



# Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors

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Search Institute<sup>SM</sup> Survey of Developmental Assets<sup>TM</sup> facilitated by  
The Legacy Center for Student Success  
And the Midland County Probate & Family Court

# Change the Paradigm

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- The goal of this presentation is to demonstrate how the development and implementation of **research-driven, data-based** interventions with youth can assure that they become well adjusted, responsible, and contributing members of our community.
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# What is the Survey?

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- For 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth
  - 156 questions
  - Measures:
    - 40 Developmental Assets
    - 5 Deficits
    - 8 Thriving Behaviors
    - 24 Risk-Taking Behaviors
    - 10 High-Risk Behaviors
  - Provides research on adolescent development and comprehensive profiles of youth
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# Who Participated in the Survey?

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## ■ National Participants

- 33 States
- 318 Communities
- 300,000 youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

## ■ Midland County Participants

- 6,322 youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
    - Represents 81% of the total youth population in this age range
  - 51% Boys, 49% Girls
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# Who Participated in the Survey?

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- Midland County Juvenile Court Wards
    - 100 Juvenile Delinquent and Abuse/Neglect Wards
    - 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Level
    - 68% Boys, 32% Girls
      - Mirrors the demographics of all juvenile wards for Midland County
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# Survey Process

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- Midland County Court Wards
    - Delinquent & Abuse/Neglect
  - Midland County Public School Students
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# Demographics of Midland County Participants

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- Midland County “Average” Youth
    - 73% live in 2-parent households
    - 13% live partial time with Mother, partial time with Father
    - 12% live with Mother only
    - 3% live with Father only
  - Midland County Court Wards
    - 51% live in 2-parent households
    - 9% live partial time with Mother, partial time with Father
    - 30% live with Mother only
    - 10% live with Father only
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# The Bottom Line

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The ***more*** ↑ internal and external developmental assets a youth possesses, the ***greater*** ↑ the thriving indicators and the ***fewer*** ↓ risk-taking behaviors.

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# What are Developmental Assets?

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- External Developmental Assets
    - Relationships and opportunities that young people experience in their families, schools & communities
  - Internal Developmental Assets
    - Competencies and values that youth develop internally to guide behaviors and choices
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# External Assets

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- Support
  - Empowerment
  - Boundaries and Expectations
  - Constructive Use of Time
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# Internal Assets

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- Commitment to Learning
  - Positive Values
  - Social Competencies
  - Positive Identity
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# Deficits

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- Negative and countervailing influences that interfere with youth's healthy development
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# Thriving Indicators

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- Indicators commonly associated with healthy and positive development
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# Risk-Taking Behaviors

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- Behaviors that compromise youth's well-being and likely lead to negative, potentially life-threatening consequences
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# Results

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- Midland County vs. National
  - Ultimately, Midland County youth and the National average came out comparatively the same.
- Midland County Juvenile Wards vs. Midland County “Average” Youth

Here is where the curve bends...

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# Top Ten Differences

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- **Midland County Wards vs. Nat'l Youth**
    - **Resistance Skills - 73% Worse**
    - **Adult Role Models – 67% Worse**
    - **Planning & Decision Making – 66% Worse**
    - **Creative Activities – 53% Worse**
    - **Positive Peer Influence – 52% Worse**
    - **Caring Neighborhood – 50% Worse**
    - **Youth Programs – 49% Worse**
    - **Interpersonal Competence – 49% Worse**
    - **Peaceful Conflict Resolution – 48% Worse**
    - **Community Values Youth – 40% Worse**
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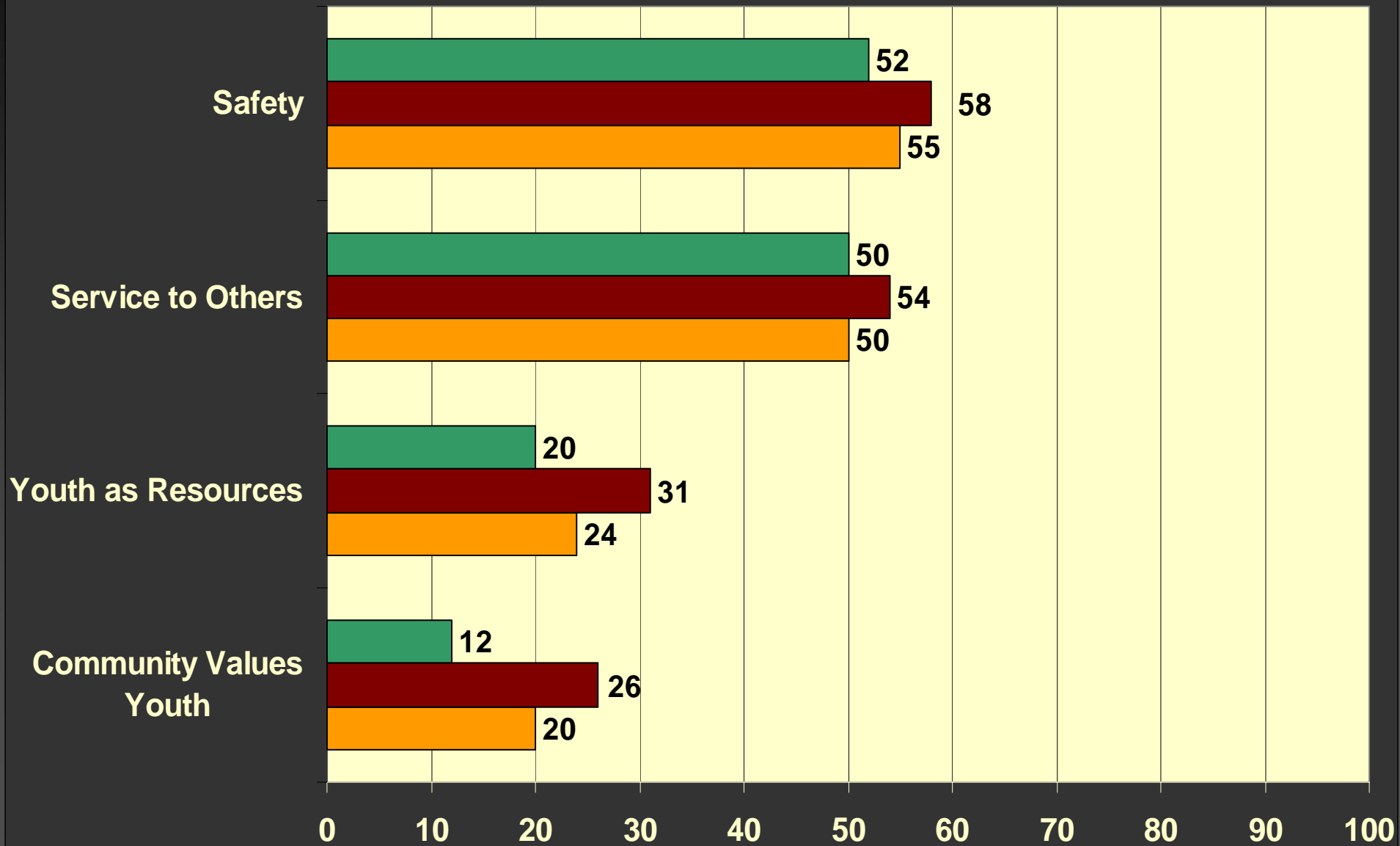


# Percent Reporting External Assets: Empowerment

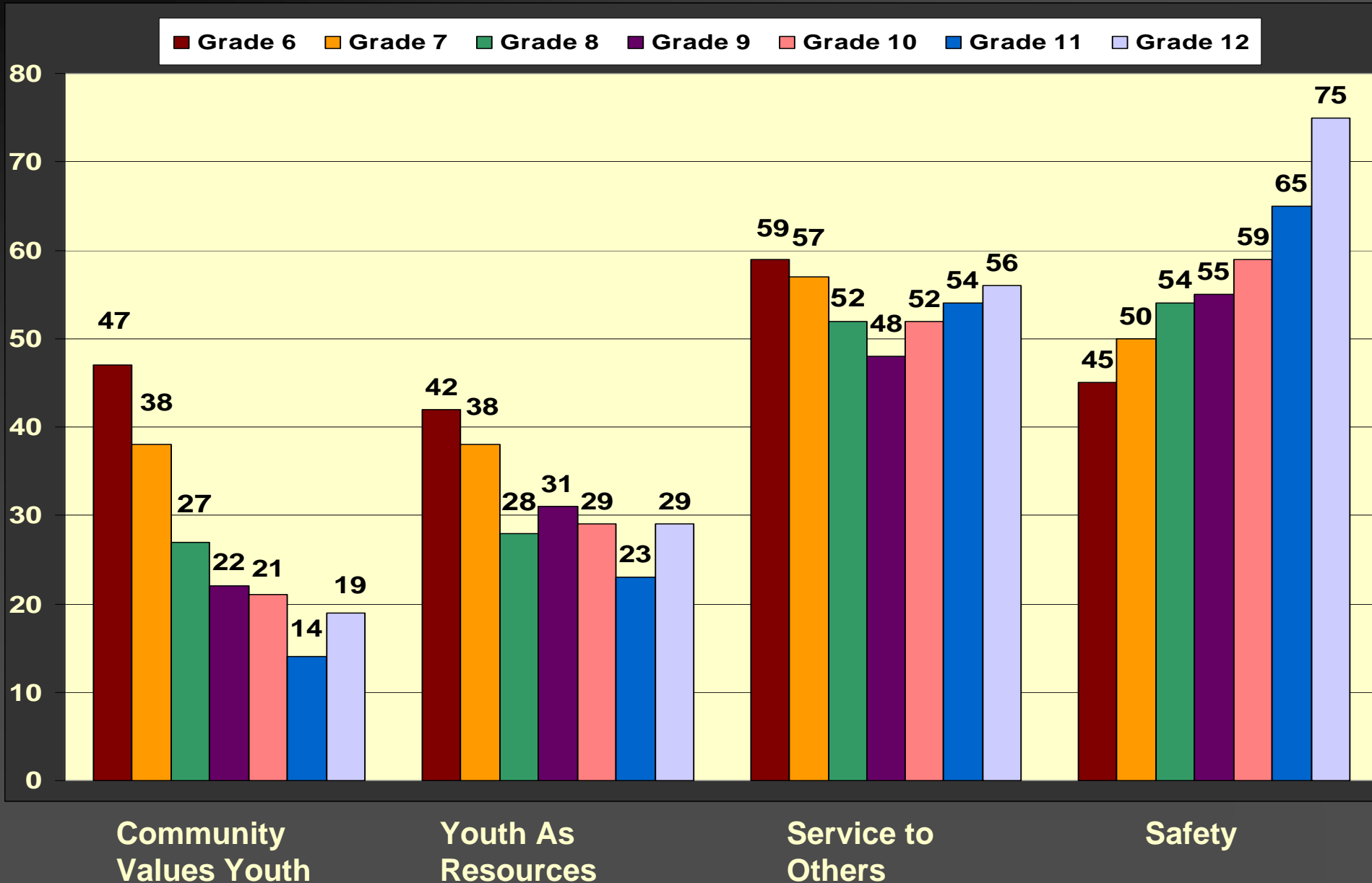
**■ National Youth Population**

**■ Midland County Youth**

**■ Midland County Wards**



# External Assets By Grade: Empowerment

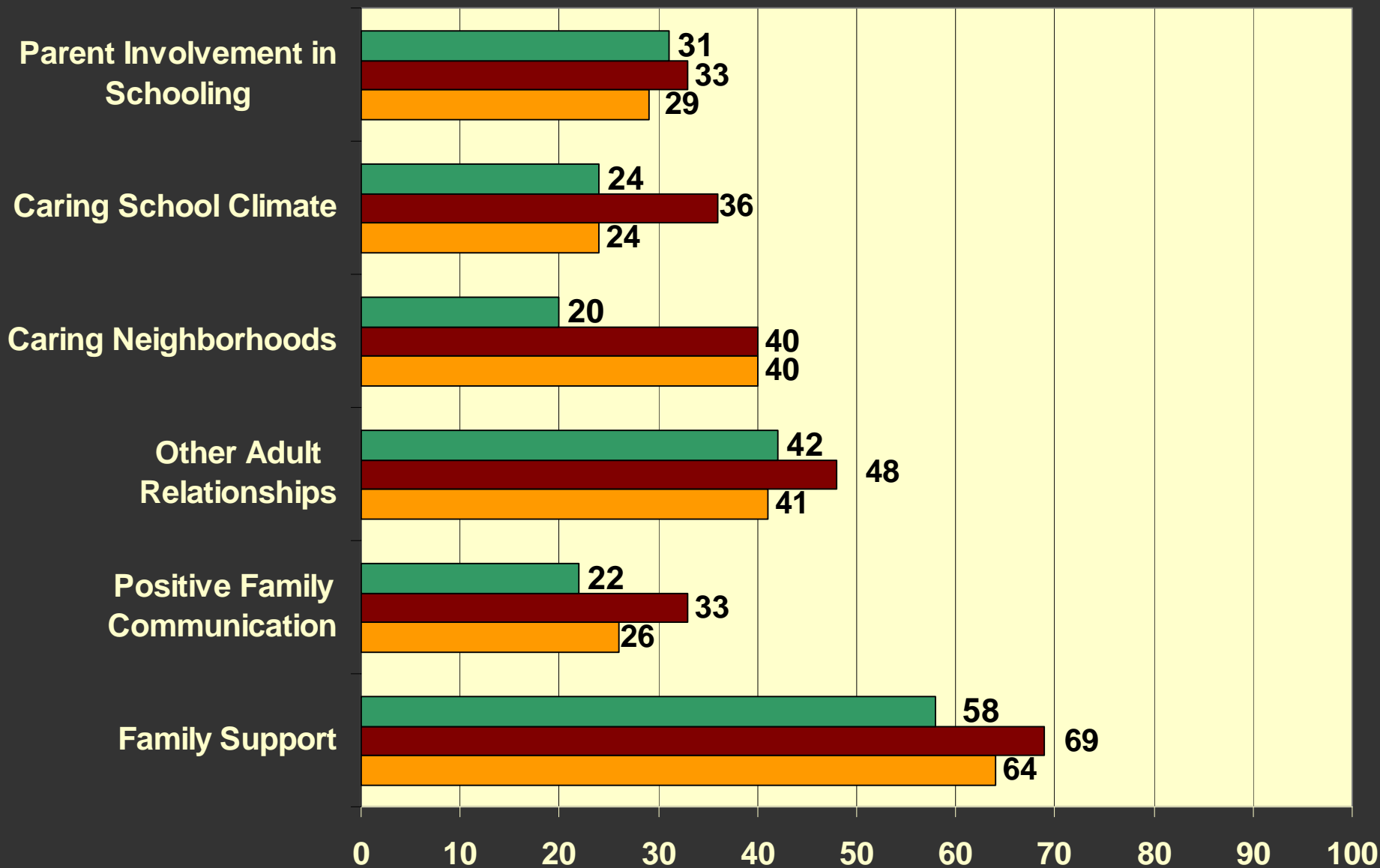


# Percent Reporting External Assets: Support

■ National Youth Population

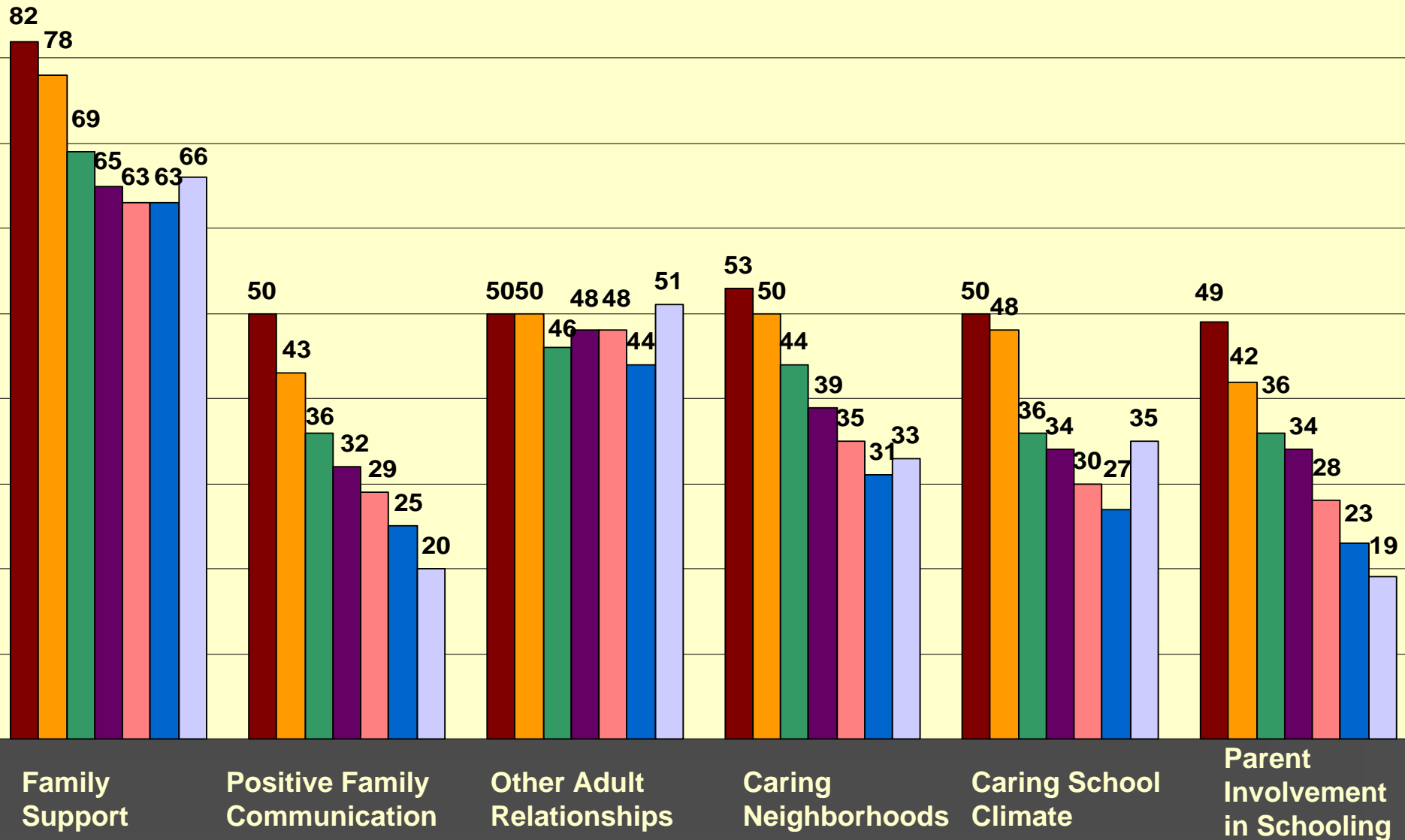
■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Wards



# External Assets By Grade Level: Support

■ Grade 6 ■ Grade 7 ■ Grade 8 ■ Grade 9 ■ Grade 10 ■ Grade 11 ■ Grade 12

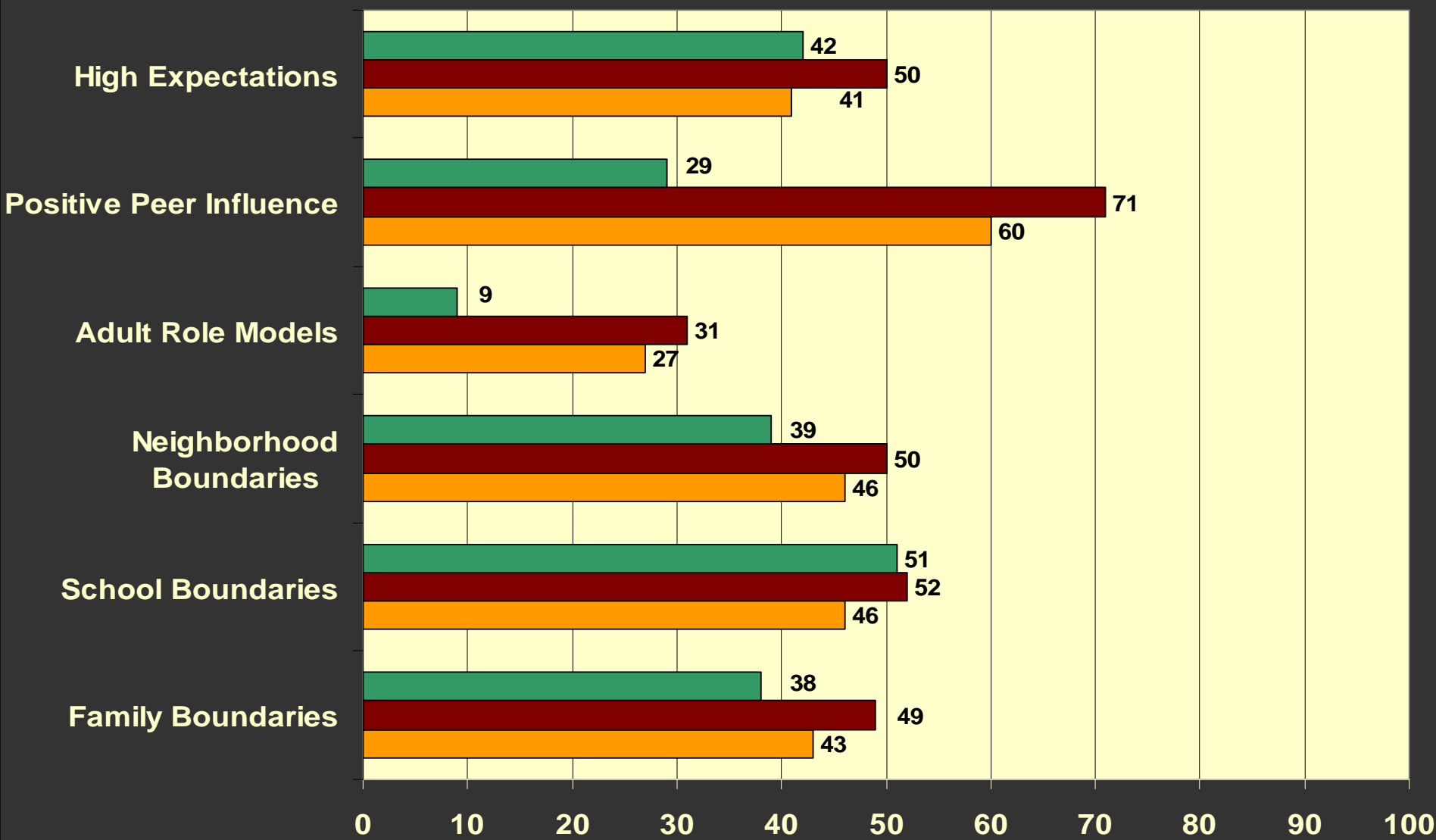


# Percent Reporting External Assets: Boundaries & Expectations

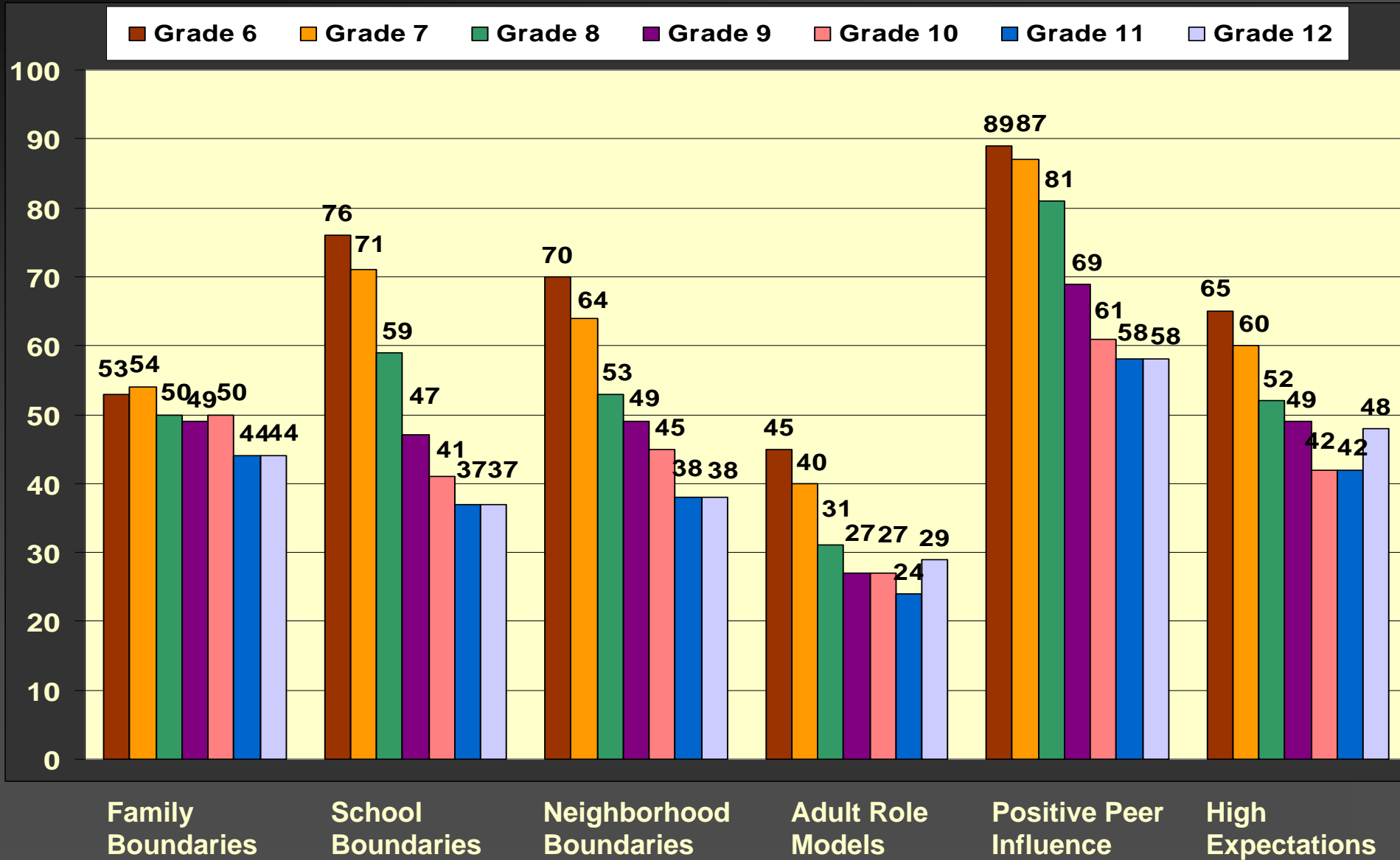
■ National Youth Population

■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards



# External Assets By Grade: Boundaries & Expectations

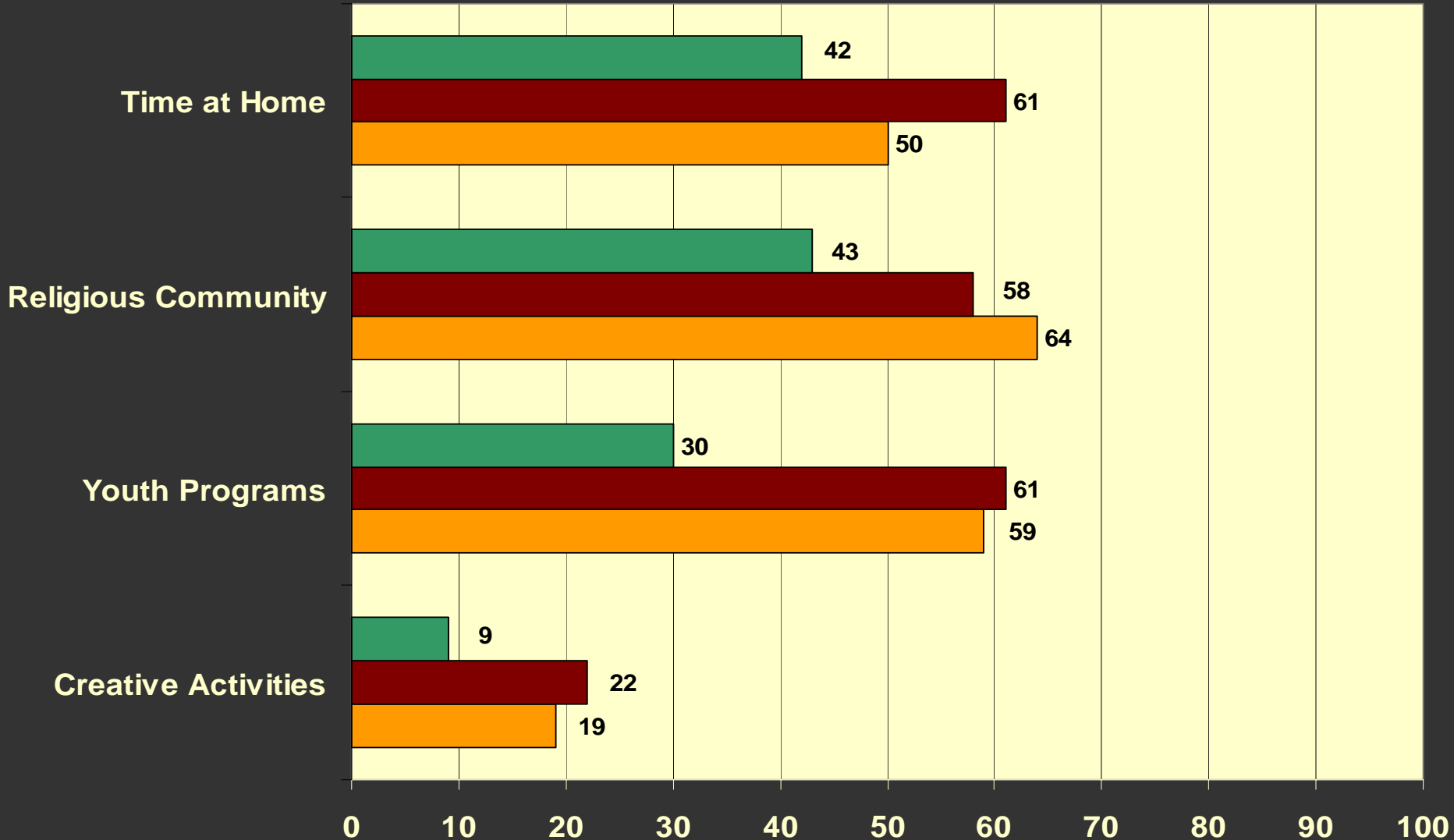


# Percent Reporting External Assets: Constructive Use of Time

■ National Youth Population

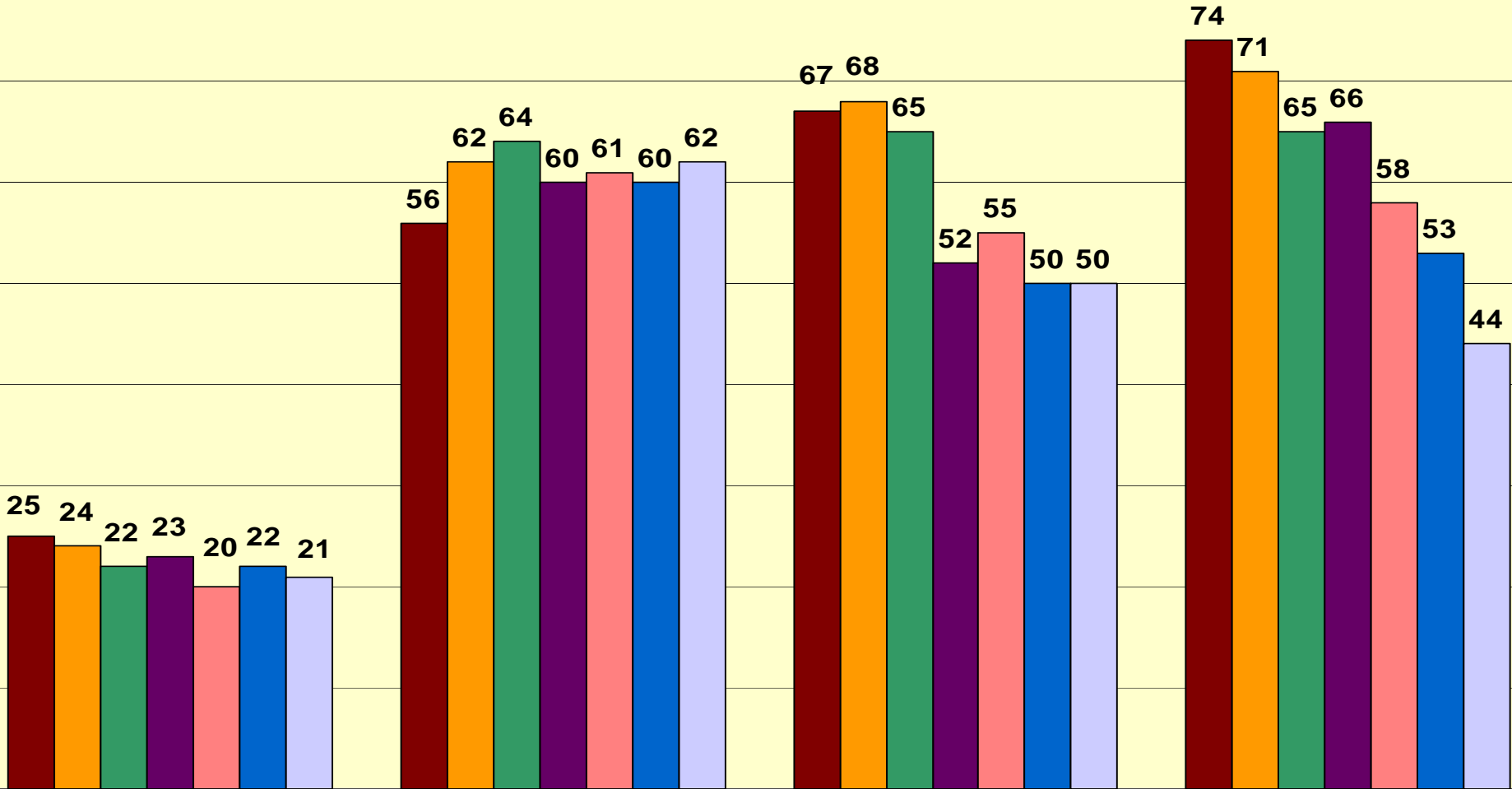
■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards



# External Assets By Grade: Constructive Use of Time

Grade 6   Grade 7   Grade 8   Grade 9   Grade 10   Grade 11   Grade 12



Creative  
Activities

Youth  
Programs

Religious  
Community

Time At  
Home



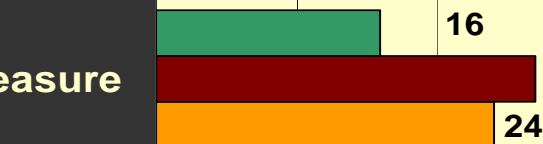
# Percent Reporting Internal Assets: Commitment to Learning

**■ National Youth Population**

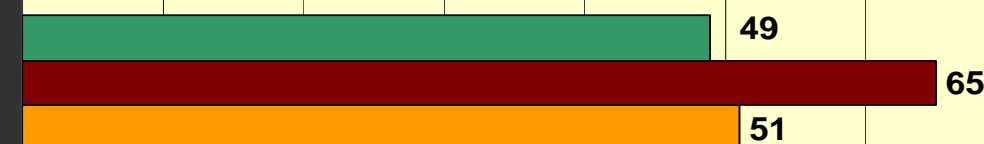
**■ Midland County Youth**

**■ Midland County Court Wards**

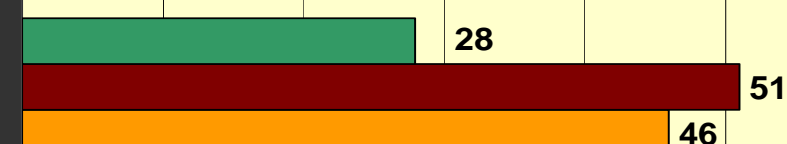
**Reading for Pleasure**



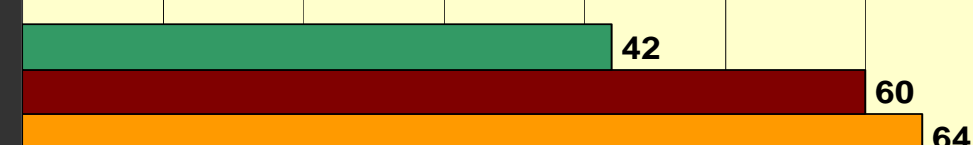
**Bonding to School**



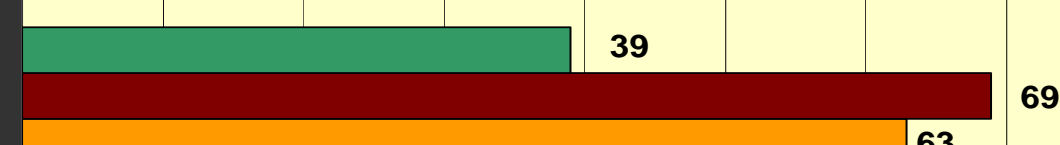
**Homework**



**School Engagement**



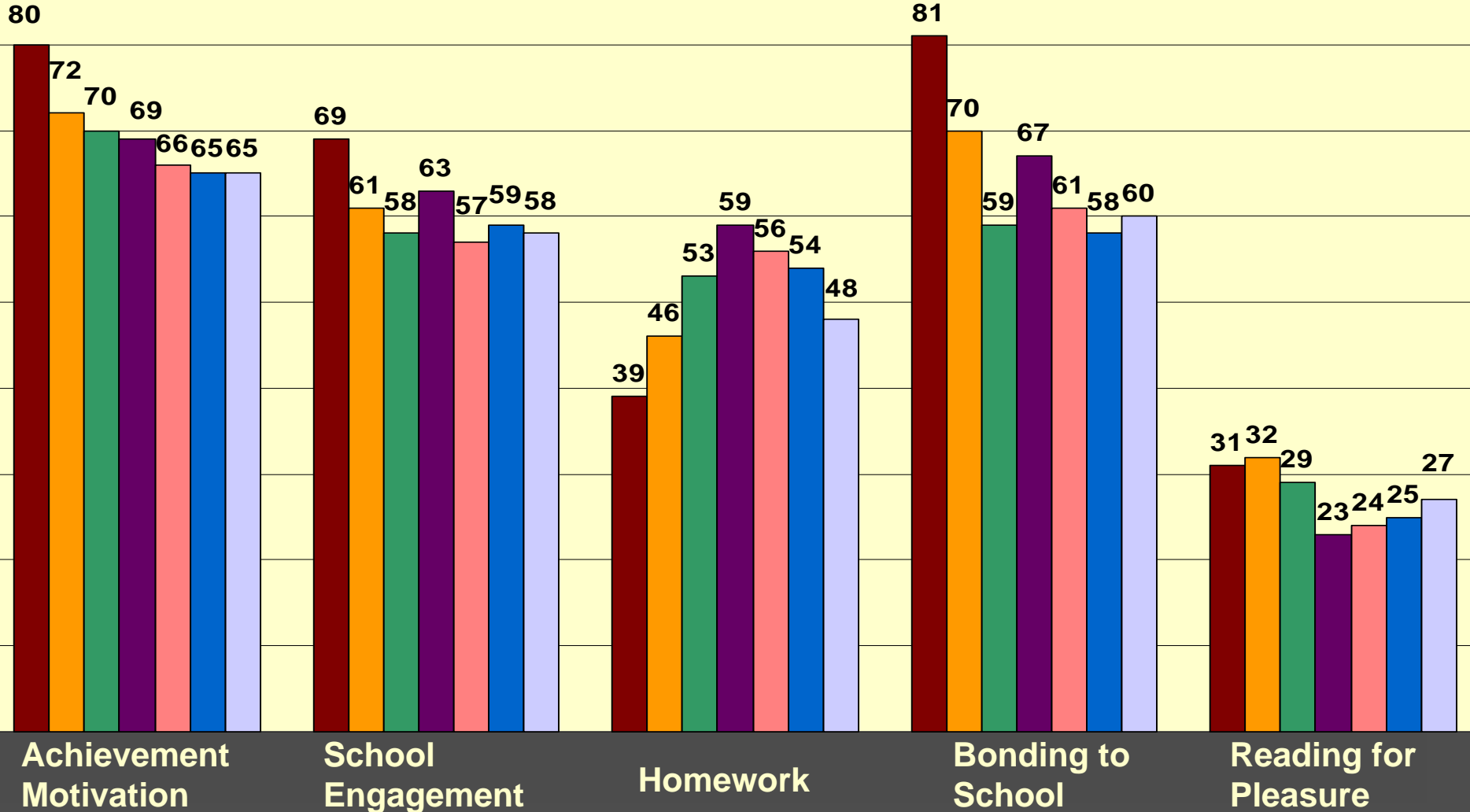
**Achievement  
Motivation**



0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

# Internal Assets By Grade: Commitment to Learning

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12

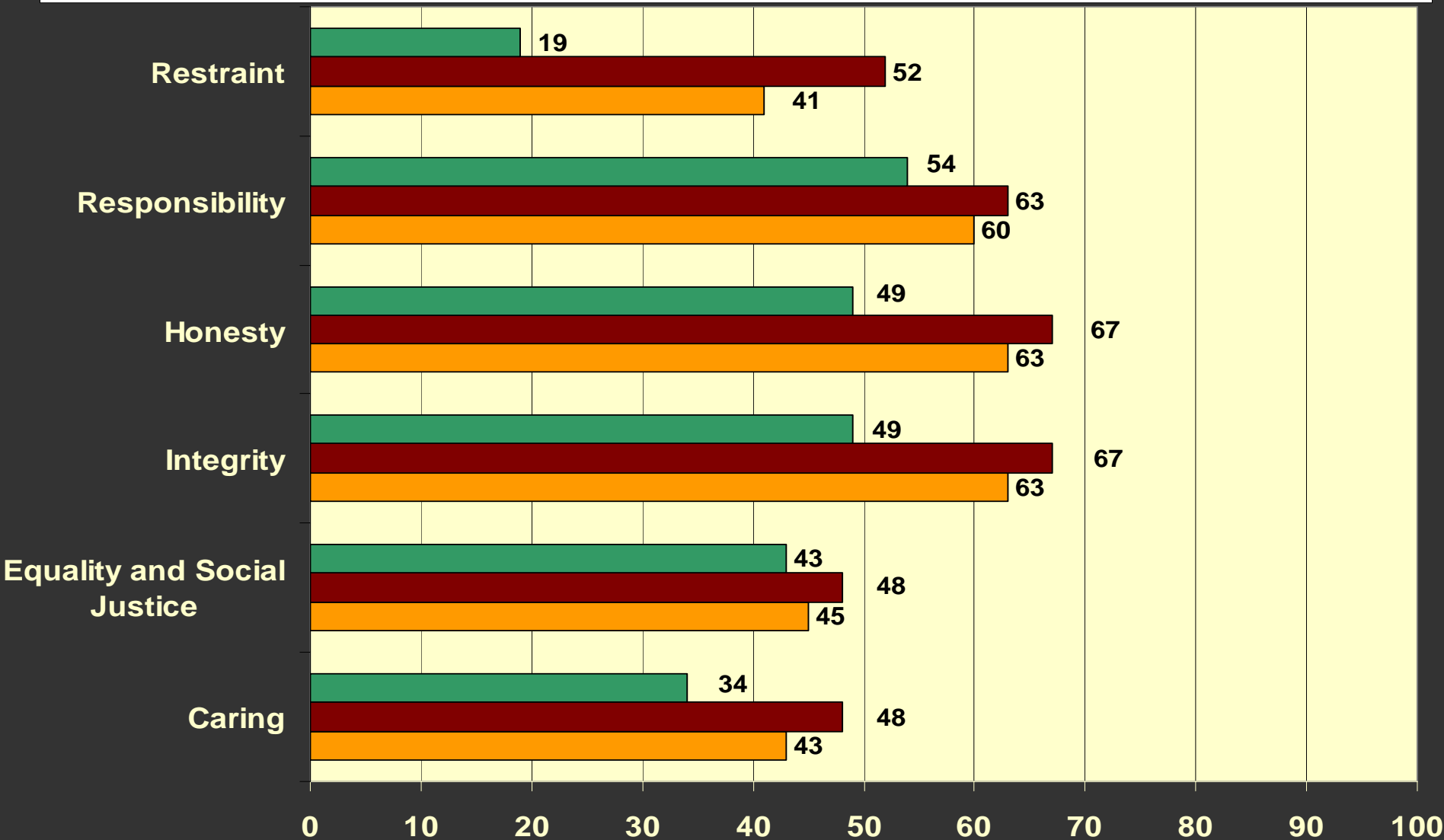


# Percent Reporting Internal Assets: Positive Values

**■ National Youth Population**

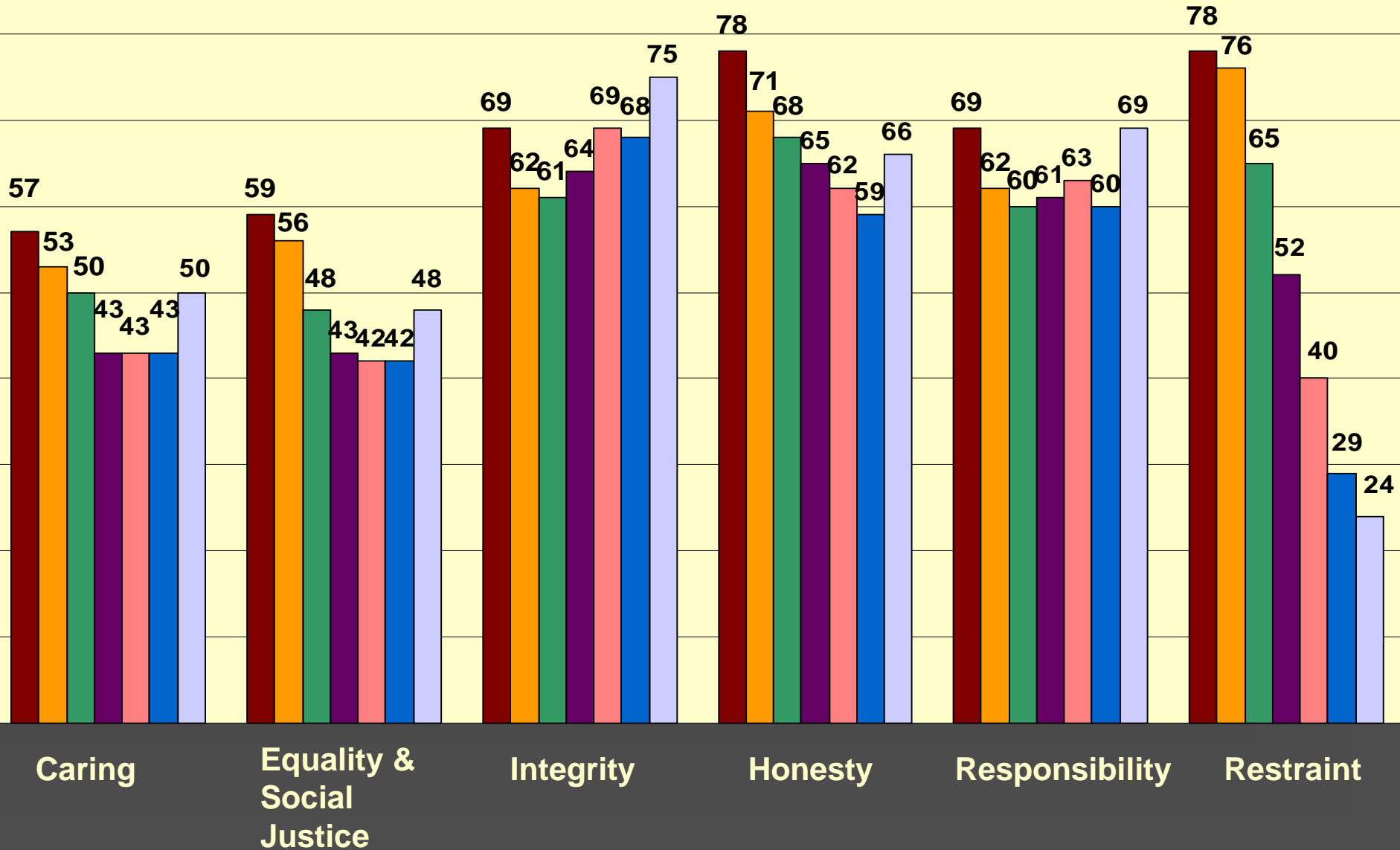
**■ Midland County Youth**

**■ Midland County Court Wards**



# Internal Assets By Grade: Positive Values

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12



# Percent Reporting Internal Assets: Social Competencies

**■ National Youth Population**

**■ Midland County Youth**

**■ Midland County Court Wards**

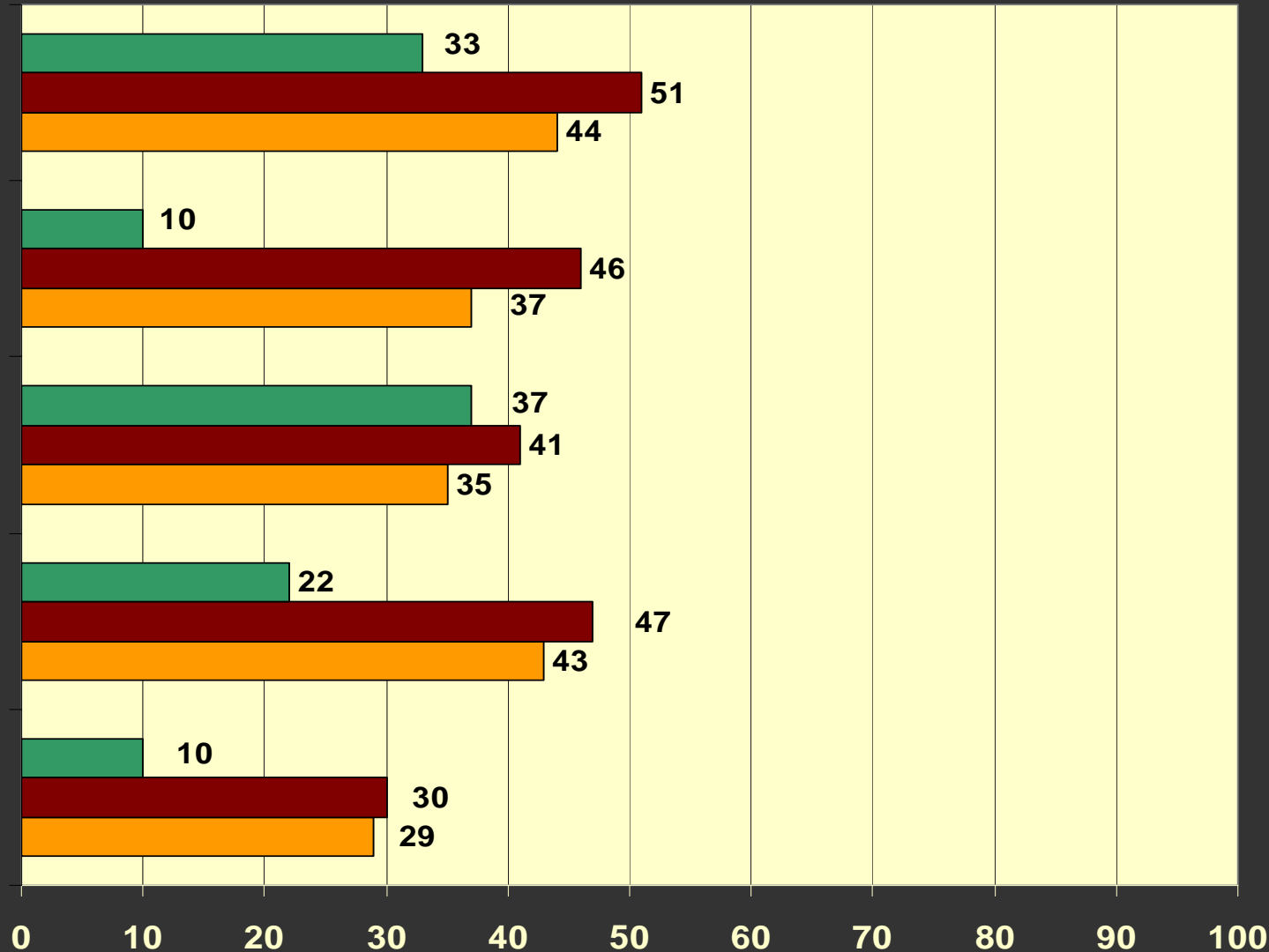
**Peaceful Conflict Resolution**

**Resistance Skills**

**Cultural Competence**

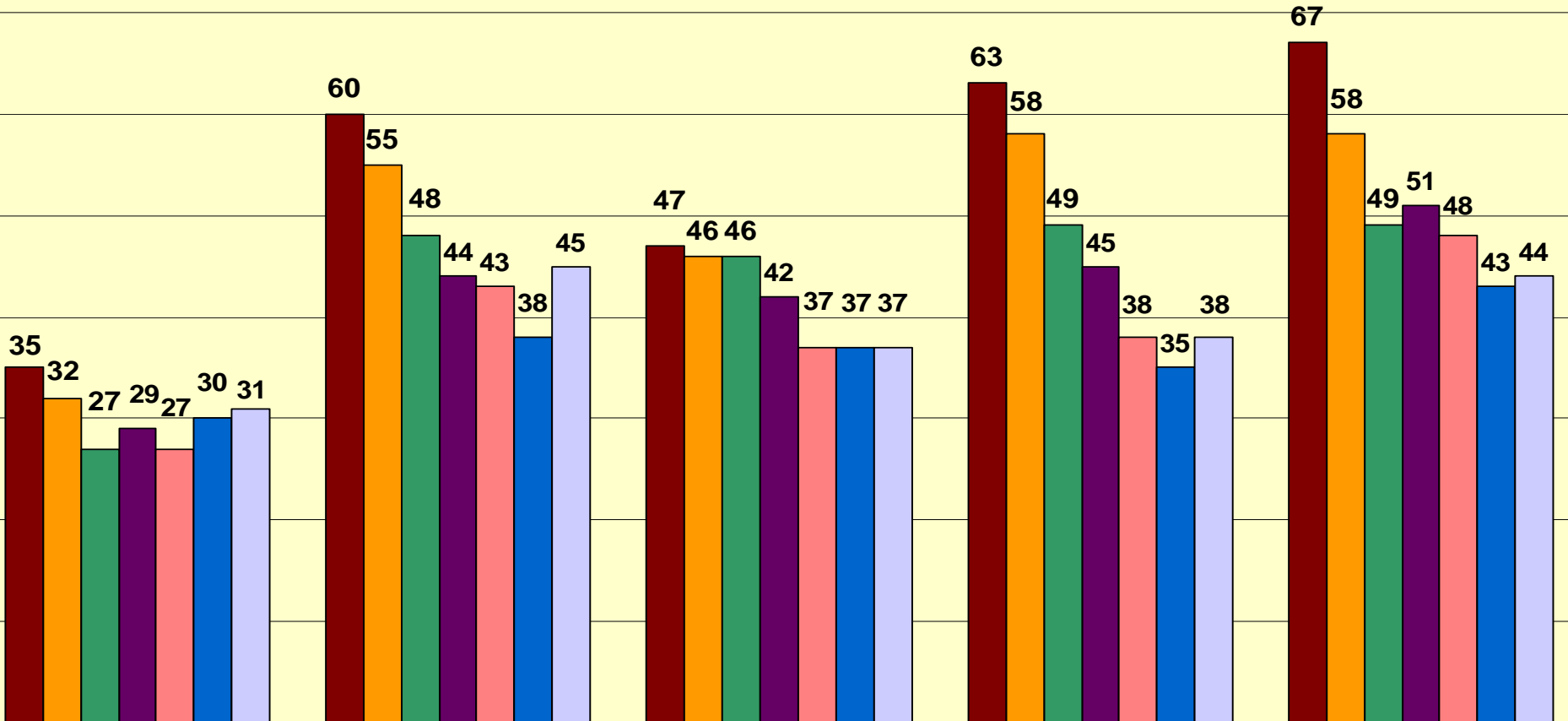
**Interpersonal Competence**

**Planning and Decision-Making**



# Internal Assets By Grade: Social Competencies

Grade 6   Grade 7   Grade 8   Grade 9   Grade 10   Grade 11   Grade 12



Planning &  
Decision  
Making

Interpersonal  
Competence

Cultural  
Competence

Resistance  
Skills

Peaceful  
Conflict  
Resolution

# Percent Reporting Internal Assets: Positive Identity

**■ National Youth Population**

**■ Midland County Youth**

**■ Midland County Court Wards**

**Positive View of  
Personal Future**

66

72

70

**Sense of Purpose**

50

59

55

**Self-Esteem**

46

47

46

**Personal Power**

32

46

45

0

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

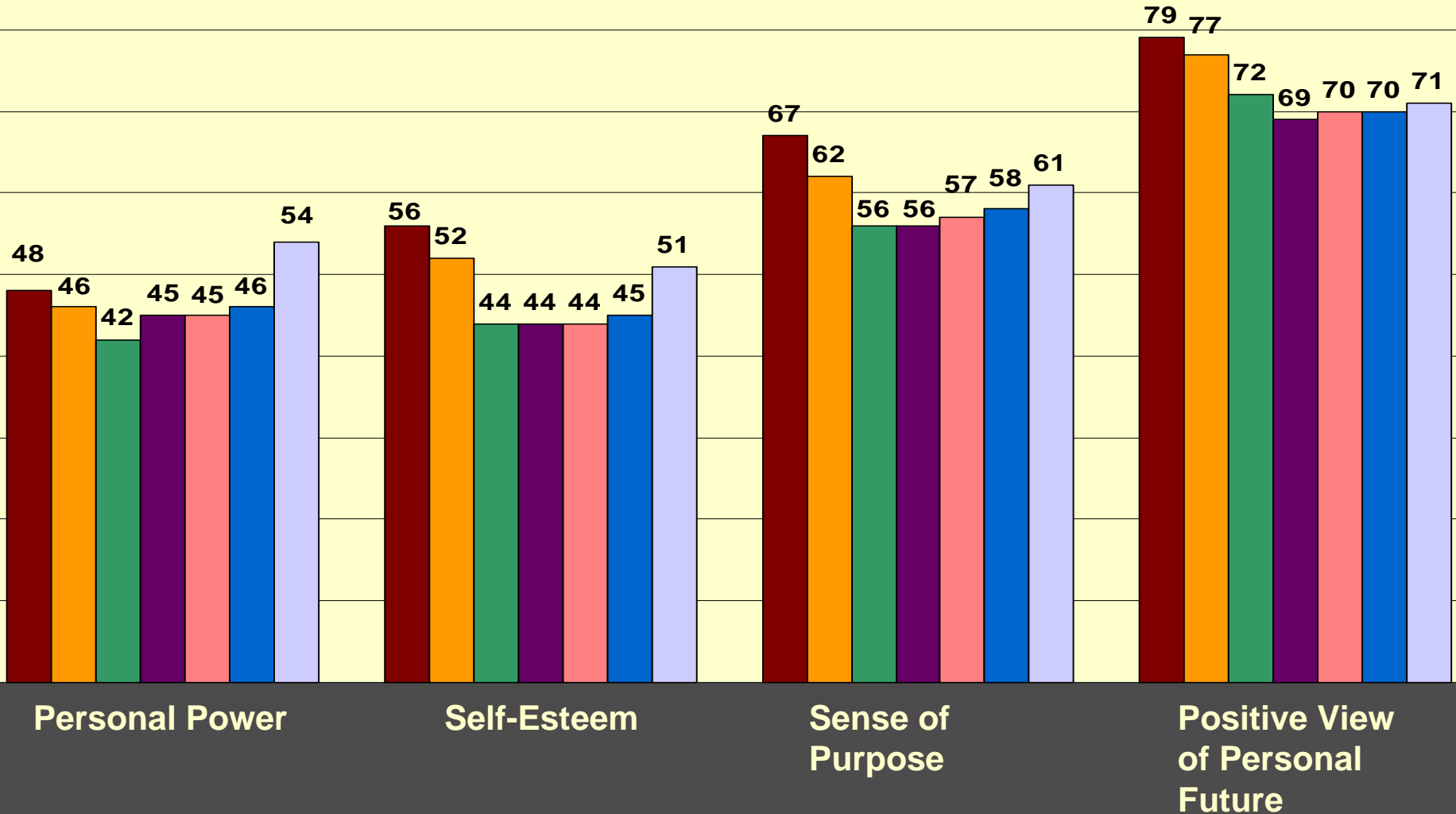
80

90

100

# Internal Assets By Grade: Positive Identity

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12



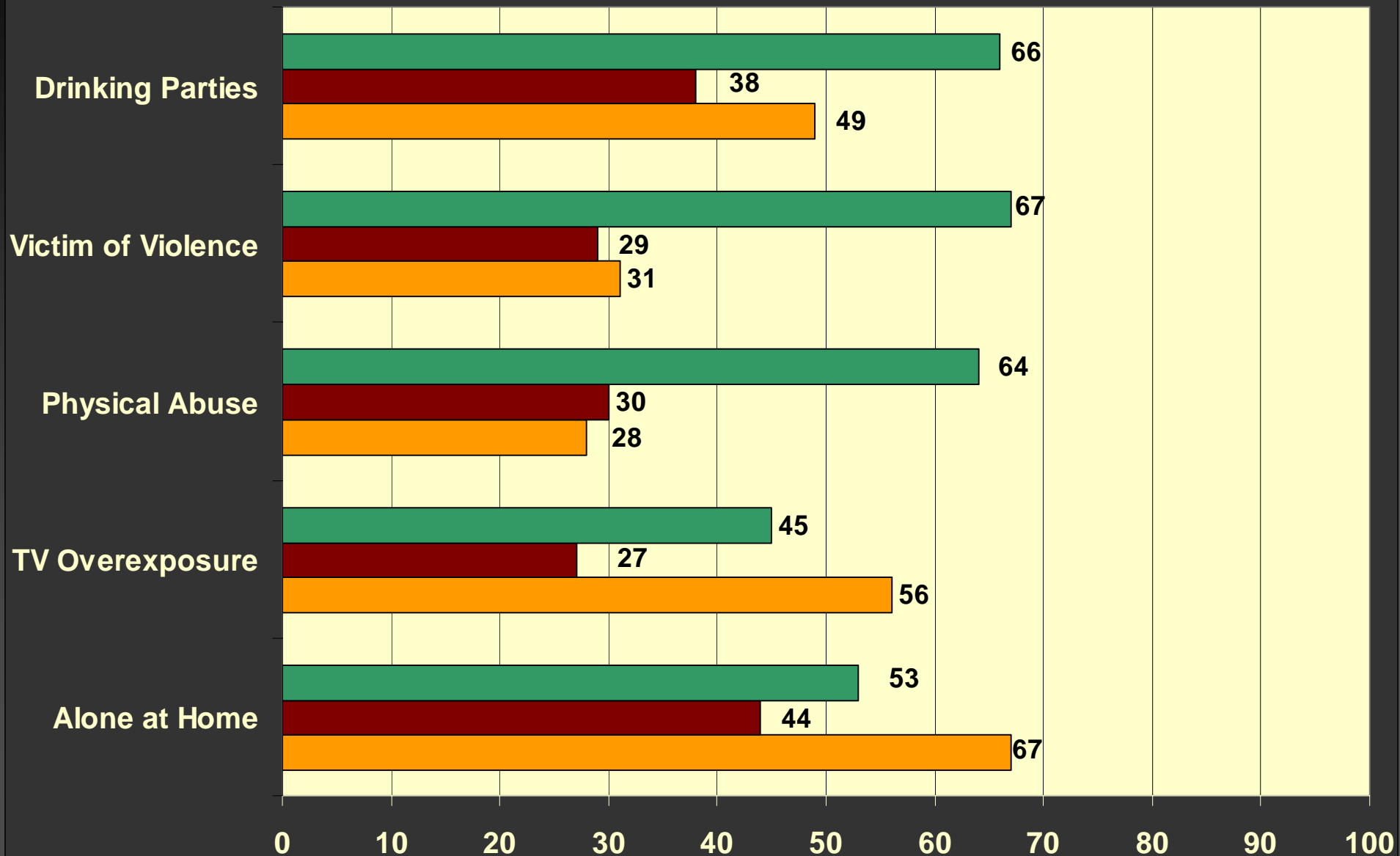


# Percent Reporting Deficits

■ National Youth Population

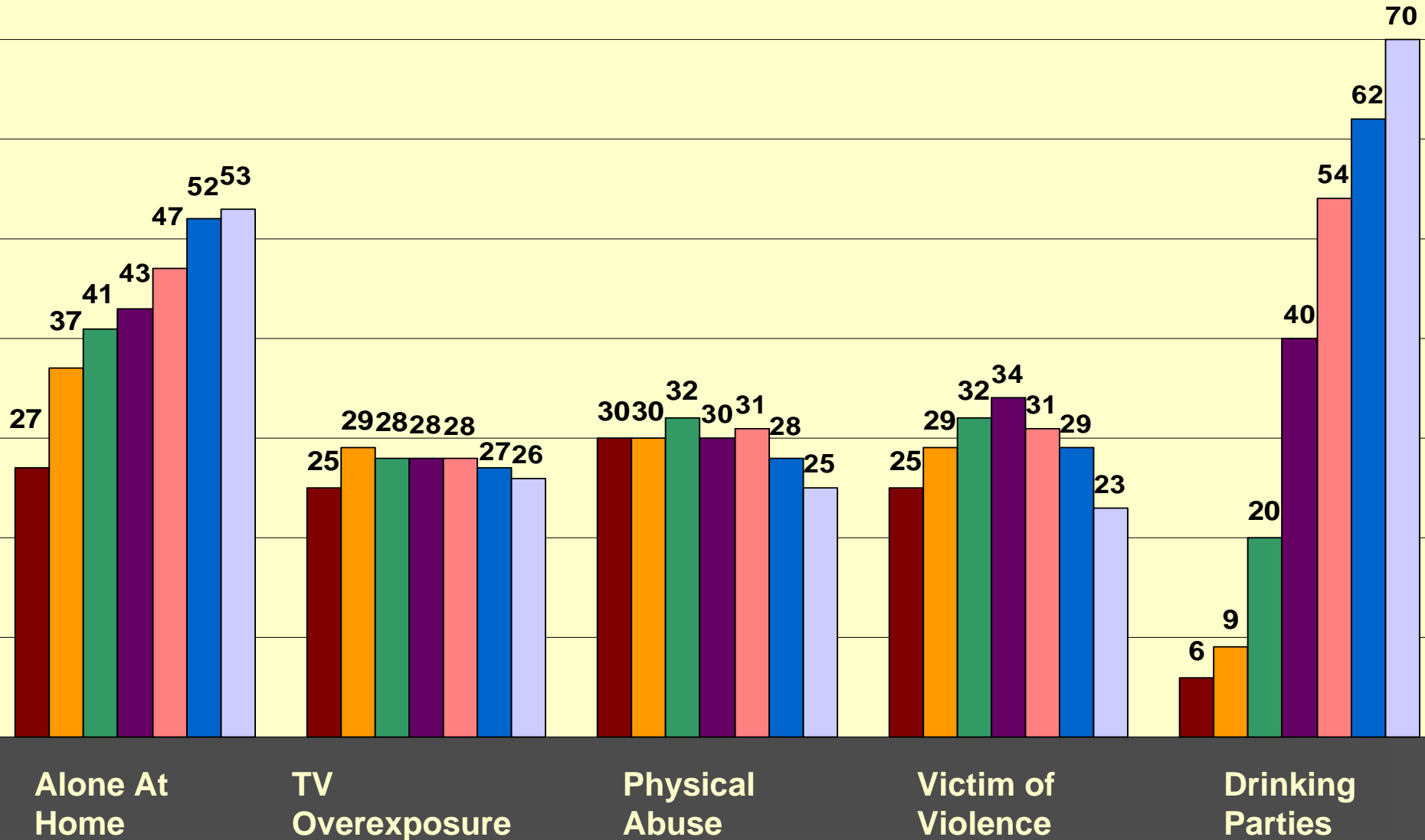
■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards



# Deficits By Grade Level

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12

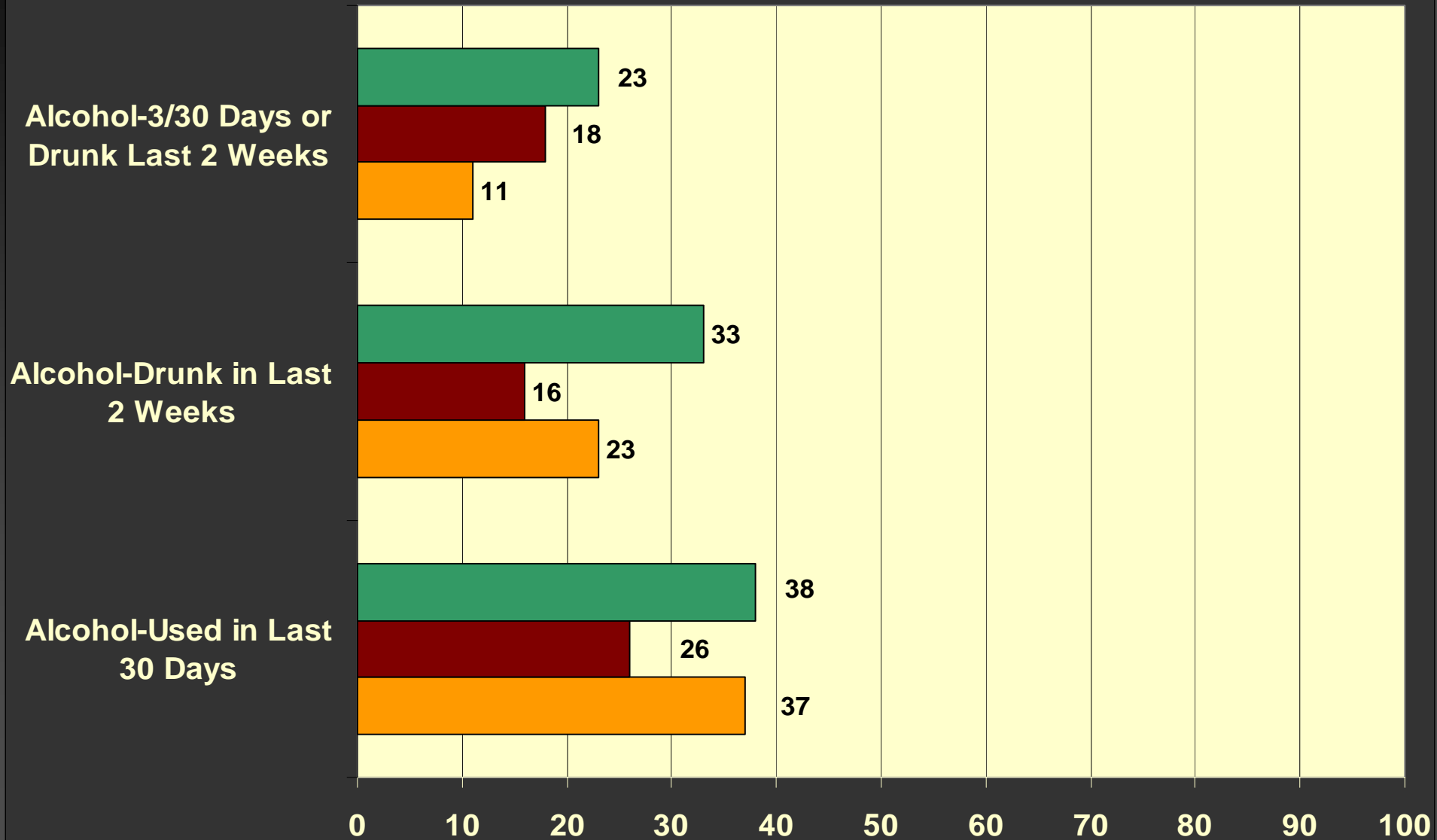


# Percent Reporting Alcohol Use

■ National Youth Population

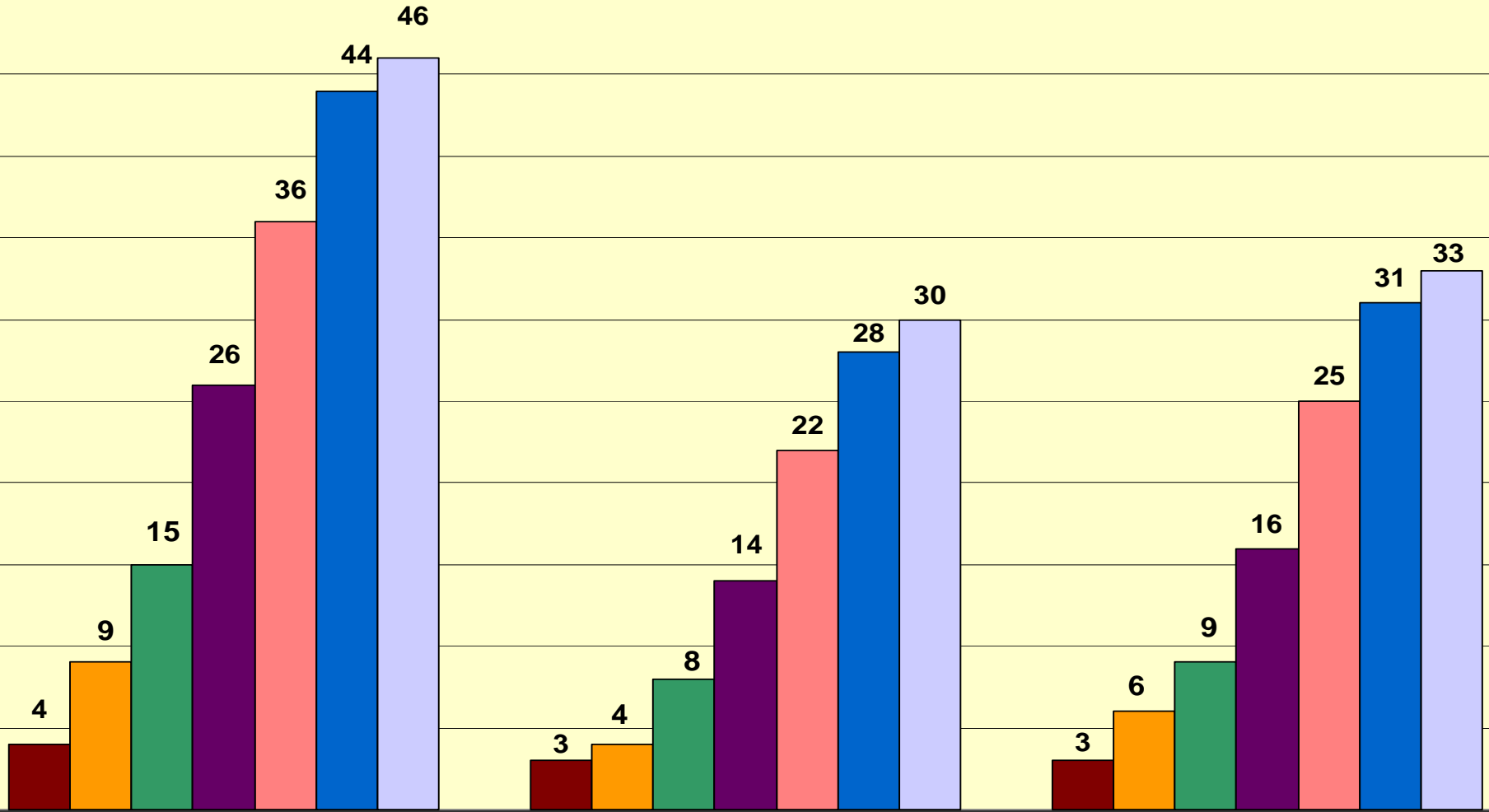
■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards



# Alcohol Use By Grade Level

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12



Alcohol-Used in Last 30 Days

Alcohol-Drunk in Last 2 Weeks

Alcohol-3/30 Days or Drunk Last 2 Weeks

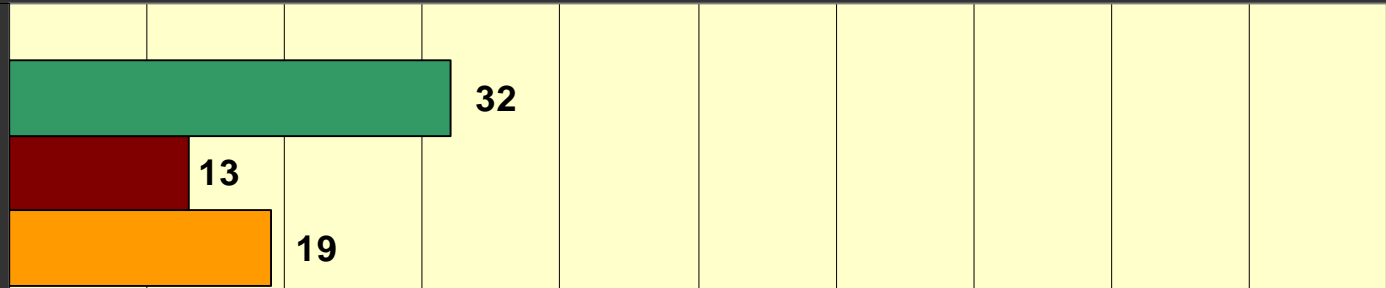
# Percent Reporting Driving & Alcohol

■ National Youth Population

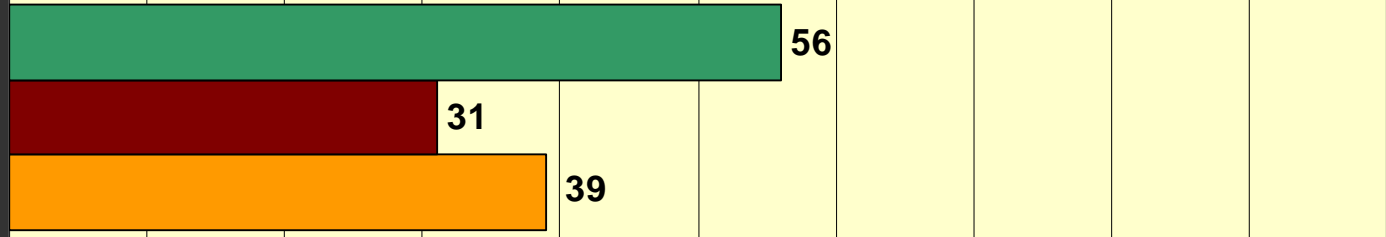
■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards

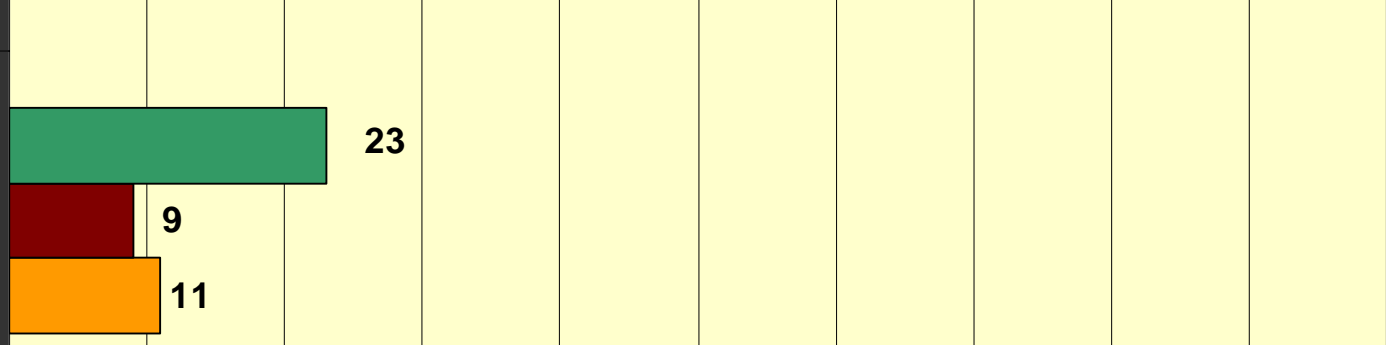
Driving and Alcohol-3  
or More Times in Last  
Year



Driving and Alcohol-  
Passenger in Last Year



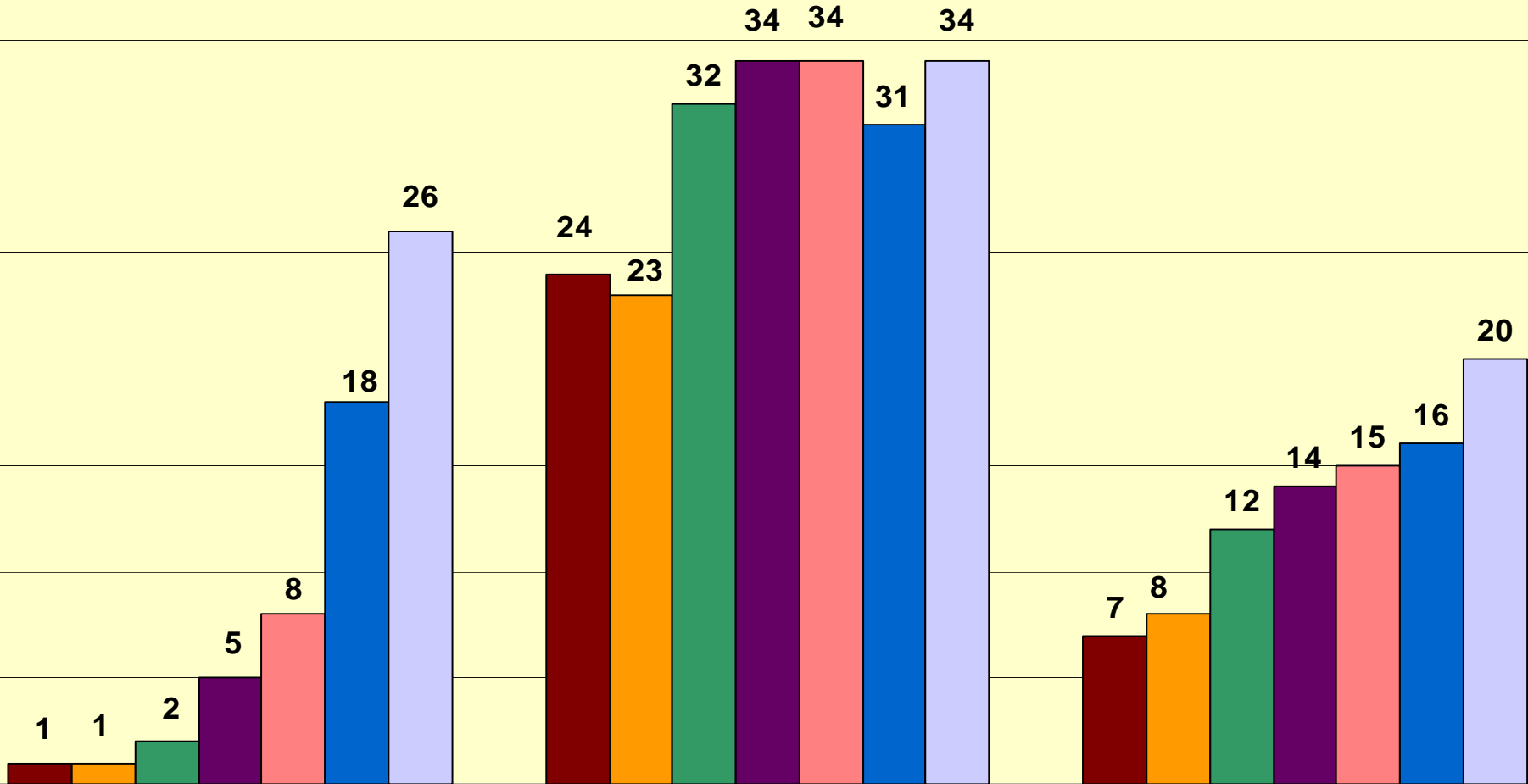
Driving and Alcohol-  
Drove in Last Year



0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

# Driving & Alcohol Use By Grade Level

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12



Driving & Alcohol  
– Drove in the  
Last Year

Driving & Alcohol  
– Passenger in the  
Last Year

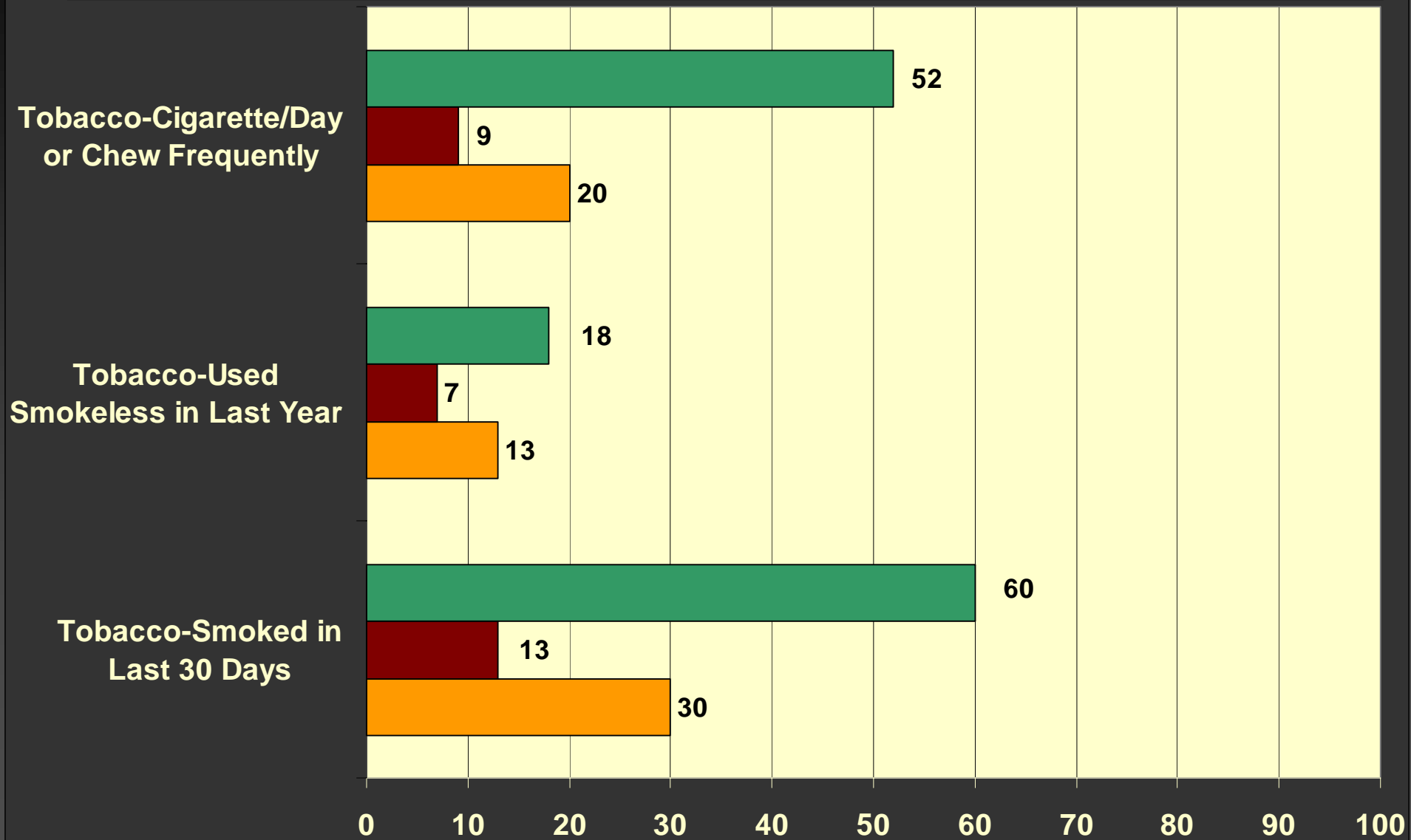
Driving & Alcohol  
– Drove 3 or  
more in Last Year

# Percent Reporting Tobacco Use

■ National Youth Population

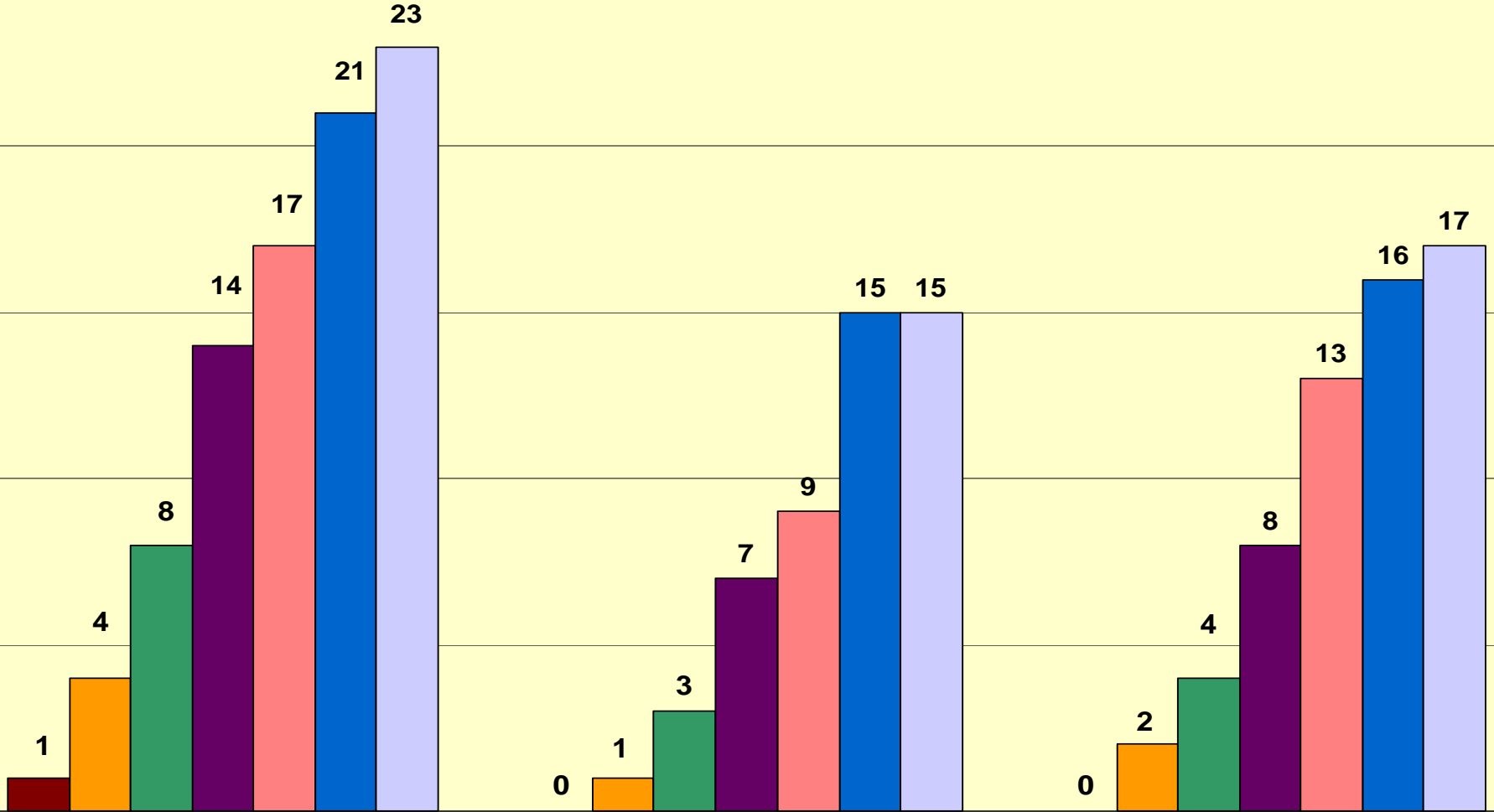
■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards



# Tobacco Use By Grade Level

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12



Tobacco –  
Smoked in Last  
30 Days

Tobacco-Used  
Smokeless in  
Last Year

Tobacco-  
Cigarette/Day or  
Chew Frequently



# Percent Reporting Illegal Drug Use

■ National Youth Population

■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards

Illicit Drugs-Used 3  
Times in Last Year

48

13

19

Other Illicit Drugs-Used  
in Last Year

34

8

13

Marjuana-Used in Last  
Year

57

18

25

Inhalants-Used in Last  
Year

18

8

13

0

10

20

30

40

50

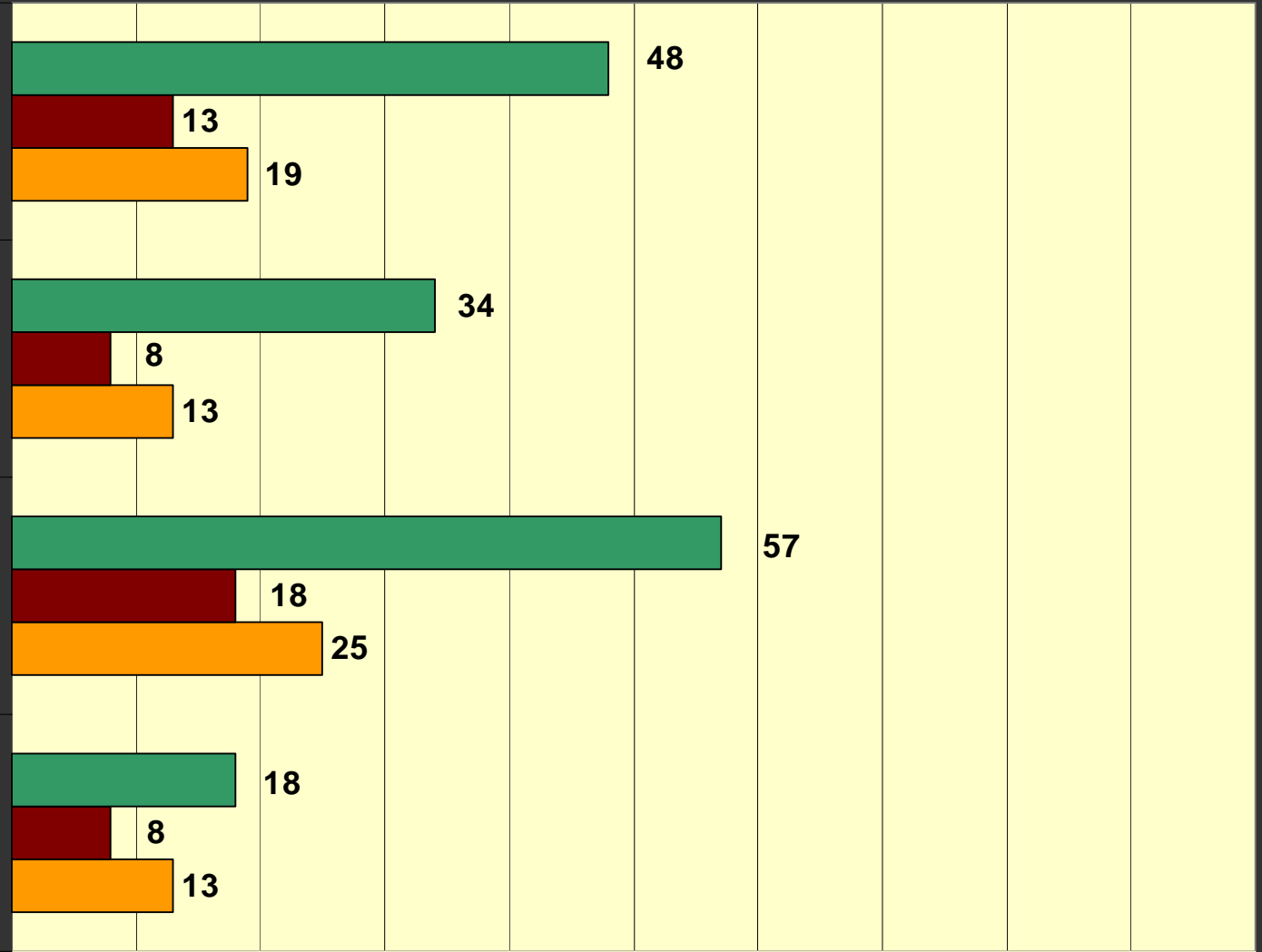
60

70

80

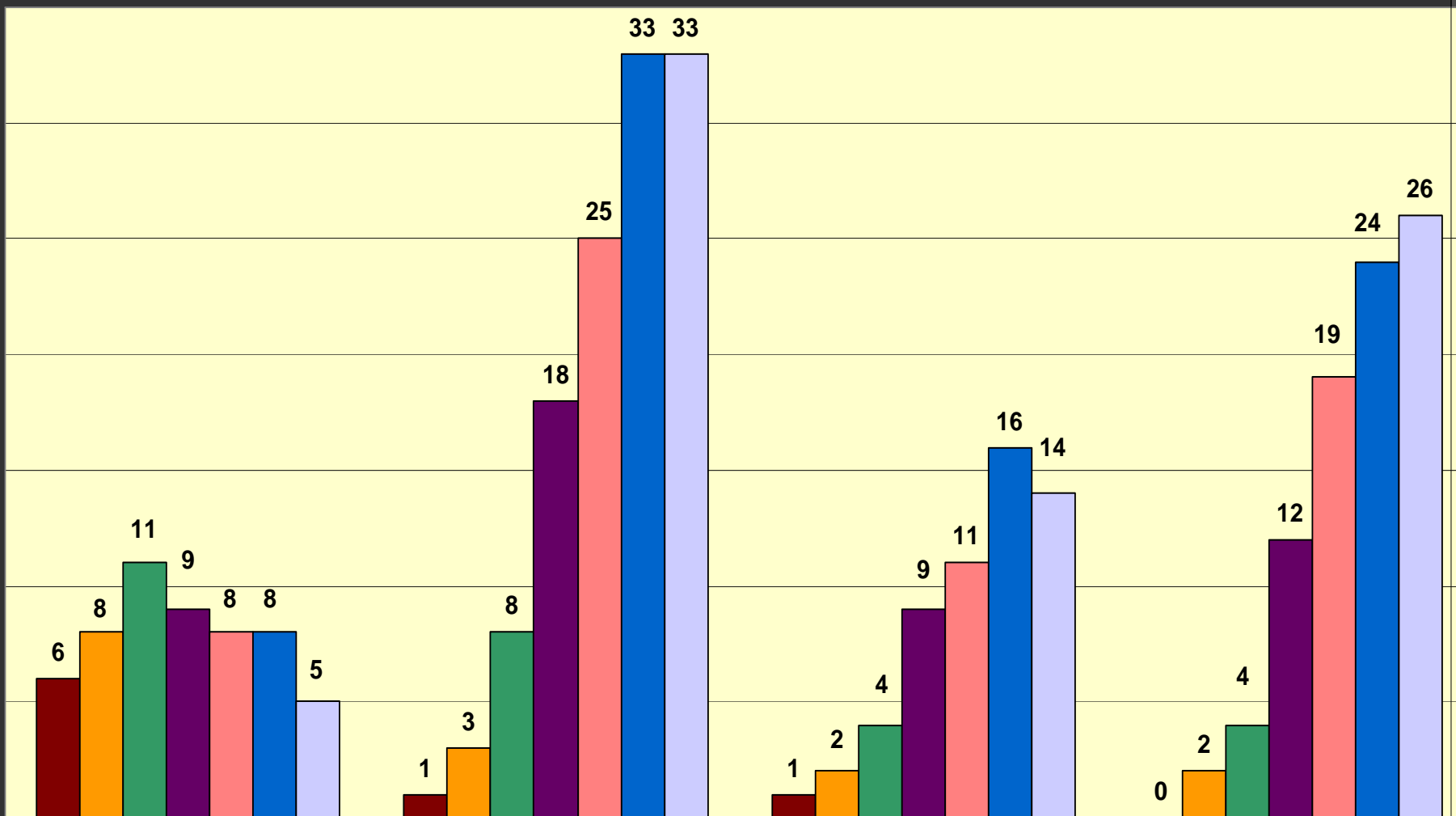
90

100



# Illegal Drug Use By Grade Level

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12



Inhalants-Used in Last Year

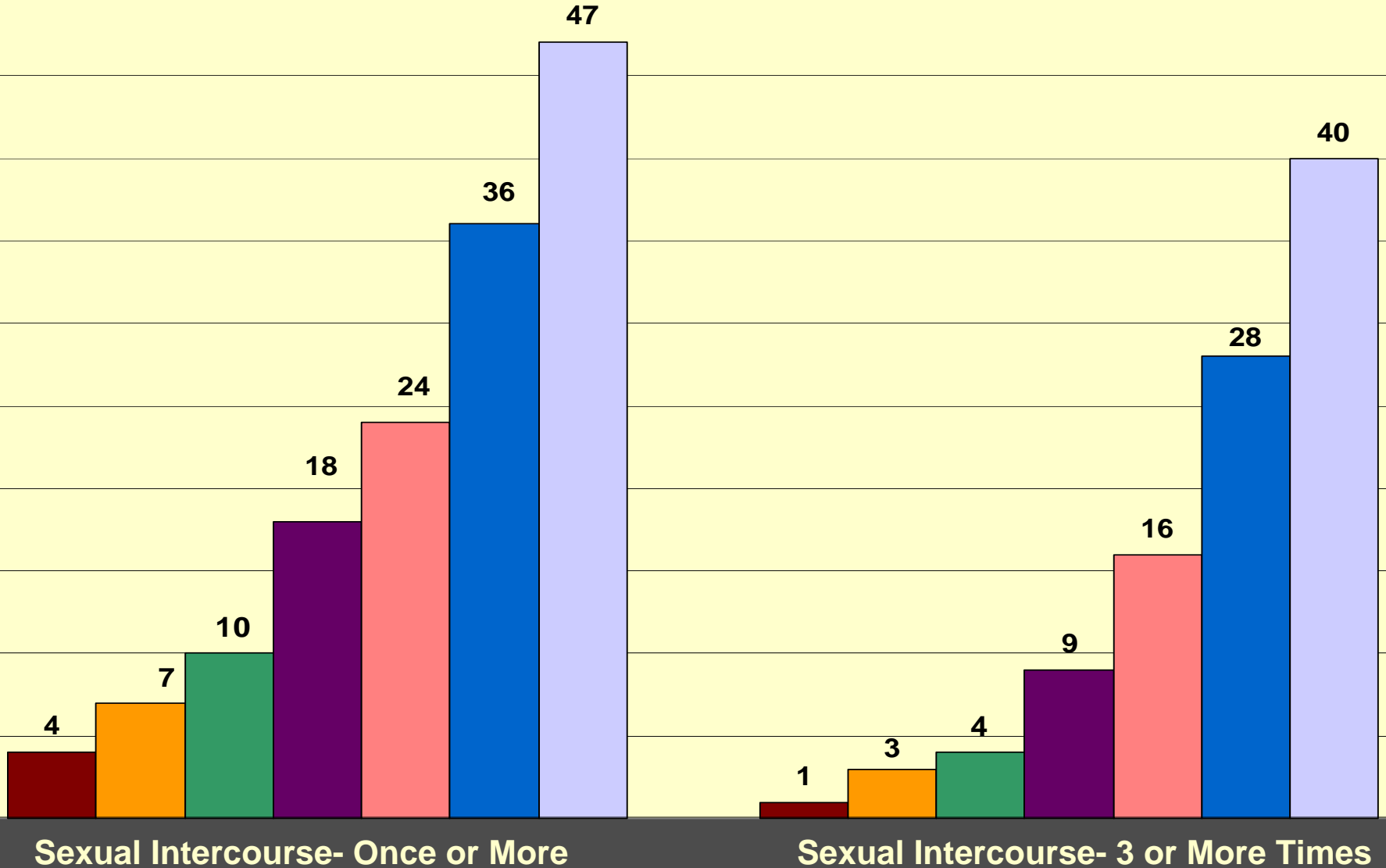
Marijuana-Used in Last Year

Other Illicit Drugs-Used in Last Year

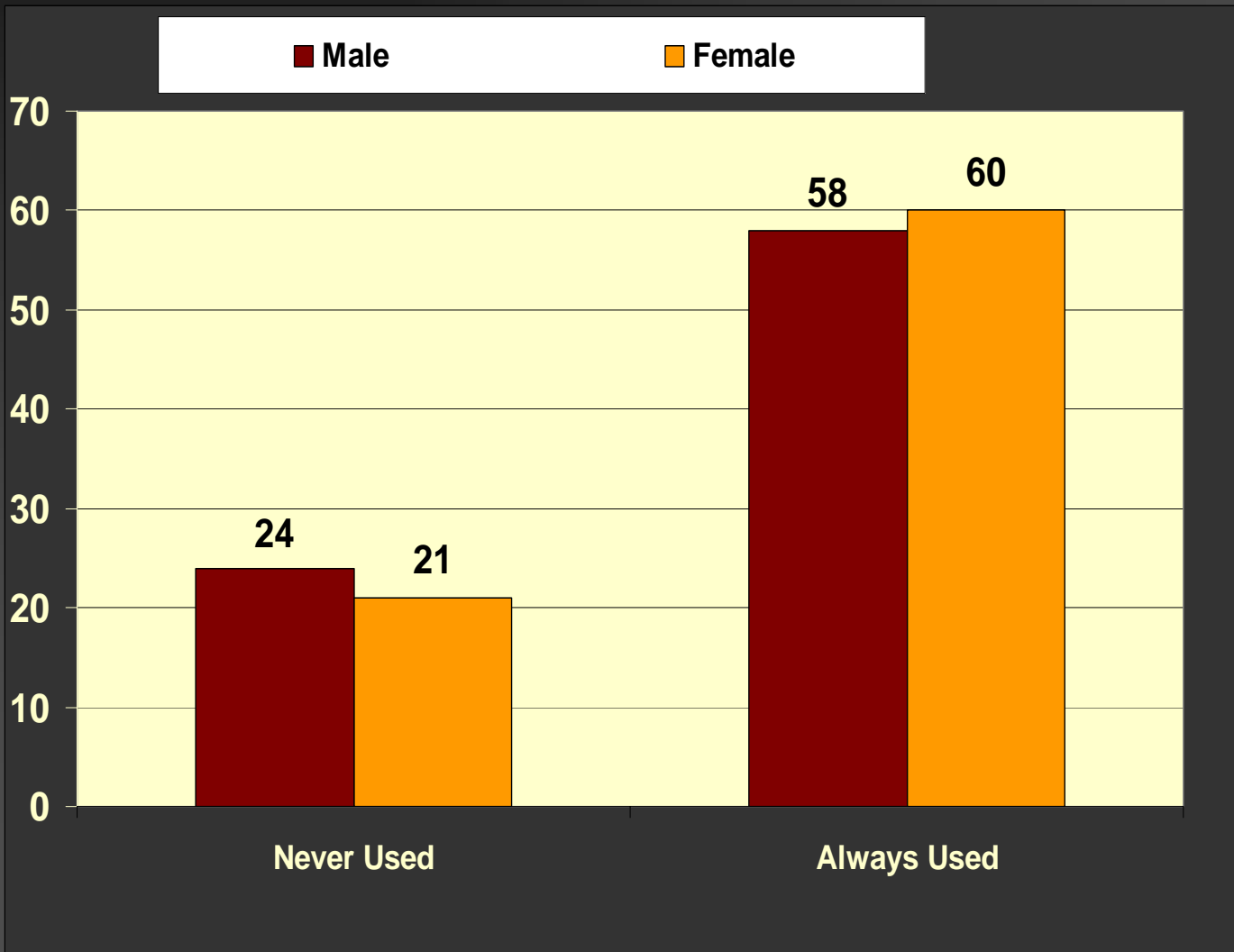
Illicit Drugs-Used 3 Times in Last Year

# Sexual Behavior By Grade Level

Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12



# Gender Analysis – Birth Control



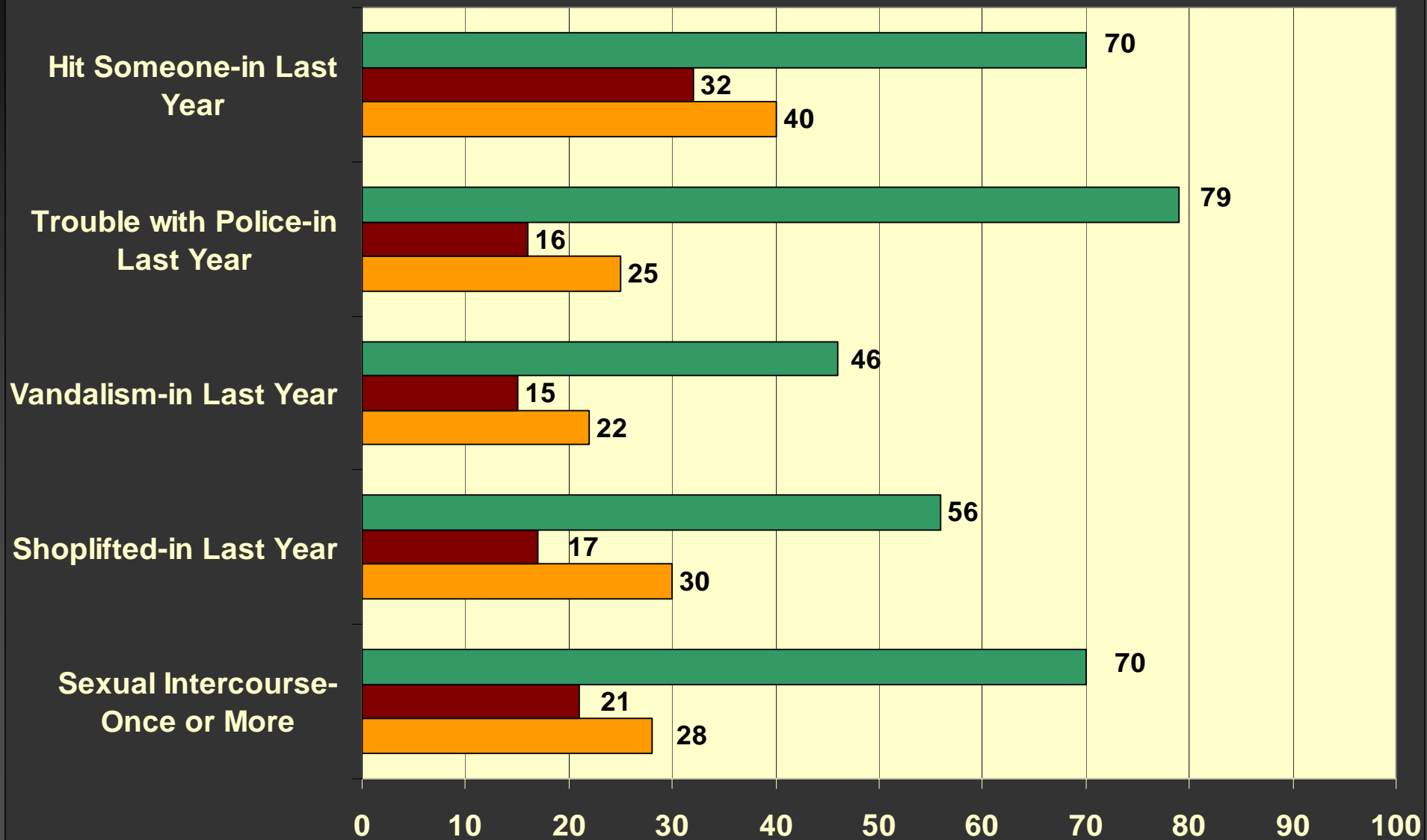
Both Boys & Girls report similar responses about use of Birth Control

# Percent Reporting Risk-Taking Behaviors

■ National Youth Population

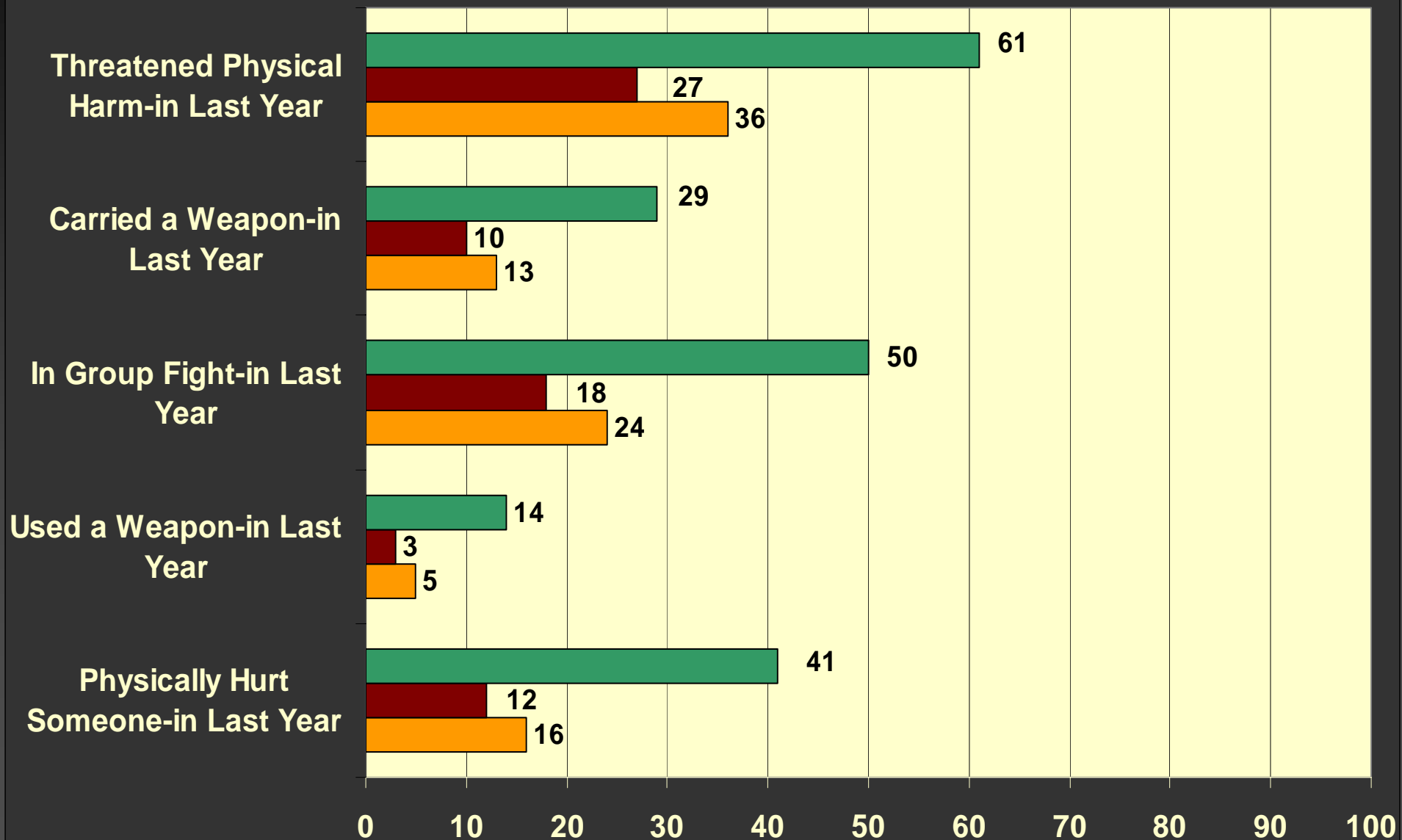
■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards



# Percent Reporting Risk-Taking Behaviors

■ National Youth Population   ■ Midland County Youth   ■ Midland County Court Wards

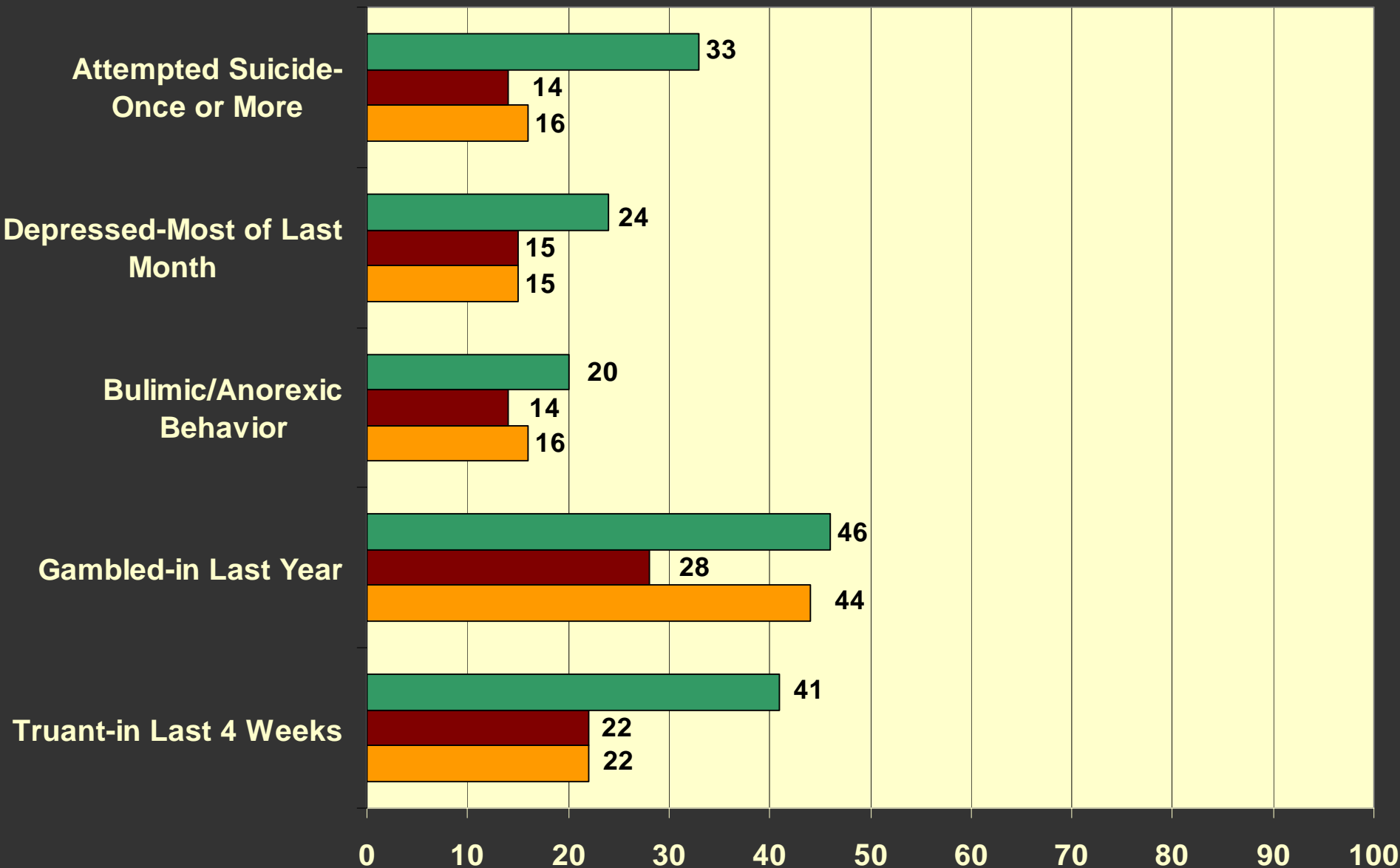


# Percent Reporting Risk-Taking Behaviors

**■ National Youth Population**

**■ Midland County Youth**

**■ Midland County Court Wards**

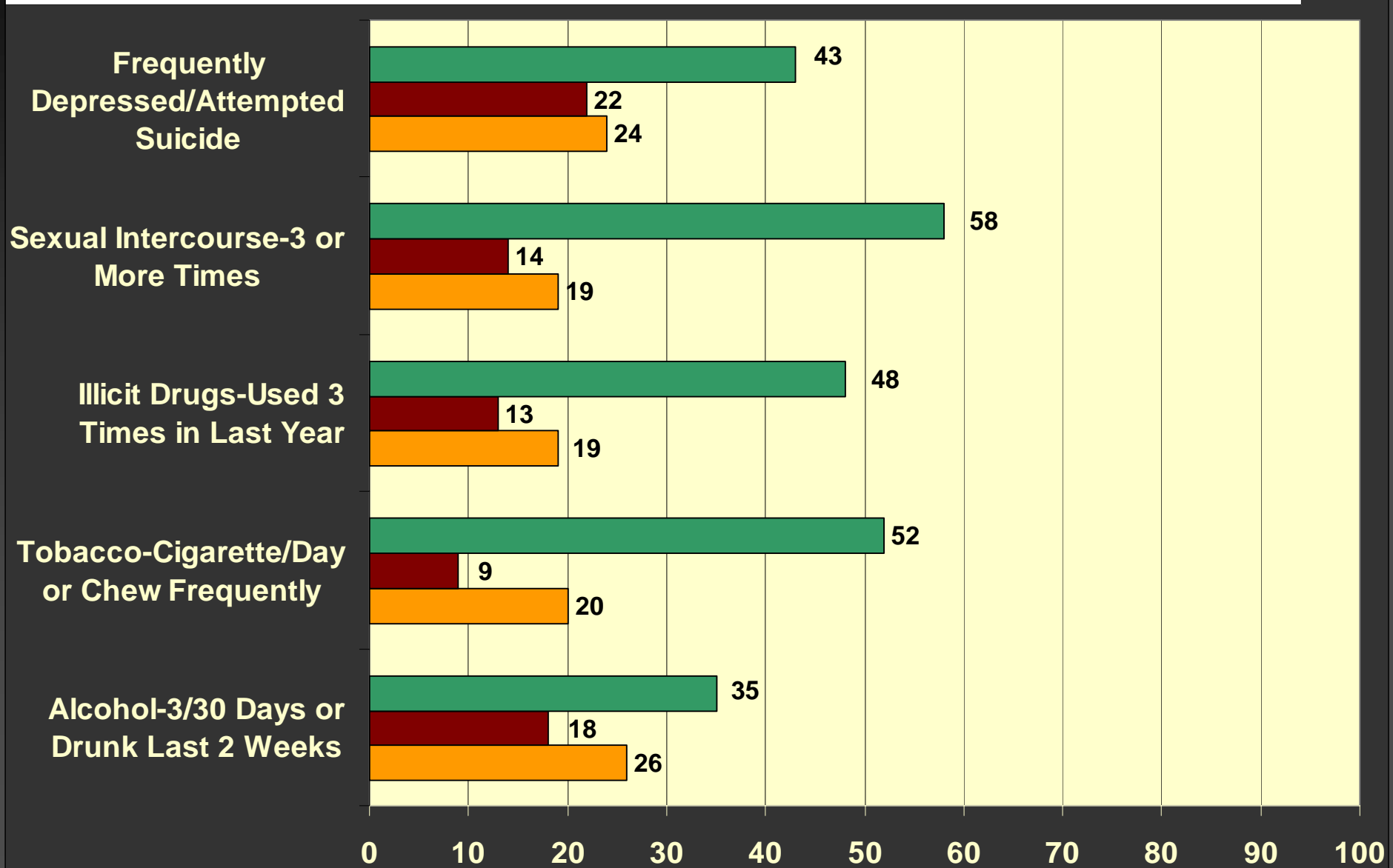


# Percent Reporting High Risk Behaviors

■ National Youth Population

■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards





# Percent Reporting High Risk Behaviors

■ National Youth Population

■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards

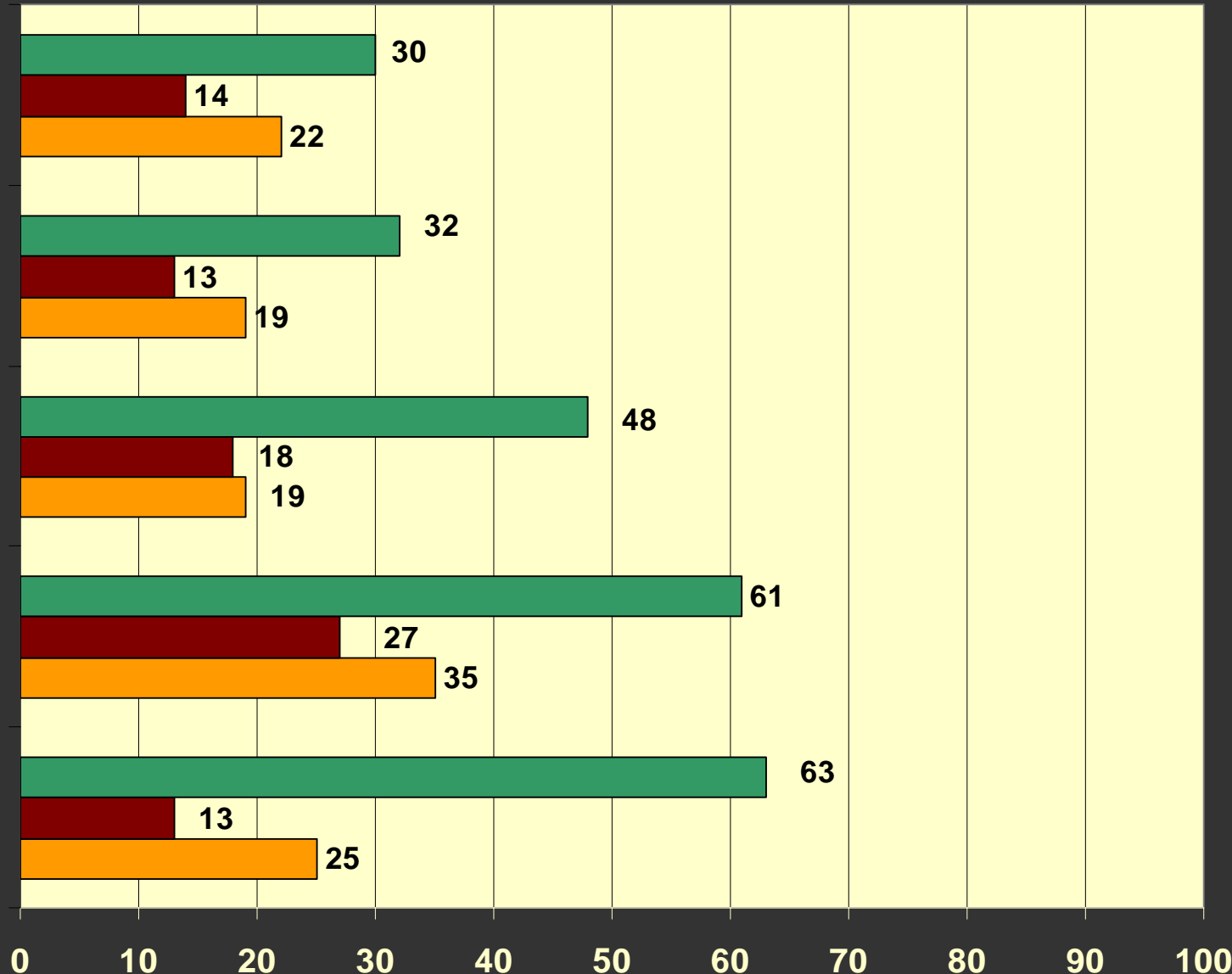
Gambled-3 or More Times in Last Year

Driving and Alcohol-3 or More Times in Last Year



School Problems

Violence-3 or More Times in Last Year

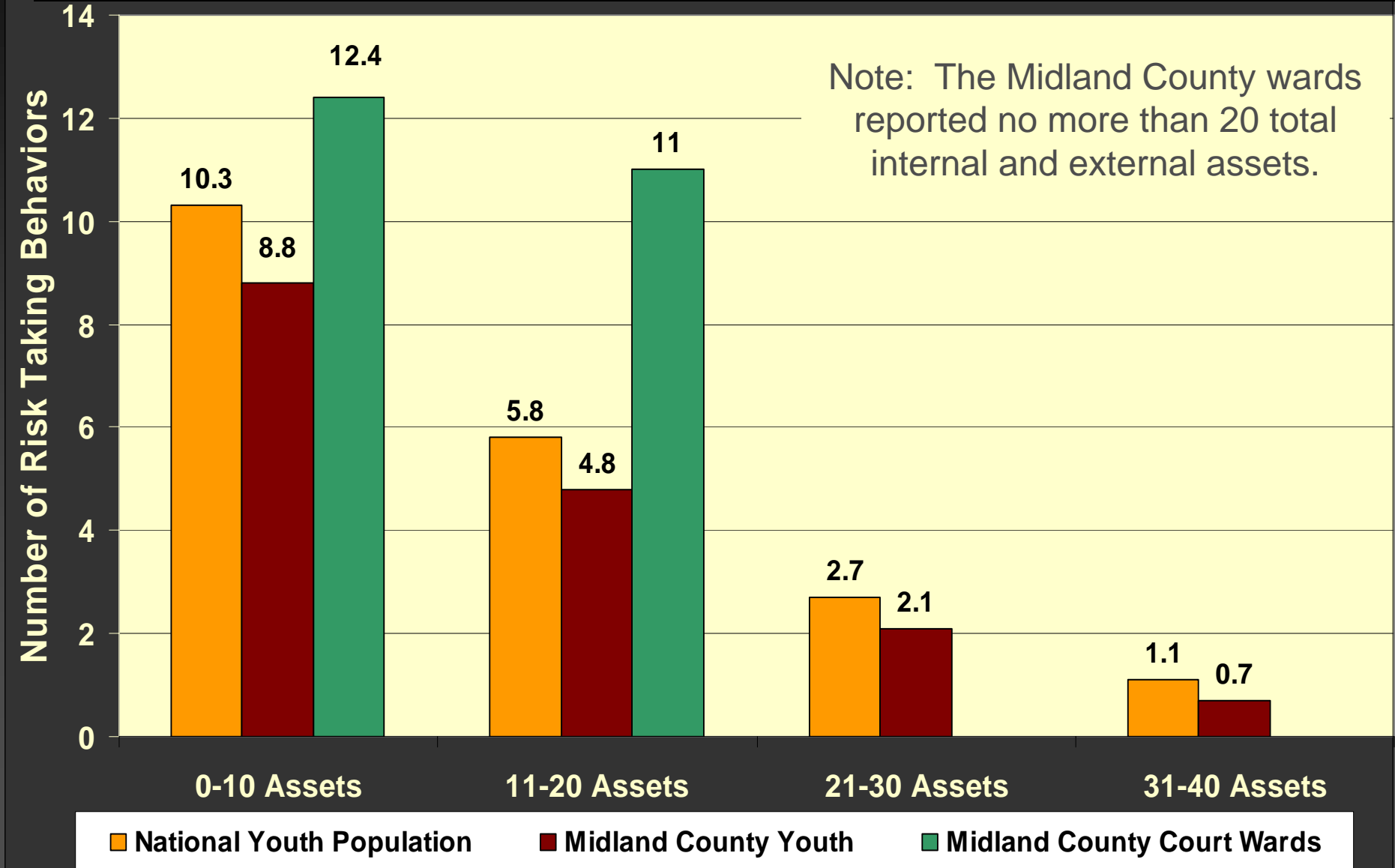
Anti-Social Behavior-3 or More Times in Last Year



# Risk-Taking Behaviors by Asset Level

This Chart illustrates how the *more*  assets a youth has, the *less*  risk-taking behavior occurs.

Note: The Midland County wards reported no more than 20 total internal and external assets.



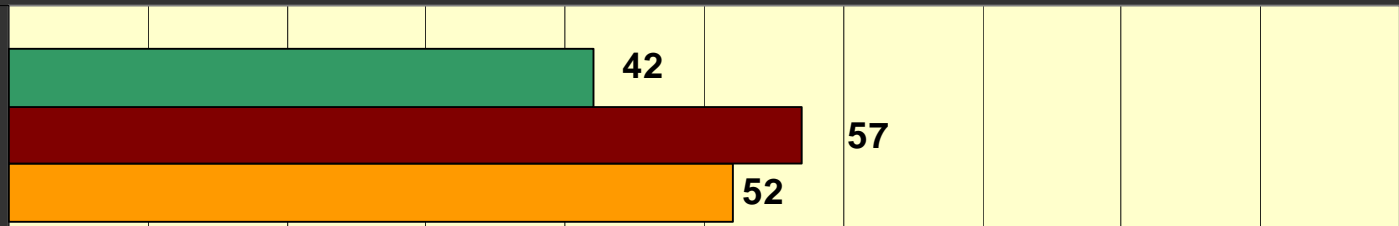
# Percent Reporting Thriving Behaviors

**■ National Youth Population**

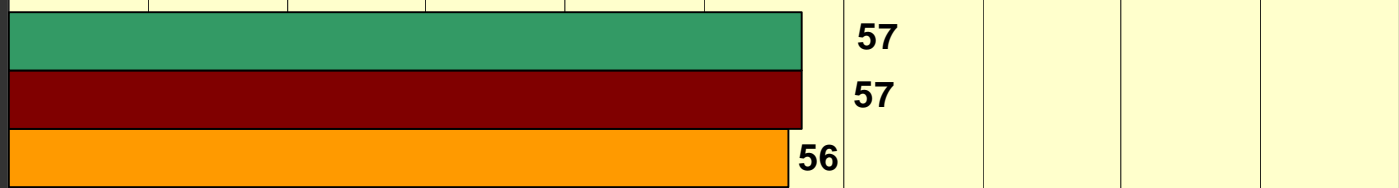
**■ Midland County Youth**

**■ Midland County Court Wards**

**Maintains Good Health**



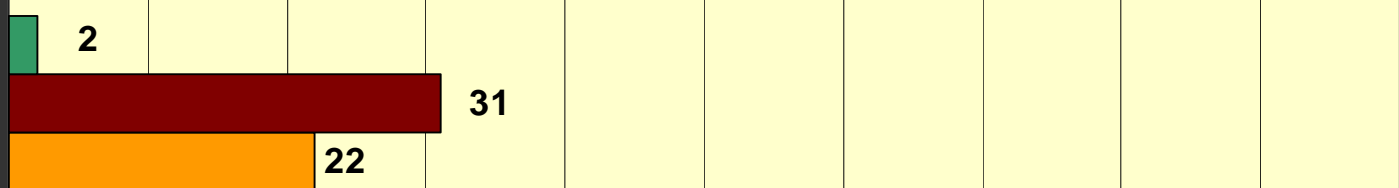
**Values Diversity**



**Helps Others**



**Succeeds in School**



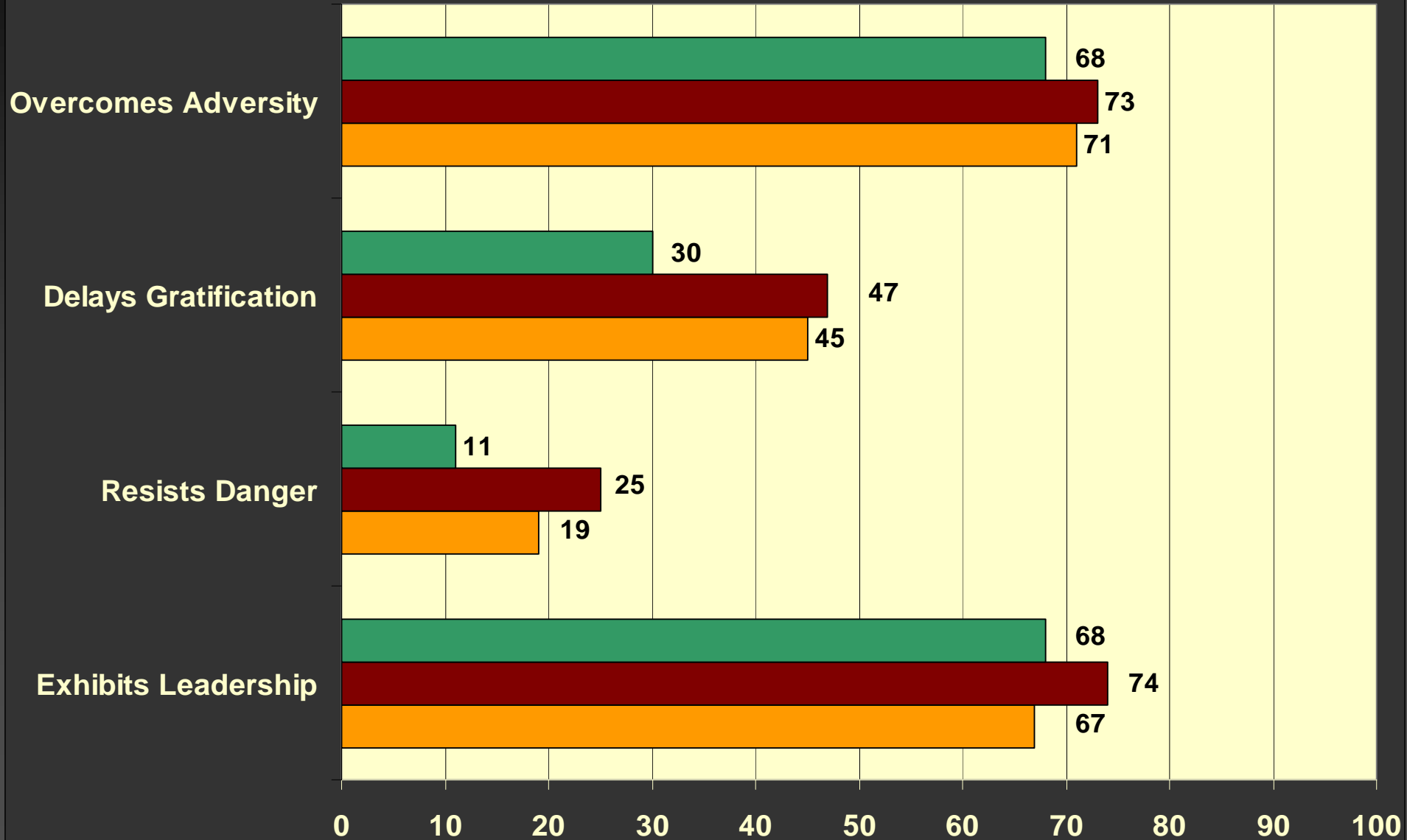
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

# Percent Reporting Thriving Behaviors

■ National Youth Population

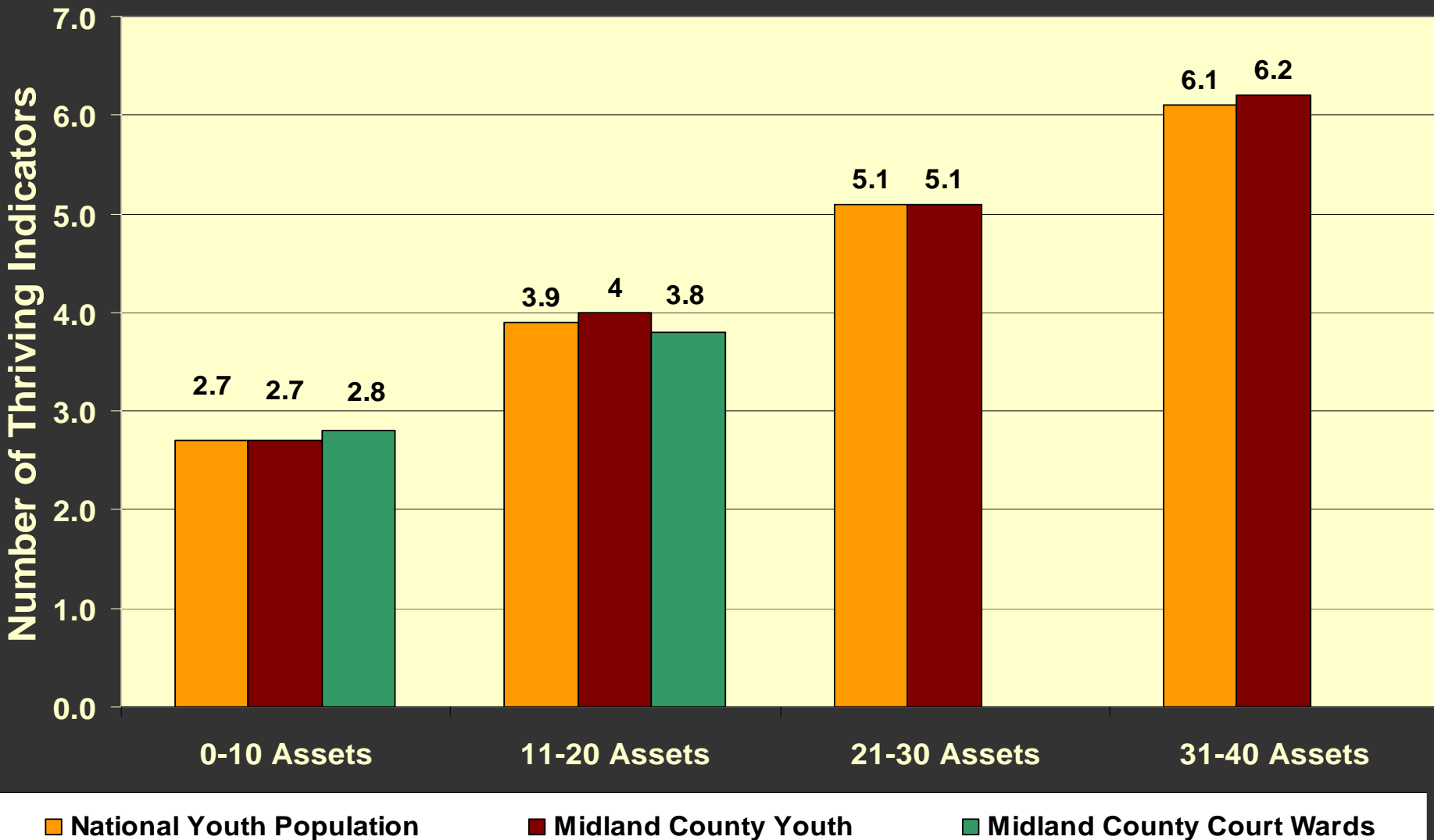
■ Midland County Youth

■ Midland County Court Wards



# Thriving Indicators by Asset Level

This Chart illustrates how the *more* ↑ assets a youth has, the *more* ↑ thriving indicators he/she possesses.



# Gender Analysis - Assets

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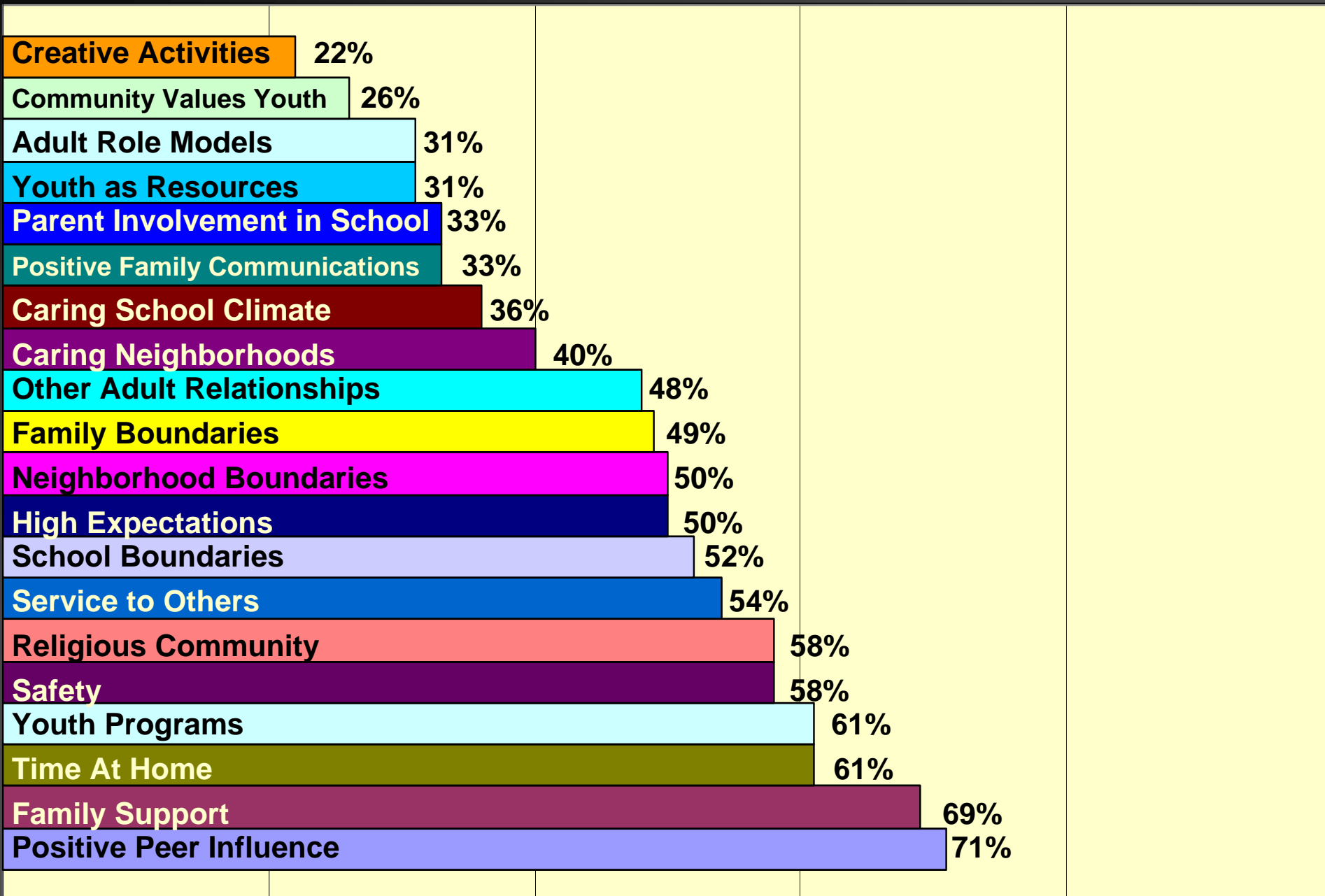
- In most Assets the Girls fare better than Boys
    - Commitment to Learning
      - Motivation, School, Homework, Reading
    - Positive Values
      - Caring, Equality, Integrity, Honesty, Responsibility & Restraint
    - Social Competencies
      - Interpersonal & Cultural Competence, Peaceful Conflict Resolution & Resistance Skills
    - Service to Others & Creative Activities
  - Boys surpass Girls:
    - Safety
    - Self-Esteem, Sense of Purpose
-

# Gender Analysis - Deficits

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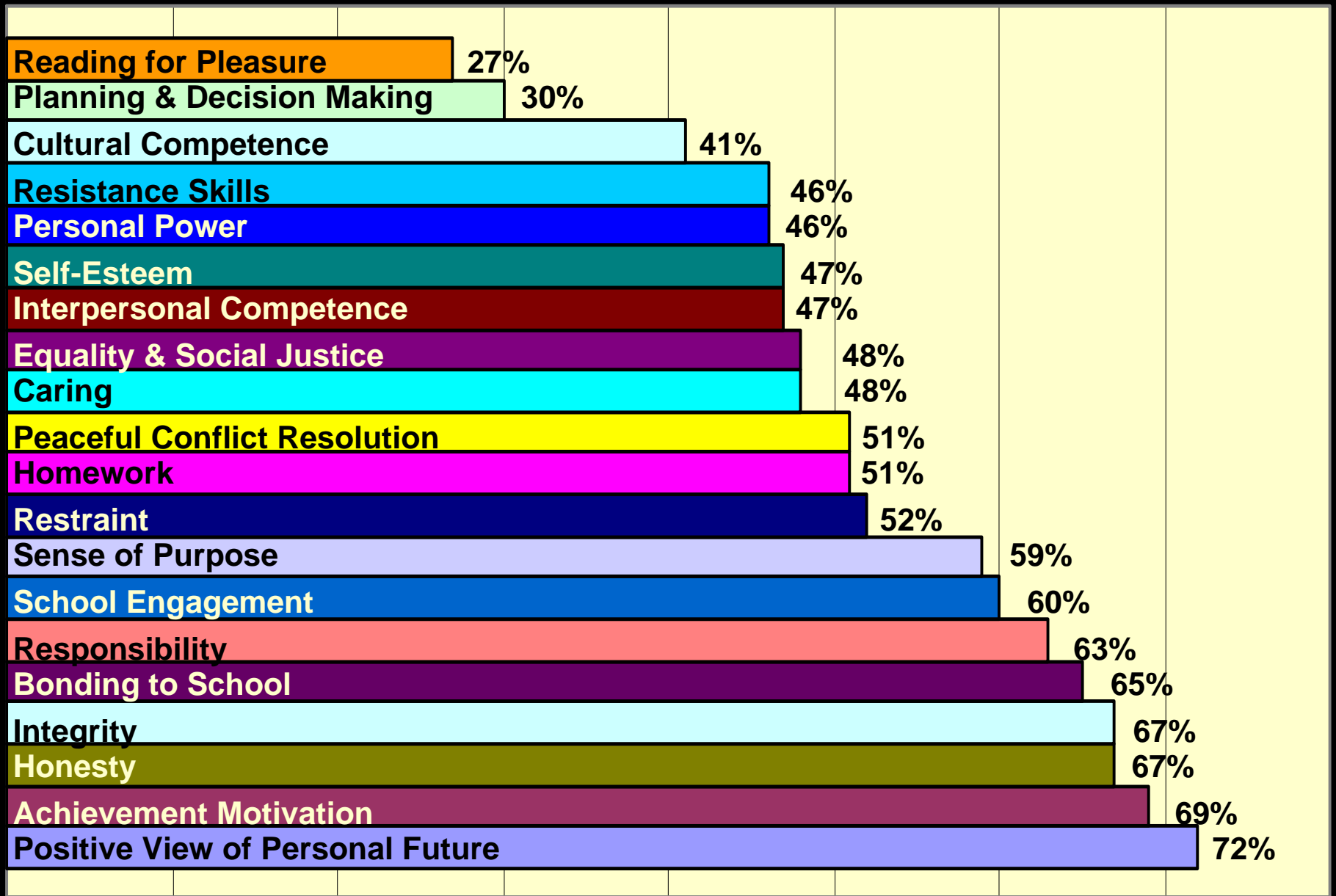
- Boys & Girls equally report exposure to physical abuse and drinking parties.
  - Girls report higher degrees of depression, suicidal ideations and eating disorders.
  - Girls report spending more time alone at home.
  - Boys report greater TV exposure and are more often victims of violence.
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# Midland County Youth External Assets by Rank

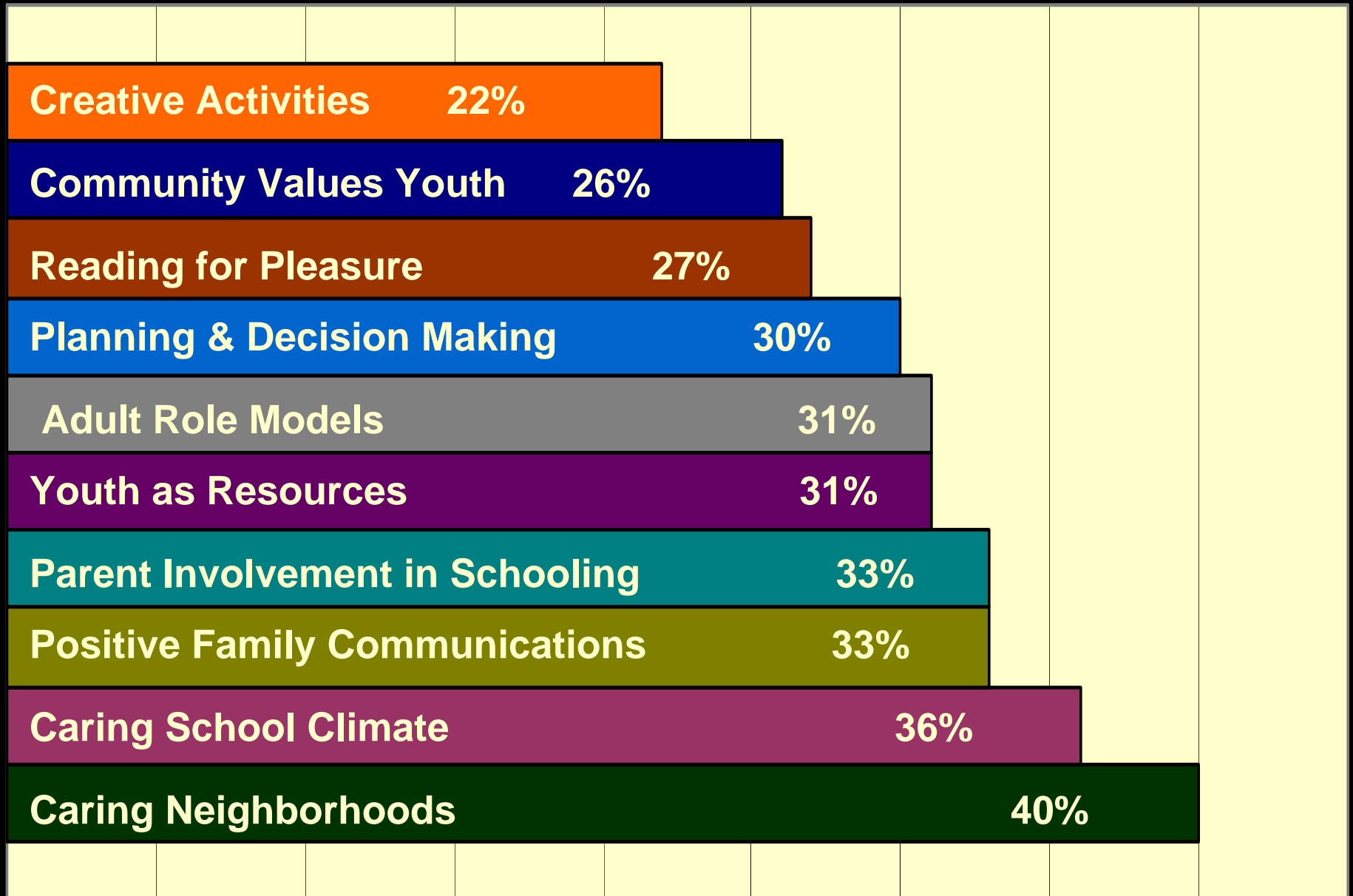




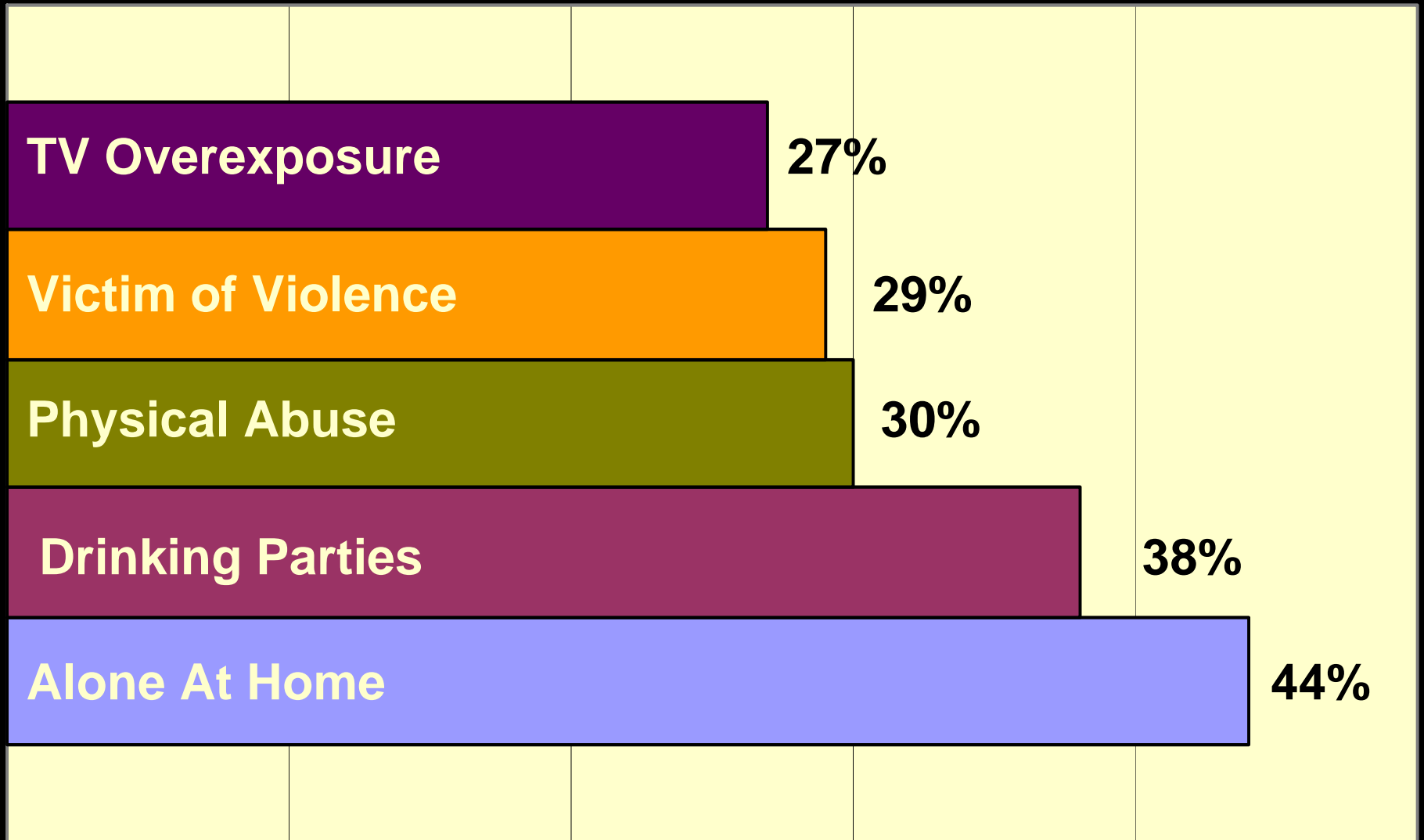
# Midland County Youth Internal Assets by Rank



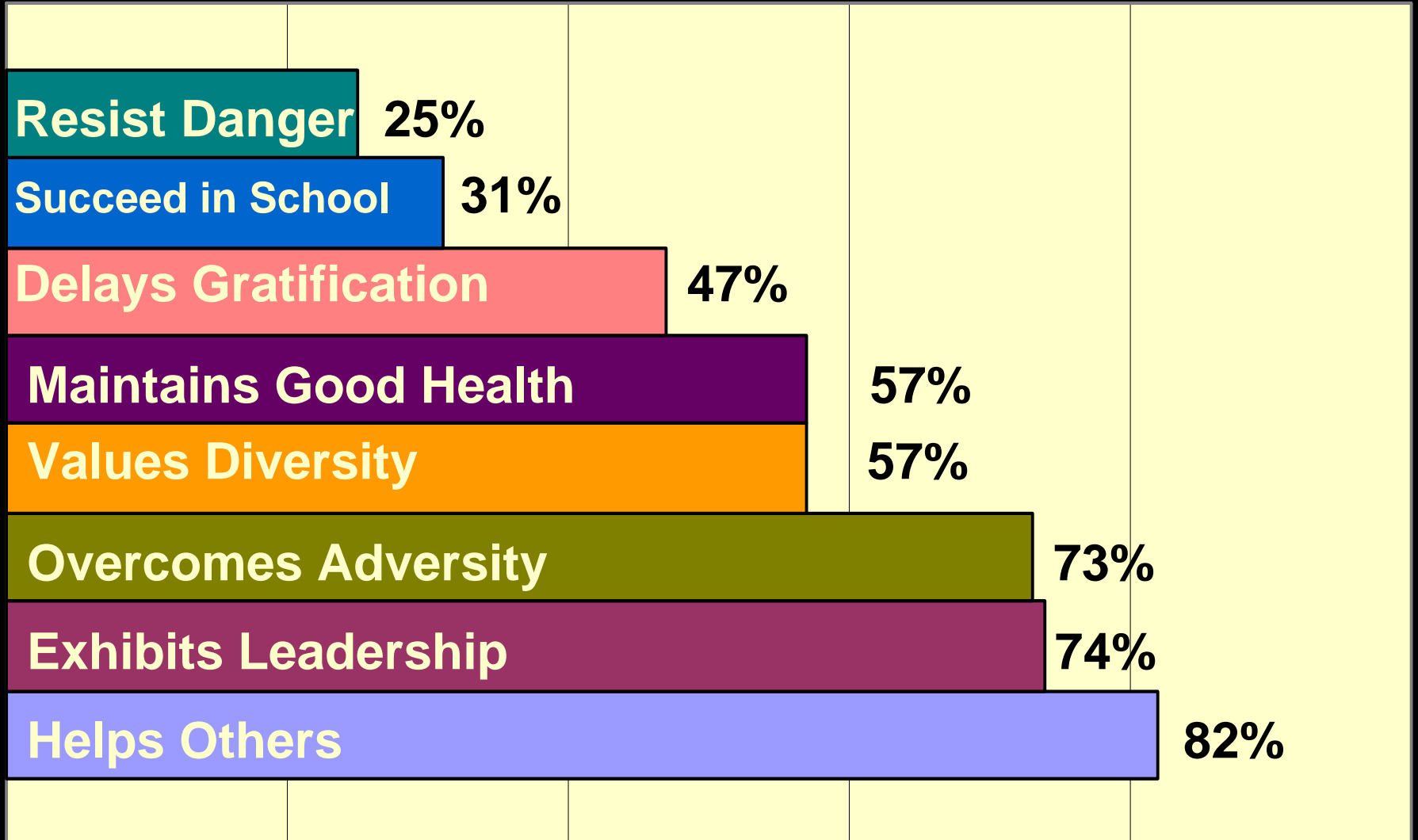
# Midland County Youth Overall Assets – The Bottom Ten



# Midland County Youth Deficits by Rank



# Midland County Youth Thriving Indicators by Rank



# Summary of Findings

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- Midland Youth's Attitudes and Behaviors mirror those of National Youth
  - The more Assets youth's possess
    - The lower the risk of Risk-Taking Behaviors
    - The greater the incidence of Thriving Indicators
  - Asset levels decline with increasing Grade Level
  - Boys are more at-risk than girls (with certain key exceptions)
  - There is significant room for improvement in increasing youth's Asset levels
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# Preliminary Behavior/Asset Correlations

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- Eating Disorders, Depression and Suicide Attempts linked to “Self-Esteem”
  - Sexual Activity linked to “Restraint” and “Peer Influence”
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# Key Strategy

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- Since Assets protect youth, community should work to

**BUILD ASSETS!**

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# Typical Gaps in Developing Assets

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- Lack of sustained and positive intergenerational relationships
  - Insufficient opportunities for youth leadership development and community involvement
  - Incomplete formation of social competencies and positive values
  - Disengagement of public from meaningful connections with youth
  - Poverty
-



# Possible Community Action Steps

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- Mobilize the community
  - Establish long-term goals and perspectives
  - Think and act intergenerationally
  - Expand the reach of family education
  - Support and expand current Asset-building efforts
  - Empower youth to contribute
  - Elevate the importance of service
  - Involve faith-based organizations
  - Advocate for quality opportunities for young people to grow and develop
  - Begin public dialogue
-



**Let the Dialogue Begin!**

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