Town of Trumbull

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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
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MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Kelly Mallozzi called the meeting to order at 7:44p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT:

Ann Sather	Anthony Dorsey	Thomas Broderick
Christine El Eris	William Mecca	Jason Marsh
Jennifer Winschel	John Foreman	Kelly Mallozzi
Mary Isaac	Tony Scinto	Jerrod Ferrari
Matthew Dunn	Michael Buswell	Richard Wolf
Brian Walsh	Steven Spillane	Carl Massaro
Nicole Satin	Joy Colon (Via phone)	

ABSENT: Ashley Gaudiano

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officers Cynthia Katske and Kathleen McGannon, Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, Finance Director Maria Pires, Gia Mentillo of the Economic & Community Development department, Director of Labor Relations Thomas McCarthy

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Vice-Chairman Mallozzi noted they would take items out of order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by Satin, seconded by Winschel to approve the May 4, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

RECOGNITION

- Trumbull High School We the People Team - Katie Boland THS teacher introduced herself and provided a brief history of the We the People program, which is a full-year course at Trumbull High School. Katie Boland shared that the team won their 30th state championship, beating Staples rival by over 50 points. The team performed exceptionally well at Nationals, placing in the top 10 and competing against top judges.

The program is divided into six units, each specializing in different areas, including historical philosophical foundations and modern topics. Katie Boland introduced the team members who shared their experiences and future plans.

The Vice-Chair congratulated the team and Mrs. Boland, noting everyone at this meeting is incredibly proud of the team and cannot wait to see what they accomplish in their lives.

First Selectman Tesoro congratulated the We the People team and acknowledged Katie Boland's significant impact on the students' lives. Katie Boland has been awarded the 2026 Street Law Classroom Champion Award for her outstanding work in civic and law-related education. All present congratulated her. It was noted many people in the room have supported the team over the years.

Katie Boland shares a heartwarming story about a tour guide who was moved by the team's performance and sent special gifts.

All present congratulated the team and Katie Boland.

DISCUSSION:

- FY2025 Auditor's Report - Kyle Connors, CPA of CBIZ CPAs presented the attached fiscal year 2025 auditors report, highlighting the town's financial health and the issuance of an unmodified opinion.

    - The town's general fund balance decreased by $3.8 million, leaving an unassigned fund balance of 26.8 million, which represents 13% of the operating budget.
    - Revenue was under budget by $5 million, primarily due to tax appeals.
    - Collection rate was at 99.1%.
    - The town spent $2.9 million in ARPA funds, leaving about $300,000 deferred at year-end.
    - Kyle Connors provided a detailed analysis of the town's financial statements, including revenue and expenditure breakdowns.
    - The WPCA fund had an operating loss of $2 million, and the golf fund had a slight decrease in operating expenses.
    - The town issued and refunded bonds, staying well under the legal debt limit of $1.26 billion.
    - Recommendations include improving cybersecurity training and addressing a significant deficiency finding related to interfund activities.

  Points of discussion are as follows:

    - Councilman Massaro asked about the total town debt and its inclusion in the state's legal statutory requirement and an explanation of what interfund receivables and payables are.
    - Kyle Connors explained the town is well under the legal debt limit of $1.26 billion which is based on the annual property tax collections, (7.5 times the annual collections). Regarding interfund activity it was explained municipalities are made up of different funds, ARPA funds, the general fund, an education grants fund, everything is fund-based, and everything has its own separate trial balances.

In municipal auditing, it's a community that has 30 to 50 funds, typically the cash is maintained in the general fund, and then through a series of receivables and payables, interfund activity exists when rather than moving the cash over to spend, the general fund floats the balance sheet costs, resulting in reconciliation of interfund activity. At the end at the end of the audit the auditor needs to audit and make sure that it nets to zero, so in fiscal 25 it did not. There were no issues reconciled to the Board of Ed activity, he could not remember exactly which fund it was, but did not believe the Library or Parks & Rec were involved in the issue.

- Councilman Foreman asks about the interfund activity reconciliation issue and its impact on the financial statements.
- Kyle Connors explained the reconciliation was roughly a million dollars of balance sheet activity that that could not be reconciled. They ended up reporting it as the finding.
- Kyle Connors explained he didn't recall what line items were involved in the reconciliation issue. He knew that eventually it got posted to the general fund to clear it up. He could not recall what the others were, or if they were able to identify specifically what other funds were causing it but could get back to the council on that.

- TPAUD Trumbull's Prevention Partnership Student Survey Results – Melissa McGarry, TPAUD Project Director

Melissa McGarry from TPAUD reviewed the results of the attached Prevention Partnership Student survey and emphasized the importance of addressing mental health and substance use among youth.

- Melissa McGarry highlighted demographics, protective factors, and risk factors among Trumbull students.
- The survey had an 88% overall response rate, with significant data on student attitudes and behaviors related to substance use, mental health, and technology.
- Key findings include the importance of trusted adults, positive self-image, and the need for more mental health support and digital wellness education.
- The survey data will inform future prevention efforts, including more help-seeking norms, digital self-management skills, and social norm campaigns.

Points of discussion are as follows:

- Councilman El Eris inquired about the qualitative focus groups conducted by TPAUD, the anonymity of the survey for kids, about the frequency of focus groups and their impact on overall findings.
- Melissa McGarry explained the process of conducting focus groups and emphasized the importance of asking about peers' experiences rather than personal information. Three is a need to gear up for focus groups this year, including formal groups of kids and clubs and noted the challenges of recruiting participants and the potential use of incentives and opportunities to engage parents.
- Councilman Isaac asked about the availability of federal or state funds for grant funding.

- Melissa McGarry explained the state grant application for $125,000 per year for five years is still pending. There are currently challenges in securing federal funding, with fewer grants being awarded. They are using the opioid settlement dollars for prevention, recovery, and treatment, emphasizing the need for strategic planning.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were ten (10) people present to speak. (Public Comment Attached)

NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION TC31-43: Moved by Massaro, seconded by Mecca
   BE IT RESOLVED, That the application to the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) for the Neighborhood Assistance Act program is hereby authorized to include the Make A Wish Foundation of CT ($15,000), Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern CT ($91,800), Saint Vincent's Medical Center ($150,000), Patrons of Trumbull Nature & Arts Center, Inc. ($10,520), The Kennedy Collective (four applications amounting to $145,000); and would authorize First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, or her designee, to submit such application and sign all related forms, contracts, and reports in order to implement the Neighborhood Assistance Act program. (Full Resolution Attached) *(Public Hearing June 1, 2026, Town Council)*

   The Vice-Chair OPENED the Public Hearing at 9:38 p.m.
   There was no one present to speak.
   The Vice-Chair CLOSED the Public Hearing at 9:38 p.m.

   Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on May 26, 2026, and voted unanimously to pass without recommendation.

   Gia Mentillo of the Economic & Community Development Department explained this is an annual request to the town council to submit this application for the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program, a program through Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) that offers tax credits to corporations that make contributions to approved programs. In order for programs to be approved, they have to go through this application process, where the town serves as the applicant and liaison to Connecticut DRS. The applicants are Trumbull nonprofit organizations. The resolution lists the applicants for this year. One did apply for four programs, which hasn't happened before. Each organization can apply for multiple programs, if they don't exceed the $150,000 request.

   VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

*Moved by Satin, seconded by Dorsey to PASS as Emergency Legislation. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

By unanimous consent the Town Council took RESOLUTION TC31-46 out of order.

2. RESOLUTION TC31-46: Moved by Scinto, seconded by Dorsey

BE IT RESOLVED, That the appointment by the First Selectman of Christopher Pettinella as a member of the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority Board for a term extending to January 1, 2029 be and the same is hereby approved.

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on May 26, 2026, and voted 1-3 (AGAINST: Mallozzi, Marsh, Ferrari)

- Councilman Scinto explained his first R&R Committee meeting in 2008 where they were interviewing people, and somebody gave an appointee a hard time. The Chairman of the town council at the time commented that they are volunteers and spoke to the importance of not giving them a hard time so that people are encouraged to volunteer. Nowhere in any town charter does it say any experience is needed to volunteer. All you need to be is a voter and resident in town.
- Councilman Marsh generally agreed with Councilman Scinto but noted when other applicants have come before the various committees, they had been significantly vetted about their ability to be impartial, have donated to political campaigns, have run for office, or whether they could serve on a particular board or commission. To say they should give everyone a pass because they want to serve is not necessarily the direct duty of the council. He took exception to the to the context that questions directed at Mr. Pettinella were because of his lack of experience, age or political affiliation. Councilman Marsh explained his comments were directed to Chris Pettinella's decision making and whether he makes good decisions. Chris recently made a video which stated the GBTA was facing a certain number of funding cuts and how it was important for him to be on the board. Councilman Marsh pointed out the funding went through and passed, he rushed to put the video out and put it out with incorrect information, that indicates not making good decisions and further explained his decision making has nothing to do with age, he is ambitious and hardworking but there have been a couple of recent instances where he questioned his decision making.
- Councilman El Eris explained she listened carefully to public comment and has been grappling with this vote because she appreciates young people with ambition, and people who want to volunteer. Being quick to act is important, but one of the things to recognize when someone's serving on a board or commission is that you're not an individual, you're part of a group, and there's a function of the group, there are agendas, and a process, and had a concern, or a question about Mr. Pettinella's ability to thrive, exist and work within that overall framework. She wondered when someone who's done a lot of rushing to social media rather than working through the process, whether that's something he's capable of, and certainly hopes that he can and will be capable of that, that's an important consideration when someone's voting for someone on a commission.
- Councilman Walsh ran for council with Chris Pettinella in District 6. Nowhere has he ever seen him exhibit any sort of decision making that was inappropriate. He was very in tune to what he needed to do to run a campaign to try to be on the council. He understands he is young and needs to work on stuff, which he's done. He is ready to try to take on challenges that most young people are not.

- Councilman Massaro questioned whether the first selectman still stands by this appointment since she has not withdrawn it.
- First Selectman Tesoro explained the history of how this appointment came to be. Soon after Chris Pettinella filed the petition for the Board of Assessment Appeals special election with the town clerk, republican leaders Mr. Rutigliano and Mrs. Lenzen wanted to meet with herself and Mrs. Gaudiano. She had that meeting in the spirit of bipartisanship, and both Mr. Rutigliano and Mrs. Lenzen expressed their belief that Chris might be persuaded not to move forward with a special election if a suitable opportunity could be found for him to serve the community and gain valuable experience in local government. All share concerns about the potentially significant cost that a special election could impose on the Trumbull taxpayers, and was not saying that Chris shouldn't have done put that petition through, it is allowed under the charter, but there is a cost to that, that we have heard could rise to $40,000. Both sides thought that it would be a good idea, to somehow sort of quiet the that push for that election to go forward, but once a petition is filed, you really can't stop the process and are still in that process. Nevertheless, we share that concern for our taxpayers as part of that discussion with Mr. Rutigliano and Mrs. Lenzen were asking us to find something for Chris to do as a commission member or committee member, and to also gain some valuable experience in local government as a young person. As part of that discussion, she agreed to review the boards and commissions list for possible opportunities and suggested the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority. In keeping with that commitment made during that bipartisan conversation, the resolution was placed on the agenda. That brings us to where we are this evening. The Council is reviewing the recommendation and will make its own determination based on Chris's qualifications and the needs of our community. The council's role is to independently evaluate matters before it makes decisions on behalf of the residents they serve. That's exactly how our system of checks and balances is intended to work. First Selectman Tesoro confirmed she is supporting this process and did not withdraw the appointment; it is the council’s turn to determine whether they believe is qualified.
- Chris Pettinella expressed his commitment to learning and preparing for the role, and his willingness to do the necessary homework. He will do his due diligence before voting on any agenda item, and looks forward to speaking to all of the board members of the GBTA to learn the best he can about how everything works on the board, and looks forward to doing the homework, and preparing before every meeting and every vote, and doing as much research on every single topic before he votes or considers. He explained he did not file the petition he simply signed it, because he believes the BOAA seat should be filled with election not an appointment. He did call Mrs. Tesoro before submitting it and after the petition went in Mrs. Tesoro called him. He did try in good faith to talk to the elected officials before signing the petition and has worried about the cost to the taxpayers
- Councilman Mecca noted what he had just heard confuses him because Chris Pettinella is saying things that are contradicting actions and noted he had a problem with that. He would not support this appointment. There are people who

communicated to him and expected him to represent their views that they had a problem with the appointment, given what they've read and what they've observed, and how he is trying to spin it differently than what happened.

- Councilman Buswell noted the strong support of the public at this meeting for this appointment He hasn't always agreed with every step Chris Pettinella has made, but the one thing is incredibly admirable that he brings is the humility, to say in hindsight, you may have done it differently, I'll think about it, and try to improve and move forward in a better manner. Nobody has more humility than him and thinks he will be a great leader and hopes everybody considers that.
- Councilman Spillane is an unaffiliated voter who was asked to run for town council a few times and finally said yes, he would love to see this whole appointment process not go like this but knows there is a long way to go in that. We've heard a lot of people talk tonight about one specific committee meeting when other committee meetings have gone the same way, but hopefully the whole process will start to change eventually. He will vote yes in support of the first selectmen who made this appointment, but thinks we have a long way to go as a town with this process.
- Councilman Dunn explained in terms of experience, it's not expected that we need to be an engineer for this position. There are already people who have that experience at the GBTA, and has no doubt that Chris Pettinella has the passion for advocating for the members of this town but questioned if this role is the correct match for his background and area of interest. Councilman Dunn has used the Greater Bridgeport Transit busses more than most members. He road them daily for his commute to school and work. It's something that matters to him. He's seen the people that use these busses and understands what their needs are and would like to potentially hear from Chris about what policies or areas that he would want to improve on for the greater future for transit.
- Chris Pettinella explained there will be a lot more to learn which is why he rode the bus to learn about the users and drivers. He wanted to hear their concerns and what it was like to ride it daily. He would like to look at the funding as there are some hardships the board could face. He would like to improve the website; it is not user friendly. The budget is about $30 million and comes from the DOT, federal, transit administrations and passage fares. He thinks his background in business speaks for itself. He has experienced scaling and budgeting. Problems happen, things go wrong very quickly, and you have to be able to move on your feet and fix it, and find a way to get everything back rolling for the next day, for the next week, for the next month, and look farther down the road into years ahead to make sure that we can keep the busses rolling, keep this system going, basically, and not just look at the short term, but look at the long term.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recoded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac		✓	
Steven Spillane	✓		

Bill Mecca		✓	
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel		✓	
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh		✓	
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick		✓	
Matt Dunn		✓	
Joy Colon		✓	
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi		✓	
Tony Scinto	✓		
Jerrod Ferrari		✓	
Nicole Satin		✓	

VOTE: FAILED 10-10 (Satin, Ferrari, Mallozzi, Colon, Dunn, Broderick, Marsh, Winschel, Mecca, Isaac)

3. RESOLUTION TC31-44: Moved by Spillane, seconded by Massaro
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council hereby appoints _____ to conduct an audit of the accounts of the Board of Education pursuant to Chapter II, Section 10(A) of the Charter of the Town of Trumbull.

Moved by Massaro, seconded by Dorsey to ENTER Executive Session for discussion of the appointment of the auditor. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.
The Town Council ENTERED Executive Session at 10:15 p.m. with the following people present:

Ann Sather	Anthony Dorsey	Thomas Broderick
Christine El Eris	William Mecca	Jason Marsh
Jennifer Winschel	John Foreman	Kelly Mallozzi
Mary Isaac	Tony Scinto	Jerrod Ferrari
Matthew Dunn	Michael Buswell	Richard Wolf
Brian Walsh	Steven Spillane	Carl Massaro
Nicole Satin	Joy Colon (Via phone)	Town Attorney Schopick
First Selectman Tesoro	CAO Kathleen McGannon	CAO Cynthia Katske
Finance Director Maria Pires		

Moved by Satin, seconded by Winschel to END Executive Session at 10:32 p.m.
VOTE: CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Massaro, seconded by Satin to amend by inserting Clifton Larson Allen, LLP into the blank.

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick	✓		
Matt Dunn	✓		
Joy Colon	✓		
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi	✓		
Tony Scinto		✓	
Jerrod Ferrari	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick	✓		
Matt Dunn	✓		
Joy Colon	✓		
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi	✓		

Tony Scinto		✓	
Jerrod Ferrari	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: ADOPTED as amended 19-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

Moved by Massaro, seconded by Sather to PASS as Emergency Legislation
The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick	✓		
Matt Dunn	✓		
Joy Colon	✓		
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi	✓		
Tony Scinto		✓	
Jerrod Ferrari	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 19-1 (AGAINST: Scinto)

4. RESOLUTION TC31-45: Moved by Satin, seconded by Foreman
BE IT RESOLVED, That Resolution TC30-74, as adopted by the Town Council on August 5, 2024, is amended by the deletion of "not to exceed four (4) years" after the word "term".

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on May 26, 2026, and voted unanimously to pass without recommendation.

Mr. McCarthy gave a brief overview of the difficulties in hiring a tax assessor in CT.

- There aren't enough certified people for all the openings. There are 169 towns in CT and means CT needs 169 assessors. They don't exist.
- The certification is CCMA one, CCMA two. You need CCMA one to sign a grand list. Many towns/cities are using consultants, like we are.
- One of the basic problems is that they hold exam for CCMA one and CCMA two once a year. The committee just voted this year to change that to two times a year,

but it hasn't happened yet. If you fail the exam, which we've had several people that that were connected to us that have not passed the exam the first time, because it's a very hard exam, they have to wait an entire year. The system is problematic, and it's the reason why we're all in this situation.

- This is the detail of why it's important that you'd make this change tonight. He has had four to five different people that he was quietly trying to get them to come here, and they all say the exact same thing they when they find out about or when he tells them about the term, they always say I'm not leaving my job if there's a term. The second thing is the assessor's world a small world. They all know about years ago, when there was a Trumbull assessor that was walked out in a very non-happy manner, and they all know about that. Putting those two pieces together, they don't have the confidence in coming to a place where there is a term, and he is constantly trying to convince folks you can get a long-term job here and has not had success.
- Some other towns have terms but not many.
- Trumbull has increased the salary significantly to be competitive.
- He has heard that the potential hires do not want a term at all
- The hiring software they use is one that allows access to Indeed and LinkedIn and others we're spread out throughout. They focus on the region, but also have nationwide coverage. And use the Connecticut Assessor website and are expanding to the New York and Massachusetts right now. They would have to get certified here, but if they know how to be an assessor there's a path to that.
- There are two reasons not to continue with consultants. One, they are expensive, and two generally the consultants operate from 10,000 feet, and there's something missing in the office in the day-to-today operations which is important.
- Consultants range from $100 to $175 an hour.
- The appointment is by the first selectman, but this is a union position and once in the union they have just cause protection.
- The assessor position 18 years ago was coterminous with the first selectman. The exception to the just cause under the previous language of the charter was when the term of the first selectman was over, they had a window to get rid of somebody, the first selectman at the time had the right to do that. It's a real small world with assessors, and they all talk about it still to this day.
- It was confirmed this position would be owned by the union and they would have union protections.
- The salary increase makes Trumbull very competitive. The top of the range is $140,000.
- It was noted that when this was before the council two years ago there was a concern that the position could be indefinite and if not, a very long term and that a new first selectman could be stuck with signed long-term contracts and as a compromise the not-to-exceed term language was added. He was reluctant to remove the four-year cap and asked if six years could work.

Moved by Dorsey, seconded by Massaro to amend the term from four (4) year to six (6) years.

- It was noted that doesn't quite work because the current first selectman has been in for 8 years as was her predecessor.
- First Selectman Tesoro stated her preference would be to remove the term cap. It is not good for any town not to have an assessor. We have had assessors on and off since from 2020 but not consistently.
- The council debated the pros and cons of removing the term cap entirely, considering just cause protections and union regulations. The discussion also touched on the financial implications and the need for a full-time assessor, especially during a revaluation.
- It was confirmed the just cause would be by the determination by the Finance Director and the Labor Relations Director.

Moved by Sather, seconded by Marsh to ENTER Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

At 11:06 the council ENTERED Executive Session with the following people present:

Ann Sather	Anthony Dorsey	Thomas Broderick
Christine El Eris	William Mecca	Jason Marsh
Jennifer Winschel	John Foreman	Kelly Mallozzi
Mary Isaac	Tony Scinto	Jerrod Ferrari
Matthew Dunn	Michael Buswell	Richard Wolf
Brian Walsh	Steven Spillane	Carl Massaro
Nicole Satin	Joy Colon (Via phone)	Town Attorney Schopick
First Selectman Tesoro	CAO Kathleen McGannon	CAO Cynthia Katske
Maria Pires	Thomas McCarthy.	

VOTE: By unanimous consent the Town Council ENDED Executive Session at 11:30 p.m.

The clerk called the roll call vote on amending the term from four to six years and recorded it as follows:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mike Buswell	✓		
Mary Isaac		✓	
Steven Spillane		✓	
Bill Mecca		✓	
Ann Sather	✓		
Jennifer Winschel		✓	
Christine El Eris		✓	
Richard Wolf	✓		
Jason Marsh		✓	
Anthony Dorsey	✓		
Carl Massaro	✓		
John Foreman		✓	

Thomas Broderick		✓	
Matt Dunn		✓	
Joy Colon		✓	
Brian Walsh	✓		
Kelly Mallozzi		✓	
Tony Scinto	✓		
Jerrod Ferrari		✓	
Nicole Satin		✓	

VOTE: Motion FAILED 7-13 (AGAINST: Isaac, Spillane, Mecca, Winschel, El Eris, Marsh, Foreman, Broderick, Dunn, Colon, Mallozzi, Ferrari, Satin)

The clerk called the roll call vote and recorded it as follows:

Mike Buswell		✓	
Mary Isaac	✓		
Steven Spillane	✓		
Bill Mecca	✓		
Ann Sather		✓	
Jennifer Winschel	✓		
Christine El Eris	✓		
Richard Wolf		✓	
Jason Marsh	✓		
Anthony Dorsey		✓	
Carl Massaro		✓	
John Foreman	✓		
Thomas Broderick	✓		
Matt Dunn	✓		
Joy Colon	✓		
Brian Walsh		✓	
Kelly Mallozzi	✓		
Tony Scinto		✓	
Jerrod Ferrari	✓		
Nicole Satin	✓		

VOTE: ADOPTED: 13-7 (AGAINST: Buswell, Sather, Wolf, Dorsey, Massaro, Walsh, Scinto)

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Winschel, seconded by Marsh the Town Council adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Margaret D. Mastroni, clerk

FULL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION TC31-43:

Whereas, the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) offers funding to tax exempt organizations in the form of tax credits; and,

Whereas, tax credits are given to eligible corporations who contribute funding to support specific programs and services of the tax exempt organizations; and,

Whereas, programs supporting job training, low income residents, senior residents, residents with disabilities, child care services, community services, or open space acquisition offer a 60 percent credit and energy conservation programs offer 100 percent credit; and,

Whereas, the 2026 application will include the Make A Wish Foundation of CT ($15,000), Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern CT ($91,800), Saint Vincent's Medical Center ($150,000), Patrons of Trumbull Nature & Arts Center, Inc. ($10,520), The Kennedy Collective (four applications amounting to $145,000); and,

Whereas, the Town of Trumbull serves as the applicant and liaison to the Department of Revenue Services on behalf of the tax exempt organizations.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. That the Trumbull Town Council is cognizant of the application to the State Department of Revenue Services for the Neighborhood Assistance Act program; and,
2. That Vicki A. Tesoro, or her designee, is authorized to submit such application and sign all related forms, contracts, and reports in order to implement the Neighborhood Assistance Act program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Joe Pifko of 158 Plymouth Avenue supports the appointment of Chris Pettinella to the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority Board, highlighting his dedication to Trumbull.

2. Veronica Lenzen of 129 Fresh Meadow Drive supported Chris Pettinella's appointment and criticized the lack of oversight in the tax assessor's role and questions the delay in appointing an auditor for the Board of Education . She expressed disappointment in the partisan nature of the L&A Committee meeting regarding Chris Pettinella appointment.

3. Rich Deecken of 679 Garden Street and P&Z commissioner supported Chris Pettinella's candidacy, drawing parallels with his own early political career.

4. Katherine Sarris of 601 White Plains Road supported Chris Pettinella's appointment and praised Chris Pettinella's character and resilience, emphasizing his willingness to help others despite facing criticism.

5. Rich Croll of 34 Wood Avenue supported Chris Pettinella's appointment and highlighted Chris Pettinella's skills and experience, particularly in customer service and technology, which would benefit the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority.

6. Richard White of 169 Church Hill Road supported Chris Pettinella's appointment, citing his long-standing involvement in the community and his qualifications. (Full public comment submitted for the record – see attached)

7. Mark Block of 60 Ridgeview Avenue supported Chris Pettinella's appointment and criticized the partisan nature of the L&A Committee meeting, emphasizing the importance of welcoming diverse voices in local government.

8. Judith Degraffenried of 323 Unity Road supported Chris Pettinella's appointment, highlighting his intellect, ethics, and work ethic, and criticizing the ageism and antagonism in the L&A committee meeting.

9. Sophia Gulino supported Chris Pettinella's appointment, criticizing the antagonistic nature of the L&A committee meeting and emphasizing the importance of young people in local government.

10. Mark MacKeil of 27 Edgewood Avenue supported Chris Pettinella's appointment, he hoped to hear an update on the recent town survey on the Community Senior Center and extended his gratitude to Chairman Gaudiano for emailing him on when that could be expected. The L&A meeting interviewing Chris Pettinella was disheartening and felt like an inquisition. At times it appeared as ageism, antagonistic, and unnecessarily political. He noted Chris Pettinella's hard work and dedication, he has the potential to become a catalyst for inspiring the next generation in the community to take an active interest in local government.

CBIZ CPAs

Town of Trumbull, CT
2025 Financial Statements

June 1, 2026| Presented by Kyle Connors, CPA

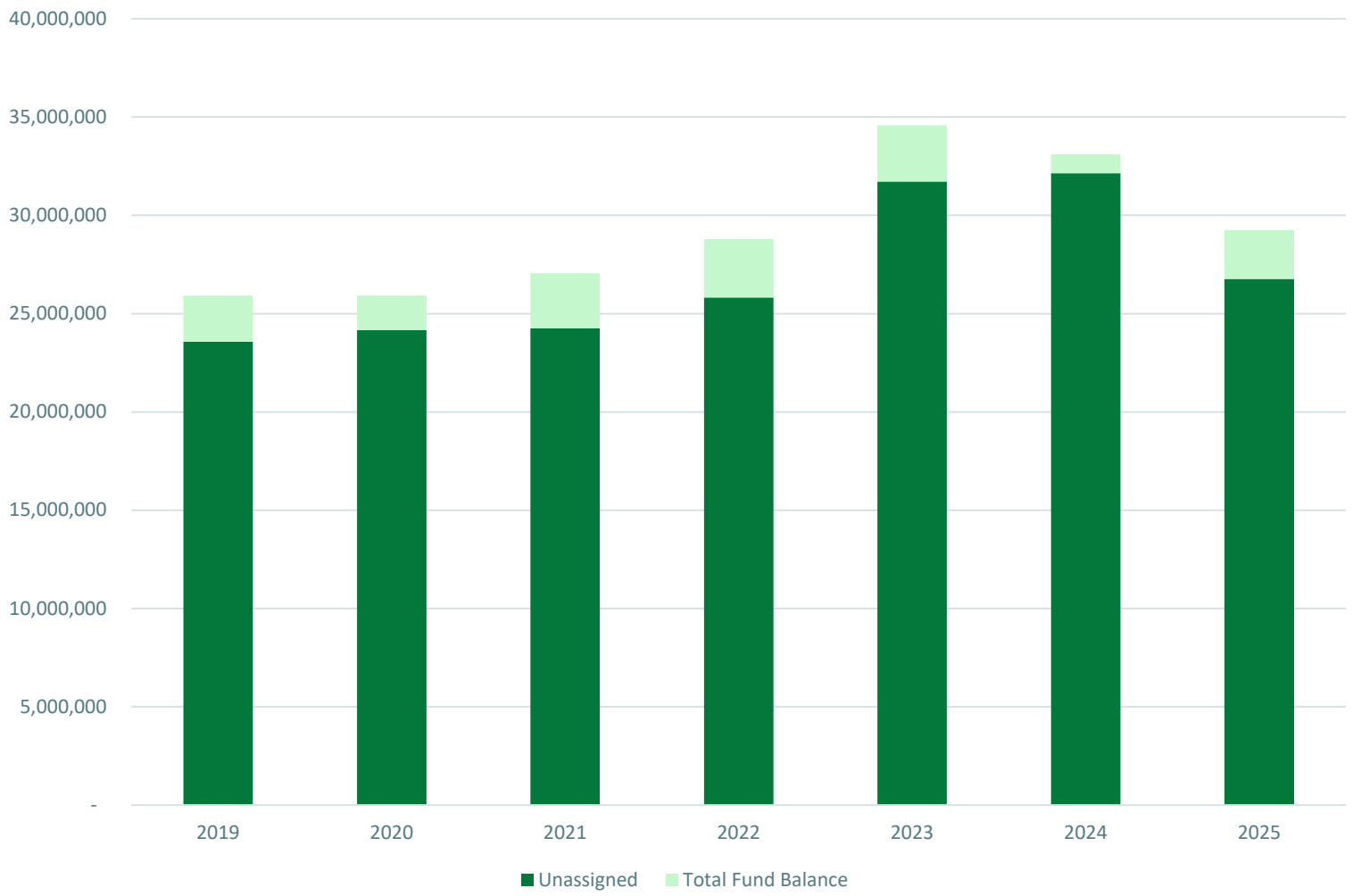
Agenda

- Presentation will review the Town's 2025 financial statements audit results
- Feel free to ask questions at any time

Town General Fund (Pages 17 and 19)

- Total Fund Balance decreased by $3.8 million
- Unassigned Fund Balance = $26.8 million
- Unassigned Fund Balance represents 13.0% of Operating Budget
  - Typically a percentage of 8-18% is considered healthy

General Fund Fund Balance: Last Seven Years



Result of Operations – (see Pages 92-95 of the financial statements)

- Revenues were under budget by $5 million
- Property and excise taxes were under budget by $4.7 million
  - Predominately due to refunds related to tax appeals
- Tax collection percentages:
  - *99.1% collection of current year assessment*

Result of Operations – (see Pages 92-95 of the financial statements)

- Intergovernmental revenue consistent with budget
  - Vo-Ag and education cost sharing above budget offset by change in state funding for sales tax
- Tuition under budget by $600 thousand offset by increase in Vo-Ag funding from State
- Interest income above budget by $200 thousand

Result of Operations (Continued) (see Pages 92-95 of the financial statements)

- Expenditures were $2.5 million below appropriated amounts
  - Assessor under budget by $268 thousand
    - Professional services lower than budget
  - Education under budget $323 thousand
    - Under budget in transportation
  - Town hall under budget by $701 thousand
    - Contingency expenditures of $450 thousand not needed in FY2025
    - Property and liability insurance lower than budgeted by $218 thousand

- Town spent $2.9 million in ARPA money leaving $300 thousand deferred at year end

WPCA Fund – Pages 21-23

- Operating revenues amounted to $9.5 million, consistent with prior
- Operating expenses were $11.5 million, an increase from the prior year of $9.9 million
- Operating loss of $2.0 million in 2025 compared to $449 thousand operating loss in 2024
- Fund has net position of $99.7 million with $29.4 million classified as unrestricted net position

CBIZ CPAs

Golf Fund – Pages 21-23

- Operating revenues amounted to $3.0 million, an increase from the prior year of $2.9 million
- Operating expenses were $2.2 million, a decrease from the prior year of $2.4 million
- Operating income of $850 thousand in 2025 compared to $489 thousand operating income in 2024
- Fund has net position of $8.3 million with $3.7 million classified as unrestricted net position

Town Long Term Debt – Pages 52 - 61

- Town refunded $21.5 million of bonds with $19.4 million in refunding bonds in October 2024
- Town issued general obligations of $15.7 million in its governmental activities and $1.3 million in WPCA bonds in August 2024
  - Interest rate 4-5%
  - Matures in 2044
- Legal debt limit is $1.26 billion
  - Town has debt of $130 million

CBIZ CPAs

Town Pension Plans – (Pages 65-78)

- Town has three private defined benefit plans:
  - Town Plan funded at 54.4%, $48.5 million net liability
  - Police Plan funded at 91.7%, $9.5 million net liability
  - Police Plan B funded at 85.4%, $273 thousand net liability

- Total Plan Net Pension Liability reported in the 2025 financial statements totals $58.3 million

Other Post-Employment Benefits – (Pages 78-88)

- Town plan funded at 3.0% with a total net OPEB liability of $19.6 million
  - Context – plan was funded at June 30, 2017 at 1.8%

Findings / Recommendations – (Single Audit Page 10)

- Interfund activities did not initially reconcile leading to audit adjustments to the Town's general ledger

Other Comments:

- Continue cybersecurity training on an annual basis – recommending performing vulnerability testing proactively.

Uniform Guidance

- In accordance with Uniform Guidance and CT State Single Audit Act we are required to select a certain percentage of Federal / State dollars for compliance testing. Process is complete –programs included:
- Federal:
  - ARPA
  - Special Education Cluster
- State
  - Vocational Agriculture
  - Town Aid Road Grants
  - Local Bridge Program

Thank You

Kyle Connors – Kyle.Connors@cbiz.com

2025 Trumbull Youth Survey Results

Melissa McGarry
Prevention Director
mmcgarry@trumbull-ct.gov

TPAUD is a community coalition formed in 2006 to address high underage drinking rates in Trumbull.

Our focus has evolved to address emerging substance use trends, as well as mental health needs across the lifespan.

Our mission is to prevent substance misuse, promote social/emotional health, and build a safe and healthy Trumbull.

Community Partners



TOWN OF
Trumbull
HUMAN SERVICES



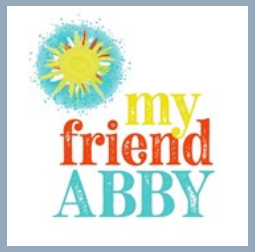






TRUMBULL
PARKS & RECREATION





TRUMBULL
COMMUNITY
TELEVISION





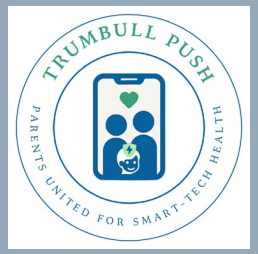


TRUMBULL
Congregational Church

PROGRESSIVE
INSTITUTE









SILVER HILL
HOSPITAL



Turnbridge®

TPAUD's Work



TPAUD's work is evaluated using quantitative and qualitative data.



TPAUD Student Surveys

- First completed in 2007
- Currently administered every two years
  - 9th iteration
- Partnership with Trumbull Public Schools, 7th -12th grades
- Completely anonymous
- Parents notified of the survey administration and given the option of withdrawing their child(ren)
- Any question (other than grade and school) could be skipped if a student was not comfortable answering.

Trumbull Youth Survey

Survey Questions

- From a regional youth survey question data bank
- Allows comparison to other Fairfield County towns
- Based on national and state-level prevention surveys
- Established with the support of professionals in the fields of survey development, prevention, public health, mental health, and schools

New Topics

- Smartphone attitudes and behaviors
- Nicotine products – Oral Pouches
- Substance use – quitting, cutting back

Final Dataset and Confidence Interval

- Careful review of individual responses; surveys eliminated due to large amounts of missing data or long patterns of responses rather than thoughtful answers
- Confidence Interval calculated at +/- .64 at a 95% confidence level

Response Rate

- 88% overall response rate (2,878) in grades 7 to 12



Overview

- **Demograpics**
- **Protective Factors**
  - Individual
  - Family, School & Community
- **Risk Factors**
  - Technology & Digital Life
  - Mental Health
  - Substance Misuse
- **Next Steps**
- **Opportunities for TPAUD**

Youth Survey Demographics

Gender Distribution

48% of respondents were male, 50% were female, and 2% were transgender, nonbinary, or unsure about their gender identity.

Sexual Orientation

85% described themselves as heterosexual, 11% as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or unsure.

Race & Ethnicity

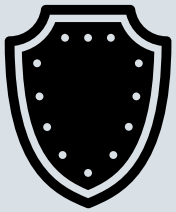
60% White, 27% Hispanic, 14% Multiracial, 13% Asian, 8% Black, and 5% identifying as other races or ethnicities.

Supports & Services

11% have an IEP, 15% have a 504 plan and 6% participate in an MLL or ELL program at school.

Protective Factors and Risk Factors

Understanding the impact on outcomes and resilience



Protective factors are characteristics associated with a lower likelihood of negative outcomes or that reduce a risk factor's impact.



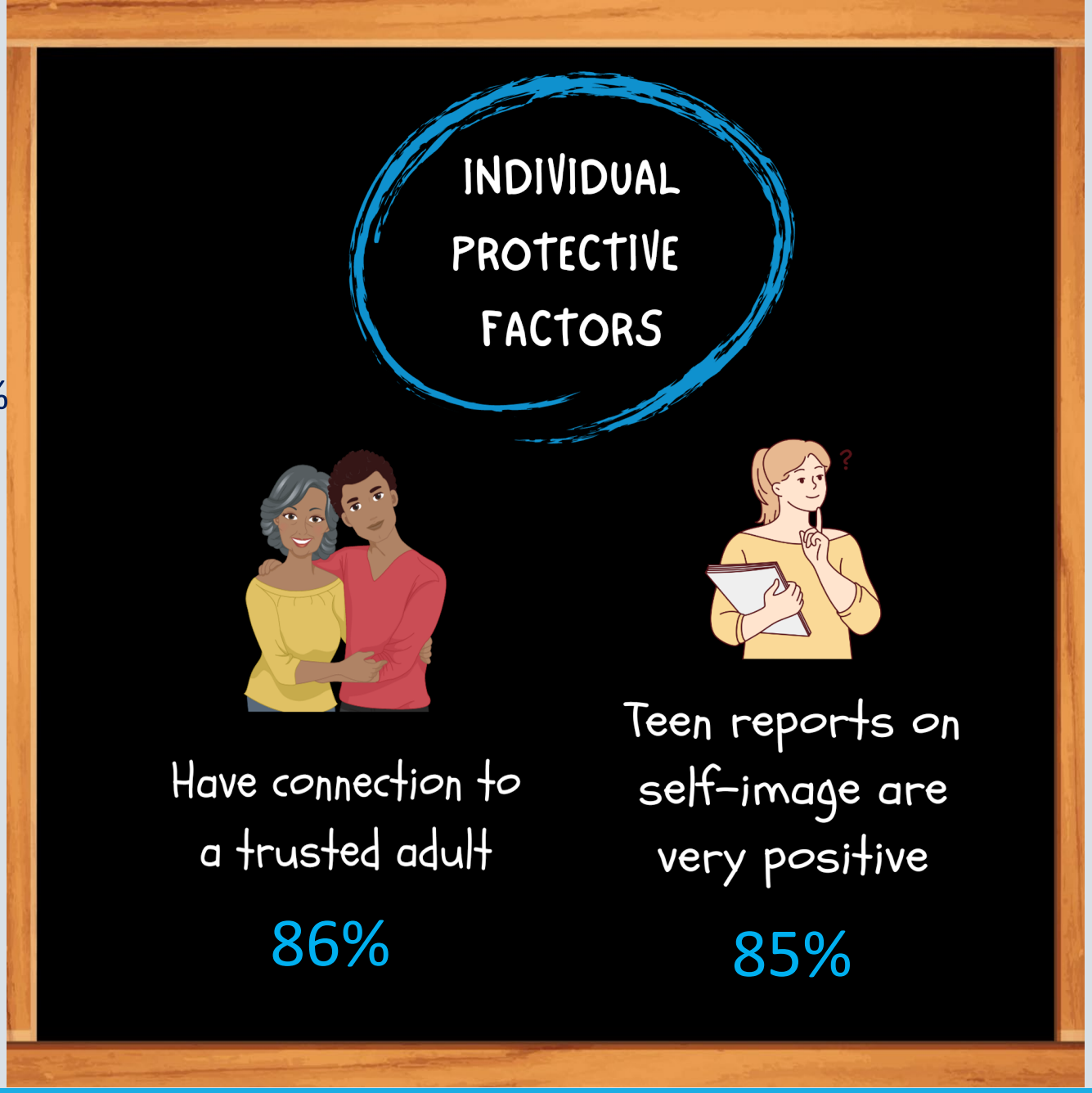
Risk factors are characteristics at the biological, psychological, family, community, or cultural level that are associated with a higher likelihood of negative outcomes.

Who are the trusted adults?

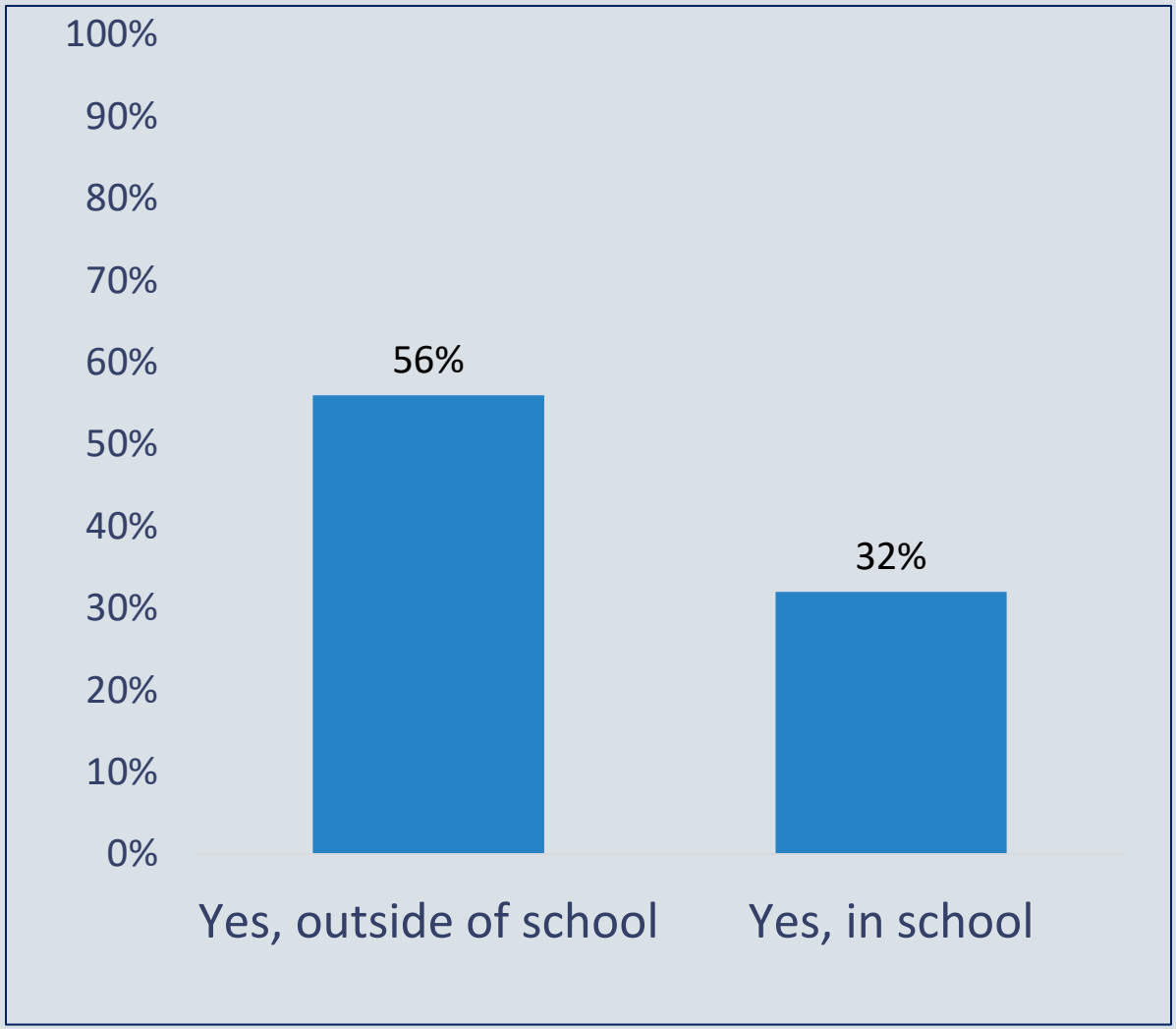
- Family friend: 79%
- Grandparents/other family: 72%
- Teacher: 51%
- School counselor: 38%
- Sports coach: 29%

Higher rates of youth who report NOT having a trusted adult:

- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- Gender and sexual minorities
- Poor mental health



Knowledge of Mental Health Resources



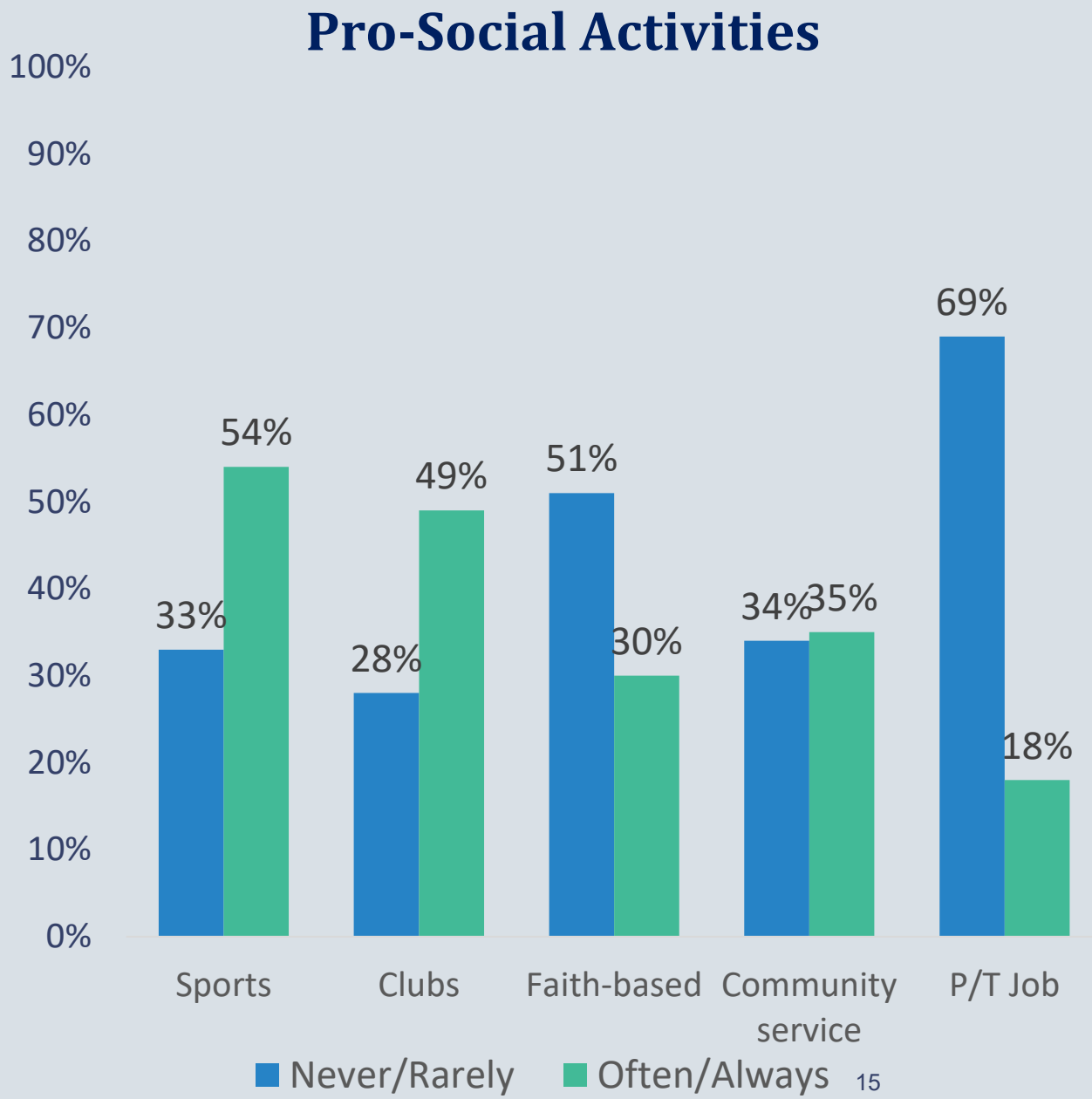
Overall, 61% of students know where to go for mental health support

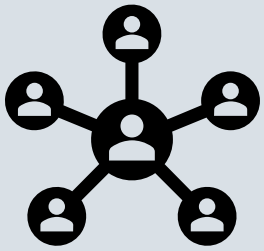
Males report significantly lower rates of 'knowing where to get help' compared to females.

7th to 12th graders

- 2% (62 teens) **Never**
- 5% (138 teens) have **Never, Rarely**
- 14% (404 teens) **Sometimes, Rarely, or Never**

Groups that report **lower** rates of sports and club involvement: Black & Multiracial youth





Connectedness

64% Adults in School
82% Adults outside of School
89% Youth in School
70% Community where you live
(All have increased from 2023!)





School Domain

80% My teachers care about me
78% Students in my school care about me
80% School staff care about me



Community Domain

70% Adults value youth

Lower rates among gender and sexual minorities, Hispanic, Black, Multiracial, and poor mental health

RISK FACTORS



Gambling



Mental Health Concerns



Technology



Social Media

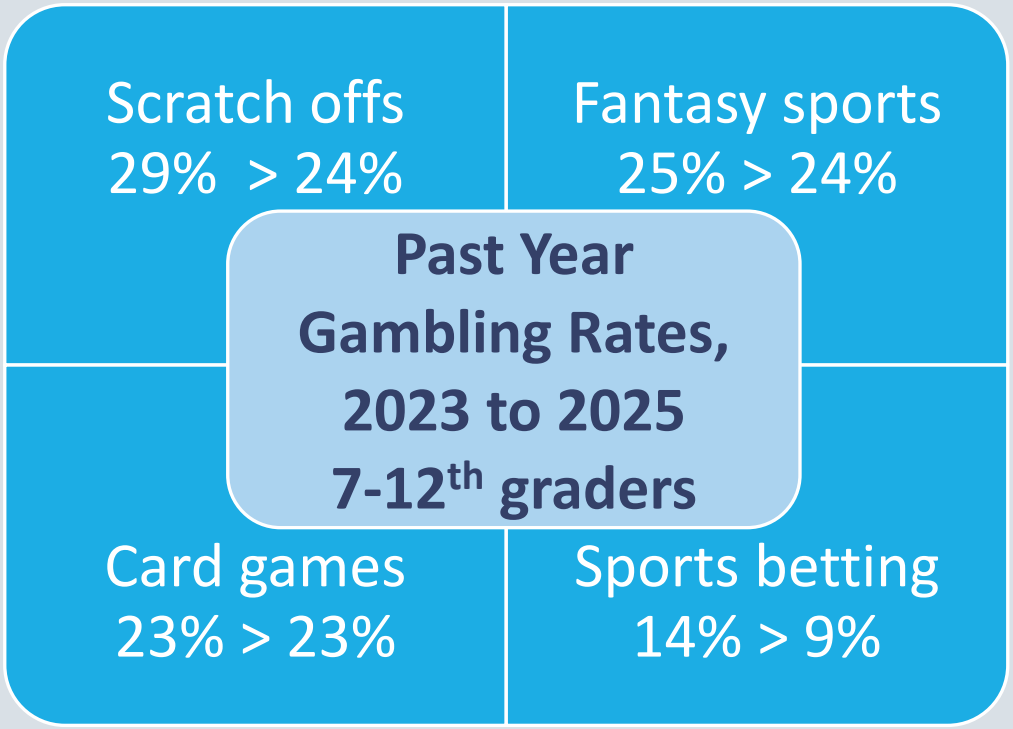


Gaming



Substance Use

Gambling: Use and Consequences, 2023 to 2025



Past year by gender, HS only

Fantasy sports:
Male, 44%
Female, 6%

Card Games:
Male, 37%
Female, 13%

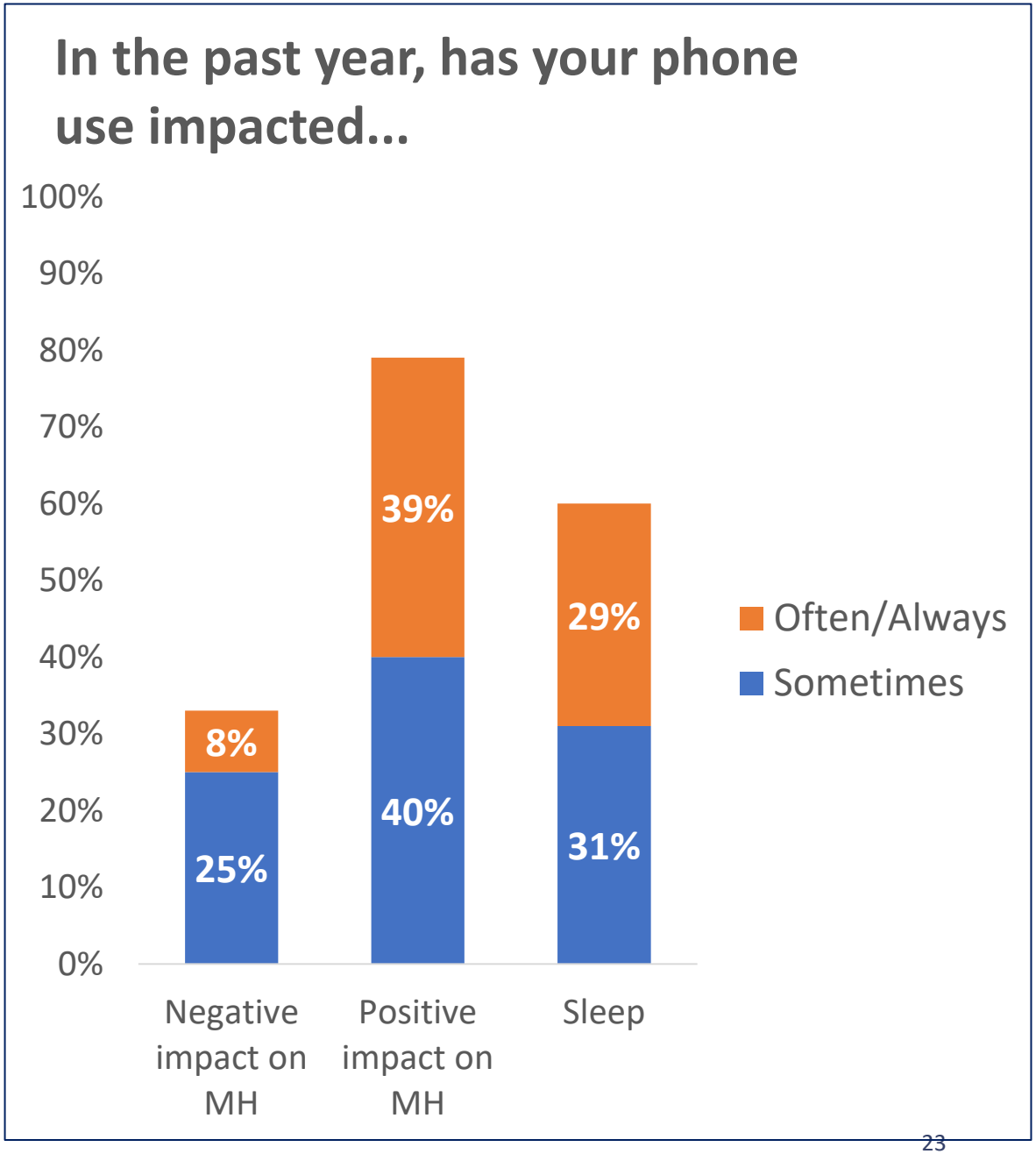
Sports Betting:
Male, 18%
Female, 3%

In the past year:

- 2% bet more than they could afford to pay
- 2% went back to try and win back lost money
- 1% borrowed money or sold something to gamble

Consequences of Smartphone Usage

- 67% (7-12) have tried to reduce their phone usage
- 46% (7-12) feel their phone use limits their productivity
- 52% (9-12) say they spend too much time on their phones





Mental Health Concerns

Sources of HIGH Stress, Anxiety, or Worry

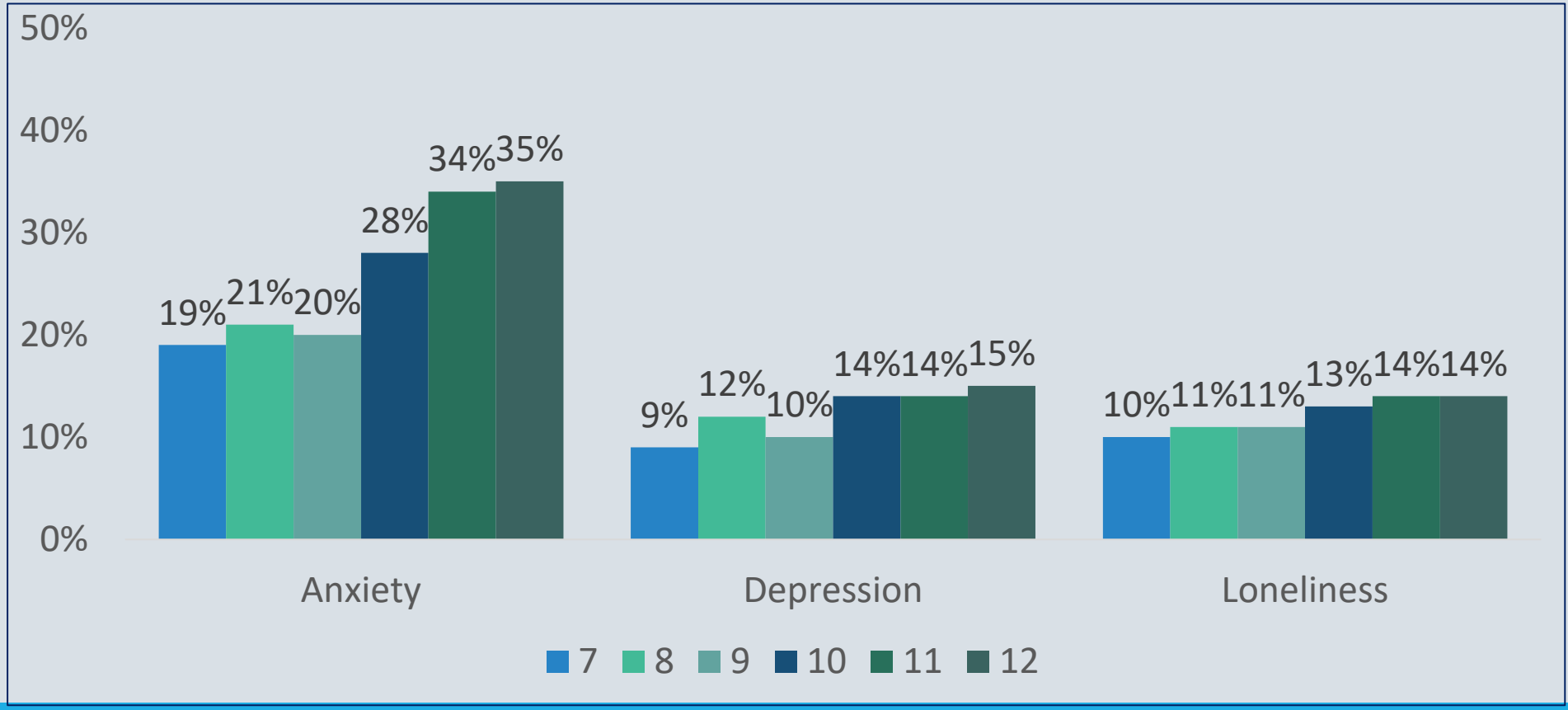
How much stress, anxiety or worry do the following give you in your day-to-day life?

	7th- 8th	9th-12th
Expectations of future	42%	61%
Academics	47%	53%
College/post high school planning	21%	49%
Sports achievement	32%	33%
Friends and peers	28%	24%
Schedule	18%	28%
Home life & family relationships	20%	20%
Social scene	12%	14%
Physical safety	9%	6%

All rates have decreased from 2023 to 2025 except 'social scene' among 7th-8th graders (5% in 2023)

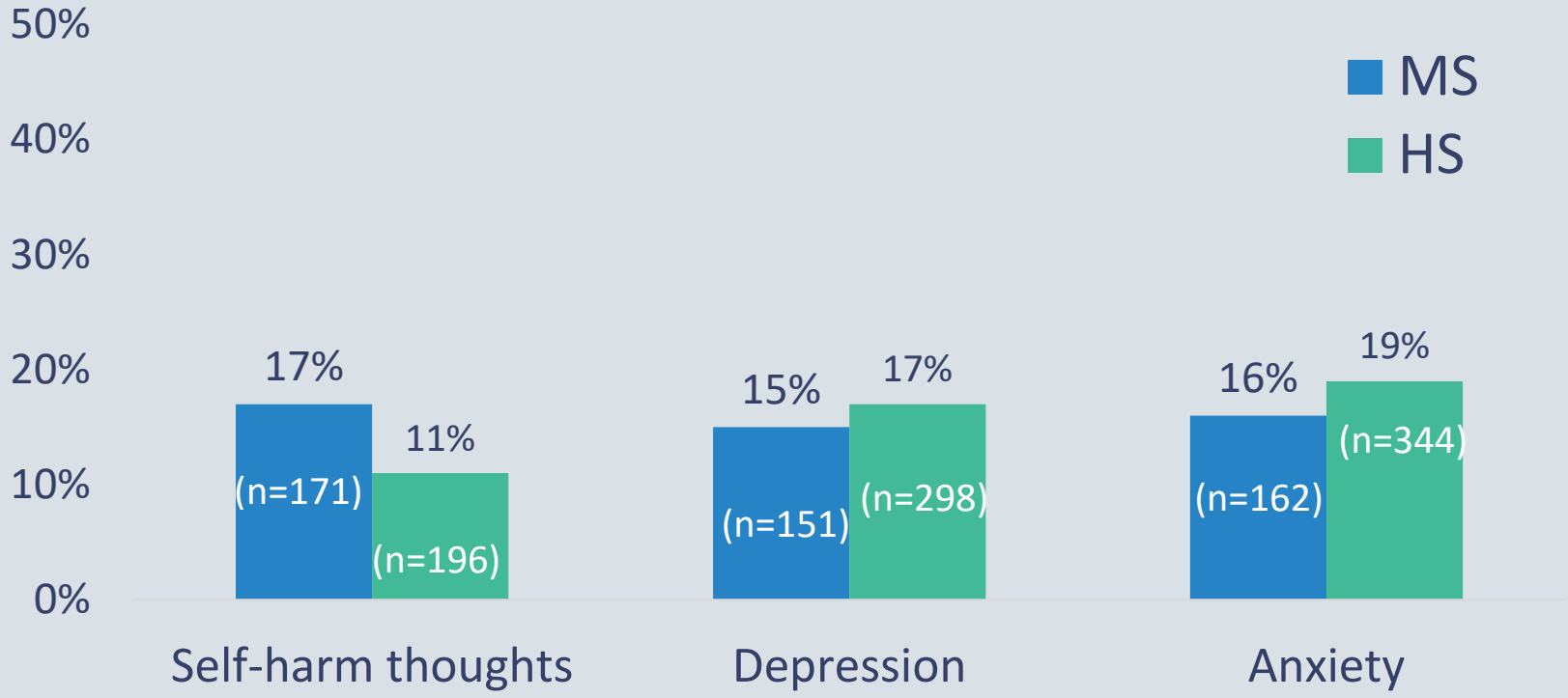
Recent feelings of anxiety, depression and loneliness increase with age.

In the past 30 days, have you felt anxious, sad or depressed, lonely?
% who responded 'Frequently'



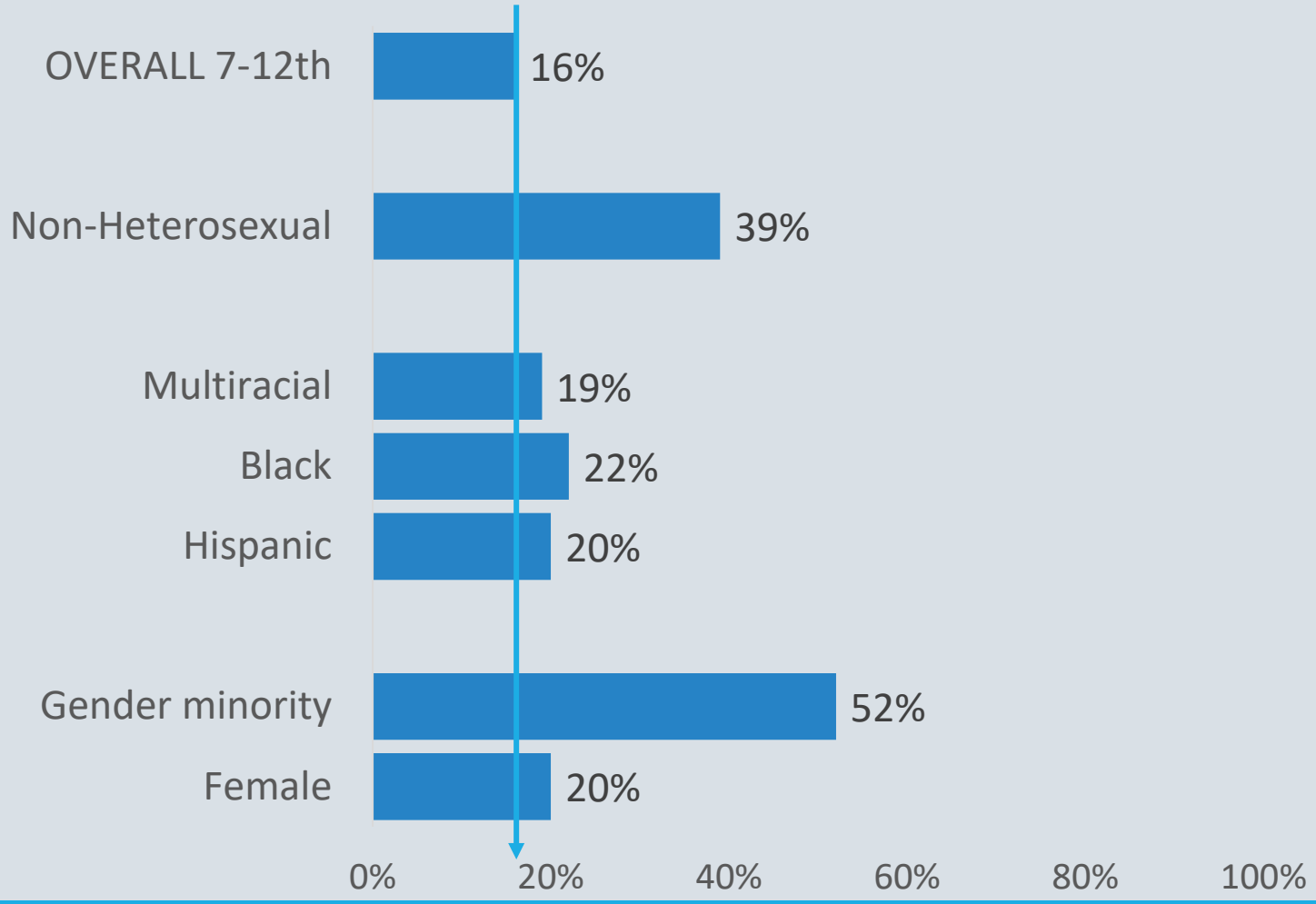
*All rates have decreased from 2023

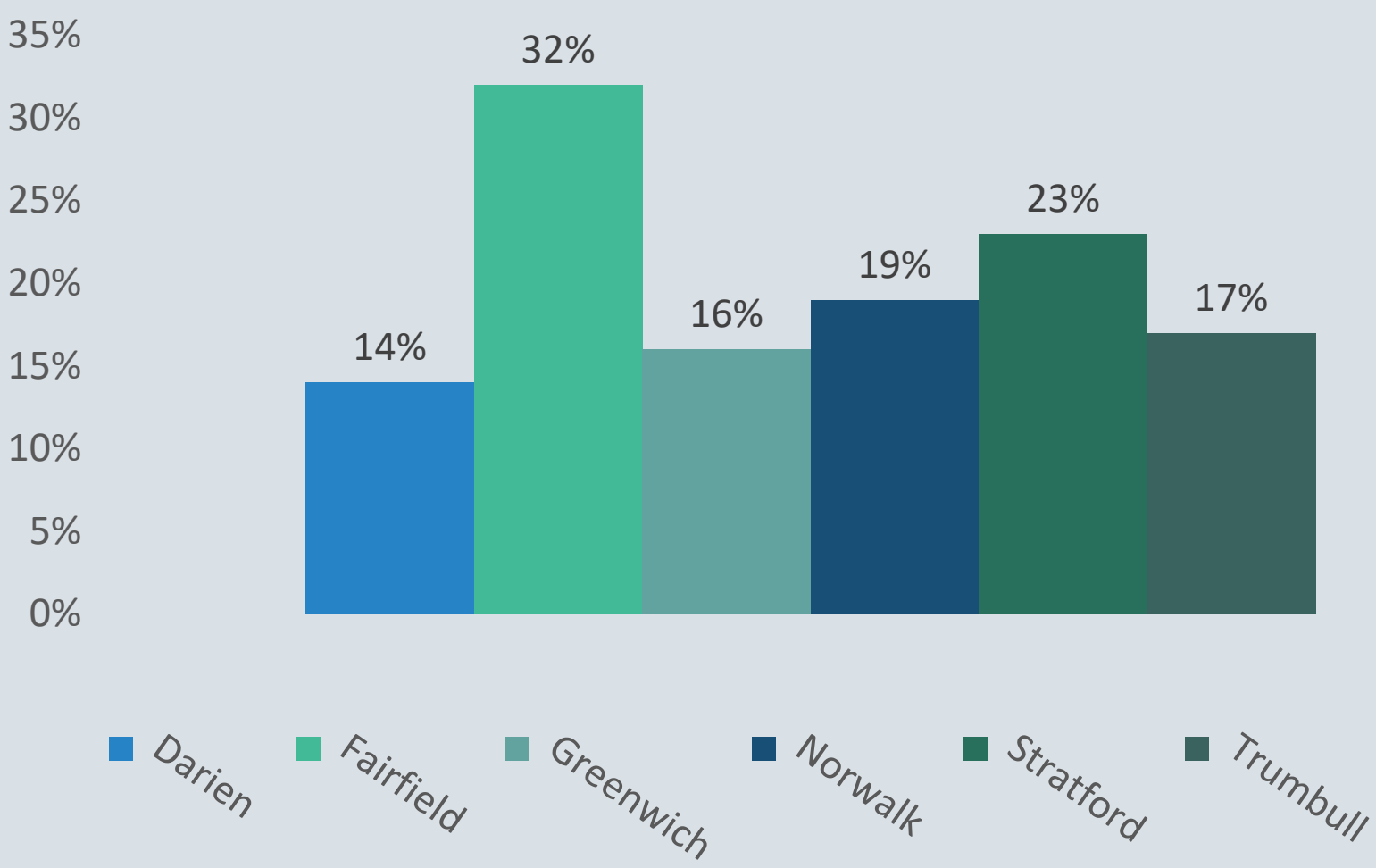
Past year rates of mental health challenges among Trumbull teens:



Currently, 1 in 3 teens who have experienced poor mental health have **talked to an adult.** MS rates of thoughts of self-harm increased in the last 2 years.

Groups reporting **higher rates** of past year **depression.**



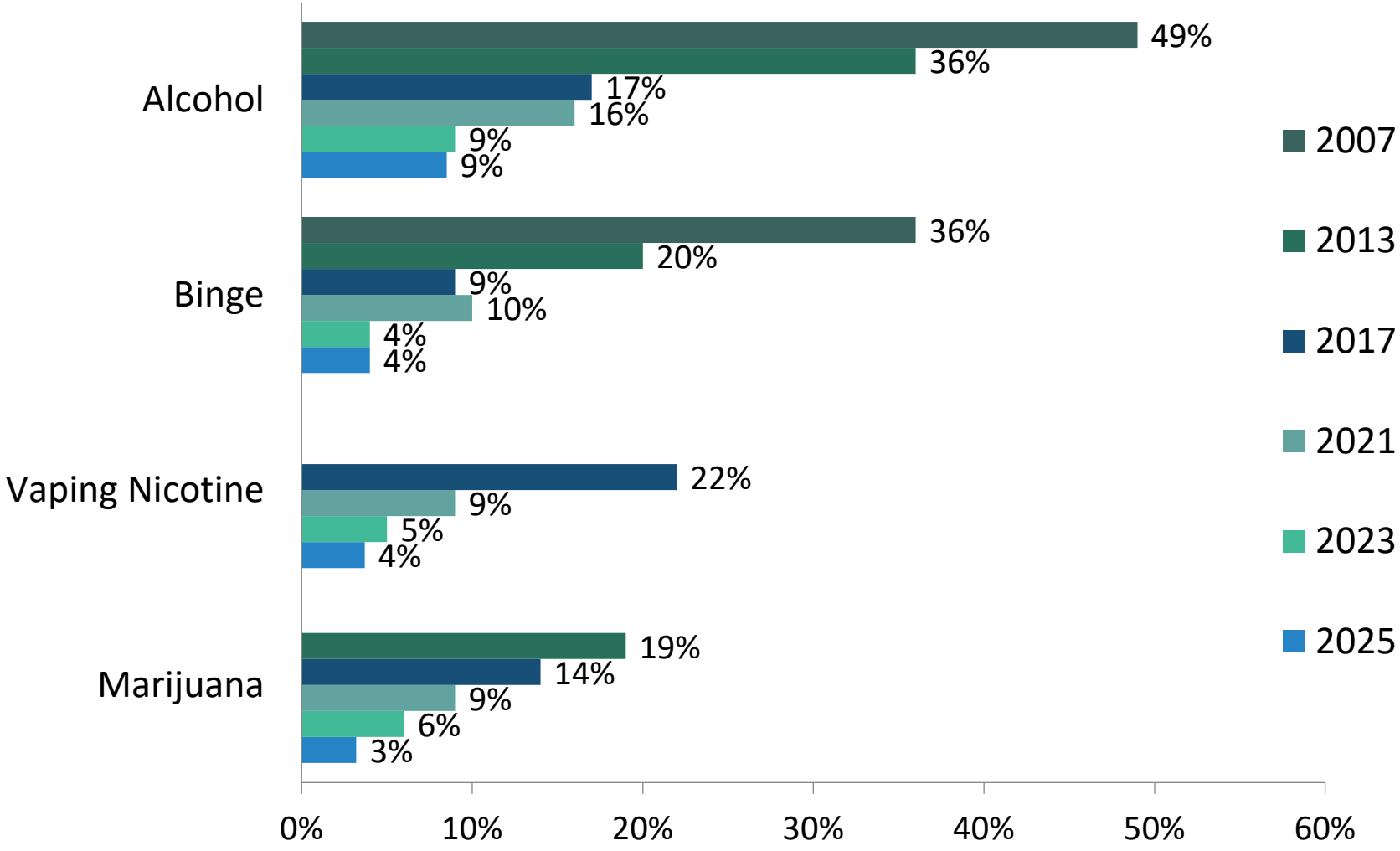


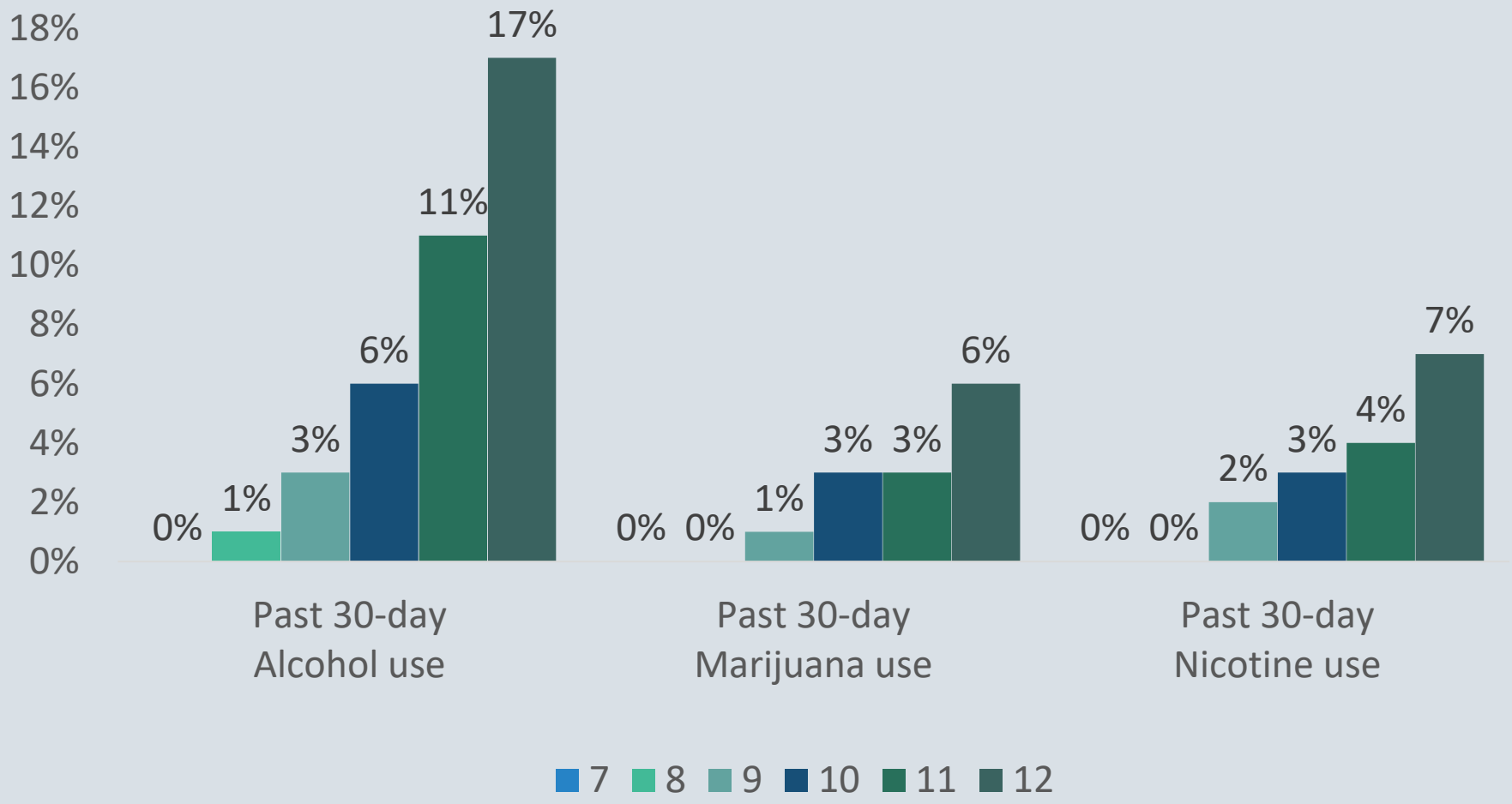
Rates of past year depression among high school teens in our region



Substance Use

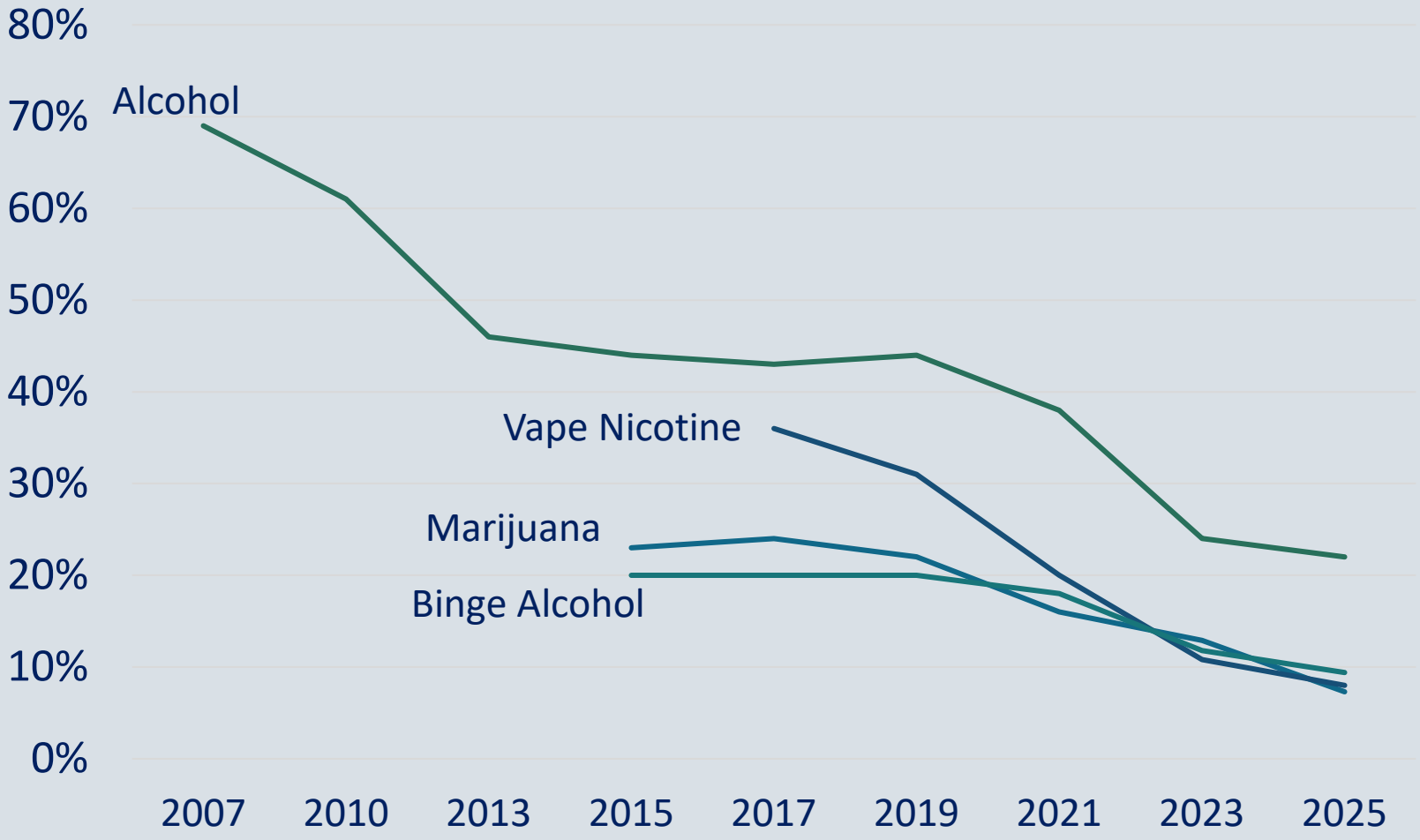
Past 30-day substance use rates among 7th-12th graders have **decreased** significantly.

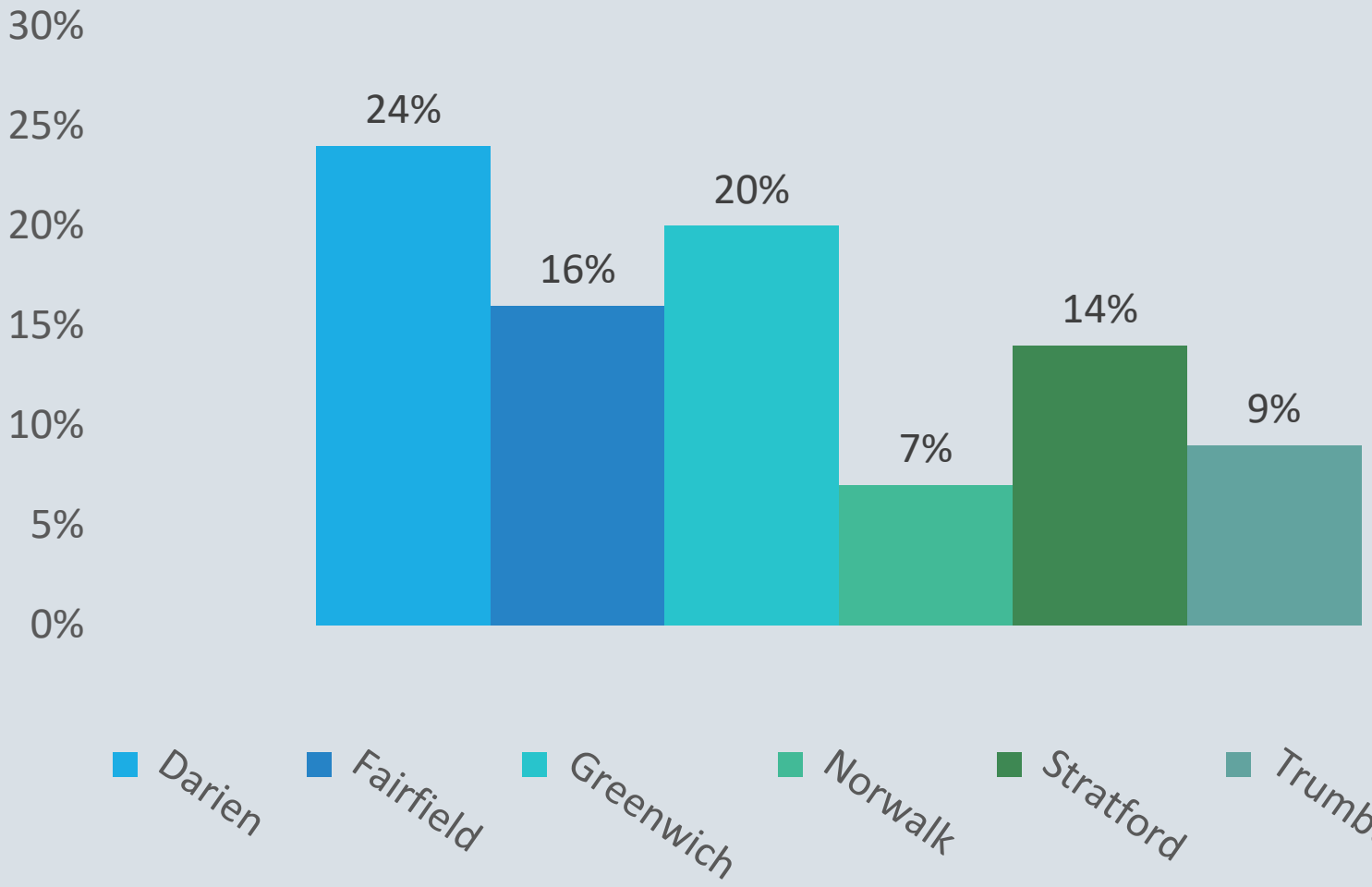




Past 30-day use rates increase with grade level.

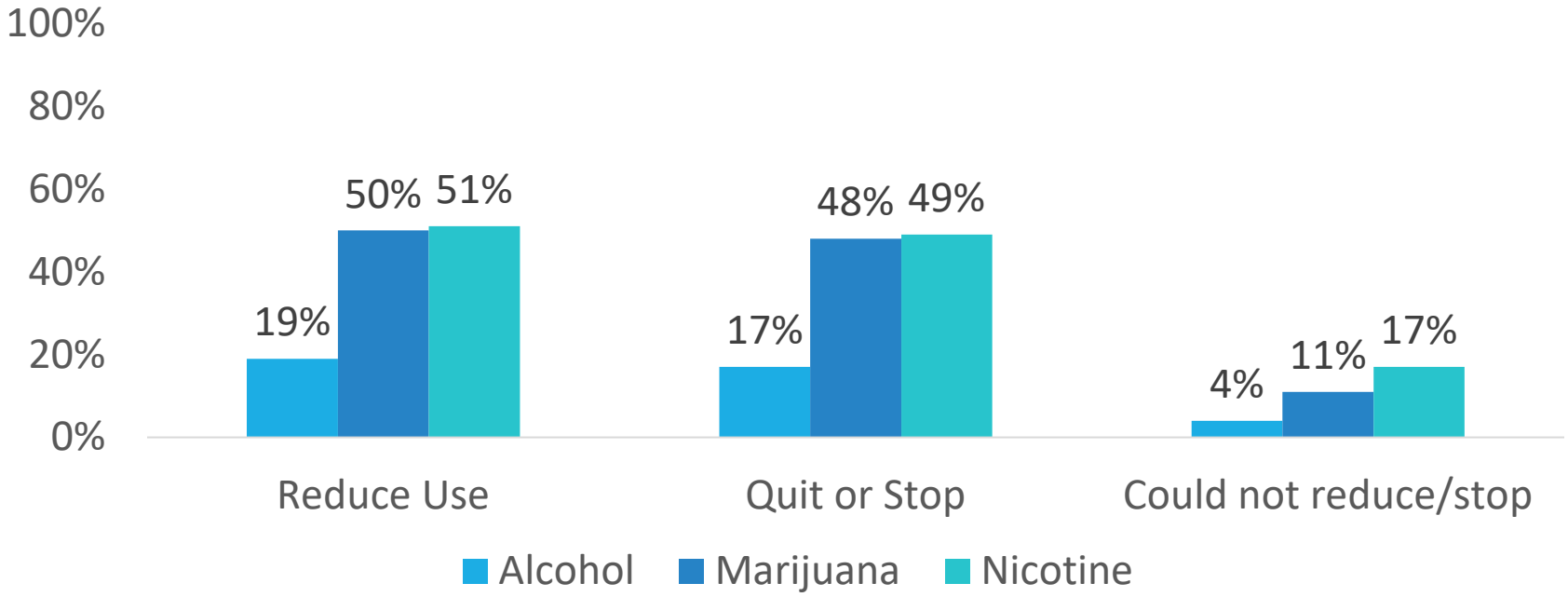
Lifetime Substance Use Among 9-12th Graders has Decreased



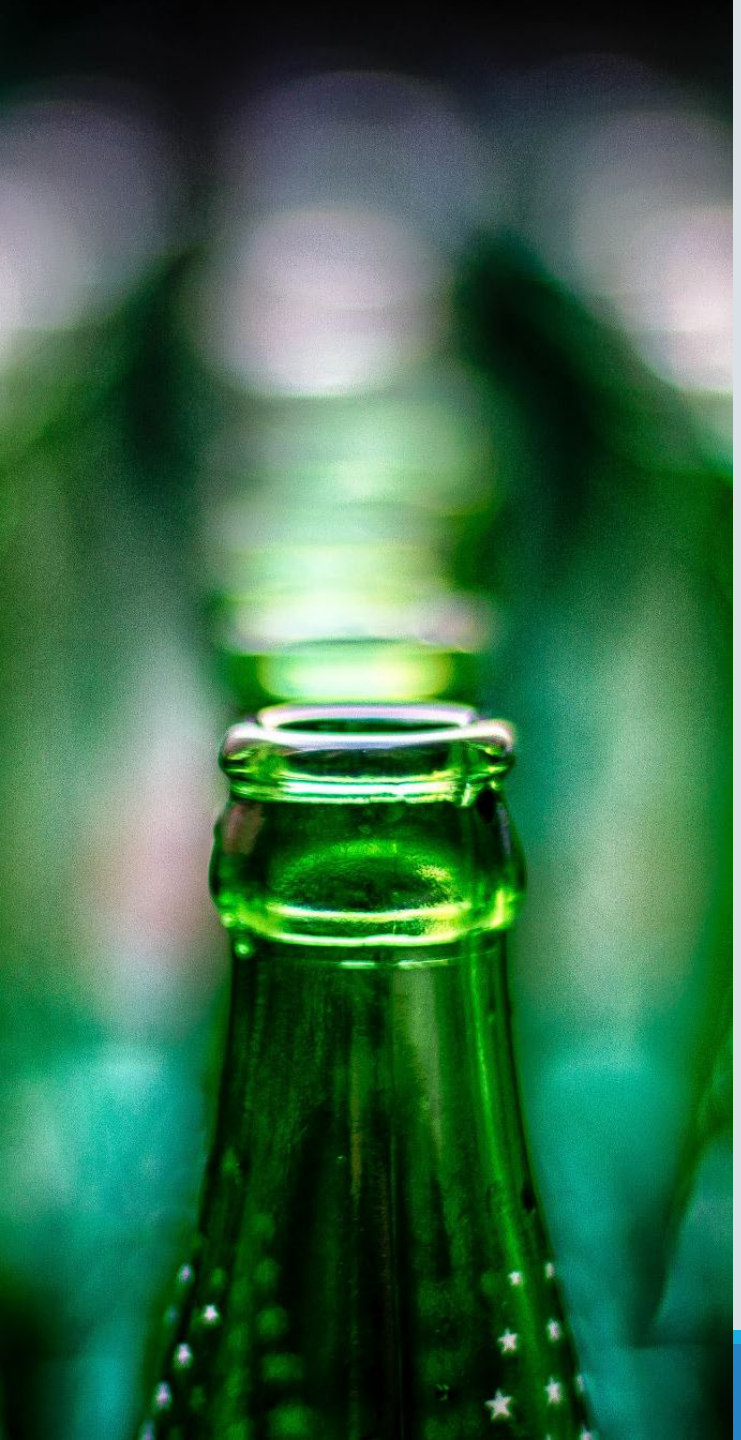


High School Alcohol Use Rates in Our Region

Have you ever tried to…



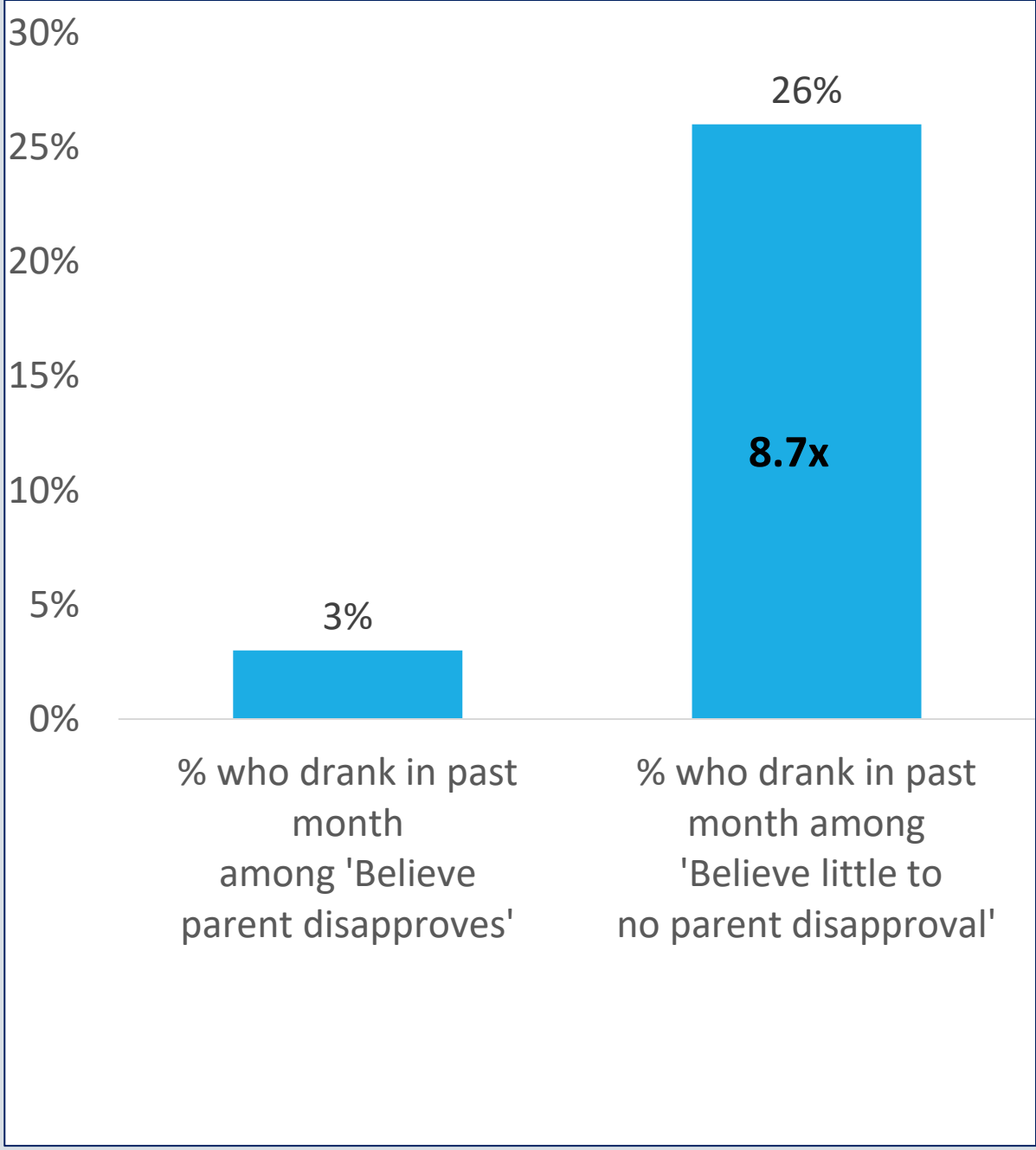
1 in 2 youth who have ever used marijuana and nicotine have tried to reduce their use or quit using.



Changing the Norms (2010-2025)

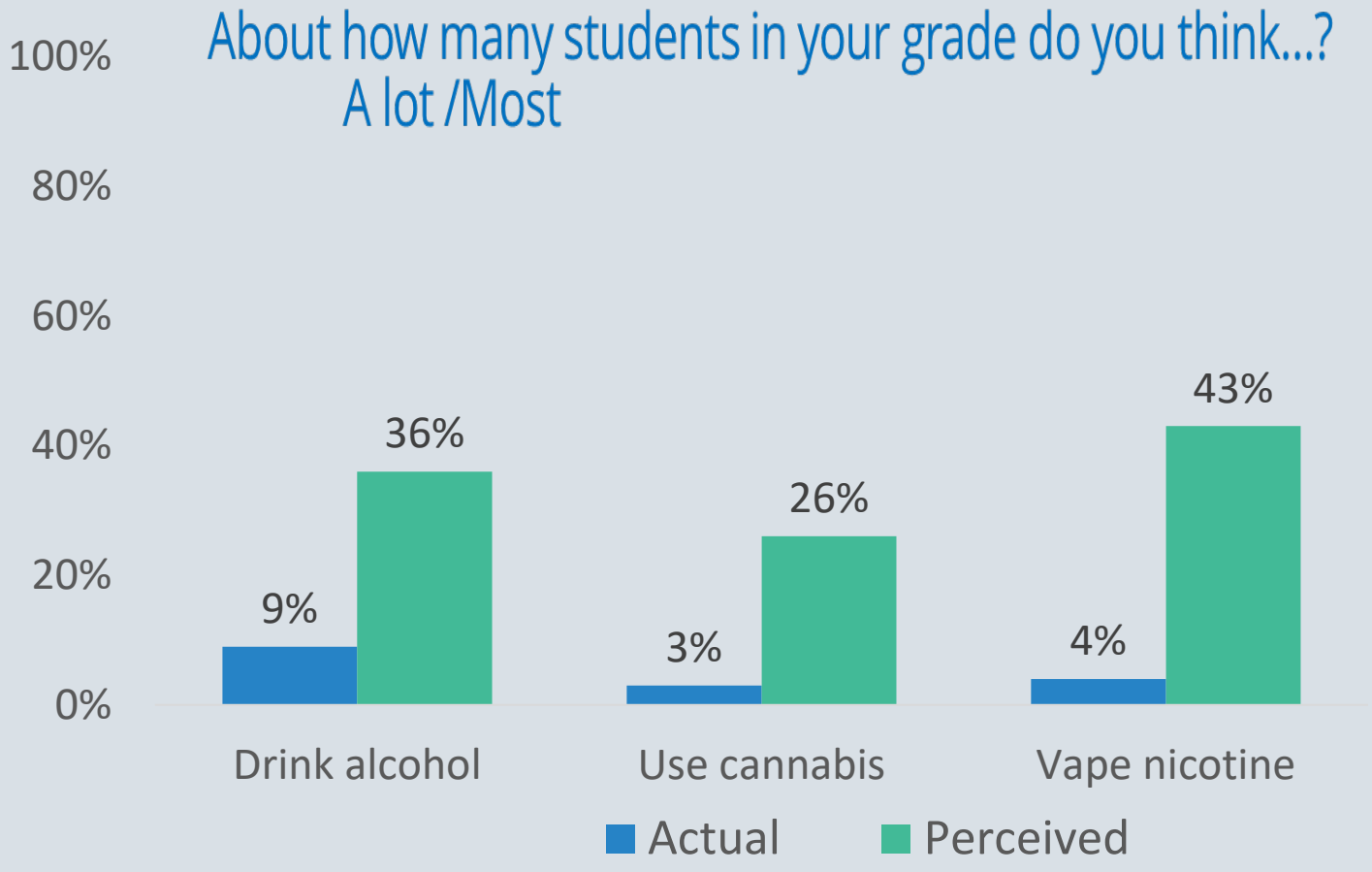
- Perceived risk of substance use has **increased** across all substances
- Perceptions that it's "easy" to get alcohol, marijuana, and nicotine have also **declined** significantly.
- Perception of peer disapproval has **increased significantly from 11% to 88%**
- Perception of parent disapproval has **increased from 62% to 95%**

Youth who believe their parents disapprove of substance use are **less likely** to use compared to youth who do not believe their parents disapprove of use.



7th to 12th graders

Perception of use in high school is much higher than actual reported use.



Perception of peer use rates have declined from 2023 to 2025.

Opportunities for TPAUD

Move from Resource Awareness to Help-Seeking Norms

- Develop help-seeking campaigns
- Educate youth and parents on 'how to start a conversation'
- Connect to Quit resources

Digital Wellness and Technology Harm Reduction

- Shift from abstinence messaging to digital self-management skills
- Promote family media plans

Peer Norm Misperceptions

- Implement data-based social norms campaign using grade level and subgroup-specific messaging
- Integrate into athletics, advisory, health classes, and parent communications

Home-Based Access to Alcohol

- Continue to promote parent social host initiative
- Promote safe and secure storage, no-permission norms
- Highlight parent messaging around key transition times for teens, such as middle school to high school and driver's license attainment

Town Council
Public Comments — 6/1/2026

Richard W. White
Trumbull, CT
rww@waldengeographic.com

I am speaking tonight about RESOLUTION TC31-46, appointing Christopher Pettinella as a member of the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority Board.

I have known Chris for many, many years. My son and Chris have been friends since Middlebrook Elementary. I was his Cub Scout Den Leader from Tiger Scouts to Webelos and crossing over to Boy Scouts. I've actually spent hours on various bus trips with Chris where I was a chaperone and he was a student leader.

I have listened to similar appointments over the years. I have been appointed a few times myself. The First Selectman vets and appoints a member for a board, there is an interview before a subcommittee, generally with a favorable recommendation, and an interview before the full Town Council, generally with a favorable vote.

Are you a resident of Trumbull? Are you an elector? Are you registered with one party or another? Why are you interested in serving? Will you do the work required and participate in meetings?

At the last L&A Subcommittee meeting, I heard concerns about the decision to circulate and sign a petition that may have required a special election. Apparently we have a new criteria based on decision making.

But the entire special election process is a product of decisions:

- Past Charter Revision Commissions made decisions regarding which vacancies would be addressed in the Charter and which would be left to state law.

- Our General Assembly made decisions in setting a threshold of only twenty electors to trigger certain special elections.

- Our Town Council made decisions when it adopted an election budget with minimal contingency funding available for special elections.

The State of Connecticut has intentionally made certain special elections easy to trigger. State law establishes the requirements for that process and obtaining the approval of the L&A Subcommittee chair is not among them. The possibility of a special election is a feature of our system, not evidence of poor decision-making by any particular citizen.

Every step in the process involved people making decisions that others might disagree with. If disagreement with a political decision becomes the standard for evaluating appointments, then very few of us would survive that test.

Christopher is a resident of the Town of Trumbull, he is an elector and registered republican, he will do the work required and participate in meetings. He is both a neighbor and family friend and I fully support the First Selectman's appointment.

https://trumbull-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4666/Town-of-Trumbull-Charter-PDF
https://cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_146.htm#sec_9-164b