

Data From the 2008-2009 Gloucester Student Health Survey

Presented to:

The Healthy Gloucester Collaborative,
The Gloucester Public Schools, and
The Gloucester Health Department

Presented by:

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METHODS

WHO CONDUCTED THE SURVEY?

- The Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, the Gloucester Public Schools, and the Gloucester Health Department, in collaboration with Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc.

HOW AND WHEN WAS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED?

- The survey was administered as a questionnaire in April of 2009 to all Gloucester public school students in grades 6 through 12.
- A modified version of the high school survey was used with middle school respondents.

WHO RESPONDED?

- The total number of respondents was 1,509. The number of respondents in each grade is as follows: 6th = 220, 7th = 243, 8th = 201, 9th = 189, 10th = 223, 11th = 213, 12th = 206 (unknown = 11).

WHAT DID THE SURVEY ASK ABOUT?

- Background characteristics such as gender, age, and grade level.
- Student use of and attitudes about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
- Other related issues such as violence and safety, mental health, and physical health.

CAVEATS

CAN WE TRUST THE DATA? (Validity)

- Research indicates that student responses to such surveys are reasonably accurate provided that the survey is voluntary and confidential. The Gloucester survey met these conditions.
- Completed questionnaires were reviewed to identify frivolous responses; such cases were removed.
- The survey is based largely upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, a standardized and reliable instrument.

DO THE DATA REPRESENT ALL YOUTH? (Non-Respondents)

- Results can be generalized only to students who were present when the survey was administered and may not reflect responses from youth who are truant, chronically absent, or have dropped out of school.

HOW HAVE THINGS CHANGED? (Trends)

- While not identical, similar surveys were conducted in 2003 and 2007, allowing examination of change over time.

HOW DO WE COMPARE? (Comparative Data)

- Selected high school comparisons can be made to results from the most recent Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered in 2007. Massachusetts does not administer a middle school survey; however, limited 8th grade substance use comparisons can be made to national 8th grade results from the 2008 Monitoring the Future Survey.

WHO HAS THESE ISSUES?

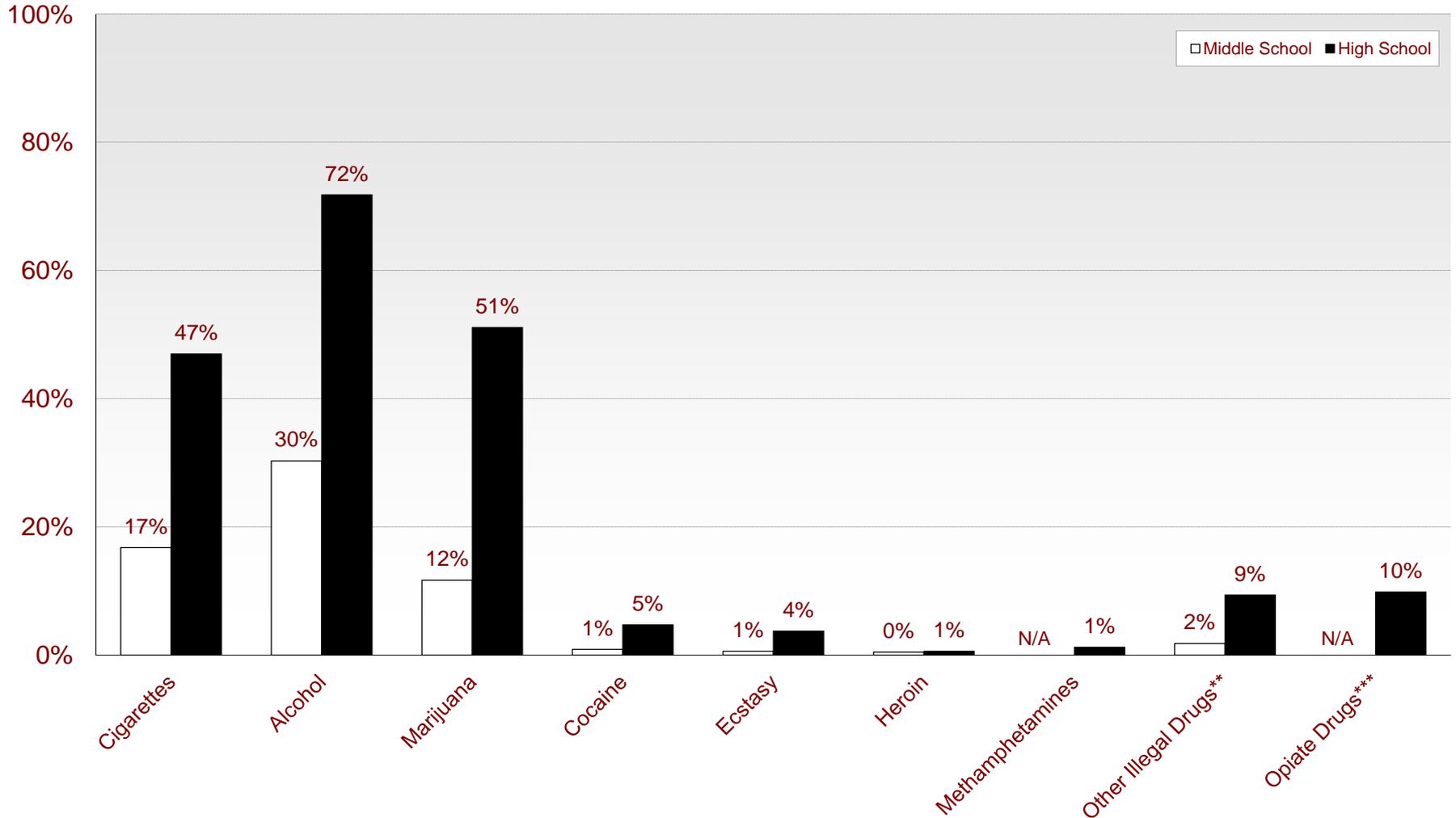
- Although the survey was administered to students, these issues are not confined solely to youth.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

- These are community issues that require the attention of all community members and organizations, not merely the schools.

Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drug Use

Lifetime* Substance Use for Gloucester Middle and High School Students (2009)

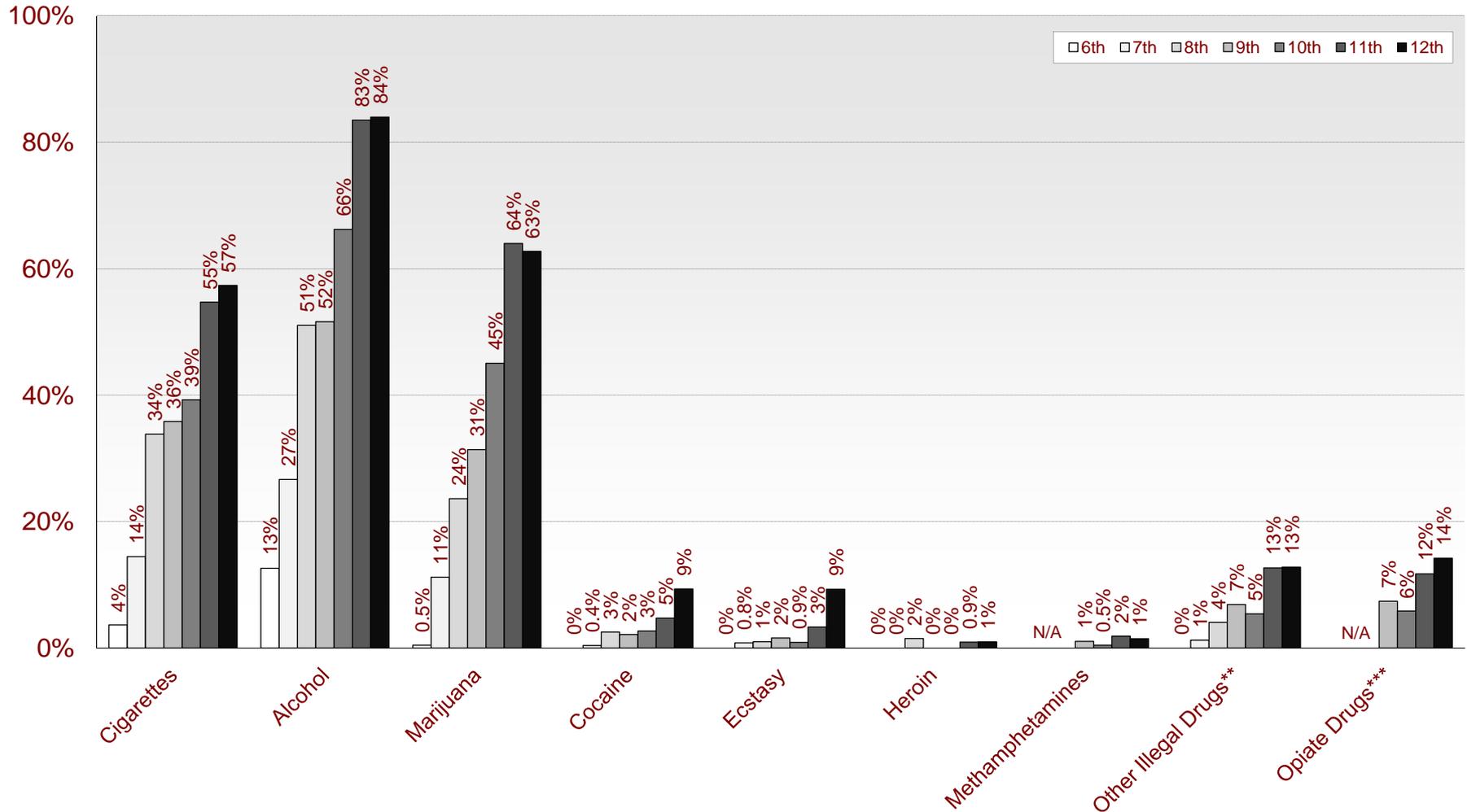


* Lifetime use is any use in one's lifetime.

** Respondents were asked about "any other type of illegal drug such as inhalants, LSD (acid), PCP, mushrooms, Ketamine (Special K), Rohypnol (Roofies), or GHB."

*** Respondents were asked about using "prescription opiate drugs to get high (like OxyContin, Percocet or Vicodin) without a doctor's prescription."

Lifetime* Substance Use for Gloucester Middle and High School Students, by Grade (2009)

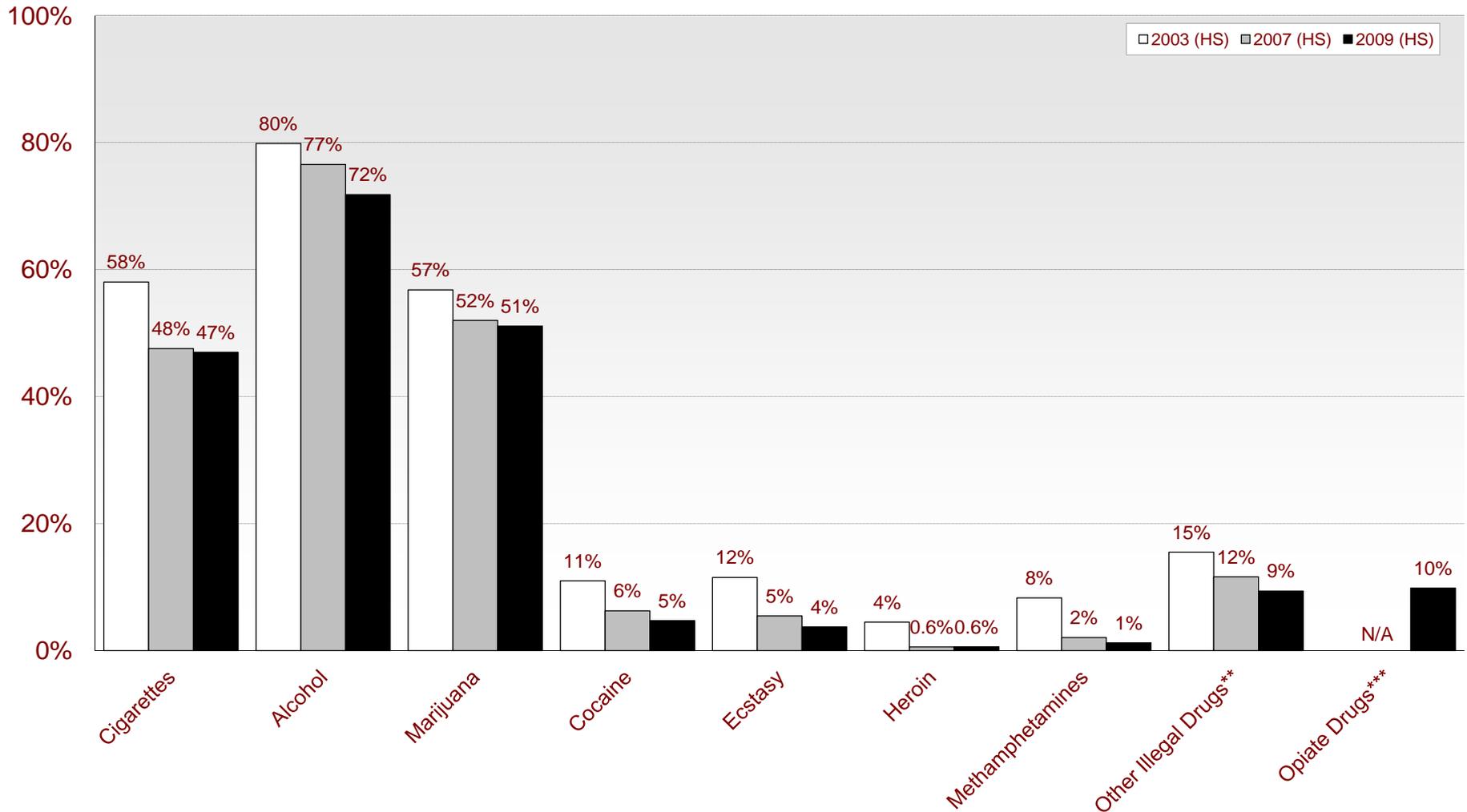


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Trends in Lifetime* Substance Use for Gloucester High School Students ('03, '07, '09)

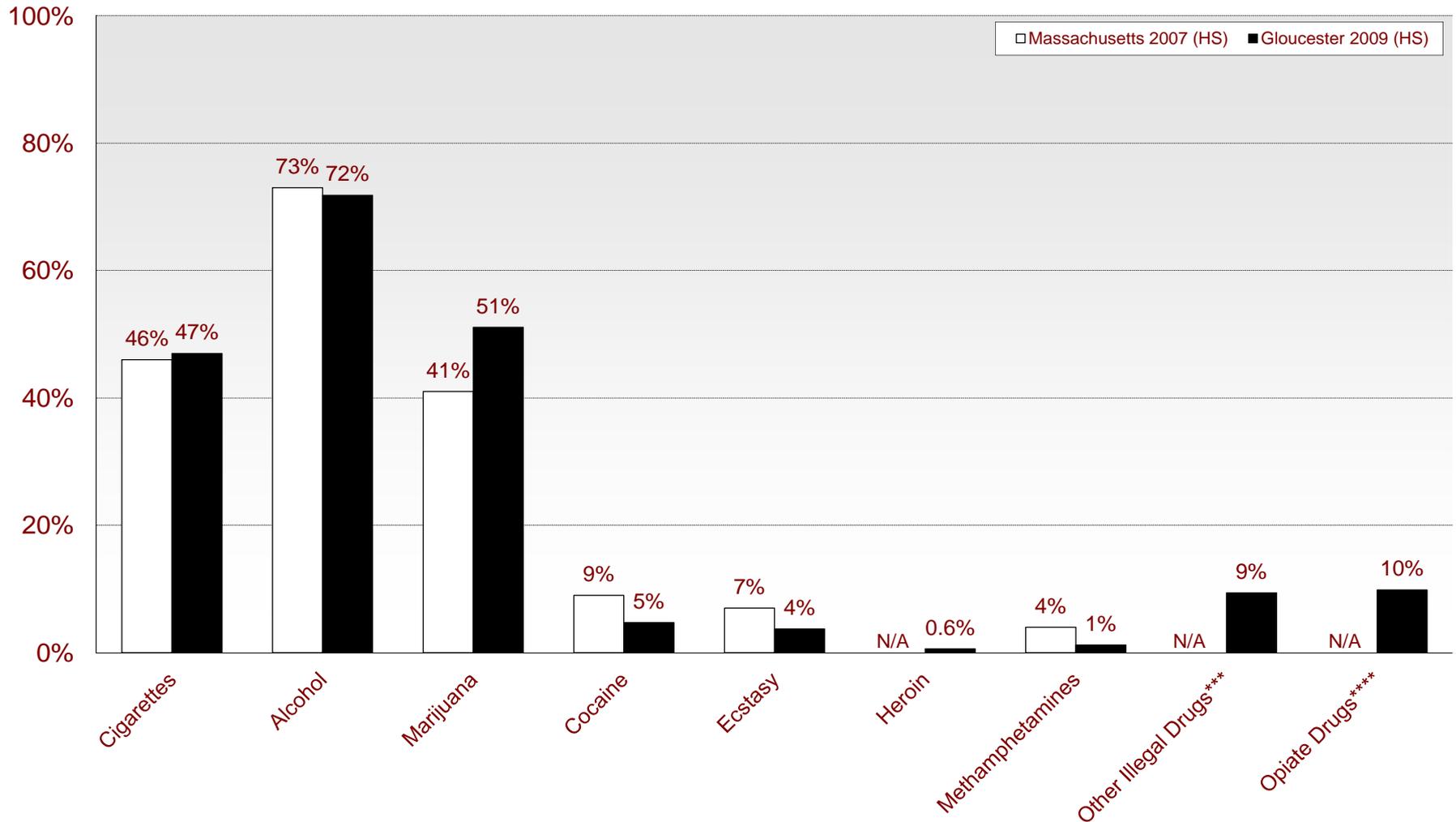


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Lifetime* Substance Use for Massachusetts** High School Students (2007) and Gloucester High School Students (2009)



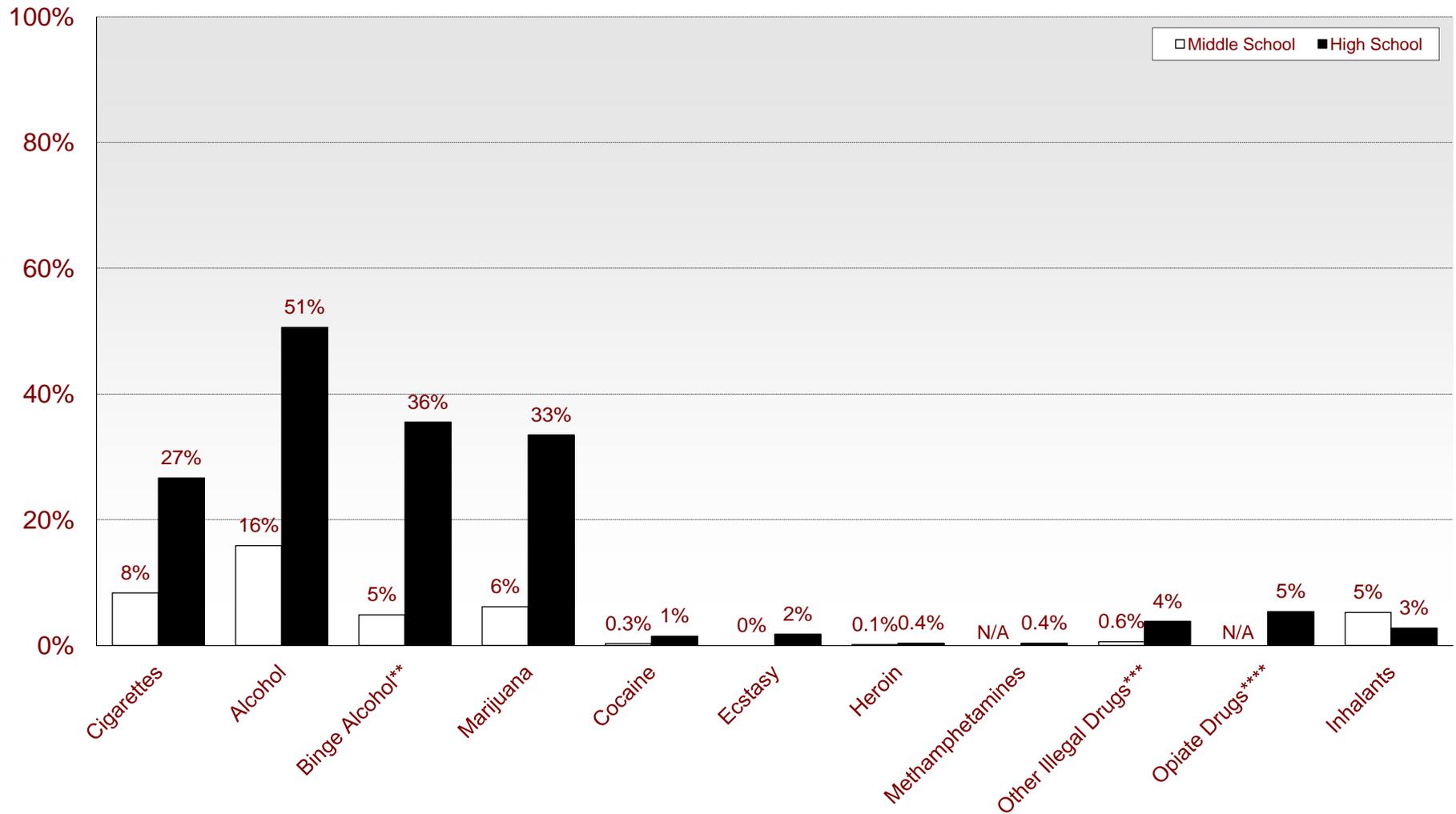
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Current* Substance Use for Gloucester Middle and High School Students (2009)



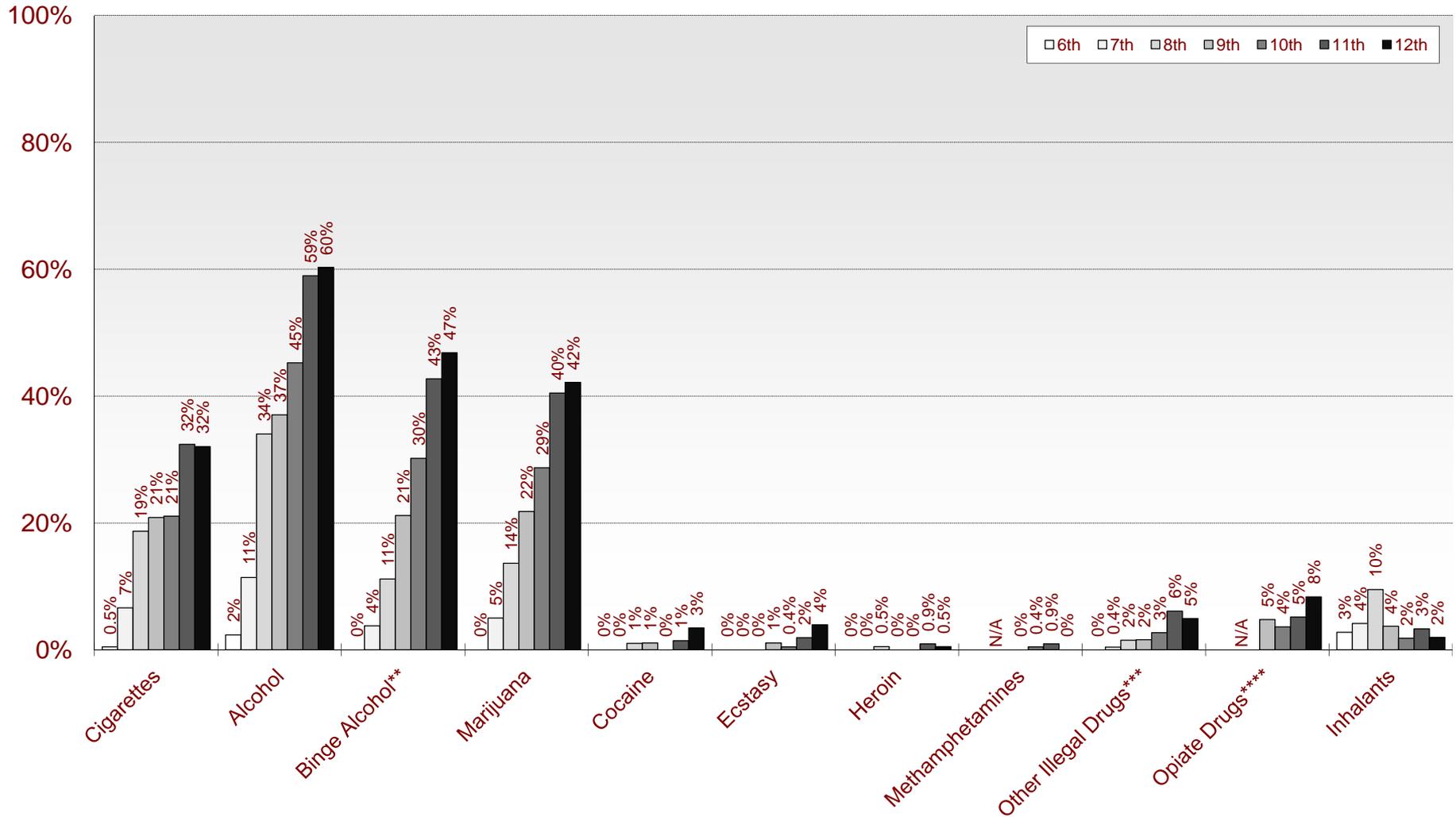
* Current use is any use in the 30 days prior to the survey.

** Respondents were asked about consuming “5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours.”

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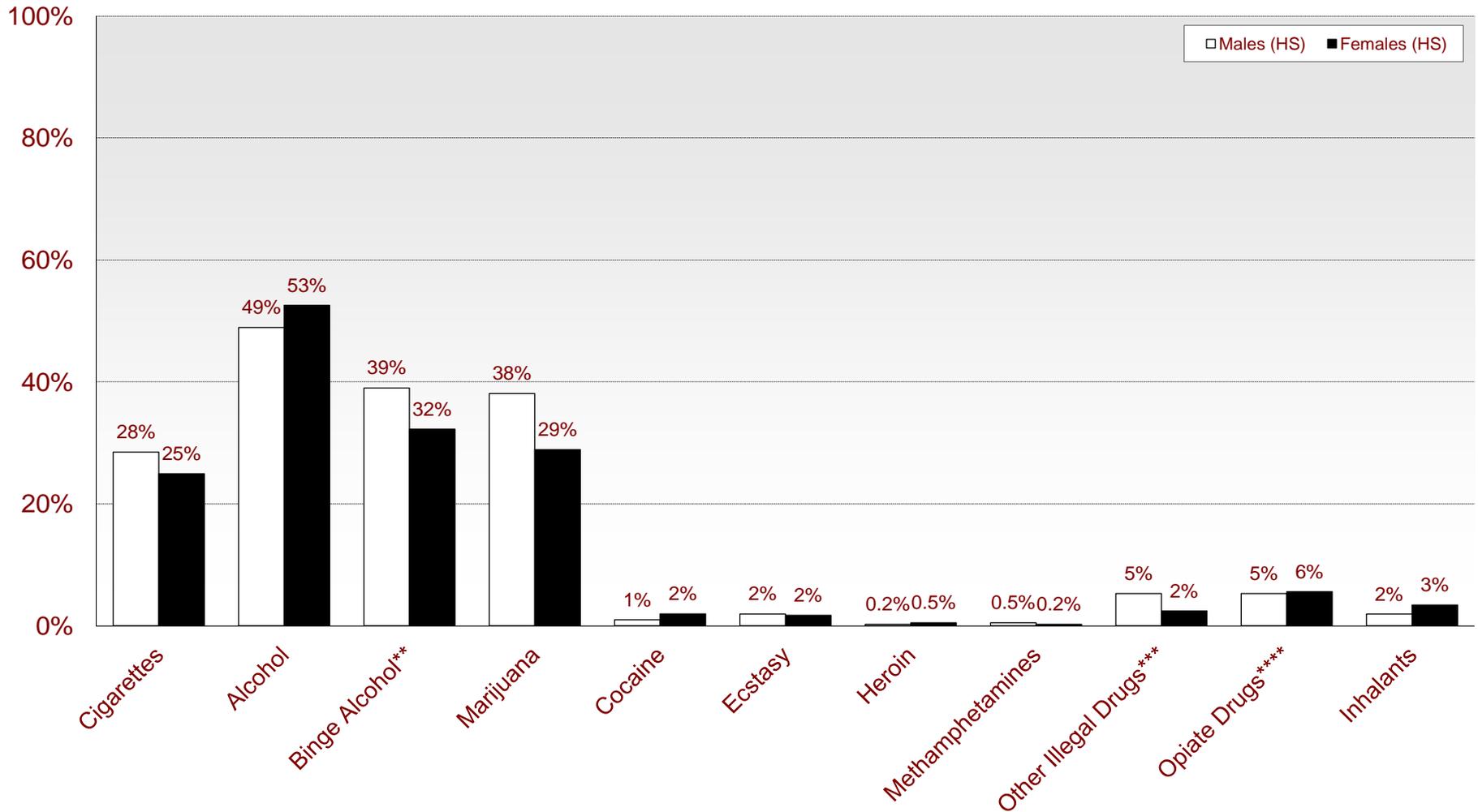
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Current* Substance Use for Gloucester Middle and High School Students, by Grade (2009)



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Current* Substance Use for Gloucester High School Students, by Gender (2009)



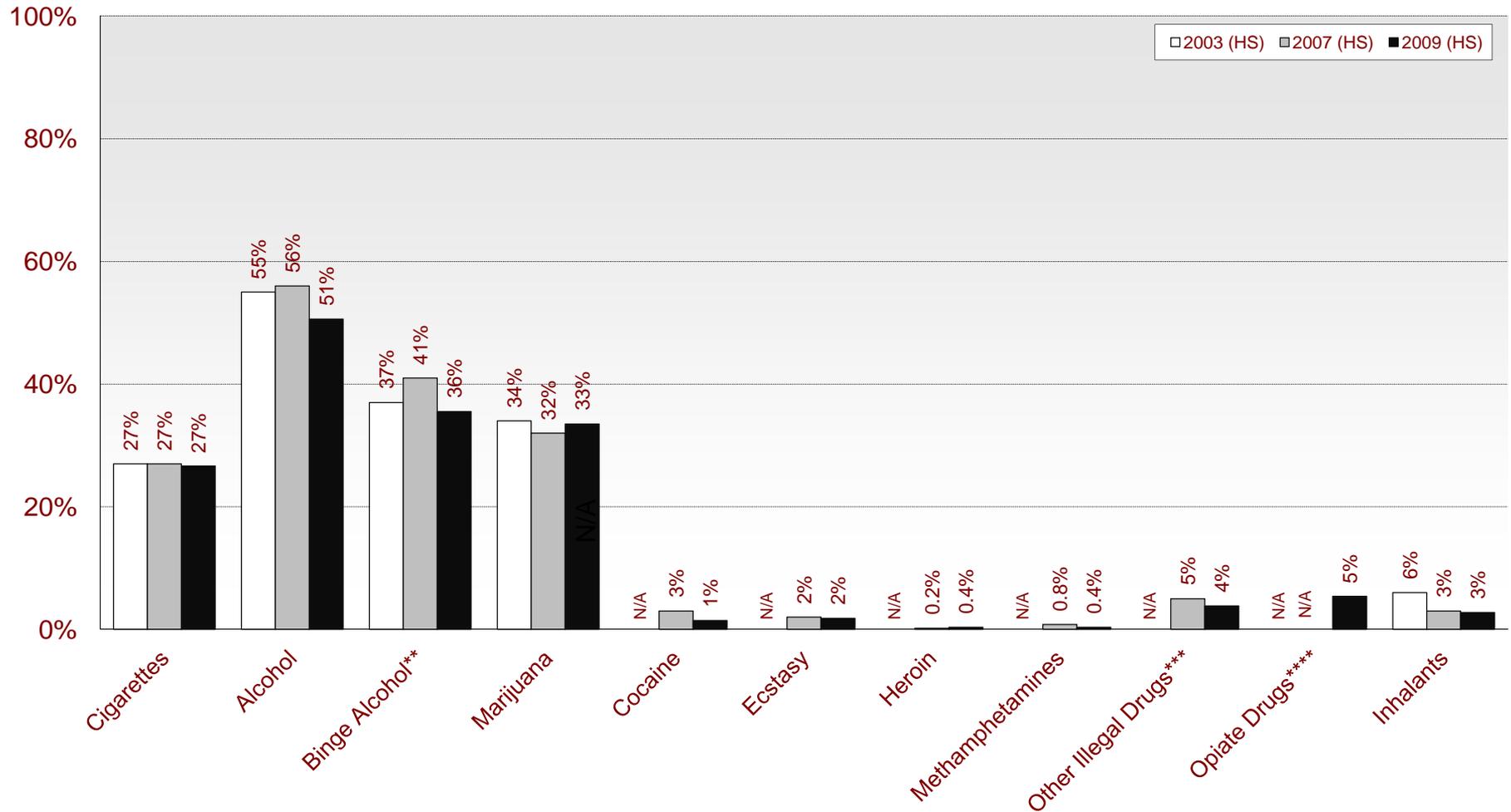
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Trends in Current* Substance Use for Gloucester High School Students ('03, '07, '09)



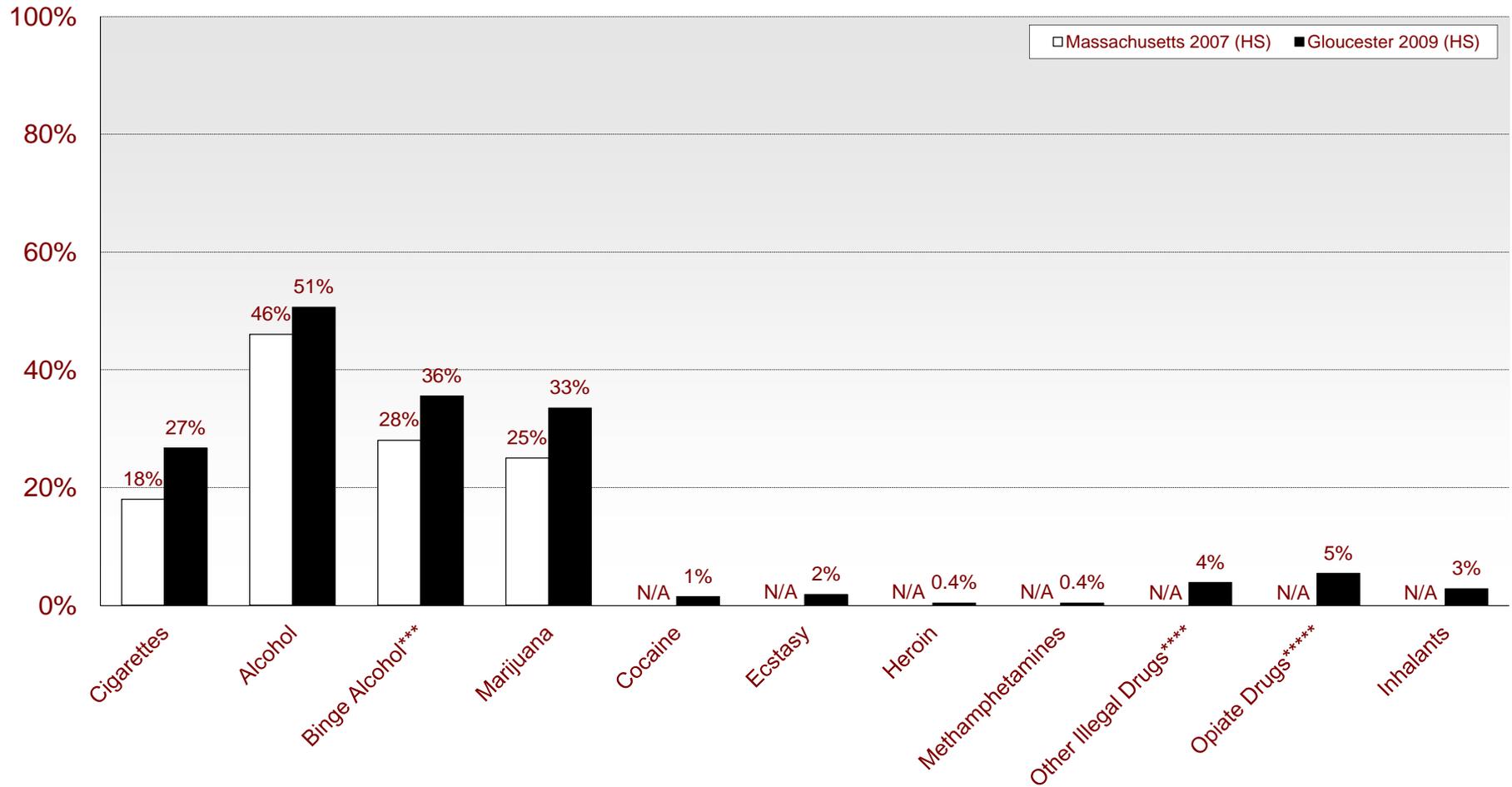
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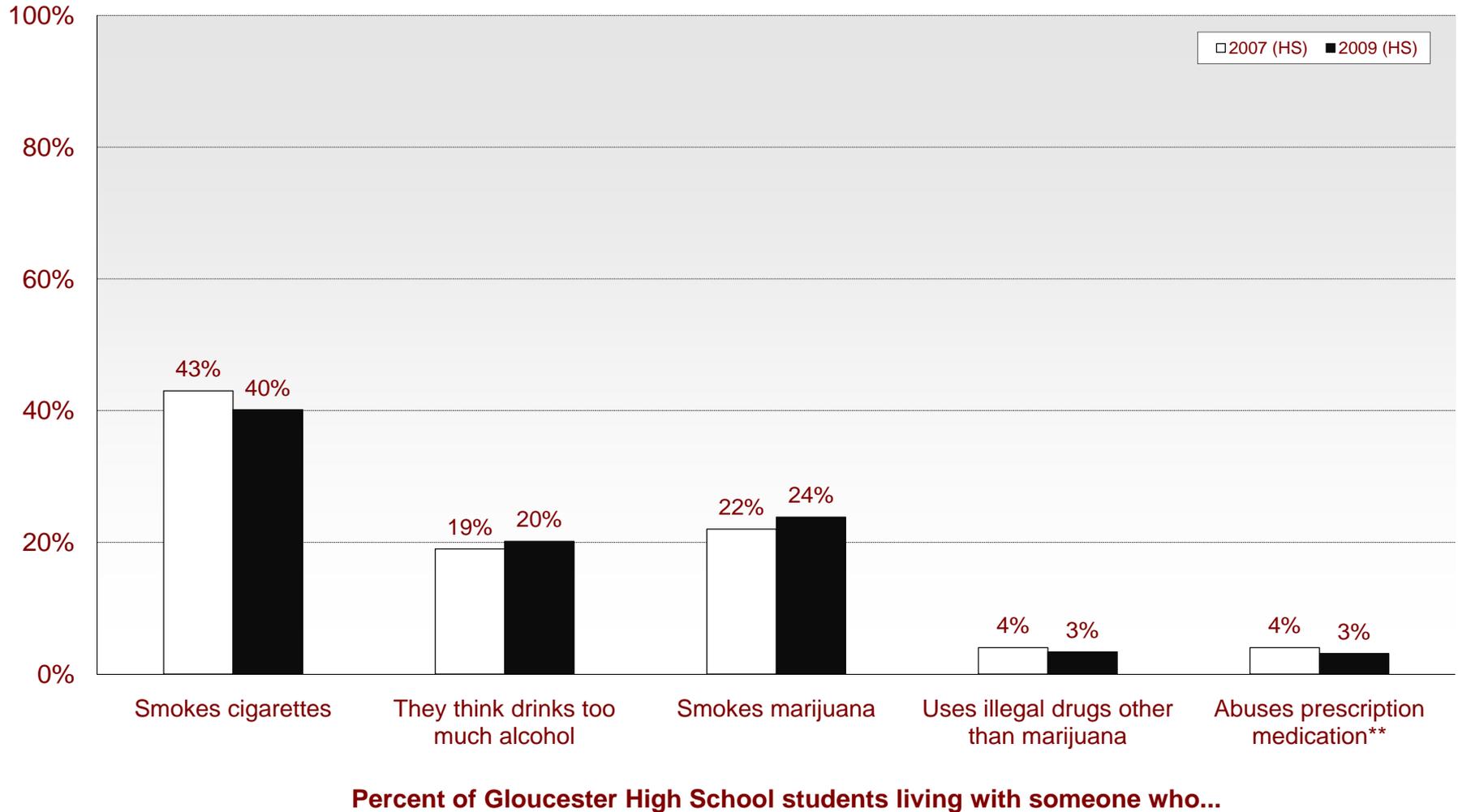
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Selected Issues Related to Substance Use

Trends in the Percent of Gloucester High School Students Who Have Someone Living in Their Household* Who Uses Substances ('07, '09)

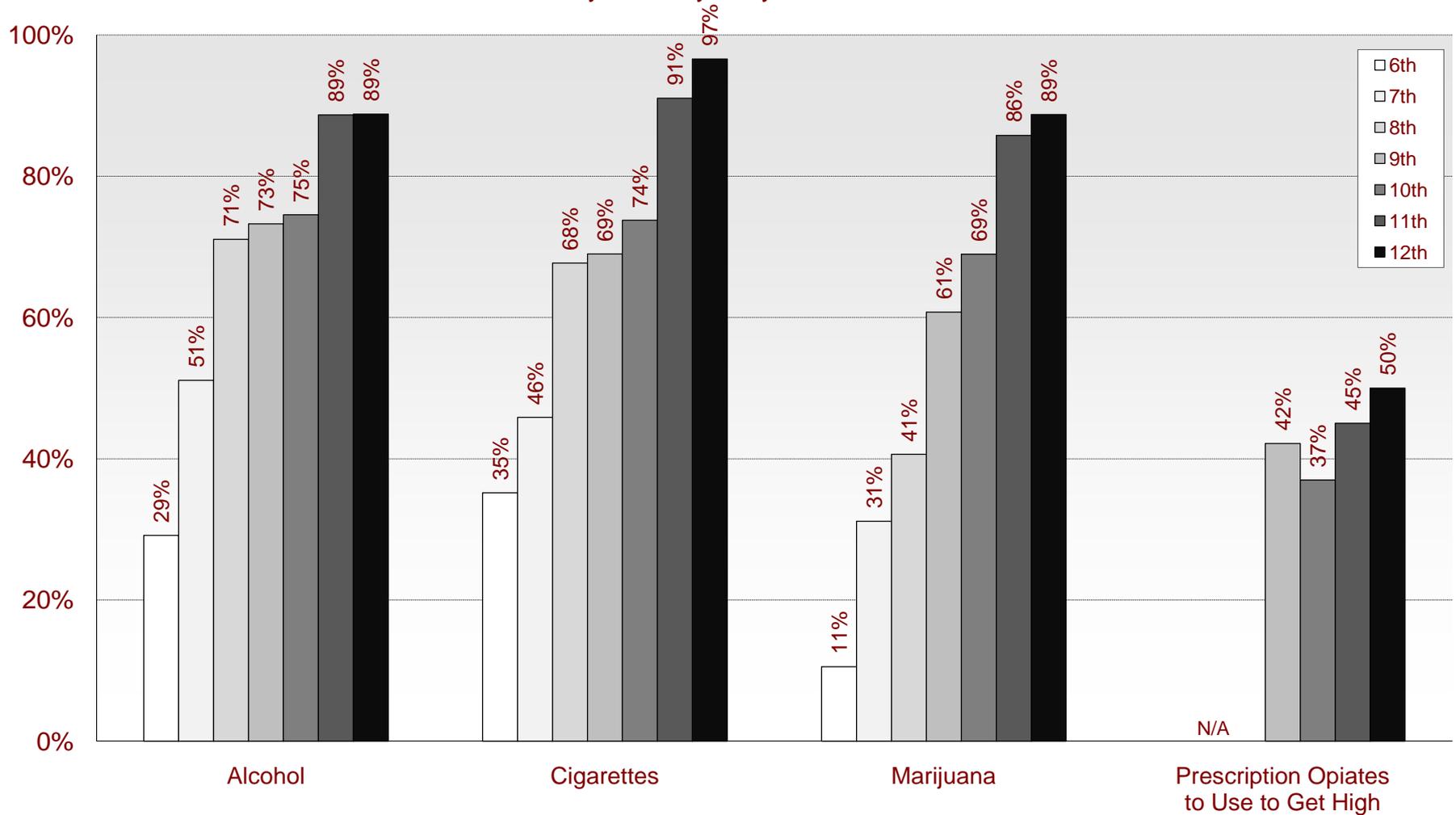


* Respondents were asked, "Is there anyone (other than you) living in your household who...".

** Abuse of prescription medication was explained as "meaning they use it in a way that was NOT prescribed by a doctor, or to get high."

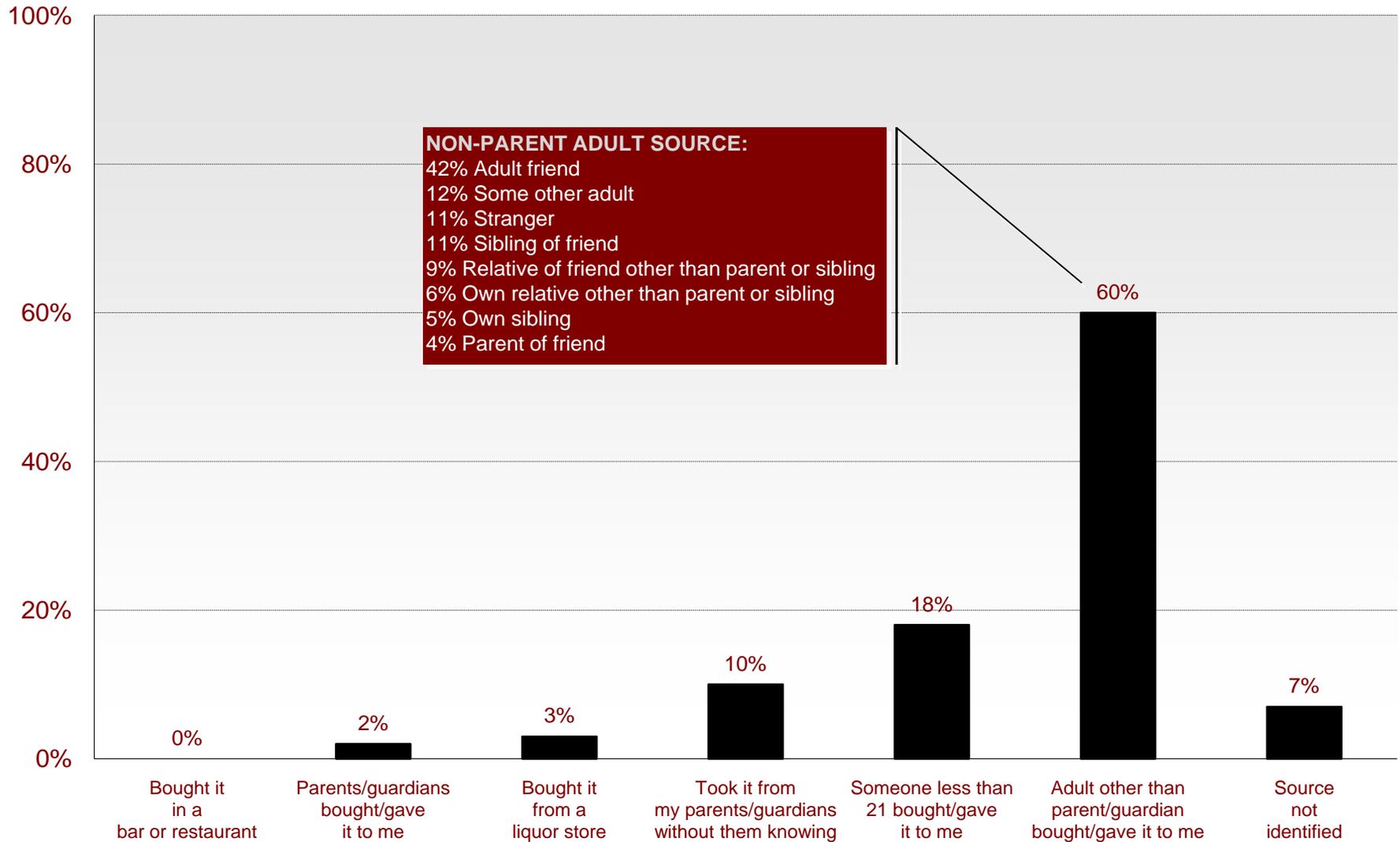
Perceived Ease of Access to Substances* by Gloucester Middle and High School Students, by Grade (2009)

Percent Who Identified Substance as "Sort of Easy" or "Very Easy" to Obtain

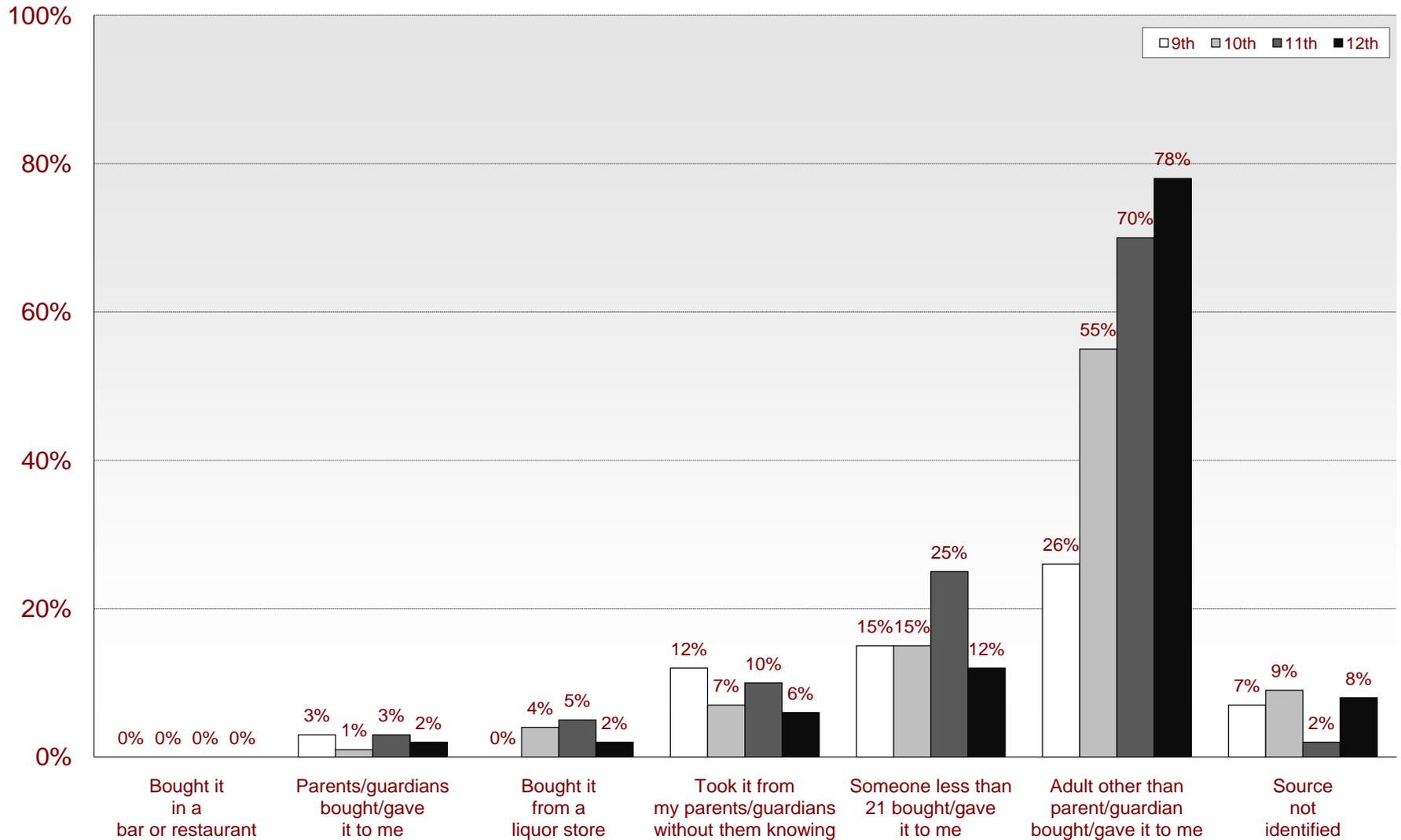


* Respondents were asked, "If you wanted to get the following substances, how easy would it be for you to get some?". Percentages displayed are the combined responses of "Sort of Easy" and "Very Easy."

Of Those Gloucester High School Students Who Reported Drinking Alcohol, Source of Alcohol the Last Time They Drank (2009)

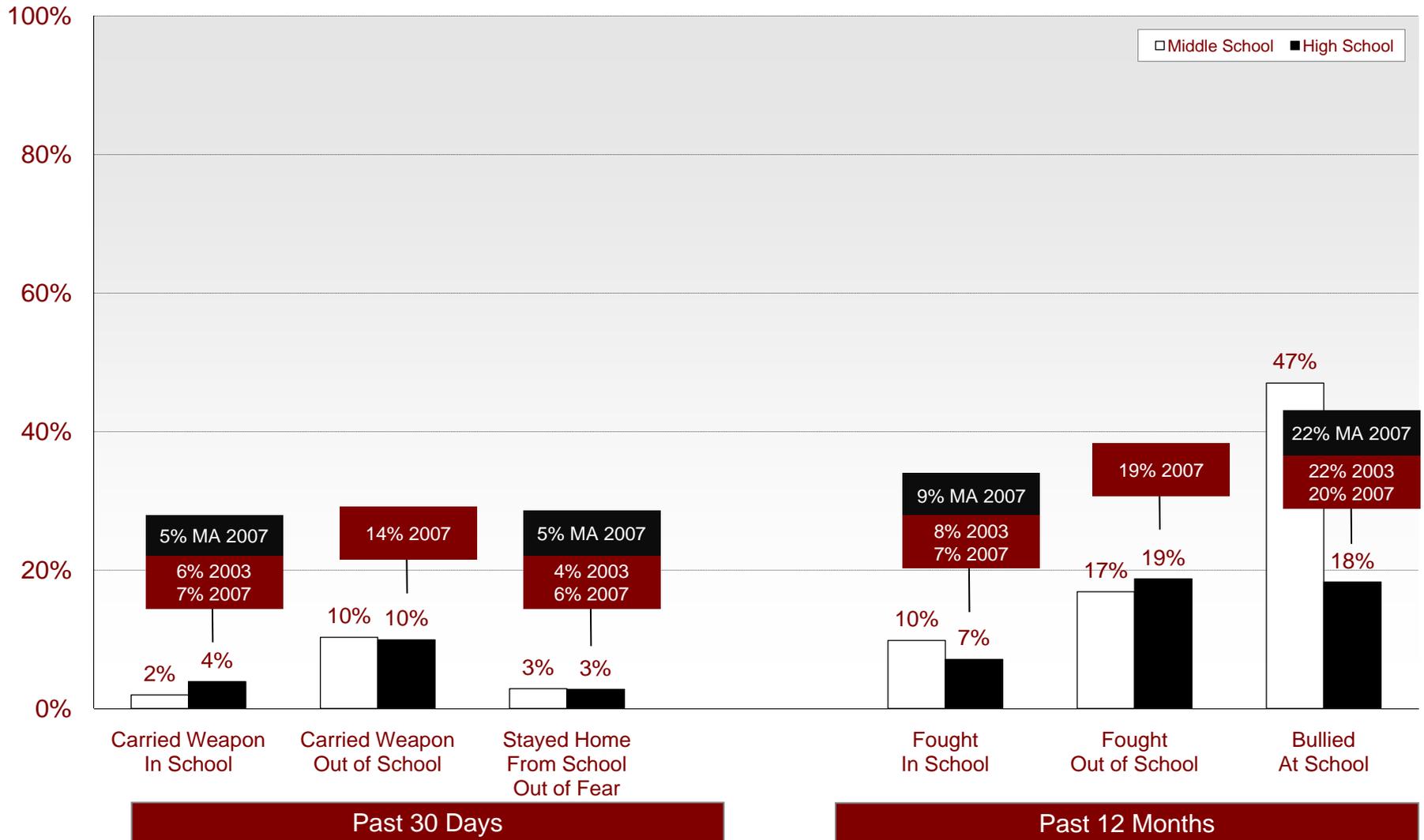


Of Those Gloucester High School Students Who Reported Drinking Alcohol, Source of Alcohol the Last Time They Drank, by Grade (2009)

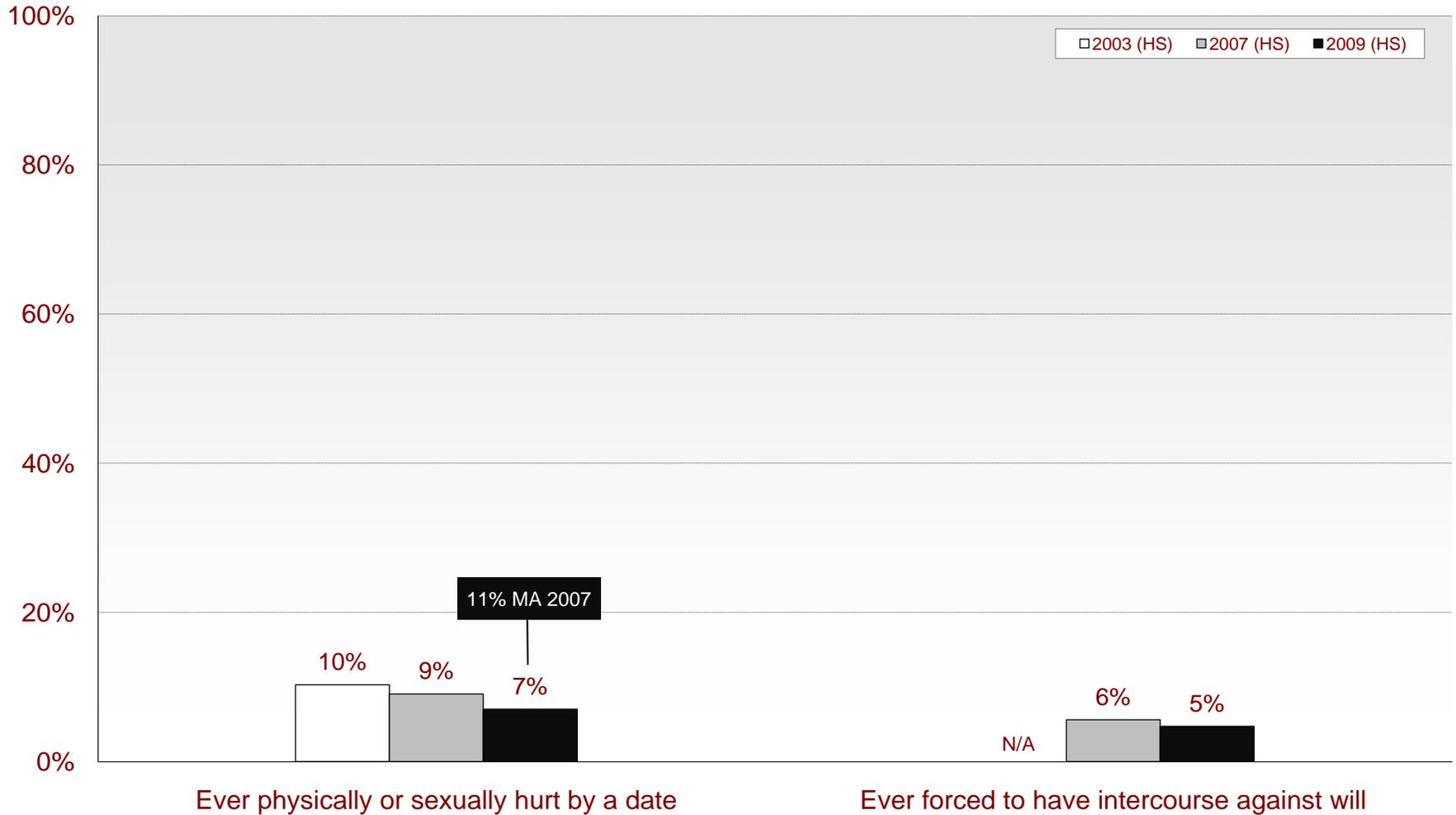


Violence and Safety

Violence and Safety-Related Experiences Among Gloucester Middle and High School Students (2009)

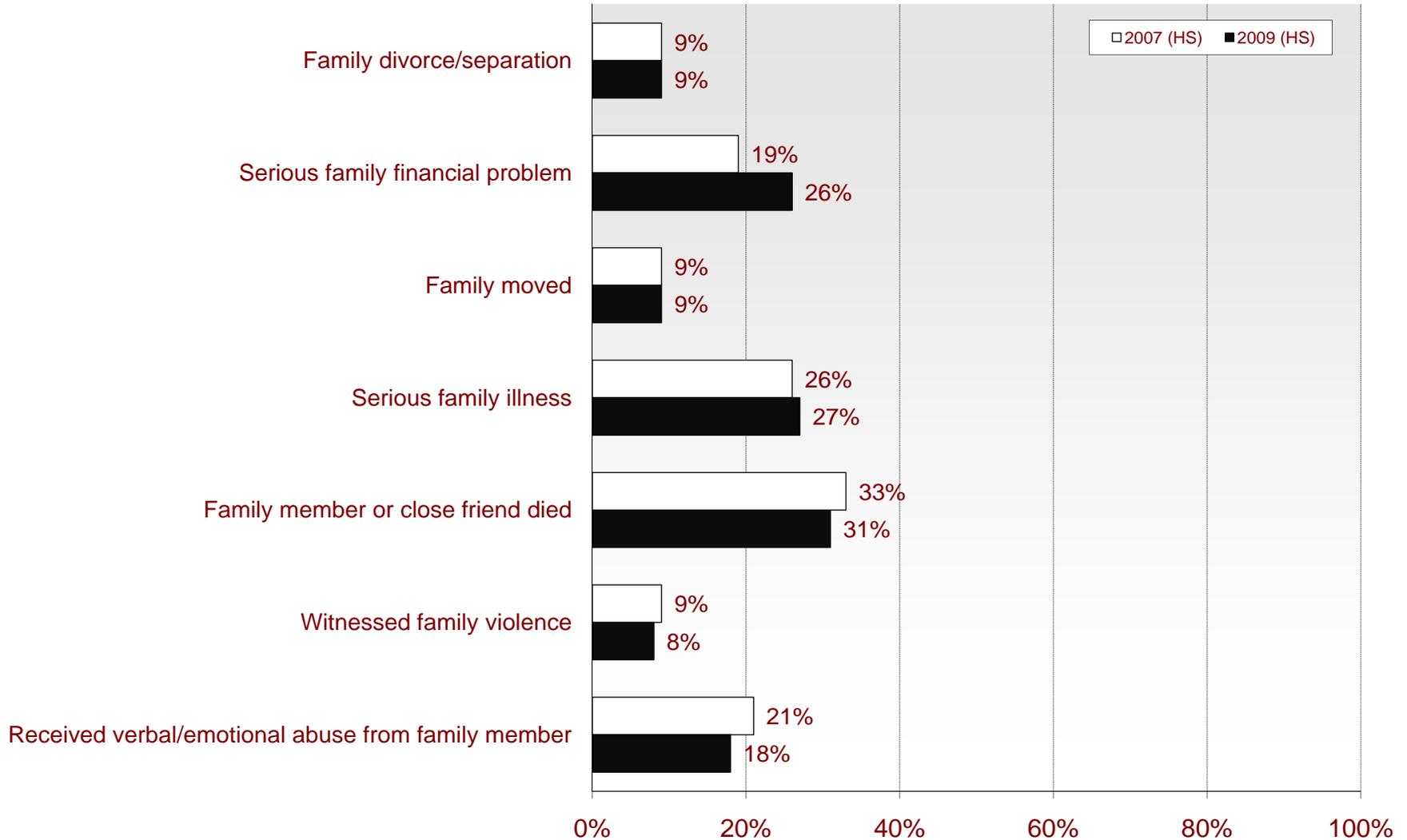


Trends in Lifetime Experiences of Dating and Sexual Violence Among Gloucester High School Students ('03, '07, '09)

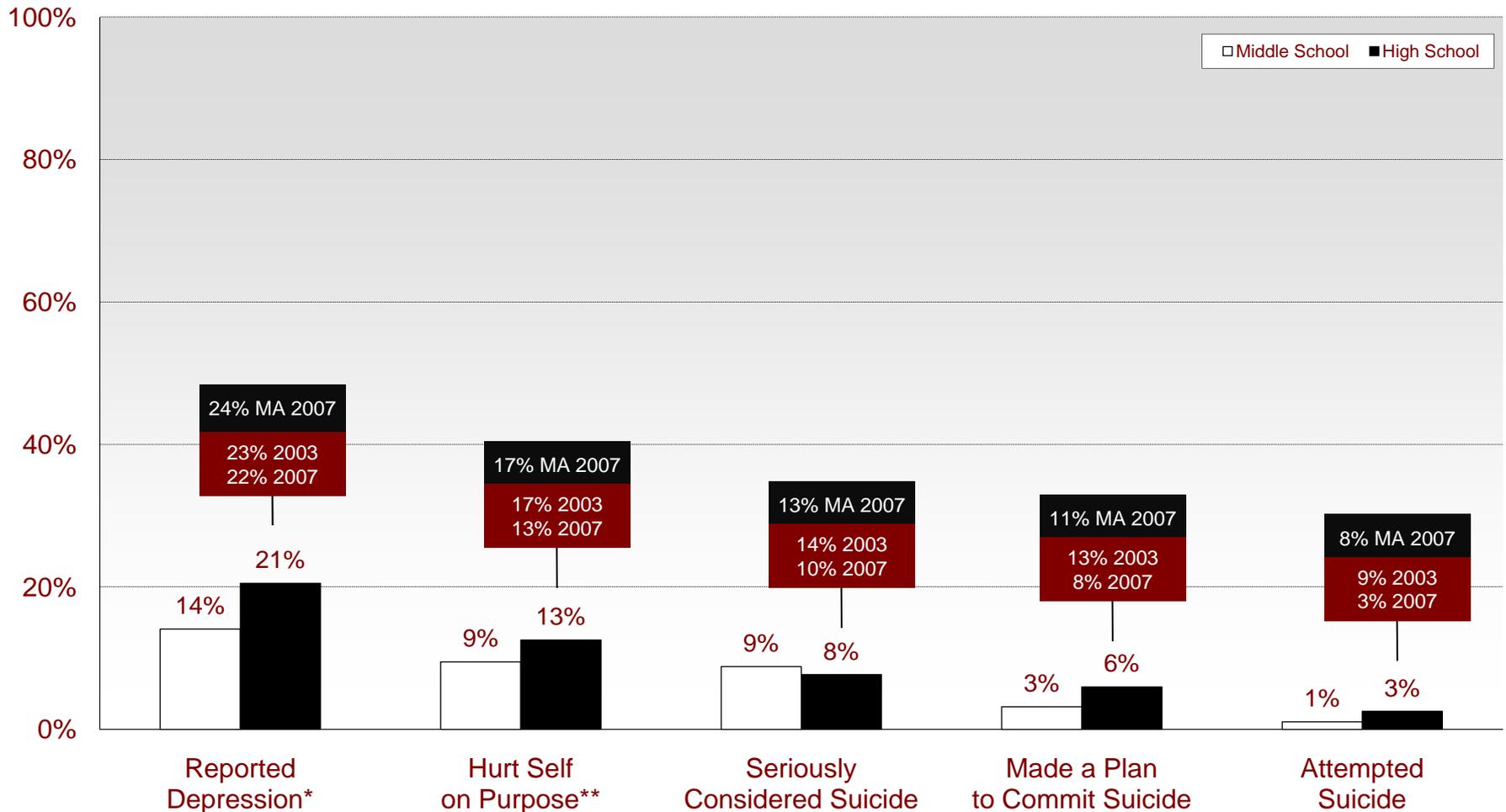


Mental Health

Trends in Issues that Gloucester High School Students Reported Experiencing in the 12 Months Prior to the Survey (2009)



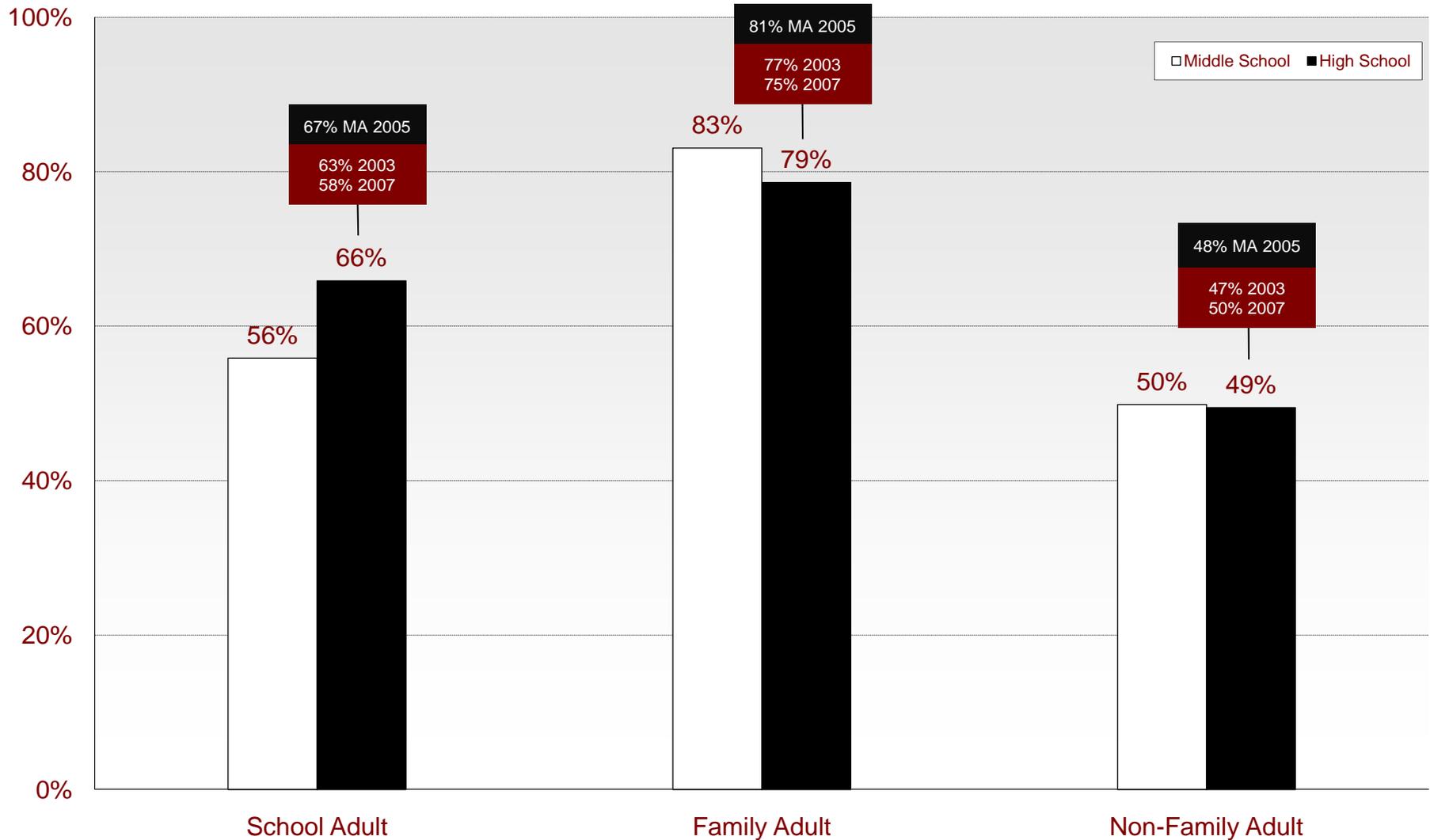
Depression, Self-Harm, and Suicide in the Past 12 Months Among Gloucester Middle and High School Students (2009)



* Respondents were asked, "During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?"

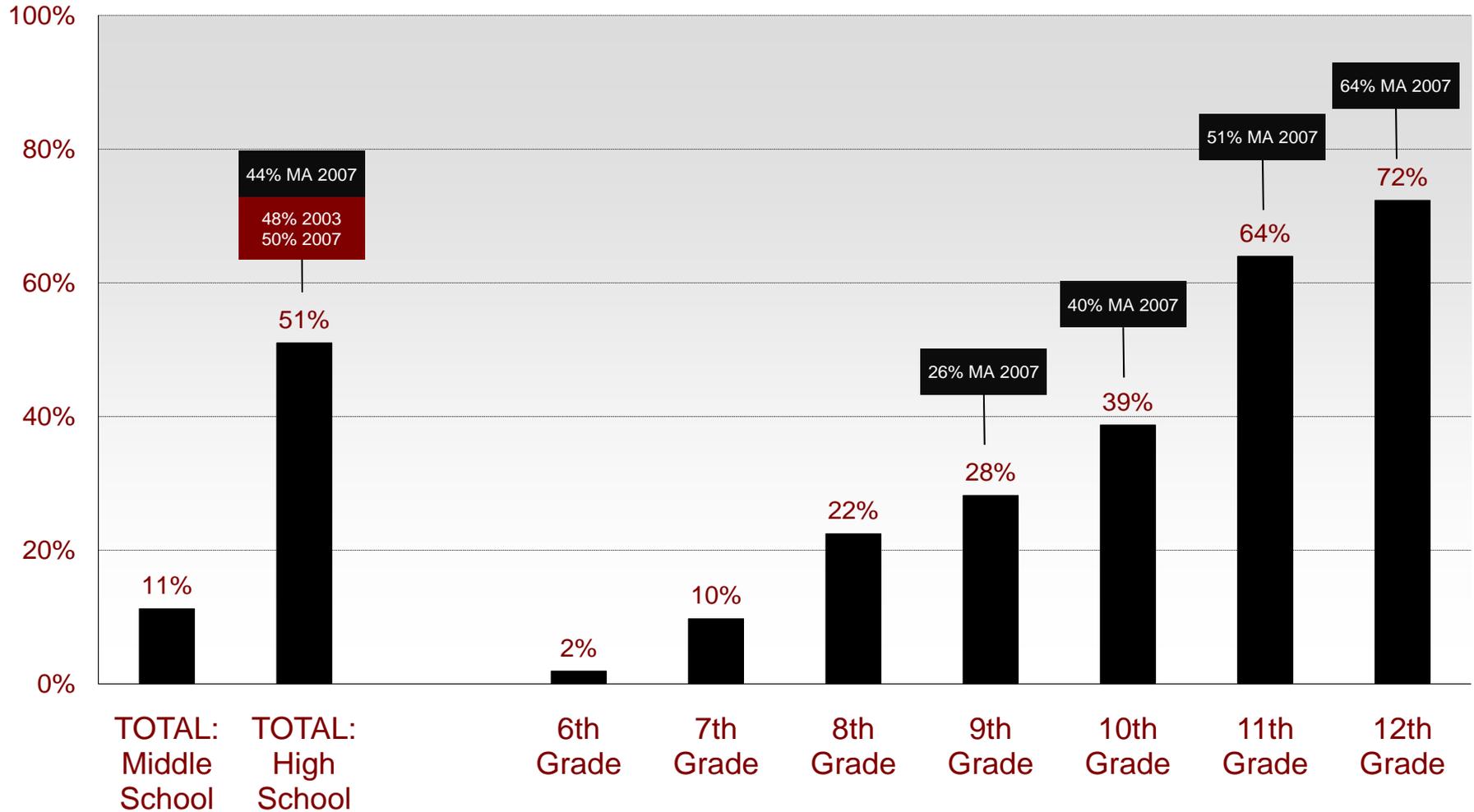
** Respondents were asked, "During the past 12 months, how many times did you hurt or injure yourself on purpose? (For example, by cutting, burning, or bruising yourself on purpose.)".

Percent of Gloucester Middle and High School Students Who Report Having Adults to Talk with If They Have a Problem (2009)

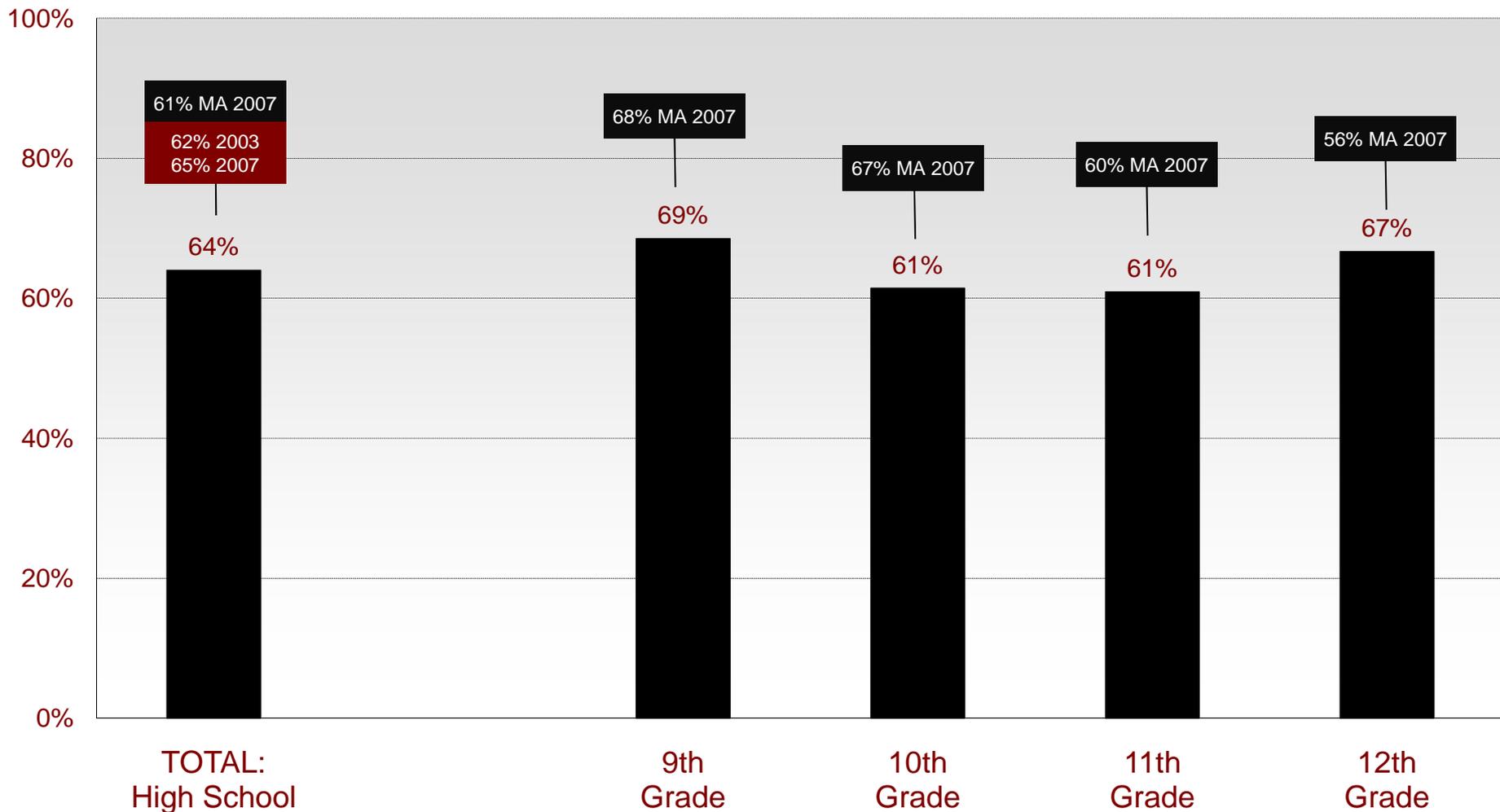


Physical Health

Percent of Gloucester Middle and High School Students Who Have Ever Had Sexual Intercourse, Total and by Grade (2009)

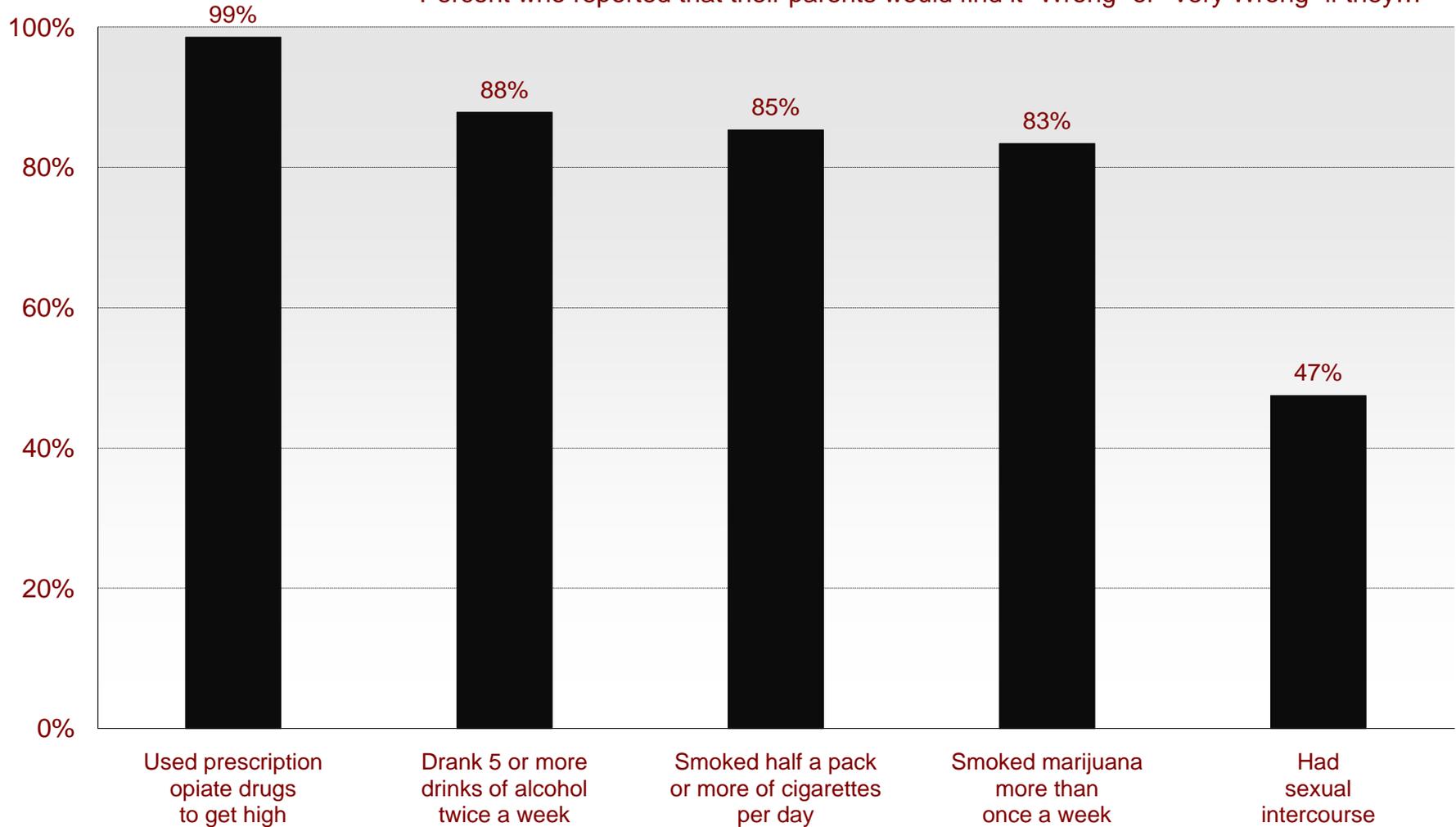


Percent of Sexually Active Gloucester High School Students Who Used a Condom The Last Time They Had Intercourse, Total and by Grade (2009)

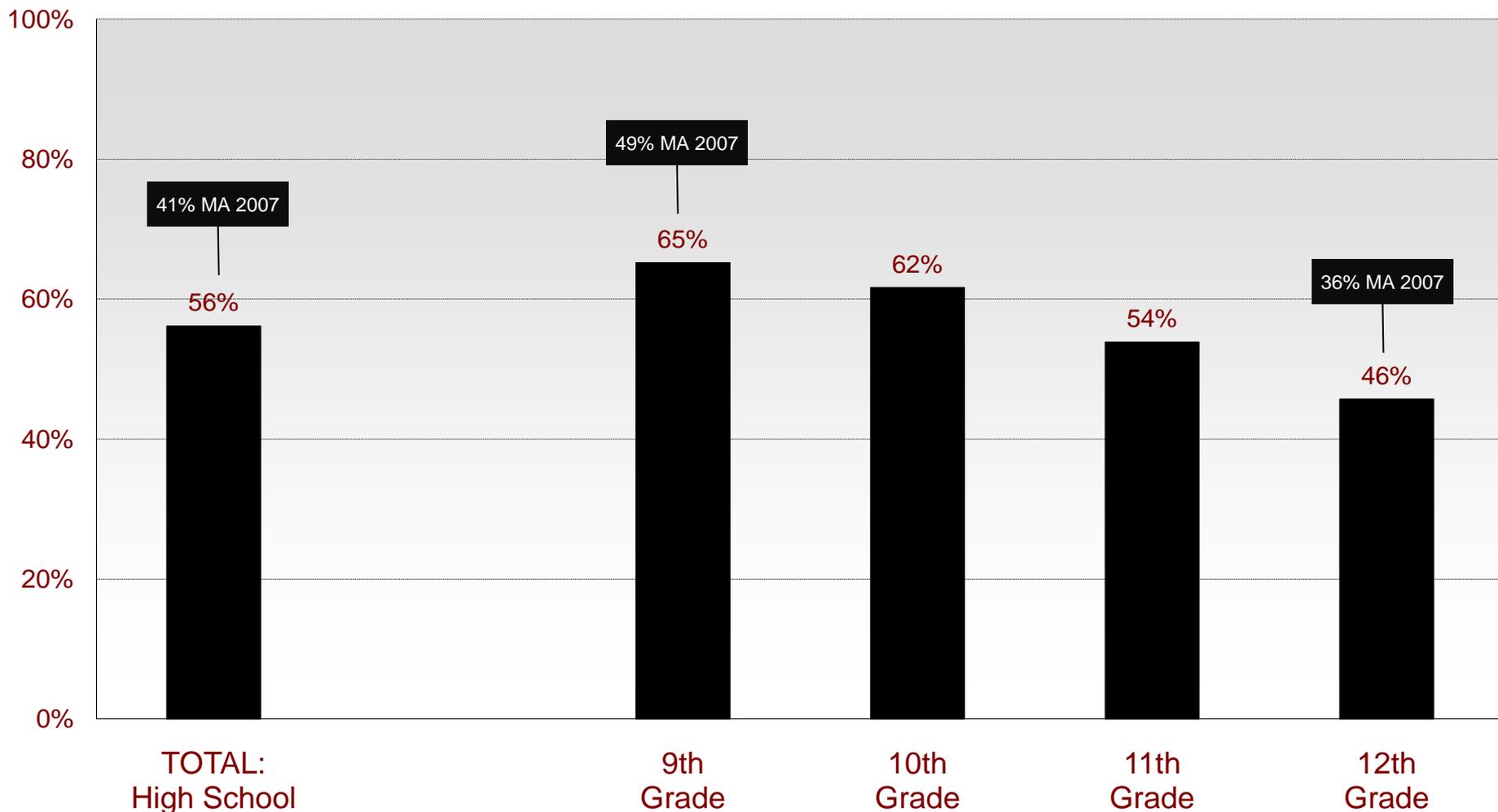


Perception of Parental Response to Substance Use and Sexual Activity Among Gloucester High School Students (2009)

Percent who reported that their parents would find it "Wrong" or "Very Wrong" if they...

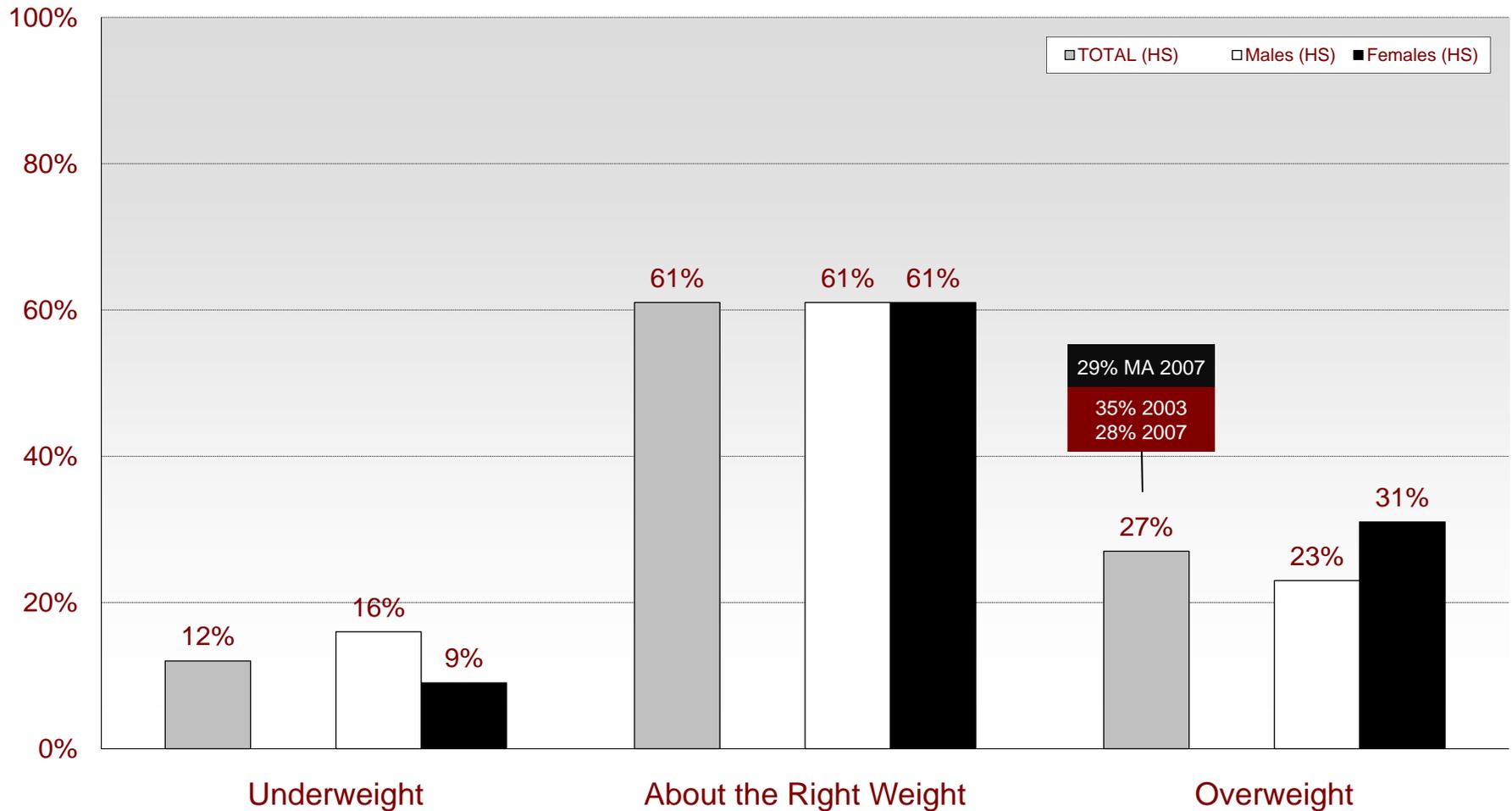


Percent of Gloucester High School Students Who Were Physically Active for 60+ Minutes on 5 of Last 7 Days*, Total and by Grade (2009)



* The recommended level of physical activity determined by the United States Surgeon General.

Perception of Body Weight Among Gloucester High School Students, Total and by Gender (2009)



Current Weight Control Goal Among Gloucester High School Students, Total and by Gender (2009)

