

2017 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Suicide Report

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



August 2017

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Program
Health Enhancement and Safety Division

 **Montana**
Office of Public Instruction
opi.mt.gov **Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent**

2017 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 2017 YRBS was conducted in February 2017. 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.

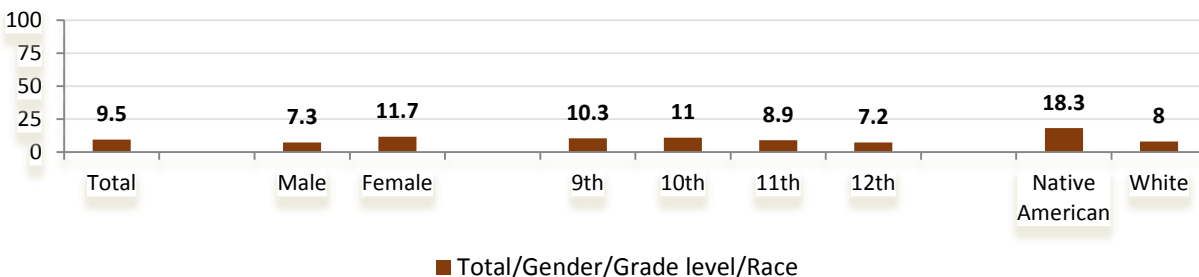
Survey Validity, Limitations and Results

Data used in this report from the 2017 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 2017 that reported attempting suicide one or more times during the 12 months prior to taking the YRBS. Fifty 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, 9.5 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 (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 (31% of students who attempted suicide compared to 18% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (15% of students who attempted suicide compared to 6% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days (35% 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 (23% of students who attempted suicide compared to 6% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (17% of students who attempted suicide compared to 6% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (31% of students who attempted suicide compared to 7% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been bullied on school property during the past 12 months (46% of students who attempted suicide compared to 19% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (46% of students who attempted suicide compared to 14% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months (29% of students who attempted suicide compared to 9% 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 (77% of students who attempted suicide compared to 27% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (84% of students who attempted suicide compared to 14% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever tried cigarette smoking (57% of students who attempted suicide compared to 31% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (32% of students who attempted suicide compared to 10% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used smokeless tobacco during the past 30 days (18% of students who attempted suicide compared to 8% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days (23% of students who attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used electronic vapor products (63% of students who attempted suicide compared to 45% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (40% of students who attempted suicide compared to 20% 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 67% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days (52% of students who attempted suicide compared to 31% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days (33% of students who attempted suicide compared to 16% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (62% of students who attempted suicide compared to 32% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (38% of students who attempted suicide compared to 18% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime (9% of students who attempted suicide compared to 1% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime (15% of students who attempted suicide compared to 3% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever took prescription pain medication without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet) (33% of students who attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (69% of students who attempted suicide compared to 40% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life (24% of students who attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months (52% of students who attempted suicide compared to 29% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (29% of students who attempted suicide compared to 16% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Not eaten fruit or drank 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days (11% of students who attempted suicide compared to 4% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drank a can, bottle or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days (25% of students who attempted suicide compared to 14% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Not drank milk during the past 7 days (24% of students who attempted suicide compared to 18% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Not eaten breakfast during the past 7 days (21% of students who attempted suicide compared to 10% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Not been physically active at least 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days (18% of students who attempted suicide compared to 10% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Watched 3 or more hours of TV on an average school day (24% of students who attempted suicide compared to 18% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active during the past 12 months (25% of students who attempted suicide compared to 15% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Usually slept in the home of a friend, family member, or other person because they had to leave their home or their parent or guardian cannot afford housing (4% of students who attempted suicide compared to 1% 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 (26% of students who attempted suicide compared to 13% of students who had not attempted suicide).

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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 (40% 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 (51% of students who attempted suicide compared to 62% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (22% of students who attempted suicide compared to 34% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months (63% of students who attempted suicide compared to 80% 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	13.8% (10.3-17.3)	6.5% (5.4-7.5)
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	11.9% (6.9-16.8)	7.7% (6.3-9.0)
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	31.0% (25.5-36.5)	18.1% (16.6-19.7)
Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	14.7% (10.0-19.5)	6.4% (5.4-7.4)
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	50.8% (44.7-56.9)	54.4% (51.6-57.2)
Talked on a cell phone while driving during the past 30 days	52.3% (45.0-59.5)	56.4% (53.4-59.4)
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days	34.8% (29.8-39.9)	24.0% (22.3-25.6)
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days	23.1% (18.9-27.3)	6.0% (3.1-8.9)
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	17.4% (13.4-21.3)	5.5% (4.4-6.7)
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	31.2% (25.8-36.5)	6.7% (5.3-8.0)
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	45.8% (40.7-50.9)	19.0% (17.3-20.7)
Were electronically bullied (e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or texting) during the past 12 months	46.2% (40.4-52.1)	14.4% (13.1-15.7)
Were the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months	29.4% (24.0-34.8)	8.5% (7.5-9.5)
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months	76.9% (72.2-81.6)	27.1% (25.1-29.1)
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	84.2% (81.2-89.3)	14.0% (12.6-15.3)
Ever tried cigarette smoking	56.7% (51.2-62.3)	31.2% (28.4-33.9)
Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days	31.7% (27.0-36.4)	9.8% (8.5-11.1)
Used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip) during the past 30 days	17.7% (13.0-22.5)	8.3% (7.0-9.6)
Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days	23.0% (17.8-28.3)	11.3% (10.0-12.7)
Ever used electronic vapor products	62.6% (56.3-68.9)	44.5% (42.3-46.6)
Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days	39.6% (34.4-44.7)	20.4% (18.1-22.7)

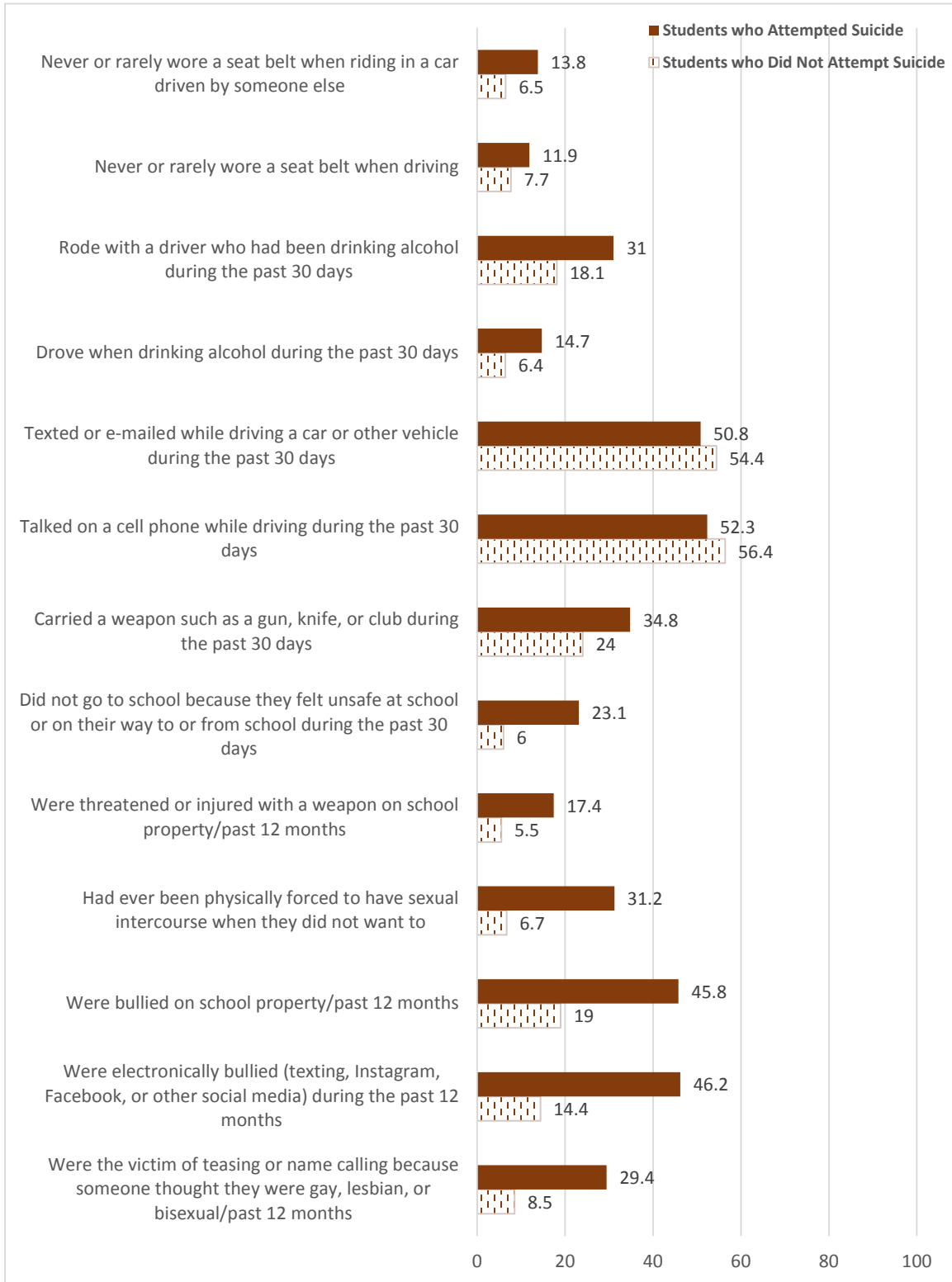
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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide
Ever had a drink of alcohol in their lifetime	84.9% (80.9-88.8)	66.9% (64.3-69.4)
Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days	52.1% (46.9-57.3)	31.2% (29.1-33.3)
Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	33.1% (27.7-38.4)	16.0% (14.5-17.6)
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	61.7% (57.8-65.6)	32.3% (29.8-34.9)
Used marijuana during the past 30 days	38.1% (33.5-42.6)	17.5% (15.5-19.5)
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	8.6% (5.3-11.9)	1.3% (0.9-1.6)
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	15.3% (11.4-19.3)	3.0% (2.4-3.7)
Ever took prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone and Percocet)	33.0% (28.2-37.9)	10.9% (9.8-12.0)
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	69.4% (64.4-74.5)	40.4% (37.9-42.9)
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	24.3% (19.2-29.3)	10.9% (9.5-12.4)
Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months	52.0% (46.3-57.8)	29.1% (26.6-31.5)
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse	28.8% (22.0-35.5)	15.9% (13.1-18.7)
Were obese (at or above the 95 th percentile for body mass index)	15.2% (10.9-19.4)	11.3% (9.9-12.8)
Were overweight (at or above the 85 th percentile but below the 95 th percentile for body mass index)	15.4% (11.3-19.6)	14.1% (12.7-15.5)
Did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	10.7% (7.3-14.0)	4.2% (3.5-4.9)
Did not eat green salad, potatoes, carrots, or other vegetables during the past 7 days	7.6% (4.8-10.4)	4.3% (3.6-5.0)
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days	25.0% (20.0-29.9)	13.9% (12.5-15.3)
Did not drink milk during the past 7 days	24.1% (19.8-28.3)	18.2% (16.8-19.7)
Did not eat breakfast during the past 7 days	21.3% (17.2-25.3)	10.0% (8.8-11.1)
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	40.2% (34.8-45.5)	54.6% (52.4-56.7)
Were not physically active at least 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days	17.7% (13.4-22.1)	10.4% (9.2-11.7)
Watched 3 or more hours of TV on an average school day	23.5% (19.3-27.7)	17.6% (16.0-19.2)
Played video or computer games 3 or more hours per day on an average school day	39.8% (35.2-44.4)	34.4% (32.7-36.1)

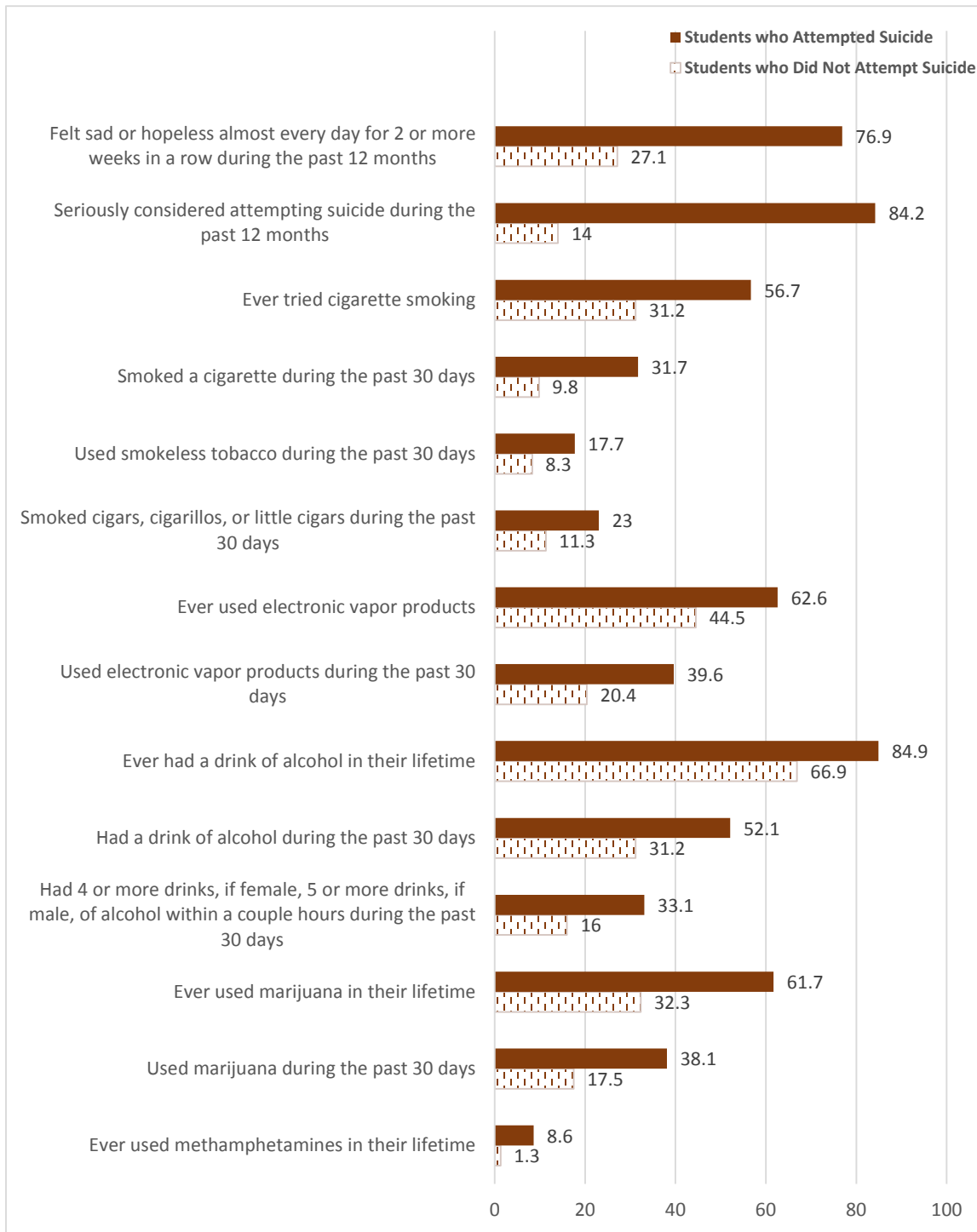
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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide
Played on at least one sports team during the past 12 months	51.2% (44.2-58.2)	61.7% (59.6-63.7)
Had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active during the past 12 months	24.8% (20.6-29.0)	14.7% (13.4-16.0)
Usually slept in the home of a friend, family member, or other person because they had to leave their home or their parent or guardian cannot afford housing	4.1% (2.1-6.0)	1.5% (1.0-1.9)
Had 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	21.5% (17.2-25.9)	34.0% (31.9-36.1)
Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	62.5% (57.9-67.1)	79.8% (77.9-81.7)
Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months	26.1% (21.4-30.7)	12.9% (11.6-14.2)

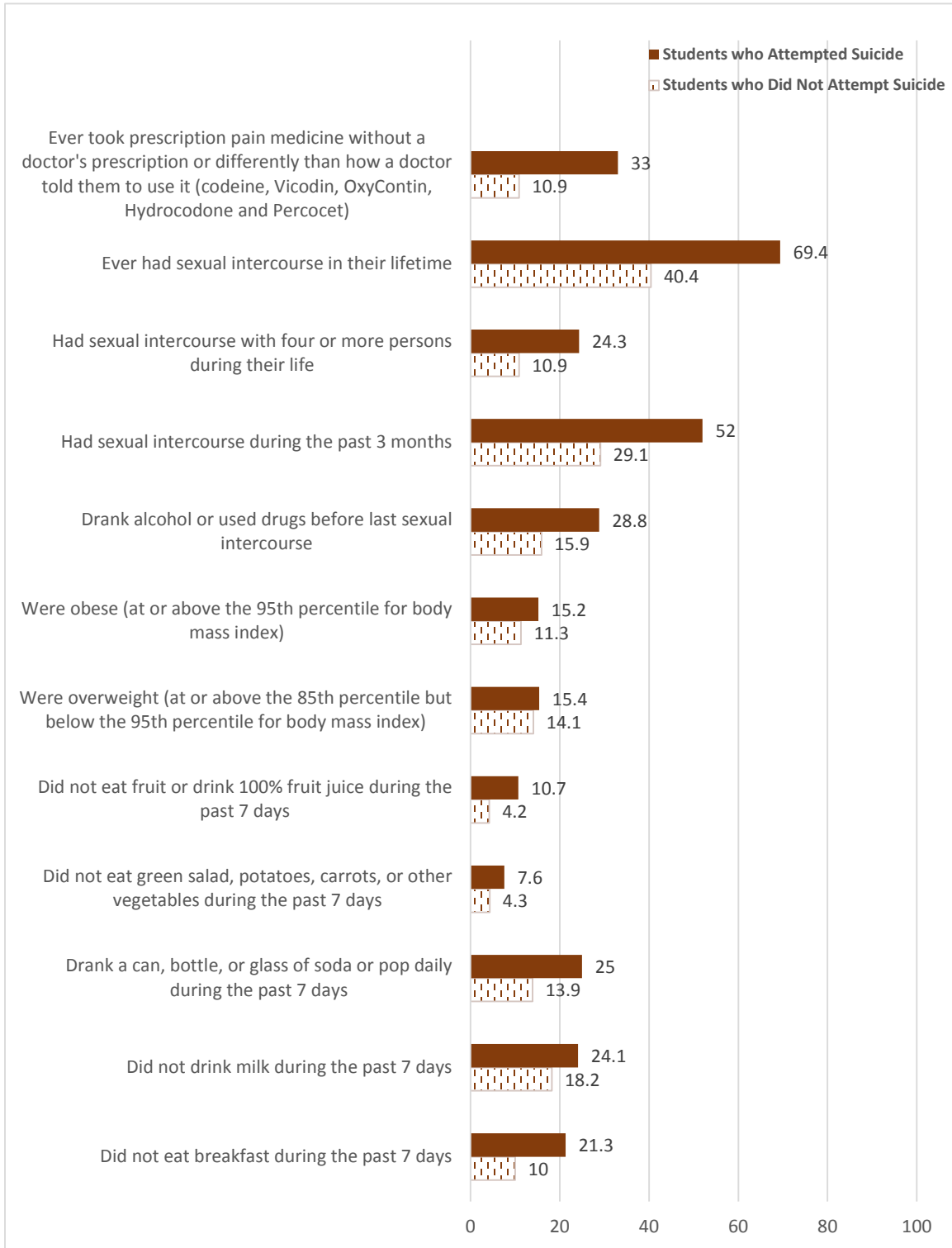
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