

FY26 Middle School Meth Prevention Program Outcomes

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES, DIVISION OF
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

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**SD BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH**



Data Collection Methods and Curricula Utilized

Data Collection:

In FY2026, there were a total of 66 schools that received Middle School Meth Prevention Programming. In total, 35 schools submitted Participant Level Instruments (PLI) test and 31 schools had matching pre and post-tests.

There were 4,618 original PLI tests completed. Of the original PLI tests, there were a total of 2,471 pre-test and 2,147 post-tests. There were 2,378 PLI-2 tests completed. Of the PLI-2 tests, there were a total of 1,406 pre-tests and 972 post-tests. In total, 6,996 PLIs were completed for FY2026.

After unique identifiers were utilized to match pre-test and post-test, there were a total of 1,504 matched tests that could be utilized for further analysis. This is a non-match rate of 57%, based on the total number of PLI tests, which means about 43% of the data collected had matching pre- and post-tests.

Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test:

The Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test compares the differences of paired values for ordinal data that do not follow a normal distribution. For Middle School Meth Prevention Programming, questions on self-reported perception of harm were converted to a numeric value to assess changes in perceived risk of harm from each substance use question. The p-value was reported from this test.

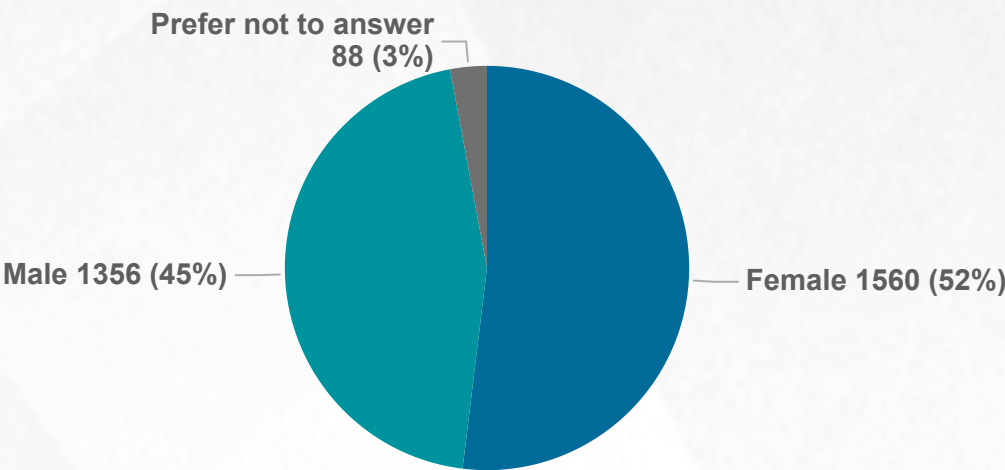
P-value ≤ 0.05 is statistically significant and p-value > 0.05 is non-significant. Statistical significance is an important measure for determining whether an observed difference is due to random variation or reflects a true change among students before and after the intervention.

Curricula Utilized in Middle School Meth Prevention Programming (as reported by prevention providers):

Too Good For Drugs	Project SUCCESS	LifeSkills	Project Venture
91% (N=2,724)	5% (N=152)	4% (N=128)	<1% (N=4)

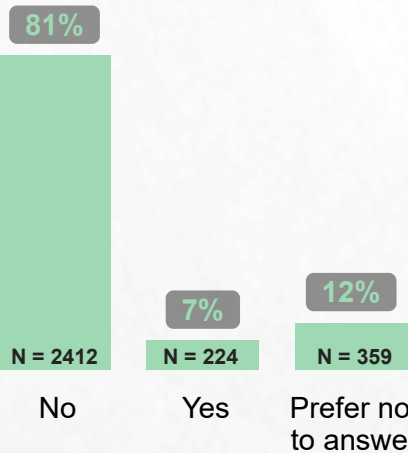
Demographics

Gender



Ethnicity and Race

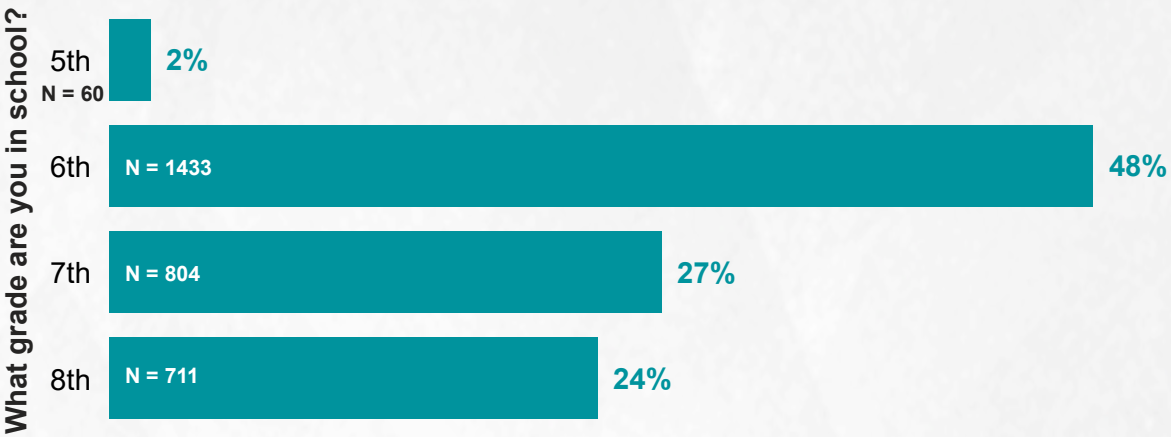
Are you Hispanic or Latino?



What is your race?	Count (#)	Percent (%)
White or Caucasian	2205	73%
Prefer not to answer	240	8%
Hispanic or Latino	154	5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	144	5%
Another race	112	4%
Black or African American	68	2%
Asian or Asian American	62	2%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	17	1%
Total	3002	100%

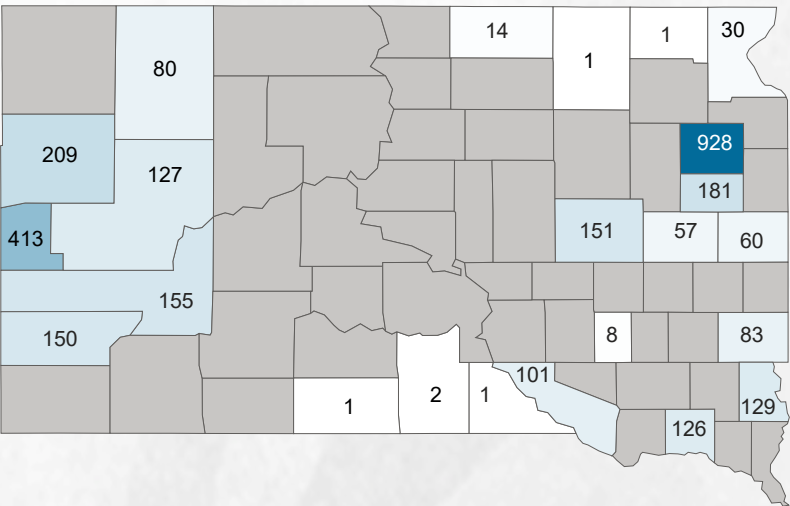
Note: There was/were 6 blank response(s) selected for "What is your race?"

Grade



Note: There was/were 0 blank response(s) selected for "What grade are you in school?"

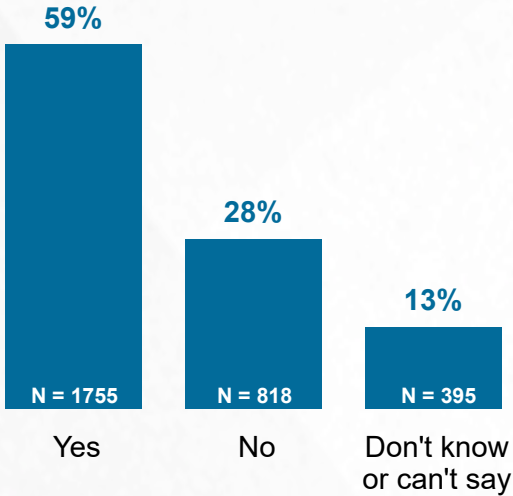
County Location of Middle School Meth Programming



Note: There was/were 13 blank response(s) selected for "Are you Hispanic or Latino?"

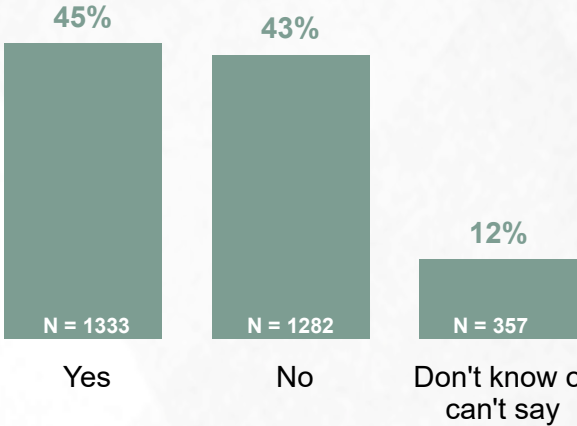
Substance Use Education

Substance Use Education From Advertisements



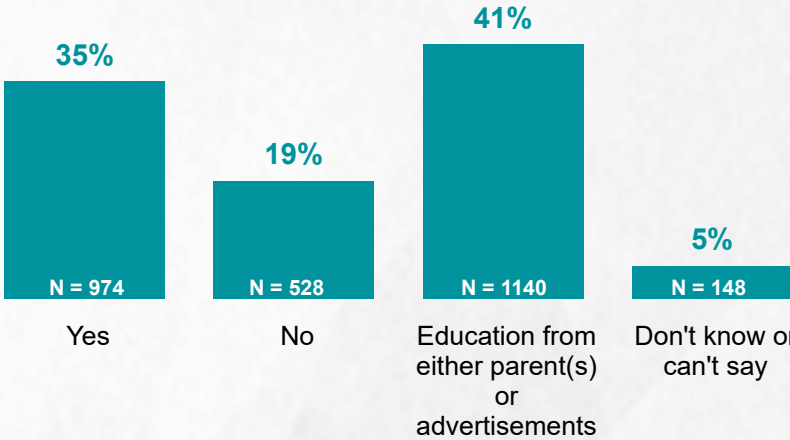
Note: There was/were 40 blank response(s) selected for "During the past 12 months, do you recall hearing, reading, or watching an advertisement about prevention of substance use?"

Substance Use Education From Parent(s)



Note: There was/were 36 blank response(s) selected for "During the past 12 months, have you talked with at least one of your parents about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use? By parents, we mean your biological parents, adoptive parents, step-parents, or adult guardians, whether not they live with you."

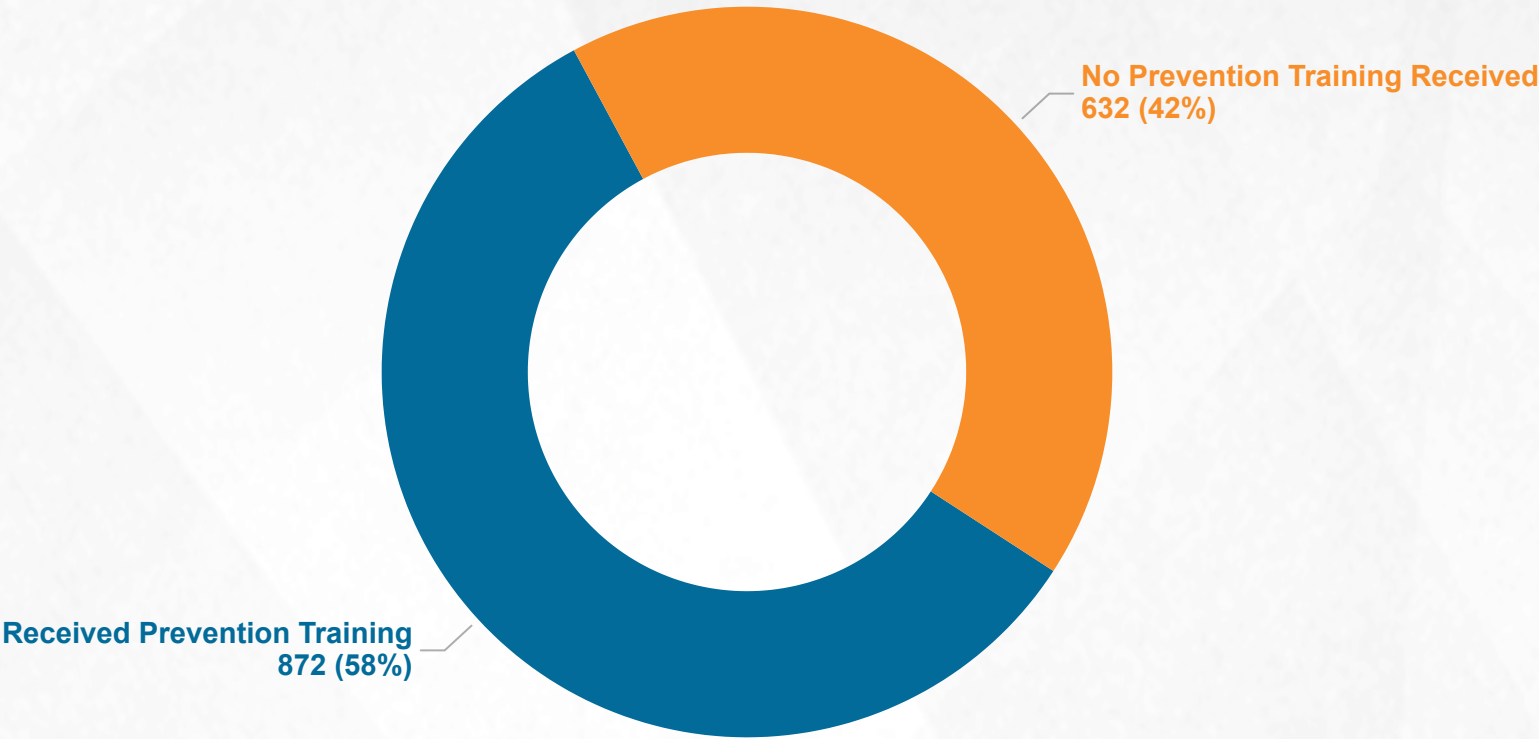
Substance Use Education From Both Advertisements and Parent(s)



Note: There was/were 218 participant(s) that could not be grouped in the above categories.

- Advertisements were the most common substance use education received by participants 59%.
 - 45% of parent(s) provided substance use education to participants.
- 35% of participants received substance use education from advertisements and parent(s).
- 19% of participants have never received substance use education from parent(s) or advertisements.

Substance Use Education

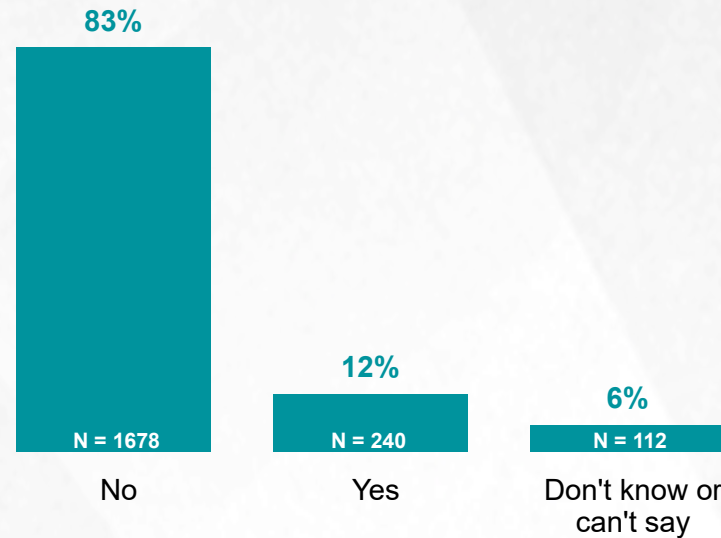


In the last year, have you ever participated in any of the below classes? Please check all that apply.	Count (#)	Percent (%)
Too Good For Drugs	321	37%
Some other prevention program	153	18%
Two or more prevention programs	144	17%
D.A.R.E.	103	12%
LifeSkills	84	10%
S.A.F.E.	32	4%
Project SUCCESS	23	3%
Positive Action	4	0%
Just Ask	2	0%
Natural Helpers	2	0%
ABC	1	0%
Canoe Journey / Medicine Wheel	1	0%
Lifeways	1	0%
Project Venture	1	0%
Total	872	100%

- About 42% of participants did not participate in any educational prevention training(s) in the past year.
- Among the 58% of participants that received any educational prevention training(s) in the past year, the top 5 programs reported were Too Good For Drugs (37%), some other prevention program (18%), two or more prevention program (17%), D.A.R.E. (12%), and LifeSkills (10%).

Initiation of Alcohol Use

Ever Used Alcohol



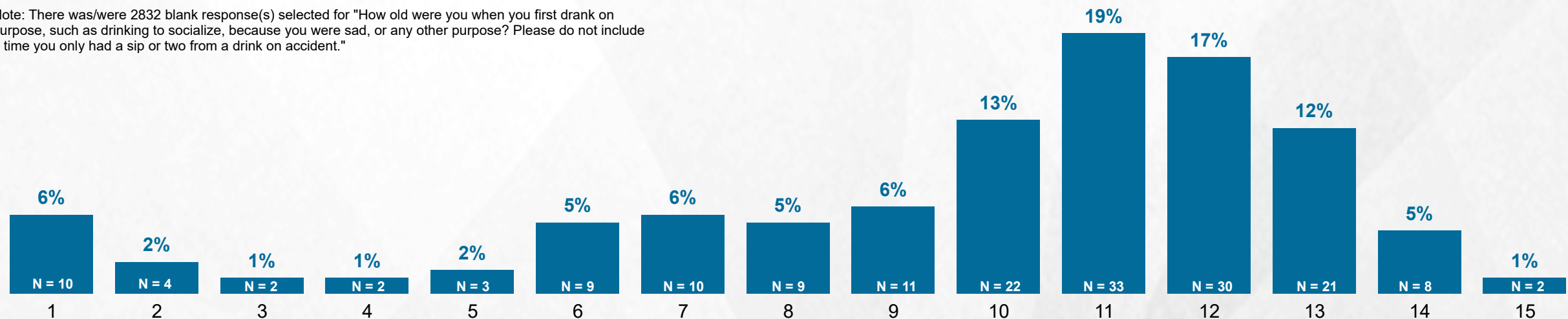
State-Level Alcohol Initiation:

- 83% of participants that completed the long survey reported having never drank alcohol, and 12% reported they initiated alcohol use in their life.
- Of the 12% of participants that reported alcohol use, 10% (18 participants) initiated alcohol use when they were younger than 5 years old. In addition, participants that were age 11 had the highest percent of alcohol use initiation at 19%.

Note: There was/were 978 blank response(s) selected for "Have you ever drank alcohol?"

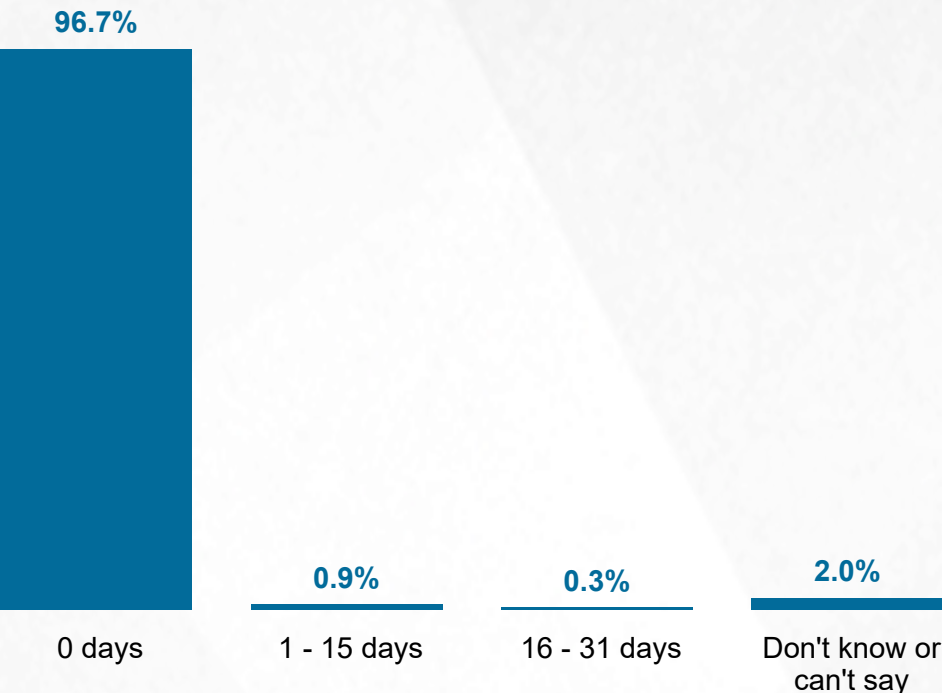
Age of Alcohol Initiation

Note: There was/were 2832 blank response(s) selected for "How old were you when you first drank on purpose, such as drinking to socialize, because you were sad, or any other purpose? Please do not include a time you only had a sip or two from a drink on accident."



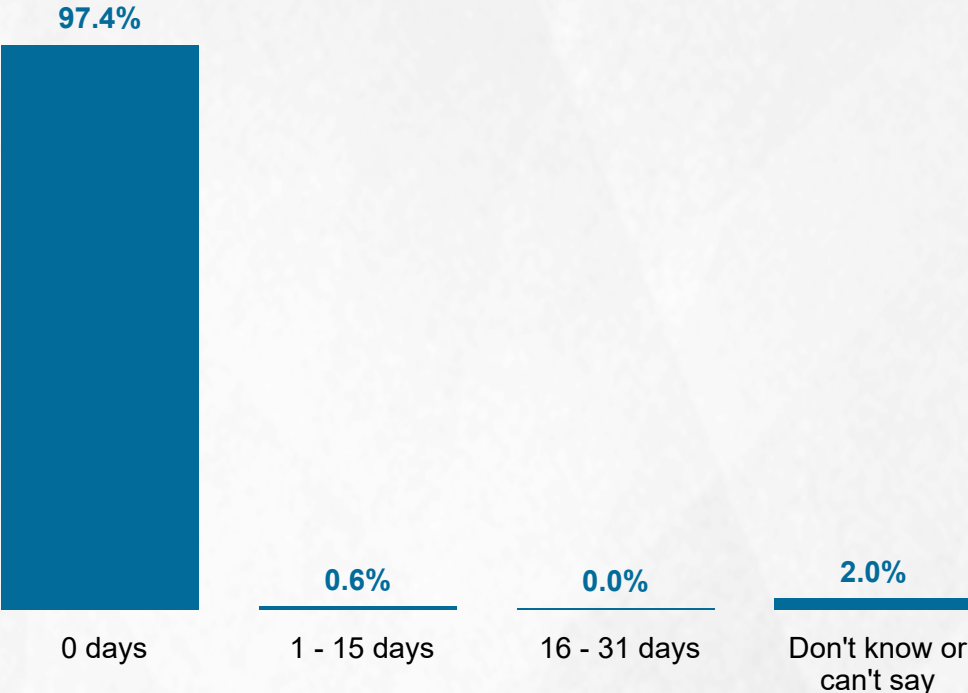
Alcohol Use And Binge Drinking

Past Month Any Alcohol Use



Note: There were 1955 '0 days' response(s), 19 '1 - 15 days' response(s), 7 '16 - 31 days' response(s), 41 'Don't know or can't say' response(s) and 0 blank response(s) for 'During the past 30 days, how many days did you drink one or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage? Select the number of days from the ranges below.'

Past Month Binge Drinking



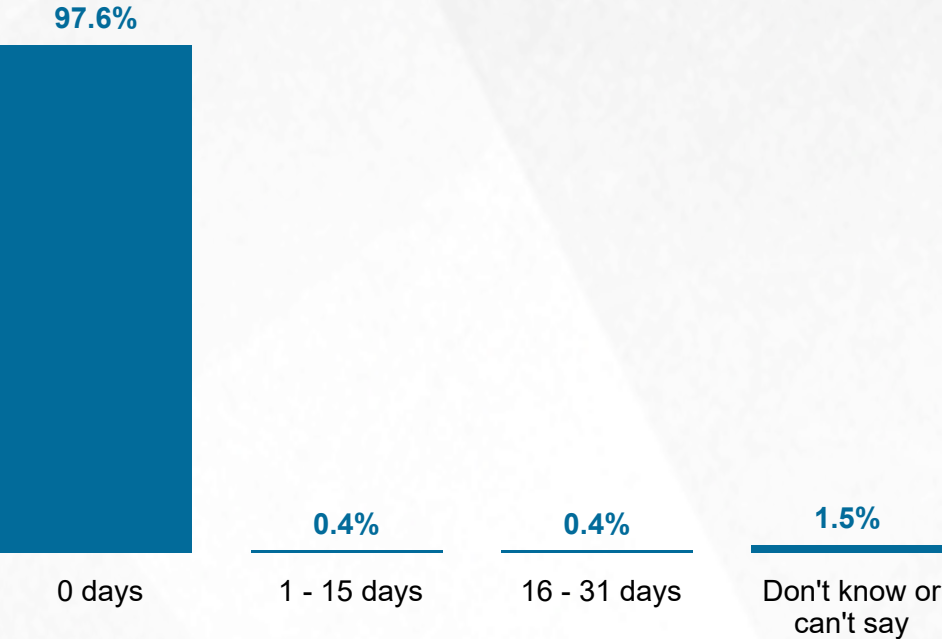
Note: There were 1965 '0 days' response(s), 12 '1 - 15 days' response(s), 1 '16 - 31 days' response(s), 40 'Don't know or can't say' response(s) and 0 blank response(s) for 'During the past 30 days, how many days did you have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage on the same occasion? Select the number of days from the ranges below.'

Any Alcohol Use and Binge Drinking in the Past Month

- Most participants reported they did not have **any alcoholic beverages** within the past month (96.7%).
- 0.9% of participants reported they had **any alcoholic beverages** 1 to 15 days and 0.3% had **any alcoholic beverage** 16 to 31 days in the past month.
 - 0.6% of participants reported they **binge drank** 1 to 15 days in the past month.
 - One participant did report they **binge drank** 16 to 31 days in the past month (<0.1%).
- In 2023-2024, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reported 6.9% of South Dakotans, ages 12-17, used any alcohol and 4.1% binge drank in the past month.

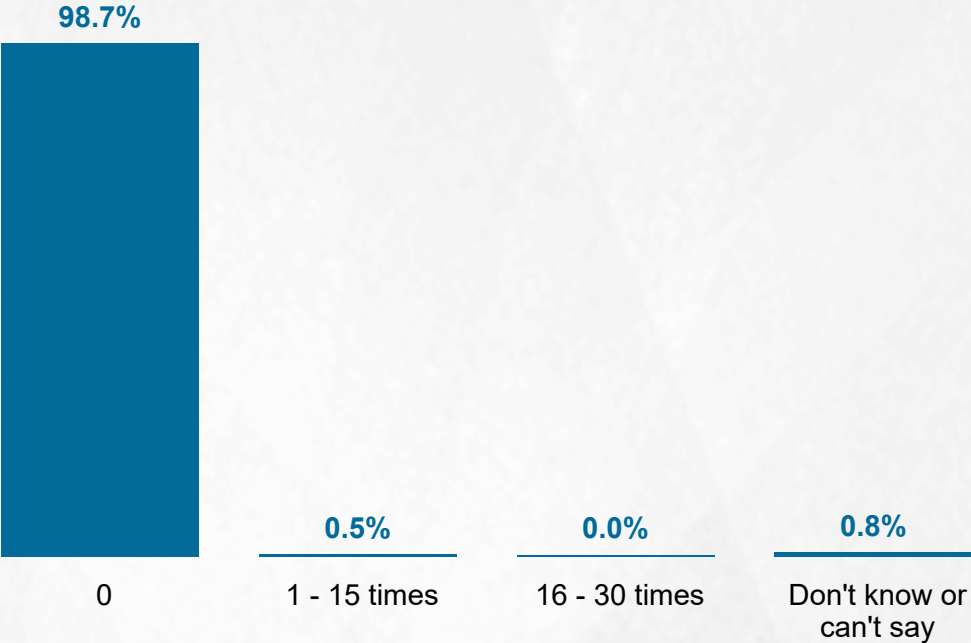
Prescription Medication Misuse and Methamphetamine Use

Past Month Misuse of Prescription Medication



Note: There were 1969 '0 days' response(s), 9 '1 - 15 days' response(s), 9 '16 - 31 days' response(s), 30 'Don't know or can't say' response(s) and 0 blank response(s) for 'During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use prescription drugs that were not prescribed for you or that you took only for the experience or the feeling they caused? Select the number of days from the ranges below.'

Lifetime Use of Methamphetamine



Note: There were 1996 '0' response(s), 10 '1 - 15 times' response(s), 1 '16 - 30 times' response(s), 16 'Don't know or can't say' response(s) and 0 blank response(s) for 'During your life, how many times have you used methamphetamine? Select from below.'

Prescription Medication Misuse in the Past Month

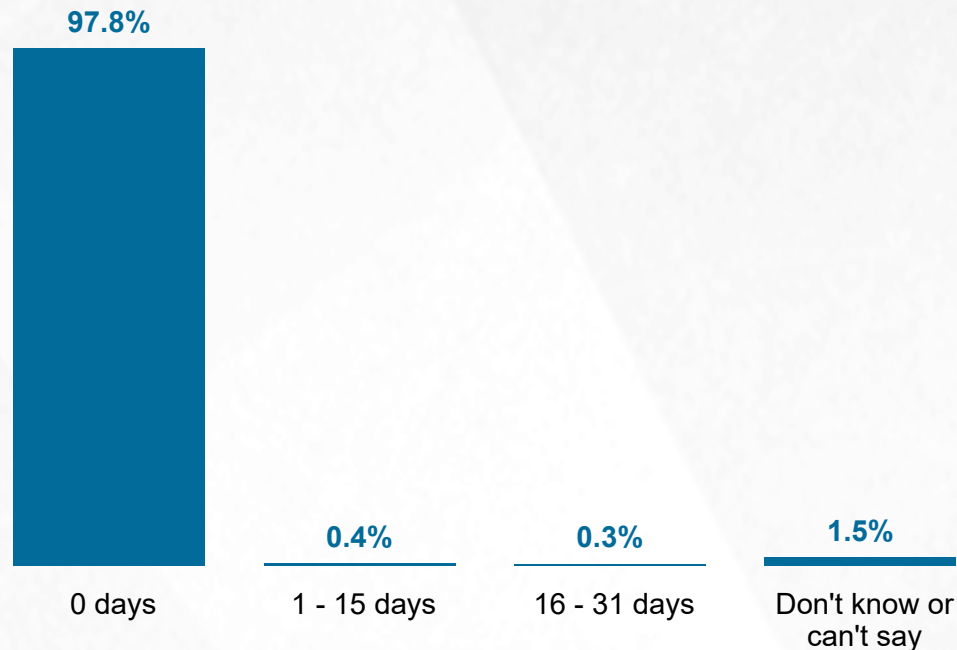
- 0.8% of participants reported they **misused prescription medications** in the past month.
- In the past month, 0.4% of participants **misused prescription medication** 1 to 15 days and 0.4% of participants **misused prescription medications** 16 to 31 days.
- In 2023-2024, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reported 1.6% of South Dakotans, ages 12-17, misused prescription opioids in the past year.

Lifetime Use of Methamphetamine

- Overall, 0.5% of participants used **methamphetamine** in their lifetime.
- In 2023, the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System (YRBSS) reported 1.8% of high school students in South Dakota and the United States have used methamphetamine in their lifetime.

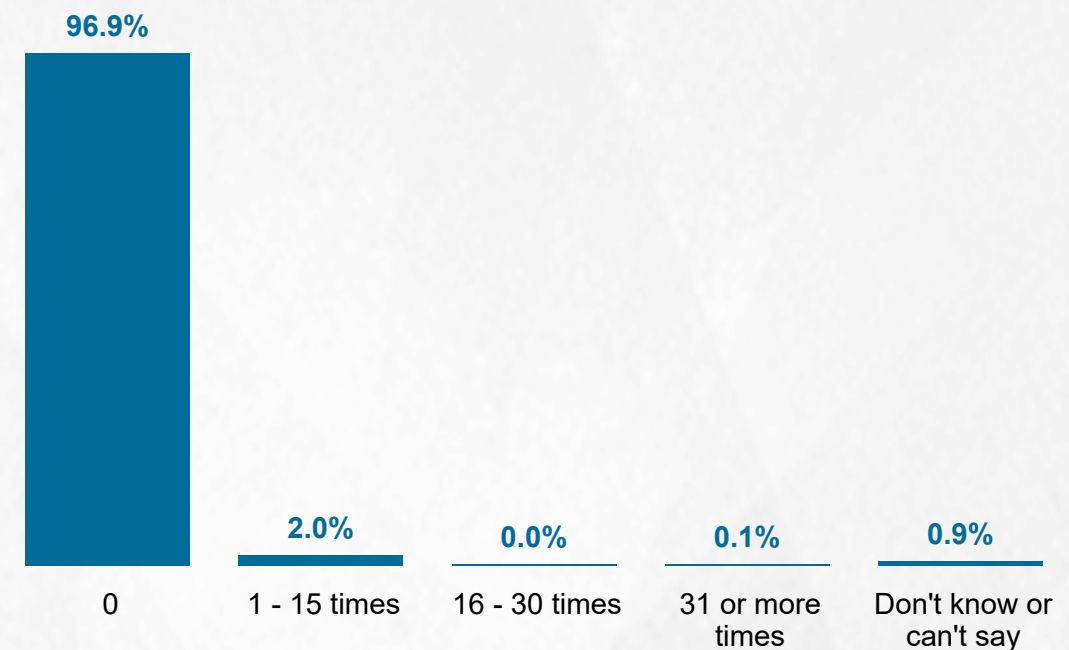
Marijuana and Synthetic Marijuana Use

Past Month Marijuana Use



Note: There were 1972 '0 days' response(s), 8 '1 - 15 days' response(s), 6 '16 - 31 days' response(s), 31 'Don't know or can't say' response(s) and 0 blank response(s) for 'During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana? Select from the ranges below.'

Lifetime Use of Synthetic Marijuana



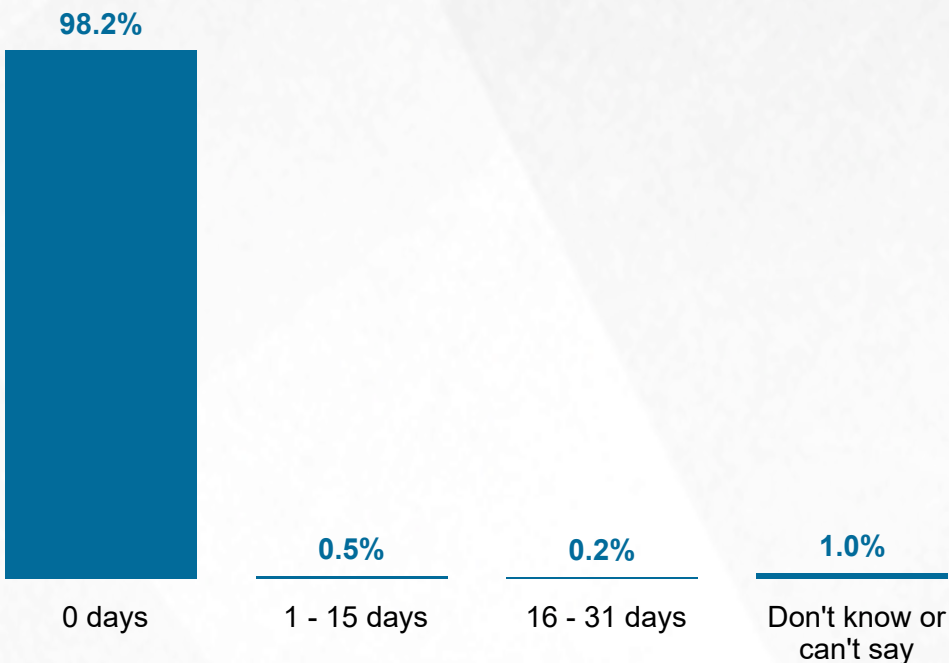
Note: There were 1959 '0' response(s), 41 '1 - 15 times' response(s), 1 '16 - 30 times' response(s), 3 '31 or more times' response(s), 18 'Don't know or can't say' response(s), and 0 blank response(s) for 'During your life, how many times have you used synthetic marijuana? Select from below.'

Marijuana and Synthetic Marijuana Use

- 0.7% of participants used **marijuana** in the past month.
- 2.1% of youth reported using **synthetic marijuana** in their lifetime. 2.0% of participants report **synthetic marijuana** use 1 to 15 times for lifetime use.
 - One participant did report they used **synthetic marijuana** 16 to 30 times in their life (<0.1%).
 - Three participants reported using **synthetic marijuana** 31+ times in their life (0.1%).
- In 2023-2024, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reported 4.1% of South Dakotans, ages 12-17, used **marijuana** in the past month.

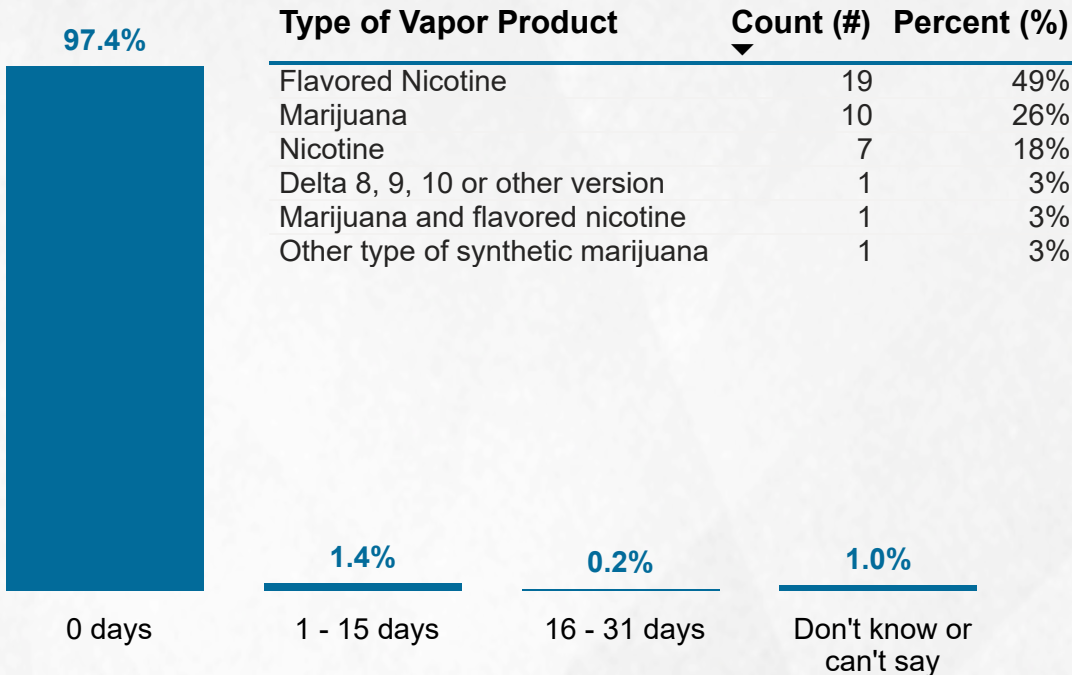
Nicotine and E-Cigarettes/Vaping

Past Month Nicotine Use*



Note: There were 1972 '0 days' response(s), 11 '1 - 15 days' response(s), 5 '16 - 31 days' response(s), 21 'Don't know or can't say' response(s) and 0 blank response(s) for 'During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use other forms of nicotine, such as cigarettes, cigars, hookah, dissolvable tobacco, smokeless tobacco, or nicotine pouches? Select the number of days from the ranges below.'

Past Month E-Cigarette or Vape Use



Note: There were 1963 '0 days' response(s), 28 '1 - 15 days' response(s), 5 '16 - 31 days' response(s), 20 'Don't know or can't say' response(s), 1 'Other/undisclosed' response(s) and 0 blank response(s) for 'During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an e-cigarette or vape? Select the number of days from the ranges below.'

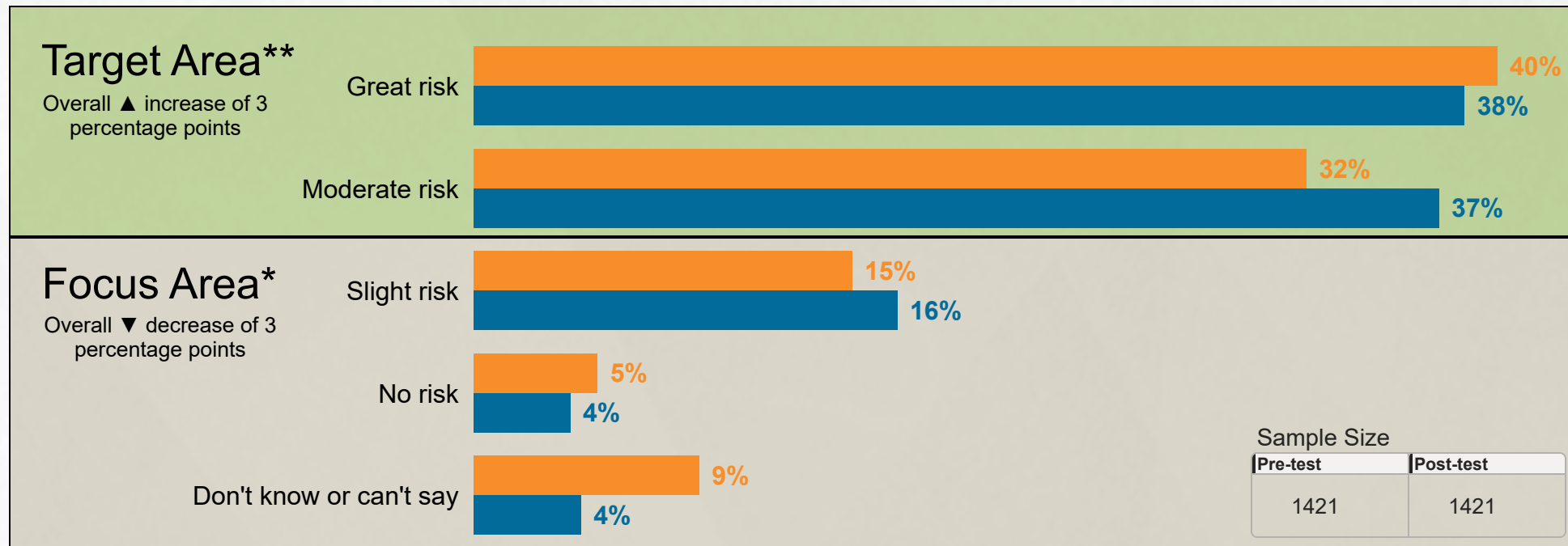
Nicotine and E-Cigarette or Vaping Use

- 0.7% of participants used **nicotine** in the past month.
- 0.5% of youth reported using **nicotine** 1 to 15 days and another 0.2% of youth reported using **nicotine** 16 to 31 days in the past month.
- The rate of **e-cigarette or vape** use in the past month was 1.4% for 1 to 15 days and 0.2% for 16 to 31 days.
- Among e-cigarette or vape users, 49% used **flavored nicotine**.
- In 2023-2024, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reported 6.2% of South Dakotans, ages 12-17, **vaped nicotine** in the past month.

*Nicotine use is defined by any participation in cigarettes, cigars, hookah, dissolvable tobacco, smokeless tobacco, or nicotine pouches.

Risk of Harm from Binge Drinking

● Pre-test ● Post-test



Percent of Response in Target Area

Pre-Test:
72%

Post-Test:
75%

There was a general increase in perceived harm from binge drinking and ▲ more responses in the target area between pre-test to post-test.

*Focus Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that should improve or place participant at risk of future substance use.

**Target Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that is optimal and would indicate hesitancy in future substance use.

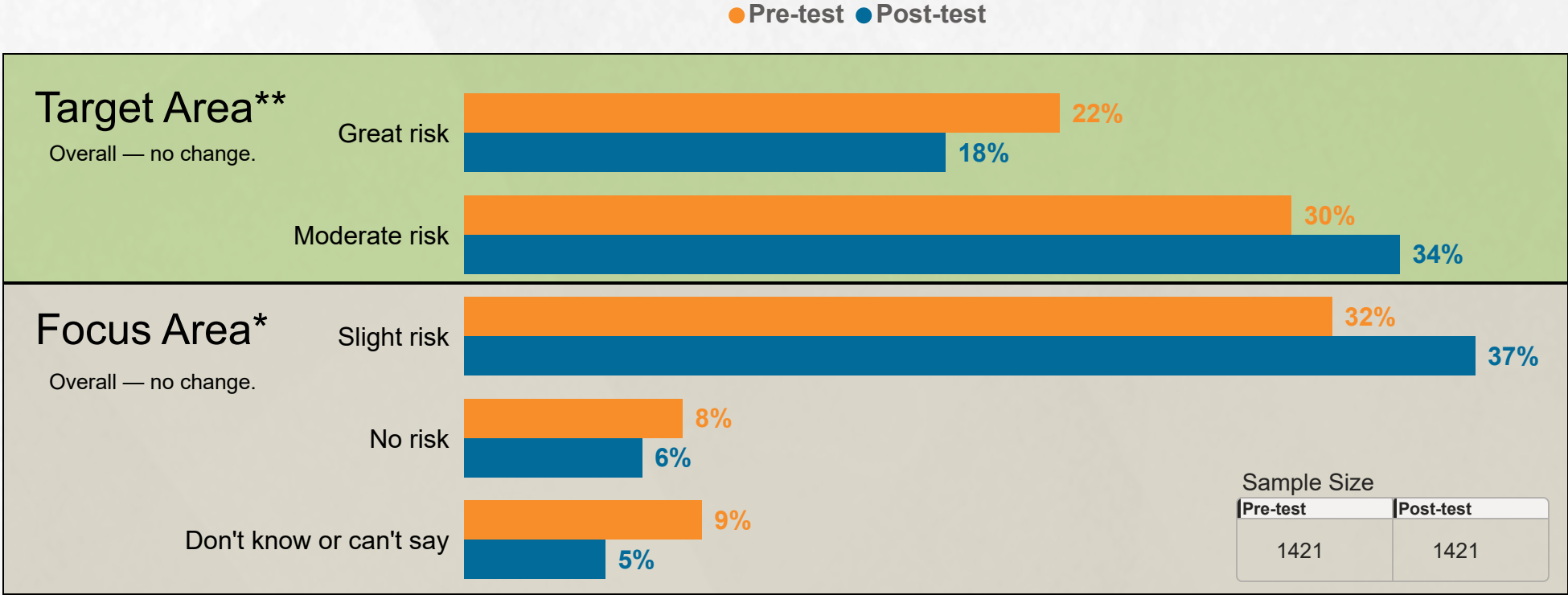
Wilcoxon signed rank test

p-value = 0.3731

The difference between pre-test and post-test responses was NOT statistically significant.

	Great Risk	Moderate Risk	Slight Risk	No Risk	Don't Know or Can't Say
Pre-Test	40% N = 563	32% N = 458	15% N = 208	5% N = 68	9% N = 124
Post-Test	38% N = 545	37% N = 531	16% N = 233	4% N = 53	4% N = 59

Risk of Harm from Smoking Nicotine Once a Month



Percent of Response in Target Area

Pre-Test:
52%

Post-Test:
52%

There was no change in harm from smoking nicotine once a month and — no change to responses in the target area between pre-test and post-test.

*Focus Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that should improve or place participant at risk of future substance use.

**Target Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that is optimal and would indicate hesitancy in future substance use.

Wilcoxon signed rank test

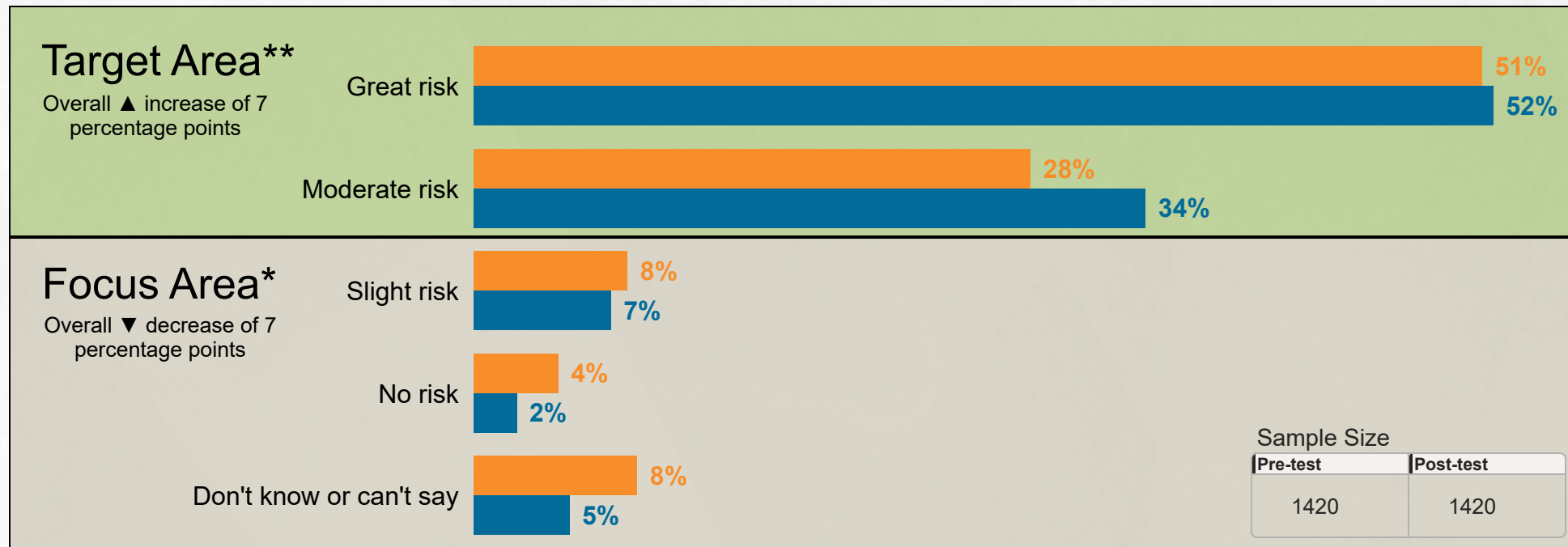
p-value = 0.1526

The difference between pre-test and post-test responses was NOT statistically significant.

	Great Risk	Moderate Risk	Slight Risk	No Risk	Don't Know or Can't Say
Pre-Test	22% N = 308	30% N = 428	32% N = 449	8% N = 113	9% N = 123
Post-Test	18% N = 249	34% N = 484	37% N = 523	6% N = 92	5% N = 73

Risk of Harm from Smoking Nicotine Weekly

● Pre-test ● Post-test



Percent of Response in Target Area

Pre-Test:
79%

Post-Test:
86%

There was a general increase in perceived harm from smoking nicotine weekly and ▲ more responses in the target area between pre-test to post-test.

*Focus Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that should improve or place participant at risk of future substance use.

**Target Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that is optimal and would indicate hesitancy in future substance use.

Wilcoxon signed rank test

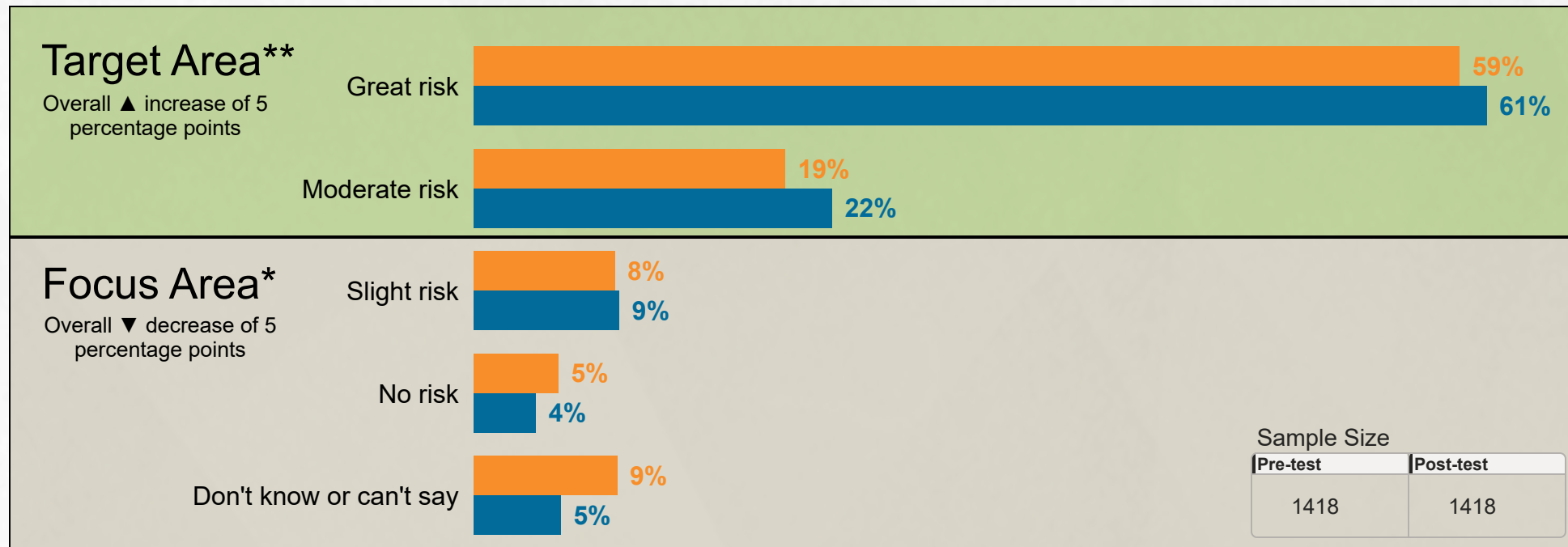
p-value = 8.2e-05

The difference between pre-test and post-test responses was statistically significant.

	Great Risk	Moderate Risk	Slight Risk	No Risk	Don't Know or Can't Say
Pre-Test	51% N = 728	28% N = 402	8% N = 111	4% N = 61	8% N = 118
Post-Test	52% N = 736	34% N = 485	7% N = 99	2% N = 31	5% N = 69

Risk of Harm from Prescription Drug Misuse

● Pre-test ● Post-test



Percent of Response in Target Area

Pre-Test:
78%

Post-Test:
83%

There was a general increase in perceived harm from prescription drug misuse and ▲ more responses in the target area between pre-test to post-test.

*Focus Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that should improve or place participant at risk of future substance use.

**Target Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that is optimal and would indicate hesitancy in future substance use.

Wilcoxon signed rank test

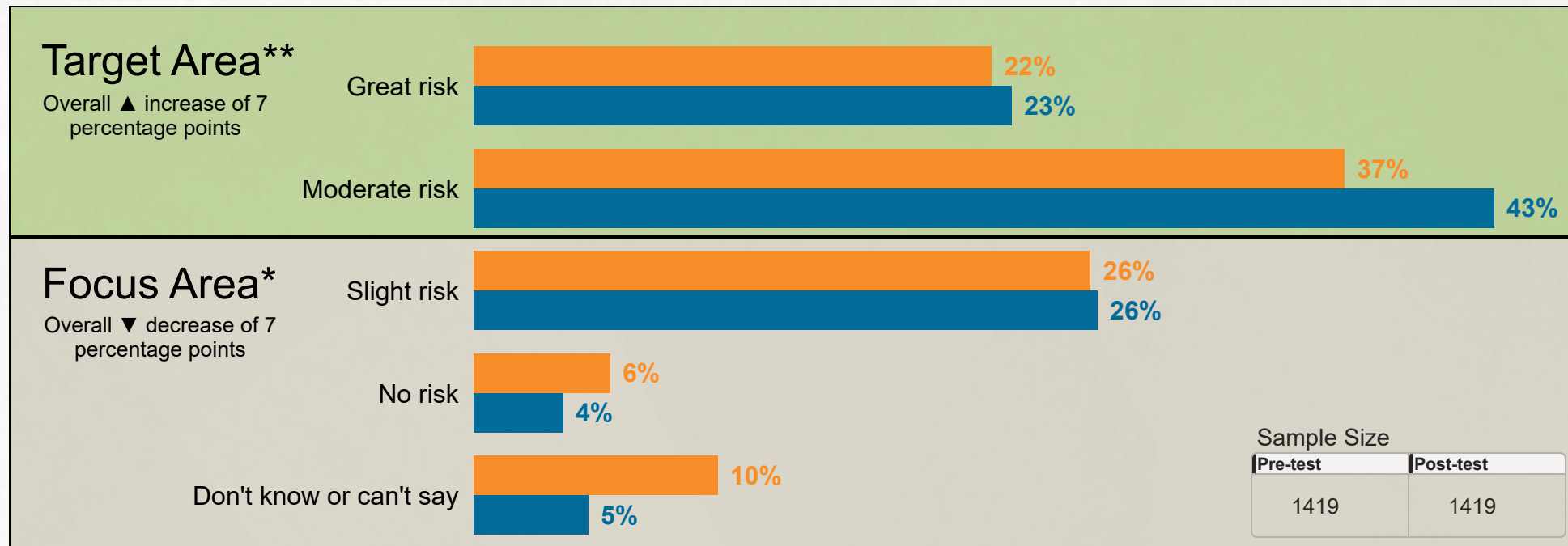
p-value = 0.01047

The difference between pre-test and post-test responses was statistically significant.

	Great Risk	Moderate Risk	Slight Risk	No Risk	Don't Know or Can't Say
Pre-Test	59% N = 839	19% N = 265	8% N = 120	5% N = 72	9% N = 122
Post-Test	61% N = 862	22% N = 305	9% N = 124	4% N = 53	5% N = 74

Risk of Harm from Monthly Marijuana Use

● Pre-test ● Post-test



Percent of Response in Target Area

Pre-Test:
59%

Post-Test:
66%

There was a general increase in perceived harm from monthly marijuana use and ▲ more responses in the target area between pre-test to post-test.

*Focus Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that should improve or place participant at risk of future substance use. **Wilcoxon signed rank test**

**Target Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that is optimal and would indicate hesitancy in future substance use.

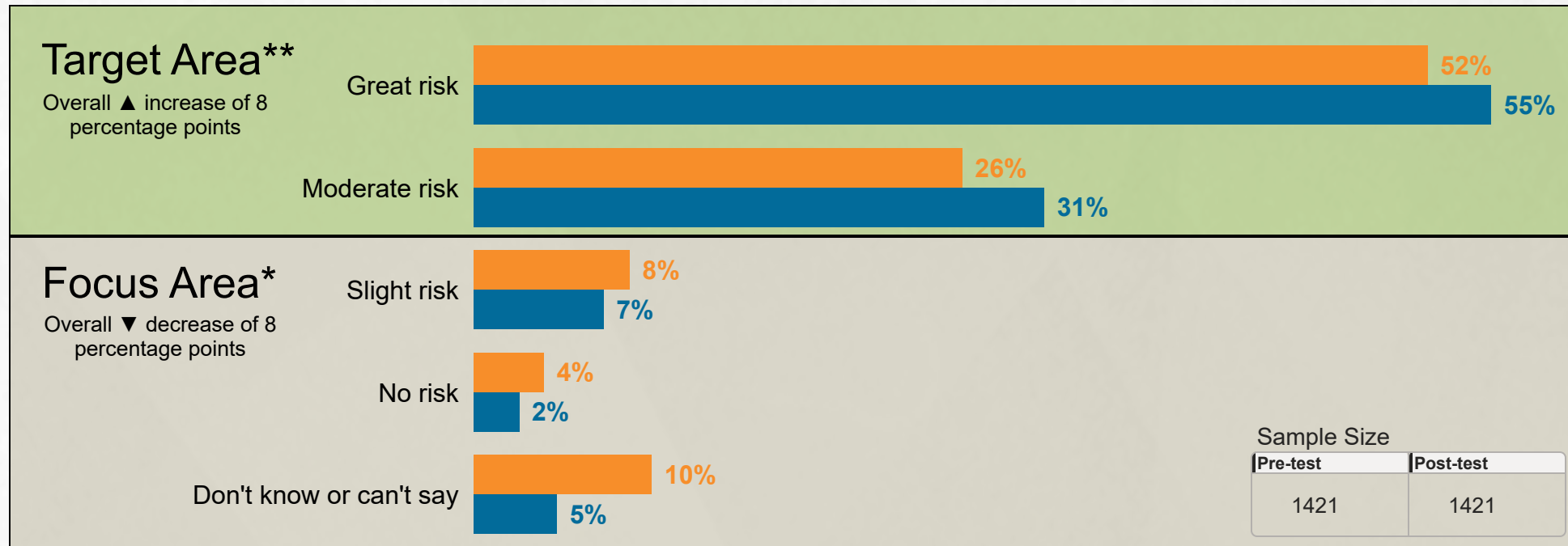
p-value = 0.002579

The difference between pre-test and post-test responses was statistically significant.

	Great Risk	Moderate Risk	Slight Risk	No Risk	Don't Know or Can't Say
Pre-Test	22% N = 308	37% N = 518	26% N = 367	6% N = 81	10% N = 145
Post-Test	23% N = 320	43% N = 607	26% N = 371	4% N = 53	5% N = 68

Risk of Harm from Weekly Marijuana Use

● Pre-test ● Post-test



Percent of Response in Target Area

Pre-Test:
78%

Post-Test:
86%

There was a general increase in perceived harm from weekly marijuana use and ▲ more responses in the target area between pre-test to post-test.

*Focus Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that should improve or place participant at risk of future substance use.

**Target Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that is optimal and would indicate hesitancy in future substance use.

Wilcoxon signed rank test

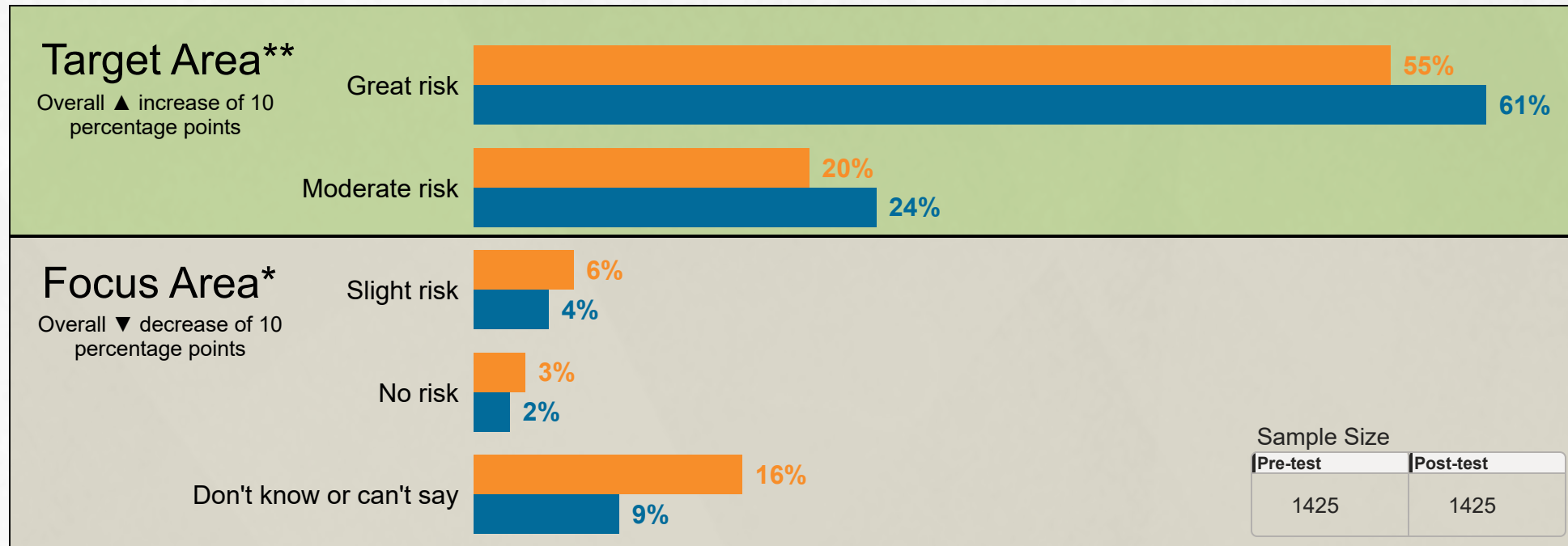
p-value = 3.171e-07

The difference between pre-test and post-test responses was statistically significant.

	Great Risk	Moderate Risk	Slight Risk	No Risk	Don't Know or Can't Say
Pre-Test	52% N = 734	26% N = 376	8% N = 120	4% N = 54	10% N = 137
Post-Test	55% N = 783	31% N = 439	7% N = 100	2% N = 35	5% N = 64

Risk of Harm from Methamphetamine Use

● Pre-test ● Post-test



Percent of Response in Target Area

Pre-Test:
75%

Post-Test:
85%

There was a general increase in perceived harm from methamphetamine use and ▲ more responses in the target area between pre-test to post-test.

*Focus Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that should improve or place participant at risk of future substance use.

**Target Area is defined as an outcome in perceived harm that is optimal and would indicate hesitancy in future substance use.

Wilcoxon signed rank test

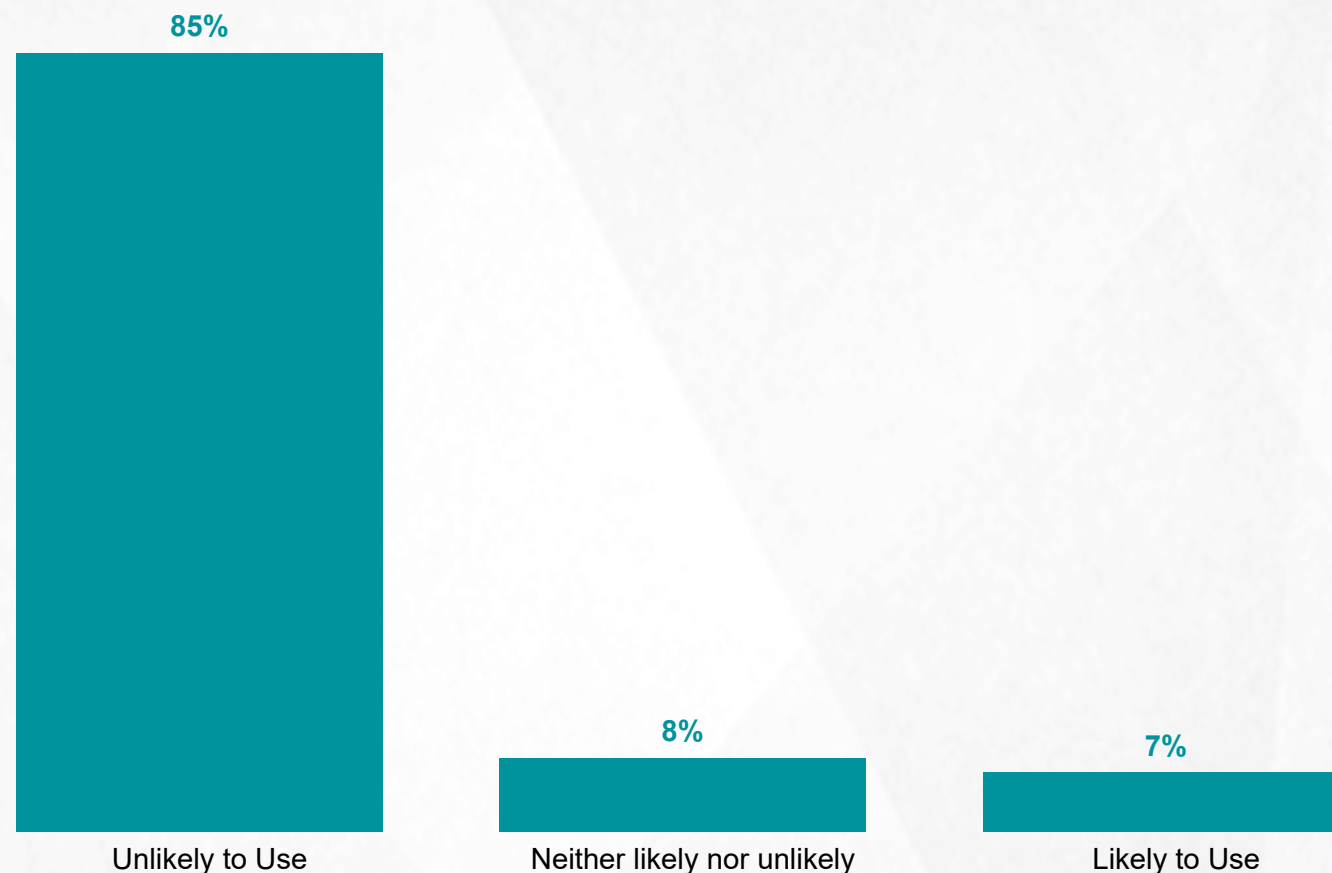
p-value < 2.2e-16

The difference between pre-test and post-test responses was statistically significant.

	Great Risk	Moderate Risk	Slight Risk	No Risk	Don't Know or Can't Say
Pre-Test	55% N = 781	20% N = 286	6% N = 85	3% N = 44	16% N = 229
Post-Test	61% N = 863	24% N = 343	4% N = 64	2% N = 31	9% N = 124

Likelihood to Use Drugs, Alcohol, or Tobacco

After attending the educational program how likely are you to use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco?



85% of participants reported that after attending the educational program they were unlikely to use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.

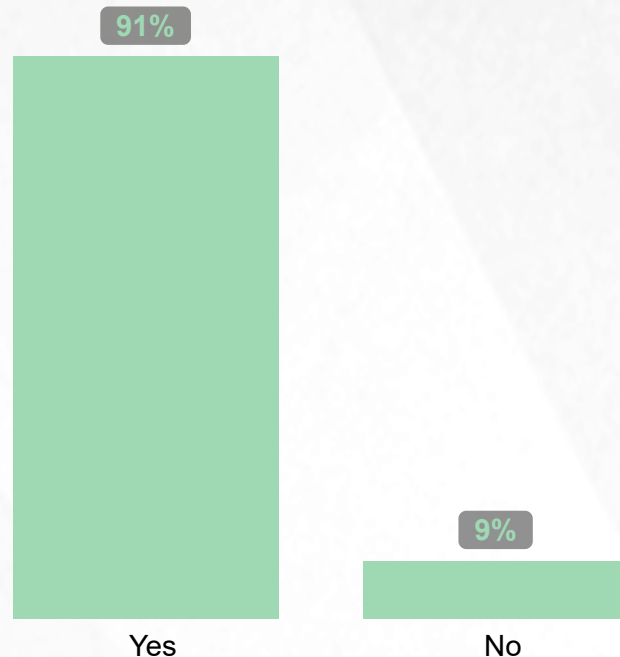
Definition: **Likely to Use** groups the following three responses, (1) likely, (2) somewhat likely, and (3) very likely;

Unlikely to Use groups the following three responses (1) unlikely, (2) somewhat unlikely, and (3) very unlikely.

Note: There were 1269 'Unlikely to Use' response(s), 120 'Neither likely nor unlikely' response(s), 97 'Likely to Use' response(s), and 1522 blank response(s) for 'After attending the educational program, how likely are you to misuse drugs, alcohol, or tobacco?'

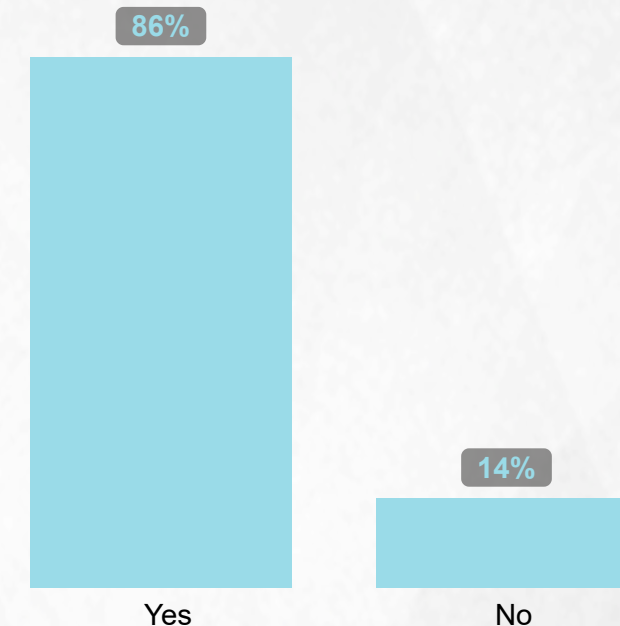
Views of Risk of Substance Use and Knowledge of Impacts

Would you agree that the educational program used gave you more knowledge about the impacts of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco?



Note: There were 1350 'Yes' response(s), 139 'No' response(s), and 1519 blank response(s) for 'Would you agree that the educational program used gave you more knowledge about the impacts of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco?'

Would you agree that the curriculum provided influenced your views on the risk of substance use?



Note: There were 1272 'Yes' response(s), 214 'No' response(s), and 1522 blank response(s) for 'Would you agree that the educational program used influenced your views on the risks of substance use?'

- 91% of participants agreed the educational program provided them with more knowledge about the impacts of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
- 86% of participants agreed that the curriculum influenced their views on substance use.

Summary of FY26 Meth Prevention Program Impact

From pre-test to post-test, the proportion of respondents perceiving great or moderate risk of harm **increased** for the following drug type(s) or use frequency:

- smoking nicotine weekly, monthly marijuana use, prescription drug misuse, binge drinking, methamphetamine use, and weekly marijuana use

Whereas, the below drug type(s) or use frequency experienced a **decrease** between pre-test and post-test:

- No decreases were detected.
- Smoking nicotine once a month experienced no change in perceived risk of harm between pre-test and post-test.

Likelihood of Use After Meth Prevention Program

- At the end of the meth prevention program, 85% of participants reported they were unlikely to use drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

Self-Reported Impact of Meth Prevention Program

- 86% of participants agreed that the curriculum influenced their views on substance use.
- 91% of participants agreed the educational program provided them with more knowledge about the impacts of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

Efficacy Checkpoint

There was an ▲ increase in the perceived risk of harm from methamphetamine use between pre-test and post-test. "Don't know or can't say" responses had a ▼ decrease from 16% at pre-test to 9% at post-test, which was a 7 percentage point change.

At post-test, 85% of participants felt using methamphetamine was a great or moderate risk of harm. This is an increase of 10 percentage points between pre-test and post-test.

The p-value was $< 2.2e^{-16}$, which indicates the differences between pre-test and post-test responses was statistically significant.

SD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

August 2026

