

# 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey



## Homeless Report

Health Risk Behaviors of Students  
Experiencing Homelessness



**Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent**  
Youth Risk Behavior Survey Program  
Coordinated School Health Unit  
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# 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Homeless 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, Limitations and Results

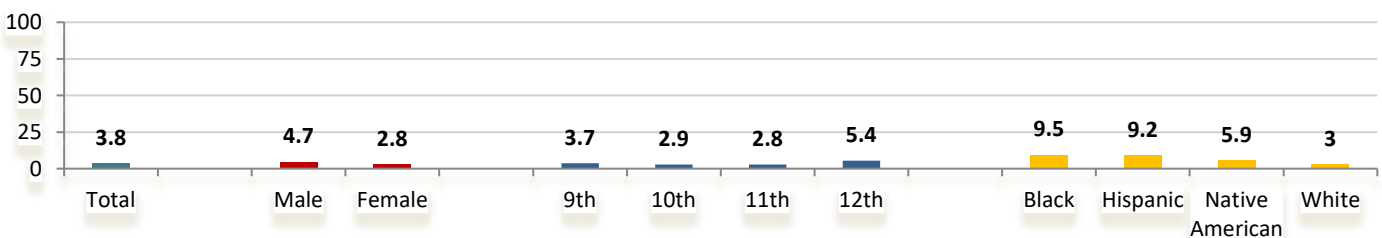
Data used in this report from the 2021 YRBS are based on a random sample survey of Montana high school students. The weighted data results contained in this report can be used to make inferences about the priority health-risk behaviors of all high school students in grades 9 through 12 in all schools in Montana.

For the purpose of this report, students identified as homeless were the 3.8% of students who did not sleep in their parent’s or guardian’s home (responses B through G from question 93 of the survey). Fifty-three separate risk behaviors were queried for association with being homeless. These findings are presented in bullet, table, and graph forms in the following report.

93. During the past 30 days, where did you usually sleep?	
A. In my parent’s or guardian’s home	96.2
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	1.7
C. In a shelter or emergency housing	0.6
D. In a motel or hotel	0.3
E. In a car, park, campground, or other public place	0.3
F. I do not have a usual place to sleep	0.4
G. Somewhere else	0.5

## Homelessness

During the past 30 days, 3.8 percent of students did not usually sleep in their parent’s or guardian’s home.



For more on the Montana YRBS go to [www.opi.mt.gov/yrebs](http://www.opi.mt.gov/yrebs).

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## Findings

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 (64% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 45% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving a vehicle (24% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 6% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (39% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 20% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (25% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 7% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Used the Internet or apps on their cell phone while driving during the past 30 days (65% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 51% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property during the past 30 days (23% 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 (21% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 6% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (24% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 5% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (32% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 10% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Experienced sexual dating violence, such as unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse, by someone they were dating, during the past 12 months (26% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 7% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months (24% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 13% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months (30% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 18% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Attempted suicide during the past 12 months (31% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 10% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever tried cigarette smoking (64% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 27% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (23% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 7% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used electronic vapor products (71% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 48% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (52% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 25% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Used smokeless tobacco during the past 30 days (19% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 5% of students who had not experienced homelessness).

## 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Homeless Report

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

















- Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days (25% 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 31% 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] (35% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 16% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (59% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 36% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (39% 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) (31% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 11% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime (19% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 1% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime (21% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 4% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (60% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 41% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life (25% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 10% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months (50% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 30% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (39% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 17% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Not eaten fruit during the past 7 days (19% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 10% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days (25% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 12% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Slept away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during the past 30 days (36% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 3% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months (44% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 14% of students who had not experienced homelessness).

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

- Eaten breakfast on all of the past 7 days (18% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 31% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- 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 (59% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 73% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (13% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 29% of students who had not experienced homelessness).
- Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months (57% of students who experienced homelessness compared to 74% of students who had not experienced homelessness).







## 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Homeless Report

Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Are Homeless	Students Who Are Not Homeless	Statistical Difference
Did not always wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	<b>64.3%</b> (55.6-72.9)	<b>45.3%</b> (42.7-47.9)	
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	<b>23.5%</b> (15.2-31.8)	<b>6.2%</b> (5.4-7.1)	
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	<b>38.9%</b> (30.9-46.8)	<b>19.9%</b> (18.3-21.5)	
Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	<b>25.3%</b> (16.0-34.6)	<b>6.9%</b> (6.1-7.8)	
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	<b>67.0%</b> (57.1-76.9)	<b>56.8%</b> (54.0-59.7)	
Used the Internet or apps on their cell phone while driving during the past 30 days	<b>65.4%</b> (54.9-75.9)	<b>50.9%</b> (48.4-53.4)	
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property, past 30 days	<b>23.1%</b> (15.7-30.5)	<b>8.5%</b> (7.4-9.6)	
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days	<b>21.2%</b> (15.0-27.3)	<b>6.0%</b> (5.2-6.8)	
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	<b>23.8%</b> (15.1-32.6)	<b>5.3%</b> (4.4-6.2)	
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	<b>32.2%</b> (25.2-39.2)	<b>10.2%</b> (9.0-11.5)	
Experienced sexual dating violence (unwanted kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse by someone they were dating), past 12 months	<b>25.5%</b> (16.5-34.5)	<b>7.4%</b> (6.5-8.4)	
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	<b>24.4%</b> (15.1-33.7)	<b>15.1%</b> (13.5-16.8)	
Were electronically bullied (texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media) during the past 12 months	<b>25.8%</b> (17.3-34.2)	<b>16.1%</b> (14.8-17.4)	
Were the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months	<b>24.0%</b> (15.1-32.8)	<b>13.2%</b> (11.9-14.4)	
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months	<b>44.7%</b> (36.0-53.3)	<b>41.3%</b> (38.9-43.8)	
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	<b>30.2%</b> (21.2-39.1)	<b>17.6%</b> (16.1-19.1)	
Attempted suicide during the past 12 months	<b>30.7%</b> (19.3-42.0)	<b>9.6%</b> (8.3-11.0)	
Ever tried cigarette smoking	<b>64.1%</b> (54.9-73.4)	<b>26.5%</b> (24.2-28.9)	
Currently smoked cigarettes, past 30 days	<b>23.1%</b> (14.1-32.1)	<b>6.5%</b> (5.2-7.8)	
Ever used an electronic vapor product	<b>70.9%</b> (63.6-78.2)	<b>47.5%</b> (45.1-49.9)	

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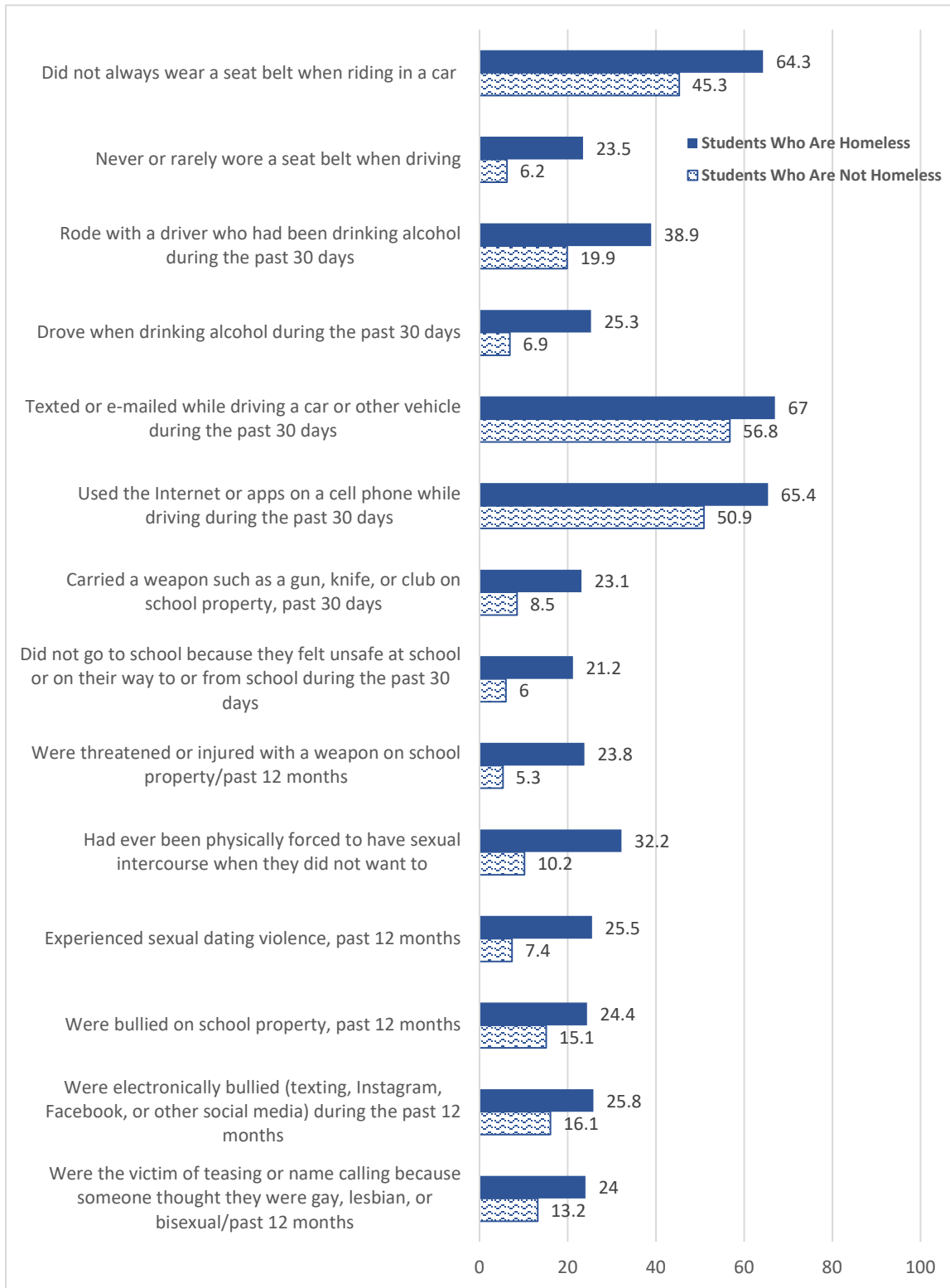
Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Are Homeless	Students Who Are Not Homeless	Statistical Difference
Currently used an electronic vapor product, past 30 days	51.8% (42.5-61.2)	24.6% (22.6-26.6)	
Currently used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip), past 30 days	18.8% (10.9-26.7)	4.7% (3.7-5.6)	
Currently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, past 30 days	24.6% (17.0-32.2)	3.9% (3.1-4.7)	
Currently drank alcohol, past 30 days	50.4% (40.2-60.6)	30.9% (28.8-33.0)	
Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	34.8% (25.1-44.6)	15.9% (14.3-17.4)	
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	59.4% (50.4-68.4)	36.3% (33.7-38.9)	
Currently used marijuana, past 30 days	38.6% (31.0-46.2)	19.1% (17.3-20.9)	
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)	31.4% (24.8-38.0)	11.2% (10.0-12.4)	
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	19.3% (12.1-26.5)	1.3% (0.2-1.6)	
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	21.0% (12.9-29.0)	3.6% (3.0-4.2)	
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	60.1% (49.8-70.5)	40.9% (38.3-43.5)	
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	25.2% (15.7-34.7)	10.2% (9.0-11.3)	
Currently sexually active (sexual intercourse during the past 3 months)	50.2% (39.6-60.9)	29.5% (27.3-31.7)	
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse	38.5% (21.6-55.4)	16.9% (14.6-19.2)	
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse	44.4% (32.1-56.6)	51.8% (48.6-55.0)	
Have obesity (at or above the 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile for body mass index)	16.4% (9.5-23.4)	11.7% (10.2-13.1)	
Were overweight (at or above the 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile but below the 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile for body mass index)	15.4% (9.1-21.7)	14.0% (12.7-15.2)	
Were trying to lose weight	40.6% (32.7-48.6)	41.3% (39.3-43.3)	
Did not drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	28.9% (21.8-36.1)	34.6% (32.9-36.4)	
Did not eat fruit during the past 7 days	19.4% (13.2-25.7)	10.2% (9.2-11.1)	
Did not eat vegetables during the past 7 days	7.1% (2.7-11.7)	5.2% (4.5-6.0)	
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days	24.6% (17.6-31.5)	11.5% (10.4-12.7)	

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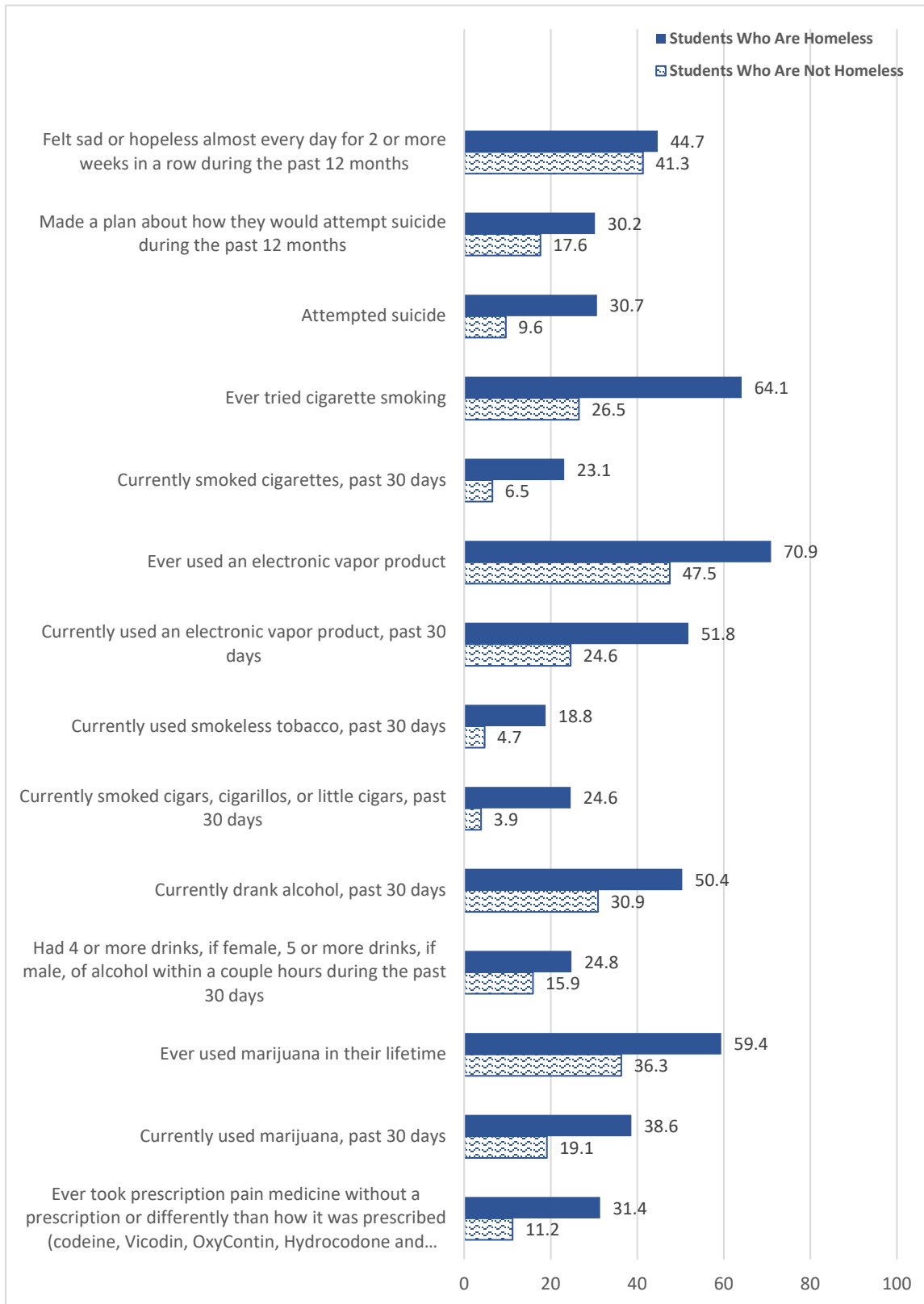
Health Risk Behavior by percentage of students	Students Who Are Homeless	Students Who Are Not Homeless	Statistical Difference
Did not drink milk during the past 7 days	<b>29.5%</b> (22.2-36.8)	<b>26.5%</b> (24.8-28.3)	
Did not eat breakfast during the past 7 days	<b>22.8%</b> (16.3-29.3)	<b>16.8%</b> (15.4-18.2)	
Ate breakfast on all of the past 7 days	<b>18.4%</b> (12.0-24.9)	<b>30.6%</b> (28.7-32.6)	
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	<b>39.4%</b> (28.6-50.3)	<b>52.2%</b> (49.9-54.4)	
Were not physically active at least 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days	<b>19.0%</b> (10.9-27.1)	<b>11.0%</b> (9.9-12.1)	
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	<b>58.8%</b> (48.5-69.1)	<b>72.5%</b> (70.9-74.0)	
Played on at least one sports team during the past 12 months	<b>61.4%</b> (51.9-70.9)	<b>58.7%</b> (56.8-60.5)	
Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	<b>12.7%</b> (7.8-17.6)	<b>29.1%</b> (27.2-31.1)	
Slept away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during the past 30 days	<b>36.3%</b> (25.7-46.9)	<b>3.4%</b> (2.8-3.9)	
Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	<b>56.8%</b> (49.4-64.2)	<b>74.3%</b> (71.5-77.2)	
Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months	<b>43.8%</b> (34.6-53.0)	<b>13.9%</b> (12.7-15.2)	



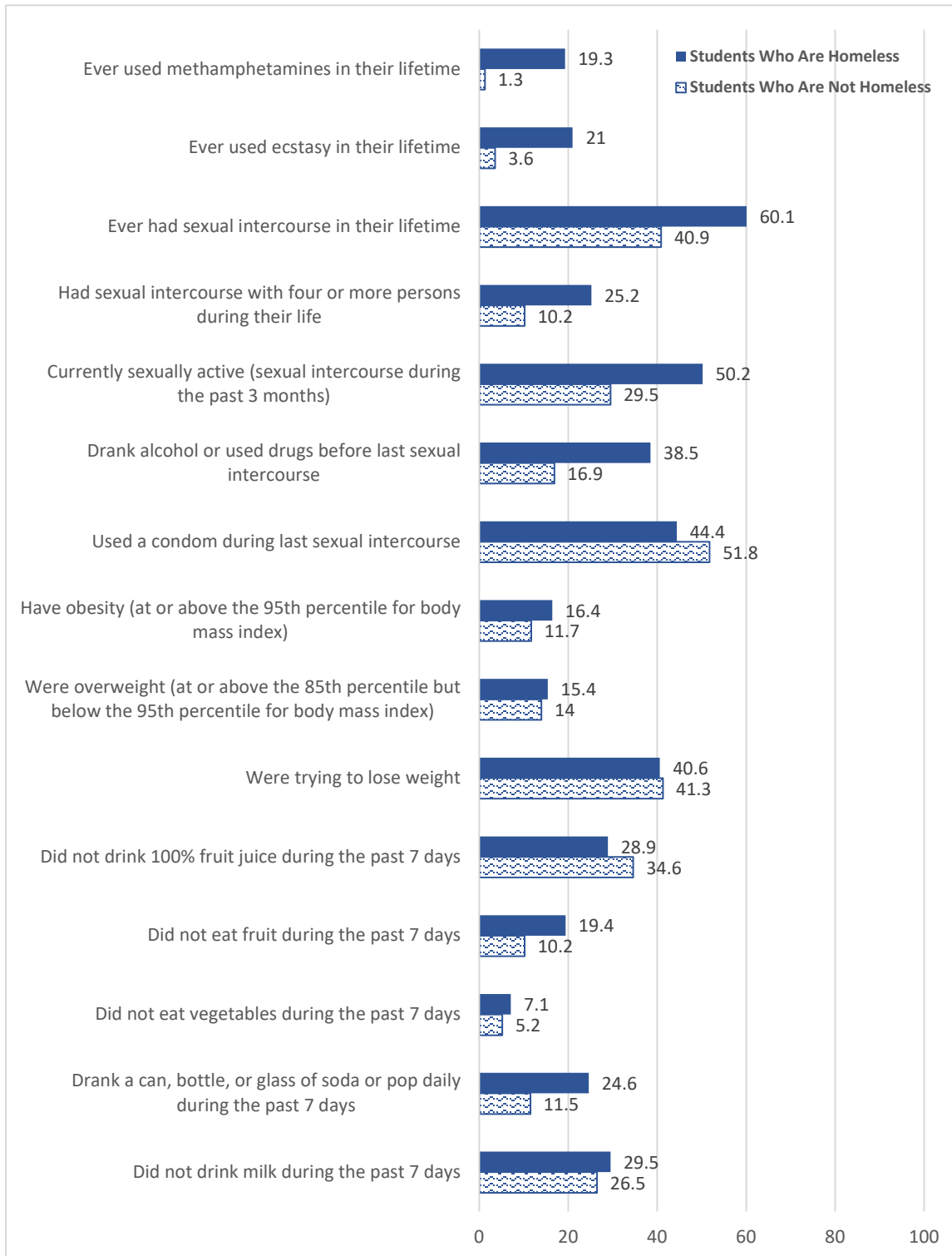
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