

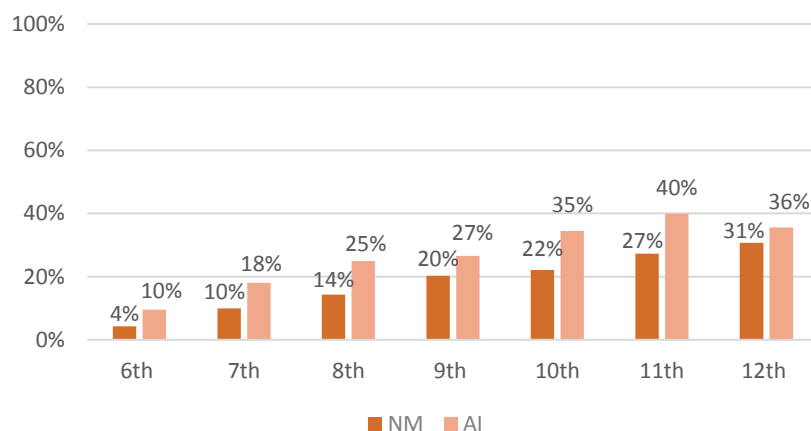
# Marijuana & Other Drug Use

among American Indian Youth in New Mexico 2015



This fact sheet presents data from the 2015 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) on health risk behaviors among American Indian (AI) high school and middle school students in New Mexico. Comparisons are also made between New Mexico American Indian students, and the all-race student population in New Mexico. The overarching aim of the NM YRRS is to better characterize risk behaviors and resiliency/protective factors among youth in New Mexico.

## CURRENT Marijuana Use by Grade



Current marijuana use among American Indian students increases through middle school and high school, peaking at 11<sup>th</sup> grade (40%). A higher percentage of American Indian students have used marijuana in the past 30 days compared to the statewide New Mexico population in all grades (6-12). The difference was statistically significant for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, youth experiment with drugs or continue taking them for several reasons, including:



### EVER DRUG USE INCLUDES

Grades 6-8: marijuana, synthetic marijuana, inhalants, prescription drugs, cocaine and injections

Grades 9-12: marijuana, prescription drugs, cocaine, ecstasy, methamphetamine, injections, and heroin

# Marijuana & Other Drug Use

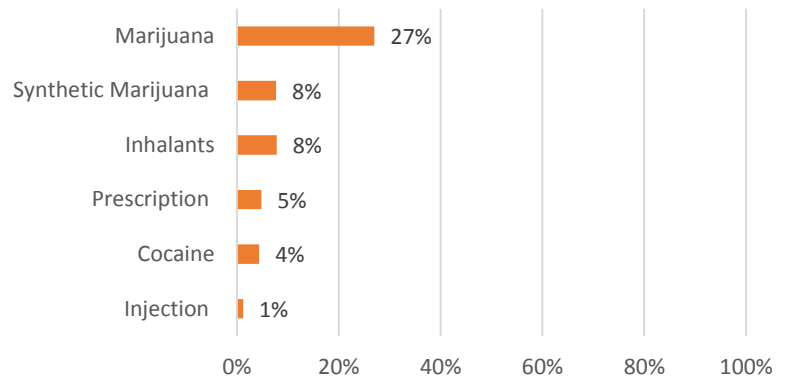
among American Indian Youth in New Mexico 2015



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Types of Drugs EVER TRIED by American Indian Middle School Students

The most commonly tried drug among American Indian (AI) middle school students is marijuana (27%), with synthetic marijuana (8%) and inhalants (8%) as the second most commonly tried drugs.



### Protective Factors \*against CURRENT Marijuana Use

- Parent(s) monitor student
- Student gets mostly As or Bs
- Teacher/ adult listens to student at school

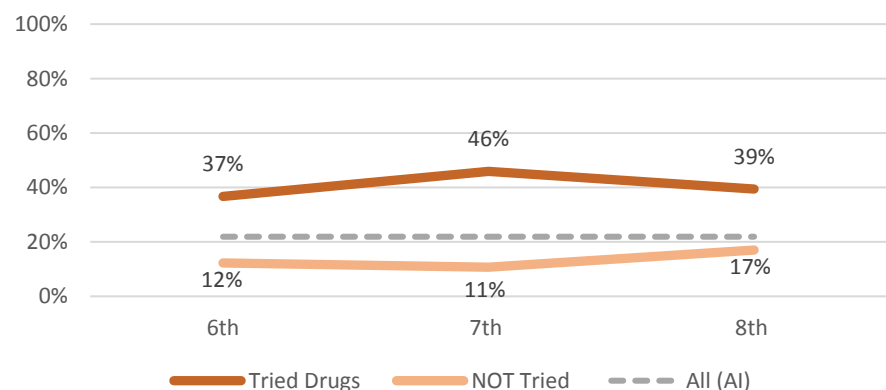
### Risk Factors\* of CURRENT Marijuana Use

- Any current tobacco use, including e-cigs
- Binge Drinker
- Seriously thought about suicide

\* All risk and protective factors are statistically significant and are listed in order from strongest to weakest association with marijuana use

### American Indian Students Who Have EVER Considered Suicide and Have Tried Drugs

In 2015, 21.9% of AI middle school students seriously considered suicide. A significantly greater percentage of students who considered suicide had also EVER tried drugs. This difference was statistically significant.



# Marijuana & Other Drug Use

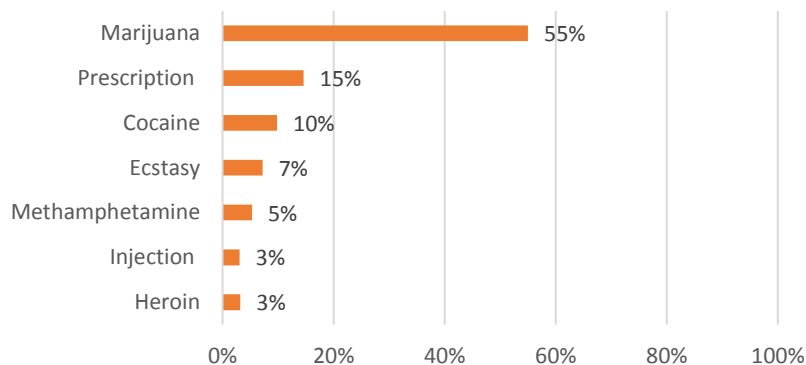
among American Indian Youth in New Mexico 2015



## HIGH SCHOOL

### Types of Drugs EVER Tried by American Indian High School Students

The most commonly tried drug among American Indian (AI) high school students is marijuana (55%), with prescription drugs the second most commonly tried drug (15%).



### Protective Factors\* against CURRENT Marijuana Use

- Parent(s) monitor student
- Student gets mostly As or Bs
- Parent or adult believes in student's success

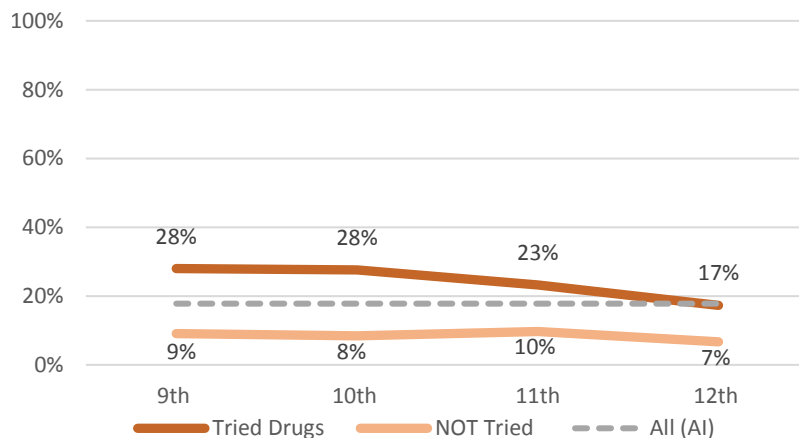
### Risk Factors\* of CURRENT Marijuana Use

- Any current tobacco use, including e-cigs
- Binge drinker
- Ever take prescription drugs without prescription

\* All risk and protective factors are statistically significant and are listed in order from strongest to weakest association with marijuana use

### American Indian Students Who Have Considered Suicide in the Past Year and Have Tried Drugs

In 2015, 17.8% of AI high school students seriously considered suicide. A significantly greater percentage of students who considered suicide had also EVER tried drugs. This difference was statistically significant for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.



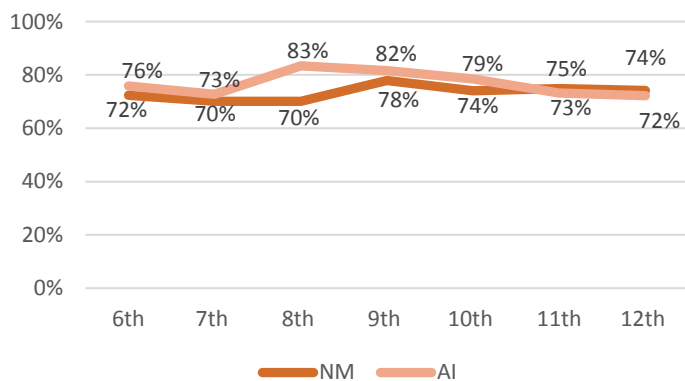


## MARIJUANA & NICOTINE

### INHALING NICOTINE W/ MARIJUANA

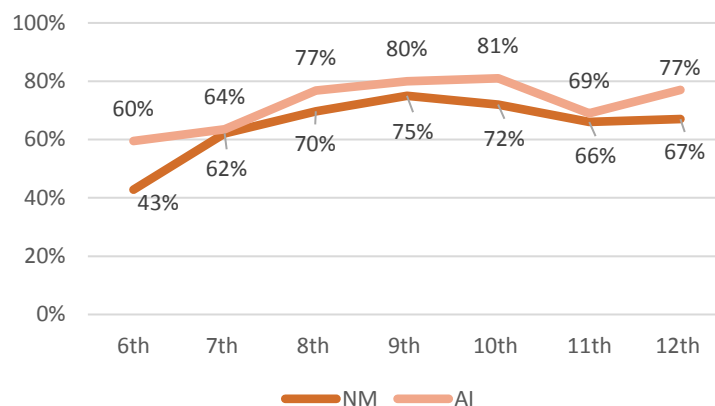
Increases exposure to tar and other carcinogens, causing greater risks to the lungs, respiratory organs as well as the cardiovascular system.<sup>2</sup>

### CURRENT Cigar use Among Marijuana Users by Grade



The majority of current marijuana users also use cigars. Slightly more AI marijuana users are current cigar users compared to statewide NM youth.

### CURRENT Cigarette use Among Marijuana Users by Grade



The majority of current marijuana users also use cigarettes. Current cigarette use among marijuana users increases with each grade level until 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. More AI marijuana users are also current cigarette users compared to NM youth statewide. This difference is statistically significant in 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Sources

**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), and the Division of Adolescent and School Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC-DASH). For more information on the NM YRRS visit [www.Youthrisk.org](http://www.Youthrisk.org).

<sup>1</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cannabinoids>

<sup>2</sup> University of Washington Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI) <http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/factsheets/tobacco.htm>