

ALCOHOL USE

High School Students in Nebraska

2023 Update



9% of Nebraska high school students had their **first drink of alcohol before the age of 13**

(this is down from 13% in 2012) ↓

This was more common for students who:

- felt unsafe at school (23% vs. 9% of those that felt safer)
- currently use alcohol, tobacco or marijuana (35% vs. 5% who did not)
- experienced 4+ ACEs* (20% vs. 5% who had no ACEs)



Half of students (51%) who drank alcohol in the prior month said **someone gave it to them** (this is up from 32% in 2016) ↑

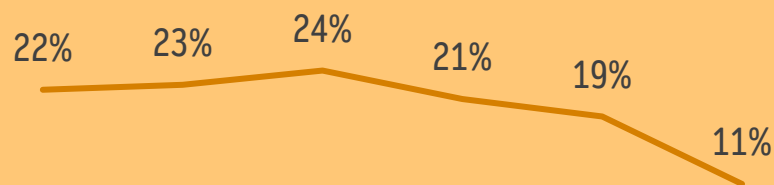
This was more common for students who were:

- boys (62% vs. 40% of girls)
- non-Hispanic (54% vs 28% pf Hispanics)

*ACEs Indicators included in the YRBS:

- Ever lived with someone depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal
- Ever lived with someone having a problem with alcohol or drug use
- Ever been separated from a parent/guardian because they went to prison, jail, or a detention center
- A parent or other adult in their home swore at them, insulted them, or put them down
- A parent or other adult in their home hit, beat, kicked, or physically hurt them in any way
- Their parents or other adults in their home frequently slapped, hit, kicked, punched, or beat each other up
- Ever sexually abused by an adult or older person
- Ever treated badly because of their race or ethnicity
- Ever treated badly because people thought they were LGBTQ
- A parent or other adult in their home made sure their basic needs were met (reverse coded)

Current alcohol use continues to decrease, with a sharp decline in 2023, when one in nine students reported at least a sip of alcohol in the 30 days before the survey.



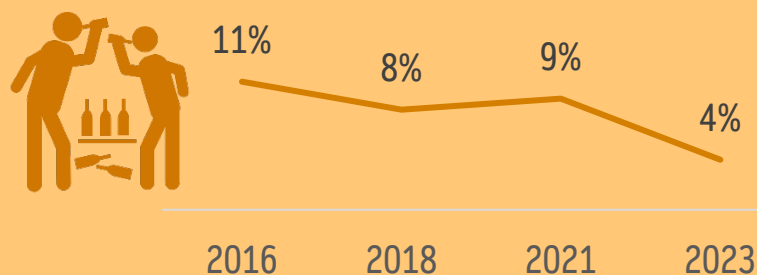
2012 2014 2016 2018 2021 2023

Current alcohol use was more common for students who:

- felt unsafe at or on the way to school (31% vs. 9% of those that felt safer)
- were bullied for any reason (20% vs. 8% of those who were not bullied)
- were teased for any reasons (20% vs. 5% of those were not teased)
- experienced 4+ ACEs* (19% vs. 3% who had no ACEs)

Binge drinking** within the prior month was at least half of what was reported in prior years.

- Students who felt unsafe at school were 3x more likely to binge drink (14% vs. 4% of students who felt safer)



** had four or more drinks of alcohol in a row if they were female or five or more if they were male

SUBSTANCE USE

2023 Nebraska High School Students

3% of Nebraska high school students first tried marijuana before the age of 13

(this is down from 6% in 2012) ↓



Students at-risk, such as those reporting 4+ ACEs or those felt unsafe at school, were much more likely than peers to use marijuana.

First use before age 13

Experienced	Did not experience
18%	Felt unsafe at school 2%
16%	4+ ACEs (vs. None) 0%
12%	Considered suicide 2%

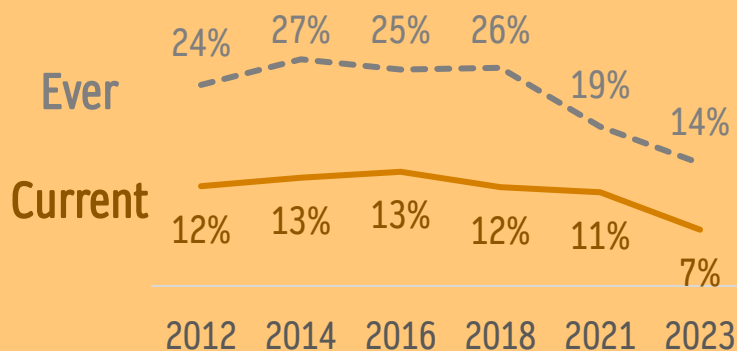
Ever used marijuana

Experienced	Did not experience
32%	Considered suicide 12%
30%	4+ ACEs (vs. None) 8%
27%	Were bullied 10%
26%	Were frequently sad 10%
25%	Were teased 8%

Current marijuana use

Experienced	Did not experience
19%	4+ ACEs (vs. None) 2%
17%	Felt unsafe at school 6%
17%	Considered suicide 5%
16%	Were bullied 3%

Ever and current (past month) marijuana use continues to decrease, with students in 2023 reporting nearly half of what was reported in 2014.



One in ten students used prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor instructed

(this is down from 14% in 2016) ↓

Ever Used

	NE	Felt unsafe	
	Overall	Yes	No
Rx not as prescribed	10%	23%	9%
Inhalants	3%	14%	3%
Methamphetamines	1%	6%	1%
Cocaine	<1%	6%	0%
Heroin	<1%	4%	0%

Students who felt unsafe at school or on the way to school were much more likely than their peers to report having ever used other drugs



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