



2020

Rhode Island Student Survey

East Bay Regional
Coalition

BARRINGTON BLOCK ISLAND BRISTOL-
WARREN BURRILLVILLE CHARIHO
COVENTRY CRANSTON
EASTGREENWICH EASTPROVIDENCE
EXETER-WESTGREENWICH JOHNSTON
LITTLECOMPTON MIDDLETOWN
NARRAGANSETT NEWPORT N
ORTH KINGSTOWN NORTH
PROVIDENCE NORTHSMITHFIELD
PAWTUCKET PORTSMOUTH S
CITUATESMITHFIELD SOUTH
KINGSTOWN TIVERTON WARWICK WEST
WARWICK WESTERLY

Participating School Districts in 2020. Note: Providence School District not included in survey.



Background

The Rhode Island Student Survey (RISS) is a collaboration among the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (RI BHDDH), the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). The Survey, which is one of the three State agency surveys, is administered every other year. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is administered by RIDOH on those off years. The RISS is a risk and prevalence survey for Rhode Island youth in middle and high schools.¹ A risk and prevalence survey looks at a set of factors or conditions to which youth may be exposed that are associated with negative behavioral health outcomes and the extent to which youth may report engaging in problem behavior. It explores substance use, bullying, depression, suicide, and violence.

Purpose

The intention and purpose of the RISS is to identify areas where there are strengths that can be built upon and to put additional resources to those areas that need improvement. There are other surveys administered in schools, but most do NOT allow for the ability to analyze data at the school district or community level. This data is crucial for planning and evaluating prevention services especially when resources are so scarce. It is imperative to have community level data in order to apply for and receive federal funds.

¹ Public and private schools within Rhode Island participated. The 2020 survey received responses from one private school.

RISS Data Collection

The RISS was administered during three different time periods from 2020-2021. This was due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing a statewide shut-down and schools pivoting from in-person learning to virtual. We felt strongly that schools could not handle administering the RISS virtually during the shift of moving to a different way of educating. We thought that this would have been too heavy of a burden for schools.

Also, there was concern for the privacy of the student completing the survey in close proximity to a parental figure or guardian, which might influence students' answers or participation in completing the RISS.

The RISS data was collected in 3 East Bay school districts throughout Rhode Island, and all met the threshold. In total, the RISS was completed by 4,190 students and 3 school districts (Barrington, Bristol/Warren, East Providence) were included. **91% of the students completed the RISS pre-COVID-19 statewide school shutdown and 9% of the students completed the RISS post-COVID-19 statewide school shutdown.** The RISS currently has fifty-eight (58) questions. There is no personally identifiable information associated with the RISS. Local parent permission procedures were followed before administration, including informing parents that their child's participation was voluntary. The questions are arranged in a particular way and explore specific topic areas. The questions are also asked across several domains such as the individual, peers, family, school, and community. The RISS is offered in Spanish and English. It is an online survey that takes approximately 30 minutes or less to complete. Each student who participates in the RISS receives an informational brochure with supportive resource information.

Results of the survey are reviewed in aggregate tables, not at the individual level. The data is not meant to identify individuals. To be included in the final reports, each grade at a school needs to have at least 60% of their students complete the survey. This participation requirement further protects students from potentially being identified by the way in which they respond to the questions. It also ensures that the results are an accurate representation of the student population. RISS 2018 and 2020 survey data were compared using a two proportion z-test, which measures potential differences in proportions between two groups. Results were considered statistically significantly different if p-value < 0.05. Statistical comparisons between survey administrations (2018 vs. 2020) do not control for potential differences in participating schools.



Participation Rates*

State – 18,151 students

Region – 4,190 students

Town

Barrington – 1,748 students

Barrington Middle School – 803 out of 837 enrolled students (96%) were included in the survey

Barrington High School – 945 out of 1,122 enrolled students (84%) were included in the survey

Bristol / Warren – 1,075 students

Kickemuit Middle School – 387 out of 772 enrolled students (50%) were included in the survey

Mt. Hope High School – 688 out of 937 enrolled students (73%) were included in the survey

East Providence – 1,367 students

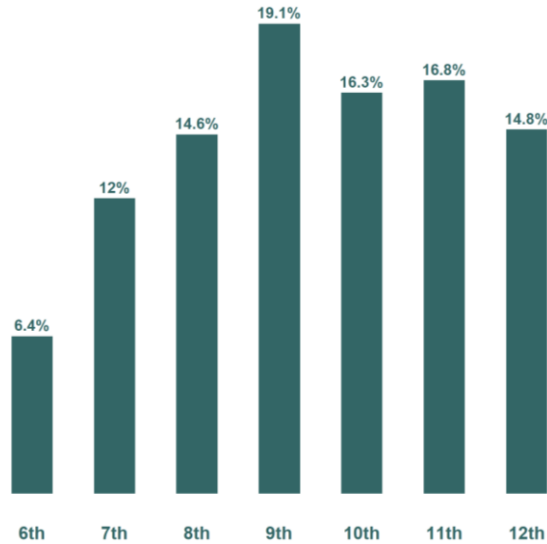
Martin Middle School – 193 out of 599 enrolled students (32%) were included in the survey

East Providence High School – 1,174 out of 1,460 enrolled students (80%) were included in the survey

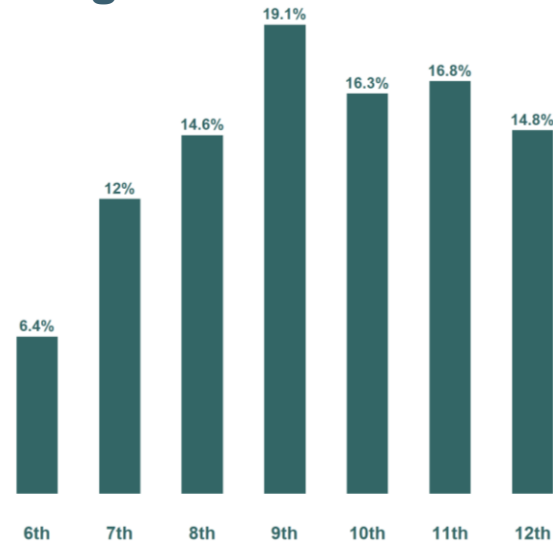


Grade

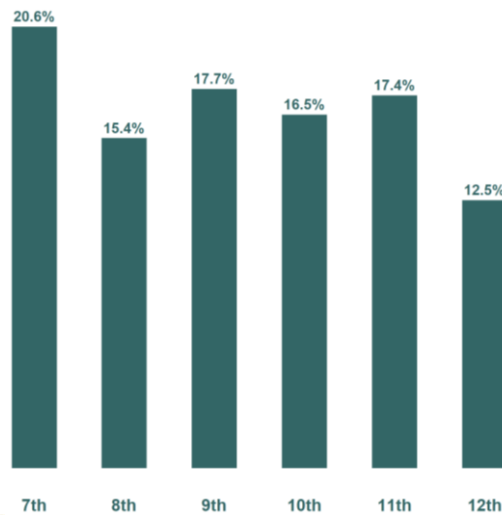
State



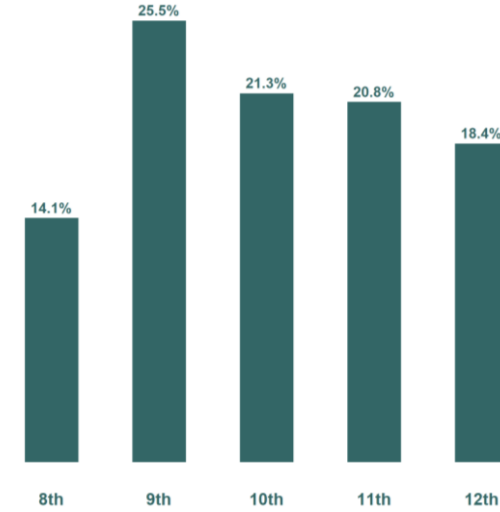
Region



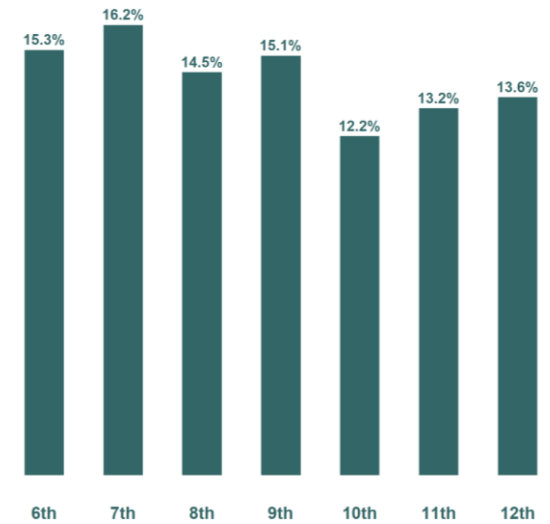
Bristol/Warren



East Providence



Barrington



† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Demographics

Sexual Orientation

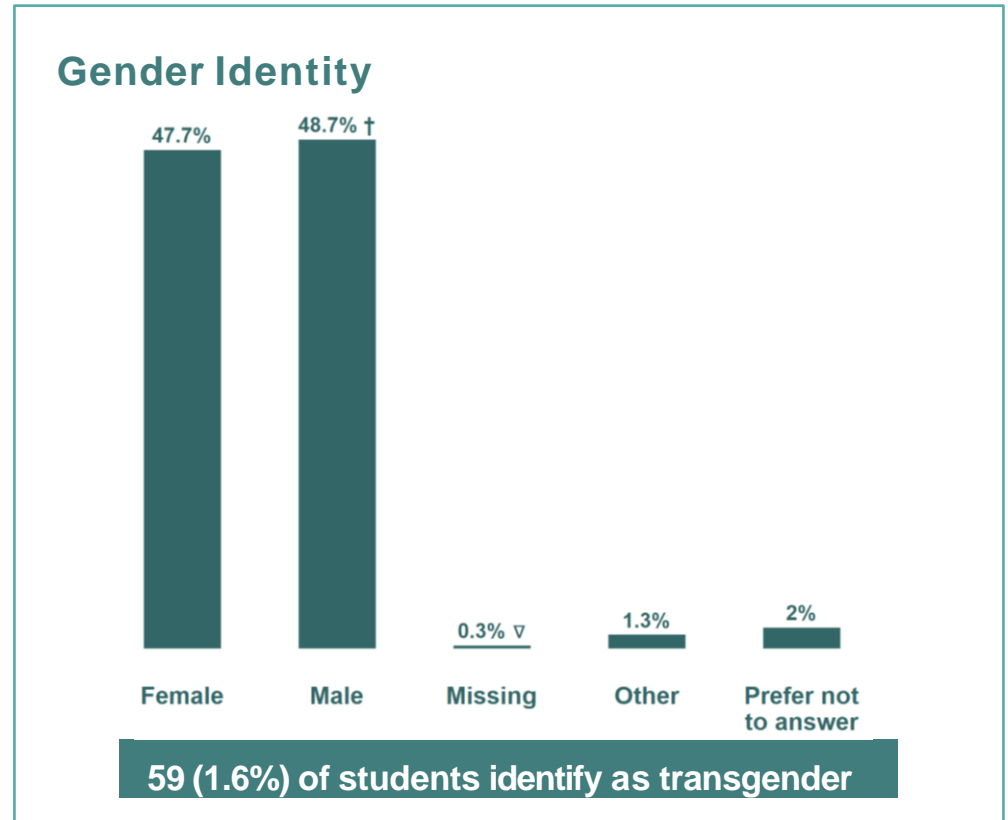
82.1% Heterosexual (straight)

8.2% Bisexual

6.5% Not sure

2.7% Gay or Lesbian

0.5% Chose not to respond ▽

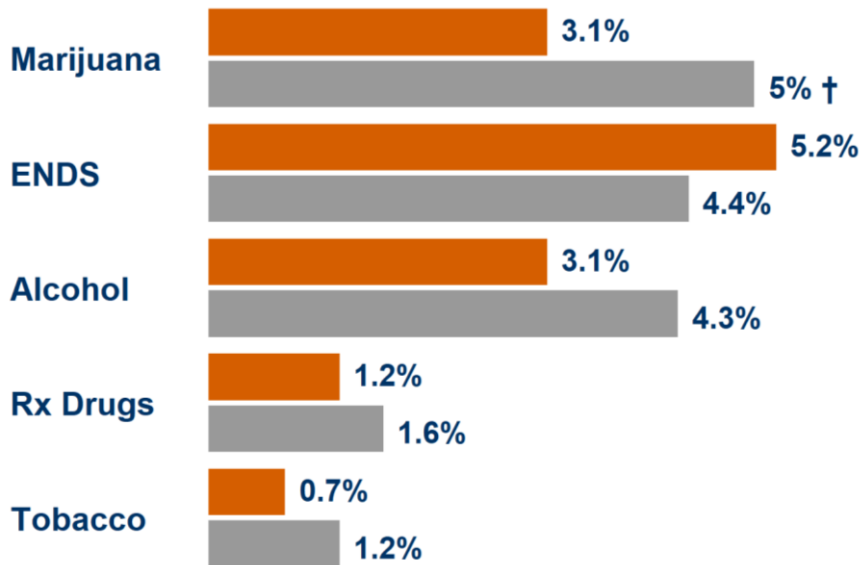


† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

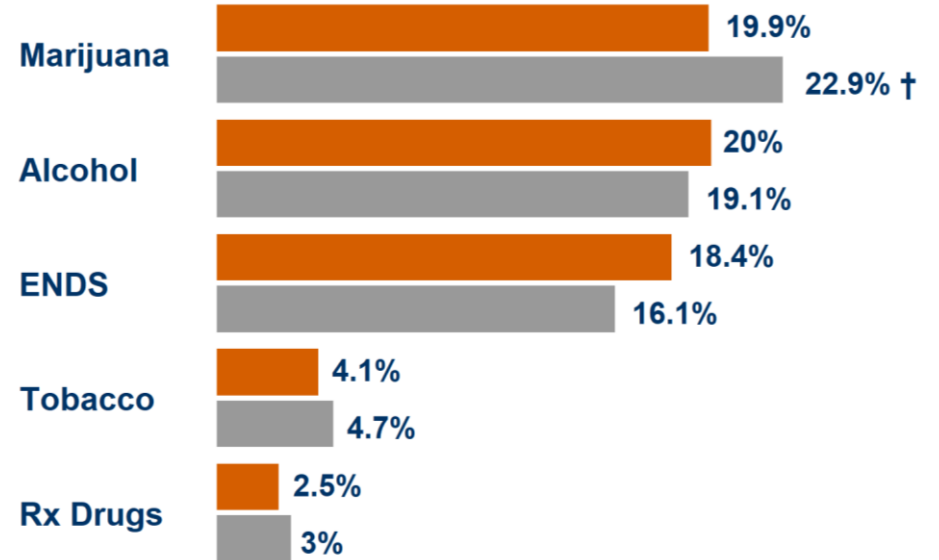
▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Substance Use

Past 30 Day Use Middle School



Past 30 Day Use High School



■ 2018 ■ 2020

Compared to 2018, there was a statistically significant increase in marijuana use among middle school and high school students.

† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

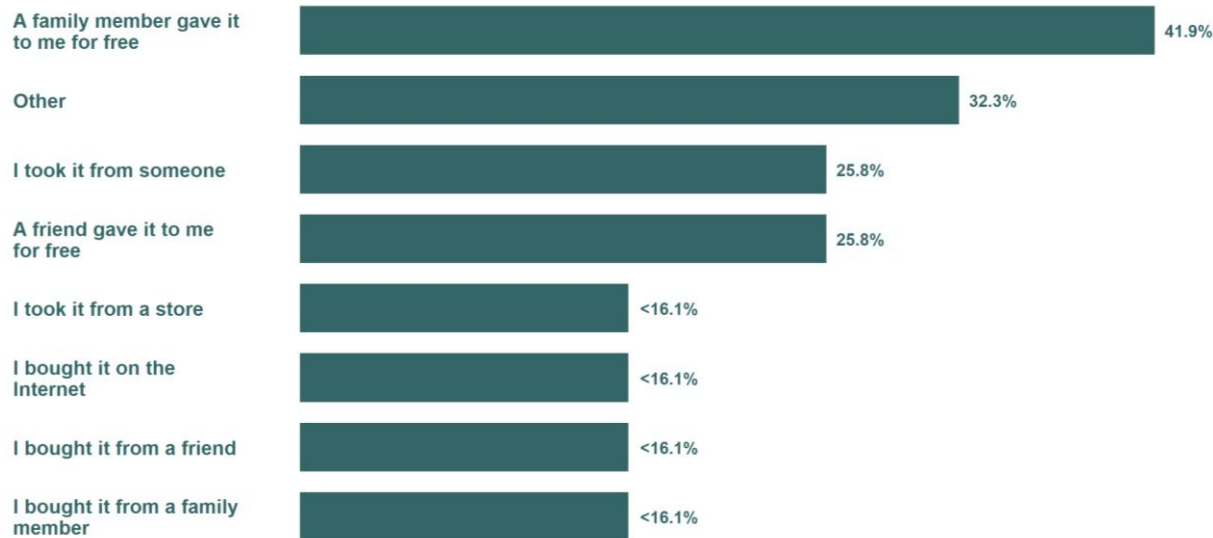
∇ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018



Access and Availability: Middle School

Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Among the 31 (2.4%) students who reported having ever used a prescription drug not prescribed for them...



Most students reported obtaining prescription drugs from a family member.

Count It! Lock It! Drop It!®



Count your pills once every two weeks. This will prevent theft and ensure that medications are taken properly.

Lock up your medications and store them in a place that others would not think to look.

Drop off unused/expired medications for proper disposal. Police departments across Rhode Island have permanent drug disposal bins.

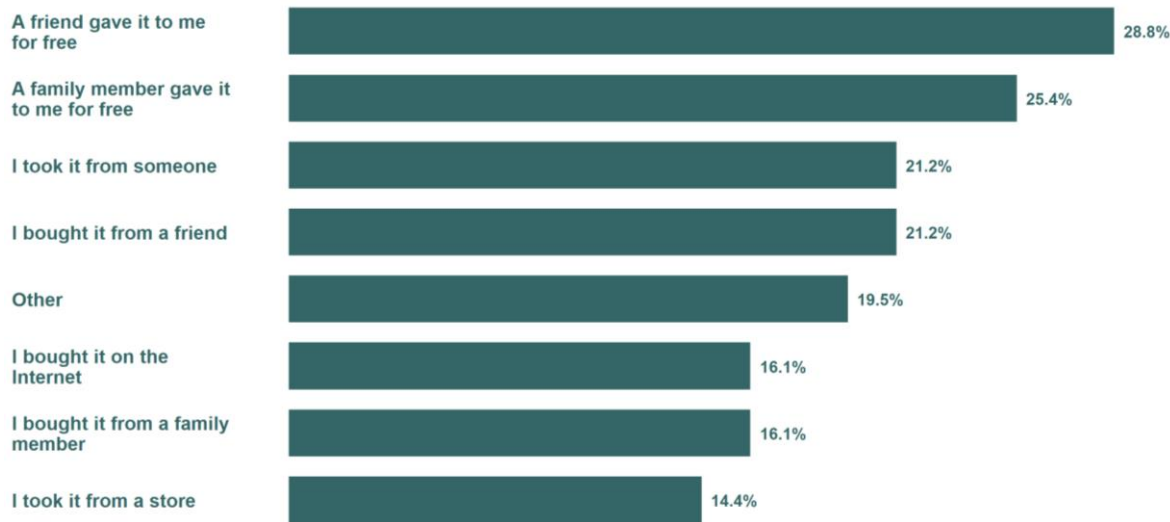


Students reporting use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them listed pain relief pills, ADHD medications, and sedatives

Access and Availability: High School

Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Among the 118 (4.9%) students who reported having ever used a prescription drug not prescribed for them...



Most students reported obtaining prescription drugs from a friend or family member.

Count It! Lock It! Drop It!®



Count your pills once every two weeks. This will prevent theft and ensure that medications are taken properly.

Lock up your medications and store them in a place that others would not think to look.

Drop off unused/expired medications for proper disposal. Police departments across Rhode Island have permanent drug disposal bins.

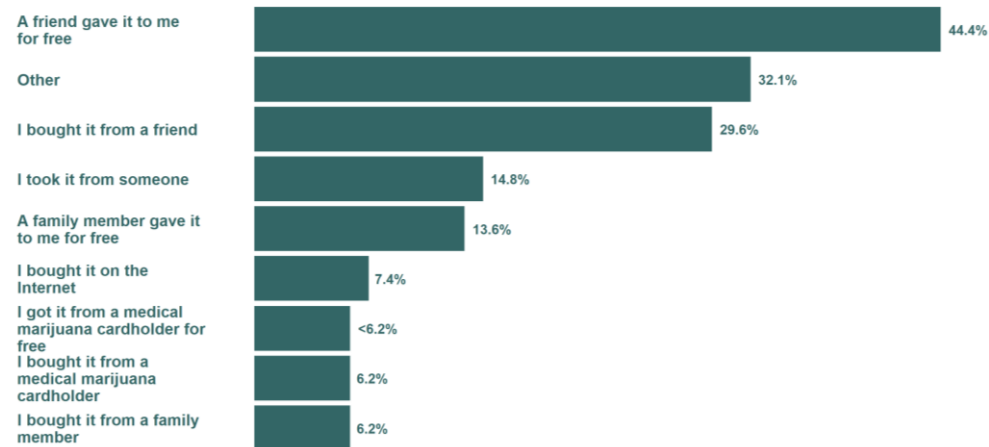


Students reporting use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them listed pain relief pills, ADHD medications, and sedatives

Access and Availability: Middle School

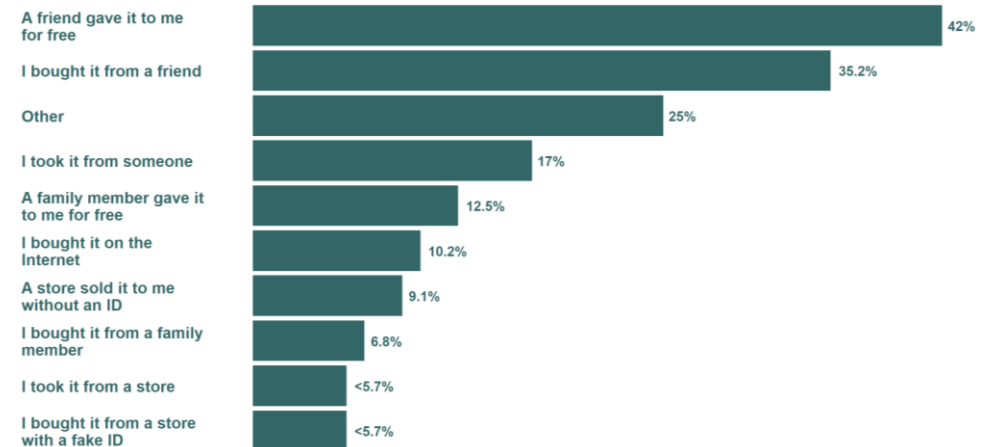
Obtaining Marijuana

Among the 81 (6.2%) students who reported having ever used marijuana...



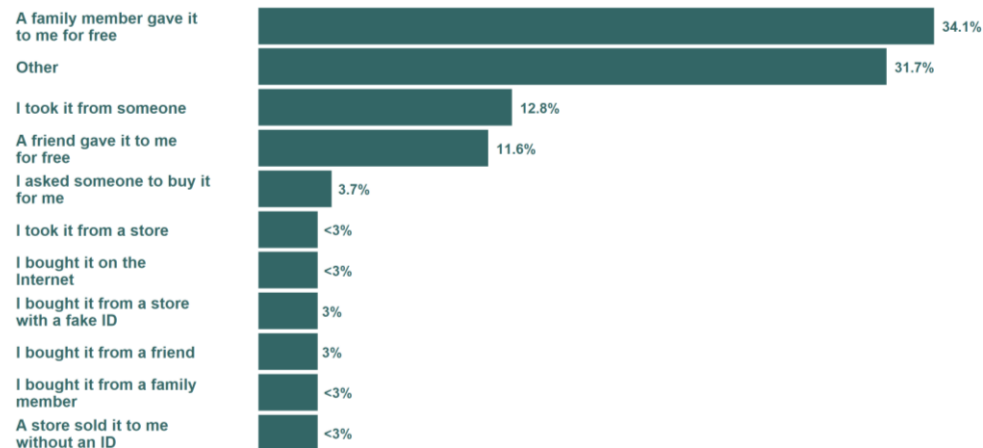
Obtaining ENDS

Among the 88 (6.7%) students who reported having ever used ENDS...



Obtaining Alcohol

Among the 164 (12.7%) students who reported having ever consumed an alcoholic beverage...



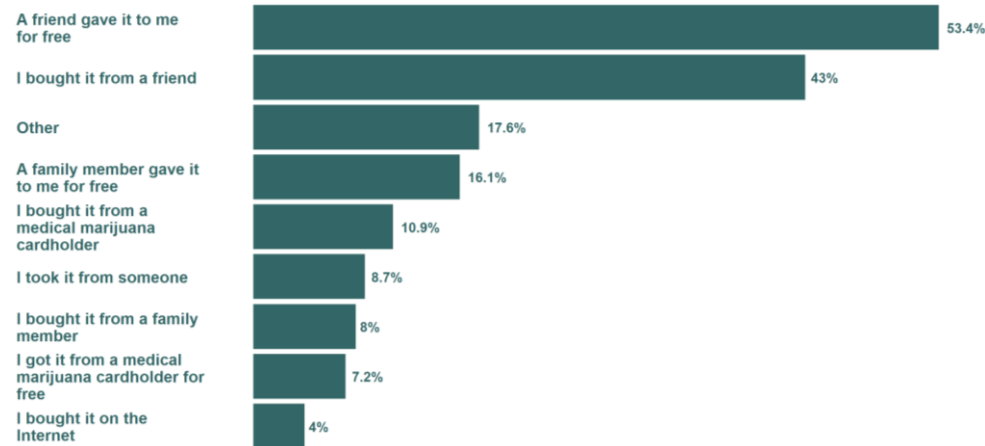
Most students reported obtaining marijuana and ENDS from a friend, and alcohol from a family member.



Access and Availability: High School

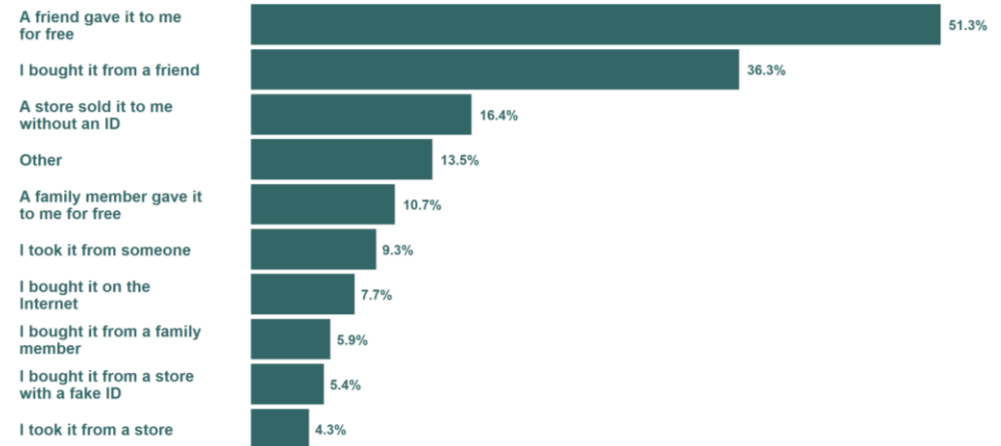
Obtaining Marijuana

Among the 865 (34.0%) students who reported having ever used marijuana...



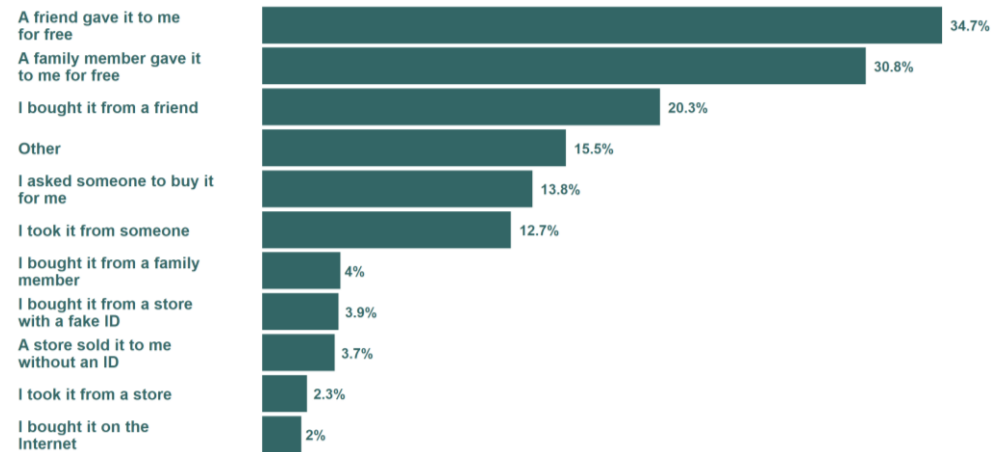
Obtaining ENDS

Among the 764 (30.6%) students who reported having ever used ENDS...



Obtaining Alcohol

Among the 998 (41.1%) students who reported having ever consumed an alcoholic beverage...



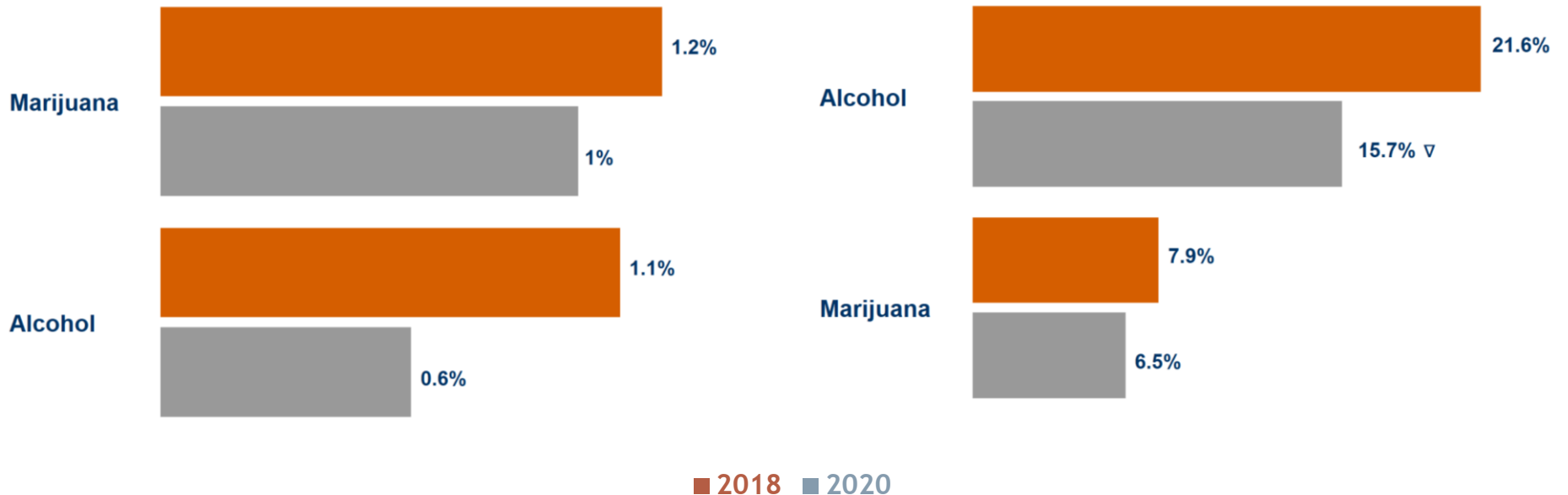
Most students reported obtaining marijuana, ENDS, and alcohol from a friend.



Under the Influence: Middle School

Percentage of students who have ever driven under the influence of:

Percentage of students who have ever been a passenger in a vehicle driven by someone under the influence of:

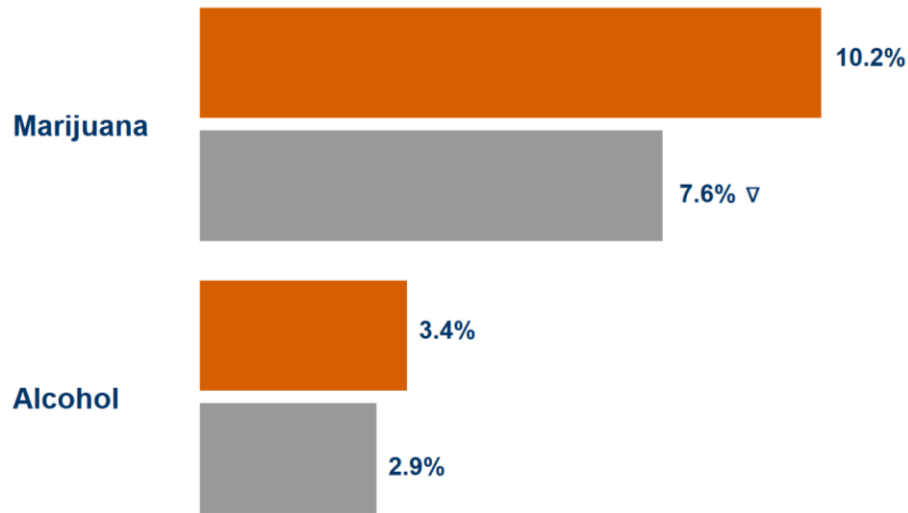


† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018
▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Compared to 2018, there was a decrease in students who have ever driven or been a passenger in a vehicle of someone under the influence of marijuana or alcohol.

Under the Influence: High School

Percentage of students who have ever driven under the influence of:



Percentage of students who have ever been a passenger in a vehicle driven by someone under the influence of:



■ 2018 ■ 2020

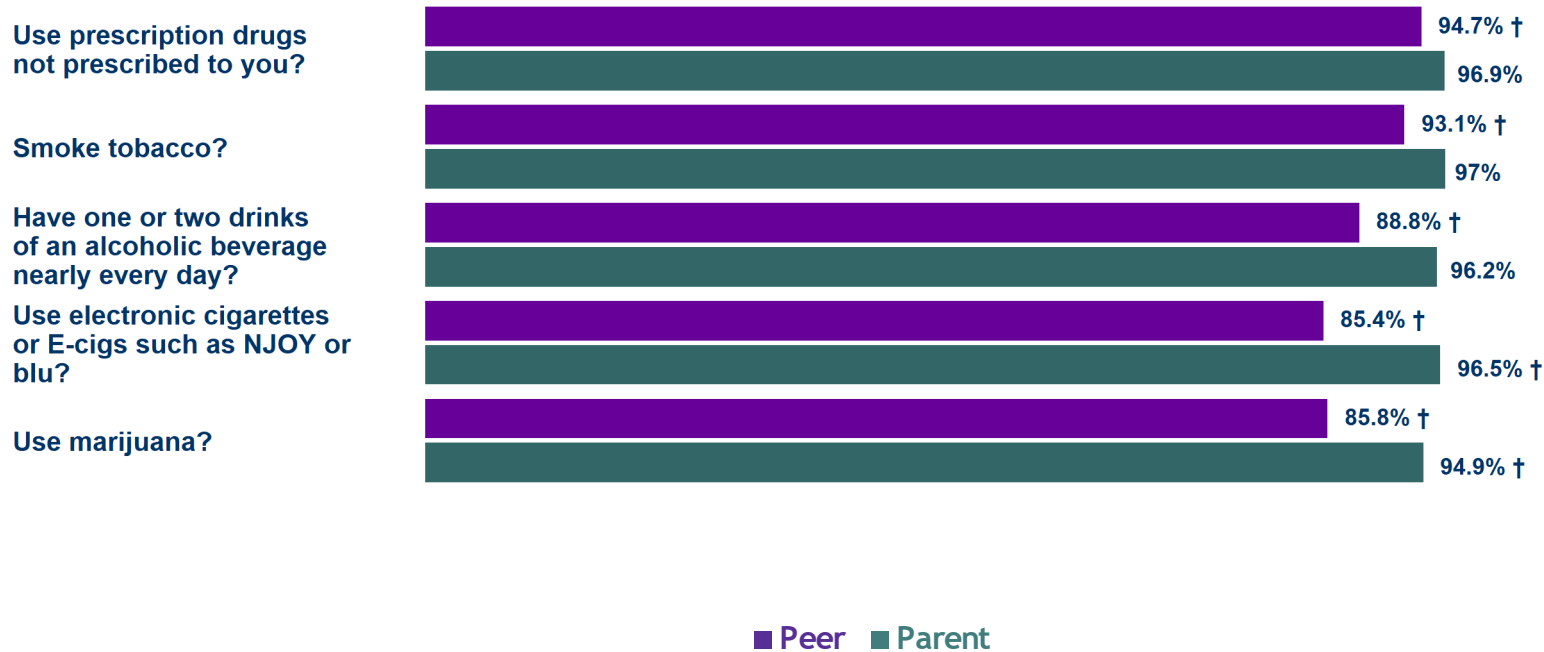
† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Compared to 2018, there was a statistically significant decrease in students who have ever driven under the influence of marijuana.

Parent & Peer Disapproval: Middle School

Percentage of students who believe parents/peers would disapprove of the following:



† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

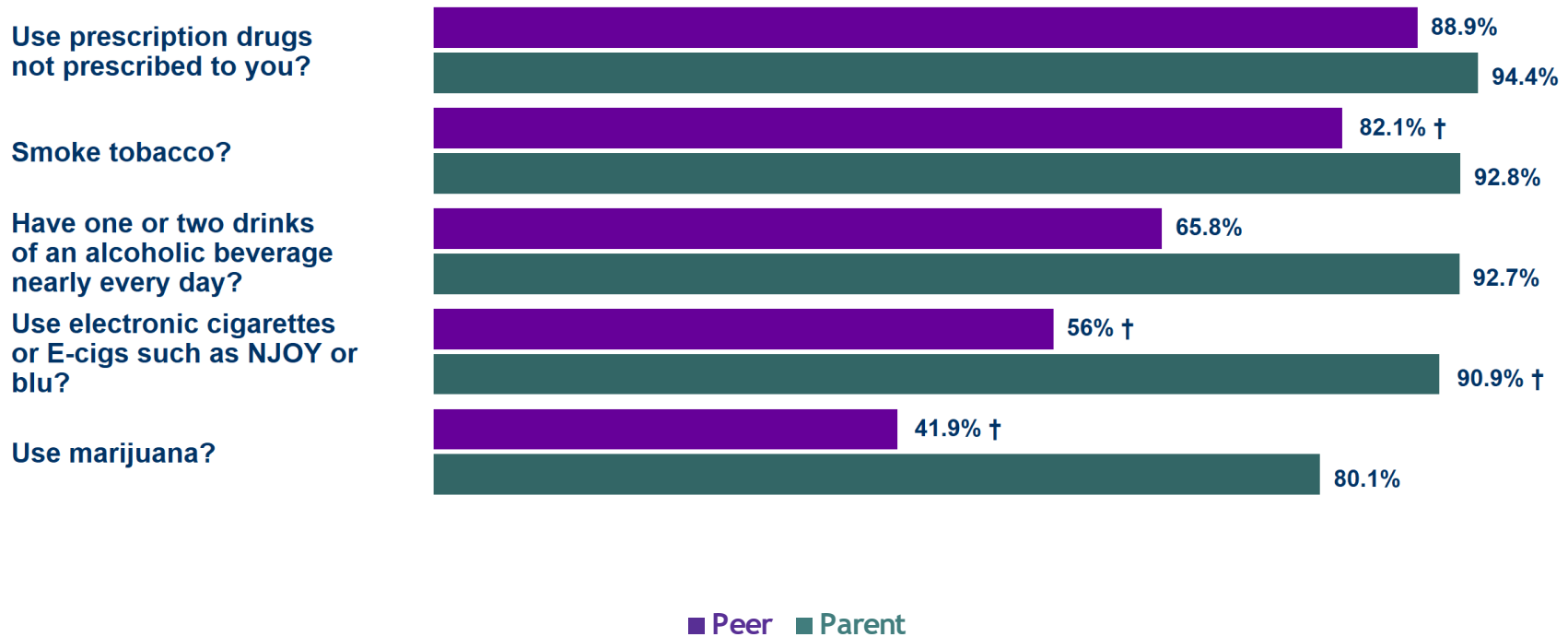
▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Parents are the most powerful influence on their children when it comes to preventing alcohol and other drug misuse. **Talk early, talk often, listen.**



Parent & Peer Disapproval: High School

Percentage of students who believe parents/peers would disapprove of the following:



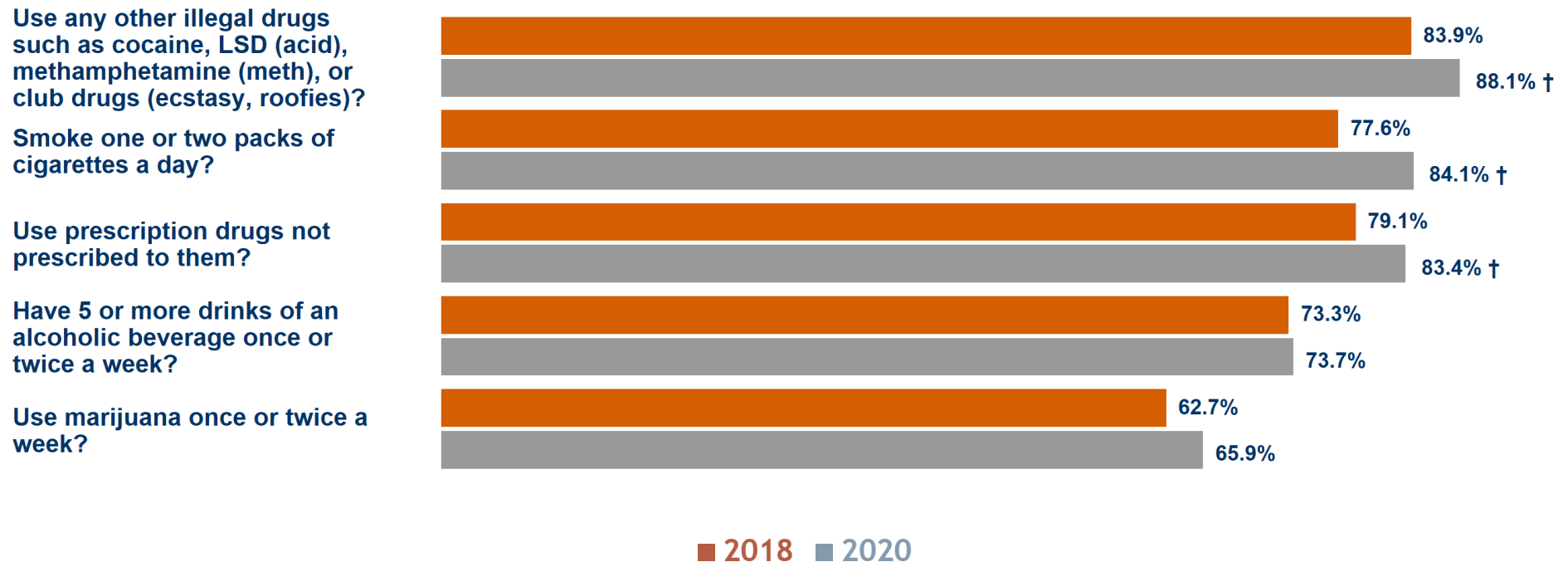
† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Parents are the most powerful influence on their children when it comes to preventing alcohol and other drug misuse. **Talk early, talk often, listen.**

Perception of Risk: Middle School

Percentage of students who agree that people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:



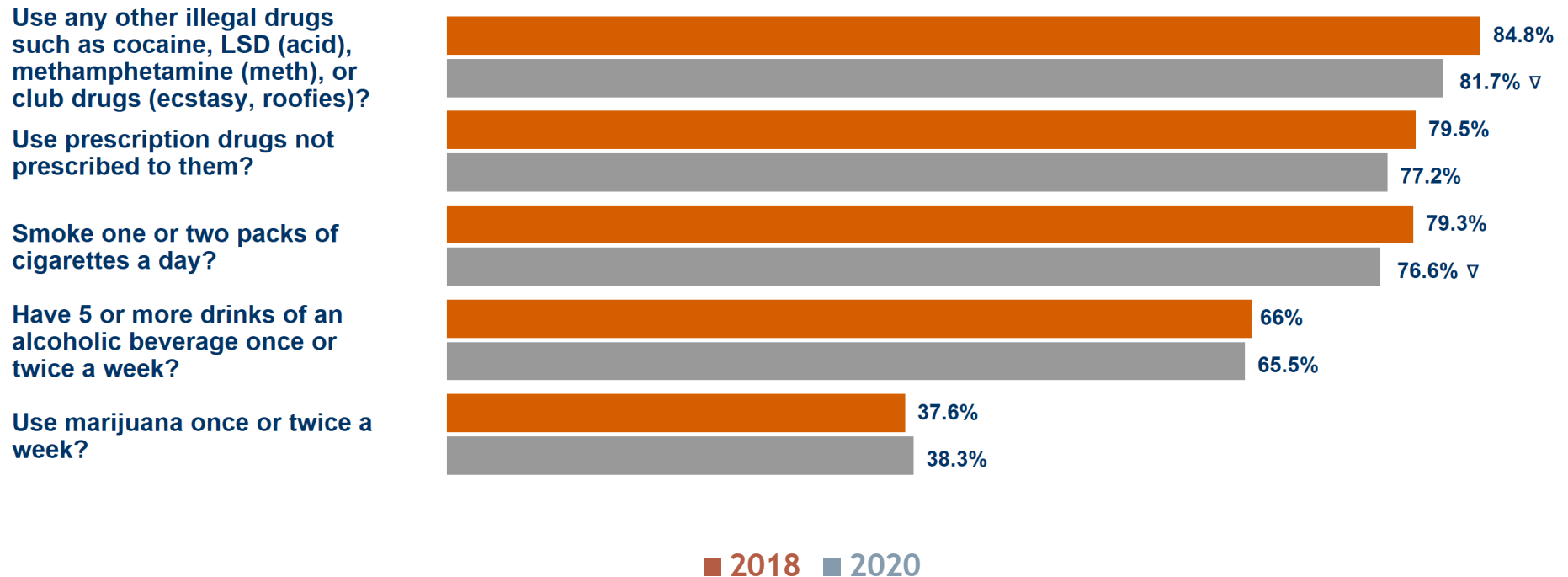
† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Students considered marijuana use to be less risky compared to other substances.

Perception of Risk: High School

Percentage of students who agree that people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:



† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

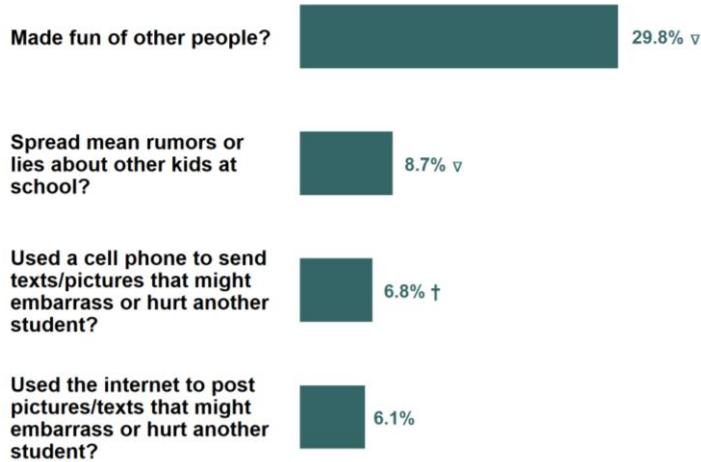
▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Students considered marijuana use to be less risky compared to other substances.

Bullying: Middle School

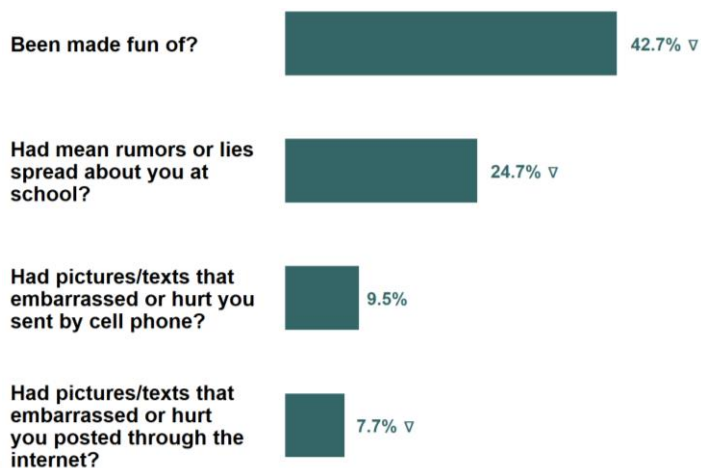
Bullying (Perpetrated)

At least once in the last 3 months...



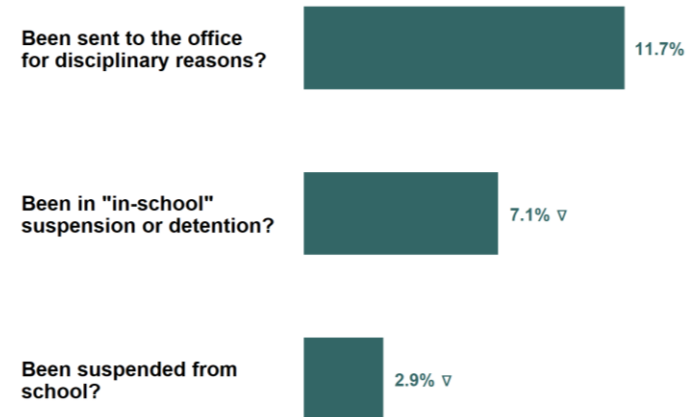
Bullied (Experienced)

At least once in the last 3 months...



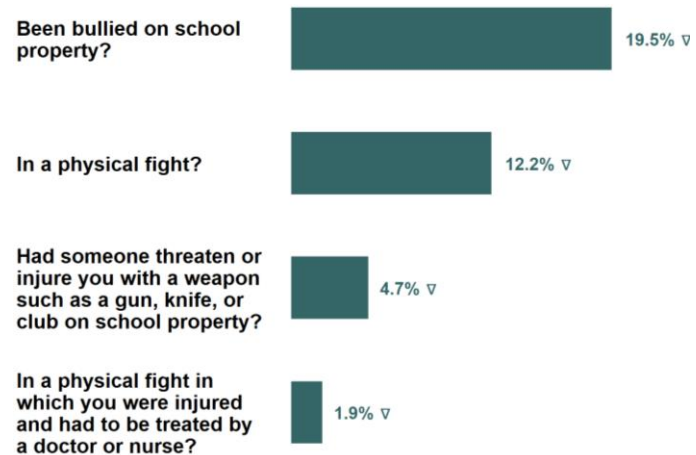
Disciplinary action

At least once in the last 3 months...



Physical Violence

At least once in the last year...



↑ Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

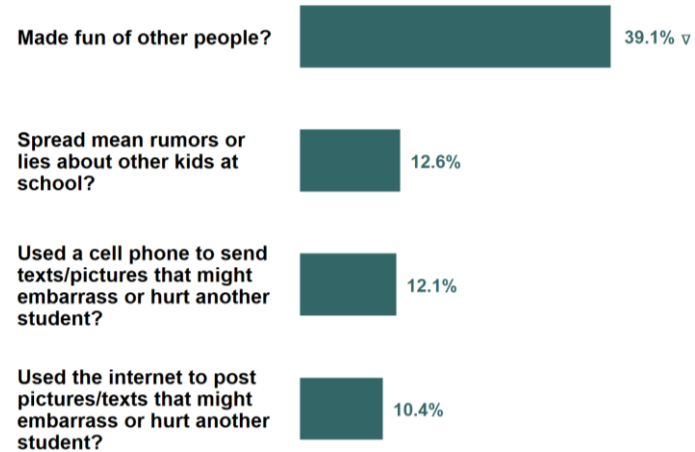


There was a statistically significant decrease in experiences related to bullying, being bullied, disciplinary action and physical violence.

Bullying: High School

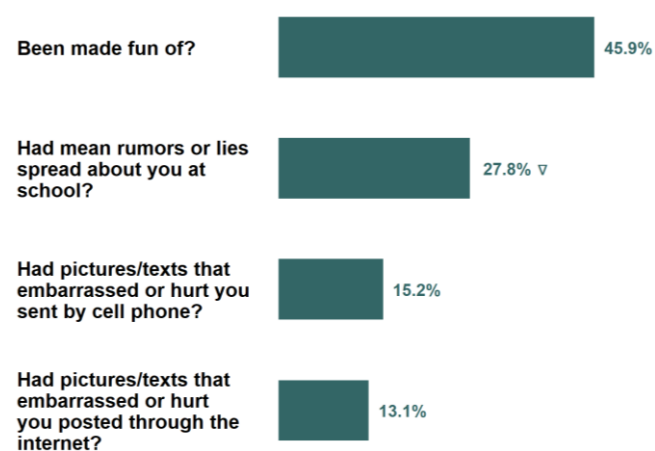
Bullying (Perpetrated)

At least once in the last 3 months...



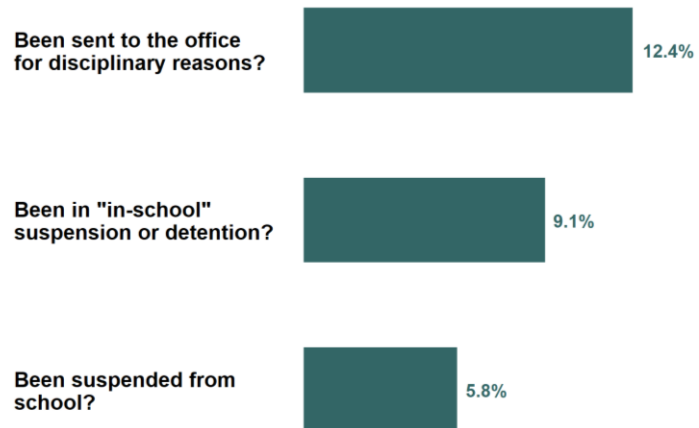
Bullied (Experienced)

At least once in the last 3 months...



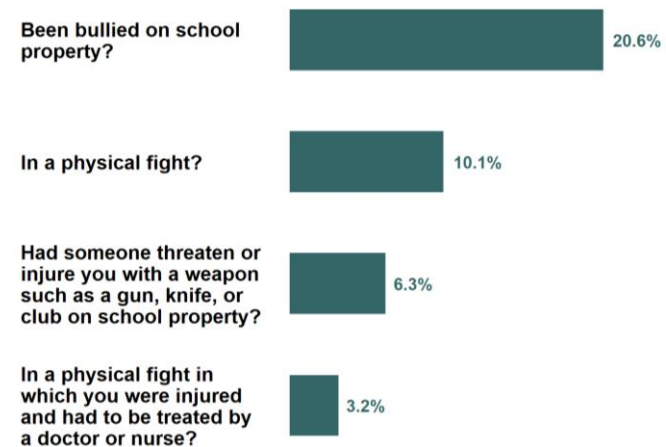
Disciplinary action

At least once in the last 3 months...



Physical Violence

At least once in the last year...



† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

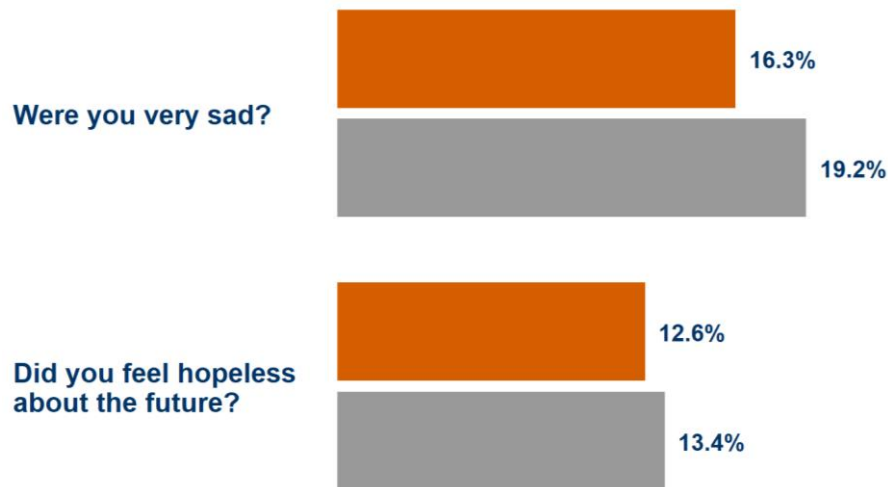


At least 40% of students reported either making fun of other people or being made fun of at school.

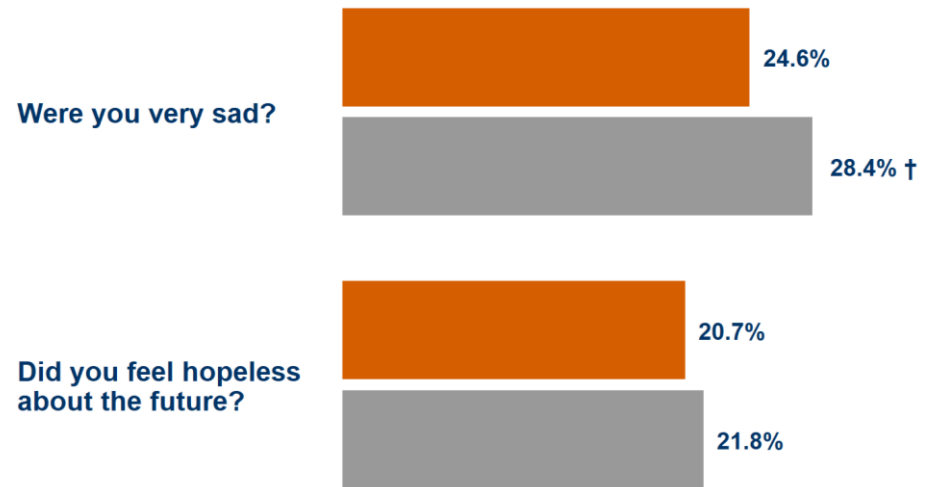
Mental Health

In the last 30 days...

Middle School



High School



■ 2018 ■ 2020

† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

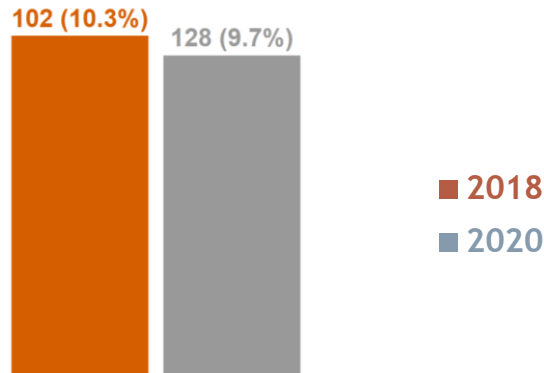
▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Compared to 2018, there was an increase in negative feelings surrounding mental health among middle school students, and a statistically significant increase in high school students who reported feeling very sad.

Mental Health: Middle School

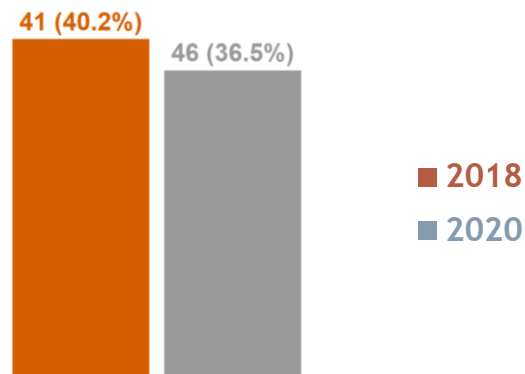
Among all students...

Number of students who have ever considered attempting suicide



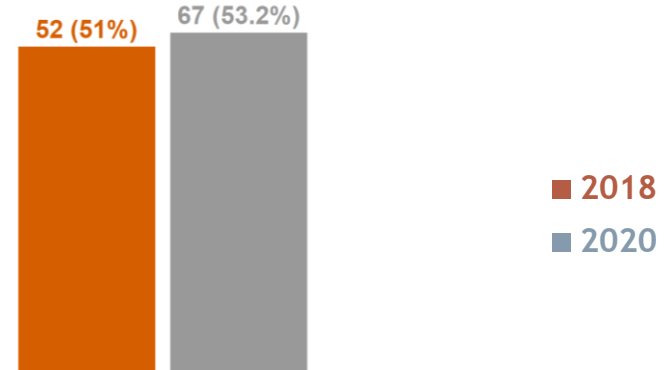
Among students who have ever considered attempting suicide...

Number of students who have ever attempted suicide



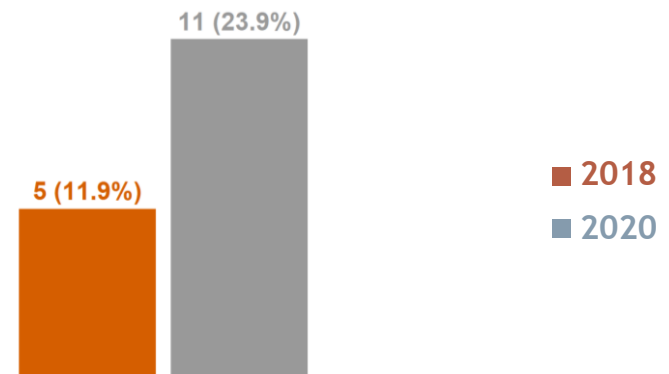
Among students who have ever considered attempting suicide...

Number of students who have ever made a plan about how they would attempt suicide



Among students who have ever attempted suicide...

Number of students who have ever attempted suicide which resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse



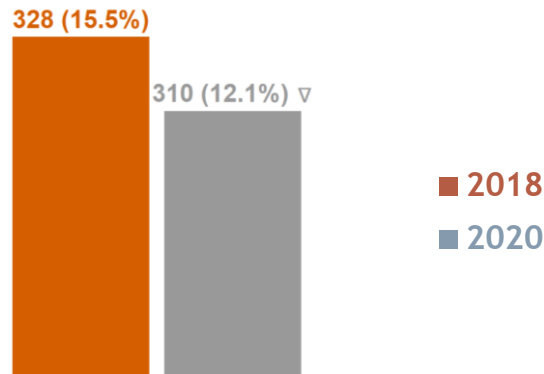
† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

∇ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Mental Health: High School

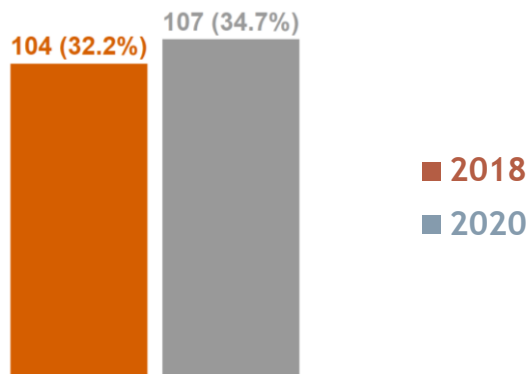
Among all students...

Number of students who have ever considered attempting suicide



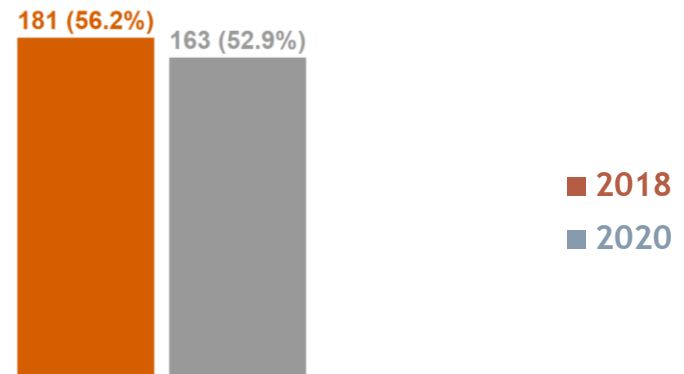
Among students who have ever considered attempting suicide...

Number of students who have ever attempted suicide



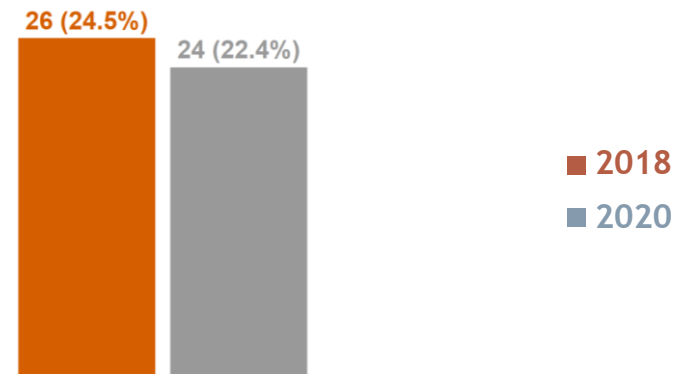
Among students who have ever considered attempting suicide...

Number of students who have ever made a plan about how they would attempt suicide



Among students who have ever attempted suicide...

Number of students who have ever attempted suicide which resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse



† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Thank you!

The Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals would like to acknowledge the cooperation and effort of all the schools and students who participate in the Rhode Island Student Survey each administration year.



Dan McKee
Governor



Womazetta Jones
Secretary



Richard Charest
Director



Dr. Nicole Alexander-
Scott
Director



Angelica Infante-Green
Commissioner,
RI Department of Education



Resource List

Substance Misuse

- ❖ health.ri.gov/tobacco
- ❖ riprevention.org
- ❖ <https://cadyinc.org/resources/get-the-facts/keeping-your-child-safe-around-prom-and-graduation-time/>
- ❖ <https://www.riprc.org/>
- ❖ <http://tobaccofree-ri.org/smoke-free-school-policy.htm>
- ❖ <http://tobaccofree-ri.org/local-ordinances.htm>
- ❖ <https://www.alcohol.org/teens/binge-drinking/>
- ❖ https://www.riprc.org/elearning/marijuana_adolescent_brain/#/
- ❖ https://www.riprc.org/elearning/e-cigarettes/#/?_k=m4kq44
- ❖ <https://bhddh.ri.gov/prevention/prescription-drug-disposal-sites>
- ❖ <https://bhddh.ri.gov/substance-use/addiction/individual-and-family-information/help-opioid-dependence/community-based>

Bullying

- ❖ stopbullying.gov
- ❖ <https://www.glad.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ride-transgender-students-guidance-6-7-16.pdf>
- ❖ https://www.ride.ri.gov/studentsfamilies/healthsafety/_social-emotional-learning.aspx
- ❖ https://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/_SchoolMentalWellnessResources.aspx
- ❖ https://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/_BullyingSchoolViolence.aspx

Behavioral Health Crises/Depression/Suicidal Ideation

- ❖ <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>

- ❖ <https://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/EmergencyPreparedness.asp>
- ❖ <http://bit.ly/2LhcuUx>
- ❖ changedirection.org
- ❖ <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfywK0KYI9wcTIHkciK5tI5Qp5hOHgRicISnjuJGwRGgqjVaQ/viewform>
- ❖ https://projectchildsafes.org/safety_kit_site/?safety_kit_state=rhode-island
- ❖ <https://health.ri.gov/violence/about/suicide/>
- ❖ <https://www.bhlink.org/>
- ❖ <https://learningforquality.org/login/>

Business

- ❖ <http://riprc.org>
- ❖ <https://recoveryfriendlyri.com/>
- ❖ <https://rrforum.org/>
- ❖ <http://tobaccofree-ri.org/policy-briefs.htm>
- ❖ <https://www.bhlink.org/>

Education

- ❖ health.ri.gov/tobacco
- ❖ <https://cadyinc.org/resources/get-the-facts/keeping-your-child-safe-around-prom-and-graduation-time/>
- ❖ <https://www.glad.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ride-transgender-students-guidance-6-7-16.pdf>
- ❖ <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>
- ❖ <http://ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/EmergencyPreparedness.aspx>
- ❖ <http://bit.ly/2LhcuUx>
- ❖ changedirection.org



Resource List

- ❖ <http://tobaccofree-ri.org/smoke-free-school-policy.htm>
- ❖ <https://www.bhlink.org/>
- ❖ https://www.ride.ri.gov/studentsfamilies/healthsafety/_socialemotionalllearning.aspx
- ❖ https://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/_SchoolMentalWellnessResources.aspx

Safety

- ❖ health.ri.gov/tobacco
- ❖ <https://www.riprc.org/>
- ❖ <https://www.bhlink.org/>

Medical/Health

- ❖ <https://www.riprc.org/>
- ❖ <https://www.bhlink.org/>

Government

- ❖ <https://www.bhlink.org/>

Community/Family Supports

- ❖ DrugFree.org
- ❖ <http://riprc.org>
- ❖ https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/dating-matters-toolkit/?deliveryName=USCDC_1104-DM9553#/
- ❖ <https://learningforquality.org/login/>
- ❖ <https://strengtheningfamiliesri.blogspot.com/>
- ❖ <https://www.resthelps.org/>
- ❖ <https://www.bhlink.org/>