



2020 Rhode Island Student Survey

South County
Prevention
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 6 South County school districts throughout Rhode Island, and all met the threshold. In total, the RISS was completed by 2,099 students and 6 school districts (Block Island, Chariho, Narragansett, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Westerly) were included. **51% of the students completed the RISS pre-COVID-19 statewide school shutdown and 49% 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.

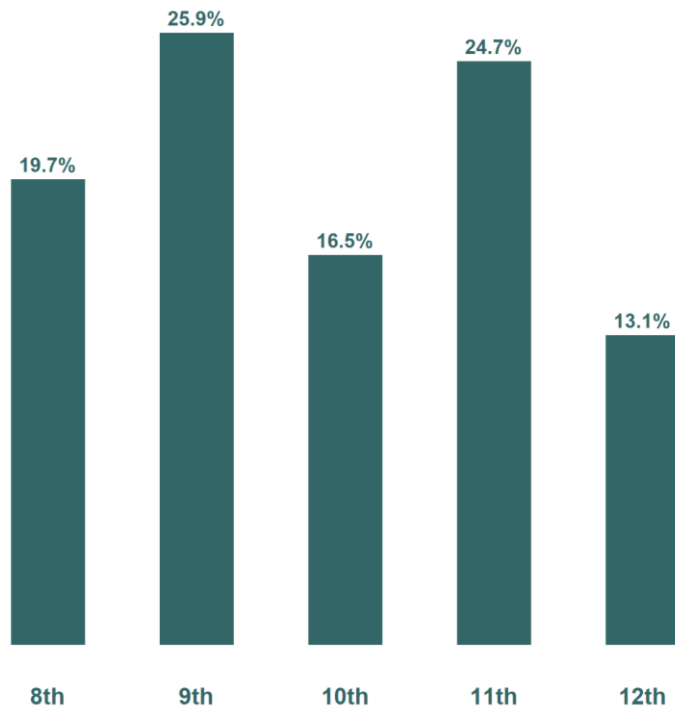


Demographics

2,099 Students participated
In the survey*

Grade

9th and 11th grade had the most responses



*Number of students surveyed from South County school districts listed on page 2.

Sexual Orientation

80.6% Heterosexual (straight) ▽

10.0% Bisexual †

6.1% Not sure

2.7% Gay or Lesbian

0.7% Chose not to respond ▽

† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Gender Identity

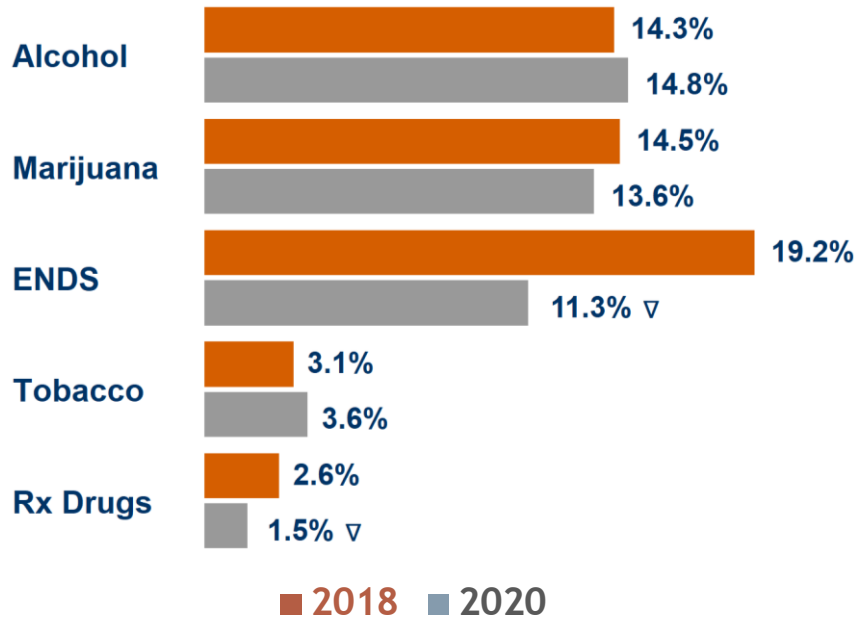


32 (1.5%) of students identify as transgender

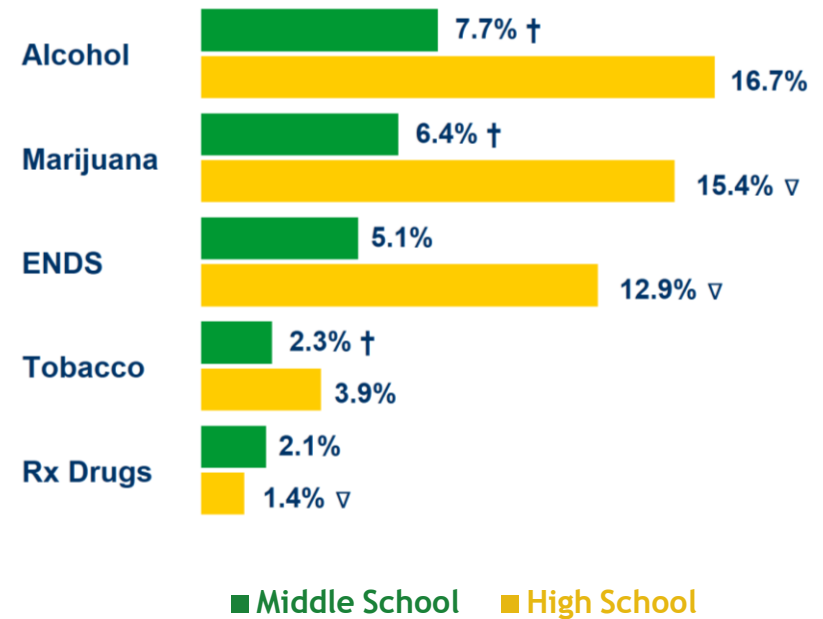


Substance Use

Past 30 Day Use by Substance and Year



Past 30 Day Use by Substance and Year (Middle School vs. High School)



Compared to 2018, there was a statistically significant decrease in use of prescription drugs and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), also known as e-cigarettes or vape pens or devices.

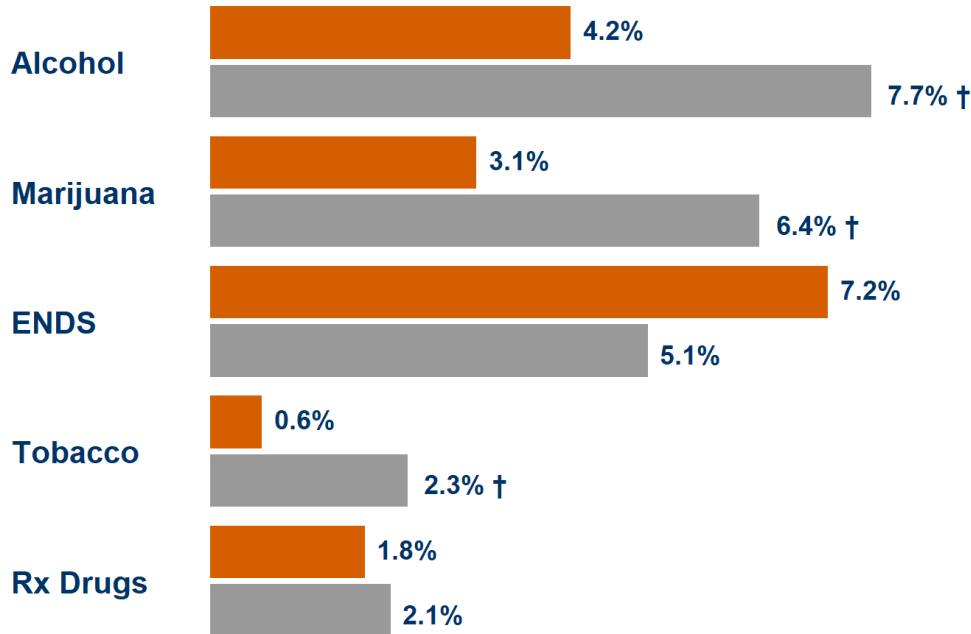
† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

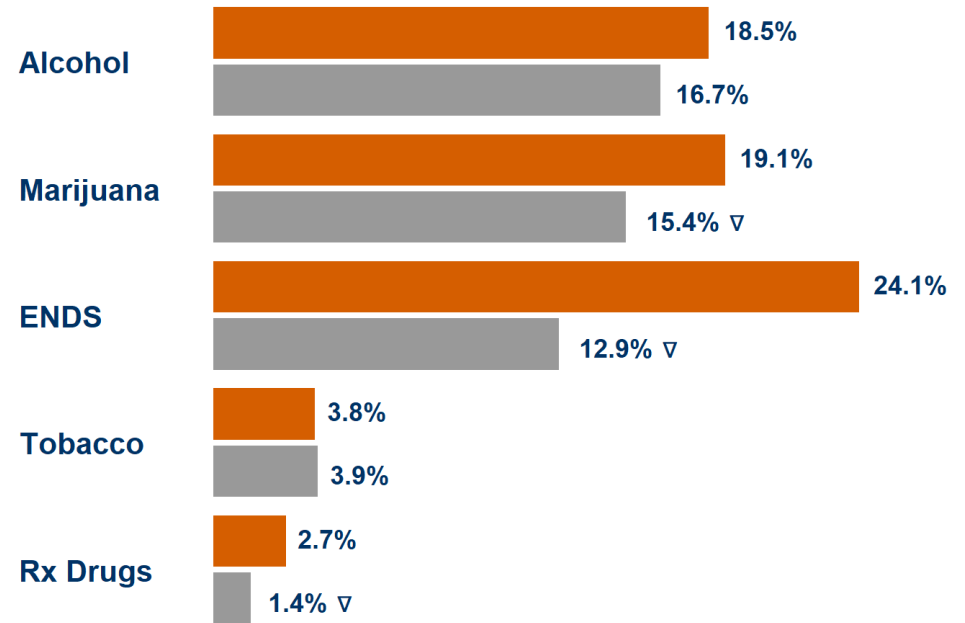


Substance Use by School Level

Past 30 Day Use Middle School



Past 30 Day Use High School



■ 2018 ■ 2020

† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

∇ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

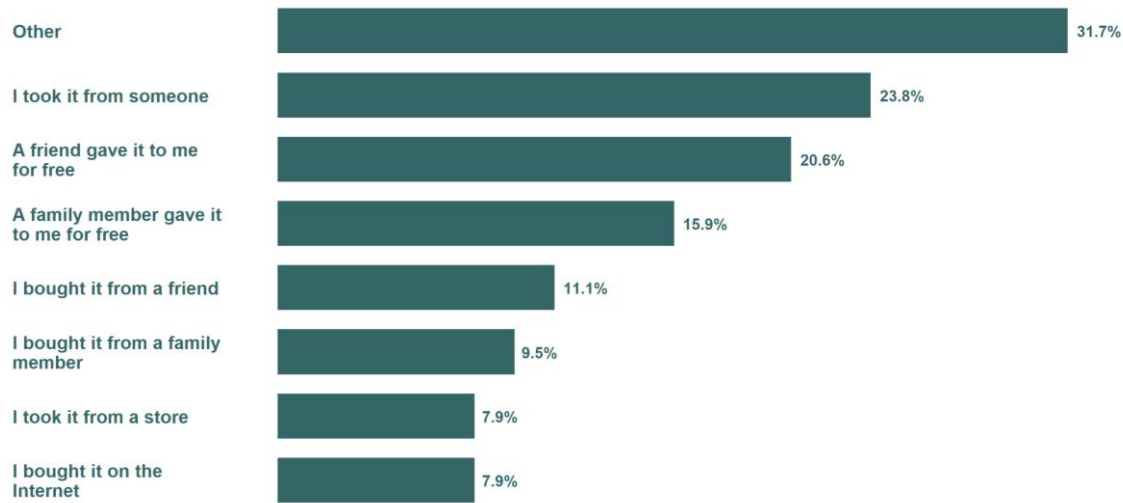
Compared to 2018, alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco use increased among middle school students, while marijuana, prescription drug, and ENDS use decreased among high school students.



Access and Availability

Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Among the 63 (3.4%) students who reported having ever used a prescription drug not prescribed for them...



Most students reported obtaining prescription drugs from another source.

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.

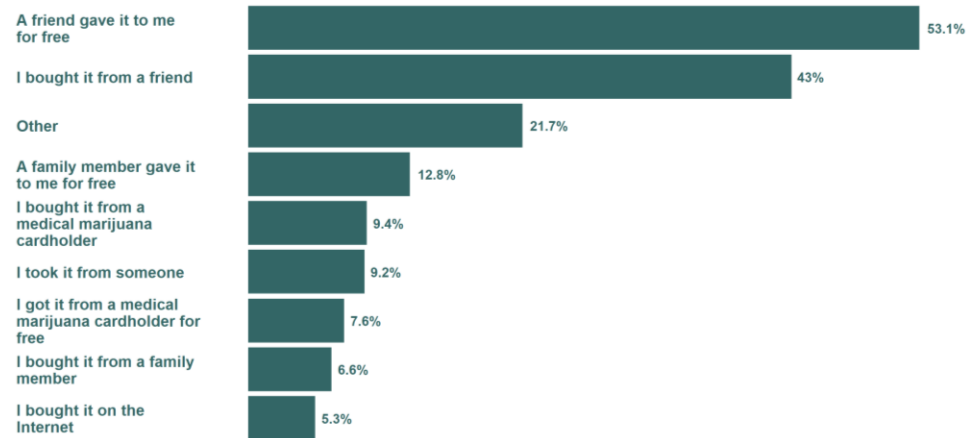


Students reporting use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them listed pain relief pills, ADHD medications, and sedatives

Access and Availability

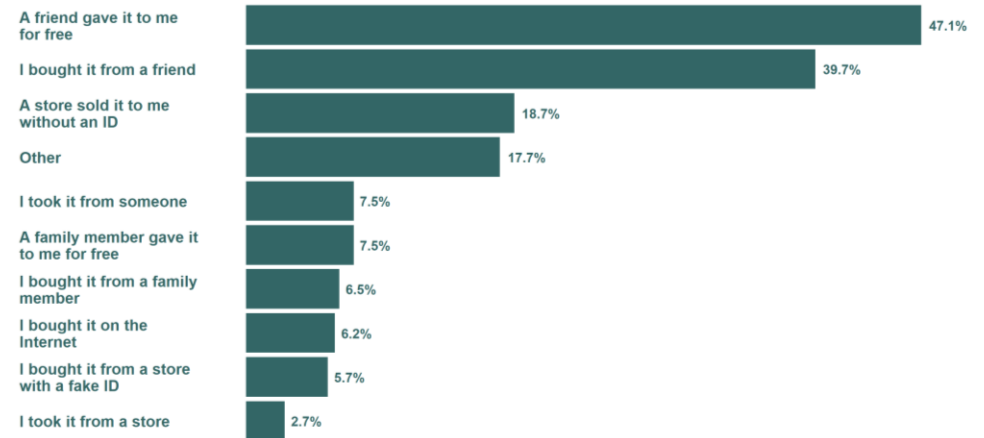
Obtaining Marijuana

Among the 437 (22.4%) students who reported having ever used marijuana...



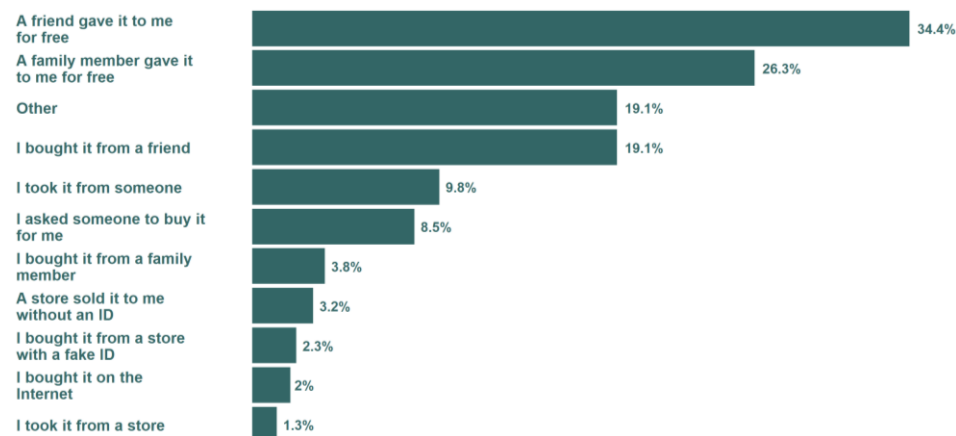
Obtaining ENDS

Among the 401 (20.9%) students who reported having ever used ENDS...



Obtaining Alcohol

Among the 601 (31.8%) students who reported having ever consumed an alcoholic beverage...

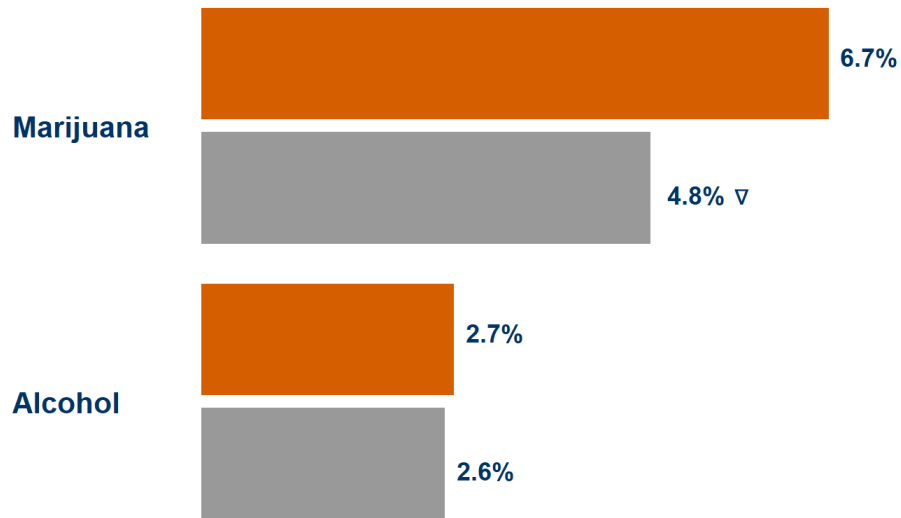


Most students reported obtaining marijuana, ENDS, and alcohol from a friend.

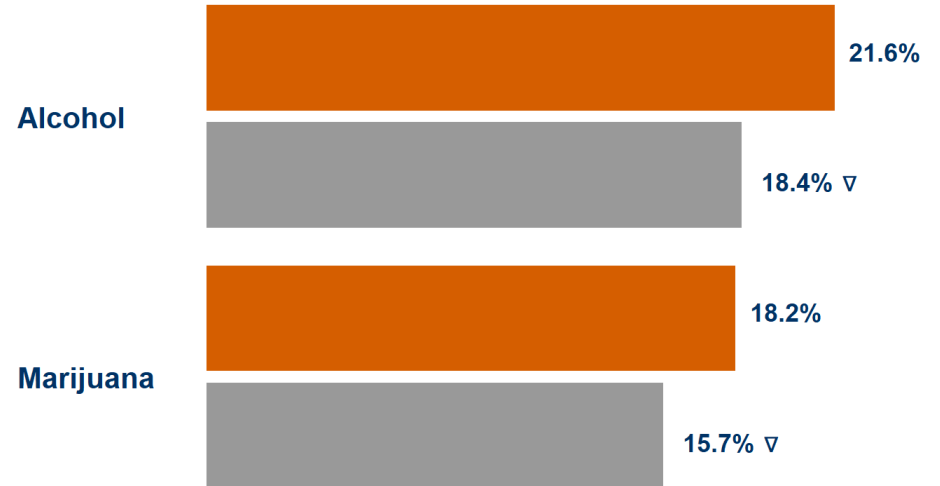


Under the Influence

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

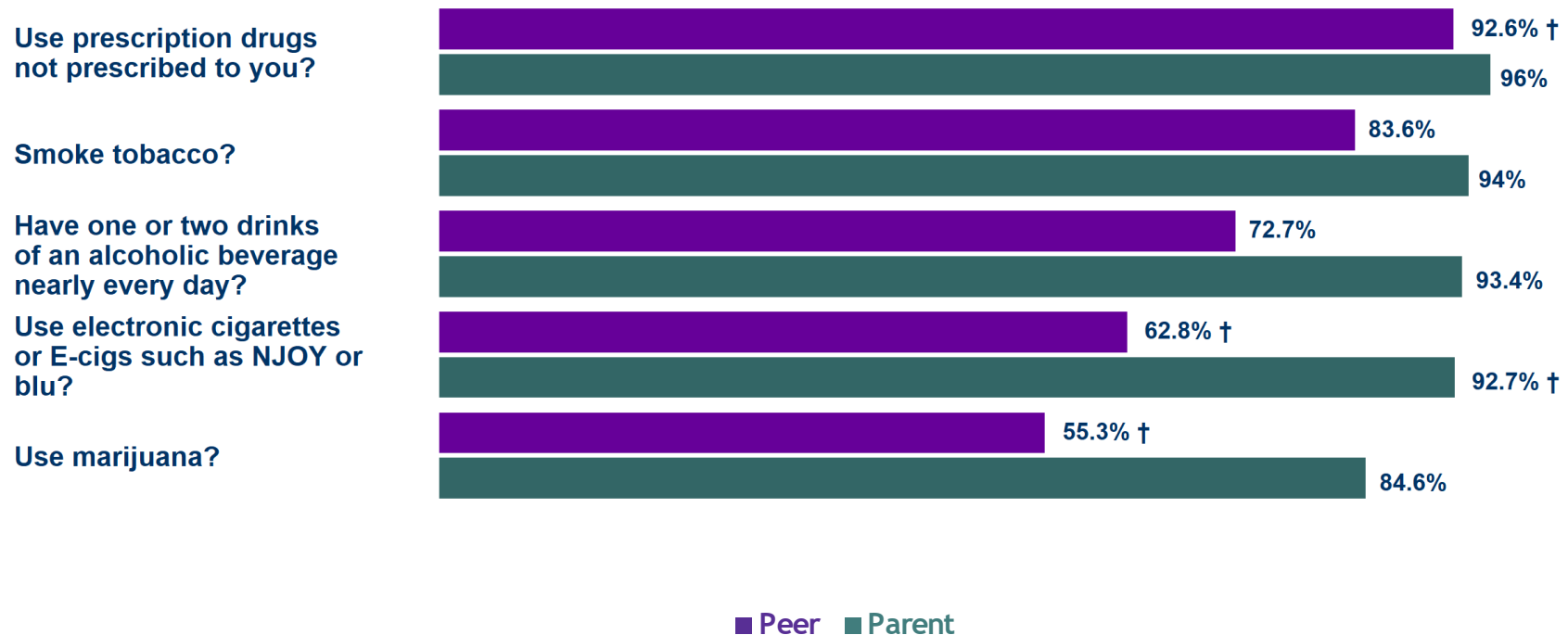
† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▽ 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 or ever been a passenger in a vehicle of someone under the influence of alcohol or marijuana.

Parent & Peer Disapproval

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



† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

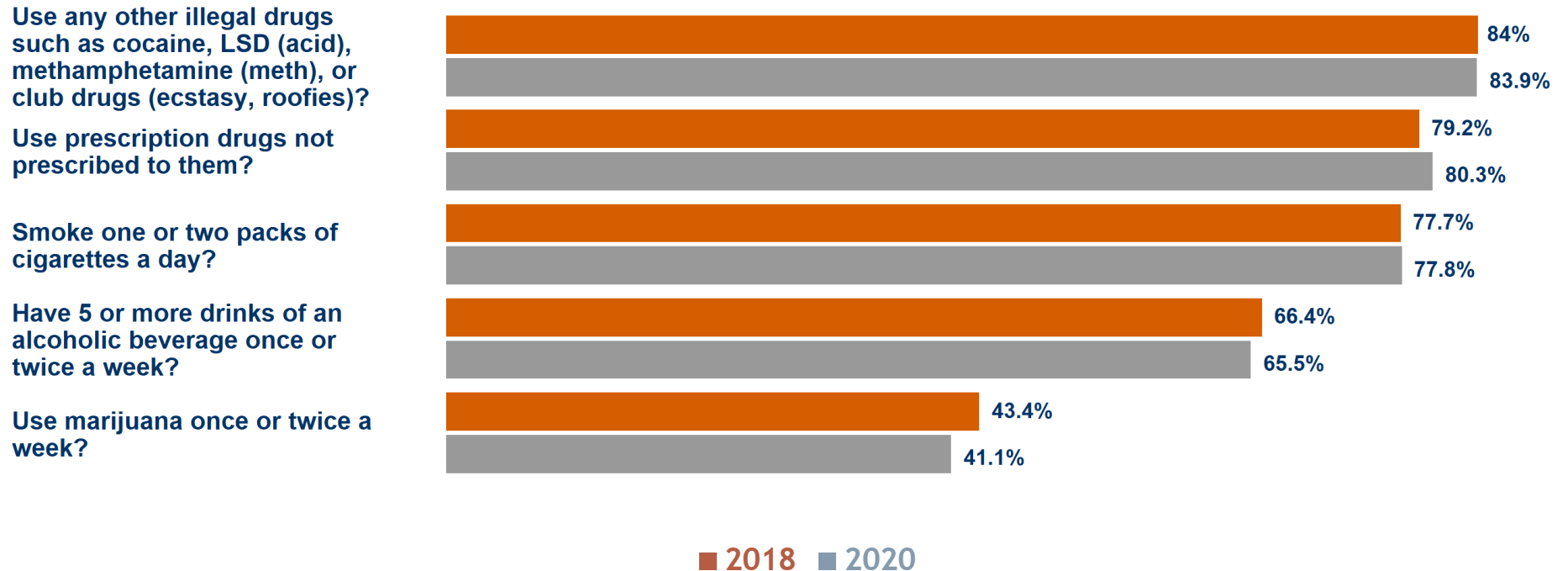
∇ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

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

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

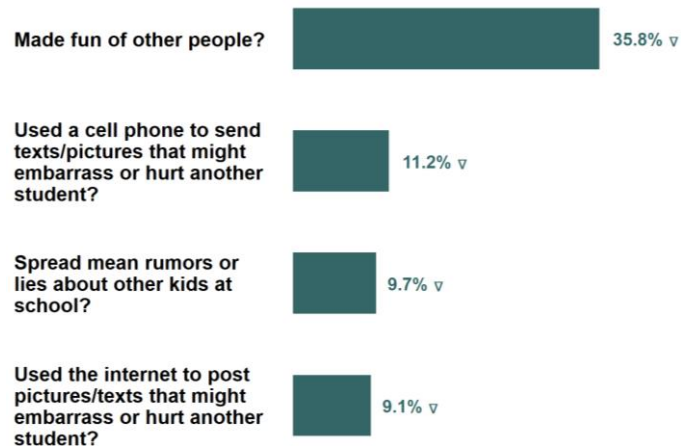
Students considered marijuana use to be less risky compared to other substances.



Bullying

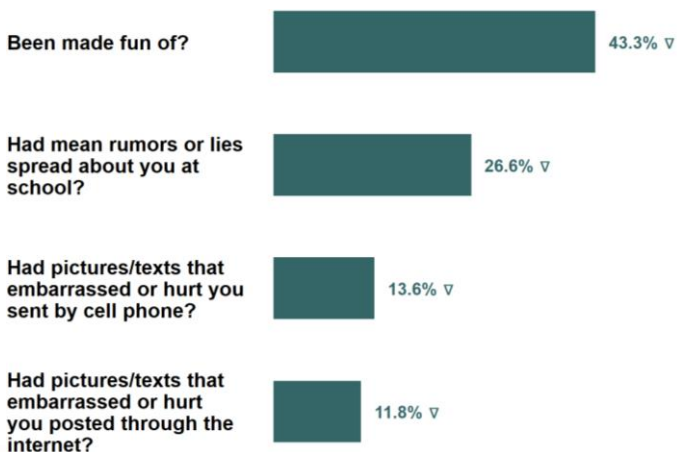
Bullying (Perpetrated)

At least once in the last 3 months...



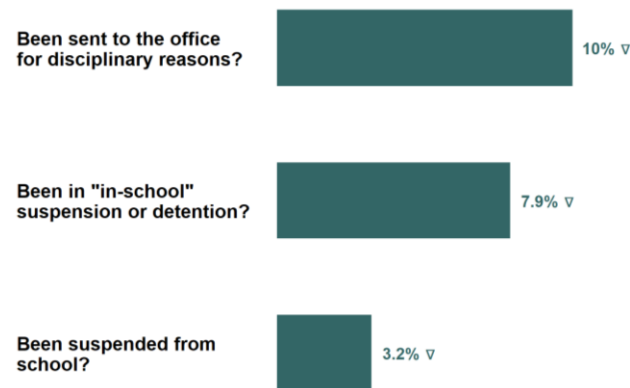
Bullied (Experienced)

At least once in the last 3 months...



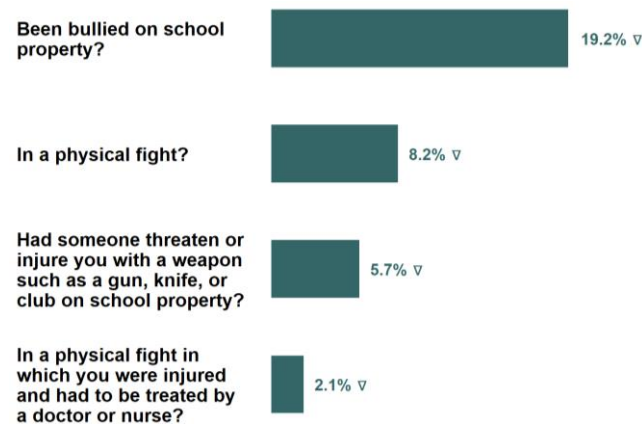
Disciplinary action

At least once in the last 3 months...



Physical Violence

At least once in the last year...



† Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

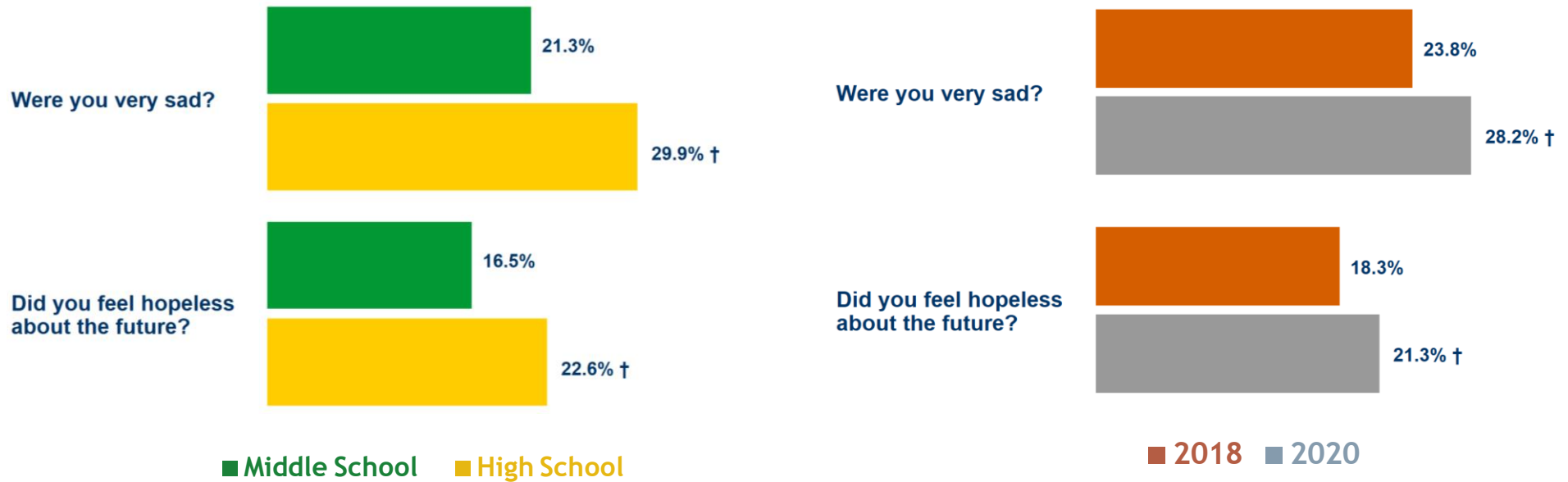
‡ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018



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

Mental Health

In the last 30 days...



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

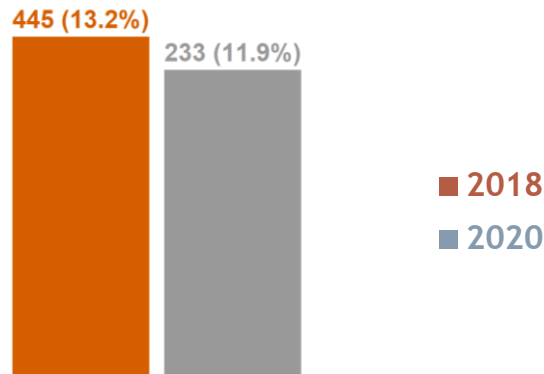
Compared to 2018, there was a statistically significant increase in high school students reporting having negative feelings surrounding mental health.



Mental Health

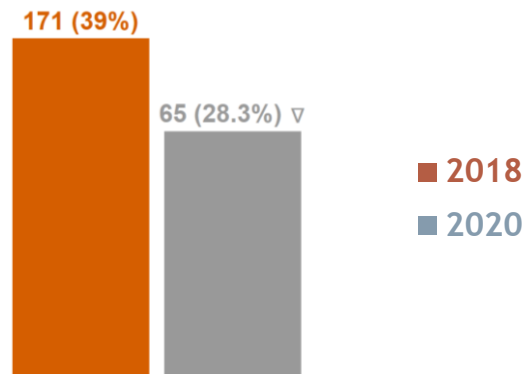
Among all students...

Number of students who have ever considered attempting suicide



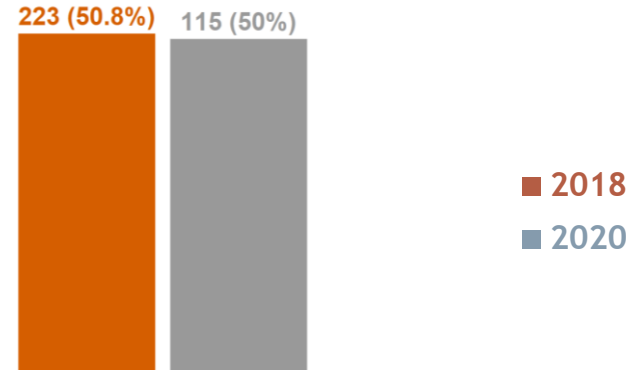
Among students who have ever considered attempting suicide...

Number of students who have ever attempted suicide



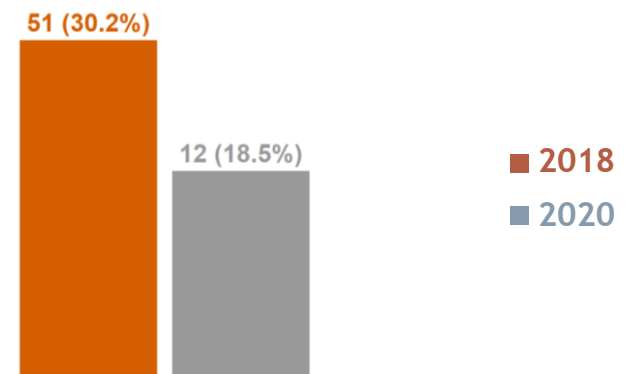
Among students who have ever considered attempting suicide...

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://projectchildsafesafe.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/>