

Unintentional Injury and Violence-Related Behaviors and Academic Achievement



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What is the relationship between unintentional injury and violence-related behaviors and academic achievement?

Data presented below from the 2015 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) show a negative association between unintentional injury and violence-related behaviors and academic achievement. This means that students with higher grades are less likely to engage in unintentional injury and violence-related behaviors than their classmates with lower grades, and students who do not engage in unintentional injury and violence-related behaviors receive higher grades than their classmates who do engage in unintentional injury and violence-related behaviors. These associations do not prove causation. Further research is needed to determine whether low grades lead to behaviors related to unintentional injury and violence, behaviors related to unintentional injury and violence lead to low grades, or some other factors lead to both of these problems.

Percentage of high school students who engaged in unintentional injury or violence-related behaviors, by type of grades earned – Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015.

Unintentional Injury and Violence-Related Behaviors	Percentage of Montana high school students who engaged in each risk behavior, by type of grades mostly earned				Significant Association*
	A's	B's	C's	D's/F's	
Unintentional Injury-Related Behaviors					
Never or rarely wore a bicycle helmet when riding a bicycle, past 12 months	73	83	92	92	Yes
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car	5	9	17	26	Yes
Never or rarely wear a seat belt when driving	4	8	15	26	Yes
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol, past 30 days	18	24	28	40	Yes
Drove when drinking alcohol, past 30 days	7	12	15	32	Yes
Texted or e-mailed while driving, past 30 days	55	58	56	56	No
Talked on a cell phone while driving, past 30 days	60	60	59	54	No
Violence-Related Behaviors					
Carried a weapon (e.g., a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days)	20	29	34	46	Yes
Carried a gun during the past 30 days	8	13	13	24	Yes
Carried a weapon on school property	6	12	16	26	Yes
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days	3	5	6	15	Yes
Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	3	6	6	17	Yes
In a physical fight during the past 12 months	13	24	33	44	Yes
Injured in a physical fight during the past 12 months	2	2	3	12	Yes
In a physical fight on school property during the past 12 months	4	8	12	23	Yes
Forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	6	10	11	15	Yes
Experienced physical dating violence during the past 12 months (of dating students)	6	7	10	22	Yes
Experienced sexual dating violence during the past 12 months (of dating students)	10	9	11	20	Yes
Bullied on school property during the past 12 months	23	26	26	39	Yes
Electronically bullied during the past 12 months	16	20	22	24	Yes
Victim of teasing, name calling, or bullying because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months	11	15	18	25	Yes
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day or 2 weeks or more during the past 12 months	22	29	38	51	Yes
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	15	17	25	39	Yes
Made a suicide plan during the past 12 months	12	14	19	36	Yes
Attempted suicide during the past 12 months	5	10	12	24	Yes

*Based on logistic regression analysis controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade in school, p<0.05.

Figure 1. Percentage of high school students, by unintentional injury-related behavior, by grades earned. Montana YRBS, 2015.

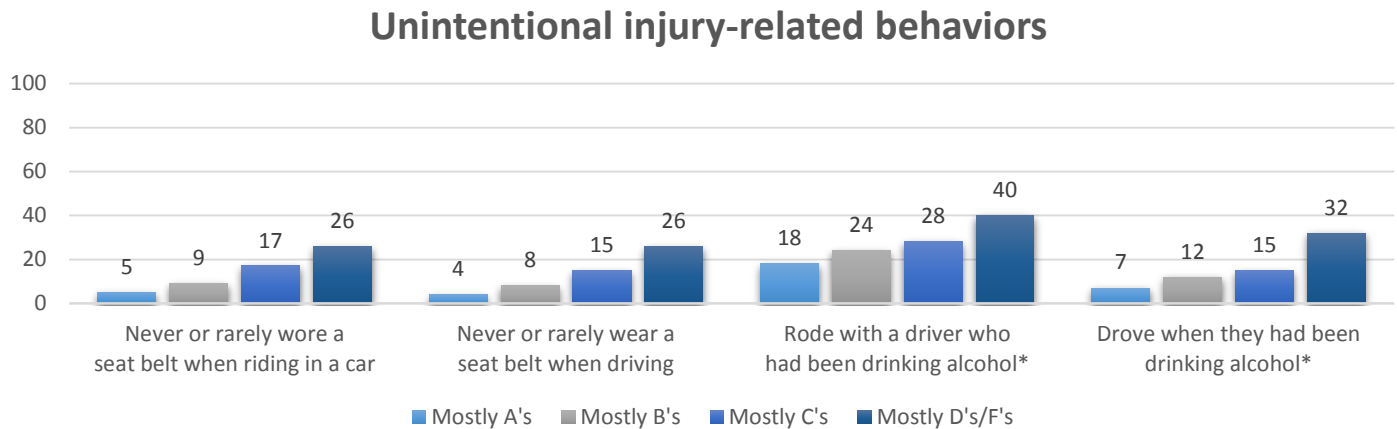
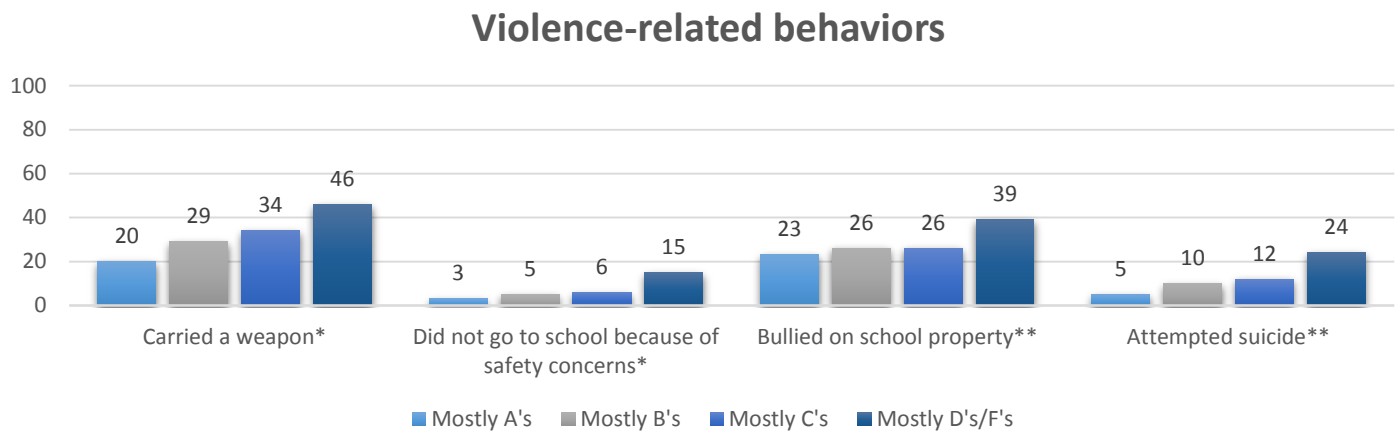


Figure 2. Percentage of high school students, by violence-related behavior, by grades earned. Montana YRBS, 2015.



* During the past 30 days.

** During the past 12 months.

The Montana YRBS monitors priority health-risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. It is conducted every 2 years during late winter and provides data representative of high school students in Montana. In 2015, students completing the YRBS were asked, “During the past 12 months, how would you describe your grades in school?” and given seven response options (Mostly A’s, Mostly B’s, Mostly C’s, Mostly D’s, Mostly F’s, None of these grades, Not sure). In 2015, 40% of students received mostly A’s, 35% received mostly B’s, 16% received mostly C’s, 5% received mostly D’s or F’s, and 4% reported receiving none of these grades or not sure. The YRBS has been administered by the Office of Public Instruction in collaboration with Montana schools since 1991. More information is located at www.opi.mt.gov/yrbs.