

2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Sexual Orientation Report

Health Risk Behaviors of
Students Who Were Victimized for
Perception of being Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual



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2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Sexual Orientation 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 2021 YRBS was conducted in February-March 2021. 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.

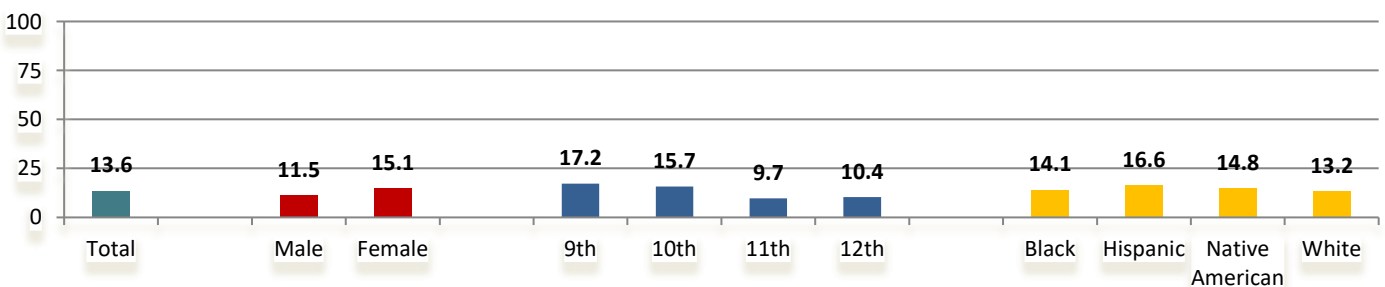
Survey Validity and Report Analysis

Data used in this report from the 2021 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 this report, the 13.3 percent of Montana high school students classified as being victimized based upon perceived sexual orientation are those students who, during the past 12 months, reported they were the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Fifty-four separate risk behaviors were queried for association with victimization based upon perceived sexual orientation. These findings are presented in narrative, table, and graph forms in the following report.

BULLYING AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

During the past 12 months, 13.6 percent of students have been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual.



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

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Findings – *More Likely*

Montana high school students *who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation* are *more likely* than those *students who were not victimized* to have:

- Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving a vehicle (11% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 6% of students who were not victimized).
- Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (29% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 19% of students who were not victimized).
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property during the past 30 days (12% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 8% of students who were not victimized).
- Not gone to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days (17% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 5% of students who were not victimized).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (16% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 4% of students who were not victimized).
- Ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (24% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 9% of students who were not victimized).
- Experienced sexual dating violence, such as unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse, by someone they were dating, during the past 12 months (20% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 6% of students who were not victimized).
- Been bullied on school property during the past 12 months (44% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 11% of students who were not victimized).
- Been electronically bullied (texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media) during the past 12 months (46% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 12% of students who were not victimized).
- Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row that they stopped doing usual activities, during the past 12 months (74% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 36% of students who were not victimized).
- Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months (42% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 14% of students who were not victimized).
- Attempted suicide during the past 12 months (26% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 8% of students who were not victimized).
- Ever tried cigarette smoking (40% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 26% of students who were not victimized).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (13% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 6% of students who were not victimized).
- Ever used electronic vapor products (59% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 47% of students who were not victimized).
- Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (35% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 24% of students who were not victimized).
- Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days (39% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 30% of students who were not victimized).
- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (48% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 35% of students who were not victimized).

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Findings – *More Likely*

Montana high school *students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation* are **more likely** than those *students who were not victimized* to have:

- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (28% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 18% of students who were not victimized).
- 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) (23% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 10% of students who were not victimized).
- Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime (5% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 1% of students who were not victimized).
- Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime (8% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 4% of students who were not victimized).
- Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (49% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 40% of students who were not victimized).
- Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life (15% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 10% of students who were not victimized).
- Tried to lose weight (52% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 40% of students who were not victimized).
- Not eaten fruit during the past 7 days (14% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 10% of students who were not victimized).
- Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days (16% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 12% of students who were not victimized).
- Not been physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days (17% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 10% of students who were not victimized).
- Spent 3 or more hours per day on screen time (77% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 71% of students who were not victimized).
- Slept away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during the past 30 days (9% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 4% of students who were not victimized).
- Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months (25% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 13% of students who were not victimized).
















2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Sexual Orientation Report

Findings – *Less Likely*

Montana high school *students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation* are **less likely** than those *students who were not victimized* to have:











- Been physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days (41% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 54% of students who were not victimized).
- Been physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on all of the past 7 days (20% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 27% of students who were not victimized).
- Played on at least one sports team during the past 12 months (49% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 60% of students who were not victimized).
- Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (21% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 30% of students who were not victimized).
- Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months (66% of students who were victimized for perceived GLB sexual orientation compared to 75% of students who were not victimized).

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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Victimized for Perceived GLB Sexual Orientation	Not Victimized for Perceived GLB Sexual Orientation	Statistical Difference
Did not always wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	52.0% (47.3-56.7)	45.0% (42.3-47.6)	
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	10.9% (7.3-14.5)	6.2% (5.4-7.1)	
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	29.1% (24.9-33.2)	19.2% (17.6-20.8)	
Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	9.4% (6.8-12.1)	7.3% (6.3-8.2)	
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	56.3% (50.2-62.4)	57.1% (54.3-59.9)	
Used the Internet or apps on their cell phone while driving during the past 30 days	49.3% (53.4-55.2)	51.7% (49.1-54.3)	
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property, past 30 days	12.3% (9.9-14.6)	8.4% (7.1-9.6)	
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days	16.5% (13.3-19.7)	4.8% (4.0-5.6)	
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	15.9% (11.5-20.2)	4.4% (3.6-5.1)	
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	23.5% (19.9-27.2)	9.0% (7.6-10.3)	
Experienced sexual dating violence (unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse by someone they were dating), past 12 months	19.9% (15.8-24.0)	6.2% (5.2-7.2)	
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	44.4% (40.0-48.8)	11.1% (9.7-12.5)	
Were electronically bullied (texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media) during the past 12 months	45.6% (41.6-49.7)	11.8% (10.7-12.9)	
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months	73.7% (69.6-77.8)	36.3% (34.0-38.6)	
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	42.3% (38.1-46.4)	14.1% (12.4-15.8)	
Attempted suicide during the past 12 months	26.1% (21.7-30.6)	7.5% (6.3-8.7)	
Ever tried cigarette smoking	40.2% (34.7-45.7)	25.9% (23.3-28.4)	
Currently smoked cigarettes, past 30 days	12.6% (9.7-15.5)	6.1% (4.7-7.6)	
Ever used an electronic vapor product	58.6% (53.7-63.5)	46.6% (44.2-48.9)	












Based on t-test analysis, $p < 0.05$.

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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Victimized for Perceived GLB Sexual Orientation	Not Victimized for Perceived GLB Sexual Orientation	Statistical Difference
Currently used an electronic vapor product, past 30 days	35.0% (29.9-40.1)	23.9% (22.2-25.7)	
Currently used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip), past 30 days	5.0% (2.9-7.0)	5.0% (4.0-6.1)	
Currently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, past 30 days	6.7% (4.4-9.0)	4.0% (3.1-4.9)	
Currently drank alcohol, past 30 days	39.2% (35.0-43.3)	30.2% (28.0-32.5)	
Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	19.2% (16.1-22.3)	16.0% (14.3-17.6)	
Drank vodka or some other type of liquor (rum, scotch, bourbon, whiskey, or tequila) as the type of alcohol most often drank, past 30 days	34.3% (28.2-40.4)	29.7% (27.1-32.4)	
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	47.6% (42.8-52.4)	35.2% (32.5-37.9)	
Currently used marijuana, past 30 days	28.0% (24.4-31.6)	18.3% (16.4-20.2)	
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)	22.5% (19.6-25.5)	10.2% (9.0-11.4)	
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	4.9% (2.8-7.0)	1.2% (0.8-1.6)	
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	8.3% (4.8-10.9)	3.5% (2.9-4.1)	
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	49.3% (44.5-54.0)	40.2% (37.4-43.1)	
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	14.9% (11.8-18.0)	10.0% (8.8-11.2)	
Currently sexually active (sexual intercourse during the past 3 months)	32.8% (28.8-36.8)	29.6% (27.2-32.0)	
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse	20.3% (13.2-27.5)	17.5% (15.1-19.9)	
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse	49.1% (40.9-57.3)	52.3% (49.0-55.6)	
Have obesity (at or above the 95 th percentile for body mass index)	15.0% (11.7-18.3)	11.3% (9.8-12.7)	
Were overweight (at or above the 85 th percentile but below the 95 th percentile for body mass index)	15.1% (11.8-18.4)	13.9% (12.6-15.2)	
Were trying to lose weight	51.7% (46.5-59.8)	39.6% (37.6-41.5)	
Did not drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	35.3% (31.3-39.3)	34.2% (32.4-36.0)	

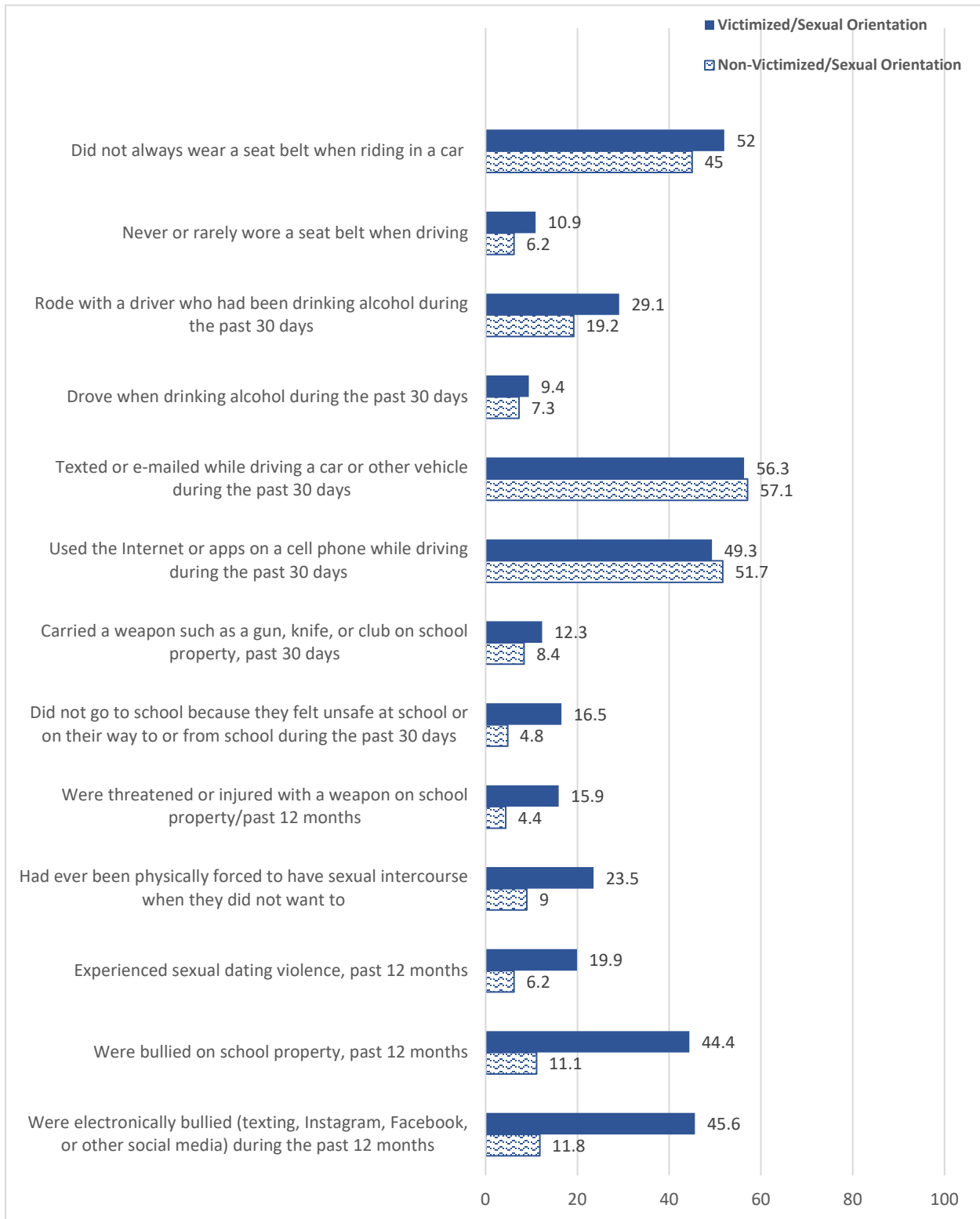
Based on t-test analysis, p<0.05.

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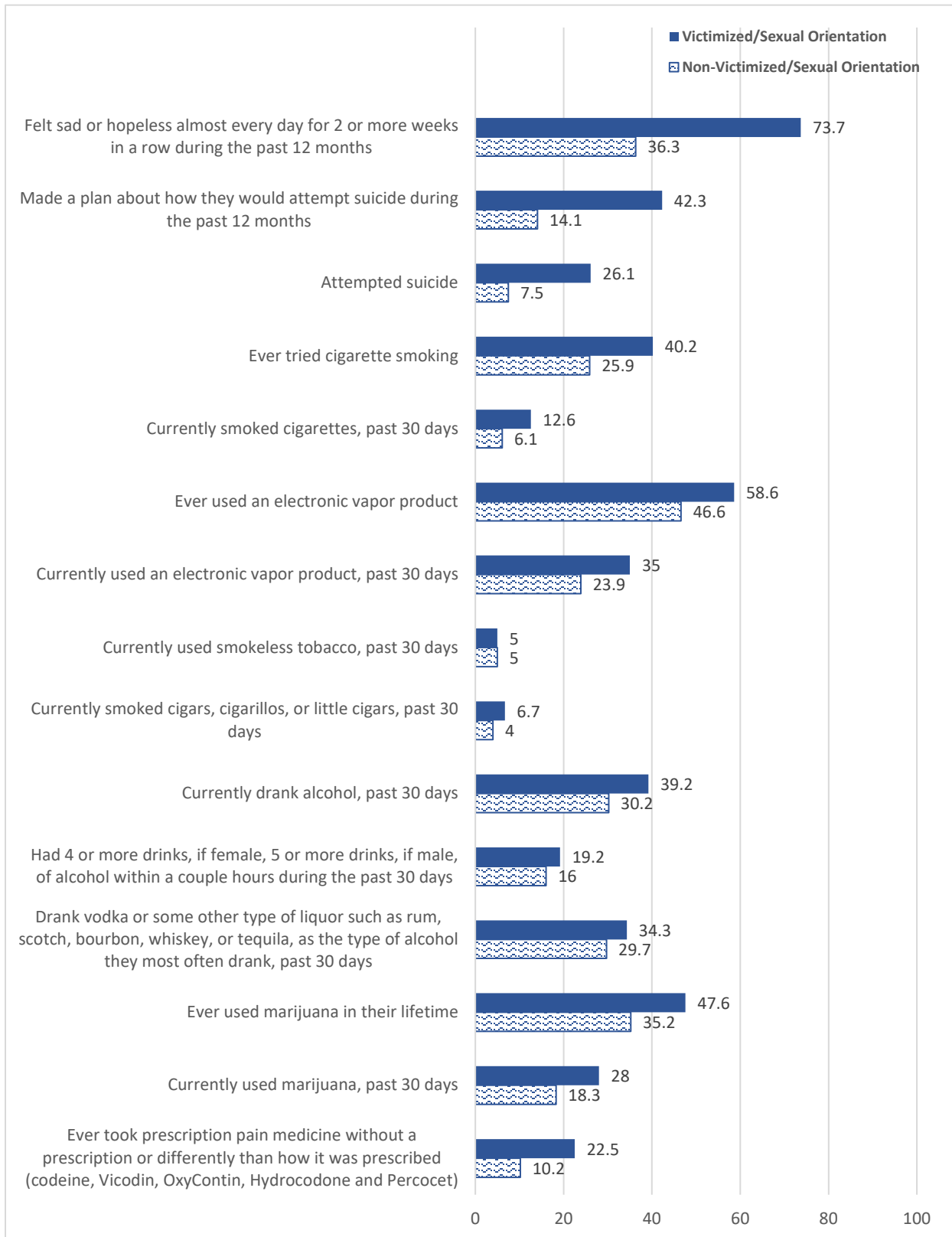
Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Victimized for Perceived GLB Sexual Orientation	Not Victimized for Perceived GLB Sexual Orientation	Statistical Difference
Did not eat fruit during the past 7 days	13.8% (10.9-16.6)	9.8% (8.8-10.8)	
Did not eat vegetables during the past 7 days	6.7% (4.6-8.7)	5.0% (4.3-5.8)	
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days	16.2% (13.5-19.0)	11.5% (10.3-12.7)	
Did not drink milk during the past 7 days	28.3% (24.4-32.1)	26.4% (24.5-28.2)	
Were not physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days	17.4% (13.9-21.0)	10.3% (9.2-11.3)	
Were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	41.2% (36.7-45.8)	53.5% (51.1-55.9)	
Were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on all of the past 7 days	19.8% (16.5-23.2)	26.9% (25.2-28.6)	
Spent 3 or more hours per day on screen time (TV, computer, smart phone, or other electronic device watching shows or videos, playing games, accessing the Internet, or using social media, <i>not counting time doing schoolwork</i>) on an average school day	77.0% (73.4-80.6)	71.3% (69.7-72.9)	
Played on at least one sports team during the past 12 months	49.1% (43.9-54.3)	60.4% (58.5-62.3)	
Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	20.6% (17.8-23.5)	29.8% (27.8-31.9)	
Experienced homelessness during the past 30 days	5.5% (3.3-7.8)	2.7% (2.1-3.4)	
Slept away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during the past 30 days	8.6% (6.3-10.8)	3.6% (2.9-4.2)	
Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	66.1% (62.1-70.0)	74.8% (71.9-77.7)	
Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months	24.5% (20.9-28.1)	13.0% (11.7-14.3)	

Based on t-test analysis, p<0.05.

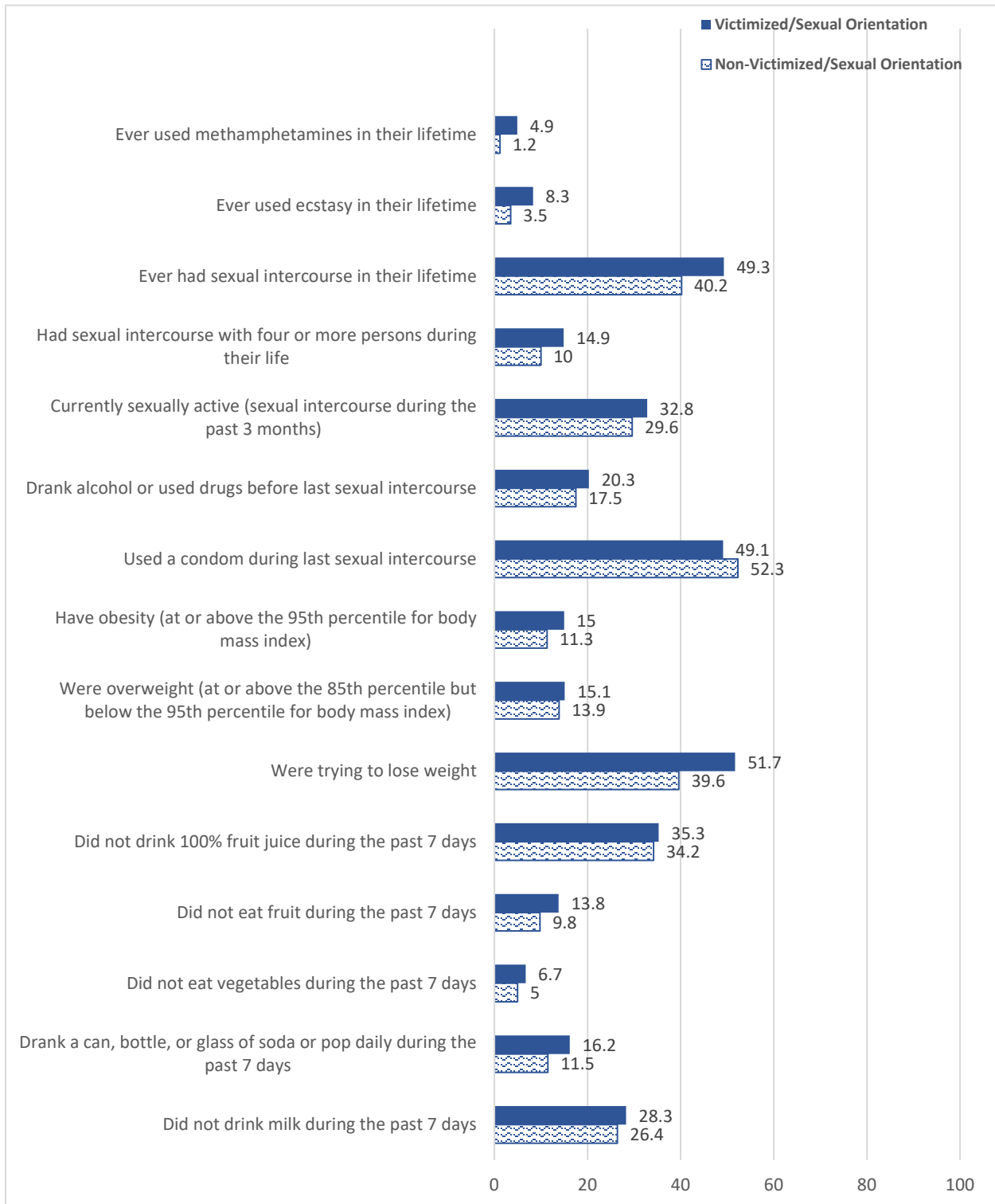
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