

# 2017 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Special Report: Homelessness

Health Risk Behaviors of Students  
Not Living in a Parent's or Guardian's Home



July 2017

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Program  
Health Enhancement and Safety Division

# 2017 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Homelessness Report

## Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

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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

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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.

For the purpose of this report, students who are defined as homeless were the 4.6% of students who selected responses B through G on question 91 of the survey. Forty-five separate risk behaviors were queried for association with students who were homeless. These findings are presented in bullet, table and graph forms in the following report.

91. During the past 30 days, where did you usually sleep?	
A. In my parent's or guardian's home	95.4
B. In the home of a friend, family member, or other person because I had to leave my home or my parent or guardian cannot afford housing	1.8
C. In a shelter or emergency housing	0.5
D. In a motel or hotel	0.4
E. In a car, park, campground, or other public place	0.6
F. I do not have a usual place to sleep	0.6
G. Somewhere else	0.7

More Montana results are on the website located at [Montana YRBS](#).

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### Findings +

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#### *More likely*

Montana high school students who are homeless are more likely than students who have a home to have:

- Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car (26% of homeless students compared to 7% of students who have a home).
- Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving (23% of homeless students compared to 6% of students who have a home).
- Ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (47% of homeless students compared to 18% of students who have a home).
- Driven a car or other vehicle when drinking alcohol (18% of homeless students compared to 7% of students who have a home).
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife or club during the past 30 days (40% of homeless students compared to 24% of students who have a home).
- Not gone to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days (26% of homeless students compared to 7% of students who have a home).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (26% of homeless students compared to 6% of students who have a home).
- Been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (29% of homeless students compared to 8% of students who have a home).
- Been bullied on school property during the past 12 months (33% of homeless students compared to 21% of students who have a home).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (32% of homeless students compared to 17% of students who have a home).
- Been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian or bisexual (23% of homeless students compared to 10% of students who have a home).
- Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months (45% of homeless students compared to 30% of students who have a home).
- Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (35% of homeless students compared to 20% of students who have a home).
- Attempted suicide during the past 12 months (26% of homeless students compared to 9% of students who have a home).
- Ever tried cigarette smoking in their lifetime (60% of homeless students compared to 32% of students who have a home).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (34% of homeless students compared to 11% of students who have a home).
- Used smokeless tobacco during the past 30 days (33% of homeless students compared to 9% of students who have a home).
- Smoked a cigar, cigarillo or little cigar during the past 30 days (36% of homeless students compared to 12% of students who have a home).
- Ever used an electronic vapor product (e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens such as blu, NJOY, or Starbuzz) in their lifetime (67% of homeless students compared to 45% of students who have a home).
- Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (41% of homeless students compared to 21% of students who have a home).

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- Ever had a drink of alcohol in their lifetime (83% of homeless students compared to 67% of students who have a home).
- Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days (56% of homeless students compared to 32% of students who have a home).
- Had four or more drinks, if female, five or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days (36% of homeless students compared to 17% of students who have a home).
- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (57% of homeless students compared to 34% of students who have a home).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (40% of homeless students compared to 19% of students who have a home).
- Used methamphetamines in their lifetime (19% of homeless students compared to 1% of students who have a home).
- Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime (23% of homeless students compared to 4% of students who have a home).
- Used prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how it was prescribed in their lifetime (40% of homeless students compared to 12% of students who have a home).
- Had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (68% of homeless students compared to 42% of students who have a home).
- Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons in their lifetime (36% of homeless students compared to 11% of students who have a home).
- Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months (57% of homeless students compared to 31% of students who have a home).
- Used drugs or alcohol before last sexual intercourse (35% of homeless students compared to 17% of students who have a home).
- Did not eat fruit during the past 7 days (17% of homeless students compared to 9% of students who have a home).
- Did not eat green salad, potatoes, carrots, or other vegetables during the past 7 days (26% of homeless students compared to 16% of students who have a home).
- Did not eat breakfast on any of the past 7 days (23% of homeless students compared to 11% of students who have a home).
- Watched 3 or more hours of TV on an average school day (31% of homeless students compared to 17% of students who have a home).
- Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months (30% of homeless students compared to 14% of students who have a home).

### *Less Likely*

Montana high school students who are homeless are less likely than students who have a home to have:

- Been physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days (36% of homeless students compared to 54% of students who have a home).
- Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (21% of homeless students compared to 33% of students who have a home).
- Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months (58% of homeless students compared to 79% of students who have a home).

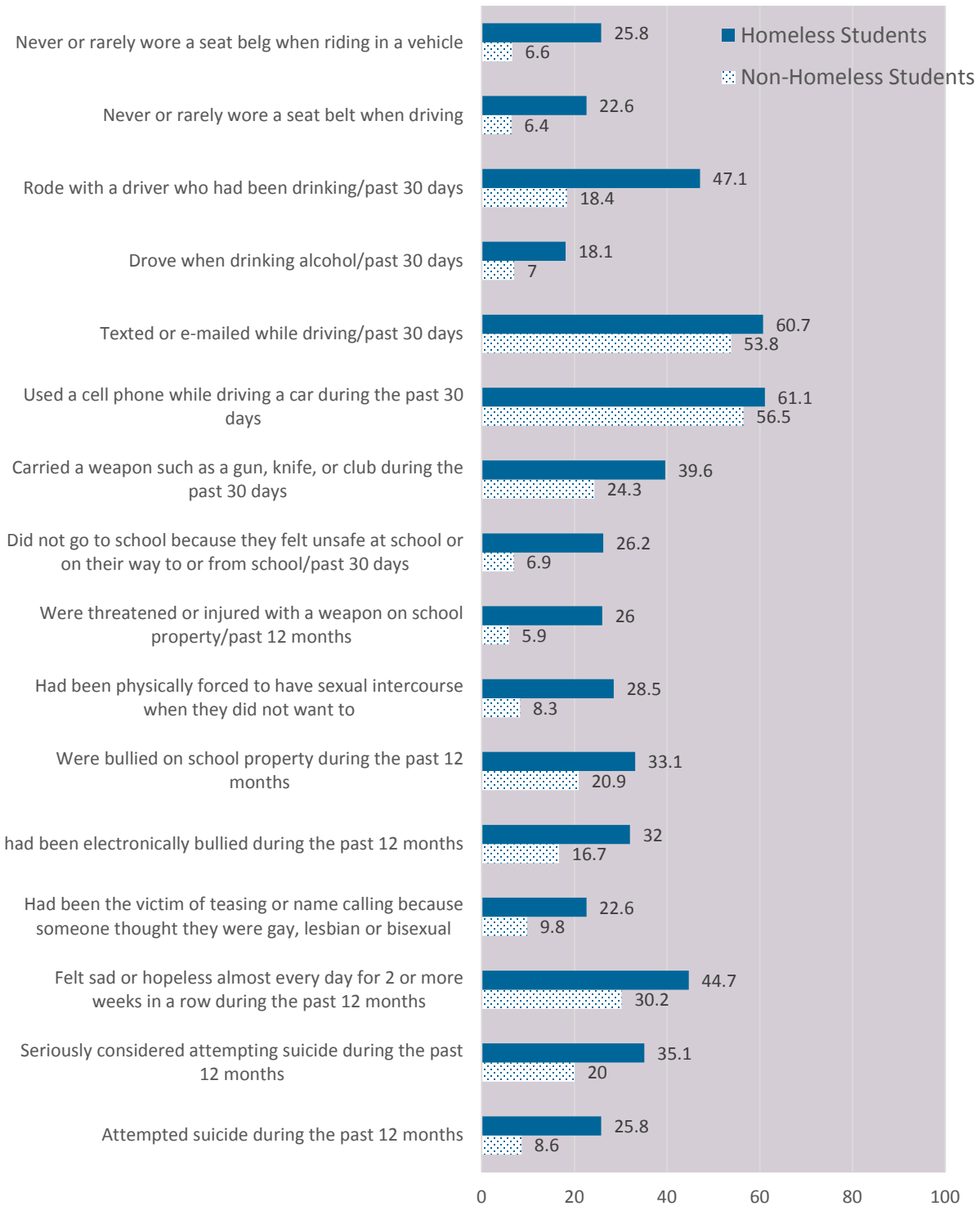
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Health Risk Behavior - percentage of students	Students who are not homeless	Students who are homeless
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a vehicle	6.6%	25.8%
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	6.4%	22.6%
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	18.4%	47.1%
Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	7.0%	18.1%
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days (of drivers)	53.8%	60.7%
Used a cell phone while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days (of drivers)	56.5%	61.1%
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club, during the past 30 days	24.3%	39.6%
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days	6.9%	26.2%
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	5.9%	26.0%
Had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	8.3%	28.5%
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	20.9%	33.1%
Had been electronically bullied during the past 12 months	16.7%	32.0%
Had been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian or bisexual	9.8%	22.6%
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months	30.2%	44.7%
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	20.0%	35.1%
Attempted suicide during the past 12 months	8.6%	25.8%
Ever tried cigarette smoking	32.4%	59.7%
Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days	10.9%	33.9%
Used smokeless tobacco during the past 30 days	8.5%	32.5%
Smoked a cigar, cigarillo or little cigar during the past 30 days	11.6%	36.0%
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)	45.3%	66.9%
Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days	21.3%	41.0%

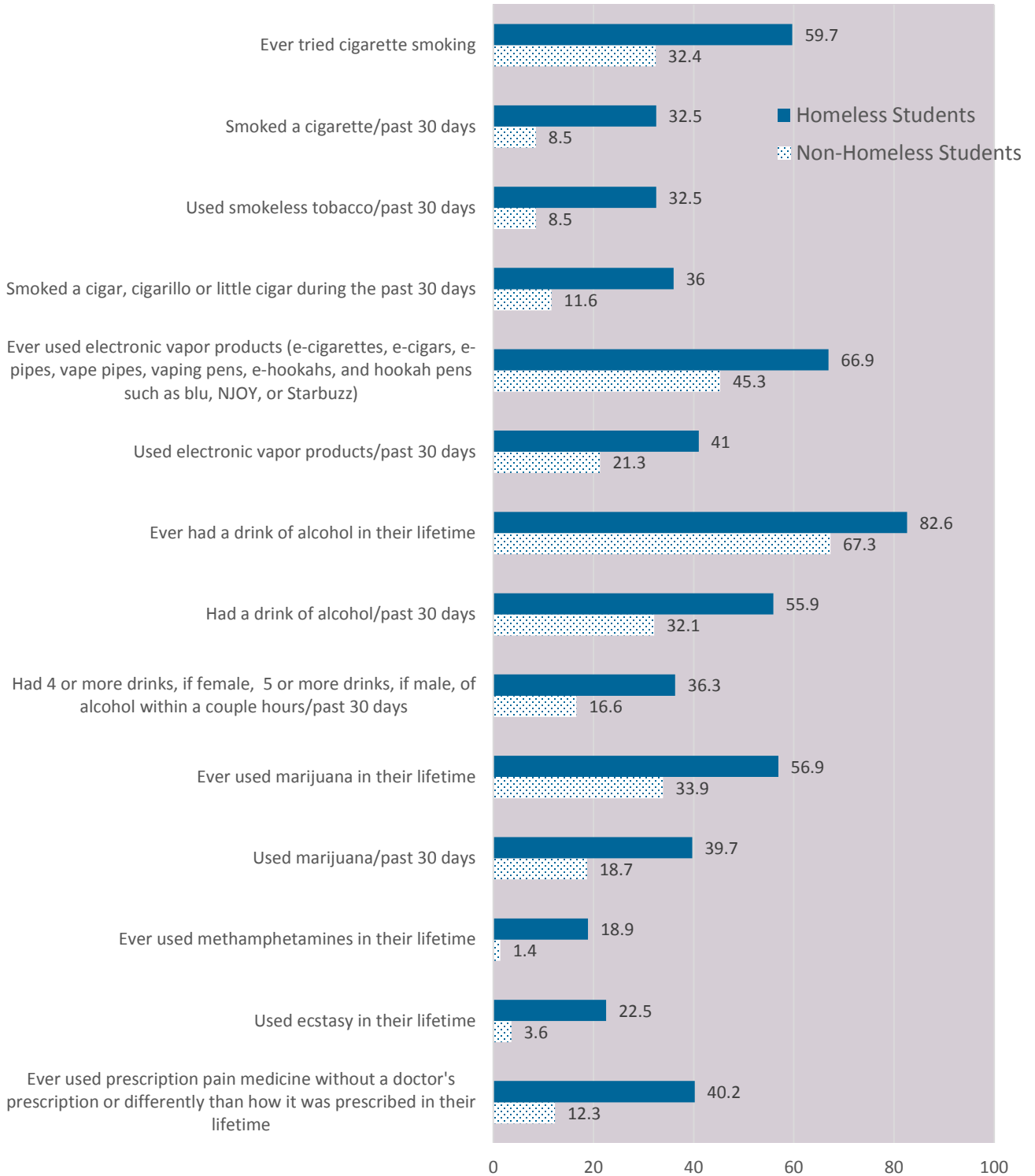
## 2017 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Homelessness Report

Health Risk Behavior - percentage of students	Students who are not homeless	Students who are homeless
Ever had a drink of alcohol in their lifetime	67.3%	82.6%
Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days	32.1%	55.9%
Had 4 or more drinks (if female) 5 or more drinks (if male) of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	16.6%	36.3%
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	33.9%	56.9%
Used marijuana during the past 30 days	18.7%	39.7%
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	1.4%	18.9%
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	3.6%	22.5%
Ever used prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how it was prescribed in their lifetime	12.3%	40.2%
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	42.1%	67.5%
Have had sexual intercourse with 4 or more persons in their lifetime	11.4%	36.3%
Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months	30.5%	56.9%
Used drugs or alcohol before last sexual intercourse	16.9%	35.0%
Did not drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	27.1%	23.6%
Did not eat fruit during the past 7 days	9.4%	17.3%
Did not eat a green salad during the past 7 days	31.6%	35.9%
Did not eat green salad, potatoes, carrots, or other vegetables during the past 7 days	15.8%	25.8%
Did not eat breakfast on any of the past 7 days	10.8%	22.8%
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	54.4%	35.7%
Watched 3 or more hours of TV on an average school day	17.4%	30.9%
Played video or computer games 3 or more hours per day on an average school day	34.8%	33.1%
Had 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	33.2%	21.2%
Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	78.8%	58.0%
Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months	14.0%	29.5%

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