PAYS

PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH SURVEY

2025

Conducted by:

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

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Bucks County Profile Report

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The administration of the survey would not have been a success without the contributions of PAYS Advisory Group (PAYSAG), whose tireless efforts and ideas helped make this year's PAYS administration a success. The 2025 PAYSAG members included:

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The success of the 2025 PAYS could not have been achieved without the support and participation of school superintendents, administrators, principals, prevention coordinators, and teachers throughout the state. We extend our appreciation to the students who responded to the survey. Their thoughtful participation resulted in a wealth of information that can be used to improve the circumstances in which they live and learn.

Please note that this report does not contain data from all survey questions. To access and analyze county or state level data from the entire survey dataset, please visit www.bach-harrison.com/PAYSWebTool. For more information about PAYS, and to see aggregate reporting of responses provided by Pennsylvania youth, please visit www.pays.pa.gov. This site contains links to materials developed for the 2025 administration, as well as materials from prior survey administrations. Results from earlier PAYS administrations (e.g. reports from 2023 and earlier) can be found by consulting the links to past years' reports.

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PAYS: GOALS AND OVERVIEW

Since 1989, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has conducted a biennial survey of youth in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades to gather information about their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors towards alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use to help communities address root causes of antisocial behavior.

The "Pennsylvania Youth Survey" or "PAYS" is conducted every other year, in the fall of odd-numbered years. Beginning with the 2013 administration, PAYS was offered at no charge to any school or district (public, private, charter, and parochial) courtesy of funding provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

The 2025 PAYS was the eighteenth biennial administration (1989-2025). Comparisons in this report were made between the results of the 2021, 2023, and 2025 surveys, as well as comparisons to youth nationwide.

PAYS is administered in each participating school using either paper/pencil or an online tool. The survey is voluntary—youth are able to skip any questions they do not wish to answer or to opt out of the survey entirely. Additionally, students are made aware that their responses will remain anonymous and confidential. No individual student-level data can be obtained from the data set, and the results are reported in aggregate at the local, county, and state levels.

PAYS is a primary tool in Pennsylvania's prevention approach of using data to drive decision making. By looking not just at rates of problem behaviors but also at the root causes of those behaviors, PAYS allows schools and communities to address reasons (such as a lack of commitment to school) rather than only looking at the symptoms after the fact (like poor grades). This approach has been repeatedly shown in national research studies to be the most effective in helping youth develop into healthy, productive members of their society.

Participation by Pennsylvania youth

The 2025 PAYS was administered during the fall of 2025 to youth in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, resulting in 267,379 valid surveys.

There were 1,064 schools that chose to participate in the 2025 PAYS (out of 1,981 eligible). Estimated enrollment figures for the 2024-25 school year show that participating schools had 359,286 students enrolled in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 who were eligible to participate in the survey. An attempt was made to survey all eligible Pennsylvania students, resulting in 267,379 valid participants in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 (a participation rate of 74.4%), represented evenly across the state.

	County 2025			State 2025		
	Surveys	Enrolled in participating school(s)*	Participation rate	Surveys	Enrolled in participating school(s)*	Participation rate
Grade						
6	4,301	5,141	83.7	72,102	84,630	85.2
8	5,913	6,630	89.2	74,972	89,716	83.6
10	5,410	6,758	80.1	65,178	93,221	69.9
12	4,919	7,211	68.2	55,127	91,719	60.1
Total	20,543	25,740	79.8	267,379	359,286	74.4

* Enrollment in the this table refers to the number of students enrolled in *participating* schools.

In this county, 62 out of 130 schools (in 15 of 15 districts or charter/private schools) participated in the 2025 PAYS. 2024-25 enrollment show that of the 25,740 students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 enrolled in participating schools, 20,543 valid surveys were submitted (a participation rate of 79.8%).

	County 2025			State 2025		
	Surveys	Enrolled in all schools(s)**	Modified participation rate**	Surveys	Enrolled in all schools(s)**	Modified participation rate**
Grade						
6	4,301	6,539	65.8	72,102	121,972	59.1
8	5,913	6,658	88.8	74,972	121,624	61.6
10	5,410	6,820	79.3	65,178	127,891	51.0
12	4,919	7,306	67.3	55,127	127,378	43.3
Total	20,543	27,323	75.2	267,379	498,493	53.6

** Enrollment in the second table refers to the number of students enrolled in all schools in the district, county or community that were eligible to participate in 2025 PAYS, even if they did not participate.

Enrollment figures for all 130 schools in this county show that 27,323 students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 were eligible to participate in the 2025 PAYS administration. This means that the 20,543 valid surveys submitted from this county resulted in a modified participation rate of 75.2% (as seen in the second table).

Statewide, the 1,981 schools eligible to participate in the 2025 PAYS had an estimated enrollment of 498,493 public school students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The 267,379 valid surveys submitted resulted in a modified participation rate of 53.6% statewide.

Sample Confidence Intervals

When reviewing survey results people often ask, "What is the margin of error?" This is referred to as the "confidence interval," and it reflects the precision of a statistical estimate. For example, the overall statewide confidence interval for drug use with a prevalence rate of 50.0% is ±0.8 points, meaning that there is a 95% chance that the true score is between 49.2% and 50.8%.

	Statewide Sample †	Enrollment for Statewide Sample †	Confidence Interval
Grade			
6	8,332	105,284	±1.5
8	9,462	109,007	±1.4
10	6,626	116,017	±1.7
12	6,286	114,278	±1.7
Total	30,706	444,586	±0.8

† Information on the design of statewide sample can be found in the 2017 thru 2025 PAYS State Full Details reports.

Note that these confidence intervals are for prevalence rates of 50%. For less prevalent behaviors, such as heroin use and bringing a weapon to school, the confidence interval narrows substantially.

Validity of PAYS data

In order to ensure the highest level of confidence in the survey results, measures are implemented to retain only valid surveys. The following validity checks were utilized:

1. the student indicated that they had used a fictitious drug (2,421 surveys statewide were identified as dishonest with this check)
2. the student reported an improbably high level of multiple drug use (847 surveys statewide)
3. the student reported an age that was inconsistent with their grade or the grades served by their school (1,040 surveys statewide)

Invalid and incomplete surveys were eliminated from the data and are not included in the final analyses. Of the 271,111 survey questionnaires from grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 completed and returned to Bach Harrison for analysis, 3,732 (1.3%) were eliminated for meeting one or more of the above criteria.

The results within this county report are based on 20,543 valid responses (out of 20,793 surveys submitted).

Want to dig deeper into the PAYS data or put the data into action? Check out these additional resources:

PAYS Webtool:

An online tool allowing you to analyze data at a county or state level for specific questions. Schools also receive access to their own private webtool to further analyze their school's data.

PAYS Guide:

Designed to help you and your team to get the most out of your PAYS data. In each module, you will find a library of worksheets, report examples/templates, and other resources to assist with successful PAYS analysis and planning.

PAYS First Wednesdays at 1 Webinar Series:

Webinars that address key PAYS-related topics. Past webinar recordings are also available.

All Questions by Grade Report:

Report provides the count and percent of students by grade selecting each answer choice for each question. County reports are available on the PAYS website and school reports are sent to schools.

Learn more at www.pays.pa.gov!

1. DEMOGRAPHICS

48.3% of participants were female, 50.3% were male, and 1.3% were other. 8th graders were the best represented, with an estimated 89.2% participation rate based on most recent enrollment.

Overall, 62.4% of students surveyed in this county were White, 7.2% of students were Asian, and the remainder were a combination of the remaining categories. 7.0% of students identified as being of Hispanic or Latino origin.

Grade-level data are only displayed in this report when there were a minimum of 25 valid participants. "All Grades" represents the combined responses of all participating students from grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. Please note the distribution of participants in "All Grades" data for this county and keep this in mind when comparing local data to state data. State-level "All Grades" data are most useful when the county data are available for all four grades, meet the minimum cutoff for the total number of participants, and have a similar distribution of participants to the state.

	County 2021		County 2023		County 2025		State 2025	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Survey respondents								
All	19,227	100.0	17,474	100.0	20,543	100.0	267,379	100.0
Survey respondents by grade								
6	3,879	20.2	3,087	17.7	4,301	20.9	72,102	27.0
8	5,918	30.8	5,244	30.0	5,913	28.8	74,972	28.0
10	4,812	25.0	4,762	27.3	5,410	26.3	65,178	24.4
12	4,618	24.0	4,381	25.1	4,919	23.9	55,127	20.6
Survey respondents by gender								
Female	8,903	46.5	8,429	48.5	9,737	48.3	126,638	48.4
Male	9,724	50.8	8,646	49.8	10,137	50.3	130,997	50.1
Other	505	2.6	290	1.7	270	1.3	3,959	1.5
Survey respondents by race*								
Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,474	7.2	11,432	4.3
Black, African American	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,054	5.1	21,745	8.1
Hispanic or Latino	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,442	7.0	24,545	9.2
White	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12,819	62.4	159,135	59.5
Middle Eastern or North African	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	231	1.1	2,343	0.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	0.1	308	0.1
Alaska Native/American Indian/Native American	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	158	0.8	1,657	0.6
Multi-racial	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,089	10.2	28,336	10.6
I don't know what this question is asking	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	659	3.2	9,212	3.4
Race Unmarked	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,256	6.1	17,878	6.7

*Question was revised in 2025 and the data is not comparable to prior years.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Demographic questions	*How old are you?* *10 / 11 / 12 / 13 / 14 / 15 / 16 / 17 / 18 / 19 or older* *What grade are you in?* *6th / 7th / 8th / 9th / 10th / 11th / 12th* *What is your race and/or ethnicity? If you don't know what a response means, don't select it. (Mark all that apply.)* *Asian* *Black or African American* *Hispanic or Latino* *White* *Middle Eastern or North African* *Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander* *Alaska Native/American Indian/Native American* *I don't know what this question is asking* *What sex were you assigned at birth? (For example, on your birth certificate.)* *Female* *Male* *Other* *Think of where you live most of the time. Which of the following people live there with you? (Choose all that apply)* *Mother(s) / Father(s) / Stepparent(s) / Foster Parent(s) / Grandparent(s) / Other adult(s) / Sibling(s)/ Other children* *What is the language you use most often at home?* *English* *Spanish* *Another language*

2. SUBSTANCE USE

Monitoring Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Trends in Pennsylvania Youth

Measurement

Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use is measured in PAYS by a set of 31 questions. The questions are similar to those used in the Monitoring the Future study, a nationwide study of drug use by middle and high school students.

Prevalence–of–use tables and graphs show the percentages of students who reported using ATODs. These results are presented for both lifetime and past 30-day prevalence of use periods.

Lifetime Use

Lifetime use is a measure of the percentage of students who tried the particular substance at least once in their lifetime and is used to show the percentage of students who have had experience with a particular substance. Lifetime prevalence of use (whether the student has ever used the drug) is a good measure of student experimentation with a given substance.

30-Day Use

30-day use (whether the student has recently used the drug) is a more sensitive measure of current activities.

Comparisons to National Results

Comparing and contrasting findings from a county– or school–district–level survey to relevant data from a national survey provides a valuable perspective on local data. In this report, national comparisons for ATOD use will be made to the 2025 Monitoring the Future study and to the 2023 Bach Harrison Norm.

Monitoring the Future Data

The Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey project, which provides prevalence–of–use information for ATODs from a nationally representative sample of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, is conducted annually by the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan (see www.monitoringthefuture.org). For a review of the methodology of this study, please see https://monitoringthefuture.org/about/.

Monitoring the Future data appear on the charts as "MTF 2025"

Bach Harrison Norm

The Bach Harrison Norm was developed by Bach Harrison L.L.C. to provide states and communities with the ability to compare their results on risk, protection, and antisocial measures with more national measures. Survey participants from 11 statewide surveys were combined into a database of approximately 878,000 students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The results were weighted by state and grade to make each state's contributions more in line with the nation's student population. Bach Harrison analysts then calculated rates for antisocial behavior, students at risk, and students with protection. The results appear on the charts as "BH Norm." In order to keep the Bach Harrison Norm relevant, it is updated approximately every two years as new data become available. The most recent update to the Bach Harrison Norm was completed using 2022-2023 data.

A comparison to state–wide and national results provides additional information for your county in determining the relative importance of levels of ATOD use, antisocial behavior, risk, and protection. Information about other students in the state and the nation can be helpful in determining the seriousness of a given level of problem behavior. Scanning across the charts, it is important to observe the factors that differ the most from the Bach Harrison Norm. This is the first step in identifying the levels of risk and protection that are higher or lower than those in other communities. **The risk factors that are higher than the Bach Harrison Norm and the protective factors that are lower than the Bach Harrison Norm may be factors that your county should consider addressing when planning prevention programs.**

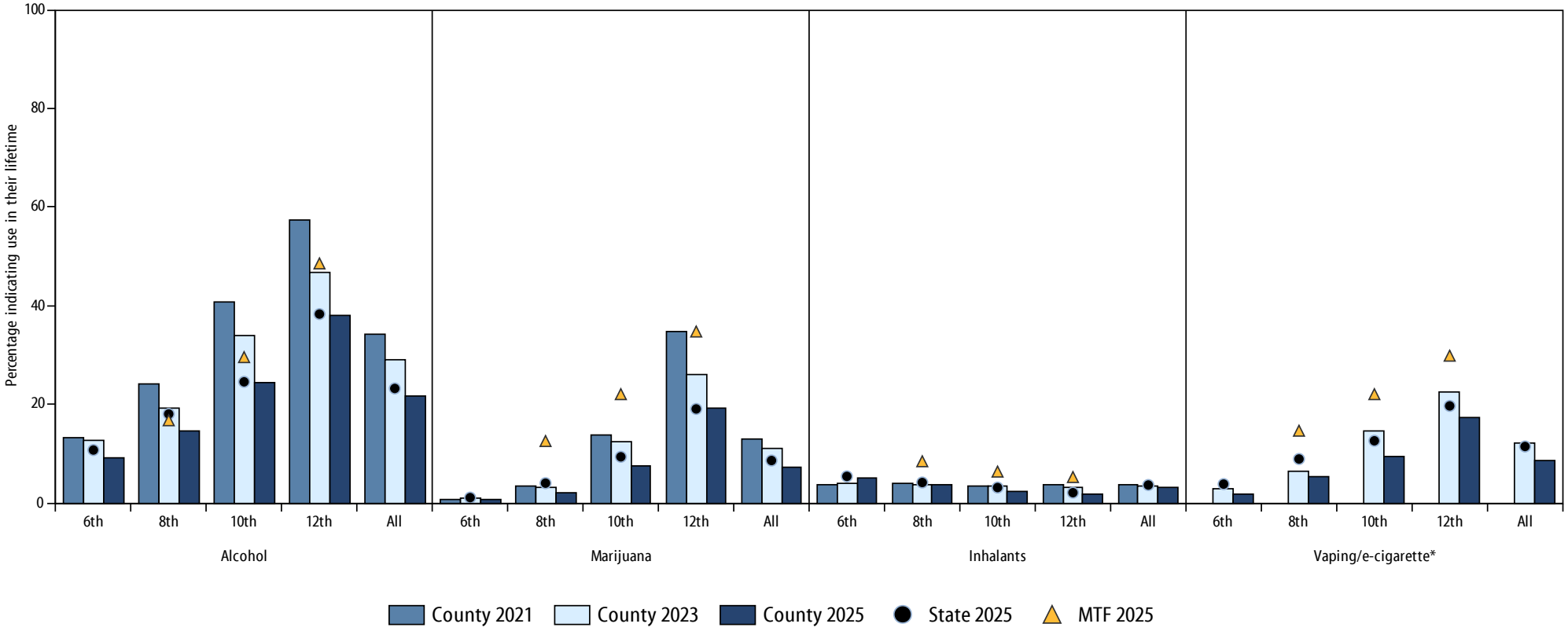
HIGH PREVALENCE/EARLY INITIATION DRUGS

This section covers alcohol, vaping, tobacco (cigarettes and smokeless), marijuana, and inhalants, the drugs first and most commonly used by youth. Their higher prevalence and earlier initiation make these drugs important to monitor, particularly for identifying students at risk of progressing from experimentation to social use and ultimately to addiction to these and other substances.

The highest lifetime usage rates were seen in alcohol (21.7% of students in this county, compared to 23.3% at the state level). The next highest lifetime use rate was vaping, with 8.5% indicating use (compared to 11.5% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Alcohol	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: had beer, wine, or hard liquor?*
Marijuana	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used marijuana (pot, hash, cannabis, weed, THC)?*
Inhalants	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Sniffed glue, breathed the contents of an aerosol spray can, or inhaled other gases or sprays in order to get high?*
Tobacco	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: smoked cigarettes?* *Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used smokless tobacco (chew, snuff, plug, dipping tobacco, chewing tobacco)?*
Vaping	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used an electronic vapor product such as e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, or vape pens?* *If you used an electronic vapor product such as e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, or vape pens during the past 12 months, with which substances did you use it? (Mark all that apply.)* *Just flavoring* *Nicotine* *Marijuana or THC* *Other substance* *I don't know*
Nicotine Pouches	*Have you ever/how often have you, in the past 30 days: Used nicotine pouches, like Zyn, On, and Velo?* *Never* *Once or twice* *Once in awhile but not regularly* *Regularly in the past* *Regularly now*

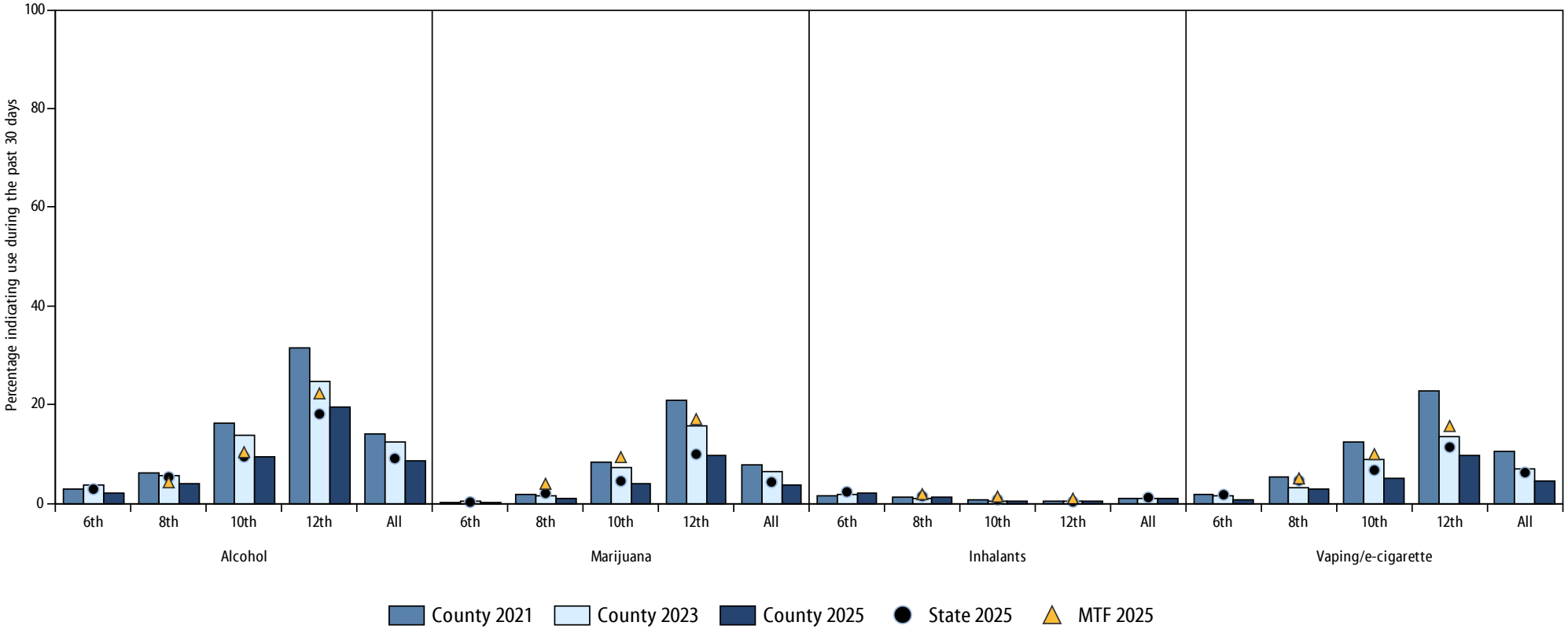
Early initiation and higher prevalence drugs - Lifetime use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	Alcohol					Marijuana					Inhalants					Vaping/e-cigarette*				
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025
6th	13.3	12.7	9.1	10.8	n/a	0.6	1.1	0.7	1.1	n/a	3.8	4.1	5.1	5.4	n/a	n/a	2.8	1.8	3.9	n/a
8th	24.1	19.3	14.7	18.1	16.8	3.5	3.2	2.1	4.1	12.6	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.2	8.5	n/a	6.5	5.2	9.0	14.7
10th	40.8	34.1	24.5	24.6	29.6	13.8	12.6	7.5	9.4	22.1	3.3	3.4	2.3	3.2	6.4	n/a	14.6	9.6	12.7	22.1
12th	57.4	46.7	38.1	38.3	48.6	34.9	26.0	19.2	19.1	34.8	3.8	3.3	1.9	2.1	5.3	n/a	22.6	17.2	19.7	29.9
All	34.2	29.0	21.7	23.3	n/a	13.1	11.1	7.3	8.7	n/a	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.7	n/a	n/a	12.1	8.5	11.5	n/a

**See Appendix B of 2023 PAYS Statewide Report for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 and 2025 data to prior years.

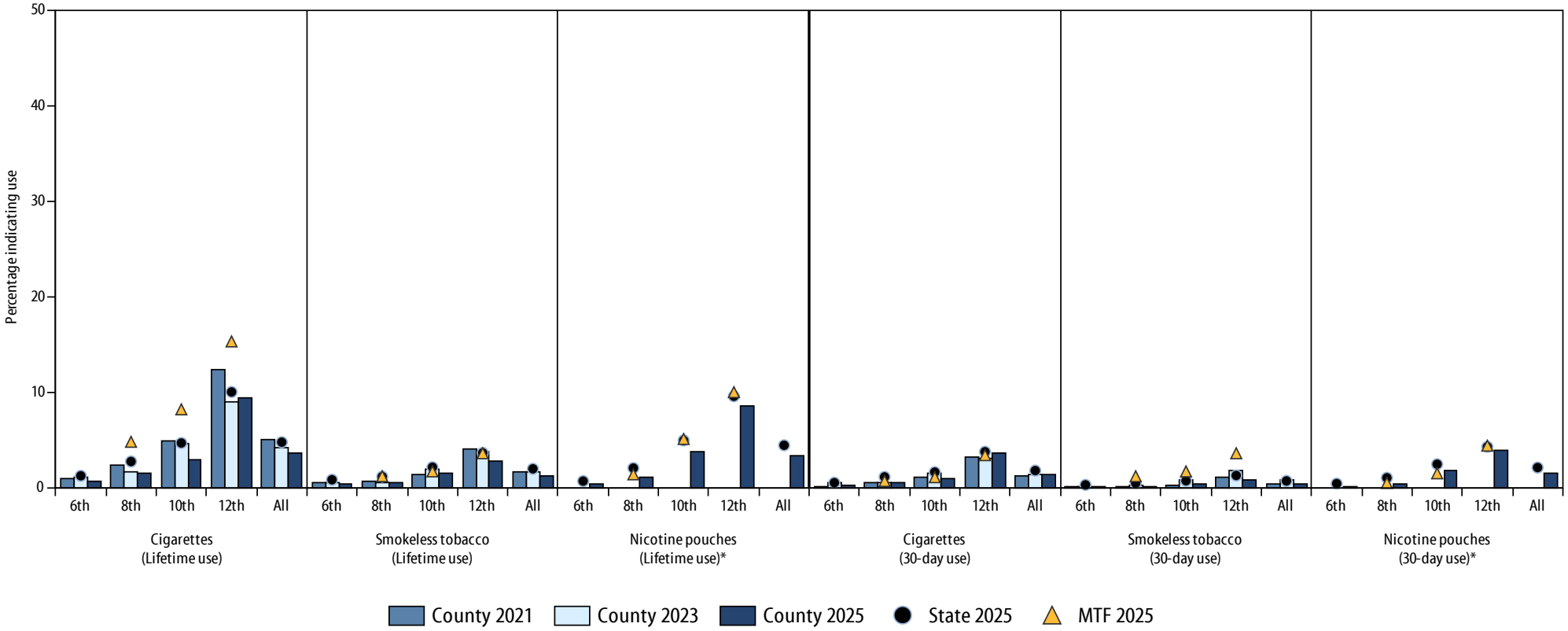
Early initiation and higher prevalence drugs - 30-day use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Alcohol County 2021	Alcohol County 2023	Alcohol County 2025	Alcohol State 2025	Alcohol MTF 2025	Marijuana County 2021	Marijuana County 2023	Marijuana County 2025	Marijuana State 2025	Marijuana MTF 2025	Inhalants County 2021	Inhalants County 2023	Inhalants County 2025	Inhalants State 2025	Inhalants MTF 2025	Vaping/e-cigarette County 2021	Vaping/e-cigarette County 2023	Vaping/e-cigarette County 2025	Vaping/e-cigarette State 2025	Vaping/e-cigarette MTF 2025
6th	2.8	3.8	2.1	2.9	n/a	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	n/a	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.4	n/a	1.8	1.5	0.8	1.8	n/a
8th	6.1	5.7	4.0	5.4	4.3	1.9	1.6	1.1	2.1	4.0	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.9	5.3	3.2	2.8	4.6	5.1
10th	16.4	13.9	9.5	9.5	10.4	8.3	7.2	3.9	4.5	9.4	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.4	12.5	8.9	5.0	6.8	10.0
12th	31.6	24.8	19.4	18.1	22.3	21.0	15.6	9.7	10.0	17.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	1.0	22.7	13.4	9.8	11.4	15.7
All	14.2	12.4	8.7	9.1	n/a	7.7	6.5	3.7	4.3	n/a	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	n/a	10.6	7.0	4.6	6.3	n/a

**See Appendix B of 2023 PAYS Statewide Report for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 and 2025 data to prior years.

Tobacco - Lifetime and 30-day use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

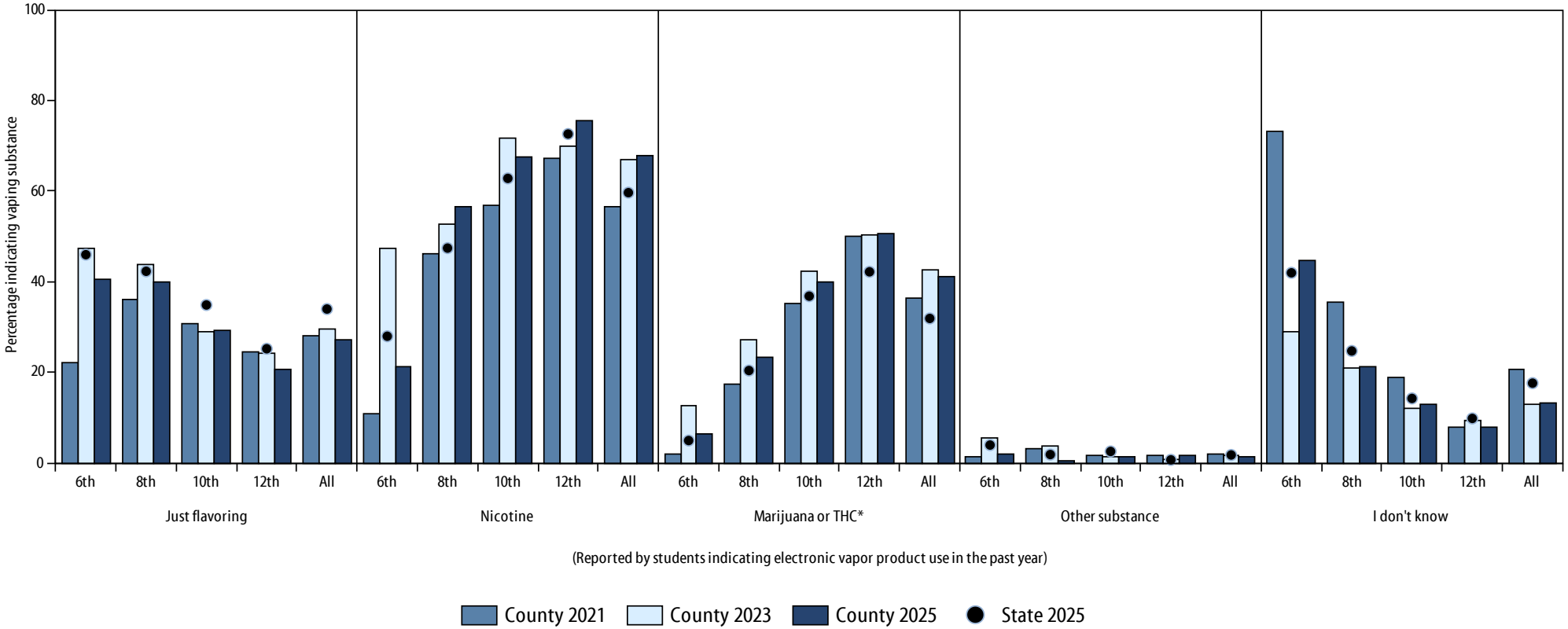


Grade	Cigarettes (Lifetime use) County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	Smokeless tobacco (Lifetime use) County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	Nicotine pouches (Lifetime use)* County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025
6th	0.9	1.2	0.7	1.2	n/a	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.4	0.7	n/a
8th	2.4	1.7	1.4	2.7	4.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.2	n/a	n/a	1.1	2.1	1.4
10th	5.0	4.7	2.9	4.7	8.2	1.4	2.0	1.4	2.1	1.7	n/a	n/a	3.7	5.0	5.1
12th	12.3	8.9	9.4	10.0	15.3	4.0	3.8	2.7	3.6	3.6	n/a	n/a	8.5	9.6	10.0
All	5.1	4.2	3.6	4.8	n/a	1.6	1.7	1.3	2.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.4	4.4	n/a

Grade	Cigarettes (30-day use) County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	Smokeless tobacco (30-day use) County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	Nicotine pouches (30-day use)* County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025
6th	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.4	n/a
8th	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	1.2	n/a	n/a	0.4	1.0	0.5
10th	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.1	0.2	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.7	n/a	n/a	1.8	2.5	1.5
12th	3.3	3.0	3.6	3.8	3.4	1.1	1.7	0.8	1.3	3.6	n/a	n/a	3.9	4.3	4.4
All	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.8	n/a	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.6	2.1	n/a

* Questions measuring lifetime and 30 day use of nicotine pouches were added in 2025

Vaping substances used by students indicating electronic vaping product use in the past year
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



* Prior to 2023 "Marijuana or THC" was worded as "marijuana or hash oil" which could impact comparability of 2023 and 2025 data to prior years

	Just flavoring				Nicotine				Marijuana or THC*				Other substance				I don't know			
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	22.2	47.3	40.4	46.0	10.8	47.3	21.3	28.0	2.1	12.7	6.4	5.0	1.5	5.5	2.1	4.0	73.2	29.1	44.7	42.0
8th	36.3	43.8	40.0	42.3	46.2	52.8	56.5	47.4	17.6	27.2	23.5	20.4	3.2	3.8	0.4	1.9	35.6	21.1	21.3	24.8
10th	30.9	28.9	29.4	34.9	56.9	71.7	67.5	62.8	35.2	42.4	40.0	36.9	1.8	1.4	1.6	2.6	18.9	12.1	13.0	14.3
12th	24.6	24.2	20.6	25.2	67.4	70.0	75.6	72.6	50.0	50.4	50.5	42.2	1.6	0.9	1.7	0.8	7.9	9.5	8.1	9.9
All	28.2	29.6	27.3	34.0	56.4	67.0	68.0	59.7	36.5	42.8	41.2	31.9	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.8	20.8	12.9	13.1	17.7

** See All questions by Grade report to see the percentage of total students who report vaping a specific substance.

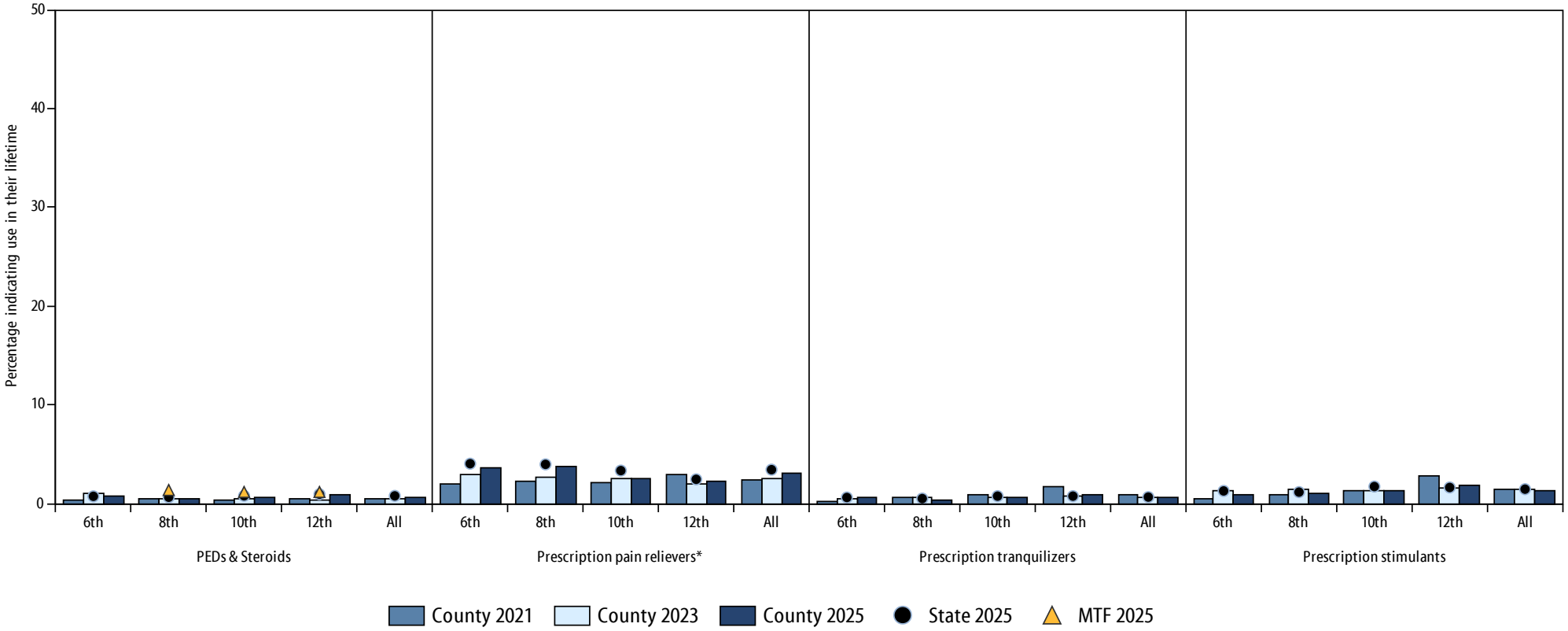
PRESCRIPTION AND PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS

According to the recent Monitoring the Future study, prescription drugs are the most misused category of drugs after alcohol, nicotine, and marijuana.

The type of prescription drug most frequently misused by students in this county was prescription pain relievers (3.1% of students indicating lifetime use, compared to 3.5% at the state level). The next most frequently misused substance was prescription stimulants (1.3% of students indicating lifetime use, compared to 1.5% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs)	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Taken performance enhancing drugs (such as steroids, human growth hormone) without a doctor telling you to take them?*
Prescription Pain Relievers	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used prescription pain relievers (such as Vicodin, OxyContin, Percocet or Codeine) without a doctor telling you to take them?*
Prescription Tranquilizers	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used prescription tranquilizers (such as Ambien, Lunesta, Valium, or Xanax) without a doctor telling you to take them?*
Prescription Stimulants	*Have you ever:/ How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used prescription stimulants (such as Ritalin or Adderall) without a doctor telling you to take them?*

Prescription and Performance Enhancing Drugs - Lifetime use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

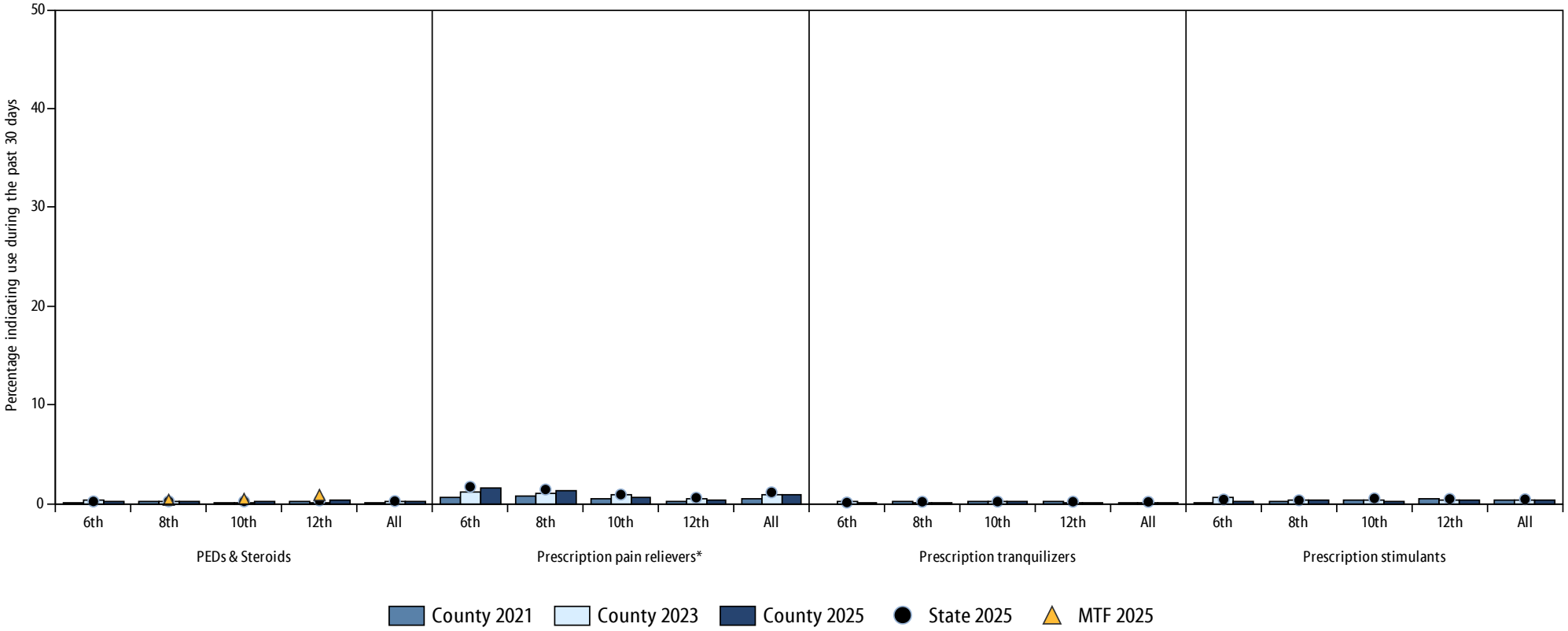


*MTF comparison data for prescription pain reliever use are only available for the 12th grade

	PEDs & Steroids					Prescription pain relievers*					Prescription tranquilizers					Prescription stimulants				
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025
6th	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.8	n/a	2.0	3.0	3.7	4.1	n/a	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	n/a	0.5	1.3	0.9	1.3	n/a
8th	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.4	2.3	2.7	3.8	4.0	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	n/a	0.9	1.4	1.1	1.2	n/a
10th	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.5	2.6	3.4	n/a	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.8	n/a	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.7	n/a
12th	0.5	0.4	0.9	1.0	1.2	2.9	2.1	2.2	2.5	n/a	1.7	0.8	1.0	0.8	n/a	2.9	1.7	1.9	1.7	n/a
All	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	n/a	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.5	n/a	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	n/a	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	n/a

**See Appendix B of 2023 PAYS Statewide Report for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 and 2025 data to prior years.

Prescription and Performance Enhancing Drugs - 30-day use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



*MTF comparison data for prescription pain reliever use are only available for the 12th grade

	PEDs & Steroids					Prescription pain relievers*					Prescription tranquilizers					Prescription stimulants				
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025
6th	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	n/a	0.7	1.2	1.6	1.7	n/a	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	n/a	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.4	n/a
8th	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	n/a	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	n/a	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	n/a
10th	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.9	n/a	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	n/a	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	n/a
12th	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	n/a	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	n/a	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	n/a
All	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	n/a	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.2	n/a	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	n/a	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	n/a

**See Appendix B of 2023 PAYS Statewide Report for changes made to substance use questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of 2023 and 2025 data to prior years.

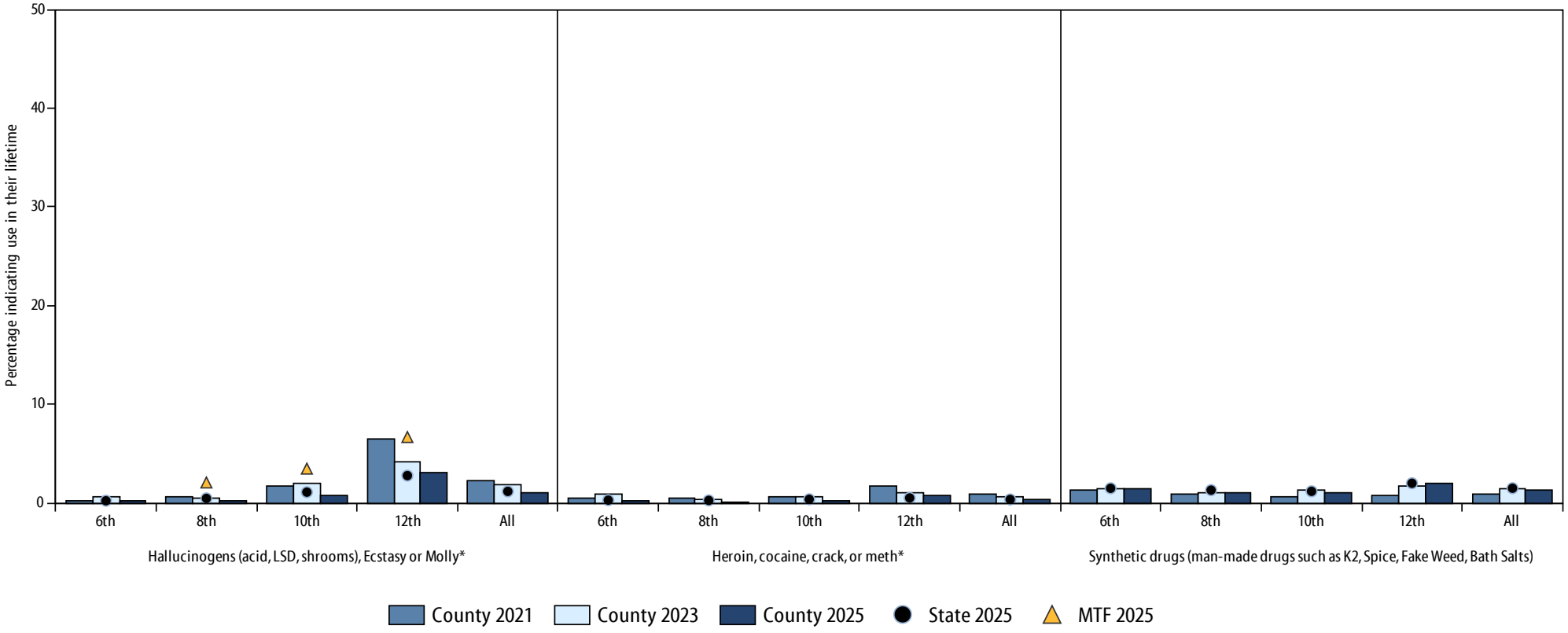
OTHER DRUGS

PAYS also measures the prevalence of use for a variety of other drugs. The rates for prevalence of use of these other drugs are generally lower than the rates for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and inhalants. Use of these other drugs tends to be concentrated in the upper grade levels.

The most frequently used substance in the "other" category in this county was synthetic drugs (1.3% of students indicating lifetime use, compared to 1.5% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Hallucinogens, Ecstasy/ Molly	*Have you ever:/How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used hallucinogens (acid, LSD, shrooms), Ecstasy or Molly?*
Cocaine/ Crack, Methamphetamine, Heroin	*Have you ever:/How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used other illegal drugs like heroin, cocaine, crack, or methamphetamines (meth, crystal meth, speed)?:*
Synthetic Drugs	*Have you ever:/How often have you, In the past 30 days: Used synthetic drugs (man–made drugs such as K2, Spice, Fake Weed, Bath Salts)?*

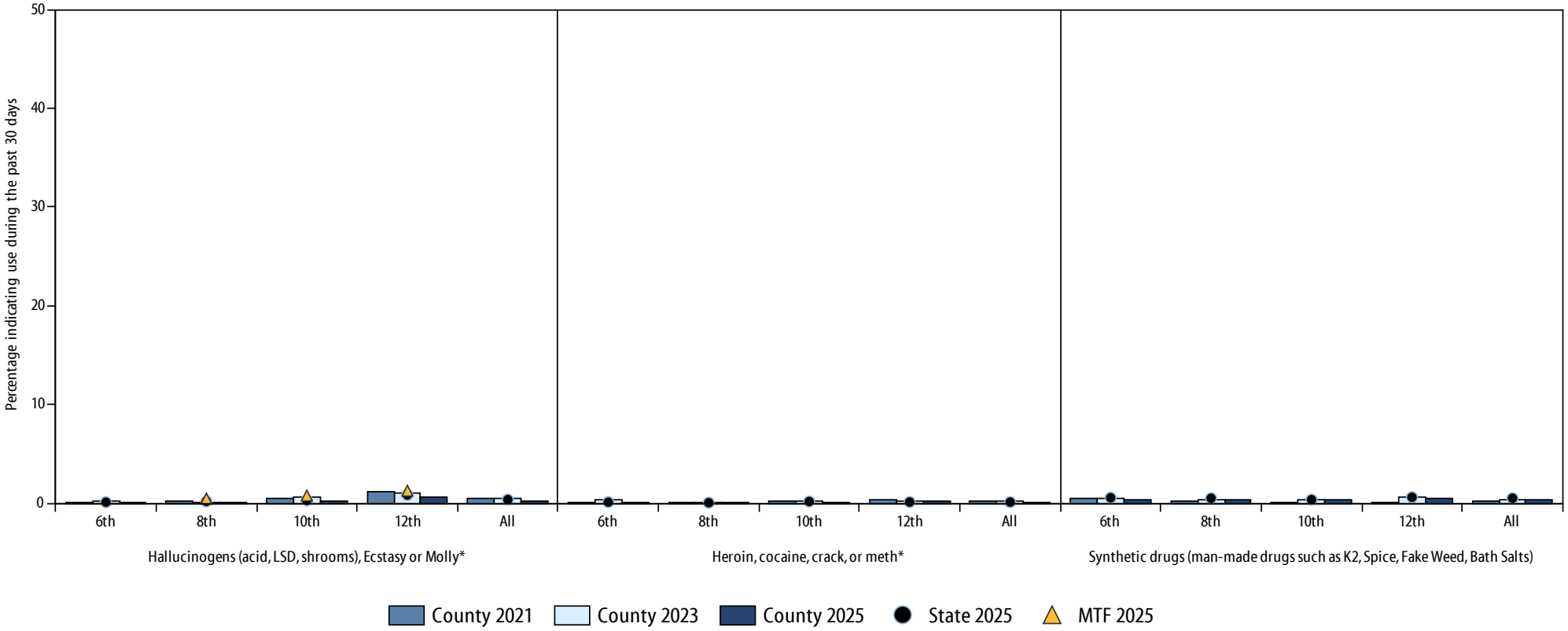
Hallucinogens, Other illegal drugs, Synthetic drugs - Lifetime use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Hallucinogens (acid, LSD, shrooms), Ecstasy or Molly*					Heroin, cocaine, crack, or meth*					Synthetic drugs (man-made drugs such as K2, Spice, Fake Weed, Bath Salts)				
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025
6th	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	n/a	0.5	0.9	0.2	0.3	n/a	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	n/a
8th	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	2.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	n/a	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	n/a
10th	1.8	2.0	0.8	1.1	3.5	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.4	n/a	0.6	1.4	1.0	1.2	n/a
12th	6.5	4.1	3.0	2.8	6.7	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.5	n/a	0.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	n/a
All	2.2	1.8	1.1	1.2	n/a	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.4	n/a	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.5	n/a

*See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2025 which could influence comparability of 2025 data to prior years.

Hallucinogens, Other illegal drugs, Synthetic drugs - 30-day use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Hallucinogens (acid, LSD, shrooms), Ecstasy or Molly*					Heroin, cocaine, crack, or meth*					Synthetic drugs (man-made drugs such as K2, Spice, Fake Weed, Bath Salts)				
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025
6th	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	n/a	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	n/a	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.6	n/a
8th	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	n/a	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	n/a
10th	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	n/a	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	n/a
12th	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	n/a	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	n/a
All	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	n/a	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	n/a	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	n/a

*See Appendix B for changes made to substance use questions in 2025 which could influence comparability of 2025 data to prior years.

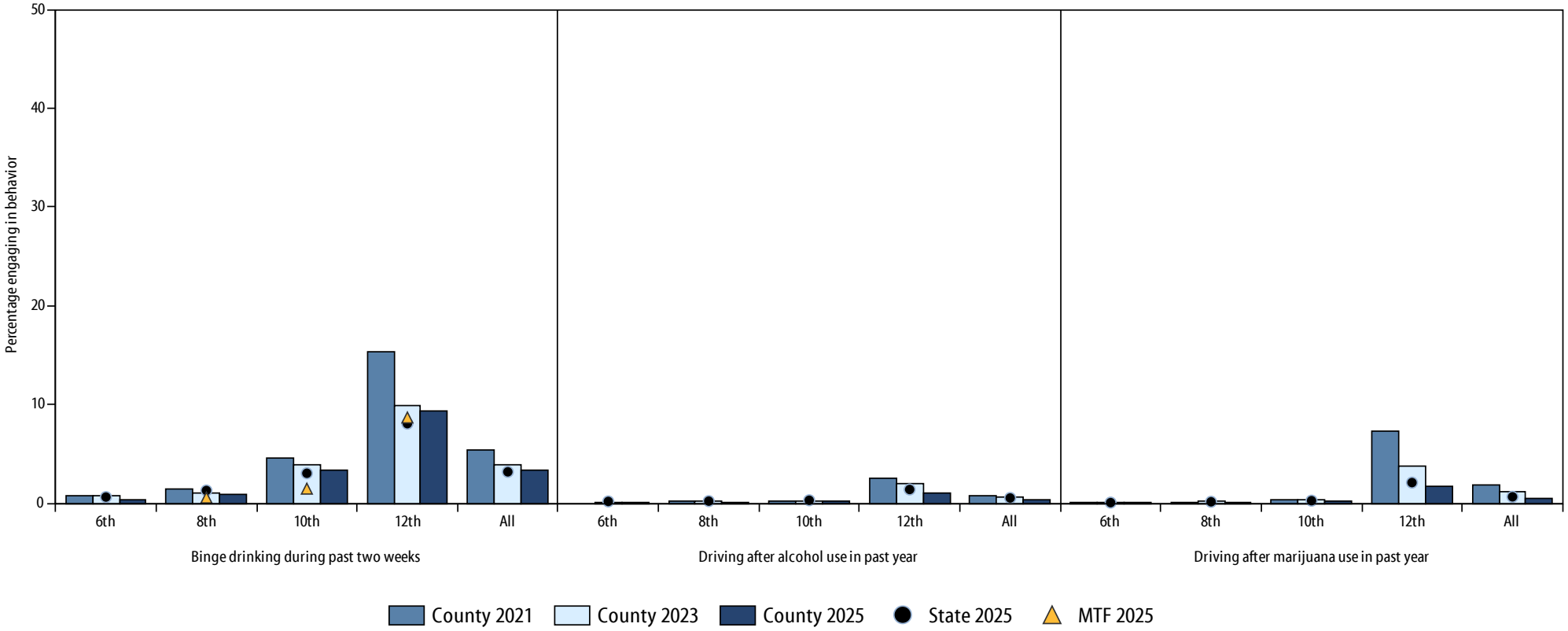
BINGE DRINKING AND DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Binge drinking and driving while intoxicated are particularly risky substance use-related behaviors. These behaviors are strongly linked to serious negative health consequences, such as alcohol poisoning, automobile fatality, as well as DUI conviction and resulting complications with employment, college applications, and financial aid.

3.3% of students in this county engaged in binge drinking in the past two weeks (compared to 3.2% at the state level). 1.1% of 12th grade students reported driving while or shortly after drinking (compared to 1.4% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Risky substance use-related behaviors	*Think back over the last two weeks.*
	How many times have you had five or more alcoholic drinks in a row?
	How often have you:
	Driven a motor vehicle while or shortly after drinking alcohol?
	Driven a motor vehicle while or shortly after using marijuana (pot, hash, cannabis, weed, THC)?

Binge drinking and driving under the influence
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



4_24_2026

	Binge drinking during past two weeks					Driving after alcohol use in past year					Driving after marijuana use in past year				
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	MTF 2025
6th	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.7	n/a	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	n/a	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	n/a
8th	1.5	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	n/a	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	n/a
10th	4.6	3.9	3.4	3.1	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	n/a	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	n/a
12th	15.4	9.9	9.4	8.1	8.7	2.5	2.1	1.1	1.4	n/a	7.4	3.8	1.7	2.1	n/a
All	5.5	4.0	3.3	3.2	n/a	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	n/a	1.9	1.1	0.5	0.7	n/a

3. MENTAL HEALTH

Stress, anxiety, loneliness, and frustration are all emotions that can negatively impact student health when students do not have the strategies and supports to cope effectively.

Mental Health

Important skills—including coping, problem-solving, and help-seeking—help adolescents to achieve overall wellbeing and set the stage for positive mental health in adulthood. Building these skills and promoting other protective factors in schools, at home and in the community, can help mitigate risk of experiencing a mental health concern. Prevention and early identification are crucial in helping students who are struggling to get the help they need and in preventing a mental health concern from worsening. Friends and family can watch for warning signs of social and emotional distress and urge young people to get help.

Mental Health Disorders

It can sometimes be challenging to distinguish a mental health challenge from typical adolescent development. Noticing changes in behavior, as well as the extent to which that change is impacting that youth, provide the opportunity for outreach and support. While approximately one out of five adolescents has a diagnosable mental health disorder, not all challenges are indicative of a disorder. Identifying challenges early on helps improve positive outcomes and reduces the likelihood that a youth will develop a mental health disorder or experience a mental health crisis (e.g., suicidal thoughts or behaviors). Effective strategies and supports for mental health challenges, as well as universal prevention efforts that promote mental health and wellness, can help equip adolescents to cope effectively with life stressors and reduce the risk of adverse outcomes.

Access to Mental Health Care

Less than half of adolescents who need mental health services receive them. Barriers to receiving help include limited mental health knowledge or perceived social stigma and embarrassment. Initially identifying a mental health disorder can be challenging—issues are often first identified at school. Researchers have documented a number of disparities in access: among adolescents, those who are homeless; served by state child welfare and juvenile justice systems; and are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender are often the least likely to receive services.

Positive Mental Health: Resilience

Resilient youth are able to cope effectively with stress and other difficult circumstances, and are likely to enter adulthood with good mental health. Some important factors that promote resilience in youth include caring relationships with adults, regular exercise, getting enough sleep, and emotional intelligence. Schools and communities are increasingly recognizing the importance of social and emotional learning and coping skills for youth, and are offering more courses and programs in this area.

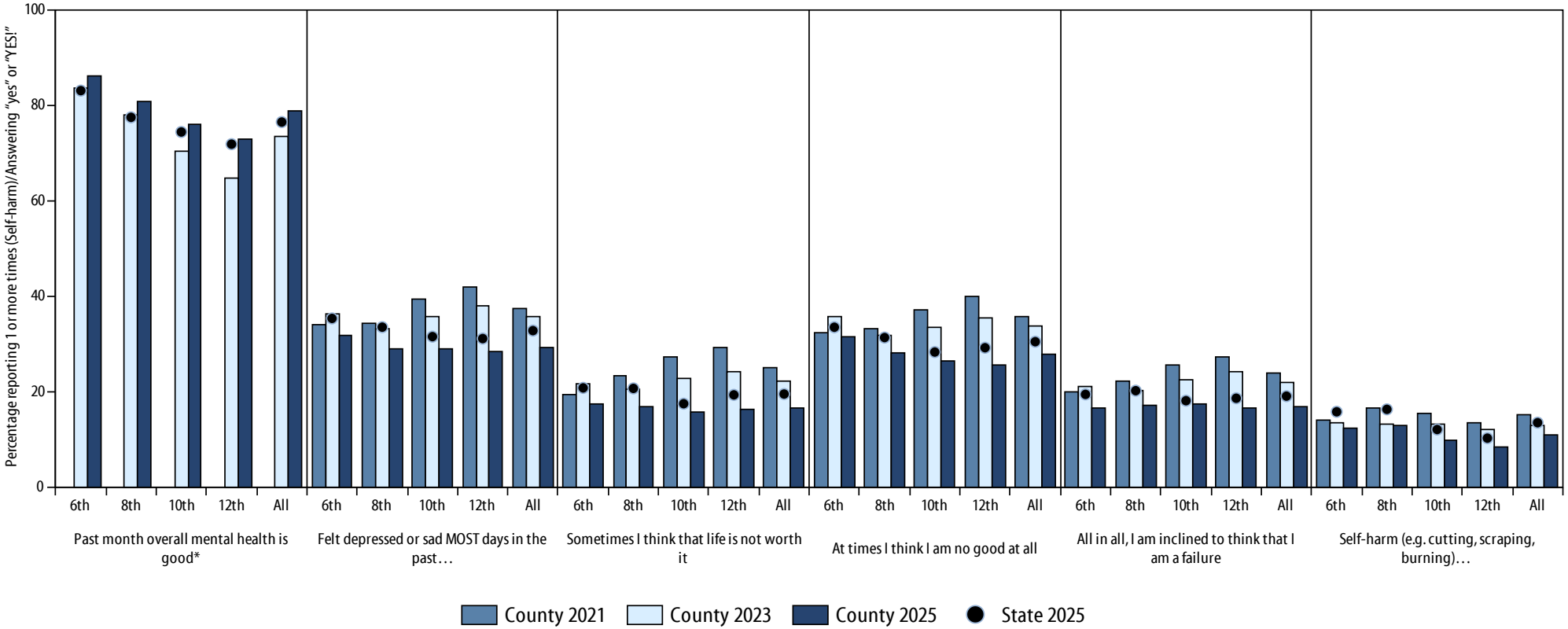
MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS AND SUICIDE RISK

PAYS includes one question about self-harm and four questions that ask students about feelings—sadness, hopelessness, and worthlessness—that can be symptoms of depression. PAYS also asks five questions specific to suicide, measuring depressed behavior, suicidal intention, actual suicide attempts, and the seriousness of those attempts (by asking about resulting medical intervention).

The most common depressed thought was "at times I think I am no good at all," reported by 27.7% of students in this county. 29.3% of students reported they felt sad or depressed MOST days in the past 12 months. Overall, 11.7% of students had seriously considered attempting suicide, compared to 13.9% of students at the state level.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Mental health concerns	*My overall mental health in the past month has been good.*
	In the past 12 months have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you feel OK sometimes?
	How many times in the past 12 months have you: Done anything to harm yourself (such as cutting, scraping, burning) as a way to relieve difficult feelings, or to communicate emotions that may be difficult to express verbally?
	Sometimes I think that life is not worth it.
	At times I think I am no good at all.
	All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure.
	If you have felt sad, lonely or worried in the past month who did you talk to?
	No one
	Parent/caregiver
	Other family member
	Friend
	Teacher of another adult at school (e.g. coach, counselor, nurse)
	Doctor or therapist
	Religous or spiritual leader (e.g. Rabbi, Pastor, Imam, Priest, or Nun, Bishop)
	Other adult in the community
	I have not felt this way in the past 30 days
Suicide risk	*During the past 12 months:*
The next questions ask about sad feelings and attempted suicide.	*Did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?*
Sometimes people feel so depressed about the future that they may consider attempting suicide, that is, taking some action to end their own life.	*Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?*
	Did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?
	Did you actually attempt suicide?
	If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?

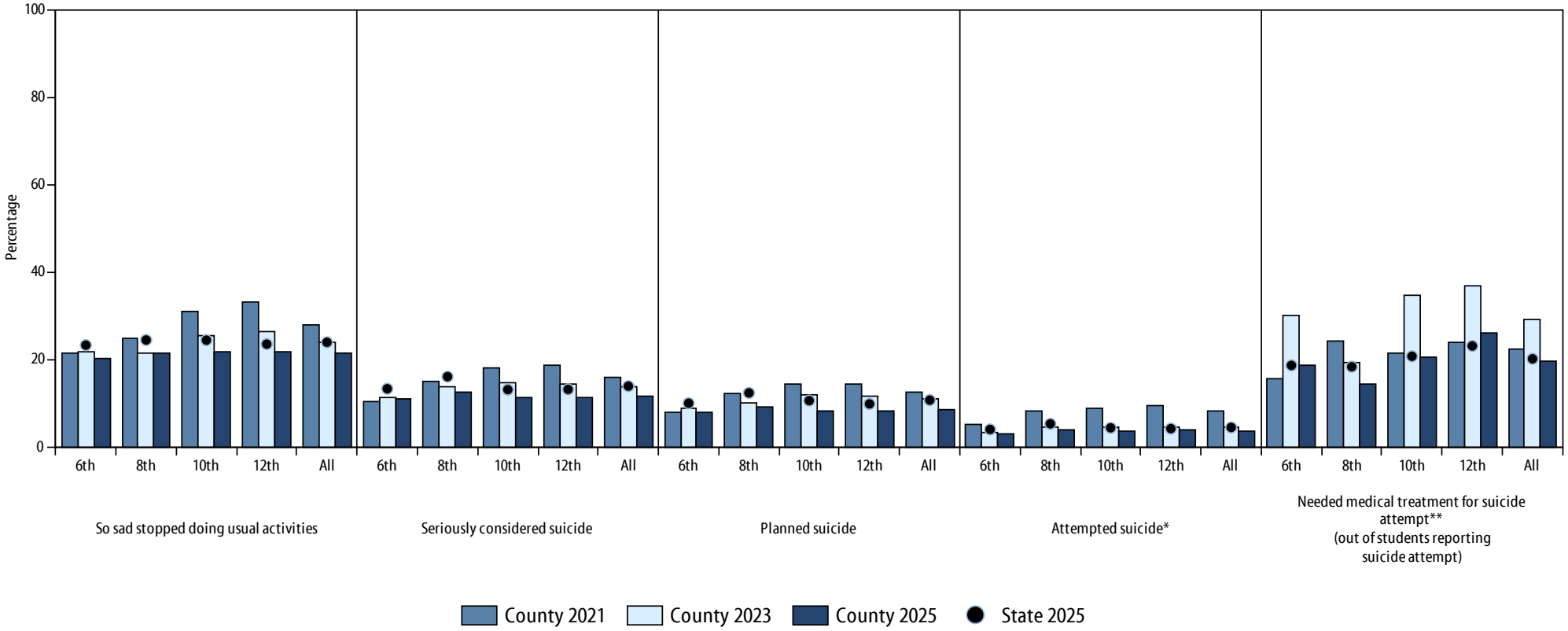
Mental Health Concerns
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Past month overall mental health is good*				Felt depressed or sad MOST days in the past 12 months				Sometimes I think that life is not worth it				At times I think I am no good at all				All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure				Self-harm (e.g. cutting, scraping, burning) in the past 12 months			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	83.5	86.2	83.0	34.0	36.1	31.6	35.3	19.3	21.5	17.4	20.8	32.4	35.6	31.4	33.5	19.8	21.2	16.4	19.4	14.1	13.3	12.4	15.8
8th	n/a	77.9	80.7	77.4	34.2	33.2	29.1	33.5	23.2	20.5	16.8	20.7	33.1	31.8	28.0	31.3	22.1	20.2	17.0	20.2	16.5	13.2	12.9	16.3
10th	n/a	70.3	75.9	74.4	39.3	35.8	28.9	31.5	27.2	22.8	15.8	17.4	37.1	33.5	26.3	28.3	25.5	22.6	17.3	18.1	15.4	13.3	9.7	12.0
12th	n/a	64.8	72.9	71.8	41.9	38.0	28.3	31.1	29.2	24.3	16.4	19.3	39.8	35.5	25.7	29.2	27.2	24.1	16.6	18.6	13.4	12.0	8.4	10.2
All	n/a	73.4	78.7	76.4	37.4	35.6	29.3	32.8	25.0	22.3	16.6	19.5	35.7	33.8	27.7	30.4	23.8	22.0	16.9	19.0	15.0	13.0	10.9	13.5

*Past month overall mental health question was added to survey in 2025.

Suicide risk
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

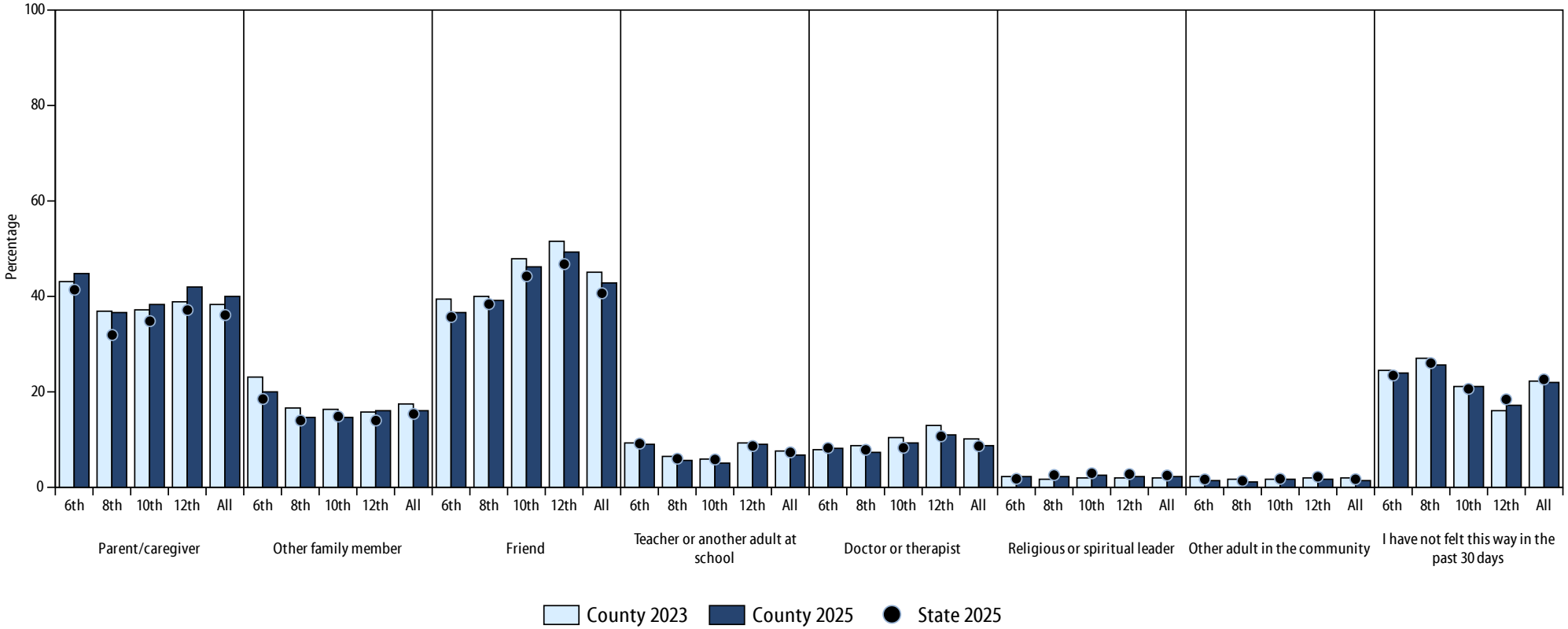


Grade	So sad stopped doing usual activities				Seriously considered suicide				Planned suicide				Attempted suicide*				Needed medical treatment for suicide attempt			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	21.3	21.7	20.1	23.3	10.4	11.2	11.2	13.3	8.0	9.0	7.8	10.0	5.2	3.2	3.0	4.0	15.7	30.2	18.8	18.7
8th	24.7	21.4	21.6	24.5	15.1	13.7	12.6	16.1	12.1	10.2	9.3	12.4	8.2	4.7	4.0	5.3	24.1	19.3	14.5	18.4
10th	31.1	25.5	21.7	24.4	18.1	14.8	11.5	13.1	14.5	12.0	8.3	10.6	8.8	4.7	3.5	4.4	21.3	34.7	20.5	20.7
12th	33.3	26.3	21.9	23.5	18.6	14.5	11.3	13.2	14.3	11.5	8.1	9.9	9.6	4.6	3.8	4.2	24.0	36.9	26.1	23.1
All	27.9	23.8	21.4	24.0	15.9	13.8	11.7	13.9	12.6	10.9	8.4	10.7	8.2	4.4	3.6	4.5	22.3	29.3	19.6	20.2

*The question regarding suicide attempts was revised in 2023 & 2025 from a question on how many times attempted suicide to a yes/no question on if attempted suicide. The 2023 & 2025 data should be interpreted with caution when comparing to prior years.

**In the 2023 & 2025 survey, skip logic ensured that only participants who marked that they had actually attempted suicide were given this question, the past data was recalculated to match.

Who talked to when felt sad, lonely or worried
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



4_24_2026

Grade	Parent/caregiver County 2021	Parent/caregiver County 2023	Parent/caregiver County 2025	Parent/caregiver State 2025	Other family member County 2021	Other family member County 2023	Other family member County 2025	Other family member State 2025	Friend County 2021	Friend County 2023	Friend County 2025	Friend State 2025
6th	n/a	42.9	44.7	41.3	n/a	23.0	19.9	18.4	n/a	39.4	36.6	35.6
8th	n/a	36.8	36.4	31.8	n/a	16.5	14.7	13.9	n/a	39.8	39.0	38.3
10th	n/a	37.0	38.1	34.7	n/a	16.2	14.5	14.8	n/a	47.8	46.0	44.1
12th	n/a	38.7	41.8	37.1	n/a	15.8	16.0	13.9	n/a	51.6	49.3	46.7
All	n/a	38.3	39.8	36.0	n/a	17.3	16.0	15.3	n/a	44.9	42.8	40.6

Grade	Teacher or another adult at school (e.g. coach, counselor, nurse) County 2021	Teacher County 2023	Teacher County 2025	Teacher State 2025	Doctor or therapist County 2021	Doctor County 2023	Doctor County 2025	Doctor State 2025	Religious or spiritual leader (e.g. Rabbi, Pastor, Imam, Priest or Nun, Bishop) County 2021	Religious County 2023	Religious County 2025	Religious State 2025
6th	n/a	9.3	8.8	9.1	n/a	7.8	8.0	8.2	n/a	2.2	2.2	1.7
8th	n/a	6.3	5.5	5.9	n/a	8.7	7.3	7.8	n/a	1.7	2.3	2.5
10th	n/a	5.9	4.9	5.8	n/a	10.4	9.3	8.2	n/a	1.8	2.4	2.9
12th	n/a	9.4	8.9	8.6	n/a	12.8	10.9	10.6	n/a	2.0	2.1	2.7
All	n/a	7.5	6.8	7.3	n/a	10.0	8.8	8.6	n/a	1.9	2.3	2.4

Grade	Other adult in the community County 2021	Other County 2023	Other County 2025	Other State 2025	I have not felt this way in the past 30 days County 2021	I County 2023	I County 2025	I State 2025
6th	n/a	2.1	1.4	1.6	n/a	24.5	23.8	23.4
8th	n/a	1.7	1.0	1.3	n/a	27.1	25.4	25.9
10th	n/a	1.5	1.5	1.7	n/a	20.9	21.0	20.6
12th	n/a	1.9	1.7	2.1	n/a	16.1	17.2	18.4
All	n/a	1.8	1.4	1.6	n/a	22.2	22.0	22.5

*Question on who talked to when felt sad, lonely or worried was added to survey in 2025.

DEPRESSION AND SUBSTANCE USE

The substance use rate of youth who reported depressive symptoms is much greater than those who have a much more positive outlook on life.

The four depressive symptoms that were asked on the survey questionnaire were: 1) *Sometimes I think that life is not worth it*, 2) *At times I think I am no good at all*, 3) *All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure*, and 4) *In the past year, have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you felt OK sometimes?* The questions were scored on a scale of 1 to 4 (NO!, no, yes, YES!). The survey respondents were divided into three groups.

The high depressive symptoms group scored at least a mean of 3.75 on the depressive symptoms. This meant that those individuals marked "YES!" to all four items or marked "yes" to one item and "YES!" to three. The no depressive symptoms group marked "NO!" to all four of the items, and the moderate depressive symptoms group comprised the remaining respondents. Of the statewide sample, 29.0% of students scored no depressive symptoms on this scale; 66.9% scored moderate symptoms; and 4.2% scored high symptoms.

The table below shows the relationship between youth who report depressive symptoms and ATOD use. When compared to the non-depressed group, youth in the state of Pennsylvania with high depressive symptoms indicate 30-day alcohol use rates that are four times higher than non-depressed students. Statewide, depressed students indicate use rates that are 12 times higher for past-month cigarette use and eight times higher for past month marijuana use in comparison to non-depressed students.

The ATOD use rates of the moderate depressive symptoms group (66.9% of Pennsylvania youth), were closer to the rates of the non-depressed group than they were to the depressed. For the three substances, the past month usage rates for the this group were higher than those without depressive symptoms but lower than the high depressive symptoms group. Even with some depressive symptoms, individuals with a positive outlook tend to use fewer substances than peers with high levels of depressive symptoms.

	No Depressive Symptoms		Moderate Depressive Symptoms		High Depressive Symptoms	
	County 2025	State 2025	County 2025	State 2025	County 2025	State 2025
Depressive symptom alone	31.7	29.0	65.0	66.9	3.3	4.2
Alcohol Lifetime	11.9	12.5	25.4	27.0	39.1	42.4
Alcohol 30-Day	4.7	4.8	9.9	10.4	18.1	17.4
Cigarettes Lifetime	1.4	2.0	4.0	5.2	10.1	13.7
Cigarettes 30-Day	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.8	4.7	6.3
Marijuana Lifetime	3.1	3.4	8.5	9.9	16.1	19.3
Marijuana 30-Day	1.6	2.0	4.1	4.9	10.0	9.9

BULLYING AND DEPRESSION/SUICIDE

PAYS data show a strong relationship between being bullied and depression and suicidal behaviors.

When PAYS data for bullying measures (*Have you stayed home from school this year because you were worried about being bullied?* and *Have you been bullied during the past 12 months?*) are analyzed alongside measures of depression (*Did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?*) and of suicidal ideation (*During the past 12 months did you: seriously consider attempting suicide? Make a plan of how you would attempt suicide? Actually attempted suicide?*) a compelling relationship emerges.

For example, students at the state level who indicated they hadn't been bullied in the past year, 16.6% reported that they felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities.

Of students who indicated they *had* been bullied, 45.1% indicated feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks in past year that they stopped doing usual activities. In the past year, 29.7% of those students had seriously considered suicide, 23.3% had made a suicide plan, and 9.7% had attempted suicide.

Similar relationships exist for students who indicated they had skipped school due to bullying fears in the past year. Of those students, 63.8% had felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks in past year that they stopped doing usual activities, 41.5% had seriously considered suicide, 35.2% had made a suicide plan, and 2.7% had attempted suicide.

	Have you have been bullied during the past 12 months?				Skipped school due to bullying fears in the past year?			
	No		Yes (any)		NO/no		YES/yes	
	County 2025	State 2025	County 2025	State 2025	County 2025	State 2025	County 2025	State 2025
Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least 2 weeks in past year that stopped doing usual activities	14.6	16.6	42.9	45.1	19.4	21.5	60.6	63.8
Seriously considered suicide in the past year	7.1	8.5	26.5	29.7	10.3	12.2	38.5	41.5
Made suicide plan in the past year	5.2	6.4	18.8	23.3	7.3	9.2	30.1	35.2
Attempted suicide one or more times in the past year	2.2	2.7	7.9	9.7	3.0	3.6	1.9	2.7

To create other crosstabs at the state and county level for other comparisons, visit www.bach-harrison.com/PAYSWebTool.

4. SCREEN TIME

Social media and screen time can influence how young people feel, learn, and connect with others.

Benefits of Access

When used in moderation, technology can support learning, creativity, and communication. Online platforms may help young people build social confidence, practice self-expression, and engage with diverse perspectives. For some teens, moderated online spaces can also provide opportunities to connect with peers, seek support, and participate in activities aligned with their interests.

Excessive Use

Excessive screen time or frequent exposure to negative online interactions can contribute to increased stress, disrupted sleep, and difficulty maintaining focus at school. Extended time on social media may expose children and adolescents to content that heightens anxiety or lowers self-esteem. Screen use—particularly before bedtime—can interfere with healthy sleep routines, which can affect concentration, academic performance, and overall well-being. Encouraging balanced and mindful use helps reduce these risks and supports healthier online habits.

Parent and Caregiver Rules: Encouraging Boundaries

Clear expectations around screen time and online behavior can help young people develop balanced habits and support emotional well-being. Practices such as taking regular breaks, setting limits, and promoting positive or age-appropriate content can reduce overexposure to harmful interactions and create more space for in-person connection. Consistent routines, especially around bedtime and family activities, support healthier sleep and stronger relationships. When parents and caregivers encourage positive online experiences and set appropriate boundaries, they help create a safer digital environment that supports creativity, self-expression, and social development.

ACCESS, RULES AND FREQUENCY OF USE

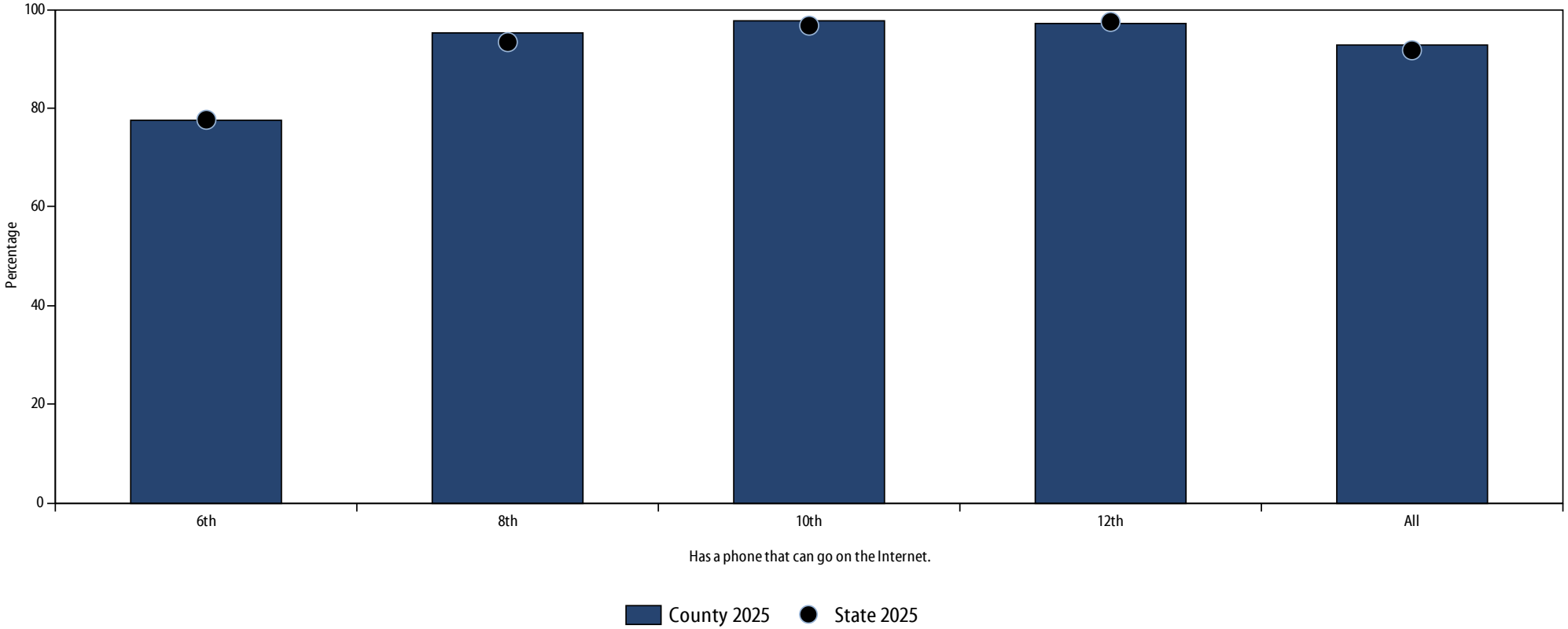
In 2025, six new questions were added to PAYS to assess students' access to devices and social media, their frequency of use, and parent/caregiver rules regarding screen time.

When asked about daily screen habits, 23.0% of students reported spending 4 or more hours per school day on social media, 9.6% spent 4 or more hours gaming, and 35.2% reported 4 or more hours of total non-school screen time.

Only 31.5% indicated that parents or caregivers often or always require them to follow rules about screen time (compared to 28.2% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Access and Rules	*Do you have a phone that can go on the internet?* *Do you have your own social media account?* *How often do your parents or caregivers make you follow rules about screen time?*
Frequency of Use	*On a normal school day, about how much time do you spend on social media? Even if you don't know exactly, provide your best guess* *On a normal school day, how many hours do you spend playing games on electronic devices, such as video games?* *On a normal school day, how many hours in total do you use an electronic device such as a phone, tablet, computer, or TV, for something that is not schoolwork?*

Student has internet capable phone
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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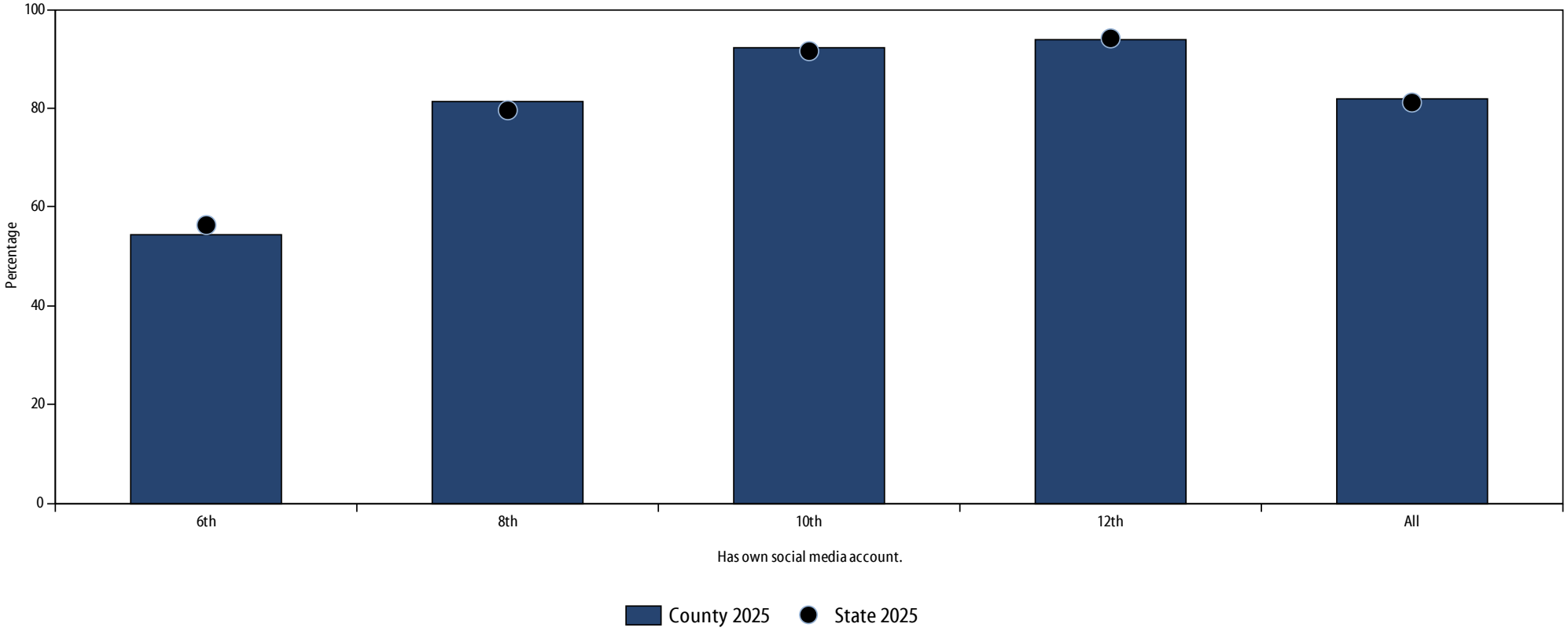
Grade	Has a phone that can go on the Internet. County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	77.5	77.7
8th	n/a	n/a	95.3	93.4
10th	n/a	n/a	97.8	96.7
12th	n/a	n/a	97.1	97.5
All	n/a	n/a	92.8	91.7

*In 2025, six new questions were added to PAYS to assess students' access to devices and social media, their frequency of use, and parent/caregiver rules regarding screen time.

Student has social media account
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

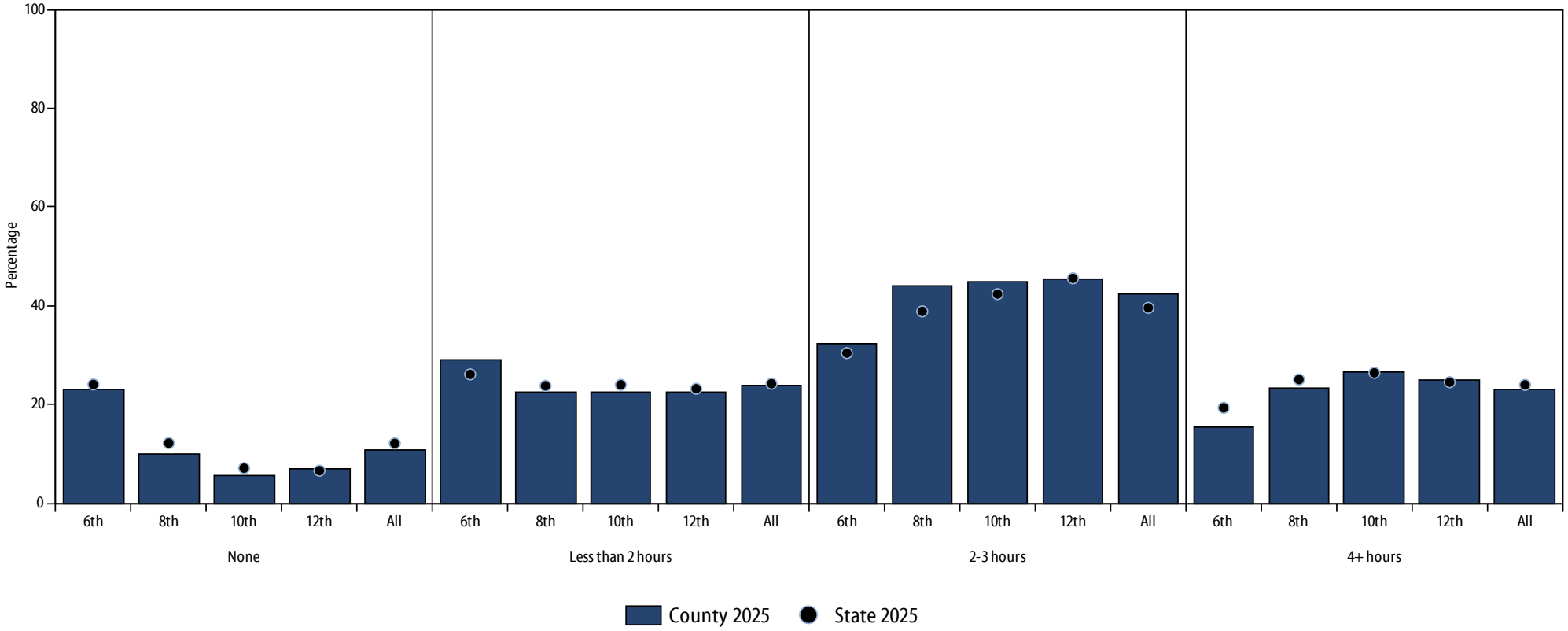


4_24_2026

Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
	Has own social media account.			
6th	n/a	n/a	54.5	56.4
8th	n/a	n/a	81.5	79.6
10th	n/a	n/a	92.2	91.6
12th	n/a	n/a	93.8	94.1
All	n/a	n/a	81.8	81.2

*In 2025, six new questions were added to PAYS to assess students' access to devices and social media, their frequency of use, and parent/caregiver rules regarding screen time.

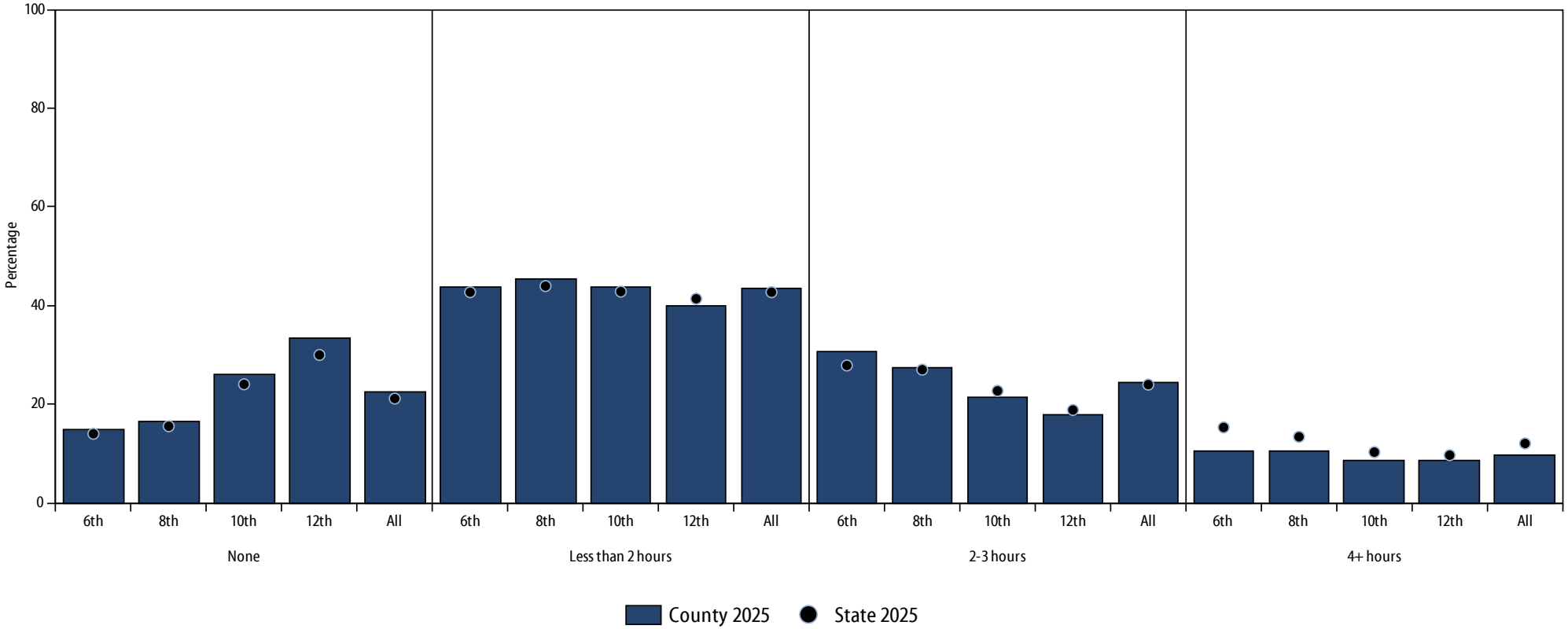
Hours spent on social media per school day
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	None				Less than 2 hours				2-3 hours				4+ hours			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	23.1	24.1	n/a	n/a	29.1	26.1	n/a	n/a	32.4	30.4	n/a	n/a	15.5	19.4
8th	n/a	n/a	10.0	12.2	n/a	n/a	22.7	23.8	n/a	n/a	44.1	38.9	n/a	n/a	23.3	25.1
10th	n/a	n/a	5.8	7.1	n/a	n/a	22.6	24.0	n/a	n/a	44.9	42.4	n/a	n/a	26.7	26.4
12th	n/a	n/a	7.1	6.6	n/a	n/a	22.5	23.2	n/a	n/a	45.5	45.6	n/a	n/a	24.9	24.5
All	n/a	n/a	10.8	12.2	n/a	n/a	23.9	24.2	n/a	n/a	42.3	39.6	n/a	n/a	23.0	24.0

*In 2025, six new questions were added to PAYS to assess students' access to devices and social media, their frequency of use, and parent/caregiver rules regarding screen time.

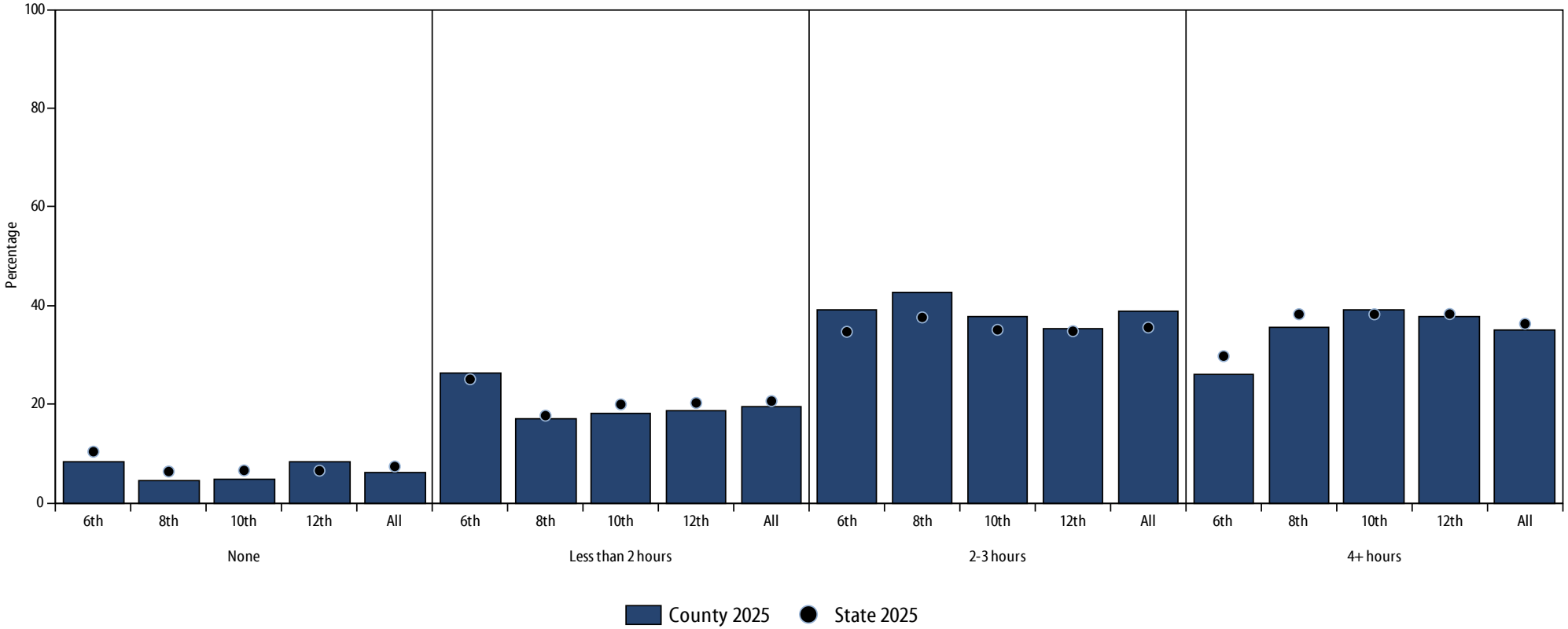
Hours spent playing games on electronic devices
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	None				Less than 2 hours				2-3 hours				4+ hours			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	14.8	14.0	n/a	n/a	43.8	42.7	n/a	n/a	30.8	27.9	n/a	n/a	10.6	15.3
8th	n/a	n/a	16.6	15.6	n/a	n/a	45.5	44.0	n/a	n/a	27.4	27.0	n/a	n/a	10.6	13.4
10th	n/a	n/a	26.1	24.1	n/a	n/a	43.7	42.9	n/a	n/a	21.5	22.8	n/a	n/a	8.7	10.3
12th	n/a	n/a	33.3	30.0	n/a	n/a	40.0	41.4	n/a	n/a	18.0	18.9	n/a	n/a	8.7	9.7
All	n/a	n/a	22.7	21.2	n/a	n/a	43.4	42.7	n/a	n/a	24.3	24.0	n/a	n/a	9.6	12.1

*In 2025, six new questions were added to PAYS to assess students' access to devices and social media, their frequency of use, and parent/caregiver rules regarding screen time.

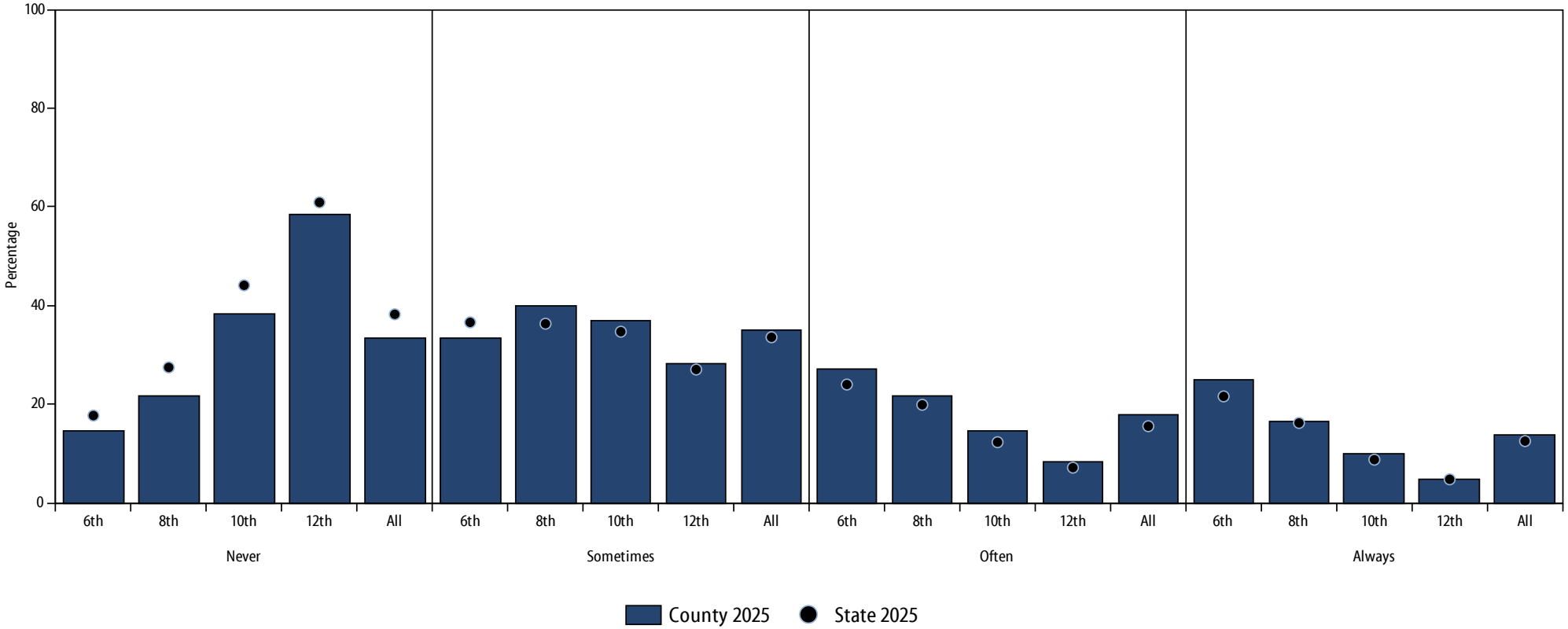
Total electronic device usage per school day
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	None				Less than 2 hours				2-3 hours				4+ hours			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	8.4	10.4	n/a	n/a	26.3	25.1	n/a	n/a	39.2	34.7	n/a	n/a	26.0	29.8
8th	n/a	n/a	4.5	6.4	n/a	n/a	17.1	17.7	n/a	n/a	42.8	37.6	n/a	n/a	35.7	38.3
10th	n/a	n/a	5.0	6.6	n/a	n/a	18.2	20.0	n/a	n/a	37.8	35.1	n/a	n/a	39.1	38.2
12th	n/a	n/a	8.3	6.6	n/a	n/a	18.6	20.3	n/a	n/a	35.2	34.8	n/a	n/a	37.9	38.3
All	n/a	n/a	6.3	7.4	n/a	n/a	19.6	20.7	n/a	n/a	39.0	35.6	n/a	n/a	35.2	36.3

*In 2025, six new questions were added to PAYS to assess students' access to devices and social media, their frequency of use, and parent/caregiver rules regarding screen time.

Has to follow rules about screen time
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Never County 2021	Never County 2023	Never County 2025	Never State 2025	Sometimes County 2021	Sometimes County 2023	Sometimes County 2025	Sometimes State 2025	Often County 2021	Often County 2023	Often County 2025	Often State 2025	Always County 2021	Always County 2023	Always County 2025	Always State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	14.5	17.7	n/a	n/a	33.4	36.6	n/a	n/a	27.1	24.0	n/a	n/a	25.0	21.6
8th	n/a	n/a	21.7	27.5	n/a	n/a	40.0	36.3	n/a	n/a	21.8	19.9	n/a	n/a	16.5	16.2
10th	n/a	n/a	38.3	44.1	n/a	n/a	37.1	34.7	n/a	n/a	14.7	12.3	n/a	n/a	9.9	8.8
12th	n/a	n/a	58.6	60.9	n/a	n/a	28.3	27.1	n/a	n/a	8.5	7.2	n/a	n/a	4.7	4.8
All	n/a	n/a	33.3	38.2	n/a	n/a	35.1	33.6	n/a	n/a	17.8	15.6	n/a	n/a	13.7	12.6

*In 2025, six new questions were added to PAYS to assess students' access to devices and social media, their frequency of use, and parent/caregiver rules regarding screen time.

5. GAMBLING

Even though gambling activities are legally restricted to adults, there is clear evidence that underage youth actively participate in gambling.

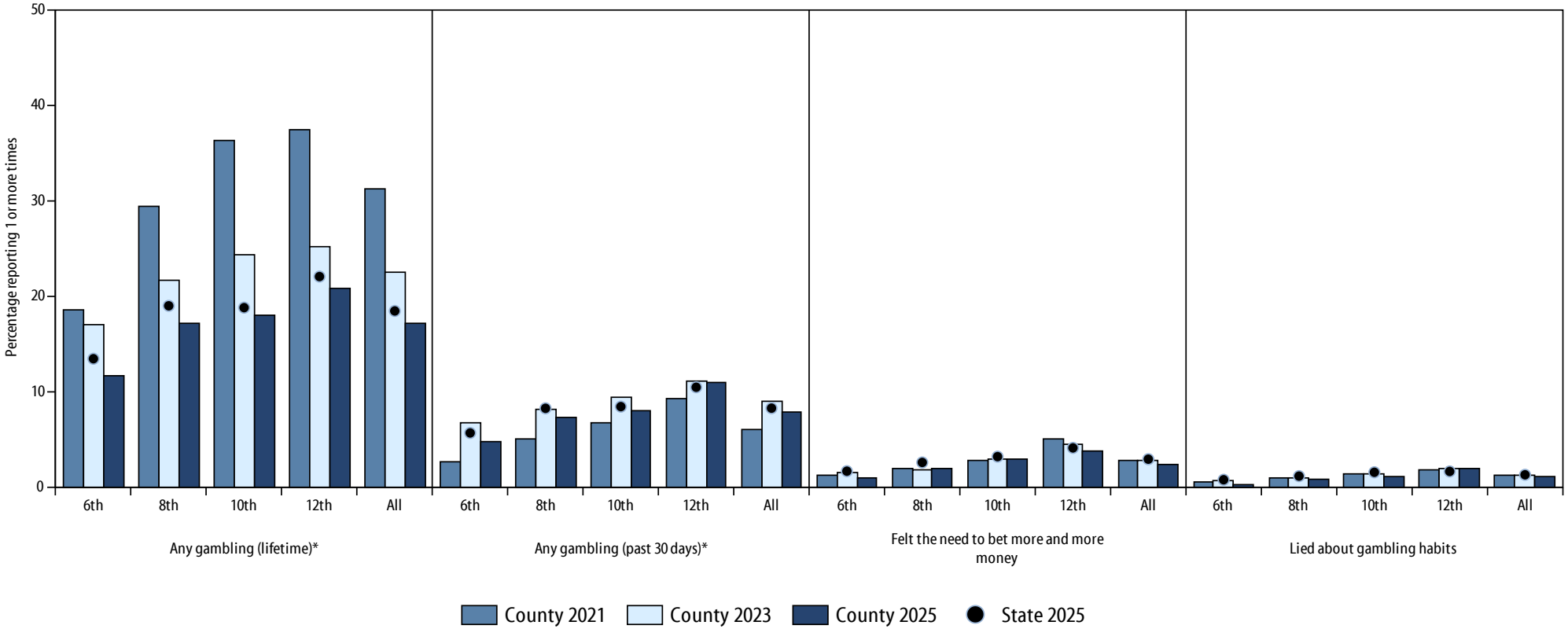
Despite being promoted as a harmless form of entertainment, gambling operates on the same reward pathways and the same neurotransmitters as ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) addiction. Youth gambling is associated with alcohol and drug use, truancy, low grades, and risk-taking behavior.

Overall, 17.1% of students in this county engaged in gambling for money or anything of value in their lifetime (compared to 18.4% at the state level).

The most frequently reported form of gambling was "Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts" reported by 7.7% of students who had gambled in the past 12 months (compared to 7.9% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Students engaging in gambling	*Have you ever bet/gambled for money or anything of value?* *How often have you bet/gambled for money or anything of value during the past 30 days?*
Specific types of student gambling	*During the past 12 months, how often have you bet/gambled, even casually, for money or valuables in the following ways:* *Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts* *Lottery (scratch cards, numbers, etc.)* *Sporting events, sports pools, or fantasy sports* *Online (Internet) gambling* *Video games or online gaming* *Bet/gambled in some other way*
Problematic gambling behavior	*Have you ever felt the need to:* *Bet more and more money?* *Lie to important people (such as your family/friends) about how much you gamble?*

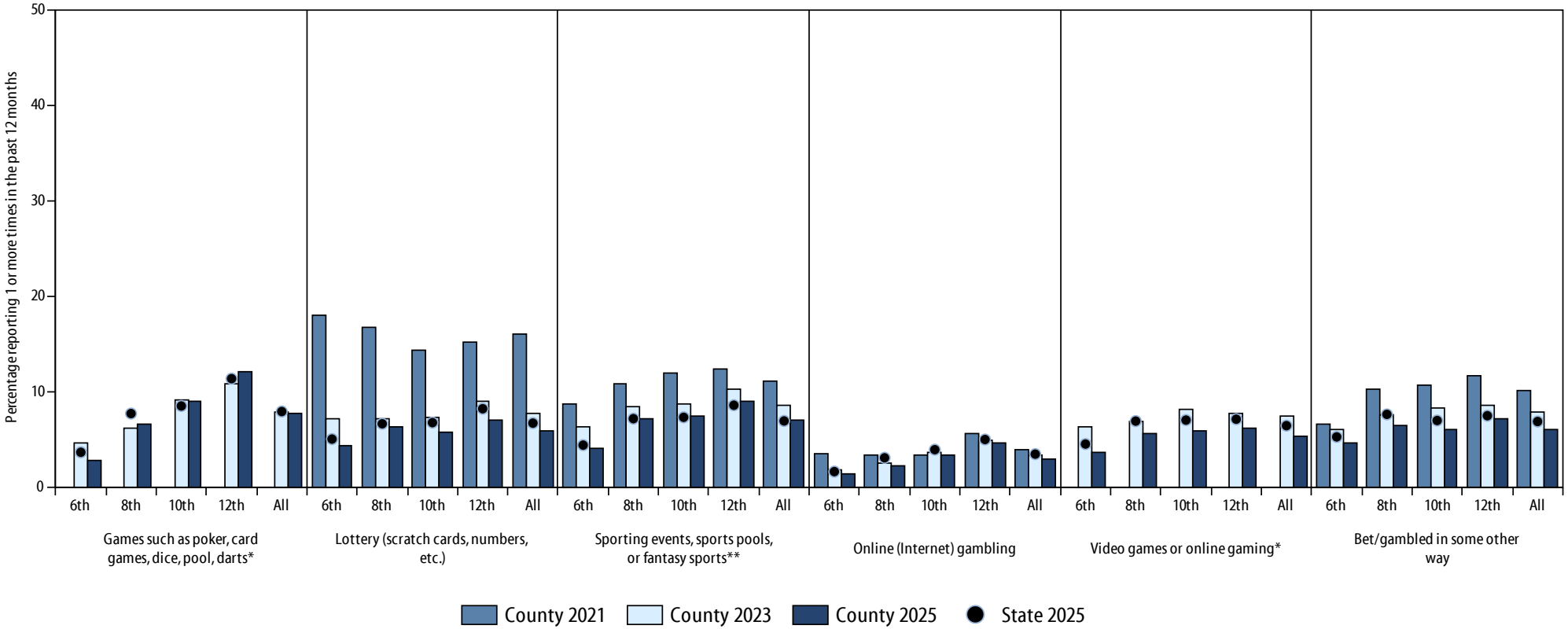
Gambling
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Any gambling (lifetime)* County 2021	Any gambling (lifetime)* County 2023	Any gambling (lifetime)* County 2025	Any gambling (lifetime)* State 2025	Any gambling (past 30 days)* County 2021	Any gambling (past 30 days)* County 2023	Any gambling (past 30 days)* County 2025	Any gambling (past 30 days)* State 2025	Felt the need to bet more and more money County 2021	Felt the need to bet more and more money County 2023	Felt the need to bet more and more money County 2025	Felt the need to bet more and more money State 2025	Lied about gambling habits County 2021	Lied about gambling habits County 2023	Lied about gambling habits County 2025	Lied about gambling habits State 2025
6th	18.6	17.0	11.7	13.4	2.6	6.7	4.7	5.7	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.8
8th	29.4	21.6	17.2	19.0	5.0	8.2	7.3	8.2	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.6	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1
10th	36.3	24.3	18.0	18.8	6.7	9.4	8.0	8.4	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.2	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.5
12th	37.4	25.1	20.8	22.0	9.3	11.1	10.9	10.4	5.0	4.5	3.7	4.1	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.6
All	31.3	22.5	17.1	18.4	6.1	9.0	7.8	8.3	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.9	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.3

*See Appendix B in 2023 PAYS Statewide Report for changes made to lifetime and past 30 day gambling questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of data to prior years.

Types of gambling
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts				Lottery (scratch cards, numbers, etc.)				Sporting events, sports pools, or fantasy sports**				Online (Internet) gambling				Video games or online gaming				Bet/gambled in some other way			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	4.7	2.8	3.6	18.0	7.1	4.4	5.0	8.6	6.3	4.1	4.4	3.5	1.9	1.3	1.6	n/a	6.3	3.6	4.5	6.6	6.0	4.7	5.3
8th	n/a	6.2	6.6	7.7	16.8	7.2	6.3	6.6	10.8	8.4	7.2	7.2	3.3	2.5	2.2	3.1	n/a	6.9	5.6	6.9	10.2	7.6	6.4	7.6
10th	n/a	9.1	8.9	8.5	14.4	7.3	5.7	6.7	11.9	8.7	7.4	7.3	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.9	n/a	8.2	5.8	7.0	10.7	8.3	6.0	7.0
12th	n/a	10.8	12.0	11.3	15.2	9.0	7.0	8.2	12.3	10.3	9.0	8.6	5.6	4.8	4.6	5.0	n/a	7.8	6.1	7.1	11.6	8.6	7.1	7.5
All	n/a	7.9	7.7	7.9	16.0	7.7	5.9	6.7	11.1	8.6	7.0	6.9	3.9	3.3	2.9	3.4	n/a	7.4	5.4	6.4	10.1	7.8	6.1	6.9

*"Games such as poker, card games, dice, pool, darts" and "Video games or online gaming" were reworded in 2025 and are not comparable to questions asked in prior years.

**"Fantasy sports" was added to the question wording for "sporting events, sports pools or fantasy sports" in 2025.

6. COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SAFETY

School climate and safety are important focal points for prevention programming and policy planning.

Creating safe supportive schools is essential to ensuring students' academic and social success. There are multiple elements to establishing learning environments in which youth feel a sense of belonging which prompts feelings of safety, connectedness, value, and responsibility for their behavior and learning. School climate and safety are measured in four ways: commitment and involvement at school, involvement in after-school and community programs, violence (actual and threatened), and bullying.

COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL

Students who feel appreciated and rewarded for their involvement in school have reduced likelihood of involvement in drug use and problem behaviors. Giving students opportunities to participate in important activities at school helps to create a feeling of personal investment in their school. This increased investment results in greater bonding and adoption of the school's standard of behavior, reducing the likelihood that the students will become involved in problem behaviors.

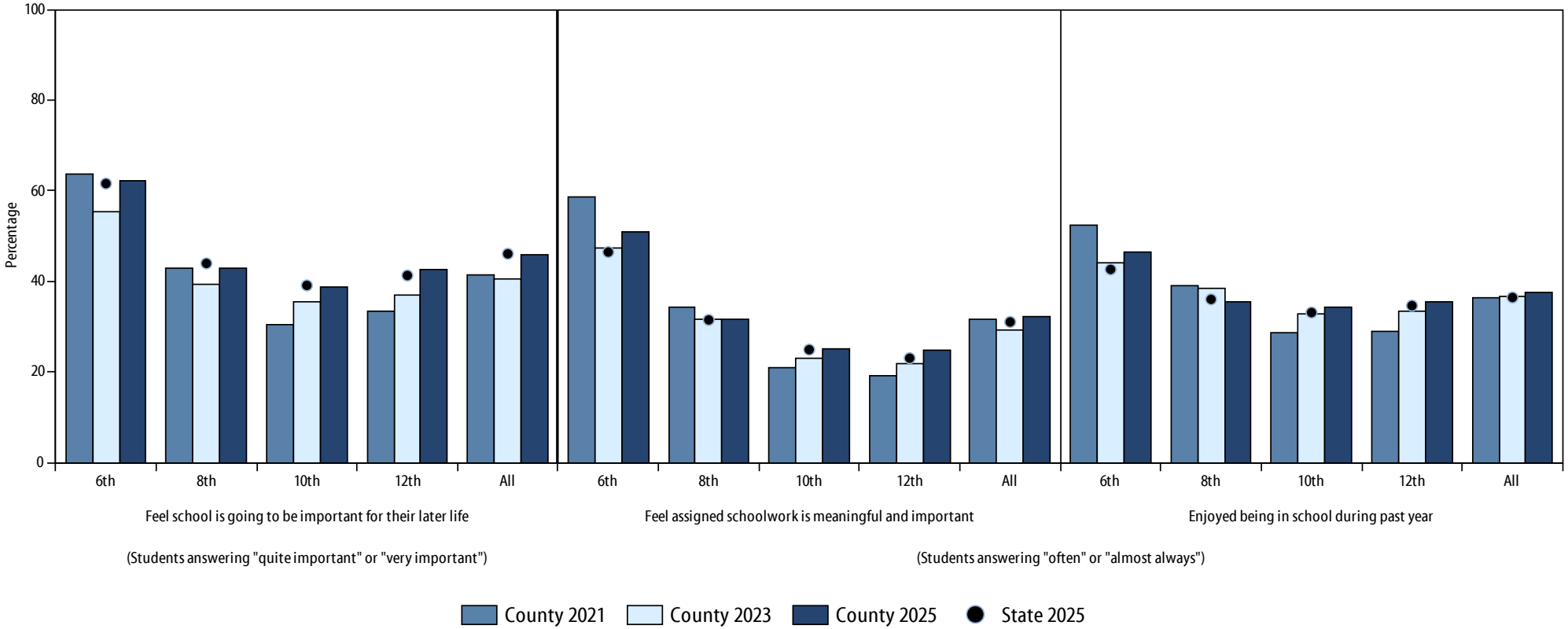
Students who demonstrate a lack of commitment to school are more likely to have ceased viewing being a student as a positive role. These students have a higher risk for a variety of problem behaviors.

45.8% students in this county viewed the things they are learning in school as going to be important later in life (compared to 46.1% at the state level). School work was viewed as meaningful and important by 32.3% of students (state rate: 31.1%) and 37.5% enjoyed being in school during the past year (state rate: 36.5%).

A feeling of safety was reported by 86.3% of the students, compared to 83.2% at the state level. 78.3% students reported opportunities to talk with a teacher one-on-one (state rate: 78.4%) and 87.7% reported chances to be part of class discussions or activities (state rate: 86.5%). 59.9% of students reported that teachers praise them when they work hard in school (state rate: 59.0%).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Perceived importance of school	*How important do you think the things you are learning in school are going to be for your later life?*
	How often do you feel that the school work you are assigned is meaningful and important?
	Now thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you: Enjoy being in school?
Positive school environment	*There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk one-on-one with a teacher.*
	I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.
	I feel safe at my school.
	My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.

Commitment to school - Perceived importance of school
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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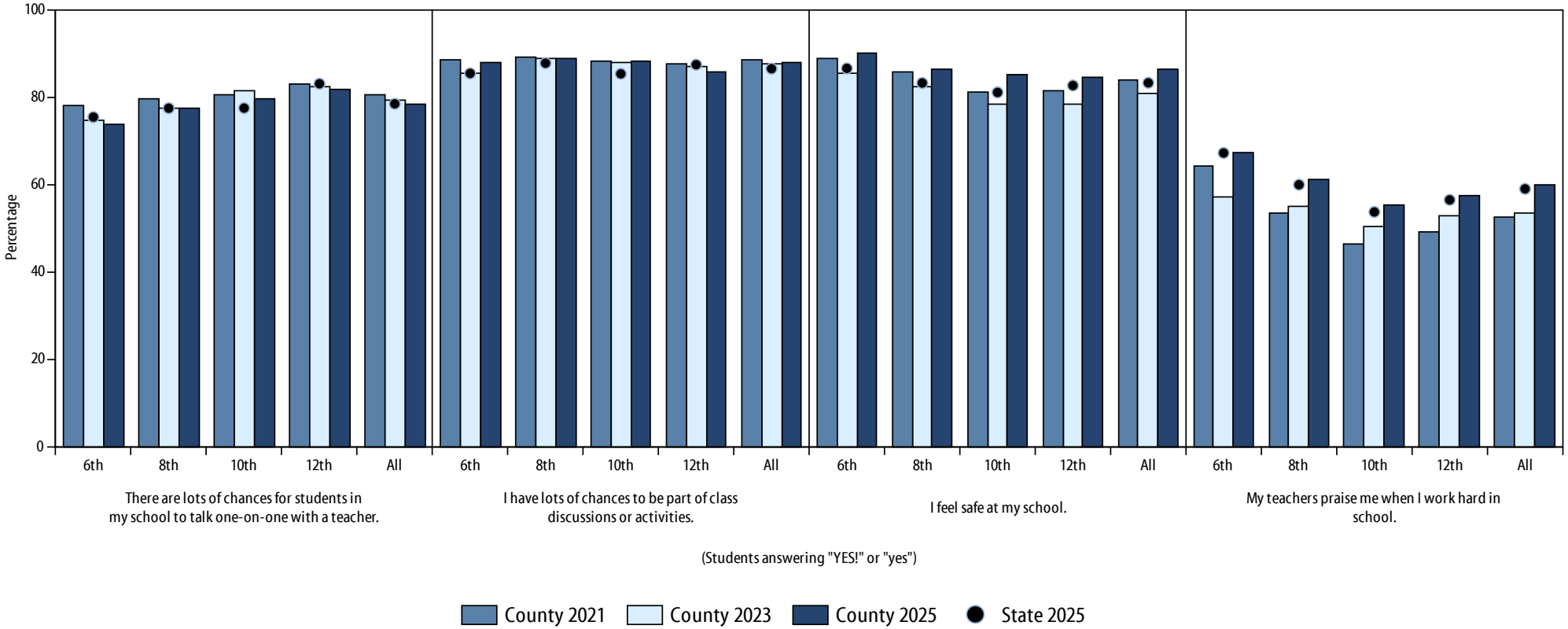
	Feel school is going to be important for their later life				Feel assigned schoolwork is meaningful and important				Enjoyed being in school during past year			
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	63.7	55.3	62.3	61.6	58.7	47.2	51.0	46.5	52.6	44.0	46.5	42.7
8th	43.0	39.4	43.0	44.0	34.4	31.7	31.7	31.5	39.0	38.4	35.7	36.1
10th	30.4	35.6	38.9	39.1	21.0	23.0	25.2	25.0	28.7	32.8	34.4	33.2
12th	33.4	37.0	42.6	41.3	19.3	21.9	24.8	23.1	28.9	33.5	35.4	34.7
All	41.3	40.4	45.8	46.1	31.8	29.4	32.3	31.1	36.5	36.6	37.5	36.5

Commitment to school - Positive school environment
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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Grade	There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk one-on-one with a teacher.				I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.				I feel safe at my school.				My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	78.2	74.6	73.8	75.4	88.4	85.4	87.9	85.4	88.9	85.3	89.9	86.5	64.1	57.2	67.2	67.2
8th	79.6	77.3	77.5	77.4	89.1	88.7	88.9	87.7	85.6	82.3	86.4	83.2	53.5	54.9	61.0	59.9
10th	80.4	81.3	79.4	77.4	88.3	88.0	88.0	85.3	81.0	78.3	85.1	81.0	46.4	50.3	55.4	53.7
12th	83.0	82.3	81.6	83.0	87.6	86.9	85.8	87.4	81.4	78.4	84.4	82.6	49.2	52.9	57.5	56.5
All	80.4	79.3	78.3	78.4	88.4	87.5	87.7	86.5	84.0	80.7	86.3	83.2	52.5	53.5	59.9	59.0

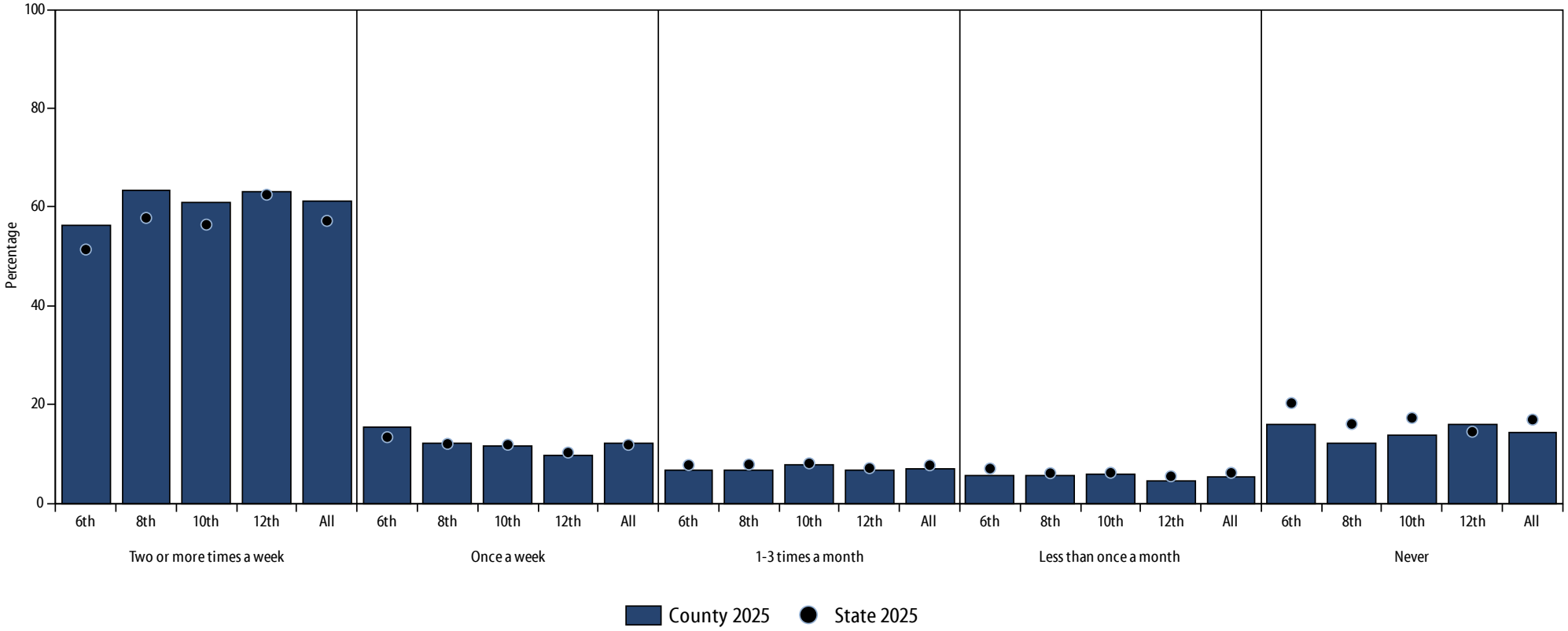
INVOLVEMENT IN PRO-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

When young people participate in pro-social activities that foster healthy development, they are more likely to develop connections with peers and members of the community who engage in prosocial behaviors. Being engaged in pro-social activities provides opportunities for bonding with adult role models—such as community leaders, neighbors, police, or clergy—who can offer moral guidance and emotional support.

61.2% of students in this county reported participating in pro-social activities two or more times a week, compared to 57.2% at the state level.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Involvement in pro-social activities	*How often do you usually participate in activities after-school or on weekends? Examples could include sports, dance, music, clubs, faith-based activities, a job, or volunteering.* *Two or more times a week* *Once a week* *1-3 times a month* *Less than once a month* *Never*

Involvement in pro-social activities
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Two or more times a week				Once a week				1-3 times a month				Less than once a month				Never			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	56.3	51.4	n/a	n/a	15.3	13.4	n/a	n/a	6.6	7.8	n/a	n/a	5.7	7.1	n/a	n/a	16.1	20.3
8th	n/a	n/a	63.4	57.8	n/a	n/a	12.1	12.1	n/a	n/a	6.6	7.9	n/a	n/a	5.6	6.1	n/a	n/a	12.2	16.1
10th	n/a	n/a	61.0	56.4	n/a	n/a	11.6	11.9	n/a	n/a	7.7	8.1	n/a	n/a	5.9	6.2	n/a	n/a	13.8	17.3
12th	n/a	n/a	63.1	62.5	n/a	n/a	9.7	10.3	n/a	n/a	6.6	7.2	n/a	n/a	4.6	5.5	n/a	n/a	16.0	14.5
All	n/a	n/a	61.2	57.2	n/a	n/a	12.1	11.9	n/a	n/a	6.9	7.7	n/a	n/a	5.5	6.2	n/a	n/a	14.3	17.0

*Involvement in prosocial activities question was revised in 2025 and is not comparable to prior years.

VIOLENCE/DRUGS IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

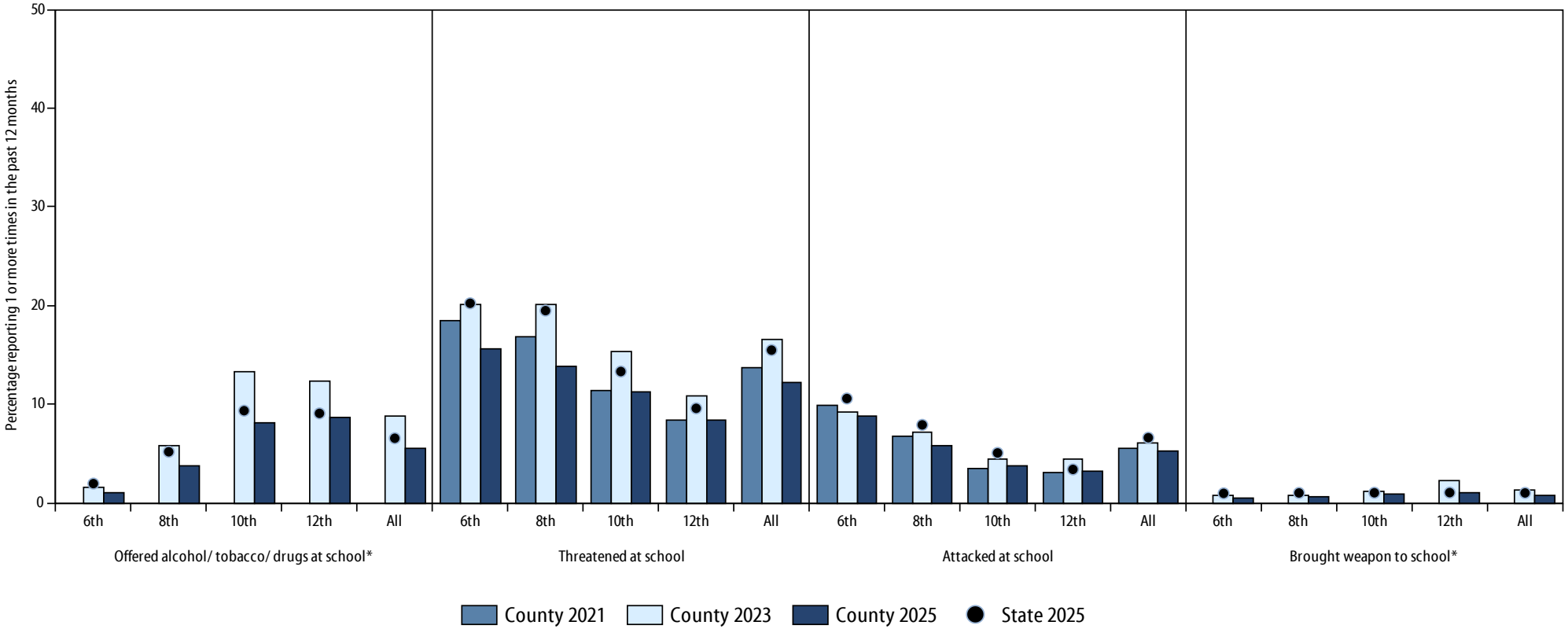
This section highlights the presence of violence and drugs on school property and in the community. This section also presents the percentage of youth who reported engaging in concerning behaviors (e.g., attacking someone with the idea of seriously hurting them, selling substances, attending school while drunk or high), and related consequences (e.g., being suspended from school or arrested).

In the past twelve months, 12.3% of students in this county reported being threatened with violent behavior on school property (compared to 15.5% at the state level). 5.3% of students reported having been attacked on school property (compared to 6.6% at the state level).

In the past twelve months, 5.6% of students in this county reported being offered alcohol, tobacco or other drugs on school property (compared to 6.6% at the state level) and 2.5% reported being drunk or high at school (compared to 2.9% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Violence and drugs on school property	*How many times in the past 12 months have you been offered, given, or sold alcohol, tobacco product or other drug on school property?* *In the past 12 months, how often have you:* *Been threatened to be hit or beaten up on school property?* *Been attacked and hit by someone or beaten up on school property?* *How many times in the past 12 months have you brought a weapon (such as a handgun, knife, etc.) to school?*
Other concerning behaviors	*How many times in the past 12 months have you:* *Attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them?* *Sold substances such as vapes, alcohol, drugs or medications?* *Been drunk or high at school?*
Consequences of concerning behaviors	*How many times in the past 12 months have you:* *Been arrested?* *Been suspended from school?*

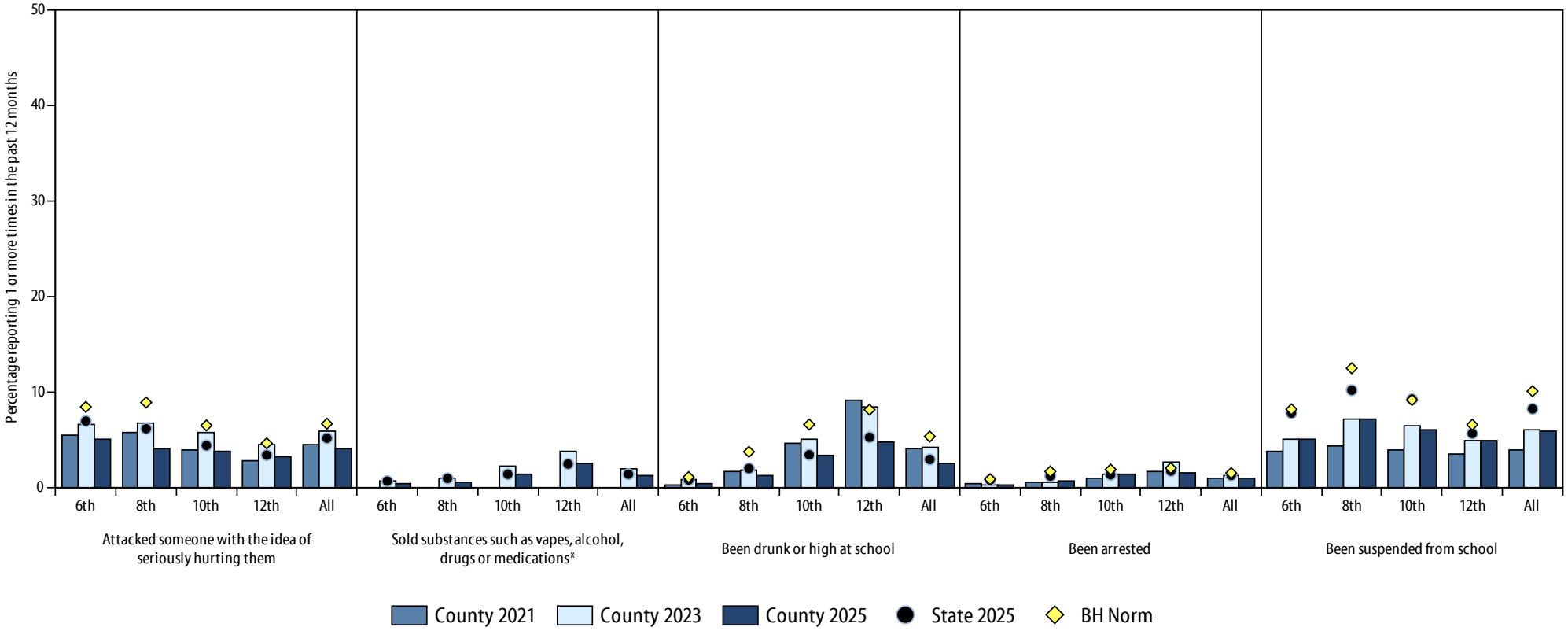
Violence and drugs on school property
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	Offered alcohol/ tobacco/ drugs at school*				Threatened at school				Attacked at school				Brought weapon to school*			
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	1.7	1.1	2.0	18.5	20.1	15.6	20.2	10.0	9.2	8.8	10.6	n/a	0.8	0.4	1.0
8th	n/a	5.8	3.8	5.2	16.9	20.2	13.9	19.5	6.8	7.2	5.9	7.9	n/a	0.8	0.6	1.0
10th	n/a	13.4	8.2	9.4	11.4	15.4	11.3	13.3	3.5	4.5	3.8	5.1	n/a	1.2	0.9	1.0
12th	n/a	12.4	8.7	9.1	8.4	10.9	8.4	9.6	3.1	4.4	3.3	3.4	n/a	2.3	1.1	1.1
All	n/a	8.9	5.6	6.6	13.7	16.5	12.3	15.5	5.6	6.1	5.3	6.6	n/a	1.3	0.8	1.0

*Offered substances at school and brought weapon to school questions were revised in 2025 and are not comparable to prior years.

Other concerning behaviors
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them					Sold substances such as vapes, alcohol, drugs or medications*					Been drunk or high at school					Been arrested					Been suspended from school				
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm
6th	5.4	6.6	5.0	6.9	8.4	n/a	0.7	0.3	0.7	n/a	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.9	3.8	5.0	5.0	7.8	8.2
8th	5.7	6.7	4.0	6.1	8.9	n/a	1.0	0.6	0.9	n/a	1.7	1.8	1.2	2.0	3.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.7	4.3	7.1	7.2	10.2	12.5
10th	3.9	5.8	3.8	4.4	6.5	n/a	2.2	1.4	1.4	n/a	4.7	5.0	3.4	3.4	6.6	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.9	3.9	6.5	6.0	9.2	9.2
12th	2.8	4.5	3.3	3.4	4.6	n/a	3.8	2.5	2.4	n/a	9.1	8.4	4.8	5.2	8.1	1.7	2.7	1.5	1.7	2.0	3.4	4.8	4.9	5.6	6.6
All	4.5	5.9	4.0	5.1	6.7	n/a	2.0	1.2	1.4	n/a	4.0	4.2	2.5	2.9	5.3	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.5	3.9	6.0	5.9	8.2	10.1

*Question on selling substances was revised in 2025 and is not comparable to prior years.

BULLYING, INTERNET SAFETY AND ABUSE

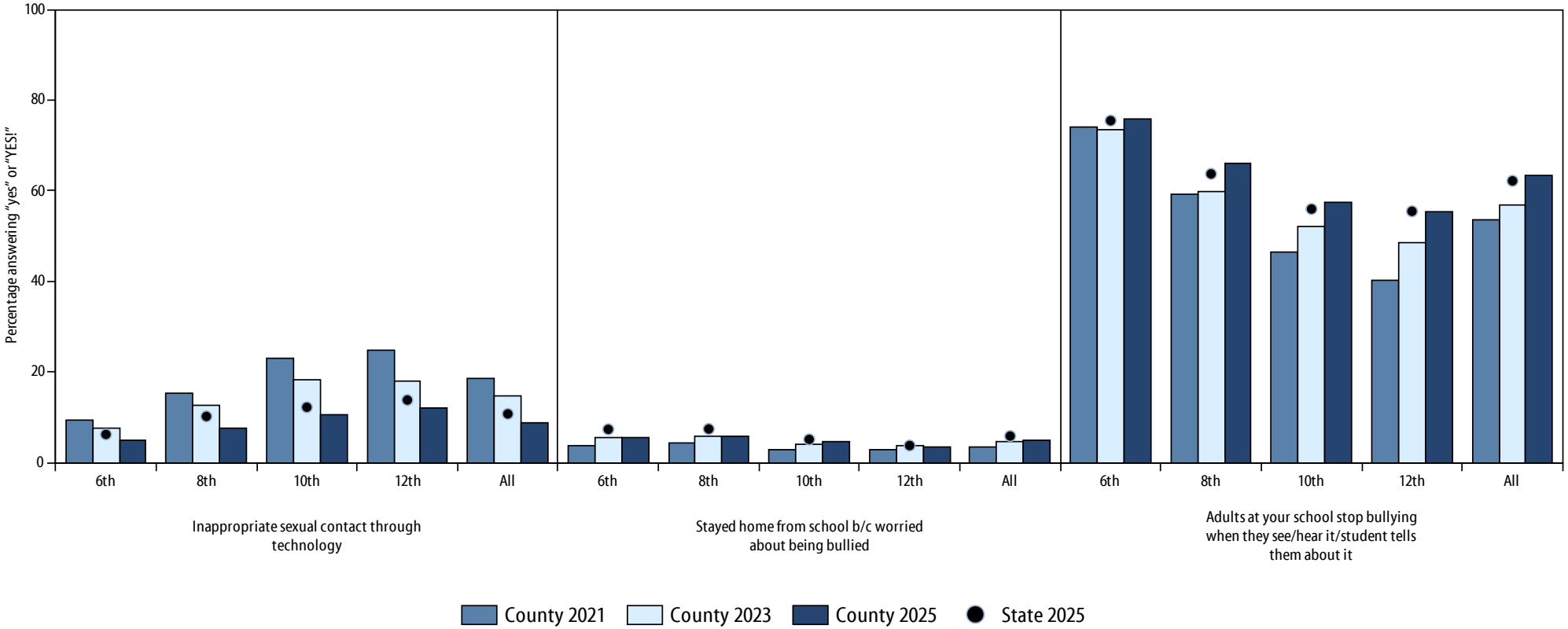
While bullying is not a new phenomenon, the serious consequences for both students and schools continues to grow.

Bullying behavior contributes to lower attendance rates, lower student achievement, low self-esteem, and depression, as well as higher rates of both juvenile and adult crime. Although the problem of bullying continues to receive public attention, actual incidences of bullying often go undetected by teachers and parents. The most effective way to address bullying is through comprehensive, school-wide programs.

Overall, 24.1% of students in this county indicated experiencing bullying in the past 12 months (compared to 25.7% of students at the state level).

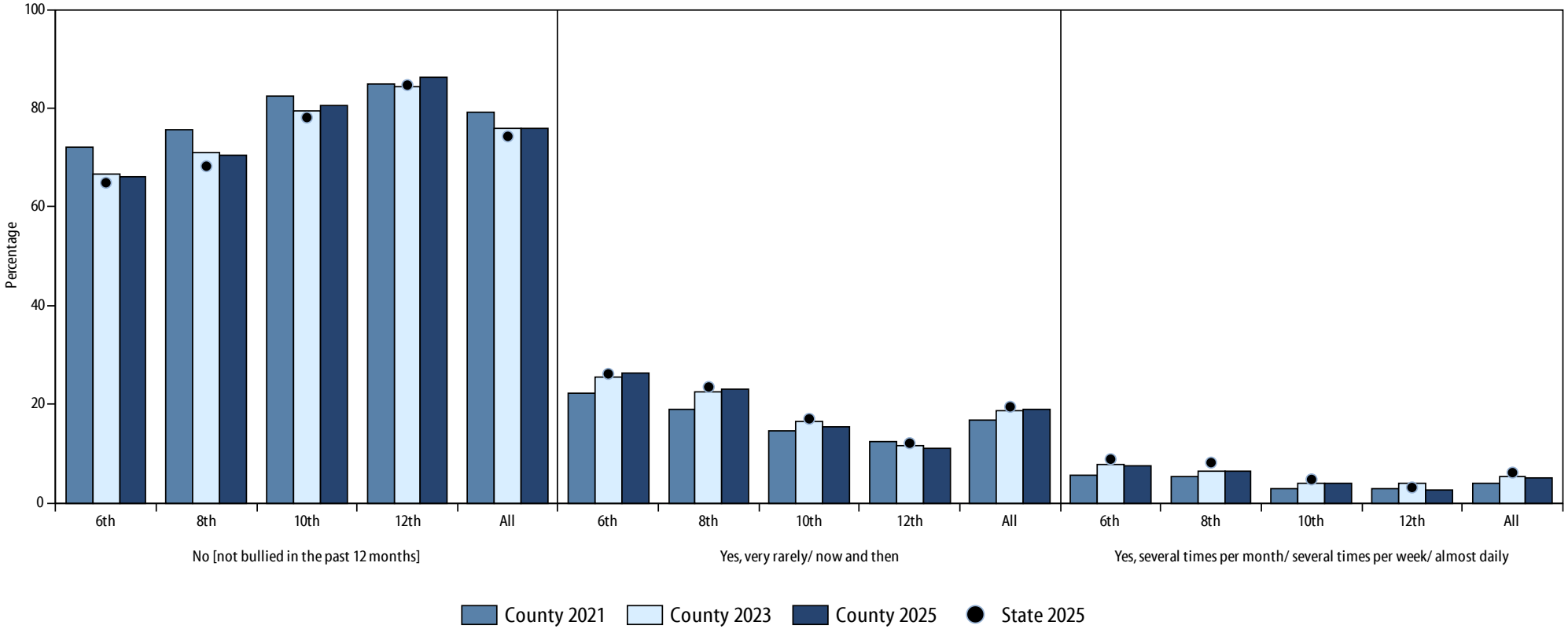
PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Bullying behavior Bullying is a student or students doing any of the following to another student on purpose repeatedly: • making fun of • excluding • threatening • spreading rumors about • hitting • shoving • hurting It is <u>not</u> bullying if: • two students argue or fight with each other • friends tease each other.	*Have you stayed home from school this year because you were worried about being bullied?* *Do adults at your school stop bullying when they see/hear it or when a student tells them about it?* *Have you been bullied in the past 12 months* *No • Yes, very rarely • Yes, now and then • Yes, several times per month • Yes, several times per week • Yes, almost daily* *If you have been bullied in any way in the past 12 months, where were you bullied? (Mark all that apply.)* *I was not bullied* *On school property* *At a school-sponsored event* *While going to or from school* *In the community* *At home* *Online, social media, phone*
Internet safety and other hurt or abuse	*In the past 12 months, did anyone when using technology ever try to get you to talk online about sex, look at sexual pictures, or do something else sexual?* *If you were hurt or abused by another person in the past 12 months, how were you hurt or abused? (Mark all that apply.)* *I was not hurt or abused by another person* *Physical injury* *Threats* *Emotional abuse, insults, name-calling* *Isolation from friends and family* *Control of what you were wearing* *Control of who you socialized with* *Other injury or abuse*

Bullying and Internet safety
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



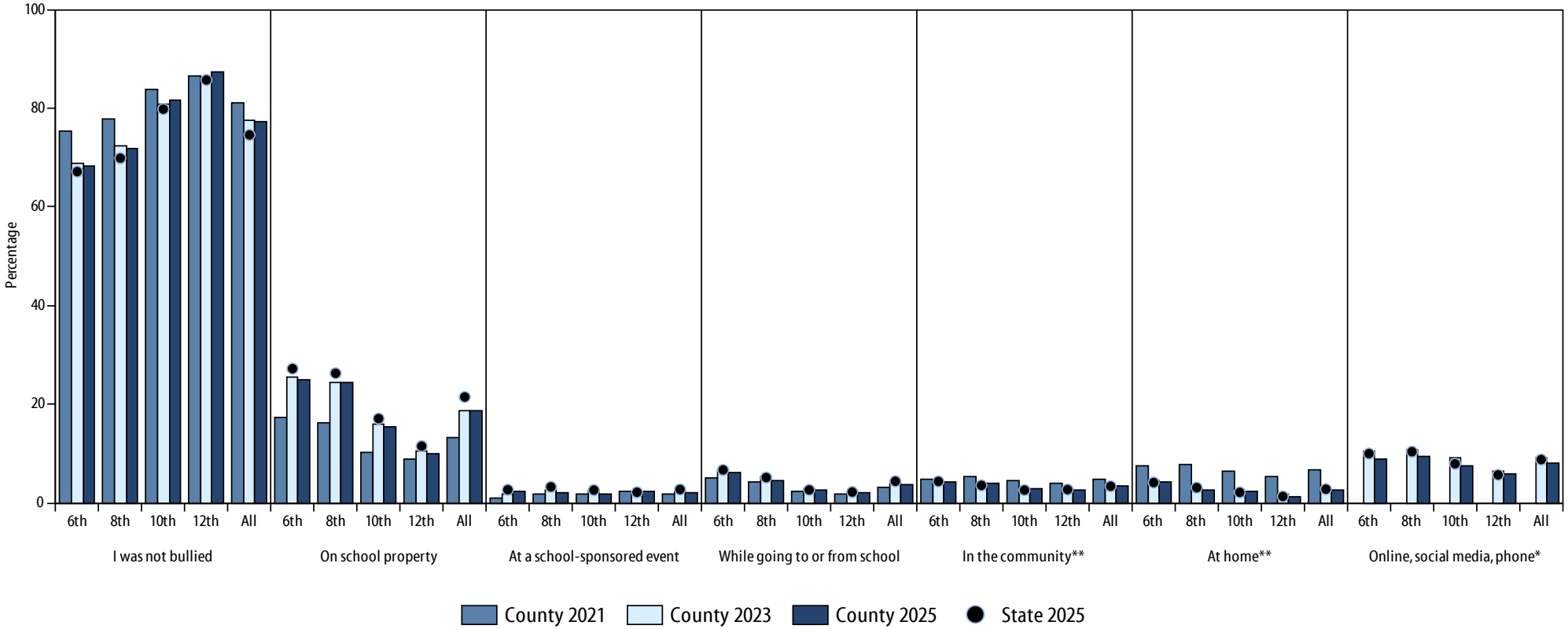
Grade	Inappropriate sexual contact through technology				Stayed home from school b/c worried about being bullied				Adults at your school stop bullying when they see/hear it/student tells them about it			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	9.3	7.7	4.9	6.3	3.9	5.5	5.6	7.4	73.9	73.4	75.9	75.5
8th	15.5	12.7	7.6	10.3	4.3	5.8	5.8	7.5	59.3	59.8	66.1	63.7
10th	22.9	18.4	10.6	12.3	2.9	4.1	4.6	5.2	46.5	52.0	57.6	56.0
12th	24.8	18.1	12.1	13.9	2.9	3.7	3.5	3.8	40.2	48.5	55.5	55.5
All	18.7	14.8	8.9	10.8	3.5	4.7	4.9	5.9	53.7	56.9	63.3	62.2

Frequency of bullying
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	No [not bullied in the past 12 months]				Yes, very rarely/ now and then				Yes, several times per month/ several times per week/ almost daily			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	72.1	66.6	66.1	64.9	22.4	25.4	26.3	26.2	5.5	7.9	7.6	8.9
8th	75.7	70.9	70.5	68.3	19.1	22.6	23.1	23.5	5.3	6.5	6.4	8.2
10th	82.4	79.4	80.5	78.1	14.5	16.5	15.6	17.1	3.1	4.1	3.9	4.8
12th	84.8	84.4	86.3	84.7	12.4	11.7	11.1	12.1	2.8	3.9	2.7	3.2
All	79.1	75.9	75.9	74.3	16.8	18.7	18.9	19.5	4.1	5.4	5.1	6.2

Location of bullying
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

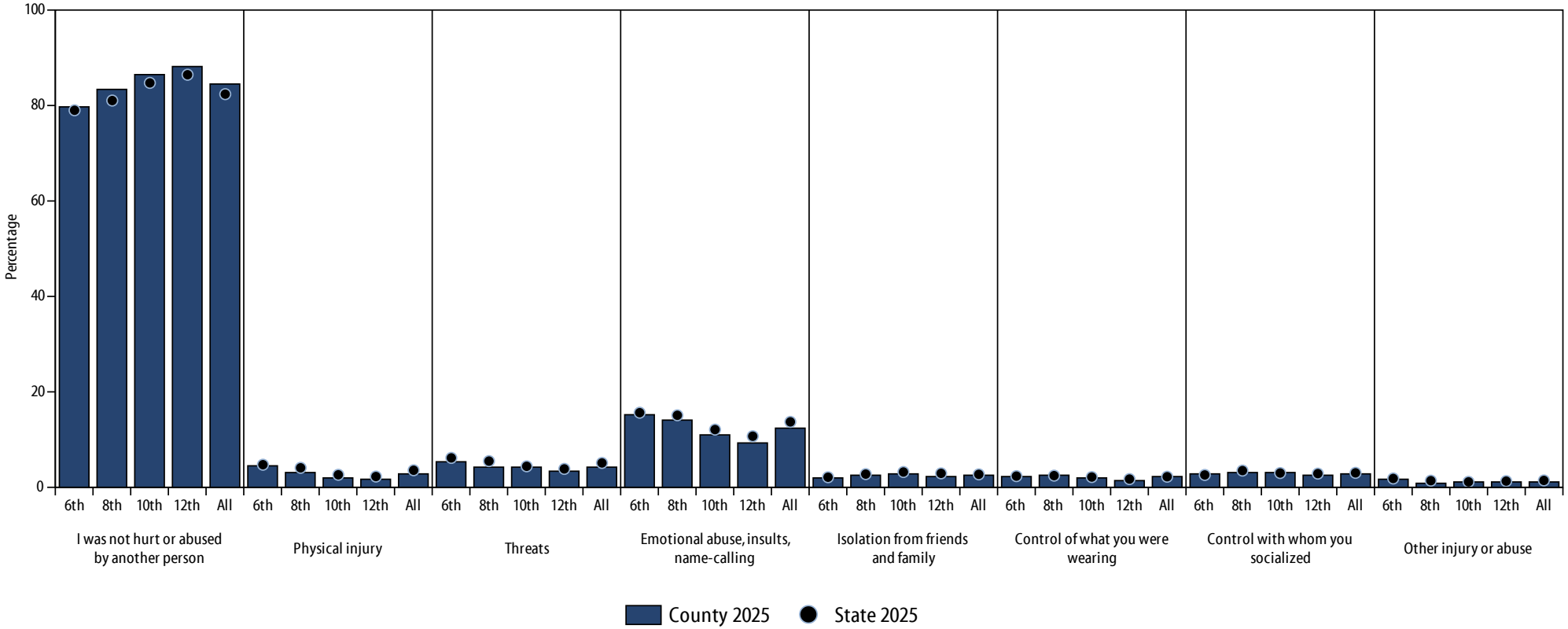


Grade	I was not bullied				On school property				At a school-sponsored event				While going to or from school				In the community**				At home**				Online, social media, phone*			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	75.3	68.7	68.3	67.1	17.4	25.5	25.0	27.2	1.1	1.8	2.5	2.7	5.2	6.8	6.2	6.7	4.9	4.1	4.2	4.4	7.5	4.6	4.2	4.2	n/a	10.6	8.9	10.0
8th	77.9	72.5	71.8	69.9	16.2	24.4	24.5	26.3	1.7	2.6	2.2	3.3	4.2	5.3	4.7	5.2	5.3	4.0	4.0	3.6	7.7	2.9	2.7	3.1	n/a	10.9	9.4	10.4
10th	83.9	80.9	81.6	79.8	10.4	16.0	15.3	17.1	1.9	2.6	2.0	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.7	4.5	2.6	2.9	2.6	6.6	2.3	2.2	2.2	n/a	9.1	7.5	8.0
12th	86.5	85.5	87.3	85.7	9.0	10.7	10.0	11.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.2	4.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	5.4	1.7	1.2	1.4	n/a	6.5	6.0	5.7
All	81.1	77.5	77.3	74.6	13.1	18.8	18.8	21.5	1.8	2.4	2.2	2.8	3.3	4.1	3.8	4.4	4.7	3.3	3.4	3.4	6.8	2.7	2.5	2.8	n/a	9.2	8.0	8.8

*Online, social media, phone was added as an answer choice in 2025. Prior to 2025 bullying through texting and social media was asked as a separate question.

**Decreases in 2025 in those reporting "At home" and "In the community" maybe be impacted by the addition of "online, social media, phone" answer choice in 2025.

How students were hurt or abused
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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Grade	I was not hurt or abused by another person				Physical injury				Threats				Emotional abuse, insults, name-calling				Isolation from friends and family				Control of what you were wearing				Control with whom you socialized				Other injury or abuse			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	79.7	78.9	n/a	n/a	4.5	4.7	n/a	n/a	5.2	6.1	n/a	n/a	15.0	15.6	n/a	n/a	2.0	2.1	n/a	n/a	2.3	2.3	n/a	n/a	2.9	2.5	n/a	n/a	1.7	1.8
8th	n/a	n/a	83.2	80.9	n/a	n/a	3.1	4.0	n/a	n/a	4.0	5.4	n/a	n/a	14.0	15.0	n/a	n/a	2.3	2.7	n/a	n/a	2.5	2.4	n/a	n/a	2.9	3.4	n/a	n/a	0.9	1.3
10th	n/a	n/a	86.3	84.6	n/a	n/a	2.0	2.6	n/a	n/a	4.2	4.3	n/a	n/a	10.9	12.0	n/a	n/a	2.8	3.1	n/a	n/a	2.0	2.1	n/a	n/a	2.9	2.9	n/a	n/a	1.1	1.1
12th	n/a	n/a	88.0	86.3	n/a	n/a	1.7	2.2	n/a	n/a	3.2	3.8	n/a	n/a	9.1	10.6	n/a	n/a	2.3	2.9	n/a	n/a	1.4	1.7	n/a	n/a	2.4	2.8	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.2
All	n/a	n/a	84.4	82.3	n/a	n/a	2.8	3.5	n/a	n/a	4.1	5.0	n/a	n/a	12.3	13.6	n/a	n/a	2.4	2.7	n/a	n/a	2.1	2.2	n/a	n/a	2.8	3.0	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.4

*In 2025 added a response option indicating no experience of abuse in order to measure prevalence of reported abuse which was not possible with the prior question wording.

7. INDICATORS OF RISK

This section highlights the following indicators of risk that can increase the likelihood of substance use, mental health concerns, and/or other concerning behaviors among youth.

- Stressful events (housing insecurity, grief, food insecurity) and sleep
- Perception of risk of substance use
- Perception of parental disapproval of substance use
- Perception of peer disapproval of substance use
- Attitudes toward substance use
- Laws/norms favorable to substance use
- Availability of substances/handguns
- Willingness to use substances
- Sources of substances used
- Other indicators of risk

STRESSFUL EVENTS AND SLEEP

Death of friends or family members, moving homes, and worrying about having enough food are stressful events that can negatively affect a student's life. Lack of sleep can increase risk for mental health concerns, substance use and impact academic achievement.

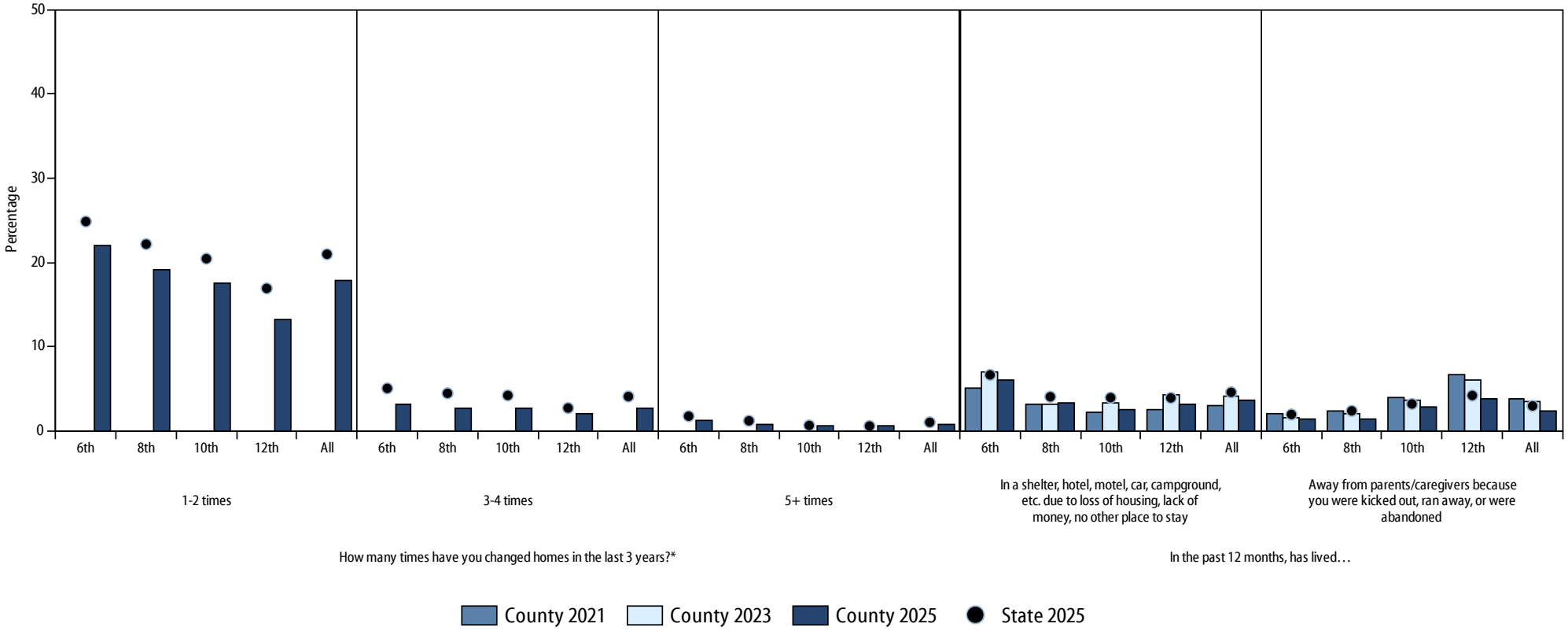
28.3% of students in this county reported the death of close friend or family member in the past twelve months, compared to 31.6% at the state level. 3.4% of students reported having changed homes three or more times in the past three years.

Students also said "they were worried they would run out of food at home due to money issues" (reported by 14.4% of students in this county), "they had skipped a meal because their family didn't have enough money for food" (reported by 7.2% of students). 15.2% of students reported at least one of these two items.

32.7% of students in this county reported sleeping less than seven hours a night on an average school night, compared to 33.5% at the state level. 60.0% of students reported feeling tired or sleepy "every day" or "several times" during the day in the past 2 weeks, compared to 58.9% at the state level.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Housing Insecurity	*How many times have you changed homes in the last 3 years?* *Never, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or more* *During the past 12 months, have you or your family lived in a shelter, hotel, motel, car, campground, or someone else's home, etc. due to loss of housing, lack of money, or did not have another place to stay?* *In the past 12 months, did you ever live away from your parents or guardians because you were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned?*
Sleep	*On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?* *In the last two weeks, how often have you felt tired or sleepy during the day?*
Grief	*In the past 12 months, have any of your friends or family members close to you died?*
Food insecurity	*How often in the past year have you:* *Worried that food at home would run out before your family got money to buy more?* *Skipped a meal because your family didn't have enough money to buy food?*

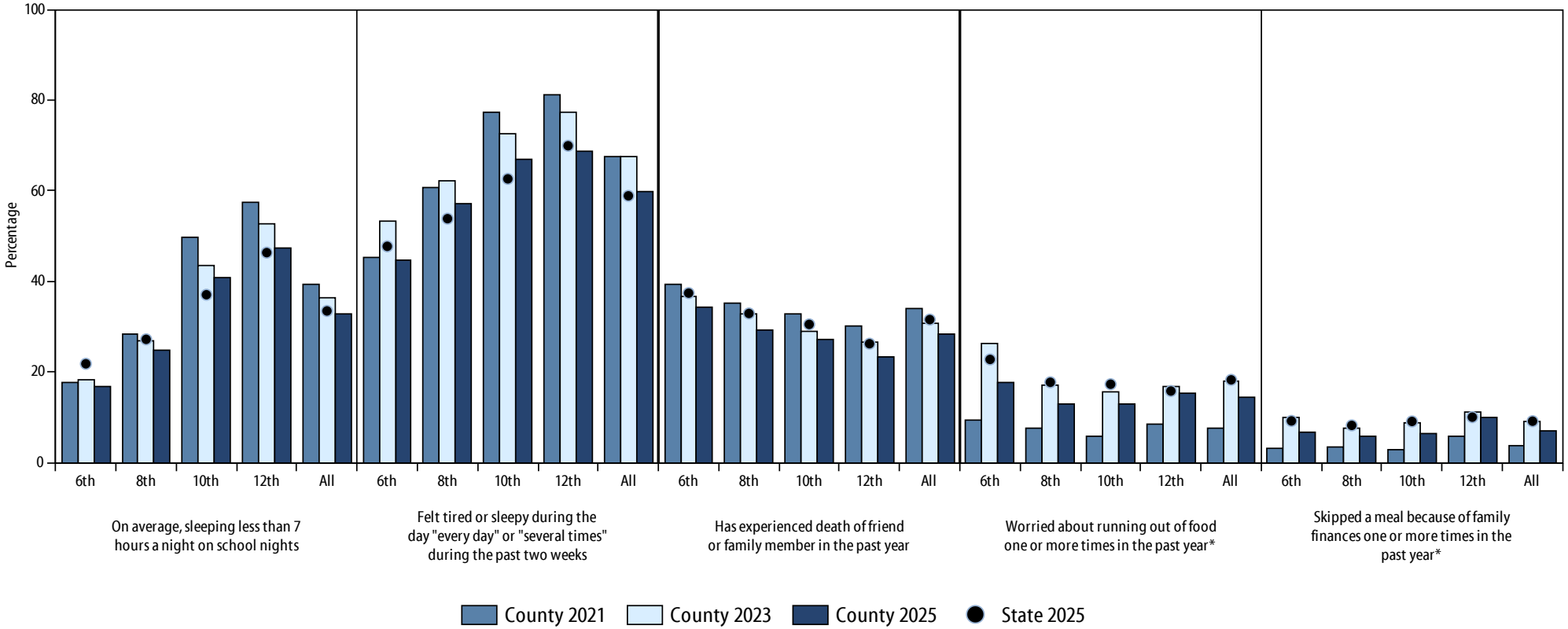
Housing Insecurity
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	How many times have you changed homes in the last 3 years?* 1-2 times County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	3-4 times County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	5+ times County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	In the past 12 months, has lived… In a shelter, hotel, motel, car, camp- ground, etc. due to loss of housing, lack of money, no place to stay County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	Away from parents/caregivers because you were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	21.9	24.8	n/a	n/a	3.1	5.1	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.8	5.2	7.0	6.0	6.6	2.0	1.6	1.4	2.0
8th	n/a	n/a	19.1	22.2	n/a	n/a	2.6	4.5	n/a	n/a	0.8	1.2	3.1	3.2	3.4	4.1	2.4	2.0	1.4	2.4
10th	n/a	n/a	17.5	20.4	n/a	n/a	2.7	4.2	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.7	2.2	3.4	2.5	4.0	3.9	3.7	2.9	3.2
12th	n/a	n/a	13.2	16.9	n/a	n/a	2.1	2.7	n/a	n/a	0.7	0.6	2.5	4.2	3.2	3.9	6.6	6.0	3.9	4.2
All	n/a	n/a	17.9	21.0	n/a	n/a	2.6	4.1	n/a	n/a	0.8	1.0	3.1	4.1	3.6	4.6	3.8	3.4	2.4	3.0

*Prior to 2025, frequency of changing homes was asked as two separate questions on frequency of moving in the past year and past three years

Sleep, grief, and food insecurity
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	On average, sleeping less than 7 hours a night on school nights				Felt tired or sleepy during the day "every day" or "several times" during the past two weeks				Has experienced death of friend or family member in the past year				Worried about running out of food one or more times in the past year*				Skipped a meal because of family finances one or more times in the past year*			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	17.9	18.5	16.9	21.9	45.3	53.3	44.8	47.8	39.4	36.8	34.3	37.4	9.3	26.2	17.6	22.8	3.3	10.0	6.9	9.3
8th	28.5	26.9	24.8	27.3	60.9	62.3	57.1	53.9	35.2	33.0	29.3	32.9	7.6	17.0	12.9	17.8	3.6	7.7	5.9	8.3
10th	49.9	43.5	40.9	37.1	77.4	72.6	67.0	62.6	32.8	28.9	27.1	30.5	5.7	15.8	13.0	17.3	3.0	8.7	6.4	9.1
12th	57.4	52.6	47.3	46.4	81.1	77.3	68.7	69.9	30.1	26.8	23.3	26.3	8.5	16.9	15.3	15.8	5.7	11.1	9.9	10.1
All	39.3	36.5	32.7	33.5	67.4	67.4	60.0	58.9	34.0	30.9	28.3	31.6	7.6	18.1	14.4	18.3	3.9	9.2	7.2	9.2

*See Appendix B of the 2023 PAYS Statewide Report for changes made to food insecurity questions in 2023 which could influence comparability of data to prior years.

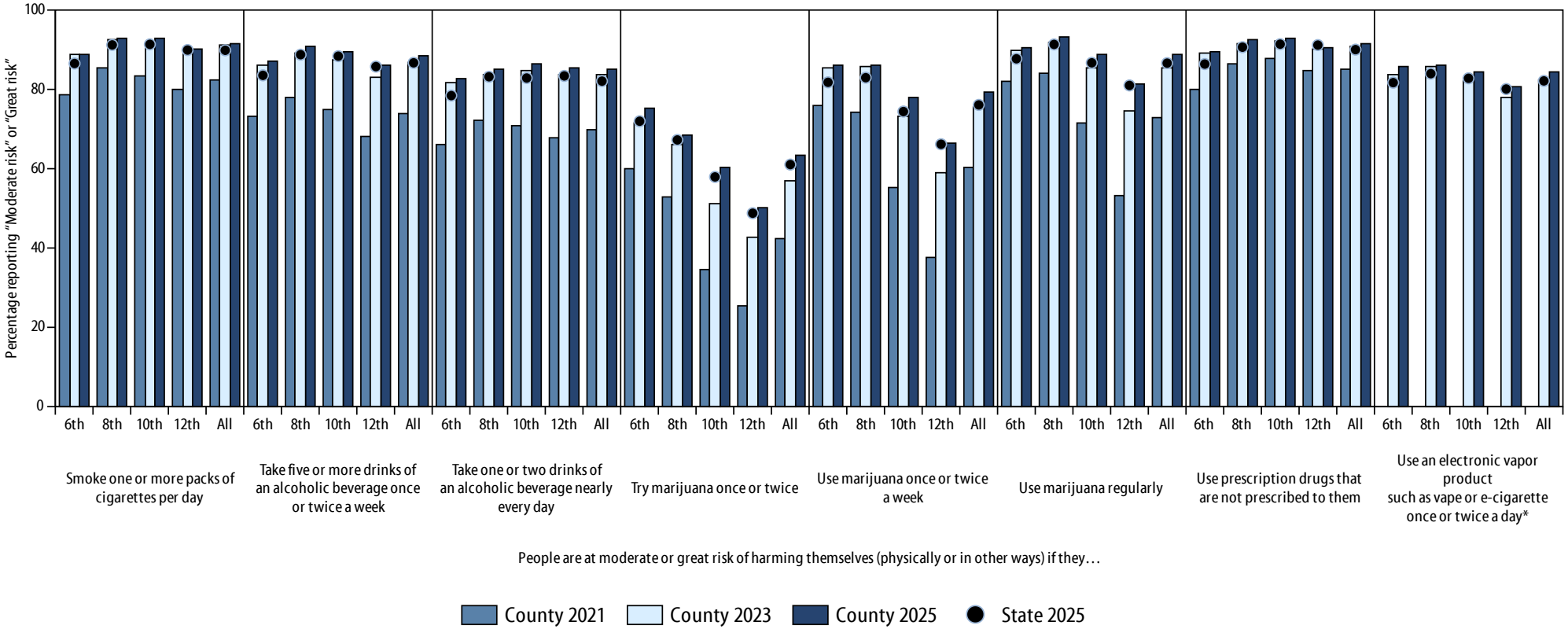
PERCEPTION OF RISK

Perception of risk is an important determinant in the decision-making process young people go through when deciding whether or not to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

Data analysis shows a consistent negative correlation between perception of risk and the level of reported ATOD use. That is, generally when the perceived risk of harm is high, reported frequency of use is low.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Perception of Risk	*How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:* *Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) nearly every day?* *Take five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) once or twice a week?* *Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?* *Try marijuana once or twice?* *Use marijuana once or twice a week?* *Use marijuana regularly?* *Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them?* *Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette once or twice a day?*

Perception of risk
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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	People are at moderate or great risk of harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they…																															
	Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day				Take five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week				Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day				Try marijuana once or twice				Use marijuana once or twice a week				Use marijuana regularly				Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them				Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette once or twice a day*			
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	78.5	88.8	88.7	86.4	73.1	86.0	87.0	83.4	66.1	81.7	82.4	78.3	59.9	71.4	75.3	71.8	75.7	85.2	85.9	81.6	81.8	89.8	90.5	87.6	80.0	88.9	89.4	86.3	n/a	83.7	85.7	81.6
8th	85.3	92.3	92.8	91.1	78.0	88.9	90.6	88.6	72.0	83.5	85.1	83.1	52.7	66.0	68.5	67.1	74.0	85.7	85.9	82.8	83.8	91.7	93.1	91.2	86.1	91.3	92.3	90.5	n/a	85.7	86.1	83.8
10th	83.4	91.8	92.8	91.2	74.9	87.2	89.2	88.2	70.8	84.5	86.2	82.7	34.6	51.0	60.1	57.8	55.3	73.1	77.8	74.3	71.5	85.1	88.7	86.6	87.6	92.0	92.8	91.3	n/a	82.1	84.3	82.7
12th	80.0	89.7	90.2	89.8	68.0	83.0	85.8	85.6	67.8	83.6	85.2	83.3	25.2	42.7	50.1	48.7	37.4	59.0	66.4	66.0	53.0	74.6	81.2	80.9	84.4	90.1	90.3	91.0	n/a	77.8	80.5	80.0
All	82.3	91.0	91.4	89.7	73.9	86.5	88.4	86.6	69.6	83.5	84.9	82.0	42.4	56.8	63.2	60.9	60.4	75.3	79.1	76.0	72.6	85.2	88.6	86.5	85.0	90.8	91.4	89.9	n/a	82.4	84.2	82.0

*Use of an electronic vapor product such as a vape or e-cigarette was added in 2025

PERCEPTION OF PARENTAL/CAREGIVER DISAPPROVAL

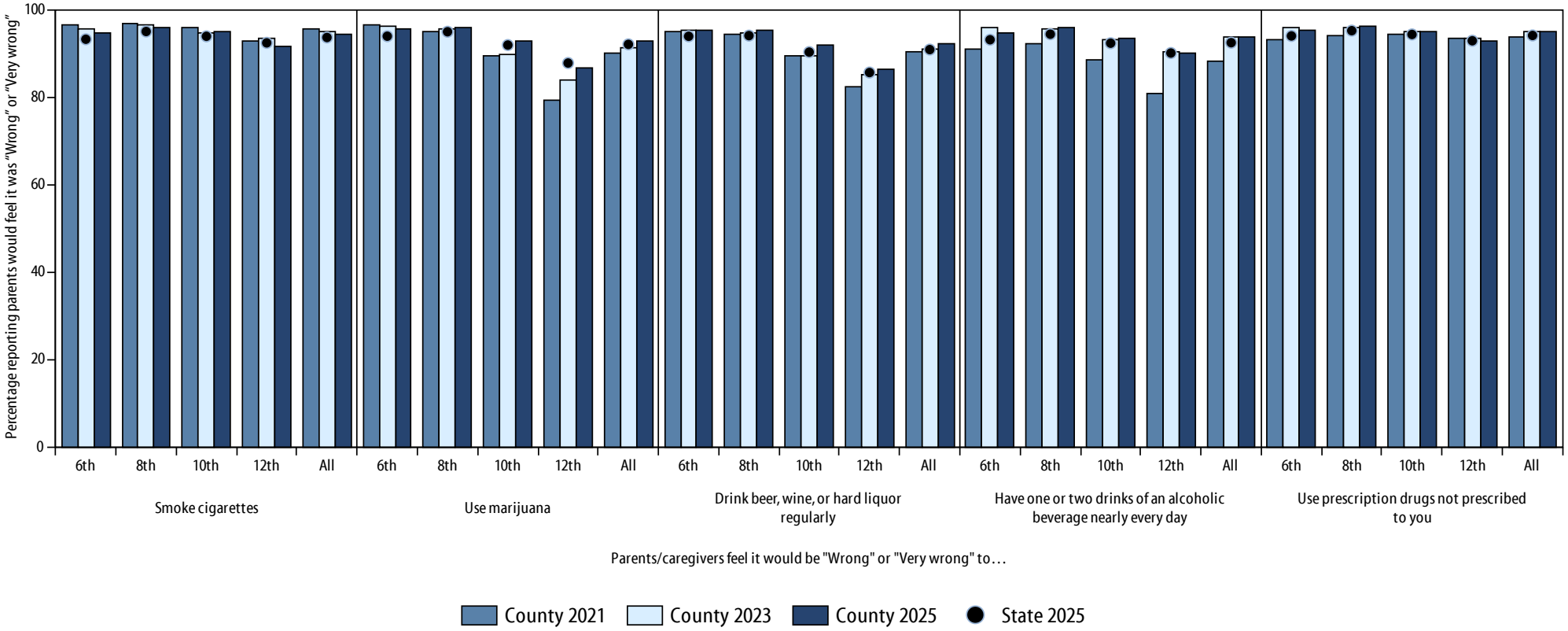
Parents/caregivers influence the attitudes and behavior of their children, including their perceptions on drug and alcohol use.

For example, parental approval of drinking, even under parental supervision, increases the likelihood of the young person using alcohol.

The data presented on the next page shows the percentages of youth who reported that their parents/caregivers feel it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" to use the substance.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Perception of parental/ caregiver disapproval	*How wrong do your parents/caregivers feel it would be for you to:* *Drink beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?* *Have one or two drinks of alcoholic beverage such as beer, wine, or hard liquor (vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) nearly every day?* *Smoke cigarettes?* *Use marijuana?* *Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?*

Perception of parental/caregiver disapproval
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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	Parents/caregivers feel it would be "Wrong" or "Very wrong" to...																			
	Smoke cigarettes				Use marijuana				Drink beer, wine, or hard liquor regularly				Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day				Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you			
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	96.5	95.6	94.8	93.2	96.6	96.1	95.5	93.9	95.0	95.3	95.3	93.9	91.0	95.8	94.7	93.1	93.2	96.0	95.2	94.0
8th	96.7	96.5	95.8	95.0	95.0	95.7	95.8	94.9	94.2	94.5	95.2	94.0	92.1	95.6	95.8	94.4	94.1	95.8	96.2	95.2
10th	95.8	94.5	94.8	93.9	89.4	89.8	92.7	91.9	89.5	89.5	91.7	90.3	88.4	93.0	93.5	92.3	94.2	95.1	94.9	94.3
12th	92.7	93.3	91.6	92.4	79.2	84.0	86.5	87.8	82.4	85.2	86.5	85.6	80.9	90.3	90.0	90.1	93.3	93.3	92.7	92.9
All	95.4	95.0	94.4	93.6	89.9	91.2	92.8	92.0	90.2	90.9	92.3	90.8	88.3	93.6	93.6	92.4	93.8	95.0	94.8	94.1

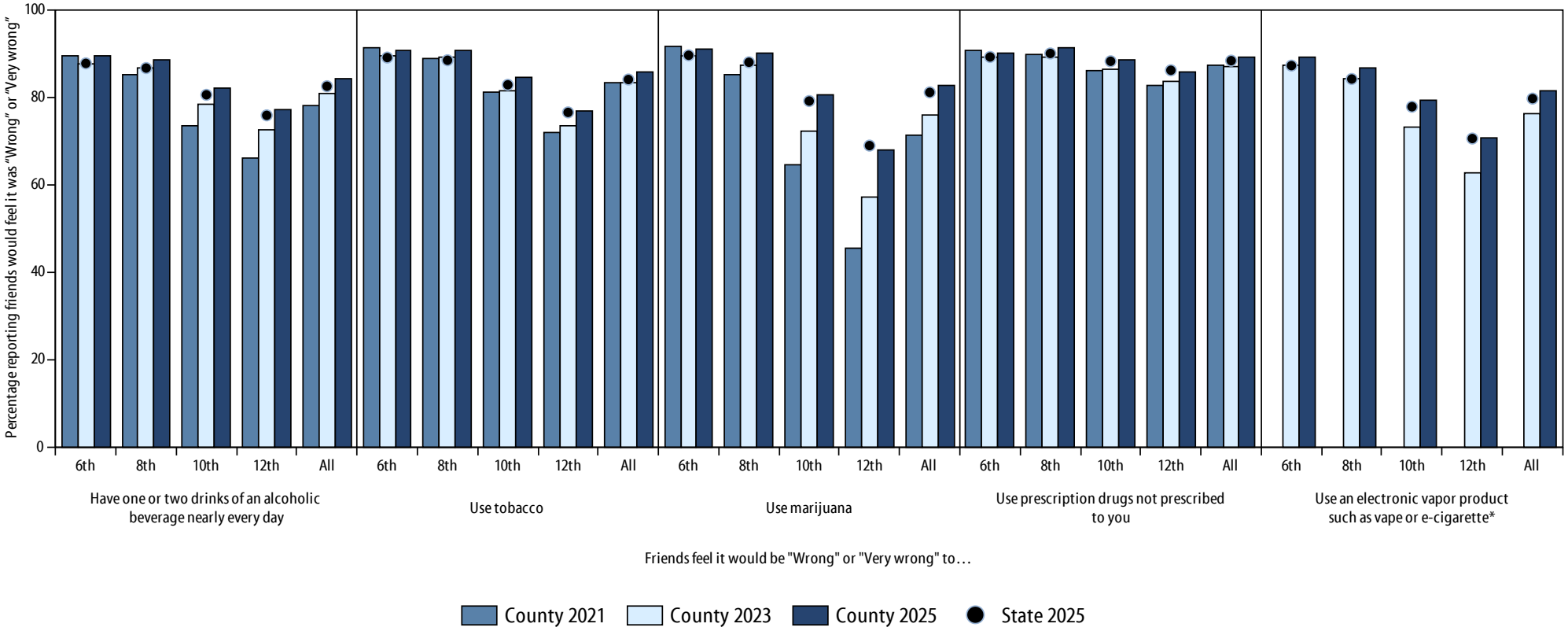
PERCEPTION OF PEER DISAPPROVAL

The older the student is, the more influence a student's peers exert on the student's behavior.

Researchers have identified a positive correlation between the amount of peer disapproval of alcohol and other drug use and the level of alcohol and other drug use among students. Thus, the greater the peer disapproval, the less likely students are to use alcohol and other drugs. The rates are the percentages of surveyed youth who reported that their friends feel it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" for them to use the substance.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Perception of peer disapproval	*How wrong do your friends feel it would be for you to:* *Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?* *Use tobacco?* *Use marijuana?* *Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?* *Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette?*

Perception of peer disapproval
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day				Use tobacco				Use marijuana				Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you				Use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette*			
	Friends feel it would be "Wrong" or "Very wrong" to...																			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	89.3	87.5	89.5	87.7	91.3	89.4	90.6	89.0	91.6	89.3	90.8	89.5	90.6	89.1	90.1	89.2	n/a	87.1	89.2	87.2
8th	85.0	86.6	88.5	86.6	88.8	89.2	90.5	88.4	85.2	87.2	89.9	87.9	89.6	89.1	91.3	89.9	n/a	84.2	86.6	84.1
10th	73.4	78.4	82.2	80.5	81.2	81.6	84.5	82.8	64.6	72.2	80.5	79.1	86.0	86.4	88.6	88.2	n/a	73.1	79.2	77.8
12th	65.9	72.5	77.0	75.8	71.8	73.4	76.9	76.5	45.6	57.1	67.9	68.9	82.7	83.5	85.7	86.1	n/a	62.7	70.7	70.5
All	78.1	80.9	84.3	82.5	83.2	83.1	85.7	84.0	71.4	75.8	82.5	81.1	87.2	86.9	89.0	88.3	n/a	76.2	81.5	79.6

*Use of an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette question was added to survey in 2025.

ATTITUDES TOWARD SUBSTANCE USE

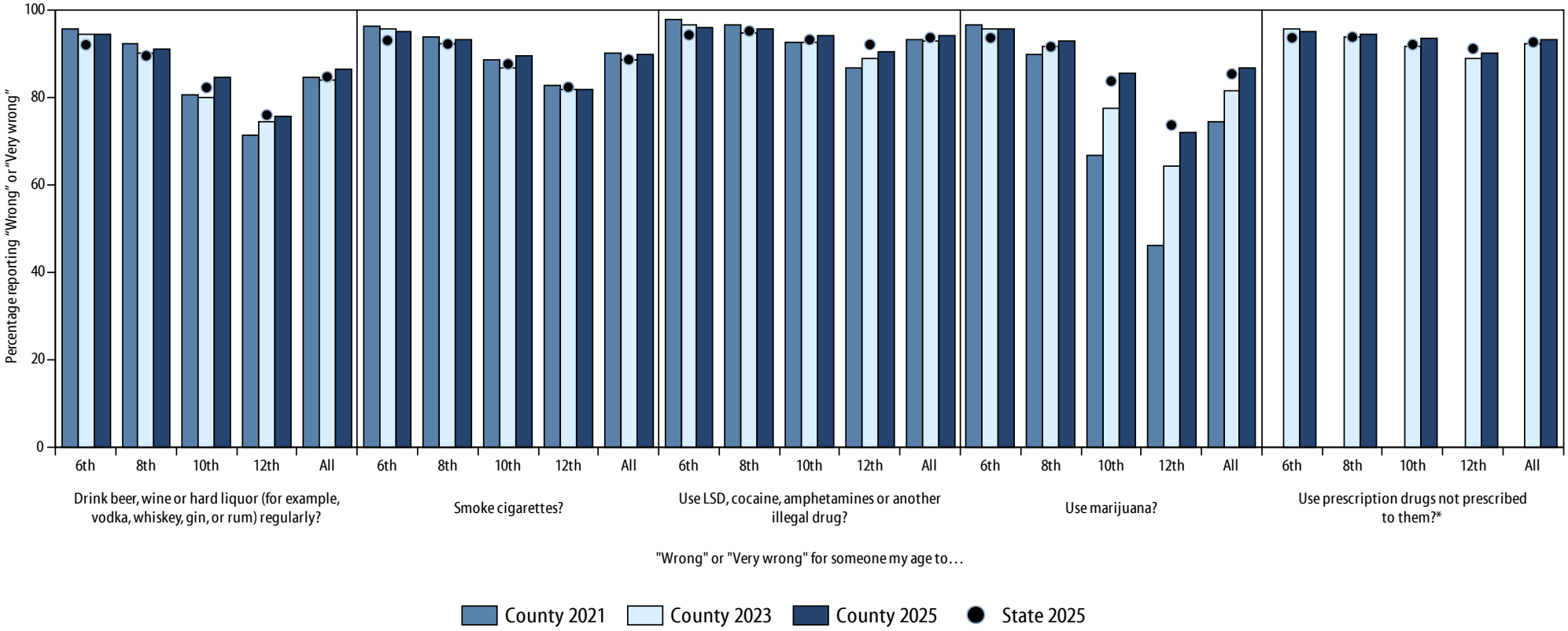
Personal approval or disapproval is another key attitudinal construct that influences substance use behavior.

Personal disapproval was measured by asking surveyed youth how wrong it would be for someone their age to use certain substances or how they feel about someone their age using certain substances.

86.3% of the students thought it was "Wrong" or "Very wrong" for someone their age to use alcohol regularly (state rate: 84.6%) and 86.5% thought it was "Wrong" or "Very wrong" for someone their age to use marijuana (state rate: 85.3%).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Attitudes toward substance use	*How do you feel about someone your age:* *Having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) nearly every day?* *Using marijuana once a month or more?* *How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to:* *Drink beer, wine, hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin or rum) regularly?* *Smoke cigarettes?* *Use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug?* *Using marijuana?* *Using prescription drugs not prescribed to them?*

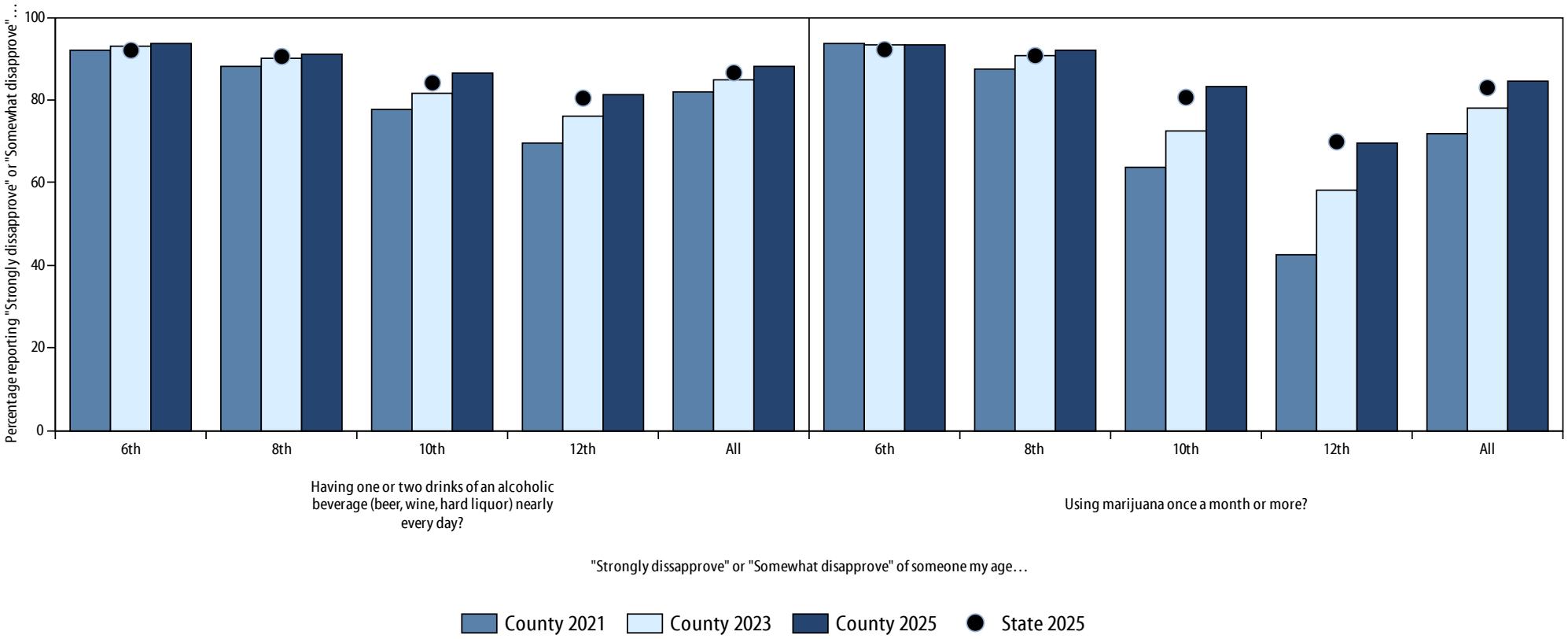
Attitudes toward peer use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	"Wrong" or "Very wrong" for someone my age to...																			
	Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?				Smoke cigarettes?				Use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug?				Use marijuana?				Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?*			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	95.6	94.2	94.2	91.9	96.1	95.5	95.1	92.9	97.6	96.4	95.8	94.2	96.5	95.6	95.6	93.5	n/a	95.6	95.1	93.5
8th	92.2	90.1	91.0	89.4	93.8	92.3	93.0	92.1	96.5	94.7	95.5	95.1	89.7	91.6	92.7	91.5	n/a	93.7	94.4	93.7
10th	80.5	79.8	84.6	82.2	88.5	86.7	89.4	87.5	92.4	92.5	94.0	93.1	66.8	77.6	85.4	83.6	n/a	91.5	93.3	92.0
12th	71.2	74.3	75.6	75.9	82.6	81.6	81.8	82.2	86.6	88.7	90.3	92.0	46.1	64.1	72.0	73.6	n/a	88.9	90.0	91.0
All	84.6	83.9	86.3	84.6	90.1	88.6	89.8	88.6	93.2	92.8	94.0	93.6	74.2	81.4	86.5	85.3	n/a	92.2	93.2	92.5

*Question on using prescription drugs not prescribed to them was revised in 2025 and is not comparable to prior years.

Disapproval of peer substance use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	"Strongly dissapprove" or "Somewhat disapprove" of someone my age… Having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) nearly every day? County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	Using marijuana once a month or more? County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	92.1	93.1	93.5	92.0	93.6	93.3	93.4	92.2
8th	88.3	90.2	91.1	90.5	87.6	90.6	92.2	90.7
10th	77.8	81.8	86.5	84.2	63.8	72.6	83.3	80.6
12th	69.6	76.2	81.2	80.5	42.6	58.2	69.5	69.9
All	81.9	84.9	88.0	86.6	71.9	78.0	84.6	83.0

LAWS/NORMS FAVORABLE TO USE

Students' perceptions of the rules, regulations and norms in their community related to substance use are connected to the extent of substance use and other concerning behaviors during adolescence.

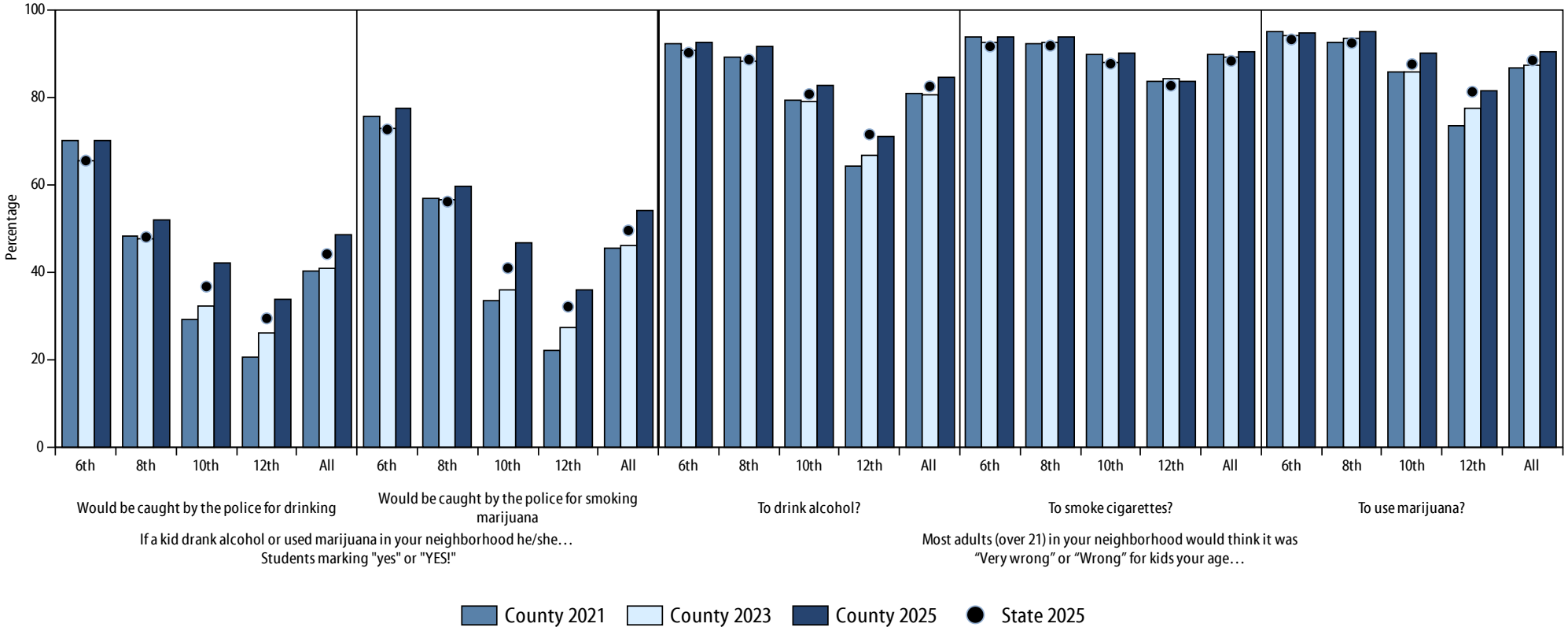
The attitudes and policies a community holds about substance use and other concerning behaviors are communicated through laws, written policies, informal social practices, and expectations by parents and community members of young people. When laws and community standards are unclear or perceived as favorable toward substance use, violence, and crime, young people are more likely to engage in negative behaviors.

48.5% of students in this county think that if a kid drank alcohol, they would be caught by the police (state rate: 44.1%).

84.5% of students report that most adults in their neighborhood would think it was "Very wrong" or "Wrong" for kids their age to drink alcohol (compared to 82.4% at the state level) and 90.4% of students reports that adults would think it was "Very wrong" or "Wrong" for kids their age to use marijuana (compared to 88.4% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Laws and Norms Favorable to Use	*If a kid drank some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?* *If a kid smoked marijuana in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?* *How wrong would most adults (over 21) in your neighborhood think it was for kids your age:* *To drink alcohol?* *To smoke cigarettes?* *To use marijuana?*

Laws/Norms favorable to use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



	If a kid drank alcohol or used marijuana in your neighborhood he/she… Students marking "yes" or "YES!"								Most adults (over 21) in your neighborhood would think it was "Very wrong" or "Wrong" for kids your age…											
	Would be caught by the police for drinking				Would be caught by the police for smoking marijuana				To drink alcohol?				To smoke cigarettes?				To use marijuana?			
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	70.0	65.3	70.2	65.4	75.6	72.8	77.4	72.6	92.1	90.7	92.6	90.1	93.6	92.4	93.7	91.5	95.0	93.9	94.8	93.1
8th	48.2	47.6	51.8	48.0	56.8	56.4	59.6	56.1	88.9	88.1	91.4	88.5	92.3	92.6	93.8	91.7	92.5	93.5	94.9	92.3
10th	29.1	32.2	42.2	36.7	33.4	35.9	46.7	40.9	79.1	78.9	82.5	80.6	89.6	88.0	90.1	87.6	85.6	85.7	90.0	87.5
12th	20.4	26.0	33.7	29.4	22.2	27.4	35.8	32.1	64.3	66.8	71.0	71.5	83.6	84.2	83.6	82.6	73.5	77.4	81.3	81.2
All	40.3	40.7	48.5	44.1	45.4	45.9	54.0	49.5	80.9	80.6	84.5	82.4	89.7	89.2	90.4	88.2	86.5	87.3	90.4	88.4

AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTANCES/ HANDGUNS

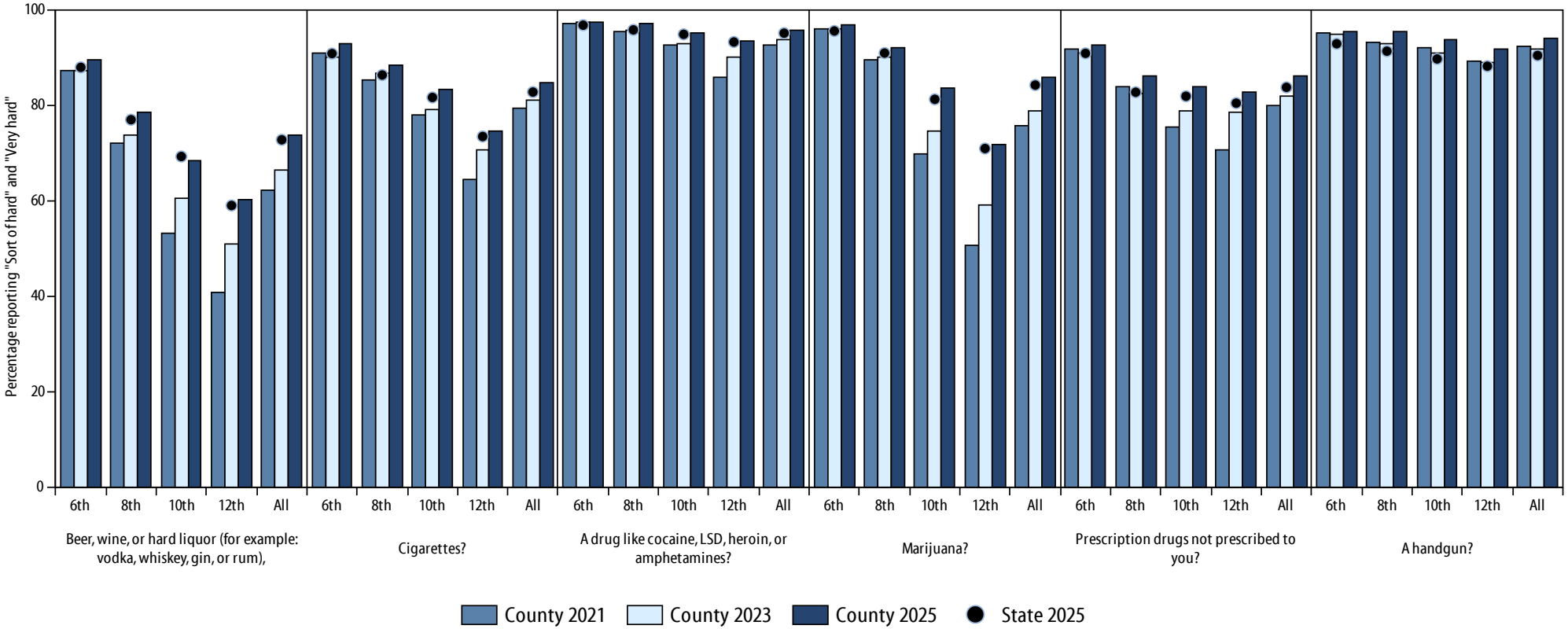
Students' perceptions of the availability of substances and handguns in their community influences involvement with substances and guns.

In schools where youth believe that drugs are easily available, a higher rate of drug use has been found to occur. If students believe that acquiring a handgun is or would be difficult, they are less likely to become involved with the unauthorized and unsupervised use of firearms.

73.7% of students reported that alcohol would be "Sort of hard" or "Very hard" to get, and 94.0% reported that a handgun would be "Sort of hard" or "Very hard" to get (compared to state rates of 72.7% and 90.4%, respectively).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Availability of Substances/Handguns	*How easy would it be for you to get any, if you wanted to get any of the following:* *Beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum)* *Cigarettes?* *A drug like cocaine, LSD, heroin, or amphetamines?* *Marijuana?* *Prescription drugs not prescribed to you?* *A handgun?*

Availability of substances/handguns
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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	"Sort of hard" or "Very hard" to get…																							
	Beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum),				Cigarettes?				A drug like cocaine, LSD, heroin, or amphetamines?				Marijuana?				Prescription drugs not prescribed to you?				A handgun?			
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	87.3	87.3	89.4	87.9	90.8	90.1	93.0	90.8	97.1	97.3	97.4	96.7	96.0	96.0	96.7	95.5	91.7	90.9	92.6	90.8	95.0	94.9	95.4	92.8
8th	72.1	73.7	78.4	76.9	85.3	86.7	88.4	86.3	95.5	95.6	97.0	95.7	89.4	90.1	92.1	90.9	83.8	82.5	86.1	82.7	93.1	92.9	95.3	91.3
10th	53.1	60.5	68.5	69.2	77.9	78.9	83.3	81.6	92.6	92.8	95.1	94.8	69.7	74.5	83.5	81.2	75.4	78.8	83.9	81.8	92.0	90.9	93.6	89.6
12th	40.8	51.0	60.3	59.0	64.4	70.5	74.6	73.4	85.7	90.0	93.5	93.2	50.5	59.1	71.8	70.9	70.7	78.4	82.7	80.4	89.2	89.0	91.6	88.1
All	62.1	66.4	73.7	72.7	79.2	81.0	84.7	82.7	92.6	93.7	95.7	95.0	75.8	78.8	85.9	84.2	79.8	81.7	86.0	83.7	92.2	91.7	94.0	90.4

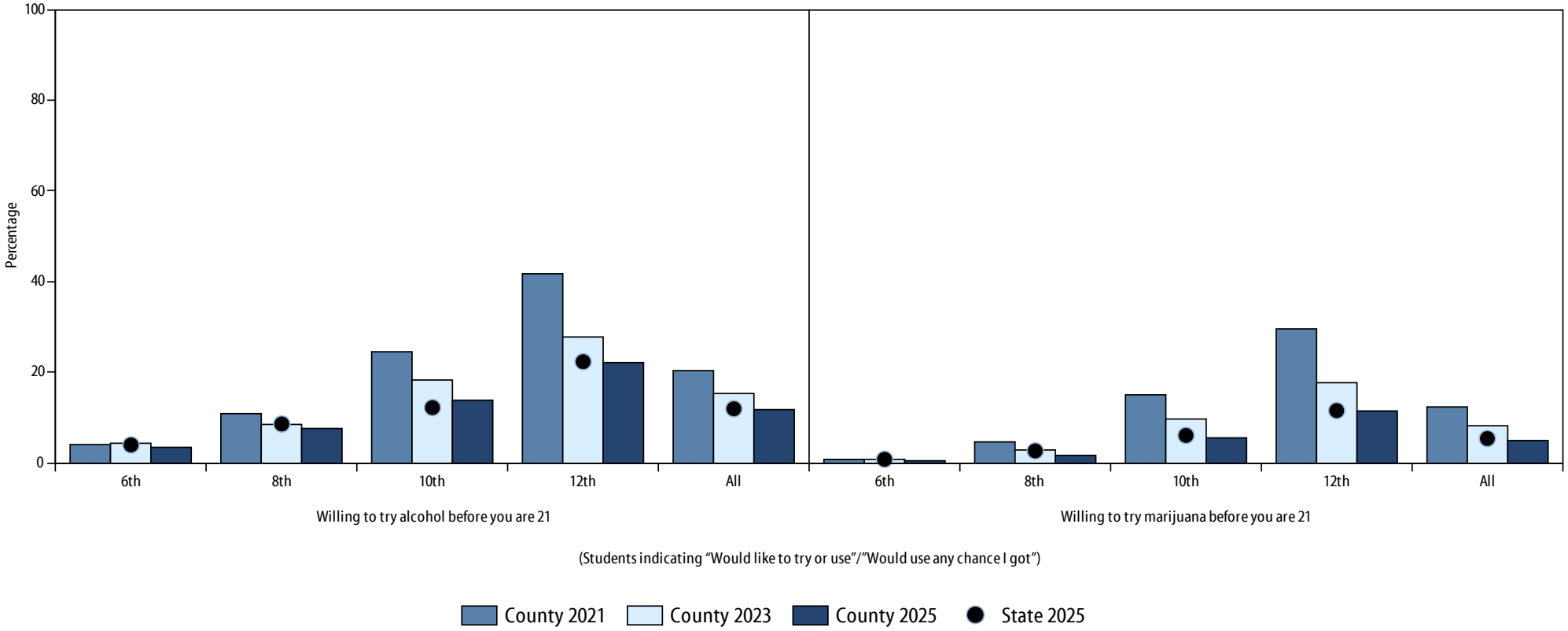
WILLINGNESS TO USE SUBSTANCES

Along with perceptions of substance use risk and level of substance use disapproval, student willingness to try or use substances is one of the attitudes that facilitates substance use.

11.9% of students showed a willingness to use alcohol (indicating they "would like to try it or use it" or "would use it any chance I got"), compared to 12.0% at the state level.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Willingness to use	*How willing are you to try the drugs listed below before you are 21? These are not questions about current or past use of these drugs.* *ALCOHOL (beer, wine, coolers, hard liquor such as vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum)* *MARIJUANA (pot, hash, cannabis, weed, THC)*

Willingness to use substances
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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	Willing to try alcohol				Willing to try marijuana			
Grade	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	4.2	4.3	3.4	4.0	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.8
8th	11.0	8.6	7.7	8.6	4.6	2.9	1.8	2.7
10th	24.7	18.4	13.9	12.3	15.1	9.6	5.7	6.1
12th	41.6	27.7	22.1	22.4	29.7	17.8	11.5	11.6
All	20.4	15.3	11.9	12.0	12.5	8.1	4.9	5.4

SOURCES OF SUBSTANCES USED

Questions about how and where substances were obtained help suggest new approaches for preventing substance use.

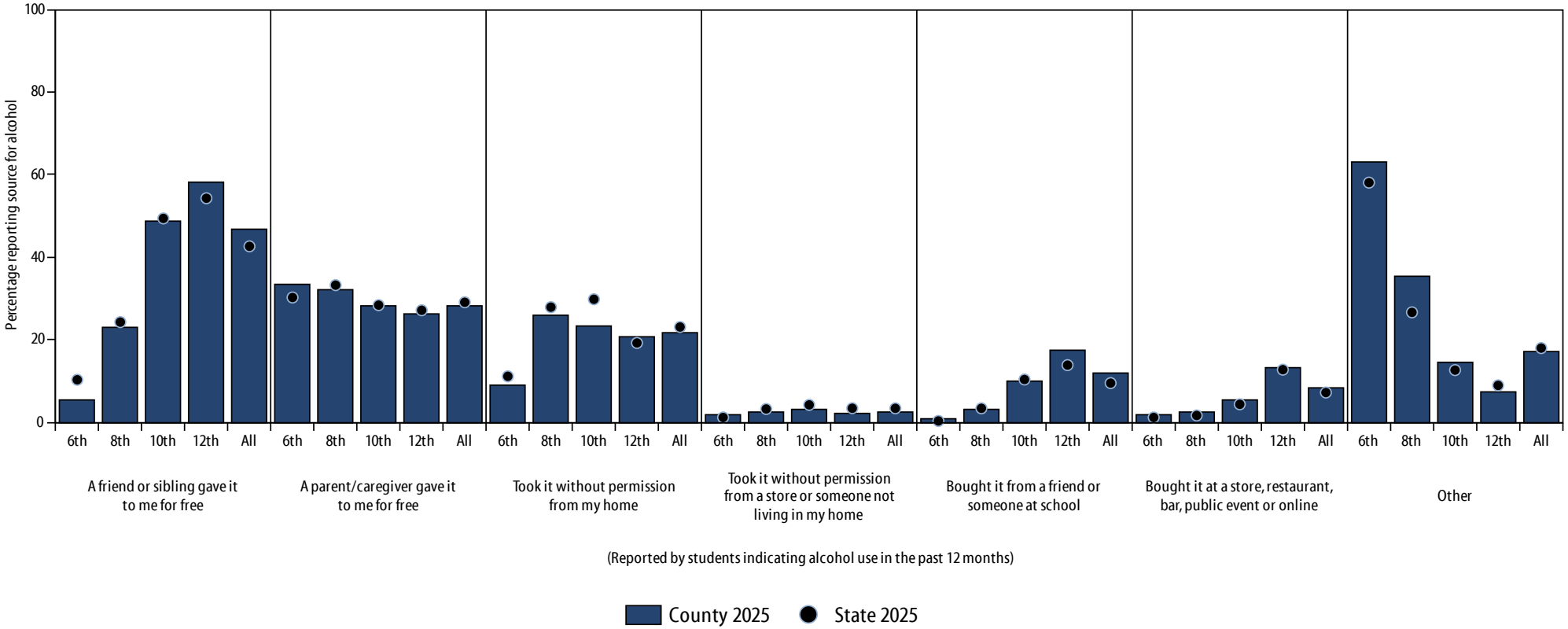
Of the students who reported drinking alcohol in the past year, 46.9% of students chose "A friend or sibling gave it to me for free" as their most frequent source/method of obtaining the alcohol they used, compared to 42.7% at the state level. The next most frequently reported source of alcohol was "A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free", with 28.3% of students who used alcohol in the past year indicating this method, compared to 29.1% at the state level. The third most frequently reported source was "Took it without permission from my home" with 21.8% of students who used alcohol in the past year indicating this method, compared to 23.1% at the state level.

49.1% of students who used prescription drugs not prescribed in the past year chose "A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free" as their most frequent source/method of obtaining the prescription drugs they used without a doctor's prescription, compared to 45.7% at the state level. The next most frequently reported source of prescription drugs was "Took it without permission from my home", with 29.1% of students who used prescription drugs not prescribed in the past year indicating this method, compared to 24.1% at the state level.

49.1% of students who used electronic vapor products in the past year chose "A friend or sibling gave it to me for free" as their most frequent source/method of obtaining the electronic vapor product, compared to 50.3% at the state level. The next most frequently reported source of electronic vapor product was "Bought it from a store or online" with 26.0% of students who used electronic vapor products in the past year indicating this method, compared to 18.8% at the state level.

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Sources of alcohol	*If you drank alcohol during the past 12 months, how did you usually get it? (Mark all that apply.)* *Did not drink any alcohol* *A friend or sibling gave it to me for free* *A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free* *Took it without permission from my home* *Took it without permission from a store or someone not living in my home* *Bought it from a friend or someone at school* *Bought it at a store, restaurant, bar, public event or online* *Other source (please describe)*
Sources of prescription drugs	*If you used any prescription drugs without a prescription from your doctor during the last 12 months, how did you get them? (Mark all that apply.)* *I did not take any prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription.* *A friend or sibling gave it to me for free* *A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free* *Took it without permission from my home* *Took it without permission from someone not living in my home* *Bought them from a friend or someone at school* *Bought them online* *Other source (please describe)*
Sources of vape	*If you used an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette in the past year, how did you get it? (Mark all that apply.)* *Did not use electronic vapor product* *A friend or sibling gave it to me for free* *A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free* *Took it without permission from my home* *Took it without permission from a store or someone not living in my home* *Bought it from a friend or someone at school* *Bought it from a store or online* *Other source (please describe)*

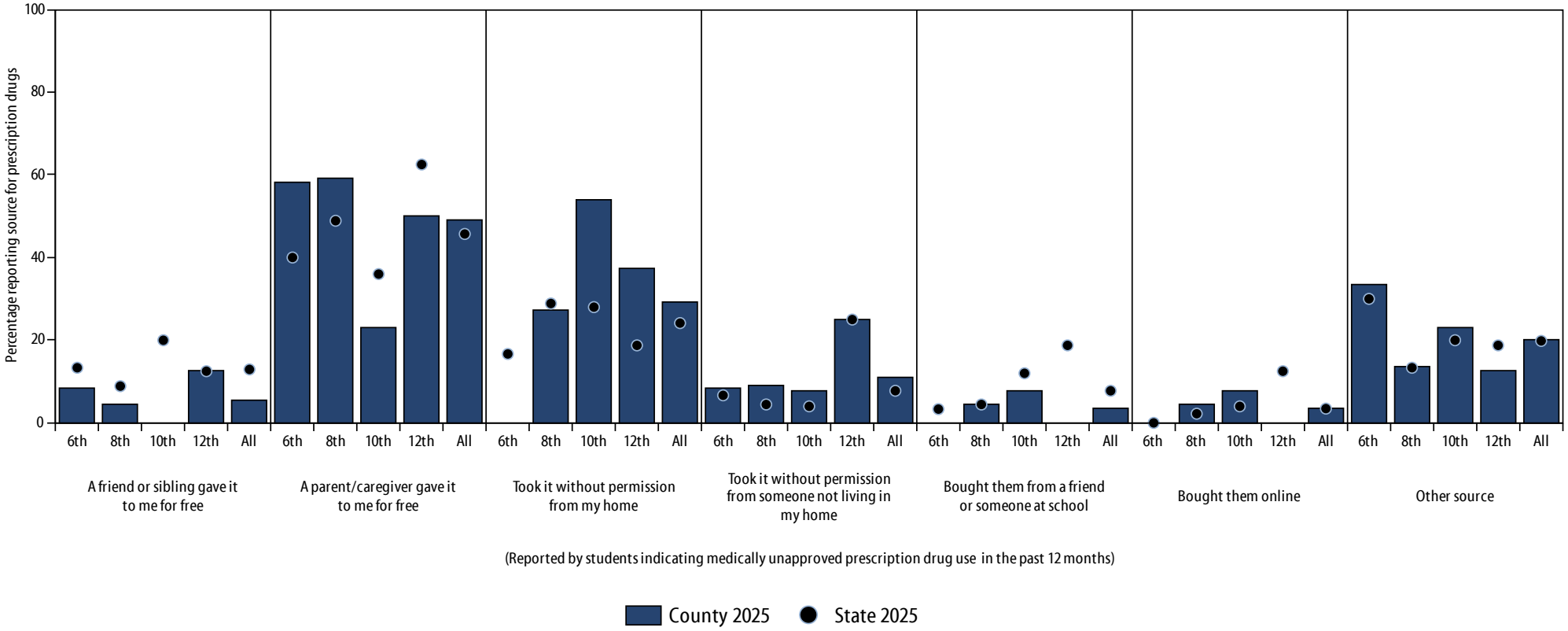
Sources of alcohol by students who reported alcohol use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	A friend or sibling gave it to me for free				A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free				Took it without permission from my home				Took it without permission from a store or someone not living in my home				Bought it from a friend or someone at school				Bought it at a store, restaurant, bar, public event or online				Other			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	5.4	10.4	n/a	n/a	33.3	30.3	n/a	n/a	9.0	11.2	n/a	n/a	1.8	1.2	n/a	n/a	0.9	0.4	n/a	n/a	1.8	1.2	n/a	n/a	63.1	58.1
8th	n/a	n/a	23.2	24.3	n/a	n/a	32.3	33.3	n/a	n/a	25.9	27.9	n/a	n/a	2.4	3.3	n/a	n/a	3.0	3.5	n/a	n/a	2.4	1.7	n/a	n/a	35.4	26.7
10th	n/a	n/a	48.9	49.4	n/a	n/a	28.3	28.4	n/a	n/a	23.5	29.9	n/a	n/a	3.4	4.3	n/a	n/a	10.1	10.4	n/a	n/a	5.4	4.4	n/a	n/a	14.6	12.7
12th	n/a	n/a	58.3	54.3	n/a	n/a	26.4	27.2	n/a	n/a	20.8	19.3	n/a	n/a	2.3	3.5	n/a	n/a	17.4	13.9	n/a	n/a	13.3	12.8	n/a	n/a	7.5	9.0
All	n/a	n/a	46.9	42.7	n/a	n/a	28.3	29.1	n/a	n/a	21.8	23.1	n/a	n/a	2.6	3.4	n/a	n/a	12.0	9.6	n/a	n/a	8.5	7.3	n/a	n/a	17.2	18.0

*Question on sources of alcohol was revised in 2025 and is therefore not comparable to prior years.

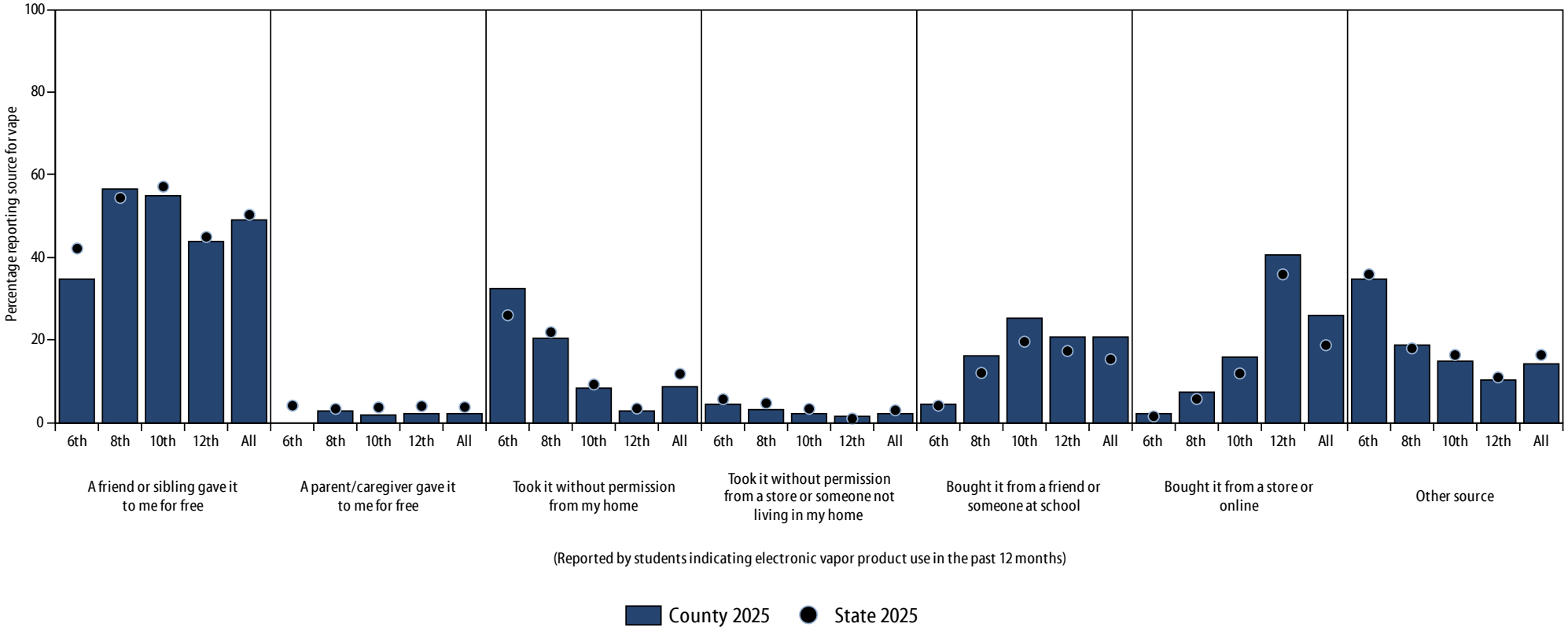
Sources of prescription drugs by students who reported prescription drug use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	A friend or sibling gave it to me for free				A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free				Took it without permission from my home				Took it without permission someone not living in my home				Bought them from a friend or someone at school				Bought them online				Other source			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	8.3	13.3	n/a	n/a	58.3	40.0	n/a	n/a	0.0	16.7	n/a	n/a	8.3	6.7	n/a	n/a	0.0	3.3	n/a	n/a	0.0	0.0	n/a	n/a	33.3	30.0
8th	n/a	n/a	4.5	8.9	n/a	n/a	59.1	48.9	n/a	n/a	27.3	28.9	n/a	n/a	9.1	4.4	n/a	n/a	4.5	4.4	n/a	n/a	4.5	2.2	n/a	n/a	13.6	13.3
10th	n/a	n/a	0.0	20.0	n/a	n/a	23.1	36.0	n/a	n/a	53.8	28.0	n/a	n/a	7.7	4.0	n/a	n/a	7.7	12.0	n/a	n/a	7.7	4.0	n/a	n/a	23.1	20.0
12th	n/a	n/a	12.5	12.5	n/a	n/a	50.0	62.5	n/a	n/a	37.5	18.8	n/a	n/a	25.0	25.0	n/a	n/a	0.0	18.8	n/a	n/a	0.0	12.5	n/a	n/a	12.5	18.8
All	n/a	n/a	5.5	12.9	n/a	n/a	49.1	45.7	n/a	n/a	29.1	24.1	n/a	n/a	10.9	7.8	n/a	n/a	3.6	7.8	n/a	n/a	3.6	3.4	n/a	n/a	20.0	19.8

*Question on sources of prescription drugs was revised in 2025 and is therefore not comparable to prior years.

Sources of vape by students who reported vape use
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	A friend or sibling gave it to me for free				A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free				Took it without permission from my home				Took it without permission from a store or someone not living in my home				Bought it from a friend or someone at school				Bought it from a store or online				Other source			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	n/a	n/a	34.9	42.2	n/a	n/a	0.0	4.2	n/a	n/a	32.6	26.0	n/a	n/a	4.7	5.7	n/a	n/a	4.7	4.2	n/a	n/a	2.3	1.6	n/a	n/a	34.9	35.9
8th	n/a	n/a	56.5	54.4	n/a	n/a	2.8	3.4	n/a	n/a	20.4	21.9	n/a	n/a	3.2	4.8	n/a	n/a	16.2	12.1	n/a	n/a	7.4	5.8	n/a	n/a	19.0	18.0
10th	n/a	n/a	54.9	57.1	n/a	n/a	1.9	3.8	n/a	n/a	8.4	9.3	n/a	n/a	2.2	3.4	n/a	n/a	25.3	19.6	n/a	n/a	15.9	12.0	n/a	n/a	15.0	16.4
12th	n/a	n/a	44.0	45.0	n/a	n/a	2.3	4.1	n/a	n/a	3.0	3.5	n/a	n/a	1.5	1.0	n/a	n/a	20.8	17.4	n/a	n/a	40.5	35.9	n/a	n/a	10.3	11.0
All	n/a	n/a	49.1	50.3	n/a	n/a	2.2	3.8	n/a	n/a	8.7	11.8	n/a	n/a	2.1	3.0	n/a	n/a	20.8	15.4	n/a	n/a	26.0	18.8	n/a	n/a	14.1	16.4

*Question on sources of electronic vapor products was revised in 2025 and is therefore not comparable to prior years.

OTHER INDICATORS OF RISK

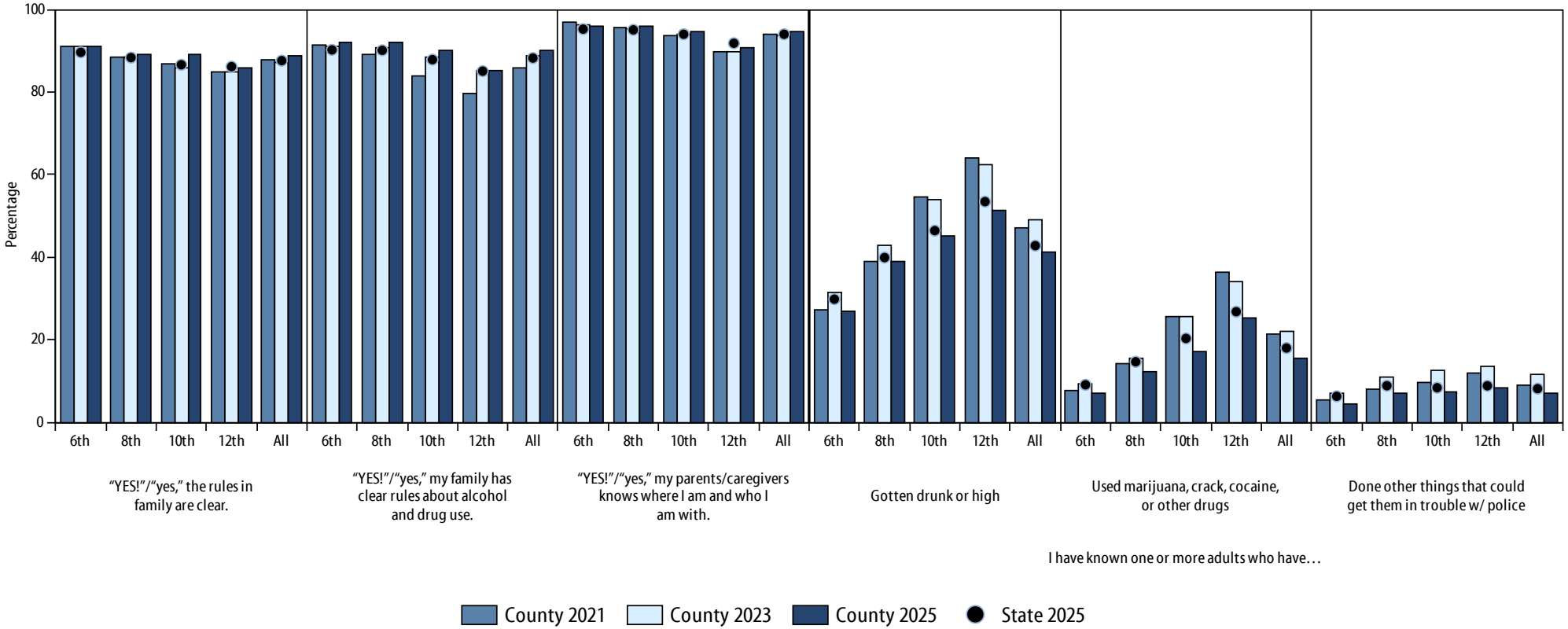
Family rules, parental/caregiver monitoring, and the actions of adults in youth's lives can influence their risk of using substances or engaging in other concerning behaviors.

88.7% of students in this county say the rules in their family are clear (compared to 87.6% at the state level), with 89.9% reporting their families have clear rules about drugs and alcohol (state rate: 88.2%). When the students are not home, 94.5% of students stated their parents know where they are and who they are with.

Adult actions influence youth. Students reported they have personally known someone over 21 who has: gotten high or drunk (41.2%, compared to 42.8% at the state level); used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs (15.6%, compared to 18.1% at the state level); or has done other things that could get them in trouble with the police (6.9%, compared to 8.2% at the state level).

PAYS 2025 category:	*PAYS 2025 question text:*
Rules and antisocial behavior	*My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.*
	When I am not at home, one of my parents knows where I am and who I am with.
	The rules in my family are clear.
	About how many adults (over 21) have you known personally who in the past 12 months have:
	Gotten drunk or high?
	Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs?
	Done other things that could get them in trouble with the police, like stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging or assaulting others, etc.?

Other indicators of risk
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	"YES!"/"yes," the rules in family are clear.				"YES!"/"yes," my family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.				"YES!"/"yes," my parents/caregivers knows where I am and who I am with.				I have known one or more adults who have… Gotten drunk or high				Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs				Done other things that could get them in trouble w/ police			
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025
6th	91.1	91.0	91.0	89.6	91.4	91.2	91.9	90.2	96.8	96.4	96.1	95.2	27.2	31.6	27.1	29.9	7.8	9.5	7.0	9.1	5.6	7.2	4.4	6.4
8th	88.5	88.6	89.2	88.3	89.2	90.9	92.1	90.1	95.6	95.2	96.1	95.1	39.1	42.9	38.9	39.9	14.3	15.6	12.4	14.7	8.1	11.1	7.0	8.9
10th	86.8	85.9	89.0	86.6	84.1	88.6	90.1	87.9	93.8	93.9	94.7	94.0	54.7	53.9	45.3	46.5	25.7	25.8	17.2	20.4	9.7	12.5	7.5	8.4
12th	84.9	84.8	85.7	86.2	79.7	85.2	85.3	85.1	89.7	89.6	90.8	91.8	64.2	62.4	51.5	53.5	36.3	34.1	25.3	26.8	11.9	13.7	8.4	8.9
All	87.7	87.3	88.7	87.6	85.9	88.9	89.9	88.2	93.9	93.6	94.5	94.0	47.2	49.0	41.2	42.8	21.5	22.1	15.6	18.1	9.0	11.5	6.9	8.2

8. RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Prevention is a science. The Risk and Protective Factor Model of Prevention is a proven effective way of reducing substance use and its related consequences.

This model is based on the simple premise that to prevent a problem from happening, we need to identify the factors that increase the risk of that problem developing and then find ways to reduce the risks. Just as medical researchers have found risk factors for heart disease such as diets high in fat, lack of exercise, and smoking, a team of researchers at the University of Washington have defined a set of risk factors for youth problem behaviors.

Known to predict increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, school dropout, and violent behaviors among youth, risk factors are characteristics of community, family, and school environments, and of students and their peer groups. For example, children who live in families with high levels of conflict are more likely to become involved in delinquency and drug use than children who live in families characterized by lower levels of conflict.

Protective factors exert a positive influence and buffer against the negative influence of risk, thus reducing the likelihood that adolescents will engage in problem behaviors.

Bonding confers a protective influence only when there is a positive climate in the bonded community. Peers and adults in these neighborhoods, families, and schools must communicate healthy values and set clear standards for behavior in order to ensure a protective effect. For example, strong bonds to antisocial peers would not be likely to reinforce positive behavior.

Risk factors are conditions that increase the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in drug use, delinquency, school dropout, and/or violence.

		Substance Use	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence	Depression & Anxiety
Community	Low Neighborhood Attachment	✓	✓			✓	
	Perceived Availability of Drugs	✓				✓	
	Perceived Availability of Handguns		✓			✓	
	Community Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use, Firearms and Crime	✓	✓			✓	
Family	Family History of Antisocial Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Poor Family Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Family Conflict	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drugs and Antisocial Behavior	✓	✓			✓	
School	Academic Failure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Low Commitment to School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Peer / Individual	Rebelliousness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Gang Involvement	✓	✓			✓	
	Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior and Drug Use	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Friend's Use of Drugs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Interaction with Antisocial Peers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Depressive Symptoms	✓			✓		✓

Protective factors identified through research include strong bonding to community, family, school, and peers, and healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior. Protective bonding depends on three conditions:

- Opportunities for young people to actively contribute
- Skills to be able to successfully contribute
- Consistent recognition or reinforcement for their efforts and accomplishments

Research on risk and protective factors has important implications for children's academic success, positive youth development, and prevention of health and behavior problems. In order to promote academic success and positive youth development and prevent problem behaviors, it is necessary to address the factors that predict these outcomes. By measuring risk and protective factors in a population, specific risk factors that are elevated and widespread can be identified and targeted by policies, programs, and actions shown to reduce those risk factors and to promote protective factors.

Protective factors, also known as "assets," are conditions that buffer youth from risk by reducing the impact of the risks or changing the way they respond to risks.

		Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards	Bonding	Opportunities	Skills	Recognition
Community	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓			✓
Family	Family Attachment		✓			
	Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		✓	✓		
	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	✓	✓			✓
School	Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		✓	✓		
	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓			✓
Peer / Individual	Interaction with Prosocial Peers		✓		✓	
	Prosocial Involvement		✓		✓	
	Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		✓			✓
	Belief in the Moral Order	✓				
	Religiosity	✓				

Each risk and protective factor can be linked to specific types of interventions that have been shown to be effective in either reducing risk(s) or enhancing protection(s). The steps outlined here will help your county make key decisions regarding allocation of resources, how and when to address specific needs, and which strategies are most effective and known to produce results.

RISK AND PROTECTIVE SCALES DEFINED

To access data at the state and county level for individual risk and protective factor questions, visit www.bach-harrison.com/PAYSWebTool.

Community Domain

Risk Factors

Low Neighborhood Attachment

Low neighborhood bonding is related to higher levels of juvenile crime and drug selling.

A20 I like my neighborhood.

A21 I'd like to get out of my neighborhood.

A22 If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in.

Perceived Availability of Drugs and Handguns

The availability of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other illegal drugs has been related to the use of these substances by adolescents. The availability of handguns has also been related to a higher risk of crime and substance use by adolescents.

A26 How easy would it be for you to get any, if you wanted to get any of the following:

- **a** Beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum)?
- **b** Cigarettes?
- **e** Marijuana?
- **d** A drug like cocaine, LSD, heroin, or amphetamines, how easy would it be for you to get some?
- **c** A handgun?

Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use

Research has shown that legal restrictions on alcohol and tobacco use, such as raising the legal drinking age, restricting smoking in public places, and increased taxation have been followed by decreases in consumption. Moreover, national surveys of high school seniors have shown that shifts in normative attitudes toward drug use have preceded changes in prevalence of use.

A24 If a kid drank some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example: vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?

A23 If a kid smoked marijuana in your neighborhood would he or she be caught by the police?

A27 How wrong would most adults (over 21) in your neighborhood think it was for kids your age:

- **a** To drink alcohol?
- **b** To smoke cigarettes?
- **c** To use marijuana?

Protective Factors

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement

Rewards for positive participation in activities help youth bond to the community, thus lowering their risk for substance use.

A17 My neighbors notice when I am doing a good job and let me know.

A18 There are people in my neighborhood who are proud of me when I do something well.

A19 There are people in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best.

Family Domain

Risk Factors

Family History of Antisocial Behavior

When children are raised in a family with a history of problem behaviors (e.g., violence or ATOD use), the children are more likely to engage in these behaviors.

B19 About how many adults (over 21) have you known personally who in the past year have:

- **a** Gotten drunk or high?
- **b** Used marijuana, crack, cocaine, or other drugs?
- **c** Sold or dealt drugs?
- **d** Done other things that could get them in trouble with the police, like stealing, selling stolen goods, mugging or assaulting others, etc.?

B20 How many of your brothers or sisters ever:

- **a** Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?
- **b** Smoked cigarettes?
- **c** Smoked marijuana?
- **d** Took a handgun to school?
- **e** Been suspended or expelled from school?

B21 Has anyone in your family ever had a severe alcohol or drug problem?

Poor Family Management

Inconsistent and/or unusually harsh or severe punishments inflicted by parents increases the likelihood that their children will be at higher risk for substance use and other problem behaviors. Also, a failure to provide clear expectations and to monitor children's behavior makes it more likely that they will engage in substance use.

B9 When I am not at home, one of my parents/cargivers knows where I am and who I am with.

B10 If you skipped school, would you be caught by your parents/cargivers?

B11 My parents/cargivers ask if I've gotten my homework done.

B12 Would your parents/cargivers know if you did not come home on time?

B13 The rules in my family are clear.

B14 If you carried a handgun without your parent's/caregiver's permission, would you be caught by them?

B18 If you drank some beer, wine, or liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) without your parent's/caregiver's permission, would you be caught by them?

B22 My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use.

Family Conflict

Children raised in families high in conflict, whether or not the child is directly involved in the conflict, appear at risk for both delinquency and drug use.

B15 People in my family often insult or yell at each other.

B16 We argue about the same things in my family over and over.

B17 People in my family have serious arguments.

Family Domain (cont'd)

Risk Factors (cont'd)

Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drugs and Antisocial Behavior

In families where parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol, or are tolerant of children's use, children are more likely to use substances during adolescence. The risk is further increased if parents involve children in their own drug (or alcohol) using behavior.

B23 How wrong do your parents/cargivers feel it would be for you to:

- **a** Pick a fight with someone?
- **b** Steal anything worth more than $5
- **c** Draw graffiti, or write things or draw pictures on buildings or other property (without the owner's permission)?
- **d** Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?
- **f** Smoke cigarettes?
- **g** Use marijuana?
- **h** Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?

Protective Factors

Family Attachment

Young people who feel that they are a valued part of their family are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.

B6 Do you feel very close to your parents/cargivers?

B7 Do you share your thoughts and feelings with your parents/cargivers?

Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement

Young people who are exposed to more opportunities to participate meaningfully in the responsibilities and activities of the family are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.

B1 My parents/cargivers ask me what I think before most family decisions affecting me are made.

B2 If I had a personal problem, I could ask my parents/caregivers for help

B3 My parents/cargivers give me lots of chances to do fun things with them.

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement

When parents, siblings, and other family members praise, encourage, and attend to things done well by youths, the youth are less likely to engage in substance use and problem behaviors.

B4 My parents/cargivers notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.

B5 How often do your parents/cargivers tell you they're proud of you for something you've done?

B8 Do you enjoy spending time with your parents/cargivers?

School Domain

Risk Factors

Academic Failure

Academic failure that occurs between late elementary school (grades 4-6) and high school increases the risk of both substance use and delinquency. It appears that the experience of failure itself, for whatever reasons, increases the risk of problem behaviors.

A4 Putting them all together, what were your grades like last year?

A7 Are your school grades better than the grades of most students in your class?

Low Commitment to School

Surveys of high school seniors have shown that the use of drugs is significantly lower among students who expect to attend college than among those who do not. Factors such as liking school, spending time on homework, and perceiving the coursework as relevant are also negatively related to drug use.

A1 During the LAST FOUR WEEKS, how many whole days of school have you missed because you skipped or "cut"?

A2 How important do you think the things you are learning in school are going to be for your later life?

A3 How interesting are most of your courses to you?

A5 How often do you feel that the schoolwork you are assigned is meaningful and important?

A6 Now, thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you:

- **a** Enjoy being in school?
- **b** Hate being in school?
- **c** Try to do your best work in school?

Protective Factors

Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement

When young people are given more opportunities to participate meaningfully in important activities at school, they are less likely to engage in substance use and other problem behaviors.

A8 Teachers ask me to work on special classroom projects.

A9 There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk one-on-one with a teacher.

A10 I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.

A11 In my school, students have lots of chances to help decide things like class activities and rules.

A12 There are lots of chances for students in my school to get involved in sports, clubs, and other school activities outside of class.

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement

When young people are recognized and rewarded for their contributions at school, they are less likely to be involved in substance use and other problem behaviors.

A13 My teacher(s) notices when I am doing a good job and lets me know about it.

A14 I feel safe at my school.

A15 The school lets my parents/cargivers know when I have done something well.

A16 My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.

Peer-Individual Domain

Risk Factors

Rebelliousness

Young people who do not feel part of society, are not bound by rules, don't believe in trying to be successful or responsible, or who take an active rebellious stance toward society, are at higher risk of substance use. In addition, high tolerance for deviance, a strong need for independence, and normlessness have all been linked with drug use.

C1 I like to see how much I can get away with.

C2 I ignore the rules that get in my way.

C3 I do the opposite of what people tell me, just to get them mad.

Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use

Young people who do not perceive substance use to be risky are far more likely to engage in substance use.

C13 How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:

- **a** Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) nearly every day?
- **c** Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?
- **d** Try marijuana once or twice?
- **f** Use marijuana regularly?

Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior and Drug Use

During the elementary school years, most children express anti-drug, anti-crime, and pro-social attitudes and have difficulty imagining why people use drugs or engage in antisocial behaviors. However, in middle school, as more youth are exposed to others who use drugs and engage in antisocial behavior, their attitudes often shift toward greater acceptance of these behaviors. Youth who express positive attitudes toward substance use and antisocial behavior are more likely to engage in a variety of problem behaviors.

C12 How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to:

- **a** Stay away from school all day when their parents think they are at school?
- **b** Take a handgun to school?
- **c** Steal anything worth more than $5?
- **d** Pick a fight with someone?
- **e** Attack someone with the idea of seriously hurting them?
- **f** Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) regularly?
- **g** Smoke cigarettes?
- **h** Use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug?
- **i** Use marijuana?
- **j** Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?

Peer-Individual Domain (cont'd)

Risk Factors (cont'd)

Sensation Seeking

Young people who seek out opportunities for dangerous, risky behavior in general are at higher risk for participating in substance use and other problem behaviors.

C11 How many times have you:

- **a** Done what feels good no matter what.
- **b** Done something dangerous because someone dared you to do it.
- **c** Done crazy things even if they are a little dangerous.

Rewards for Antisocial Behavior

Young people who receive rewards for their antisocial behavior are at higher risk for engaging further in antisocial behavior and substance use.

C14 What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you:

- **a** Carried a handgun?
- **b** Began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?
- **c** Smoked cigarettes?
- **d** Used marijuana?

Friends' Use of Drugs

Young people who associate with peers who engage in substance use are much more likely to engage in the same behavior. Peer drug use has consistently been found to be among the strongest predictors of substance use among youth. Even when young people come from well-managed families and do not experience other risk factors, spending time with friends who use substances greatly increases the risk of that problem developing.

C19 Think of up to four of your best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have:

- **f** Tried beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, gin, or rum) when their parents didn't know about it?
- **g** Smoked cigarettes?
- **i** Used LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs?
- **j** Used marijuana?

Peer-Individual Domain (cont'd)

Risk Factors (cont'd)

Interaction with Antisocial Peers

Young people who associate with peers who engage in problem behaviors are at higher risk for engaging in antisocial behavior themselves.

C19 Think of up to four of your best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have:

- **a** Been arrested?
- **b** Dropped out of school?
- **c** Stolen or tried to steal a motor vehicle such as a car or motorcycle?
- **d** Been suspended from school?
- **e** Carried a handgun?
- **h** Sold illegal drugs?

Depressive Symptoms

Young people who are depressed are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and are more likely to use substances. Survey research and other studies have shown a link between depression and other youth problem behaviors.

C5 In the past 12 months have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you feel OK sometimes?

C6 Sometimes I think that life is not worth it.

C7 At times I think I am no good at all.

C8 All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure.

Protective Factors

Belief in the Moral Order

Young people who have a belief in what is "right" or "wrong" are less likely to use substances.

C15 I think it is okay to take something without asking as long as you get away with it.

C16 It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight.

C17 I think sometimes it's okay to cheat at school.

C18 It is important to be honest with your parents, even if they become upset or you get punished.

Religiosity

Young people who regularly attend religious services are less likely to engage in problem behaviors.

C10 How often do you attend religious services or activities?

UNDERSTANDING CUT-POINTS

It is important that the reader gain an understanding of the cut-points that are used to create the risk and protective factor scale scores presented in this section, and to understand how to interpret and analyze these results.

What are Cut-Points?

A cut-point is a way to represent the percentage of students whose answers reflect significant risk or protection on a given scale. Statistical analyses are conducted for each scale to determine the point that separates students at risk of engaging in problem behaviors from those not at risk. Similarly, protective cut-points separate students who are buffered against engaging in problem behaviors (due to the protective effects of positive behaviors and interactions) from those who are not. In this way, when you are provided a percentage for a particular scale, you will know that this percentage represents the population of your youth that are either at greater risk or higher level of protection than the national cut-point level. Cut-points also provide a standard for comparisons of risk and protection over time.

The PAYS questionnaire was designed to assess adolescent substance use, antisocial behavior, and the risk and protective factors that predict these adolescent problem behaviors. However, before the percentage of youth at risk or with protection on a given scale could be calculated, a scale value or cut-point needed to be determined that would separate the at-risk group from the group that was not at-risk. Because surveys measuring the risk and protective factors had been given to thousands of youth across the United States through federally funded research projects, it was possible to select two groups of youth, one that was more at-risk for problem behaviors and another group that was less at-risk. A cut-point score was then determined for each risk and protective factor scale that best divided the youth into their appropriate group, more at-risk or less at-risk. The criteria for selecting the more at-risk and the less at-risk groups included academic grades (the more at-risk group received "D" and "F" grades, the less at-risk group received "A" and "B" grades); alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use (the more at-risk group had more regular use, the less at-risk group had no drug use and use of alcohol or tobacco on only a few occasions); and antisocial behavior (the more at-risk group had two or more serious delinquent acts in the past year, the less at-risk group had no serious delinquent acts).

How to use Cut-Points

The scale cut-points that were determined to best classify youth into the more at-risk and less at-risk groups have remained constant and are used to produce the profiles in this report. Because the cut-points for each scale will remain fixed, the percentage of youth above

the cut-point on each of the risk and protective factor scales provides a method for evaluating the progress of prevention programs over time. For example, if the percentage of youth at risk for family conflict in a community prior to implementing a community-wide family/parenting program was 60% and then decreased to 50% one year after the program was implemented, the program could be viewed as helping to reduce family conflict.

How does using Cut-Points affect my data?

Risk and Protective Factor data presented in this report use the scale cut-points discussed above. Instead of the percentile scores used prior to 2013, percentage of youth at-risk and with protection are presented in the report. For example:

- If your Community Laws and Norms Favorable toward Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime risk factor scale for 8th graders is at 35%, this means that 35% of 8th graders are at risk for engaging in problem behaviors due to Community Laws and Norms Favorable toward Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime.
- If your School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement protective factor scale is at 60% for your 10th graders, the interpretation of this is that 60% of your 10th graders are protected against engaging in problem behaviors due to School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement.

What is the Bach Harrison Norm and how do I use it?

The Bach Harrison Norm was developed by Bach Harrison L.L.C. to provide states and communities with the ability to compare their results on risk, protection, and antisocial measures with more national results (see page 11 for more information on BH Norm development).

Information about other students in the state and the nation can be helpful in determining the seriousness of a given level of problem behavior in your county. Scanning across the charts, it is important to observe the factors that differ the most from the Bach Harrison Norm. This is the first step in identifying the levels of risk and protection that are higher or lower than the national sample.

The risk factors that are higher than the Bach Harrison Norm and the protective factors that are lower than the Bach Harrison Norm are probably the factors that your county should consider including in prevention planning programs. The Bach Harrison Norm is especially helpful when reviewing scales with a small percentage of youth at-risk such as the Rebelliousness scale. For example, even though a small percentage of youth are at-risk within this scale, if you notice that the percentage at risk on your Rebelliousness scale is higher than the Bach Harrison Norm, then that is probably an issue that should be considered for an intervention in your county. As you look through your data, we would encourage you to circle or mark risk scales that are higher than the BH Norm and protective factor scales that are lower than the BH Norm and add these items to your list of possible areas to tackle with prevention efforts.

OVERALL RISK AND PROTECTIVE SCORES

Overall risk and protective factor scales are a good way to review the health of Bucks County. Scales are grouped into four domains: community, family, school, and peer/individual. The charts show the overall percentage of students at risk and with protection for each of the scales.

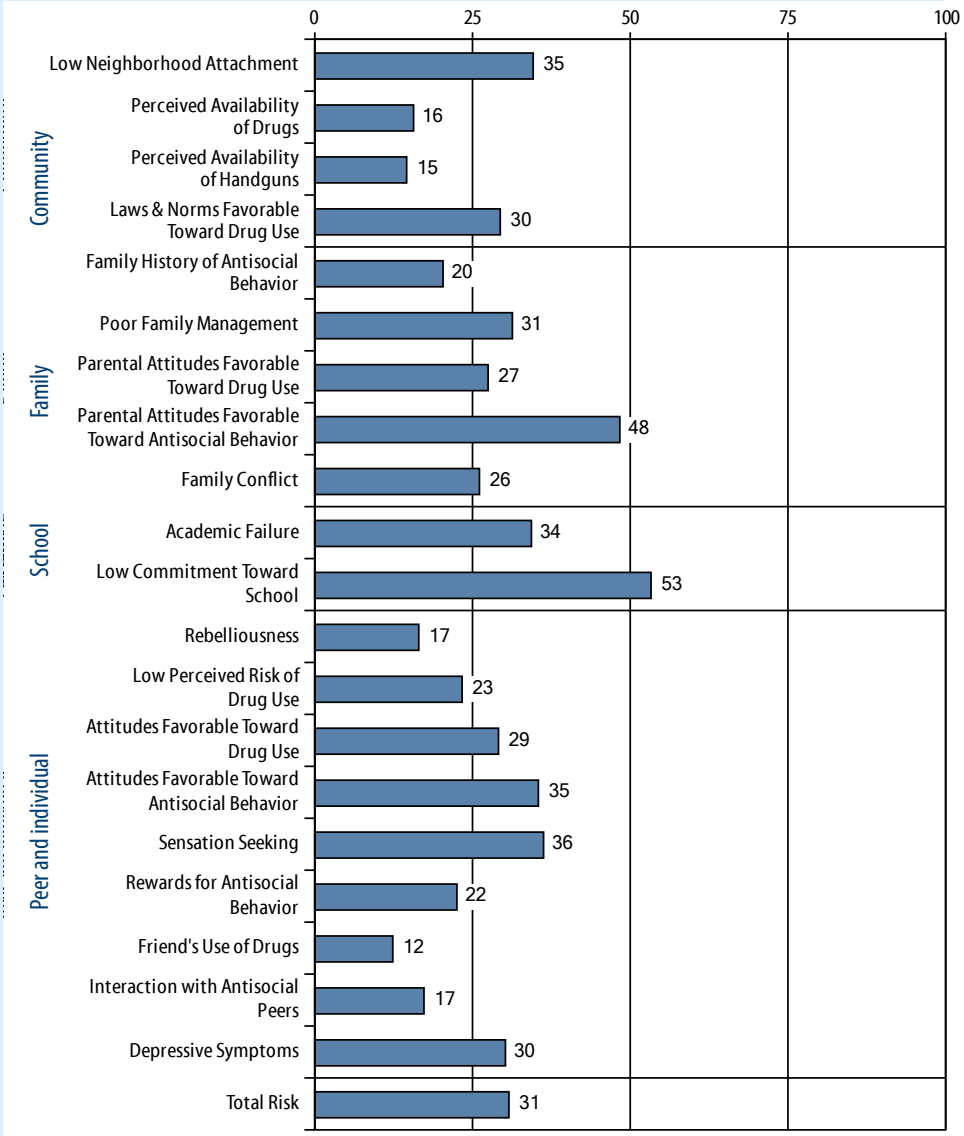
Students in Bucks County reported the three highest overall (all grades combined) scores for the following risk factor scales: Low Commitment Toward School (53.3% of students at risk), Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior (48.2% at risk), and Sensation Seeking (36.2% at risk).

The three lowest overall scale scores were Friend's Use of Drugs (12.4% at risk), Perceived Availability of Handguns in the Community (14.6% at risk), and Perceived Availability of Drugs in the Community (15.6% at risk).

Of the eight protective factor scales, the highest scores in the overall sample of students in this county were reported for Family Attachment (75.1% of students with protection), Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement (71.6% with protection) and Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement (64.2% with protection).

The lowest protective factor scales in the overall sample were Religiosity (35.5% with protection), Community

Bucks County
Risk Factors, 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

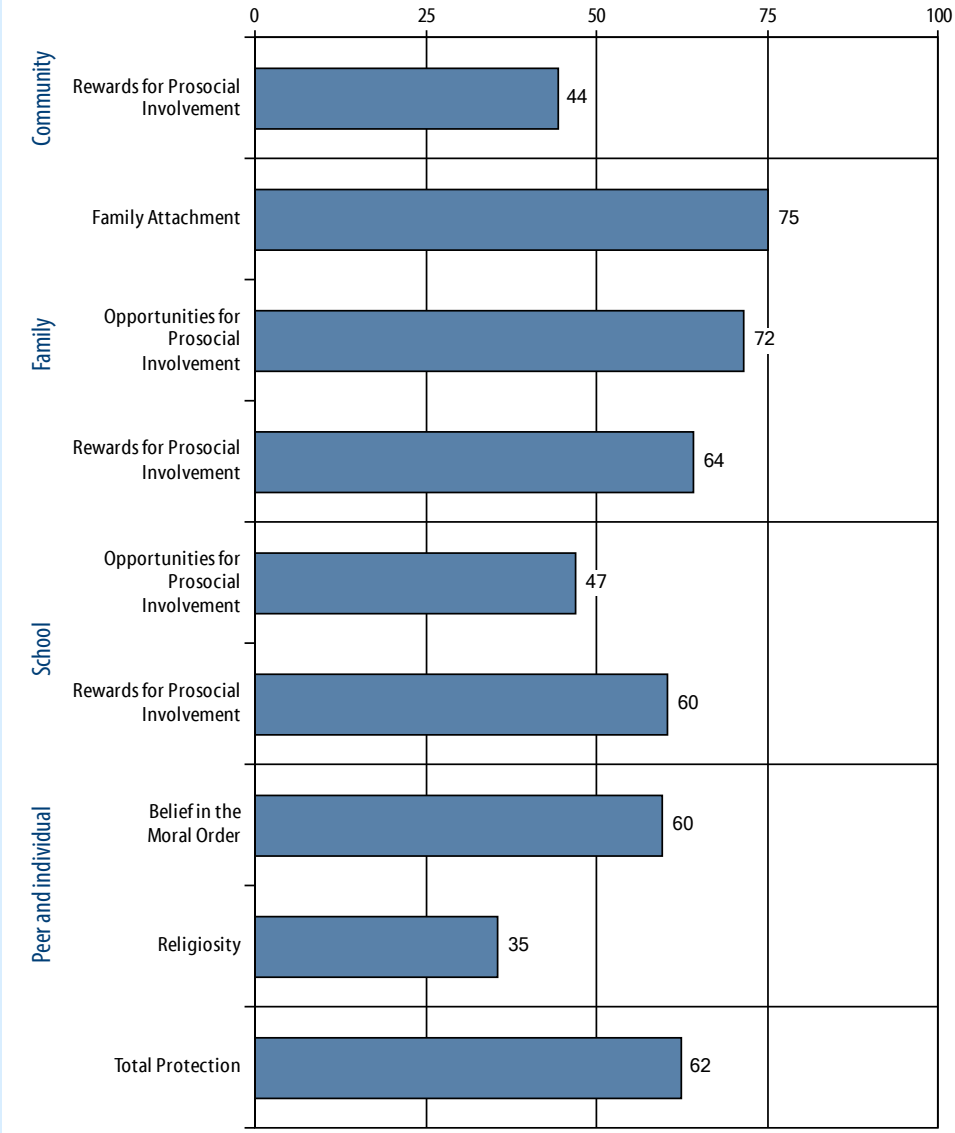


"TOTAL RISK" IS DEFINED AS THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE MORE THAN A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF RISK FACTORS OPERATING IN THEIR LIVES. (6TH AND 8TH GRADES: 5 OR MORE RISK FACTORS, 10TH AND 12TH GRADES: 7 OR MORE RISK FACTORS.)

Rewards for Prosocial Involvement (44.3% with protection) and School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement (46.9% with protection).

While policies that target any risk or protective factor could potentially be an important resource for students in this County, focusing prevention planning in high risk and low protection areas could be especially beneficial. Similarly, factors with low risk or high protection represent strengths that this County can build on. In conjunction with a review of community-specific issues and resources, this information can help direct prevention efforts for Bucks County.

Bucks County
Protective Factors, 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

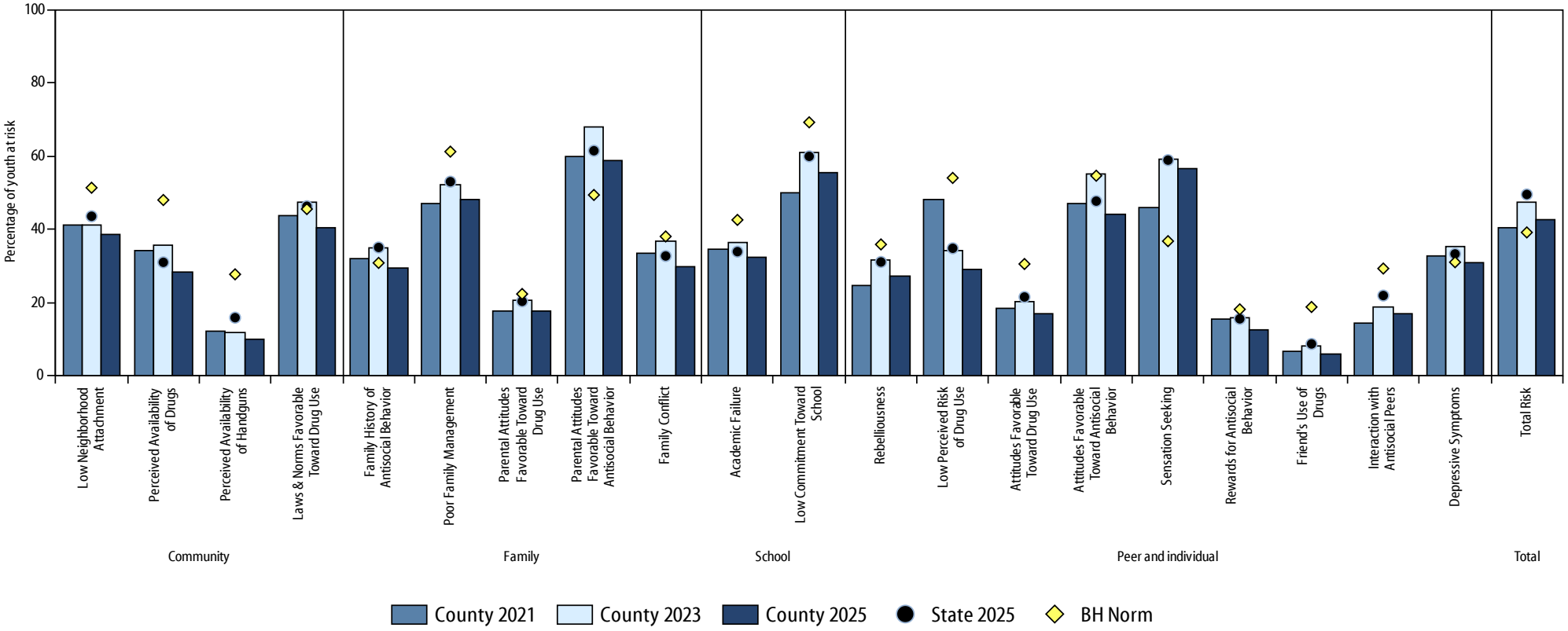


Grade-Level Results

While grouped-grade scale scores provide a general picture of the risk and protective factor profile for this county, they can mask problems within individual grades. The next pages of this report present individual-grade data, where available, for risk and protective factor scale scores. This detailed information provides prevention planners with a snapshot revealing which risk and protective factor scales are of greatest concern by grade. It allows those prevention planners to focus on the most appropriate points in youth development for preventive intervention action—and to target their prevention efforts as precisely as possible.

"TOTAL PROTECTION" IS DEFINED AS THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE MORE THAN A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF PROTECTIVE FACTORS OPERATING IN THEIR LIVES. (6TH, 8TH, 10TH, AND 12TH GRADES: 3 OR MORE PROTECTIVE FACTORS.)

Risk factors, 6th grade
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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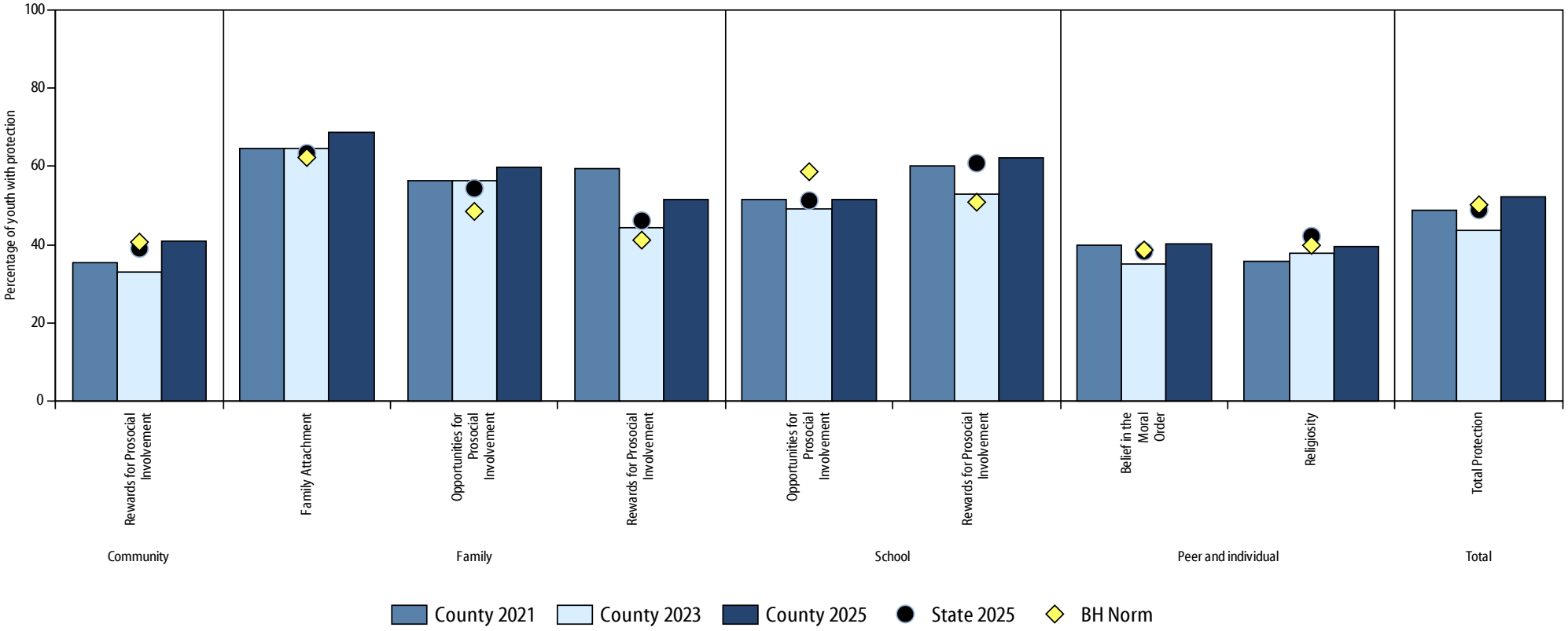
Protective factors, 6th grade
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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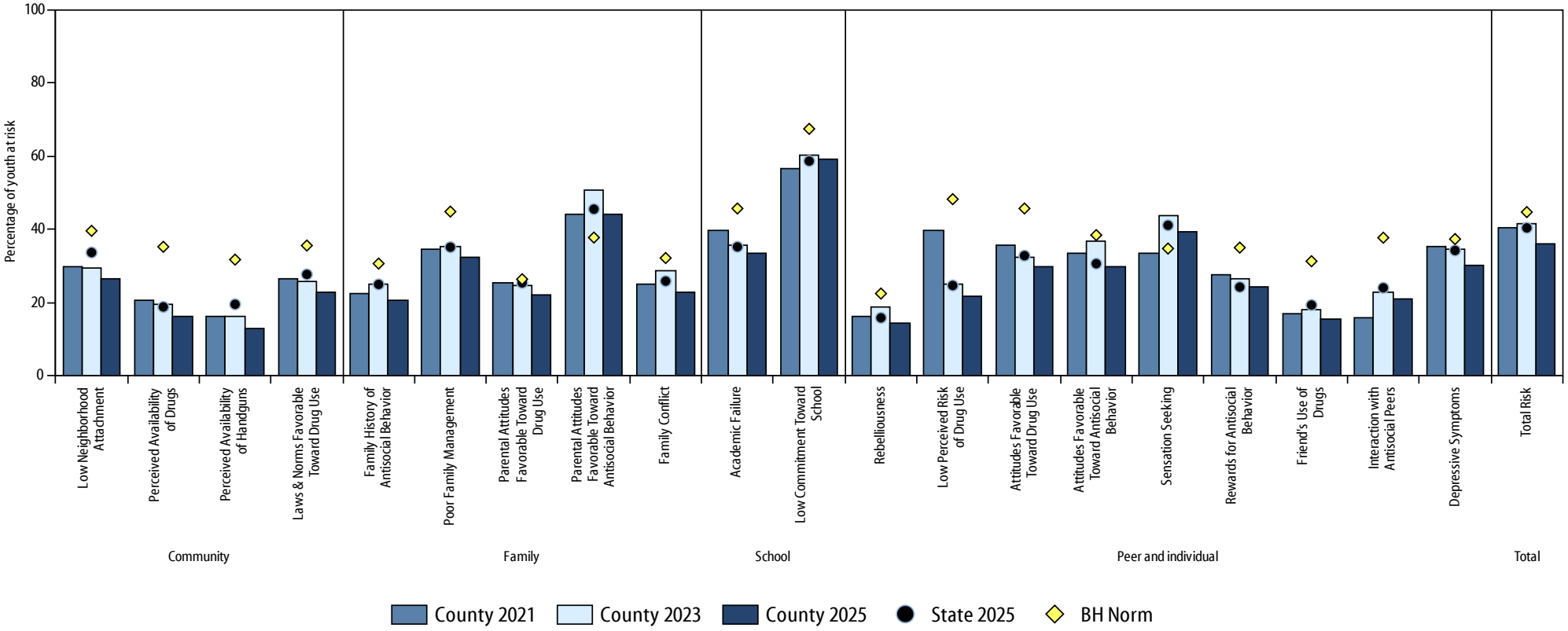
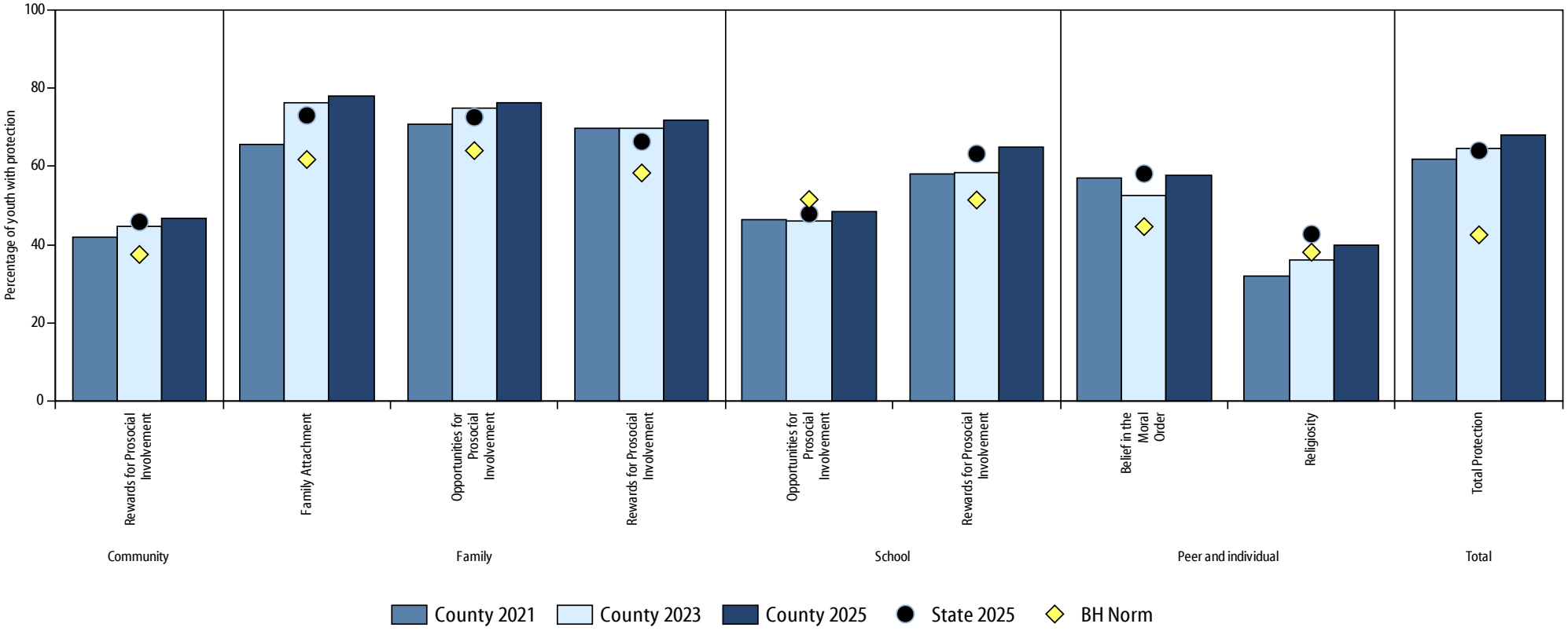
Risk factors, 8th grade
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Protective factors, 8th grade
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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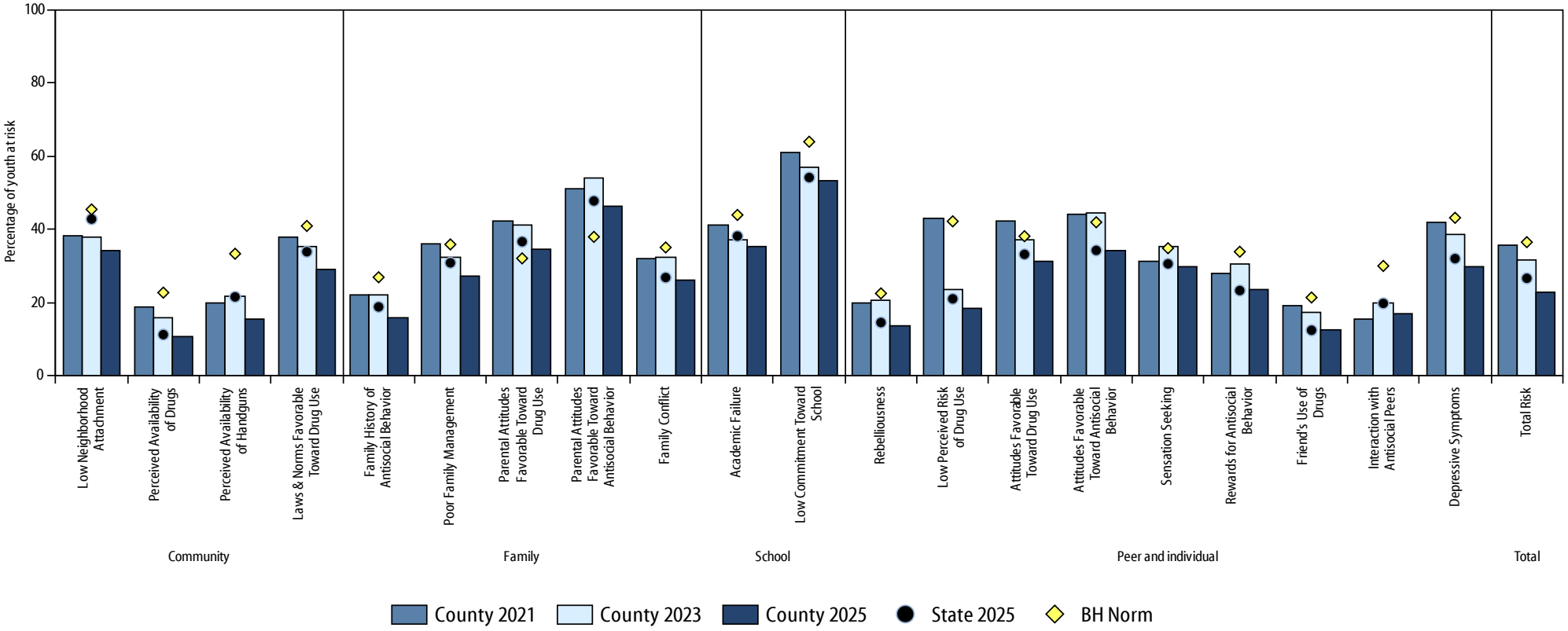
Risk factors, 10th grade
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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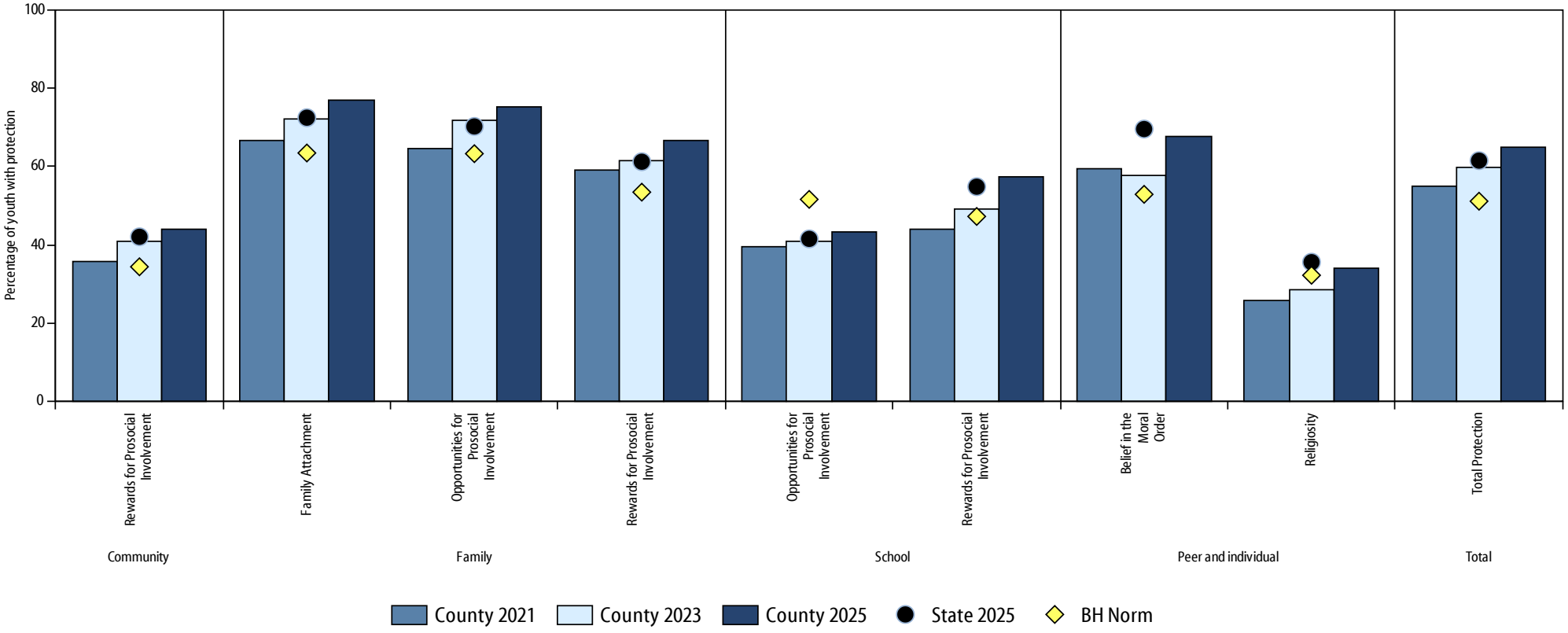
Protective factors, 10th grade
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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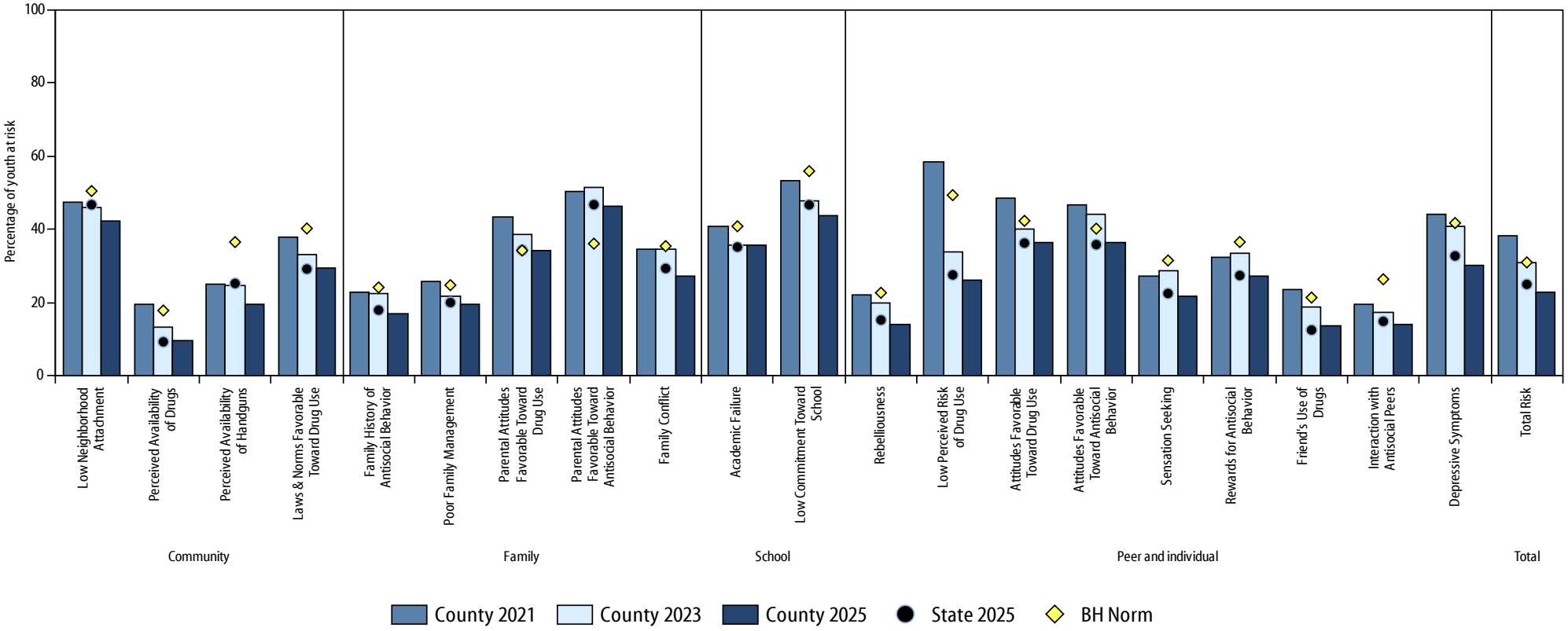
Risk factors, 12th grade
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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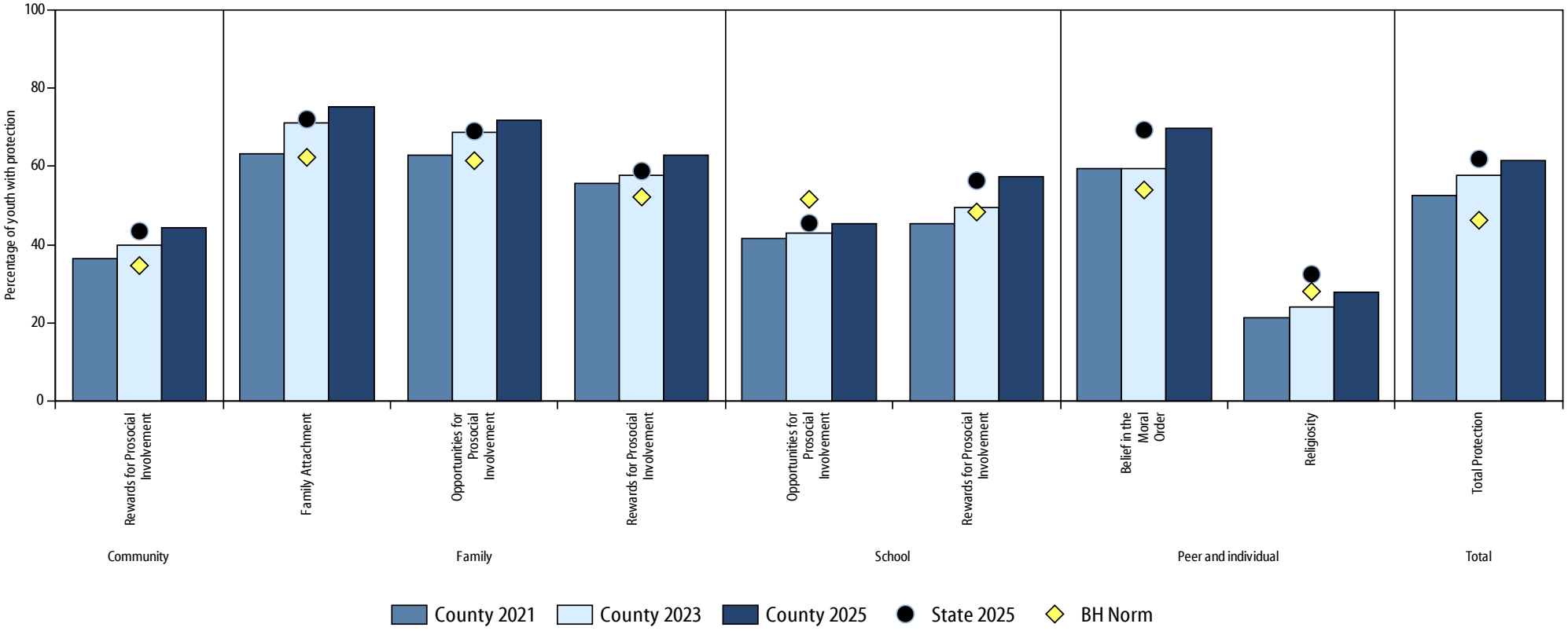
Protective factors, 12th grade
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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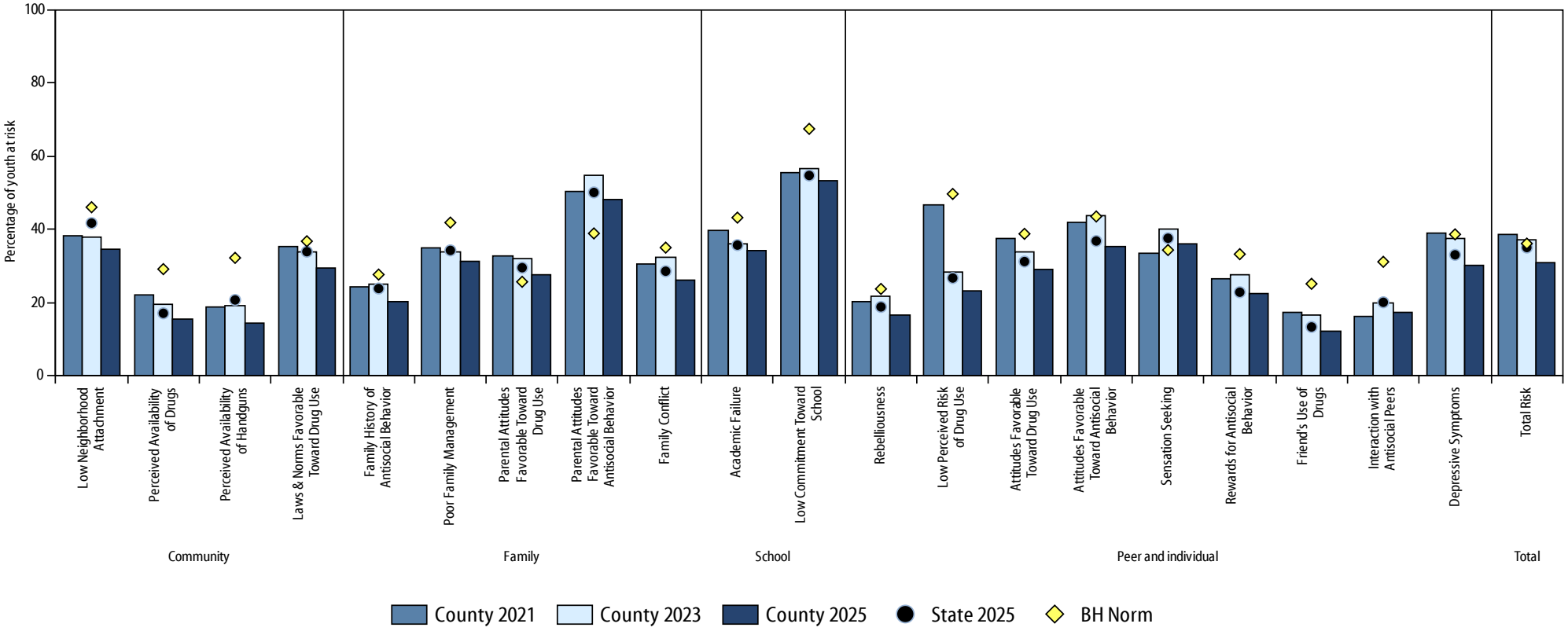
Risk factors, All grades
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



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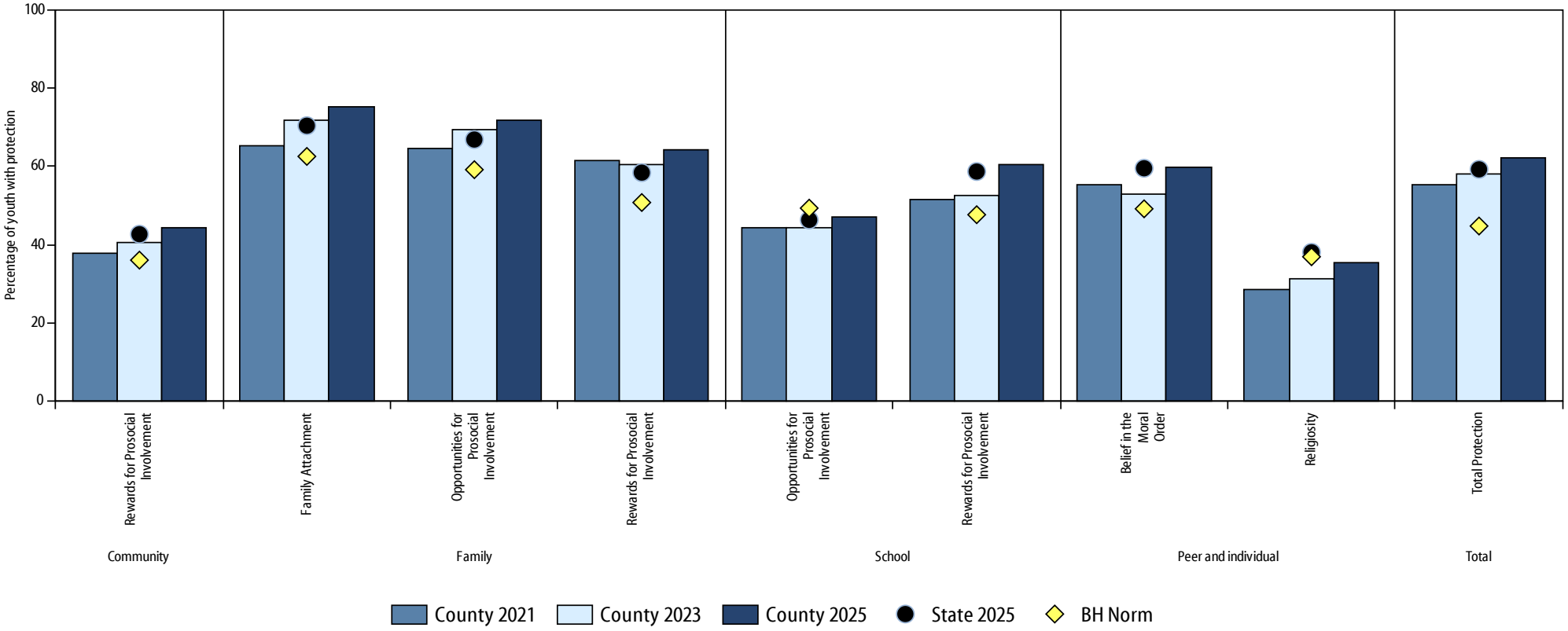
Protective factors, All grades
Bucks County 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



4_24_2026

Risk Factors
Bucks County Profile Report 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

	6th					8th					10th					12th					All				
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm
Community																									
Low Neighborhood Attachment	41.1	41.1	38.7	43.6	51.4	29.8	29.6	26.6	33.7	39.6	38.1	37.8	34.1	42.8	45.5	47.5	45.8	42.4	46.7	50.5	38.4	37.8	34.7	41.7	46.1
Perceived Availability of Drugs	34.2	35.7	28.3	31.0	48.0	20.7	19.5	16.3	18.9	35.3	18.7	16.1	10.7	11.3	22.8	19.5	13.4	9.7	9.3	17.9	22.3	19.6	15.6	17.1	29.2
Perceived Availability of Handguns	12.2	12.0	10.2	15.9	27.8	16.4	16.4	12.9	19.6	31.8	19.8	21.8	15.4	21.6	33.4	25.1	24.8	19.6	25.3	36.6	18.7	19.3	14.6	20.8	32.3
Laws & Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use	43.6	47.5	40.3	46.3	45.6	26.5	25.8	23.0	27.7	35.6	37.8	35.4	29.2	33.9	41.0	38.0	33.1	29.4	29.2	40.3	35.3	33.8	29.5	33.9	36.8
Family																									
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	32.2	35.0	29.6	35.1	30.9	22.4	25.0	20.7	25.0	30.7	22.3	22.2	15.8	18.9	27.0	22.8	22.3	16.9	18.0	24.2	24.2	25.2	20.3	23.9	27.7
Poor Family Management	47.2	52.3	48.3	53.0	61.2	34.4	35.3	32.5	35.2	44.9	36.0	32.2	27.1	30.9	35.9	25.8	21.8	19.6	20.1	24.8	35.1	33.9	31.3	34.3	41.9
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	17.7	20.6	17.8	20.4	22.4	25.6	24.6	22.3	25.4	26.4	42.2	41.3	34.5	36.7	32.1	43.3	38.8	34.3	34.4	34.3	32.9	32.2	27.5	29.6	25.7
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior	60.0	67.8	58.8	61.5	49.4	44.0	50.7	44.0	45.5	37.8	51.0	54.1	46.5	47.8	38.0	50.4	51.6	46.5	46.8	36.1	50.2	54.6	48.2	50.1	38.9
Family Conflict	33.6	36.7	29.7	32.8	38.1	24.9	28.7	22.8	25.9	32.2	32.0	32.4	26.3	26.9	35.1	34.7	34.7	27.3	29.4	35.5	30.7	32.5	26.2	28.6	35.1
School																									
Academic Failure	34.7	36.3	32.5	34.0	42.6	39.8	35.6	33.5	35.2	45.7	41.3	37.2	35.2	38.2	44.0	41.0	35.9	35.7	35.2	40.9	39.6	36.2	34.3	35.7	43.2
Low Commitment Toward School	49.9	60.9	55.6	59.9	69.2	56.6	60.3	59.0	58.7	67.4	61.0	57.0	53.5	54.2	63.9	53.2	48.0	43.6	46.7	55.9	55.7	56.4	53.3	54.7	67.4
Peer and individual																									
Rebelliousness	24.8	31.5	27.3	31.1	35.9	16.3	18.9	14.3	15.9	22.5	19.8	20.7	13.7	14.6	22.6	22.2	20.1	14.0	15.3	22.7	20.2	21.8	16.6	18.9	23.8
Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use	48.3	34.1	29.2	34.9	54.1	39.9	25.2	21.7	24.7	48.3	43.2	23.7	18.6	21.1	42.2	58.4	33.9	26.2	27.6	49.4	46.8	28.4	23.4	26.8	49.7
Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	18.6	20.4	17.0	21.6	30.6	35.6	32.5	30.0	32.8	45.7	42.4	37.2	31.2	33.2	38.2	48.6	40.2	36.3	36.3	42.3	37.5	33.8	29.2	31.2	38.8
Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior	47.1	55.0	44.1	47.7	54.6	33.4	36.9	30.0	30.7	38.5	44.2	44.5	34.1	34.3	42.0	46.8	44.3	36.6	35.9	40.2	41.9	43.8	35.5	36.9	43.5
Sensation Seeking	46.0	59.0	56.6	58.9	36.8	33.6	43.8	39.5	41.1	34.8	31.2	35.4	29.9	30.6	34.9	27.4	28.9	21.9	22.5	31.5	33.6	40.2	36.2	37.6	34.4
Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	15.4	16.0	12.7	15.6	18.2	27.5	26.7	24.2	24.3	35.0	27.9	30.5	23.8	23.3	33.9	32.5	33.7	27.1	27.4	36.6	26.7	27.8	22.5	22.9	33.3
Friend's Use of Drugs	6.6	8.3	6.2	8.8	18.9	16.8	18.2	15.5	19.4	31.3	19.1	17.2	12.5	12.5	21.4	23.6	18.9	13.6	12.6	21.4	17.3	16.5	12.4	13.4	25.2
Interaction with Antisocial Peers	14.3	18.9	17.2	22.0	29.3	16.1	23.0	20.9	24.1	37.8	15.5	19.8	16.9	19.8	30.0	19.6	17.3	14.1	14.9	26.4	16.5	20.0	17.5	20.1	31.2
Depressive Symptoms	32.9	35.4	30.8	33.3	31.1	35.5	34.7	30.2	34.3	37.4	42.0	38.7	29.7	32.0	43.2	44.2	41.0	30.0	32.8	41.8	38.9	37.5	30.2	33.1	38.7
Total																									
Total Risk	40.3	47.6	42.5	49.5	39.2	40.4	41.6	36.0	40.4	44.7	35.7	31.8	22.8	26.7	36.5	38.4	30.9	23.0	25.0	31.0	38.7	37.3	30.8	35.1	36.1

Protective Factors
Bucks County Profile Report 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

	6th					8th					10th					12th					All				
	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm	County 2021	County 2023	County 2025	State 2025	BH Norm
Community																									
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	35.4	33.1	40.8	39.0	40.7	42.1	44.5	46.7	45.8	37.5	35.7	41.0	44.1	42.0	34.4	36.5	39.9	44.3	43.4	34.7	37.8	40.6	44.3	42.7	36.1
Family																									
Family Attachment	64.5	64.4	68.7	63.3	62.2	65.7	76.1	77.7	73.0	61.7	66.7	71.9	76.9	72.4	63.4	63.3	71.1	75.1	72.0	62.3	65.1	71.8	75.1	70.4	62.5
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56.3	56.2	59.8	54.3	48.5	70.6	75.0	76.2	72.5	64.0	64.4	71.7	75.1	70.2	63.2	62.9	68.6	71.9	69.0	61.4	64.5	69.4	71.6	66.8	59.1
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	59.3	44.5	51.4	46.1	41.2	69.6	69.6	71.6	66.3	58.3	59.1	61.6	66.6	61.2	53.4	55.6	57.8	62.7	58.8	52.2	61.6	60.3	64.2	58.4	50.8
School																									
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	51.4	49.0	51.6	51.3	58.6	46.3	46.0	48.3	47.8	51.5	39.4	41.0	43.4	41.5	51.6	41.5	42.8	45.3	45.5	51.6	44.3	44.3	46.9	46.3	49.3
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	60.1	52.8	62.0	60.8	50.8	58.0	58.4	64.8	63.2	51.4	43.9	49.2	57.3	54.8	47.2	45.2	49.4	57.3	56.3	48.3	51.5	52.6	60.5	58.7	47.7
Peer and individual																									
Belief In The Moral Order	39.8	35.0	40.1	38.3	38.6	56.9	52.6	57.8	58.1	44.6	59.4	57.8	67.7	69.5	52.9	59.5	59.3	69.6	69.2	54.0	55.2	52.9	59.7	59.5	49.1
Religiosity	35.6	37.7	39.6	42.2	39.8	32.0	35.9	40.0	42.7	38.1	25.8	28.5	33.9	35.6	32.2	21.4	24.2	28.0	32.4	28.1	28.4	31.2	35.5	38.0	36.9
Total																									
Total Protection	48.7	43.7	52.0	48.8	50.2	61.6	64.7	67.9	64.0	42.5	55.1	59.7	64.8	61.5	51.1	52.6	57.6	61.5	61.9	46.2	55.3	57.9	62.3	59.2	44.8

APPENDIX A. DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES DATA

Core Measure	Definition	Substance	6th		8th		10th		12th		Male		Female	
			Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample	Percent	Sample
Perception of risk (People are at moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they...)	take five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) once or twice a week?	Binge drinking	87.0	3,533	90.6	5,388	89.2	4,834	85.8	4,206	87.1	8,807	89.8	8,823
	smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?	Tobacco	88.7	3,518	92.8	5,374	92.8	4,819	90.2	4,198	90.2	8,791	92.7	8,789
	smoke marijuana once or twice a week?	Marijuana	85.9	3,491	85.9	5,384	77.8	4,834	66.4	4,218	76.8	8,804	81.9	8,795
	use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them?	Prescription drugs	89.4	3,497	92.3	5,358	92.8	4,810	90.3	4,206	90.4	8,767	92.7	8,776
	use an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette once or twice a day?	Vapor Products	85.7	3,501	86.1	5,363	84.3	4,820	80.5	4,211	83.4	8,777	85.2	8,788
Perception of parental disapproval (Parents feel it would be wrong or very wrong to...)	drink beer, wine, or hard liquor regularly?	Regular Alcohol Use	95.3	3,560	95.2	5,362	91.7	4,799	86.5	4,140	91.0	8,766	93.6	8,779
	have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?	Daily Alcohol Use	94.7	3,544	95.8	5,365	93.5	4,813	90.0	4,153	92.2	8,764	95.2	8,790
	smoke cigarettes?	Tobacco	94.8	3,553	95.8	5,372	94.8	4,814	91.6	4,154	93.4	8,778	95.7	8,795
	use marijuana?	Marijuana	95.5	3,524	95.8	5,359	92.7	4,806	86.5	4,149	91.6	8,753	94.2	8,765
	use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?	Prescription drugs	95.2	3,521	96.2	5,335	94.9	4,787	92.7	4,131	93.9	8,722	96.0	8,735
Perception of peer disapproval (Friends feel it would be wrong or very wrong to...)	have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?	Alcohol	89.5	3,602	88.5	5,368	82.2	4,800	77.0	4,156	81.9	8,753	87.0	8,843
	smoke tobacco?	Tobacco	90.6	3,587	90.5	5,353	84.5	4,788	76.9	4,145	83.6	8,727	88.1	8,826
	use marijuana?	Marijuana	90.8	3,560	89.9	5,352	80.5	4,777	67.9	4,128	80.5	8,695	84.9	8,801
	use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?	Prescription drugs	90.1	3,560	91.3	5,339	88.6	4,773	85.7	4,134	86.9	8,691	91.3	8,793
Stop act grantees: Somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone your age...	having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, hard liquor) nearly every day?	Alcohol	93.5	4,018	91.1	5,728	86.5	5,226	81.2	4,680	87.7	9,798	88.5	9,477
People are at moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they...	take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) nearly every day?	Regular alcohol use	82.4	3,555	85.1	5,398	86.2	4,849	85.2	4,211	83.0	8,832	86.8	8,849
Past 30-day use (at least one use in the past 30 days)	had beer, wine, or hard liquor	Alcohol	2.1	4,149	4.0	5,769	9.5	5,255	19.4	4,711	8.7	9,927	8.5	9,570
	smoked cigarettes?	Tobacco	0.3	4,107	0.6	5,736	1.0	5,254	3.6	4,713	1.5	9,883	1.0	9,545
	used marijuana	Marijuana	0.1	4,056	1.1	5,749	3.9	5,244	9.7	4,701	3.6	9,871	3.7	9,495
	combined results of prescription stimulant/tranquilizer/ pain reliever questions	Prescription drugs	1.8	4,100	1.5	5,771	0.9	5,285	0.6	4,737	1.2	9,930	1.2	9,579

APPENDIX B. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Communities That Care Youth Survey (CTCYS) was adopted as the basis for PAYS. Based on the work of Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard F. Catalano, the CTCYS is designed to identify the levels of risk factors related to problem behaviors such as ATOD use—and to identify the levels of protective factors that help guard against those behaviors. In addition to measuring risk and protective factors, the CTCYS also measures the actual prevalence of drug use, violence, and other antisocial behaviors among surveyed students. Three articles (Pollard, Hawkins & Arthur, 1999; Arthur, Hawkins, Pollard, Catalano & Baglioni, 2002; Glaser, Van Horn, Arthur, Hawkins & Catalano, 2005) describe the CTCYS, its uses and its ongoing development.

Comparability of the 2025 PAYS to Prior Administrations

The 2025 PAYS instrument and administration enhanced the three-form design, first implemented in 2013 to address the difference in response rates for questions at the beginning of the survey versus those located at the end of the survey. Each of the three forms began with question section X, with sections A-F presented in different order on each of the three forms to offset the tendency for response rates to fall off in the later sections of the survey.

Further, while X, A, B, and C were present on all three survey forms, sections D, E, and F were each presented on two of three forms, which kept the amount of time required to administer the survey manageable while allowing approximately thirty additional questions for a total of 219 questions answered by students in the paper-based format.

For the online survey administration, question sections A, B, C, D, E, and F were presented in a random order. Efficiencies in the online survey and the increased speed of response allowed all survey questions to be presented to the respondents.

The survey retained its two column format to improve readability and speed of response. Focus groups were held with students enrolled in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 during the 2014-2015 school year. These students were new to the survey and were not expected to be within the grades completing the survey during subsequent survey administrations. To enhance readability and reduce confusion related to the non-alphabetic order of the presentation of the survey sections, each section of the survey contains a label indicating the topic of the questions within the section. A heading was placed on the page of the 30-day and lifetime use questions to encourage honest responses by reassuring the students they would not be punished for their responses.

A comparative analysis of the enhanced survey and the 2013 survey was completed. No differences in question responses were determined based upon which form of the survey a student completed, indicating that the students were not primed to answer a particular way due to having seen a set of questions prior to another set.

2025 Question Changes and Additions

Subject	2025 PAYS (Changes from 2023 to 2025)	Notes Regarding Changes
Lifetime Use Questions **X9m**	**2025 Added:** Have you ever: Used nicotine pouches, like Zyn, On, and Velo? — *Response options: Never, Once or twice, Once in a while but not regularly, Regularly in the past, Regularly now.*	Added a new item to assess lifetime nicotine pouch use in response to the emergence of this product among youth. Several individual illegal drug lifetime use items were consolidated into broader categories due to consistently low and stable prevalence rates in prior data. This change reduces survey length, allows space for more current and relevant topics, and maintains the ability to monitor overall trends within these substance use categories.
X9n/X9o	The following questions in this topic area were **revised:** **2023:** Have you ever: Used hallucinogens (acid, LSD, shrooms)? **2023:** Have you ever: Used Ecstasy or Molly? **2025:** Have you ever: Used hallucinogens (acid, LSD, shrooms), Ecstasy, or Molly? **2023:** Have you ever: Used heroin? **2023:** Have you ever: Used cocaine or crack? **2023:** Have you ever: Used methamphetamine (meth, crystal meth, speed)? **2025:** Have you ever: Used other illegal drugs like heroin, cocaine, crack, or methamphetamines (meth, crystal meth, speed)?	
30-Day Use Questions **X10m**	**2025 Added:** How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used nicotine pouches, like Zyn, On, and Velo? — *Response options: Never, Once or twice, Once in a while but not regularly, Regularly in the past, Regularly now.*	Added a new item to assess 30-day nicotine pouch use in response to the emergence of this product among youth. Several individual illegal drug 30-day use items were consolidated into broader categories due to consistently low and stable prevalence rates in prior data. This change reduces survey length, allows space for more current and relevant topics, and maintains the ability to monitor overall trends within these substance use categories.
X10n/X10o	The following questions in this topic area were **revised:** **2023:** How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used hallucinogens (acid, LSD, shrooms)? **2023:** How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used Ecstasy or Molly? **2025:** How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used hallucinogens (acid, LSD, shrooms), Ecstasy, or Molly? **2023:** How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used heroin? **2023:** How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used cocaine or crack? **2023:** How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used methamphetamine (meth, crystal meth, speed)? **2025:** How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used other illegal drugs like heroin, cocaine, crack, or methamphetamines (meth, crystal meth, speed)?	
Abuse **F2**	The following question in this topic area was **revised:** **2023:** If you were hurt or abused by another person in the past 12 months, how were you hurt or abused? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: Physical injury, Threats, Emotional abuse, insults, name-calling, Isolation from friends and family, Control of what you were wearing, Control of who you socialized with, Other injury or abuse* **2025:** If you were hurt or abused by another person in the past 12 months, how were you hurt or abused? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: I was not hurt or abused by another person, Physical injury, Threats, Emotional abuse, insults, name-calling, Isolation from friends and family, Control of what you were wearing, Control of who you socialized with, Other injury or abuse*	Added a response option indicating no experience of abuse to improve clarity and ensure more accurate measurement of the prevalence of reported abuse. This change allows respondents to explicitly indicate no exposure rather than leaving the item blank or selecting inapplicable options.

Subject	2025 PAYS	Notes Regarding Changes
Race/Ethnicity **X3**	The approach to gathering race/ethnicity information was **revised:** **2023:** Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? — *Response options: No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin; Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano; Yes, Puerto Rican; Yes, Cuban; Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, etc.)* What is your race? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: White, Caucasian; Black, African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian Indian, Japanese, Native Hawaiian, Chinese, Korean, Guamanian or Chamorro, Filipino, Vietnamese, Samoan, Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander* **2025:** What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select all that apply.) If you don't know what a response means, don't select it. — *Response options: Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, White, Middle Eastern or North African, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Alaska Native/American Indian/Native American, I don't know what this question is asking*	Combined separate race and ethnicity questions into a single, streamlined item with updated and more inclusive response categories. This revision simplifies the question structure, aligns with more current approaches to demographic data collection, and demonstrated improved clarity and performance during cognitive testing.
Prosocial Activities **E2**	The following question in this topic area was **revised:** **2023:** In the past 12 months, in which of the following activities did you participate? — *Response options: Organized community activities (such as scouting, 4H, service clubs, YMCA, etc); Family supported activities or hobbies (such as dance, gymnastics, hiking, biking, skating, etc.); School sponsored activities (such as sports, music, clubs, after school programs, etc.); Faith-based activities (such as choir, youth group, mission, church leagues, etc;)Job, employed; Volunteer; Other activities; I do not participate* **2025:** How often do you usually participate in after-school activities? Examples could include sports, dance, music, clubs, faith-based activities, a job, or volunteering. — *Response options: Two or more times a week, Once a week, 1-3 times a month, Less than once a month, Never*	Replaced a checklist-style participation item with a frequency-based question capturing how often students engage in after-school activities. This revision improves measurement of engagement intensity and simplifies the response process.
Transitions & Mobility **E5**	The questions in this topic area were **revised:** **2023 Removed:** How many times have you changed home in the last year (past 12 months)? **Revised:** **2023:** How many times have you changed homes, including the past 12 months, in the last 3 years? — *Response options: Never, 1, 2, 3 or more* **2025:** How many times have you changed homes in the last 3 years — *Response options: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5+*	Consolidated/streamlined measurement in this topic area. Removed the past 12-month mobility item and revised the remaining question to focus on moves within the past three years with more detailed response options. This change reduced survey length.

Subject	2025 PAYS	Notes Regarding Changes
Sources of Obtaining Substances **D5** **D6** **X12**	The following questions in this topic area were **revised:** **2023: Alcohol Sources** If you drank alcohol during the past 12 months, how did you usually get it? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: Did not drink any alcohol; Bought it in a store; Bought it at a restaurant, bar or club; Bought it at a public event such as a concert or sporting event; Gave someone money to buy it for me; Parents/caregivers provided it to me; Friends' parents/caregivers provided it to me; Friends, brothers, or sisters over 21 provided it to me; Friends, brothers, or sisters under 21 provided it to me; Other relatives (uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents, etc.) provided it to me; Took without permission, stole, or found it (my home, friend's home, store, etc.); Other source provided it to me* **2025: Alcohol Sources** If you drank alcohol during the past 12 months, how did you usually get it? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: Did not drink any alcohol; A friend or sibling gave it to me for free; A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free; Took it without permission from my home; Took it without permission from a store or someone not living in my home; Bought it from a friend or someone at school; Bought it at a store, restaurant, bar, public event or online; Other source (please describe)* **2023 Prescription Sources:** If you used any prescription drugs without a prescription during the last 12 months, how did you get them? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: I did not take any prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription; Took them from a family member living in my home; Took them from other relatives not living in my home; Took them from someone not related to me; A friend or family member gave them to me; Bought them from someone; Ordered them over the Internet* **2025: Prescription Sources** If you used any prescription drugs without a prescription from your doctor during the last 12 months, how did you get them? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: Did not take any prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription; A friend or sibling gave it to me for free; A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free; Took it without permission from my home; Took it without permission from someone not living in my home; Bought them from a friend or someone at school; Bought them online; Other source (please describe)* **2023: Vape Sources** If you used an electronic vapor product such as a vape or e-cigarette in the past year, how did you usually get it? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: Did not use electronic vapor product; A friend gave it to me for free; A family member gave it to me for free; I bought it from someone under 21; I bought it from someone over 21; I bought it from a store; I bought it on the Internet; I gave someone money to buy it for me; I took it from someone; Other source not listed here* **2025: Vape Sources** If you used an electronic vapor product such as vape or e-cigarette in the past year, how did you usually get it? (Mark all that apply.) — *Response options: Did not use electronic vapor product; A friend or sibling gave it to me for free; A parent/caregiver gave it to me for free; Took it without permission from my home; Took it without permission from a store or someone not living in my home; Bought it from a friend or someone at school; Bought it from a store or online; Other source (please describe)*	Standardized and streamlined response options across alcohol, prescription drug, and vape source questions to improve consistency and clarity. Categories were consolidated (e.g., combining purchase locations and sources of access) and aligned across substances, reducing redundancy and respondent burden while maintaining the ability to assess how youth obtain substances.

Subject	2025 PAYS (New Questions)	Notes Regarding New Questions
G1	Do you have a phone that can go on the internet? — *Response options: Yes, No*	Questions added to better understand students screen time and social media use
G2	Do you have your own social media account? For example, Tik Tok, Snapchat, or Instagram. — *Response options: Yes, No*	
G3	On a normal school day, about how much time do you spend on social media? Even if you don't know exactly, provide your best guess. — *Response options: None, Less than 1 hour, 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours, 4 hours, 5 hours or more*	
G4	On a normal school day, how many hours do you spend playing games on electronic devices, such as video games? — *Response options: None, Less than 1 hour, 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours, 4 hours, 5 hours or more*	
G5	On a normal school day, how many hours in total do you use an electronic device such as a phone, tablet, computer, or TV, for something that is not schoolwork? — *Response options: None, Less than 1 hour, 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours, 4 hours, 5 hours or more*	
G6	How often do your parents or caregivers make you follow rules about screen time? — *Response options: Never, Sometimes, Often, Always*	

Subject	2023 Questions Removed from the 2025 Survey	Notes Regarding Removed Questions
Removed	Have you ever/How often have you, in the past 30 days: Used over-the-counter medicine (cough syrup, cold medicine, etc.) in order to get high? If you have been bullied in the past 12 months by other students, why were you bullied? (Mark all that apply.)	The question deletions intended to simplify and streamline the survey, making room for new screen time and social media items.

APPENDIX C. FOR MORE INFORMATION…

Prevention Web Sites

- The Center for Communities That Care: www.communitiesthatcare.net/
- Social Development Research Group: depts.washington.edu/sdrg/
- Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Support: https://www.episcenter.psu.edu/index.php/paysquestion
- Commonwealth Prevention Alliance: paprevention.org/
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System: www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm
- National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH): www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health
- Monitoring the Future: www.monitoringthefuture.org
- The Partnership to End Addiction: www.drugfree.org
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD): www.madd.org
- PA DUI Association: www.padui.org
- The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance Campaign to Stop Opiate Misuse: pastop.org
- CPA Campaign to Start Building Healthy Families: pastart.org
- Prevent Suicide PA: www.preventsuicidepa.org
- Youth Suicide Warning Signs: www.youthsuicidewarningsigns.org
- Overdose Free PA: www.overdosefreepa.org

Guides to Prevention Programs

- Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development: www.blueprintsprograms.com
- National Institute of Justice: www.crimesolutions.gov
- Federal OJJDP Model Programs Guide: www.ojjdp.gov/mpg
- SAMHSA Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center: www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP): www.wsipp.wa.gov
- WSIPP Benefit/Cost Results: www.wsipp.wa.gov/BenefitCost

State Resources

- Pennsylvania General Assembly: www.palegis.us/
- DDAP – PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs: www.pa.gov/agencies/ddap
- DOH – PA Department of Health: www.pa.gov/agencies/health
- PLCB – PA Liquor Control Board: www.pa.gov/agencies/lcb
- PCCD – PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency: www.pa.gov/agencies/pccd
- PDE – PA Department of Education: www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/schools/school-climate-wellbeing
- CCAP – County Commissioners Association of PA: www.pacounties.org
- Pennsylvania Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators: www.pacdaa.org
- Safe2Say Something www.safe2saypa.org

Federal Resources

- Office of National Drug Control Policy: www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): www.samhsa.gov

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA): nida.nih.gov/
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA): www.niaaa.nih.gov
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): www.cdc.gov/alcohol/underage-drinking/index.html www.cdc.gov/alcohol/index.htm
- National Resource Center for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse: 1-800-932-4632

If You Need Assistance

With bullying:

- US Department of Health and Human Services: www.stopbullying.gov
- Center for Safe Schools: www.centerforsafeschools.org/bullying-prevention/
- PA Department of Education: www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/schools/school-climate-wellbeing
- Bullying Prevention Consultation Line: 1-866-716-0424

With drugs and alcohol:

- PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs: Find Drug & Alcohol Treatment 1-800-662-HELP www.pa.gov/agencies/ddap/treatment-and-support/substance-use-disorder-treatment
- Alcoholics Anonymous: www.aa.org
- Pennsylvania Area Al-Anon: www.pa-al-anon.org

With smoking cessation:

- pa.quitlogix.org/en-US/ or 1-800 QUIT NOW (784-8669)
- Youth Tobacco and Vaping Cessation Program: mylifemyquit.org or 1-855-891-9989

With gambling:

- Pennsylvania Gambling Addiction 24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-GAMBLER
- Council on Compulsive Gambling of PA pacouncil.com/

Talking with a child about drugs and alcohol:

- SAMHSA – Talk. They Hear You: www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking
- MADD – Power of Parents: madd.org/power-of-parents/

With child/parent coaching:

- Partnership to End Addiction: drugfree.org/
- NIDA Resources for Parents: nida.nih.gov/research-topics/parents-educators

With depression or suicidal thoughts:

For immediate help, call a hotline or check the phone book under "suicide," "crisis" or "mental health." In an emergency, call 911. If you call for someone else, stay with the person until help arrives.

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- Crisis Text Line: Text PA to 741-741
- TrevorLifeline for LGBTQ+ youth: 1-866-488-7386

APPENDIX D. SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS IN THIS REPORT

As follows is a list of school districts, charter schools, and private schools which participated in the 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey and are also represented in this profile report. If this report is intended for a school district, charter school, or private school, you will find that only the district/school in question is included. However, County and Community reports will include two or more districts, charter schools, or private schools. In the instance of those reports, this appendix will provide key information for understanding the participants represented in your data.

2021:

Bensalem Township SD
Bristol Borough SD
Bristol Township SD
Centennial SD
Central Bucks SD
Council Rock SD
Morrisville Borough SD
Neshaminy SD
New Hope-Solebury SD
Palisades SD
Pennridge SD
Pennsbury SD
Quakertown Community SD

2023:

Bensalem Township SD
Bristol Borough SD
Bristol Township SD
Bucks County Technical High School
Centennial SD
Central Bucks SD
Council Rock SD
Dock Mennonite Academy
Morrisville Borough SD
Neshaminy SD
New Hope-Solebury SD
Palisades SD
Pennsbury SD
Quakertown Community SD
School Lane CS

2025:

Bensalem Township SD
Bristol Borough SD
Bristol Township SD
Bucks County Technical High School
Centennial SD
Central Bucks SD
Council Rock SD
Morrisville Borough SD
Neshaminy SD
New Hope-Solebury SD
Palisades SD
Pennridge SD
Pennsbury SD
Quakertown Community SD
School Lane CS