

Project Connect Student Survey Results

GRADES 6, 9 AND 12



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Survey background

Surveys of students in grades 6, 9, and 12 in Gallatin, Hamilton, Saline and White Counties conducted at five points in time:

- In 2009, at the end of the Southeastern Illinois Safe Schools/Healthy Students project, in preparation for the Egyptian Health Department Systems of Care grant application.
- In 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 as a part of the evaluation of the System of Care, known as Project Connect.
- Hamilton County became a part of the System of Care in 2018, and its students were surveyed only in 2018 and 2021

Since 2012 the focus of surveys has been student mental health.

- Some questions will only have four time points

Survey background

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact

- In 2009 through 2018, the survey was fielded as a paper survey, administered in classrooms by evaluation staff. Due to the pandemic, this was not possible in 2021. The survey was fielded electronically via SurveyMonkey and administered by school personnel. Schools in the region are experienced and comfortable with electronic surveying, and there were no issues with the process itself.
- Most students in the region were attending school in person at the time of the survey. However, the survey was also made available to students engaged in remote learning.
- 2021 findings reflect pandemic effects and changes should be interpreted with caution.

Definitions

- Cut School—Students were asked “During the past 30 days, how many whole days of school have you missed because you skipped or ‘cut’?”
- Cut Class—Students were asked “During the past 30 days, how often have you gone to school but skipped or ‘cut’ class?”
- Bullying Score—Students were asked to report how many times certain incidents happened to them during the past week including: been teased, beat up, made fun of, encouraged to fight, pushed/shoved, asked to fight, hit/slapped/kicked, called bad names, threatened to hurt/hit, tried to have feelings hurt, had things broken/stolen, been yelled at or been insulted because student is different. Score was calculated by summing responses with 1 time=1 and 2 or more times=2 for a minimum score of 0 and maximum of 26.
- Perpetration of Bullying Score—Students were asked to report how many times they had done certain activities during the past week including: hitting someone for no reason, being mean to someone, yelling at someone or trying to hurt someone’s feelings. Score was calculated by summing responses with 1 time=1 and 2 or more times=2 for a minimum score of 0 and maximum of 8.

Definitions, continued

- Depressive Feelings Score—Students were asked to report how often they felt certain emotions during the past 30 days including: having a low energy level, showing little interest in pleasurable activities, being depressed/sad for most of the day and having little confidence. Scores were calculated by summing responses as follows: Never=0, Sometimes=1, Often=3 and Very Often=4 with a minimum score of 0 and a maximum of 16.
- Anxious Feelings Score—Students were asked to report how often they felt certain emotions during the past 30 days including: feeling restless/edgy, having difficulty controlling worries, being irritable most of the day, and being tense/unable to relax. Scores were calculated by summing responses as follows: Never=0, Sometimes=1, Often=3 and Very Often=4 with a minimum score of 0 and a maximum of 16.

Who responded to the survey?



Project Connect 2021 Student Survey (N=1170)

| Demographic Characteristics | | |
|--|------|-----|
| School District | | |
| Carmi-White County | 238 | |
| Carrier Mills-Stonefort | 80 | |
| Eldorado | 176 | |
| Gallatin County Schools | 81 | |
| Grayville | 50 | |
| Hamilton County | 161 | |
| Harrisburg | 264 | |
| Norris City-Omaha-Enfield | 120 | |
| | n | % |
| Reported grade level of respondents | | |
| 6th grade | 383 | 33% |
| 9th grade | 428 | 37% |
| 12th grade | 359 | 31% |
| Reported gender of respondents | | |
| Male | 559 | 48% |
| Female | 588 | 50% |
| Prefer to self-describe | 22 | 2% |
| Race/ethnicity | | |
| multiple response permitted | | |
| White or Caucasian | 1037 | 89% |
| Black or African American | 52 | 4% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 31 | 3% |
| Asian or Asian American | 12 | 1% |
| Native American | 71 | 6% |
| Something else | 45 | 4% |
| Reported more than one | | |
| race/ethnicity | 79 | 7% |
| Moved in the last year | 180 | 15% |



Substance Use

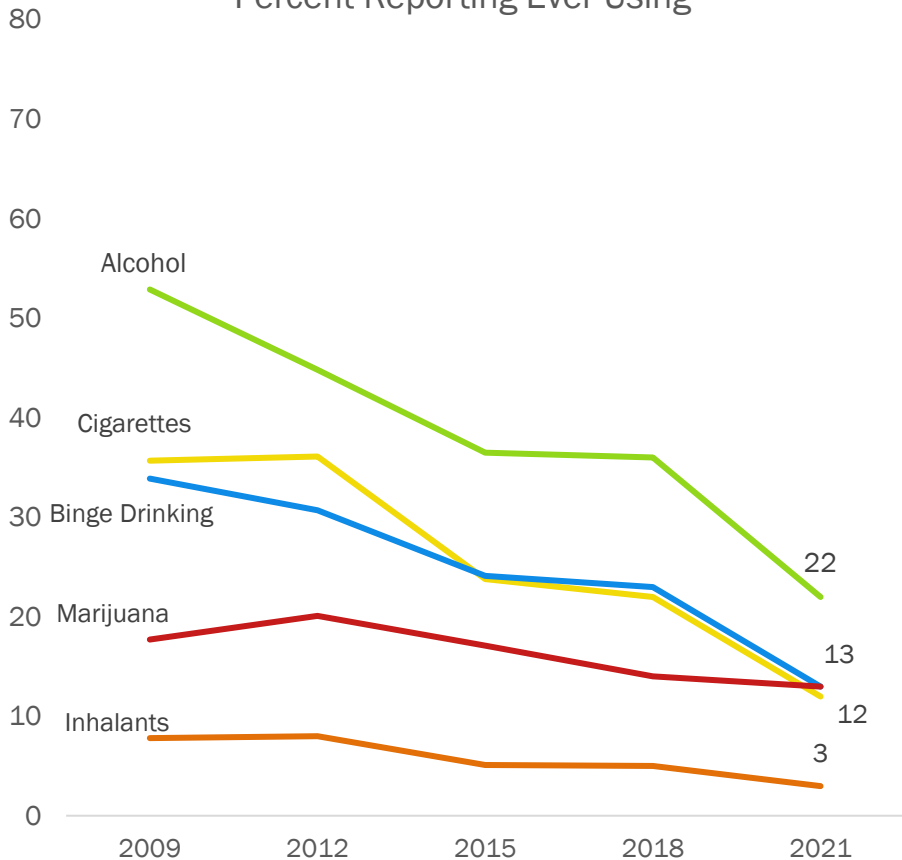


Substance use among 6th graders in the region remains low

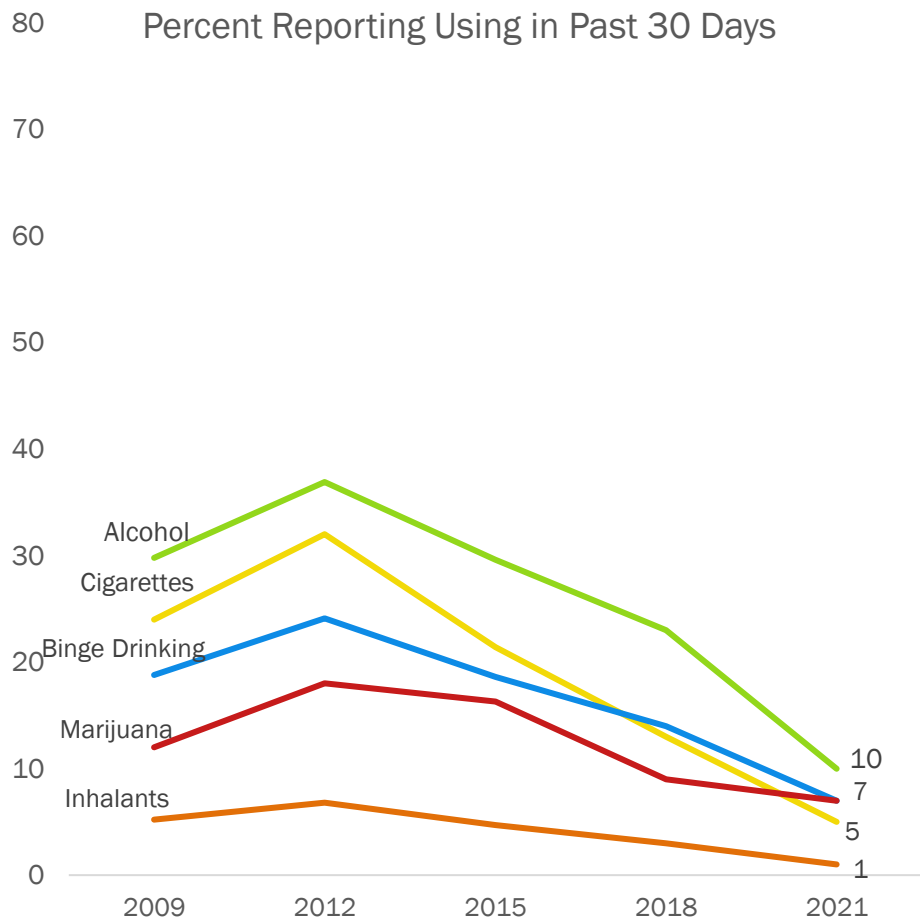
- Over the twelve years covered by the surveys, there appears to have been a reduction in alcohol use ever and in the past 30 days.
 - 13% of students in 2009 and 7% in 2021 reported ever using alcohol.
 - 8% of students in 2009 and 5% in 2021 reported using alcohol in the past 30 days.
- Reported use of cigarettes also declined.
 - Ever using cigarettes was reported by 7% of the students in 2009 and 3% in 2021.

Substance use –9th Grade

Percent Reporting Ever Using

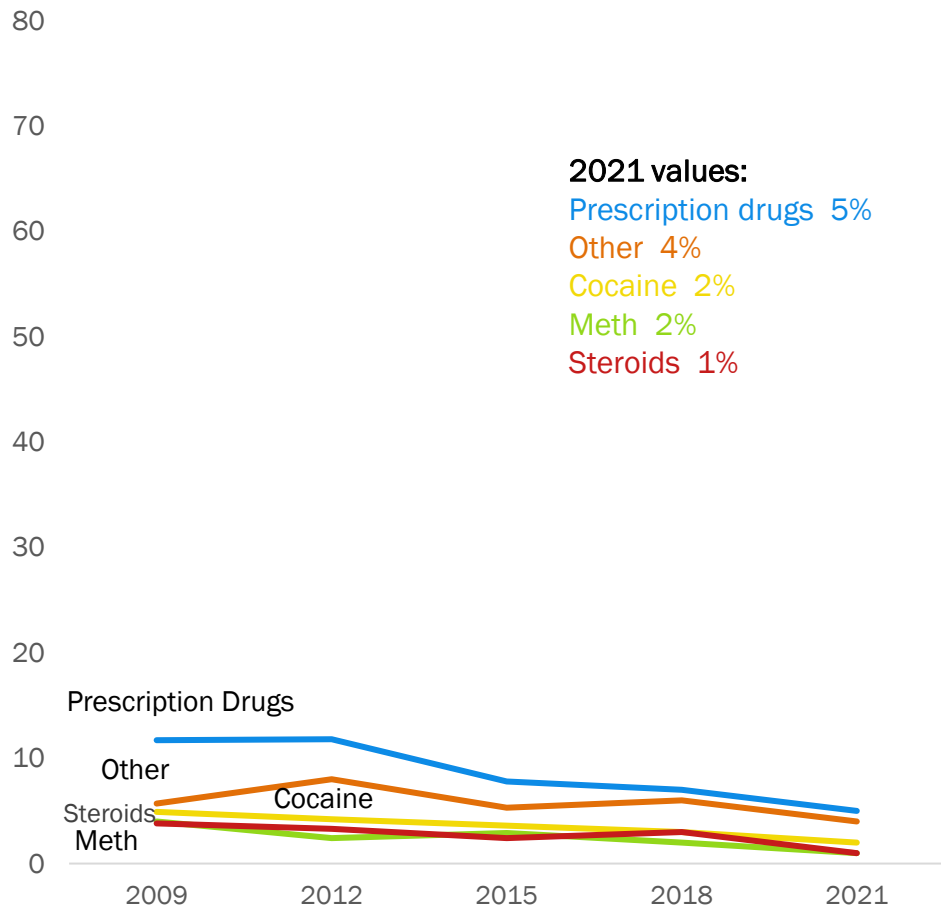


Percent Reporting Using in Past 30 Days

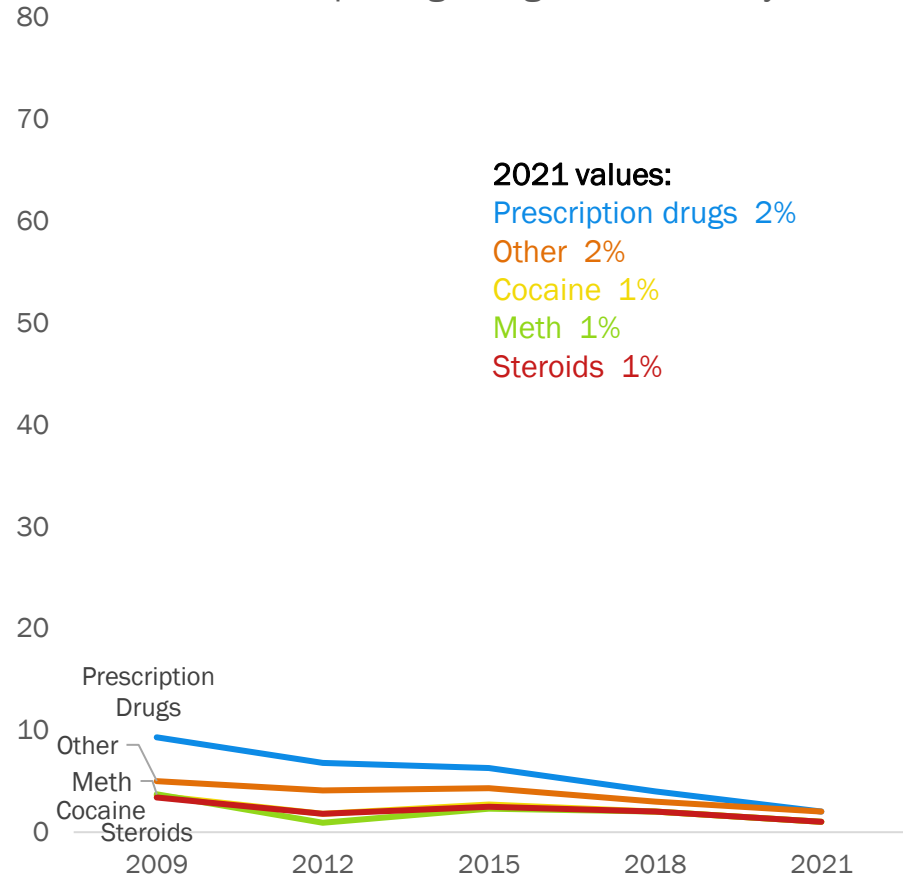


Substance use—9th grade, cont.

Percent Reporting Ever Using

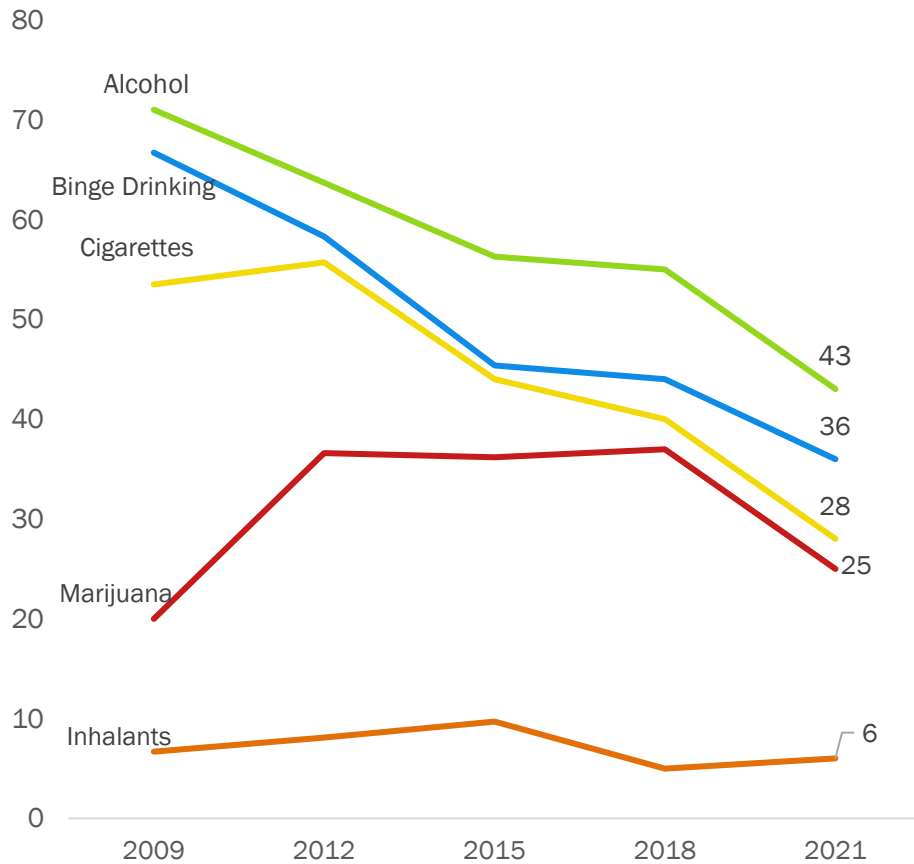


Percent Reporting Using in Past 30 Days

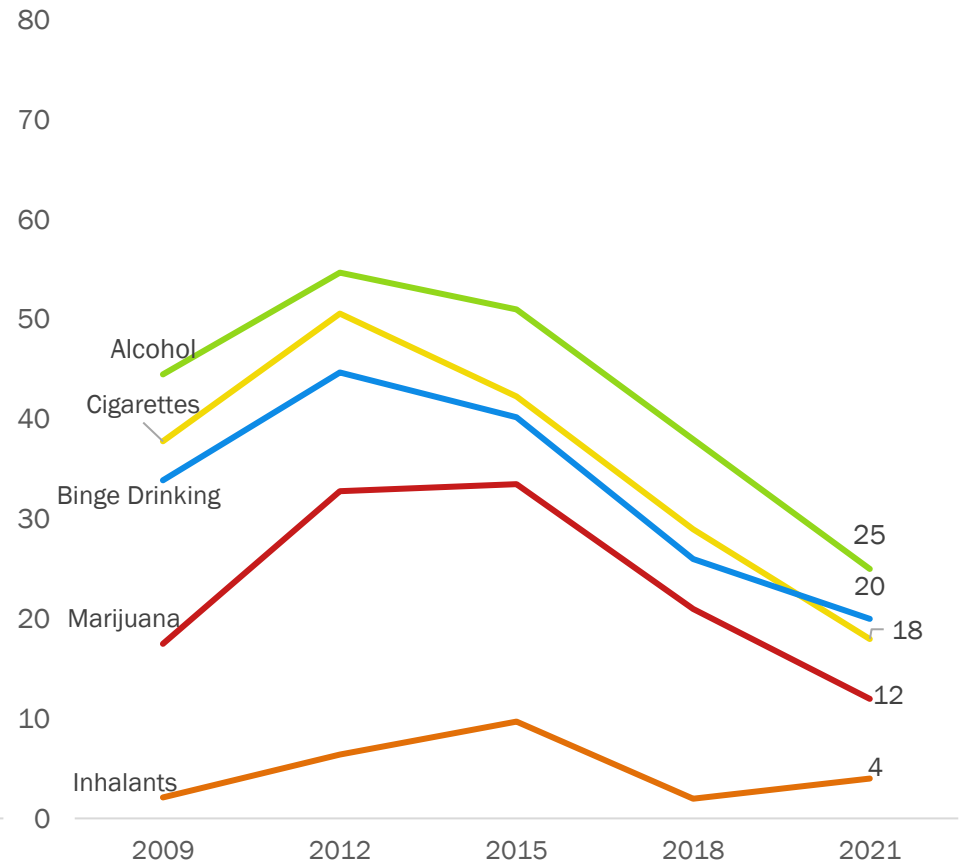


Substance Use —12th Grade

Percent Reporting Ever Using

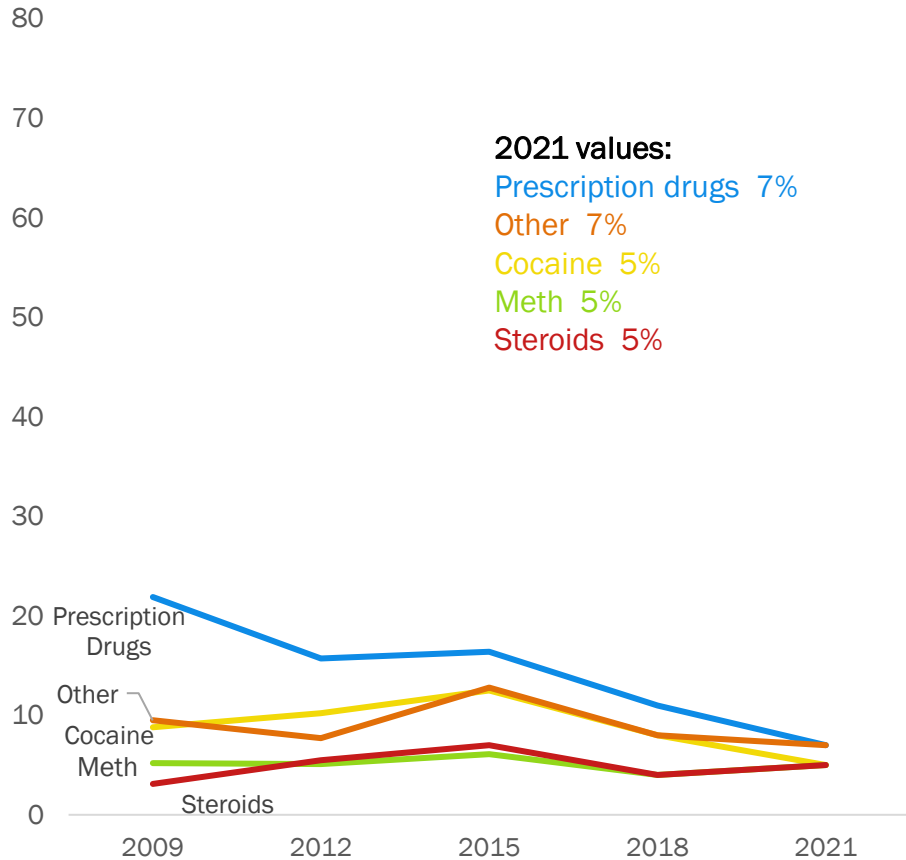


Percent Reporting Using in Past 30 Days

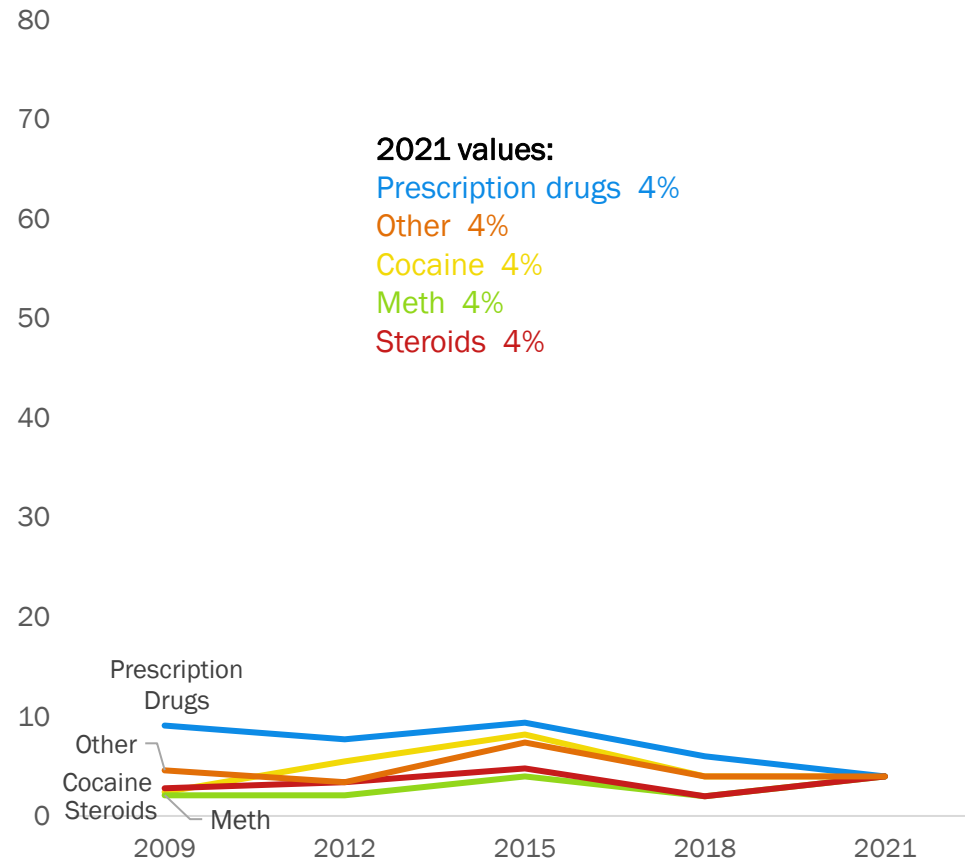


Substance use—12th grade, cont.

Percent Reporting Ever Using



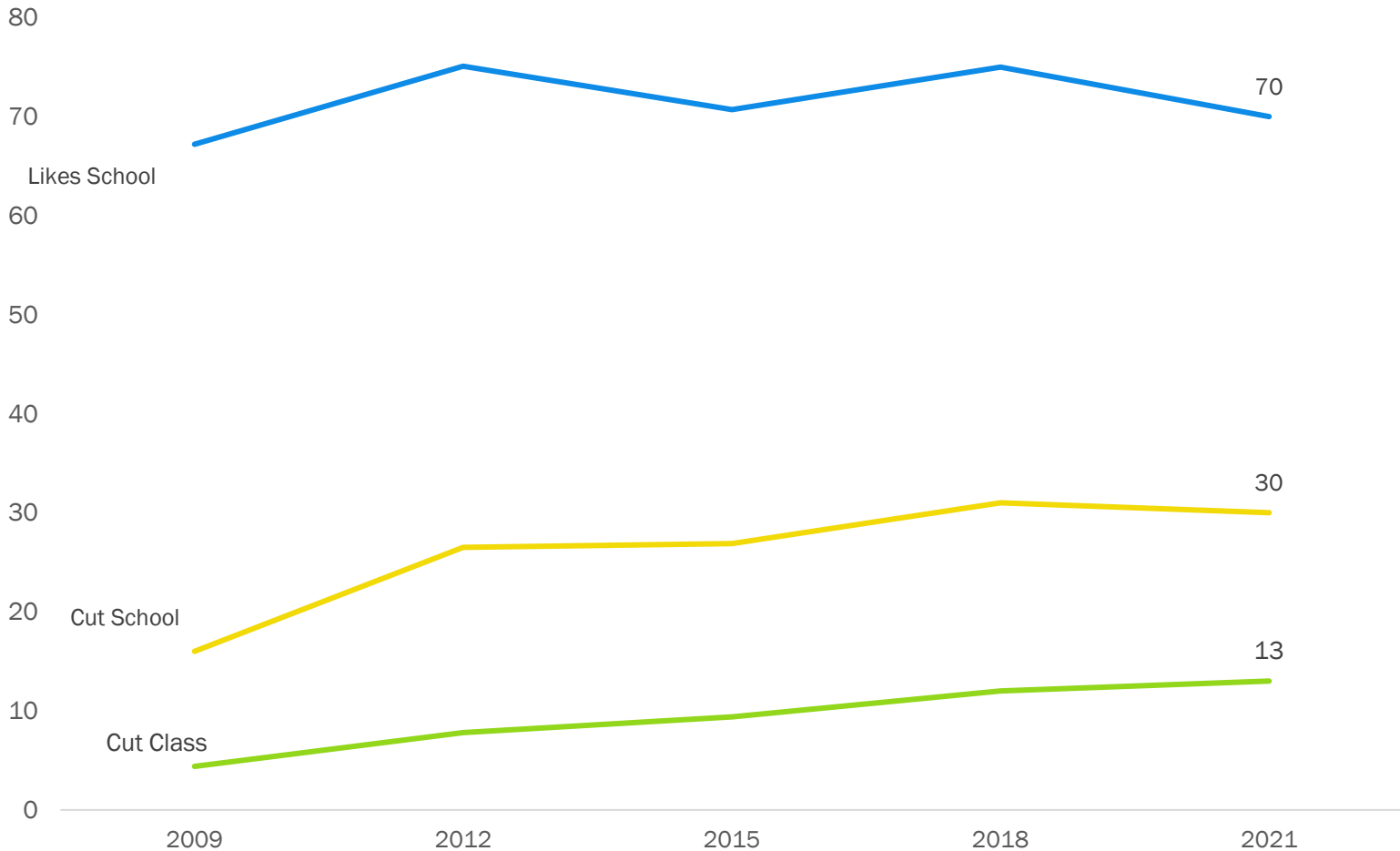
Percent Reporting Using in Past 30 Days



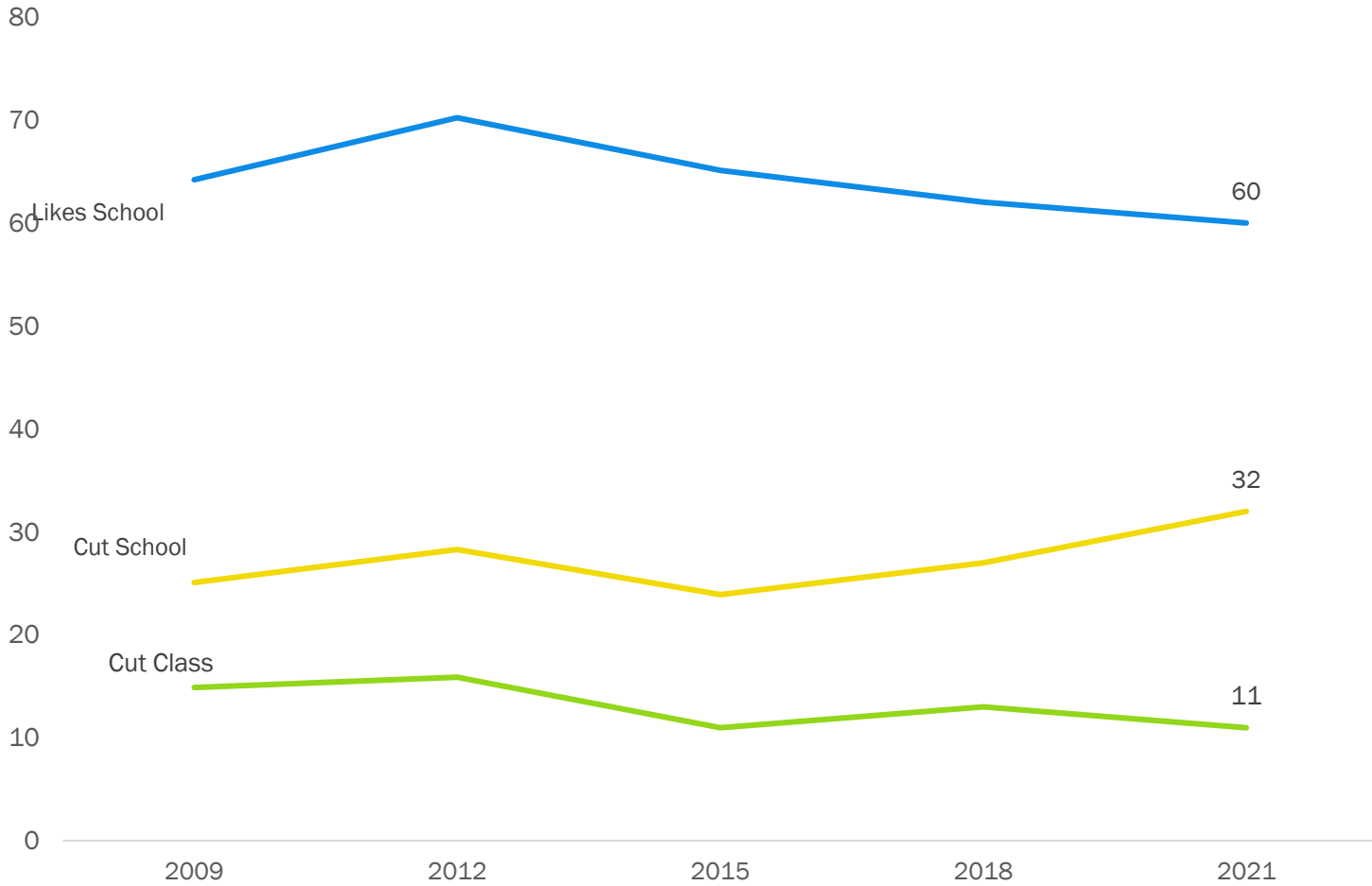
School Related



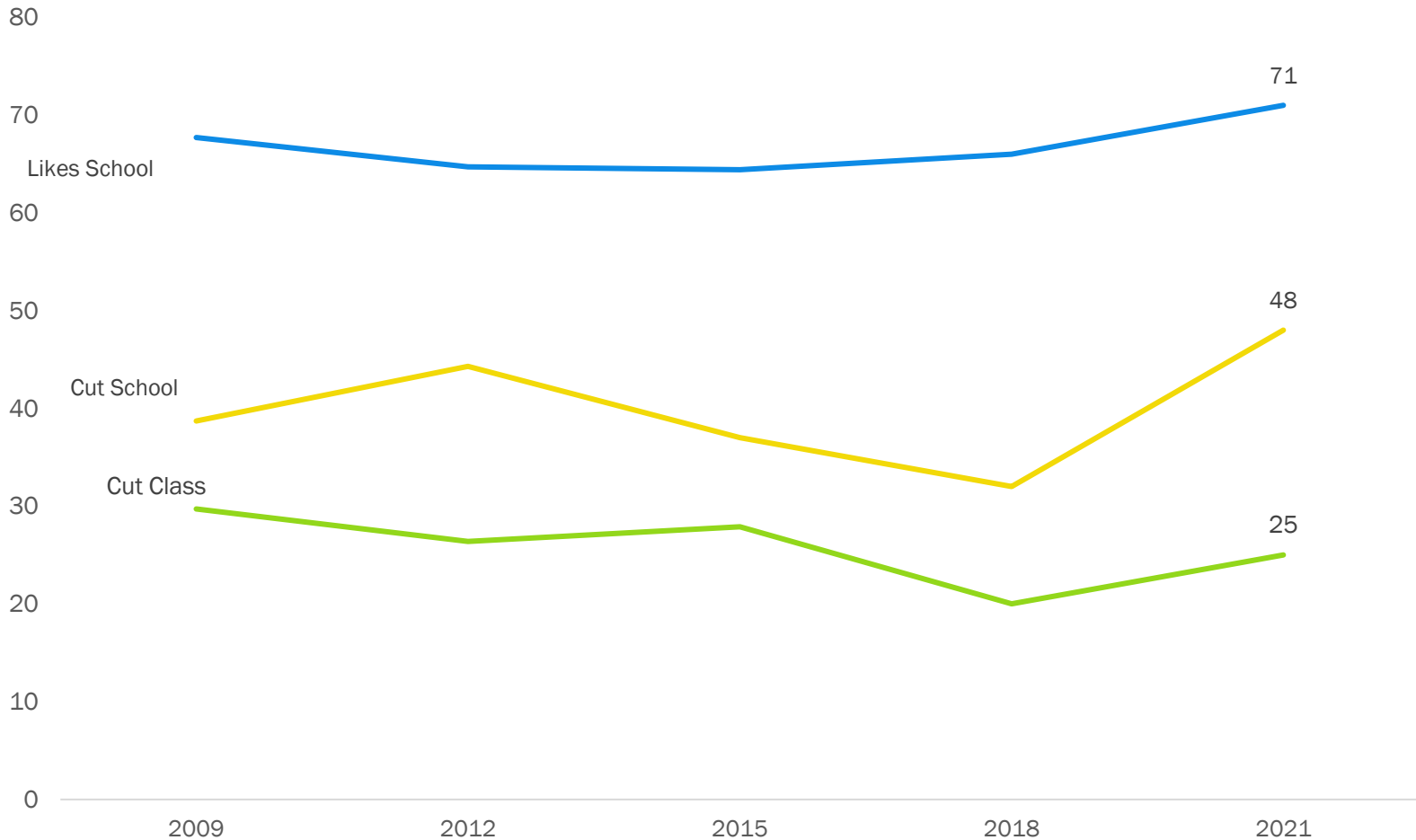
Percent of students reporting select behaviors at school-Grade 6



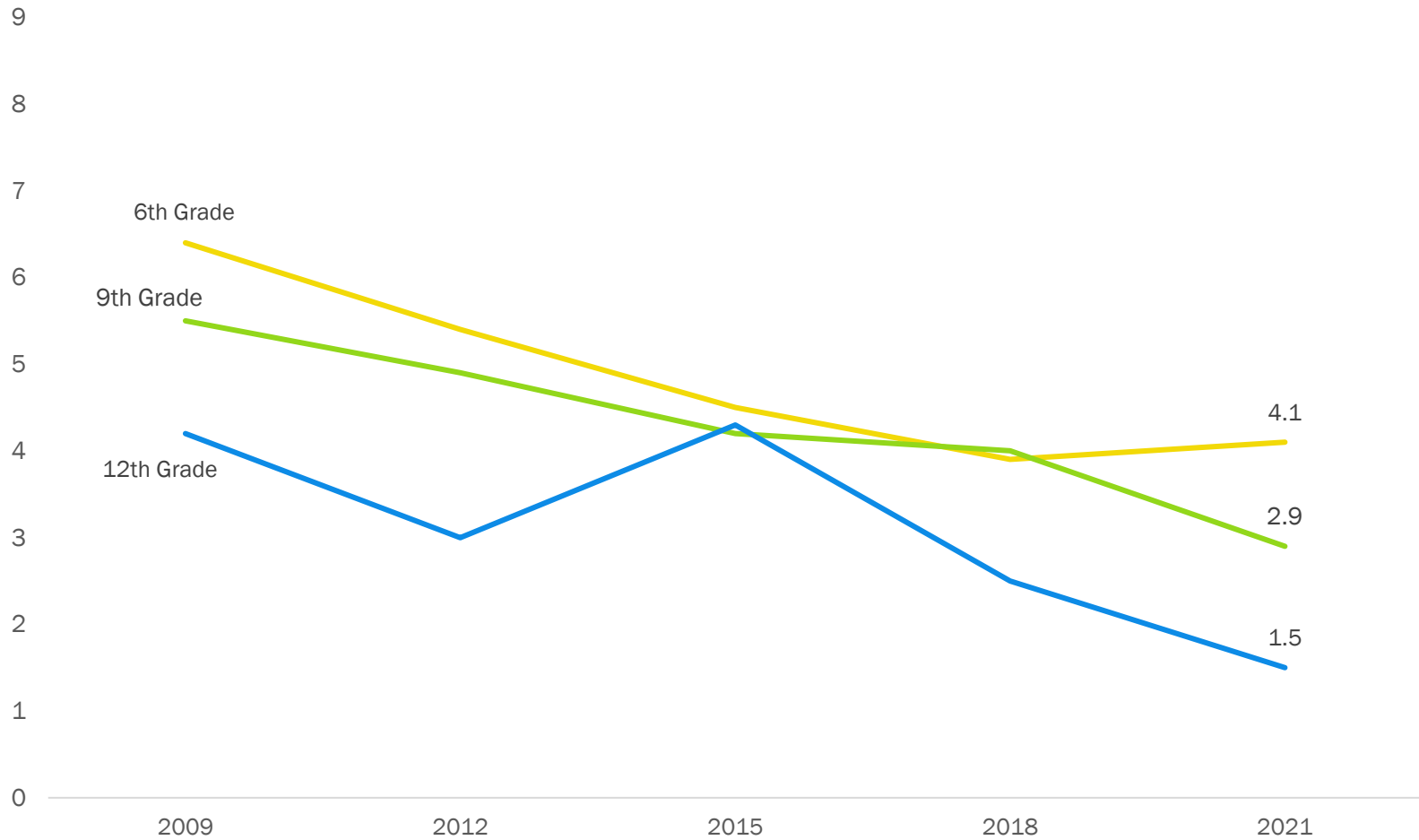
Percent of students reporting select behaviors at school-Grade 9



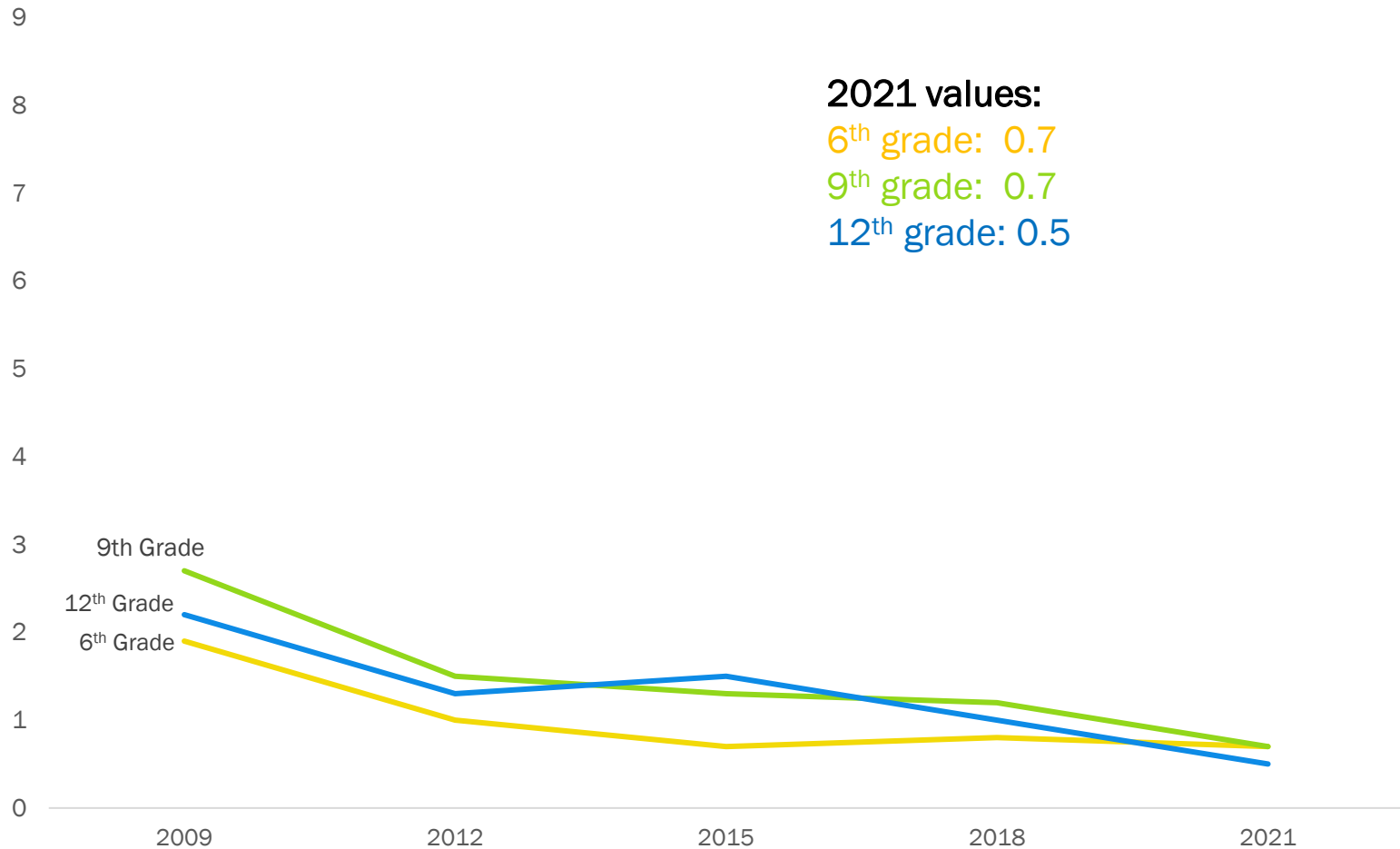
Percent of students reporting select behaviors at school-Grade 12



Bullying Score



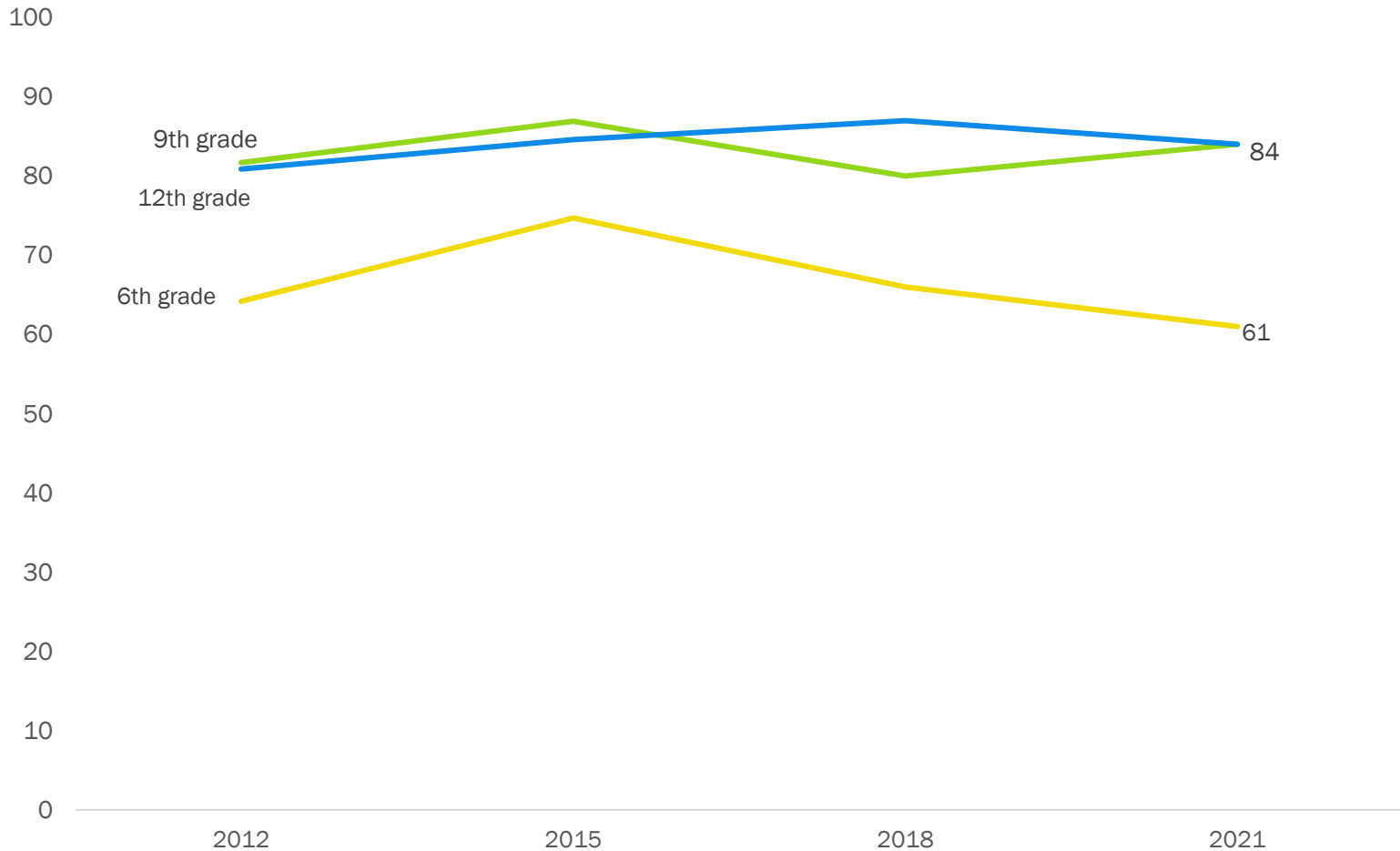
Perpetration Of bullying Mean score



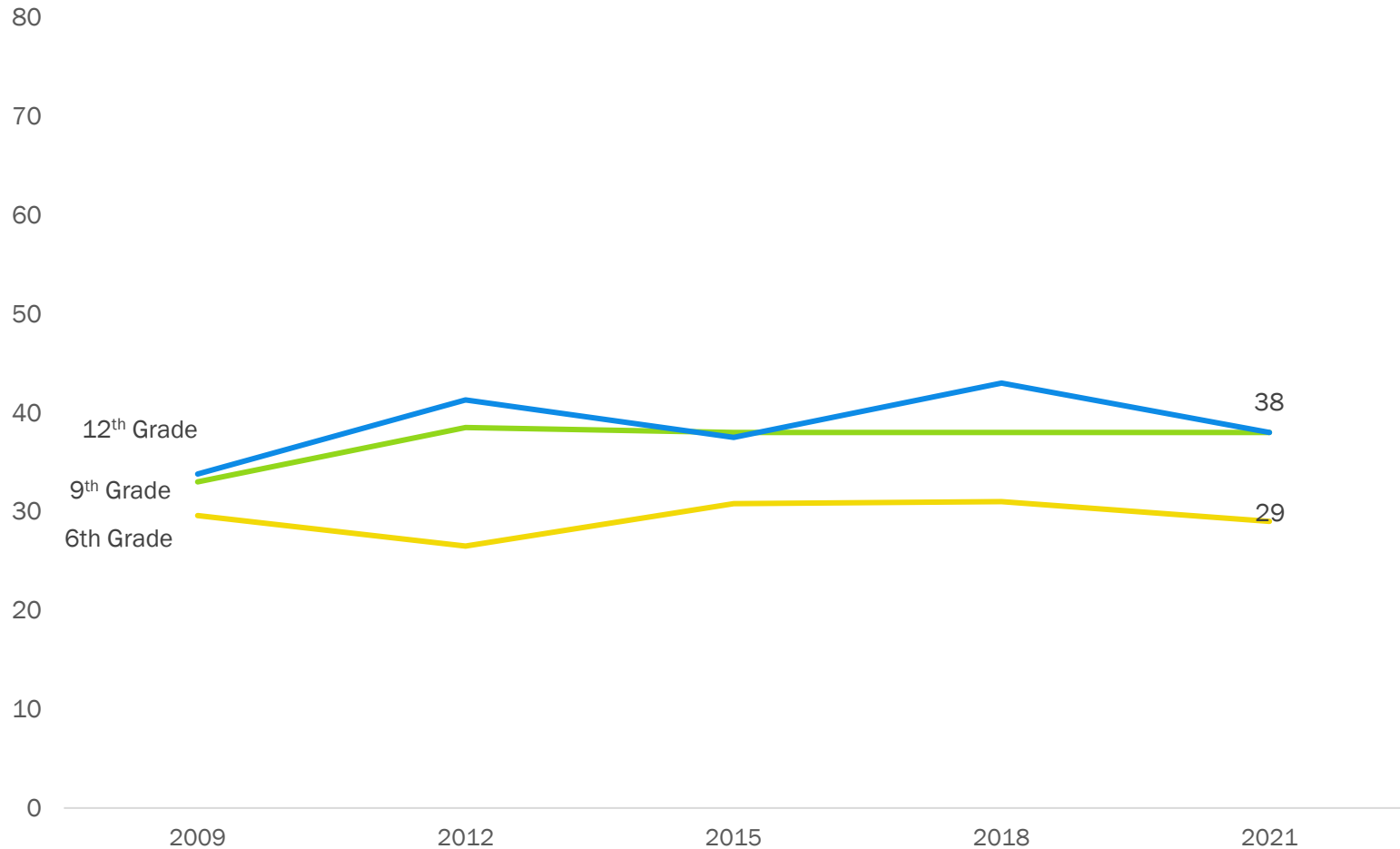
Behavioral Health



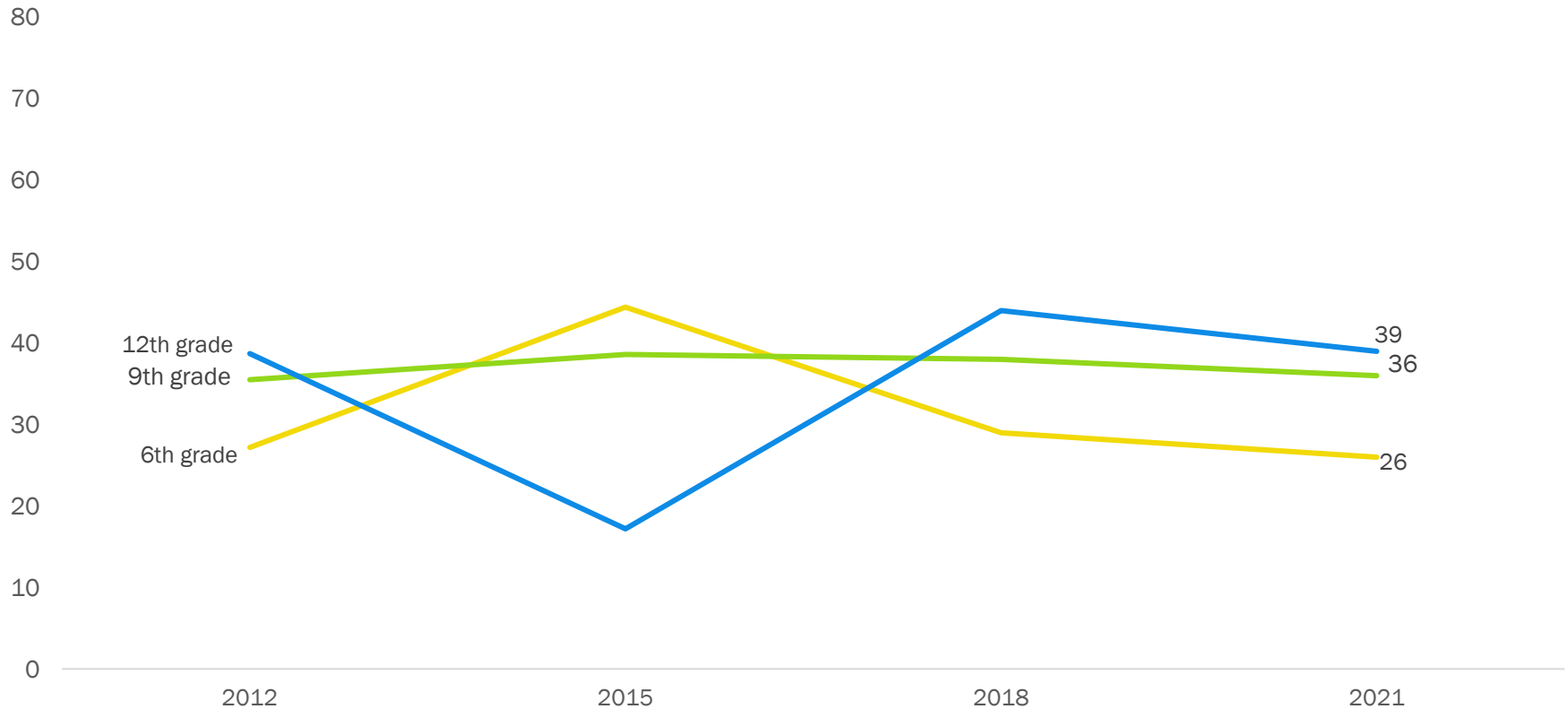
Percent Reporting Knowing someone with a mental illness



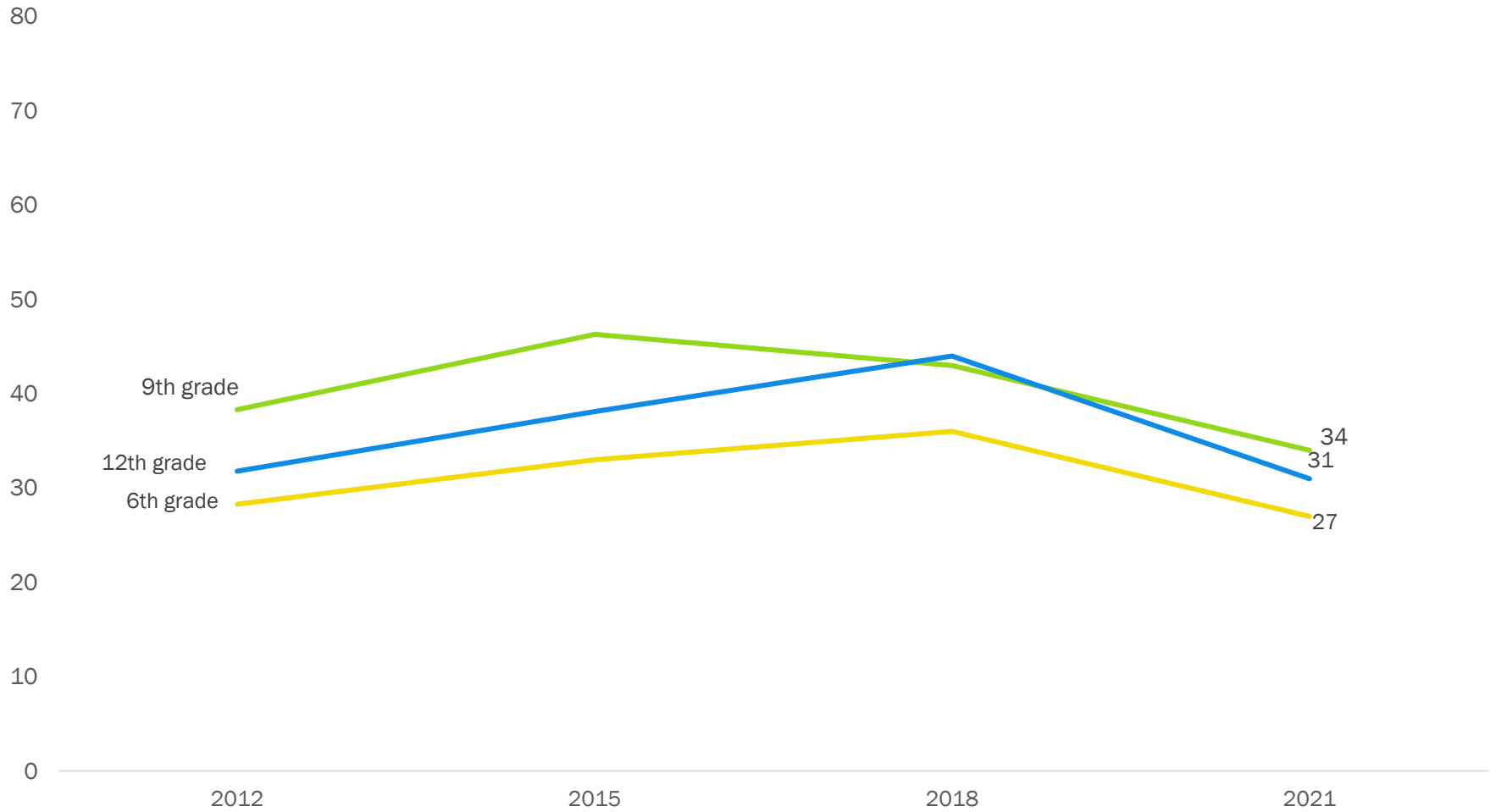
Percent Reporting Seeing a counselor at least one time



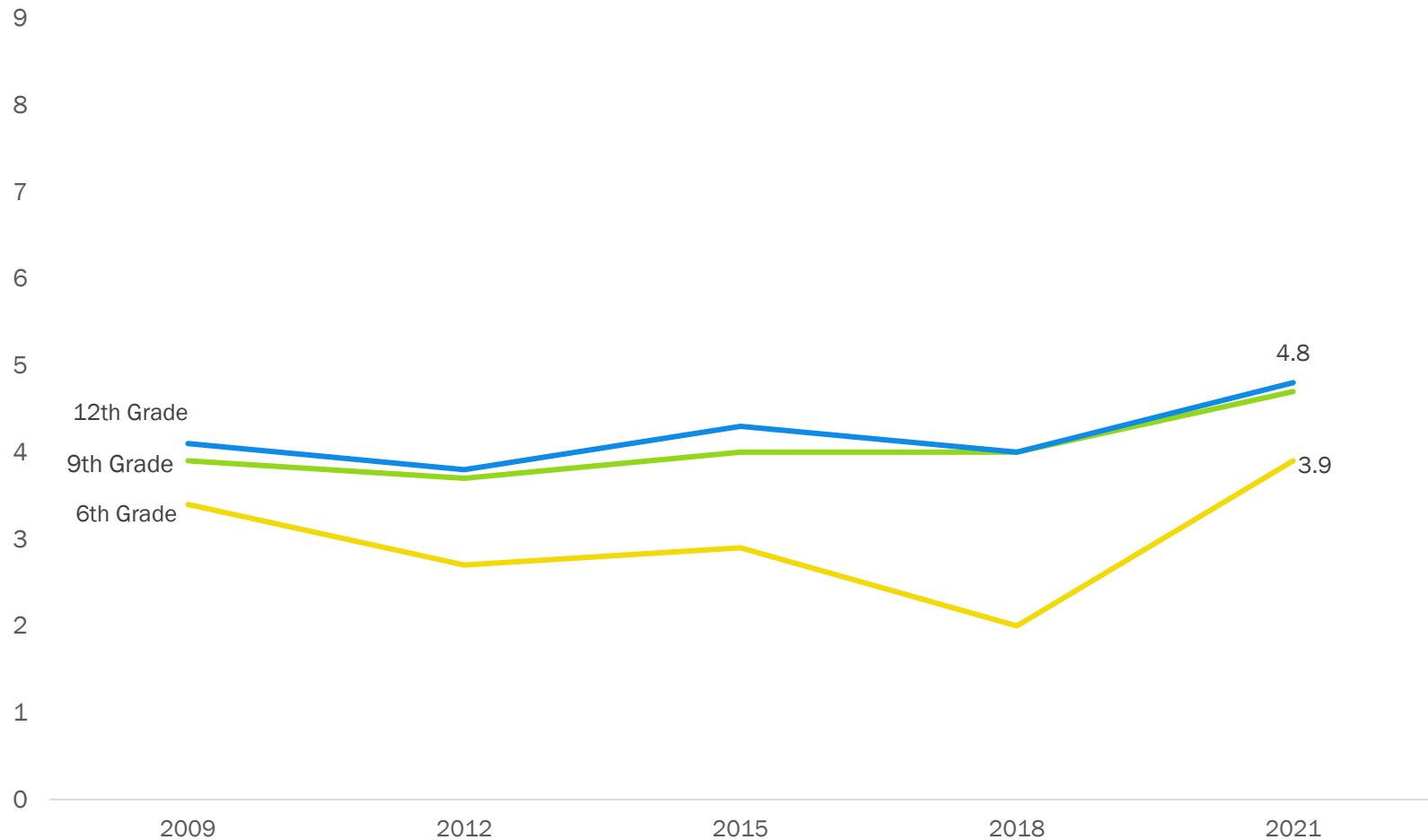
Percent Not gone to counselor when thought should have



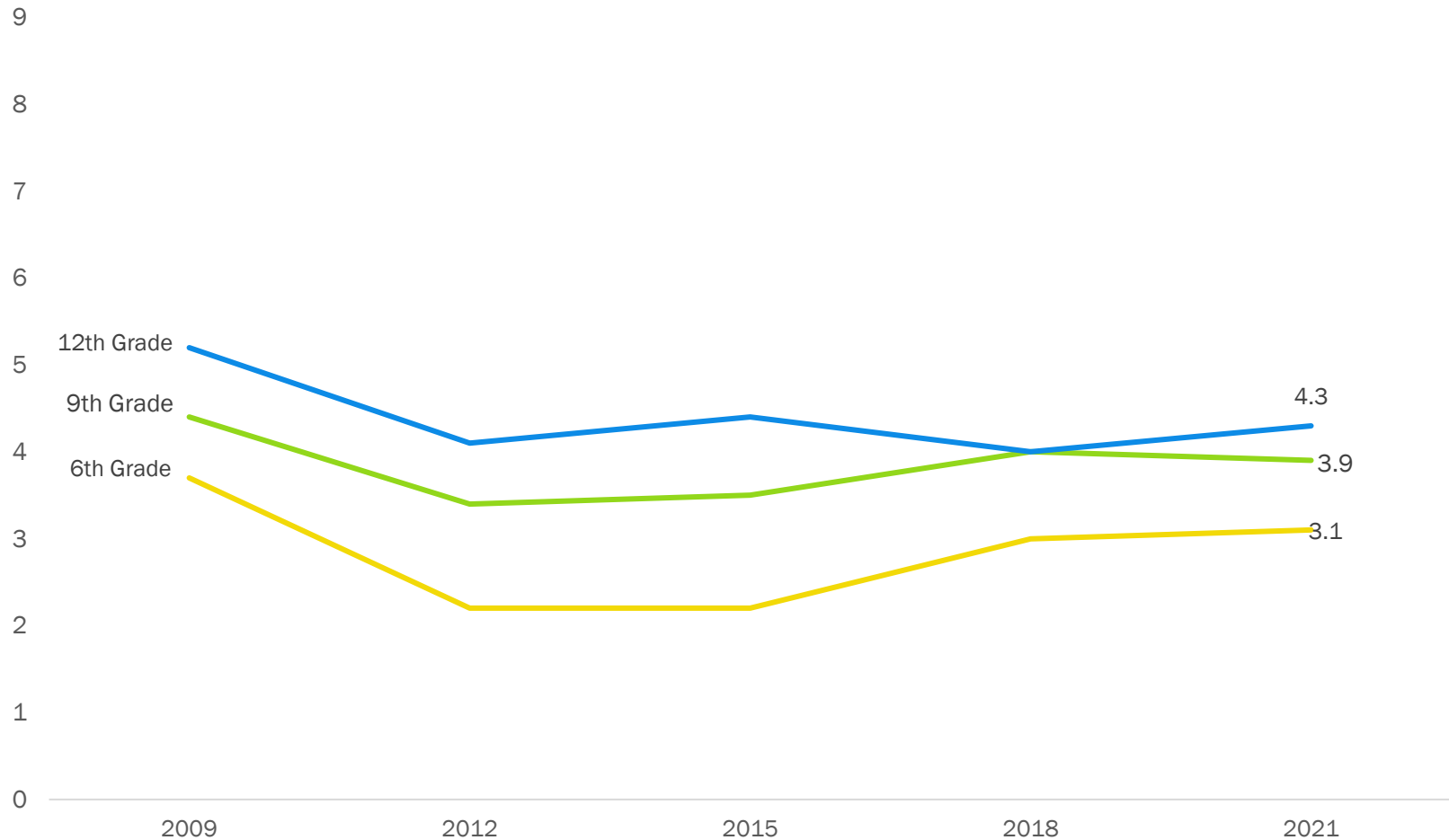
Percent Reporting a Family member has seen counselor



Depressive Feelings score



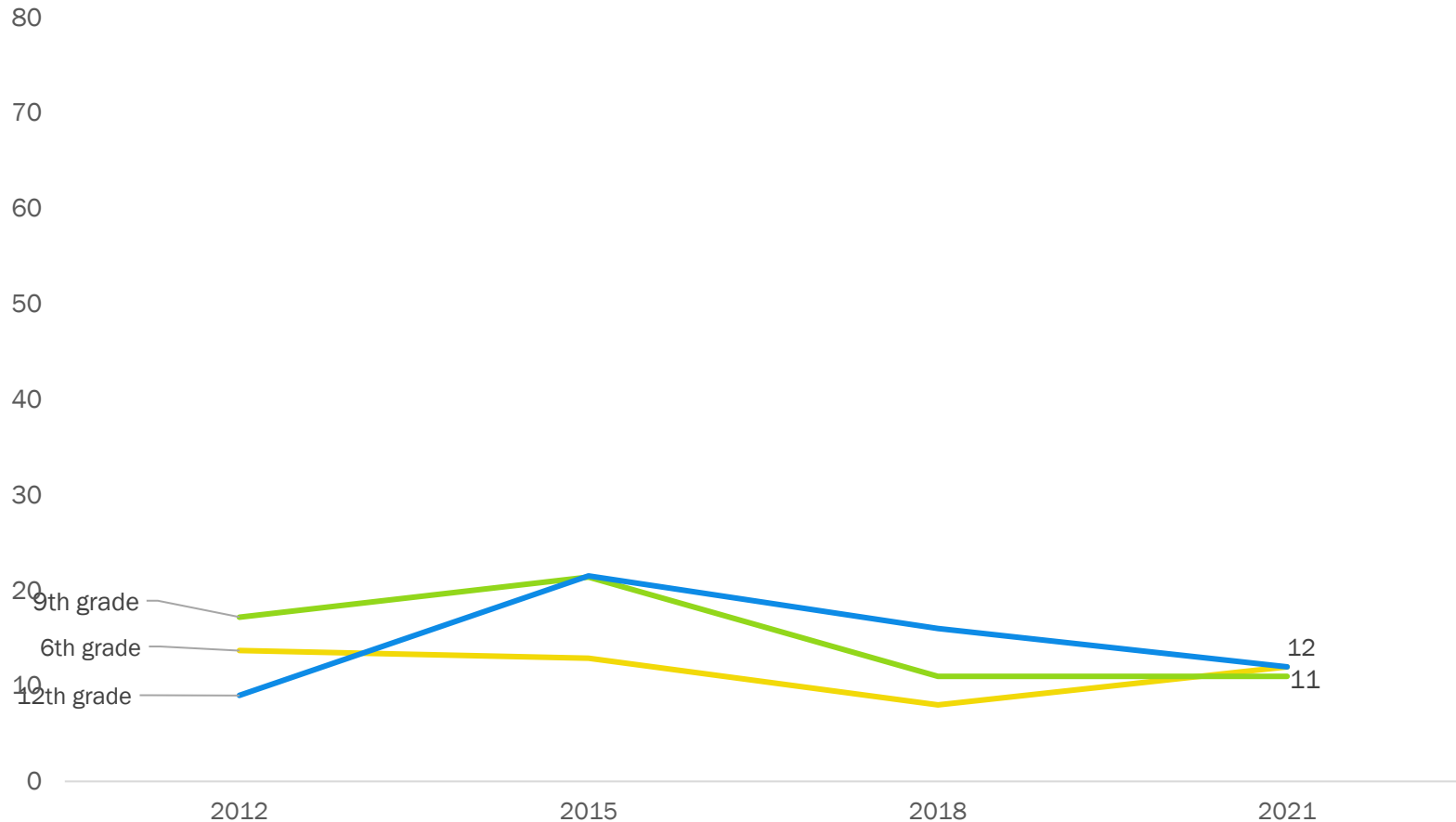
Anxious Feelings Score



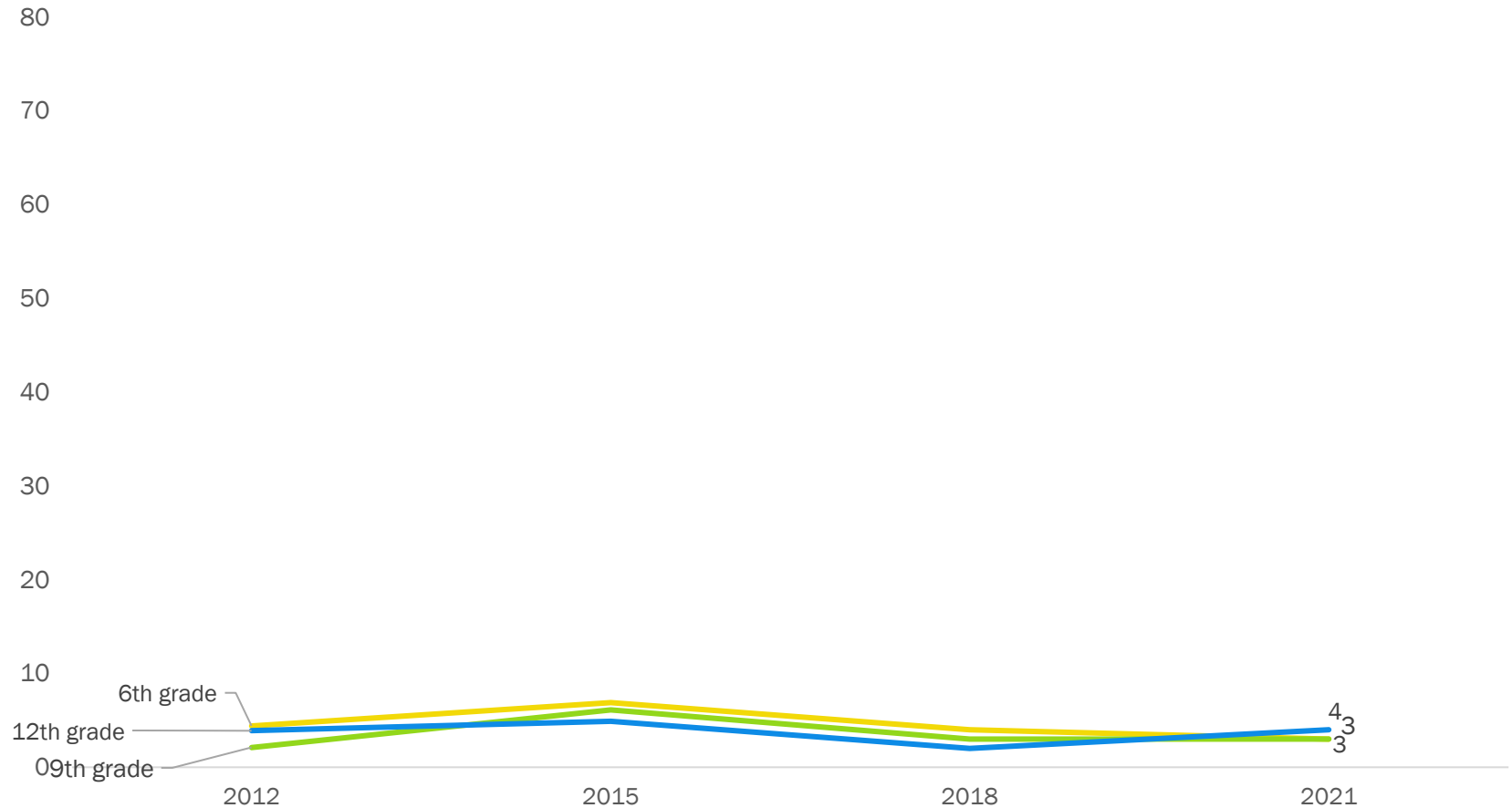
Project Connect



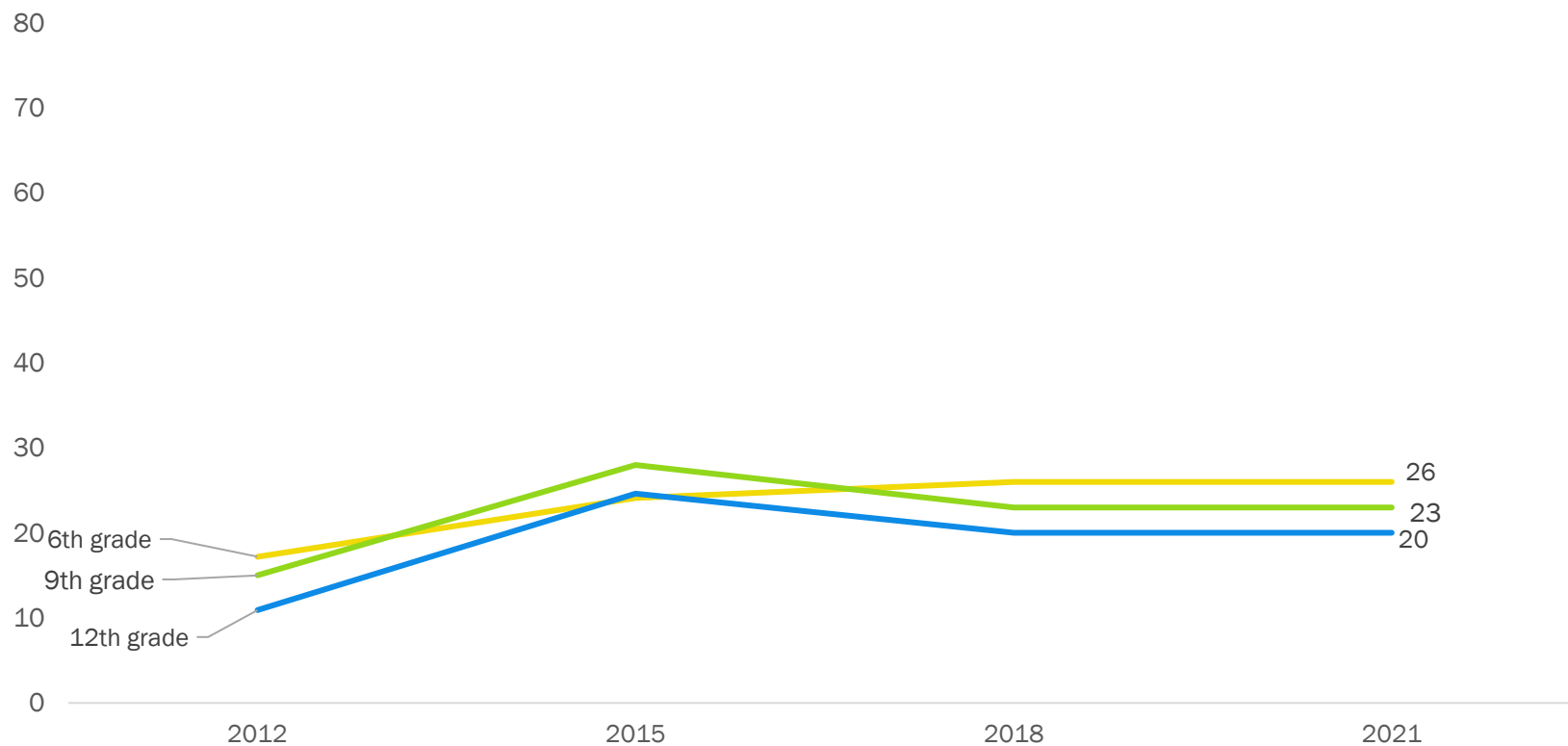
Percent reporting ever hearing of Project Connect



Percent reporting receiving Project Connect services



Percent Reporting not using PC Services but likely to in the future



Percent reporting knowing student in Project Connect

