



Montana

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

2023 Suicide Report

The Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is an important initiative administered by the Montana Office of Public Instruction every two years. It targets students in grades 7 through 12 and aims to collect data that helps monitor the prevalence of behaviors influencing youth health and putting them at risk for significant health and social problems during adolescence. The survey is a vital tool for educators, public health officials, and policymakers to understand and address the needs of Montana's youth.

While all schools in Montana have the opportunity to participate in the survey on a volunteer basis, approximately 50 high schools are randomly selected to provide essential statewide data for national YRBS reports. This broader data set is crucial for understanding broader trends and making informed decisions at the national level.

The 2023 YRBS was conducted in February-March 2023. Participating schools were provided with written instructions on conducting a random survey, ensuring consistency and accuracy in data collection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires the Montana Office of Public Instruction to adhere to a strict protocol to encourage accurate responses to sensitive questions and to protect the privacy and confidentiality of all participating students.

The questionnaire was thoughtfully designed without skip patterns to ensure that students could complete the survey within a similar period, promoting a comprehensive and consistent data set. The survey's implementation reflects a commitment to gathering accurate, reliable, and meaningful data to inform policies and interventions that support the health and well-being of Montana's youth.

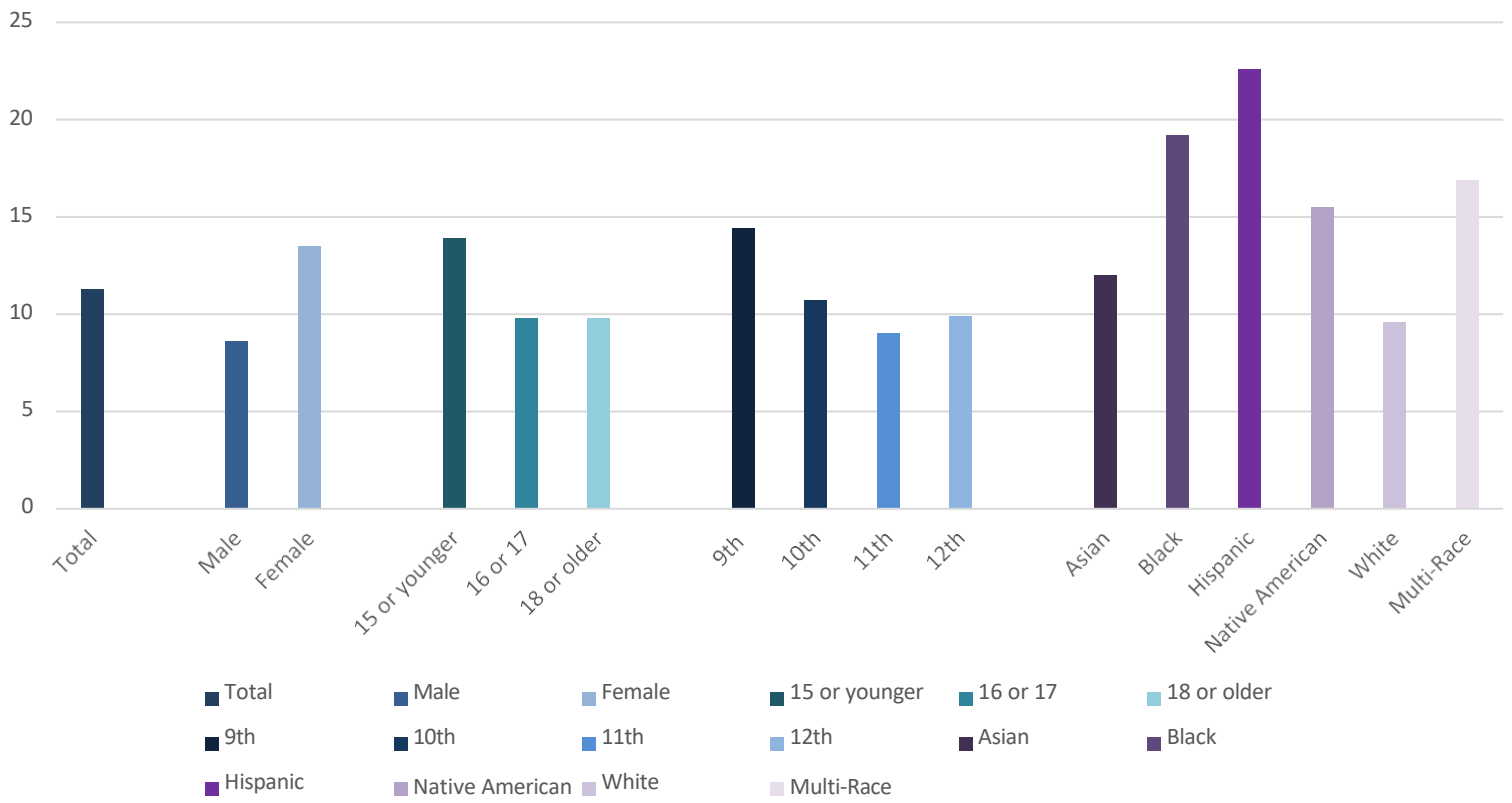
Survey Validity, Limitations, and Results

The data utilized in this report is derived from the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and is based on a random sample survey of high school students in Montana. The weighted data presented in this report is intended to provide insights into the priority health-risk behaviors of all high school students in grades 9 through 12 across all schools in Montana. The findings generated from this data have the potential to significantly impact policy decisions related to youth health in the state.

It is important to exercise caution when interpreting the data, as respondents in self-reported surveys may tend to underreport behaviors that are socially undesirable, unhealthy, or illegal, such as alcohol consumption, drug use, and seat belt nonuse, while overreporting socially desirable behaviors such as the amount of exercise undertaken.

For the purposes of this report, Montana youth who reported attempting suicide one or more times during the 12 months preceding the YRBS survey are classified as having attempted suicide. A total of fifty-two separate risk behaviors were examined for their association with the attempted suicide question. The findings from this comprehensive analysis are presented in the form of bullet points, tables, and graphs in the following report.

Percent of Students Who Actually Attempted Suicide



Findings

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

- Not always worn a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else (63% of students who attempted suicide compared to 49% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (34% of students who attempted suicide compared to 18% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (20% of students who attempted suicide compared to 6% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Carried a gun during the past 12 months (16% of students who attempted suicide compared to 7% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property during the past 30 days (16% of students who attempted suicide compared to 10% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (25% of students who attempted suicide compared to 7% 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 (30% of students who attempted suicide compared to 9% 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 4% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months (43% of students who attempted suicide compared to 17% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Were in a physical fight on school property in the past 12 months (18% 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 (43% of students

who attempted suicide compared to 10% of students who had not attempted suicide).

















- Experienced sexual dating violence, such as unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse, by someone they were dating, during the past 12 months (42% of students who attempted suicide compared to 10% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been bullied on school property on school property during the past 12 months (55% of students who attempted suicide compared to 22% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (46% of students who attempted suicide compared to 16% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Felt that they were treated badly or unfairly in school because of race or ethnicity (40% of students who attempted suicide compared to 22% 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 (88% of students who attempted suicide compared to 38% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (91% of students who attempted suicide compared to 18% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Made a plan about how they would attempt 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 24% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (21% of students who attempted suicide compared to 5% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used electronic vapor products (74% of students who attempted suicide compared to 41% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (10% of students who attempted suicide compared to 4% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Currently used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip in the past 30 days (14% of students who attempted suicide compared to 4% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days (14% of students who attempted suicide compared to 4% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days (47% of students who attempted suicide compared to 24% 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 [binge drink] (28% of students who attempted suicide compared to 12% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (63% of students who attempted suicide compared to 32% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (43% of students who attempted suicide compared to 17% 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) (32% of students who attempted suicide compared to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used cocaine in their lifetime (15% of students who attempted suicide compared to 2% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Ever used inhalants in their lifetime (26% of students who attempted suicide compared to 6% 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 had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (63% of students who attempted suicide compared to 37% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months (44% of students who attempted suicide compared to 26% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (26% of students who attempted suicide compared


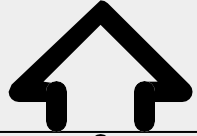


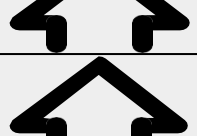

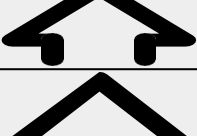
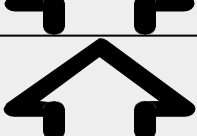

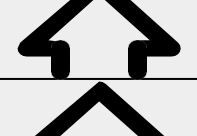
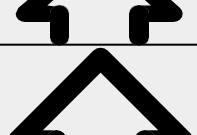

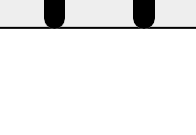

to 11% of students who had not attempted suicide).


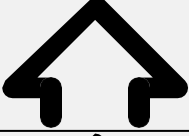


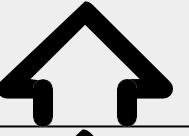
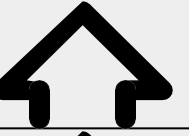
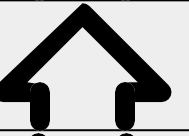
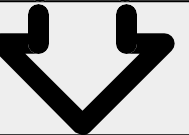




- Have obesity (at or above the 95th percentile for body mass index) (16% of students who attempted suicide compared to 14% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Tried (were trying to) losing weight (64% of students who attempted suicide compared to 40% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Not eaten breakfast during the past 7 days (28% of students who attempted suicide compared to 6% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Spent 3 or more hours per day on the TV, computer, smart phone, or other electronic device not doing schoolwork) on an average school day (78% of students who attempted suicide compared to 76% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Experienced homelessness - not usually slept in their parent's or guardian's home during the past 30 days (13% of students who attempted suicide compared to 3% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Described their mental health was always or most of the time not good (69% of students who attempted suicide compared to 29% of students who had not attempted suicide).




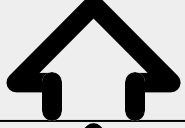
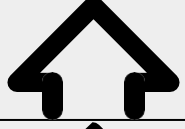


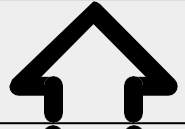




Montana high school students who had attempted suicide are less likely than those students who had not attempted suicide to have:

- Eaten breakfast on all of the past 7 days (10% of students who attempted suicide compared to about 29% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Tried to quit using all tobacco products (52% of students who attempted suicide compared to about 64% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (17% of students who attempted suicide compared to 28% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days (43% of students who attempted suicide compared to 54% of students who had not attempted suicide).
- Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months (58% of students who attempted suicide compared to 77% of students who had not attempted suicide).

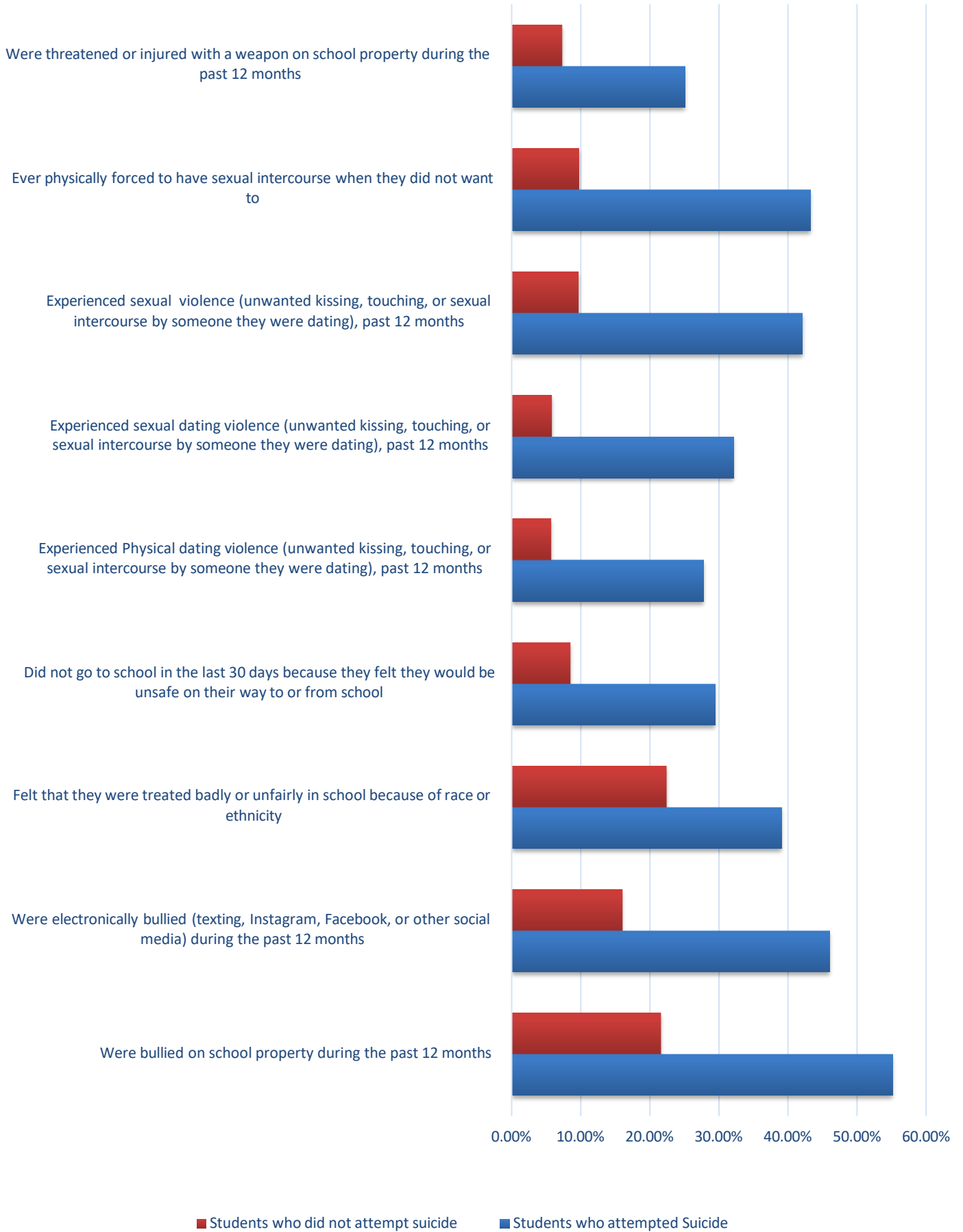
Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide	Statistical Difference
Did not always wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else.	62.6% (57.8 - 67.1)	48.9% (45.0 - 52.8)	
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	34.1% (29.8 - 38.6)	18.4% (16.4 - 20.5)	
Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	20.0% (14.7 - 26.6)	5.8% (4.4 - 7.6)	
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	58.7% (51.1 - 66.0)	56.5% (52.6 - 60.2)	
Carried a gun during the past 12 months	15.6% (12.2 - 19.6)	7.1% (6.0 - 8.4)	
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property, past 30 days	20.4% (15.9 - 25.8)	9.5% (7.9 - 11.4)	
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	42.6% (37.9 - 47.5)	17.1% (15.3 - 19.1)	
Were in a physical fight on school property in the past 12 months	18.4% (14.4 - 23.2)	6.0% (4.9 - 7.3)	
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	25.1% (21.6 - 28.9)	7.3% (6.1 - 8.7)	
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want	43.3% (38.4 - 48.4)	9.8% (8.5 - 11.2)	
Experienced sexual violence (unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse by someone they were dating), past 12 months	42.1% (36.7 - 47.8)	9.7% (8.7 - 10.9)	
Experienced Physical dating violence (unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse by someone they were dating), past 12 months	27.8% (22.4 - 34.0)	5.7% (4.5 - 7.2)	
Did not go to school in the last 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe on their way to or from school.	29.5% (24.3 - 35.4)	8.5% (7.0 - 10.5)	
Felt that they were treated badly or unfairly in school because of race or ethnicity	39.1% (34.2 - 44.3)	22.4% (19.9 - 25.0)	
Were electronically bullied (texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media) during the past 12 months	46.0% (40.8 - 51.2)	16.0% (14.2 - 18.0)	
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	55.2% (50.0 - 60.4)	21.6% (19.5 - 23.8)	

Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide	Statistical Difference
Felt sad or hopeless almost every during the past 12 months	88.2% (85.3 – 90.6)	38.4% (35.9 - 41.0)	
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	91.0% (87.3 - 93.8)	17.9% (15.8 - 20.3)	
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	84.3% (79.1 - 88.3)	13.6% (12.2 - 15.2)	
Had a suicide attempt in the last 12 months that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose	34.5% (28.8 - 40.8)	0	
Ever tried cigarette smoking	49.2% (41.6 - 56.8)	22.9% (20.5 - 25.4)	
Currently smoked cigarettes, past	21.3% (17.3 - 25.9)	4.8% (3.6 - 6.2)	
Ever used an electronic vapor	74.0% (67.3 - 79.7)	41.0% (38.1 - 44.0)	
Currently used an electronic vapor. Past 30 days	54.5% (48.5 - 60.4)	20.2% (17.7 - 22.8)	
Currently used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip), past 30 days	10.4% (7.1 - 15.0)	3.7% (2.8 - 4.8)	
Tried to quit using all tobacco	52.4% (45.6 - 59.1)	63.8% (60.1 - 67.4)	
Currently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, past 30 days	13.5% (9.7 - 18.6)	3.6% (2.5 - 5.2)	
Currently drank alcohol, past 30	47.4% (41.6 - 53.3)	23.8% (21.1 - 26.9)	
Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	28.3% (23.2 - 34.1)	11.7% (9.6 - 14.3)	
Currently used marijuana	42.4% (34.9 - 50.2)	16.5% (13.8 - 19.5)	
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	62.7% (56.1 - 68.9)	31.8% (28.5 - 35.2)	

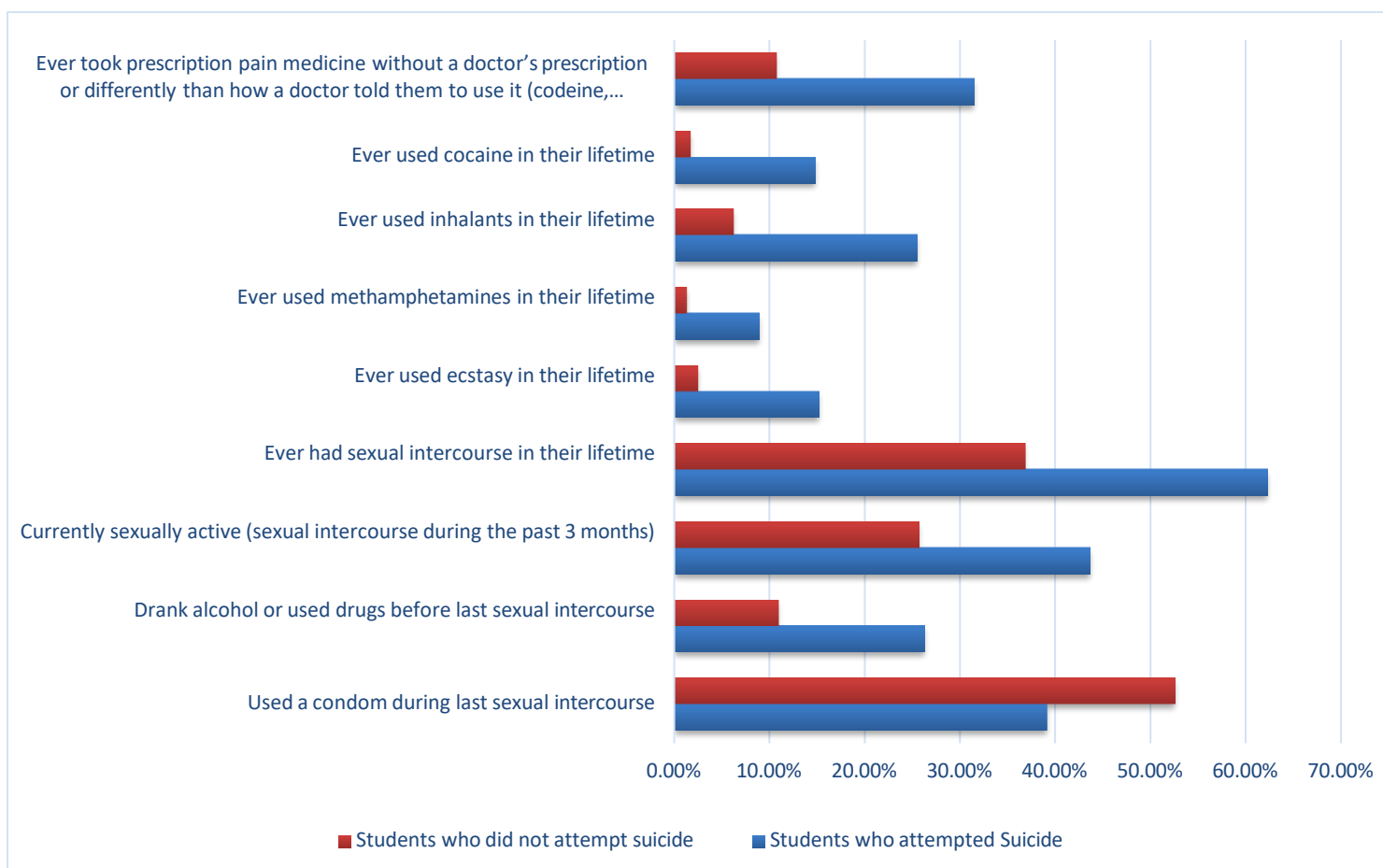
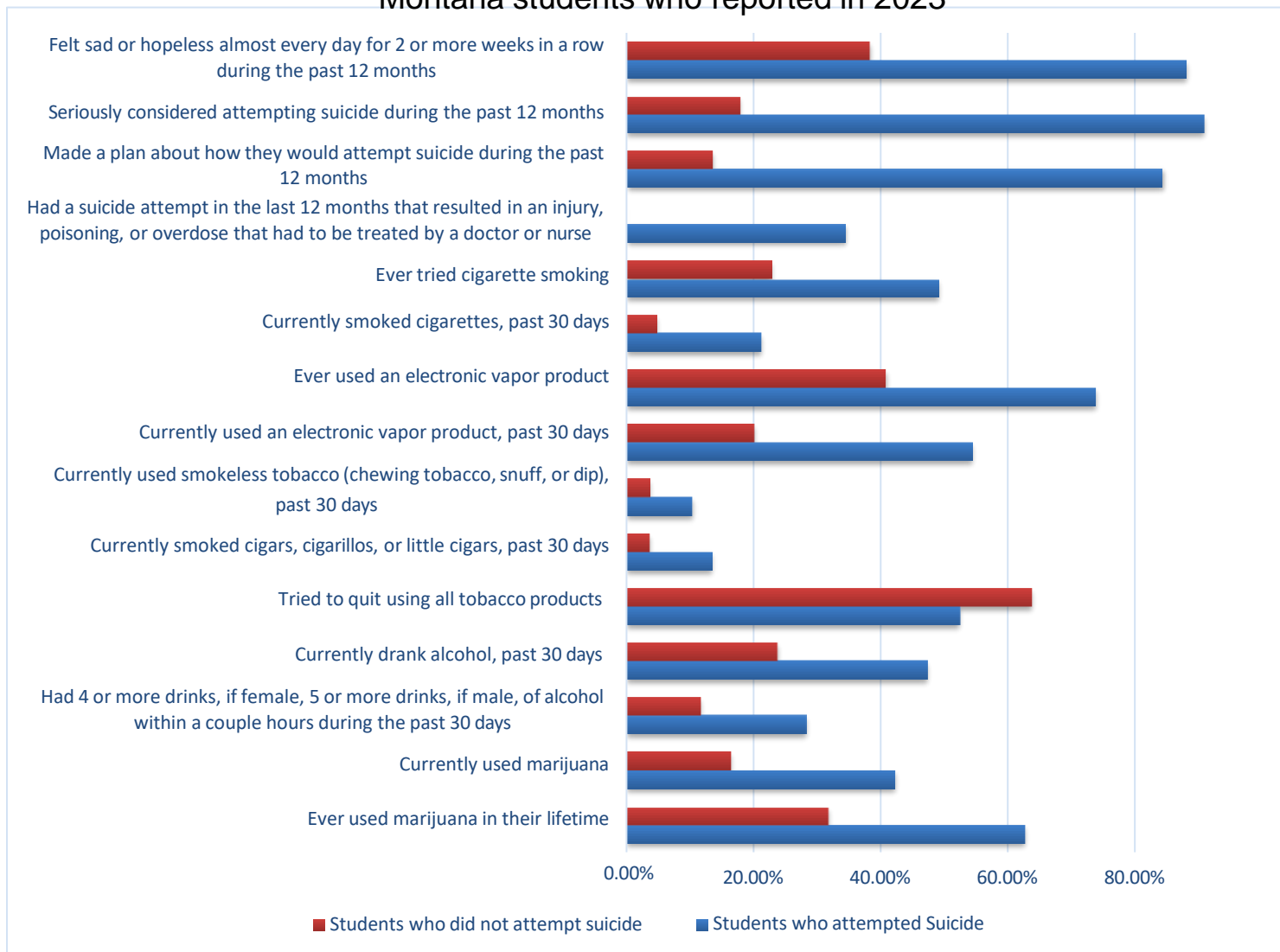
Health Risk Behavior <small>by percentage of students</small>	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide	Statistical Difference
Ever took prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone and Percocet)	31.5% (26.1 - 37.5)	10.7% (9.2 - 12.4)	
Ever used cocaine in their lifetime	14.8% (11.2 - 19.1)	1.7% (1.3 - 2.4)	
Ever used inhalants in their lifetime	25.5% (20.6 - 31.1)	6.2% (5.2 - 7.4)	
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	8.9% (7.0 - 11.4)	1.3% (0.8 - 2.0)	
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	15.2% (11.6 - 19.7)	2.5% (1.8 - 3.5)	
Currently sexually active (sexual intercourse during the past 3 months)	43.7% (38.2 - 49.4)	25.7% (23.1 - 28.4)	
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse	26.3% (18.5 - 35.9)	10.9% (8.1 - 14.4)	
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse	39.1% (31.8 - 46.9)	52.6% (48.1 - 57.1)	
Have obesity (at or above the 95th percentile for body mass index)	15.8% (11.6 - 21.2)	14.0% (12.3 - 15.8)	
Were overweight (at or above the 85th percentile but below the 95th percentile for body mass index)	15.6% (12.6 - 19.1)	14.4% (12.7 - 16.4)	
Were trying to lose weight	53.7% (49.5 - 57.9)	40.2% (38.0 - 42.6)	
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)	

Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Attempted Suicide	Students Who Did Not Attempt Suicide	Statistical Difference
Did not eat vegetables during the past 7 days	9.0% (6.4 - 12.5)	6.9% (5.7 - 8.4)	
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days	20.4% (16.5 - 25.0)	14.4% (13.3 - 15.7)	
Did not eat breakfast during the past 7 days	27.8% (22.4 - 34.0)	5.7% (4.5 - 7.2)	
Ate breakfast on all the past 7 days	9.6% (7.1 - 13.0)	28.5% (26.5 - 30.7)	
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	46.0% (40.8 - 51.2)	46.4% (43.2 - 49.5)	
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, not counting time doing schoolwork) on an average school day	78.7% (74.2 - 82.7)	75.7% (73.8 - 77.5)	
Described their mental health as not good most of the time or always	69.0% (64.2 - 73.4)	28.9% (26.9 - 30.9)	
Played on at least one sports team during the past 12 months	51.9% (46.1 - 57.7)	41.4% (38.9 - 43.9)	
Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	17.2% (13.8 - 21.3)	27.9% (25.7 - 30.3)	
Experienced homelessness (not usually sleeping in their parent's or guardian's home) during the past 30 days	12.8% (9.6 - 16.8)	3.0% (2.4 - 3.8)	
Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	58.1% (51.4 - 64.5)	77.1% (73.1 - 80.7)	

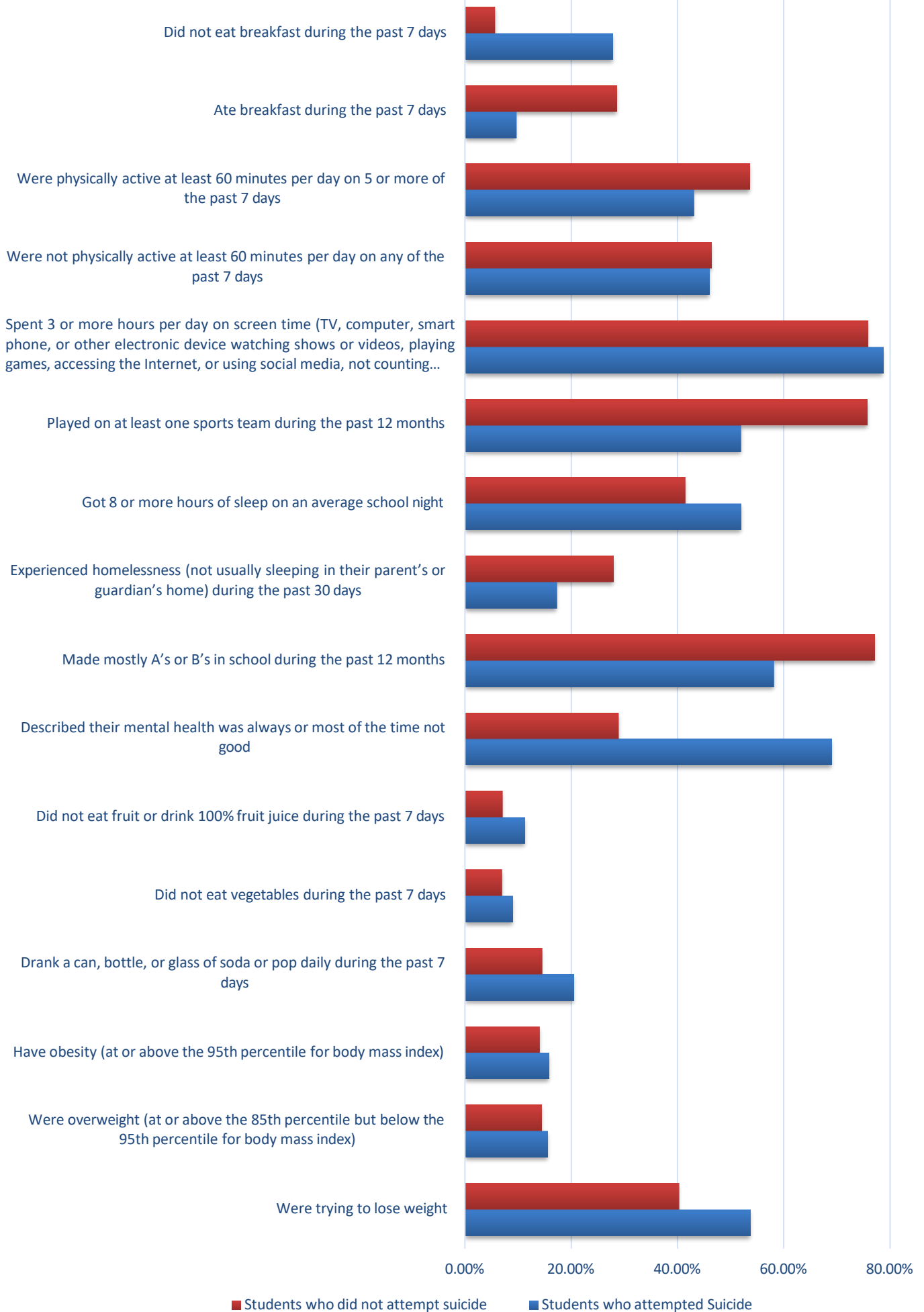
Montana students who reported in 2023



Montana students who reported in 2023



Montana students who reported in 2023



■ Students who did not attempt suicide ■ Students who attempted Suicide