



**Sherman County  
Comprehensive Juvenile Services  
Community Plan**

**July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2025**

**Sherman County Youth Services Team**

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## Sherman County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)

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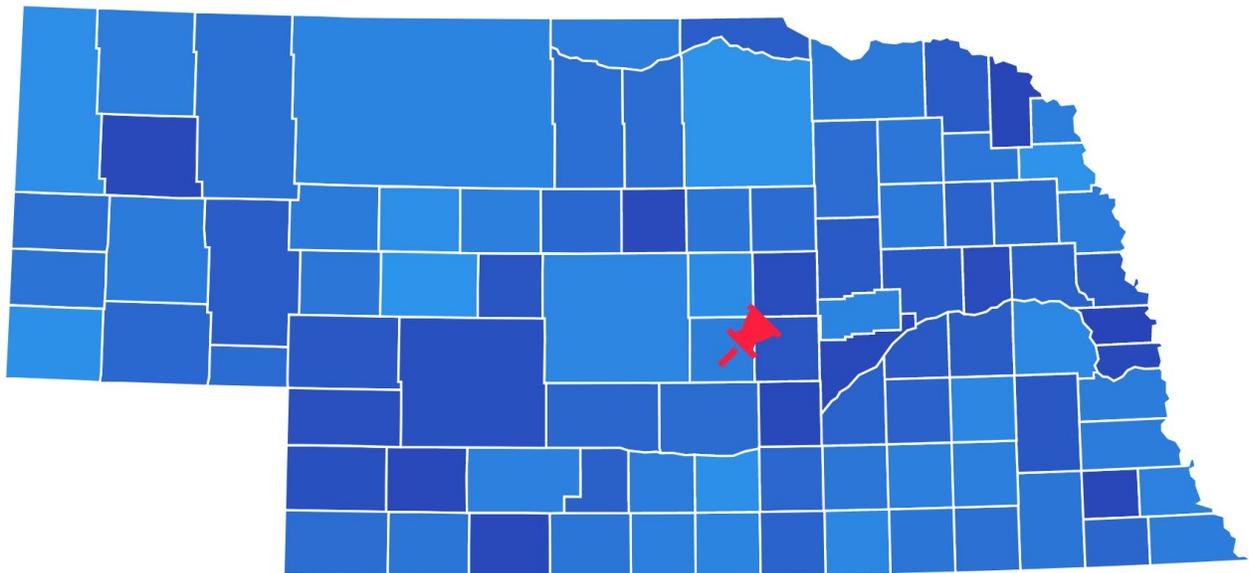
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### Sherman County Nebraska



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### **I. Introduction & Executive Summary**

We are pleased to provide this Sherman County 2021– 2025 Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan, approved by the Sherman County Board of Commissioners.

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## Sherman County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)

Sherman County is named for U.S. Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman. Comprised of 3,145 residents, 313 are youth aged 10-17. The county is perhaps best known for its outdoor recreation at Sherman County Reservoir State Recreation Area, and “Polish Days,” an annual heritage celebration in the county seat, Loup City. The county is predominately an agricultural-based economy, geographically located 45 miles from Kearney, and 48 miles from Grand Island.

Research informs us that youth involved in the juvenile justice system and are at higher risk of entering the adult criminal justice system. The county has used Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid funding to support diversion services: Victim-Youth Conferencing, Truancy Mediation, and Minor-in-Possession and substance abuse cases. Based on the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and community voices/input during planning, youth are benefiting from these existing strategies.

The county’s Youth Services Team (YST) launched comprehensive community planning on December 16, 2020 via Zoom meeting with Erin Wasserburger of UNO’s Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI). We reviewed JJI’s CNA profile and identified a subset of CNA data as plan focal points. Additional local perspectives were gathered in the planning process through:

- 1:1 telephone interviews with community members;
- Administration of a short survey regarding community services, needs and gaps;
- Meeting to review draft plan content, discuss, and obtain final input; and,
- Presentation of the plan for approval by the Sherman County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

As Sherriff Michael Jepson commented, “Poverty is the big thing.” There is YST consensus that poverty is a key driver and that there are few community-based youth activities and youth employment opportunities. The data inform us that Sherman County youth report more depression, self-harm thoughts and actions, and binge drinking compared to the state. Consequently, we recognize that beyond meeting basic plan requirements, the promotion of intergenerational prosperity is at the heart of what our youth need to stay out of the juvenile justice system and realize positive life trajectories.

## II. Data Summary

The YST identified key data points for our community planning. A snapshot is below and the full Community Needs Assessment, compiled by UNO’s JJI, may be found in Appendix A. Additional data sources are also provided in the Appendices, including insights from a county-

**Sherman County**  
Land Area: 566 sq. miles  
Population: 3,145  
County Seat: Loup City  
Towns & Pop. (2010):  
Ashton, 194  
Hazard, 70  
Litchfield, 262  
Loup City, 1,029  
Rockville, 106

96.6% Non-Hispanic, White  
1.4% Hispanic or Latino  
2.1% 2+ Races

Public School Districts: Litchfield  
Public Schools, Litchfield & Loup  
City Public Schools, Loup City

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administered survey, 1:1 interviews, and planning meeting input.

### Youth Level

Sherman County has more youth who qualify for free/reduced lunch (46.36%) compared to the state.

Youth arrest rates were up 47% from the previous year, primarily in the “all other offenses” category.

County youth report higher rates of worry/loss of sleep, depression, considered/attempted suicide, and binge drinking than the state.

Sherman County youth graduate from high school at a higher rate than the state.

### Family Level

Sherman County has higher rates of youth in poverty compared to the state.

The county ranks #1 in technology/computer/internet at home.

Compared to the state, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Sherman County report feeling less listened to by adults at home.

12<sup>th</sup> graders report feeling less supported by adults in school compared to the state.

### Community Level

Youth perceive alcohol use is wrong/very wrong at lower rate than the state.

10<sup>th</sup> graders perceive cigarette use to be wrong/very wrong at lower than the state.

Youth report lower rate of “adult who listens at school” (75%) below the state rate of 87.4%.

### Policy, Legal & Systems Level

Race & Ethnicity Data (RED): The court trial database (JUSTICE) has a high rate of missing data by race/ethnicity in this county.

Hispanic/Latino youth over-represented at probation intake point.

As noted in the JJI CNA, we are missing Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services data.

### Community Team Level

Response rate was 83.3%, up from 40% in the 2019 survey.

Team representation can be improved in terms of racial/ethnic diversity and community representation in some categories, e.g., faith-based.

## III. Comprehensive List of Services

### SYSTEM POINT: PREVENTION

Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
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<i>Loup City Sixpence &amp; Leap into Learning, Early Head Start, Head Start, Central NE Community Action Partnership &amp; Loup City Public Schools (Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment Grant)</i>	<i>Prenatal-6</i>	Low achievement, low attachment, low literacy, poor prenatal and early childhood health; ensures children are ready to learn; parents are empowered with developmental information and healthcare.
<i>Loup City After School Program, Sherman Prevention Coalition, NE Department of Education grant funding</i>	K – 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, low achievement, low literacy, low engagement; provides supervision for youth who have nowhere to go after school, snacks, homework support and healthy activities.
<i>Summer Food/Meals Program, State administered, federal USDA funded</i>	0-19	Low achievement due to poor nutrition; reduce food insecure children and youth.
<i>Counseling, Sandhills Coalition</i>	6-19	Mental health disorder(s), antisocial attitudes, previous victimization.
<i>Central NE Community Action Partnership</i>	0-19	Homeless, utilities and other supports, case management & assistance.
<i>DARE Program (SCPC), K-12 Schools</i>	<i>6<sup>th</sup> graders</i>	Drug/Alcohol use; promotes prevention.
<i>School Counseling, K-12 Public Schools</i>	K-12	Anxiety/depression, mental health disorder(s), anti-social/behavioral issues; provides school-based counseling.
<i>Greeley, Howard, Sherman, and Valley 4-H Programs</i>	5-19	Lack of supervision, inappropriate use of time, deviant peer groups, low achievement; provides after school and summer activities to promote agriculture, family and consumer science, health, and well-being.
<i>“1184” Child Abuse/Neglect Meetings, cross-disciplinary county team meetings</i>	0 – 19	Lack of supervision, low parental warmth, parental hostility, abusive parent(s), parental substance use, family violence, low achievement. “1184” teams monitor and coordinate abuse and neglect investigations and treatment for families where child abuse or neglect has been found.
<i>Region 3 Behavioral Health Services</i>	K – 12	Mental health disorder(s), anxiety/ depression, previous victimization, sensation seeking.
<i>Central Mediation Center Family and Youth Mediation; Child Welfare Conferences</i>	0-19	Parental hostility, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline; provides mediation of parenting plans and facilitation of plans for permanency for children who have been removed.
<i>Public Schools Life Skills Curriculum, Family Consumer Sciences</i>	14-19	Character- and self-esteem building, healthy living, Career Connect and career interest inventory.

We recognize we have provided prevention services that fall outside of the age range for Community-Based Aid funding but wanted to reflect what we see as a critical continuum of

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prevention aligned to child development and ultimately, prevention of entry into the juvenile justice system. With a higher rate of poverty as a root cause in our county, and this not being something that can be addressed through CBA funding alone, the YST desired a holistic look at the availability of services and programming.

<b>SYSTEM POINT: DIVERSION SERVICES</b>		
<b>Program/ Agency Name</b>	<b>Eligible age</b>	<b>Risk or need</b>
<i>Victim-Youth Conferencing, Central Mediation Center</i>	11-18	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, defiance of authority; provides a structured conference between youth offender and victim to develop a reparation agreement to repair the harm.
<i>Truancy Mediation, Central Mediation Center</i>	11-18	Truancy, low achievement, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision; provides alternative to court to increase school attendance/reduce truancy.
<i>Diversion Services, MIP &amp; Substance Abuse, Buffalo County Juvenile Services</i>	11-18	Drug/Alcohol use, defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time; provides drug/alcohol assessment, education, planning & accountability.
<i>Warning letter from County Attorney</i>	11-18	Drug/alcohol use, inappropriate use of time, defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, lack of supervision, lack of discipline.

<b>SYSTEM POINT: ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR PRE-ADJUDICATED YOUTH ONLY</b>		
<b>Program/ Agency Name</b>	<b>Eligible age</b>	<b>Risk or need</b>
<i>Victim-Youth Conferencing, Central Mediation Center</i>	11-18	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, defiance of authority; provides conference between youth offender and victim to develop a reparation agreement to repair the harm.
<i>Warning letter from County Attorney</i>	11-18	Drug/alcohol use, inappropriate use of time, defiance of authority, lack of concern for others, lack of supervision, lack of discipline; prevent

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		further penetration into the juvenile and criminal justice system.
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KNOWN GAPS IN SERVICES		
Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
<i>Public Schools, increase “adult who listens at school”; provision of life skills and evidence-based parenting classes</i>	0-99	Low parental warmth, parental hostility, anxiety/depression; currently 12% lower than state rate for 12 <sup>th</sup> graders; increase “adult listens” at home.
<i>Positive Youth Development/Social Activities</i>	10-18	Lack of supervision, sensation seeking, drug/alcohol use, inappropriate use of time; need for adult-supervised youth activities.
<i>Telehealth and/or local mental health services (youth &amp; family system); e.g., Telehealth</i>	K-12	Mental health disorders(s), anxiety/depression; increase access to counseling needed based on data showing more youth depression, etc.
<i>Youth Employment Opportunities</i>	16-18	Inappropriate use of time, low achievement; few jobs for youth (outside of farm labor) that may reduce other issues/needs.
<i>Digital citizenship/safety</i>	10-18	Inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of concern for others, sensation seeking; online behavior and safety promotion that builds on our county’s #1 ranking of technology in the home.

## IV. Community Analysis & Response (CAR) Final Worksheet

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS & RESPONSE WORKSHEET			
Identified Need	Existing Program, Agency, or Resource	Eligible age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
<i>Truancy reduction</i>	Truancy Mediation, Central Mediation Center	07-18	Yes, mediation is an evidence-based program to reduce truancy.
<i>Recidivism reduction; reparation &amp; restitution</i>	Victim-Youth Conferencing, Central Mediation Center	11-18	Yes, VYC is an evidence-based program to reduce recidivism.
<i>Planning, goals &amp; accountability for alcohol and substance abuse offenses</i>	Diversion for MIP and other substance abuse, Buffalo County Juvenile Services	11-18	Yes, the program uses best practices in evaluations and risk assessment and effective educational programming.

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<i>Reduce youth binge drinking</i>	Region 3 Behavioral Health Services		Need to increase awareness and access to counseling and other services; potential for telehealth/web-based services.
<i>Reduce thoughts &amp; actions of self-harm</i>	Region 3 Behavioral Health Services		Need to increase awareness and access to services; potentially additional services & providers; telehealth.
<i>Youth employment opportunities</i>	Community		Need for community engagement
<i>Community-based, adult supervised youth activities</i>	Community/Public Schools		Need for community engagement

Sherman County’s current services to promote truancy reduction, recidivism reduction, and diversion are perceived by 88.8% of our local survey respondents as highly beneficial or beneficial. The CNA data bear this out—we are largely stopping entry and deeper penetration into the juvenile justice system.

However, the needs and risks are greater than resources, programs, and services available. Data tell us we have higher rates of depression and binge drinking, for instance.

Two root causes were identified in data and through community perspectives gathering:

**Poverty and Lack of Community Activities for Youth.**

Quotes from planning participants *tell the story behind the data.*

### Youth:

- “There is nothing for young people to do! Nowhere for them to go.”
- “Right now, you have to travel to Grand Island or Kearney to do anything besides go bowling. How many times can you go bowling?”
- “There are no social activities or family activities. When I was growing up, there were monthly activities sponsored by the church.”
- “We need a Youth Center. Even if it’s a place for them to go and quietly read after school.”
- “How about getting a YMCA? There needs to be somewhere to go and something to do!”

*“It takes a village. Somebody has to step up and lead. When there’s nothing to do, that’s when kids get in trouble.”*  
 - Nikki Oltman, CNCAP

- “Why can’t we use the VFW building at the fairgrounds for movies or dance nights? Seems like some kids would want to DJ. We just need adult supervision. I think we [adults] need to step up.”
- “Kids need more to do around town.”
- “There are no jobs for youth besides field work, and they don’t want to do that.”

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- “Involving youth in an advisory or planning group would be valuable.”

### Parents/Families:

- “Parents are working two and three jobs to keep the lights on and food on the table.”
- “Parents work all hours and weekends, and they have no energy left for their kids.”
- “Parents need help. They don’t have family in the area like I did growing up.”
- “There is no childcare. I know that may be for younger kids but what do you do as a parent if you get sick? Where can kids go and be safe?”
- “Do parents even have others to talk with when they need advice?”

### Communities:

- “There are new people moving to town from California who are diverse and have no family here, They can’t get jobs. Some of our kids have never interacted with people who are of different races.”
- “We’re seeing more girls fighting. Seems like something just for girls would be beneficial.”
- “I feel like there’s more truancy, maybe because of depression? Mediation is helping.”
- “Before Covid I’d go to the school and have lunch with the kids. We’d also teach classes on Stranger Danger and other things at Head Start. Covid has changed everything.”

In sum, planning team participants seek to preserve current effective programs while identifying the need to enhance on community-building, positive youth activities creation, and prosperity promotion to achieve the goal of keeping youth out of the juvenile justice system and/or moving deeper into the system.

## V. Gaps To Be Filled Worksheet

GAPS IN THE CONTINUUM			
Brief Data Snapshot	Existing Program, Agency, or Resource	Eligible age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
Higher rate of free and reduced lunch (46.36%) than state	Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership	0-99	Meets some basic household needs such as homelessness prevention. Need to develop additional resources, programming, and youth employment opportunities to promote prosperity/reduce poverty
25% of 12 <sup>th</sup> graders report binge drinking	Region 3 Behavioral Health	12-18	Need to develop additional access alcohol/substance use prevention & reduction such as Youth Mental Health First Aid; create/expand

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			youth positive social activities within the community
Youth depression and thoughts/actions of self-harm 8 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade higher rates than state; e.g., depression 8 <sup>th</sup> grade = 47.6%, 10 <sup>th</sup> grade = 42.3%, and 12 <sup>th</sup> grade 37.5%.	Region 3 Behavioral Health and Sandhills Mental Health	12-18	Need to develop/expand resources and programming for mental health (such as Youth Mental Health First Aid+ Kids Power or other evidence-informed practice/program); expand/create community-based positive socialization and youth activities
Evidence-based Parenting Course to increase “adult who listens” youth rate			Need to develop parents active listening skills or identify root cause and apply positive interventions
Evidence-based/informed professional development for public schools’ personnel to increase “adult who listens” for 12 <sup>th</sup> graders			Need to engage youth with active listening at school, explore school professional development opportunities
Online Citizenship/Safety	N/A	10-18	Improve online/internet digital citizenship and safety learning
*Anti-Bullying	N/A	10-18	Examine current anti-bullying policies and curriculum at public schools

\*Community perceptions data raised the issue of bullying in schools and the need for reduction. More data may be required as some respondents did not feel this was a serious problem. However, we are making an educated assumption that bullying could potentially be a precursor to juvenile offenses, chronic absenteeism and/or youth reports of depression and should continue to be addressed through life skills and other school curriculum.

### Sherman County’s basic strategies to address the needs of at-risk and delinquent youth in the community, and to meet gaps in services include:

- 1) Continue current diversion programs: Truancy and Victim-Youth Mediation and Alcohol/Drug Use programming through Central Mediation Center and the Buffalo County Diversion program.
- 2) Work to improve and/or increase awareness of and access to existing counseling and mental health services through the schools, Region 3, and other counseling providers, including but not limited to telehealth.
- 3) Work with the schools and other agencies to better address needs of youth and families identified in eh Plan; i.e. conflict resolution classes, parenting classes, mindfulness activities.
- 4) Fill gaps in data from NDHHS, ACES, and risk assessments on diversion youth.
- 5) Inquire as to the feasibility of the statewide TeamMates program providing “tele-mentoring” or similar service to rural areas of the state.
- 6) Work with the County Attorney to make sure juvenile records are sealed.

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- 7) Increase diversity/include additional community representation on the Youth Services Team (notably, we've made significant progress in this area).
- 8) Engage community members in the development of resources and activities for youth.

## VI. List of Team Members

The Sherman County Youth Services Team (YST) is a volunteer group of community members and service providers, with planning approved by the Sherman County Board of Commissioners. This group evolved from previous iterations launched originally in 1995; the last Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan was developed and delivered by the Sherman County Prevention Coalition. The Sherman County Youth Services team meets quarterly, however many members meet more frequently as is typical of lower population jurisdictions.

As the list of members below reflects, a broad range of community members are represented, the County Attorney and County Sheriff, to public school and anti-poverty nonprofit personnel, to out-of-county service providers and state agencies.

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## **VII. Closing Comments**

Today, more than 88% of Sherman County's Youth Services Team (YST) members perceive our current services and supports to be highly beneficial or beneficial. However, our county's families experience intergenerational poverty that generates risk of entry or penetration into the juvenile justice system.

Community voices echoed one another with the theme that parents are working two to three jobs: We see prosperity promotion and increased community activities for youth as genuine opportunities for impacting current risks and reducing juvenile justice system entry and deeper penetration. A majority of community planning participants said that the county needs to develop local opportunities—a "youth center" was top of the list and/or community youth activities.

A current strength identified is that Sherman County's #1 ranking in the state for computers at home. This ranking is attributed to children and youth being supplied with iPads from the public schools system. If increased funding is secured for additional web-based services and supports for youth and the adults in their lives – such as mental health/telehealth – that may help our youth stay on a positive life trajectory.

It is worth exploring whether other adjacent rural counties have an interest in collaborating to develop an independent collective impact backbone agency so that we have fidelity to the model. Having paid, dedicated personnel would assist us in closing data and infrastructure gaps, as well as finding ways to advocate and collaborate to increase opportunities for youth to socialize in healthy ways.

We remain grateful to community members and service providers, many from outside the county, who participate as YST members and contributed to Sherman County planning. This planning gave us a chance to engage people, hear perspectives, and connect people and ideas. Perhaps more importantly, this planning ignited ideas about

what the county can do to ensure youth stay out of the juvenile justice system and reach their full potential.

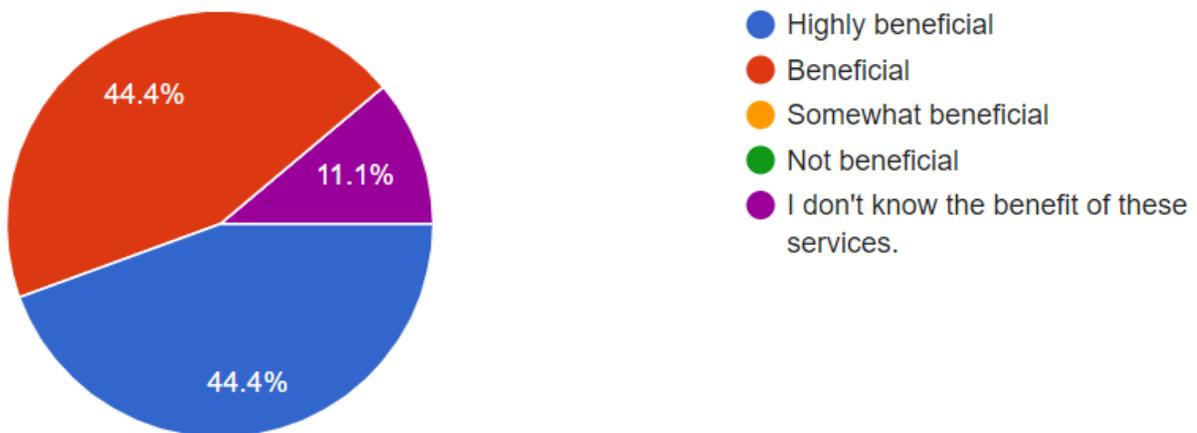
## VIII. Appendices

### Appendix A: Community Survey and Interview Insights

*Excerpt: YST & Community Survey Findings, 2021*

“Background: Sherman County uses NE Crime Commission Community-Based grant monies to fund a "Juvenile Diversion Program." The County Attorney diverts eligible cases, and, if the juvenile complies with the requirements of the program, the charge(s) filed against the juvenile are dismissed. The goal is to reduce the number of juveniles entering the criminal justice system through early intervention and rehabilitation. Substance use issues, such as MIP's, are referred to the Buffalo County Diversion program. Other offenses/crimes and school attendance issues are referred to Central Mediation Center for Victim-Youth Conferencing and Truancy Mediation.

QUESTION 1. From your perspective, how beneficial are these youth services?”



QUESTION 5. Sherman County is ranked #1 in the state for youth having technology/computers in their homes. What concepts or ideas for web-based youth development class(es), courses or online services do you think would benefit youth?

- Internet safety.
- Anything that would be prevention - classes that help promote self-esteem.
- Continue to utilize the 3rd Millennium classroom classes for youth on diversion.
- Not really sure what's all out there.
- Zoom counseling sessions might be helpful but I also feel students are spending a large amount of time looking at technology screens already and not enough time interacting and engaging in conversations.
- Telehealth counseling
- I feel some sort of digital citizenship classes would be beneficial to inform students of the pitfalls of online use.
- I'm sure there are web-based, evidence-based programs on prevention and parenting that could be implemented. If these were required as part of the diversion process, they would more likely be completed.

*Word Cloud, 2021 Community Interviews: Insights*



**Attachment B:** Community Needs Assessment (CNA)

**Attachment C:** Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2018 Profile Report: Sherman County

**Attachment D:** Approval Letter from Sherman County Board of Commissioners

**Attachment E:** Evidenced-Based Research, Victim-Youth Conferencing

**Attachment B:** Community Needs Assessment (CNA)

**Attachment C:** Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2018 Profile Report: Sherman County

**Attachment D:** Approval Letter from Sherman County Board of Commissioners

**Attachment E:** Evidenced-Based Research, Victim-Youth Conferencing



Sherman County

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## Youth Level

- The number of total youth with chronic absenteeism has increased slightly in past years.
- While we could not get race/ethnicity data for chronic absenteeism in this community because the frequency was too low to report Native American and Black youth are over-represented statewide in chronic absenteeism.
- Sherman County has more youth who qualified for free/reduced lunch compared to the state
- 93.4% of students graduated in Sherman County over the last 5 years.
- 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders report being depressed and considering/attempting suicide at higher rates in Sherman County compared to the state; 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders also report loss of sleep from worry.
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders report alcohol use at higher rates in Sherman County compared to state rates; all grades report binge drinking at higher rates.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Sherman County report higher rates of vaping compared to the state.
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders in Sherman County report feeling less hopeful for the future compared to the state.
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders report gang involvement at higher rates compared to the state.
- Arrests for all age groups increased in Sherman County between 2018 and 2019, especially with the “all other offenses” category.
  - There was a decrease in other assaults (non-aggravated).
- JJI did not have risk assessment scores for diversion from the 2015-2017 assessment evaluation to include. If the county is not using a validated assessment tool, then it should begin doing so (there will be a statewide tool coming in July 2021). If the county does have assessment data in digital format for JJI to analyze, we would be happy to update this table.
- Law enforcement data by race and ethnicity would be very beneficial to have a clearer picture of RED. Compared to the Census and school data, White youth are overrepresented at all system points except probation intake, Hispanic youth were overrepresented at probation intake.
- Youth are being referred to diversion and enrolling at the same rate, and completing diversion successfully at the same rate.

Table 1. Distribution of the Population Age 10-17 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) <sup>a</sup>

### Males

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	108,494	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
<b>Sherman</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>



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## Females

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	102,658	69.9%	15.8%	5.2%	1.2%	2.5%	5.4%
<b>Sherman</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>48.1%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>

[Click here to go back to RED analysis](#)

Table 2.

School Membership by Race/ Ethnicity and School Year (2014-2019) <sup>b</sup>

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>4.28%</b>	<b>0.23%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>93.92%</b>	<b>1.13%</b>
	Nebraska	312,281	17.74%	2.43%	1.42%	6.70%	0.13%	68.20%	3.38%
2015-2016	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>4.04%</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>94.39%</b>	<b>0.90%</b>
	Nebraska	315,542	18.08%	2.53%	1.38%	6.67%	0.14%	67.72%	3.47%
2016-2017	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>4.29%</b>	<b>0.21%</b>	<b>0.43%</b>	<b>1.07%</b>	<b>0.21%</b>	<b>93.13%</b>	<b>0.64%</b>
	Nebraska	318,853	18.61%	2.66%	1.38%	6.69%	0.15%	66.92%	3.59%
2017-2018	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>3.75%</b>	<b>0.42%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.83%</b>	<b>0.21%</b>	<b>93.96%</b>	<b>0.83%</b>
	Nebraska	323,391	18.80%	2.76%	1.35%	6.67%	0.14%	66.50%	3.78%
2018-2019	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>4.19%</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>94.26%</b>	<b>0.88%</b>
	Nebraska	325,984	19.13%	2.83%	1.33%	6.63%	0.15%	66.02%	3.91%

Table 3.

Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2014 - 2019) <sup>b</sup>

Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>19</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	35,638	24.54%	1.64%	4.42%	12.93%	0.19%	51.61%	4.68%
2015-2016	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>22</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	38,812	25.73%	1.55%	4.27%	13.68%	0.27%	49.68%	4.83%
2016-2017	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>29</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	42,290	26.90%	1.66%	4.40%	14.22%	0.24%	47.66%	4.92%



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2017-2018	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>32</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	46,365	26.81%	1.77%	4.18%	14.49%	0.22%	47.37%	2389
2018-2019	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>46</b>	*	*	*	*	*	<b>100.00%</b>	*
	Nebraska	46,356	27.64%	1.76%	4.16%	14.71%	0.23%	46.27%	5.23%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the \* represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 4.  
 Disabilities, English Proficiency, Eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch and School Year (2014 – 2019) <sup>b</sup>

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	IDEA	504 Plan	Limited English Proficiency	Free/Reduced Lunch
2014-2015	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>13.74%</b>	*	*	<b>45.05%</b>
	Nebraska	312,281	13.66%	0.76%	5.97%	44.53%
2015-2016	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>13.00%</b>	*	*	<b>44.62%</b>
	Nebraska	315,542	13.64%	0.90%	5.90%	44.23%
2016-2017	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>13.30%</b>	*	*	<b>48.71%</b>
	Nebraska	318,853	13.80%	0.93%	6.99%	44.76%
2017-2018	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>14.38%</b>	*	*	<b>47.29%</b>
	Nebraska	323,391	15.87%	0.88%	6.59%	46.24%
2018-2019	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>13.69%</b>	*	*	<b>46.36%</b>
	Nebraska	325,984	16.13%	0.85%	6.78%	45.42%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the \* represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 5.  
 Nebraska Public High School 4-Year Graduation Rates by County (5-year estimates, 2015-2019) <sup>c</sup>

County	Total in Last 5 Years		Yearly Averages		Graduation Rate	Rank
	Graduates	Students	Graduates	Students		
Nebraska	100,111	112,857	20,022.2	22,571.4	88.7%	-
<b>Sherman</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>57</b>

Data are only for public school districts and their associated high schools. The figures are aggregated based on the location of the school, not the residential location of the student. The figures for Dawes County are impacted by a vocational school where graduation rates are less than 25%; in the rest of the county graduation rates equal 93%.



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Table 6.  
 Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Sherman</b>	Loss of sleep from worry	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
<b>Sherman</b>	Depressed	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>37.5%</b>
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
<b>Sherman</b>	Considered/Attempted suicide	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
<b>Sherman</b>	Current alcohol	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>37.5%</b>
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
<b>Sherman</b>	Current binge drinking	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
<b>Sherman</b>	Current marijuana	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
<b>Sherman</b>	Current tobacco	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
<b>Sherman</b>	Current vaping	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
<b>Sherman</b>	Hopeful for future (past week)	<b>71.4%</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>81.3%</b>
Nebraska		78.0%	76.1%	77.6%

**\*\*JJI is currently waiting for the legal team at DHHS to approve providing this data**

Table 7.

Juveniles Referred to Services <sup>e</sup>

Table 8.

Juveniles Referred to Services by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health Diagnosis <sup>e</sup>

Table 9.

Juveniles Who Utilized Services <sup>e</sup>

Table 10.

Types of Services Utilized <sup>e</sup>



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Table 11.  
Youth Who Report Gang Involvement by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Sherman</b>	Youth Reported Gang Involvement	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Nebraska		3.8%	4.4%	3.8%

Table 12.  
Arrest Rates for Adults and Juveniles for 2018 and 2019 with Percent Change <sup>f</sup>

Arrestee Age	All Arrestee Ages			Under 18		
	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %
<b>Jurisdiction by Geography</b>	SHERMAN COUNTY					
<b>Arrest Offense</b>						
Total	19	28	47.37	1	2	100.00
Aggravated Assault Total	-	2	-	-	-	-
Larceny-Theft Total	1	2	100.00	-	-	-
Other Assaults	6	1	-83.33	1	-	-100.00
Drug Violations - Possession	2	2	0.00	0	-	-
Offenses Against Family and Children	-	1	-	-	-	-
Driving Under the Influence	4	2	-50.00	-	-	-
Liquor Laws	1	1	0.00	0	-	-
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	5	17	240.00	-	2	-

Table 13.  
Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2015 - 2017) <sup>g</sup>

Score	Sherman			All NYS Counties		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
Family Circumstance/Parenting	--	--	--	60.1%	26.7%	13.1%
Education/Employment	--	--	--	43.0%	44.0%	13.1%
Peer Relationships	--	--	--	44.7%	46.6%	8.6%
Substance Use	--	--	--	61.4%	30.3%	8.3%
Leisure/Recreation	--	--	--	50.6%	33.0%	16.5%
Personality/Behavior	--	--	--	50.1%	39.4%	10.4%
Attitudes/Orientation	--	--	--	61.3%	33.7%	5.0%
Mean Score	<i>M</i> = --, <i>SD</i> = --, --			<i>M</i> = 5.64, <i>SD</i> = 3.65, 0-17		

Could not compute because county did not have any risk assessments completed



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Table 14.  
Racial and Ethnic Disparities Descriptives (2015-2019) <sup>1</sup>

[Click here to see Census and School Population Data](#)

\*Data were not separated by year because there were too few cases

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth enrolled in diversion	10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful completion diversion	10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth with multiple charges	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: More Severe	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RAI Override: Less Severe	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Probation intake	4	0%	0%	0%	25%	0%	0%	75%
Successful probation	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Revocation of probation								
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



## Family Level

- Sherman County has higher rates of youth in poverty compared to the state.
- Number of adults with bachelor’s degrees is lower than the state average; it may be possible that residents who go to college outside of Sherman County find employment where they go to school and do not return to Sherman County.
- Youth in Sherman County have access to computers and internet in the home at higher rates than the state.
  - Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the state for computers in the home.
- Compared to the state, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Sherman County report feeling less supported by adults at home, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders also report feeling less supported by adults in school.

Table 15.

Poverty/SES, Educational Attainment, Technology and Computers in Home, Housing, and Transportation (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) <sup>a</sup>

Measurement		Sherman	Nebraska
<b>Poverty/SES</b>	Children <18 in Poverty	15.4%	14.8
	Number of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	68	43,814
	Percent of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	31.3%	28.9%
<b>Educational attainment</b>	Age 25+ with B.D.	18.2%	31.3%
	County Rank	76	-
	Age 25+ with some college, no degree	25.8%	23.0%
	County Rank	29	-
	Age 25+ with HS degree	93.0%	91.1%
	County Rank	37	-
<b>Technology and computers in the home</b>	% under 18 with a computer at home	100.0%	96.9%
	County Rank	1	-
	% under 18 with an internet subscription at home	96.5%	91.0%
	County Rank	12	-
	% under 18 with broadband internet access at home	95.5%	90.8%



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	County Rank	17	-
<b>Housing</b>	Owner-occupied households	1,043	498,567
	Total households	1,358	754,063
	Owner %	76.8%	66.1%
	Renters	315	255,496
	Renter %	23.2%	33.9%
<b>Transportation</b>	Households with no vehicle available	30	40,465
	Total households	1,358	754,063
	No vehicle %	2.2%	5.4%

Table 16.  
Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Sherman</b>	Adult at home who listens	75.0%	80.8%	81.3%
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
<b>Sherman</b>	Adult at school who listens	90.5%	88.5%	75.0%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

Table 17.  
Domestic Violence Reports and Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means <sup>h</sup>

	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Reported	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means	Simple Domestic Assaults Reported	Simple Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means
<b>Sherman</b>	0	0	3	0
Nebraska	562	402	2512	2019

Table 18.  
Child Abuse and Neglect Reports <sup>i</sup>

	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Assessed	Substantiated	Unfounded
<b>Sherman</b>	26	46%	17%	67%
Nebraska	36,480	33.4%	16.0%	68.3%

## Community Level

- With regard to how youth perceive how their community feels about substance use, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders are reporting lower than state averages for alcohol and 10<sup>th</sup> graders report lower than the state average for cigarettes.
- Juvenile record sealing is not “automatic” even if statute requires it to seal. Sealing a record requires administrative staff to initiate the process. Dismissed or dropped cases should be sealed at a rate of 100%. All others should be sealed at the rate to which youth successfully complete their court requirements (completion of diversion, probation, restorative practice, or other treatment). Yearly data is available in the Appendix to see if the rate has improved because of legislation, but newer cases should naturally have lower rates of sealing than older cases.
  - Sherman County is very close to 100% in all categories.
- Data for race and ethnicity at each juvenile justice system point is imperative for an accurate Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) analysis. The court trial database (JUSTICE) has a high rate of missing data by race/ethnicity in this county.

Table 19.  
 Community Violence Measured by Arrests for Violent Crime (2019) <sup>j</sup>

Type of Violence	County	Nebraska
Murder and Nonnegligent manslaughter	0	34
Rape	0	264
Robbery	0	367
Aggravated Assault	2	1,639
Other Assaults	1	8,782

Table 20.  
 Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2018) <sup>d</sup>

		8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Sherman</b>	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>93.8%</b>
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
<b>Sherman</b>	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	<b>81.3%</b>	<b>69.2%</b>	<b>56.3%</b>
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
<b>Sherman</b>	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>80.8%</b>	<b>81.3%</b>
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%



Table 21. Juvenile Court Record Sealing Analysis (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>

see [Appendix for yearly data](#)

	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	24	25	96.0%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	44	49	89.8%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	16	16	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	0	1	0.0%
Total	84	91	92.3%

\*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. Some cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis



## Policy, Legal and System Level

- Despite not being in a county required to provide counsel under statute, access to counsel is similar to the state average, but still lower than ideal.
- There are few curfew and 3A, 3B, and 3C filings in court so the community is diverting appropriately.
- With respect to diversion practices, the community may want to consider a few things:
  - Not filing all unsuccessful cases, if the youth completed most of the diversion plan
  - Allowing warning letters for the lowest risk youth
  - Comparing diversion fees to court costs so they are comparable.

Table 22.  
Percent of Youth in Juvenile Court Who Had Access to Counsel (2018) <sup>n</sup>

	Sherman	Nebraska
Access to Counsel	60.0% -- 79.9%	73.5%

**Neb. Rev. 43-272.** Right to counsel; appointment; payment; guardian ad litem; appointment; when; duties; standards for guardians ad litem; standards for attorneys who practice in juvenile court.

(1)(a) In counties having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, when any juvenile shall be brought without counsel before a juvenile court, the court shall advise such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian of their right to retain counsel and shall inquire of such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian as to whether they desire to retain counsel.

(b) In counties having a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more inhabitants, when any juvenile court petition is filed alleging jurisdiction of a juvenile pursuant to subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, counsel shall be appointed for such juvenile.

Table 23.  
Frequency of Youth with a Curfew Violation (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>

	Sherman	Nebraska
Curfew Court Filing	0	352



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Table 24.  
Court Filing for 3A, 3B, and 3C cases (2015 – 2019) <sup>m</sup>

Filed Subtype	Sherman					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A - Homeless/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B - Uncontrollable	0	0	0	0	0	0
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	0	0	0	0	0	0

Filed Subtype	Nebraska					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	2	0	2	3	7
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	96	510	493	423	475	1997
3B - Uncontrollable	47	118	125	119	82	491
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	22	48	37	22	23	306

Table 25.  
County Diversion Procedures and Protocols Compared to Statewide Responses (2020) <sup>o</sup>

	Sherman	Nebraska *
Refer ALL juveniles who are first time offenders to diversion	Yes	Yes: 27.3% No: 63.6% Not sure: 9.1%
File a juvenile's charges at the time of the referral to diversion	No	Yes: 18.2% No: 70.5% Not sure: 11.4%
File a juvenile's charges if they are unsuccessful on diversion	Always	Always: 47.7% Sometimes: 47.7% Not sure: 4.5%
Allow a juvenile to complete diversion more than once	Yes	Yes: 61.4% No: 34.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Charges/offenses that make a juvenile ineligible for diversion	No; (unless it was murder or other serious charge)	Yes: 86.4% No: 9.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Warning letters instead of intervention	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 61.4% Not sure: 11.4%
Currently drug test	No	Yes: 31.8% No: 65.9% Not sure: 2.3%
Fees beyond restitution	Yes; \$75 (but can be waived)	Yes: 86.4% No: 13.6%



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		Not sure: 0.0%
Use of graduated responses prior to discharge	Yes; additional activities if they do not comply	Yes: 47.7% No: 25.0% Not sure: 27.3%
Sealing diversion records	Yes; All juveniles who successfully complete get their record sealed. It is just noted in the file that it is sealed.	Yes: 59.1% No: 22.7% Not sure: 18.2%

\*responses included 44 juvenile diversion programs; representing 68 counties/tribe (91.9% response rate)



### Community Team Level

- A community lead should be able to get roughly a 75% response, to ensure active participation on planning issues, your response rate was 83.3%. This is a large increase from the 2019 survey.
- The rates of collective impact went up for all elements from the 2019 survey.
- The community team should be representative of the population of that community but should also include diversity. It might be beneficial to add diverse member to your team (especially because of the patterns of over and under representation.)
- If possible, you should try to have community members at all system points. Per the responses to this survey, there are a few system points not represented, but perhaps the 2 team members who did respond would have been in those areas.

Table 26. Collective Impact Survey Response Rates <sup>P</sup>

Year of survey	Sherman		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Number of surveys sent	10	12	1407	780
Number of completed surveys	4	10	221	345
Response rate	40.0%	83.3%	28.3%	24.5%

Table 27. Collective Impact Survey Scores <sup>P</sup>

Year of survey	Sherman		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
	Mean Score		Mean Score	
Common agenda	4.45	5.20	5.29	5.69
Mutually reinforcing	4.81	5.30	5.37	5.50
Shared measurement	4.50	5.10	5.21	5.45
Continuous communication	3.81	5.10	5.49	5.55
Backbone agency	4.77	5.00	5.52	5.78

The five elements of Collective Impact are:



## COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

- **Common agenda:** Participants have a shared vision and common understanding of both the problem and potential solutions to that problem.
- **Mutually reinforcing activities:** Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
- **Shared measurement:** Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
- **Continuous communication:** Consistent and open communication is needed across stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
- **Backbone support:** Creating and managing Collective Impact often requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and to coordinate participating organizations <sup>q</sup>

Table 28.  
Community Planning Team Diversity <sup>p</sup>

	Sherman		Nebraska	
	N =	(%)	N = 345	(%)
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	5	50.0%	101	29.3%
Female	5	50.0%	229	66.4%
Missing	--	--	15	4.3%
<b>Age</b>				
Under 30	--	--	19	5.6%
30-39	1	10.0%	68	19.6%
40-49	4	40.0%	88	25.4%
50-59	4	40.0%	90	25.8%
60 and over	--	--	44	13%
Missing	1	10.0%	36	10.4%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White	10	100.0%	230	66.7%
Black	--	--	10	2.9%
Hispanic	--	--	13	3.8%
Native American	--	--	6	1.7%
Asian	--	--	1	0.3%
Other	--	--	2	0.6%
Provided town name	--	--	63	18.3%
Missing	--	--	19	5.5%
<b>Previous System Involvement</b>				
Yes	3	30.0%	98	28.4%



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No	7	70.0%	242	70.1%
Missing	--	--	5	1.4%
<b>System Point *</b>				
Law enforcement	1	8.3%	34	7.8%
County attorney/ juvenile court	1	8.3%	32	7.3%
K-12 or secondary education	4	33.3%	65	14.9%
Ministry/faith based	--	--	10	2.3%
Diversion	1	8.3%	55	12.6%
Probation	--	--	31	7.1%
Public defender/ defense counsel/ guardian ad litem	1	8.3%	8	1.8%
DHHS or Child Welfare	--	--	13	3.0%
Treatment provider	1	8.3%	40	9.2%
Post adjudication or detention	--	--	8	1.8%
Community based program	2	16.7%	109	25.0%
Elected official or government	--	--	6	1.4%
Restorative practices	1	8.3%	6	1.4%
Backbone or system improvement	--	--	3	0.7%
Other	--	--	16	3.7%
<b>Voice on Team</b>				
Feel heard	9	90.0%	270	78.3%
Do not feel heard	1	10.0%	75	21.7%

\*note. Team members could have selected more than one system point; as such, they do not add up to 100%



## References and Resources

- <sup>a</sup> **Population data:** Table B01001 race series, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- <sup>a</sup> **Youth employment:** Table B23001, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- <sup>a</sup> **Poverty/SES:** Table B10724, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- <sup>a</sup> **Technology in household:** Table B28005, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- <sup>a</sup> **Home owner/transportation:** Table B25045, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- <sup>a</sup> **Education attainment:** Table B15002, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- <sup>b</sup> **School membership, chronic absenteeism, student disability, and free/reduced lunch:** Prepared by  
Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
- <sup>c</sup> **Graduation rates:** Special Tabulation by Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education  
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 7-24-2020
- <sup>d</sup> **Mental health, Substance use, gang, and community perceptions of substance use:** Bureau of  
Sociological Research, Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Survey:  
<https://bosr.unl.edu/current-nrpfss-county-level-data>
- <sup>e</sup> **Referral to and utilization of services:** Department of Health and Human Services
- <sup>f</sup> **Adult and juvenile arrests:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:  
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- <sup>g</sup> Diversion programs
- <sup>h</sup> **Domestic violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Domestic Assault:  
[https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County\\_0.pdf](https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County_0.pdf)
- <sup>i</sup> Child abuse and neglect
- <sup>j</sup> **Community violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:  
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- <sup>k</sup> **Distance to detention facility:** Google Maps
- <sup>l</sup> **Racial and ethnic disparities:** Prepared by Mitch Herian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln with data provided  
by:



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Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:

<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

Nebraska Crime Commission, Juvenile Case Management System

Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

Nebraska Judicial Branch, Juvenile Services Division

<sup>m</sup> **Court Filings and Juvenile Record Sealing:** Data provided by the Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute on 9-1-20

<sup>n</sup> **Access to Counsel:** Kids County in Nebraska Report, Voices for Children, retrieved from: [www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount](http://www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount). Data originally from Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

<sup>o</sup> **Diversion procedures and protocols:** Diversion survey distributed to Juvenile Diversion programs, 2020. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

<sup>p</sup> **Collective impact:** Collective impact surveys distributed to Community Planning Teams, 2019 and 2020. Prepared by: Anne Hobbs and Erin Wasserburger, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

<sup>q</sup> **Collective Impact Elements:** Kania, J., & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

**Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year**

\*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. All cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis

<b>2015</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	10	10	100%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	22	22	100%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	2	2	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>2016</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	10	10	100%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	15	15	100%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	3	3	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	0	1	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>96.6%</b>

<b>2017</b>	<b>Number of charges Sealed</b>	<b>Total Number of charges</b>	<b>Sealed (%)</b>
Dismissed or Dropped	--	--	--
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	6	6	100%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	5	5	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>



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2018	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	3	4	75.0%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	0	3	0.0%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	3	3	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	6	12	50.0%

2019	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	1	1	100%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	1	1	100%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	3	3	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	5	5	100%



# Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2018

## Profile Report: Sherman County



**Sponsored by:**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Behavioral Health

**Administered by:**

Bureau of Sociological Research  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

*NRPFS is part of the Student Health and Risk  
Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System that administers  
surveys to youth enrolled in Nebraska schools*

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## Introduction and Overview

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This report summarizes the findings from the 2018 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS). The 2018 survey represents the eighth implementation of the NRPFSS and the fifth implementation of the survey under the Nebraska Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System. SHARP consists of the coordinated administration of three school-based student health surveys in Nebraska, including the NRPFSS, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), and the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS). The Nebraska SHARP Surveillance System is administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Education through a contract with the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For more information on the Nebraska SHARP Surveillance System please visit <http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp>.

As a result of the creation of SHARP and its inclusion of the NRPFSS, the administration schedule shifted from the fall of odd calendar years to the fall of even calendar years. The first three administrations of the NRPFSS occurred during the fall of 2003, 2005, and 2007, while the fourth administration occurred during the fall of 2010, leaving a three-year gap (rather than the usual two-year gap) between the most recent administrations. The 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 administrations also occurred during the fall, as will future administrations, taking place during even calendar years (i.e., every two years).

The NRPFSS targets Nebraska students in grades 8, 10, and 12 with a goal of providing schools and communities with local-level data. As a result, the NRPFSS is implemented as a census survey, meaning that every public and non-public school with an eligible grade can choose to participate. Therefore, data presented in this report are not to be considered a representative statewide sample. The survey is designed to assess adolescent substance use, delinquent behavior, and many of the risk and protective measures that predict adolescent problem behaviors. The NRPFSS is adapted from national, scientifically-validated surveys and contains information on risk and protective measures that are locally actionable. These risk and protective measures are also highly correlated with substance abuse as well as delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence. Along with other locally attainable sources of information, the information from the NRPFSS can aid schools and community groups in planning and implementing local prevention initiatives to improve the health and academic performance of their youth.

Table 1.1 provides information on the student participation rate for Sherman County. The participation rate represents the percentage of all eligible students who took the survey. If 60 percent or more of the students participated, the report is generally a good indicator of the levels of substance use, risk, protection, and delinquent behavior in Sherman County. If fewer than 60.0 percent participated, a review of who participated should be completed prior to generalizing the results to your entire student population.

### 2018 NRPFSS Sponsored by:

The 2018 NRPFSS is sponsored by Grant #5U79SP020162-05 and #1H79SP080988-01 under the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success Grant for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Prevention through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health.



The Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL) collected the NRPFSS data for this administration as well as the 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 administrations. As part of BOSR’s commitment to high quality data, BOSR is a member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative. As part of this initiative, BOSR pledges to provide certain methodological information whenever data are collected. This information as it relates to the NRPFSS is available on BOSR’s website ([www.bosr.unl.edu/sharp](http://www.bosr.unl.edu/sharp)).

**Table 1.1. Survey Participation Rates, 2018**

Grade	Sherman County 2018			State 2018		
	Number Participated	Number Enrolled	Percent Participated	Number Participated	Number Enrolled	Percent Participated
8th	21	22	95.5%	10270	26257	39.1%
10th	26	32	81.3%	7437	25634	29.0%
12th	16	26	61.5%	6378	26155	24.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>24085</b>	<b>78046</b>	<b>30.9%</b>

*Note. The grade-specific participation rates presented within this table consist of the number of students who completed the NRPFSS divided by the total number of students enrolled within the participating schools. For schools that were also selected to participate in the YRBS or YTS, the participation rate may be adjusted if students were only allowed to participate in one survey. In these cases, the number of students who completed the NRPFSS is divided by the total number of students enrolled that were not eligible to participate in the YRBS or YTS.*

Again, the goal of the NRPFSS is to collect school district and community-level data and not to collect representative state data. However, state data provide insight into the levels of substance use, risk, protection, and delinquent behavior among all students in Nebraska. In 2018, 30.9 percent of the eligible Nebraska students in grades 8, 10, and 12 participated in the NRPFSS.

The 2018 participation rate for the state as a whole remains lower than the 60.0 percent level recommended for representing students statewide, so the state-level results should be interpreted with some caution. Failure to obtain a high participation rate statewide is, in part, due to low levels of participation within Douglas and Sarpy Counties, which combined had an 11.2% participation rate in 2018 compared to 44.4% for the remainder of the state.

Table 1.2 provides an overview of the characteristics of the students who completed the 2018 survey within Sherman County and the state overall.

Table 1.2. Participant Characteristics, 2018

	Sherman County 2018		State 2018	
	n	%	n	%
<b>Total students</b>	81		24622	
<b>Grade</b>				
8th	21	25.9%	10270	41.7%
10th	26	32.1%	7437	30.2%
12th	16	19.8%	6378	25.9%
Unknown	18	22.2%	537	2.2%
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	38	46.9%	12382	50.3%
Female	43	53.1%	12175	49.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%	65	0.3%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
Hispanic*	5	6.2%	3972	16.1%
African American	1	1.2%	750	3.0%
Asian	0	0.0%	486	2.0%
American Indian	1	1.2%	731	3.0%
Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	70	0.3%
Alaska Native	0	0.0%	30	0.1%
White	74	91.4%	18258	74.2%
Other	0	0.0%	275	1.1%
Unknown	0	0.0%	50	0.2%

Notes. \*Hispanic can be of any race. In columns, n=number or frequency and %=percentage of distribution.

### Overview of Report Contents

The report is divided into the following five sections: (1) substance use; (2) transportation safety; (3) violence, bullying, and mental health; (4) nutrition and physical activity; and (5) feelings and experiences at home, school, and in the community. Within each section, highlights of the 2018 survey data for Sherman County are presented along with state and national estimates, when available.

When there are less than 10 survey respondents for a particular grade, their responses are not presented in order to protect the confidentiality of individual student participants. However, those respondents are included in regional- and state-level results. Furthermore, if a grade level has 10 or more respondents but an individual question or sub-group presented in this report has less than 10 respondents then results for the individual item or sub-group are not reported.

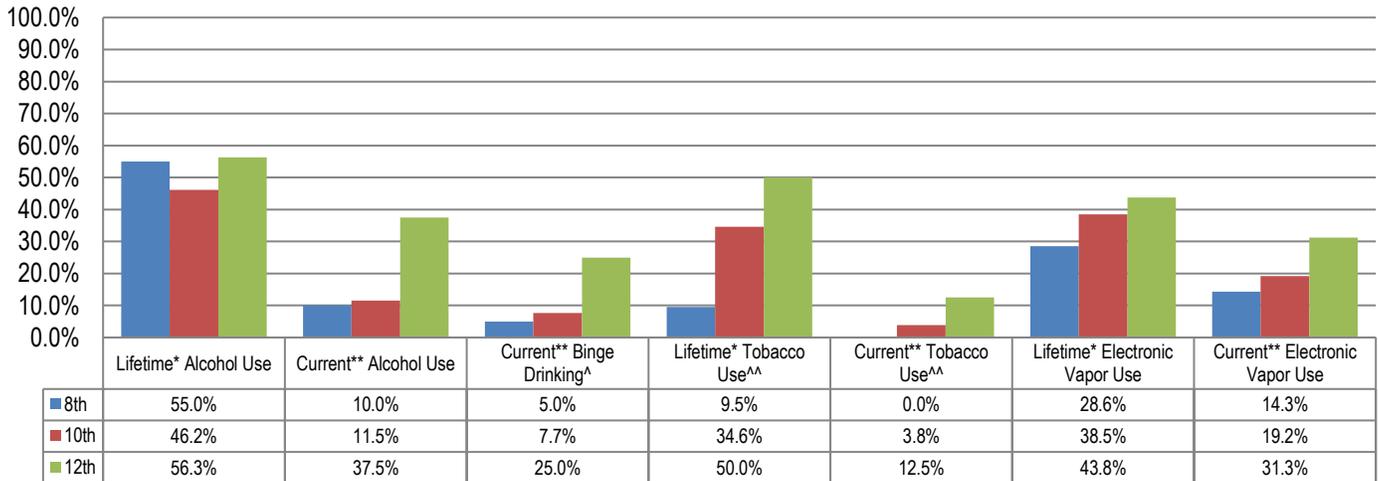
A number of honesty measures were also created to remove students who may not have given the most honest answers. These measures included reporting use of a fictitious drug, using a substance during the past 30 days more than in one's lifetime, answering that the student was not at all honest when filling out the survey, and providing an age and grade combination that are highly unlikely. Students whose answers were in question for any one of these reasons were excluded from reporting. For Sherman County, one student met these criteria.

**Substance Use**

This section contains information on the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska. In addition, there is information on attitudes and perceptions, the sources of substances, and other substance-related topics. To provide greater context for the results from Sherman County, overall state and national results are presented when available. As discussed earlier, the state results are not to be considered a representative statewide sample. The national data source is the Monitoring the Future survey, administered by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan and sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institutes of Health.

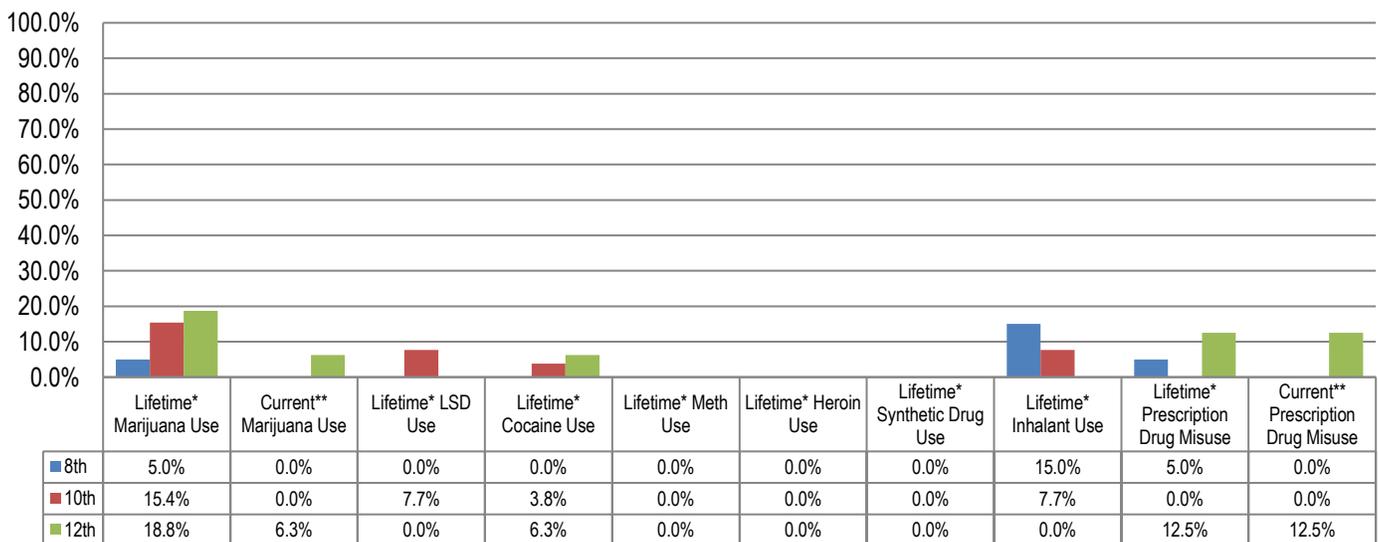
**Substance Use**

**Substance Use: Alcohol and Tobacco, 2018**



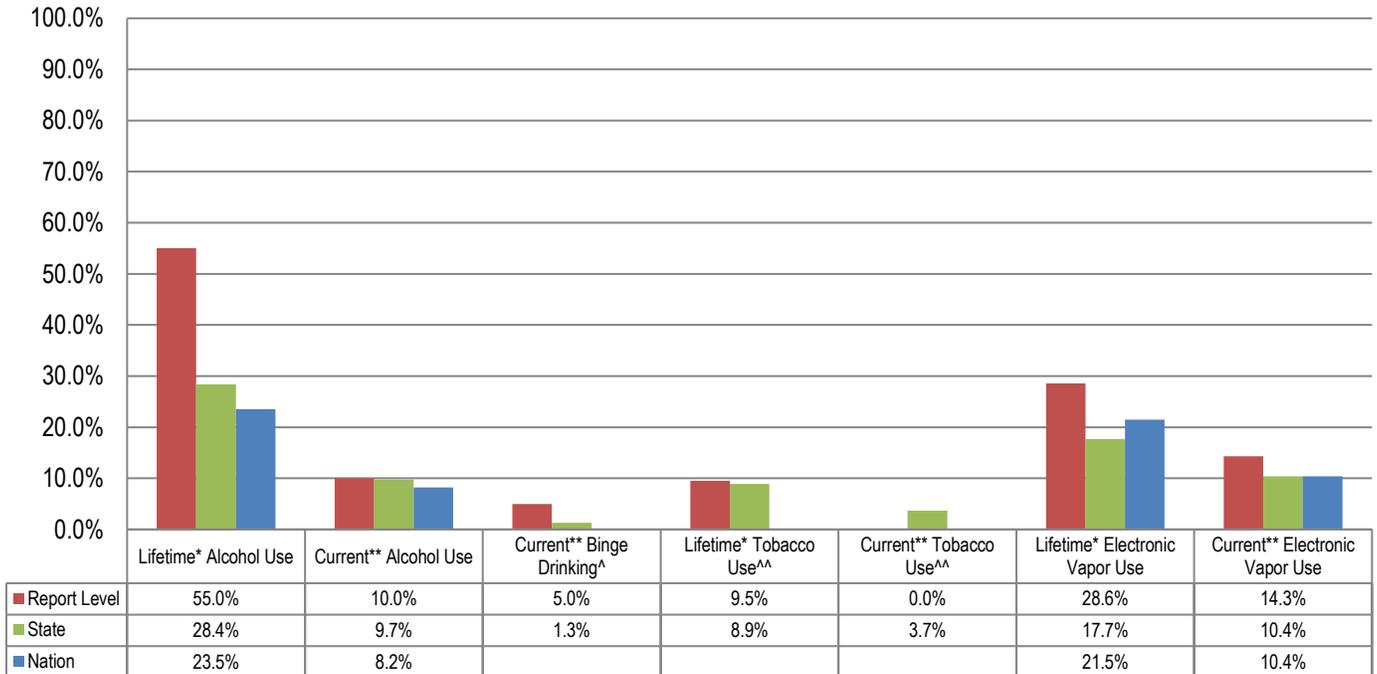
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days. <sup>A</sup>Percentage who reported having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours. <sup>^^</sup>Tobacco use includes cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Individual results for each can be found in Appendix A.

**Substance Use: Other Drugs, 2018**



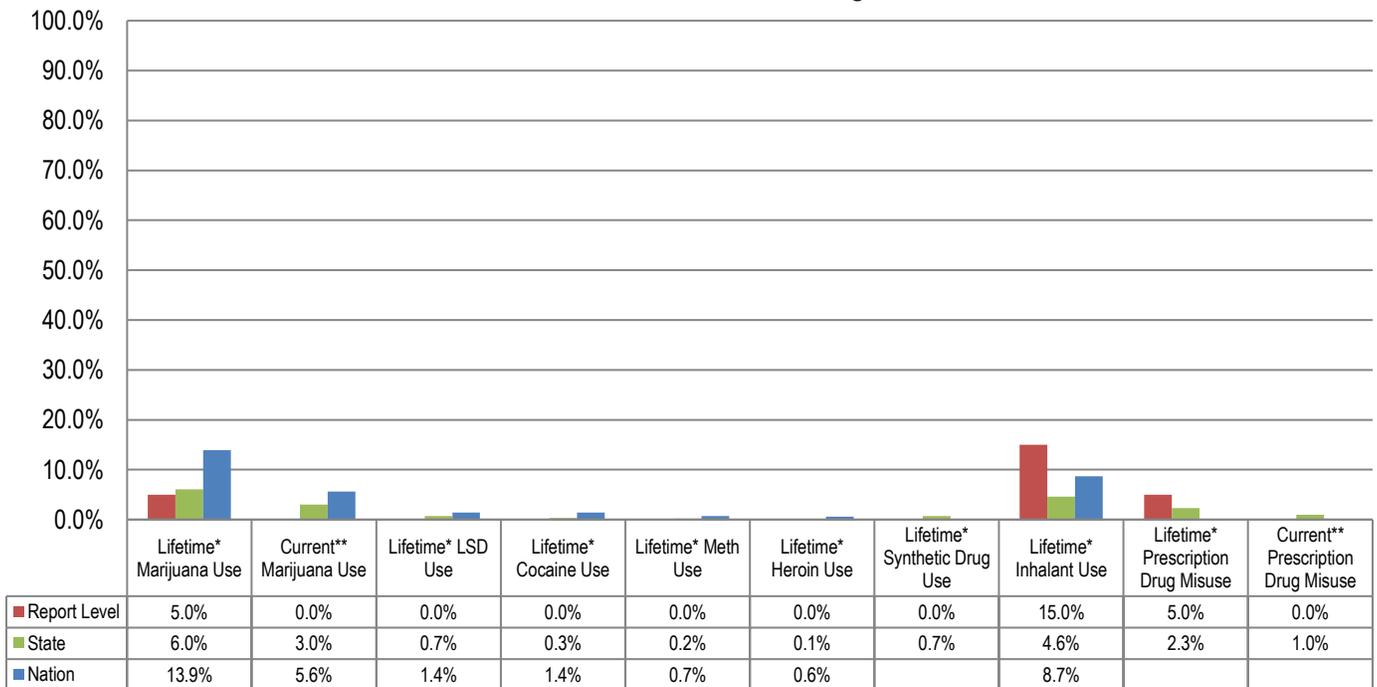
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days.

### 8th Grade Substance Use: Alcohol and Tobacco, 2018



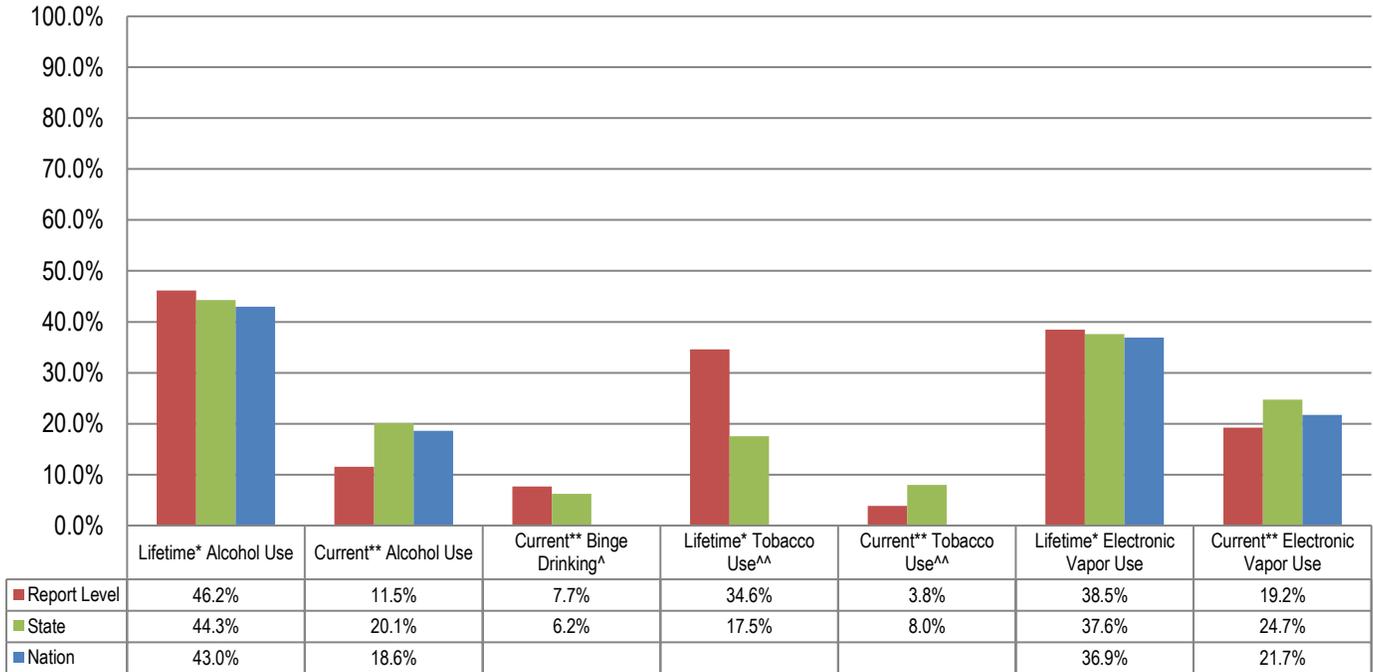
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days. ^Percentage who reported having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours. ^^Tobacco use includes cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Individual results for each can be found in Appendix A.

### 8th Grade Substance Use: Other Drugs, 2018



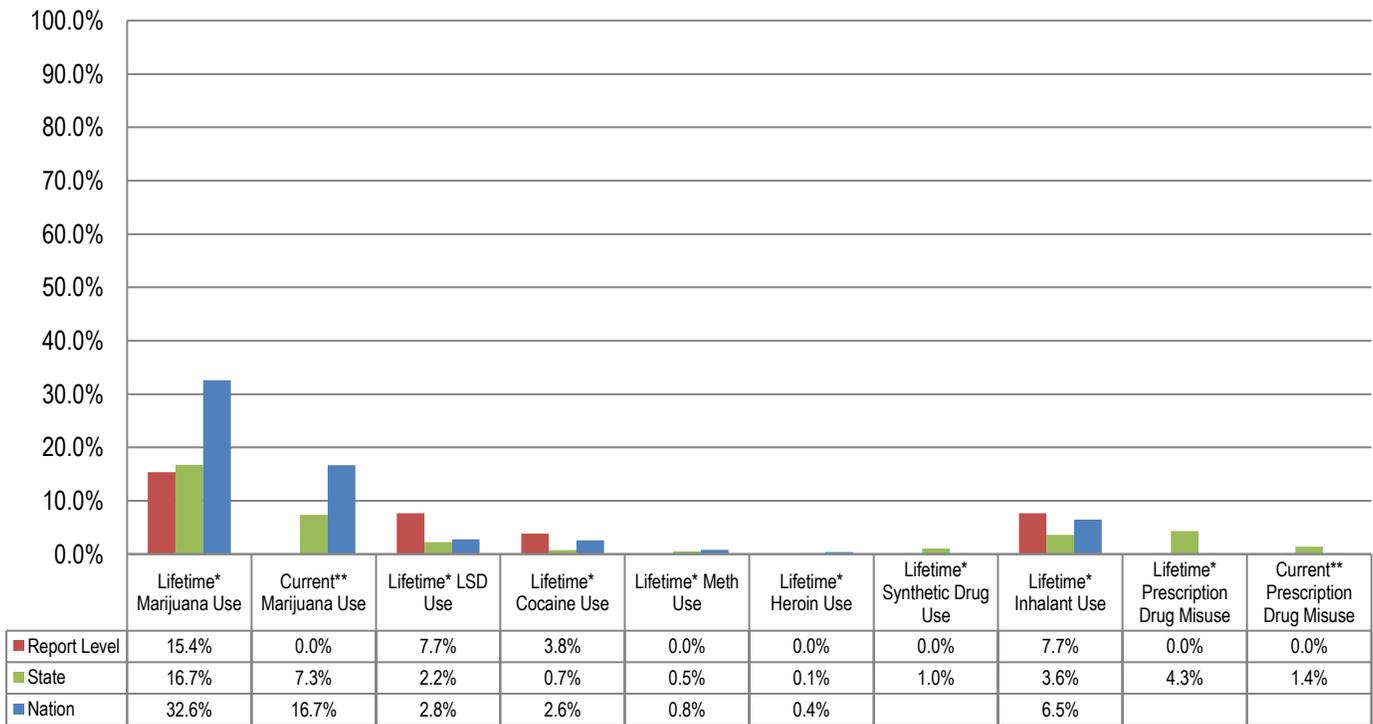
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days.

10th Grade Substance Use: Alcohol and Tobacco, 2018



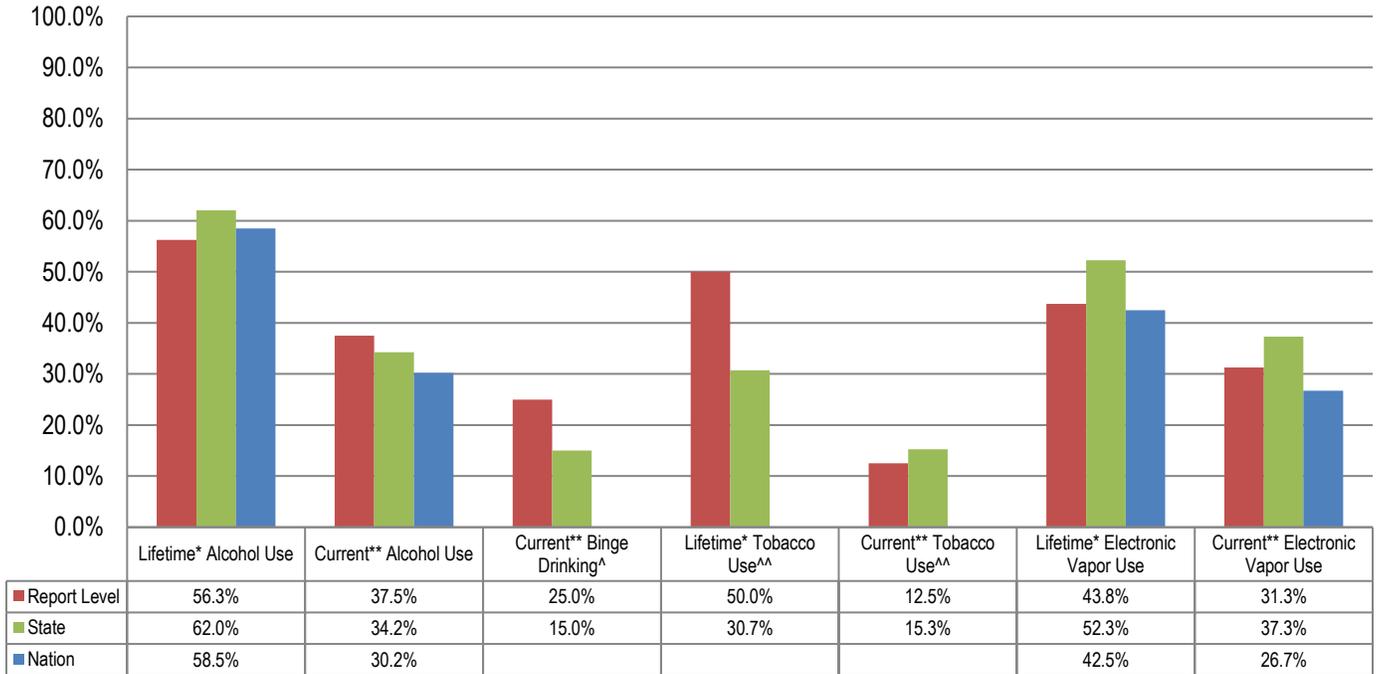
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days. ^Percentage who reported having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours. ^^Tobacco use includes cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Individual results for each can be found in Appendix A.

10th Grade Substance Use: Other Drugs, 2018



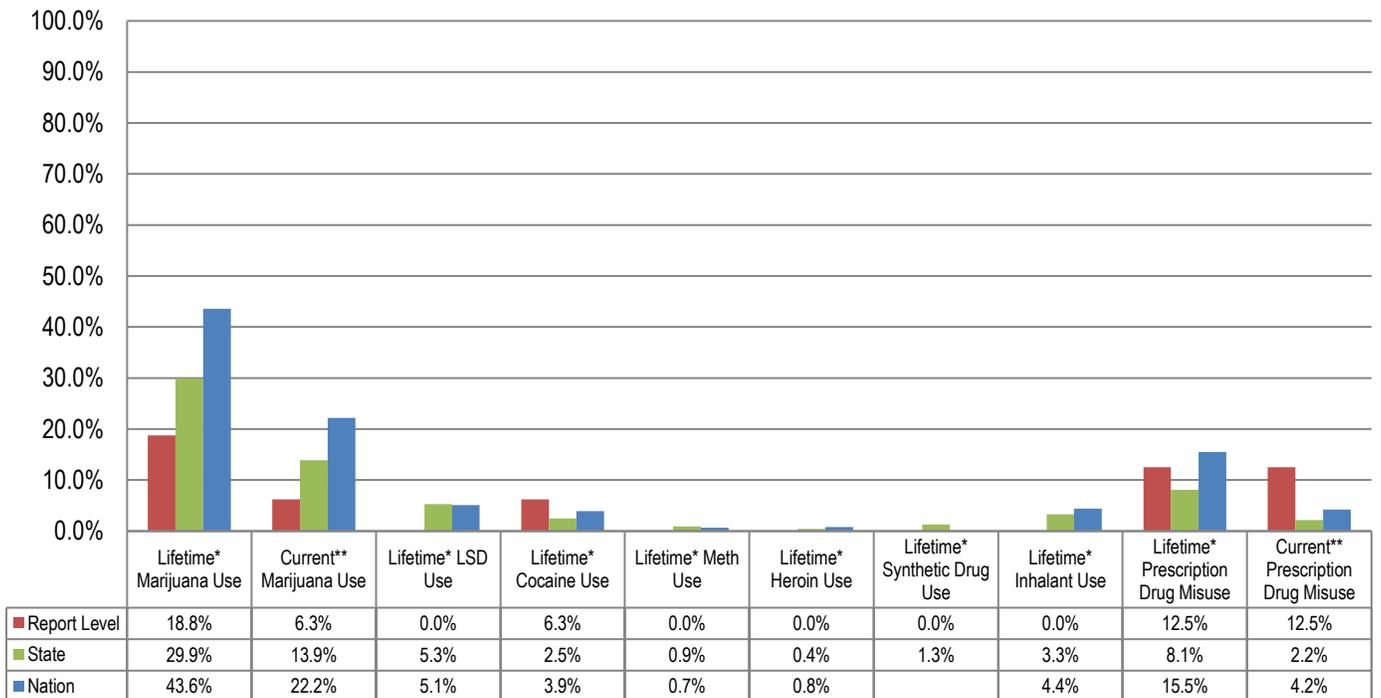
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days.

### 12th Grade Substance Use: Alcohol and Tobacco, 2018



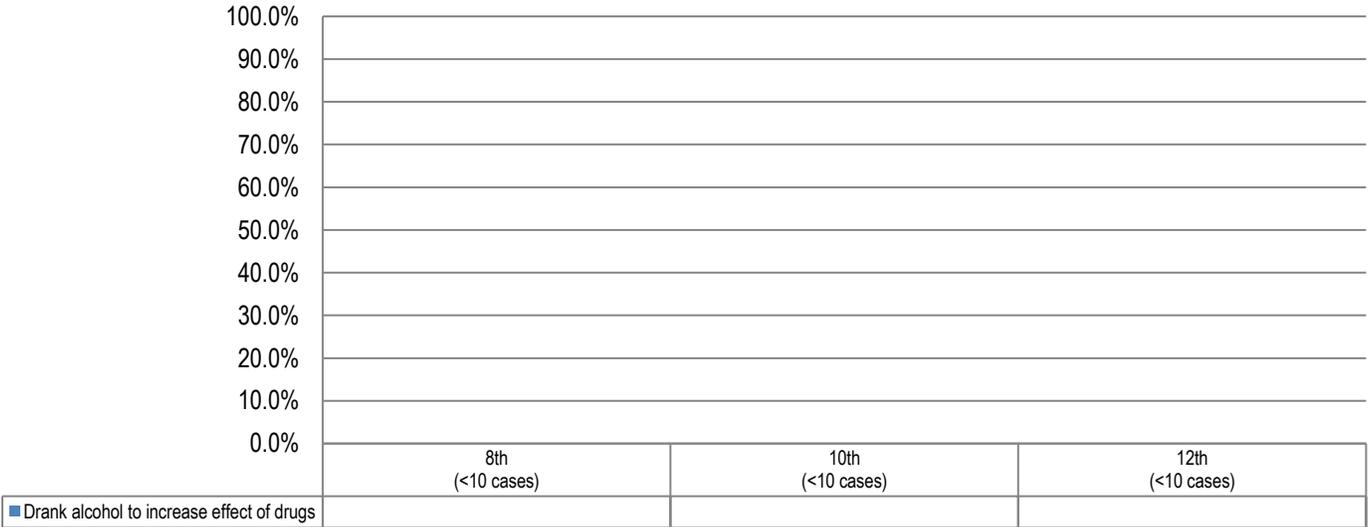
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days. ^Percentage who reported having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours. ^^Tobacco use includes cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Individual results for each can be found in Appendix A.

### 12th Grade Substance Use: Other Drugs, 2018



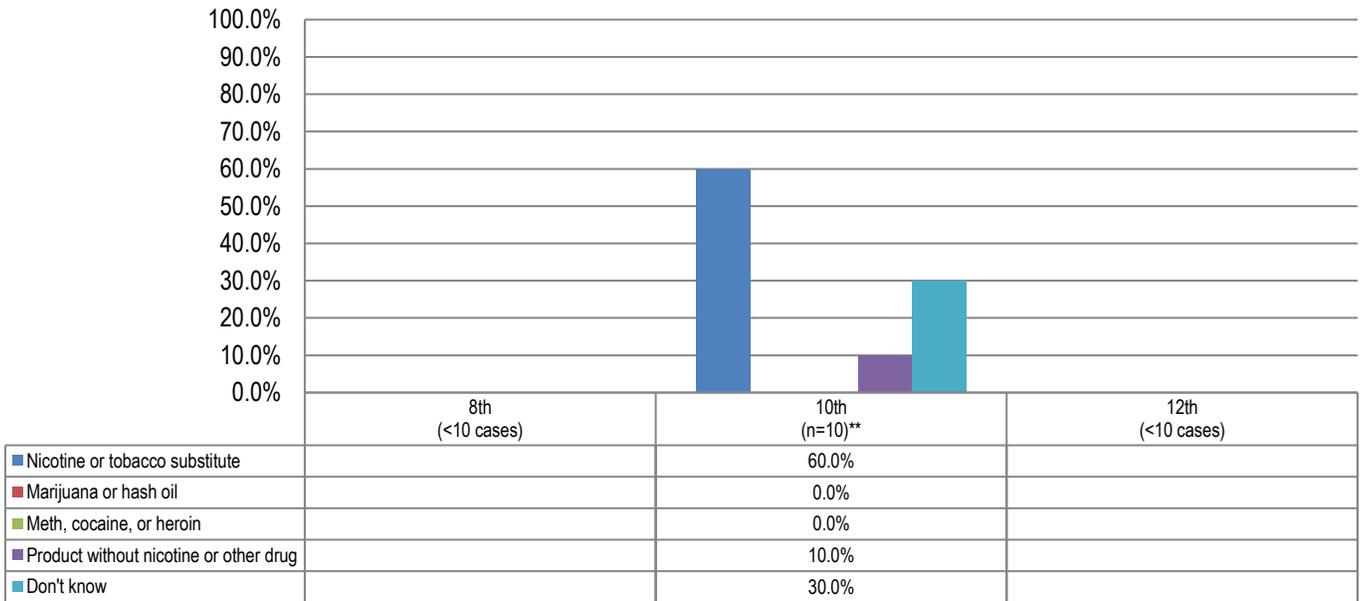
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance one or more times during the past 30 days.

**Percentage Reporting Drinking Alcohol to Increase Effect of Some Other Drug, among Students who Reported Drinking in the Past 30 Days\*, 2018**



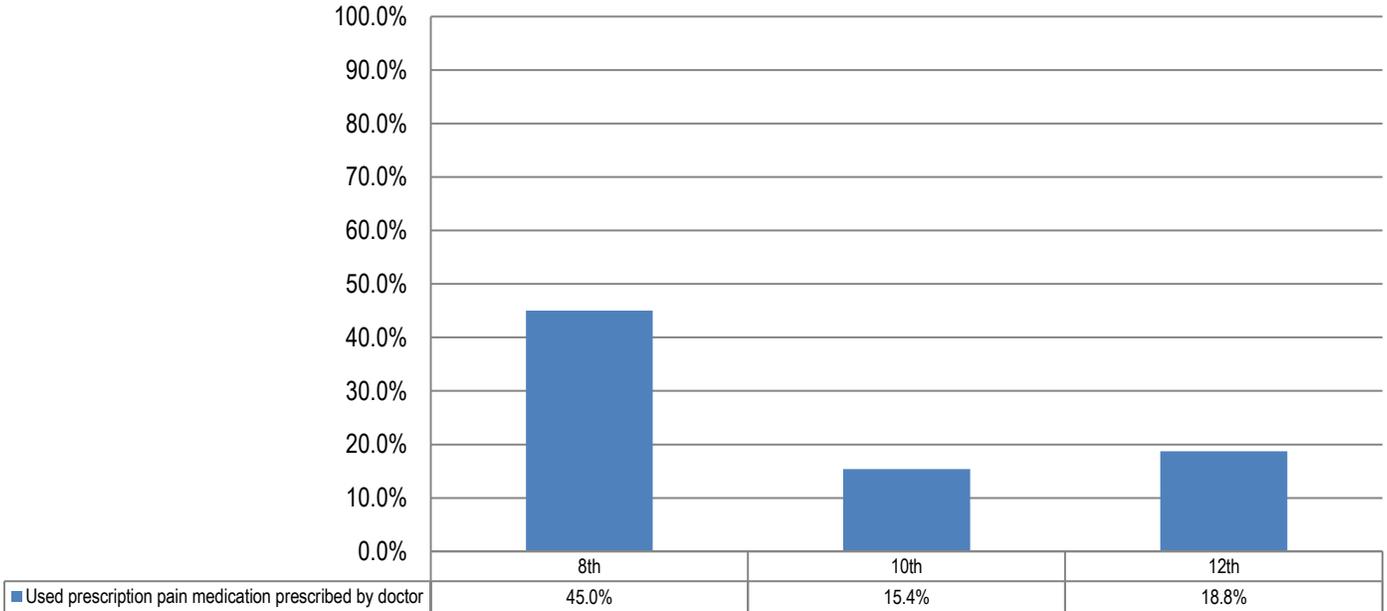
Notes. \*Among past 30 day alcohol users, the percentage who reported drinking alcohol one or more times to increase the effect of some of other drug or drugs during the past 30 days.

**Type of Mist Inhaled in Electronic Vaporizer, among Students who Reported Using an E-cigarette or Vaping Device\*, 2018**



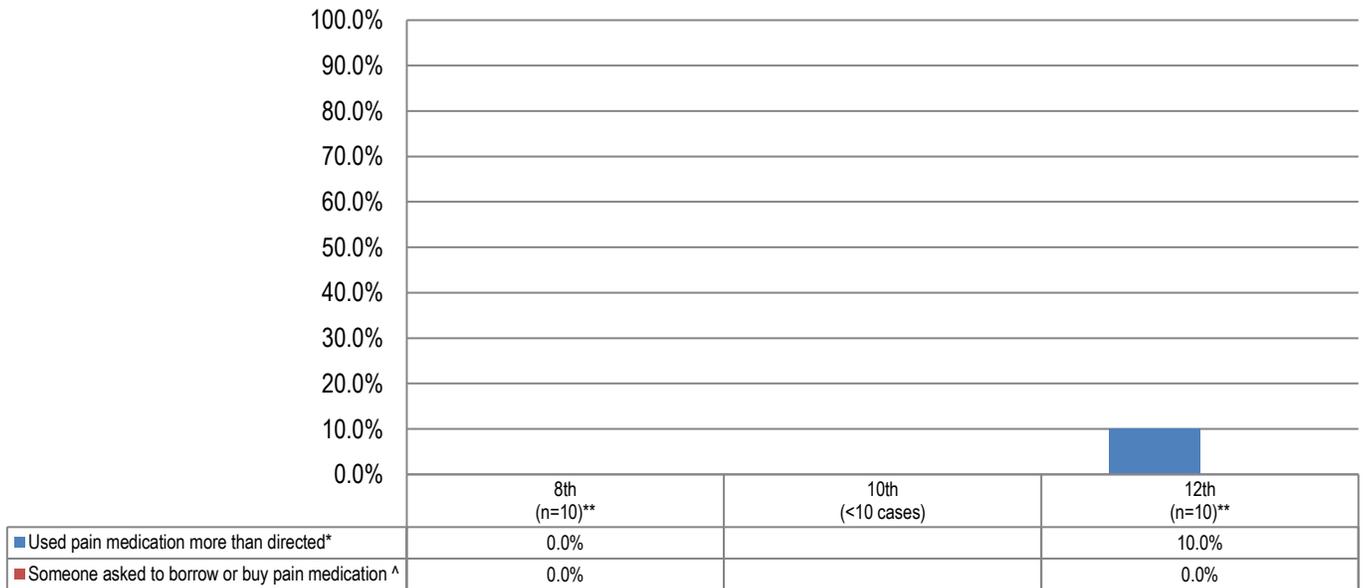
Notes. \*Based on the question "The last time you used an electronic vaporizer such as an e-cigarette, what was in the mist you inhaled?" \*\*The n-size displayed is the same for all types of mist given that type of mist inhaled in an electronic vaporizer is asked as one question.

**Percentage Reporting Using Pain Medication Prescribed by a Doctor during the Past 12 Months\*, 2018**



Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "During the past 12 months, did you use pain medications that a doctor prescribed for you?"

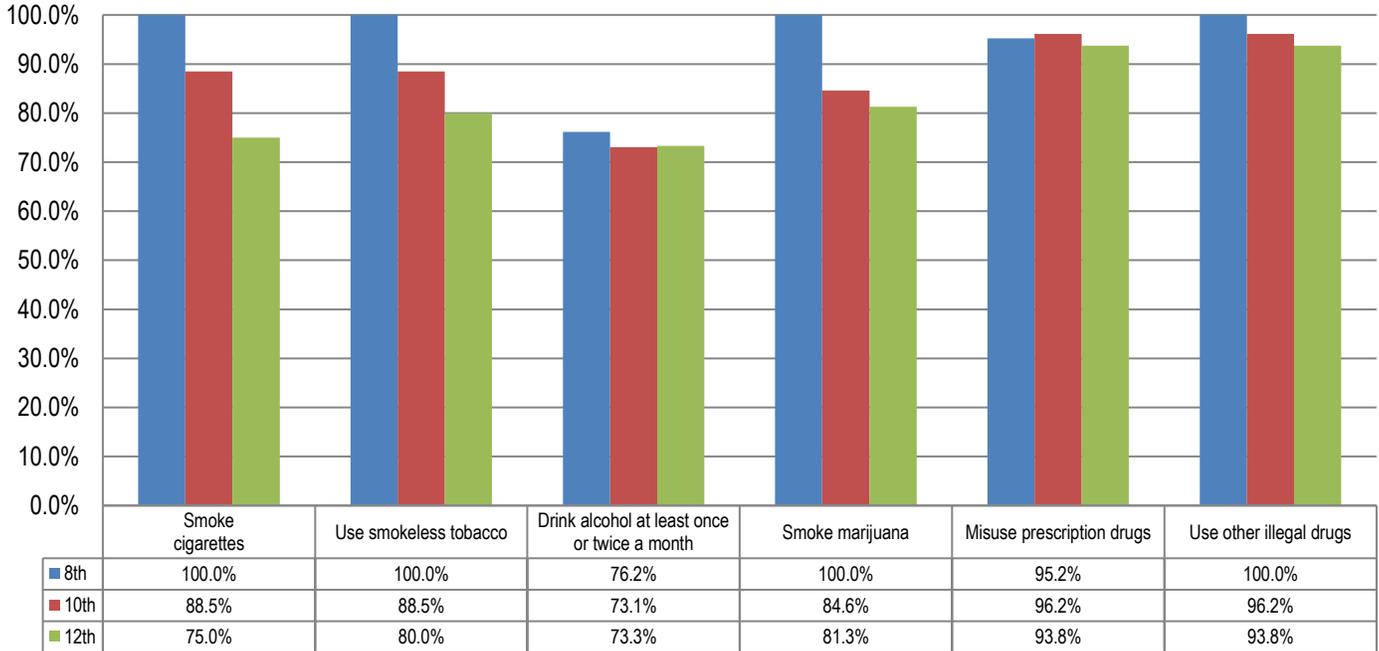
**Other Pain Medication Topics, among Students who Reported Receiving Prescription Pain Medication from a Doctor, 2018**



Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "The last time a doctor prescribed a pain medication for you, did you use any of the pain medication more frequently or in higher doses than directed by a doctor?" ^Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "The last time a doctor prescribed a pain medication for you, did anyone ask you about borrowing or buying some of your medication?" \*\*The n-size displayed is the largest n-size across these questions. Because each question is asked individually, the n-size may vary.

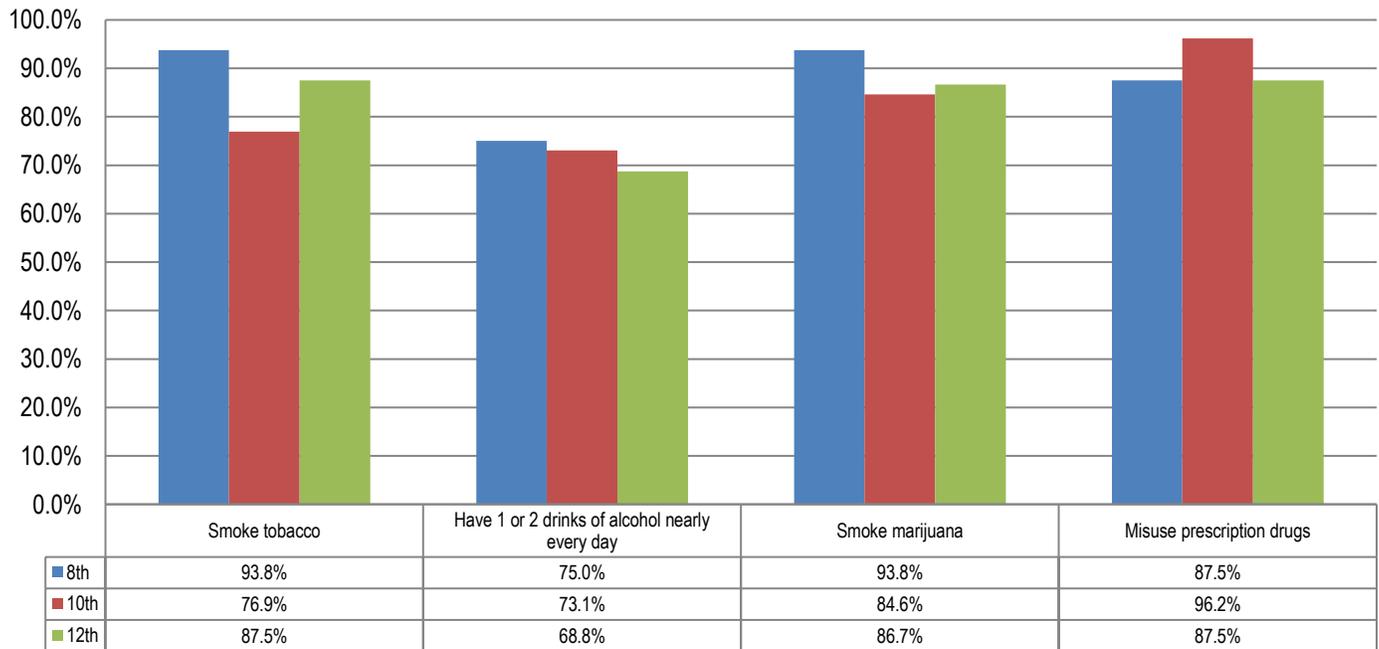
Attitudes toward Substance Use

Percentage Reporting Wrong or Very Wrong to Substance Use Behavior\*, 2018



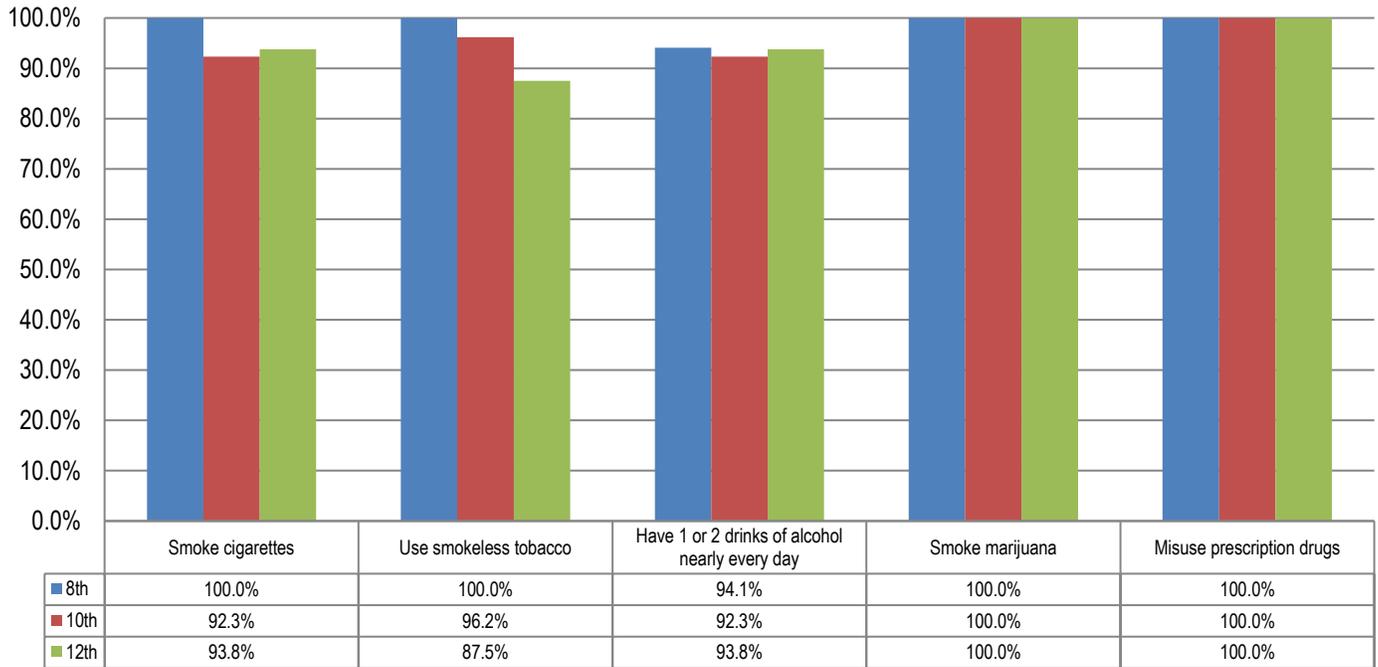
Note. \*Percentage who reported how wrong they think different substance behaviors are based on the following scale: Very wrong, Wrong, A little bit wrong, Not wrong at all.

Percentage Reporting Peer Wrong or Very Wrong to Substance Use Behavior\*, 2018



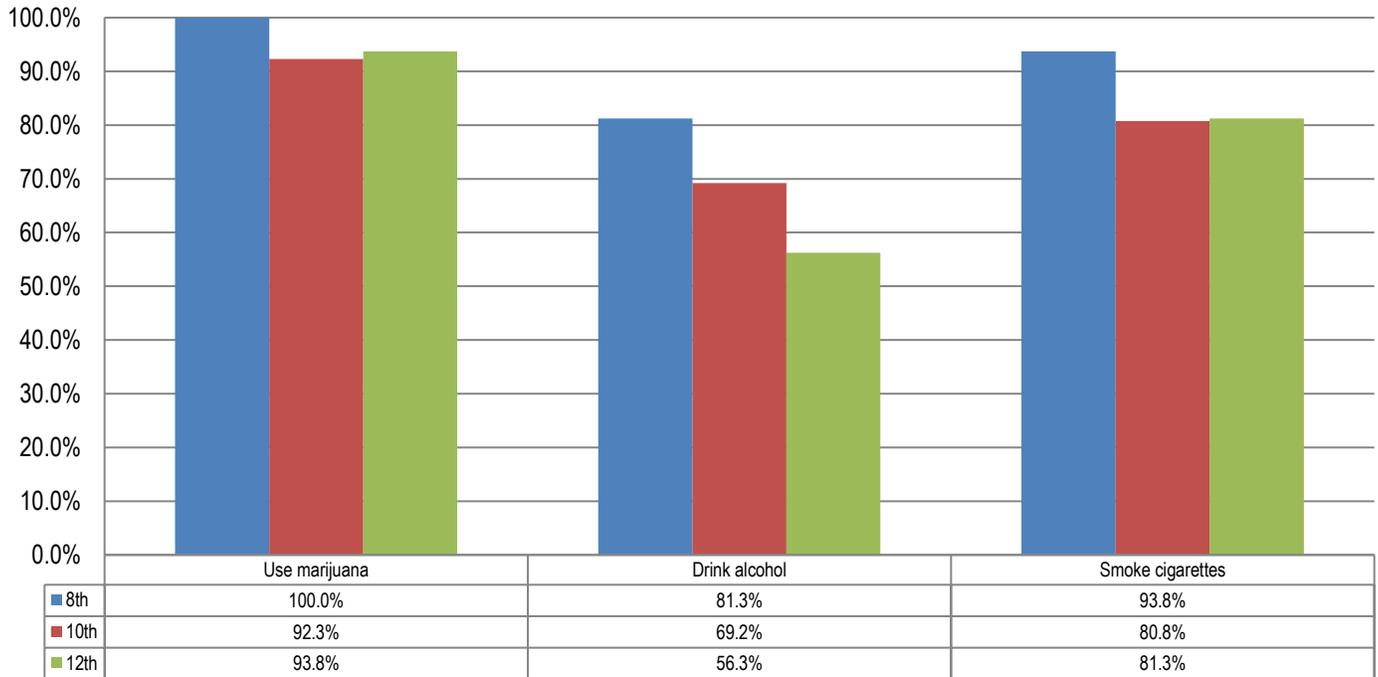
Note. \*Percentage who reported how wrong their friends would think different substance behaviors are based on the following scale: Very wrong, Wrong, A little bit wrong, Not wrong at all.

Percentage Reporting Parent Wrong or Very Wrong to Substance Use Behavior\*, 2018



Note. \*Percentage who reported how wrong their parents would think different substance behaviors are based on the following scale: Very wrong, Wrong, A little bit wrong, Not wrong at all.

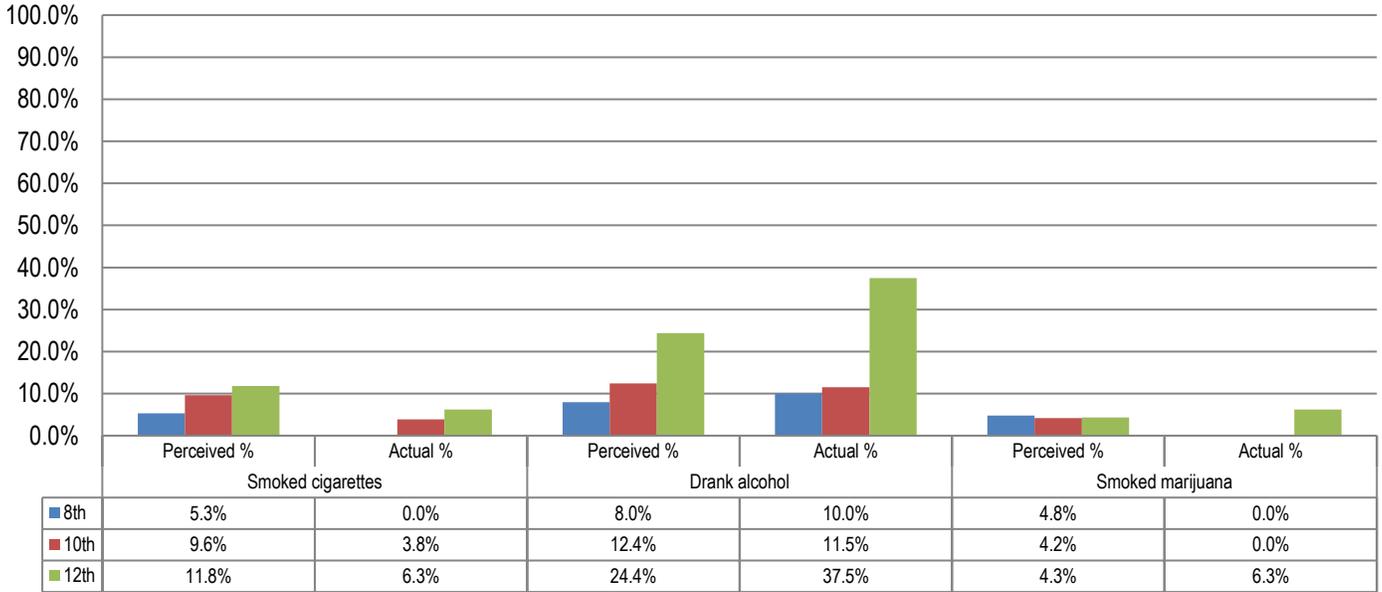
Percentage Reporting Adults in Neighborhood Wrong or Very Wrong to Substance Use Behavior\*, 2018



Note. \*Percentage who reported how wrong adults in their neighborhood would think different substance behaviors are based on the following scale: Very wrong, Wrong, A little bit wrong, Not wrong at all.

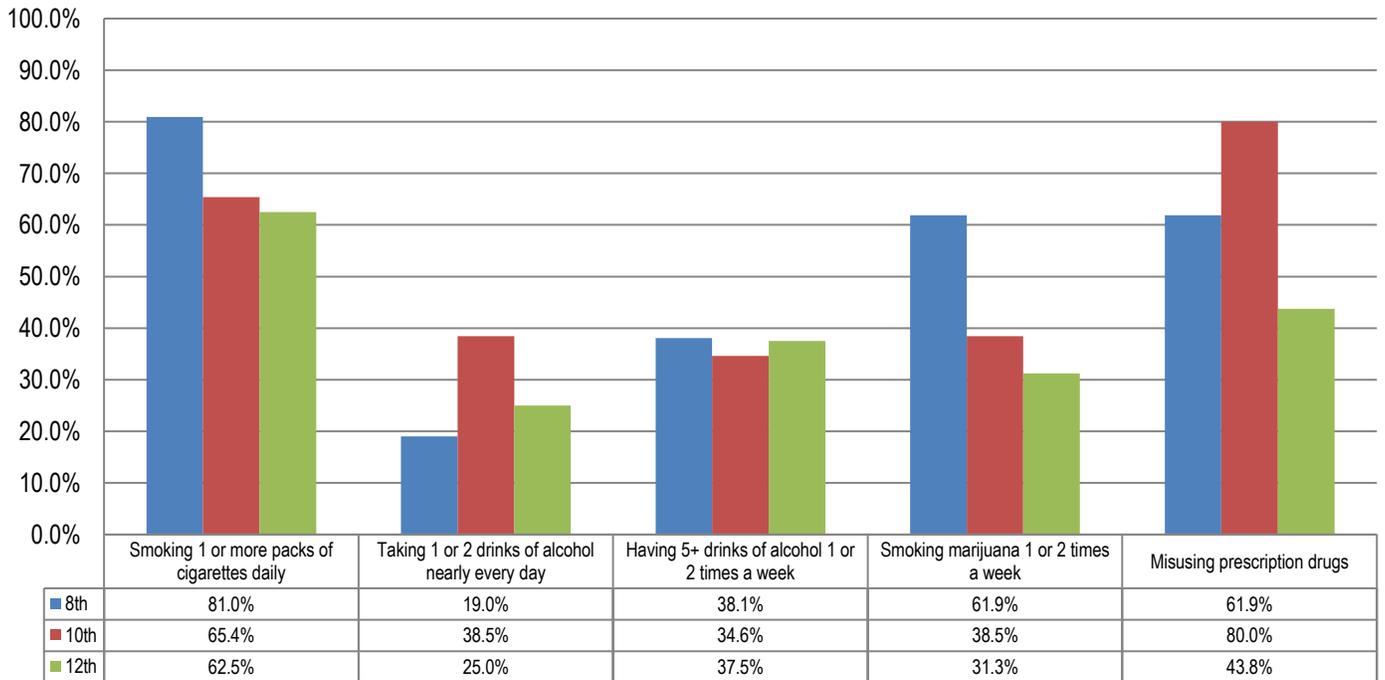
Perceptions of Substance Use

Perceived\* and Actual Past 30 Day Substance Use, 2018



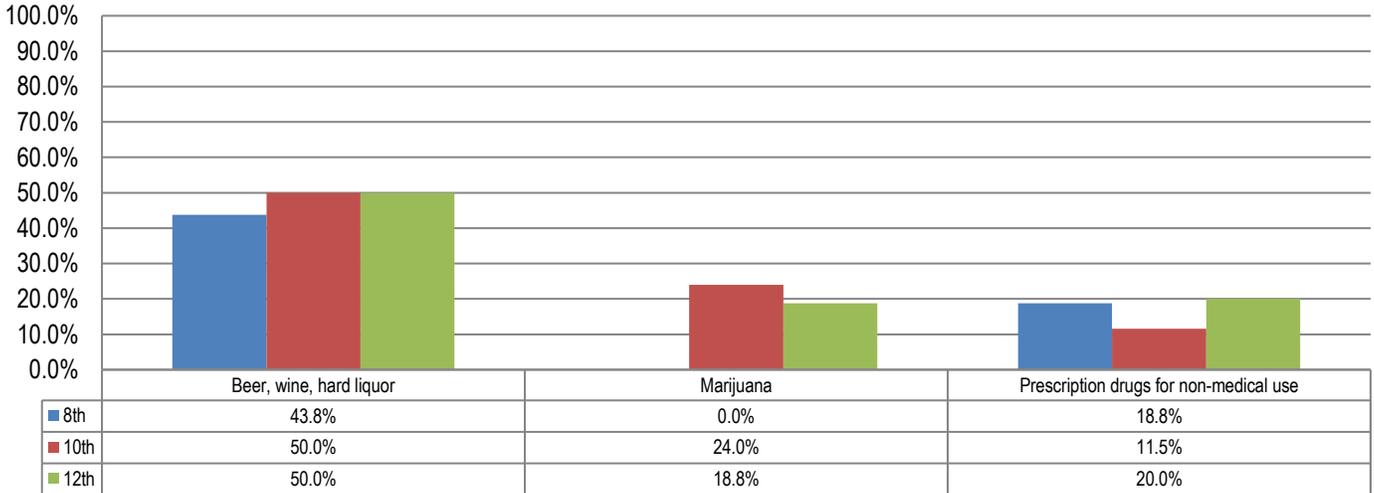
Note. \*Perception based on following question: "Now thinking about all the students in your grade at your school. How many of them do you think: <insert substance use behavior> during the past 30 days?"

Percentage Reporting that the Following Substance Use Behaviors Place People at Great Risk\*, 2018



Note. \*Percentage who reported great risk associated with each substance behaviors based on the following scale: No risk, Slight risk, Moderate risk, Great risk. Based on the question "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they: <insert substance use behavior>."

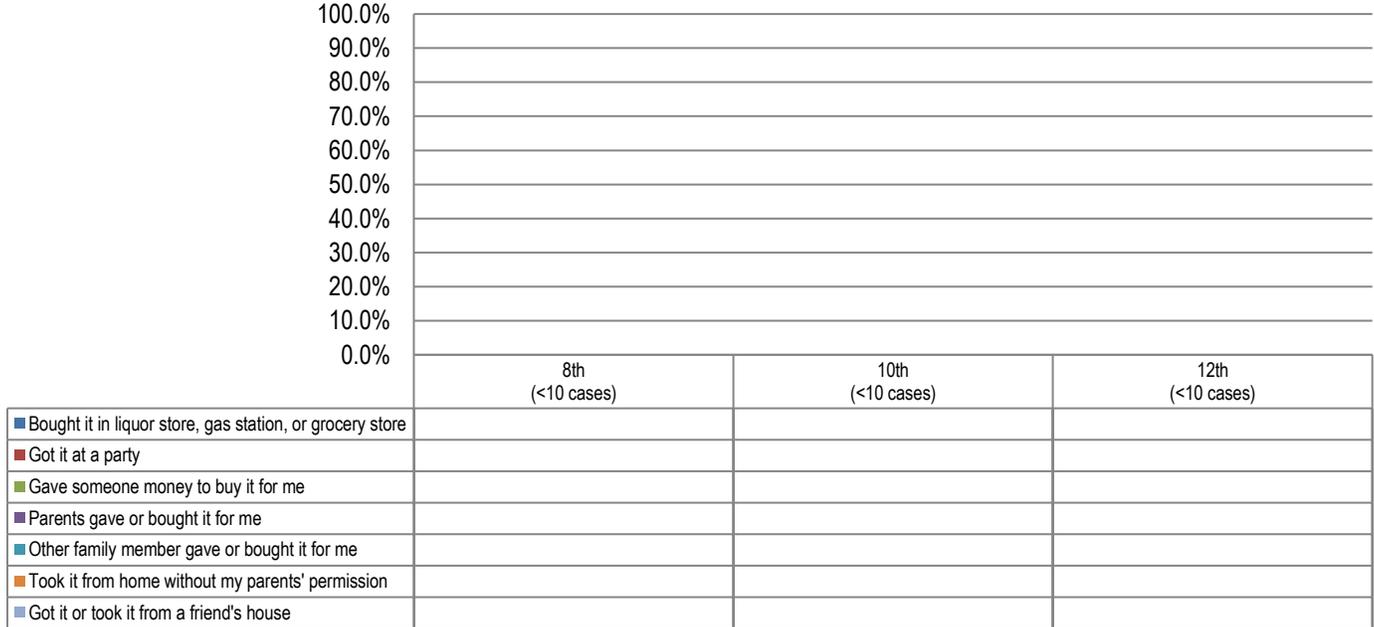
Percentage Reporting that the Following Substances are Sort of Easy or Very Easy to Obtain\*, 2018



Note. \*Percentage who reported it is sort of or very easy to obtain each substances based on the following scale: Very hard, Sort of hard, Sort of easy, Very easy. Based on the question "If you wanted to, how easy would it be for you to get: <insert substance use behavior>."

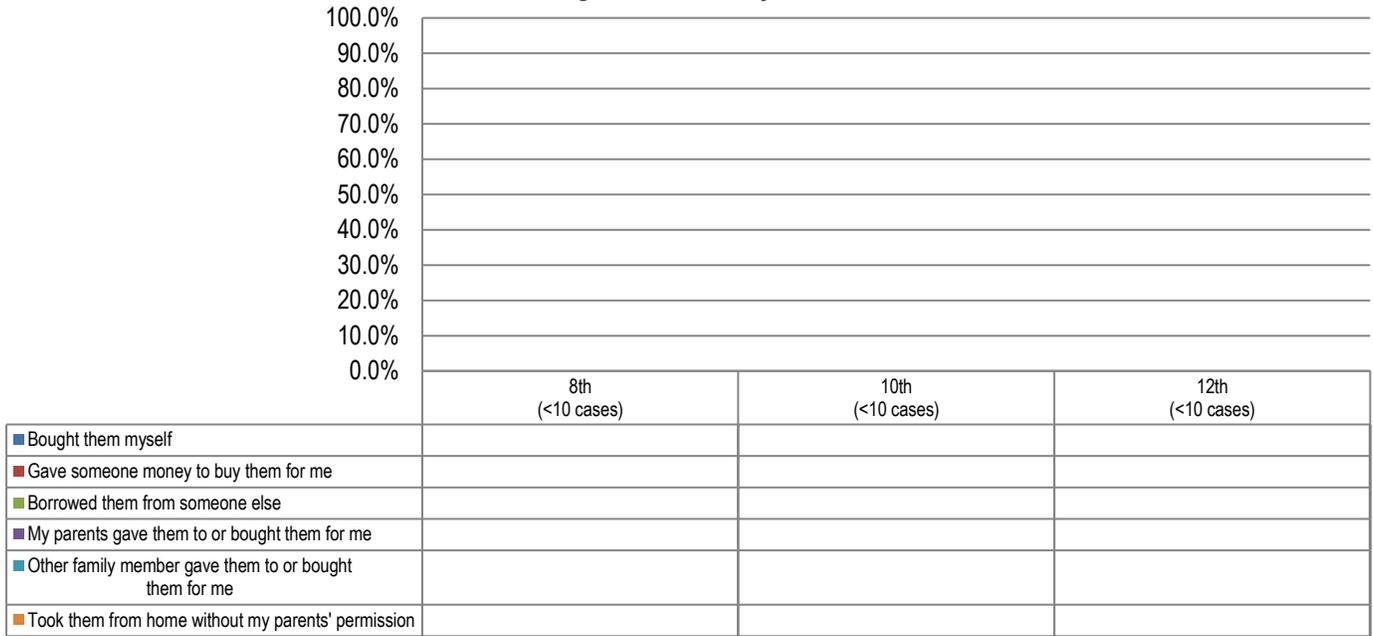
Sources of Substances

Sources for Obtaining Alcohol during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Drinking during the Past 30 Days\*, 2018



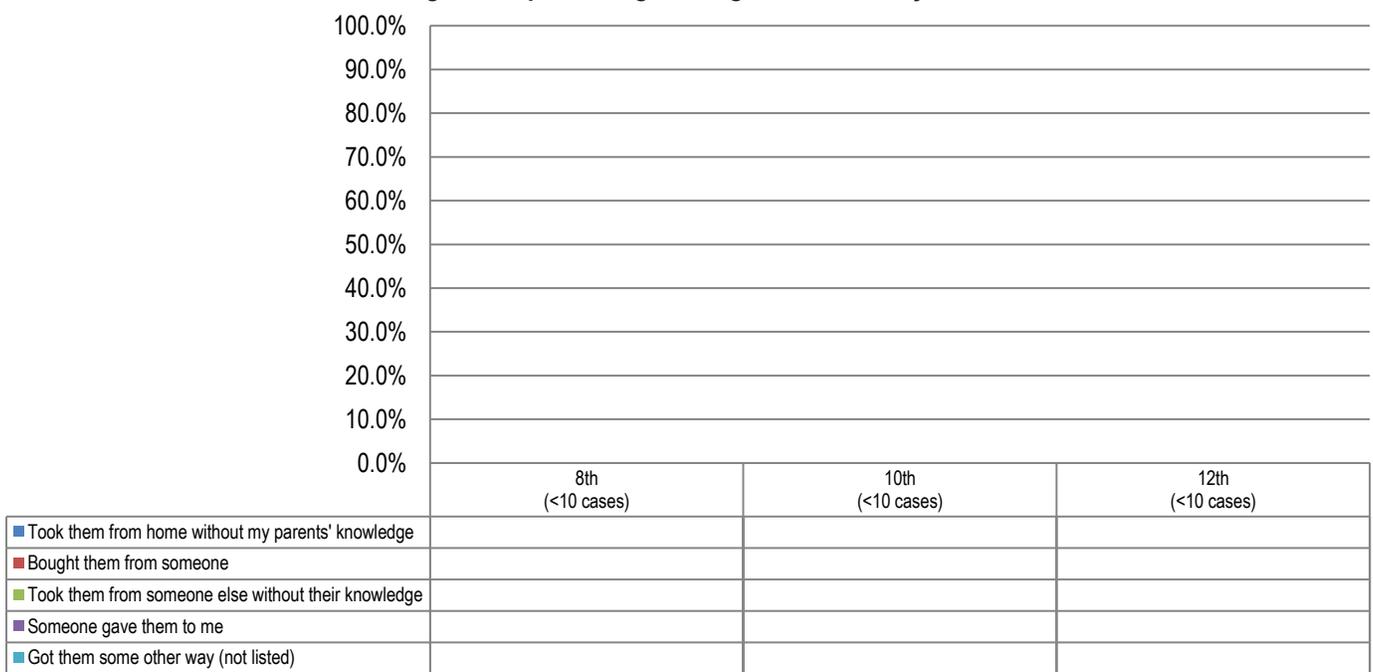
Notes. \*Among past 30 day alcohol users, the percentage who reported obtaining alcohol in each manner during the past 30 days. \*\*The n-size displayed is the largest n-size across these questions. Because each source is asked individually, the n-size may vary across sources.

**Sources for Obtaining Cigarettes during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Smoking during the Past 30 Days\*, 2018**



Notes. \*Among past 30 day cigarette users, the percentage who reported obtaining cigarettes in each manner during the past 30 days. These scores may include students 18 and older.\*\*The n-size displayed is the largest n-size across these questions. Because each source is asked individually, the n-size may vary across sources.

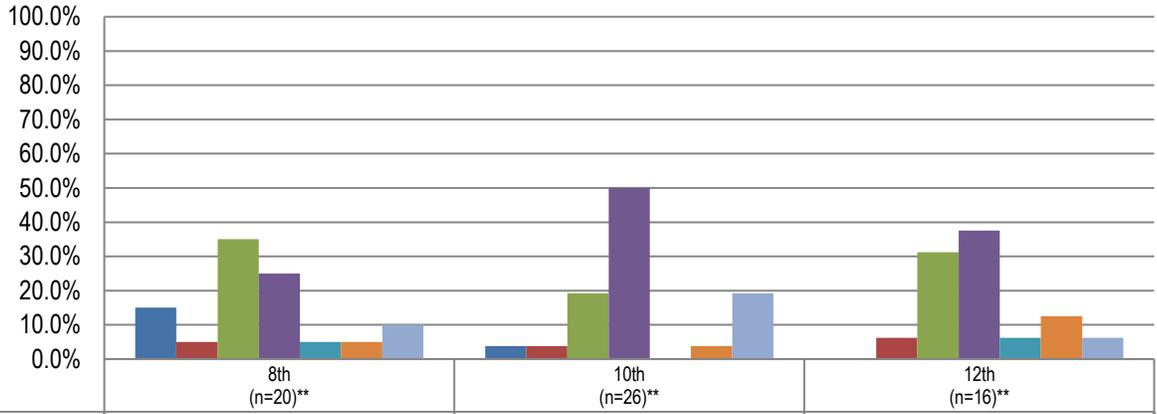
**Sources for Obtaining Prescription Drugs during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Taking Prescription Drugs during the Past 30 Days\*, 2018**



Notes. \*Among past 30 day prescription drug users, the percentage who reported obtaining prescription drugs in each manner during the past 30 days.

Other Substance-Related Topics

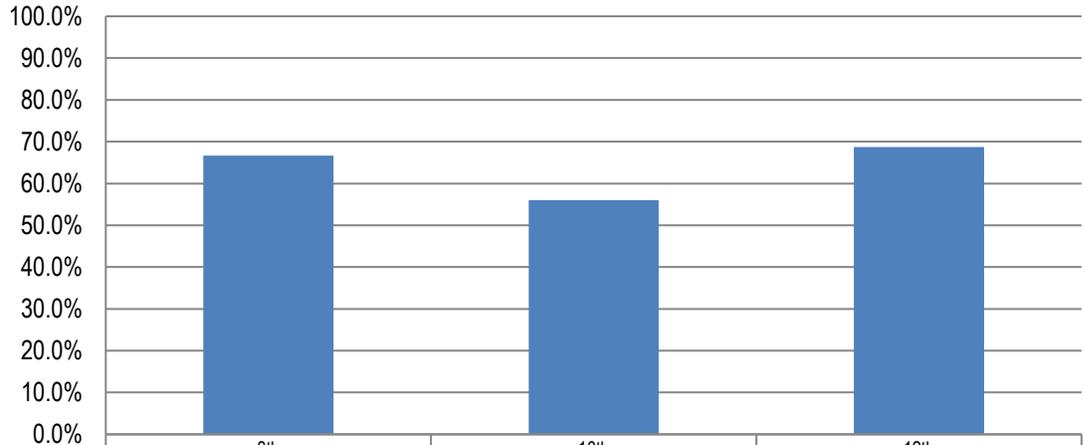
First Person to go to for Drug or Alcohol Problem\*, 2018



	8th (n=20)**	10th (n=26)**	12th (n=16)**
■ A counselor in school	15.0%	3.8%	0.0%
■ Another adult in school	5.0%	3.8%	6.3%
■ Parents or caregivers	35.0%	19.2%	31.3%
■ Friends	25.0%	50.0%	37.5%
■ Counselor or program outside of school	5.0%	0.0%	6.3%
■ Another adult outside of school	5.0%	3.8%	12.5%
■ Wouldn't go to anyone	10.0%	19.2%	6.3%

Notes. \*Based on the question "If you had a drug or alcohol problem and needed help, who is the first person you would go to?" \*\*The n-size displayed is the same for all sources given that source of help for a drug or alcohol problem is asked as one question.

Percentage Reporting Seeing or Hearing Anti-Alcohol or Anti-Drug Messages during the Past 12 Months\*, 2018



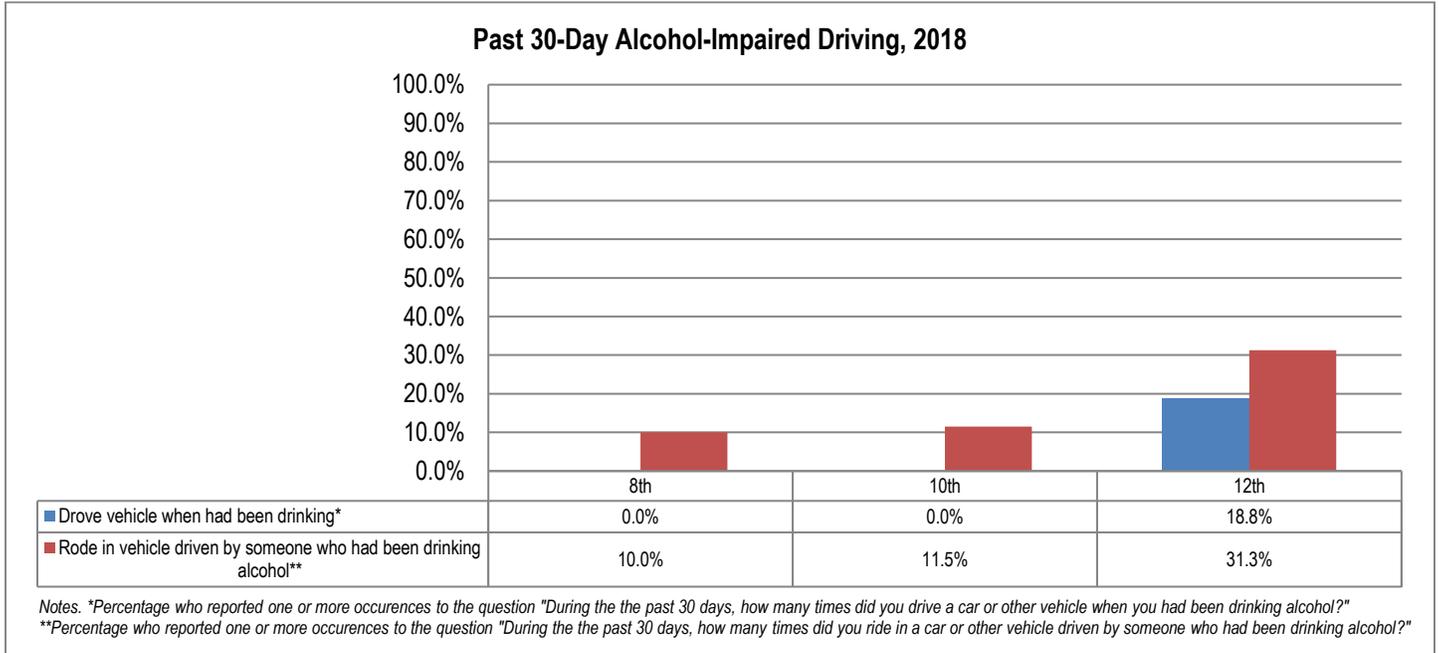
	8th	10th	12th
■ Seen or heard anti-alcohol or anti-drug messages	66.7%	56.0%	68.8%

Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "In the past 12 months, have you seen or heard any anti-alcohol or anti-drug messages on TV, the internet, the radio, or in newspapers or magazines?"

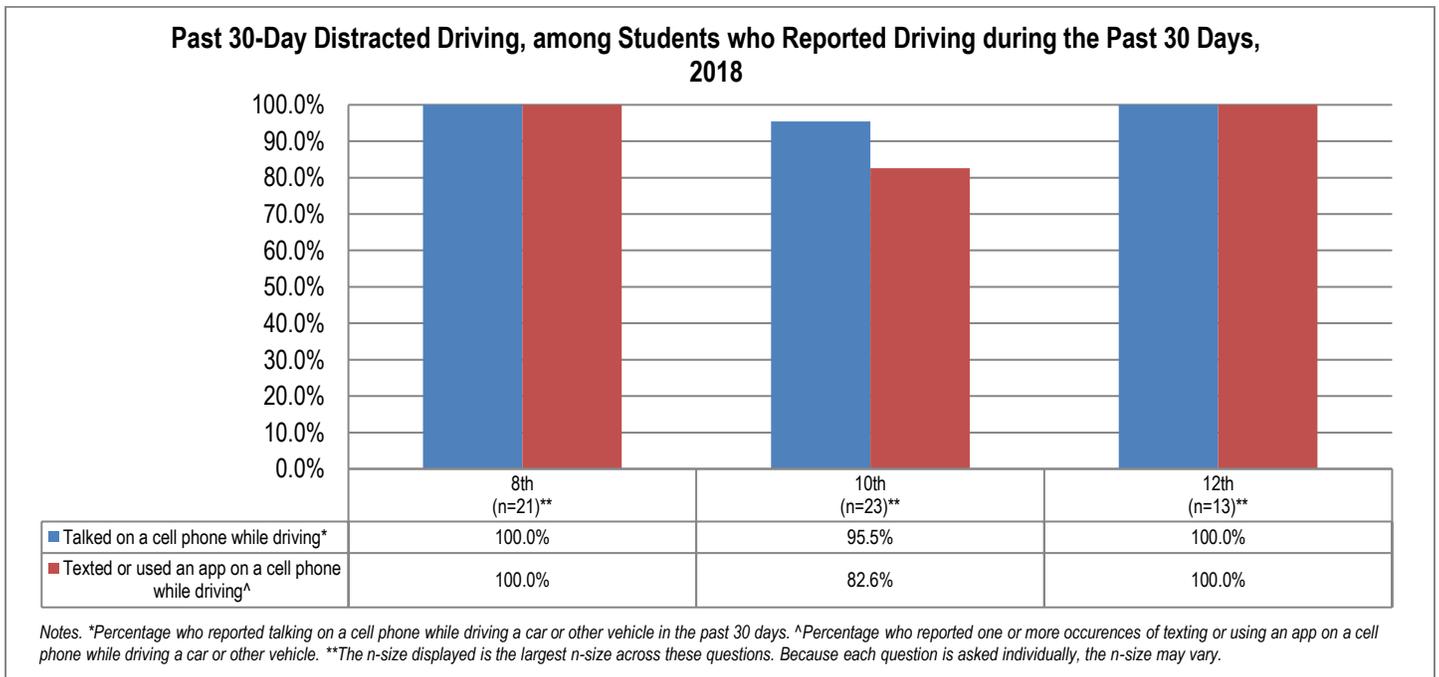
**Transportation Safety**

This section contains information on transportation safety relating to alcohol-impaired and distracted driving among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

**Past 30 Day Alcohol-Impaired Driving**



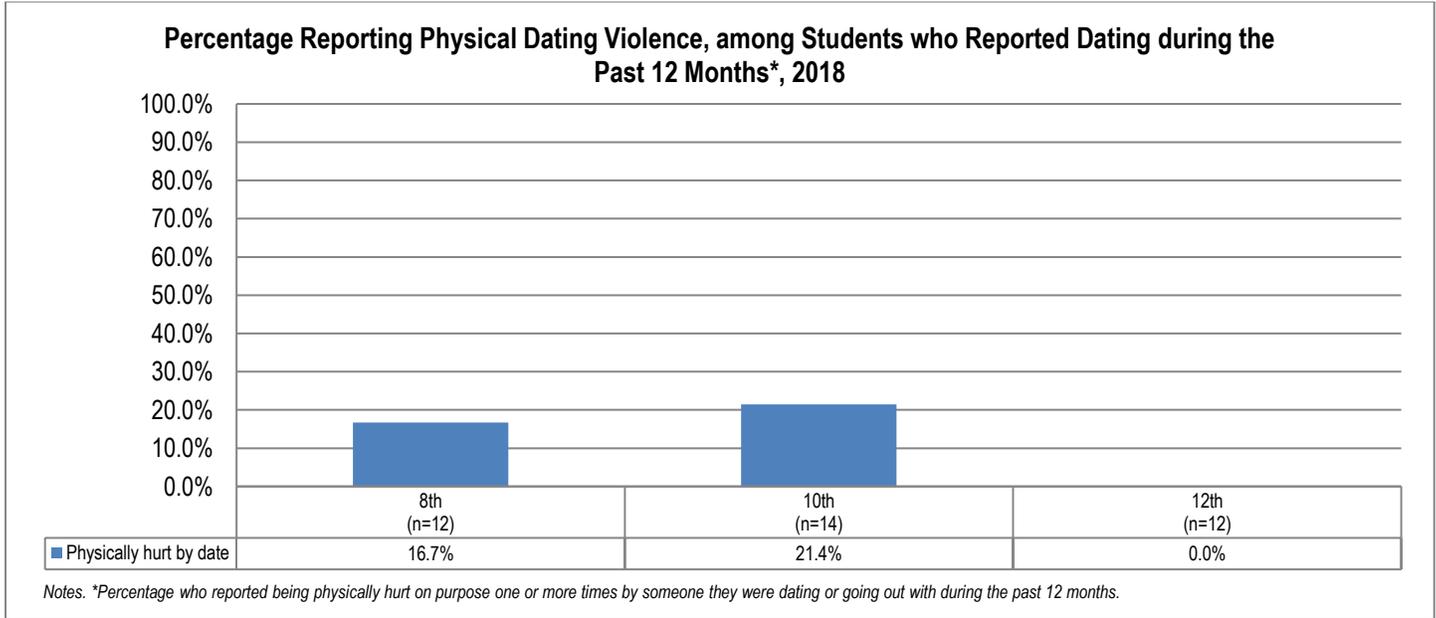
**Past 30 Day Distracted Driving**



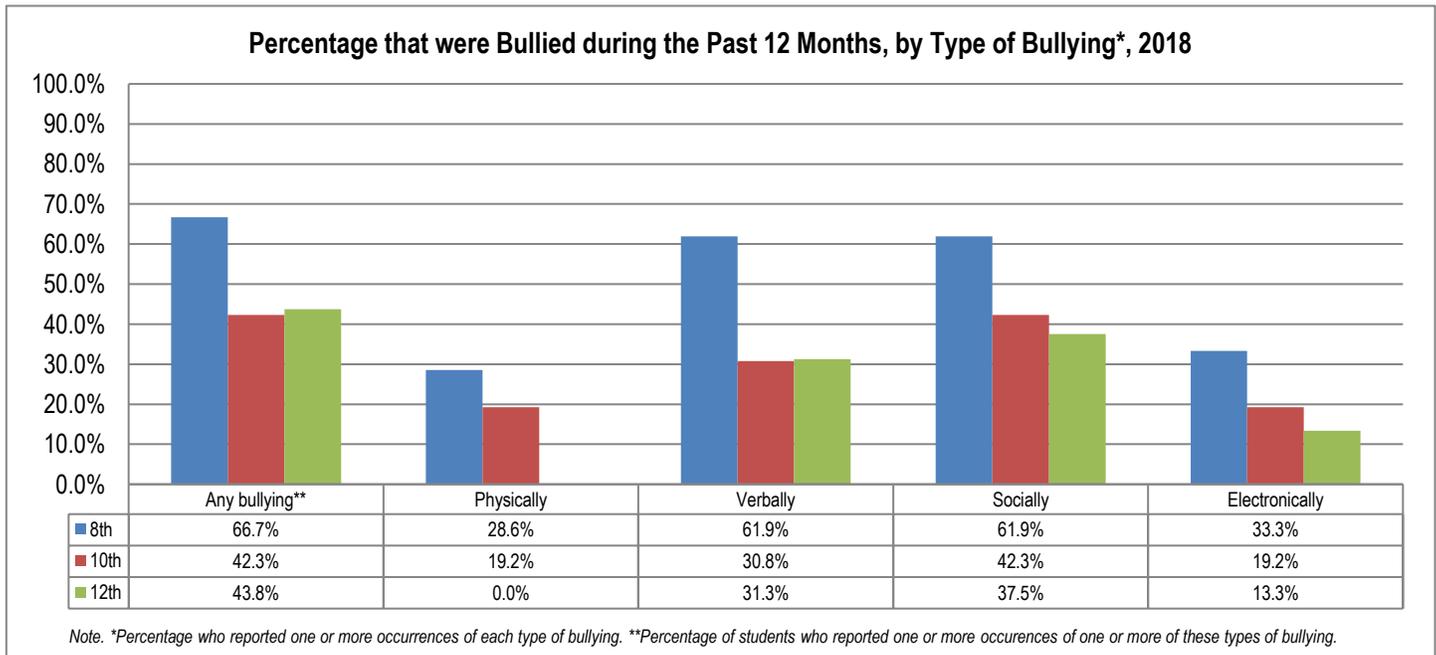
**Violence, Bullying, and Mental Health**

This section contains information on dating violence, bullying, anxiety, depression, suicide, and attitudes toward the future among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

**Dating Violence during the Past 12 Months**

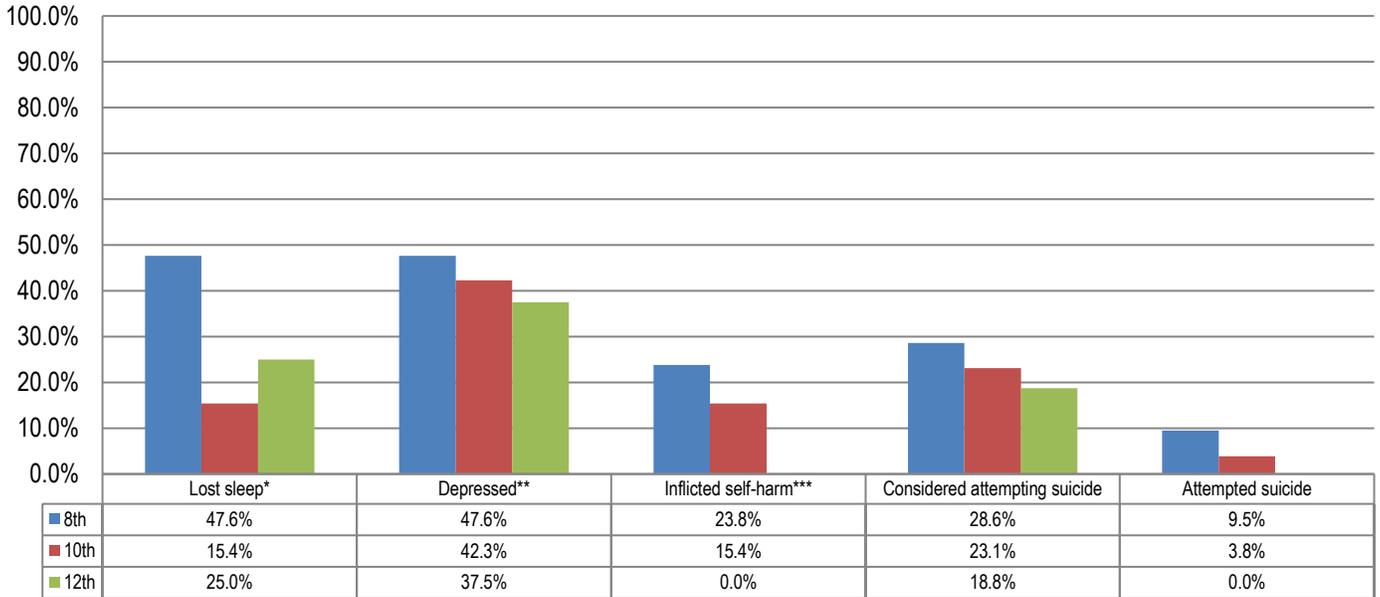


**Bullying during the Past 12 Months**



**Anxiety, Depression, and Suicide during the Past 12 Months**

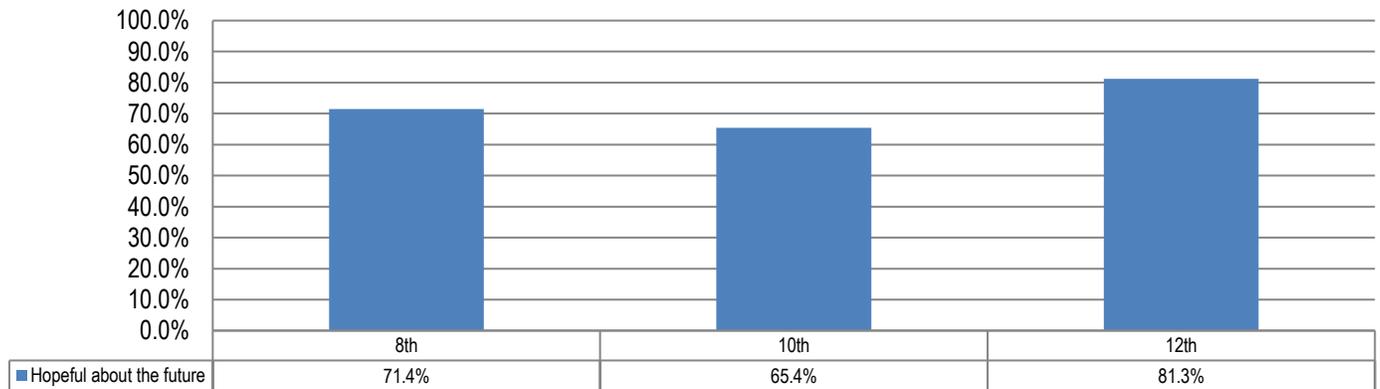
**Percentage Reporting Anxiety, Depression, and Suicide during the Past 12 Months, 2018**



Notes. \*Percentage who reported during the past 12 months being so worried about something they could not sleep well at night most of the time or always based on the following scale: Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Most of the time, Always. \*\*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "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?" \*\*\*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "During the past 12 months, did you hurt or injure yourself on purpose without wanting to die?"

**Attitudes toward the Future**

**Percentage Reporting they were Hopeful About the Future during the Past Week\*, 2018**

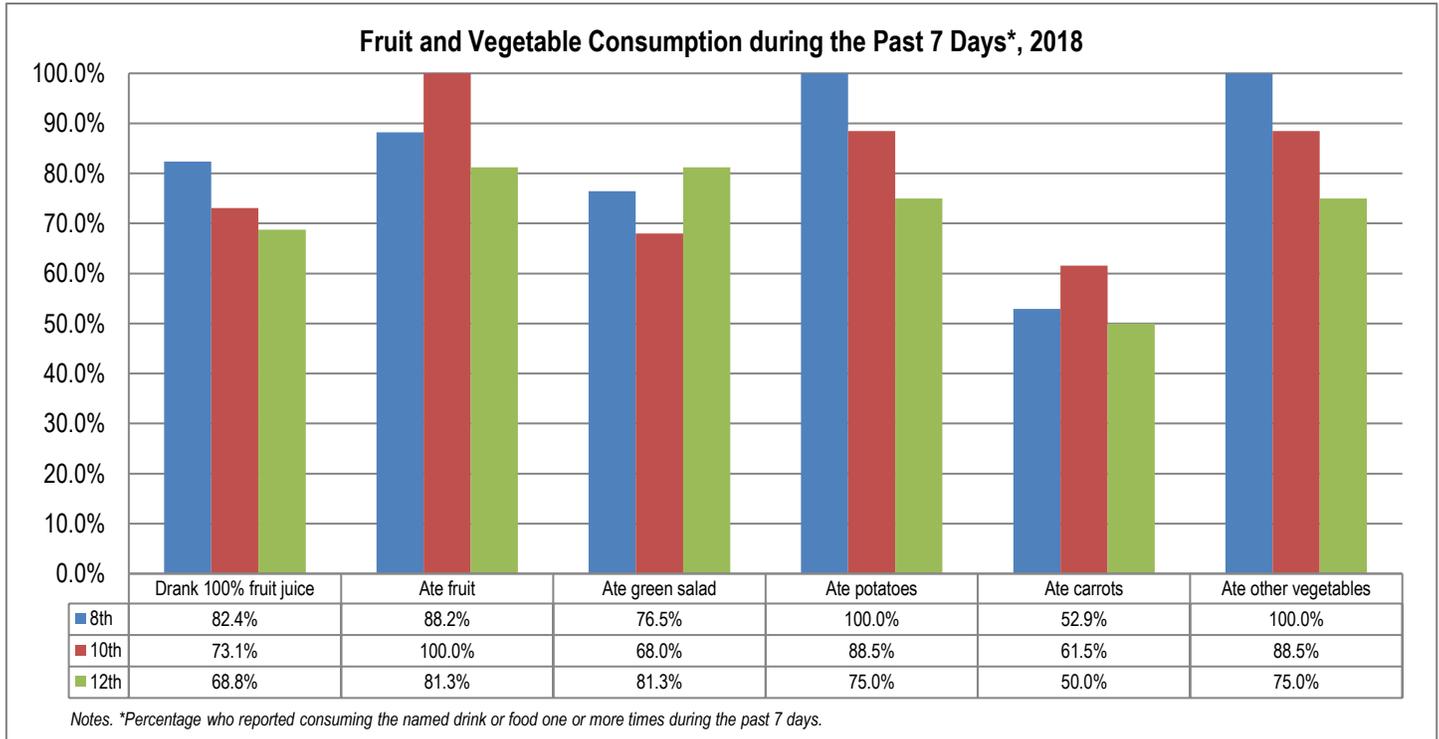


Notes. \*Percentage who reported they "Agree" or "Strongly agree" to the question "In the past week, I have felt hopeful about the future." Based on the following scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree.

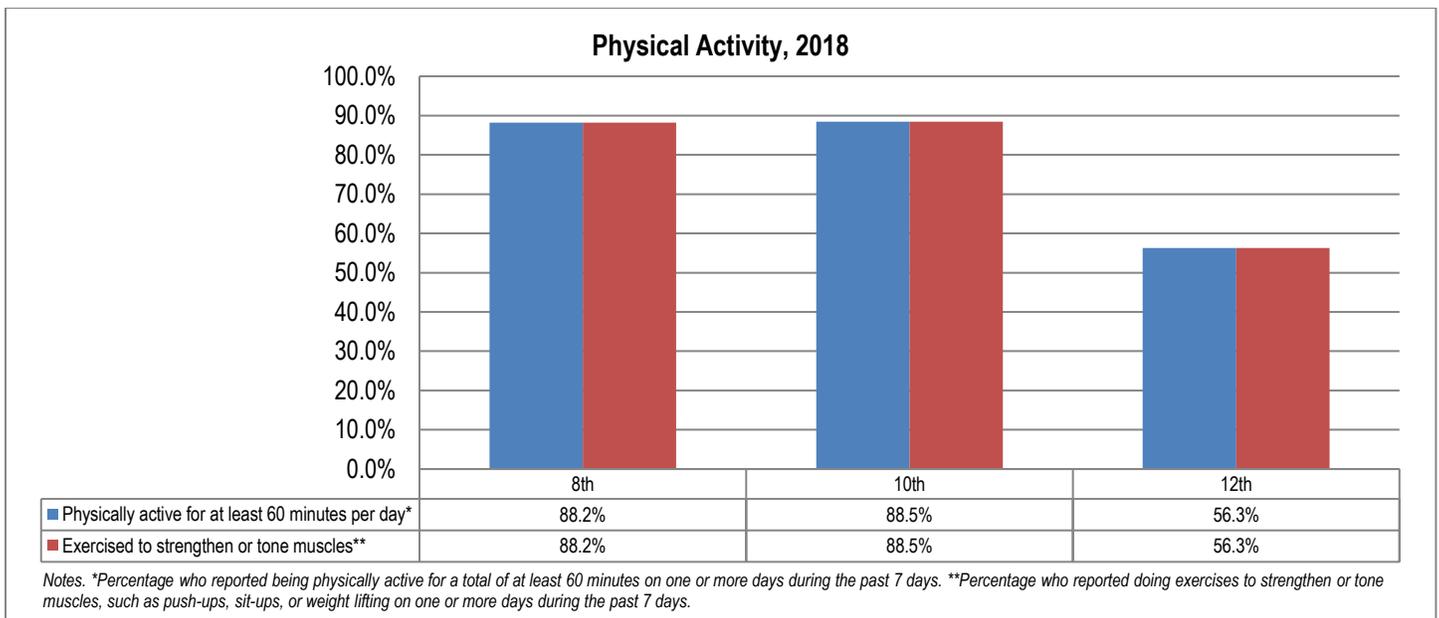
**Nutrition and Physical Activity**

This section contains information on fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

**Fruit and Vegetable Consumption during the Past 7 Days**



**Physical Activity**

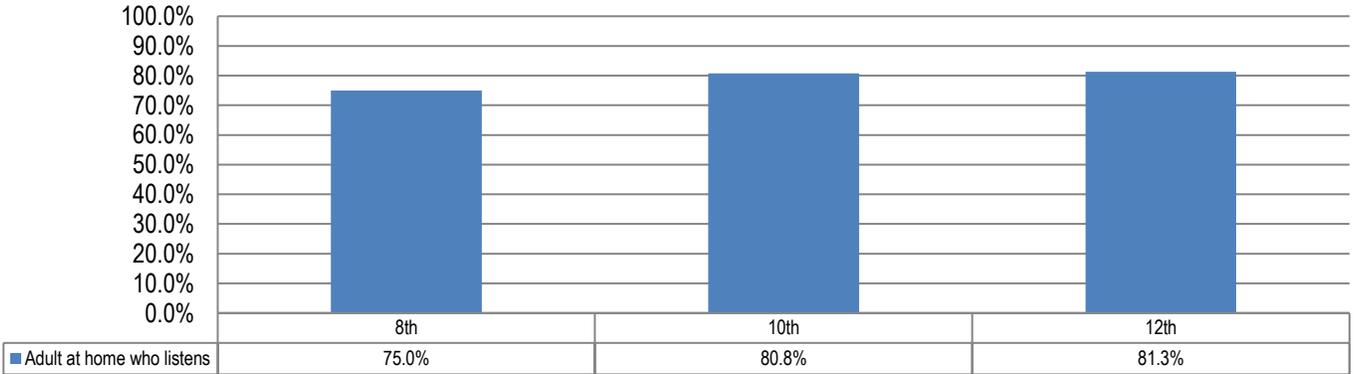


**Feelings and Experiences at Home, School, and in the Community**

This section contains information on feelings and experiences with family, at school, and in the community for 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

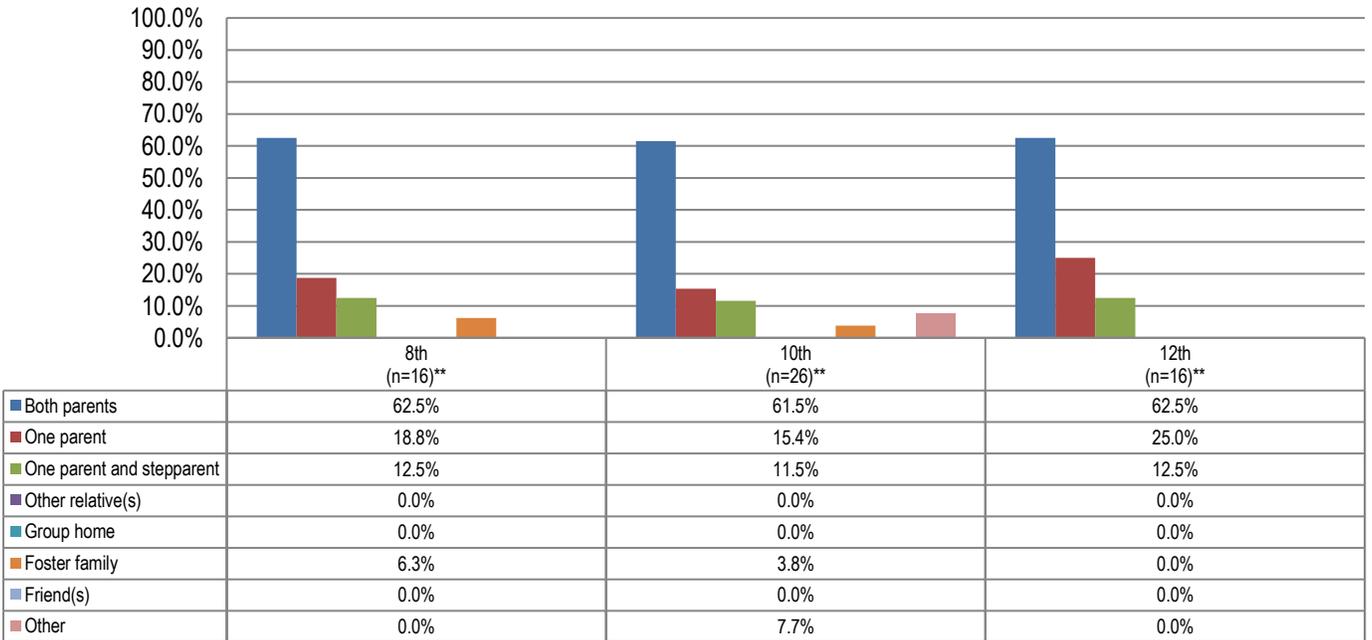
**Feelings and Experiences with Family**

**Percentage Reporting Adult at Homes Who Listens\*, 2018**



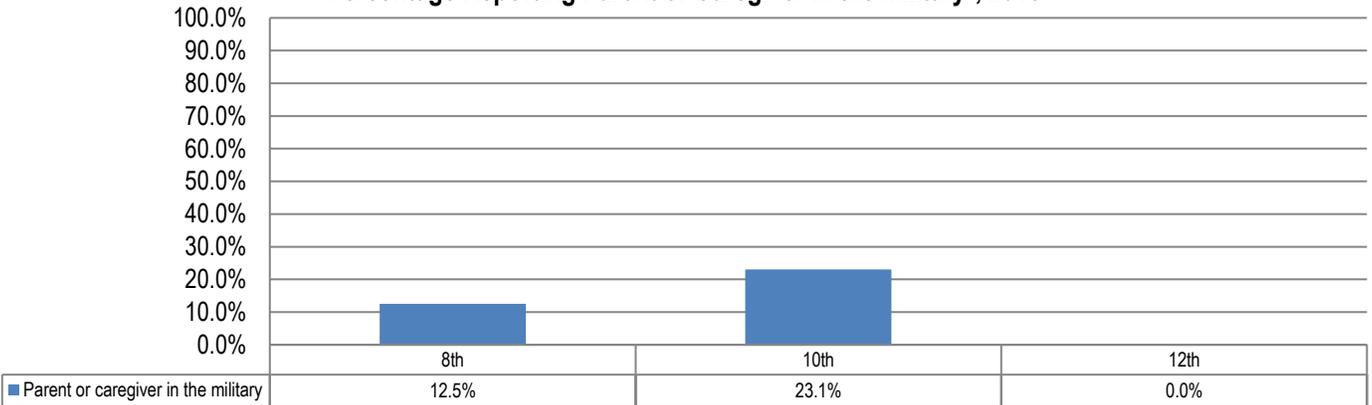
Notes. \*Percentage who reported they "Agree" or "Strongly agree" to the statement "In my home, there is an adult who listens to me when I have something to say." Based on the following scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree.

**Percentage Reporting Living with the Following People\*, 2018**



Notes. \*Based on the question "Do you live with:". \*\*The n-size displayed is the same for all people given that who they live with is asked as one question.

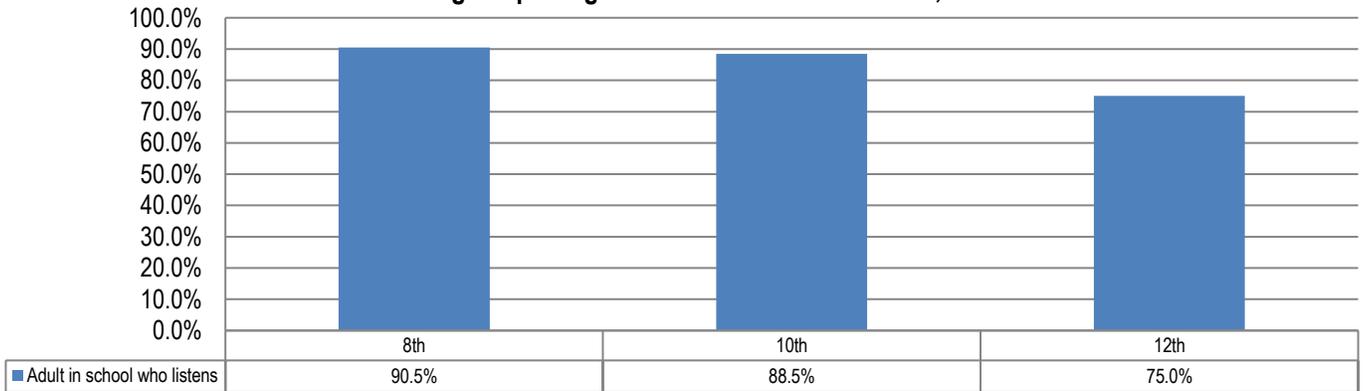
Percentage Reporting Parent or Caregiver in the Military\*, 2018



Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "During any time in your life, have any of your parents or caregivers served in the military?"

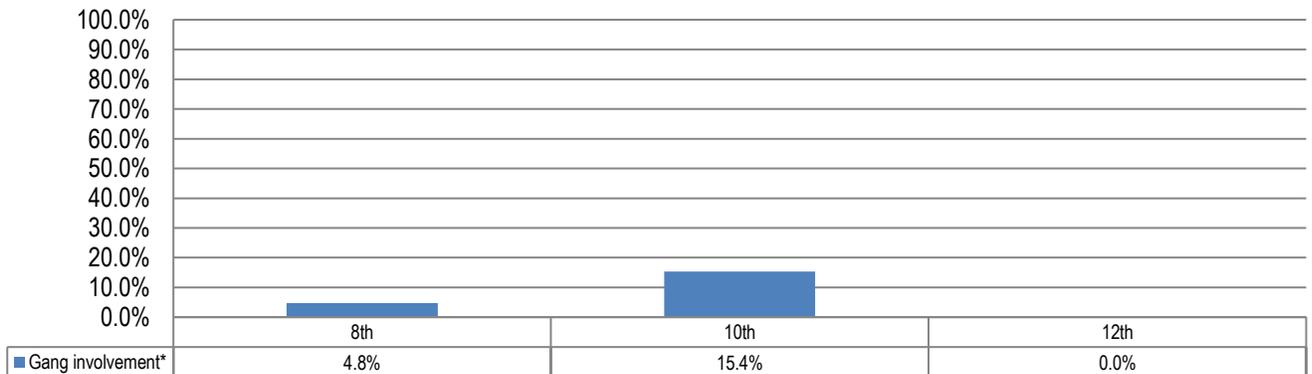
Feelings and Experiences at School and in the Community

Percentage Reporting Adult in School who Listens\*, 2018



Notes. \*Percentage who reported they "Agree" or "Strongly agree" to the statement "In my school, there is an adult (such as a counselor, teacher, or coach) who listens to me when I have something to say." Based on the following scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree.

Percentage Reporting Gang Involvement\*, 2018



Notes. \*Percentage who reported "Yes" to the question "Do you belong to a gang?"

## Tips for Using the NRPFSS Results

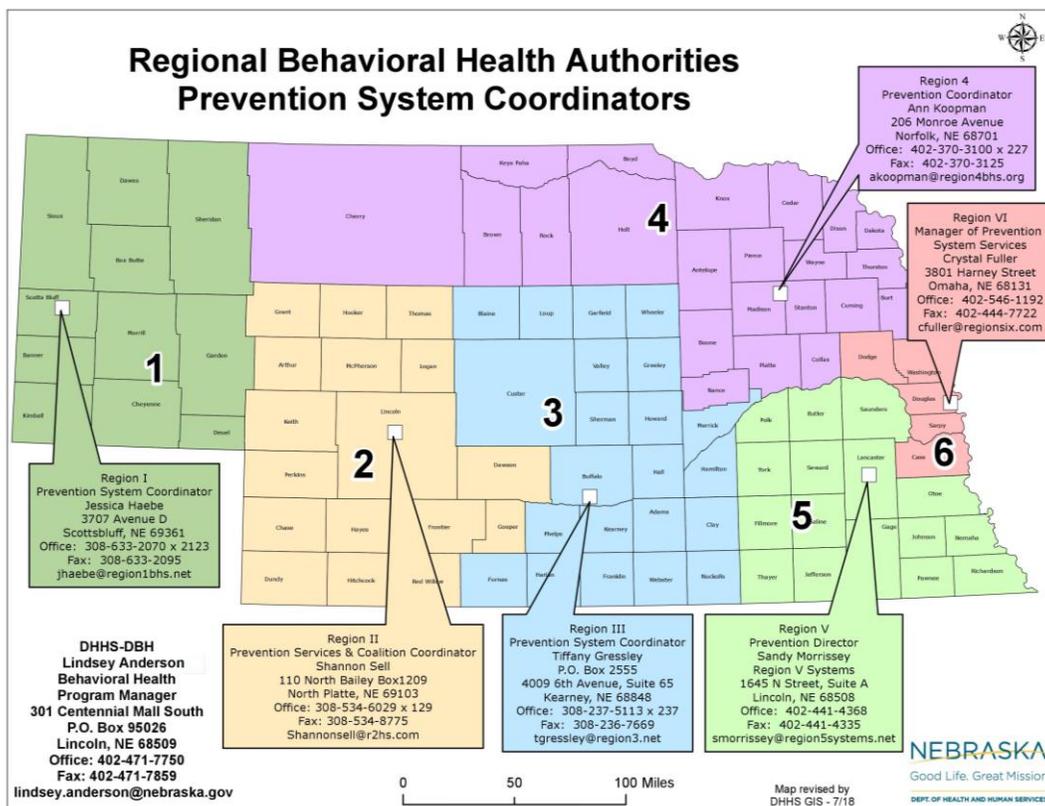
As a valued stakeholder in your community, you play an important role in prevention by teaching skills, imparting knowledge, and in helping to establish a strong foundation of character and values based on wellness, including prevention of substance use, suicide, and other risky behaviors. Preventing mental and/or substance use disorders and related problems in children, adolescents, and young adults is critical to promoting physical health and overall wellness.

There are a variety of strategies (or interventions) that can be used to increase protective factors and reduce the impact of risk factors. Prevention in schools is often completed through educational programs and school policies and procedures that contribute to the achievement of broader health goals and prevent problem behavior.

Prevention strategies typically fall into two categories:

- **Environmental Strategies**
  - These strategies effect the entire school environment and the youth within it.
    - An example of an environmental strategy would be changing school policy to not allow athletes to play if they are caught using substances.
- **Individual Strategies**
  - These strategies target individual youth to help them build knowledge, wellness, and resiliency.
    - An example of an individual strategy would be providing a curriculum as part of a health class about the harms of substances.

If you would like to implement strategies in your school or community, please contact your regional representative as shown on the map below.



You may also wish to do your own research. The following websites provide listings of evidence-based practices:

- **The Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center**
  - This is a searchable online evidence-based repository and review system designed to provide the public with reliable information on mental health and substance use interventions that are available for implementation.
  - **Website:** <https://www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center>
- **The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Model Programs Guide (MPG)**
  - This contains information about evidence-based juvenile justice and youth prevention, intervention, and reentry programs. It is a resource for practitioners and communities about what works, what is promising, and what does not work in juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and child protection and safety.
  - **Website:** <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/>
- **The Suicide Prevention Resource Center**
  - This has a variety of suicide prevention resources available.
  - **Website:** <http://www.sprc.org/>

In accordance with LB923, public school staff in Nebraska are required to complete at least 1 hour of suicide awareness and prevention training each year. To learn more, visit the Nebraska Department of Education website at <https://www.education.ne.gov/Safety/index.html>. Resources on Bullying Prevention and Suicide Prevention are listed.

A variety of print materials on behavioral health topics including depression, trauma, anxiety, and suicide are available from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Materials include toolkits for school personnel, educational fact sheets for parents and caregivers, wallet cards and magnets with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The direct link to the SAMHSA store is <https://store.samhsa.gov/>.

Another resource for kids, teens, and young adults is the **Boys Town National Hotline**, specifically the **Your Life Your Voice campaign**. Wallet cards and other promotional materials are available at no cost for distribution to students, school staff, parents, etc. <http://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org/Pages/home.aspx>. Remember, talking about suicide with a student does not put an idea of attempting suicide in a student's mind.

Additional contacts for tips on data use and prevention resources can be found in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A: Trend Data

Outcomes	Definition	8th					10th					12th				
		2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Lifetime Substance Use	Alcohol	24.1%	11.8%	17.4%	NA**	55.0%	61.9%	35.7%	35.5%	NA**	46.2%	84.6%	74.1%	56.5%	NA**	56.3%
	Cigarettes	6.9%	8.8%	4.3%	NA**	10.0%	28.6%	28.6%	22.6%	NA**	23.1%	46.2%	48.1%	34.8%	NA**	37.5%
	Smokeless tobacco	3.4%	5.9%	9.5%	NA**	0.0%	15.8%	7.1%	12.9%	NA**	23.1%	50.0%	30.8%	21.7%	NA**	37.5%
	Marijuana	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	5.0%	14.3%	7.1%	6.5%	NA**	15.4%	7.7%	18.5%	21.7%	NA**	18.8%
	LSD/other psychedelics	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%
	Cocaine/crack	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	0.0%	NA**	6.3%
	Meth	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%
	Inhalants	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	15.0%	4.8%	7.1%	3.2%	NA**	7.7%	0.0%	3.7%	4.3%	NA**	0.0%
Prescription drugs	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	NA**	5.0%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	11.5%	7.4%	4.3%	NA**	12.5%	
Past 30 Day Substance Use	Alcohol	3.4%	5.9%	4.3%	NA**	10.0%	19.0%	7.1%	12.9%	NA**	11.5%	11.5%	40.7%	30.4%	NA**	37.5%
	Binge drinking	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	5.0%	4.8%	7.1%	3.2%	NA**	7.7%	11.5%	26.9%	26.1%	NA**	25.0%
	Cigarettes	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	14.3%	7.1%	6.5%	NA**	3.8%	11.5%	29.6%	21.7%	NA**	6.3%
	Smokeless tobacco	0.0%	2.9%	8.7%	NA**	0.0%	4.8%	7.1%	12.9%	NA**	3.8%	11.5%	25.9%	13.0%	NA**	6.3%
	Marijuana	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	NA**	6.3%
	Prescription drugs	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	12.5%
Age of First Use (12 or Younger)	Smoked cigarettes	7.1%	2.9%	0.0%	NA**	4.8%	14.3%	7.1%	16.1%	NA**	11.5%	7.7%	28.0%	4.3%	NA**	12.5%
	Drank alcohol	17.9%	5.9%	4.3%	NA**	30.0%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	20.0%	11.5%	20.0%	4.3%	NA**	12.5%
	Smoked marijuana	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	NA**	4.8%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	NA**	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	NA**	0.0%
Experiences at School	Grades were A's and B's	62.1%	94.1%	81.8%	NA**	66.7%	76.2%	57.1%	74.2%	NA**	69.2%	73.1%	74.1%	72.7%	NA**	87.5%
	Felt safe	92.9%	91.2%	95.7%	NA**	81.0%	90.5%	100.0%	83.9%	NA**	92.3%	100.0%	96.2%	91.3%	NA**	75.0%
Experiences with Families	Help for personal problems <sup>1</sup>	92.6%	85.3%	91.3%	NA**	82.4%	76.2%	71.4%	83.9%	NA**	80.8%	76.9%	80.8%	95.5%	NA**	75.0%
	Discussed dangers of alcohol <sup>1</sup>	46.4%	64.7%	56.5%	NA**	25.0%	47.6%	50.0%	51.6%	NA**	34.6%	42.3%	33.3%	45.5%	NA**	25.0%

<sup>1</sup>Prior to 2016, the question asked students about their "parents" or "mom or dad". In 2016, the wording was changed to "parents or caregivers".

Note. The number of students and/or school districts included from year to year could vary due to schools participating in some administrations and not others. As a result, these trend findings should be approached with some caution.

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**APPENDIX B: Contacts for Prevention**

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**Division of Behavioral Health**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Lindsey Hanlon, Network and Prevention Manager  
lindsey.hanlon@nebraska.gov  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 95026  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026  
(402) 471-7750 phone  
(402) 471-7859 fax  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Behavioral-Health.aspx>

**Tobacco Free Nebraska**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Amanda Mortensen  
Tobacco Free Nebraska Program Manager  
amanda.mortensen@nebraska.gov  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 95026  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026  
(402) 471-9270 phone  
(402) 471-6446 fax  
[www.dhhs.ne.gov/tfn](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/tfn)

**Nebraska Department of Education**

Chris Junker, Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator  
chris.junker@nebraska.gov  
123 N. Marian Road  
Hastings, NE 68901  
(402) 462-4187 ext. 166 phone  
(402) 460-4773 fax  
[www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov)

**Nebraska Department of Highway Safety**

Mark C. Segerstrom, Highway Safety Administrator  
mark.segerstrom@nebraska.gov  
5001 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 94612  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
(402) 471-2515 phone  
(402) 471-3865 fax  
<https://dot.nebraska.gov/>

**This report was prepared for the State of  
Nebraska by the Bureau of Sociological Research  
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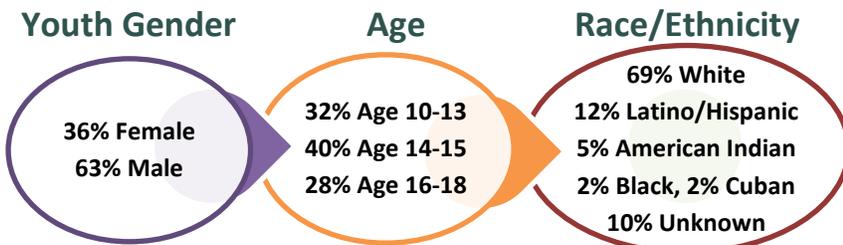
# CENTRAL MEDIATION CENTER

## Victim Youth Conferencing

Facts July 2018-June 2019

The Nebraska Judicial Branch, Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) within the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation leads the Victim Youth Conferencing (VYC) Enhancement Initiative statewide to address the negative impact of the deep immersion of youth in the juvenile justice system.

Central Mediation Center, serving 35 counties, received 42 youth referrals from county attorneys and diversion programs, giving youth the option to participate in VYC as a means to be accountable for their actions.



Of 42 referred youth, 31 participated in VYC, 6 referral sources requested the cases be returned without VYC, 3 youth were unreachable and 2 cases had no VYC for an unknown reason. Those harmed were also given the choice to meet face to face with the youth; for 11 cases the persons harmed agreed to participate and for 20 cases surrogates served in their place. ODR covered the cost for 48% and the Crime Commission for 52% of VYC's.

### Central Mediation Center Outcomes for FY 2018-19

-  95 people participated in VYC: 31 youth, 11 persons harmed, 20 surrogates, 23 parents and 10 others (17 VYC's were held in Buffalo, 11 in Adams, 2 in Hall and 1 in Lincoln county)
-  100% of 31 VYC's resulted in a reparations agreement for the youth to make amends
-  100% of youth successfully completed all reparations in their agreement
-  100% of VYC participants who completed a post-survey (n=15) would recommend VYC to others in their situation

## VYC Evidence-Based Practice

Evidence-based practice is informed by fidelity to an intervention model and its results supported by relevant research (Sox & Woolf, 1993). VYC aligns with the Nebraska Crime Commission's evidence-based classification.

VYC (also known as victim offender mediation) is an evidence-based restorative practice with decades of research substantiating its potential to: 1) reduce youth recidivism, 2) increase reparation and restitution to those harmed, and 3) to be cost-effective (Latimer, Dowden & Muise, 2005; Aos & Drake, 2013).

Note: *Persons harmed* is used interchangeably with *victim* reflecting a systemwide shift in preferred language.

#### References:

Aos, S. & Drake, E. (2013). *Prison, police and programs: Evidence-based options that reduce crime and save money*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Latimer, J., Dowden, C., & Muise, D. (2005). The effectiveness of restorative justice practices: A meta-analysis. *The Prison Journal*, 85(2), 127-144.

Sox, H. C., Jr., & Woolf, S. H. (1993). Evidence-based practice guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 169, 2678.

## Who Was Harmed by Referred Youth?

Persons Harmed (N=42)	#
Adults over 19 years old	11
Youths under age 19	17
Businesses or Organizations	13
Family member	1

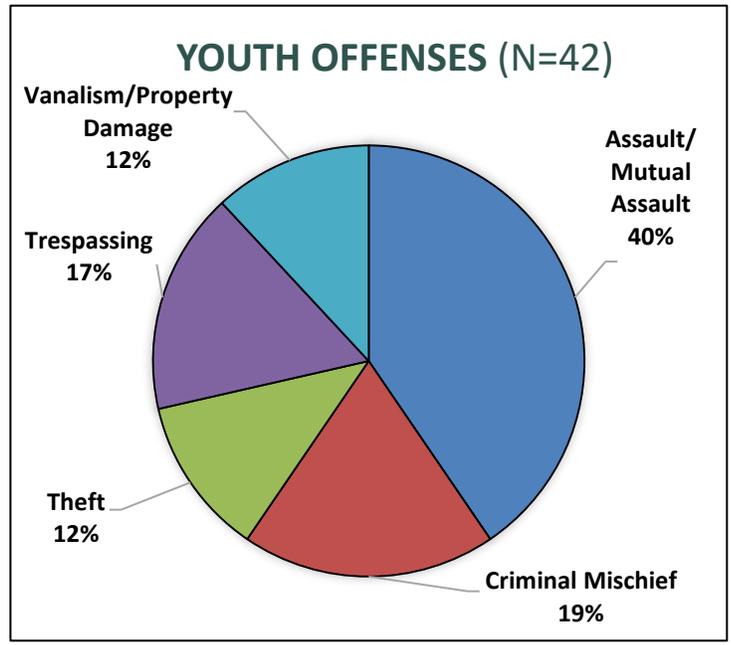
## Post-VYC Conference Survey Results

Eighteen people who participated in VYC conferences completed a post-evaluation survey. Participants were asked to rate their experience on a 5-point scale from extremely dissatisfied/strongly disagree to extremely satisfied/strongly agree:

<b>Overall, how satisfied are you with the VYC conference?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>94% (n=18) Satisfied:</b></li> <li>• 1 was Neutral</li> <li>• 14 were Satisfied and</li> <li>• 3 Extremely Satisfied</li> </ul>
<b>How satisfied are you with the way we prepared you for the conference?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>89% (n=18) Satisfied:</b></li> <li>• 2 were Neutral</li> <li>• 12 were Satisfied and</li> <li>• 4 Extremely Satisfied</li> </ul>
<b>After the VYC, I have a better understanding of the full impact of the incident on others.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>100% (n=15) Agreed:</b></li> <li>• 9 Agreed and</li> <li>• 6 Strongly Agreed</li> </ul>

## Types of Offenses by Referred Youth

The chart identifies the types of offenses for which youth were referred to Central Mediation Center for VYC.



**80% of survey respondents agreed that in the VYC conference people expressed regret for what happened.**

**Participation in the VYC conference made the justice system seem more responsive to the needs of those harmed and those who caused harm.**

**93% Agreed (n=15)**  
 11 Agreed and 3 Strongly Agreed

1 Neither Agreed or Disagreed

### Participants said they would recommend VYC to others because....

"It helps you learn and make better decisions."

"It lets you see both sides of the story."

"You don't have a record and can get a better job in the future."

"It's a good, informative, comprehensive program. Individualized and beneficial."

"You get to say what you feel."

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEBRASKA     )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SHERMAN    )

I, the undersigned County Clerk of the above-named County and State; do hereby certify that the following is a true and exact copy of an excerpt of the original record of the County Board minutes from Tuesday, February 23, 2021;

Sherman County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, presented and reviewed the Juvenile Services Comprehensive 4 Year Plan. Moved by KENNETH KASLON and seconded by LARRY GRIFFITH to adopt the Comprehensive Community Plan to be submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Kaslon, Griffith and Bandur. None voted "Nay". Motion declared carried.

MY HAND & OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.



  
Marcy Sekutera, County Clerk