

2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Arizona Department of Education
School Safety and Prevention

www.ade.az.gov/sa/health

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) successfully administered the Arizona Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

The ADE extends a special thanks to the students, teachers, principals, and superintendents of schools that participated.



The YRBS assesses behaviors among youth that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality during adolescence and adulthood. The YRBS measures behaviors in the following six categories:

- Behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies
- Dietary behaviors
- Physical activity

These risk behaviors contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States.

2009 Demographics	
Males	51.1%
Females	48.9%
9th Grade	26.2%
10th Grade	25.6%
11th Grade	23.9%
12th Grade	23.8%
Other Grade	0.4%
African American	4.5%
Hispanic/Latino	38.5%
Native American	5.6%
White	46.6%
All Other Races	2.4%
Multiple Races	2.4%



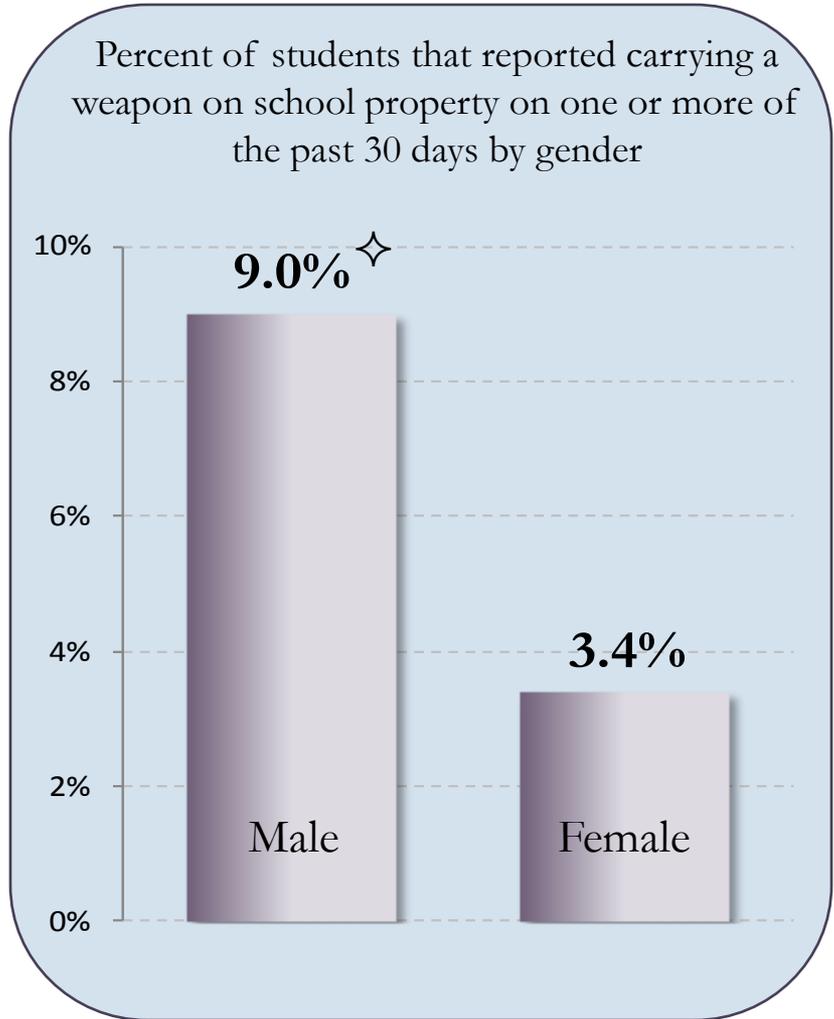
The 2009 YRBS was completed by 2,596 students in 71 district and charter high schools during the 2009 spring semester. The school response rate of 92% combined with the student response rate of 87% resulted in an overall response rate of 80%. These results are representative of public high school students statewide in grades 9 through 12.

Students completed a 99-item questionnaire in their classrooms. Survey procedures were implemented to protect the privacy of students by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. Parental permission procedures were followed prior to survey administration.

The national, state, and local school-based survey data apply only to youth who attend school and, therefore, are not representative of all persons in this age group.

Students who reported being threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property in the past 12 months			
2003 n = 3423	2005 n = 3292	2007 n = 3087	2009 n = 2571
9.7% [◆]	10.7%	11.2% ^{◆+}	9.3% ⁺

Students who reported carrying a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property in the past 30 days			
2003 n = 3393	2005 n = 3236	2007 n = 3036	2009 n = 2567
5.8% [◆]	7.4% [◆]	7.0%	6.5%



- ◆ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ✦ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ◇ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

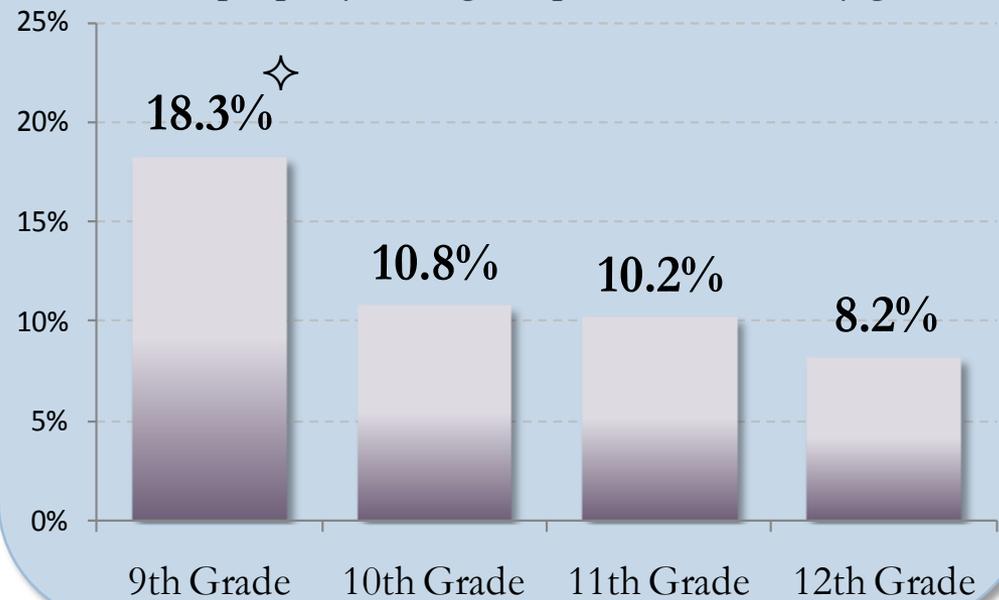
Students who reported missing school in the past 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school

2003 n = 3421	2005 n = 3292	2007 n = 3086	2009 n = 2589
5.5% [✧]	7.3%	8.1%	7.4%

Students who reported missing school because they felt unsafe were significantly more likely to report lower grades.

Students who reported being in a fight on school property in the past 12 months were significantly more likely to report lower grades.

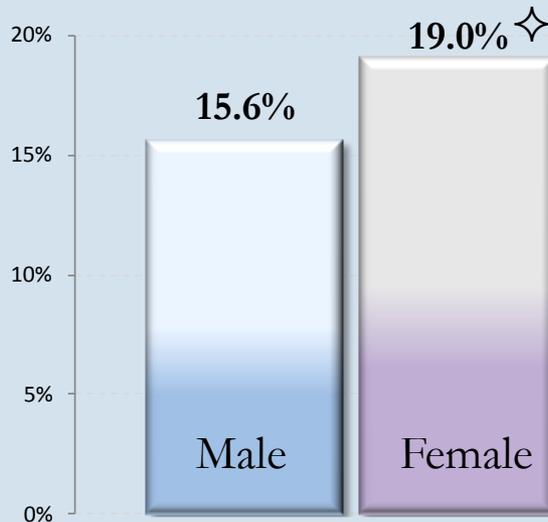
Percent of students that reported being in a fight on school property during the past 12 months by grade



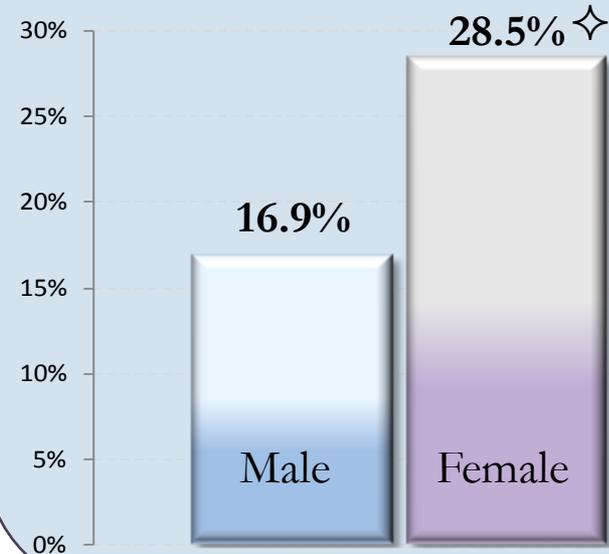
✧ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Both victims and aggressors of electronic bullying were significantly more likely to report lower grades.

Percent of students that reported bullying others electronically in the past 12 months by gender



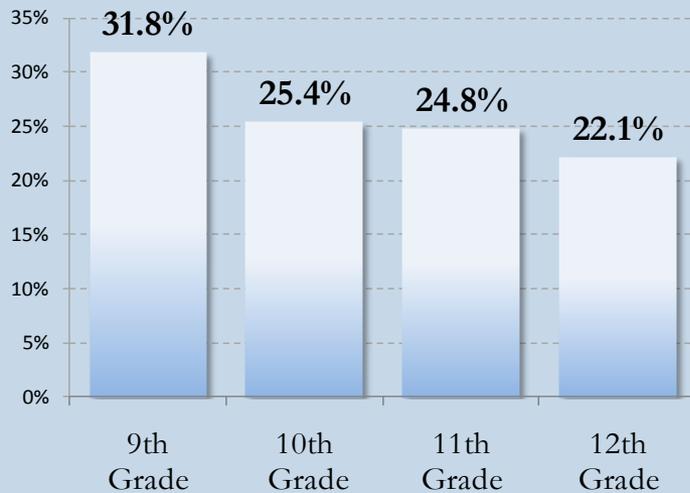
Percent of students that reported being bullied by others electronically in the past 12 months by gender



Nearly 23% of students reported being victims of electronic bullying in the past year.

✧ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Percent of students that reported having been bullied or harassed on school grounds at least once in the past 12 months by grade



The more frequently a student reported being bullied or harassed at school, the more likely they were to report lower grades.

A recent school climate survey of 6,209 middle and high school students revealed that 86% of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) students experienced harassment at school in the previous year.¹

A significantly higher percent of males (29.9%) than females (18.7%) reported harassing or bullying someone else on school grounds.

Students who reported a boyfriend or girlfriend hit, slapped, or physically hurt them on purpose in the past 12 months			
2003 n = 3417	2005 n = 3269	2007 n = 3022	2009 n = 2557
8.5% [✧]	10.5% [◆]	12.2% [◆]	11.8%
Students who reported being physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to			
2003 n = 3417	2005 n = 3269	2007 n = 3022	2009 n = 2557
8.0% [✧]	10.9%	10.0%	11.0%

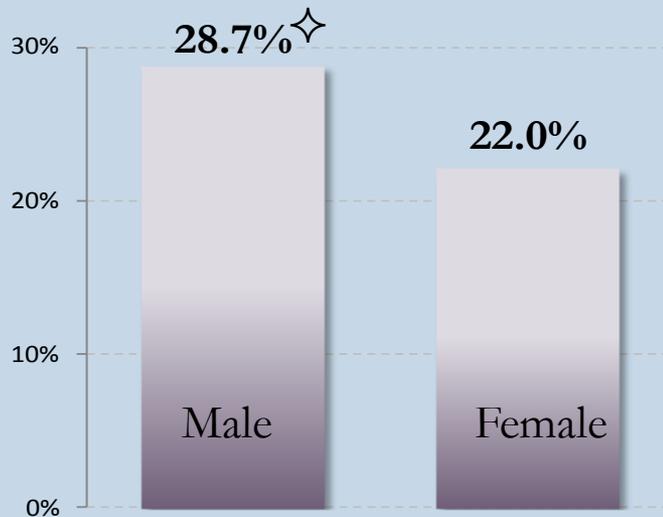
Students who reported drinking one or more alcoholic beverages in the last 30 days were significantly more likely to report being forced into sexual intercourse.

Students who reported being forced into sexual intercourse, as well as students who reported partner physical violence, were significantly more likely to report lower grades.

Twenty percent of teens (ages 13-19) said they sent or posted nude or seminude pictures or videos of themselves.²

◆ Two groups are significantly different from one another
 ✧ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Percent of students that reported having their first drink of alcohol before age 13 by gender



Students who reported attending school under the influence of drugs or alcohol were significantly more likely to report lower grades.

Among the 14 million adults aged 21 years or older who were classified as having past year alcohol dependence or abuse, more than 13 million (95%) started using alcohol before age 21.³

Students who reported having their first drink of alcohol other than a few sips before age 13

2003 n=3157	2005 n=3204	2007 n=3042	2009 n=2566
30.4% [◇]	26.7%	23.5%	25.6%

◇ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

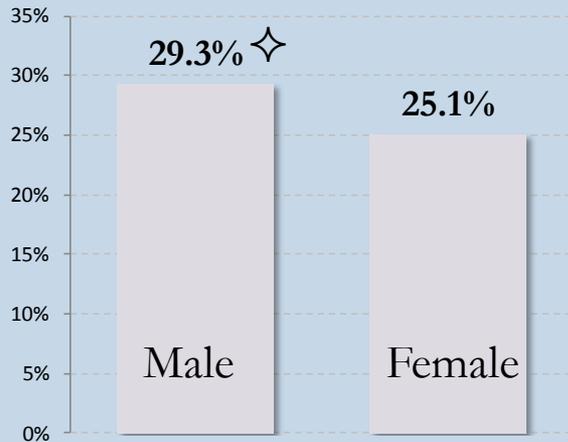
34.6% of students reported being offered, sold or given an illegal drug by someone on school property during the school year.

20.7% of students reported attending school under the influence of alcohol or other illegal drugs at least once during the school year.

Students who reported using marijuana on school property on one or more of the past 30 days			
2003 n = 3368	2005 n = 3216	2007 n = 2972	2009 n = 2520
6.5% [◆]	5.1% ^{◆+}	6.1% ⁺	6.4%
Students who reported having at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days			
2003 n = 3348	2005 n = 3218	2007 n = 2984	2009 n = 2517
7.1%	7.5% ^{◆+}	6.0% ⁺	5.9% [◆]

- ◆ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ✦ Two groups are significantly different from one another

Percent of students that reported having 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours during the past 30 days by gender



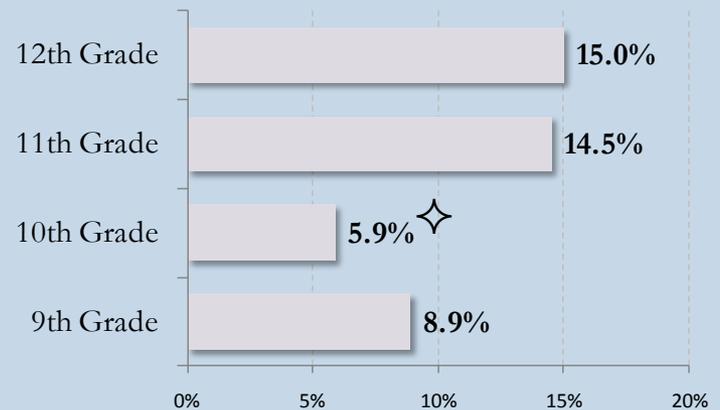
Students who reported driving a car or other vehicle at least once in the past 30 days when drinking alcohol.

Year	2003	2005	2007	2009
n	n=3370	n=3221	n=3015	n=2533
Percentage	14.9% ✧	12.4%	12.3%	11.0%

Students who reported having 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours, at least once during the past 30 days

Year	2003	2005	2007	2009
n	n = 3318	n = 3215	n = 2953	n = 2480
Percentage	34.8% ✧	30.8%	30.4%	27.4% ✧

Percent of students that reported driving a car or other vehicle after drinking alcohol during the past 30 days by grade



✧ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

The more often students reported using inhalants to get high, the more likely they were to report lower grades.

25.9% of students reported smoking cigarettes or cigars or using chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on one or more of the past 30 days

Students who used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase one or more times during the past 30 days

Students who reported taking a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription at least once in the past 30 days

2003 n=3384	2005 n=3249	2007 n=3010	2009 n=2540
7.1%	6.1%	6.6%	4.8% [◇]

2003 n=0	2005 n=3277	2007 n=3050	2009 n=2360
N/A	10.6%	9.4%	12.6% [◇]

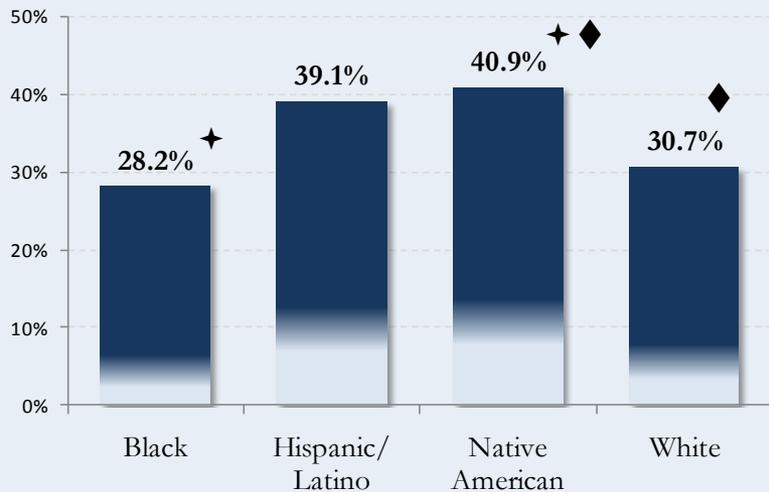
Significantly more females (15.1%) than males (12.1%) reported using inhalants to get high at least once during their life.

◇ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Students who reported feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities			
2003 n=3416	2005 n=3202	2007 n=3022	2009 n=2577
31.3% [◇]	34.3%	32.5%	34.9%

A significantly higher percent of females (41.0%) than males (28.9%) reported feeling sad or hopeless every day for two weeks or more in a row.

Percent of students that reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row at least once during the past 12 months by race/ethnicity



Students who reported:

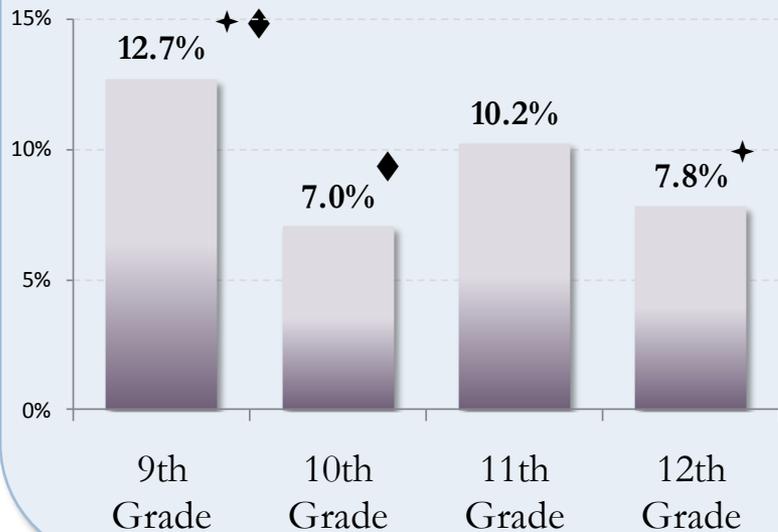
- Feeling sad or hopeless every day for two weeks
- Making a plan for suicide
- Attempting suicide

All reported lower grades.

- ◆ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ★ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ◇ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

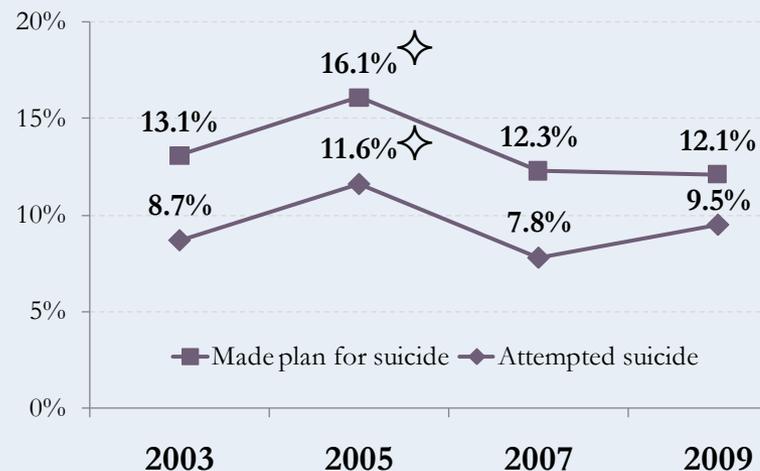
Suicide is the third leading cause of death for adolescents in Arizona.⁴

Percent of students that attempted suicide in the past 12 months by grade



- ◆ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ★ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ◇ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Percent of students that made a plan or attempted suicide during the past 12 months



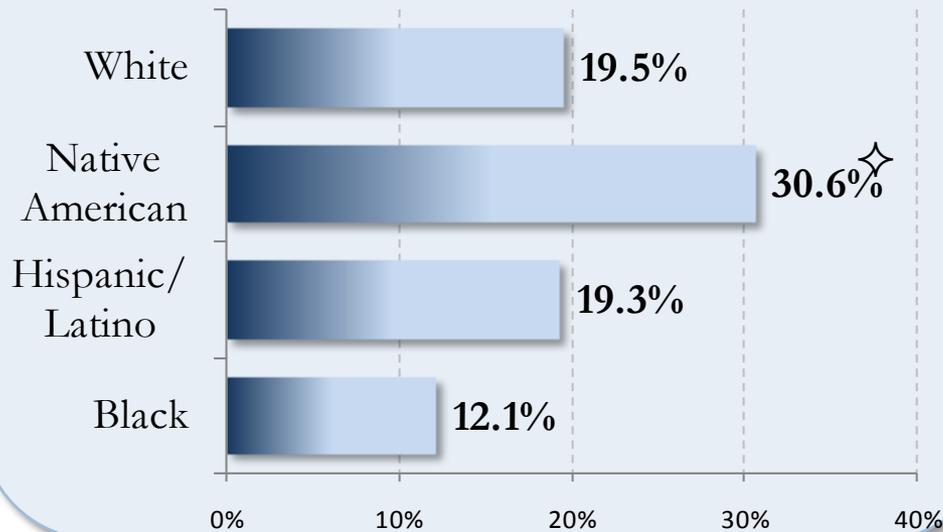
Students who reported considering suicide also reported statistically higher rates of being bullied at school and participation in the bullying of others at school.

Nearly a third (30.6%) of 9th grade girls reported self abuse activities during the past 12 months.

Students who reported doing something to purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves in the past 12 months

2003 n=0	2005 n=0	2007 n=3072	2009 n=2364
N/A	N/A	20.8%	19.8%

Percent of students that reported self abuse in the past 12 months by race/ethnicity



A significantly higher percent of females (24.4%) than males (15.4%) reported self abuse.

✧ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Percent of students that reported having sexual intercourse in the past three months by grade

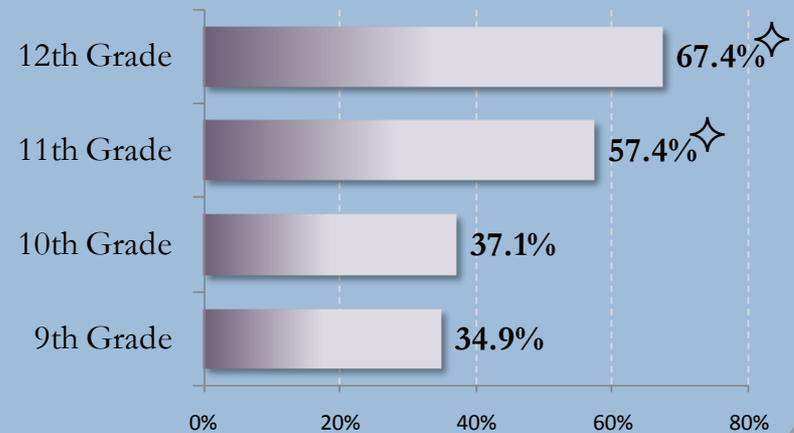


Students who reported ever having sexual intercourse reported significantly lower grades than students who had not.

✧ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

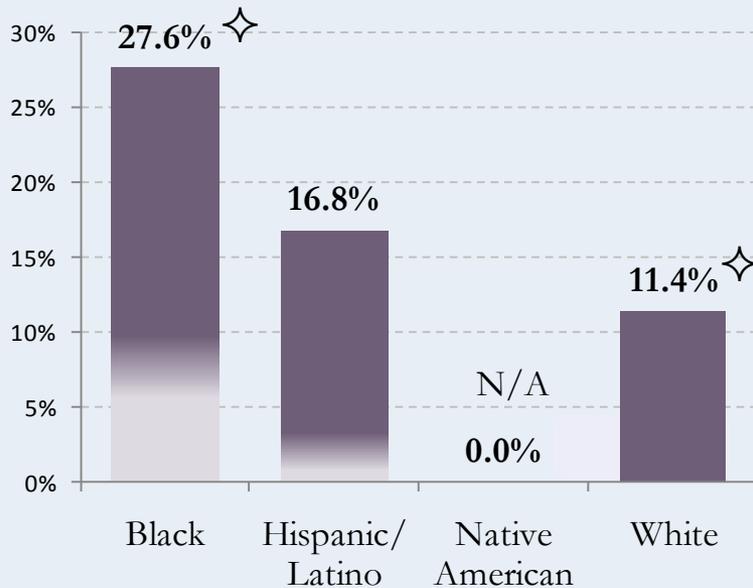
Significantly more male (7.8%) than female (2.9%) students reported having sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13.

Percent of students that reported ever having sexual intercourse by grade



By 12th grade 25.9% of students reported having four or more sexual partners during their lifetime.

Percent of students that reported having four or more sexual partners during lifetime by race/ethnicity



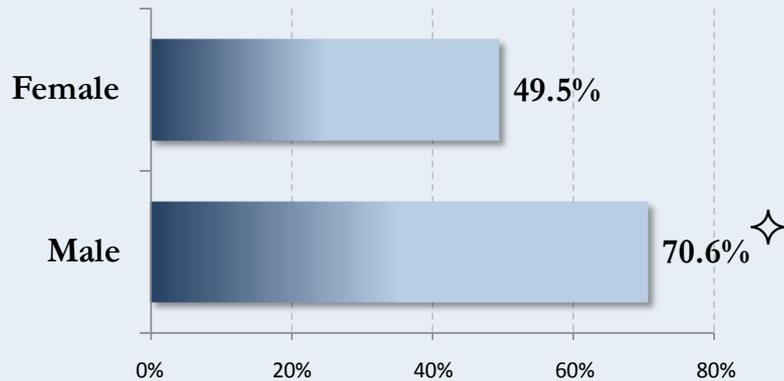
Fifty-one percent of schools in Arizona require health education for students in any grades 6 through 12.⁵

Significantly more male (17.4%) than female (10.4%) students reported having four or more sexual partners during their life.

✧ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

N/A This percentage could not be calculated due to the small number of Native American respondents.

Percent of students that reported having sex in the past three months and either they or their partner used a condom the last time they had intercourse by gender



Over two-thirds of students (67.5%) reported that their parents or other adults in their family talked with them about what they expect them to do or not to do when it comes to sex.

Students who reported having sexual intercourse during the past three months and used birth control pills to prevent pregnancy

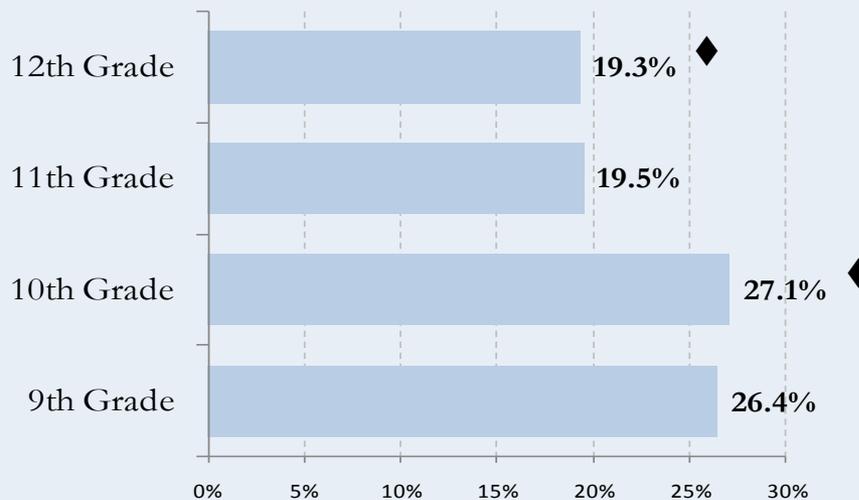
2003 n=818	2005 n=931	2007 n=1001	2009 n=853
17.3% [◆]	15.3%	13.9% [◆]	16.7%

Arizona has the third highest teen pregnancy rate and the sixth highest teen birth rate, continuing a trend that began over two decades ago.^{6,7}

- ◆ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ◇ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Students who reported drinking alcohol or using drugs before sexual intercourse			
2003 n=1193	2005 n=965	2007 n=1041	2009 n=882
31.3%♦	23.4%	27.6%*	22.4%♦*

Percent of students that drank alcohol or used drugs before the last time they had sexual intercourse by grade



22.3% of the students that reported having sex also reported that their first sex partner was 3 or more years older.

Significantly more males (13.7%) than females (7.4%) reported using alcohol or drugs before the last time they had sexual intercourse.

- ♦ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- * Two groups are significantly different from one another

Students who were overweight (i.e., at or above the 85th percentile but below the 95th percentile for body mass index) by age and gender

2003 n=3117	2005 n=3059	2007 n=2818	2009 n=2354
13.8%	13.6%	14.2%	14.6%

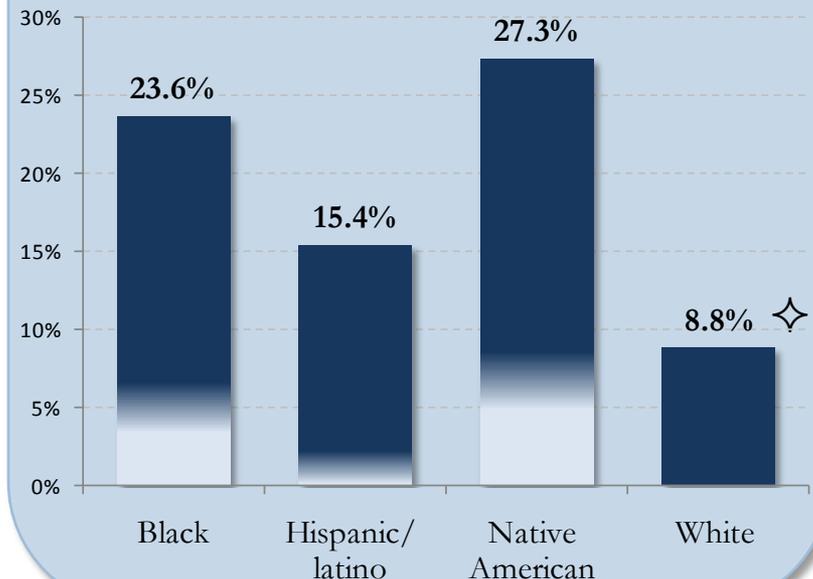
Students who were obese (i.e., at or above the 95th percentile for body mass index, by age and gender)

2003 n=3117	2005 n=3059	2007 n=2818	2009 n=2354
11.2%	11.9%	11.7%	13.1%

Male students (16.9%) were statistically more likely than female students (8.9%) to be obese.

Both overweight and obese students reported significantly lower grades than students who were not overweight or obese.

Percent of obese students by race/ethnicity



✧ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Students who described their weight as slightly or very overweight			
2003 n=0	2005 n=3239	2007 n=3018	2009 n=2546
N/A	32.0%	28.8%	30.1%

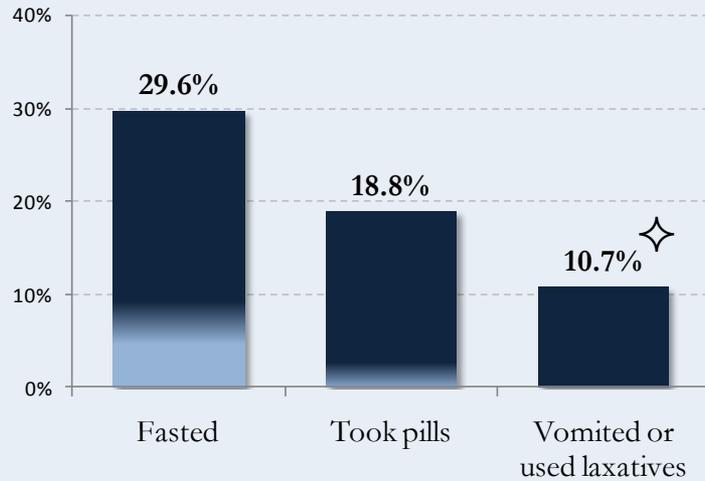
Female students (36.6%) were statistically more likely than male students (23.7%) to describe themselves as slightly or very overweight.

Male students (55.5%) were statistically more likely than female students (8.1%) to report being physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day on five or more of the past seven days.

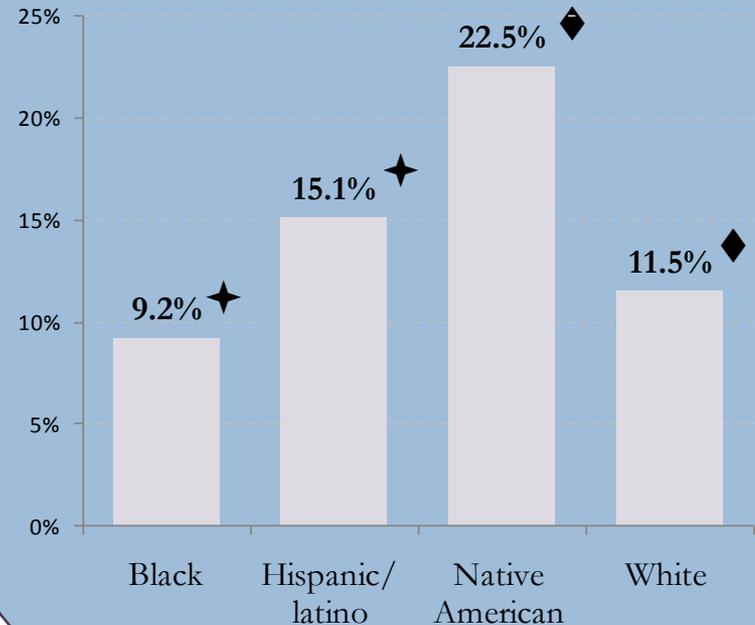
Students who reported being physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day on five or more of the past 7 days			
2003 n=0	2005 n=3183	2007 n=2961	2009 n=2534
N/A	32.3%	32.0%	46.8% [◇]

◇ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Percent of obese or overweight students that reported using various methods to lose weight during the past 30 days



Percent of students that fasted for 24 hours or more to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight during the past 30 days by race/ethnicity



- ◆ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ✦ Two groups are significantly different from one another
- ◇ Percentage is significantly different from all other years or groups

Do Students tell the truth on the YRBS?

YRBS data are self-reported – The extent of underreporting or over-reporting of behaviors cannot be determined, although measures described in this report demonstrate that the data are of acceptable quality.

Survey Environment – Survey administration procedures are designed to protect the confidentiality of schools and anonymity of students, e.g., students do not include any identifying information on the survey, proctor and teacher do not walk around the classroom during survey administration, etc.

Edit Checks within Survey Design – More than 100 edit checks are conducted on each YRBS data set to remove inconsistent responses, e.g., a student who reports doing a behavior within the past 30-days but never in his life, a student who reports being 2 feet tall and 300 lbs, etc.

Logic within Groups of Questions – Questions on similar topics produce logical responses that fit together in a consistent manner, e.g., fewer students will have attempted suicide than those who have thought about attempting suicide, etc.

Subgroup Differences – Subgroup differences are logical and remain generally consistent over time, e.g., seniors are more likely to have performed a risk behavior than freshmen.

Health Data Context – Students' self-reported risk behaviors are consistent with health research and Arizona health statistics, e.g., more females than males experience forced sexual intercourse, adolescents comprise a sizeable amount of arrests for possession of illegal drugs within Arizona, etc.

Psychometric Studies – Using the YRBS instrument, researchers have conducted psychometric studies, e.g., focus groups with diverse student populations, two-week follow-up surveys to examine consistency in reporting, etc.

References

Primary Source:

2009 Arizona Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Results, Arizona Department of Education: Phoenix, AZ

Additional Sources:

1. Cohen J. & Geier, V.K. (2010). School Climate Research Summary: January 2010. New York. NY.
www.schoolclimate.org/climate/research.php
2. National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. *Sex and Tech, Results from a Survey of Teens and Young Adults*, Washington D.C. 2009. Retrieved August 24, 2010 from
http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech/PDF/SexTech_Summary.pdf
3. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report. *Alcohol Dependency or Abuse and Age at First Use*. Retrieved February 8, 2010 from <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k4/ageDependence/ageDependence.htm>
4. Arizona Department of Health Services. *Mortality Rates For the Five Leading Causes of Death Among Adolescents (15-19 Years) By Gender, Arizona, 1998-2008*. Retrieved August 24, 2010 from
<http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2008/pdf/2c12.pdf>
5. Arizona Department of Education. *2008 Arizona School Health Profile*. Retrieved August 24, 2010 from
https://www.azed.gov/sa/health/matrix/azshep/AZTeacher08_formatted.pdf
6. Guttmacher Institute. US Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity. Retrieved January 26, 2010 from www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends.pdf
7. National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Teen Birth Rates in the United States (2007) August 2010. Retrieved August 24, 2010 from http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/birthdata/TBR_RankbyState.pdf