

2011 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Students with Special Needs

A Health Risk Behavior Comparison of Montana High School Students
Based on Special Education Assistance



-August 2012-

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Program
Health Enhancement and Safety Division



opi.mt.gov

Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

2011 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey Students with Special Needs 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 2011 YRBS was conducted in February 2011. 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 2011 YRBS are based on a random survey of Montana high school students. The weighted 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. However, users should be careful in using the data since respondents in self-reported surveys may have a tendency to underreport behaviors that are socially undesirable, unhealthy, or illegal (alcohol consumption, drug use, seat belt nonuse, etc.) and overreport behaviors that are socially desirable (amount of exercise, etc.).

For the purpose of this report, special education assistance is defined as "students with special needs" and are those youth who answered "yes" to the question, "During the past 12 months, did you receive help from a resource teacher, speech therapist or other special education teacher at school?" Twenty-four separate risk behaviors were queried for association with the special needs question. These findings are presented in bullet, table and graph forms in the following report.

Background +

According to the 2011 YRBS, 12% of Montana high school students reported receiving help from a resource teacher, speech therapist or other special education teacher at school during the past 12 months. Thirteen percent of males and 11% of females had received special education assistance. Of those who had received special education assistance, 15% were ninth graders, 13% were tenth graders, 10% were eleventh graders and 11% were twelfth grade students.

For more on the YRBS go to www.opi.mt.gov/yrbs.

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Findings

Montana high school students with special needs are more likely than those students without special needs to have:

- Never or rarely worn a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else (15% of special need students compared to 10% of non-special need students).
- Ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (33% of special need students compared to 25% of non-special need students).
- Not gone to school during the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (8% of special need students compared to 3% of non-special need students).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon (e.g., gun, knife or club) on school property during the past 12 months (13% of special need students compared to 6% of non-special need students).
- Been in a physical fight on school property during the past 12 months (14% of special need students compared to 8% of non-special need students).
- Been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (19% of special need students compared to 9% of non-special need students).
- Been bullied on school property during the past 12 months (38% of special need students compared to 24% of non-special need students).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (31% of special need students compared to 17% of non-special need students).
- Had property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the past 12 months (37% of special need students compared to 27% of non-special need students).
- Felt so sad or hopeless for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing usual activities during the past 12 months (39% of special need students compared to 23% of non-special need students).
- Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (25% of special need students compared to 14% of non-special need students).
- Actually attempted suicide during the past 12 months (13% of special need students compared to 5% of non-special need students).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (24% of special need students compared to 15% of non-special need students).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (28% of special need students compared to 20% of non-special need students).
- Had taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription during their lifetime (27% of special need students compared to 17% of non-special need students).
- Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (58% of special need students compared to 46% of non-special need students).
- Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people during their lifetime (23% of special need students compared to 14% of non-special need students).

Montana high school students with special needs are less likely than those students without special needs to have:

- Eaten breakfast daily during the past 7 days (32% of special need students compared to 41% of non-special need students).

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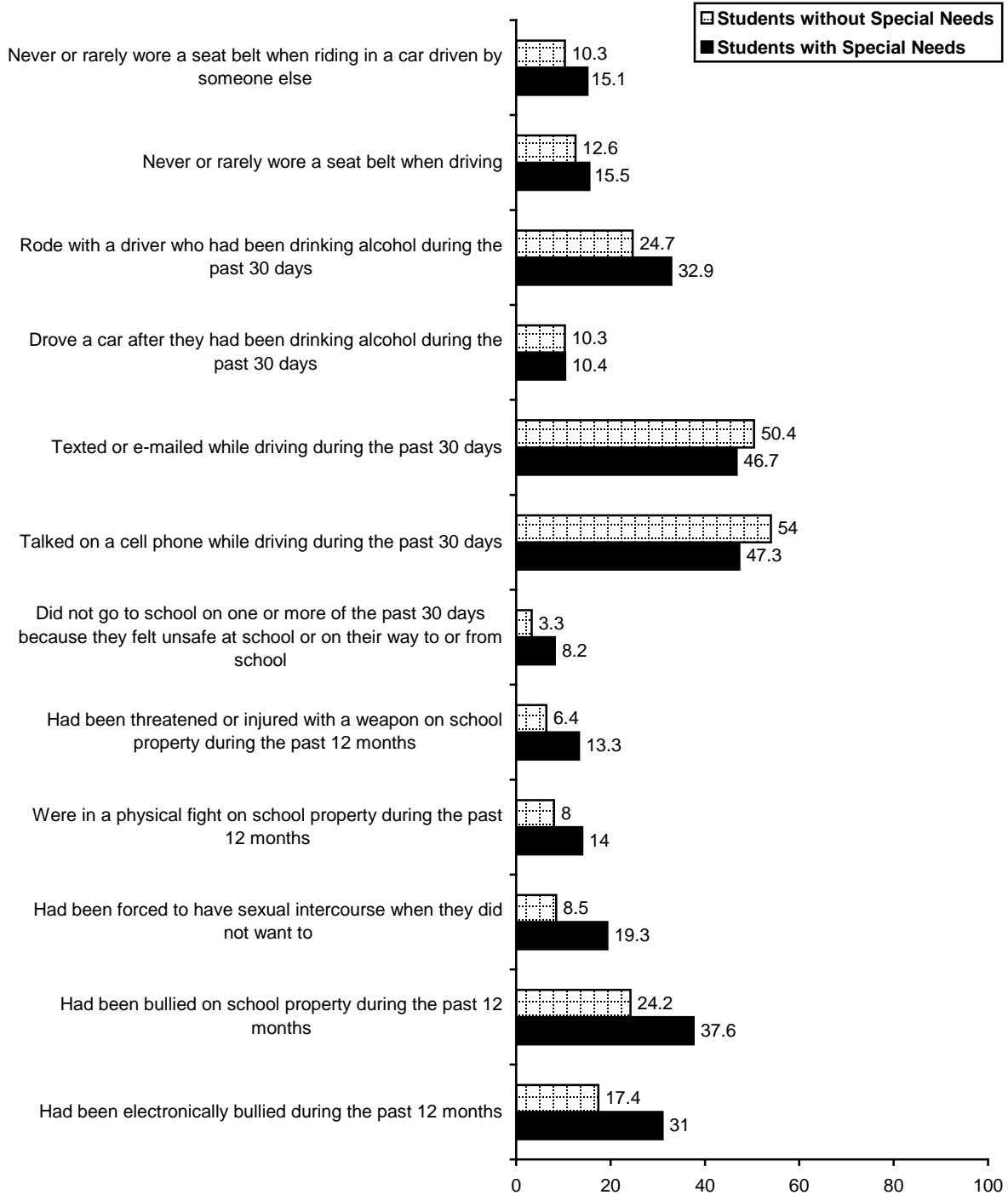
Health Risk Behavior	Students with Special Needs	Students without Special Needs
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	15.1% (12.0-18.2)	10.3% (8.6-11.9)
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	15.5% (12.3-18.7)	12.6% (10.6-14.7)
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	32.9% (28.0-37.7)	24.7% (23.0-26.5)
Drove a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days when they had been drinking alcohol	10.4% (6.3-14.5)	10.3% (9.2-11.4)
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	46.7% (40.2-53.3)	50.4% (47.2-53.7)
Talked on a cell phone while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	47.3% (41.6-53.1)	54.0% (50.8-57.2)
Did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school	8.2% (5.5-10.9)	3.3% (2.7-3.9)
Had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	13.3% (10.0-16.7)	6.4% (5.5-7.4)
Were in a physical fight on school property during the past 12 months	14.0% (10.9-17.0)	8.0% (6.9-9.1)
Had been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	19.3% (15.9-22.7)	8.5% (7.4-9.7)
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	37.6% (32.3-42.9)	24.2% (22.1-26.3)
Had been electronically bullied during the past 12 months	31.0% (27.4-34.6)	17.4% (15.5-19.3)
Had property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property during the past 12 months	37.3% (32.5-42.2)	27.1% (24.8-29.4)

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Health Risk Behavior	Students with Special Needs	Students without Special Needs
Felt sad or hopeless for two weeks or more in a row during the past 12 months	38.9% (33.7-44.1)	23.1% (23.1-26.9)
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	25.4% (21.8-28.9)	13.7% (12.5-15.0)
Actually attempted suicide during the past 12 months	12.8% (8.9-16.7)	5.4% (4.3-6.5)
Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days	23.5% (18.6-28.3)	15.2% (13.2-17.1)
Drank alcohol during the past 30 days	44.4% (38.8-49.9)	37.4% (35.3-39.4)
Had 5 or more drinks of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	28.2% (23.4-33.1)	24.5% (22.8-26.3)
Used marijuana during the past 30 days	28.0% (23.5-32.5)	20.0% (17.1-22.9)
Had taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription during their lifetime	27.0% (22.8-31.1)	17.1% (15.2-18.9)
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	57.5% (52.1-63.0)	46.3% (43.4-49.3)
Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people during their lifetime	23.4% (18.5-28.2)	13.9% (11.9-15.9)
Ate breakfast daily during the past 7 days	31.9% (27.6-36.3)	40.9% (39.1-42.7)

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Percentage of students by selected risk behavior



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Percentage of students by selected risk behavior

