

2022 FLORIDA YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE SURVEY

October 18, 2022

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ICF | Rothenbach Research and Consulting



Presentation Outline

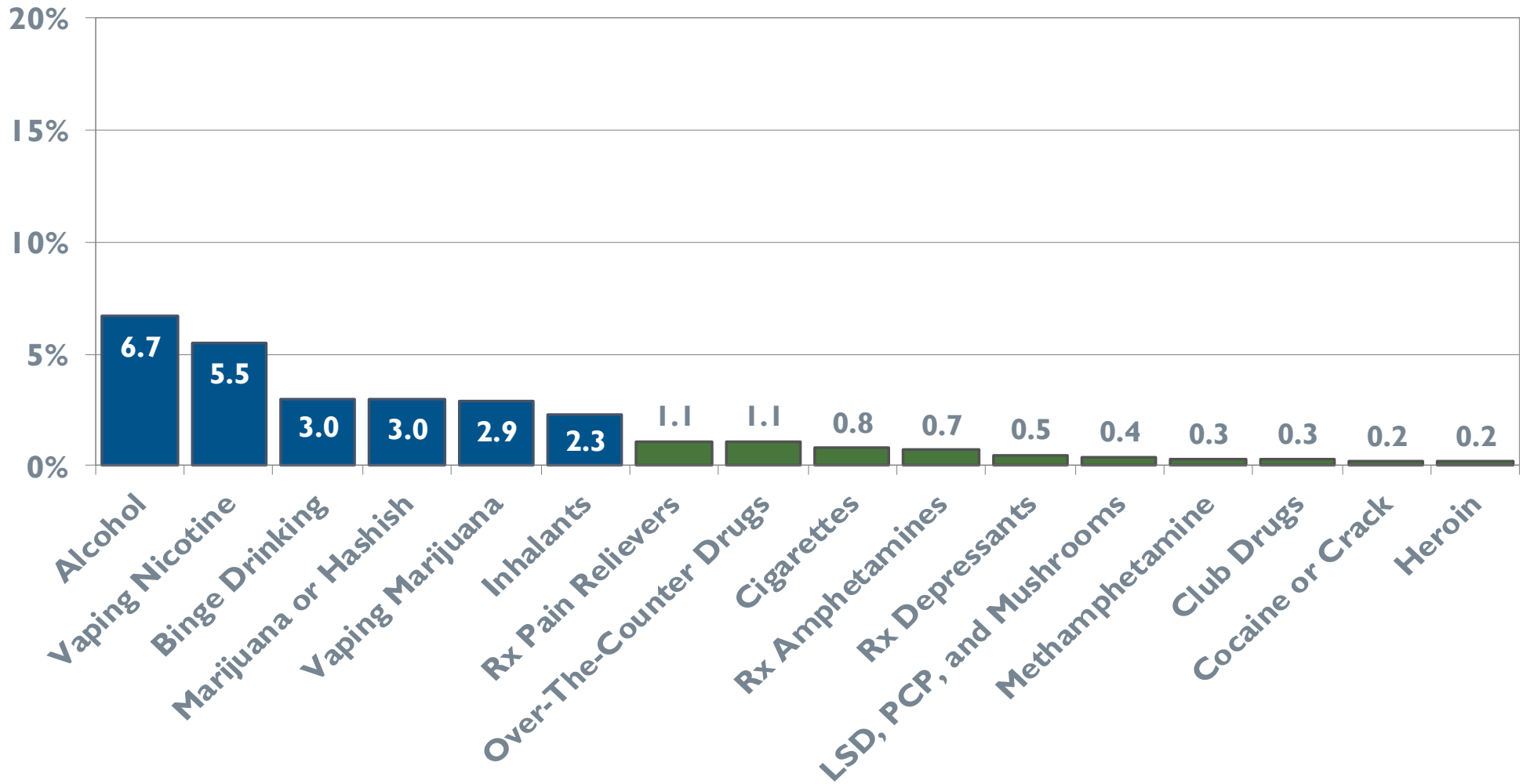
1. Methodology
2. Substance use prevalence rates
3. Trend lines for alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana
4. Vaping nicotine and vaping marijuana
5. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
6. Emotional health and substance use
7. Children in military families

Background and Methods

- The Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) is part of the multi-survey Florida Youth Survey (FYS) project.
- In 2022, students were surveyed in all 67 Florida counties.
- Participation from 384 public middle schools and 352 public high schools.
- Final sample size is 47,572 across grades 6 through 12.
- 61.5% administered online and 38.5% with booklets.
- The margin of error is less than 1.0 percentage point for state-level M.S. and H.S. prevalence rates.

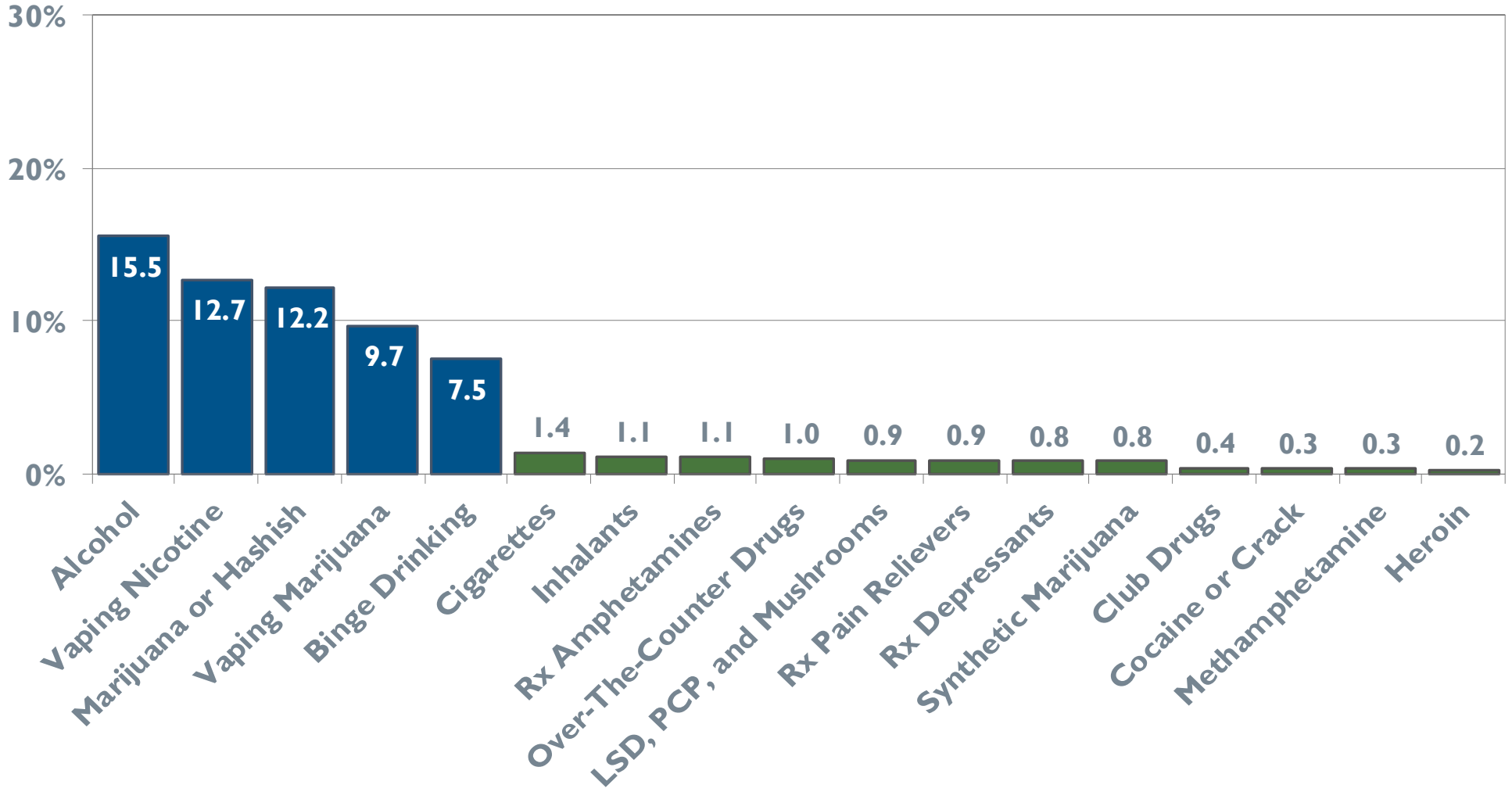
Past-30-Day Prevalence

Middle School



Past-30-Day Prevalence

High School

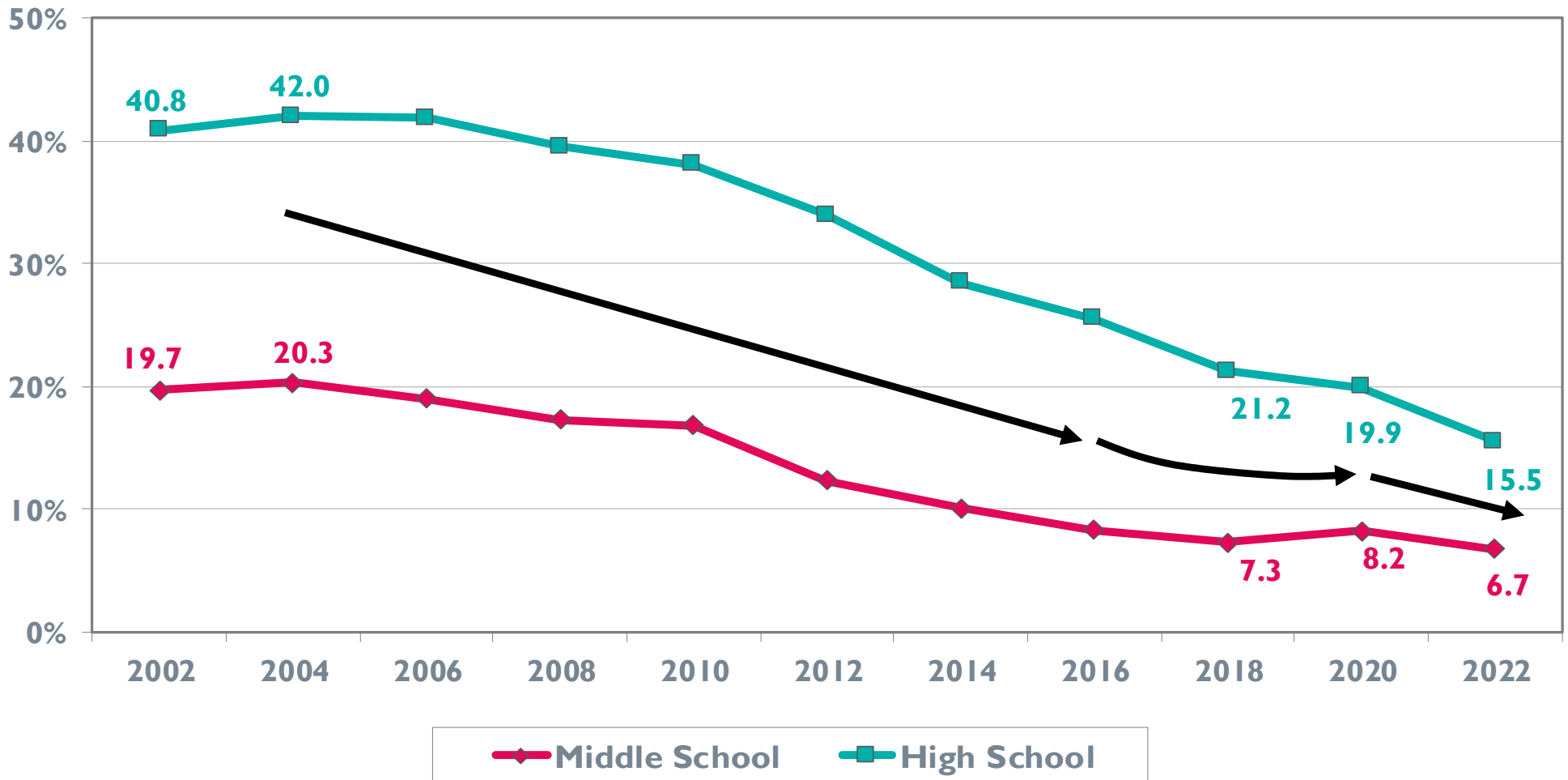


Past-30-Day Drug Use Summary

- Alcohol and vaping nicotine are the highest prevalence substance use categories across age groups.
- Marijuana use, vaping marijuana, and binge drinking are also higher prevalence.
 - *Among H.S. students, marijuana use is nearly as prevalent as vaping nicotine.*
- Rates of use for other drug categories, including cigarettes, are very low.

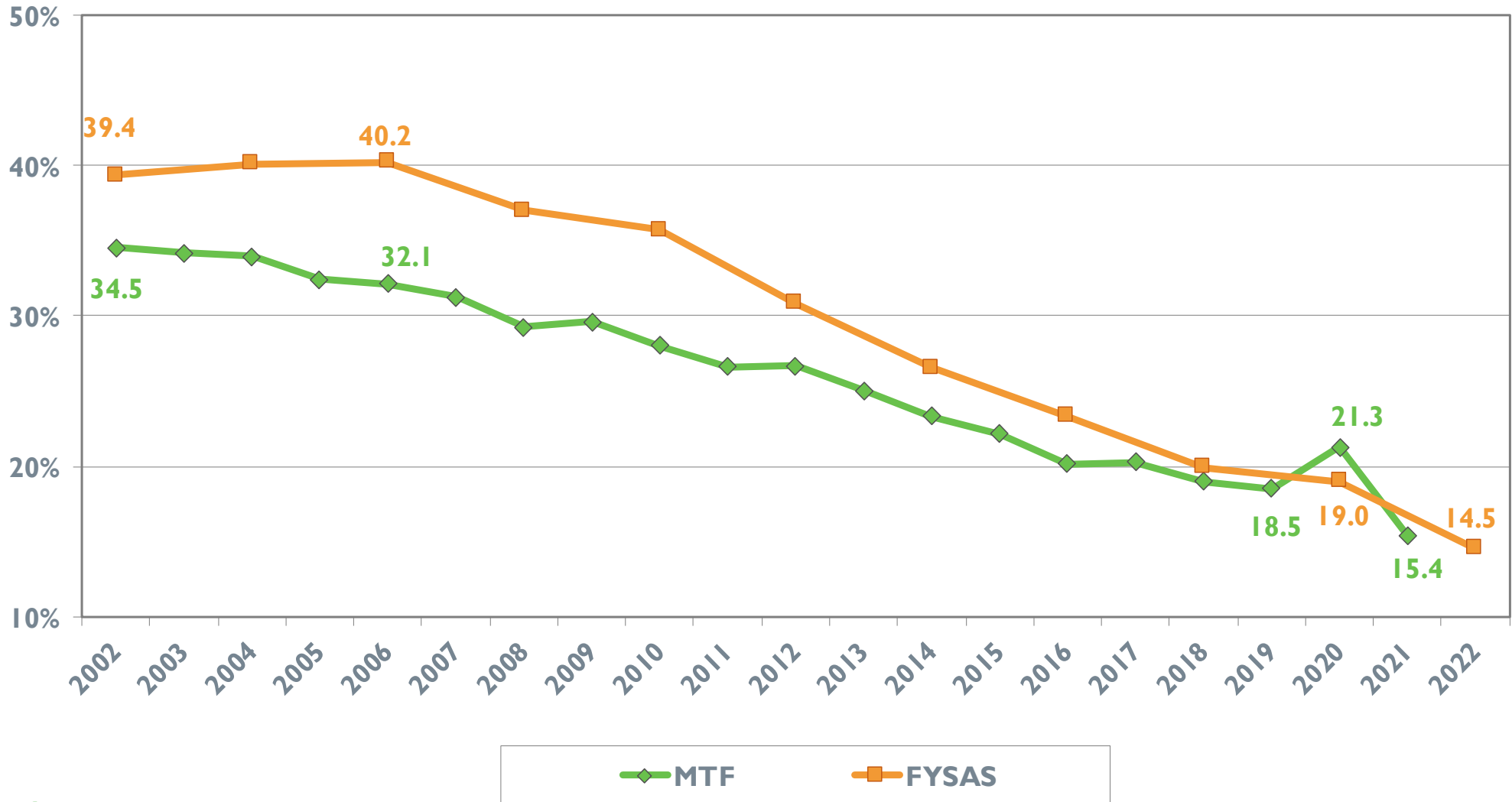
Alcohol

Past-30-Day Prevalence by Grade Cohort



Alcohol

Past-30-Day Prevalence for 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders

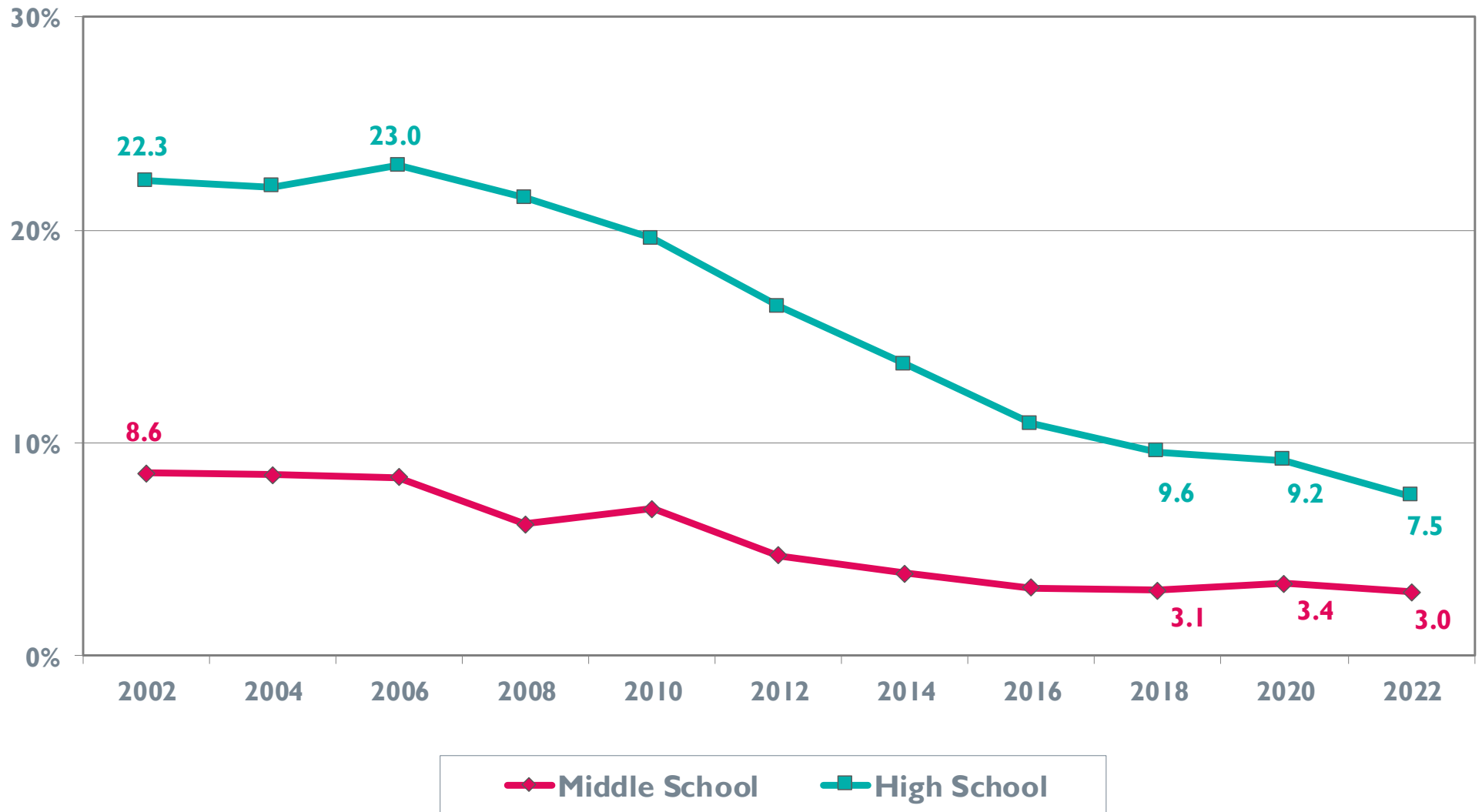


The MTF 2020 Bump

- Could be due to methodological issues.
 - *Survey halted about one-third through data collection process because of school closures.*
 - *First year of new web-based administration.*
- Could be a real but short-term increase in substance use specific to the early months of the pandemic.
 - *FYSAS nearly completed data collection just as schools were shutting down. MTF continued surveying several weeks into this period.*
 - *Did FYSAS catch a small part of this bump in 2020?*

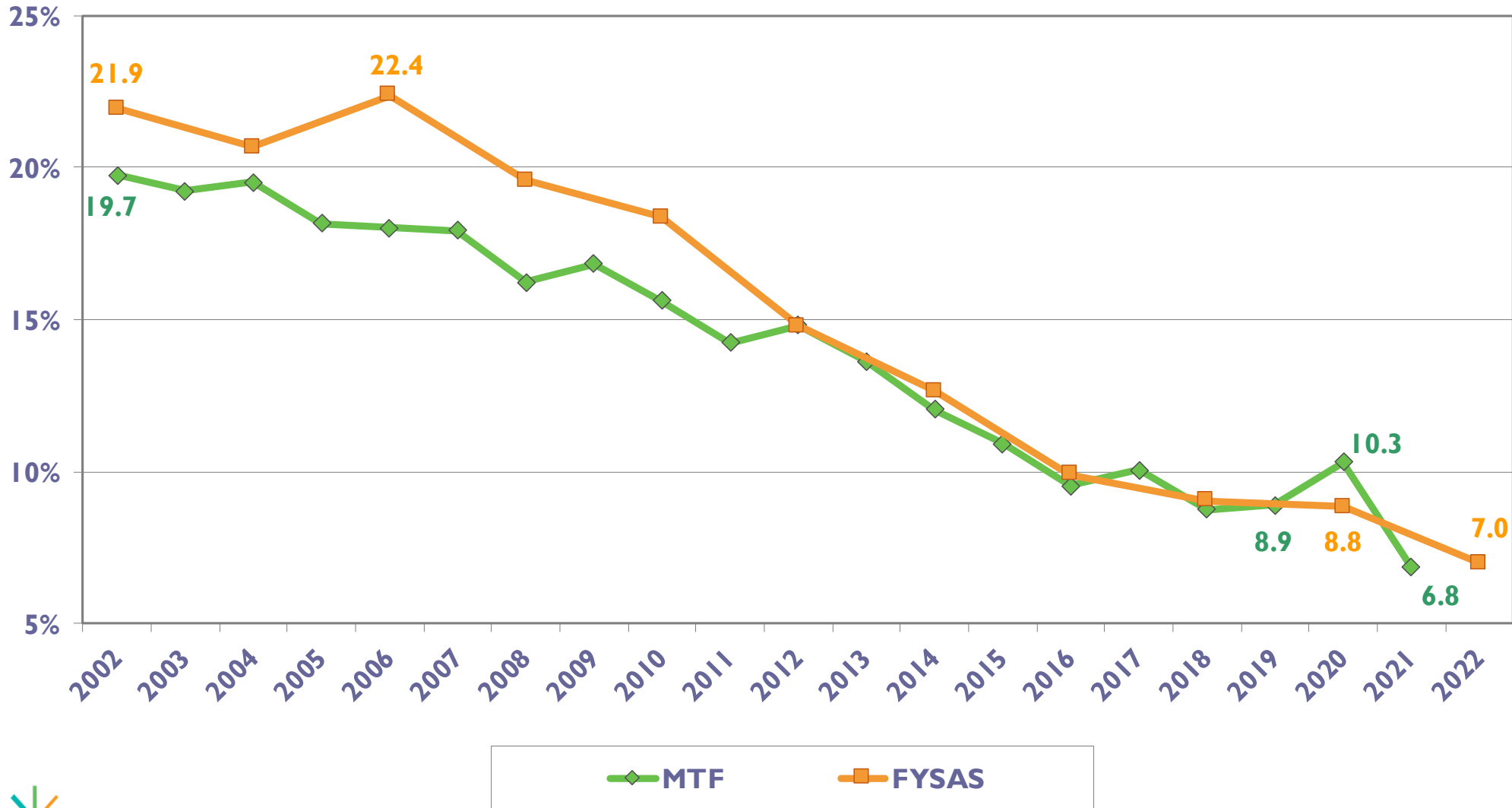
Binge Drinking

Prevalence by Grade Cohort



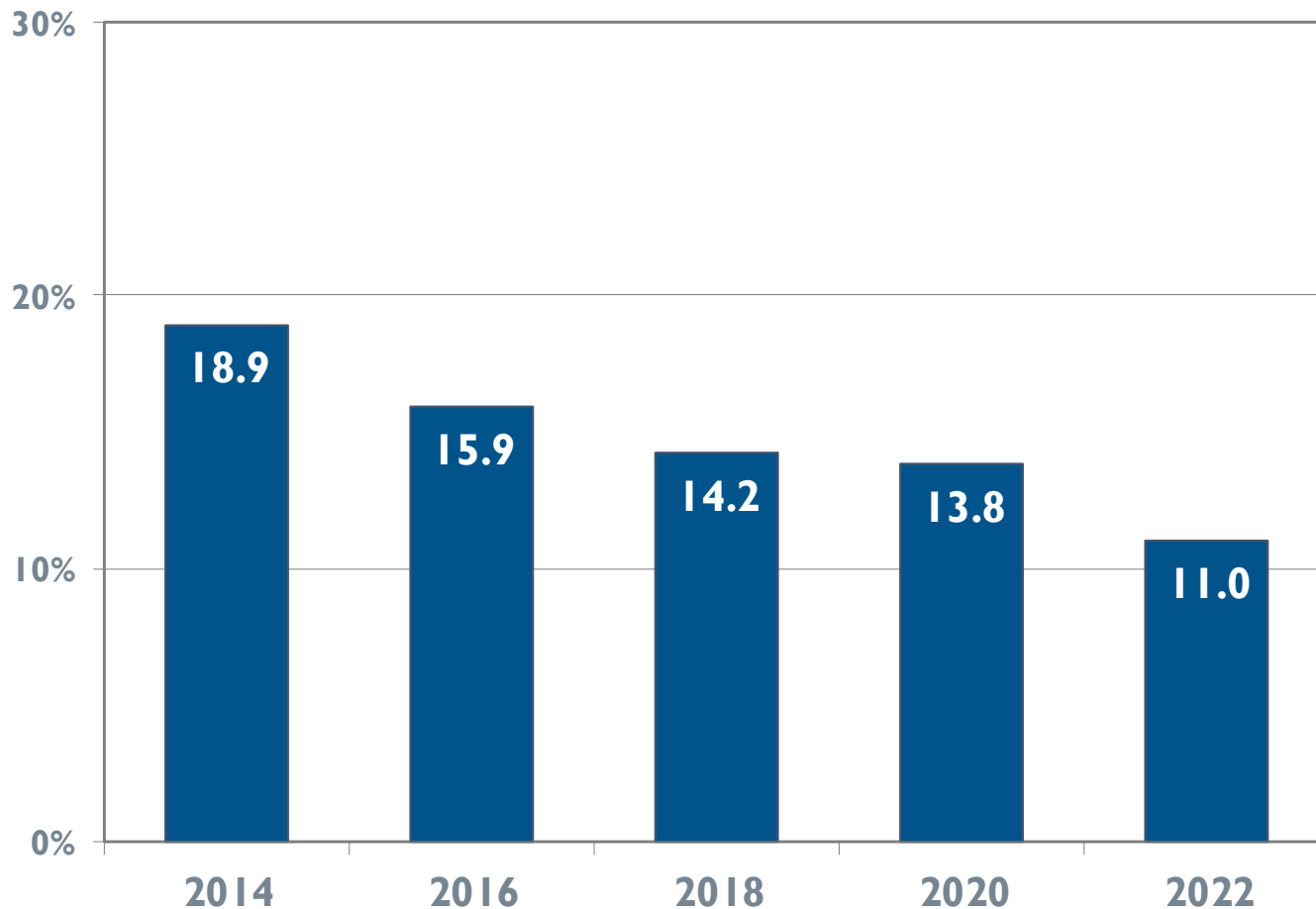
Binge Drinking

Prevalence for 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders



Blacking Out from Drinking

Lifetime Prevalence Among High School Students



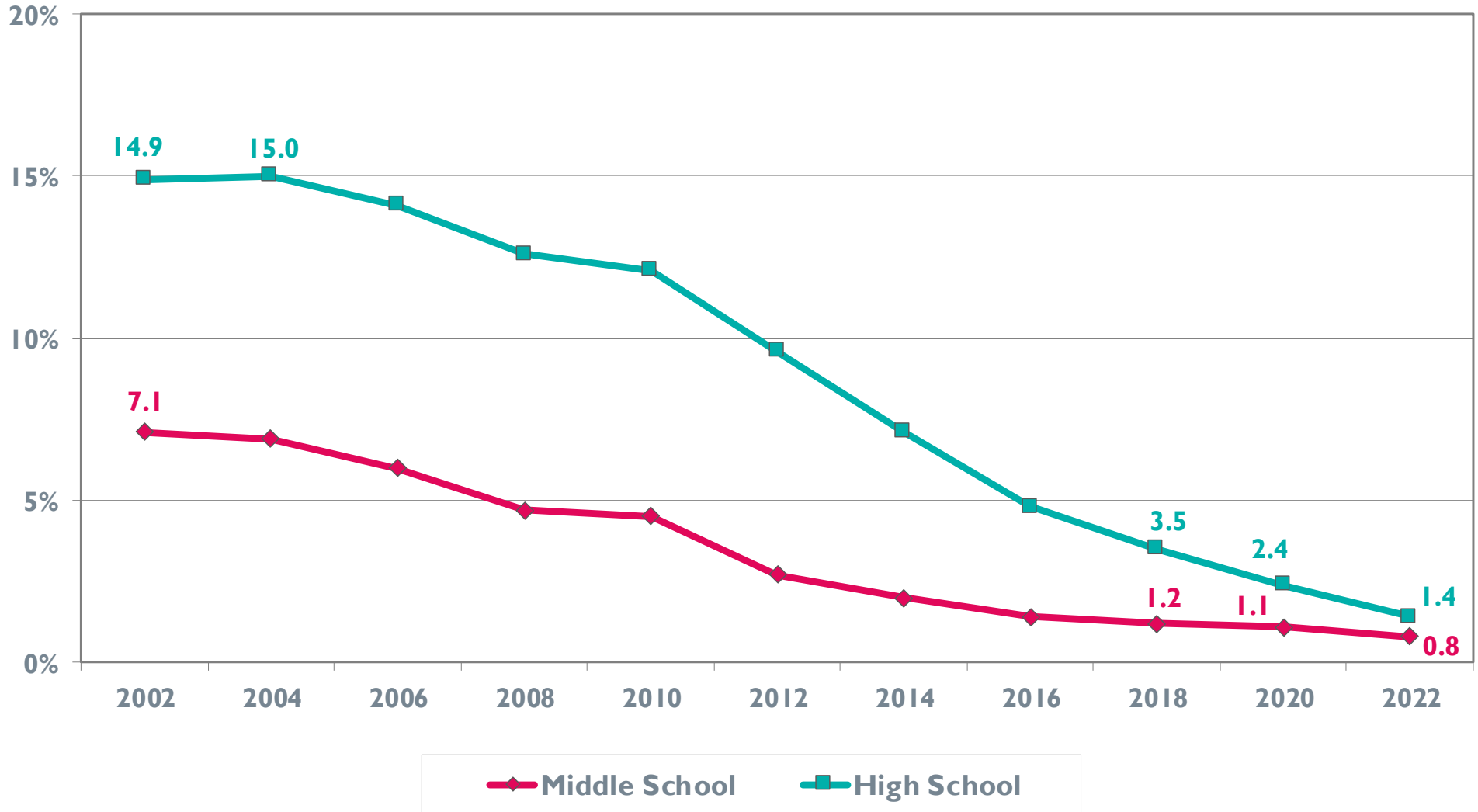
On how many occasions (if any) in your lifetime have you woken up after a night of drinking alcoholic beverages and not been able to remember the things that you did or places that you went?

Alcohol Use Trend Summary

- The long-term decline in alcohol use continued in 2022, after slowing (among H.S. students) and increasing (among M.S. students) in 2020.
 - *Between 2004 and 2022, 26.5 percentage point reduction in past-30-day use among H.S. students and 13.6 percentage point reduction among M.S. students.*
- Two interpretations:
 - *Pandemic bump: In 2020, more Florida students reported alcohol use because of the pandemic.*
 - *Pandemic slump: Reduced social activity and time outside of home in the aftermath of the pandemic may be reducing alcohol use in 2022.*

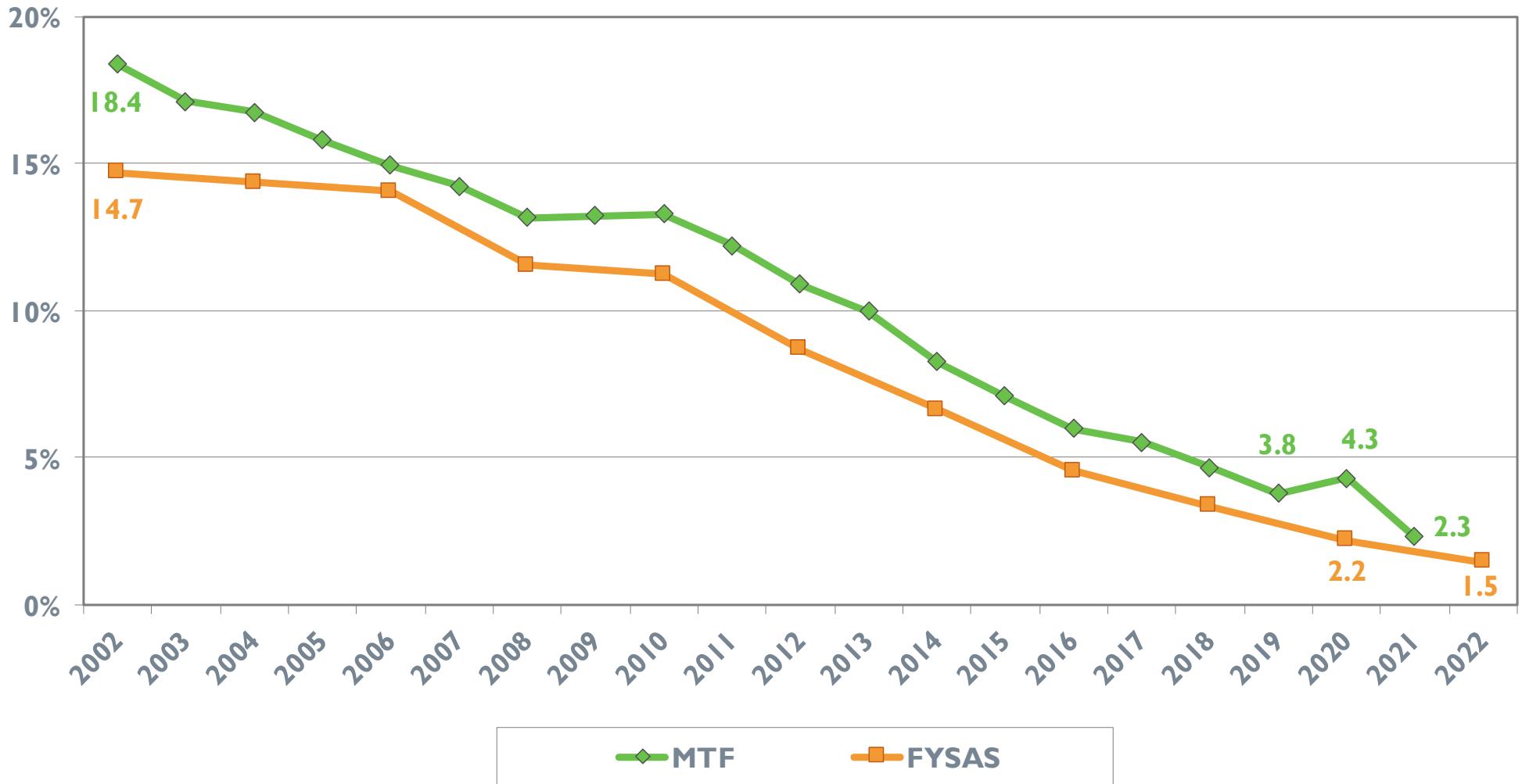
Cigarettes

Past-30-Day Prevalence by Grade Cohort



Cigarettes

Past-30-Day Prevalence for 8th, 10th and 12th Graders

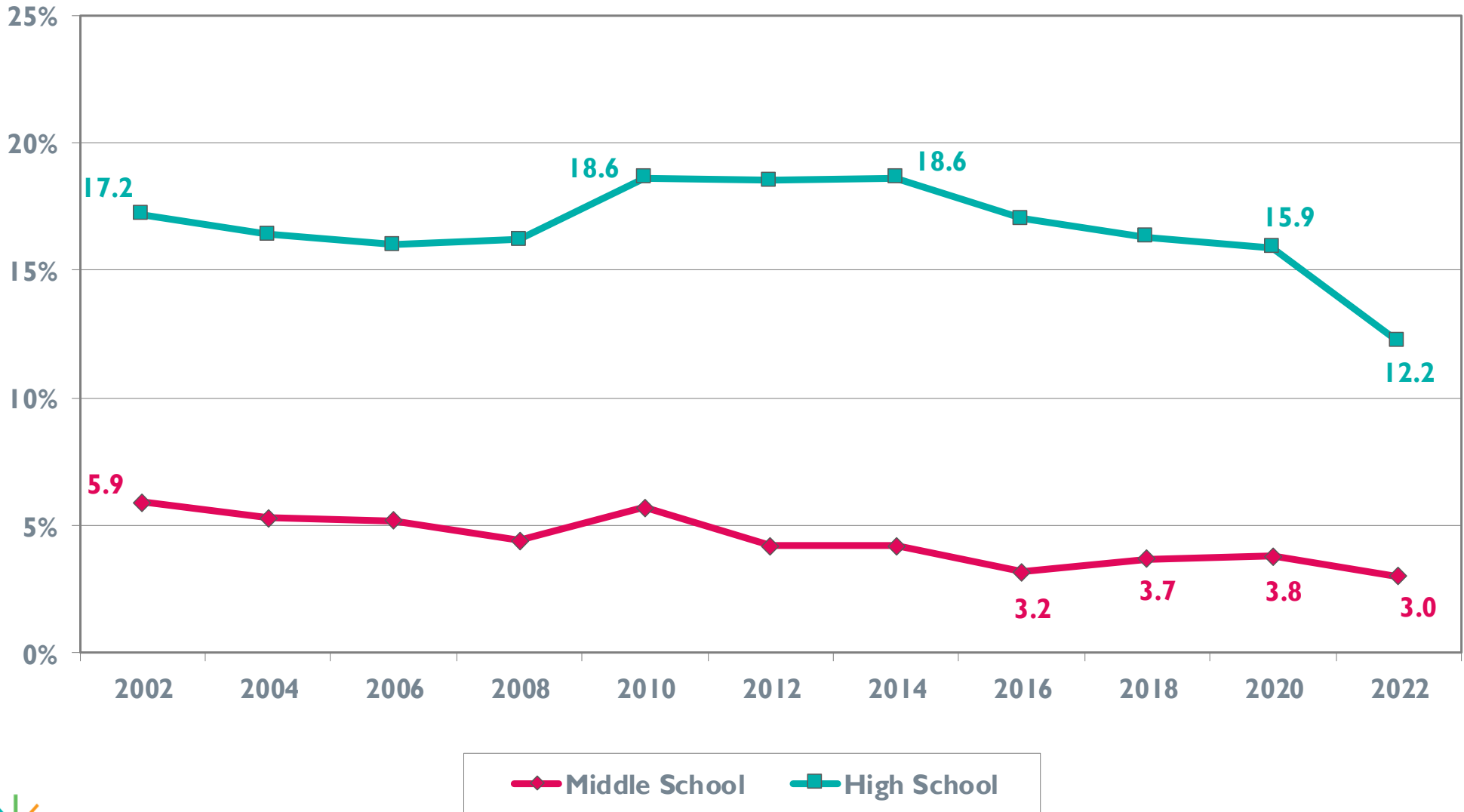


Cigarette Use Trend Summary

- The long-term reduction in cigarette use among Florida students continued in 2022.
- Among H.S. students, past-30-day cigarette use has dropped from 15.0% in 2004 to 1.4% in 2022.
- Among M.S. students, past-30-day cigarette use has dropped from 7.1% in 2002 to 0.8% in 2022.
- The prevalence rate for smoking cigarettes is now as low or nearly as low as the rates for “hard” drugs.

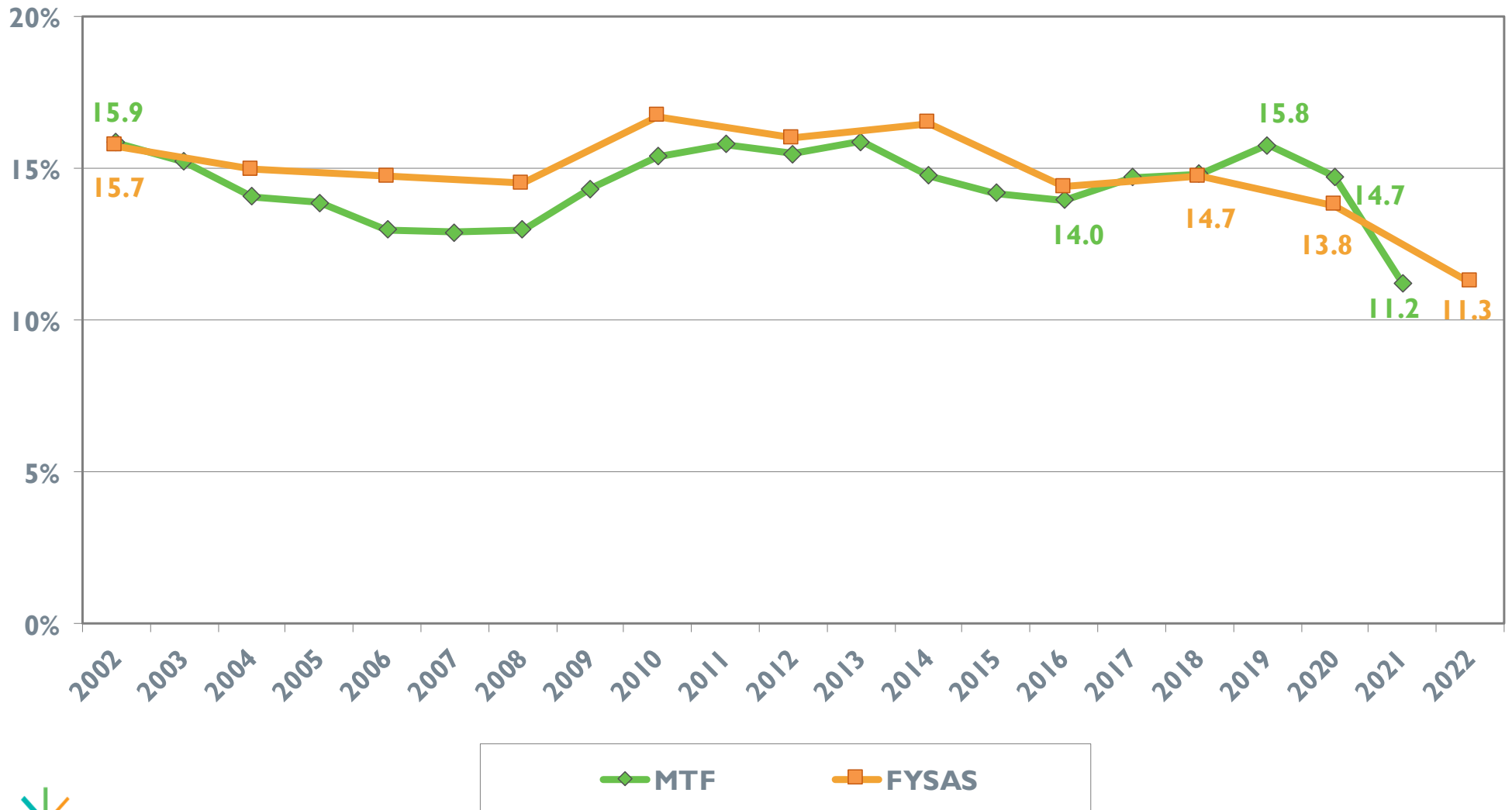
Marijuana

Past-30-Day Prevalence by Grade Cohort



Marijuana

Past-30-Day Prevalence for 8th, 10th and 12th Graders

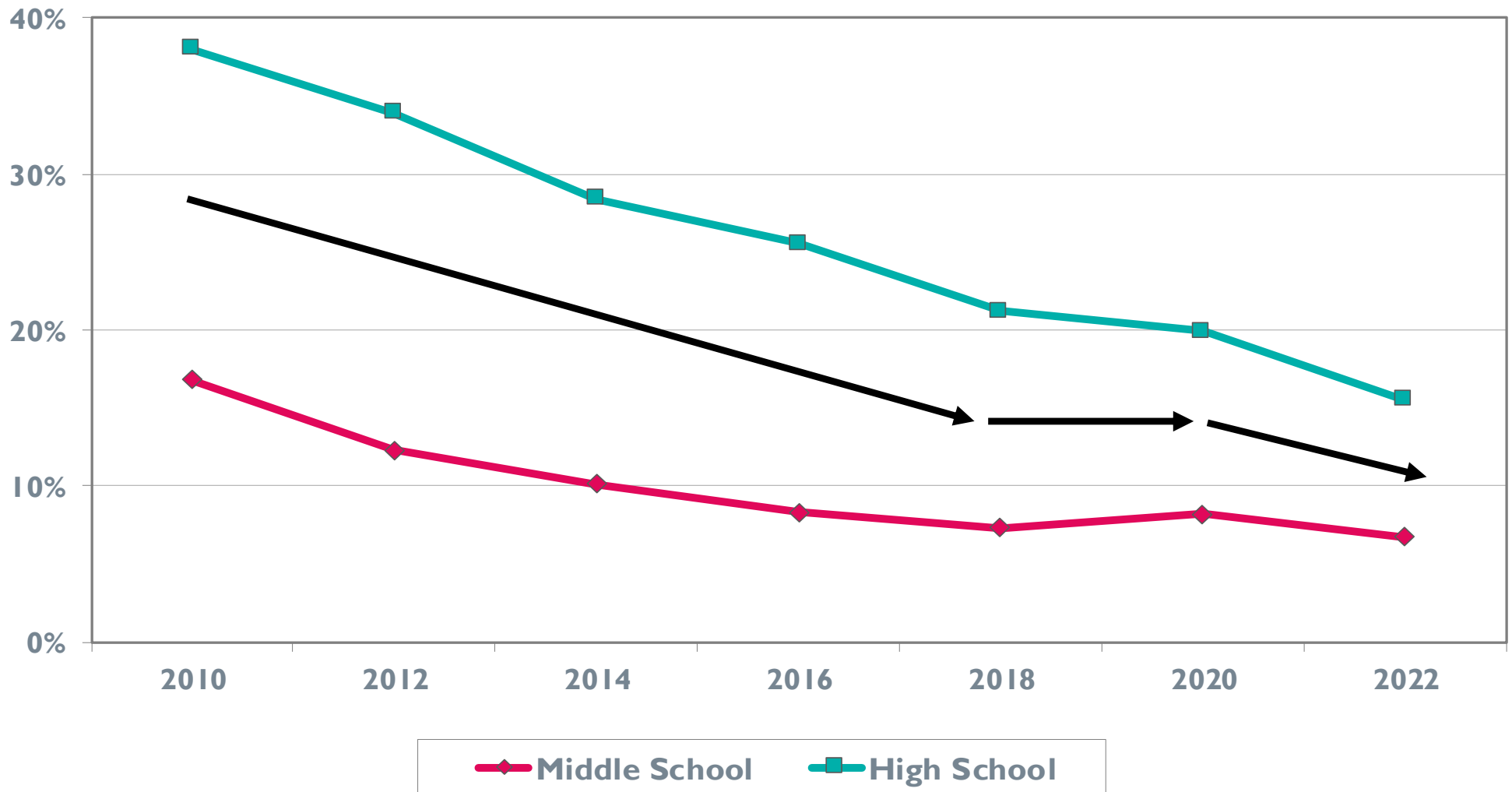


Marijuana Use Trend Summary

- Among H.S. students, 2022 data show a continuation in the reduction in marijuana use.
 - *Past-30-day use has dropped from 18.6% in 2014 to 12.2% in 2022*
 - *The drop of 3.7 percentage points between 2020 and 2022 is the largest change in the trend line, raising the possibility of a pandemic-related effect*
- Among M.S. students, past-30-day use dropped to an all-time low of 3.0%, after small increases in 2018 and 2020.

Long-Term Trend and the Pandemic

Past-30-Day Alcohol Use



The Long-Term Decline in Adolescent Substance Use

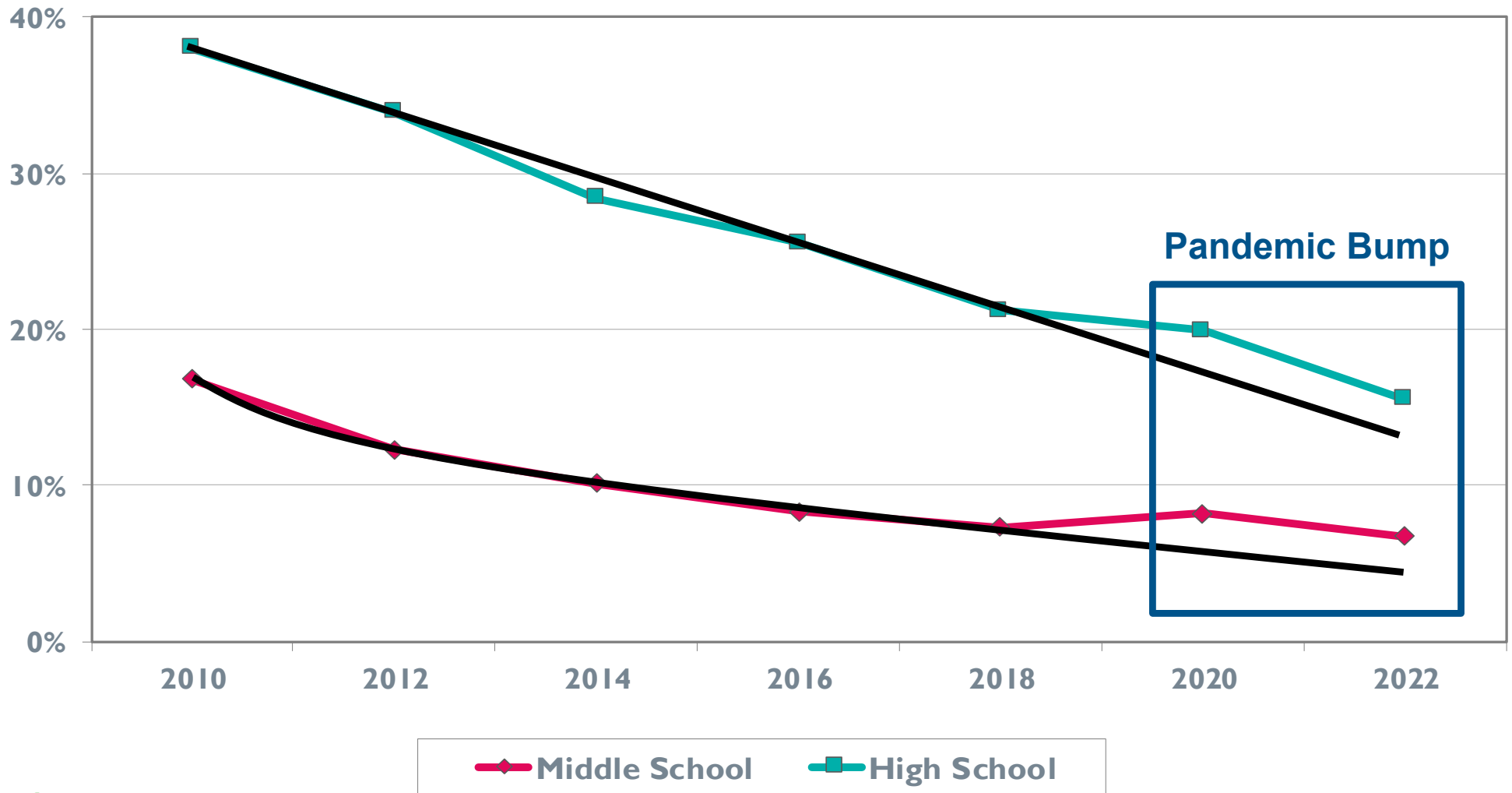
- Some data points from 2018, and continuing into 2020, suggest that the long-term trend of declining adolescent substance use may be reaching an end.
 - *For some substance use categories, prevalence had slowed, stalled, or among M.S. students, started to increase.*
- Results from 2022, however, have mostly snapped back into the long-term pattern of declining substance use.

Possibility 1: The Long-Term Decline in Substance Use will Continue

- The sociological forces and public policy initiatives responsible for the long-term decline in adolescent substance use are still at play.
- The slowdowns, stalls, and increases in 2020 were caused by a pandemic bump.
 - *Young people may have responded to pandemic-related anxiety and loneliness with increased substance use.*
- Substance use rates may continue to decline.

Alcohol

Past-30-Day Prevalence by Grade Cohort

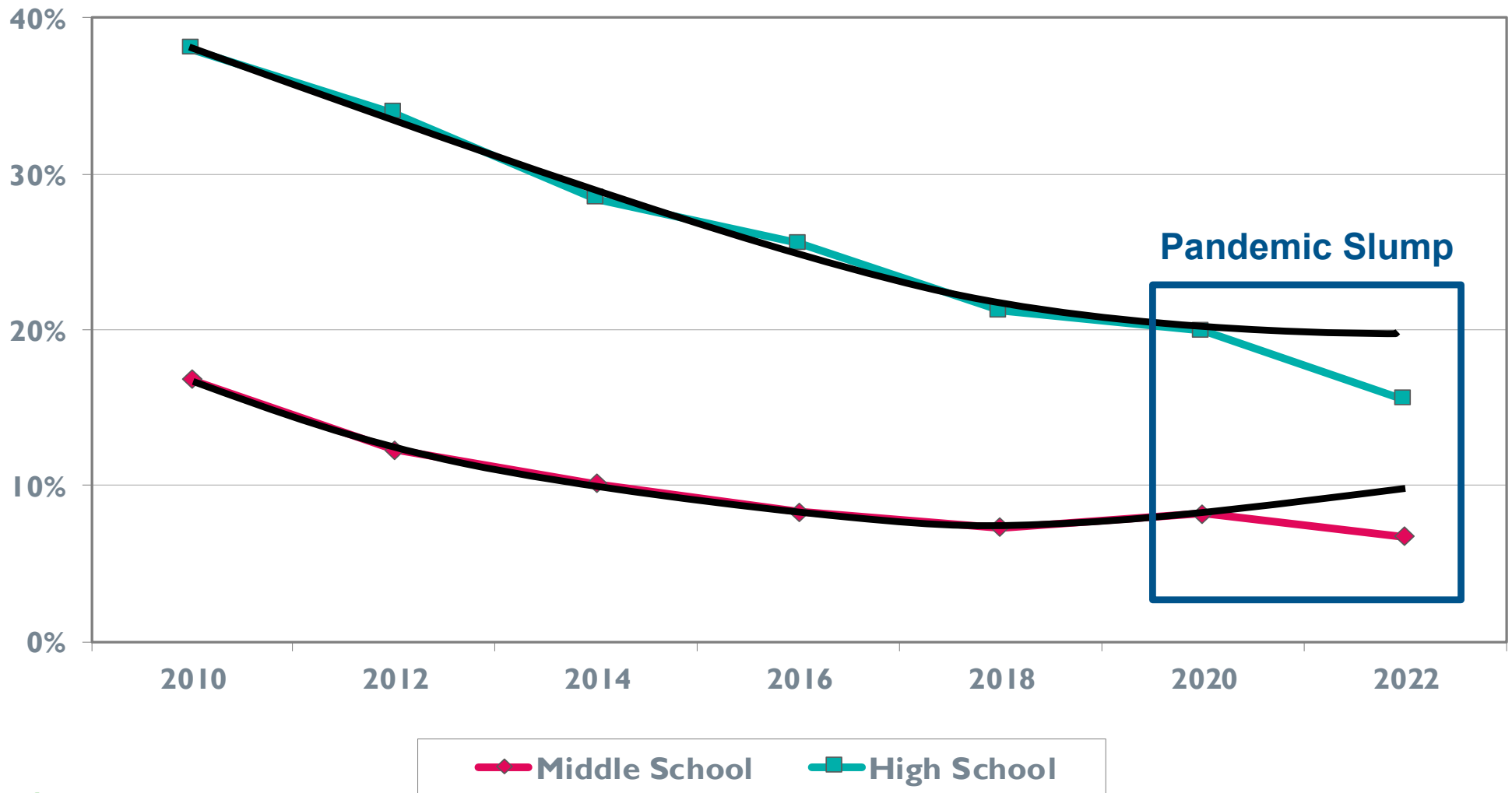


Possibility 2: The Long-Term Decline in Substance Use is Abating

- The reductions in alcohol and marijuana use reported in 2022, as well reductions in (already very low) cigarette use, were caused by a pandemic slump.
 - *Reduced social activity and less time outside of home in the aftermath of the pandemic is temporarily suppressing substance use.*
- Going forward, reductions in substance use may slow, stall, or reverse, as suggested by 2020 data.

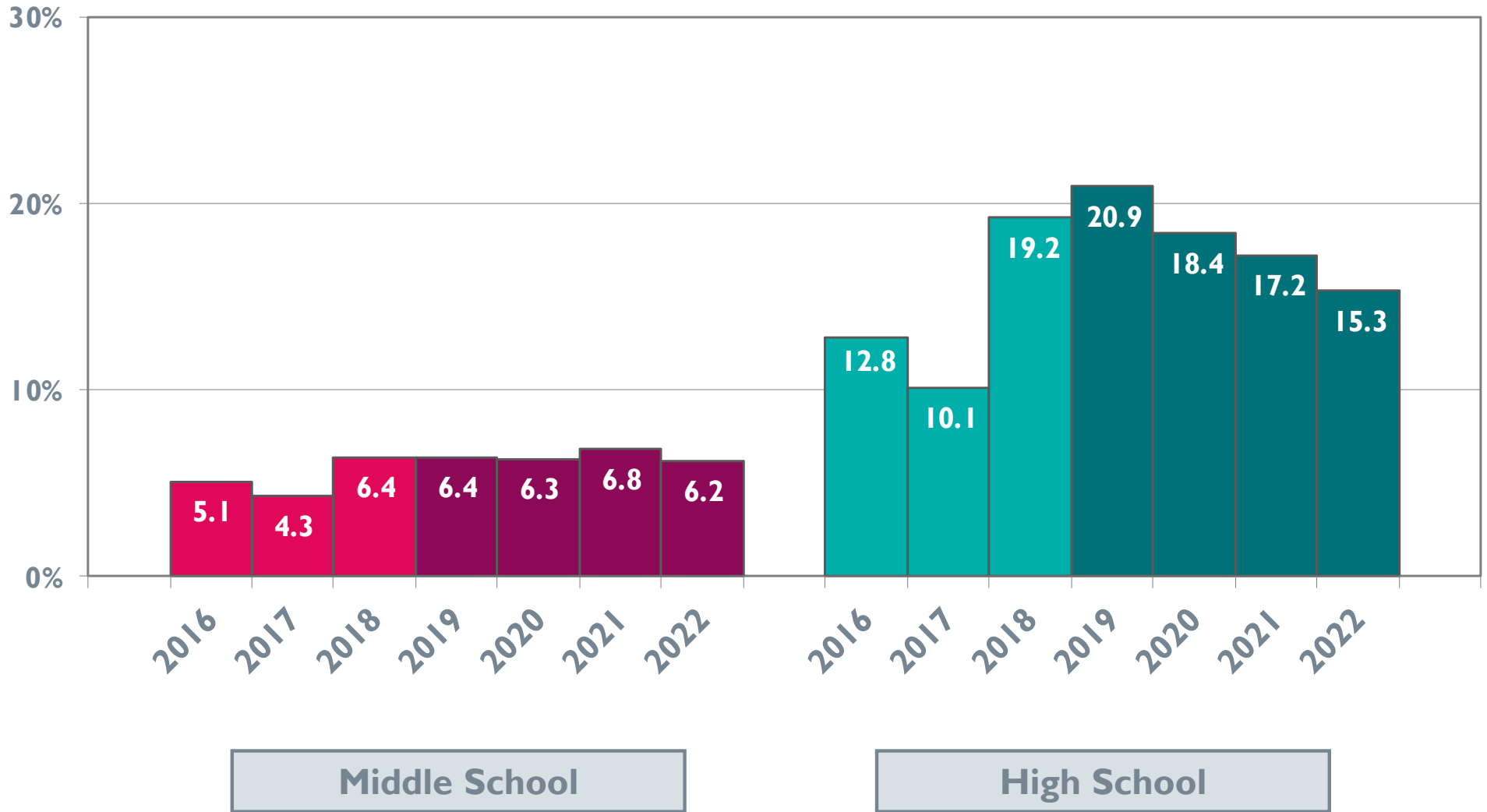
Alcohol

Past-30-Day Prevalence by Grade Cohort



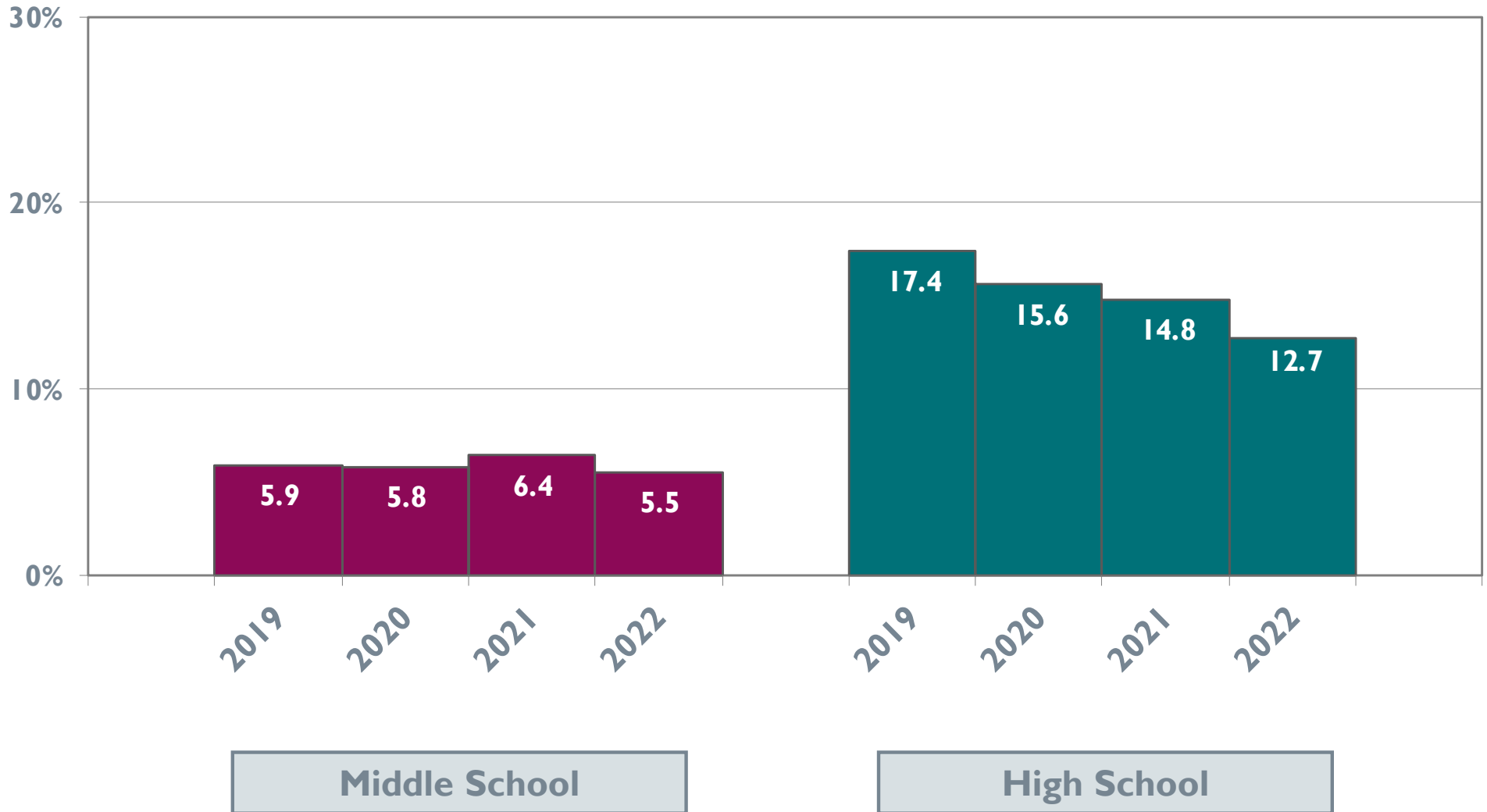
Any Vaping

Past-30-Day Prevalence



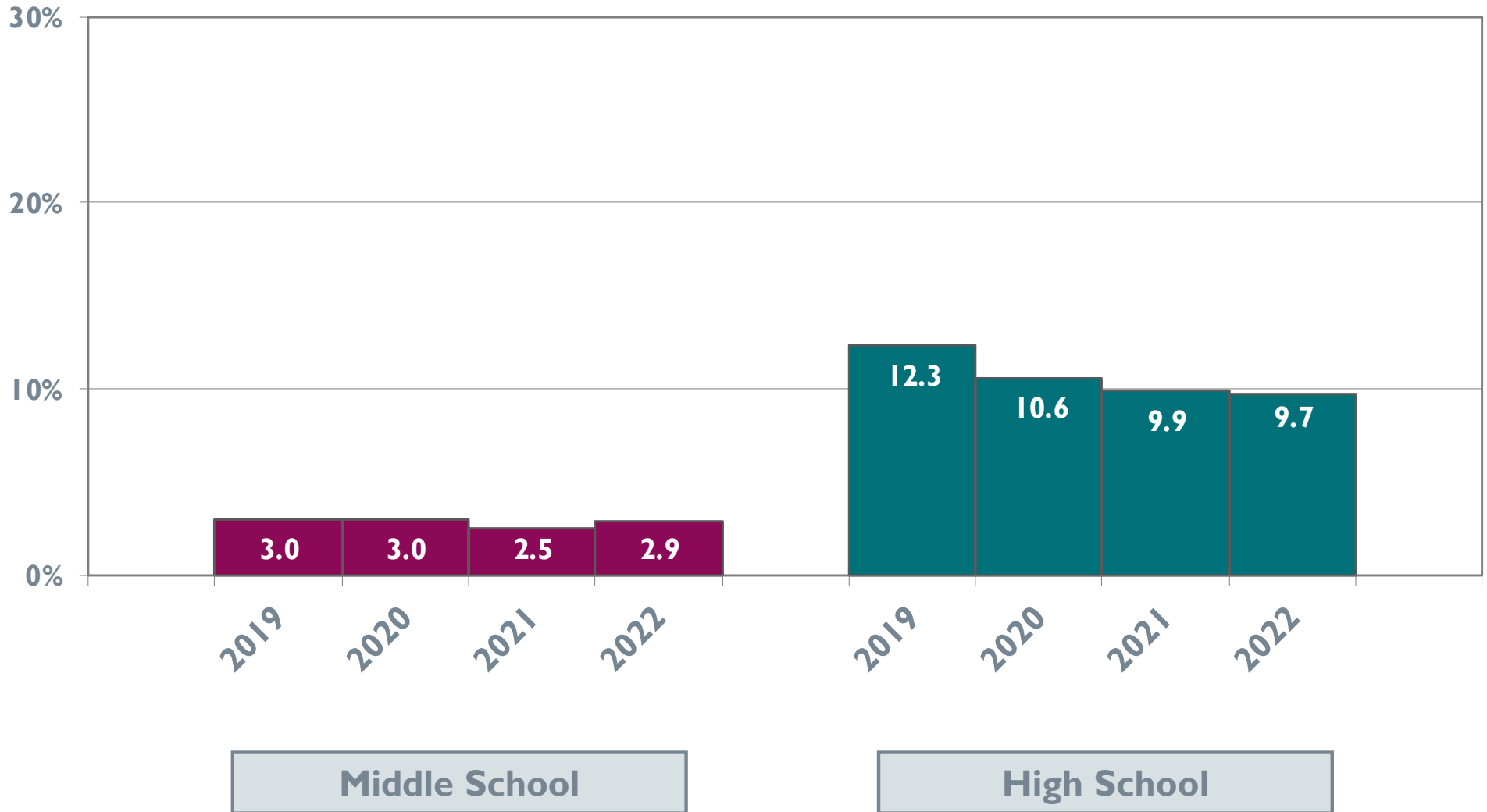
Nicotine Vaping

Past-30-Day Prevalence



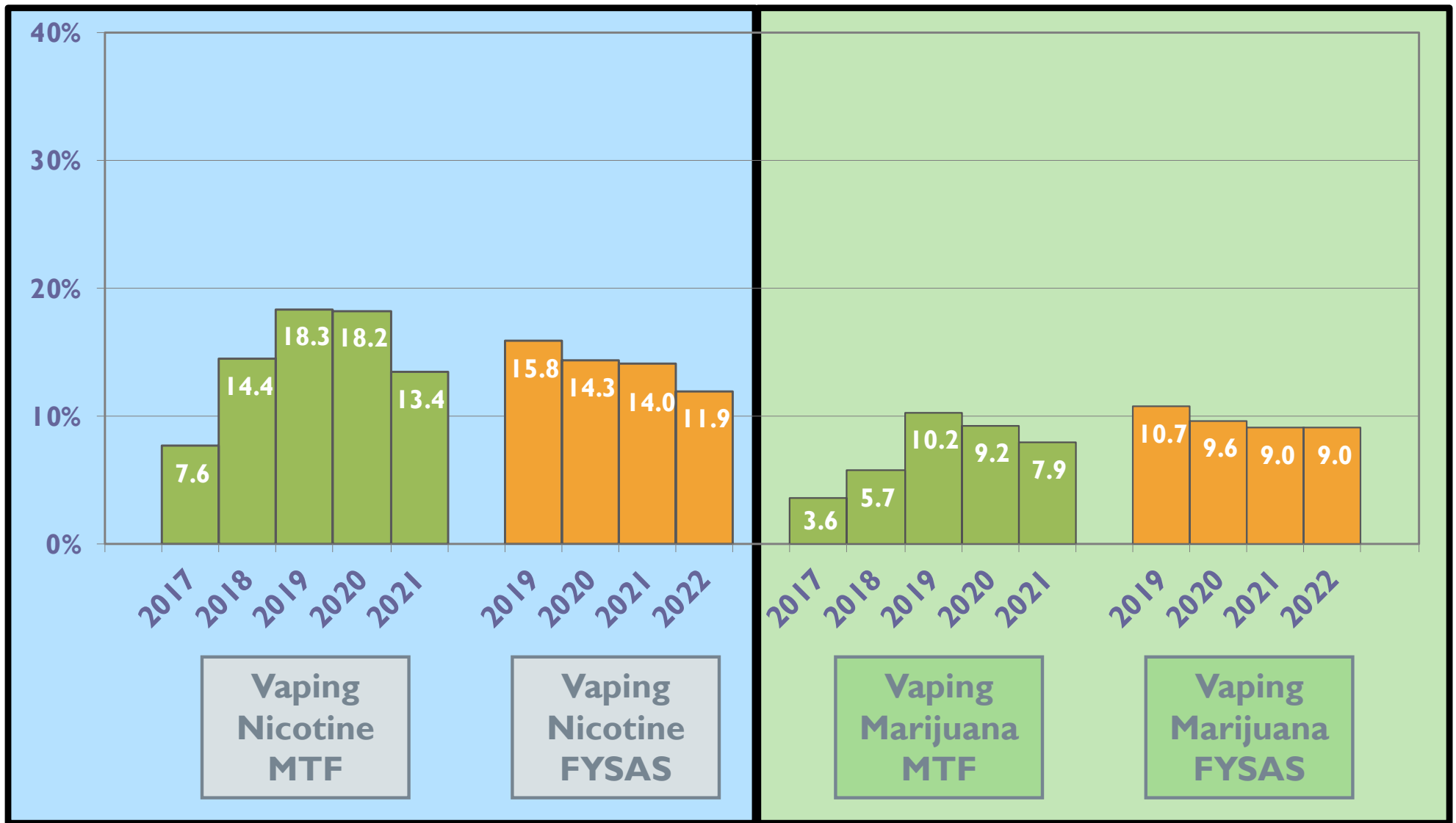
Marijuana Vaping

Past-30-Day Prevalence



Vaping Trend: MTF and FYSAS

8th, 10th, and 12th Grades, Past-30-Day Prevalence

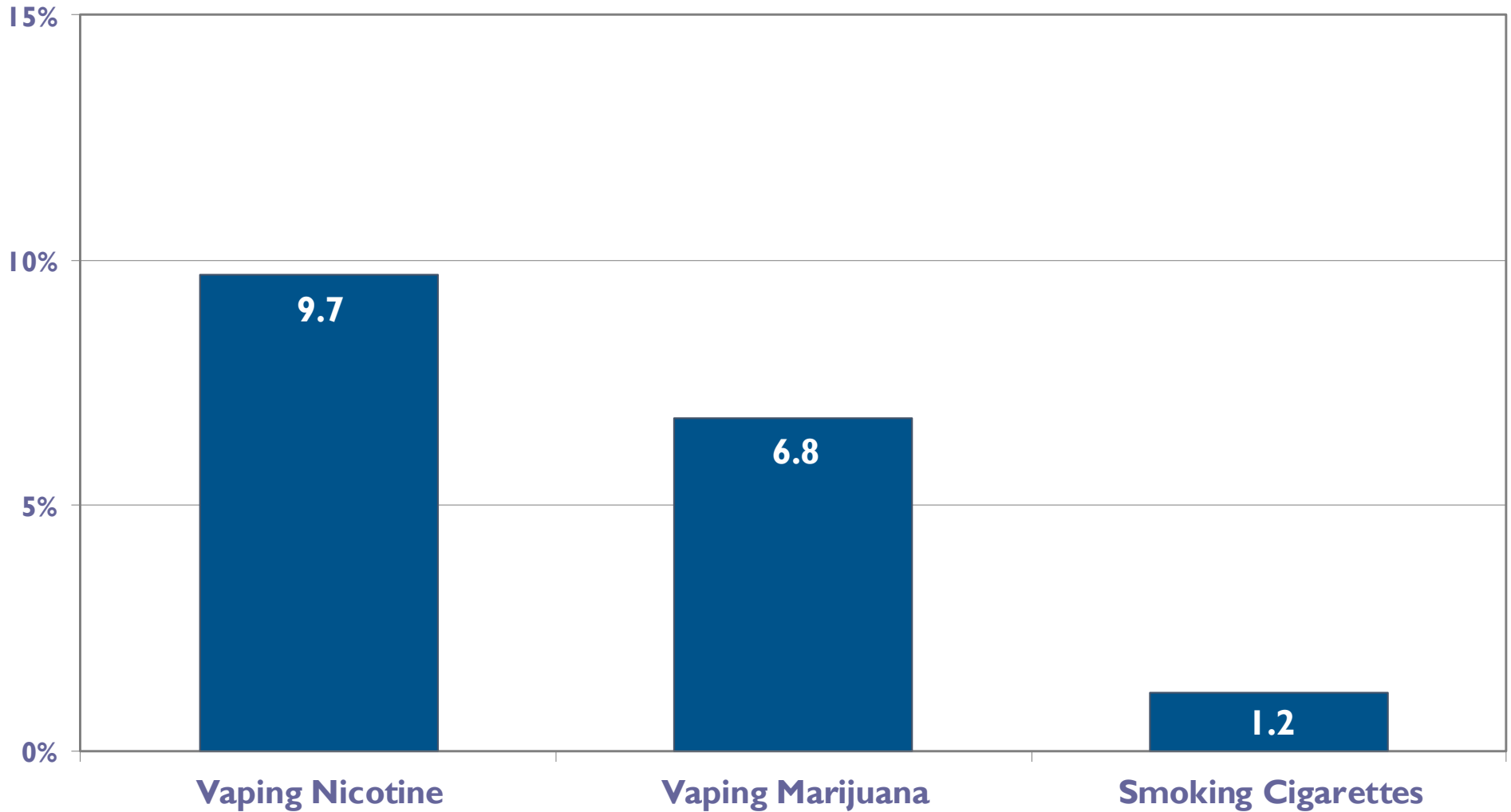


Vaping Trend Summary

- Among H.S. students, the vaping epidemic peaked in 2019, with rates for both vaping nicotine and vaping marijuana decreasing between 2019 and 2022.
 - *Nicotine vaping has declined more than marijuana vaping.*
- Among M.S. students, vaping rates have been more stable since 2019.
 - *However, between 2021 and 2022, nicotine vaping decreased 0.9 percentage points and marijuana vaping increased 0.4 percentage points.*

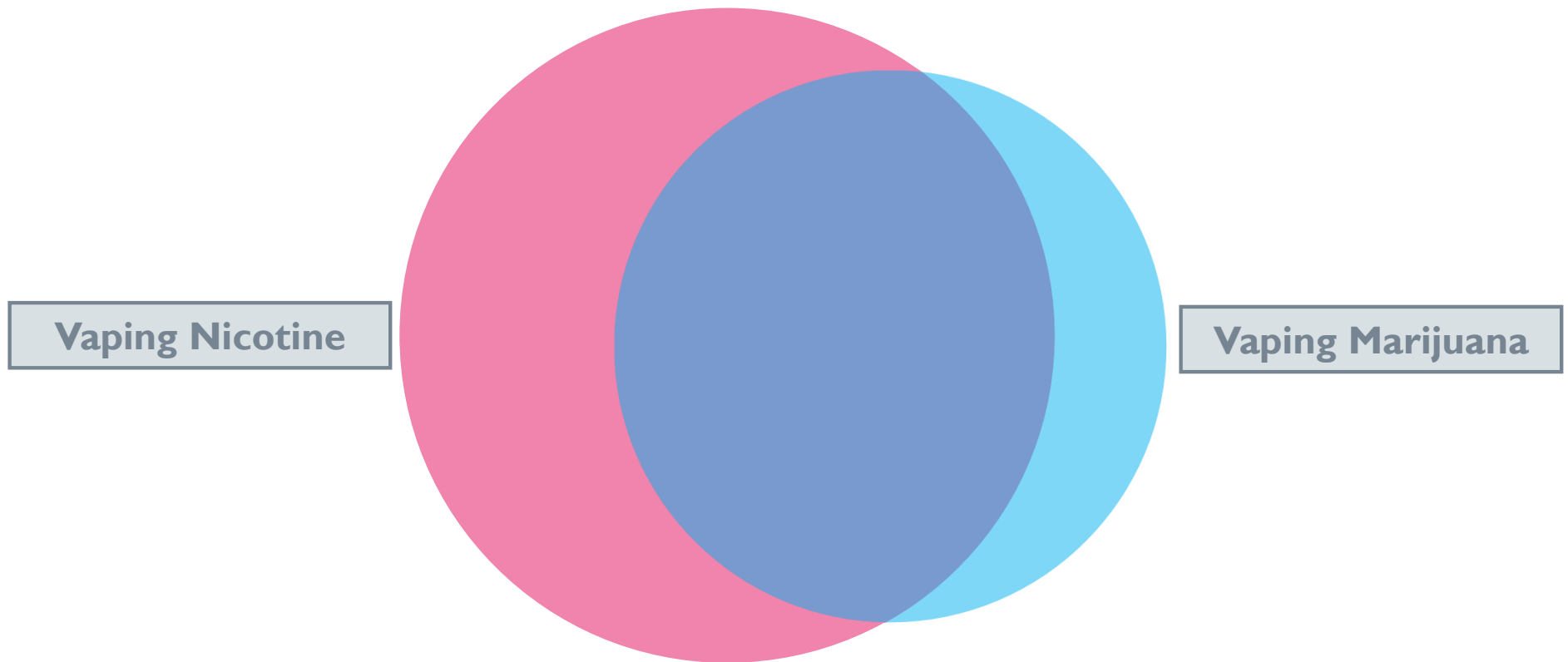
Vaping and Cigarette Use

Past-30-Day Prevalence, Middle School and High School



Vaping Nicotine and Vaping Marijuana

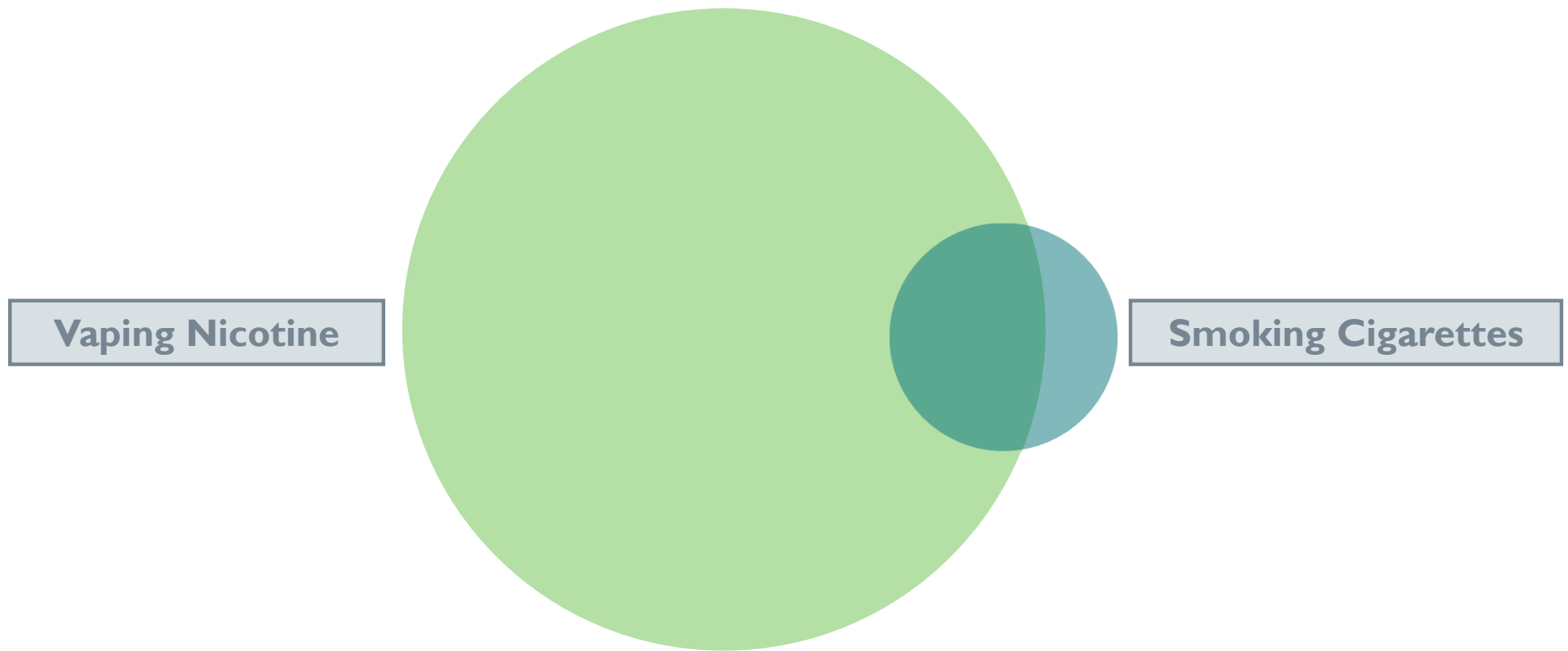
Past-30-Day Prevalence



52.1% of current nicotine vapers are vaping marijuana.
73.9% of current marijuana vapers are vaping nicotine.

Vaping Nicotine and Smoking Cigarettes

Past-30-Day Prevalence



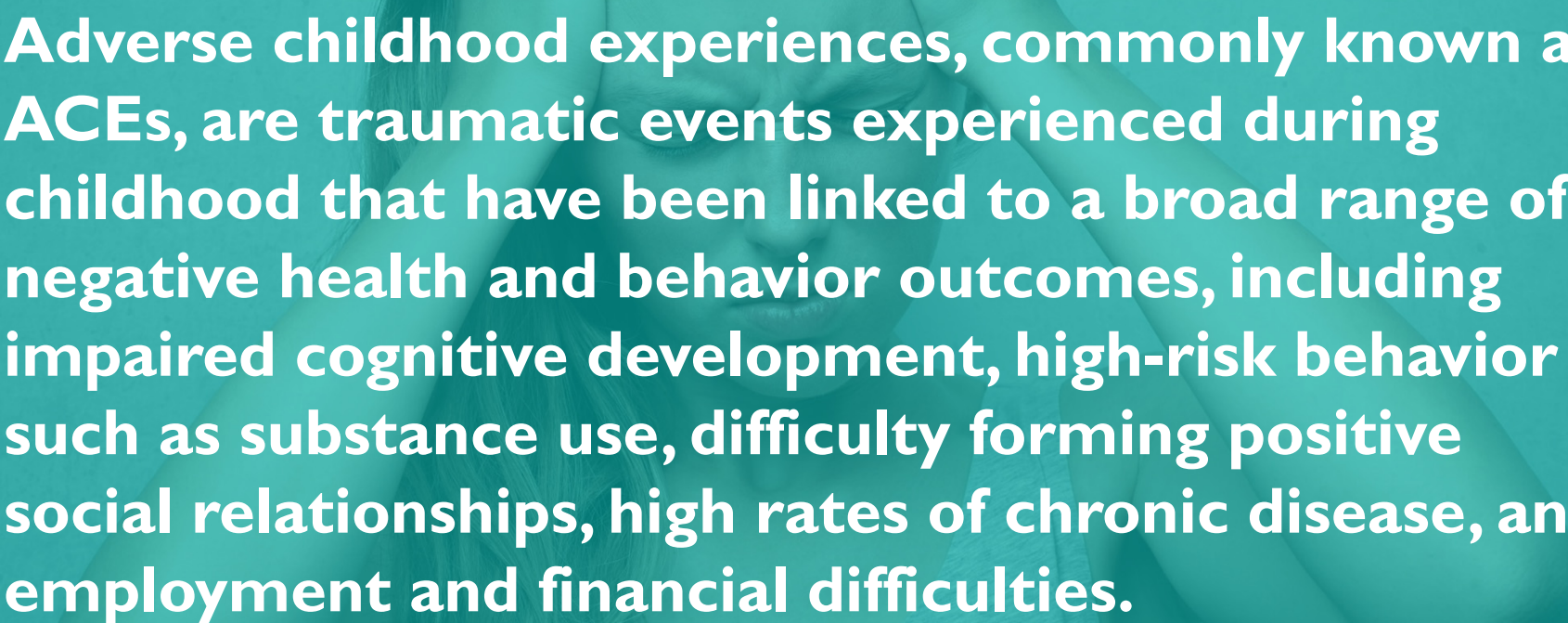
93.3% of current nicotine vapers do not smoke cigarettes.

Vaping and Smoking Rates

- There is a large overlap between vaping nicotine and vaping marijuana.
 - *More than half (52.1%) of students who vape nicotine also vape marijuana.*
 - *Almost three quarters (73.9%) of students who vape marijuana also vape nicotine.*
- Vaping nicotine is nearly 10 times more prevalent than smoking cigarettes.
 - *Nearly all (93.3%) of students who vape nicotine do not smoke cigarettes. Their vaping is independent of cigarette use.*



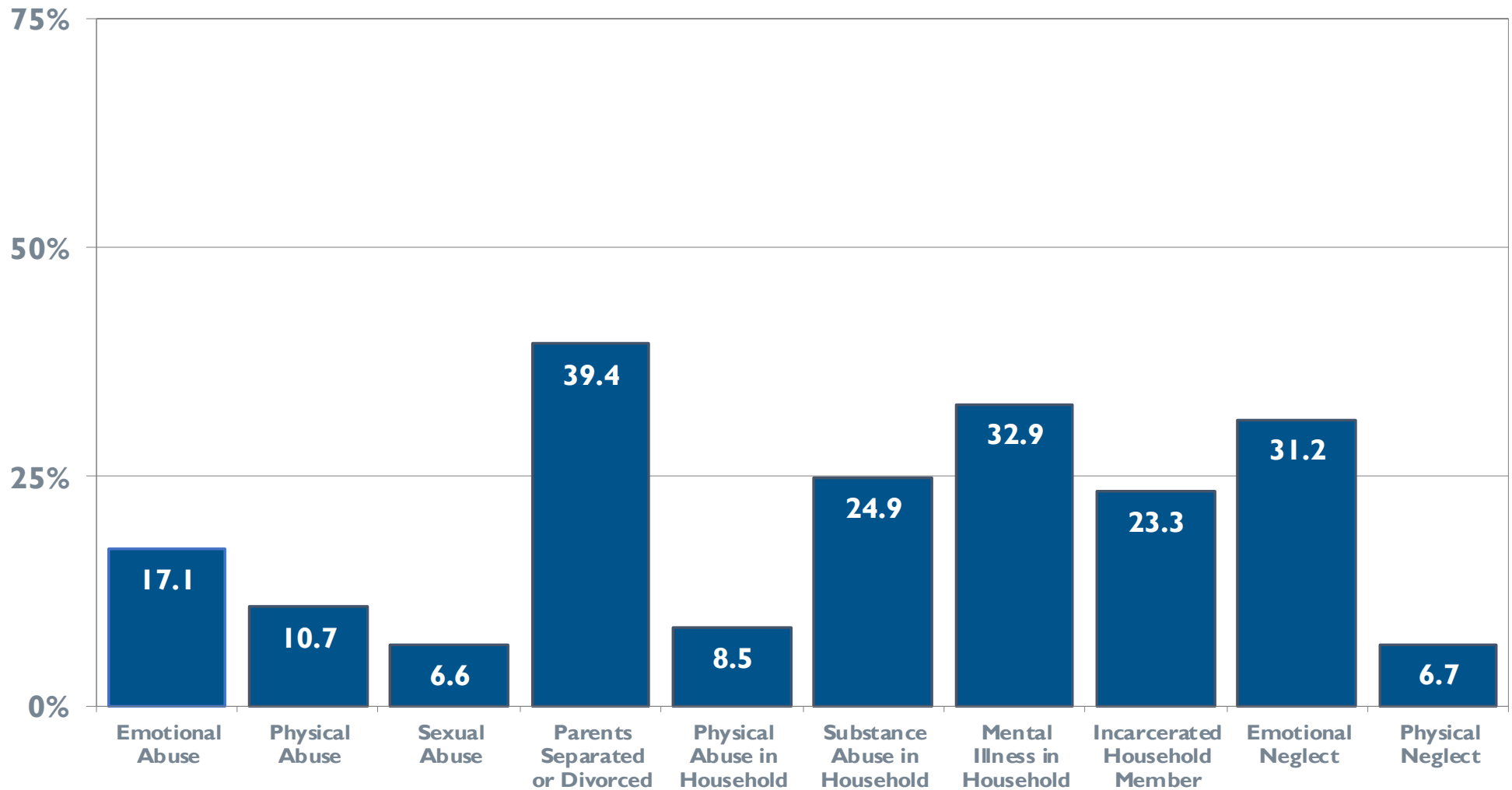
Adverse Childhood Experiences



Adverse childhood experiences, commonly known as ACEs, are traumatic events experienced during childhood that have been linked to a broad range of negative health and behavior outcomes, including impaired cognitive development, high-risk behavior such as substance use, difficulty forming positive social relationships, high rates of chronic disease, and employment and financial difficulties.

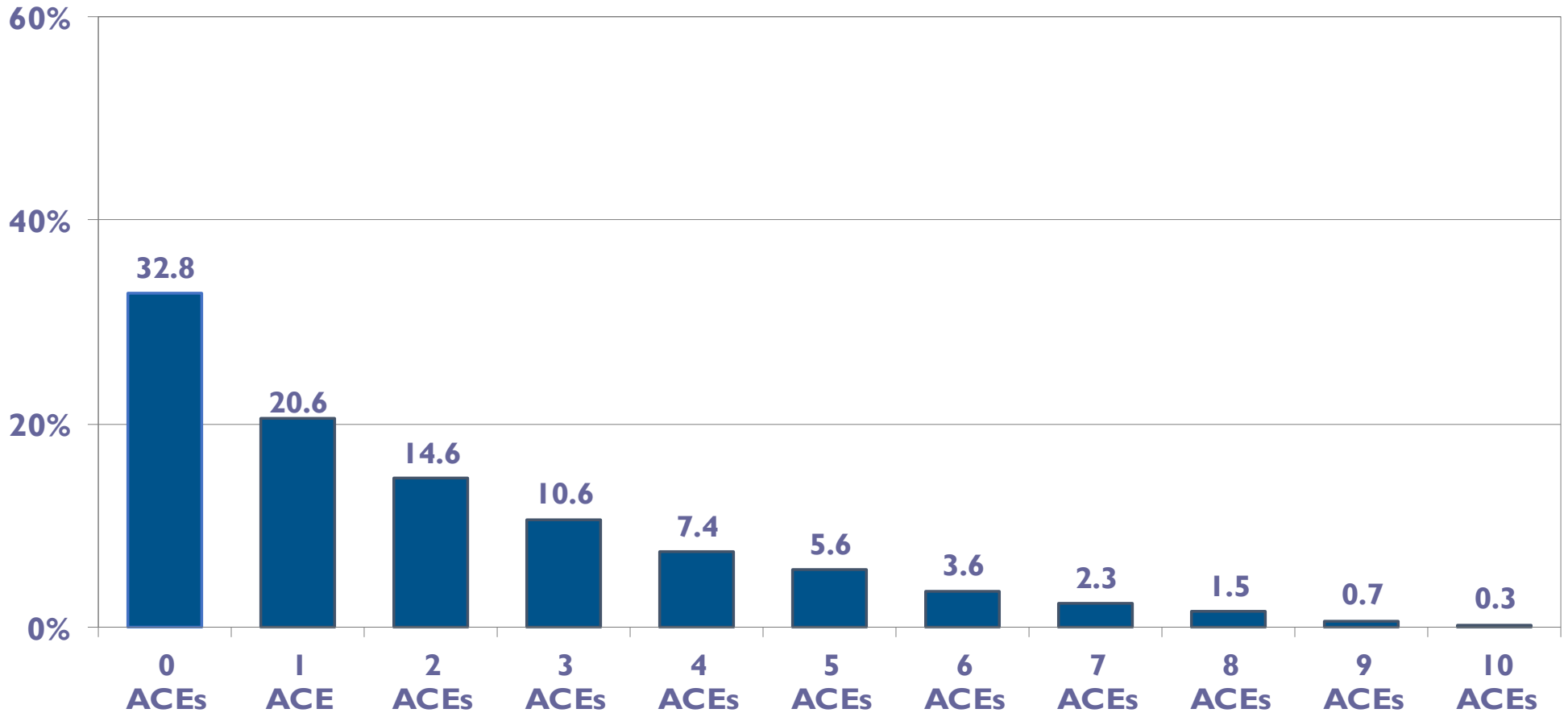
How Prevalent is Childhood Trauma?

ACEs Among High School Students

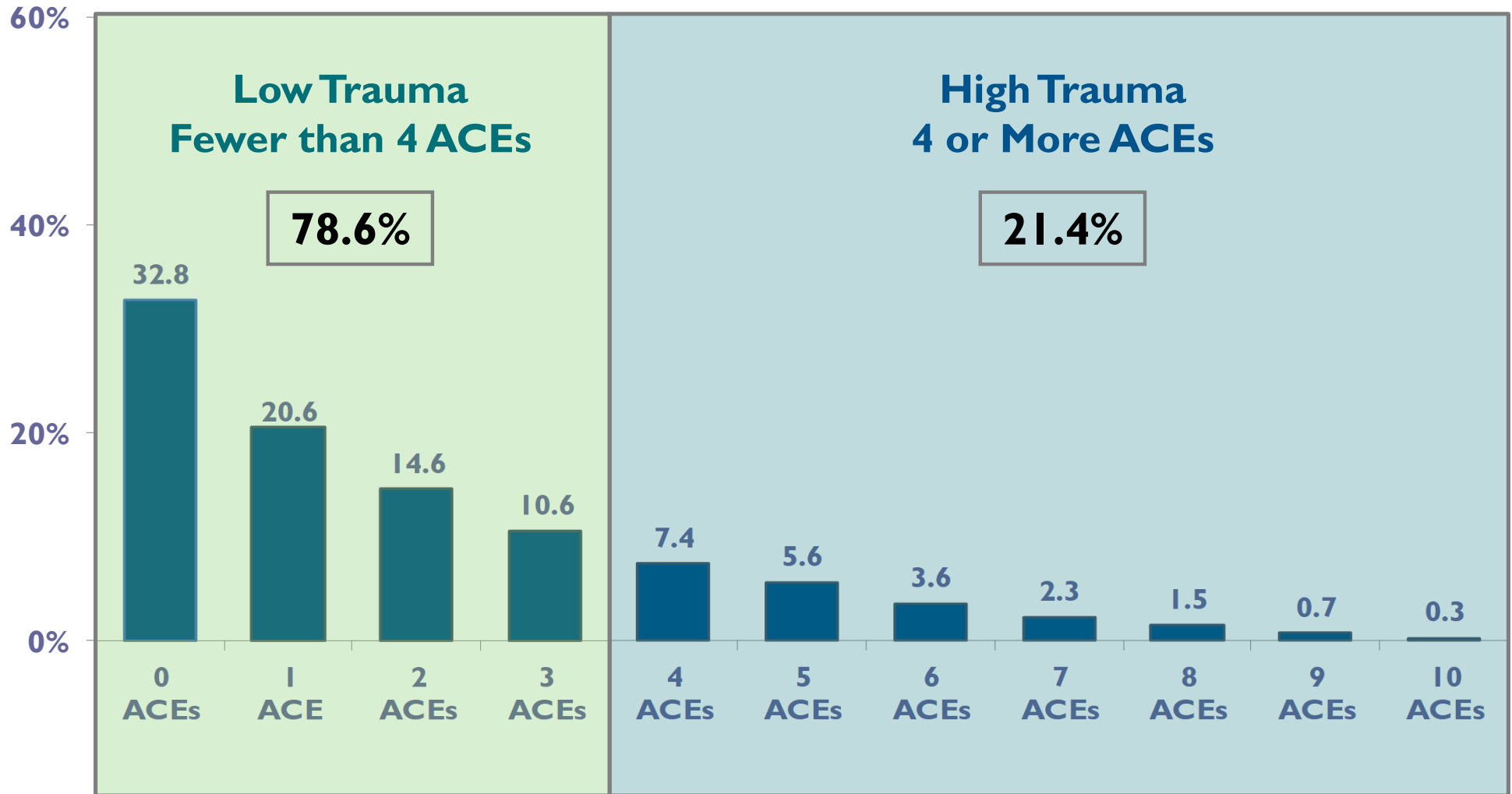


Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences

High School Students

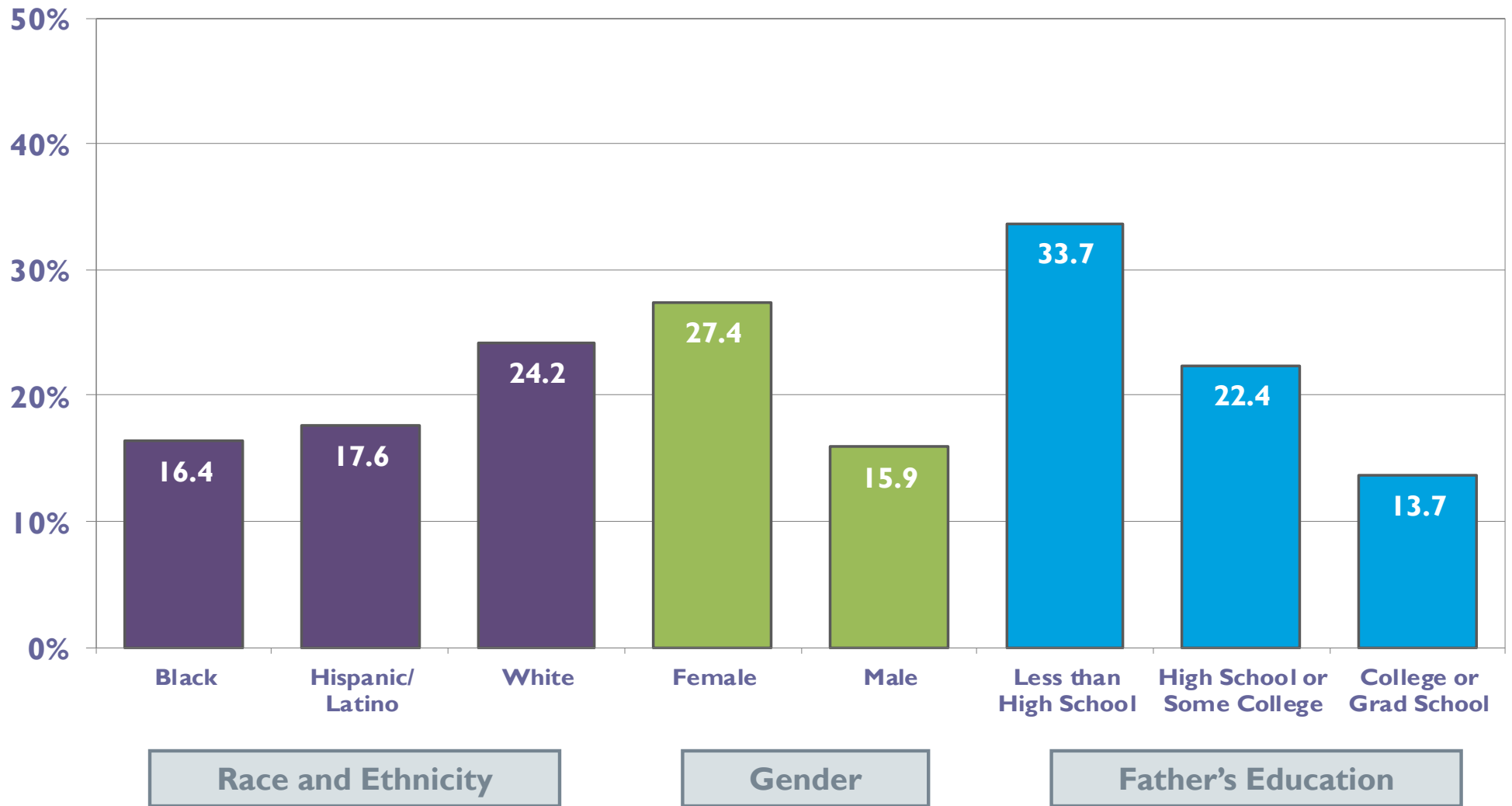


Low Trauma and High Trauma High School Students



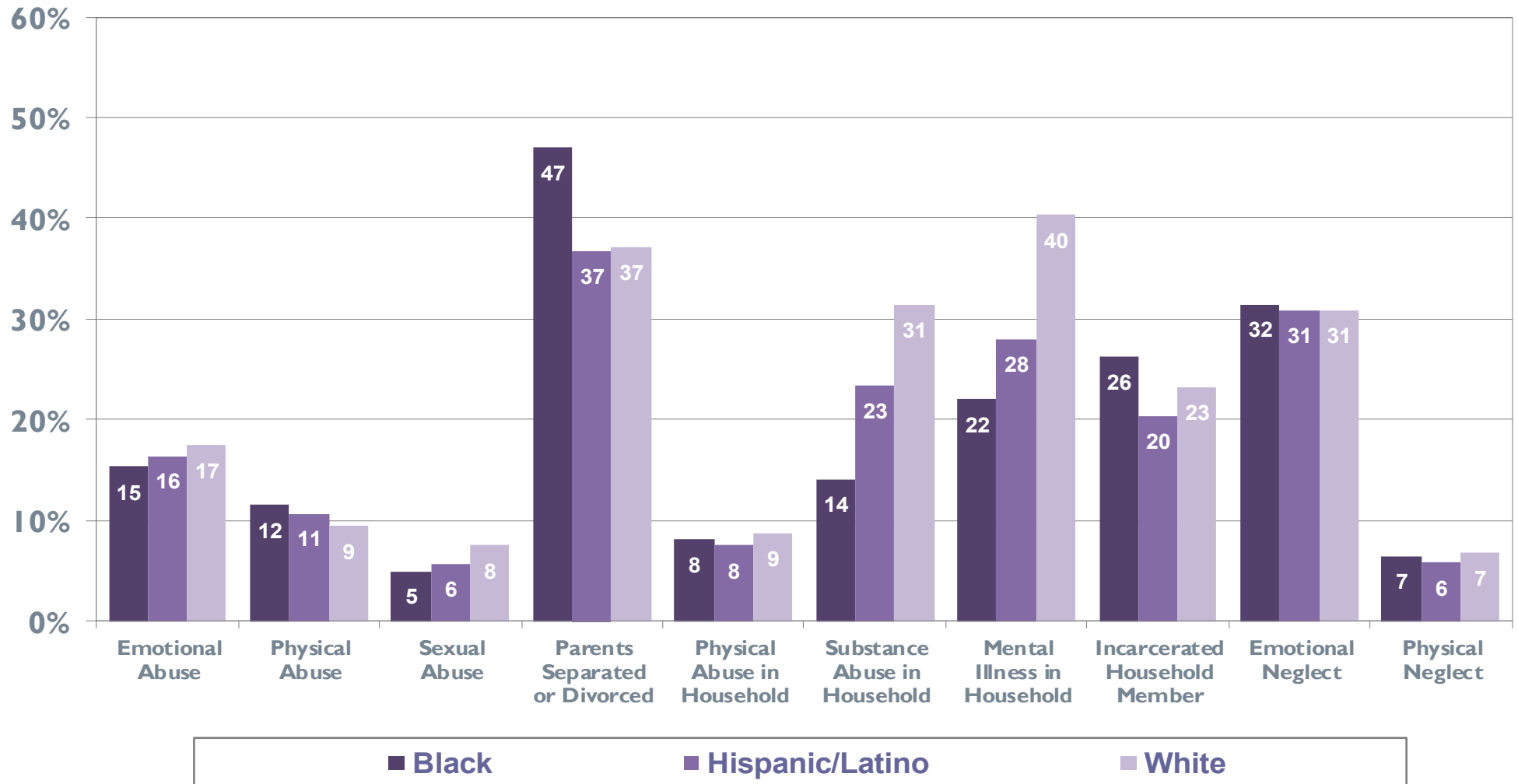
Which Students Experience High Trauma?

Percentage Reporting 4 or More ACEs



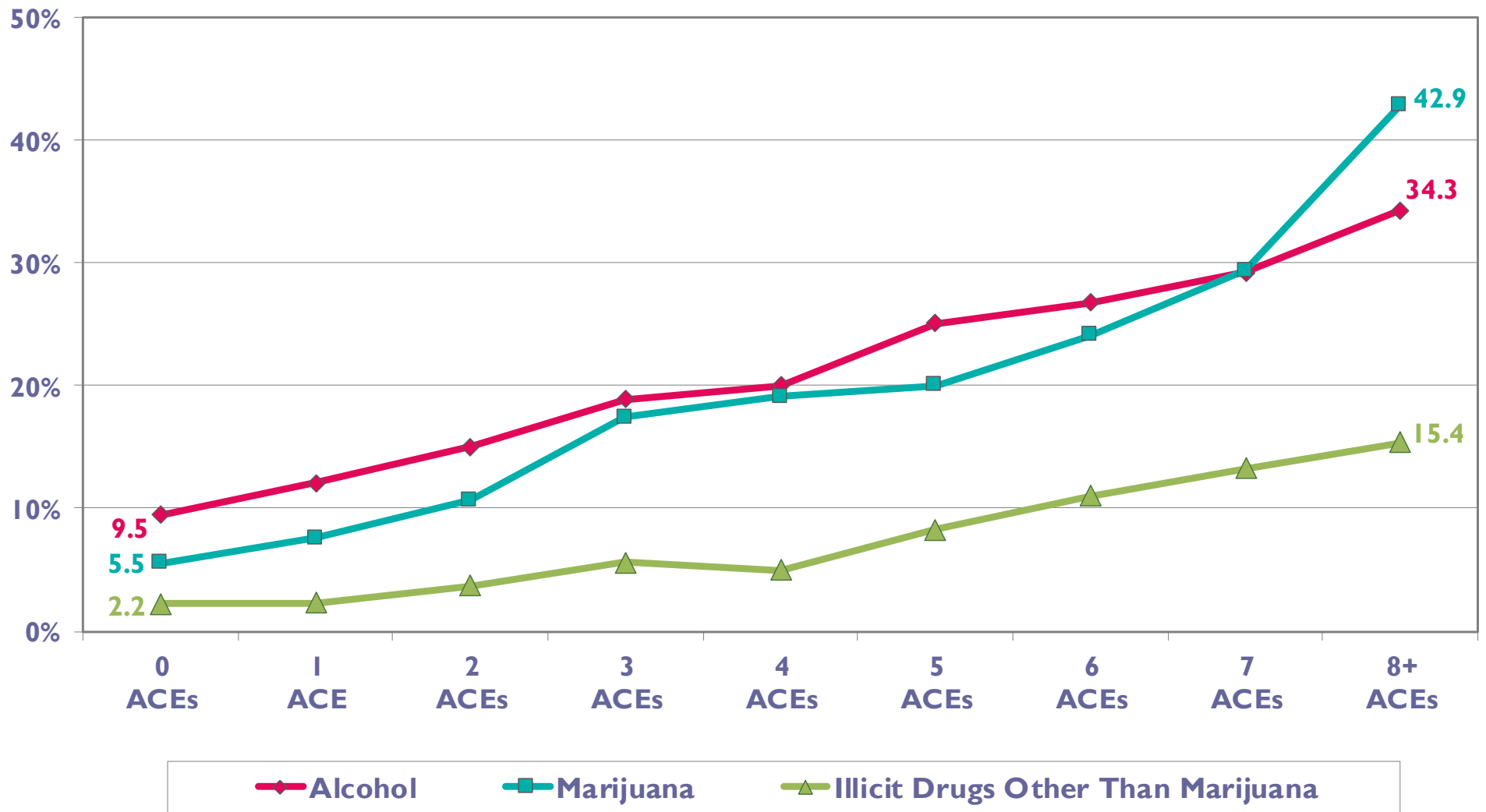
ACEs and Race/Ethnicity

High School Students



Trauma and Substance Use

Past-30-Day Prevalence by ACE Score



ACEs Summary

- 21.4% of Florida H.S. students report 4 or more adverse childhood experiences.
- Trauma is not evenly distributed across the population.
 - *White students, female students, and students from low SES families are more likely to report high levels of trauma.*
- Among adolescents, there is a strong correlation between trauma and negative health behavior outcomes.
 - *Students with higher levels of childhood trauma are more likely to report substance use.*

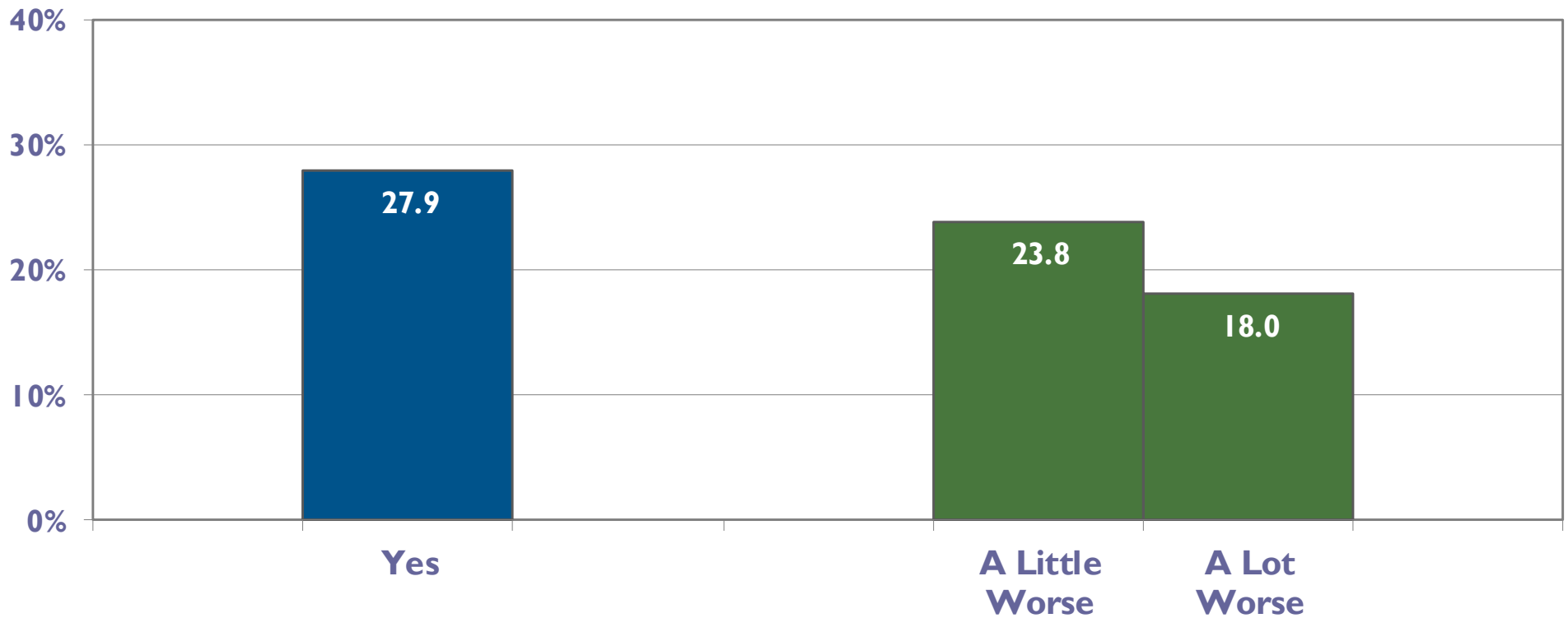
Emotional Health and Substance Use



- The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Symptoms of Depression
- Suicidal Ideation

The COVID-19 Pandemic

Impact on Florida Students

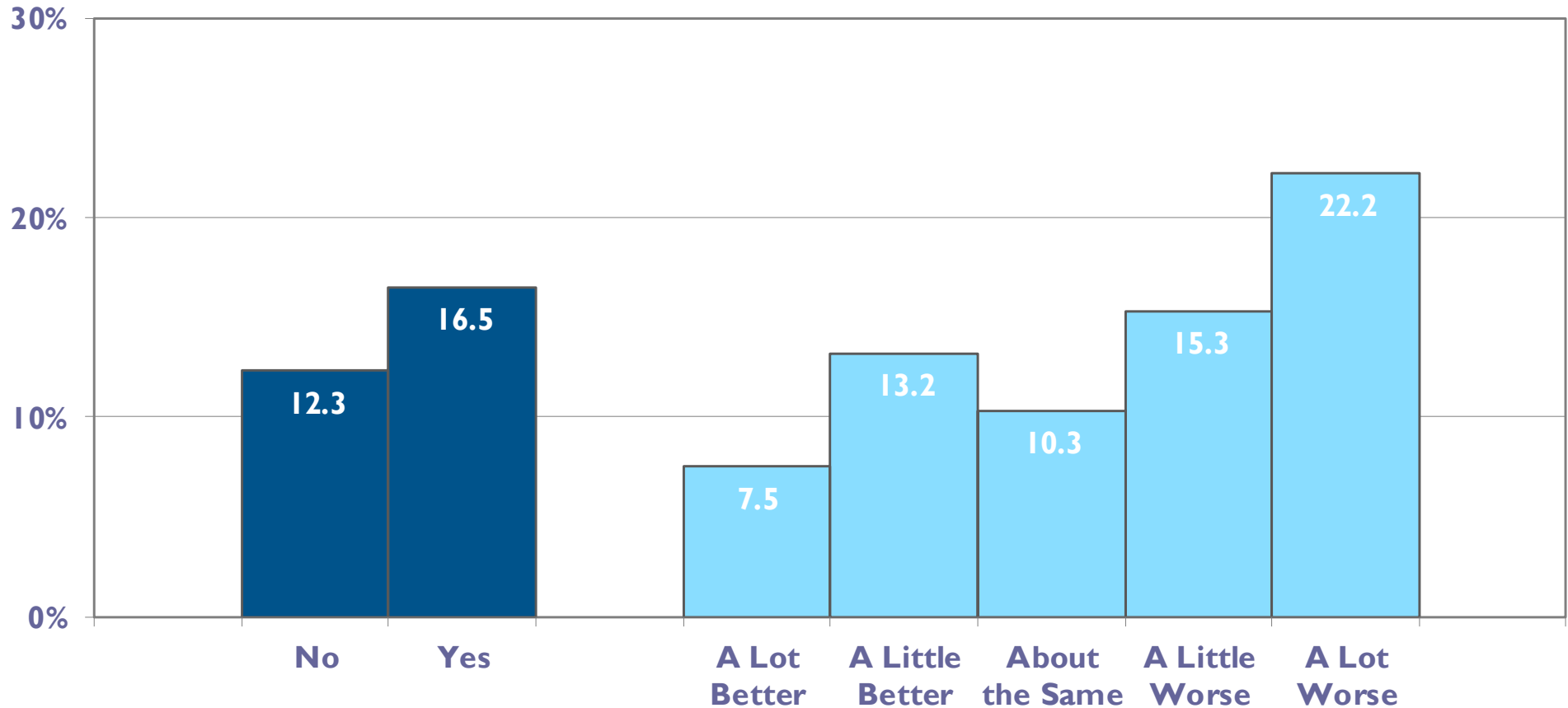


During the pandemic, did a parent or other adult in your home lose their job or have their hours reduced?

How has your emotional health (level of stress, anxiety, and depression) changed during the pandemic?

The COVID-19 Pandemic

Percentage of Students Reporting Alcohol Use in the Past 30 Days



Adult in home
lost job or working hours

Change in emotional health
during pandemic

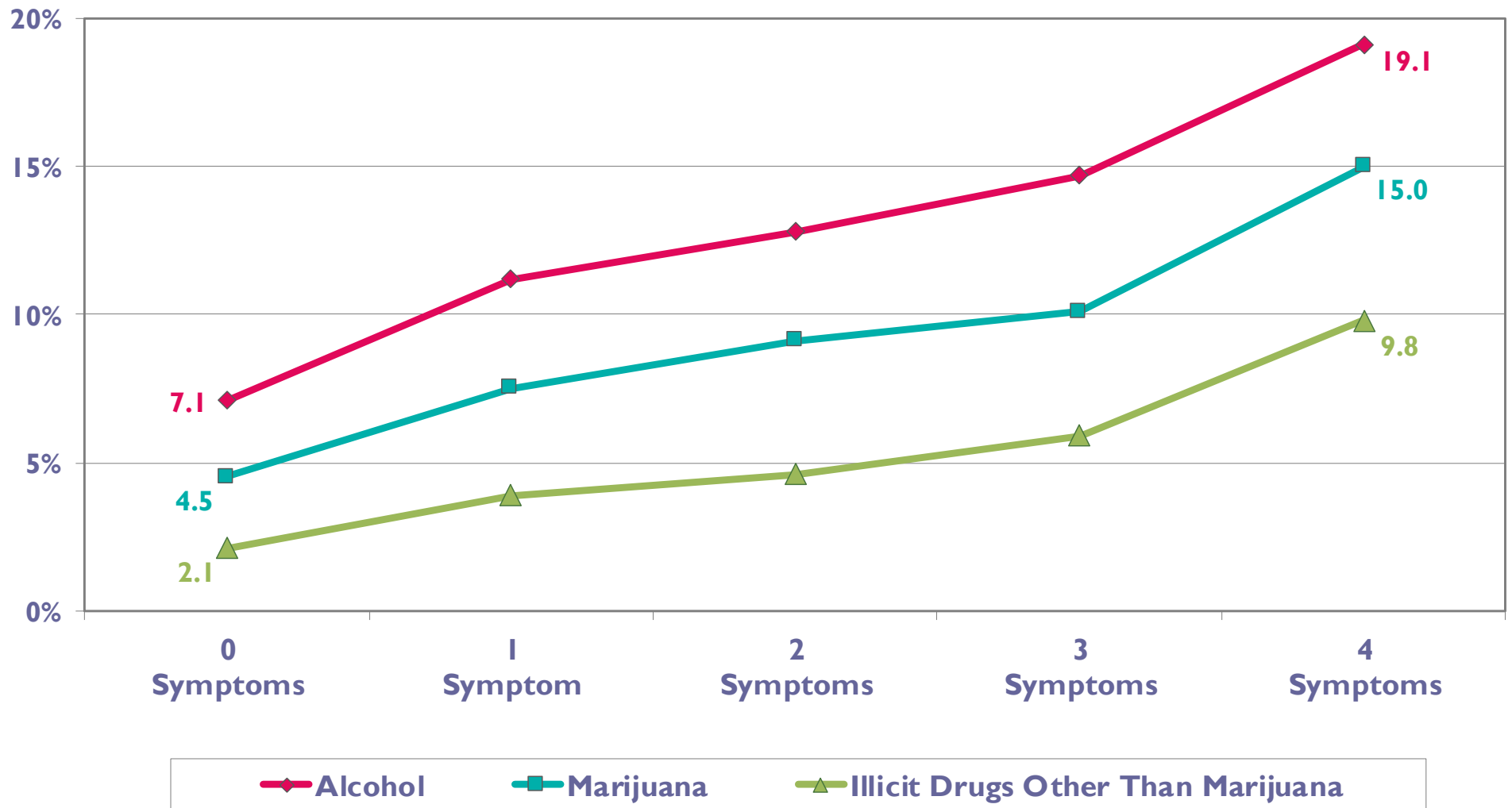
Symptoms of Depression

Percentage of Students Reporting “yes” or “YES”, 2010-2022



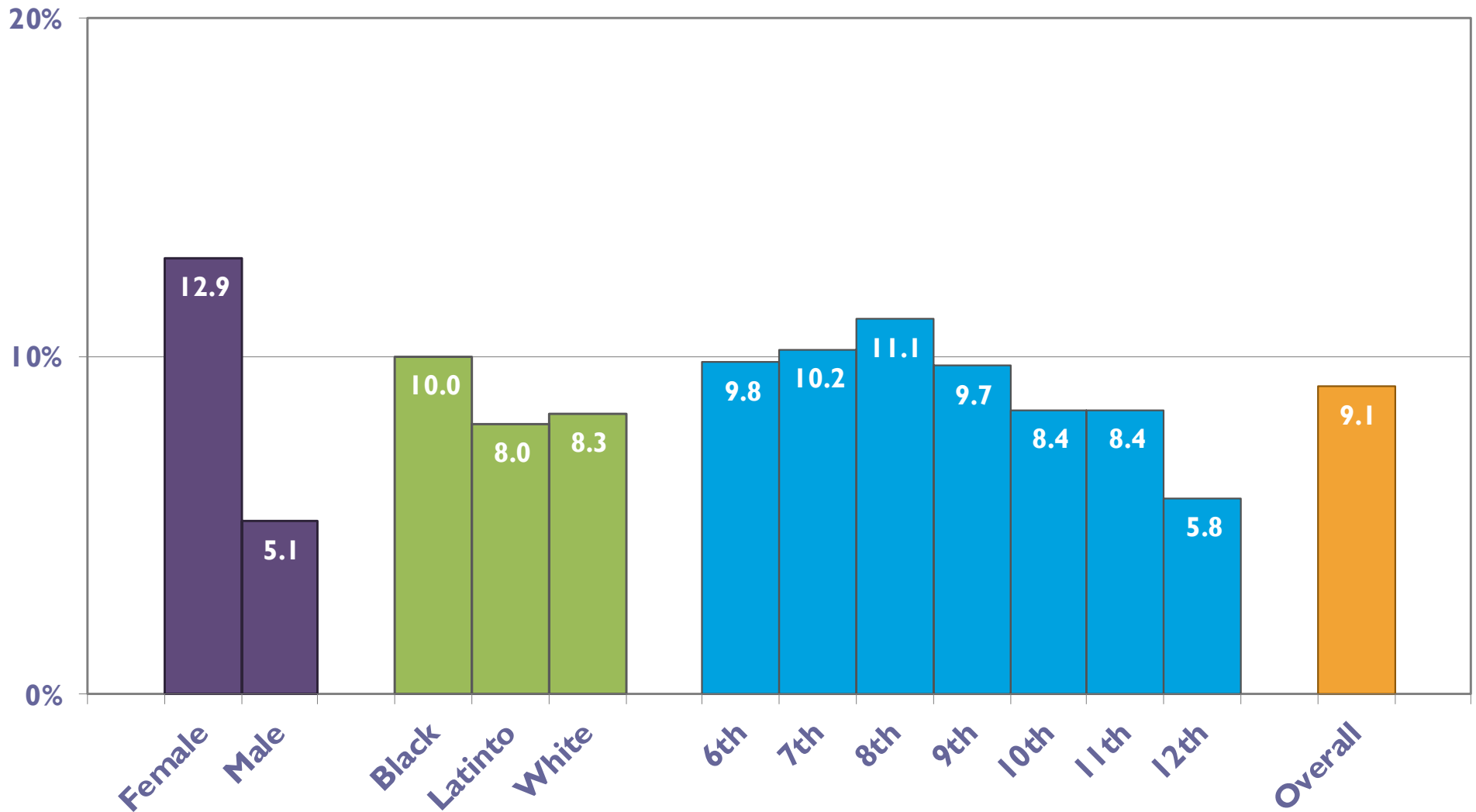
Depression and Substance Use

Past-30-Day Prevalence by Symptoms of Depression Count



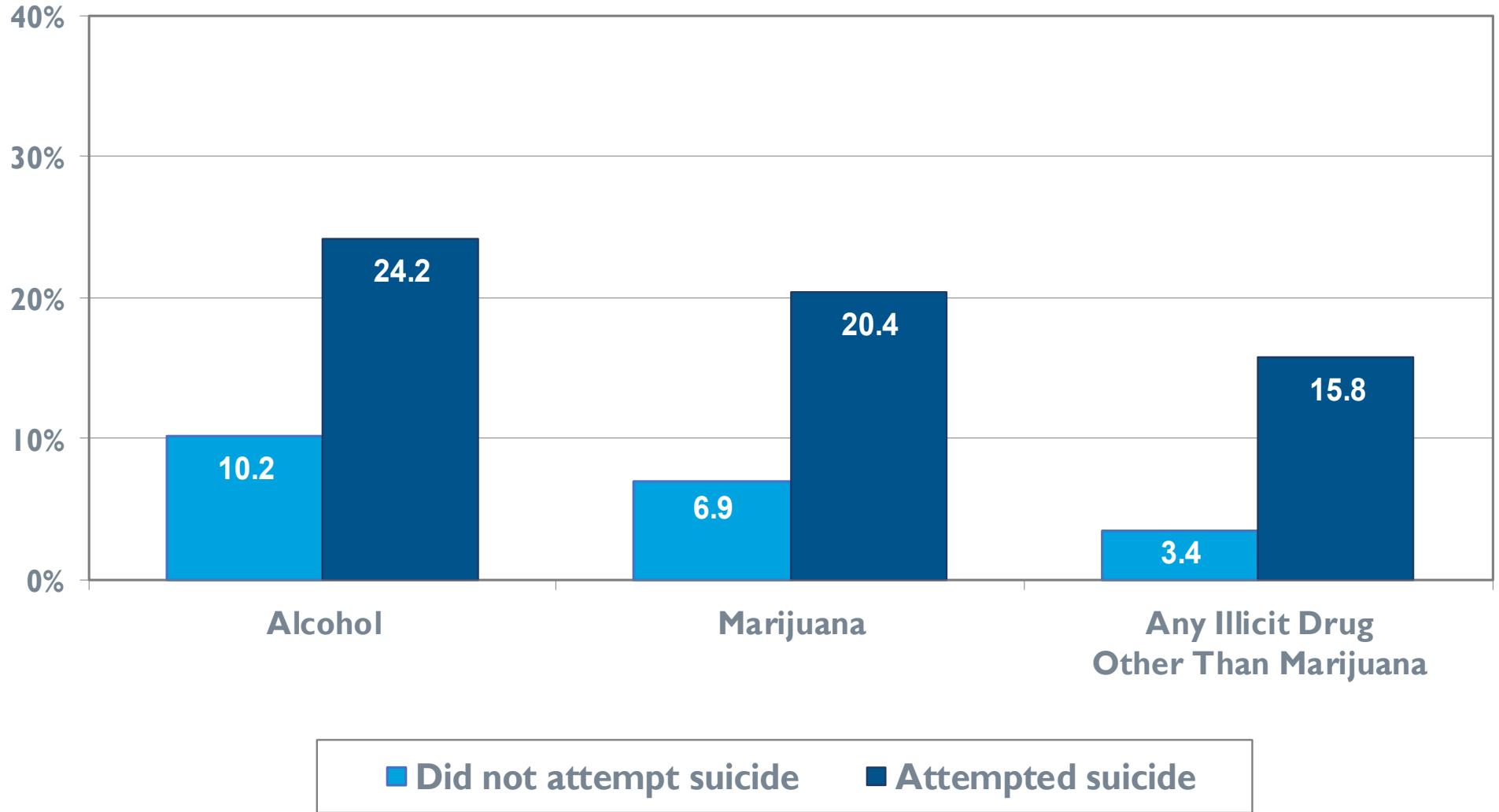
Suicide

Percentage Reporting One or More Attempts in the Past Year



Attempted Suicide and Substance Use

Percentage Reporting Use in the Past 30 Days



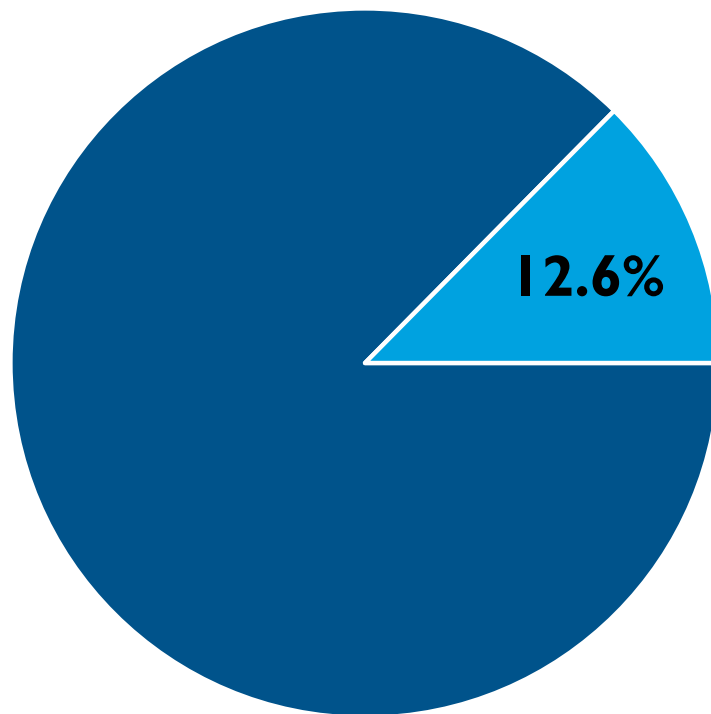
Emotional Health and Substance Use Summary

- 27.9% of Florida students come from families that lost work during the pandemic, and 41.8% reported a deterioration in emotional health during this period.
- The percentage of Florida students who reported experiencing symptoms of depression has increased substantially between 2010 and 2022.
 - *This trend was operative both before and during the pandemic.*
- Students reporting (a) negative pandemic emotional health impacts, (b) symptoms of depression, and (c) suicidal ideation also reported higher rates of substance use.

Military Families



How Many Florida Students are in Military Families?

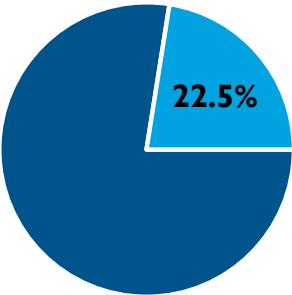


12.6% of surveyed Florida students have a parent, stepparent, or guardian who is currently serving in a branch of the U.S. military.

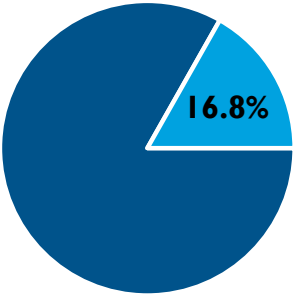
This equates to almost 193,000 children across the full population of Florida public school students in grades 6 through 12.

Children from Military Families

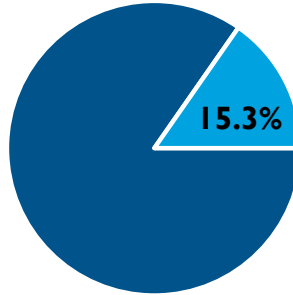
Race/Ethnicity and Age



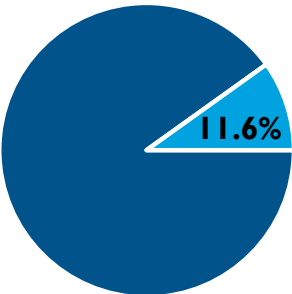
Native American Students



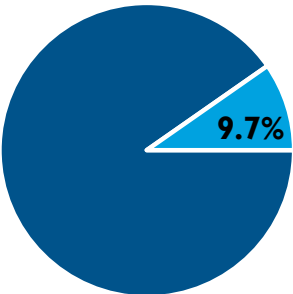
Black Students



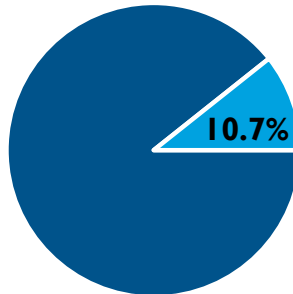
Middle School Students



White Students



Latino Students

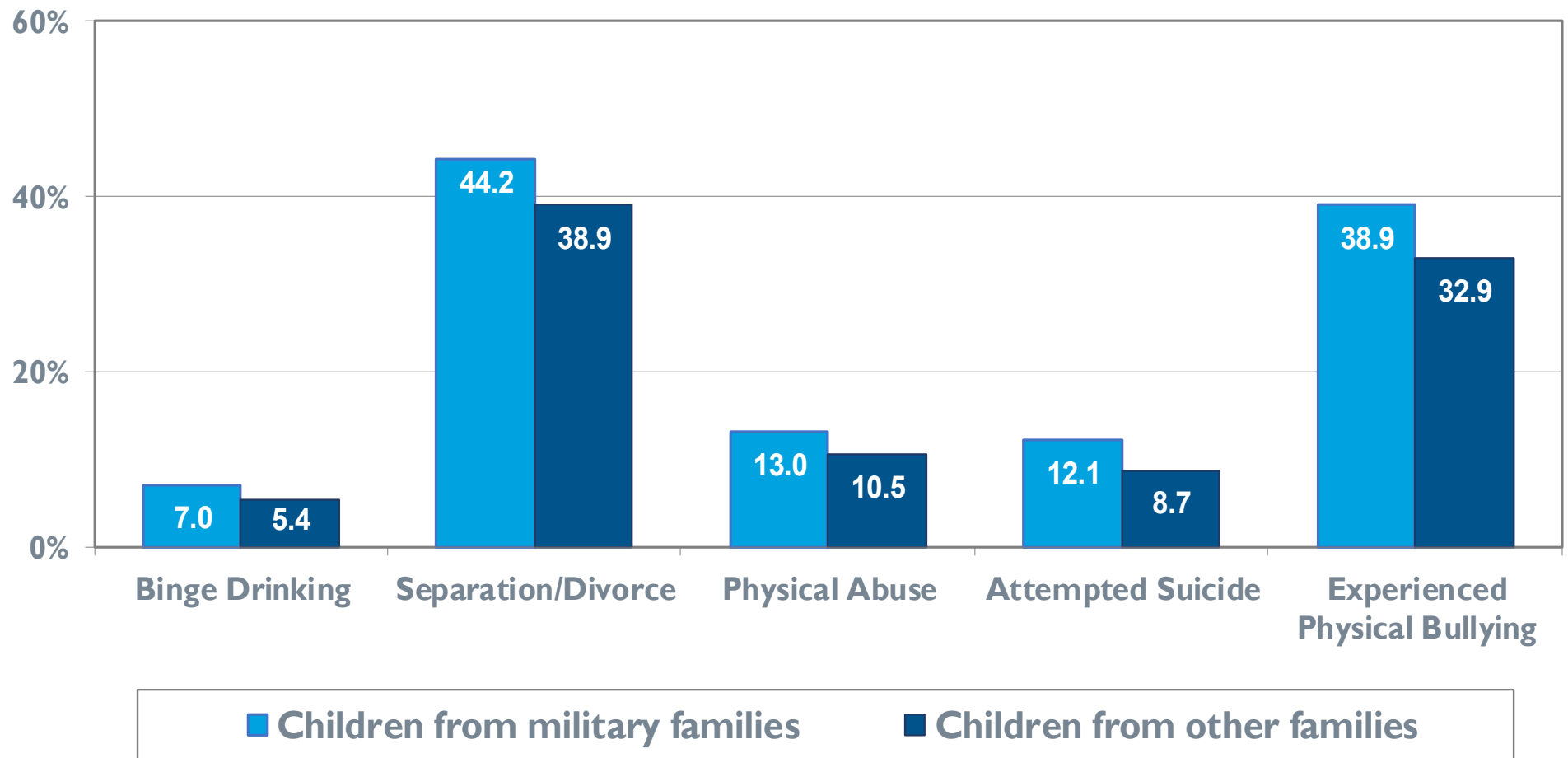


High School Students



Military Families Face Unique Challenges

Percentage Reporting Adverse Health Behaviors and Experiences



Thank you!

Bert Rothenbach

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