

Data from the Springfield Youth Health Survey 2019: Springfield Public Schools – Eighth Grade

Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts

Question Number in the Youth **Health Survey** by Topic

- Demographic: 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,13, 14
- Exercise: 10,11,12,76,77
- Nutrition: 91,19,20, 78, 79, 85, 86
- Mental health: 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 32, 33, 34
- Safety: 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42
- Gambling Behavior: 30, 31
- Sexual Education: 49, 50, 51

- Sexual Activity: 29, 39, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
- Substance Abuse: 16, 17, 18, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74
- Sleep: 15, 80, 81
- Lifestyle: 75, 82, 83, 84 90
- Extracurricular: 87, 88, 89

ABOUT THE SURVEY

- The Springfield Youth Survey was administered during a two-week period in February (2/4/19 to 2/15/19) to 8th grade students enrolled in Springfield Public Schools. This is part of the Springfield Youth Health Survey Initiative and is administered by the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts in collaboration with initiative partners.
- A total of 1,267 8th grade students from 16 different Springfield schools completed the survey in 2019. The participation rate was estimated to be 72% using school enrollment to estimate total potential number of students who could complete the survey.

Survey Design

CORE QUESTIONS

All students completed the core questions (Q: 1-31) and were then randomized to one of the three modules

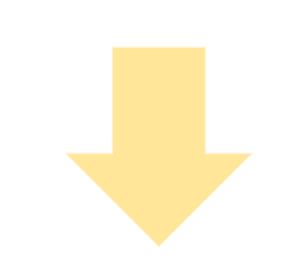
n = 1,267







Note: Modules group similar questions together, however they may include other content.



MODULE 2

Q: 52-74





MODULE 3

Q: 75-91

n = 416



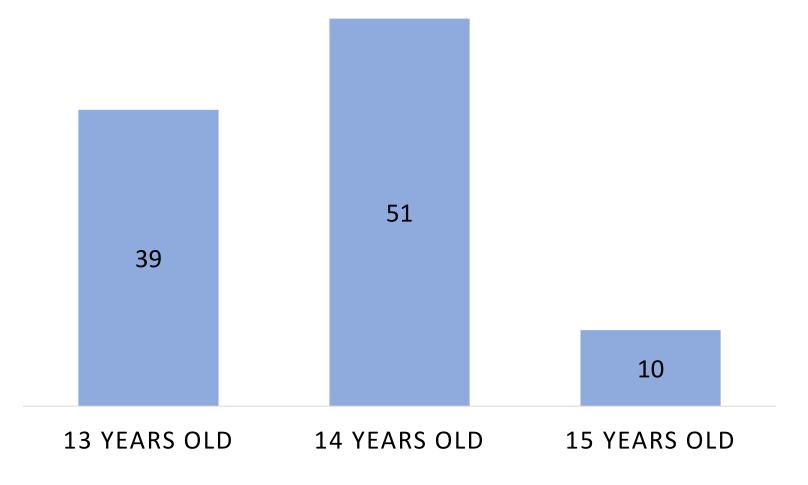
Common Biases in Epidemiology Studies

- There are many different types of biases, which are systematic errors, that can impact a study's results. There are two categories of biases, information and selection bias. However, this survey is more prone to information bias, specifically recall/response bias and social desirability bias.
 - Recall/Response Bias: All the data is self-reported by the eighth-grade participants. Additionally, the questions ask about retrospective exposures and participants may not be able to accurately recall past exposures. As a result, participants may respond in either an underestimate or overestimate of the exposure, which can impact the results.
 - Social Desirability Bias/ Reporting Bias: This bias refers to when participants respond to
 questions with the more favorable choice depicted by peers. For example, students may report
 low frequency of drinking alcohol because they know it is not a desirable behavior for their age.
- Additionally, some questions have very small numbers of responses due to uncommon exposures.
 Generalizability and analysis are limited for these questions due to the small sample size.

AGE DISTRIBUTION (%)

Q2: How old are you?

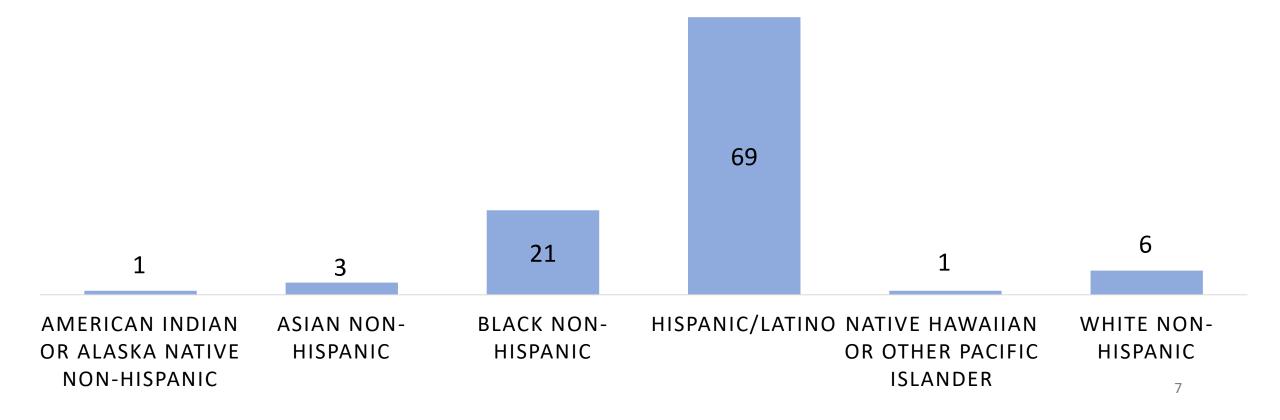
n=1,256



Q3: What is your race/ethnicity?

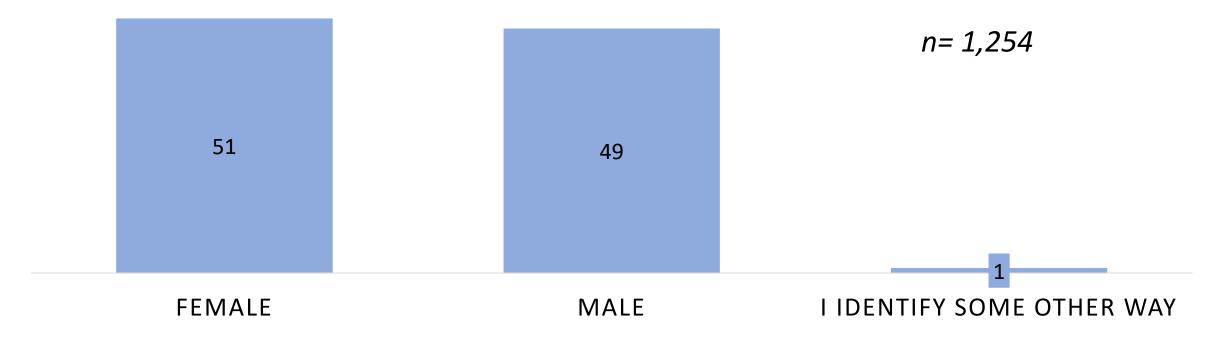
n=1,242





Q4: What is your sex?

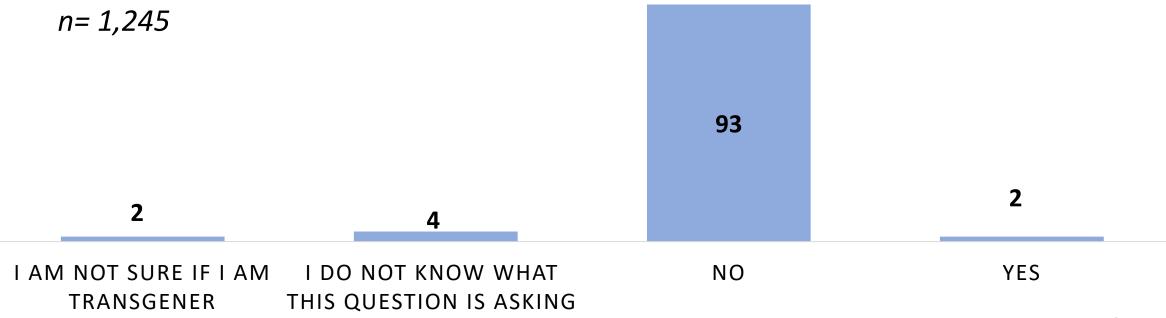
SEX FREQUENCY (%)



Q5: Do you identify as transgender?

Transgender is an umbrella term that refers to people whose gender identity, expression, or behavior is different from those typically associated with their sex at birth. Other identities that fall under this umbrella include non-binary, gender fluid, genderqueer, and many more.

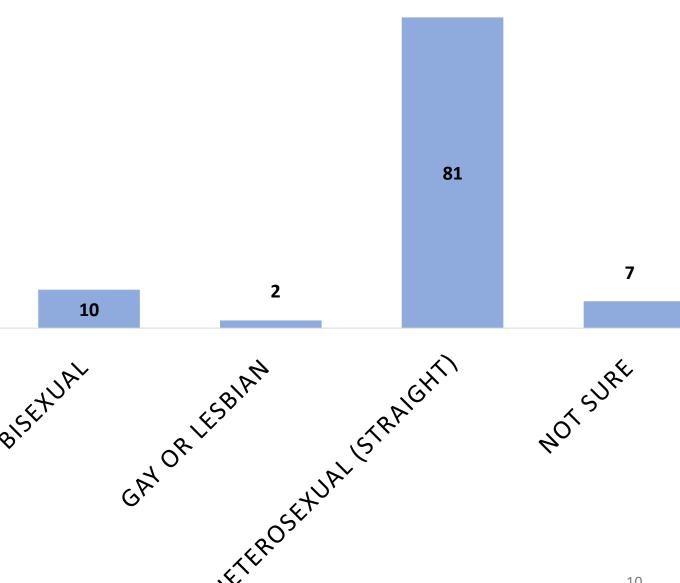
TRANSGENDER IDENTIFICATION (%)



Q6: Which of the following best describes you?

n = 1,243

SEXUAL ORIENTATION IDENTIFICATION (%)

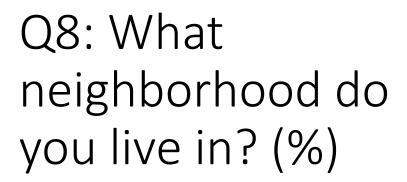


HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARENT/GUARDIAN EDUCATION (%)

Q7:What is the highest level of education your parents or guardians completed?

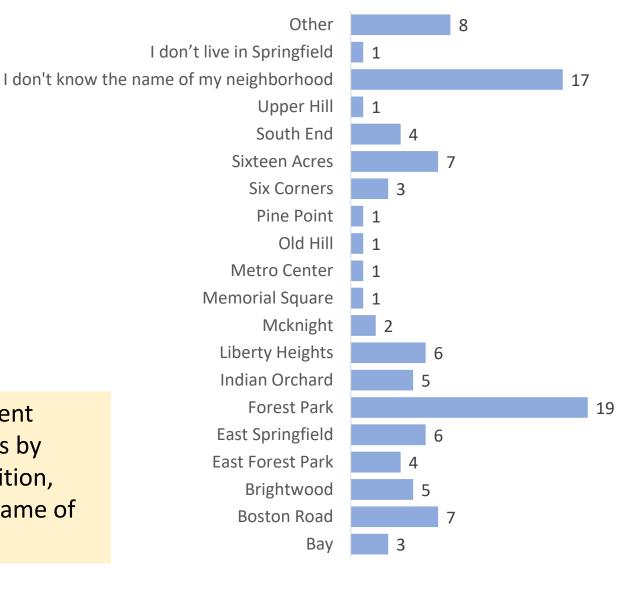
DON'T KNOW GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE ATTENDED COLLEGE BUT DID NOT **COMPLETE 4 YEAR DEGREE** GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL DID NOT FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

Neighborhood (%)

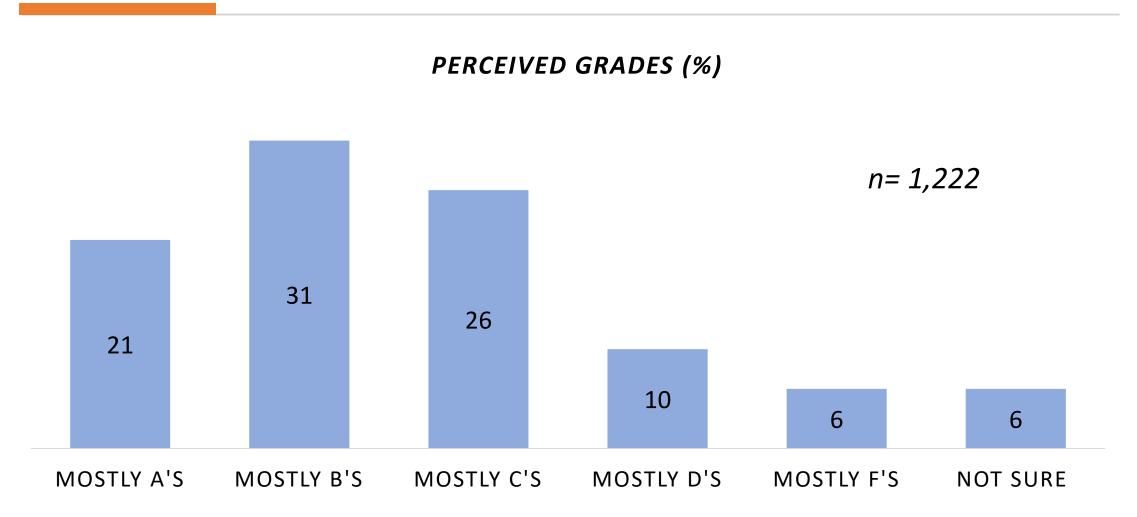


n = 1,215

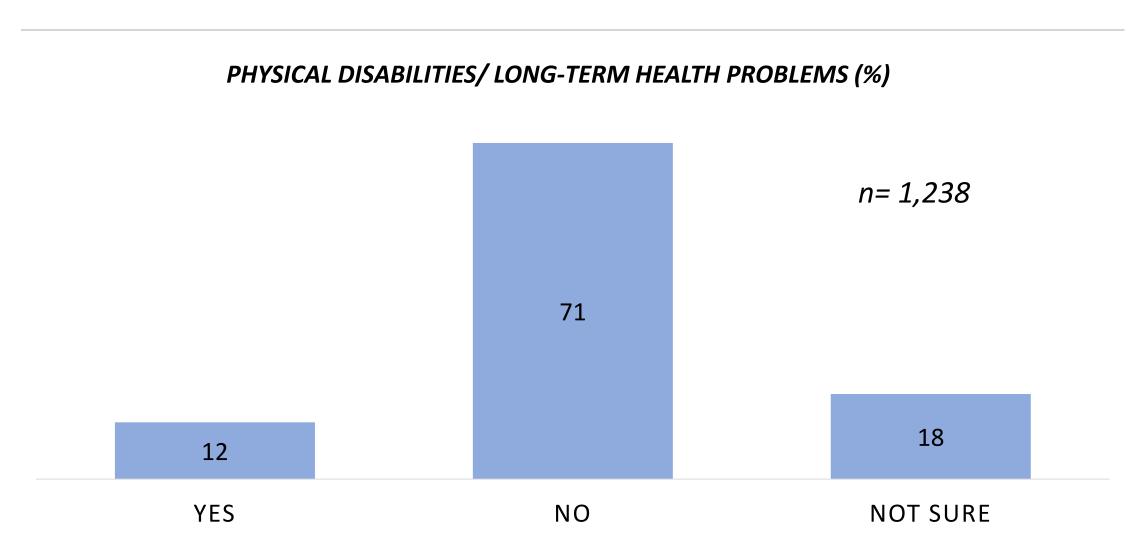
8% of eighth graders wrote in different neighborhoods and street addresses by selecting the other category. In addition, 17% of students did not know the name of their neighborhood.



Q9: During the past 12 months, how would you describe your grades in school?

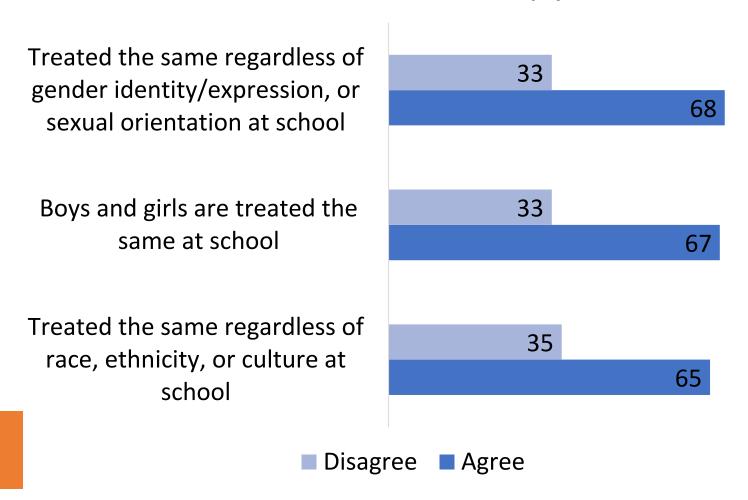


Q13: Do you have any physical disabilities or long-term health problems?



Q14: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? (n=1,234)

SCHOOL CULTURE STATEMENTS (%)

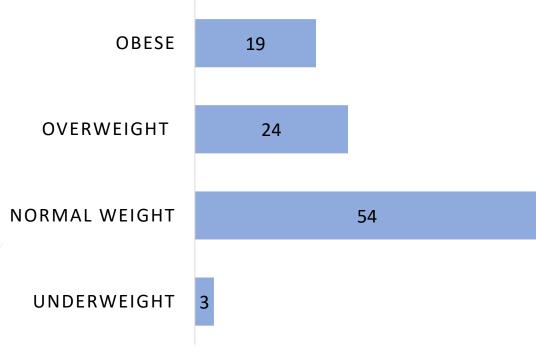


- Each of the statements have very similar responses.
- One in every three students disagree with the statements about sex, gender identity, and race, ethnicity and culture at school
- 49% of students agreed to all the statements

Q10-11: BMI Categories

Approximately, one in every 3 students (43%) are overweight or obese.

WEIGHT BASED ON BMI (CDC GUIDELINES) (%)

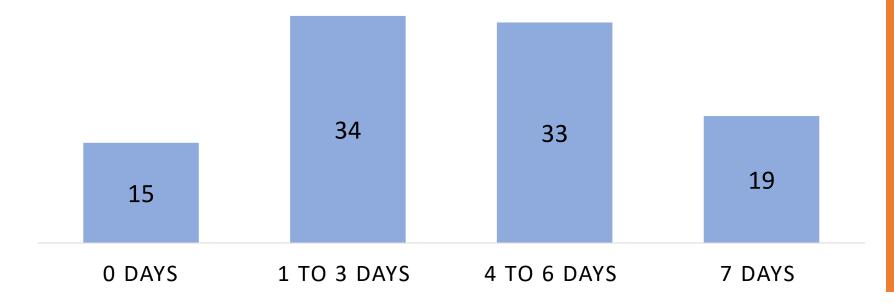


n= 853

**Student's BMIs were calculated based on student's self reported sex, age, height and weight measurements and then assigned a category.

Q12: During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day? (n=1,222)

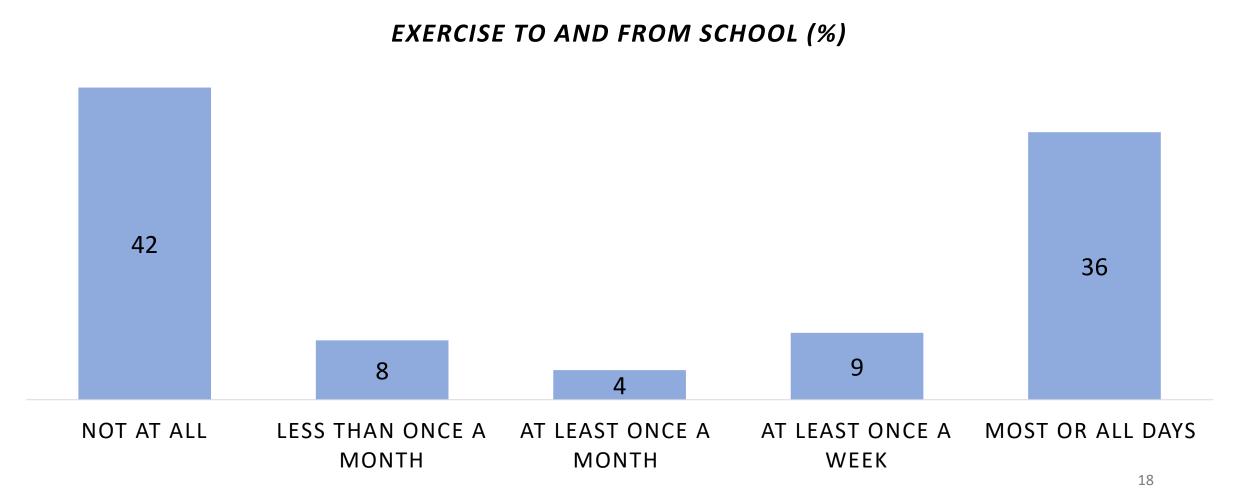
60 MINUTES OF PHYSICAL ACIVITY IN THE PAST WEEK (%)



81% of eighth grade students do not get enough physical activity. 1 in 7 students were not active at all.

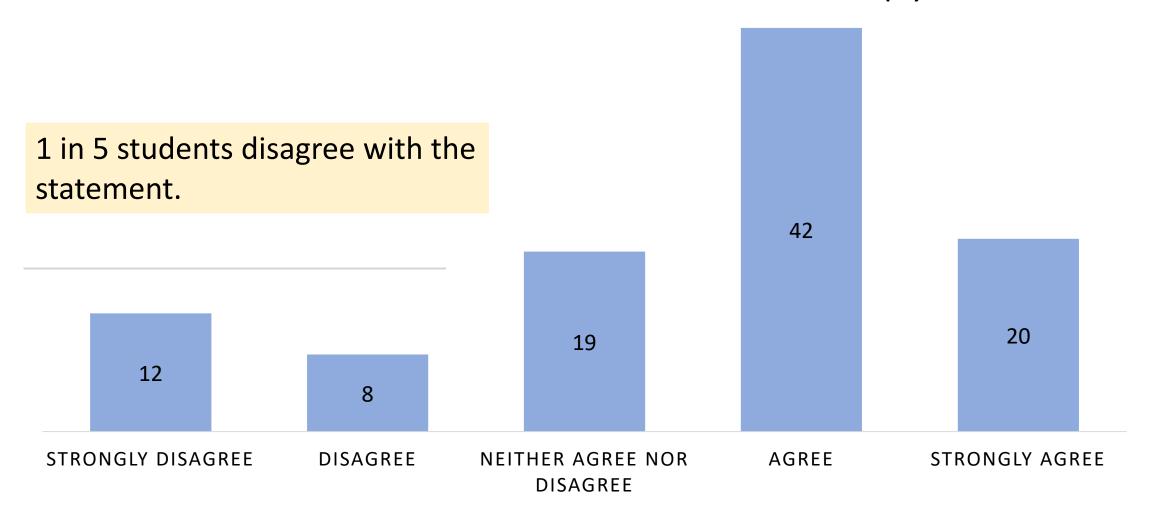
The CDC recommends children and adolescents ages 6 through 17 years do <u>60</u> <u>minutes</u> or more of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity <u>daily</u>.

Q76: Now think about the current school year. On average, how frequently did you walk or bike to get to and/or from home from school? (n=382)

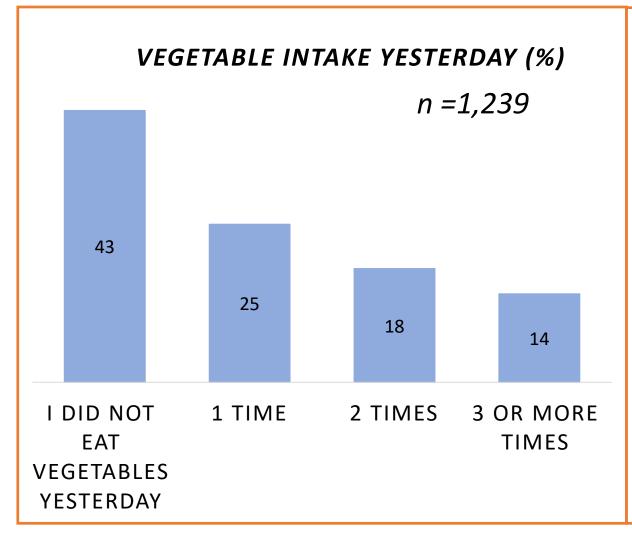


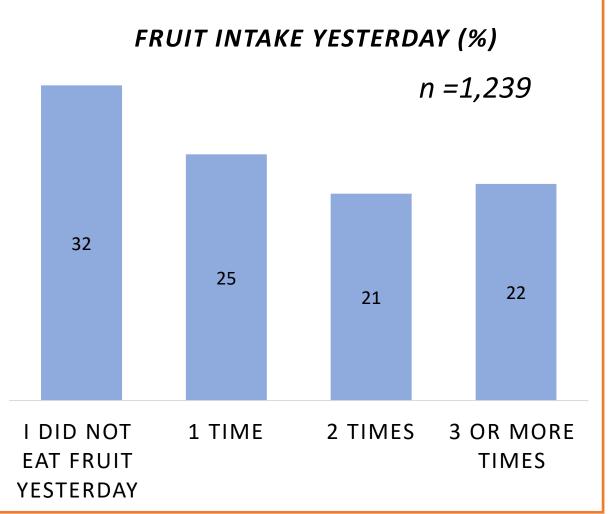
Q77: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I can easily access opportunities to be physically active." (n=378)

PERCEIVED ACCESSIBILTY TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (%)



Q19 & Q20: Yesterday, how many times did you eat fruit/vegetables?



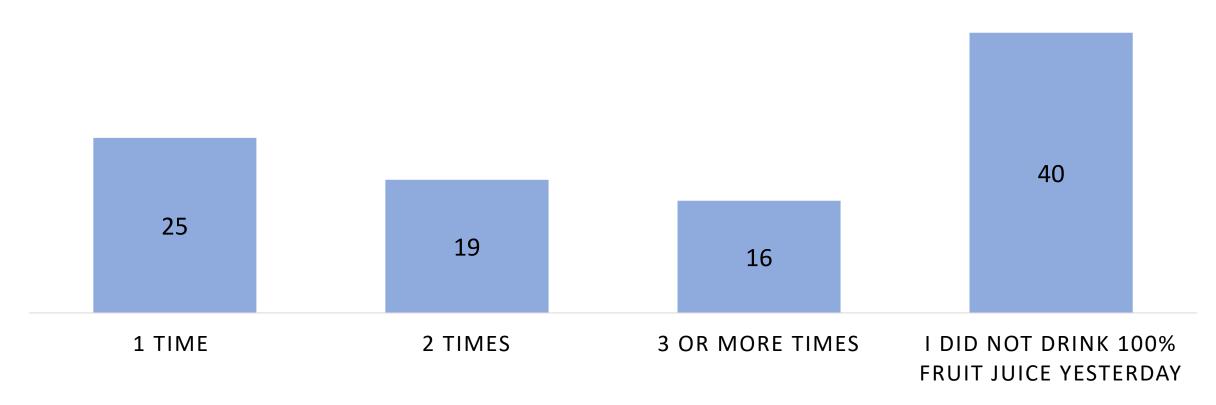


Less people are eating vegetables compared to fruit.

About 1 in 2 students are not eating vegetables everyday and 1 in 3 students are not eating fruits everyday.

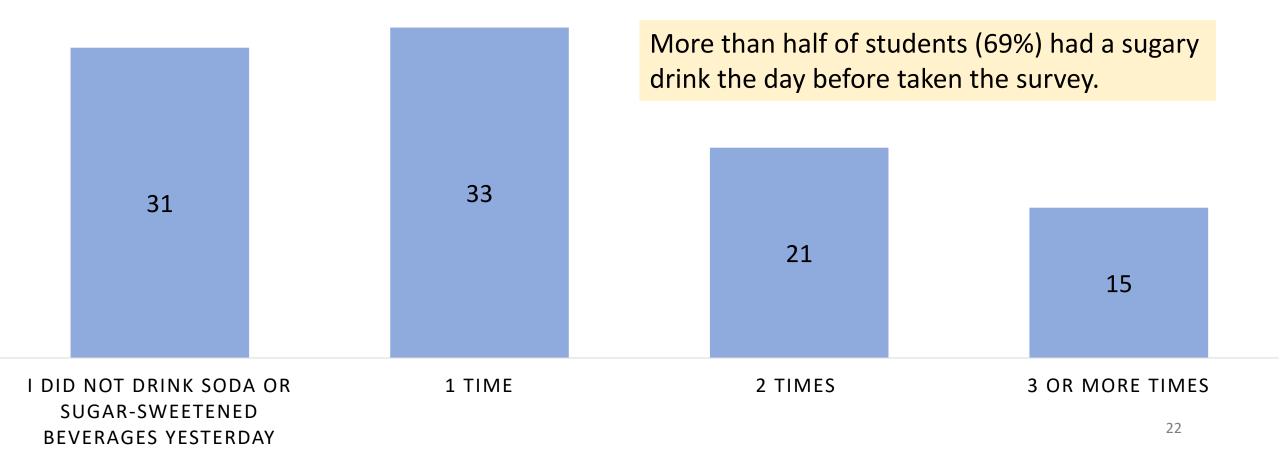
Q78: Yesterday, how many times did you drink 100% fruit juices such as orange juice, apple juice, or grape juice? (n=385)

CONSUMPTION OF FRUIT JUICE IN A DAY (%)



Q79: Yesterday, how many times did you drink a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop, such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite, or a sugar-sweetened beverage such as sports drinks, energy drinks, lemonade, sweetened tea or coffee drinks, flavored milk, Snapple, or Sunny Delight? (n=378)

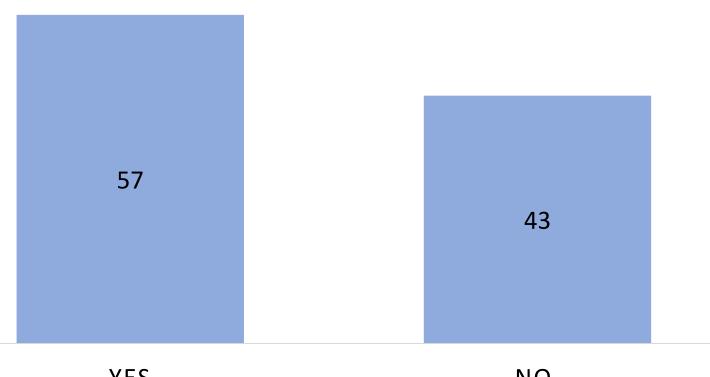
CONSUMPTION OF SODA OR SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES YESRERDAY (%)



More than half of the students (57%) are actively trying to lose weight with healthy behaviors.

Q85: During the past 30 days, have you done any of the following things to lose weight: Increased your intake of fruits and vegetables, reduced the number of calories you eat, cut out between meal snacking, decreased your fat intake, or exercise? (n=376)

HEALTHY WEIGHT LOSS BEHAVIORS (%)

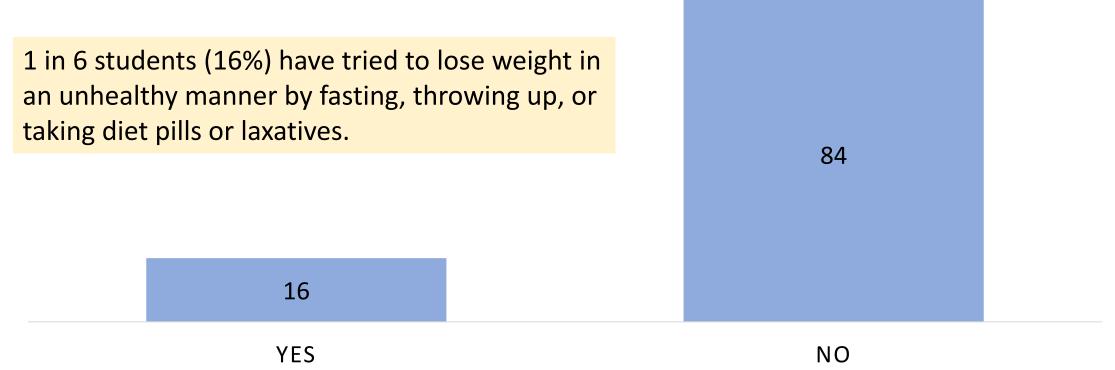


YES

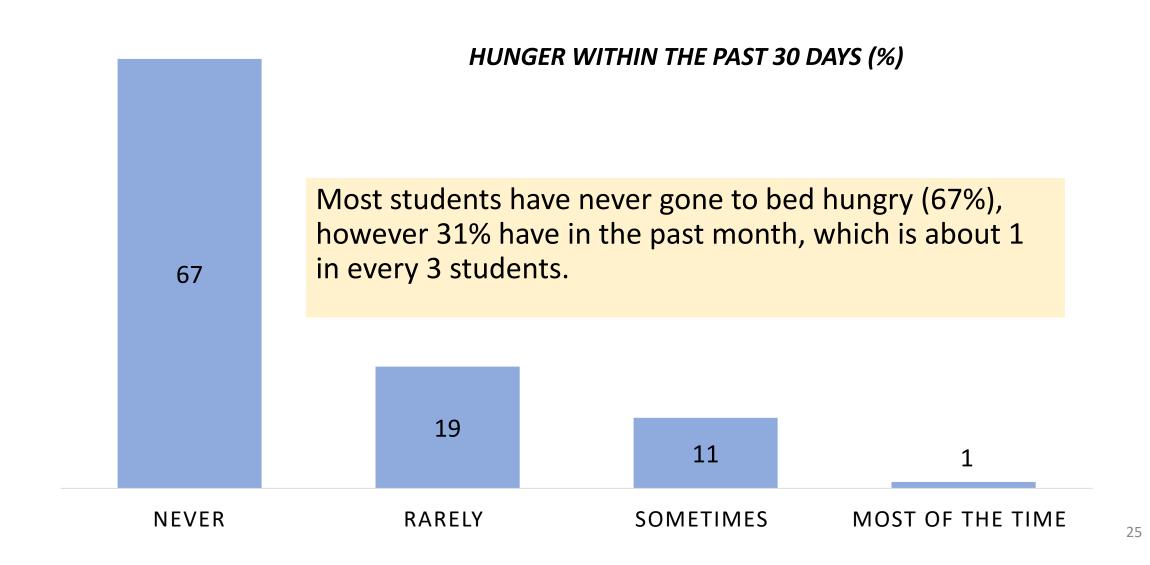
NO

Q86: During the past 30 days, have you done any of the following things at least once to lost weight: fast, vomit or throw up on purpose after eating, take diet pills without a doctor's permission, or take laxatives? (n=373)

UNHEALTHY WEIGHT LOSS BEHAVIORS (%)

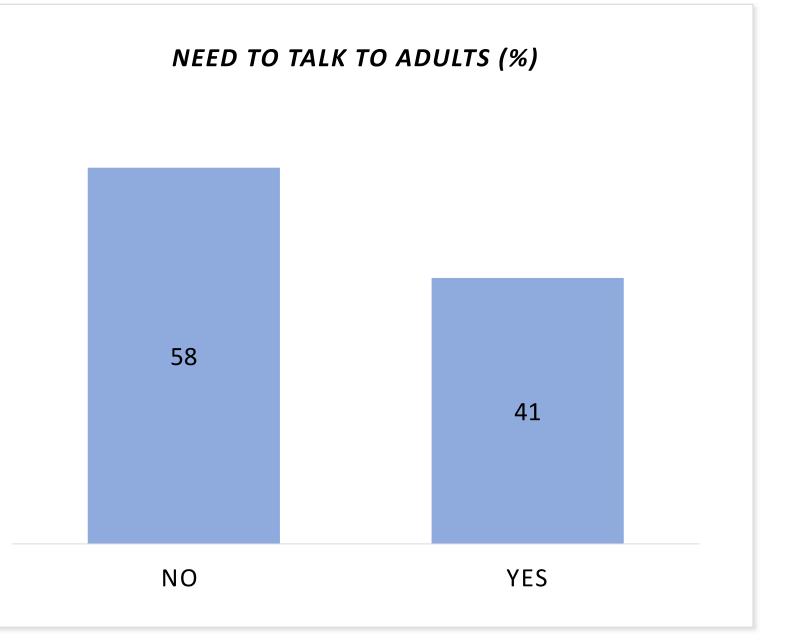


Q91: During the past 30 days, how often did you go to bed hungry because there was not enough food in your home? (n=375)

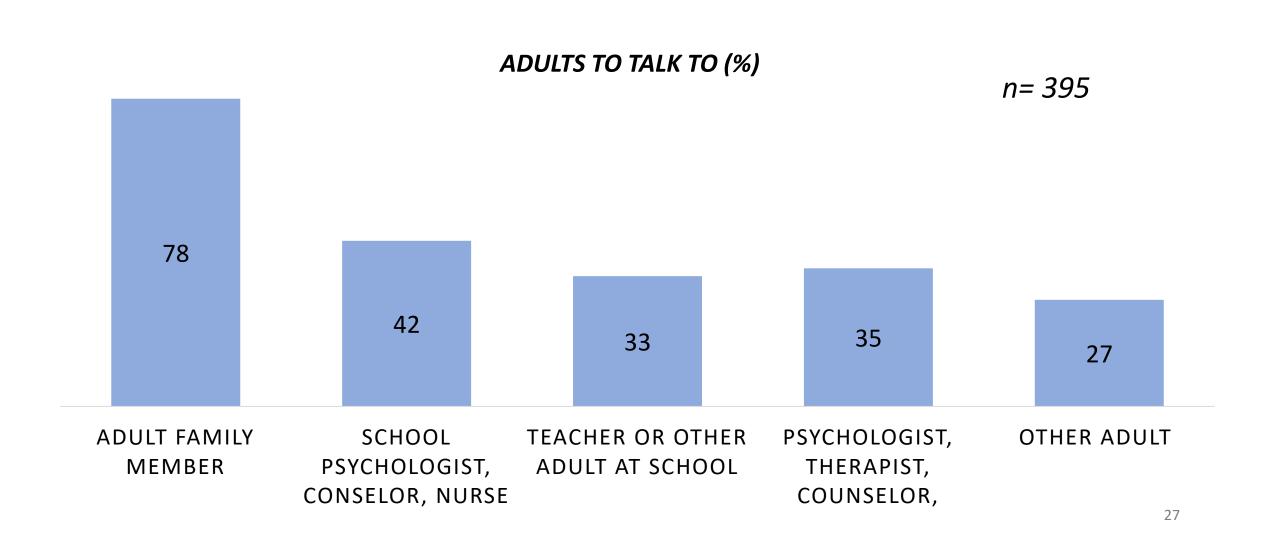


Q21: During the past 12 months, have you felt you needed to talk to an adult about how you were feeling, how things were going in your life, or problems you might have had?

$$n=1,239$$

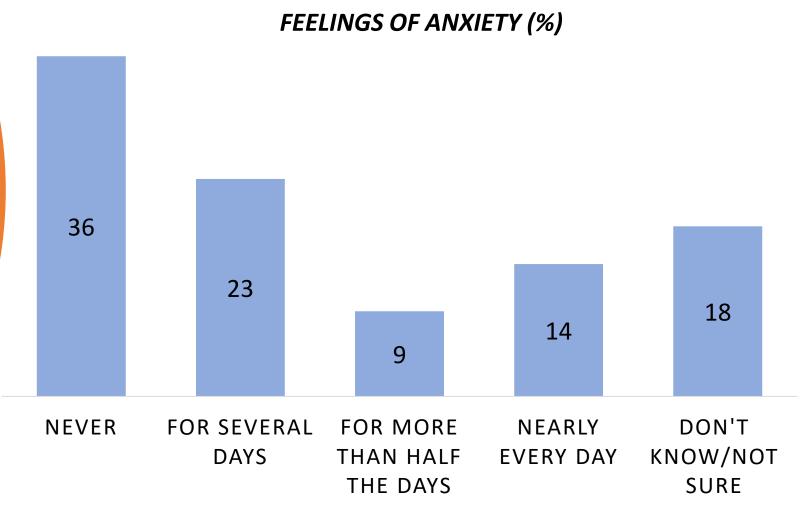


Q22: During the past 12 months, did you talk to any of the following people about things like that? (Respondents are among those who answered "Yes to question 21.)



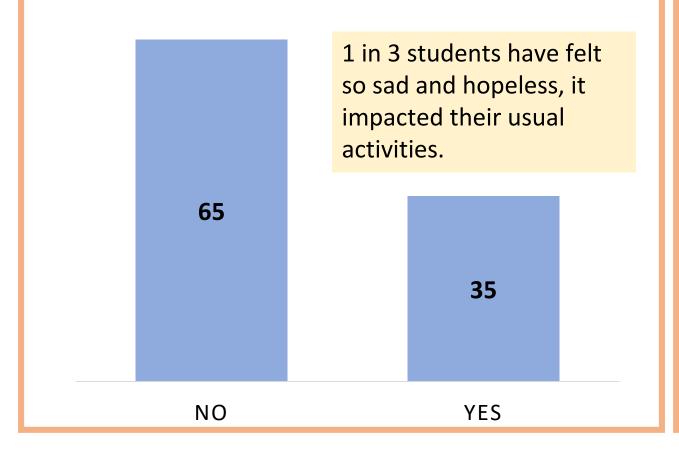
Q23: Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by feeling nervous, anxious or on edge? n=1,229

About one in 4 (23%) eighth grade students felt anxious for more than half of the days in the past two weeks.



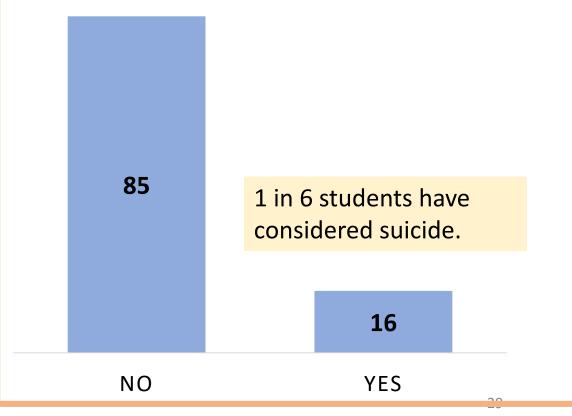
Q24: During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities? (n = 1, 229)

FEELING SAD & HOPELESSNESS IN THE PAST YEAR (%)

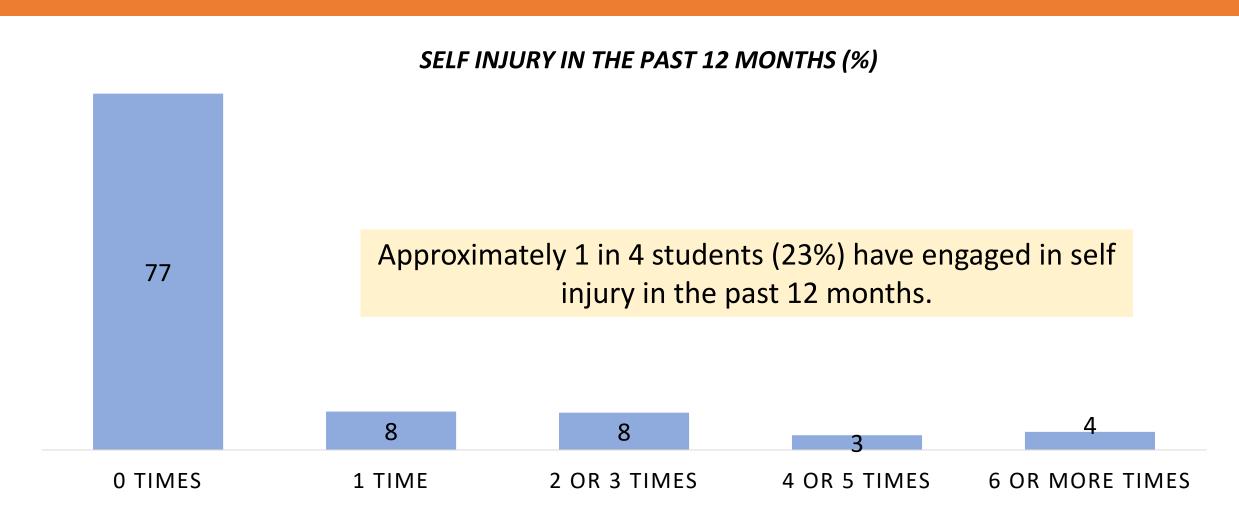


Q25: During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide? (n = 1,212)

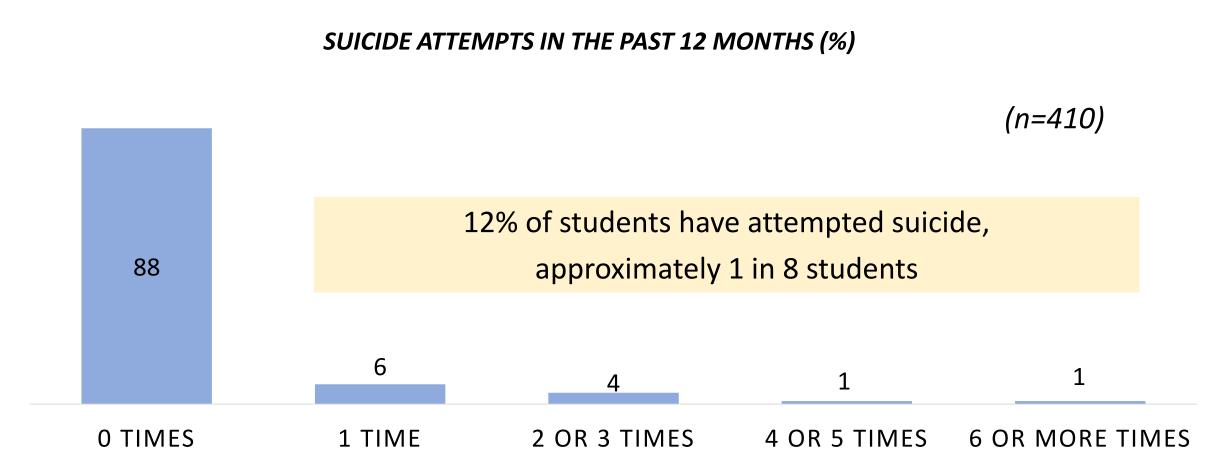
SUICIDE CONSIDERATION IN THE PAST YEAR (%)



Q32: During the past 12 months, how many times did you do something to purposely hurt yourself without wanting to die, such as cutting, burning, or bruising yourself on purpose? (n=411)

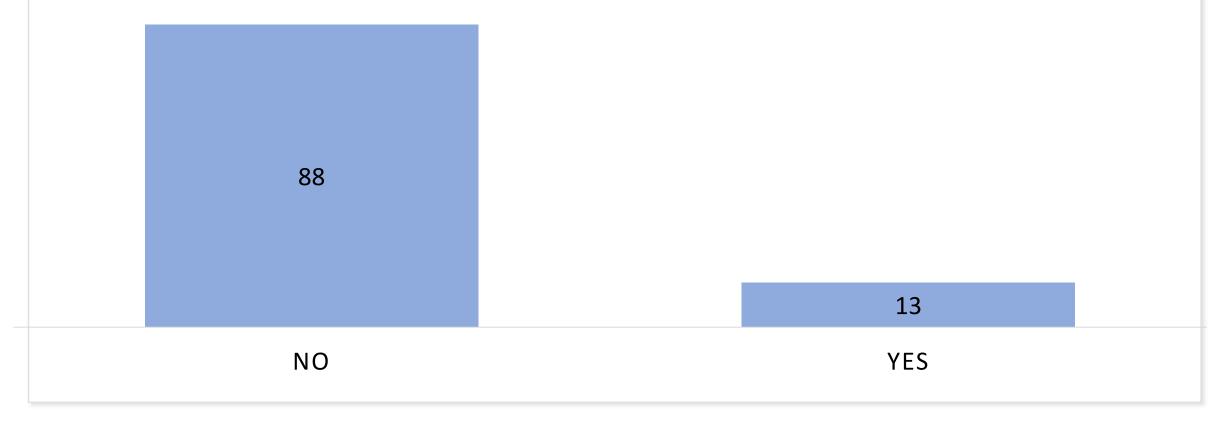


Q: 33 During the past 12 months, how many times did you attempt suicide?



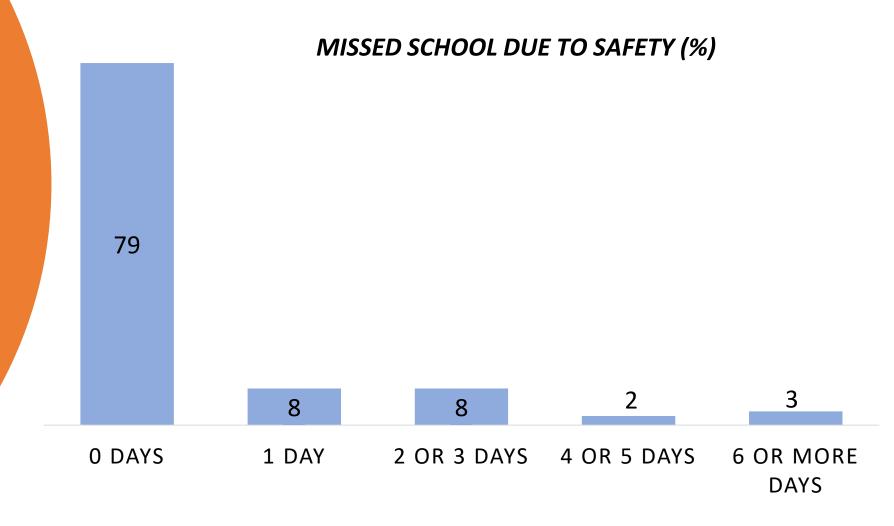
Q34: If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse? Respondents are among those who selected "1 time","2 or 3 times","4 or 5 times","6 or more times" for question 33. (n=49)

SUICIDE ATTEMPT THAT RESULTED IN INJURY, POISONING, OR OVERDOSE (%)



About one in 5 (21%) students skipped school because they felt unsafe at school or during their travel to and from school.

Q26: During the past 30 days, how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school? n=1,229



FREQUENCY OF BULLYING (%)

Q27: During the past 12 months, how many times have you been bullied at school or on your way to or from school? n=1,219

10 OR MORE TIMES

6 TO 9 TIMES

2 TO 5 TIMES

1 TIME

0 TIMES

MES 74

10

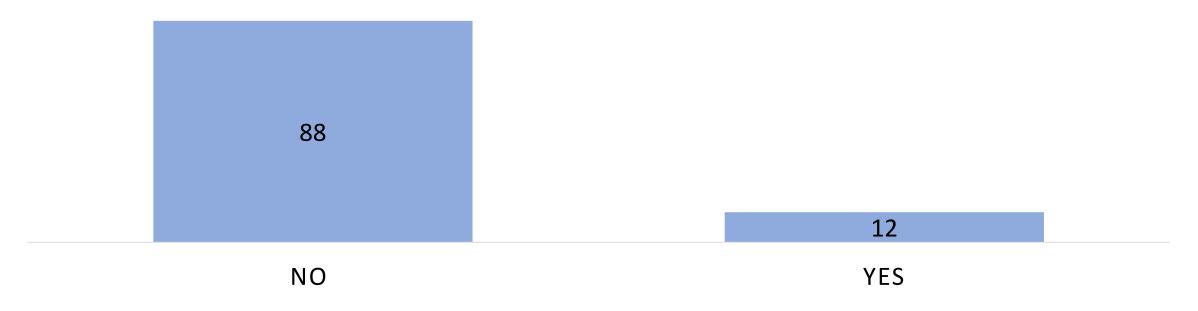
9

About 1 in 4 (26%) of eighth graders have been bullied at least once in the past year at school or on the way to or from school.

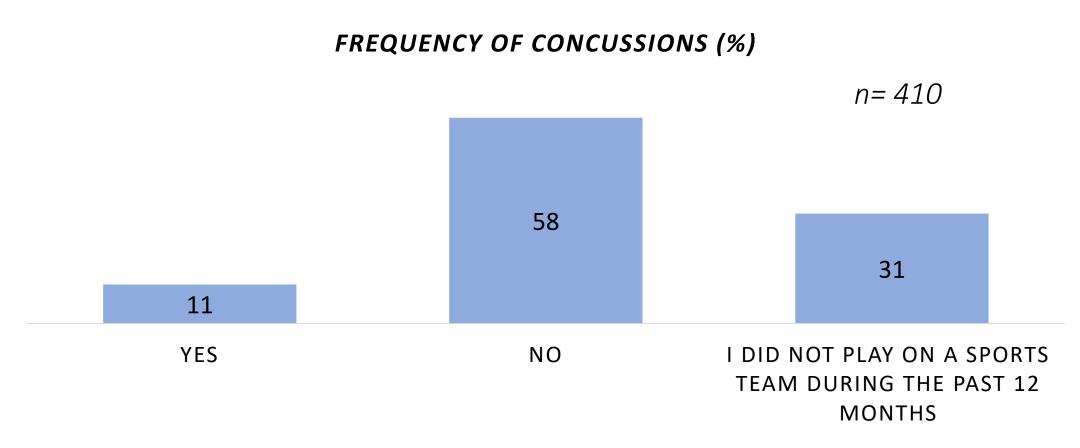
Q28: During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied? n=1,222

One in 8 students (12%) have experienced cyberbullying in the past year.

CYBERBULLYING IN THE PAST YEAR (%)

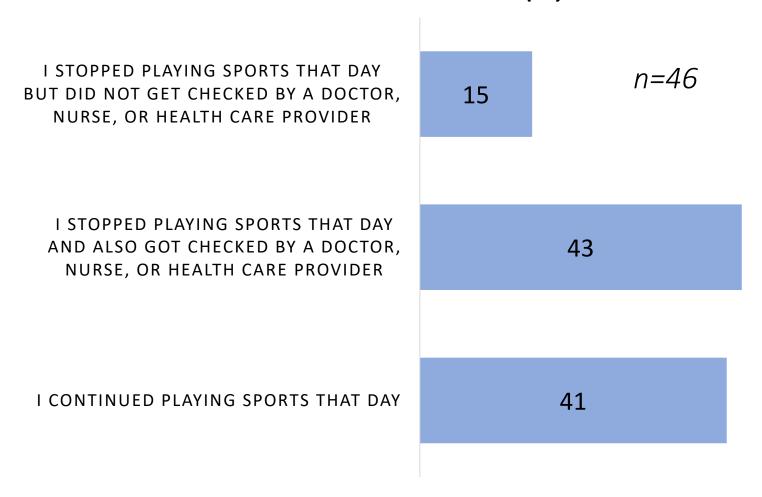


Q35: During the past 12 months, did you suffer a blow or jolt to your head while playing with a sports team which caused you to get "knocked out", have memory problems, double or blurry vision, headaches or "pressure" in the head, or nausea or vomiting?



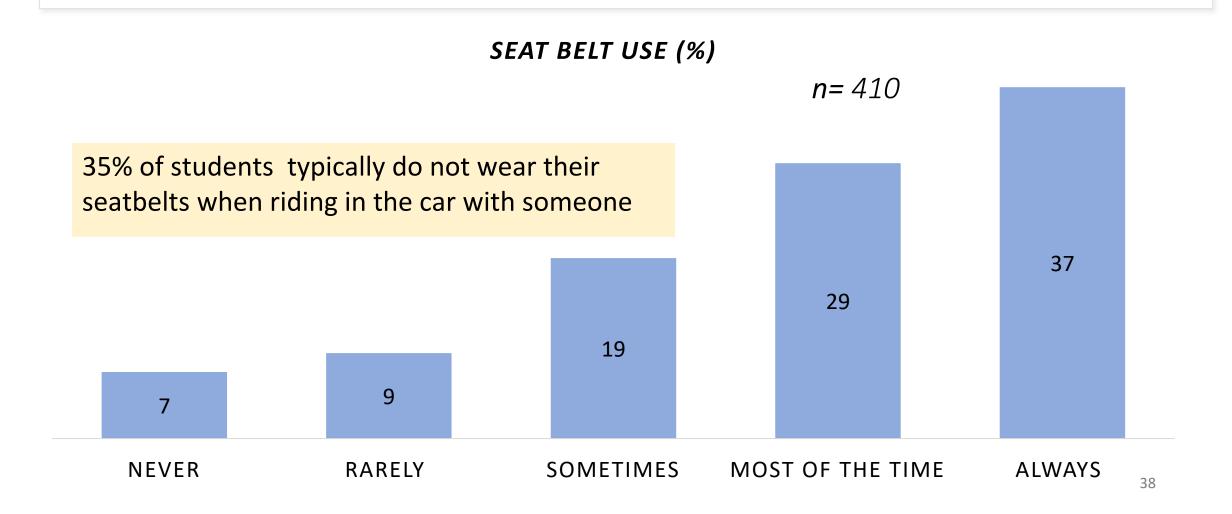
Q36: If you suffered such a blow to your head during sports in the past 12 months, what happened? (Respondents are among those who answered "Yes" to question 35)

HEAD INJURY ACTION (%)

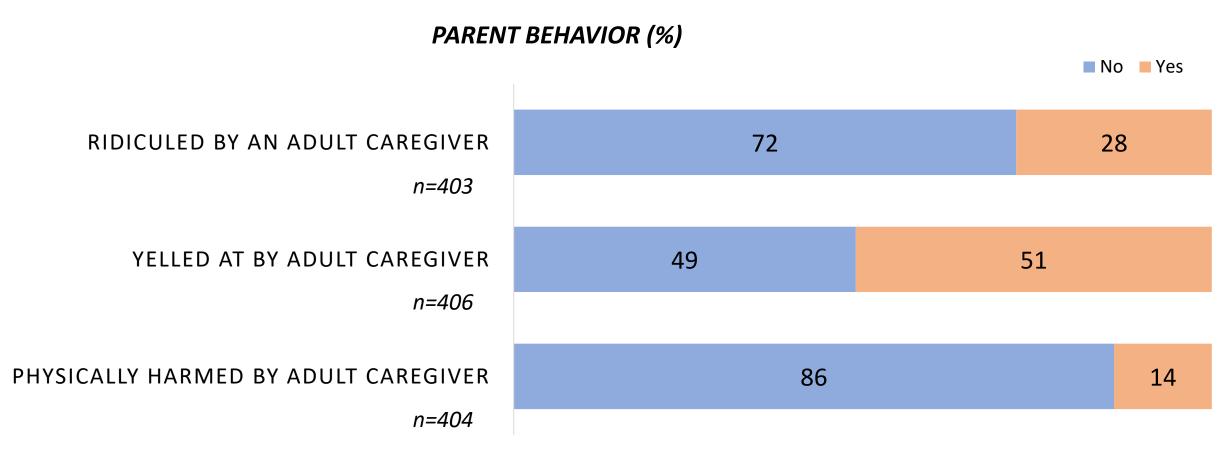


41% of students did not stop playing after suffering a blow to the head during a sports activities, which is a little less than 1 in every 2 students.

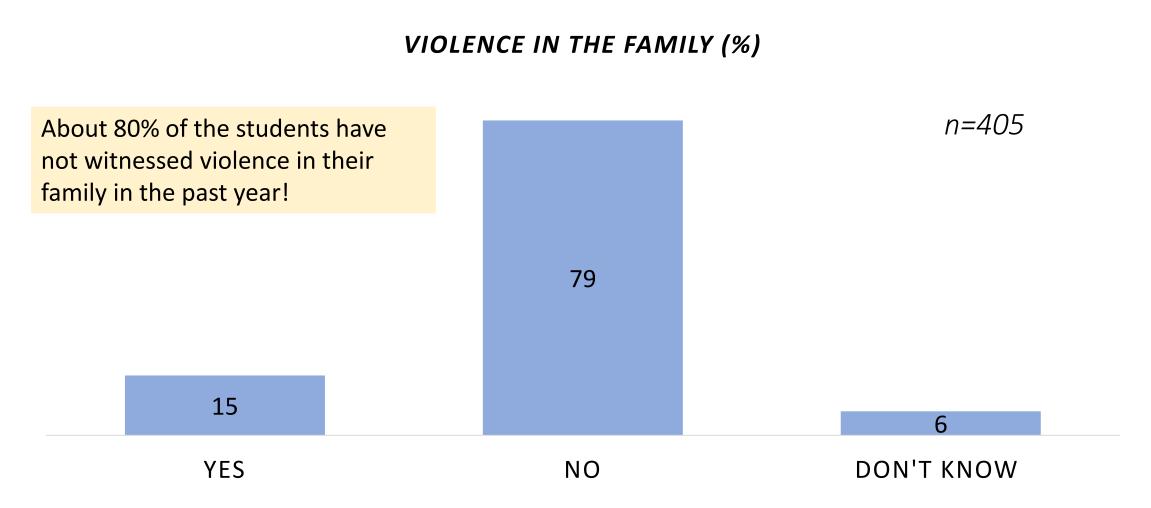
Q37: How often to you wear a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else?



Q38: During the past 12 months, did a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative do any of the following to you?

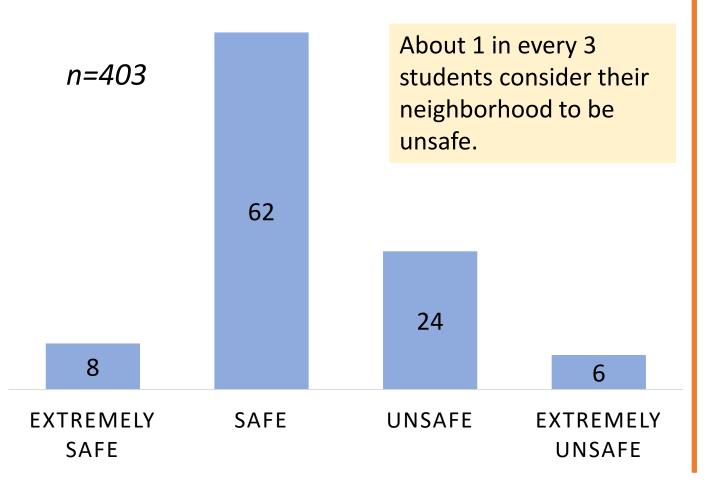


Q40: During the past 12 months, did you witness violence in your family?



Q41:How safe from crime do you consider your neighborhood to be?

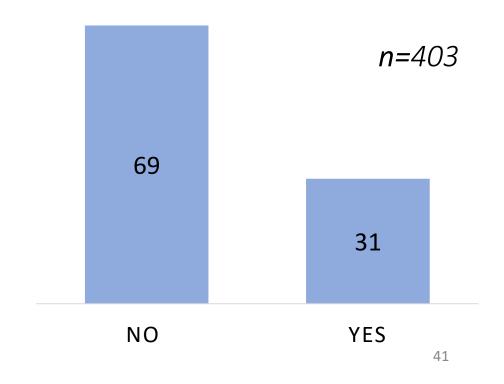
NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY (%)



Q42: Have you ever witnessed someone being physically harmed in your neighborhood?

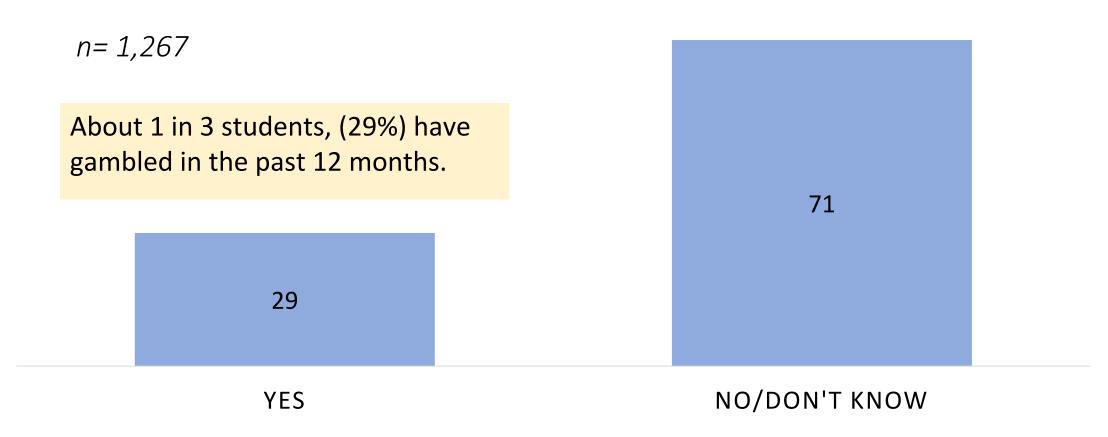
WITNESSED PHYSICAL HARM (%)

31% or about 1 in every 3 students have witnesses physically harassment in their neighborhood.

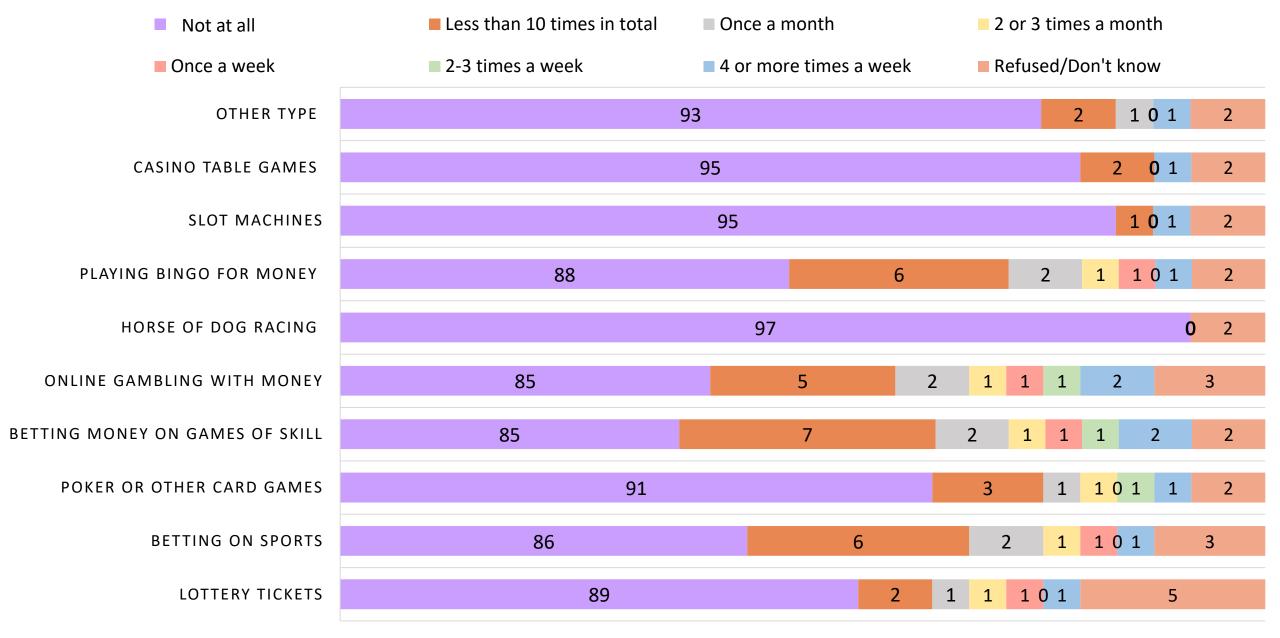


Q30: Have you gambled in the past 12 months?

GAMBLING FREQUENCY (%)



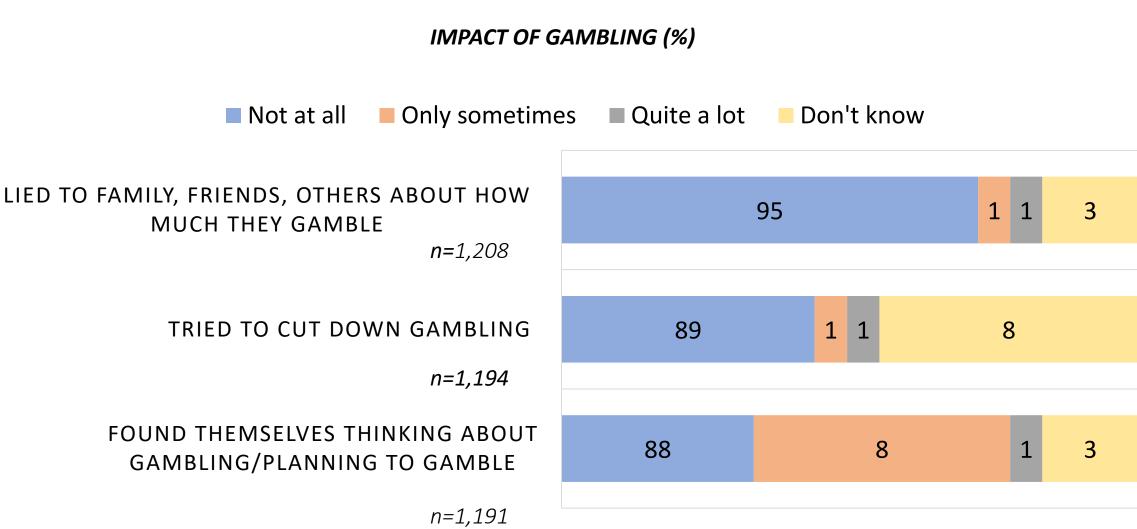
Q30: Types of Gambling (%)



Gambling Behavior Highlights

- Betting on sports, online gambling with money, and betting money on games of skill are the three most common types of gambling based on question #30.
- Horse or dog races are very uncommon ways to gamble amongst these eighthgrade students.

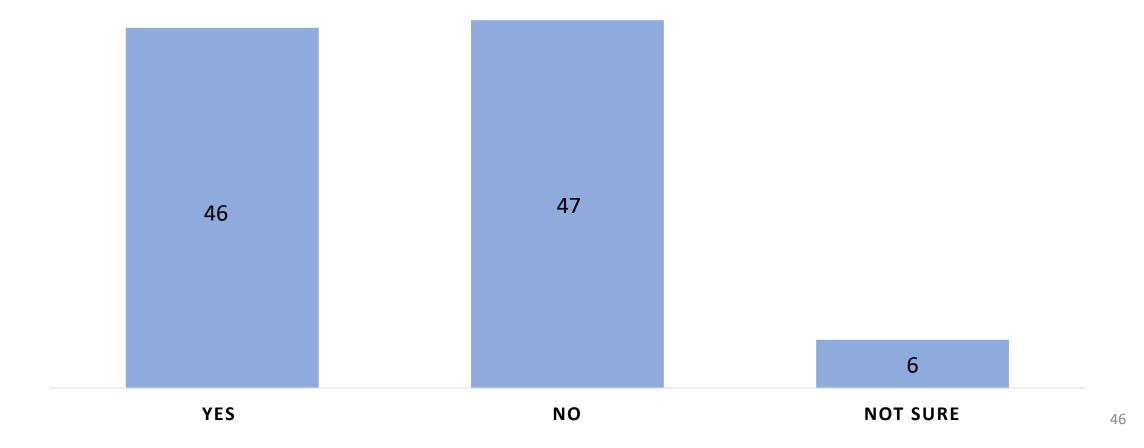
Q31: Gambling Behaviors - In the past 12 months, how often have you...

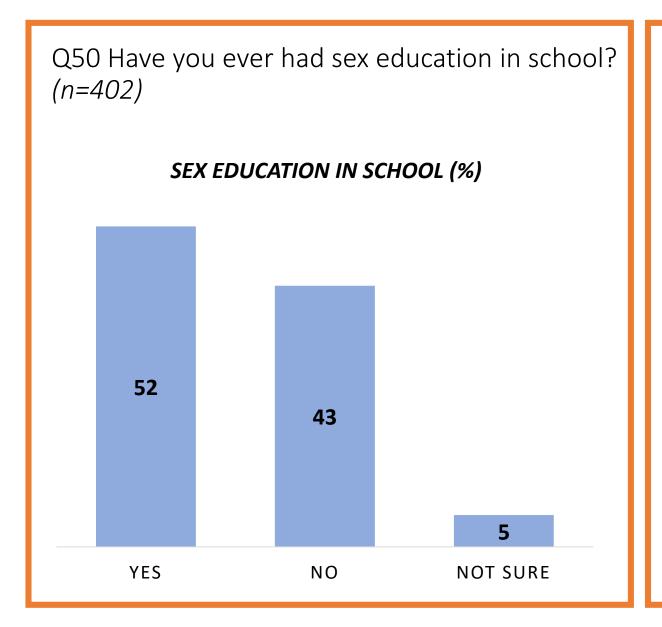


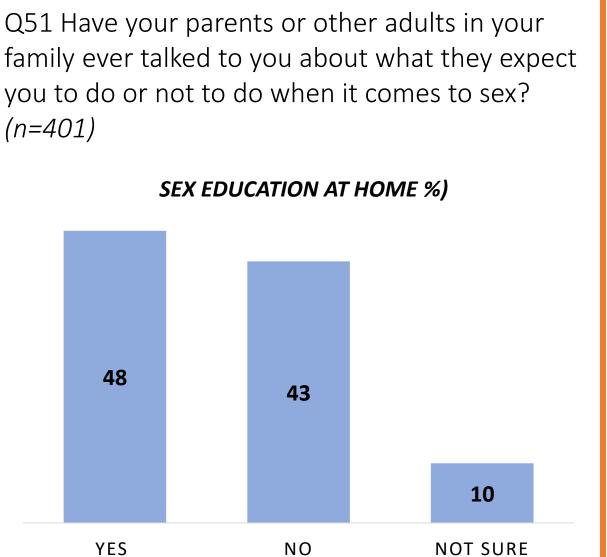
Q49. Have you ever been taught in school about how to use condoms? (n=403)

CONDOM EDUCATION (%)

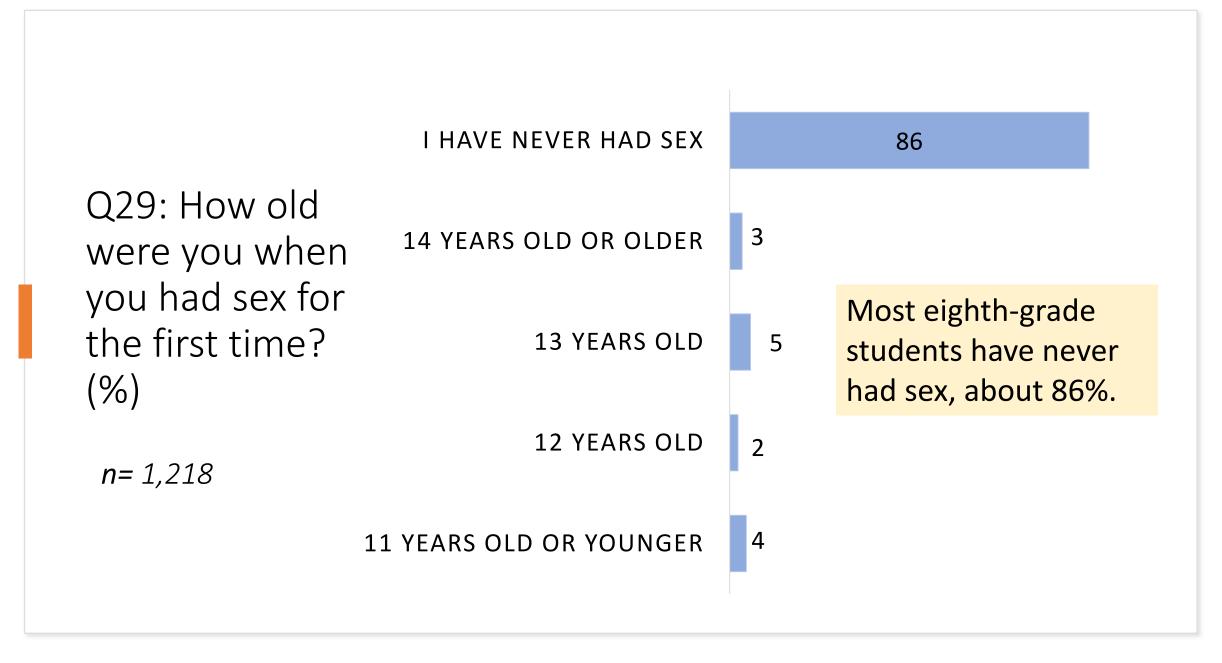
About half of all students (46%) have not learned how to use a condom in school.



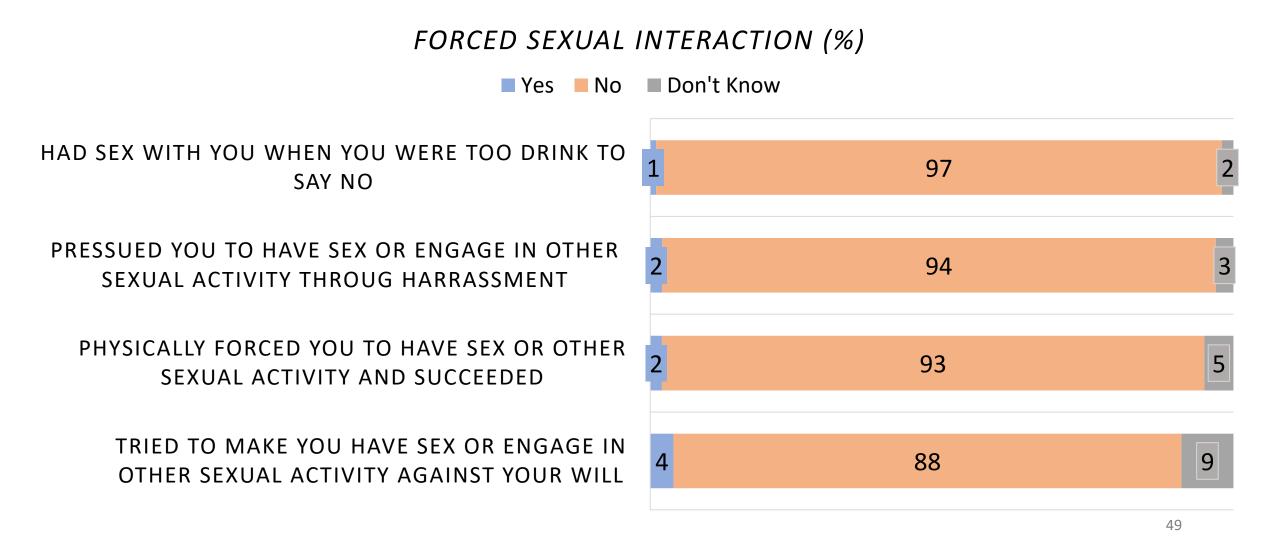




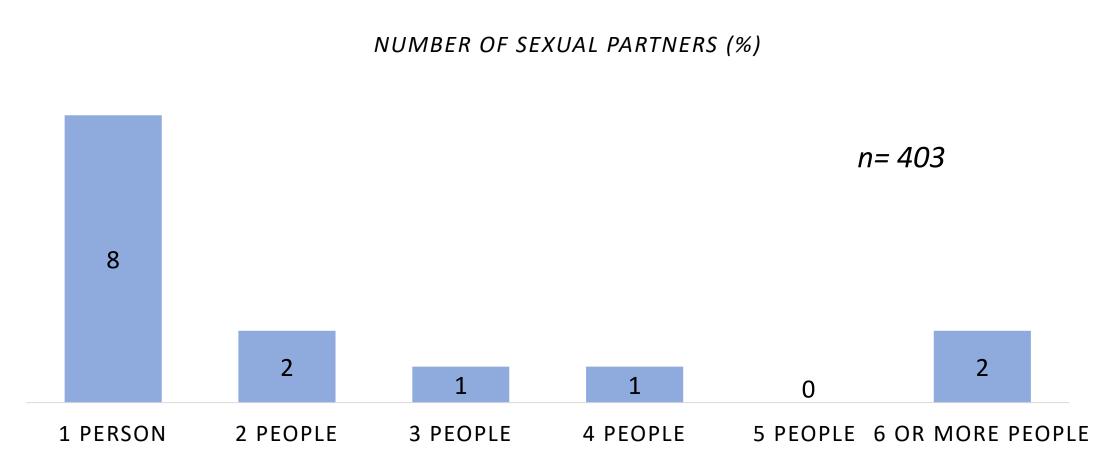
Approximately 77% of students have not learned sex education at ether school or at home.



Q39: During the past 12 months has anyone ever: (n = 405)



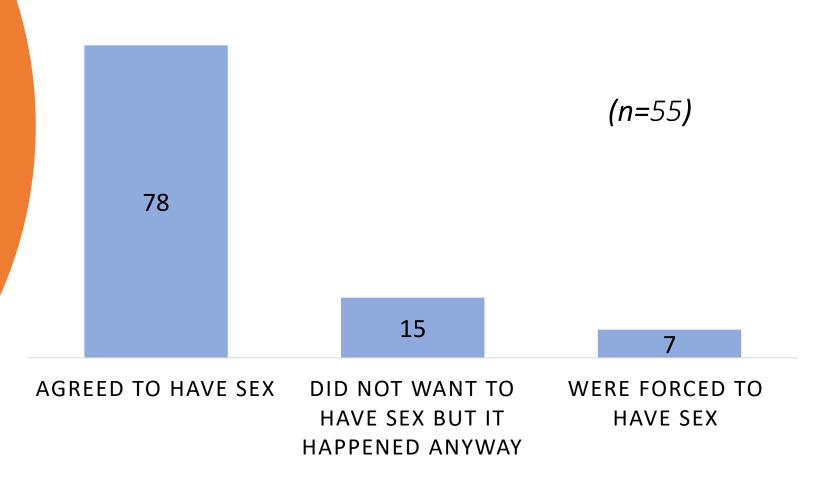
Q43: During your life, with how many people have you had sex? (Note: 86% of respondents have never had sex.)



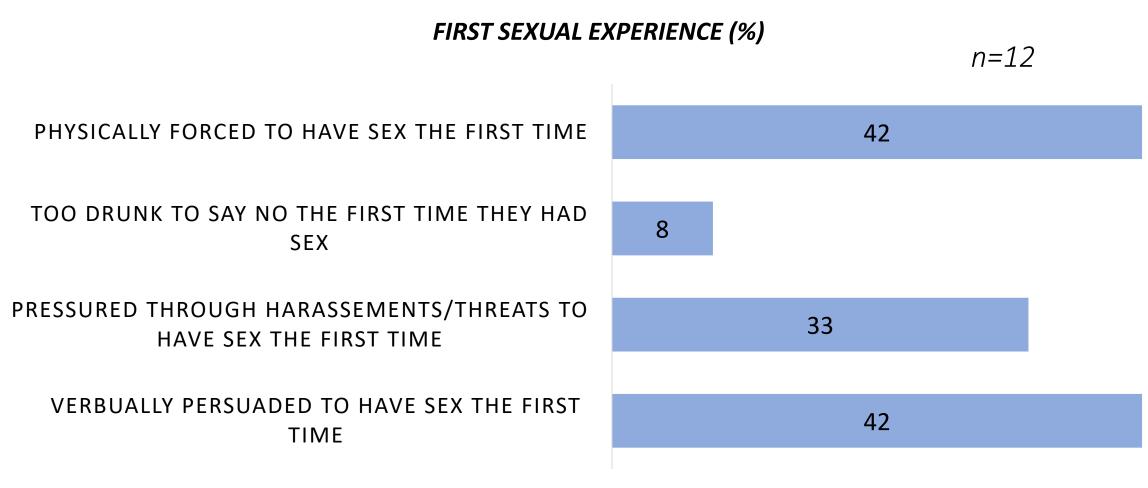
22% of eighth graders who have had sex, did not want to have sex, which is approximately 1 in 5 students.

Q44: How would you describe the first time you had sex? (Respondents are among those who selected one of the following answers for question 43: "1 person","2 people","3 people","4 people","5 people","6 or more people")

EXPERIENCE DURING THE FIRST TIME HAVING SEX (%)



Q45:The first time you had sex, were you...(Respondents are among those who selected one of the following answers to question 44: "Did not want to have sex but it have sex?")

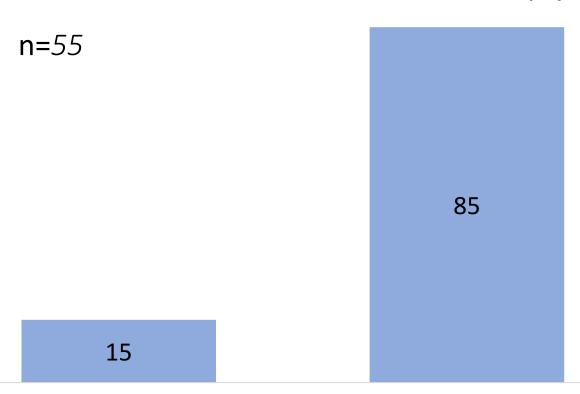


Approximately,

1 in 7 eighth-grade students (15%) who have had sex, use alcohol or drugs beforehand.

Q46: The last time you had sex, did you drink alcohol or use drugs beforehand? (Respondents are among those who selected one of the following answers for question 43: "1 person", "2 people", "3 people", "4 people", "5 people", "6 or more people)



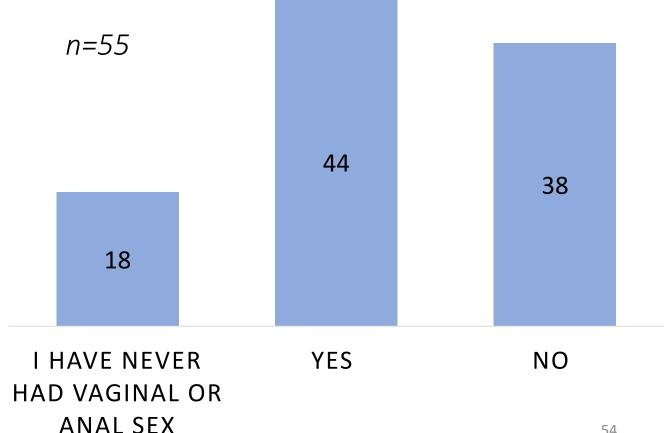


YES NO

Almost one in every 2 eighth grade students who have had vaginal or anal sex did not use a condom the last time they had sex.

Q47: The last time you had vaginal and/or anal sex, did you or your partner use a condom? (Respondents are among those who selected one of the following answers for question 43: "1 person", "2 people", "3 people", "4 people", "5 people", "6 or more people")

CONDOM USE (%)

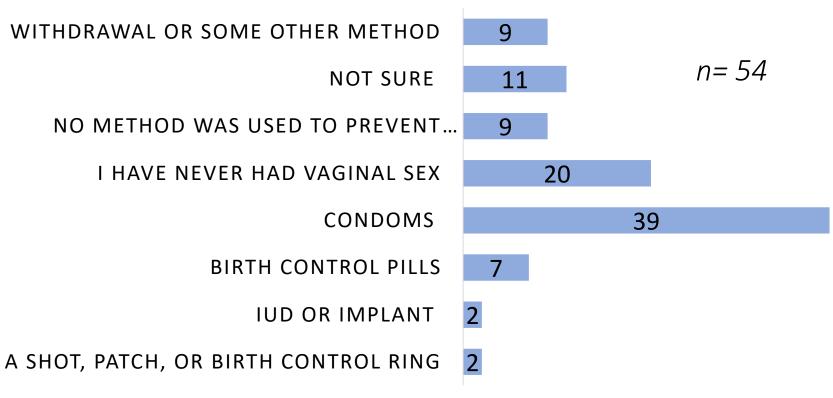


1 in ever 3 students (39%) who have had sex <u>use</u> condoms to prevent pregnancy.

About 29% of sexually active students did not use a method to prevent pregnancy, were not sure, or used a less effective method like withdrawal.

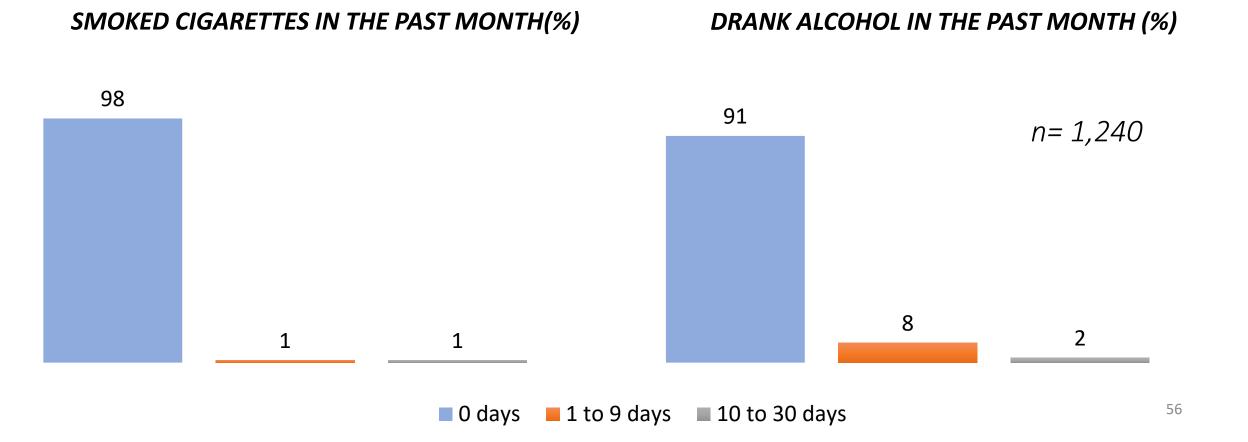
Q48: The last time you had vaginal sex, what method(s) did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy? (Respondents are among those who selected one of the following answers for question 43: "1 person","2 people","3 people","4 people","5 people","6 or more people")

METHODS USED TO PREVENT PREGNANCY (%)



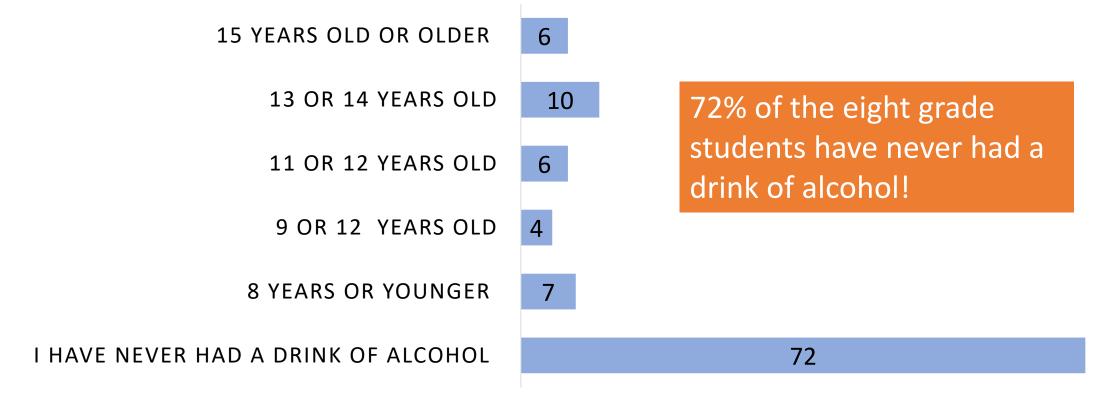
Q16 & 17 During the past 30 days, how many days have you smoked cigarettes/ had at least one alcoholic drink?

Most eight-grade students are <u>not</u> current users of alcohol or cigarettes!

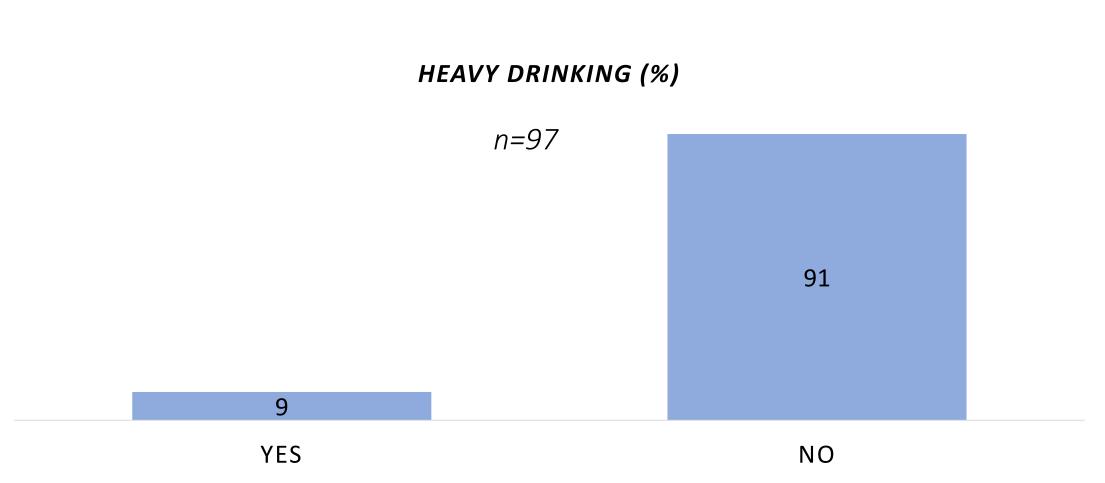


Q52: How old were you when you had your first alcoholic drink other than a few sips? (n = 348)

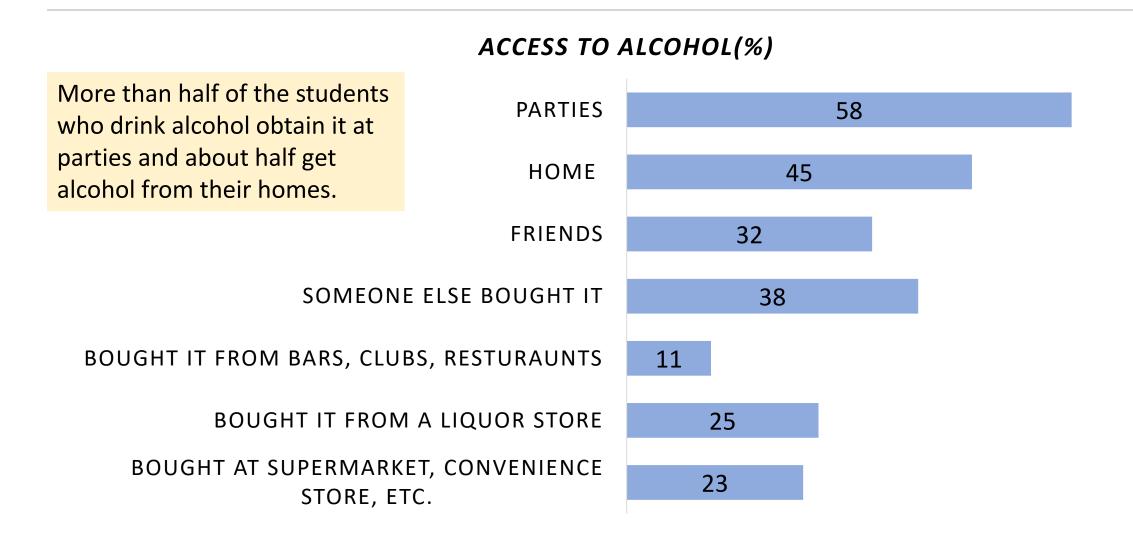
AGE OF FIRST ALCOHOLIC DRINK (%)



Q53: During the past 30 days, have you had 4 or more alcoholic drinks in a row, that is, within a couple hours? (Respondents are among those who chose one of the following answers for question 52: "8 years old or younger", "9 or 10 years old", "11 or 12 years old", "13 or 14 years old", "15 or 16 years old", "17 years old or older")

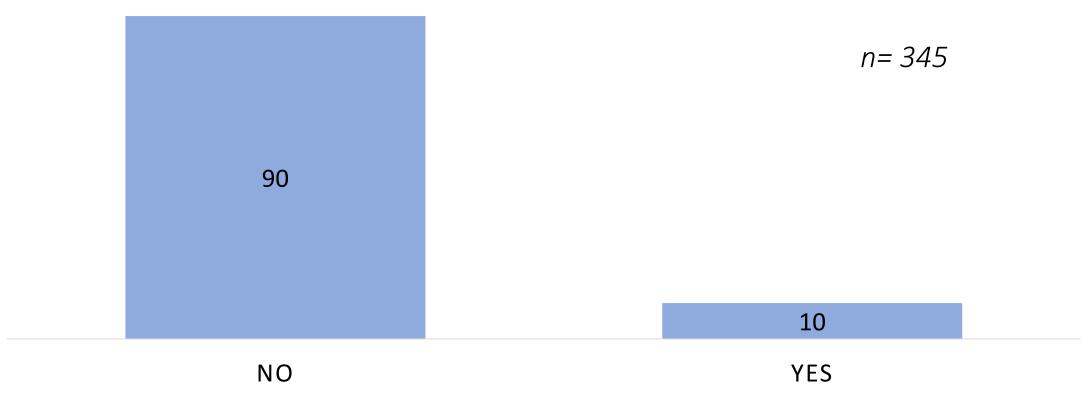


Q54: There are many ways to get beer, wine coolers, wine, or liquor. Which of the following are how you get alcohol? (n=53)

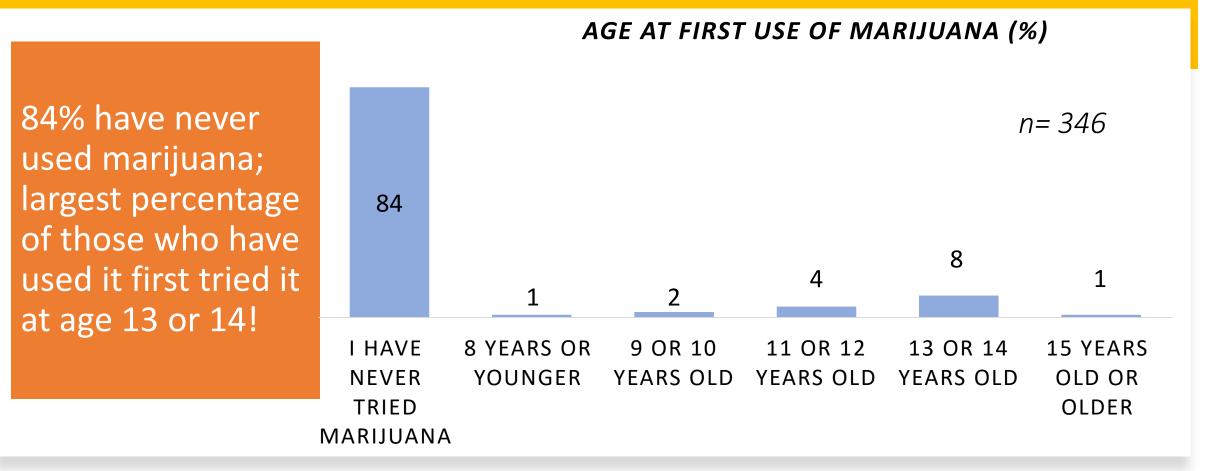


Q55: During the past 30 days, did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?

PASSENGER OF A CAR DRIVEN BY SOMEONE DRINKING ALCOHOL (%)



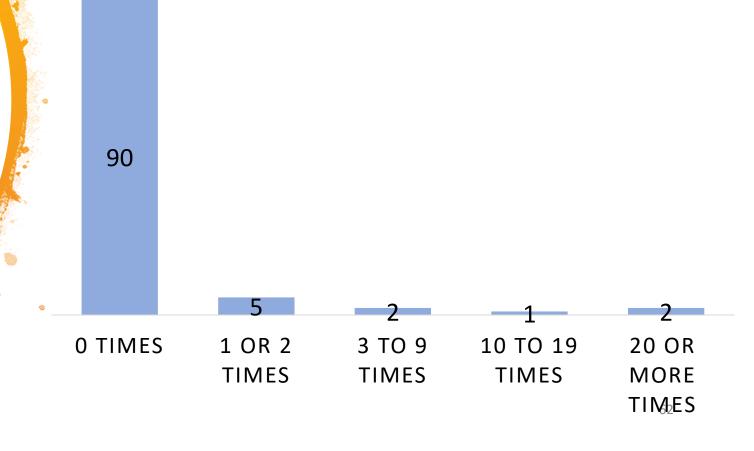
Q56: How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?



Q18: During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana? (n=1,236)

About 90% of eighth grade students have **not** used marijuana in the past month.

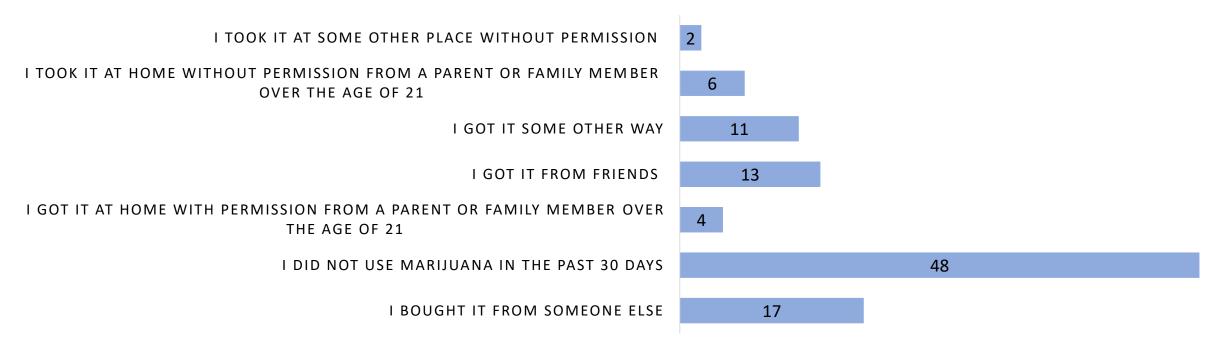
USED MARIJUANA IN THE PAST MONTH (%)



Q57: During the past 30 days, how did you usually get marijuana that you used?

Respondents are among those who chose one of the following answers for question 56: "8 years old or younger", "9 or 10 years old", "11 or 12 years old", "13 or 14 years old", "15 years old or older" (n=55)

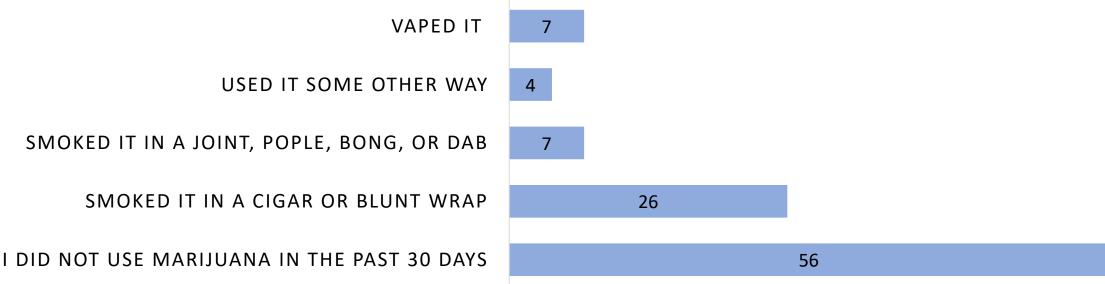
ACCESS TO MARIJUANA (%)



Q58: During the past 30 days, how did you usually use marijuana?

Respondents are among those who chose one of the following answers for question 56: "8 years old or younger", "9 or 10 years old", "11 or 12 years old", "13 or 14 years old", "15 years old or older" (n=55)

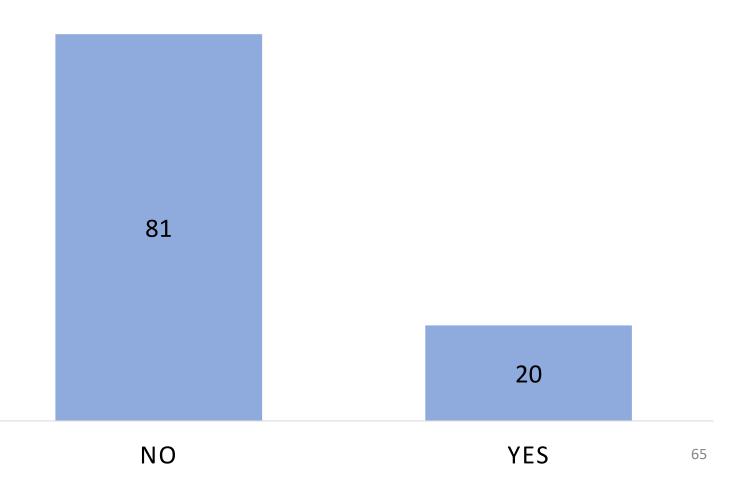
USE OF MARIJUANA (%)



1 in 5 students (20%) rode in a car driven by someone who had been using marijuana in the past 30 days.

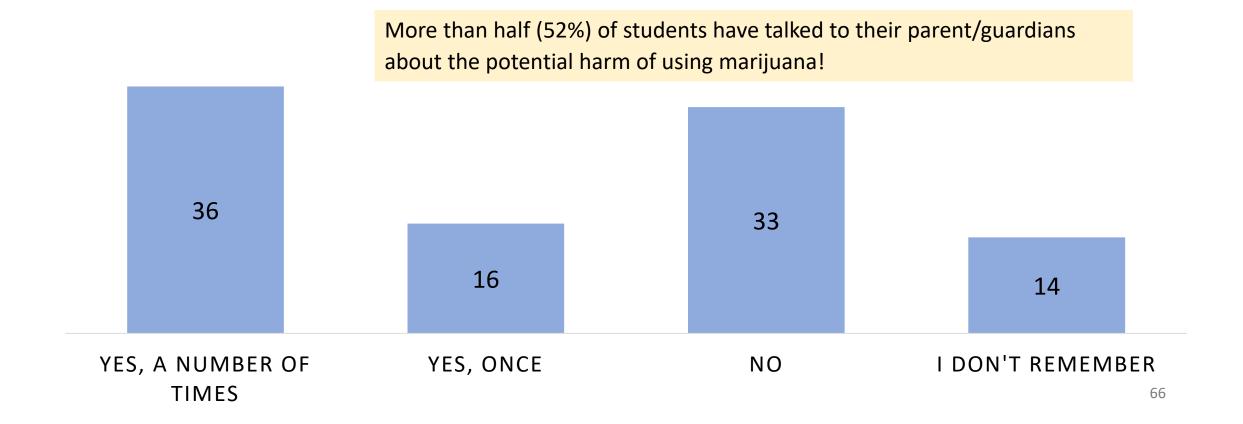
Q59: During the past 30 days, did you ever ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been using marijuana? (n=343)

DRIVING AND MARIJUANA FREQUENCY (%)



Q60: During the past year, have your parent(s) or guardian(s) talked to you about the potential negative consequences of using marijuana? (n=341)

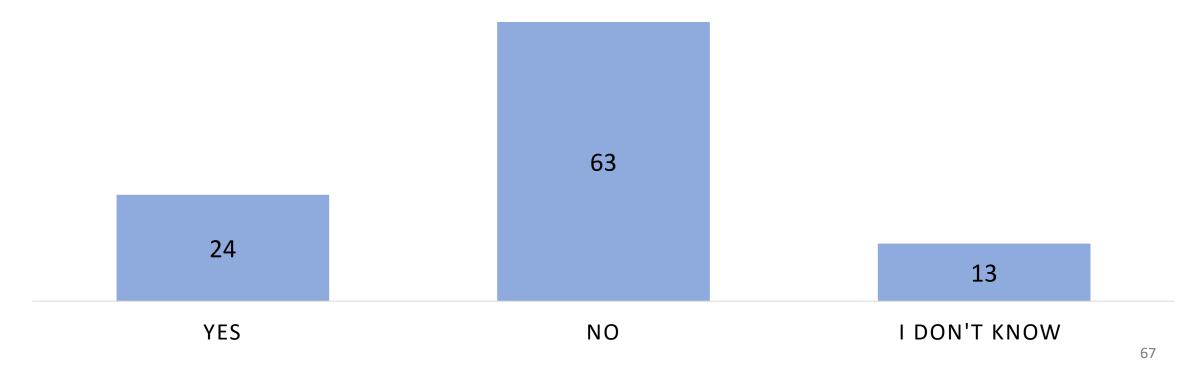
DISCUSSION WITH PARENT/GUARDIAN ABOUT MARIJUANA (%)



Q61: Does anyone who lives with you now use marijuana? (n= 341)

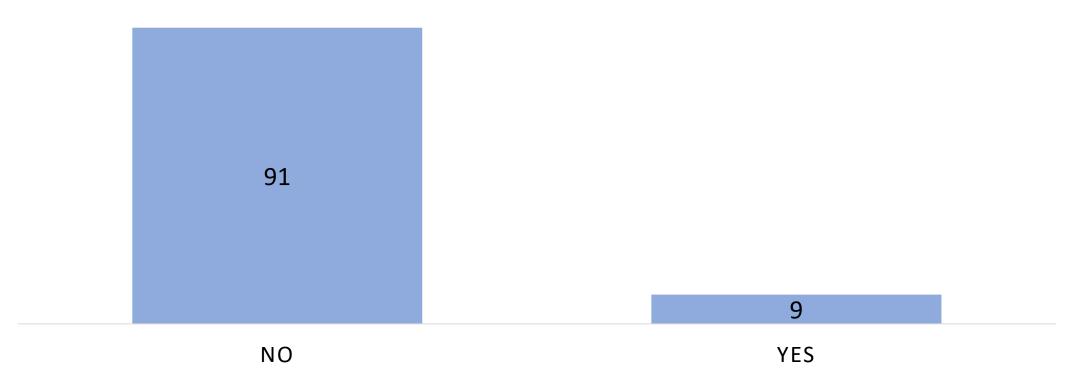
One in 4 eighth-grade students (24%) live with someone who uses marijuana.

MARIJUANA USE AT HOME (%)



Q62: During your lifetime, have you ever taken prescription drugs that weren't your own? (n=343)

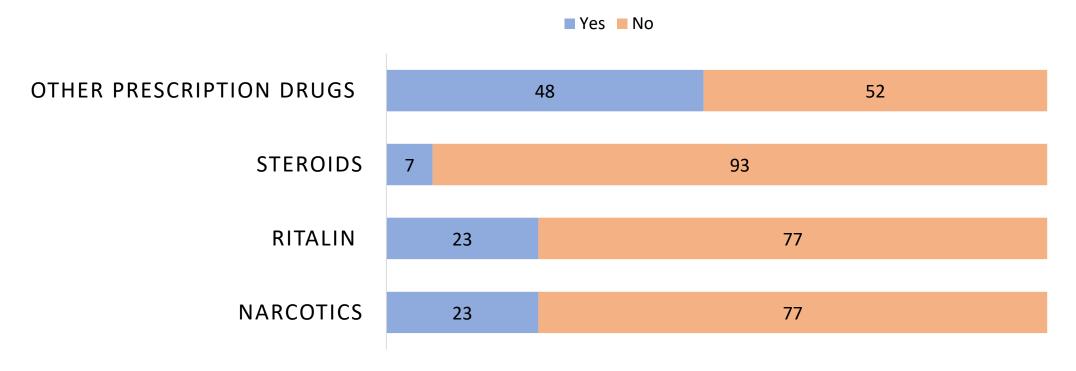
PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE IN LIFETIME (%)



Q63: During the lifetime, have you taken any of the following prescription drugs have you taken that weren't your own

Respondents are among those who answered "Yes" to question 62. (n=31)

MISUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE IN LIFETIME (%)

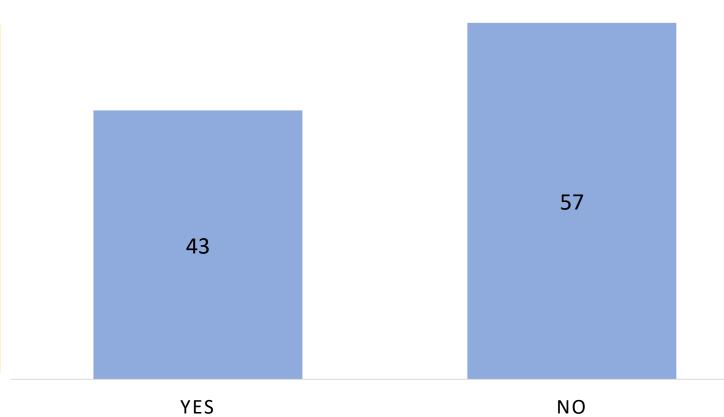


Q64: During the past 30 days, have you taken prescription drugs that weren't your own?

(n=30)

PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE IN THE PAST 30 DAYS (%)

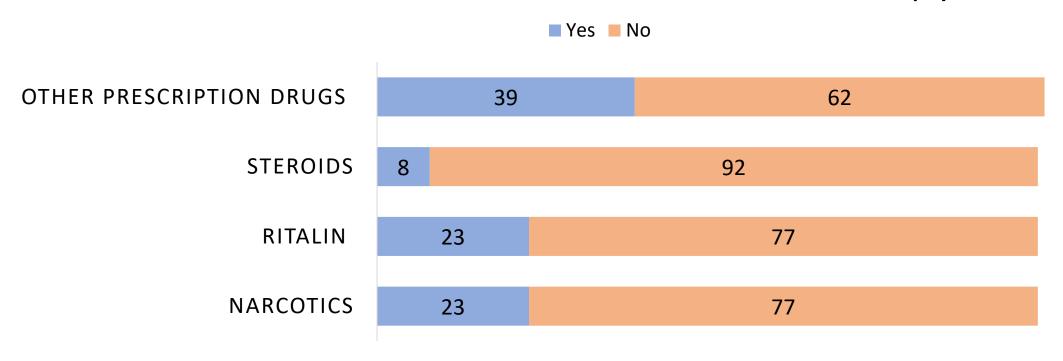
Almost half of the students (43%) who have used prescription drugs in their lifetime, have used prescription drugs that were not theirs in the past 30 days.



Q65: During the past 30 days, which of the following prescription drugs have you taken that weren't your own?

Respondents are among those who answered "Yes" to question 64. (n=13)

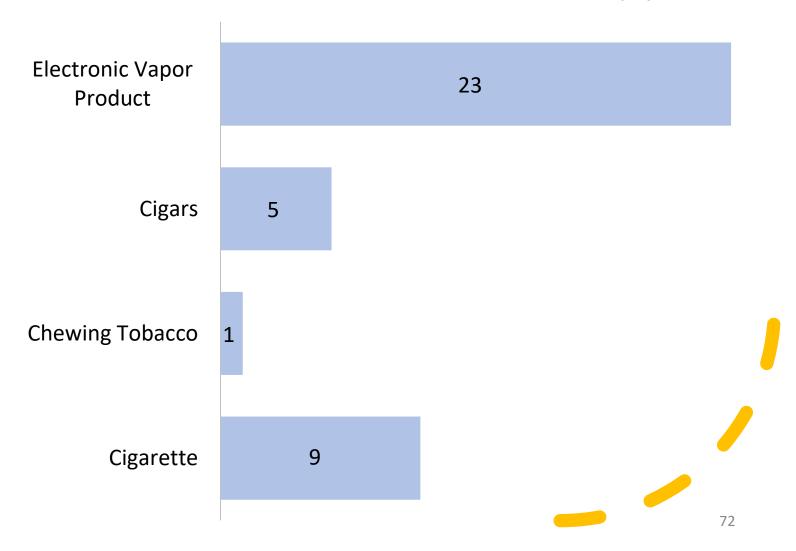
MISUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN THE PAST 30 DAYS (%)



About one in four students have tried electronic vapor products.

Q66, 68, 69, 70: Have you ever tried or used [(tobacco products)]? (n=346)

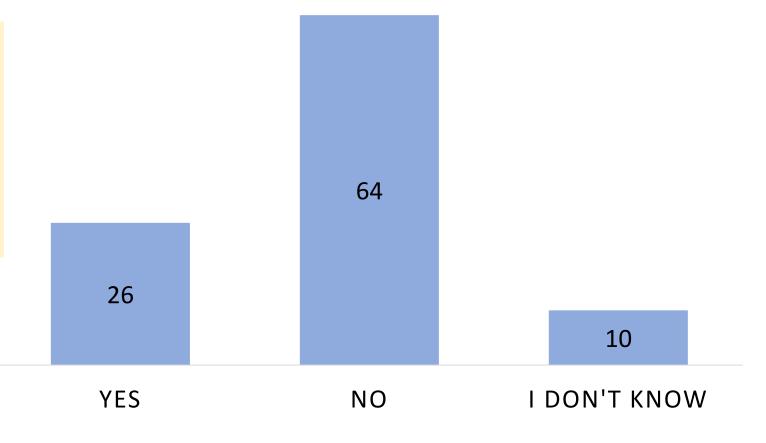
TOBACCO PRODUCTS STUDENTS HAVE TRIED (%)



Q67: Does anyone who lives with you currently use tobacco (e.g. cigarettes, cigars, electronic vapor products, chew, dip, snus, pipe tobacco? (n = 347)

TOBACCO USE AT HOME (%)

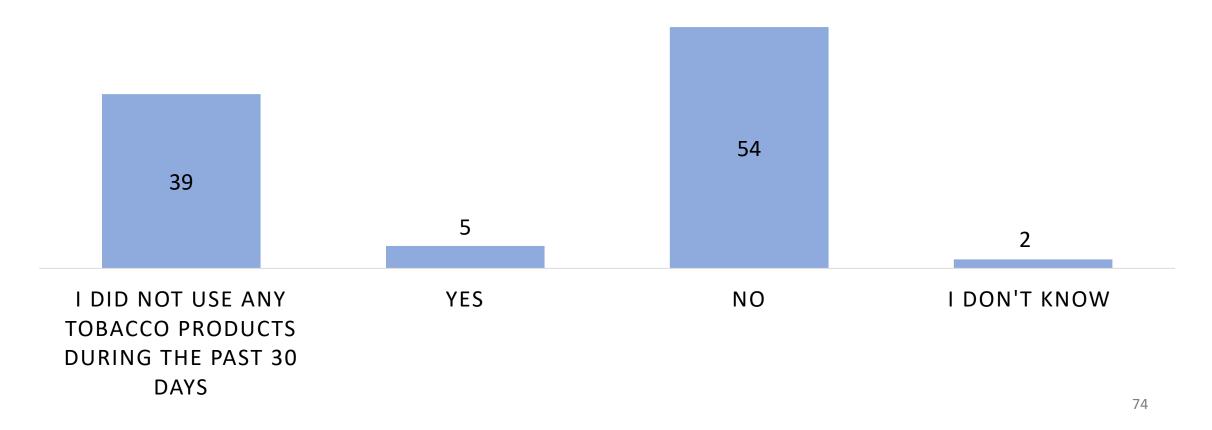
One in 4 students live with someone who uses tobacco, which exposes them to unhealthy secondhand smoke.



Q71) During the past 30 days, did the tobacco product(s) (including cigarettes, cigars, electronic vapor products, chew, dip, snus, pipe tobacco) you used contain a flavor such as cherry, vanilla, citrus, peach, piña colada, bubble gum, blue mist, fizzy pop, etc.? (n=343)

**Participants were instructed to exclude regular tobacco, menthol, mint, or wintergreen flavors





Q72: During the past 30 days, how did you get your tobacco products (this includes cigarettes, cigars, smokeless, and electronic vapor products)? (n=350)

The most common way to obtain tobacco products are through friends.

OBTAINING TOBACCO PRODUCTS (%)

SOME OTHER WAY 3

ONLINE 1

A FAMILY FRIEND 3

A FRIEND 5

SOMEONE ELSE BOUGHT IT FOR ME 3

VAPE SHOP/STORE 1

CONVENIENCE STORE, SUPERMARKET 1

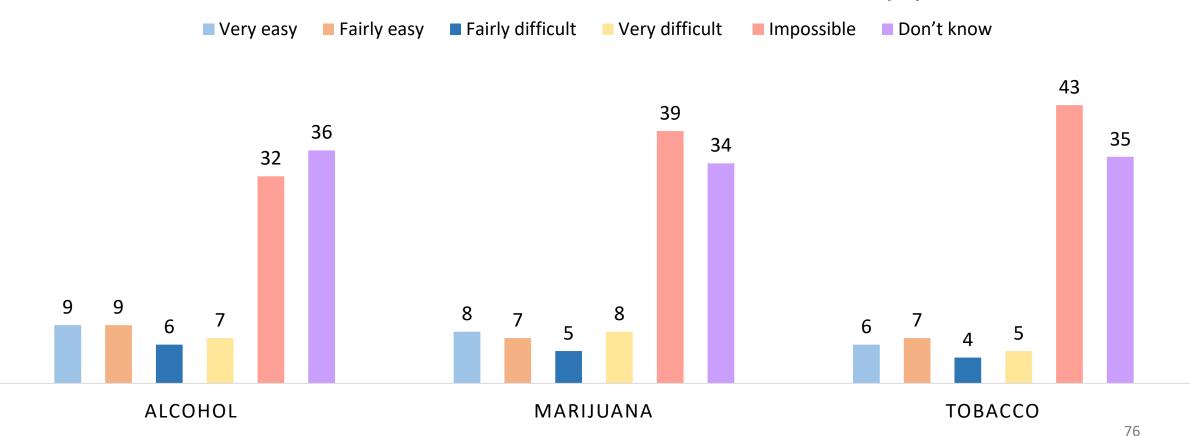
DID NOT USE TOBACCO IN PAST 30 DAYS

93

Q73: How easy or difficult would it be for you to get each of the following? (n=324)

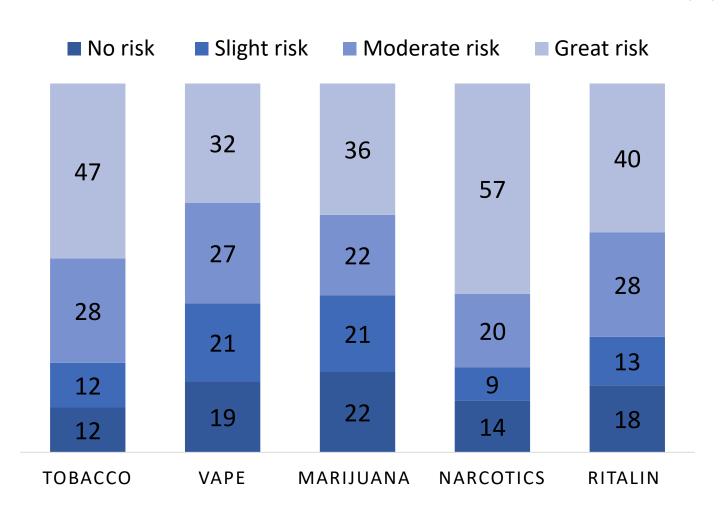
Alcohol is perceived to be slightly more easily obtainable than marijuana and tobacco. About 1 in 6 students (18%) believe alcohol is easy to obtain, compared to 15% for marijuana and 13% for tobacco.

ACCESS TO ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA, AND TOBACCO (%)



Q74: How much do you think people risk harming themselves if they occasionally use tobacco, vape, marijuana, narcotics, and Ritalin? (n=321)

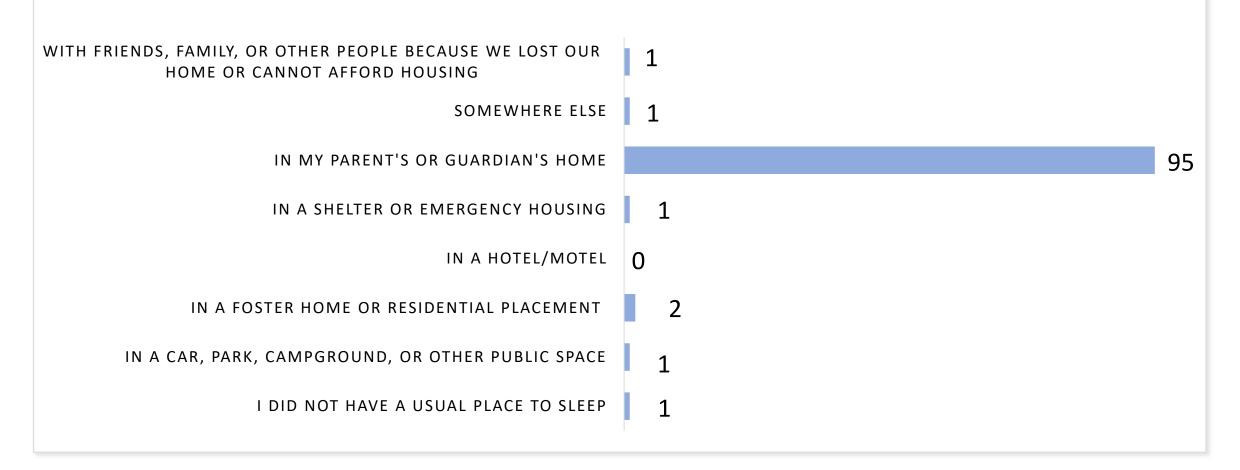
STUDENT'S BELIEFS ON THE RISK OF OCCASIONAL USE OF SUBSTANCES (%)



- Vaping and marijuana are perceived to be of a similar risk, which is much lower than the other substances 32 and 36% respectively.
- The use of narcotics is perceived to be the greatest risk of all the substances, about 57%.
- Tobacco is the second greatest risk at 47%.

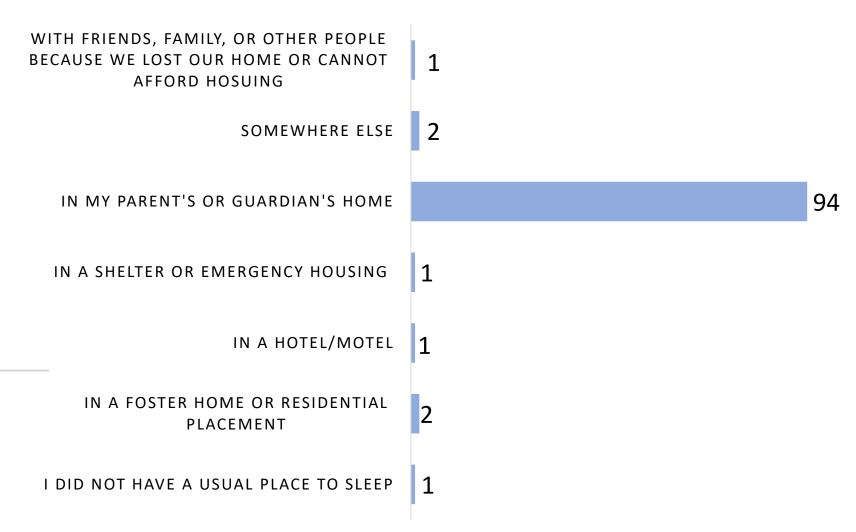
Q15: During the past 30 days, where did you usually sleep at night? (n=1,238)

SLEEP LOCATION IN THE PAST 30 DAYS (%)



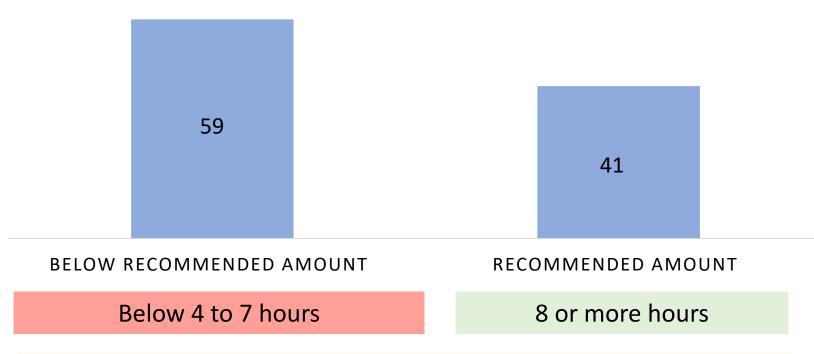
SLEEP LOCATION IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (%)

Q81: During the past 12 months, where did you usually sleep at night? (n= 372)



Q80: On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get? (n=382)

HOURS OF SLEEP ON SCHOOL NIGHT (%)



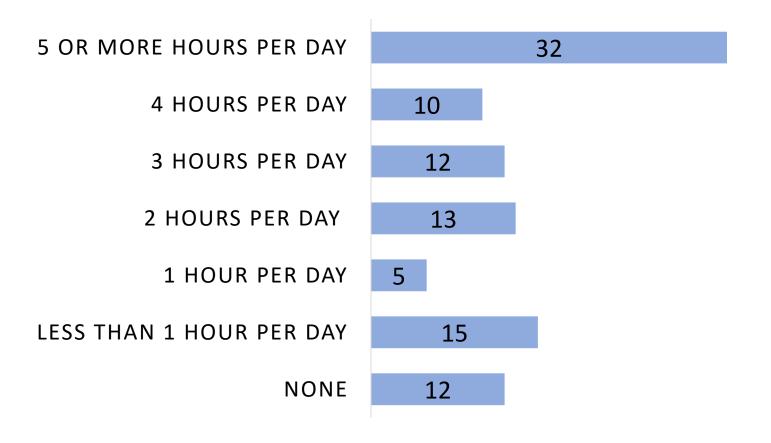
More than half (59%) of students do not get the recommended amount of sleep each night.

- The recommended amount of sleep for teenagers aged 13–18 years is 8–10 hours per 24 hours (CDC).
- More than half of the eighth graders (1 in every 2 students) in Springfield sleep for less than 8 hours on a school night.
- Lack of sleep can have a negative impact on a young adult's health and academics (CDC)

80

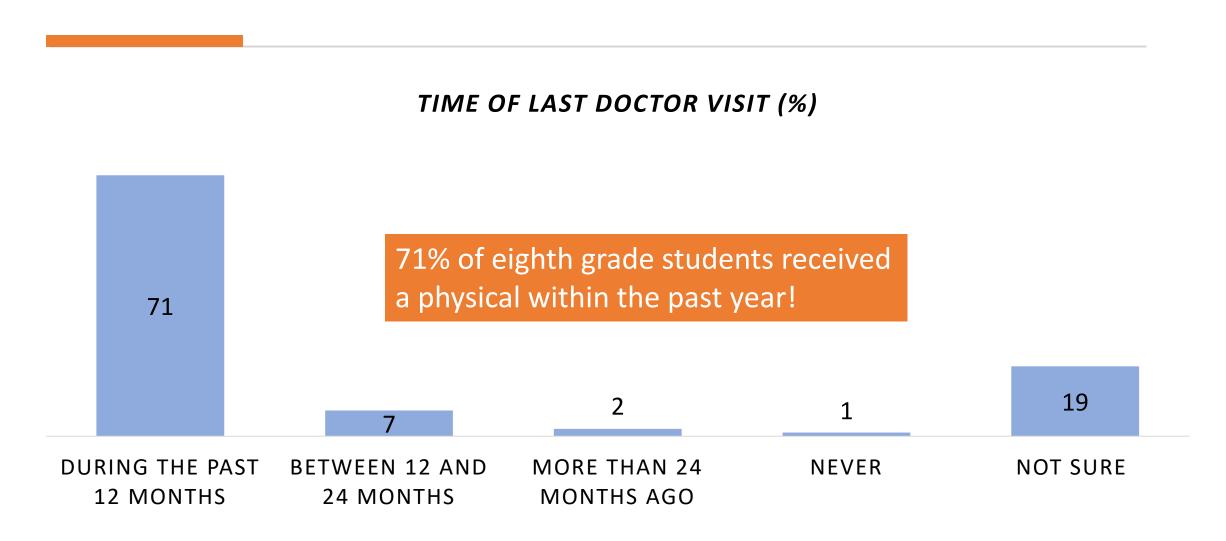
Q75: On an average school day, how many hours do you play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not schoolwork? (n=386)

SCREEN TIME OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL WORK (%)

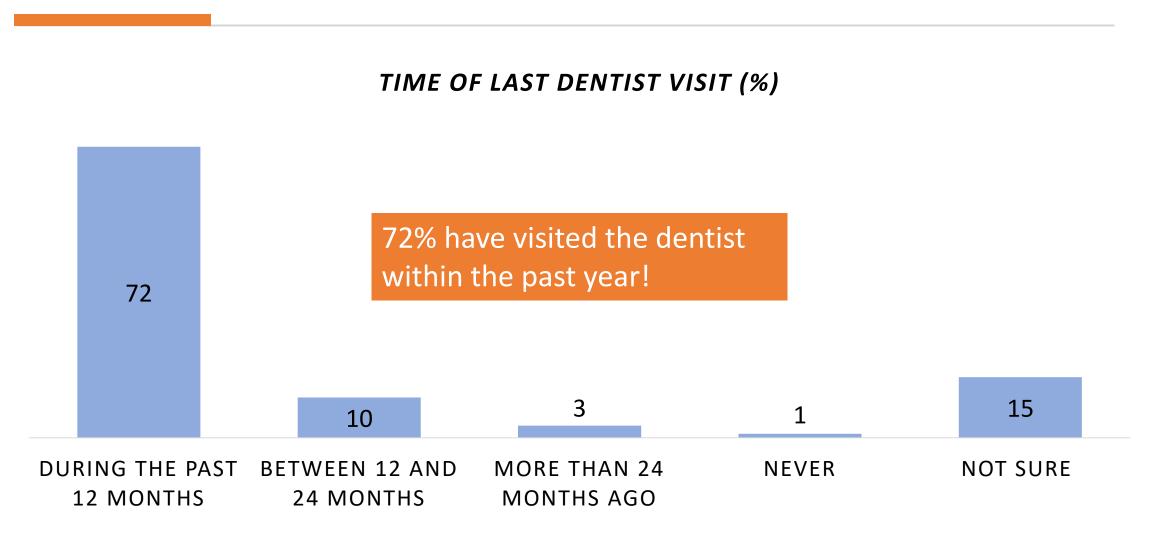


One in 3, eighth grade students are playing video games or using a computer for 5 or more hours per day, outside of schoolwork.

Q82: When was the last time you saw a doctor, nurse, or other health professional for an annual check-up, physical, or wellness visit? (n=3.79)

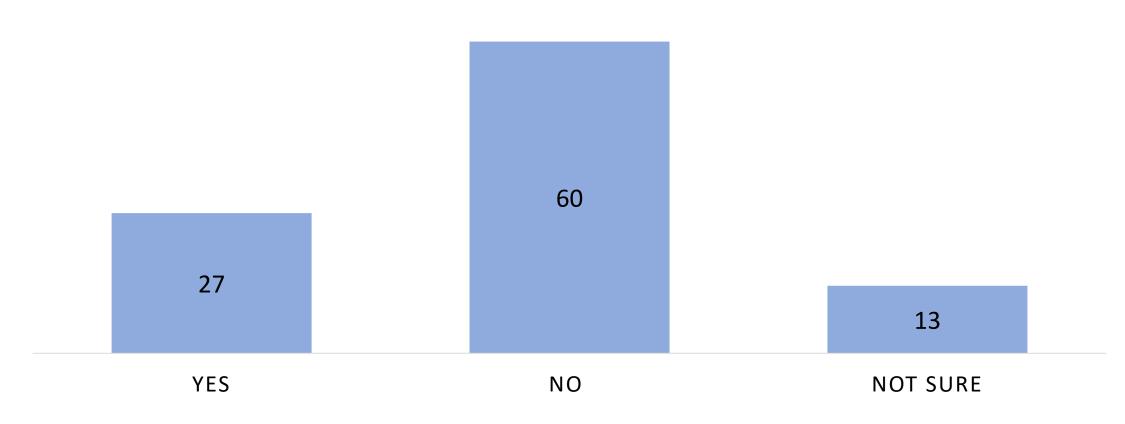


Q83: When was the last time you saw a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work? (n=379)



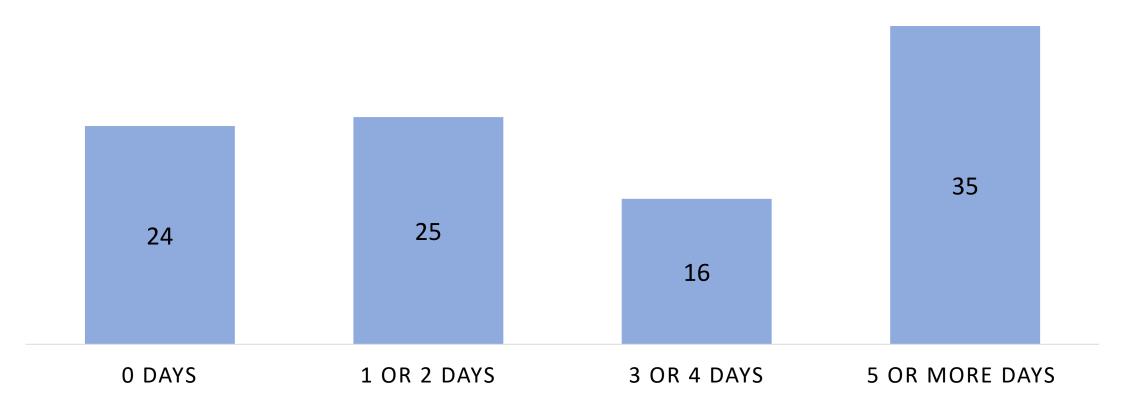
Q84: During the past 12 months, have you had a cavity in any tooth? (n=380)



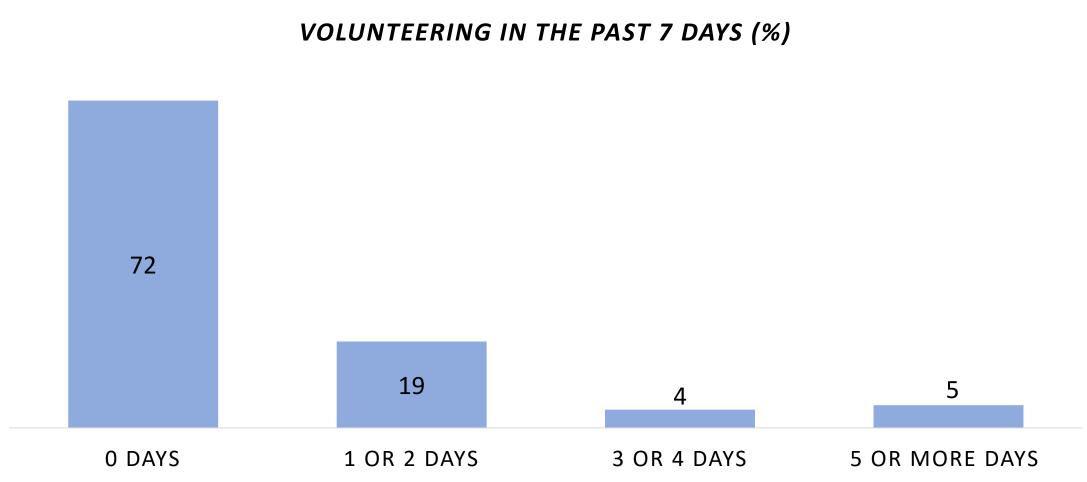


Q90: During the past 7 days, how many days did you sit down to dinner with your family? (n=377)

DINNER WITH FAMILY (%)

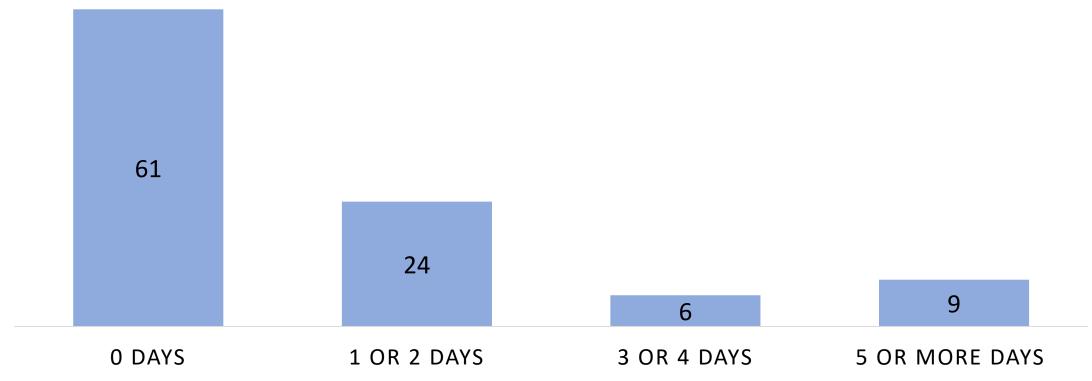


Q87: During the past 7 days, how many days did you do volunteer work, community service, or help people outside of your home without getting paid? (n=375)



Q88: During the past 7 days, how many days did you take part in organized art activities or programs (such as painting, drawing, pottery, sculpture, photography, graphic design, theater, acting, dance or any other supervised art-related activities, classes, groups, or programs)? (n=374)





Q89: During the past 7 days, how many days did you take part in organized music activities or programs (such as choir, band, music lessons, or any other supervised music-related activities or programs)? (n=375)

PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED MUSIC ACTIVITIES (%)

