

# 2023 APNA

## ARKANSAS PREVENTION NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

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Region 12

Executive Summary



Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Aging, Adults, and Behavioral Health Services  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock MidSOUTH Center for Prevention and Training  
Survey Conducted by International Survey Associates LLC



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# **Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment Student Survey**

## **Executive Summary**

Sponsored by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
MidSOUTH Center for Prevention and Training

Funded by Arkansas Department of Human Services Division  
of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services

Conducted by International Survey Associates, LLC dba Pride Surveys

# Introduction

## 1. Introduction

This report presents a summary of selected results gathered from the administration of the 127-item Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA) survey to students at your school(s) in the fall of 2023. The report features data displayed as figures and tables for topic areas of most interest to school systems and regional prevention providers (RPP).

Comprehensive results of the survey responses are available in your Detailed Report you can download from

<https://arkansas.pridesurveys.com>. Both reports are designed to assist you in evaluation of student behaviors and perceptions on topics that affect student achievement and wellbeing.

The results of your survey can also help to inform decisions at all levels - classroom, school, district and state. The APNA survey measures the use of 16 substances, including recently trending substances (e.g., e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-hookahs). The Detailed Report provides comprehensive data on prevalence of these substances and antisocial behaviors among your students; comparisons with county, regional and

national data are also included. You will also find survey methodology, resources for RPPs, and detailed information about the technical scales to assess some factors (e.g., risk and protective factors).

In this Executive Summary, we present topics including: characteristics of students completing the survey; 30-day use data for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription drugs, methamphetamines, inhalants; 3-year usage rates for these substances; perceived risk of harm and parental disapproval; average age of first use; and risk and protective factors.

Data in this report are from valid student responses. Survey forms that were severely damaged or had dishonest responses were removed and are not included in the dataset.

Keep in mind that this executive summary is a brief snapshot of your survey results; your full report can be download from

<https://arkansas.pridesurveys.com>.

# Student Demographics

## 2. Student Demographics

Key characteristics of the students who responded to the survey serve to frame your interpretation of survey results. This section presents information on the percentage of students participating by grade, ethnicity and sex. The survey collects other demographic information including student respondents by region and county, as well as family structure (both parents, step-families, single parent, other). For these and additional student demographic data, please refer to your full report.

FIGURE 2.1 STUDENTS TAKING THE 2023 APNA SURVEY, BY ETHNICITY

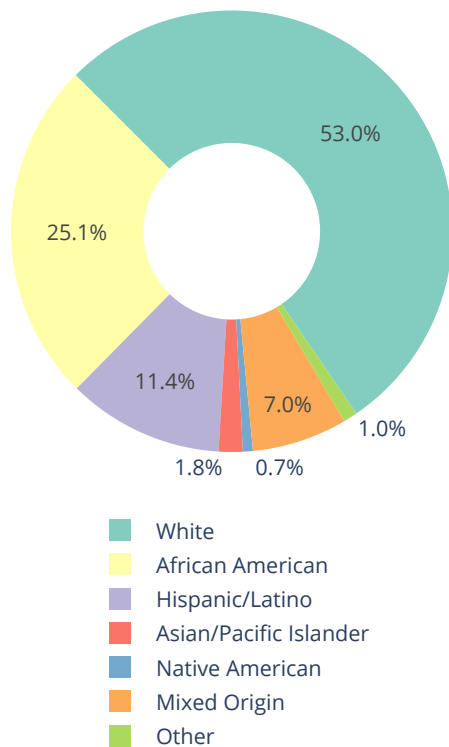


FIGURE 2.2 STUDENTS TAKING THE 2023 APNA SURVEY, BY GRADE

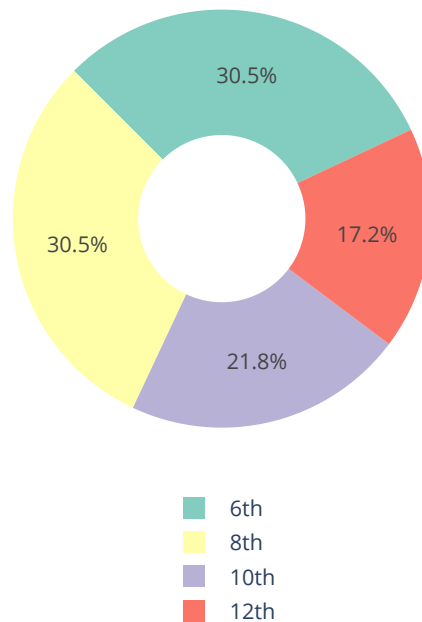
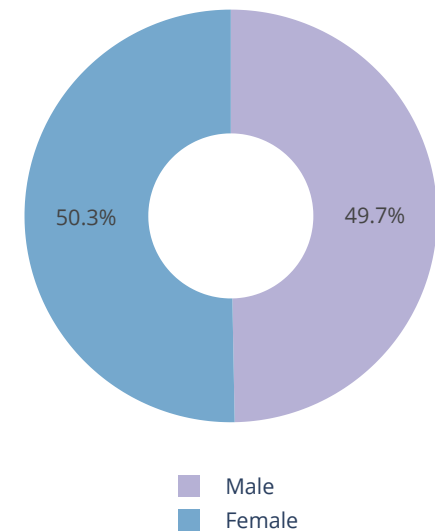


FIGURE 2.3 STUDENTS TAKING THE 2023 APNA SURVEY, MALE VS. FEMALE





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# Past 30-Day Substance Use

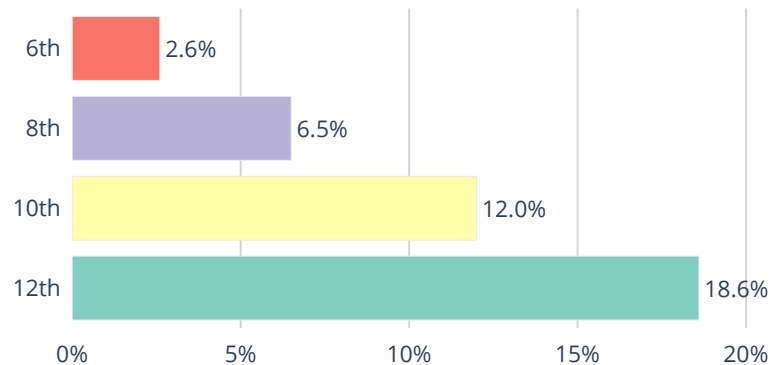
## 3. Past 30-Day Substance Use

Past 30-day substance use is recorded when students report that they have used a substance at least once in the past 30 days. It is considered the best measure of current and ongoing use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATODs). Your full report contains self-reported student usage rates for 16 substances: alcohol, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, hallucinogens, cocaine, methamphetamines, synthetic marijuana, bath salts, ecstasy, heroin, prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, alcopops. This Executive Summary highlights 30-day usage rates for: alcohol ([Table 3.1](#)), cigarettes ([Table 3.2](#)), marijuana ([Table 3.3](#)), prescription drugs ([Table 3.4](#)), methamphetamines ([Table 3.5](#)), and inhalants ([Table 3.6](#)).

### Alcohol

Table 3.1 30-day alcohol use by grade		
	N	%
Grade 6	16	2.6
Grade 8	41	6.5
Grade 10	53	12.0
Grade 12	64	18.6

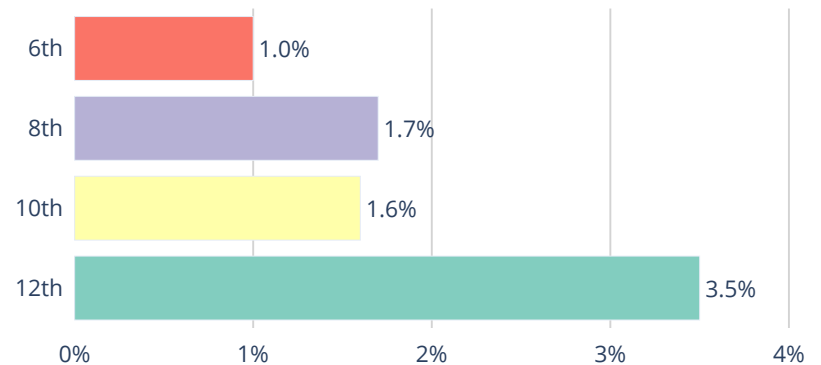
FIGURE 3.1 30-DAY ALCOHOL USE



### Cigarettes

Table 3.2 30-day cigarette use by grade		
	N	%
Grade 6	6	1.0
Grade 8	11	1.7
Grade 10	7	1.6
Grade 12	12	3.5

FIGURE 3.2 30-DAY CIGARETTE USE

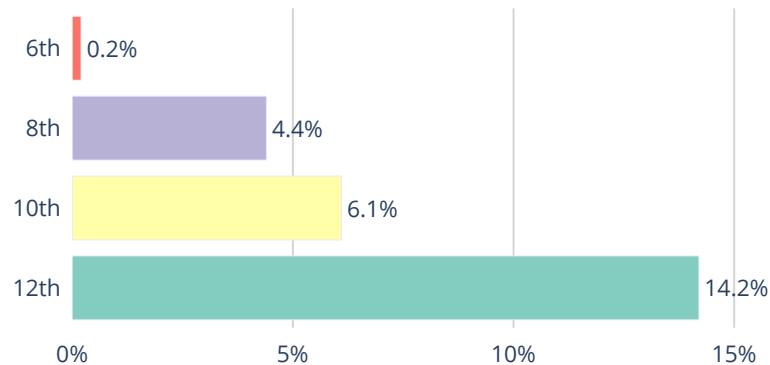


# Past 30-Day Substance Use

## Marijuana

Table 3.3 30-day marijuana use by grade		
	N	%
Grade 6	1	0.2
Grade 8	28	4.4
Grade 10	27	6.1
Grade 12	49	14.2

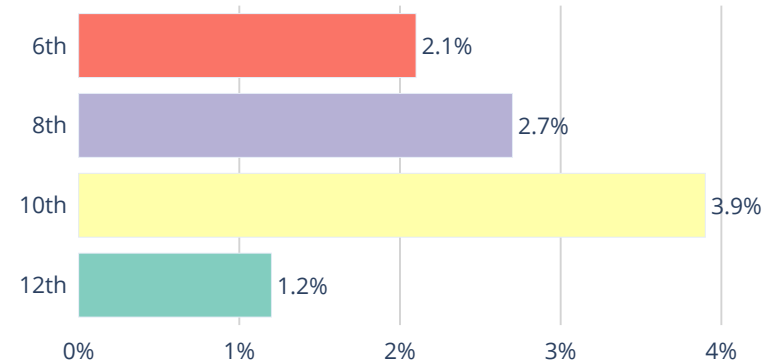
FIGURE 3.3 30-DAY MARIJUANA USE



## Prescription Drugs

Table 3.4 30-day prescription drug use by grade		
	N	%
Grade 6	13	2.1
Grade 8	17	2.7
Grade 10	17	3.9
Grade 12	4	1.2

FIGURE 3.4 30-DAY PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE



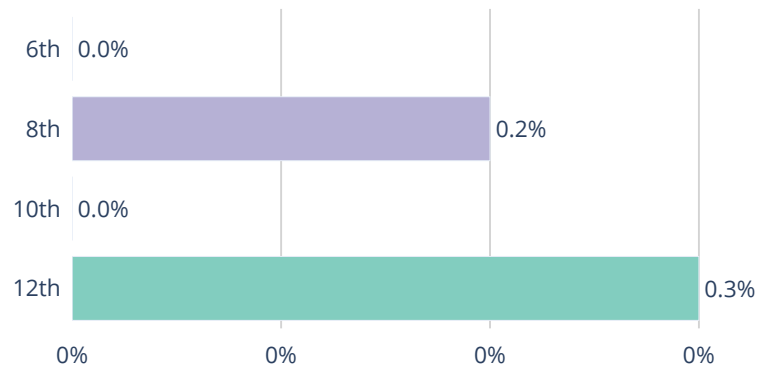


# Past 30-Day Substance Use

## Methamphetamines

	N	%
Grade 6	0	0.0
Grade 8	1	0.2
Grade 10	0	0.0
Grade 12	1	0.3

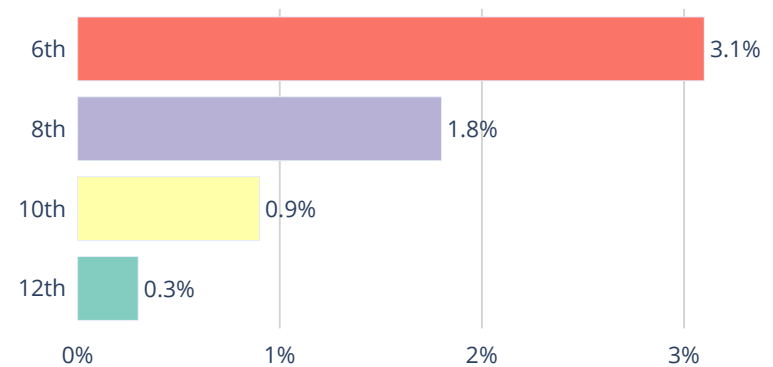
FIGURE 3.5 30-DAY METHAMPHETAMINE USE



## Inhalants

	N	%
Grade 6	19	3.1
Grade 8	11	1.8
Grade 10	4	0.9
Grade 12	1	0.3

FIGURE 3.6 30-DAY INHALANT USE



# Past 30-Day Substance Use - Three Year Trend

Table 3.7 Three-year trends in substance use															
Substance	2021					2022					2023				
	6	8	10	12	Total	6	8	10	12	Total	6	8	10	12	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	2.1	6.5	13.4	20.0	9.9	3.2	7.6	13.9	17.4	9.1	2.6	6.5	12.0	18.6	8.5
Cigarettes	1.7	1.4	3.2	2.2	2.1	1.1	1.8	0.4	2.8	1.4	1.0	1.7	1.6	3.5	1.8
Marijuana	1.8	3.8	10.2	11.3	6.5	0.8	8.1	10.2	18.3	7.8	0.2	4.4	6.1	14.2	5.2
Prescription drugs	3.5	3.7	2.6	3.2	3.3	1.9	5.6	1.9	3.4	3.3	2.1	2.7	3.9	1.2	2.5
Methamphetamines	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1
Inhalants	2.3	2.0	0.5	0.2	1.3	3.0	2.1	1.5	0.6	2.0	3.1	1.8	0.9	0.3	1.7

FIGURE 3.7 THREE-YEAR TREND: 30-DAY USAGE RATE ALCOHOL

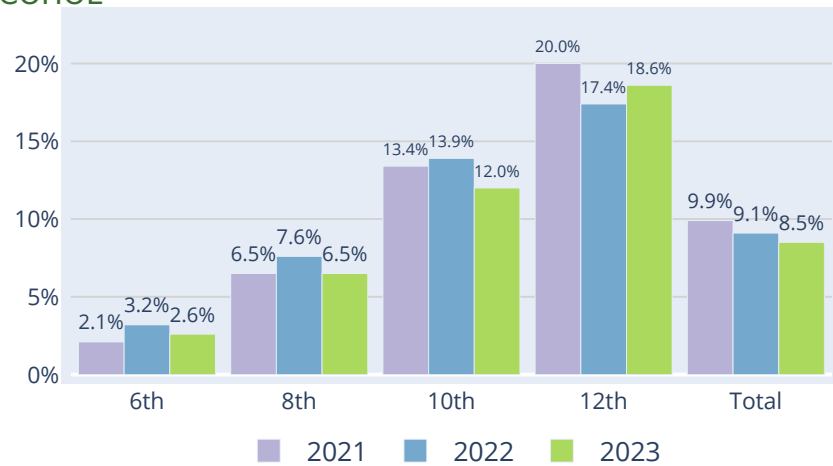
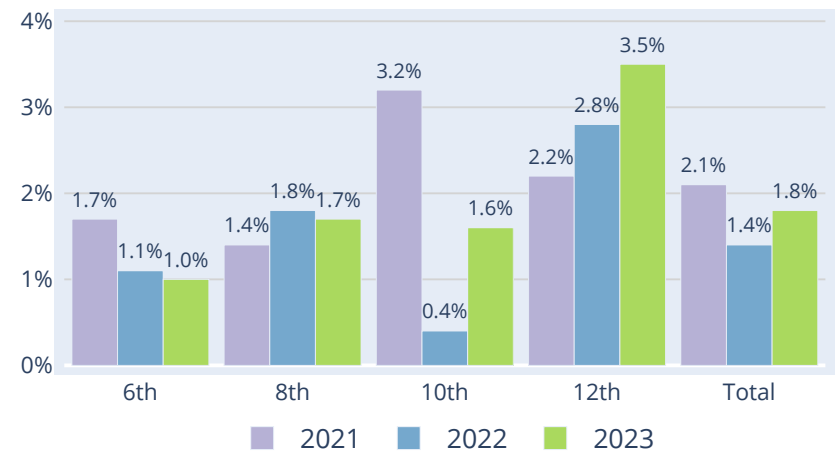


FIGURE 3.8 THREE-YEAR TREND: 30-DAY USAGE RATE CIGARETTES



# Past 30-Day Substance Use - Three Year Trend

FIGURE 3.9 THREE-YEAR TREND: 30-DAY USAGE RATE MARIJUANA

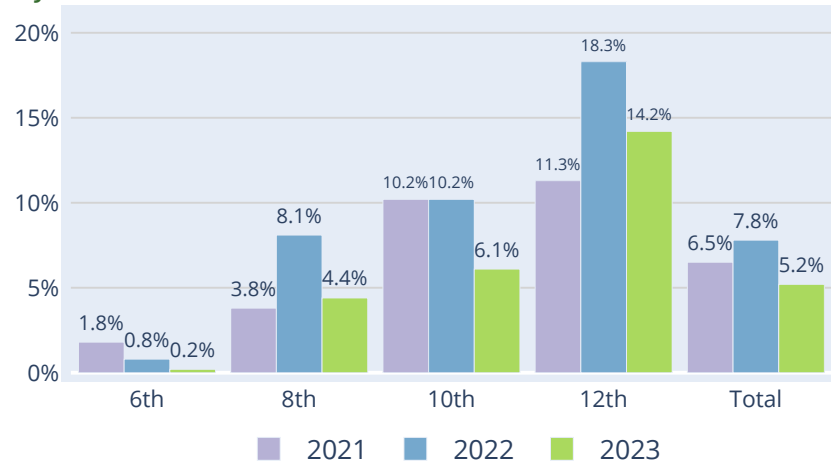


FIGURE 3.10 THREE-YEAR TREND: 30-DAY USAGE RATE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

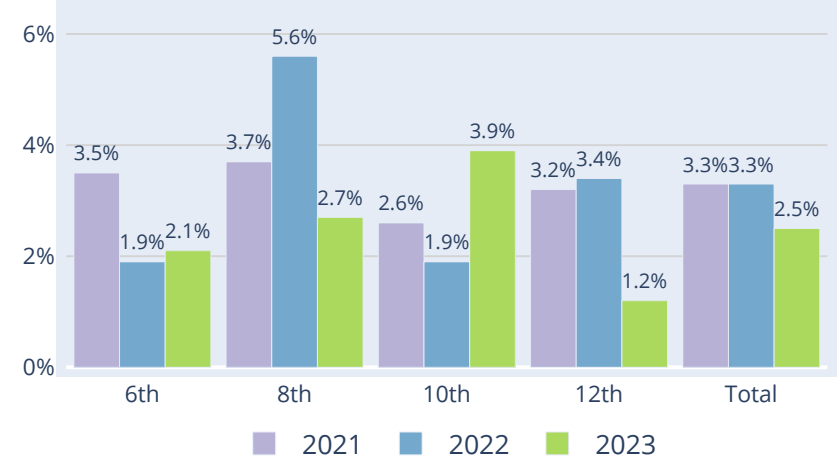


FIGURE 3.11 THREE-YEAR TREND: 30-DAY USAGE RATE METHAMPHETAMINES

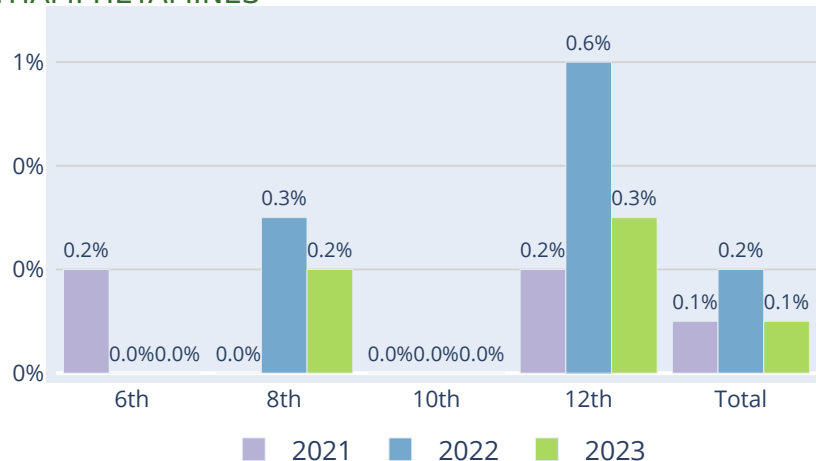
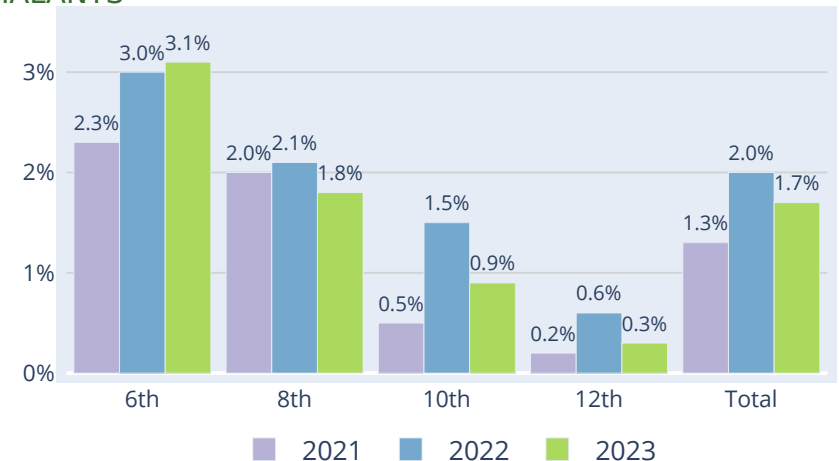


FIGURE 3.12 THREE-YEAR TREND: 30-DAY USAGE RATE INHALANTS



# Perception of Harm and Parental Disapproval

## 4. Perception of Harm and Parental Disapproval

Students were asked to report on whether they thought use of substances placed an individual at great risk, moderate risk, slight risk or no risk of physical or other harm. [Table 4.1](#) shows the percentage of students who reported moderate to great risk from using substances. [Table 4.2](#) shows the percentage of students who reported that parents feel it is wrong or very wrong for the student to use substances.

Table 4.1 Percentage of students reporting moderate to great risk of harm from using substances					
	6	8	10	12	Total
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	68.8	78.4	80.6	83.7	76.9
Use e-cigarettes, e-cigar or e-hookahs	64.2	66.8	68.0	69.0	66.7
Try marijuana once or twice	49.4	41.3	34.8	34.2	41.0
Smoke marijuana once or twice a week	63.1	62.1	59.4	48.3	59.4
Take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) nearly every day	58.3	66.9	67.8	69.0	64.9
Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a weekend	65.6	75.0	75.8	73.8	72.1
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	67.5	78.4	81.4	83.2	76.6
Use non-prescription drugs to get high	70.2	81.3	84.6	85.4	79.5
Vape an e-liquid with nicotine occasionally	62.8	64.1	61.6	63.1	63.0
Vape an e-liquid with nicotine regularly	67.0	75.3	77.3	74.3	73.2

# Perception of Harm and Parental Disapproval

FIGURE 4.1 MODERATE TO GREAT RISK OF HARM FROM CIGARETTE, E-CIGARETTE USE

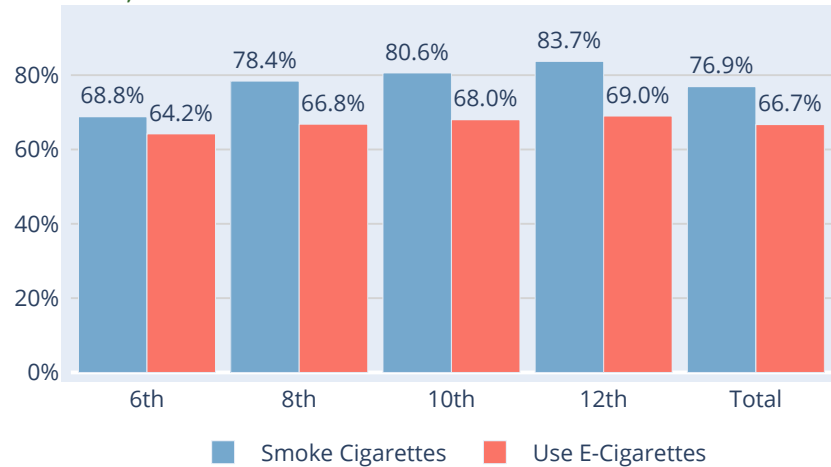


FIGURE 4.1 MODERATE TO GREAT RISK OF HARM FROM MARIJUANA USE

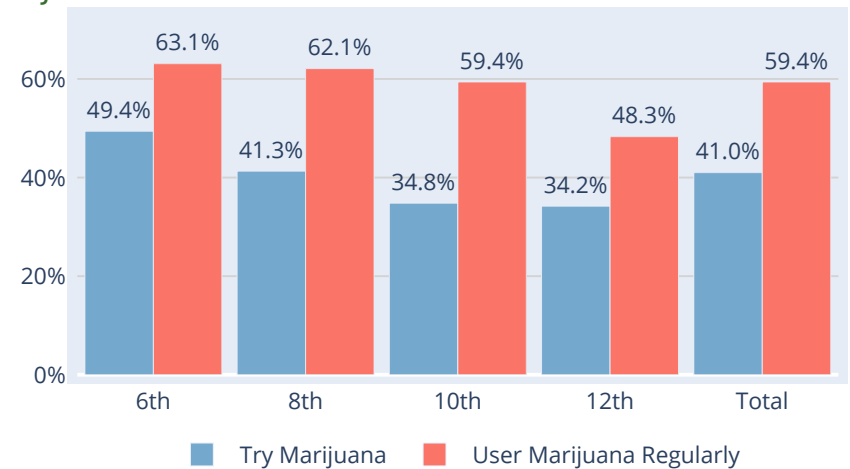


FIGURE 4.1 MODERATE TO GREAT RISK OF HARM FROM ALCOHOL USE

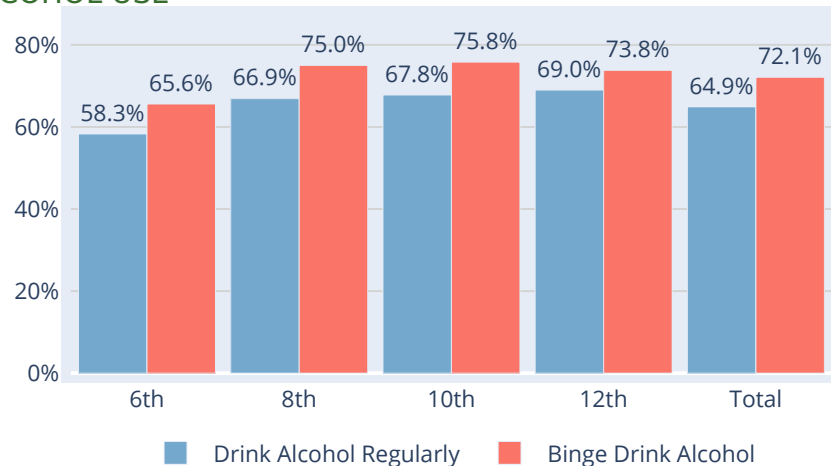
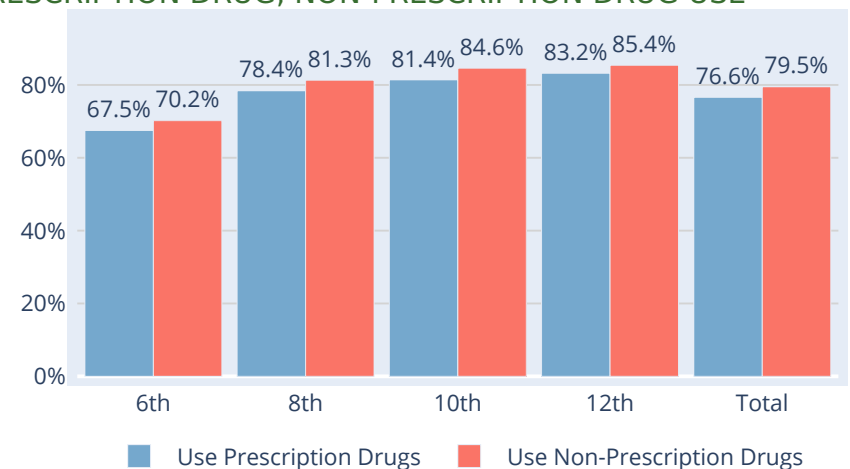


FIGURE 4.1 MODERATE TO GREAT RISK OF HARM FROM PRESCRIPTION DRUG, NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE



# Perception of Harm and Parental Disapproval

Table 4.2 Percentage of students reporting that parents feel it is wrong or very wrong for student to use substances					
	6	8	10	12	Total
Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day	96.2	97.7	95.6	93.8	96.1
Smoke tobacco	97.6	98.0	96.3	96.6	97.3
Smoke marijuana	97.3	96.5	93.3	88.5	94.6
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	97.8	97.9	95.8	97.2	97.3

FIGURE 4.2 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS REPORTING THAT PARENTS FEEL IT IS WRONG OR VERY WRONG FOR STUDENT TO USE ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA

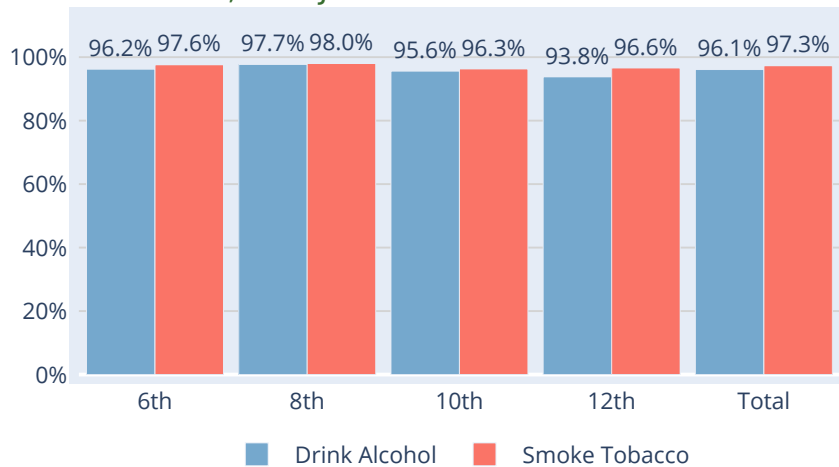
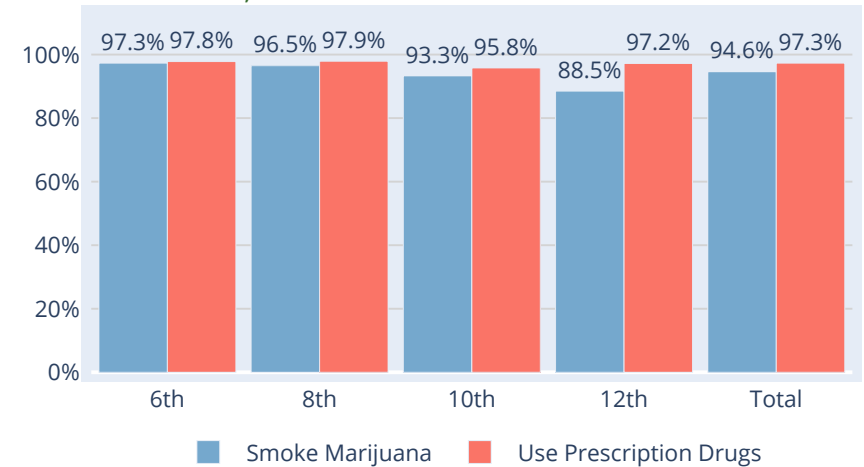


FIGURE 4.3 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS REPORTING THAT PARENTS FEEL IT IS WRONG OR VERY WRONG FOR STUDENT TO USE TOBACCO, PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



## 5. Age of Initiation

To calculate age of first use of a substance, only data from those youth who had indicated they had used the substance were analyzed and was, thus, a small subset of those included in the full dataset. Age of first use of select substances is shown in [Table 5.1](#).

Table 5.1 Age of initiation, average age of first use for students who indicated that they had used					
	6	8	10	12	Total
First cigarette use	10.9	11.3	12.6	14.0	12.4
First e-cigarette use	10.7	12.1	13.7	14.7	13.1
First marijuana use	11.2	12.4	13.6	14.9	13.8
First alcohol use	10.4	11.6	13.4	14.6	12.6
First regular alcohol use	11.4	12.5	14.7	15.8	14.6
First prescription drug use (without a prescription)	10.2	11.8	12.6	13.7	12.2



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# Risk and Protective Factors

## 6. Risk and Protective Factors

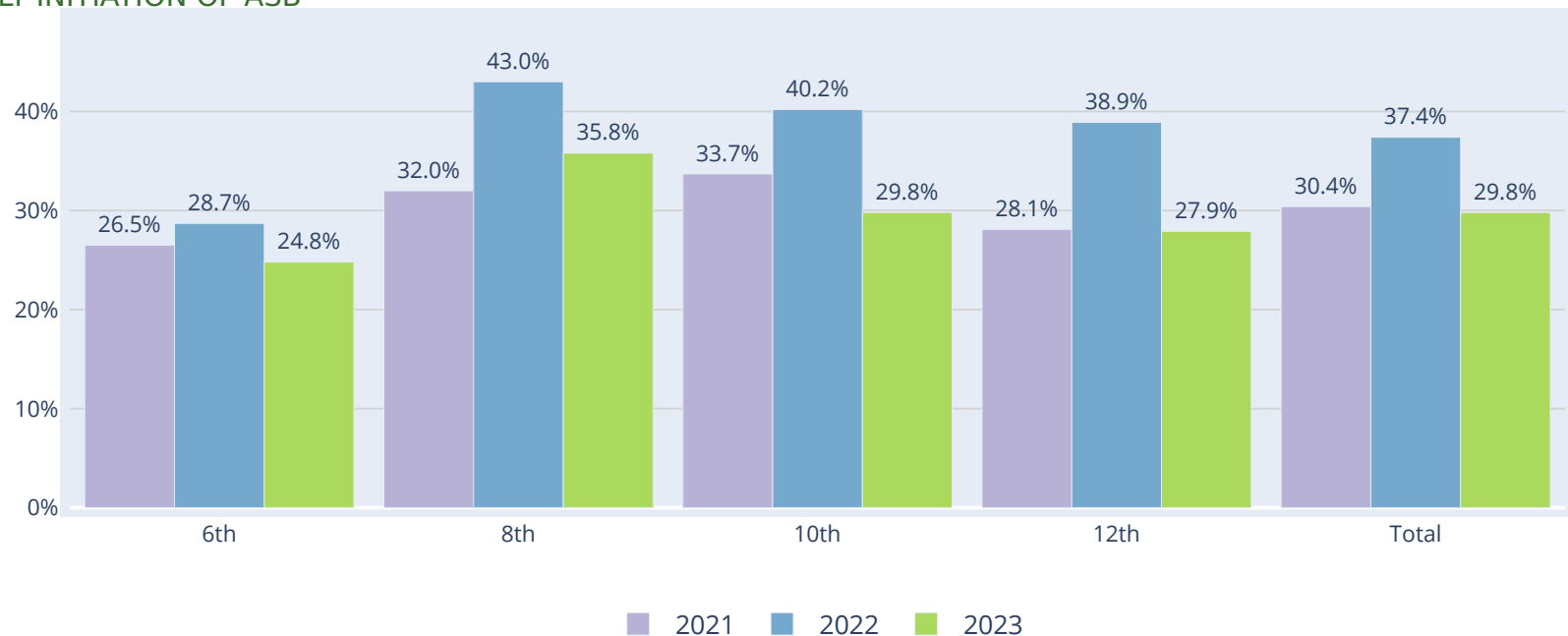
The Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA) Survey is grounded in the risk and protective factor model of substance abuse prevention. Just as there are risk and protective factors for heart disease, diabetes, and other diseases, social scientists defined a set of risk and protective factors for problem behaviors including substance abuse, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and more. Through APNA, students reported on factors known to be protective against, or encouraging of, substance use and problem behaviors. The Detailed Report contains data from student responses in four domains: community, school, family, and individual/peer; each domain provides data from the current and previous three years by grade levels 6, 8, 10 and 12.

This Executive Summary illustrates the top four risk factors that your students have reported at a higher rate than the state's average, demonstrating a need to address these factors ([Table 6.1](#) and [Table 6.2](#)). [Table 6.3](#) and [Table 6.4](#) show lowest four risk factors that are reported at a lower rate than the state's average, indicating that your students are less at-risk. [Table 6.5](#) and [Table 6.6](#) show the three protective factors compared to the statewide average. If less than four risk factors are higher or lower than the states average respectively only the factors that meet the criteria will be displayed. If no factors are higher or lower respectively than the state's average, no data displayed.

# Risk and Protective Factors

Table 6.1 Risk factors reported at higher rate than statewide average, indicating need for improvement - Grades 6 and 8			
	Region Average	State Average	Difference
Early Initiation of ASB	30.3	24.0	+6.3
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	32.1	27.6	+4.5
Perceived Risk of Drug Use	61.2	57.5	+3.7
Early Initiation of Drug Use	16.6	14.5	+2.1

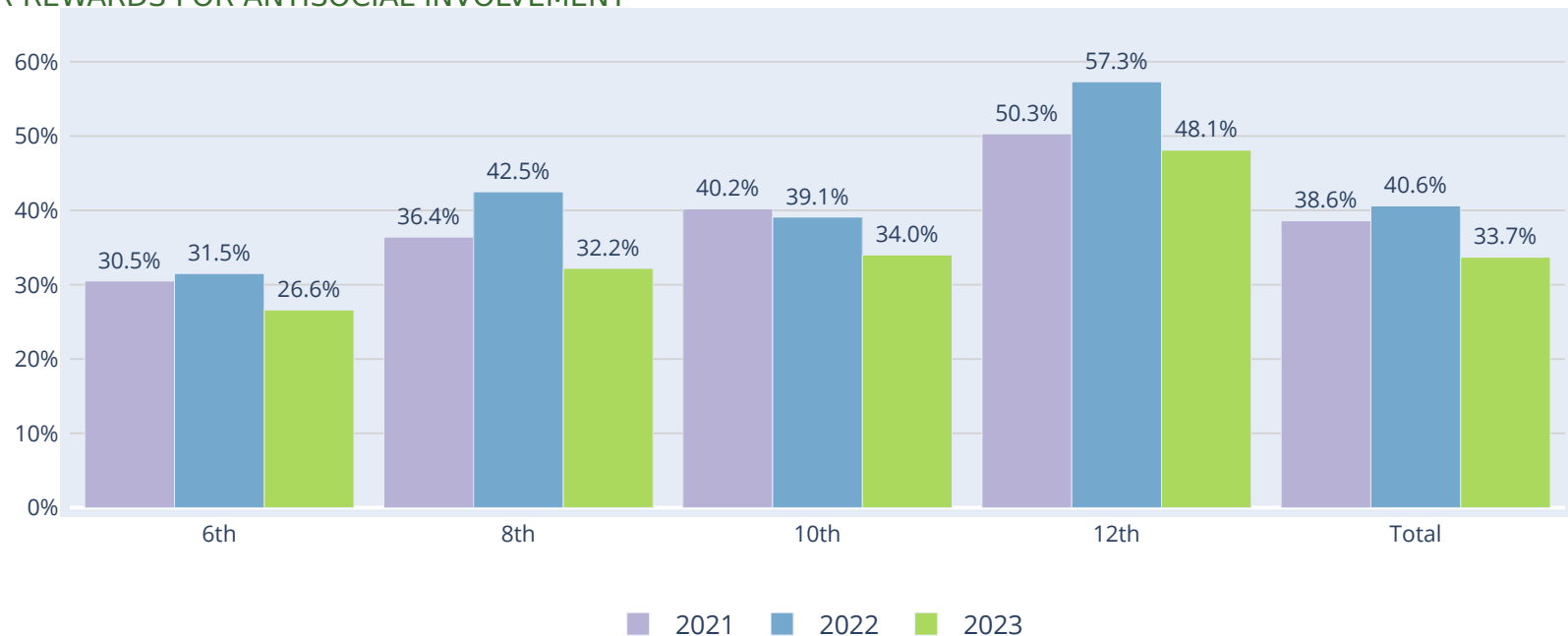
FIGURE 6.1 RISK FACTOR REPORTED AT HIGHEST RATE IN 2023 COMPARED WITH 2022, 2021 - GRADES 6 AND 8  
EARLY INITIATION OF ASB



# Risk and Protective Factors

Table 6.2 Risk factors reported at higher rate than statewide average, indicating need for improvement - Grades 10 and 12			
	Region Average	State Average	Difference
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Involvement	40.2	36.7	+3.5
Early Initiation of ASB	29.0	26.0	+3.0
Perceived Availability of Handguns	23.8	22.2	+1.6
Low Commitment to School	56.4	55.2	+1.2

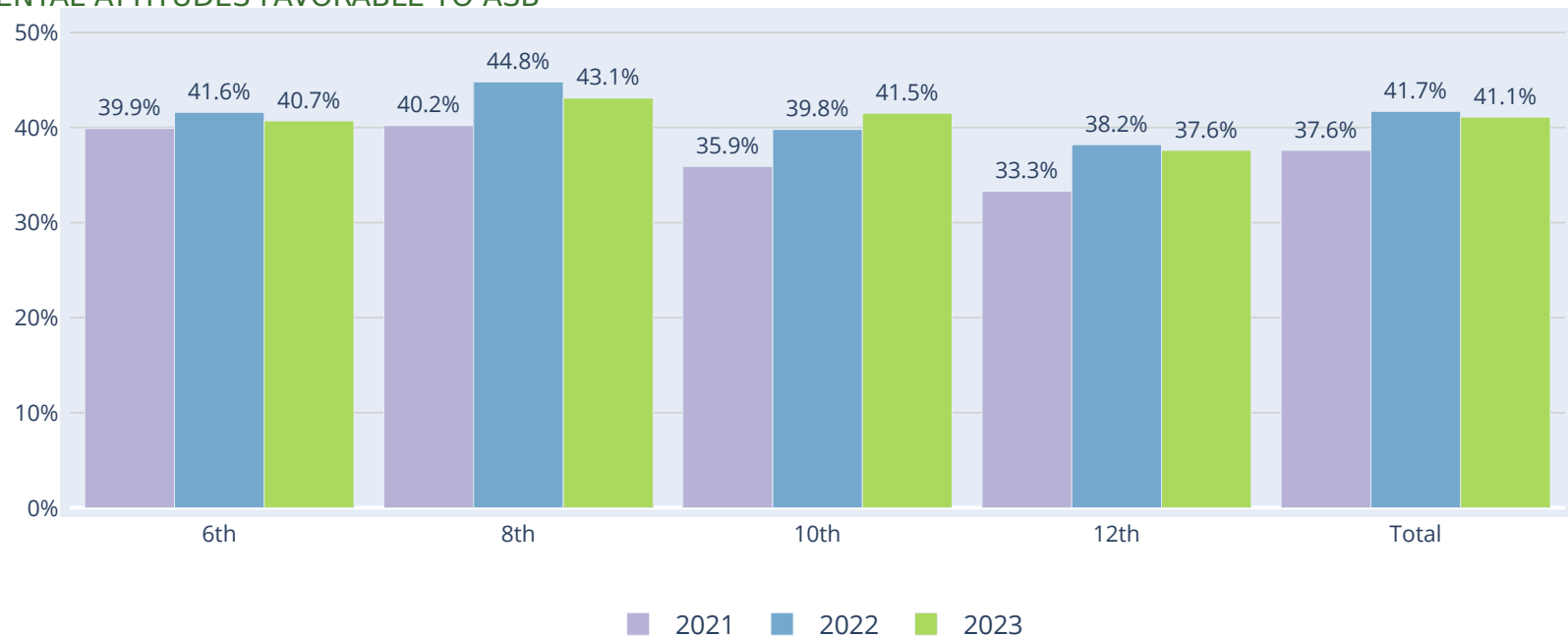
FIGURE 6.2 RISK FACTOR REPORTED AT HIGHEST RATE IN 2023 COMPARED WITH 2022, 2021 - GRADES 10 AND 12  
PEER REWARDS FOR ANTISOCIAL INVOLVEMENT



# Risk and Protective Factors

Table 6.3 Risk factors reported at lower rate than statewide average, indicating students at less risk - Grades 6 and 8			
	Region Average	State Average	Difference
Parental Attitudes Favorable to ASB	42.0	44.3	-2.3
Academic Failure	43.9	45.4	-1.5
Parental Attitudes Favorable to ATOD	16.0	17.5	-1.5

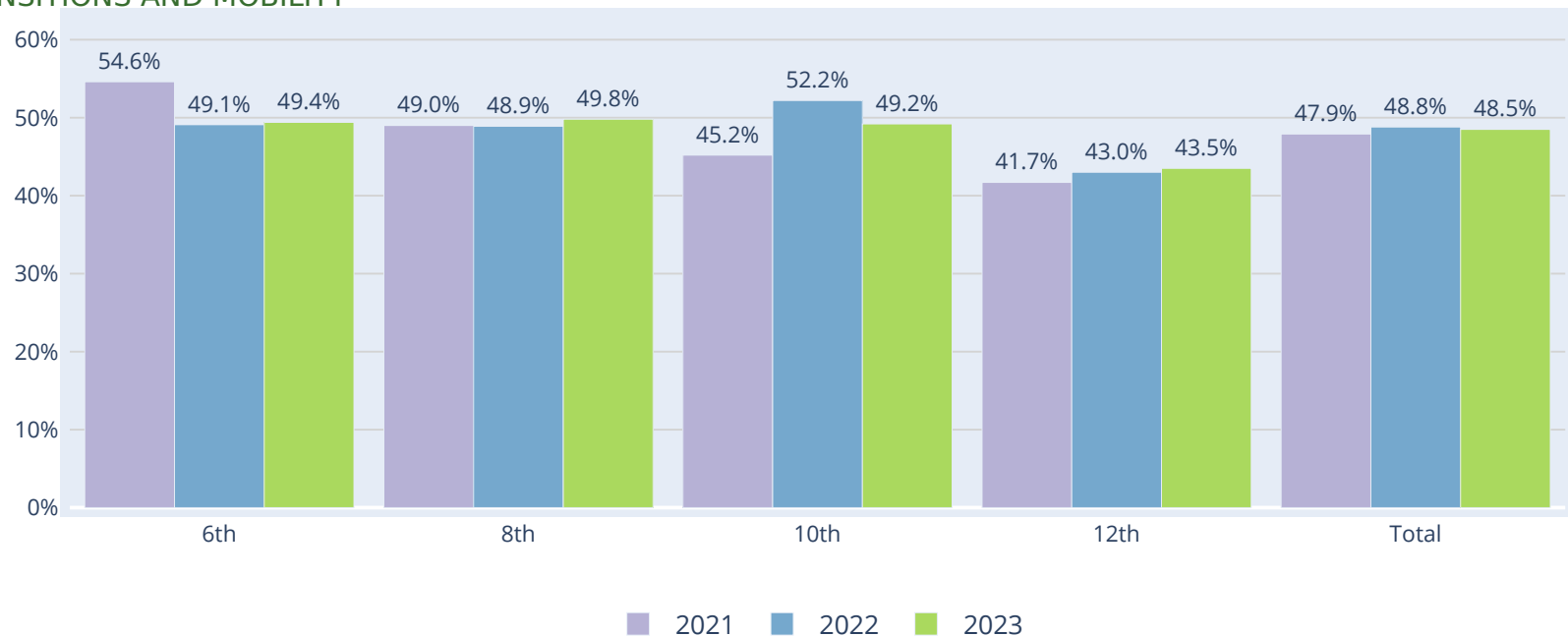
FIGURE 6.3 RISK FACTOR REPORTED AT LOWEST RATE IN 2023 COMPARED WITH 2022, 2021 - GRADES 6 AND 8  
PARENTAL ATTITUDES FAVORABLE TO ASB



# Risk and Protective Factors

Table 6.4 Risk factors reported at lower rate than statewide average, indicating students at less risk - Grades 10 and 12			
	Region Average	State Average	Difference
Transitions and Mobility	46.7	51.8	-5.1
Academic Failure	38.9	41.9	-3.0
Parental Attitudes Favorable to ASB	39.8	42.3	-2.5
Peer Favorable Attitudes to ASB	33.8	36.2	-2.4

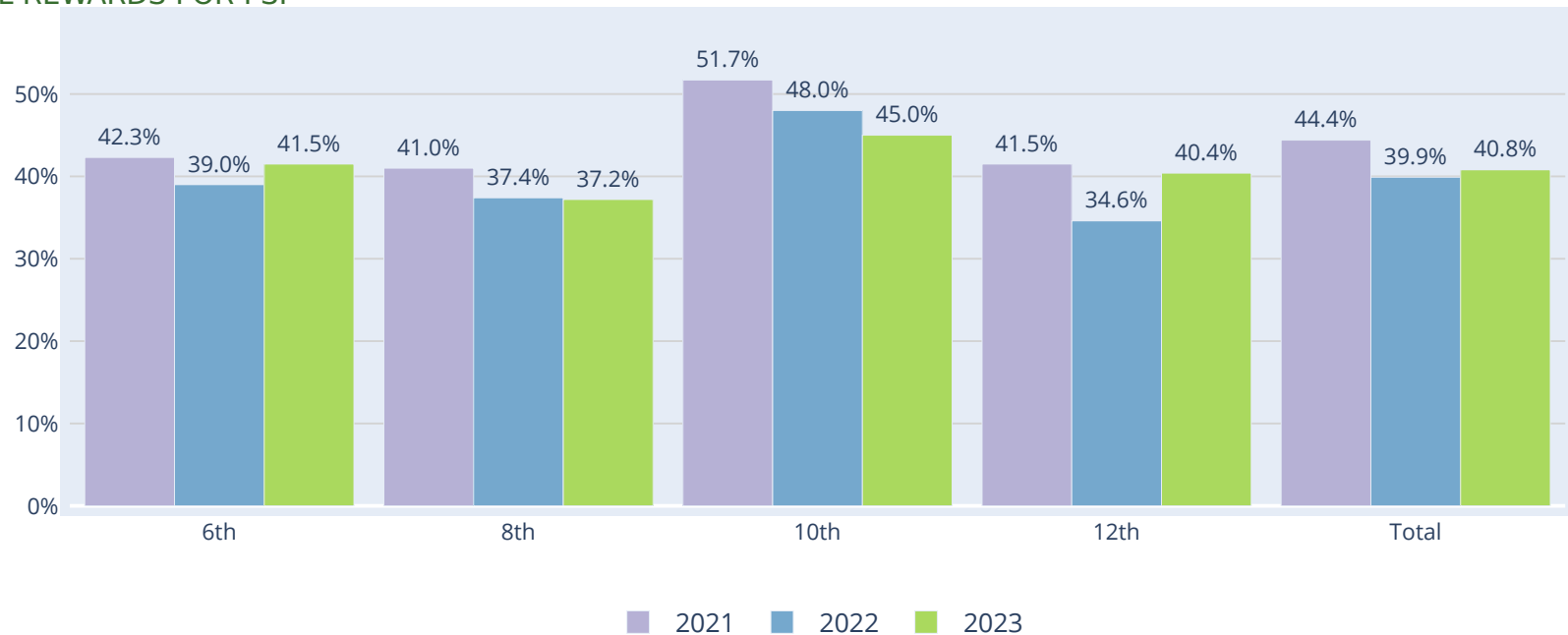
FIGURE 6.4 RISK FACTOR REPORTED AT LOWEST RATE IN 2023 COMPARED WITH 2022, 2021 - GRADES 10 AND 12  
TRANSITIONS AND MOBILITY



# Risk and Protective Factors

Table 6.5 Protective factors comparison - Grades 6 and 8			
	Region Average	State Average	Difference
School Rewards for PSI	39.4	47.5	-8.1
School Opportunities for PSI	50.9	57.4	-6.5

FIGURE 6.5 PROTECTIVE FACTORS REPORTED AT LOWEST RATE BY GRADES 6 AND 8 IN 2023 COMPARED WITH 2022, 2021 SCHOOL REWARDS FOR PSI



# Risk and Protective Factors

Table 6.6 Protective factors comparison - Grades 10 and 12			
	Region Average	State Average	Difference
School Rewards for PSI	43.0	54.2	-11.2
School Opportunities for PSI	61.8	67.1	-5.3

FIGURE 6.6 PROTECTIVE FACTOR REPORTED AT LOWEST RATE BY GRADES 10 AND 12 IN 2023 COMPARED WITH 2022, 2021 SCHOOL REWARDS FOR PSI

