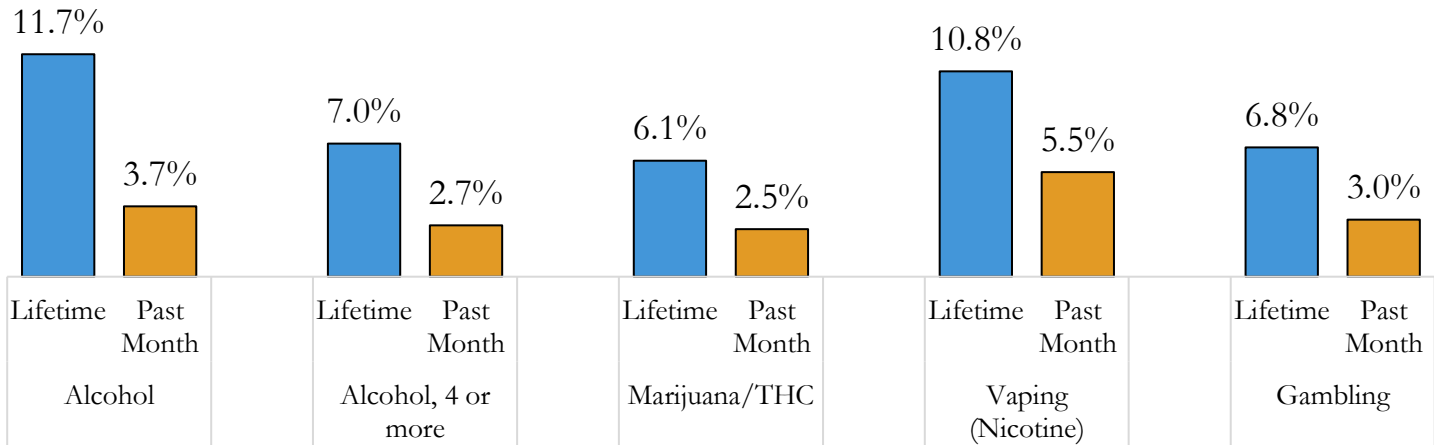




In December 2025, students in Barbour County in grades 6-12 participated in the Youth Voices Count Survey on youth lifestyles, substance use, mental health, related risk and protective factors. The overall response rate was 76%.

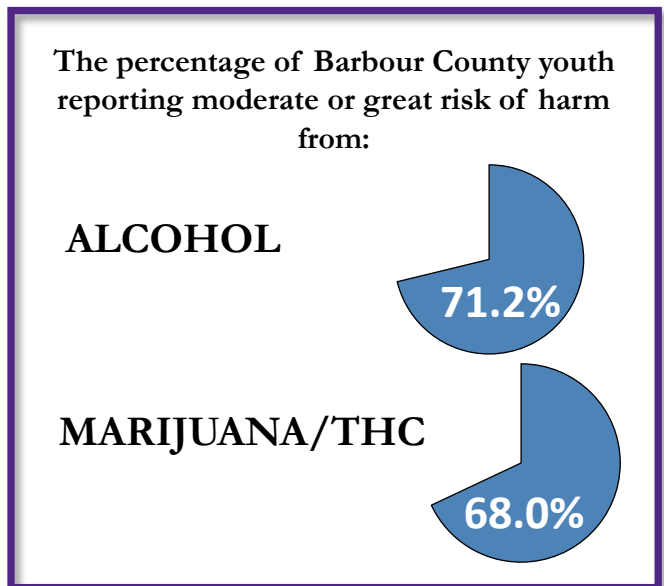
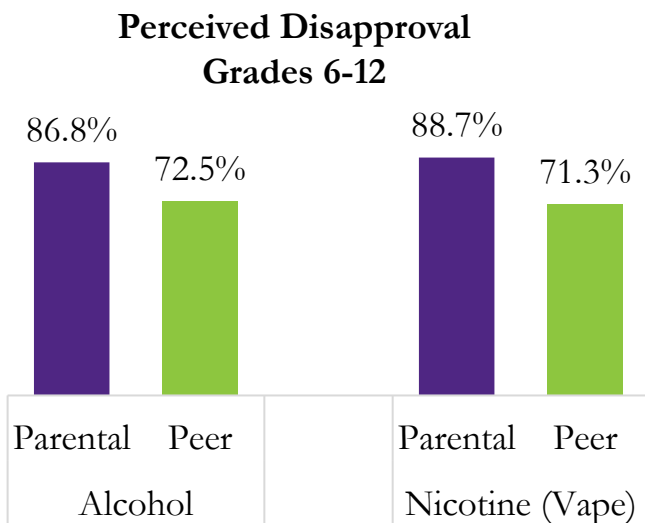
Alcohol is the most frequently used substance in youths' lifetimes, followed by nicotine in a vape



Youth in Barbour County who have used **any substance in their lifetime** are more likely to have increased behavioral health concerns including: experiencing loneliness, having thoughts of self-harm and self-harm behaviors, seeing school violence in the past year, and having past year anxiety, with high school students reporting academics as a source of anxiety.

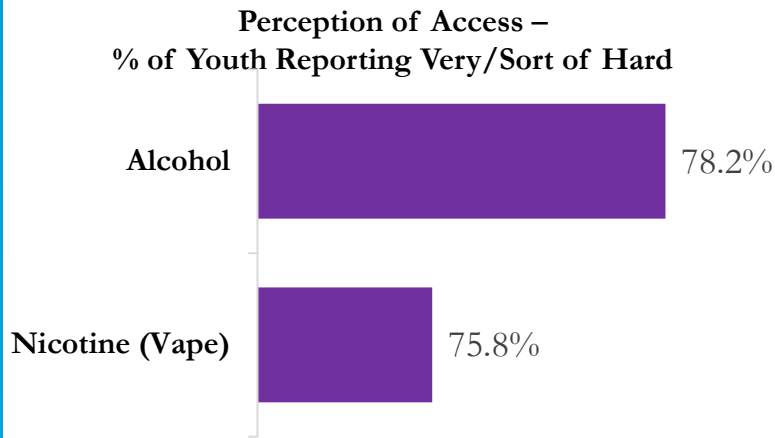
Risk Factors

Research shows that parents and peers are the leading influence on youths' decisions on whether to use substances or not. Below shows the percentage of youth reporting their parents or friends feel it is moderately or greatly wrong to use alcohol or marijuana.



Access

Ease of access to substances has been shown to have a significant relationship with youth substance use. The figure below reflects the percentage of youth reporting it is very or sort of hard to access substances.



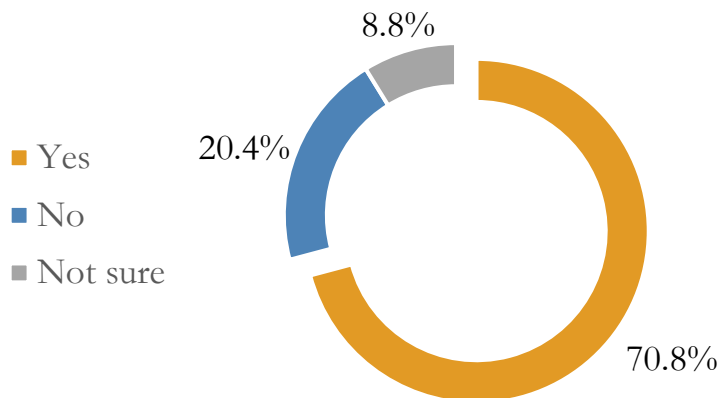
Barbour County youth reported accessing **alcohol** most frequently from:

- Home without parents' permission
- Home with parents' permission
- Friends/peers

Vape products were most frequently acquired from:

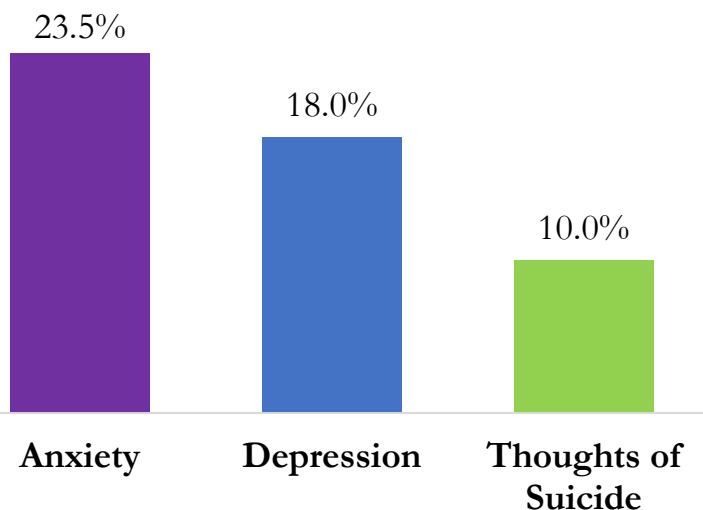
- Friends/peers
- Home without parents' permission
- A Store

Perception of Clear Family Rules around Underage Drinking



70.8% of Barbour County youth (grades 6-12) report clear family rules around alcohol use, compared to 74.8% around vaping, and 73% around marijuana.

Mental Health in the Past Year



23.5% of Barbour County youth reported having anxiety in the past year “always” or “almost always.” Most frequent sources of stress and anxiety included academics, post-high school plans, and schedule.

18.0% of youth reported feeling sad or hopeless so much that it stopped them from doing usual activities 2 or more weeks in a row. 10% reported having considered suicide in the past year.