

DRUG USE

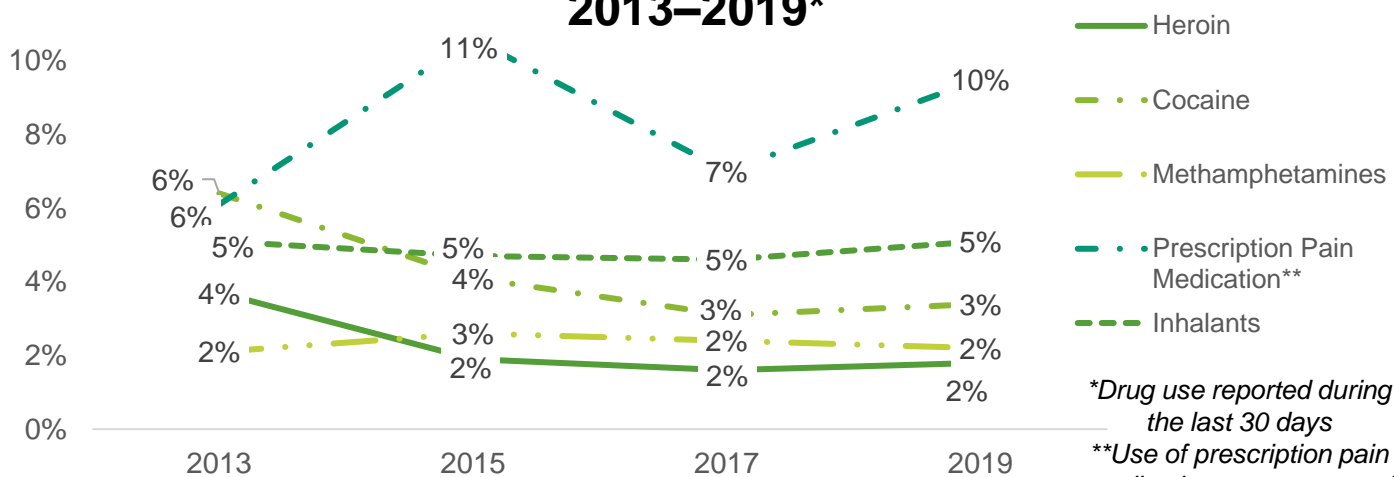
Among American Indian Youth in New Mexico 2019



This fact sheet presents data from the 2019 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NM-YRRS) on drug use (excluding marijuana) behaviors among American Indian (AI) students in grades 6 - 12. The overarching aim of the NM-YRRS is to better characterize risk behaviors and resiliency, or protective factors among youth in New Mexico.

High School

Current Drug Use Trends Among AI High School Students, 2013–2019*



*Drug use reported during the last 30 days
**Use of prescription pain medication was measured differently between 2017 and 2019

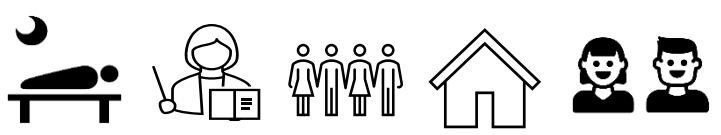
From 2013-2019, heroin and cocaine use significantly *decreased*. There was no significant change in methamphetamine or inhalant use.

Experiencing trauma such as discrimination or violence puts youth at greater risk of using drugs¹. Students are more likely to report drug use if they:

- Are questioning their gender identity
- Experienced homelessness during the past year
- Ran away from home or were kicked out during the past year

Students are less likely to report drug use if they have sources of support, such as:

- An adult in the community who praises them
- An adult at school who believes they will be a success
- A friend who cares about them



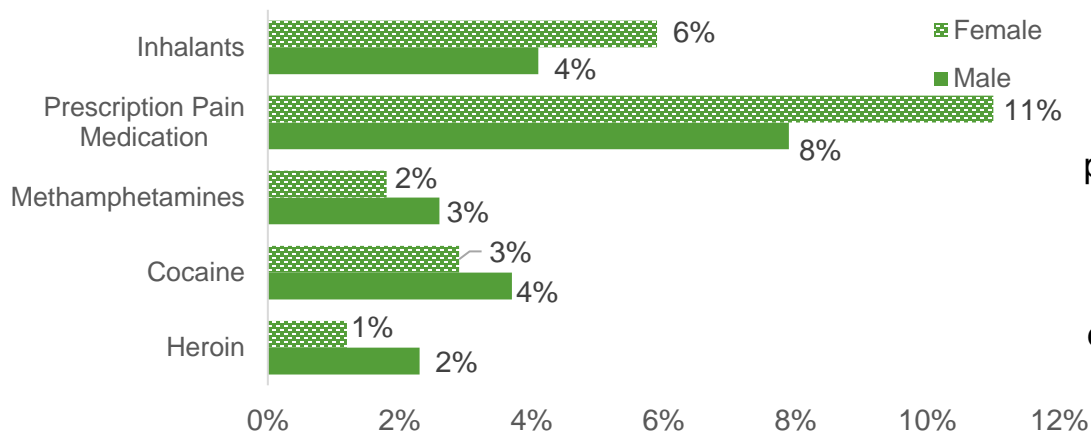
All above indicators are statistically significantly associated with current drug use among high school students, 2019

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Current Drug Use Among AI High School Students, 2019*



Females reported higher rates of current prescription pain medication use.

Rates of use for all other drugs did not differ significantly by sex.

*Drug use reported during the last 30 days

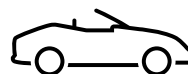
How Does Drug Use Affect Youth?¹



Affects growth and development, especially brain development



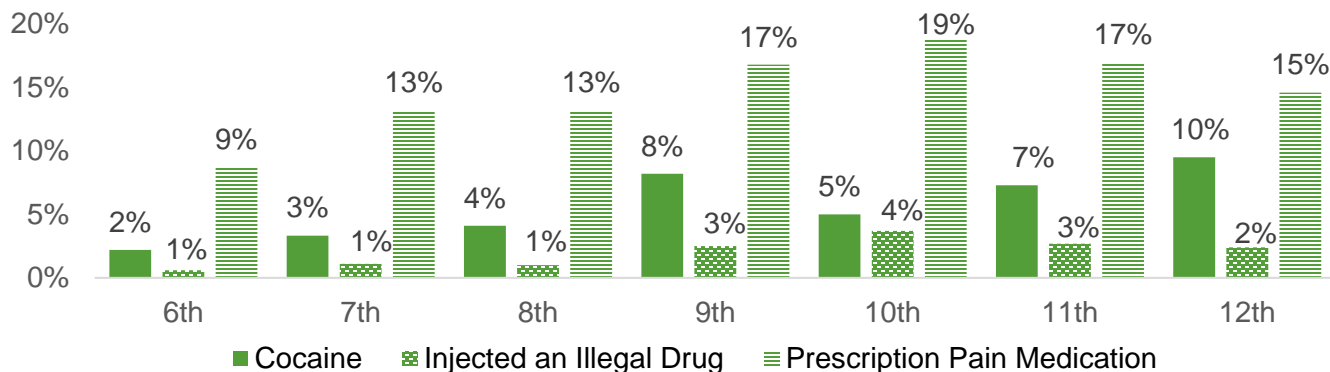
Can influence health issues later in life, such as heart disease



Co-occurs with other risky behaviors, such as dangerous driving

Lifetime Drug Use Among AI Students by Grade, 2019

Overall, reported lifetime use of cocaine, injection drugs, and prescription pain medication largely increases by grade.



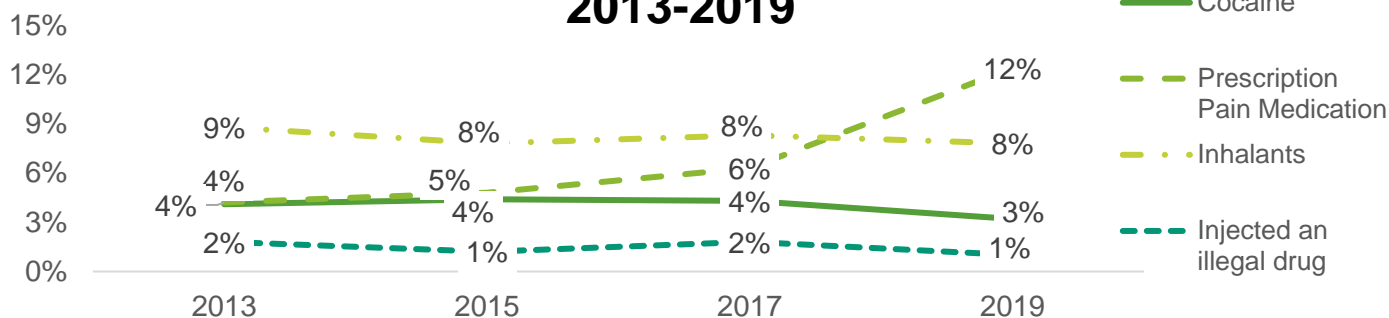
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Middle School

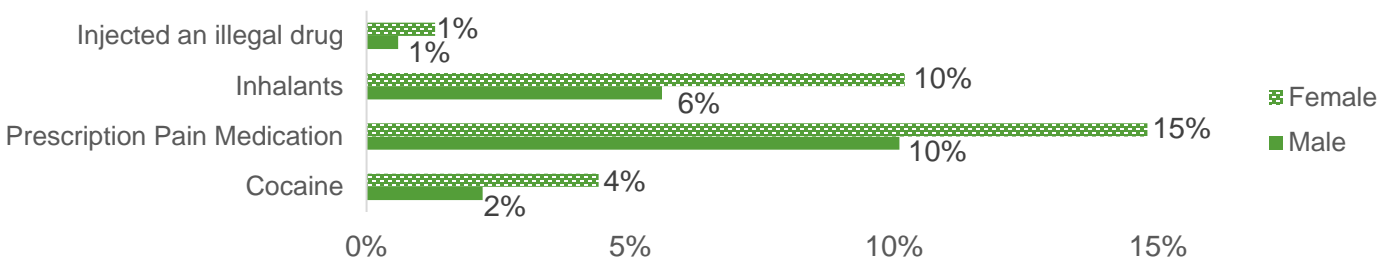
Lifetime Drug Use Trends Among AI Middle School Students, 2013-2019



From 2013-2019, lifetime prescription drug use significantly *increased*.

There was no significant change in lifetime use of cocaine, inhalants, or injection drug use.

Lifetime Drug Use Among AI Middle School Students, 2019



Females reported higher rates of lifetime use across all drug categories, with the exception of injected drugs.

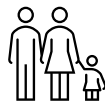
Students are more likely to report drug use if they've experienced:

Early initiation of sexual intercourse



Suicidal thoughts

Students are less likely to report drug use if they have sources of support, such as:



An adult at home who is interested in their schoolwork

A caring adult in the community



All above indicators are statistically significantly associated with ever drug use among middle school students, 2019

Sources: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Teen Substance Use & Risks, CDC.gov 2. The Noun Project, TheNounProject.com