

Nevada Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Comparison Report, 2015-2017



Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology

Brian Sandoval, Governor
State of Nevada
Richard Whitley, MS, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Julie Kotchevar, Ph.D., Administrator
Leon Ravin, MD, Interim Chief Medical Officer
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
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Additional Resources

[UNR YRBS Statewide and Special Reports](#)

[YRBS Adolescent and School Health](#)

Nevada YRBS Team Members

State of Nevada, Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Brian Parrish, MPH
YRBS Program Coordinator

University of Nevada, Reno School of Community Health Sciences Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation, and Statistics

Wei Yang, PhD
Professor and YRBS Principal Investigator

Kristen Clements-Nolle, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor and YRBS Co-Principal Investigator

Taylor Lensch, MPH
PhD Graduate Student and YRBS Coordinator

Heather Martin, BS
MPH Graduate Student and Research Assistant

Fannie Zhang, PhD, MS
YRBS Biostatistician

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INTRODUCTION

Priority health risk behaviors (i.e. preventable behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality) are often established during childhood and adolescence and extend into adulthood. Ongoing surveillance of youth risk behaviors is critical for the design, implementation, and evaluation of public health interventions to improve adolescent health. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a national surveillance system that was established in 1991 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the prevalence of health risk behaviors among youth. YRBS data are routinely collected on high school students, but only a few states collect data in middle schools. The Nevada Middle School YRBS is biennial, anonymous and voluntary survey of students in 6th through 8th grade in regular public, charter, and alternative schools. Students self-report their behaviors in five major areas of health that directly lead to morbidity and mortality, these include:

- 1) Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence;
- 2) Tobacco use;
- 3) Alcohol and other drug use;
- 4) Unhealthy dietary behaviors; and
- 5) Physical inactivity.

The Nevada Middle School YRBS provides prevalence estimates for priority risk behaviors and can be used to monitor trends over time.

METHODS

The 2015 and 2017 Nevada YRBS sampling plans were designed to ensure that every eligible student in regular public, charter, and alternative high schools had an equal chance of selection. A random sample of students in grades 6–8 was selected in every school district. For the 2015 Middle School YRBS, 4,535 youth from 113 schools completed the survey. For the 2017 Middle School YRBS, 5,464 youth from 113 schools completed the survey. Please see the 2015 and 2017 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior reports for more information.

The 2015 and 2017 Nevada YRBS data were weighted at the state level and regional level based on the sex, race/ethnicity, and grade level of students in each region (see Table 1). The weighting process ensured that the estimates accurately represent the entire student population in each region and the state as a whole. Non-response or poor sampling procedures can result in a sample that is not a representative subset of the population; therefore un-weighted results from these samples may not accurately reflect student behaviors and could be misleading. This report only displays weighted results.

Substantial revisions to the 2017 Middle School YRBS limited the number of comparisons that could be made with 2015. Differences in the weighted prevalence of 42 comparable risk behaviors from 2015 to 2017 were assessed with weighted chi-square tests. All comparisons are shown in Table 2 and significant changes from 2015 to 2017 ($p < .05$) are displayed in Figures 1-9. The y-axis on Figures 1-9 were set to either 50% or 100% for visual consistency.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of participating students, by sex, age, grade, race/ethnicity, and region — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015 & 2017

		2015 Student Participants ^a	2017 Student Participants ^a	2015 Weighted %	2017 Weighted %
Total		4535	5464	100%	100%
Sex	Female	2394	2825	49.2%	49.1%
	Male	2125	2614	50.8%	50.9%
Age Groups	11 years old or younger	414	713	12.9%	16.9%
	12 years old	1249	1616	31.9%	30.3%
	13 years old	1734	1975	33.8%	34.0%
	14 years old or older	1133	1153	21.5%	18.8%
Grade	6th	895	1475	31.4%	32.3%
	7th	1803	1958	33.8%	33.3%
	8th	1782	1986	34.8%	34.4%
Race/Ethnicity	American Indian/Alaska Native^b	145	179	1.4%	1.0%
	Asian^b	171	193	5.6%	5.7%
	Black^b	224	285	9.9%	10.9%
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander^b	89	105	1.5%	1.5%
	White^b	1623	2014	33.4%	31.8%
	Hispanic/Latino	1857	2162	42.8%	43.5%
	Other/Multiple^b	255	354	5.5%	5.8%
Region	1: Carson City	365	289	1.8%	1.8%
	2: Douglas	54	232	0.9%	1.4%
	3: Elko, White Pine, and Eureka	357	343	1.7%	2.5%
	4: Churchill, Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander	375	371	1.8%	1.7%
	5: Lyon, Mineral, and Storey	169	396	2.2%	2.1%
	6: Nye, Lincoln, and Esmeralda	239	443	1.4%	1.6%
	7: Washoe	1183	1253	15.2%	15.2%
	8: Clark	1793	2137	75.1%	73.6%

^a The sample size in the total and subgroups may differ due to missing data

^b Non-Hispanic

2015 to 2017 Comparison

Table 2: Weighted prevalence estimates of health risk behaviors — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015 to 2017

PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS	2015	2017	CHANGE
Percentage of middle school students who qualify for or received free and reduced lunch at school	46.4	42.9	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who made mostly A's or B's in school (during the 12 months before the survey)	64.0	67.1	No Change
SAFETY			
Percentage of middle school students who rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet (among students who had ridden a bicycle)	75.4	70.3	Significant Decrease
Percentage of middle school students who rarely or never wore a seat belt (when riding in a car driven by someone else)	4.0	5.8	Significant Increase
Percentage of middle school students who ever rode in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol	22.5	21.9	No Change
VIOLENCE-RELATED BEHAVIORS			
Percentage of middle school students who carried a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club during the 12 months before the survey)	4.5	3.2	Significant Decrease
Percentage of middle school students who were in a physical fight on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)	9.1	7.4	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (during the 30 days before the survey)	14.1	5.0	Significant Decrease
Percentage of middle school students who never or rarely feel safe and secure at school	13.3	11.0	Significant Decrease
EMOTIONAL HEALTH			
Percentage of middle school students who have ever done something to purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves on purpose	20.2	18.4	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who ever felt sad or hopeless	31.4	29.3	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who ever seriously considered killing themselves	22.9	21.3	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who made a plan about how you would kill themselves	13.4	15.3	No Change

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EMOTIONAL HEALTH (CONT.)	2015	2017	CHANGE
Percentage of middle school students who ever tried to kill themselves	8.7	8.2	No Change
TOBACCO USE			
Percentage of middle school students who ever tried cigarette smoking (even one or two puffs)	14.4	13.7	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who currently smoked cigarettes (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	2.4	2.2	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who currently frequently smoked cigarettes (on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey)	0.3	0.2	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who currently used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	2.0	1.8	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who currently smoked cigars (cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	3.0	2.3	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who currently used cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	3.5	4.6	No Change
ELECTRONIC VAPOR PRODUCT USE			
Percentage of middle school students who ever used electronic vapor products (including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens)	26.7	18.9	Significant Decrease
Percentage of middle school students who currently used electronic vapor products (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey; including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens)	11.3	6.7	Significant Decrease
ALCOHOL USE			
Percentage of middle school students who ever drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life)	29.4	27.4	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who drank alcohol before age 11 years (for the first time other than a few sips)	11.3	13.0	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who currently drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	10.3	9.2	No Change

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MARIJUANA USE	2015	2017	CHANGE
Percentage of middle school students who ever used marijuana	10.2	9.8	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who tried marijuana before age 11 years (for the first time)	2.7	2.5	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who currently used marijuana (on one or more days during the 30 days before the survey)	3.8	5.2	No Change
OTHER DRUG USE			
Percentage of middle school students who ever used cocaine (any form of cocaine, such as powder, crack, or freebase, one or more times during their life)	2.3	3.6	Significant Increase
Percentage of middle school students who ever used inhalants (sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high, one or more times during their life)	6.5	5.9	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who ever used methamphetamines (also called "speed," "crystal," "crank," or "ice," one or more times during their life)	1.7	1.7	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who ever used synthetic marijuana (also called "K2," "Spice," "fake weed," "King Kong," "Yucatan Fire," "Skunk," or "Moon Rocks") one or more times during their life	4.0	3.3	No Change
DIET			
Percentage of middle school students who were mostly or always hungry (because there was not enough food in the home)	5.4	4.9	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who saw a dentist (for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work during the 12 months before the survey)	62.6	65.3	No Change
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY			
Percentage of middle school students who did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on at least 1 day (doing any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time during the 7 days before the survey)	12.3	14.0	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more days (doing any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time during the 7 days before the survey)	56.6	53.3	No Change

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PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (CONT.)	2015	2017	CHANGE
Percentage of middle school students who were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on all 7 days (doing any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time (during the 7 days before the survey)	33.0	29.6	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who attended physical education classes on 1 or more days (in an average week when they were in school)	58.4	62.6	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who attended physical education classes on all 5 days (in an average week when they were in school)	43.5	44.0	No Change
Percentage of middle school students who played on at least one sports team (run by their school or community groups during the 12 months before the survey)	54.8	50.1	Significant Decrease
Percentage of middle school students who had 9 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	27.9	27.2	No Change
RESILIENCE			
Percentage of middle school students who reported their parents or other adults in their family most of the time or always ask where they are going or with whom they will be	49.9	50.1	No Change

INDICATORS WITH A STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE FROM 2015 TO 2017

Safety

Figure 1: Percentage of middle school students who rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet (among students who had ridden a bicycle) — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017

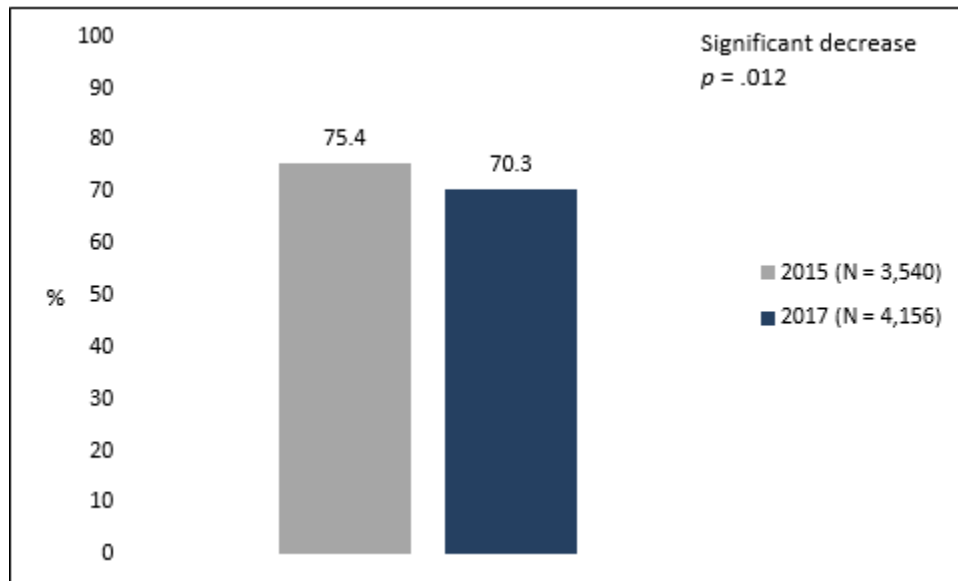
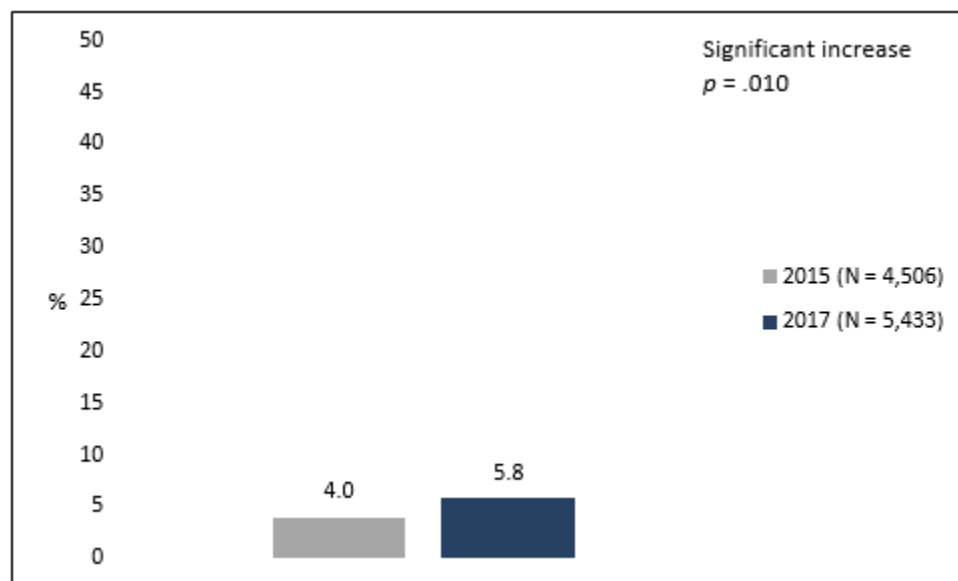


Figure 2: Percentage of middle school students who rarely or never wore a seat belt (when riding in a car driven by someone else) — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017



Violence-Related Behaviors

Figure 3: Percentage of middle school students who carried a weapon on school property (such as a gun, knife, or club during the 12 months before the survey) — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017

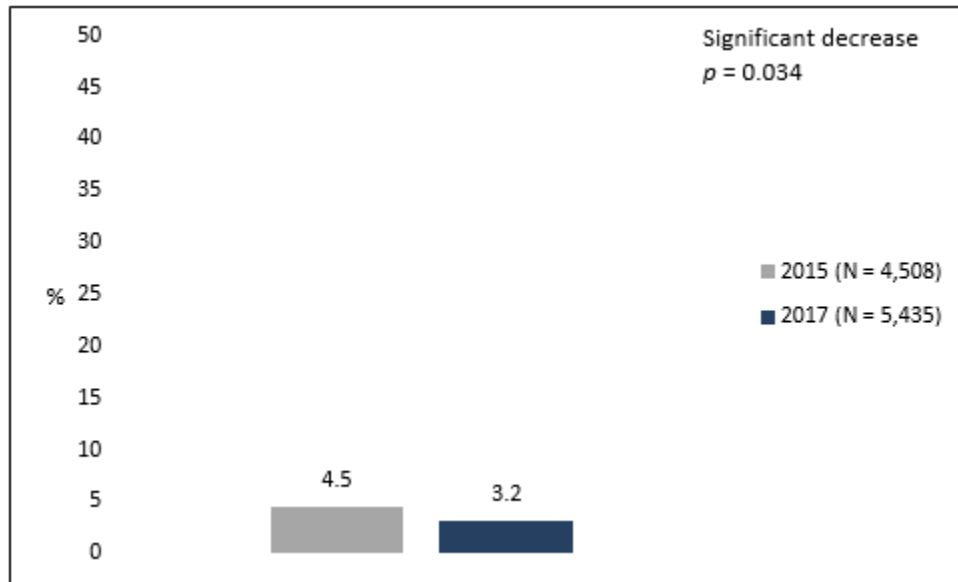


Figure 4: Percentage of middle school students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (during the 30 days before the survey) — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017

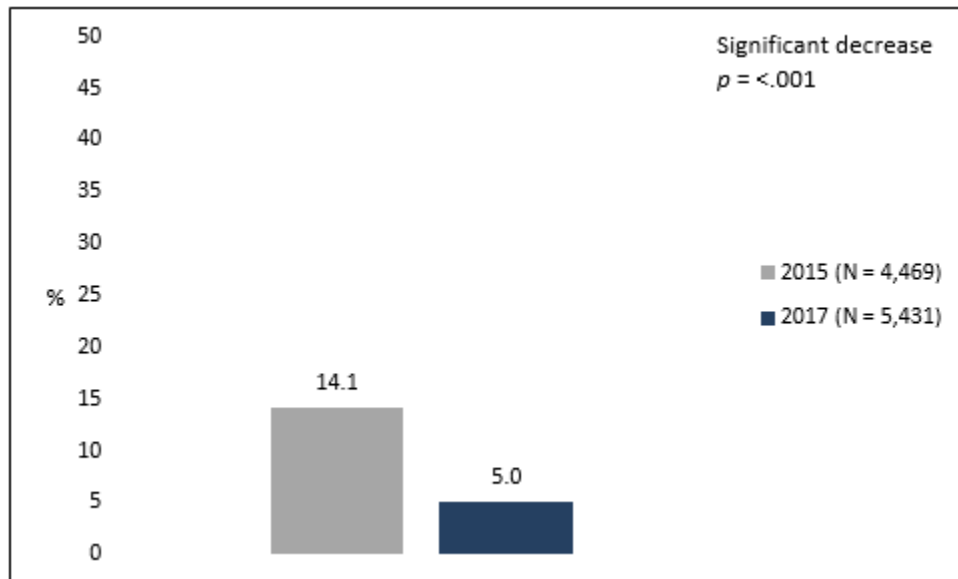
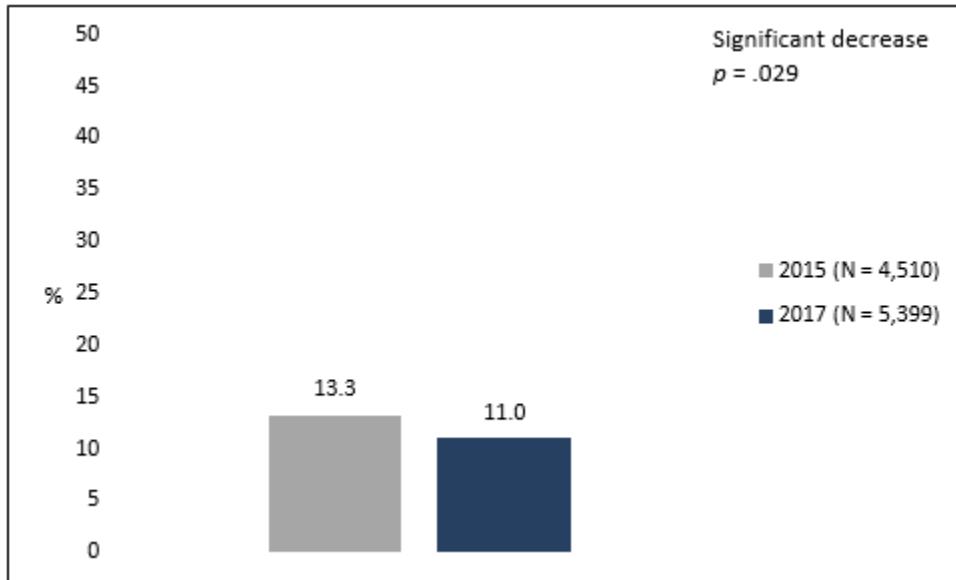


Figure 5: Percentage of middle school students who never or rarely feel safe and secure at school — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017



Electronic Vapor Product Use

Figure 6: Percentage of middle school students who ever used electronic vapor products (including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens) — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017

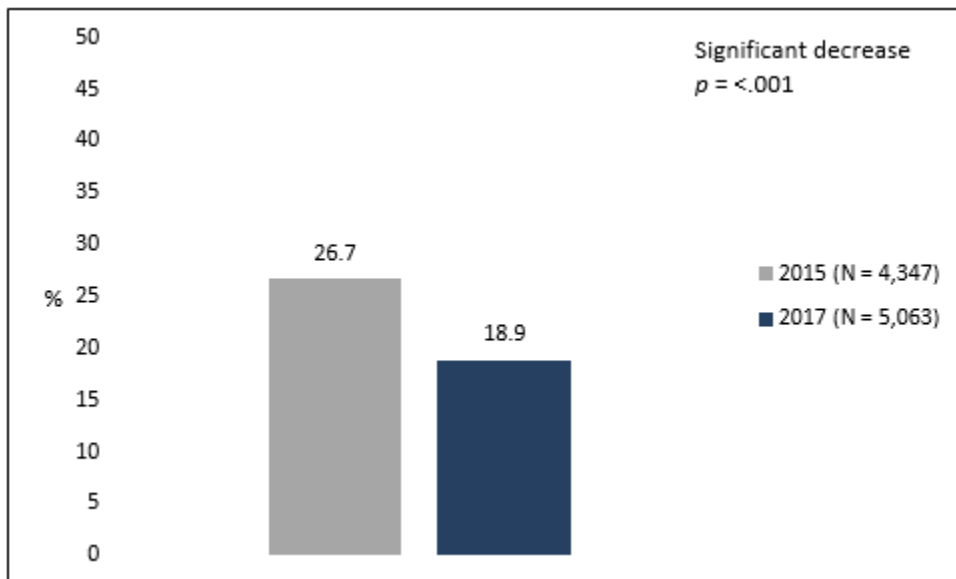
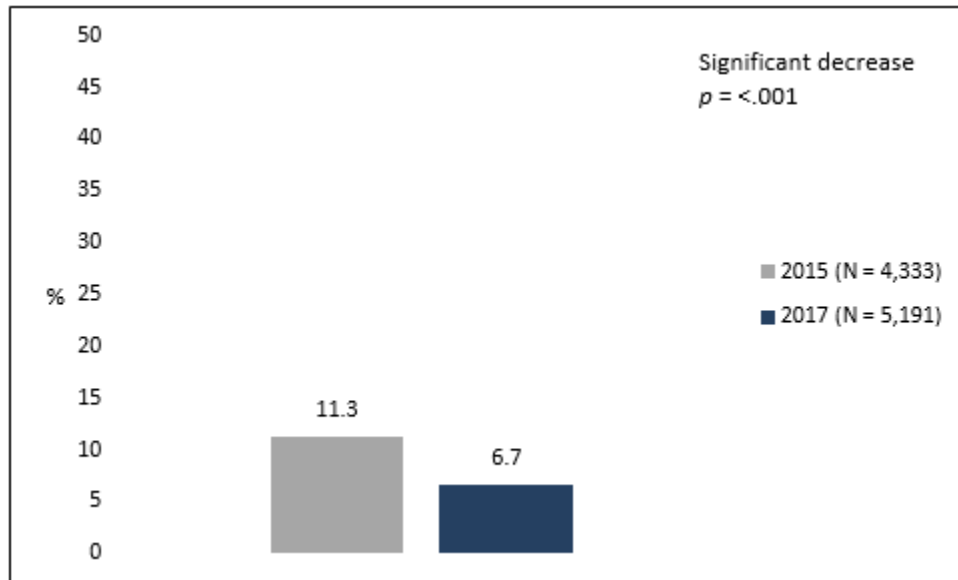
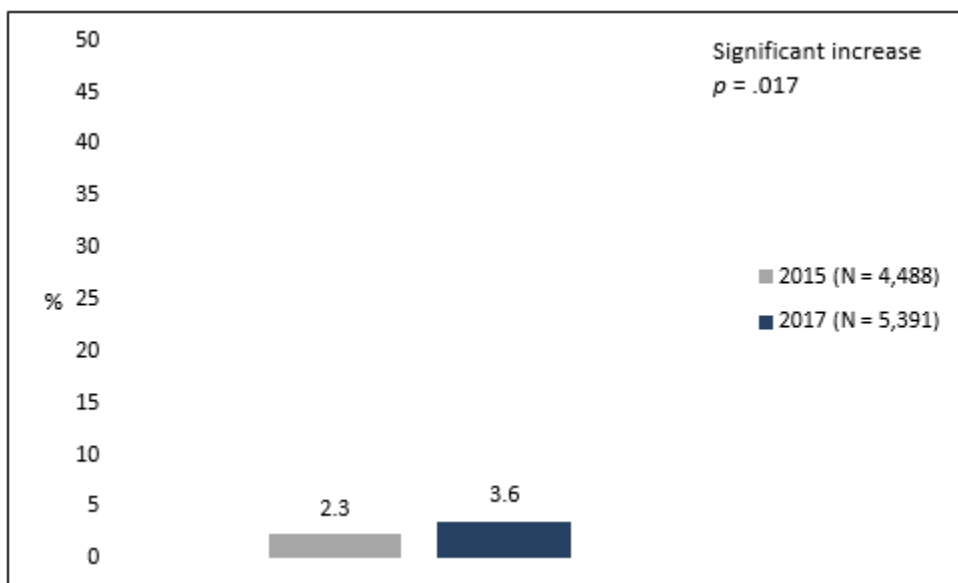


Figure 7: Percentage of middle school students who currently used electronic vapor products (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey; including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens) — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017



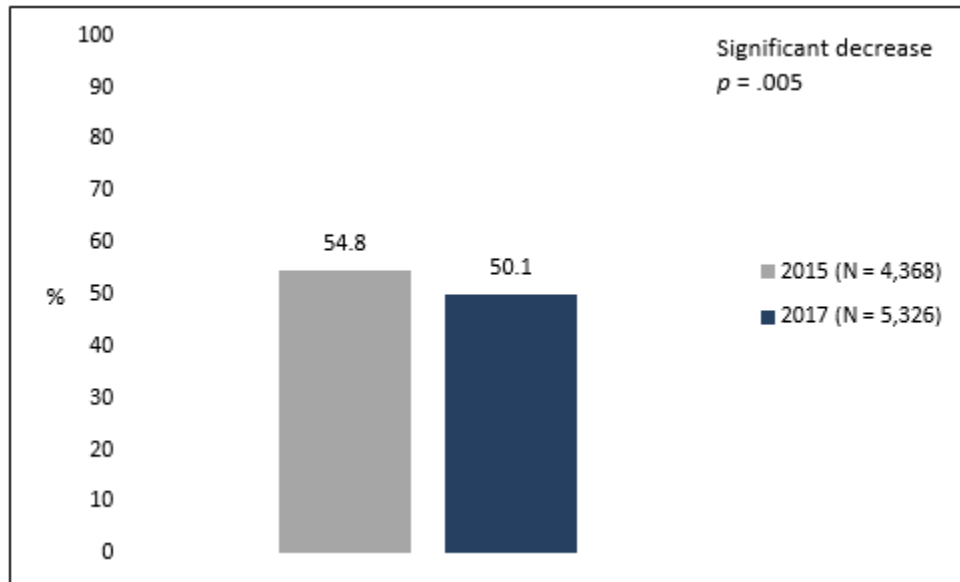
Other Drug Use

Figure 8: Percentage of middle school students who ever used cocaine (any form of cocaine, such as powder, crack, or freebase, one or more times during their life) — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017



Physical Activity

Figure 9: Percentage of middle school students who played on at least one sports team (run by their school or community groups during the 12 months before the survey) — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2017



For additional information regarding this report, contact:

Taylor Lensch, MPH
University of Nevada, Reno
School of Community Health Sciences
tlensch@unr.edu
775-682-6999

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Brian Parrish, MPH
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
bparrish@health.nv.gov
775-684-5291

[Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health](#)

