

2013 NM-YRRS Results: Behavior Comparisons, New Mexico and United States

National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results released in June allow comparisons between New Mexico and US high school students. In 2013, compared to their US peers, NM students had higher rates of drug use (including lifetime use of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and using marijuana before age 13). NM students also had higher rates for physical fighting on school property and carrying weapons. While NM students had a higher rate of drinking alcohol before age 13, they were less likely to engage in binge drinking. NM students were less likely to be sexually active, and had healthier rates for behaviors related

to diet (daily soda consumption) and physical activity (daily physical activity and time spent watching television).

For more US-NM comparisons of high school risk behaviors, see www.youthrisk.org or nmhealth.org/go/youth. Sources: 2013 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)

Indicator	NM% (95% CI)	US% (95% CI)	p-value	Healthier Behavior (US or NM)
Unintentional Injuries and Violence				
Carried a weapon (in the past 30 days)	22.2 (20.4–24.1)	17.9 (16.5–19.4)	0.00	US
In a physical fight on school property (in the past 12 months)	9.7 (8.4–11.0)	8.1 (7.5–8.9)	0.00	US
Alcohol Use				
First drank alcohol before age 13	22.3 (20.4–24.2)	18.6 (17.2–20.0)	0.00	US
Binge drinking (5+ drinks of alcohol on at least one single occasion in the past 30 days)	17.1 (15.4–19.0)	20.8 (19.1–22.7)	0.00	NM
Drug Use				
First tried marijuana before age 13 years	17.3 (14.6–20.4)	8.6 (7.4–10.1)	0.00	US
Ever used cocaine	10.3 (8.1–13.0)	5.5 (4.7–6.6)	0.00	US
Ever used heroin	4.0 (3.2–5.0)	2.2 (1.7–2.8)	0.00	US
Ever used methamphetamines	5.0 (3.8–6.5)	3.2 (2.6–4.0)	0.02	US
Offered illegal drugs on school property (in the past 12 months)	32.8 (30.6–35.0)	22.1 (20.2–24.1)	0.00	US
Sexual Behaviors				
Were currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse at least once in the past 3 months)	26.8 (23.9–30.0)	34.0 (31.6–36.5)	0.00	NM
Dietary Behaviors				
Daily soda consumption	21.2 (19.1–23.4)	27.0 (23.8–30.5)	0.00	NM

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