

Enfield Youth
Voices Count
Survey Results,
2023



Enfield Adult and
Young Adult
Community
Survey
2023-2024

Presented by Bonnie Smith, MPH, CPH, CPS-
CEO of B Weyland Smith Consulting, April 2024

Enfield Youth Voices Count Survey Results, 2023



Background

- February 2023, students from John F. Kennedy Middle School (grades 6-8) and Enfield High School (grades 9-12) 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

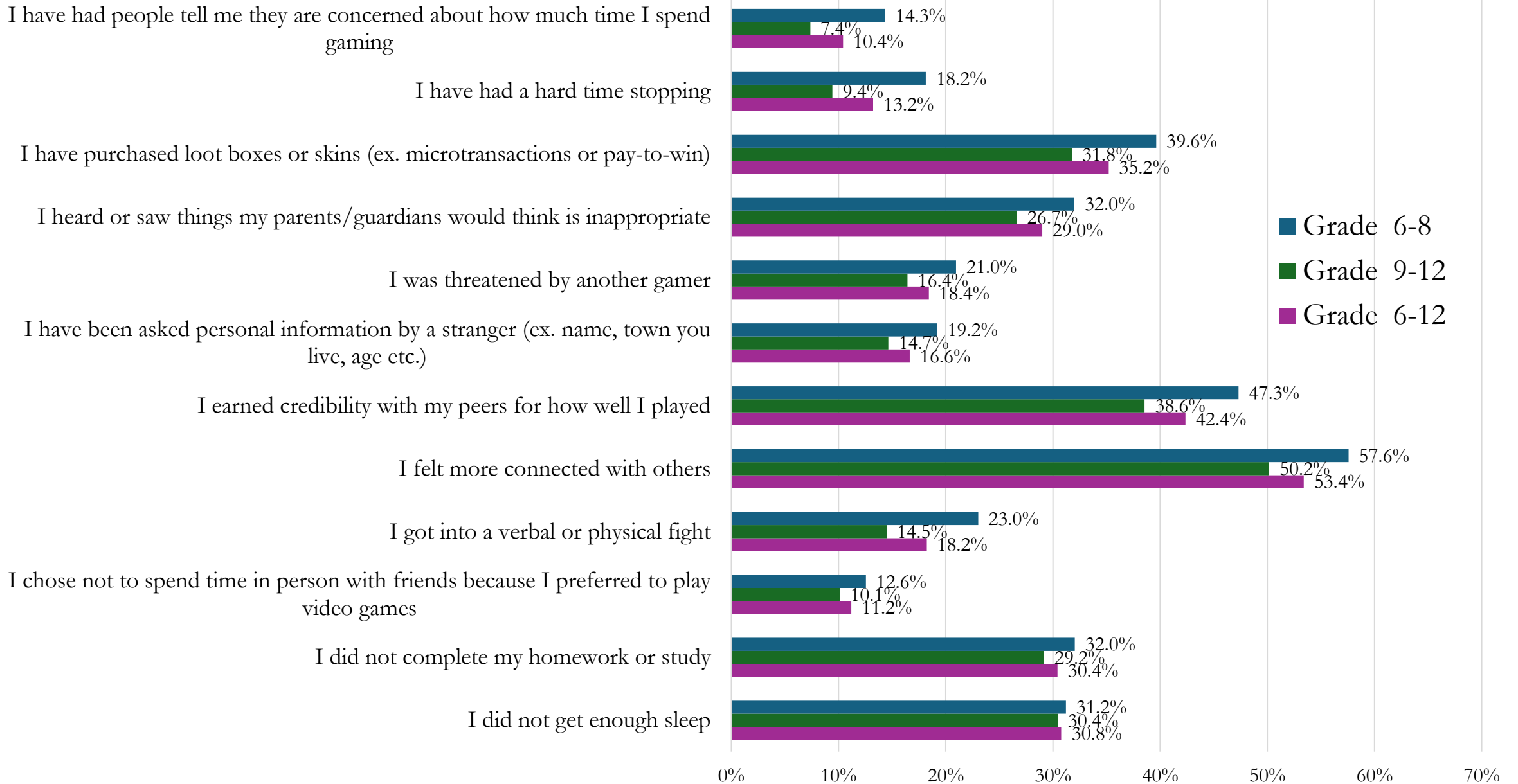
- Subgroup analysis was performed by race/ethnicity, and biological sex to allow for the Local Prevention Council and other organizations to utilize the data to target groups experiencing greater behaviors of concern.
- The full survey report includes analysis of these statistically significant demographic differences.

Response Rate

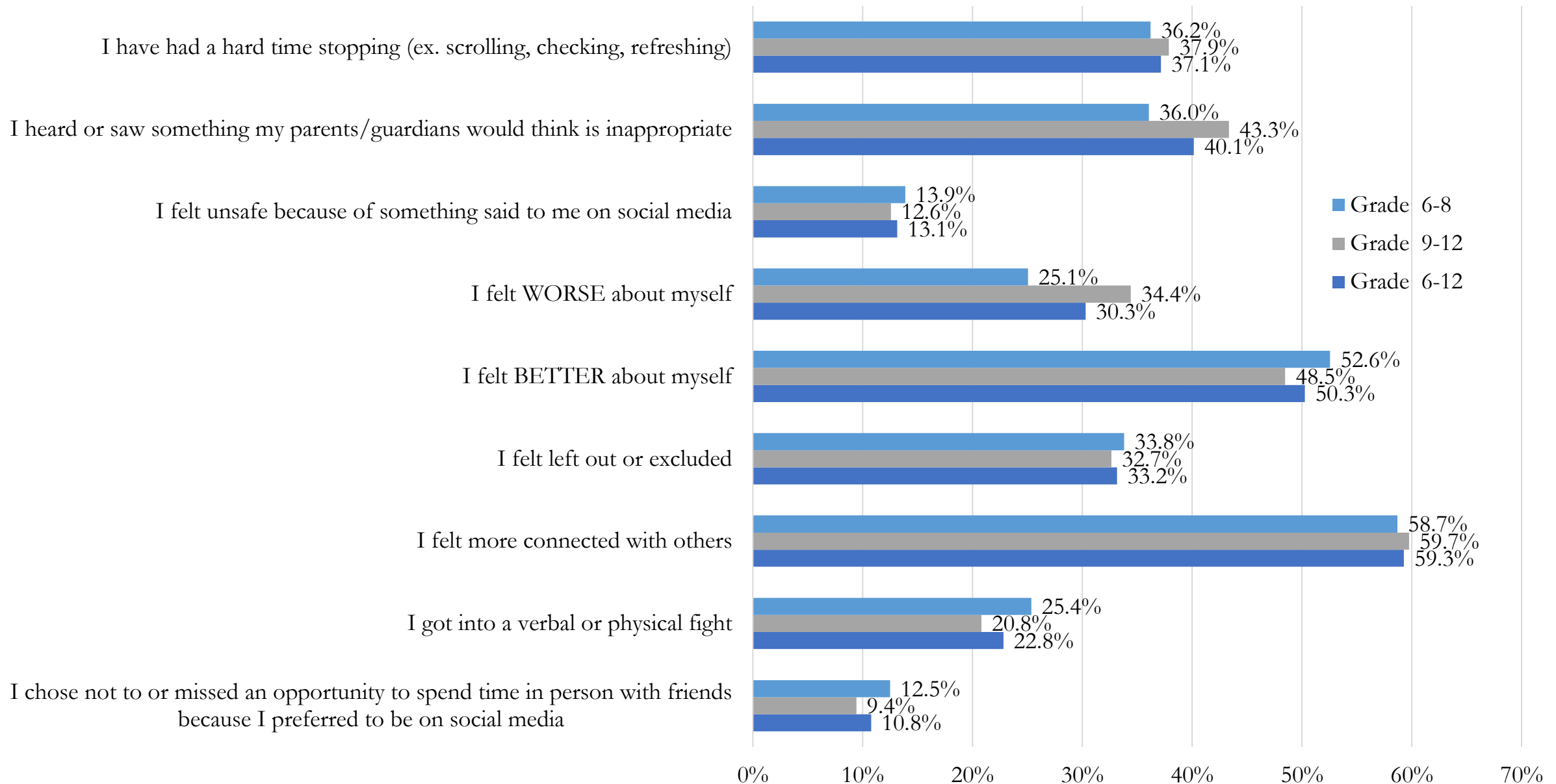
Sample Response Rates	Sample Count	Population Count	Response Rate (%)
Grade 6	342	368	92.93%
Grade 7	298	342	87.13%
Grade 8	295	390	75.64%
Grade 9	298	379	78.63%
Grade 10	329	399	82.46%
Grade 11	315	363	86.78%
Grade 12	261	368	70.92%
Grades 6-8	935	1100	85.00%
Grades 9-12	1203	1509	79.72%
Grades 6-12	2138	2609	81.95%



Perceived Gaming Assets and Consequences – Past Year



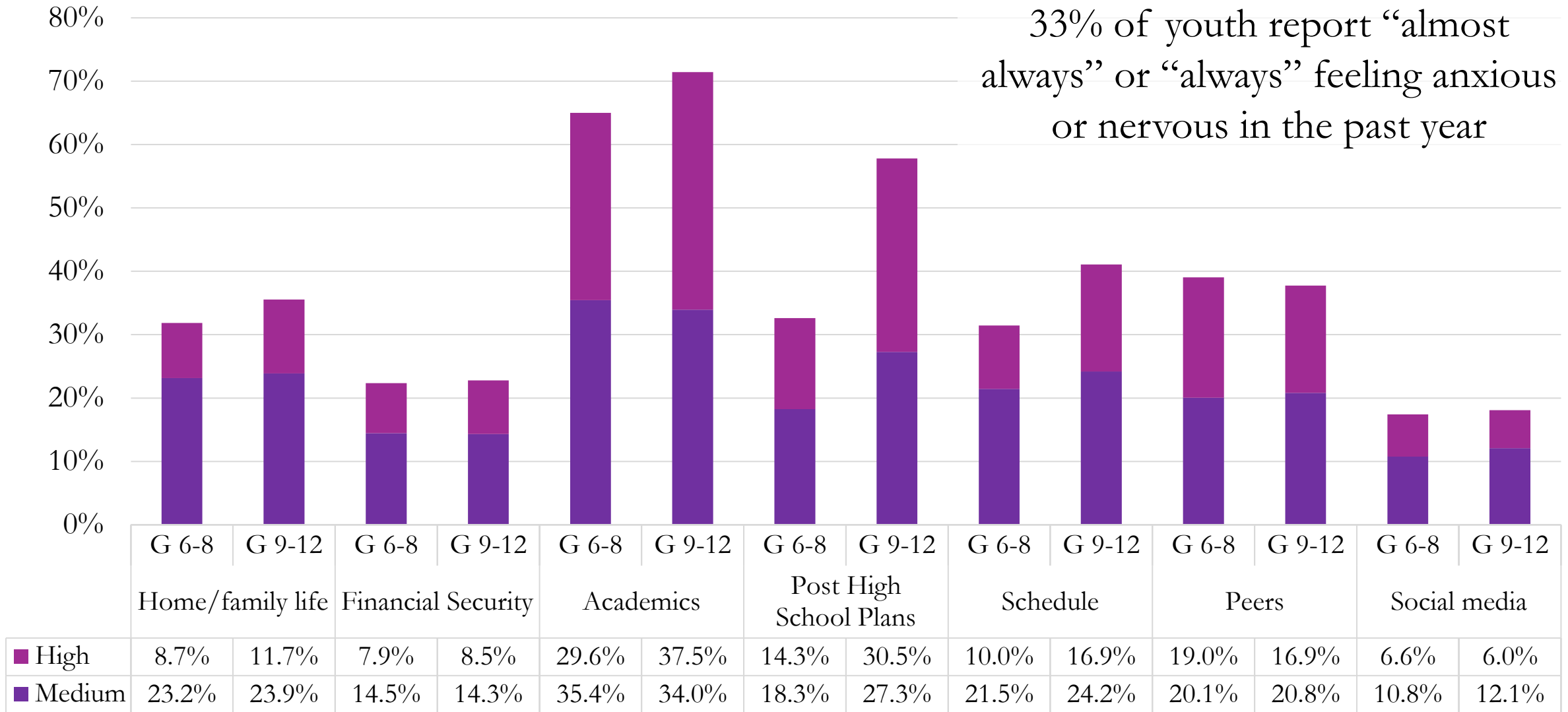
Perceived Social Media Assets and Consequences – Past Year



Emotional Health

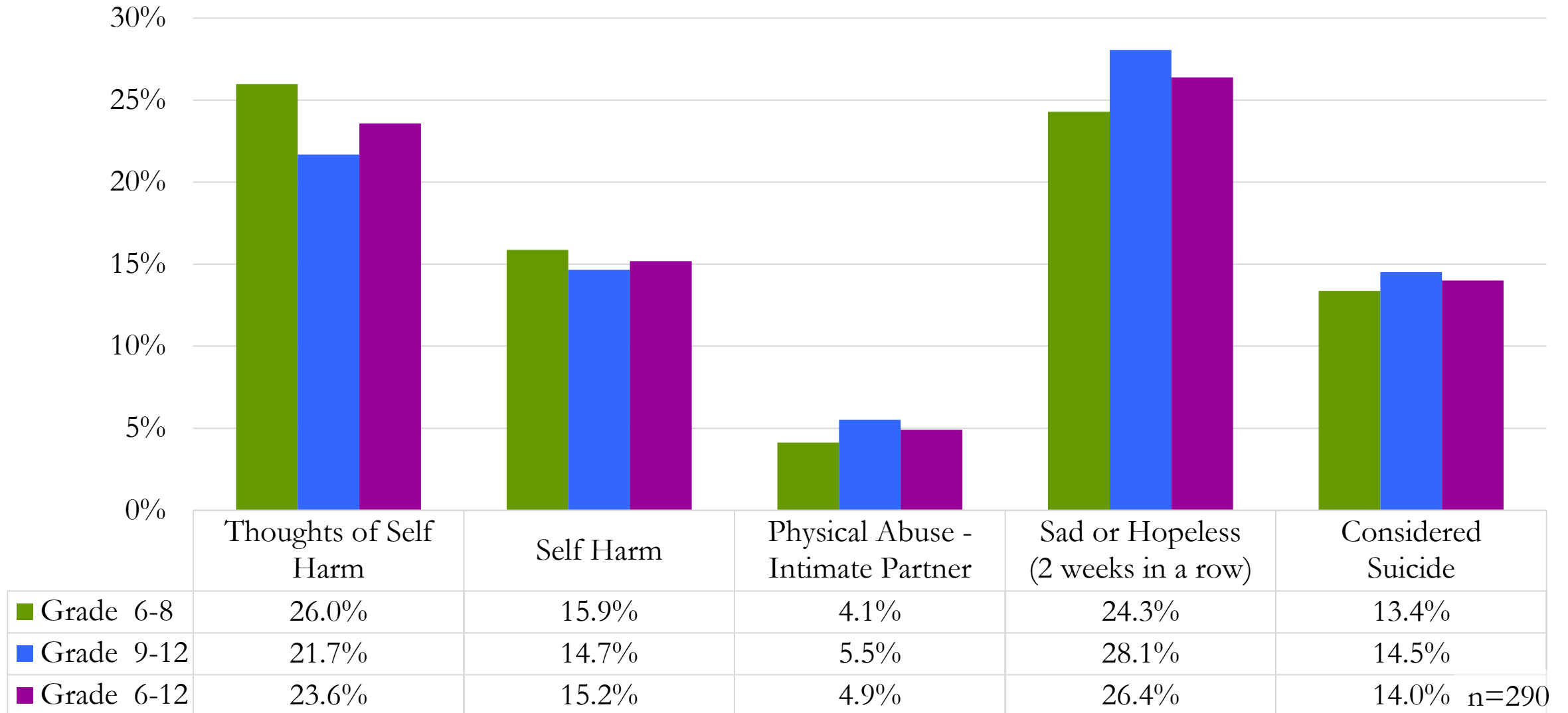
Anxiety Level by Source

33% of youth report “almost always” or “always” feeling anxious or nervous in the past year



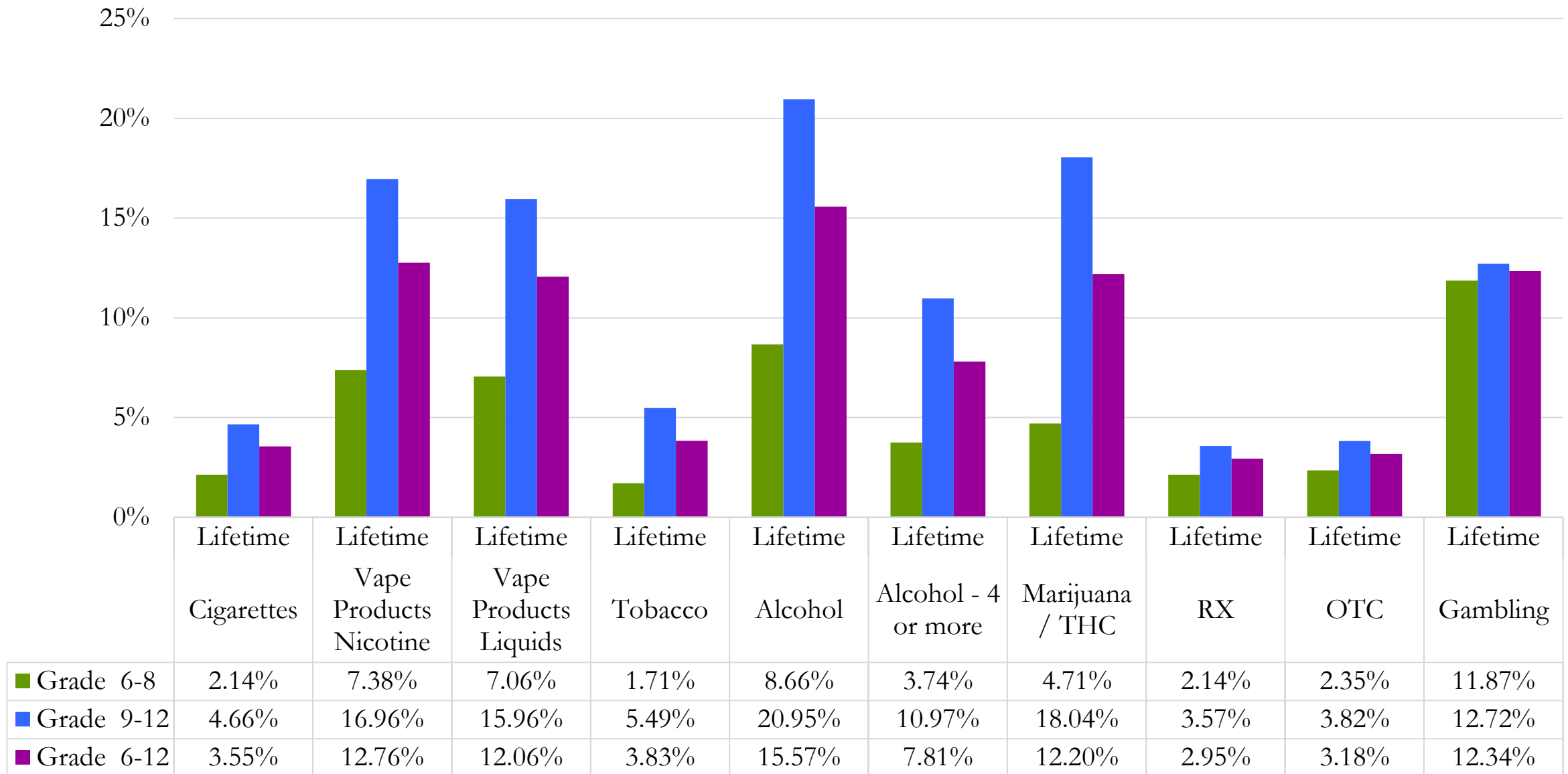
■ Medium ■ High

Other Emotional Health Indicators in the Past Year, % Responding “Yes”

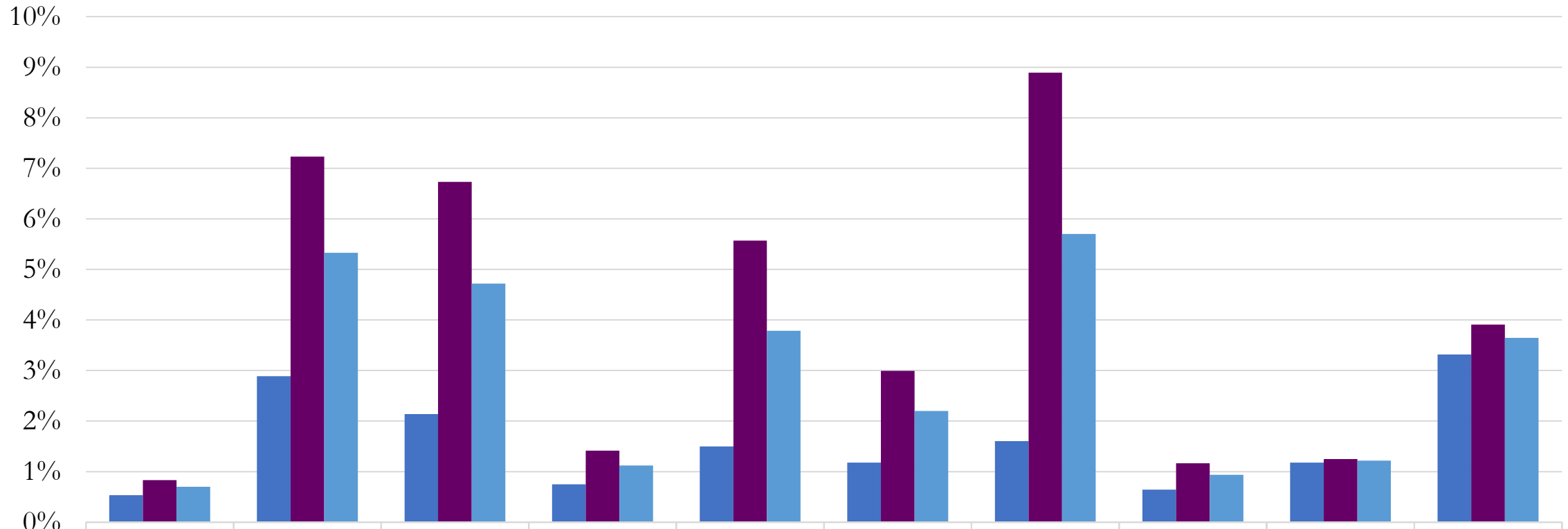


Substance Use and Perceptions

Lifetime Use of CORE Substances and Gambling

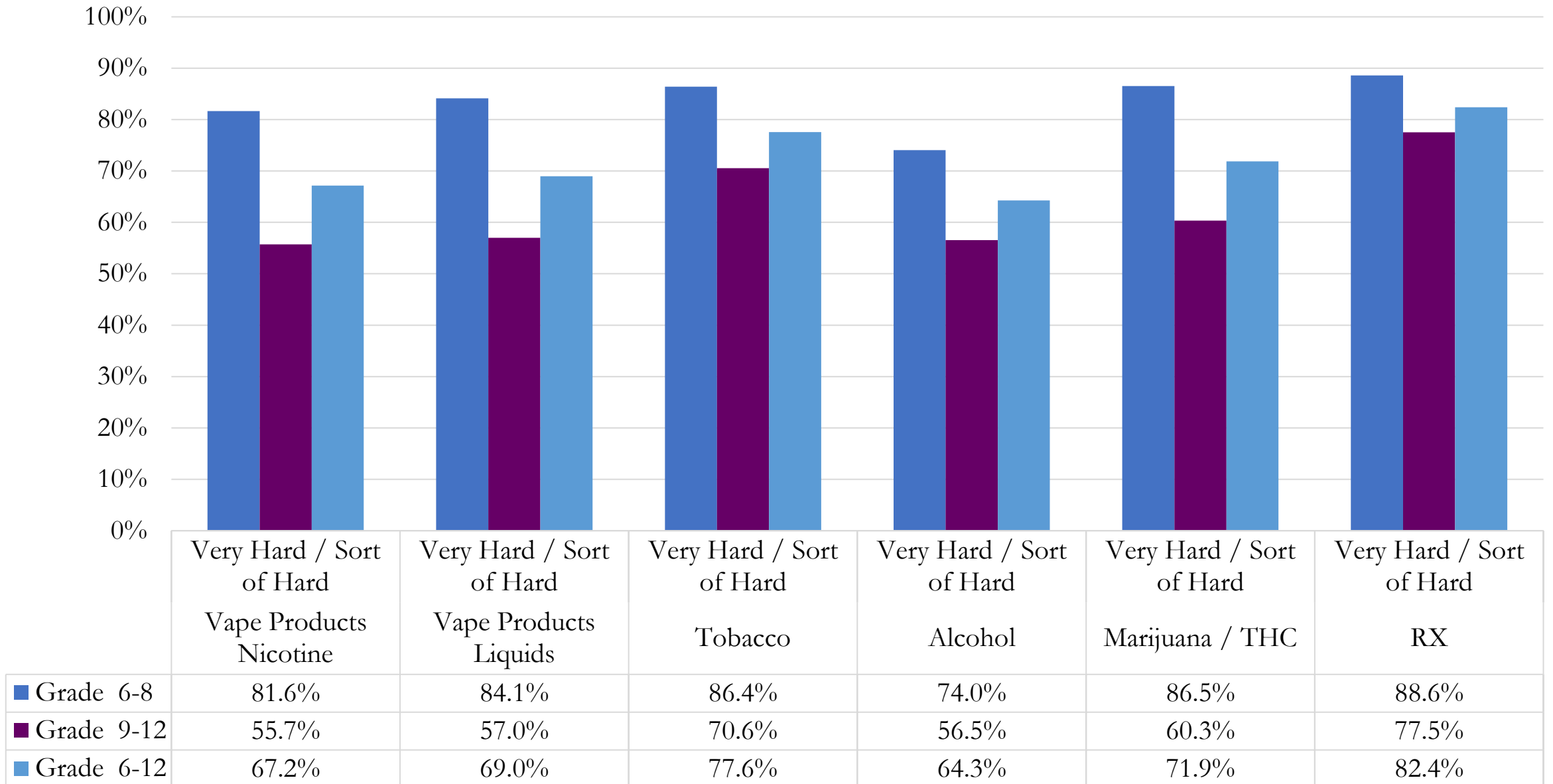


Past Month Use of CORE Substances and Gambling

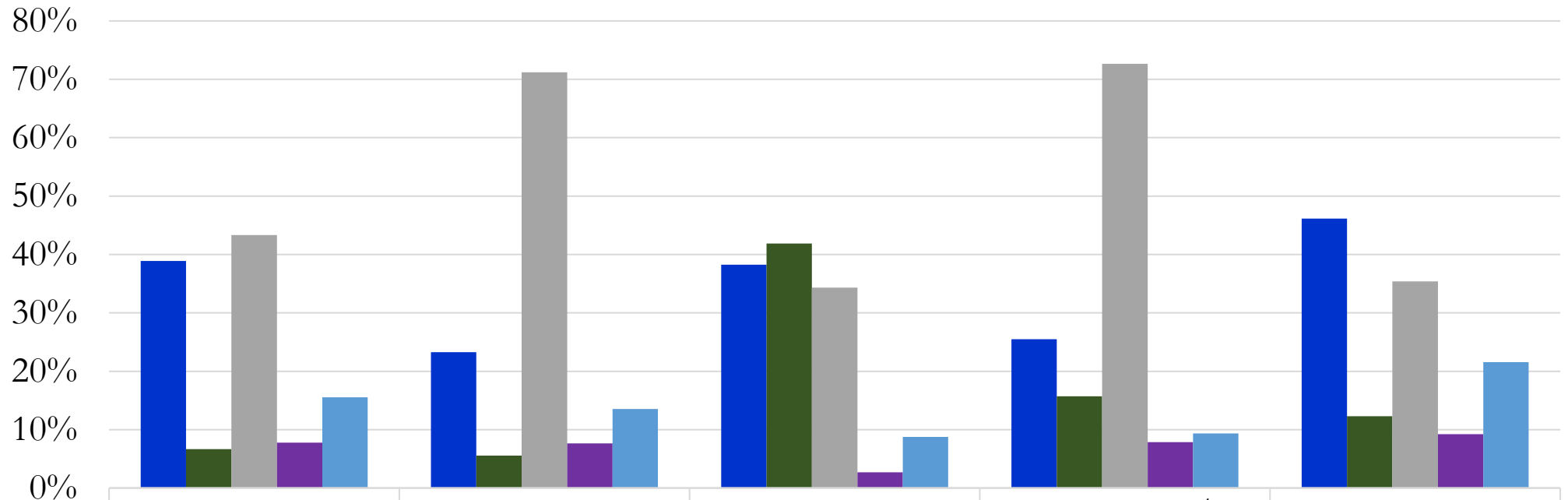


	Past Month Cigarettes	Past Month Vape Products Nicotine	Past Month Vape Products Liquids	Past Month Tobacco	Past Month Alcohol	Past Month Alcohol - 4 or more	Past Month Marijuana / THC	Past Month RX	Past Month OTC	Past Month Gambling
■ Grade 6-8	0.53%	2.89%	2.14%	0.75%	1.50%	1.18%	1.60%	0.64%	1.18%	3.32%
■ Grade 9-12	0.83%	7.23%	6.73%	1.41%	5.57%	2.99%	8.89%	1.16%	1.25%	3.91%
■ Grade 6-12	0.70%	5.33%	4.72%	1.12%	3.79%	2.20%	5.70%	0.94%	1.22%	3.65%

Ease of Access



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



	Tobacco	Vape Products Nicotine	Alcohol	Marijuana / THC	RX
■ Home w/o Parents	38.89%	23.26%	38.25%	25.47%	46.15%
■ Home w/ parents	6.67%	5.56%	41.87%	15.73%	12.31%
■ Friends/Peers	43.33%	71.18%	34.34%	72.66%	35.38%
■ Internet	7.78%	7.64%	2.71%	7.87%	9.23%
■ Store	15.56%	13.54%	8.73%	9.36%	21.54%

Risk Factors for Any Substances Use Grades 6-12

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. *Note: this is selected findings, the complete list can be found in the full report.

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

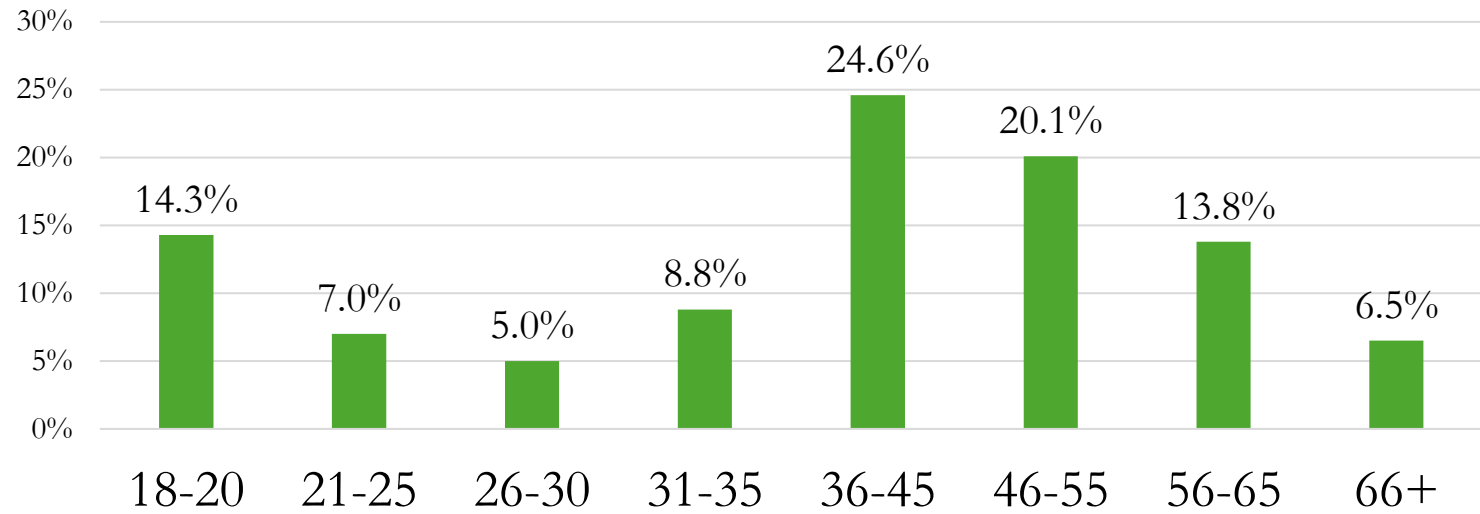
- Report getting less sleep
- Spend more time home alone
- Not report having at least one adult they can share thoughts/feelings with
- Not feel safe in their community or at school
- Have ever been bullied
- Have experienced anxiety always/almost always in the past year, and report anxiety making life difficult
- Report sources of anxiety as home/family life, financial security, academics, schedule, and social media
- Have thoughts about self-harm, and have self-harm behaviors
- Have experienced physical abuse from an intimate partner
- 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 or doctor
- Not have clear family rules around drinking alcohol or gambling
- Report having family problems around alcohol, prescription drugs, marijuana, heroin/fentanyl, other drugs, and gambling.
- Report less peer disapproval for cigarettes, vaping, alcohol, marijuana, gambling, and gaming
- Perceive less risk in marijuana use
- Report more ease of access to vape products, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs
- Spend time working at a paying job
- Report having experienced community violence, discrimination, housing problems and food insecurity in the past year

Enfield Adult and Young Adult
Community Survey
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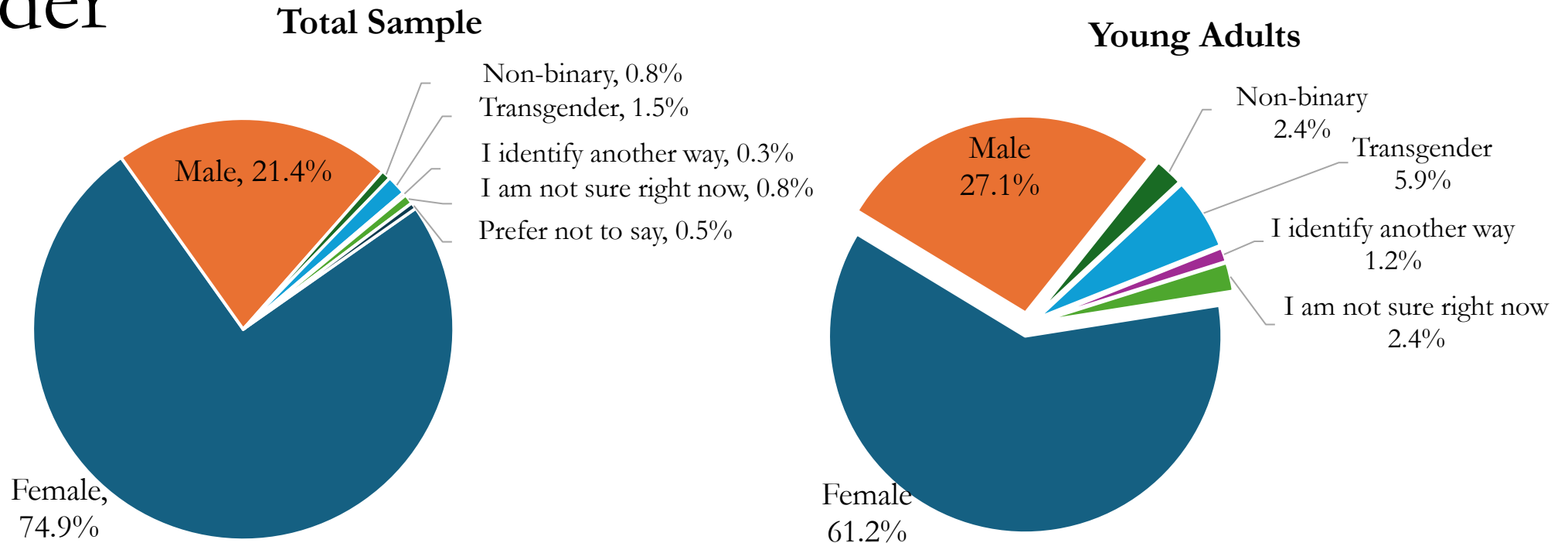
Background

- Enfield's Mental Health & Wellness Coalition sought to survey young adults and the larger adult community on mental health and substance use and other related behavioral health topics.
- Two surveys were disseminated to the community. One was intended to reach the broader adult population (18+) in Enfield- disseminated through a variety of means including town alerts, QR codes at polling locations on election day, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and libraries.
- The second was intended to further examine “young adults” 18-25 years old, and was disseminated via Asnuntuck Community College through tabling in August and later via student emails.
- Combined, the two surveys resulted in a final count of 399 for analysis.

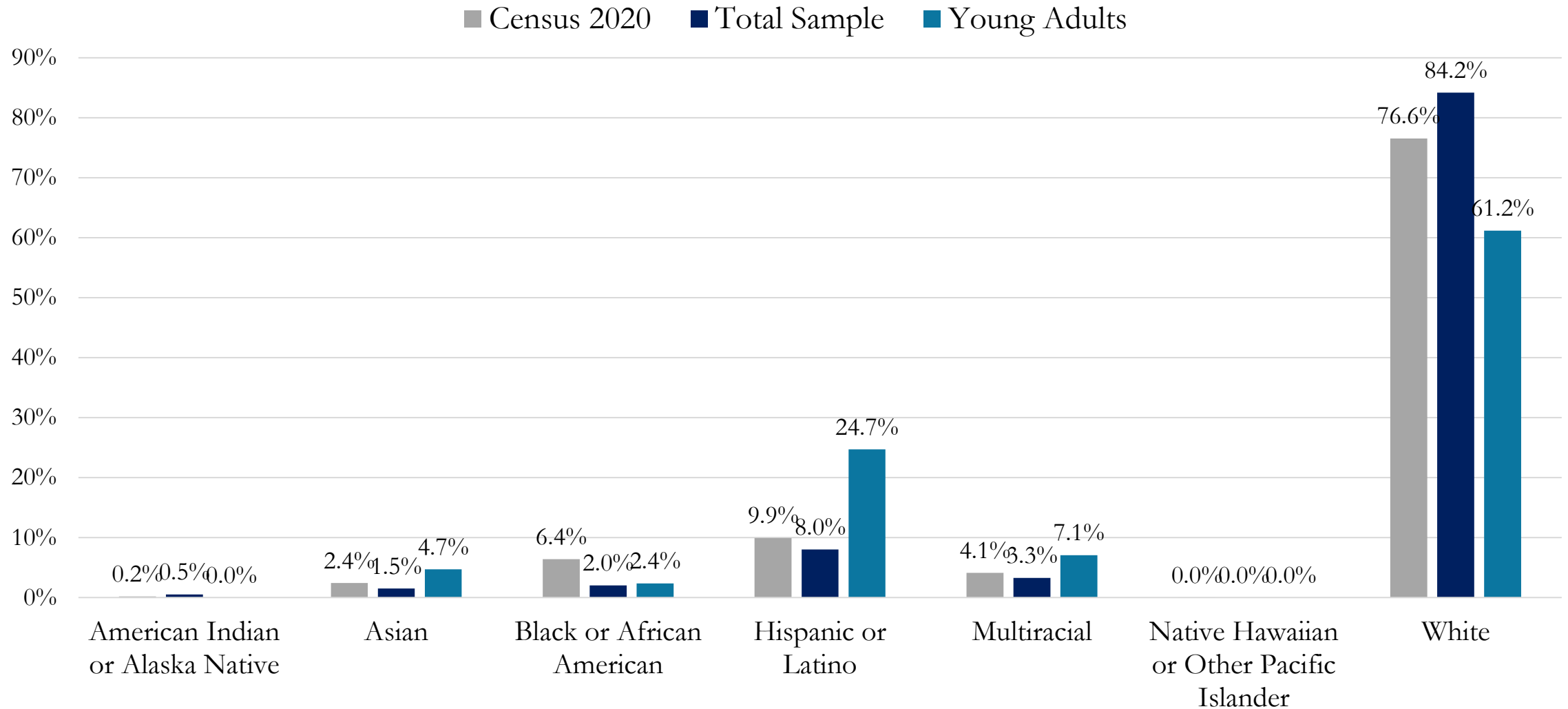
Age Group



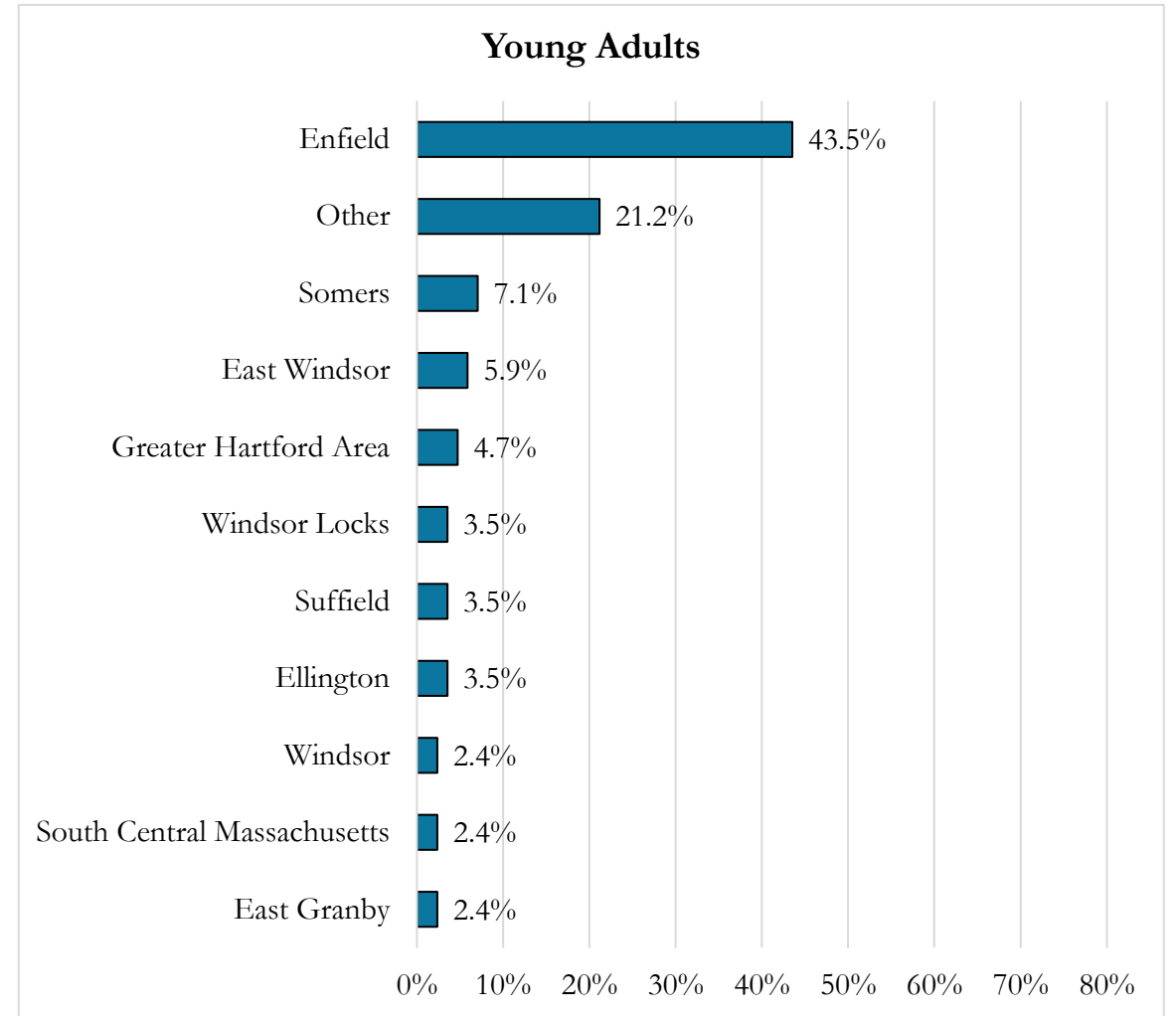
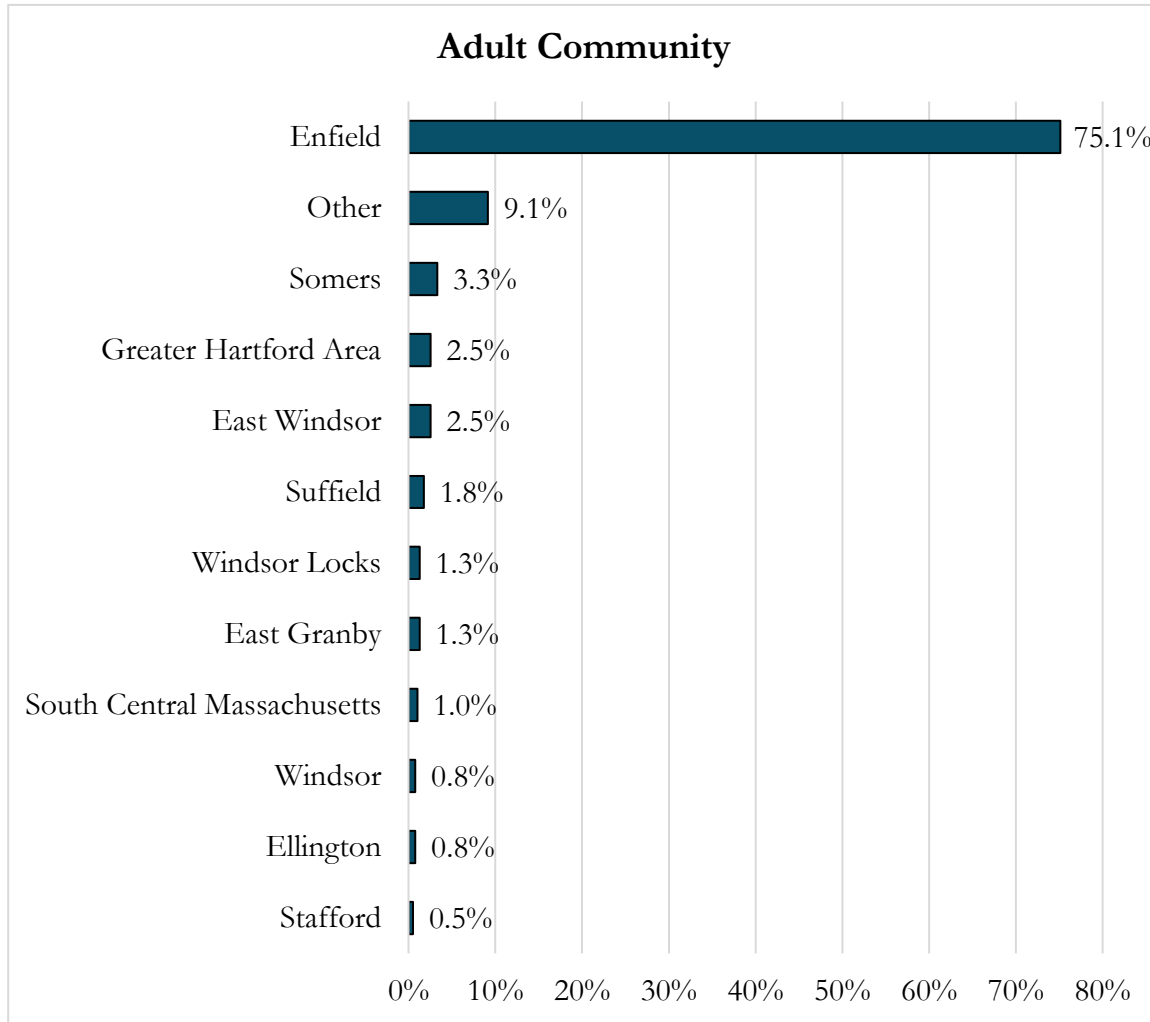
Gender



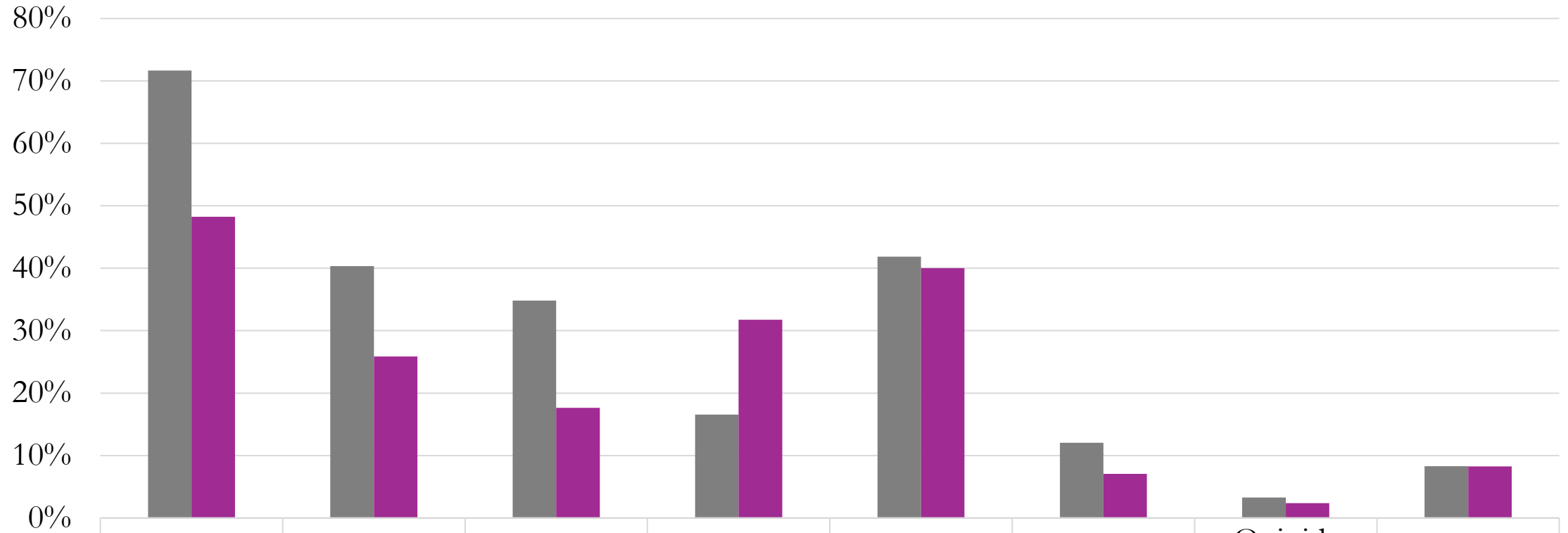
Race and Ethnicity



Residence

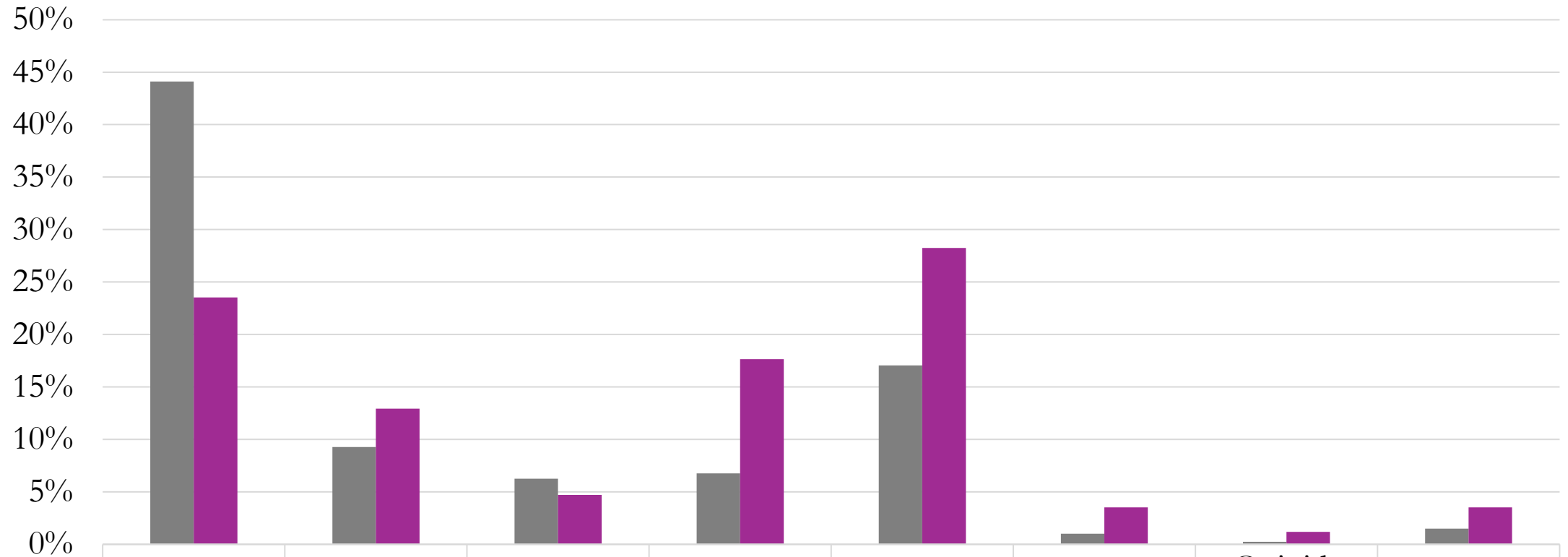


Lifetime Substance Use



	Alcohol	Binge drinking	Cigarettes/ Tobacco	Vape/ E- cigarettes	Marijuana/ Cannabis	Cocaine	Opioids (heroin/ fentanyl) not Rx	Non- medical use of Rx
■ Total Sample	71.7%	40.4%	34.8%	16.5%	41.9%	12.0%	3.3%	8.3%
■ Young Adults	48.2%	25.9%	17.6%	31.8%	40.0%	7.1%	2.4%	8.2%

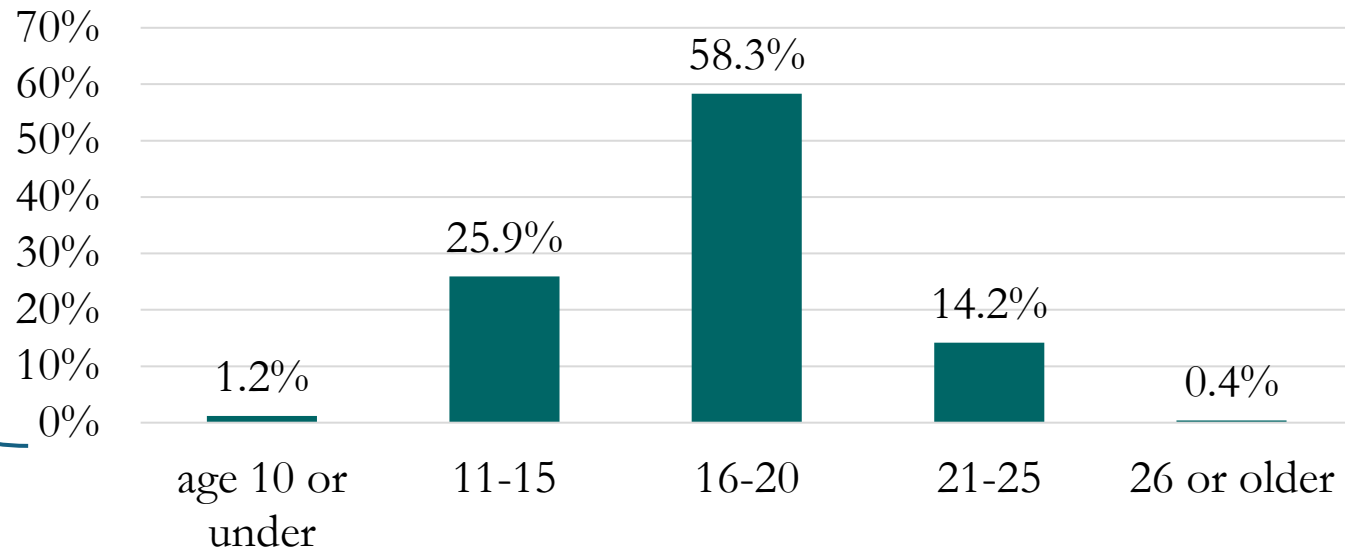
Past Month Substance Use



	Alcohol	Binge drinking	Cigarettes/ Tobacco	Vape/ E- cigarettes	Marijuana/ Cannabis	Cocaine	Opioids (heroin/ fentanyl) not Rx	Non- medical use of Rx
■ Total Sample	44.1%	9.3%	6.3%	6.8%	17.0%	1.0%	0.3%	1.5%
■ Young Adults	23.5%	12.9%	4.7%	17.6%	28.2%	3.5%	1.2%	3.5%

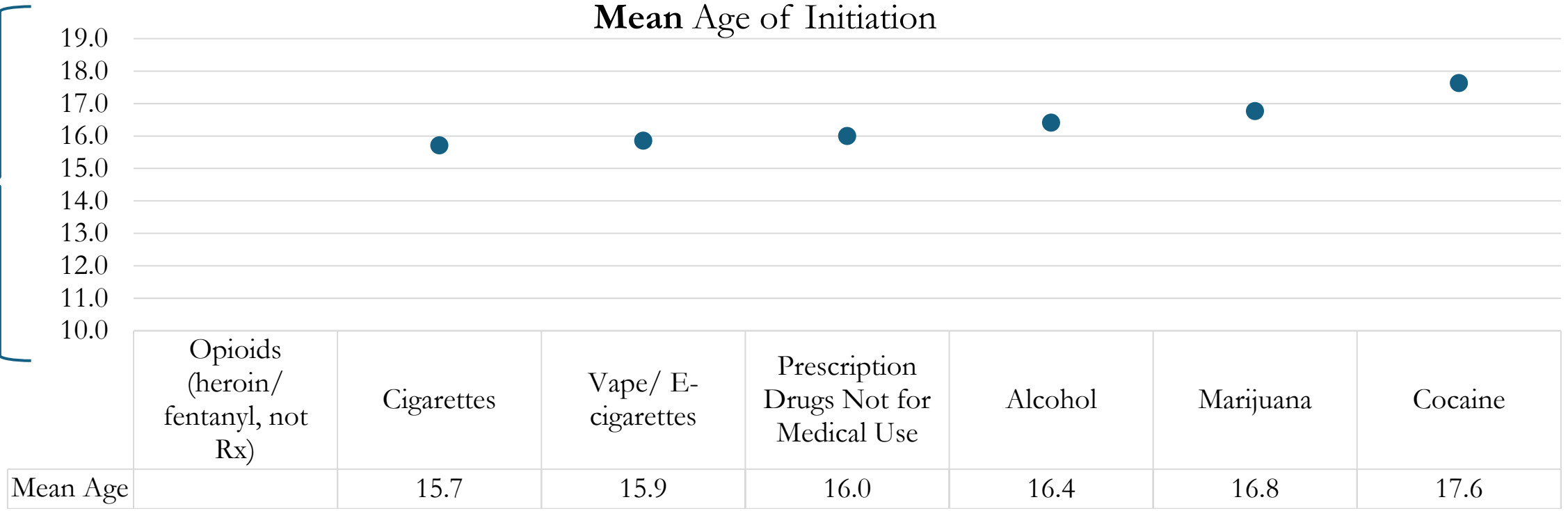
Age of Initiation

Community Survey



Mean Age of Initiation

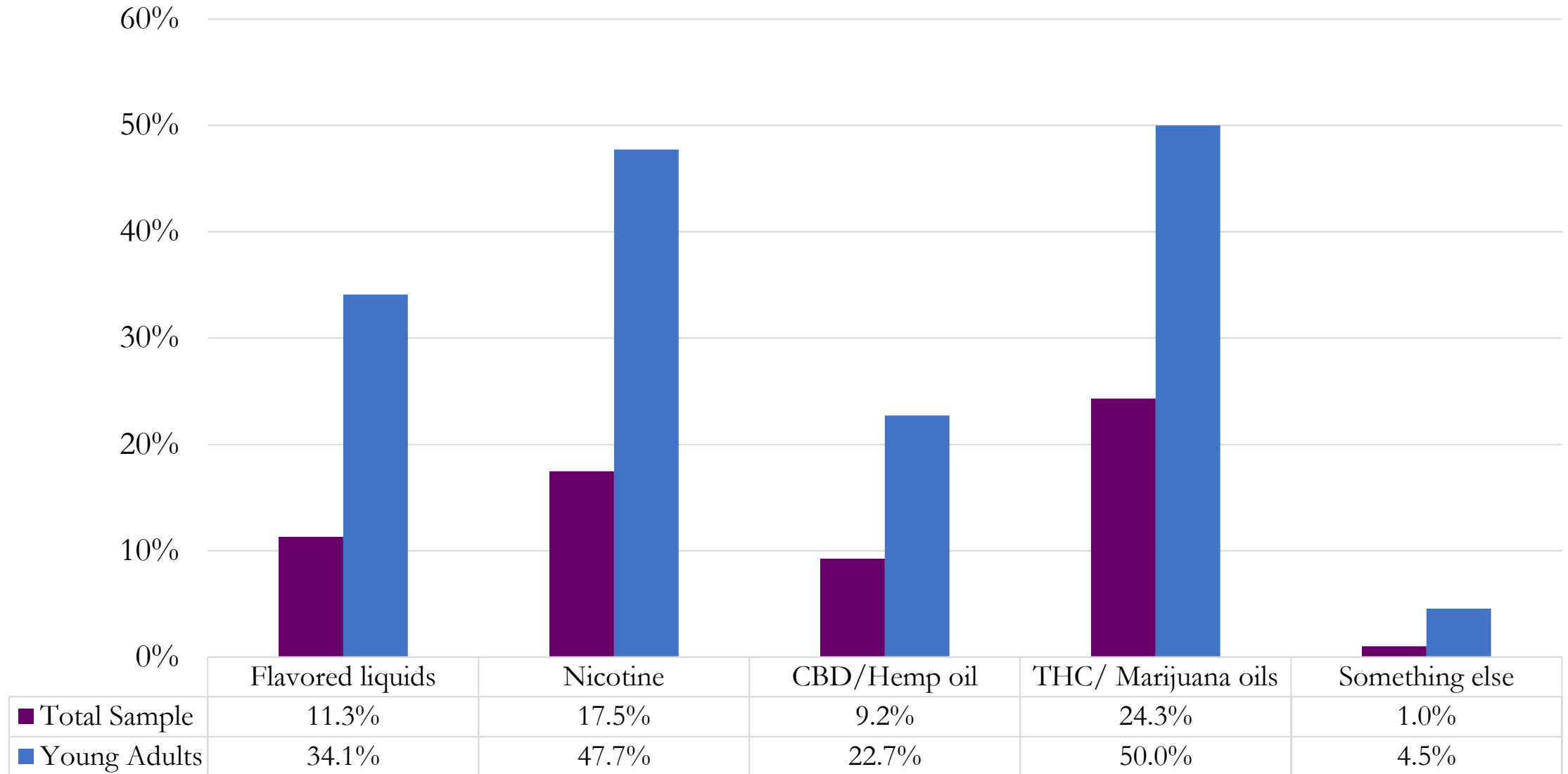
Asnuntuck Comm. College



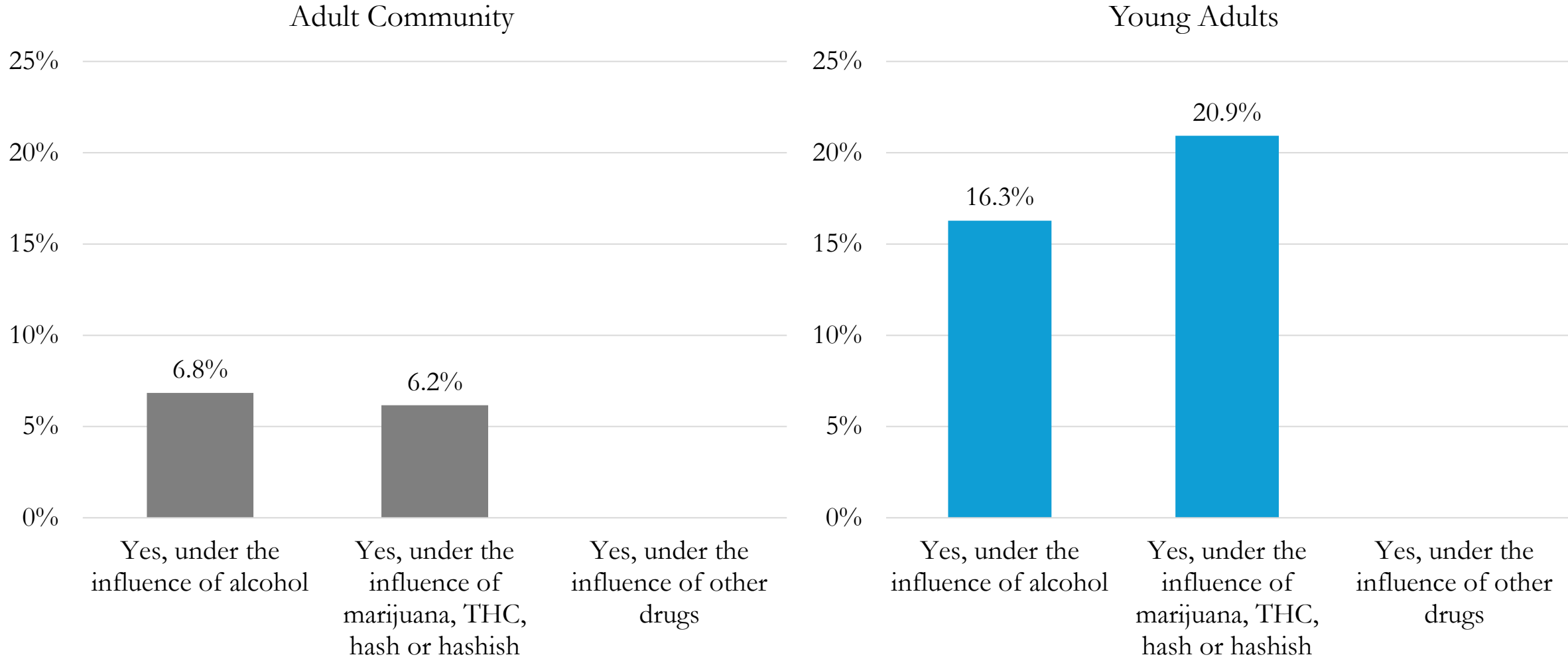
Mean Age

Opioids (heroin/fentanyl, not Rx)	Cigarettes	Vape/ E-cigarettes	Prescription Drugs Not for Medical Use	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine
15.7	15.9	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.6	

Substances Used in Vape Products

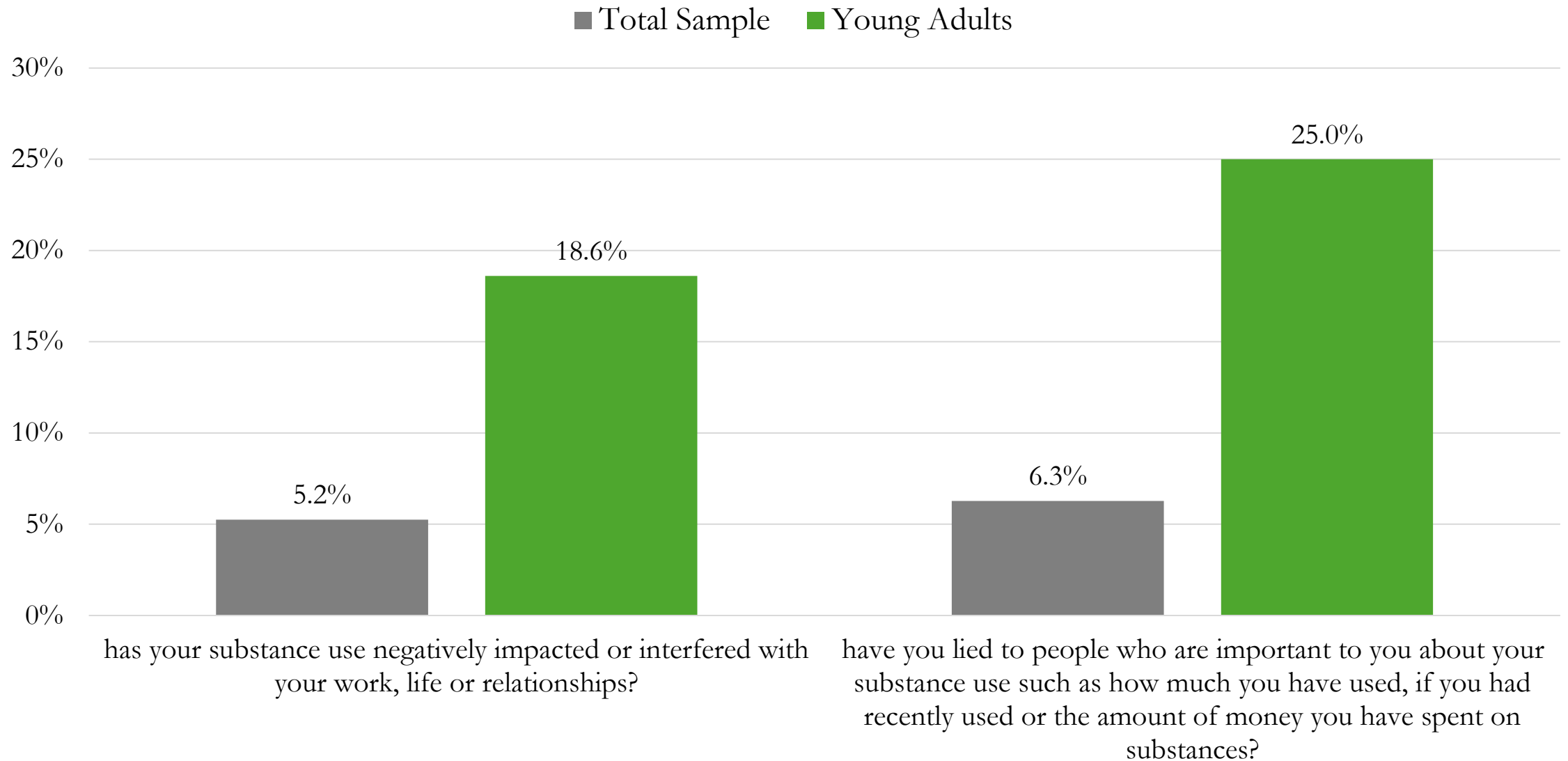


In the past year, have you **driven under the influence?**



**under the influence of other drugs suppressed here due to low cell count (<6)*

Past Year Consequences of Substance Use (% Yes)



TOP reasons for using substances when you were younger (<18) vs. the past year

Adult Community

When you were younger (<18):

My friends were doing it (75%)

To experiment/see what it is like (73%)

To be more comfortable in social situations/ in my own skin (51%)

In the past year:

To have a good time (71%)

To help deal with anxiety/depression/ mental health issues (47%)

To be more comfortable in social situations (41%)

Young Adults

When you were younger (<18):

To experiment/see what it is like (76%)

My friends were doing it (69%)

To have a good time (59%)

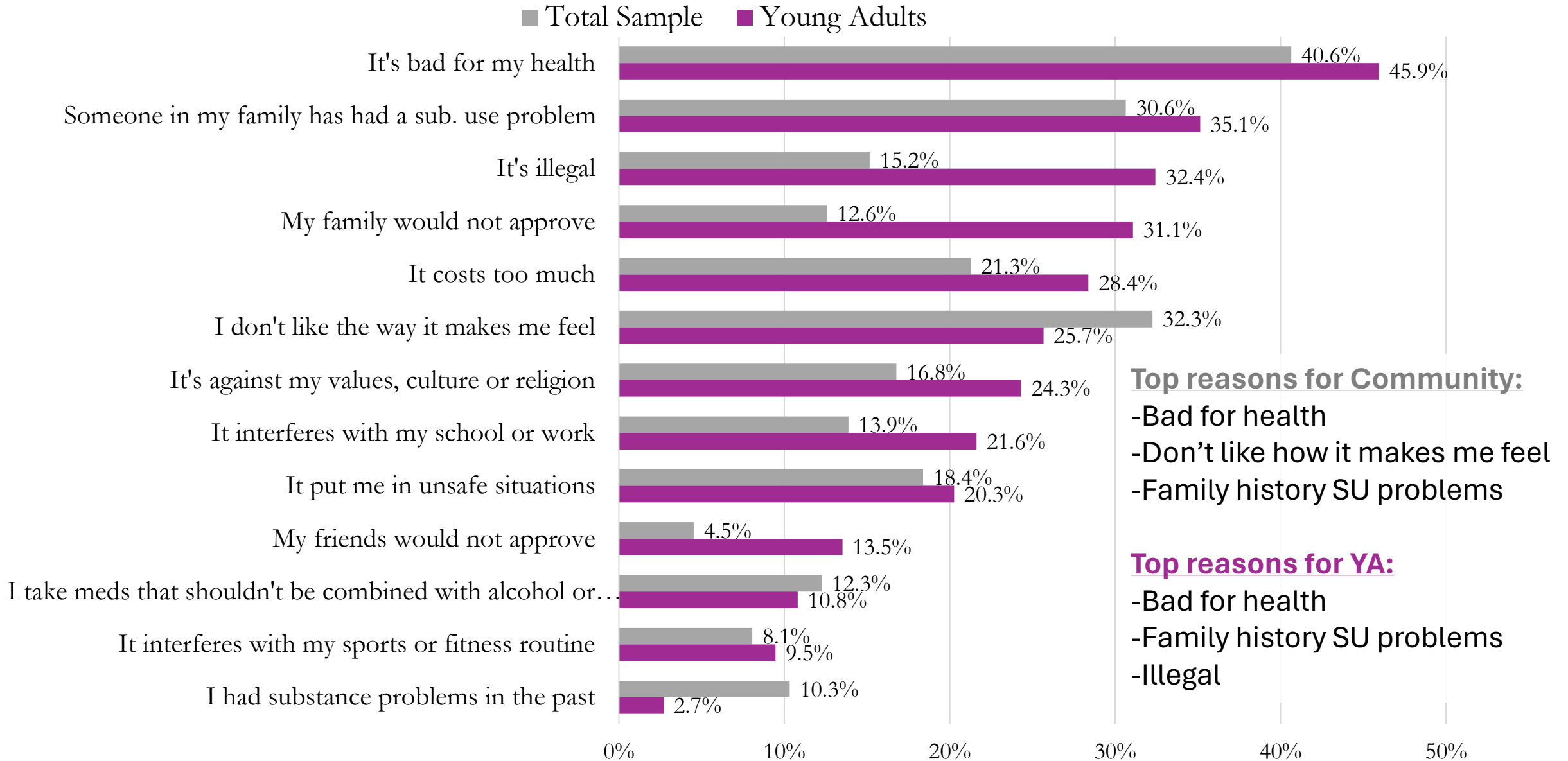
In the past year:

To have a good time (77%)

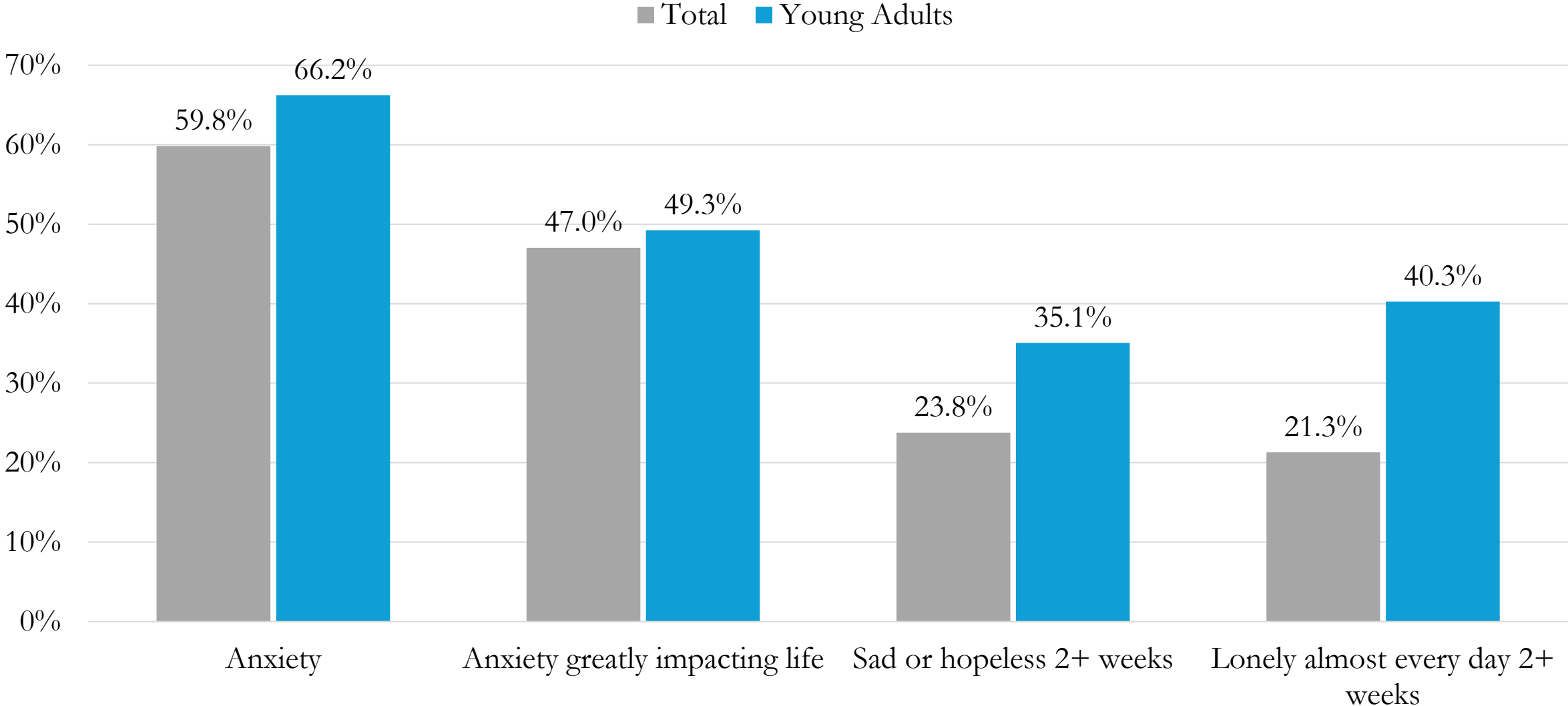
To help deal with anxiety/depression/ mental health issues (62%)

Boredom (53%)

Reasons for Avoiding or Limiting Substance Use

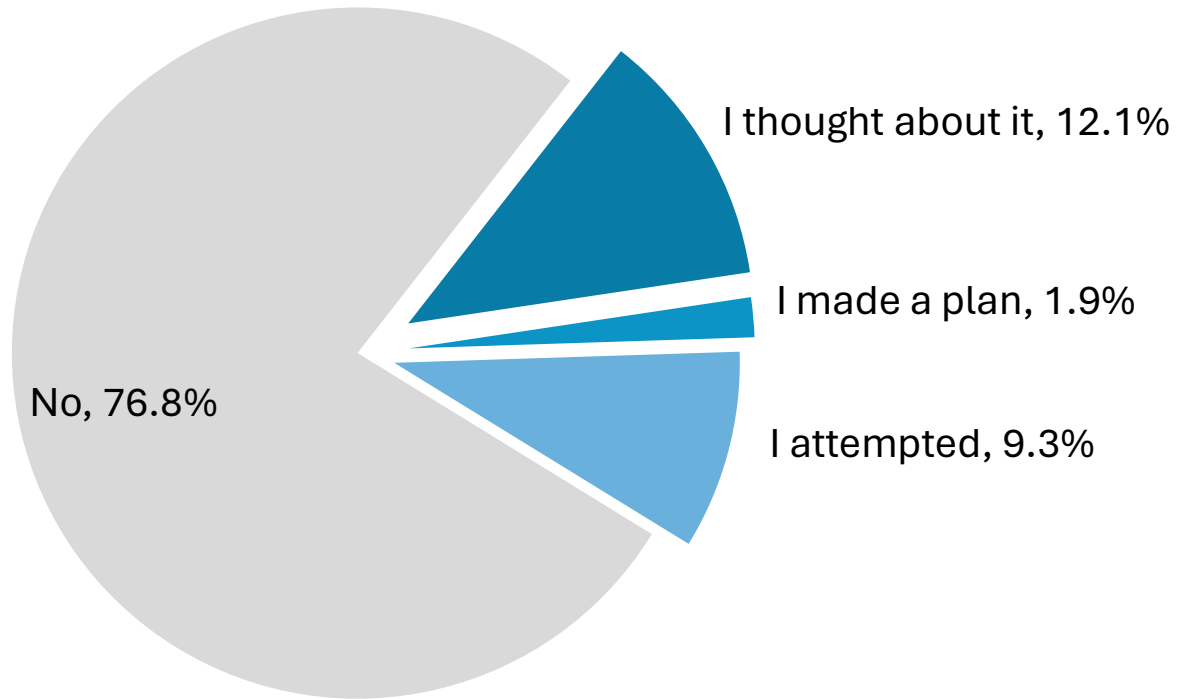


Past Year Emotional Health Indicators

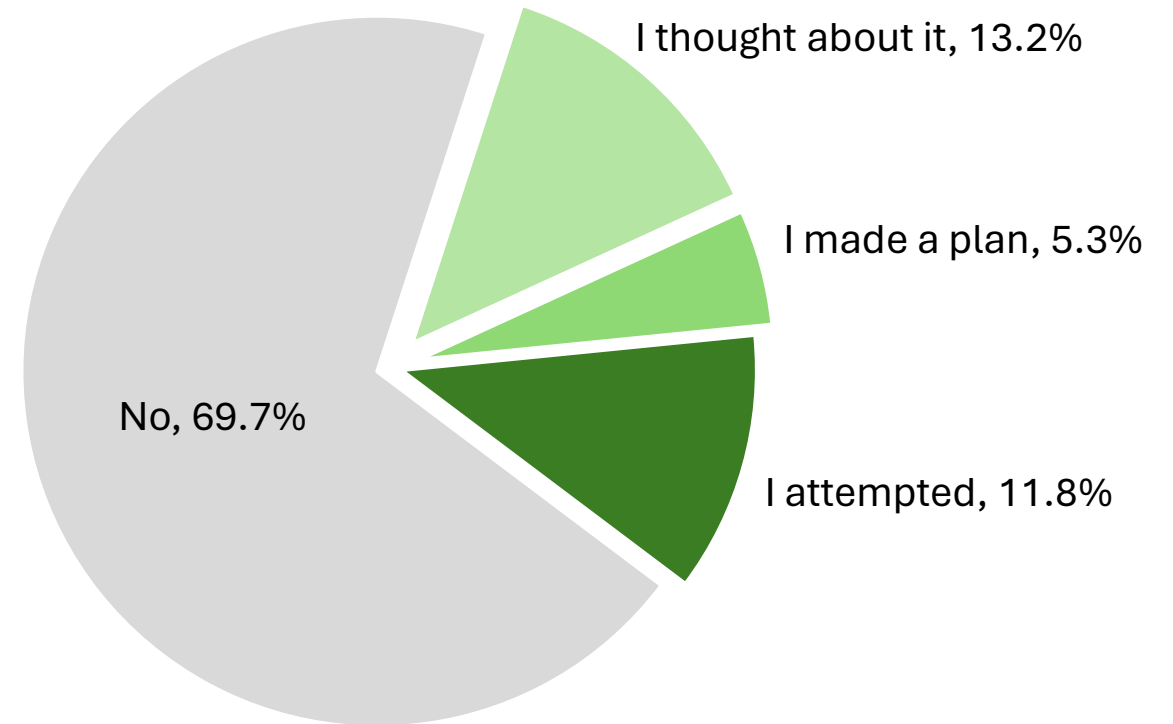


Past Year Thoughts of Suicide

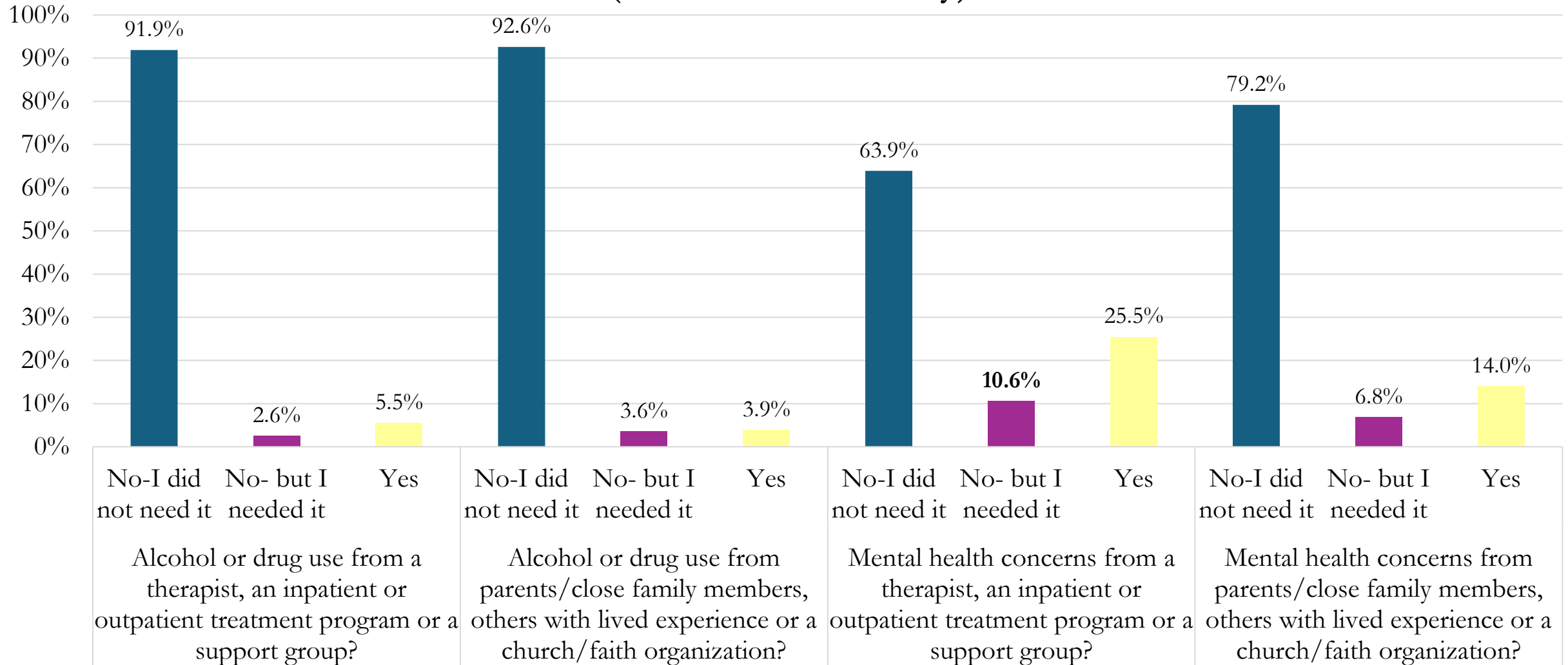
Adult Community



Young Adults

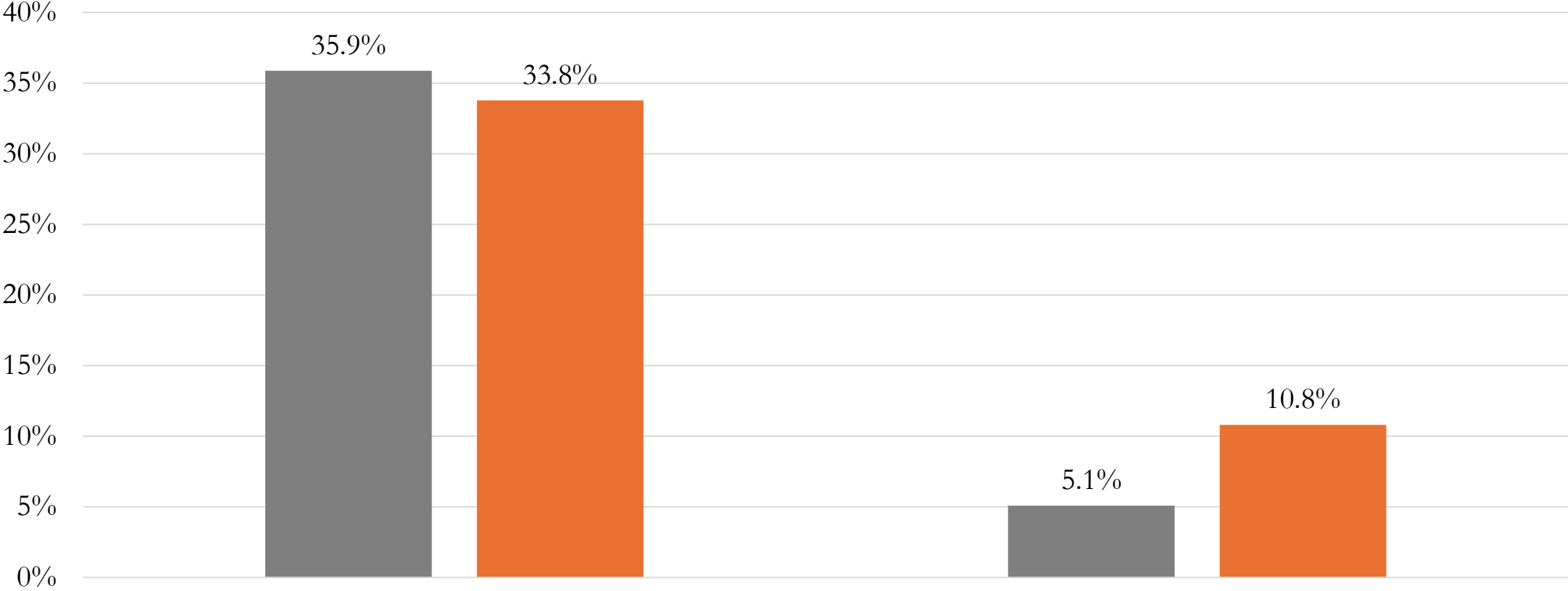


Past Year Receiving Help or Support (Adult Community)



Use of Prescription Medication for Mental Health

■ Adult Community ■ Young Adults



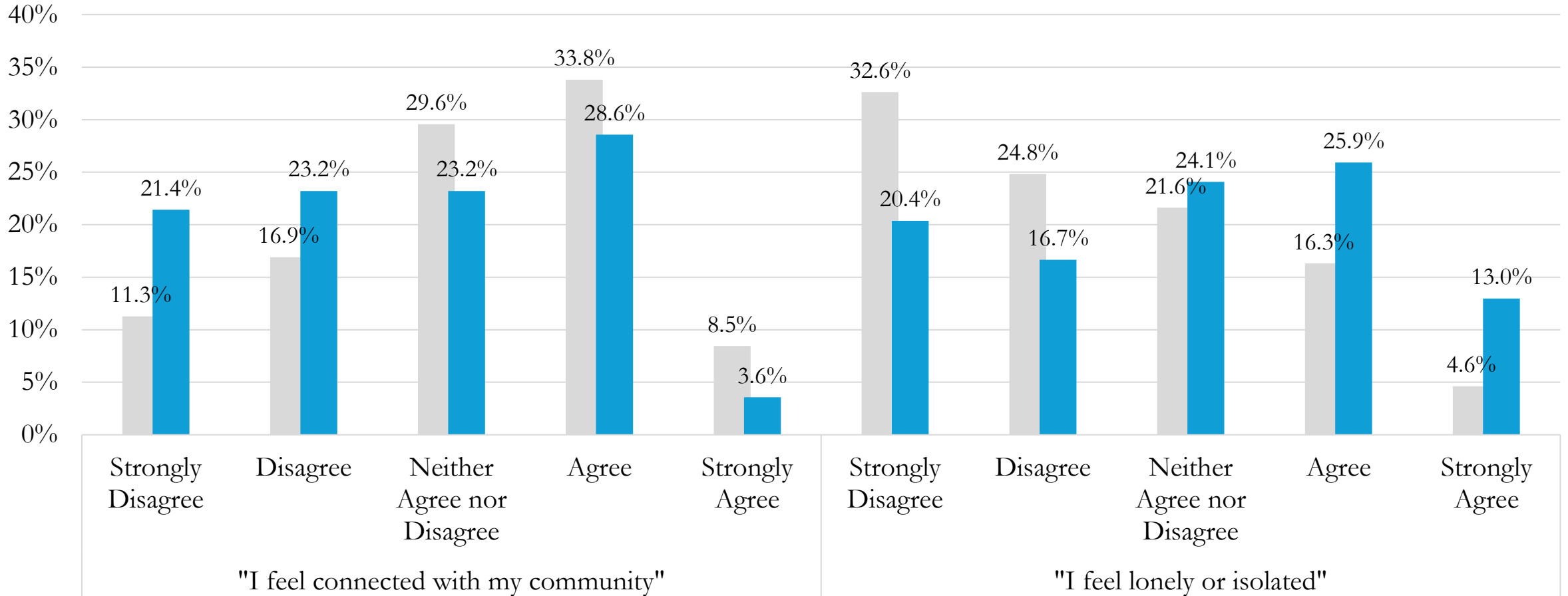
Have you taken a medication prescribed to you to help with mental health? (e.g., anxiety, ADHD, depression)

Have you taken a medication prescribed for someone else to help with your mental health? (e.g., anxiety, ADHD, depression)

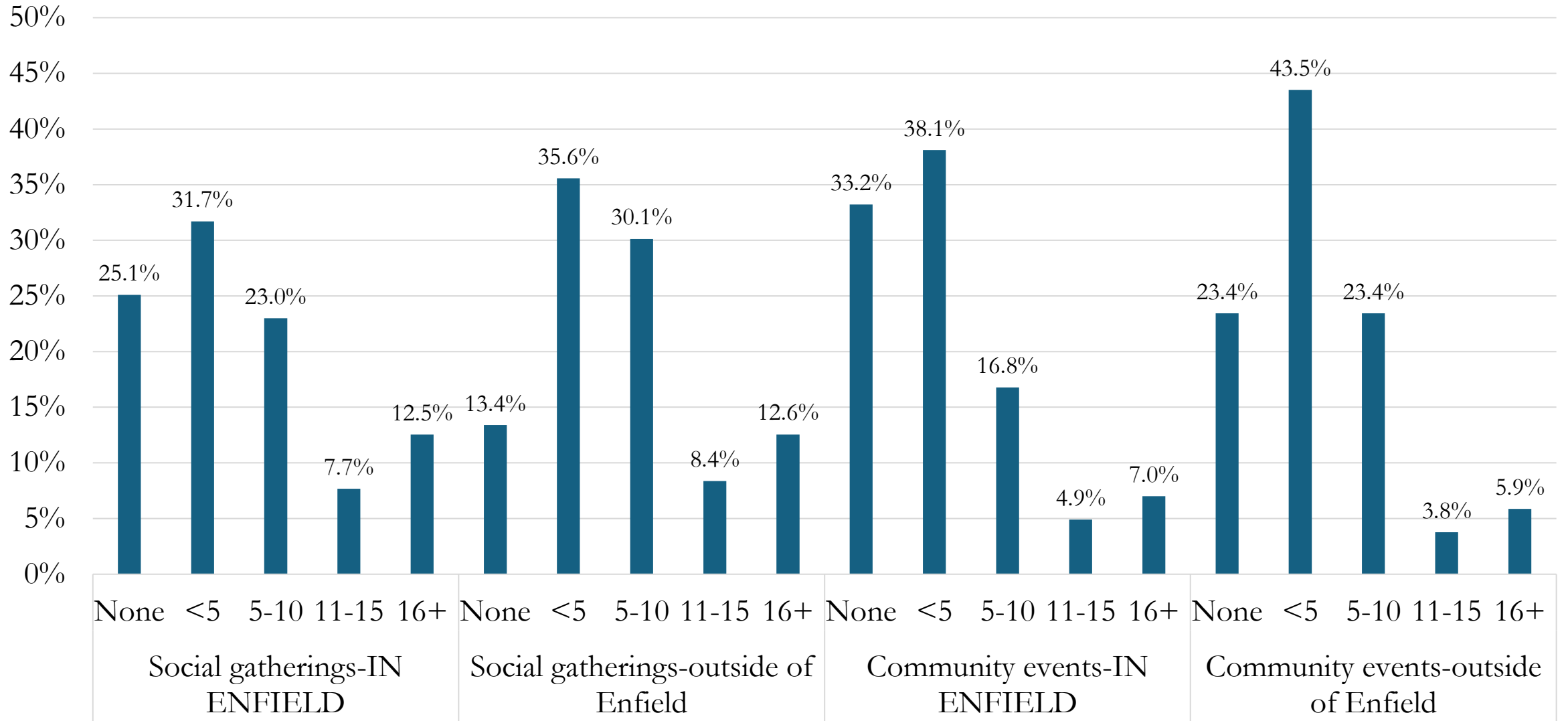
Community Connectedness

Level of Agreement with the Following:

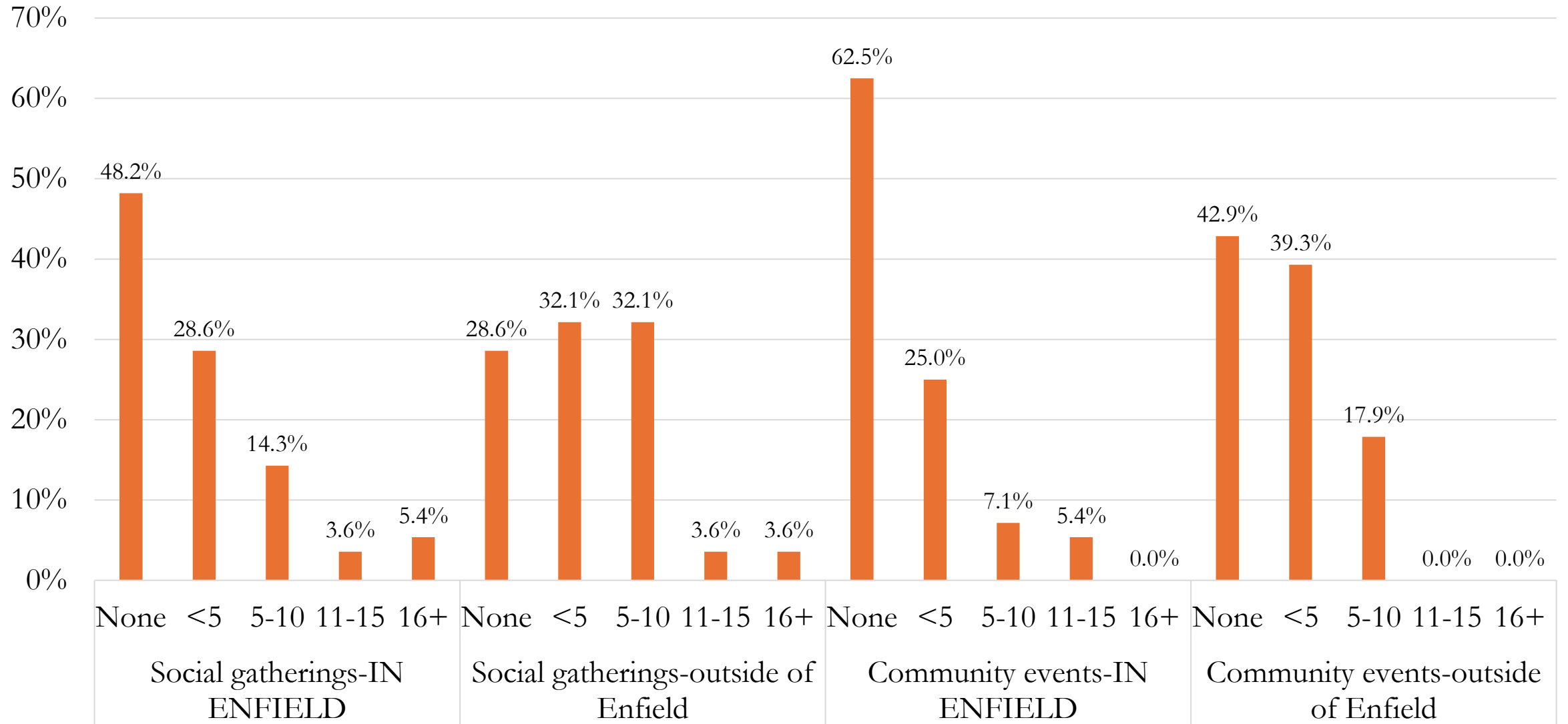
■ Total Sample ■ Young Adults



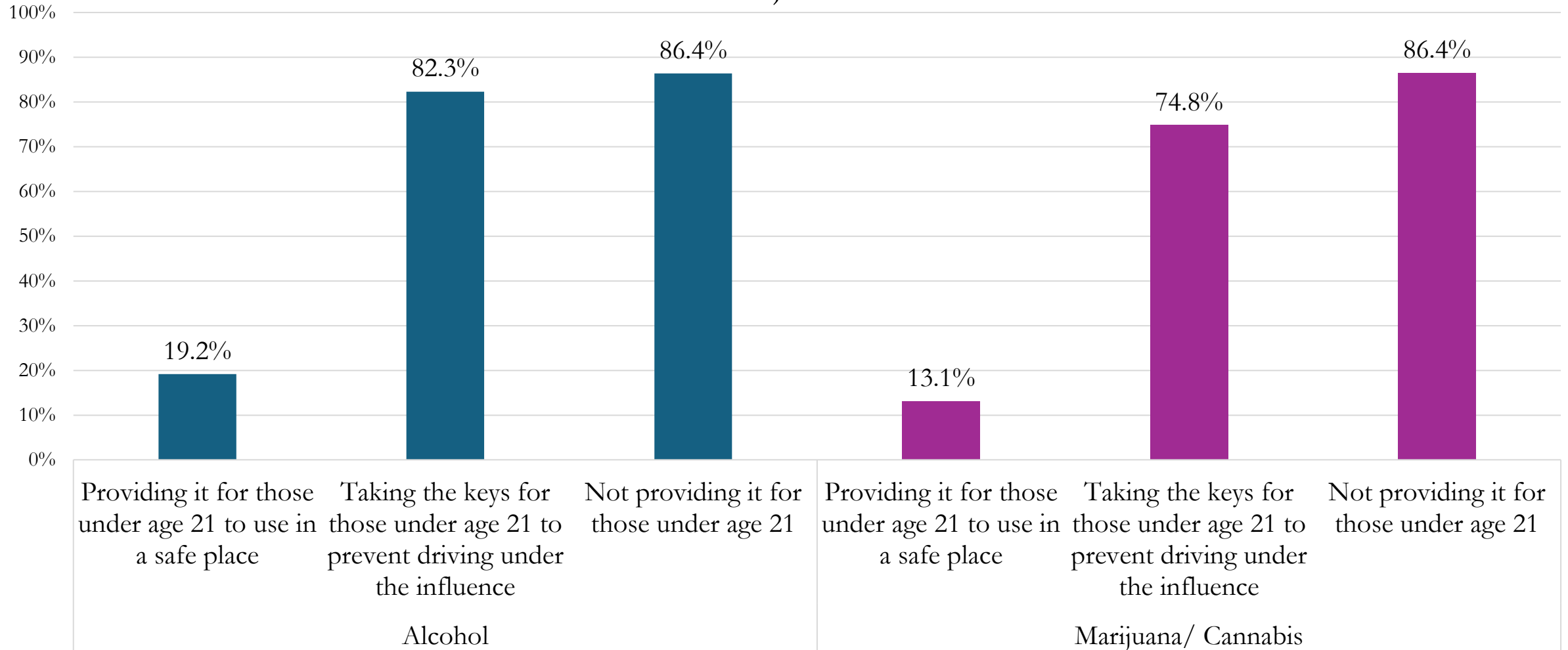
Adult Community Past Year Attendance at the Following:



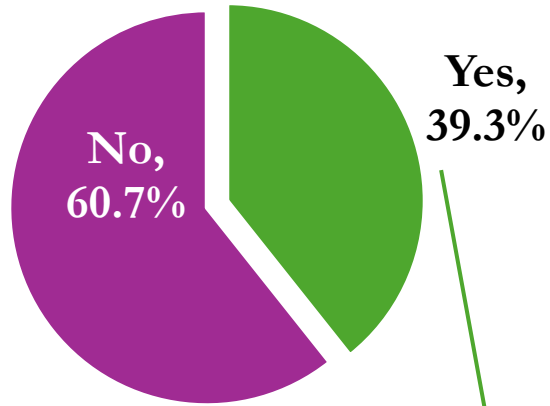
Young Adults Past Year Attendance at the Following:



What do you think is the **safest decision** a **parent/guardian or other adult can make** regarding youth use of alcohol and marijuana?

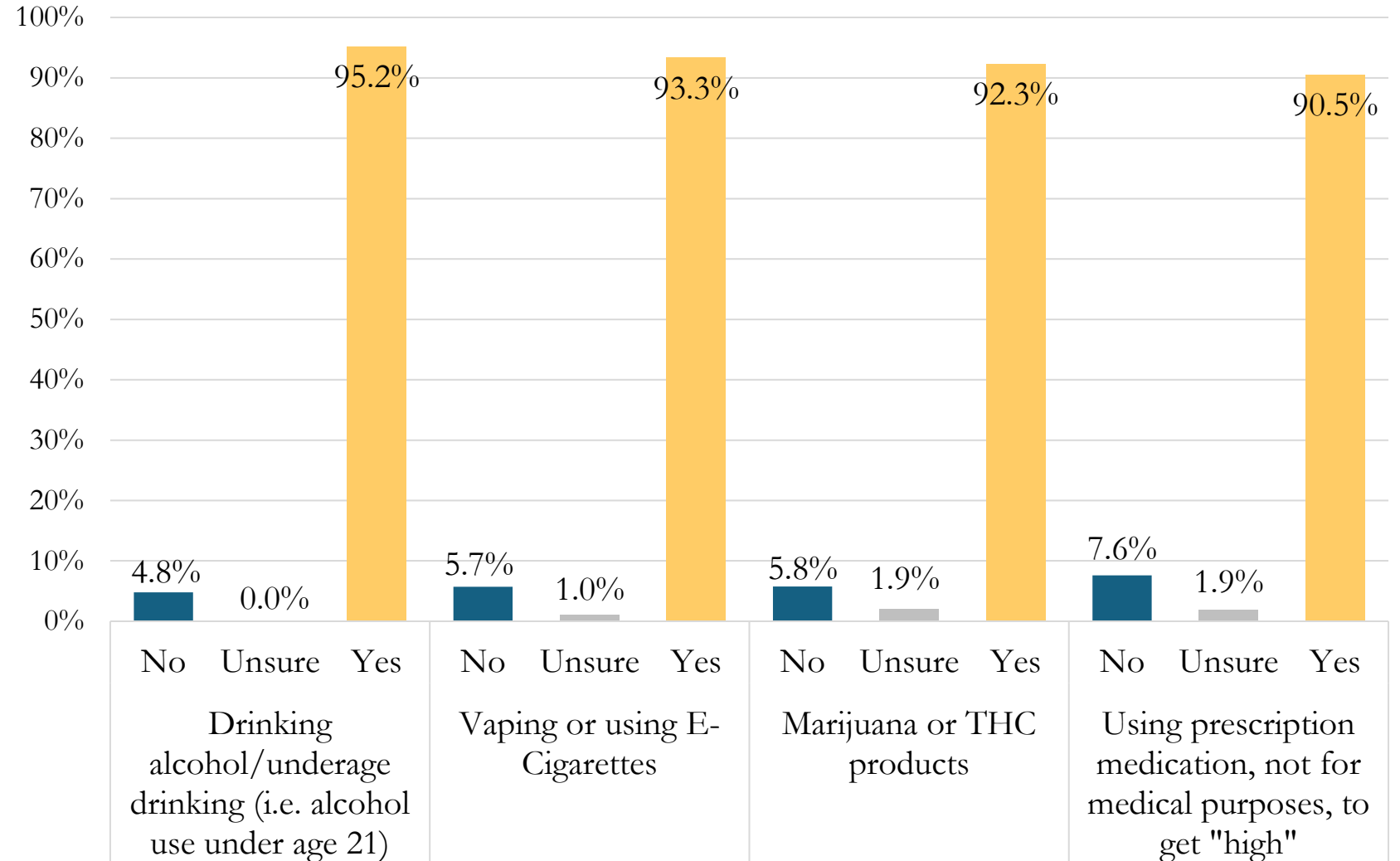


Do you have a child/children or grandchildren ages 12-20, who live in Enfield?



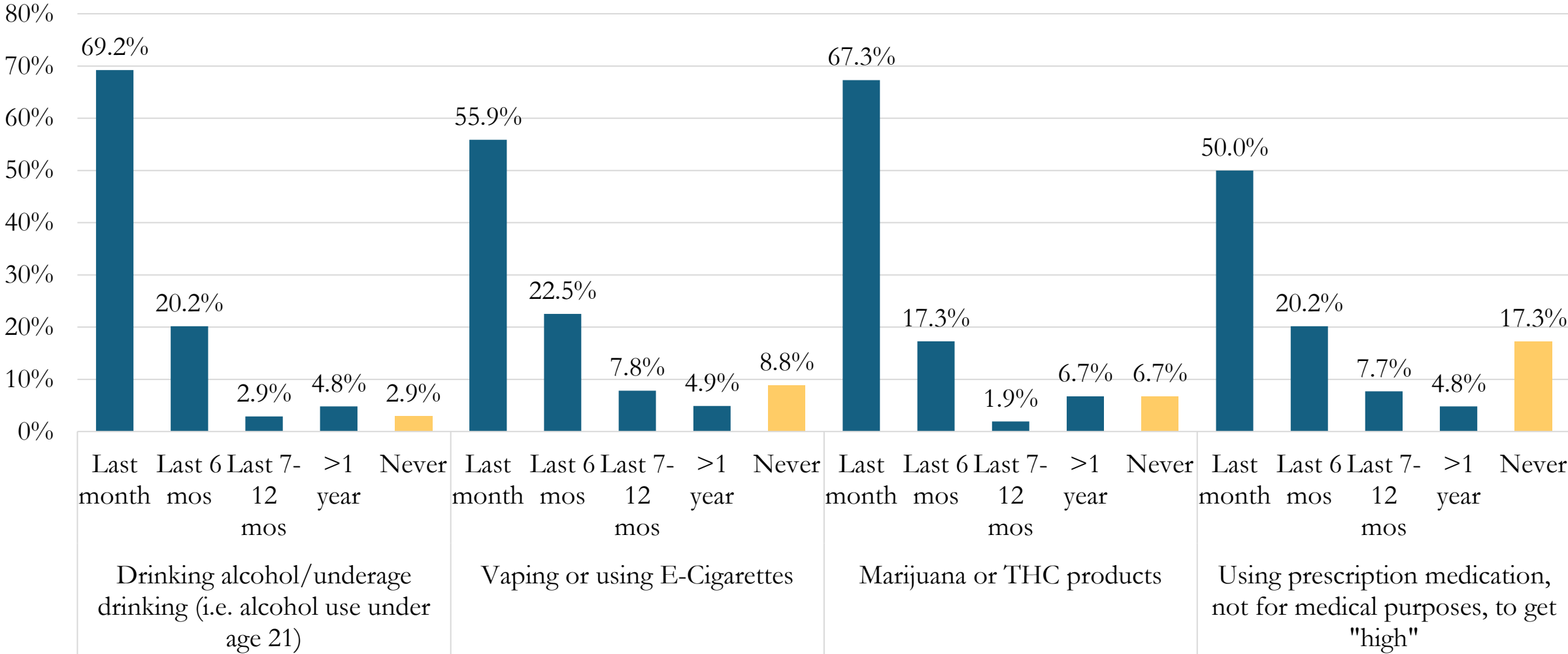
The next three questions were **only asked of adults** who answered “yes” to having children 12-20 in Enfield.

Do you have **clear rules** for your children/grandchildren, 12-20, about their use of the substances below?

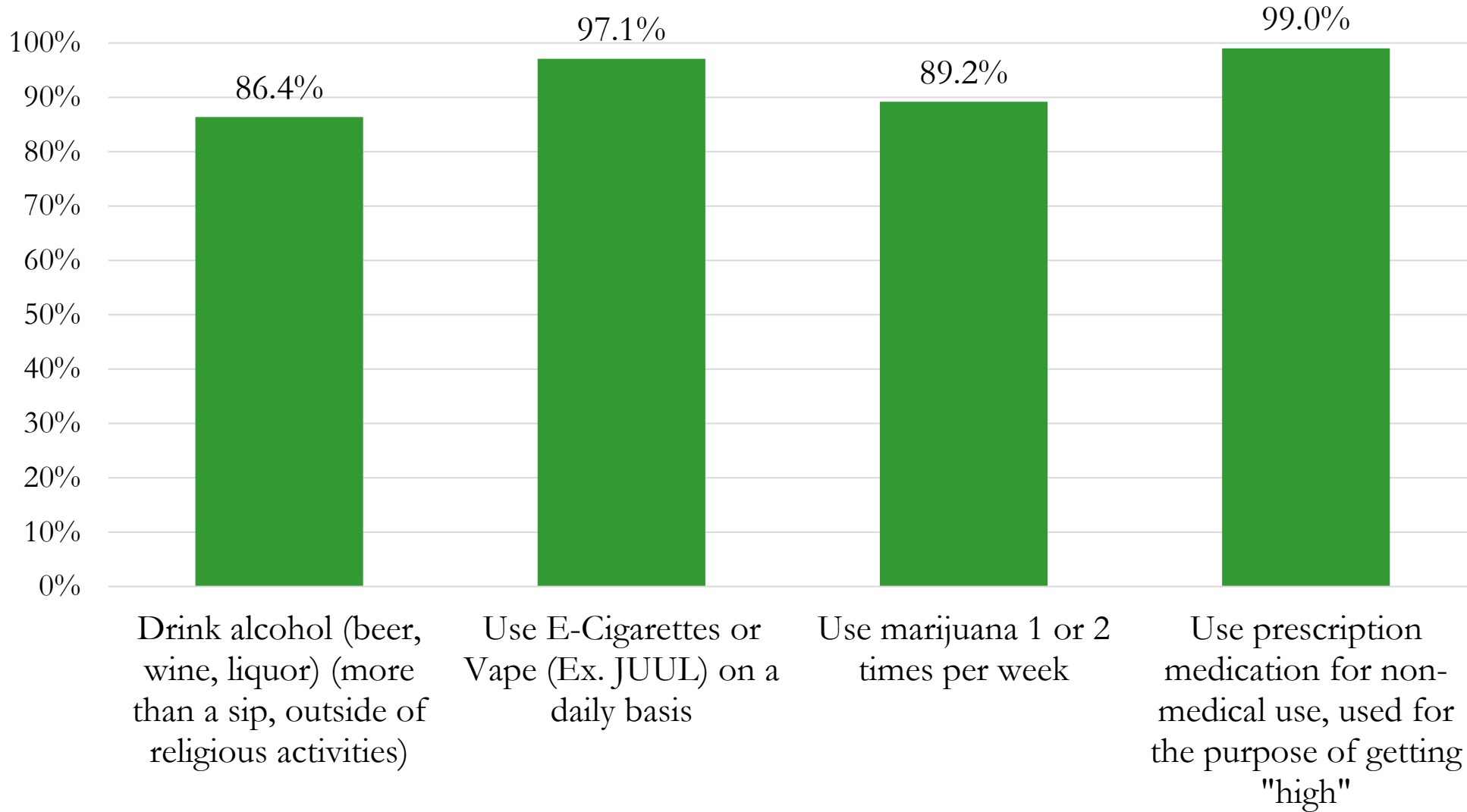


When was the last time you talked to your children/grandchildren, ages 12-20, about the risks of the substances below?

Within...



How wrong do you think it would be for youth, ages 12-20, to do the following: (% reporting Moderately or Greatly Wrong)



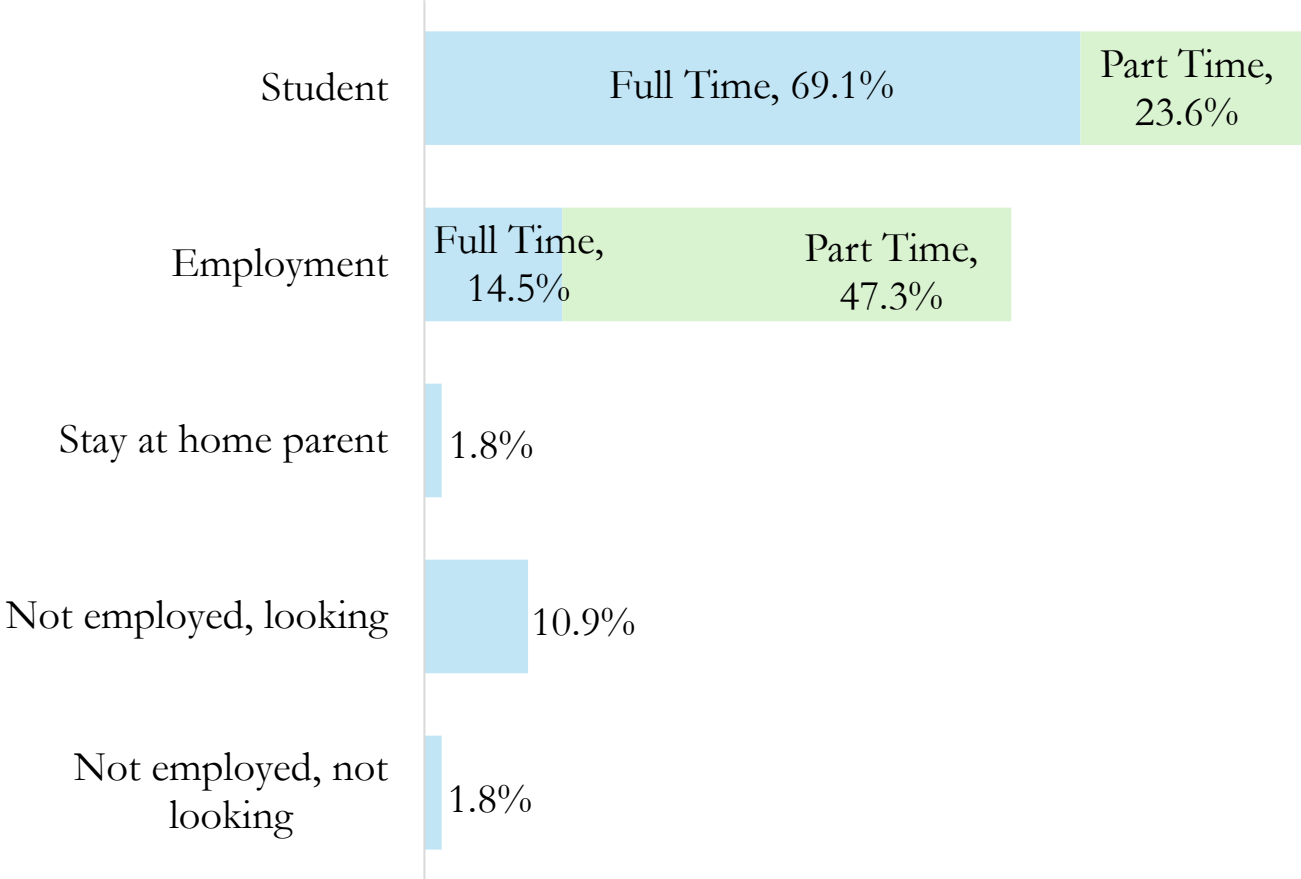
Enfield youth grades 6-12 who took Youth Voices Count (2023) reported their **perception of parental disapproval** to be:

- 92% Alcohol
- 93% Vaping Nicotine
- 89% Marijuana
- 96% Prescription drugs

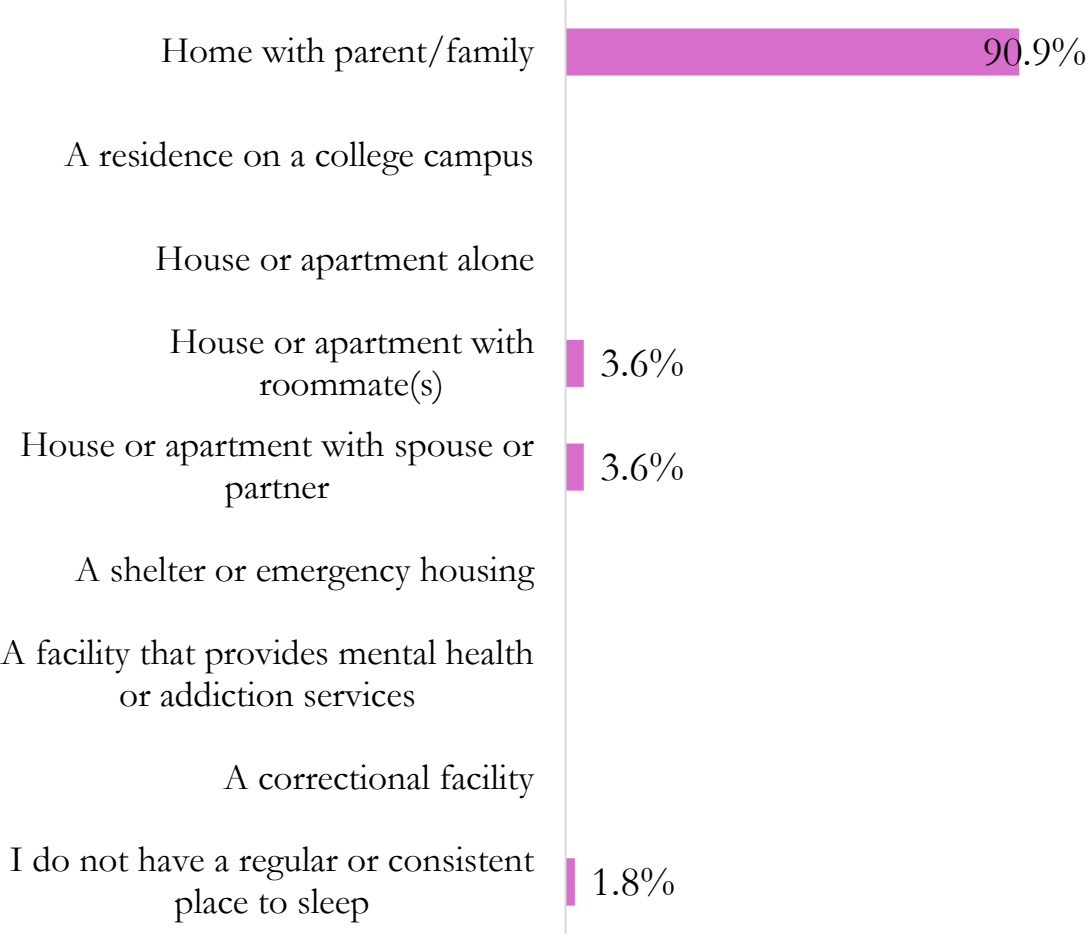
Young Adults Only

The following questions were only asked on the Asnuntuck Comm. College version of the survey. Data shown here only reflect respondents taking that survey and are between the ages of 18-25.

Student and Employment Status



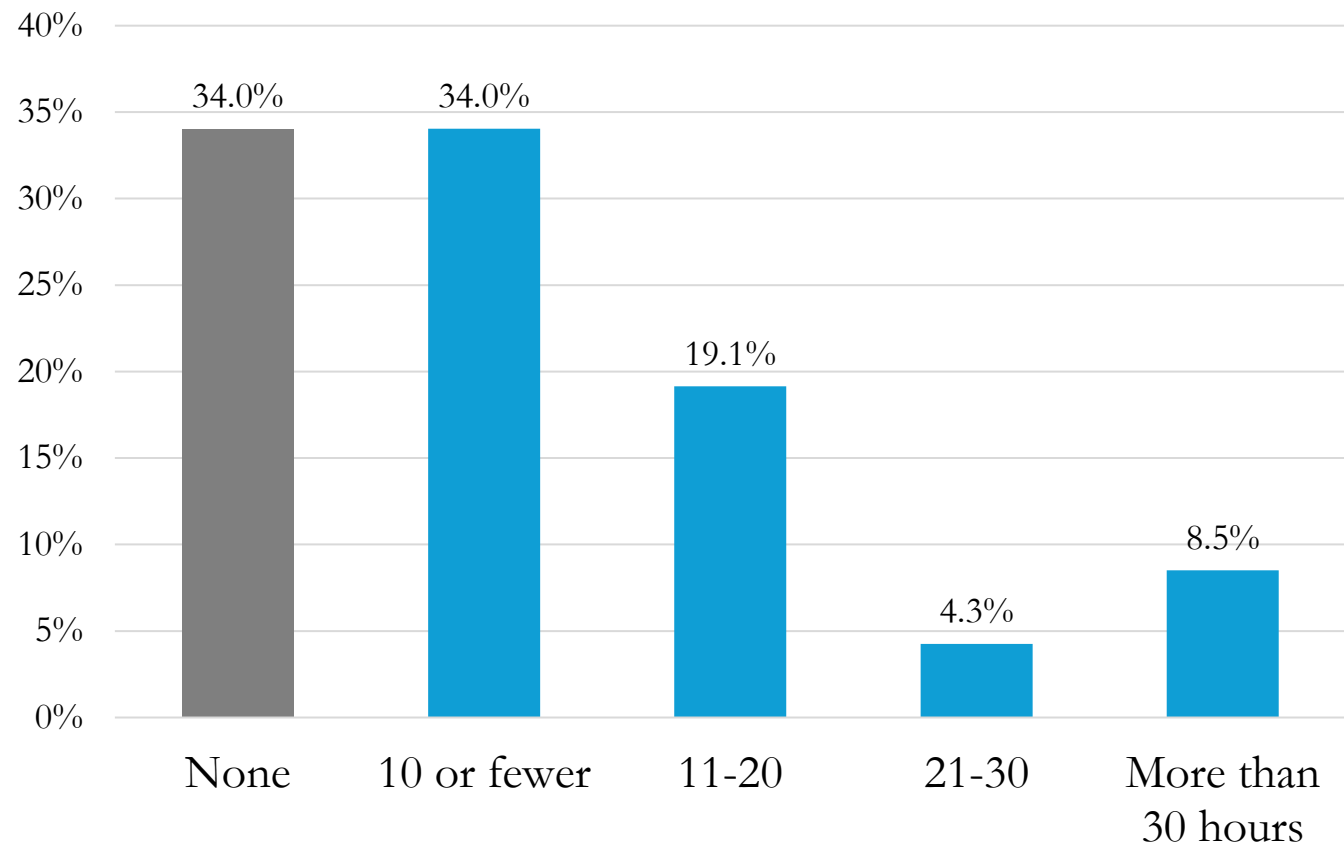
Living Arrangements



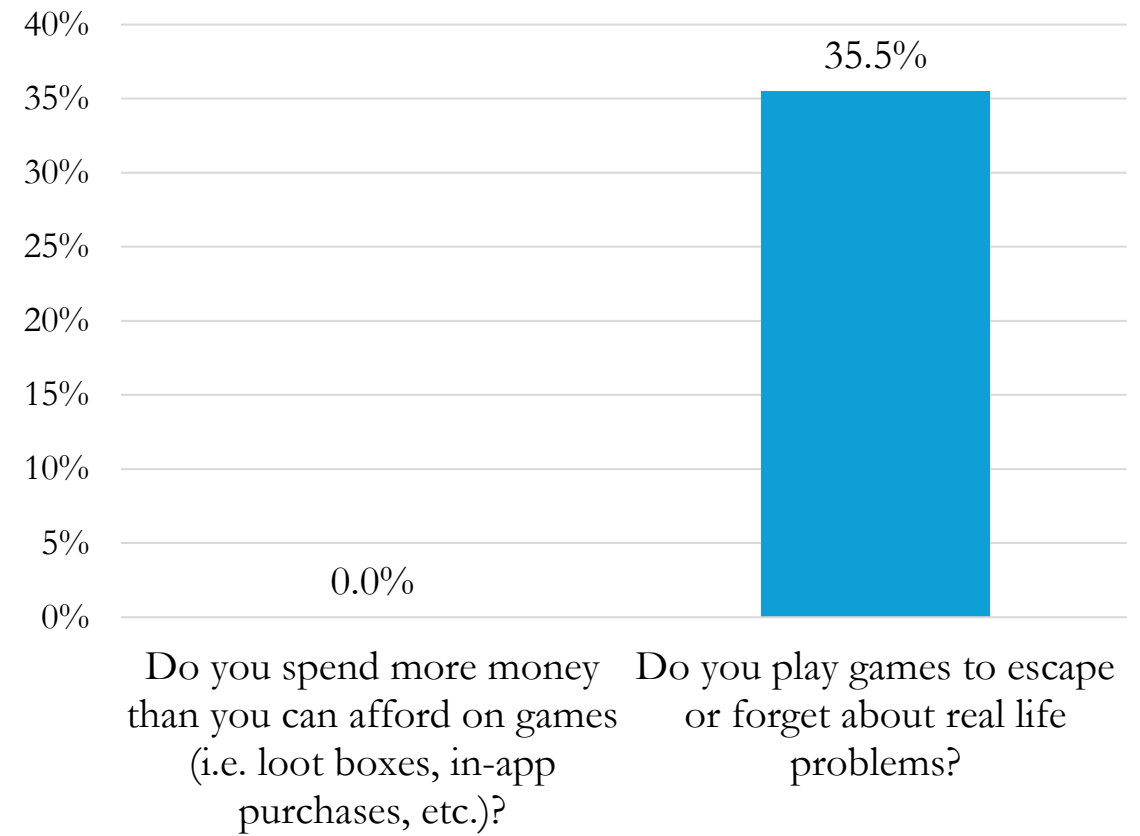
Young Adults Only

Gaming

Hours Per Week Spent Gaming

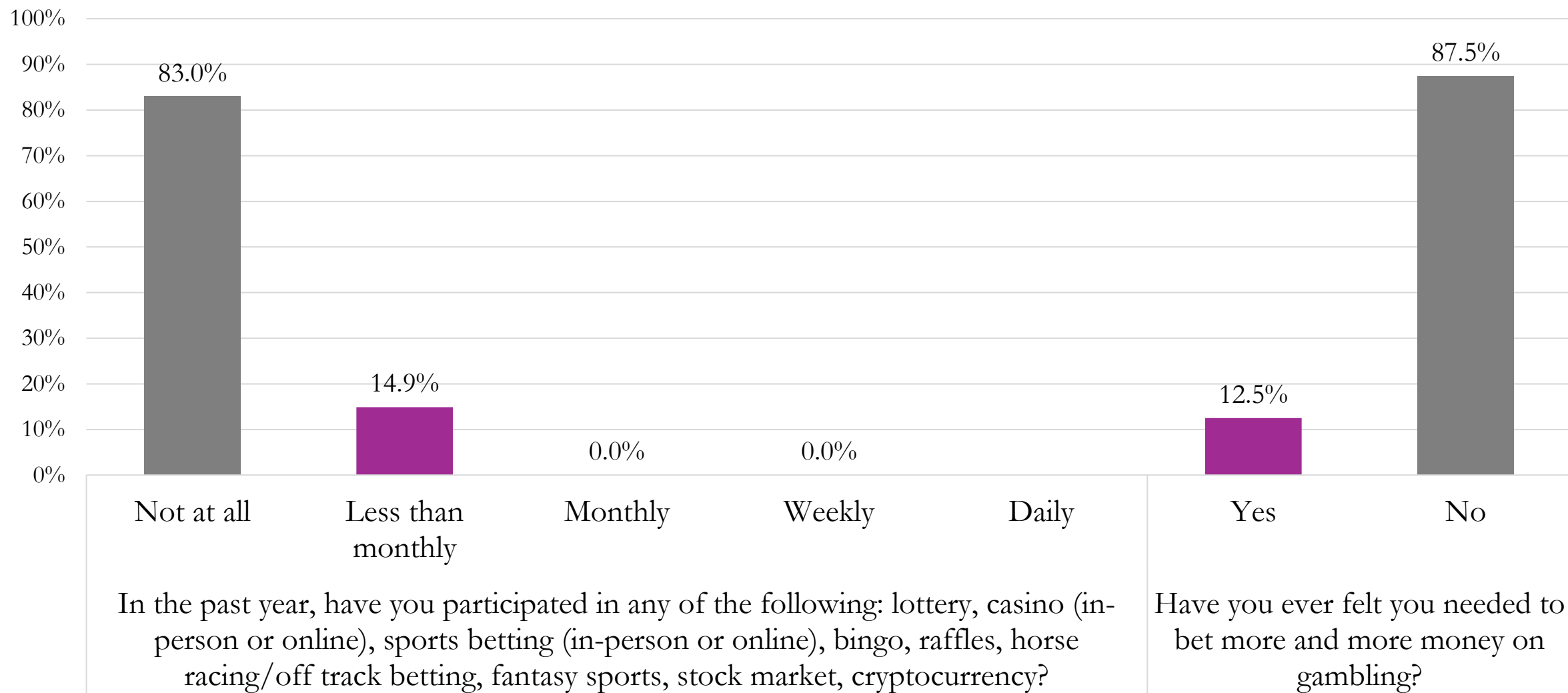


Consequences of Gaming (of those reporting gaming)



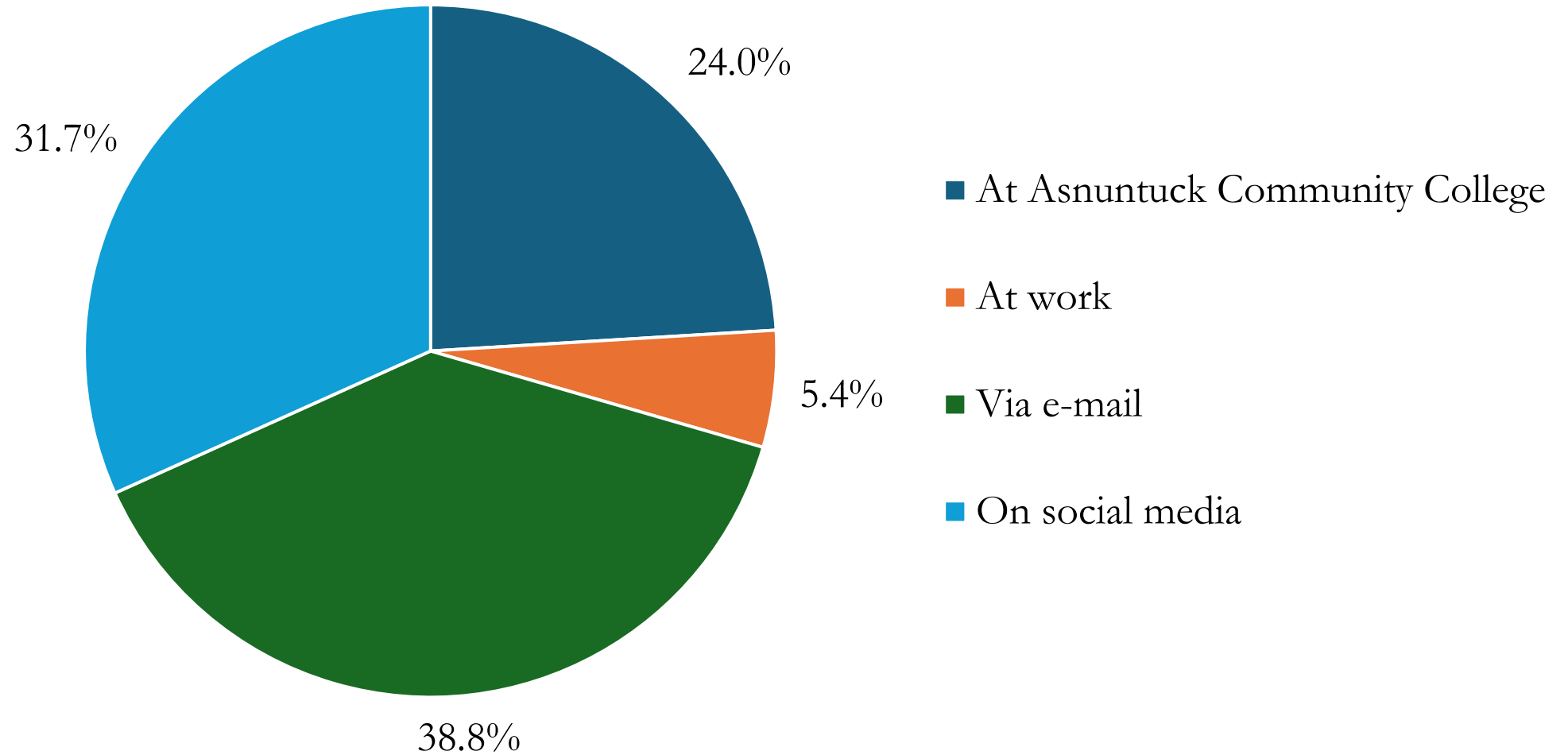
Young Adults Only

Gambling



**Daily gambling not reported here due to small cell counts (<6).*

How did you hear about this survey?



Take Home Message Today

- Enfield has a lot of data available to guide planning programs and other supports!
- Enfield has strong partnerships, as evidenced by such robust data collection processes.

GOOD NEWS

