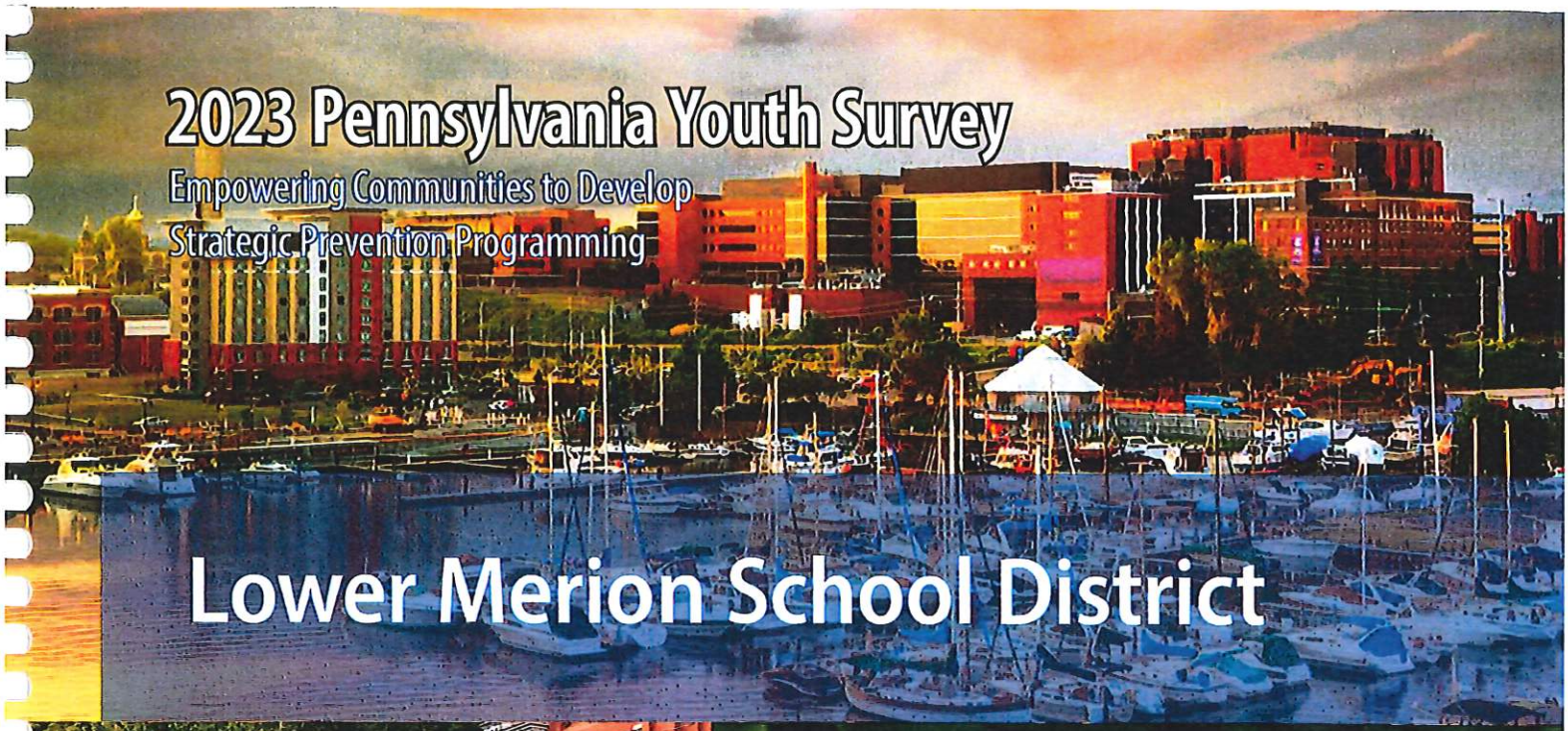
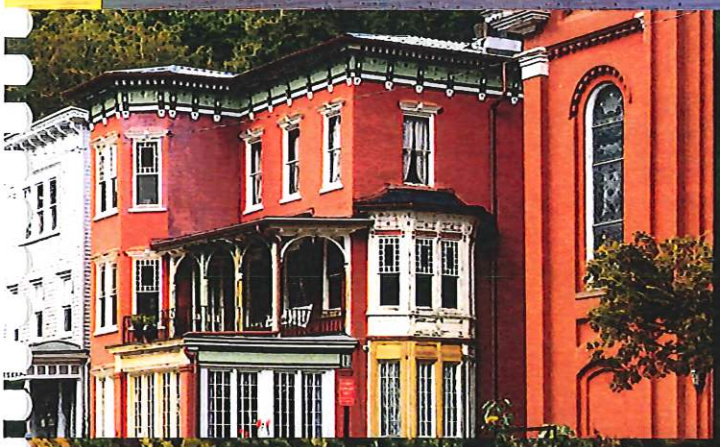
2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

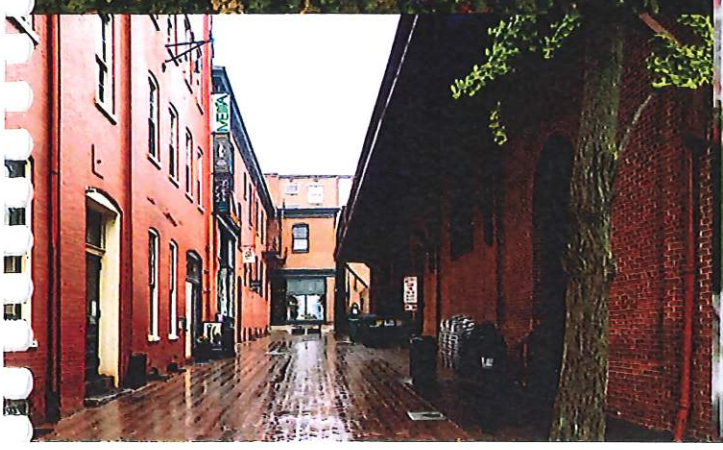
Empowering Communities to Develop Strategic Prevention Programming

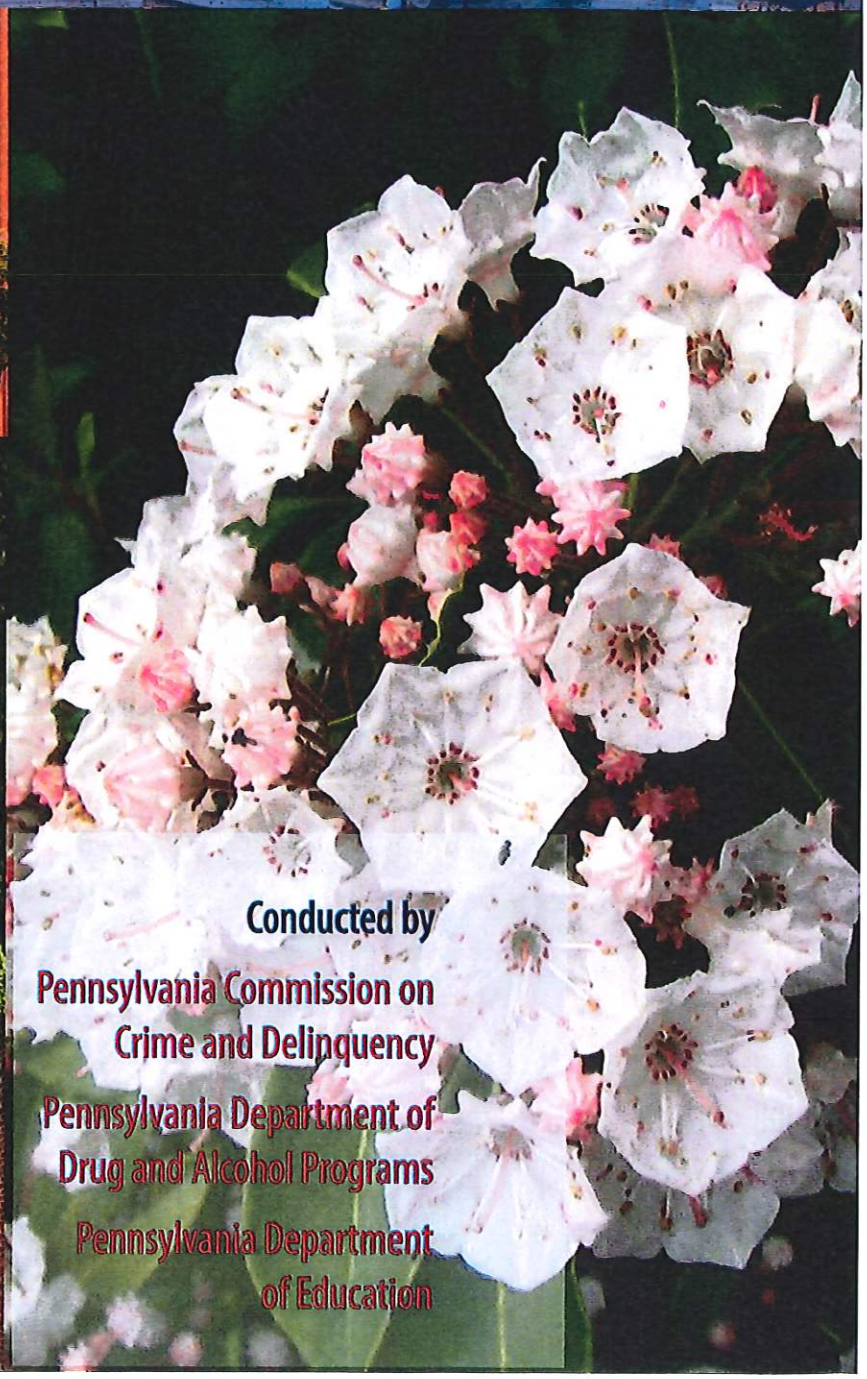


Lower Merion School District









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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Additionally, a great deal of thanks for the leadership of this survey needs to go to the PCCD Prevention Subcommittee, who provided guidance and oversight to this effort.

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The success of the 2023 PAYS could not have been achieved without the support and participation of school superintendents, administrators, principals, prevention coordinators, and teachers throughout the state. We extend our appreciation to the students who responded to the survey. Their thoughtful participation resulted in a wealth of information that can be used to improve the circumstances in which they live and learn.

Please note that this report does not contain data from all survey questions. To access and analyze county or state level data from the entire survey dataset, please visit www.bach-harrison.com/PAYSWebTool. For more information about PAYS, and to see aggregate reporting of responses provided by Pennsylvania youth, please visit www.pays.pa.gov. This site contains links to materials developed for the 2023 administration, as well as materials from prior survey administrations. Results from earlier PAYS administrations (e.g. reports from 2021 and earlier) can be found by consulting the links to past years' reports.

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PAYS: GOALS AND OVERVIEW

Since 1989, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has conducted a biennial survey of youth in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades to gather information about their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors towards alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use to help communities address root causes of antisocial behavior.

The "Pennsylvania Youth Survey" or "PAYS" is conducted every other year, in the fall of odd-numbered years. Beginning with the 2013 administration, PAYS was offered at no charge to any school or district (public, private, charter, and parochial) courtesy of funding provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

The 2023 PAYS was the seventeenth biennial administration (1989-2023). Comparisons in this report were made between the results of the 2019, 2021, and 2023 surveys, as well as comparisons to youth nationwide.

PAYS is administered in each participating school using either paper/pencil or an online tool. The survey is voluntary – youth are able to skip any questions they do not wish to answer or to opt out of the survey entirely. Additionally, students are made aware that their responses will remain anonymous and confidential. No individual student-level data can be obtained from the data set, and the results are reported in aggregate at the local, county, and state levels.

PAYS is a primary tool in Pennsylvania's prevention approach of using data to drive decision making. By looking not just at rates of problem behaviors but also at the root causes of those behaviors, PAYS allows schools and communities to address reasons (such as a lack of commitment to school) rather than only looking at the symptoms after the fact (like poor grades). This approach has been repeatedly shown in national research studies to be the most effective in helping youth develop into healthy, productive members of their society.

Participation by Pennsylvania youth

The 2023 PAYS was administered during the fall of 2023 to youth in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, resulting in 262,535 valid surveys.

There were 1,048 schools that chose to participate in the 2023 PAYS (out of 1,953 eligible). Estimated enrollment figures for the 2022-23 school year show that participating schools had 361,092 students enrolled in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 who were eligible to participate in the survey. An attempt was made to survey all eligible Pennsylvania students, resulting in 262,535 valid participants in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 (a participation rate of 72.7%), represented evenly across the state.

	District 2023			State 2023		
	Surveys	Enrolled in participating school(s)*	Participation rate	Surveys	Enrolled in participating school(s)*	Participation rate
Grade						
6	641	677	94.7	67,795	83,639	81.1
8	569	683	83.3	73,765	91,916	80.3
10	571	731	78.1	67,290	96,306	69.9
12	506	782	64.7	53,685	89,231	60.2
Total	2,287	2,873	79.6	262,535	361,092	72.7

* Enrollment in the this table refers to the number of students enrolled in *participating* schools.

In this district, 5 out of 6 schools (in 1 of 1 districts or charter/private schools) participated in the 2023 PAYS. 2022-23 enrollment show that of the 2,873 students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 enrolled in participating schools, 2,287 valid surveys were submitted (a participation rate of 79.6%).

	District 2023			State 2023		
	Surveys	Enrolled in all schools(s)**	Modified participation rate**	Surveys	Enrolled in all schools(s)**	Modified participation rate**
Grade						
6	641	677	94.7	67,795	121,427	55.8
8	569	684	83.2	73,765	124,428	59.3
10	571	732	78.0	67,290	132,408	50.8
12	506	784	64.5	53,685	123,489	43.5
Total	2,287	2,877	79.5	262,535	501,752	52.3

** Enrollment in the second table refers to the number of students enrolled in all schools in the district, county or community that were eligible to participate in 2023 PAYS, even if they did not participate.

Enrollment figures for all 6 schools in this district show that 2,877 students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 were eligible to participate in the 2023 PAYS administration. This means that the 2,287 valid surveys submitted from this district resulted in a modified participation rate of 79.5% (as seen in the second table).

Statewide, the 1,953 schools eligible to participate in the 2023 PAYS had an estimated enrollment of 501,752 public school students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The 262,535 valid surveys submitted resulted in a modified participation rate of 52.3% statewide.

Sample Confidence Intervals

When reviewing survey results people often ask, "What is the margin of error?" This is referred to as the "confidence interval," and it reflects the precision of a statistical estimate. For example, the overall statewide confidence interval for drug use with a prevalence rate of 50.0% is ±0.8 points, meaning that there is a 95% chance that the true score is between 49.2% and 50.8%.

	Statewide Sample †	Enrollment for Statewide Sample †	Confidence Interval
Grade			
6	8,222	105,674	±1.5
8	8,447	111,223	±1.5
10	6,712	118,120	±1.7
12	5,844	110,869	±1.8
Total	29,225	445,886	±0.8

† Information on the design of statewide sample can be found in the 2017 thru 2023 PAYS State Full Details reports.

Note that these confidence intervals are for prevalence rates of 50%. For less prevalent behaviors, such as heroin use and bringing a weapon to school, the confidence interval narrows substantially.

Validity of PAYS data

In order to ensure the highest level of confidence in the survey results, measures are implemented to retain only valid surveys. The following validity checks were utilized:

1. the student indicated that they had used a fictitious drug (1,807 surveys statewide were identified as dishonest with this check)
2. the student reported an improbably high level of multiple drug use (1,183 surveys statewide)
3. the student reported an age that was inconsistent with their grade or the grades served by their school (1,063 surveys statewide)

Invalid and incomplete surveys were eliminated from the data and are not included in the final analyses. Of the 265,606 survey questionnaires from grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 completed and returned to Bach Harrison for analysis, 3,071 (1.2%) were eliminated for meeting one or more of the above criteria.

The results within this district report are based on 2,287 valid responses (out of 2,311 surveys submitted).

Want to dig deeper into the PAYS data or put the data into action? Check out these additional resources:

PAYS Webtool:

An online tool allowing you to analyze data at a county or state level for specific questions. Schools also receive access to their own private webtool to further analyze their school's data.

PAYS Guide:

Designed to help you and your team to get the most out of your PAYS data. In each module, you will find a library of worksheets, report examples/templates, and other resources to assist with successful PAYS analysis and planning.

PAYS First Wednesdays at 1 Webinar Series:

Webinars that address key PAYS-related topics. Past webinar recordings are also available.

All Questions by Grade Report:

Report provides the count and percent of students by grade selecting each answer choice for each question. County reports are available on the PAYS website and school reports are sent to schools.

Learn more at www.pays.pa.gov!

1. DEMOGRAPHICS

47.4% of participants were female, 50.0% were male, and 2.6% were other. 6th graders were the best represented, with an estimated 94.7% participation rate based on most recent enrollment.

Overall, 60.7% of students surveyed in this district were white or Caucasian, 13.2% of students were Asian or Pacific Islander, and the remainder were a combination of the remaining categories. 10.0% of students identified as being of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.

Grade-level data are only displayed in this report when there were a minimum of 25 valid participants. "All Grades" represents the combined responses of all participating students from grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. Please note the distribution of participants in "All Grades" data for this district and keep this in mind when comparing local data to state data. State-level "All Grades" data are most useful when the district data are available for all four grades, meet the minimum cutoff for the total number of participants, and have a similar distribution of participants to the state.

	District 2019		District 2021		District 2023		State 2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Survey respondents								
All	309	100.0	1,993	100.0	2,287	100.0	262,535	100.0
Survey respondents by grade								
6			642	32.2	641	28.0	67,795	25.8
8			631	31.7	569	24.9	73,765	28.1
10			579	29.1	571	25.0	67,290	25.6
12	309	100.0	141	7.1	506	22.1	53,685	20.4
Survey respondents by gender								
Male	145	46.9	1,000	50.4	1,114	50.0	129,070	49.8
Female	164	53.1	901	45.4	1,056	47.4	124,928	48.2
Other	n/a	n/a	82	4.1	57	2.6	5,003	1.9
Survey respondents by ethnicity								
Yes, of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	29	9.4	160	8.0	229	10.0	44,946	17.1
No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	280	90.6	1,833	92.0	2,058	90.0	217,589	82.9
Survey respondents by race								
Black, African American	39	12.6	188	9.4	222	9.7	29,320	11.2
American Indian	0	0.0	16	0.8	11	0.5	3,968	1.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	35	11.3	262	13.1	303	13.2	18,630	7.1
White, Caucasian	212	68.6	1,284	64.4	1,388	60.7	172,923	65.9
Multi-racial	16	5.2	163	8.2	227	9.9	16,730	6.4
Race Unmarked	7	2.3	80	4.0	136	5.9	20,964	8.0

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Demographic questions	*How old are you?* *10 / 11 / 12 / 13 / 14 / 15 / 16 / 17 / 18 / 19 or older* *What grade are you in?* *6th / 7th / 8th / 9th / 10th / 11th / 12th*
	Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? *No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin* *Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano* *Yes, Puerto Rican* *Yes, Cuban* *Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (for example, Argentinean, Columbian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, etc.)*
	What is your race? (Select all that apply) *White, Caucasian* *Black, African American* *American Indian or Alaska Native* *Asian Indian, Japanese, Native Hawaiian, Chinese, Korean, Guamanian or Chamorro, Filipino, Vietnamese, Samoan, Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander*
	Are you male, female or other?
	Think of where you live most of the time. Which of the following people live there with you? (Choose all that apply) *Mother(s) / Father(s) / Stepparent(s) / Foster Parent(s) / Grandparent(s) / Other adult(s) / Sibling(s)/ Other children*
	What is the language you use most often at home? *English* *Spanish* *Another language*

2. SUBSTANCE USE

Monitoring Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Trends in Pennsylvania Youth

Measurement

Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use and access is measured in PAYS by a set of 34 questions. The questions are similar to those used in the Monitoring the Future study, a nationwide study of drug use by middle and high school students.

Prevalence–of–use tables and graphs show the percentages of students who reported using ATODs. These results are presented for both lifetime and past 30-day prevalence of use periods.

Lifetime Use

Lifetime use is a measure of the percentage of students who tried the particular substance at least once in their lifetime and is used to show the percentage of students who have had experience with a particular substance. Lifetime prevalence of use (whether the student has ever used the drug) is a good measure of student experimentation with a given substance.

30-Day Use

30-day use (whether the student has recently used the drug) is a more sensitive measure of current activities.

Comparisons to National Results

Comparing and contrasting findings from a county– or school–district–level survey to relevant data from a national survey provides a valuable perspective on local data. In this report, national comparisons for ATOD use will be made to the 2023 Monitoring the Future study and to the 2018 Bach Harrison Norm.

Monitoring the Future Data

The Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey project, which provides prevalence–of–use information for ATODs from a nationally representative sample of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, is conducted annually by the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan (see www.monitoringthefuture.org). For a review of the methodology of this study, please see https://monitoringthefuture.org/about/.

Monitoring the Future data appear on the charts as "MTF 2023"

Bach Harrison Norm

The Bach Harrison Norm was developed by Bach Harrison L.L.C. to provide states and communities with the ability to compare their results on risk, protection, and antisocial measures with more national measures. Survey participants from 11 statewide surveys were combined into a database of approximately 878,000 students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The results were weighted by state and grade to make each state's contributions more in line with the nation's student population. Bach Harrison analysts then calculated rates for antisocial behavior, students at risk, and students with protection. The results appear on the charts as "BH Norm." In order to keep the Bach Harrison Norm relevant, it is updated approximately every two years as new data become available. The most recent update to the Bach Harrison Norm was completed using 2016-2017 data.

A comparison to state–wide and national results provides additional information for your district in determining the relative importance of levels of ATOD use, antisocial behavior, risk, and protection. Information about other students in the state and the nation can be helpful in determining the seriousness of a given level of problem behavior. Scanning across the charts, it is important to observe the factors that differ the most from the Bach Harrison Norm. This is the first step in identifying the levels of risk and protection that are higher or lower than those in other communities. The risk factors that are higher than the Bach Harrison Norm and the protective factors that are lower than the Bach Harrison Norm may be factors that your district should consider addressing when planning prevention programs.

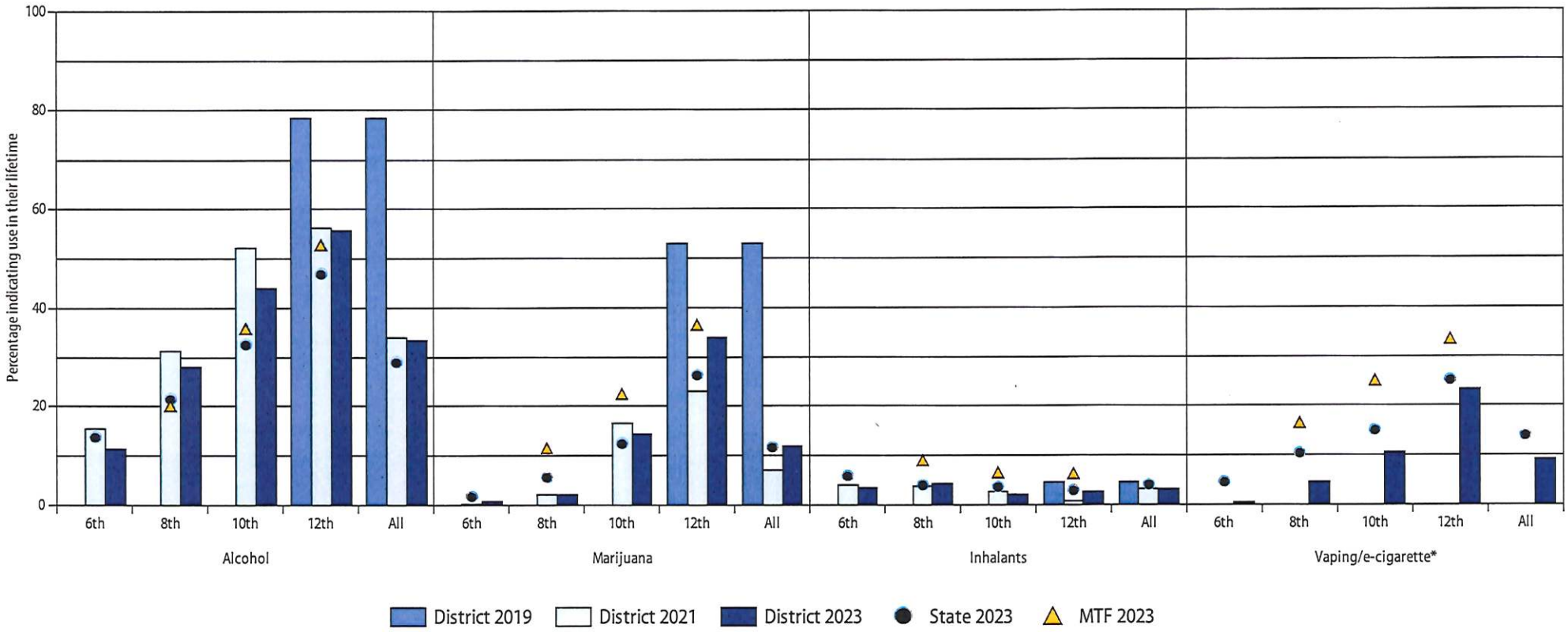
HIGH PREVALENCE/EARLY INITIATION DRUGS

This section covers alcohol, vaping, tobacco (cigarettes and smokeless), marijuana, and inhalants, the drugs first and most commonly used by youth. The higher prevalence and earlier initiation of use makes monitoring these drugs useful when monitoring students at risk for progression from experimentation to social use to addiction to these and other substances.

The highest lifetime usage rates were seen in alcohol (33.4% of students in this district, compared to 28.9% at the state level). The next highest lifetime use rate was marijuana, with 11.8% indicating use (compared to 11.6% at the state level).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Alcohol	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: had beer, wine, or hard liquor?*
Marijuana	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used marijuana (pot, hash, cannabis, weed, THC)?*
Inhalants	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Sniffed glue, breathed the contents of an aerosol spray can, or inhaled other gases or sprays in order to get high?*
Tobacco	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: smoked cigarettes?* *Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used smokless tobacco (chew, snuff, plug, dipping tobacco, chewing tobacco)?*
Vaping	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used an electronic vapor product such as e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, or vape pens?* *If you used an electronic vapor product such as e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, or vape pens during the past 12 months, with which substances did you use it? (Mark all that apply.)* *Just flavoring* *Nicotine* *Marijuana or THC* *Other substance* *I don't know*

Early initiation and higher prevalence drugs - Lifetime use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

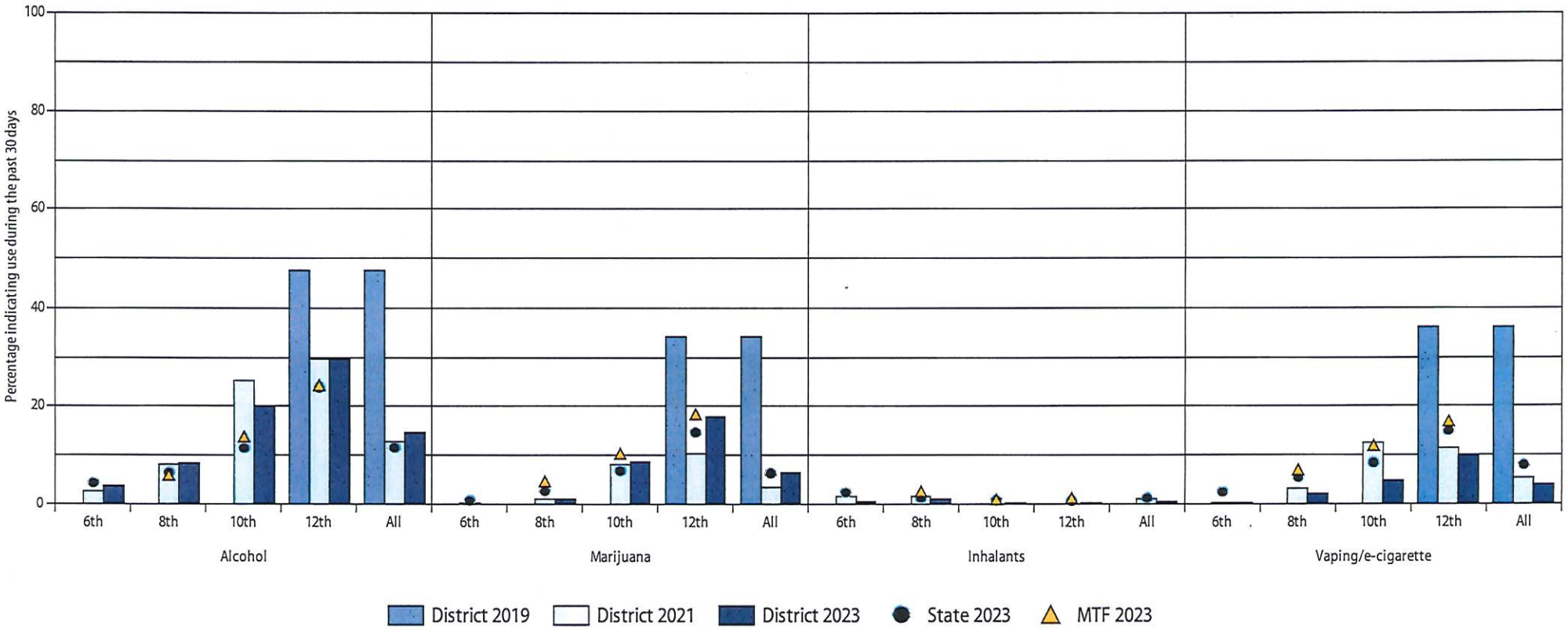


*Lifetime vaping question was added to survey in 2023.

	Alcohol					Marijuana					Inhalants					Vaping/e-cigarette*				
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	15.5	11.2	13.7	n/a	n/a	0.3	0.7	1.7	n/a	n/a	4.0	3.5	5.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.5	4.6	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**31.3**	**28.0**	**21.5**	**20.1**	**n/a**	**2.1**	**2.2**	**5.6**	**11.5**	**n/a**	**3.6**	**4.2**	**4.0**	**9.0**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**4.6**	**10.4**	**16.5**
10th	n/a	52.2	44.0	32.5	35.8	n/a	16.5	14.3	12.4	22.5	n/a	2.7	2.0	3.6	6.5	n/a	n/a	10.7	15.0	25.1
12th	**78.4**	**56.3**	**55.8**	**46.9**	**52.8**	**53.0**	**23.0**	**34.0**	**26.2**	**36.5**	**4.6**	**0.8**	**2.5**	**2.9**	**6.3**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**23.3**	**25.2**	**33.5**
All	78.4	33.9	33.4	28.9	n/a	53.0	7.1	11.8	11.6	n/a	4.6	3.3	3.1	4.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.1	13.9	n/a

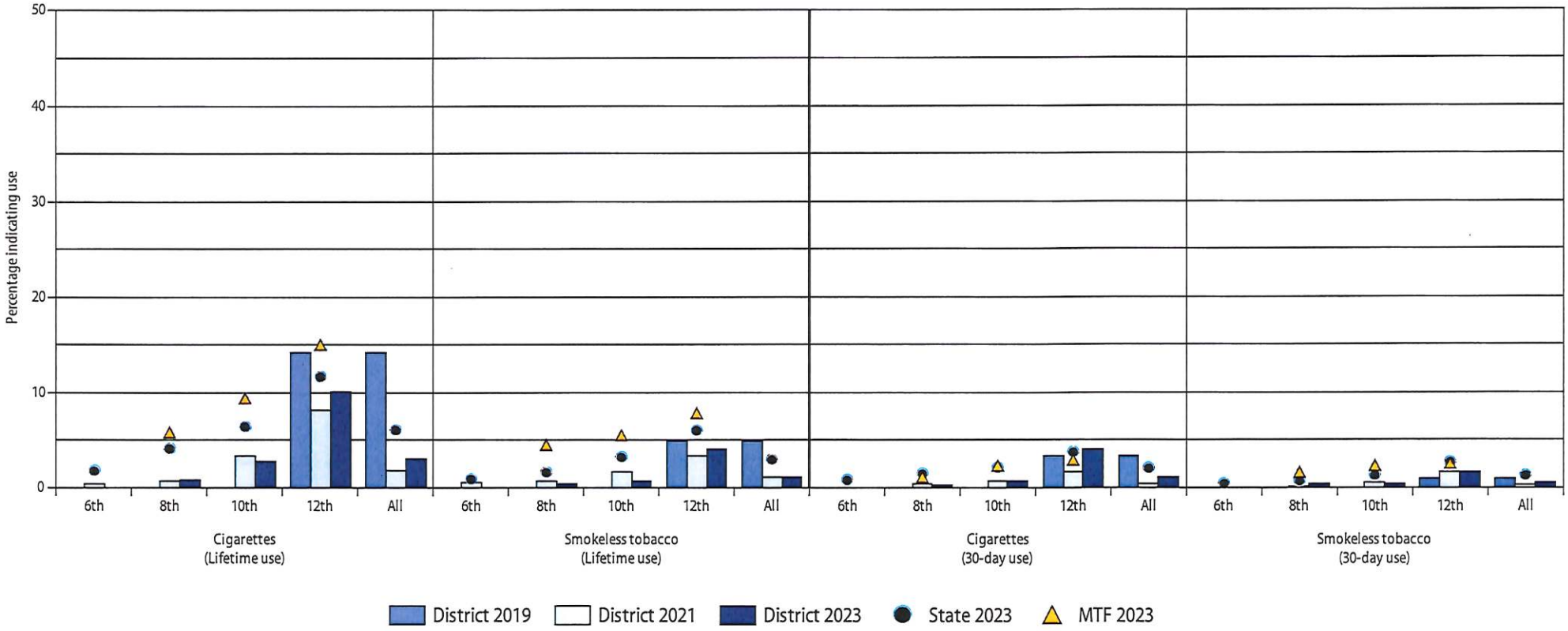
**See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

Early initiation and higher prevalence drugs - 30-day use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



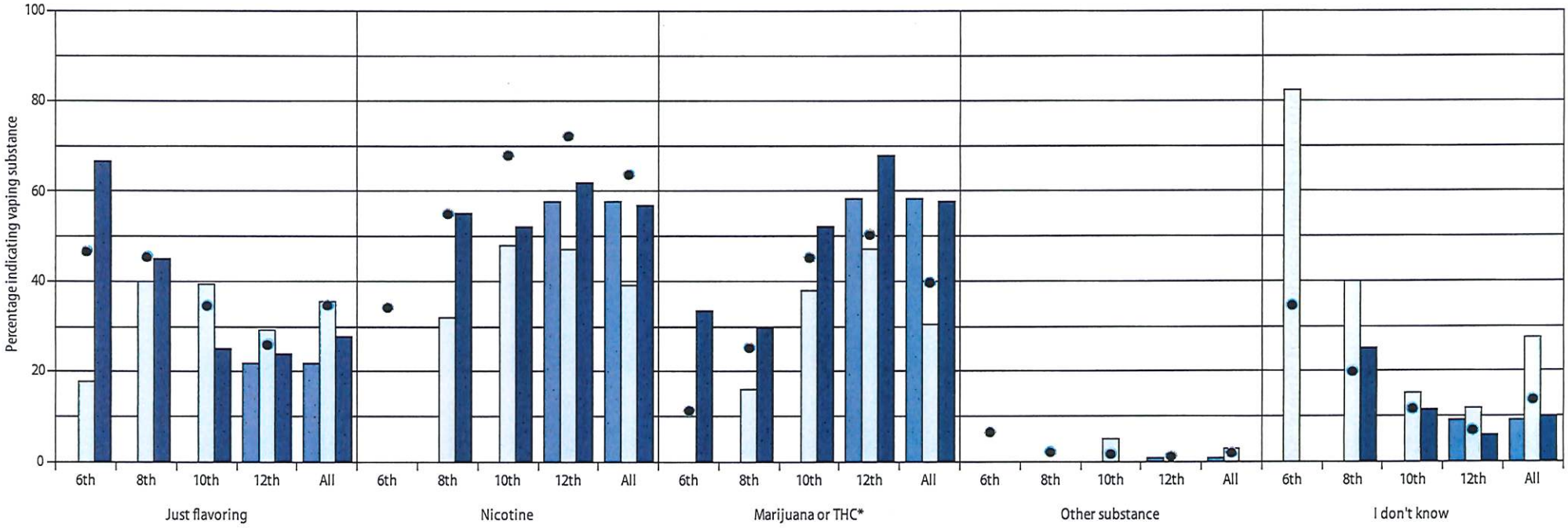
	Alcohol					Marijuana					Inhalants					Vaping/e-cigarette				
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	2.6	3.8	4.3	n/a	n/a	0.2	0.0	0.7	n/a	n/a	1.6	0.5	2.4	n/a	n/a	0.3	0.3	2.4	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**8.1**	**8.3**	**6.4**	**5.9**	**n/a**	**1.1**	**1.1**	**2.7**	**4.7**	**n/a**	**1.5**	**1.1**	**1.2**	**2.6**	**n/a**	**3.2**	**2.0**	**5.5**	**7.0**
10th	n/a	25.3	20.1	11.4	13.7	n/a	8.2	8.6	6.8	10.3	n/a	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.9	n/a	12.4	4.7	8.4	11.9
12th	**47.5**	**29.6**	**29.6**	**23.8**	**24.3**	**34.3**	**10.4**	**18.0**	**14.6**	**18.4**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.5**	**1.2**	**36.2**	**11.4**	**10.1**	**14.9**	**16.9**
All	47.5	12.7	14.7	11.5	n/a	34.3	3.5	6.4	6.3	n/a	0.0	1.0	0.5	1.2	n/a	36.2	5.5	4.0	7.9	n/a

Tobacco - Lifetime and 30-day use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	Cigarettes (Lifetime use)					Smokeless tobacco (Lifetime use)					Cigarettes (30-day use)					Smokeless tobacco (30-day use)				
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	0.3	0.0	1.7	n/a	n/a	0.5	0.0	0.9	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.8	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.4	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**0.7**	**0.8**	**4.1**	**5.8**	**n/a**	**0.7**	**0.4**	**1.6**	**4.5**	**n/a**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**1.4**	**1.1**	**n/a**	**0.2**	**0.4**	**0.7**	**1.6**
10th	n/a	3.4	2.7	6.4	9.4	n/a	1.6	0.7	3.2	5.5	n/a	0.7	0.7	2.1	2.3	n/a	0.5	0.4	1.3	2.3
12th	**14.2**	**8.1**	**10.1**	**11.6**	**15.0**	**5.0**	**3.3**	**4.0**	**6.0**	**7.8**	**3.3**	**1.6**	**4.0**	**3.7**	**2.9**	**1.0**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**2.7**	**2.5**
All	14.2	1.8	3.1	6.1	n/a	5.0	1.0	1.2	3.0	n/a	3.3	0.4	1.1	2.0	n/a	1.0	0.3	0.6	1.3	n/a

Vaping substances used by students indicating electronic vaping product use in the past year
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



(Reported by students indicating electronic vapor product use in the past year)

District 2019 | District 2021 | District 2023 | State 2023

* Prior to 2023 "Marijuana or THC" was worded as "marijuana or hash oil" which could impact comparability of 2023 data to prior years

	Just flavoring				Nicotine				Marijuana or THC*				Other substance				I don't know			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	17.6	66.7	46.6	n/a	0.0	0.0	34.1	n/a	0.0	33.3	11.2	n/a	0.0	0.0	6.4	n/a	82.4	0.0	34.5
8th	**n/a**	**40.0**	**45.0**	**45.4**	**n/a**	**32.0**	**55.0**	**54.9**	**n/a**	**16.0**	**30.0**	**25.2**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**2.1**	**n/a**	**40.0**	**25.0**	**19.9**
10th	n/a	39.2	25.0	34.5	n/a	48.1	52.3	67.9	n/a	38.0	52.3	45.1	n/a	5.1	0.0	1.7	n/a	15.2	11.4	11.6
12th	**21.8**	**29.4**	**23.8**	**26.0**	**57.7**	**47.1**	**61.9**	**72.1**	**58.5**	**47.1**	**67.9**	**50.3**	**0.7**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**1.1**	**9.2**	**11.8**	**6.0**	**6.9**
All	21.8	35.5	27.8	34.6	57.7	39.1	57.0	63.6	58.5	30.4	57.6	39.6	0.7	2.9	0.0	2.0	9.2	27.5	9.9	13.6

** See All questions by Grade report to see the percentage of total students who report vaping a specific substance.

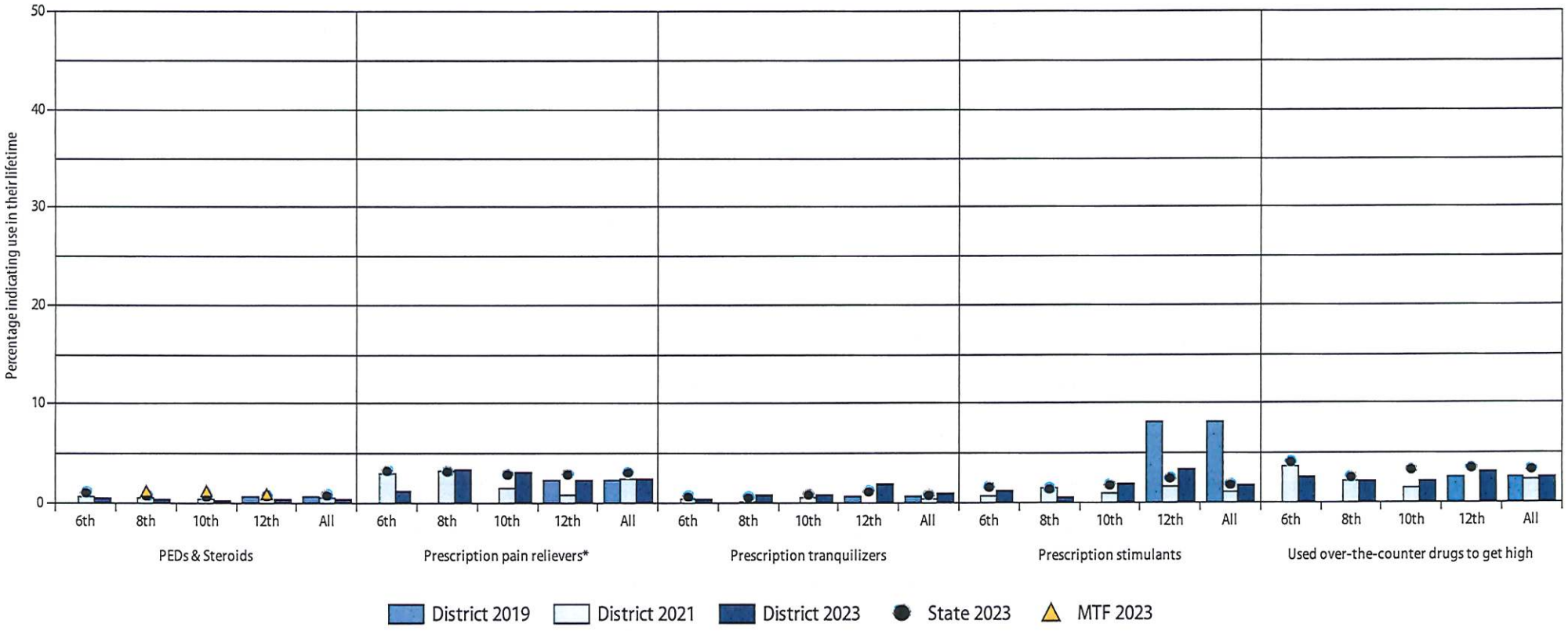
PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

According to the recent Monitoring the Future study, prescription drugs are the most misused category of drugs after alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.

The type of prescription drug most frequently misused by students in this district was over-the-counter drugs to get high (2.5% of students indicating lifetime use, compared to 3.3% at the state level). The next most frequently misused substance was prescription pain relievers (2.5% of students indicating lifetime use, compared to 3.0% at the state level).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs)	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Taken performance enhancing drugs (such as steroids, human growth hormone) without a doctor telling you to take them?*
Prescription Pain Relievers	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used prescription pain relievers (such as Vicodin, OxyContin, Percocet or Codeine) without a doctor telling you to take them?*
Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medications	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used over-the-counter medicine (cough syrup, cold medicine, etc.) in order to get high?*
Prescription Tranquilizers	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used prescription tranquilizers (such as Ambien, Lunesta, Valium, or Xanax) without a doctor telling you to take them?*
Prescription Stimulants	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used prescription stimulants (such as Ritalin or Adderall) without a doctor telling you to take them?*

Prescription and over-the-counter drugs and medications - Lifetime use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

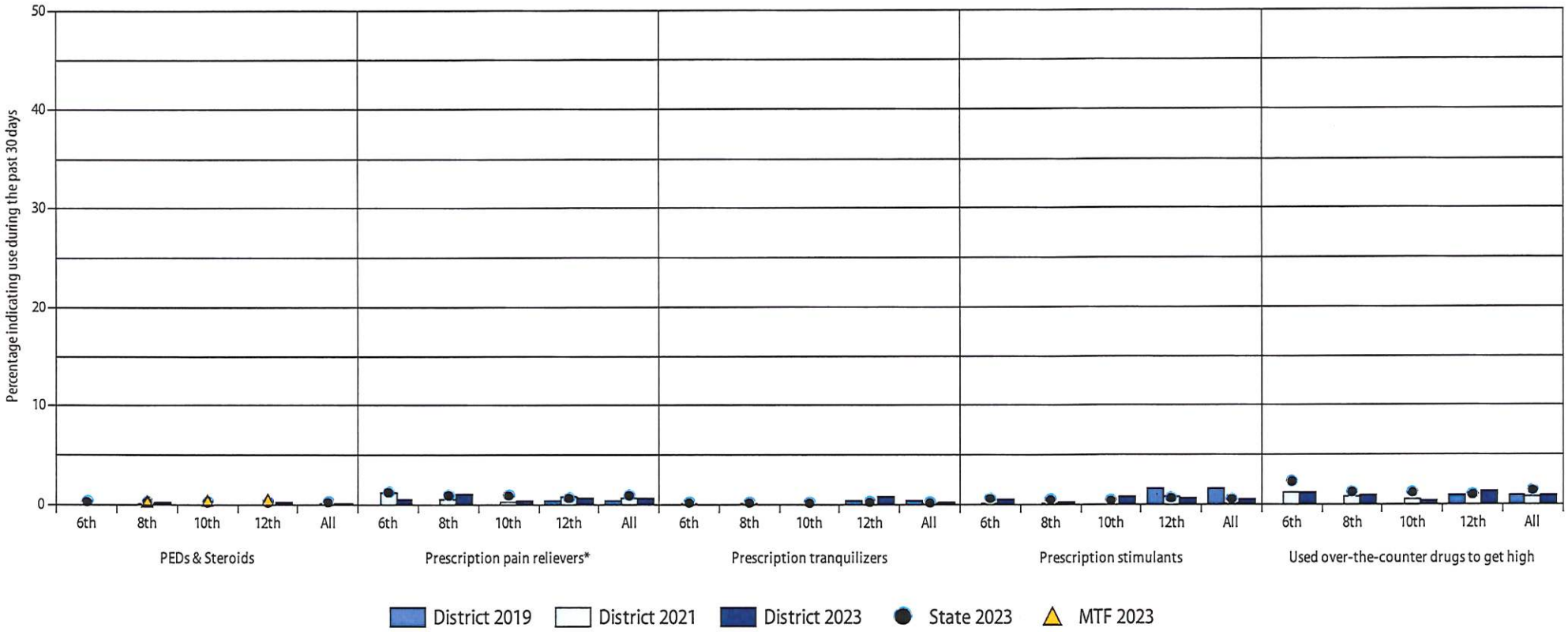


*MTF comparison data for prescription pain reliever use are only available for the 12th grade

	PEDs & Steroids					Prescription pain relievers*					Prescription tranquilizers					Prescription stimulants					Used over-the-counter drugs to get high				
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	0.7	0.5	1.1	n/a	n/a	3.0	1.2	3.2	n/a	n/a	0.3	0.3	0.6	n/a	n/a	0.7	1.2	1.5	n/a	n/a	3.6	2.5	4.1	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**0.5**	**0.4**	**0.7**	**1.2**	**n/a**	**3.2**	**3.3**	**3.2**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.2**	**0.7**	**0.5**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**1.5**	**0.6**	**1.4**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**2.1**	**2.2**	**2.5**	**n/a**
10th	n/a	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.2	n/a	1.4	3.1	2.9	n/a	n/a	0.5	0.7	0.8	n/a	n/a	0.9	1.8	1.7	n/a	n/a	1.4	2.2	3.3	n/a
12th	**0.7**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0.7**	**0.9**	**2.3**	**0.8**	**2.3**	**2.9**	**n/a**	**0.7**	**0.0**	**1.9**	**1.1**	**n/a**	**8.2**	**1.6**	**3.4**	**2.4**	**n/a**	**2.6**	**0.0**	**3.2**	**3.5**	**n/a**
All	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.7	n/a	2.3	2.4	2.5	3.0	n/a	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.8	n/a	8.2	1.1	1.7	1.8	n/a	2.6	2.3	2.5	3.3	n/a

**See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

Prescription and over-the-counter drugs and medications - 30-day use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



*MTF comparison data for prescription pain reliever use are only available for the 12th grade

	PEDs & Steroids					Prescription pain relievers*					Prescription tranquilizers					Prescription stimulants					Used over-the-counter drugs to get high				
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.3	n/a	n/a	1.2	0.5	1.2	n/a	n/a	0.2	0.0	0.2	n/a	n/a	0.2	0.5	0.6	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.2	2.3	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**n/a**	**0.5**	**1.1**	**0.9**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.5**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.8**	**0.9**	**1.2**	**n/a**
10th	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	n/a	0.2	0.4	0.9	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.7	0.4	n/a	n/a	0.5	0.4	1.2	n/a
12th	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.5**	**0.3**	**0.8**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**n/a**	**0.3**	**0.0**	**0.8**	**0.2**	**n/a**	**1.6**	**0.8**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**n/a**	**1.0**	**0.0**	**1.3**	**1.0**	**n/a**
All	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	n/a	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.9	n/a	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	n/a	1.6	0.2	0.5	0.5	n/a	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.4	n/a

**See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

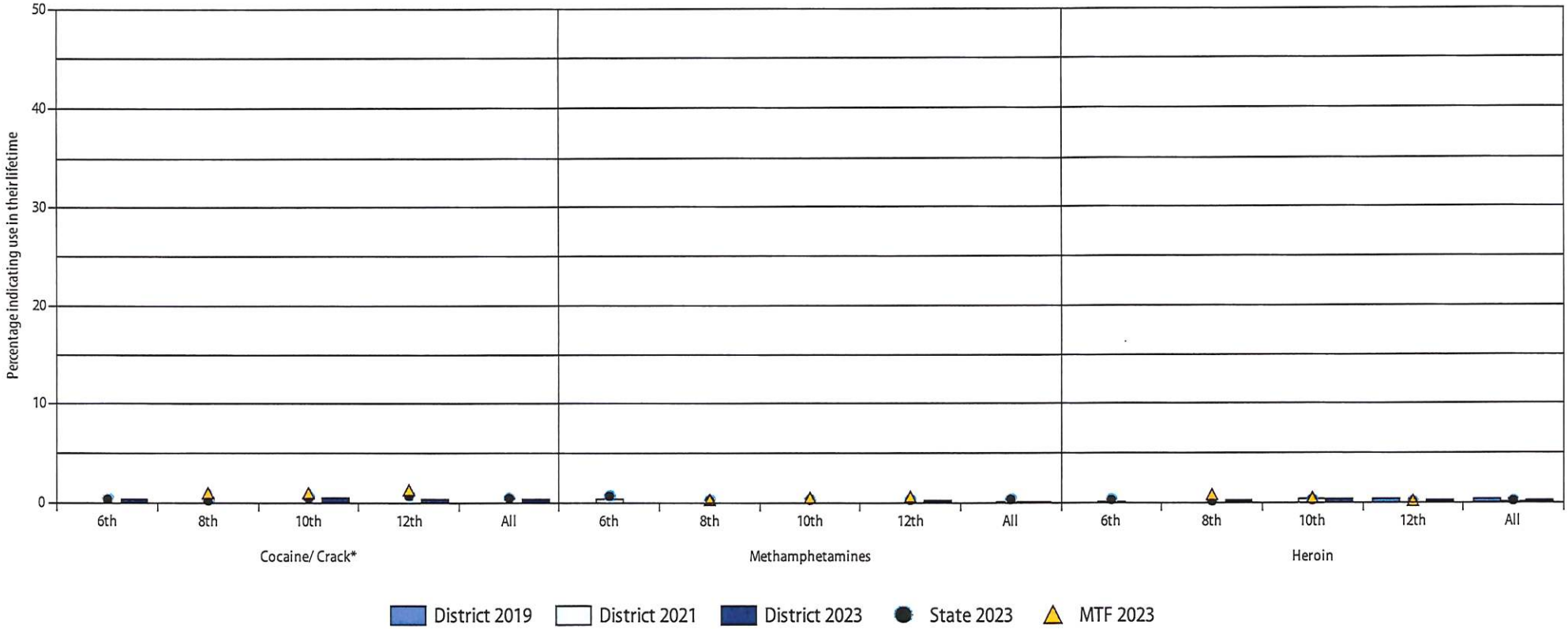
OTHER DRUGS

PAYS also measures the prevalence of use for a variety of other drugs. The rates for prevalence of use of these other drugs are generally lower than the rates for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and inhalants. Use of these other drugs tends to be concentrated in the upper grade levels.

The most frequently used substance in the "other" category in this district was synthetic drugs (1.4% of students indicating lifetime use, compared to 1.4% at the state level).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Cocaine/ Crack	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used cocaine or crack?*
Methamphetamine	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used methamphetamine (meth, crystal meth, speed)?*
Heroin	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used heroin?*
Hallucinogens	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used hallucinogens (acid, LSD, shrooms)?*
Ecstasy/ Molly	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used Ecstasy or Molly?*
Synthetic Drugs	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30days: Used synthetic drugs (man-made drugs such as K2, Spice, Fake Weed, Bath Salts)?*

Other drugs (cocaine/crack, methamphetamines, and heroin) - Lifetime use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

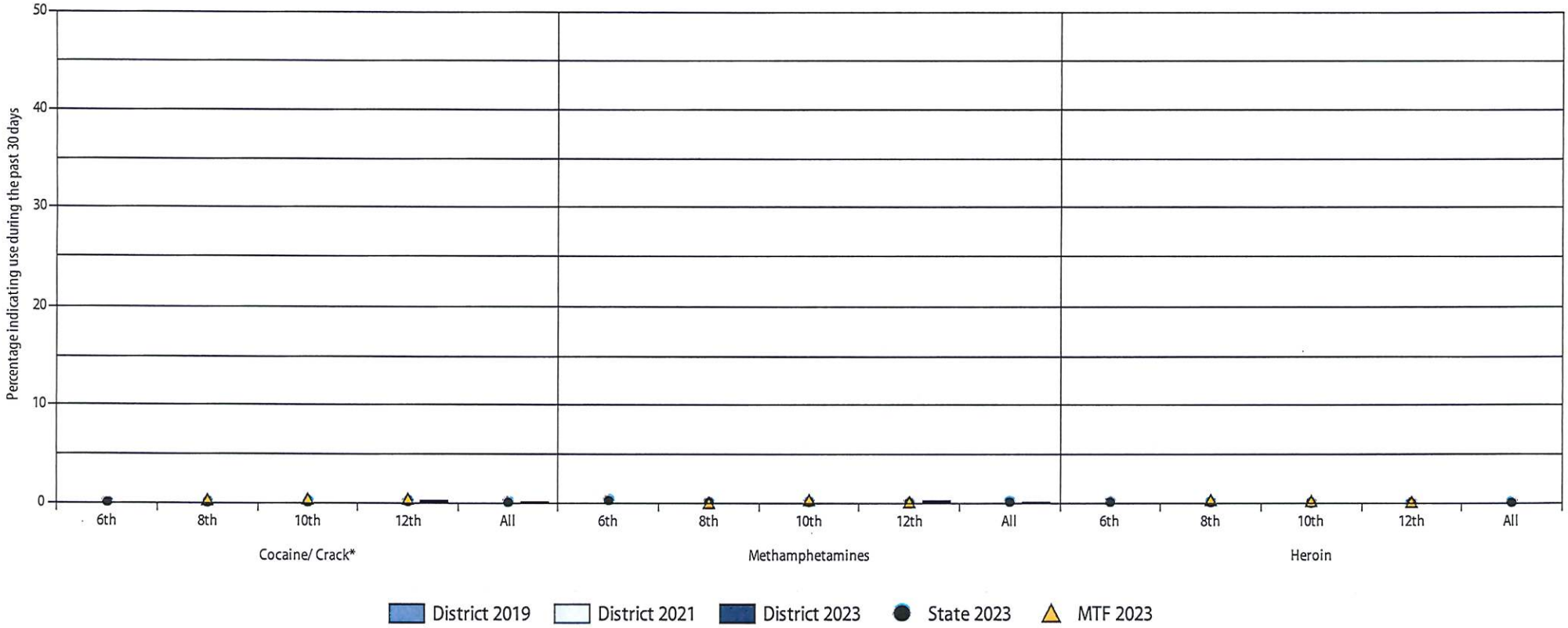


*Prior to 2023 cocaine and crack usage were asked as seperate questions.

	Cocaine/ Crack*					Methamphetamines					Heroin				
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	n/a	0.3	0.4	n/a	n/a	0.3	0.0	0.7	n/a	n/a	0.2	0.0	0.3	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**1.0**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.8**
10th	n/a	n/a	0.5	0.5	1.0	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	n/a	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5
12th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.4**	**0.7**	**1.3**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**0.6**	**0.3**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.2**
All	n/a	n/a	0.3	0.5	n/a	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	n/a	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	n/a

**See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

Other drugs (cocaine/crack, methamphetamines, and heroin) - 30-day use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

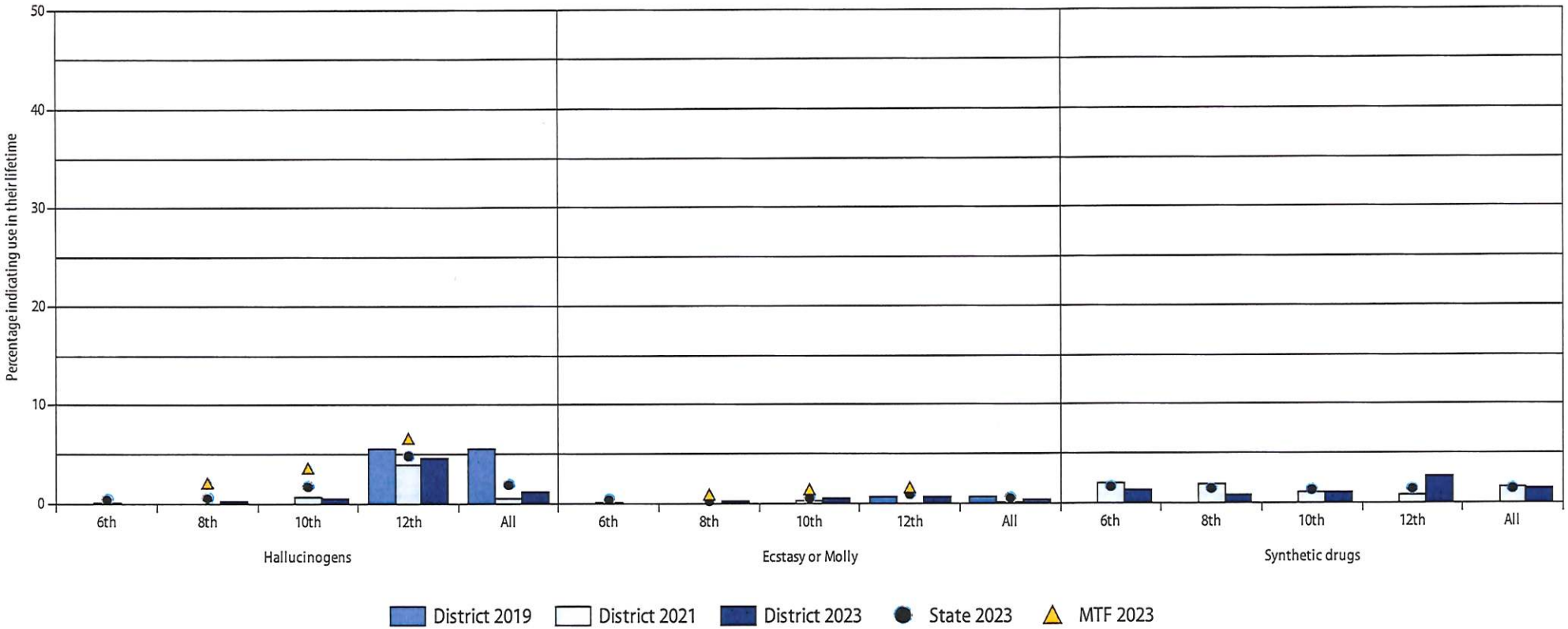


*Prior to 2023 cocaine and crack usage were asked as seperate questions.

	Cocaine/ Crack*					Methamphetamines					Heroin				
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.3	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.1	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.3**
10th	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.1	0.4	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
12th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.1**
All	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.1	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	n/a

**See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

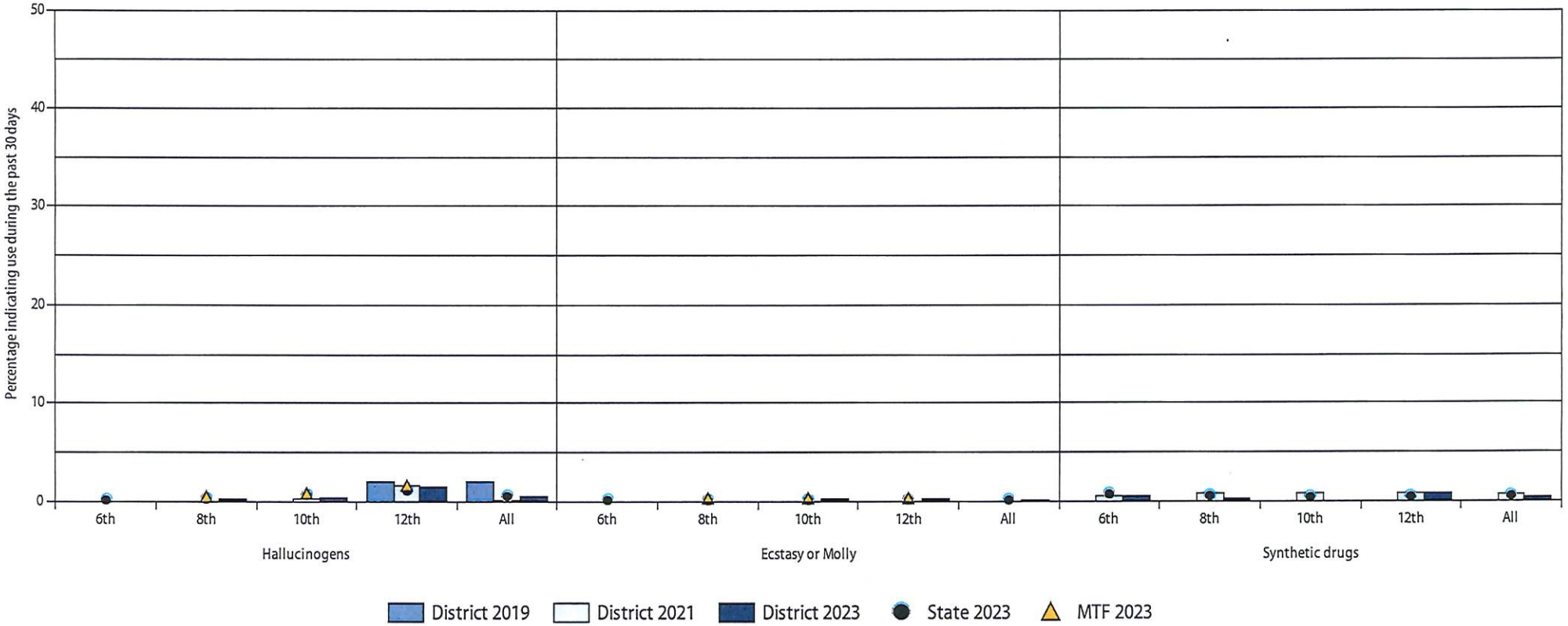
Other drugs (hallucinogens, ecstasy, and synthetic drugs) - Lifetime use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Hallucinogens					Ecstasy or Molly					Synthetic drugs				
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	0.2	0.0	0.4	n/a	n/a	0.2	0.0	0.4	n/a	n/a	2.0	1.3	1.6	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.5**	**2.1**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.9**	**n/a**	**1.8**	**0.7**	**1.5**	**n/a**
10th	n/a	0.7	0.5	1.7	3.6	n/a	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.4	n/a	1.1	1.1	1.3	n/a
12th	**5.6**	**4.0**	**4.6**	**4.8**	**6.6**	**0.7**	**0.0**	**0.6**	**0.9**	**1.6**	**0.0**	**0.8**	**2.7**	**1.4**	**n/a**
All	5.6	0.5	1.2	1.9	n/a	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.5	n/a	0.0	1.6	1.4	1.4	n/a

*See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

Other drugs (hallucinogens, ecstasy, and synthetic drugs) - 30-day use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	Hallucinogens					Ecstasy or Molly					Synthetic drugs				
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.1	n/a	n/a	0.5	0.5	0.7	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.5**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.3**	**n/a**	**0.8**	**0.2**	**0.5**	**n/a**
10th	n/a	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	n/a	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	n/a	0.7	0.0	0.4	n/a
12th	**2.0**	**1.6**	**1.5**	**1.1**	**1.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**0.0**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.4**	**n/a**
All	2.0	0.2	0.5	0.5	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	n/a	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.5	n/a

*See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

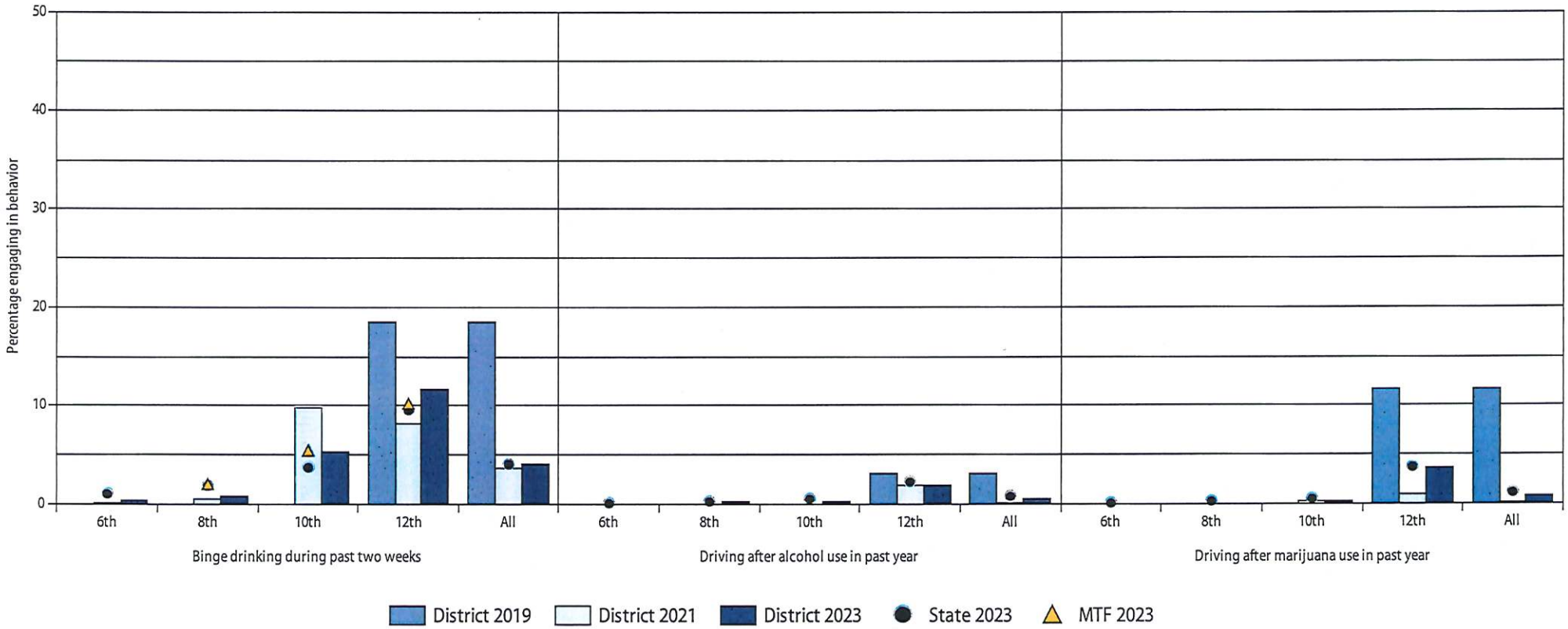
BINGE DRINKING AND DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Binge drinking and driving while intoxicated are particularly risky substance use-related behaviors. These behaviors are strongly linked to serious negative health consequences, such as alcohol poisoning, automobile fatality, as well as DUI conviction and resulting complications with employment, college applications, and financial aid.

4.1% of students in this district engaged in binge drinking in the past two weeks (compared to 4.0% at the state level). 1.9% of 12th grade students reported driving while or shortly after drinking (compared to 2.3% at the state level).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Risky substance use-related behaviors	*Think back over the last two weeks.*
	How many times have you had five or more alcoholic drinks in a row?
	How often have you:
	Driven a motor vehicle while or shortly after drinking alcohol?
	Driven a motor vehicle while or shortly after using marijuana (pot, hash, cannabis, weed, THC)?

Binge drinking and driving under the influence
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Binge drinking during past two weeks					Driving after alcohol use in past year					Driving after marijuana use in past year				
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	n/a	0.2	0.3	1.0	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.1	n/a
8th	**n/a**	**0.5**	**0.7**	**1.8**	**2.0**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**n/a**
10th	n/a	9.8	5.3	3.7	5.4	n/a	0.0	0.2	0.5	n/a	n/a	0.2	0.2	0.5	n/a
12th	**18.5**	**8.1**	**11.7**	**9.5**	**10.2**	**3.1**	**1.8**	**1.9**	**2.3**	**n/a**	**11.7**	**0.9**	**3.7**	**3.7**	**n/a**
All	18.5	3.6	4.1	4.0	n/a	3.1	0.1	0.5	0.8	n/a	11.7	0.1	0.8	1.1	n/a

3. MENTAL HEALTH

Stress, anxiety, loneliness, and frustration are all emotions that can negatively impact student health when students do not have the strategies and supports to cope effectively.

Mental Health

Important skills—including coping, problem-solving, and help-seeking—help adolescents to achieve overall wellbeing and set the stage for positive mental health in adulthood. Building these skills and promoting other protective factors in schools, at home and in the community, can help mitigate risk of experiencing a mental health concern. Prevention and early identification are crucial in helping students who are struggling to get the help they need and in preventing a mental health concern from worsening. Friends and family can watch for warning signs of social and emotional distress and urge young people to get help.

Mental Health Disorders

It can sometimes be challenging to distinguish a mental health challenge from typical adolescent development. Noticing changes in behavior, as well as the extent to which that change is impacting that youth, provide the opportunity for outreach and support. While approximately one out of five adolescents has a diagnosable mental health disorder, not all challenges are indicative of a disorder. Identifying challenges early on helps improve positive outcomes and reduces the likelihood that a youth will develop a mental health disorder or experience a mental health crisis (e.g., suicidal thoughts or behaviors). Effective strategies and supports for mental health challenges, as well as universal prevention efforts that promote mental health and wellness, can help equip adolescents to cope effectively with life stressors and reduce the risk of adverse outcomes.

Access to Mental Health Care

Less than half of adolescents who need mental health services receive them. Barriers to receiving help include limited mental health knowledge or perceived social stigma and embarrassment. Initially identifying a mental health disorder can be challenging—issues are often first identified at school. Researchers have documented a number of disparities in access: among adolescents, those who are homeless; served by state child welfare and juvenile justice systems; and are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender are often the least likely to receive services.

Positive Mental Health: Resilience

Resilient youth are able to cope effectively with stress and other difficult circumstances, and are likely to enter adulthood with good mental health. Some important factors that promote resilience in youth include caring relationships with adults, regular exercise, getting enough sleep, and emotional intelligence. Schools and communities are increasingly recognizing the importance of social and emotional learning and coping skills for youth, and are offering more courses and programs in this area.

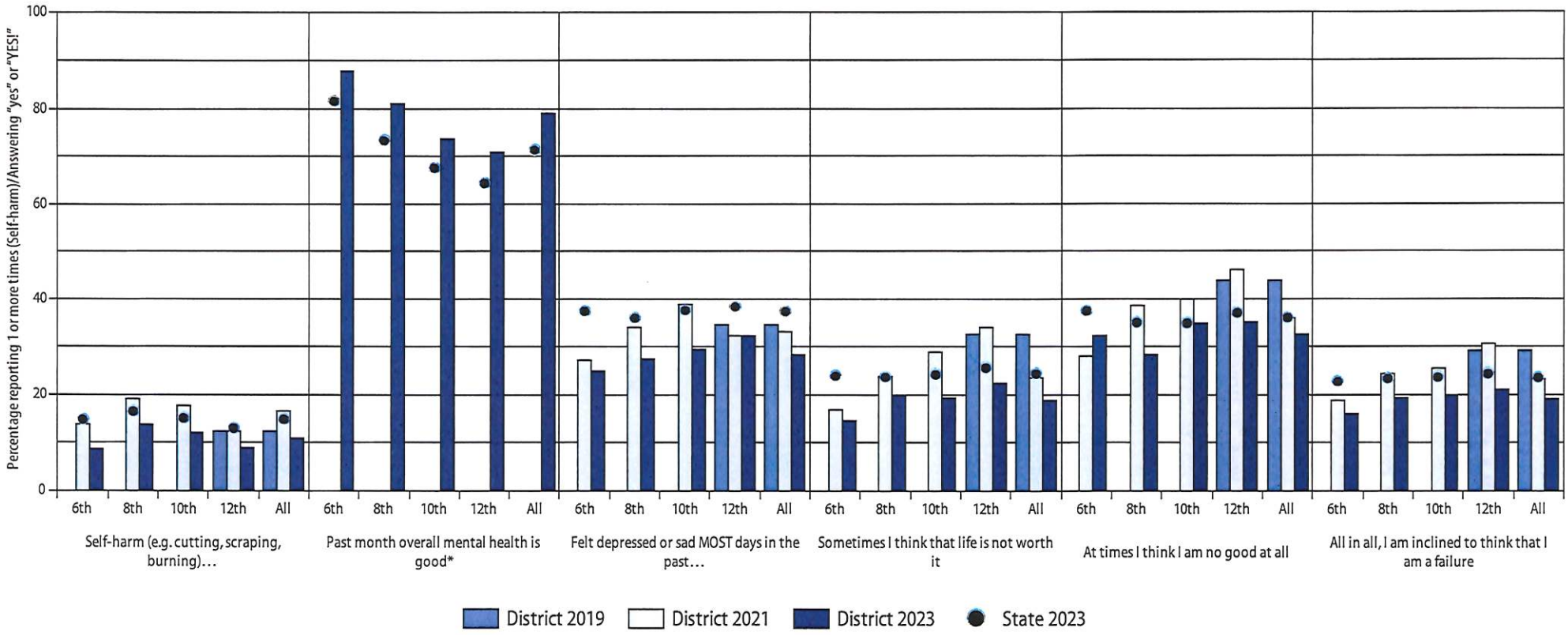
MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS AND SUICIDE RISK

PAYS includes one question about self-harm and four questions that ask students about feelings—sadness, hopelessness, and worthlessness—that can be symptoms of depression. PAYS also asks five questions specific to suicide, measuring depressed behavior, suicidal intention, actual suicide attempts, and the seriousness of those attempts (by asking about resulting medical intervention).

The most common depressed thought was "at times I think I am no good at all," reported by 32.6% of students in this district. 28.3% of students reported they felt sad or depressed MOST days in the past 12 months. Overall, 12.0% of students had seriously considered attempting suicide, compared to 16.1% of students at the state level.

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Mental health concerns	*My overall mental health in the past month has been good.*
	In the past 12 months have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you feel OK sometimes?
	How many times in the past 12 months have you: Done anything to harm yourself (such as cutting, scraping, burning) as a way to relieve difficult feelings, or to communicate emotions that may be difficult to express verbally?
	Sometimes I think that life is not worth it.
	At times I think I am no good at all.
	All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure.
	If you have felt sad, lonely or worried in the past month who did you talk to?
	No one *Parent/caregiver* *Other family member* *Friend* *Teacher of another adult at school (e.g. coach, counselor, nurse)* *Doctor or therapist* *Religous or spiritual leader (e.g. Rabbi, Pastor, Imam, Priest, or Nun, Bishop)* *Other adult in the community* *I have not felt this way in the past 30 days*
Suicide risk	*During the past 12 months:*
The next questions ask about sad feelings and attempted suicide.	*Did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?*
Sometimes people feel so depressed about the future that they may consider attempting suicide, that is, taking some action to end their own life.	*Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?*
	Did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?
	Did you actually attempt suicide?
	If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?

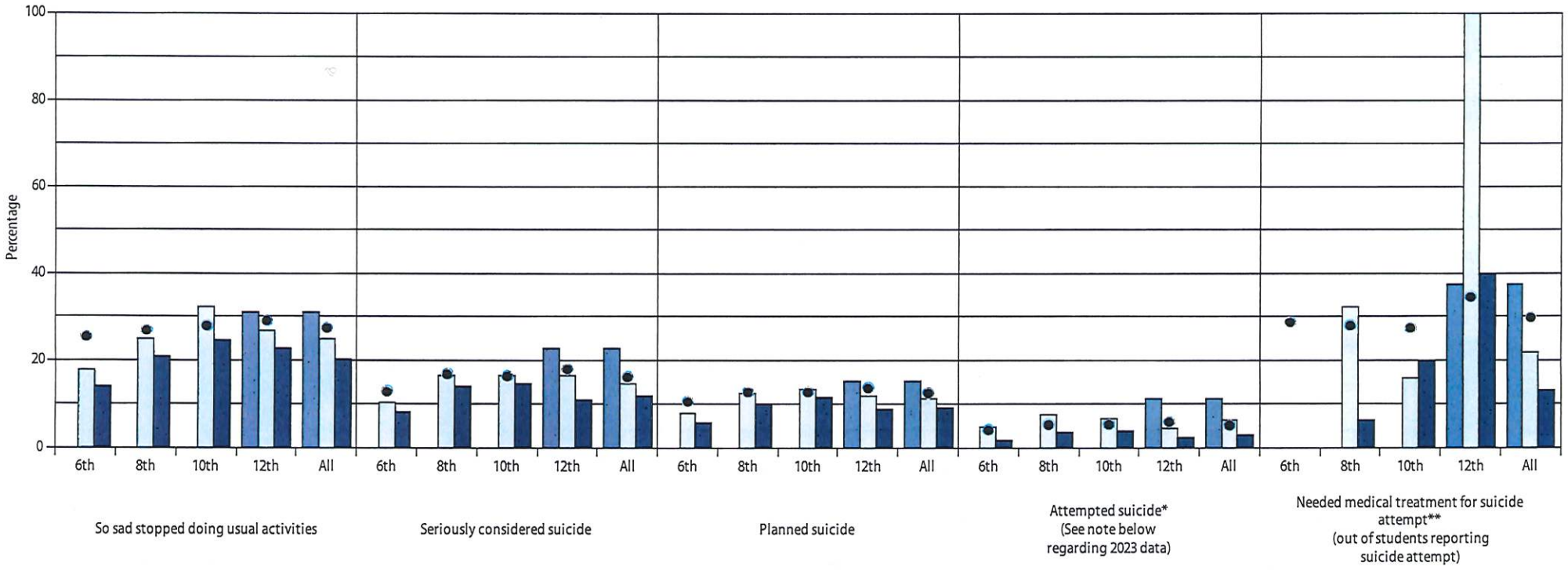
Mental Health Concerns
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Self-harm (e.g. cutting, scraping, burning) in the past 12 months				Past month overall mental health is good*				Felt depressed or sad MOST days in the past 12 months				Sometimes I think that life is not worth it				At times I think I am no good at all				All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	13.7	8.8	14.7	n/a	n/a	87.9	81.5	n/a	27.1	25.0	37.4	n/a	16.8	14.5	24.0	n/a	28.1	32.4	37.4	n/a	18.9	15.9	22.8
8th	n/a	18.9	13.8	16.5	n/a	n/a	81.0	73.3	n/a	34.0	27.5	36.0	n/a	24.0	19.9	23.7	n/a	38.5	28.5	35.0	n/a	24.4	19.5	23.4
10th	n/a	17.6	11.9	15.1	n/a	n/a	73.6	67.5	n/a	38.9	29.5	37.6	n/a	29.0	19.4	24.3	n/a	40.0	34.8	34.9	n/a	25.6	19.8	23.7
12th	12.4	12.2	8.9	13.0	n/a	n/a	71.0	64.3	34.6	32.2	32.4	38.3	32.5	34.1	22.4	25.7	43.8	46.0	35.2	37.0	29.1	30.7	21.2	24.4
All	12.4	16.5	10.9	14.8	n/a	n/a	79.0	71.3	34.6	33.0	28.3	37.3	32.5	23.6	18.8	24.4	43.8	35.9	32.6	36.0	29.1	23.2	18.9	23.6

*Past month overall mental health question was added to survey in 2023.

Suicide risk
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

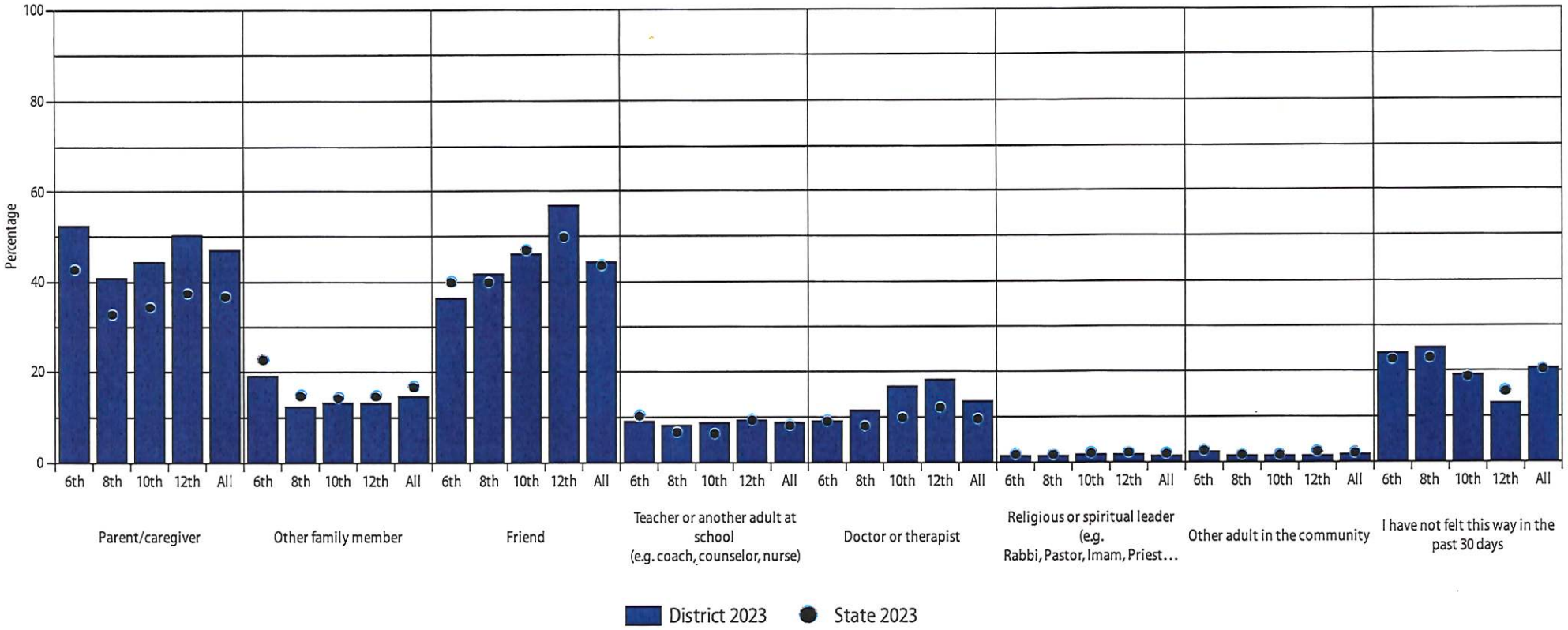


	So sad stopped doing usual activities				Seriously considered suicide				Planned suicide				Attempted suicide*				Needed medical treatment for suicide attempt			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	17.8	14.2	25.3	n/a	10.5	8.1	12.9	n/a	7.8	5.7	10.6	n/a	4.8	1.9	4.1	n/a	0.0	0.0	28.7
8th	n/a	24.9	20.8	26.8	n/a	16.6	14.0	16.8	n/a	12.5	10.1	12.8	n/a	7.7	3.8	5.3	n/a	32.4	6.3	27.9
10th	n/a	32.4	24.5	27.8	n/a	16.6	14.8	16.4	n/a	13.4	11.5	12.8	n/a	6.7	3.9	5.4	n/a	15.8	20.0	27.3
12th	30.9	26.7	22.6	29.0	22.7	16.5	10.9	17.9	15.2	12.0	8.9	13.7	11.3	4.6	2.3	5.9	37.5	100.0	40.0	34.4
All	30.9	24.8	20.3	27.3	22.7	14.6	12.0	16.1	15.2	11.2	9.0	12.5	11.3	6.3	3.0	5.2	37.5	21.6	13.2	29.7

*The question regarding suicide attempts was revised in 2023 from a question on how many times attempted suicide to a yes/no question on if attempted suicide. The 2023 data should be interpreted with caution when comparing to prior years.

**In the 2023 survey, skip logic ensured that only participants who marked that they had actually attempted suicide were given this question, the past data was recalculated to match.

Who talked to when felt sad, lonely or worried
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Parent/caregiver				Other family member				Friend				Teacher or another adult at school (e.g. coach, counselor, nurse)				Doctor or therapist				Religious or spiritual leader (e.g. Rabbi, Pastor, Imam, Priest or Nun, Bishop)				Other adult in the community				I have not felt this way in the past 30 days			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	n/a	52.5	42.8	n/a	n/a	19.2	22.8	n/a	n/a	36.5	40.0	n/a	n/a	9.2	10.3	n/a	n/a	9.2	9.1	n/a	n/a	1.3	1.7	n/a	n/a	2.3	2.5	n/a	n/a	24.0	22.7
8th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**41.0**	**32.7**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**12.3**	**14.9**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**41.8**	**39.9**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**8.2**	**6.7**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**11.5**	**8.0**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**1.4**	**1.7**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**1.4**	**1.6**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**25.0**	**23.0**
10th	n/a	n/a	44.4	34.4	n/a	n/a	13.3	14.3	n/a	n/a	46.2	47.0	n/a	n/a	8.9	6.4	n/a	n/a	16.8	9.9	n/a	n/a	1.7	2.0	n/a	n/a	1.5	1.6	n/a	n/a	19.2	18.8
12th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**50.4**	**37.5**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**13.2**	**14.7**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**56.9**	**49.8**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**9.4**	**9.4**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**18.3**	**12.2**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**1.6**	**2.1**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**1.3**	**2.3**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**12.9**	**15.6**
All	n/a	n/a	47.0	36.8	n/a	n/a	14.7	16.8	n/a	n/a	44.5	43.6	n/a	n/a	8.9	8.1	n/a	n/a	13.5	9.6	n/a	n/a	1.5	1.9	n/a	n/a	1.7	2.0	n/a	n/a	20.8	20.4

*Question on who talked to when felt said, lonely or worried was added to survey in 2023.

DEPRESSION AND SUBSTANCE USE

The substance use rate of youth who reported depressive symptoms is much greater than those who have a much more positive outlook on life.

The four depressive symptoms that were asked on the survey questionnaire were: 1) *Sometimes I think that life is not worth it*, 2) *At times I think I am no good at all*, 3) *All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure*, and 4) *In the past year, have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you felt OK sometimes?* The questions were scored on a scale of 1 to 4 (NO!, no, yes, YES!). The survey respondents were divided into three groups.

The high depressive symptoms group scored at least a mean of 3.75 on the depressive symptoms. This meant that those individuals marked "YES!" to all four items or marked "yes" to one item and "YES!" to three. The no depressive symptoms group marked "NO!" to all four of the items, and the moderate depressive symptoms group comprised the remaining respondents. Of the statewide sample, 24.8% of students scored no depressive symptoms on this scale; 69.8% scored moderate symptoms; and 5.4% scored high symptoms.

The table below shows the relationship between youth who report depressive symptoms and ATOD use. When compared to the non-depressed group, youth in the state of Pennsylvania with high depressive symptoms indicate 30-day alcohol use rates that are four times higher than non-depressed students. Statewide, depressed students indicate use rates that are 12 times higher for past-month cigarette use and eight times higher for past month marijuana use in comparison to non-depressed students.

The ATOD use rates of the moderate depressive symptoms group (69.8% of Pennsylvania youth), were closer to the rates of the non-depressed group than they were to the depressed. For the three substances, the past month usage rates for the this group were higher than those without depressive symptoms but lower than the high depressive symptoms group. Even with some depressive symptoms, individuals with a positive outlook tend to use fewer substances than peers with high levels of depressive symptoms.

	No Depressive Symptoms		Moderate Depressive Symptoms		High Depressive Symptoms	
	District 2023	State 2023	District 2023	State 2023	District 2023	State 2023
Depressive symptom alone	27.9	24.8	68.5	69.8	3.6	5.4
Alcohol Lifetime	**22.4**	**15.5**	**36.5**	**32.4**	**42.0**	**51.2**
Alcohol 30-Day	9.7	5.8	14.9	12.7	17.6	22.1
Cigarettes Lifetime	**0.8**	**2.2**	**3.2**	**6.3**	**13.2**	**19.6**
Cigarettes 30-Day	0.2	0.7	1.0	1.9	5.9	8.2
Marijuana Lifetime	**7.1**	**4.5**	**11.0**	**12.7**	**21.4**	**28.2**
Marijuana 30-Day	3.4	2.2	5.9	6.7	11.6	17.5

BULLYING AND DEPRESSION/SUICIDE

PAYS data show a strong relationship between being bullied and depression and suicidal behaviors.

When PAYS data for bullying measures (*Have you stayed home from school this year because you were worried about being bullied?* and *Have you been bullied during the past 12 months?*) are analyzed alongside measures of depression (*Did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?*) and of suicidal ideation (*During the past 12 months did you: seriously consider attempting suicide? Make a plan of how you would attempt suicide? Actually attempted suicide?*) a compelling relationship emerges.

For example, students at the state level who indicated they hadn't been bullied in the past year, 19.7% reported that they felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities.

Of students who indicated they *had* been bullied, 48.7% indicated feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks in past year that they stopped doing usual activities. In the past year, 32.0% of those students had seriously considered suicide, 24.5% had made a suicide plan, and 10.5% had attempted suicide.

Similar relationships exist for students who indicated they had skipped school due to bullying fears in the past year. Of those students, 66.4% had felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks in past year that they stopped doing usual activities, 46.0% had seriously considered suicide, 35.2% had made a suicide plan, and 3.1% had attempted suicide.

	Have you have been bullied during the past 12 months?				Skipped school due to bullying fears in the past year?			
	No		Yes (any)		NO/no		YES/yes	
	District 2023	State 2023	District 2023	State 2023	District 2023	State 2023	District 2023	State 2023
Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least 2 weeks in past year that stopped doing usual activities	15.4	19.7	36.3	48.7	18.4	24.8	62.2	66.4
Seriously considered suicide in the past year	8.3	10.5	24.0	32.0	10.3	14.3	49.4	46.0
Made suicide plan in the past year	5.8	8.3	19.6	24.5	7.9	11.1	34.6	35.2
Attempted suicide one or more times in the past year	1.5	3.4	7.7	10.5	2.1	4.5	1.6	3.1

To create other crosstabs at the state and county level for other comparisons, visit www.bach-harrison.com/PAYSWebTool.

4. GAMBLING

Even though gambling activities are legally restricted to adults, there is clear evidence that underage youth actively participate in gambling.

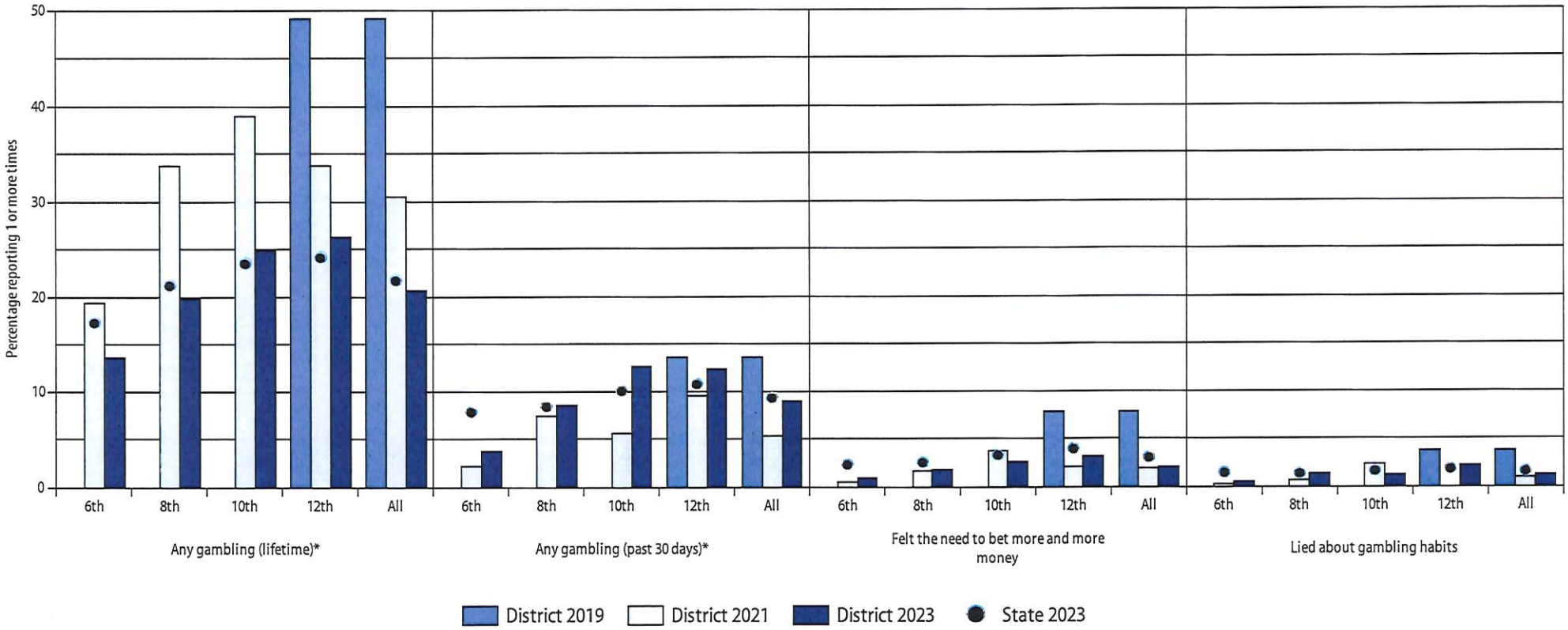
Despite being promoted as a harmless form of entertainment, gambling operates on the same reward pathways and the same neurotransmitters as ATOD addiction. Youth gambling is associated with alcohol and drug use, truancy, low grades, and risk-taking behavior.

Overall, 20.7% of students in this district engaged in gambling for money or anything of value in their lifetime (compared to 21.7% at the state level).

The most frequently reported form of gambling was "Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts" reported by 9.3% of students who had gambled in the past 12 months (compared to 7.9% at the state level).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Students engaging in gambling	*Have you ever bet/gambled for money or anything of value?* *How often have you bet/gambled for money or anything of value during the past 30 days?*
Specific types of student gambling	*During the past 12 months, how often have you bet/gambled, even casually, for money or valuables in the following ways:* *Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts* *Lottery (scratch cards, numbers, etc.)* *Sporting events, sports pools, or fantasy sports* *Online (Internet) gambling* *Video games or online gaming* *Bet/gambled in some other way*
Problematic gambling behavior	*Have you ever felt the need to:* *Bet more and more money?* *Lie to important people (such as your family/ friends) about how much you gamble?*

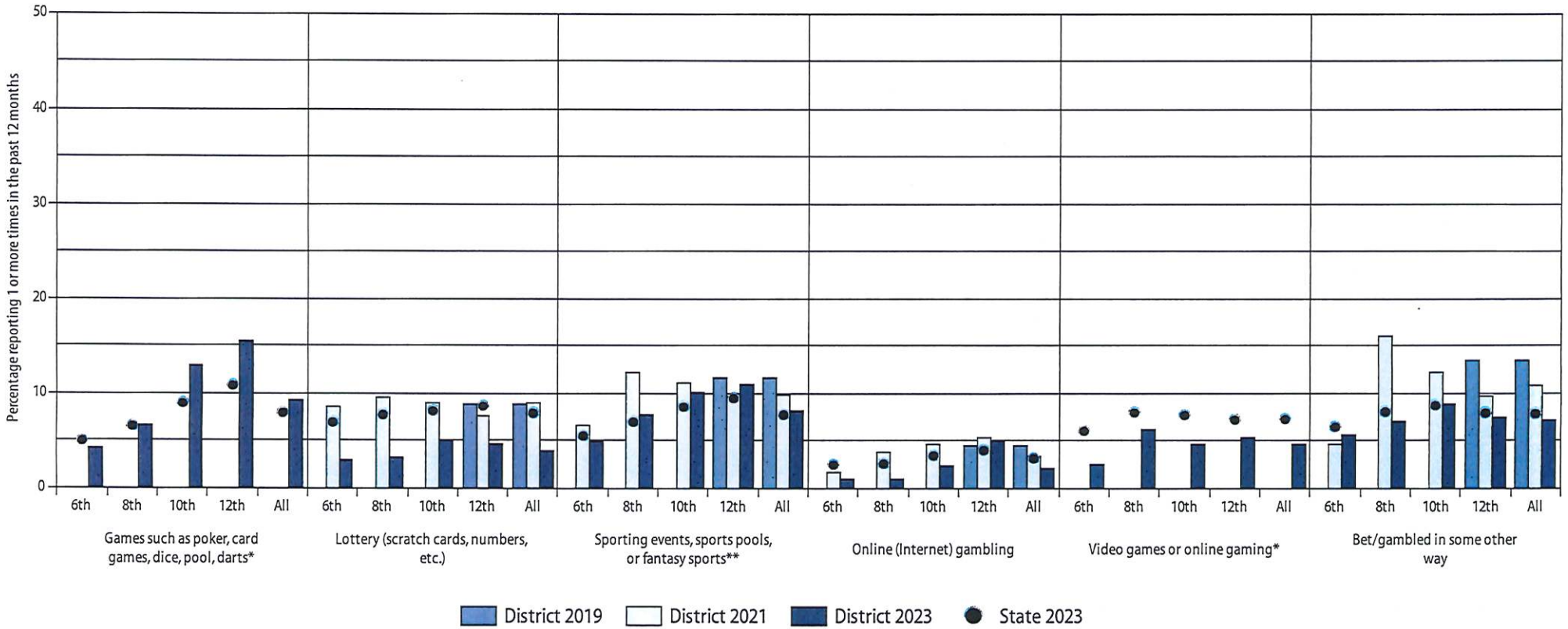
Gambling
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	Any gambling (lifetime)*				Any gambling (past 30 days)*				Felt the need to bet more and more money				Lied about gambling habits			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	19.4	13.6	17.3	n/a	2.2	3.7	7.8	n/a	0.5	0.9	2.3	n/a	0.2	0.5	1.5
8th	**n/a**	**33.7**	**19.9**	**21.2**	**n/a**	**7.5**	**8.5**	**8.4**	**n/a**	**1.6**	**1.8**	**2.5**	**n/a**	**0.7**	**1.4**	**1.4**
10th	n/a	38.9	24.9	23.5	n/a	5.6	12.7	10.0	n/a	3.7	2.7	3.3	n/a	2.3	1.2	1.6
12th	**49.1**	**33.7**	**26.3**	**24.1**	**13.7**	**9.5**	**12.3**	**10.7**	**7.9**	**2.1**	**3.3**	**3.9**	**3.8**	**0.0**	**2.3**	**1.8**
All	49.1	30.5	20.7	21.7	13.7	5.3	9.0	9.3	7.9	1.9	2.1	3.1	3.8	0.9	1.3	1.6

*See Appendix B for changes made to lifetime and past 30 day gambling questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

Types of gambling
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts				Lottery (scratch cards, numbers, etc.)				Sporting events, sports pools, or fantasy sports**				Online (Internet) gambling				Video games or online gaming				Bet/gambled in some other way			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	n/a	4.2	4.9	n/a	8.6	2.9	6.9	n/a	6.6	4.9	5.5	n/a	1.6	0.9	2.4	n/a	n/a	2.6	6.0	n/a	4.5	5.6	6.4
8th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**6.5**	**6.5**	**n/a**	**9.5**	**3.2**	**7.7**	**n/a**	**12.2**	**7.8**	**7.0**	**n/a**	**3.8**	**1.0**	**2.6**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**6.2**	**7.9**	**n/a**	**16.0**	**7.0**	**8.0**
10th	n/a	n/a	12.9	8.9	n/a	9.0	5.1	8.1	n/a	11.0	10.1	8.5	n/a	4.6	2.3	3.4	n/a	n/a	4.6	7.7	n/a	12.3	8.8	8.7
12th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**15.4**	**10.8**	**8.9**	**7.5**	**4.6**	**8.6**	**11.7**	**9.7**	**10.9**	**9.5**	**4.5**	**5.4**	**5.1**	**4.0**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**5.3**	**7.2**	**13.4**	**9.7**	**7.4**	**7.9**
All	n/a	n/a	9.3	7.9	8.9	8.9	3.9	7.9	11.7	9.9	8.2	7.7	4.5	3.4	2.1	3.1	n/a	n/a	4.6	7.2	13.4	10.8	7.1	7.8

*"Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts" and "Video games or online gaming" were reworded in 2023 and are not comparable to questions asked in prior years.

**"Fantasy sports" was added to the question wording for "sporting events, sports pools or fantasy sports" in 2023.

5. COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SAFETY

Over the last 15 years, many youth surveys, including PAYS, have moved to incorporate risk and protective factor data alongside more traditional health behavior assessments. As this approach has evolved, school climate and safety have emerged as focal points for prevention programming and policy planning.

Creating safe supportive schools is essential to ensuring students' academic and social success. There are multiple elements to establishing learning environments in which youth feel a sense of belonging which prompts feelings of safety, connectedness, value, and responsibility for their behavior and learning. School climate and safety are measured in four ways: commitment and involvement at school, involvement in after-school and community programs, violence (actual and threatened), and bullying.

COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL

Students who feel appreciated and rewarded for their involvement in school have reduced likelihood of involvement in drug use and problem behaviors. Giving students opportunities to participate in important activities at school helps to create a feeling of personal investment in their school. This increased investment results in greater bonding and adoption of the school's standard of behavior, reducing the likelihood that the students will become involved in problem behaviors.

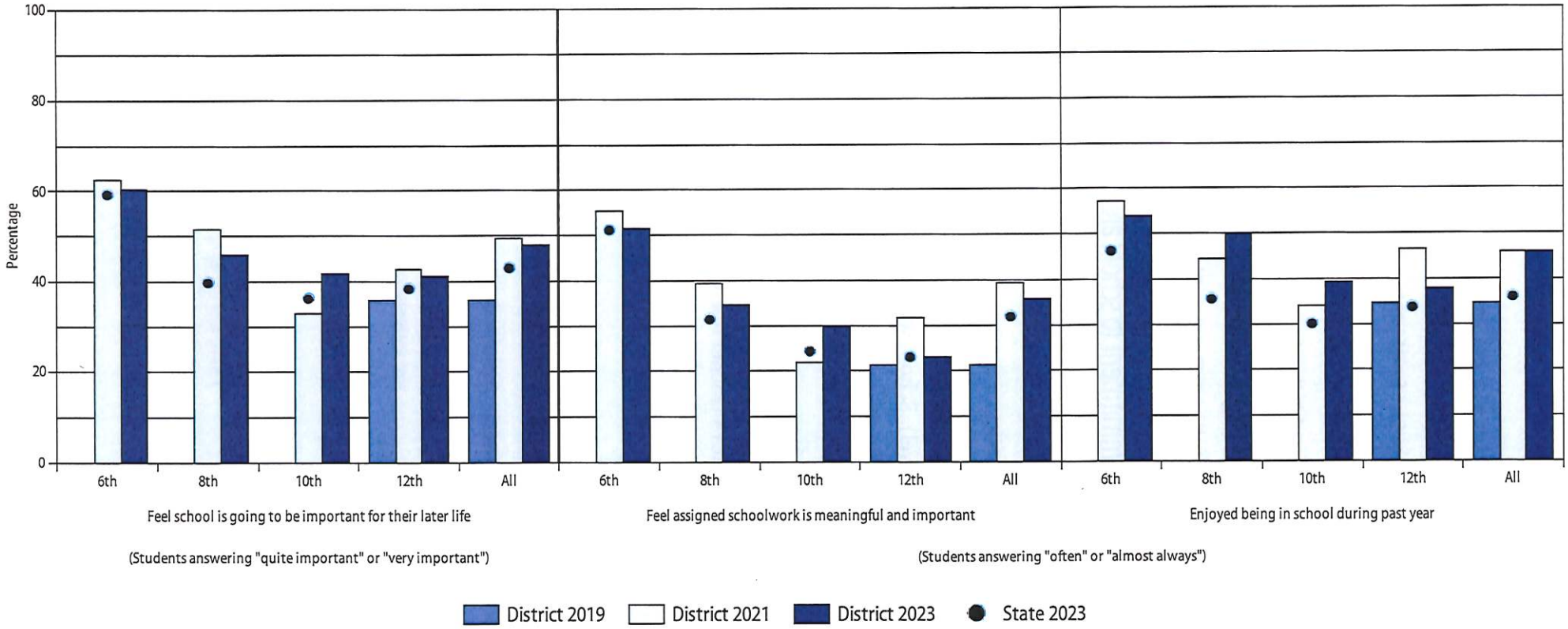
Students who demonstrate a lack of commitment to school are more likely to have ceased viewing being a student as a positive role. These students have a higher risk for a variety of problem behaviors.

47.9% students in this district viewed the things they are learning in school as going to be important later in life (compared to 42.9% at the state level). School work was viewed as meaningful and important by 35.7% of students (state rate: 31.8%) and 46.0% enjoyed being in school during the past year (state rate: 36.0%).

A feeling of safety was reported by 90.0% of the students, compared to 78.4% at the state level. 86.4% students reported opportunities to talk with a teacher one-on-one (state rate: 77.4%) and 92.9% reported chances to be part of class discussions or activities (state rate: 85.8%). 60.2% of students reported that teachers praise them when they work hard in school (state rate: 54.2%).

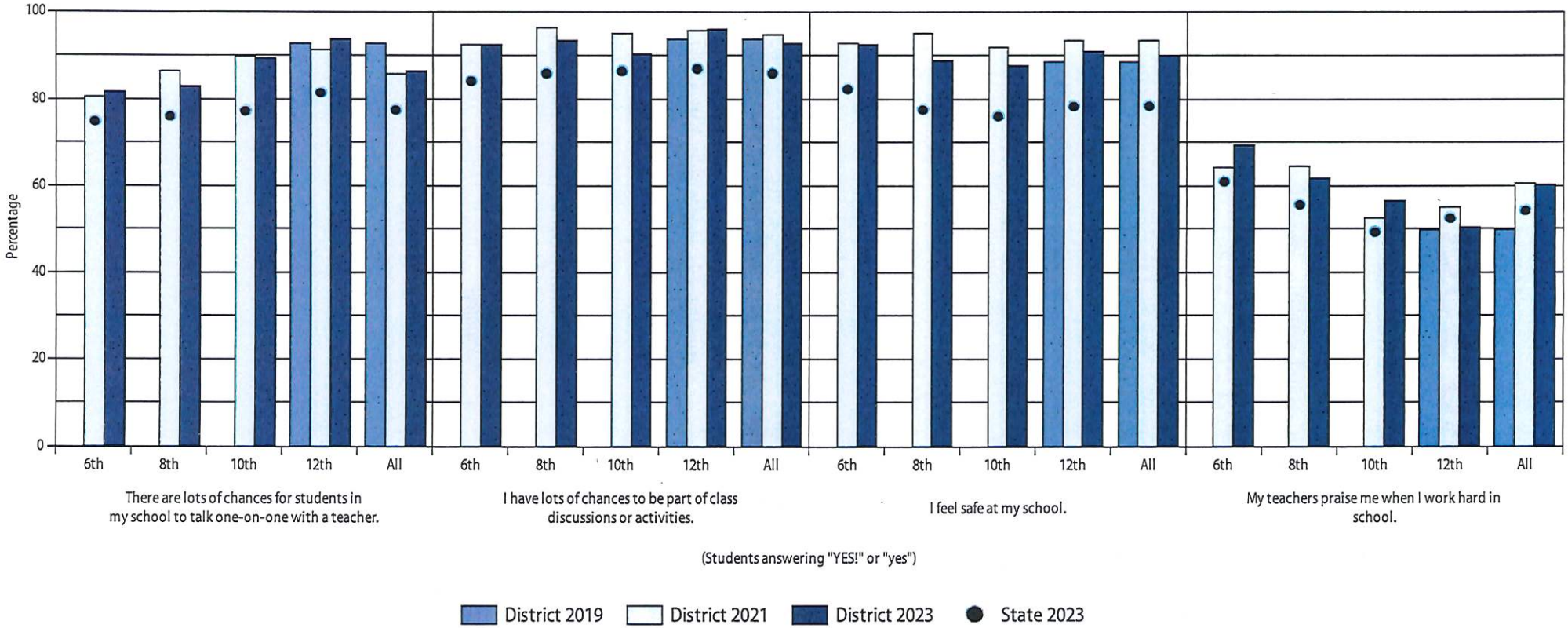
PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Perceived importance of school	*How important do you think the things you are learning in school are going to be for your later life?*
	How often do you feel that the school work you are assigned is meaningful and important?
	Now thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you: Enjoy being in school?
Positive school environment	*There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk one-on-one with a teacher.*
	I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.
	I feel safe at my school.
	My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.

Commitment to school - Perceived importance of school
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Feel school is going to be important for their later life				Feel assigned schoolwork is meaningful and important				Enjoyed being in school during past year			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	62.6	60.5	59.2	n/a	55.3	51.4	51.1	n/a	57.0	54.0	46.2
8th	**n/a**	**51.5**	**45.8**	**39.7**	**n/a**	**39.3**	**34.7**	**31.4**	**n/a**	**44.5**	**50.0**	**35.6**
10th	n/a	32.9	41.8	36.2	n/a	21.9	29.8	24.3	n/a	34.1	39.4	30.0
12th	**35.8**	**42.6**	**41.0**	**38.3**	**21.4**	**31.7**	**23.2**	**23.0**	**34.6**	**46.5**	**37.9**	**33.7**
All	35.8	49.5	47.9	42.9	21.4	39.3	35.7	31.8	34.6	45.9	46.0	36.0

Commitment to school - Positive school environment
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk one-on-one with a teacher.				I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.				I feel safe at my school.				My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	80.4	81.7	74.8	n/a	92.4	92.5	84.1	n/a	92.8	92.5	82.3	n/a	64.3	69.3	60.9
8th	**n/a**	**86.4**	**83.0**	**76.0**	**n/a**	**96.2**	**93.3**	**85.8**	**n/a**	**95.0**	**88.7**	**77.5**	**n/a**	**64.5**	**61.8**	**55.5**
10th	n/a	89.7	89.3	77.2	n/a	94.8	90.4	86.3	n/a	91.9	87.6	76.0	n/a	52.4	56.4	49.2
12th	**92.9**	**91.4**	**93.6**	**81.4**	**93.9**	**95.7**	**95.9**	**86.8**	**88.4**	**93.3**	**91.0**	**78.3**	**49.8**	**54.9**	**50.4**	**52.4**
All	92.9	85.7	86.4	77.4	93.9	94.5	92.9	85.8	88.4	93.3	90.0	78.4	49.8	60.5	60.2	54.2

INVOLVEMENT IN PRO-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

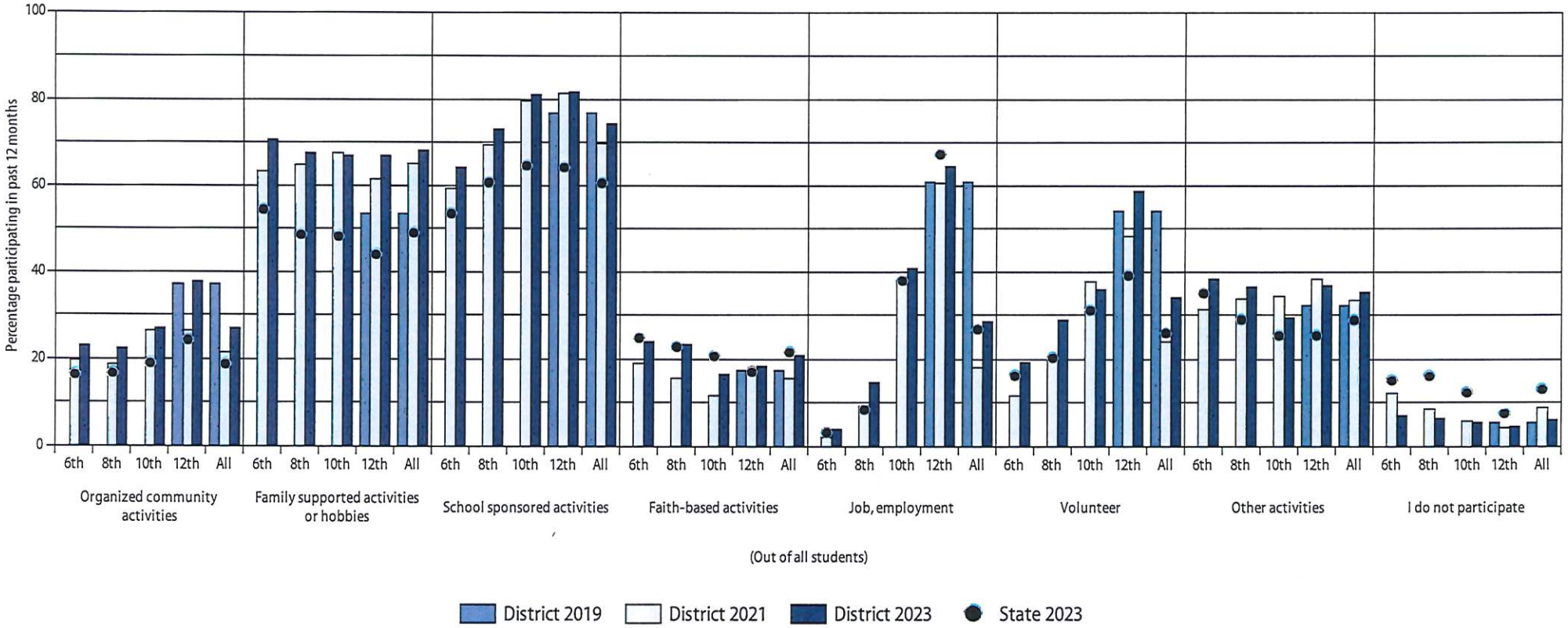
When young people participate in pro-social activities that foster healthy development, they are more likely to develop connections with peers and members of the community who engage in prosocial behaviors. Being engaged in pro-social activities provides opportunities for bonding with adult role models—such as community leaders, neighbors, police, or clergy—who can offer moral guidance and emotional support.

94.0% of students in this district reported participating in at least one pro-social activity, compared to 86.9% at the state level.

Students most frequently participated in school sponsored activities (74.4% of students). The second and third most frequent pro-social activities were family supported activities or hobbies (68.2%) and other activities (35.3%).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Involvement in pro-social activities	*In the past 12 months, in which of the following activities did you participate? (Mark all that apply.)* *Organized community activities (such as scouting, 4-H, service clubs, YMCA, etc)* *Family supported activities or hobbies (such as dance, gymnastics, hiking, biking, skating, etc.)* *School sponsored activities (such as sports, music, clubs, after-school programs, etc.)* *Faith-based activities (such as choir, youth group, mission, church leagues, etc)* *Job, employment* *Volunteer* *Other activities* *I do not participate.*

Involvement in pro-social activities
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Organized community activities				Family supported activities or hobbies				School sponsored activities				Faith-based activities				Job, employment				Volunteer				Other activities				I do not participate			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	19.6	23.0	16.4	n/a	63.4	70.6	54.4	n/a	59.1	64.1	53.4	n/a	18.9	23.9	24.8	n/a	2.0	4.0	3.2	n/a	11.6	19.2	16.2	n/a	31.4	38.3	35.0	n/a	12.4	7.0	15.1
8th	**n/a**	**18.7**	**22.3**	**16.7**	**n/a**	**64.9**	**67.6**	**48.6**	**n/a**	**69.4**	**73.2**	**60.6**	**n/a**	**15.6**	**23.3**	**22.7**	**n/a**	**9.2**	**14.7**	**8.5**	**n/a**	**20.0**	**28.8**	**20.3**	**n/a**	**33.8**	**36.6**	**29.0**	**n/a**	**8.6**	**6.4**	**16.1**
10th	n/a	26.4	27.1	19.0	n/a	67.6	67.1	48.1	n/a	79.7	81.0	64.6	n/a	11.5	16.5	20.7	n/a	38.1	40.8	37.9	n/a	37.7	36.0	31.1	n/a	34.3	29.6	25.3	n/a	5.6	5.6	12.3
12th	**37.1**	**26.4**	**37.8**	**24.2**	**53.4**	**61.5**	**67.1**	**44.0**	**76.9**	**81.3**	**81.9**	**64.2**	**17.3**	**17.6**	**18.4**	**17.1**	**60.9**	**60.4**	**64.5**	**67.3**	**54.1**	**48.4**	**58.5**	**39.1**	**32.3**	**38.5**	**36.8**	**25.3**	**5.4**	**4.4**	**4.4**	**7.5**
All	37.1	21.6	26.9	18.8	53.4	65.0	68.2	49.0	76.9	69.7	74.4	60.5	17.3	15.6	20.7	21.6	60.9	17.9	28.5	26.8	54.1	23.9	34.0	25.9	32.3	33.4	35.3	28.9	5.4	8.8	6.0	13.1

VIOLENCE/DRUGS IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

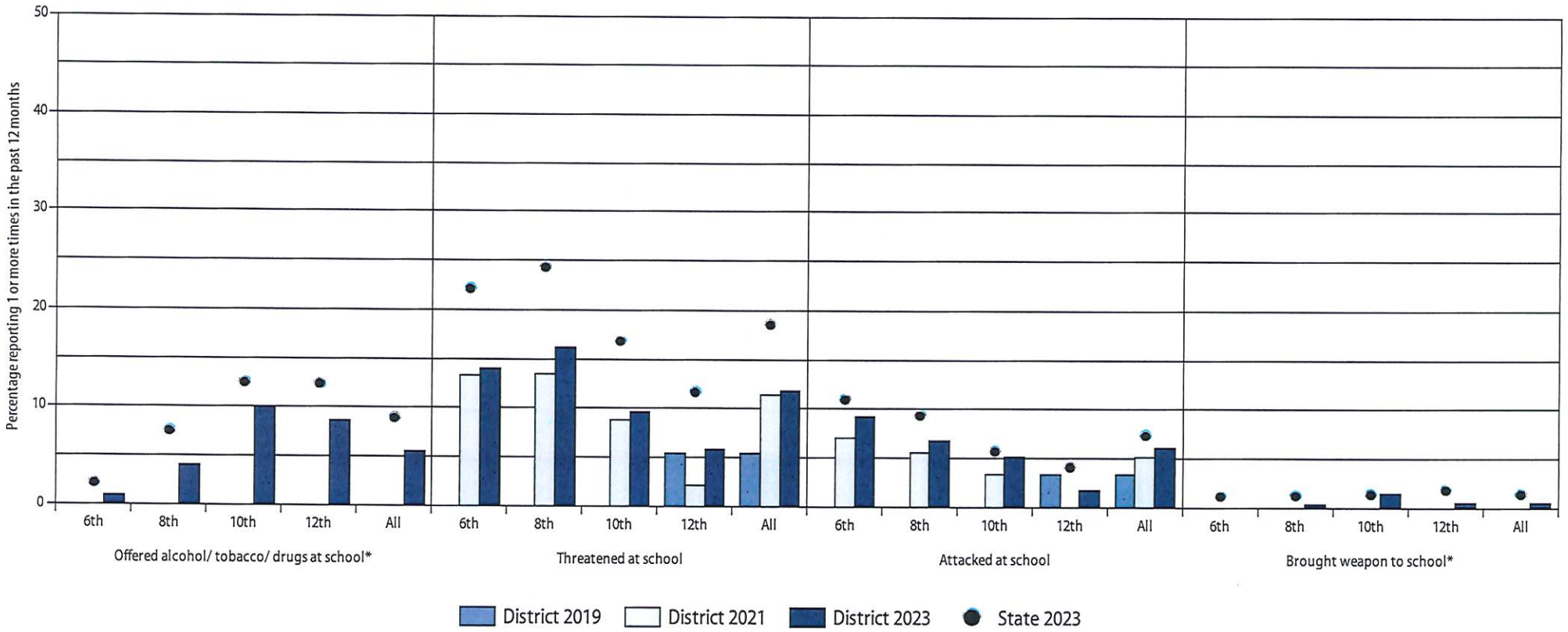
This section highlights the presence of violence and drugs on school property and in the community. This section also presents the percentage of youth who reported engaging in concerning behaviors (e.g., attacking someone with the idea of seriously hurting them, selling substances, attending school while drunk or high), and related consequences (e.g., being suspended from school or arrested).

In the past twelve months, 11.8% of students in this district reported being threatened with violent behavior on school property (compared to 18.5% at the state level). 6.0% of students reported having been attacked on school property (compared to 7.3% at the state level).

In the past twelve months, 5.6% of students in this district reported being offered alcohol, tobacco or other drugs on school property (compared to 8.9% at the state level) and 2.6% reported being drunk or high at school (compared to 4.3% at the state level).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Violence and drugs on school property	*How many times in the past 12 months have you been offered, given, or sold alcohol, tobacco product or other drug on school property?* *In the past 12 months, how often have you:* *Been threatened to be hit or beaten up on school property?* *Been attacked and hit by someone or beaten up on school property?* *How many times in the past 12 months have you brought a weapon (such as a handgun, knife, etc.) to school?*
Other concerning behaviors	*How many times in the past 12 months have you:* *Attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them?* *Sold substances such as vapes, alcohol, drugs or medications?* *Been drunk or high at school?*
Consequences of concerning behaviors	*How many times in the past 12 months have you:* *Been arrested?* *Been suspended from school?*

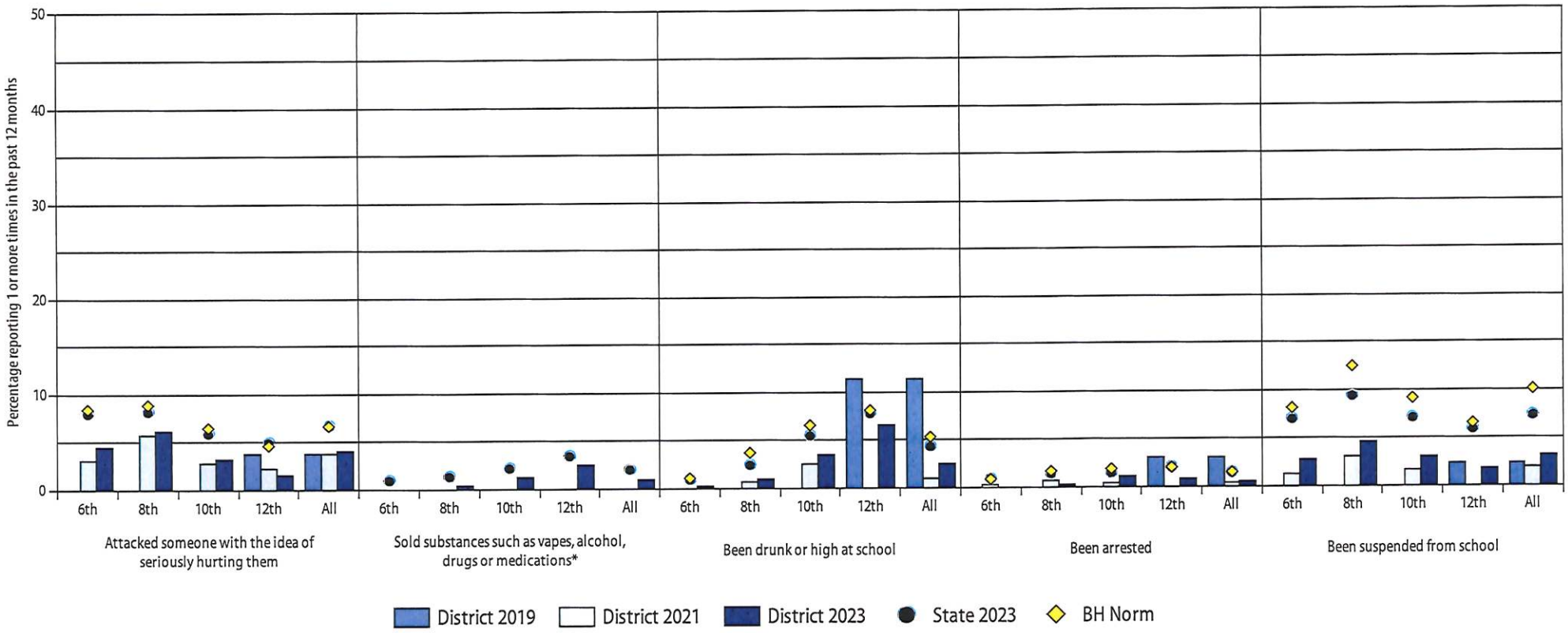
Violence and drugs on school property
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	Offered alcohol/ tobacco/ drugs at school*				Threatened at school				Attacked at school				Brought weapon to school*			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	n/a	0.9	2.2	n/a	13.3	14.0	22.1	n/a	7.0	9.2	10.9	n/a	n/a	0.0	1.1
8th	n/a	n/a	4.0	7.5	n/a	13.4	16.1	24.3	n/a	5.6	6.8	9.3	n/a	n/a	0.4	1.2
10th	n/a	n/a	10.0	12.5	n/a	8.8	9.7	16.8	n/a	3.3	5.2	5.7	n/a	n/a	1.4	1.4
12th	n/a	n/a	8.7	12.4	5.5	2.2	5.8	11.6	3.4	0.0	1.8	4.1	n/a	n/a	0.5	1.8
All	n/a	n/a	5.6	8.9	5.5	11.5	11.8	18.5	3.4	5.1	6.0	7.3	n/a	n/a	0.6	1.4

*Offered substances at school and brought weapon to school questions were revised in 2023 and are not comparable to prior years.

Other concerning behaviors
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them					Sold substances such as vapes, alcohol, drugs or medications*					Been drunk or high at school					Been arrested					Been suspended from school				
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm
6th	n/a	3.0	4.4	8.0	8.4	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.9	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.2	0.9	1.1	n/a	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.9	n/a	1.3	2.8	7.0	8.2
8th	n/a	5.7	6.1	8.2	8.9	n/a	n/a	0.4	1.3	n/a	n/a	0.7	1.0	2.4	3.7	n/a	0.7	0.2	1.4	1.7	n/a	3.1	4.6	9.4	12.5
10th	n/a	2.7	3.3	5.9	6.5	n/a	n/a	1.2	2.2	n/a	n/a	2.5	3.5	5.5	6.6	n/a	0.4	1.0	1.5	1.9	n/a	1.7	3.1	7.1	9.2
12th	3.8	2.2	1.5	4.9	4.6	n/a	n/a	2.6	3.4	n/a	11.3	0.0	6.6	7.8	8.1	3.1	0.0	0.8	2.1	2.0	2.4	0.0	1.8	5.9	6.6
All	3.8	3.8	4.0	6.7	6.7	n/a	n/a	0.9	2.0	n/a	11.3	1.0	2.6	4.3	5.3	3.1	0.4	0.5	1.5	1.5	2.4	1.9	3.1	7.3	10.1

*Question on selling substances was revised in 2023 and is not comparable to prior years.

BULLYING, INTERNET SAFETY AND ABUSE

While bullying is not a new phenomenon, the serious consequences for both students and schools continues to grow.

Bullying behavior contributes to lower attendance rates, lower student achievement, low self-esteem, and depression, as well as higher rates of both juvenile and adult crime. Although the problem of bullying continues to receive public attention, actual incidences of bullying often go undetected by teachers and parents. The most effective way to address bullying is through comprehensive, school-wide programs.

Overall, 23.6% of students in this district indicated experiencing bullying in the past 12 months (compared to 26.2% of students at the state level). Students who indicated experiencing bullying in the past 12 months reported that "the way I look [clothing, hairstyle, etc.]" (42.5% of students), "I don't know why" (40.3% of students), and "some other reason" (34.5% of students) were the most frequent reasons they were bullied.

PAYS 2023 category:

Bullying behavior

Bullying is a student or students doing any of the following to another student on purpose repeatedly:

- making fun of
- excluding
- threatening
- spreading rumors about
- hitting
- shoving
- hurting

It is <u>not</u> bullying if:

- two students argue or fight with each other
- friends tease each other.

PAYS 2023 question text:

Have you stayed home from school this year because you were worried about being bullied?

Do adults at your school stop bullying when they see/ hear it or when a student tells them about it?

Have you been bullied in the past 12 months

No • Yes, very rarely • Yes, now and then • Yes, several times per month • Yes, several times per week • Yes, almost daily

If you have been bullied in any way in the past 12 months, where were you bullied? (Mark all that apply.)

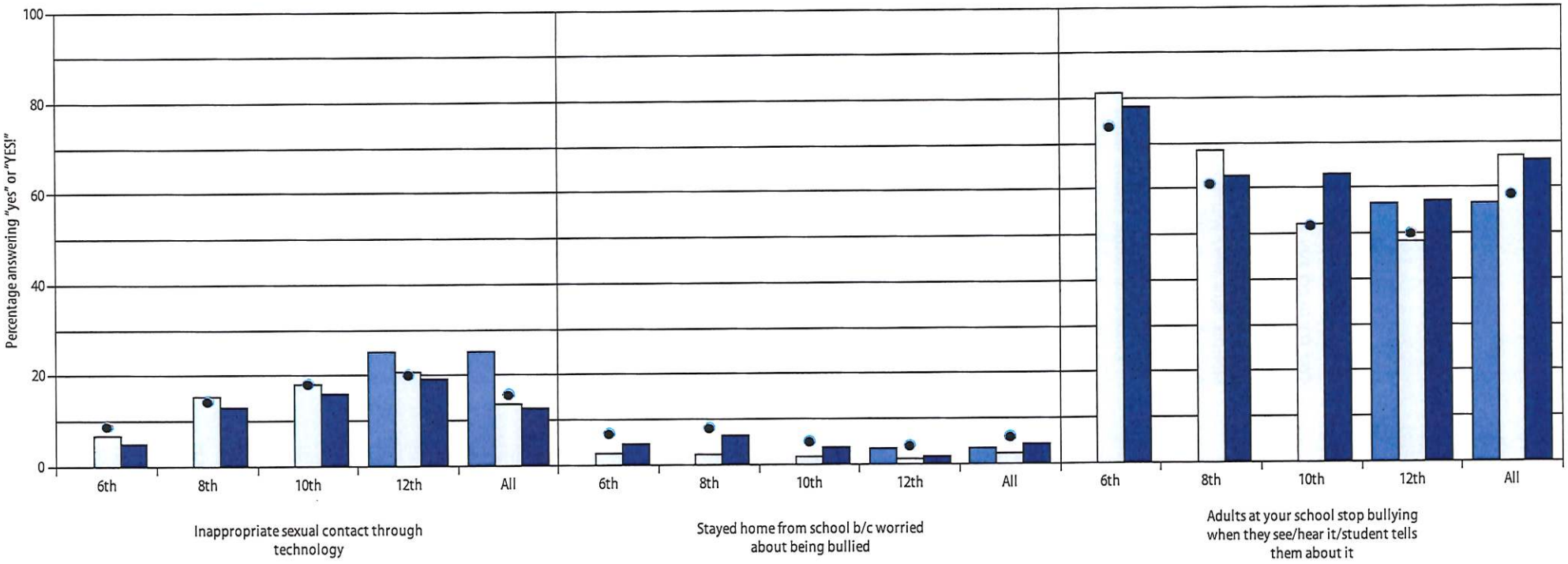
I was not bullied
On school property
At a school-sponsored event
While going to or from school
In the community
At home
Online, social media, phone

If you have been bullied in the past 12 months by other students, why were you bullied? (Mark all that apply.)

I have not been made fun of by other students
The color of my skin
My religion
My size (height, weight, etc.)
My accent
The country I was born in
The country my family (parents, grandparents) was born in
The way I look (clothing, hairstyle, etc.)
How much money my family has or does not have
My gender
My grades or school achievement
My social standing
Social conflict
My sexual-orientation
I have a disability (learning or physical disability)
Some other reason

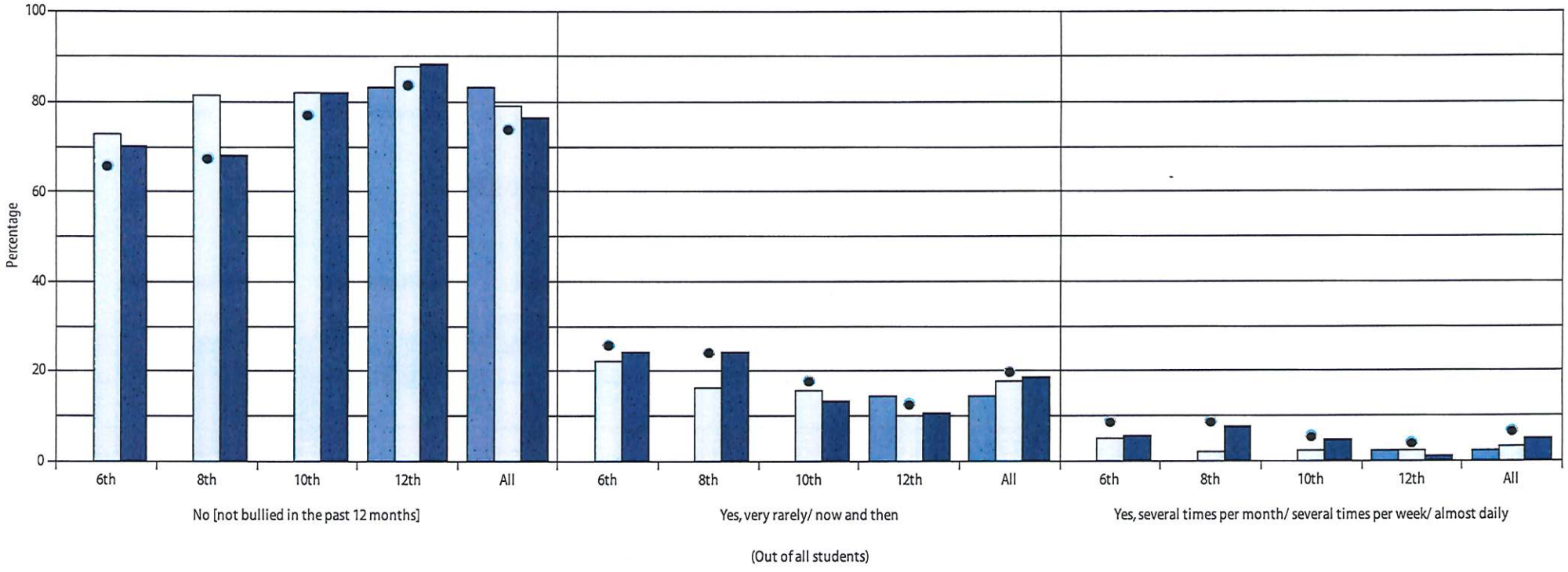
PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Internet safety and other hurt or abuse	*In the past 12 months, did anyone when using technology ever try to get you to talk online about sex, look at sexual pictures, or do something else sexual?*
	If you were hurt or abused by another person in the past 12 months, how were you hurt or abused? (Mark all that apply.)
	Physical injury *Threats* *Emotional abuse, insults, name-calling* *Isolation from friends and family* *Control of what you were wearing* *Control of who you socialized with* *Other injury or abuse*

Bullying and Internet safety
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



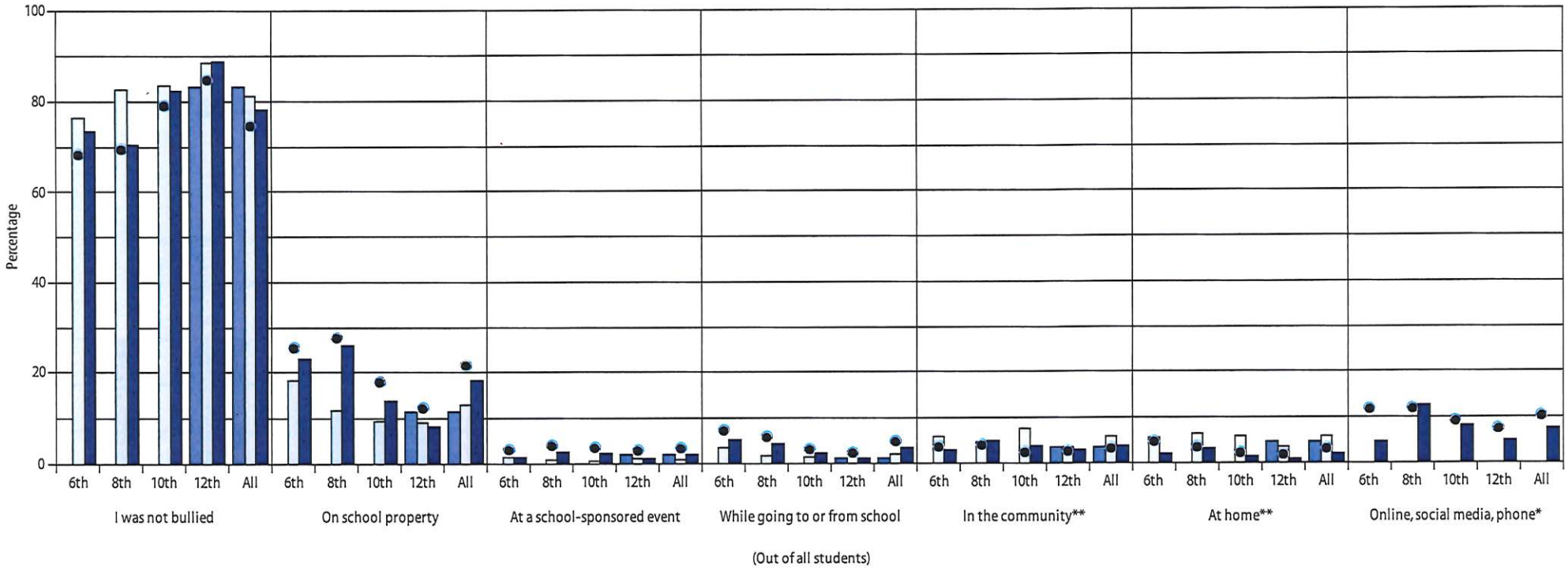
Grade	Inappropriate sexual contact through technology				Stayed home from school b/c worried about being bullied				Adults at your school stop bullying when they see/hear it/student tells them about it			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	6.7	4.9	8.8	n/a	2.6	4.8	6.8	n/a	81.2	78.3	73.7
8th	**n/a**	**15.3**	**13.1**	**14.2**	**n/a**	**2.3**	**6.5**	**8.0**	**n/a**	**68.4**	**62.7**	**60.9**
10th	n/a	17.9	15.9	18.0	n/a	1.6	3.9	5.0	n/a	52.2	63.1	51.8
12th	**25.2**	**20.7**	**19.1**	**20.0**	**3.4**	**1.1**	**1.8**	**4.0**	**56.6**	**48.3**	**57.3**	**49.9**
All	25.2	13.5	12.8	15.5	3.4	2.2	4.4	5.9	56.6	66.9	66.1	58.4

Frequency of bullying
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	No [not bullied in the past 12 months]				Yes, very rarely/ now and then				Yes, several times per month/ several times per week/ almost daily			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	72.9	70.1	65.7	n/a	22.2	24.4	25.7	n/a	4.9	5.5	8.6
8th	**n/a**	**81.5**	**68.0**	**67.4**	**n/a**	**16.3**	**24.3**	**24.0**	**n/a**	**2.1**	**7.6**	**8.6**
10th	n/a	82.0	82.2	77.0	n/a	15.7	13.2	17.7	n/a	2.2	4.7	5.3
12th	**83.3**	**87.6**	**88.4**	**83.7**	**14.3**	**10.1**	**10.6**	**12.5**	**2.4**	**2.2**	**1.0**	**3.8**
All	83.3	79.1	76.4	73.8	14.3	17.8	18.7	19.7	2.4	3.1	4.9	6.5

Location of bullying
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

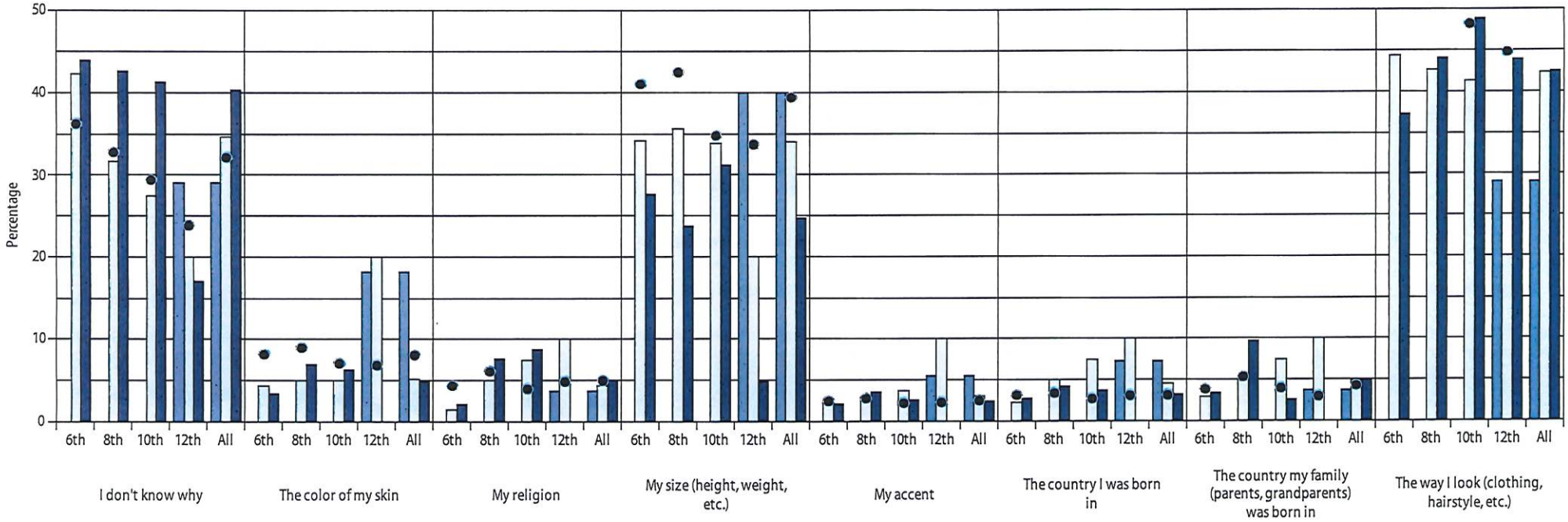


Grade	I was not bullied				On school property				At a school-sponsored event				While going to or from school				In the community**				At home**				Online, social media, phone*			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	76.5	73.3	68.3	n/a	18.2	23.1	25.5	n/a	1.4	1.5	3.0	n/a	3.4	5.2	7.3	n/a	5.8	3.0	3.6	n/a	5.5	2.0	4.7	n/a	n/a	4.8	11.7
8th	**n/a**	**82.8**	**70.5**	**69.4**	**n/a**	**11.7**	**25.9**	**27.6**	**n/a**	**0.7**	**2.8**	**4.0**	**n/a**	**1.6**	**4.5**	**5.8**	**n/a**	**4.6**	**4.9**	**4.0**	**n/a**	**6.4**	**3.3**	**3.4**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**12.6**	**11.9**
10th	n/a	83.5	82.4	79.1	n/a	9.5	13.8	17.9	n/a	0.4	2.2	3.5	n/a	1.4	2.2	3.1	n/a	7.6	3.7	2.4	n/a	6.0	1.4	2.2	n/a	n/a	8.1	9.2
12th	**83.2**	**88.6**	**88.9**	**84.8**	**11.5**	**9.1**	**8.3**	**12.2**	**2.1**	**1.1**	**1.3**	**2.9**	**1.0**	**0.0**	**1.0**	**2.3**	**3.5**	**3.4**	**3.0**	**2.6**	**4.5**	**3.4**	**0.8**	**1.8**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**5.0**	**7.5**
All	83.2	81.2	78.1	74.6	11.5	13.1	18.5	21.6	2.1	0.9	2.0	3.4	1.0	2.1	3.4	4.8	3.5	5.8	3.7	3.2	4.5	5.8	2.0	3.1	n/a	n/a	7.7	10.3

*Online, social media, phone was added as an answer choice in 2023. Prior to 2023 bullying through texting and social media was asked as a separate question.

**Decreases in 2023 in those reporting "At home" and "In the community" maybe be impacted by the addition of "online, social media, phone" answer choice in 2023.

Perceived reasons for bullying
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

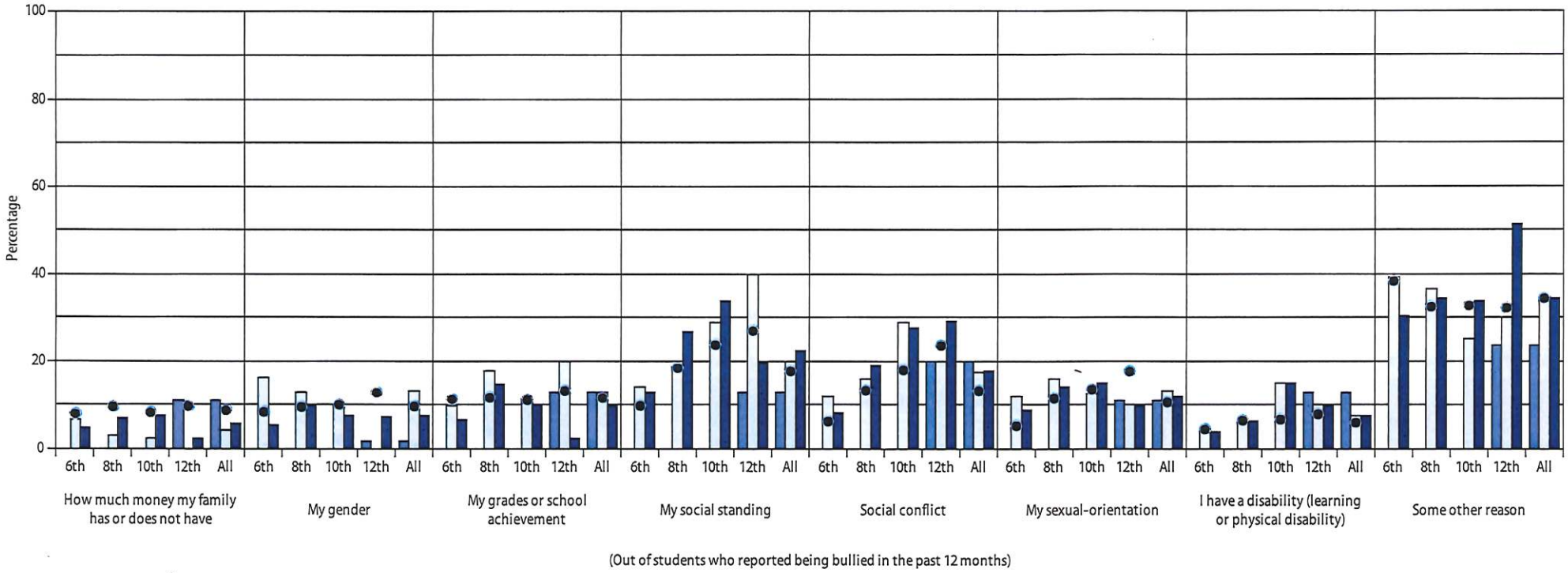


(Out of students who reported being bullied in the past 12 months)

District 2019 | District 2021 | District 2023 | State 2023

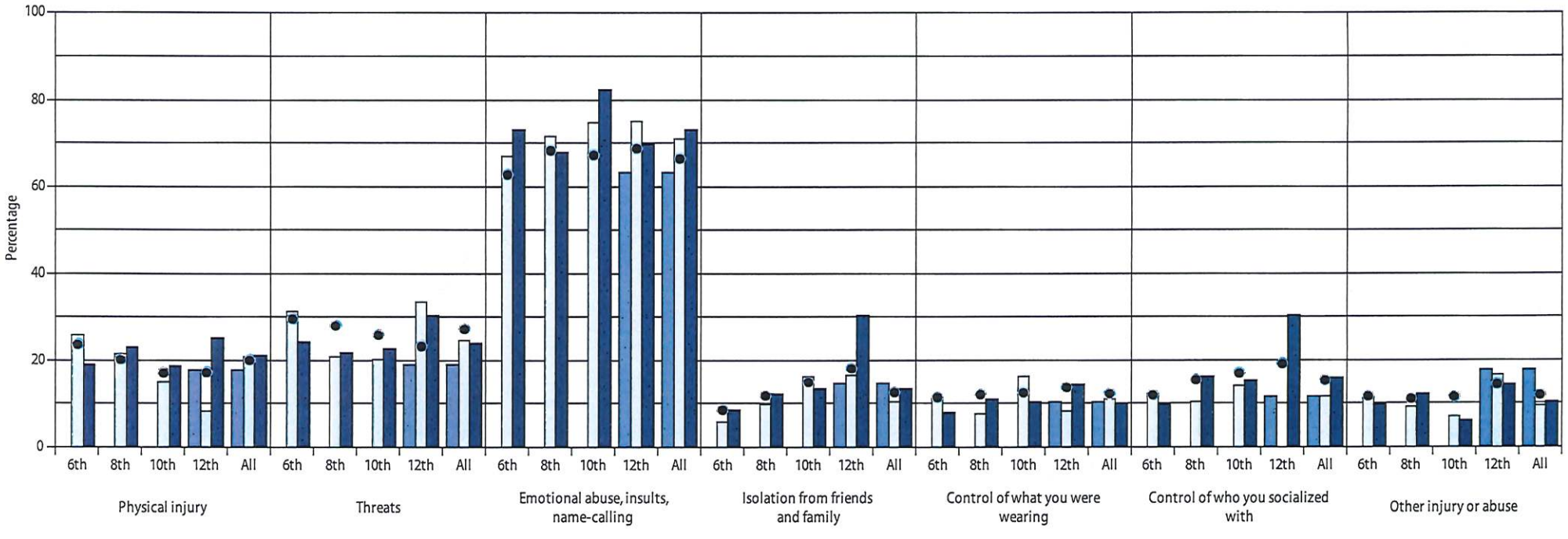
	I don't know why				The color of my skin				My religion				My size (height, weight, etc.)				My accent				The country I was born in				The country my family (parents, grandparents) was born in				The way I look (clothing, hairstyle, etc.)			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	42.2	43.9	36.2	n/a	4.4	3.4	8.2	n/a	1.5	2.0	4.4	n/a	34.1	27.7	41.0	n/a	2.2	2.0	2.4	n/a	2.2	2.7	3.1	n/a	3.0	3.4	3.8	n/a	44.4	37.2	51.0
8th	**n/a**	**31.7**	**42.7**	**32.8**	**n/a**	**5.0**	**7.0**	**9.0**	**n/a**	**5.0**	**7.7**	**6.1**	**n/a**	**35.6**	**23.8**	**42.4**	**n/a**	**3.0**	**3.5**	**2.8**	**n/a**	**5.0**	**4.2**	**3.4**	**n/a**	**5.0**	**9.8**	**5.3**	**n/a**	**42.6**	**44.1**	**55.3**
10th	n/a	27.5	41.3	29.4	n/a	5.0	6.3	7.1	n/a	7.5	8.8	4.0	n/a	33.8	31.3	34.7	n/a	3.8	2.5	2.2	n/a	7.5	3.8	2.7	n/a	7.5	2.5	4.0	n/a	41.3	48.8	48.1
12th	**29.1**	**20.0**	**17.1**	**23.8**	**18.2**	**20.0**	**0.0**	**6.9**	**3.6**	**10.0**	**0.0**	**4.8**	**40.0**	**20.0**	**4.9**	**33.6**	**5.5**	**10.0**	**0.0**	**2.3**	**7.3**	**10.0**	**0.0**	**3.1**	**3.6**	**10.0**	**0.0**	**3.0**	**29.1**	**20.0**	**43.9**	**44.8**
All	29.1	34.7	40.3	32.1	18.2	5.2	4.9	8.1	3.6	4.3	5.1	5.0	40.0	34.0	24.8	39.4	5.5	3.1	2.4	2.5	7.3	4.6	3.2	3.1	3.6	4.9	5.1	4.3	29.1	42.3	42.5	51.2

Perceived reasons for bullying (cont'd)
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	How much money my family has or does not have				My gender				My grades or school achievement				My social standing				Social conflict				My sexual-orientation				I have a disability (learning or physical disability)				Some other reason			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	6.7	4.7	7.9	n/a	16.3	5.4	8.4	n/a	9.6	6.8	11.2	n/a	14.1	12.8	9.8	n/a	11.9	8.1	6.3	n/a	11.9	8.8	5.3	n/a	4.4	4.1	4.5	n/a	39.3	30.4	38.3
8th	**n/a**	**3.0**	**7.0**	**9.6**	**n/a**	**12.9**	**9.8**	**9.5**	**n/a**	**17.8**	**14.7**	**11.6**	**n/a**	**18.8**	**26.6**	**18.4**	**n/a**	**15.8**	**18.9**	**13.3**	**n/a**	**15.8**	**14.0**	**11.5**	**n/a**	**5.9**	**6.3**	**6.5**	**n/a**	**36.6**	**34.3**	**32.4**
10th	n/a	2.5	7.5	8.3	n/a	10.0	7.5	10.0	n/a	11.3	10.0	11.1	n/a	28.8	33.8	23.7	n/a	28.8	27.5	18.0	n/a	12.5	15.0	13.5	n/a	15.0	15.0	6.7	n/a	25.0	33.8	32.7
12th	**10.9**	**0.0**	**2.4**	**9.7**	**1.8**	**0.0**	**7.3**	**12.8**	**12.7**	**20.0**	**2.4**	**13.2**	**12.7**	**40.0**	**19.5**	**26.9**	**20.0**	**20.0**	**29.3**	**23.6**	**10.9**	**10.0**	**9.8**	**17.6**	**12.7**	**10.0**	**9.8**	**7.9**	**23.6**	**30.0**	**51.2**	**32.2**
All	10.9	4.3	5.8	8.8	1.8	13.2	7.5	9.7	12.7	12.9	9.7	11.6	12.7	19.9	22.3	17.7	20.0	17.5	17.7	13.2	10.9	13.2	11.9	10.6	12.7	7.7	7.5	6.1	23.6	34.7	34.5	34.4

How students were hurt or abused
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



(Out of students who reported being hurt or abused by another person in the past 12 months)

District 2019 | District 2021 | District 2023 | State 2023

Grade	Physical injury				Threats				Emotional abuse, insults, name-calling				Isolation from friends and family				Control of what you were wearing				Control of who you socialized with				Other injury or abuse			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	25.8	19.1	23.6	n/a	31.5	24.1	29.6	n/a	66.9	73.0	62.7	n/a	5.6	8.5	8.5	n/a	11.3	7.8	11.4	n/a	12.1	9.9	12.0	n/a	11.3	9.9	11.6
8th	**n/a**	**21.5**	**23.1**	**20.2**	**n/a**	**20.8**	**21.8**	**28.0**	**n/a**	**71.5**	**68.0**	**68.3**	**n/a**	**9.7**	**12.2**	**11.8**	**n/a**	**7.6**	**10.9**	**12.1**	**n/a**	**10.4**	**16.3**	**15.4**	**n/a**	**9.0**	**12.2**	**11.0**
10th	n/a	15.2	18.6	17.1	n/a	20.2	22.7	25.8	n/a	74.7	82.5	67.2	n/a	16.2	13.4	14.9	n/a	16.2	10.3	12.5	n/a	14.1	15.5	17.0	n/a	7.1	6.2	11.5
12th	**17.6**	**8.3**	**25.0**	**17.2**	**19.1**	**33.3**	**30.4**	**23.2**	**63.2**	**75.0**	**69.6**	**68.7**	**14.7**	**16.7**	**30.4**	**18.0**	**10.3**	**8.3**	**14.3**	**13.7**	**11.8**	**0.0**	**30.4**	**19.1**	**17.6**	**16.7**	**14.3**	**14.4**
All	17.6	20.8	21.1	20.0	19.1	24.5	23.8	27.2	63.2	71.0	73.0	66.4	14.7	10.3	13.6	12.6	10.3	11.1	10.2	12.2	11.8	11.6	15.9	15.3	17.6	9.5	10.4	11.9

6. INDICATORS OF RISK

This section highlights the following indicators of risk that can increase the likelihood of substance use, mental health concerns, and/or other concerning behaviors among youth.

- Stressful events (housing insecurity, grief, food insecurity) and sleep
- Perception of risk of substance use
- Perception of parental disapproval of substance use
- Perception of peer disapproval of substance use
- Attitudes toward substance use
- Laws/norms favorable to substance use
- Availability of substances/handguns
- Willingness to use substances
- Sources of substances used
- Other indicators of risk

STRESSFUL EVENTS AND SLEEP

Death of friends or family members, moving homes, and worrying about having enough food are stressful events that can negatively affect a student's life. Lack of sleep can increase risk for mental health concerns, substance use and impact academic achievement.

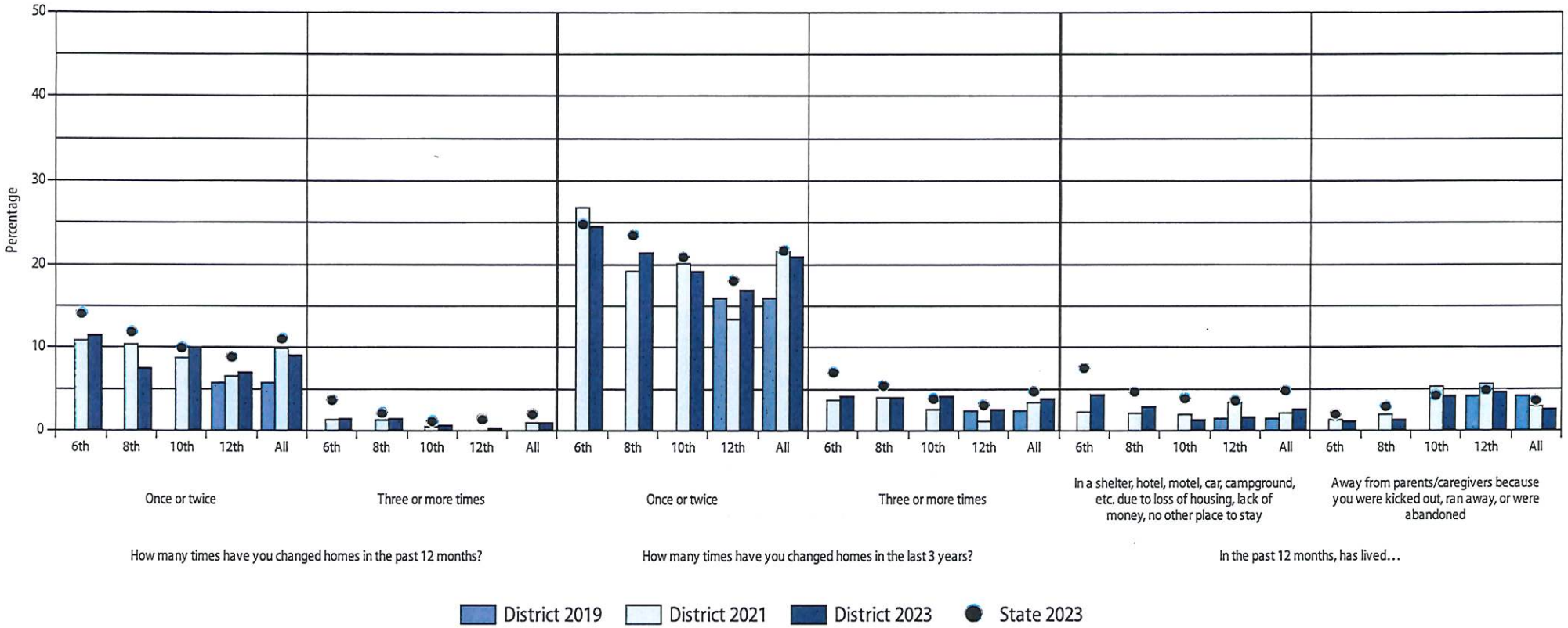
25.4% of students in this district reported the death of close friend or family member in the past twelve months, compared to 34.8% at the state level. 9.1% of students reported changing homes once or twice within the past 12 months, and 3.7% of students reported having changed homes three or more times in the past three years.

Students also said "they were worried they would run out of food at home due to money issues" (reported by 9.0% of students in this district), "they had skipped a meal because their family didn't have enough money for food" (reported by 4.0% of students). 9.8% of students reported at least one of these two items.

24.7% of students in this district reported sleeping less than seven hours a night on an average school night, compared to 35.7% at the state level. 67.5% of students reported feeling tired or sleepy "every day" or "several times" during the day in the past 2 weeks, compared to 64.4% at the state level.

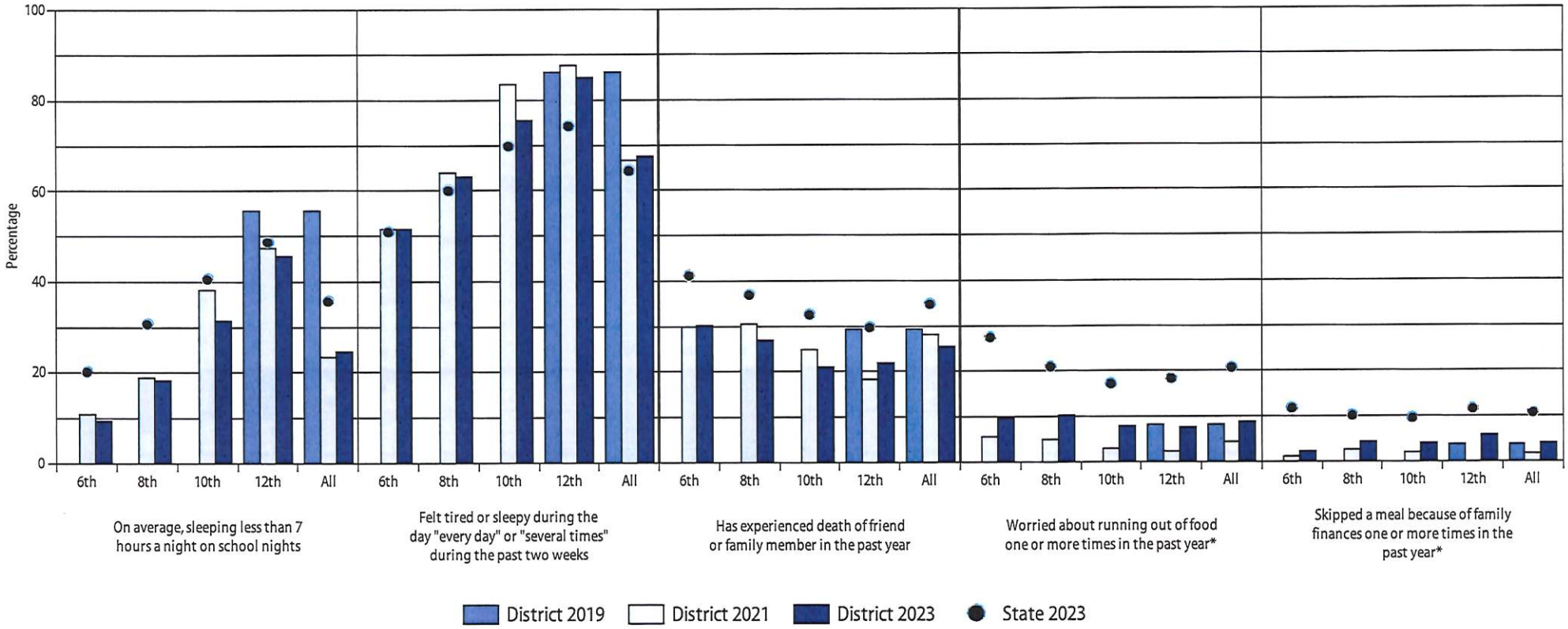
PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Housing Insecurity	*How many times have you changed homes:* *in the past 12 months?* *including the past 12 months, in the last 3 years?* *During the past 12 months, have you or your family lived in a shelter, hotel, motel, car, campground, or someone else's home, etc. due to loss of housing, lack of money, or did not have another place to stay?* *In the past 12 months, did you ever live away from your parents or guardians because you were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned?*
Sleep	*On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?* *In the last two weeks, how often have you felt tired or sleepy during the day?*
Grief	*In the past 12 months, have any of your friends or family members close to you died?*
Food insecurity	*How often in the past year have you:* *Worried that food at home would run out before your family got money to buy more?* *Skipped a meal because your family didn't have enough money to buy food?*

Housing Insecurity
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	How many times have you changed homes in the past 12 months?								How many times have you changed homes in the last 3 years?								In the past 12 months, has lived...							
	Once or twice in the last year				Three or more times in the last year				Once or twice in last 3 years				Three or more times in last 3 years				In a shelter, hotel, motel, car, campground, etc. due to loss of housing, lack of money, no place to stay				Away from parents/caregivers because you were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	10.8	11.5	14.0	n/a	1.3	1.3	3.6	n/a	26.9	24.6	24.8	n/a	3.7	4.1	7.0	n/a	2.2	4.2	7.5	n/a	1.3	1.1	1.9
8th	**n/a**	**10.3**	**7.5**	**11.9**	**n/a**	**1.3**	**1.4**	**2.1**	**n/a**	**19.1**	**21.4**	**23.5**	**n/a**	**4.0**	**3.9**	**5.4**	**n/a**	**2.0**	**2.8**	**4.6**	**n/a**	**2.0**	**1.2**	**2.8**
10th	n/a	8.8	10.0	9.9	n/a	0.4	0.6	1.1	n/a	20.1	19.2	20.8	n/a	2.6	4.1	3.8	n/a	1.9	1.2	3.8	n/a	5.3	4.1	4.2
12th	**5.8**	**6.6**	**6.9**	**8.8**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**1.3**	**15.9**	**13.3**	**16.8**	**18.0**	**2.4**	**1.1**	**2.6**	**3.0**	**1.4**	**3.3**	**1.5**	**3.6**	**4.1**	**5.6**	**4.6**	**4.8**
All	5.8	9.9	9.1	11.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.9	15.9	21.6	20.8	21.6	2.4	3.3	3.7	4.7	1.4	2.1	2.6	4.8	4.1	2.9	2.6	3.5

Sleep, grief, and food insecurity
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	On average, sleeping less than 7 hours a night on school nights				Felt tired or sleepy during the day "every day" or "several times" during the past two weeks				Has experienced death of friend or family member in the past year				Worried about running out of food one or more times in the past year*				Skipped a meal because of family finances one or more times in the past year*			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	10.8	9.5	20.2	n/a	51.4	51.5	50.9	n/a	29.8	30.1	41.1	n/a	5.6	9.6	27.4	n/a	1.3	2.3	11.8
8th	**n/a**	**19.0**	**18.3**	**30.7**	**n/a**	**63.9**	**63.1**	**60.1**	**n/a**	**30.5**	**27.0**	**36.9**	**n/a**	**4.8**	**10.4**	**20.9**	**n/a**	**2.5**	**4.3**	**10.2**
10th	n/a	38.0	31.4	40.6	n/a	83.6	75.7	69.8	n/a	24.7	21.1	32.5	n/a	3.0	7.9	17.2	n/a	2.1	4.1	9.6
12th	**55.6**	**47.4**	**45.6**	**48.7**	**86.3**	**87.6**	**85.1**	**74.3**	**29.2**	**18.4**	**21.9**	**29.7**	**8.3**	**2.3**	**7.5**	**18.4**	**3.8**	**0.0**	**6.0**	**11.6**
All	55.6	23.3	24.7	35.7	86.3	66.7	67.5	64.4	29.2	28.0	25.4	34.8	8.3	4.4	9.0	20.7	3.8	1.9	4.0	10.7

*See Appendix B for changes made to food insecurity questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 data to prior years.

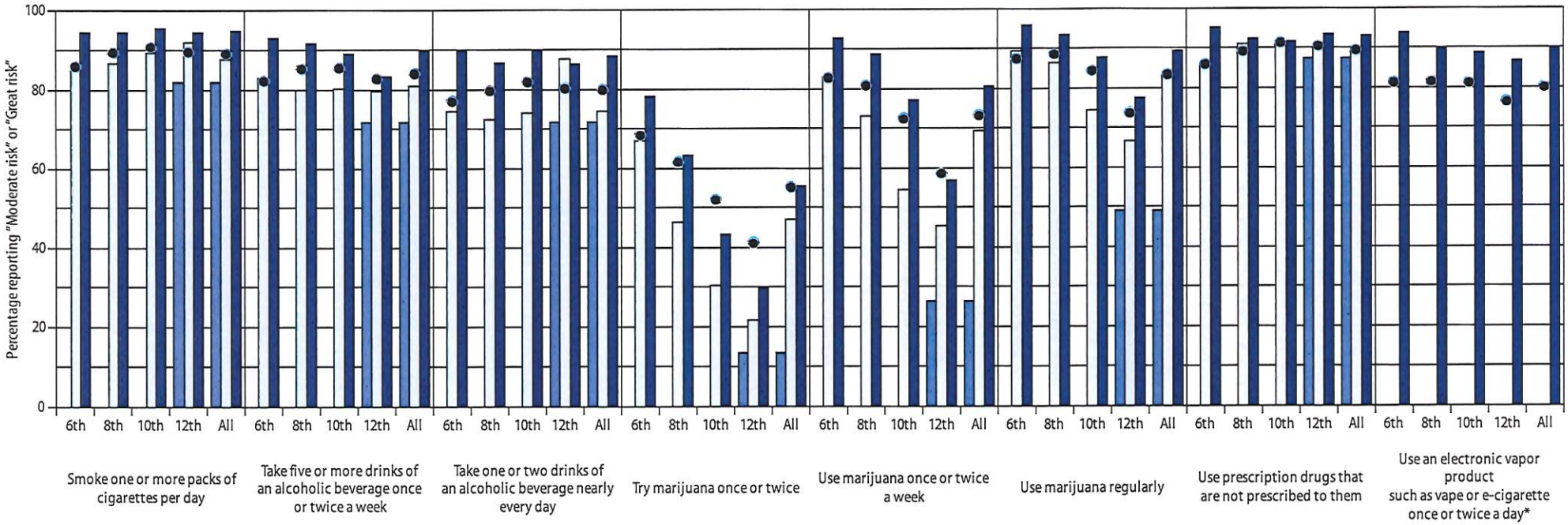
PERCEPTION OF RISK

Perception of risk is an important determinant in the decision-making process young people go through when deciding whether or not to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

Data analysis shows a consistent negative correlation between perception of risk and the level of reported ATOD use. That is, generally when the perceived risk of harm is high, reported frequency of use is low.

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Perception of Risk	*How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:* *Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) nearly every day?* *Take five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) once or twice a week?* *Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?* *Try marijuana once or twice?* *Use marijuana once or twice a week?* *Use marijuana regularly?* *Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them?* *Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette once or twice a day?*

Perception of risk
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



People are at moderate or great risk of harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they…

Grade	Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day				Take five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week				Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day				Try marijuana once or twice				Use marijuana once or twice a week				Use marijuana regularly				Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them				Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette once or twice a day*			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	86.5	94.5	85.8	n/a	82.8	93.0	82.2	n/a	74.5	89.8	76.9	n/a	66.9	78.1	68.4	n/a	83.0	92.8	82.7	n/a	89.2	95.9	87.3	n/a	85.3	95.1	85.8	n/a	n/a	93.7	81.1
8th	**n/a**	**86.7**	**94.3**	**89.4**	**n/a**	**79.7**	**91.7**	**85.2**	**n/a**	**72.6**	**86.6**	**79.6**	**n/a**	**46.2**	**63.1**	**61.5**	**n/a**	**73.0**	**88.6**	**80.7**	**n/a**	**86.4**	**93.5**	**88.5**	**n/a**	**91.0**	**92.3**	**89.1**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**89.8**	**81.4**
10th	n/a	89.2	95.3	90.8	n/a	80.1	89.1	85.4	n/a	74.0	90.0	81.8	n/a	30.5	43.4	51.9	n/a	54.6	77.2	72.4	n/a	74.5	87.7	84.3	n/a	91.4	91.7	91.3	n/a	n/a	88.7	81.0
12th	**81.8**	**92.0**	**94.5**	**89.6**	**71.8**	**79.5**	**83.2**	**82.7**	**71.8**	**87.8**	**86.4**	**80.2**	**13.4**	**21.6**	**29.7**	**41.1**	**26.4**	**45.5**	**56.8**	**58.6**	**49.0**	**66.7**	**77.5**	**73.7**	**87.3**	**89.8**	**93.5**	**90.4**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**86.6**	**76.3**
All	81.8	87.6	94.6	89.0	71.8	80.8	89.7	83.9	71.8	74.4	88.3	79.8	13.4	47.1	55.5	55.1	26.4	69.4	80.4	73.2	49.0	82.8	89.4	83.3	87.3	89.2	93.2	89.3	n/a	n/a	90.0	79.9

*Use of an electronic vapor product such as a vape or e-cigarette was added in 2023

PERCEPTION OF PARENTAL/CAREGIVER DISAPPROVAL

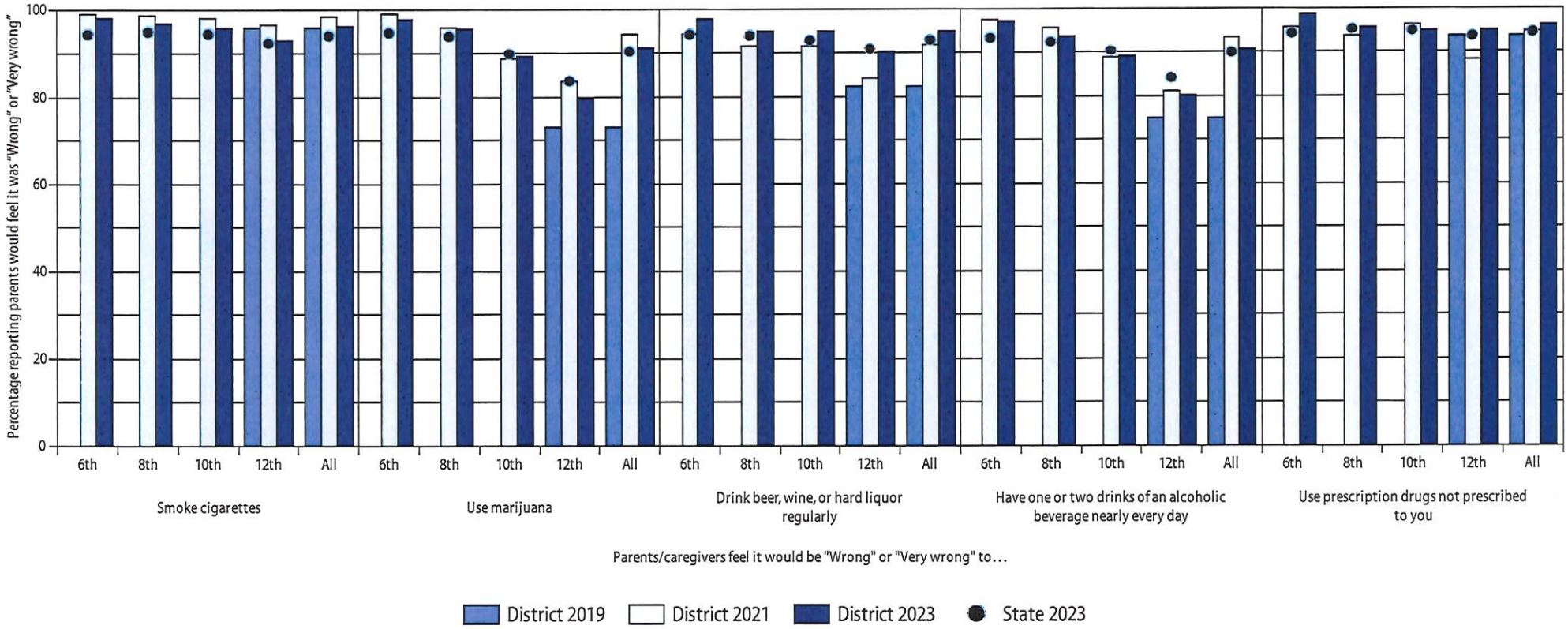
Parents/caregivers influence the attitudes and behavior of their children, including their perceptions on drug and alcohol use.

For example, parental approval of drinking, even under parental supervision, increases the likelihood of the young person using alcohol.

The data presented on the next page shows the percentages of youth who reported that their parents/caregivers feel it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" to use the substance.

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Perception of parental/ caregiver disapproval	*How wrong do your parents/caregivers feel it would be for you to:* *Drink beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?* *Have one or two drinks of alcoholic beverage such as beer, wine, or hard liquor (vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) nearly every day?* *Smoke cigarettes?* *Use marijuana?* *Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?*

Perception of parental/caregiver disapproval
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Parents/caregivers feel it would be "Wrong" or "Very wrong" to...

Grade	Smoke cigarettes				Use marijuana				Drink beer, wine, or hard liquor regularly				Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day				Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	98.9	98.1	94.4	n/a	98.9	97.7	94.7	n/a	94.2	97.7	94.2	n/a	97.3	97.2	93.3	n/a	95.6	98.5	94.3
8th	**n/a**	**98.7**	**96.8**	**94.9**	**n/a**	**95.9**	**95.6**	**93.9**	**n/a**	**91.7**	**95.0**	**94.0**	**n/a**	**95.5**	**93.6**	**92.4**	**n/a**	**93.9**	**95.6**	**95.1**
10th	n/a	97.9	95.7	94.5	n/a	88.7	89.5	89.9	n/a	91.4	94.9	92.8	n/a	88.7	89.1	90.3	n/a	96.3	95.1	94.9
12th	**95.9**	**96.5**	**93.0**	**92.5**	**73.2**	**83.5**	**79.5**	**83.6**	**82.5**	**84.2**	**90.4**	**90.9**	**74.9**	**81.2**	**80.1**	**84.1**	**93.8**	**88.1**	**95.1**	**93.6**
All	95.9	98.4	96.1	94.1	73.2	94.2	91.4	90.4	82.5	91.9	94.8	92.9	74.9	93.4	90.7	89.9	93.8	94.7	96.2	94.5

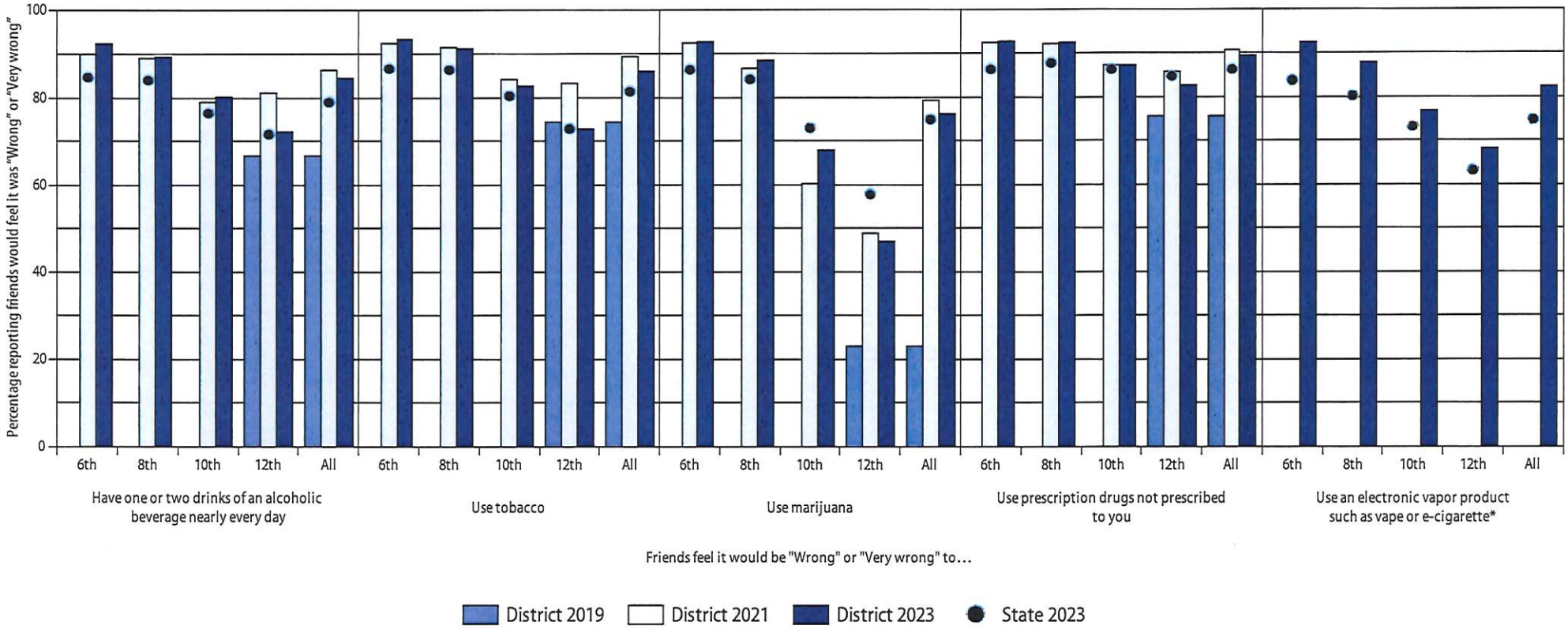
PERCEPTION OF PEER DISAPPROVAL

The older the student is, the more influence a student's peers exert on the student's behavior.

Researchers have identified a positive correlation between the amount of peer disapproval of alcohol and other drug use and the level of alcohol and other drug use among students. Thus, the greater the peer disapproval, the less likely students are to use alcohol and other drugs. The rates are the percentages of surveyed youth who reported that their friends feel it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" for them to use the substance.

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Perception of peer disapproval	*How wrong do your friends feel it would be for you to:*
	Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?
	Use tobacco?
	Use marijuana?
	Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?
	Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette?

Perception of peer disapproval
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day				Use tobacco				Use marijuana				Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you				Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette*			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	90.1	92.5	84.7	n/a	92.4	93.4	86.6	n/a	92.3	92.7	86.4	n/a	92.3	92.8	86.3	n/a	n/a	92.4	83.7
8th	**n/a**	**89.0**	**89.4**	**84.0**	**n/a**	**91.5**	**91.4**	**86.4**	**n/a**	**86.8**	**88.6**	**84.1**	**n/a**	**92.2**	**92.4**	**87.7**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**87.9**	**80.1**
10th	n/a	79.1	80.2	76.4	n/a	84.1	82.7	80.3	n/a	60.3	67.9	72.9	n/a	87.4	87.4	86.2	n/a	n/a	76.9	73.1
12th	**66.7**	**81.2**	**72.1**	**71.6**	**74.3**	**83.3**	**72.7**	**72.8**	**22.9**	**48.8**	**47.1**	**57.7**	**75.7**	**85.7**	**82.8**	**84.7**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**68.3**	**63.1**
All	66.7	86.2	84.4	78.9	74.3	89.3	86.0	81.4	22.9	79.2	76.1	74.8	75.7	90.6	89.3	86.2	n/a	n/a	82.4	74.7

*Use of an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette question was added to survey in 2023.

ATTITUDES TOWARD SUBSTANCE USE

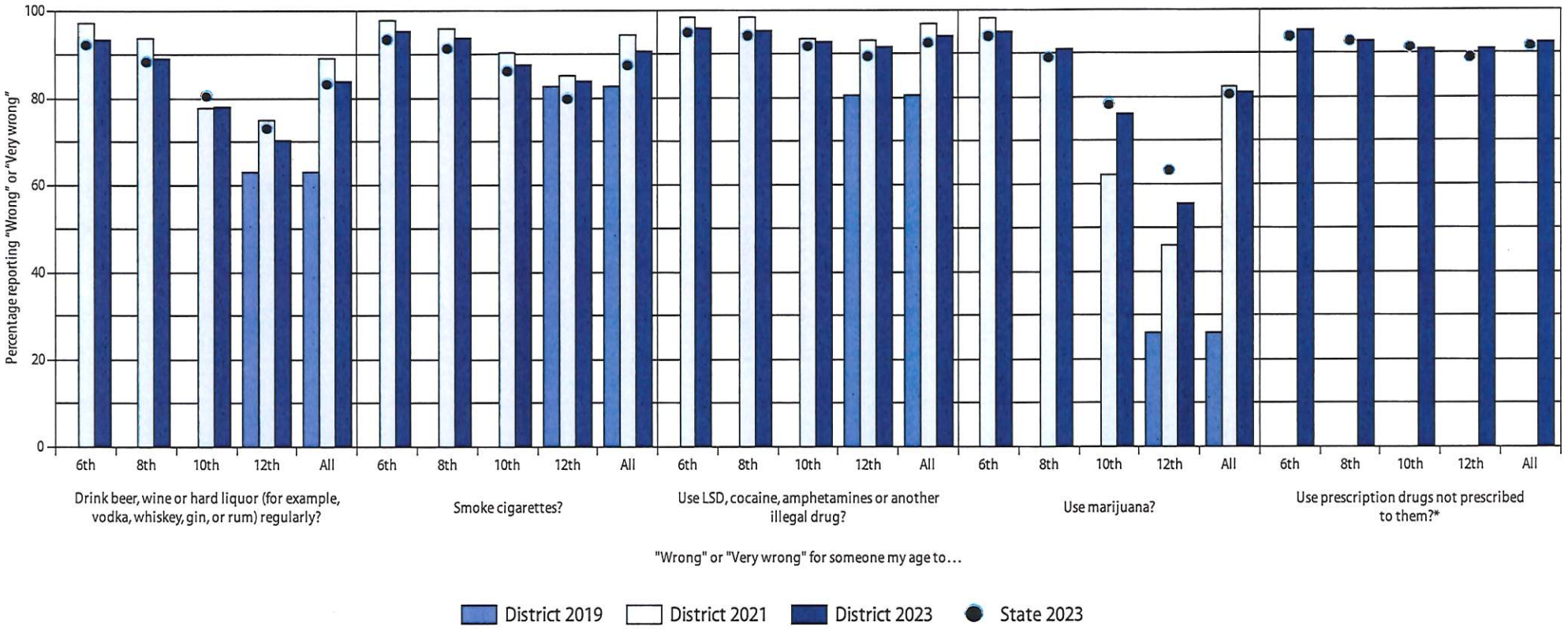
Personal approval or disapproval is another key attitudinal construct that influences substance use behavior.

Personal disapproval was measured by asking surveyed youth how wrong it would be for someone their age to use certain substances or how they feel about someone their age using certain substances.

83.8% of the students thought it was "Wrong" or "Very wrong" for someone their age to use alcohol regularly (state rate: 83.2%) and 81.1% thought it was "Wrong" or "Very wrong" for someone their age to use marijuana (state rate: 80.6%).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Attitudes toward substance use	*How do you feel about someone your age:* *Having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) nearly every day?* *Using marijuana once a month or more?*
	How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to: *Drink beer, wine, hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin or rum) regularly?* *Smoke cigarettes?* *Use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug?* *Using marijuana?* *Using prescription drugs not prescribed to them?*

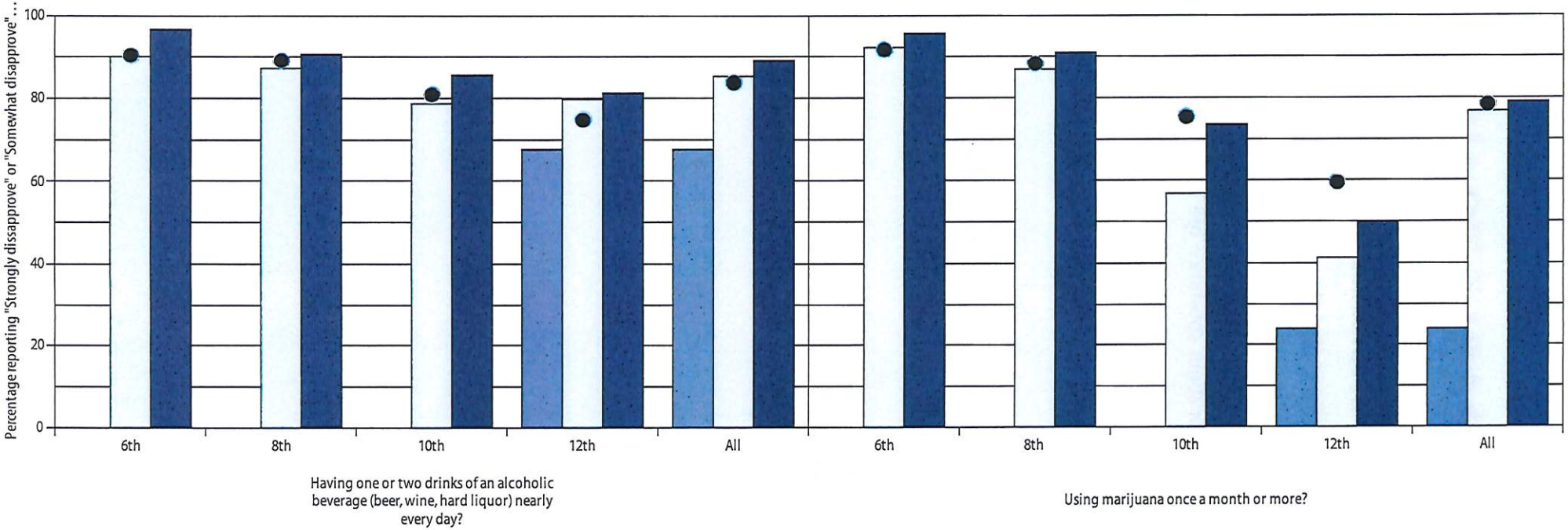
Attitudes toward peer use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	"Wrong" or "Very wrong" for someone my age to...																			
	Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?				Smoke cigarettes?				Use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug?				Use marijuana?				Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?*			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	97.2	93.5	92.3	n/a	97.7	95.1	93.4	n/a	98.4	95.9	94.9	n/a	98.0	94.8	93.9	n/a	n/a	95.1	93.8
8th	**n/a**	**93.8**	**89.0**	**88.4**	**n/a**	**95.9**	**93.7**	**91.4**	**n/a**	**98.2**	**95.3**	**94.1**	**n/a**	**90.0**	**90.9**	**89.0**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**92.7**	**92.8**
10th	n/a	77.6	78.0	80.5	n/a	90.4	87.4	86.2	n/a	93.5	92.8	91.7	n/a	62.1	76.1	78.2	n/a	n/a	91.0	91.3
12th	**63.1**	**75.0**	**70.4**	**73.1**	**82.8**	**85.2**	**83.8**	**79.7**	**80.5**	**93.2**	**91.7**	**89.4**	**26.2**	**46.0**	**55.6**	**63.1**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**91.0**	**89.0**
All	63.1	89.2	83.8	83.2	82.8	94.4	90.5	87.4	80.5	96.7	94.1	92.4	26.2	82.3	81.1	80.6	n/a	n/a	92.6	91.6

*Question on using prescription drugs not prescribed to them was revised in 2023 and is not comparable to prior years.

Disapproval of peer substance use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



"Strongly dissapprove" or "Somewhat disapprove" of someone my age...

Grade	Having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) nearly every day?				Using marijuana once a month or more?			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	89.9	96.5	90.4	n/a	92.5	95.6	91.7
8th	**n/a**	**87.3**	**90.7**	**89.1**	**n/a**	**86.8**	**91.0**	**88.3**
10th	n/a	78.6	85.5	80.9	n/a	56.9	73.6	75.3
12th	**67.8**	**79.8**	**81.3**	**74.7**	**24.2**	**41.2**	**50.1**	**59.5**
All	67.8	85.1	89.0	83.7	24.2	76.9	79.1	78.4

LAWS/NORMS FAVORABLE TO USE

Students' perceptions of the rules, regulations and norms in their community related to substance use are connected to the extent of substance use and other concerning behaviors during adolescence.

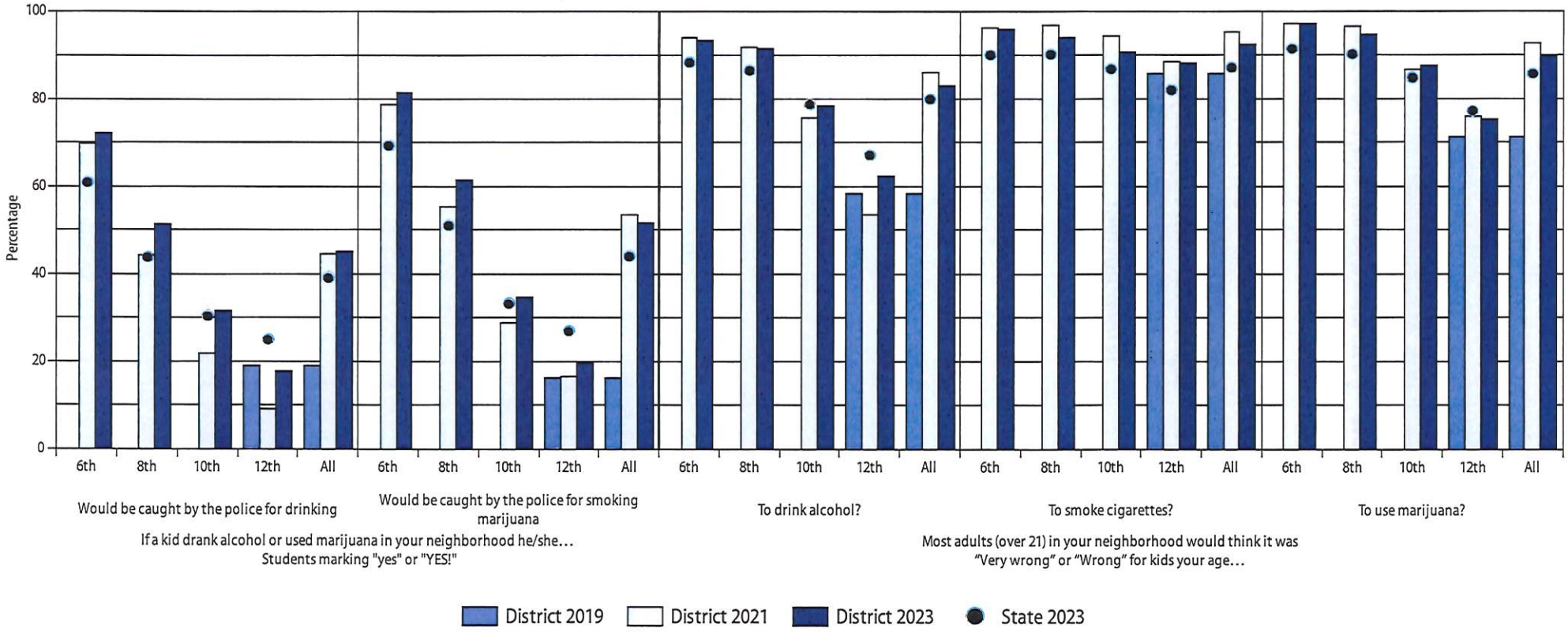
The attitudes and policies a community holds about substance use and other concerning behaviors are communicated through laws, written policies, informal social practices, and expectations by parents and community members of young people. When laws and community standards are unclear or perceived as favorable toward substance use, violence, and crime, young people are more likely to engage in negative behaviors.

45.3% of students in this district think that if a kid drank alcohol, they would be caught by the police (state rate: 39.1%).

82.9% of students report that most adults in their neighborhood would think it was "Very wrong" or "Wrong" for kids their age to drink alcohol (compared to 79.8% at the state level) and 89.6% of students reports that adults would think it was "Very wrong" or "Wrong" for kids their age to use marijuana (compared to 85.6% at the state level).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Laws and Norms Favorable to Use	*If a kid drank some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?*
	If a kid smoked marijuana in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?
	How wrong would most adults (over 21) in your neighborhood think it was for kids your age:
	To drink alcohol?
	To smoke cigarettes?
	To use marijuana?

Laws/Norms favorable to use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	If a kid drank alcohol or used marijuana in your neighborhood he/she... Students marking "yes" or "YES!" — Would be caught by the police for drinking				Would be caught by the police for smoking marijuana				Most adults (over 21) in your neighborhood would think it was "Very wrong" or "Wrong" for kids your age... — To drink alcohol?				To smoke cigarettes?				To use marijuana?			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	69.6	72.2	60.8	n/a	78.7	81.5	69.2	n/a	94.1	93.5	88.3	n/a	96.0	95.8	90.0	n/a	97.1	97.1	91.4
8th	**n/a**	**44.3**	**51.2**	**43.7**	**n/a**	**55.1**	**61.6**	**50.9**	**n/a**	**91.9**	**91.5**	**86.5**	**n/a**	**96.7**	**94.0**	**90.1**	**n/a**	**96.4**	**94.5**	**90.2**
10th	n/a	21.7	31.7	30.3	n/a	29.0	34.5	33.2	n/a	75.5	78.3	78.7	n/a	94.3	90.5	86.7	n/a	86.5	87.7	84.7
12th	**19.0**	**9.3**	**17.8**	**24.9**	**16.4**	**16.5**	**19.5**	**26.8**	**58.2**	**53.5**	**62.4**	**67.1**	**85.6**	**88.4**	**88.1**	**81.9**	**71.1**	**75.9**	**75.2**	**77.1**
All	19.0	44.4	45.3	39.1	16.4	53.5	51.5	43.9	58.2	86.0	82.9	79.8	85.6	95.4	92.4	87.1	71.1	92.8	89.6	85.6

AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTANCES/ HANDGUNS

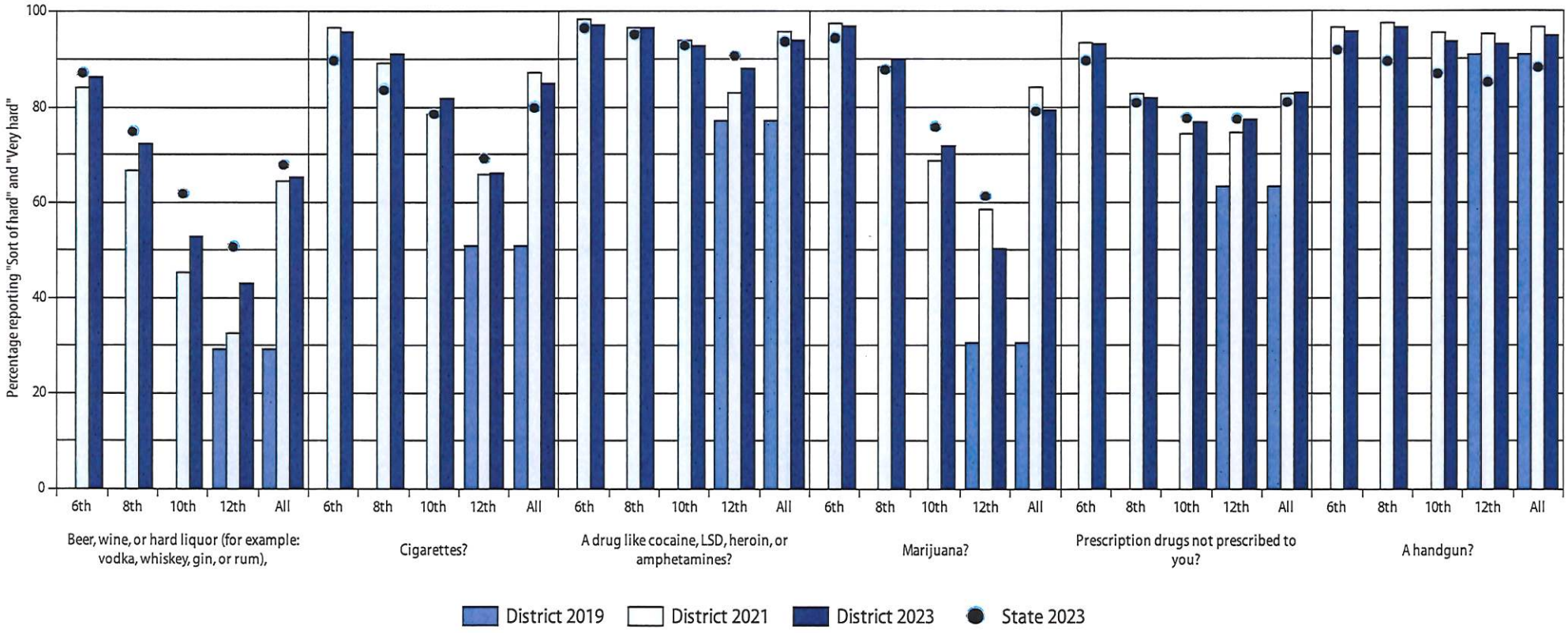
Students' perceptions of the availability of substances and handguns in their community influences involvement with substances and guns.

In schools where youth believe that drugs are easily available, a higher rate of drug use has been found to occur. If students believe that acquiring a handgun is or would be difficult, they are less likely to become involved with the unauthorized and unsupervised use of firearms.

65.3% of students reported that alcohol would be "Sort of hard" or "Very hard" to get, and 94.9% reported that a handgun would be "Sort of hard" or "Very hard" to get (compared to state rates of 67.8% and 88.1%, respectively).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Availability of Substances/Handguns	*How easy would it be for you to get any, if you wanted to get any of the following:* *Beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum)* *Cigarettes?* *A drug like cocaine, LSD, heroin, or amphetamines?* *Marijuana?* *Prescription drugs not prescribed to you?* *A handgun?*

Availability of substances/handguns
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



"Sort of hard" or "Very hard" to get...

Grade	Beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum),				Cigarettes?				A drug like cocaine, LSD, heroin, or amphetamines?				Marijuana?				Prescription drugs not prescribed to you?				A handgun?			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	84.2	86.5	87.2	n/a	96.5	95.8	89.7	n/a	98.1	97.1	96.4	n/a	97.4	96.9	94.4	n/a	93.5	93.2	89.6	n/a	96.5	95.8	91.8
8th	**n/a**	**66.5**	**72.3**	**74.9**	**n/a**	**89.2**	**91.1**	**83.6**	**n/a**	**96.5**	**96.4**	**95.2**	**n/a**	**88.3**	**90.1**	**87.7**	**n/a**	**82.8**	**82.0**	**80.8**	**n/a**	**97.4**	**96.6**	**89.4**
10th	n/a	45.1	52.7	61.8	n/a	78.4	81.9	78.6	n/a	94.1	92.8	92.9	n/a	68.7	71.8	75.7	n/a	74.2	76.9	77.5	n/a	95.3	93.7	86.9
12th	**29.3**	**32.5**	**42.9**	**50.7**	**50.9**	**65.9**	**66.1**	**69.1**	**77.1**	**82.9**	**88.1**	**90.7**	**30.7**	**58.5**	**50.4**	**61.3**	**63.4**	**74.6**	**77.4**	**77.4**	**90.8**	**95.1**	**93.2**	**85.1**
All	29.3	64.5	65.3	67.8	50.9	87.3	85.0	79.9	77.1	95.7	94.0	93.7	30.7	84.0	79.3	79.1	63.4	82.7	82.9	81.0	90.8	96.4	94.9	88.1

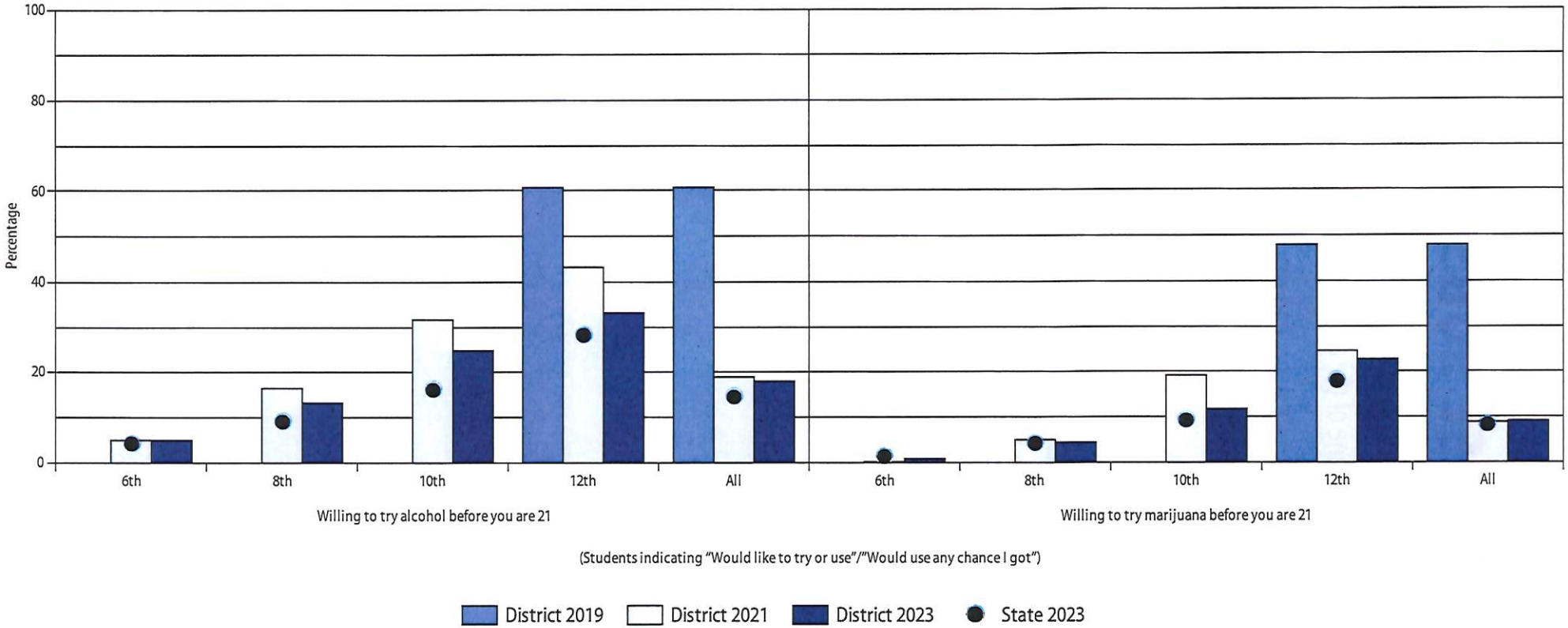
WILLINGNESS TO USE SUBSTANCES

Along with perceptions of substance use risk and level of substance use disapproval, student willingness to try or use substances is one of the attitudes that facilitates substance use.

18.1% of students showed a willingness to use alcohol (indicating they "would like to try it or use it" or "would use it any chance I got"), compared to 14.6% at the state level.

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Willingness to use	*How willing are you to try the drugs listed below before you are 21? These are not questions about current or past use of these drugs.* *ALCOHOL (beer, wine, coolers, hard liquor such as vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum)* *MARIJUANA (pot, hash, cannabis, weed, THC)*

Willingness to use substances
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	Willing to try alcohol				Willing to try marijuana			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	5.0	4.9	4.2	n/a	0.3	0.8	1.3
8th	**n/a**	**16.6**	**13.3**	**9.1**	**n/a**	**5.0**	**4.4**	**4.2**
10th	n/a	31.6	24.9	16.2	n/a	19.3	11.9	9.3
12th	**60.9**	**43.2**	**33.2**	**28.2**	**47.9**	**24.6**	**22.8**	**18.0**
All	60.9	18.9	18.1	14.6	47.9	8.9	9.2	8.3

SOURCES OF SUBSTANCES USED

Questions about how and where substances were obtained help suggest new approaches for preventing substance use.

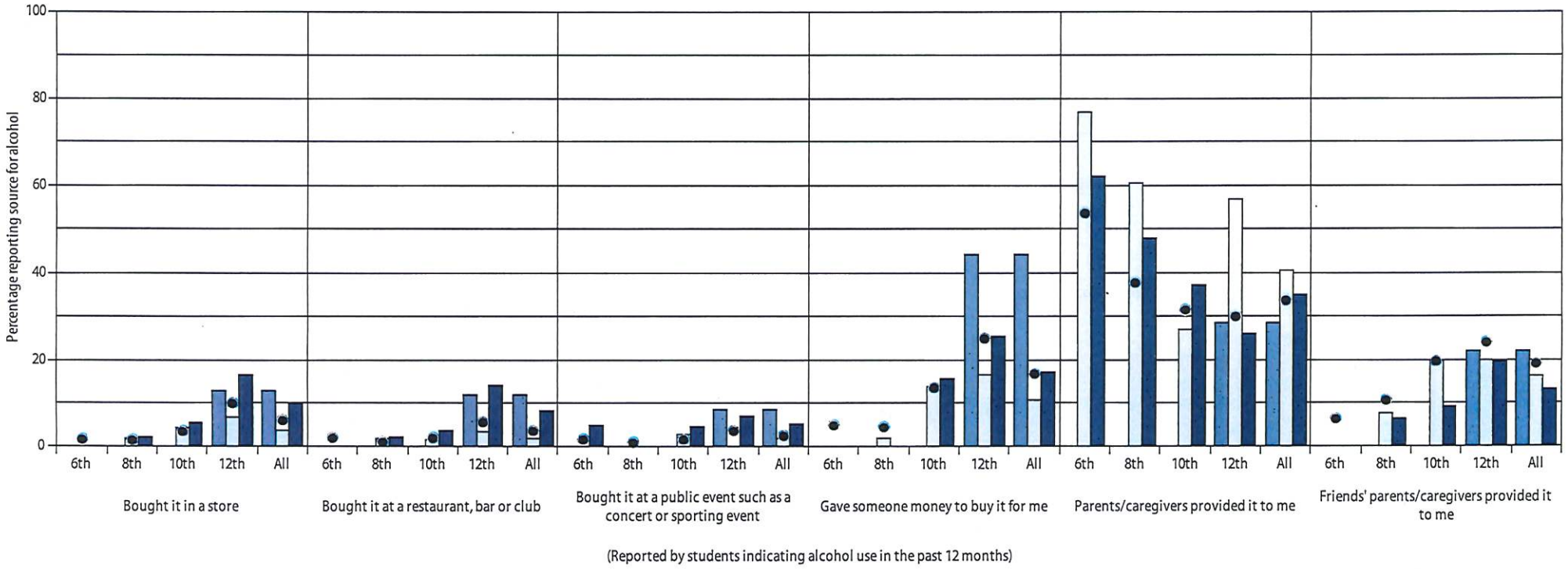
Of the students who reported drinking alcohol in the past year, 34.9% of students chose "Parents/caregivers provided it to me" as their most frequent source/method of obtaining the alcohol they used, compared to 33.6% at the state level. The next most frequently reported source of alcohol was "Friends, brothers, or sisters under 21 provided it to me" with 28.3% of students who used alcohol in the past year indicating this method, compared to 20.3% at the state level. The third most frequently reported source was "Friends, brothers, or sisters over 21 provided it to me" with 25.0% of students who used alcohol in the past year indicating this method, compared to 24.1% at the state level.

66.7% of students who used prescription drugs not prescribed in the past year chose "a friend or family member gave them to me" as their most frequent source/method of obtaining the prescription drugs they used without a doctor's prescription, compared to 37.0% at the state level. The next most frequently reported source of prescription drugs was "took them from a family member living in my home" with 41.7% of students who used prescription drugs not prescribed in the past year indicating this method, compared to 47.2% at the state level.

51.4% of students who used electronic vapor products in the past year chose "A friend gave it to me for free" as their most frequent source/method of obtaining the electronic vapor product, compared to 43.1% at the state level. The next most frequently reported source of electronic vapor product was "I bought it from a store" with 24.3% of students who used electronic vapor products in the past year indicating this method, compared to 17.1% at the state level.

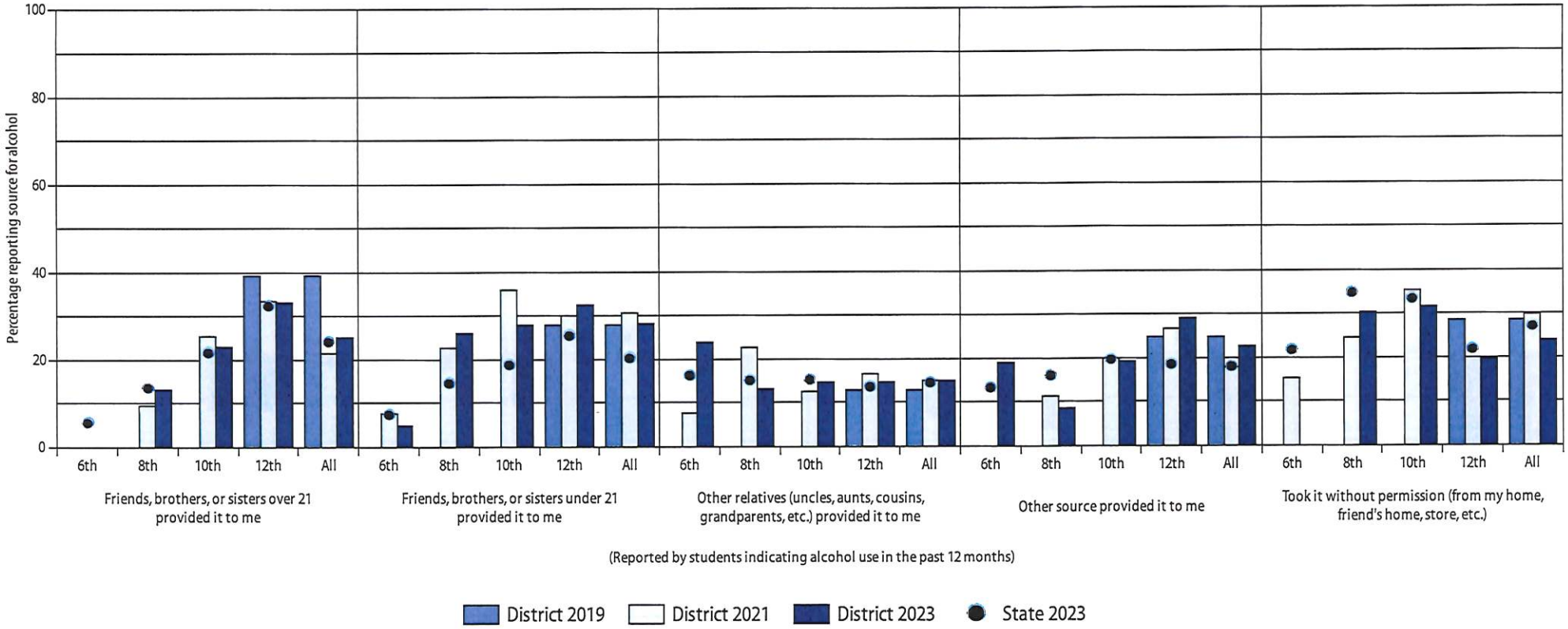
PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Sources of alcohol	*If you drank alcohol during the past 12 months, how did you usually get it? (Mark all that apply.)* *Did not drink any alcohol* *Bought it in a store* *Bought it at a restaurant, bar, or club* *Bought it at a public event such as a concert or sporting event* *Gave someone money to buy it for me* *Parents/caregivers provided it to me* *Friends' parents/caregivers provided it to me* *Friends, brothers, or sisters over 21 provided it to me* *Friends, brothers, or sisters under 21 provided it to me* *Other relatives (uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents, etc.) provided it to me* *Other source provided it to me* *Took without permission, stole, or found it (my home, friend's home, store, etc.)*
Sources of prescription drugs	*If you used any prescription drugs without a prescription from your doctor during the last 12 months, how did you get them? (Mark all that apply.)* *I did not take any prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription.* *Took them from a family member living in my home.* *Took them from other relatives not living in my home.* *Took them from someone not related to me.* *A friend or family member gave them to me.* *Bought them from someone.* *Ordered them over the Internet.*
Sources of vape	*If you used an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette in the past year, how did you get it? (Mark all that apply.)* *Did not use electronic vapor product* *A friend gave it to me for free* *A family member gave it to me for free* *I bought it from someone under 21* *I bought it from someone over 21* *I bought it from a store* *I bought it on the internet* *I gave someone money to buy it for me* *I took it from someone* *Other source not listed here*

Sources of alcohol by students who reported alcohol use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



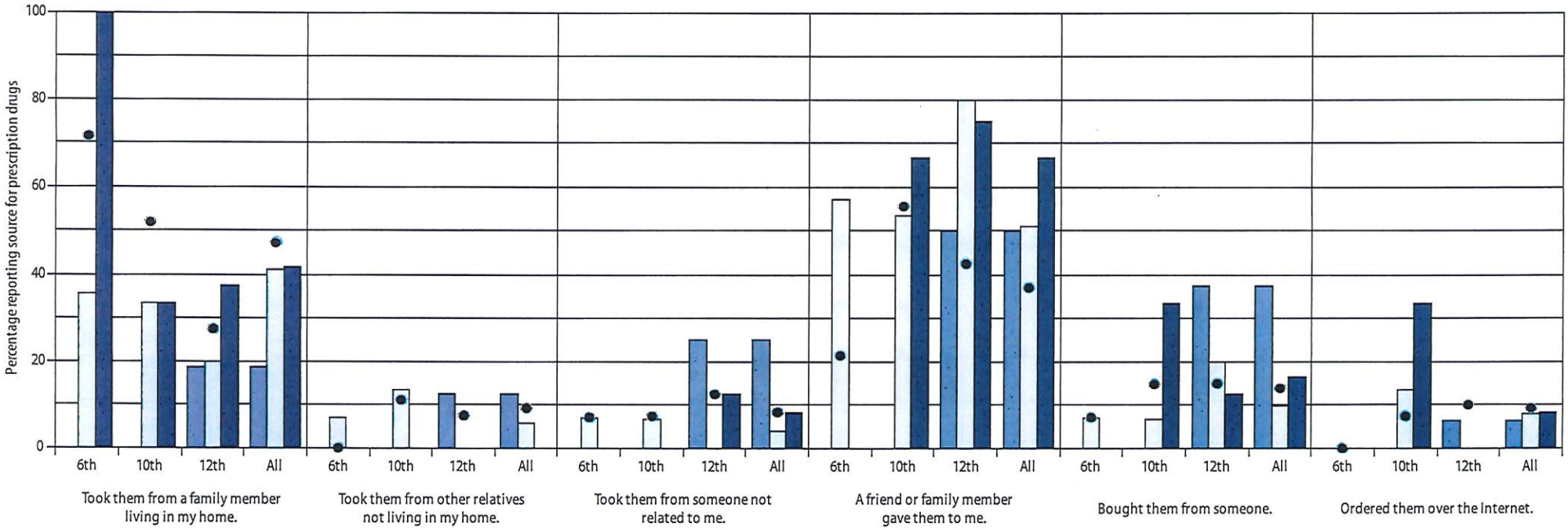
Grade	Bought it in a store				Bought it at a restaurant, bar or club				Bought it at a public event such as a concert or sporting event				Gave someone money to buy it for me				Parents/caregivers provided it to me				Friends' parents/caregivers provided it to me			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	0.0	0.0	1.5	n/a	0.0	0.0	1.8	n/a	0.0	4.8	1.5	n/a	0.0	0.0	4.8	n/a	76.9	61.9	53.5	n/a	0.0	0.0	6.3
8th	**n/a**	**1.9**	**2.2**	**1.3**	**n/a**	**1.9**	**2.2**	**0.9**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.8**	**n/a**	**1.9**	**0.0**	**4.3**	**n/a**	**60.4**	**47.8**	**37.6**	**n/a**	**7.5**	**6.5**	**10.6**
10th	n/a	4.1	5.6	3.4	n/a	1.4	3.7	1.9	n/a	2.8	4.6	1.5	n/a	13.8	15.7	13.5	n/a	26.9	37.0	31.4	n/a	20.0	9.3	19.7
12th	**12.9**	**6.7**	**16.6**	**9.9**	**11.8**	**3.3**	**14.0**	**5.5**	**8.6**	**0.0**	**7.0**	**3.5**	**44.1**	**16.7**	**25.5**	**24.9**	**28.5**	**56.7**	**26.1**	**29.9**	**22.0**	**20.0**	**19.7**	**24.0**
All	12.9	3.7	9.9	6.0	11.8	1.7	8.1	3.5	8.6	1.7	5.1	2.3	44.1	10.8	17.2	16.7	28.5	40.7	34.9	33.6	22.0	16.2	13.3	19.1

Sources of alcohol by students who reported alcohol use (cont'd)
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	Friends, brothers, or sisters over 21 provided it to me				Friends, brothers, or sisters under 21 provided it to me				Other relatives (uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents, etc.) provided it to me				Other source provided it to me				Took it without permission (from my home, friend's home, store, etc.)			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	0.0	0.0	5.5	n/a	7.7	4.8	7.4	n/a	7.7	23.8	16.2	n/a	0.0	19.0	13.3	n/a	15.4	0.0	21.8
8th	**n/a**	**9.4**	**13.0**	**13.6**	**n/a**	**22.6**	**26.1**	**14.6**	**n/a**	**22.6**	**13.0**	**15.1**	**n/a**	**11.3**	**8.7**	**16.1**	**n/a**	**24.5**	**30.4**	**34.8**
10th	n/a	25.5	23.1	21.7	n/a	35.9	27.8	18.7	n/a	12.4	14.8	15.3	n/a	20.0	19.4	19.7	n/a	35.2	31.5	33.4
12th	**39.2**	**33.3**	**33.1**	**32.4**	**28.0**	**30.0**	**32.5**	**25.4**	**12.9**	**16.7**	**14.6**	**13.6**	**24.7**	**26.7**	**29.3**	**18.5**	**28.5**	**20.0**	**19.7**	**21.8**
All	39.2	21.6	25.0	24.1	28.0	30.7	28.3	20.3	12.9	14.9	15.1	14.5	24.7	17.8	22.6	18.0	28.5	29.9	23.8	27.1

Sources of prescription drugs by students who reported prescription drug use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

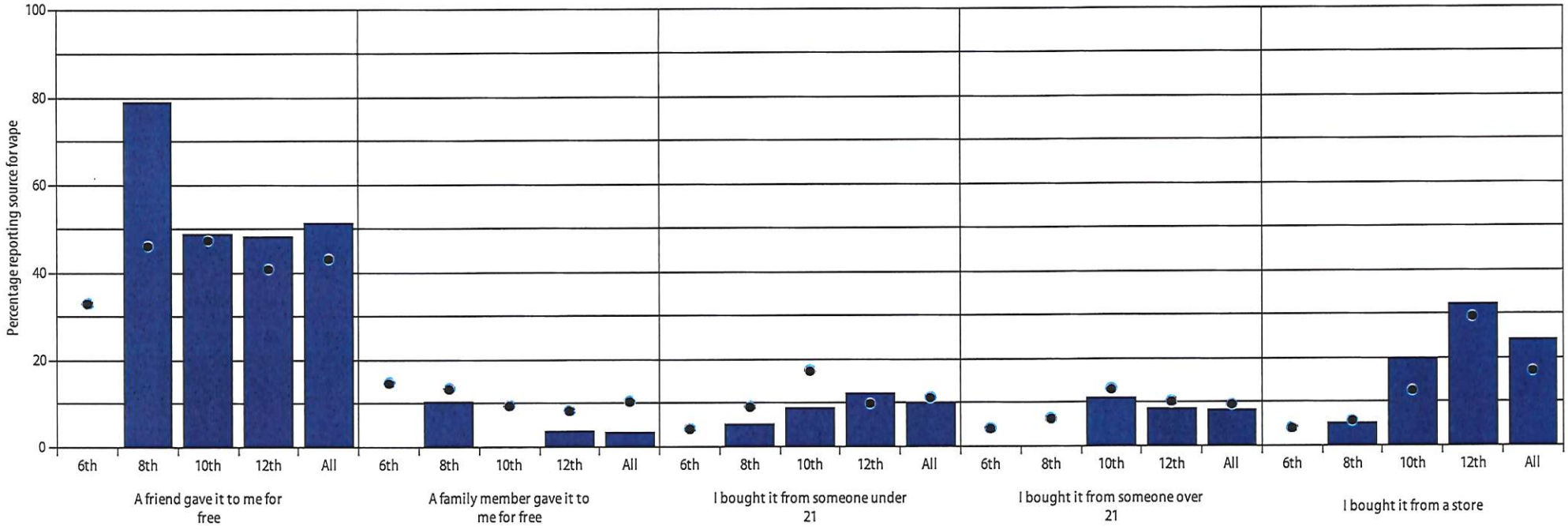


(Reported by students indicating medically unapproved prescription drug use in the past 12 months)

District 2019 | District 2021 | District 2023 | State 2023

Grade	Took them from a family member living in my home.				Took them from other relatives not living in my home.				Took them from someone not related to me.				A friend or family member gave them to me.				Bought them from someone.				Ordered them over the Internet.			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	35.7	100.0	71.4	n/a	7.1	0.0	0.0	n/a	7.1	0.0	7.1	n/a	57.1	0.0	21.4	n/a	7.1	0.0	7.1	n/a	0.0	0.0	0.0
10th	**n/a**	**33.3**	**33.3**	**51.9**	**n/a**	**13.3**	**0.0**	**11.1**	**n/a**	**6.7**	**0.0**	**7.4**	**n/a**	**53.3**	**66.7**	**55.6**	**n/a**	**6.7**	**33.3**	**14.8**	**n/a**	**13.3**	**33.3**	**7.4**
12th	18.8	20.0	37.5	27.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	7.5	25.0	0.0	12.5	12.5	50.0	80.0	75.0	42.5	37.5	20.0	12.5	15.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	10.0
All	**18.8**	**41.2**	**41.7**	**47.2**	**12.5**	**5.9**	**0.0**	**9.3**	**25.0**	**3.9**	**8.3**	**8.3**	**50.0**	**51.0**	**66.7**	**37.0**	**37.5**	**9.8**	**16.7**	**13.9**	**6.3**	**7.8**	**8.3**	**9.3**

Sources of vape by students who reported vape use
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

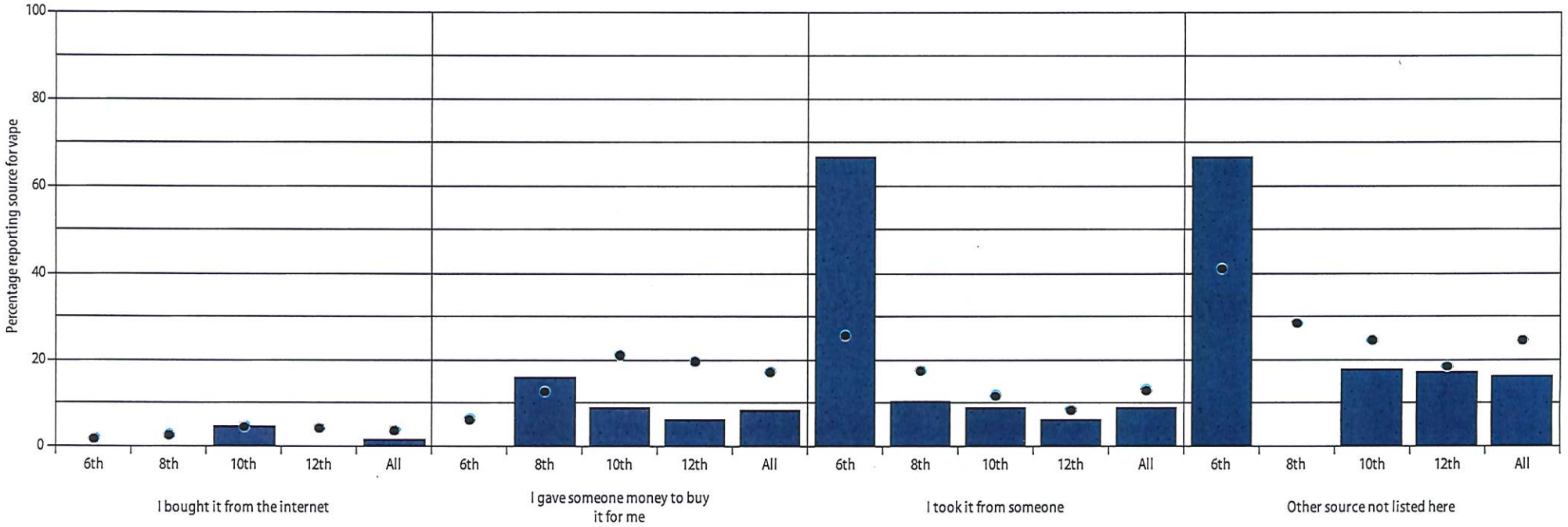


(Reported by students indicating electronic vapor product use in the past 12 months)

District 2023 State 2023

	A friend gave it to me for free				A family member gave it to me for free				I bought it from someone under 21				I bought it from someone over 21				I bought it from a store			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	n/a	0.0	32.9	n/a	n/a	0.0	14.6	n/a	n/a	0.0	4.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	4.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	4.1
8th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**78.9**	**46.1**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**10.5**	**13.3**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**5.3**	**9.1**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0.0**	**6.3**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**5.3**	**5.7**
10th	n/a	n/a	48.9	47.4	n/a	n/a	0.0	9.4	n/a	n/a	8.9	17.3	n/a	n/a	11.1	13.0	n/a	n/a	20.0	12.6
12th	**n/a**	**n/a**	**48.1**	**40.9**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**3.7**	**8.3**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**12.3**	**9.9**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**8.6**	**10.2**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**32.1**	**29.4**
All	n/a	n/a	51.4	43.1	n/a	n/a	3.4	10.3	n/a	n/a	10.1	11.2	n/a	n/a	8.1	9.5	n/a	n/a	24.3	17.1

Sources of vape by students who reported vape use (cont'd)
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



(Reported by students indicating eltctronic vapor product use in the past 12 months)

District 2023 ● State 2023

	I bought it from the internet				I gave someone money to buy it for me				I took it from someone				Other source not listed here			
Grade	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	n/a	0.0	1.6	n/a	n/a	0.0	6.1	n/a	n/a	66.7	25.6	n/a	n/a	66.7	41.1
8th	n/a	n/a	0.0	2.5	n/a	n/a	15.8	12.7	n/a	n/a	10.5	17.5	n/a	n/a	0.0	28.4
10th	n/a	n/a	4.4	4.4	n/a	n/a	8.9	21.1	n/a	n/a	8.9	11.6	n/a	n/a	17.8	24.5
12th	n/a	n/a	0.0	4.1	n/a	n/a	6.2	19.6	n/a	n/a	6.2	8.3	n/a	n/a	17.3	18.5
All	n/a	n/a	1.4	3.6	n/a	n/a	8.1	17.1	n/a	n/a	8.8	12.9	n/a	n/a	16.2	24.5

OTHER INDICATORS OF RISK

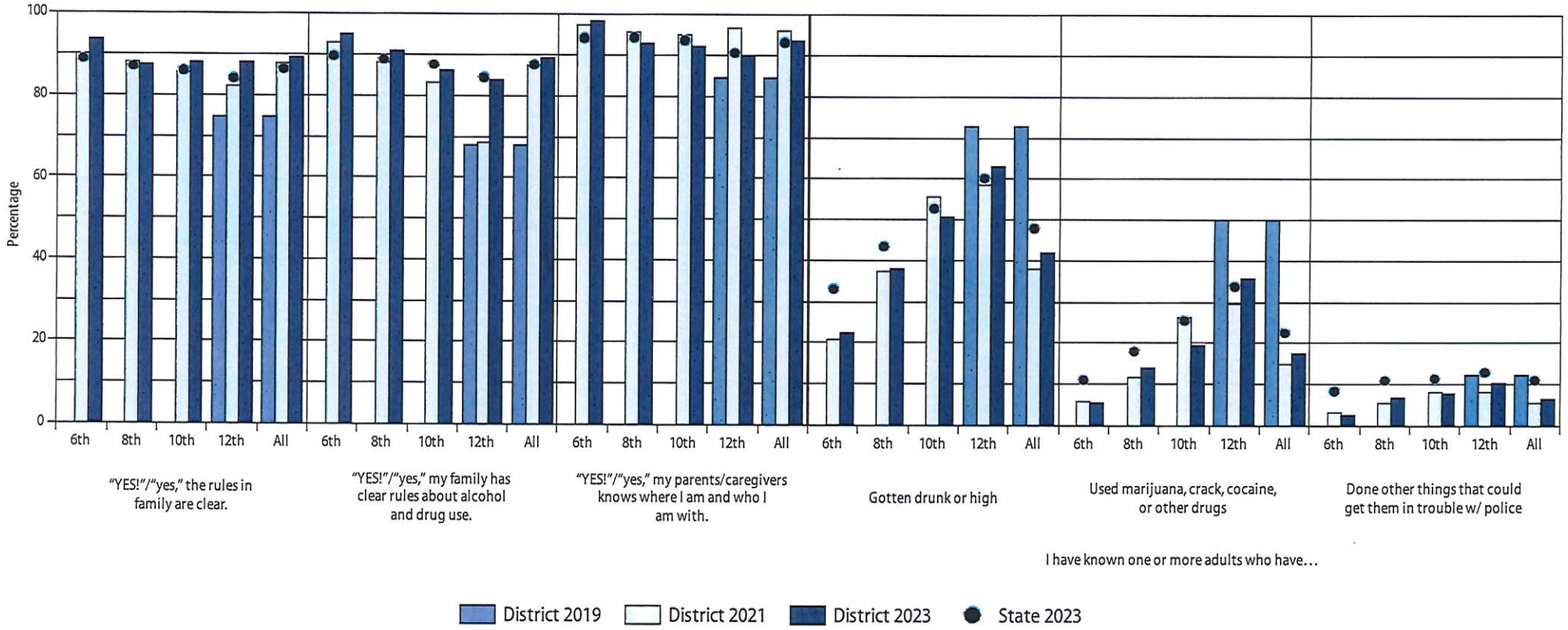
Family rules, parental/caregiver monitoring, and the actions of adults in youth's lives can influence their risk of using substances or engaging in other concerning behaviors.

89.6% of students in this district say the rules in their family are clear (compared to 86.4% at the state level), with 89.5% reporting their families have clear rules about drugs and alcohol (state rate: 87.6%). When the students are not home, 93.8% of students stated their parents know where they are and who they are with.

Adult actions influence youth. Students reported they have personally known someone over 21 who has: gotten high or drunk (41.9%, compared to 47.9% at the state level); used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs (17.4%, compared to 22.5% at the state level); or has done other things that could get them in trouble with the police (6.5%, compared to 11.0% at the state level).

PAYS 2023 category:	*PAYS 2023 question text:*
Rules and antisocial behavior	*My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.*
	When I am not at home, one of my parents knows where I am and who I am with.
	The rules in my family are clear.
	About how many adults (over 21) have you known personally who in the past 12 months have:
	Gotten drunk or high?
	Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs?
	Done other things that could get them in trouble with the police, like stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging or assaulting others, etc.?

Other indicators of risk
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	"YES!"/"yes," the rules in family are clear.				"YES!"/"yes," my family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.				"YES!"/"yes," my parents/caregivers knows where I am and who I am with.				I have known one or more adults who have... Gotten drunk or high				Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs				Done other things that could get them in trouble w/ police			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	90.2	93.8	88.9	n/a	93.0	95.1	89.8	n/a	97.4	98.4	94.2	n/a	20.6	22.5	33.0	n/a	6.0	5.4	11.0	n/a	3.1	2.5	8.3
8th	**n/a**	**88.0**	**87.6**	**87.0**	**n/a**	**88.2**	**90.9**	**88.9**	**n/a**	**95.7**	**92.9**	**94.4**	**n/a**	**37.3**	**37.9**	**43.4**	**n/a**	**11.6**	**13.9**	**18.0**	**n/a**	**5.3**	**6.8**	**11.0**
10th	n/a	85.6	88.0	86.0	n/a	83.3	86.3	87.6	n/a	94.9	92.5	93.7	n/a	55.6	50.6	52.8	n/a	26.4	19.4	25.6	n/a	8.1	7.7	11.4
12th	**74.9**	**82.2**	**88.1**	**84.1**	**67.9**	**68.6**	**83.9**	**84.4**	**84.6**	**96.7**	**90.0**	**90.7**	**72.8**	**58.6**	**63.0**	**60.1**	**50.2**	**29.4**	**35.8**	**33.7**	**12.2**	**8.1**	**10.2**	**13.0**
All	74.9	87.7	89.6	86.4	67.9	87.4	89.5	87.6	84.6	96.1	93.8	93.2	72.8	38.0	41.9	47.9	50.2	14.8	17.4	22.5	12.2	5.5	6.5	11.0

7. RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Prevention is a science. The Risk and Protective Factor Model of Prevention is a proven effective way of reducing substance use and its related consequences.

This model is based on the simple premise that to prevent a problem from happening, we need to identify the factors that increase the risk of that problem developing and then find ways to reduce the risks. Just as medical researchers have found risk factors for heart disease such as diets high in fat, lack of exercise, and smoking, a team of researchers at the University of Washington have defined a set of risk factors for youth problem behaviors.

Known to predict increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, school dropout, and violent behaviors among youth, risk factors are characteristics of community, family, and school environments, and of students and their peer groups. For example, children who live in families with high levels of conflict are more likely to become involved in delinquency and drug use than children who live in families characterized by lower levels of conflict.

Protective factors exert a positive influence and buffer against the negative influence of risk, thus reducing the likelihood that adolescents will engage in problem behaviors.

Bonding confers a protective influence only when there is a positive climate in the bonded community. Peers and adults in these neighborhoods, families, and schools must communicate healthy values and set clear standards for behavior in order to ensure a protective effect. For example, strong bonds to antisocial peers would not be likely to reinforce positive behavior.

Risk factors are conditions that increase the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in drug use, delinquency, school dropout, and/or violence.

		Substance Use	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence	Depression & Anxiety
Community	Low Neighborhood Attachment	✓	✓			✓	
	Perceived Availability of Drugs	✓				✓	
	Perceived Availability of Handguns		✓			✓	
	Community Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use, Firearms and Crime	✓	✓			✓	
Family	Family History of Antisocial Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Poor Family Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Family Conflict	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drugs and Antisocial Behavior	✓	✓			✓	
School	Academic Failure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Low Commitment to School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Peer / Individual	Rebelliousness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Gang Involvement	✓	✓			✓	
	Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior and Drug Use	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Friend's Use of Drugs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Interaction with Antisocial Peers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Depressive Symptoms	✓			✓		✓

Protective factors identified through research include strong bonding to community, family, school, and peers, and healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior. Protective bonding depends on three conditions:

- Opportunities for young people to actively contribute
- Skills to be able to successfully contribute
- Consistent recognition or reinforcement for their efforts and accomplishments

Research on risk and protective factors has important implications for children's academic success, positive youth development, and prevention of health and behavior problems. In order to promote academic success and positive youth development and prevent problem behaviors, it is necessary to address the factors that predict these outcomes. By measuring risk and protective factors in a population, specific risk factors that are elevated and widespread can be identified and targeted by policies, programs, and actions shown to reduce those risk factors and to promote protective factors.

Each risk and protective factor can be linked to specific types of interventions that have been shown to be effective in either reducing risk(s) or enhancing protection(s). The steps outlined here will help your district make key decisions regarding allocation of resources, how and when to address specific needs, and which strategies are most effective and known to produce results.

Protective factors, also known as "assets," are conditions that buffer youth from risk by reducing the impact of the risks or changing the way they respond to risks.

		Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards	Bonding	Opportunities	Skills	Recognition
Community	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓			✓
Family	Family Attachment		✓			
	Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		✓	✓		
	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	✓	✓			✓
School	Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		✓	✓		
	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓			✓
Peer / Individual	Interaction with Prosocial Peers		✓		✓	
	Prosocial Involvement		✓		✓	
	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓			✓
	Belief in the Moral Order	✓				
	Religiosity	✓				

RISK AND PROTECTIVE SCALES DEFINED

To access data at the state and county level for individual risk and protective factor questions, visit www.bach-harrison.com/PAYSWebTool.

Community Domain

Risk Factors

Low Neighborhood Attachment

Low neighborhood bonding is related to higher levels of juvenile crime and drug selling.

A20 I like my neighborhood.

A21 I'd like to get out of my neighborhood.

A22 If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in.

Perceived Availability of Drugs and Handguns

The availability of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other illegal drugs has been related to the use of these substances by adolescents. The availability of handguns has also been related to a higher risk of crime and substance use by adolescents.

A24 How easy would it be for you to get any, if you wanted to get any of the following:

- **a** Beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum)?
- **b** Cigarettes?
- **e** Marijuana?
- **d** A drug like cocaine, LSD, heroin, or amphetamines, how easy would it be for you to get some?
- **c** A handgun?

Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use

Research has shown that legal restrictions on alcohol and tobacco use, such as raising the legal drinking age, restricting smoking in public places, and increased taxation have been followed by decreases in consumption. Moreover, national surveys of high school seniors have shown that shifts in normative attitudes toward drug use have preceded changes in prevalence of use.

A25 If a kid drank some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?

A26 If a kid smoked marijuana in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?

A27 How wrong would most adults (over 21) in your neighborhood think it was for kids your age:

- **a** To drink alcohol?
- **b** To smoke cigarettes?
- **c** To use marijuana?

Protective Factors

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement

Rewards for positive participation in activities help youth bond to the community, thus lowering their risk for substance use.

A17 My neighbors notice when I am doing a good job and let me know.

A18 There are people in my neighborhood who are proud of me when I do something well.

A19 There are people in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best.

Family Domain

Risk Factors

Family History of Antisocial Behavior

When children are raised in a family with a history of problem behaviors (e.g., violence or ATOD use), the children are more likely to engage in these behaviors.

B19 About how many adults (over 21) have you known personally who in the past year have:

- **a** Gotten drunk or high?
- **b** Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs?
- **c** Sold or dealt drugs?
- **d** Done other things that could get them in trouble with the police, like stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging or assaulting others, etc.?

B20 How many of your brothers or sisters ever:

- **a** Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?
- **b** Smoked cigarettes?
- **c** Smoked marijuana?
- **d** Took a handgun to school?
- **e** Been suspended or expelled from school?

B21 Has anyone in your family ever had a severe alcohol or drug problem?

Poor Family Management

Inconsistent and/or unusually harsh or severe punishments inflicted by parents increases the likelihood that their children will be at higher risk for substance use and other problem behaviors. Also, a failure to provide clear expectations and to monitor children's behavior makes it more likely that they will engage in substance use.

B9 When I am not at home, one of my parents/cargivers knows where I am and who I am with.

B10 If you skipped school, would you be caught by your parents/cargivers?

B11 My parents/cargivers ask if I've gotten my homework done.

B12 Would your parents/cargivers know if you did not come home on time?

B13 The rules in my family are clear.

B14 If you carried a handgun without your parent's/caregiver's permission, would you be caught by them?

B18 If you drank some beer, wine, or liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) without your parent's/caregiver's permission, would you be caught by them?

B22 My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.

Family Conflict

Children raised in families high in conflict, whether or not the child is directly involved in the conflict, appear at risk for both delinquency and drug use.

B15 People in my family often insult or yell at each other.

B16 We argue about the same things in my family over and over.

B17 People in my family have serious arguments.

Family Domain (cont'd)

Risk Factors (cont'd)

Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drugs and Antisocial Behavior

In families where parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol, or are tolerant of children's use, children are more likely to use substances during adolescence. The risk is further increased if parents involve children in their own drug (or alcohol) using behavior.

B23 How wrong do your parents/cargivers feel it would be for you to:

- **a** Pick a fight with someone?
- **b** Steal anything worth more than $5
- **c** Draw graffiti, or write things or draw pictures on buildings or other property (without the owner's permission)?
- **d** Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?
- **f** Smoke cigarettes?
- **g** Use marijuana?
- **h** Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?

Protective Factors

Family Attachment

Young people who feel that they are a valued part of their family are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.

B6 Do you feel very close to your parents/cargivers?

B7 Do you share your thoughts and feelings with your parents/cargivers?

Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement

Young people who are exposed to more opportunities to participate meaningfully in the responsibilities and activities of the family are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.

B1 My parents/cargivers ask me what I think before most family decisions affecting me are made.

B2 If I had a personal problem, I could ask my parents/caregivers for help

B3 My parents/cargivers give me lots of chances to do fun things with them.

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement

When parents, siblings, and other family members praise, encourage, and attend to things done well by youths, the youth are less likely to engage in substance use and problem behaviors.

B4 My parents/cargivers notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.

B5 How often do your parents/cargivers tell you they're proud of you for something you've done?

B8 Do you enjoy spending time with your parents/cargivers?

School Domain

Risk Factors

Academic Failure

Academic failure that occurs between late elementary school (grades 4-6) and high school increases the risk of both substance use and delinquency. It appears that the experience of failure itself, for whatever reasons, increases the risk of problem behaviors.

A4 Putting them all together, what were your grades like last year?

A7 Are your school grades better than the grades of most students in your class?

Low Commitment to School

Surveys of high school seniors have shown that the use of drugs is significantly lower among students who expect to attend college than among those who do not. Factors such as liking school, spending time on homework, and perceiving the coursework as relevant are also negatively related to drug use.

A1 During the LAST FOUR WEEKS, how many whole days of school have you missed because you skipped or "cut"?

A2 How important do you think the things you are learning in school are going to be for your later life?

A3 How interesting are most of your courses to you?

A5 How often do you feel that the schoolwork you are assigned is meaningful and important?

A6 Now, thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you:

- **a** Enjoy being in school?
- **b** Hate being in school?
- **c** Try to do your best work in school?

Protective Factors

Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement

When young people are given more opportunities to participate meaningfully in important activities at school, they are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.

A8 Teachers ask me to work on special classroom projects.

A9 There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk one-on-one with a teacher.

A10 I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.

A11 In my school, students have lots of chances to help decide things like class activities and rules.

A12 There are lots of chances for students in my school to get involved in sports, clubs, and other school activities outside of class.

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement

When young people are recognized and rewarded for their contributions at school, they are less likely to be involved in substance use and other problem behaviors.

A13 My teacher(s) notices when I am doing a good job and lets me know about it.

A14 I feel safe at my school.

A15 The school lets my parents/cargivers know when I have done something well.

A16 My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.

Peer-Individual Domain

Risk Factors

Rebelliousness

Young people who do not feel part of society, are not bound by rules, don't believe in trying to be successful or responsible, or who take an active rebellious stance toward society, are at higher risk of substance use. In addition, high tolerance for deviance, a strong need for independence, and normlessness have all been linked with drug use.

C1 I like to see how much I can get away with.

C2 I ignore the rules that get in my way.

C3 I do the opposite of what people tell me, just to get them mad.

Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use

Young people who do not perceive substance use to be risky are far more likely to engage in substance use.

C13 How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:

- **a** Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) nearly every day?
- **c** Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?
- **d** Try marijuana once or twice?
- **f** Use marijuana regularly?

Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior and Drug Use

During the elementary school years, most children express anti-drug, anti-crime, and pro-social attitudes and have difficulty imagining why people use drugs or engage in antisocial behaviors. However, in middle school, as more youth are exposed to others who use drugs and engage in antisocial behavior, their attitudes often shift toward greater acceptance of these behaviors. Youth who express positive attitudes toward substance use and antisocial behavior are more likely to engage in a variety of problem behaviors.

C12 How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to:

- **a** Stay away from school all day when their parents think they are at school?
- **b** Take a handgun to school?
- **c** Steal anything worth more than $5?
- **d** Pick a fight with someone?
- **e** Attack someone with the idea of seriously hurting them?
- **f** Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?
- **g** Smoke cigarettes?
- **h** Use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug?
- **i** Use marijuana?
- **j** Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?

Peer-Individual Domain (cont'd)

Risk Factors (cont'd)

Sensation Seeking

Young people who seek out opportunities for dangerous, risky behavior in general are at higher risk for participating in substance use and other problem behaviors.

C11 How many times have you:

- **a** Done what feels good no matter what.
- **b** Done something dangerous because someone dared you to do it.
- **c** Done crazy things even if they are a little dangerous.

Rewards for Antisocial Behavior

Young people who receive rewards for their antisocial behavior are at higher risk for engaging further in antisocial behavior and substance use.

C14 What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you:

- **a** Carried a handgun?
- **b** Began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?
- **c** Smoked cigarettes?
- **d** Used marijuana?

Friends' Use of Drugs

Young people who associate with peers who engage in substance use are much more likely to engage in the same behavior. Peer drug use has consistently been found to be among the strongest predictors of substance use among youth. Even when young people come from well-managed families and do not experience other risk factors, spending time with friends who use substances greatly increases the risk of that problem developing.

C19 Think of up to four of your best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have:

- **f** Tried beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) when their parents didn't know about it?
- **g** Smoked cigarettes?
- **i** Used LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs?
- **j** Used marijuana?

Peer-Individual Domain (cont'd)

Risk Factors (cont'd)

Interaction with Antisocial Peers

Young people who associate with peers who engage in problem behaviors are at higher risk for engaging in antisocial behavior themselves.

C19 Think of up to four of your best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have:

- **a** Been arrested?
- **b** Dropped out of school?
- **c** Stolen or tried to steal a motor vehicle such as a car or motorcycle?
- **d** Been suspended from school?
- **e** Carried a handgun?
- **h** Sold illegal drugs?

Depressive Symptoms

Young people who are depressed are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and are more likely to use substances. Survey research and other studies have shown a link between depression and other youth problem behaviors.

C5 In the past 12 months have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you feel OK sometimes?

C6 Sometimes I think that life is not worth it.

C7 At times I think I am no good at all.

C8 All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure.

Protective Factors

Belief in the Moral Order

Young people who have a belief in what is "right" or "wrong" are less likely to use substances.

C15 I think it is okay to take something without asking as long as you get away with it.

C16 It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight.

C17 I think sometimes it's okay to cheat at school.

C18 It is important to be honest with your parents, even if they become upset or you get punished.

Religiosity

Young people who regularly attend religious services are less likely to engage in problem behaviors.

C10 How often do you attend religious services or activities?

UNDERSTANDING CUT-POINTS

It is important that the reader gain an understanding of the cut-points that are used to create the risk and protective factor scale scores presented in this section, and to understand how to interpret and analyze these results.

What are Cut-Points?

A cut-point is a way to represent the percentage of students whose answers reflect significant risk or protection on a given scale. Statistical analyses are conducted for each scale to determine the point that separates students at risk of engaging in problem behaviors from those not at risk. Similarly, protective cut-points separate students who are buffered against engaging in problem behaviors (due to the protective effects of positive behaviors and interactions) from those who are not. In this way, when you are provided a percentage for a particular scale, you will know that this percentage represents the population of your youth that are either at greater risk or higher level of protection than the national cut-point level. Cut-points also provide a standard for comparisons of risk and protection over time.

The PAYS questionnaire was designed to assess adolescent substance use, antisocial behavior, and the risk and protective factors that predict these adolescent problem behaviors. However, before the percentage of youth at risk or with protection on a given scale could be calculated, a scale value or cut-point needed to be determined that would separate the at-risk group from the group that was not at-risk. Because surveys measuring the risk and protective factors had been given to thousands of youth across the United States through federally funded research projects, it was possible to select two groups of youth, one that was more at-risk for problem behaviors and another group that was less at-risk. A cut-point score was then determined for each risk and protective factor scale that best divided the youth into their appropriate group, more at-risk or less at-risk. The criteria for selecting the more at-risk and the less at-risk groups included academic grades (the more at-risk group received "D" and "F" grades, the less at-risk group received "A" and "B" grades); alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use (the more at-risk group had more regular use, the less at-risk group had no drug use and use of alcohol or tobacco on only a few occasions); and antisocial behavior (the more at-risk group had two or more serious delinquent acts in the past year, the less at-risk group had no serious delinquent acts).

How to use Cut-Points

The scale cut-points that were determined to best classify youth into the more at-risk and less at-risk groups have remained constant and are used to produce the profiles in this report. Because the cut-points for each scale will remain fixed, the percentage of youth above

the cut-point on each of the risk and protective factor scales provides a method for evaluating the progress of prevention programs over time. For example, if the percentage of youth at risk for family conflict in a community prior to implementing a community-wide family/parenting program was 60% and then decreased to 50% one year after the program was implemented, the program could be viewed as helping to reduce family conflict.

How does using Cut-Points affect my data?

Risk and Protective Factor data presented in this report use the scale cut-points discussed above. Instead of the percentile scores used prior to 2013, percentage of youth at-risk and with protection are presented in the report. For example:

- If your Community Laws and Norms Favorable toward Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime risk factor scale for 8th graders is at 35%, this means that 35% of 8th graders are at risk for engaging in problem behaviors due to Community Laws and Norms Favorable toward Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime.
- If your School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement protective factor scale is at 60% for your 10th graders, the interpretation of this is that 60% of your 10th graders are protected against engaging in problem behaviors due to School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement.

What is the Bach Harrison Norm and how do I use it?

The Bach Harrison Norm was developed by Bach Harrison L.L.C. to provide states and communities with the ability to compare their results on risk, protection, and antisocial measures with more national results (see page 11 for more information on BH Norm development).

Information about other students in the state and the nation can be helpful in determining the seriousness of a given level of problem behavior in your district. Scanning across the charts, it is important to observe the factors that differ the most from the Bach Harrison Norm. This is the first step in identifying the levels of risk and protection that are higher or lower than the national sample.

The risk factors that are higher than the Bach Harrison Norm and the protective factors that are lower than the Bach Harrison Norm are probably the factors that your district should consider including in prevention planning programs. The Bach Harrison Norm is especially helpful when reviewing scales with a small percentage of youth at-risk such as the Rebelliousness scale. For example, even though a small percentage of youth are at-risk within this scale, if you notice that the percentage at risk on your Rebelliousness scale is higher than the Bach Harrison Norm, then that is probably an issue that should be considered for an intervention in your district. As you look through your data, we would encourage you to circle or mark risk scales that are higher than the BH Norm and protective factor scales that are lower than the BH Norm and add these items to your list of possible areas to tackle with prevention efforts.

OVERALL RISK AND PROTECTIVE SCORES

Overall risk and protective factor scales are a good way to review the health of Lower Merion School District. Scales are grouped into four domains: community, family, school, and peer/individual. The charts show the overall percentage of students at risk and with protection for each of the scales.

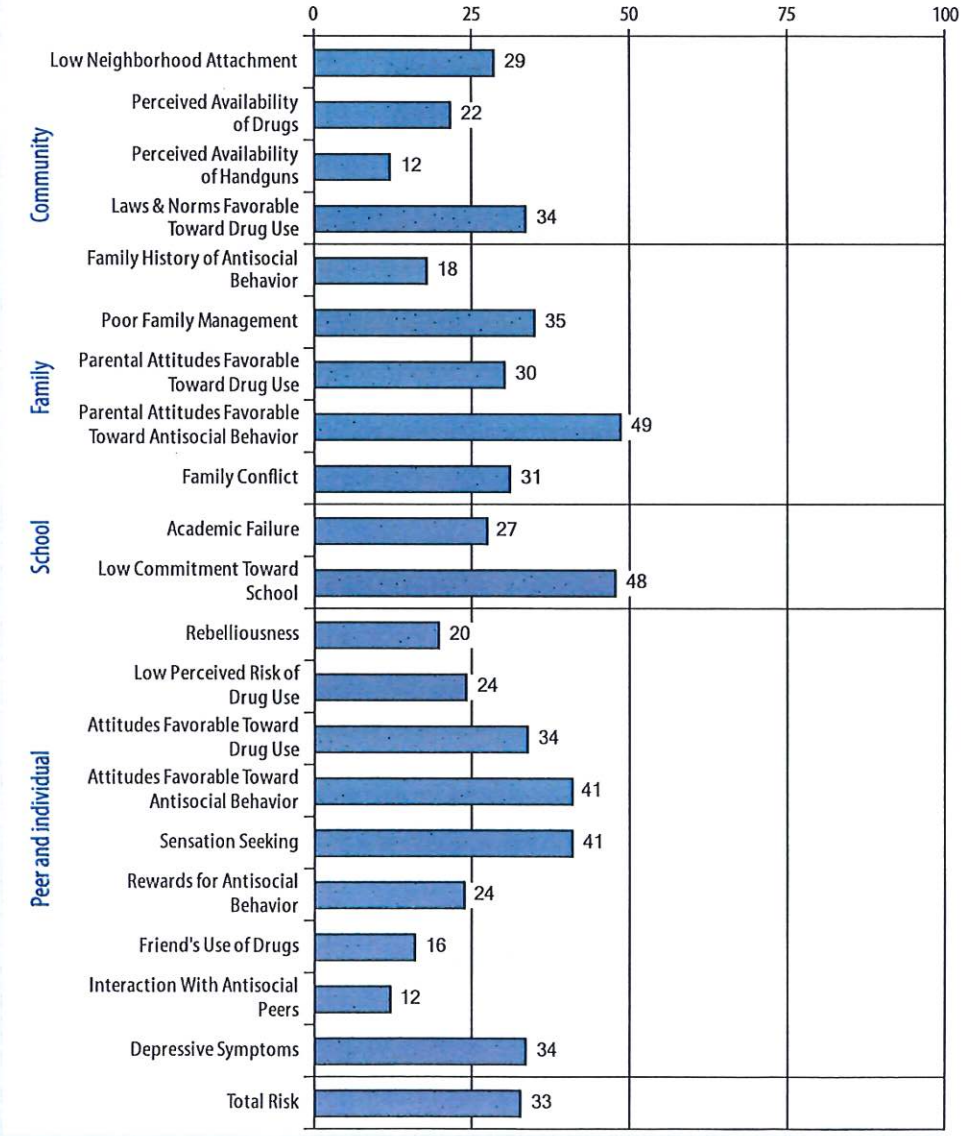
Students in Lower Merion School District reported the three highest overall (all grades combined) scores for the following risk factor scales: Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior (48.7% of students at risk), Low Commitment Toward School (47.8% at risk), and Sensation Seeking (41.0% at risk).

The three lowest overall scale scores were Interaction With Antisocial Peers (12.1% at risk), Perceived Availability of Handguns in the Community (12.3% at risk), and Friend's Use of Drugs (16.1% at risk).

Of the eight protective factor scales, the highest scores in the overall sample of students in this district were reported for Family Attachment (79.0% of students with protection), Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement (74.5% with protection) and Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement (61.5% with protection).

The lowest protective factor scales in the overall sample were Religiosity (31.3% with

Lower Merion School District
Risk Factors, 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

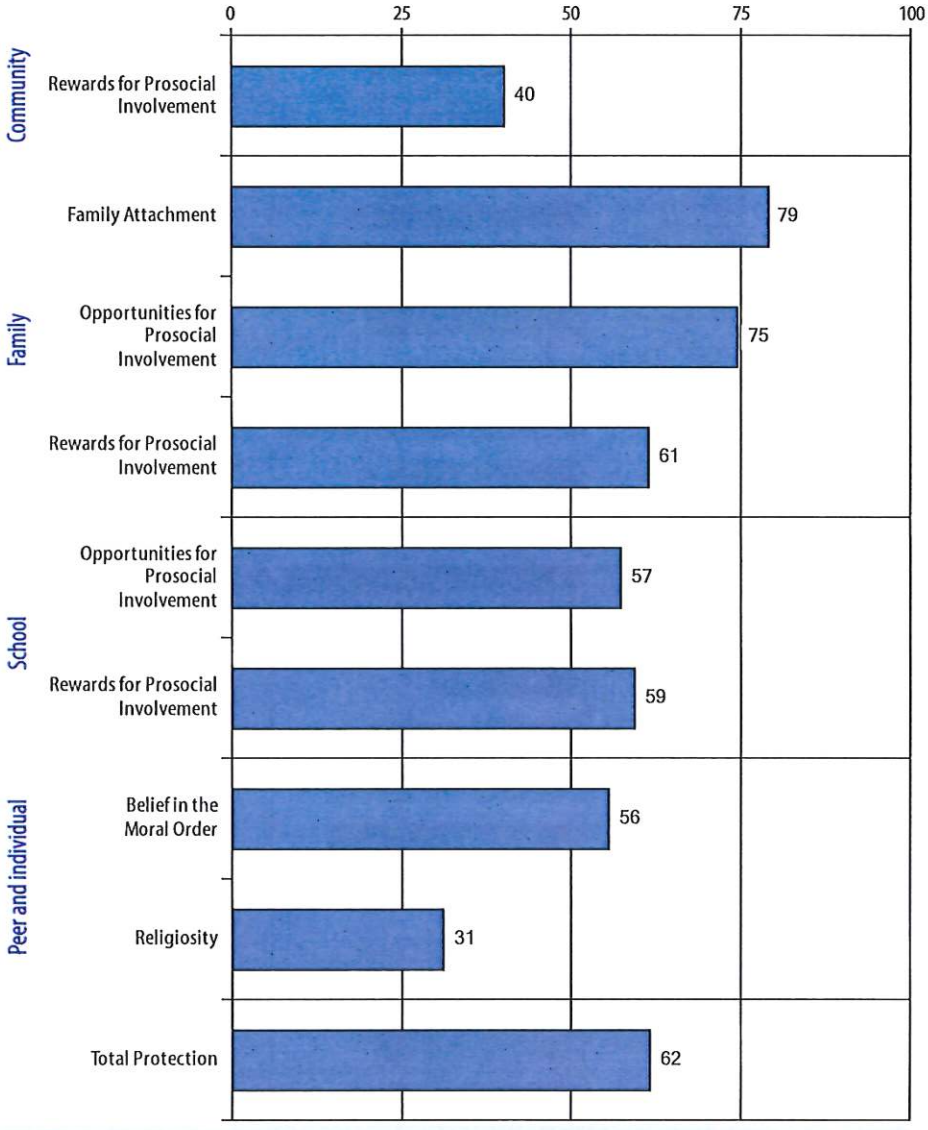


"TOTAL RISK" IS DEFINED AS THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE MORE THAN A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF RISK FACTORS OPERATING IN THEIR LIVES. (6TH AND 8TH GRADES: 5 OR MORE RISK FACTORS, 10TH AND 12TH GRADES: 7 OR MORE RISK FACTORS.)

protection), Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement (40.0% with protection) and Belief In The Moral Order (55.6% with protection).

While policies that target any risk or protective factor could potentially be an important resource for students in this District, focusing prevention planning in high risk and low protection areas could be especially beneficial. Similarly, factors with low risk or high protection represent strengths that this District can build on. In conjunction with a review of community-specific issues and resources, this information can help direct prevention efforts for Lower Merion School District.

Lower Merion School District
Protective Factors, 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

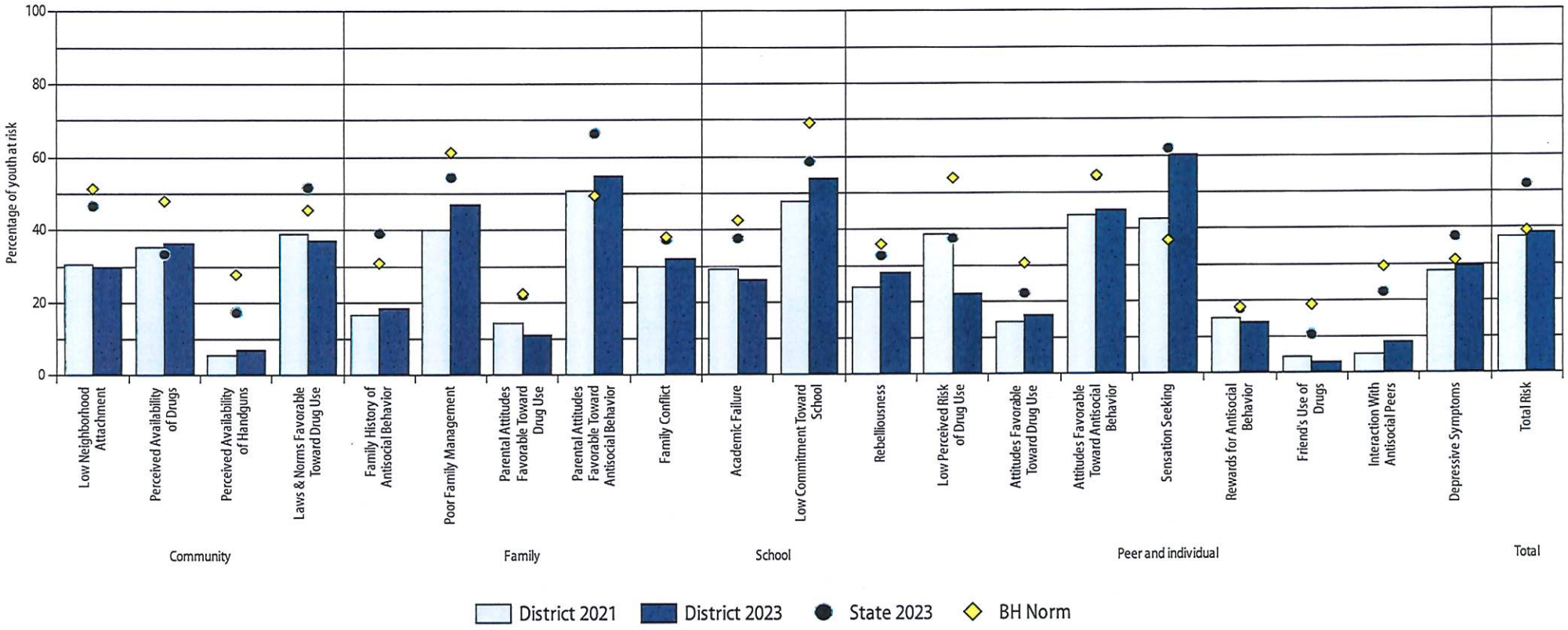


Grade-Level Results

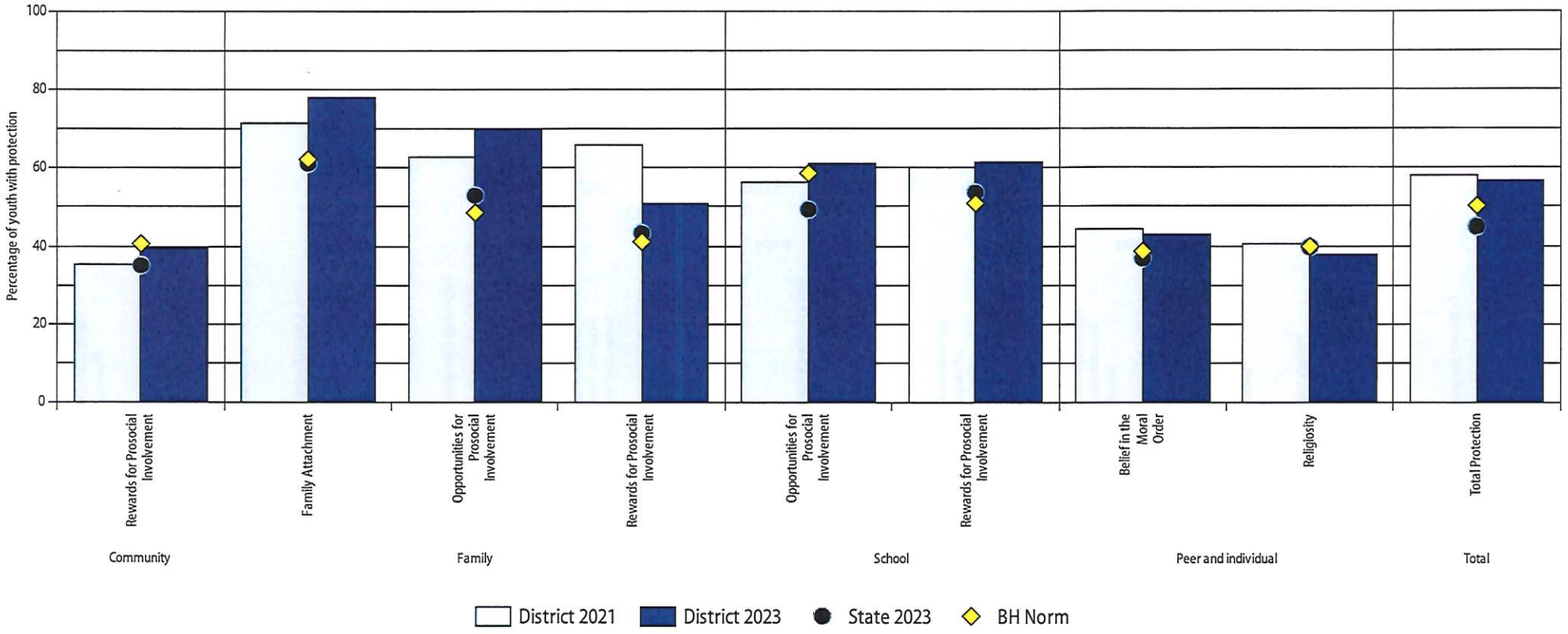
While grouped-grade scale scores provide a general picture of the risk and protective factor profile for this district, they can mask problems within individual grades. The next pages of this report present individual-grade data, where available, for risk and protective factor scale scores. This detailed information provides prevention planners with a snapshot revealing which risk and protective factor scales are of greatest concern by grade. It allows those prevention planners to focus on the most appropriate points in youth development for preventive intervention action—and to target their prevention efforts as precisely as possible.

"TOTAL PROTECTION" IS DEFINED AS THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE MORE THAN A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF PROTECTIVE FACTORS OPERATING IN THEIR LIVES. (6TH, 8TH, 10TH, AND 12TH GRADES: 3 OR MORE PROTECTIVE FACTORS.)

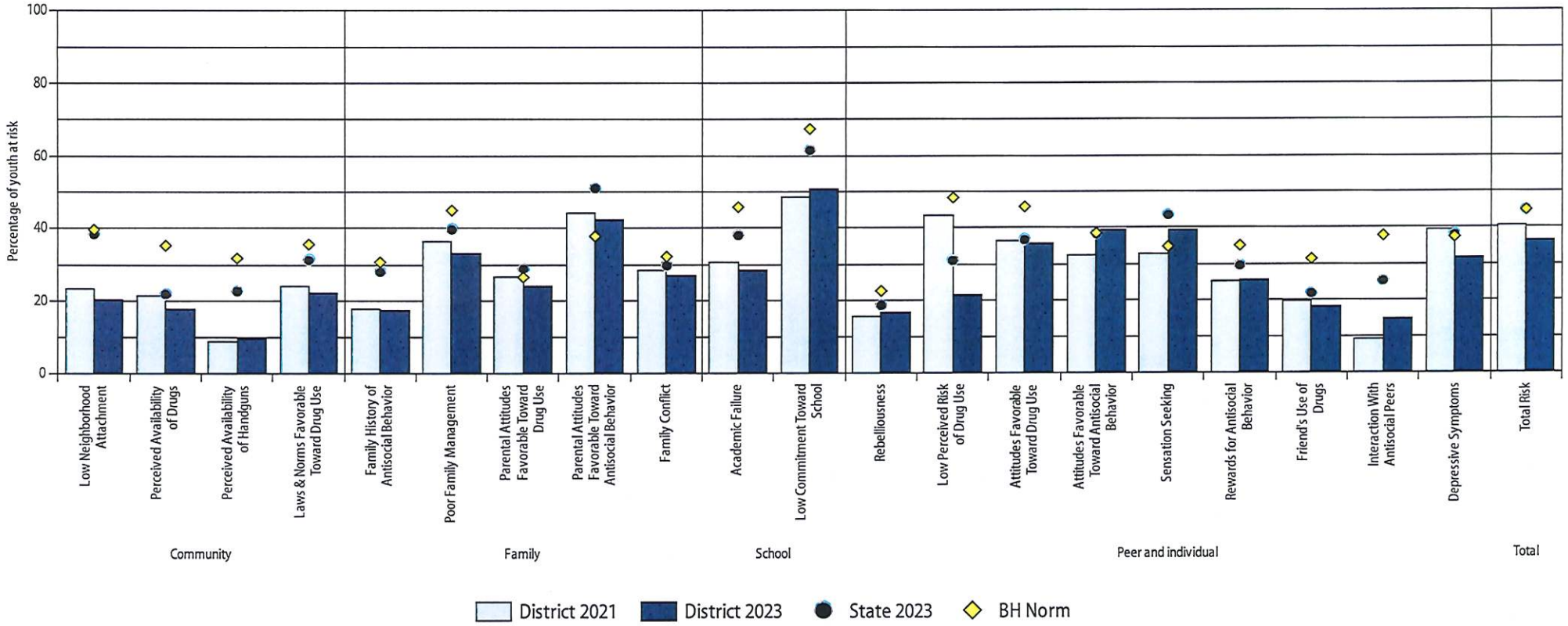
Risk factors, 6th grade
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



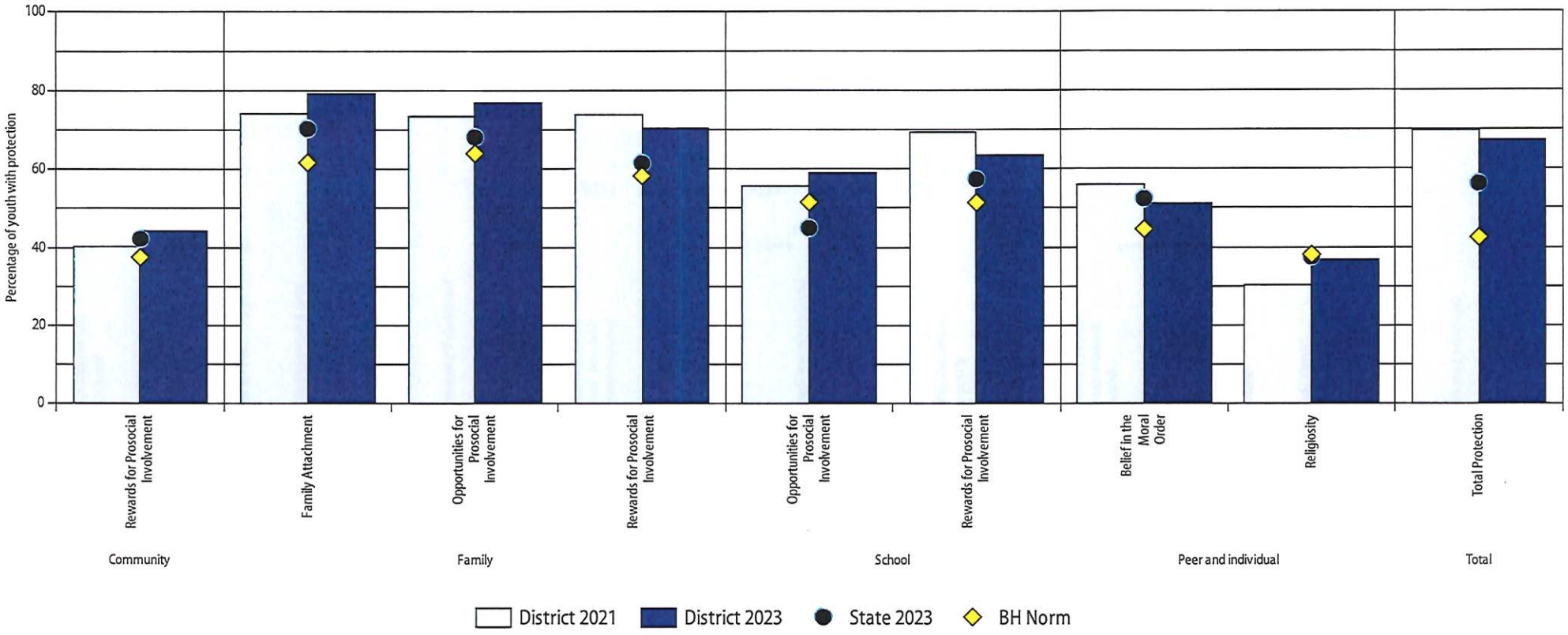
Protective factors, 6th grade
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



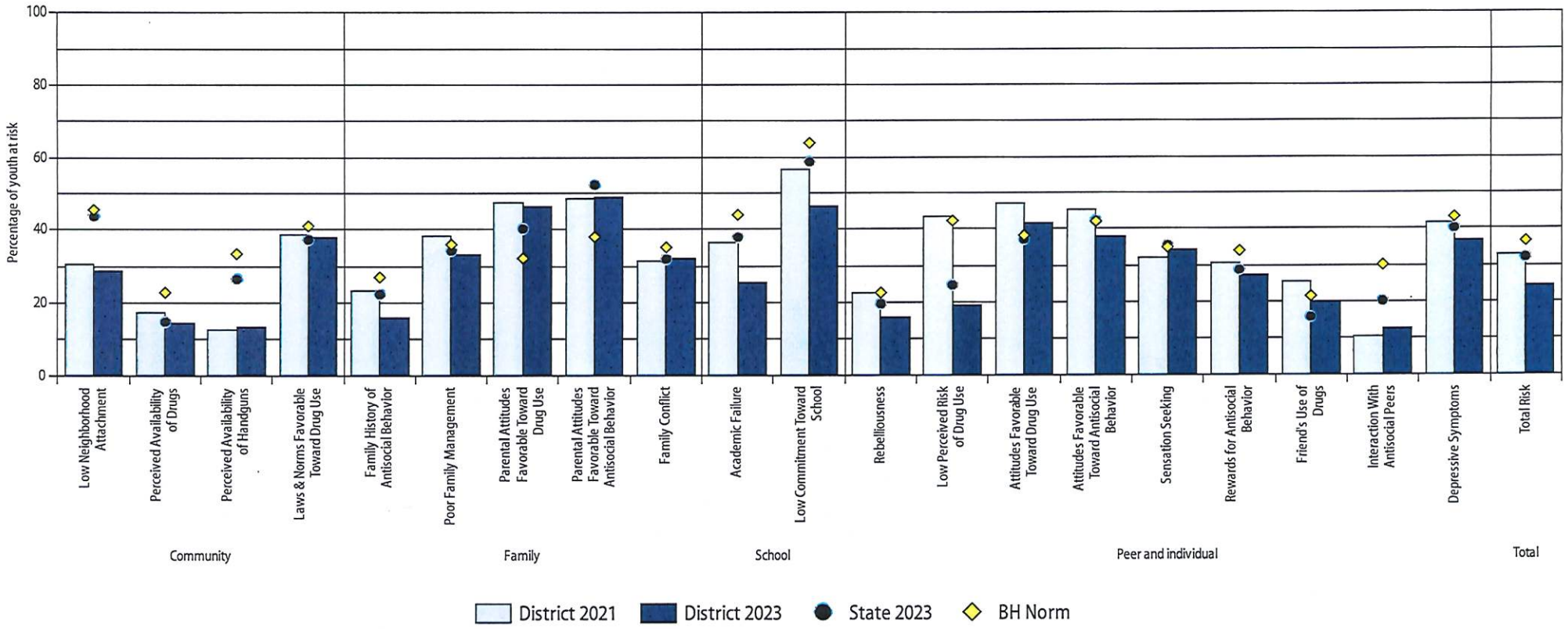
Risk factors, 8th grade
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



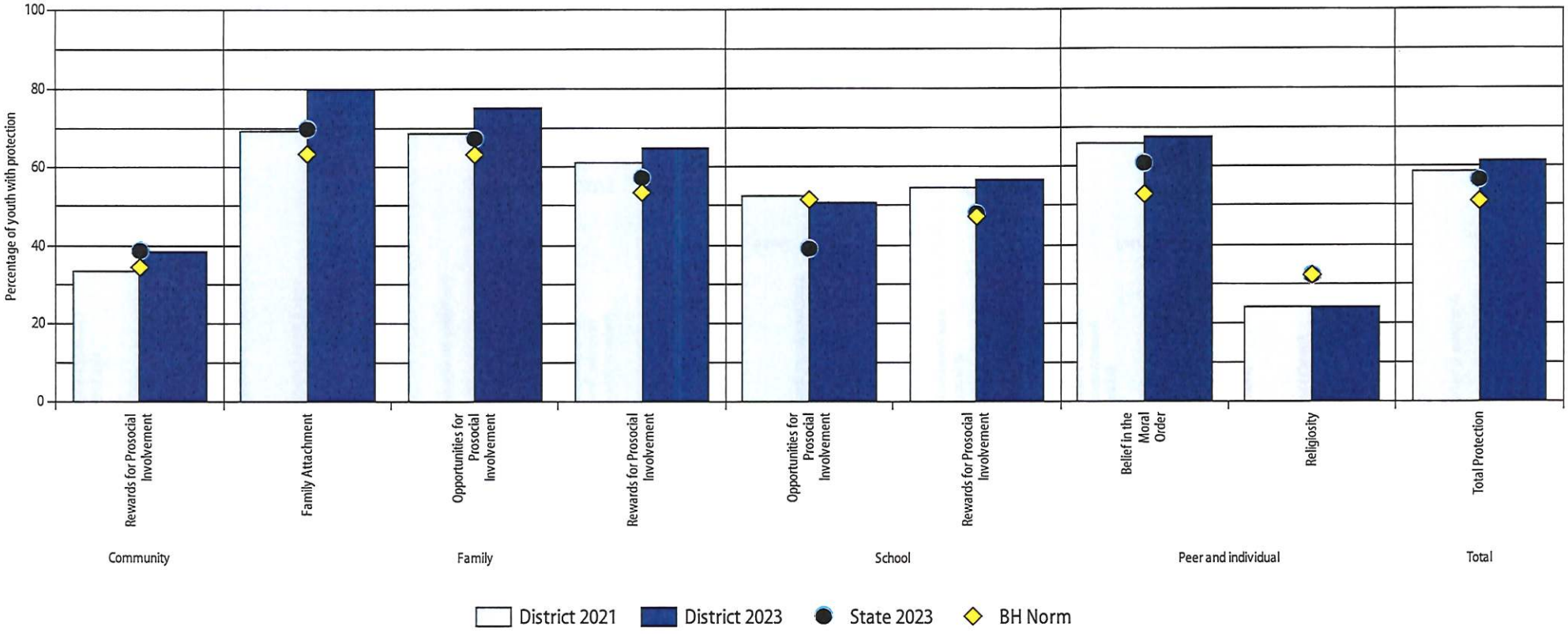
Protective factors, 8th grade
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



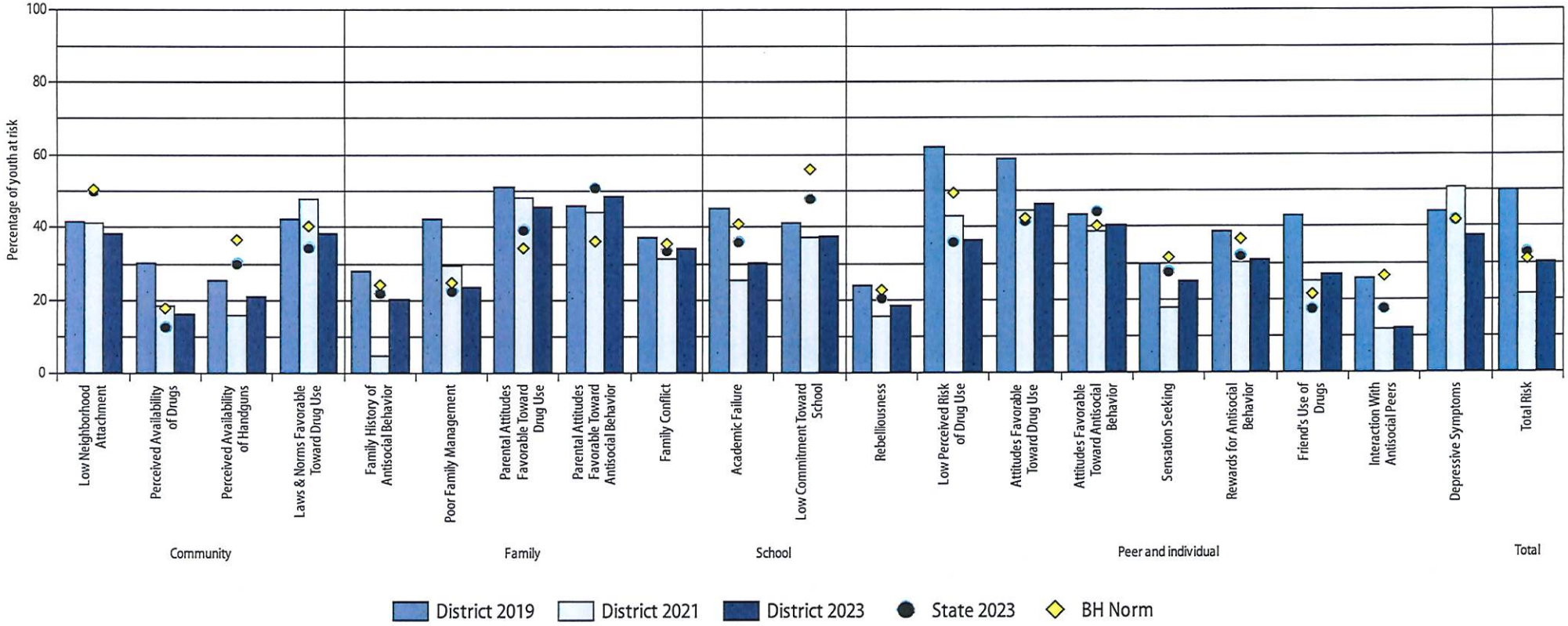
Risk factors, 10th grade
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



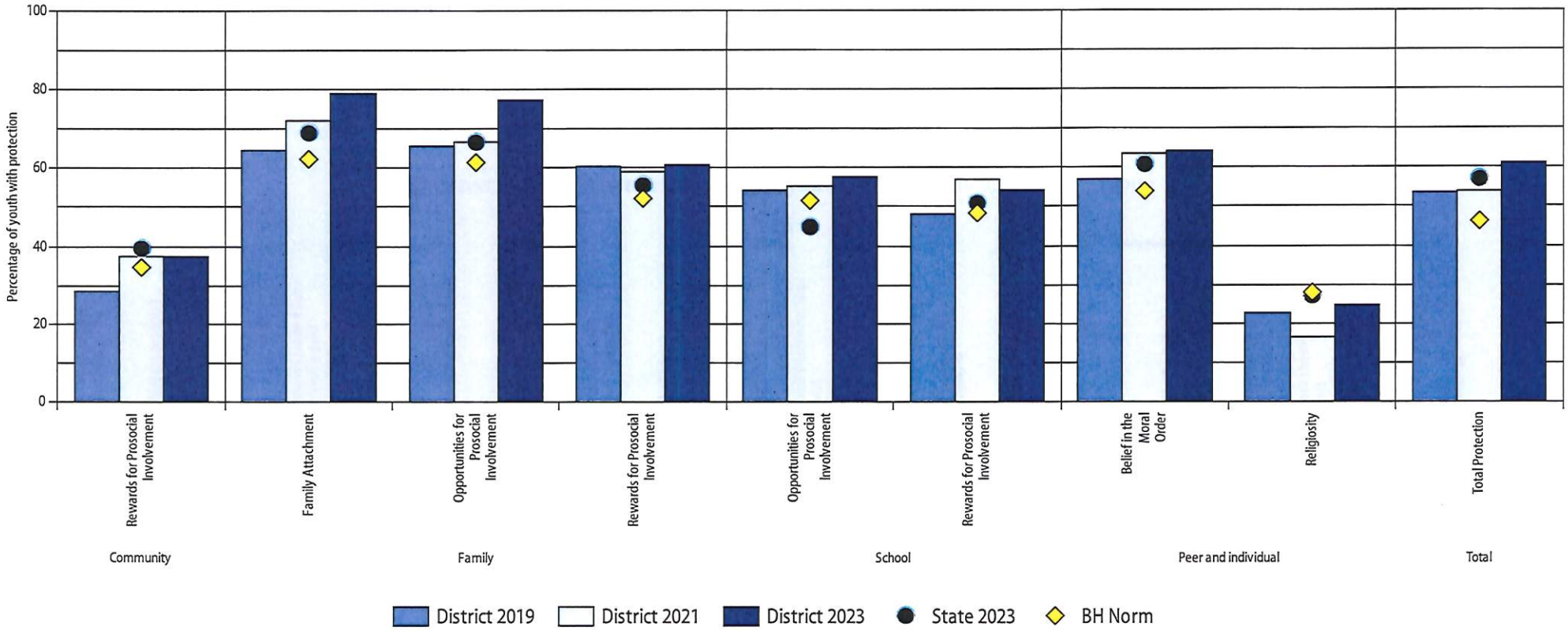
Protective factors, 10th grade
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



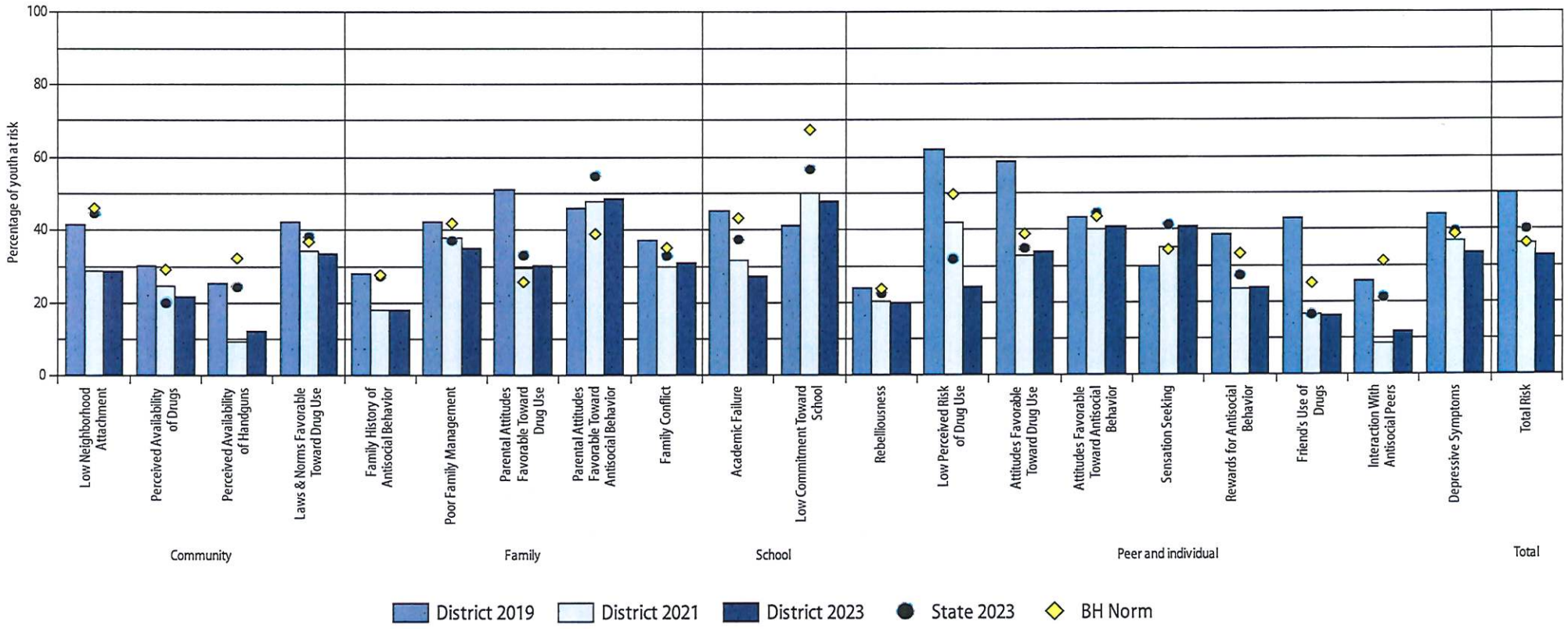
Risk factors, 12th grade
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



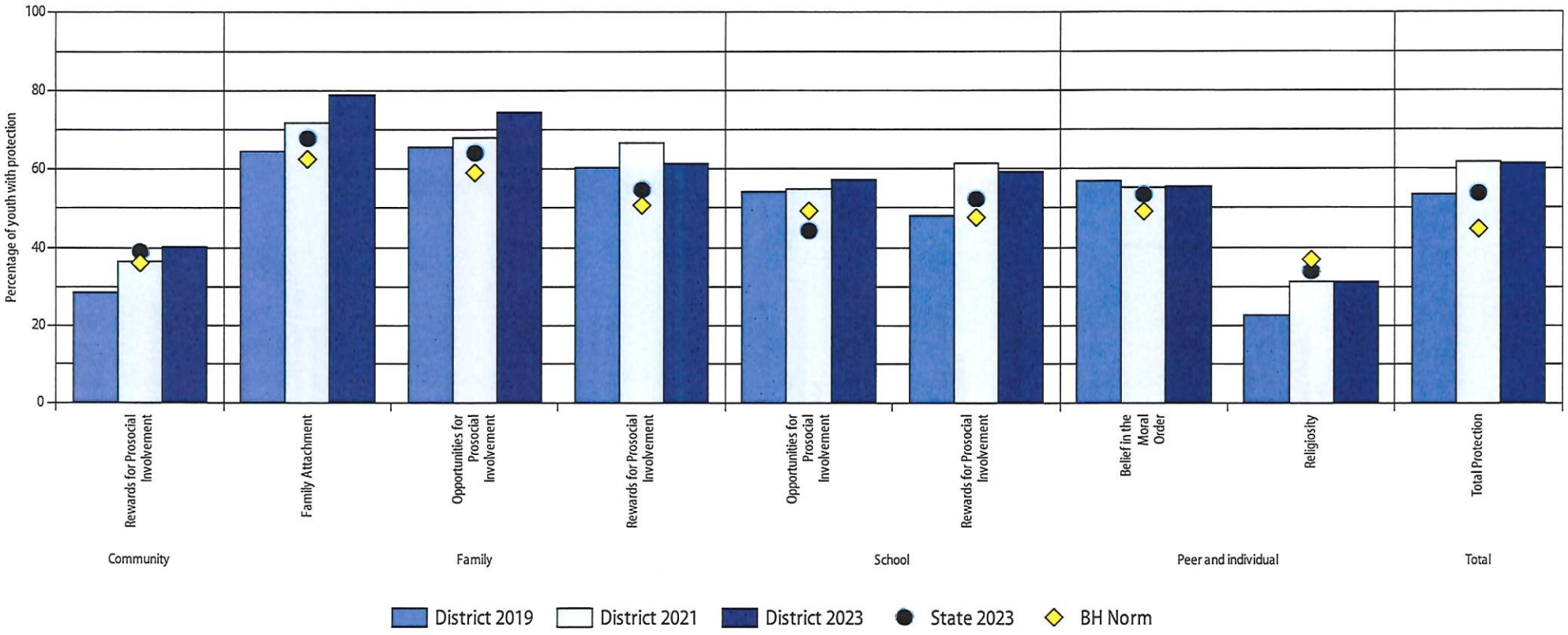
Protective factors, 12th grade
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Risk factors, All grades
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Protective factors, All grades
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Risk Factors
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

	6th				8th				10th				12th					All				
	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm
Community																						
Low Neighborhood Attachment	30.4	29.8	46.6	51.4	23.1	20.2	38.4	39.6	30.7	28.6	43.6	45.5	41.5	41.1	38.2	49.9	50.5	41.5	28.6	28.7	44.6	46.1
Perceived Availability of Drugs	**35.3**	**36.4**	**33.4**	**48.0**	**21.5**	**17.7**	**21.8**	**35.3**	**17.5**	**14.5**	**14.7**	**22.8**	**30.3**	**18.3**	**16.3**	**12.6**	**17.9**	**30.3**	**24.7**	**21.8**	**20.1**	**29.2**
Perceived Availability of Handguns	5.6	7.1	17.3	27.8	8.8	9.8	22.6	31.8	12.5	13.5	26.4	33.4	25.6	16.0	20.9	29.9	36.6	25.6	9.2	12.3	24.4	32.3
Laws & Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use	**39.0**	**37.0**	**51.6**	**45.6**	**23.9**	**22.1**	**31.3**	**35.6**	**38.8**	**37.9**	**37.2**	**41.0**	**42.5**	**47.6**	**38.4**	**34.2**	**40.3**	**42.5**	**34.3**	**33.5**	**38.2**	**36.8**
Family																						
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	16.6	18.3	39.1	30.9	17.7	17.5	28.0	30.7	23.2	16.1	22.3	27.0	28.0	4.8	20.4	21.8	24.2	28.0	18.2	18.0	27.3	27.7
Poor Family Management	**40.1**	**46.9**	**54.3**	**61.2**	**36.5**	**33.0**	**39.7**	**44.9**	**38.3**	**33.2**	**34.2**	**35.9**	**42.3**	**29.5**	**23.4**	**22.3**	**24.8**	**42.3**	**37.9**	**35.0**	**37.1**	**41.9**
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	14.6	11.1	21.9	22.4	26.6	24.1	28.8	26.4	47.4	46.4	40.2	32.1	51.2	48.2	45.7	39.1	34.3	51.2	29.6	30.4	33.0	25.7
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior	**50.7**	**54.8**	**66.4**	**49.4**	**44.3**	**42.5**	**51.0**	**37.8**	**48.5**	**48.7**	**52.3**	**38.0**	**46.0**	**44.2**	**48.5**	**50.7**	**36.1**	**46.0**	**47.6**	**48.7**	**54.7**	**38.9**
Family Conflict	29.9	32.0	37.3	38.1	28.4	27.0	29.7	32.2	31.1	32.0	31.9	35.1	37.1	31.4	34.2	33.4	35.5	37.1	29.8	31.1	32.9	35.1
School																						
Academic Failure	29.0	26.2	37.6	42.6	30.6	28.2	38.0	45.7	36.5	25.5	37.8	44.0	45.4	25.5	30.1	35.8	40.9	45.4	31.5	27.4	37.3	43.2
Low Commitment Toward School	**48.0**	**53.9**	**58.6**	**69.2**	**48.7**	**50.7**	**61.5**	**67.4**	**56.7**	**46.5**	**58.6**	**63.9**	**41.4**	**37.0**	**37.4**	**47.7**	**55.9**	**41.4**	**50.1**	**47.8**	**56.6**	**67.4**
Peer and individual																						
Rebelliousness	23.9	27.8	32.8	35.9	15.4	16.8	18.6	22.5	22.4	15.9	19.6	22.6	23.9	15.4	18.6	20.4	22.7	23.9	20.2	20.0	22.5	23.8
Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use	**38.8**	**22.3**	**37.5**	**54.1**	**43.5**	**21.6**	**31.0**	**48.3**	**43.4**	**19.3**	**24.6**	**42.2**	**62.0**	**43.2**	**36.3**	**35.8**	**49.4**	**62.0**	**41.9**	**24.3**	**31.9**	**49.7**
Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	14.6	16.3	22.2	30.6	36.3	35.7	36.7	45.7	47.1	41.7	37.1	38.2	59.0	44.3	46.2	41.5	42.3	59.0	32.7	33.9	34.8	38.8
Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior	**43.9**	**45.3**	**54.4**	**54.6**	**32.4**	**39.2**	**38.3**	**38.5**	**45.1**	**37.9**	**42.2**	**42.0**	**43.4**	**38.6**	**40.4**	**44.1**	**40.2**	**43.4**	**40.2**	**40.8**	**44.4**	**43.5**
Sensation Seeking	42.6	60.2	61.9	36.8	32.9	39.5	43.4	34.8	32.0	34.3	35.5	34.9	29.7	17.6	24.9	27.5	31.5	29.7	35.0	41.0	41.3	34.4
Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	**15.0**	**14.1**	**17.8**	**18.2**	**25.2**	**25.4**	**29.5**	**35.0**	**30.6**	**27.4**	**28.7**	**33.9**	**38.6**	**30.1**	**30.9**	**31.8**	**36.6**	**38.6**	**23.7**	**23.8**	**27.3**	**33.3**
Friend's Use of Drugs	4.5	3.0	10.6	18.9	19.4	18.0	21.7	31.3	25.4	20.1	15.8	21.4	43.1	25.0	27.0	17.4	21.4	43.1	16.6	16.1	16.5	25.2
Interaction With Antisocial Peers	**5.4**	**8.7**	**22.2**	**29.3**	**9.2**	**14.8**	**25.2**	**37.8**	**10.3**	**12.7**	**20.2**	**30.0**	**25.7**	**11.9**	**12.2**	**17.5**	**26.4**	**25.7**	**8.4**	**12.1**	**21.2**	**31.2**
Depressive Symptoms	27.9	29.4	37.6	31.1	39.3	31.8	37.9	37.4	41.6	36.9	40.1	43.2	44.0	50.6	37.6	41.7	41.8	44.0	36.8	33.6	39.4	38.7
Total																						
Total Risk	37.4	38.6	51.8	39.2	40.3	36.4	44.8	44.7	32.9	24.3	32.1	36.5	50.0	21.5	30.1	32.7	31.0	50.0	36.1	32.7	40.1	36.1

Protective Factors
Lower Merion School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

	6th				8th				10th				12th					All				
	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	BH Norm
Community																						
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	35.3	39.3	35.2	40.7	40.1	44.3	42.2	37.5	33.4	38.4	38.7	34.4	28.6	37.4	37.5	39.5	34.7	28.6	36.5	40.0	39.0	36.1
Family																						
Family Attachment	71.5	77.9	61.1	62.2	74.2	79.4	70.3	61.7	69.2	79.9	69.9	63.4	64.4	72.2	78.9	68.9	62.3	64.4	71.8	79.0	67.8	62.5
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	62.8	69.9	52.9	48.5	73.3	76.9	68.2	64.0	68.6	75.2	67.4	63.2	65.6	66.7	77.1	66.5	61.4	65.6	68.1	74.5	64.1	59.1
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	65.8	50.7	43.3	41.2	73.8	70.5	61.5	58.3	61.0	64.8	57.2	53.4	60.3	58.9	60.8	55.6	52.2	60.3	66.7	61.5	54.7	50.8
School																						
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56.2	61.2	49.2	58.6	55.5	59.1	45.0	51.5	52.6	50.7	39.1	51.6	54.4	55.4	57.6	44.8	51.6	54.4	54.9	57.3	44.3	49.3
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	60.1	61.4	53.6	50.8	69.2	63.6	57.3	51.4	54.6	56.7	48.0	47.2	48.0	57.1	54.1	50.8	48.3	48.0	61.4	59.3	52.3	47.7
Peer and Individual																						
Belief In The Moral Order	44.4	42.9	36.9	38.6	56.0	51.3	52.4	44.6	66.0	67.7	60.9	52.9	57.0	63.4	64.4	60.8	54.0	57.0	55.4	55.6	53.5	49.1
Religiosity	40.5	37.8	39.7	39.8	30.3	36.6	37.5	38.1	24.1	24.0	32.1	32.2	22.9	16.7	24.6	27.1	28.1	22.9	31.1	31.3	33.9	36.9
Total																						
Total Protection	58.0	56.6	44.9	50.2	69.8	67.4	56.2	42.5	58.7	61.6	56.6	51.1	53.5	53.8	61.1	57.0	46.2	53.5	61.7	61.6	53.9	44.8

APPENDIX A. DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES DATA

Core Measure	Definition	Substance	6th		8th		10th		12th		Male		Female	
			Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample
Perception of risk (People are at moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they...)	take five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) once or twice a week?	Binge drinking	93.0	527	91.7	504	89.1	469	83.2	386	87.9	921	91.3	904
	smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?	**Tobacco**	**94.5**	**524**	**94.3**	**508**	**95.3**	**468**	**94.5**	**385**	**93.1**	**921**	**96.1**	**903**
	smoke marijuana once or twice a week?	Marijuana	92.8	517	88.6	501	77.2	465	56.8	387	78.6	915	81.8	895
	use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them?	**Prescription drugs**	**95.1**	**526**	**92.3**	**504**	**91.7**	**471**	**93.5**	**387**	**91.8**	**924**	**94.7**	**903**
	Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette once or twice a day?	Vapor Products	93.7	524	89.8	501	88.7	470	86.6	388	89.5	920	90.5	903
Perception of parental disapproval (Parents feel it would be wrong or very wrong to...)	Drink beer, wine, or hard liquor regularly?	Regular Alcohol Use	97.7	531	95.0	504	94.9	468	90.4	387	94.3	928	95.3	902
	have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?	**Daily Alcohol Use**	**97.2**	**531**	**93.6**	**503**	**89.1**	**467**	**80.1**	**387**	**91.6**	**928**	**90.1**	**901**
	smoke cigarettes?	Tobacco	98.1	532	96.8	506	95.7	467	93.0	386	95.7	931	96.6	901
	smoke marijuana?	**Marijuana**	**97.7**	**524**	**95.6**	**500**	**89.5**	**466**	**79.5**	**385**	**90.8**	**923**	**92.2**	**893**
	use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?	Prescription drugs	98.5	528	95.6	499	95.1	466	95.1	386	95.4	921	97.0	899
Perception of peer disapproval (Friends feel it would be wrong or very wrong to...)	**have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?**	**Alcohol**	**92.5**	**531**	**89.4**	**500**	**80.2**	**479**	**72.1**	**384**	**81.8**	**934**	**87.8**	**896**
	smoke tobacco?	Tobacco	93.4	530	91.4	499	82.7	474	72.7	385	83.8	934	88.7	891
	smoke marijuana?	**Marijuana**	**92.7**	**524**	**88.6**	**498**	**67.9**	**476**	**47.1**	**382**	**73.9**	**930**	**78.8**	**888**
	use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?	Prescription drugs	92.8	526	92.4	497	87.4	476	82.8	383	87.3	929	92.1	891
Stop act grantees: Somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone your age...	**Having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) nearly every day?**	**Alcohol**	**96.5**	**607**	**90.7**	**546**	**85.5**	**544**	**81.3**	**464**	**88.6**	**1,078**	**89.6**	**1,015**
People are at moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they...	take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) nearly every day?	Regular alcohol use	89.8	529	86.6	508	90.0	472	86.4	389	85.3	927	91.1	910
Past 30-day use (at least one use in the past 30 days)	**had beer, wine, or hard liquor**	**Alcohol**	**3.8**	**613**	**8.3**	**540**	**20.1**	**551**	**29.6**	**473**	**15.0**	**1,089**	**15.0**	**1,018**
	smoked cigarettes?	Tobacco	0.0	606	0.2	531	0.7	548	4.0	472	0.7	1,080	1.5	1,007
	used marijuana	**Marijuana**	**0.0**	**605**	**1.1**	**542**	**8.6**	**549**	**18.0**	**472**	**6.2**	**1,083**	**6.7**	**1,014**
	combined results of prescription stimulant/tranquilizer/ pain reliever questions	Prescription drugs	1.0	605	1.3	546	0.9	556	1.7	478	1.4	1,093	0.8	1,021

APPENDIX B. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Communities That Care Youth Survey (CTCYS) was adopted as the basis for PAYS. Based on the work of Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard F. Catalano, the CTCYS is designed to identify the levels of risk factors related to problem behaviors such as ATOD use—and to identify the levels of protective factors that help guard against those behaviors. In addition to measuring risk and protective factors, the CTCYS also measures the actual prevalence of drug use, violence, and other antisocial behaviors among surveyed students. Three articles (Pollard, Hawkins & Arthur, 1999; Arthur, Hawkins, Pollard, Catalano & Baglioni, 2002; Glaser, Van Horn, Arthur, Hawkins & Catalano, 2005) describe the CTCYS, its uses and its ongoing development.

Comparability of the 2023 PAYS to Prior Administrations

The 2023 PAYS instrument and administration enhanced the three-form design, first implemented in 2013 to address the difference in response rates for questions at the beginning of the survey versus those located at the end of the survey. Each of the three forms began with question section X, with sections A-F presented in different order on each of the three forms to offset the tendency for response rates to fall off in the later sections of the survey.

Further, while X, A, B, and C were present on all three survey forms, sections D, E, and F were each presented on two of three forms, which kept the amount of time required to administer the survey manageable while allowing approximately thirty additional questions for a total of 228 questions answered by students in the paper-based format.

For the online survey administration, question sections A, B, C, D, E, and F were presented in a random order. Efficiencies in the online survey and the increased speed of response allowed all survey questions to be presented to the respondents.

The survey retained its two column format to improve readability and speed of response. Focus groups were held with students enrolled in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 during the 2014-2015 school year. These students were new to the survey and were not expected to be within the grades completing the survey during subsequent survey administrations. To enhance readability and reduce confusion related to the non-alphabetic order of the presentation of the survey sections, each section of the survey contains a label indicating the topic of the questions within the section. A heading was placed on the page of the 30-day and lifetime use questions to encourage honest responses by reassuring the students they would not be punished for their responses.

A comparative analysis of the enhanced survey and the 2013 survey was completed. No differences in question responses were determined based upon which form of the survey a student completed, indicating that the students were not primed to answer a particular way due to having seen a set of questions prior to another set.

2023 Question Changes and Additions

Subject	2023 PAYS	Notes Regarding Changes
Lifetime Use Questions	Lifetime use questions for all substances except for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco shifted from a how many times frame in 2021 to a *have you ever* frame in 2023. Response options were revised to: *Never, Once or twice, Once in a while but not regularly, Regularly in the past, Regularly now.* The lifetime use question for vaping is new to the 2023 survey.	This change allowed for continued data collection of lifetime in a frame that allowed for more meaningful connection with students and understanding of their use patterns.
30-Day Use Questions	30-day use questions for all substances except cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and electronic vapor products shifted from a *how many times* frame in 2021 to a *how often* frame in 2023. Response options were revised to: *Never, Once or twice, Once or twice per week, About once a day, More than once a day.* For cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and electronic vapor products 30-day use questions, the lead-in text for the questions changed from *How frequently* to *How often*, but the response options did NOT change.	This change allowed for continued data collection of 30-day use in a frame that allowed for more meaningful connection with students and understanding of their use patterns.
Lifetime/30-Day Crack/Cocaine Use	Previous to the 2023 PAYS, the survey asked about crack and cocaine use separately. The 2023 PAYS combined the substances to ask one lifetime use and one 30-day use question asking about **cocaine or crack** use.	There was no need to gather data for each substance separately. Combining the two substances contributed to a more streamlined survey.
Student Perceptions of Peer Cigarette Use	The question *How do you feel about someone your age smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day?* was removed from the 2023 PAYS.	This question is duplicative of the question: "How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to: Smoke cigarettes?".
Updated Lifetime, 30-Day, and Other Substance Use Definitions/Examples	The substance examples provided for some lifetime and 30-day substance questions and questions about perceptions/behavior around substances were updated to include new and/or more relevant examples. *Questions regarding marijuana now include *THC* in the list of examples *Questions regarding cocaine use are now framed as *cocaine or crack* *Questions regarding methamphetamine use now include speed as one of the examples *Questions regarding synthetic drugs have been reframed as man-made drugs such as *K2, Spice, Fake Weed, Bath Salts* *Questions regarding vape device use shifted from product such *as JUUL, Vuse, MarkTen, and blu or other e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens, e-cigars, ehookahs, hookah pens, and mods to product such as e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, or vape pens.*	These changes modernized the questions and increased youth understanding of the question wording.
Disapproval of Prescription Drug Use	The PAYS prescription drug disapproval question was revised: 2021: *How do you feel about someone your age using prescription drugs not prescribed to them?* Response options: *Strongly disapprove, Somewhat disapprove, Neither approve or disapprove, Approve, Don't know/Can't say* 2023: *How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?* Response options: *Not at all wrong, A little bit wrong, Wrong, Very wrong*	This change was intended to simplify and streamline the survey by having the question be asked in the same format as this question is asked for other substances.
Drinking Alcohol and Driving	The PAYS drinking and driving question changed from: 2021: *How often have you: Driven a motor vehicle while or shortly after drinking?* 2023: *How often have you: Driven a motor vehicle while or shortly after drinking alcohol?*	These changes made the question more specific and understandable.
Mother/Father-Specific Questions	All questions specifically referring to a student's *mother* or *father* were replaced with questions with a *parent/caregiver* frame.	The parent/caregiver language was tested in the 2019 and 2021 PAYS and the data proved to be comparable to mother/father questions. It is very important that these questions be inclusive of youth who do not have a mother or father, or who live with a caregiver that is not a mother or father.
Parent Questions	All questions referring to parents were revised to *parents/caregivers.*	This revision allowed questions to be inclusive of students who live with caregivers other than their parents.

Subject	2023 PAYS	Notes Regarding Changes
People Who Live With You	The response options for the question *Think of where you live most of the time. Which of the following people live there with you? (Choose all that apply)* were reduced to include only *Mother(s), Father(s), Stepparent(s), Foster Parent(s), Grandparent(s), Other Adult(s), Sibling(s), Other Children.*	This revision intended to simplify and streamline the survey.
Gang Involvement Questions	Four questions regarding gang involvement (i.e., *Have you ever belonged to a gang?, If you have ever belonged to a gang, did that gang have a name?, How old were you when you first belonged to a gang?, and In the past year, how many of your best friends have been a member of a gang?*) were removed from the 2023 PAYS.	These were removed due to the information being less actionable and due to very low prevalence.
Threatened/Attacked With a Weapon	The following questions were removed: *In the past 12 months, how often have you: Been threatened by someone with a weapon on school property?* *In the past 12 months, how often have you: Been attacked by someone with a weapon on school property?*	The PAYS already includes questions about being threatened or attacked; there is not a need to know specifically about threats/attacks with a weapon.
Bringing Weapon to School	The questions *How many times in your lifetime have you brought a weapon (such as a handgun, knife, etc.) and How many times in the last 30 days have you: Brought a weapon (such as a handgun, knife, etc.) to school?* were removed and replaced with a single question asking about past-year bringing a weapon to school: *How many times in the past 12 months have you brought a weapon (such as a handgun, knife, etc.) to school?.*	This revision intended to simplify and streamline the survey.
Drugs/Violence Response Option Changes	Response options for the violence and antisocial behaviors questions below were changed to *Never, Once or Twice, Several Times, Often* In the past 12 months, how often have you: • *Been threatened to be hit or beaten up on school property?* • *Been attacked and hit by someone or beaten up on school property?* • *Been offered, given or sold alcohol, tobacco product or other drug on school property?* How many times in the past 12 months have you: • *Attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them?* • *Been arrested?* • *Been drunk or high at school?* • *Been suspended from school?* • *Sold substances such as vapes, alcohol, drugs, or medications?* • *Done anything to harm yourself (such as cutting, scraping, burning) as a way to relieve difficult feelings, or to communicate emotions that may be difficult to express verbally?* • *Brought a weapon (such as a handgun, knife, etc.) to school?*	This revision intended to simplify and streamline the survey.
Drugs/Violence Question Changes	The following questions in this topic area were revised: 2021: *How many times in the past 12 months have you: Sold Illegal Drugs?* 2023: *How many times in the past 12 months have you: Sold substances such as vapes, alcohol, drugs, or medications?* 2021:*Been offered, given, or sold an illegal drug on school property?* 2023: *Been offered, given or sold alcohol, tobacco product or other drug on school property?*	These revisions aimed to modernize the survey content and bring clarity to the existing questions.
Bullying	The question *Please state whether you have been bullied during the past 12 months?* was revised to *Have you been bullied during the past 12 months?*	This revision intended to simplify the question wording.
Cyberbullying	The way that cyberbullying data are collected changed. The following question was removed from the survey in 2023: *During the past 12 months, have you been bullied through texting and/or social media; and the response option Online, social media, phone* was added to an existing question about where a student was bullied.	This revision intended to simplify and streamline the survey.
Gambling Definition	Gambling questions in the 2023 PAYS now are prefaced with the following definition *Gambling is taking part in any game or activity where you risk something of value on the chance of winning something.*	This addition aims to increase student understanding of the concept of gambling and establish a common definition before asking gambling-related questions.

Subject	2023 PAYS	Notes Regarding Changes
Gambling Questions	The lifetime gambling question shifted from a how many times frame in 2021 to a have you ever frame 2023. Response options were revised to: *Never, Once or twice, Once in a while but not regularly, Regularly in the past, Regularly now.*	This revision intended to simplify and streamline the survey.
30-Day Gambling	30-Day gambling question shifted from only including *Yes* and *No* response options in 2021 to *a how often frame* with the following response options: *Never, Once or twice, Once or twice per week, About once a day, More than once a day.*	This revision aimed to provide more detailed and meaningful response options.
Types of Gambling	Three questions on types of gambling students participated in during the past year were revised to be more relevant and specific: 2021: *Table games like poker or other card games, dice, backgammon, or dominoes* 2023: *Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts* 2021: *Sporting events or sports pools* 2023: *Sporting events, sports pools, or fantasy sports* 2021: *Personal skill games (such as pool, darts, coin tossing, video games)* 2023: *Video games or online gaming*	This revision intended to provide more current and relevant types of gambling activities.
Abuse	Question regarding types of abuse was revised to edit the response option *Control with whom you socialized* to *Control of who you socialized with.*	This revision aimed to simplify and clarify the wording of the response option
Suicide	The PAYS suicide attempt question was revised: 2021: *How many times did you actually attempt suicide? Response options: 0 times, 1 time, 2 or 3 times, 4 or 5 times, 6 or more times* 2023: *Did you actually attempt suicide? Response options: Yes, No*	This revision intended to simplify and streamline the survey.
Food Insecurity	Food insecurity questions were changed in the following ways: 2021: *How many times have you: Worried that food at home would run out before your family got money to buy more? Response options: Never, Not in the past 12 months, Less than once a month, About once a month, 2-3 times a month, Once or more a week* 2023: *How often in the past year have you: Worried that food at home would run out before your family got money to buy more? Response options: Never, A Few Times, Sometimes, Often* 2021: *How many times have you: Skipped a meal because your family didn't have enough money to buy food? Response options: Never, Not in the past 12 months, Less than once a month, About once a month, 2-3 times a month, Once or more a week* 2023: *How often in the past year have you: Skipped a meal because your family didn't have enough money to buy food? Response options: Never, A Few Times, Sometimes, Often*	This revision intended to simplify and streamline the survey.
New Questions	The following items added to the 2023 PAYS: *Have you ever used an electronic vapor product as such as e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, or vape pens? Response options: Never, Once or twice, Once in a while but not regularly, Regularly in the past, Regularly now* *How much do people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they: Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette once or twice a day? Response options: No risk, Slight risk, Moderate risk, Great risk* *How wrong do your friends feel it would be for you to use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette? Response options: Not at all wrong, A little bit wrong, Wrong, Very wrong* *My overall mental health in the past month has been good. Response options: NO!, no, yes, YES!* *If you have felt sad, lonely or worried in the past month who did you talk to? (Mark all that apply) Response options: No one, Parent/ caregiver, Other family member, Friend, Teacher or another adult at school (g. coach, counselor, nurse), Doctor or therapist, Religious or spiritual leader (g. Rabbi, Paster, Imam, Priest or Nun, Bishop), Other adult in the community, I have not felt this way in the past 30 days* *If you used an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette in the past year, how did you usually get it? (Mark all that apply.) Response options: Did not use electronic vapor product, A friend gave it to me for free, A family member gave it to me for free, I bought it from someone under 21, I bought it from someone over 21, I bought it from a store, I bought it on the Internet, I gave someone money to buy it for me, I took it from someone, Other source not listed here*	

APPENDIX C. FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Prevention Web Sites

- The Center for Communities That Care: www.communitiesthatcare.net/
- Social Development Research Group: www.sdrg.org
- Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Support: https://www.episcenter.psu.edu/index.php/paysquestion
- Commonwealth Prevention Alliance: www.commonwealthpreventionalliance.org
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System: www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm
- National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH): www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh
- Monitoring the Future: www.monitoringthefuture.org
- The Partnership to End Addiction: www.drugfree.org
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD): www.madd.org
- PA DUI Association: www.padui.org
- The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance Campaign to Stop Opiate Misuse: pastop.org
- CPA Campaign to Start Building Healthy Families: pastart.org
- Prevent Suicide PA: www.preventsuicidepa.org
- Youth Suicide Warning Signs: www.youthsuicidewarningsigns.org
- Overdose Free PA: www.overdosefreepa.org

Guides to Prevention Programs

- Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development: www.blueprintsprograms.com
- National Institute of Justice: www.crimesolutions.gov
- Federal OJJDP Model Programs Guide: www.ojjdp.gov/mpg
- SAMHSA Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center: www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP): www.wsipp.wa.gov
- WSIPP Benefit/Cost Results: www.wsipp.wa.gov/BenefitCost

State Resources

- Pennsylvania General Assembly: www.legis.state.pa.us
- DDAP – PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs: www.ddap.pa.gov
- DOH – PA Department of Health: www.health.pa.gov
- PLCB – PA Liquor Control Board: www.lcb.pa.gov
- PCCD – PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency: www.pccd.pa.gov
- PDE – PA Department of Education: www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/Pages/default.aspx
- CCAP – County Commissioners Association of PA: www.pacounties.org
- Pennsylvania Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators: www.pacdaa.org
- Safe2Say Something www.safe2saypa.org

Federal Resources

- Office of National Drug Control Policy: www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp
- National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information: www.store.samhsa.gov
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): www.samhsa.gov

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA): www.drugabuse.gov
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA): www.niaaa.nih.gov
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/alcoholdrug/index.htm www.cdc.gov/alcohol/index.htm
- National Resource Center for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse: 1-800-932-4632

If You Need Assistance

With bullying:

- US Department of Health and Human Services: www.stopbullying.gov
- PA Bullying Prevention Toolkit: bptoolkit.safeschools.info/
- PA Department of Education: www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/bullying/Pages/default.aspx
- Bullying Prevention Consultation Line: 1-866-716-0424

With drugs and alcohol:

- PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs: Find Drug & Alcohol Treatment 1-800-662-HELP www.ddap.pa.gov/Pages/Find-Treatment.aspx
- Alcoholics Anonymous: www.aa.org
- Pennsylvania Area Al-Anon: www.pa-al-anon.org

With smoking cessation:

- pa.quitlogix.org/en-US/ or 1-800 QUIT NOW (784-8669)
- Youth Tobacco and Vaping Cessation Program: mylifemyquit.com or 1-855-891-9989

With gambling:

- Pennsylvania Gambling Addiction 24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-GAMBLER

Talking with a child about drugs and alcohol:

- SAMHSA – Talk. They Hear You: www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking
- MADD – Power of Parents: www.madd.org/the-solution/power-of-parents/

With child/parent coaching:

- Partnership to End Addiction: drugfree.org/
- NIDA Resources for Parents: teens.drugabuse.gov/parents/drugs-and-your-kids www.drugabuse.gov/parents-educators

With depression or suicidal thoughts:

For immediate help, call a hotline or check the phone book under "suicide," "crisis" or "mental health." In an emergency, call 911. If you call for someone else, stay with the person until help arrives.

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- Crisis Text Line: Text PA to 741-741
- TrevorLifeline for LGBTQ+ youth: 1-866-488-7386

APPENDIX D. SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS IN THIS REPORT

As follows is a list of school districts, charter schools, and private schools which participated in the 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey and are also represented in this profile report. If this report is intended for a school district, charter school, or private school, you will find that only the district/school in question is included. However, County and Community reports will include two or more districts, charter schools, or private schools. In the instance of those reports, this appendix will provide key information for understanding the participants represented in your data.

2019:
Lower Merion High School

2021:
Bala-Cynwyd Middle School
Harriton Senior High School
Lower Merion High School
Welsh Valley Middle School

2023:
Bala-Cynwyd Middle School
Black Rock Middle School
Harriton Senior High School
Lower Merion High School
Welsh Valley Middle School