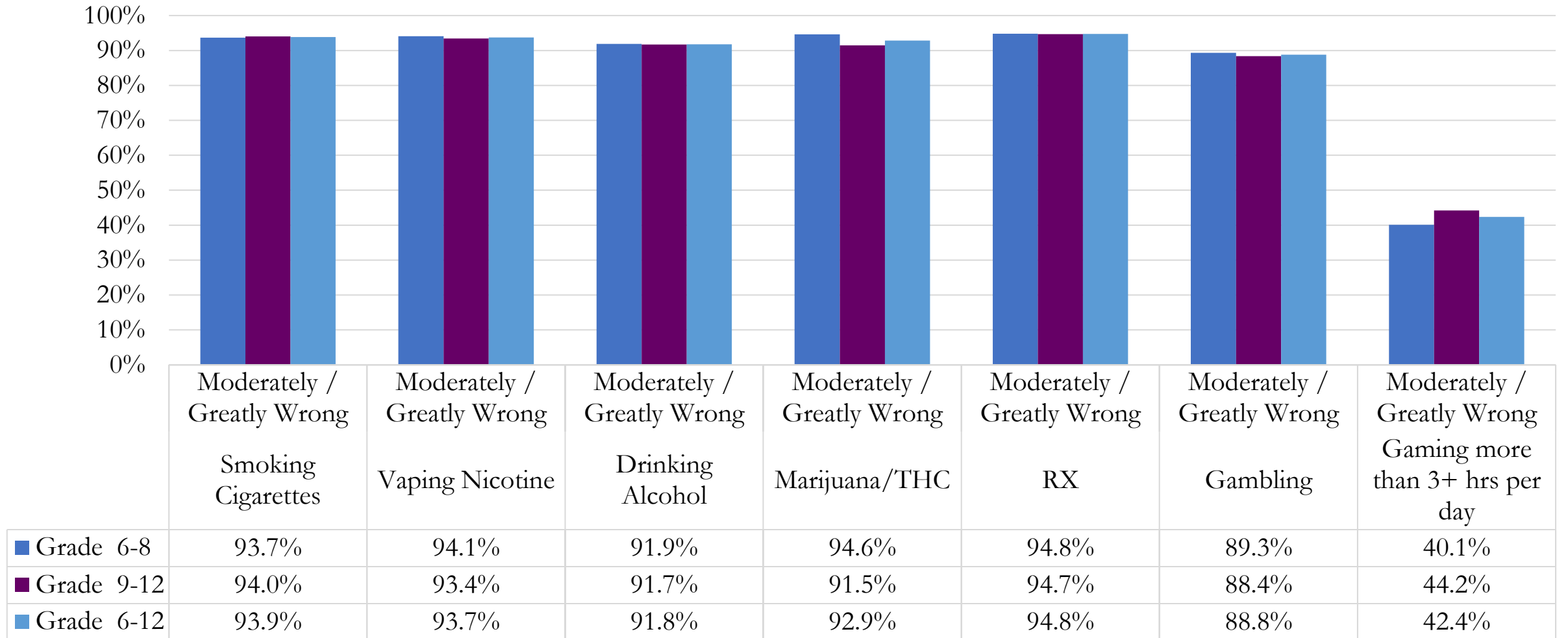


Alcohol	2017	2021	2023	2025
Binge Drinking	13.9%	2.9%	1.6%	1.6%
Cigarettes		1.9%	1.1%	0.8%
Vaping Nicotine	8.9%	3.4%	3.6%	2.4%
Marijuana	11.8%	5.1%	5.3%	2.9%
Prescription Drugs	3.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%

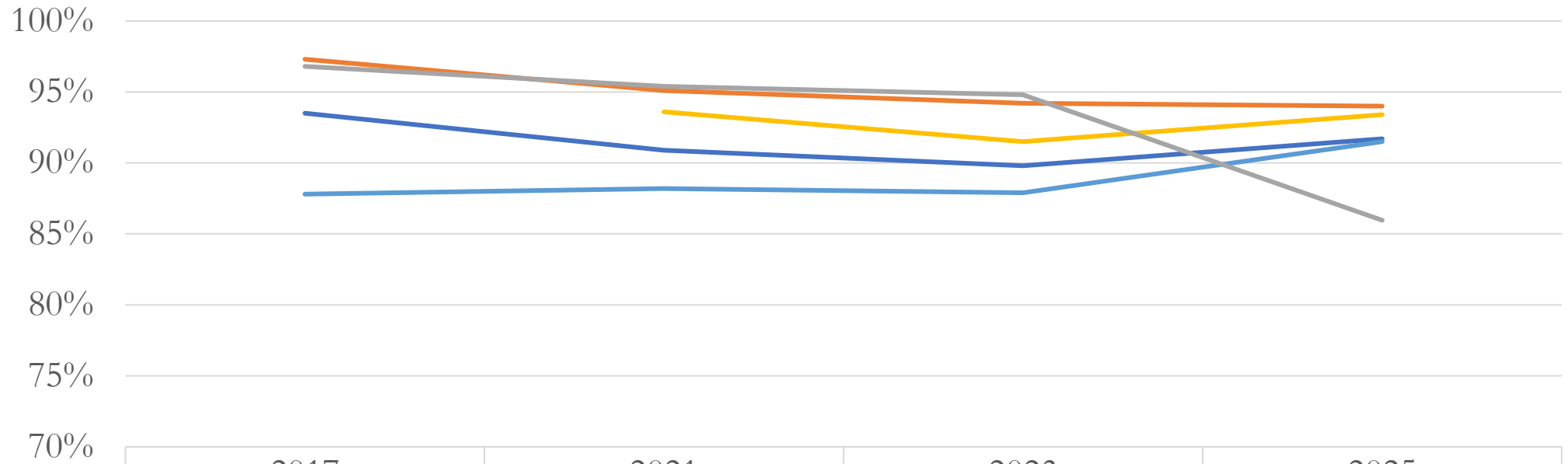
Substance Use Reduction or Trying to Quit,



Perception of Parental Disapproval

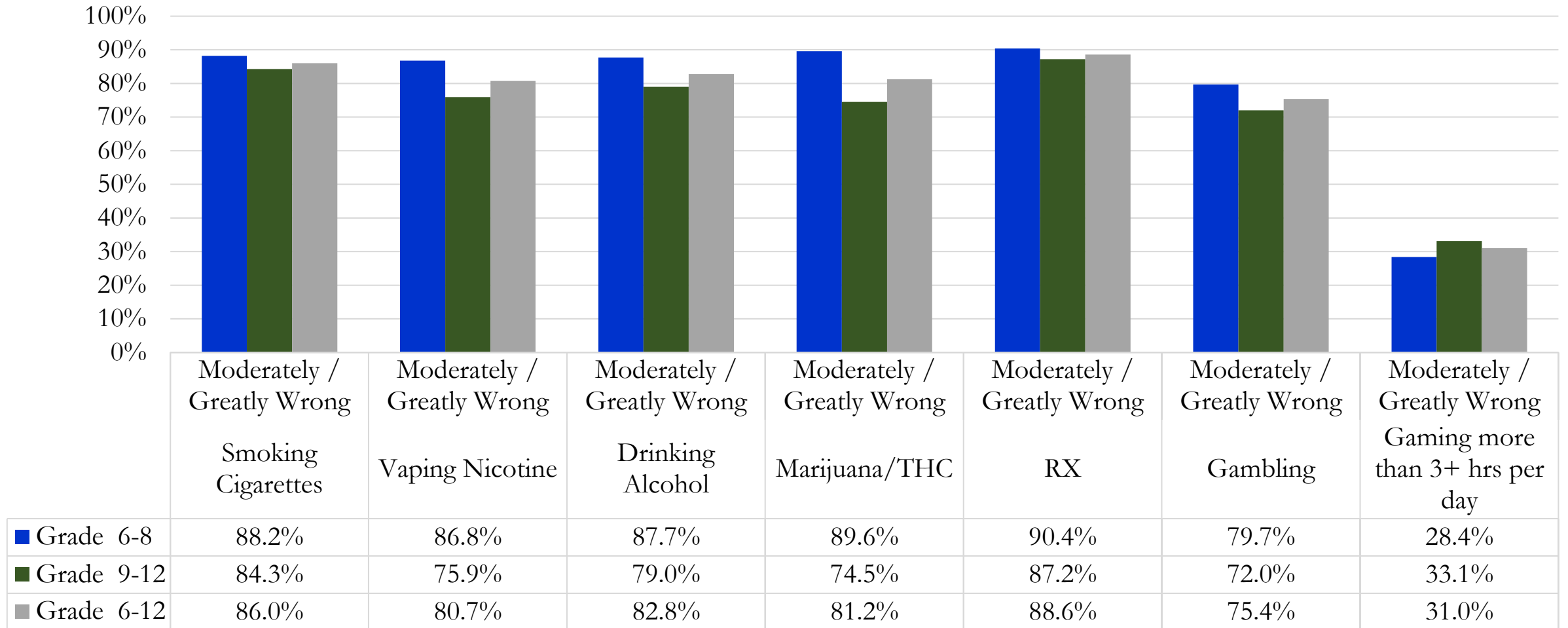


Trend Perception of Parental Disapproval (Moderately/Greatly Wrong), Grades 9-12

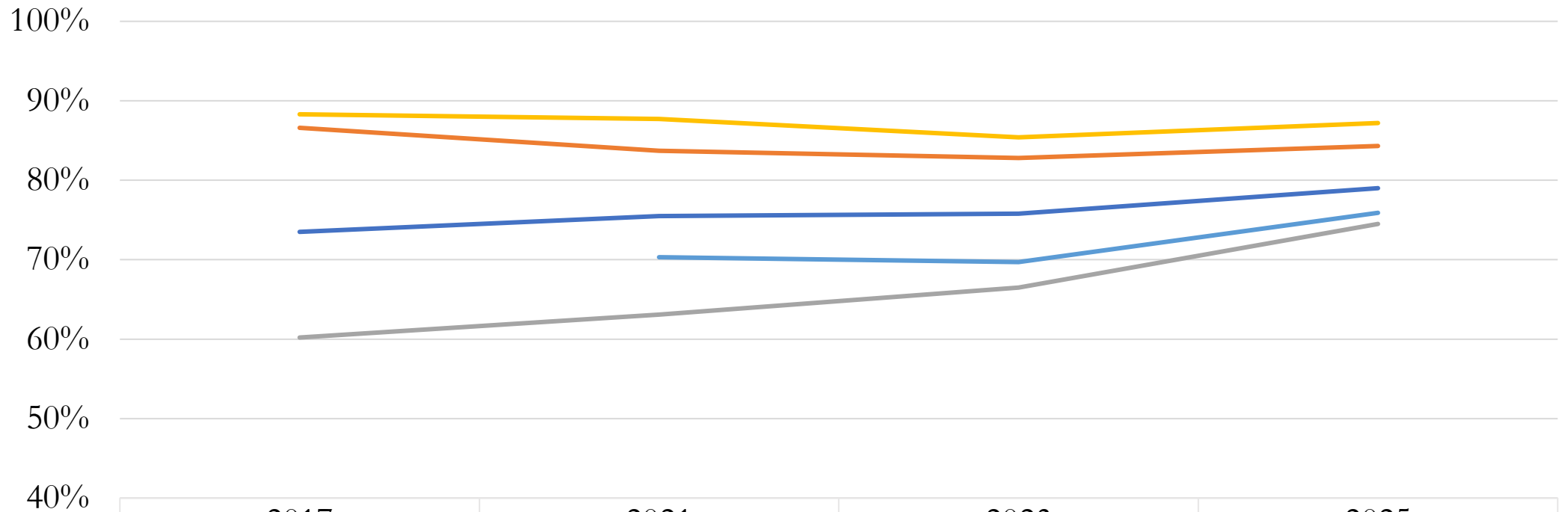


	2017	2021	2023	2025
Alcohol	93.5%	90.9%	89.8%	91.7%
Cigarettes	97.3%	95.1%	94.2%	94.0%
Vaping		93.6%	91.5%	93.4%
Marijuana	87.8%	88.2%	87.9%	91.5%
Prescription Drugs	96.8%	95.4%	94.8%	86.0%

Perception of Peer Disapproval

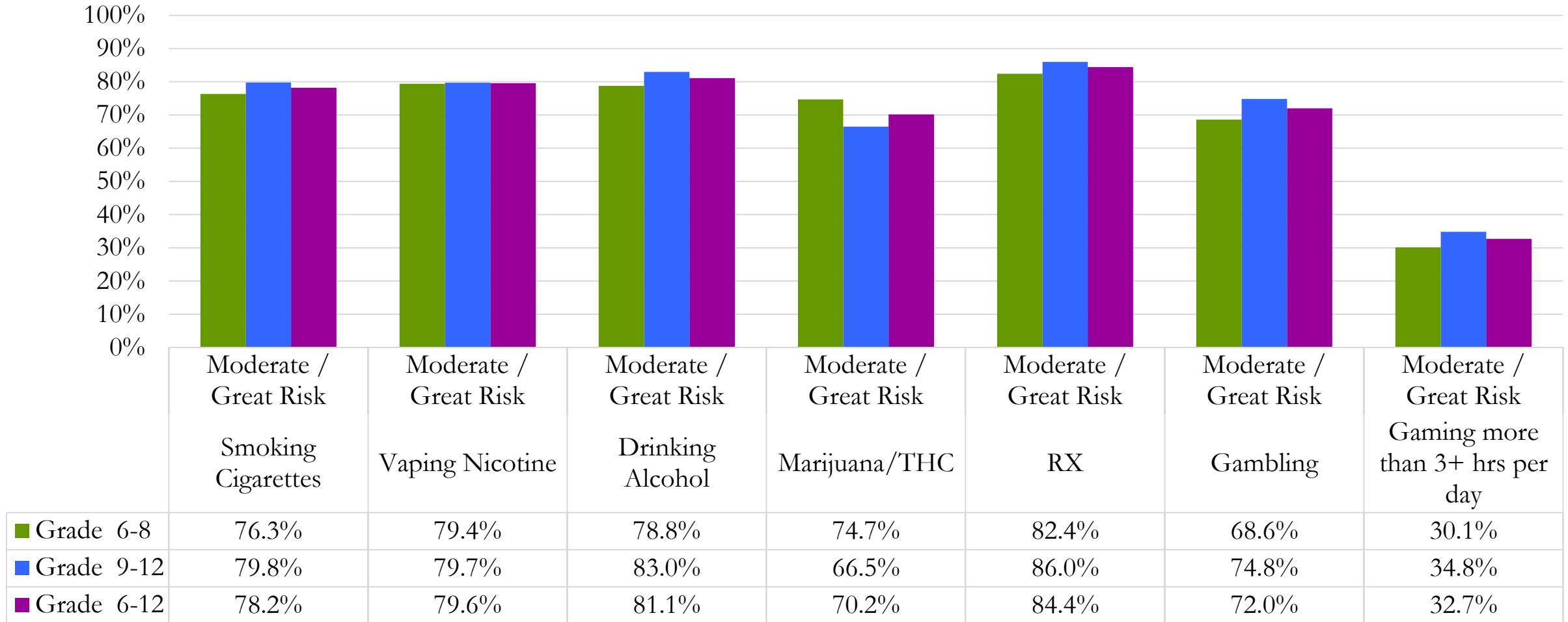


Trend Perception of Peer Disapproval (Moderately/Greatly Wrong), Grades 9-12

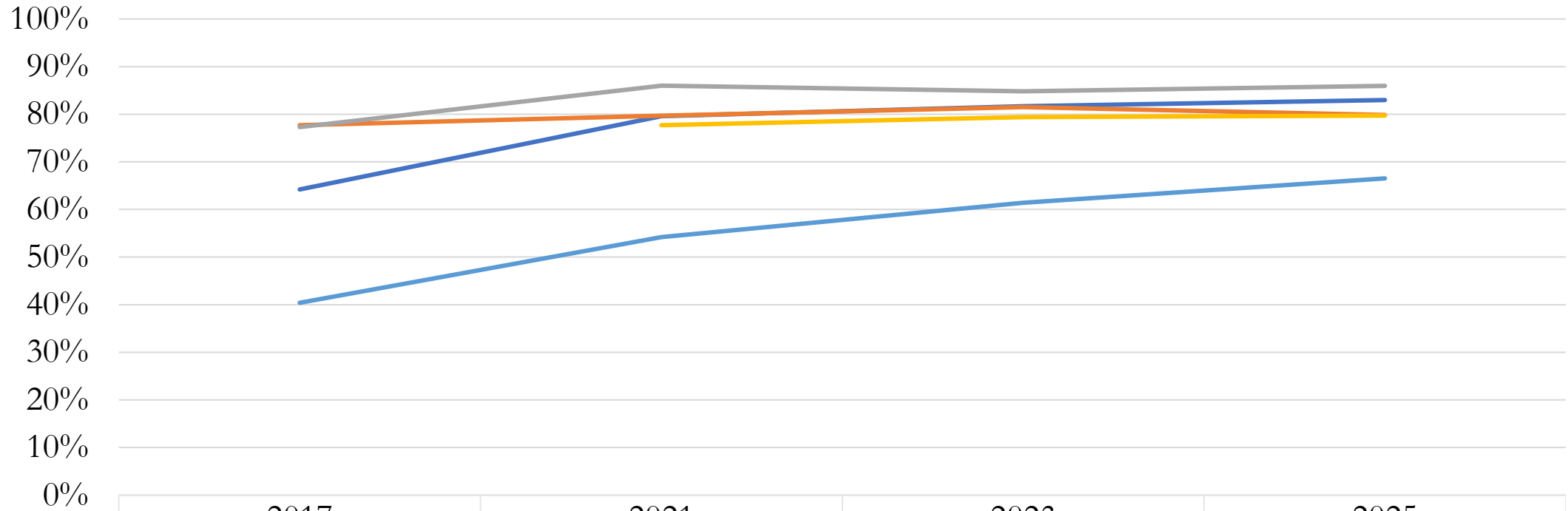


Alcohol	73.5%	75.5%	75.8%	79.0%
Cigarettes	86.6%	83.7%	82.8%	84.3%
Vaping		70.3%	69.7%	75.9%
Marijuana	60.2%	63.1%	66.5%	74.5%
Prescription Drugs	88.3%	87.7%	85.4%	87.2%

Perception of Risk/Harm

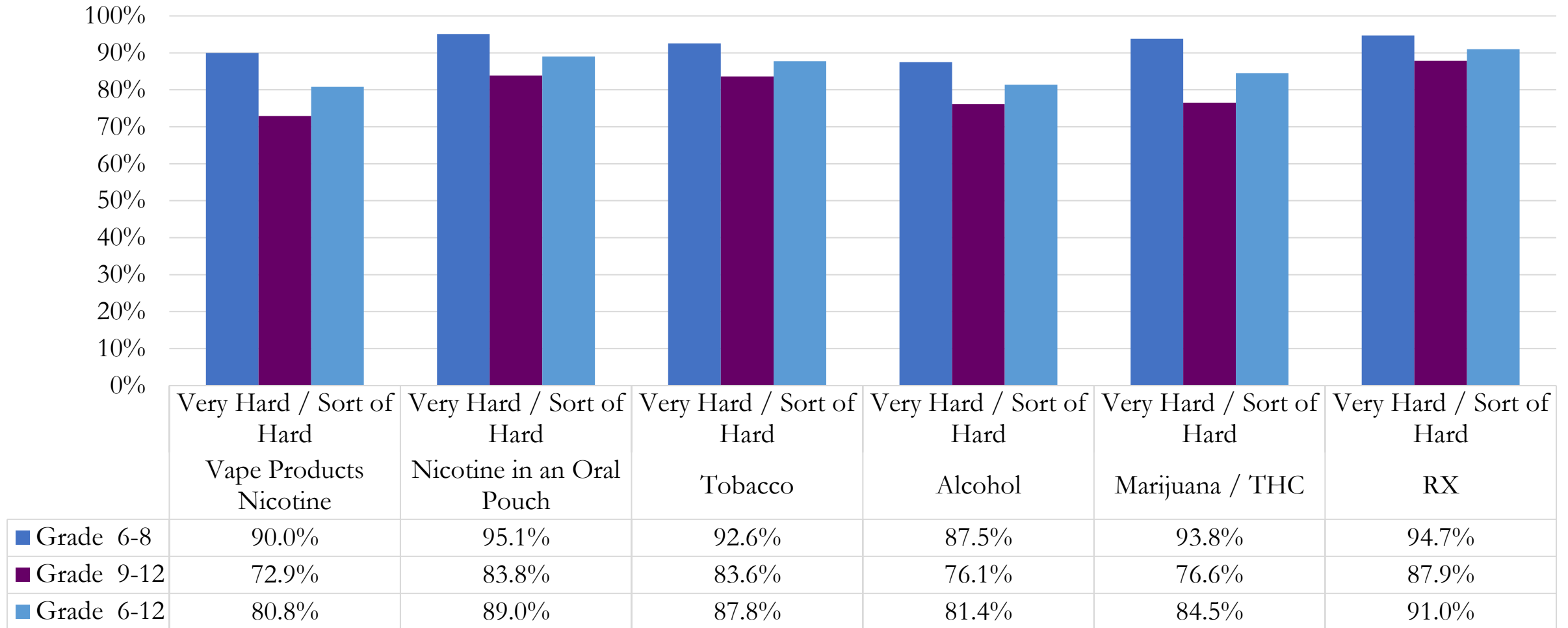


Trend Perception of Risk/Harm (Moderate/Great Risk), Grades 9-12

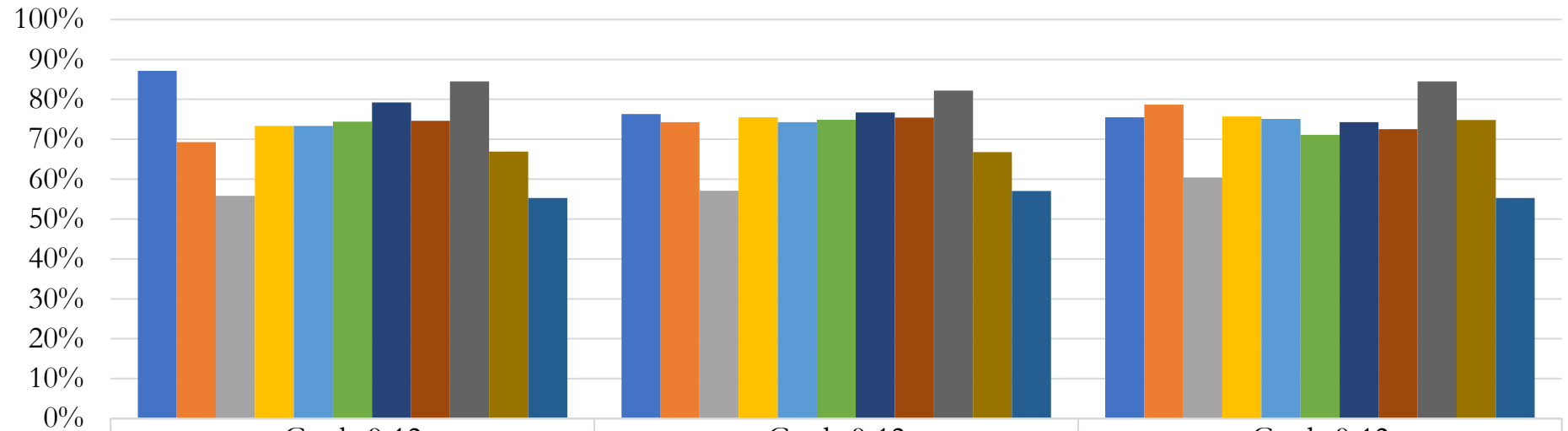


— Alcohol	2017	2021	2023	2025
— Cigarettes	64.2%	79.6%	81.7%	83.0%
— Vaping	77.7%	79.7%	81.5%	79.8%
— Marijuana		77.7%	79.4%	79.7%
— Prescription Drugs	40.4%	54.2%	61.4%	66.5%
	77.3%	86.0%	84.8%	86.0%

Perception of Access

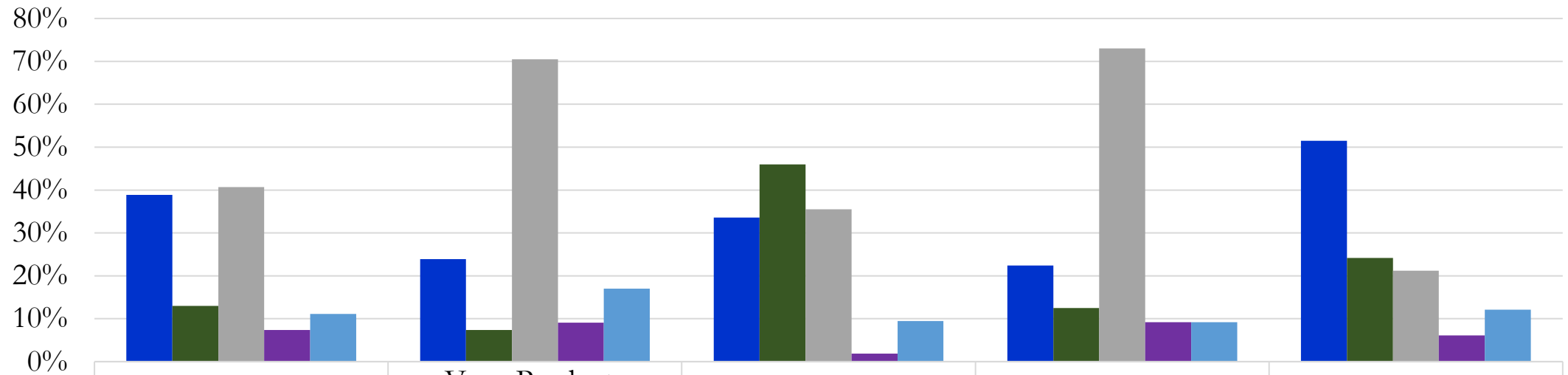


Reasons Why Substances are not Used, Grades 9-12



■ Underage	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	87.1%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	76.3%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	75.5%
■ I don't approve	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	69.3%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	74.3%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	78.7%
■ My friends don't approve	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	55.8%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	57.1%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	60.4%
■ Fear of Consequences - Parent/Guardian	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	73.3%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	75.5%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	75.7%
■ Fear of Consequences - School	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	73.3%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	74.3%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	75.1%
■ Fear of Consequences - Police	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	74.4%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	74.9%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	71.1%
■ Don't Want to Lose Control	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	79.2%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	76.7%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	74.3%
■ School Work	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	74.6%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	75.4%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	72.5%
■ Physical Health	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	84.5%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	82.2%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	84.5%
■ Enviromental Impacts	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	66.9%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	66.8%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	74.8%
■ I don't know how to get it	Grade 9-12 Alcohol	55.3%	Grade 9-12 Marijuana	57.0%	Grade 9-12 Vaping	55.3%

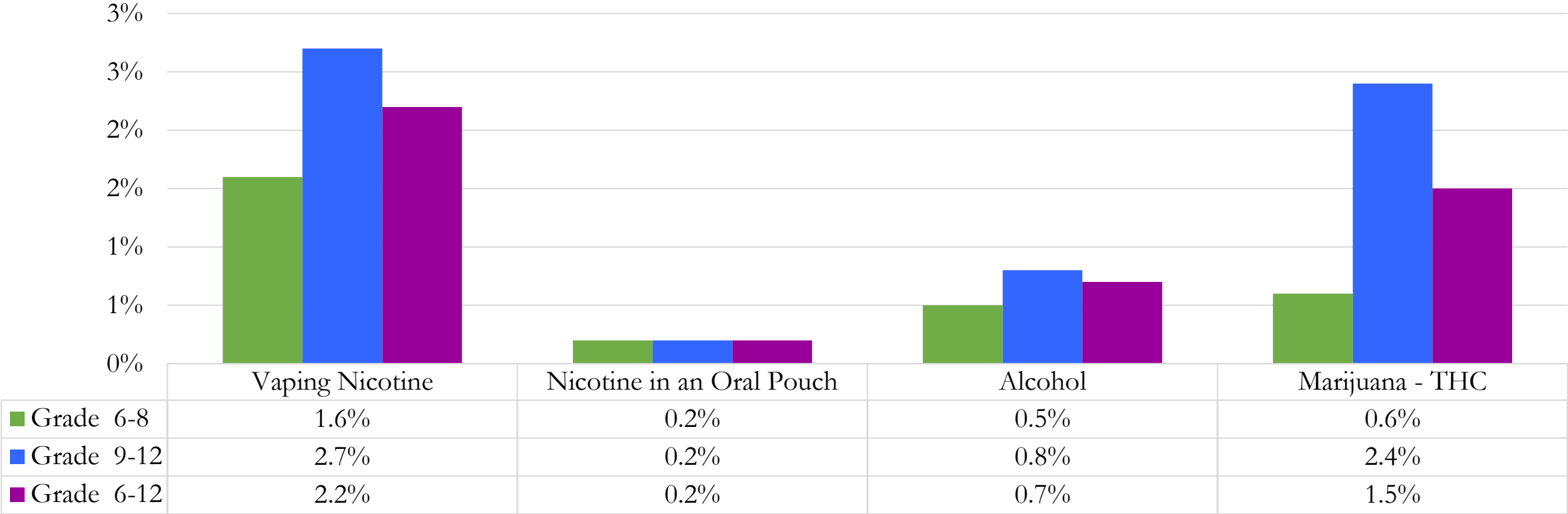
Where Substances Are Acquired Most Often Amongst Lifetime Users Grades 6-12



	Tobacco	Vape Products Nicotine	Alcohol	Marijuana / THC	RX
■ Home w/o Parents	38.9%	23.9%	33.6%	22.4%	51.5%
■ Home w/ parents	13.0%	7.4%	46.0%	12.5%	24.2%
■ Friends/Peers	40.7%	70.5%	35.5%	73.0%	21.2%
■ Internet	7.4%	9.1%	1.9%	9.2%	6.1%
■ Store	11.1%	17.0%	9.5%	9.2%	12.1%

Youth Use of Substances at School - Including School Events

Among Lifetime Users



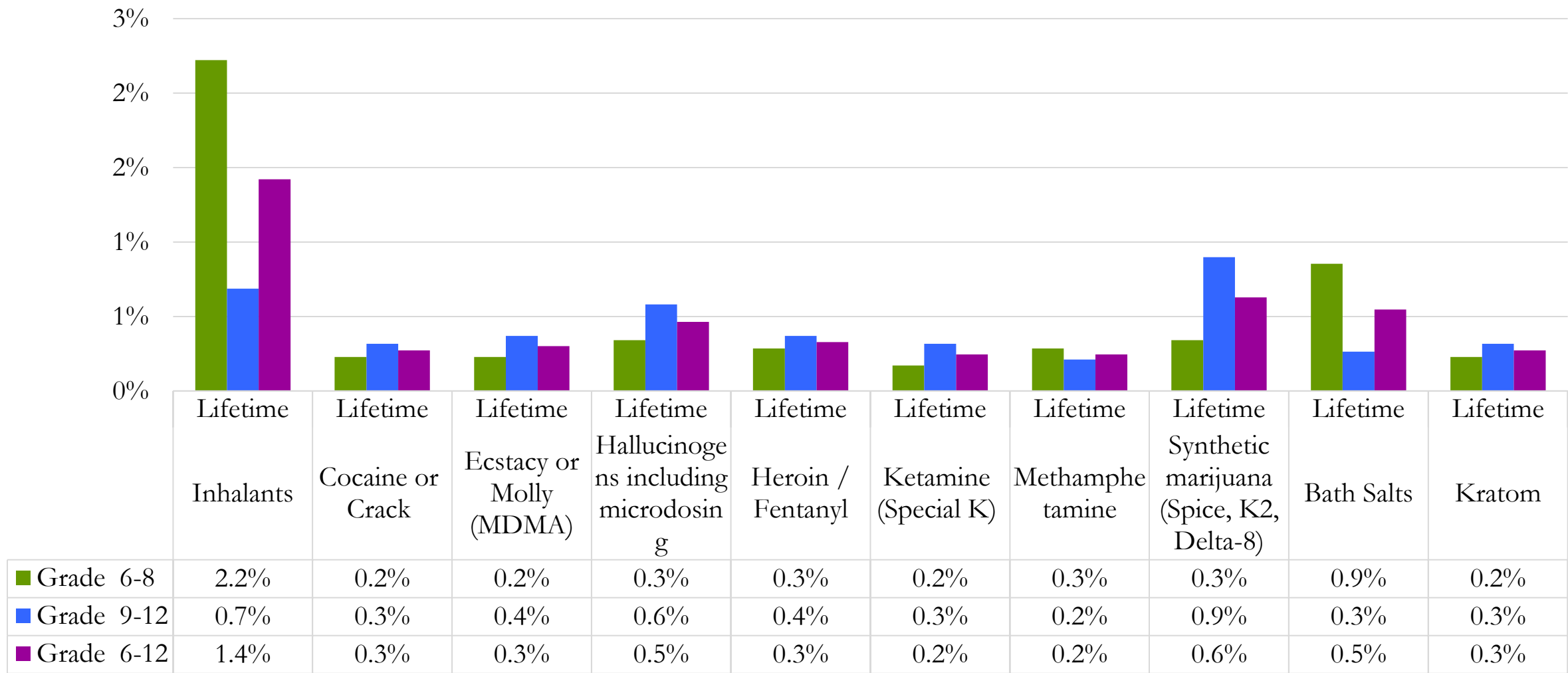
Lifetime Substance Use and Associated Risk Factors, Grades 6-12

Meriden youth who have used any substance in their lifetime are more likely to have increased behavioral health concerns including:

- Experiencing anxiety in the past year
- Thoughts about self-harm and self-harm behaviors
- Feeling sad or hopeless two or more weeks in a row
- Having considered suicide
- Feeling less comfortable seeking help from a parent/guardian

The list above 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.

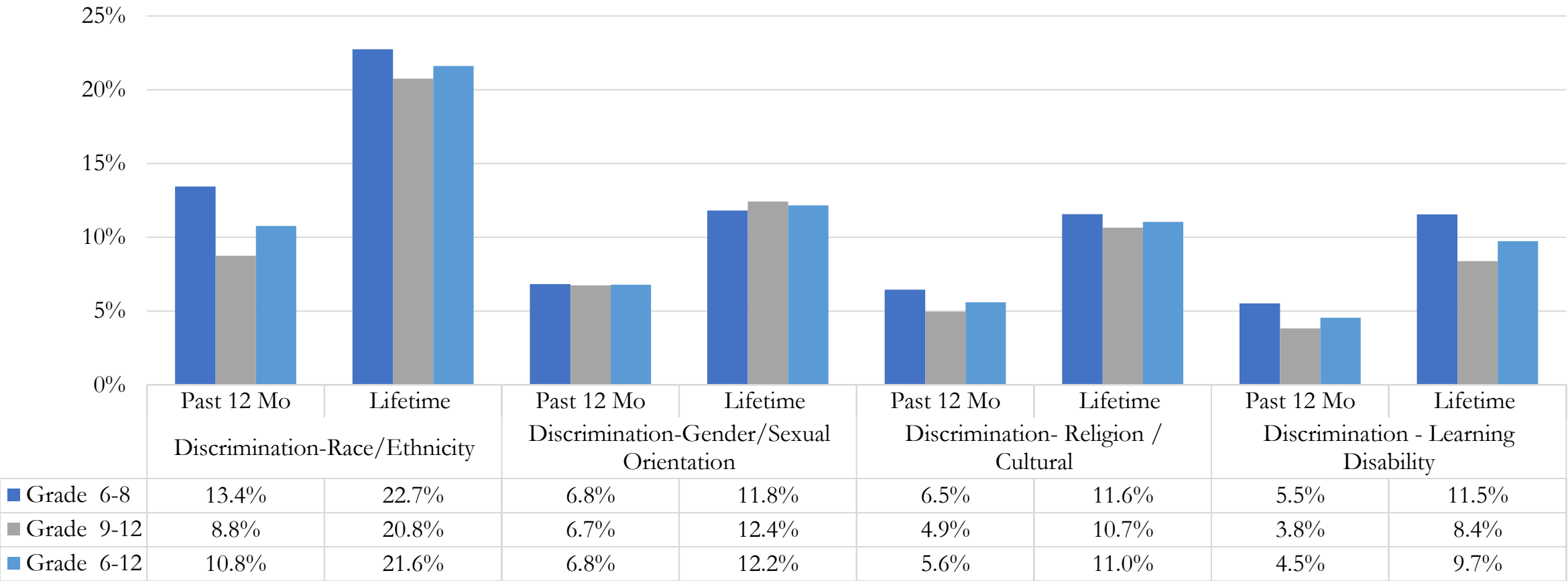
Lifetime Other Substance Use



Toxic Stress

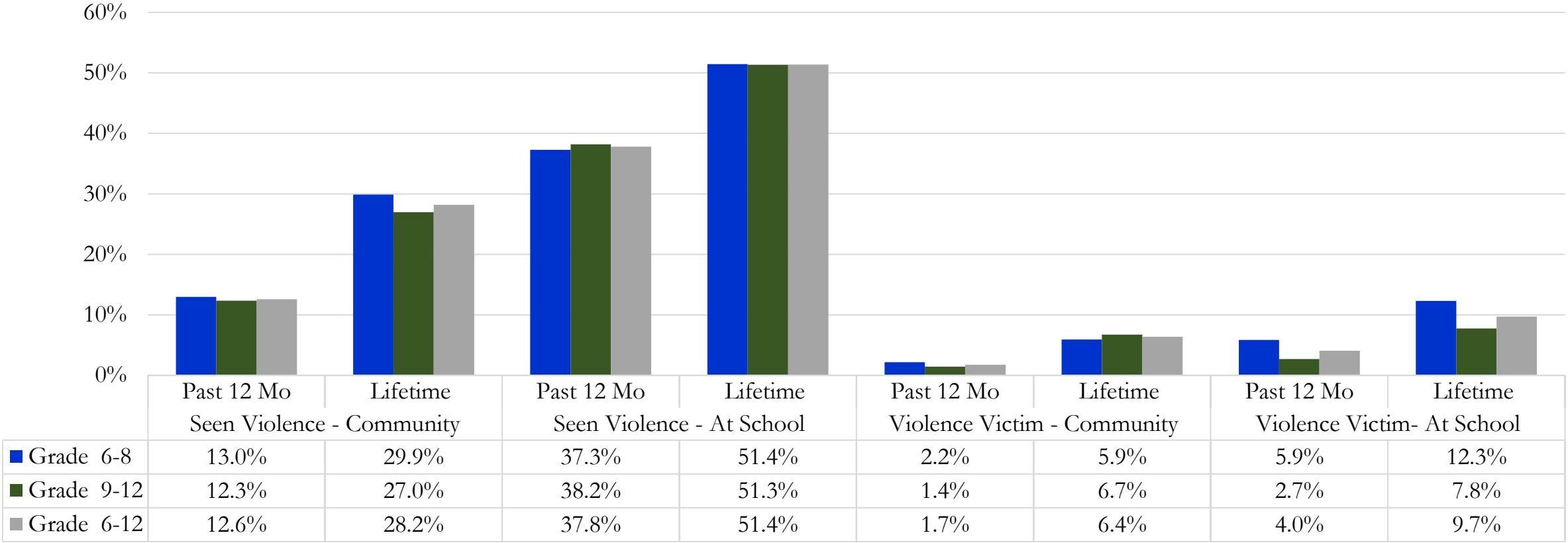
Toxic Stress - Discrimination

(% Yes)



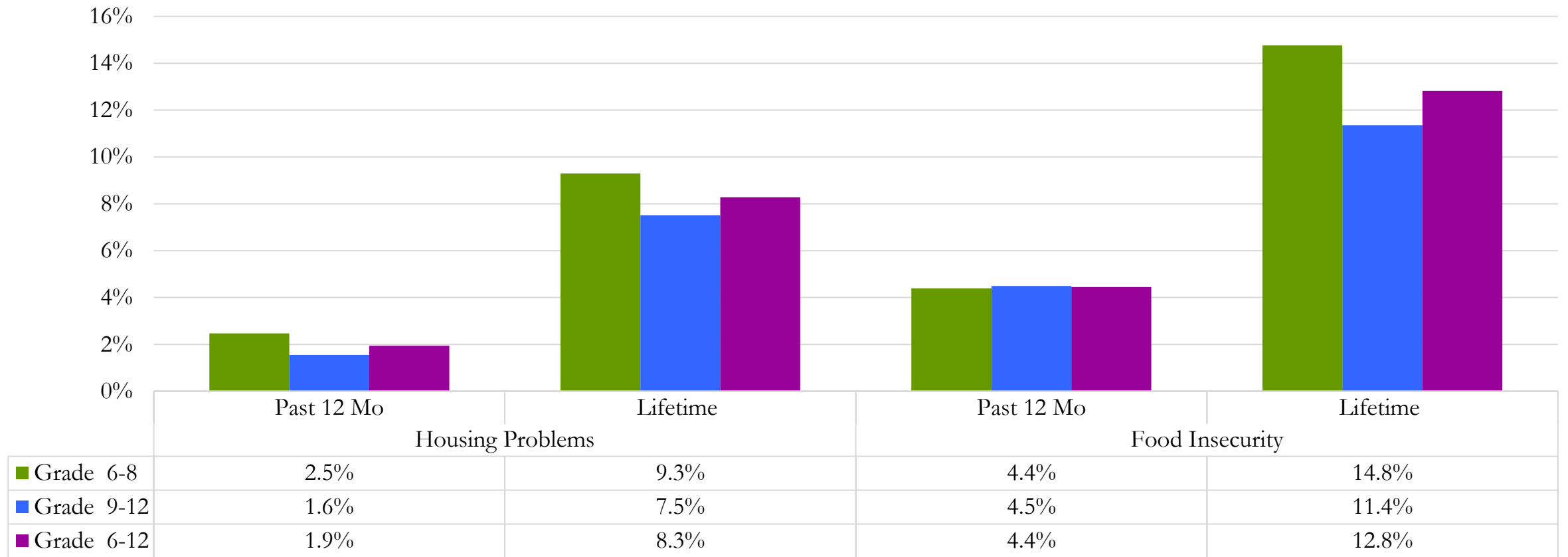
Toxic Stress - Violence

(% Yes)



Toxic Stress – Basic Needs

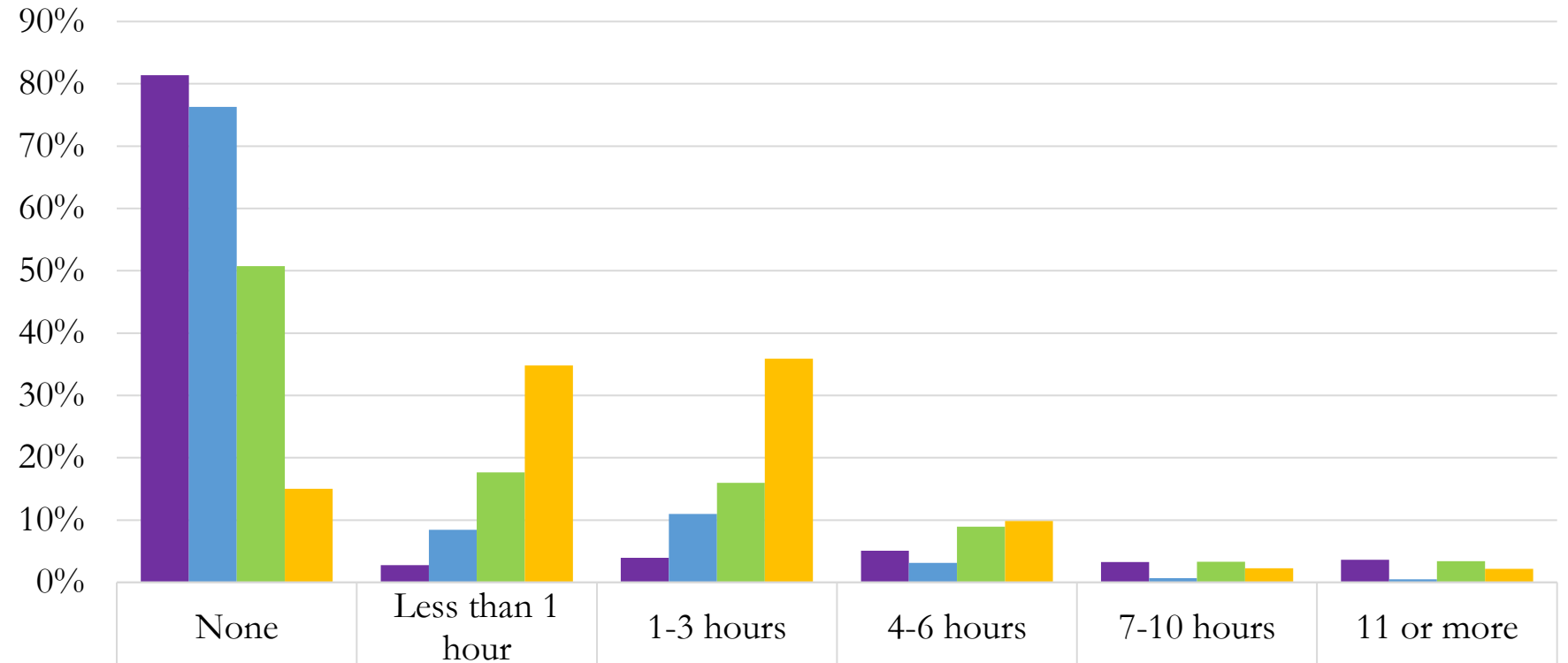
(% Yes)



Extracurricular Activities

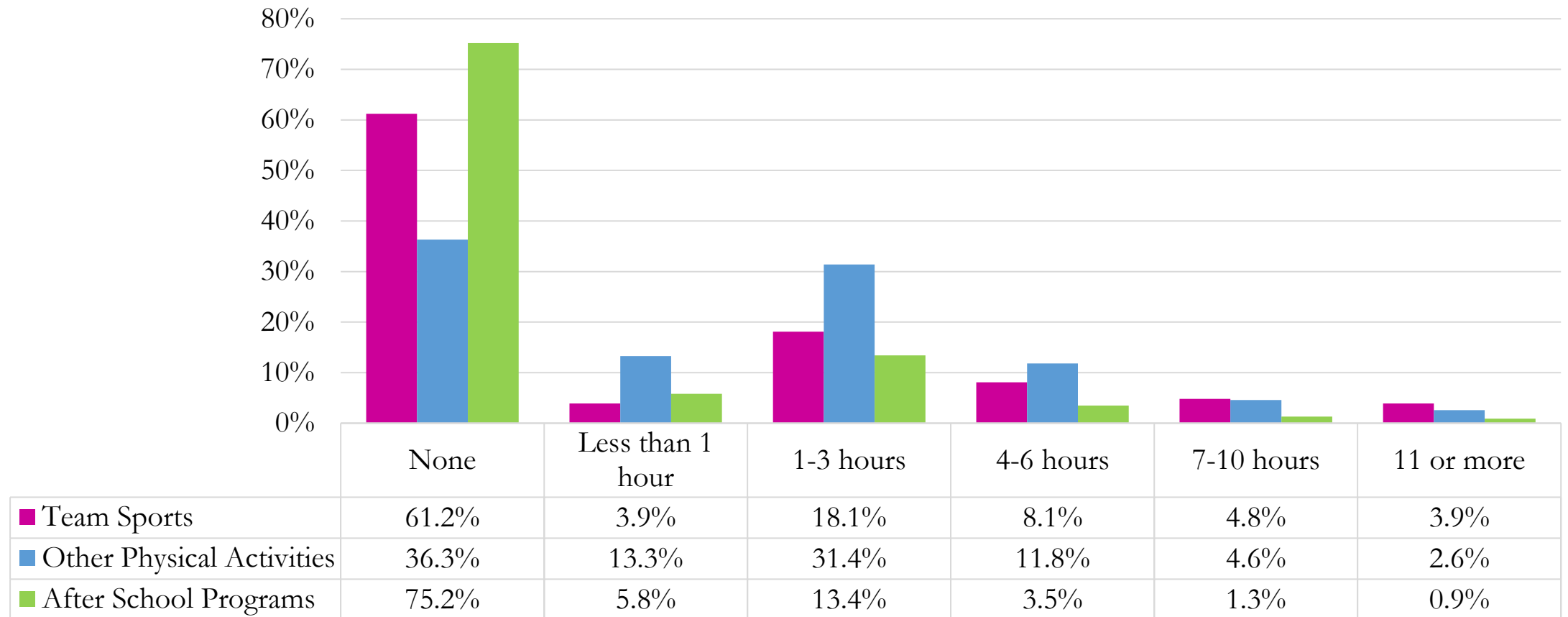
Time Spent on Jobs & Volunteering, Weekly

Grades 6-12

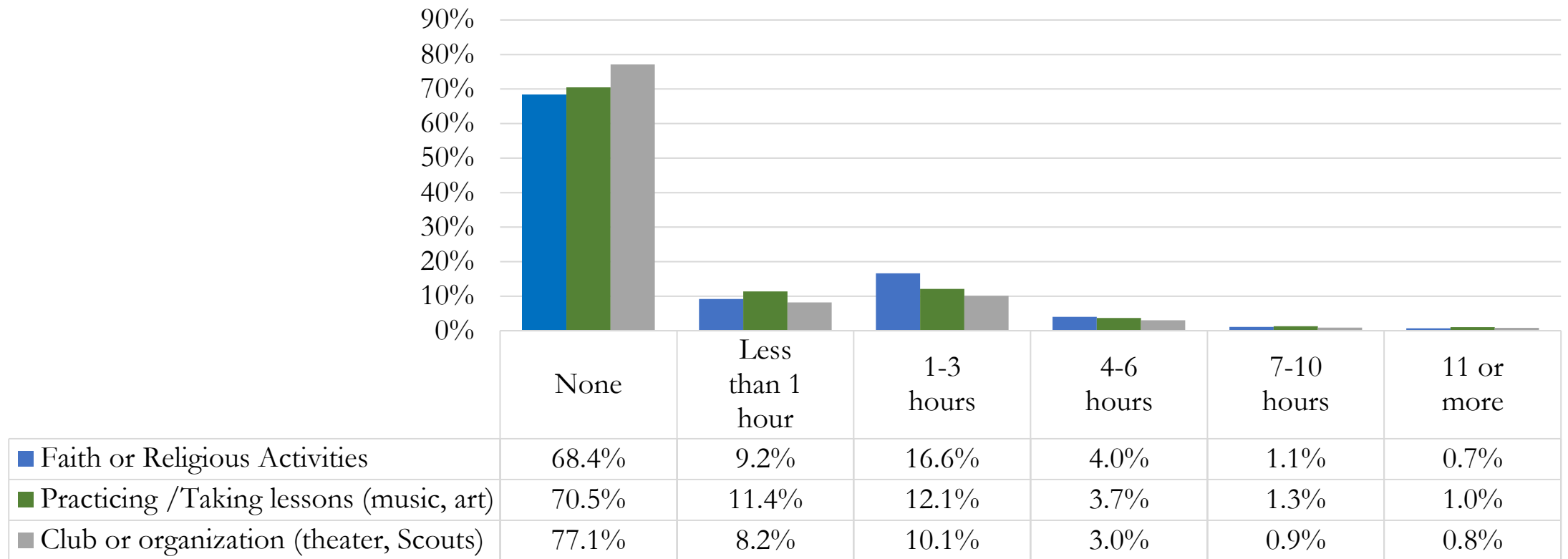


Working at a job	81.4%	2.8%	3.9%	5.1%	3.2%	3.6%
Volunteering	76.3%	8.4%	11.0%	3.1%	0.7%	0.5%
Taking care of someone at home (sibling, older relative)	50.8%	17.6%	16.0%	8.9%	3.3%	3.4%
Doing chores	15.0%	34.8%	35.9%	9.9%	2.2%	2.2%

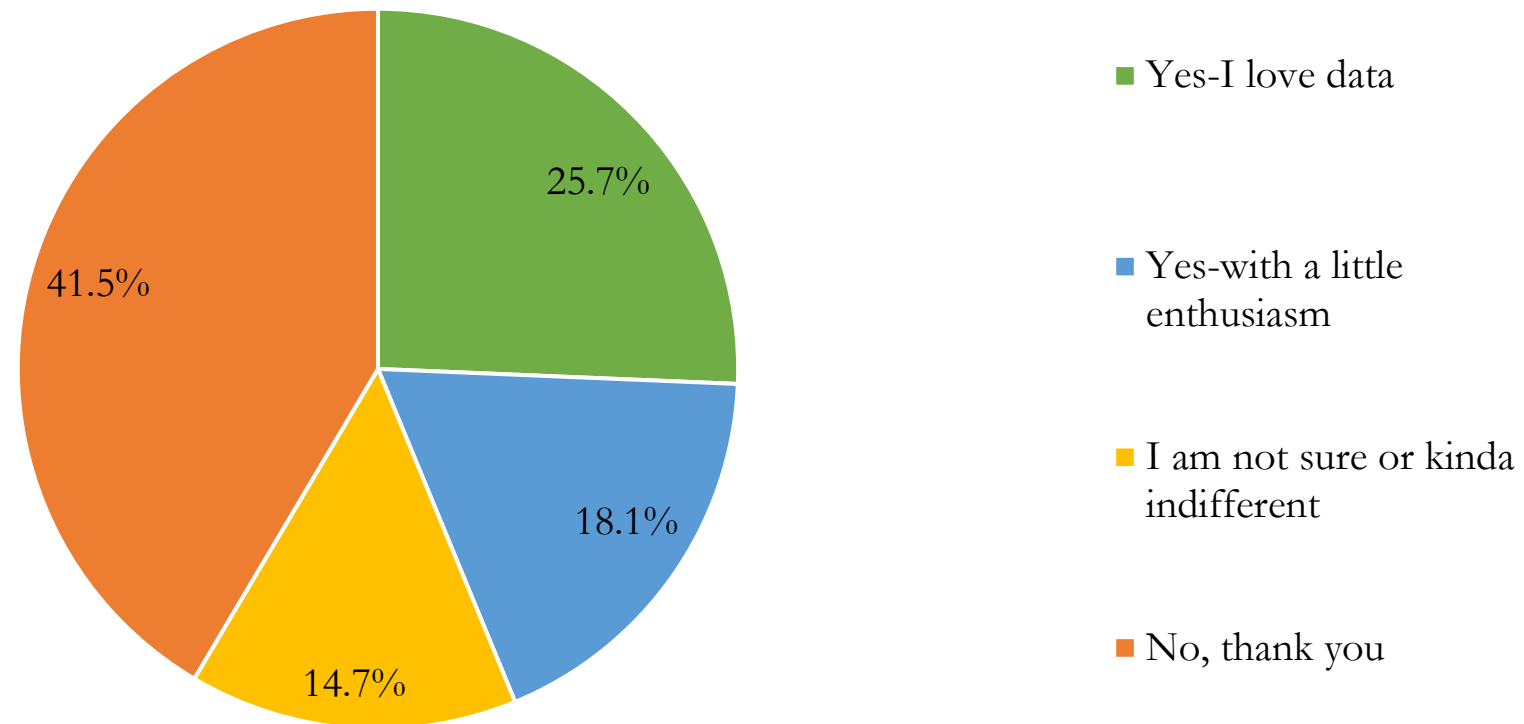
Time Spent on Physical Activities, Weekly Grades 6-12



Time Spent on Faith-based Activities, Taking Lessons, Clubs or Orgs, Weekly, Grades 6-12



Would you like to see the outcomes of this survey when the data are available?



43.8% of students report they would like to see the data from the survey