

# 2019 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey



## Homeless Report

Health Risk Behaviors of Students  
Experiencing Homelessness

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Program  
Health Enhancement and Safety Division  
August 2019

## 2019 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 2019 YRBS was conducted in February 2019. 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

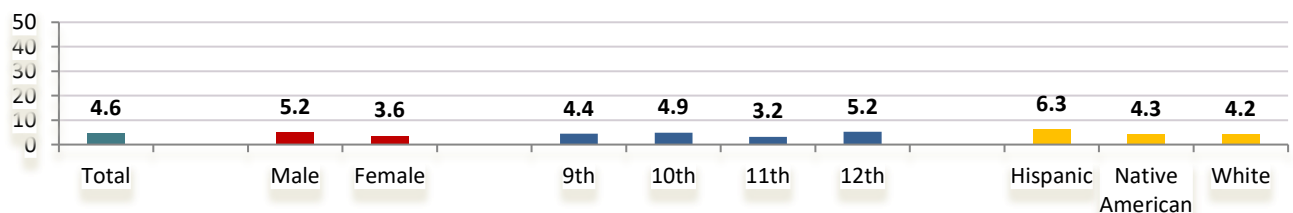
Data used in this report from the 2019 YRBS are based on a random sample survey of Montana high school students. The weighted data results contained in this report can be used to make inferences about the priority health-risk behaviors of all high school students in grades 9 through 12 in all schools in Montana.

For the purpose of this report, students defined as homeless were the 4.6% of students who did not sleep in their parent's or guardian's home (responses B through G on question 91 of the survey). Forty-eight separate risk behaviors were queried for association with students who were homeless. These findings are presented in bullet, table and graph forms in the following report.

91. During the past 30 days, where did you usually sleep?	
A. In my parent's or guardian's home	95.4
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	2.0
C. In a shelter or emergency housing	0.6
D. In a motel or hotel	0.4
E. In a car, park, campground, or other public place	0.4
F. I do not have a usual place to sleep	0.3
G. Somewhere else	0.9

### HOMELESSNESS

During the past 30 days, 4.6 percent of students did not usually sleep in their parent's or guardian's home.



More Montana results are on the website located at [Montana YRBS](#).

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### Findings

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#### ***More likely***

Montana high school students who are homeless are ***more likely*** than students who have a home to have:

- Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car (25% of homeless students compared to 7% of students who have a home).
- Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving (23% of homeless students compared to 7% of students who have a home).
- Ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (38% of homeless students compared to 18% of students who have a home).
- Driven a car or other vehicle when drinking alcohol (24% of homeless students compared to 6% of students who have a home).
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife or club during the past 30 days (38% of homeless students compared to 22% of students who have a home).
- Not gone to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the past 30 days (19% of homeless students compared to 9% of students who have a home).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (24% of homeless students compared to 7% of students who have a home).
- Been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (25% of homeless students compared to 9% of students who have a home).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (31% of homeless students compared to 17% of students who have a home).
- Been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian or bisexual (26% of homeless students compared to 13% of students who have a home).
- Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months (35% of homeless students compared to 19% of students who have a home).
- Attempted suicide during the past 12 months (35% of homeless students compared to 9% of students who have a home).
- Ever tried cigarette smoking in their lifetime (57% of homeless students compared to 30% of students who have a home).
- Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days (25% of homeless students compared to 7% of students who have a home).
- Used smokeless tobacco during the past 30 days (22% of homeless students compared to 5% of students who have a home).
- Ever used an electronic vapor product (e.g., JUL, Vuse, MarkTen, blu, e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, hookah pens and mods) in their lifetime (87% of homeless students compared to 57% of students who have a home).
- Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (59% of homeless students compared to 29% of students who have a home).
- Used an electronic vapor product on school property during the past 30 days (39% of homeless students compared to 18% of students who have a home).
- Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days (57% of homeless students compared to 32% of students who have a home).
- Had four or more drinks, if female, five or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days (41% of homeless students compared to 17% of students who have a home).

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### ***More likely***

Montana high school students who are homeless are **more likely** than students who have a home to have:













- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (70% of homeless students compared to 39% of students who have a home).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (38% of homeless students compared to 20% of students who have a home).
- Used methamphetamines in their lifetime (21% of homeless students compared to 2% of students who have a home).
- Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime (30% of homeless students compared to 3% of students who have a home).
- Used prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how it was prescribed in their lifetime (42% of homeless students compared to 11% of students who have a home).
- Had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (72% of homeless students compared to 43% of students who have a home).
- Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons in their lifetime (29% of homeless students compared to 11% of students who have a home).
- Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months (55% of homeless students compared to 31% of students who have a home).
- Used drugs or alcohol before last sexual intercourse (36% of homeless students compared to 17% of students who have a home).
- Did not eat fruit during the past 7 days (27% of homeless students compared to 10% of students who have a home).
- Did not eat green salad, potatoes, carrots, or other vegetables during the past 7 days (29% of homeless students compared to 17% of students who have a home).
- Drank soda or pop daily (25% of homeless students compared to 12% of students who have a home).
- Drank an energy drink during the past 7 days (17% of homeless students compared to 4% of students who have a home).
- Were not physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days (21% of homeless students compared to 12% of students who have a home).
- Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months (31% of homeless students compared to 14% of students who have a home).

### ***Less Likely***


















Montana high school students who are homeless are **less likely** than students who have a home to have:

- Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (20% of homeless students compared to 30% of students who have a home).
- Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months (64% of homeless students compared to 77% of students who have a home).









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Health Risk Behavior Percentage of students	Students who are not homeless	Students who are homeless	Statistical Difference
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a vehicle	<b>6.7%</b> (5.3-8.1)	<b>24.9%</b> (18.4-31.2)	
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	<b>6.6%</b> (5.2-8.1)	<b>23.0%</b> (15.4-30.5)	
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	<b>17.9%</b> (16.6-19.2)	<b>38.3%</b> (31.0-45.7)	
Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	<b>6.3%</b> (5.1-7.4)	<b>23.6%</b> (15.1-32.0)	
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days (of drivers)	<b>53.3%</b> (50.1-56.3)	<b>53.6%</b> (42.9-64.3)	
Used the Internet or apps on a cell phone while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days (of drivers)	<b>45.7%</b> (43.1-48.1)	<b>52.8%</b> (43.5-62.2)	
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club, during the past 30 days	<b>22.4%</b> (20.6-24.2)	<b>37.7%</b> (28.3-47.1)	
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>8.7%</b> (7.3-10.1)	<b>19.2%</b> (12.6-25.8)	
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	<b>6.9%</b> (5.8-8.0)	<b>23.7%</b> (14.5-32.9)	
Had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	<b>9.0%</b> (7.9-10.1)	<b>24.6%</b> (15.9-33.2)	
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	<b>21.6%</b> (19.8-23.5)	<b>31.1%</b> (22.9-39.3)	
Had been electronically bullied during the past 12 months	<b>17.4%</b> (15.9-18.8)	<b>30.5%</b> (22.3-38.7)	
Had been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian or bisexual	<b>12.6%</b> (11.2-13.9)	<b>26.0%</b> (19.0-33.0)	
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months	<b>36.2%</b> (34.3-38.1)	<b>46.9%</b> (37.9-55.9)	
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	<b>18.8%</b> (17.3-20.3)	<b>35.2%</b> (26.7-43.8)	
Attempted suicide during the past 12 months	<b>8.8%</b> (7.4-10.1)	<b>35.3%</b> (27.3-43.4)	

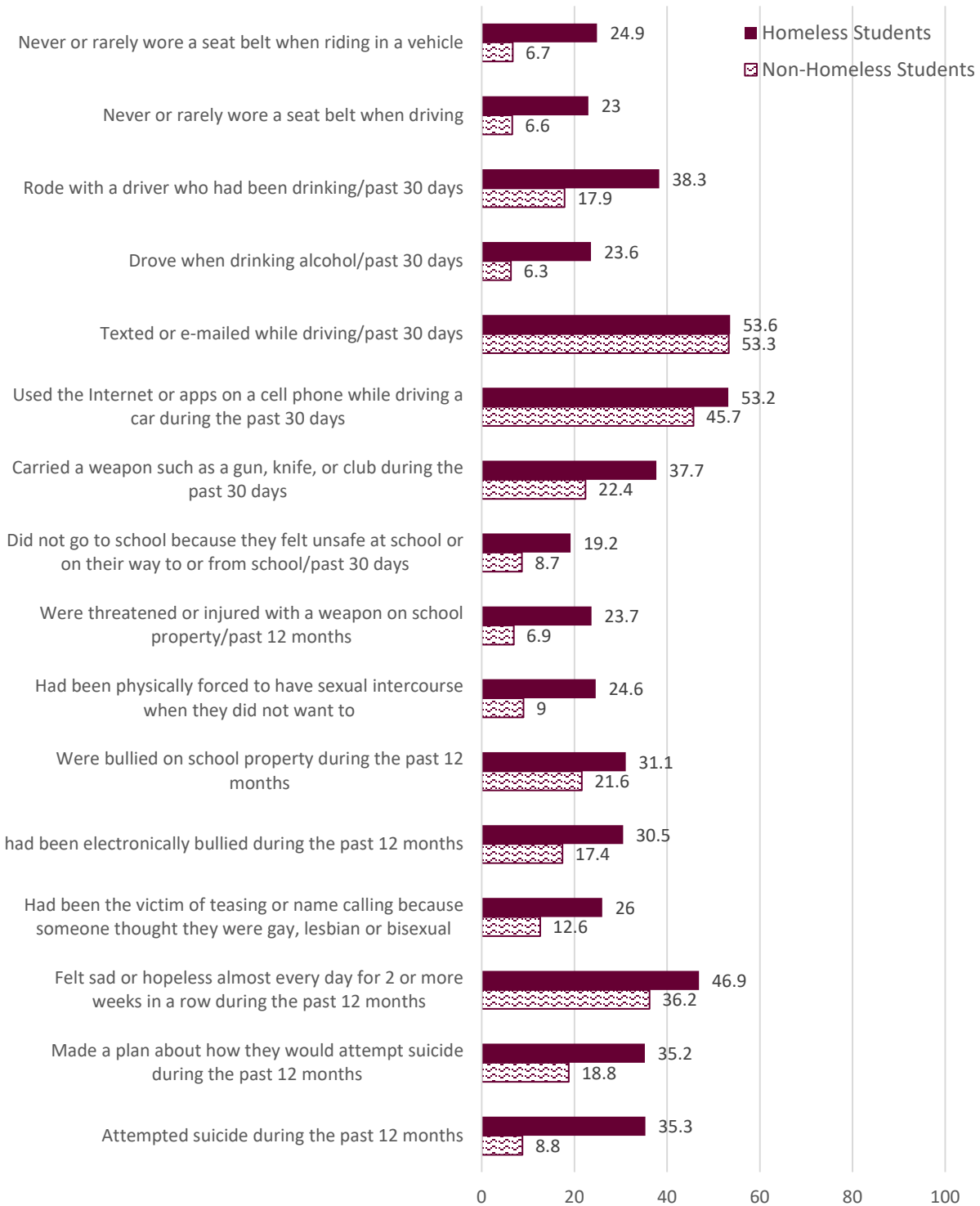
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Health Risk Behavior Percentage of students	Students who are not homeless	Students who are homeless	Statistical Difference
Ever tried cigarette smoking	<b>29.8%</b> (27.3-32.2)	<b>57.1%</b> (47.6-66.6)	
Smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days	<b>6.9%</b> (5.7-8.0)	<b>24.6%</b> (17.6-31.5)	
Used smokeless tobacco during the past 30 days	<b>5.4%</b> (4.4-6.3)	<b>22.3%</b> (14.1-30.4)	
Ever used electronic vapor products (e.g., JUUL, Vuse, MarkTen, blu, e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens, e-cigars, e-hookahs, hookah pens, and mods.)	<b>57.0%</b> (54.4-59.7)	<b>86.5%</b> (80.8-92.2)	
Used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days	<b>28.8%</b> (26.5-31.2)	<b>58.5%</b> (47.9-69.1)	
Used an electronic vapor product on school property during the past 30 days	<b>17.7%</b> (16.0-19.4)	<b>38.8%</b> (30.7-46.8)	
Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days	<b>32.3%</b> (30.2-34.4)	<b>56.9%</b> (47.0-66.9)	
Had 4 or more drinks (if female) 5 or more drinks (if male) of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	<b>16.6%</b> (14.9-18.3)	<b>40.6%</b> (31.3-49.9)	
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	<b>38.5%</b> (35.7-41.3)	<b>70.3%</b> (62.8-77.8)	
Used marijuana during the past 30 days	<b>20.0%</b> (18.0-22.0)	<b>38.3%</b> (30.3-46.2)	
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	<b>1.5%</b> (0.9-2.1)	<b>20.9%</b> (13.6-28.2)	
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	<b>3.1%</b> (2.4-3.8)	<b>29.7%</b> (22.5-36.9)	
Ever used prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how it was prescribed in their lifetime	<b>11.4%</b> (10.2-12.6)	<b>42.1%</b> (33.7-50.5)	
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	<b>42.5%</b> (39.7-45.3)	<b>71.9%</b> (62.2-81.6)	
Have had sexual intercourse with 4 or more persons in their lifetime	<b>11.2%</b> (10.0-12.6)	<b>28.7%</b> (20.0-37.4)	
Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months	<b>30.9%</b> (28.5-33.4)	<b>54.9%</b> (44.3-65.6)	
Used drugs or alcohol before last sexual intercourse	<b>17.1%</b> (14.7-19.6)	<b>35.7%</b> (24.6-46.8)	

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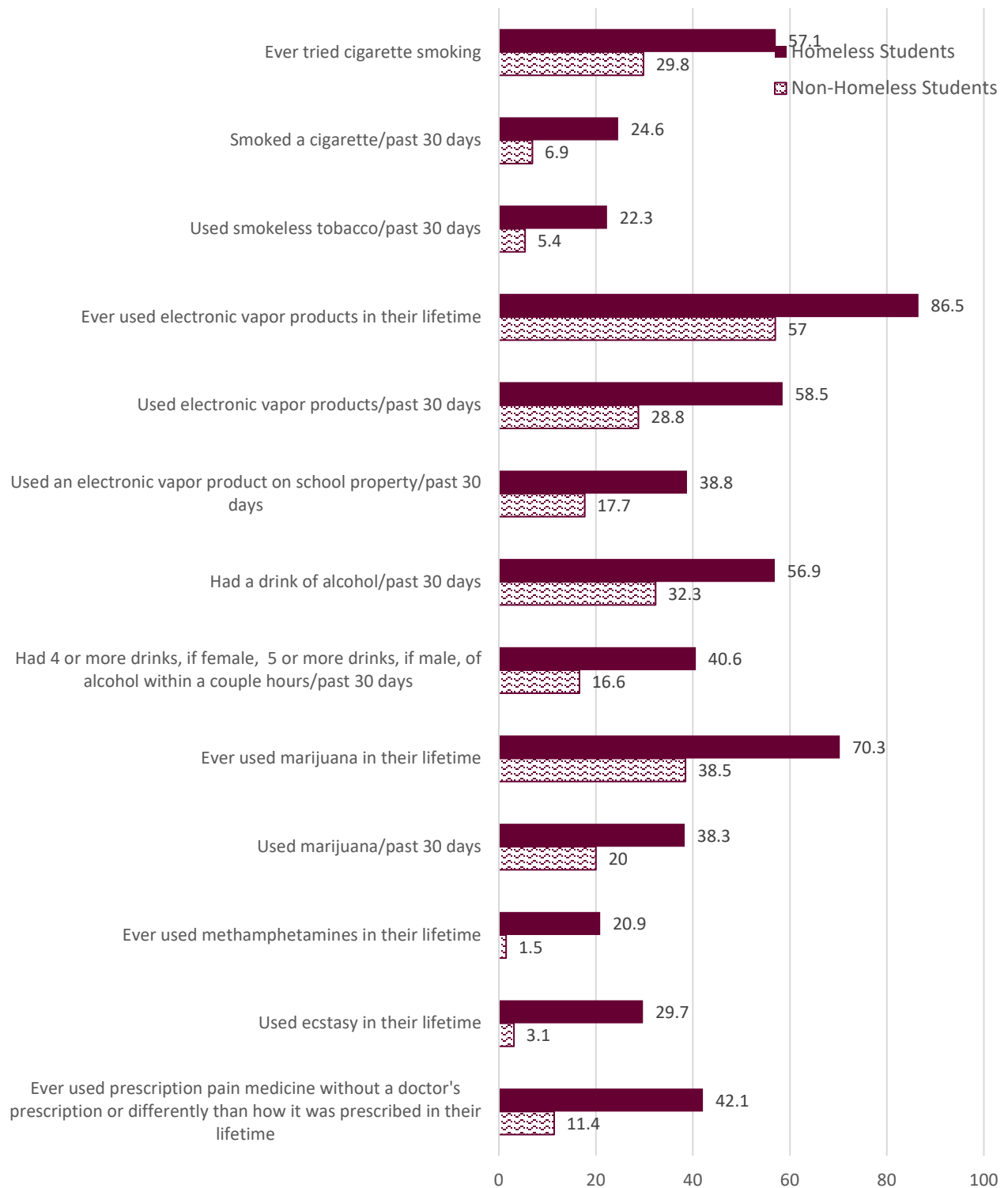
Health Risk Behavior Percentage of students	Students who are not homeless	Students who are homeless	Statistical Difference
Did not drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	<b>32.5%</b> (30.4-34.6)	<b>27.7%</b> (20.3-35.1)	
Did not eat fruit during the past 7 days	<b>10.2%</b> (9.0-11.4)	<b>26.5%</b> (19.9-33.0)	
Did not eat green salad during the past 7 days	<b>34.1%</b> (32.0-36.1)	<b>38.0%</b> (30.3-45.7)	
Did not eat green salad, potatoes, carrots, or other vegetables during the past 7 days	<b>16.5%</b> (14.6-18.5)	<b>28.5%</b> (22.1-34.8)	
Drank soda or pop one or more times per day during the past 7 days	<b>12.4%</b> (10.8-14.0)	<b>24.6%</b> (17.3-31.9)	
Did not drink milk during the past 7 days	<b>23.5%</b> (21.9-25.0)	<b>24.3%</b> (18.2-30.3)	
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of an energy drink (e.g., Red Bull, Jolt) during the past 7 days	<b>3.8%</b> (2.9-4.6)	<b>16.9%</b> (11.1-22.8)	
Did not eat breakfast on any of the past 7 days	<b>13.9%</b> (12.7-15.1)	<b>19.8%</b> (12.2-27.3)	
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	<b>51.5%</b> (49.1-54.0)	<b>42.5%</b> (31.5-53.4)	
Were not physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on any of the past 7 days	<b>11.5%</b> (10.3-12.7)	<b>21.0%</b> (13.0-29.0)	
Watched 3 or more hours of TV on an average school day	<b>19.0%</b> (17.4-20.5)	<b>22.4%</b> (12.9-31.8)	
Played video or computer games 3 or more hours per day on an average school day	<b>37.1%</b> (34.5-39.7)	<b>29.3%</b> (21.9-36.7)	
Had 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	<b>30.4%</b> (28.6-32.3)	<b>19.7%</b> (13.1-26.3)	
Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	<b>77.4%</b> (74.7-80.0)	<b>64.3%</b> (55.6-73.0)	
Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months	<b>14.1%</b> (12.7-15.5)	<b>31.3%</b> (22.5-40.2)	

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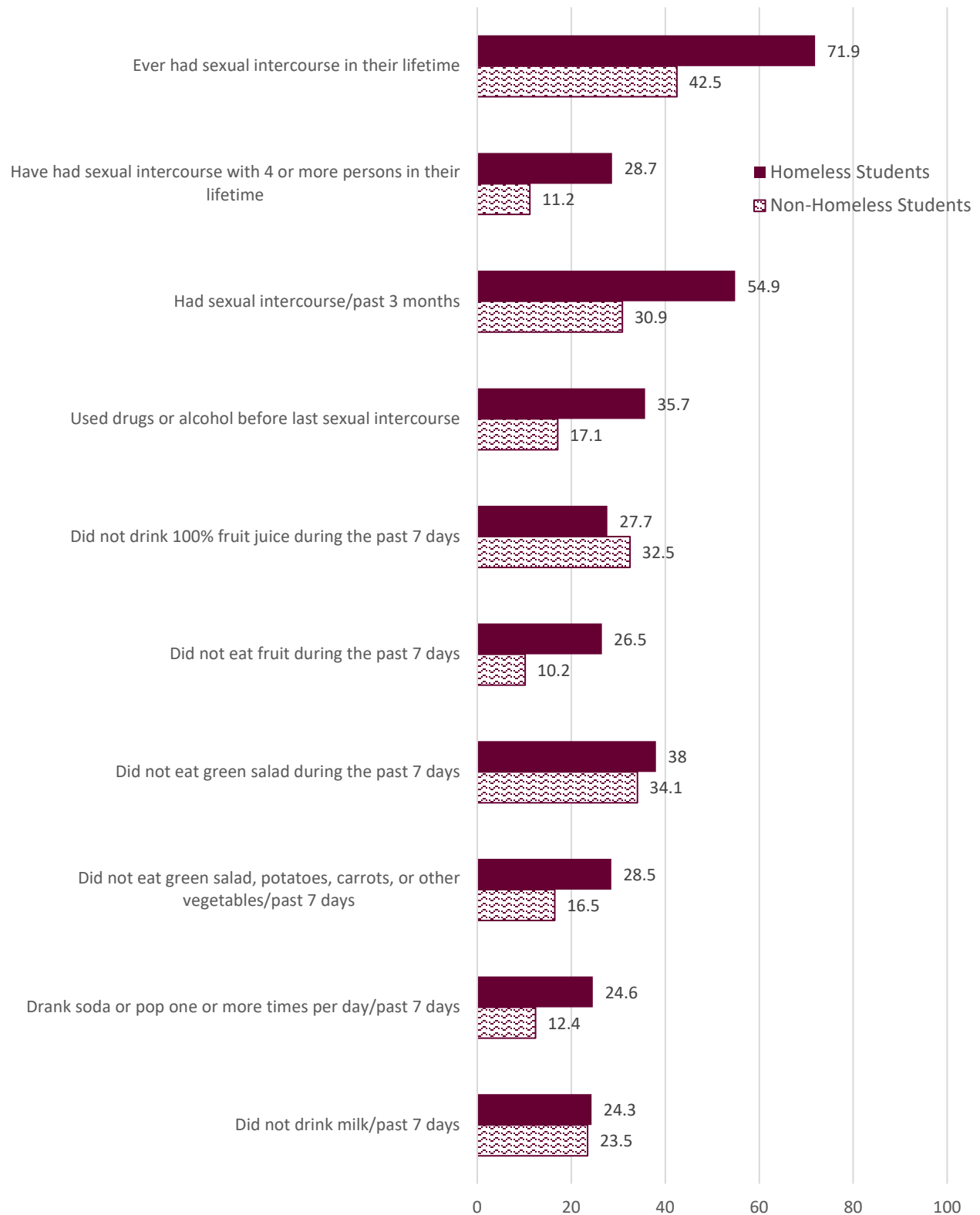




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