

# **Drug and Alcohol Indicators Report**

Community Research and Service Center  
Valparaiso University

December 2016

Larry Baas, Director  
James Old, Associate Director

## **Research Associates**

Maura Jonas  
Sadie Buckles  
Jennifer DeNardis



**VALPARAISO  
UNIVERSITY**

---

**COMMUNITY RESEARCH & SERVICE CENTER**

*Educating a New Generation of Civic Leaders  
and Making a Difference in Northwest Indiana.*



# Introduction

The data for this report comes from the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) studies from 2008 through 2014 and the Indiana Youth Survey for 2015-2016. These surveys were conducted by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center at the School of Public Health --Indiana University. The data used here includes only students from Porter County in grades 6 through 12. In examining the following data, it is important to keep in mind that over time there was a change in the schools who participated in these studies. Not all school districts administered the survey every year and the number of students completing surveys ranged from 10,206 in 2008 to 6,253 in 2009. There were 7,643 useable surveys in 2016. More recently, from 2013-2016 all schools have participated in the surveys. Patterns, therefore, may be a result of changes in the composition of the schools and students who participated and not necessarily the result of any actual change in behavior in the general population of Porter County students. At the same time, with the complete population in the first year and the past four years, there is reason to see the trends as actual and not caused by participation rates.

Also, there are a large number of nonuseable responses. Nonuseable surveys are those that are determined to have substantial errors or omissions, or where students refused to complete the survey. In 2008, there were only 6.1%, but in more recent surveys that figure has nearly doubled to over 11%. It is not clear if the nonuseable surveys were generated by persons more likely to use drugs, but this needs to be kept in mind as the data is interpreted.

This report includes a presentation of various indicators of alcohol and drug use by students in Porter County in the 6th – 12th grades. They include the following:

**Primary Indicators.** Includes the percentage of Porter County 12th grade students reporting the use of alcohol or drugs in their lifetime.

Lifetime Usage of Alcohol, Marijuana, Prescription or Over-the-Counter Drugs.

Lifetime Usage of Cocaine, Cocaine/Crack, and Heroin.

Lifetime Usage of Amphetamines, Inhalants, Ecstasy, and Hallucinogens.

**Secondary Indicators.** This section includes the percentage of all Porter County students reporting the use of alcohol or drugs in the previous month.

Monthly Alcohol Use.

Monthly Binge Drinking.

Monthly Use of Marijuana.

Monthly Use of Heroin.

Monthly Use of Cocaine/Crack.

Monthly Use of Prescription Drugs.

Monthly Use of Inhalants.

Monthly Use of Hallucinogens.

# Introduction

**Perception of Risk.** This section includes the percentage of all Porter County students that believe there is a risk to using substances such as cigarettes, marijuana, alcohol, etc.

Risk of Cigarette Use.

Risk of Trying Marijuana 1-2 Times.

Risk of Using Marijuana 1-2 Times per Week.

Risk of Drinking 1-2 Alcoholic Drinks Occasionally (2008–2014).

Risk of Drinking 1-2 Drinks per Day (2015–2016).

General Risk of Drinking Alcohol.

Risk of Binge Drinking.

Risk of Misusing Prescription Drugs.

**Unfavorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use.** This section includes the percentage of all Porter County students who believe that using substances such as alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes, and other illegal drugs is wrong.

Students Who Believe that Drinking Alcohol Is Wrong.

Students Who Believe that Smoking Marijuana is Wrong.

Students Who Believe that Smoking Cigarettes is Wrong.

Students Who Believe Using Illegal Drugs Is Wrong.

**Risk and Protective Factors.** This section includes the percentage of all Porter County students who are at risk for these risk and protective factors.

Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use.

Community Rewards for Involvement.

Family Opportunities for Involvement.

Family Conflict.

School Rewards for Involvement.

# Executive Summary

## Primary Indicators

This section includes the percentage of Porter County 12th grade students reporting the use of alcohol or drugs in their lifetime.

**Lifetime Usage of Alcohol, Marijuana, Prescription or Over-the-Counter Drugs.** In 2016, 46.2% reported lifetime use of alcohol, 28.6% reported lifetime use of marijuana, 9.8% reported lifetime use of prescription drugs, and 4.9% reported lifetime use of over-the-counter drugs. There is a substantial decline in reported lifetime use of all of these substances from 2008 – 2016.

**Primary Indicators: Lifetime Usage of Cocaine, Cocaine/Crack, and Heroin.** In 2016, 2.2% of the students reported they had used cocaine or crack in their lifetime and .6% reported using heroin in their lifetime. There has been a substantial decline in reported use of these drugs from 2008 – 2016.

**Primary Indicators: Amphetamines, Inhalants, Ecstasy, and Hallucinogens.** Hallucinogens and ecstasy were treated separately from 2008 - 2014 and were combined into one category in 2015 and 2016. Amphetamines were not included in the surveys after 2011. Reported lifetime use varies greatly by substance. Reported inhalant use is relatively stable over the years, but overall declines a bit. There was a significant spike in hallucinogen use after 2011 followed by a drop in 2013 and another spike in 2014 to 10.5% of students reporting lifetime use. Reported ecstasy use was somewhat erratic from 2008 to 2014, but then settled in 2014 at 10.9% reporting use similar to where it was in 2008. When combined, ecstasy and hallucinogens dropped to 7.2% in 2016. Overall, the tendency is a decline in reported lifetime use for all of these drugs, but not to the extent of those reported in two previous categories.

## Secondary Indicators

This section includes the percentage of all Porter County students reporting the use of alcohol or drugs in the previous month.

**Monthly Alcohol Use.** The percentage of students reporting monthly use of alcohol in 2016 ranges from 2.4% of 6th graders to 28.7% of 12th graders. There is a substantial decline in reported monthly use of alcohol from 2008 to 2016 in all grades.

**Monthly Binge Drinking.** The percentage of students reporting binge drinking in the past month in 2016 ranges from 5% of 8th graders to 14.8% of 12th graders. With the exception of 6th graders who increased from 2008 – 2014, there has been a substantial decline in reported binge drinking for 8th, 10th and 12th graders.

# Executive Summary

## Secondary Indicators (cont.)

**Monthly Use of Marijuana.** The percentage of students reporting monthly use of marijuana in 2016 ranges from .2% of 6th graders to 16.7% of 12th graders. Overall, reported monthly marijuana use has declined in all grades. 12th graders remained steady through 2015 and then dropped substantially in 2016.

**Monthly Use of Heroin.** The percentage of students reporting use of heroin in the past month in 2016 ranges from .2% of 8th graders to .7% of 12th graders. Overall, there is not much reported use of heroin and there has been a decline over time in reported use.

**Monthly Use of Cocaine/Crack.** The percentage of students reporting monthly use of crack and cocaine in 2016 ranges from .4% of 8th graders to 1.4% of 12th graders. Despite the fact that crack and cocaine were combined in the 2015 and 2016 reports, while treated separately in previous years, and despite some ups and downs, particularly among 12th graders, there is an overall decline in reported cocaine use over time.

**Monthly Use of Prescription Drugs.** The percentage of students reporting monthly use of prescription drugs in 2016 ranges from 2.2% of 6th graders to 6.7% of 12th graders. Over time, there is a significant decline in reported monthly use of prescription drugs in grades 8 - 12 and a small increase for 6th graders.

**Monthly Use of Hallucinogens and Ecstasy.** The percentage of students reporting monthly use of hallucinogens/ecstasy in 2016 ranges from 0.9% of 8th graders to 4.8% of 12th graders. Reported use by 6th and 8th graders declines over time, while 10th and 12th graders shift over time, but 10th graders end up a bit lower while 12th graders end up reporting a bit more use over time, but have declined somewhat from reported use in 2013. 6th graders not included in 2015-2016.

## Perception of Risk

This domain includes the percentage of Porter County students that believe there is a risk to using substances such as cigarettes, marijuana, alcohol, etc.

# Executive Summary

## Perception of Risk (cont.)

**Risk of Cigarette Use.** The percentage of students reporting a risk in smoking 1+ pack of cigarettes per day in 2016 ranges from 82.4% of 6th graders to 87.8% of 10th graders. Overall, there have been significant swings in the perception of risk, but generally an increase in the perception of risk in all grades, although there were some declines in the perception of risk in 2016 in all grades except 10th.

**Risk of Trying Marijuana 1-2 Times.** The percentage of students reporting a risk in the use of marijuana in 2016 ranges from 26.4% of 12th graders to 56.9% of 6th graders. Overall, the perceived risk of trying marijuana 1-2 times increased from 2008 - 2016.

**Risk of Using Marijuana 1-2 Times per Week.** The percentage of students reporting a risk in the use of marijuana in 2016 ranges from 74.3% of 6th graders to 43.1% of 12th graders. Overall, reported risk of marijuana use has declined substantially in all grades. A spike in perceived risk by 12th graders occurred between 2014 and 2016, and the perceived risk is still greater than trying marijuana just 1-2 times.

**General Risk of Drinking Alcohol.** The percentage of students reporting a perceived risk of drinking alcohol in 2016 ranged from 57.5% of 6th graders to 68.5% of 8th graders. From 2008 - 2016, there was a general increase in perceived risk of drinking alcohol. From 2008-2014, the question asked about the perceived risk of about 1-2 drinks occasionally; in 2015-2016, the question asked about 1-2 drinks per day.

**Risk of Binge Drinking.** The percentage of students reporting a risk of binge drinking alcohol in 2016 ranges from 75.6% of 6th graders to 82.9% of 8th graders. 8th and 10th graders see more risk across time, 6th graders are quite stable, and 12th graders are mixed, but end up seeing greater risk across time.

**Risk of Misusing Prescription Drugs.** The percentage of students reporting a risk of misusing prescription drugs in 2016 ranges from 84.1% of 6th graders to 90.1% of 8th graders. There are small increases in perceived risk for all students except 10th graders. However, trends are difficult to determine with only 3 years of data.

# Executive Summary

## Unfavorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use

This domain includes the percentage of Porter County students who believe that using substances such as alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes, and other illegal drugs, is wrong.

**Students Who Believe that Drinking Alcohol Is Wrong.** In 2016, the percentage of students reporting that drinking alcohol is wrong ranges from 64% of 12th graders, to 88% of 8th graders. Over time, 12th graders remain about the same while 8th and 10th graders increase a bit. Sixth graders increase a bit over time, but were not included in the 2015-2016 surveys.

**Students Who Believe that Smoking Marijuana is Wrong.** In 2016, the percentage of students who believe smoking marijuana is wrong ranges from 58.4% of 12th graders to 85.2% of 8th graders. Over time, there are slight decreases for 12th and 10th graders while 6th graders remain stable and 8th graders increase.

**Students Who Believe that Smoking Cigarettes is Wrong.** In 2016, the percentage of students reporting that smoking cigarettes is wrong ranges from 73% of 12th graders to 92.9% of 8th graders. Over time, there is a substantial increase in the percentage of students who believe smoking cigarettes is wrong.

**Students Who Believe Using Illegal Drugs Is Wrong.** In 2016, the percentage of students who believe using illegal drugs is wrong ranges from 89.6% of 12th graders to 98.1% of 8th graders. Overall, there is a general increase from 2010 - 2016.

## Risk and Protective Factors

**Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use.** This factor includes responses to questions about student perceptions as to whether they think they would get caught if they drank alcohol, used drugs, smoked cigarettes, or carried a gun in their neighborhood. The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from a low of 25.5% of 8th graders to a high of 38% of 10th graders. Despite some dramatic shifts over time, all grades end up in 2016 below or near where they were in 2010.

**Community Rewards for Involvement.** This factor includes student responses to statements such as, “my neighbors notice when I am doing a good job and let me know,” “there are people in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best,” “and there are people in my neighborhood who are proud of me when I do something well.” The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from 58.3% of 6th graders to 68.4% of 8th graders. This is the factor with the highest percentage of at-risk youth and the percentage of at-risk youth has steadily increased for all grades since 2011.

# Executive Summary

## Risk and Protective Factors (cont.)

**Family Opportunities for Involvement.** This factor includes student responses to statements such as, “my parents give me lots of chances to do fun things with them,” “my parents ask me what I think before most family decisions affecting me are made,” and “if I had a personal problem, I could ask my mom or dad for help.” The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from 30.8% of 6th graders to 37.1% of 12th graders. While there is some shifting across time, there is an overall decline in all of the grades of the percentage of at-risk youth on this factor.

**Family Conflict.** This factor includes responses to questions about student perceptions of whether people in their family yell at each other a lot, argue a lot, and/or insult each other a lot. The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from 40.2% of 6th graders to 52.1% of 8th graders. There has been a slight decline in the percentage of at-risk students in the 6th and 8th grade, while 10th graders stayed about the same and 12th graders increased some.

**School Rewards for Involvement.** This factor includes student responses to statements such as, “my teacher(s) notices when I am doing a good job and lets me know about it,” “the school lets my parents know when I have done something well,” “I feel safe at my school,” and “my teachers praise me when I work hard in school.” The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from 40.3% of 6th graders to 48.7% of 12th graders. Over time, the percentage of at-risk students stays about the same for 6th and 12th graders, but increases for 8th and 10th graders.



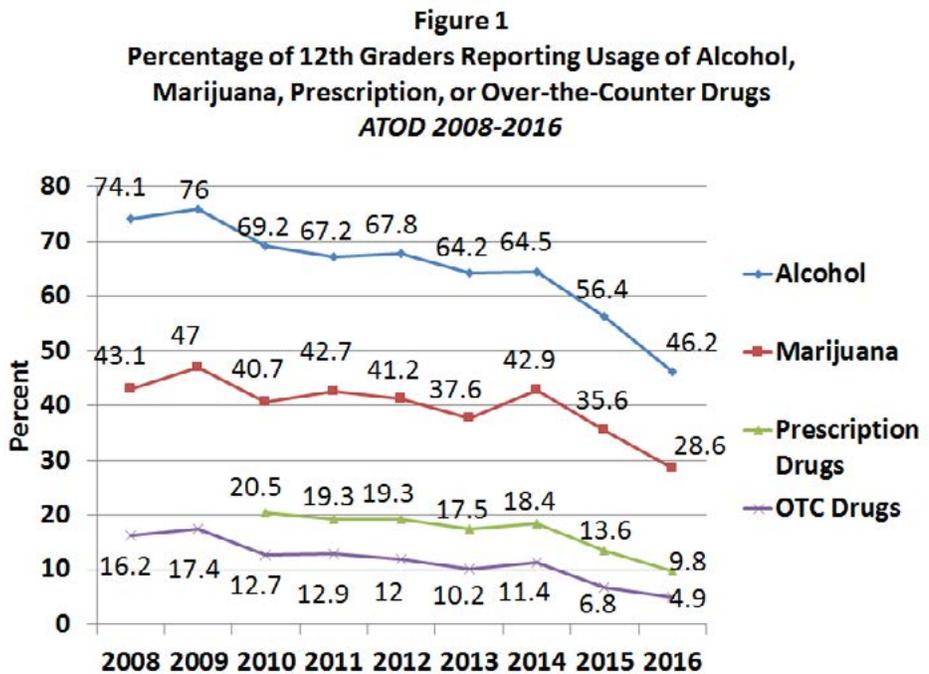
# Primary Indicators

This section includes the percentage of Porter County 12th grade students reporting the use of alcohol or drugs in their lifetime.

This figure shows the percentage of 12th graders reporting the use of the four substances: alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs, and over-the-counter drugs from 2008-2016.

## Lifetime Usage of Alcohol, Marijuana, Prescription, and Over-the-Counter Drugs

In 2016, 46.2% reported lifetime use of alcohol, 28.6% of marijuana, 9.8% of prescription drugs, and 4.9% of over-the-counter drugs. There is a substantial decline in reported lifetime use of all of these substances from 2008 – 2016.

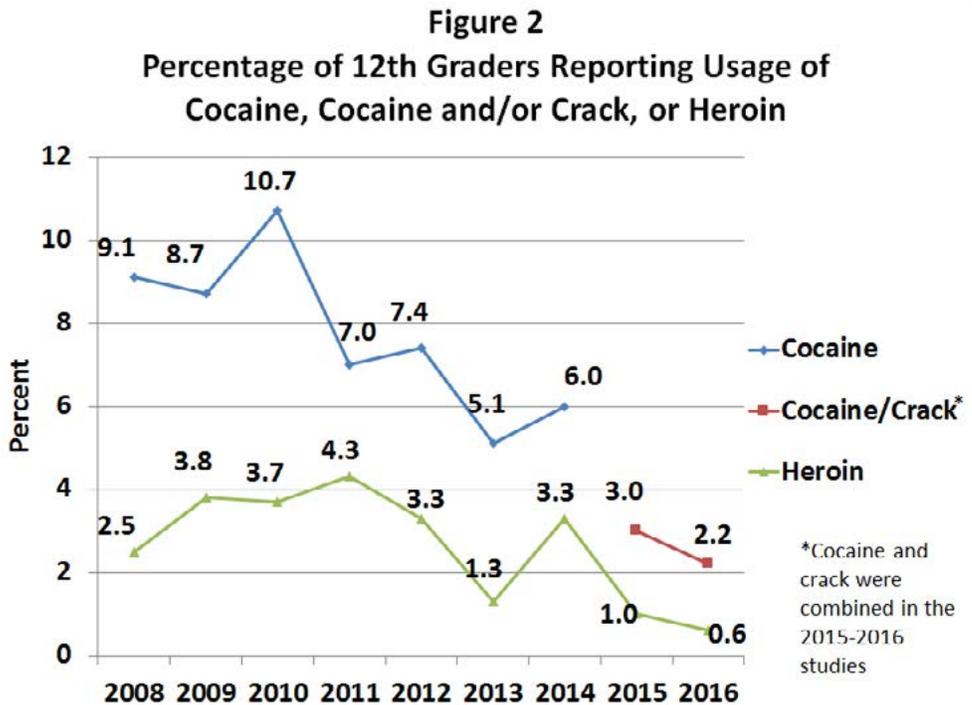


# Primary Indicators

This figure shows the percentage of 12th graders reporting use of cocaine, cocaine/crack (which were treated separately from 2008-2014 but combined in 2015-2016), and heroin.

## Lifetime Usage of Cocaine, Crack, and Heroin

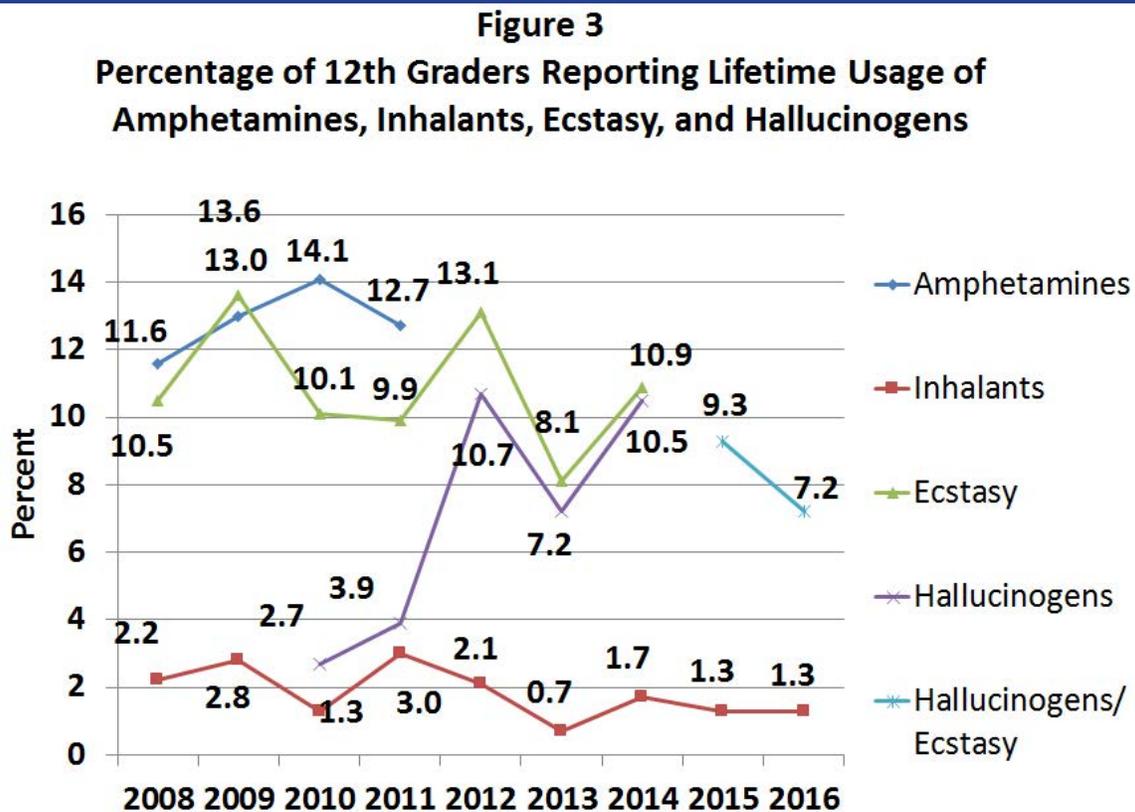
In 2016, 2.2% of the students reported they had used cocaine or crack in their lifetime and 0.6% reported using heroin in their lifetime. There has been a substantial decline in reported use of these drugs from 2008 – 2016.



# Primary Indicators

This figure shows the percentage of 12th graders who reported lifetime use of amphetamines, inhalants, ecstasy, and hallucinogens. Hallucinogens and ecstasy were treated separately from 2008-2014 and were combined into one category in 2015 and 2016. Amphetamines were not included in the surveys after 2011.

## Lifetime Usage of Amphetamines, Inhalants, Ecstasy, and Hallucinogens

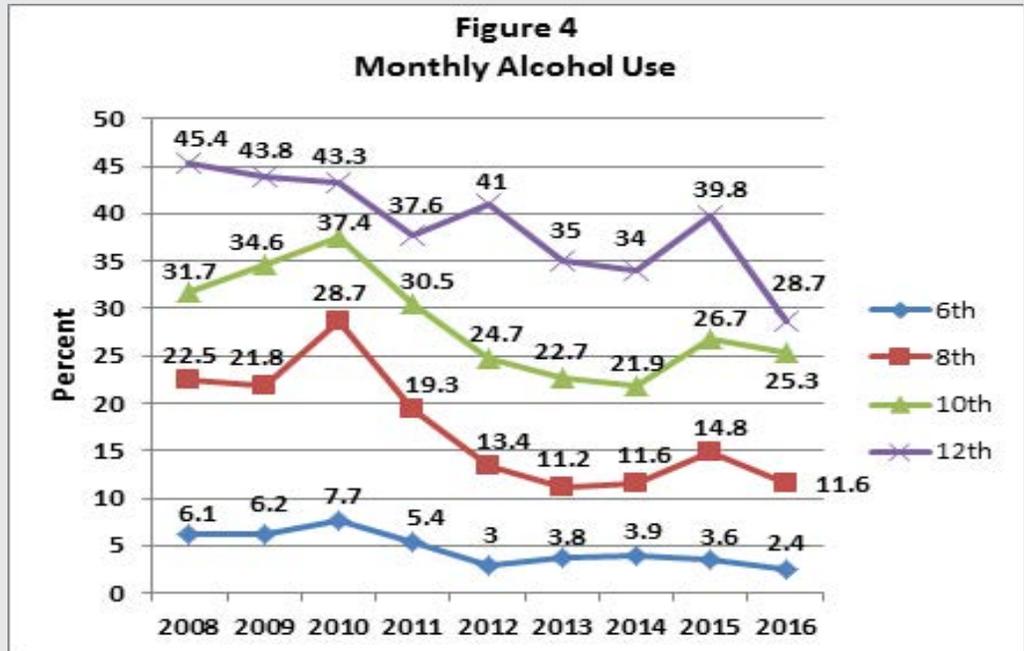


Reported lifetime use varies greatly by substance. Reported inhalant use is relatively stable over the years, but overall declines a bit. There was a significant spike in hallucinogen use after 2011 followed by a drop in 2013 and another spike in 2014 to 10.5% of students reporting lifetime use. Reported ecstasy use was somewhat erratic from 2008 to 2014, but then settled in 2014 at 10.9% reporting use, similar to where it was in 2008. When combined, ecstasy and hallucinogens dropped to 7.2% in 2016. Overall, the tendency is a decline in reported lifetime use for all of these drugs, but not to the extent of those reported in Figures 1 and 3.

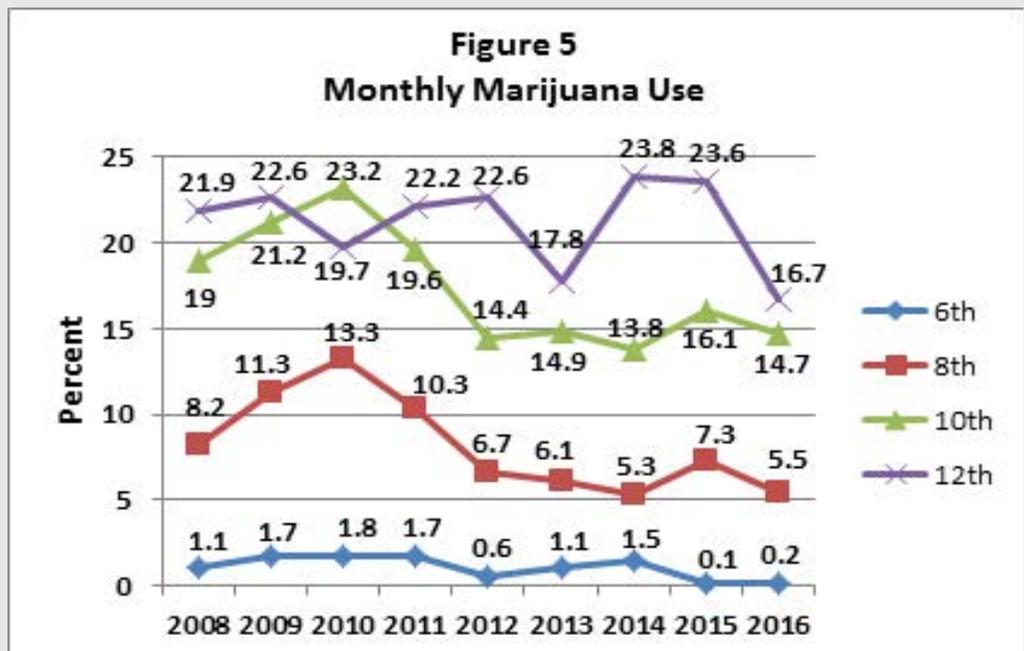
# Secondary Indicators

This section includes the percentage of Porter County students reporting the use of alcohol or drugs in the previous month.

The percentage of students reporting monthly use of alcohol in 2016 ranges from 2.4% of 6th graders to 28.7% of 12th graders. There is a substantial decline in reported monthly use of alcohol from 2008 to 2016 in all grades.

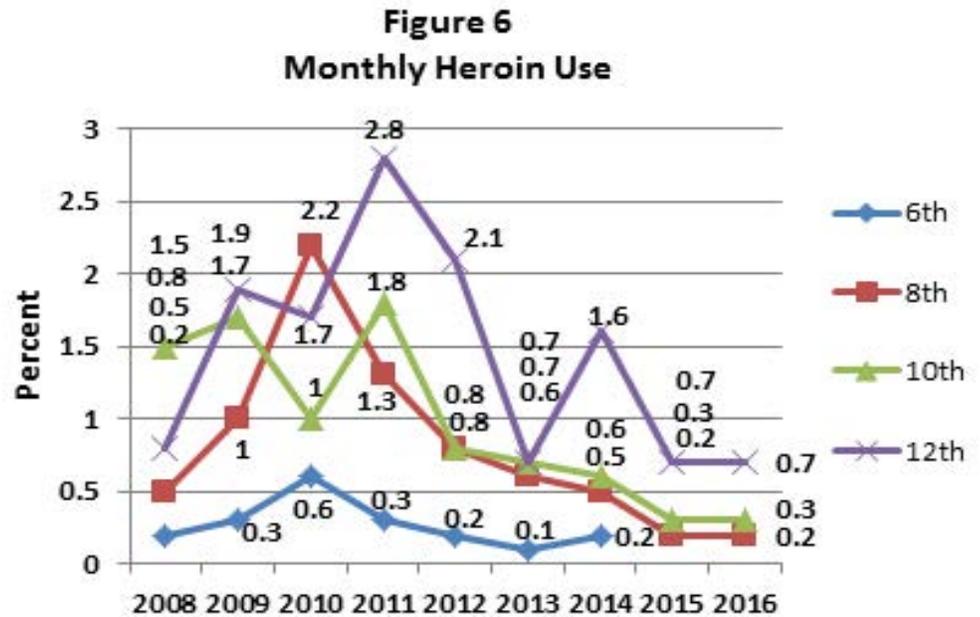


The percentage of students reporting monthly use of marijuana in 2016 ranges from 0.2% of 6th graders to 16.7% of 12th graders. Overall, reported monthly marijuana use has declined in all grades. 12th graders remained steady through 2015 and then dropped substantially in 2016.

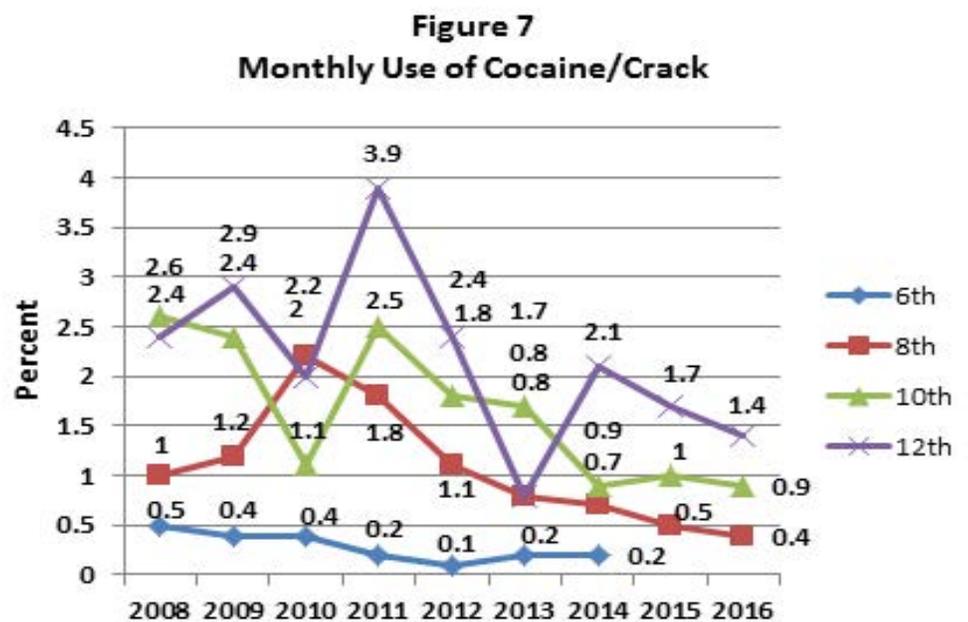


# Secondary Indicators

The percentage of students reporting use of heroin in the past month in 2016 ranges from 0.2% of 8th graders to 0.7% of 12th graders. Overall, there is not much reported use of heroin and there has been a decline over time in reported use. 6th graders were not surveyed in 2015-2016.

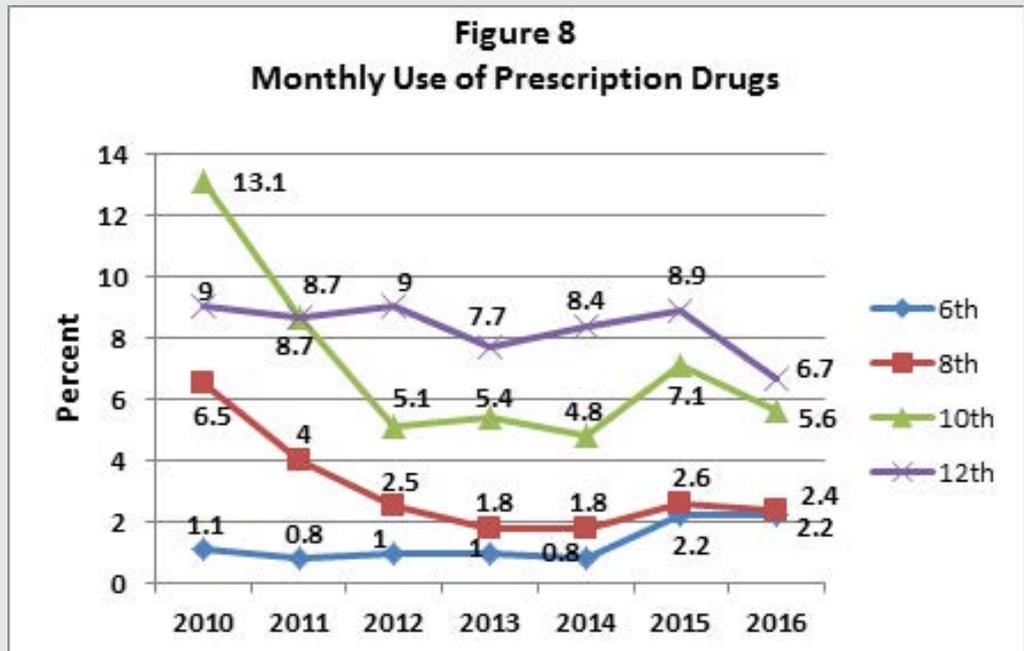


The percentage of students reporting monthly use of crack and cocaine in 2016 ranges from 0.4% of 8th graders to 1.4% of 12th graders. Despite the fact that crack and cocaine were combined in the 2015 and 2016 reports, while treated separately in previous years, there is an overall decline in reported cocaine use over time. 6th graders were not surveyed in 2015-2016.

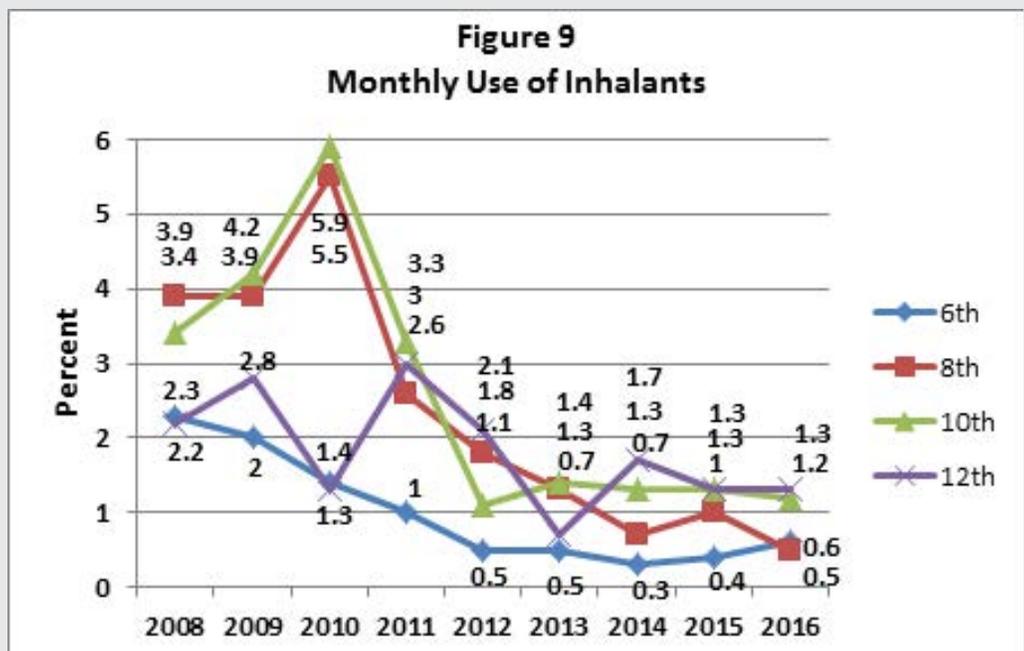


# Secondary Indicators

The percentage of students reporting monthly use of prescription drugs in 2016 ranges from 2.2% of 6th graders to 6.7% of 12th graders. Over time, there is a significant decline in reported monthly use of prescription drugs in grades 8-12 and a small increase for 6th graders.



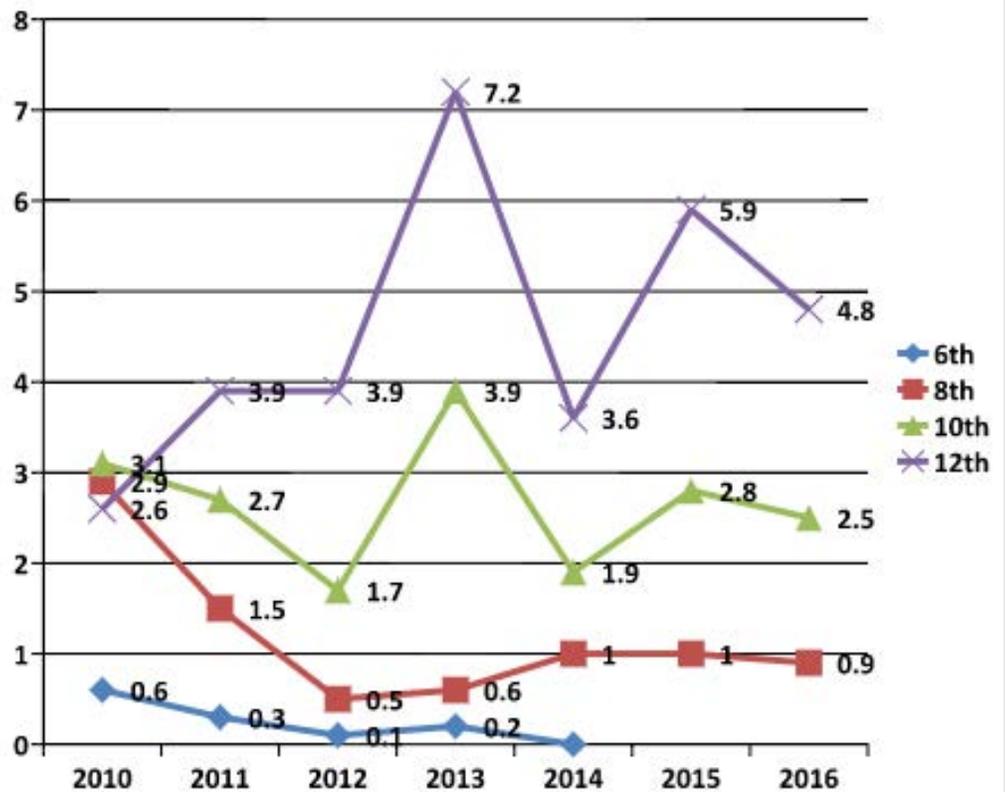
The percentage of students reporting monthly use of inhalants in 2016 ranges from 0.5% of 8th graders to 1.3% of 12th graders. Over time, there is a significant decline in reported monthly use of inhalants in all grades.



# Secondary Indicators

The percentage of students reporting monthly use of hallucinogens/ecstasy in 2016 ranges from 0.9% of 8th graders to 4.8% of 12th graders. Reported use by 6th and 8th graders declines over time, while 10th and 12th graders shift over time, but 10th graders end up a bit lower, while 12th graders end up reporting a bit more use over time, but have declined somewhat from reported use in 2013. 6th graders not included in 2015-2016.

**Figure 10**  
**Monthly use of Hallucinogens and Ecstasy\***



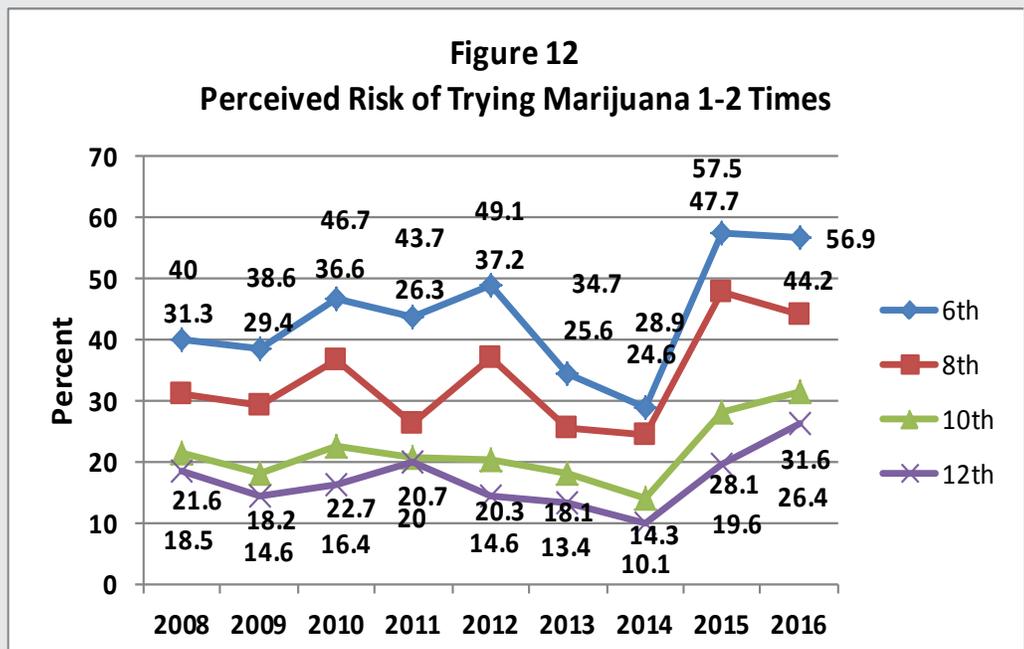
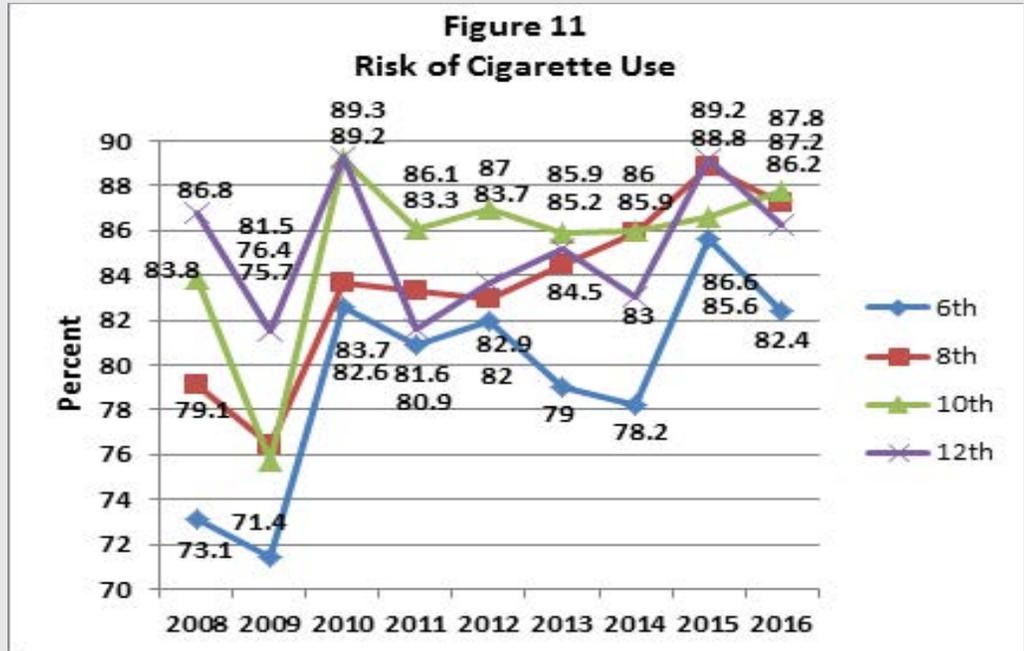
\*Data from 2010-2014 reported use of hallucinogens. Ecstasy use was combined with hallucinogen use in 2015-2016.

# Perception of Risk

**Perceived Risks of Drug Use:** This section includes the percentage of Porter County students who believe there is a risk to using substances such as cigarettes, marijuana, alcohol, etc.

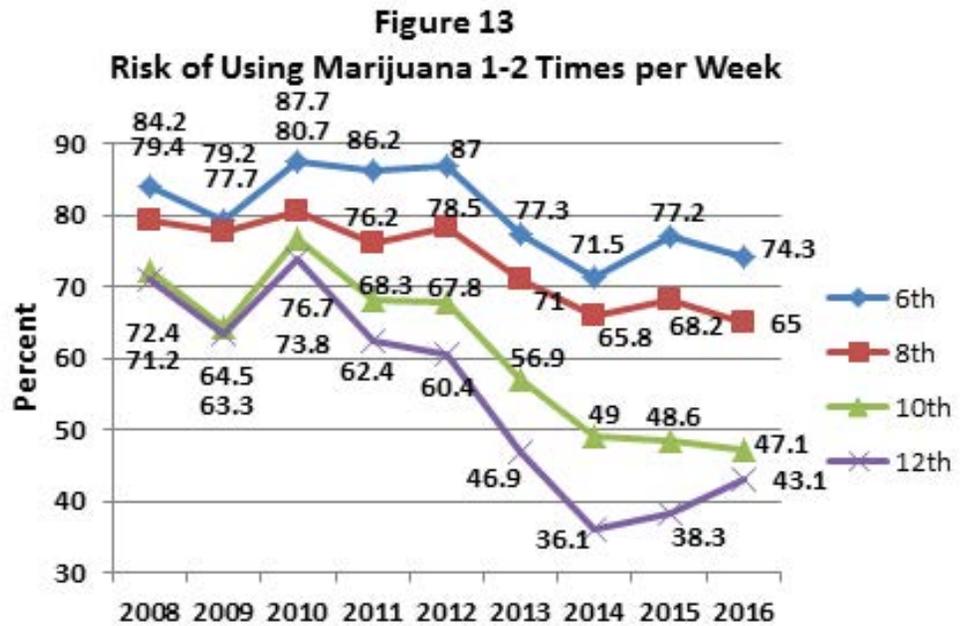
The percentage of students reporting a risk in smoking 1+ pack of cigarettes per day in 2016 ranges from 82.4% of 6th graders to 87.8% of 10th graders. Overall, there have been significant swings in the perception of risk, but generally an increase in the perception of risk in all grades, although there were some declines in the perception of risk in 2016 in all grades except 10th.

The percentage of students in 2016 reporting a risk in the use of marijuana 1-2 times ranges from 26.4% of 12th graders to 56.9% of 6th graders. Overall, the perceived risk of trying marijuana 1-2 times increased from 2008-2016.

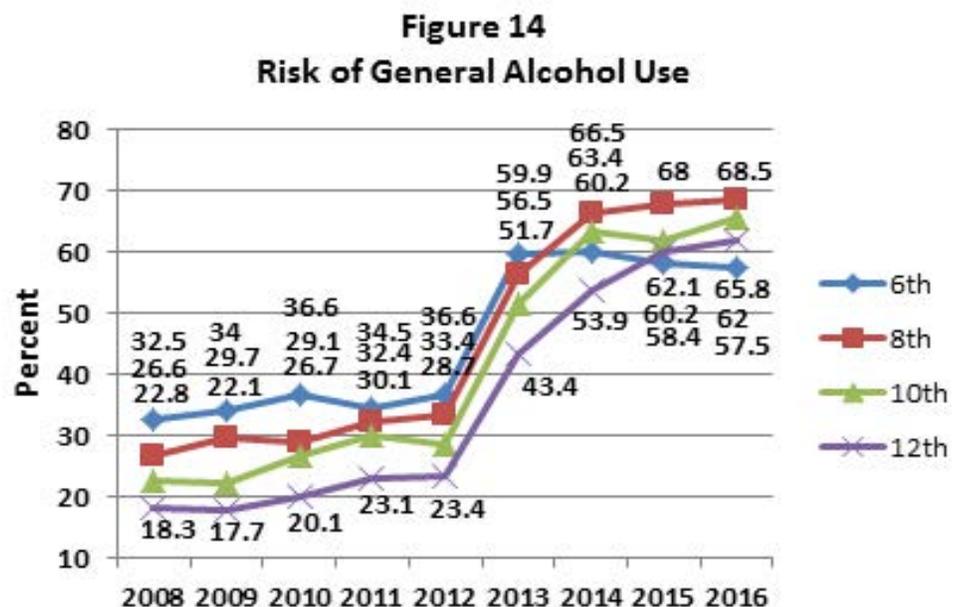


# Perception of Risk

The percentage of students in 2016 reporting a risk in the use of marijuana 1-2 times per week ranges from 74.3% of 6th graders to 43.1% of 12th graders. Overall, reported risk of regular marijuana use has declined substantially in all grades. A spike in perceived risk by 12th graders occurred between 2014 and 2016, and the perceived risk is still greater than trying marijuana just 1-2 times.

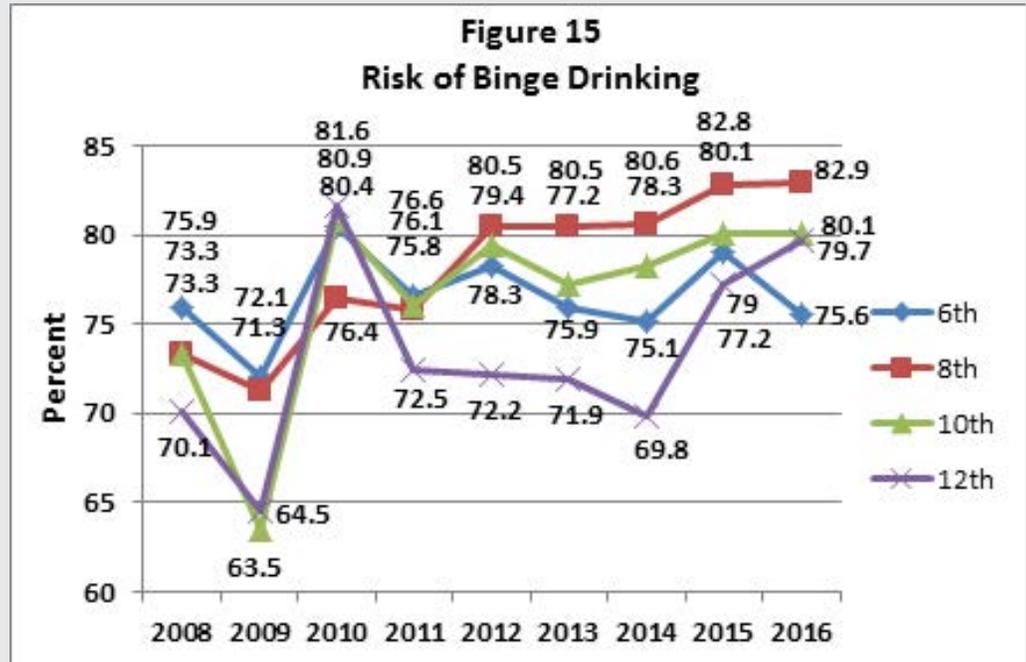


The percentage of students reporting a risk of drinking alcohol in 2016 ranged from 57.5% of 6th graders to 68.5% of 8th graders. From 2008-2016, there was a general increase in perceived risk of drinking alcohol. In 2008-2014, the question asked about 1-2 drinks occasionally; in 2015-2016 the question asked about 1-2 drinks daily.

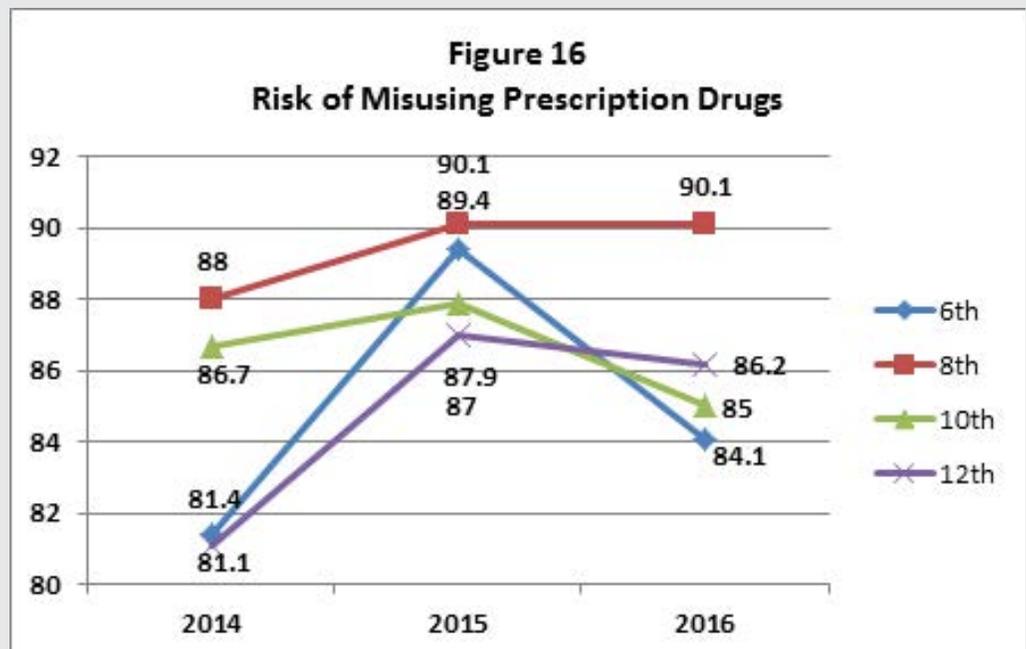


# Perception of Risk

The percentage of students reporting a risk of binge drinking alcohol in 2016 ranges from 75.6% of 6th graders to 82.9% of 8th graders. 8th and 10th graders see more risk across time, 6th graders are quite stable, and 12th graders are mixed, but end up seeing greater risk across time.



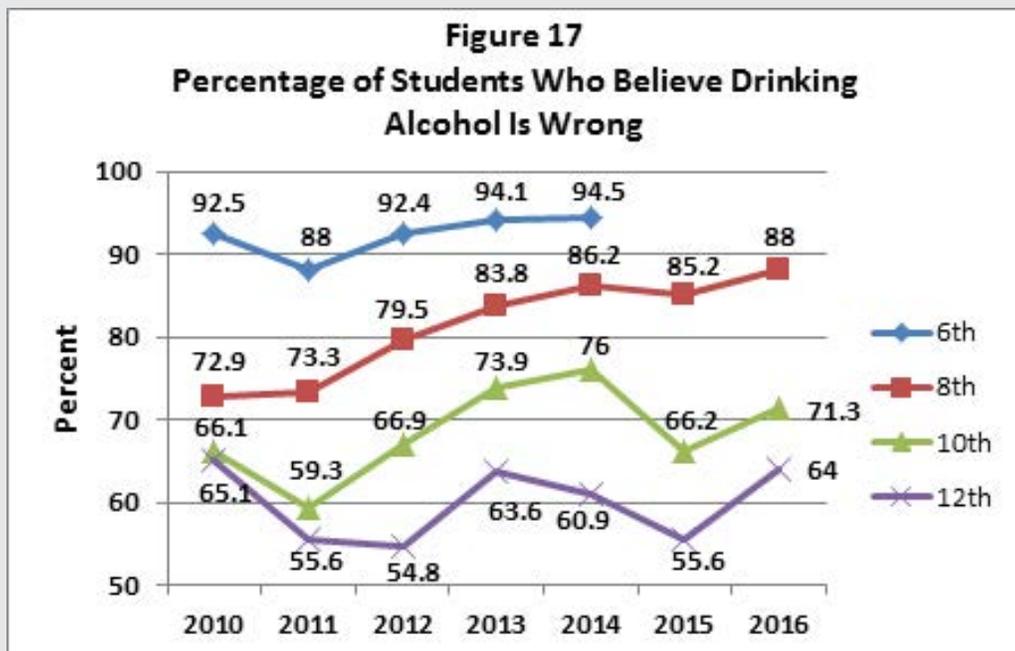
The percentage of students reporting a risk of misusing prescription drugs in 2016 ranges from 84.1% of 6th graders to 90.1% of 8th graders. There are small increases in perceived risk for all students except 10th graders. However, trends are difficult to determine with only 3 years of data.



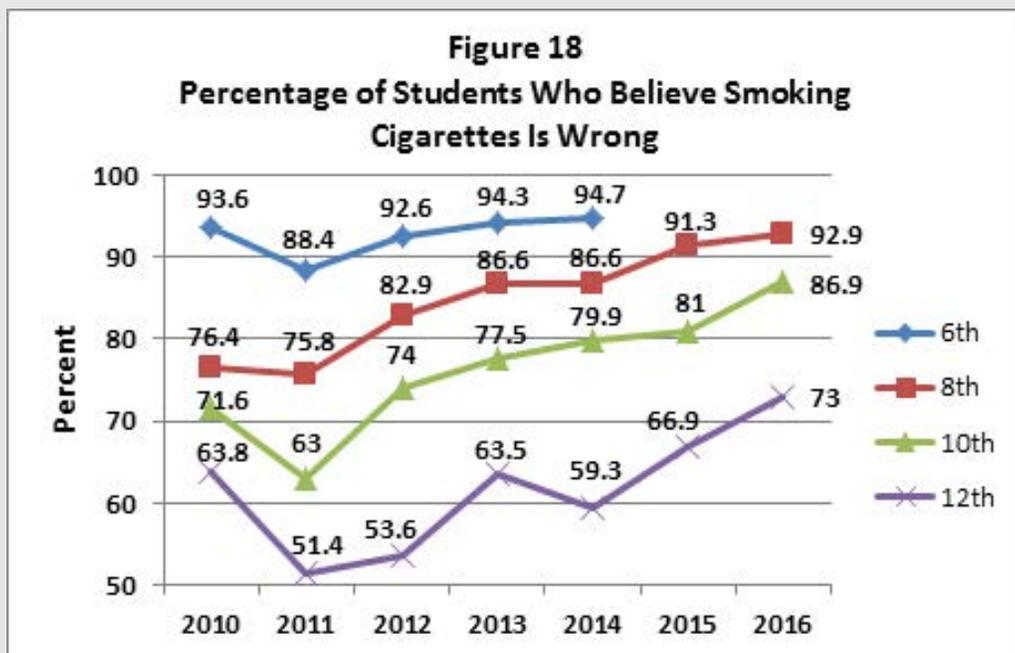
# Attitudes Toward Drug Use

This section includes the percentage of Porter County students who believe that using substances such as alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes, and other illegal drugs, is wrong.

In 2016, the percentage of students reporting that drinking alcohol is wrong ranges from 64% of 12th graders to 88% of 8th graders. Over time, 12th graders remain about the same while 8th and 10th graders increase a bit. 6th graders were not surveyed in 2015-2016.

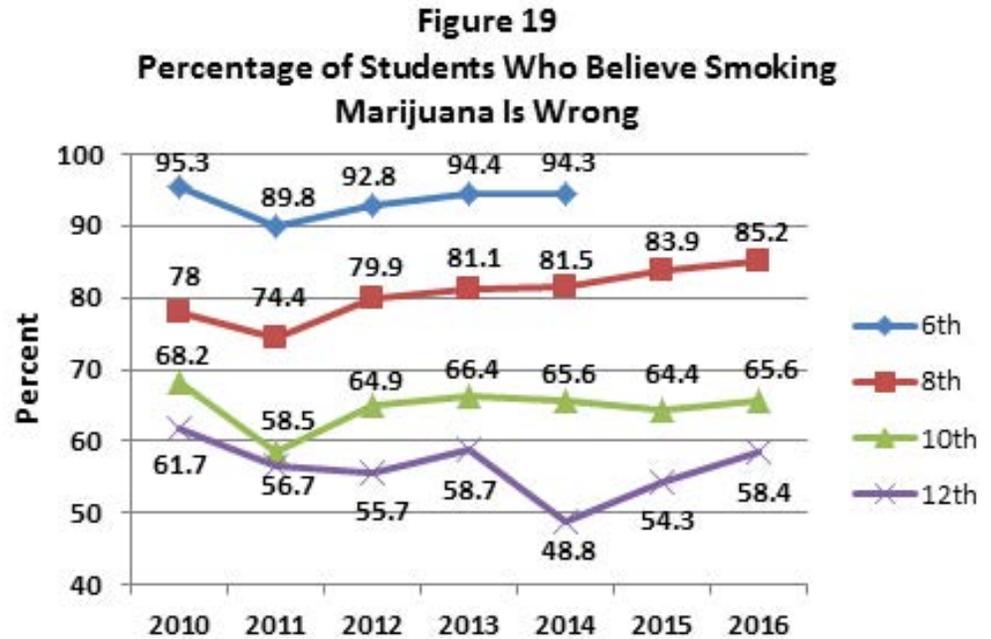


In 2016, the percentage of students reporting that smoking cigarettes is wrong ranges from 73% of 12th graders to 92.9% of 8th graders. Over time, there is a substantial increase in the percentage of students who believe smoking cigarettes is wrong. 6th graders were not surveyed in 2015-2016.

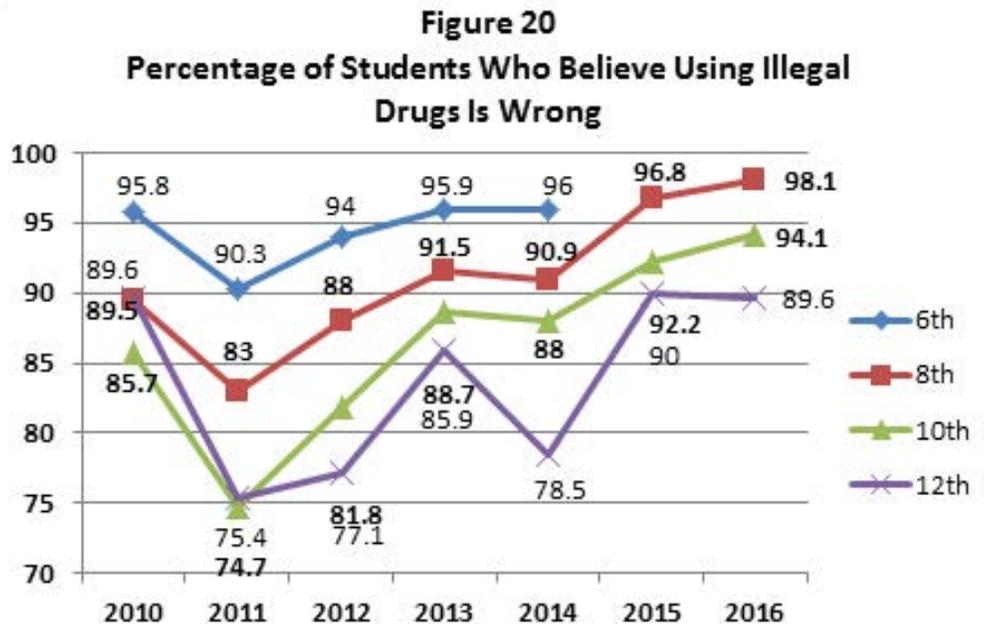


# Attitudes Toward Drug Use

In 2016, the percentage of students who believe smoking marijuana is wrong ranges from 58.4% of 12th graders to 85.2% of 8th graders. Over time, there are slight decreases for 12th and 10th graders while 6th graders remain stable and 8th graders increase. 6th graders were not surveyed in 2015-2016.



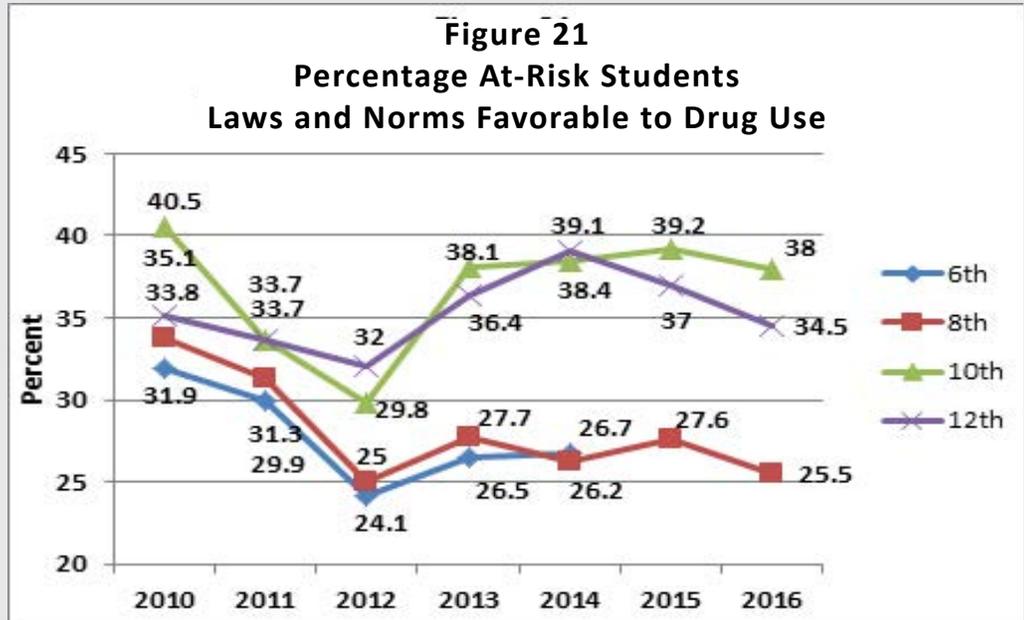
In 2016, the percentage of student who believe using illegal drugs is wrong ranges from 89.6% of 12th graders to 98.1% of 8th graders. Overall, there is a general increase from 2010 - 2016. 6th graders were not surveyed in 2015-2016.



# Risk and Protective Factors

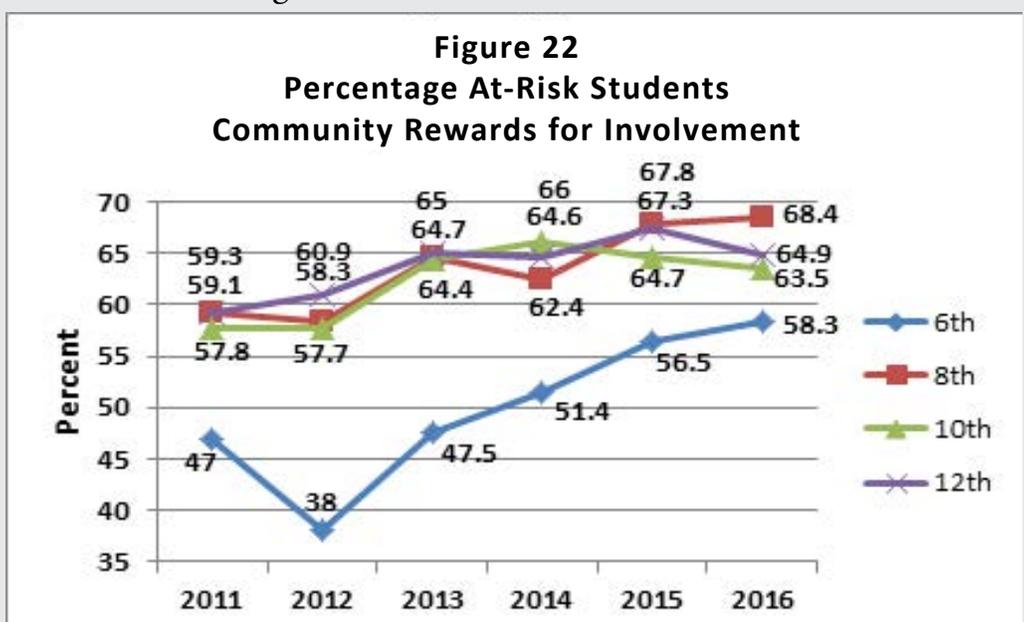
**Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use:** This figure includes responses to questions about student perceptions as to whether they think they would get caught if they drank alcohol, used drugs, smoked cigarettes, or carried a gun in their neighborhood.

The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from a low of 25.5% of 8th graders to a high of 38% of 10th graders. Despite some dramatic shifts over time, all grades end up in 2016 below or near where they were in 2010. 6th graders were not surveyed in 2015-2016.



**Community Rewards for Involvement:** This figure includes student responses to statements such as, “my neighbors notice when I am doing a good job and let me know,” “there are people in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best,” “and there are people in my neighborhood who are proud of me when I do something well.”

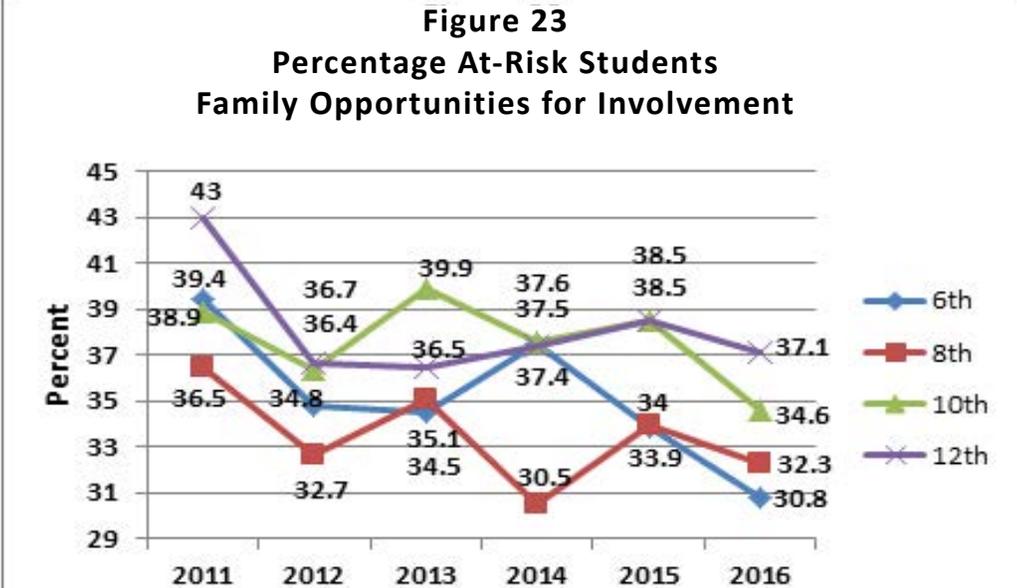
The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from 58.3% of 6th graders to 68.4% of 8th graders. This is the factor with the highest percentage of at-risk youth and the percentage of at-risk youth has steadily increased for all grades since 2011.



# Risk and Protective Factors

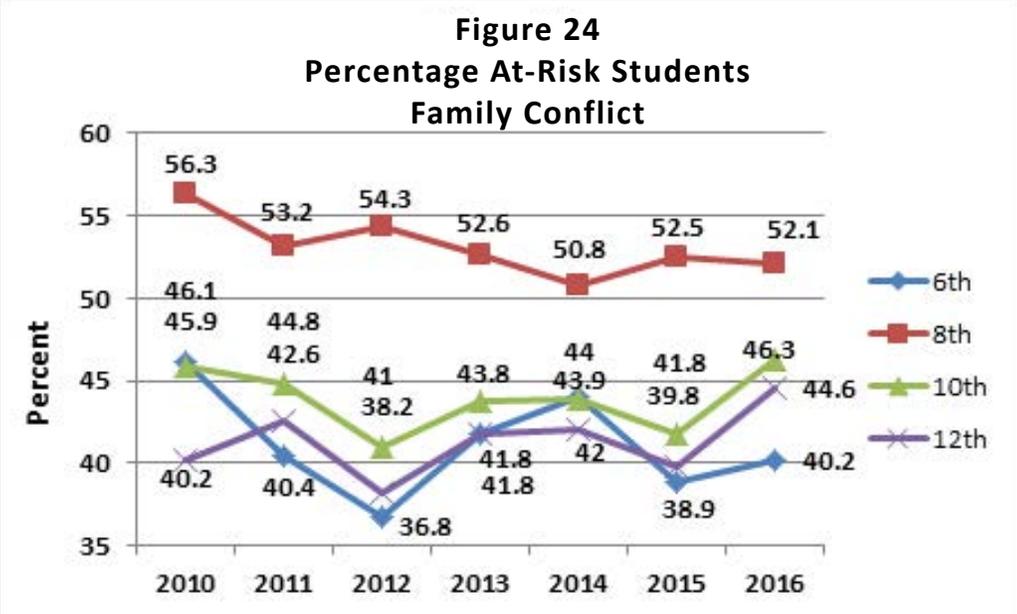
**Family Opportunities for Involvement:** This figure includes student responses to statements such as, “my parents give me lots of chances to do fun things with them,” “my parents ask me what I think before most family decisions affecting me are made,” and “if I had a personal problem, I could ask my mom or dad for help.”

The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from 30.8% of 6th graders to 37.1% of 12th graders. While there is some shifting across time, there is an overall decline in all of the grades of the percentage of at-risk youth on this factor.



**Family Conflict:** This figure includes responses to questions about student perceptions of whether people in their family yell at each other a lot, argue a lot, and/or insult each other a lot.

The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from 40.2% of 6th graders to 52.1% of 8th graders. There has been a slight decline in the percentage of at-risk students in the 6th and 8th grade, while 10th graders stayed about the same and 12th graders increased some.



# Risk and Protective Factors

**School Rewards for Involvement:** This figure includes student responses to statements such as, “my teacher(s) notices when I am doing a good job and lets me know about it,” “the school lets my parents know when I have done something well,” “I feel safe at my school,” and “my teachers praise me when I work hard in school.”

The percentage of at-risk students in 2016 ranges from 40.3% of 6th graders to 48.7% of 12th graders. Over time, the percentage of at-risk students stays about the same for 6th and 12th graders, but increases for 8th and 10th graders.

