

Youth Drug and substance abuse

**what is the problem and who is
affected?**

**who is
affected?**

Achs students ages 13-18. Especially those from low income household or unstable home environments face the highest exposure to drugs and the greatest risk of long term substance abuse.

**how does it
affect them?**

Substance abuse cause long term physical and mental health problems and a higher risk or lasting addiction beyond highschool

**why does this
matter?**

The Alexandria youth report shows achs has higher substance abuse rates than state averages. The city of Alexandria's CYCP says youth substance abuse is a public authority

baseline data and goal

**ACHS students how have tried weed/vaping on
school ground is more than 25%**

**Students with access to one site substance abuse
counseling is less than 30%**

**Youth ages 13-18 most impacted by this issue in
Alexandria**

**Approximately 25% of ACHS students have reported using weed/vaping
on school grounds yet few than 30% have access to on site substance
abuse counseling showing a gap between need a support**

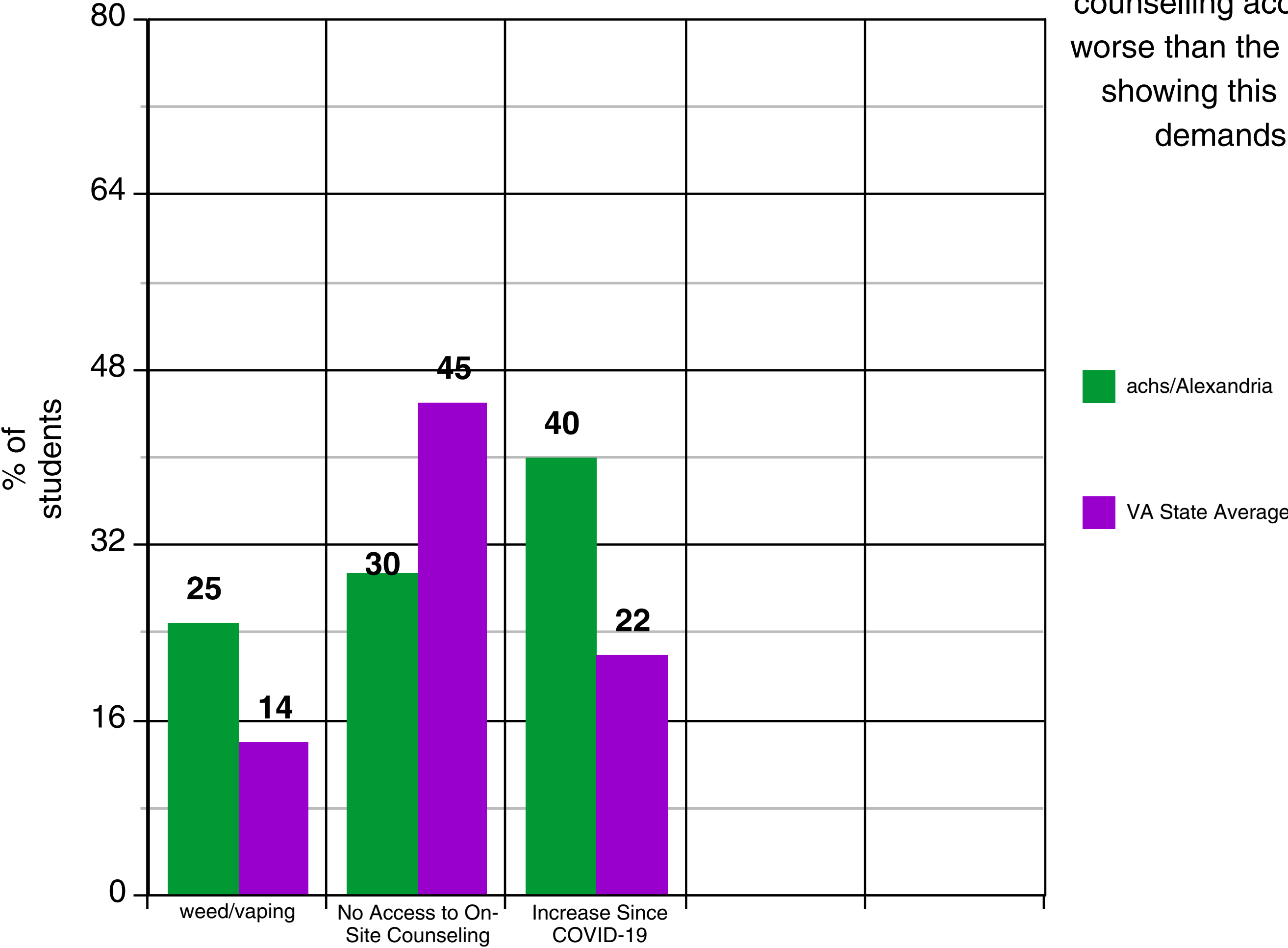
CYCP goal and strategic area

CYCP goal: Physical, Mental, and Behavioral Health

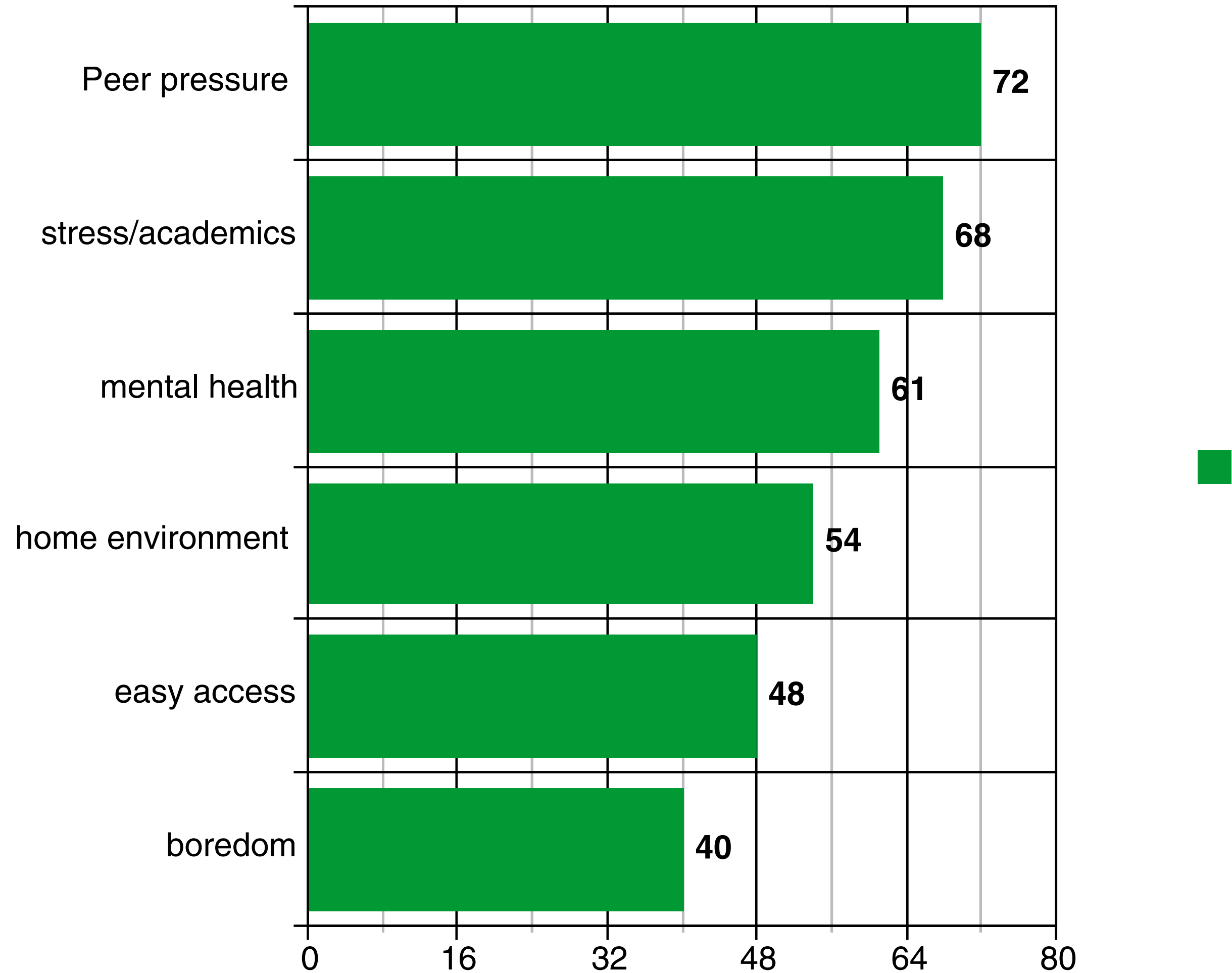
The issue connects to children and youth community plan because drug and substance abuse directly harms physical, mental and long term behavioral development of Alexandria's youth.

ACHS SUBstance abuse vs VA average

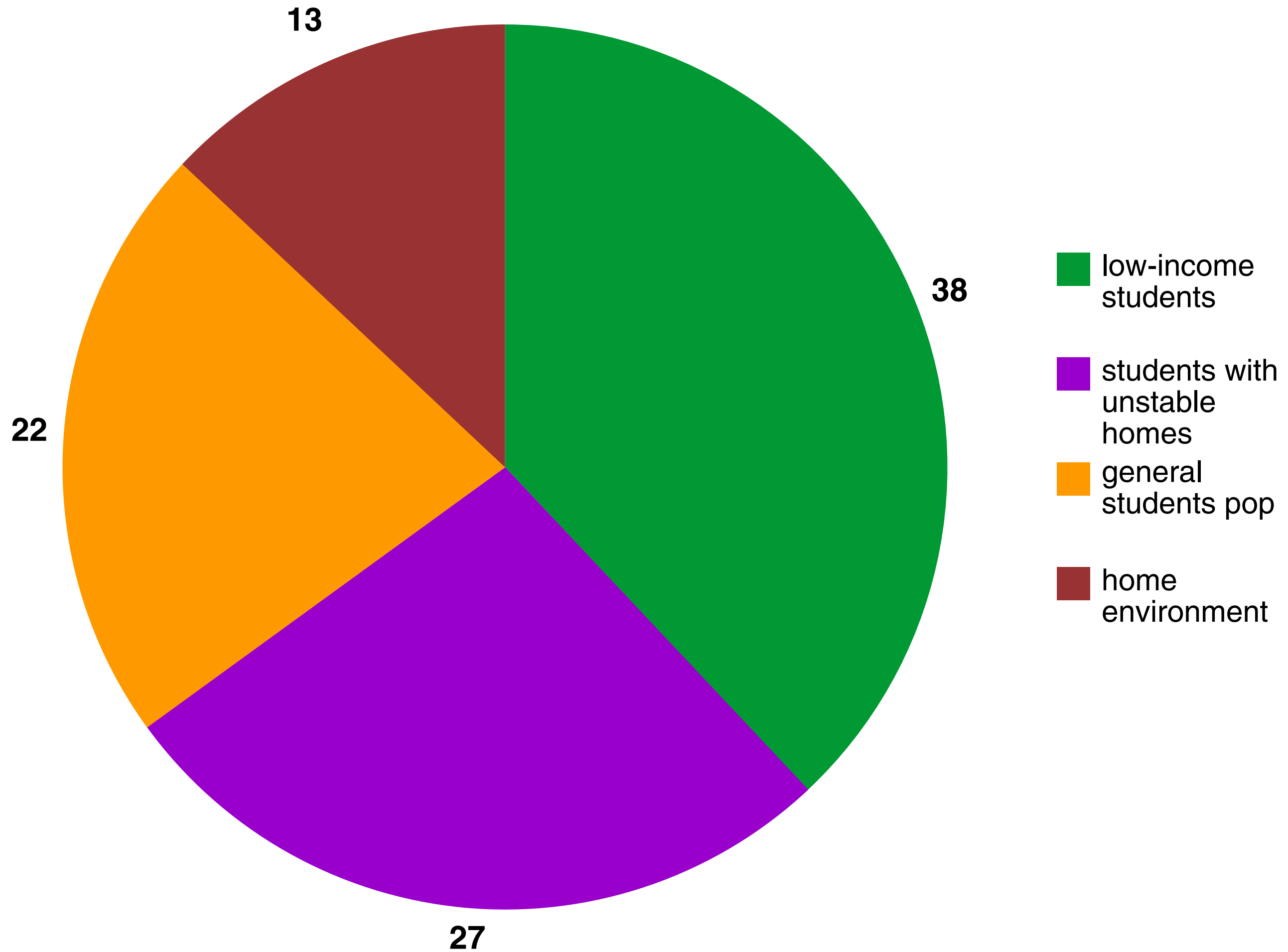
ACHS substance abuse and
counselling access rates are getting
worse than the Virginia sate average
showing this is a local crisis that
demands local attention



top contributing factors to substance use at achs



Which students groups are most affected by substance abuse at achs



what is currently being tried?

currently in place why its not working

ACPS zero tolerance drug policy prohibiting use or drugs on school grounds
code of conduct is not being consistently enforced on school grounds

school counselors available at achs for general support
access to dchs rehabilitation for minors is inconsistent
city offers some rehabilitation through dchs
under 30% of students have access to onsite substance abuse counseling
problem was worsened since covid-19

My solution is ACPS Should Implement After School Rehabilitation Programs at Every High School

Establish After-school counseling
Sessions

Expand Sports & Recreation
Programs Structured after-school
programs providing counseling,
mentorship, and life-skills
programming for students at-risk
operated in partnership with DCHS.

Expand Sports & Recreation Programs
Build more after-school sports and
recreational programming at all ACPS
high schools to give students positive
alternatives to drug use.

Guarantee On-Site Counselor Access
Ensure trained substance abuse
counselors are consistently on-site at
every ACHS campus with guaranteed
referral pathways to DCHS for minors.

who can help?

stakeholder 1

ACPS Administration
Superintendent & School Board
ACPS has the power to implement district-wide after-school programs at every high school. They control school policy, staffing, and budgets, and can partner with DCHS to fund and operate rehabilitation support programs while enforcing the existing code of conduct.

stakeholder 2

Dept. of Community &
Human Services (DCHS)
City Government Agency
DCHS is a city government agency with organized behavioral health and youth programs. Their mission includes reducing long-term substance abuse. The Director of Behavioral Health can commit city funding and trained counselors to support after-school rehab programs at every ACHS campus.

impacts and action

for students

Students who receive early intervention are far less likely to develop long-term addiction or face disciplinary consequences leading to higher graduation rates and healthier futures for every ACHS student.

for ACHS

ACHS becomes a safer, more supportive environment with consistent counseling resources, reduced drug incidents on school grounds, and improved academic performance across the entire student body.

for Alexandria

The community benefits from reduced long-term public health costs. Alexandria moves closer to achieving its CYCP goals for youth health and well-being city-wide.

citations

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