



# **DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION**

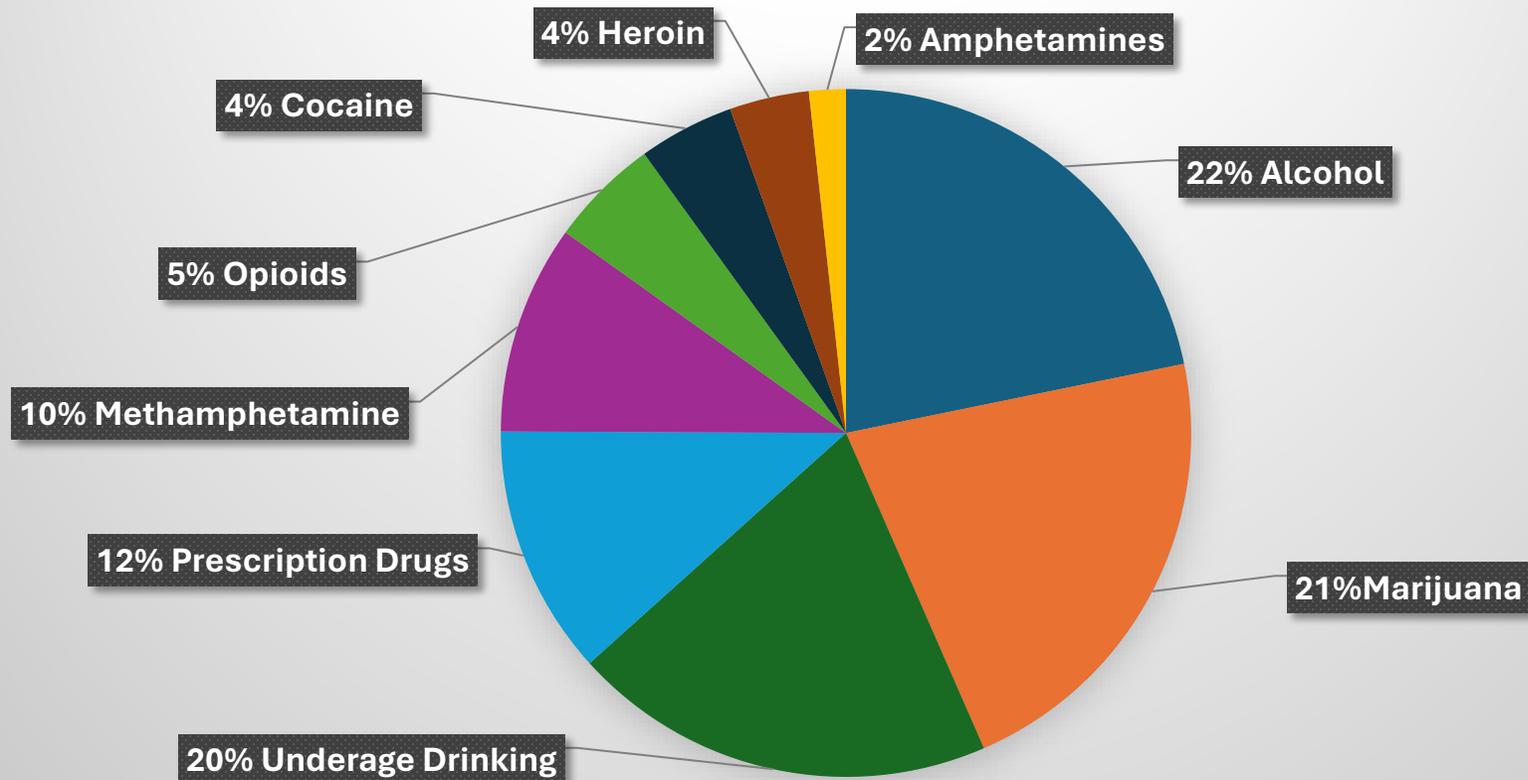
## **YOUTH SURVEY**

# Considerations

- There were 280 youth surveys accomplished!
  - Crossett School District (98)
    - Crossett Middle School (43)
    - Crossett High School (55)
  - Hamburg School District (182)
    - Live in Hamburg (118)
    - Live in rural delta (39) Wilmot, Parkdale, Montrose, Portland, Lake Village (Chicot County).
    - Incomplete Information (11)
    - Live in Crossett (10)
    - Live in Fountain Hill (1)
    - Live in Longview (1)
    - Live in Monticello (Drew Co) (1)
    - Live in Bastrop, LA (1)

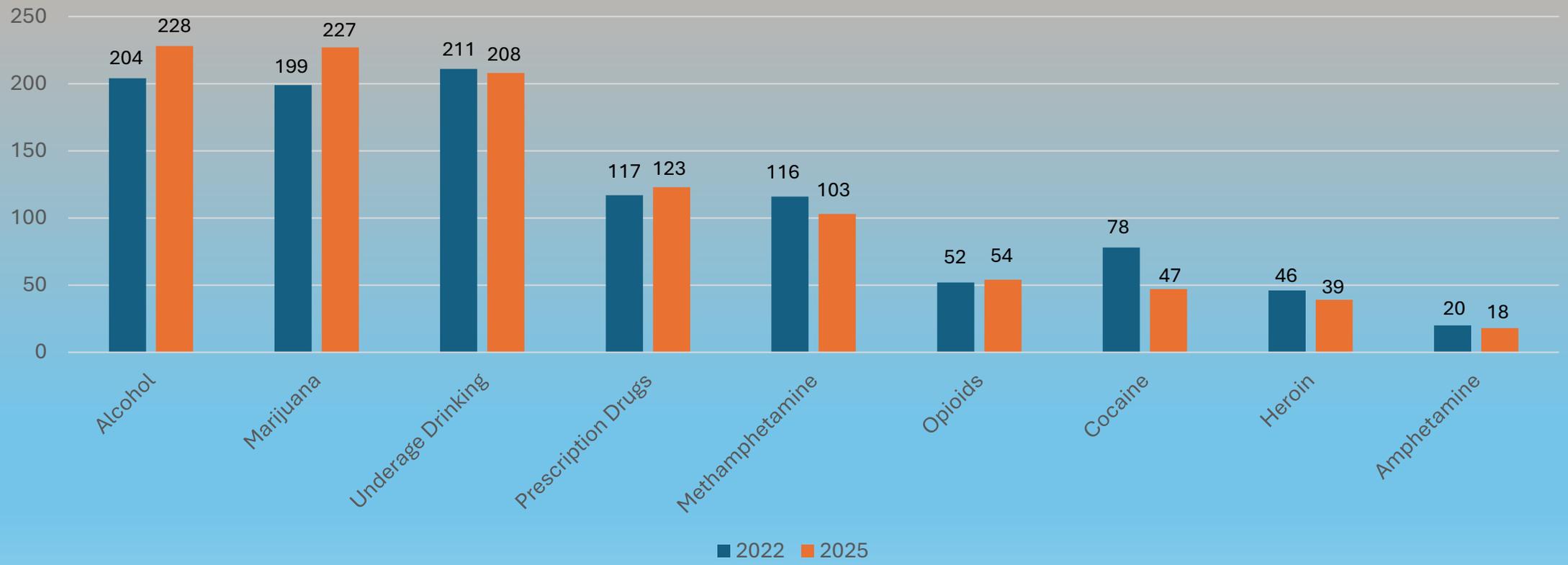
# #1. What are the three (3) to five (5) top substance problems within the city/county that you reside in?

Top substances as reported by youth in 2025



# #1. What are the three (3) to five (5) top substance problems within the city/county that you reside in?

Survey results from 2022 and 2025



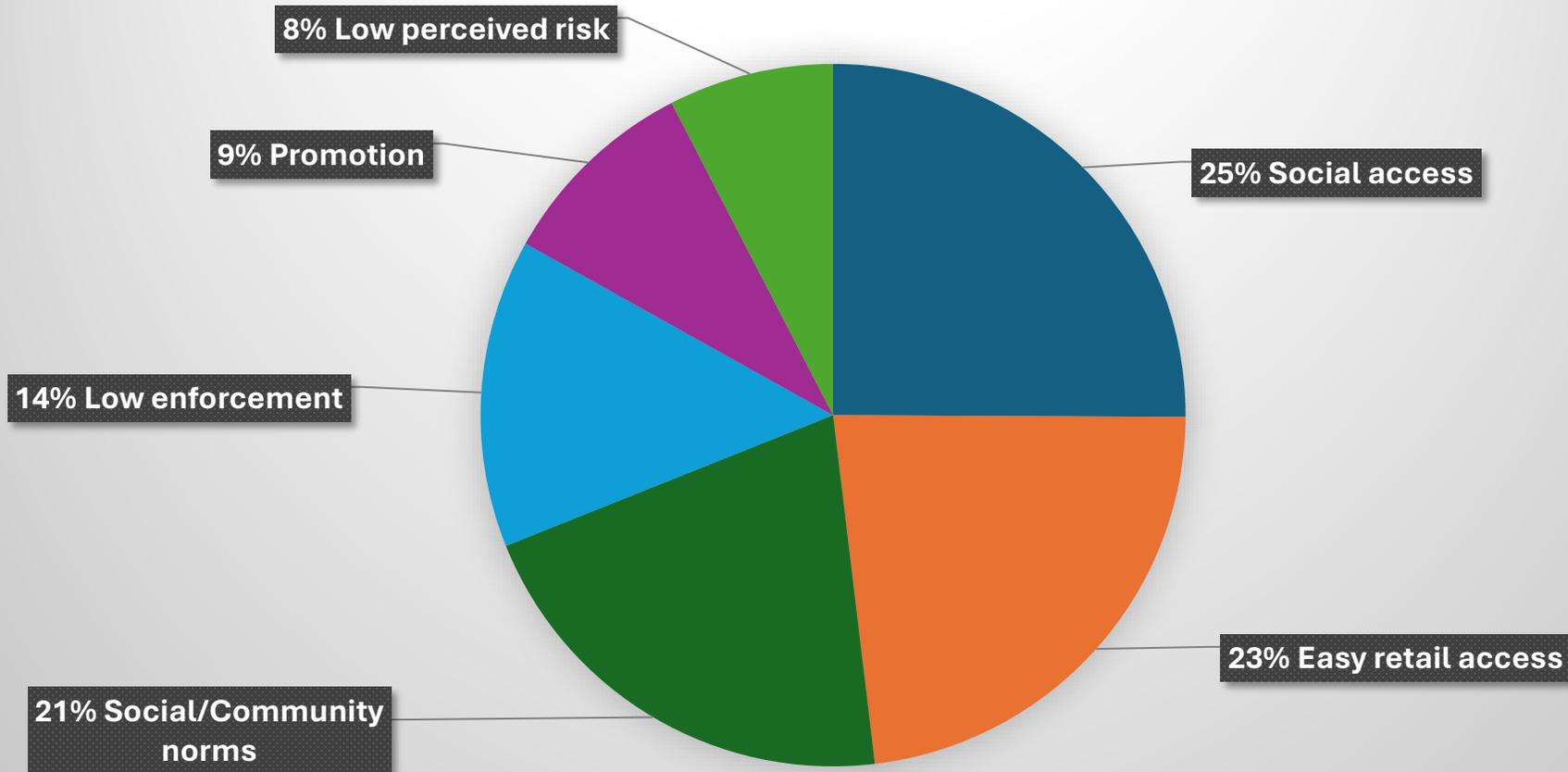
# #1. Comments/Other (Explain)

- Nicotine: (2 added):
  - So many young teens vape and get addicted young
- Prescription Drugs:
  - Once people get ahold of the stuff, they get to acting wild.
  - Could OD easily if not careful.
  - You can get it anywhere.
  - Popping pills.
- Opioids:
  - Hydrocodone
- Methamphetamine:
  - Most use
  - Pervitin, a form of methamphetamine
- Underage Drinking:
  - There are a lot of kids drinking underage
  - Teens use fake IDs to drink and they drive under the influence
  - Easy to get

# #1. Comments/Other (Explain) (Continued)

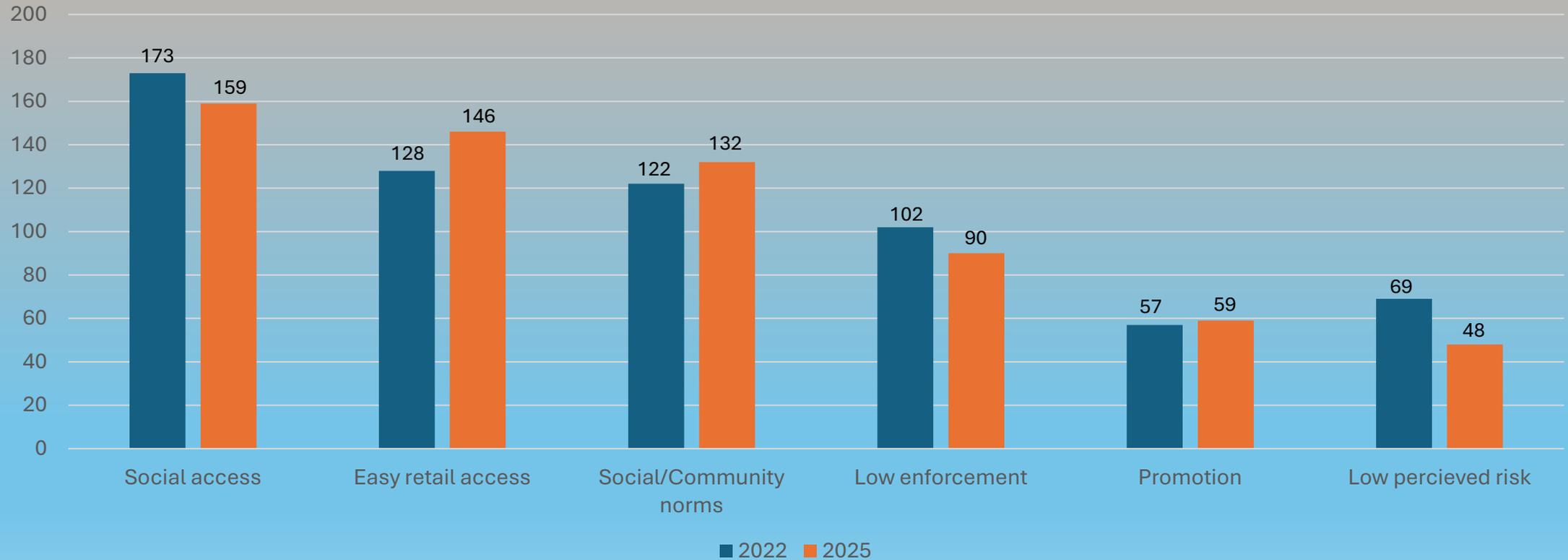
- Marijuana:
  - A lot of people use marijuana
  - Weed – Lots use it
  - Could OD easily if not careful
  - Weed pens
- Alcohol:
  - Alcohol is a big problem in our society
  - Easy to get

## #2. But why? Why do you think these problems exist?



# #2. But why? Why do you think these problems exist?

Survey results from 2022 and 2025



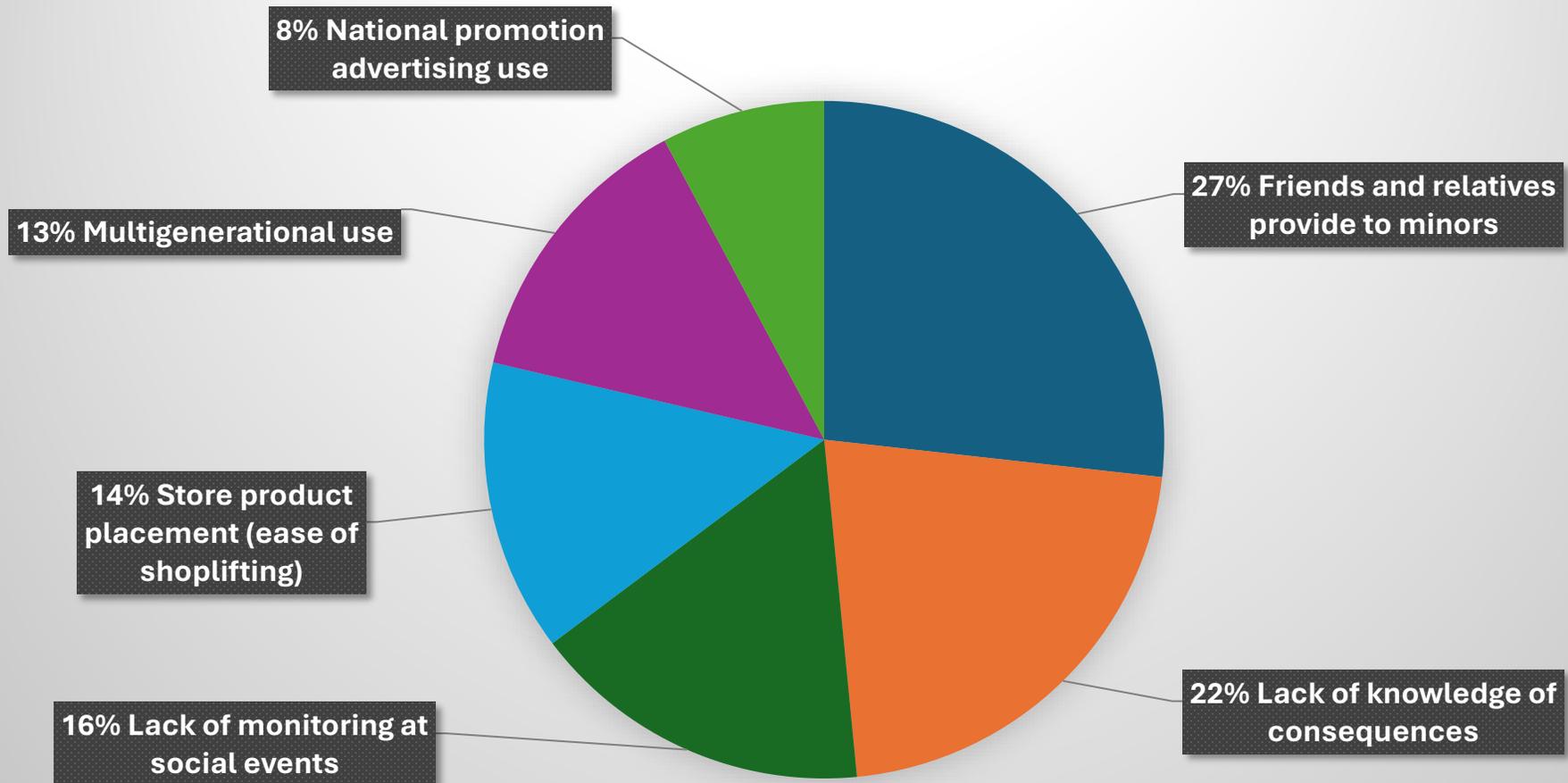
## #2. Comments/Other (Explain)

- Easy Retail Access:
  - Bad
  - You are able to get it anywhere
  - Drug dealers
  - People are getting drug items easily
  - They find ways to get the product even though it is not necessary
  - Easy to access
- Low Enforcement:
  - Very bad
  - Need more security at 21+ (age) stores
  - Not a lot of people (to enforce)
- Social/Community Norms:
  - Just dumb
  - They say a lot of stuff (peer pressure)

## #2. Comments/Other (Explain)

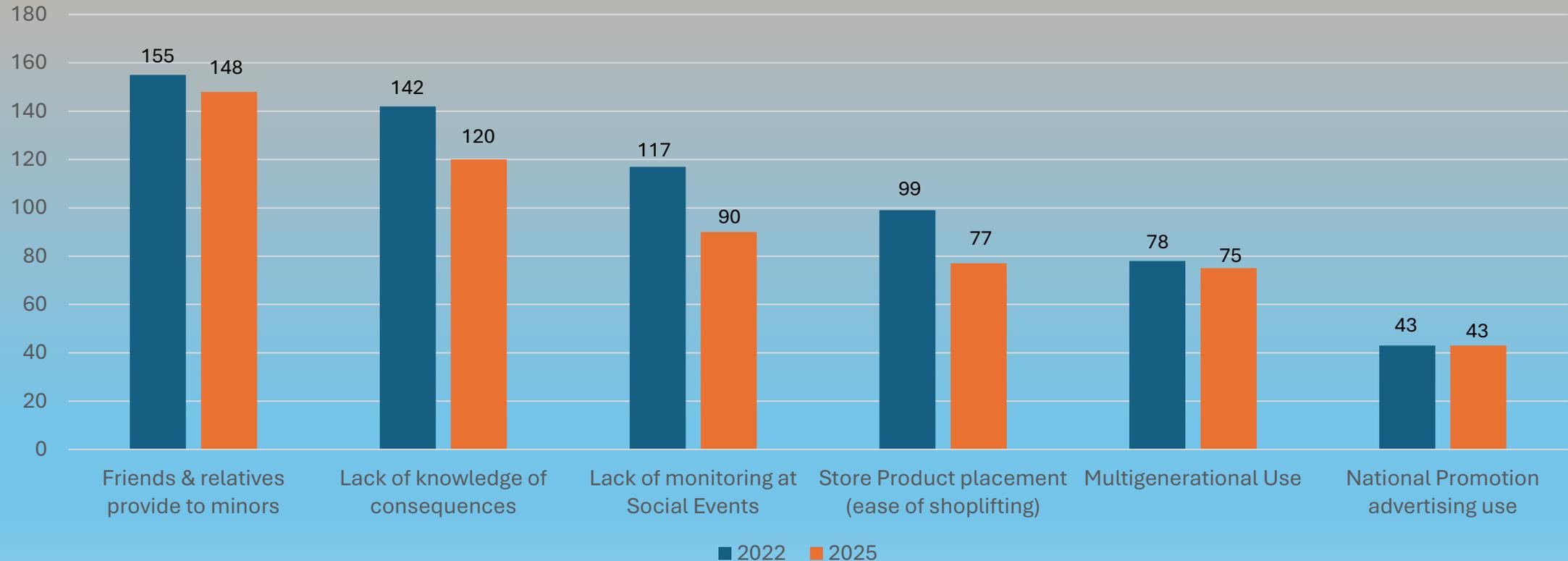
- Other:
  - Parents providing it to kids
  - People find ways and parents allow it
  - Parents not caring
  - People buy it off of others
  - People want to give up
  - Simple curiosity
  - Being lazy and don't want to take care of themselves

# #3. But why here? How is the problem showing up in your community?



# #3. But why here? How is the problem showing up in your community?

Survey results from 2022 and 2025



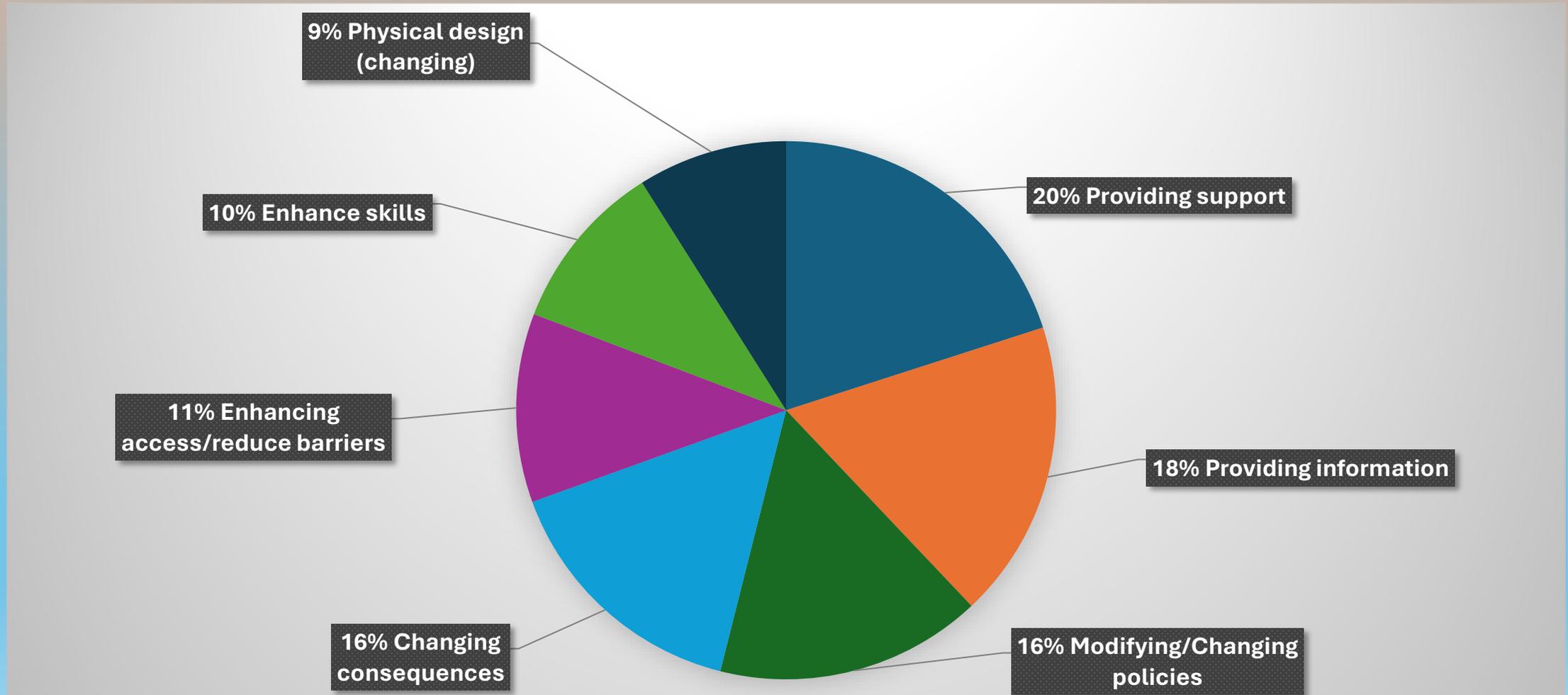
# #3. Comments/Other (Explain)

- Friends and relatives provide to minors:
  - They (minors) give money to them (friends/relatives) and they get it for them
- Lack of knowledge of consequences:
  - People are getting away with it
  - They don't care about anything but money
  - Need games to teach kids/teens
- Lack of monitoring at social events:
  - Not doing their job properly
  - Drug dealer
  - That is how they get it so easily
  - Massive problem if a kid OD's or gets drunk
  - A lot of things can go wrong
- Store product placement (ease of shoplifting)
  - People hide things in clothes
  - Put 21+ age items behind locked cases
  - It is easy to shoplift

# #3. Comments/Other (Explain)

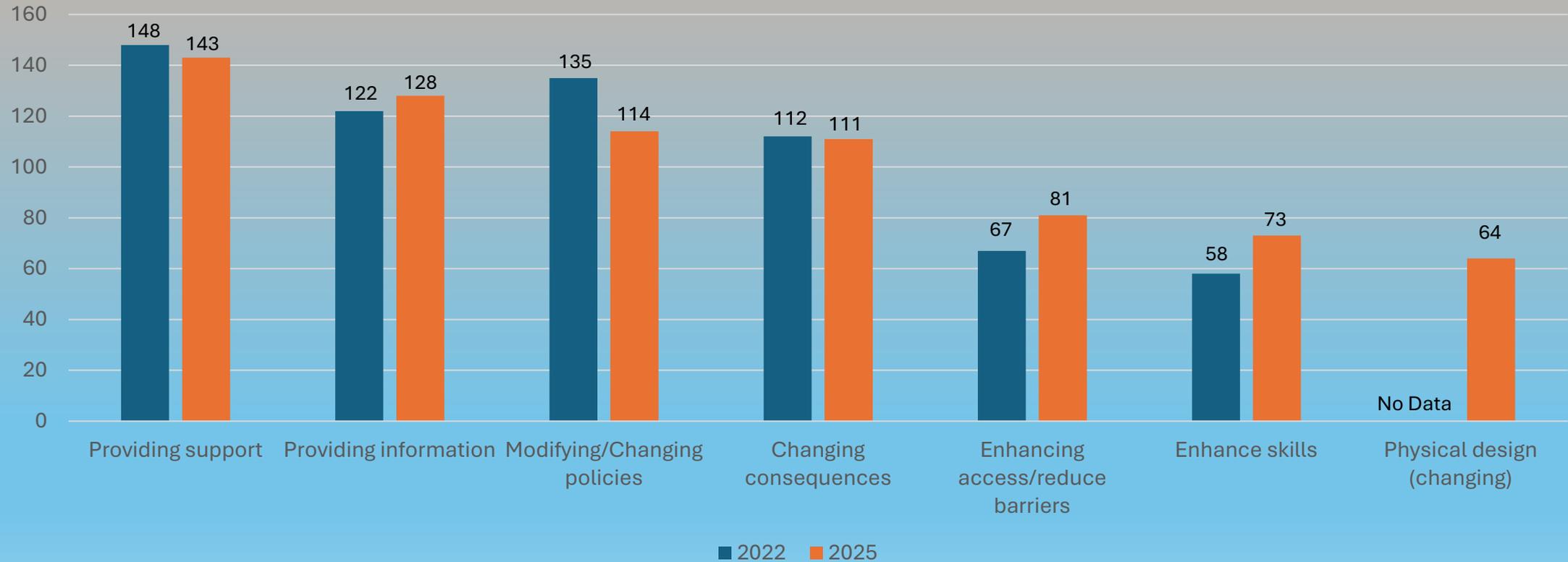
- Other:
  - Because they are dumb
  - Easy access to buy off of others
  - It happens everywhere

# #4. What can we do to address the problems?



# #4. What can we do to address the problems?

Survey results from 2022 and 2025



# #4. Comments/Other (Explain)

- Providing Support:
  - There is not a lot I can do.
  - To try to keep people safe from drugs.
- Providing Information:
  - Provide more information to people.
  - So we can help people change the way they handle their life decisions.
- Changing Consequences:
  - Change the consequences so they would not try to do anything like drugs or put themselves in danger.
- Other:
  - Send them to local church retreats.
  - Make pain meds not easy to get.
  - Don't (do it).
  - Monitor peoples spending on it.
  - Stop production of the poison.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- More police officers and stronger enforcement (34 comments).
- Better/easier to access drug treatment/rehabilitation (33 comments)
- I don't know or I'm not sure (32 comments)
- Better parenting (20 comments)
- Other options besides drugs
- The best way to reduce risk realistically is just to provide sanitary needles and other implements until a permanent solution is found.
- High rank security and guidance.
- Make it harder to get access to.
- Rehab.
- Easier access to rehab.
- Stop making substances.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- To get [people] to realize that drugs are bad and they might not live long. They need to stop or get help from someone.
- There is basically nothing you can do.
- Weed and other things are very easy to get where I stay. It's not every day I find a person high or doing meth.
- To get others to understand that drugs hurt you and could kill you. Get help as soon as possible if you are doing drugs.
- More police in the area.
- [Address] underaged drinking & driving
- Guns.
- Enforce the law more.
- Having children get checked out once a month or either just go to a therapist.
- More police in my area.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- More information about the problems caused by doing drugs.
- Nerve gas, helicopters, more posters.
- To have NARCAN available to limit the number of overdoses.
- Age limit for buying over-the-counter drugs.
- Stores can make sure to only sell to adults and kids can't buy it.
- Police patrol.
- Try to help by putting them in a rehabilitation center and try to support them.
- If we had a place where you could play games, that would be good for people to keep off drugs.
- More help in the community.
- Hangout spots for teens.
- Make it harder for people to get and give to minors.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Decrease the number of kids using drugs and alcohol.
- Don't do drugs and teach others the consequences.
- More law enforcement; spread better awareness.
- Your family shouldn't let this happen.
- Parents need to be more aware of their children's actions.
- Higher risk [consequence] if caught.
- Rehab; education; difference consequences
- They need to put security guards in the parties to kick out young people.
- A change of punishment.
- Get more cops to stop it.
- Maybe having law enforcement patrolling around; Ask youth where they are going.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Help people who do it to stop.
- Bring the subject up; get users responses and come up with a solution while stating the damage it does.
- To have better security for drugs or vapes in all areas.
- Ways for them to realize how addiction can make your life worse.
- Telling someone – especially the local authorities and to get stronger barriers and restrictions.
- Talking about how they affect our body.
- More police officers.
- Try to help everyone.
- More drug busts in Ashley County.
- Getting it off the streets.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Nothing really. They choose to do it.
- More events. People actually caring (parents).
- Possibly more cops; safer/stronger locks; security at every store.
- Make teens feel better about themselves.
- More cops; enforce laws.
- Less access to substances.
- Pay attention.
- [Monitor] where it is being sold.
- More testimonies of those who have had bad experiences with substance use; more speakers in school.
- Be real with kids & young adults before they get the chance to use it.
- Talk about it at school more. Be supportive if someone is found using it and let them know you have their back for them to get better.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Make it where they don't sell to you.
- Enforce [laws] more.
- More monitoring of the problem.
- Vaping has been a major problem in schools.
- Make access harder.
- Give warnings.
- Provide signs of what their actions may lead to.
- Get rid of places that sell this stuff. Kids get access from stealing all this anyway. These stores aren't helping anyone but themselves.
- Full information about the effects, both "good" and bad in order to help prevent curiosity.
- Talk to the person; therapy.
- More help

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Have a target audience.
- Have a good role model to encourage the youth not to go that way.
- Get better at finding it.
- People to talk to about it.
- Do not sell drugs in our town.
- Need to give people surveys to help them.
- In this society, drugs are getting worse for people. People are always wanting this bad stuff in their system, and it is not good for anybody. Not ever!
- Reduce access.
- Rehab.
- Show how deadly they are.
- Police.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Stores should ask for IDs, no matter what they look like.
- Help kids with bad things [in their lives].
- Parents need to talk to their kids.
- More active care towards teens and pre-teens.
- More information about the harm that may result.
- Get people off the streets.
- It's not really bad.
- Guns.
- Higher enforcement and help getting people off the streets.
- Heavier consequences and more enforcement.
- More police officers.
- Discourage people who use it.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Reduce the sales of those substances.
- No access to drugs. I don't know.
- Reducing the sales of those substances.
- Stop selling alcohol to underage kids.
- Worse punishment
- They should take therapy.
- Sell less of these items in stores.
- Don't advise it.
- Provide information.
- Just don't do it.
- Don't use vapes and other things young children think is "cool".
- Just notice their physical appearance for suspicion of substance abuse.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Better laws.
- Make these products less available. Find the big drug dealers and stop worrying about the ones currently doing something.
- Get rid of it.
- Limit the heavy production of drugs.
- Limit the availability of drugs and have a better system for prescription drugs.
- Drug Enforcement Agency.
- Police.
- Let the person/people using it suffer the consequences if such substances were to be used.
- Fewer vaping stores and stuff.
- Stop it from being easy to get.
- Make drugs, vapes, and cigarettes, etc. illegal; rehab

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Fentanyl.
- Send anyone who does it to jail.
- Law enforcement and victims of drug abuse.
- Resources to curb vaping.
- It should be announced publicly about more consequences, and it shouldn't be sold.
- Enforce more rules, fake ID scanners, gas station does not need to provide it. If they do, make it higher in security.
- Fewer dispensaries.
- Reduce the number of stores that sell it.
- Good parents.
- People to talk to.
- Finding alternatives for prescribed drugs, symptoms, more evaluated and investigated.

# #5 What other resources may be needed to address and reduce the substance abuse problem in your area?

- Ban it.
- Limit the amount of selling happening, pull selling licenses. Remove the product from the town.
- More cops; Less non-caring; Lock the people up. Watch 24/7.
- [Catch] Pedophiles.
- More law enforcement and people supervising public events; add more consequences and punishment to those caught doing the illegal substance abuse.
- More supervision during parties/events, more appropriate consequences, and provide support for troublesome teens/adults struggling with substances.
- Teach people not to do meth because this stuff is insane.
- More information; less access.
- Let people know how much trouble they would be in.

# #6. Other Comments

- Don't do it!
- There are a lot of certain types of people that do nothing but smoke weed.
- DON'T DO DRUGS!
- STOP DRUGS NOW!
- Kids need to take responsibility for what they are doing because they are the youth.
- Parents need to spend time with their children. They won't talk to them. That's what causes teens to do things that they don't need to do.
- It's bad.
- YOLO (You Only Live Once; appreciate life)
- It's bad. Stay away.
- Providing more help for addicts like rehab in more affordable ways and more rehab facilities. When people are arrested for drugs/use or drug (possession), they should be required to go to rehab even knowing they don't want to. Even knowing they might not follow through with it, they should still have to go.
- Drugs are bad ☹️.

## #6. Other Comments

- They need some Jesus! 😊
- Stop putting in all these vape shops if they want something to change; common sense.
- Don't do drugs. Drugs are BAD.