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# Minnesota Student Survey 2025 Results

*Presented to the School Board  
April 7, 2026*



# What is the Minnesota Student Survey?

The Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) is one of the longest-running youth surveys in the nation.

It is the primary source of comprehensive data on youth at the state, county, and district level in Minnesota.

- Administered by the Minnesota Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, and Public Safety since 1989
- Administered every three years to students in grades 5, 8, 9 and 11
- Online survey using branching logic

# What is the Minnesota Student Survey?

Survey asks students about their activities, opinions, behaviors, and experiences

Students respond to questions on school climate, bullying, out-of-school activities, health behaviors, emotional and mental health, substance use, and connections with school and family

The survey covers sensitive topics, including domestic violence, self-harm and suicide, which are also covered in this presentation.

Because of these sensitive topics:

- Some questions are modified or omitted based on grade level
- Survey participation is optional
- Each question is optional
- All responses are anonymous



# Limitations of the Data

The Minnesota Student Survey data is provided in the form of PDF tables. It can be broken down by state, county, and district level. Within those levels, it can be broken down by grade and gender.

- School-level data is not available except by special request, and even then it is limited by size of the school and subgroups.

All survey data is provided in percentages. Since all questions are optional, the number of students that responded to each question varies.

- All percentages are percentages of the students who responded
- Older grades (especially 11th) tend to have lower Ns
- More sensitive questions tend to have lower Ns

Occasionally, new survey questions are added or questions are revised, so we cannot always compare historically.



# Who Took The Survey?

- Across the state, 61% of districts chose to participate and approximately 45% of eligible students took the survey. The survey window was open from January to June of 2025.
- All Stillwater elementary, middle and high schools participated during the month of February 2025.

	5th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	11th Grade
<b>Male</b>	279	263	266	246
<b>Female</b>	265	290	271	205
<b>No Answer</b>	8	4	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>451</b>



# Demographics

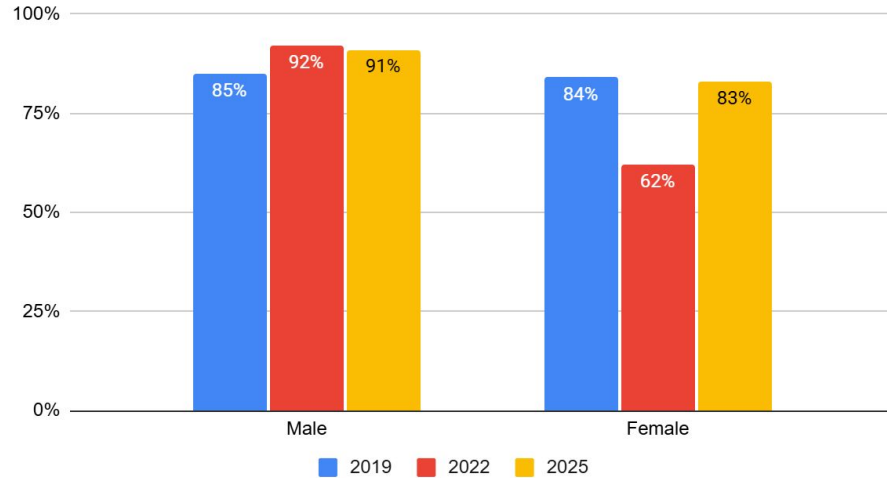


# Respondent Demographics

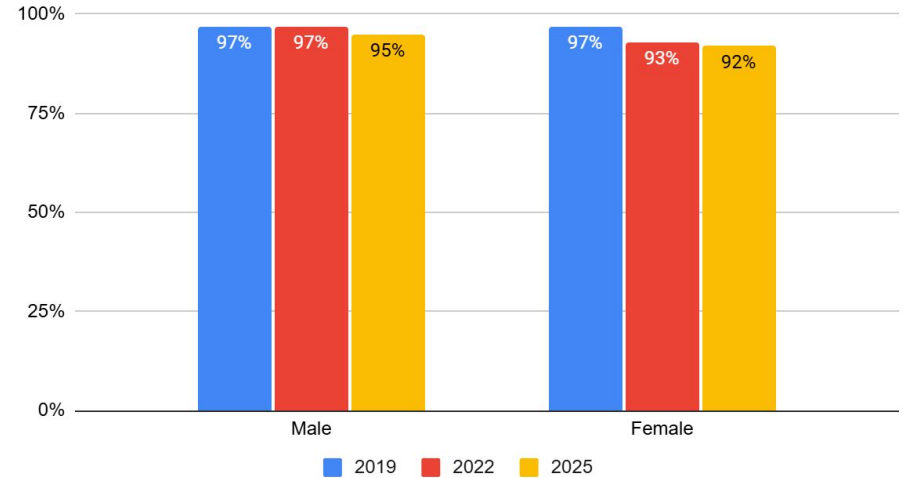
	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 11
<b>American Indian or Alaskan Native only</b>	2%	0%	1%	1%
<b>Asian, South Asian, or Asian American only</b>	7%	8%	7%	5%
<b>Black, African or African American only</b>	5%	6%	5%	5%
<b>Hispanic or Latino/Latina only</b>	3%	2%	6%	5%
<b>White only</b>	72%	71%	71%	74%
<b>Multiple races (checked more than one)</b>	6%	11%	9%	9%
<b>No answer</b>	6%	1%	1%	1%

# How do you describe your sexual orientation? What is your gender identity?

Percent of 11th Grade Students Identifying as Straight



Percent of 11th Grade Students Identifying as Cisgender



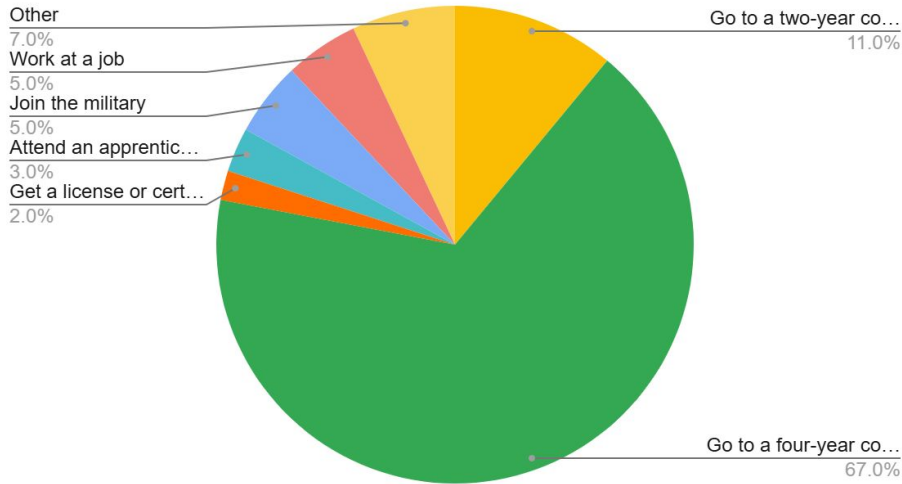
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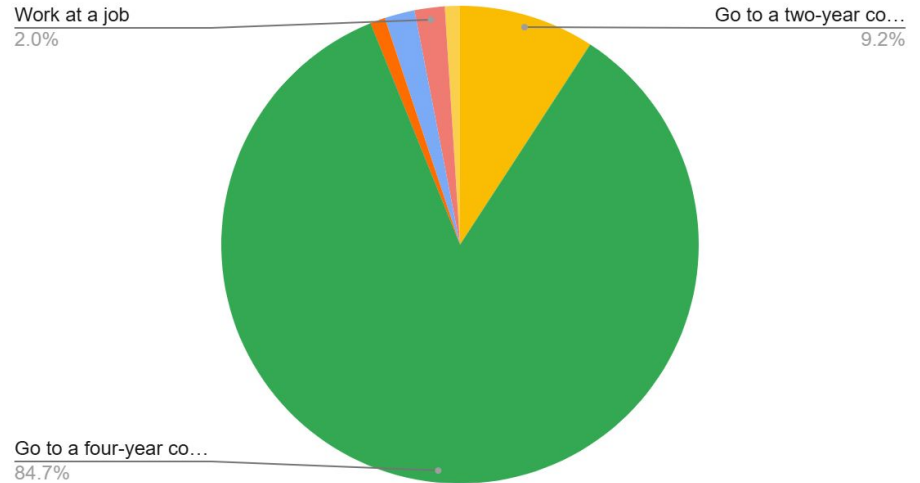
School

# What is the MAIN thing you plan to do RIGHT AFTER high school?

11th Grade Male



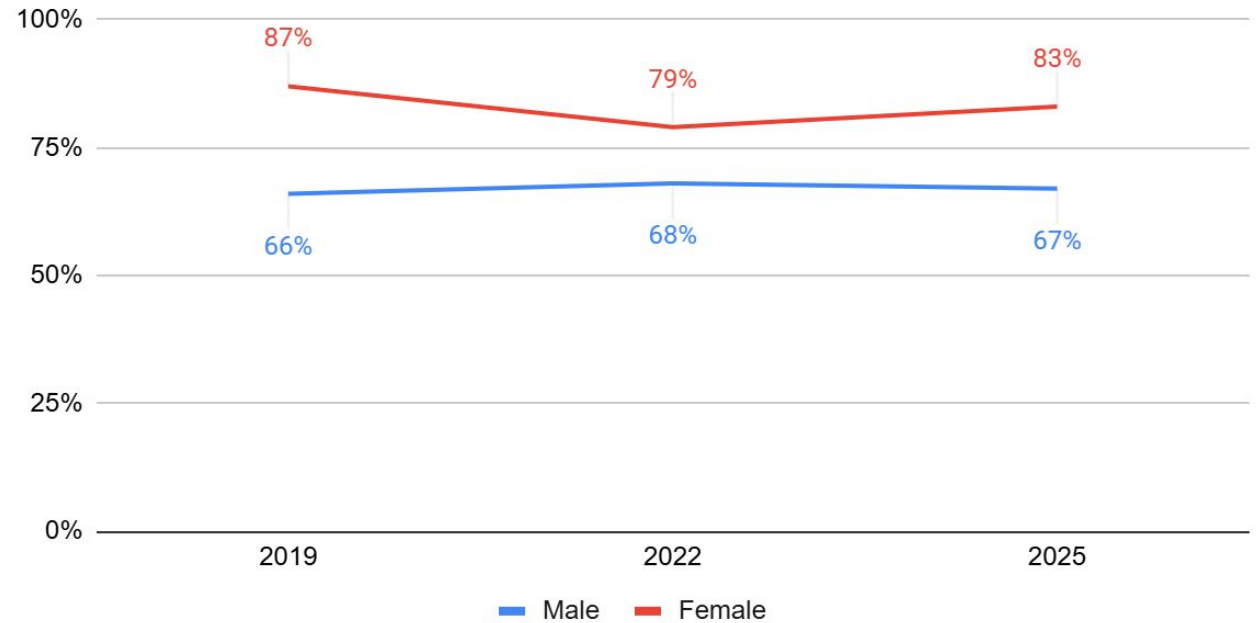
11th Grade Female



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# Post-Secondary Plans

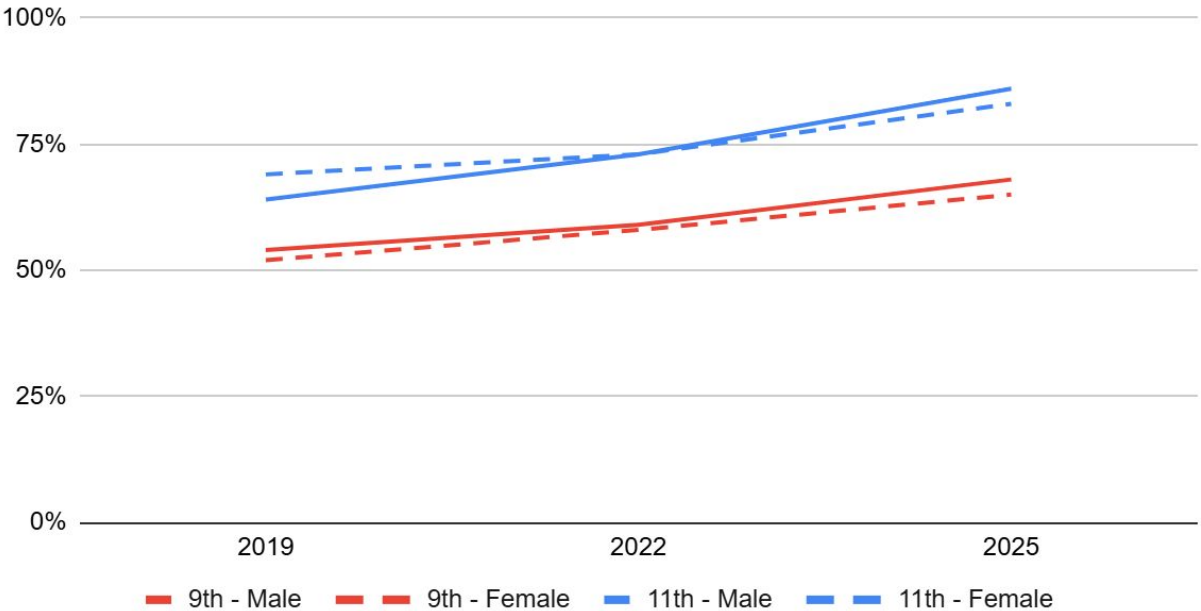
Percent of 11th Grade Students Planning to Attend a 4 Year College



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# Post-Secondary Guidance: College

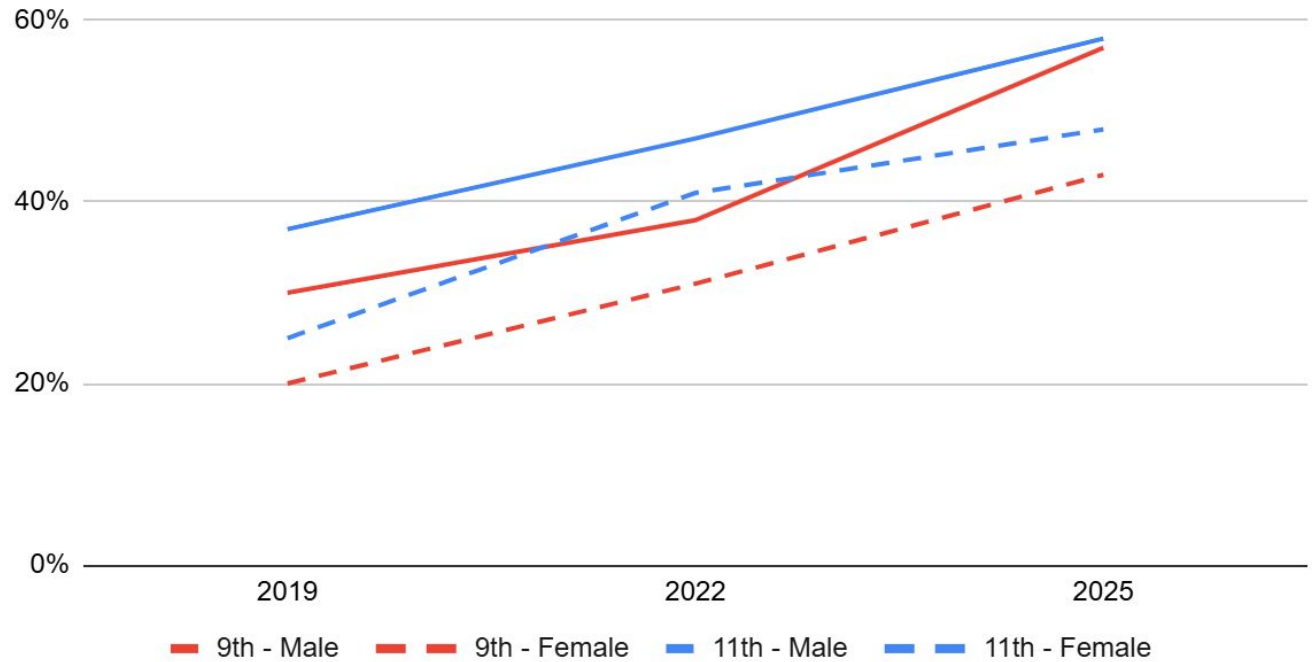
Has an adult in your school helped you think about education options for after high school (college or other training program)?



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# Post-Secondary Guidance: Career

Has an adult in your school helped you find career-focused field experiences?



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# Transportation To and From School

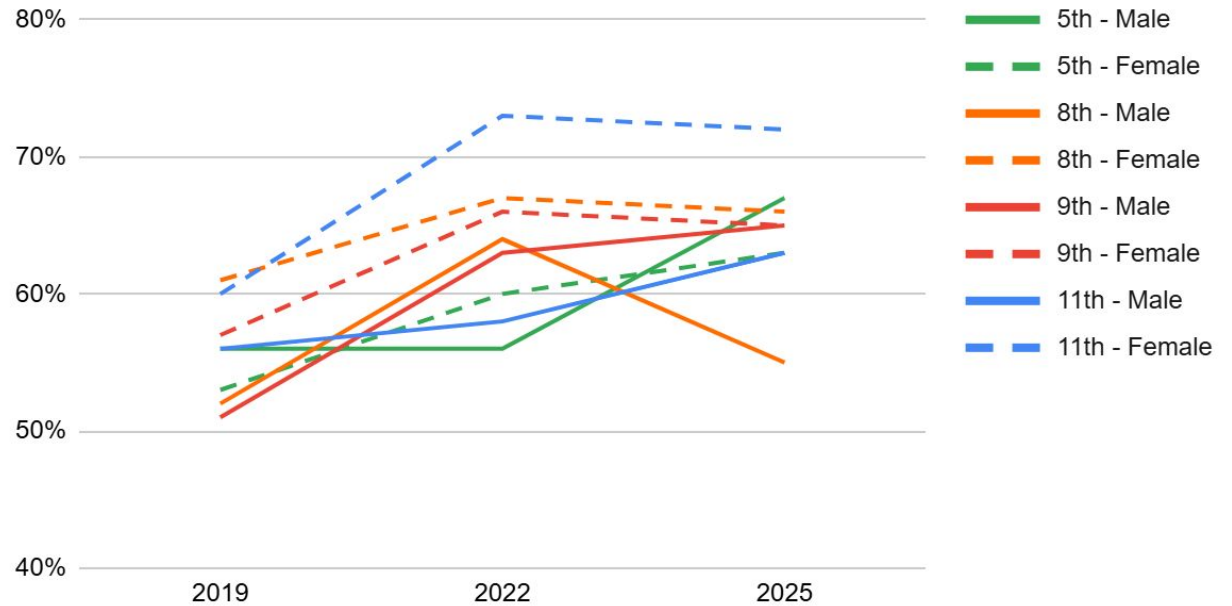
	Grade 5		Grade 8	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Walk	12%	5%	6%	5%
Bike	5%	1%	1%	1%
School bus	73%	70%	71%	67%
Family vehicle (riding with others from your family)	36%	44%	45%	54%
Carpools (riding with children from other families)	7%	11%	9%	6%
Transit (city bus, light rail, etc.)	0%	1%	0%	0%
Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)	0%	0%	0%	0%



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# Attendance

Percent of Students Who Missed at least 1 Day of School in the Past 30 Days





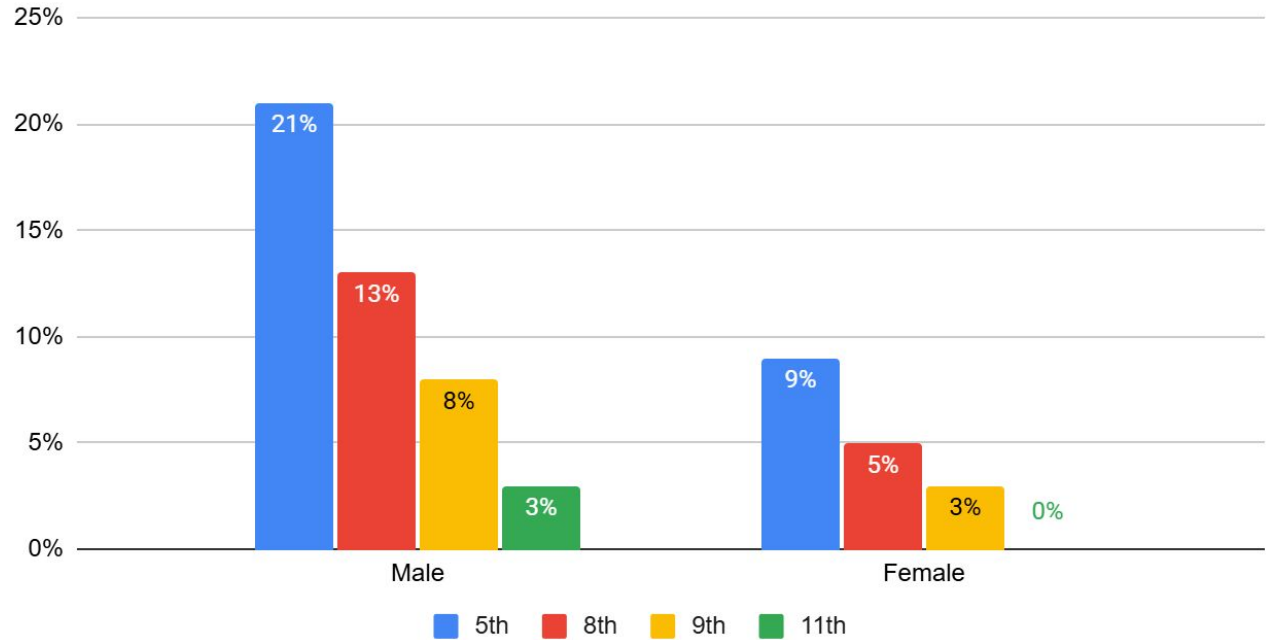
# Reasons for Absence

	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Felt sick	65%	70%	63%	63%	70%	68%	61%	66%
Medical, dental, or other appointment	Comparable to state average		39%	38%	46%	35%	Higher than state average (12%, 17%, 17%, 22% for (9 and 11)	
Felt very sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, or angry	2%	4%	2%	14%	4%	1%	1%	1%
Didn't get enough sleep	Higher than state average for 11th grade girls in particular (16%)		10%	11%	17%	11%	22%	19%
Behind in schoolwork or not prepared for a test or class assignment	Higher than state average for 11th grade girls in particular (16%)		1%	2%	3%	1%	7%	5%
Was out of town	17%	17%	9%	11%	14%	9%	16%	28%
Didn't feel safe at school	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%
Bored with or not interested in school	2%	2%	3%	6%	3%	8%	5%	10%

Higher than state average for 11th grade girls in particular (12%)

# Classroom Discipline

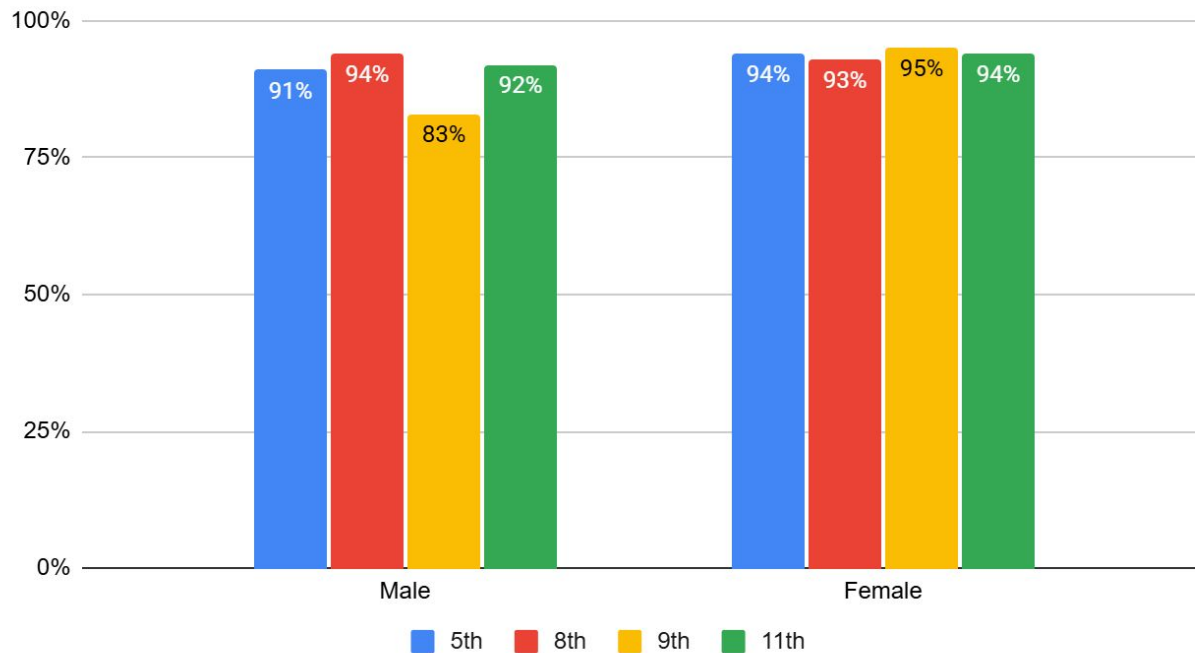
Percent sent out of class at least once for discipline in the past 30 days



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# Feelings About School

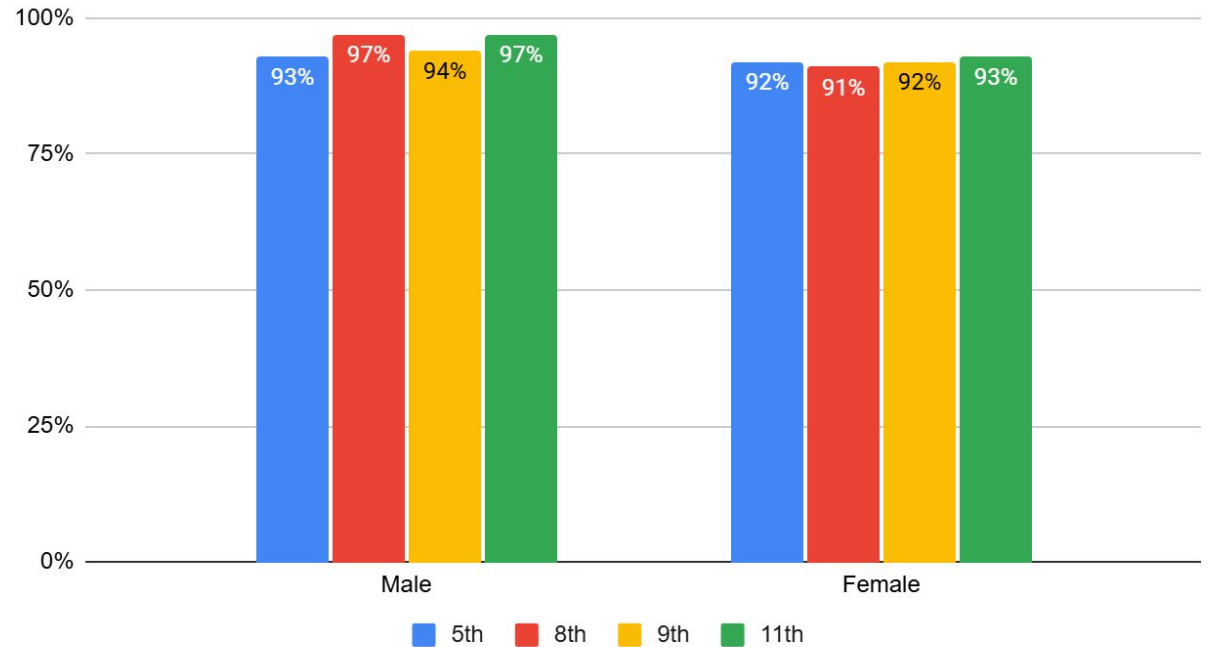
Percent who care about doing well in school all or most of the time



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# Perceptions of Safety

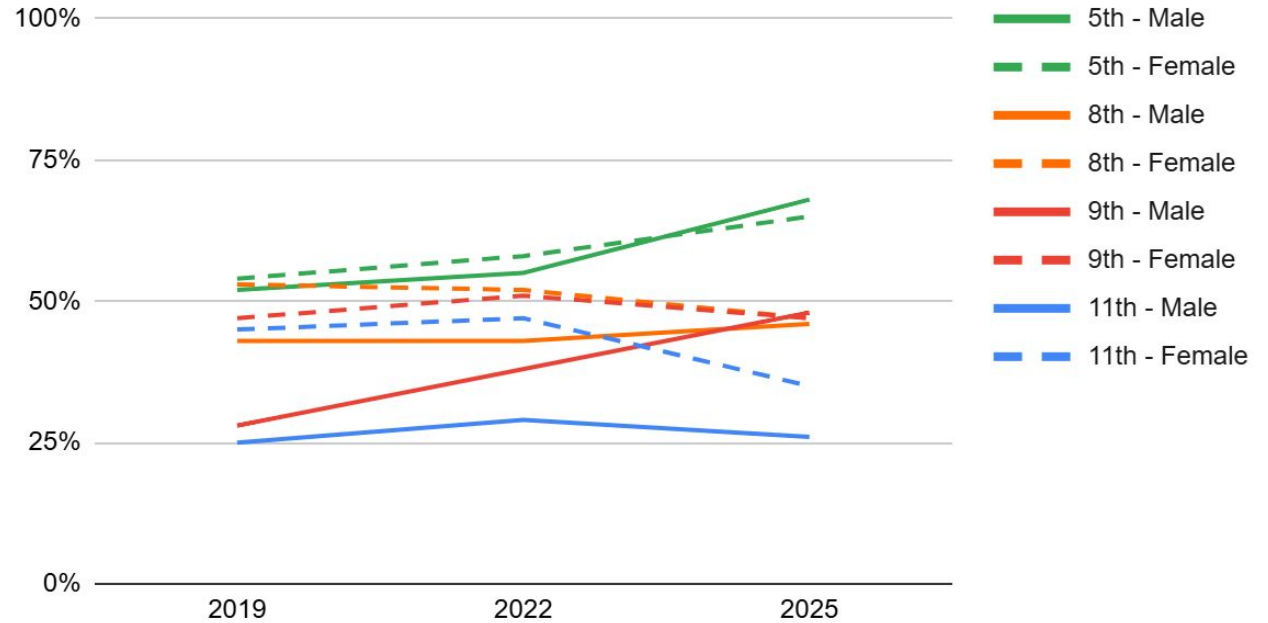
Percent who feel safe at school



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# Bullying - Composite

Percent of students who were bullied once or more in the last 30 days



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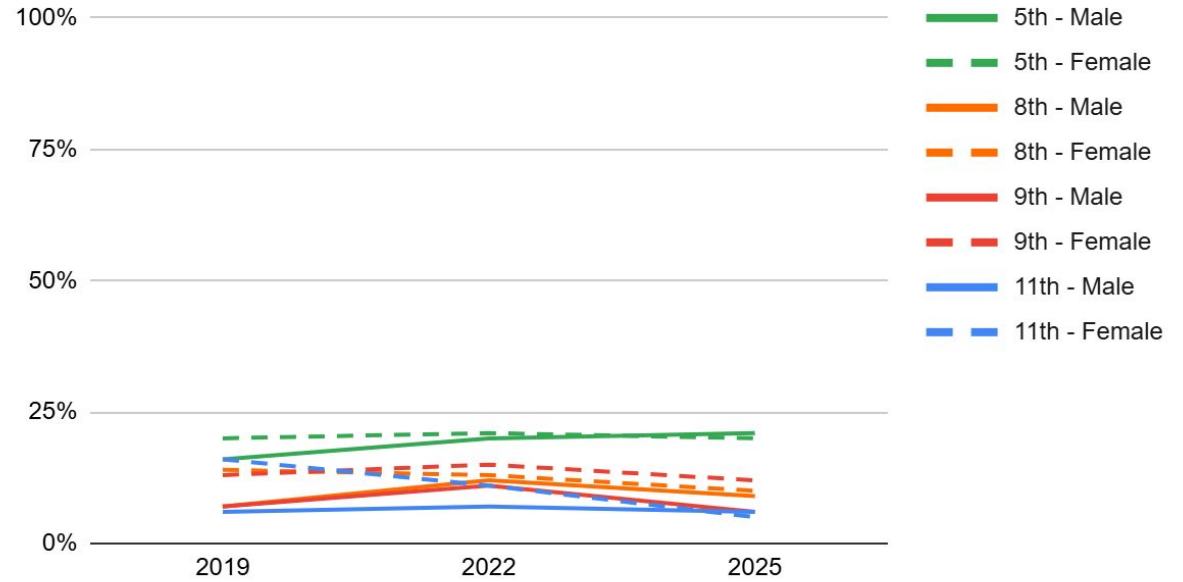


# Bullying - Reasons

IF bullied in the last 30 days, for which of these reasons were you harassed or bullied? Mark all that apply.	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Your race, ethnicity or national origin	7%	4%	17%	17%	10%	7%	20%	10%
Your religion or religious beliefs	3%	3%	2%	5%	2%	11%	13%	14%
Your sex or gender	3%	9%	0%	14%	10%	20%	0%	19%
Your gender expression			5%	24%	18%	29%	17%	19%
Because you are bisexual, gay, lesbian, asexual, pansexual, queer, or because someone thought you were			2%	12%	8%	16%	3%	19%
A physical or mental disability	5%	3%	9%	5%	8%	18%	17%	10%
Your size or weight	35%	23%	38%	29%	34%	29%	23%	19%
Your physical appearance	27%	23%	36%	56%	36%	44%	30%	48%
Reason not listed	55%	81%	45%	32%	48%	56%	33%	38%

# Cyber-Bullying

Percent of students who were cyberbullied once or more in the last 30 days



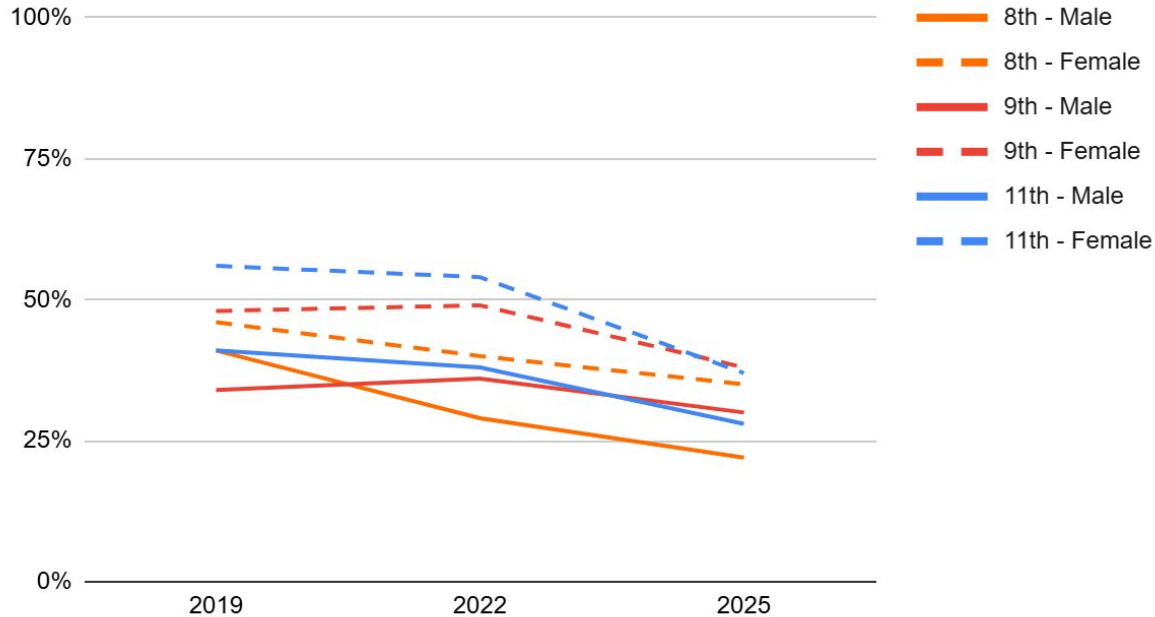
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# Risk Factors

# Adverse Childhood Experiences

## ACEs Score of 1 or More



An adverse childhood experience (ACE) describes a traumatic experience in a person's life occurring before age 18. The ACEs Score is a measure of cumulative exposure to adverse childhood conditions, and combines the responses to questions about:

- Living with anyone who drinks too much alcohol, uses illegal drugs or abuses prescription drugs
- Living with anyone who is depressed or has another mental health issue
- Parental incarceration
- Verbal or physical abuse
- Domestic violence
- Sexual abuse

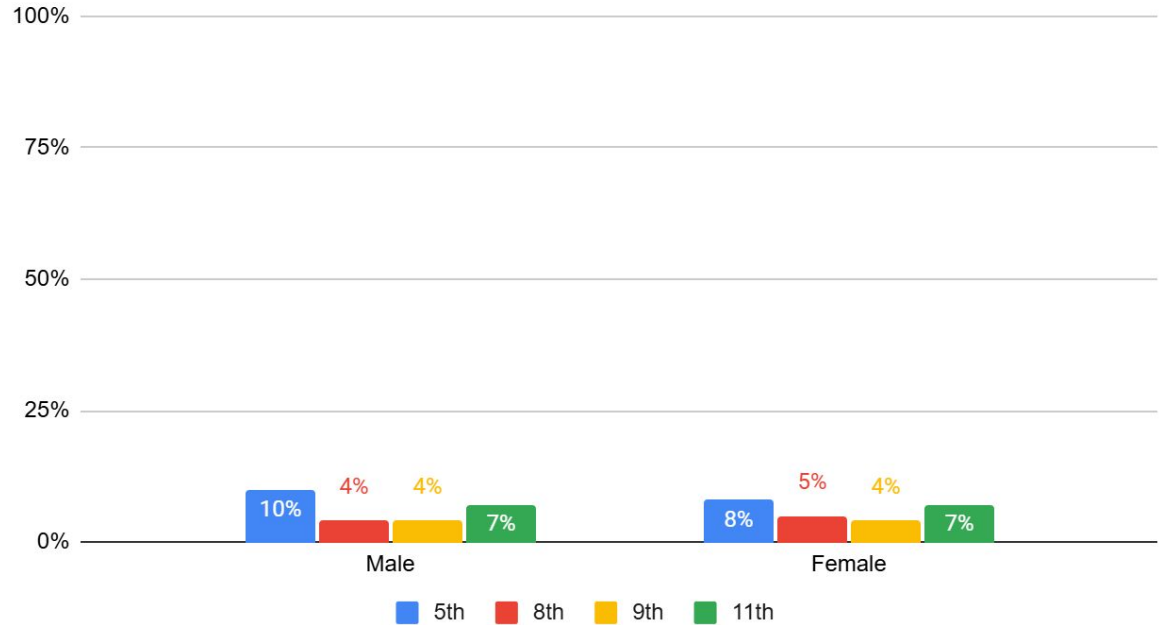


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# Gun Violence

Have you ever experienced people using guns to threaten or hurt others in person?

Percent who have ever experienced gun violence in person



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# Relationship Violence

Percent who responded yes to the following questions	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Have you been in a casual or serious relationship where your partner ever physically hurt you on purpose?			2%	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%
Have you been in a casual or serious relationship where your partner ever verbally hurt or controlled you?			7%	8%	8%	11%	7%	14%
Have you been in a casual or serious relationship where your partner ever pressured, tricked, or forced you to do something sexual, or did something sexual to you against your wishes?					3%	10%	4%	18%
Have YOU ever pressured, tricked, or forced someone to do something sexual, or have you done something sexual to someone against their wishes?					3%	3%	1%	3%



# Physical Health

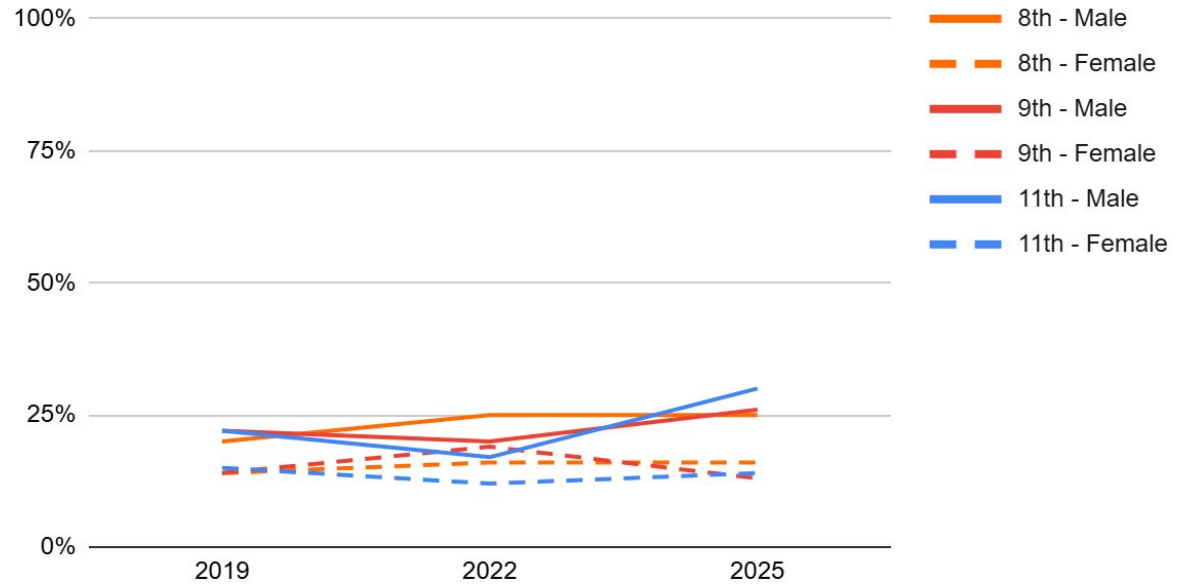


# Physical Health Conditions

Percent with the following physical health conditions	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Diabetes</b>	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	2%
<b>Pre-diabetes</b>	2%	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%	5%	2%
<b>Asthma</b>	11%	12%	9%	11%	13%	16%	16%	16%
<b>Allergies that require an epi-pen</b>	7%	4%	6%	5%	4%	8%	7%	6%

# Weight Status

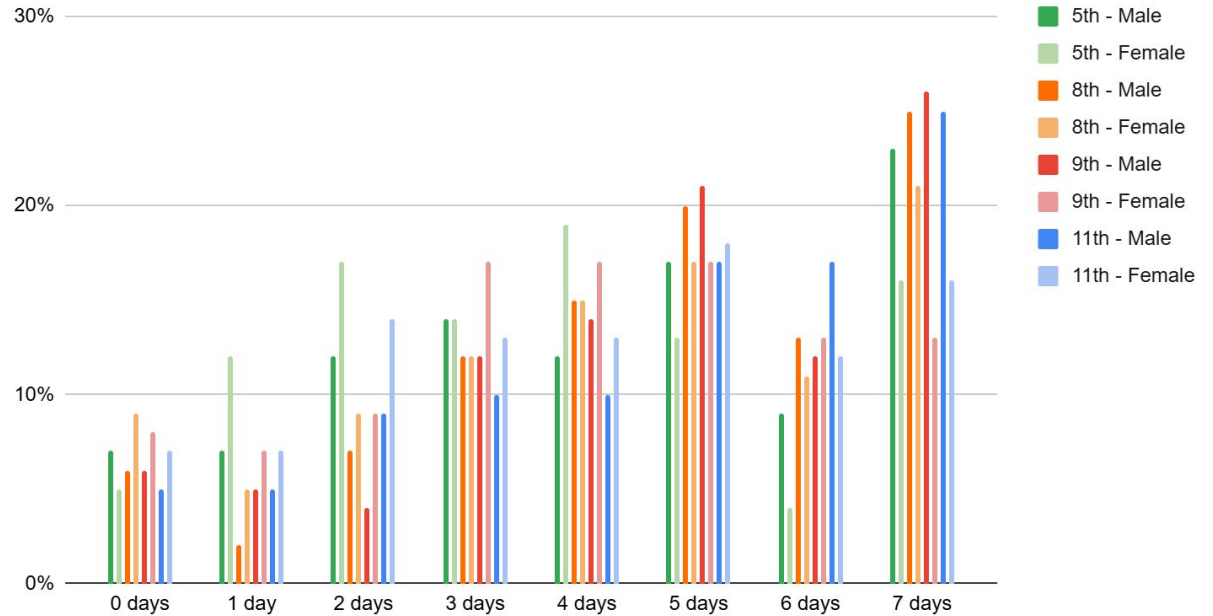
Percent overweight or obese, based on calculated BMI (self-reported weight and height)



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# Physical Activity

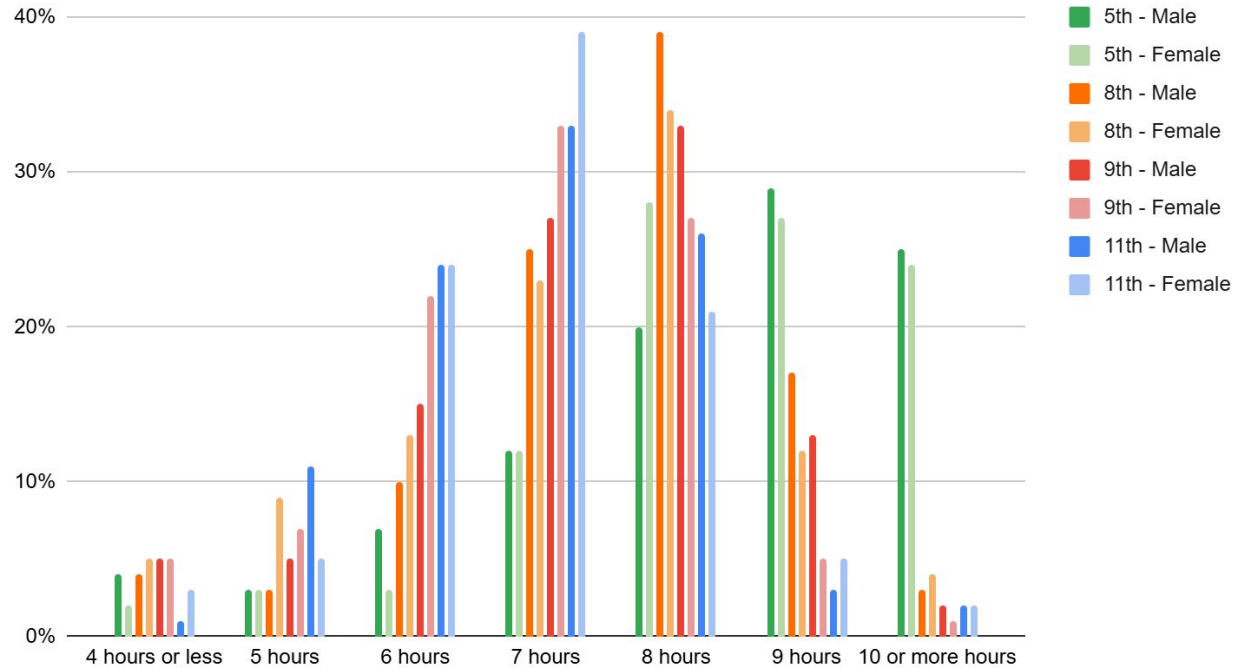
During the last 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day?



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# Sleep

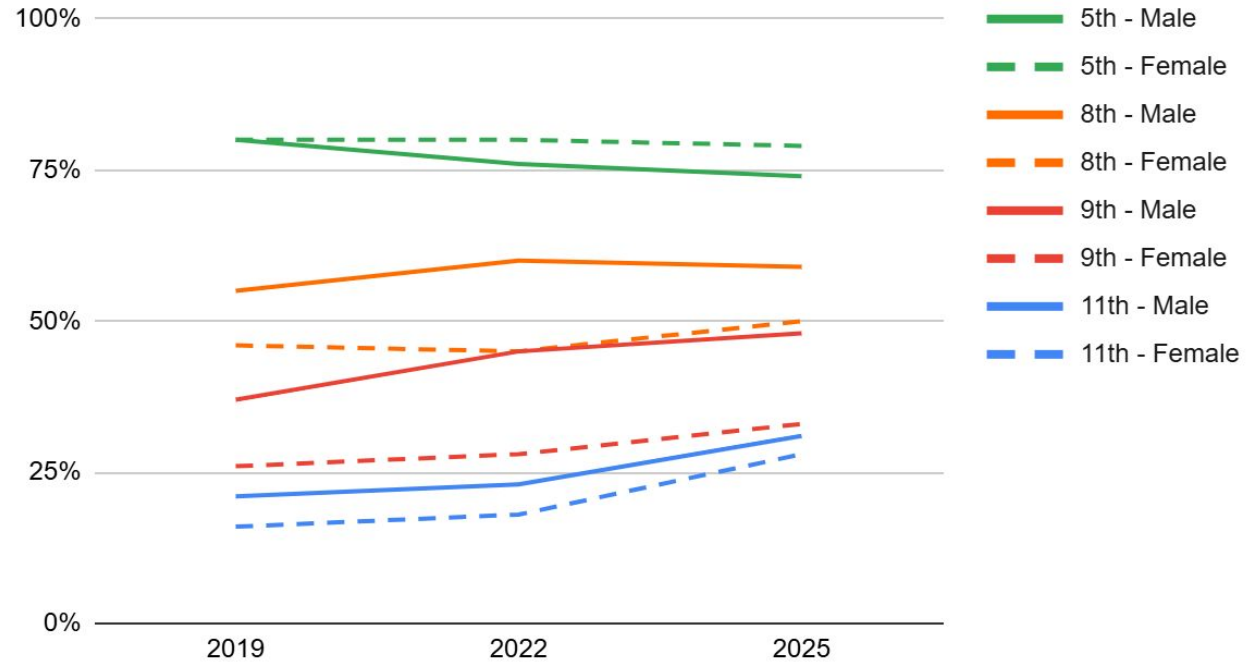
During a typical school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?



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# Sleep

Percent getting 8 or more hours of sleep



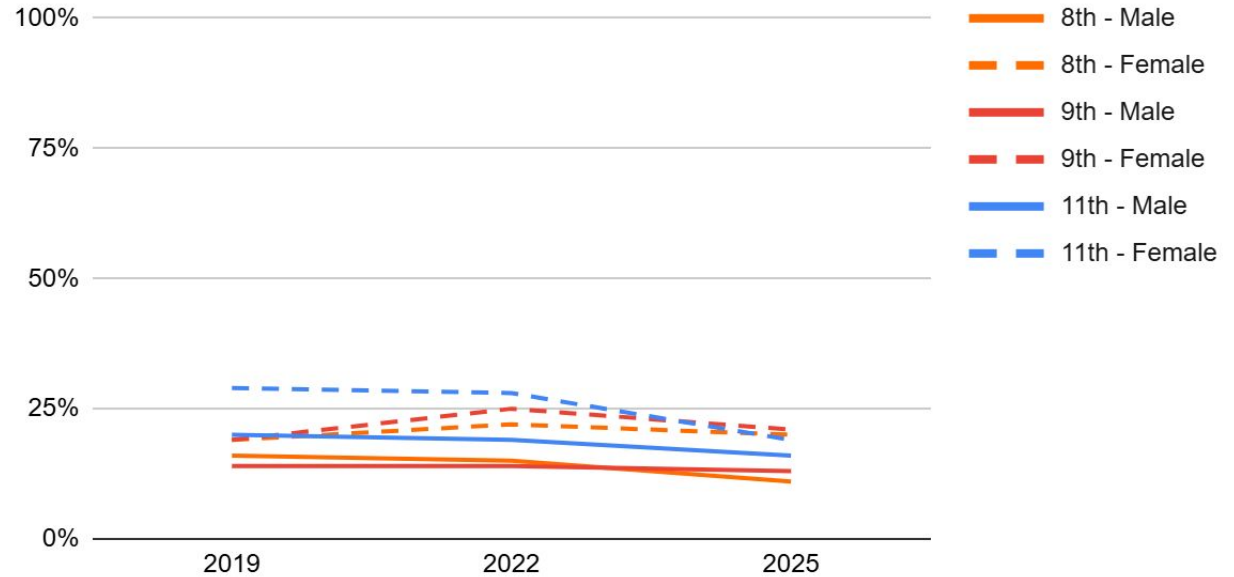
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# Mental Health

# Emotional Well-Being and Distress

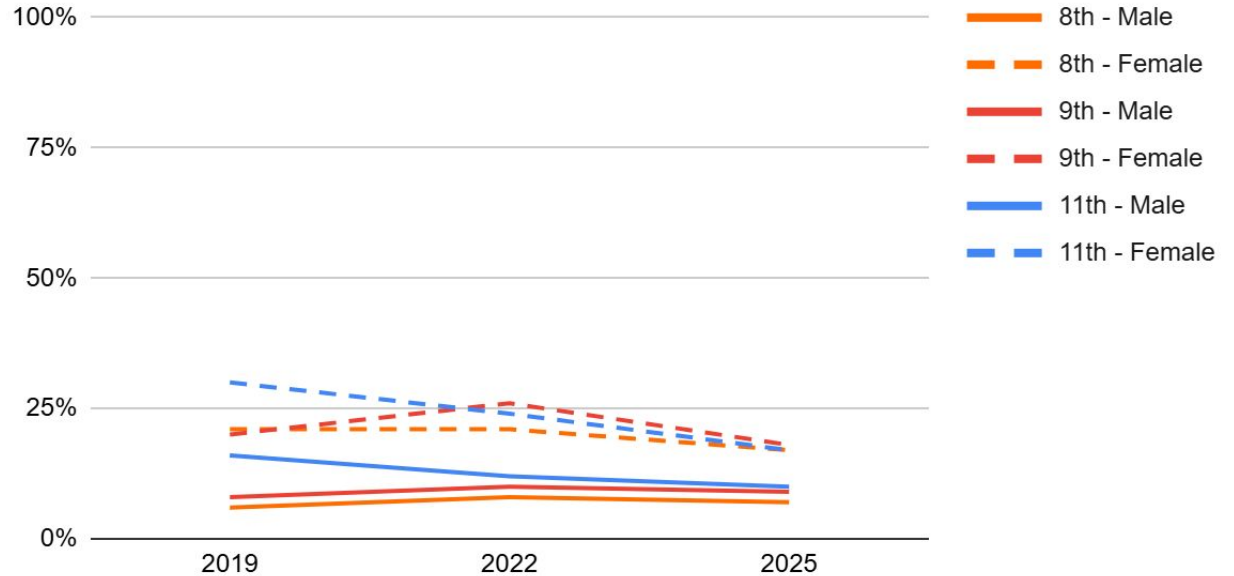
Percent reporting being bothered by little interest or pleasure in doing things more than half the days or nearly every day in the last two weeks



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# Emotional Well-Being and Distress

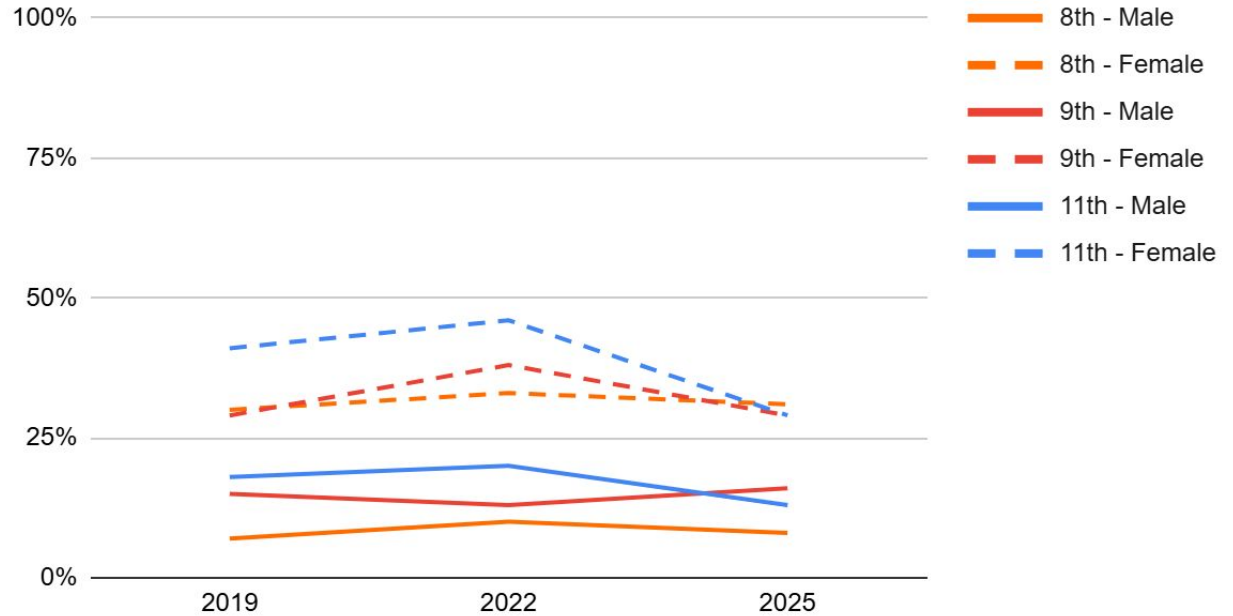
Percent reporting being bothered by feeling down, depressed, or hopeless more than half the days or nearly every day in the last two weeks



Expect  
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# Emotional Well-Being and Distress

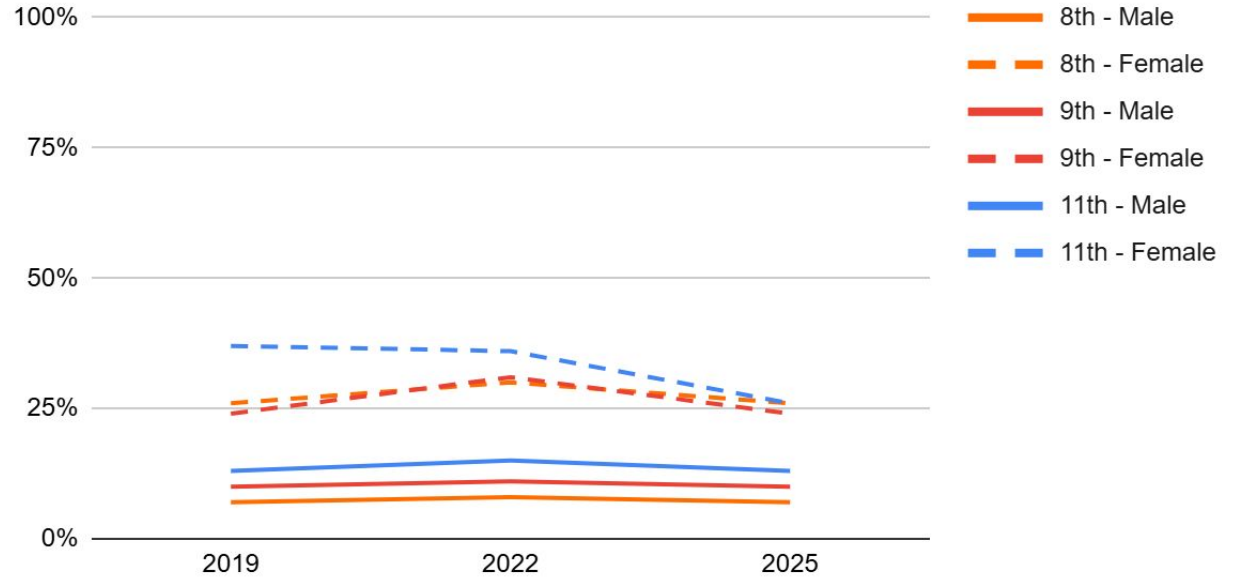
Percent reporting being bothered by feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge more than half the days or nearly every day in the last two weeks



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# Emotional Well-Being and Distress

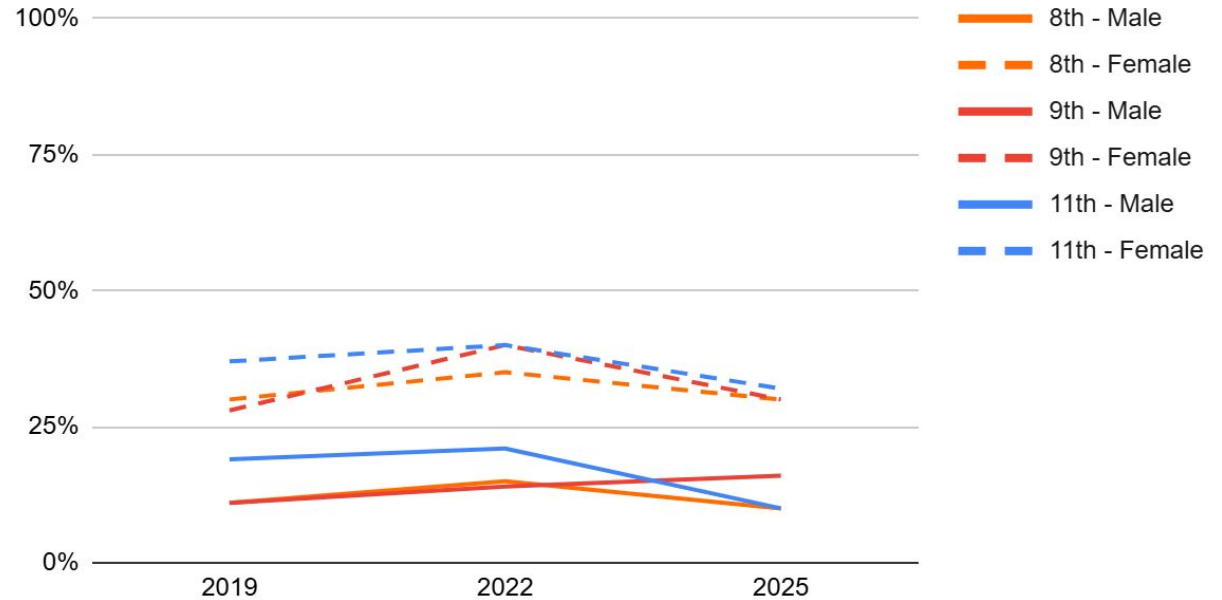
Percent reporting being bothered by not being able to stop or control worrying more than half the days or nearly every day in the last two weeks



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# Mental Health Problem

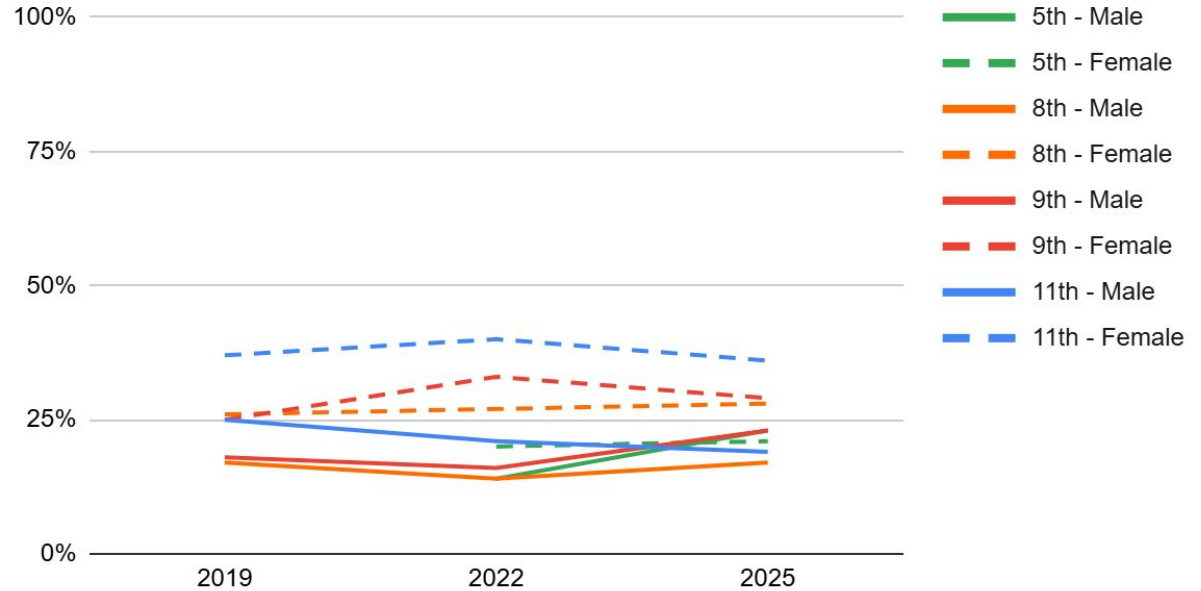
Percent with any long-term mental health, behavioral, or emotional problems



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# Mental Health Treatment

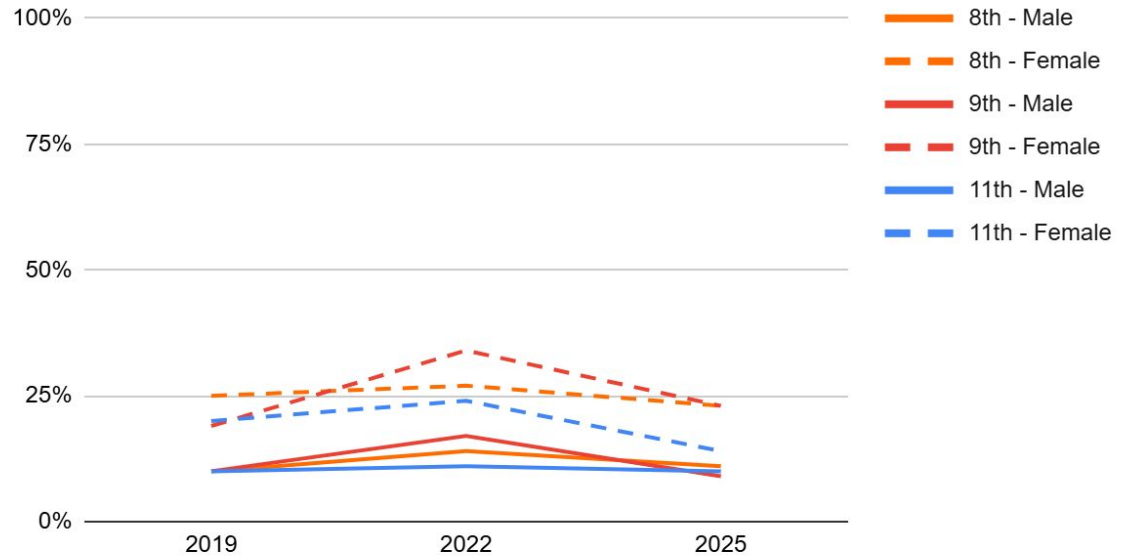
Percent ever treated for a mental health, emotional, or behavioral problem



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# Self-Inflicted Injury

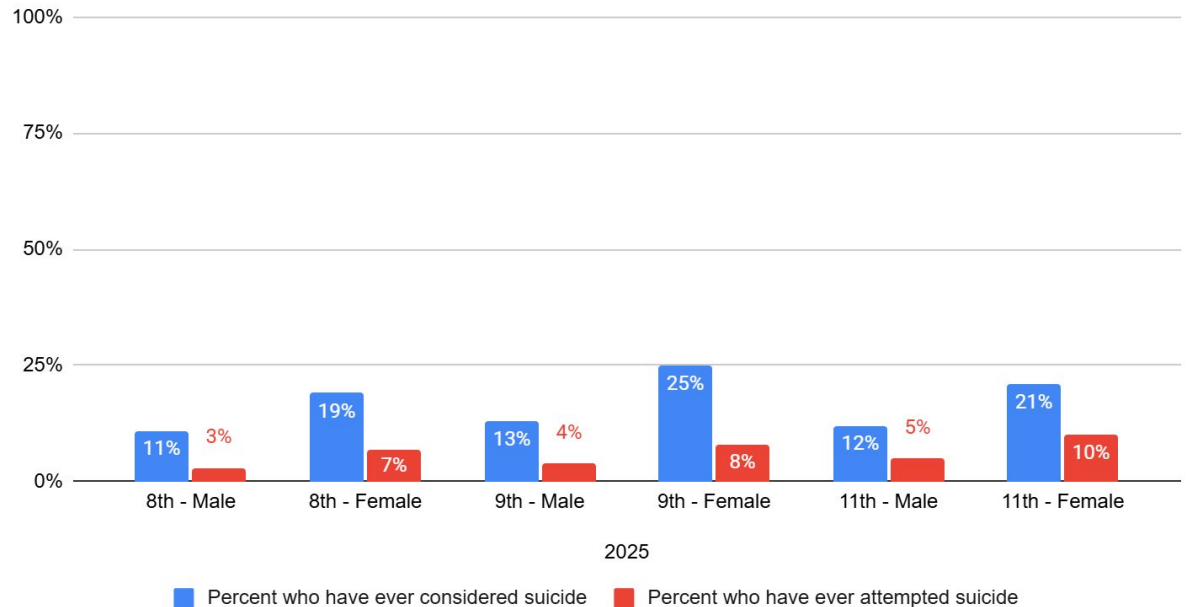
Percent of students who purposely hurt or injured themselves in the past 12 months



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# Suicidal Thoughts and Suicidal Behavior

Percent who have ever considered suicide and Percent who have ever attempted suicide



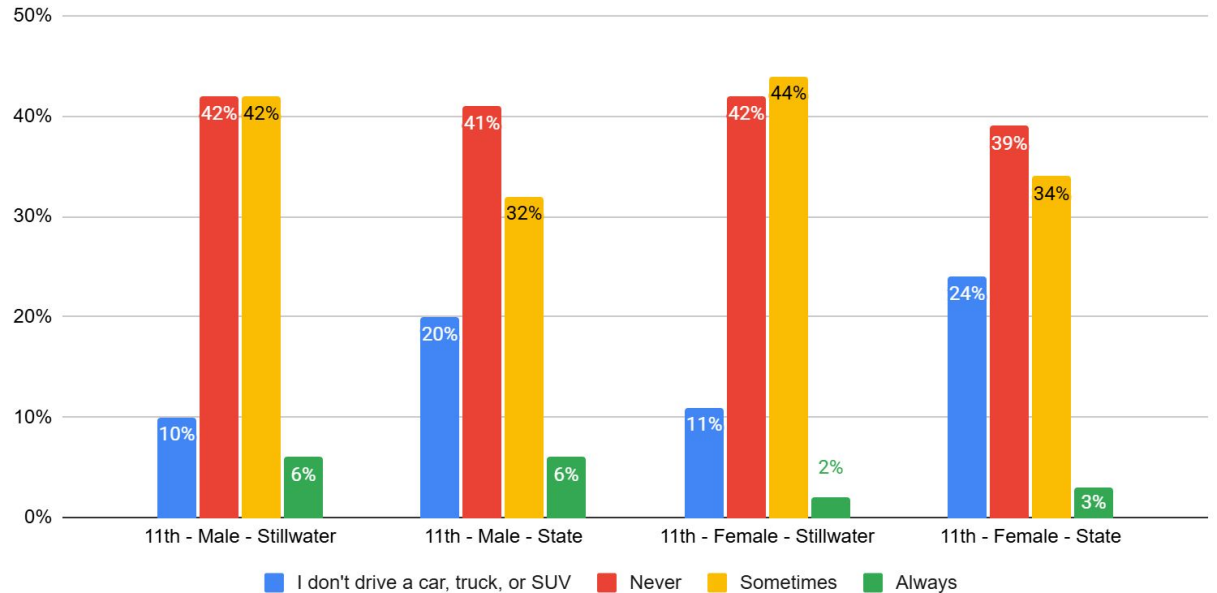
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# Health Behaviors

# Vehicle Safety

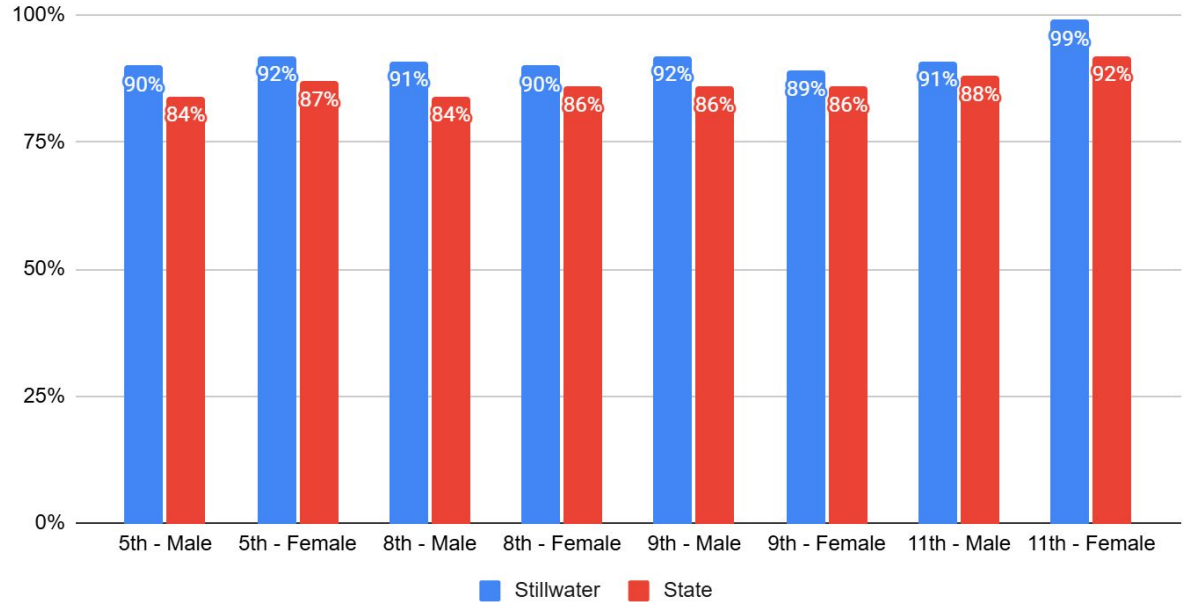
When driving a car, truck or SUV, how often do you handle your phone to do things like send or read text messages, take pictures, use social media, stream videos, or videochat?



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# Vehicle Safety

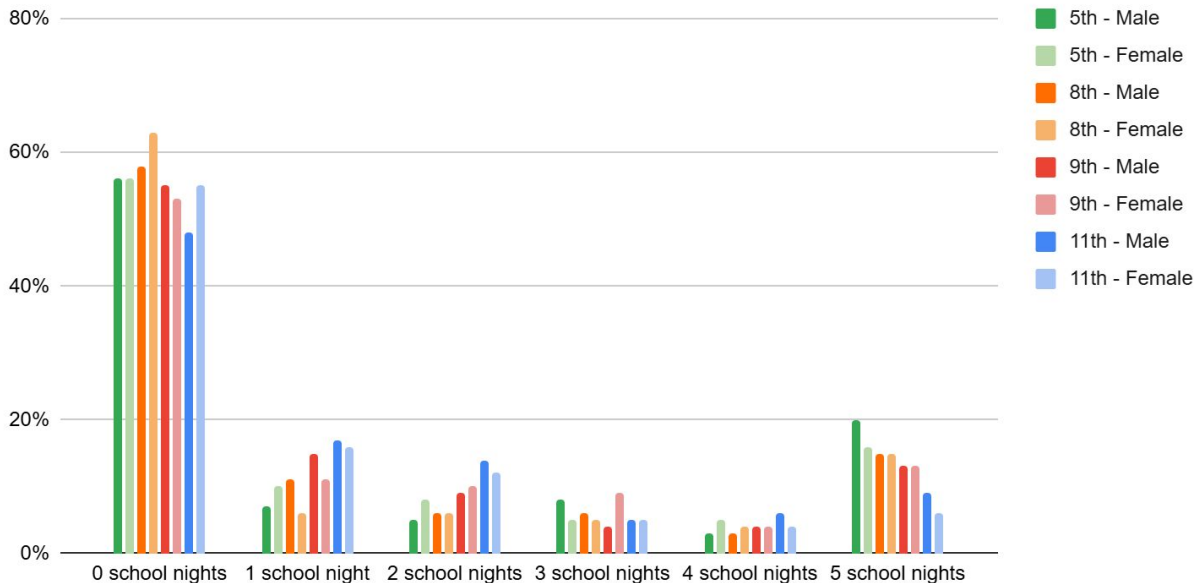
Percent who always wear a seat belt when driving or riding in a car, truck or SUV



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# Technology Use

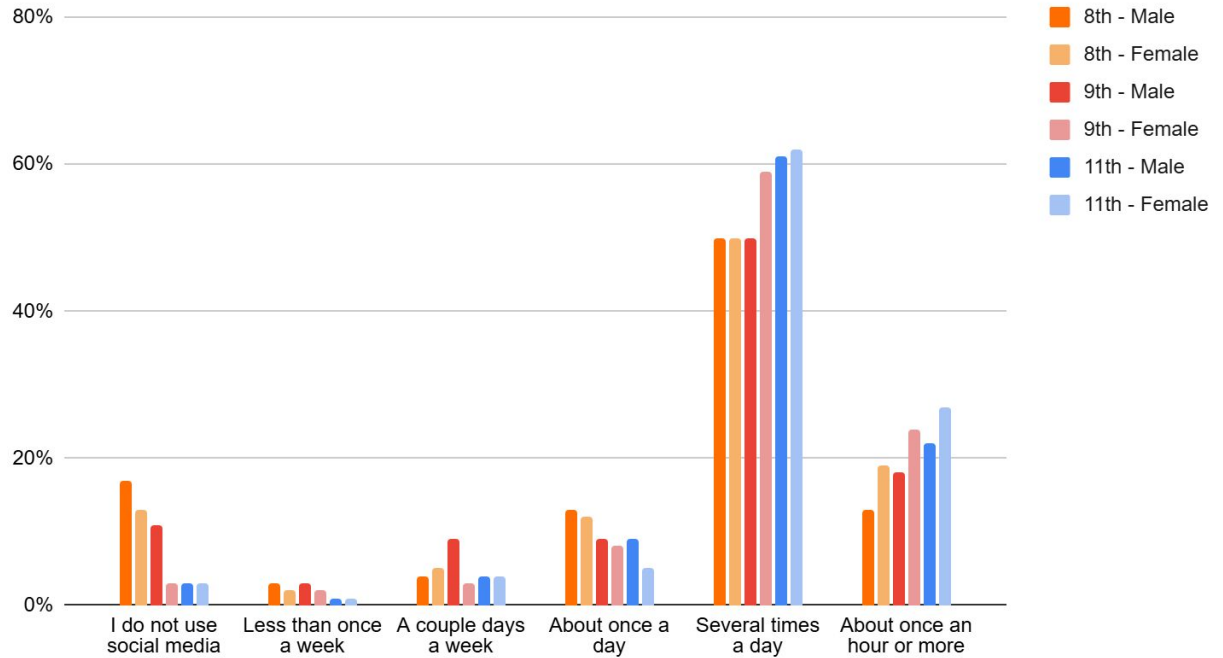
During an average week when you are in school, on how many school nights do you use technology between midnight and 5AM? (Count time spent playing games, watching videos, texting, or using social media on your devices.)



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# Social Media Use

In a typical week, how often do you use social media?



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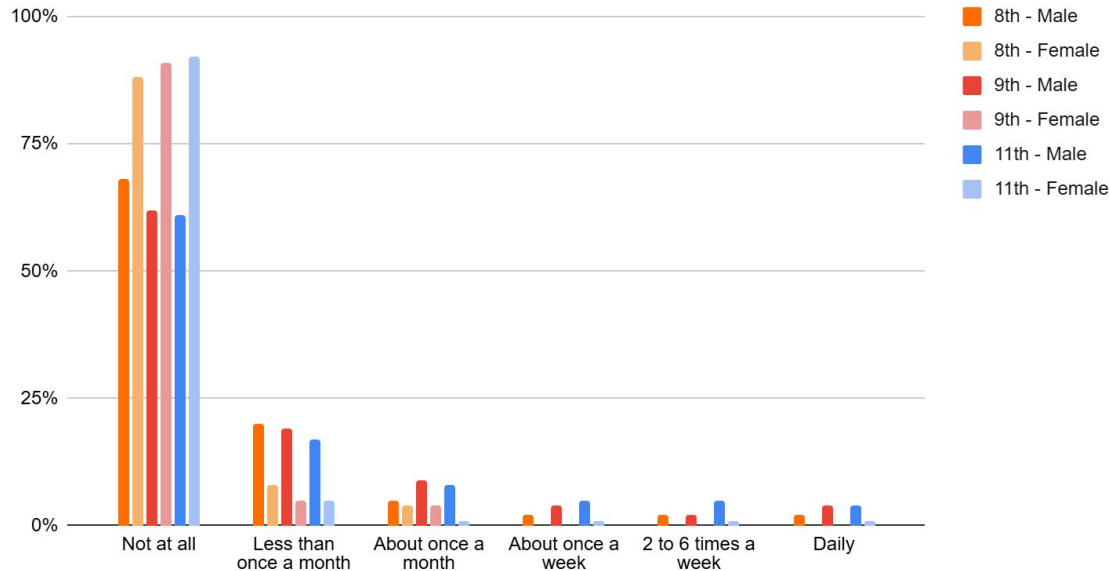
# Social Media Use

Percent of those who use social media who answered yes to the following:	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Do you feel that you might have a problem with spending too much time on social media?			28%	42%	30%	39%	39%	51%
Do you skip important social or recreational activities like sports or being with friends or relatives to be on social media?			6%	6%	7%	7%	5%	6%
Do you have trouble getting your homework, chores, or other major responsibilities done because you were spending time on social media?			26%	40%	26%	35%	38%	42%



# Gambling Behavior

During the last 12 months, how often have you gambled, made bets, bought lottery tickets or scratch offs, or made purchases in online games?



## Most common among males:

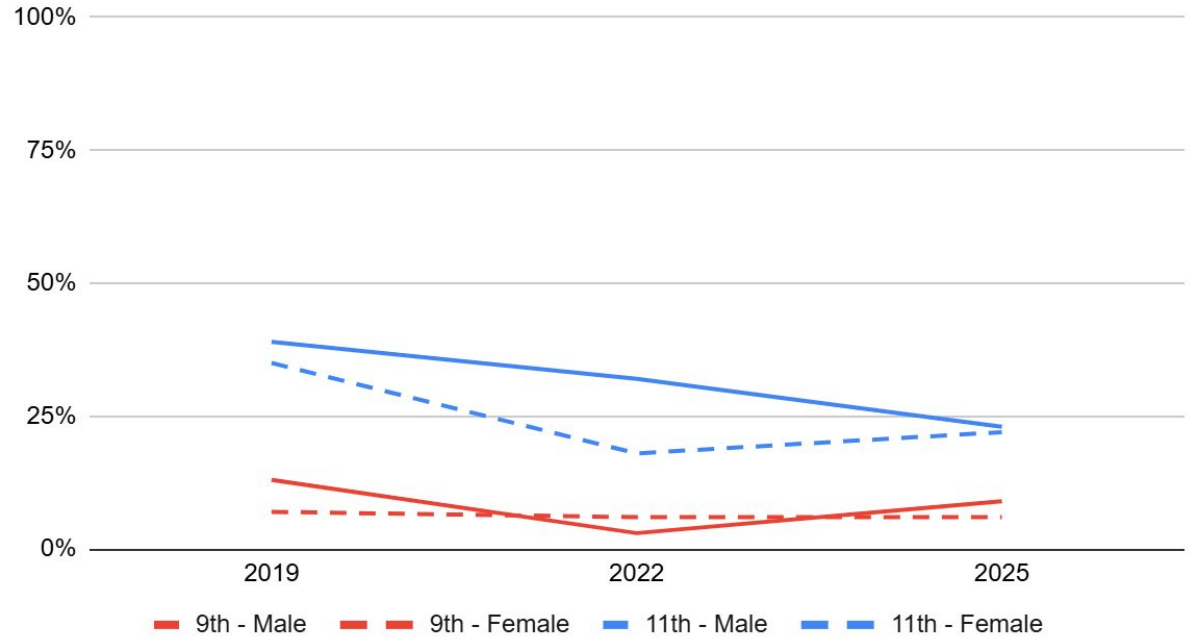
- Betting on informal games of personal skill
- Betting on formal sports/events
- Purchasing mystery or random paid items in online games without previewing the content first

## Most common among females:

- Betting on informal games of personal skill
- Buying lottery tickets or scratch offs
- Purchasing mystery or random paid items in online games without previewing the content first

# Sexual Behavior

Percent who have ever had sex

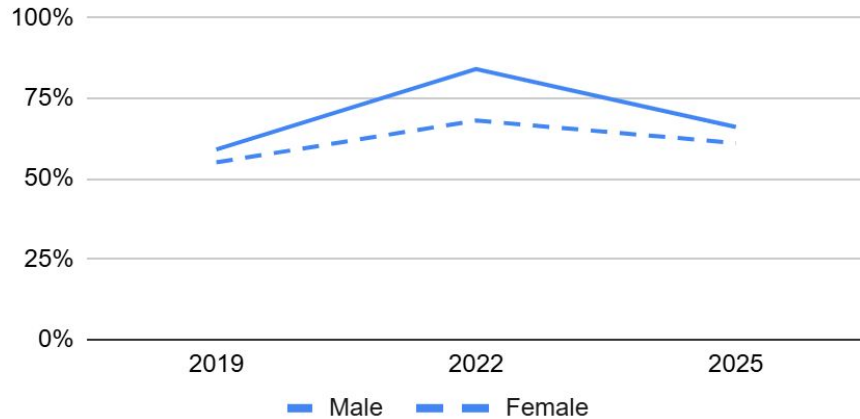


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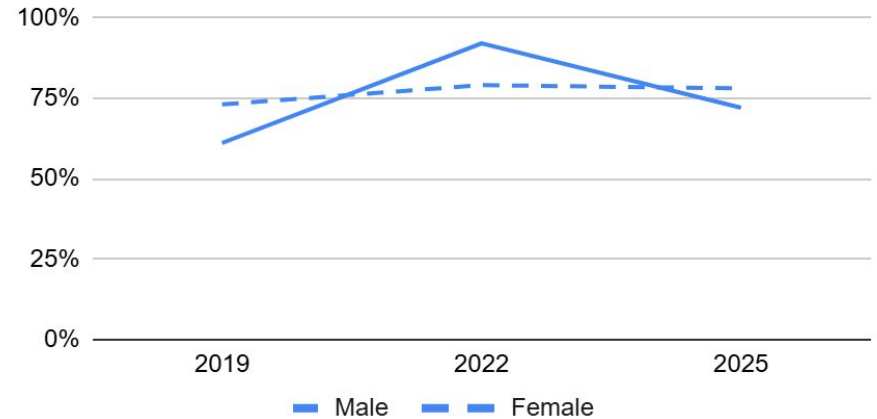


# Prevention of Pregnancy and Infection

Percent who have talked about protection from STIs at least once with every partner

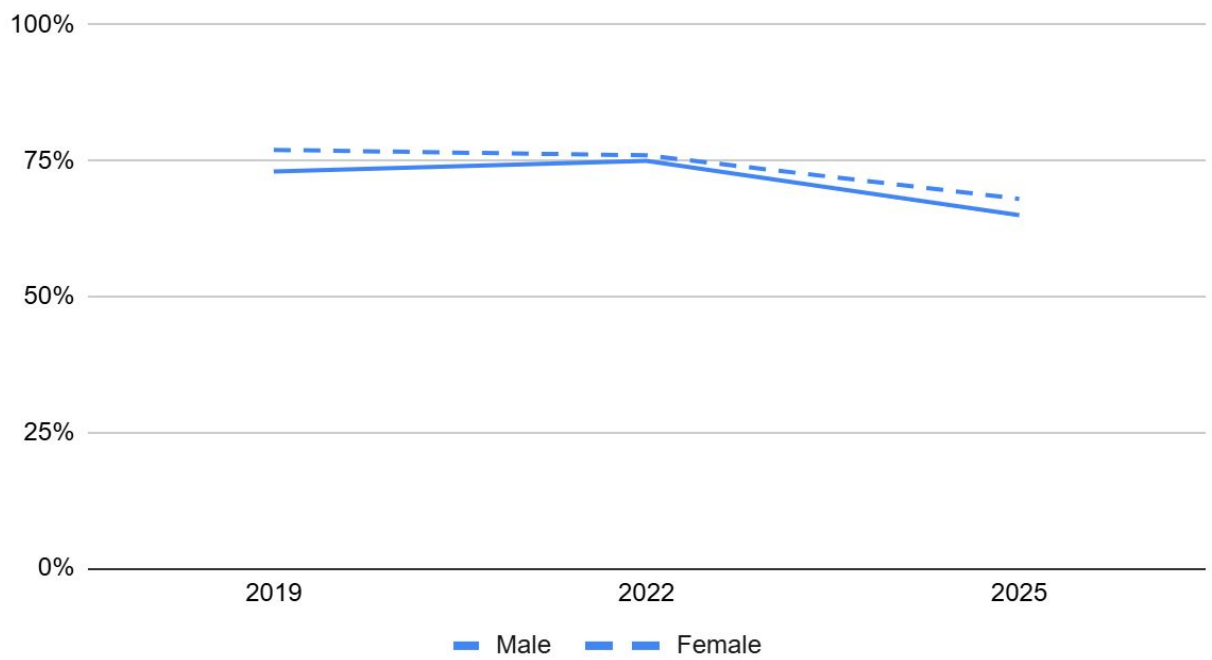


Percent who have talked about preventing pregnancy at least once with every partner



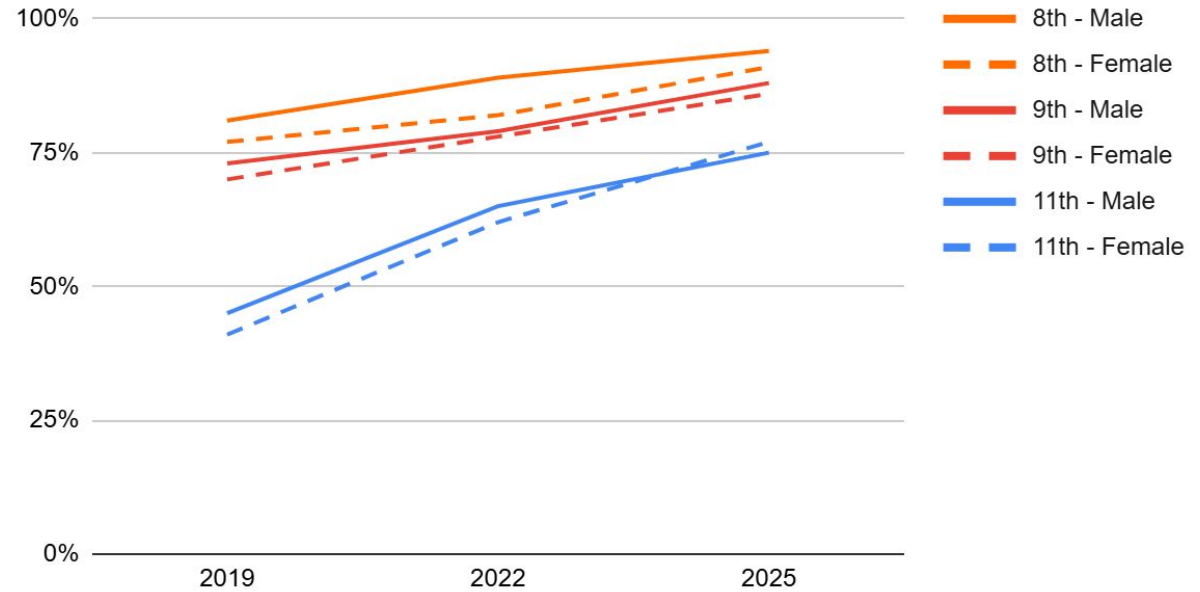
# Prevention of Pregnancy and Infection

Percent who used a condom or dental dam the last time they had sex



# Substance Use

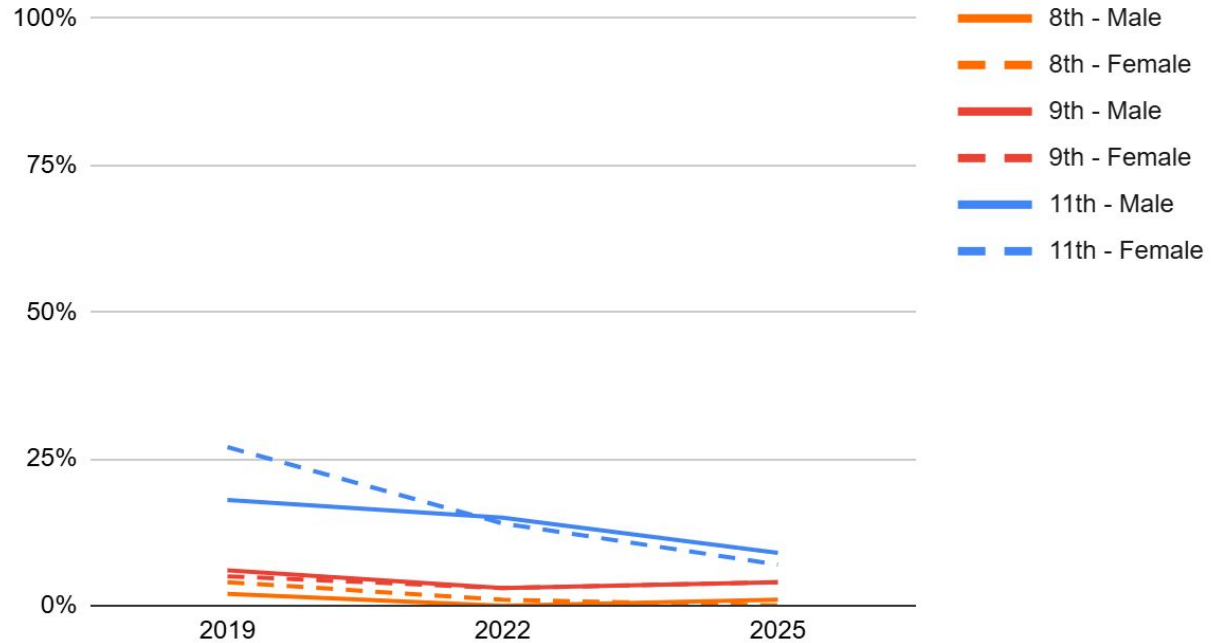
Percent who did not use alcohol, marijuana, or any other drug in the past year



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# Alcohol Use

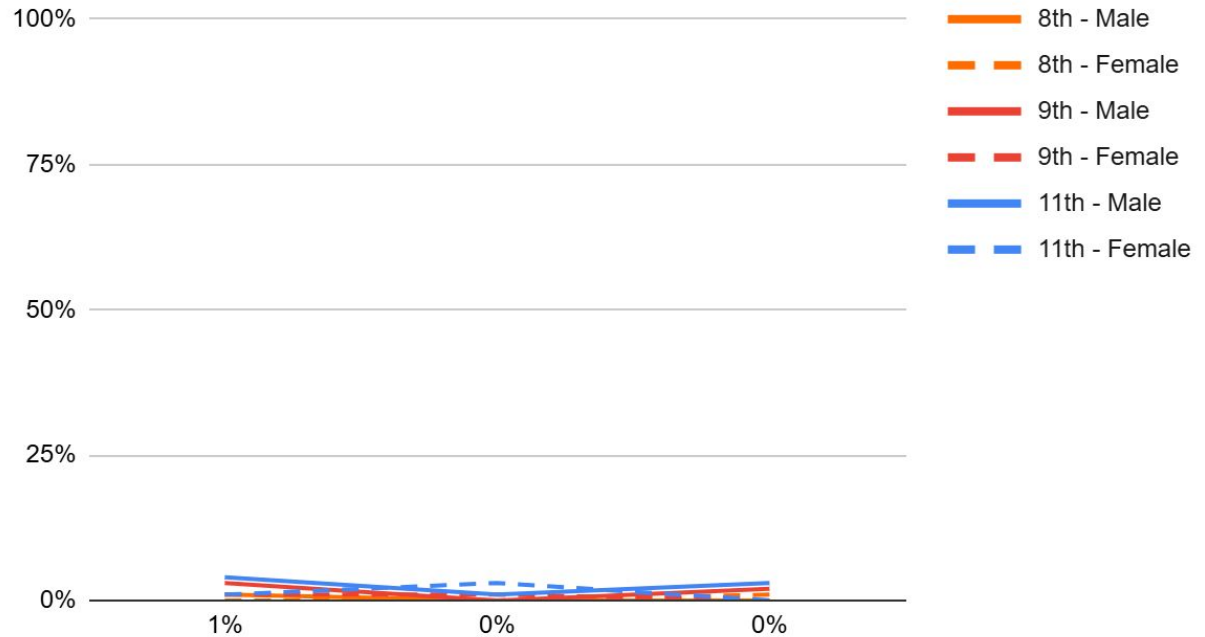
Percent who use alcohol at least monthly



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# Tobacco Use

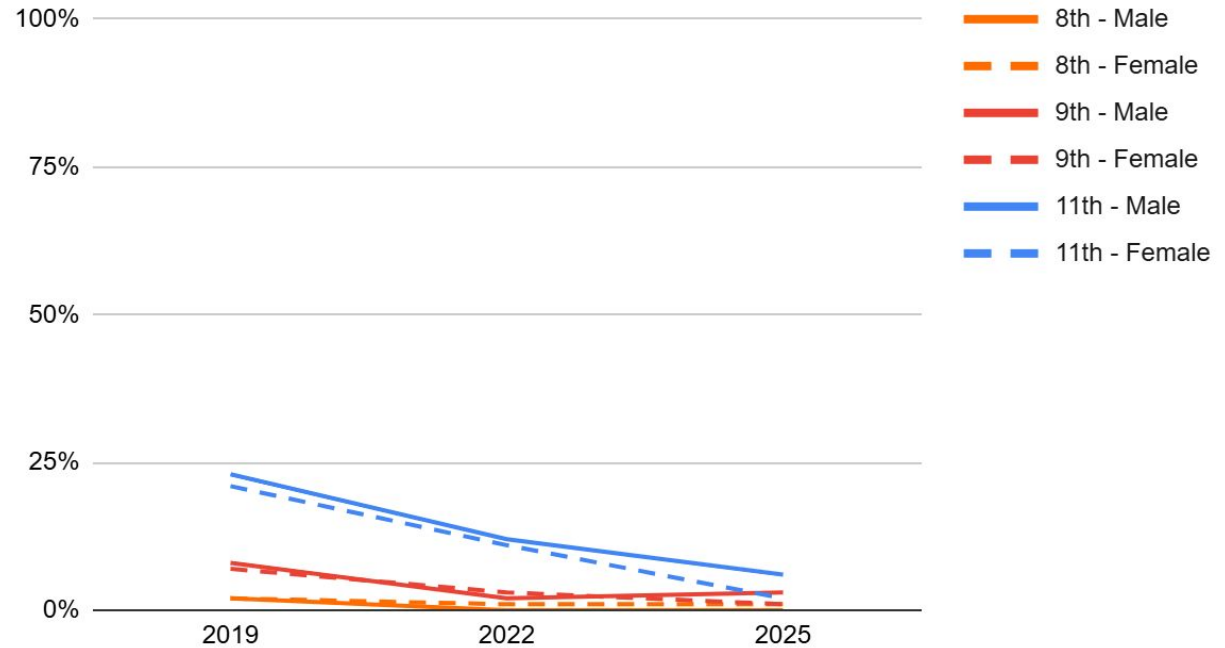
Percent who use tobacco at least monthly



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# Marijuana Use

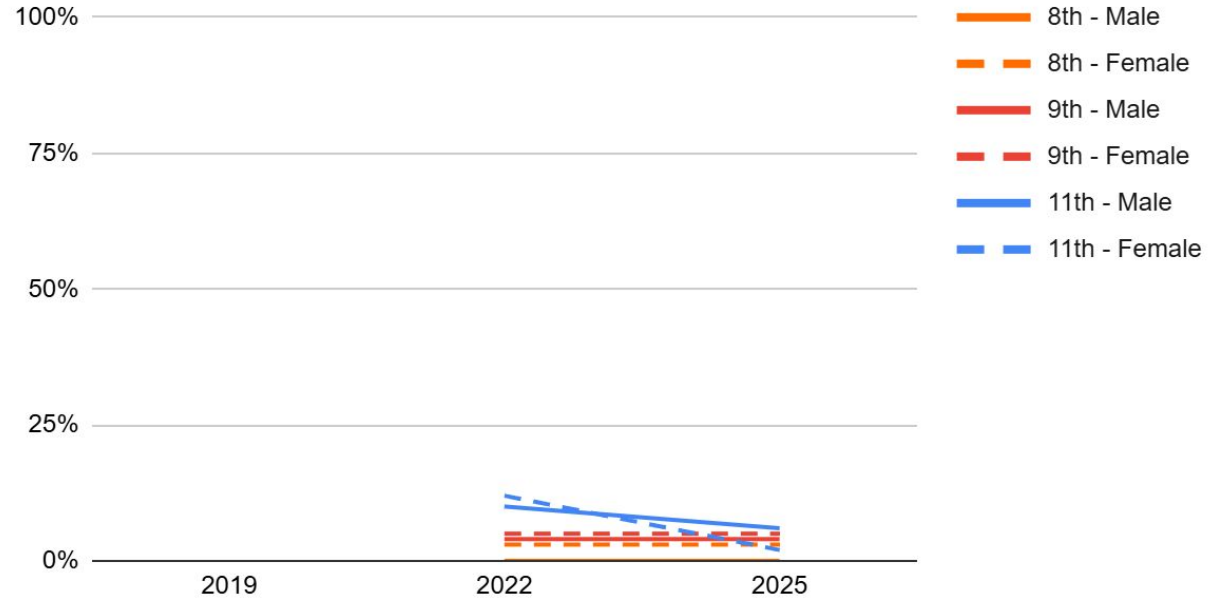
Percent who use marijuana at least monthly



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# E-Cigarettes - Nicotine

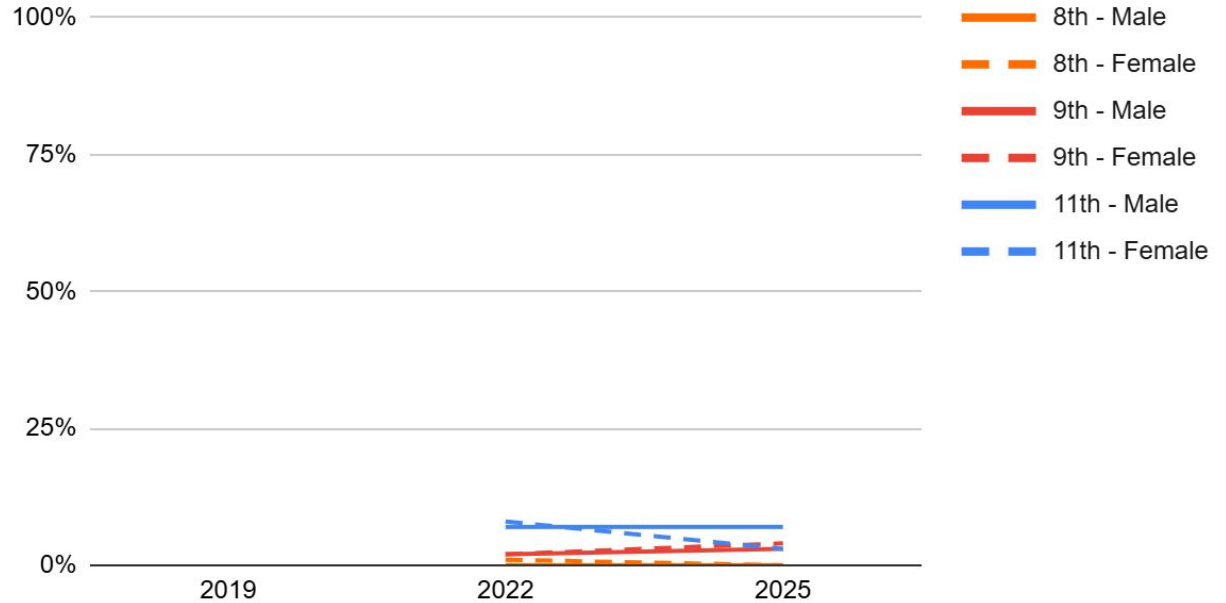
Percent who use a vaping device or e-cigarette with nicotine at least monthly



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# E-Cigarettes: Marijuana/ THC

Percent who use a vaping device or e-cigarette with marijuana/THC at least monthly



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# Perception of Others' Substance Use

Percent who have "ever" used the following:	Grade 11 - Male		Grade 11 - Female	
	In your opinion, how often do you think most students in your school use each of the following?	How often do you use each of the following?	In your opinion, how often do you think most students in your school use each of the following?	How often do you use each of the following?
Tobacco (cigarettes, chew)	52%	7%	65%	4%
Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)	76%	29%	85%	30%
Marijuana (pot, hash, hash oil)	65%	11%	79%	11%
Vaping device or e-cigarette with nicotine	75%	13%	88%	16%
Vaping device or e-cigarette with marijuana/THC	65%	10%	81%	8%



# Next Steps

Share information with:

- School principals and BILT teams
- Counselors, social workers, and school psychologists
- Health teachers

Request school-level data for the middle schools

Review key indicators by race/ethnicity



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# Questions