

Recently released results from the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) allow comparisons between high school students in New Mexico, the US, and in other states. In 2017, compared to their US peers, NM students had higher rates of most drug use and e-cigarette use; were more likely to be early initiators

of cigarette smoking, alcohol use, and marijuana use; and were more likely to make a suicide attempt. NM students were more likely than US students to get daily physical activity, and were less likely to engage in excessive computer and video screen use.

For an expanded version of the table below, see <http://youthrisk.org/tables/#/2017> or nmhealth.org/go/youth. Sources: 2017 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) and National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Statistical significance determined by a t-test on the website, Youth Online (nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline).

Risk Behavior Comparisons, New Mexico and United States ■ High School (Grades 9–12), 2017

| Indicator | NM% (95% CI) | US% (95% CI) | At higher risk* (US or NM) |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Skipped school because of safety concerns (on at least one of the past 30 days) | 11.8% (7.6–17.7) | 6.7% (5.7–7.8) | – |
| Experienced physical dating violence (at least once in the past 12 months) | 11.0% (9.4–12.9) | 8.0% (7.3–8.8) | NM |
| Persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness (for at least two weeks in a row during the past 12 months) | 35.8% (33.9–37.8) | 31.5% (29.6–33.4) | NM |
| Made a suicide attempt (during the past 12 months) | 9.9% (8.5–11.5) | 7.4% (6.5–8.4) | NM |
| Smoked cigarettes before age 13 | 13.5% (11.8–15.4) | 9.5% (8.0–11.2) | NM |
| Current e-cig use (used e-cigs within the past 30 days) | 24.7% (22.2–27.4) | 13.2% (11.4–15.2) | NM |
| First drink of alcohol before age 13 | 20.7% (18.2–23.5) | 15.5% (13.9–17.2) | NM |
| Binge drinking (for girls, 4 drinks on a single occasion; for boys, 5 drinks on a single occasion; in the past 30 days) | 10.9% (9.4–12.5) | 13.5% (12.0–15.1) | US |
| First used marijuana before age 13 | 15.7% (13.4–18.3) | 6.8% (5.8–8.0) | NM |
| Ever used cocaine | 9.4% (7.0–12.4) | 4.8% (4.2–5.6) | NM |
| Ever used heroin | 3.4% (2.4–4.7) | 1.7% (1.3–2.2) | NM |
| Ever used methamphetamines | 4.1% (3.1–5.4) | 2.5% (2.0–3.0) | NM |
| Daily physical activity (physically active = total of at least 60 minutes that “made you sweat or breathe hard”) | 30.8% (28.4–33.3) | 26.1% (24.1–28.3) | US |
| Used video or computer 3+ hours per day (not for school purposes, on a school day) | 36.8% (34.5–39.1) | 43.0% (41.1–44.9) | US |

*Indicates whether NM or US youth are at a higher risk for each indicator. If neither is indicated, the difference between the NM rate and the US rate was not statistically significant.

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