

MARIJUANA USE

among American Indian Youth in New Mexico 2013

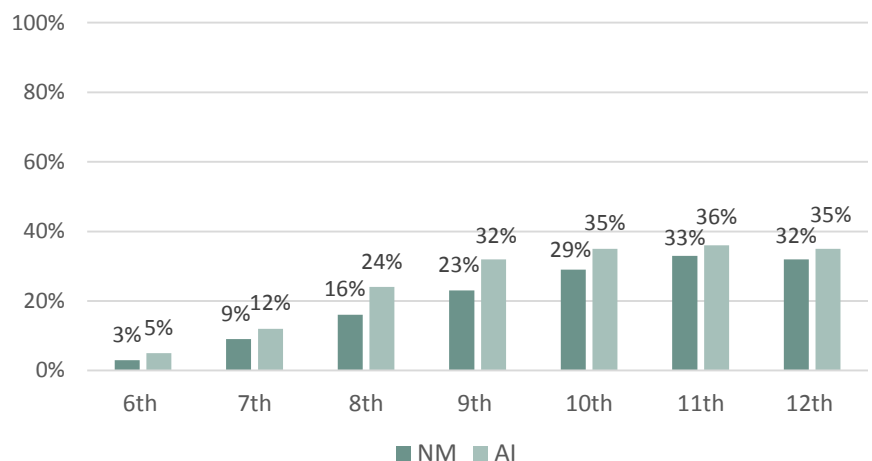


This fact sheet presents data on health risk behaviors among American Indian (AI) high school and middle school students in New Mexico. Comparisons are also made between the New Mexico AI student population and the all-race student population of New Mexico. The data comes from the 2013 NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), which seeks to better characterize risk behaviors and protective factors among youth in New Mexico.

MARIJUANA

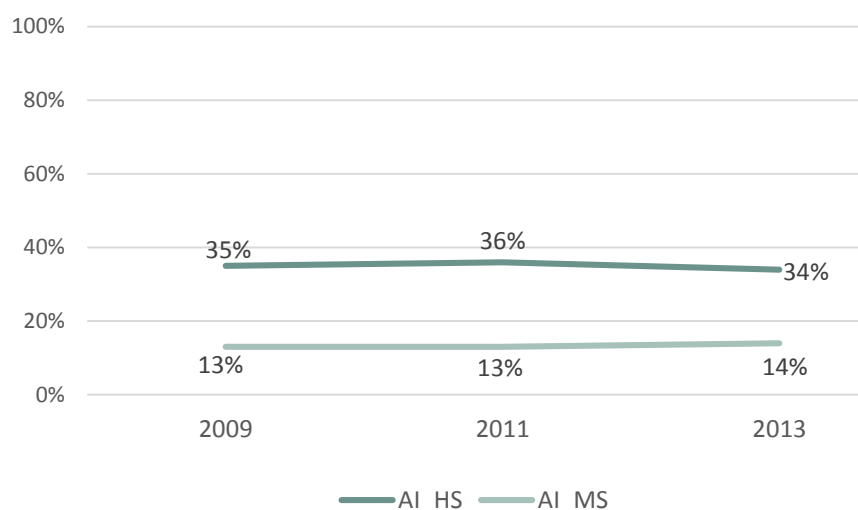
New Mexico Students who are Current Marijuana Users by Grade

Current marijuana use among American Indian students increases through middle school and high school, peaking in the 11th grade (36%). A higher percentage of American Indian youth have used marijuana in the past 30 days compared to the statewide New Mexico youth population in all grades (6-12). The difference was statistically significant for 10th and 12th grade.



Trends in Current Marijuana Use Among American Indian Middle School and High School Students

There has been no significant change in current marijuana use (past 30 days) among American Indian high school and middle school students from 2009-2013.



NOTE: There is NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE in marijuana use by gender

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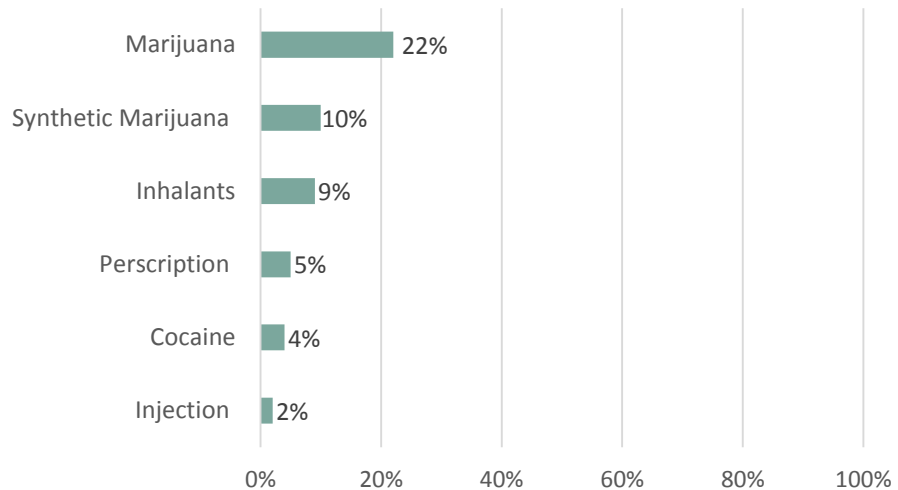
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MIDDLE SCHOOL

Types of Drugs EVER Tried by American Indian Middle School Students

In 2013, marijuana was the most commonly tried drug among American Indian (AI) middle school students. A little over 1 in 5 middle school students have ever tried marijuana (22%). Synthetic marijuana (10%) and inhalants (9%) were the second and third most commonly tried drugs.



Protective Factors* against Marijuana Use

- Parent(s) Monitors Student
- Participation in Community Activities

Risk Factors* of Marijuana Use

- Smokes at Least One Cigarette Everyday
- Binge Drinker
- Ever used Prescription Drugs Improperly

* All risk and protective factors are statistically significant and are listed in order from strongest to weakest association with marijuana use among American Indian middle school students.

68% OF AMERICAN INDIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENT MARIJUANA USERS HAVE USED SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

WHAT IS SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA?

Synthetic marijuana, also known as **K2, Spice, Bizarro, Scooby Snax, Skunk, Moon Rocks, Kryp2nite and Stoopid**, is a mixture of herb spices sprayed with chemicals that mimic *tetrahydrocannabinol* (THC), a psychoactive ingredient found in naturally grown marijuana plant. Although it is available at convenience store, smoke shops, and online, synthetic marijuana has toxic chemicals that can cause life-threatening health consequences such as strokes, kidney damage, and death. **National Institute on Drug Abuse:** <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cannabinoids>

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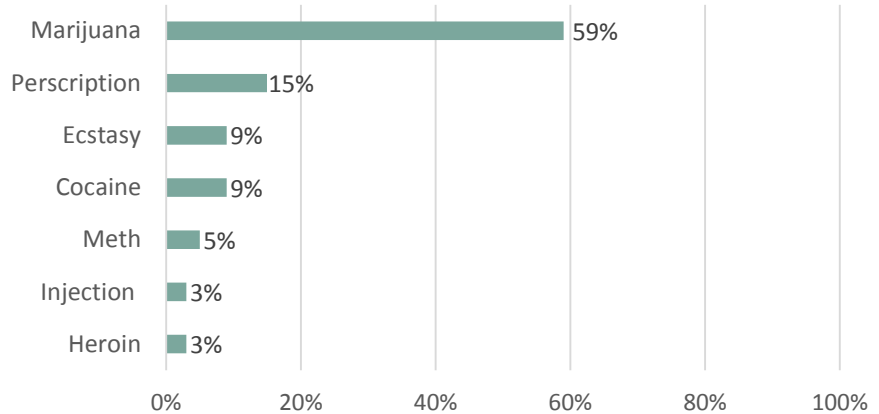
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HIGH SCHOOL

Types of Drugs EVER Tried by American Indian High School Students

In 2013, marijuana was the most commonly tried drug among American Indian (AI) high school students. Over half of all of AI high school students (59%) have ever tried marijuana. Prescription drugs were the second most commonly tried drug at 15%.



Protective Factors* against Marijuana Use

- Parent(s) Monitor Student
- Involved in Extra-Curricular Activities
- Teacher/ Adult Listens to Student at School

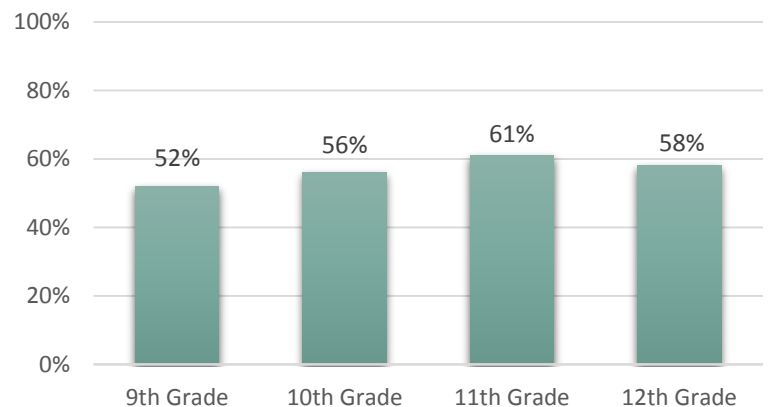
Risk Factors* of Marijuana Use

- Any Current Tobacco Use Including Hookah
- Ever Take Prescription Drugs without Rx
- Know Adult(s) who use Drugs

* All risk and protective factors are statistically significant and are listed in order from strongest to weakest association with marijuana use among American Indian high school students

American Indian High School Students who know an Adult who used Drugs in the Past Year by Grade

More than half of American Indian high school students know an adult who used marijuana, cocaine, or other drugs in the past year.



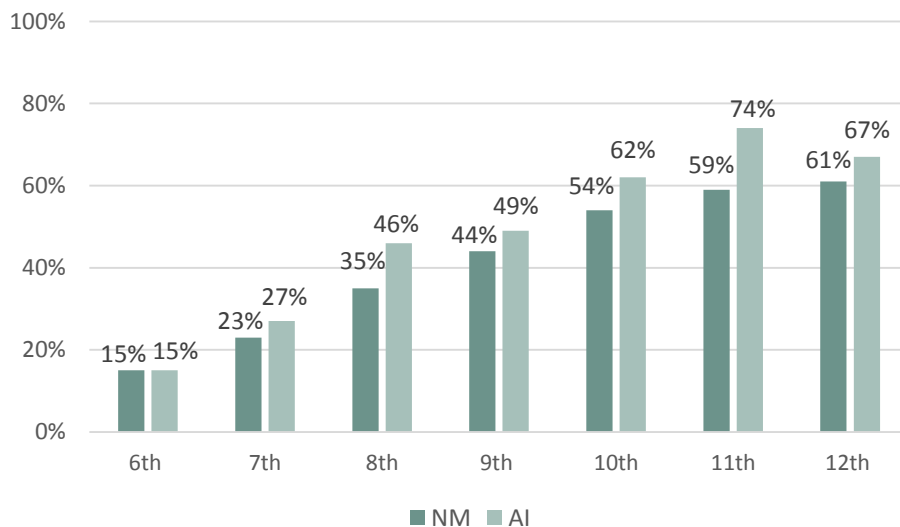
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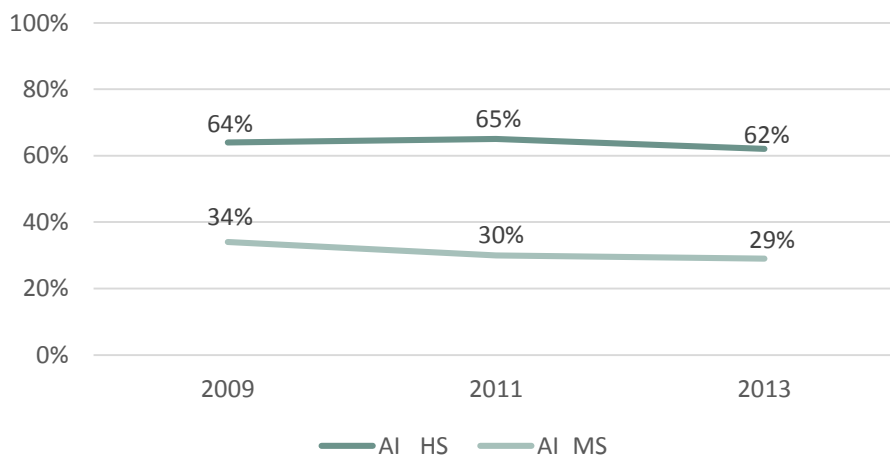
New Mexico Students who have EVER Tried Drugs by Grade

A higher percentage of American Indian youth have tried drugs in comparison to the statewide New Mexico youth population. While there is no difference between the two populations in 6th grade, the difference increases throughout middle school and high school. The difference is statistically significant for grades 10-12.



American Indian Students Who have EVER Tried Drugs by Year

From 2009 to 2013, there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of American Indian students that have tried any drugs.



DRUGS

Grades 6-8 drug use includes: marijuana, cocaine; prescription drugs, painkillers, inhalants and illegal drugs. Grades 9-12 drug use includes: marijuana, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, methamphetamines, prescription drugs, painkillers, inhalants, and injectable drugs

Source:

The NM YRRS is a joint project of the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center (UNM PRC), the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC), the Division of Adolescent and School Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC-DASH). For more information on the NM YRRS visit www.Youthrisk.org.