

2015 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Suicide Report

A Health Risk Behavior Comparison of Montana High School Students
Based on Attempted Suicide



September 2015

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Program
Health Enhancement and Safety Division



opi.mt.gov

Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

2015 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Suicide Report

Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is administered by the Montana Office of Public Instruction every two years to students in grades 7 through 12. The purpose of the survey is to help monitor the prevalence of behaviors that not only influence youth health, but also put youth at risk for the most significant health and social problems that can occur during adolescence. While all schools in Montana can participate in the survey on a volunteer basis, approximately 50 high schools are randomly selected to be included to provide the Montana statewide data to be used in other national YRBS reports.

The 2015 YRBS was conducted in February 2015. Schools administering the survey were provided with detailed written instructions on conducting a random survey in their schools. To encourage accurate responses to sensitive questions, a strict protocol was implemented to protect the privacy and confidentiality of all participating students. The questionnaire was designed without skip patterns to ensure survey completion by students in a similar period of time.

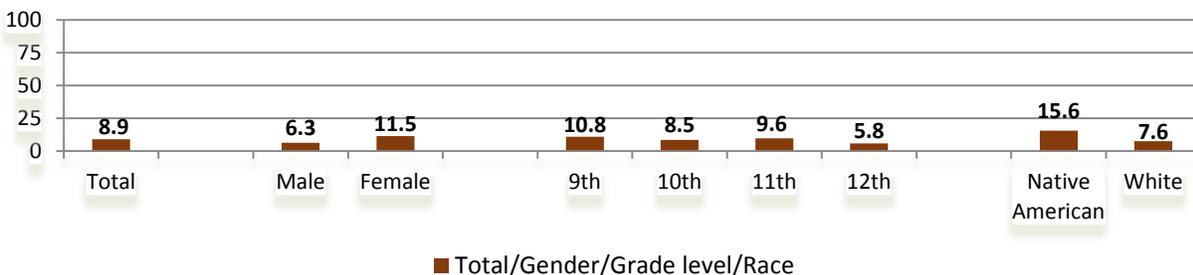
Survey Validity, Limitations and Results

Data used in this report from the 2015 YRBS are based on a random sample survey of Montana high school students. The weighted data results contained in this report can be used to make inferences about the priority health-risk behaviors of all high school students in grades 9 through 12 in all schools in Montana. However, users should be careful in using the data since respondents in self-reported surveys may have a tendency to underreport behaviors that are socially undesirable, unhealthy, or illegal (alcohol consumption, drug use, seat belt nonuse, etc.) and overreport behaviors that are socially desirable (amount of exercise, etc.).

For the purpose of this report, youth that are classified as having attempted suicide are those Montana youth in 2015 that reported attempting suicide one or more times during the 12 months prior to taking the YRBS. Forty-five separate risk behaviors were queried for association with the attempted suicide question. These findings are presented in bullet, table and graph forms in the following report.

MONTANA ATTEMPTED SUICIDE RATES

During the past 12 months, 8.9 percent of Montana high school students attempted suicide one or more times.



For more on the YRBS go to www.opi.mt.gov/yrbs.

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Findings +

Montana high school students who had attempted suicide are more likely than those students who had not attempted suicide to have:

- Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else (18% of students who attempted suicide compared to 8% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving (14% of students who attempted suicide compared to 7% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (43% of students who attempted suicide compared to 21% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (27% of students who attempted suicide compared to 9% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days (40% of students who attempted suicide compared to 24% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Not gone to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days (20% of students who attempted suicide compared to 3% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (20% of students who attempted suicide compared to 4% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (32% of students who attempted suicide compared to 6% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been bullied on school property on school property during the past 12 months (55% of students who attempted suicide compared to 23% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (49% of students who attempted suicide compared to 16% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been the victim of teasing, name calling, or bullying because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months (36% of students who attempted suicide compared to 13% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months (79% of students who attempted suicide compared to 25% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (85% of students who attempted suicide compared to 13% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever tried cigarette smoking (64% of students who attempted suicide compared to 36% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (35% of students who attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used smokeless tobacco during the past 30 days (20% of students who attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days (21% of students who attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used electronic vapor products (70% of students who attempted suicide compared to 49% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (51% of students who attempted suicide compared to 27% of students who had not attempted suicide).

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Montana high school students who had attempted suicide are more likely than those students who had not attempted suicide to have:

- Ever had a drink of alcohol in their lifetime (85% of students who attempted suicide compared to 69% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days (57% of students who attempted suicide compared to 32% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had 5 or more drinks of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days (38% of students who attempted suicide compared to 19% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (66% of students who attempted suicide compared to 34% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (42% of students who attempted suicide compared to 17% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime (12% of students who attempted suicide compared to 2% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime (18% of students who attempted suicide compared to 5% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription [such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax] (41% of students who attempted suicide compared to 13% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (71% of students who attempted suicide compared to 41% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life (29% of students who attempted suicide compared to 12% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months (58% of students who attempted suicide compared to 30% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (31% of students who attempted suicide compared to 17% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drank a can, bottle or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days (30% of students who attempted suicide compared to 17% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Not eaten breakfast during the past 7 days (23% of students who attempted suicide compared to 12% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Watched 3 or more hours of TV on an average school day (30% of students who attempted suicide compared to 21% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Played video or computer games 3 or more hours per day on an average school day (42% of students who attempted suicide compared to 34% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months (25% of students who attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).

Montana high school students who had attempted suicide are less likely than those students who had not attempted suicide to have:

- Been physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days (45% of students who attempted suicide compared to 55% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Played on at least one sports team during the past 12 months (52% of students who attempted suicide compared to 63% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (20% of students who attempted suicide compared to 33% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months (61% of students who attempted suicide compared to 77% of students who had not attempted suicide).

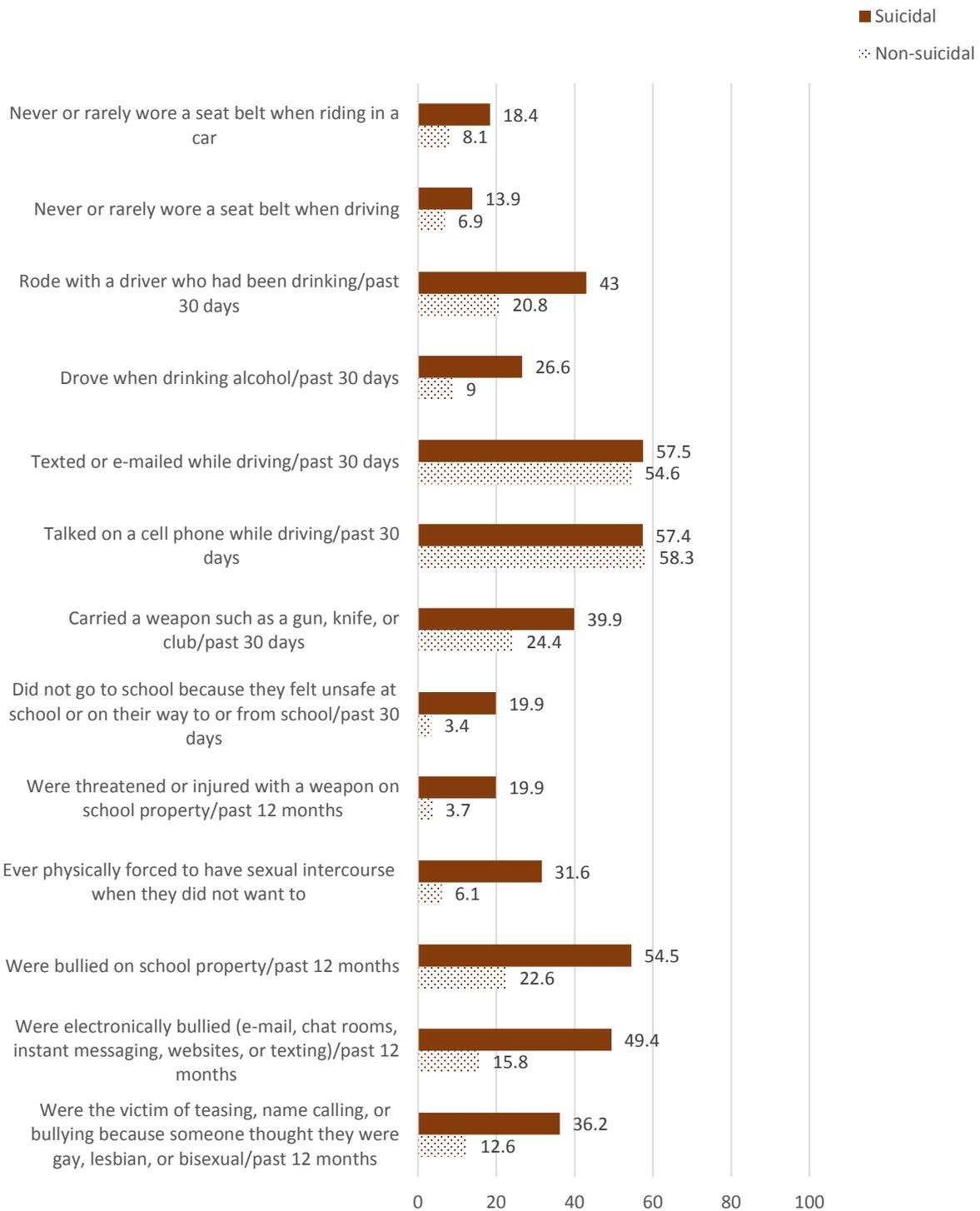
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Health Risk Behavior - percentage of students	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	18.4% (13.7-23.1)	8.1% (6.8-9.4)
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	13.9% (10.0-17.8)	6.9% (5.5-8.2)
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	43.0% (37.3-48.7)	20.8% (19.0-22.6)
Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	26.6% (17.6-35.6)	9.0% (7.4-10.7)
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	57.5% (49.5-65.4)	54.6% (51.2-58.0)
Talked on a cell phone while driving during the past 30 days	57.4% (49.5-65.3)	58.3% (55.3-61.4)
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days	39.9% (34.8-45.0)	24.4% (22.5-26.3)
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days	19.9% (15.1-24.7)	3.4% (2.7-4.2)
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	19.9% (14.9-25.0)	3.7% (2.9-4.5)
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	31.6% (26.7-36.6)	6.1% (5.3-7.0)
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	54.5% (49.9-59.2)	22.6% (20.7-24.6)
Were electronically bullied (e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or texting) during the past 12 months	49.4% (43.6-55.3)	15.8% (14.4-17.3)
Were the victim of teasing, name calling, or bullying because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months	36.2% (30.7-41.7)	12.6% (11.4-13.9)
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months	79.3% (74.6-84.1)	24.8% (23.1-26.5)
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	85.4% (81.3-89.4)	12.7% (11.4-14.0)
Ever tried cigarette smoking	64.2% (57.1-71.2)	35.8% (32.4-39.2)
Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days	34.7% (27.9-41.5)	10.7% (9.1-12.3)
Used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip) during the past 30 days	19.5% (14.5-24.6)	10.9% (9.7-12.1)
Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days	21.4% (16.6-26.3)	11.2% (9.9-12.5)
Ever used electronic vapor products (e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens such as blu, NJOY, or Starbuzz)	70.2% (65.0-75.5)	48.9% (46.5-51.3)
Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days	51.4% (44.1-58.7)	27.1% (25.1-29.1)

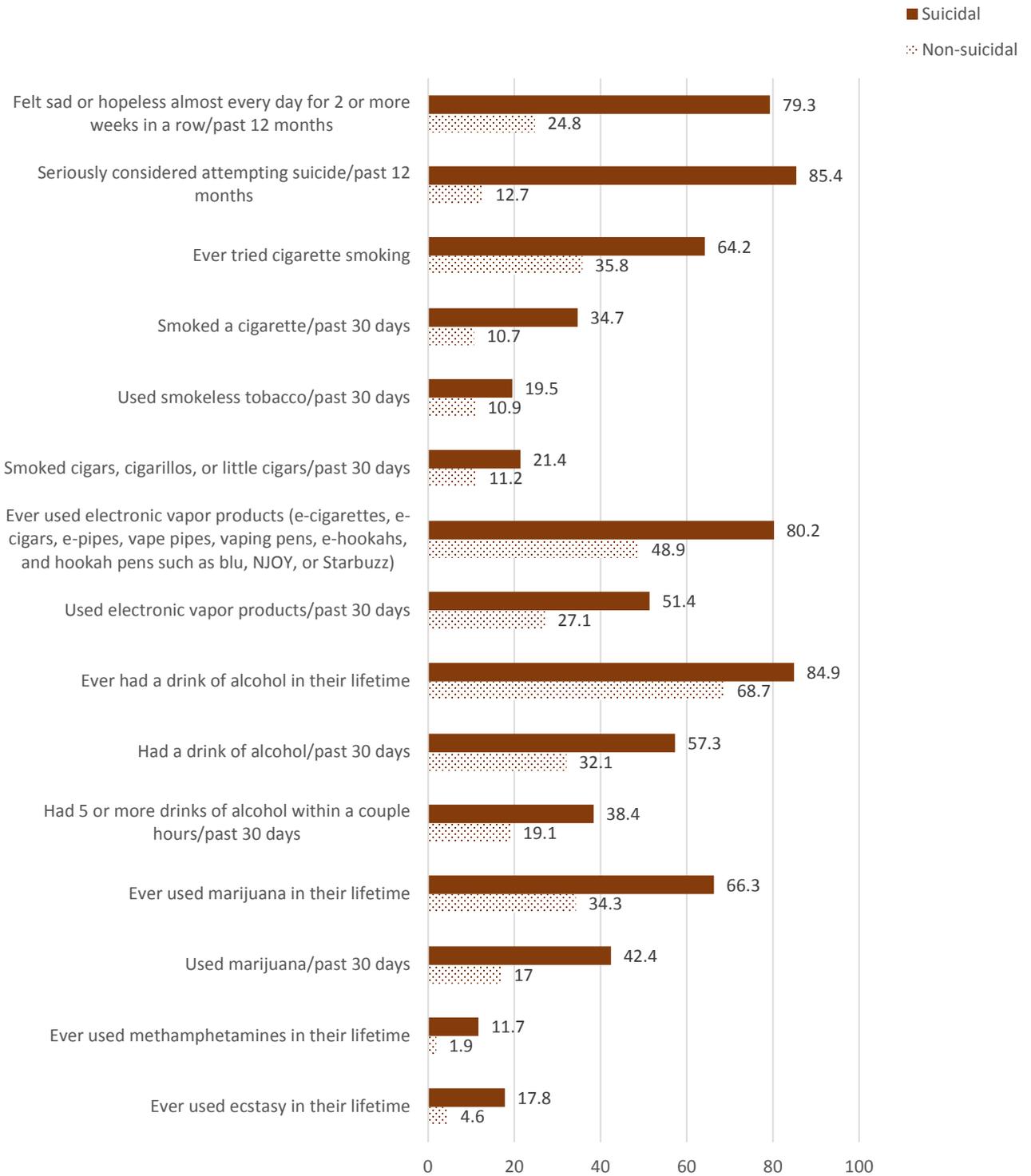
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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide
Ever had a drink of alcohol in their lifetime	84.9% (79.9-89.9)	68.7% (66.7-70.6)
Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days	57.3% (50.0-64.6)	32.1% (29.9-34.3)
Had 5 or more drinks of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	38.4% (34.7-45.2)	19.1% (17.5-20.6)
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	66.3% (59.0-73.6)	34.3% (30.7-38.0)
Used marijuana during the past 30 days	42.4% (35.6-49.3)	17.0% (14.8-19.2)
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	11.7% (7.1-16.3)	1.9% (1.3-2.5)
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	17.8% (13.1-22.6)	4.6% (3.7-5.5)
Ever took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription (such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax)	41.1% (35.0-47.2)	12.7% (11.3-14.1)
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	71.3% (65.0-77.5)	41.3% (38.2-44.5)
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	29.2% (23.2-35.1)	11.8% (10.1-13.5)
Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months	57.6% (50.9-64.3)	29.7% (27.2-32.3)
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse	31.1% (23.3-38.8)	17.3% (15.0-19.6)
Did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	8.5% (5.3-11.8)	4.5% (3.6-5.3)
Did not eat green salad, potatoes, carrots, or other vegetables during the past 7 days	10.5% (4.0-17.1)	4.3% (3.5-5.2)
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days	30.0% (25.2-34.8)	17.0% (15.6-18.5)
Did not drink milk during the past 7 days	20.3% (16.3-24.2)	15.1% (13.7-16.4)
Did not eat breakfast during the past 7 days	22.7% (17.9-27.6)	11.5% (10.4-12.5)
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	44.7% (38.2-51.1)	55.1% (53.3-57.0)
Watched 3 or more hours of TV on an average school day	30.2% (24.3-36.1)	21.1% (19.2-23.0)
Played video or computer games 3 or more hours per day on an average school day	42.2% (36.6-47.8)	34.1% (32.4-35.9)
Played on at least one sports team during the past 12 months	52.1% (44.7-59.5)	63.2% (61.3-65.2)
Had 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	20.3% (16.0-24.6)	33.4% (31.7-35.1)
Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	60.5% (54.4-66.7)	77.2% (75.1-79.4)
Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months	25.1% (20.7-29.4)	10.9% (9.6-12.2)

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