

# **STRENGTH IN UNITY: HOW TO CONDUCT A YOUTH SEARCH CONFERENCE**

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# OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the background of Open Space Technology/Youth Search Conference (YSC)
- Learn How to Conduct YSC
  - Answer: Who, What, When, Where?...
  - How YRBS, IYPS can guide your conference
- Simulate/Practice a Search Conference
- Plan the first steps for your Search Conference!

# OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY (OST)

OST is an approach to purpose-driven leadership, including a way for hosting meetings, conferences, corporate-style retreats, symposiums, and community summit events, focused on a specific and important purpose or task — but *beginning* without any formal agenda, beyond the overall purpose or theme.

# OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY

- Used in groups of 5 or 2,000
- Components of OST
  - Invitation, articulating the purpose of the meeting (title/theme)
  - Participant's chairs arranged in a circle
  - A bulletin board of issues/opportunities, created by participants
  - "Time" and "Space"
  - Method for recording/generating a report

# MADISON COUNTY YOUTH SEARCH CONFERENCE

- First held in 1996 with task of examine how Madison County could become a safer and healthier community.
- Common Topics include:
  - Rec. Center,
  - Educational reform
  - Safety (schools, buses, community)
  - Mental health awareness
  - Prevention Topics
  - Facilities improvements
  - Businesses/restaurants
  - Community Togetherness

# HOW?

- Inviting Participants and the invitation...
  - Informed and Influential
  - “Leaders”
  - Stated Theme/Purpose
- Finding Space
  - Must be OPEN, providing for flexibility
- Getting Started: (Creating “time” and “space”)
  - Welcome
  - Focus the Group
  - State the Theme
  - Describe the Process

# THE PROCESS...

1. Creating the agenda
2. Opening the Marketplace
3. Convening Sessions
4. Recording and Reporting

**Always Observe the *Four Principles* and the *One Law*...**

# THE FOUR PRINCIPLES

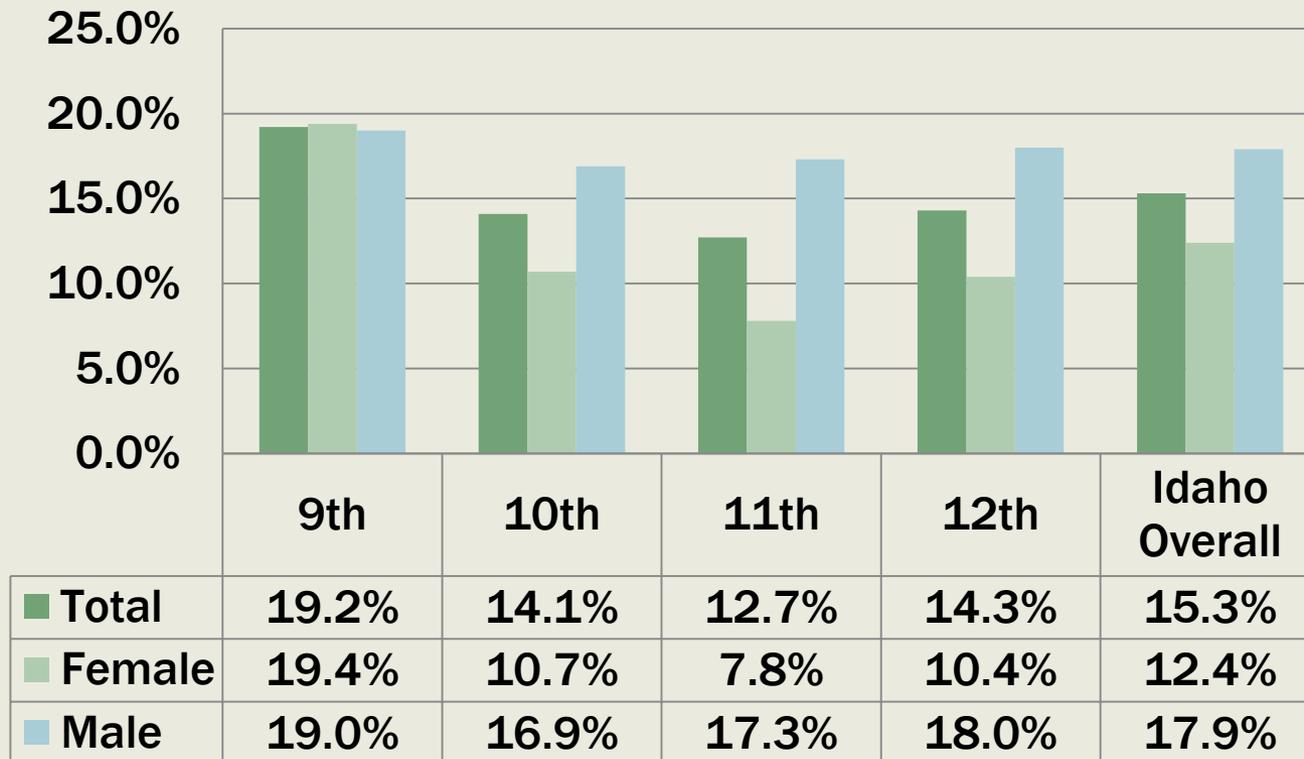
1. Whoever comes is the right people.
2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
3. Whenever it starts is the right time.
4. When it's over, it's over.

# **THE ONE LAW:** THE LAW OF TWO FEET

**“If, during the course of gathering, any person finds him or herself in a situation where they are neither learning nor contributing, they must use their two feet and go to a more productive place.”**

# USING THE DATA TO GUIDE A SEARCH CONFERENCE

## 30-day alcohol Use



Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013

# USING THE DATA TO GUIDE A SEARCH CONFERENCE

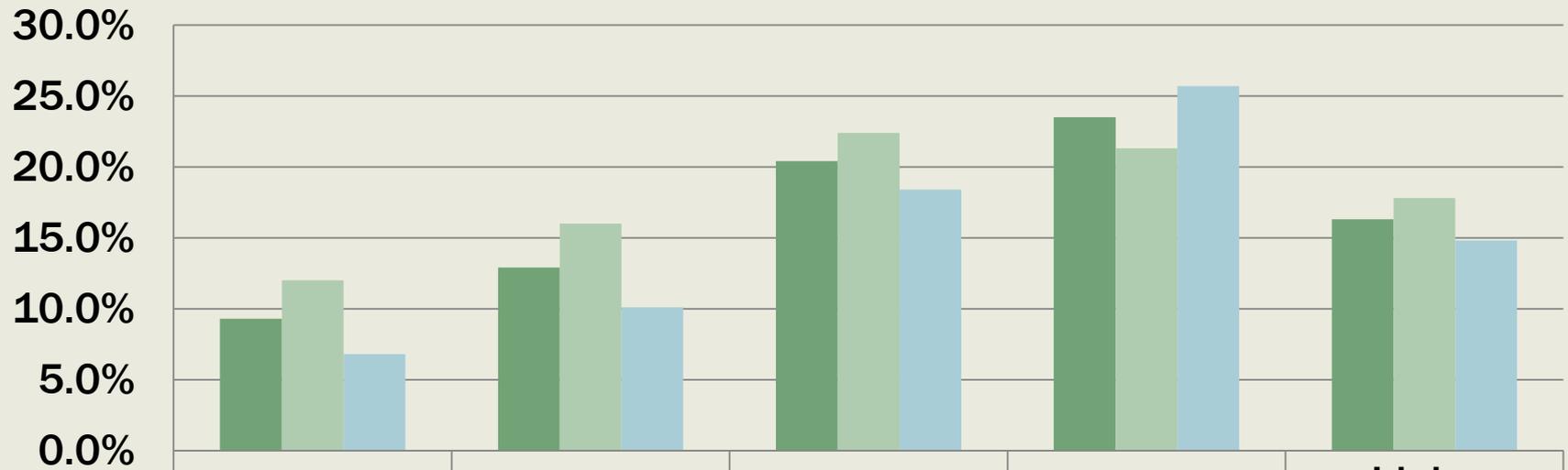
## 30-day Marijuana Use



	9th	10th	11th	12th	Idaho Overall
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>

# USING THE DATA TO GUIDE A SEARCH CONFERENCE

## Rx Drug Use w/o Doctor's Prescription

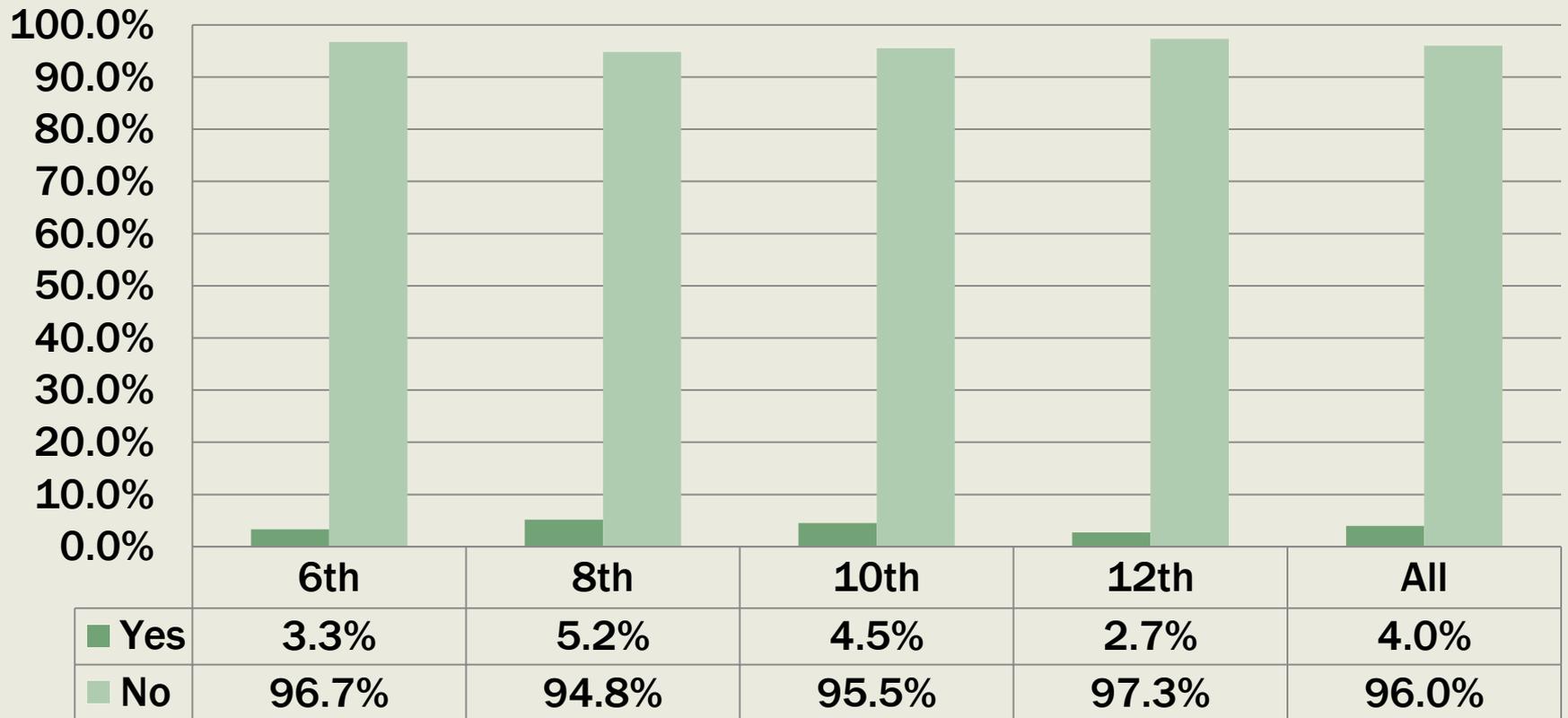


	9th	10th	11th	12th	Idaho Overall
<b>Total</b>	9.3%	12.9%	20.4%	23.5%	16.3%
<b>Female</b>	12.0%	16.0%	22.4%	21.3%	17.8%
<b>Male</b>	6.8%	10.1%	18.4%	25.7%	14.8%

Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013

# USING THE DATA TO GUIDE A SEARCH CONFERENCE

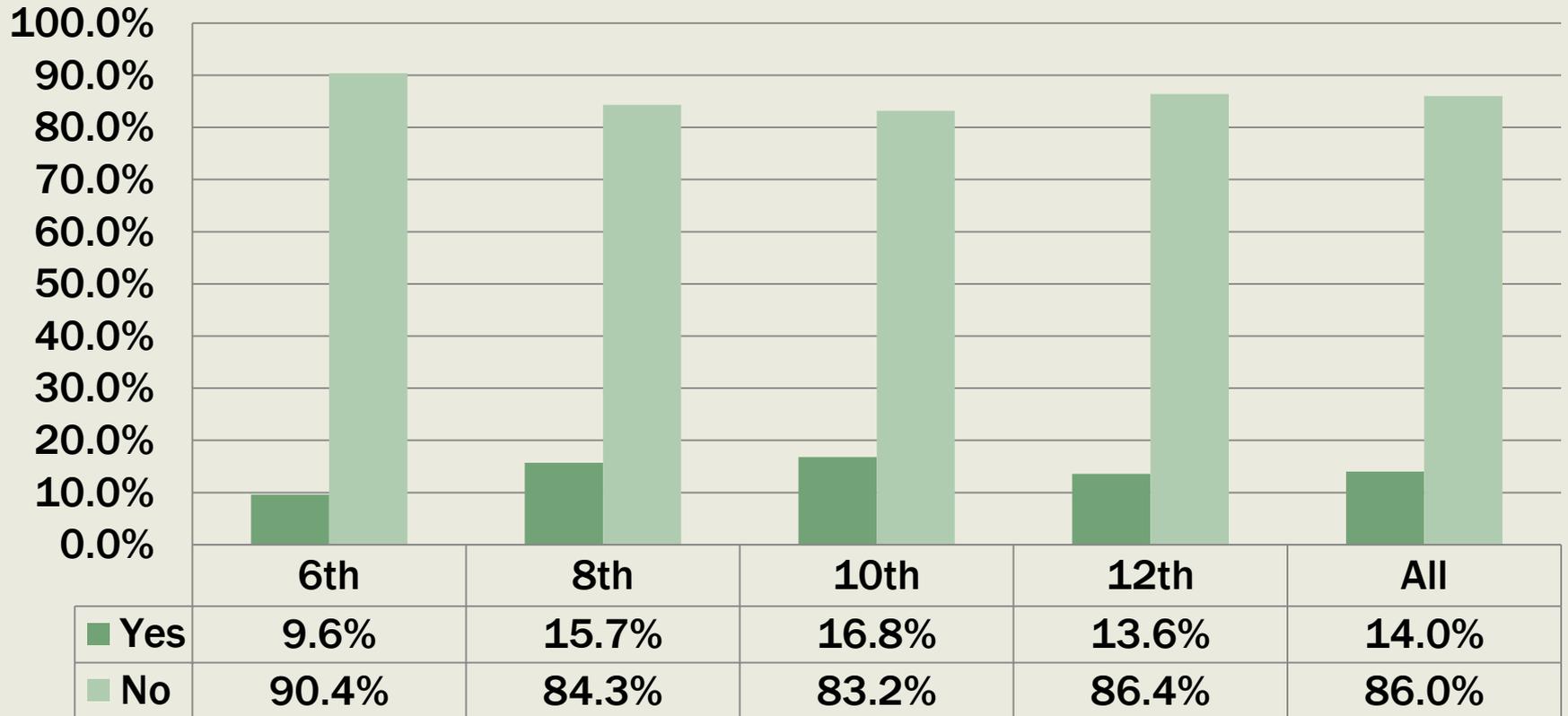
## Suicide Attempts, past 12 months



Idaho Youth Prevention Survey, 2014

# USING THE DATA TO GUIDE A SEARCH CONFERENCE

## Seriously considered suicide, past 12 months



Idaho Youth Prevention Survey, 2014

# USING THE DATA TO GUIDE A SEARCH CONFERENCE

- **Data influences:**
  - **Who is invited (grade, demographic)**
  - **Main Topics/Themes/Purpose**
  - **Overall Objectives/Goals**

**TIME TO DO IT AND REVIEW IT!**

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