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# Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2014

## Profile Report: Region 1

**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 2014 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS). The 2014 survey represents the sixth implementation of the NRPFSS and the third 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 and 2014 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 factors that predict adolescent problem behaviors. The Nebraska survey is adapted from a national, scientifically-validated survey and contains information on the risk and protective factors that are locally actionable. These risk and protective factors 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 Region 1 and the state as a whole. 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 Region 1. 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.

### 2014 NRPFSS Sponsored by:

The 2014 NRPFSS is sponsored by Grant #1U79SP020162-01 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 and 2012 administrations. As part of BOSR’s commitment to high quality data, BOSR is a member of the American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (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, 2014**

Grade	Region 1 2014			State 2014		
	Number Participated	Number Enrolled	Percent Participated	Number Participated	Number Enrolled	Percent Participated
8th	861	1130	76.2%	10985	24992	44.0%
10th	697	1045	66.7%	8080	23796	34.0%
12th	624	1059	58.9%	6773	24194	28.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2182</b>	<b>3234</b>	<b>67.5%</b>	<b>25838</b>	<b>72982</b>	<b>35.4%</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 community-level data and not to collect representative state data; however, state data provides insight into the levels of substance use, risk, protection, and delinquent behavior among all students in Nebraska. In 2014, 35.4 percent of the eligible Nebraska students in grades 8, 10, and 12 participated in the NRPFSS.

The 2014 participation rate for the state as a whole remains lower than the 60.0 percent level recommended for representing students statewide; therefore, 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 a 10.8 percent participation rate in 2014 compared to 52.3 percent for the remainder of the state.

Table 1.2 provides an overview of the characteristics of the students who completed the 2014 survey within Region 1 and the state overall.

Table 1.2. Participant Characteristics, 2014

	Region 1 2014		State 2014	
	n	%	n	%
<b>Total students</b>	2195		25988	
<b>Grade</b>				
8th	861	39.2%	10985	42.3%
10th	697	31.8%	8080	31.1%
12th	624	28.4%	6773	26.1%
Unknown	13	0.6%	150	0.6%
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	1102	50.2%	12962	49.9%
Female	1089	49.6%	12981	49.9%
Unknown	4	0.2%	45	0.2%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
Hispanic*	523	23.8%	4021	15.5%
African American	37	1.7%	814	3.1%
Asian	30	1.4%	515	2.0%
American Indian	100	4.6%	776	3.0%
Pacific Islander	15	0.7%	94	0.4%
Alaska Native	1	0.0%	23	0.1%
White	1459	66.5%	19346	74.4%
Other	26	1.2%	330	1.3%
Unknown	4	0.2%	69	0.3%

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 four sections: (1) substance use; (2) delinquent behavior and bullying; (3) gambling; and (4) risk and protective factors. Within each section, highlights of the 2014 survey data for Region 1 are presented along with state and national estimates, when available.

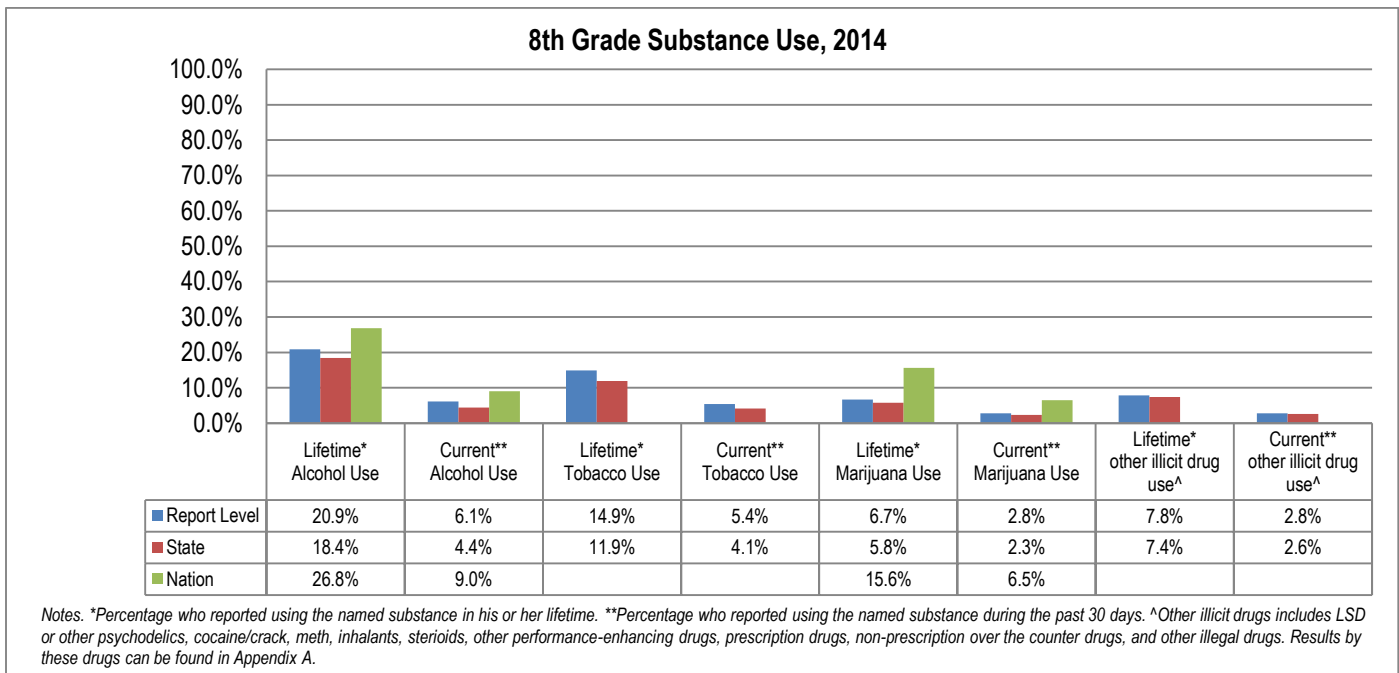
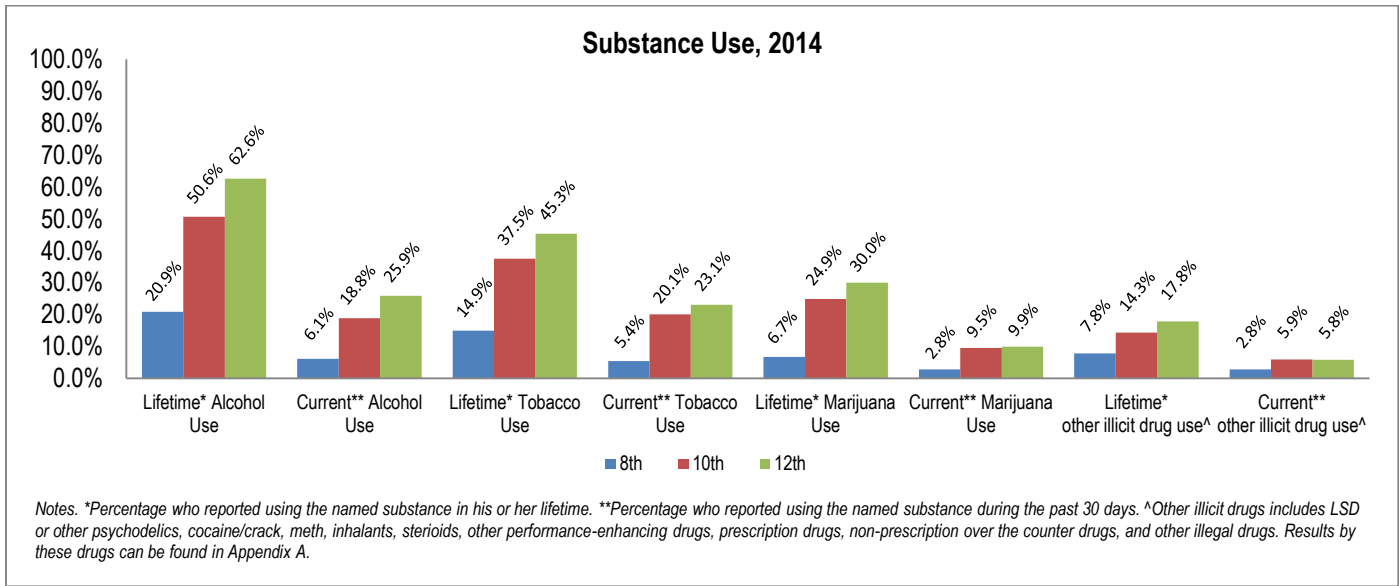
When there are **less than 10** survey respondents for a particular grade, their responses are not presented in order to protect the confidentiality of individual student participants. However, those respondents are included in regional- and state-level results. Furthermore, if a grade level has 10 or 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 drug during the past 30 days but not 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 Region 1, 81 students met these criteria.

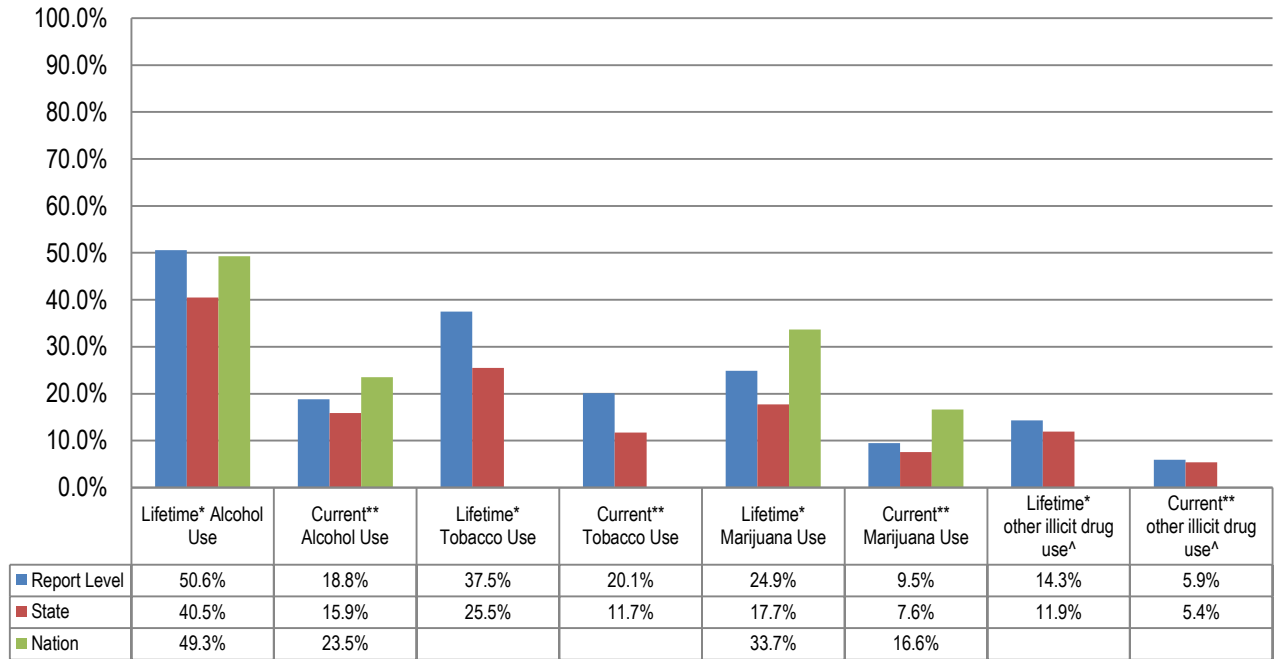
**Substance Use**

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 to substance use, this section contains information on the source and place of alcohol and tobacco use as well as attitudes and perceptions related to substance abuse. To provide greater context for the results from Region 1, 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**

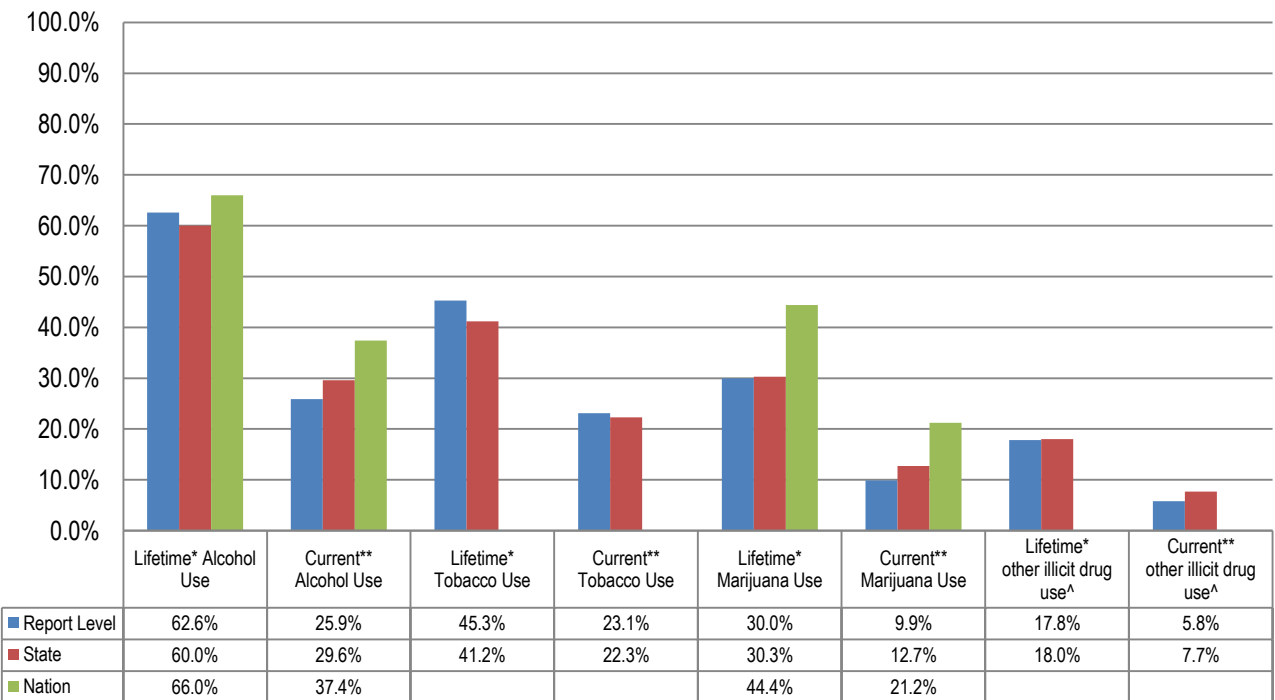


### 10th Grade Substance Use, 2014



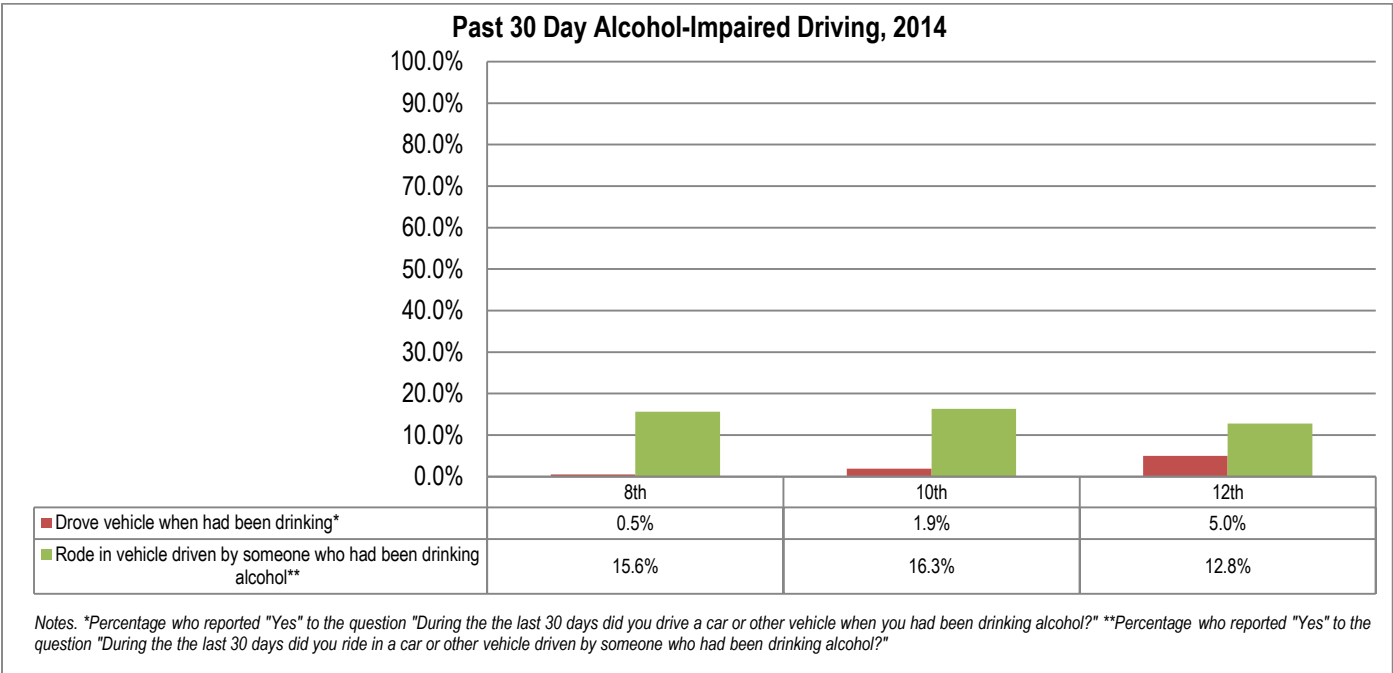
Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance during the past 30 days. ^Other illicit drugs includes LSD or other psychedelics, cocaine/crack, meth, inhalants, steroids, other performance-enhancing drugs, prescription drugs, non-prescription over the counter drugs, and other illegal drugs. Results by these drugs can be found in Appendix A.

### 12th Grade Substance Use, 2014

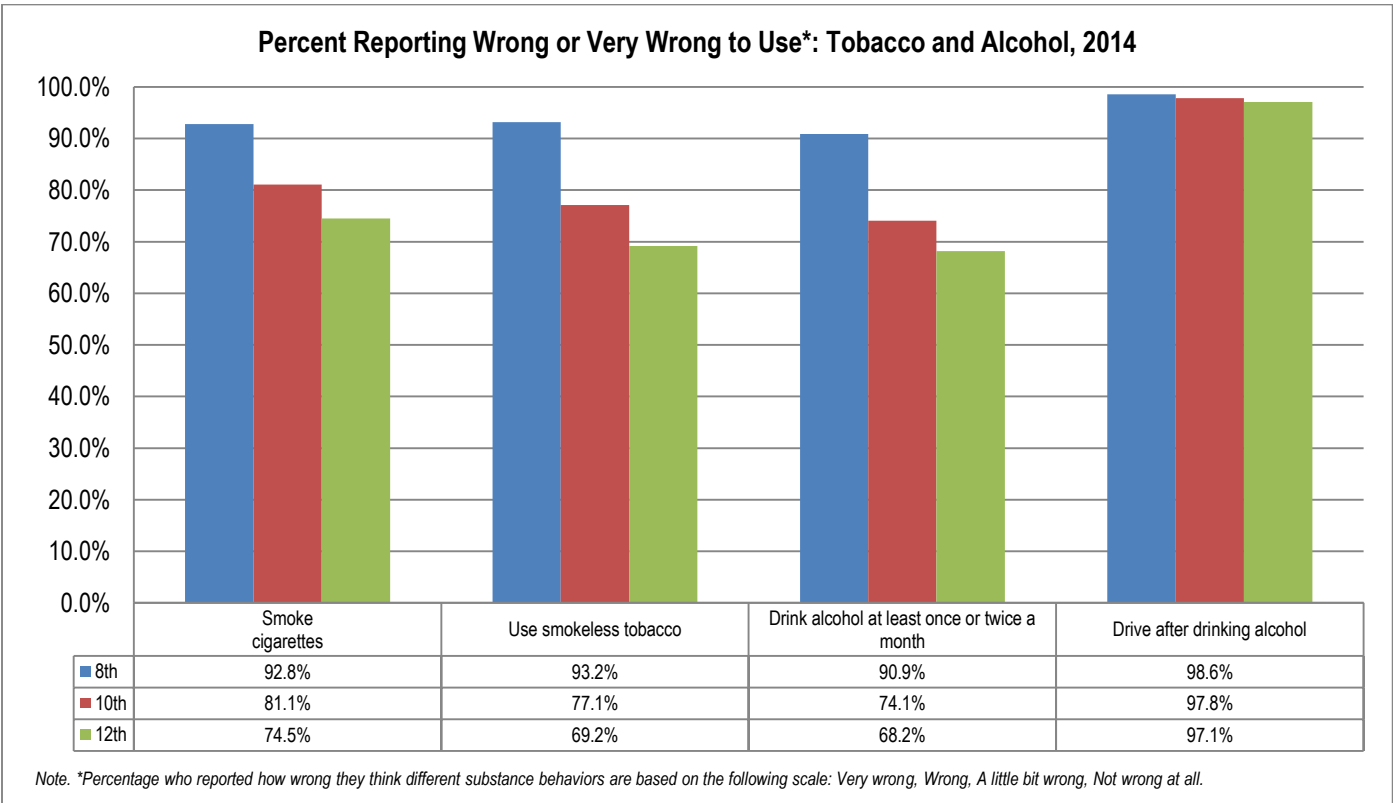


Notes. \*Percentage who reported using the named substance in his or her lifetime. \*\*Percentage who reported using the named substance during the past 30 days. ^Other illicit drugs includes LSD or other psychedelics, cocaine/crack, meth, inhalants, steroids, other performance-enhancing drugs, prescription drugs, non-prescription over the counter drugs, and other illegal drugs. Results by these drugs can be found in Appendix A.

Past 30 Day Alcohol-Impaired Driving

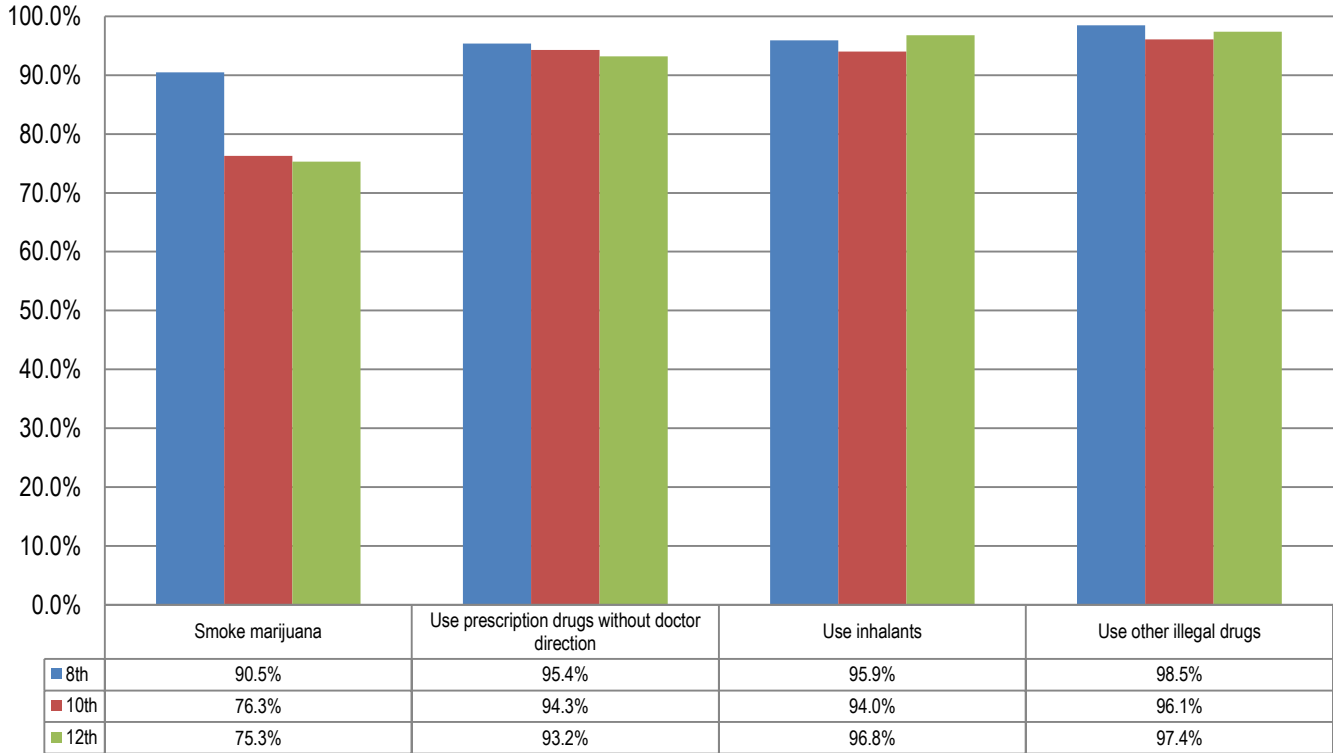


Attitudes toward Substance Use





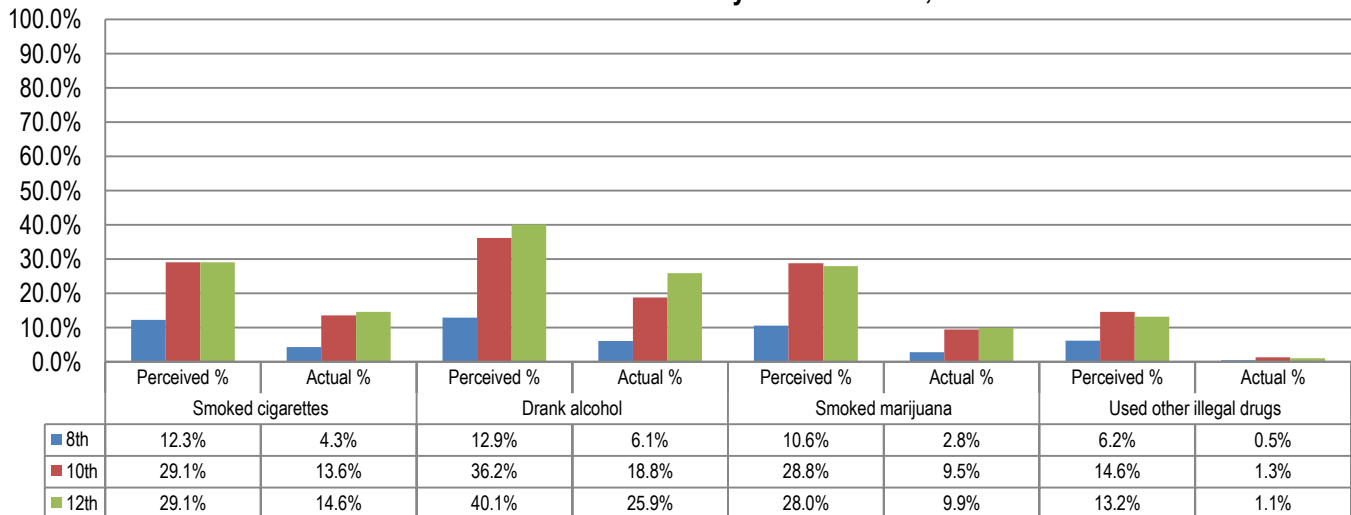
Percent Reporting Wrong or Very Wrong to Use\*: Other Drugs, 2014



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.

Perceived and Actual Substance Use during the Past 30 Days

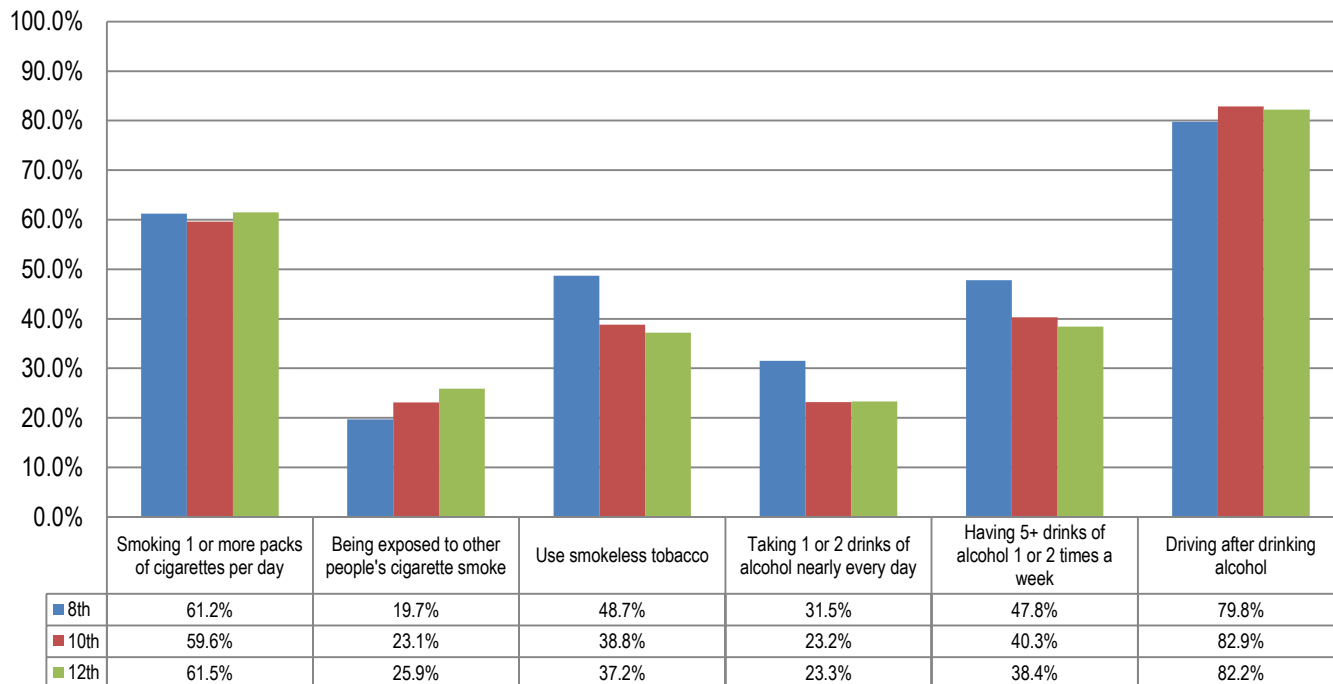
Perceived\* and Actual Past 30 Day Substance Use, 2014



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?"

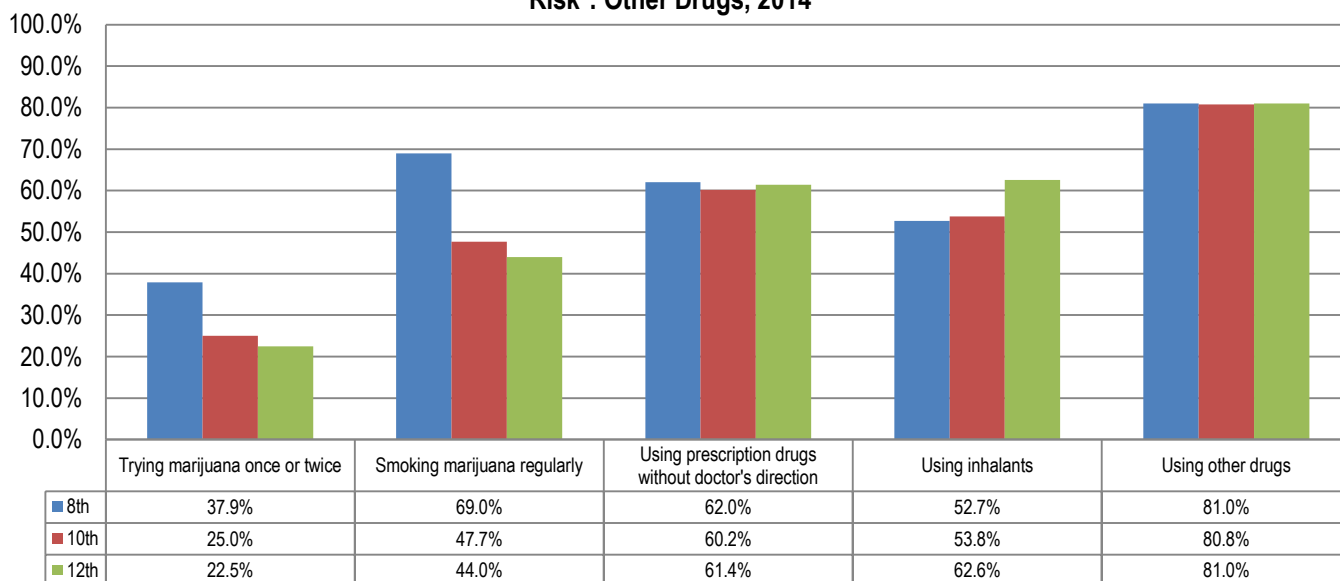
Perceived Risk from Substance Use

Percentage Reporting that the Following Substance Use Behaviors Place People at Great Risk\*: Tobacco and Alcohol, 2014



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>."

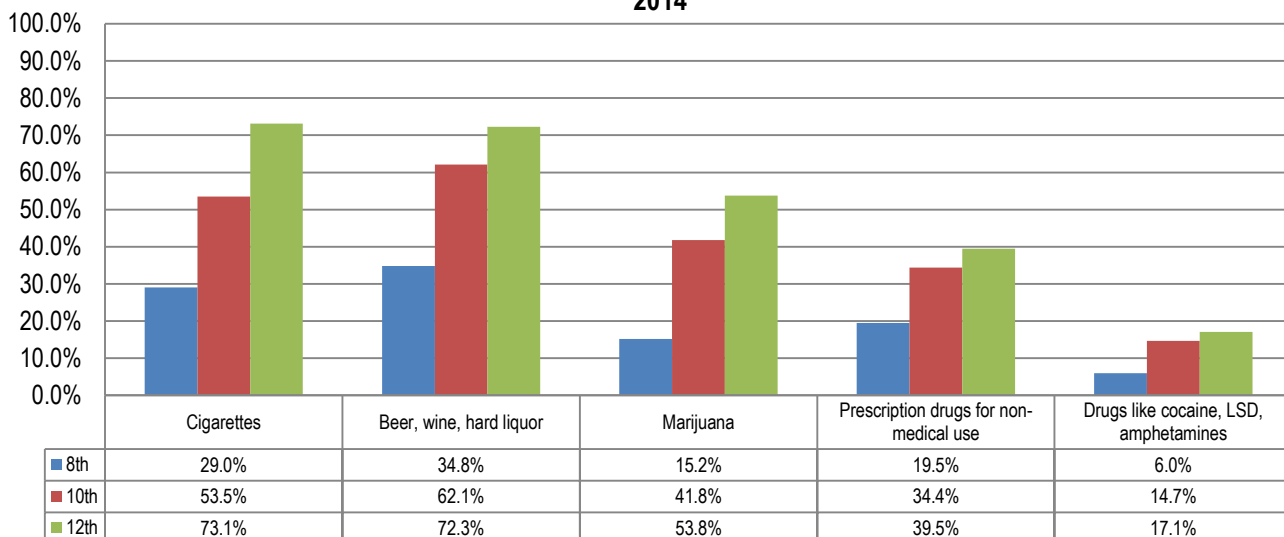
Percentage Reporting that the Following Substance Use Behaviors Place People at Great Risk\*: Other Drugs, 2014



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>."

Perceived Availability of Substances

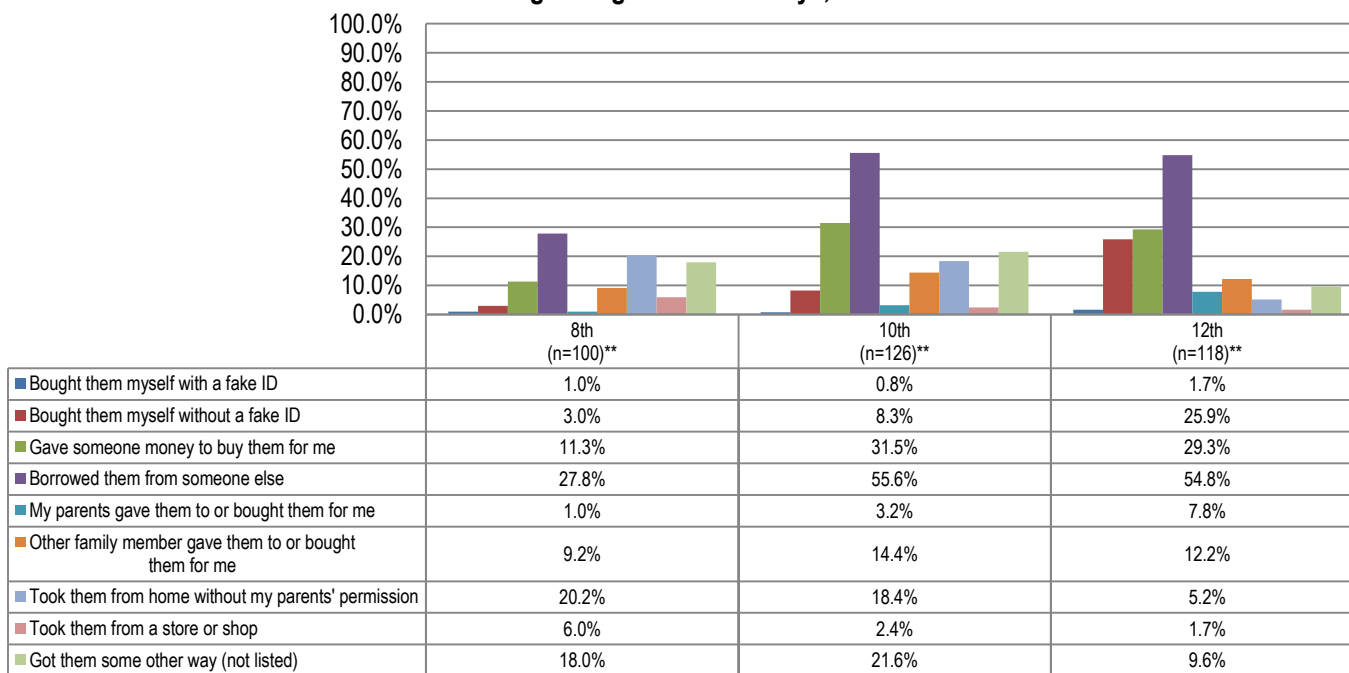
Percentage Reporting that the Following Substances are Sort of Easy or Very Easy to Obtain,\* 2014



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>."

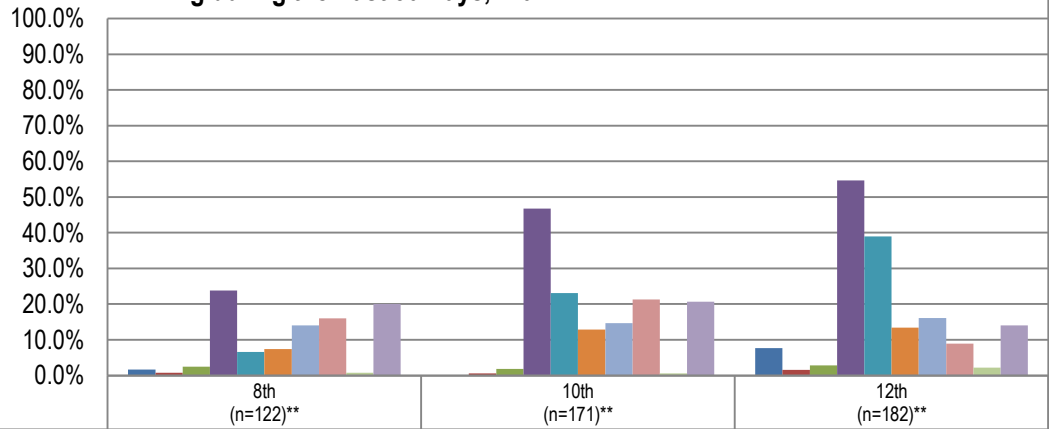
Sources and Places of Substance Use during the Past 30 Days

Sources for Obtaining Cigarettes during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Smoking during the Past 30 Days,\* 2014



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.

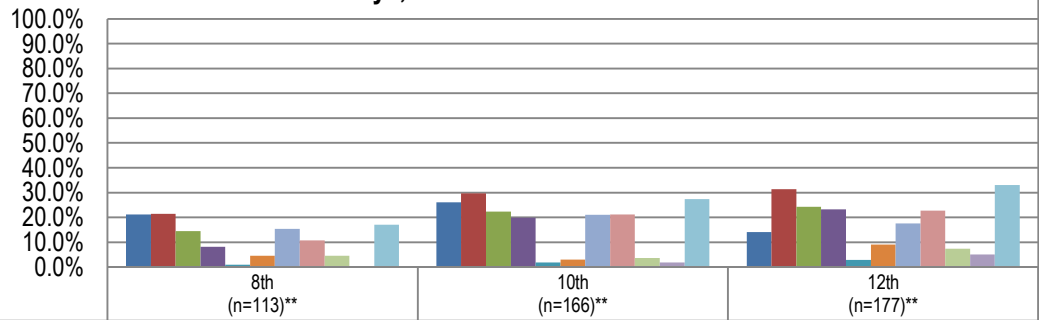
### Sources for Obtaining Alcohol during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Drinking during the Past 30 Days,\* 2014



■ Bought it in liquor store, gas station, or grocery store	1.7%	0.0%	7.7%
■ Bought it at a restaurant, bar, or club	0.8%	0.6%	1.6%
■ Bought it at public event like concert or sporting event	2.5%	1.8%	2.8%
■ Got it at a party	23.8%	46.8%	54.7%
■ Gave someone money to buy it for me	6.6%	23.1%	39.0%
■ Parents gave or bought it for me	7.4%	12.9%	13.4%
■ Other family member gave or bought it for me	14.0%	14.7%	16.1%
■ Took it from home without my parents' permission	16.0%	21.3%	8.9%
■ Took it from a store or shop	0.8%	0.6%	2.2%
■ Got it some other way (not listed)	20.0%	20.7%	14.0%

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.

### Places of Alcohol Use during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Reported Drinking during the Past 30 Days,\* 2014

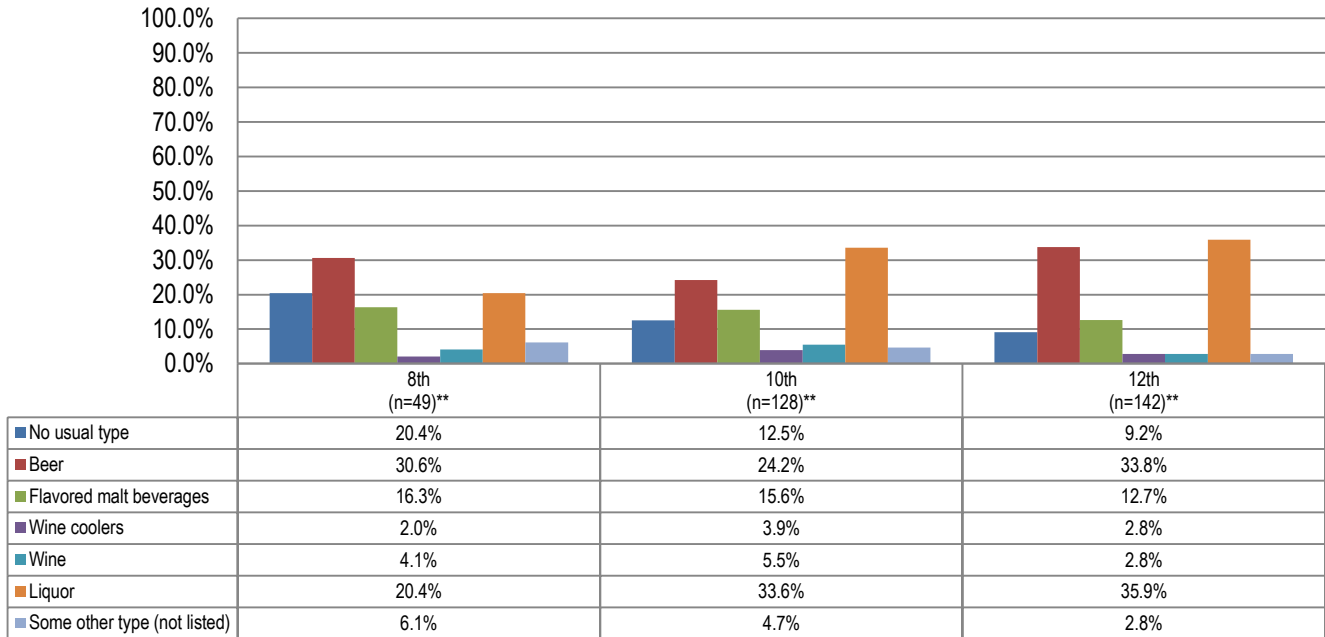


■ My home without my parents' permission	21.2%	26.1%	14.1%
■ Someone else's home without their parents' permission	21.4%	29.7%	31.3%
■ My home with my parents' permission	14.5%	22.3%	24.3%
■ Someone else's home with their parents' permission	8.1%	19.9%	23.2%
■ Restaurant, bar, or club	0.9%	1.8%	2.8%
■ Public event like concert or sporting event	4.5%	3.0%	9.0%
■ Open area like a park, lake, field, or street corner	15.3%	21.1%	17.6%
■ Car	10.7%	21.2%	22.7%
■ Hotel or motel	4.5%	3.6%	7.4%
■ School property	0.0%	1.8%	5.1%
■ Some other place (not listed)	17.0%	27.4%	33.0%

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

Types of Alcohol Used Among Those Who Used Alcohol during the Past 30 Days

Type of Alcohol Usually Consumed during the Past 30 Days, among Students who Drank Alcohol during the Past 30 Days,\* 2014



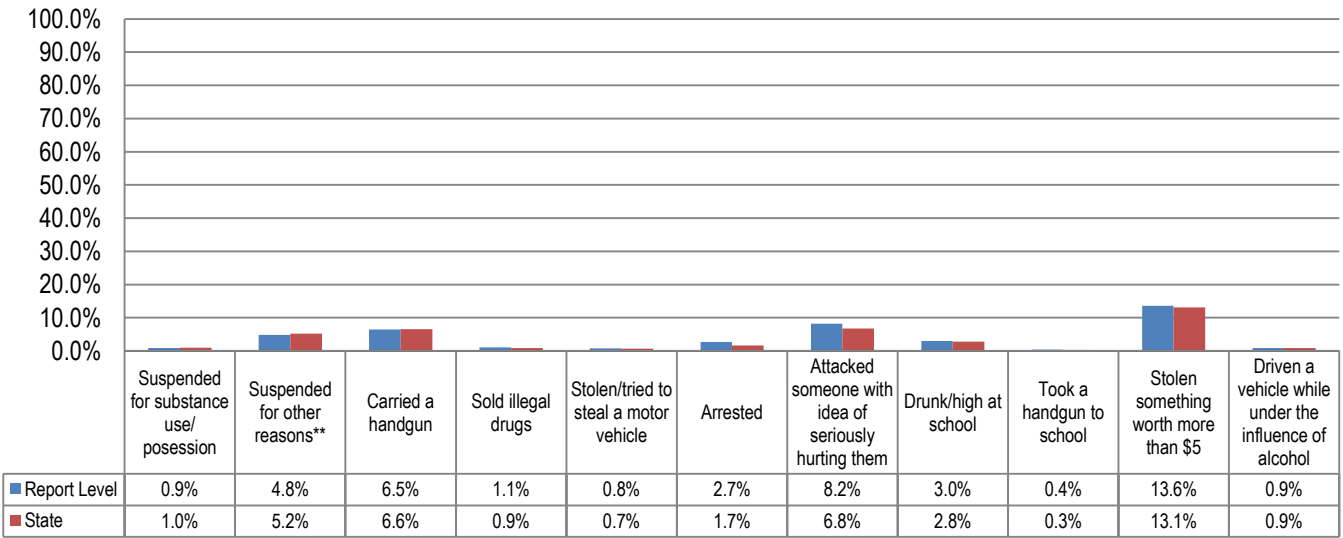
Notes. \*Among past 30 day alcohol users, the type of alcohol that they usually drank during the past 30 days. \*\*The n-size displayed is the same for all types given that type of alcohol usually consumed is asked as one question.

## Delinquent Behaviors and Bullying

This section contains information on delinquent behaviors (i.e., behaviors that are illegal, violent, and/or highly unacceptable in society) as well as recent bullying behavior among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska. There are 11 delinquent behaviors presented in this section, including behaviors that occur both on and off school property. Bullying questions were added to the 2010 surveys in response to interest from school and community leaders.

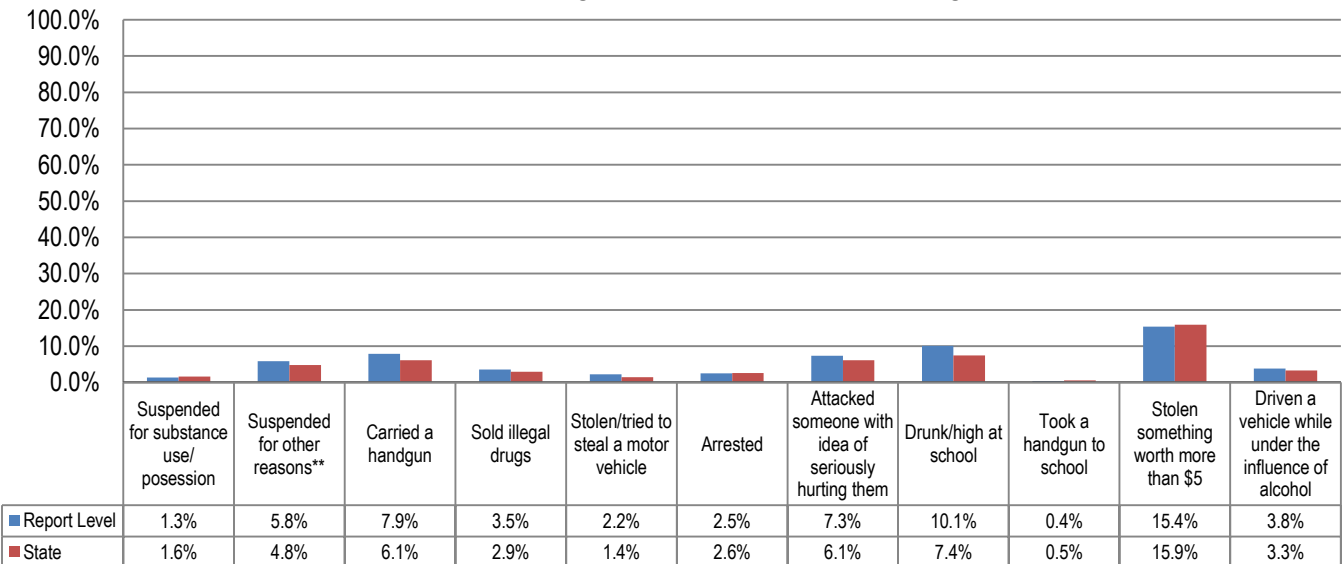
### Delinquent Behavior during the Past 12 Months

**Delinquent Behaviors among 8th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months,\* 2014**



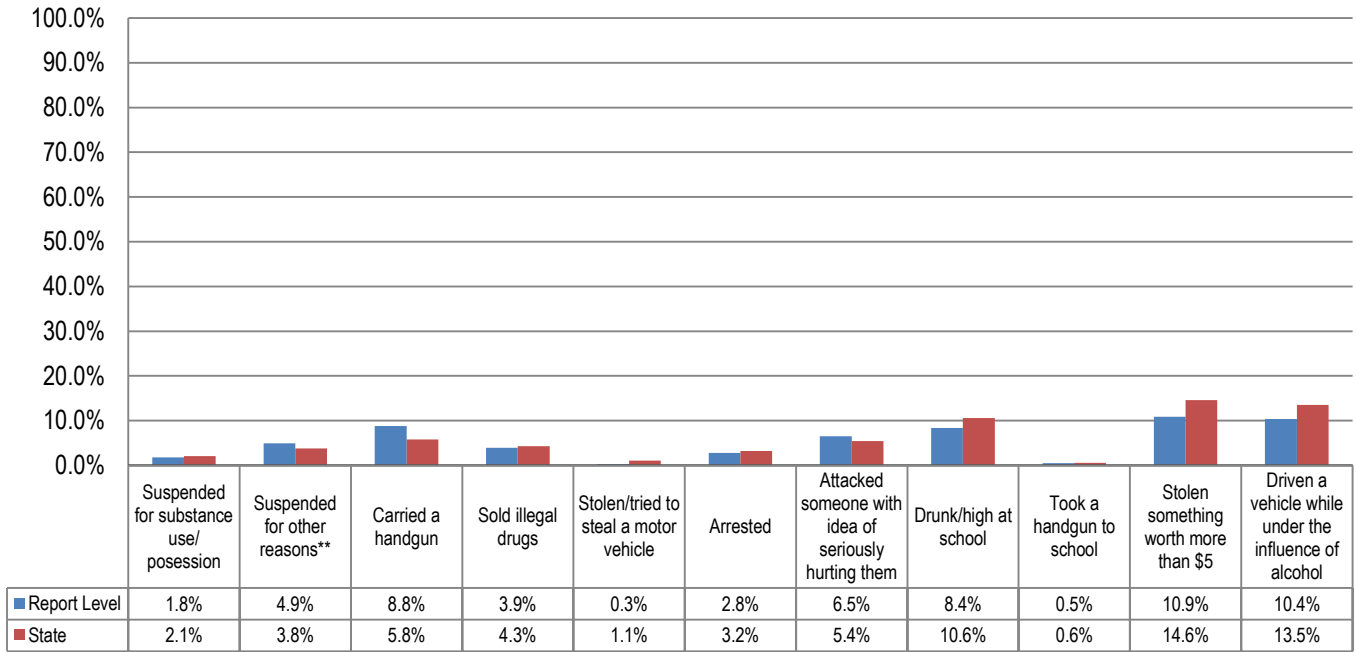
Notes. \*Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. \*\*Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

**Delinquent Behaviors among 10th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months,\* 2014**



Notes. \*Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. \*\*Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

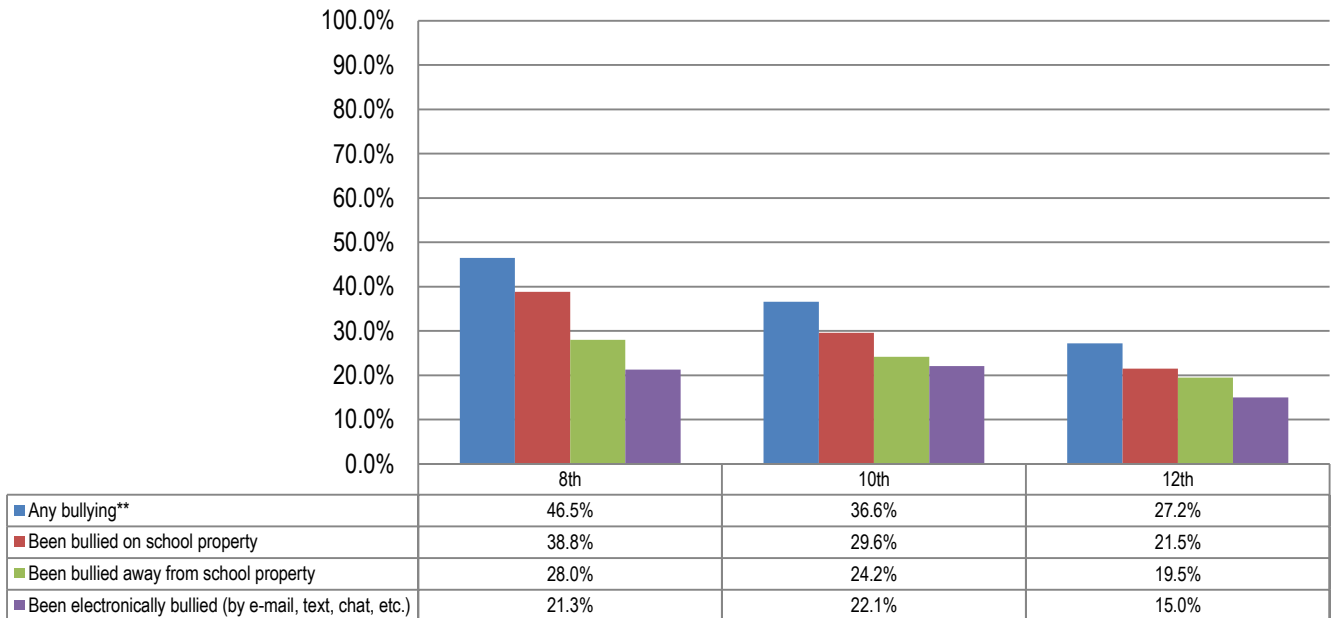
**Delinquent Behaviors among 12th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months,\* 2014**



Notes. \*Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. \*\*Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

**Location of Bullying during the Past 12 Months**

**Percentage that were Bullied during the Past 12 Months, by Type and Location of Bullying,\* 2014**

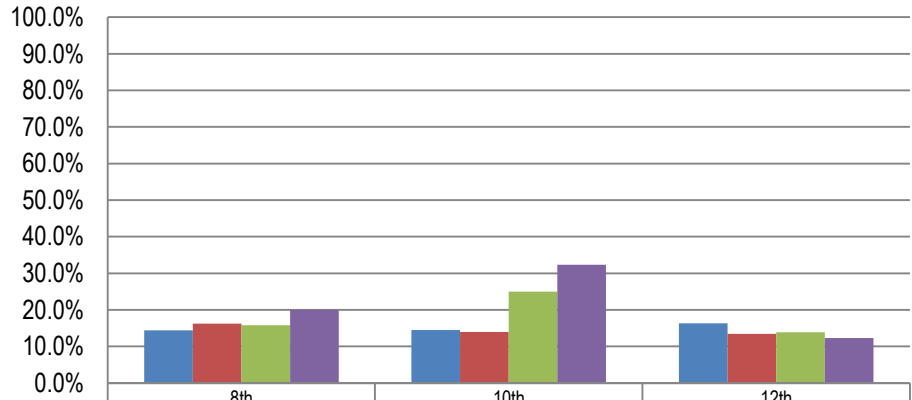


Note. \*Percentage who reported being bullied in each location. \*\*Percentage of students who reported being bullied in one or more of these locations.

**Gambling**

This section contains information on gambling behaviors among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Nebraska.

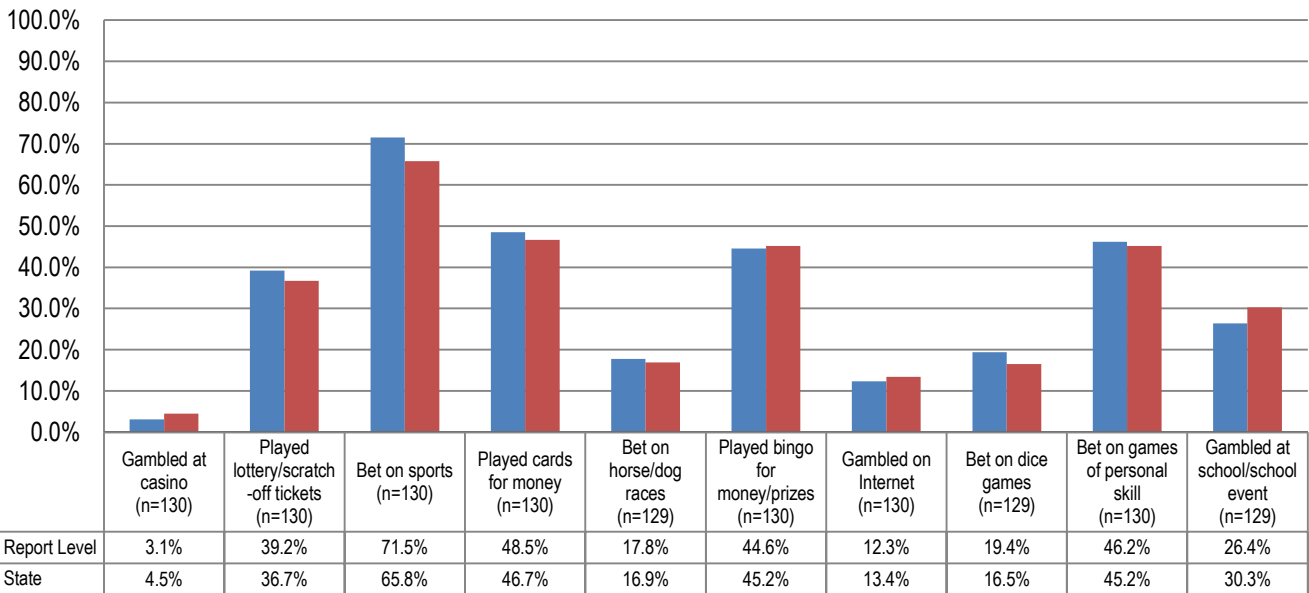
**Gambling Behavior by Grade, 2014**



Thought about gambling in the past 12 months	14.4%	14.5%	16.3%
Gambled for money/possessions in the past 12 months	16.2%	14.0%	13.4%
Spent more money than meant to on gambling in past 12 months*	15.8%	25.0%	13.9%
Your gambling has ever caused problems at home, school, or with friends**	20.0%	32.3%	12.3%

Notes. \*Percentage who reported spending more money than meant to on gambling during the past 12 months. \*\*Percentage who reported that gambling has caused problems at home, school, or with friends during his or her lifetime.

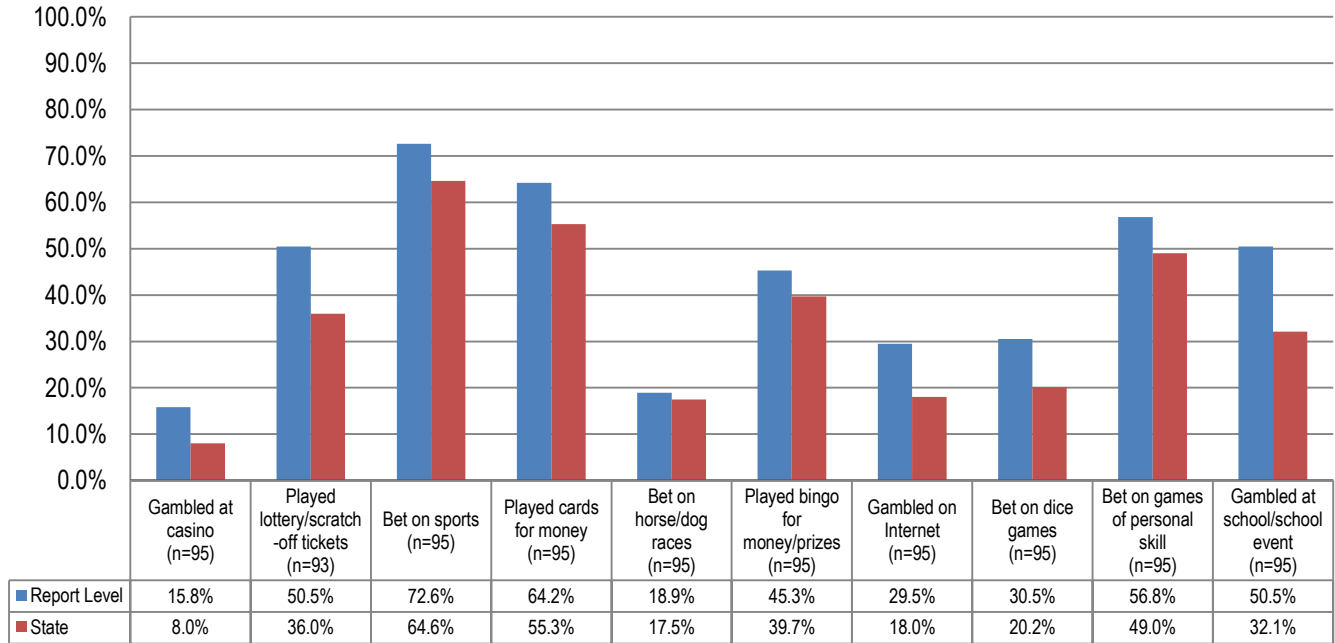
**Type of Gambling during the Past 12 Months, among 8<sup>th</sup> Graders who Reported Gambling during the Past 12 Months,\* 2014**



Note. \*Percentage who reported each behavior during the past 12 months. Only students who reported that they had gambled during the past 12 months are included in these percentages.

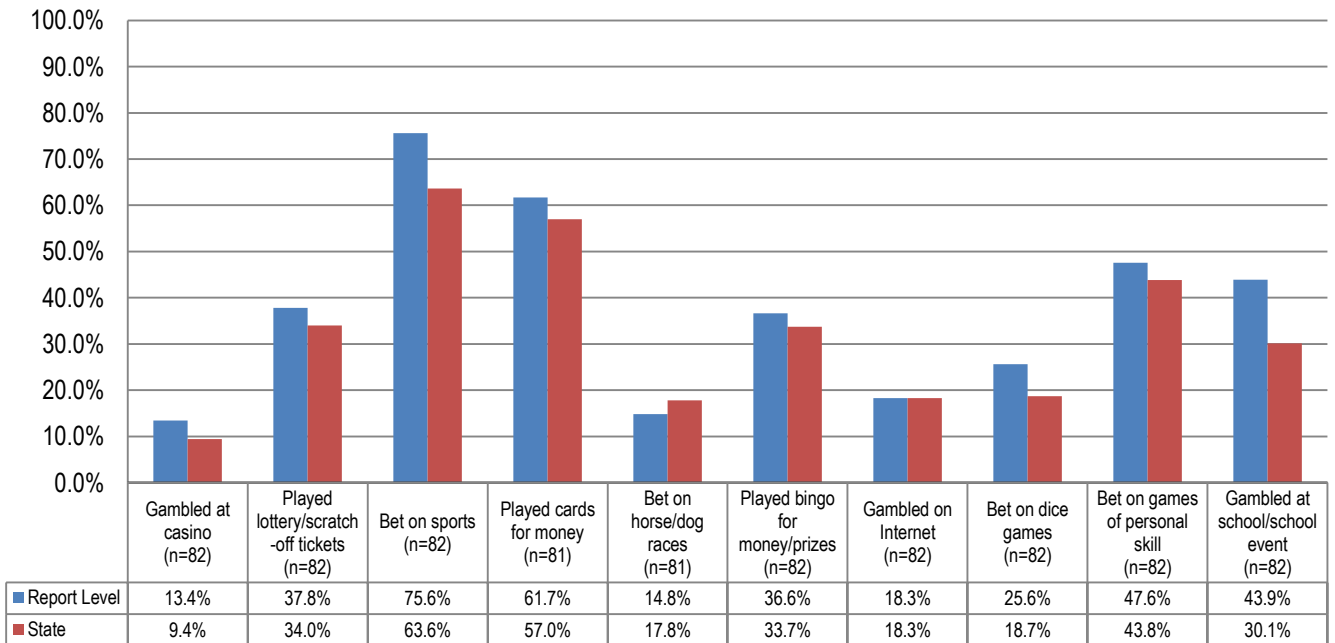


**Type of Gambling during the Past 12 Months,  
among 10th Graders who Reported Gambling during the Past 12 Months,\* 2014**



Note. \*Percentage who reported each behavior during the past 12 months. Only students who reported that they had gambled during the past 12 months are included in these percentages.

**Type of Gambling during the Past 12 Months,  
among 12th Graders who Reported Gambling during the Past 12 Months,\* 2014**



Note. \*Percentage who reported each behavior during the past 12 months. Only students who reported that they had gambled during the past 12 months are included in these percentages.

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## Risk and Protective Factors

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Many states, school districts and local agencies have adopted the **Risk and Protective Factor Model** to guide their prevention efforts. This model is based on the simple premise that, in order to prevent a problem from happening, we need to first identify factors that increase the risk of that problem developing and then find ways to reduce the risk. Just as medical researchers have found risk factors for heart disease (e.g., diets high in fat, lack of exercise, smoking), researchers at the University of Washington have identified a set of risk factors for youth problem behaviors.

To capture information on risk and protective factors among youth, researchers at the University of Washington developed a school-based survey called the Communities that Care (CTC) Survey. The CTC Survey, which was first administered in 1995, measures risk and protective factors demonstrated in prior studies to predict adolescent problem behaviors such as drug use, delinquency, and violence. The CTC Survey serves as the foundation for collecting reliable and valid information on risk and protective factors, and continues to be used by many states collecting these data. The most recent CTC Survey captures 24 risk factors and 13 protective factors.

Because risk and protective factors have multiple dimensions, a single factor's score is composed of the responses to several survey questions. Each factor's score is then referenced against data cut points that have been established by the researchers at the University of Washington using the results from a national administration of the CTC Survey. These cut points distinguish youth at higher risk for involvement in problem behaviors from those at lower risk. Bach Harrison, L.L.C., a survey research and evaluation company based in Utah, has made slight modifications to the risk and protective factor cut points originally developed by the University of Washington. For more information on the methodology used to calculate the risk and protective factor cut points, please refer to the following article:

Arthur, M., Briney, J., Hawkins, J., Abbott, R., Brooke-Weiss, B., & Catalano, R. (2007). "Measuring risk and protection in communities using the Communities That Care Youth Survey." *Evaluation and Program Planning* 30(2), 197-211.

The Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS) captures information on 14 risk factors and 7 protective factors from the CTC survey. The risk and protective factors included on the NRPFSS were chosen because they are locally actionable and highly correlated with substance abuse as well as delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence. The risk and protective factors on the Nebraska survey, including the specific survey questions that make up the factors, are presented in Appendix B.

**Risk factors** include characteristics of school, community, and family environments, as well as characteristics of students and their peer groups that are known to predict the increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, school dropout, teen pregnancy, and violent behavior among youth. Dr. J. David Hawkins, Dr. Richard F. Catalano, and their colleagues at the University of Washington Social Development Research Group have investigated the relationship between risk and protective factors and youth problem behavior. For example, they have found that children who live in families with high levels of conflict are more likely to become involved in problem behaviors such as delinquency and drug use than children who live in families with low levels of family conflict. **Protective factors** exert a positive influence, or buffer, against the negative influence of risk, thus reducing the likelihood that adolescents will engage in problem behaviors. Protective factors identified through research include social bonding to family, school, community, and peers; healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior; and individual characteristics. For bonding to

serve as a protective influence, it must occur through involvement with peers and adults who communicate healthy values and set clear standards for behavior.

By measuring risk and protective factors in a population, prevention programs can be implemented to reduce elevated risk factors and to increase protective factors. For example, if academic failure is identified as an elevated risk factor in a community, then mentoring, tutoring, and increased opportunities and rewards for classroom participation can be provided to improve academic performance. Table 5.1 illustrates associations found between 19 selected risk factors and 5 problem behaviors. Check marks indicate where at least two well-designed, published research studies have shown a link between the risk factor and the problem behavior.

**Table 5.1. Youth at Risk**

Risk Indicators	Problem Behaviors				
	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence
<b>Community</b>					
Availability of drugs and firearms	✓	✓			✓
Community laws and norms favorable toward drug use, firearms, and crime	✓	✓			✓
Media portrayals of violence					✓
Transitions and mobility	✓	✓		✓	
Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization	✓	✓			✓
Extreme economic and social deprivation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Family</b>					
Family history of the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family management problems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family conflict	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior	✓	✓			✓
<b>School</b>					
Academic failure in elementary school	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lack of commitment to school	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Peer / Individual</b>					
Early and persistent antisocial behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alienation and rebelliousness	✓	✓		✓	
Friends who use drugs and engage in a problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gang involvement	✓	✓			✓
Favorable attitudes toward drug use and other problem behaviors	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Early initiation of the problem behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constitutional factors	✓	✓			✓

The 2014 risk and protective scores for Region 1 are displayed below by grade with the overall state scores to serve as comparisons. The scores for the risk factors indicate the proportion of students that are at risk in this area. Conversely, the protective factor scores represent the proportion of students that have this protective buffer in their lives.

**Table 5.2. Risk and Protective Factor Scores**

<b>Community</b>		8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
<b>Risk Factors</b>		Local	State	Local	State	Local	State
Community Disorganization		47.8%	35.0%	50.8%	42.3%	53.2%	42.9%
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use		42.6%	35.8%	47.6%	40.0%	57.5%	52.3%
Perceived Availability of Drugs		23.4%	20.4%	31.3%	22.4%	33.4%	27.6%
Perceived Availability of Handguns		42.6%	34.5%	31.8%	25.3%	40.3%	29.7%
<b>Protective Factors</b>							
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		92.7%	91.5%	90.5%	90.3%	94.1%	92.1%
<b>Family</b>		8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
<b>Risk Factors</b>		Local	State	Local	State	Local	State
Poor Family Management		27.3%	27.4%	26.1%	26.6%	24.4%	27.3%
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use		27.7%	24.7%	44.2%	39.3%	44.6%	41.4%
<b>Protective Factors</b>							
Attachment		60.2%	64.8%	59.8%	62.9%	65.5%	61.6%
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		73.7%	74.1%	65.7%	65.8%	67.4%	64.1%
<b>School</b>		8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
<b>Risk Factors</b>		Local	State	Local	State	Local	State
Academic Failure		37.0%	30.0%	35.0%	35.0%	39.2%	35.3%
Low Commitment to School		41.4%	36.4%	37.1%	36.8%	40.4%	37.3%
<b>Protective Factors</b>							
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		72.7%	77.3%	68.2%	73.1%	73.1%	74.8%
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		55.0%	61.5%	59.6%	65.6%	50.7%	54.6%
<b>Peer / Individual</b>		8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
<b>Risk Factors</b>		Local	State	Local	State	Local	State
Early Initiation of Drug Use		19.4%	16.4%	27.8%	19.6%	28.8%	26.4%
Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior		23.5%	21.4%	27.9%	22.9%	29.9%	23.5%
Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior		30.2%	22.6%	35.3%	31.4%	35.4%	33.6%
Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use		25.4%	20.5%	41.3%	34.2%	36.0%	40.2%
Perceived Risks of Drug Use		40.4%	37.1%	56.1%	50.8%	46.6%	48.7%
Gang Involvement		4.2%	3.3%	5.9%	3.5%	4.2%	2.9%
<b>Protective Factors</b>							
Belief in the Moral Order		79.1%	81.8%	65.8%	70.4%	64.3%	66.0%
Peer-Individual Prosocial Involvement		64.4%	66.3%	68.0%	72.5%	65.5%	72.6%

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## Using the NRPFSS Results for School and Community Improvement

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### Why conduct the risk and protective factor survey?

At the present time, the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System contains the only school-based student health surveys in Nebraska endorsed by both the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Of the three surveys administered under SHARP, the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS) is the only survey that generates school- and community-level results. Data from the NRPFSS can be used to help schools and communities assess current conditions and identify and prioritize local prevention issues. The risk and protective factor profiles provided by this survey reflect underlying conditions that can be addressed through specific types of interventions proven to be effective in either reducing risk or enhancing protection.

### How are the data being used in Nebraska?

At the present time, data from the NRPFSS are being used for:

- Substance abuse and/or risk prevention planning at the school, school district, county, region, and state levels;
- Applying for grants and other funding;
- Fulfilling state and federal grant requirements by community coalitions across Nebraska; *and*
- Fulfilling federal reporting requirements by the Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

For additional information about the uses of the NRPFSS, please visit the SHARP website at <http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp>.

<b>Tips for Using this Report for School and Community Improvement</b>
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### What are the numbers telling you?

Review the data presented in this report, including the appendix tables, and note your findings to the following questions:

- Which risk factors are of the greatest concern to your school/community/region?
  - Which risk factors from the NRPFSS are most prevalent among your students?
  - How do these factors compare to all students that participated in the NRPFSS?
- Which protective factors are most important to your school/community/region?
  - Which protective factors from the NRPFSS are least prevalent among your students?
  - How do these factors compare to all students that participated in the NRPFSS?
- Which substances are your students using the most?
  - In which grades do you see unacceptable usage levels?
  - How does use among your students compare to all students that participated in the NRPFSS and to students nationally?
- Which delinquent behaviors are of greatest concern to your school/community/region?
  - Which delinquent behaviors are your students exhibiting the most?
  - How do these behaviors compare to all students that participated in the NRPFSS?

### How do you decide if a rate is “unacceptable”?

- Look across the appendix tables in this report—which items stand out as either much higher or much lower than the others?
- Compare your data with statewide and national data—determine a level of difference between your data and the state/national data that is unacceptable.

- Determine the standards and values held within your school and community—for example, is it acceptable in your community for a percentage of high school students to drink alcohol regularly as long as that percentage is lower than the overall state percentage?

**How do you use these data for planning?**

- Substance use and delinquent behavior data—identify the issues and then begin a dialogue with community stakeholders to raise awareness about the problems.
- Risk and protective factor data—establish realistic and measurable objectives within your school/community/region that will help you measure progress toward achieving your prevention goals.
- Engage in the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model to ensure your planning process for prevention is data driven.

**Additional Resources**

Use the resources listed on the last page of this report (Appendix C: Contacts for Prevention) for ideas about prevention programs proven to be effective in addressing substance use, delinquent behavior, and elevated risk factors while improving the protective factors in your school, community, or region.

**Example**

The table below provides a quick illustration of how you could organize a comparison of your data with state and/or national data on various measures (i.e., indicators; risk or protective factors). An Excel version of this tool is available for download on the SHARP website at <http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp>.

<b>Sample Tool for Data Interpretation</b>						
Data Measure	Grade	2014 Prevalence Rates <i>(How common is this?)</i>			Comparison	Trends <i>(if avail.)</i>
		Your data	State*	Nation <i>(if avail.)</i>		
Past 30 Day Alcohol Use	10	35.2%	25.4%	19.0%	More prevalent than both state and nation	Stable across the six survey administrations

*Note.* Data are for illustration purposes only and do not reflect actual results.

\*Represents all students who completed the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS) and is not intended to represent all students statewide.

APPENDIX A: Trend Data

Outcomes	Definition	Grade 8						Grade 10						Grade 12					
		2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014
Lifetime Substance Use	Alcohol	44.4%	50.5%	44.5%	31.9%	31.7%	20.9%	69.0%	72.2%	69.0%	61.4%	53.5%	50.6%	79.3%	84.1%	80.1%	74.4%	69.0%	62.6%
	Cigarettes	29.1%	29.4%	17.7%	17.5%	21.5%	12.8%	51.6%	41.7%	40.4%	36.0%	32.1%	30.6%	61.6%	53.5%	52.1%	49.6%	50.2%	36.5%
	Smokeless tobacco	12.1%	11.7%	11.5%	13.0%	11.7%	5.1%	27.6%	25.0%	21.4%	23.7%	21.0%	19.6%	37.2%	34.4%	31.3%	33.7%	34.9%	27.0%
	Marijuana <sup>1</sup>	8.1%	9.7%	7.0%	8.6%	10.2%	6.7%	33.5%	22.7%	25.4%	25.6%	23.3%	24.9%	40.0%	37.2%	34.4%	33.2%	36.8%	30.0%
	LSD/other psychedelics	0.4%	1.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	3.2%	1.4%	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	2.3%	3.1%	3.7%	2.1%	3.3%	4.3%	3.2%
	Cocaine/crack	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	0.7%	0.9%	0.4%	6.9%	2.1%	3.1%	2.4%	2.5%	2.3%	7.2%	5.6%	5.4%	2.6%	3.5%	3.6%
	Meth <sup>2</sup>	0.6%	1.1%	0.9%	0.4%	0.8%	0.1%	5.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.1%	1.2%	0.7%	5.3%	3.4%	2.0%	1.9%	1.3%	1.5%
	Inhalants	11.5%	12.5%	12.1%	7.8%	6.2%	5.5%	13.3%	12.3%	12.2%	7.3%	6.2%	5.5%	10.7%	10.6%	8.5%	6.5%	4.4%	3.4%
	Steroids	NA	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	NA	1.7%	1.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	NA	1.3%	0.9%	2.1%	0.6%	0.3%
	Other performance-enhancing drugs	NA	2.6%	2.0%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	NA	6.2%	6.7%	3.5%	3.6%	2.0%	NA	12.3%	11.7%	8.7%	6.5%	4.5%
	Prescription drugs <sup>3</sup>	NA	7.6%	5.4%	1.9%	2.1%	1.6%	NA	13.8%	12.5%	8.5%	6.0%	6.5%	NA	15.5%	14.2%	15.6%	14.7%	7.4%
	Non-prescription drugs <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	3.1%	2.9%	1.9%	1.8%	NA	NA	6.0%	5.2%	5.1%	4.2%	NA	NA	5.3%	6.9%	7.1%	5.2%
Other illegal drugs	5.6%	4.5%	3.8%	2.6%	3.1%	1.2%	18.1%	7.3%	8.4%	7.7%	5.6%	4.2%	15.4%	8.9%	6.8%	7.7%	6.3%	6.5%	
Past 30 Day Substance Use	Alcohol	18.3%	17.4%	11.9%	9.4%	9.8%	6.1%	42.8%	39.7%	35.7%	25.6%	19.0%	18.8%	53.3%	50.2%	45.6%	35.6%	32.4%	25.9%
	Cigarettes	6.1%	8.1%	3.8%	6.2%	7.4%	4.3%	23.0%	17.5%	16.2%	14.3%	13.6%	13.6%	24.8%	25.4%	26.4%	21.5%	26.0%	14.6%
	Smokeless tobacco	3.8%	4.2%	5.2%	5.0%	4.8%	2.2%	12.2%	12.2%	10.9%	12.4%	10.4%	12.1%	16.6%	15.8%	18.0%	17.1%	18.1%	15.8%
	Marijuana <sup>1</sup>	3.7%	3.7%	2.2%	2.3%	3.6%	2.8%	16.4%	9.9%	11.7%	11.8%	9.9%	9.5%	16.1%	14.5%	12.8%	14.1%	14.2%	9.9%
	LSD/other psychedelics	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%	1.2%	1.3%	1.0%
	Cocaine/crack	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	2.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	1.4%	0.7%	1.3%	0.7%	0.3%	0.6%
	Meth <sup>2</sup>	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	1.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	1.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
	Inhalants	4.8%	5.7%	4.2%	3.2%	1.8%	1.8%	2.9%	2.0%	2.7%	1.9%	1.3%	1.6%	2.7%	2.2%	0.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.0%
	Steroids	NA	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	NA	0.9%	1.0%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	NA	0.0%	0.6%	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%
	Other performance-enhancing drugs	NA	1.3%	1.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	NA	3.2%	3.4%	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%	NA	6.0%	5.3%	5.0%	4.1%	2.3%
	Prescription drugs <sup>3</sup>	NA	3.3%	2.6%	0.6%	1.2%	0.4%	NA	6.4%	5.2%	2.7%	3.2%	2.5%	NA	7.6%	5.7%	5.3%	5.4%	2.1%
	Non-prescription drugs <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	1.4%	1.4%	0.4%	0.7%	NA	NA	2.2%	1.5%	2.0%	2.2%	NA	NA	1.1%	1.9%	3.0%	1.0%
Other illegal drugs	2.5%	2.0%	1.7%	0.9%	1.3%	0.5%	8.7%	2.7%	2.9%	3.4%	2.3%	1.3%	5.3%	3.0%	2.6%	3.1%	1.6%	1.1%	

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Outcomes	Definition	Grade 8						Grade 10						Grade 12						
		2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	
<b>Delinquent Behaviors during the Past 12 Months</b>	Carried a handgun	7.1%	8.3%	6.4%	6.1%	5.4%	6.5%	5.9%	7.6%	6.9%	8.2%	7.5%	7.9%	6.5%	7.0%	8.3%	8.0%	7.8%	8.8%	
	Sold illegal drugs	1.6%	2.3%	1.7%	1.3%	1.9%	1.1%	6.4%	3.6%	5.7%	3.1%	5.2%	3.5%	6.8%	5.4%	6.7%	6.1%	5.1%	3.9%	
	Stolen-trying to steal a motor vehicle	2.1%	3.4%	1.0%	1.6%	1.2%	0.8%	3.6%	2.3%	3.0%	1.6%	1.7%	2.2%	1.9%	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%	0.9%	0.3%	
	Arrested	3.1%	4.3%	2.7%	4.3%	2.8%	2.7%	5.5%	4.4%	5.7%	3.7%	3.9%	2.5%	5.8%	4.5%	5.4%	2.9%	4.3%	2.8%	
	Attacked someone with idea of seriously hurting them	8.1%	10.9%	11.3%	11.0%	10.1%	8.2%	11.5%	8.5%	9.7%	12.2%	10.0%	7.3%	9.3%	7.6%	10.4%	9.9%	10.1%	6.5%	
	Took a handgun to school	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%	1.1%	0.4%	1.1%	0.4%	1.0%	0.5%	1.1%	0.5%	
	Drove vehicle under the influence of alcohol	4.6%	6.4%	5.3%	2.0%	1.8%	0.9%	19.4%	18.8%	15.1%	8.1%	5.9%	3.8%	46.9%	44.5%	35.9%	22.1%	16.0%	10.4%	
<b>Risk Factors</b>	<b>Community</b>																			
	Community Disorganization	44.2%	43.3%	51.7%	NA <sup>5</sup>	49.2%	47.8%	46.2%	51.4%	51.0%	NA <sup>5</sup>	52.2%	50.8%	43.5%	54.3%	52.2%	NA <sup>5</sup>	51.0%	53.2%	
	Law and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	35.7%	37.0%	34.8%	NA <sup>5</sup>	30.6%	42.6%	37.2%	33.3%	37.2%	NA <sup>5</sup>	47.7%	47.6%	43.5%	41.5%	45.8%	NA <sup>5</sup>	58.0%	57.5%	
	Perceived Availability of Drugs	31.4%	34.5%	32.5%	27.8%	29.4%	23.4%	47.3%	39.7%	41.3%	31.6%	29.9%	31.3%	49.2%	44.4%	35.8%	31.7%	33.5%	33.4%	
	Perceived Availability of Handguns	42.8%	36.3%	38.5%	40.7%	40.6%	42.6%	28.6%	28.0%	31.5%	33.3%	35.7%	31.8%	29.9%	31.2%	33.3%	36.9%	37.6%	40.3%	
	<b>Family</b>																			
	Poor Family Management	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	28.7%	31.3%	27.3%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	28.2%	28.9%	26.1%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	32.6%	32.2%	24.4%	
	Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	30.8%	34.7%	27.0%	28.7%	28.9%	27.7%	48.6%	53.2%	46.5%	43.9%	43.0%	44.2%	50.5%	49.9%	42.6%	48.5%	45.2%	44.6%	
	<b>School</b>																			
	Academic Failure	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	39.2%	40.3%	37.0%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA	39.4%	35.0%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	35.3%	41.4%	39.2%	
	Low Commitment to School	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	36.5%	42.1%	41.4%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA	32.7%	37.1%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	33.9%	39.7%	40.4%	
	<b>Peer/Individual</b>																			
	Early Initiation of Drug Use	38.4%	42.0%	31.0%	26.5%	27.4%	19.4%	48.9%	43.1%	42.6%	32.1%	26.4%	27.8%	53.7%	51.6%	45.3%	35.2%	32.3%	28.8%	
	Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior	25.9%	28.4%	25.7%	24.7%	24.4%	23.5%	32.9%	31.2%	30.6%	34.4%	30.4%	27.9%	32.2%	29.3%	32.9%	31.2%	33.0%	29.9%	
	Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior	30.1%	31.0%	32.4%	27.0%	29.7%	30.2%	48.6%	43.1%	43.0%	37.7%	36.9%	35.3%	46.3%	40.4%	47.3%	39.9%	39.7%	35.4%	
Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use	29.1%	31.2%	30.9%	23.2%	27.1%	25.4%	53.4%	47.9%	43.7%	39.6%	36.6%	41.3%	50.7%	46.9%	45.5%	42.2%	45.3%	36.0%		
Perceived Risks of Drug Use	29.9%	39.3%	33.8%	33.1%	37.6%	40.4%	53.4%	48.5%	47.6%	51.6%	51.1%	56.1%	39.9%	43.5%	43.2%	44.0%	48.1%	46.6%		
Gang Involvement	8.0%	9.5%	10.9%	7.5%	6.1%	4.2%	8.4%	10.7%	14.3%	5.8%	5.7%	5.9%	6.4%	8.8%	9.8%	5.0%	4.6%	4.2%		



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Outcomes	Definition	Grade 8						Grade 10						Grade 12					
		2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014
Protective Factors	<b>Community</b>																		
	Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	87.6%	84.8%	78.8%	NA <sup>5</sup>	93.4%	92.7%	81.6%	84.1%	80.5%	NA <sup>5</sup>	91.8%	90.5%	83.9%	85.0%	82.2%	NA <sup>5</sup>	93.6%	94.1%
	<b>Family</b>																		
	Attachment	NA <sup>6</sup>	NA <sup>6</sup>	NA <sup>6</sup>	59.1%	58.8%	60.2%	NA <sup>6</sup>	NA <sup>6</sup>	NA <sup>6</sup>	55.7%	60.8%	59.8%	NA <sup>6</sup>	NA <sup>6</sup>	NA <sup>6</sup>	58.2%	56.6%	65.5%
	Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	71.3%	69.7%	68.0%	74.5%	72.0%	73.7%	59.7%	62.1%	55.9%	60.8%	66.4%	65.7%	59.7%	58.5%	56.6%	58.8%	60.4%	67.4%
	<b>School</b>																		
	Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	79.9%	77.9%	73.3%	74.4%	67.8%	72.7%	74.9%	72.4%	70.8%	77.7%	73.2%	68.2%	72.8%	76.7%	74.1%	72.6%	71.1%	73.1%
	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	63.0%	55.4%	55.0%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	75.0%	68.0%	59.6%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	56.9%	51.7%	50.7%
	<b>Peer/Individual</b>																		
	Belief in the Moral Order	71.8%	66.9%	67.5%	77.0%	74.1%	79.1%	49.2%	52.5%	51.4%	62.1%	66.6%	65.8%	49.2%	54.0%	47.9%	60.8%	61.8%	64.3%
Prosocial Involvement	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	62.7%	60.2%	64.4%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	68.6%	66.4%	68.0%	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	NA <sup>7</sup>	74.1%	64.7%	65.5%	

\*This indicates that there were less than 10 cases.

\*\*This indicates that the criteria for a report were not met.

<sup>1</sup>Prior to 2010, the question asked students if they had "used marijuana (grass, pot) or hashish (hash, hash oil)." In 2010, the wording was changed to "used marijuana."

<sup>2</sup>Prior to 2010, the question asked students if they had "taken 'meth' (also known as 'crank', 'crystal', or 'ice')." In 2010, the wording was changed to "used methamphetamines (meth, speed, crank, crystal meth, or ice)."

<sup>3</sup>Prior to 2010, the question asked students if they had "used prescription drugs (such as Valium, Xanax, Ritalin, Adderall, Oxycotin, or sleeping pills without a doctor telling you to take them." In 2010, the wording was changed to "used prescription drugs (such as Valium, Xanax, Ritalin, Adderall, Oxycotin, Vicodin, or Percocet) without a doctor telling you to take them."

<sup>4</sup>Prior to 2010, the question asked students if they had "used a non-prescription cough or cold medicine (robos, DMX, etc.) to get high and not for medical reasons." In 2010, the wording was changed to "used a non-prescription cough or cold medicine (robo, robo-tripping, DMX) to get high and not for medical reasons."

<sup>5</sup>In 2010, several questions that were included in these risk and protective factors were unintentionally removed from the questionnaire. As a result, these factors were not calculated in 2010 causing their exclusion from the trend data.

<sup>6</sup>Prior to 2010, the questions included in this factor asked students about "one or more of your parents." In 2010, these questions were split into questions referencing each parent individually to return to their original, intended format. Because of these differences, trend data are not available prior to 2010.

<sup>7</sup>In 2010, several factors were added. As a result, factors not measured prior to 2010 are not included in the trend data for years other than 2010, 2012, and 2014

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 approach with some caution.

**APPENDIX B: Risk and Protective Factors Information**

<b>Table B1. Risk and Protective Factor Indicators by Survey Question</b>		
<b>COMMUNITY</b>		
<b>Risk Factors</b>		
Community Disorganization		89, 93a - 93d
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use		88a, 88b, 88d, 88e, 92a - 92c
Perceived Availability of Drugs		86a - 86c, 86e
Perceived Availability of Handguns		86f
<b>Protective Factors</b>		
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		90, 91a - 91e
<b>FAMILY</b>		
<b>Risk Factors</b>		
Poor Family Management		69 - 71, 75, 77 - 80
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use		68a, 68c, 68e
<b>Protective Factors</b>		
Attachment		81 - 84
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		72 - 74
<b>SCHOOL</b>		
<b>Risk Factors</b>		
Academic Failure		6, 19
Low Commitment to School		7 - 9, 20, 21a - 21c
<b>Protective Factors</b>		
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		10, 11, 13, 14, 18
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		12, 15 - 17
<b>PEER-INDIVIDUAL</b>		
<b>Risk Factors</b>		
Early Initiation of Drug Use		22a - 22d
Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior		22e - 22h
Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior		23a - 23e
Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use		23f, 23h, 23j, 23m
Perceived Risks of Drug Use		30a, 30d, 30g, 30h
Gang Involvement		24
<b>Protective Factors</b>		
Belief in the Moral Order		27 - 29, 76
Prosocial Involvement		26f, 26h, 26k

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**APPENDIX C: Contacts for Prevention**

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