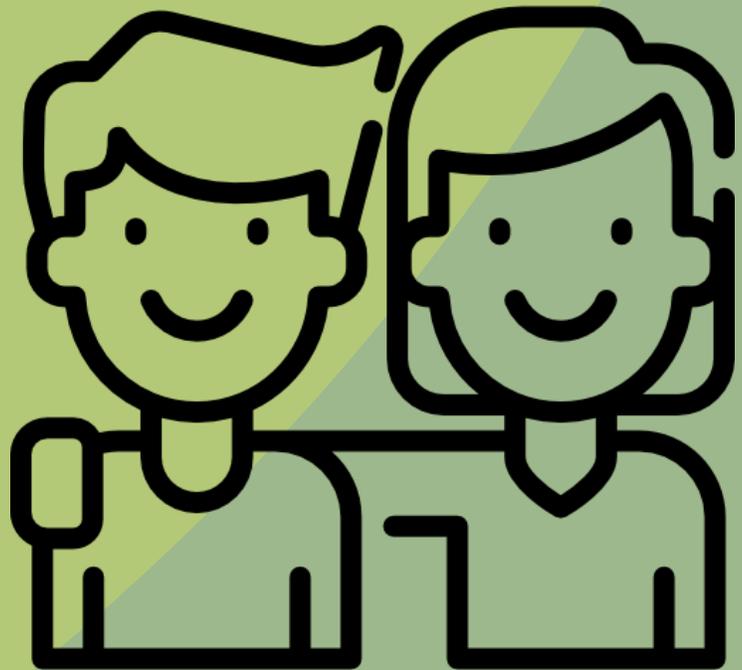


# Forest County Wisconsin



## 2018 Youth Health Profile



**A report of the 2018 Forest County  
Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

# Introduction and Overview

This report contains findings from the 2018 Wisconsin and United States Youth Risk Behavior survey, as well as local Forest County data from Spring of 2018.

The Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is conducted as part of a national effort by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor health-risk behaviors of the nation's high school students. These behaviors, in turn, result in the most significant causes of both mortality and morbidity during youth and adulthood. The behaviors monitored by the Wisconsin YRBS include traffic safety; weapons and violence; suicide; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behavior; and diet, nutrition, and exercise.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has administered the YRBS every two years beginning with 1993. The YRBS is administered to students in Wisconsin's public high schools. Survey procedures were designed to protect the privacy of students by allowing anonymous and voluntary participation. Local parent permission procedures were followed before administration, including informing parents that their child's participation was voluntary.

Forest County's data in this report was collected using the Department of Public Instruction's Online YRBS Administration site.

Detailed reports regarding Wisconsin's administration of the YRBS can be found online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrebs>

## Forest County Partnership

Forest County Partnership, Inc. was initially formed in 1988 in an effort to address the alcohol and drug issues that face our youth and to discuss ways to promote a healthy and appropriate lifestyle for all youth. The Partnership fosters a special relationship between the schools, county agencies, tribal agencies and community organizations. The mission is to strengthen and support youth by providing educational, social, and cultural opportunities that will foster competent and caring youth in a safe and healthy community.

Some of the organization's past initiatives include sponsoring a Healthy Choices Conference for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders with a focus on increasing awareness of health issues and developing skills and support systems to decrease risky behaviors and a Brighter Futures Conference for all 11<sup>th</sup> graders with a focus on financial literacy, life skill development, goal setting and responsible decision making. The group has also sponsored anti-bullying presentations, community presentations on alcohol and drug issues, resource guides, Red Ribbon Week activities, and most recently has developed Teen Leadership Groups in all of our schools.

In 2007 the Partnership received an Outstanding Prevention Coalition Award at the Wisconsin State Prevention Conference. Now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the group continues to meet to work on prevention efforts and help our youth build the skills they need to become healthy and productive community members.

### **Forest County Partnership**

#### 2018-2019 Members

Jason Bertrand  
*School District of Laona*

Michele Rocolle  
*School District of Wabeno Area*

Chelsie Stefanski  
*School District of Wabeno Area*

Tina Taylor  
*School District of Crandon*

Jacee Anderson  
*Forest County Health Department*

Jill Krueger  
*Parent / Community Member*

Rebecca Jennings  
*Forest County Potawatomi Education Department*

Michelle Gobert  
*UW-Madison—Division of Extension Positive Youth Development*

Katherine Richlen  
*Parent / Community Member*

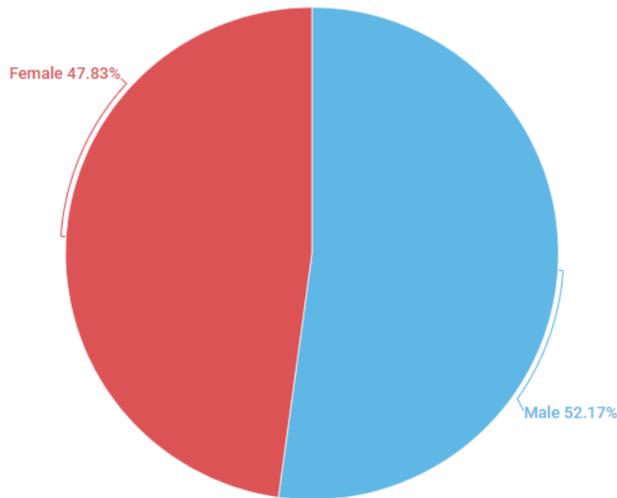
Kathy Tupper  
*Forest County Potawatomi Community Service Program Coordinator*

# OVERVIEW

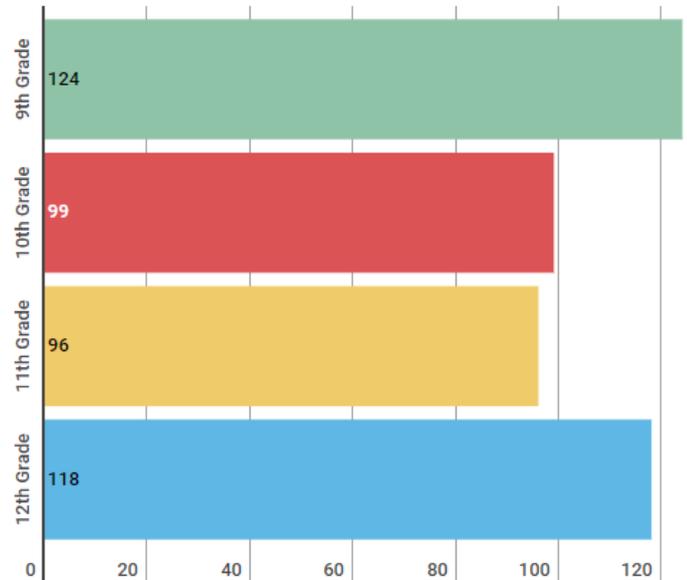
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## COUNTY YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

Forest County 2017-18 High School Enrollment  
by Gender



Forest County 2017-18 High School Enrollment  
by Grade Level



## Forest County 2017-18 High School Enrollment by Ethnicity



American Indian Hispanic Pacific Islander Black Two or More White

SOURCE: Wisconsin Information System for Education Data Dashboard. <http://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov>. [2018 AUG 17]

## OVERVIEW

# INTRODUCTION

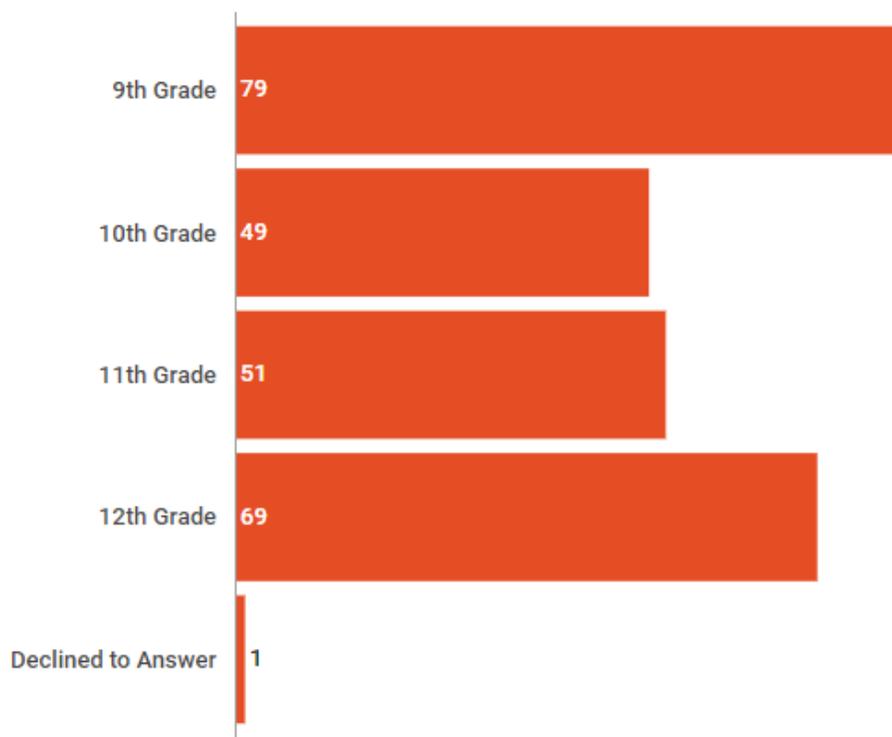
The Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is conducted as part of a national effort by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor health-risk behaviors of the nation's youth. These behaviors, in turn, result in the most significant causes of both mortality and morbidity during youth and adulthood. The behaviors monitored by the Wisconsin YRBS include traffic safety; weapons and violence; suicide; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behavior; and diet, nutrition, and exercise.

In 2018, a partnership between the three public school districts in Forest County resulted in the creation of a Forest County-wide aggregate data set. This report, which features comparisons to state and national data, will allow our community to engage in discussions related to youth behavior in order to target interventions that can improve the lives of Forest County youth.

## SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

### Grade Distribution

A total of 249 Forest County high school students completed the YRBS survey in the spring of 2018.



### Gender Distribution

<b>Males</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Declined to Answer</b>	<b>1</b>

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Six teens ages 16 to 19 die every day from motor vehicle injuries. Per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are nearly three times more likely than drivers aged 20 and older to be in a fatal crash.

**Fortunately, teen motor vehicle crashes are preventable, and proven strategies can improve the safety of young drivers on the road. <sup>(1)</sup>**

## Seatbelt safety

85.5% of Forest County high school students reported that they sometimes, most of the time, or always wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else. This percentage is slightly lower than the Wisconsin and United States percentages.



## Texting while driving

59.9% of Forest County high school students reported that they did NOT text or e-mail while driving a car or other vehicle (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey, among students who had driven a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey)

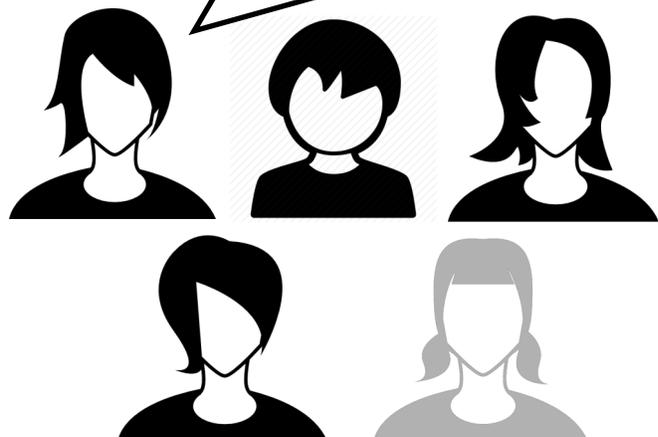


## Drinking while driving

86.7% of Forest County high school students reported that they did NOT drive when they had been drinking alcohol (in a car or other vehicle, one or more times during the 30 days before the survey, among students who had driven a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey). This percentage is less than the Wisconsin and United States percentages.



Did you know that 4 out of 5 Forest County high school students reported that they did NOT ride with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in a car or other vehicle, one of more times during the 30 days before the survey.



<sup>1</sup> CDC. Teen Drivers. [https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen\\_drivers/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/index.html) [accessed 2018 AUG 20]

# VIOLENCE

# YOUTH SAFETY

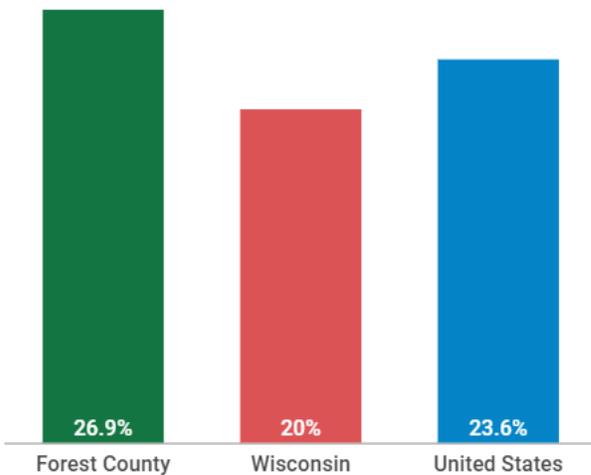
Youth violence is a significant public health problem that affects thousands of young people each day, and in turn, their families, schools, and communities. Youth violence typically involves young people hurting other peers who are unrelated to them and who they may or may not know well. Youth violence can take different forms. Examples include fights, bullying, threats with weapons, and gang-related violence. A young person can be involved with youth violence as a victim, offender, or witness.

**Youth violence is preventable. The ultimate goal is to stop youth violence before it starts.<sup>1</sup>**

## Physical fighting

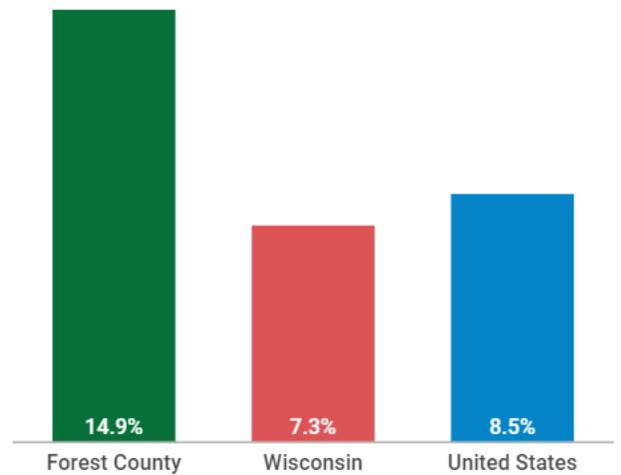
### Physical fight one or more times

26.9% of Forest County High School students reported that they were in a physical fight one or more times during the 12 months before the survey. This percentage is higher than the Wisconsin and United States percentages.

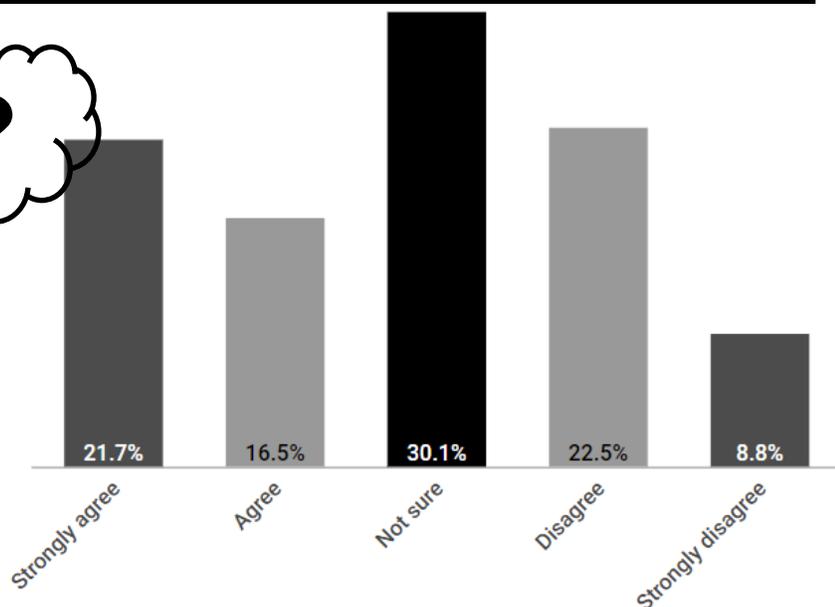
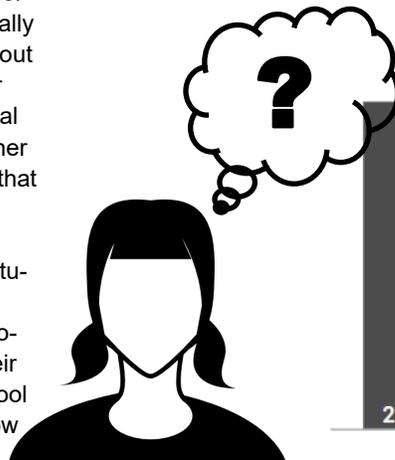


### Physical fight on school property

14.9% of Forest County High School students reported that they were in a physical fight on school property during the 12 months before the survey. This percentage is significantly higher than the Wisconsin and United States percentages.



Forest County high school students are almost equally divided how they feel about physical violence in their school. 38.4% of the total high school students either *agree or strongly agree* that violence is a problem at their school. In contrast, 31.3% of the total high students either *disagree or strongly disagree* that violence is a problem at their school. 30.1% high school students are *not sure* how they feel about physical violence in their school.



1. CDC. Youth Violence <https://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/youthviolence/index.html> [accessed 2018 AUG 20]

# VIOLENCE

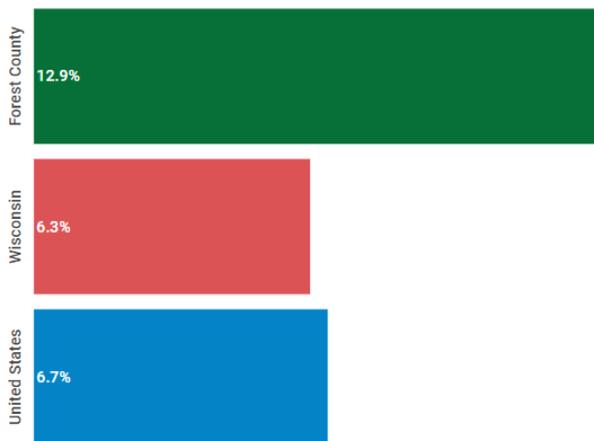
# YOUTH SAFETY

School violence is a subset of youth violence, a broader public health problem. Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, against another person, group, or community, with the behavior likely to cause physical or psychological harm. Youth Violence typically includes persons between the ages of 10 and 24, although pathways to youth violence can begin in early childhood.<sup>1</sup>

## School Violence

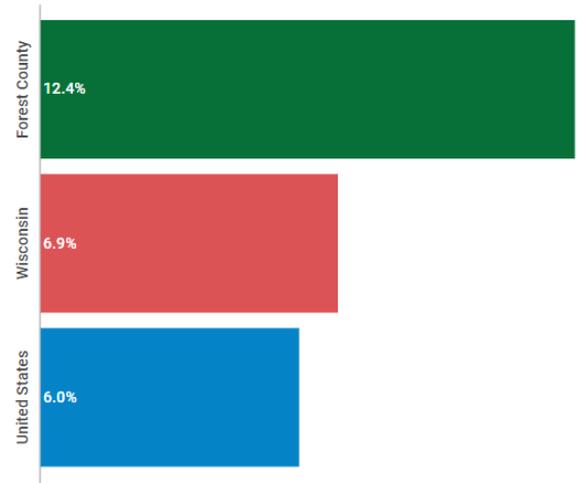
### School attendance as it relates to Youth Violence

12.9% of Forest County high school students reported that they did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (on at least 1 day during the past 30 days). This percentage is double the number of Wisconsin youth who reported the same.



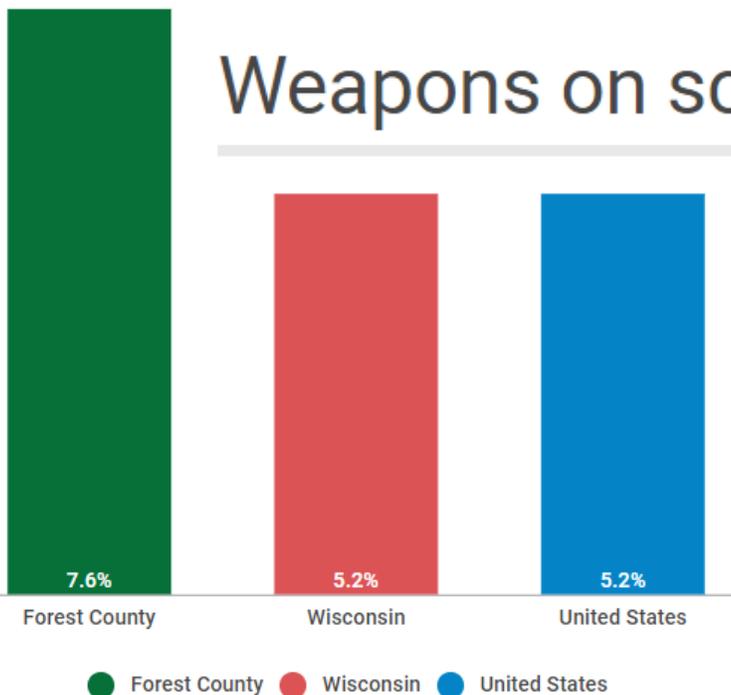
### Reported violence with a weapon on school property

12.4% of Forest County high school students reported that they were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property (gun, knife, or club) one or more times during the 12 months before the survey. This is almost double the number of Wisconsin youth who report the same.



### Weapons on school property

7.6% of Forest County high school students reported that they carried a weapon (gun, knife, or club) on school property on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey. This percentage is slightly higher than the Wisconsin and U.S. percentages.

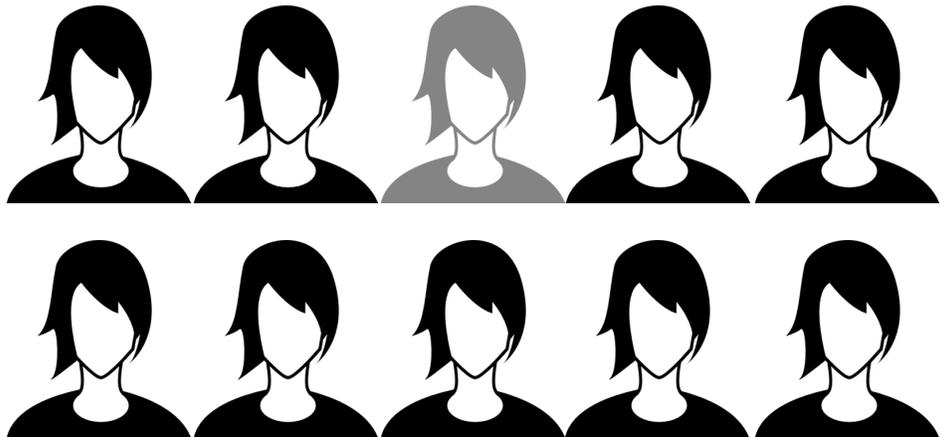


1. CDC. School Violence. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/schoolviolence/> [accessed 2018 AUG 20]

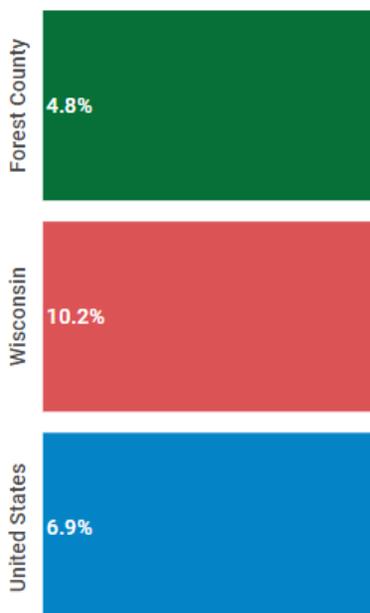
Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Dating violence can take place in person or electronically, such as repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online without consent. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name-calling, are a “normal” part of a relationship—but these behaviors can become abusive and develop into serious forms of violence. However, many teens do not report unhealthy behaviors because they are afraid to tell family and friends. Violence in an adolescent relationship sets the stage for problems in future relationships, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life. <sup>1</sup>

## Dating Violence

1 in 10 Forest County students reported that someone they were dating or going out with physically hurt them on purpose (being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon) 1 or more times during the 12 months before the survey.



## Sexual Dating Violence



4.8% of Forest County high school students reported that they had experienced sexual dating violence (kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to) 1 or more times in the 12 months before the survey. This percentage is lower than the Wisconsin and U.S. percentages.

1. CDC. Teen Dating Violence. [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen\\_dating\\_violence.html](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html) [accessed 2018 SEP 18]

Bullying is a type of youth violence that threatens young people's well-being. Bullying can result in physical injuries, social and emotional problems, and academic problems. The harmful effects of bullying are frequently felt by friends and families and can hurt the overall health and safety of schools, neighborhoods, and society.

Bullying is defined as any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths, who are not siblings or current dating partners, involving an observed or perceived power imbalance. These behaviors are repeated multiple times or are highly likely to be repeated.

Bullying can occur in-person and through technology. Electronic aggression, or "cyberbullying," is bullying that happens through technological devices and mechanisms such as email, instant message, a website, text message, social media, and other digital applications. <sup>1</sup>

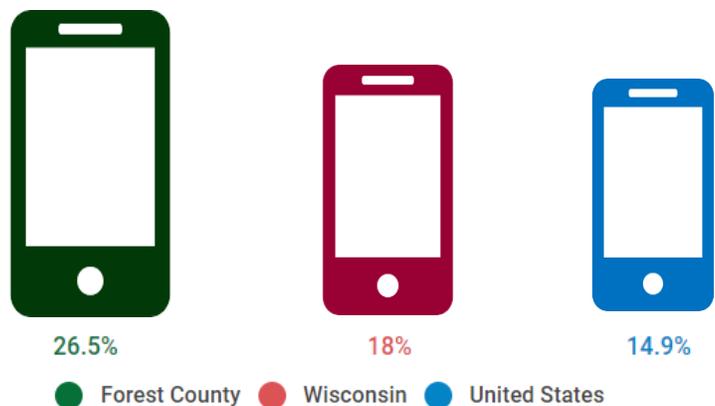
## Bullying on school property

1/3 (33.3%) of Forest County High School students reported being bullied on school property during the 12 months before the survey. This is higher than the 23% of Wisconsin high school students that reported the same.



## Electronic bullying

26.5% of Forest County high school students reported being electronically bullied (through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media) during the 12 months before the survey.



1. CDC. Bullying Research. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/bullyingresearch/> [accessed 2018 SEP 18]

# YOUTH SAFETY

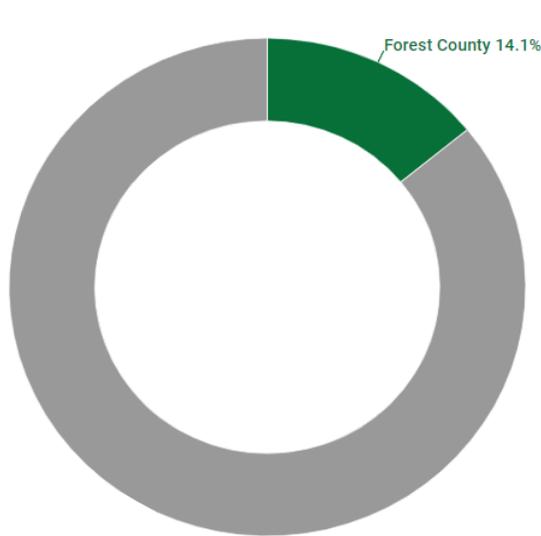
## Bullying & Harassment

Bullying is a type of youth violence that threatens young people's well-being. Bullying can result in physical injuries, social and emotional problems, and academic problems. The harmful effects of bullying are frequently felt by friends and families and can hurt the overall health and safety of schools, neighborhoods, and society.

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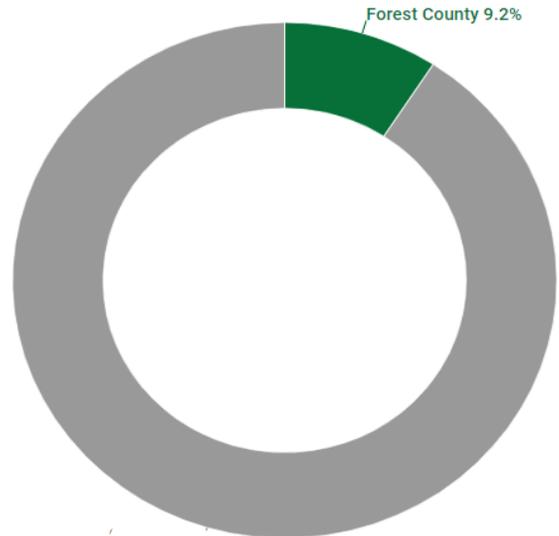
### Bullying in regards to sexual orientation

14.1% of Forest County high school students reported being the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought you were gay, lesbian, or bisexual.



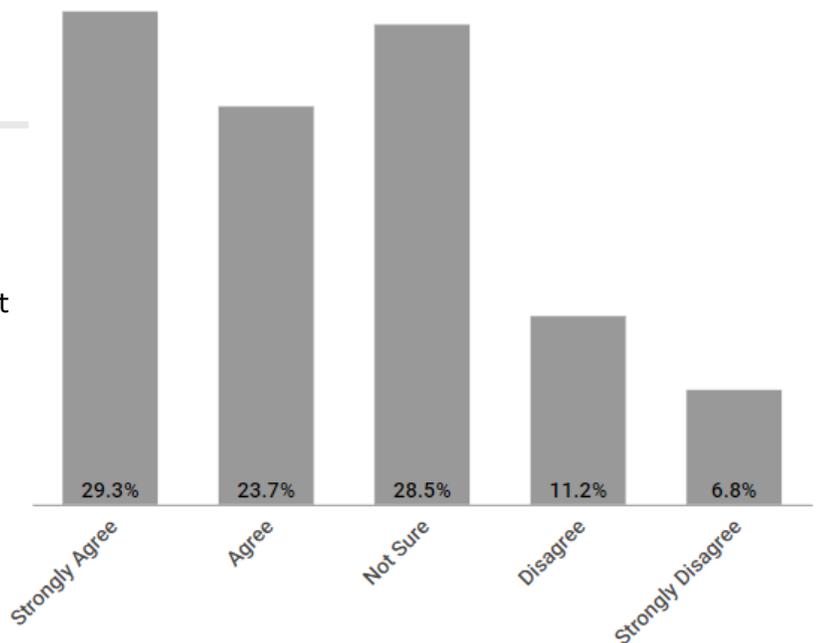
### Bullying in regards to gender identification

9.2% of Forest County high school students reported being the victim of teasing or name calling because of their gender.



### Bullying perceptions at school

53% of Forest County high school students either agree or strong agree that harassment and bullying by other students in a problem at their school. 28.5% are not sure if harassment and bullying are a problem and 18% either disagree or strongly disagree that it is a problem.



Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices.

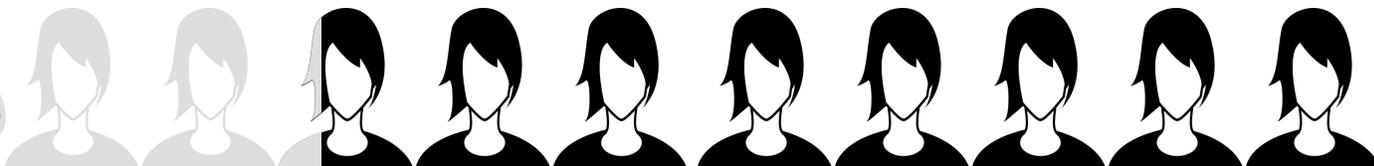
Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

Mental and physical health are equally important components of overall health. Mental illness, especially depression, increases the risk for many types of physical health problems, particularly long-lasting conditions like stroke, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease. <sup>1</sup>

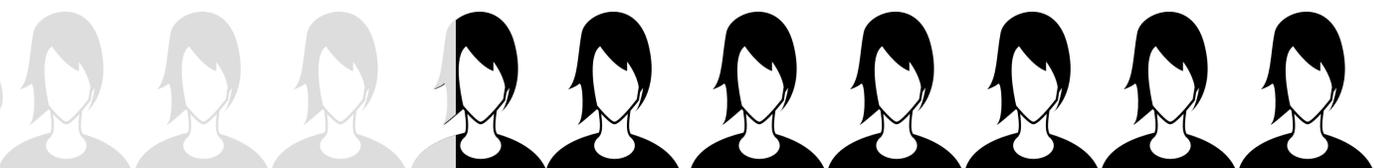
## Students whose mental health was not good

31% of Forest County high school students reported that they felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities. This figure is a 10% increase over the 2016 report of youth who reported the same.

2016



2018



## Suicidal thoughts



In 2016, **10.8%** of Forest County high school students reported that they seriously considered attempting suicide, **6.2%** of students said that they had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide, and **4.2%** students reported that they attempted suicide at least once in the past 12 months.

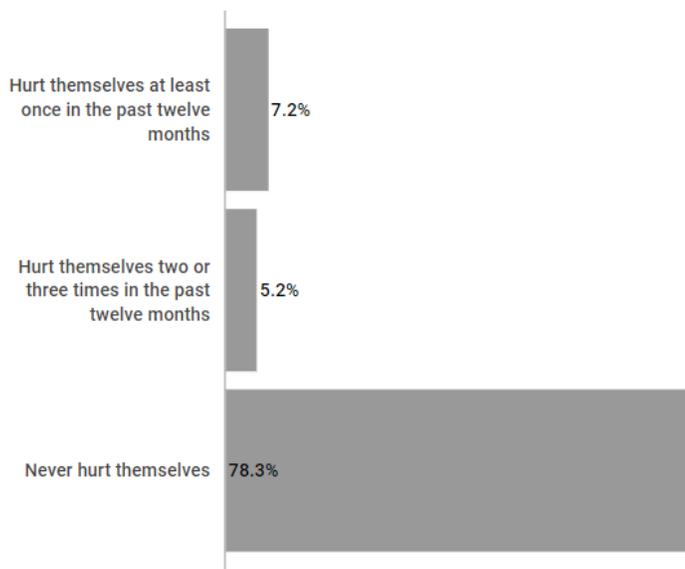
In 2018, **15.6%** of Forest County high school students reported that they seriously considered attempting suicide, **10.3%** of students said that they had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide, and **7.8%** students reported that they attempted suicide at least once in the past 12 months.

1. CDC. Mental Health. <https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/learn/index.htm> [accessed 2018 SEP 18]

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

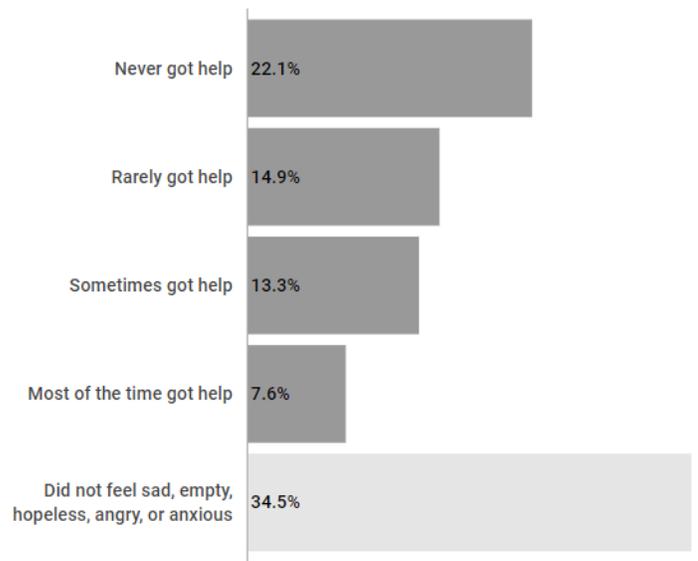
## Self harm

12.4% of Forest County high school students reported that during the past 12 months, they purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves.



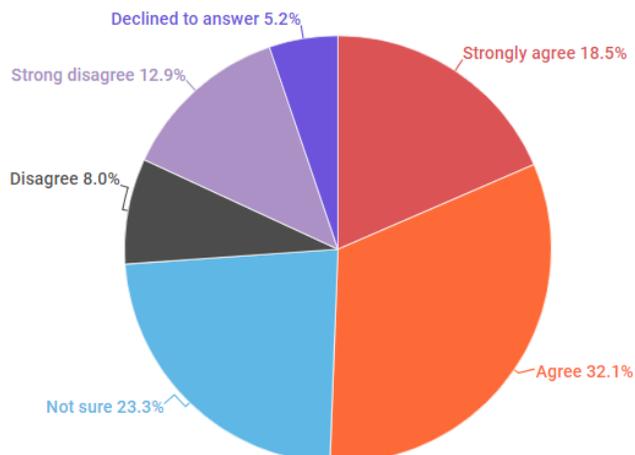
## Getting Youth the help they need

37% of Forest County high school students that reported feeling sad, empty, hopeless, angry, or anxious said they NEVER or RARELY got the kind of help they needed.



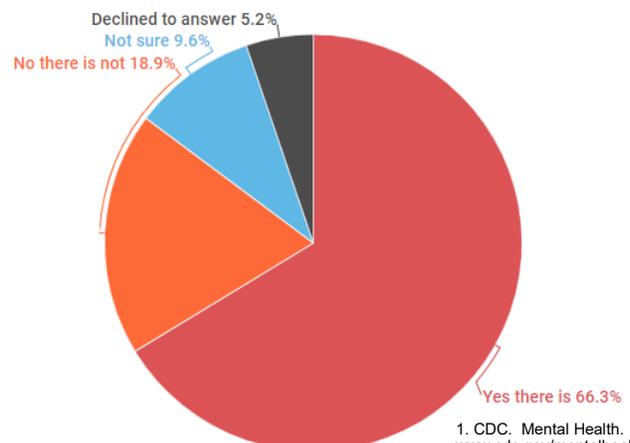
## A sense of belonging

50.6% of Forest County high school students either strongly agree or agree that they feel like they belong at their school.



## A person to trust

66.3% of Forest County high school students reported that there was at least one teacher or other adult in their school that they could talk to if they had a problem



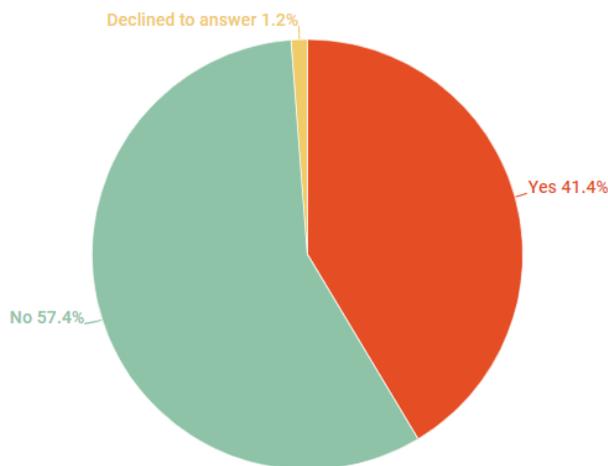
# YOUTH HEALTH

## Tobacco Use

Youth use of tobacco products in any form is unsafe, irrespective of whether it is smoked, smokeless, or electronic. If cigarette smoking continues at the current rate among youth in this country, 5.6 million of today's Americans younger than 18 will die early from a smoking-related illness. That's about 1 of every 13 Americans aged 17 years or younger alive today. <sup>1</sup>

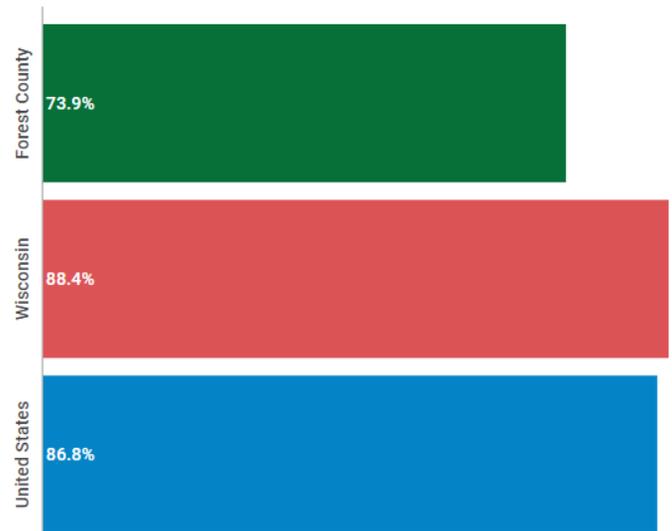
### Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?

57.4% of Forest County high school students reported "No" they have tried cigarette smoking.



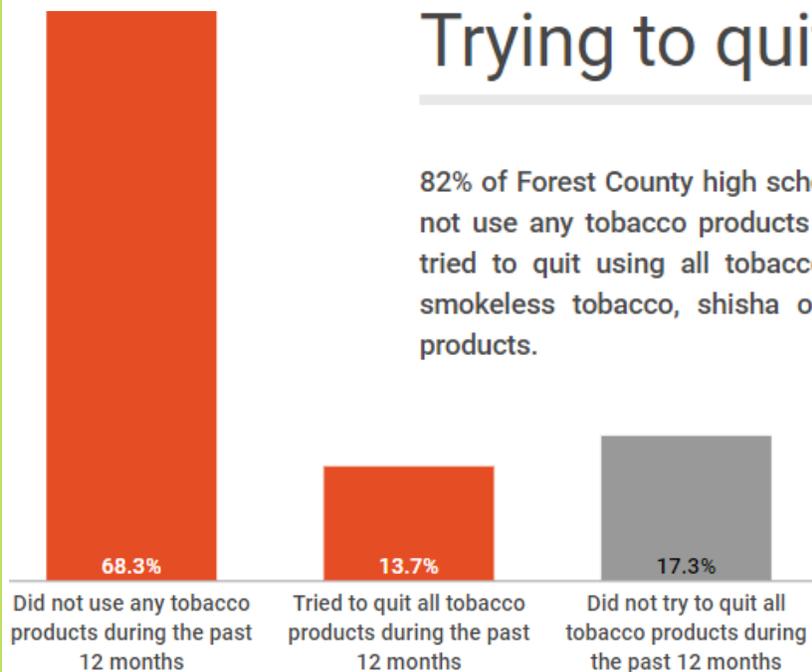
### Vaping

Almost 3 out of 4 Forest County high school students reported that they have not used a vaping product during the past 30 days before they survey. This number is slightly less than Wisconsin and U.S. students who reported the same.



### Trying to quit

82% of Forest County high school students reported that they either did not use any tobacco products during the past 12 months or that they tried to quit using all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, shisha or hooka tobacco, and electronic vapor products.



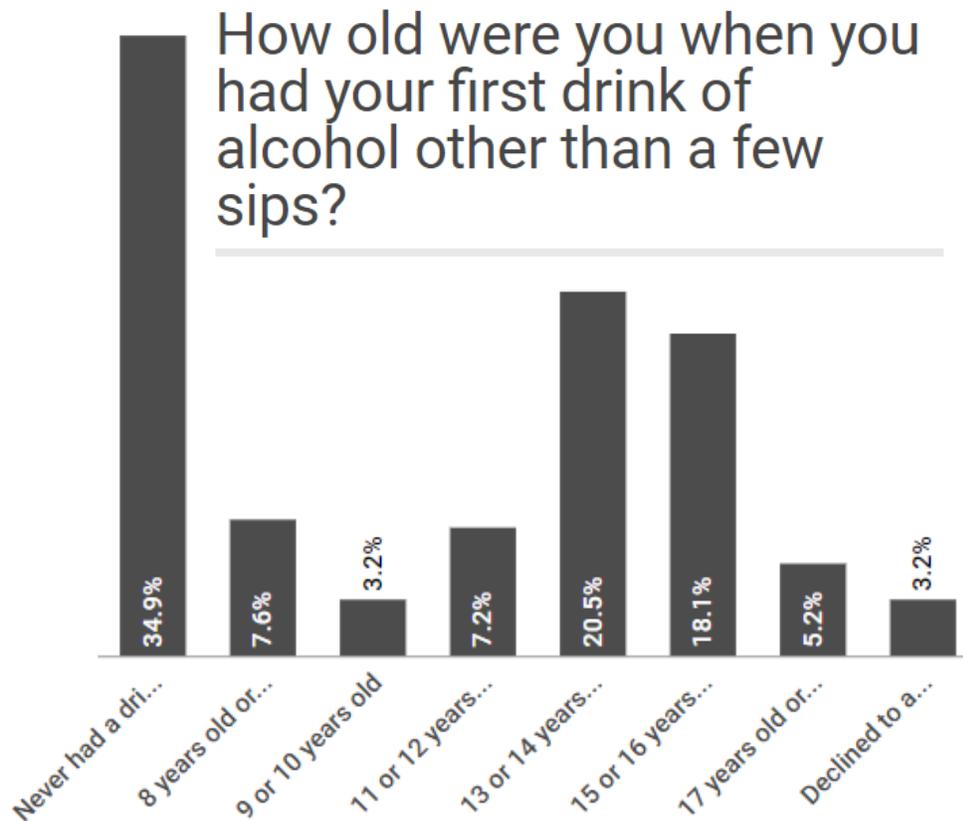
1. CDC. Youth Tobacco Prevention. [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/youth/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/youth/index.htm) [accessed 2018 SEP 18]

## Alcohol Use

# YOUTH HEALTH

Alcohol is the most widely used substance of abuse among America's youth and young adults, and drinking by young people poses enormous health and safety risks.

Youth that drink alcohol may not realize that underage drinking can increase their risk for injuries, sexual assaults, and even deaths from car crashes, suicide and homicide. In addition, underage drinking can affect normal adolescent brain development. <sup>1</sup>

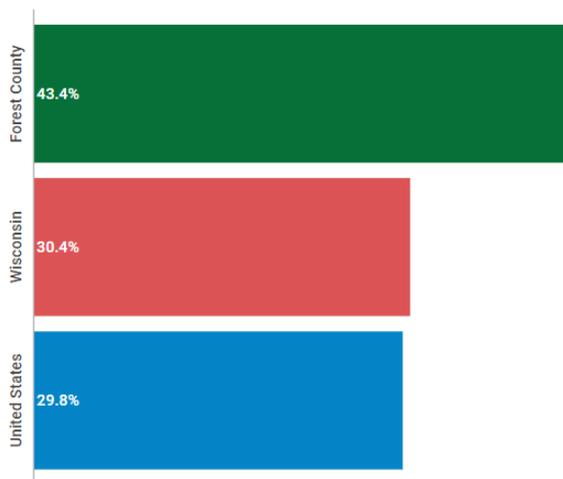


18% of Forest County high school students reported that they had their first drink before the age of 13.

Between the ages of 13 and 14 the percentage of youth who have their first drink rises from 18% to 20.5%

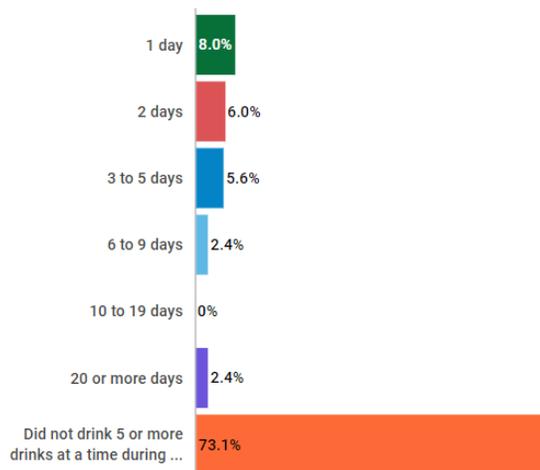
## Currently drink alcohol

43.4% of Forest County high school students reported that they had at least one drink of alcohol during the past 30 days. This number is higher than the Wisconsin and U.S. students that reported the same.



## Binge Drinking

10.4% of Forest county high school students reported drinking 5 or more drinks of alcohol within a couple of hours, for at least 3 or more days during the past 30 days

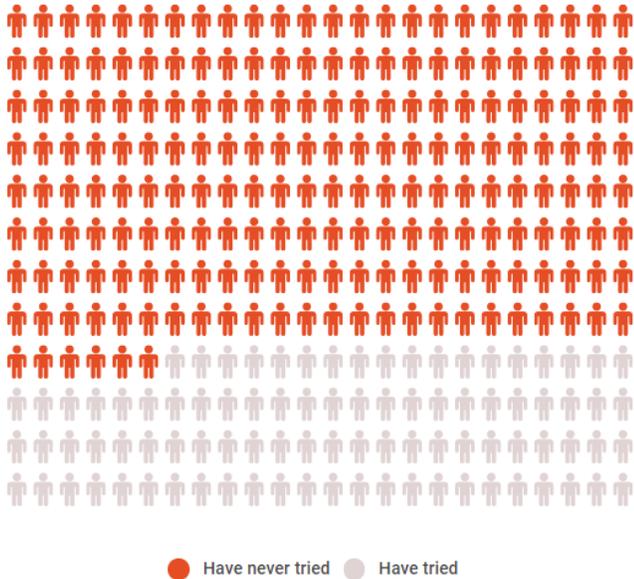


1. DEA. Growing up Drug-Free : a parent's guide to prevention 2017. [accessed 2018 SEP 18]

The teen years are a time of rapid growth, exploration, and onset of risk taking. Taking risks with new behaviors provides kids and teens the opportunity to test their skills and abilities and discover who they are. But, some risk behaviors—such as using marijuana—can have harmful and long-lasting effects on a teen’s health and well-being. <sup>1</sup>

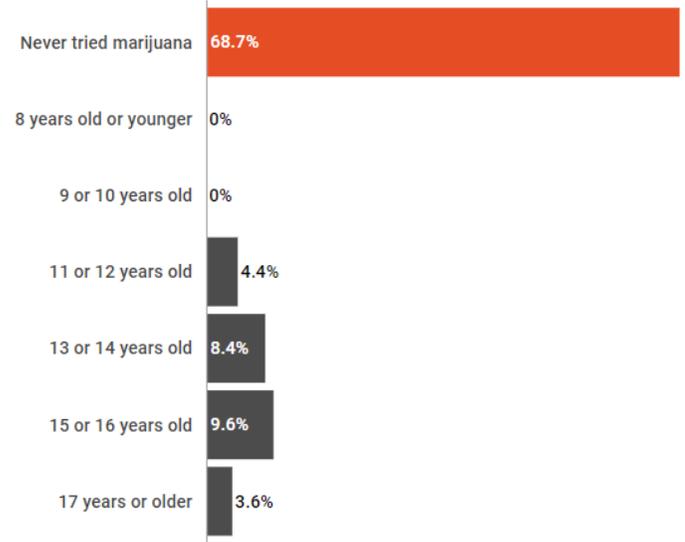
## Students who have never tried marijuana

68.7% of Forest County high school students reported that they have never tried marijuana.



## How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?

4.4% of Forest County high school students reported trying marijuana before the age of 13. That number increases to 8.4% between 13 and 14 years of age.



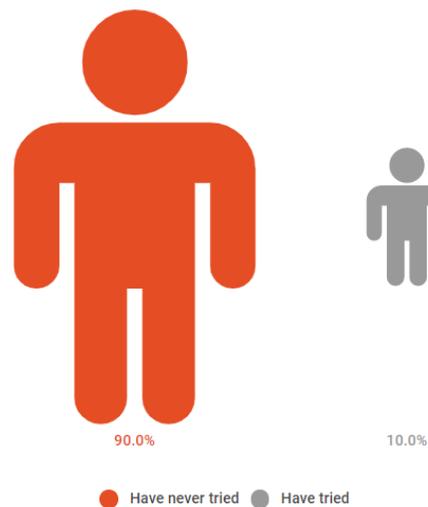
## Students who have never tried heroin

96% of Forest County high school students reported that they have never tried heroin



## Students who have never misused prescription pain medication

90% of Forest County high school students reported that they have never taken a prescription pain medication without a doctor’s prescription

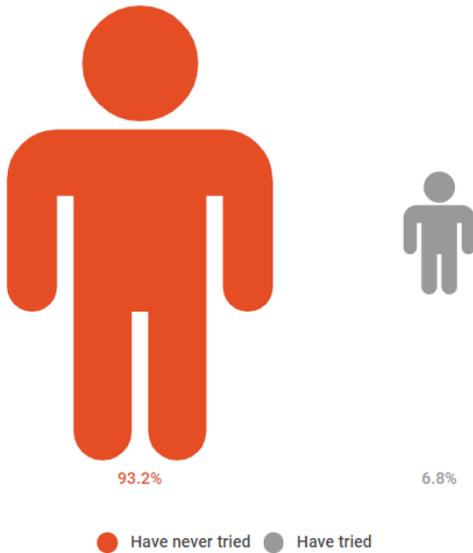


1. CDC. Marijuana and Public Health. <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/factsheets/teens.htm> [accessed 2018 SEP 19]

The teen years are a time of rapid growth, exploration, and onset of risk taking. Taking risks with new behaviors provides kids and teens the opportunity to test their skills and abilities and discover who they are. But, some risk behaviors—such as using marijuana—can have harmful and long-lasting effects on a teen’s health and well-being. <sup>1</sup>

## Students who have never tried to inhalants

93.2% of Forest County high school students reported that they have never tried inhalants



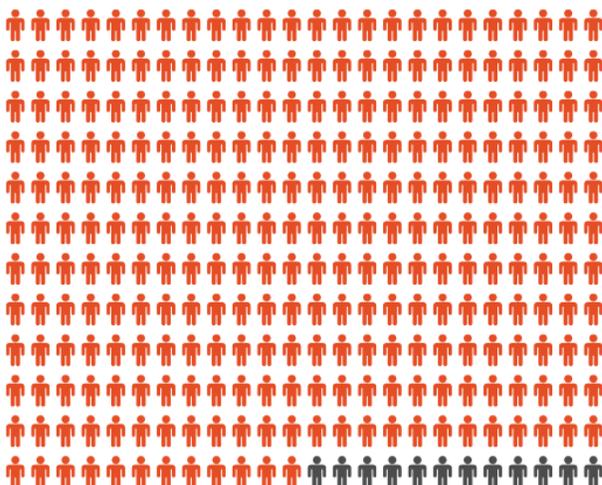
## Students who have never used an over-the-counter drug to get high

93.2% of Forest County high school students reported that they have never used an over-the-counter drug to get high



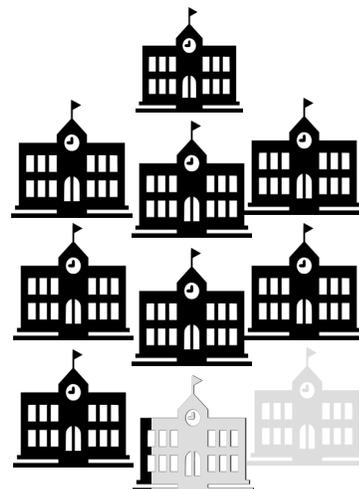
## Students who reported not using methamphetamines during the past 30 days

96.0% of Forest county high school students reported not using methamphetamines (also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice) during the past 30 days before the survey



## Students who reported being offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property

91.6% of Forest county high school students reported that during the 12 months before the survey they were not offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property

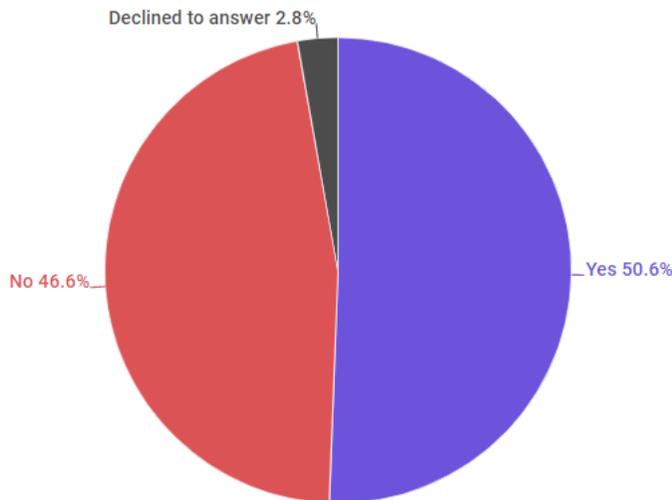


1. CDC. Marijuana and Public Health. <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/factsheets/teens.htm> [accessed 2018 SEP 19]

Many young people engage in sexual risk behaviors and experiences that can result in unintended health outcomes. To reduce sexual risk behaviors and related health problems among youth, schools and other youth-serving organizations can help young people adopt lifelong attitudes and behaviors that support their health and well-being. <sup>1</sup>

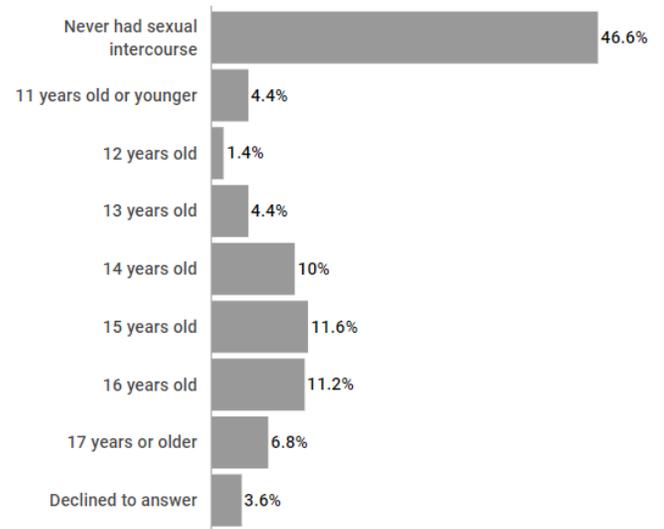
## Students that reported having sexual intercourse

50.6% of Forest County high school students responded 'Yes' to the question "have you ever had sexual intercourse?"



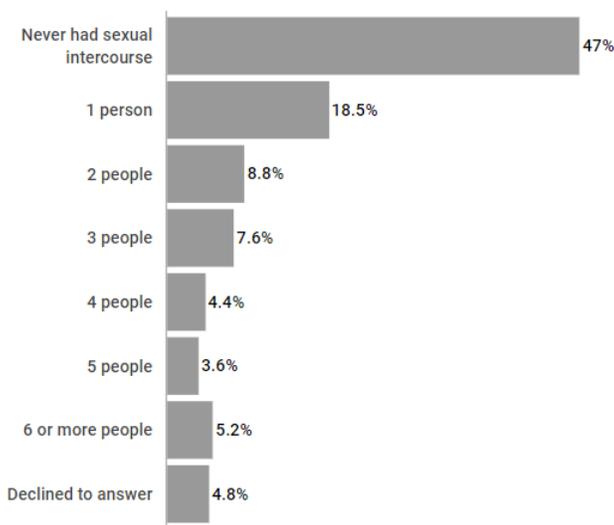
## Students age when they had sexual intercourse for the first time.

10.2% of Forest County high school students reported having intercourse at age 13 or younger.



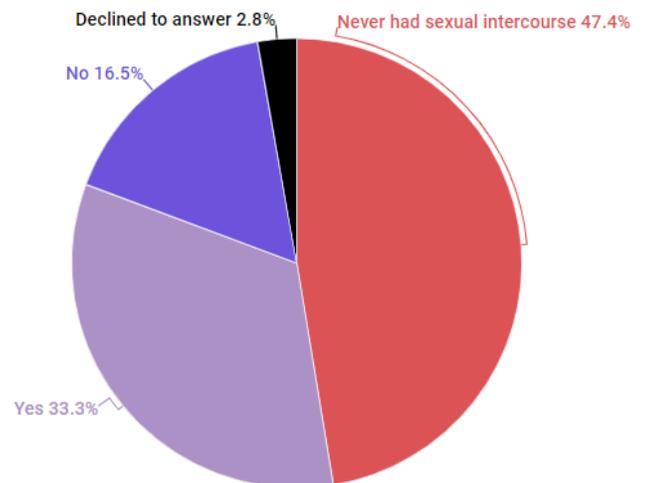
## Sexual partners

29.6% of Forest County high school students reported having sexual intercourse with two or more partners during their lifetime



## Condom use

33.3% of Forest County high school students that the last time they had sexual intercourse they used a condom.



**Working together, we can help children in rural communities thrive**

**When children grow up in a safe and nurturing home environment, have opportunities to learn, and time to interact and build relationships with other children, they are more likely to reach their full potential. This is especially true for children with mental, behavioral, and developmental disorders.**

## **Local Contact Information**

### **Forest County Health Department**

200 E. Madison Avenue  
Crandon, WI 54520  
715.478.3371

### **Forest County Social Services**

200 E. Madison Avenue  
Crandon, WI 54520  
715.478.3351

### **Human Service Center of Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties**

705 E. Timber Drive  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
715.369.2215

### **Forest County Law Enforcement**

100 S. Park Avenue  
Crandon, WI 54520  
715.478.3331  
or dial 9-1-1 if emergency

### **Forest County UW-Extension**

200 E. Madison Avenue  
Crandon, WI 54520  
715.478.7797

### **School District of Crandon**

9750 UW Hwy 8 West  
Crandon, WI 54520  
715.478.3339

### **School District of Laona**

5216 Forest Avenue  
Laona, WI 54541  
715-674-2143

### **School District of Wabeno Area**

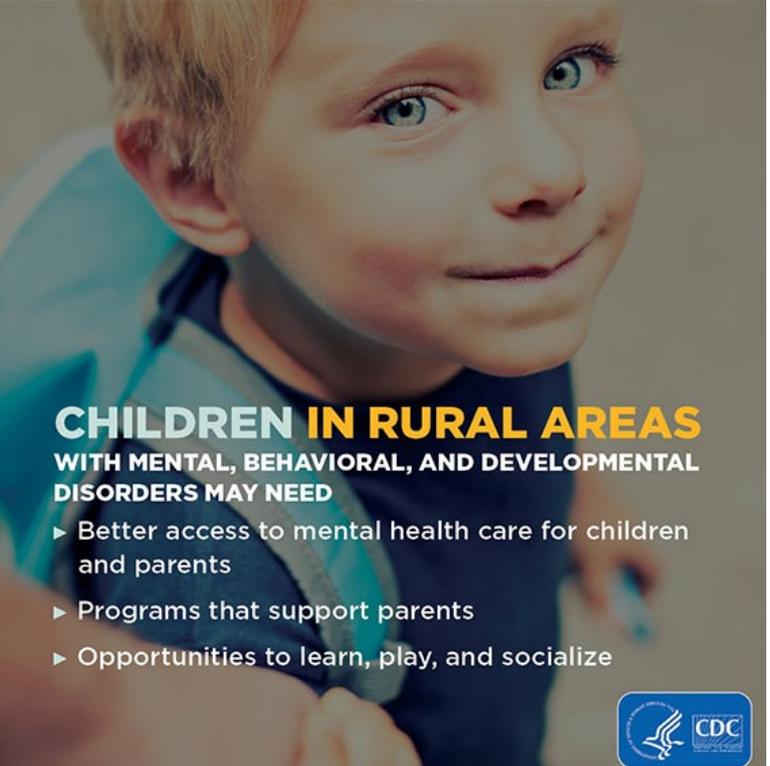
4346 Mill Drive  
Wabeno, WI 54566  
715-473-2592

### **Forest County Potawatomi Education Department**

5416 Everybody's Road  
Crandon, WI 54520  
715-478-7355

### **Sokaogon Chippewa Community Education Department**

3051 Sand Lake Road  
Crandon, WI 54520  
715-478-3830



**CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS**  
WITH MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISORDERS MAY NEED

- ▶ Better access to mental health care for children and parents
- ▶ Programs that support parents
- ▶ Opportunities to learn, play, and socialize

