

State of the Youth

Presentation to Madison BOE

2025 Madison High School Survey Results



MYFS in the Community



Who is MYFS?

- Madison's Youth Service Bureau
- Made up of distinct divisions of work in the community.
 - Positive Youth Development
 - Clinical
 - Social Services
 - Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Sources of Information



Survey Plus

- Search Institute Attitudes and Behavior Survey and MYFS Addendum Survey
- Research regional, State and National Data
- Regular Staff Engagement with Youth.
- MYFS Advisory Board, including Student Representatives.
- Regular engagement with Town, School, and Youth Resources
- Majority of MYFS Staff either live or have close ties to Madison

History and Validity

MADE, MYFS, and the Madison Public Schools have been partnering since 2006 to conduct student surveys.



Survey Tool

- **Search Institute Attitudes and Behavior Survey**
- 160 Questions covering a wide range of behaviors and characteristics.
- **Addendum 22 Questions**
- Administered on paper 2009-2015, online starting 2019 (2017 Addendum Only)

This was the 4th time that we conducted the Search Institute Online. We also include a short addendum survey to capture Madison Specific data not collected on the Attitudes and Behavior Survey.

To be noted.

Number of Respondents:

- Search Institute Survey = 676 Respondents
- Addendum = Total 669 Respondents
- Youth Self-identified:
 - The Genderfluid/Non-binary = 12 Respondents.
 - The LGBTQIA+ = 77 Respondents
- Total Youth Experience (not limited to



Timing.

This year's survey was conducted on 10/8/2025.
Previous surveys occurred typically between mid
October to mid November.

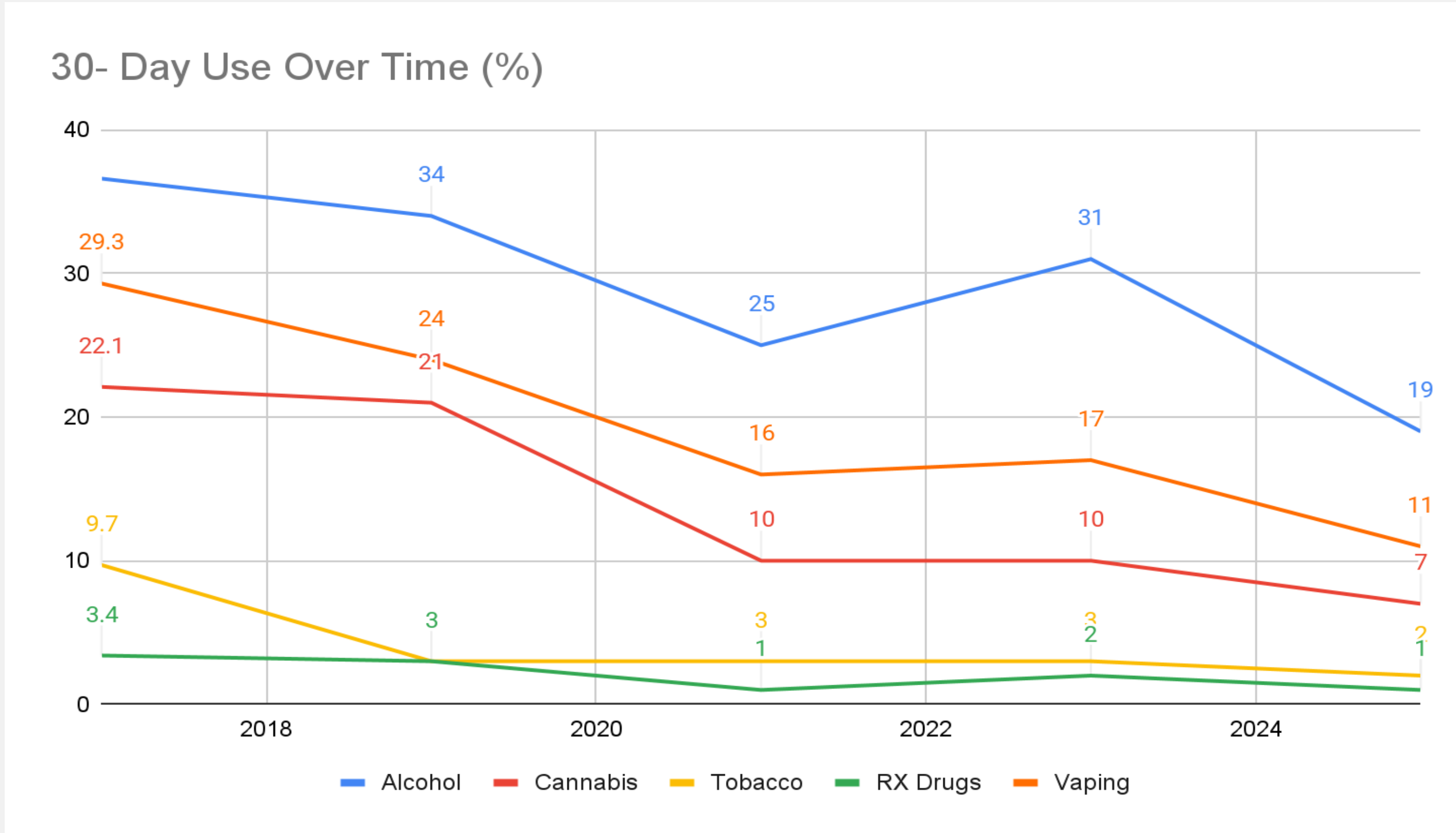


01

Risky Behavior

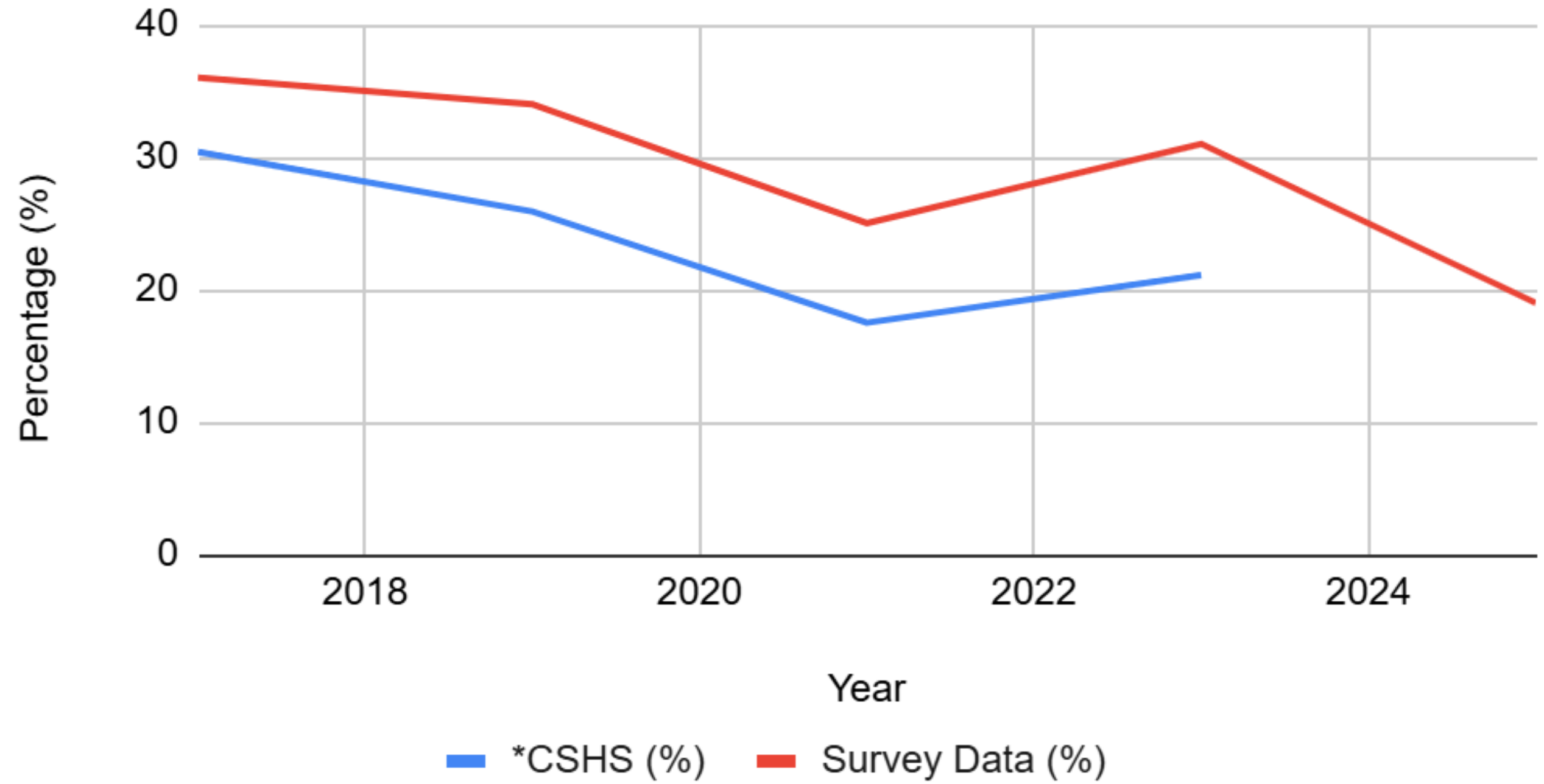


30-Day Use of Substance Over Time (%)



30 - Day Use Madison Survey vs CSHS Data

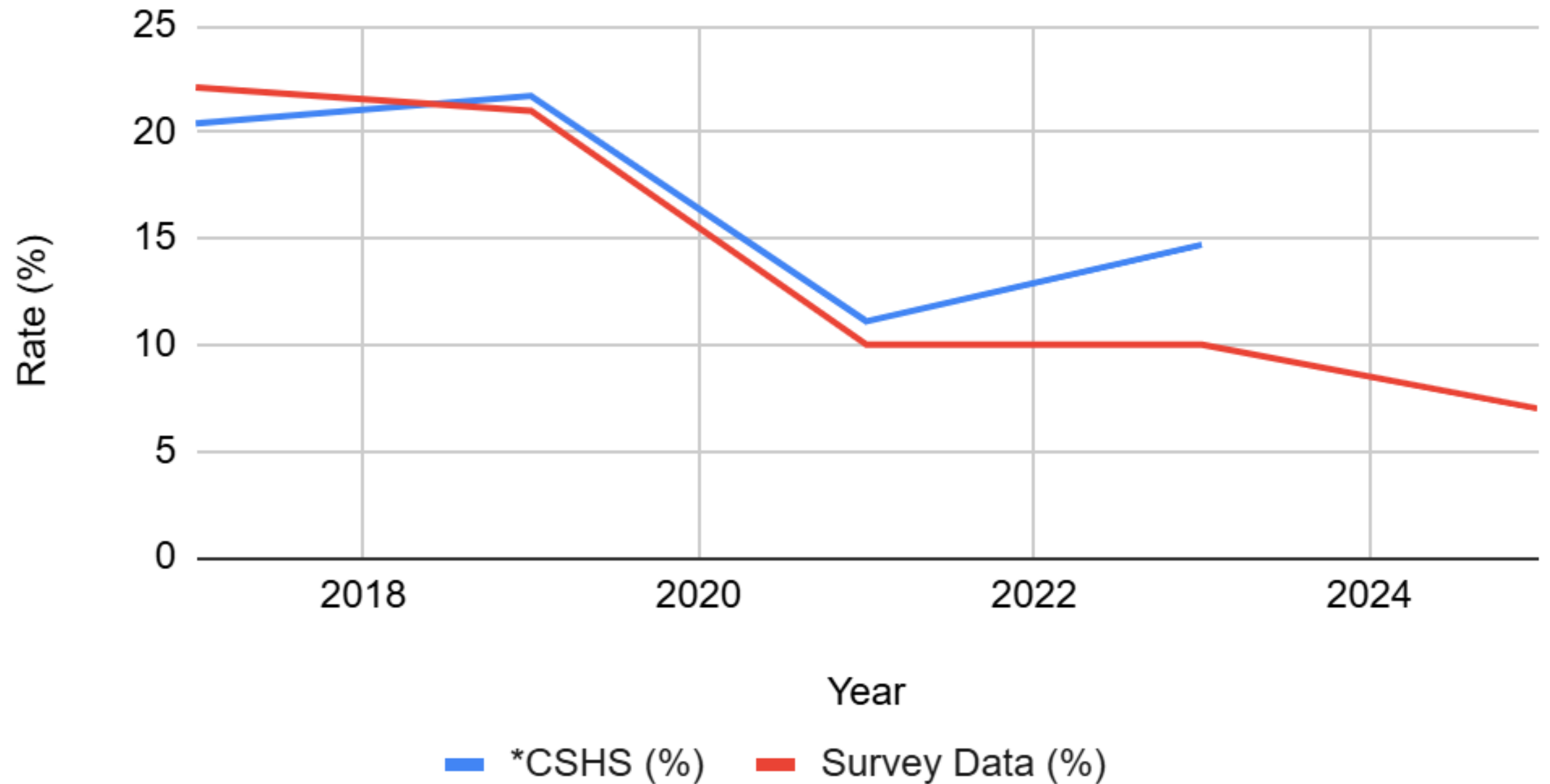
Alcohol Comparison by Data Source



*2023 Connecticut School Health Survey (CSHS) Summary Graphs In Connecticut, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered biennially as the "Connecticut School Health Survey" to public high school students.

30 - Day Use Madison Survey Data vs CSHS Data

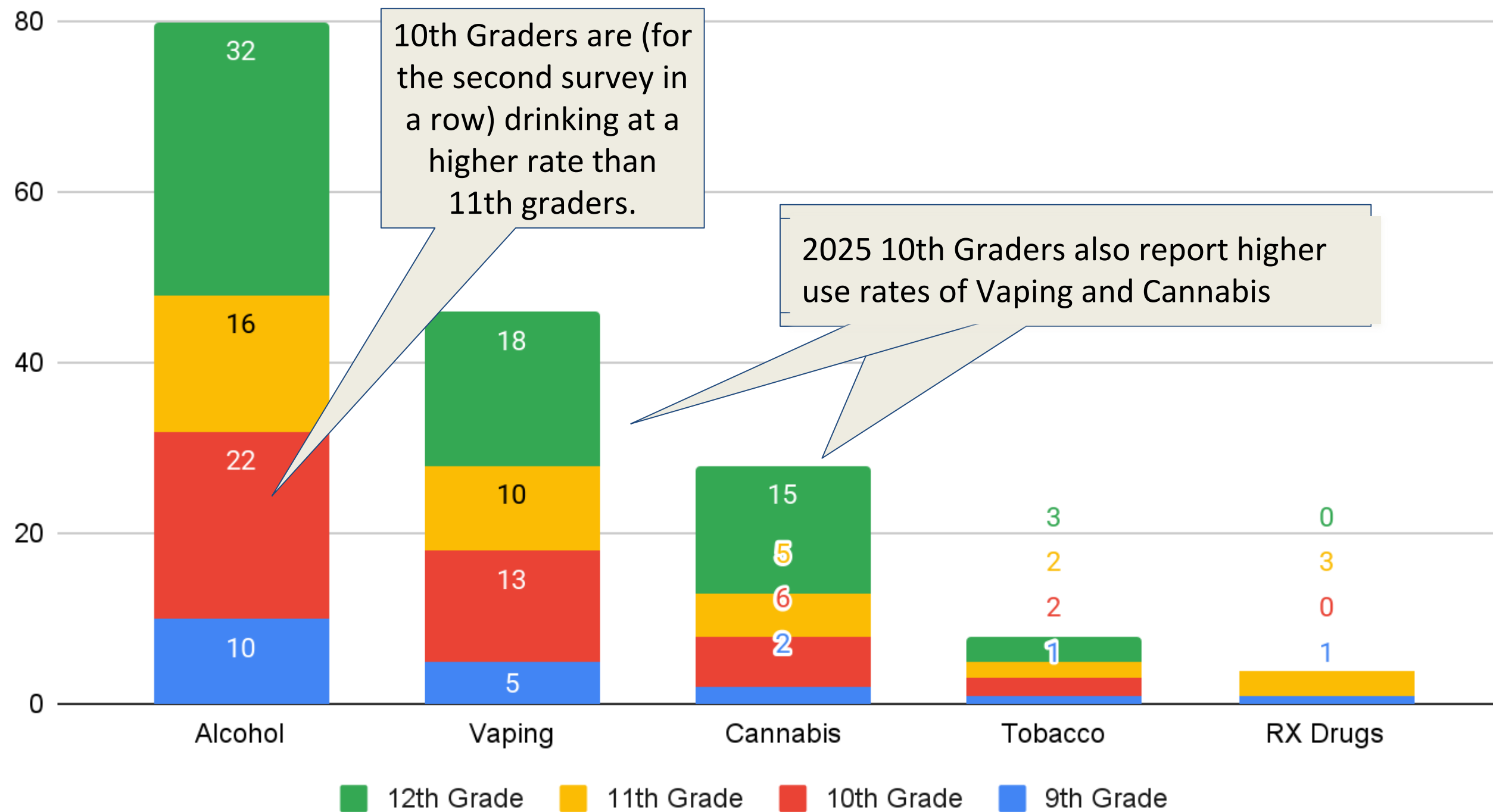
Cannabis Comparison by Data Source



*2023 Connecticut School Health Survey (CSHS)
Summary Graphs In Connecticut, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered biennially as the "Connecticut School Health Survey" to public high school students.

30-Day Use of Substance By Grade (%)

30 Day Use of Substance By Grade (%)



<p>In the past 30 days, have you participated in any form of gambling (e.g., sports betting, scratch tickets, card games for money, online casinos)?</p>	<p>Yes 16% (108 students)</p>
<p>What percent of those who responded "Yes" identified as male?</p>	<p>95%</p>
<p>Spending more money than they anticipated trying to win it back</p> <p>After losing, having an urge to return ASAP to win back losses</p>	<p>25%</p> <p>19%</p>

G a m b l i n g
a t a
g l a n c e .



Keeping an eye on Drinking and Driving



- **4%** of our students reported that they have driven after drinking once or more in the last 12 months (down from 7% in 2021).

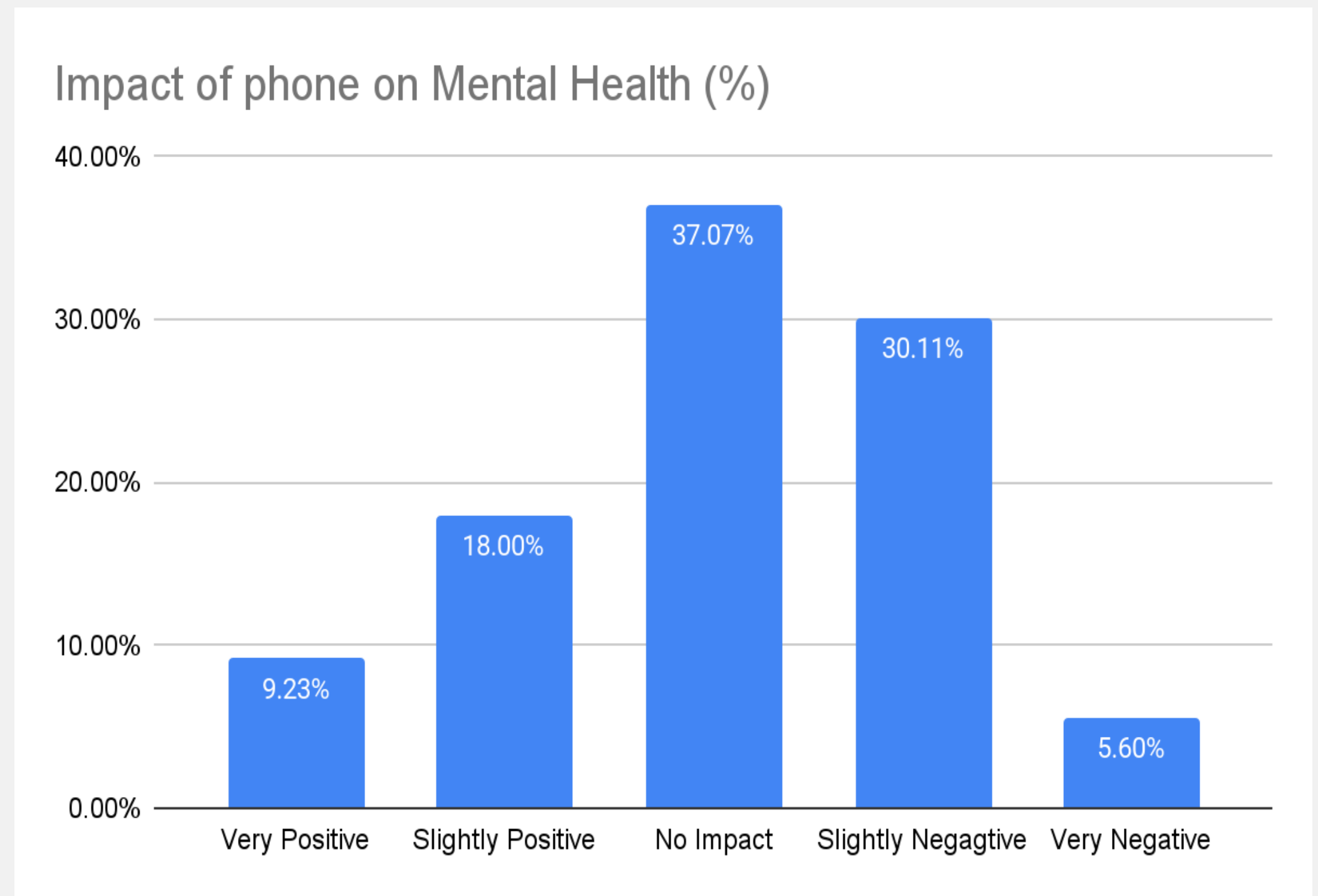
- **18%** of our students* reported that they had ridden in a car with a driver who had been drinking at least once in the last 12 months. (This is down from 23% in 2023).

***22%** Female Students / **15%** Male Students

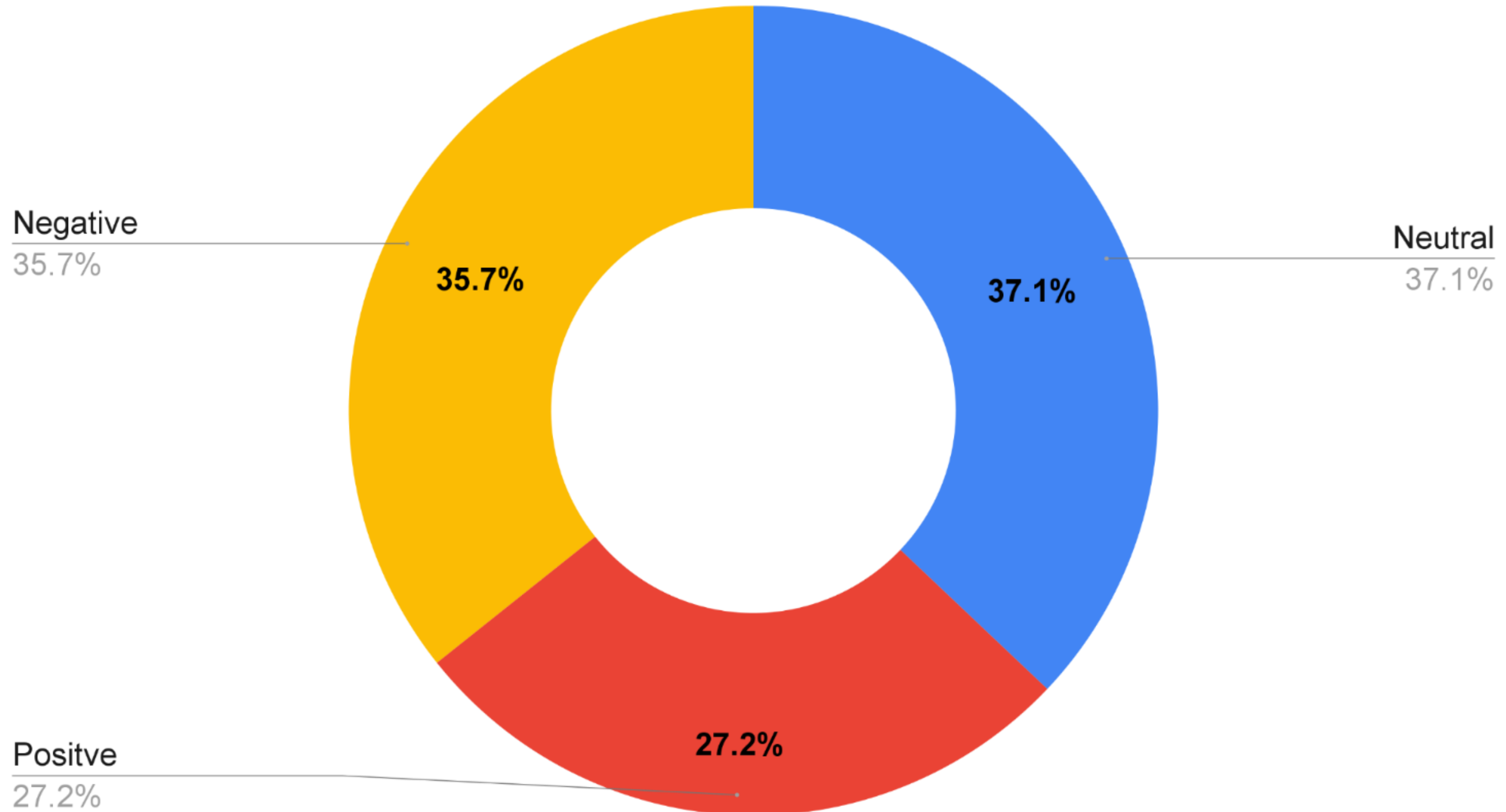
Perceived amount of Time and Perceived Mental health impact of phones.

Hours Per Day:

7+	59 Students
(9%)	
4-6	265 Students
(40%)	
1-3	312 Students
(47%)	
>1	25 Students
No Cell	8 Students

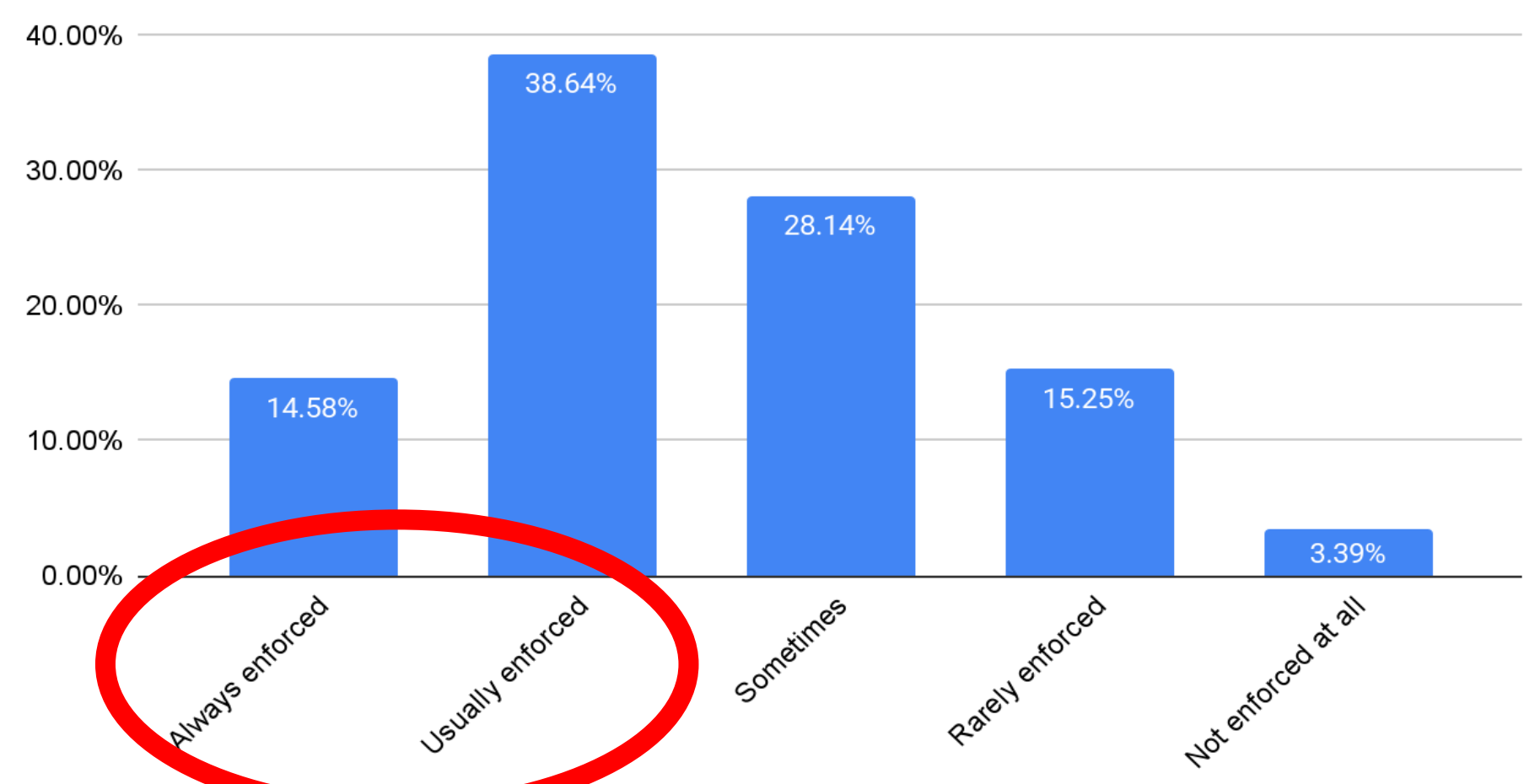


What impact, if any, do you think your smart phone use has on your mental health?

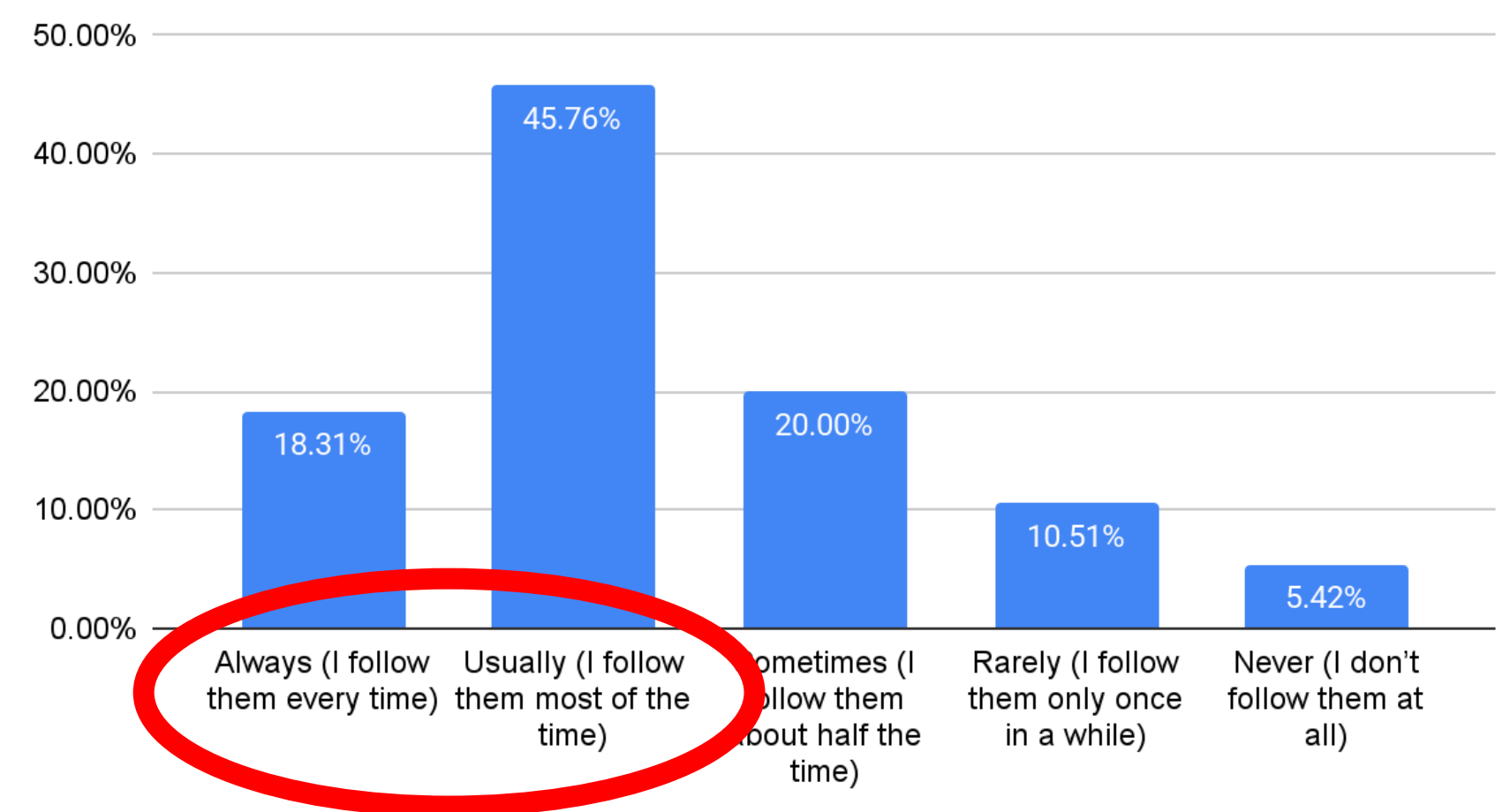


44% of respondents have screen restrictions by family.

How strictly are your family's screen media restrictions enforced (%)



How likely is the student to follow technology rules (%)



02

Mental Health



PHQ-4 Screening for Anxiety and Depression

In 2017 we started including the PHQ-4 (a screening tool used by physicians) to ask our student about anxiety and depression to get more information than the data provided by the Search Institute. These screening questions include:

In the past two weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems:

- Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge
- Not being able to stop or control worrying
- Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless
- Little interest or pleasure in doing things



Depression and Anxiety - PHQ-4 (%)

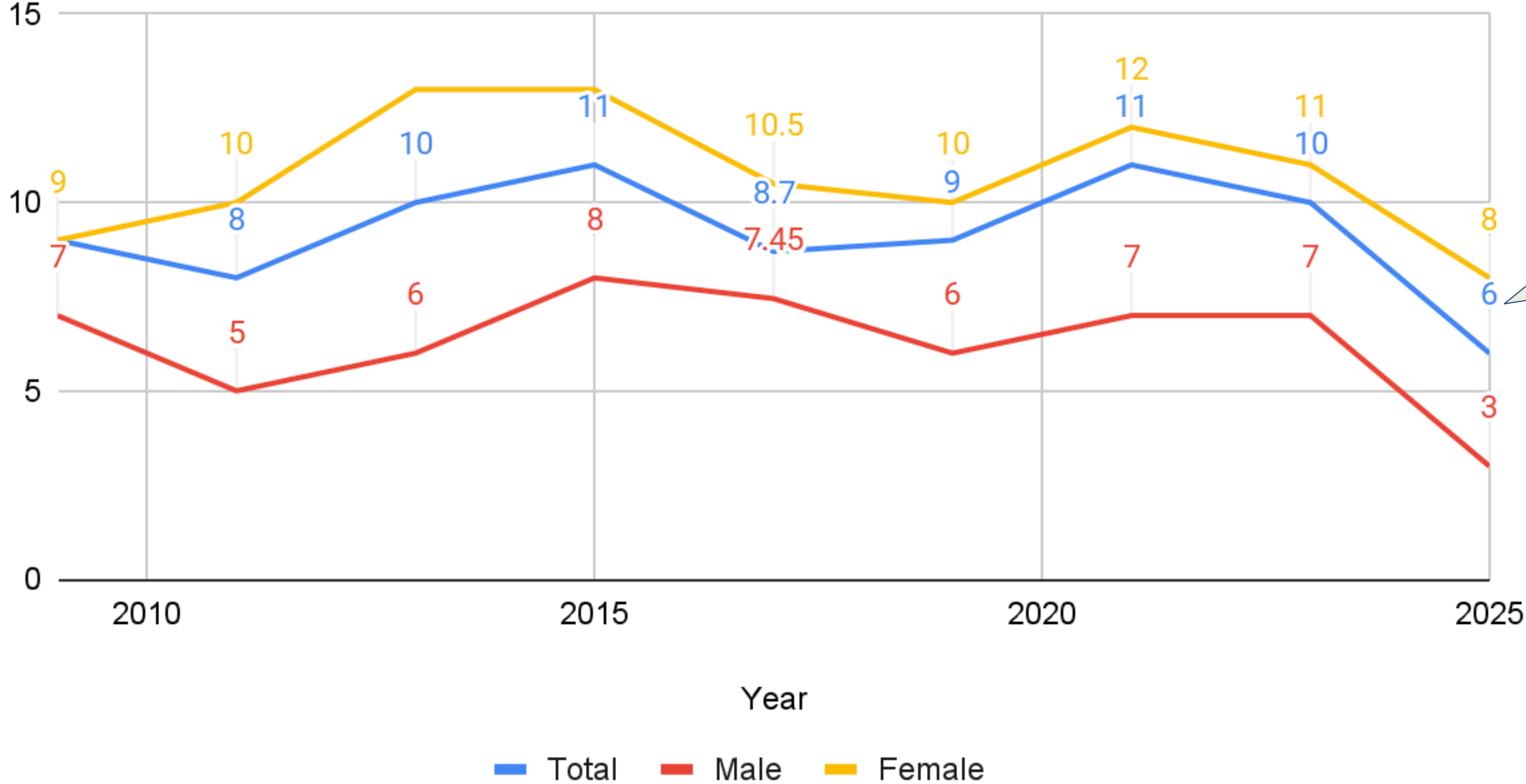
Lower overall from pre - pandemic (Average 2017 16.1 to 2025 13.44)

Lower Moderate and Severe from pre - pandemic (Average 2017 11.9 to 2025 8.3)

Year	Mild	Moderate	Severe
2017	24.7	13.7	10.1
2019	24	13.7	11.3
2021	24	16	12
2023	26	15	10
2025	23.7	8.53	8.09

Self-Report Attempted Suicide by Gender (%)

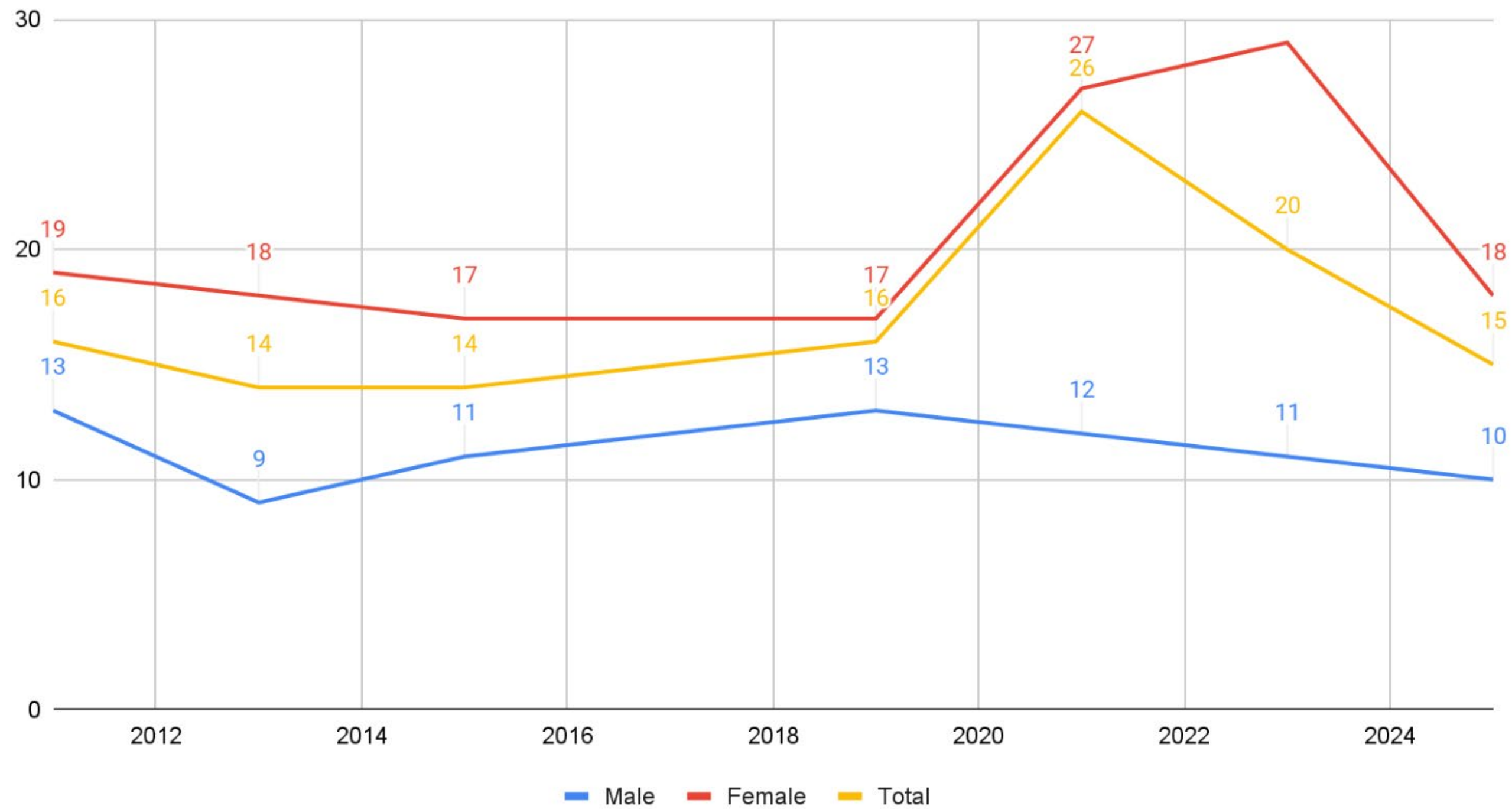
Self Reported Attempted Suicide by Gender (%)



Grade	% of students who attempt suicide
9th	8
10th	7
11th	5
12th	3

Male / Female Eating Disorders over Time (%)

Male and Female and Total Experiences of an Eating Disorder over time (%)



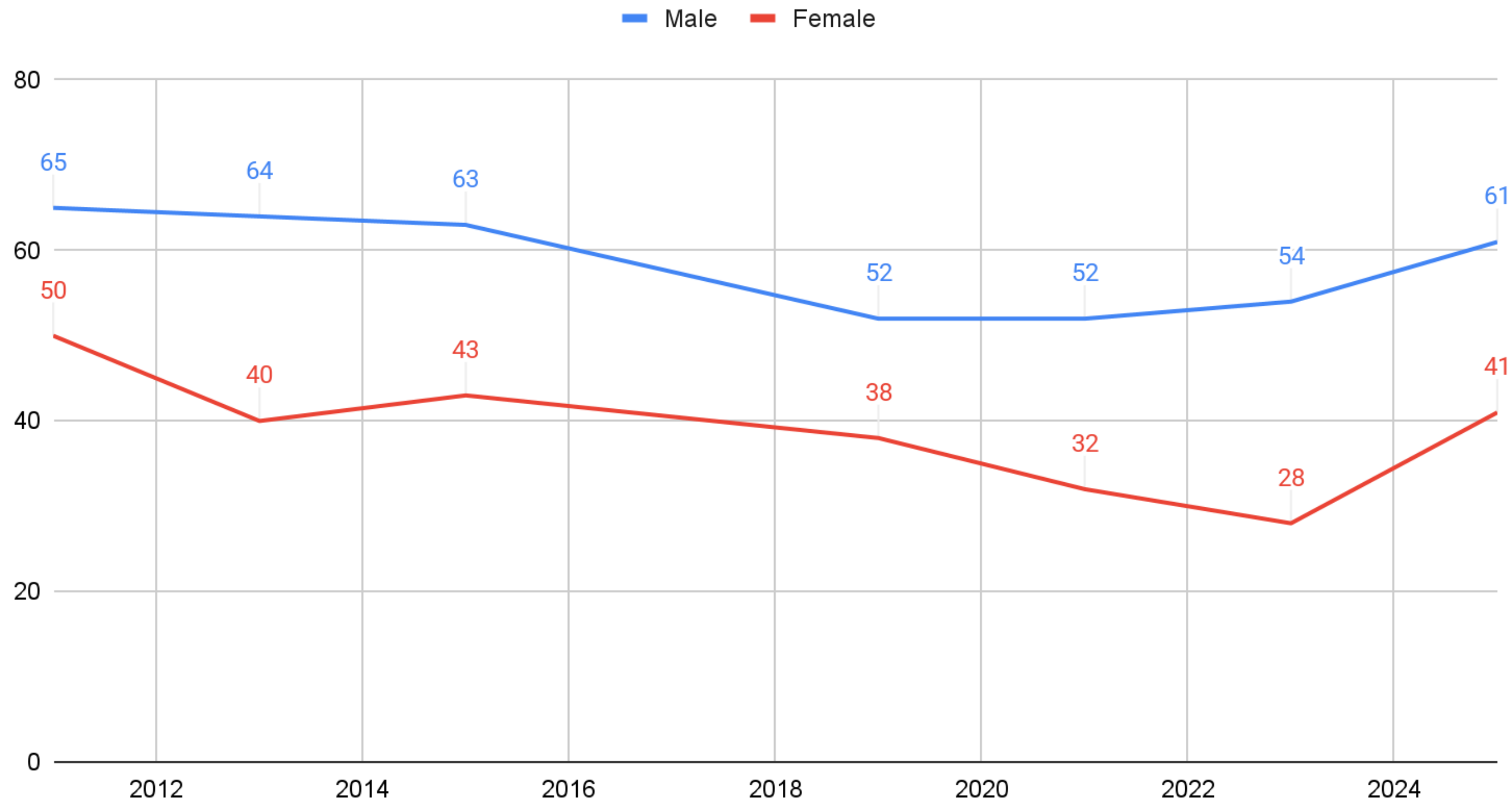
03

Social Emotional Health



Self Esteem by Male / Female (%)

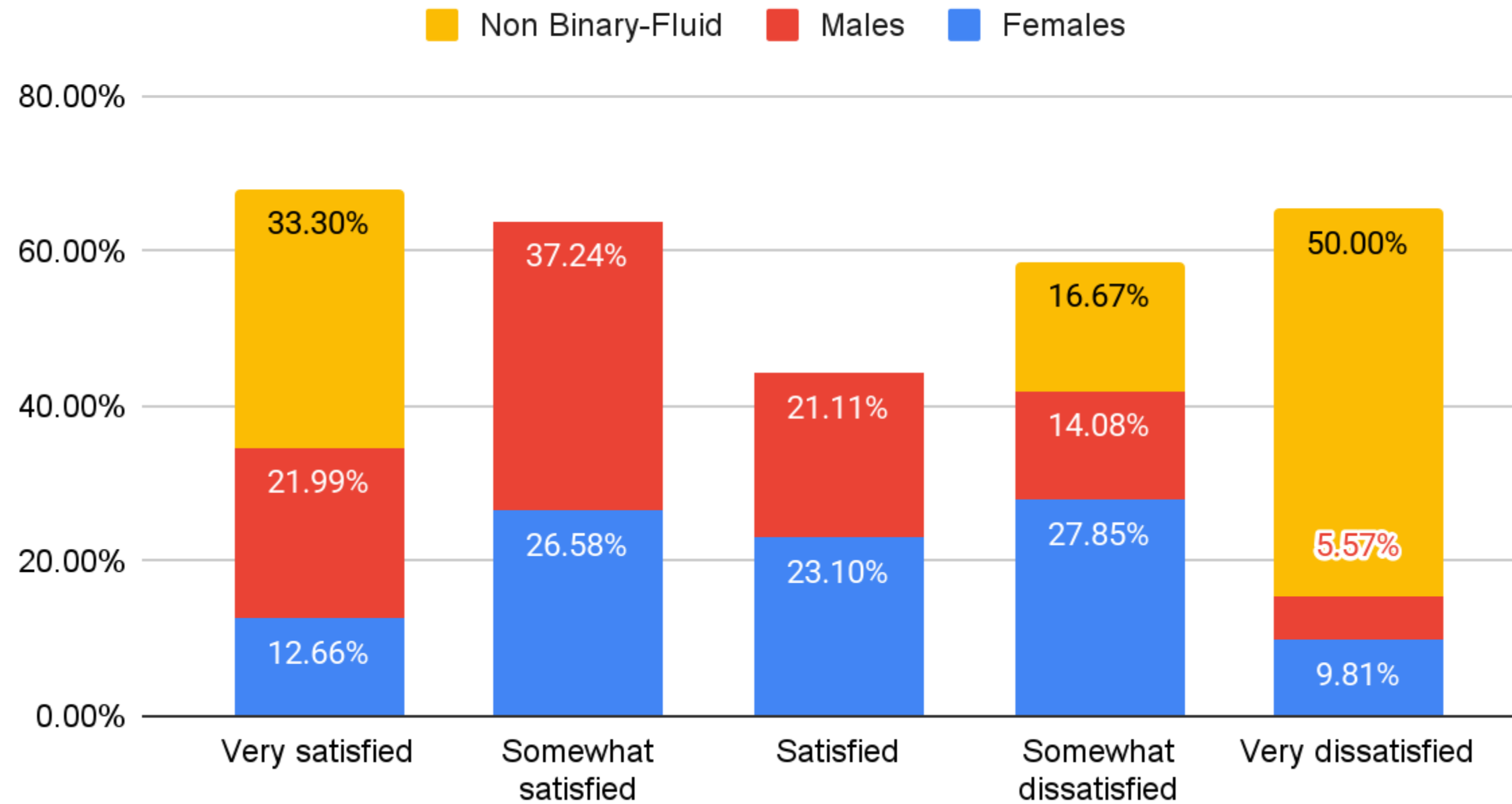
Self Reported Self Esteem-Male/Female-By Year (%)



Grade	% of students who have self esteem as an asset.
9th	56
10th	52
11th	46
12th	50

How satisfied are you with your appearance?

Appearance Satisfaction by Gender



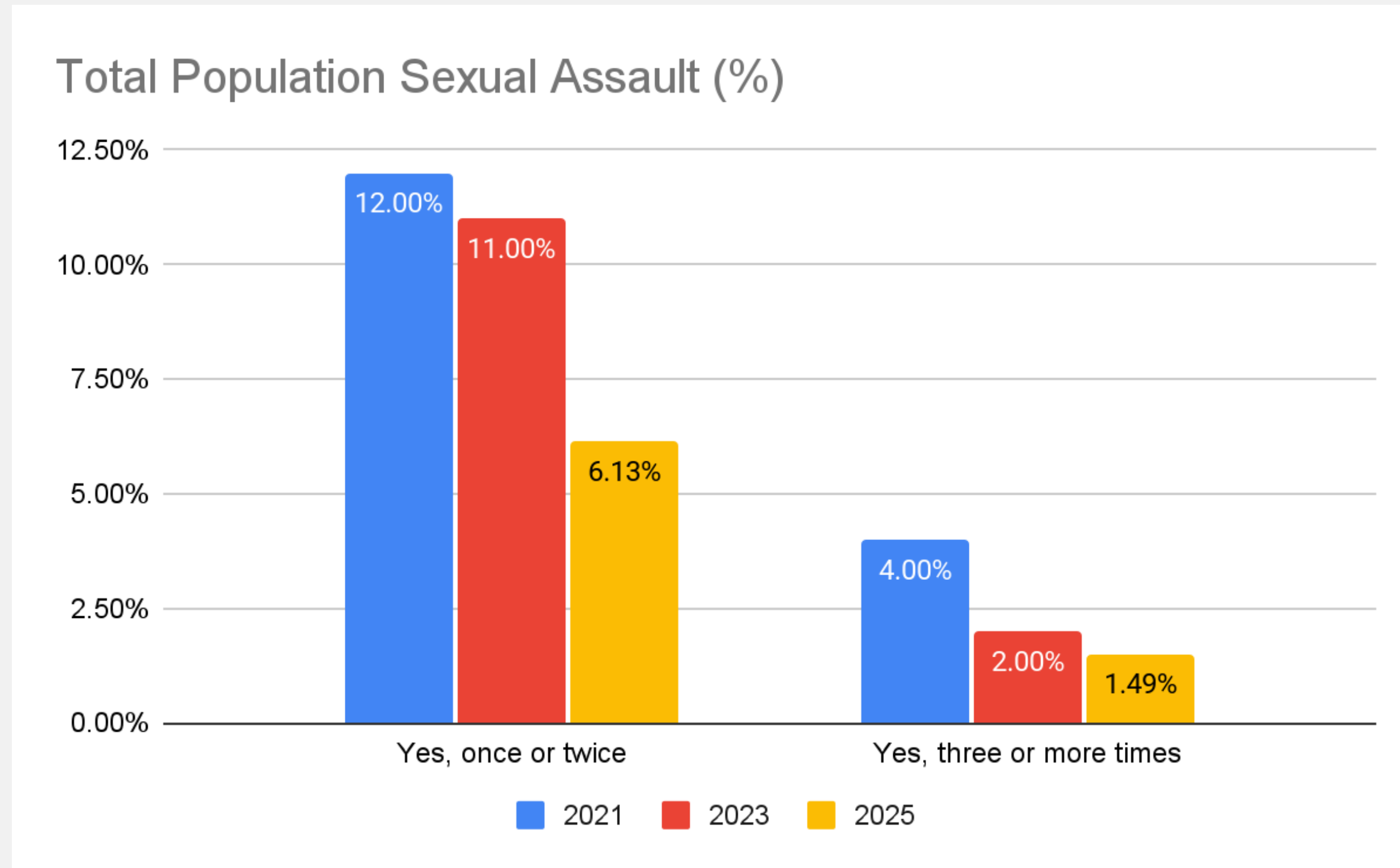
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Perceptions of Safety



Self Report Sexual Assault (%)

“Have you had an experience when you felt forced to take part in a sexual activity without giving clear consent?”

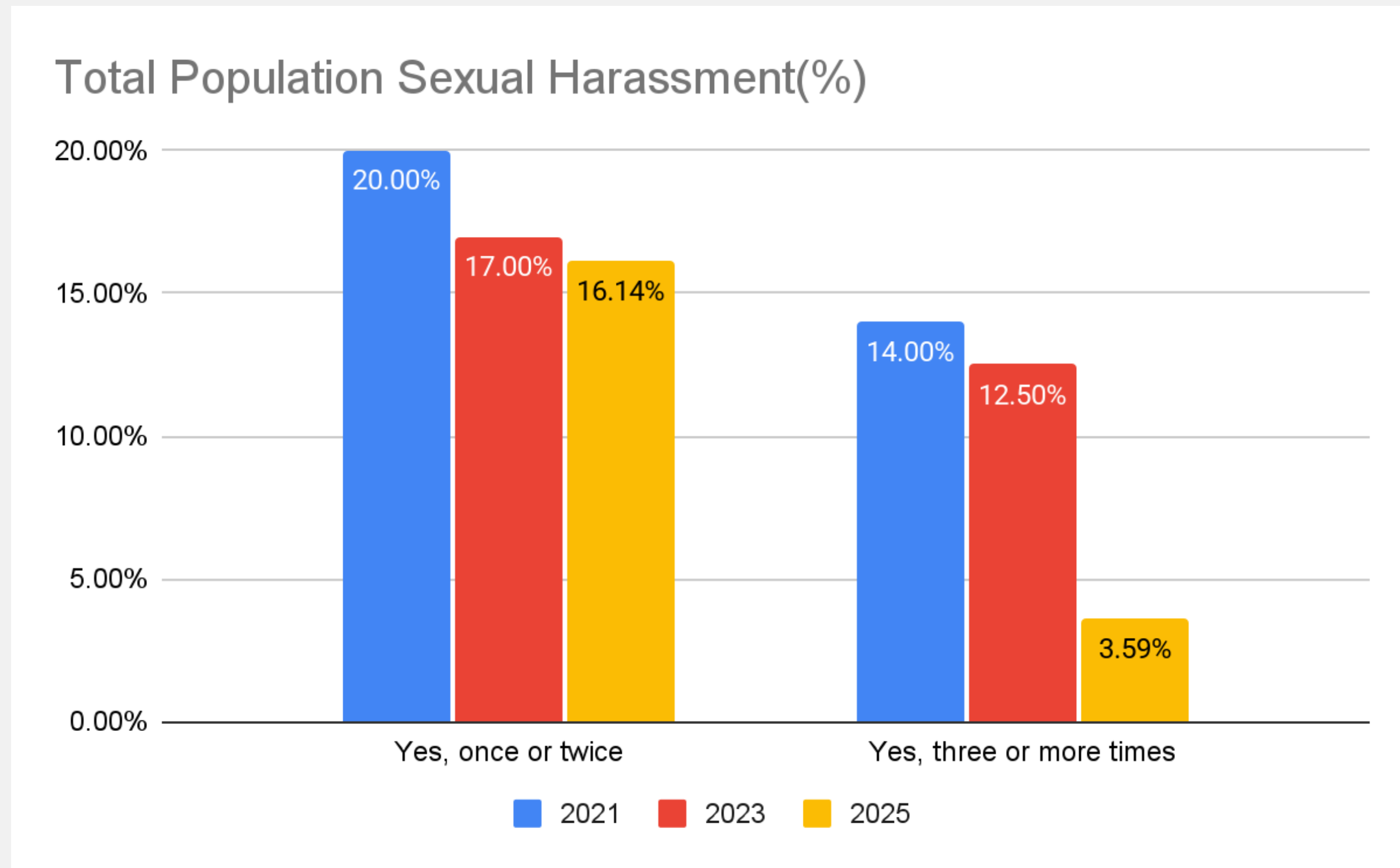


Note: In 2025, the question was rewritten to include only the definition of Sexual Assault.

Self Report Sexual Harassment (%)

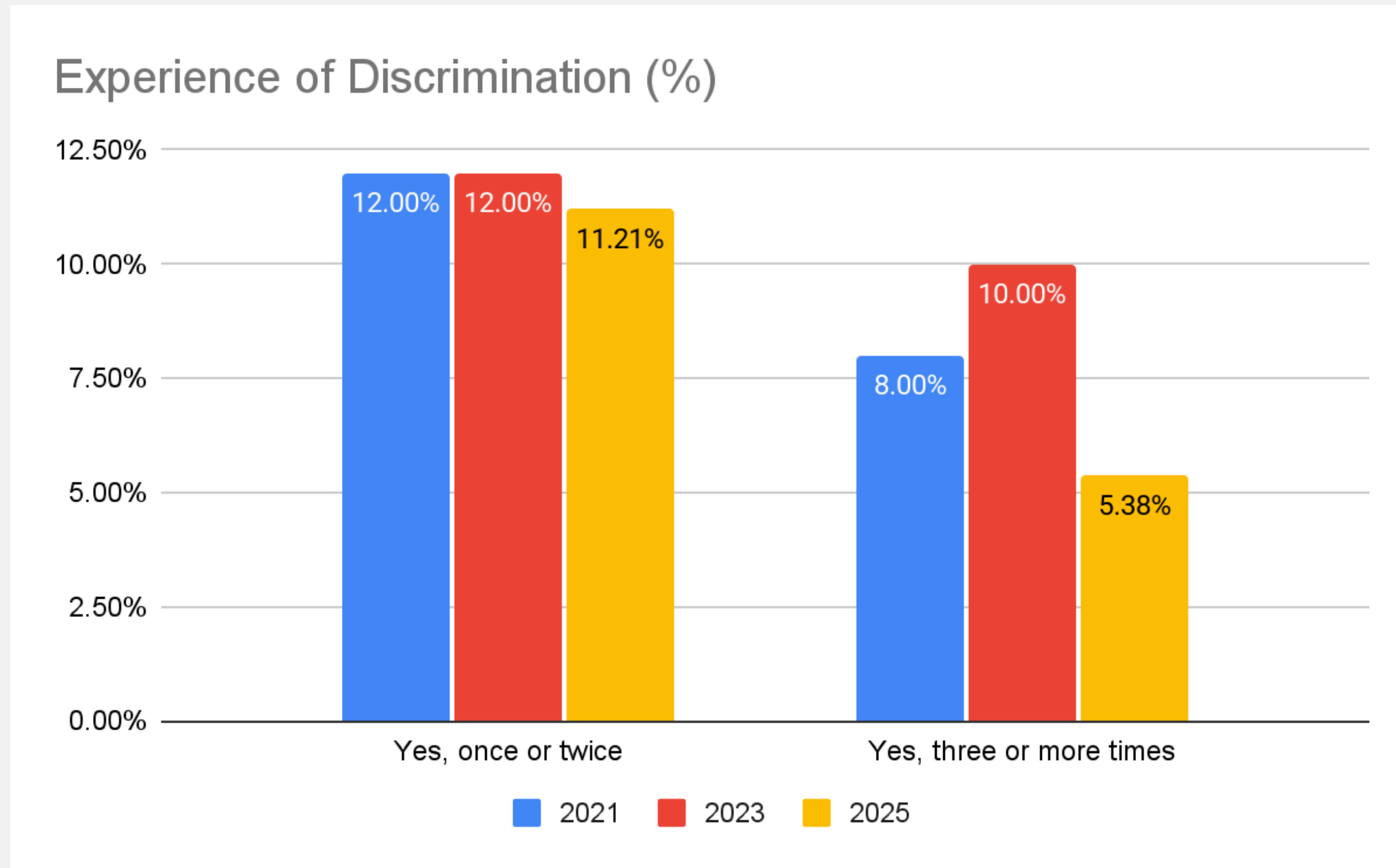
“Have you ever had an experience when someone said or did something sexual in nature that made you feel uncomfortable, scared, or disrespected?”

Note: In 2025, the question was rewritten to only include the definition of Sexual Harassment.



Self Report Discrimination (%)

“Have you ever had an experience where you were treated unfairly, bullied, or made to feel unsafe because of your ethnicity, culture, or religion?”



Note: In 2025, the question was rewritten to include only the definition of Discrimination.

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Assets

5



The 40 Assets

What is an Asset?

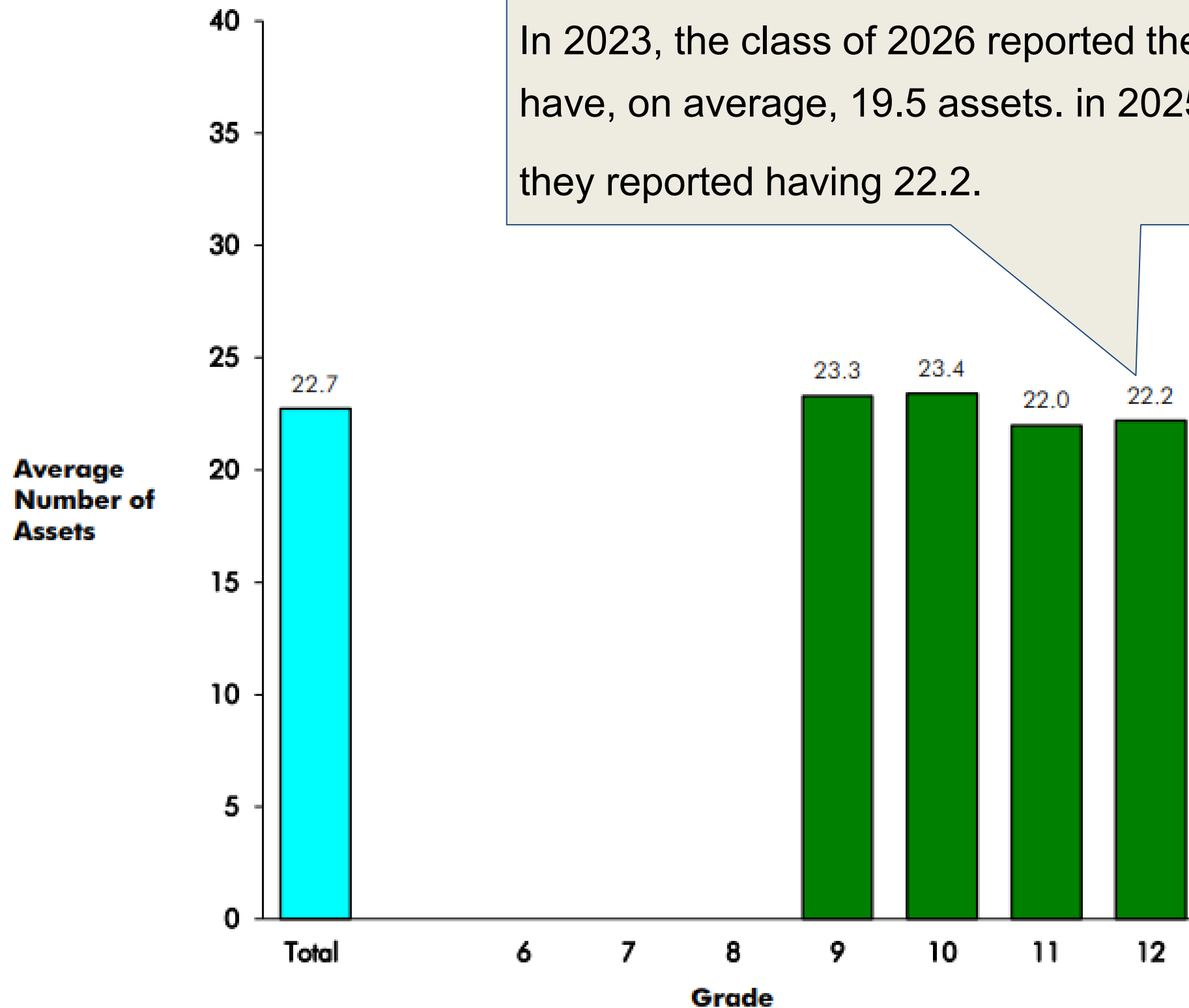
- A positive influence in a young person's life
- Often found in relationships and everyday experiences
- Proven to reduce risk and build resilience
- Stronger together — assets add up



Amount of Assets / Student

Young People had an average of 22.7 Assets, which increased by 2 since 2023.

Figure 1. Average Number of Assets Reported by Your Youth



External Assets

Highlights:

Family Support 87%

Other Adult Relationships 61%

Positive Peer Influence 82%

Youth Programs 83%

Time at Home 70%



Caring School Climate 43%	↑	13 Percentage Points
Safety 76%	↑	16 Percentage Points
High Expectations 64%	↑	11 Percentage Points

Internal Assets

Highlights:

Achievement Motivation 81%

School Engagement 87%

Bonding to School 75%

Integrity 77%

Honesty 73%

Responsibility 76%

Positive View of Future 71%



Homework 63%	↓ 3 Percentage Points
Reading for Pleasure 12%	↓ 2 Percentage Points
Restraint 44%	↑ 14 Percentage Points

Where do we see Madison Doing Great Work?

MYFS and MPS

- MYFS Social Emotional Work K- 12.
(Mindfulness, leadership, gendered leadership groups, LGBTQIA+ affinity groups.)
- Madison Public Schools dedication to social/emotional health.



Madison

- PTO Programs and Parent Advocacy Groups.
- Scranton Memorial Library, Arts Barn, Beach and Rec. (to name a few) of organizations and businesses around town that focus on being assets to our young people.



Next Steps

Student Focus Groups

We will communicate with our young people about how to improve the process..



Continued Research into Tools

We are always looking at new survey tools to create the best experience we can.

Sharing the information as widely as possible.

We will continue to seek groups and individuals who want to hear and process the information we have to share. .

Perfection is boring.

Constant Improvement is beautiful.

—Misty Copeland