



Student Survey

2026 Regional Findings

Who we are

- Mission: PreventionFIRST! implements best practice strategies to reduce the risk of behavioral health disorders.
- It is our vision that all communities apply prevention strategies in every stage of life.
- We serve the tri-state region where Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky converge, and work on many statewide projects in Ohio.



Our Prevention Approach

- Ensure data-driven decision making.
- Support community engagement.
- Implement evidence-based prevention by building & strengthening capacity across community sectors.
- Strengthen the prevention workforce and infrastructure by providing training, technical assistance, & mentoring.



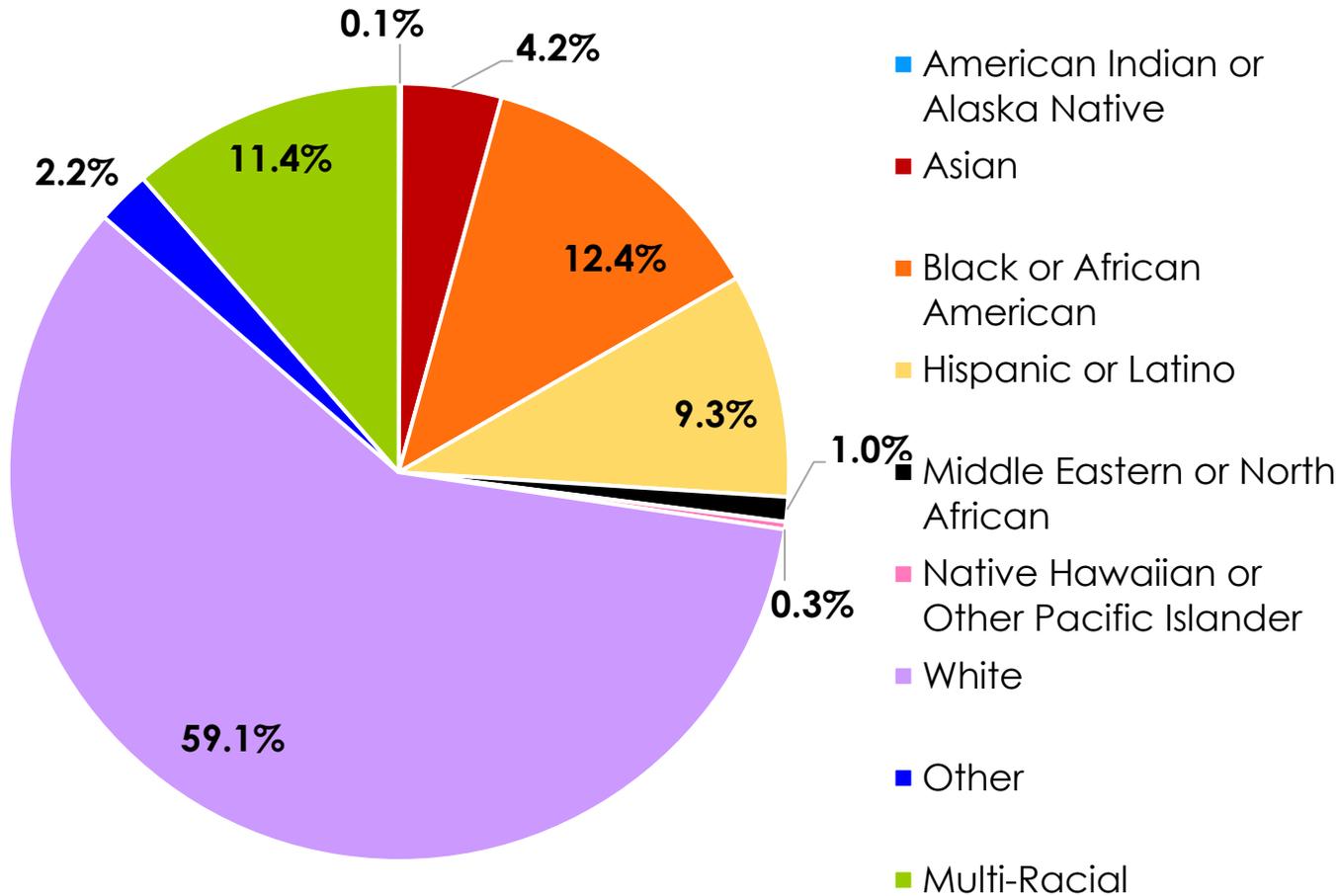
Survey Methodology

- Modified version ISA Data's questionnaire
- Administered every two years - 14th cycle since 2000
 - Collected September 15, 2025 – November 26, 2025
- Both online and paper versions
- 23,982 seventh through twelfth-grade students from 54 schools completed the survey.
- Respondents from public & private schools across 5 counties in southwest Ohio.

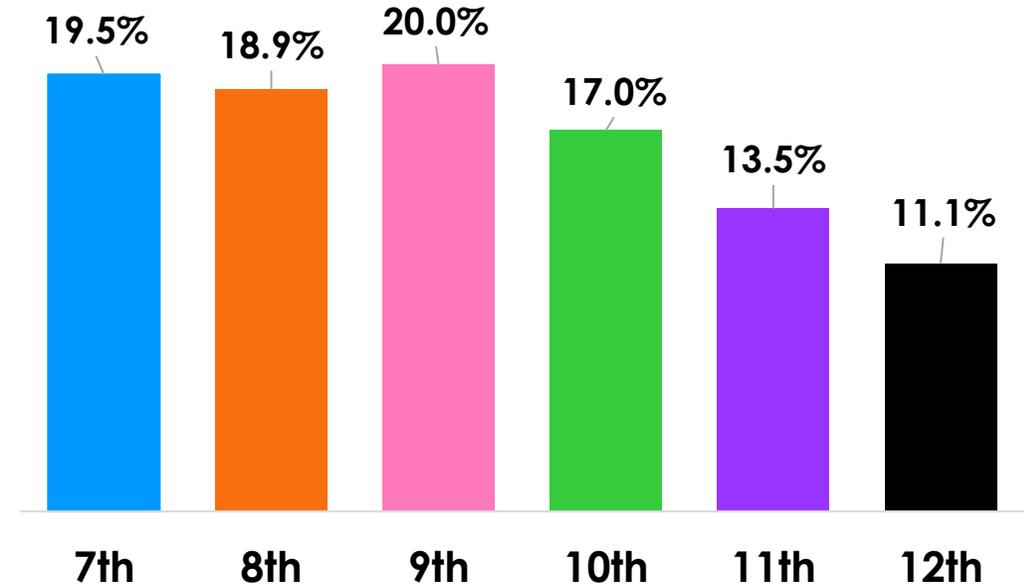


Demographics

Race/Ethnicity



Grade Levels



Definitions

- **Alcohol:** Beer; Liquor; Coolers, hard lemonade, hard seltzers etc.
- **Tobacco:** Cigarettes; Smokeless Tobacco; Cigars, Cigarillos or Little Cigars
- **Marijuana:** Weed, Pot, Kush, etc.
- **Prescription Drugs:** Pain medication; Stimulant; Sleeping medication; Sedative/Anxiety
- **Vaping:** Electronic Vapor Product, E-cigarettes, Vaping Pens, E-cigars, E-pipes, Vape pipes, E-Hookah, Hookah Pens, etc.



Definitions

- **Risk Factors:** characteristics at the biological, psychological, family, community, or cultural level that precede and are associated with a higher likelihood of negative outcomes.
- **Protective Factors:** characteristics associated with a lower likelihood of negative outcomes or that reduce a risk factor's impact. Protective factors may be seen as positive countering events.



Understanding Your Report



Sections

- Table of Contents: Page 3
- Demographic Information: Page 7 and Page 8
- Core Measures: Page 9
- Risk and Protective Factors: Page 11
- Graphs and Figures: Page 12
- Percentage Tables: Page 220 (page 194 if SOGI removed)
- Core Measures Break Out: Page 345 (page 318 if SOGI removed)



2026 Substance Use Results & Trends

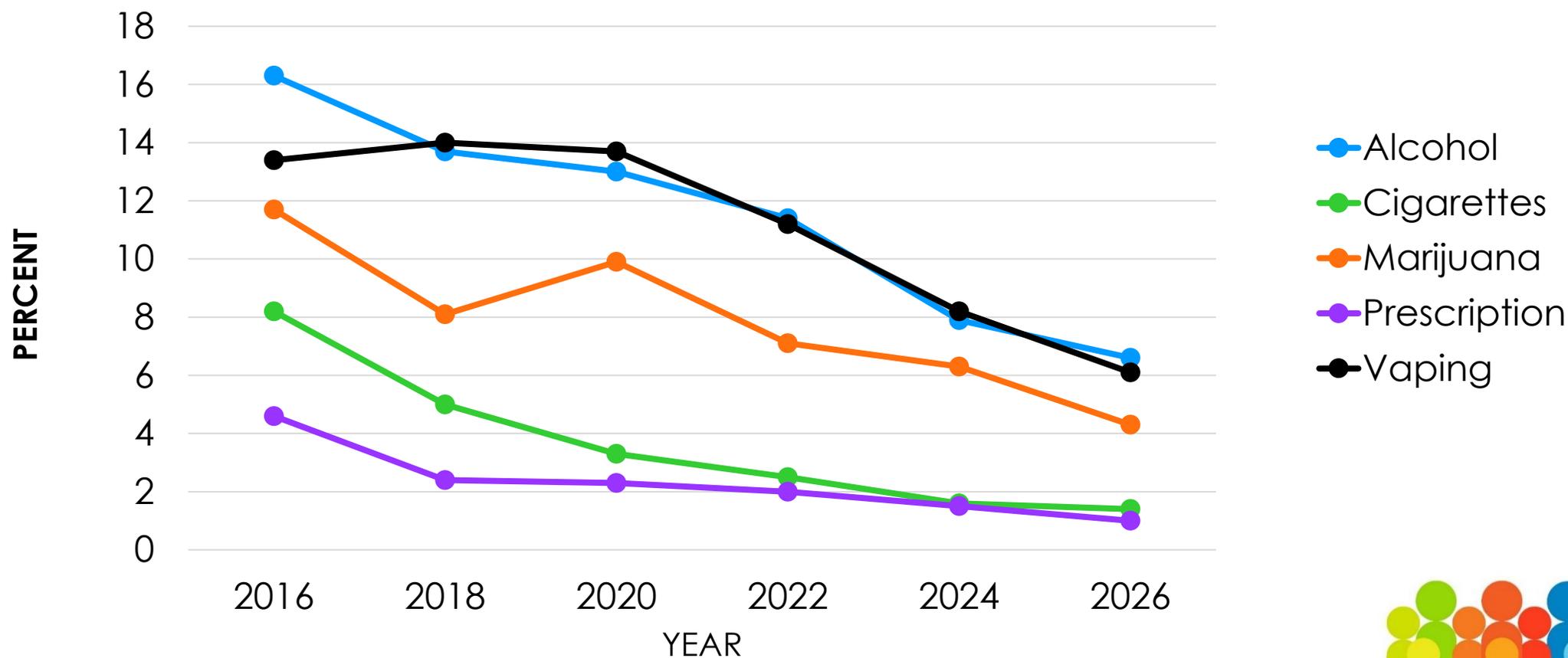


Prevalence of Use

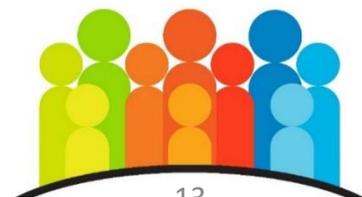
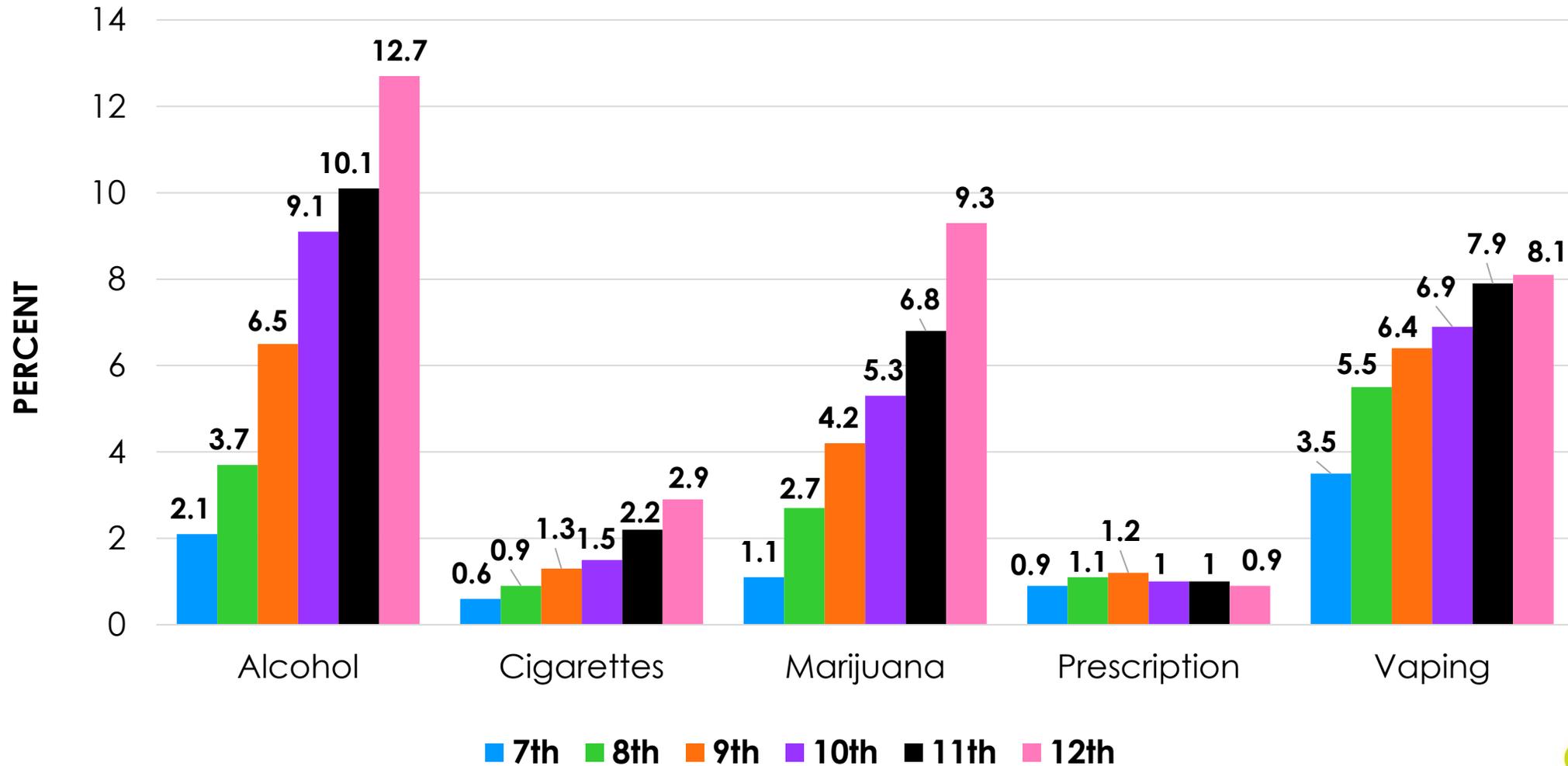
2026 Student Survey	During the past 30-Days...
Alcohol	6.6%
Vaping	6.1%
Marijuana	4.3%
Cigarettes	1.4%
Prescription Drugs	1.0%



30-Day Use of Alcohol, Cigarettes, Marijuana, Prescription Drugs and Vaping



Past 30-Day Use By Grade



Average Age of First Use

At what age did you first use...	2022	2024	2026
Prescription Drugs	11.9	11.8	12.1
Alcohol	12.6	12.6	12.7
Vaping	13.4	12.9	12.7
Cigarettes	12.7	12.3	12.7
Marijuana	13.7	13.5	13.5

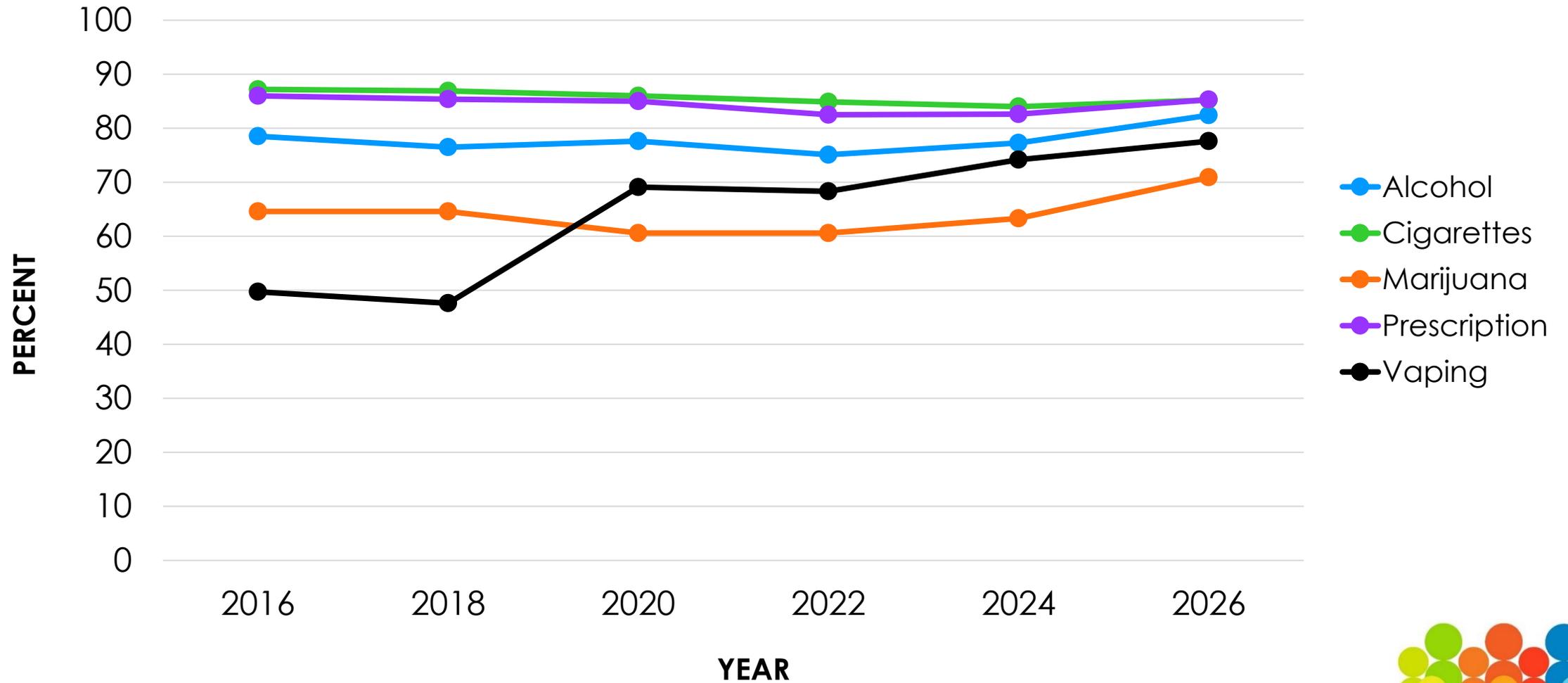


Perception of Harm

2026 Student Survey	Moderate/Great Risk
Alcohol	82.4%
Tobacco	85.2%
Marijuana	70.9%
Prescription Drugs	85.3%
Vaping	77.6%



Perception of Harm

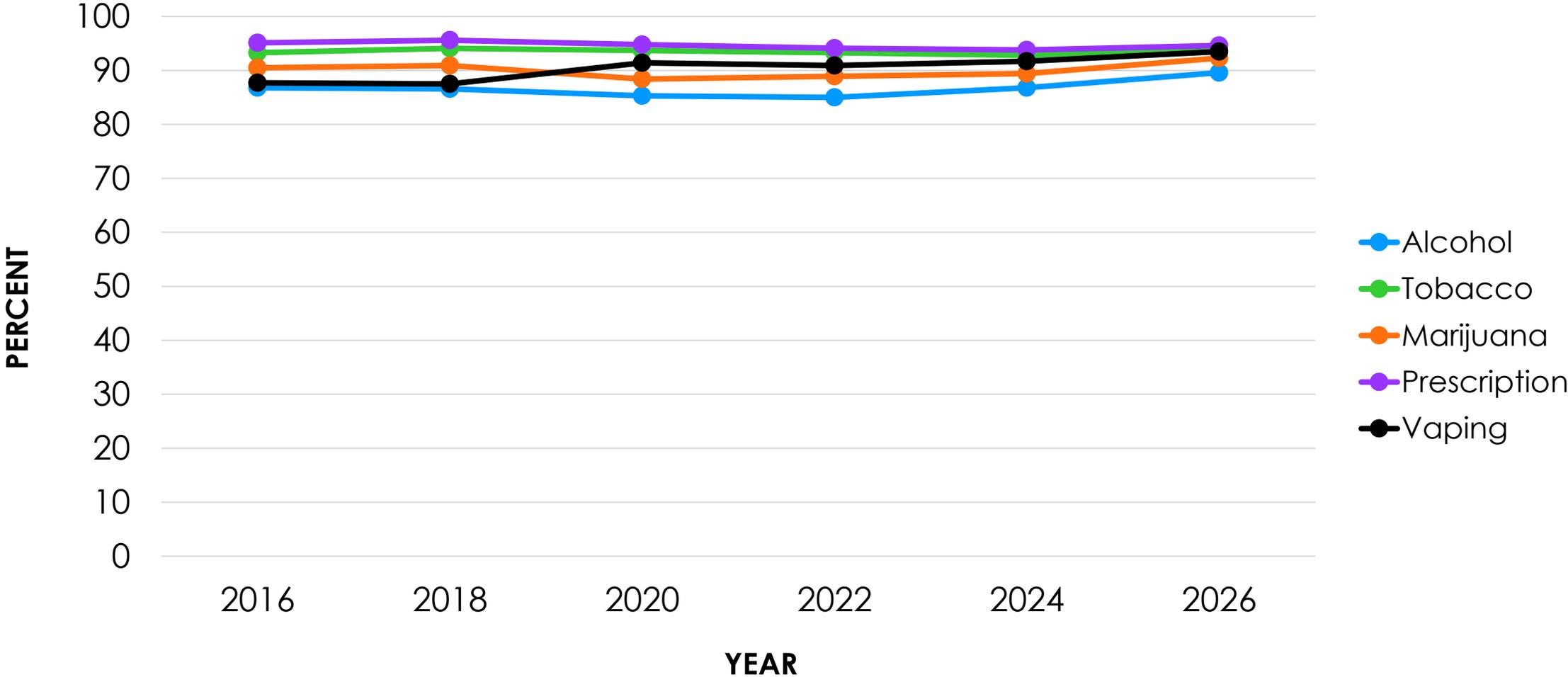


Perception of Parental Disapproval

2026 Student Survey	Wrong/Very Wrong
Alcohol	89.6%
Tobacco	94.0%
Marijuana	92.3%
Prescription Drugs	94.6%
Vaping	93.5%



Perception of Parental Disapproval

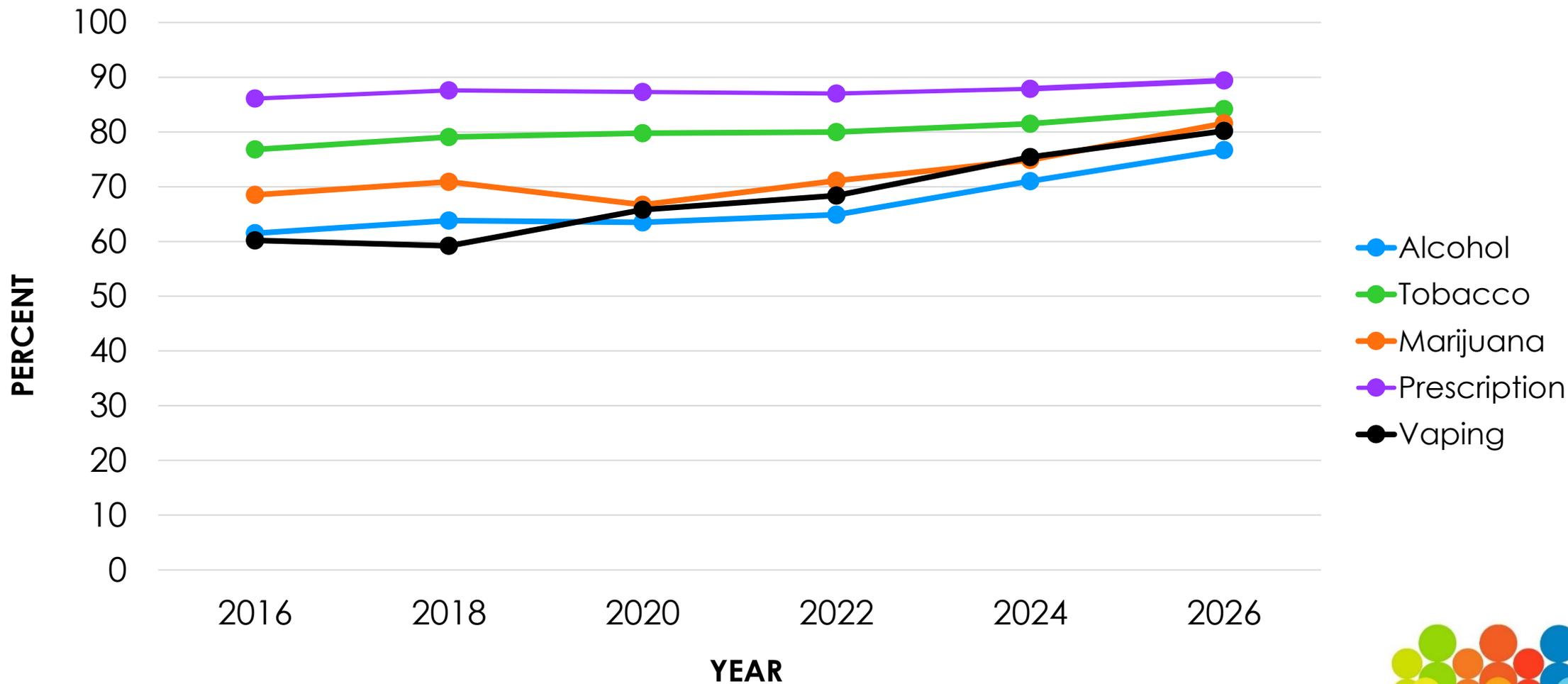


Perception of Friend Disapproval

2026 Student Survey	Wrong/Very Wrong
Alcohol	76.7%
Tobacco	84.2%
Marijuana	81.6%
Prescription Drugs	89.4%
Vaping	80.2%



Perception of Friend Disapproval

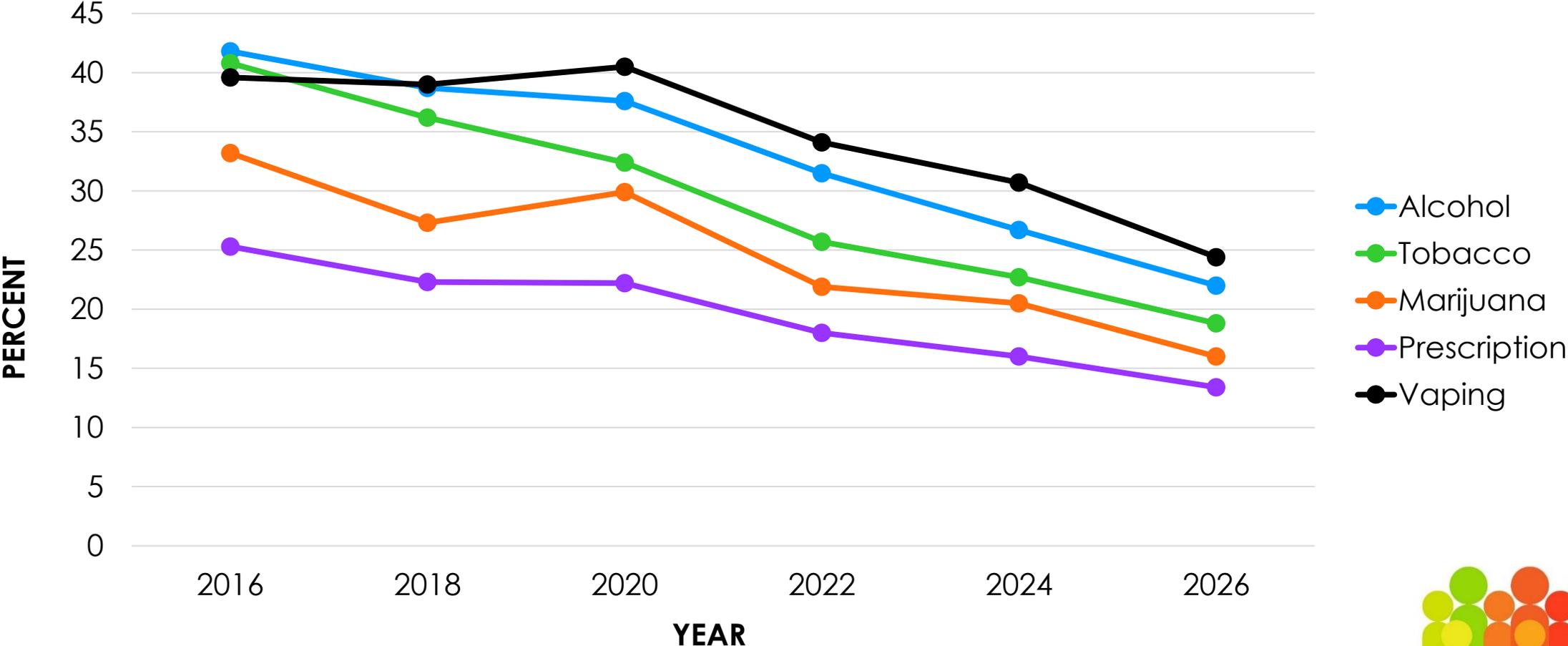


Perception of Availability

2026 Student Survey	Fairly Easy/Very Easy
Alcohol	22.0%
Tobacco	18.8%
Marijuana	16.0%
Prescription Drugs	13.4%
Vaping	24.4%



Perception of Availability



Source of Substance

From whom do you get...

	Vaping	Alcohol	Marijuana	Tobacco
Friends	4.4%	3.8%	3.4%	1.3%
Parents	1.1%	4.1%	1.1%	0.7%
Siblings	1.1%	1.3%	1.0%	0.3%
Store	1.4%	1.6%	0.8%	0.8%
Internet	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	0.4%
Other	1.7%	2.1%	1.9%	0.9%

PreventionFIRST! Student Survey 2026



Location of Substance Use

Where do you usually use...

	Alcohol	Cigarettes	Marijuana	Prescription	Vaping
At home	3.9%	0.7%	3.1%	1.2%	3.5%
Parties	3.1%	0.5%	1.7%	0.1%	2.0%
Friend's house	2.3%	0.5%	2.8%	0.2%	3.2%
Other	1.2%	0.5%	1.3%	0.2%	1.7%
In a car	0.3%	0.2%	1.2%	0.1%	1.6%
At school	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%	0.2%	1.2%

PreventionFIRST! Student Survey 2026



2026 Gambling Results and Trends



Past Year Prevalence of Gambling

Within the past year how often have you...?

	2022	2024	2026
Scratch offs	19.1%	27.1%	27.6%
Lottery tickets	10.7%	16.0%	14.7%
Cards	19.1%	23.8%	24.5%
Bet on a sport	17.4%	17.3%	16.3%
Bet on a horse, dog, or harness race	4.0%	5.1%	5.6%
Bet on games of personal skill	24.1%	23.7%	19.4%



Past Year Prevalence of Gambling

Within the past year how often have you...?

		2022	2024	2026
Games of Chance	Bet money online, apps, or video games	7.1%	8.5%	8.0%
	Bingo	7.4%	24.0%	24.5%
	Paper games or pull tabs	4.9%		
	Dice or coin flips	14.2%		
	Played any games on a kiosk		2.5%	3.2%
	Played any Keno		2.7%	3.4%
	Bet money in other ways	14.0%	12.7%	11.8%



Usual Gambling Locations *Where do you usually gamble?*

	2022	2024	2026
Online or in apps	3.4%	6.6%	7.1%
Casino	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%
Harness racing	0.2%	0.7%	0.7%
My home	8.9%	13.2%	15%
Sporting event	3.3%	5.1%	4.7%
School property	0.7%	2.2%	2.3%
Community Events	1.0%	2.5%	3.5%
Another person's home	3.3%	6.3%	7.3%
Local Store	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%
Parking Lot or Public Place	1.3%	1.7%	1.7%
Restaurant or bar	No Data	1.8%	1.9%
Other place	2.7%	3.4%	3.6%



2026 Mental Health & School Climate



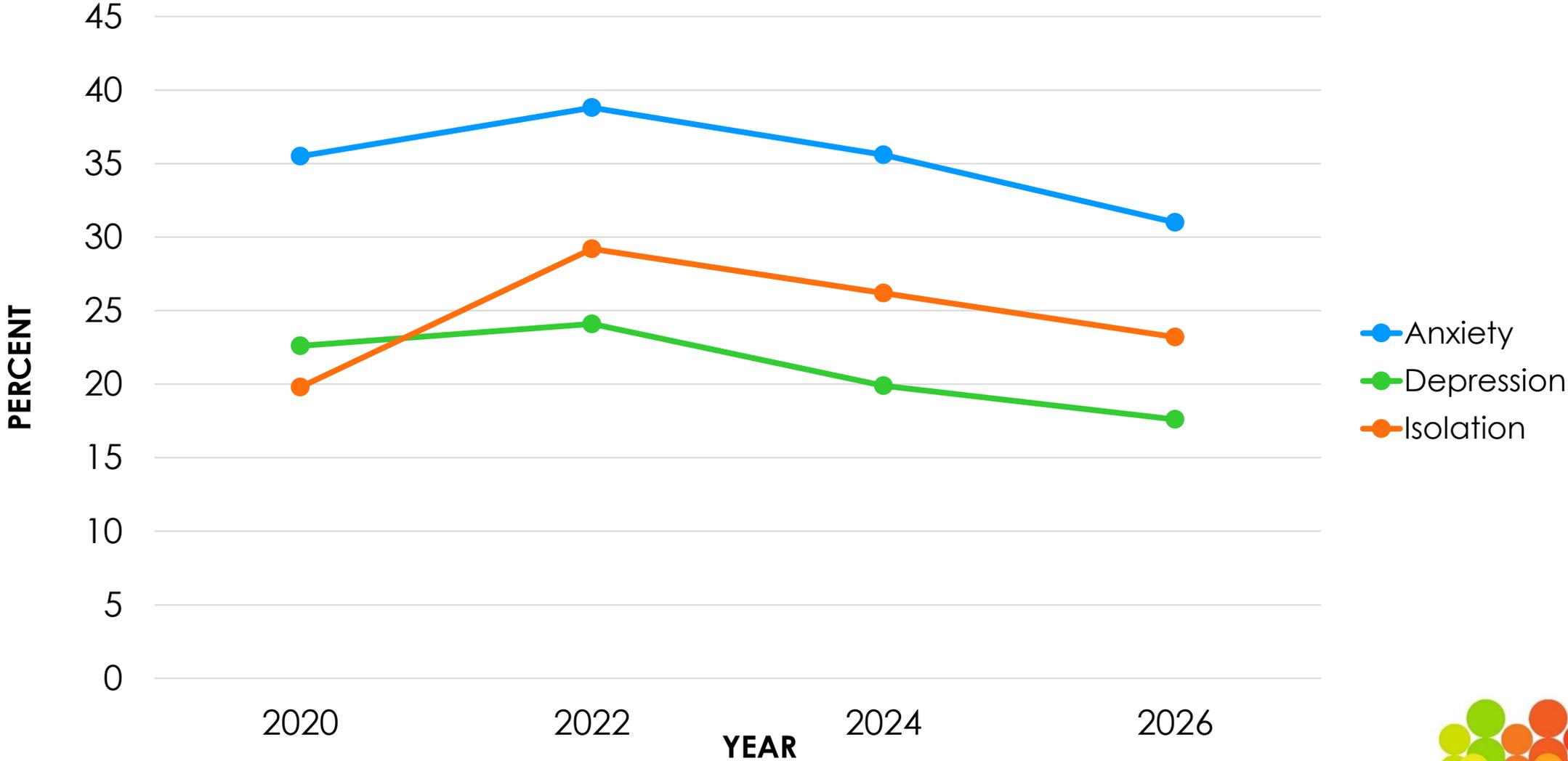
Mental Health Markers

2026 Student Survey	All/ Most of the Time
Anxiety	31.0%
Depression	17.6%
Isolation	23.2%

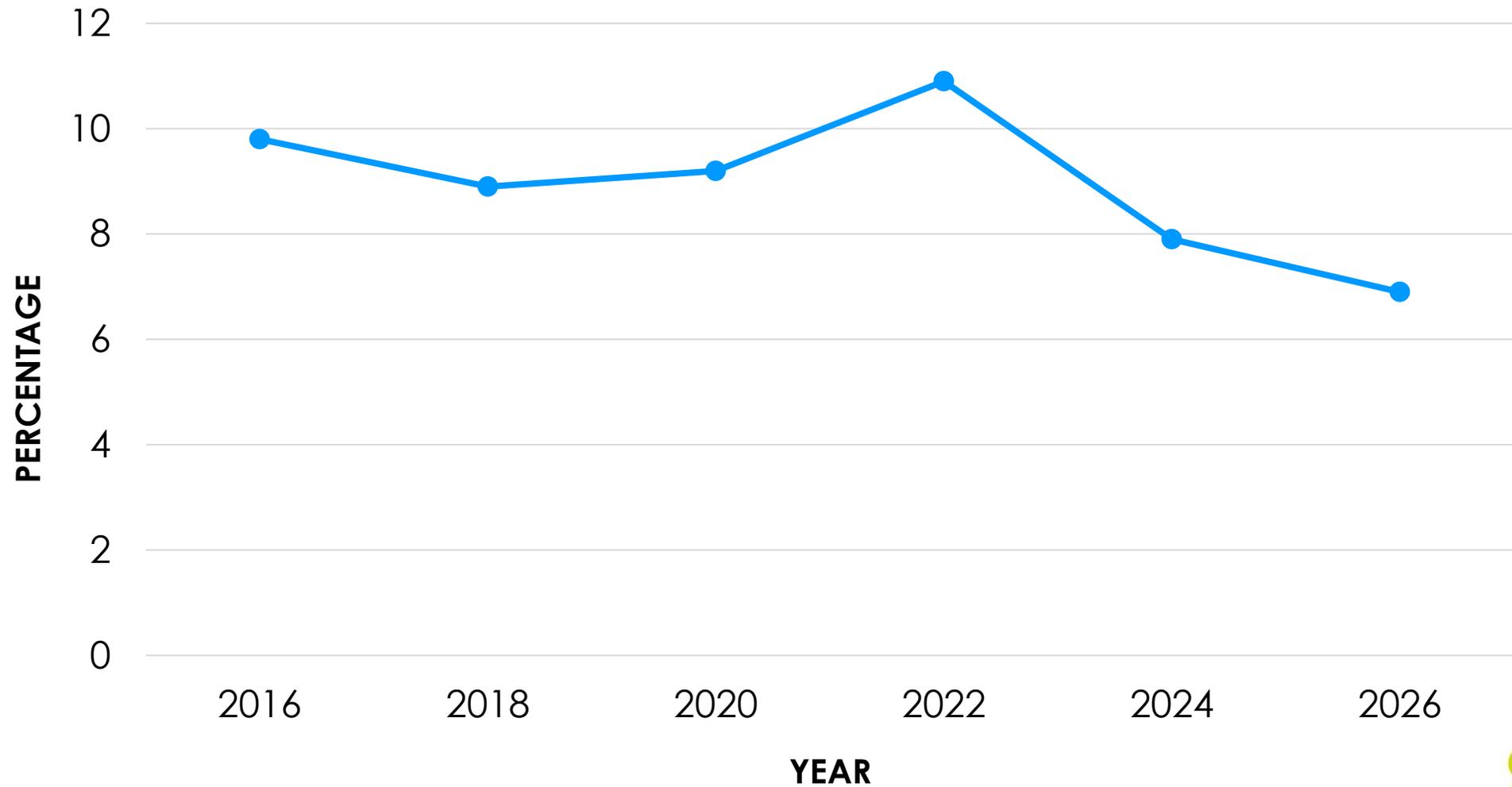
	Often / A lot
Suicide Ideation	6.9%



Mental Health



Suicide Ideation

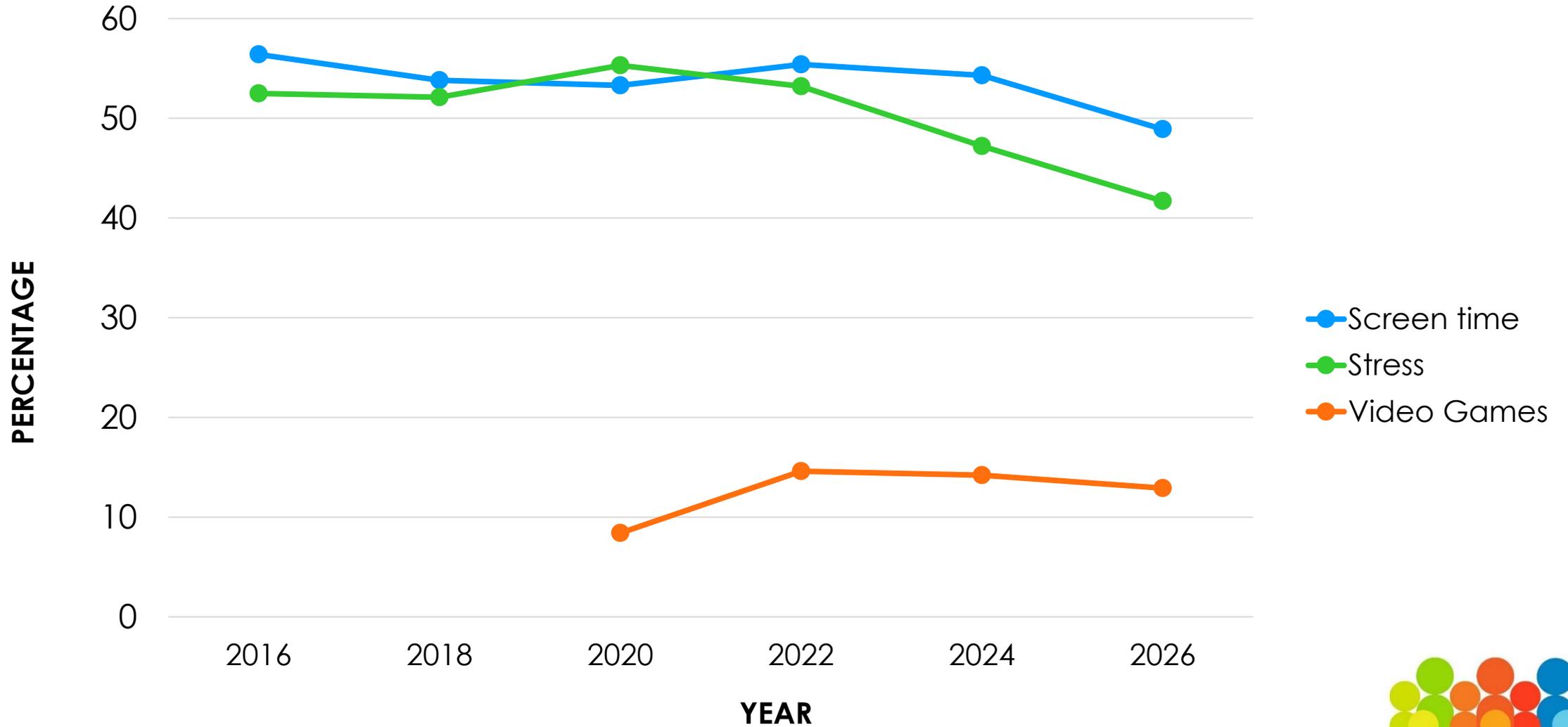


Mental Health Continued

2026 Student Survey	Often / A lot
Stress	41.7%
Treated badly/ unfairly due to Race or Ethnicity	7.7%
Screen time	48.9%
Video games affected school / work	12.9%



Mental Health Factors

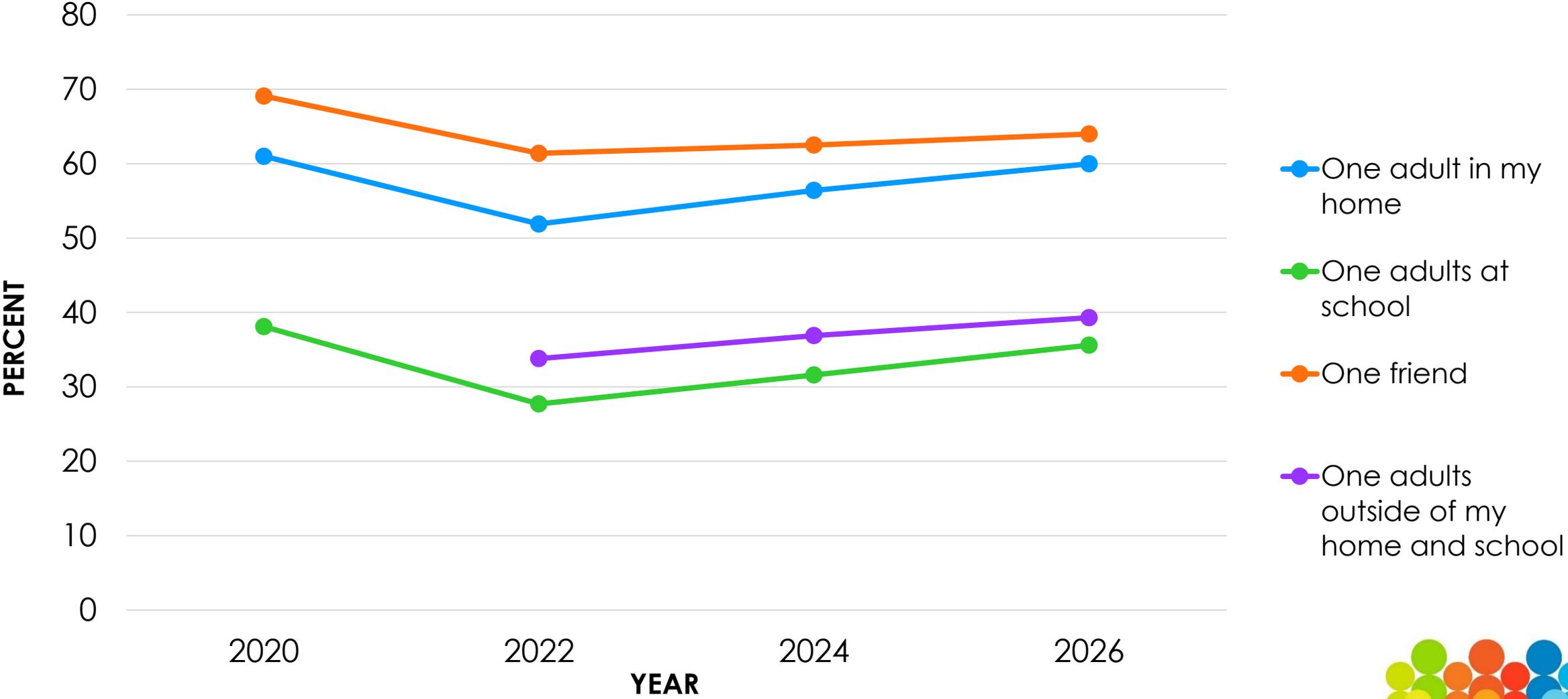


I can discuss my personal problems with...

2026 Student Survey	Often/ A Lot
One adult in my home.	60.0%
One adult at school.	35.6%
One friend.	64.0%
One adult outside of my home and school.	39.3%



Personal Problems



Emotional Resilience

2026 Student Survey	Often/ A Lot
Can pull yourself out of a bad mood	47.0%

	Somewhat/ Definitely True
My emotions cause problems in my life at school.	25.2%



Sleep

Where Do You Usually Sleep?	
Parents' or Guardians' Home	97.5%
Friend, Family Member, or Other Person's Home	1.8%
Shelter of Emergency Housing	0.1%
Motel/Hotel	0.2%
Car, Park, Campground, or other Public Place	0.1%
No Usual Place to Sleep	0.1%
Somewhere Else	0.2%

42.1% of Students reported getting **8 or more hours** of sleep

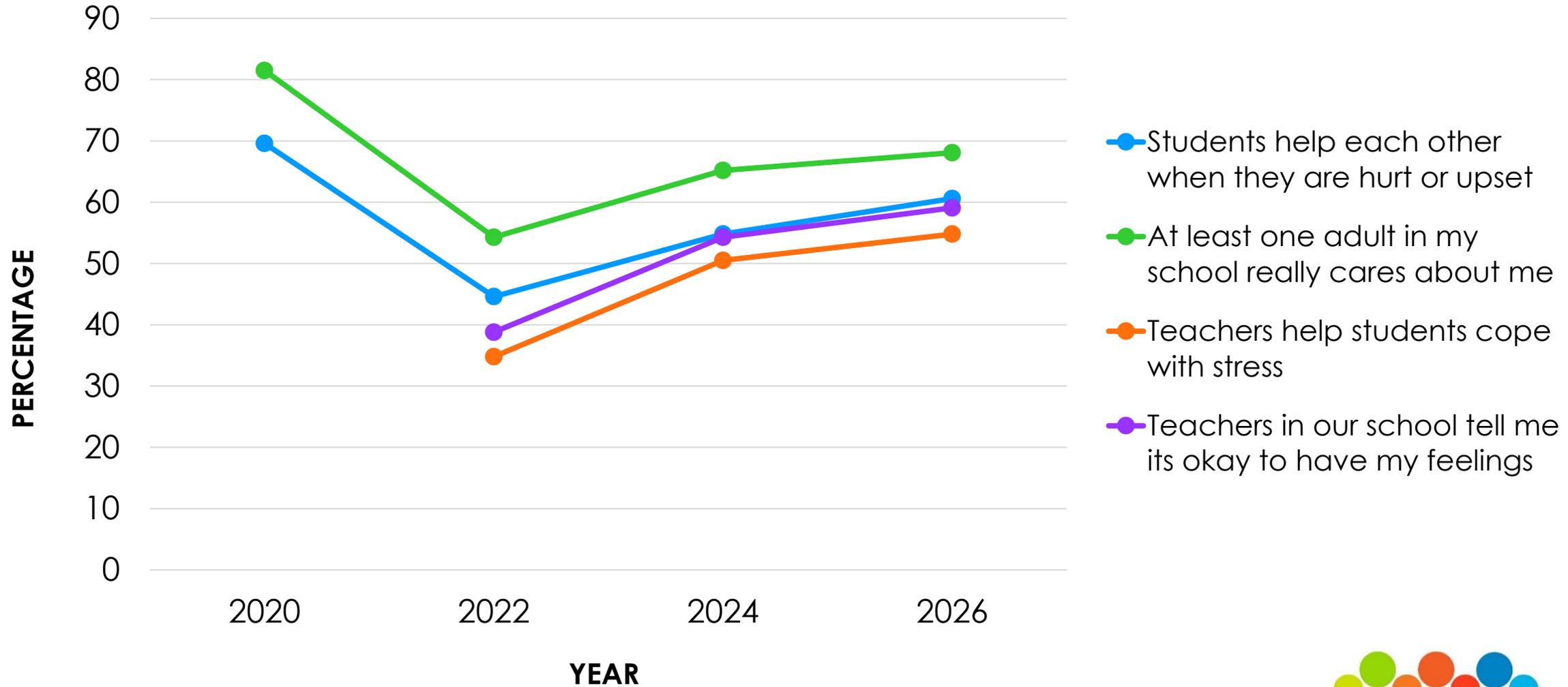


School Climate

2026 Student Survey	Somewhat/ Definitely True
Students help each other when they are hurt or upset.	60.6%
At least one adult in my school really cares about me.	68.1%
Teachers help students cope with stress.	54.8%
Teachers in our school tell me that it's okay to have my feelings.	59.1%
I feel like I belong	64.7%



School Climate Trends



Effects of Social Media Use

2026 Student Survey	Somewhat/ Definitely True
...How I feel about my body	28.8%
...My grades in school	18.1%
...My relationships with friends/family	18.3%
...My mental health or sense of well-being	26.6%
...My sleep	43.7%



Next Steps



Data We Encourage You to Look At

- Student Information
 - Activity Participation
 - Teachers & Parents talk about substance use
 - Schools & Parents set clear rules about substance use
 - Schools & Parents enforce rules about substance use
- When and Where students use
- Safety & Violence



What Can We Do With You

- One page summaries
- Presentations
 - Parents
 - Students
 - School Boards
 - Staff Meetings
- 1:1 Administration Meetings



How can we do better?

- Registration process
- Administering the Survey
- Accessing your online data report
- Navigating your data report
- Question Changes/ Suggestions



Questions

- Thank you for participating in this important survey
- Thank you to our partners who helped to fund the survey

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