



Township of Ocean Healthy Community-Healthy Youth Initiative 2009 Attitude and Behavior Survey

A project of the
Township of Ocean
Department of Human Services
And the
Township of Ocean Alliance to Prevent
Drug and Alcohol Abuse





2009 Report

This report will provide an overview of the strengths and risks of the youth in Ocean township.

It will provide information about the level of drug and alcohol abuse among our youth.

It will compare results of the 2006 and 2009 youth assessment to provide some insight into the effectiveness of the Healthy Community-Healthy Youth Initiative in Ocean.



Report Contents

- This overview is divided into 5 sections:
 - The Survey- providing information about how we gathered the data.
 - Assets- providing information about the 40 Developmental Assets.
 - Risk Behaviors- Providing information about the level of alcohol, drug, and other high risk behaviors among our teens.
 - High Risk Patterns- Providing information about patterns of behavior that threaten the health and well-being of our youth.
 - Summary



The Survey



The Attitude and Behavior Survey

- Survey administered to the 6th, 9th and 12th grades students of the Ocean Twp School District in December 2008.
- This was the second time we conducted this survey. The first time was December 2005.
- The 2005 6th and 9th grade respondents became the 9th and 12th grade respondents in the 2008 administration.

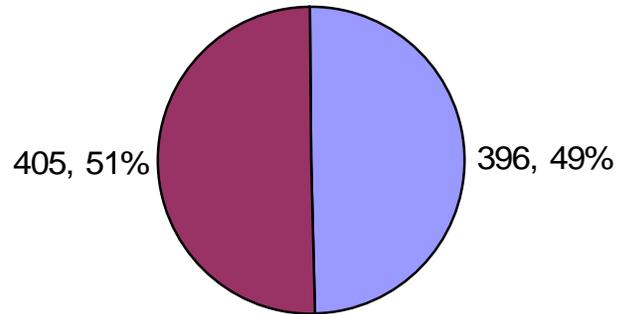
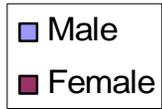
The Survey

- The Survey, developed by Search Institute, has been validated and utilized in communities across the nation. Over 3 million young people have been surveyed.
- The survey provides a reliable picture of the strengths the youth of our community possess and the risks they face.

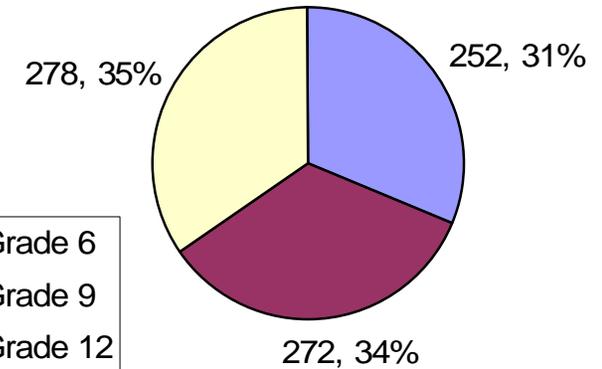
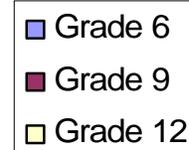


The Demographics: Who did we survey

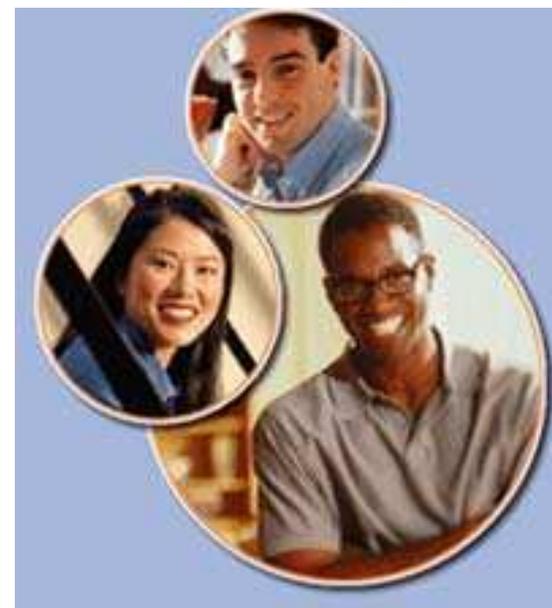
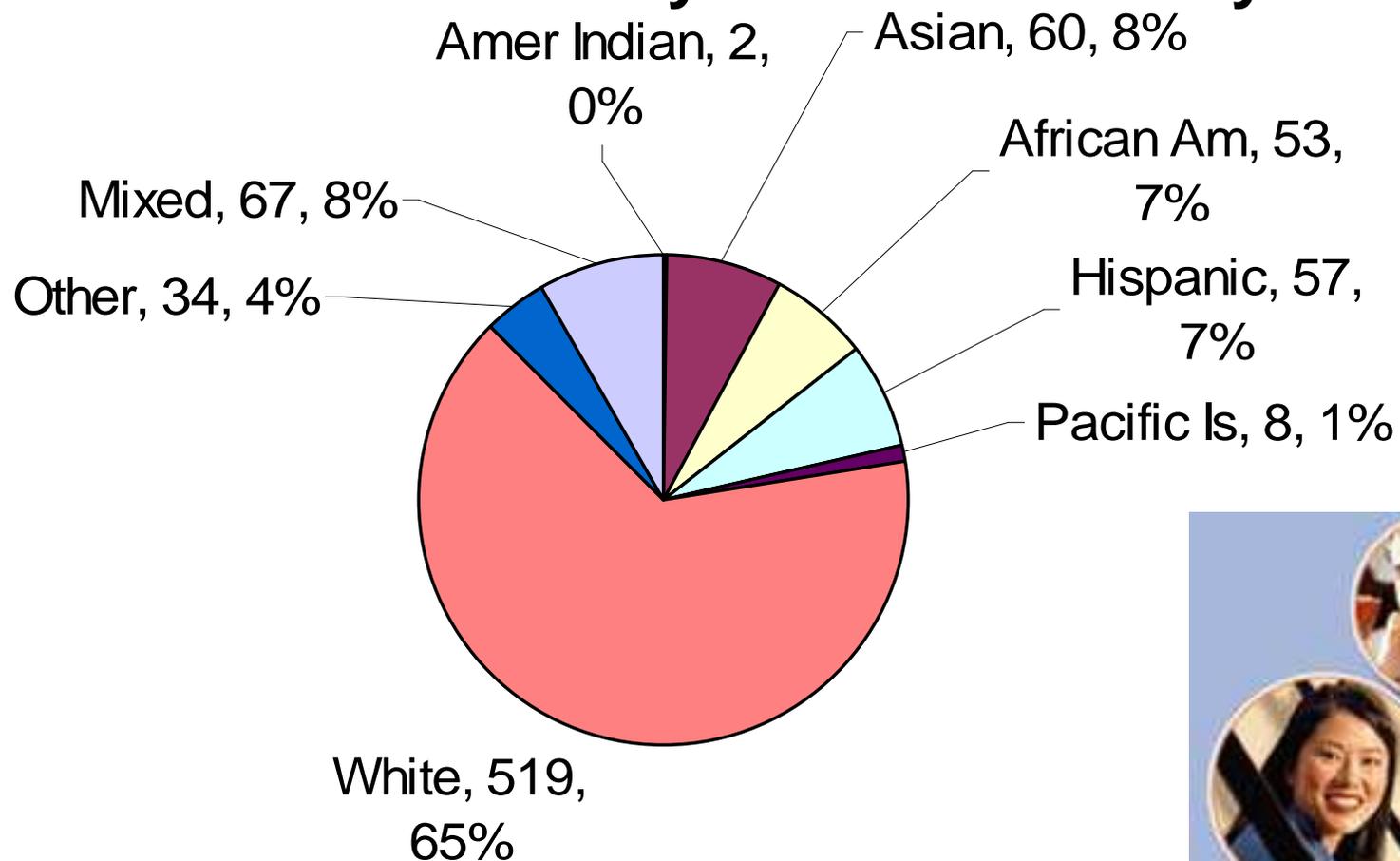
Youth by Gender

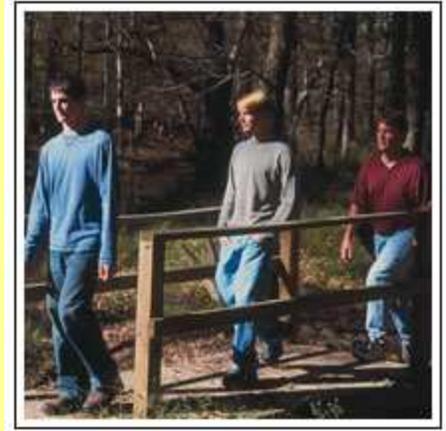


Youth by grade

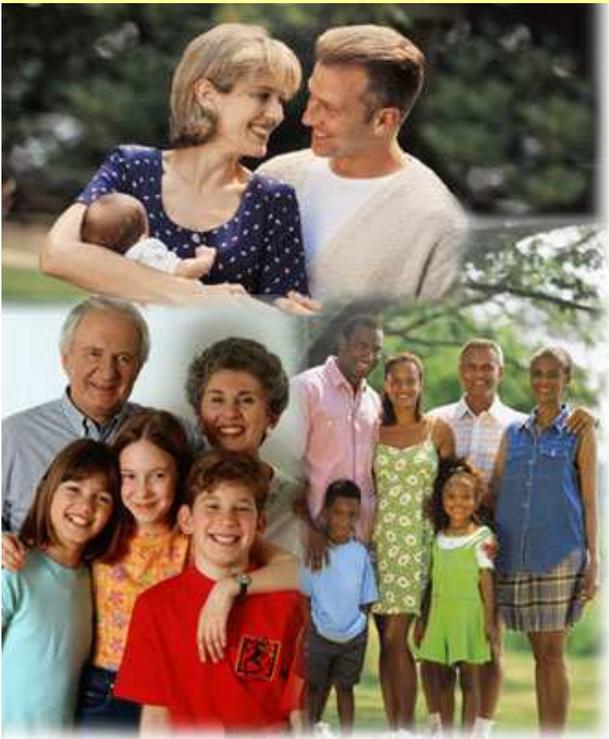


Youth by race and ethnicity





Developmental Assets



Assets:

The building blocks of healthy youth and healthy communities

The research has identified 40 Developmental Assets.

Twenty can be classified as External Assets, building blocks provided from outside the young people that help them to grow strong. Four categories of external assets are Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, and Constructive use of time.

Twenty assets can be classified as internal assets. They refer to inner strengths of the young person that can be fostered by experiences in their lives. Four categories of internal assets are Commitment to learning, Positive values, Social competencies, and Positive identity.

The formula is simple:

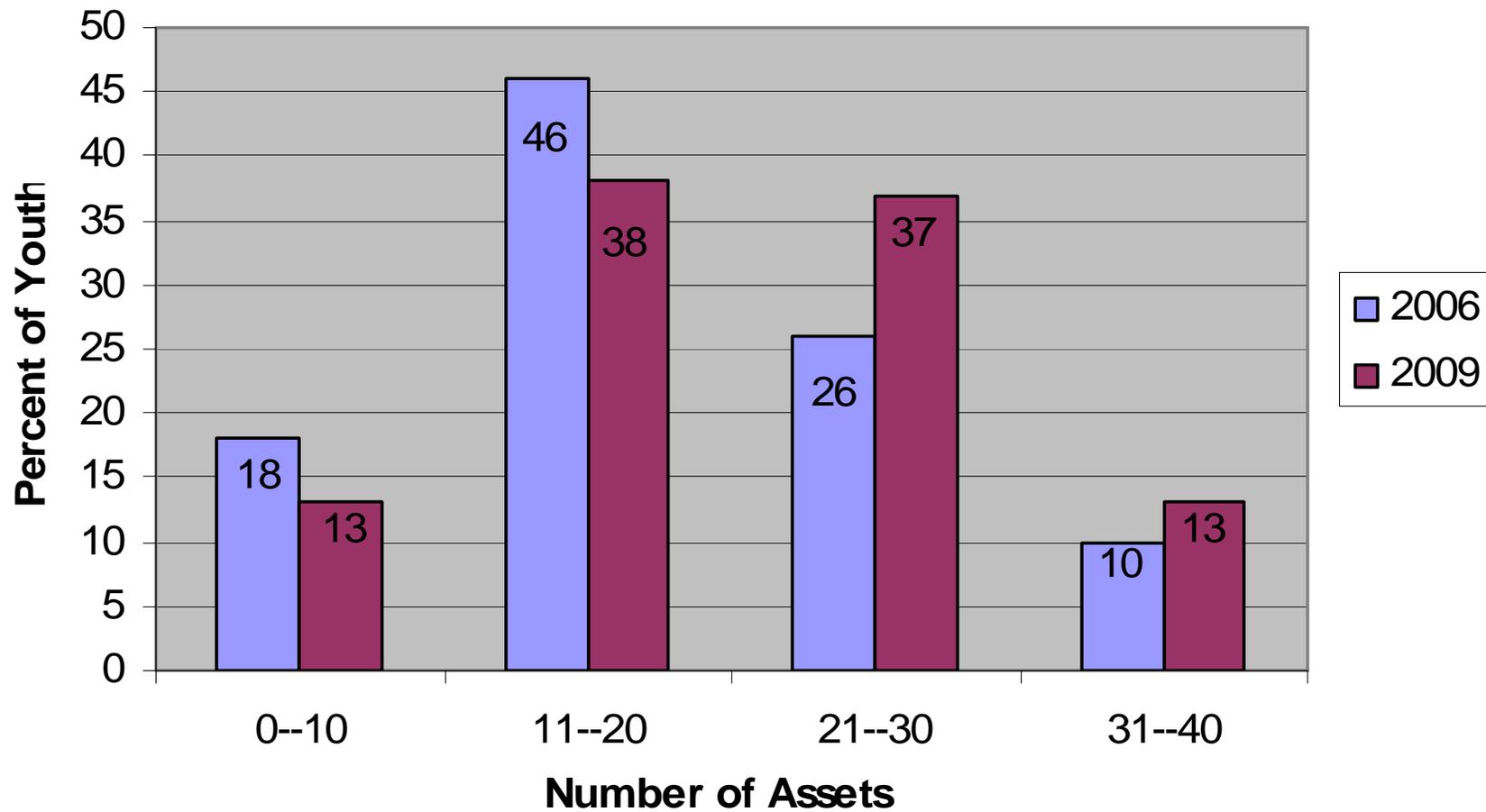
- The more of these 40 assets a young person has...the greater the chance for success...
- The less of these 40 assets a young person has...the greater the level of high risk behaviors, including drug and alcohol abuse, sexual activity, and violence.
- In 2005, almost 2/3 of our young people were considered asset deficient.

The goal

- Our goal from 2005 to 2008 was to increase the level of assets in the youth of our community. The School District, the Community Services Office, the Recreation Office, Project Extend, and other youth serving organizations, with the support and assistance of the Township Council, the Police Department, and the Alliance to Prevent Drug and Alcohol Abuse, cooperated in the mission to increase those positive building blocks in our community.

Today- 50% of our youth report protective levels of assets

Comparison of Average Asset Levels

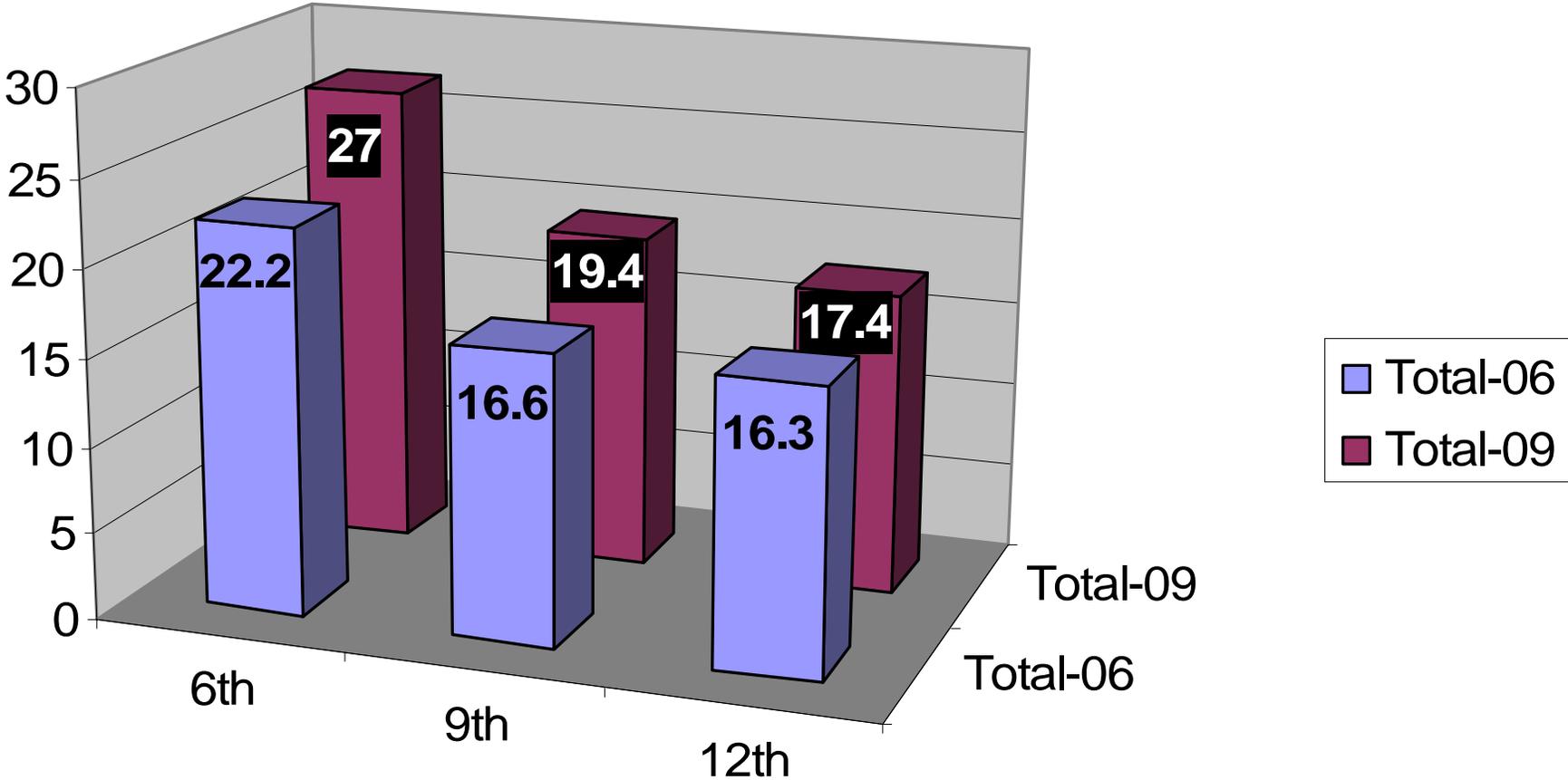


Progress is being made-
but there is still work to do.



- We continue to see the drop in assets from 6th to 9th grade and again from 9th to 12th grade.
- We continue to see an asset deficient condition in our 12th grade youth...
- And we continue to see cause for concern with the high risk behaviors of our youth...

Assets by Grade Comparison

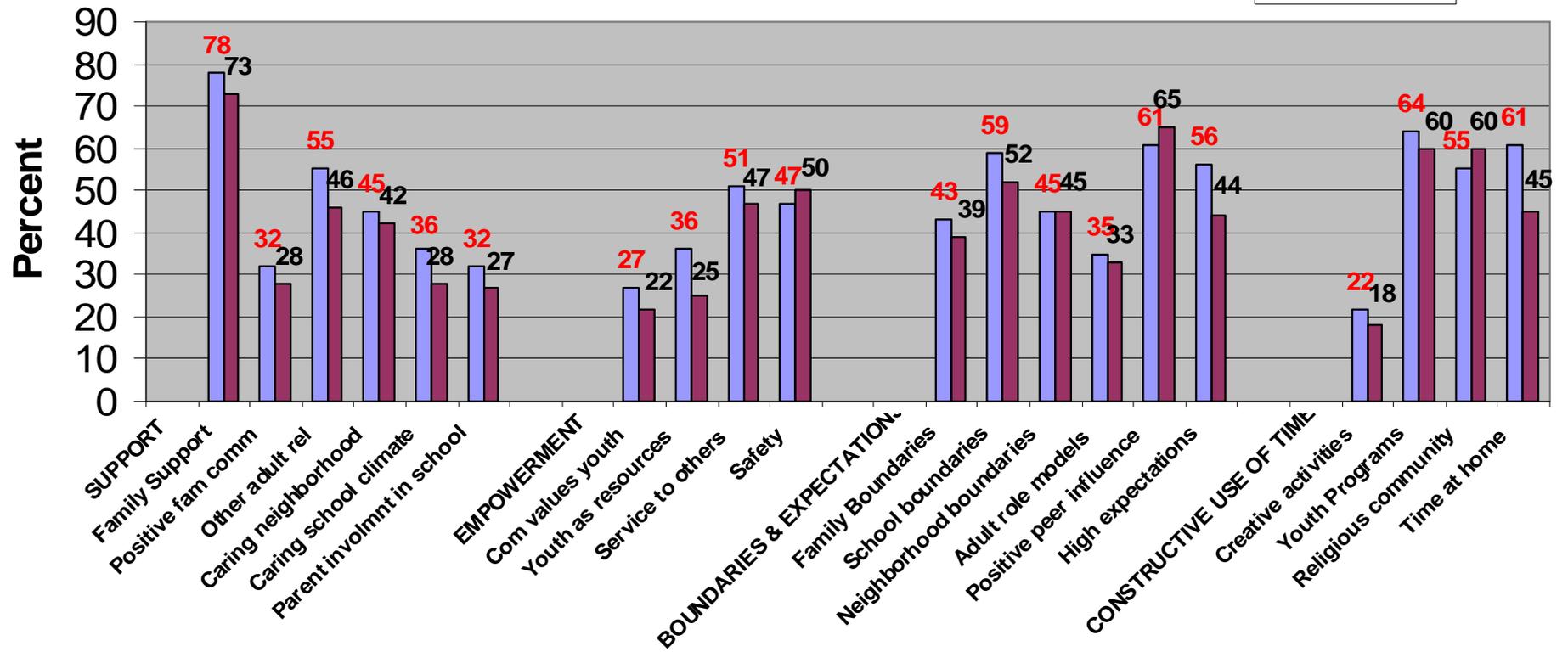


External Assets

The next slide compares the levels of each of the 20 external assets for 2006 and 2009. The numbers in red indicate the percent of youth in the total sample who indicated the presence of that asset.



External Assets 09 & 06

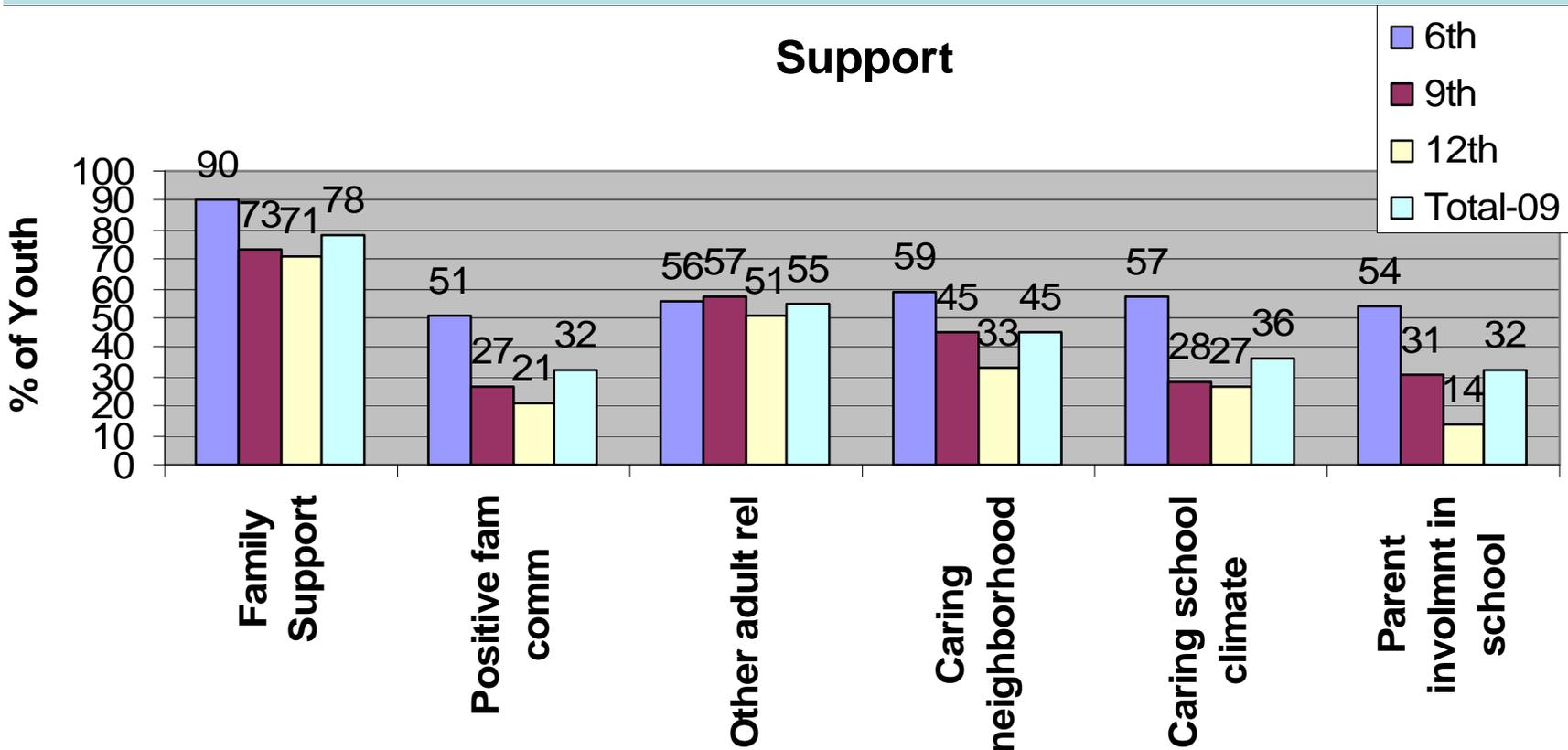


External Assets

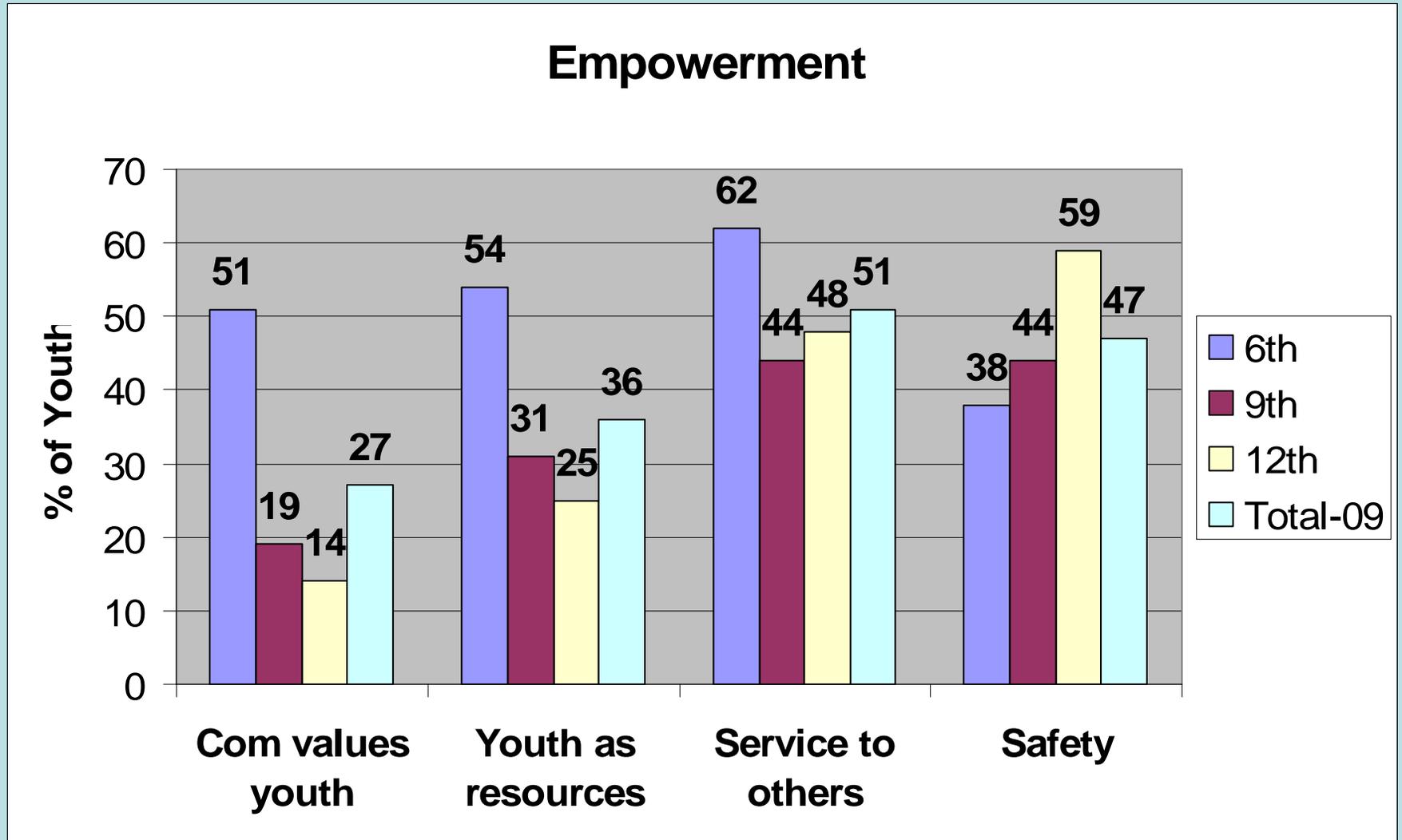
The four slides that follow show the results of the survey for each category of the external assets. You will see the individual assets that comprise each category and the breakdown by grade of the percentage of youth who have that asset.



2009 External Assets

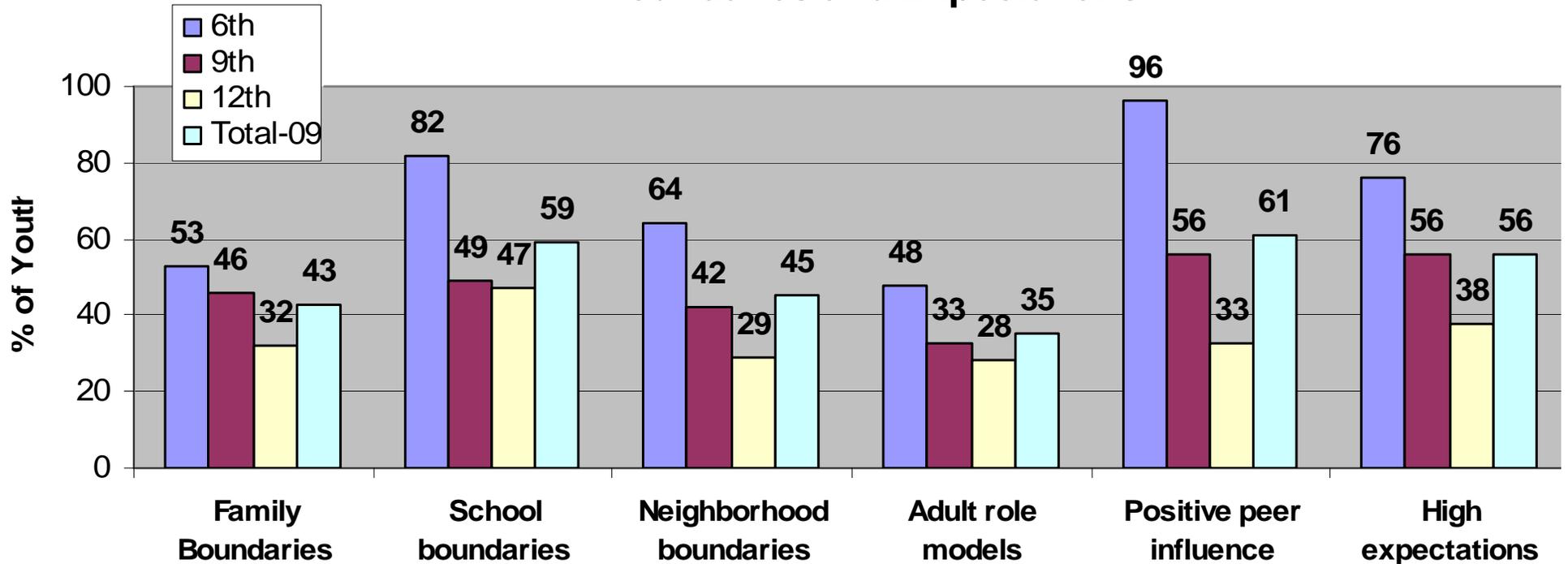


2009-External Assets



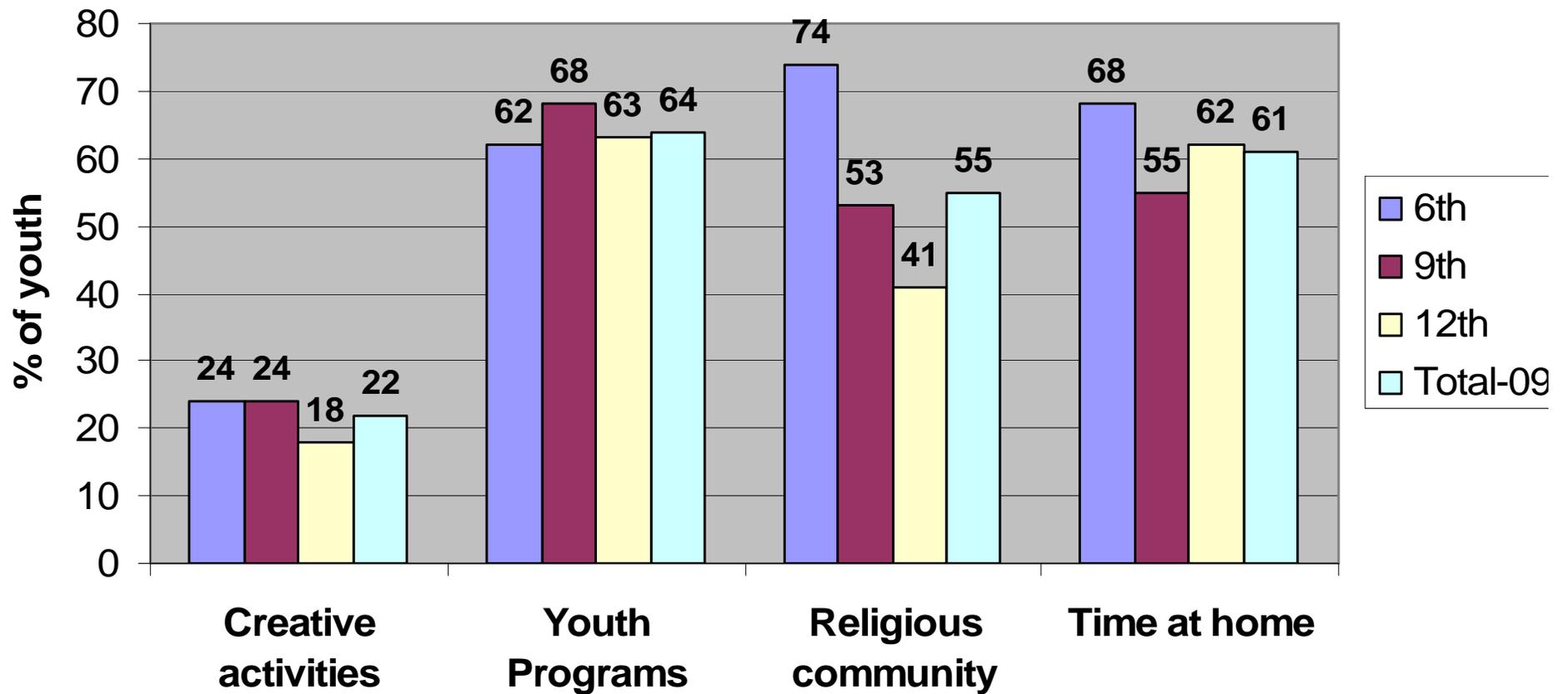
2009-External Assets

Boundaries and Expectations



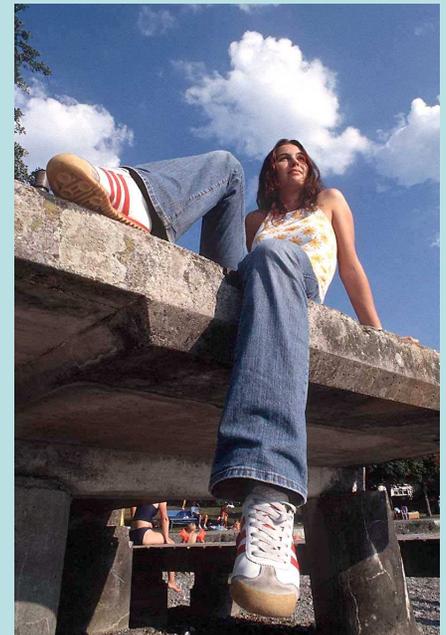
2009-External Assets

Constructive use of time

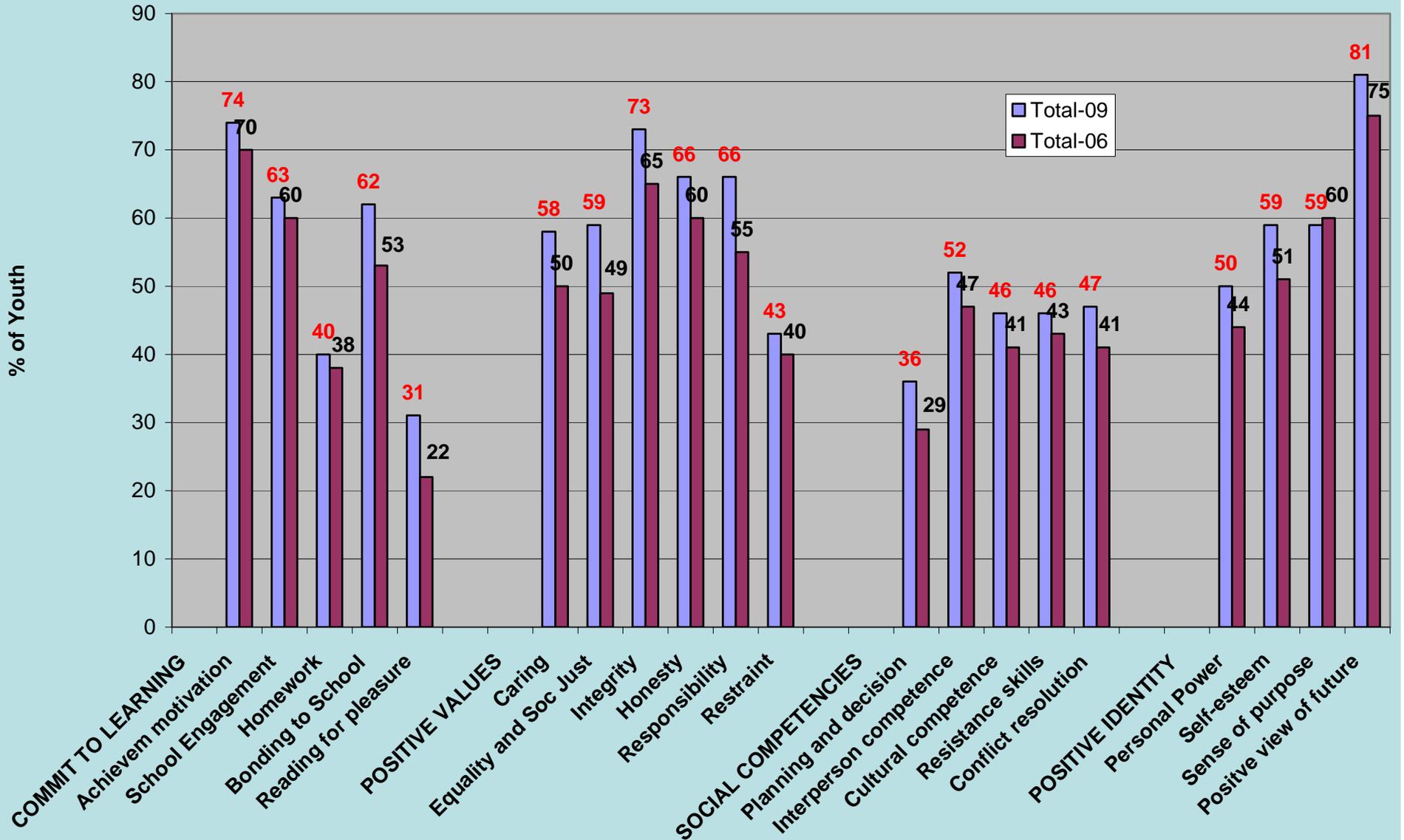


Internal Assets

The next slide compares the levels of each of the 20 internal assets for 2006 and 2009. The numbers in red indicate the percent of youth in the total sample who indicated the presence of that asset.



Internal Assets 09 & 06



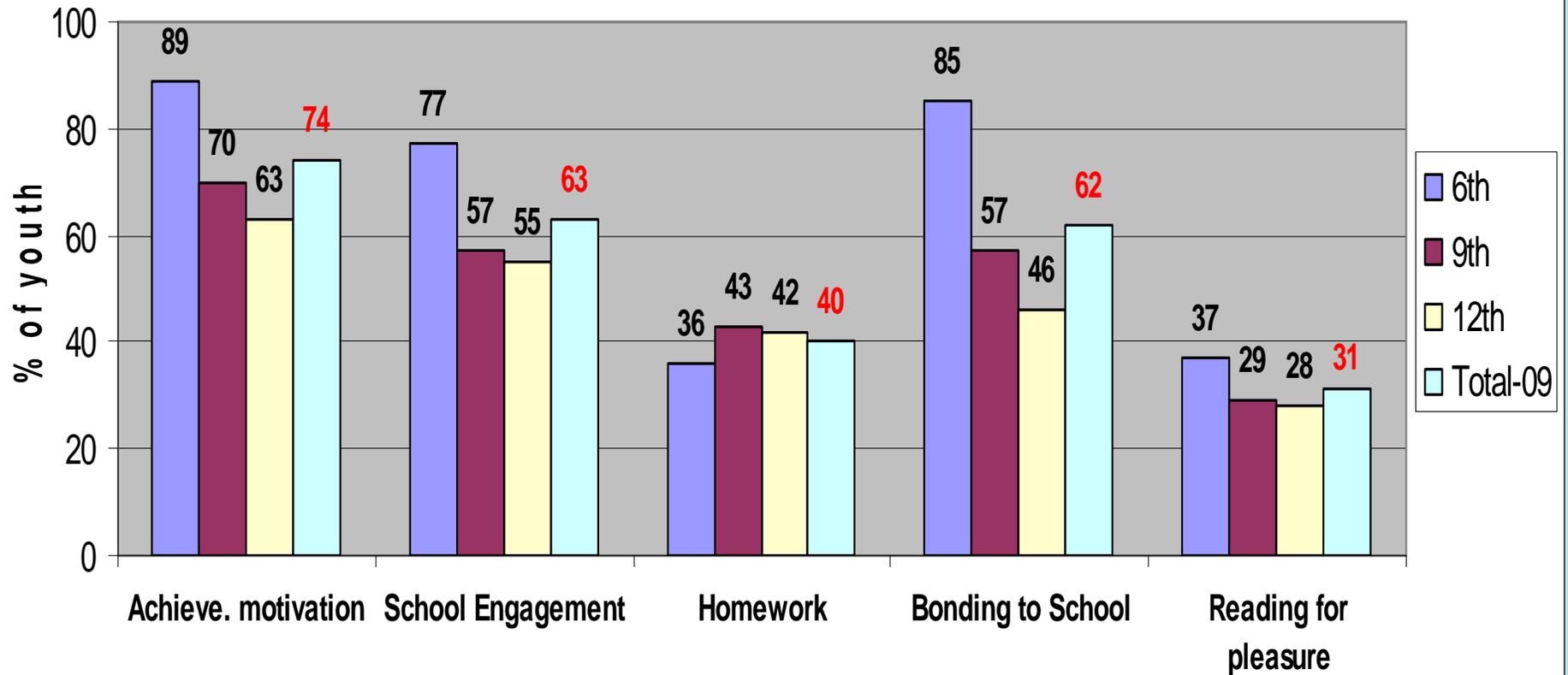
Internal Assets

- The four slides that follow show the results of the survey for each category of the internal assets. You will see the individual assets that comprise each category and the breakdown by grade of the percentage of youth who have that asset.

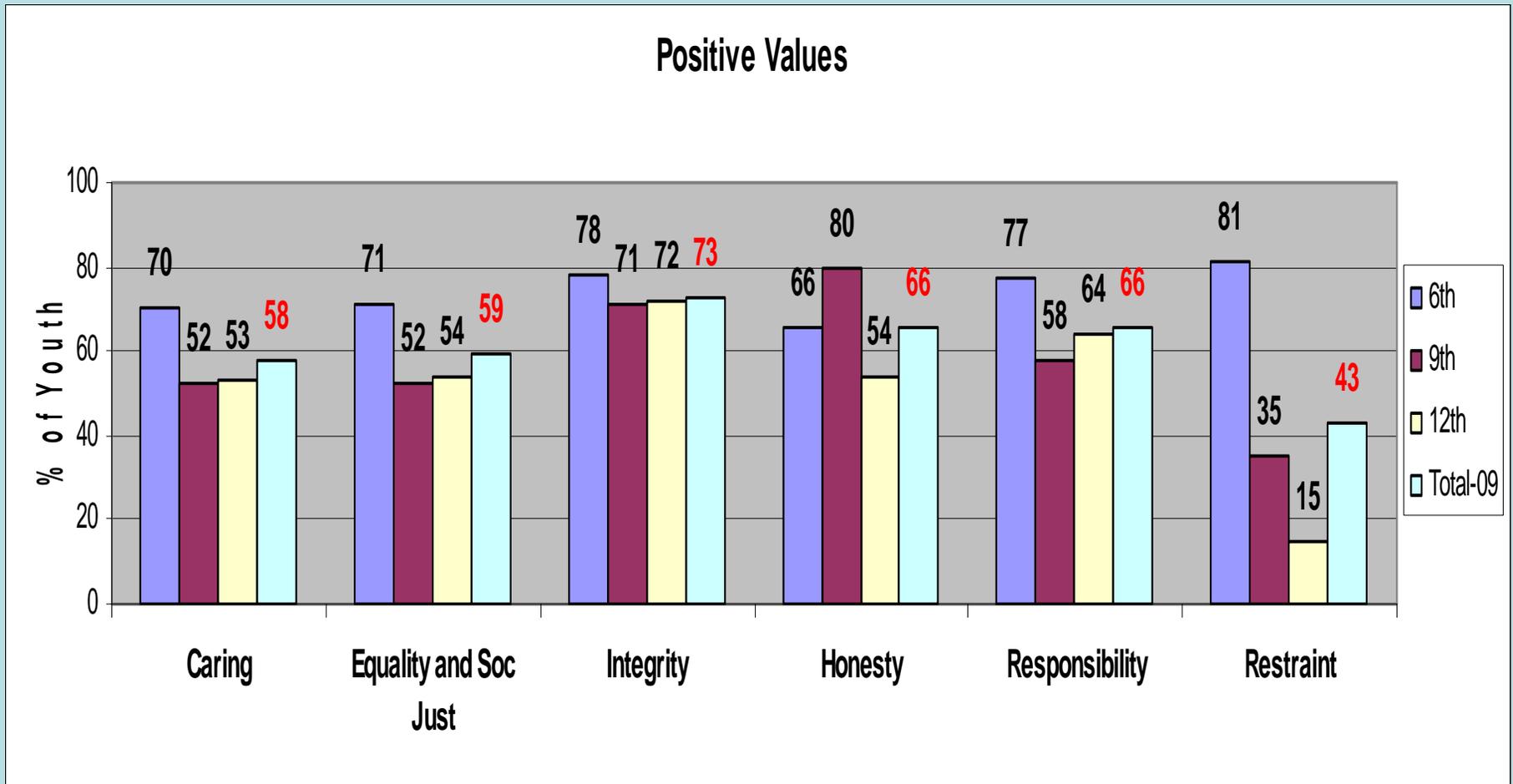


2009- Internal Assets

Commitment to learning

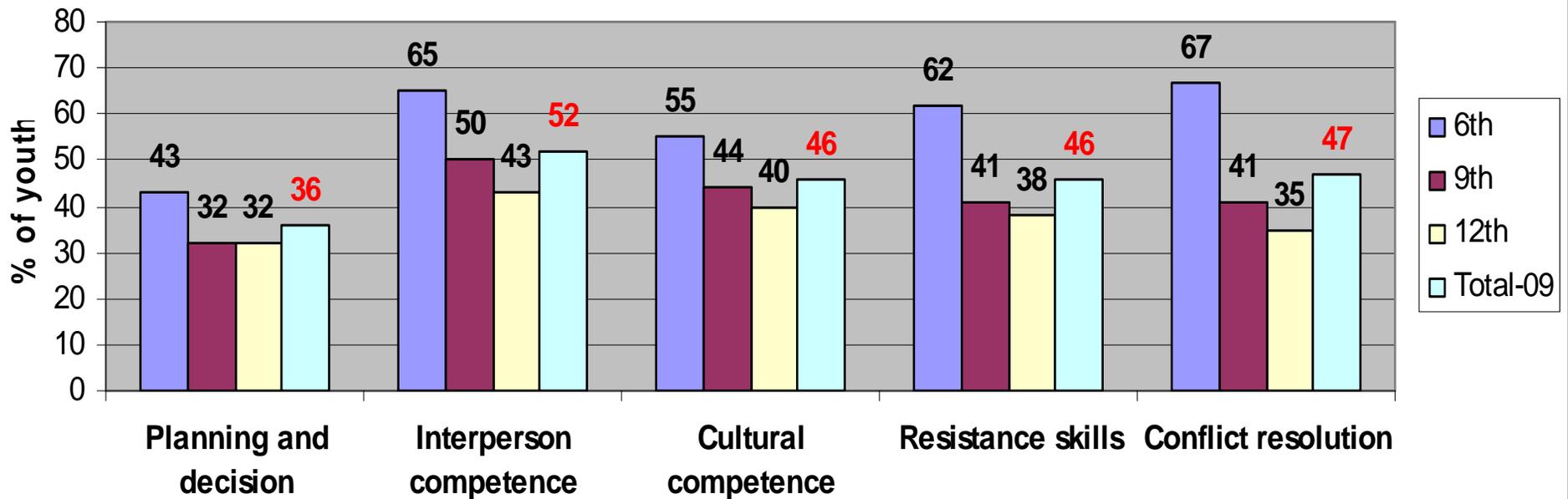


2009- Internal Assets



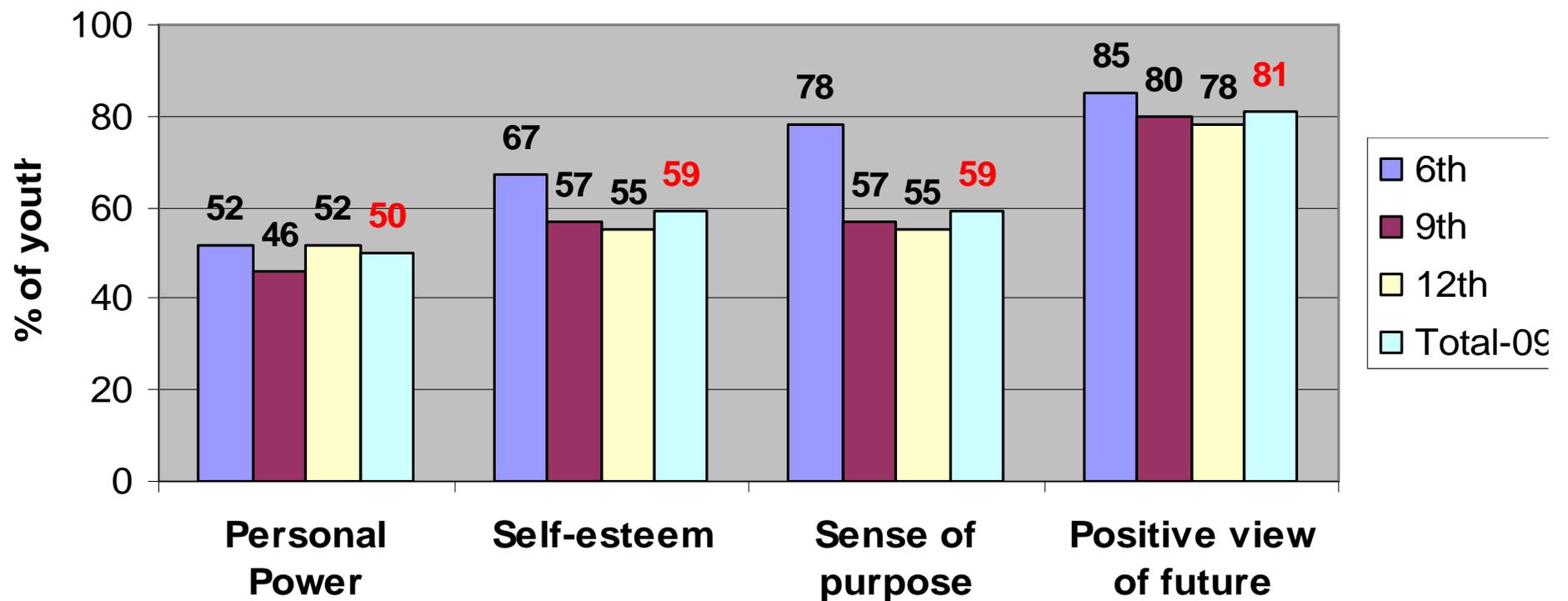
2009 Internal Assets

Social Competencies

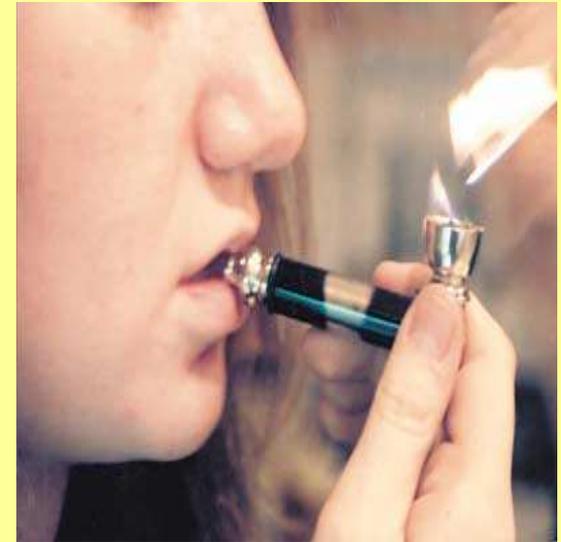


2009 Internal Assets

Positive Identity



High Risk Behaviors



High Risk Behaviors

The survey asked a number of questions to assess the youths' engagement in high risk behaviors. The researchers who developed the test built in measures to provide assurance that the information provided by the survey is accurate.

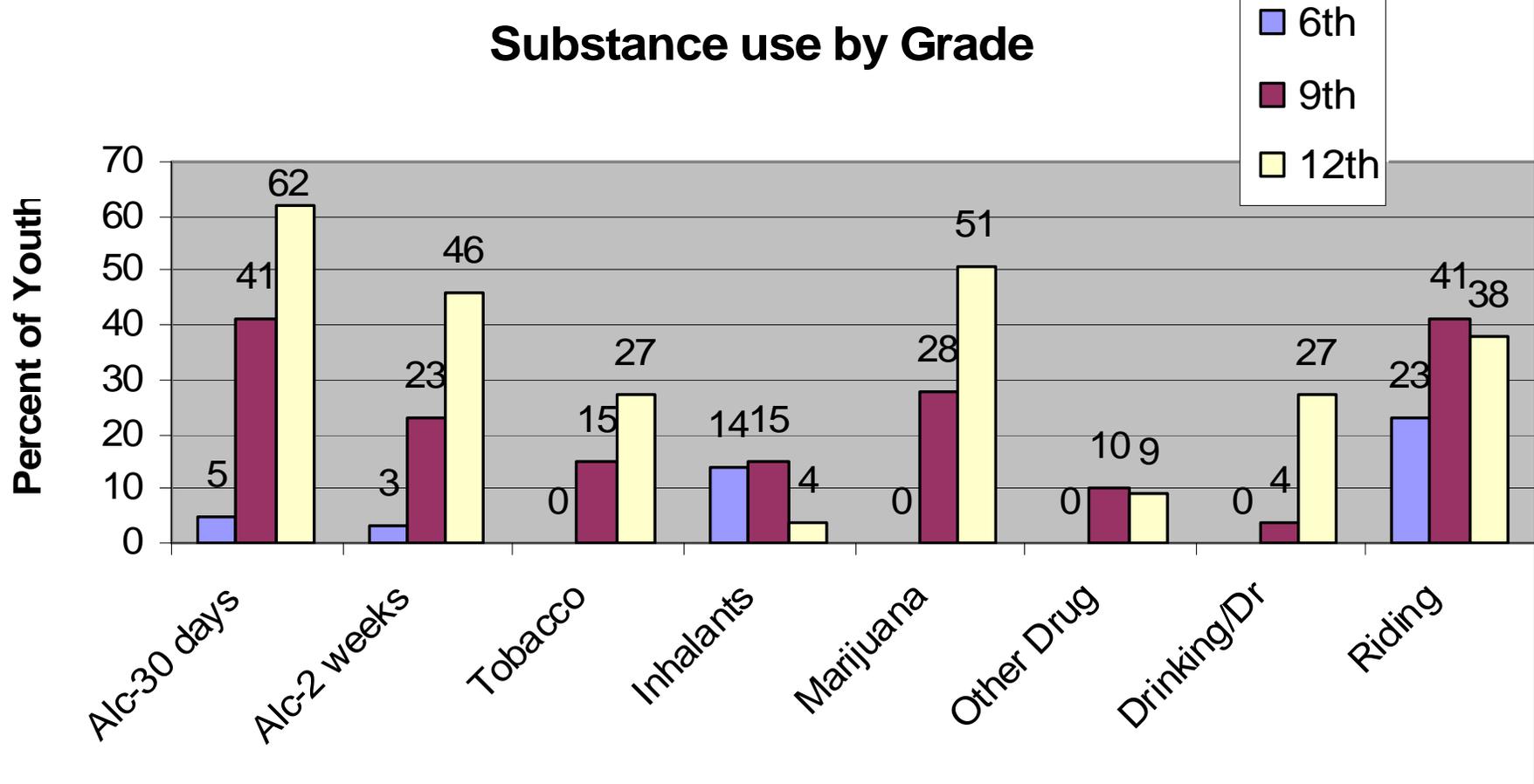


The Survey found that

- About half our seniors are currently drinking alcohol and report recent binge drinking.
- About half our seniors and more than a quarter of our juniors report recent use of marijuana.
- More than a quarter of our seniors report driving after drinking.



Substance use by Grade



Alcohol-30 days (Used alcohol in the past 30 days)

Alcohol- 2 weeks (Had 5 drinks or more in a row in the past 2 weeks)

Tobacco, marijuana, and inhalants - use in the past 30 days

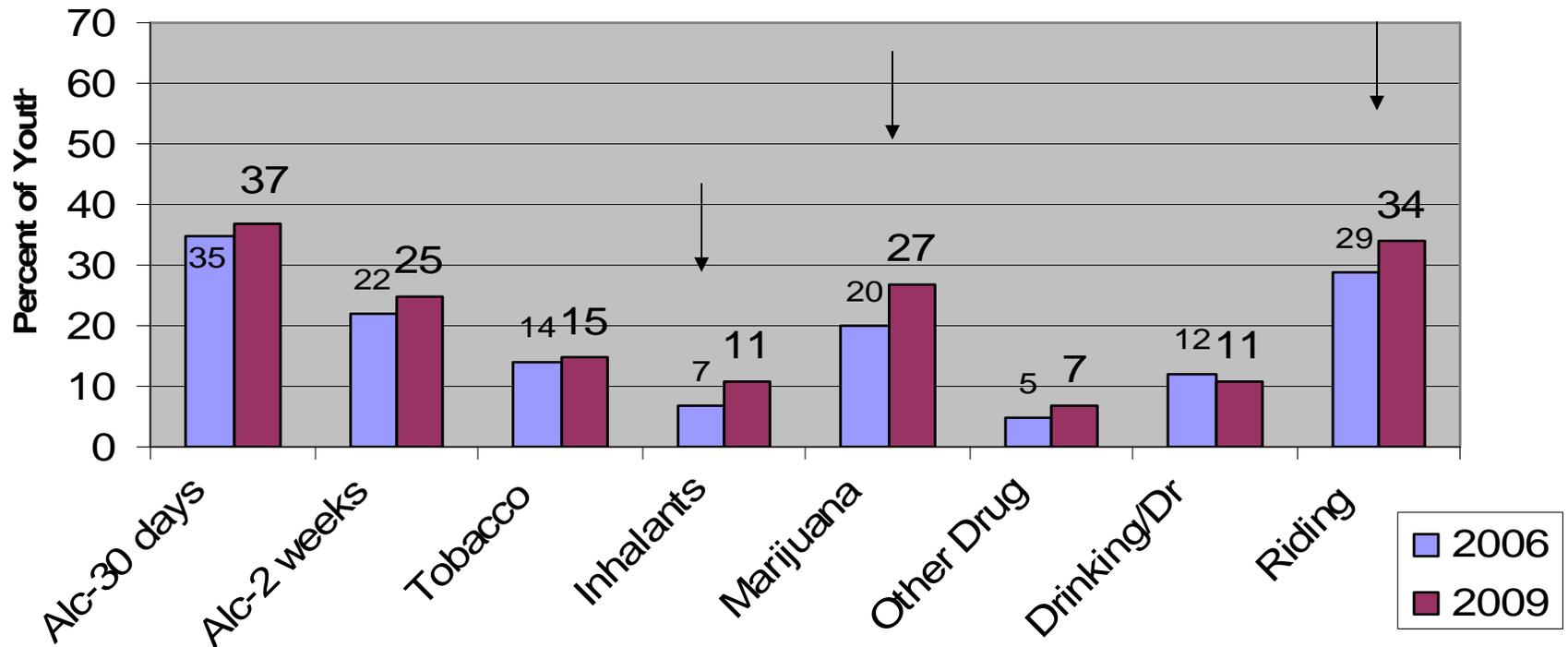
Other drugs-lifetime use

Drinking and driving- Past 12 months -driven a car after drinking.

Riding- Past 12 months- ridden in a car when the driver had been drinking (The jump between 6th and 9th grade may represent a shift from parental drinking and driving)

Substance Abuse Behaviors 2006 and 2009 Comparing Total (6,9,12) Percentage

Comparison of Substance Use 2006/2009

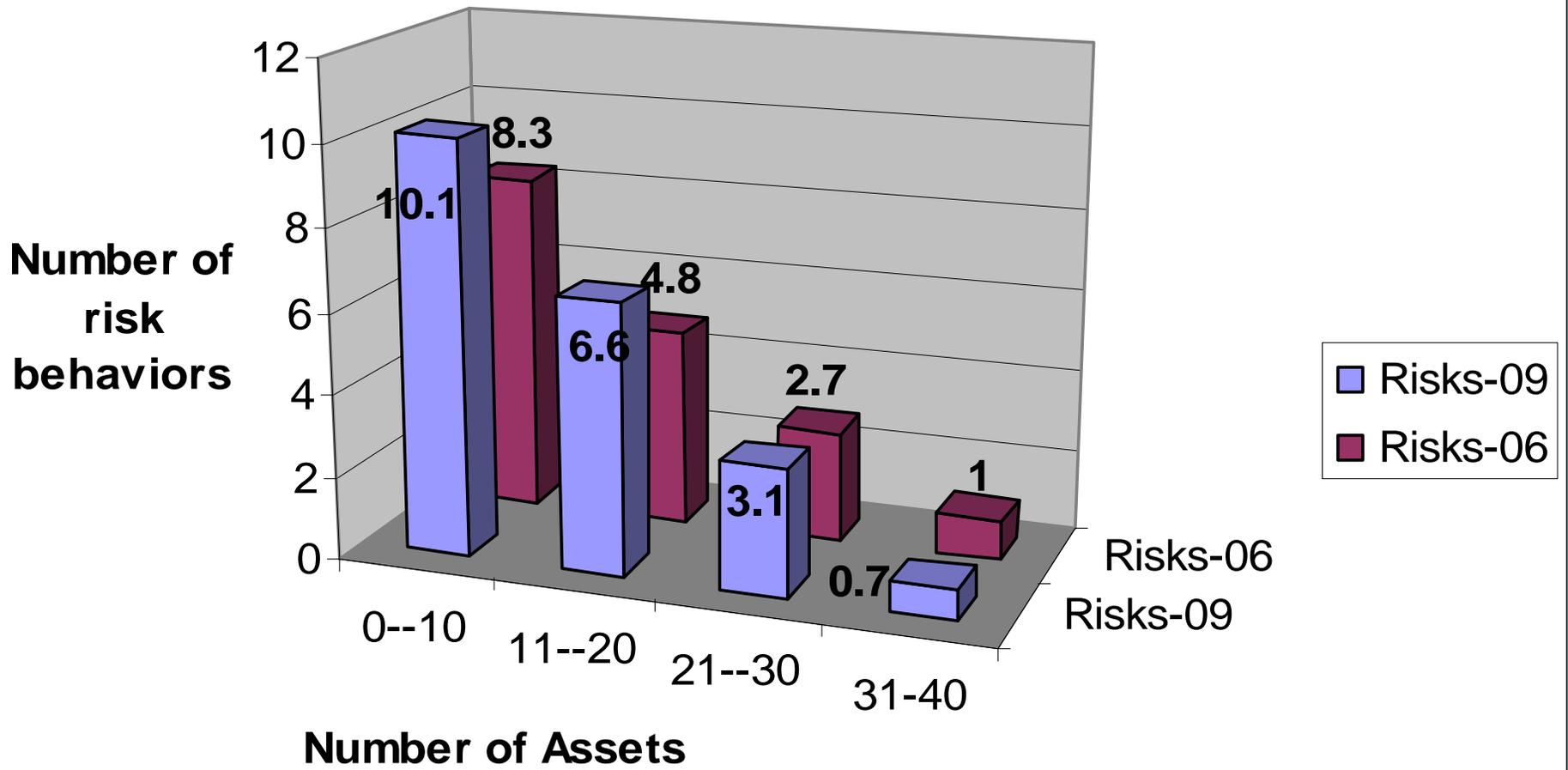


In comparing these averages, differences more than 3% may indicate a significant change.

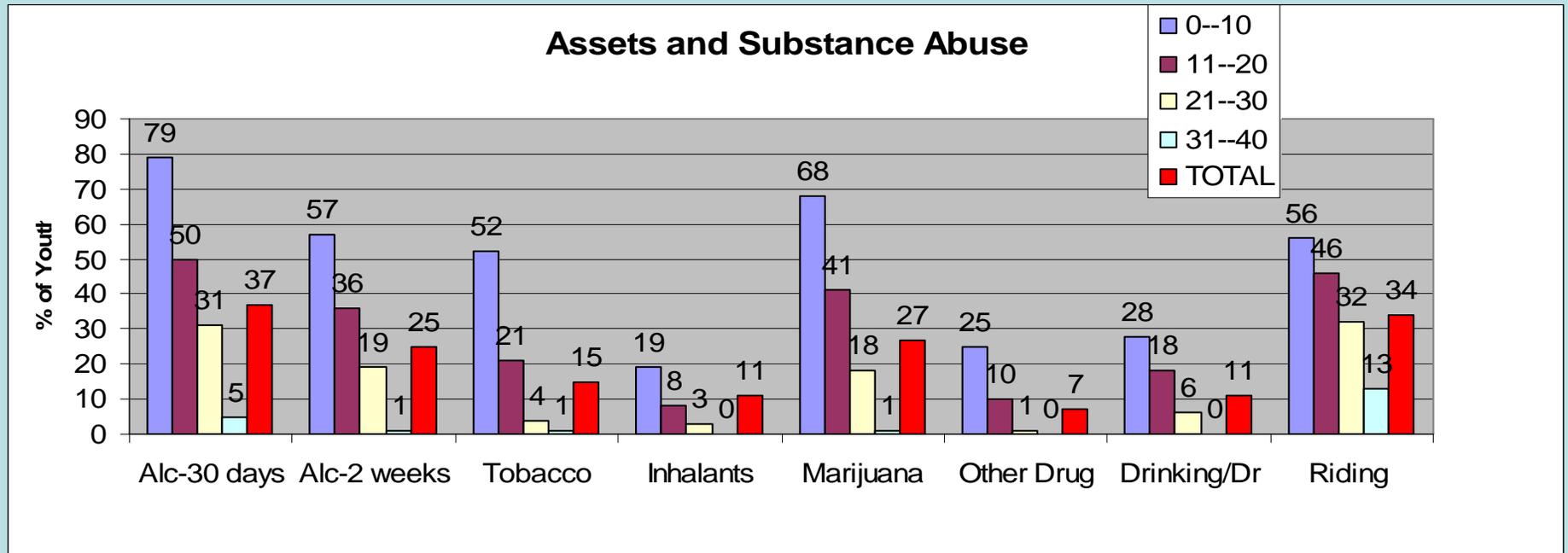
Risk behaviors and assets

- Looking at our youth, we find that the those students with more assets engage in significantly fewer high risk behaviors.
- Youth reporting 10 or fewer assets engaged in an average of 10 high risk behaviors.
- Youth reporting between 30 and 40 assets engaged in an average of 0.7 high risk behaviors.

Assets and risk behaviors 06 & 09

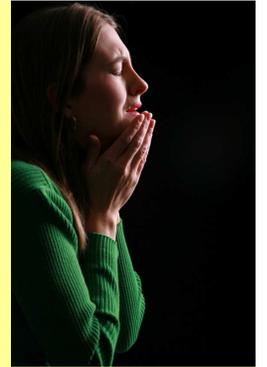


Substance abuse and assets



Of those youth with 0-10 assets, 8 in 10 are using alcohol and 7 in 10 are using marijuana. Of those youth with 31-40 assets 1 in 20 are using alcohol and 1 in 100 are using marijuana.

It isn't that everybody's doing it...it is that those without the internal and external markers of success are!



High Risk Behavior Patterns





Patterns of Risk

The survey provides information that goes beyond individual behaviors to assess patterns of risk in certain areas. It is these patterns of high risk behavior that indicate a shift in the young person's behavior from experimentation to interference with growth, health, well-being, learning, and positive relationships.

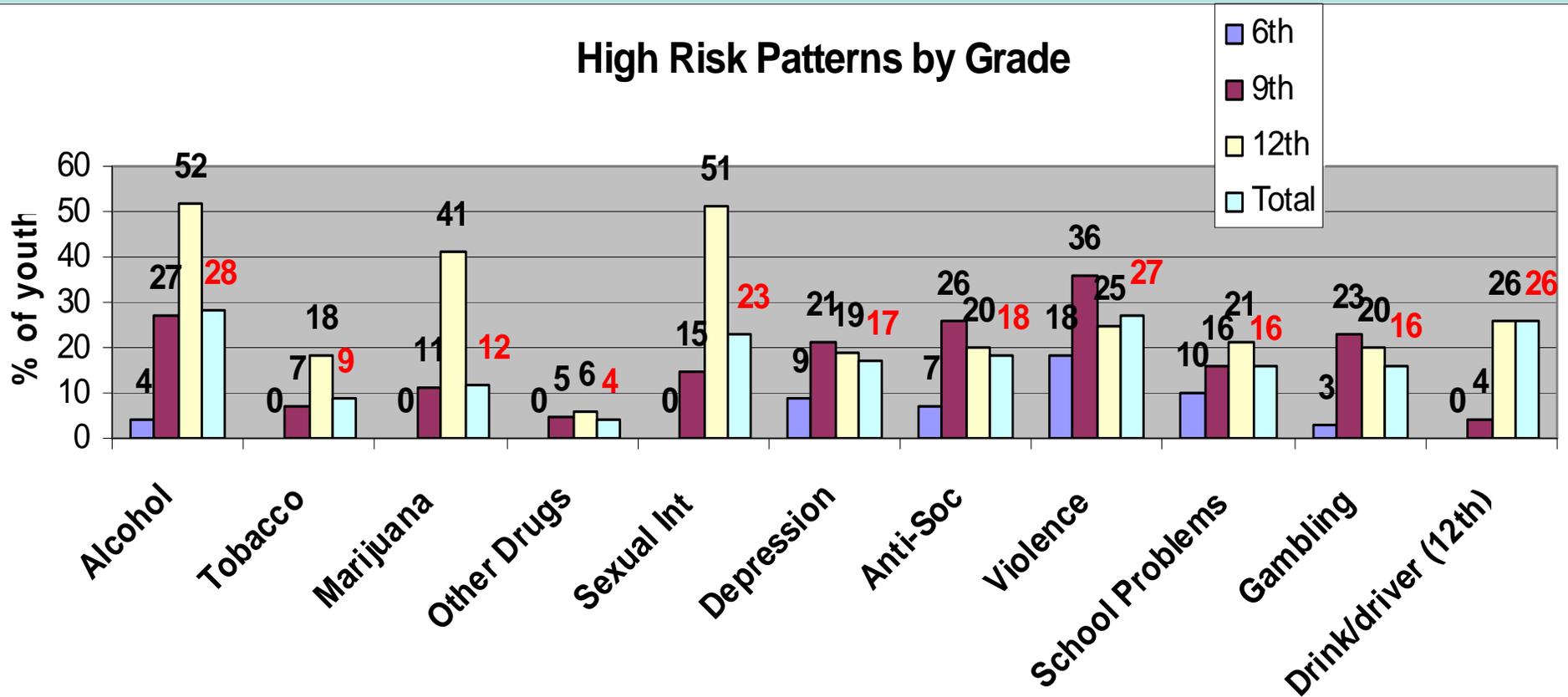




The survey found that

- There is a relationship of age to high risk patterns among adolescents.
- About one in four youth are engaged in alcohol and drug use in a pattern that puts them at significant risk.
- About one in five of our high school students report indicators of depression.

High Risk Patterns by Grade



Marijuana and alcohol and other drugs- Consistent and frequent use and binge drinking.

Tobacco- Daily smoking

Sexual Intercourse- more than three times

Depression- Reported depression in the past 30 days and/or suicide attempt(s)

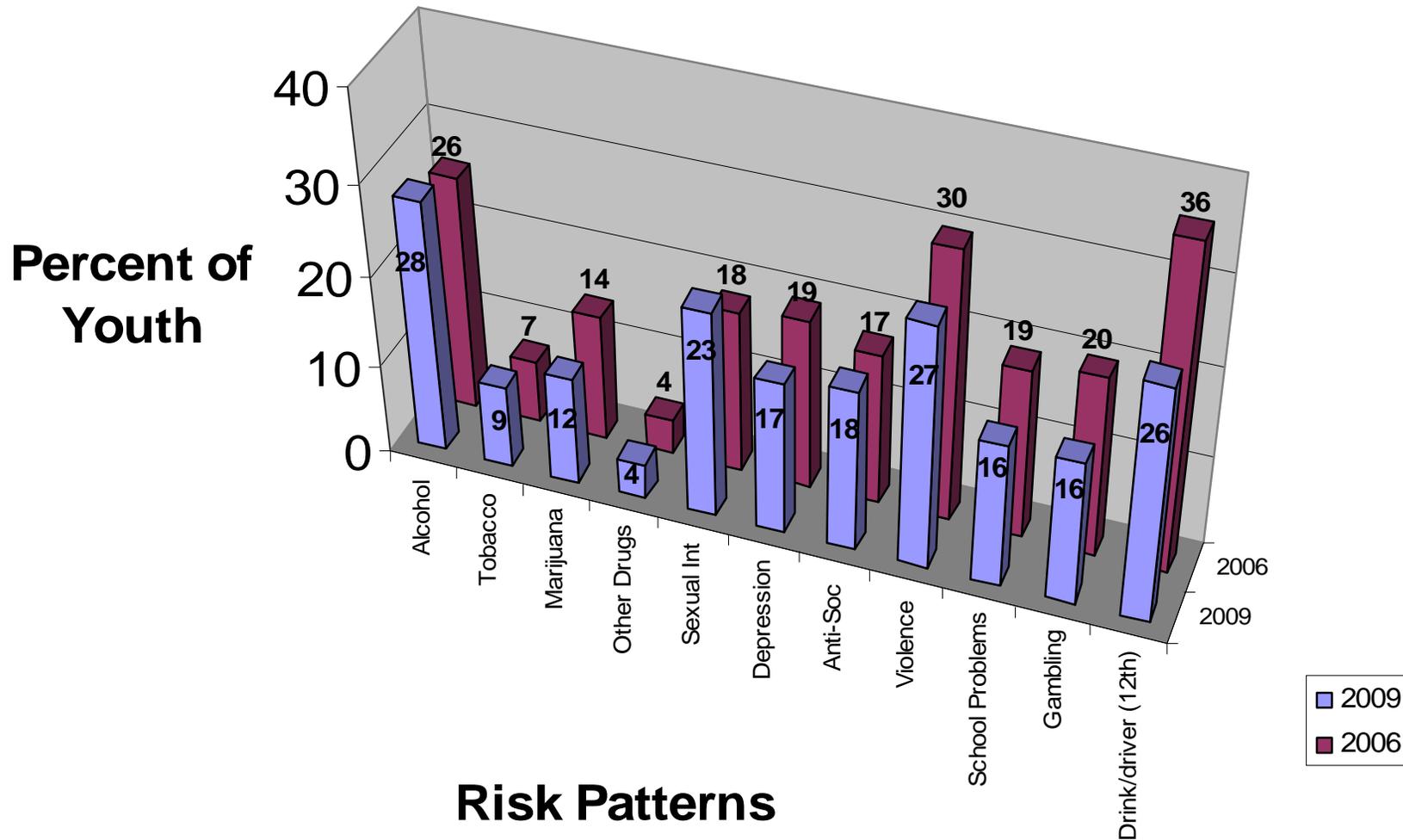
Antisocial behavior or violence and gambling- Three or more times in past year.

School Problems – Truancy or average below C.

High risk patterns in 2006 and 2009

- A comparison of the 2006 and 2009 surveys indicated relatively stable levels in the patterns of high risk.
- Slight declines in the % of youth reporting high risk patterns in marijuana, depression, violence, gambling, and school problems.
- Slight increases in the % of youth reporting high risk patterns in alcohol use, tobacco use, and anti-social behavior.
- Significant increase in sexual activity and a significant decrease in driving after drinking.

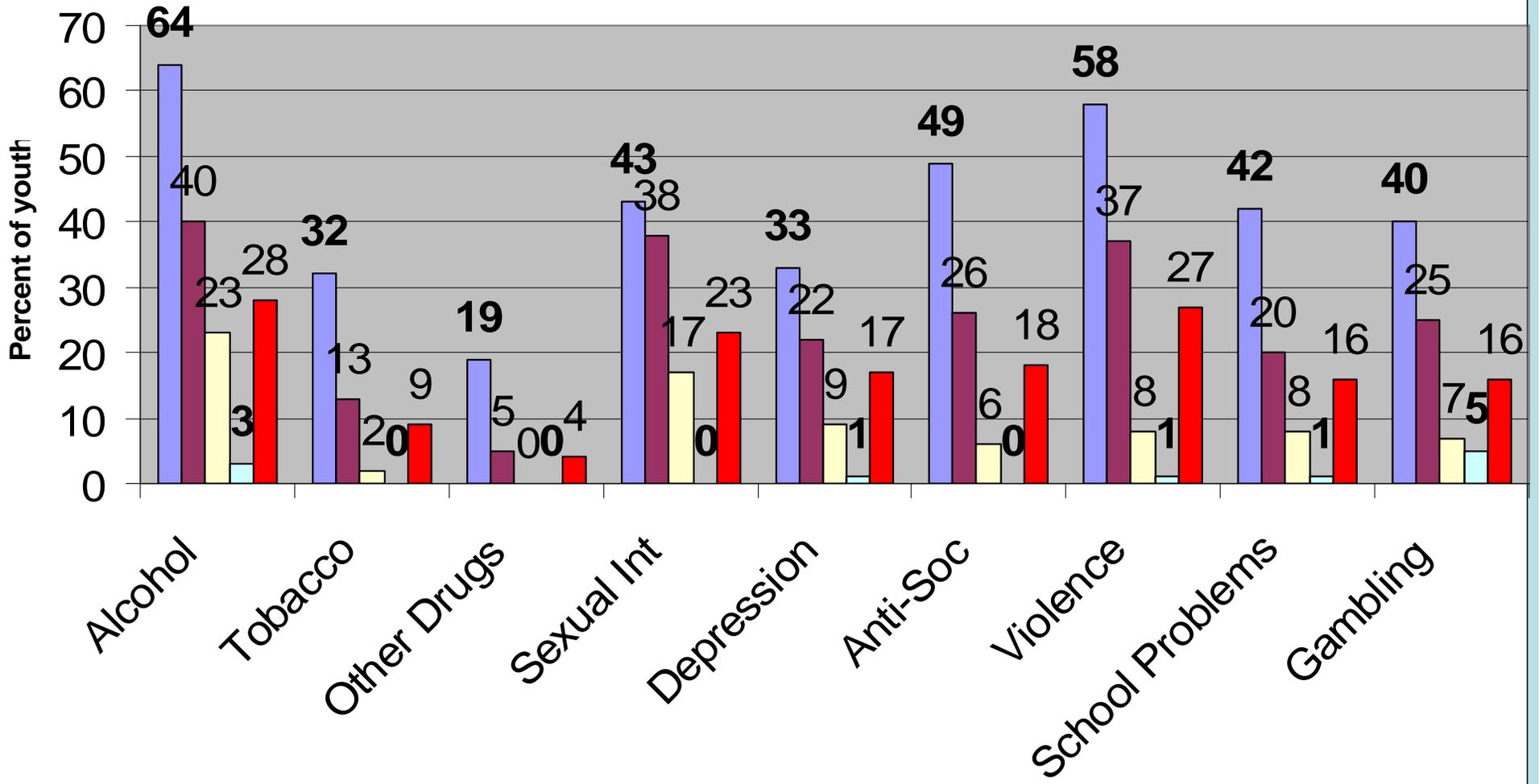
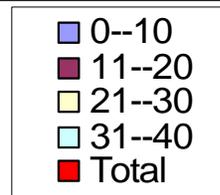
High Risk Patterns 06 & 09



Assets and high risk patterns

- The survey demonstrates that in Ocean the development of internal and external strengths in young people serves to protect them from harmful patterns of behavior.
- 64% of those in the lowest asset group report high risk alcoholic patterns while 3% of those in the highest asset group do. This pattern continues throughout every risk pattern category.

High Risk Patterns and Assets



High Risk Patterns

Summary

So where does the data lead...

- We continue to have many young people using alcohol and other drugs.
- About one in four of our youth are engaged in patterns of behavior that are harmful to them.
- About one in five of our youth report significant sadness in their lives.

So where does the data lead

- On average, our young people report about 20 internal and external assets.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of assets reported by youth.
- Assets serve to protect our youth from high risk patterns and to promote success.



So the data suggest we...

- Continue to provide experiences in the community, school and home that promote the development of internal assets and provide external assets.
- Continue to focus on the Intermediate school age youth in our prevention efforts.
- Continue to address the prevention of substance abuse with a comprehensive and integrated program of service.



Your efforts as parents, teachers, and community members...



...are helping the youth of the
Township of Ocean...



...to develop the internal and external strengths...



...that will promote their well-being.



...Thank you

For more information visit our website at
www.oceanhdsd.org.

To volunteer to work with the Alliance to Prevent Drug and Alcohol Abuse to promote a Healthy Community and Healthy Youth, please contact us at
732-531-2600