

2019 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey



School Safety Report

A Health Risk Behavior Comparison of
Montana High School Students Who Felt
Unsafe at School or on Their Way to or From School

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Program
Health Enhancement and Safety Division
August 2020

2019 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey – School Safety 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.

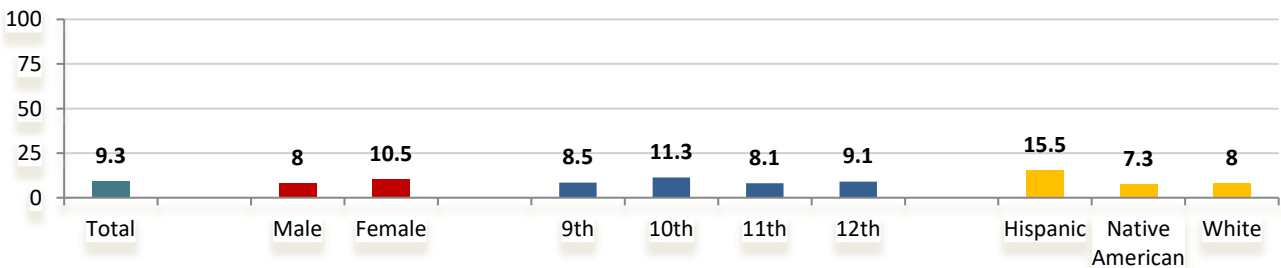
Survey Validity, Limitations and Results

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 Montana high school students in grades 9 through 12. 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 this report, the 9.3 percent of Montana high school students classified as feeling unsafe at school are those students who reported *during the past 30 days, that they did not go to school on one or more days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school*. Fifty-four separate risk behaviors were queried for association with feeling unsafe at school. These findings are presented in bullet, table, and graph forms in the following report.

MONTANA - DID NOT GO TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS

During the past 30 days, 9.3 percent of Montana high school students did not go to school on one or more days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.



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

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Findings

Montana high school students who felt unsafe at school are more likely than those students who felt safe at school to have:

- Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (30% of students who felt unsafe at school, 18% of students who felt safe at school).
- Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (14% of students who felt unsafe at school, 6% of students who felt safe at school).
- Been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months (28% of students who felt unsafe at school, 6% of students who felt safe at school).
- Ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (23% of students who felt unsafe at school, 8% of students who felt safe at school).
- Been bullied on school property during the past 12 months (48% of students who felt unsafe at school, 19% of students who felt safe at school).
- Been electronically bullied during the past 12 months (44% of students who felt unsafe at school, 15% of students who felt safe at school).
- Been the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months (31% of students who felt unsafe at school, 12% of students who felt safe at school).
- Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months (66% of students who felt unsafe at school, 34% of students who felt safe at school).
- Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (47% of students who felt unsafe at school, 21% of students who felt safe at school).
- Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months (41% of students who felt unsafe at school, 17% of students who felt safe at school).
- Attempted suicide during the past 12 months (29% of students who felt unsafe at school, 8% of students who felt safe at school).
- Ever tried cigarette smoking (40% of students who felt unsafe at school, 30% of students who felt safe at school).
- Currently smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days (14% of students who felt unsafe at school, 7% of students who felt safe at school).
- Currently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days (14% of students who felt unsafe at school, 7% of students who felt safe at school).
- Ever used electronic vapor products (73% of students who felt unsafe at school, 57% of students who felt safe at school).
- Currently used an electronic vapor product during the past 30 days (49% of students who felt unsafe at school, 28% of students who felt safe at school).
- Used an electronic vapor product on school property during the past 30 days (33% of students who felt unsafe at school, 17% of students who felt safe at school).
- Currently used electronic vapor products frequently; 20 or more of the past 30 days (24% of students who felt unsafe at school, 12% of students who felt safe at school).
- Currently used electronic vapor products daily; each of the past 30 days (17% of students who felt unsafe at school, 8% of students who felt safe at school).
- Currently smoked cigarettes or cigars or used smokeless tobacco or electronic vapor products during the past 30 days (53% of students who felt unsafe at school, 32% of students who felt safe at school).
- Had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days (52% of students who felt unsafe at school, 32% of students who felt safe at school).
- Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days (27% of students who felt unsafe at school, 17% of students who felt safe at school).

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





Montana high school students who felt unsafe at school are ***more likely*** than those students who felt safe at school to have:

- Ever used marijuana in their lifetime (55% of students who felt unsafe at school, 39% of students who felt safe at school).
- Used marijuana during the past 30 days (37% of students who felt unsafe at school, 20% of students who felt safe at school).
- Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime (5% of students who felt unsafe at school, 2% of students who felt safe at school).
- Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime (11% of students who felt unsafe at school, 4% of students who felt safe at school).
- Ever took prescription pain medicine (such as Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone and Percocet) without a doctor’s prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (24% of students who felt unsafe at school, 12% of students who felt safe at school).
- Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime (57% of students who felt unsafe at school, 42% of students who felt safe at school).
- Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months (40% of students who felt unsafe at school, 31% of students who felt safe at school).
- Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (29% of students who felt unsafe at school, 17% of students who felt safe at school).
- Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days (20% of students who felt unsafe at school, 12% of students who felt safe at school).
- Drank a can, bottle, or glass of an energy drink daily during the past 7 days (11% of students who felt unsafe at school, 4% of students who felt safe at school).
- Not eaten breakfast during the past 7 days (21% of students who felt unsafe at school, 13% of students who felt safe at school).
- Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months (25% of students who felt unsafe at school, 14% of students who felt safe at school).
- Did not usually sleep in their parent’s or guardian’s home during the past 30 days (7% of students who felt unsafe at school, 3% of students who felt safe at school).
- Had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active during the past 12 months (25% of students who felt unsafe at school, 16% of students who felt safe at school).

















Montana high school students who felt unsafe at school are ***less likely*** than those students who felt safe at school to have:

- Been physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days (40% of students who felt unsafe at school, 52% of students who felt safe at school).
- Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (21% of students who felt unsafe at school, 31% of students who felt safe at school).









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Health Risk Behavior <small>Percentage of students</small>	Felt Unsafe at School or on Their Way to or From School	Felt Safe at School	Statistical Difference
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else	9.6% <small>(5.6-13.5)</small>	7.2% <small>(5.8-8.6)</small>	
Never or rarely wore a seat belt when driving	7.9% <small>(4.2-11.7)</small>	7.1% <small>(5.8-8.5)</small>	
Rode with a driver who had been drinking during the past 30 days	29.9% <small>(24.7-35.1)</small>	17.9% <small>(16.6-19.2)</small>	
Drove when drinking alcohol during the past 30 days	14.0% <small>(8.9-19.1)</small>	6.4% <small>(5.2-7.6)</small>	
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days	60.6% <small>(52.9-68.2)</small>	52.5% <small>(49.6-55.5)</small>	
Used the Internet or apps on a cell phone while driving during the past 30 days	50.7% <small>(43.8-57.5)</small>	45.3% <small>(42.9-47.7)</small>	
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days	29.6% <small>(24.0-35.2)</small>	22.5% <small>(20.5-24.5)</small>	
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the past 12 months	28.2% <small>(23.7-32.6)</small>	5.7% <small>(4.7-6.7)</small>	
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	22.8% <small>(18.3-27.3)</small>	8.4% <small>(7.2-9.6)</small>	
Were bullied on school property during the past 12 months	47.6% <small>(42.9-52.2)</small>	19.4% <small>(17.6-21.2)</small>	
Were electronically bullied (texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media) during the past 12 months	43.8% <small>(38.8-48.8)</small>	15.1% <small>(13.7-16.5)</small>	
Were the victim of teasing or name calling because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the past 12 months	30.5% <small>(24.9-36.1)</small>	11.6% <small>(10.4-12.7)</small>	
Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 12 months	65.9% <small>(61.3-70.6)</small>	33.7% <small>(31.7-35.6)</small>	
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	47.1% <small>(41.3-52.8)</small>	20.9% <small>(19.2-22.6)</small>	
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	41.1% <small>(35.2-47.1)</small>	17.3% <small>(15.9-18.7)</small>	
Attempted suicide during the past 12 months	28.7% <small>(23.0-34.4)</small>	8.1% <small>(6.7-9.5)</small>	
Ever tried cigarette smoking	40.2% <small>(34.1-46.3)</small>	30.1% <small>(27.6-32.6)</small>	
Currently smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days	13.8% <small>(9.5-18.1)</small>	7.0% <small>(5.8-8.2)</small>	
Currently used smokeless tobacco during the past 30 days	9.9% <small>(6.2-13.7)</small>	5.8% <small>(4.7-6.8)</small>	
Currently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days	14.3% <small>(10.2-18.5)</small>	6.7% <small>(5.4-7.9)</small>	

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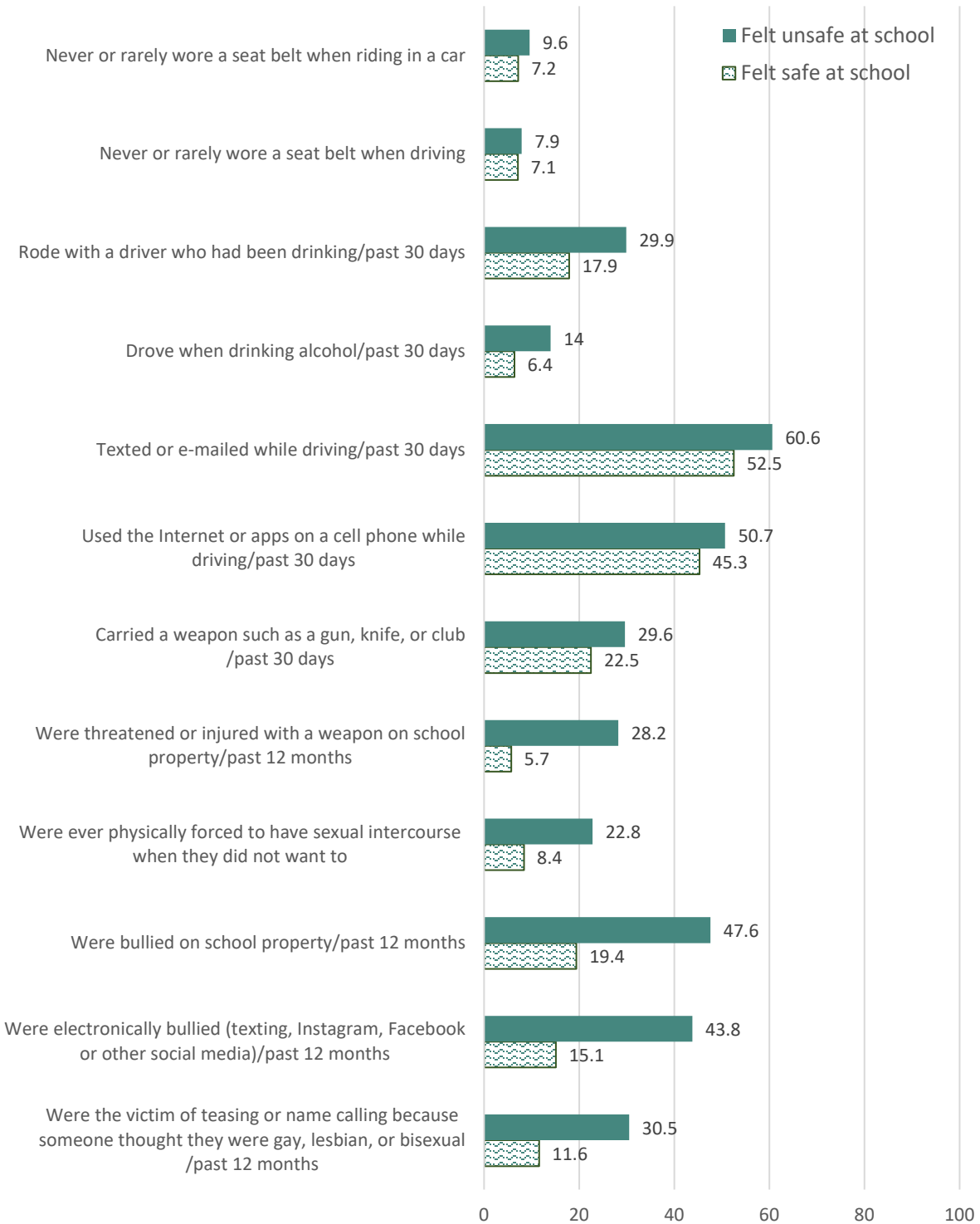
Health Risk Behavior Percentage of students	Felt Unsafe at School or on Their Way to or From School	Felt Safe at School	Statistical Difference
Ever used electronic vapor products	72.5% (68.1-76.9)	56.9% (54.0-59.7)	
Currently used electronic vapor products during the past 30 days	49.4% (43.6-55.2)	28.3% (25.8-30.8)	
Used an electronic vapor product on school property during the past 30 days	32.9% (27.3-38.6)	17.4% (15.7-19.1)	
Currently used electronic vapor products frequently (on 20 or more of the past 30 days)	23.5% (18.6-28.3)	11.6% (10.0-13.2)	
Currently used electronic vapor products daily (on all the past 30 days)	16.7% (12.8-20.6)	7.9% (6.6-9.3)	
Currently smoked cigarettes or cigars or used smokeless tobacco or electronic vapor products during the past 30 days	52.8% (47.0-58.7)	31.5% (29.0-34.1)	
Currently drank alcohol during the past 30 days	51.7% (45.9-57.6)	31.5% (29.2-33.8)	
Had 4 or more drinks, if female, 5 or more drinks, if male, of alcohol within a couple hours during the past 30 days	26.7% (21.6-31.7)	16.6% (14.9-18.4)	
Ever used marijuana in their lifetime	54.5% (48.8-60.0)	38.5% (35.3-41.8)	
Currently used marijuana during the past 30 days	37.1% (30.7-43.4)	19.5% (17.3-21.6)	
Ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime	5.2% (2.7-7.7)	1.8% (1.2-2.5)	
Ever used ecstasy in their lifetime	10.5% (7.5-13.5)	3.5% (2.7-4.4)	
Ever took prescription pain medicine (such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone and Percocet) without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it	23.6% (18.7-28.4)	11.6% (10.3-12.9)	
Ever had sexual intercourse in their lifetime	57.1% (52.2-62.0)	42.4% (39.5-45.3)	
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	16.7% (12.5-20.8)	11.7% (10.3-13.1)	
Had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months	39.8% (34.8-44.7)	30.9% (28.3-33.6)	
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse	28.8% (20.5-37.1)	17.0% (14.7-19.3)	
Did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days	5.7% (2.7-8.7)	5.3% (4.5-6.1)	
Did not eat fruit during the past 7 days	12.0% (7.9-16.1)	10.7% (9.4-11.9)	
Did not eat a green salad during the past 7 days	34.4% (28.9-39.9)	34.3% (32.2-36.4)	

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Health Risk Behavior <small>Percentage of students</small>	Felt Unsafe at School or on Their Way to or From School	Felt Safe at School	Statistical Difference
Did not eat any vegetables (green salad, potatoes, carrots, or other vegetables) during the past 7 days	19.0% <small>(14.7-23.4)</small>	16.9% <small>(14.8-18.9)</small>	
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop daily during the past 7 days	19.5% <small>(15.4-23.6)</small>	12.2% <small>(10.7-13.7)</small>	
Drank a can, bottle, or glass of an energy drink daily during the past 7 days	11.0% <small>(7.2-14.7)</small>	3.7% <small>(2.9-4.4)</small>	
Did not drink milk during the past 7 days	24.9% <small>(20.5-29.3)</small>	23.4% <small>(21.8-24.9)</small>	
Did not eat breakfast on any of the past 7 days	21.0% <small>(16.3-25.8)</small>	13.4% <small>(12.1-14.6)</small>	
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more of the past 7 days	39.6% <small>(35.1-44.2)</small>	52.2% <small>(49.6-54.8)</small>	
Played on at least one sports team during the past 12 months	56.6% <small>(50.7-62.6)</small>	61.2% <small>(58.7-63.6)</small>	
Watched 3 or more hours of TV on an average school day	22.1% <small>(17.7-26.6)</small>	18.8% <small>(17.1-20.5)</small>	
Screen time - Played video or computer games or used a computer 3 or more hours per day (counting time spent on things such as Xbox, PlayStation, an iPad or other tablet, a smartphone, texting, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media, for something that was not school work, on an average school day)	37.8% <small>(32.5-43.2)</small>	36.7% <small>(34.0-39.3)</small>	
Got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	21.3% <small>(16.6-26.0)</small>	30.9% <small>(28.9-32.8)</small>	
Made mostly A's or B's in school during the past 12 months	69.1% <small>(63.2-75.1)</small>	77.6% <small>(75.0-80.2)</small>	
Received help from a resource teacher, speech therapist, or other special education teacher during the past 12 months	24.6% <small>(20.4-28.9)</small>	13.9% <small>(12.3-15.5)</small>	
Did not usually sleep in their parent's or guardian's home during the past 30 days	7.4% <small>(4.7-10.1)</small>	3.1% <small>(2.3-3.9)</small>	
Had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active during the past 12 months	25.4% <small>(20.9-30.0)</small>	15.6% <small>(14.2-17.0)</small>	

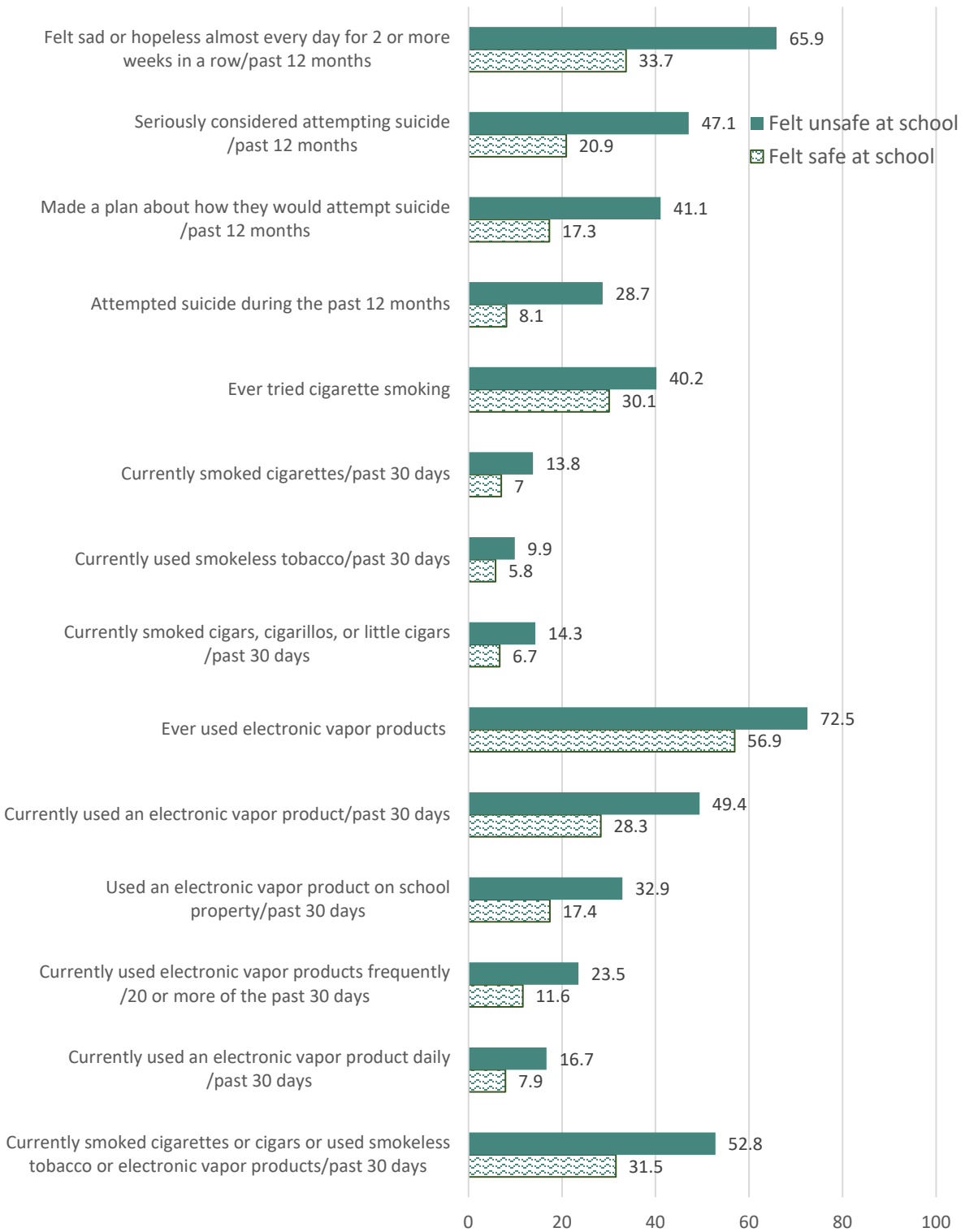
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(Graph - Percentage of students)



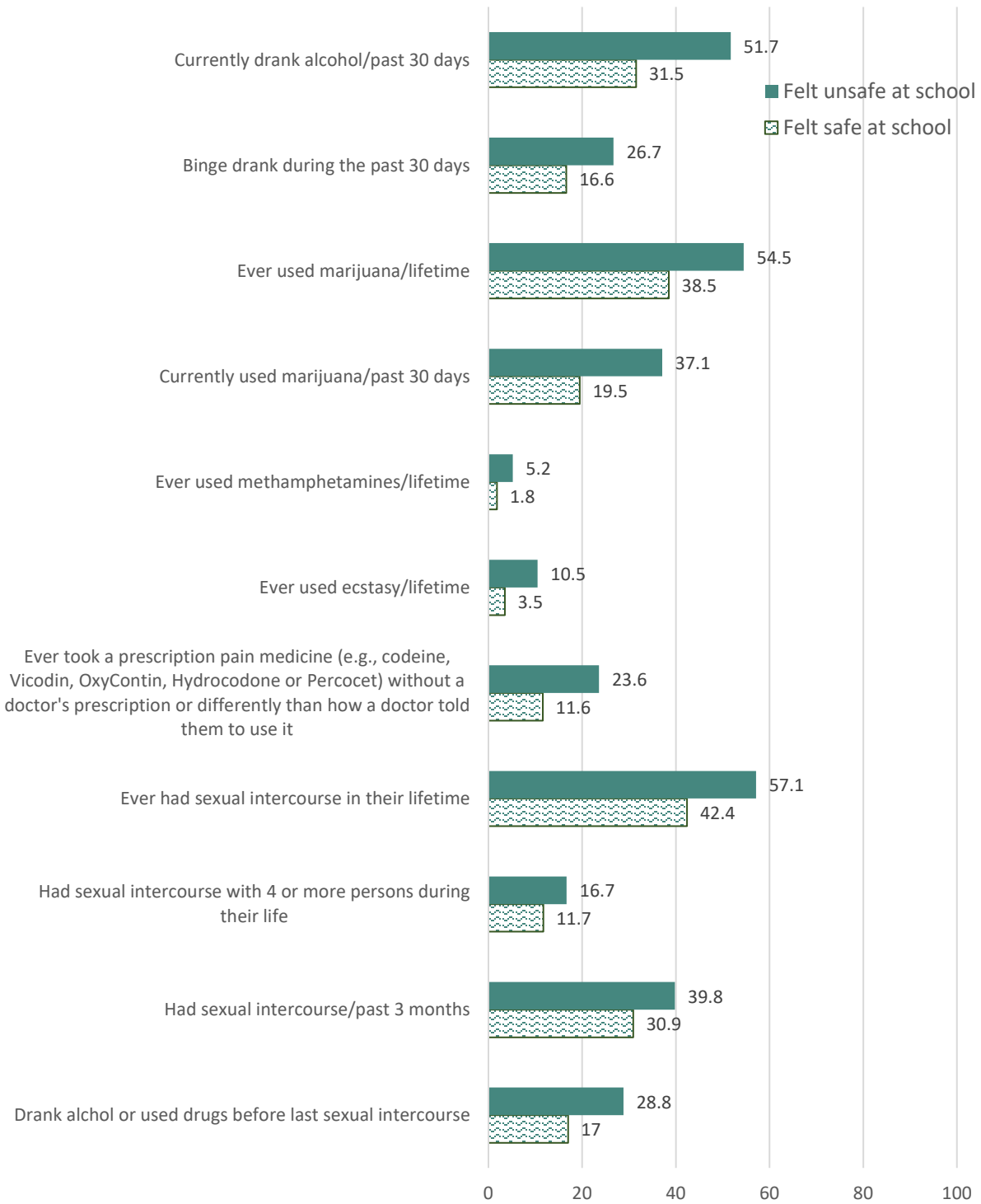
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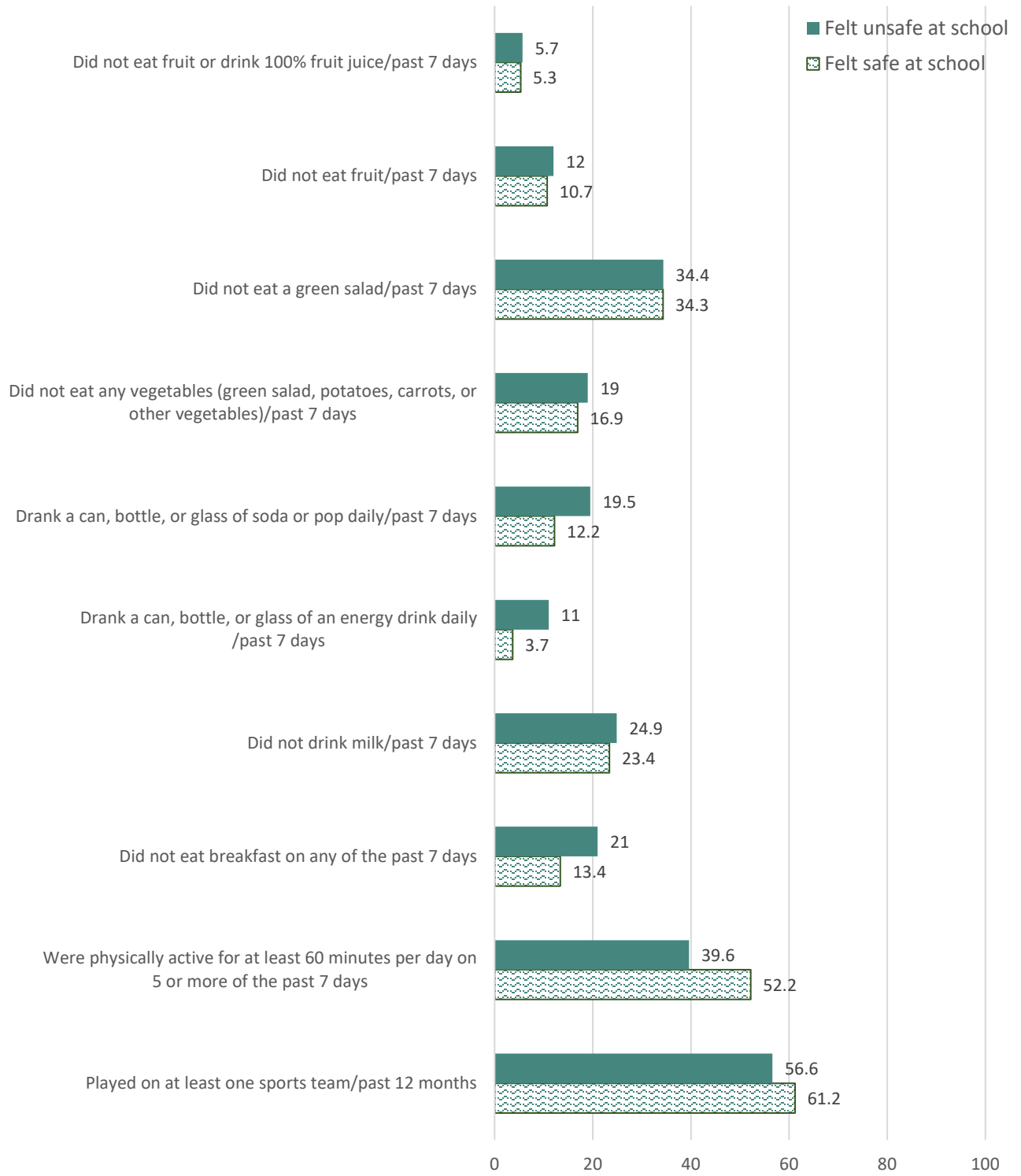
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