

# JOIN TOGETHER NORTHERN NEVADA



## WASHOE COUNTY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2005 EDITION

[WWW.JTNN.ORG](http://WWW.JTNN.ORG)

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to define and collect a set of core risk and protective factor indicators to better identify specific critical needs for individual populations at the local level. This report is formatted in the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model, which emphasizes the reduction of individual and environmental risk factors, and the promotion of individual and environmental protective factors for the prevention of negative health outcomes such as substance abuse. This assessment is organized by the following risk factor domains: Community, Family, School, and Peer/Individual. The protective factor section is organized as follows: Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards, Bonding, and Opportunities, Skills and Recognition. Each section contains an introductory paragraph that explains the risk or protective factor and is followed by data that is pertinent to that factor.

## **RISK FACTORS**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has identified many risk factors for drug abuse, each representing a challenge to the psychological and social development of an individual and each having a different impact depending on the phase of development. For this reason, those factors that affect early development in the family are probably most crucial. Other risk factors relate to children interacting with other socialization agents outside of the family, specifically the school, peers, and the community. Factors such as availability of drugs, trafficking patterns, and belief that drug use is generally tolerated also influence the number of young people who start using drugs.

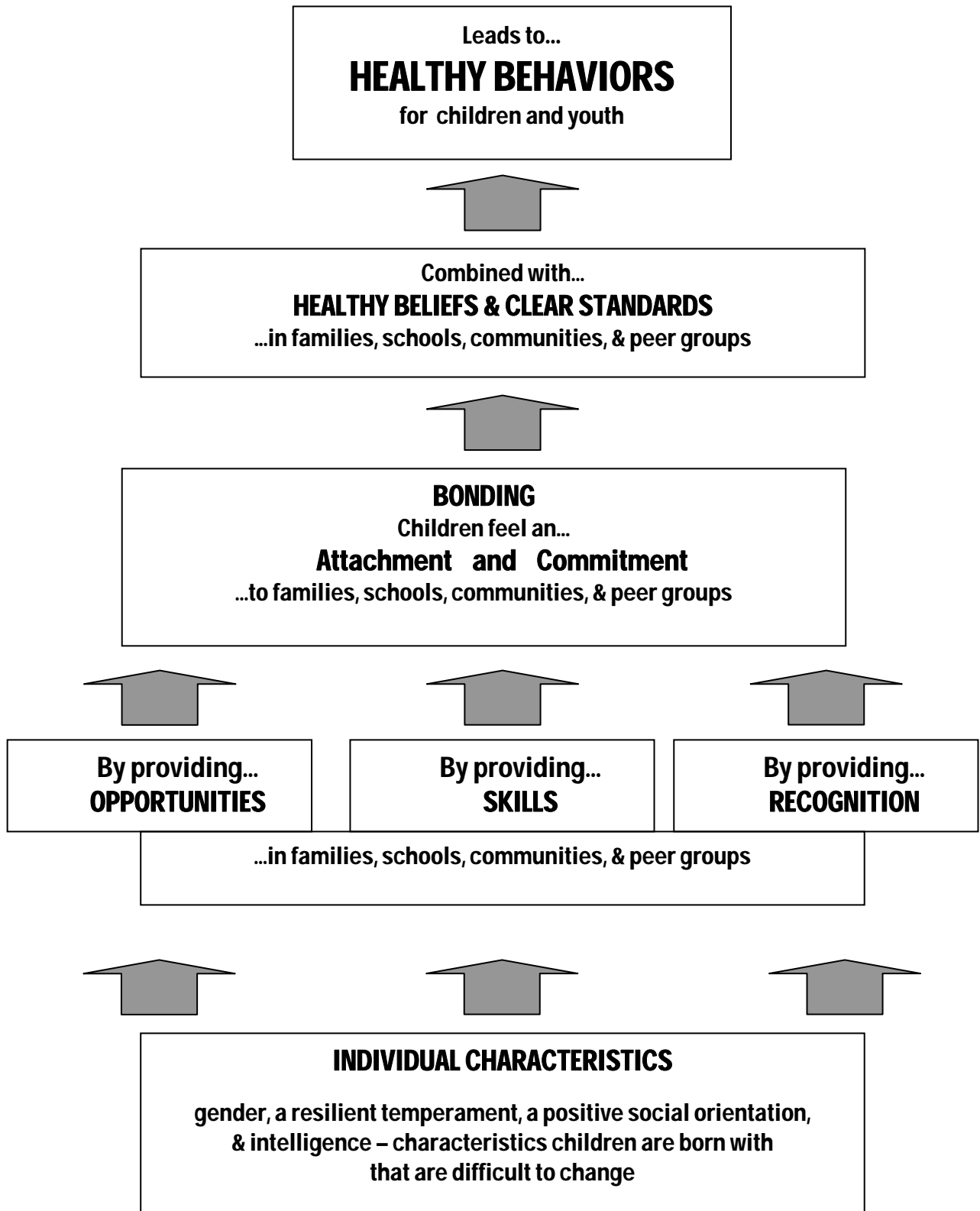
The Risk Factors and Adolescent Problem Behaviors table (Chart 1) below is organized by community, family, school, and individual/peer domains. The table also depicts the relationships of these domains to identified problem behaviors including substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence.

<b>Chart 1</b>	<b>Substance Abuse</b>	<b>Delinquency</b>	<b>Teen Pregnancy</b>	<b>School Drop-Out</b>	<b>Violence</b>
<b>Community</b>					
Availability of Drugs	o				o
Availability of Firearms		o			o
Community Laws & Norms Favorable toward Drug Use, Firearms and Crime	o	o			o
Media Portrayals of Violence					o
Transition and Mobility	o	o		o	
Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization	o	o			o
Extreme Economic Deprivation	o	o	o	o	o
<b>Family</b>					
Family History of the Problem Behavior	o	o	o	o	o
Family Management Problems	o	o	o	o	o
Family Conflict	o	o	o	o	o
Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior	o	o			o
<b>School</b>					
Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School	o	o	o	o	o
Lack of Commitment to School	o	o	o	o	o
<b>Peer and Individual</b>					
Early and Persistent Anti-Social Behavior	o	o	o	o	o
Rebelliousness	o	o		o	
Friends who Engage in the Problem Behavior	o	o	o	o	o
Gang Involvement	o	o			o
Favorable Attitudes Towards the Problem Behavior	o	o	o	o	
Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior	o	o	o	o	o
Constitutional Factors	o	o			o

## **PROTECTIVE FACTORS**

Some youth who are exposed to multiple risk factors do not become substance abusers, juvenile delinquents, school dropouts or teen parents. Balancing the risk factors are protective factors which protect young people from exposure to risk, either by reducing the impact of the risk factors, or by changing the way that youth respond to the risk. The importance of protective factors cannot be overstated because they promote positive behavior, health, well being, and personal success. Research has identified protective factors that fall into three general categories – individual characteristics, bonding, and healthy beliefs and clear standards (Chart 2). Families, schools, and communities encourage young people’s healthy behaviors by communicating healthy beliefs and clear expectations for their behavior in relation to substance use and other problem behaviors.

Chart 2



# WASHOE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

	Washoe County	Nevada
Population (2004 Estimate) <sup>1</sup>	380,754	2,334,771

Ethnicity	Washoe County	Nevada
White (Caucasian)	80.4%	75.2%
Hispanic/Latino	16.6%	19.7%
Black/African American	2.1%	6.8%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1.8%	1.3%
Asian	4.3%	4.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.4%

Age Distribution <sup>2</sup>	Washoe County	Nevada
Under 18	25.0%	
18-24	9.0%	
25-44	29.0%	
45-64	26.0%	
65+	11.0%	

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau – [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

<sup>2</sup> Nevada Power Economic Development – [www.econdev.nevadapower.com](http://www.econdev.nevadapower.com)

## Comparative Data at a Glance

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

### Alcohol – High School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS High School	2003 YRBS High School	2005 YRBS High School
In past 30 days, rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol	27.6	23.5	26.4
In past 30 days, drank and drove	16.1	12.4	14.4
During their life, had at least 1 drink of alcohol on $\geq 1$ days	82.5	78.5	78.9
Had first drink of alcohol before age 13	25.7	25.6	27.3
In past 30 days, drank alcohol on $\geq 1$ days	52.4	46.8	50.1
In past 30 days, had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row on $\geq 1$ days	36.2	32.3	33.3
In past 30 days, drank alcohol on school property on $\geq 1$ days	8.2	6.7	8.5
Of those who drink alcohol, usually get their alcoholic beverages from home with or without parental knowledge	27.0	30.2	31.5
Think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they have 5 or more drinks in a row within a couple of hours	21.1	21.1	21.0
Some, most or all of closest friends use alcohol $\geq 1$ times/month	54.4	51.3	52.5
Think that parents/guardians would approve or not care if they attended a party where alcoholic beverages were available	21.1	20.3	20.0
Think that parents/guardians would approve or not care if they have 5 or more drinks in a row within a couple of hours	9.4	11.5	10.3

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Alcohol – Middle School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS Middle School	2003 YRBS Middle School	2005 YRBS Middle School
In past 30 days, rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol	18.9	20.7	20.7
In past 30 days, drank and drove	5.3	7.2	7.5
During their life, had at least 1 drink of alcohol on $\geq 1$ days	46.6	52.8	53.7
Had first drink of alcohol before age 13	31.1	37.5	33.5
In past 30 days, had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row on $\geq 1$ days	11.7	16.5	13.8
In past 30 days, drank alcohol on school property on $\geq 1$ days		5.4	5.4
Of those who drink alcohol, usually get their alcoholic beverages from home with or without parental knowledge	71.6	61.0	62.0
Think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they have 5 or more drinks in a row within a couple of hours	17.7	17.6	20.3
Some, most or all of closest friends use alcohol $\geq 1$ times/month	12.0	16.8	15.1



Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Marijuana – High School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS High School	2003 YRBS High School	2005 YRBS High School
During their life, used marijuana on $\geq 1$ days	50.5	48.1	45.2
Tried marijuana for the first time before age 13	11.9	9.6	11.8
In past 30 days, used marijuana on $\geq 1$ days	26.9	23.5	21.7
In past 30 days, used marijuana on school property on $\geq 1$ days	7.4	5.9	7.4
Think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they smoke marijuana occasionally	41.1	39.1	35.5
Think that parents/guardians would approve or not care if they smoked marijuana	9.6	9.2	8.6

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Marijuana – Middle School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS Middle School	2003 YRBS Middle School	2005 YRBS Middle School
Tried marijuana for the first time before age 13	9.9	12.3	9.6
In past 30 days, used marijuana on $\geq 1$ days	7.7	10.3	8.1
In past 30 days, used marijuana on school property on $\geq 1$ days	2.3	3.8	3.3
Think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they smoke marijuana occasionally	16.5	17.0	18.7
Think that parents/guardians would approve or not care if they smoked marijuana	6.1	4.9	5.9

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Tobacco – High School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS High School	2003 YRBS High School	2005 YRBS High School
Ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs	62.5	57.6	52.2
Had first whole cigarette before age 13	19.6	17.1	13.8
In past 30 days, smoked a cigarette on $\geq 1$ days	27.0	19.4	20.5
In past 30 days, smoked cigarette on school property on $\geq 1$ days			9.3
Of those who smoke cigarettes, bought them in a store or from a vending machine in past 30 days	29.1	26.5	26.5
Were asked to show proof of age when attempting to buy cigarettes in a store in past 30 days	67.1	60.2	62.0
Some, most or all of closest friends use tobacco $\geq 1$ times a day	34.0	28.0	27.5
Think there is slight or no risk of harming themselves if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day	5.9	5.4	7.1

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Tobacco – Middle School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS Middle School	2003 YRBS Middle School	2005 YRBS Middle School
Ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs	30.4	34.7	30.4
Had first whole cigarette before age 13	15.6	17.3	12.9
In past 30 days, smoked a cigarette on $\geq 1$ days	9.6	11.0	9.1
In past 30 days, smoked cigarette on school property on $\geq 1$ days		4.4	4.9
Of those who smoke cigarettes, bought them in a store or from a vending machine in past 30 days	8.8	5.9	17.3
Were asked to show proof of age when attempting to buy cigarettes in a store in past 30 days	26.0	31.0	22.5
Some, most or all of closest friends use tobacco $\geq 1$ times a day	7.9	13.8	10.3
Think there is slight or no risk of harming themselves if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day	11.1	7.9	10.5

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Violence – High School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS High School	2003 YRBS High School	2005 YRBS High School
Feel safe and secure in neighborhood most of the time or always	89.2	85.8	86.5
Feel safe and secure at school most of the time or always	74.9	81.0	81.2
Did not go to school in last 30 days because felt unsafe at school or on the way to and from school	9.9	7.9	9.3
Offended, threatened, frightened, or attacked in past 30 days because of racial or ethnic background	16.5	17.9	19.2
Offended, threatened, frightened, or attacked in past 30 days because of gender	15.0	14.5	13.1
Ever belonged to a street gang	8.0	10.1	12.3
Feels there is gang activity at school	56.0	44.4	52.2
In a physical fight during the past 12 months	31.1	32.2	34.8
In a physical fight during the past 12 months on school property	12.6	15.0	14.4
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days	10.7	13.1	16.0
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days on school property	5.8	6.1	8.1
Been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property in past 12 months	6.9	5.4	7.5
Boyfriend or girlfriend hit, slapped, or physically hurt you on purpose in past 12 months	10.7	10.2	8.5

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Violence – Middle School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS Middle School	2003 YRBS Middle School	2005 YRBS Middle School
Feel safe and secure in neighborhood most of the time or always	82.1	82.4	83.2
Feel safe and secure at school most of the time or always	78.3	80	79.7
Did not go to school in last 30 days because felt unsafe at school or on the way to and from school	10.7	10.7	7.2
Offended, threatened, frightened, or attacked in past 30 days because of racial or ethnic background	21.9	23.3	24.6
Offended, threatened, frightened, or attacked in past 30 days because of gender	15.2	12.7	13.0
Ever belonged to a street gang	8.5	10.1	12.4
Feels there is gang activity at school	25.5	40.1	40.4
In a physical fight during the past 12 months	41.5	41.8	39.9
In a physical fight during the past 12 months on school property	24.7	24.8	19.1
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days	11.3	14.1	14.3
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days on school property	4.6	5.3	5.7
Been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property in past 12 months	7.5	8.7	7.1
Boyfriend or girlfriend hit, slapped, or physically hurt you on purpose in past 12 months	8.9	9.2	9.1

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Sexual Behaviors – High School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS High School	2003 YRBS High School	2005 YRBS High School
Been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to	9.5	10.3	9.5
Ever had sexual intercourse	48.0	48.6	48.0
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	6.8	5.2	5.8
Had sexual intercourse before age 15	21.5	20.0	22.7
Been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant	8.5	7.5	6.5
Of those who are sexually active, drank alcohol or used drugs before the last time they had sexual intercourse	23.5	22.2	23.2

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Methamphetamine and Over-the-Counter Drugs – High School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS High School	2003 YRBS High School	2005 YRBS High School
During their life, used methamphetamine on $\geq 1$ days	13.5	12.4	10.2
During their life, taken over-the-counter drugs on $\geq 1$ days	14.4	15.2	16.4

Washoe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data – 2001, 2003, and 2005

Methamphetamine and Over-the-Counter Drugs – Middle School

BEHAVIOR	2001 YRBS Middle School	2003 YRBS Middle School	2005 YRBS Middle School
During their life, used methamphetamine on $\geq 1$ days	3.6	5.5	5.0
During their life, taken over-the-counter drugs on $\geq 1$ days	4.8	7.3	6.6

# PART 1: RISK FACTORS

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## COMMUNITY DOMAIN

The community is the context in which families raise their children and it has a powerful influence on the development of young people. The community can reinforce positive protective factors that influence youth at the family, school, and individual/peer levels, or can exert a negative influence and increase risk factors in young people's lives. Therefore, community planning and decision-making play an important role in positive youth development and prevention of adolescent health and behavior problems.

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Community

**Risk Factor:** Transition and Mobility

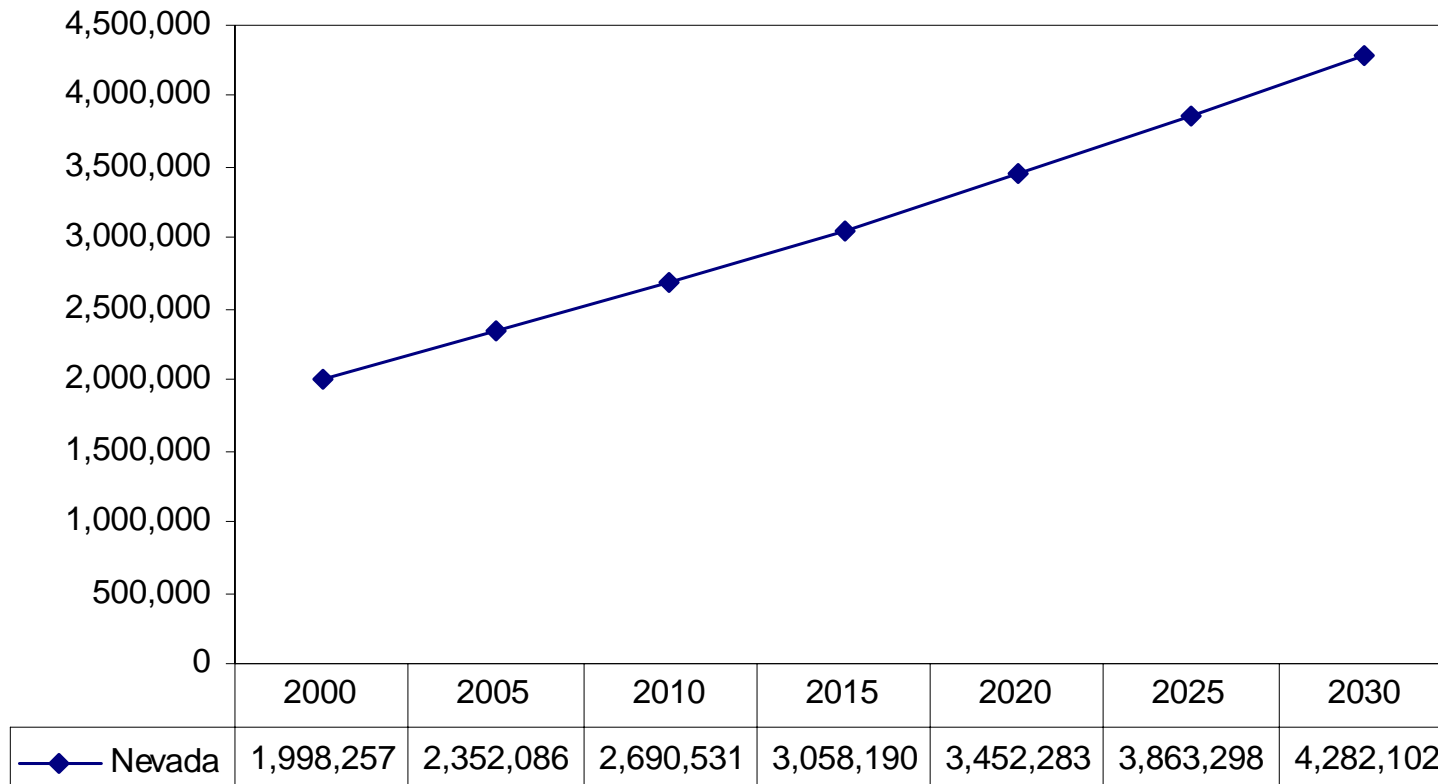
Even normal school transitions can predict increases in problem behaviors. When children move from elementary school to middle school or from middle school to high school, significant increases in the rate of drug use, school dropout, and antisocial behavior may occur.

Communities that are characterized by high rates of mobility appear to be linked to an increased risk of drug and crime problems. The more people in a community move, the greater is the risk of both criminal behavior and drug-related problems in families.

### **Indicators:**

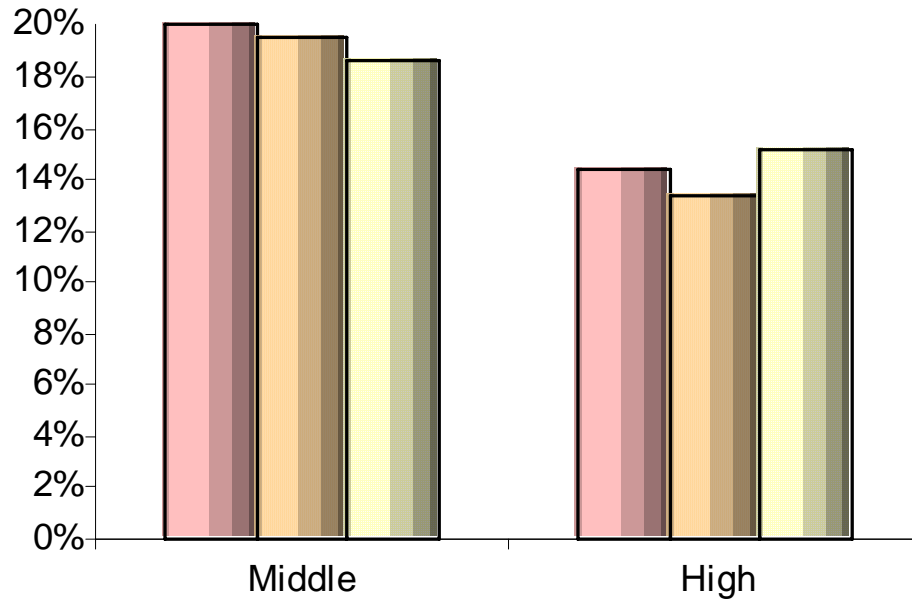
- Nevada population projections
- Length of time spent in Washoe County School District
- Percentage of residences that are renter occupied

## Transition & Mobility: Nevada population projections



Source: US Census Bureau

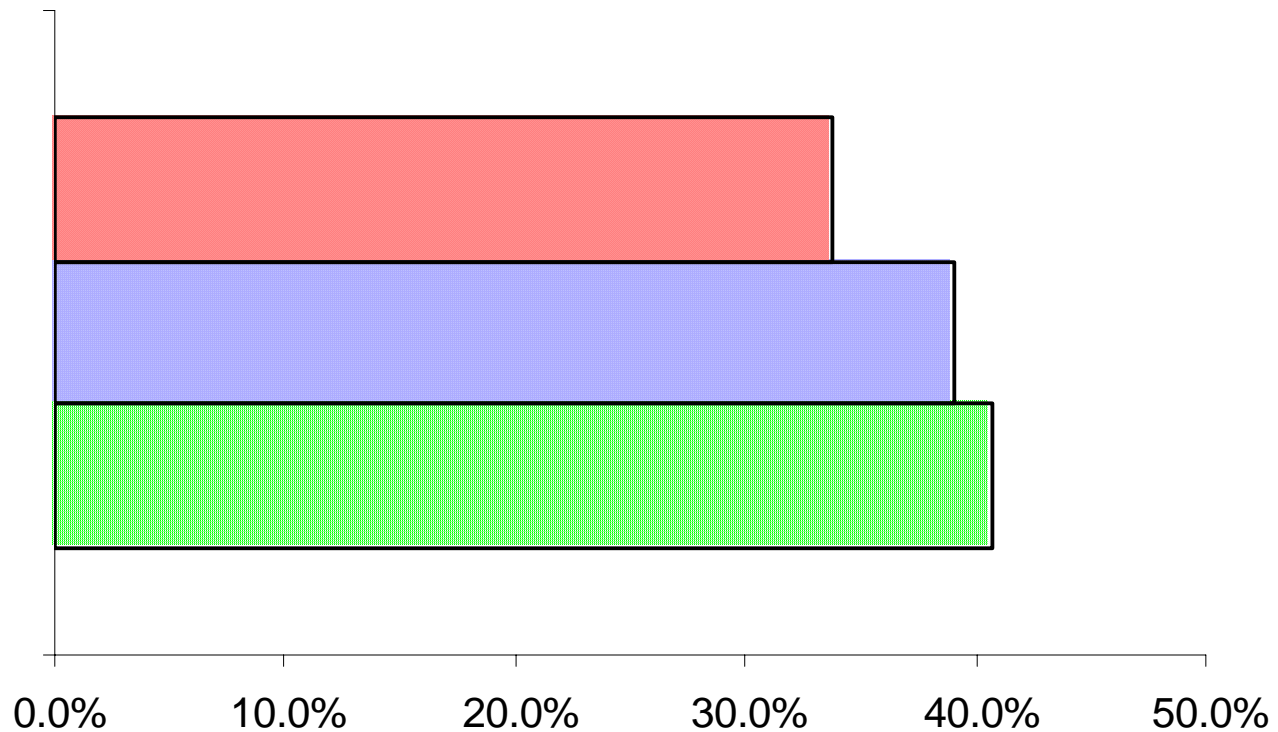
**Transition & Mobility:** Percentage of Washoe County high and middle school students who have lived in Washoe County School District for less than 3 years



	Middle	High
2001	20.0%	14.4%
2003	19.6%	13.4%
2005	18.7%	15.1%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Transition & Mobility: Percentage of National, Nevada, and Washoe residences that are renter occupied



USA	33.8%
Nevada	39.1%
Washoe	40.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Community

**Risk Factor:** Low Neighborhood Attachment & Community Disorganization

Higher rates of drug problems, delinquency and violence and higher rates of drug trafficking occur in communities or neighborhoods where people have little attachment to the community, where the rates of vandalism are high and where there is low surveillance of public places.

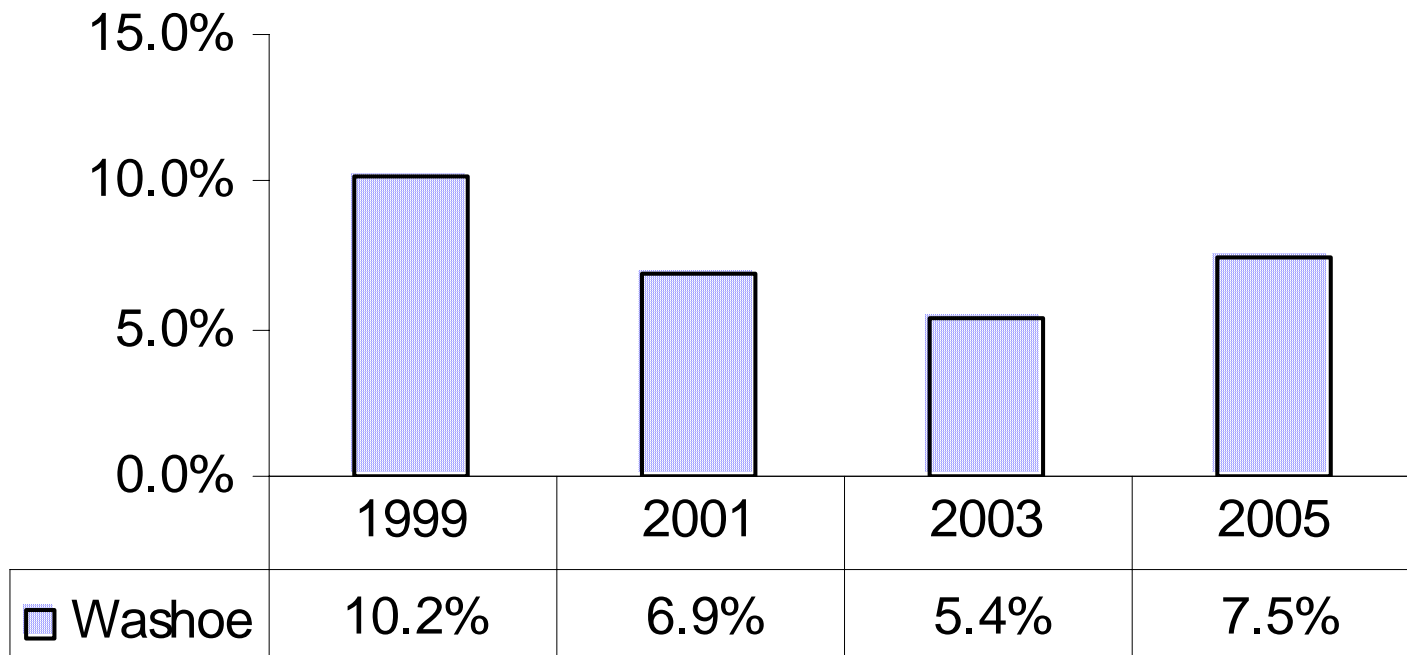
Perhaps the most significant issue affecting community attachment is whether residents feel they can make a difference in their lives.

### **Indicators:**

- Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property
- Number of registered voters in Washoe County

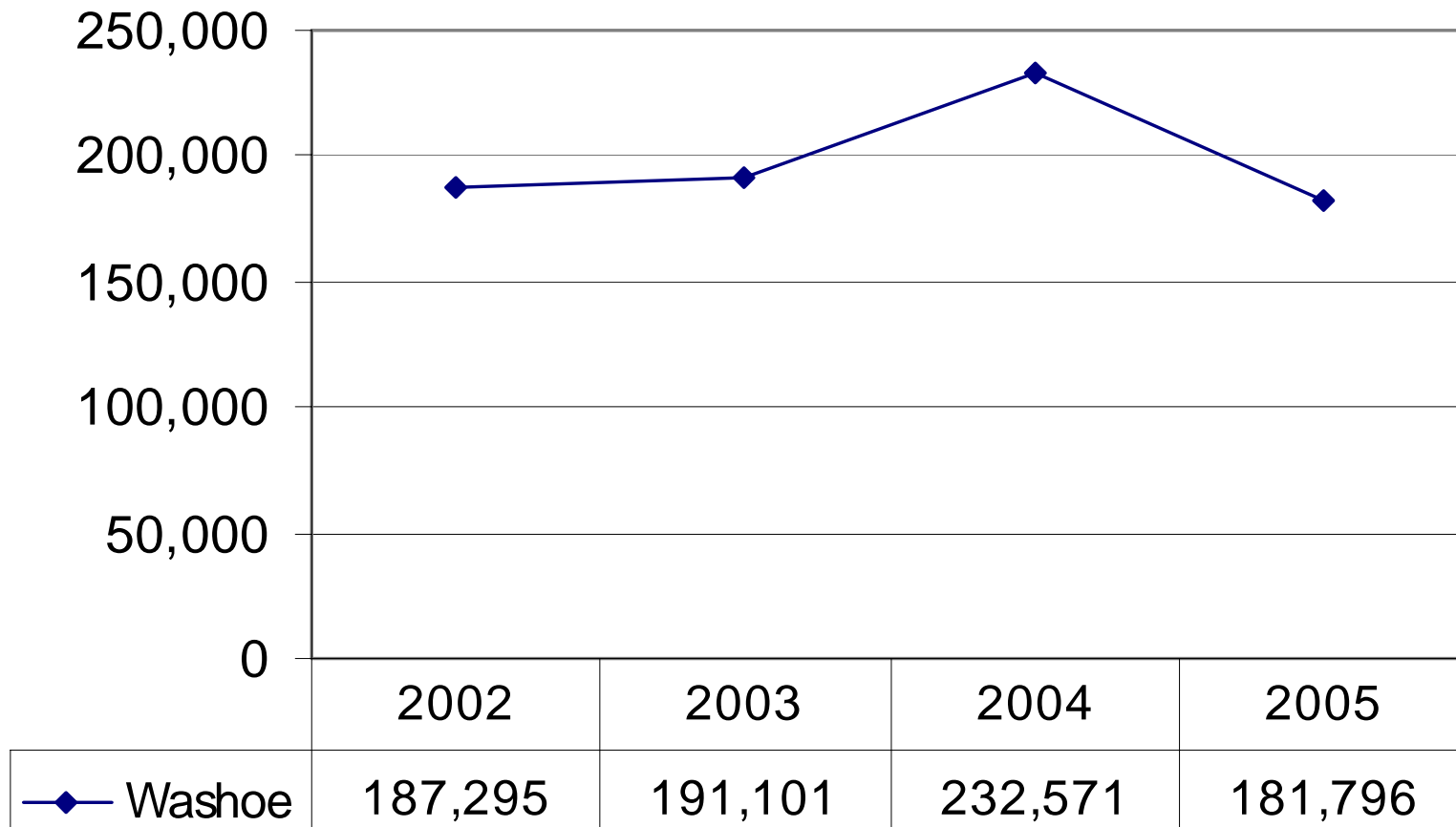
## Low Neighborhood Attachment & Community Disorganization:

Percentage of Washoe County high school students who responded that they had been threatened or injured by someone with a weapon on school property in the past 12 months



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Low Neighborhood Attachment & Community Disorganization: Number of Registered Voters in Washoe County



Source: Nevada Secretary of State



## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Community

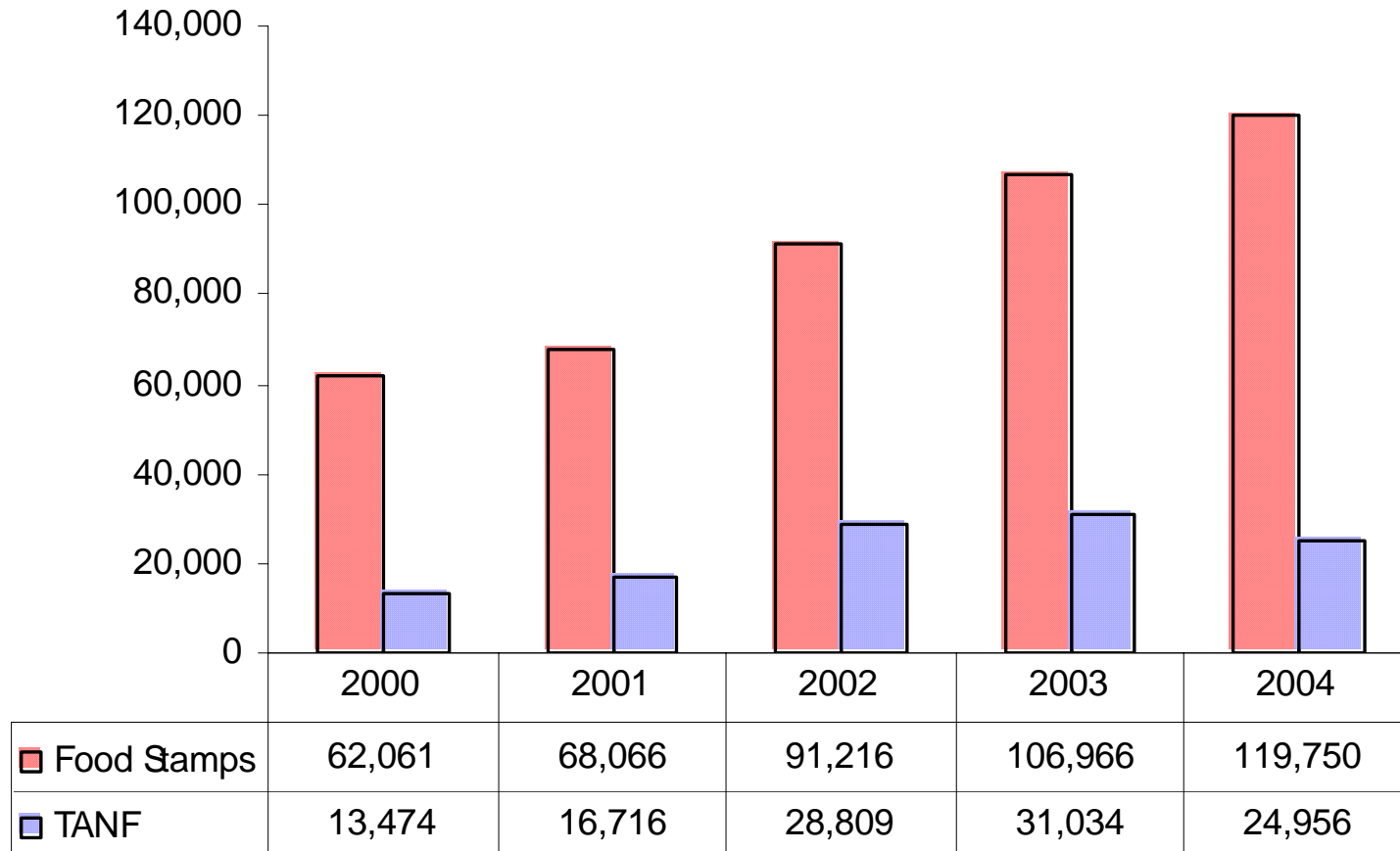
**Risk Factor:** Economic Deprivation

Children who live in deteriorating neighborhoods characterized by extreme poverty, poor living conditions and high unemployment are more likely to develop problems with delinquency, teen pregnancy and school dropout or to engage in violence toward others during adolescence and adulthood. Children who live in these areas and have behavior or adjustment problems early in life are also more likely to have problems with drugs later on.

### **Indicators:**

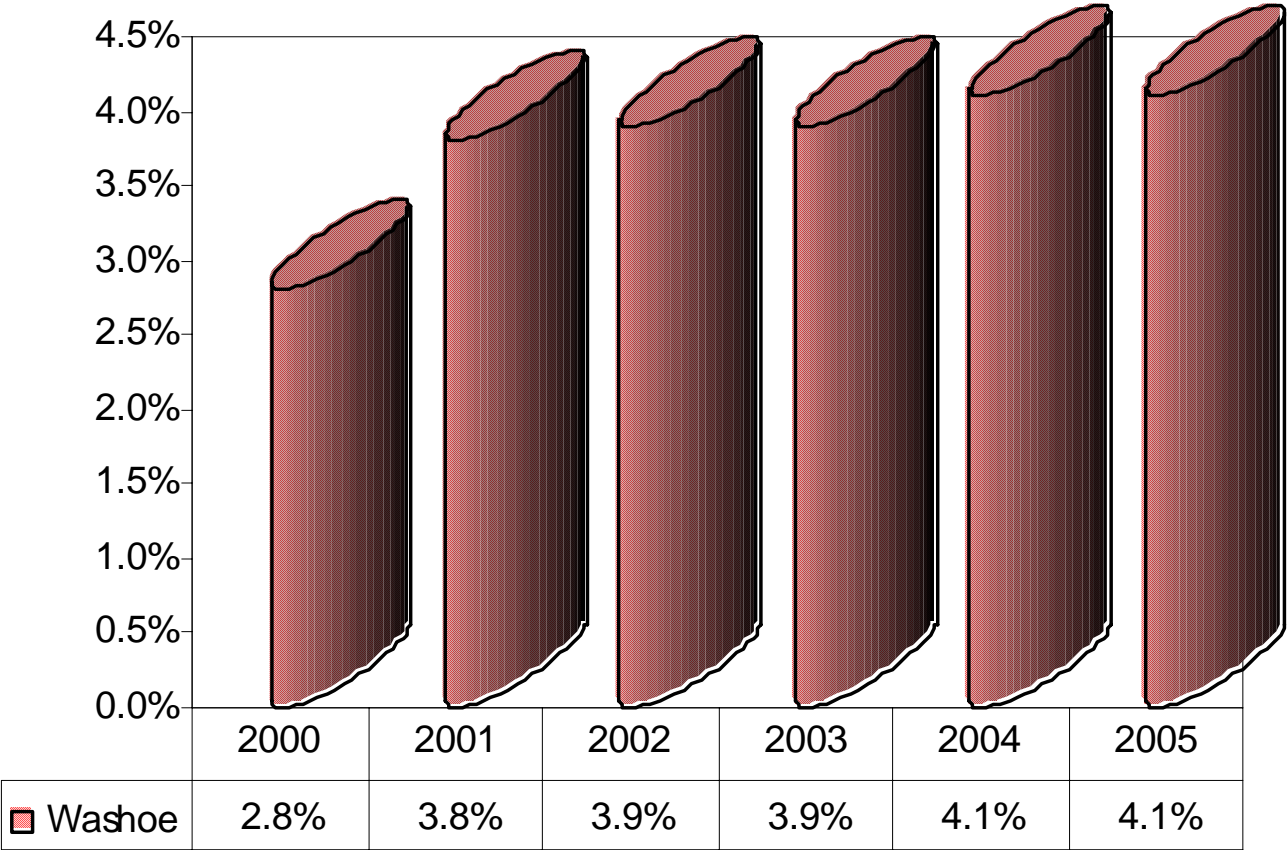
- Number of Nevadans receiving financial assistance
- Percent of Washoe County labor force that is unemployed
- Nevada average annual wage rate
- Percent of Washoe County children aged 0-17 living in poverty

## Economic Deprivation: Number of Nevadans receiving financial assistance



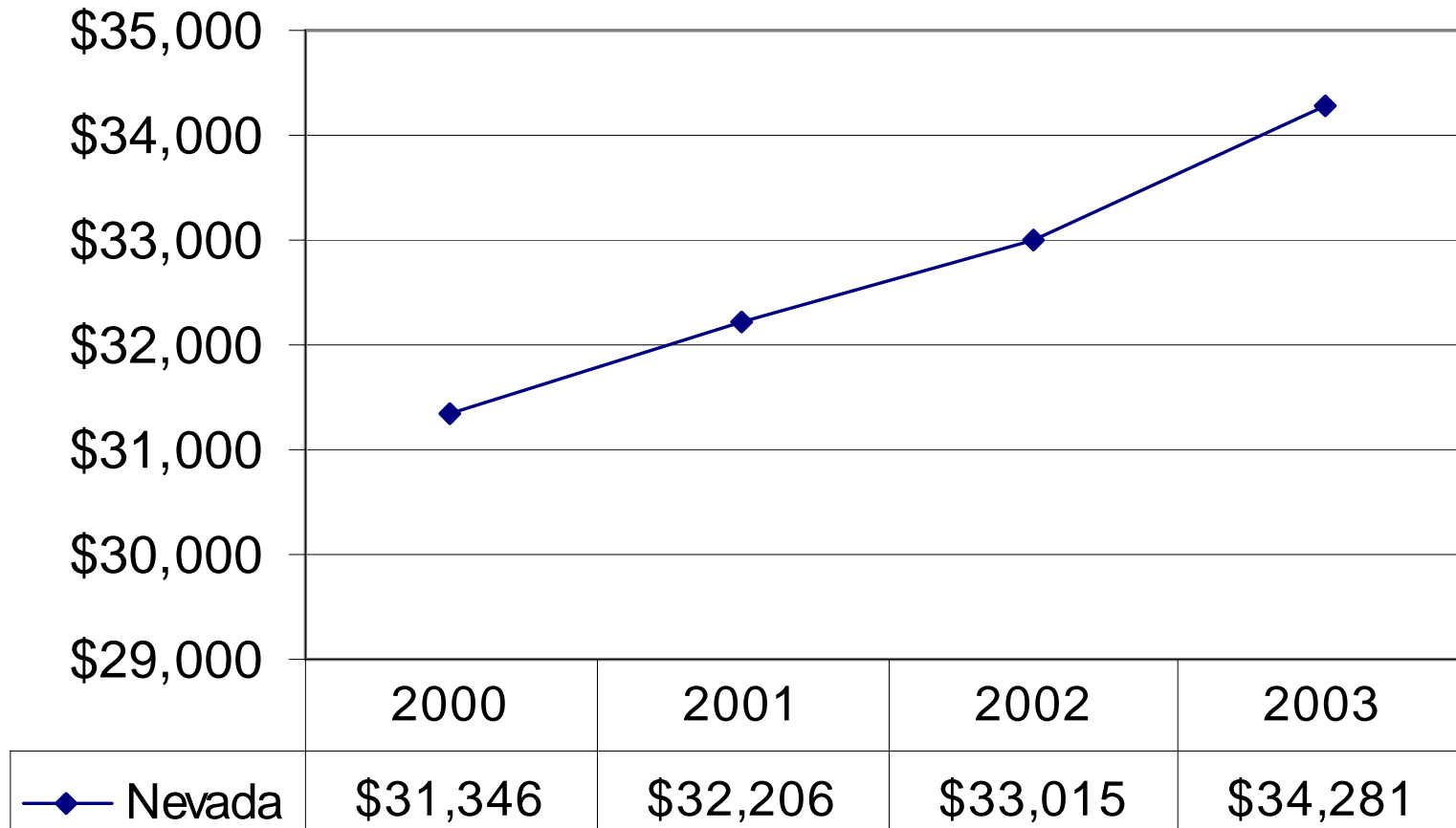
Source: State of Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

# Economic Deprivation: Percent of Washoe County labor force that is unemployed



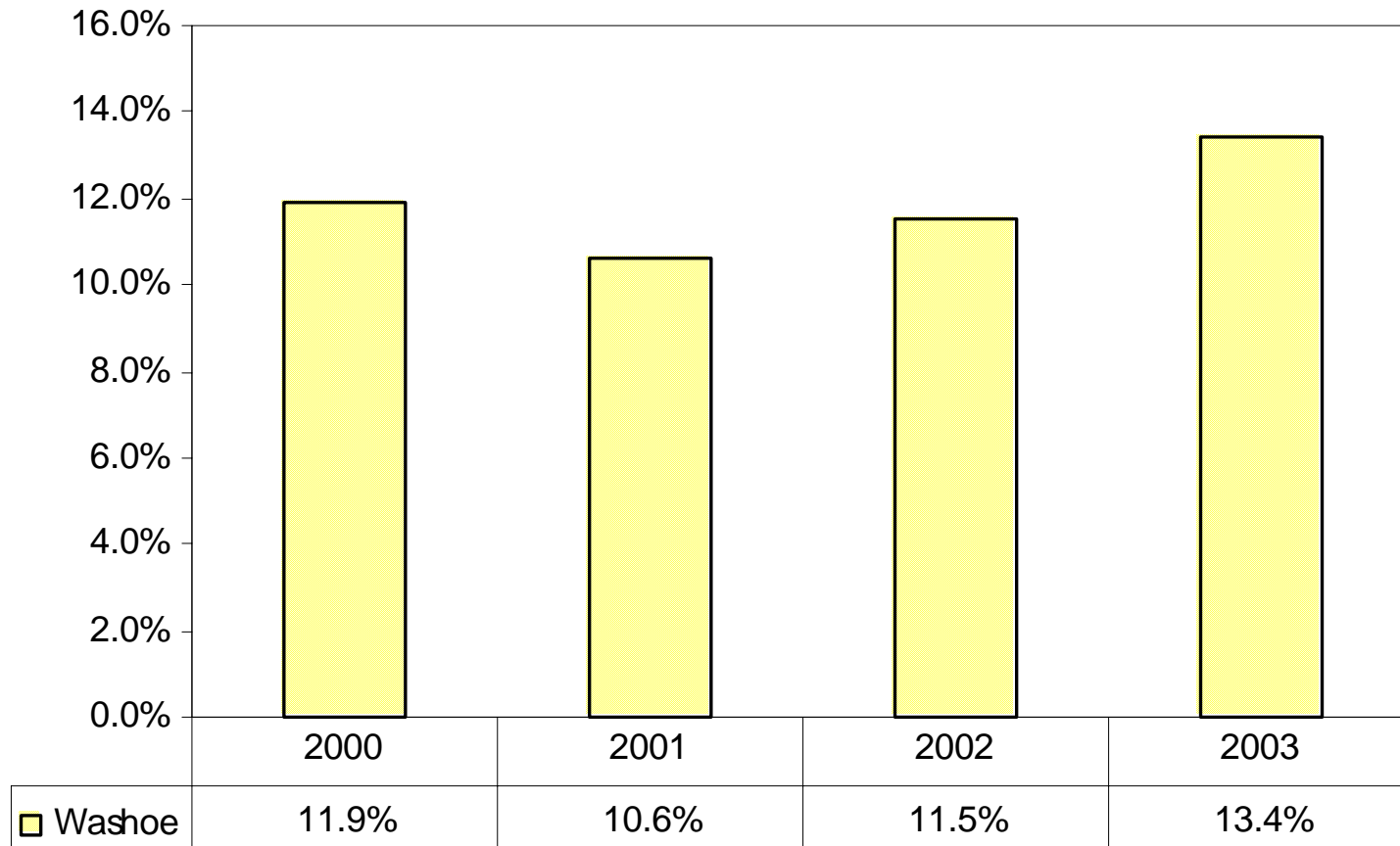
Source: Nevada Statistical Abstract

## Economic Deprivation: Nevada average annual wage rate



Source: Nevada Statistical Abstract

## Economic Deprivation: Percent of Washoe County children aged 0-17 living in poverty



Source: US Census Bureau

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Community

**Risk Factor:** Availability of Drugs

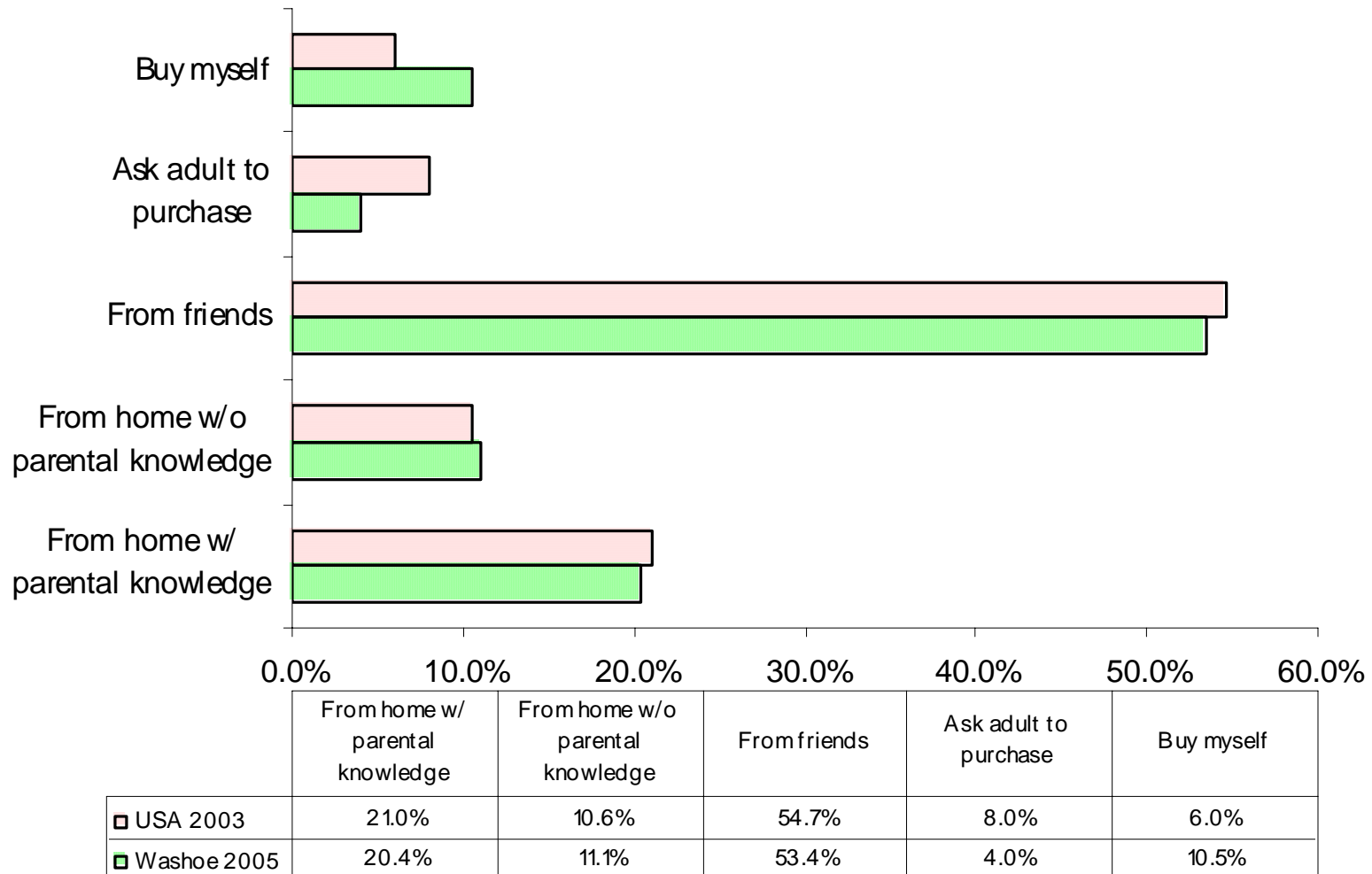
The more available drugs and alcohol are in a community, the higher the risk that drug abuse will occur in that community.

Perceived availability of drugs is also associated with increased risk. In schools where children just think that drugs are more available, a higher rate of drug use occurs.

### **Indicators:**

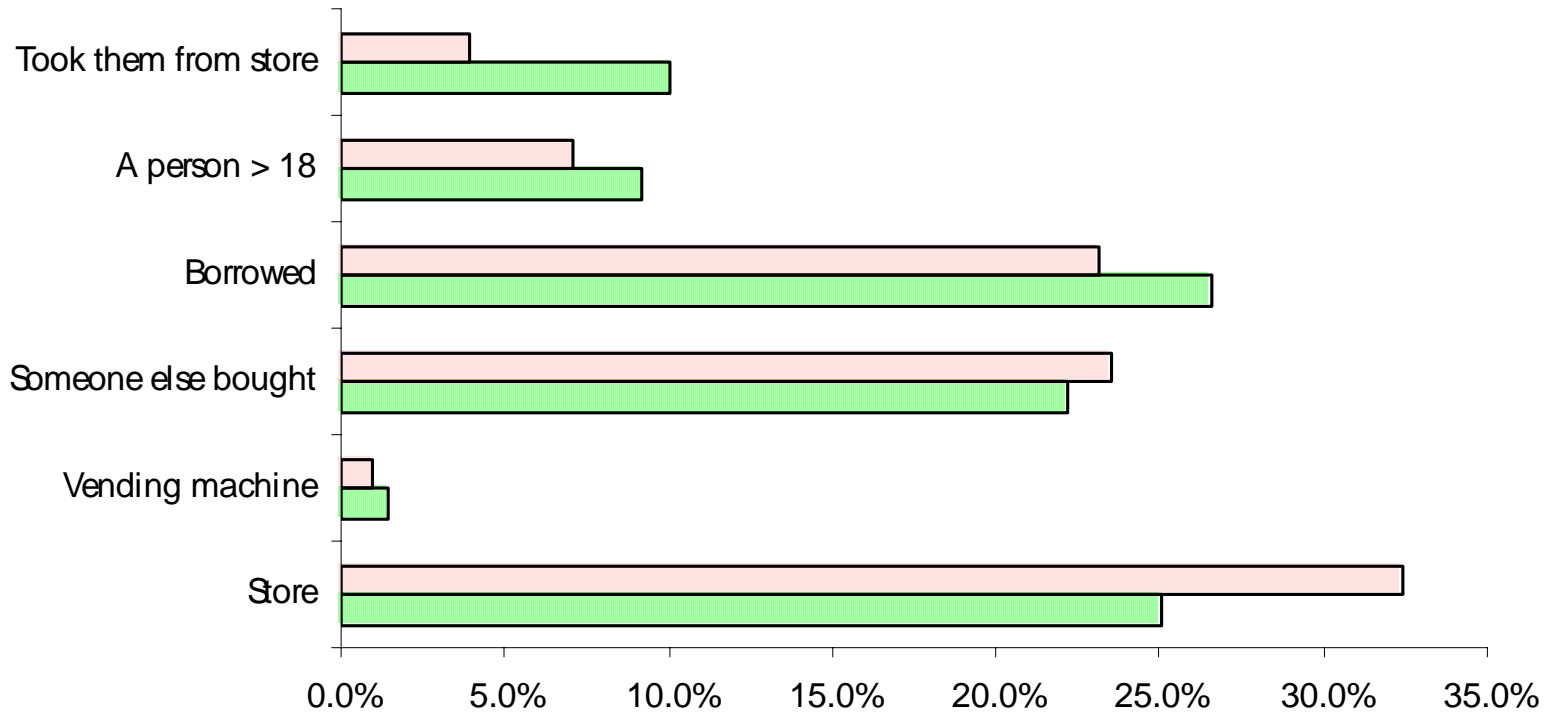
- Percent of high school students who obtained their alcohol from home, friends, or from someone else in the past 30 days
- Percent of high school students who obtained their cigarettes from stores, friends, vending machines, or other sources in the past 30 days
- Percent of high school students who were offered, sold, or given drugs on school property in past 12 months

## Availability of Alcohol & Drugs: Percent of high school students who obtained their alcohol from home, friends, or from someone else in the past 30 days



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Availability of Alcohol & Drugs: Percent of high school students who obtained their cigarettes from stores, friends, vending machines, or other sources in the past 30 days

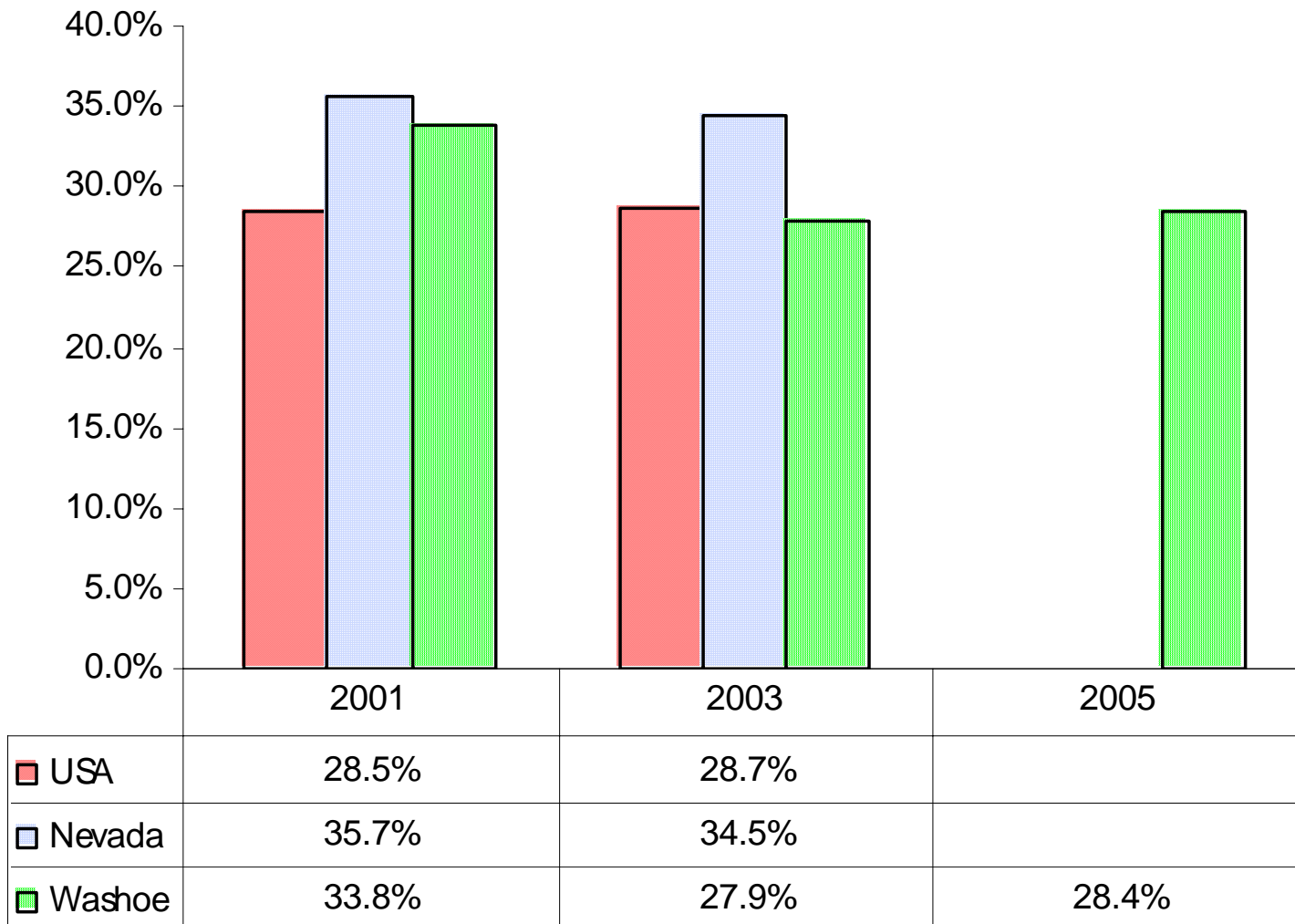


	Store	Vending machine	Someone else bought	Borrowed	A person > 18	Took them from store
USA 2003	32.4%	1.0%	23.5%	23.1%	7.1%	3.9%
Washoe 2005	25.1%	1.4%	22.2%	26.6%	9.2%	10.0%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey



## Availability of Alcohol & Drugs: Percent of high school students who were offered, sold, or given drugs on school property in past 12 months



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Community

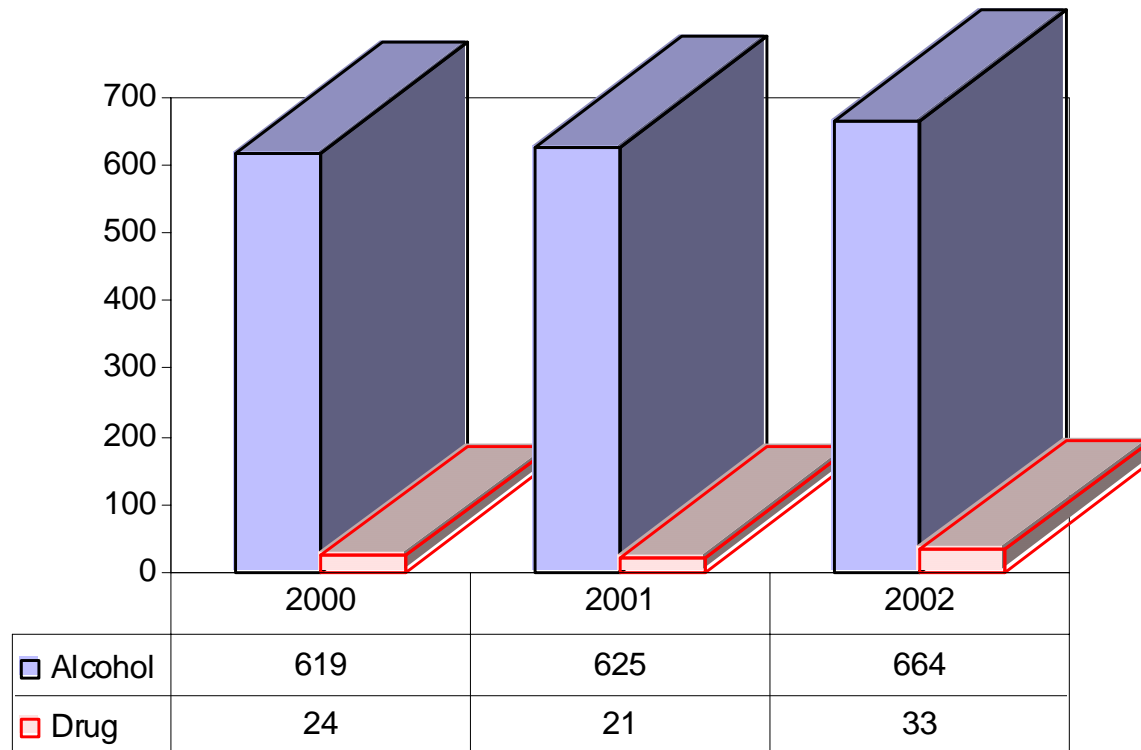
**Risk Factor:** Community Laws & Norms Favorable to Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Community norms (the attitudes and policies a community holds about drug use and crime) are communicated in a variety of ways – through laws and written policies, through informal social practices, and through the expectations parents and other members of the community have of young people.

### **Indicators:**

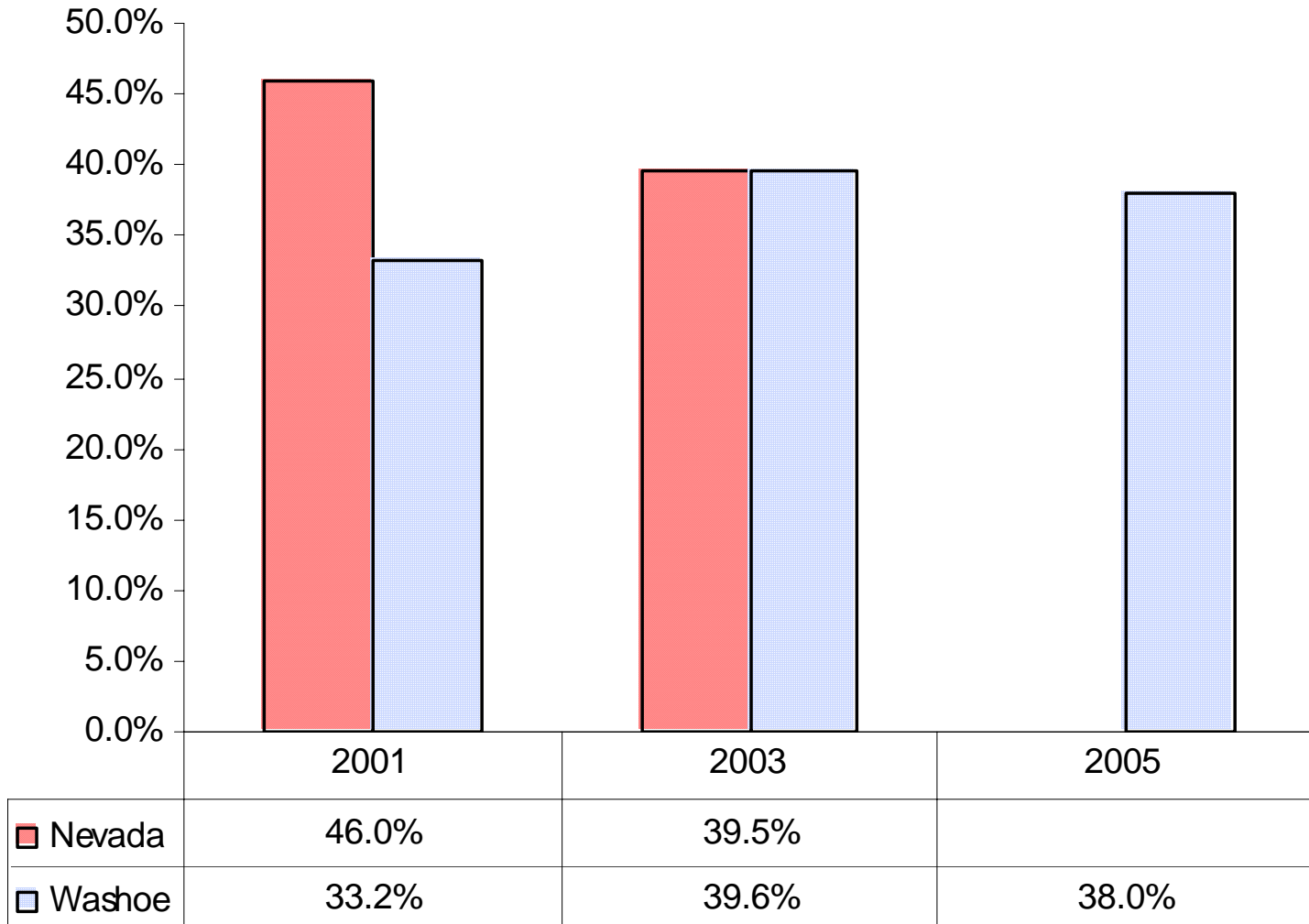
- Nevada alcohol and drug related traffic fatalities
- Percent of high school smokers who were not asked to show proof of age when they purchased their cigarettes in a store/gas station in the past 30 days
- Percent of Washoe County high school students who responded that they carried a weapon in the past 30 days
- Percent of Washoe County high school students who responded that they had been threatened or injured by someone with a weapon on school property in the past 12 months
- Disposition of juvenile arrests

# Community Laws & Norms: Nevada Alcohol and Drug Related Traffic Fatalities



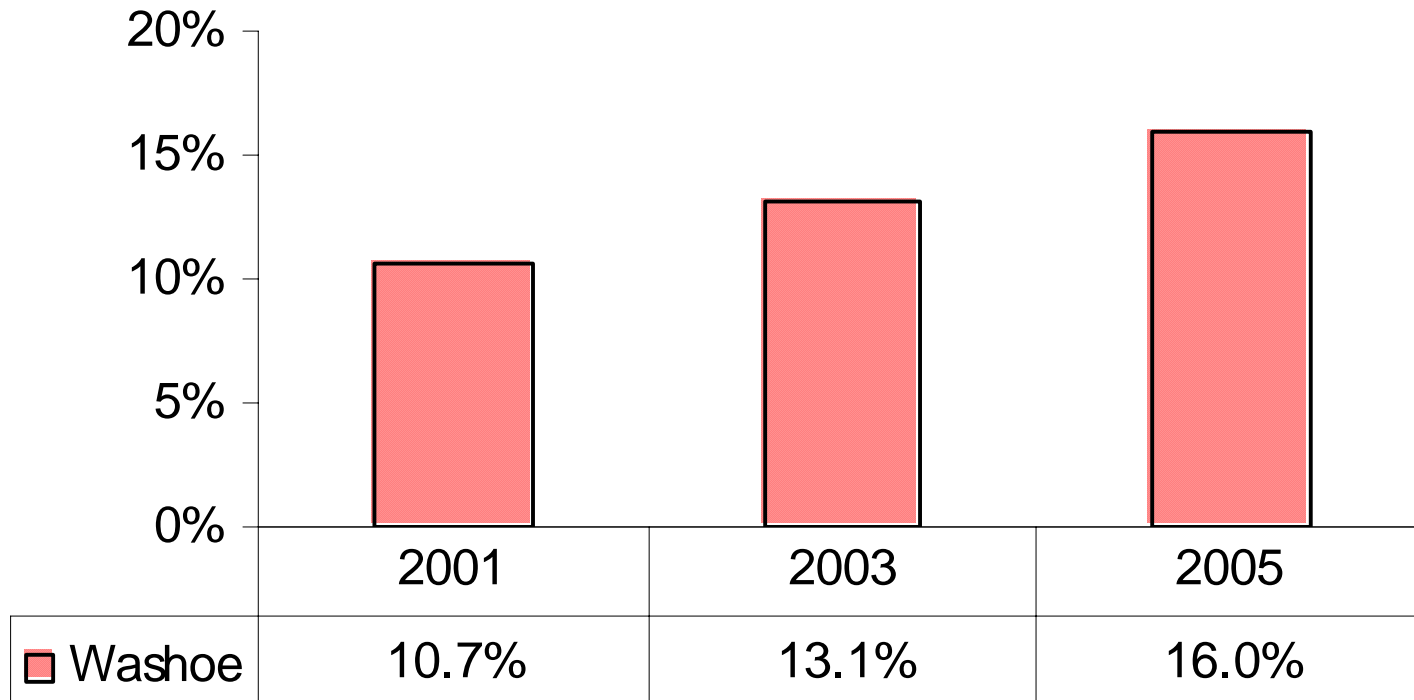
Source: Nevada Department of Transportation

**Community Laws & Norms:** Percent of high school smokers who were not asked to show proof of age when they purchased their cigarettes in a store/gas station in the past 30 days



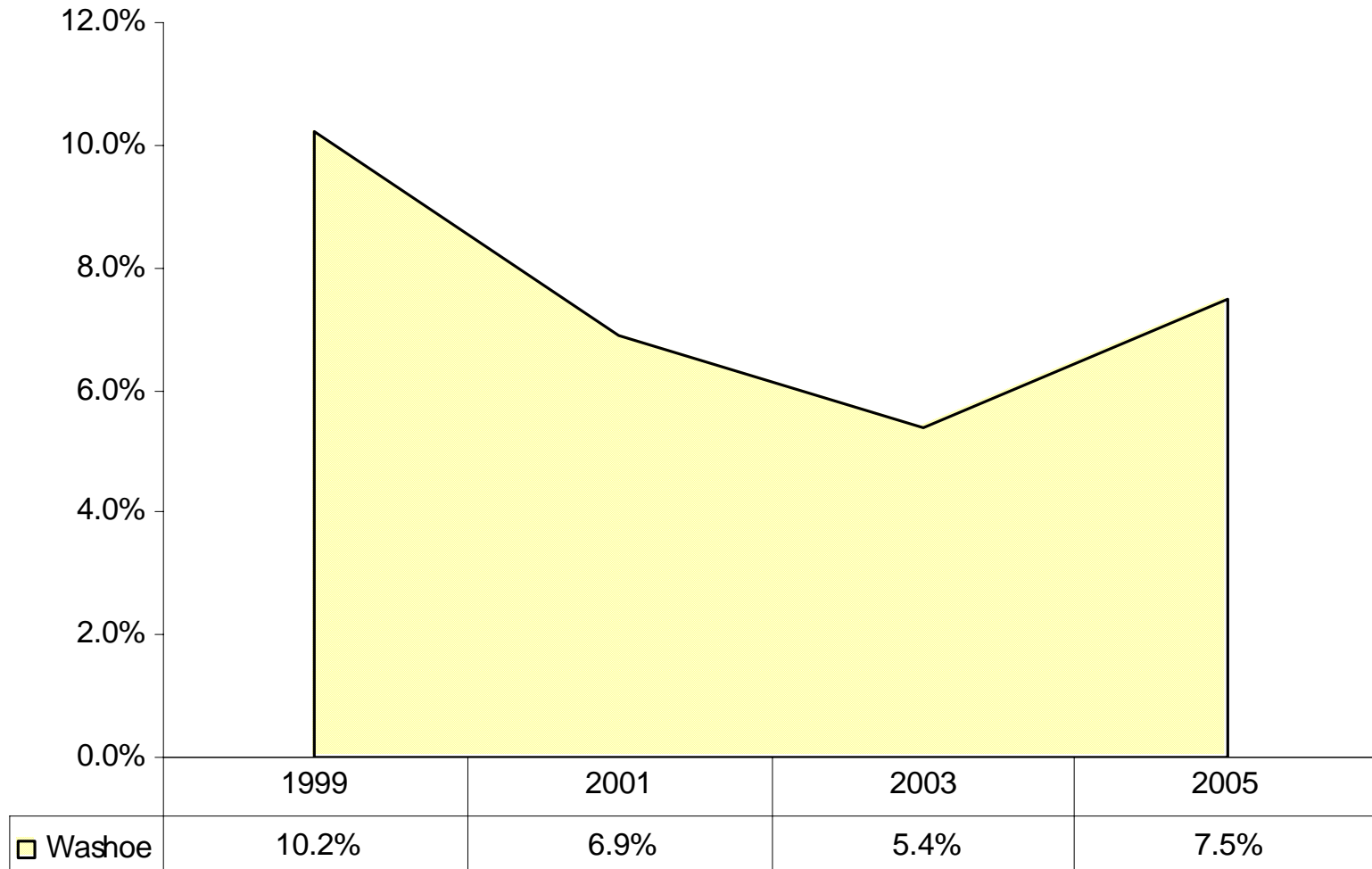
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Community Laws & Norms:** Percent of Washoe County high school students who responded that they carried a weapon in the past 30 days



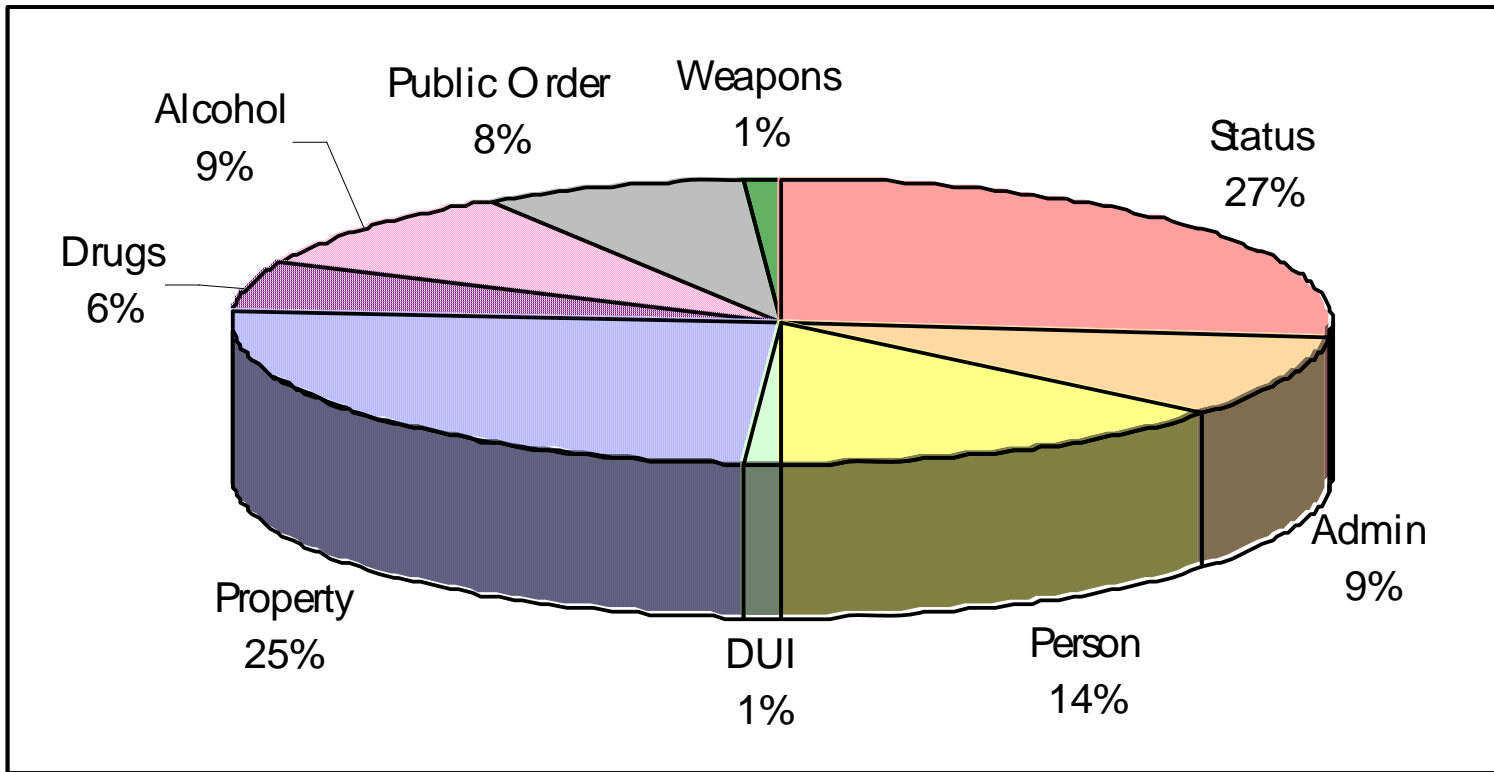
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Community Laws & Norms:** Percent of Washoe County high school students who responded that they had been threatened or injured by someone with a weapon on school property in the past 12 months



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

# Community Laws & Norms: Disposition of Washoe County juvenile arrests, 2003



Source: Division of Child & Family Services

## **FAMILY DOMAIN**

From the prenatal stage through late childhood, the family—parents, caregivers or parent surrogates, siblings, and close relatives—is the main influence in the development of children and youth, and it is also the crucible in which problem behaviors and all their antecedents are shaped.



## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Family

**Risk Factor:** Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior

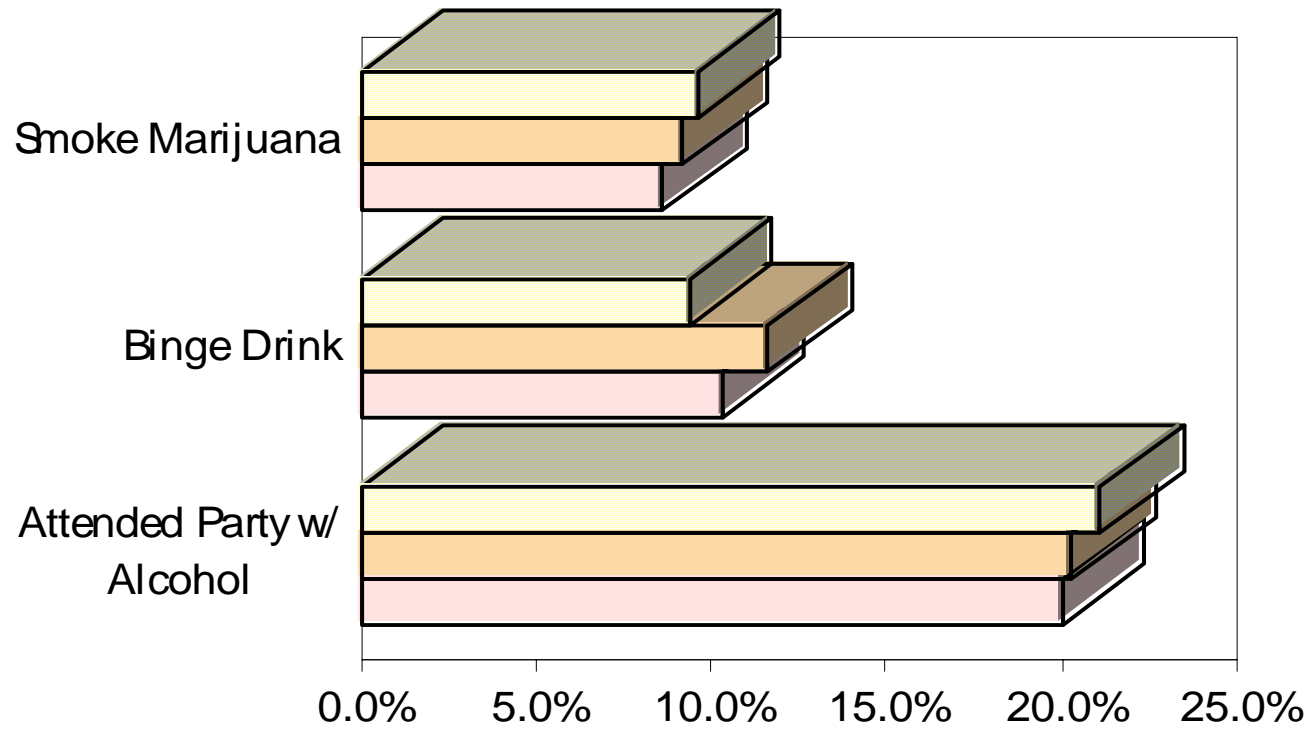
Parental attitudes and behavior towards drugs, crime and violence influence the attitudes of their children. In families where parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol, or are tolerant of their children's use, children are more likely to become drug users in adolescence. Their risk further increases if parents involve children in their own alcohol or drug using behavior, for example, asking the child to light the parents cigarette or get the parents a beer from the refrigerator.

*Perceived* parental approval has a comparable effect on increasing the likelihood of the youth becoming involved in that behavior.

### **Indicators:**

- Percent of Washoe County high school and middle school students answering that their parents would "approve" or "wouldn't care" if they...
- Percent of Washoe County High School students that report that their parents/guardians "only sometimes", "rarely", or "never" know where they are when away from home

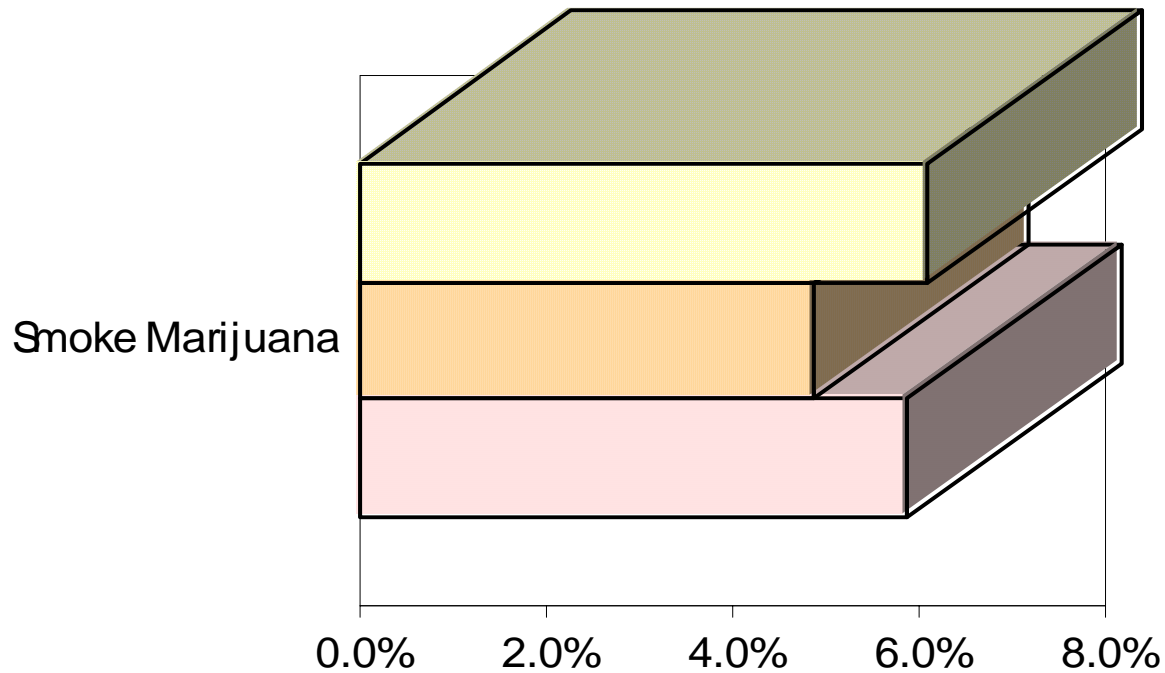
**Favorable Parental Attitudes Towards the Problem Behavior:** Percent of Washoe County high school students answering that their parents would “Approve” or “Wouldn’t Care” if they...



	Attended Party w/ Alcohol	Binge Drink	Smoke Marijuana
■ 2001	21.1%	9.4%	9.6%
■ 2003	20.3%	11.6%	9.2%
■ 2005	20.0%	10.3%	8.6%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

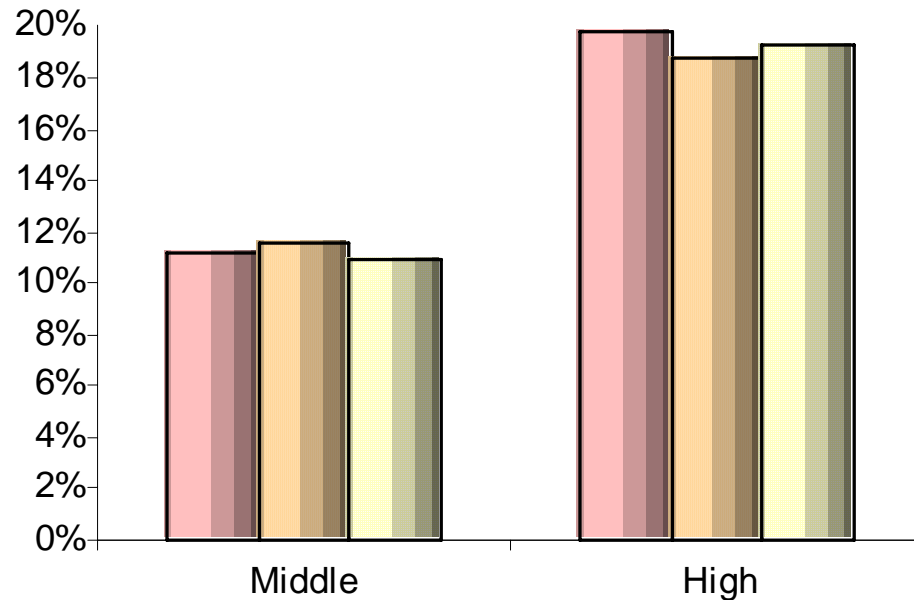
**Favorable Parental Attitudes Towards the Problem Behavior:** Percent of Washoe County middle school students answering that their parents would “Approve” or “Wouldn’t Care” if they...



Smoke Marijuana	
2001	6.1%
2003	4.9%
2005	5.9%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Favorable Parental Attitudes Towards the Problem Behavior:** Percent of Washoe County high school and middle school students who report that their parents/guardians “only sometimes”, “rarely”, or “never” know where they are when away from home



	Middle	High
2001	11.2%	19.8%
2003	11.5%	18.8%
2005	10.9%	19.3%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Family

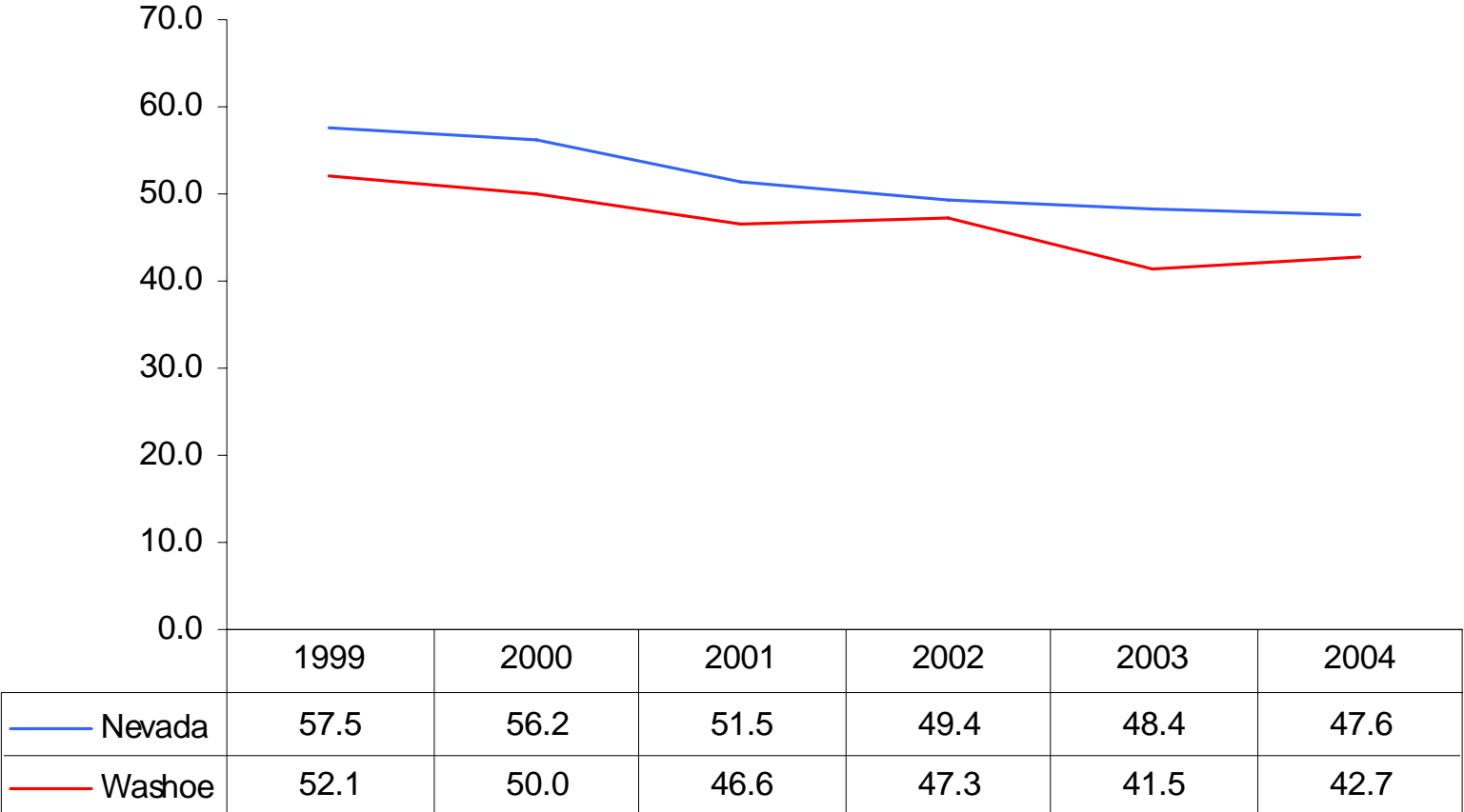
**Risk Factor:** Family History of the Problem Behavior

In a family with a history of addiction to alcohol or other drugs, children are at increased risk of developing alcohol or other drug problems themselves.

### **Indicators:**

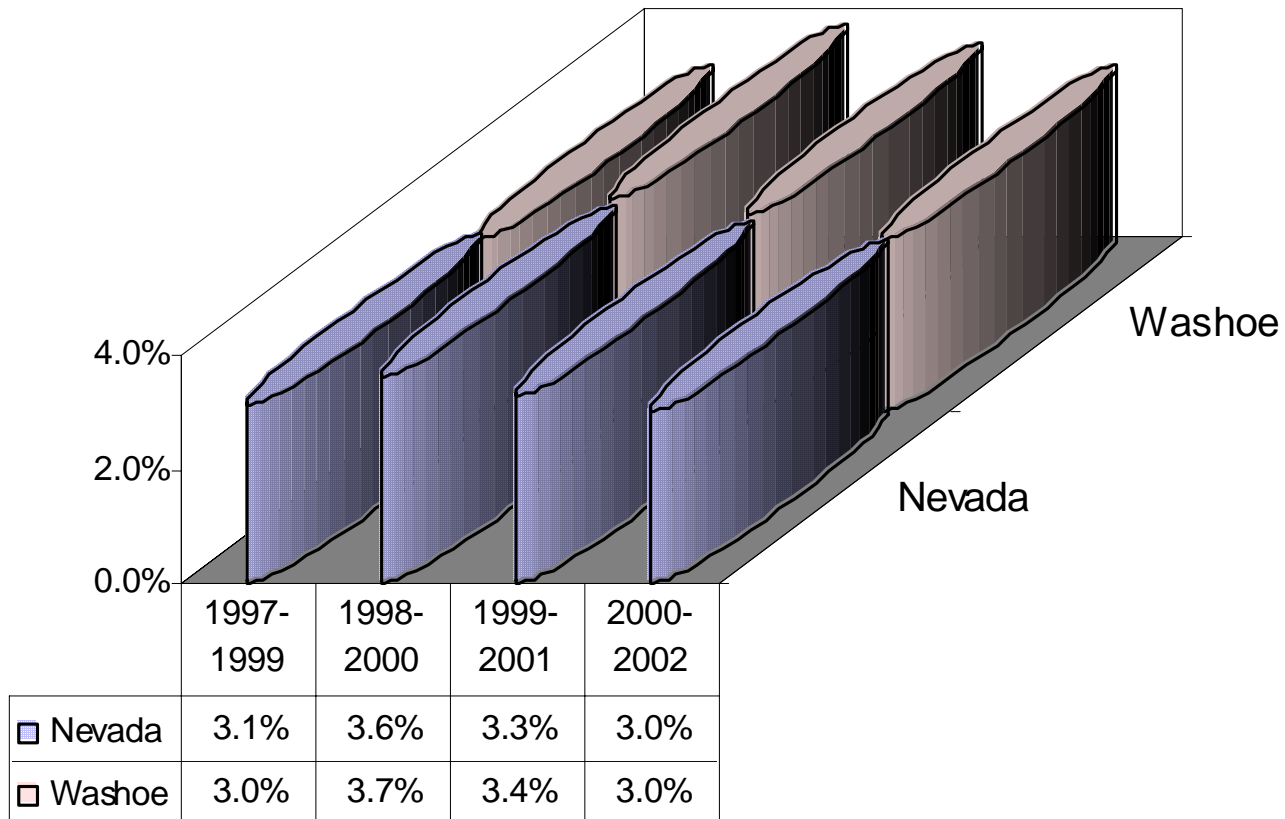
- Teen birth rate (Aged 15-19)
- Births to unmarried females aged 15-17
- Low birth weight babies
- Percentage of deaths due to chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
- Educational attainment

# Family History of the Problem Behavior: Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Teen Females (Ages 15 to 19)



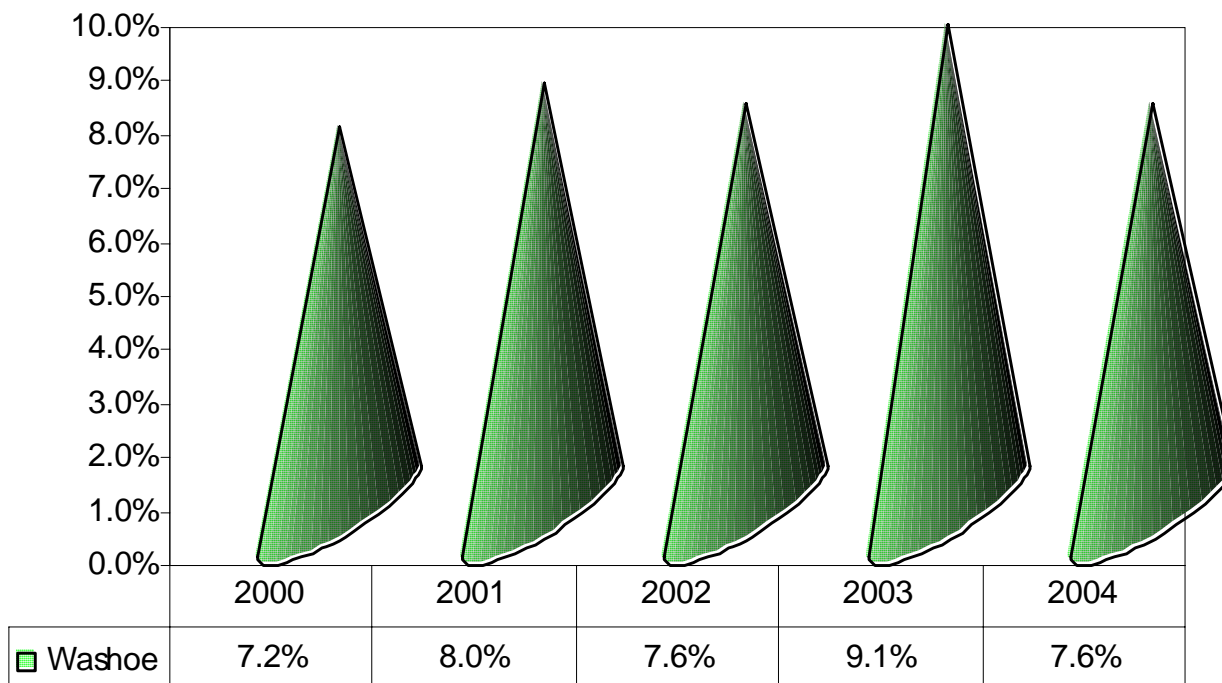
Source: Nevada State Statistical Abstract

# Family History of the Problem Behavior: Births to unmarried females aged 15-17



Source: Nevada Kids Count

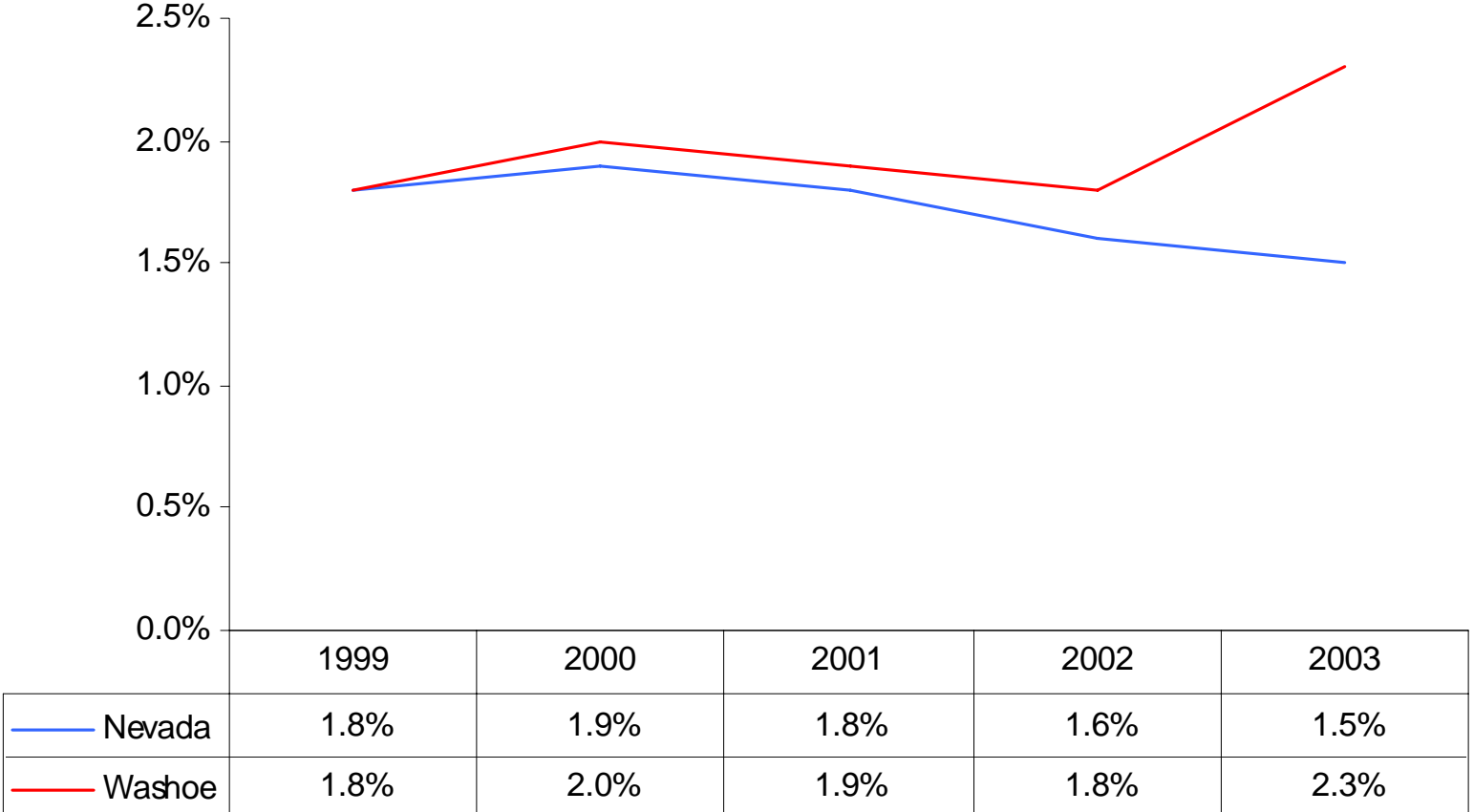
## Family History of the Problem Behavior: Percent of Washoe County babies born with low birth weights (<2,500 g)



Source: Nevada Interactive Health Database System

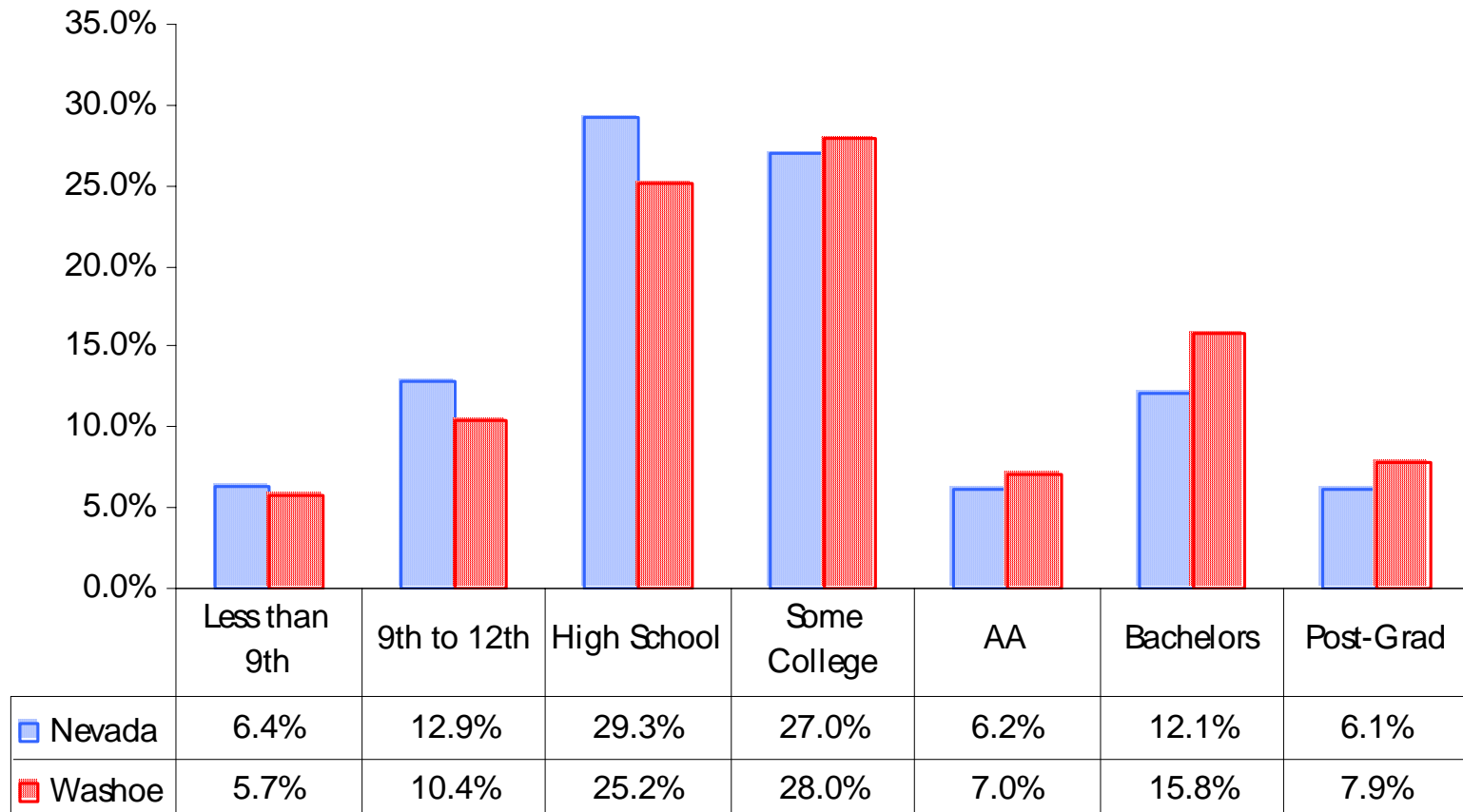


# Family History of the Problem Behavior: Percentage of deaths due to chronic liver disease and cirrhosis



Source: Nevada State Statistical Abstract

## Family History of the Problem Behavior: Educational Attainment



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Family

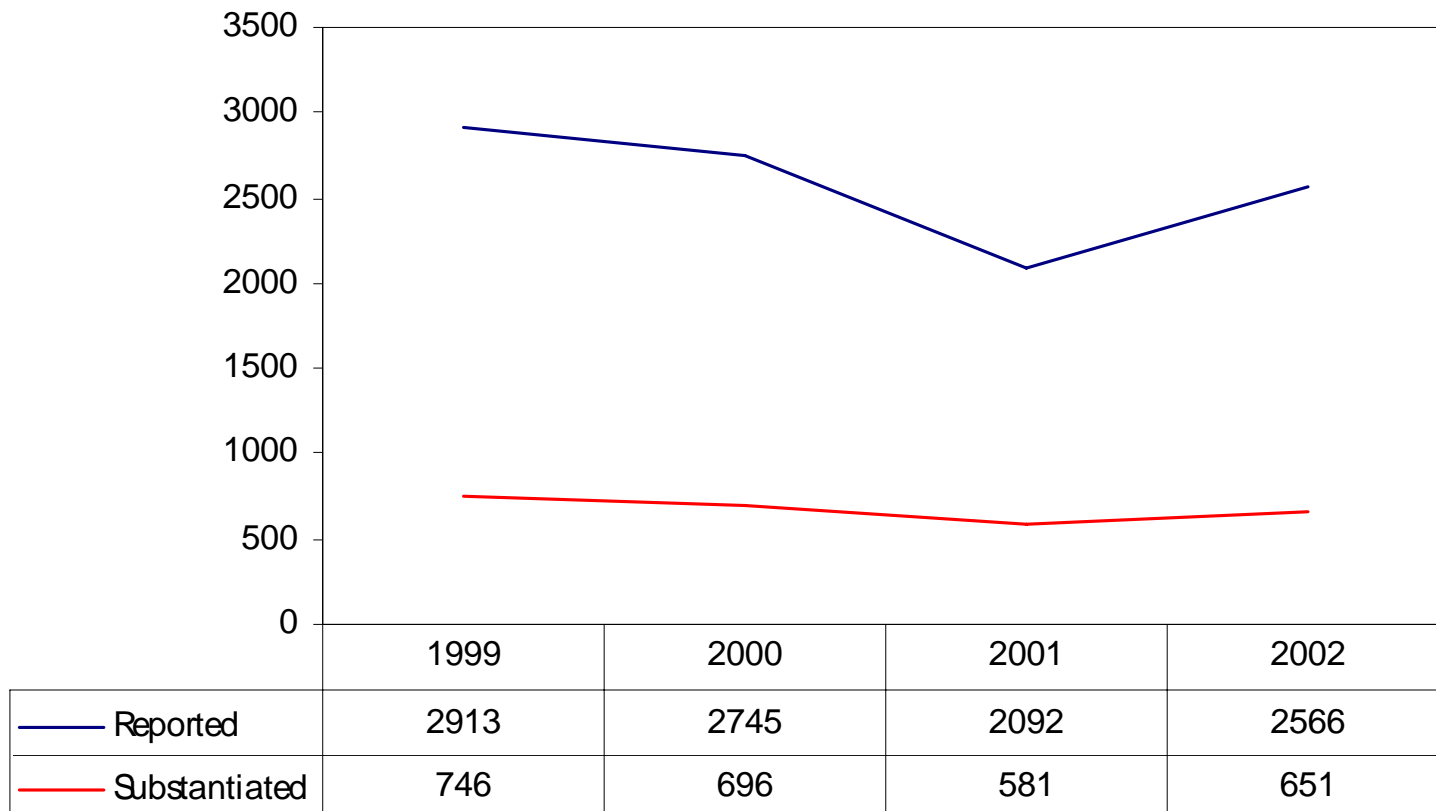
**Risk Factor:** Family Conflict

Persistent, serious conflict between primary caregivers or between caregivers and children appears to enhance risk for children raised in these families. Conflict between family members appears to be more important than family structure.

### **Indicators:**

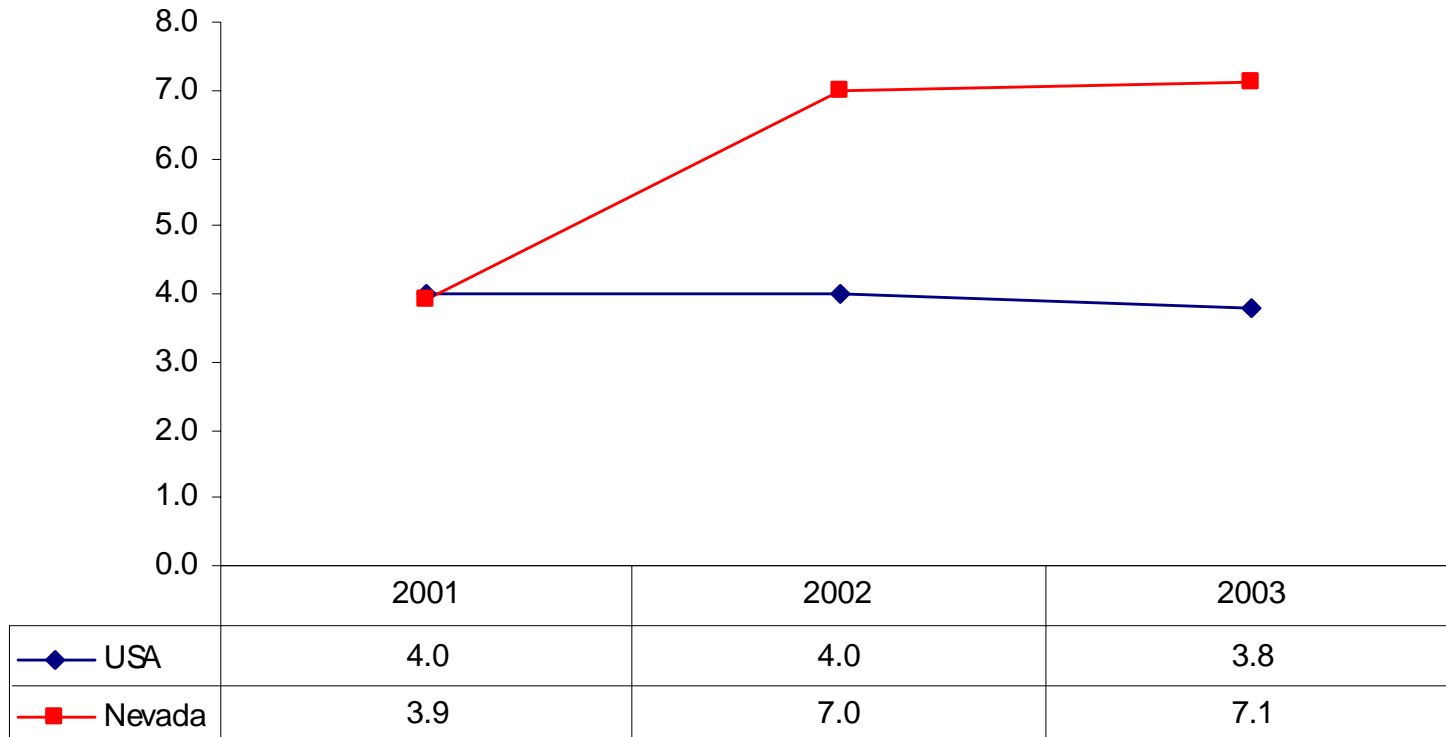
- Reported & substantiated child abuse
- Divorce rate per 100,000 population
- Domestic Violence per 100,000 population
- Washoe County deaths of youth aged 1-14
- Washoe County deaths of infants <1 year old

**Family Conflict:** Number of reported and substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Washoe County



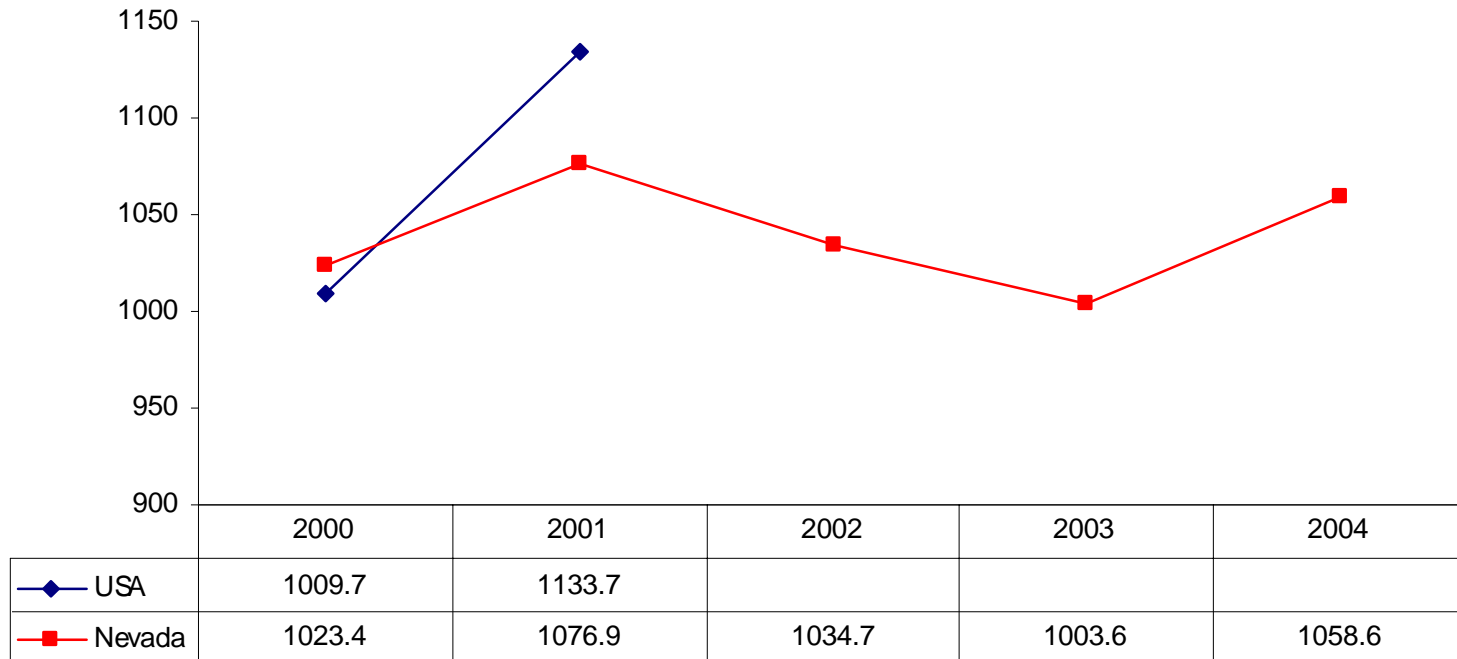
Source: State of Nevada Division of Child & Family Services

## Family Conflict: Divorce rate per 100,000 population



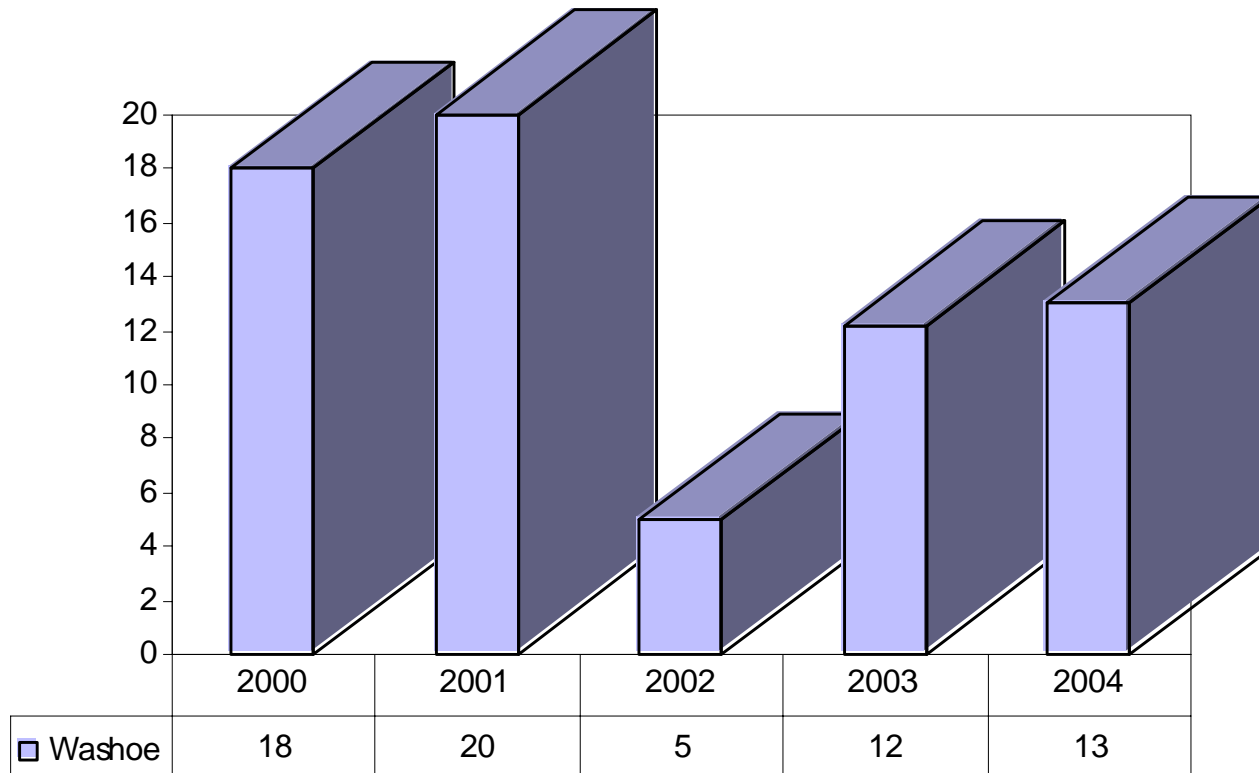
Source: Nevada State Statistical Abstract

## Family Conflict: Domestic Violence per 100,000 population



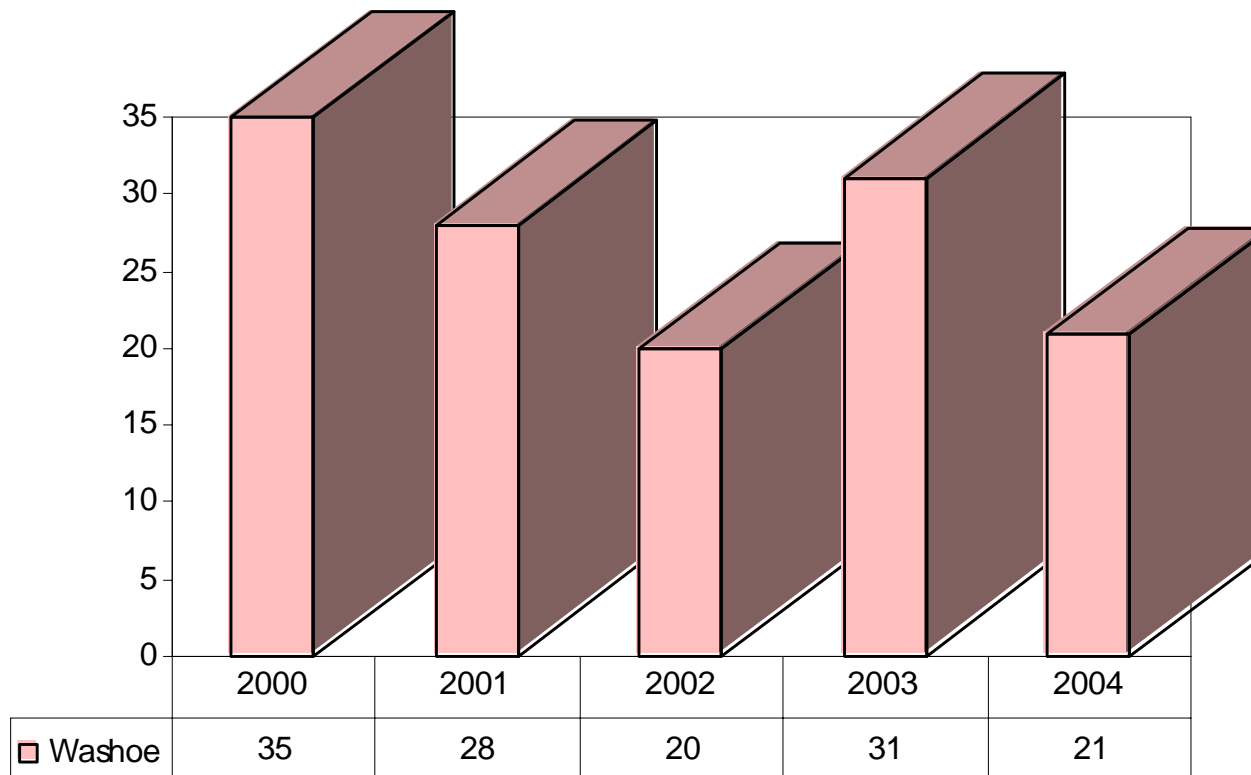
Source: Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

## Family Conflict: Washoe County deaths of youth aged 1-14



Source: Nevada Interactive Health Database System

## Family Conflict: Washoe County deaths of infants <1 year old



Source: Nevada Interactive Health Database System



## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Family

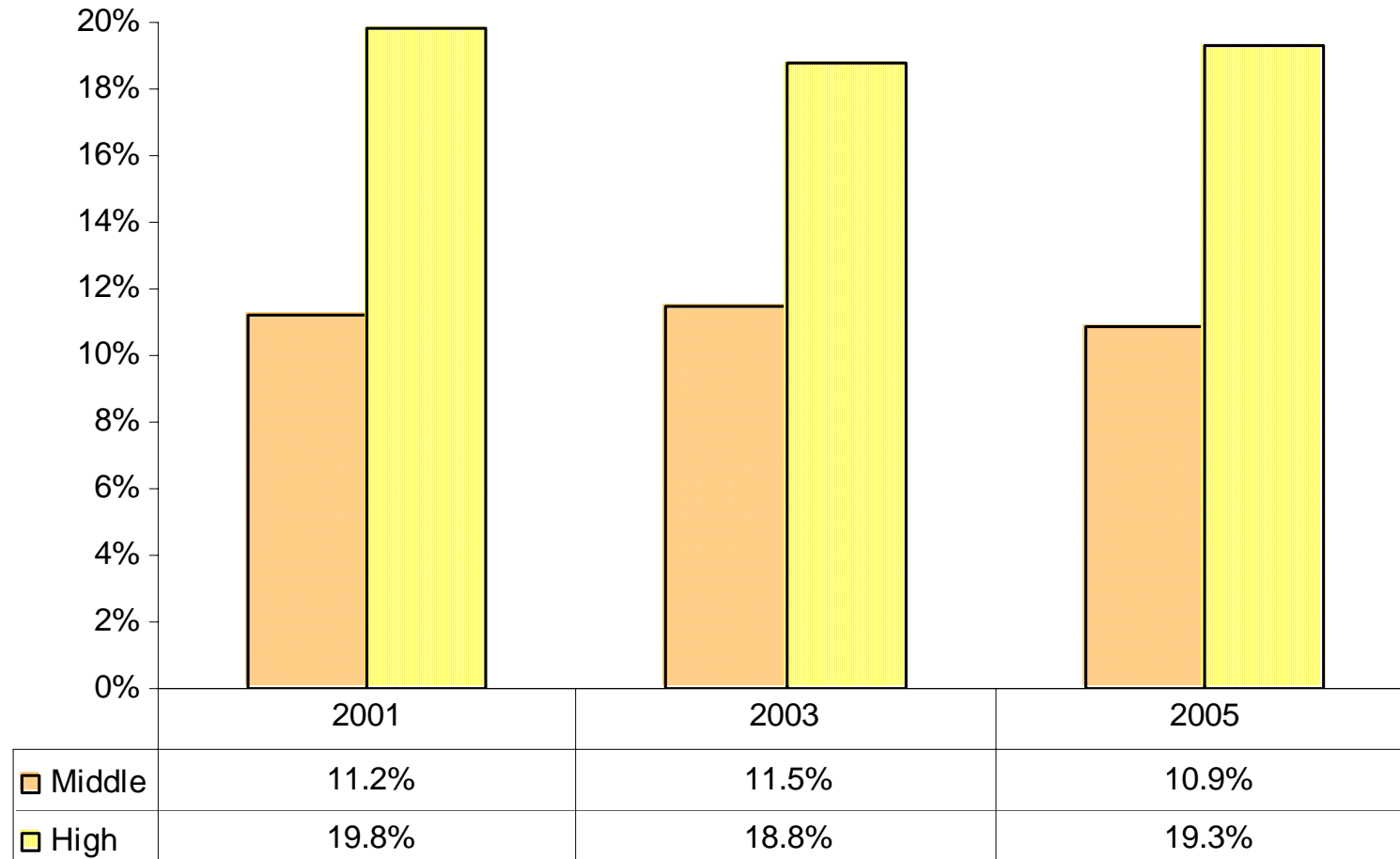
**Risk Factor:** Family Management

Poor family management practices include lack of clear expectations for behavior, failure of parents to monitor their children, and excessively severe or inconsistent punishments.

### **Indicators:**

- Percentage of Washoe County high school and middle school students who report that their parents “only sometimes”, “rarely”, or “never” know where they are when they are away from home

**Family Management Problems:** Percentage of Washoe County high school and middle school students who report that their parents “only sometimes”, “rarely”, or “never” know where they are when they are away from home



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## SCHOOL DOMAIN

One of the strongest predictors of substance use and related problem behavior is school failure. Although to a great extent school failure is shaped by an individual's experiences in early childhood, within the family setting, and during the preschool years, some school-related factors are believed to exacerbate preexisting problems and dispositions. Principal among these are a negative, disorderly, and unsafe school climate and low teacher expectations of student achievement. Closely associated with an unsafe and disorderly school climate, and also predictive of school-related substance abuse problems, is a lack of clear school policies regarding drug use.

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** School

**Risk Factor:** Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School

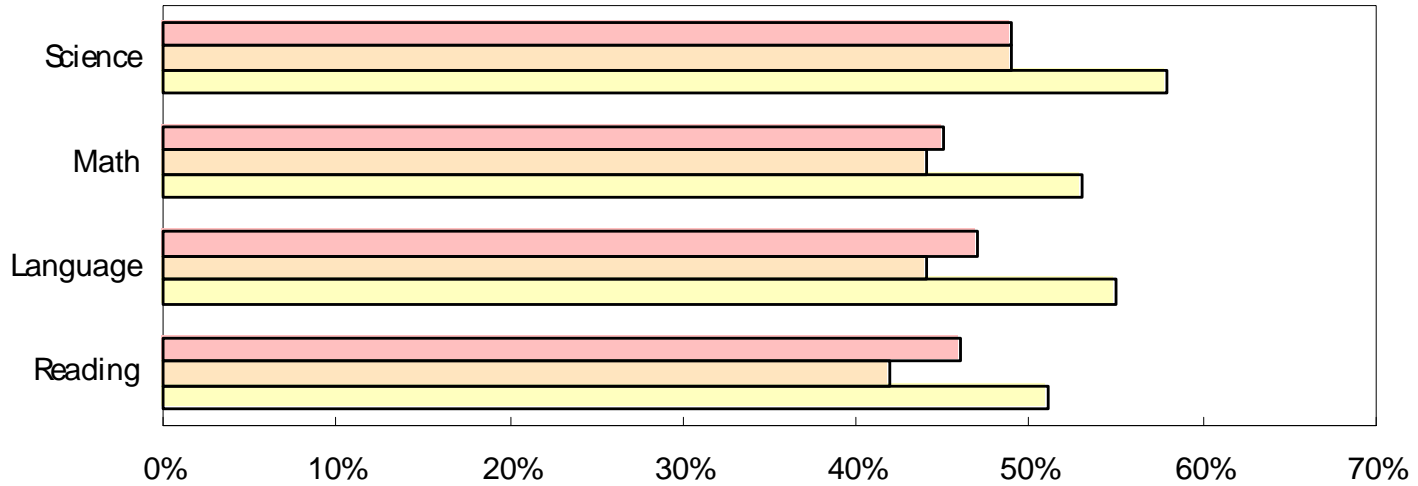
Beginning in the late elementary grades, academic failure increases the risk of drug abuse, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy, and school drop-out. Children fail for many reasons, but it appears that the experience of failure itself, not necessarily ability, increases the risk of these problem behaviors.

### **Indicators:**

- Iowa Test of Basic Skills
- Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) scores
- Percentage of Washoe County high school and middle school students describing their grades as “mostly C’s, D’s, or F’s”

# Academic Failure: Iowa Test of Basic Skills – Nevada Scores: FY 2002-2003

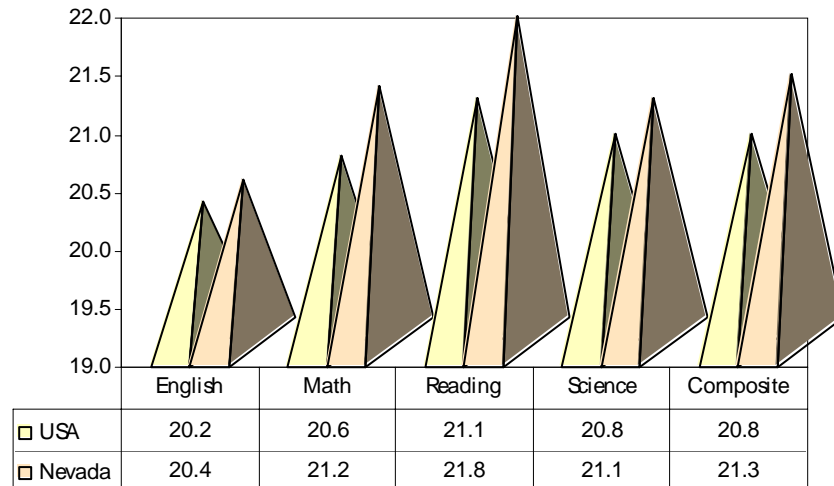
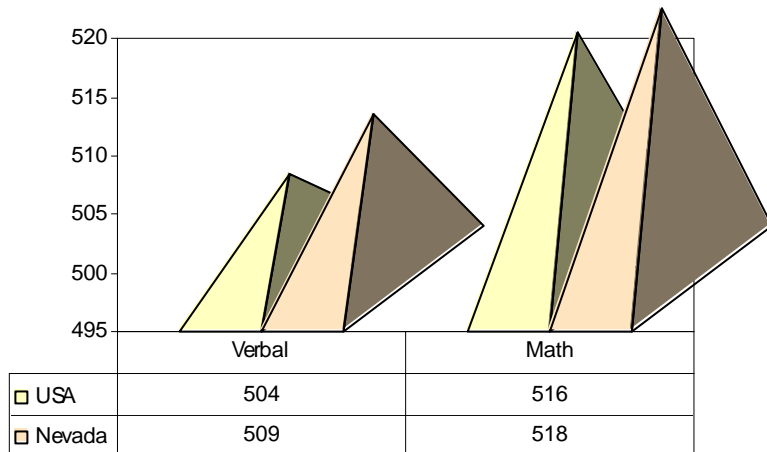
National Average = 50<sup>th</sup> Percentile



	Reading	Language	Math	Science
10th Grade	46%	47%	45%	49%
7th Grade	42%	44%	44%	49%
4th Grade	51%	55%	53%	58%

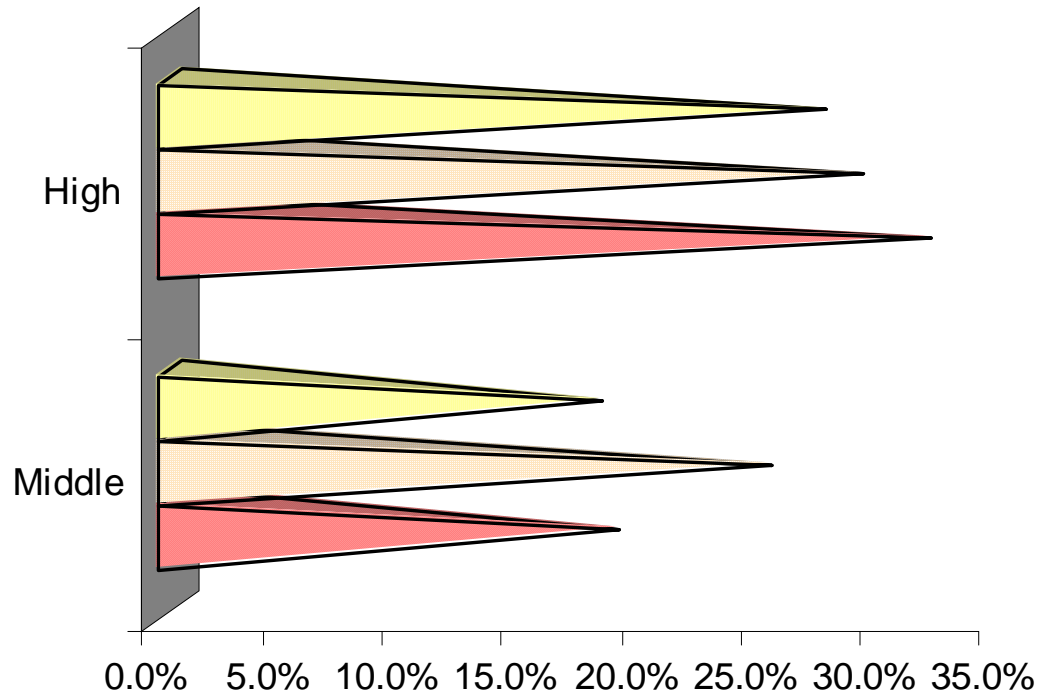
Source: Nevada Department of Education

# Academic Failure: Nevada and US 2002 Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) scores



Source: Nevada Department of Education

**Academic Failure:** Percentage of Washoe County high school and middle school students describing their grades as “mostly C’s, D’s, or F’s”



	Middle	High
2001	18.0%	27.4%
2003	25.2%	28.9%
2005	18.8%	31.8%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** School

**Risk Factor:** Lack of Commitment to School

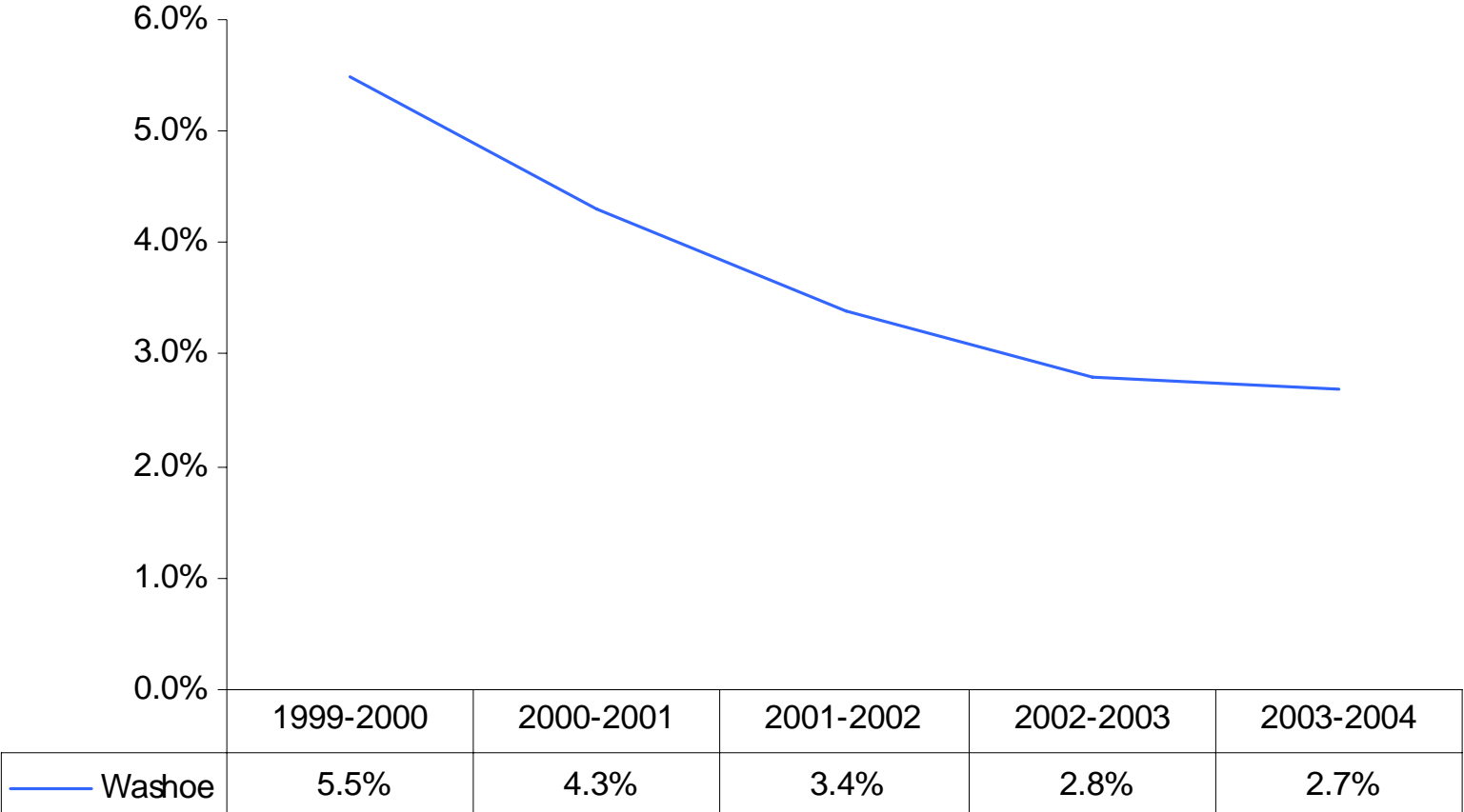
Lack of commitment to school means that the youth has ceased to see the role of student as a viable one. Young people who have lost this commitment to school are at higher risk for substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, and school dropout.

### **Indicators:**

- High School dropout rate
- Percentage of students seriously considering dropping out of school
- Percentage of students not planning to complete a post-high school program
- Percentage of students who miss school every week
- Number of incidents resulting in suspension or expulsion for distribution or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance
- Number of incidents resulting in suspension or expulsion for violence or possession of weapons

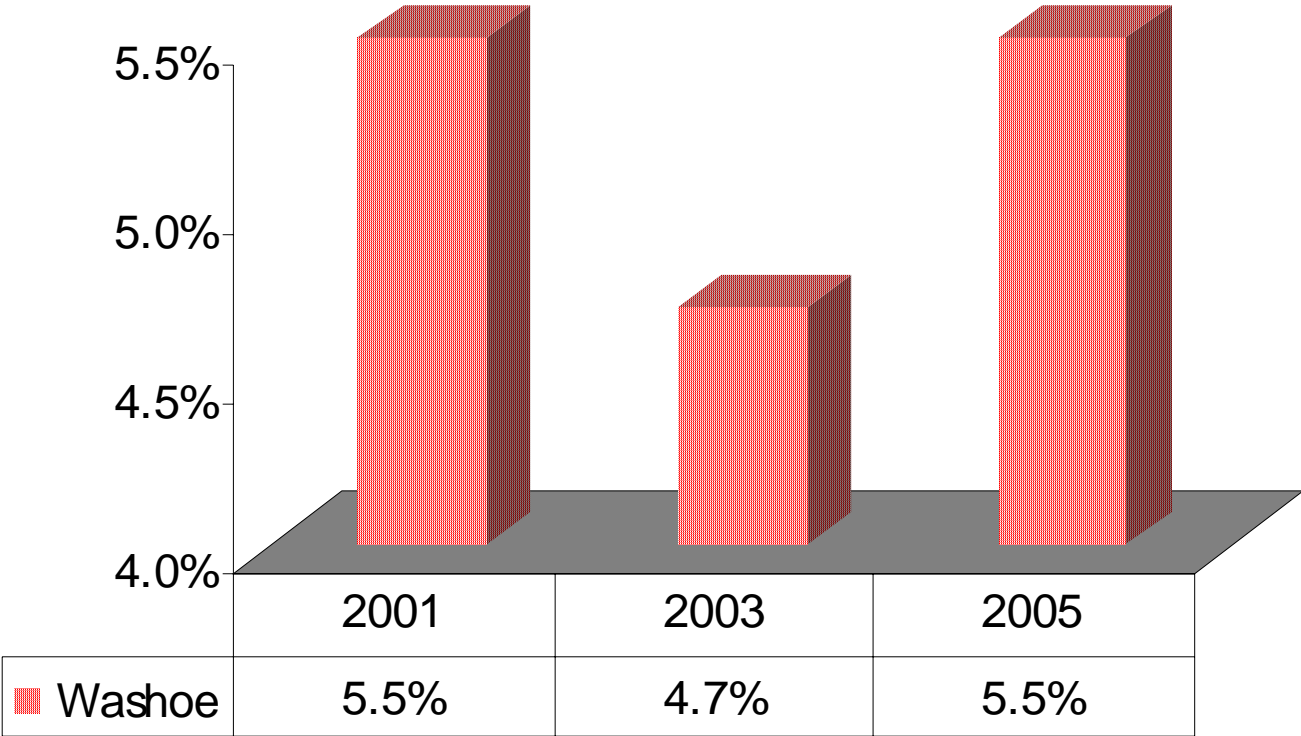


# Lack of Commitment to School: Percent of Washoe County high school students who drop out of high school



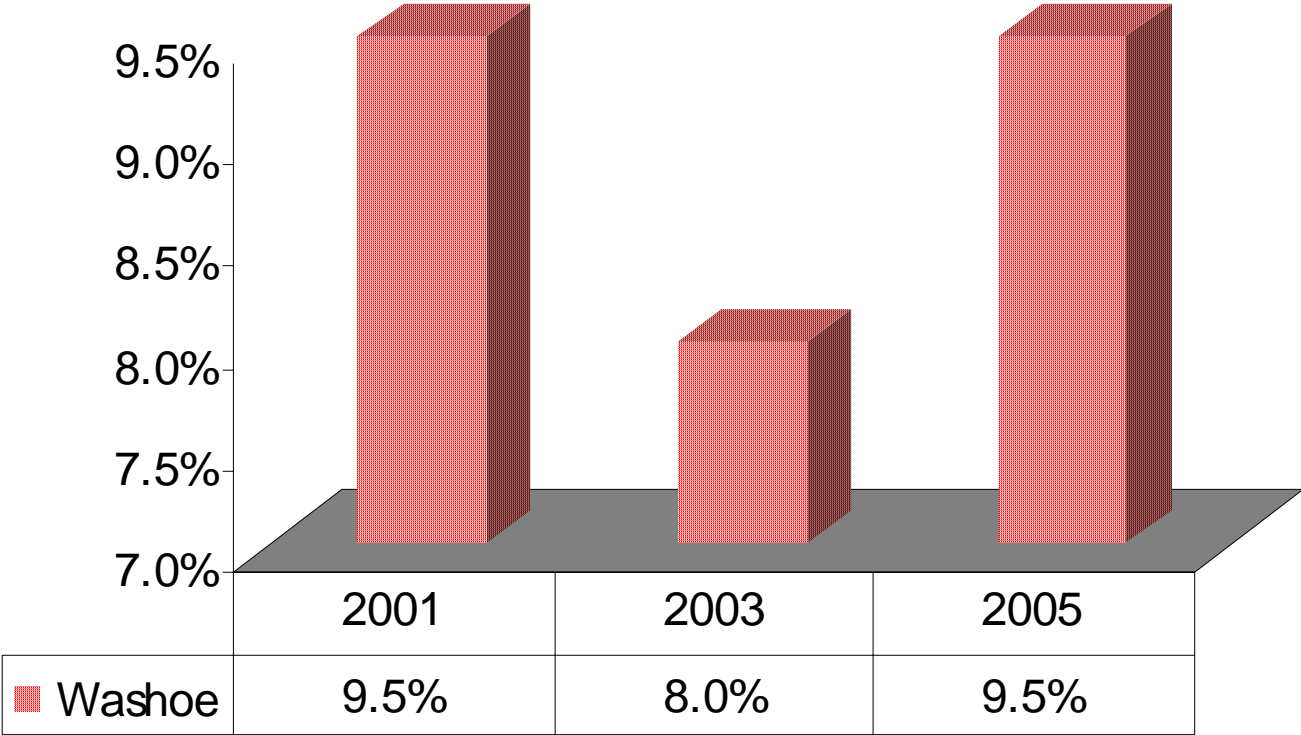
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

**Lack of Commitment to School:** Percent of Washoe County high school students who are seriously considering dropping out of high school



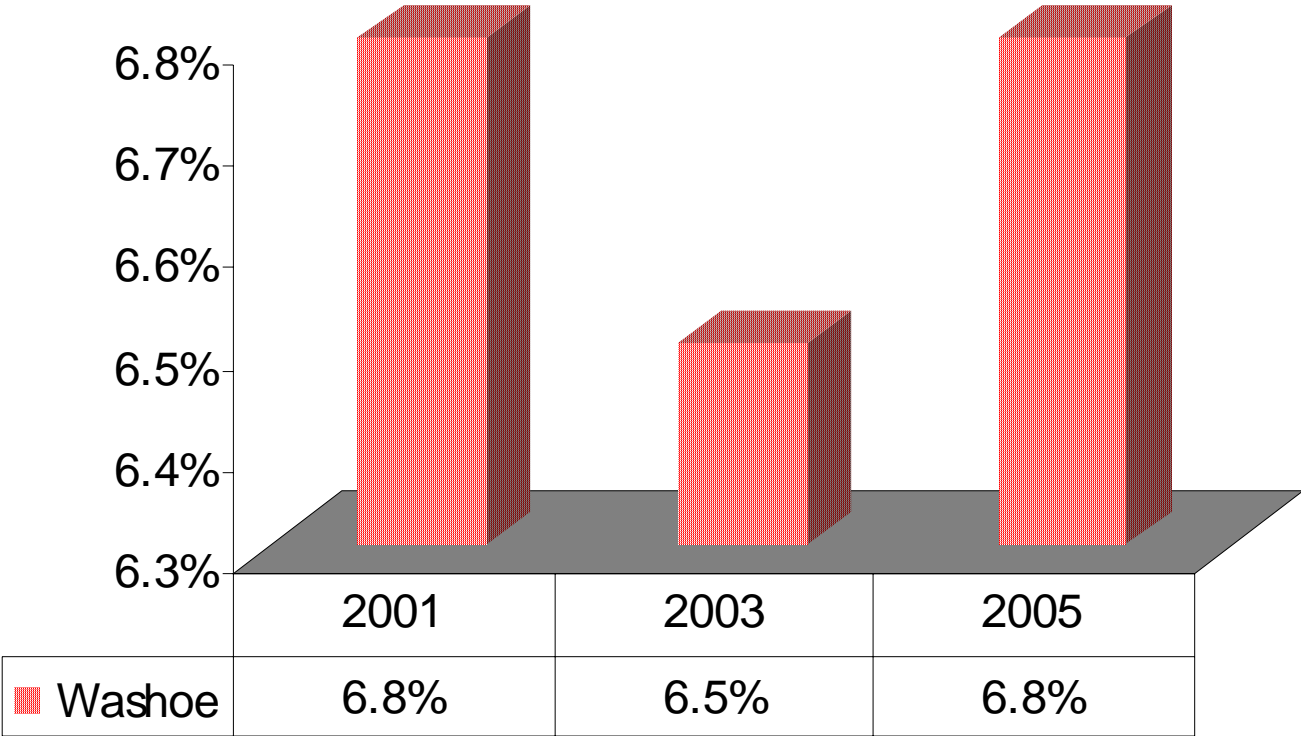
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Lack of Commitment to School:** Percent of Washoe County high school students who “probably” or “definitely” won’t complete a post high school program



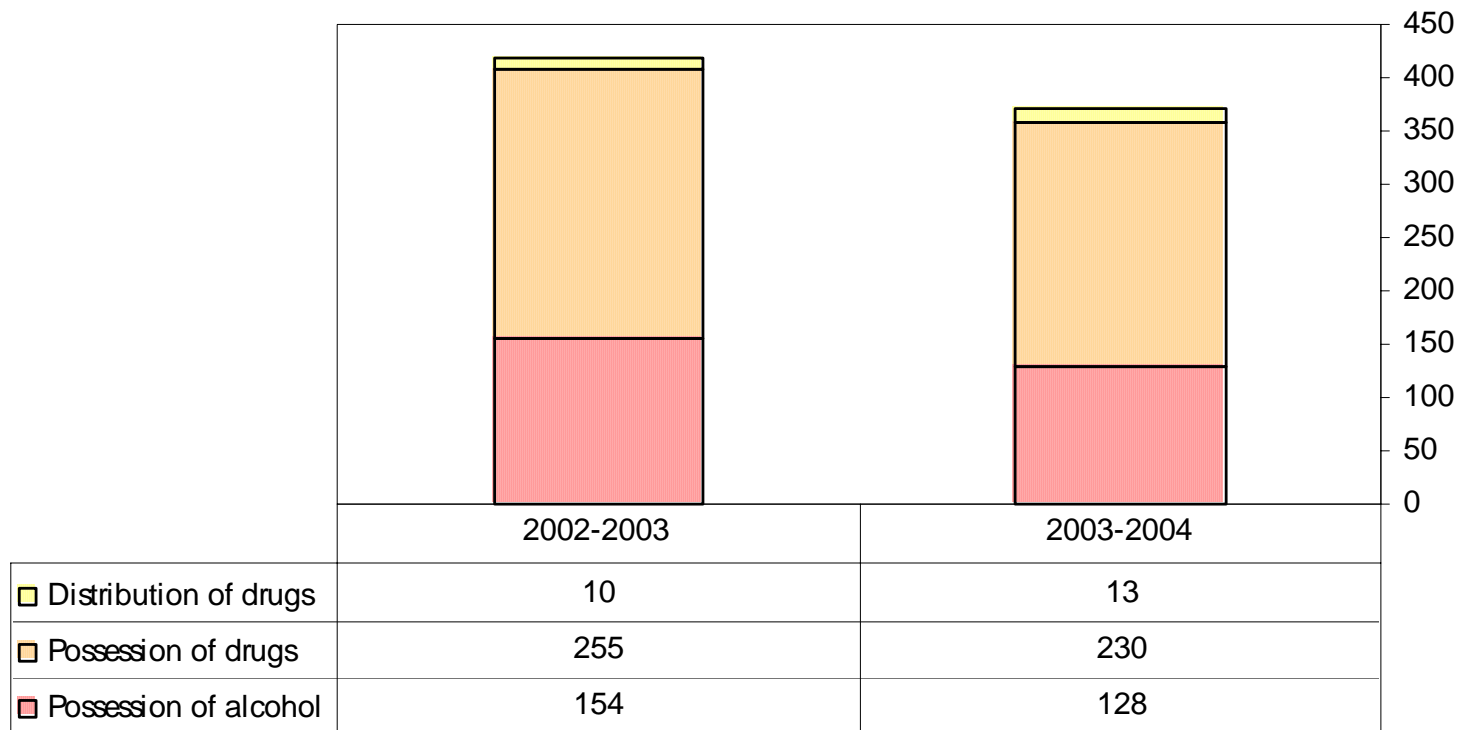
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

# Lack of Commitment to School: Percentage of Washoe County high school students who miss school every week



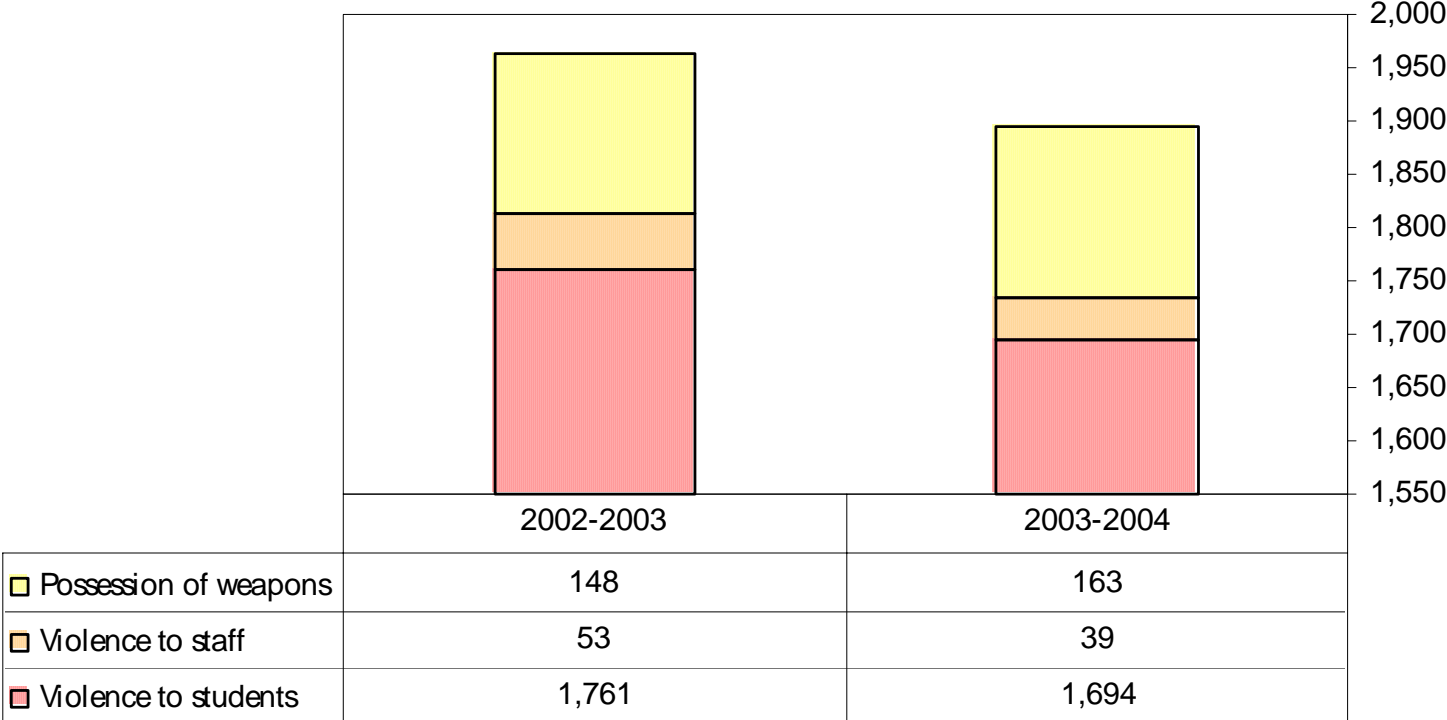
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Lack of Commitment to School:** Number of Washoe County School District incidents resulting in suspension or expulsion for distribution or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance



Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

**Lack of Commitment to School:** Number of Washoe County School District incidents resulting in suspension or expulsion for violence and/or possession of weapons



Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

## PEER/INDIVIDUAL DOMAIN

The negative influence of peers is well established as one of the most important factors in the onset of drug and alcohol use among youth, and it continues to be important through young adulthood. Nevertheless, all young people are not equally susceptible to real or perceived peer pressure. Adolescents who are strongly peer-oriented hold more negative views of themselves, see themselves as less dependable, more hostile, more likely to disobey adults, less interested in academics, and less future-oriented.

Further, peer influence increases in importance as young people move into adolescence. One or more of the preceding vulnerabilities to peer influence can lead to the surest predictor of substance use among youth, involvement with peers who use alcohol and drugs and engage in other forms of problem behavior.

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Peer/Individual

**Risk Factor:** Problem Behaviors

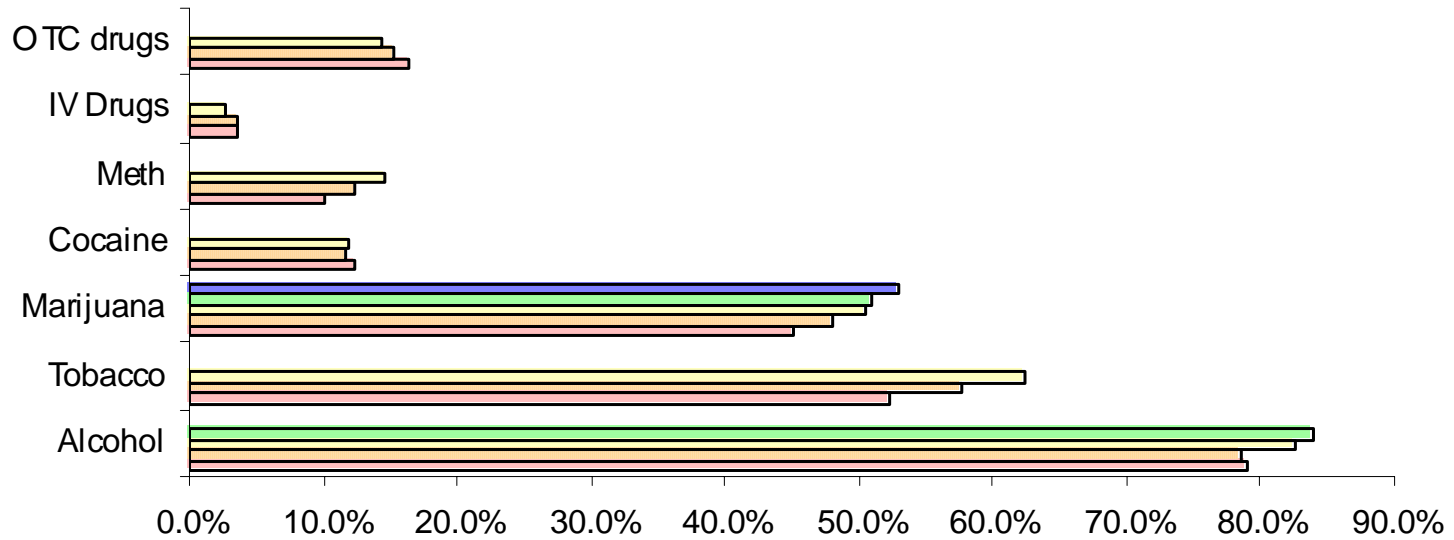
The following fourteen (14) pages outline problem behaviors of Washoe County high school and middle school youth.

### **Indicators:**

- Lifetime use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, meth, IV drugs, and OTC drugs
- 30-day use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, and inhalants
- Rate of juvenile referrals for drug and alcohol related offenses
- Percentage of youth reporting that they rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking in the past 30 days
- Percentage of youth reporting that they drove a car after drinking alcohol in the past 30 days
- Rate of arrests for driving under the influence (DUI)
- Rate of adult arrests for drug and alcohol related offenses
- Youth substance abuse treatment admissions in Nevada, youth by type of substance



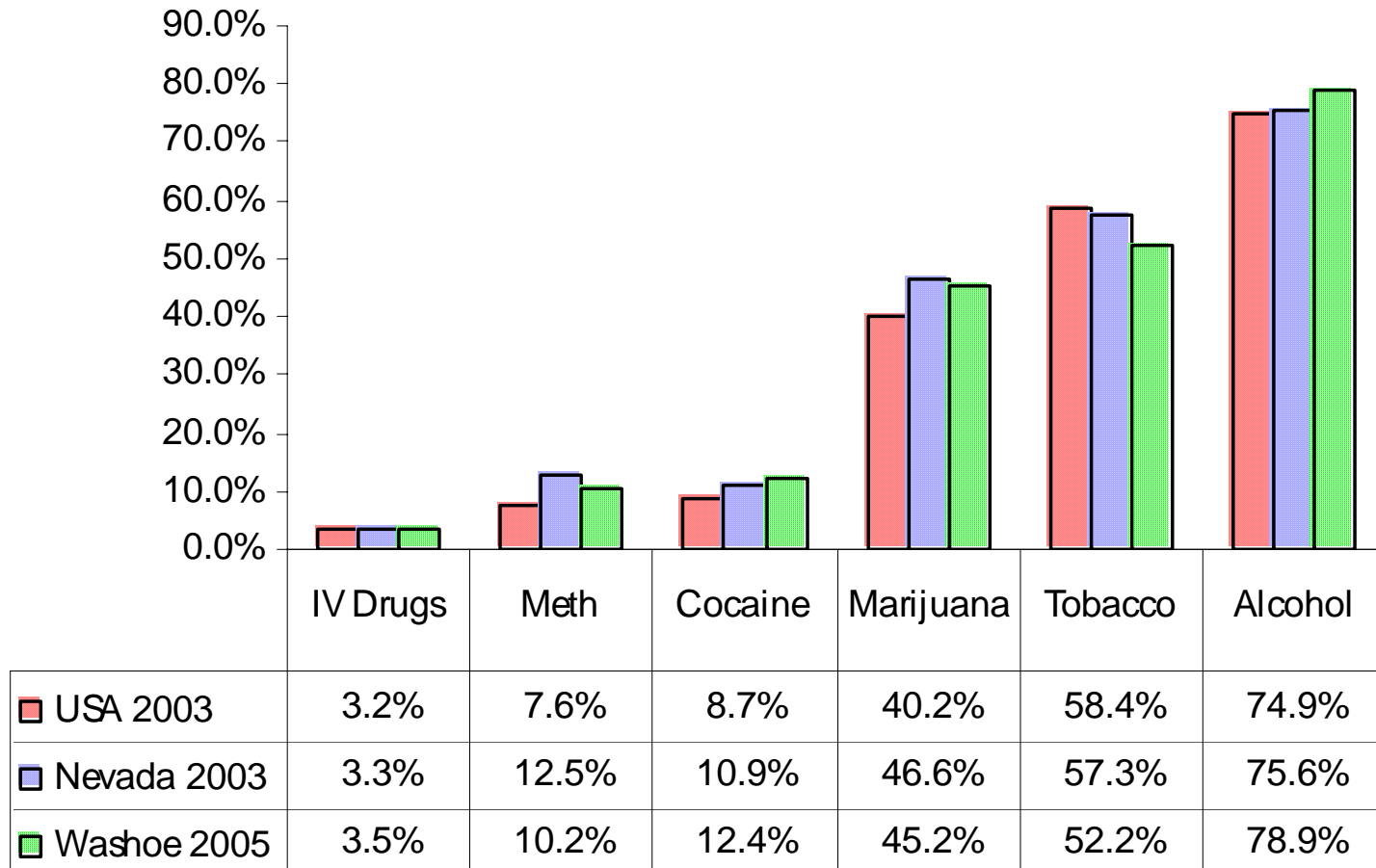
## Problem Behaviors: Percentage of Washoe County high school students reporting lifetime use of the identified substances



	Alcohol	Tobacco	Marijuana	Cocaine	Meth	IV Drugs	OTC drugs
■ 1997			52.9%				
■ 1999	83.9%		51.0%				
■ 2001	82.5%	62.5%	50.5%	11.8%	14.5%	2.8%	14.4%
■ 2003	78.5%	57.6%	48.1%	11.6%	12.4%	3.5%	15.2%
■ 2005	78.9%	52.2%	45.2%	12.4%	10.2%	3.5%	16.4%

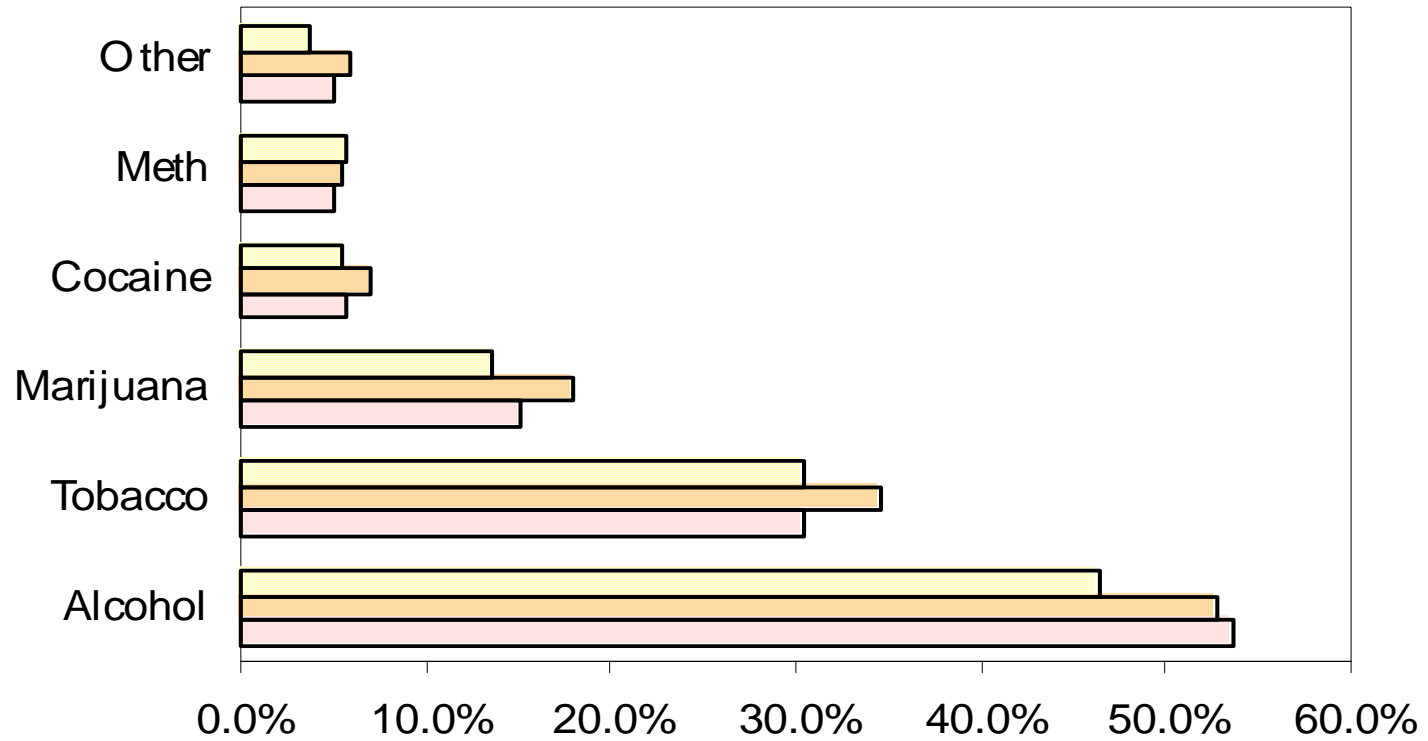
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Problem Behaviors:** Percentage of National, Nevada, and Washoe County high school students reporting lifetime use of the identified substances



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

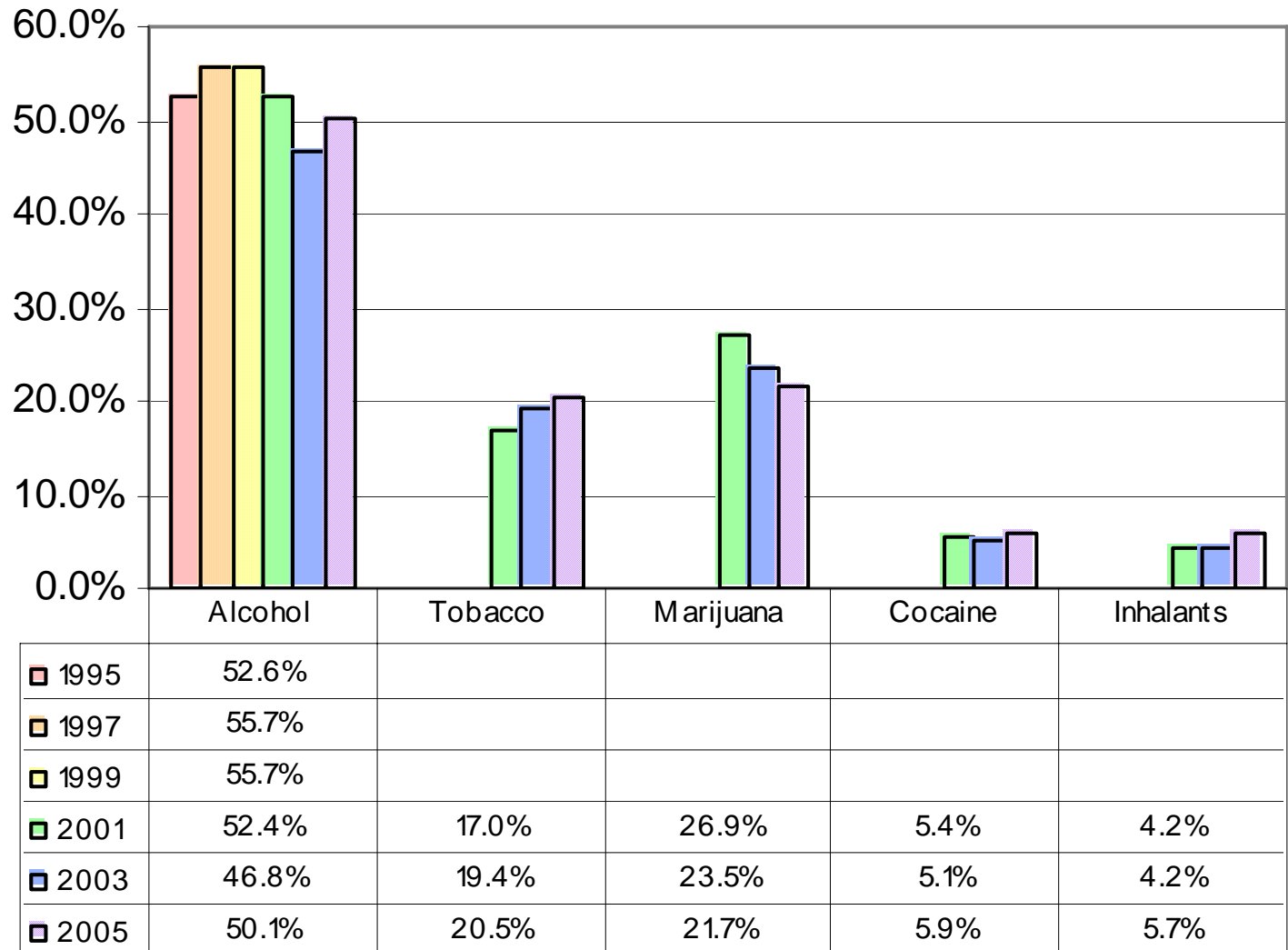
**Problem Behaviors:** Percentage of Washoe County middle school students reporting lifetime use of the identified substances



	Alcohol	Tobacco	Marijuana	Cocaine	Meth	Other
2001	46.4%	30.4%	13.5%	5.4%	5.6%	3.7%
2003	52.8%	34.7%	17.9%	6.9%	5.5%	6.0%
2005	53.7%	30.4%	15.2%	5.6%	5.0%	5.0%

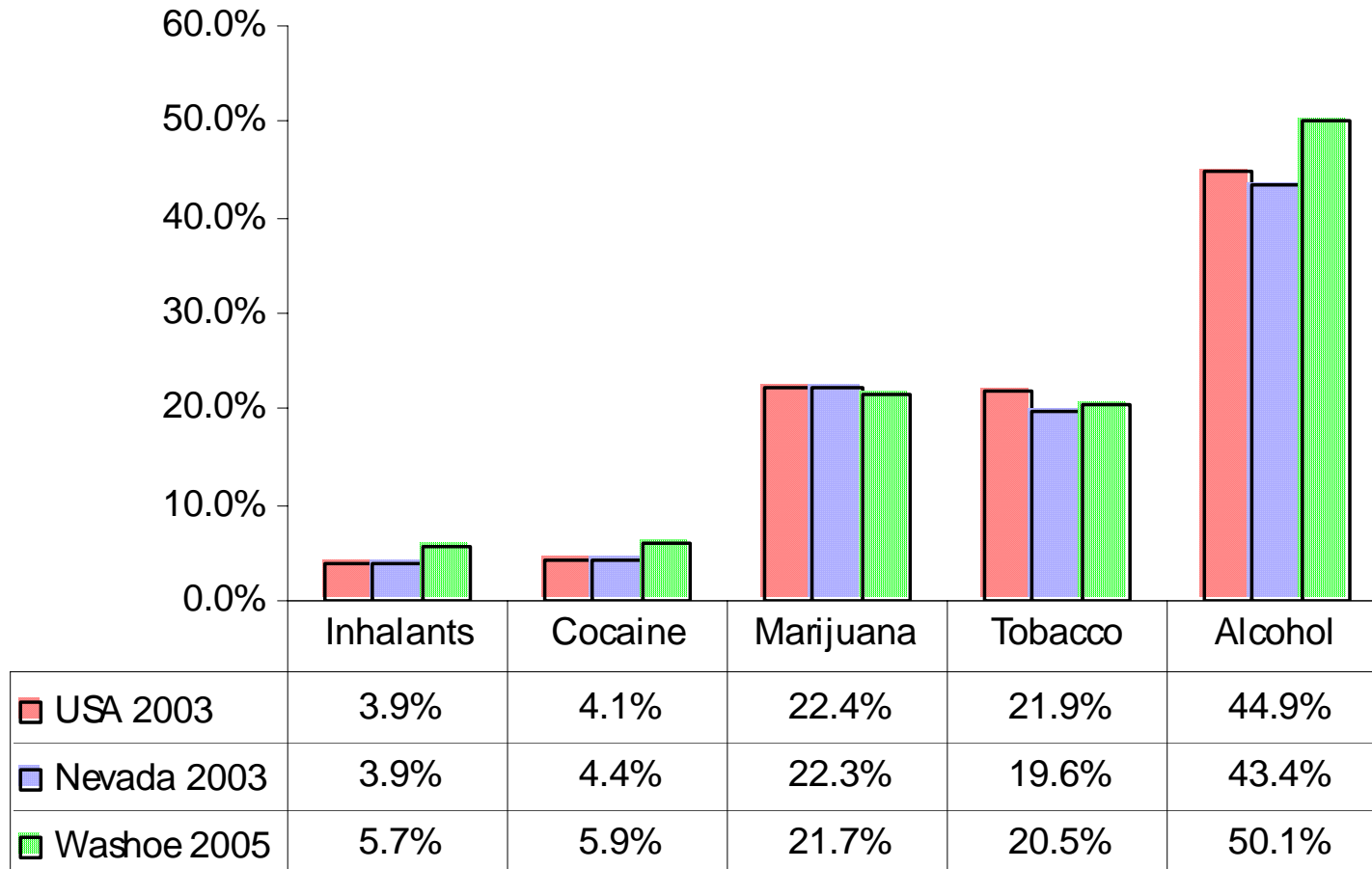
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Problem Behaviors:** Percentage of Washoe County high school students reporting current (30-day) use of the identified substances



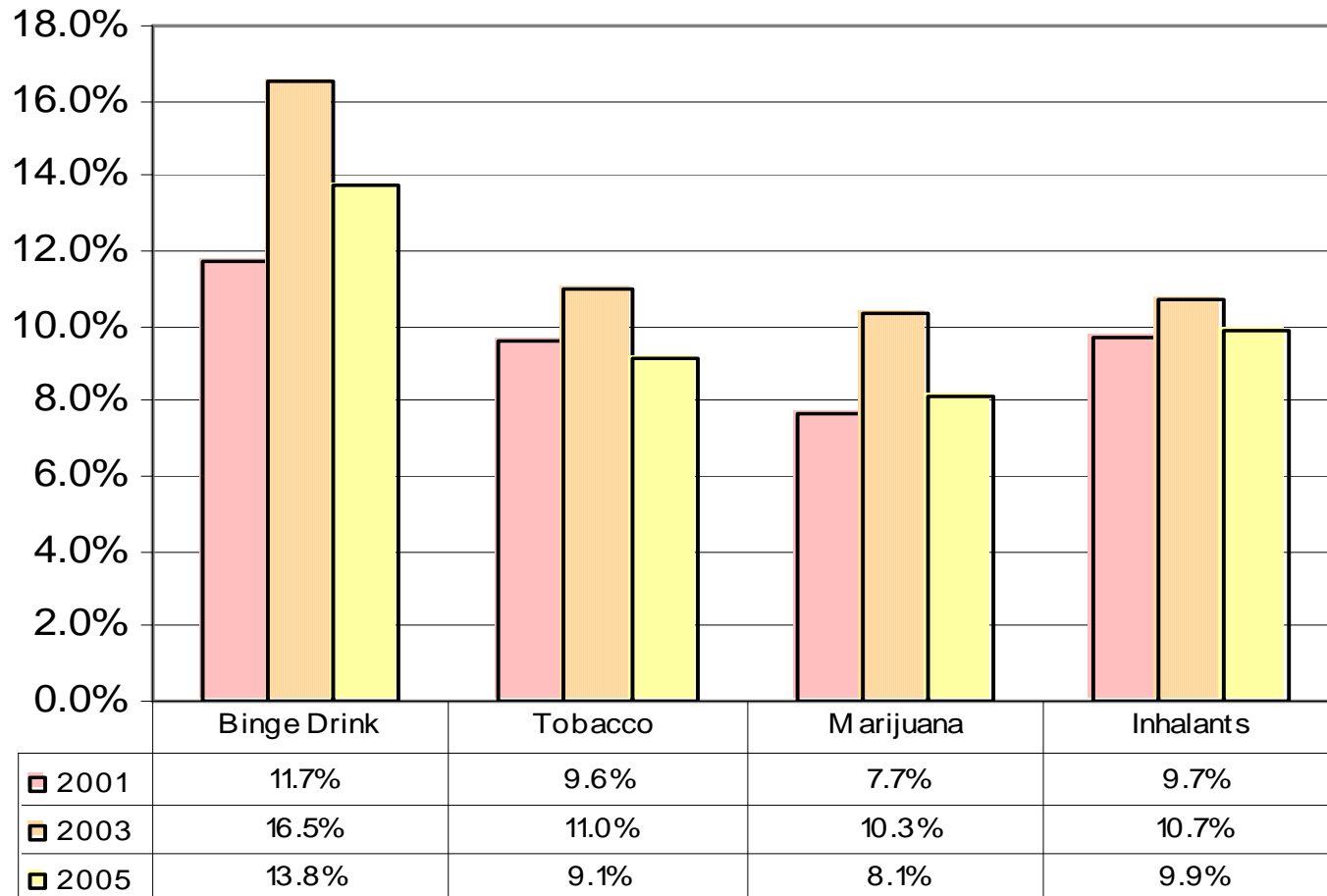
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Problem Behaviors:** Percentage of National, Nevada, and Washoe County high school students reporting current (30-day) use of the identified substances



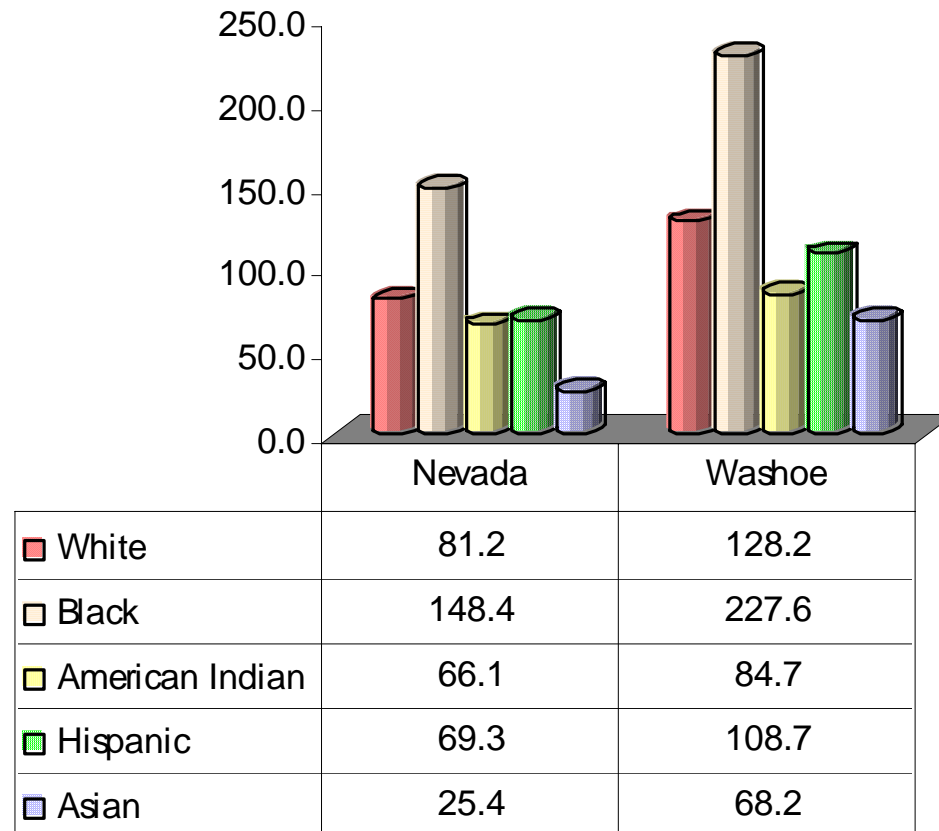
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Problem Behaviors:** Percentage of Washoe County middle school students reporting current (30-day) use of the identified substances



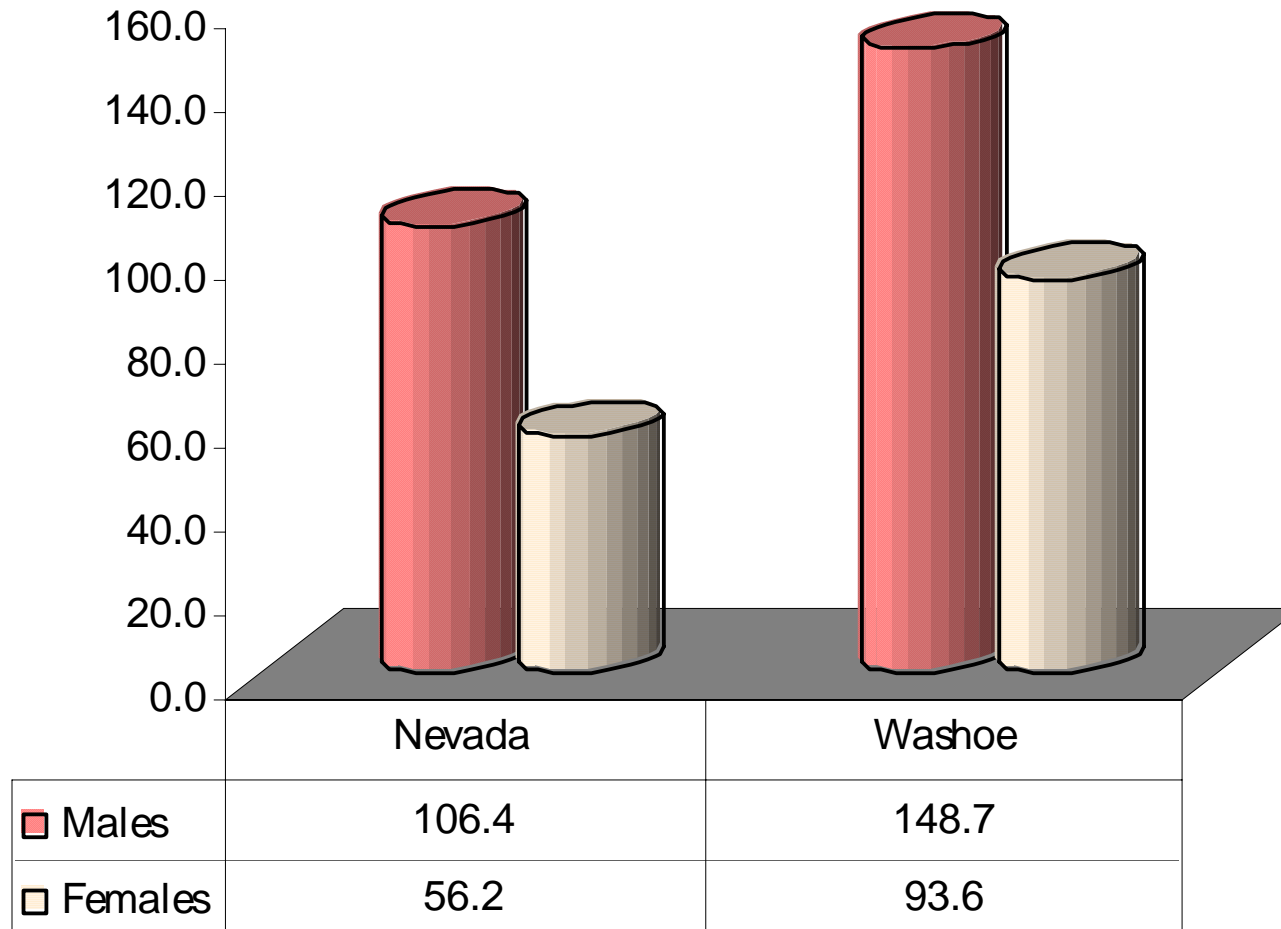
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Problem Behaviors:** Rate of Nevada and Washoe County juvenile (8-17 year old) referrals for drug and alcohol related offenses, by race, per 100,000 population



Source: Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, 2003

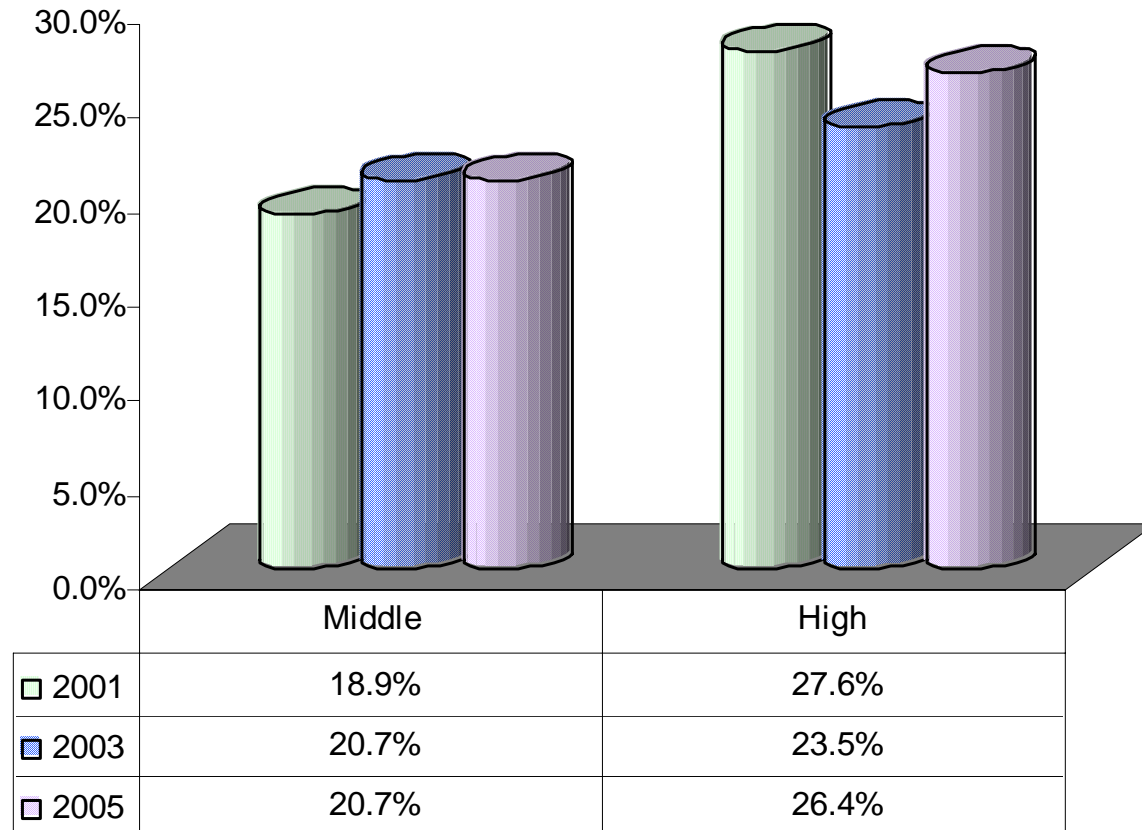
**Problem Behaviors:** Rate of Nevada and Washoe County juvenile (8-17 year old) referrals for drug and alcohol related offenses, by gender, per 100,000 population



Source: Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, 2003

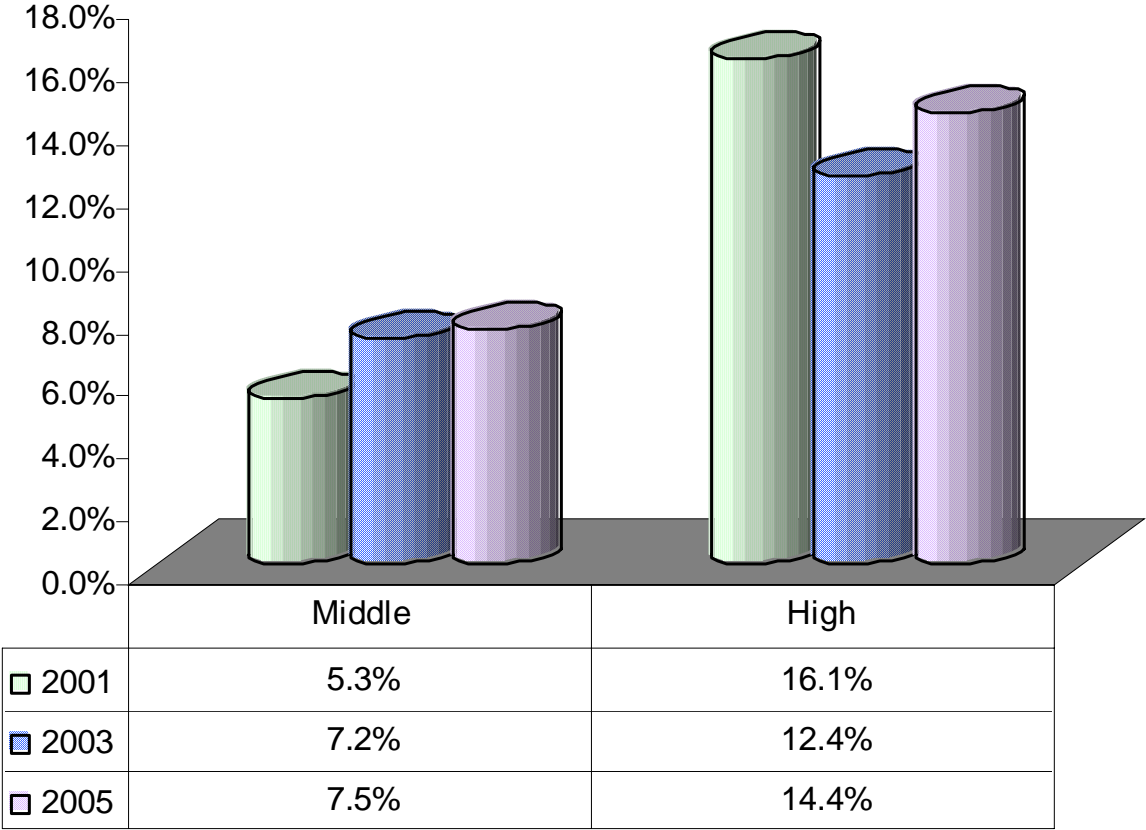


**Problem Behaviors:** Percentage of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that in the past 30 days they rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking



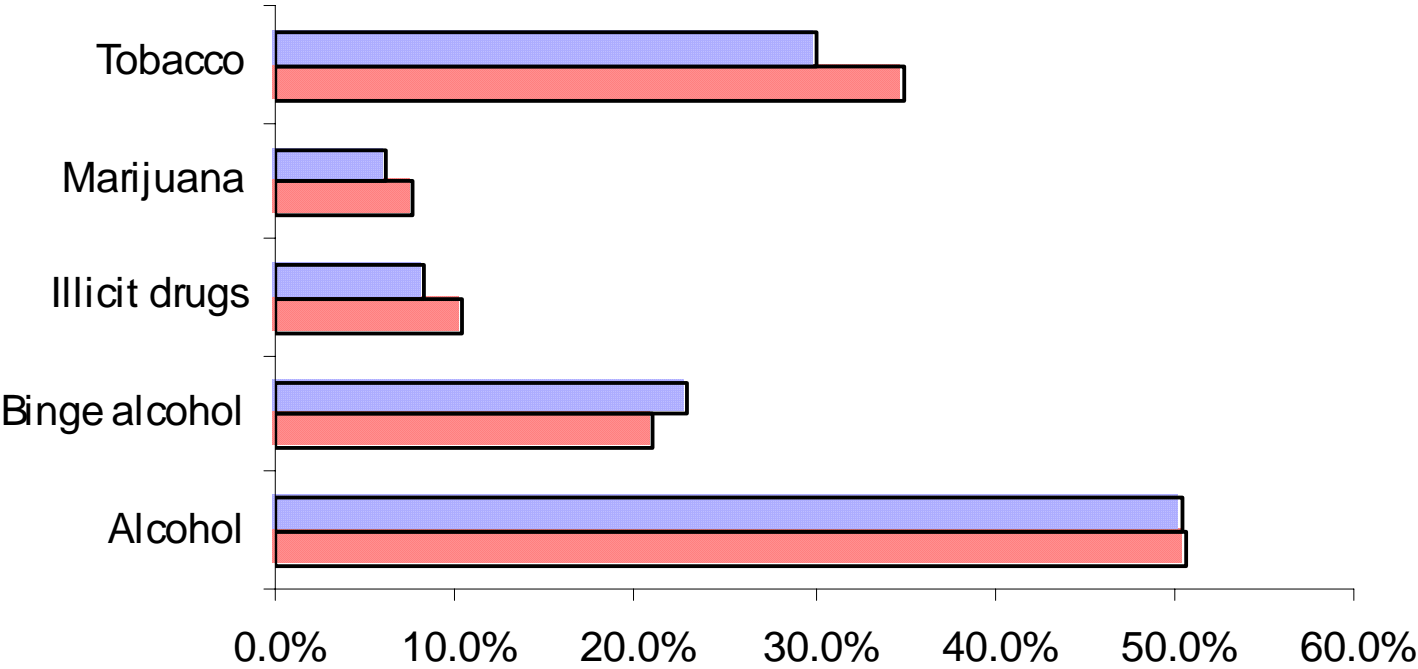
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Problem Behaviors:** Percentage of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that in the past 30 days they drove a car when they had been drinking alcohol



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

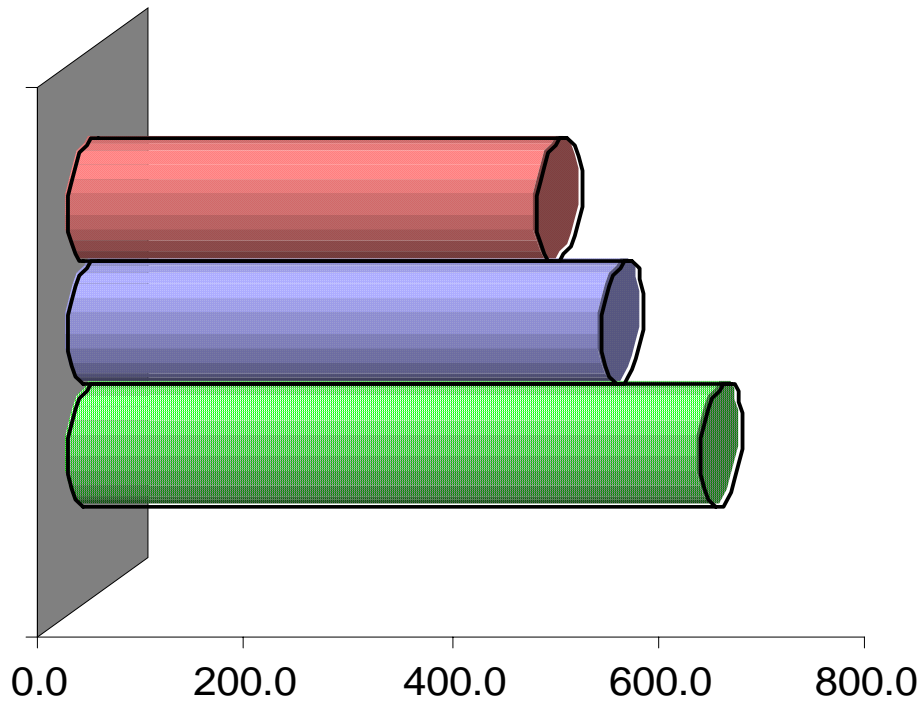
**Problem Behaviors:** Percentage of National and Nevada residents >12 years old who report 30-day use of the following substances



	Alcohol	Binge alcohol	Illicit drugs	Marijuana	Tobacco
USA	50.5%	22.8%	8.3%	6.2%	30.1%
Nevada	50.7%	20.9%	10.3%	7.6%	35.0%

Source: 2002 & 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

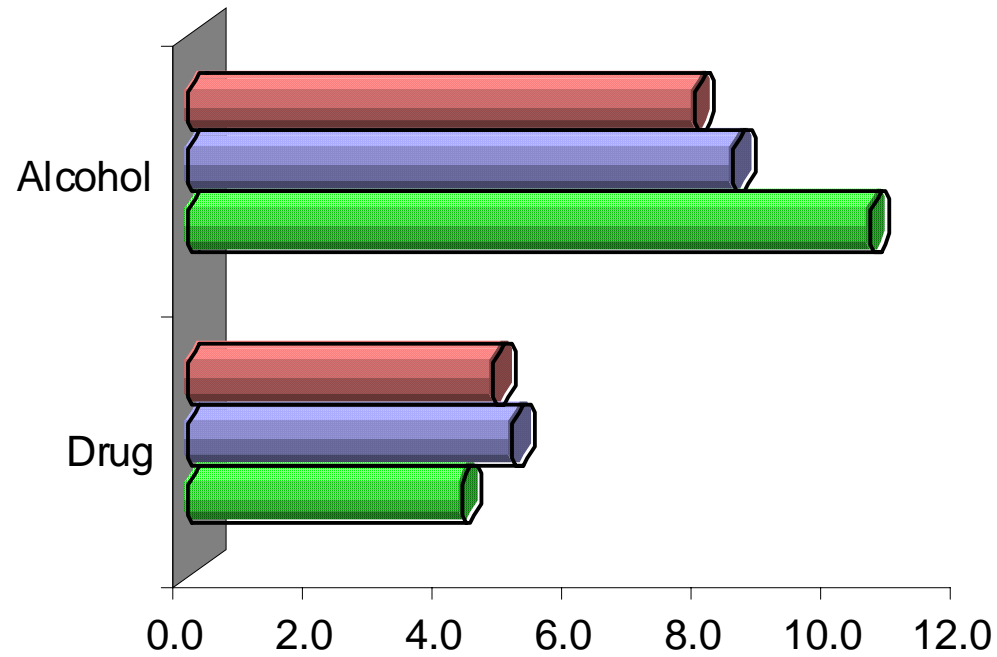
**Problem Behaviors:** Number of National, Nevada and Washoe residents >18 years old who have been arrested for driving under the influence (DUI), per 100,000 population



USA	451.7
Nevada	512.8
Washoe	607.8

Source: State of Nevada Department of Public Safety, Crime & Justice in Nevada, 2003

**Problem Behaviors:** Rate of National, Nevada and Washoe County adult arrests for drug and alcohol related offenses, per 100,000 population

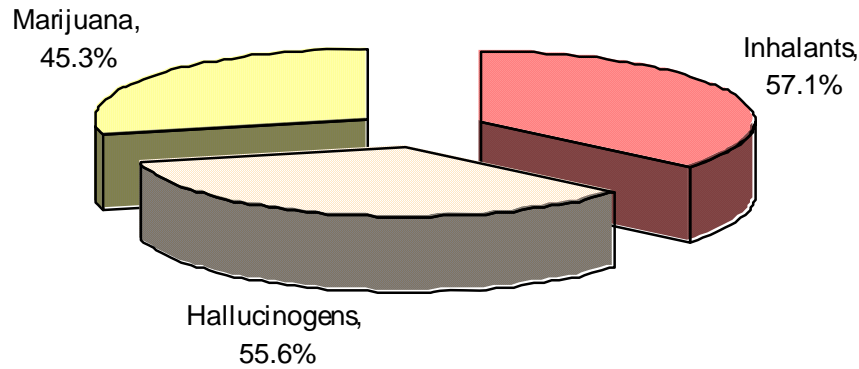


	Drug	Alcohol
USA	4.7	7.8
Nevada	5.0	8.4
Washoe	4.2	10.5

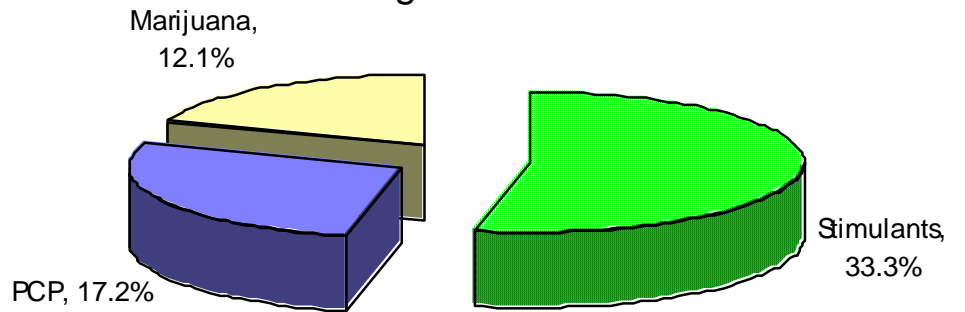
Source: State of Nevada Department of Public Safety, Crime & Justice in Nevada, 2003

# Problem Behaviors: Substance abuse treatment admissions in Nevada 2004, top three substances of abuse by youth

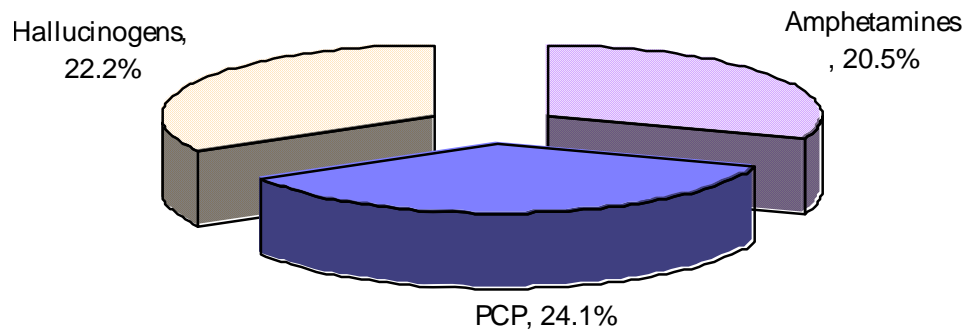
## Age 12-17



## Age 18-20



## Age 21-25



Source: State of Nevada Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Abuse

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Peer/Individual

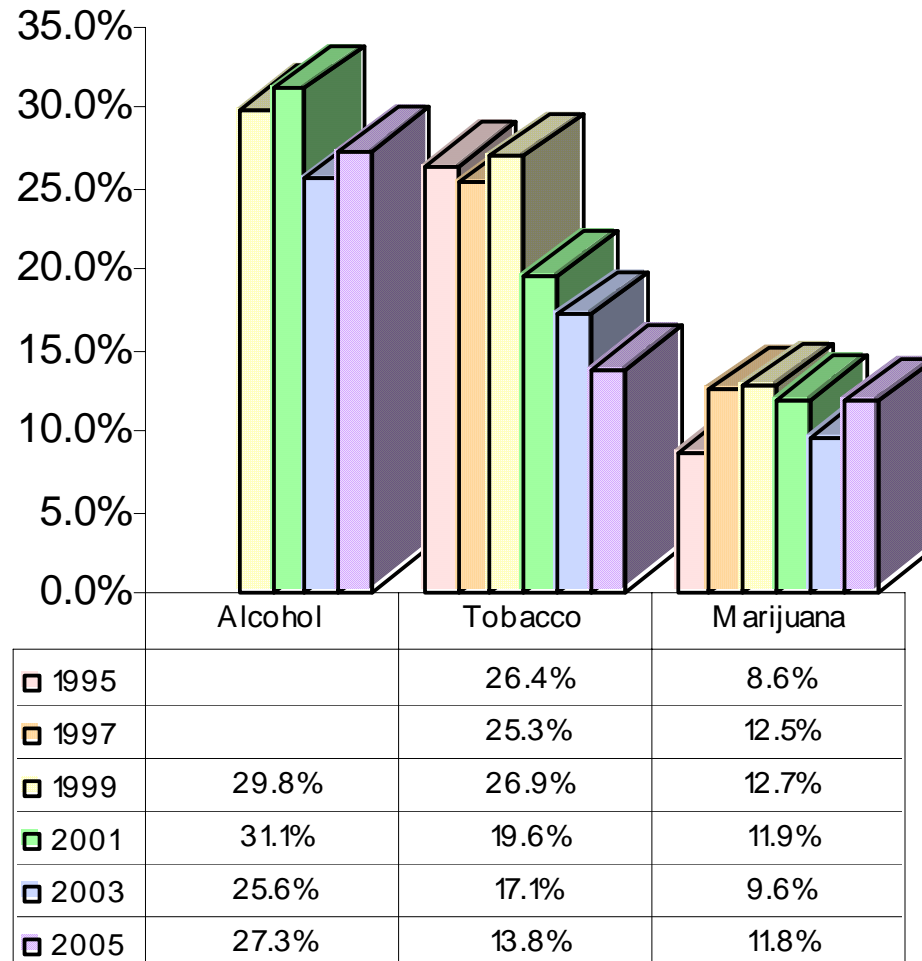
**Risk Factor:** Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior

The earlier that young people drop out of school, begin using drugs, committing crimes and become sexually active, the greater the likelihood that they will have chronic problems with these behaviors in the future. For example, research has shown that young people who initiate drug use before the age of 15 are at twice the risk of having drug problems than those who wait until after the age of 19.

### **Indicators:**

- First use of ATOD before the age of 13

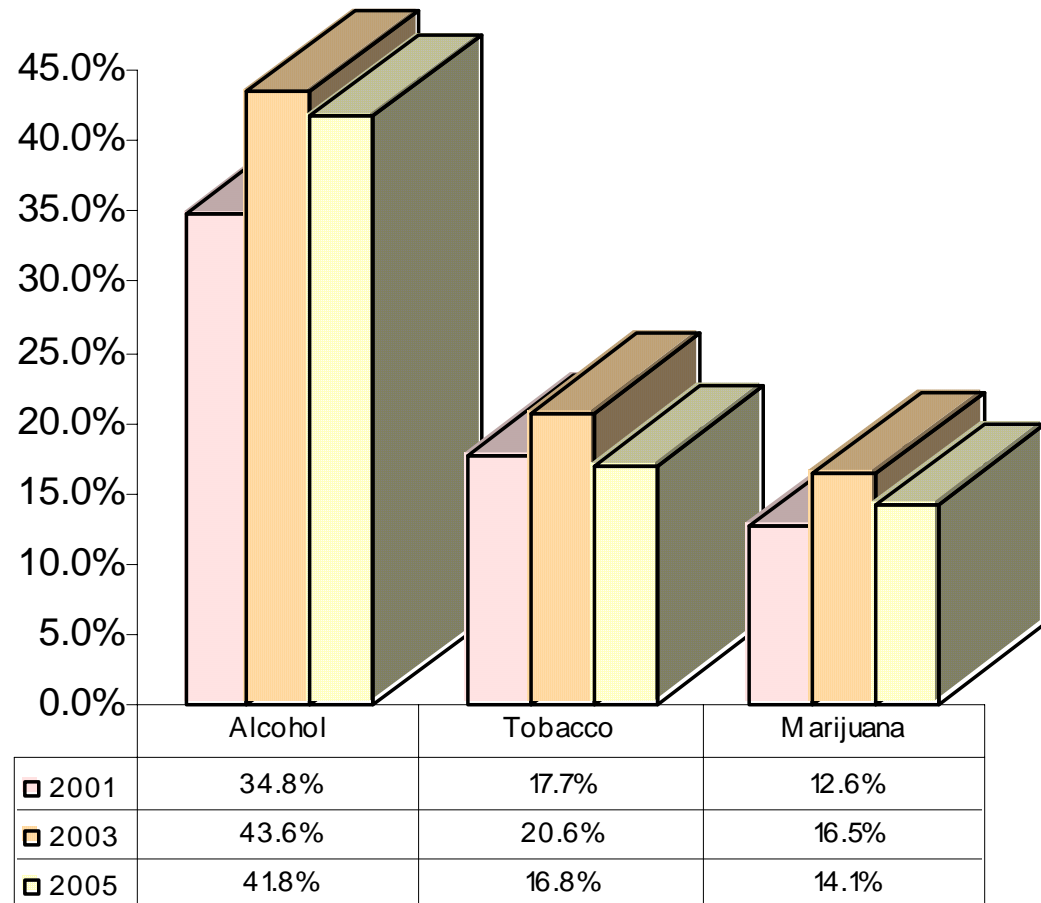
## Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior: Percentage of Washoe County high school students reporting that they first used the identified substances before the age of 13



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey



**Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior:** Percentage of Washoe County middle school students reporting that they first used the identified substances before the age of 13



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Peer/Individual

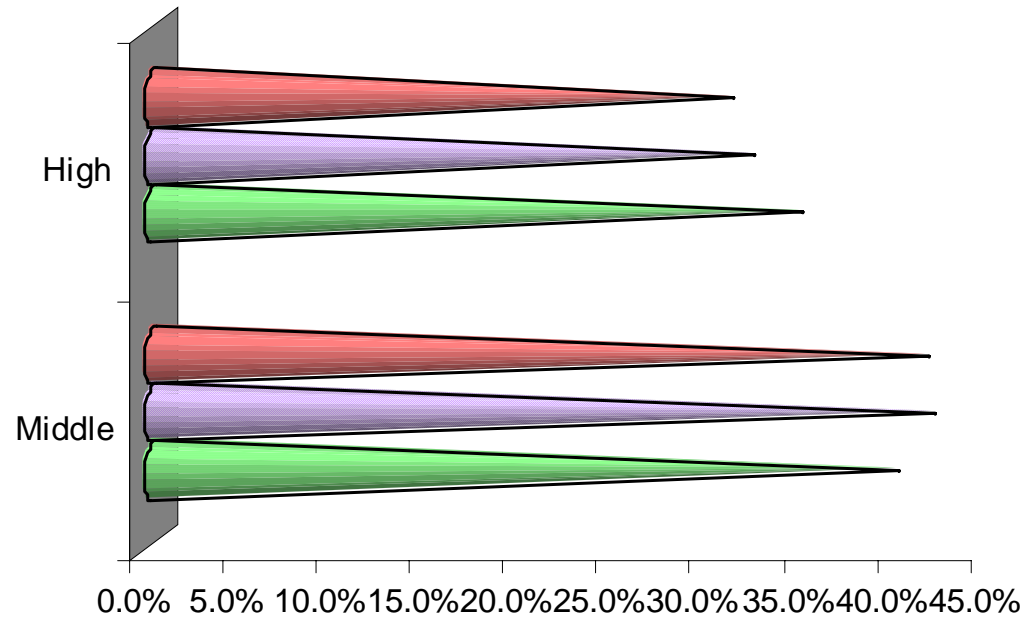
**Risk Factor:** Alienation & Rebelliousness

Young people who feel that they are not part of society, are not bound by rules, don't believe in trying to be successful or responsible, or who take an active rebellious stance towards society are at higher risk of drug abuse, delinquency, and school drop-out.

### **Indicators:**

- Been in a physical fight in the past 12 months
- Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club in the past 30 days
- Attempted suicide in the past 12 months
- Youth aged 15-24 deaths by accident, homicide and suicide
- Nevada juvenile violent crime arrest rate
- Source of Washoe County juvenile arrests, 2003

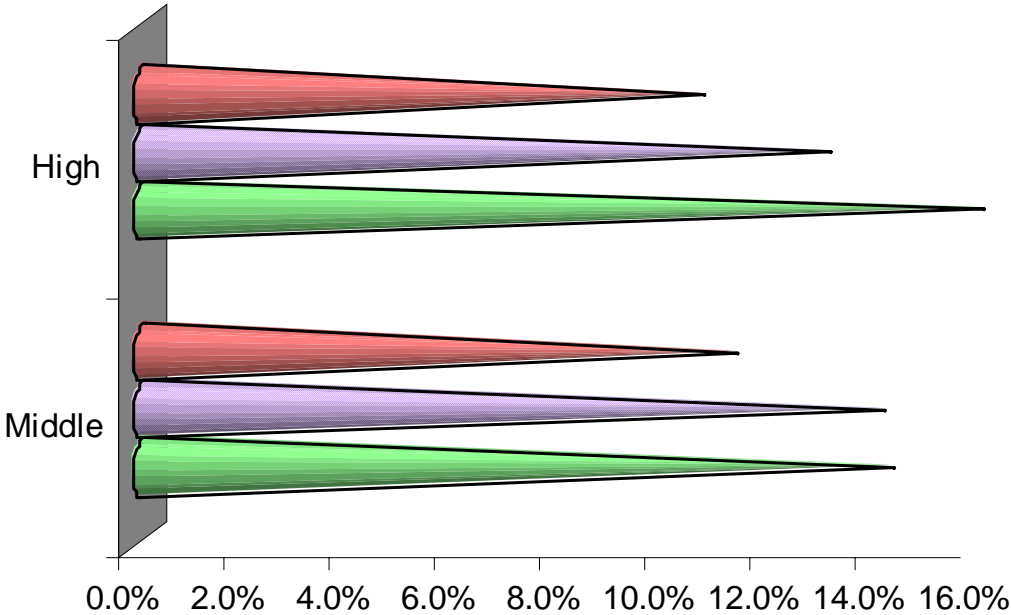
**Alienation & Rebelliousness:** Percent of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they have been in a physical fight in the past 12 months



	Middle	High
2001	41.5%	31.1%
2003	41.8%	32.2%
2005	39.9%	34.8%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

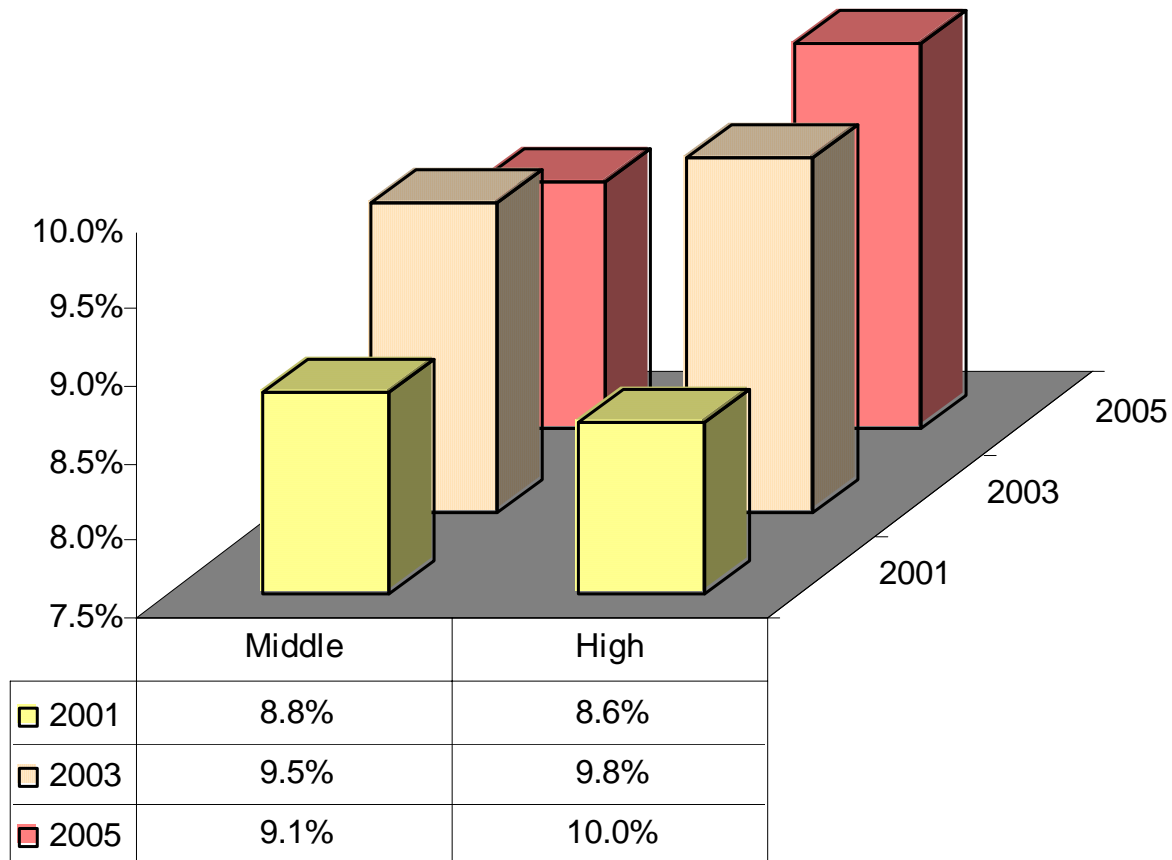
**Alienation & Rebelliousness:** Percent of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they have carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club in the past 30 days



	Middle	High
2001	11.3%	10.7%
2003	14.1%	13.1%
2005	14.3%	16.0%

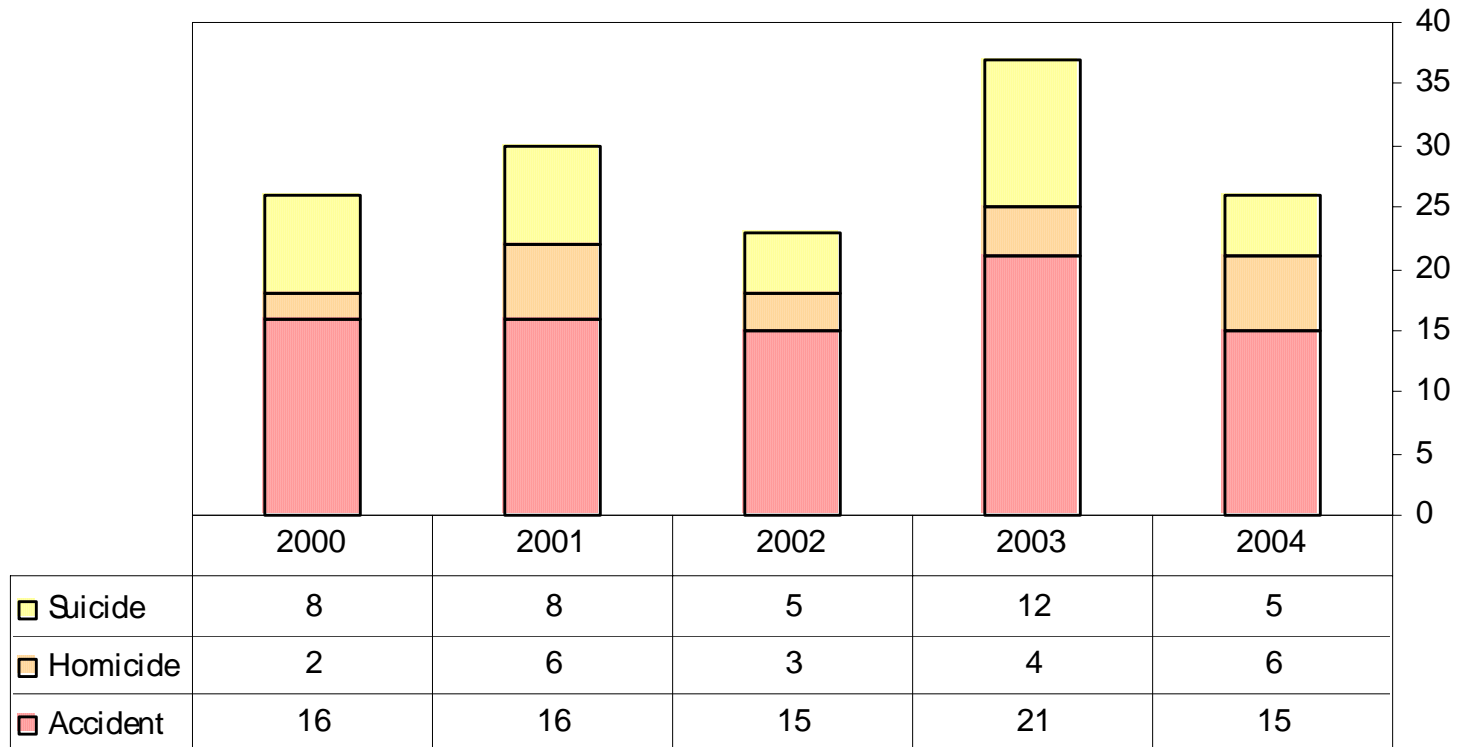
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

# Alienation & Rebelliousness: Percent of Washoe County high school and middle school students who actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months



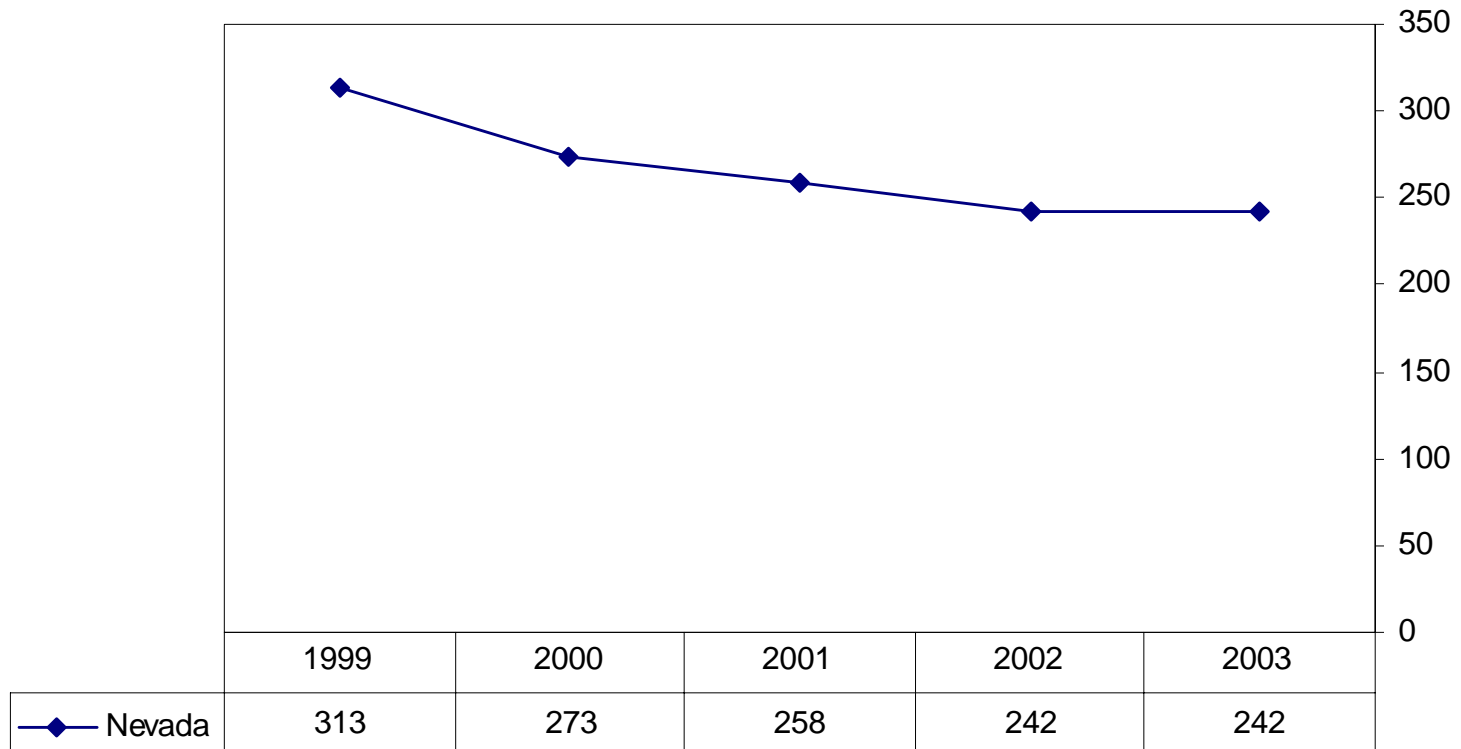
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Alienation & Rebelliousness: Washoe County youth aged 15-24 deaths by accident, homicide and suicide



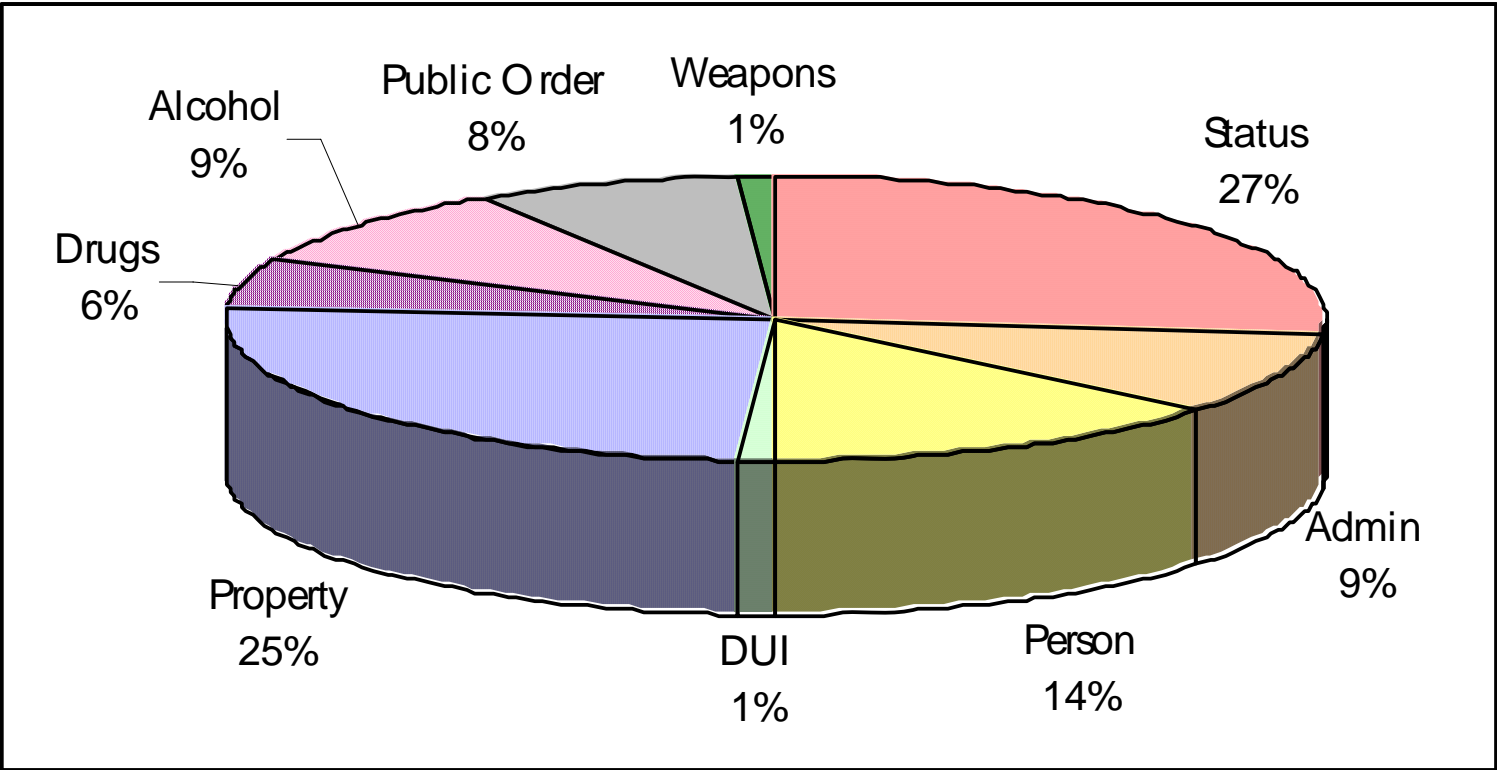
Source: Nevada Interactive Health Database System

# Alienation & Rebelliousness: Nevada juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youth aged 10-17)



Source: Nevada Kids Count

# Alienation & Rebelliousness: Source of Washoe County juvenile arrests, 2003



Source: Division of Child & Family Services



## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Peer/Individual

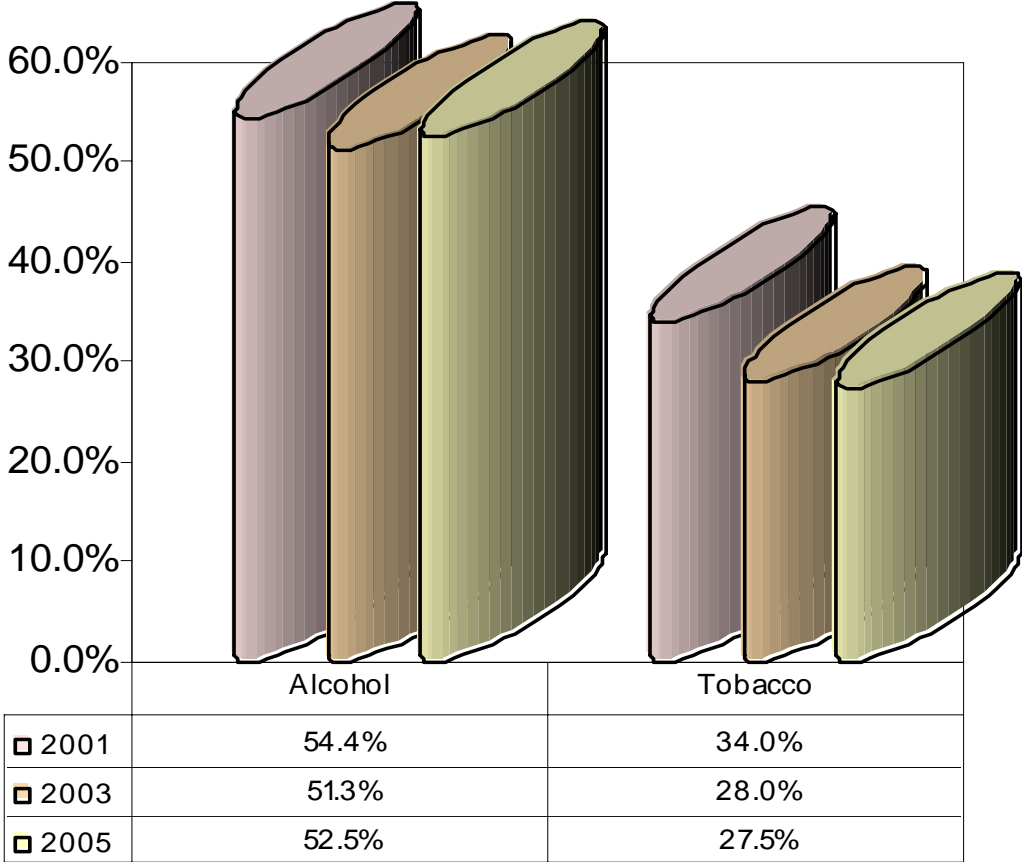
**Risk Factor:** Friends who engage in the problem behavior

Young people who associate with peers who engage in problem behaviors – delinquency, substance abuse, violent activity, sexual activity, and dropping out of school are much more likely to engage in the same problem behavior. This is one of the most predictive indicators that research has identified. Even when young people come from well managed families and do not experience other risk factors, simply spending time with friends who engage in problem behaviors greatly increases the risk of that problem developing.

### **Indicators:**

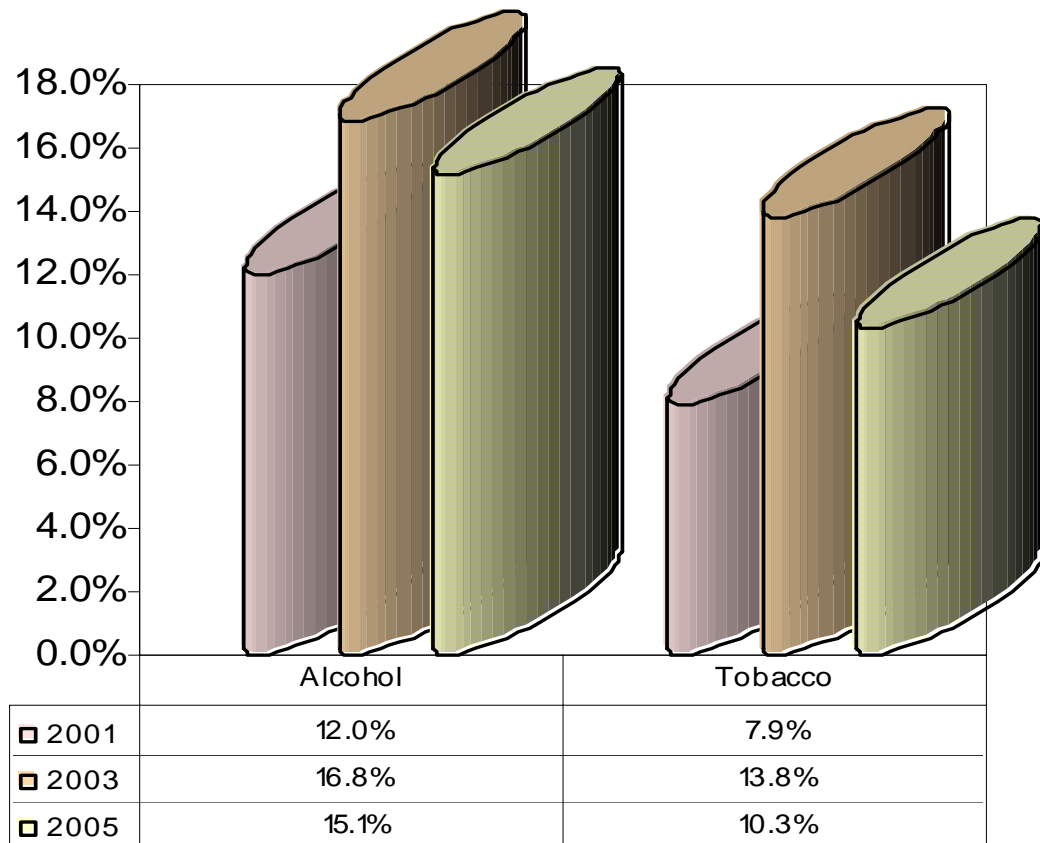
- “Some, Most, or All” of their closest friends use tobacco or alcohol

**Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior:** Percentage of Washoe County high school students reporting that “Some, Most, or All” of their closest friends use tobacco almost every day and use alcohol at least once a month



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior:** Percentage of Washoe County middle school students reporting that “Some, Most, or All” of their closest friends use tobacco almost every day and use alcohol at least once a month



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Peer/Individual

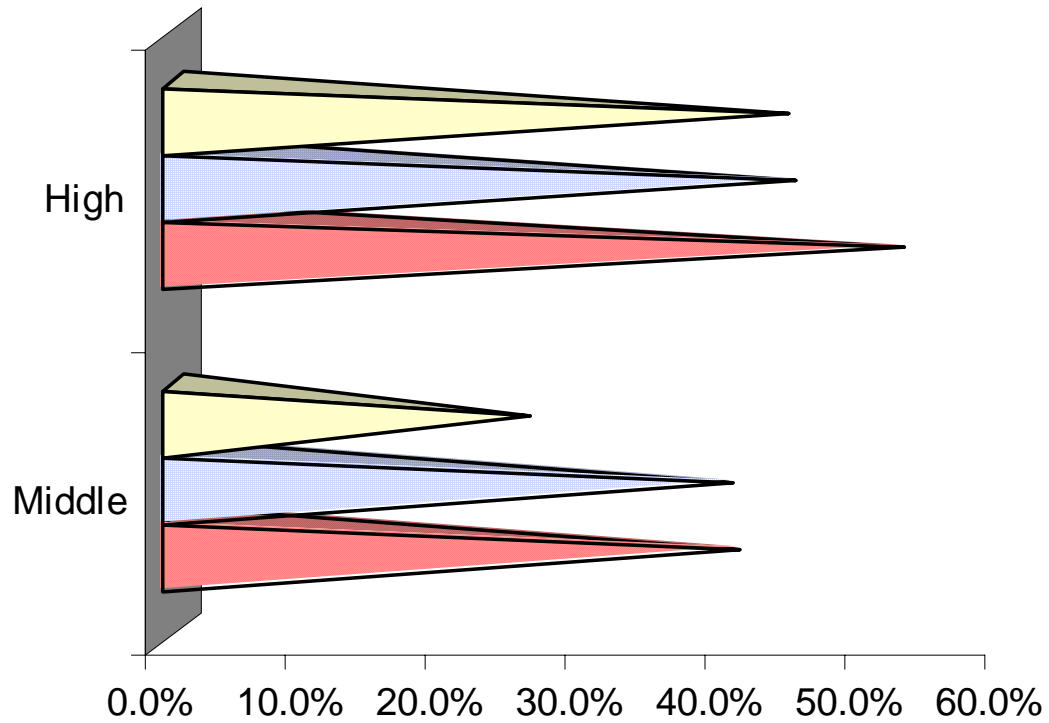
**Risk Factor:** Gang Involvement

Research has shown that youth who have delinquent friends are more likely to use alcohol and other drugs and engage in violent or delinquent behavior than children who do not have delinquent friends. The influence of gang involvement on alcohol and other drug use , delinquency and violence exceeds the influence of delinquent friends on problem behavior. Gang members are even more likely than youth who have delinquent friends to use alcohol and other drugs and to engage in delinquent or violent behavior.

### **Indicators:**

- Gang activity in schools
- Reported gang involvement

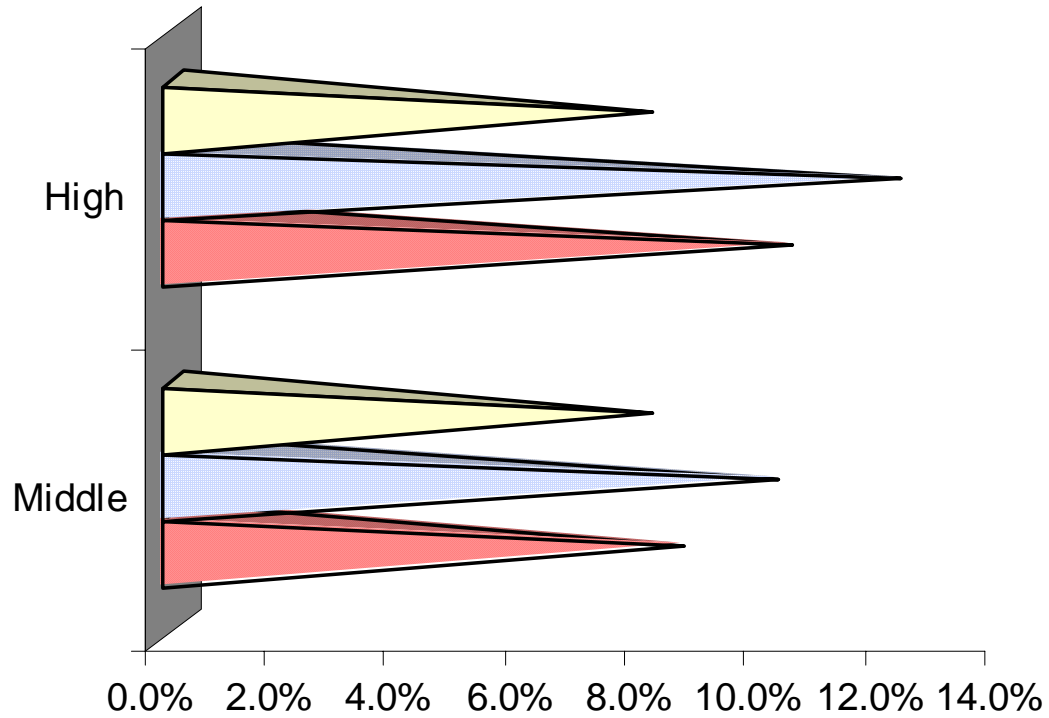
**Gang Involvement:** Percentage of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that there is gang activity in their school



	Middle	High
2001	25.5%	44.0%
2003	40.1%	44.4%
2005	40.4%	52.2%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Gang Involvement:** Percentage of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they have ever belonged to a gang



	Middle	High
2001	8.0%	8.0%
2003	10.1%	12.1%
2005	8.5%	10.3%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## **RISK FACTOR**

**Domain:** Peer/Individual

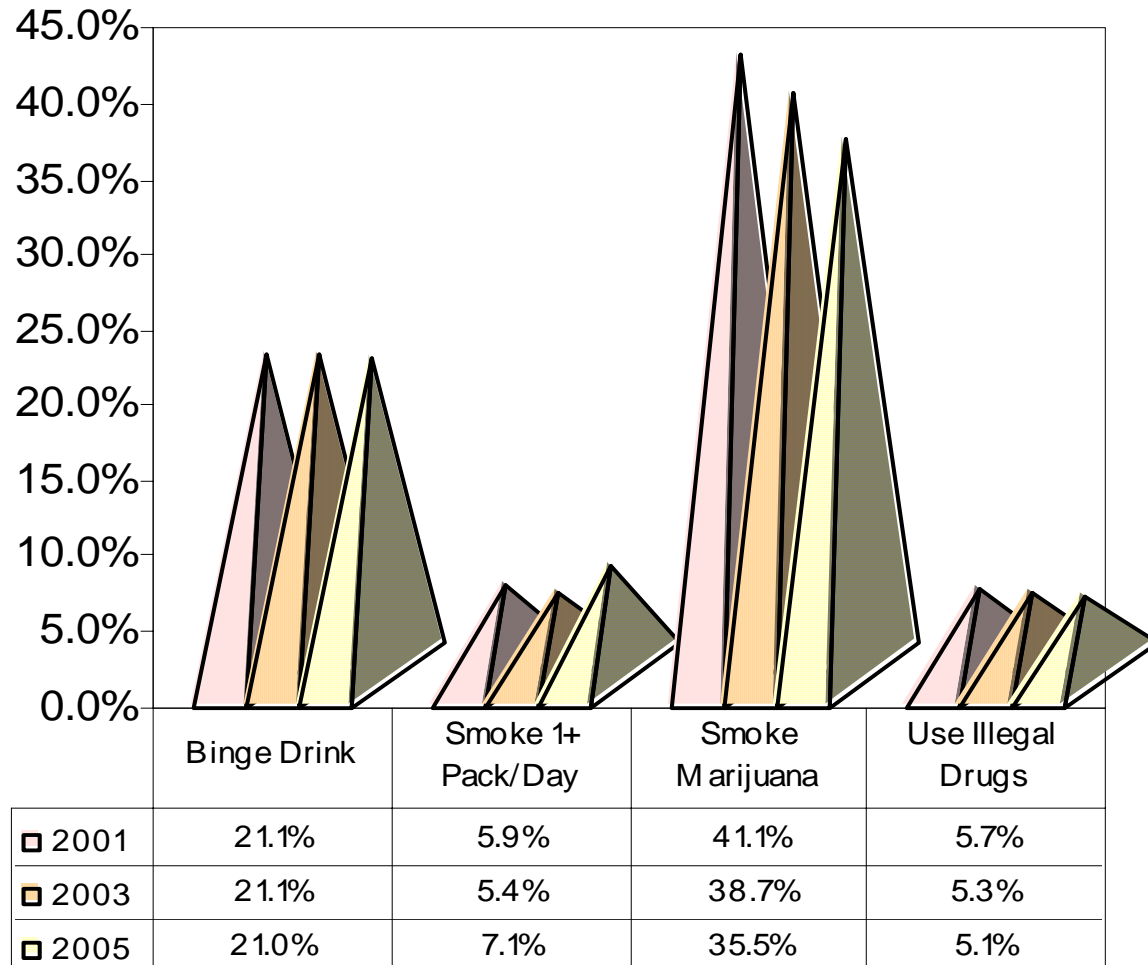
**Risk Factor:** Favorable Attitudes Towards the Problem Behavior

During the elementary school years, children usually express anti-drug, anti-crime, and pro-social attitudes and have difficulty imagining why people use drugs, commit crimes, and drop out of school. However, in middle school, as peers participate in such activities, their attitudes often shift toward greater acceptance of these behaviors. This acceptance translates to the perception that the problem behavior is not harmful and places them at a higher risk.

### **Indicators:**

- Perceived harmfulness of ATOD use

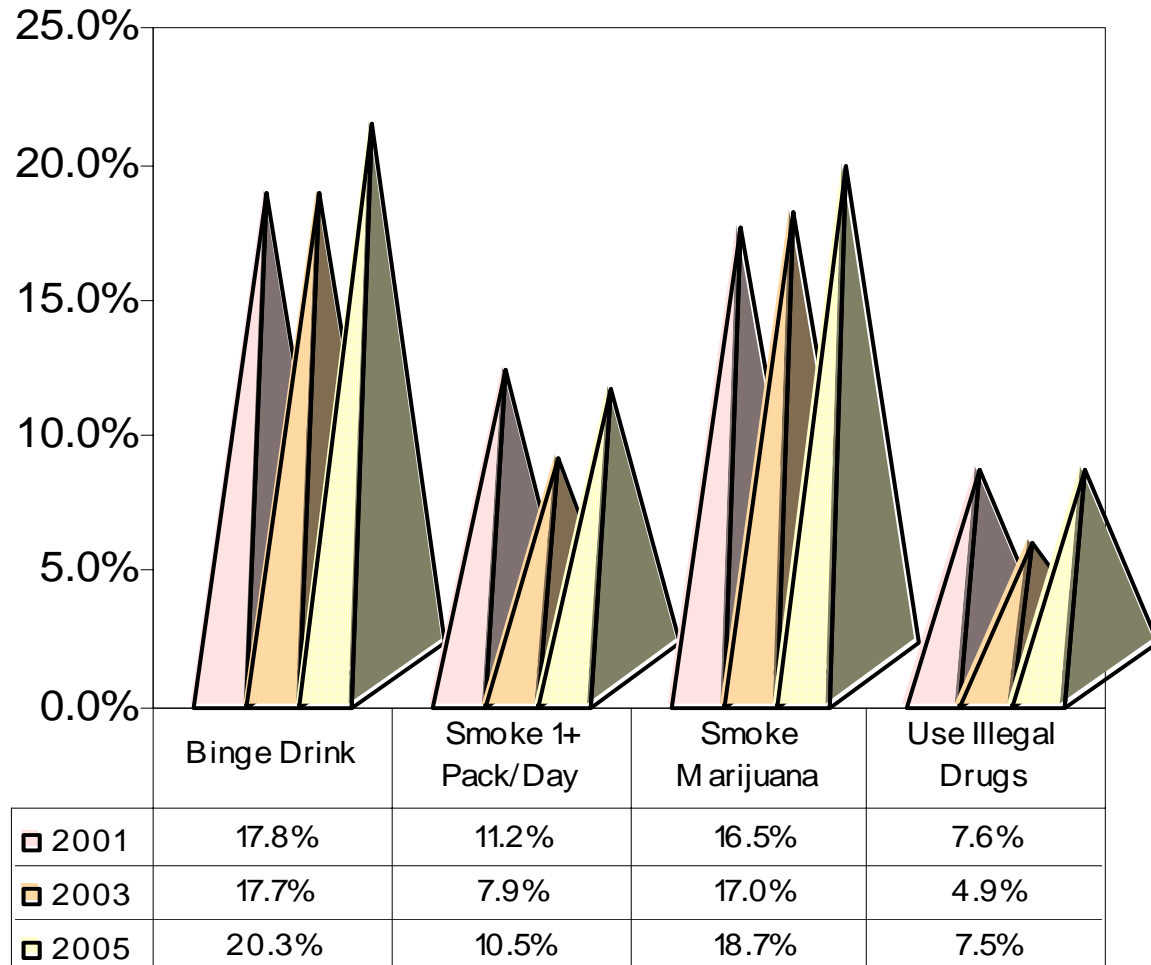
**Favorable Attitudes Towards the Problem Behavior:** Percent of Washoe County high school students answering that people are at “Slight” or “No Risk” of harming themselves if they...



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey



**Favorable Attitudes Towards the Problem Behavior:** Percent of Washoe County middle school students answering that people are at “Slight” or “No Risk” of harming themselves if they...



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## PART 2: PROTECTIVE FACTORS

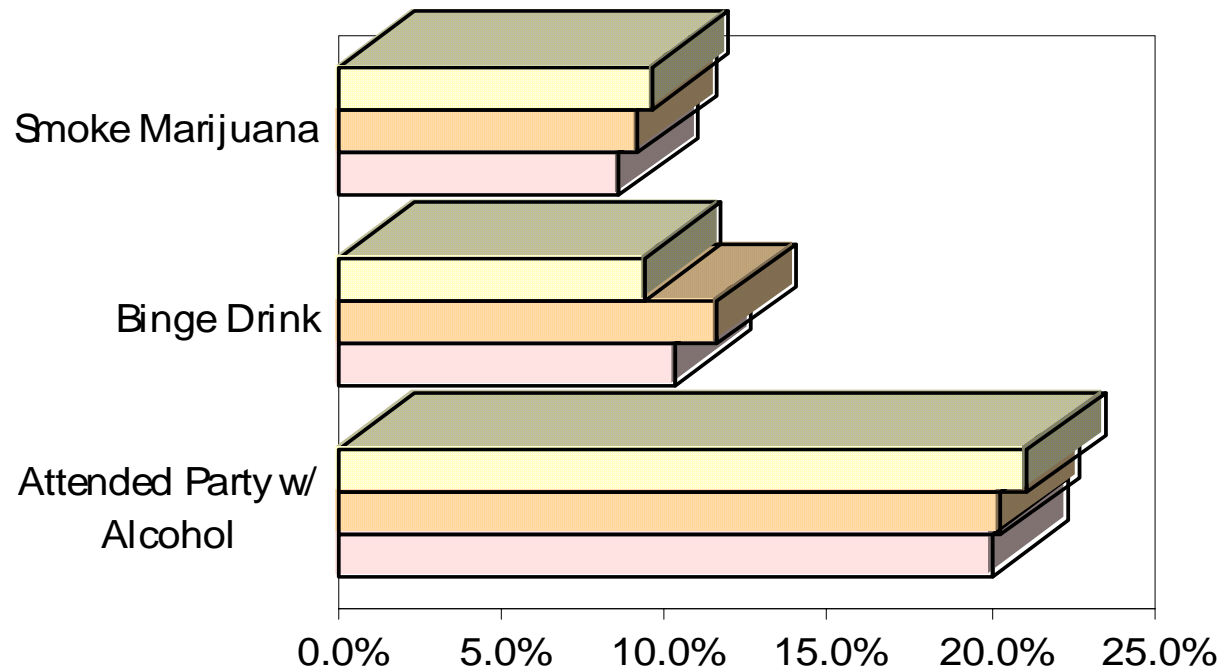
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## Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards

Question	Results		
	True	Somewhat True	False
I feel protected from the negative results of drug and alcohol use including accidents, violence, etc.	31.6	39.0	29.4
I feel that youth in our community grow up in an environment protected from the promotion of alcohol and drug use.	12.1	28.8	59.0
If I don't want to use alcohol or drugs, I am not under pressure to use them.	64.0	20.9	15.1
Local community events that I attend do not include alcohol, tobacco or drugs.	31.1	39.3	29.6
In my community people work together to make it a better place to live.	26.6	58.3	15.1
In my community, children and young people have positive adult role models (at school, home and in the community) who encourage them to make healthy decisions and to be involved in positive, constructive activities.	30.9	61.2	7.9
Substance abuse (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) is a big concern in my community.	52.2	33.1	14.7
I feel people in my community tolerate substance use and abuse.	34.3	44.8	20.9
Key leaders are supportive of efforts to reduce the impact of substance abuse in my community	38.7	45.9	15.3

*2005 Washoe County Community Readiness Survey - 139 Surveys*

**Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards:** Percent of Washoe County high school students answering that their parents would “Approve” or “Wouldn’t Care” if they...

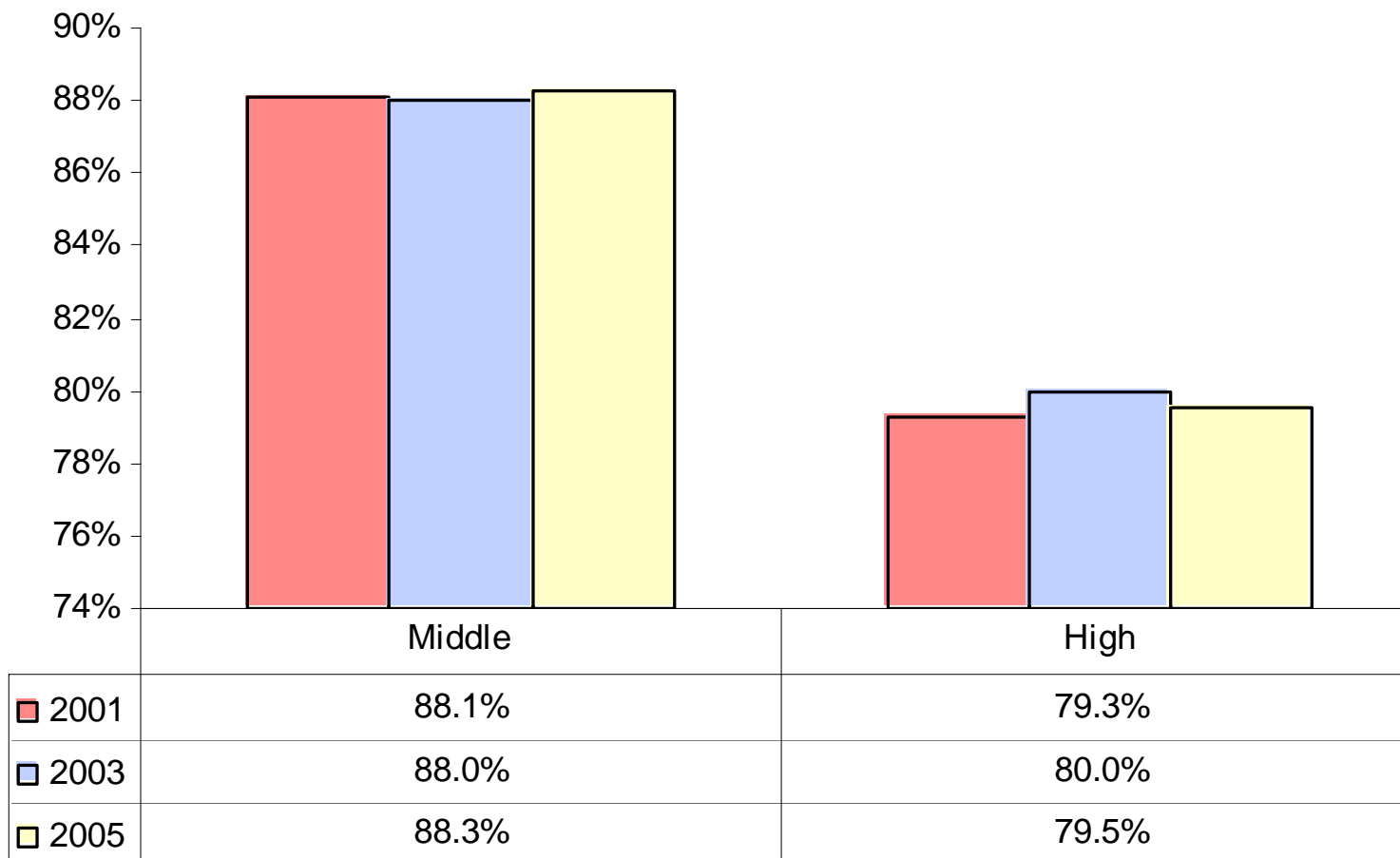


	Attended Party w/ Alcohol	Binge Drink	Smoke Marijuana
2001	21.1%	9.4%	9.6%
2003	20.3%	11.6%	9.2%
2005	20.0%	10.3%	8.6%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

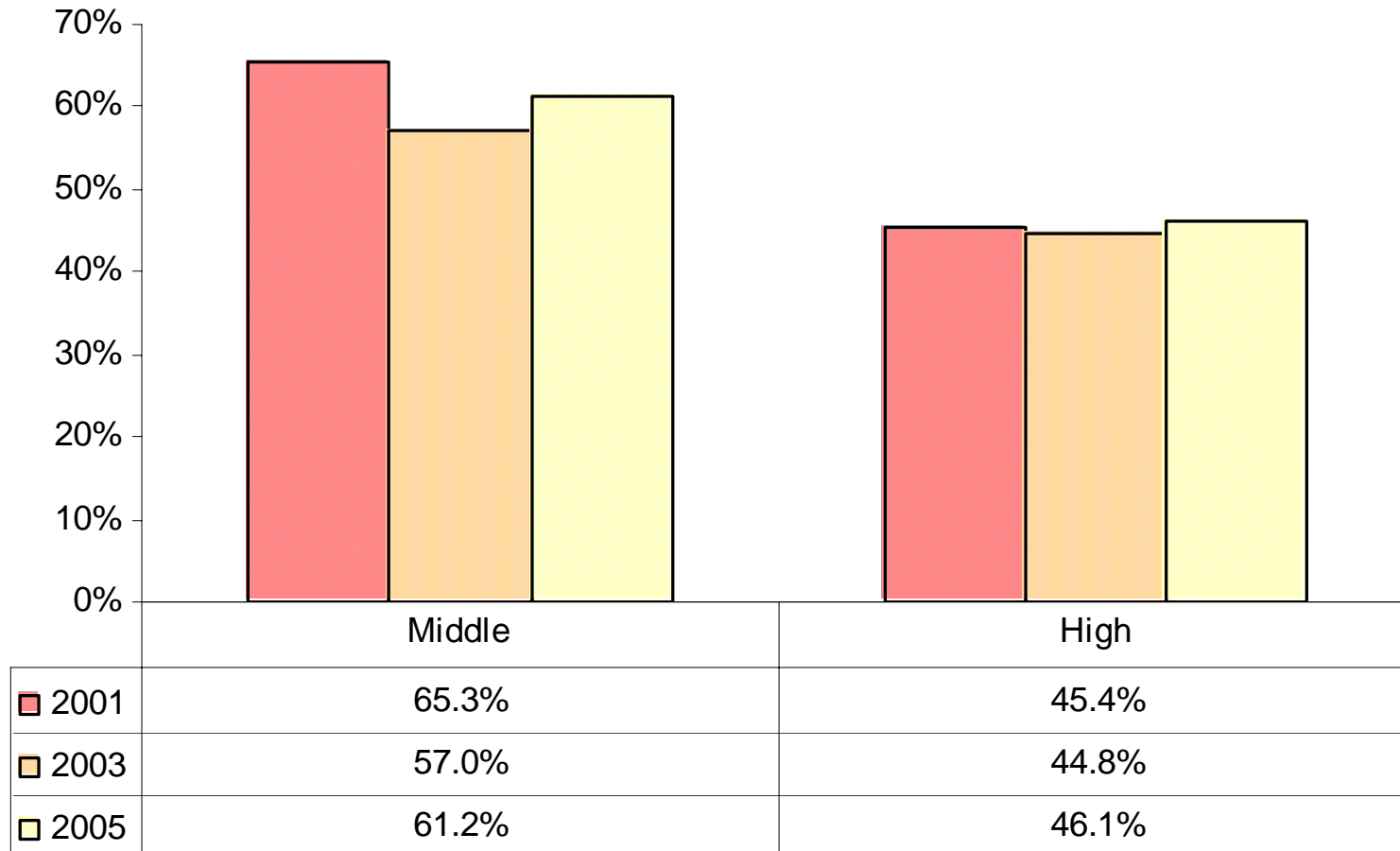
## Bonding

**Bonding to Family:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that their parents “most times” or “every time” know where they are when they are away from home



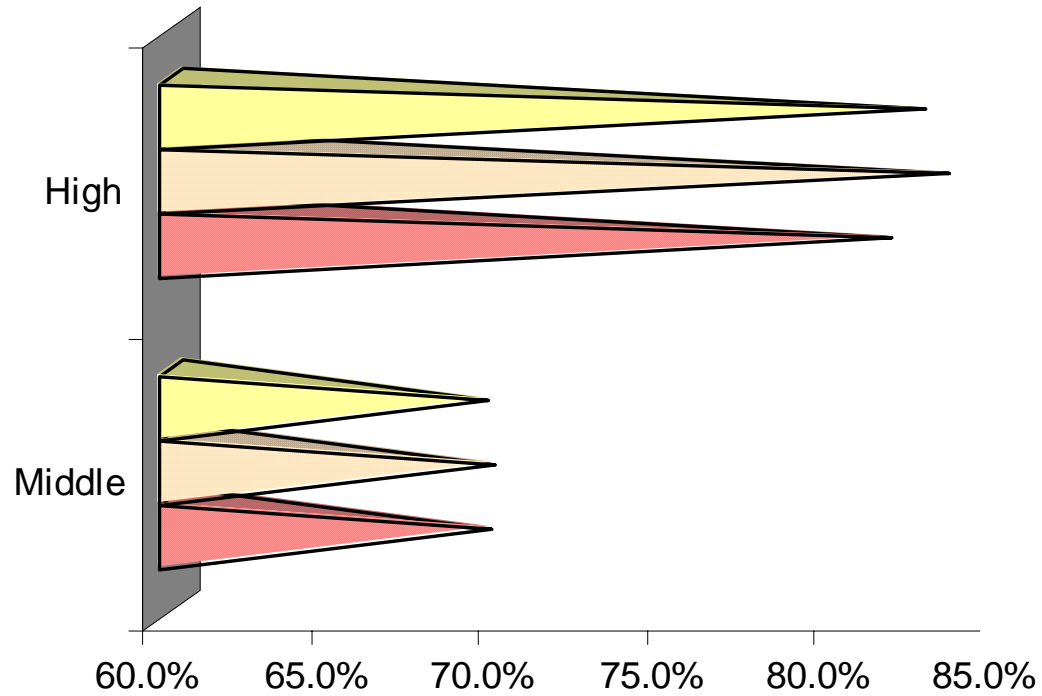
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Bonding to School:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they “Never” or “Hardly Ever” miss school



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

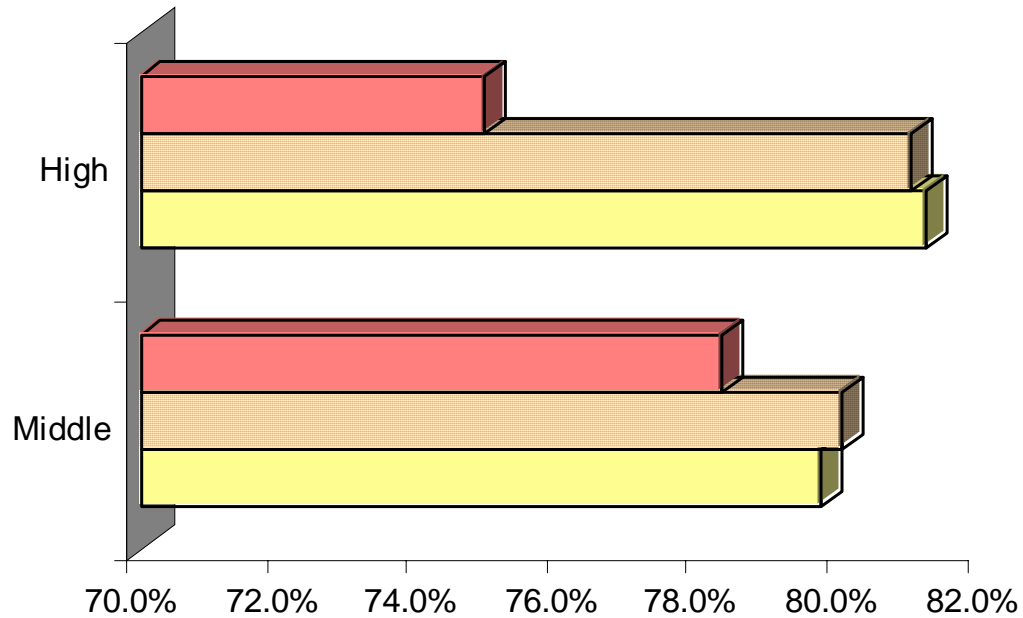
**Bonding to School:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they “probably will” or “definitely will” complete a post high school program



	Middle	High
2001	69.5%	82.5%
2003	69.7%	83.2%
2005	69.6%	81.5%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Bonding to School:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they “most of the time” or “always” feel safe in their school

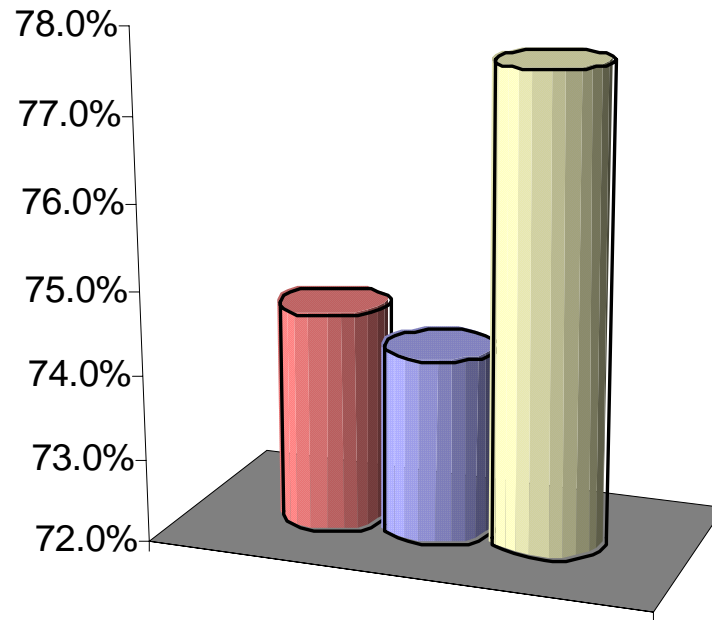


	Middle	High
2001	78.3%	74.9%
2003	80.0%	81.0%
2005	79.7%	81.2%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey



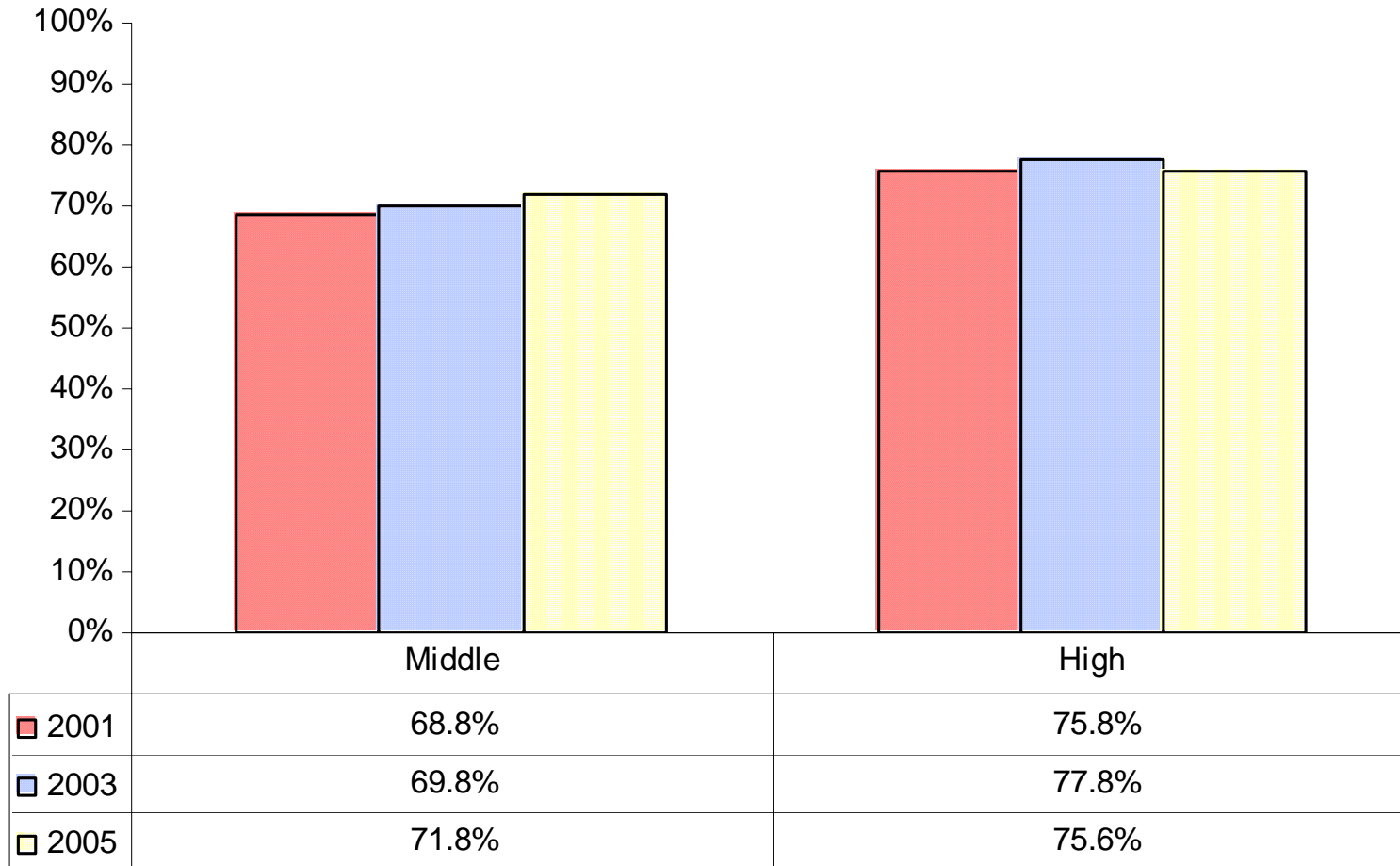
**Bonding to Peer Groups:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they “most of the time” or “always” feel accepted at school



2001	74.6%
2003	74.2%
2005	77.6%

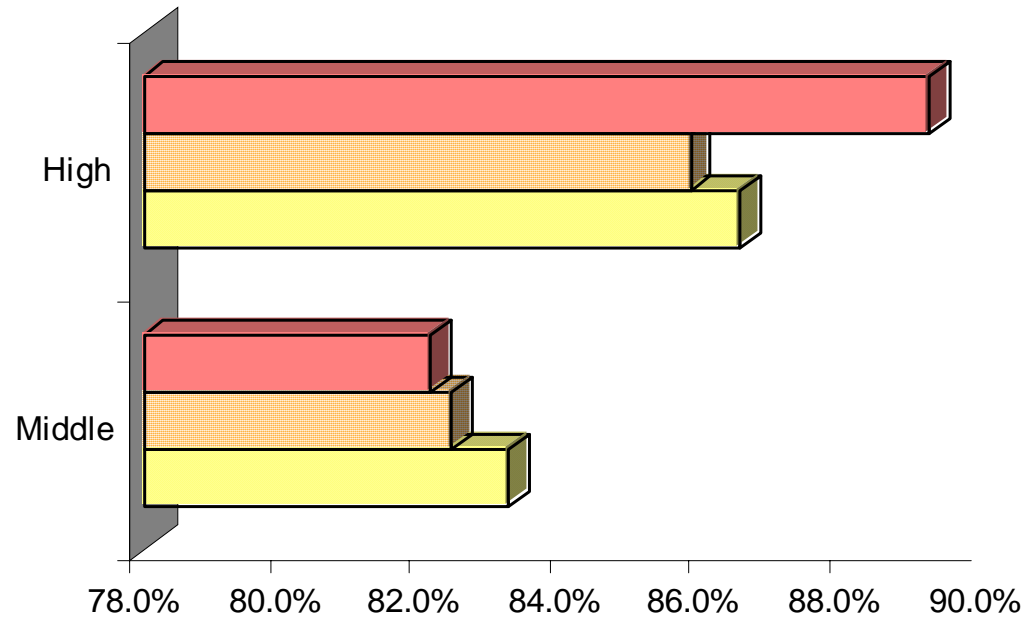
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Bonding to Community:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they have gone to school in the district where they now attend school for 5 or more years



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

**Bonding to Community:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they “most of the time” or “always” feel safe in their neighborhoods



	Middle	High
2001	82.1%	89.2%
2003	82.4%	85.8%
2005	83.2%	86.5%

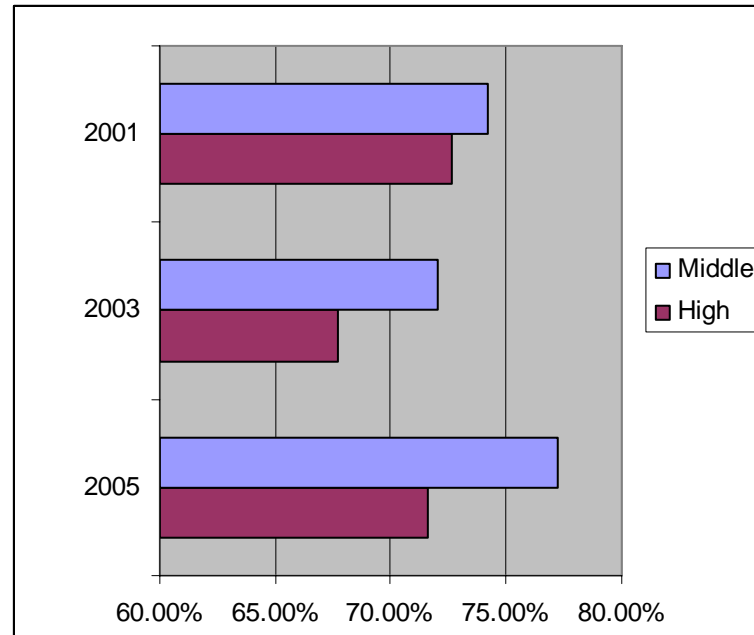
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Opportunities, Skills and Recognition

Question	Results		
	True	Somewhat True	False
I know where I can get correct information about the results of alcohol and drug use on health, family and society.	76.3	18.0	5.8
I know where people with drug and alcohol use problems, and their families, can get treatment and care in our community	64.0	20.9	15.1
I feel my community has plenty of ways for children and young people to be involved in positive activities and to use their time in constructive ways.	36.2	46.4	17.4
I my community, people have access to transportation to get to activities and meet their basic needs, such as shopping, medical appointments, etc.	38.1	47.5	14.4
<i>2005 Washoe County Community Readiness Survey - 139 Surveys</i>			

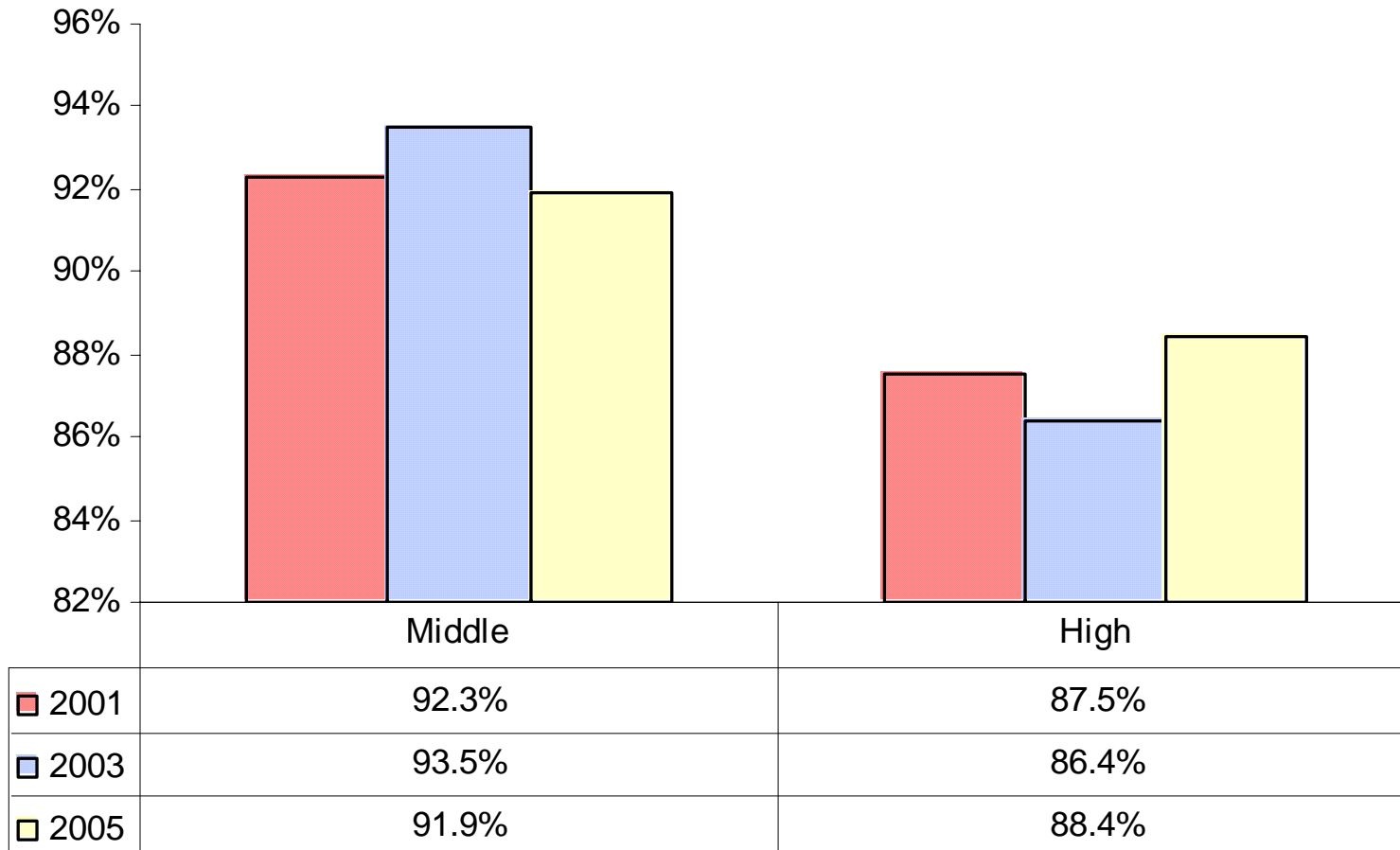
**Opportunities:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they participate in at least one extra-curricular activity

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey



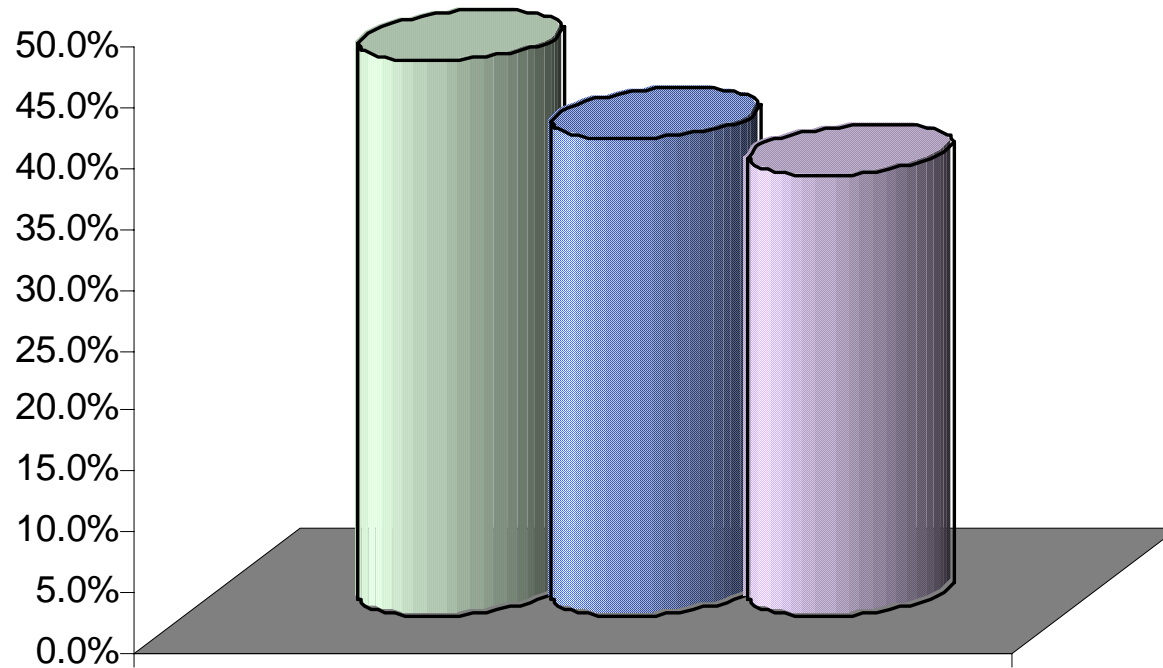
	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
2001	74.2%	72.6%
2003	72.00%	67.70%
2005	77.2%	71.6%

**Opportunities:** Number of Washoe County high school and middle school students reporting that they participated in strenuous activities (sports) in the past week



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

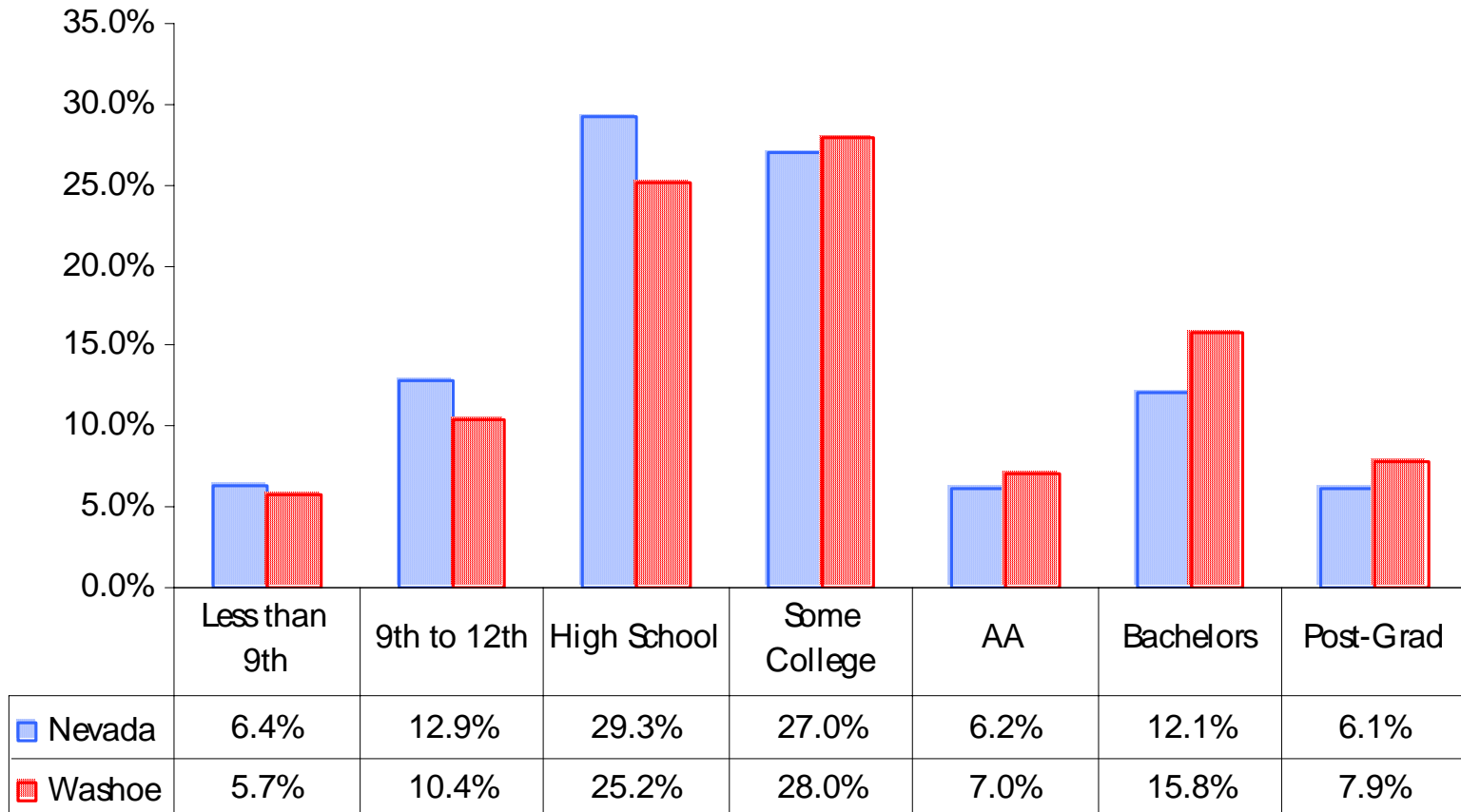
**Skills:** Number of Washoe County high school students reporting that they have a part time job



□ 2001	45.8%
■ 2003	39.3%
■ 2005	36.4%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Skills: Educational Attainment



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000



# Recognition

Question	Results		
	True	Somewhat True	False
I think adults see youth as resources to our community, and give youth a “voice” in decisions that affect their lives.	13.1	53.3	33.6
<i>2005 Washoe County Community Readiness Survey - 139 Surveys</i>			