



Montana Office of Public Instruction

Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

2023 Homeless Report

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 influence youth health and 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 2023 YRBS was conducted in February-March 2023. 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.

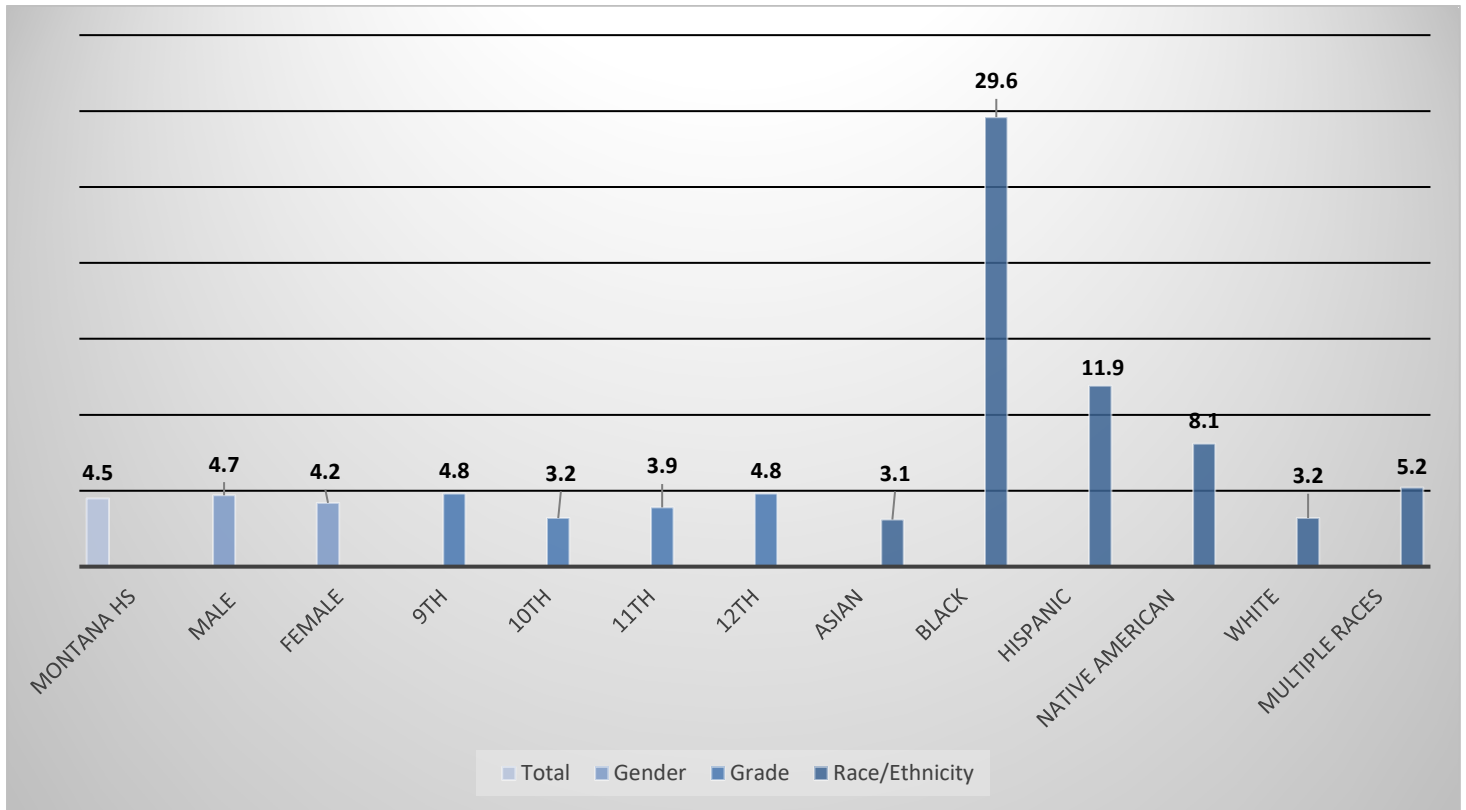
Survey Validity, Limitations, and Results

The data used in this report from the 2023 YRBS are based on a comprehensive random sample survey of Montana high school students. The weighted data results 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, we focused on the 4.5% of students identified as homeless, those who did not sleep in their parent’s or guardian’s home (responses B through G from question 86 of the survey). Fifty-eight separate risk behaviors were queried for association with being homeless. The following report presents these findings in bullet, table, and graph forms, aiming to inform and engage our audience.

86. During the past 30 days, where did you usually sleep?	
A. In my parent’s or guardian’s home	95.2
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	2.5
C. In a shelter or emergency housing	0.7
D. In a motel or hotel	0.4
E. In a car, park, campground, or other public place	0.4
F. I do not have a usual place to sleep	0.2
G. Somewhere else	0.4



Montana Students who did not usually sleep in their parent or guardian’s home.










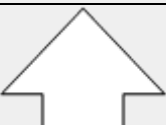
Section 1. Comparison Chart Showing the Query Results.

Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Experienced Homelessness	Students Who Did Not Experience Homelessness	Statistical Difference
Did not always wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else.	74.6% (65.8-81.8)	50.1% (46.5-53.8)	↑
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	38.2% (31.6-45.3)	19.9% (18.1-21.8)	↑
Did not drive when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	80.0% (67.2-88.7)	93.4% (91.7-94.7)	↓
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	63.5% (53.7-72.2)	56.8% (53.3-60.1)	↓





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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Experienced Homelessness	Students Who Did Not Experience Homelessness	Statistical Difference
Carried a gun during the past 12 months	25.3% (19.2-32.5)	7.5% (6.3-8.8)	
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property, past 30 days	24.3% (17.2-33.2)	10.4% (8.8-12.1)	
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	46.2% (37.8-54.9)	18.7% (17.0-20.5)	
Were in a physical fight on school property in the past 12 months	23.3% (16.0-32.5)	6.7% (5.7-8.0)	
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	29.4% (24.3-35.0)	8.7% (7.6-10.0)	
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	32.7% (26.6-39.6)	13.3% (11.8-14.9)	
Experienced sexual violence (unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse by someone they were dating), past 12 months	29.0% (22.5-36.5)	13.1% (11.9-14.4)	
Did not experienced sexual dating violence (unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse by someone they were dating), past 12 months	77.0% (64.9-85.8)	91.4% (90.0-92.6)	
Experienced Physical dating violence (unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse by someone they were dating), past 12 months	76.6% (67.8-83.6)	91.7% (89.9-93.1)	






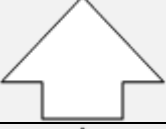





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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Experienced homelessness	Students Who Did Not Experience homelessness	Statistical Difference
Did not go to school in the last 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe on their way to or from school	28.2% (20.8 - 36.9)	10.3% (8.8 - 12.1)	
Felt that they were treated badly or unfairly in school because of race or ethnicity	49.6% (40.1-59.2)	23.7% (20.9-26.7)	
Were electronically bullied (texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media) during the past 12 months	34.8% (29.3-40.7)	18.7% (16.7-20.9)	
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	42.4% (34.5 - 50.6)	24.0% (21.7 - 26.5)	
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months	59.8% (51.2 - 67.8)	42.4% (40.2 - 44.6)	
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	46.9% (37.3 - 52.9)	25.1% (23.0-27.2)	
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	38.6% (29.4 - 48.7)	20.5% (18.8 - 22.3)	
Actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months	35.0% (26.3 - 45.0)	10.3% (9.0 - 11.6)	


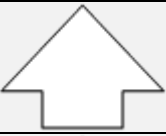
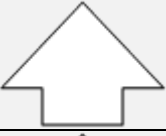
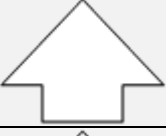

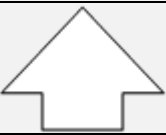
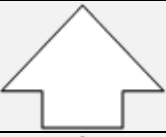


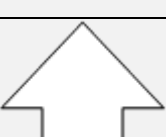
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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Experienced Homelessness	Students Who Did Not Experience Homelessness	Statistical Difference
Ever tried cigarette smoking	56.7% (47.3 - 65.6)	25.6% (23.1 - 28.2)	
Currently smoked cigarettes, past 30 days	24.6% (18.1 - 32.7)	6.2% (5.0 - 7.6)	
Ever used an electronic vapor product	66.5% (59.7 - 72.7)	44.3% (41.3 - 47.4)	
Currently used an electronic vapor product, past 30 days	48.6% (40.6 - 56.6)	23.2% (20.6 - 26.1)	
Currently used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip), past 30 days	82.5% (74.2 - 88.6)	95.6% (94.3 - 96.6)	
Currently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, past 30 days	24.0% (18.6 - 30.3)	4.2% (3.0 - 5.8)	
Tried to quit using all tobacco products	45.9% (33.7 - 58.7)	62.5% (60.0 - 65.0)	
Currently drank alcohol, past 30 days	49.5% (38.6 - 60.4)	25.3% (22.6 - 28.3)	
Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	29.2% (19.6 - 41.1)	12.9% (10.7 - 15.4)	
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	60.0% (51.2 - 68.2)	34.8% (31.7 - 38.1)	
Currently used marijuana	39.8% (31.9 - 48.3)	18.7% (16.1 - 21.6)	






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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Experienced Homelessness	Students Who Did Not Experience Homelessness	Statistical Difference
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)	44.0% (34.9 - 53.4)	12.2% (10.9 - 13.5)	
Ever used cocaine in their lifetime	26.0% (19.0 - 34.6)	2.6% (1.9 - 3.4)	
Ever used inhalants in their lifetime	32.4% (24.7 - 41.3)	7.8% (6.7 - 9.1)	
Ever used heroin in their lifetime	22.9% (17.3 - 29.8)	1.1% (0.8 - 1.6)	
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	22.4% (16.5 - 29.7)	1.6% (1.1 - 2.4)	
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	27.5% (21.9 - 34.0)	3.6% (2.8 - 4.6)	
Never injected any illegal drugs in their lifetime	98.6% (98.1 - 99.0)	82.2% (75.9 - 87.1)	
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	61.0% (49.6 - 71.3)	39.3% (36.0 - 42.7)	
Currently sexually active (sexual intercourse during the past 3 months)	52.4% (40.5 - 64.0)	27.1% (24.3 - 30.1)	
Did not drink alcohol or use drugs before last sexual intercourse	55.3% (41.0 - 68.7)	87.6% (84.8 - 90.0)	
Did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse	73.7% (61.9 - 82.8)	48.6% (44.3 - 53.0)	

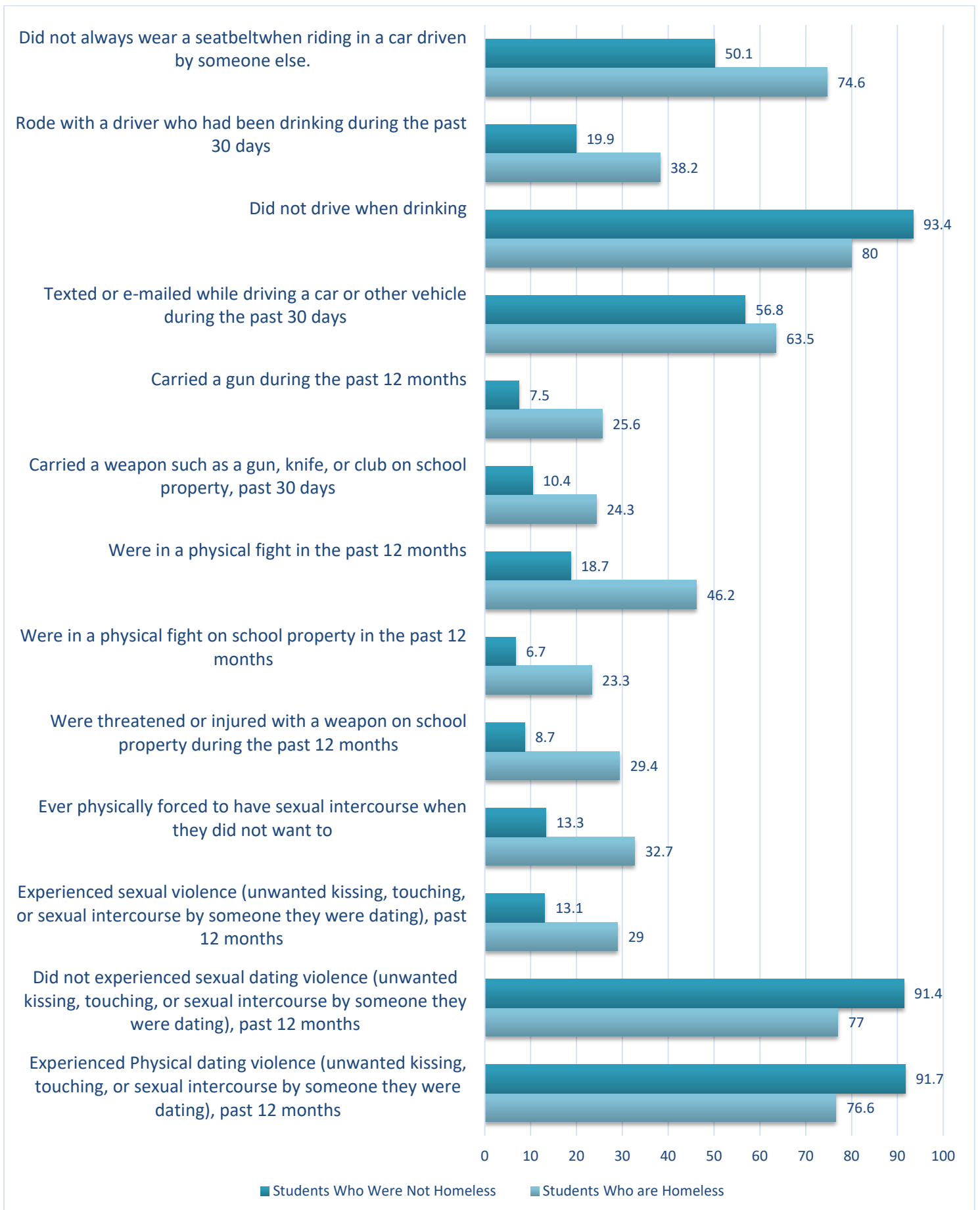
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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Experienced homelessness	Students Who Did Not Experienced homelessness	Statistical Difference
Did not have obesity (at or above the 95th percentile for body mass index)	83.6% (76.2-89.0)	86.3% (84.7 - 87.7)	
Were not overweight (at or above the 85th percentile but below the 95th percentile for body mass index)	85.9% (77.9-91.3)	85.4% (83.7 - 87.0)	
Were trying to lose weight	41.1% (38.8-43.5)	41.7% (34.1-49.7)	
Did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	11.2% (8.1-15.3)	7.0% (5.9 - 8.2)	
Ate vegetables during the past 7 days	93.4% (86.8-96.8)	93.0% (91.6-94.1)	
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days	83.7% (78.2 - 87.9)	75.9% (74.3 - 77.5)	
Did not eat breakfast during the past 7 days	86.9% (79.4-91.9)	73.2% (71.3-75.0)	
Ate breakfast on one or more of the past 7 days	73.5% (65.6- 80.2)	80.9% (79.1-82.6)	
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	43.0% (38.5 - 47.7)	53.6% (50.5 - 56.8)	
Were not physically active at least 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days	80.7% (75.3 - 85.1)	73.1% (70.7 - 75.4)	
Did not attend physical education classes on any school days	32.5% (26.1 - 39.6)	45.8% (40.9 - 50.9)	

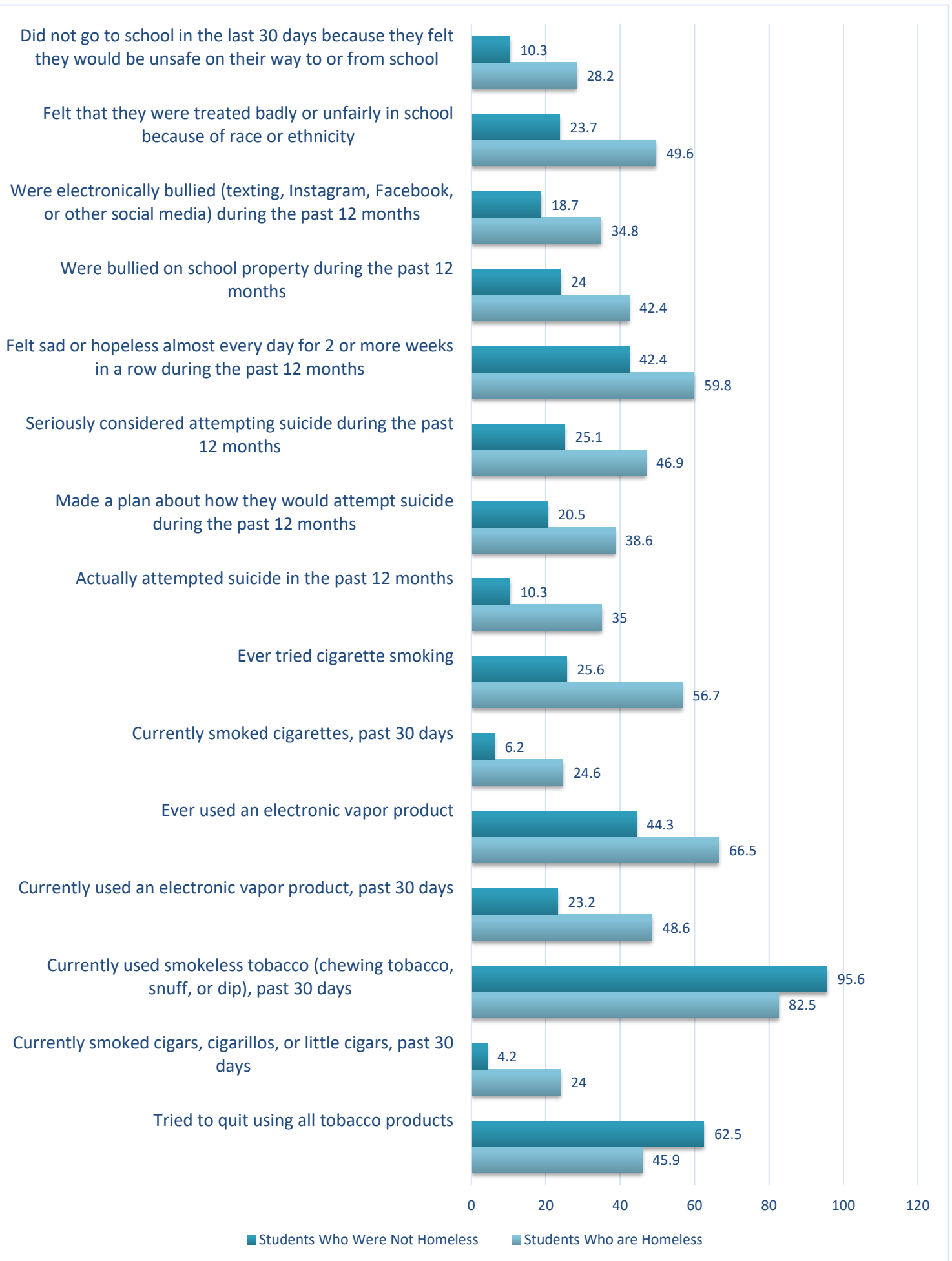
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Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Experienced homelessness	Students Who Did Not Experienced homelessness	Statistical Difference
Used social media several times a day	52.3% (42.7 - 61.8)	76.1% (74.2 - 77.9)	
Described their mental health as not good most of the time or always	37.0% (29.0 - 45.7)	32.2% (30.2 - 34.3)	
Did not play on at least one sports team during the past 12 months	48.5% (40.0 - 57.1)	57.9% (55.7 - 60.1)	
Did not get 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	87.6% (80.7 - 92.3)	72.7% (70.4 - 74.8)	
Did not get mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	47.4% (39.4 - 56.5)	24.8% (21.1 - 28.9)	

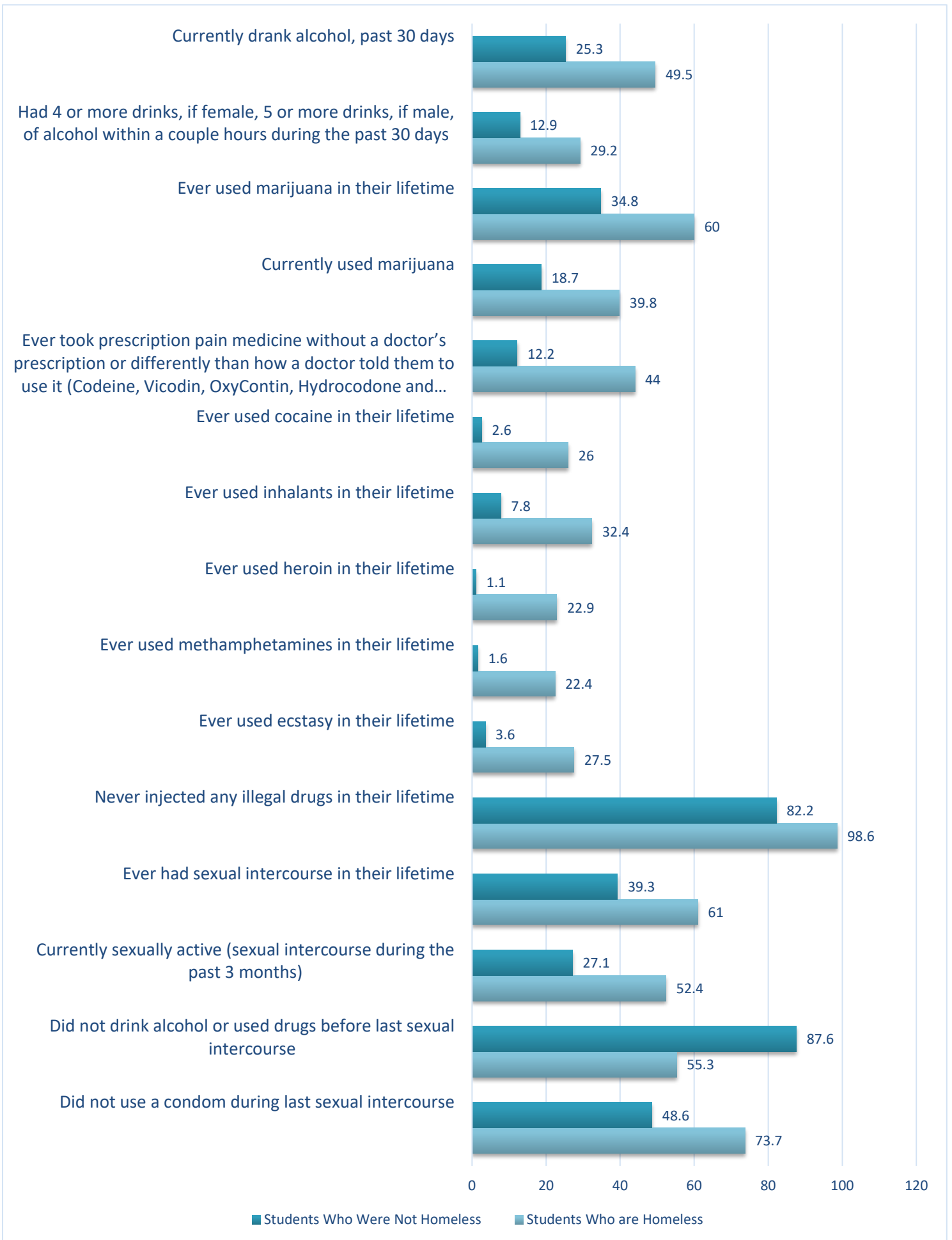
Section 2. Bar Graph With Comparison Between Students Who Experienced Homelessness and Students Who Did Not.



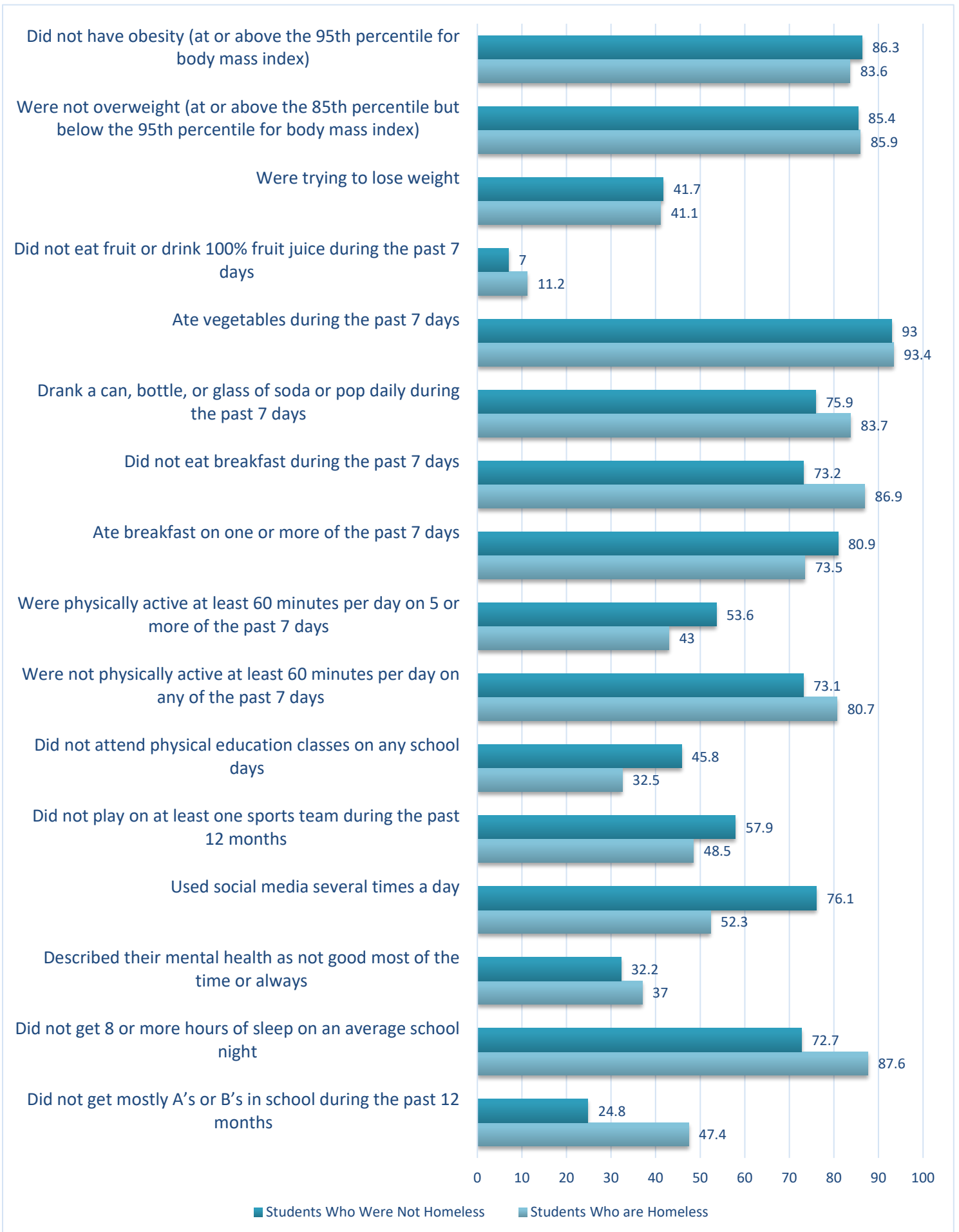
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Section 3. Findings of Comparison Between Students Who Experienced Homelessness and Students Who Did Not.

Montana high school students who had experienced homelessness are ***more likely*** than those students who had not experienced homelessness to have:

- Not always worn a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else (75% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 50% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (38% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 20% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days (64% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 57% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Carried a gun during the past 12 months (25% of students who experienced homelessness compared to
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property during the past 30 days (24% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 10% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (29% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 9% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Not gone to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days (28% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 10% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (29% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 9% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months (46% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 19% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Were in a physical fight on school property in the past 12 months (23% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 7% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (33% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 13% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Been bullied on school property on school property during the past 12 months (42% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 24% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (35% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 19% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Felt that they were treated badly or unfairly in school because of race or ethnicity (60% of

students who experienced homelessness compared to 42% of students who had not experienced homelessness).

- Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months (88% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 38% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (47% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 25% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months (39% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 21% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Have actually attempted suicide during the past 12 months (35% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 10% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever tried cigarette smoking (57% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 26% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (25% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 6% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used electronic vapor products (67% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 40% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (49% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 23% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days (24% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 4% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days (50% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 25% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days [binge drink] (29% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 13% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (60% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 35% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (40% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 19% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- 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) (44% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 12% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used cocaine in their lifetime (26% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 3% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used inhalants in their lifetime (32% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 8% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used heroin in their lifetime (23% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 1% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime (22% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 1% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime (22% of students who experienced homelessness

compared to 2% of students who had not experienced homelessness).

- Never injected any illegal drugs in their lifetime (99% of students who experienced homelessness compared to about 82% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (61% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 39% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months (52% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 27% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse (74% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 49% of students who had not experienced homelessness).

- Did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days (11% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 7% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days (84% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 76% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Not eaten breakfast during the past 7 days (74% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 73% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Not got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (88% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 73% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Described their mental health was always or most of the time not good (37% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 32% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Grades lower than mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months (48% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 25% of students who had not experienced homelessness).

Montana high school students who had experienced homelessness are less likely than those students who had not experienced homelessness to have:

- Not driven when they had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (80% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 93% of students who experienced homelessness.)
- Experience sexual dating violence, such as unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse, by someone they were dating, during the past 12 months (77% of students who were homeless compared to 92% of students who were not homeless.)
- Experienced Physical dating violence (unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse by someone they were dating), past 12 months (77% of students who were homeless compared to 92% of students who were not homeless.)
- Currently used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip in the past 30 days (83% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 96% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Tried to quit using all tobacco products (46% of students who experienced homelessness compared to about 63% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Did not drink alcohol or use drugs before last sexual intercourse (55% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 88% of students who had not experienced

homelessness).

- Tried (were trying to) losing weight (41% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 42% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Eaten breakfast on one or more of the past 7 days (74% of students who experienced homelessness compared to about 81% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days (43% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 54% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Did not attend physical education classes on any school days (33% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 46% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Used social media several times a day (52% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 76% of students who had not experienced homelessness).