

WASHOE COUNTY

COMMUNITY NEEDS

ASSESSMENT

2003

Prepared for:

Join Together Northern Nevada
1325 Airmotive Way, Ste 205
Reno, NV 89502
Tel: 775.324.7557



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I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to define and collect a core set of risk and protective indicators to better identify specific critical needs for individual populations at the local level. This report is formatted in the Seven Steps to Prevention Programming model which emphasizes the reduction of individual and environmental risk factors for the prevention of negative health outcomes such as substance abuse dependence. Conversely, the Seven Step model encourages individual and environmental protective factors that exert positive influences on youth during their development.

This assessment is sectioned by the following domains: Community, Family, School, and Individual/Peer. Each section contains an introductory paragraph that explains the domain, followed by a table and graph detailing data and responses to questions that are pertinent to that specific domain. Subsequent pages for each section contain tables with domain related risk factor indicators and brief explanations of these indicators. Where possible, indicator data is provided at the national, state, and local levels.

a. Risk and Protective 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 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.

Table 1:

	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence
Community					
Availability of Drugs	0				0
Availability of Firearms		0			0
Community Laws & Norms Favorable toward Drug Use, Firearms and Crime	0	0			0
Media Portrayals of Violence					0
Transition and Mobility	0	0		0	
Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization	0	0			0
Extreme Economic Deprivation	0	0	0	0	0
Family					
Family History of the Problem Behavior	0	0	0	0	0
Family Management Problems	0	0	0	0	0
Family Conflict	0	0	0	0	0
Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior	0	0			0
School					
Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of Commitment to School	0	0	0	0	0
Peer and Individual					
Early and Persistent Anti-Social Behavior	0	0	0	0	0
Rebelliousness	0	0		0	
Friends who Engage in the Problem Behavior	0	0	0	0	0
Gang Involvement	0	0			0
Favorable Attitudes Towards the Problem Behavior	0	0	0	0	
Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior	0	0	0	0	0
Constitutional Factors	0	0			0

Research completed by NIDA has also identified several protective factors that help to prevent drug use among children and adolescents. Protective factors are conditions that buffer young people from the negative consequences of exposure to risks by either reducing the impact of the risk or changing the way a person responds to the risk. Consequently, enhancing protective factors can reduce the likelihood of problem behaviors arising.

Some youngsters 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--aspects of people's lives that counter or buffer risk. Research has identified protective factors that fall into three basic categories: individual characteristics, bonding, and healthy beliefs and clear standards.

Individual characteristics: Research has identified four individual characteristics as protective factors. These are characteristics children are born with and are difficult to change: gender, a resilient temperament, a positive social orientation, and intelligence. Intelligence, however, does not protect against substance abuse.

Bonding: Positive bonding makes up for many other disadvantages caused by other risk factors or environmental characteristics. Children who are attached to positive families, friends, school, and community, and who are committed to achieving the goals valued by these groups are less likely to develop problems in adolescence. Studies of successful children who live in high risk neighborhoods or situations indicate that strong bonds with a caregiver can keep children from getting into trouble.

To build bonding, three conditions are necessary: opportunities, skills, and recognition. Children must be provided with opportunities to contribute to their community, family, peers, and school. The challenge is to provide children with meaningful opportunities that help them feel responsible and significant.

Children must be taught the skills necessary to effectively take advantage of the opportunity they are provided. If they don't have the necessary skills to be successful, they experience frustration and/or failure. Children must also be recognized and acknowledged for their efforts. This gives them the incentive to contribute and reinforces their skillful performance.

Healthy beliefs and clear standards: The people to whom youth are bonded need to have clear, positive standards for behavior. The content of these standards is what protects young people. When parents, teachers, and communities set clear

standards for children's behavior, when they are widely and consistently supported, and when the consequences for not following the standards are consistent, young people are more likely to follow the standards.

b. Data Sources

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (YRBS): Every other year, the Nevada Department of Education administers the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) as part of the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. The CDC uses these data to measure the prevalence of priority health and safety behaviors that put youth at risk for significant health and social problems and to monitor progress toward achieving relevant national health objectives for the year 2010. Relevant YRBS data (high school) is provided in this report for each domain.

Nevada Kids Count Data Books: The Nevada KIDS COUNT project is a statewide, collaborative effort that brings together a wide range of organizations and agencies involved with children and families in Nevada. This inclusive and collaborative representation provides the broad-based support to ensure success in achieving the mission of Nevada KIDS COUNT. The goals of the Nevada KIDS COUNT project is to collect, analyze, and disseminate the best available data measuring the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children and youth in Nevada. Further, the collaborative seeks to educate and inform decision-makers, citizens, service providers, providers of funding, and community partners regarding data, policy, and resources analysis, and provide linkages with community efforts to reach decision-makers with information concerning relevant issues for children and youth.

Washoe County School District Accountability Reports: The county-wide school district accountability report is prepared annually for the residents of Washoe County School District as required by state law. Specifically, it focuses on district accomplishments, provides school statistics, information about teachers and classrooms, student achievement, special programs, parent/community involvement, technology, and fiscal matters.

Other Sources: Other sources of data utilized in this report include U.S. Census, Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada State Statistical Abstract, and the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services.

II. WASHOE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

	Washoe County	Nevada
Population (2001 Estimate) ¹	353,336	2,106,074

Gender (%)		
Male	50.7%	50.9%
Female	49.3%	49.1%

Ethnicity		
White (Caucasian)	73.0%	65.2%
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 ²		
Under 14	21.0%	
15-24	13.6%	
25-34	14.5%	
35-44	16.5%	
45-54	14.7%	
55-64	9.1%	
65+	10.5%	

¹ U.S. Census Bureau - <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/32/32031.html>

² Nevada Power Economic Development - <http://econdev.nevadapower.com/nvp/county/washoe/demographics/>

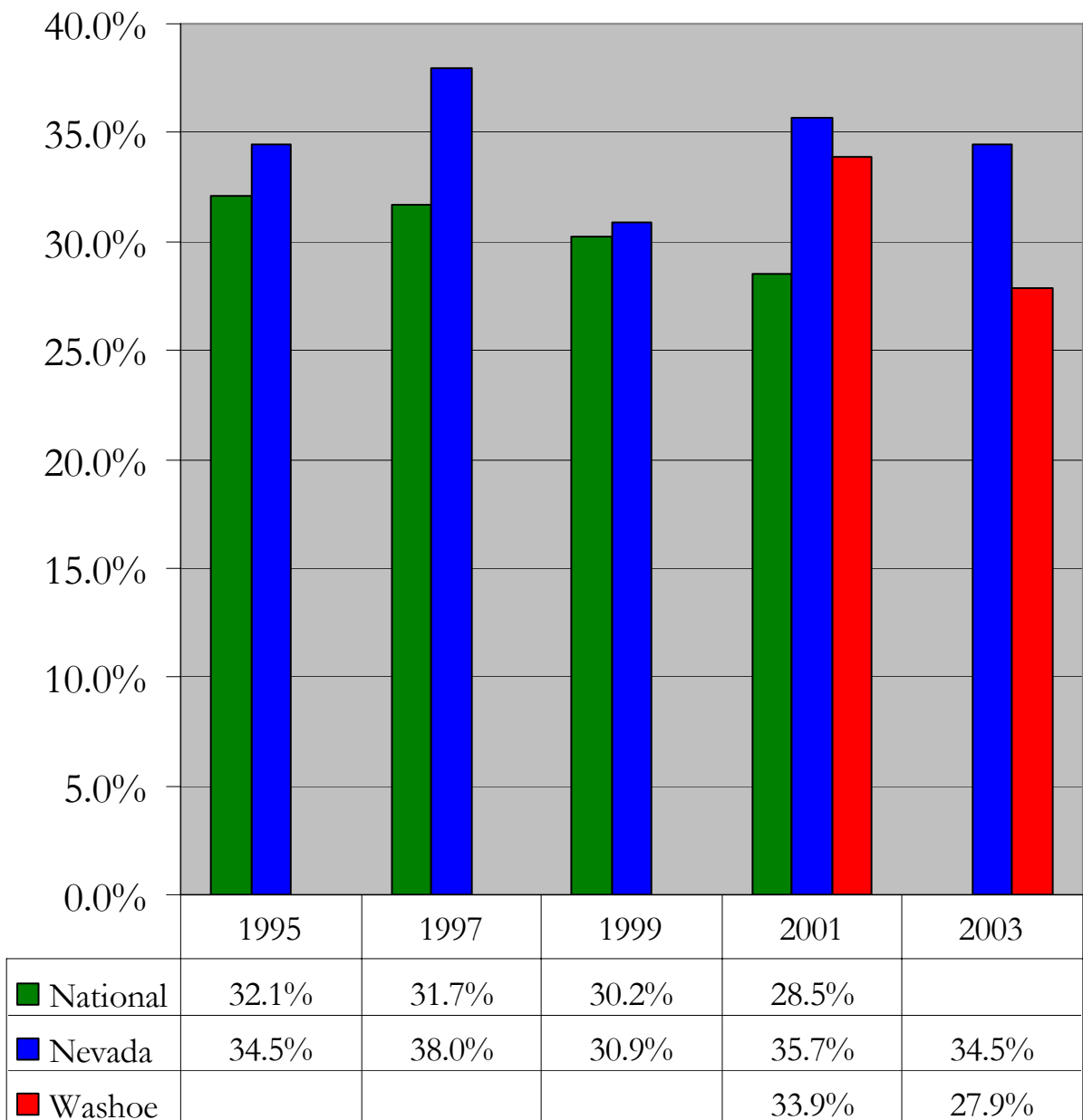
III. COMMUNITY DOMAIN

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. The CTC model lists seven community risk factors which are addressed below:

a. Availability of Drugs

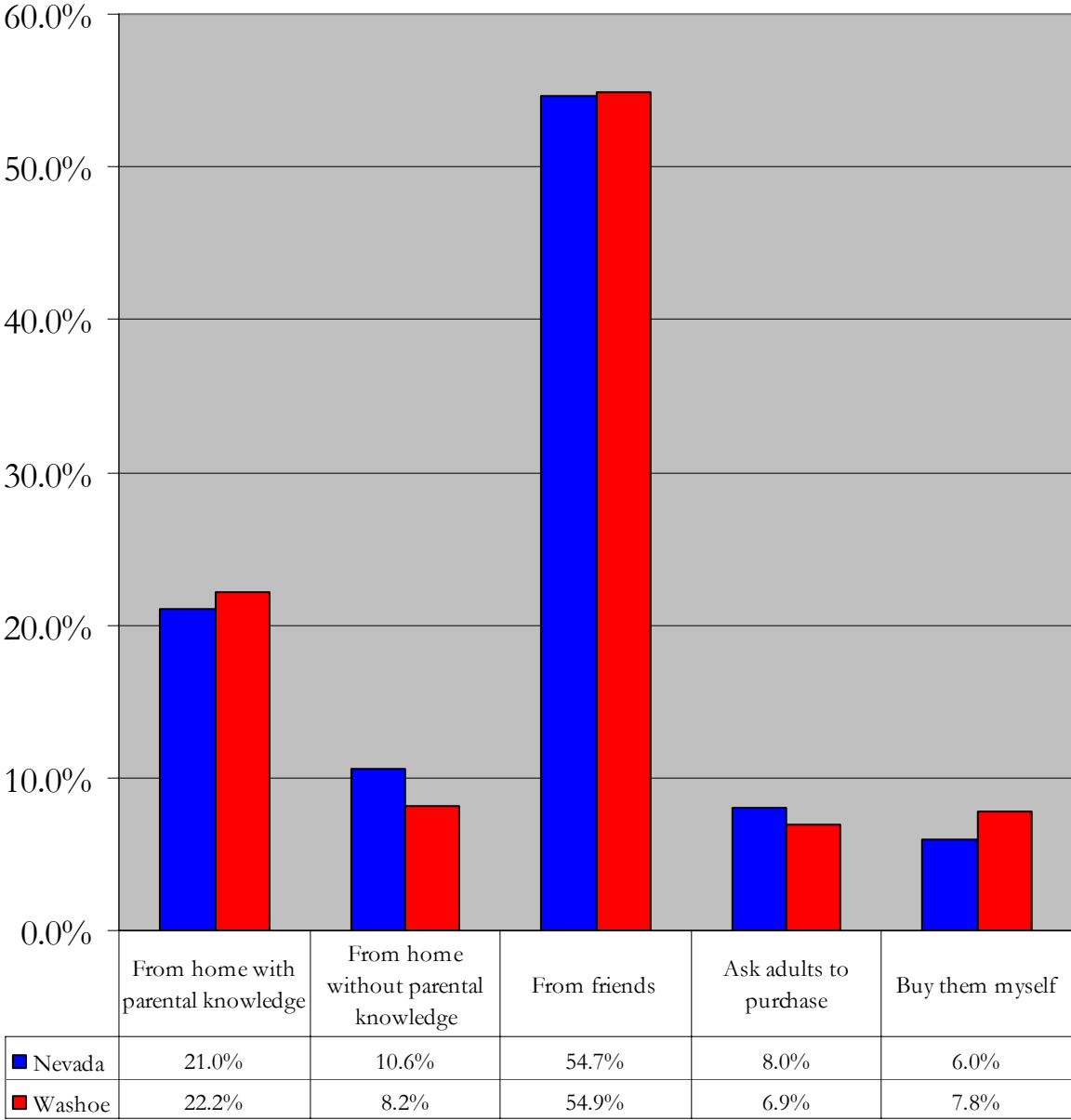
The availability of drugs and alcohol in a community impacts the risk for juvenile alcohol and drug abuse. The more available drugs and alcohol are in a community, the higher the risk that drug abuse will occur in that community.

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
INDICATOR: Presence of Illegal Drugs at School
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who were offered, sold, or given drugs on school property in past 12 months



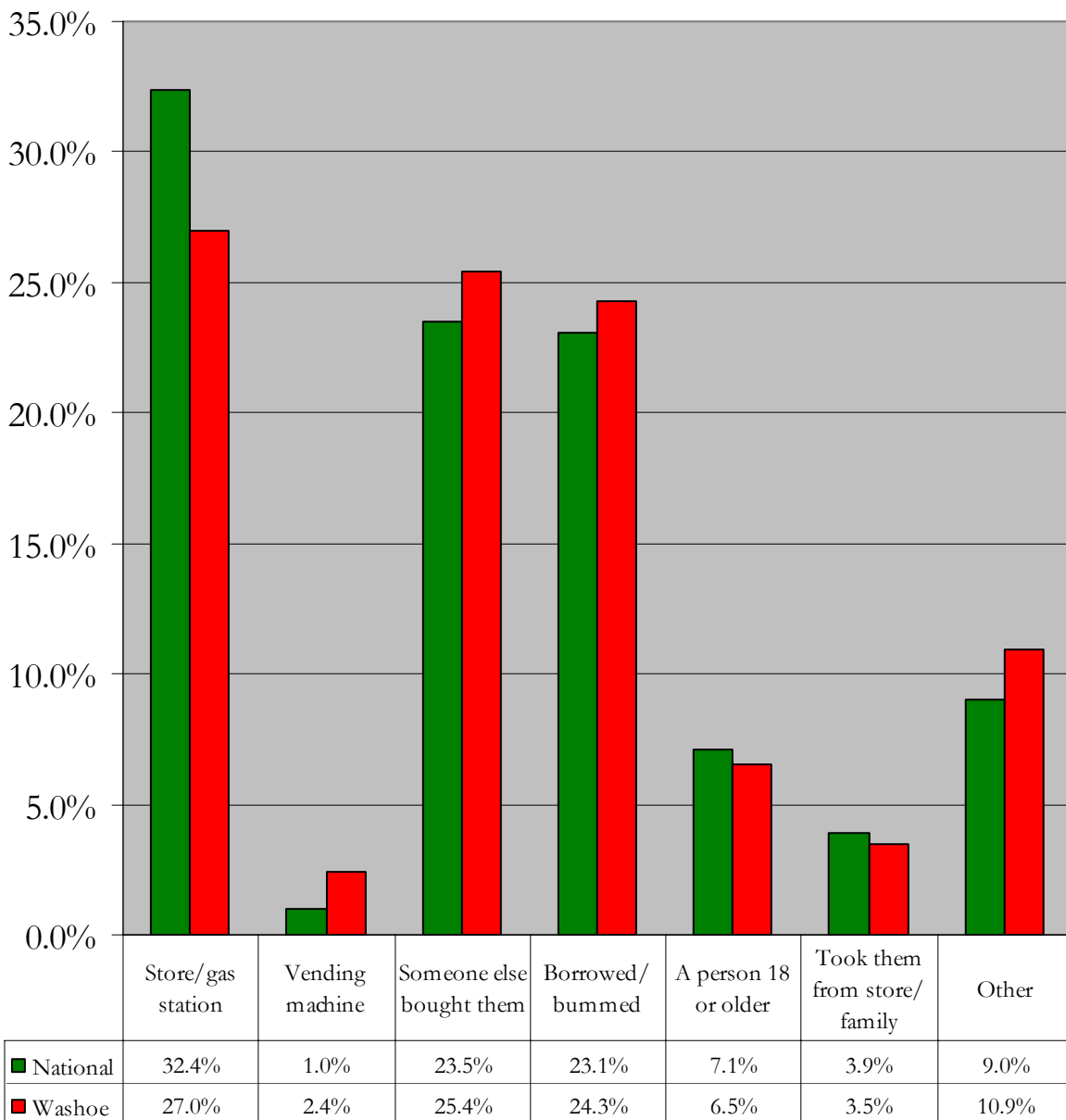
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Availability of Drugs
INDICATOR: Availability of Alcohol
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who obtained their alcohol from home, friends, or from someone else in the past 30 days (2001 data)



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Availability of Drugs
INDICATOR: Availability of Cigarettes
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who obtained their cigarettes from a store, vending machine, or from someone else in the past 30 days (2001 data)

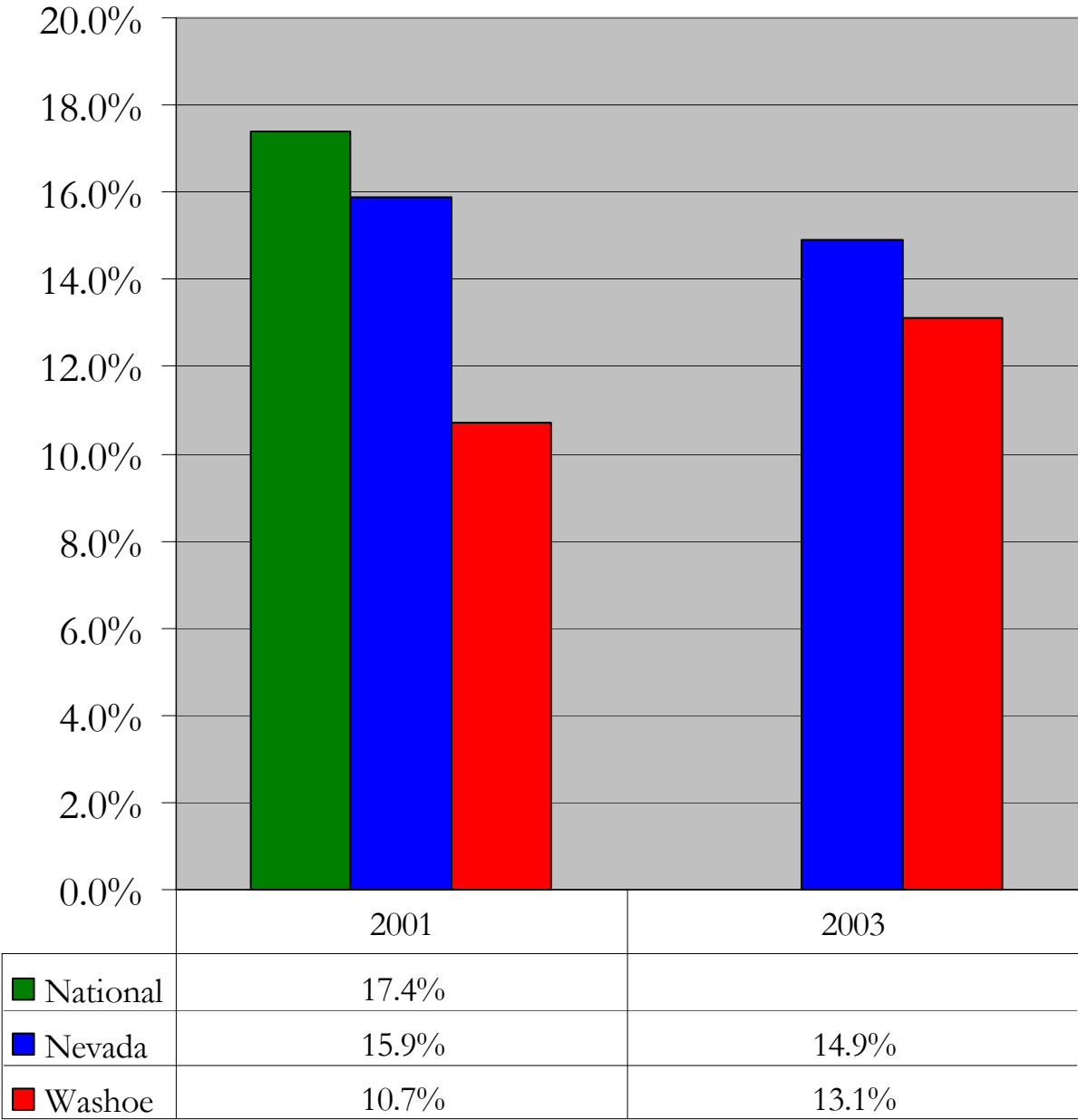


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

b. Community Laws & Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use

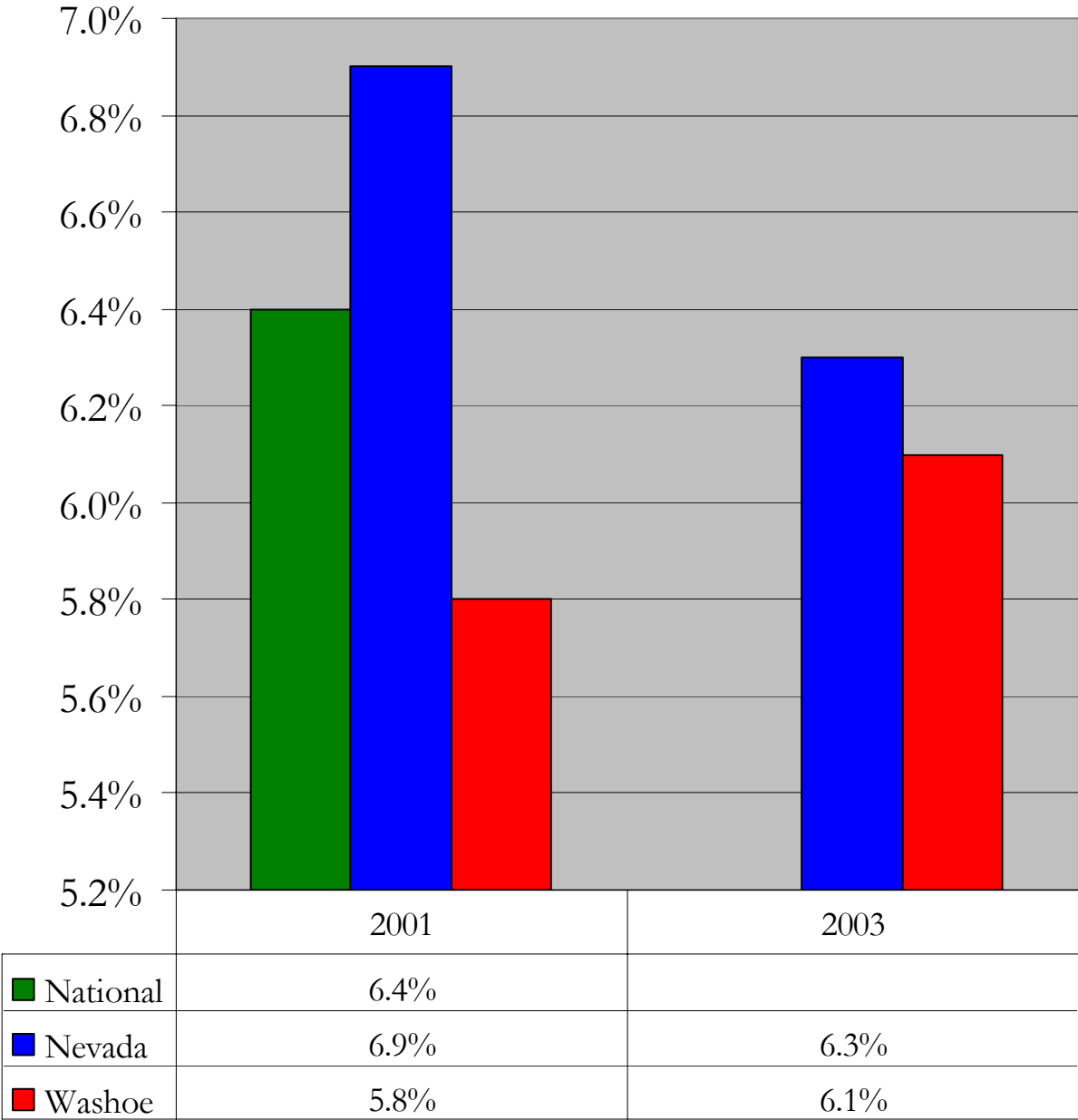
Community norms – the attitudes and policies a community holds in relation to drug use, violence and crime, are communicated in a variety of ways: through laws and written policies, through informal social practices, and through the expectations parents and other members of the community have of young people. When laws, tax rates, and community standards are favorable toward substance abuse, violence, or crime, or even when they are just unclear, young people are at higher risk.

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
 INDICATOR: Weapons
 DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who responded that they carried a weapon in the past 30 days



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
INDICATOR: Weapons at School
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who responded that they carried a weapon on school grounds in the past 30 days

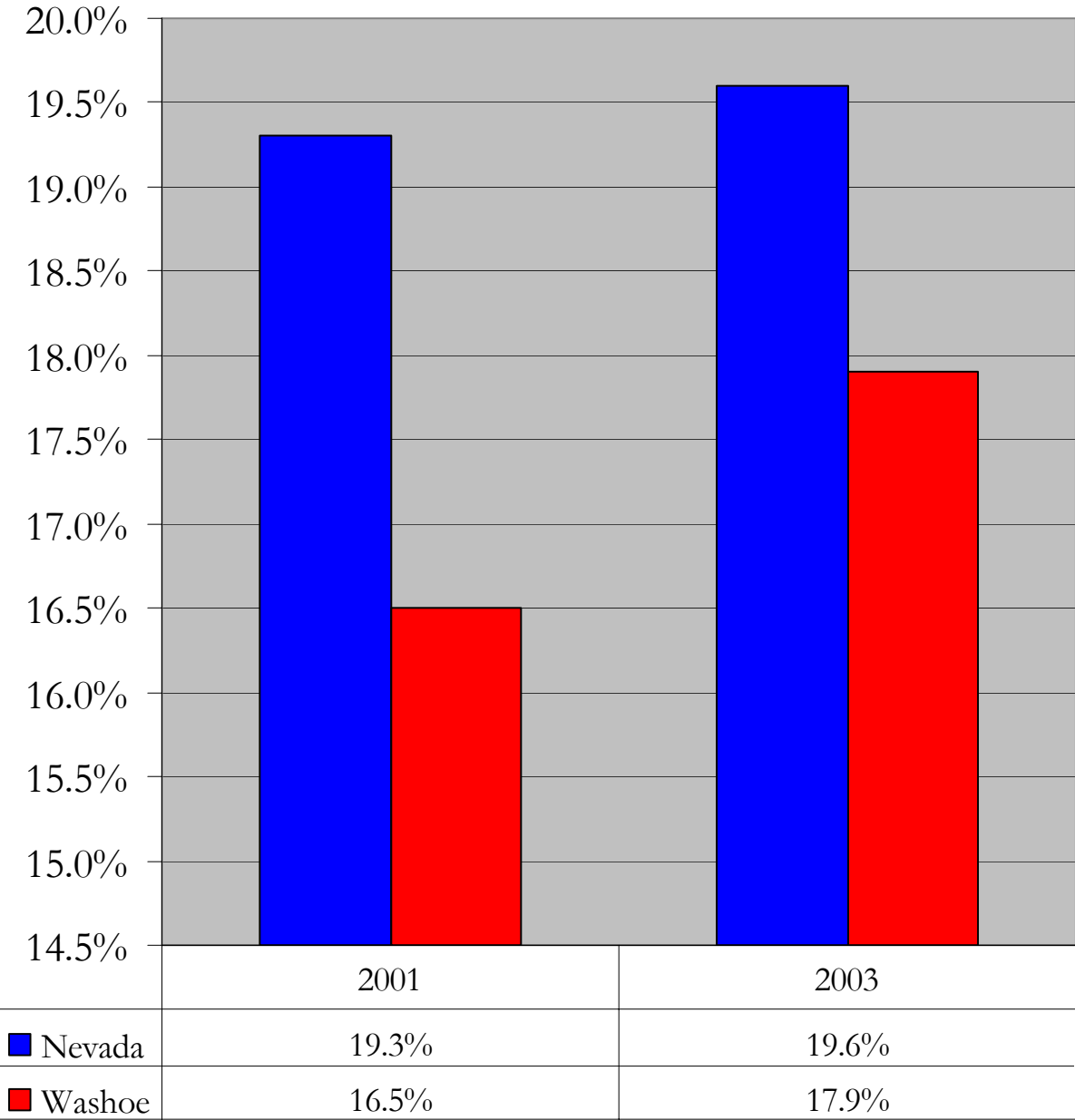


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime

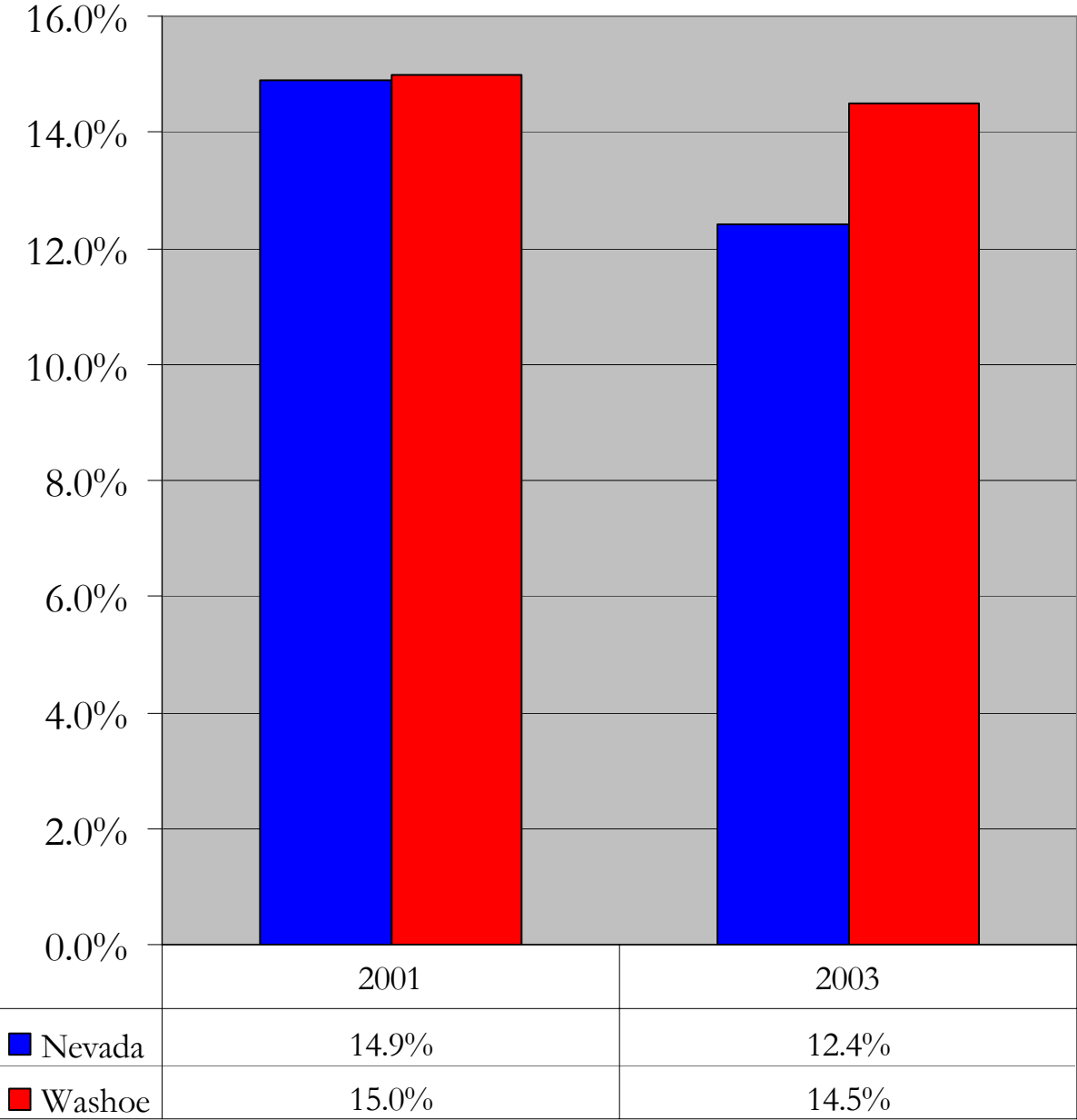
INDICATOR: Offended, Threatened or Attacked Because of Ethnic Background

DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who responded that they were offended, threatened or attacked because of their ethnic background in the past 30 days



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
INDICATOR: Offended, Threatened or Attacked Because of Gender
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who responded that they were offended, threatened or attacked because of their gender in the past 30 days

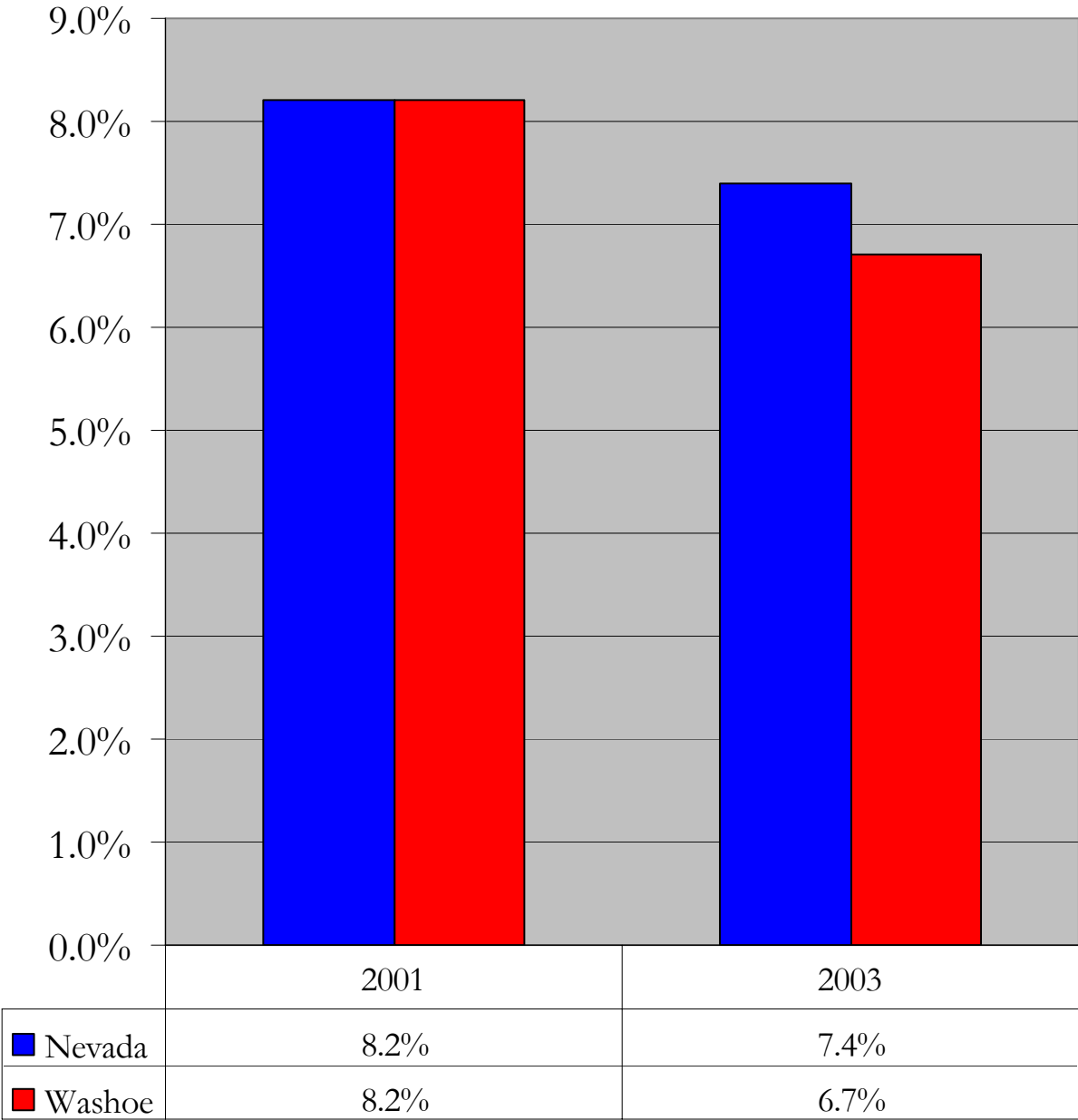


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime

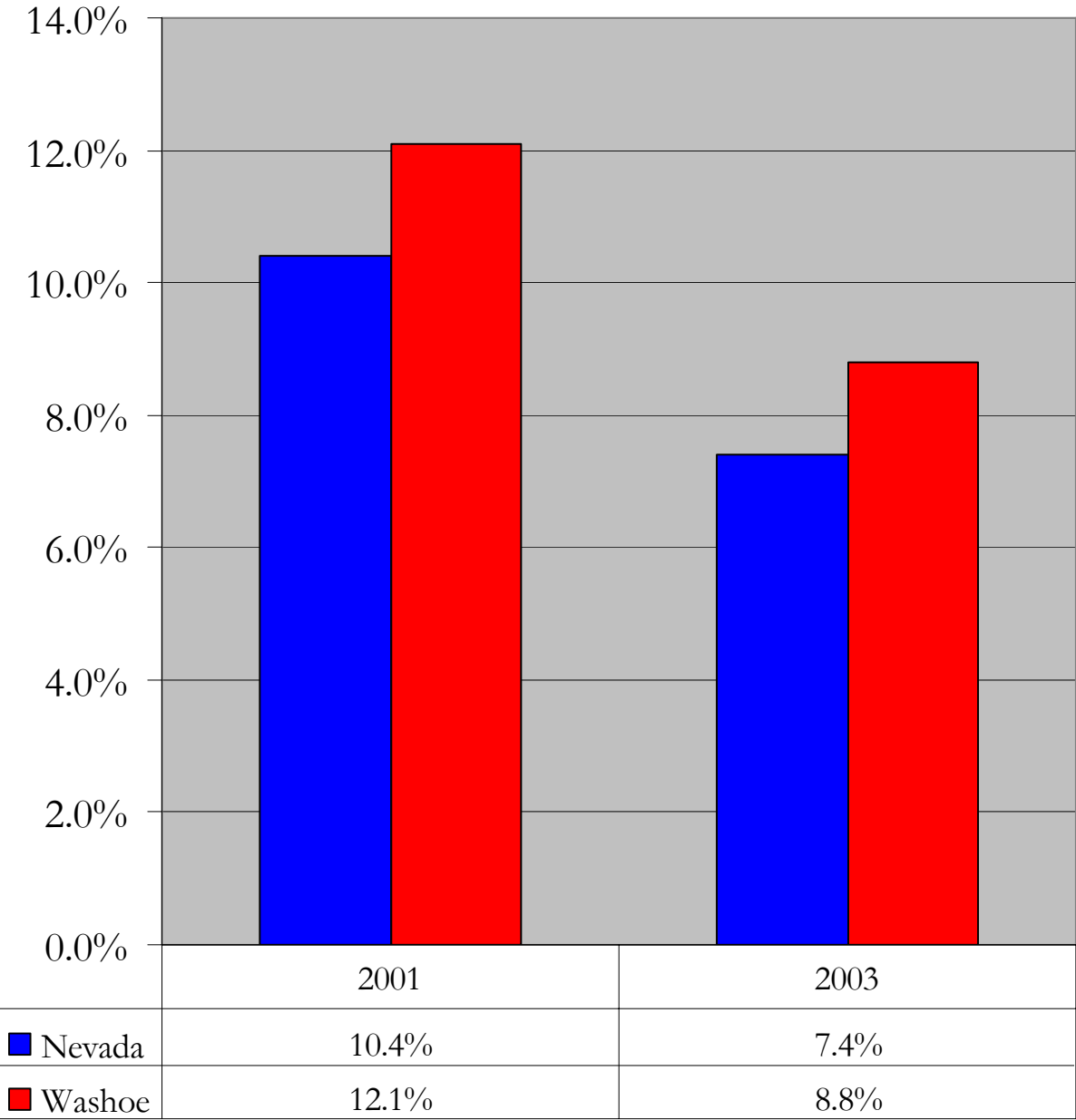
INDICATOR: Alcohol Use on School Grounds

DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who reported that they drank alcohol on school grounds in the past 30 days



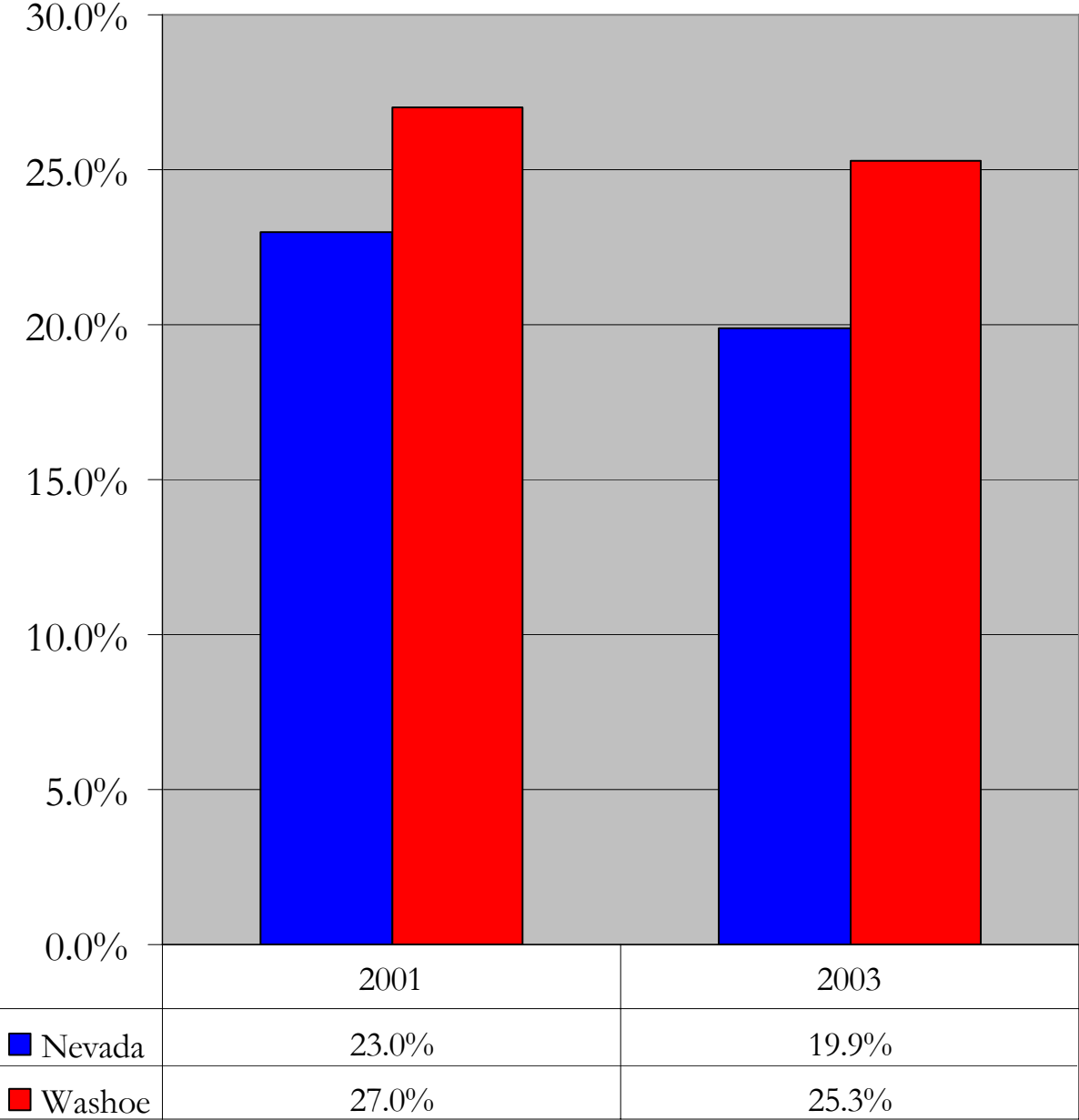
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
 INDICATOR: Smoking on School Grounds
 DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who reported that they smoked on school grounds in the past 30 days



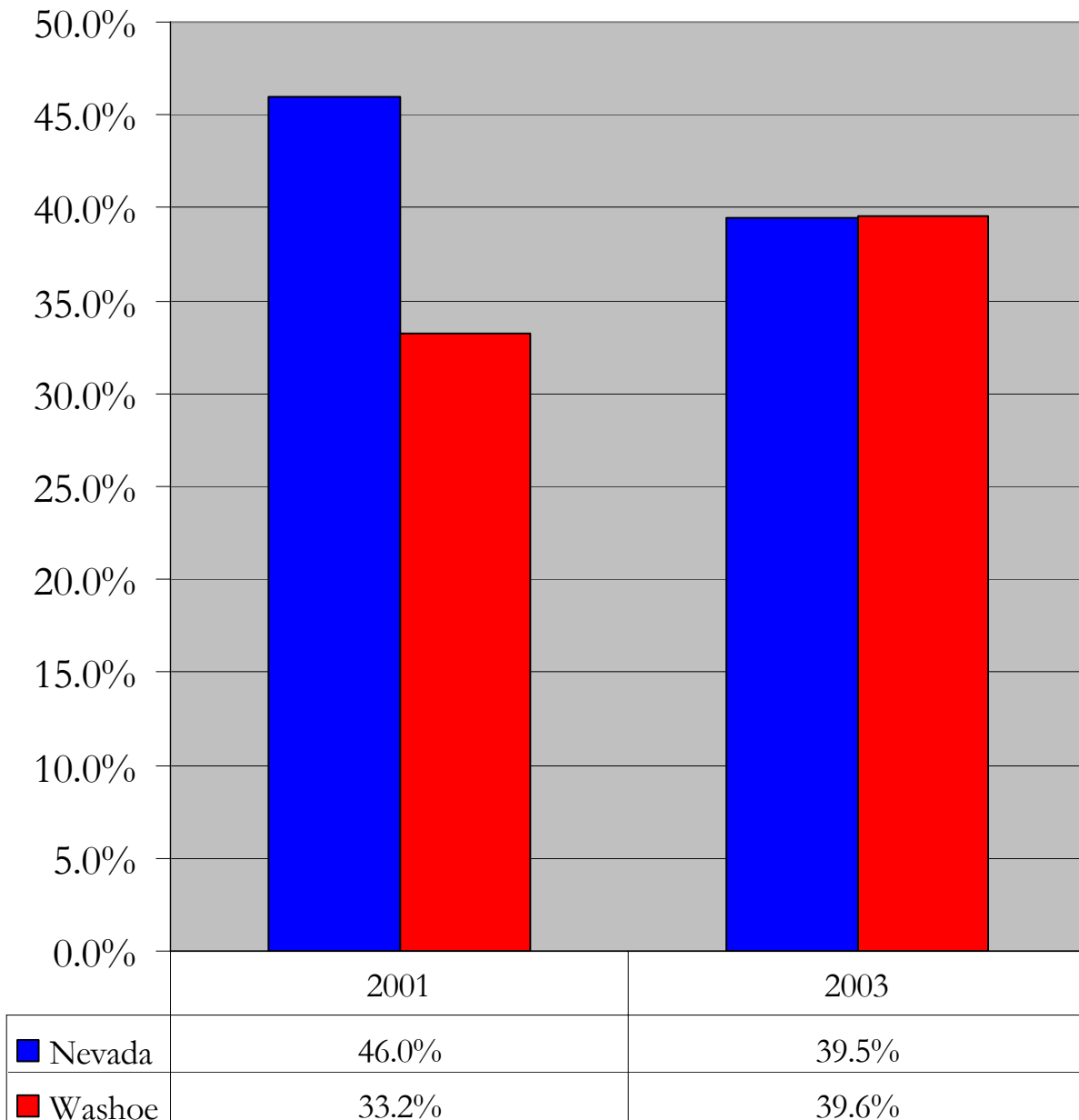
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
INDICATOR: Youth Purchasing Cigarettes
DEFINITION: Percent of high school smokers who purchased their cigarettes in a store/gas station in the past 30 days



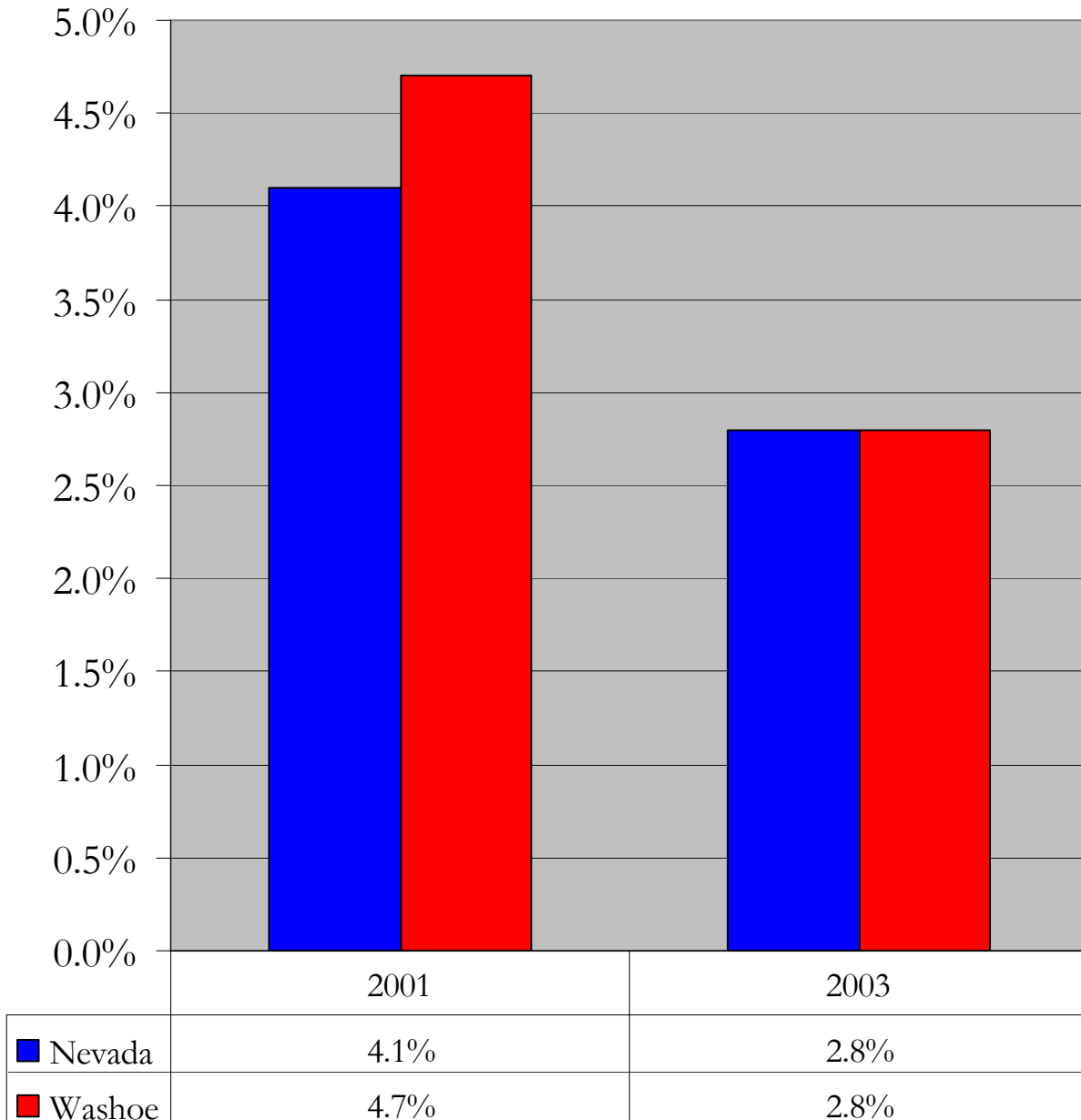
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
INDICATOR: Youth Purchasing Cigarettes
DEFINITION: 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



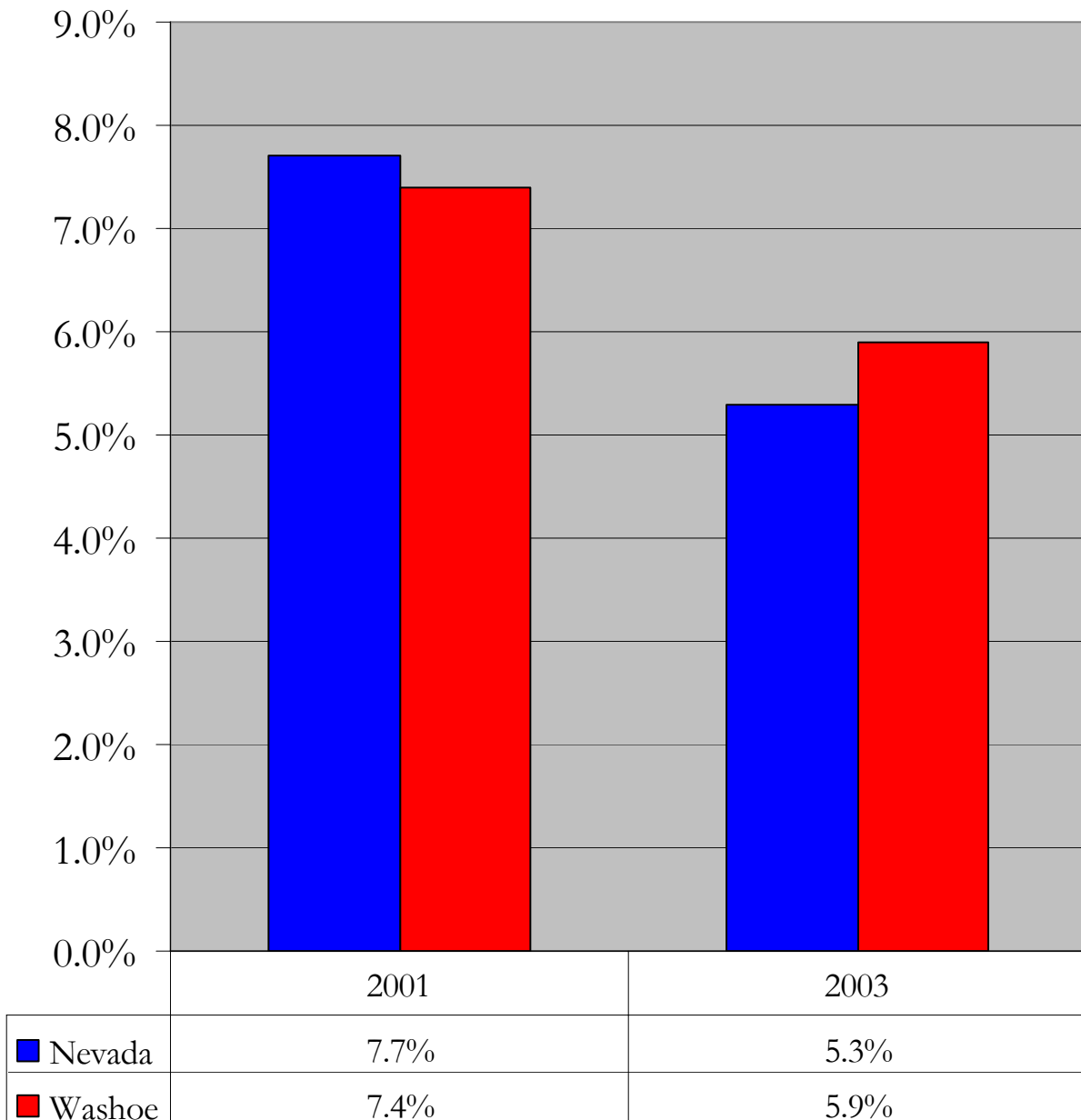
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
 INDICATOR: Chewing Tobacco Use at School
 DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report using chewing tobacco on school grounds in the past 30 days



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms and Crime
INDICATOR: Marijuana Use on School Grounds
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who reported that they used marijuana on school grounds in the past 30 days



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

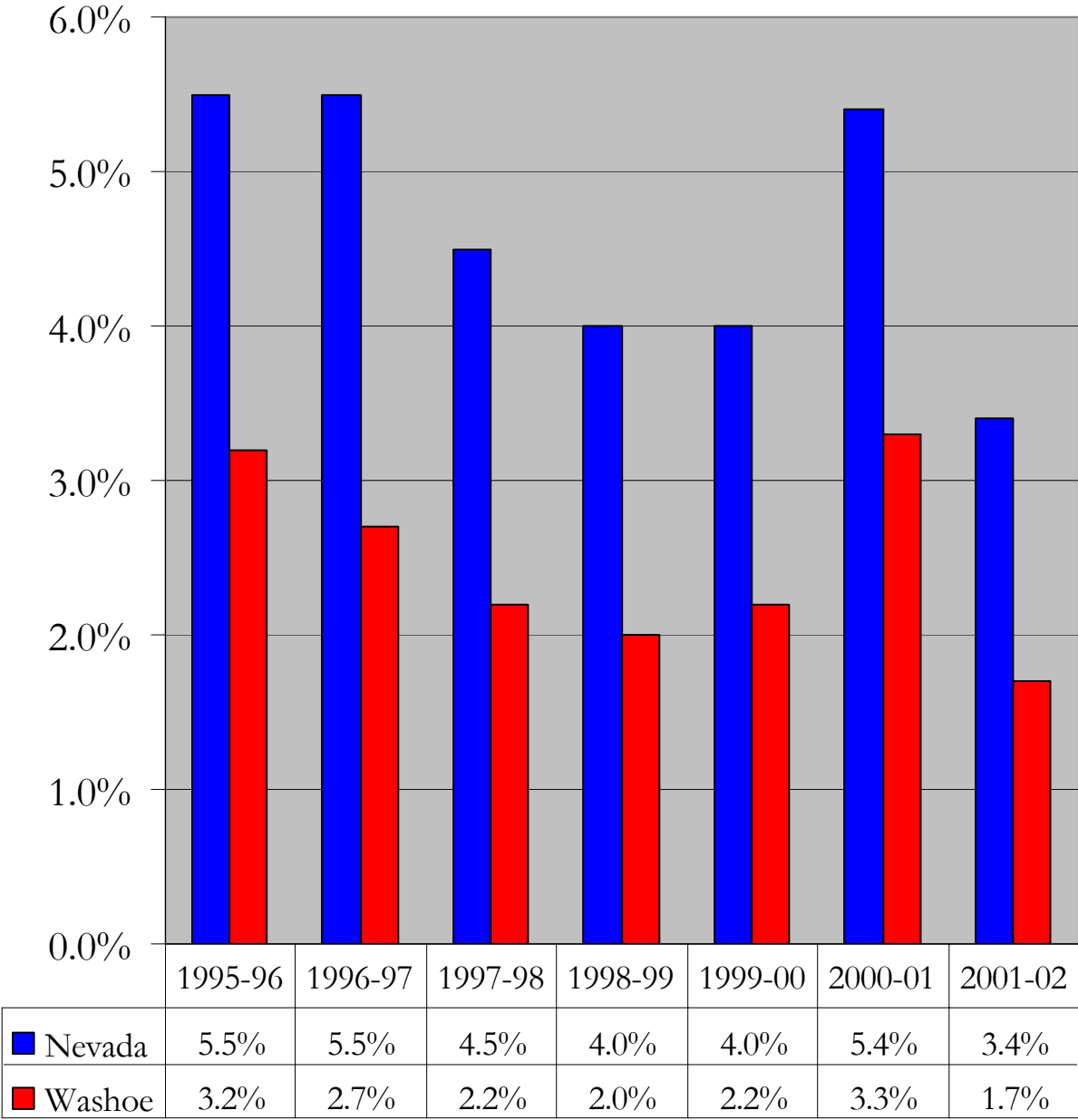
c. Media Portrayals of Violence

The role of media portrayals of violence on the behavior of young viewers has been debated for over three decades. Research over that time period has shown a clear correlation between media portrayals of violence and the development of aggressive and violent behavior. Exposure to violence in the media appears to have an impact on children in several ways. First, children learn from watching actors model violent behavior, as well as learning violent problem-solving strategies. Second, media portrayals of violence appear to alter childrens' attitudes and sensitivity towards violence.

d. Transitions and Mobility

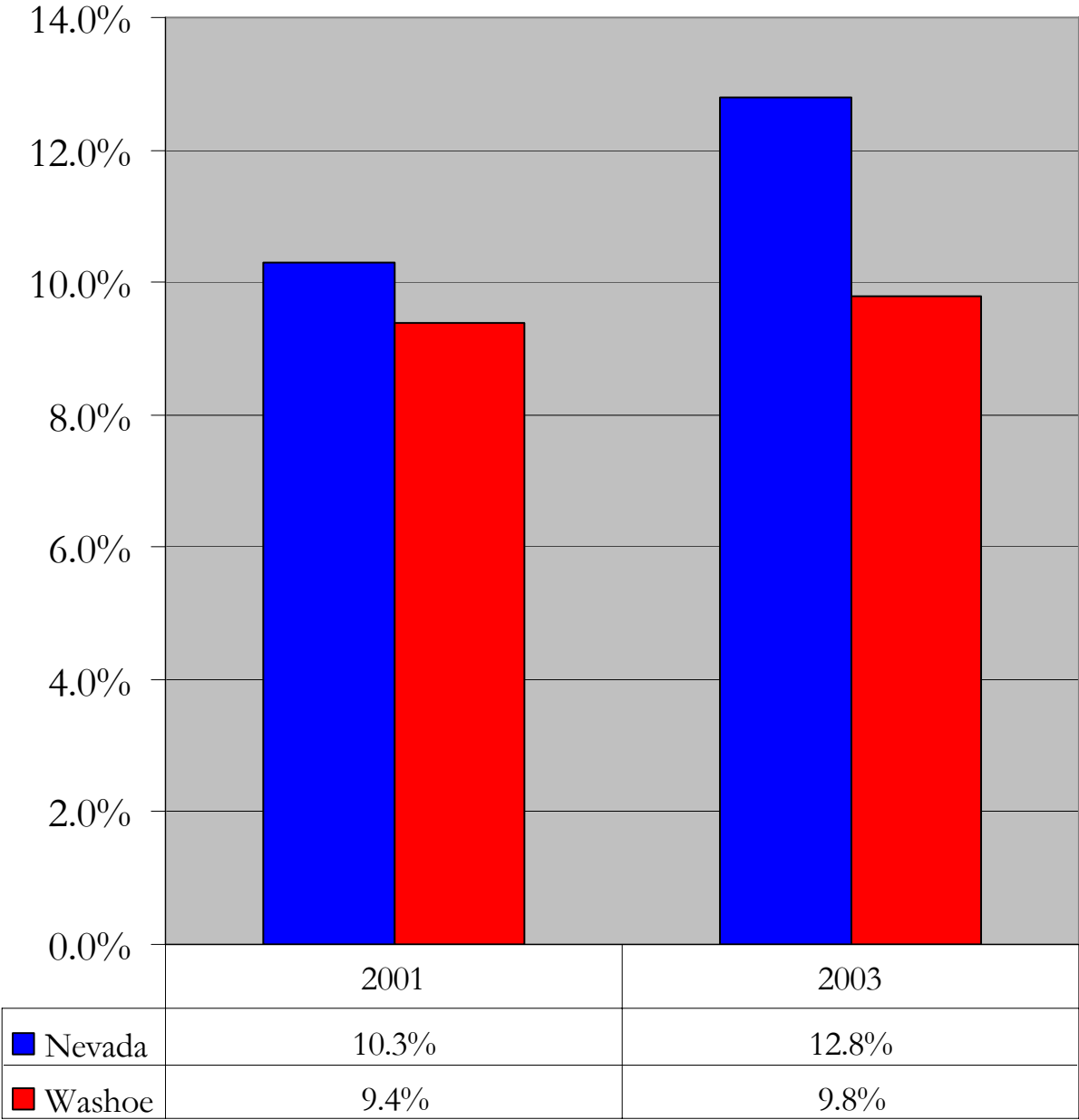
A high transition rate increases the risk of drug and crime problems within the community. Individuals may have difficulty adjusting to new environments and the social environments of new schools may create special problems for young people. Some youth may have more difficulty making the transition to a new community and the difficulties adjusting may be exacerbated by language barriers and/or problems generated from low family income. Nevada has experienced a 60% population increase in the last 10 years (1993-2003) and is ranked as number one in child population growth in the nation.

RISK FACTOR: Transition and Mobility
 INDICATOR: Transiency Rate
 DEFINITION: Percent change in total population



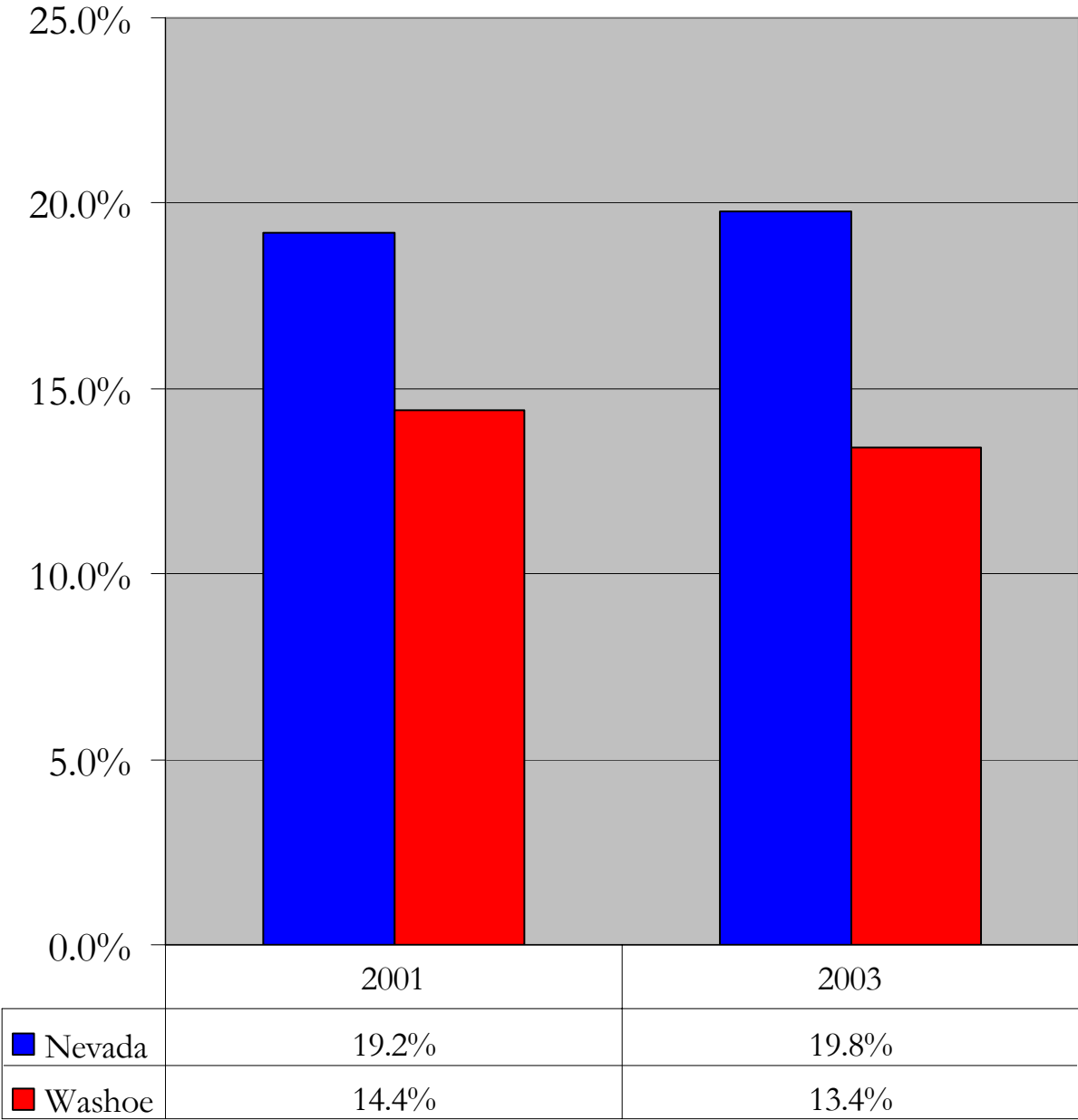
Source: U.S. Census

RISK FACTOR: Transition and Mobility
INDICATOR: Lived in Nevada less than 3 Years
DEFINITION: Percent of high school respondents who have lived in Nevada less than 3 years



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Transition and Mobility
INDICATOR: Attended same school district less than 3 Years
DEFINITION: Percent of high school respondents who have attended school in same school district for less than 3 years

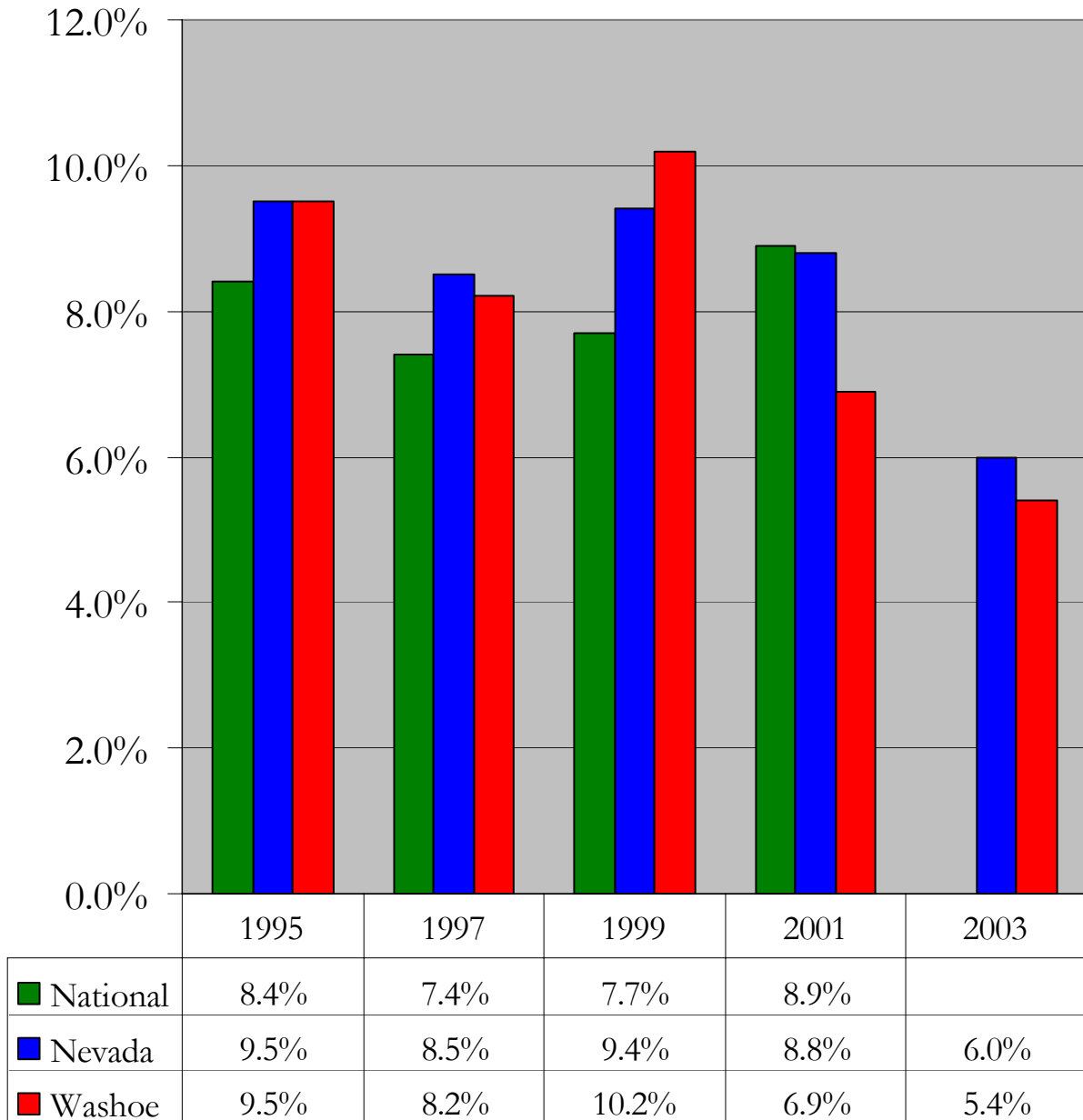


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

e. **Low Neighborhood Attachment**

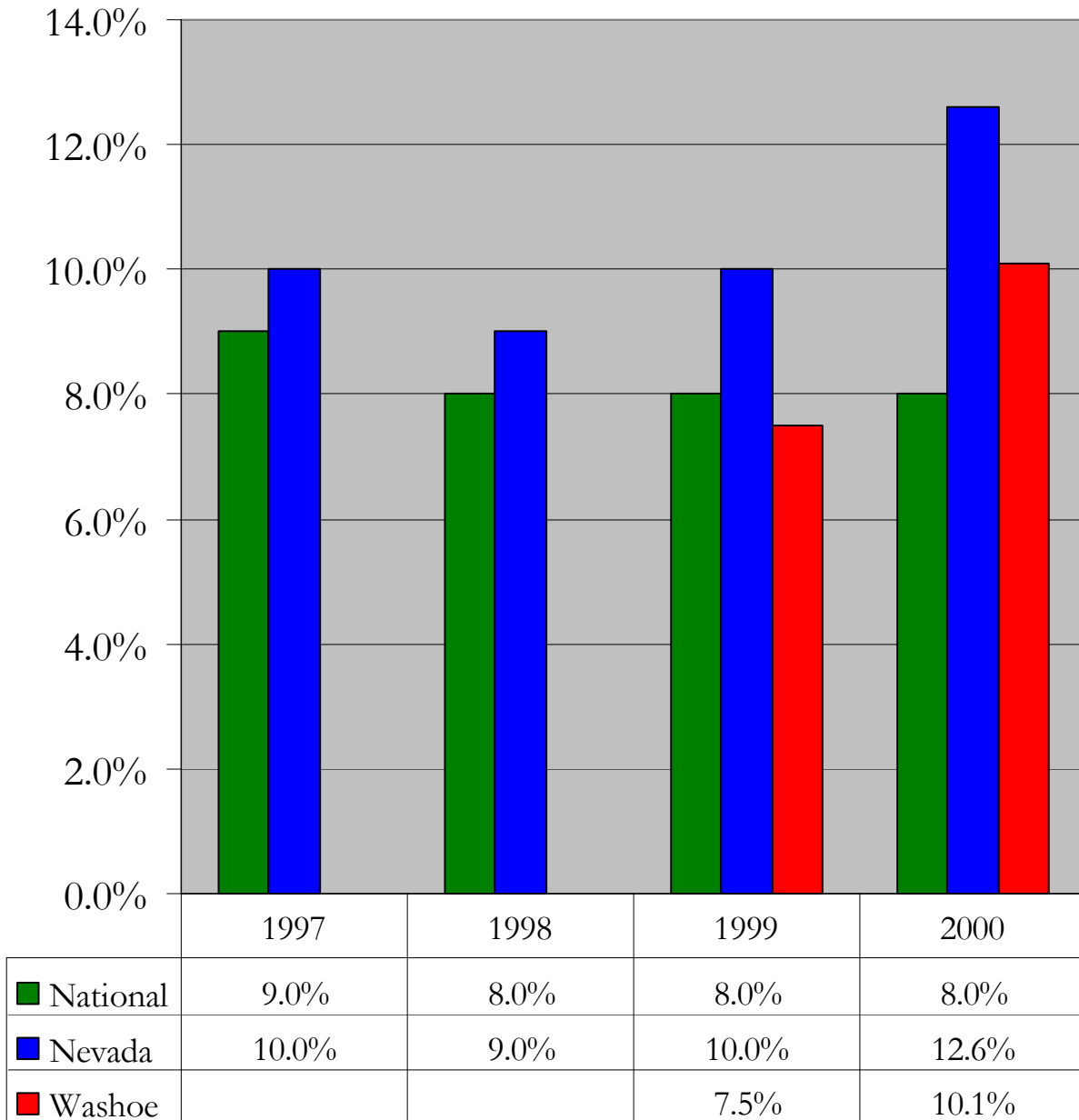
In neighborhoods where there is little sense of community attachment, and the mindset exists that there is little one can do to change things for the better, there is often a higher rate of juvenile delinquency. People living in these types of neighborhoods may be less willing to become active in the community planning process essential for producing positive changes. Prevention strategies tailored to individual community needs are the key to competent prevention programs.

RISK FACTOR: Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization
INDICATOR: Threatened or Injured with a Weapon on School Property
DEFINITION: Percent answering that they had been threatened or injured by someone with a weapon on school property in the past 12 months



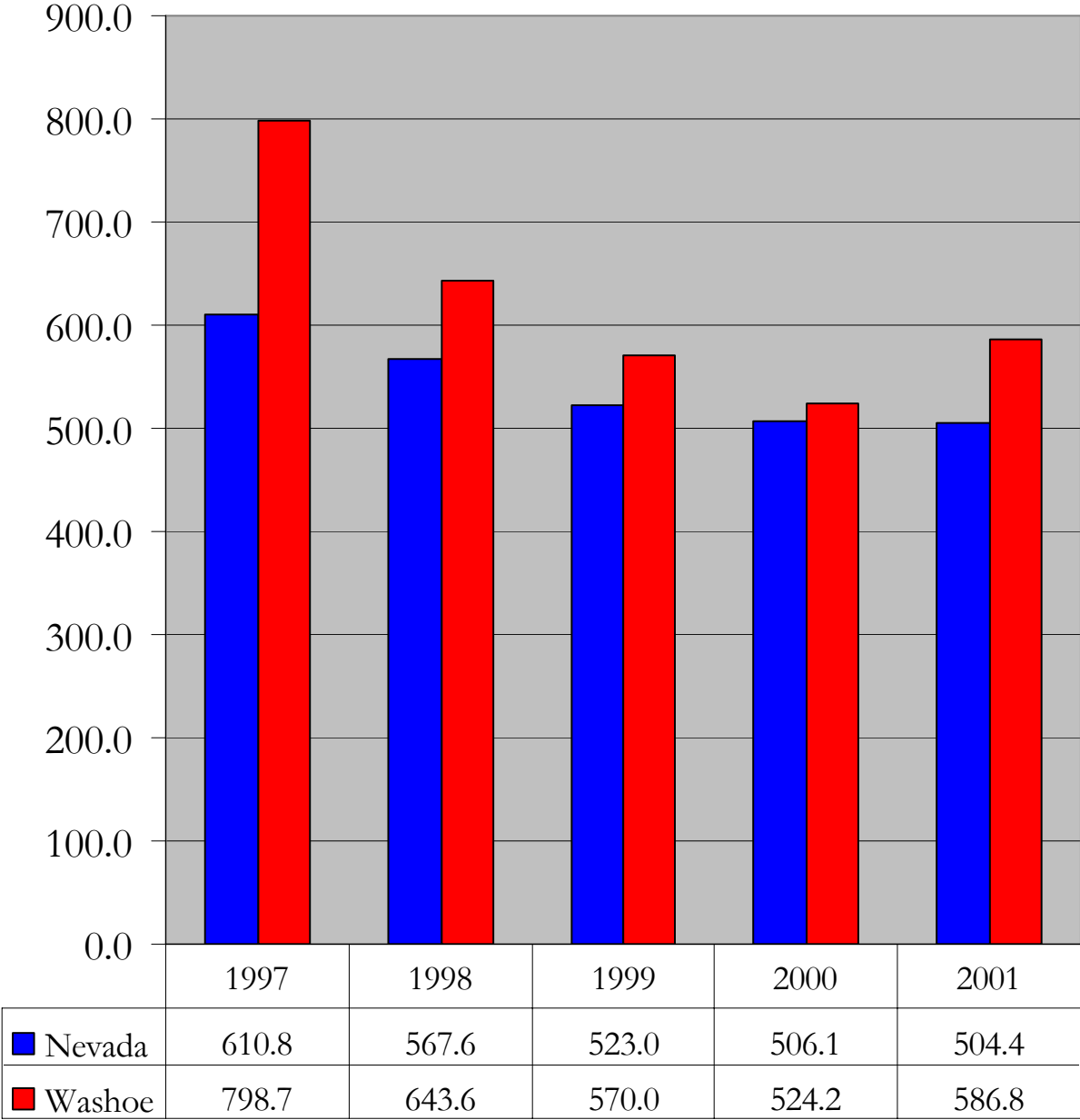
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization
INDICATOR: Teens not Working and not in School
DEFINITION: Percent of 16 through 19 year olds who are not working and not in school



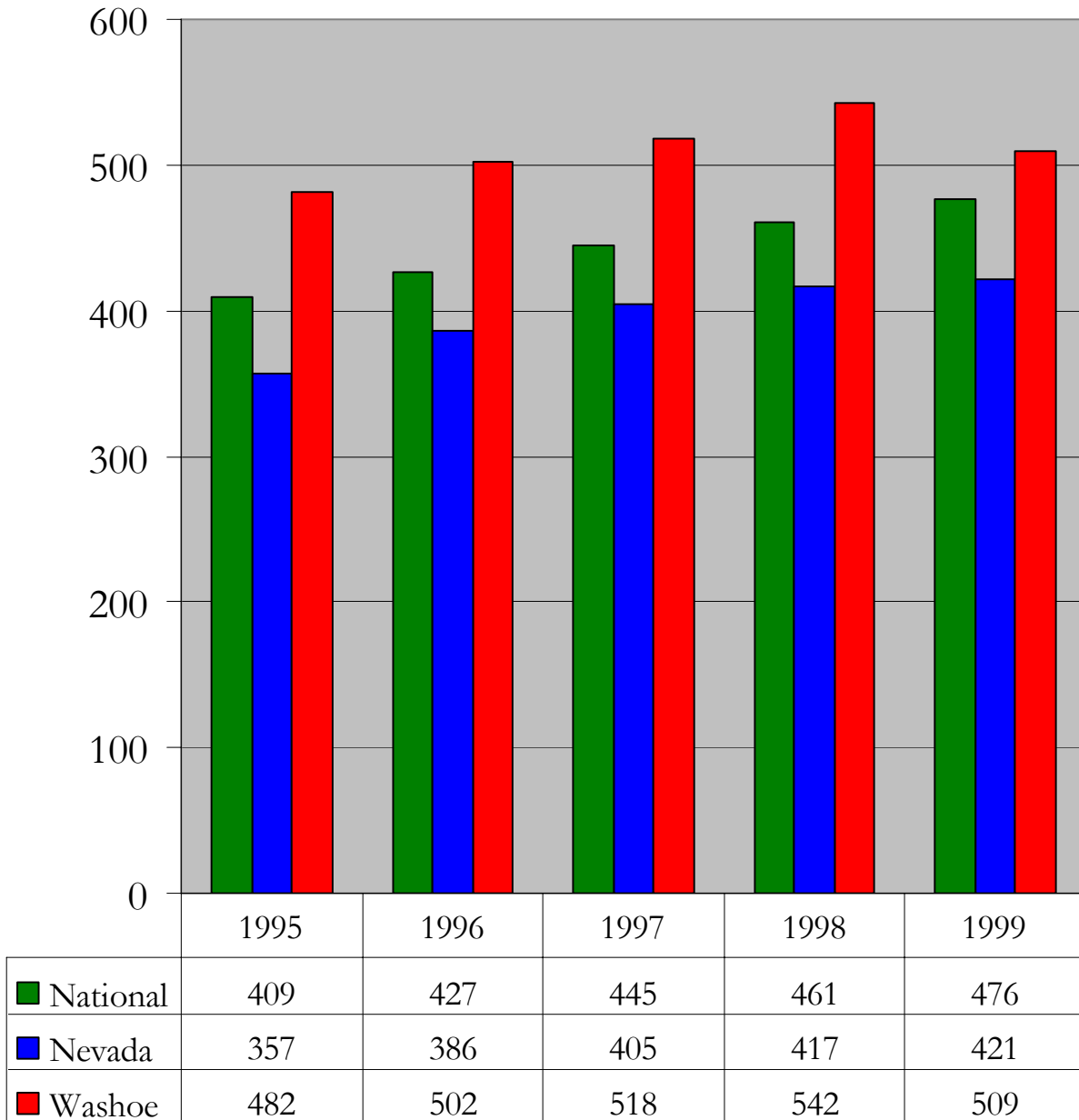
Source: Nevada Kids Count

RISK FACTOR: Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization
 INDICATOR: Violent Crime Rate
 DEFINITION: Violent crime rate per 100,000 population



Source: Nevada State Statistical Abstract

RISK FACTOR: Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization
 INDICATOR: Incarceration Rate for State & Federal Prisons
 DEFINITION: Rate of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 population

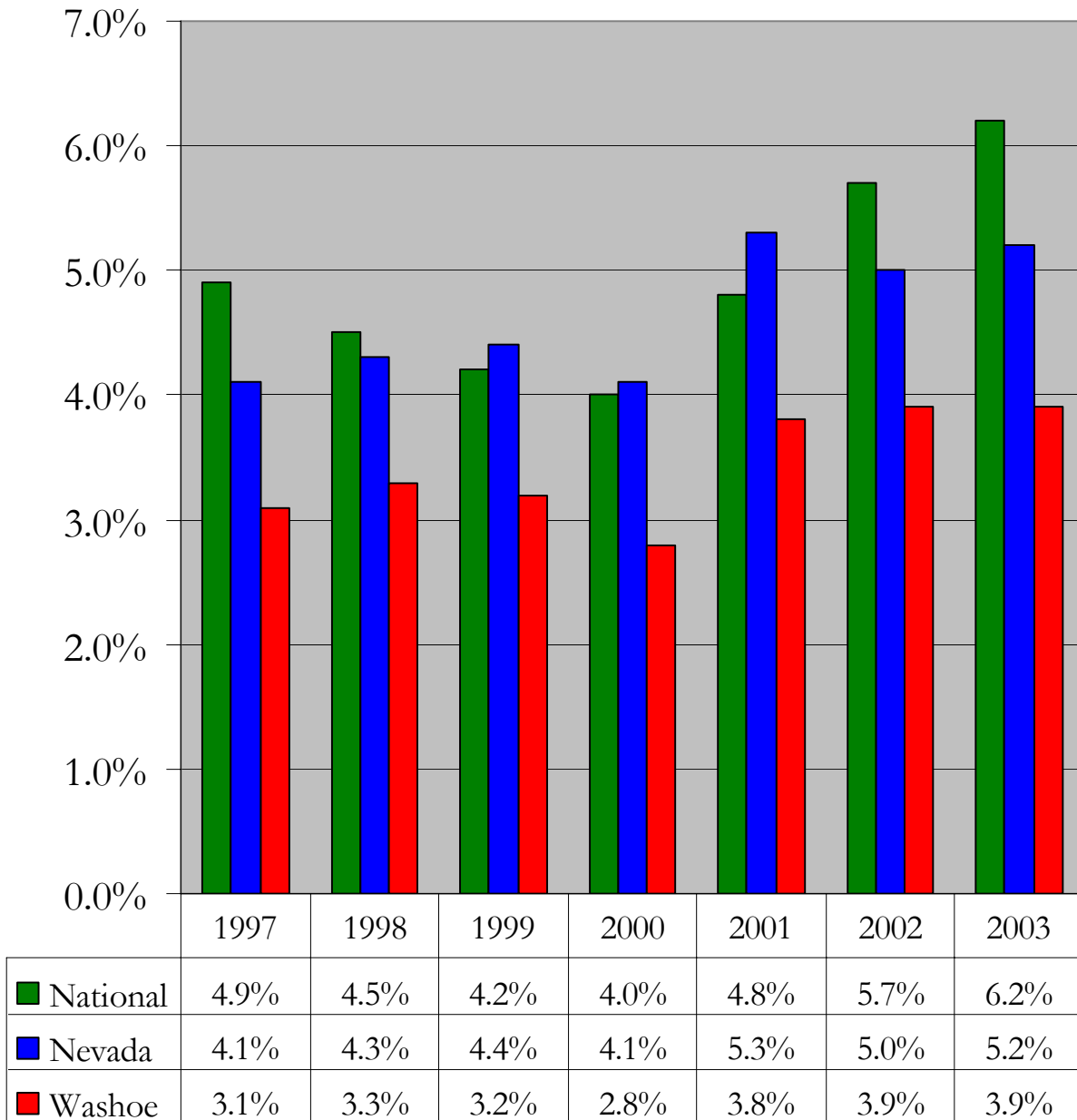


Source: Nevada State Statistical Abstract

f. Extreme Economic Deprivation

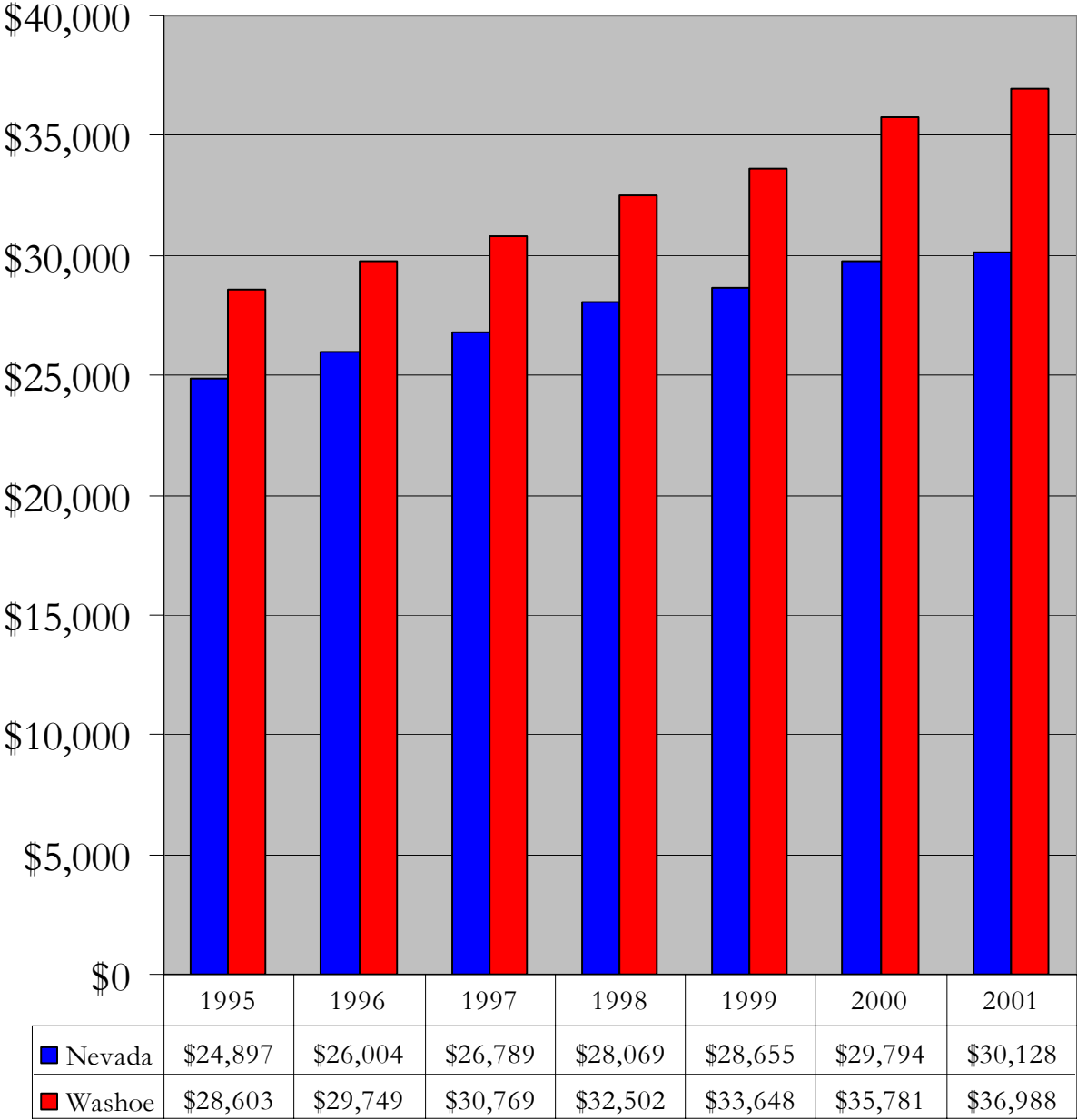
Children living in communities where extreme poverty exists due to high rates of unemployment, depopulation, lack of investments, or other adverse economic conditions are at a higher risk of developing problem behaviors. Children residing in unstable social environments due to extreme economic deprivation can benefit from a community-wide prevention program that is offered to all area youth, thus eliminating the social stigma of being labeled as high-risk youth.

RISK FACTOR: Extreme Economic Deprivation
 INDICATOR: Unemployment
 DEFINITION: Percent of labor force that is unemployed



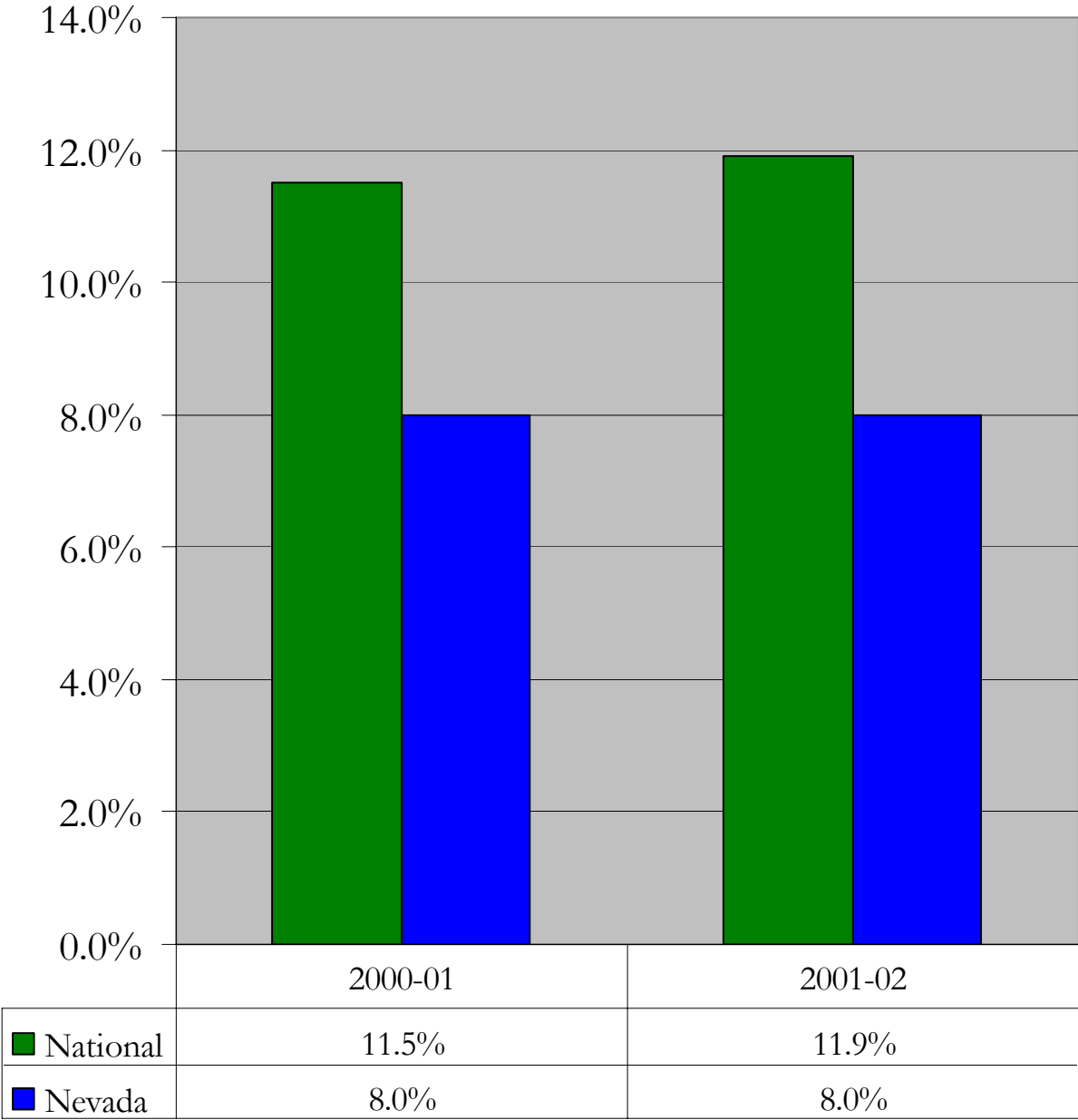
Source: Nevada State Statistical Abstract

RISK FACTOR: Extreme Economic Deprivation
 INDICATOR: Annual Wage
 DEFINITION: Average annual wage



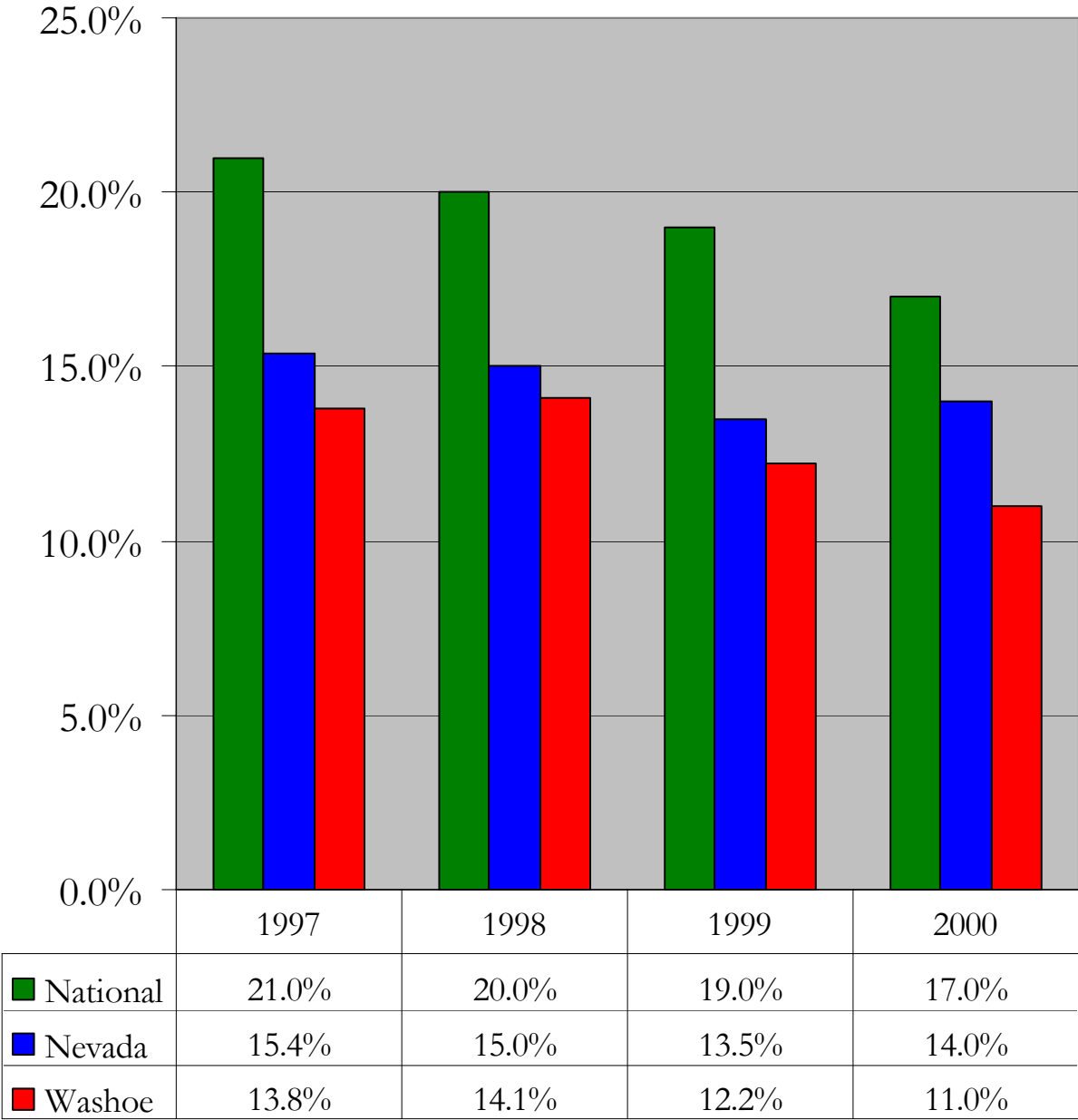
Source: Nevada Statistical Abstract

RISK FACTOR: Extreme Economic Deprivation
 INDICATOR: People Living Below Poverty Level
 DEFINITION: Percent of people living below the poverty level



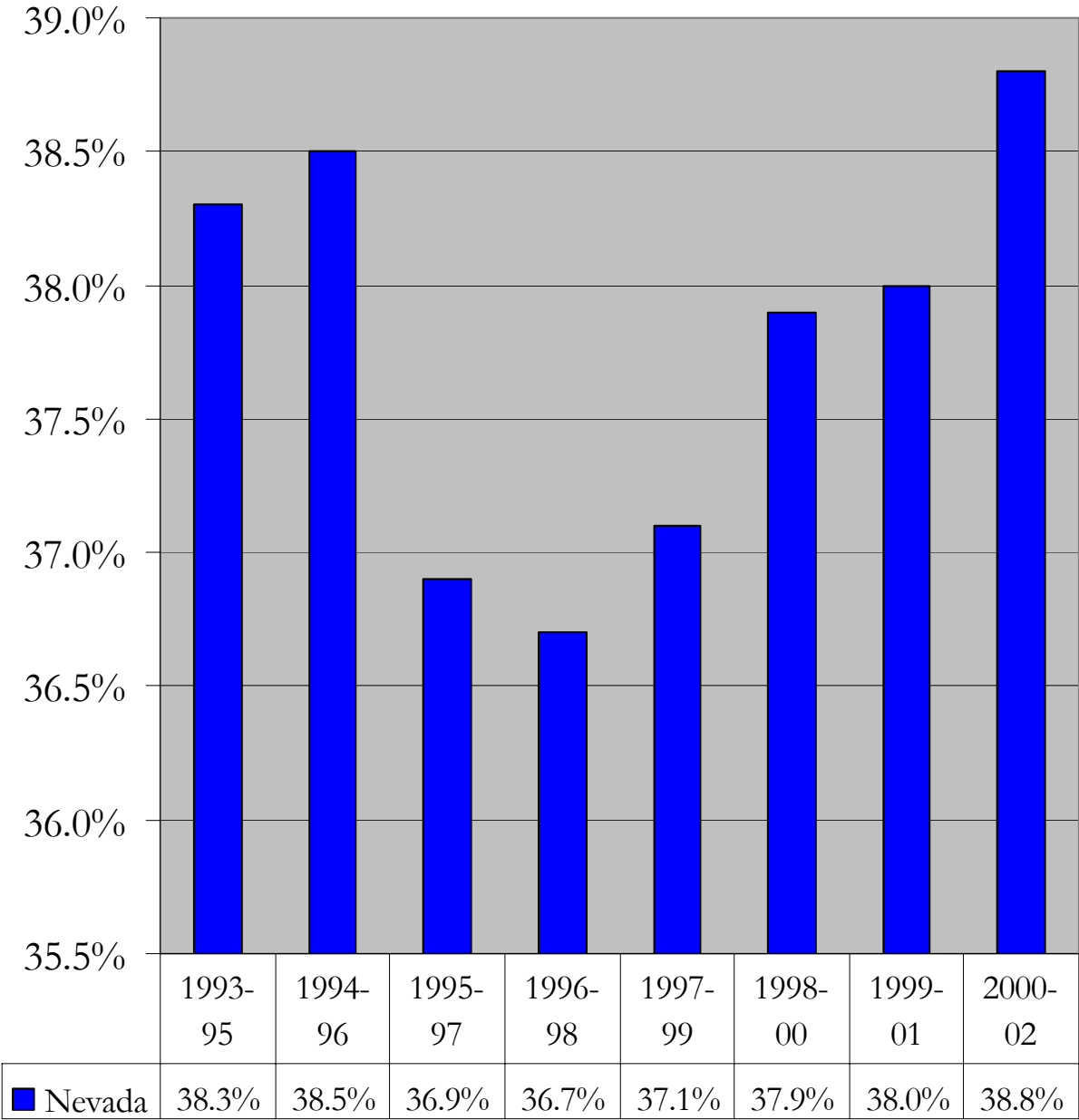
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

RISK FACTOR: Extreme Economic Deprivation
INDICATOR: Children in Poverty
DEFINITION: Percent of children under the age of 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold



Source: Nevada Kids Count

RISK FACTOR: Extreme Economic Deprivation
 INDICATOR: Children Living Below Poverty Level
 DEFINITION: Percent of children living at or below 200% the poverty level



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

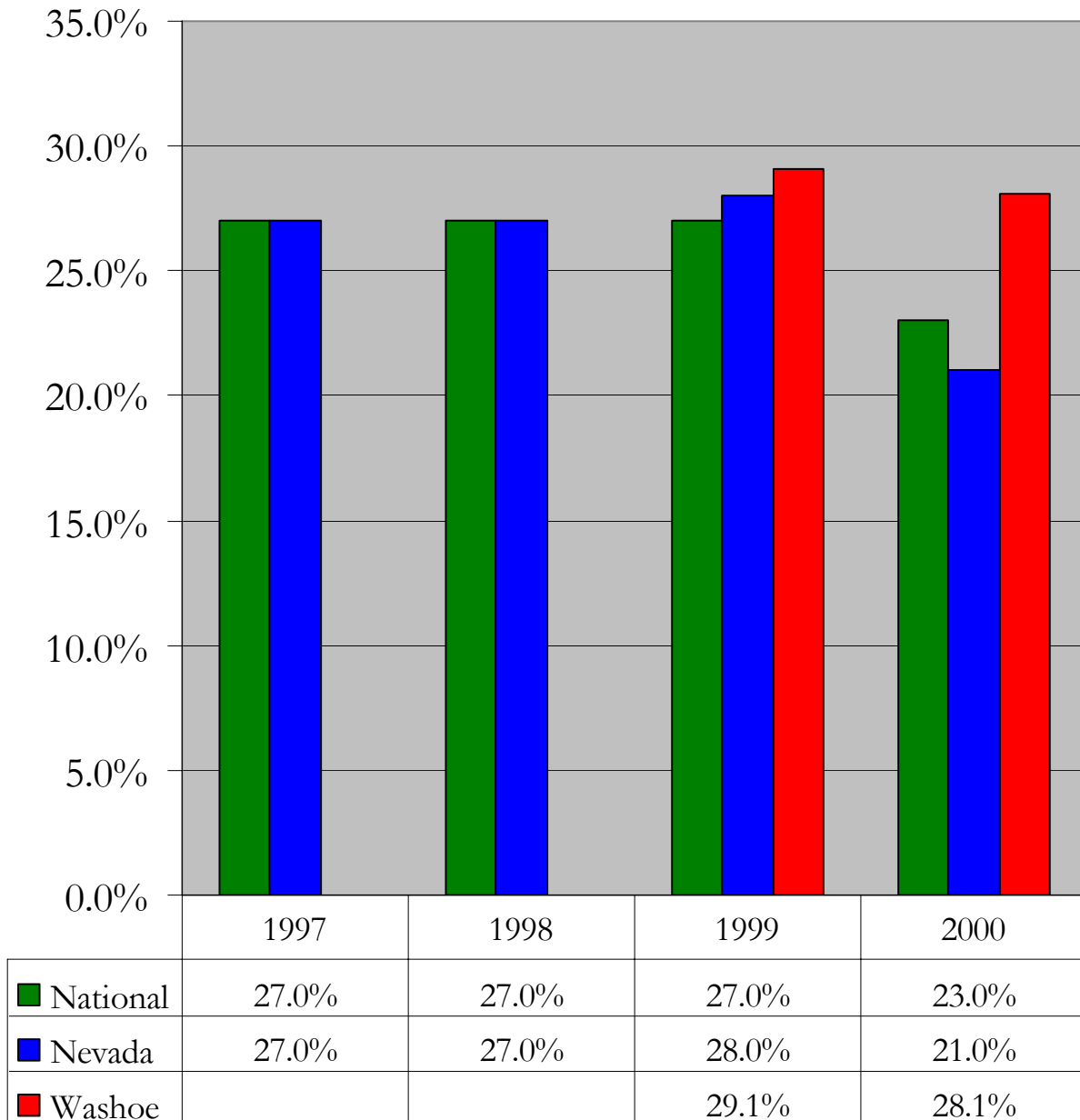
IV. FAMILY DOMAIN

a. Family History of the Problem Behavior

Family influence, with clear standards for behavior and healthy beliefs, can offset the negative influence a child may be exposed to elsewhere. This positive family influence can build a web of protection for a child and buffer against risks for problem behaviors. Frequently, schools do not begin addressing substance abuse problems until adolescence, although problems often begin in preadolescence. Family functioning, structure, and values have a significant impact on children's capacity to develop positive social skills and cope with life's challenges.

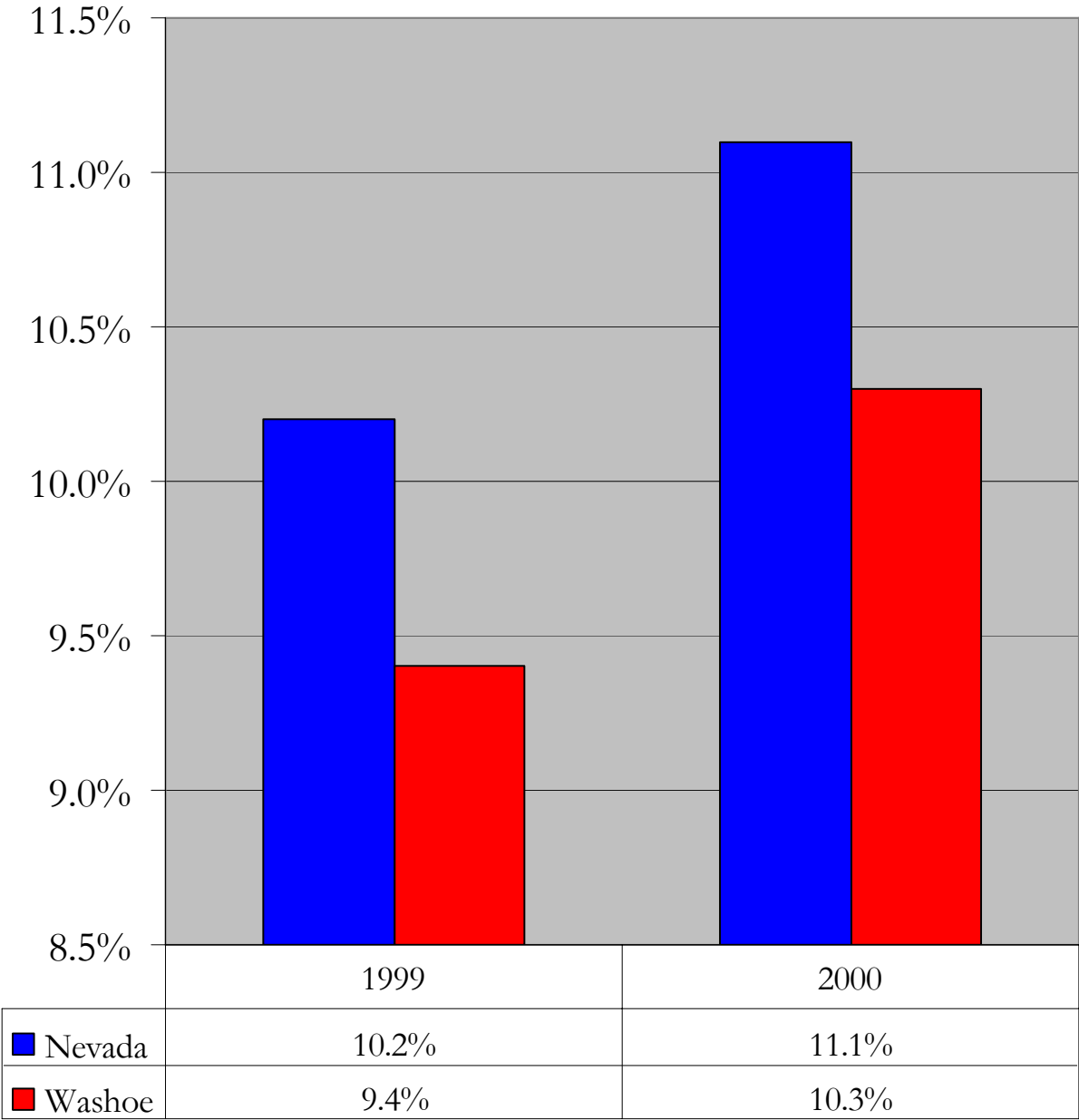
Divorce, domestic violence, child abuse/neglect, and the teen birth rate are social indicators for this risk factor because they suggest conflict within the family unit. Family conflict is a strong predictor of delinquency and antisocial behavior including substance abuse.

RISK FACTOR: Family History of Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Single Parent Families
 DEFINITION: Percent of families with children headed by a single parent



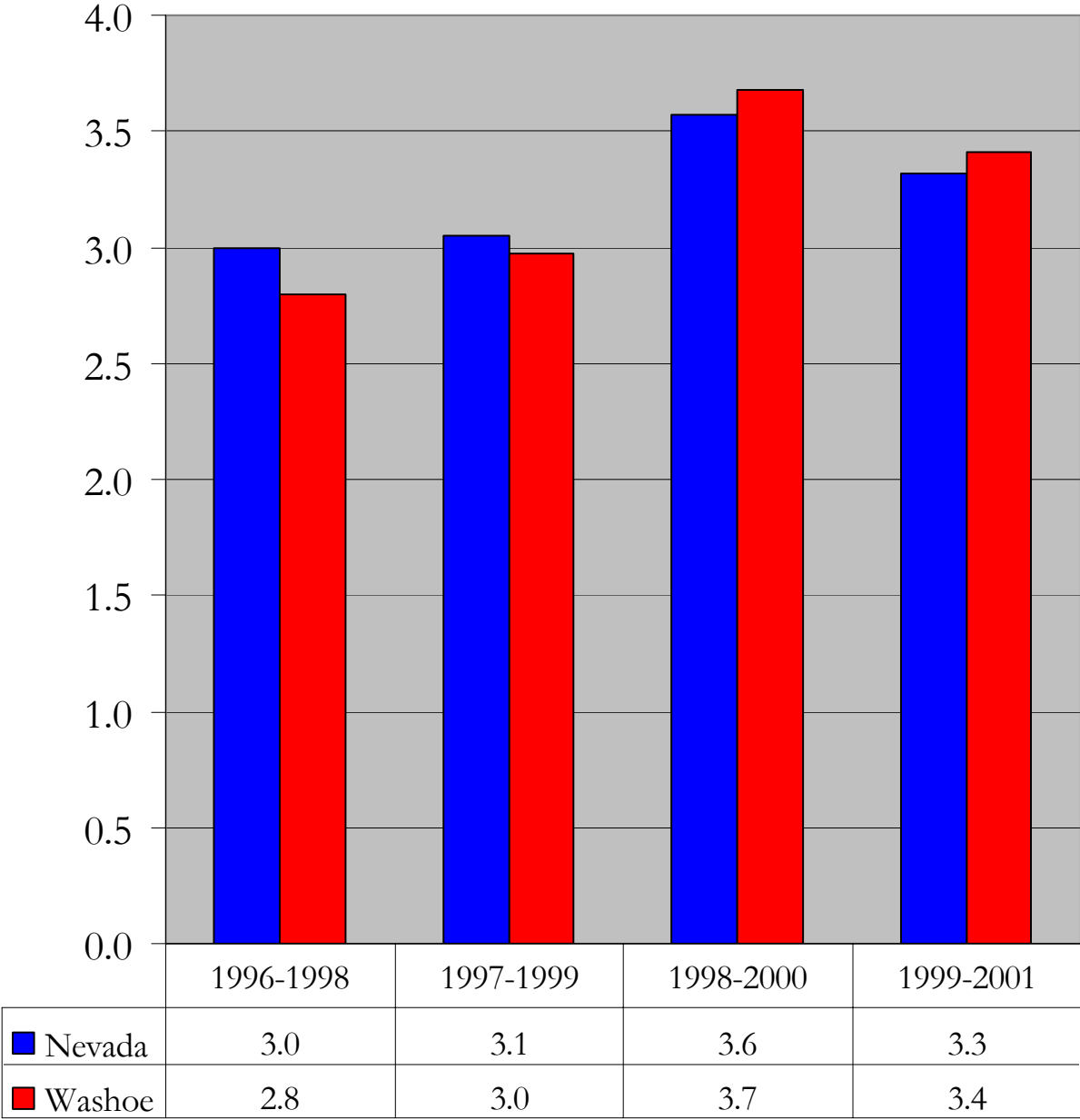
Source: Nevada Kids Count

RISK FACTOR: Family History of Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Female Family Householder with No Spouse Present
DEFINITION: Percent of families with a female family householder with no spouse present



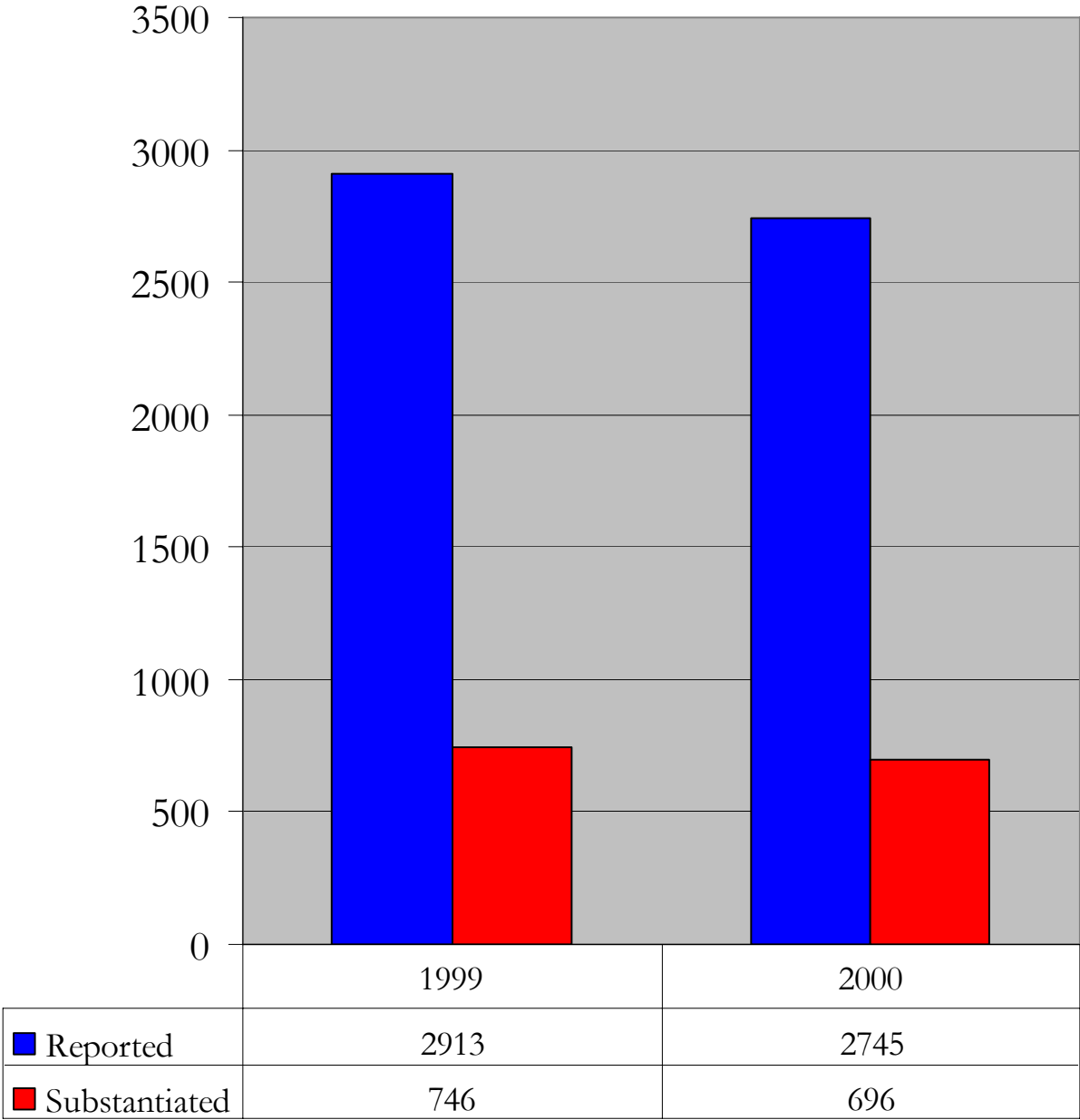
Source: U.S. Census

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Unmarried Teen Birth Rate
 DEFINITION: Births per 1000 unmarried females aged 15-17



Source: Nevada Kids Count

RISK FACTOR: Family History of Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Child Abuse and Neglect Victims
DEFINITION: Number of reported and substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Washoe County



Source: State of Nevada Division of Child & Family Services

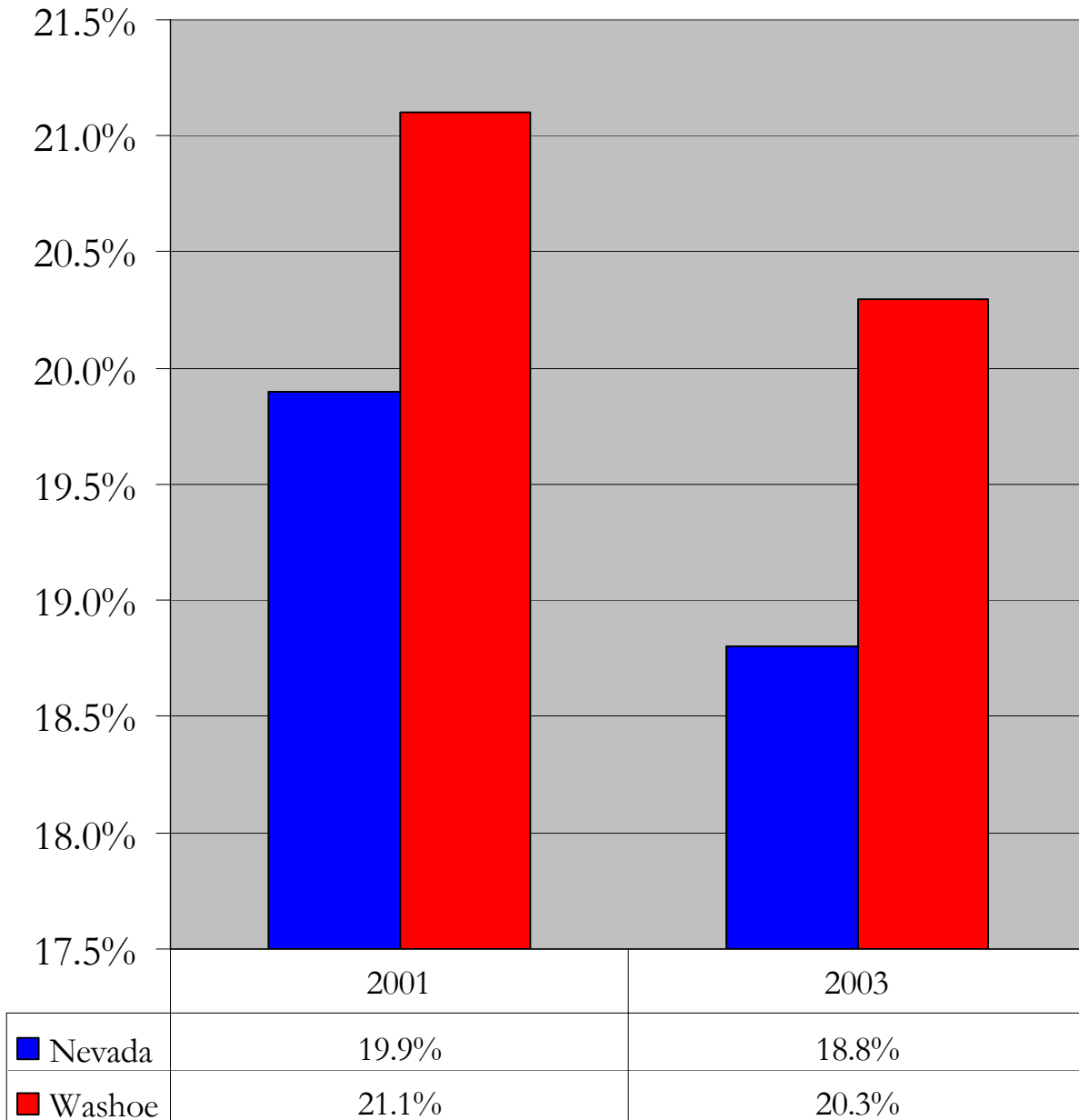
b. Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior

Parental attitudes and behavior towards drugs, crime, and violence influence the attitudes and behaviors of their children. Children of parents who approve of or excuse their children for breaking the law are more likely to develop problems with juvenile delinquency. Children whose parents engage in violent behavior inside or outside the home are at greater risk for exhibiting violent behavior.

In families where parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol, or are tolerant of childrens' use, children are more likely to become drug users in adolescence. Their risk is further increased if parents involve children in their own drug or alcohol using behavior, for example, asking the child to light the parent's cigarette or get the parent a beer from the refrigerator.

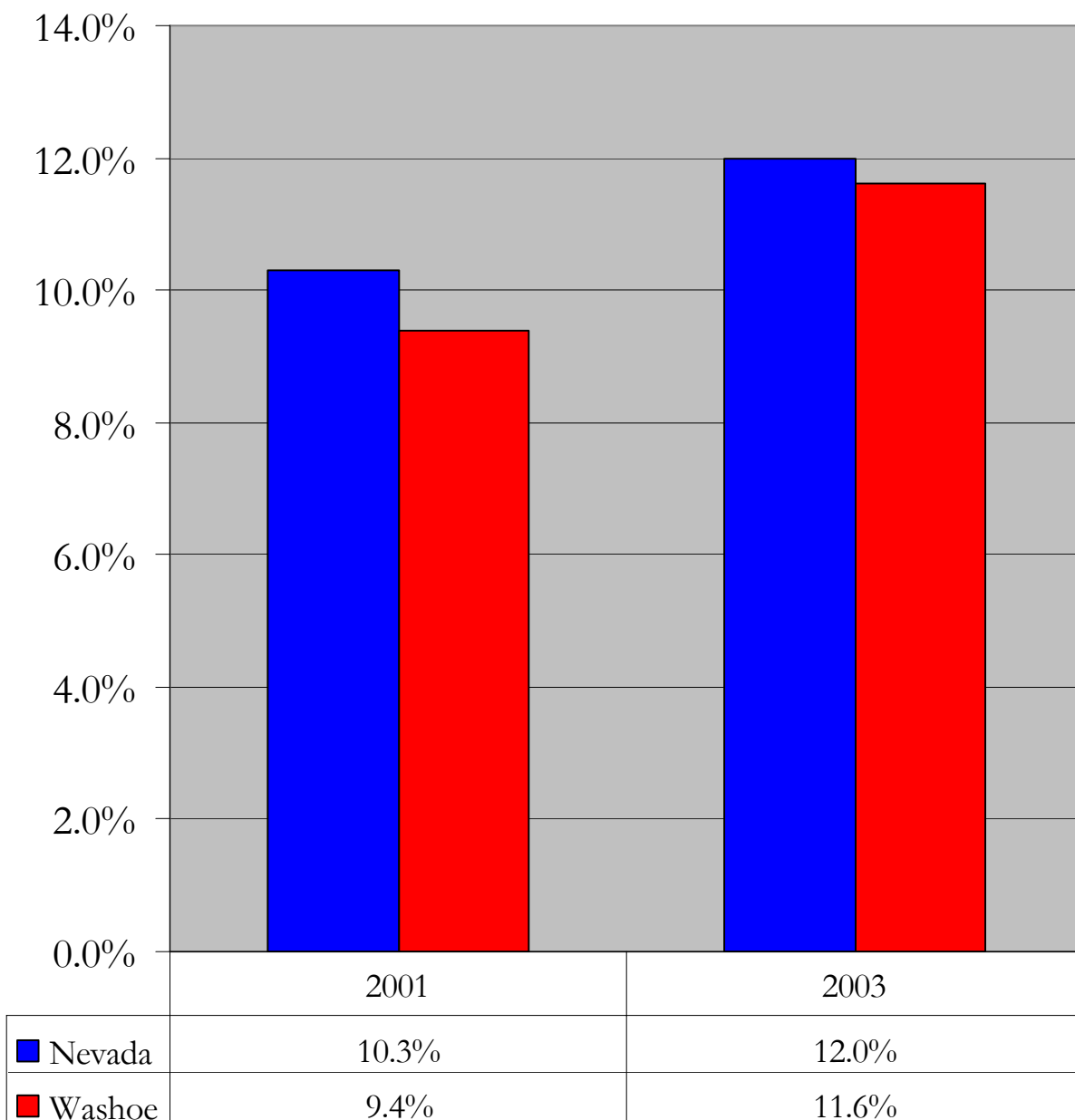
Perceived parental approval of the problem behavior has a comparable effect on increasing the likelihood of the youth becoming involved in that behavior.

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Parental Attitude and Involvement in the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Parents' Attitude Toward Alcohol
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students that think their parent/guardian would "approve" or "wouldn't care" if they attended a party where alcohol was available



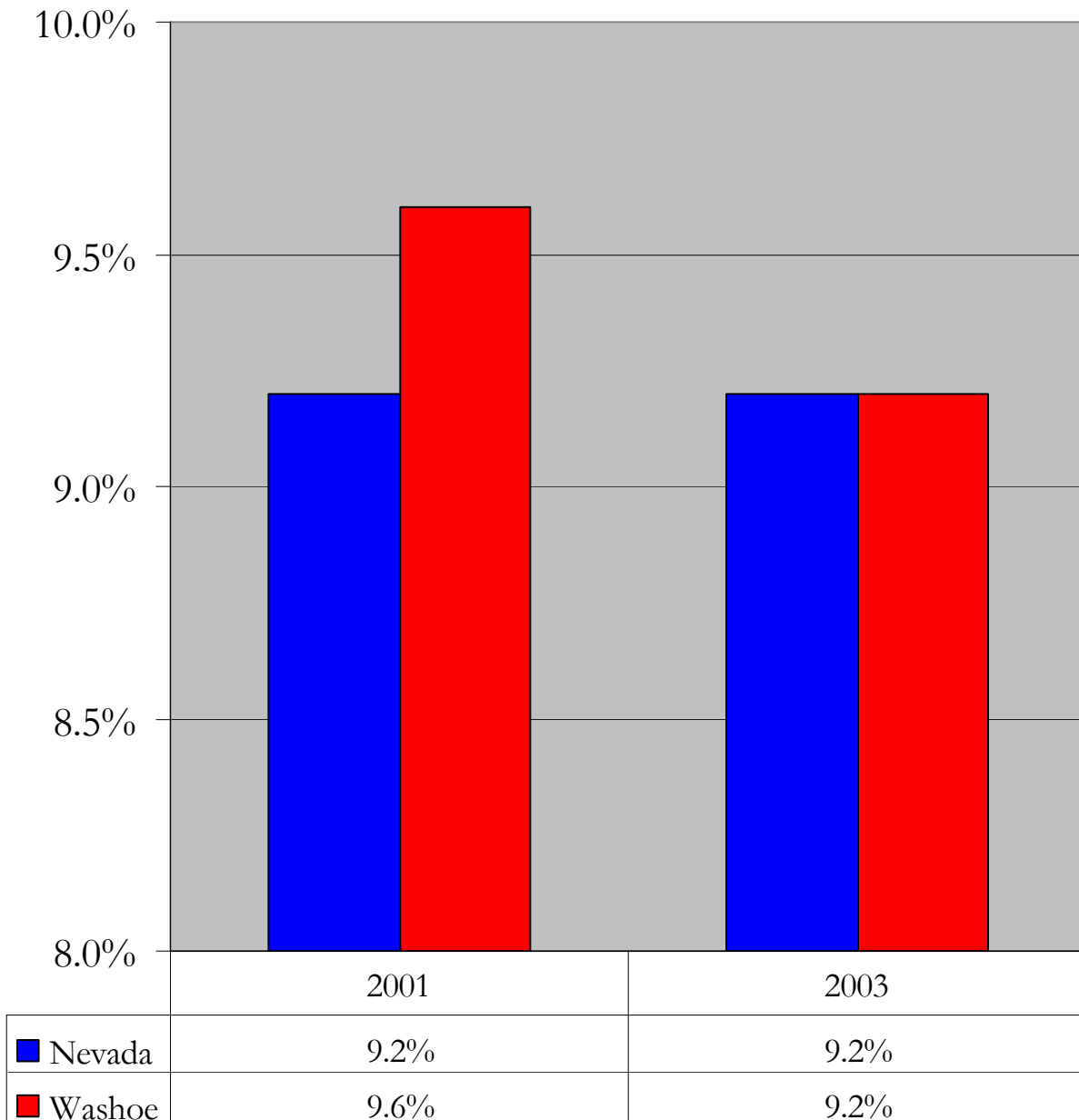
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Parental Attitude and Involvement in the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Parents' Attitude Toward Alcohol (Binge Drinking)
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students that think their parent/guardian would "approve" or "wouldn't care" if they drank 5 or more drinks in a row



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Parental Attitude and Involvement in the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Parents' Attitude Toward Marijuana
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students that think their parent/guardian would "approve" or "wouldn't care" if they smoked marijuana

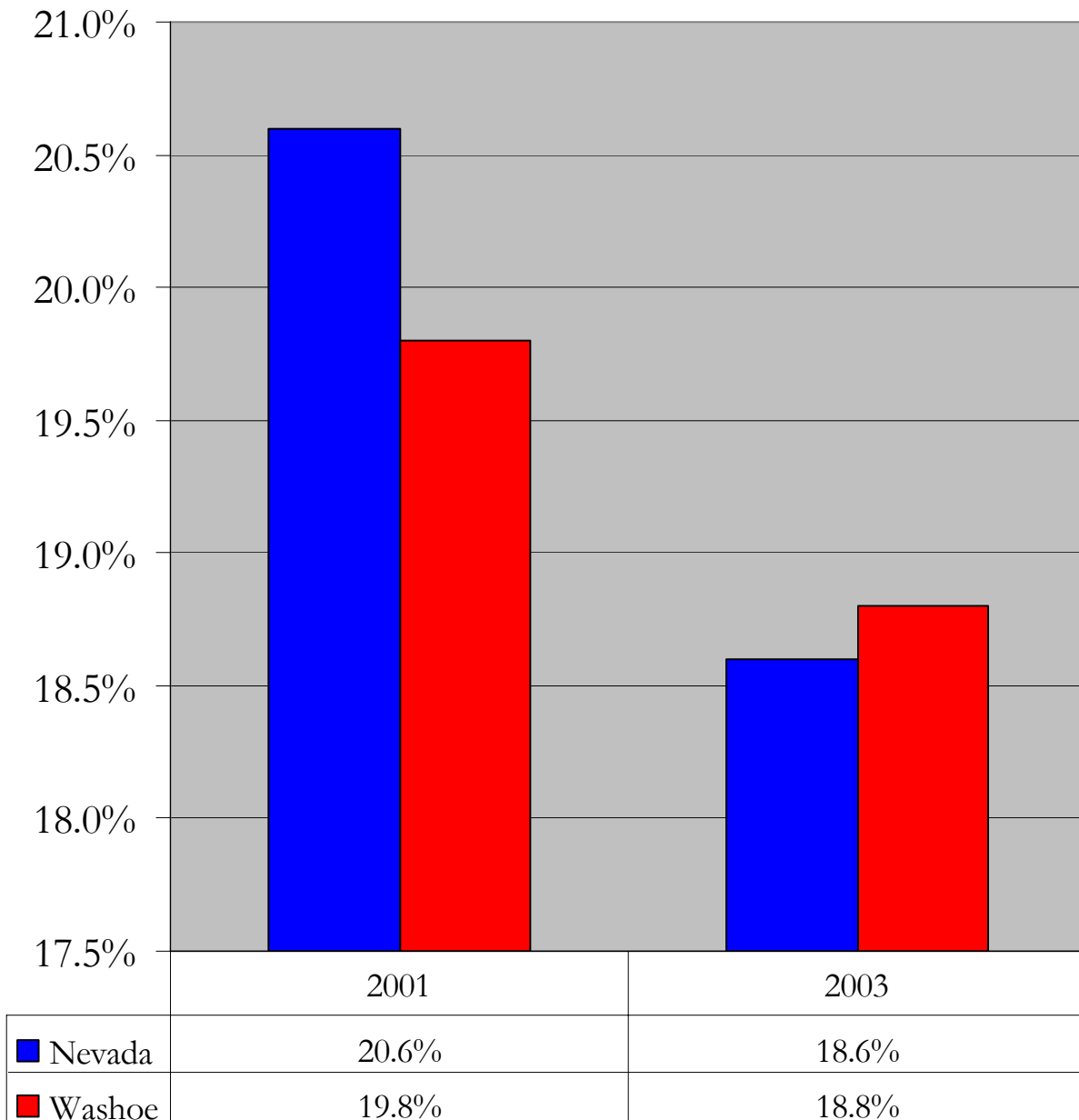


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Parental Attitude and Involvement in the Problem Behavior

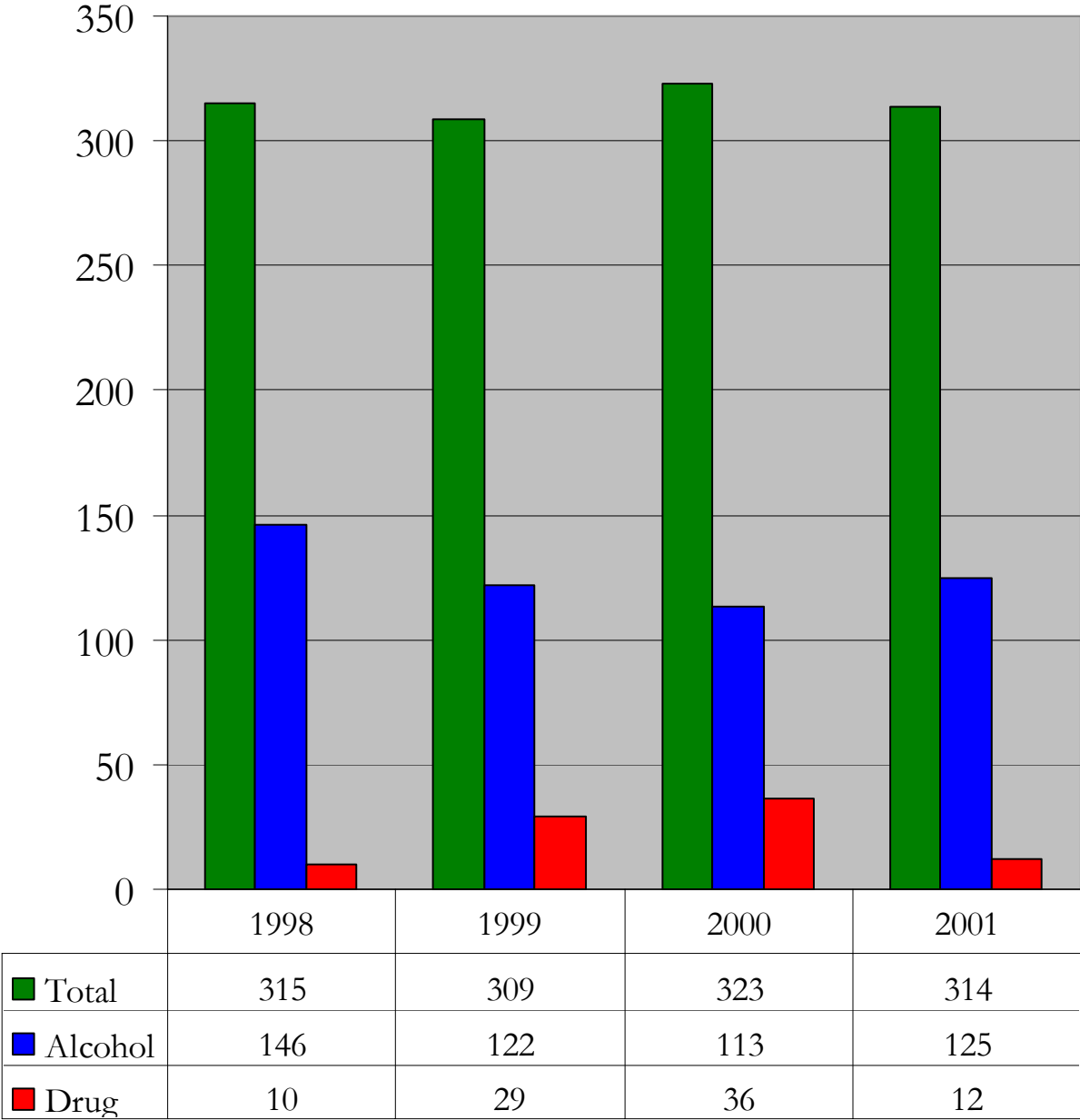
INDICATOR: Parents' Knowledge of their Children's Whereabouts

DEFINITION: Percent of high school students that report that their parent/guardian would "only sometimes", "rarely", or "never" know where they are when away from home



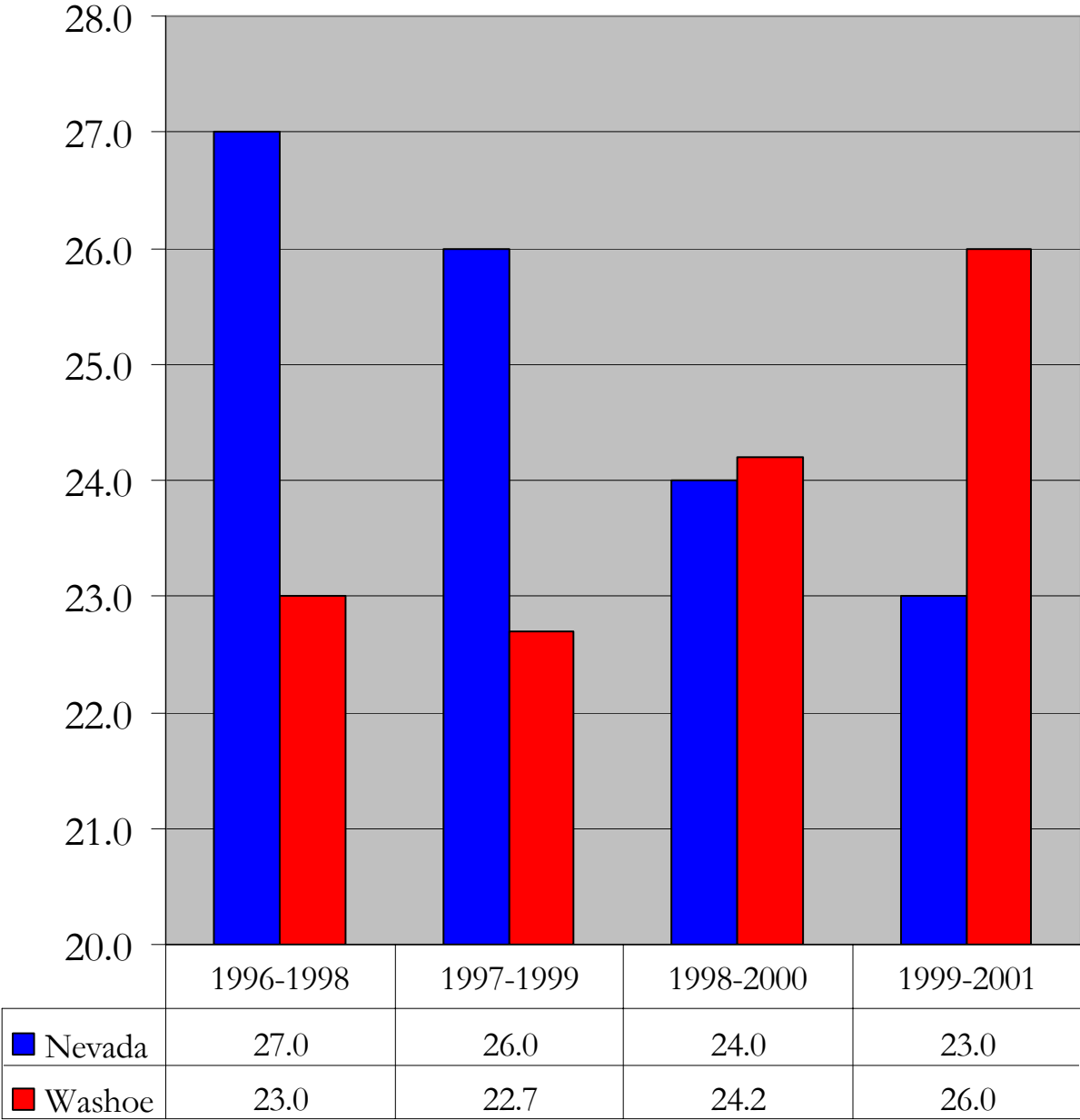
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Parental Attitude and Involvement in the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Traffic Fatalities
 DEFINITION: Alcohol & Drug Related Traffic Fatalities



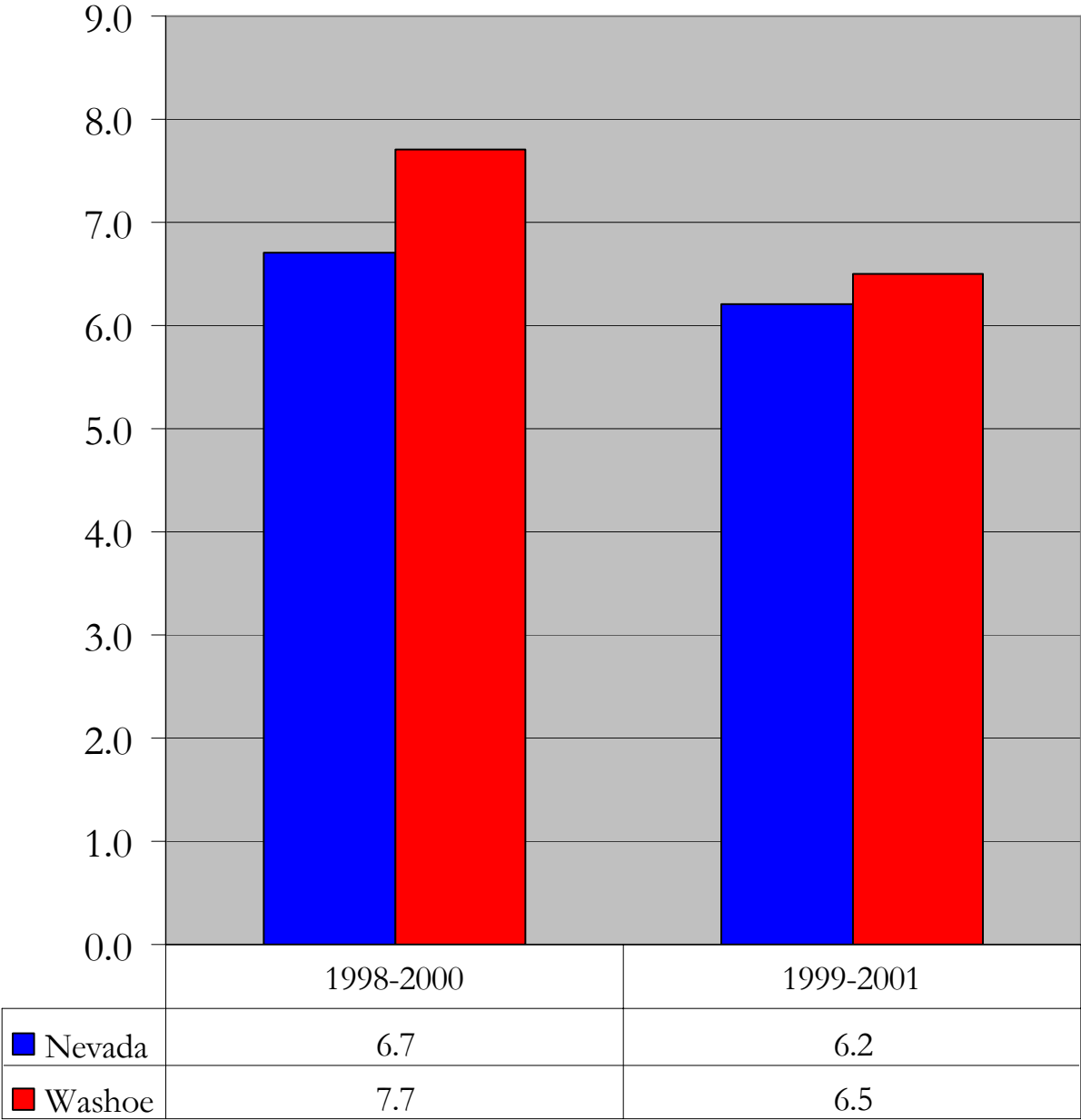
Source: Nevada Department of Transportation

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Parental Attitude and Involvement in the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Child Death Rate
 DEFINITION: Deaths per 100,000 youth aged 1-14



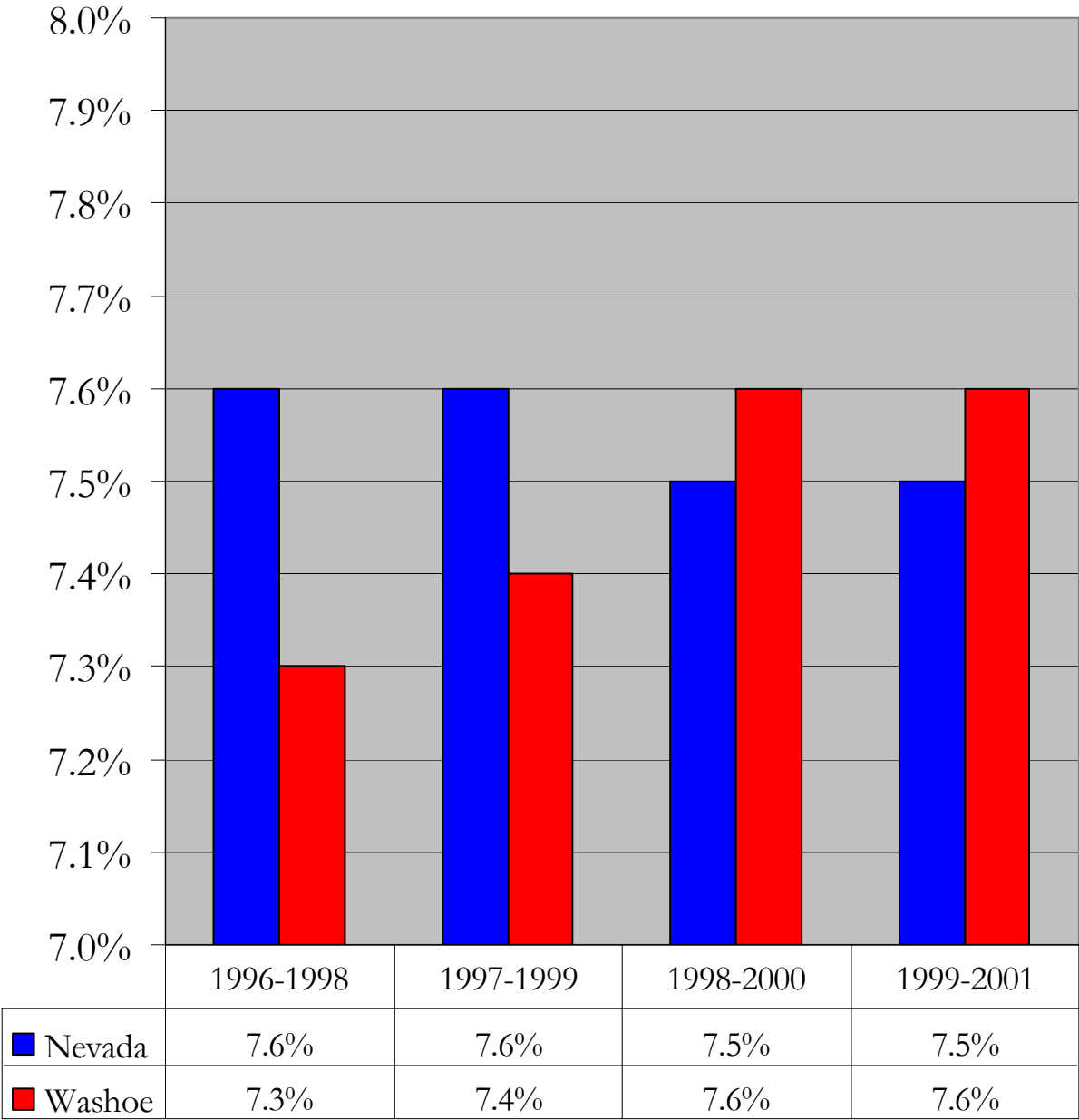
Source: Nevada Kids Count

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Parental Attitude and Involvement in the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Infant Mortality Rate
 DEFINITION: Deaths per 100,000 live births



Source: Nevada Kids Count

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Parental Attitude and Involvement in the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Low Birth-Weight Babies
 DEFINITION: Percent of babies born with low birth rates



Source: Nevada Kids Count

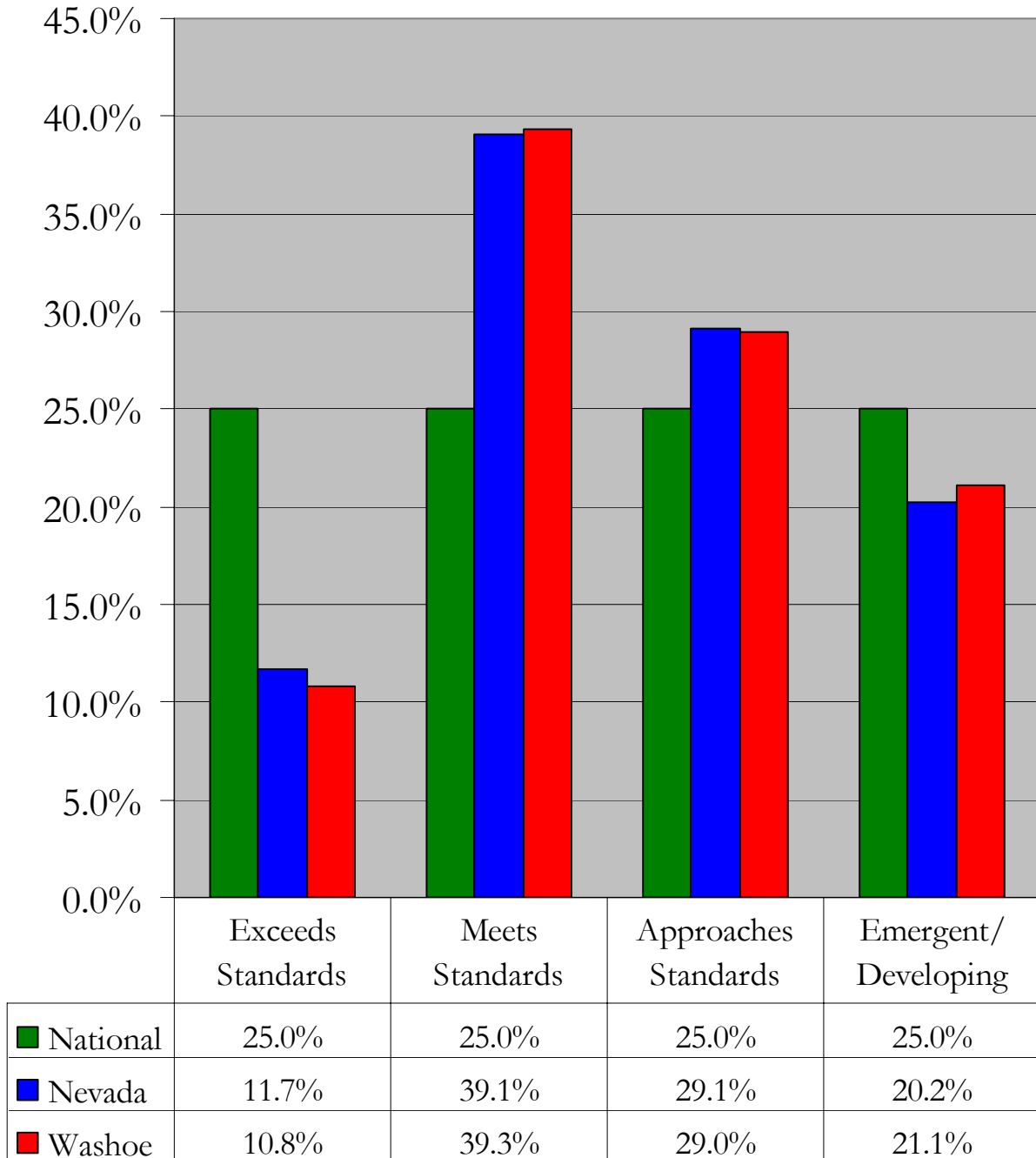
V. SCHOOL DOMAIN

Schooling offers children the opportunity to interact with adults and other children to develop social and cognitive skills necessary for becoming productive members of society. In a rapidly changing, more mobile world with growing numbers of single parent families and more families in which both parents work, the school environment becomes a significant influence over children who often have social, emotional, physical, and educational needs. A child's commitment to school is influenced by parental attitudes, community norms, and other factors that provide a positive school environment.

a. Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School

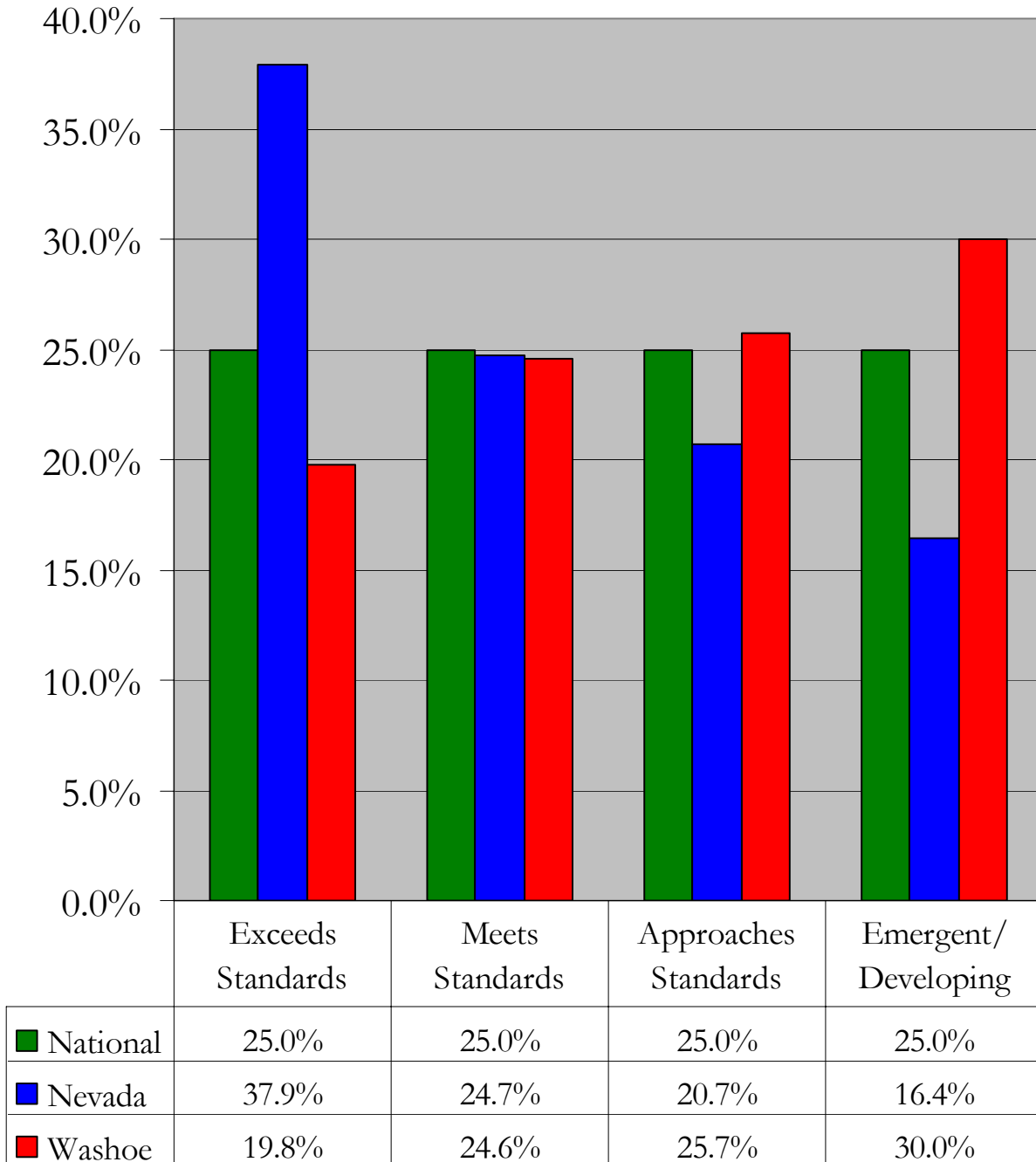
Beginning in the late elementary grades, academic failure increases the risk of drug abuse, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy, and school drop-out. Children fail for many reasons, but it appears that the experience of failure itself, not necessarily ability, increases the risk of these problem behaviors.

RISK FACTOR: Academic Failure
 INDICATOR: 2002-2003 Criterion Reference Testing – Grade 3
 DEFINITION: Reading & Math Average Test Scores



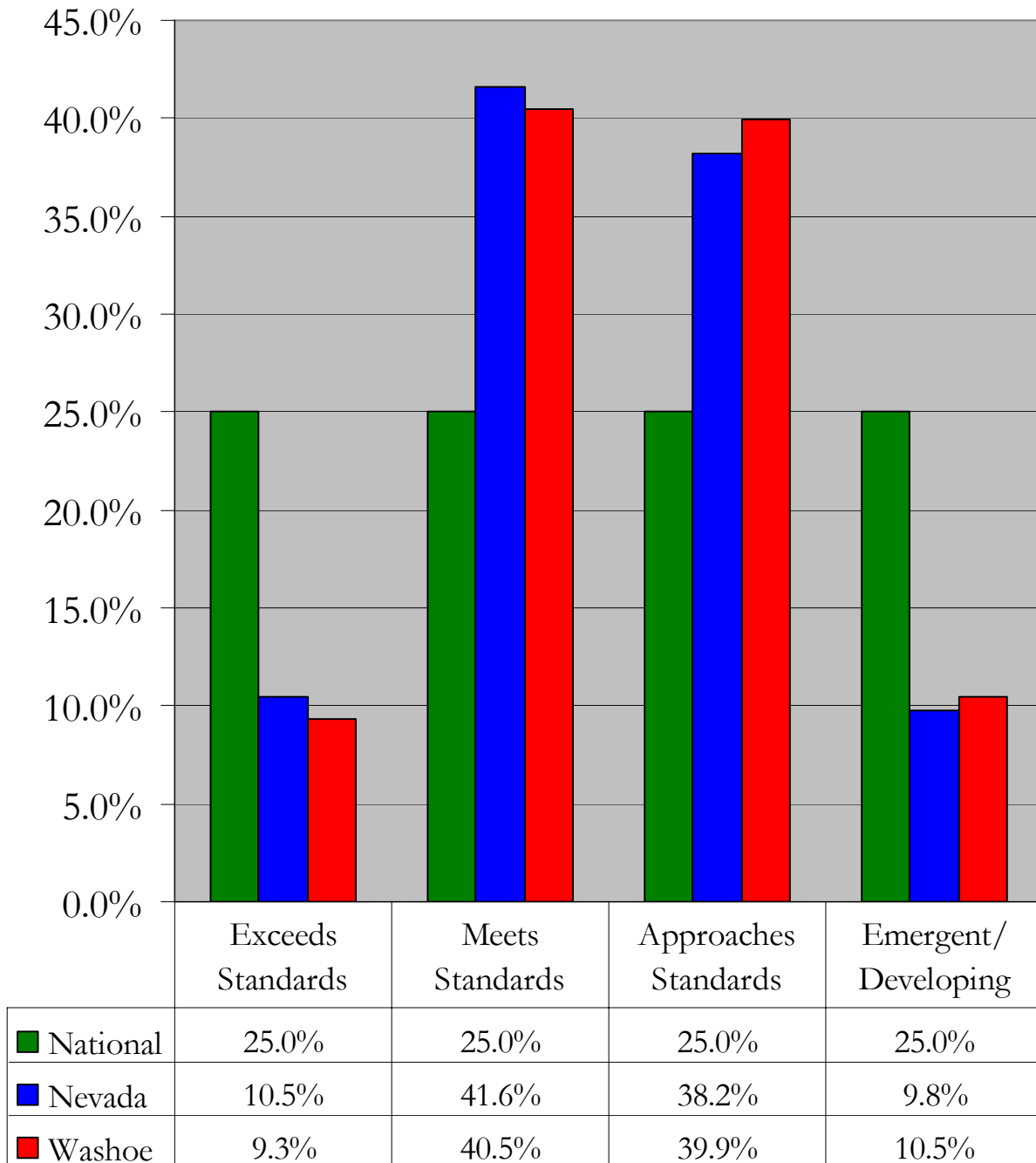
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

RISK FACTOR: Academic Failure
 INDICATOR: 2002-2003 Iowa Test of Basic Skills – Grade 4
 DEFINITION: Reading, Language & Math Average Test Scores



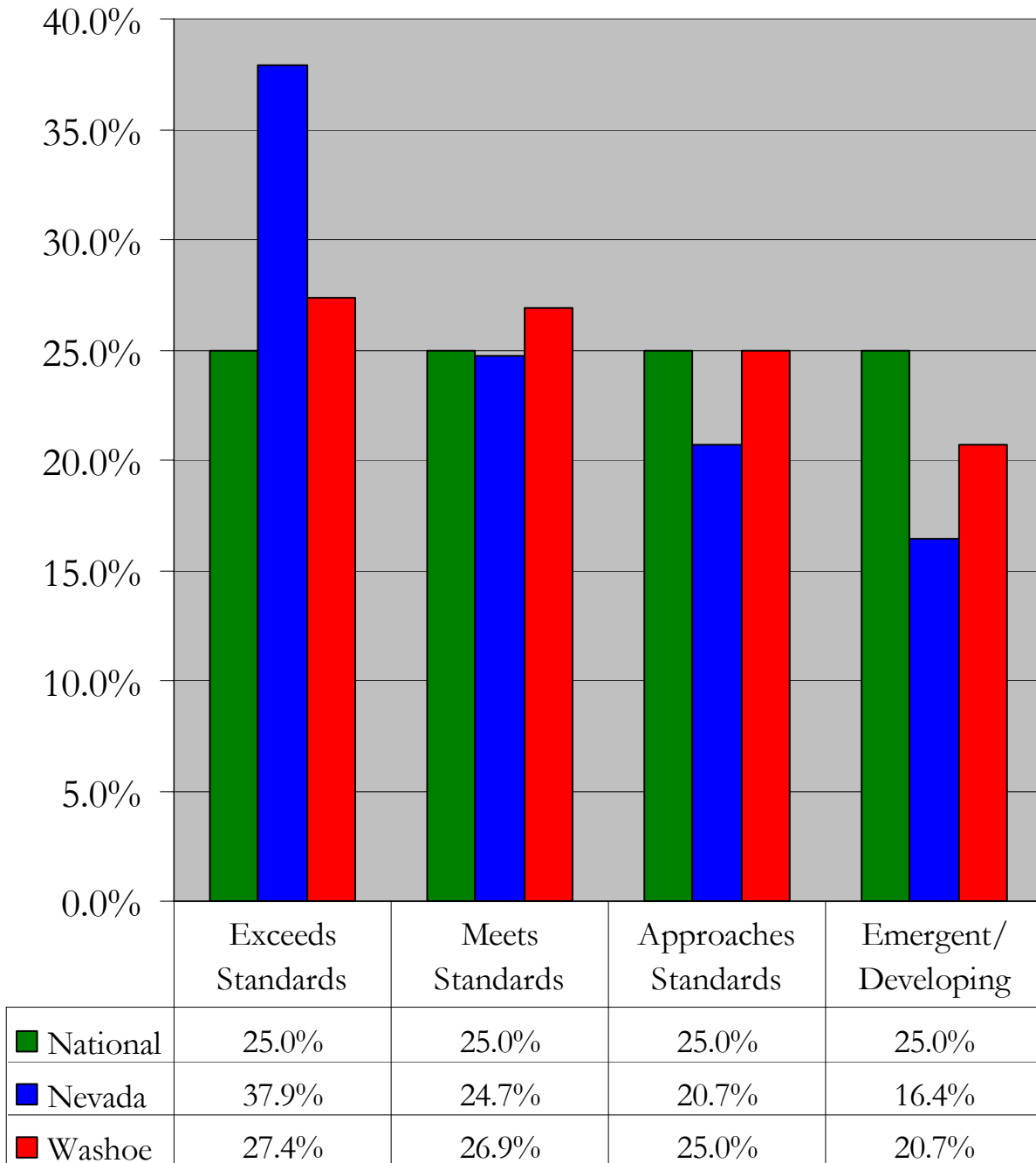
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

RISK FACTOR: Academic Failure
 INDICATOR: 2002-2003 Criterion Reference Testing – Grade 5
 DEFINITION: Reading & Math Average Test Scores



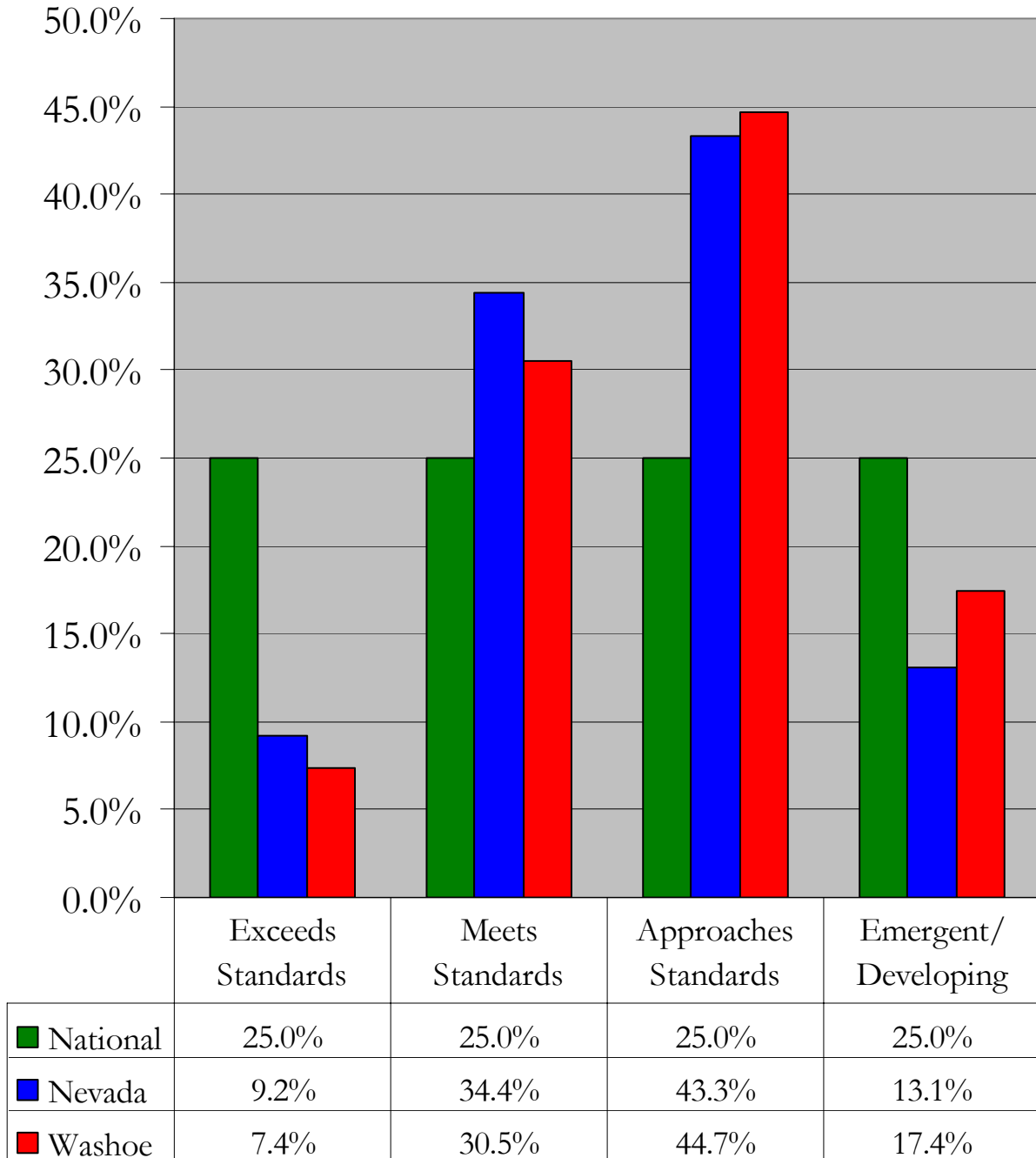
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

RISK FACTOR: Academic Failure
 INDICATOR: 2002-2003 Iowa Test of Basic Skills – Grade 7
 DEFINITION: Reading, Language & Math Average Test Scores



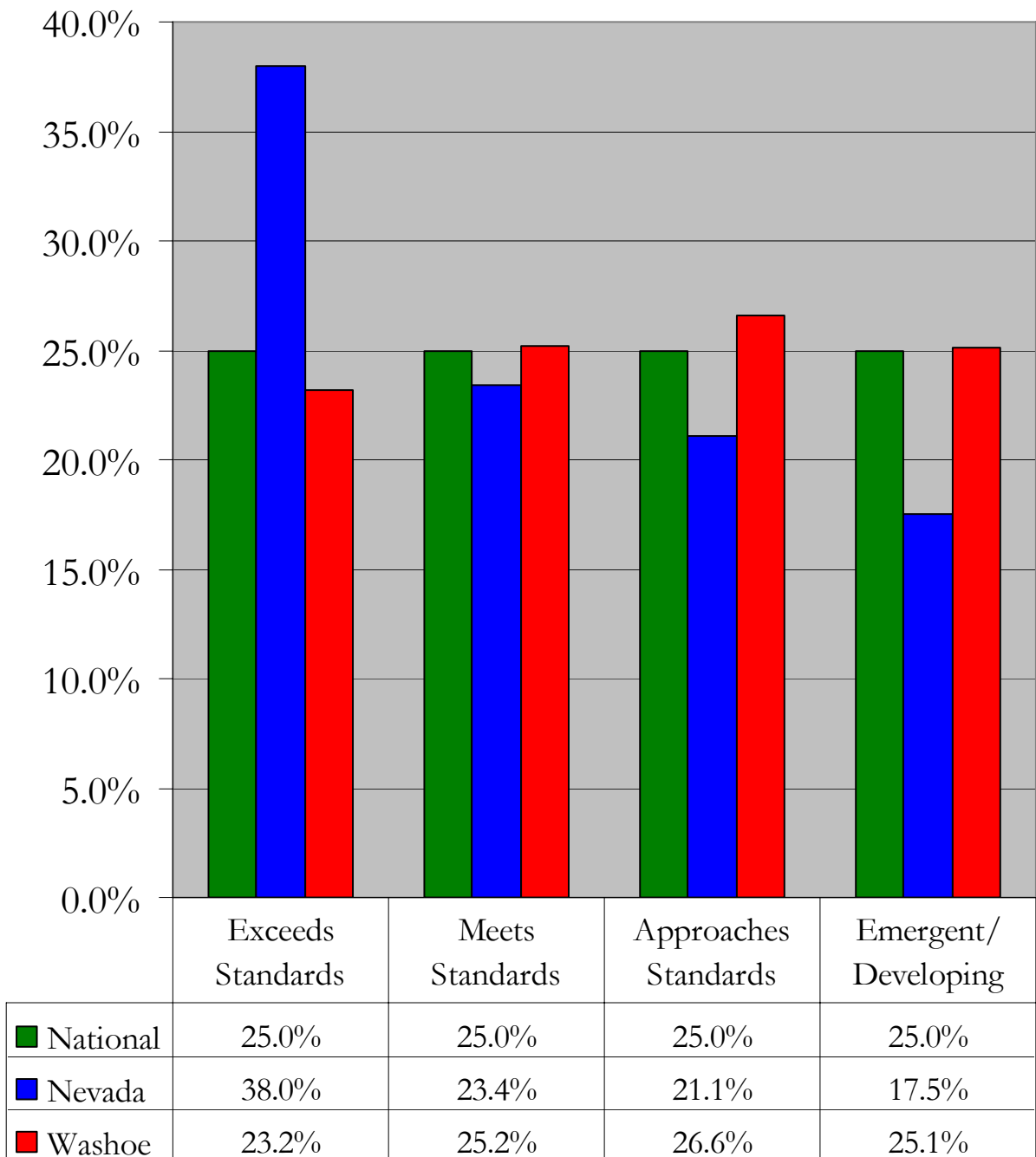
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

RISK FACTOR: Academic Failure
 INDICATOR: 2002-2003 Writing Proficiency Exam – Grade 8
 DEFINITION: Writing Proficiency Exam Test Scores



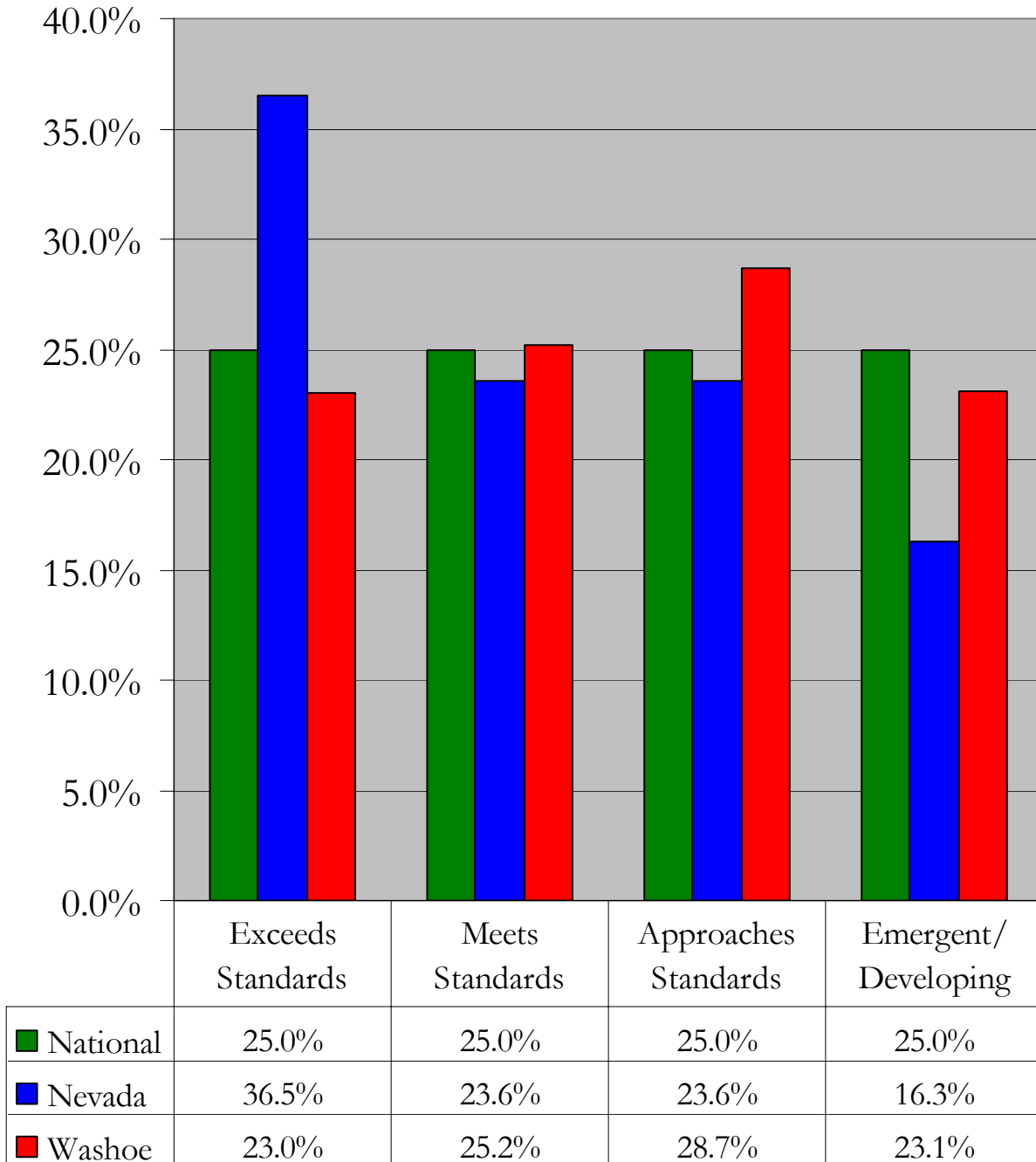
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

RISK FACTOR: Academic Failure
 INDICATOR: 2002-2003 Iowa Test of Basic Skills – Grade 10
 DEFINITION: Reading, Language & Math Average Test Scores



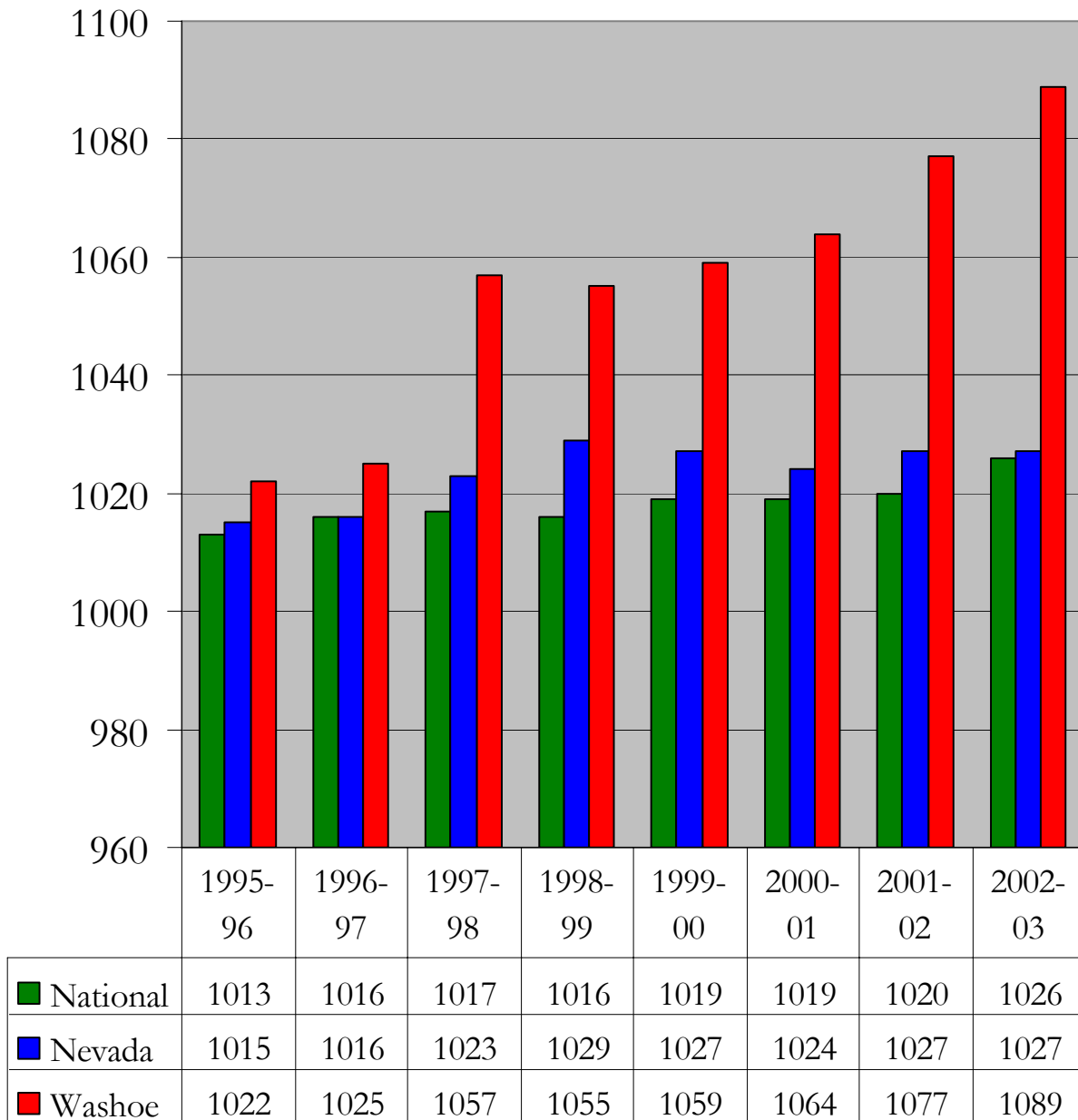
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

RISK FACTOR: Academic Failure
 INDICATOR: High School Proficiency Exam
 DEFINITION: Average Test Scores



Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

RISK FACTOR: Academic Failure
 INDICATOR: SAT Scores
 DEFINITION: Average Test Scores

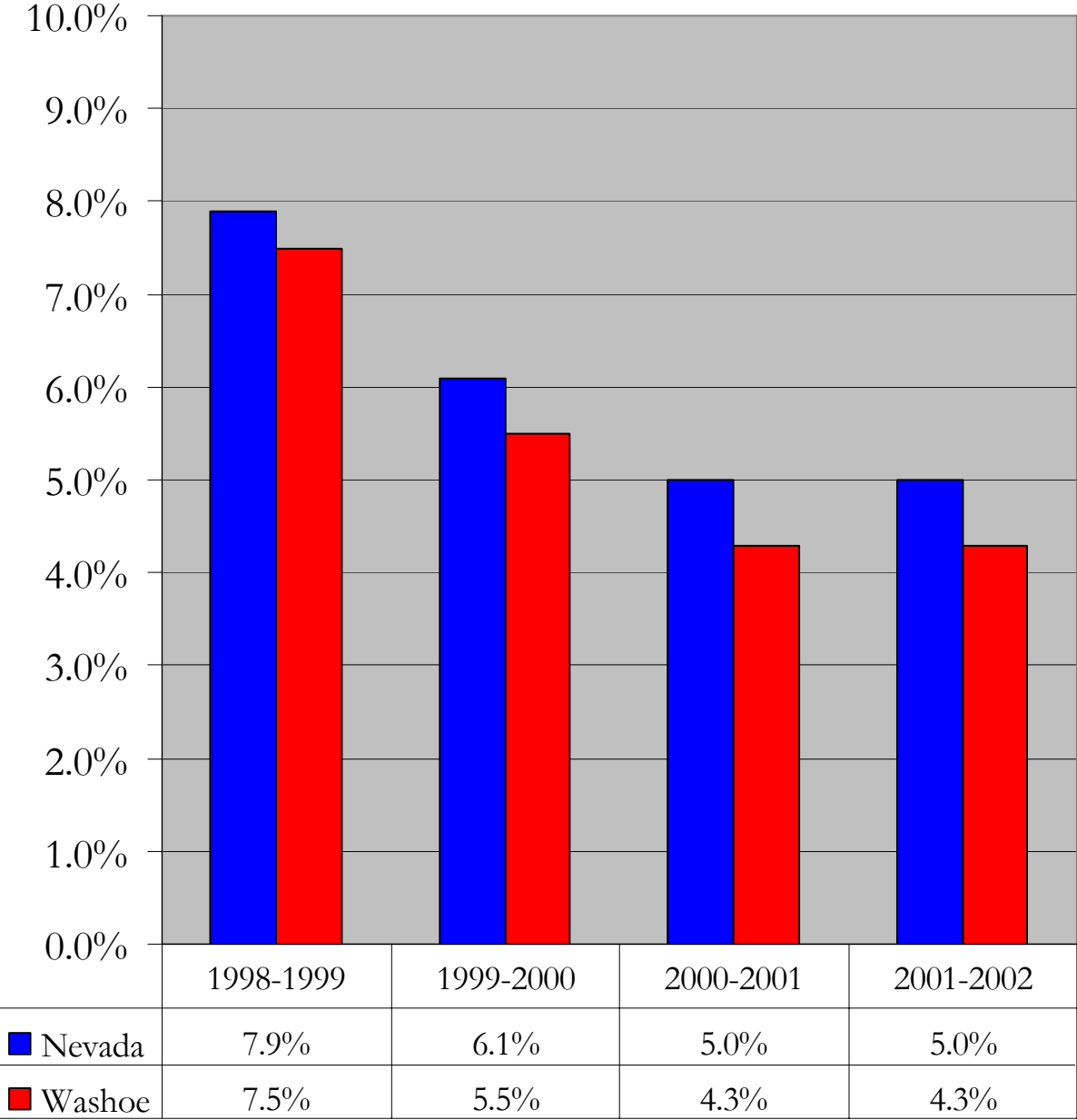


Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

b. Lack of Commitment to School

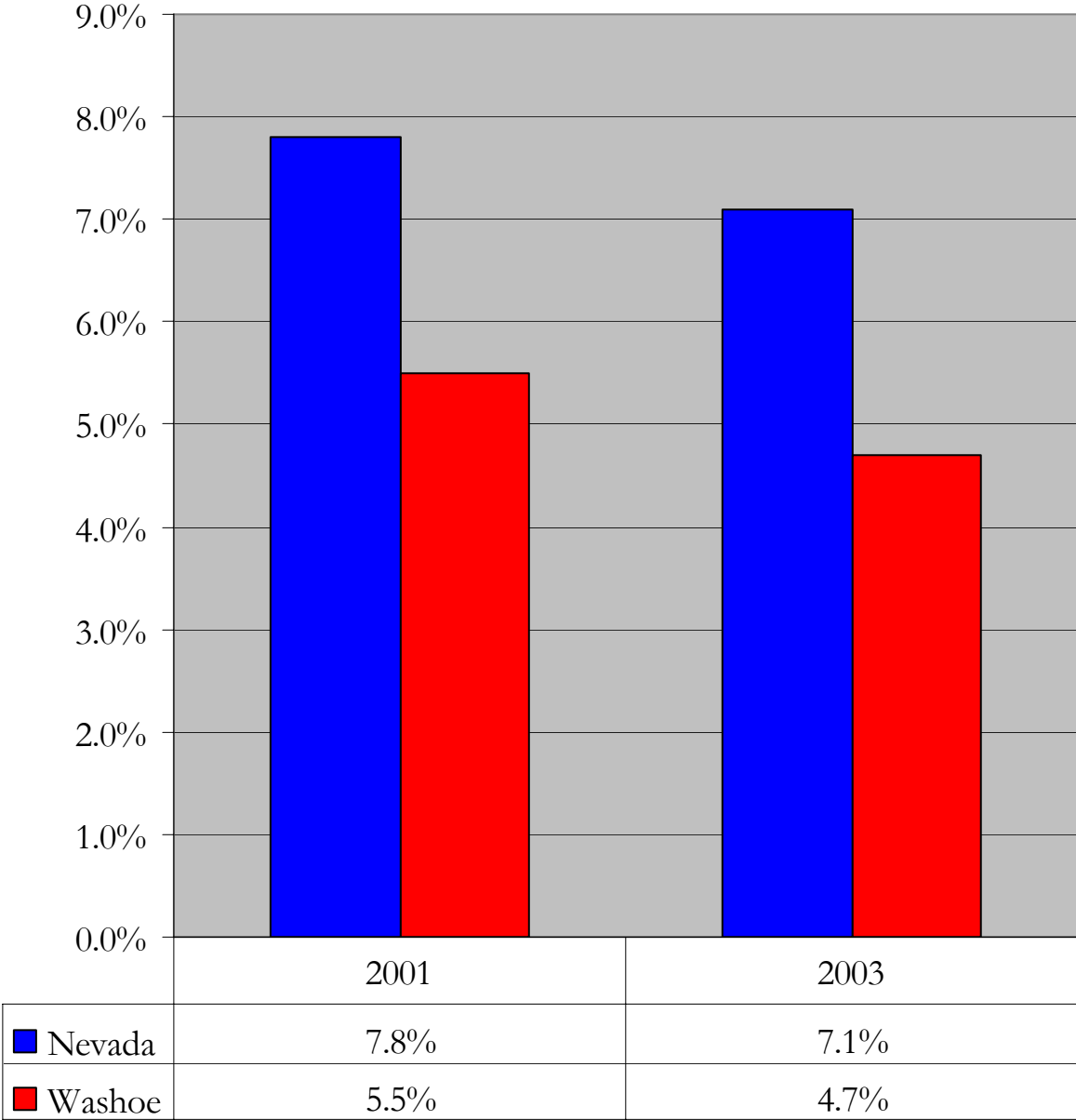
Lack of commitment to school means that the youth has ceased to see the role of student as a viable one. Young people who have lost this commitment to school are at higher risk for problem behaviors.

RISK FACTOR: Lack of Commitment to School
 INDICATOR: Drop-out Rate
 DEFINITION: Percent of students who drop out of high school



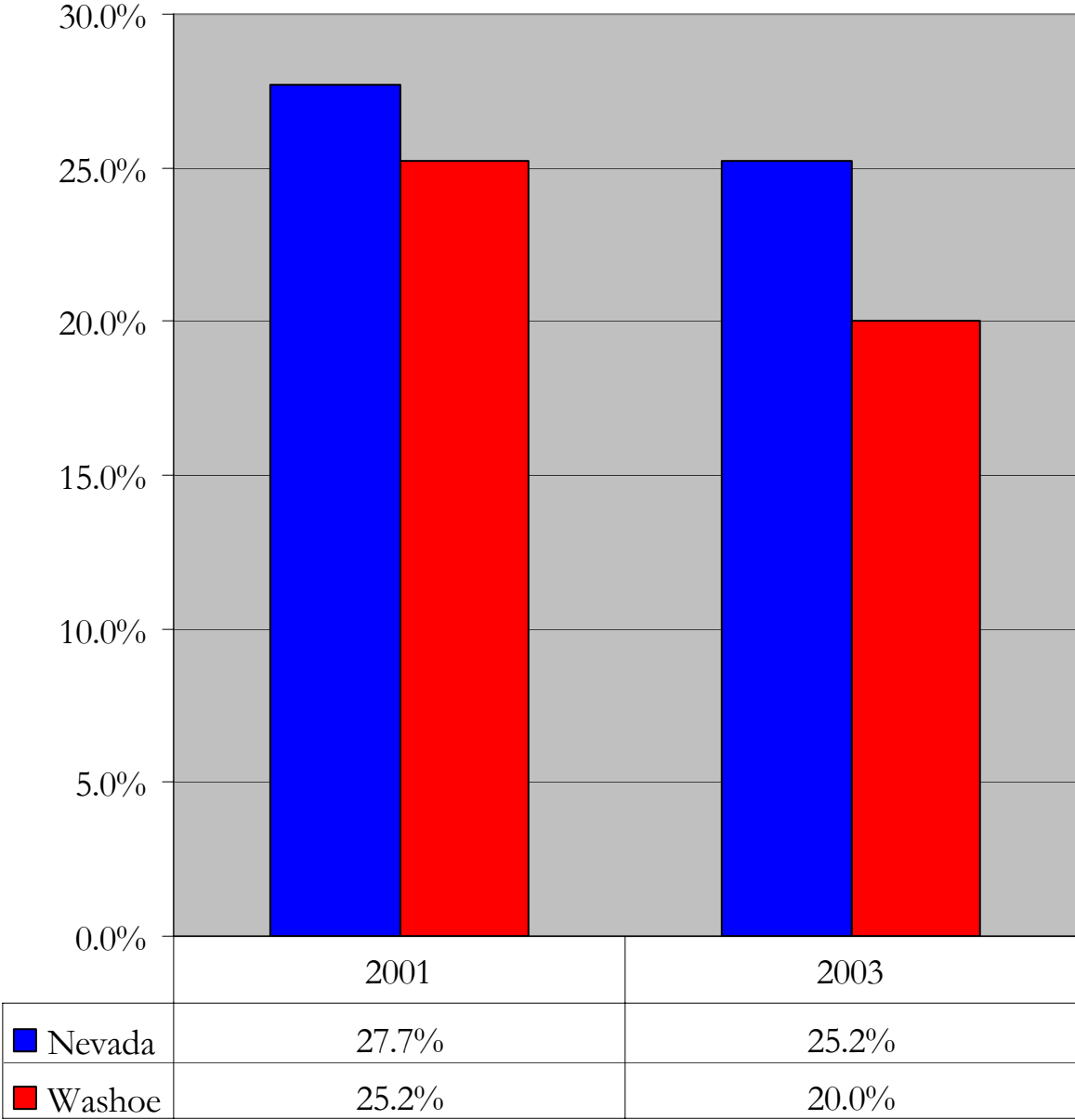
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Reports

RISK FACTOR: Lack of Commitment to School
INDICATOR: Students Seriously Considering Dropping Out of School
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who indicated that they "seriously though about dropping out of school" in the past 12 months



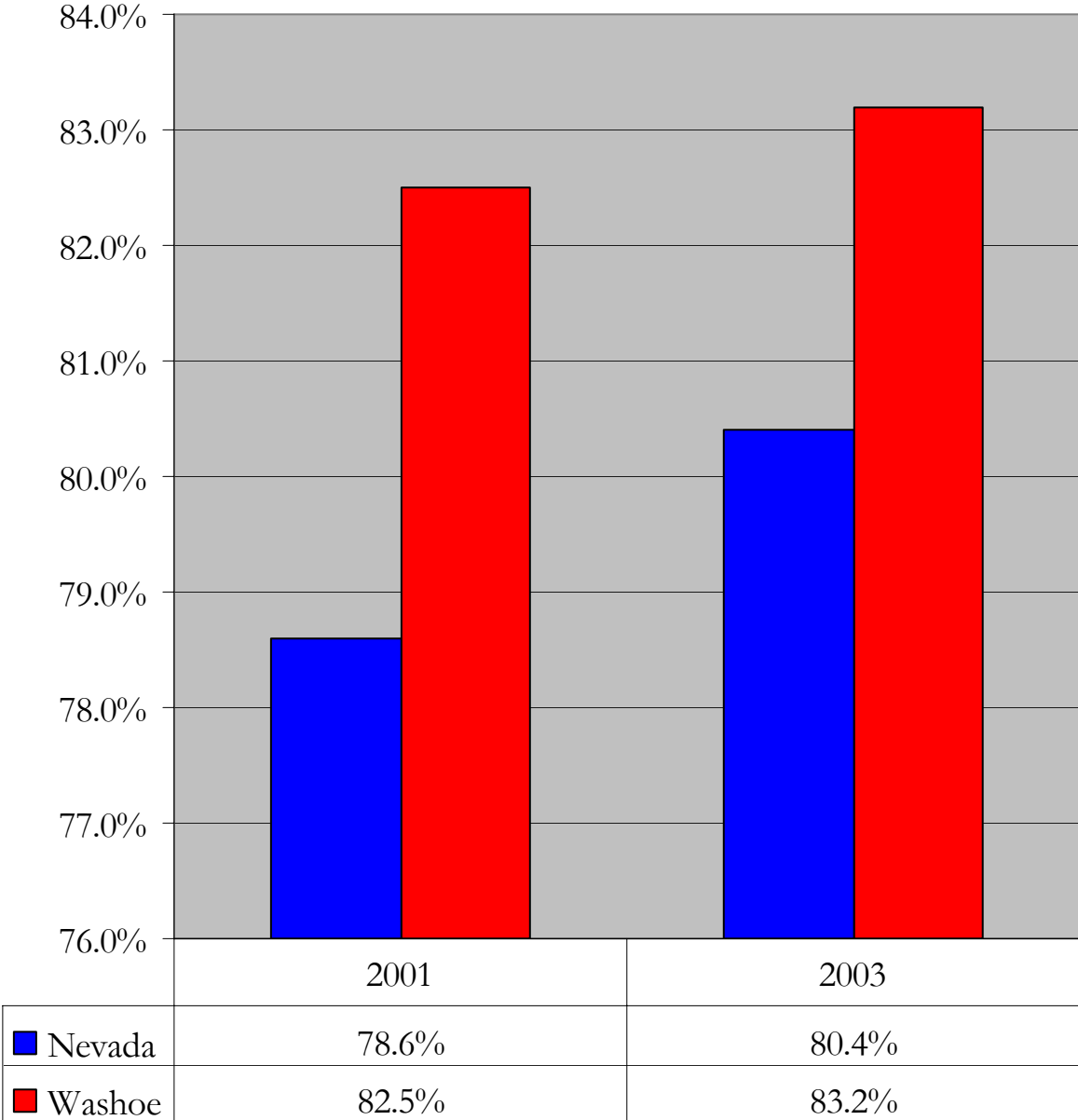
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Lack of Commitment to School
INDICATOR: Attendance
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students miss two or more days of school per month



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Lack of Commitment to School
INDICATOR: Students Planning to Complete Post High School Program
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who indicated that they “probably” or “definitely” will attend a post high school program



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

VI. PEER AND INDIVIDUAL DOMAIN

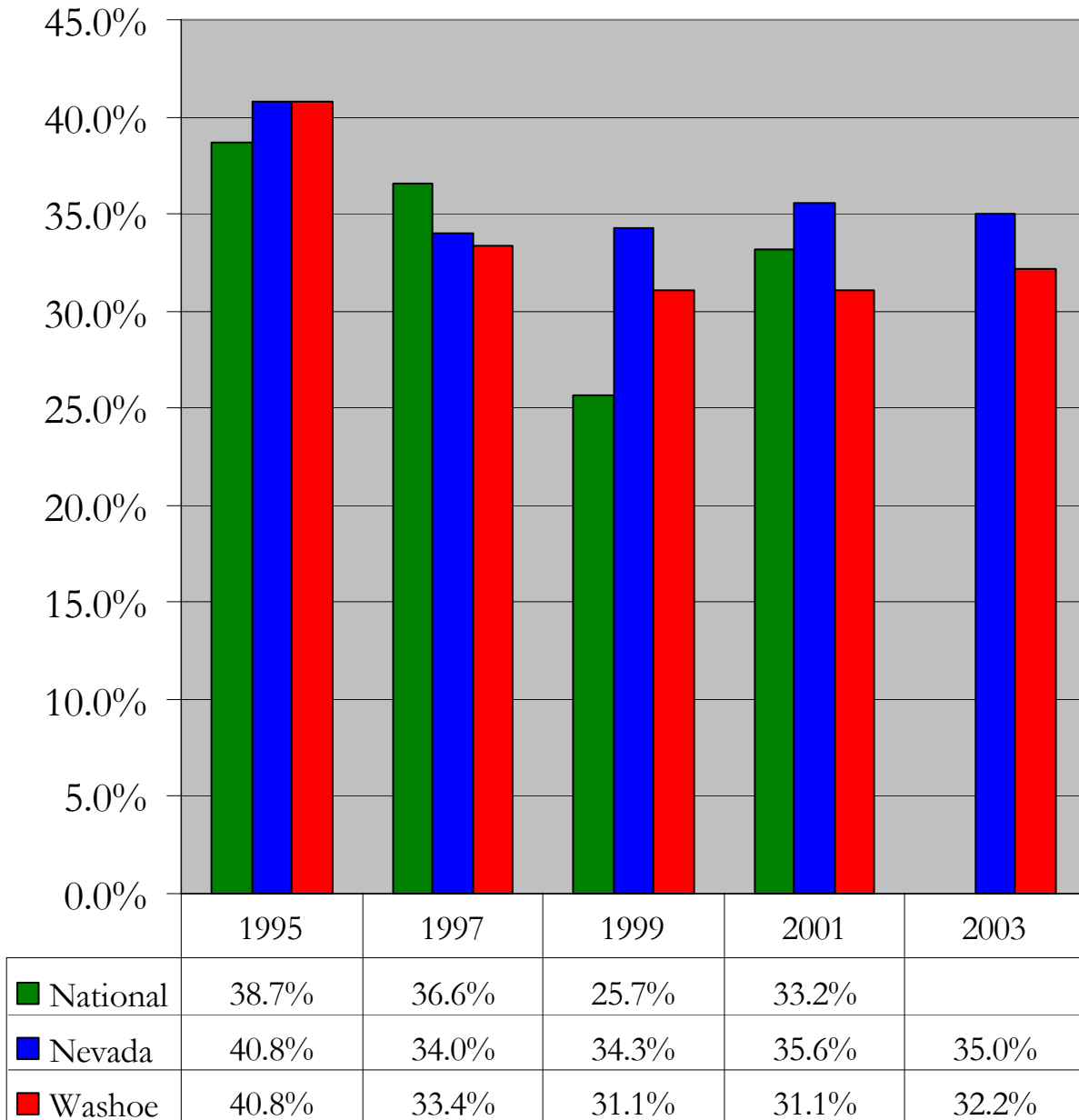
Although different degrees of risk-taking behavior and experimentation can be part of the developmental process, the age at which risky behavior is demonstrated and the reinforcement that exists among friends, family, and the community may determine the long range impact on an individual. Children who experience alienation or rebelliousness and associate with peers with the same outlook may be antagonistic toward social norms that foster positive accomplishments and success. These children are at increased risk of eventual drug abuse and the younger these attitudes are internalized the more difficult it becomes to turn them towards a healthier and more positive lifestyle.

a. Early and Persistent Anti-Social Behavior

Youth who are aggressive in elementary school or who have trouble controlling their impulses are at higher risk for substance abuse, delinquency, and violent behavior. When youths' aggressive behavior in these early grades is combined with isolation and withdrawal, there is an even greater risk of problems in adolescence. This also applies to aggressive behavior combined with hyperactivity or attention deficit disorder.

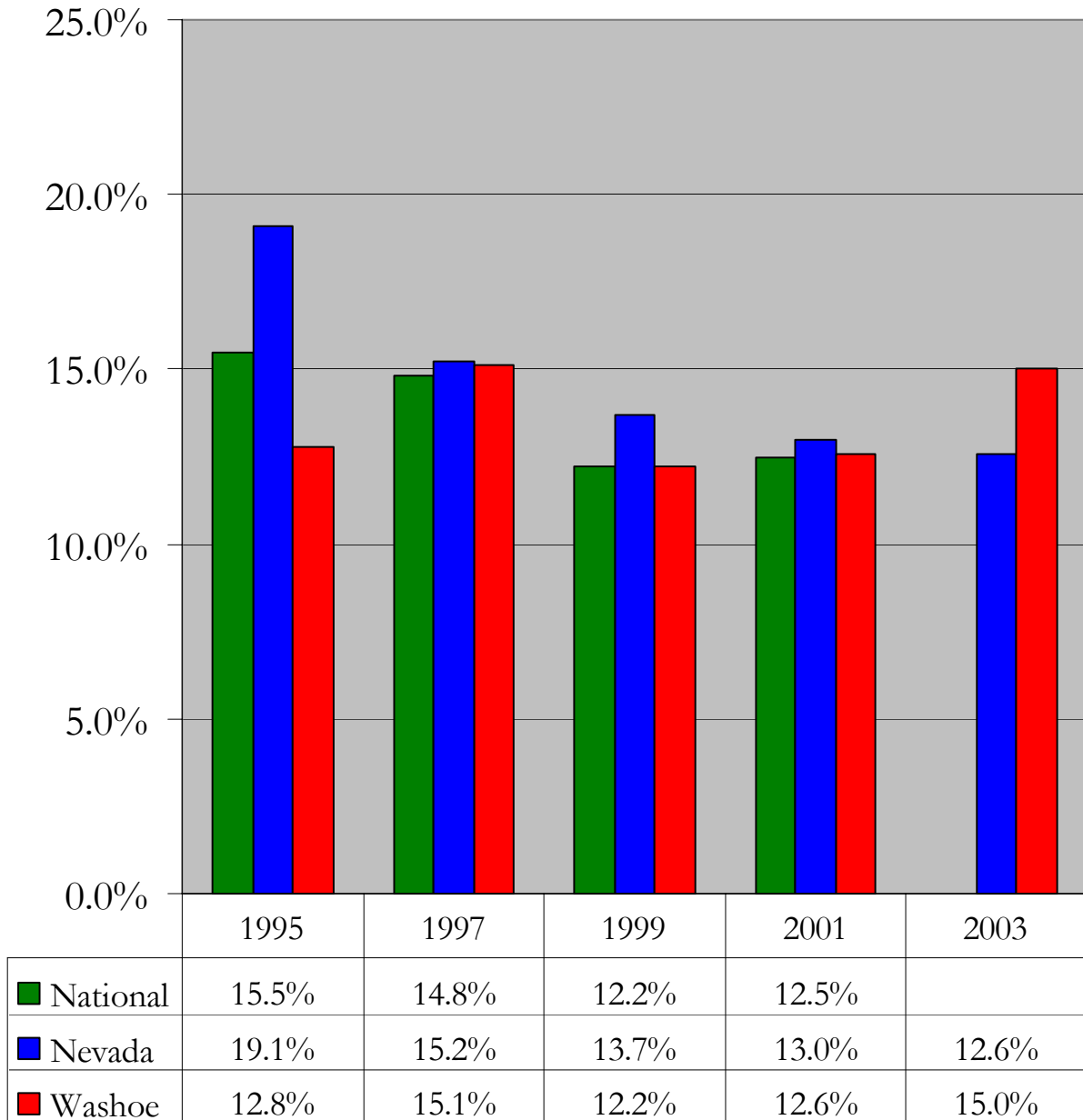
This risk factor also includes persistent anti-social behavior in early adolescence, such as misbehaving in school, skipping school, and getting into fights with other youth. Both girls and boys who engage in these behaviors in early adolescence are at increased risk.

RISK FACTOR: Early & Persistent Anti-Social Behavior
INDICATOR: Involved in a physical fight
DEFINITION: Percent of students who responded that they had been involved in a physical fight in the past 12 months



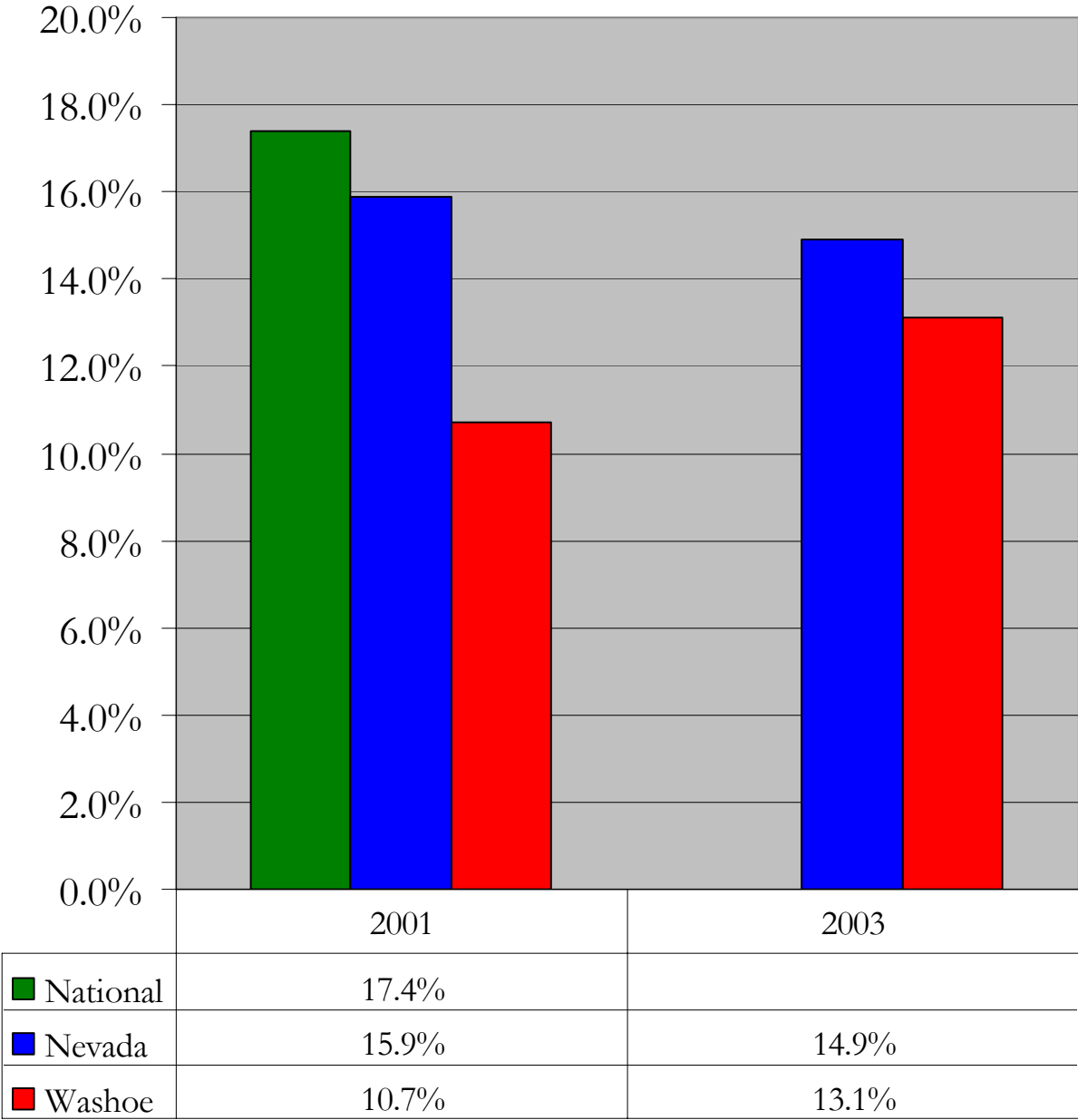
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early & Persistent Anti-Social Behavior
INDICATOR: Involved in a physical fight on school property
DEFINITION: Percent of students who responded that they had been involved in a physical fight on school property in the past 12 months



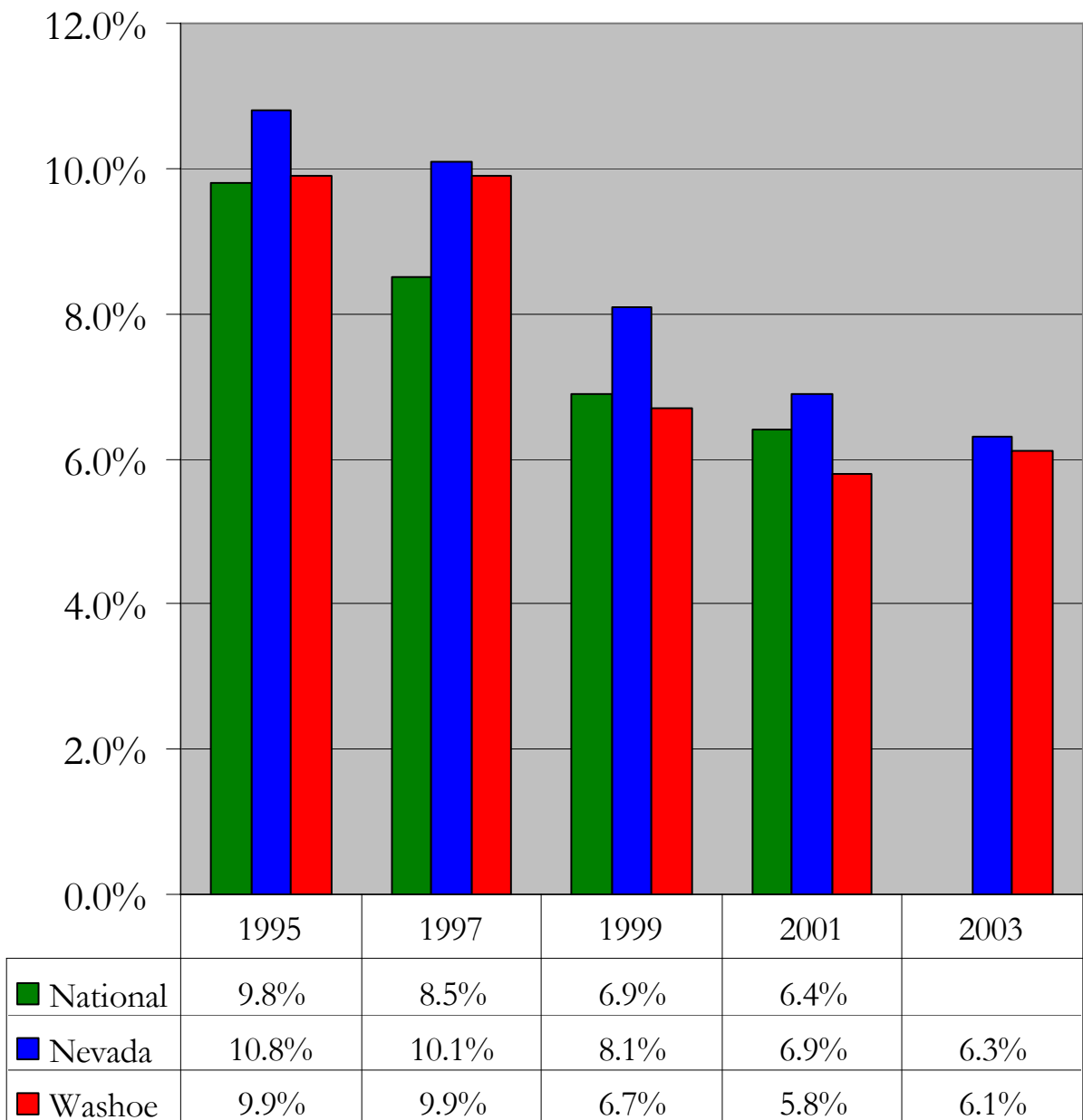
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early & Persistent Anti-Social Behavior
INDICATOR: Carried a weapon
DEFINITION: Percent of students who responded that they had carried a weapon in the past 30 days



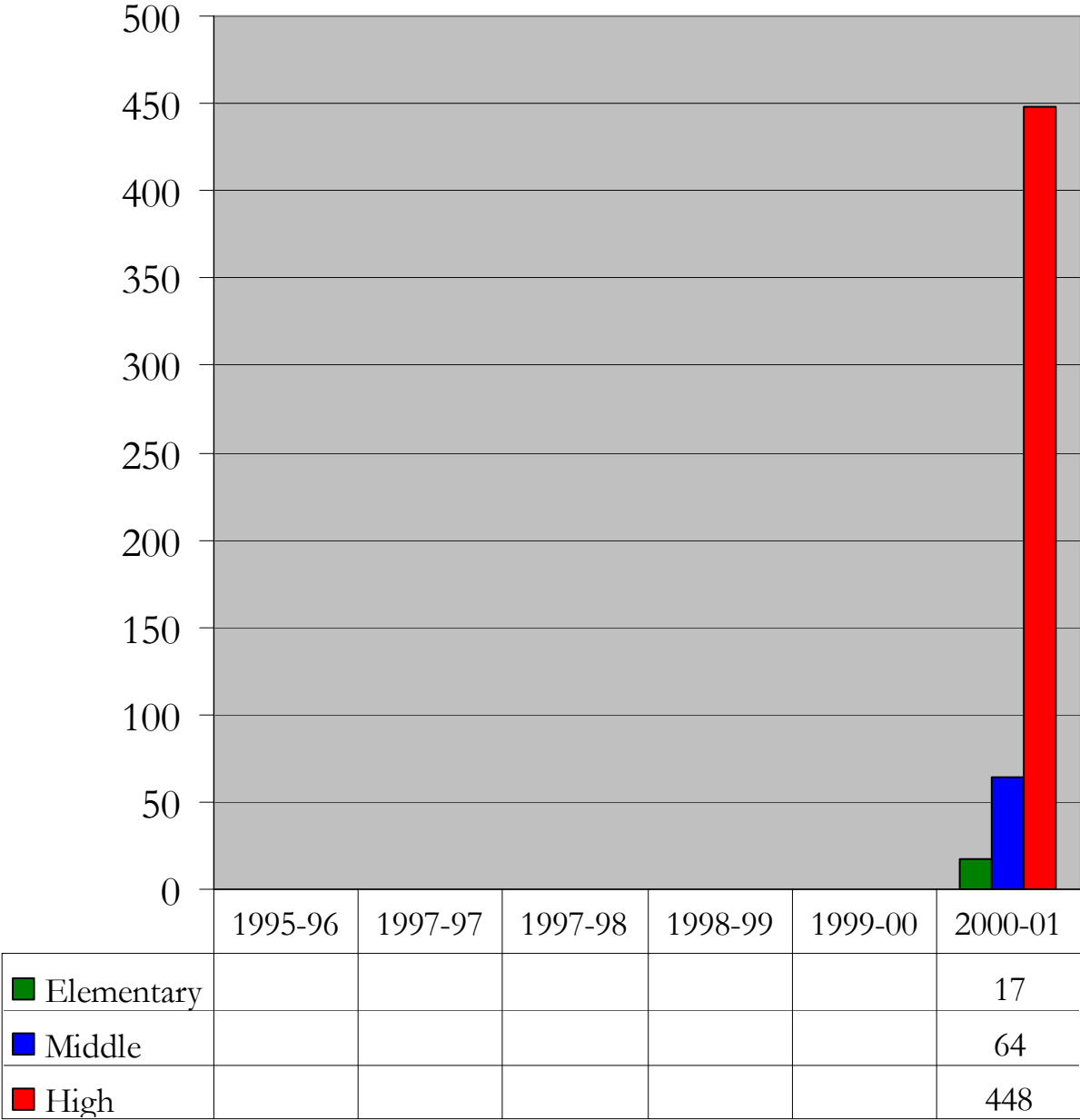
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early & Persistent Anti-Social Behavior
INDICATOR: Carried a weapon on school property
DEFINITION: Percent of students who responded that they had carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days



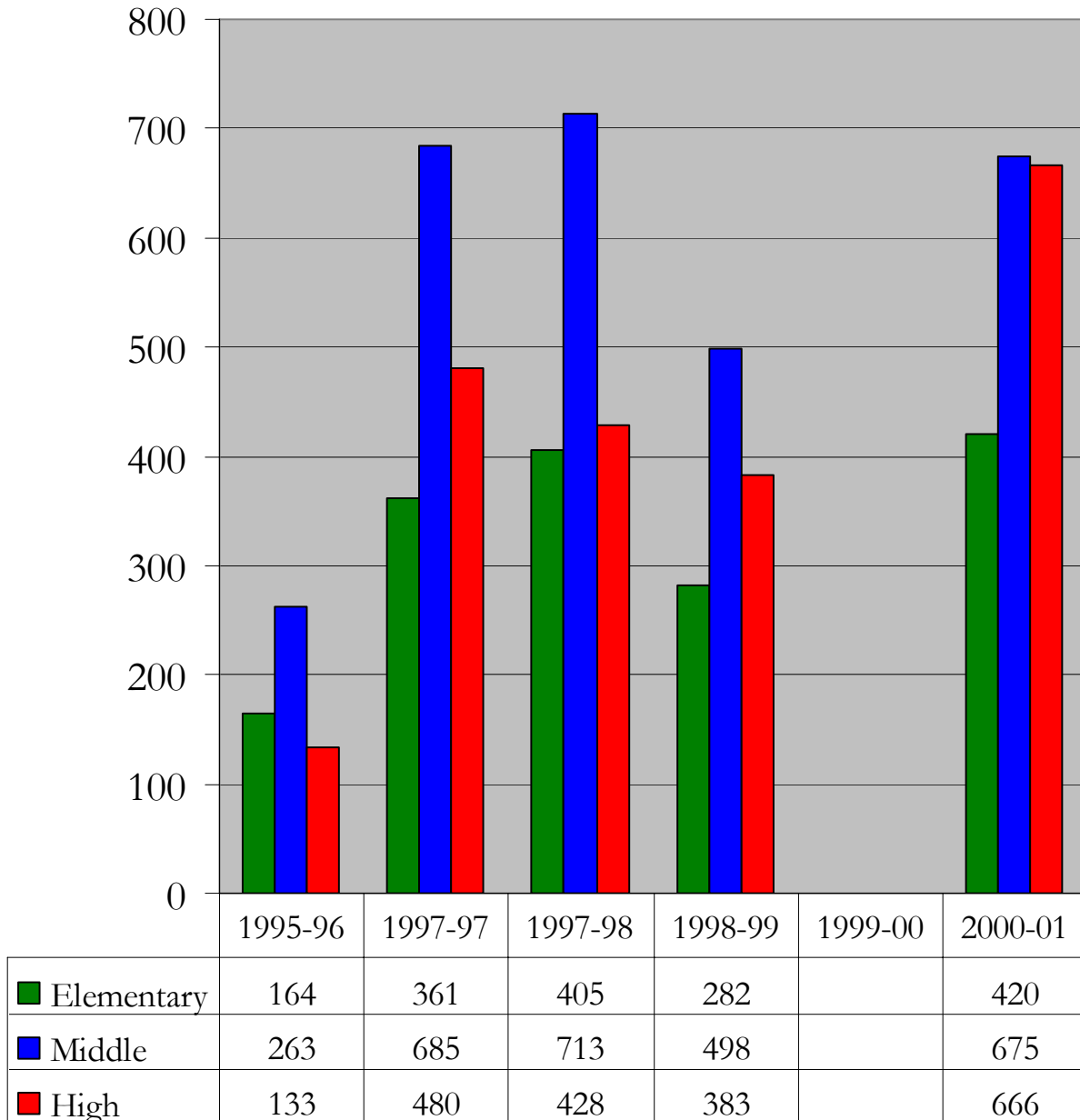
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early & Persistent Anti-Social Behavior
INDICATOR: Discipline Referrals
DEFINITION: Number of discipline referrals for possession/
 distribution of controlled substances/alcohol



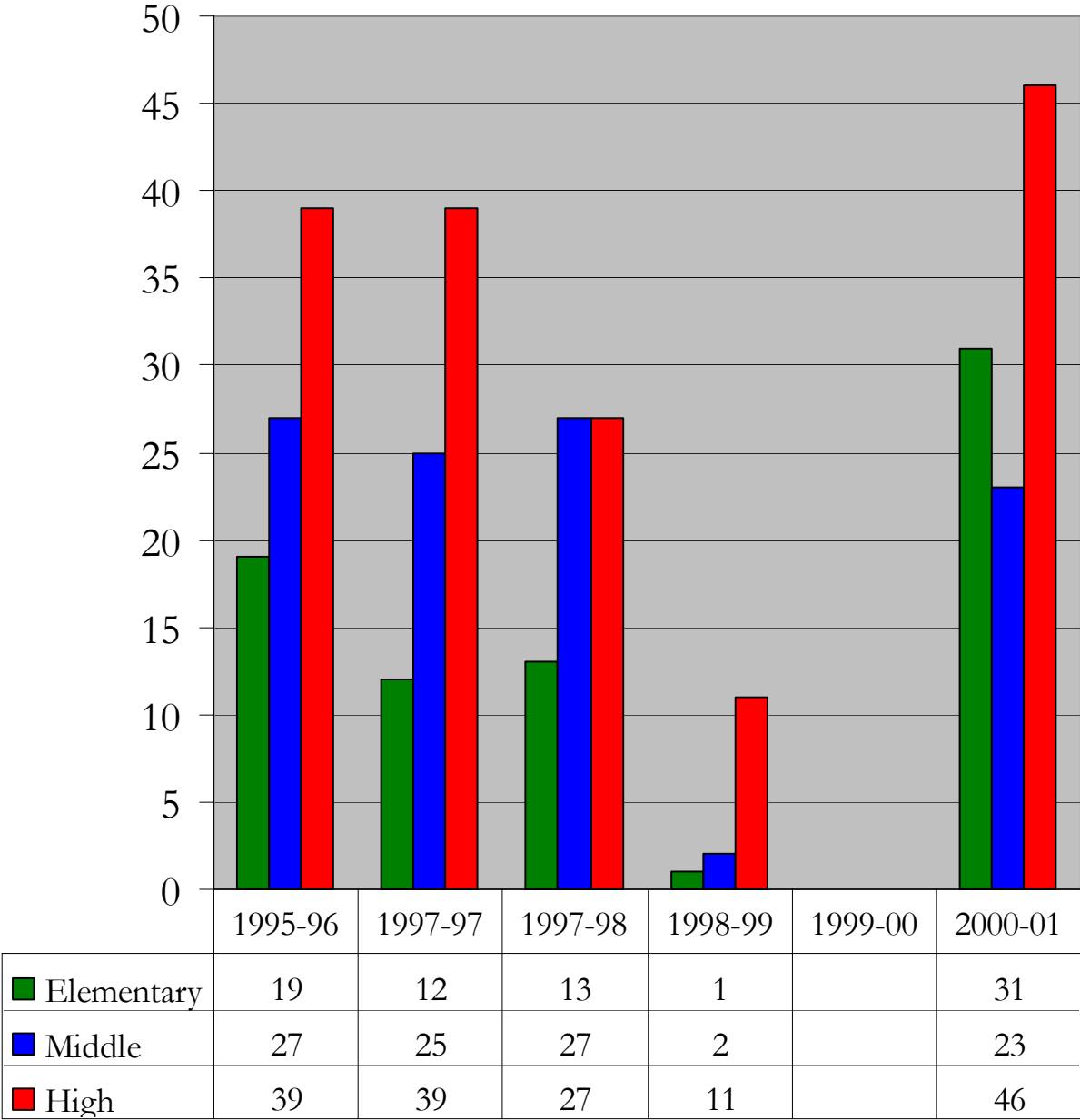
Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Report

RISK FACTOR: Early & Persistent Anti-Social Behavior
INDICATOR: Discipline Referrals
DEFINITION: Number of discipline referrals for violence



Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Report

RISK FACTOR: Early & Persistent Anti-Social Behavior
INDICATOR: Discipline Referrals
DEFINITION: Number of discipline referrals for possession of weapons

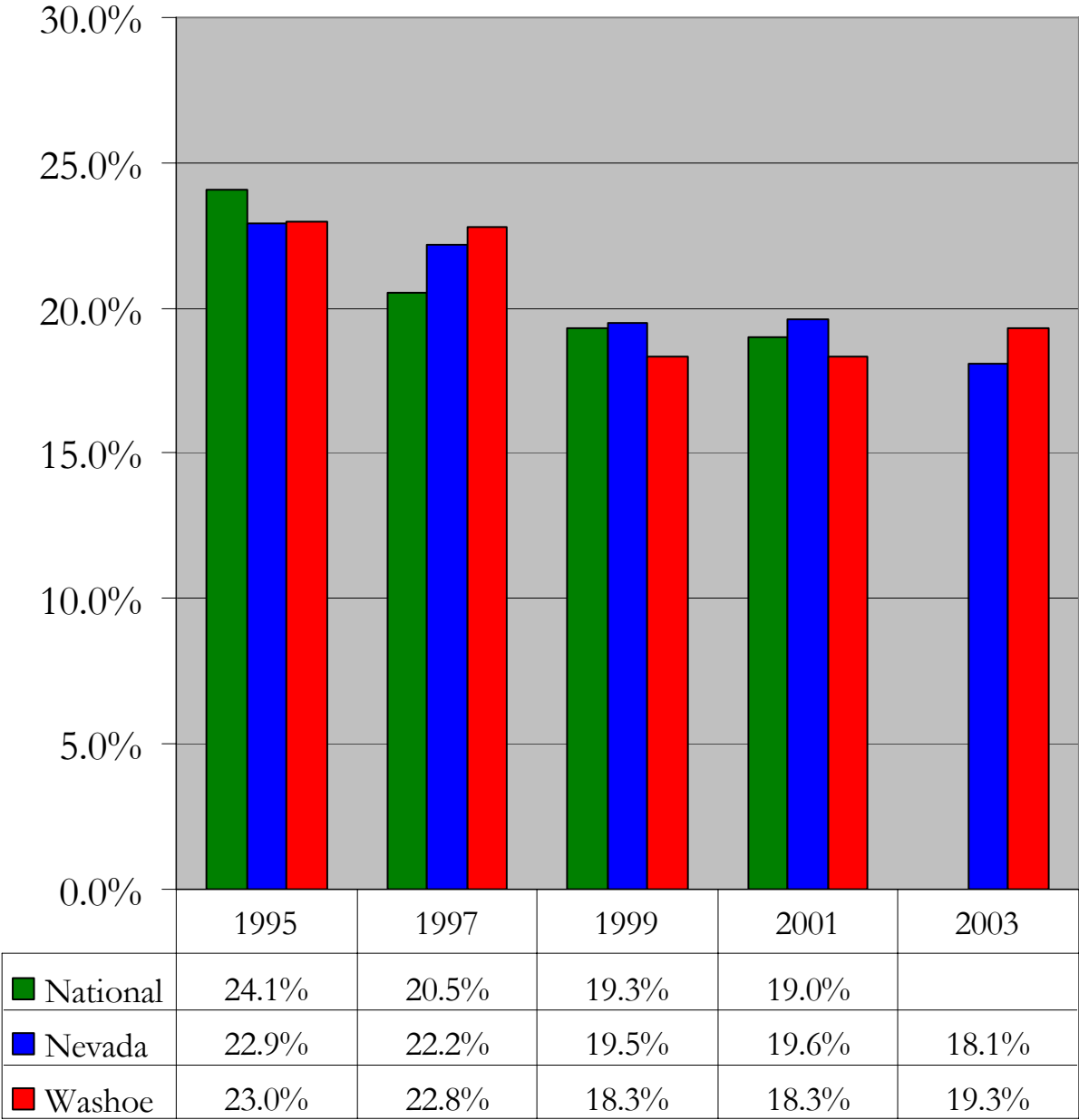


Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Report

b. Alienation & Rebelliousness

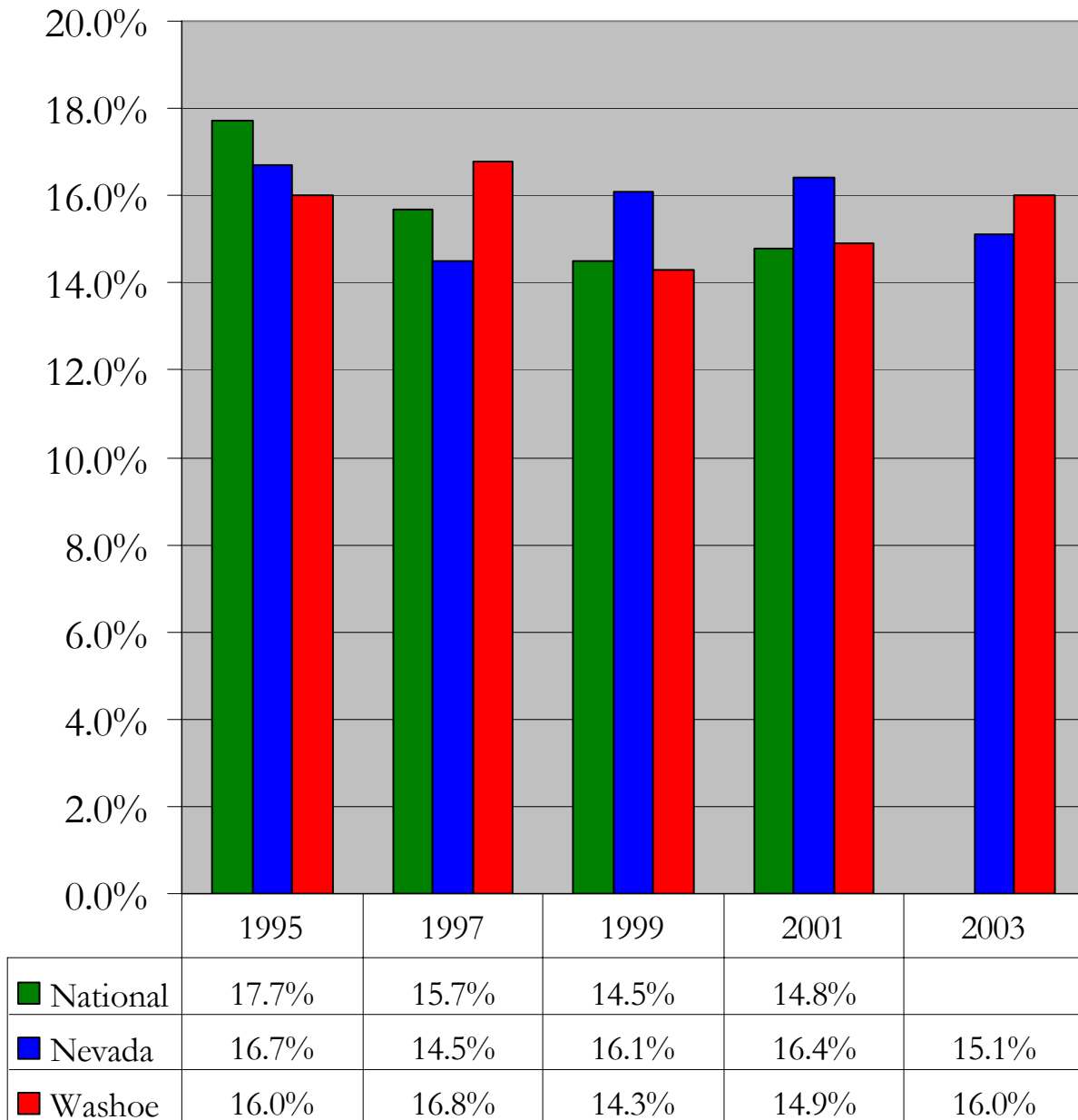
Young people who feel that they are not part of society, are not bound by rules, don't believe in trying to be successful or responsible, or who take an active rebellious stance towards society are at higher risk of drug abuse, delinquency, and school drop-out.

RISK FACTOR: Alienation and Rebelliousness
 INDICATOR: Suicide Thoughts
 DEFINITION: Percent of students who report thinking about suicide



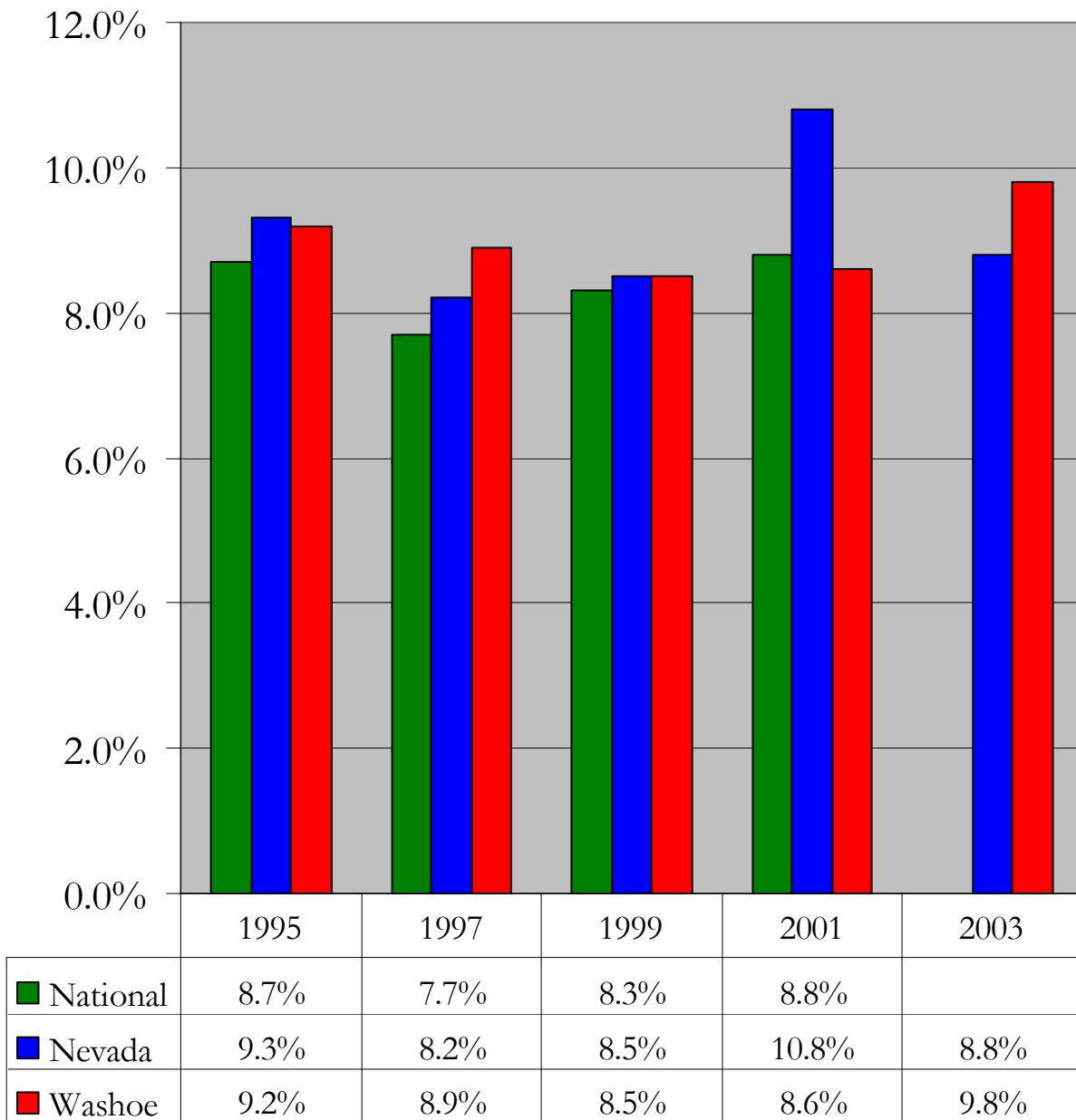
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Alienation and Rebelliousness
INDICATOR: Suicide Planning
DEFINITION: Percent of students who report making a plan to committ suicide



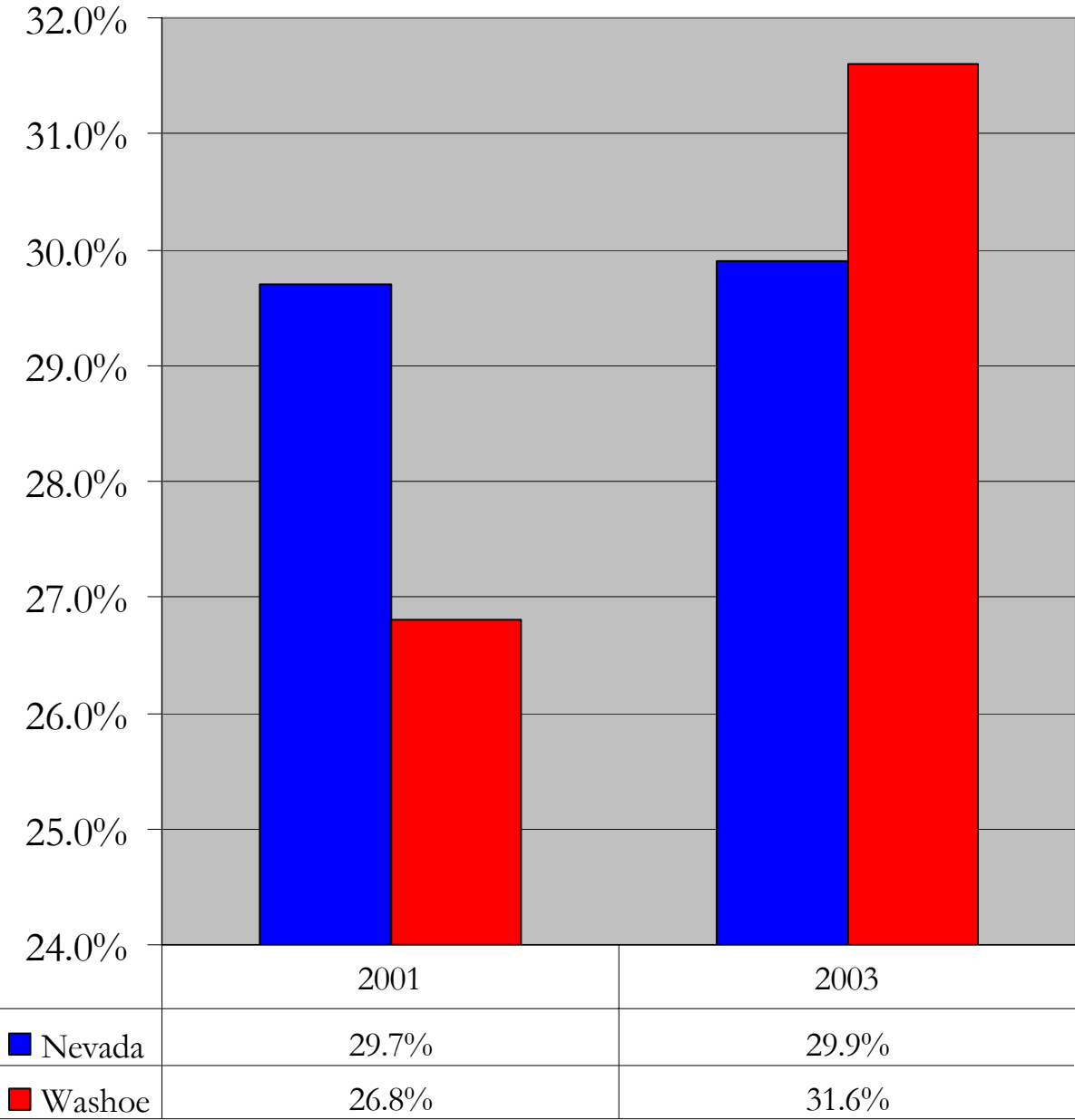
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Alienation and Rebelliousness
 INDICATOR: Suicide Attempts
 DEFINITION: Percent of students who report attempting suicide



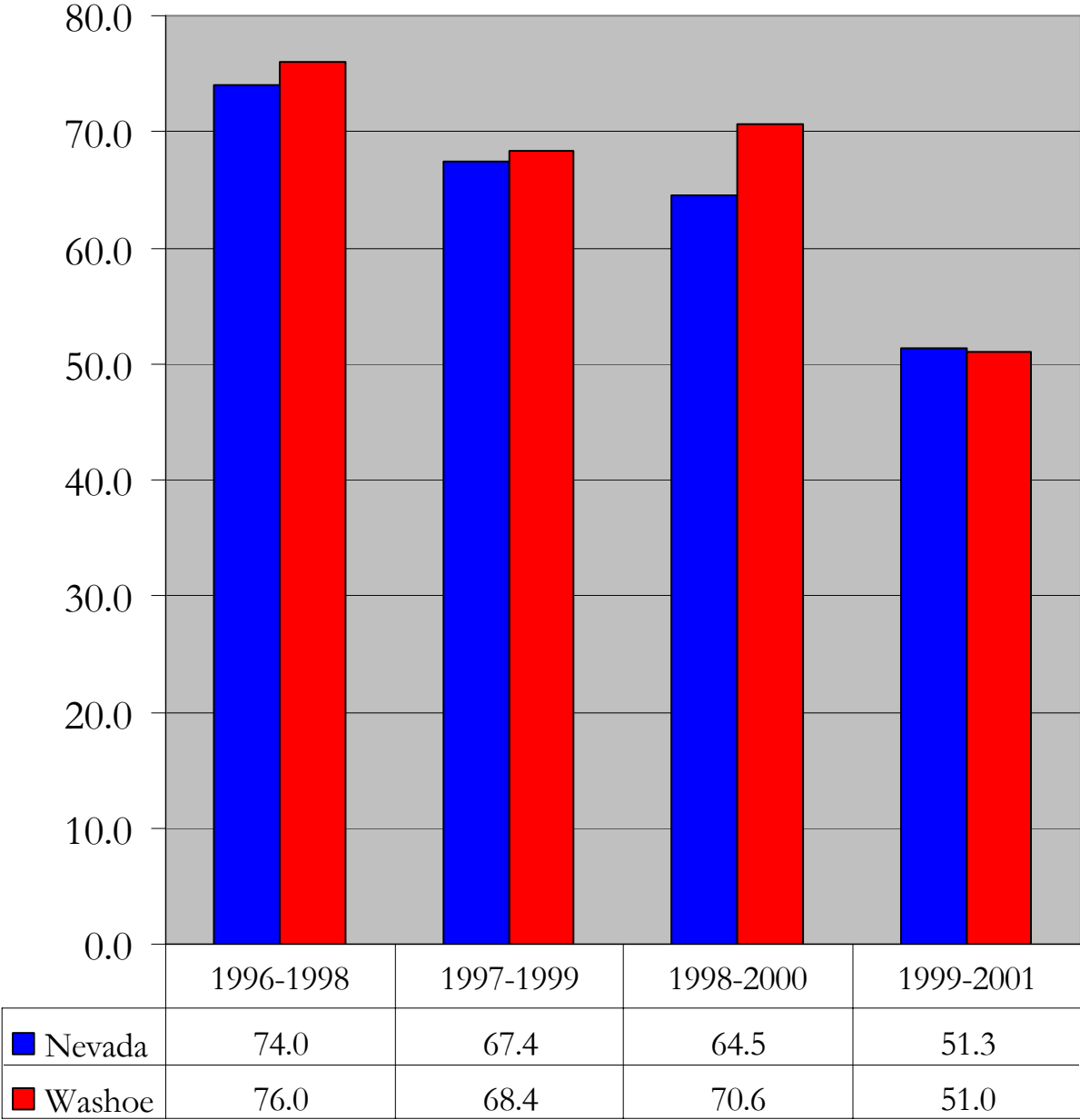
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Alienation and Rebelliousness
INDICATOR: Feelings of Sadness & Hopelessness
DEFINITION: Percent of students who report being so sad or hopeless for 2 weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing usual things



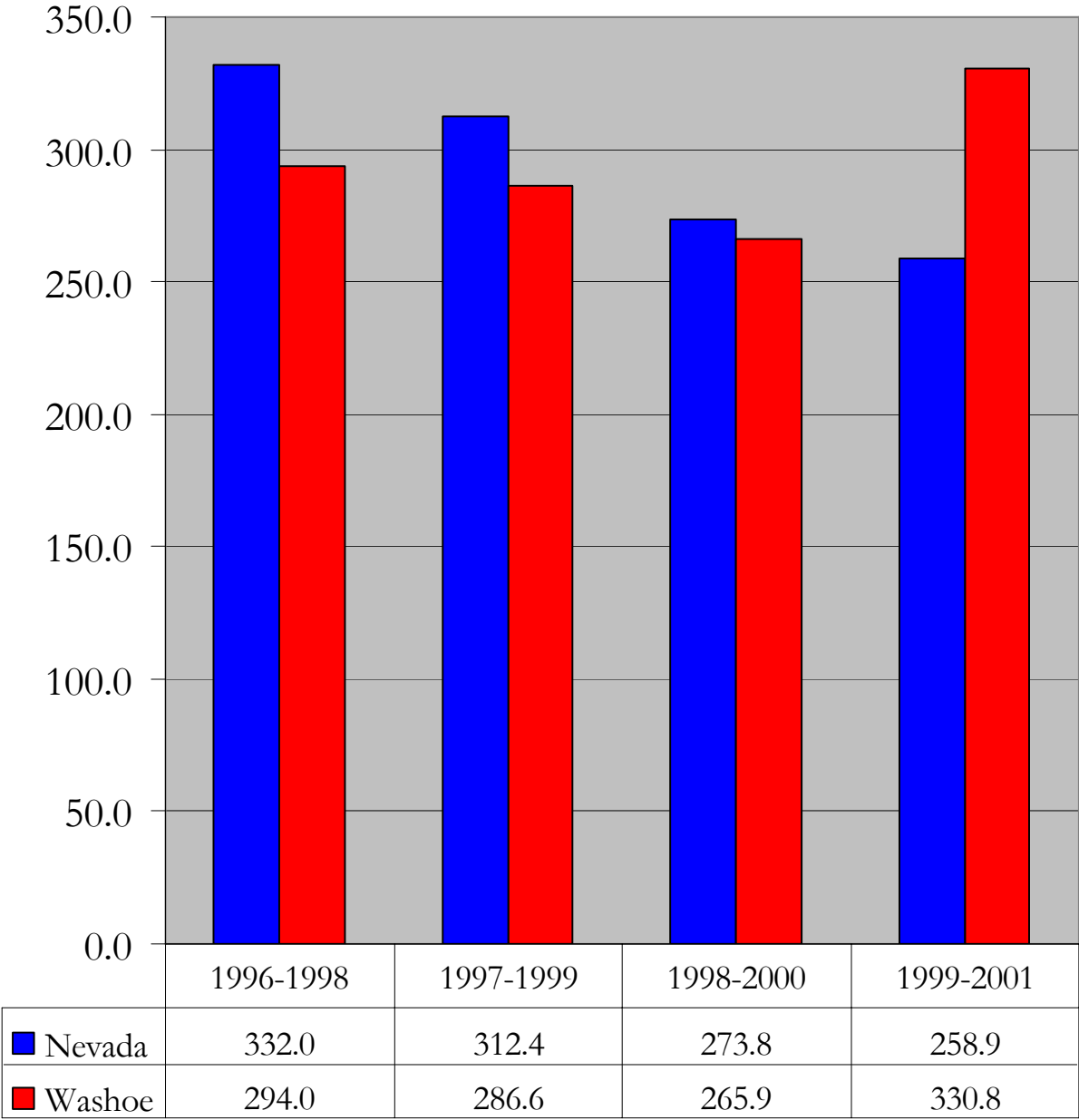
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Alienation and Rebelliousness
 INDICATOR: Teen Violent Deaths
 DEFINITION: Teen deaths by accident, homicide & suicide per 100,000 teens aged 15-19



Source: Nevada Kids Count

RISK FACTOR: Alienation and Rebelliousness
 INDICATOR: Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests
 DEFINITION: Number of juvenile arrests per 100,000 population

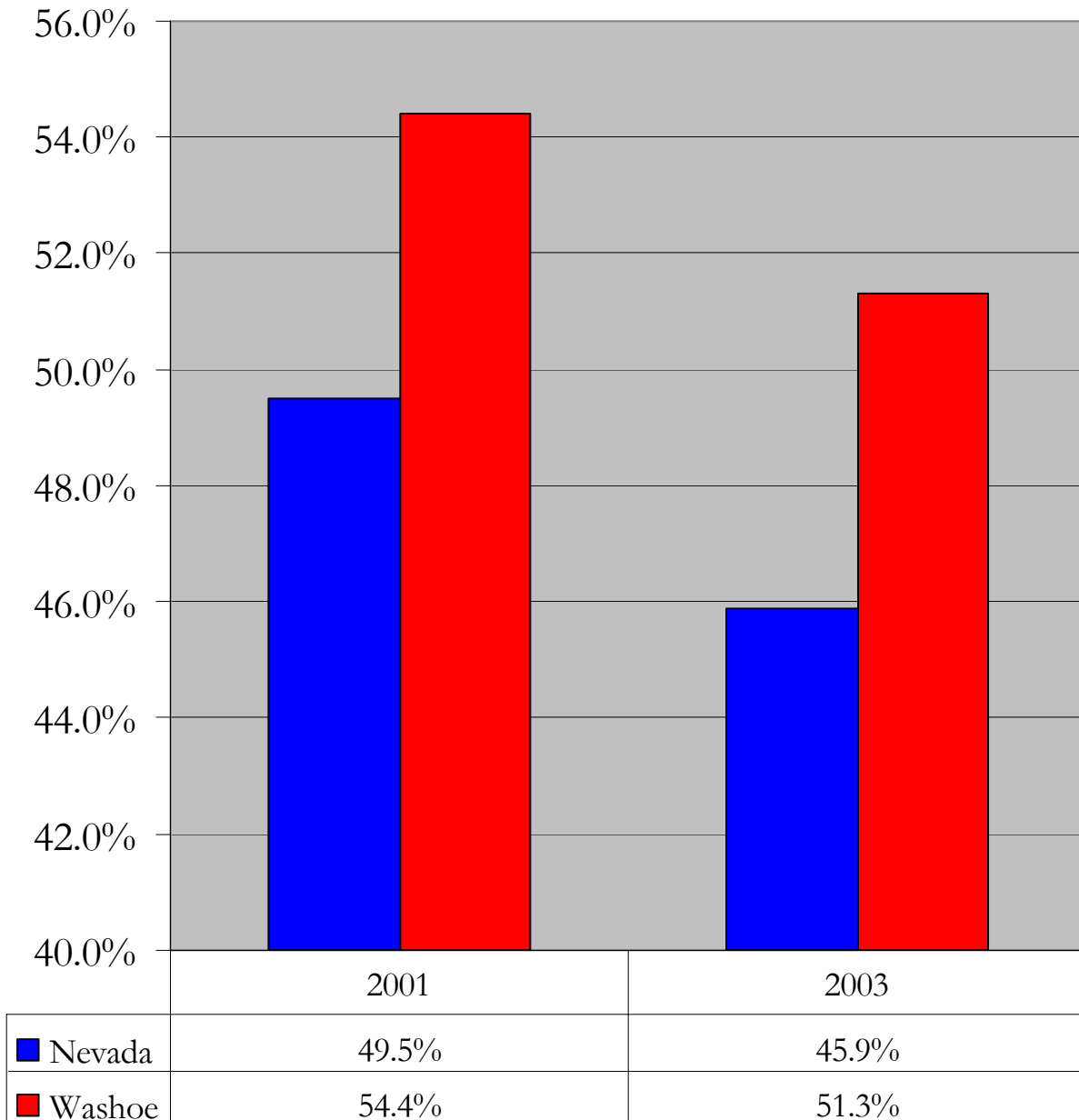


Source: Nevada Kids Count

c. Friends who Engage in the Problem Behavior

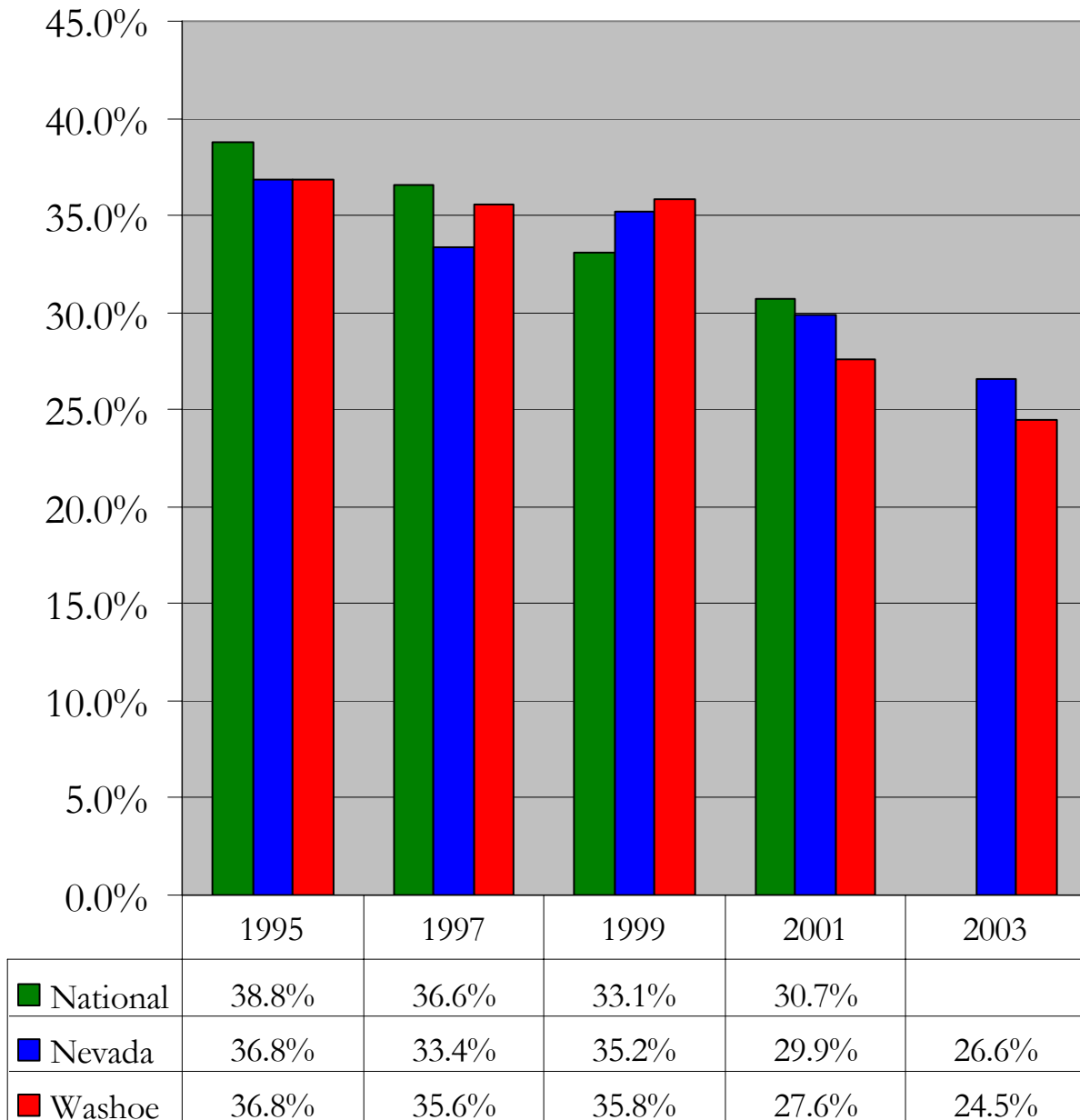
Young people who associate with peers who engage in problem behavior – delinquency, substance abuse, violent activity, sexual activity, and dropping out of school are much more likely to engage in the same problem behavior. This is one of the most predictive indicators that research has identified. Even 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.

RISK FACTOR: Friends who Engage in Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Friends who use Alcohol
DEFINITION: Percent answering that "some", "most", or "all" their friends currently use alcohol



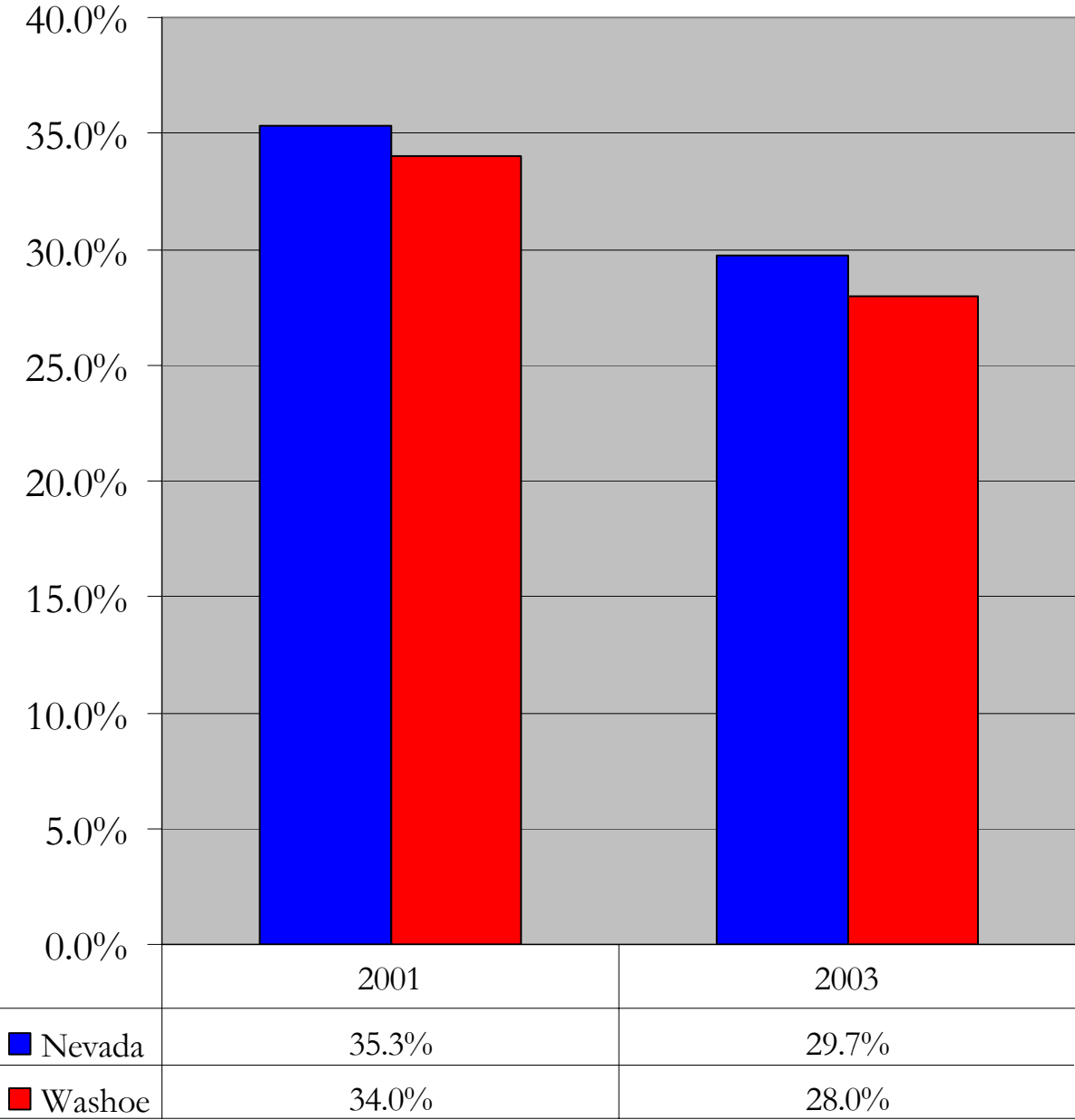
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Friends who Engage in Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Rode with Someone who had been Drinking
DEFINITION: Percent answering that they had ridden in a vehicle with someone who had been drinking alcohol



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Friends who Engage in Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Friends who use Tobacco
DEFINITION: Percent answering that "some", "most", or "all" their friends currently use tobacco almost daily

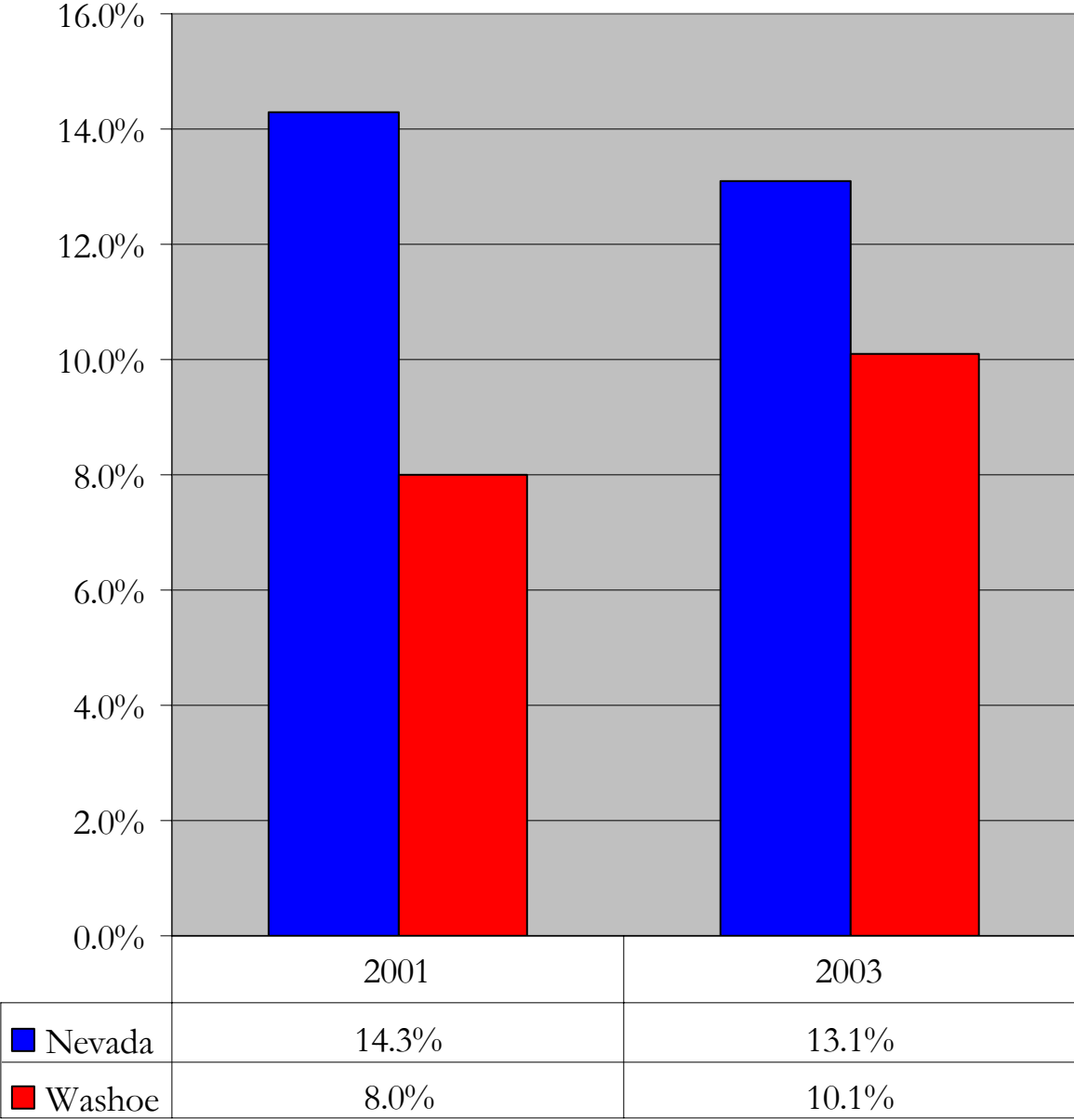


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

d. Gang Involvement

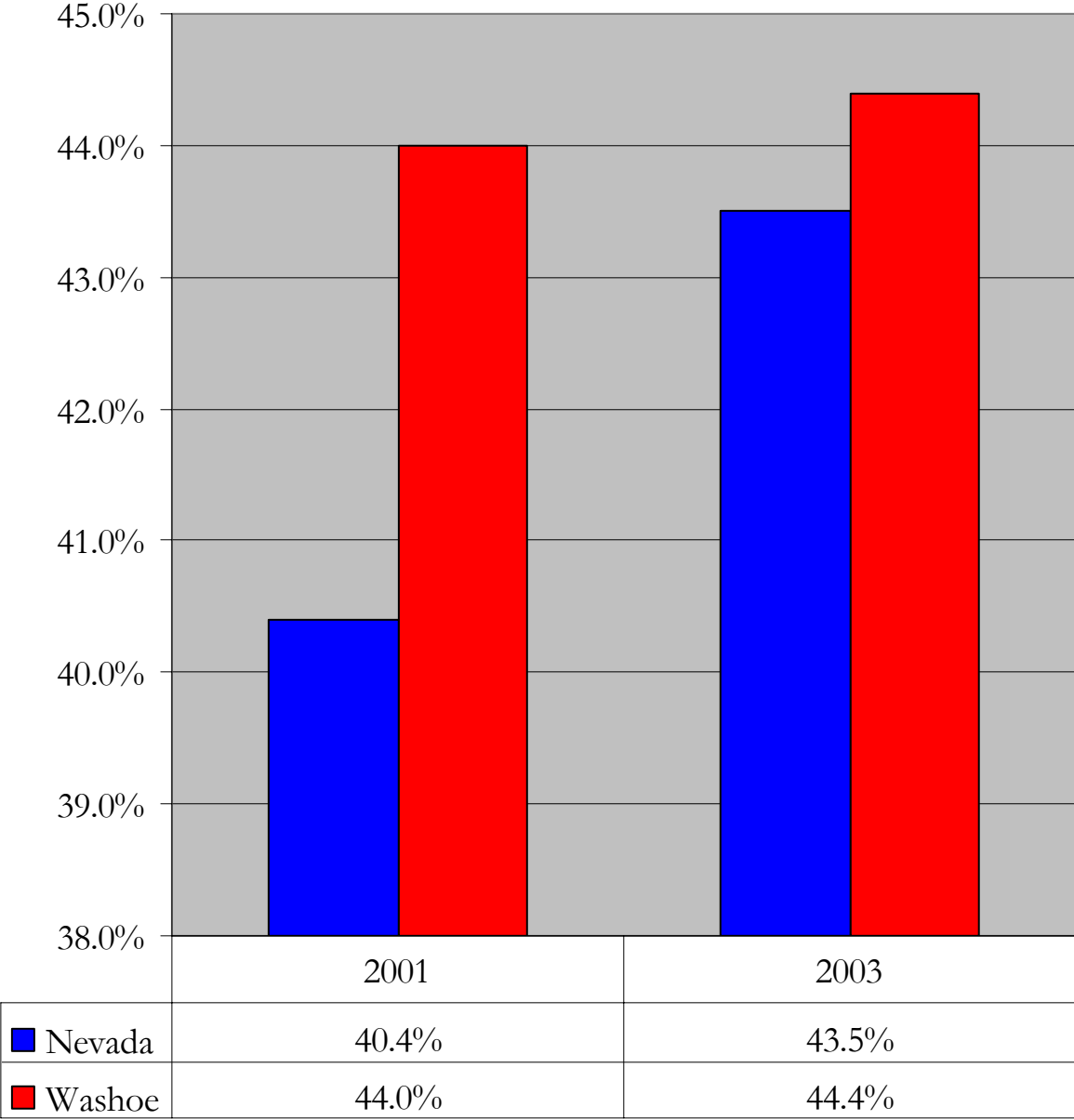
Research has shown that youth who have delinquent friends are more likely to use alcohol and other drugs and engage in violent or delinquent behavior than children who do not have delinquent friends. The influence of gang involvement on alcohol and other drug use, delinquency and violence exceeds the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

RISK FACTOR: Gang Activity
INDICATOR: Ever Belonged to a Street Gang
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students that responded that they had ever belonged to a street gang



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Gang Activity
INDICATOR: Believe there is Gang Activity in their School
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who responded that there was gang activity in their school

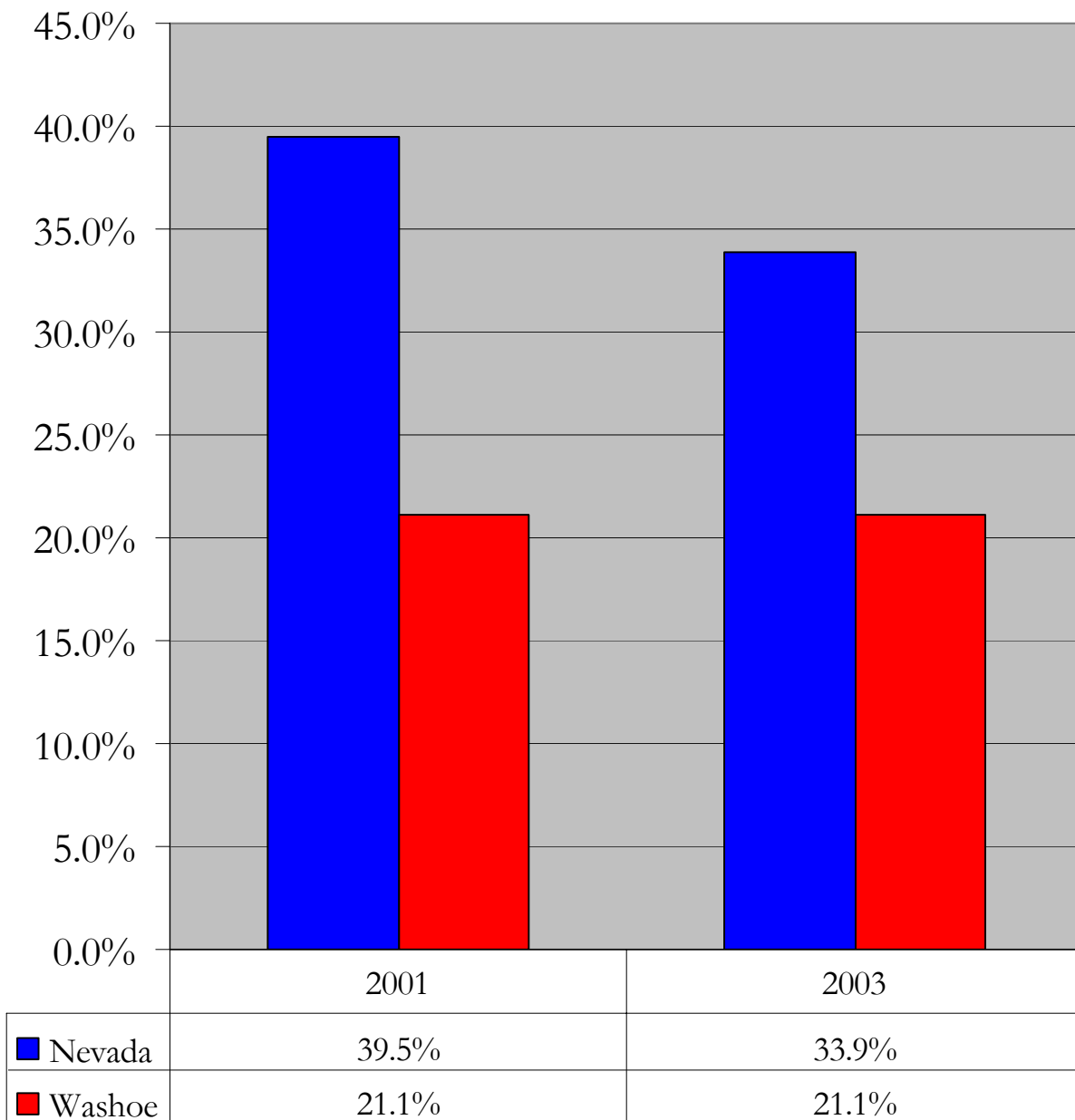


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

e. **Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior**

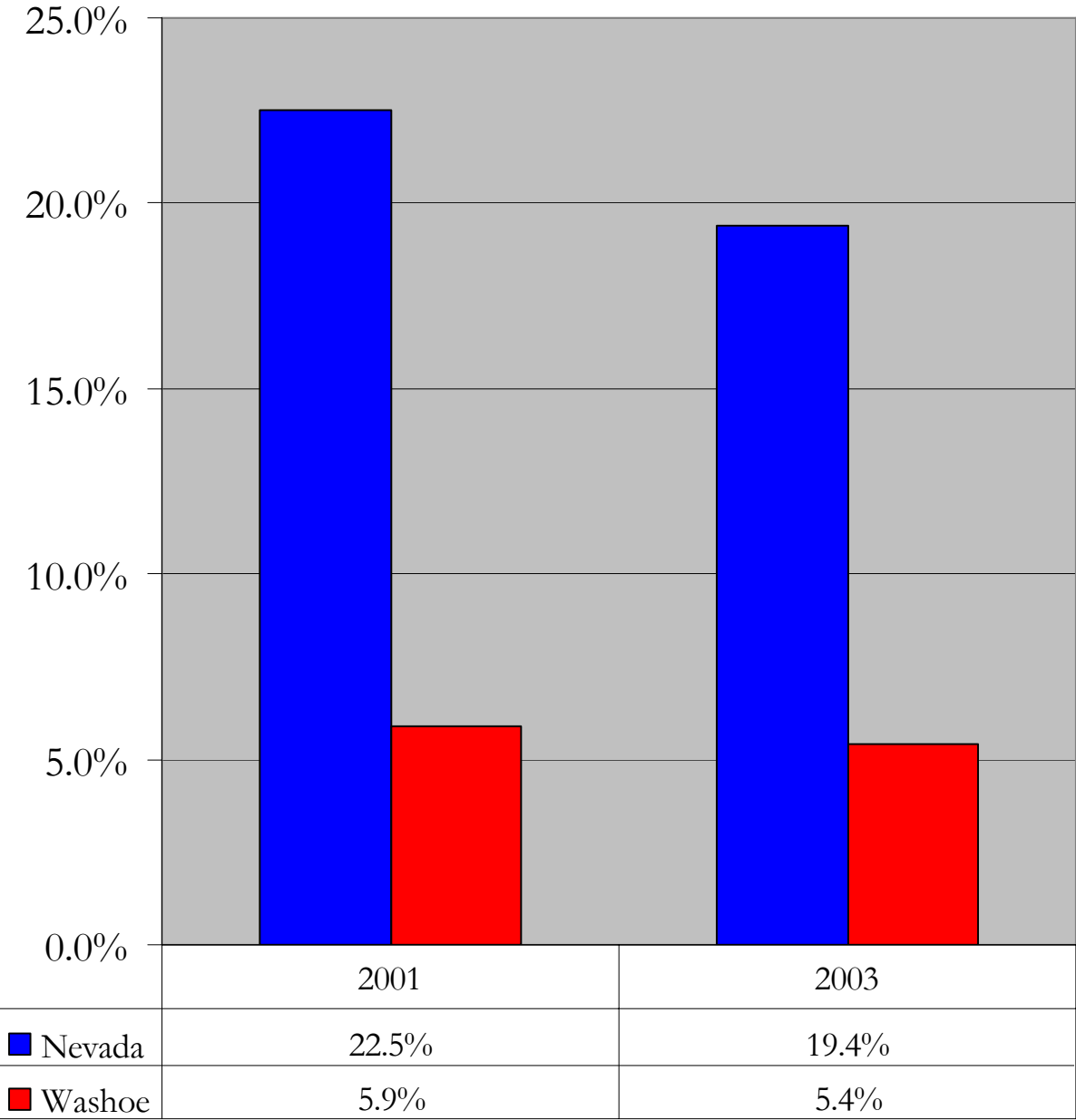
During the elementary school years, children usually express ant-drug, anti-crime, and pro-social attitudes and have difficulty imagining why people use drugs, commit crimes, and drop out of school. However, in middle school, as peers participate in such activities, their attitudes often shift toward 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.

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Perceived Harmfulness: Binge Drinking
DEFINITION: Percent answering that people are at "slight" or "no risk" of harming themselves if they have 5 drinks in a row



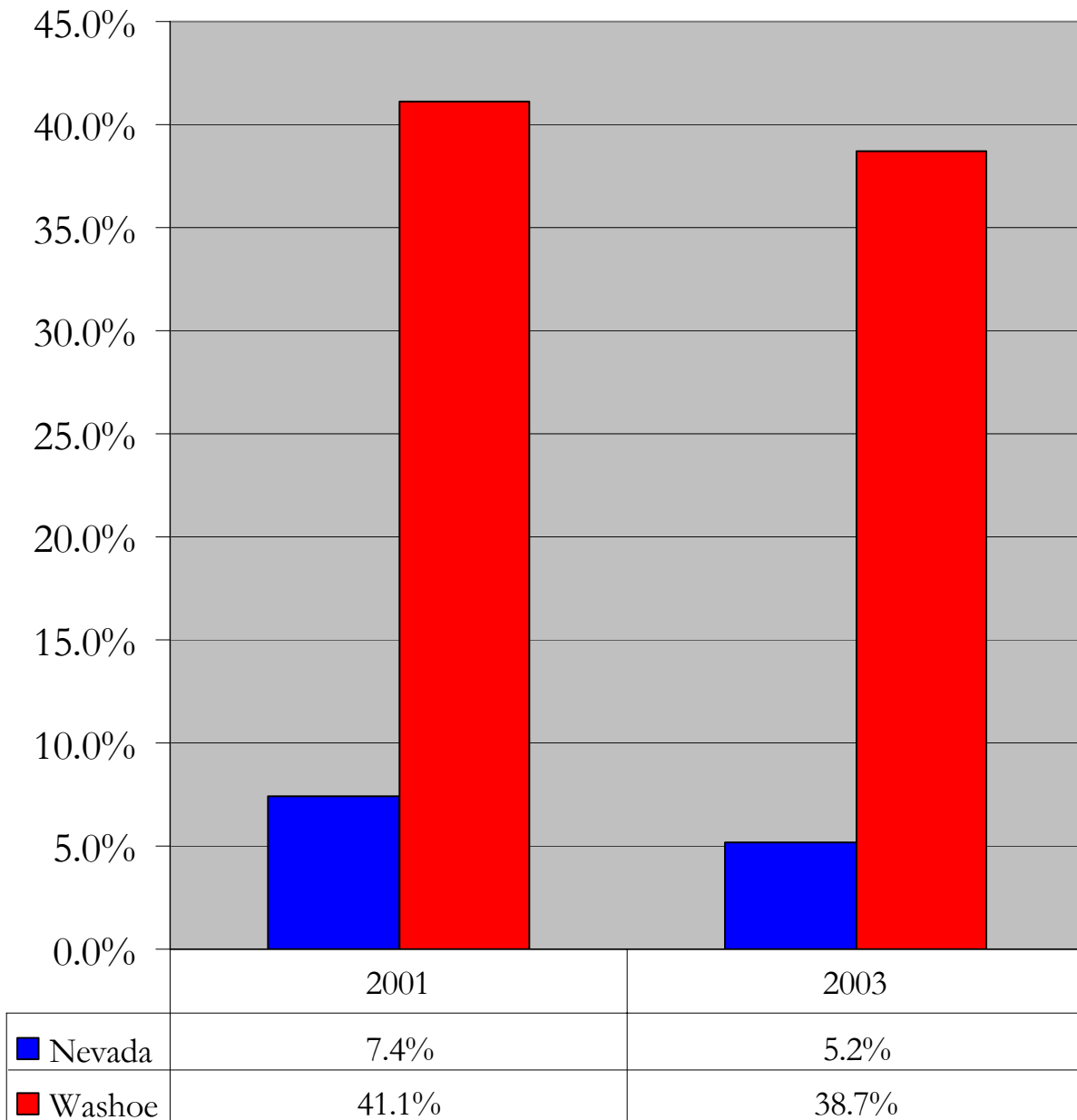
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Perceived Harmfulness: Cigarettes
 DEFINITION: Percent answering that people are at "slight" or "no risk" of harming themselves if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day



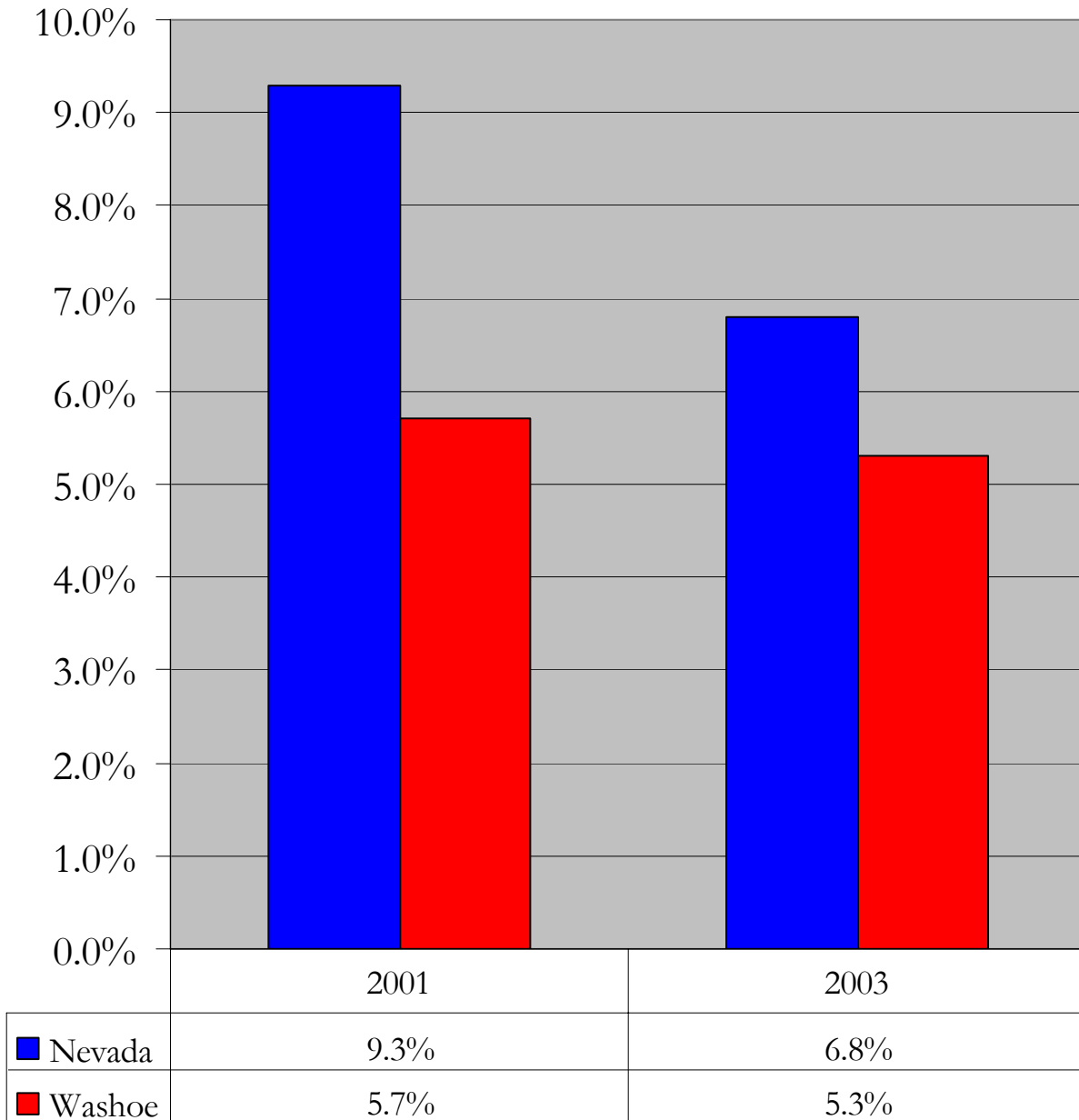
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Perceived Harmfulness: Marijuana
DEFINITION: Percent answering that people are at "slight" or "no risk" of harming themselves if they smoke marijuana occasionally



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Perceived Harmfulness: Illegal Drugs
DEFINITION: Percent answering that people are at "slight" or "no risk" of harming themselves if they use illegal drugs

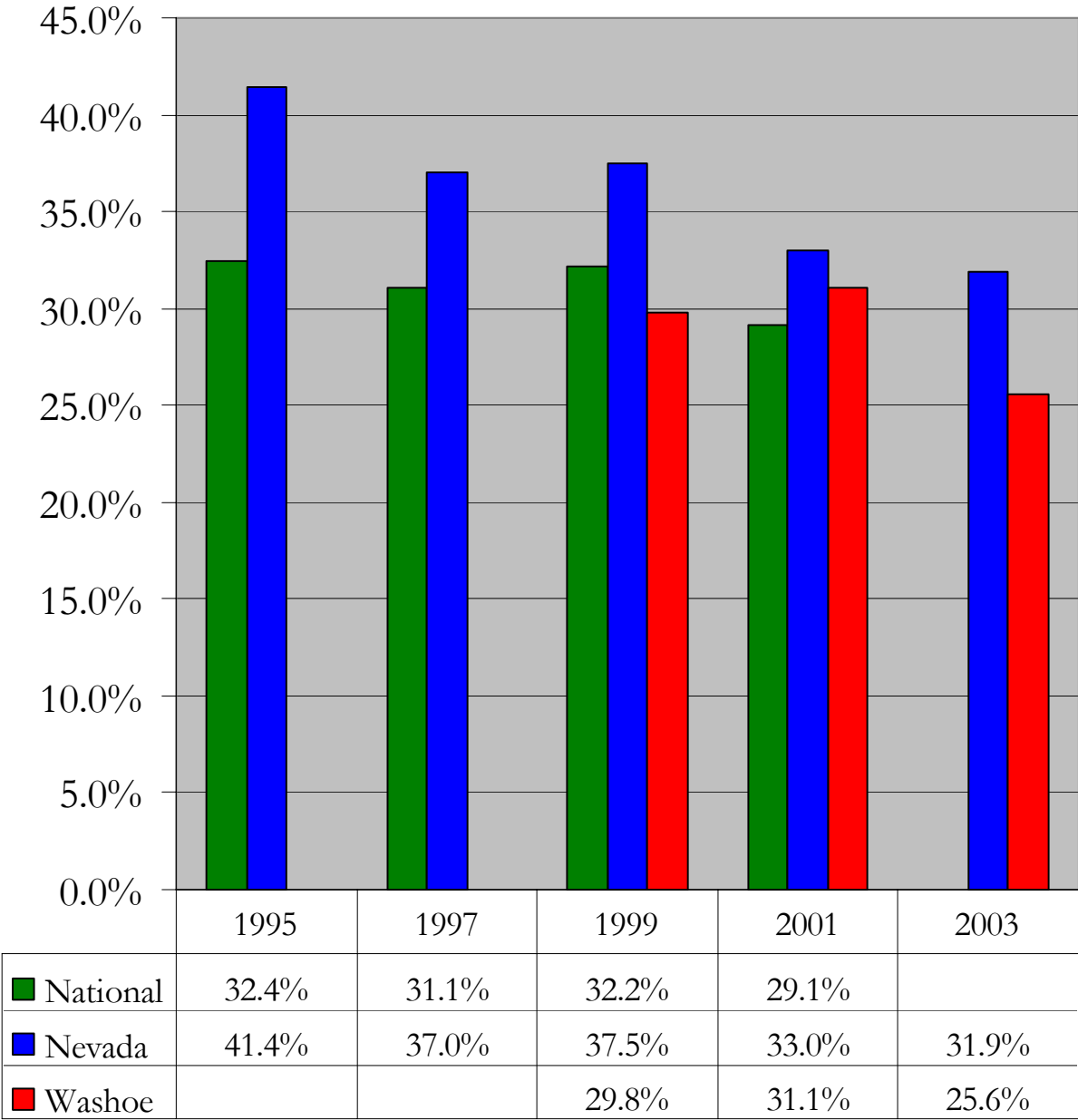


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

f. Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior

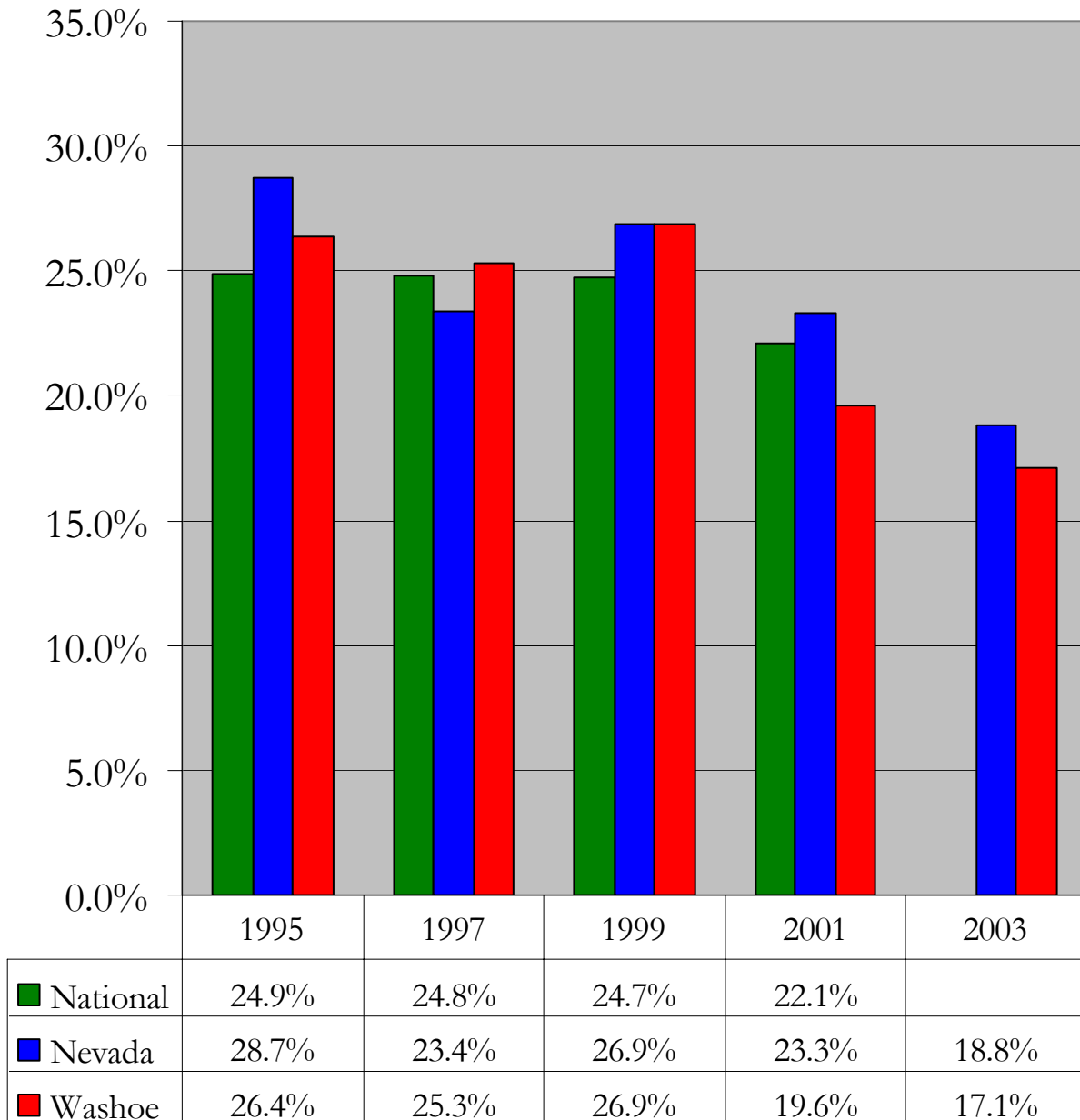
The earlier than young people drop out of school, begin using drugs, committing crimes and becoming sexually active, the greater the likelihood that they will have chronic problems with these behaviors in the future. For example, research has shown that young people who initiate drug use before the age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

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Age of First Use - Alcohol
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they drank alcohol before the age of 13



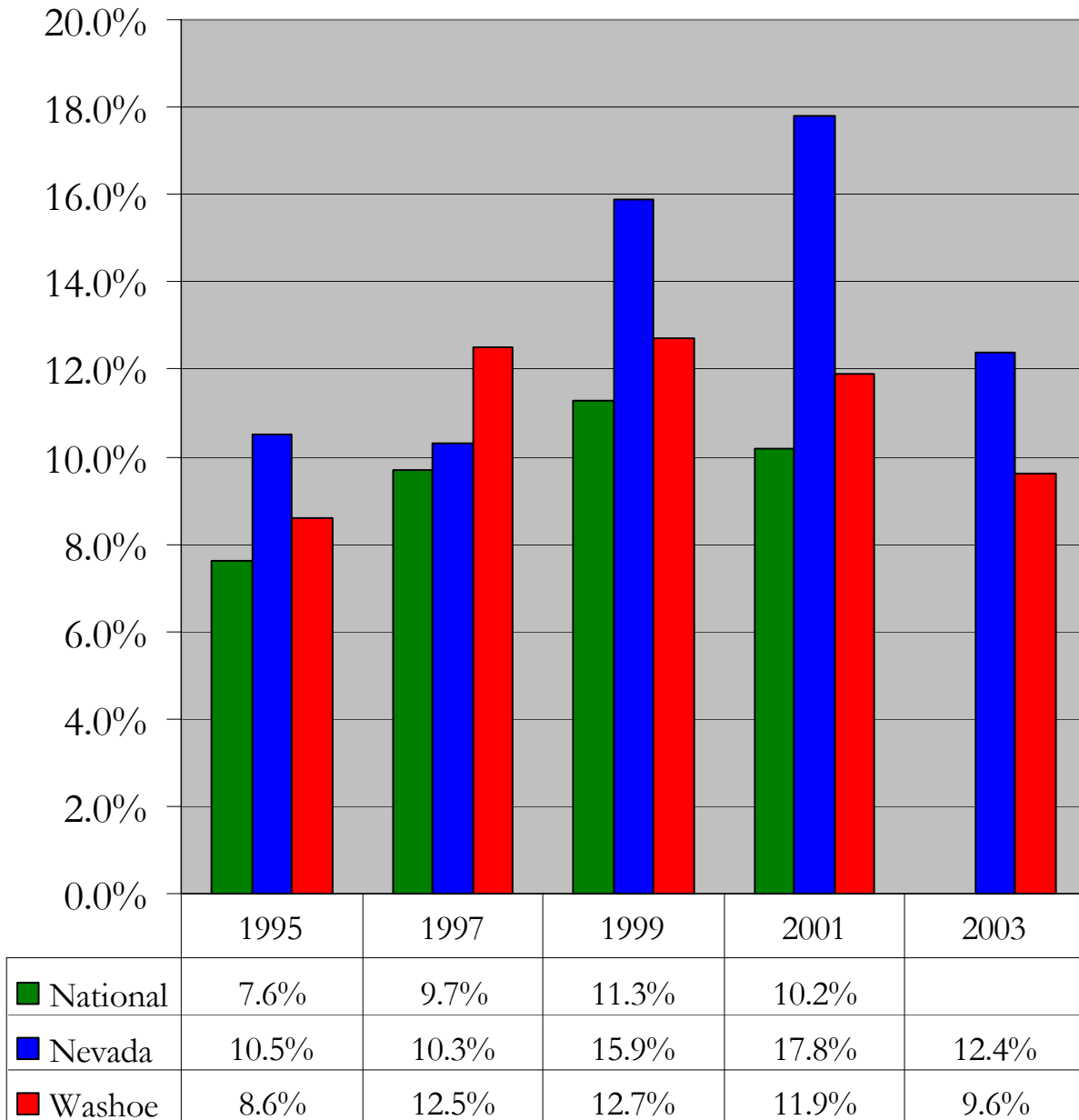
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Age of First Use - Cigarettes
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they smoked a whole cigarette before the age of 13



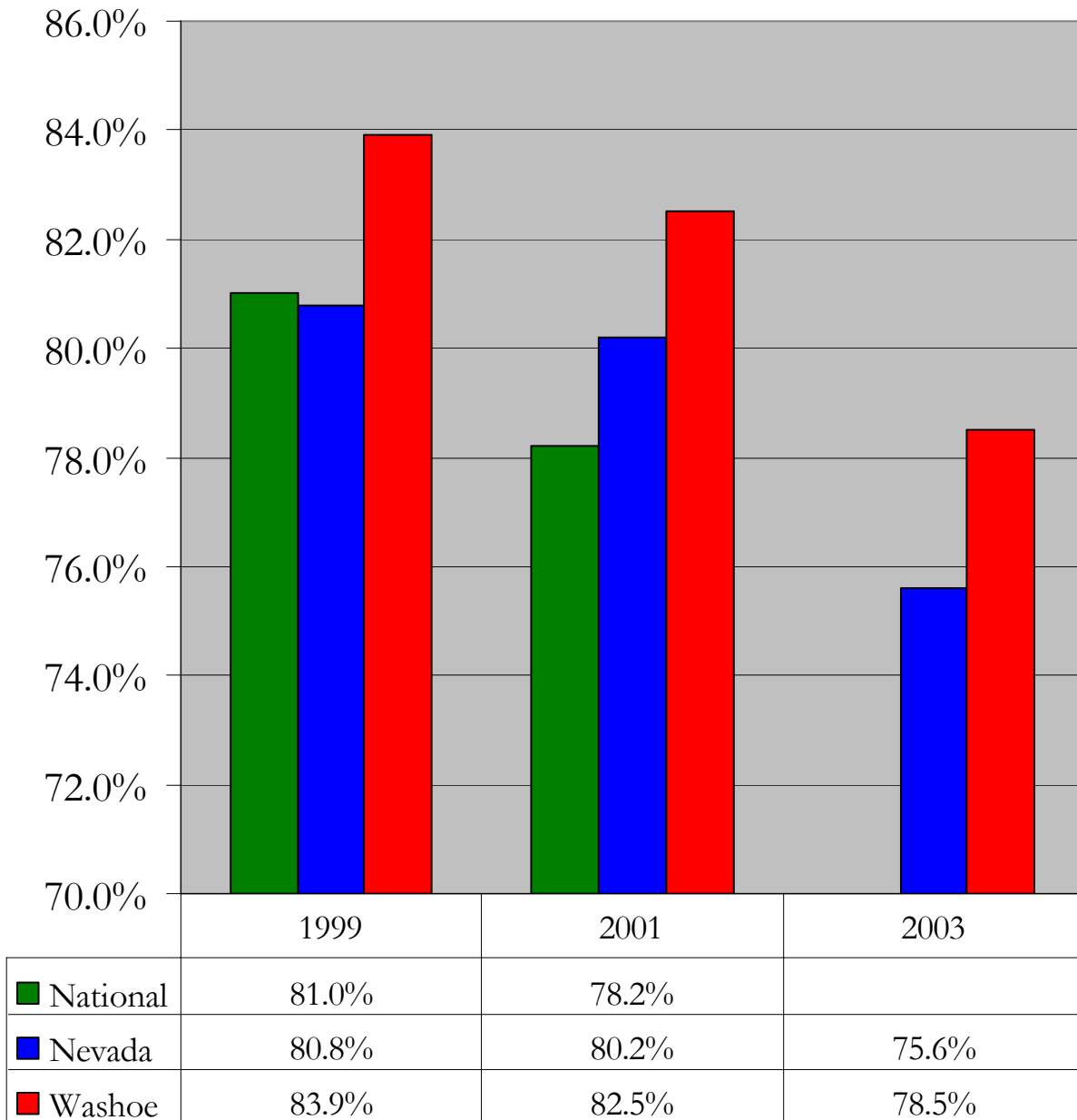
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Age of First Use – Marijuana
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they used marijuana before the age of 13



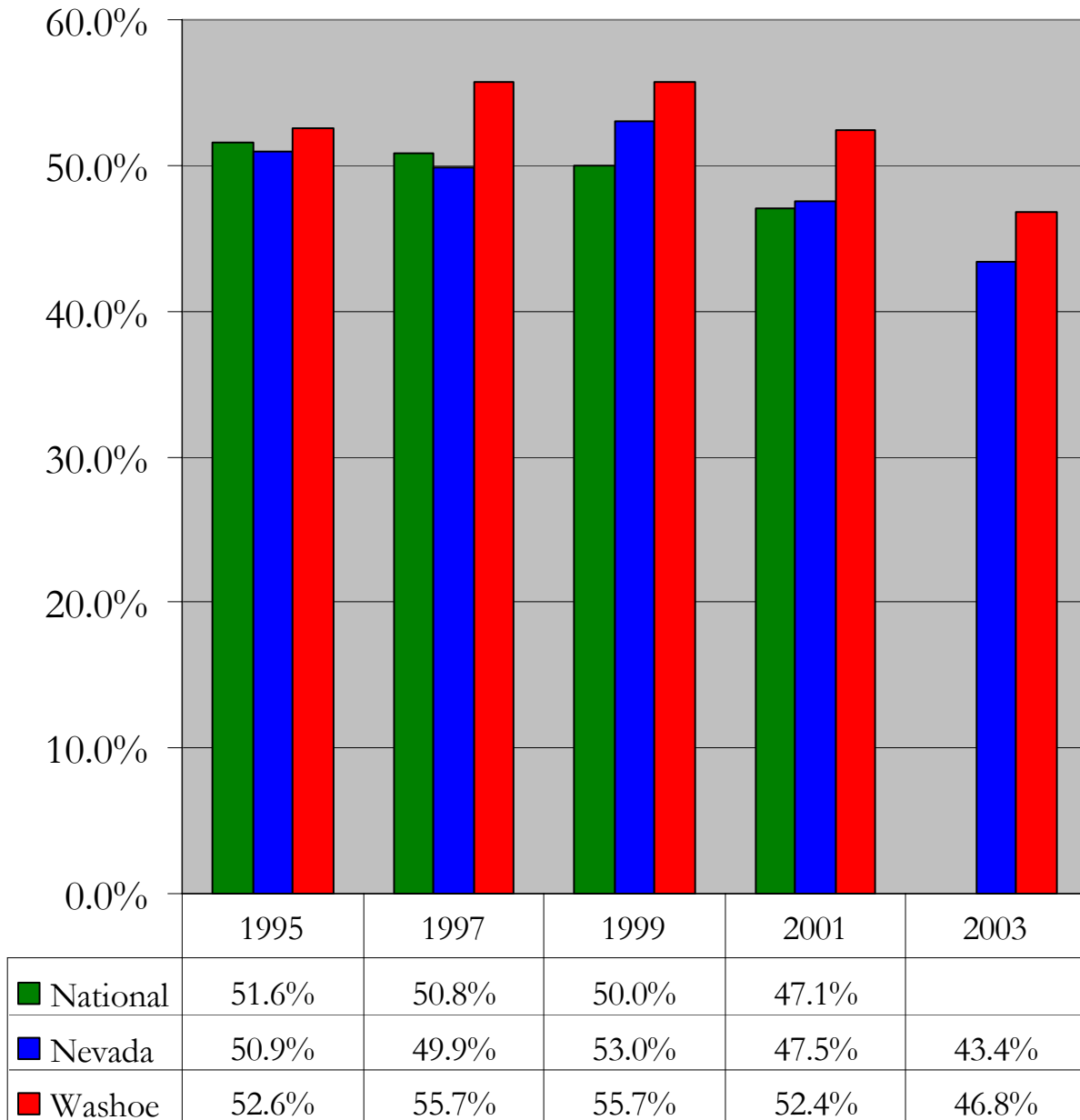
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Alcohol Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever used" alcohol



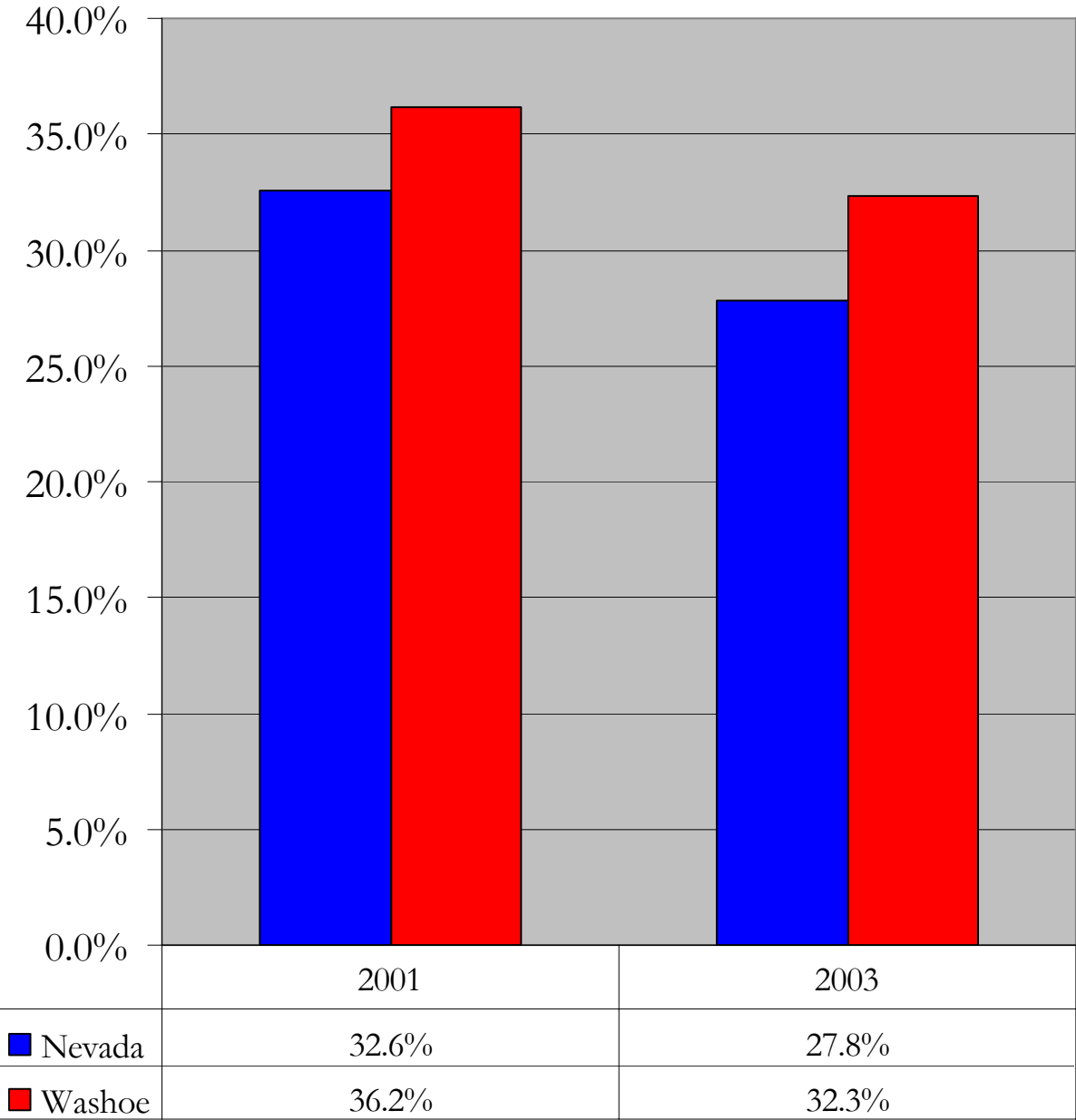
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Current Alcohol Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they drank alcohol in the past 30 days



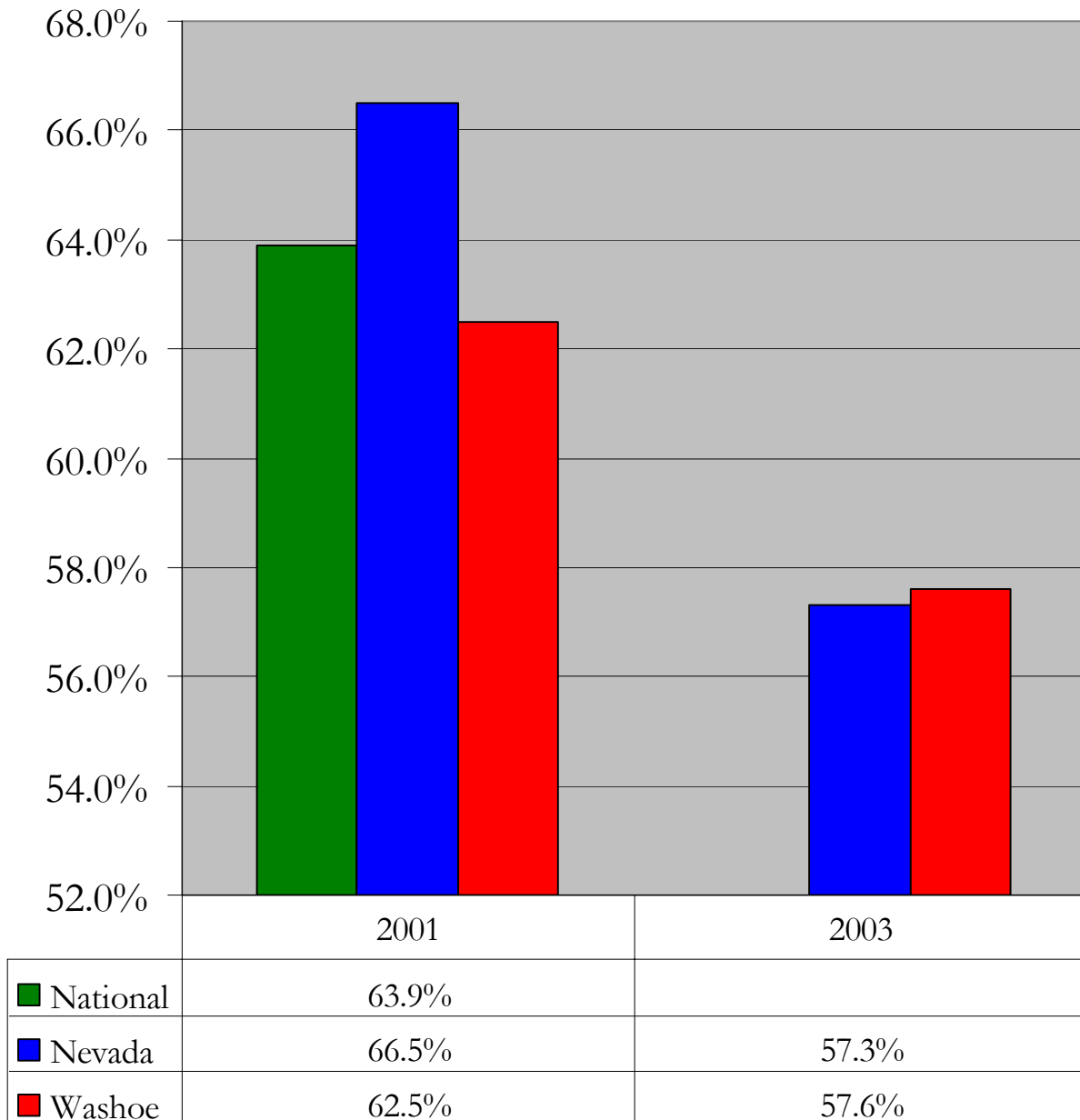
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Current Alcohol Use (Binge Drinking)
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they drank 5 or more drinks in a row in the past 30 days



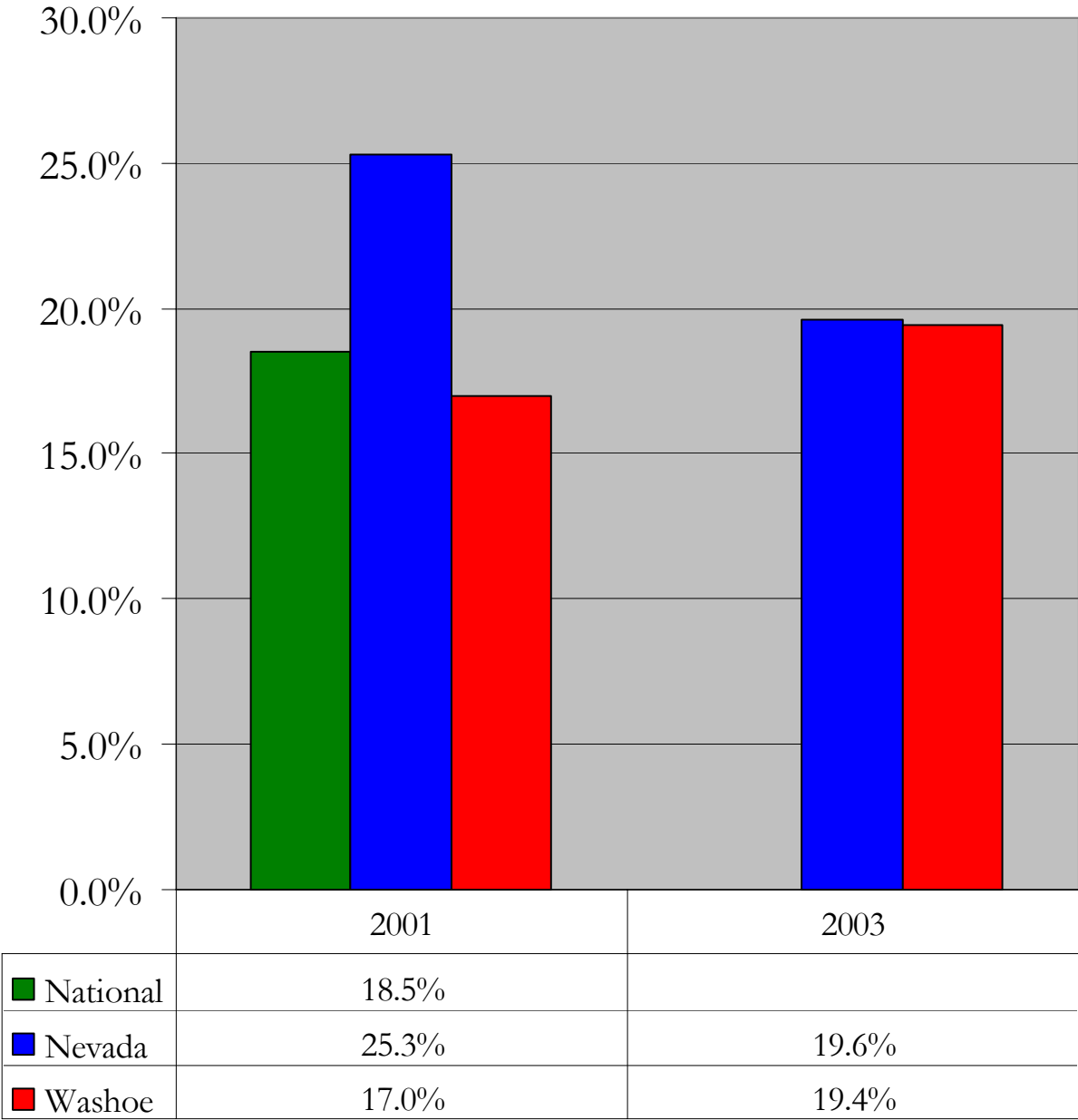
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Smoking
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever used" cigarettes



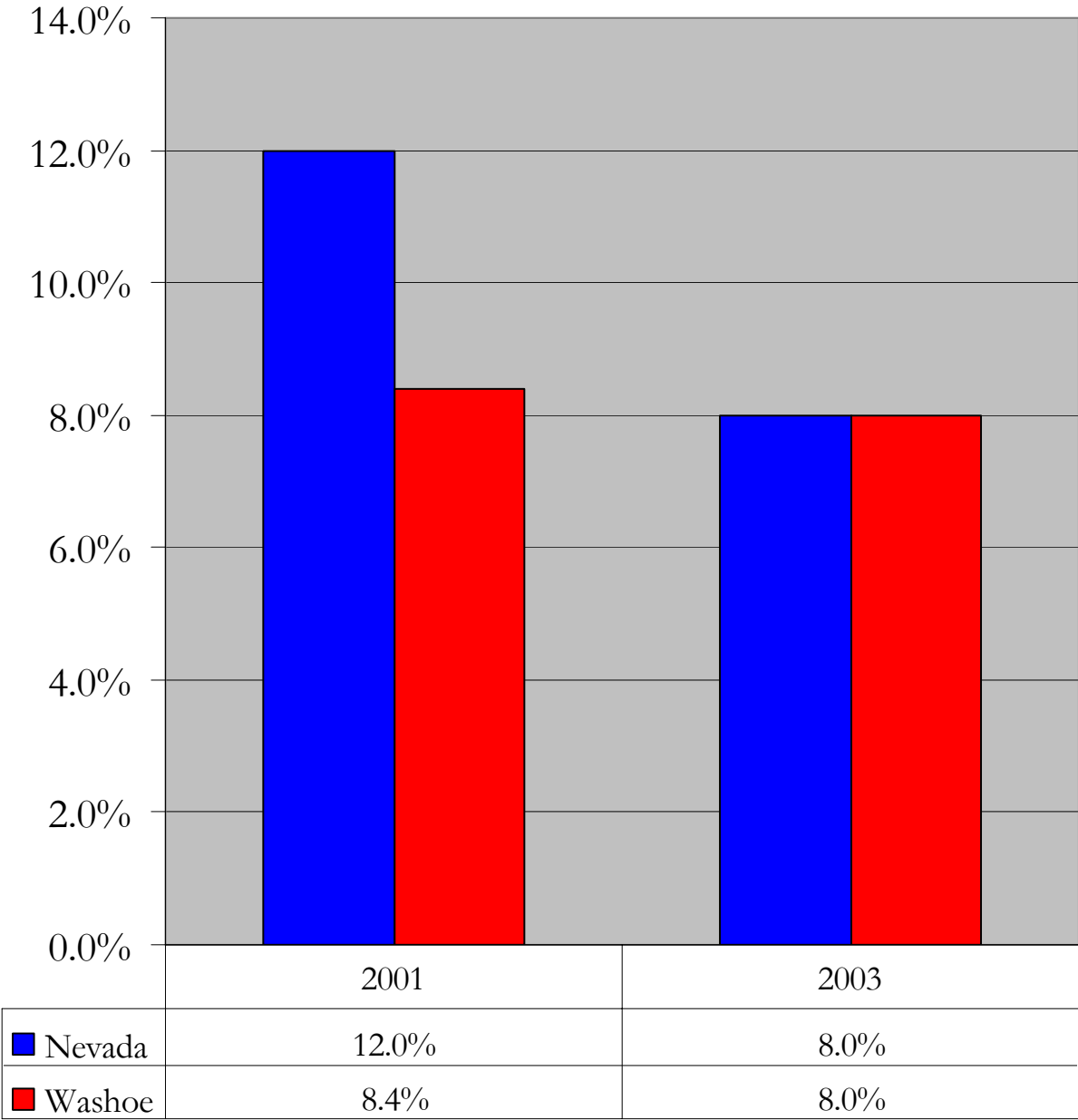
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Current Cigarette Use
 DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days



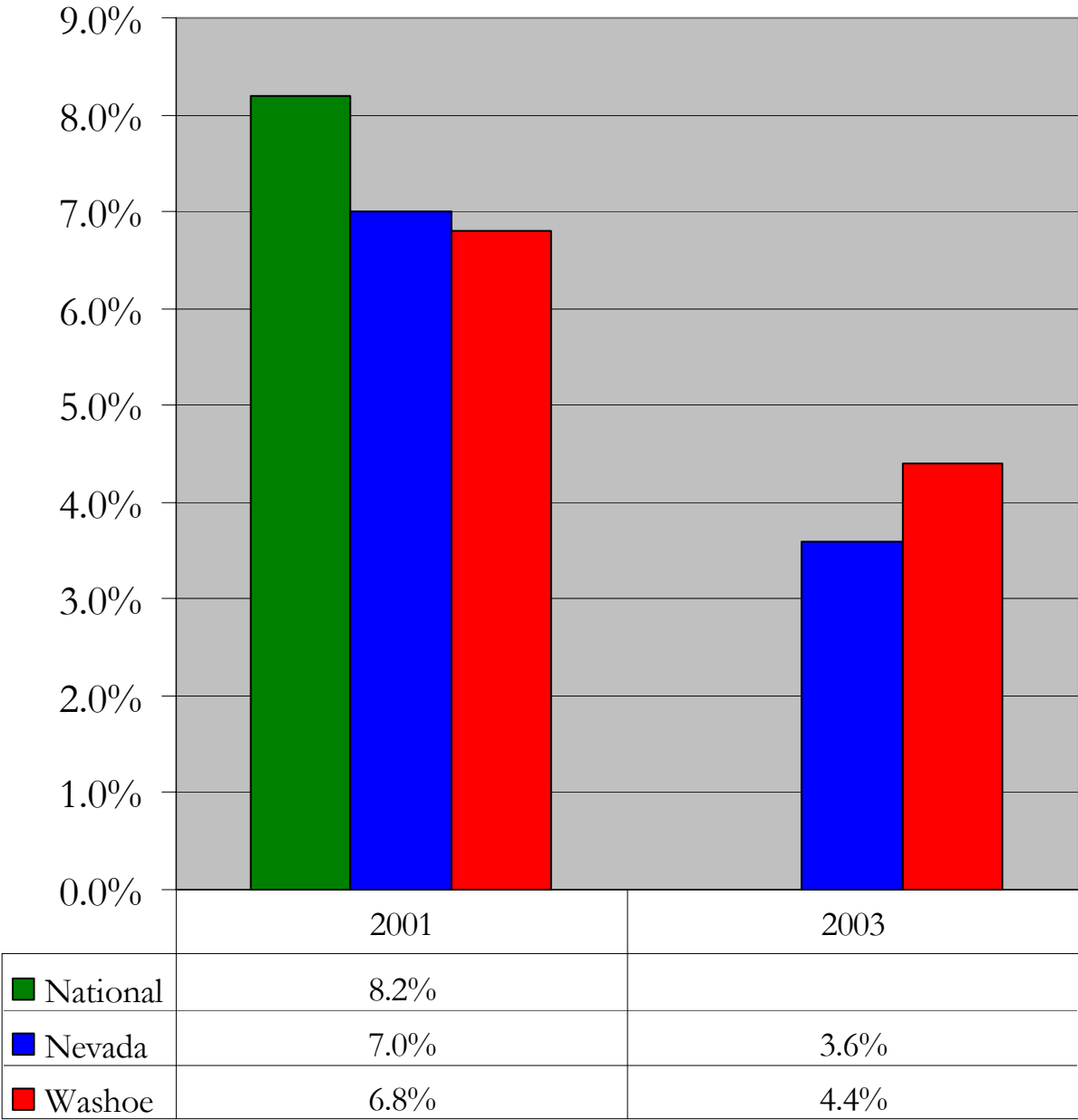
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Cigarette Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school smokers who report that they smoked 10 or more cigarettes on the days that they smoked in the past 30 days



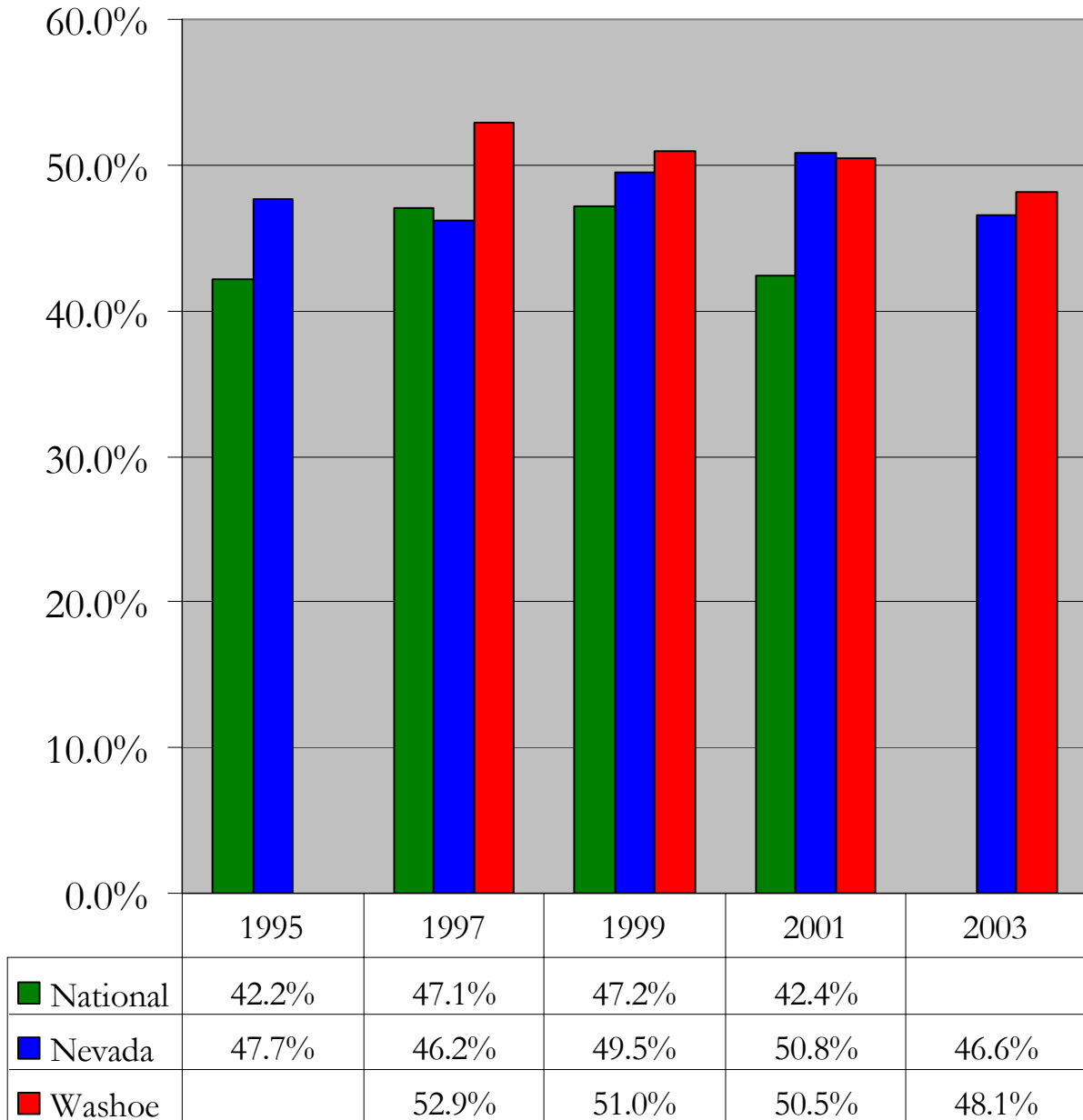
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Current Chewing Tobacco Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they used chewing tobacco in the past 30 days



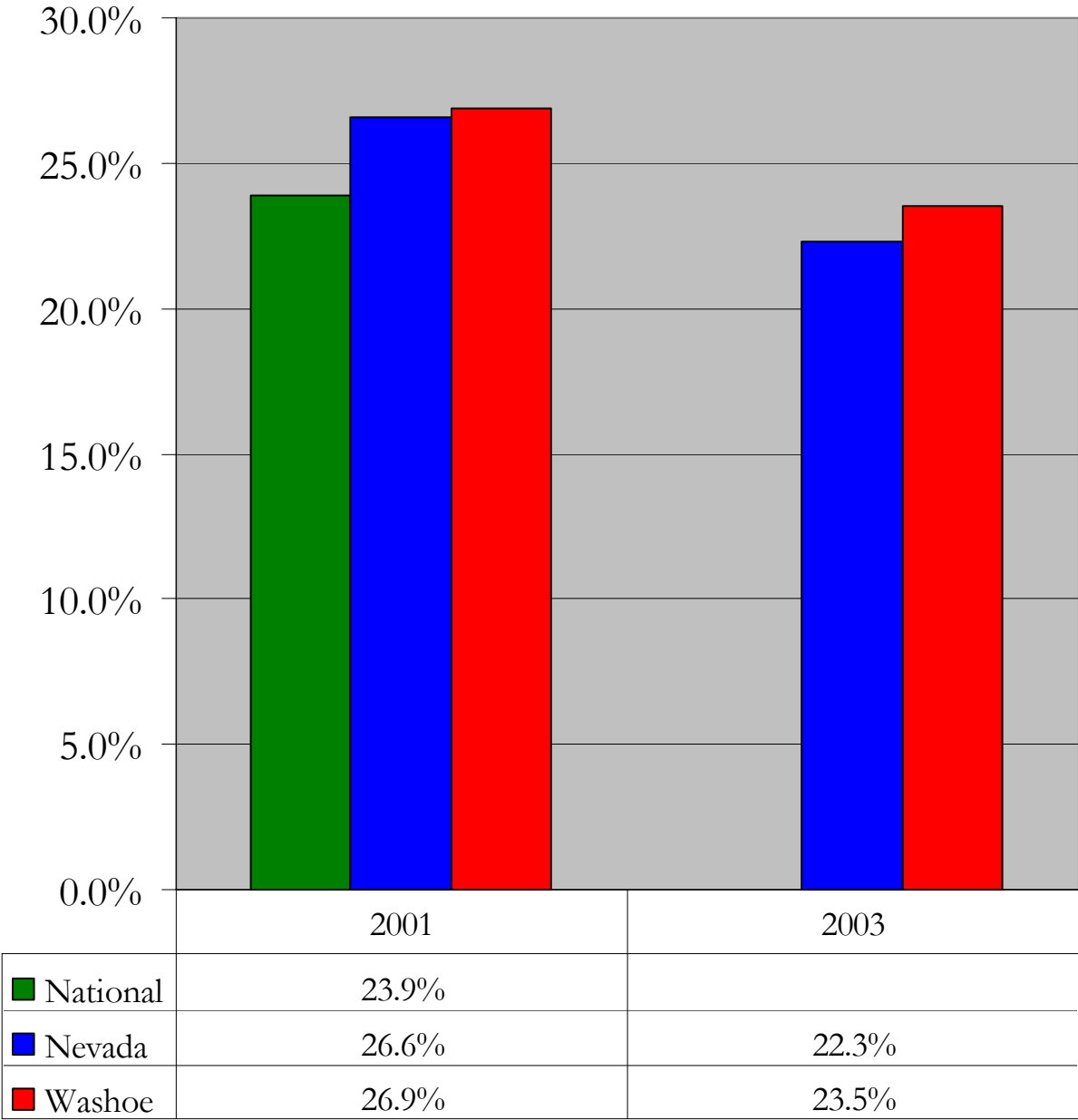
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Marijuana Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever used" marijuana



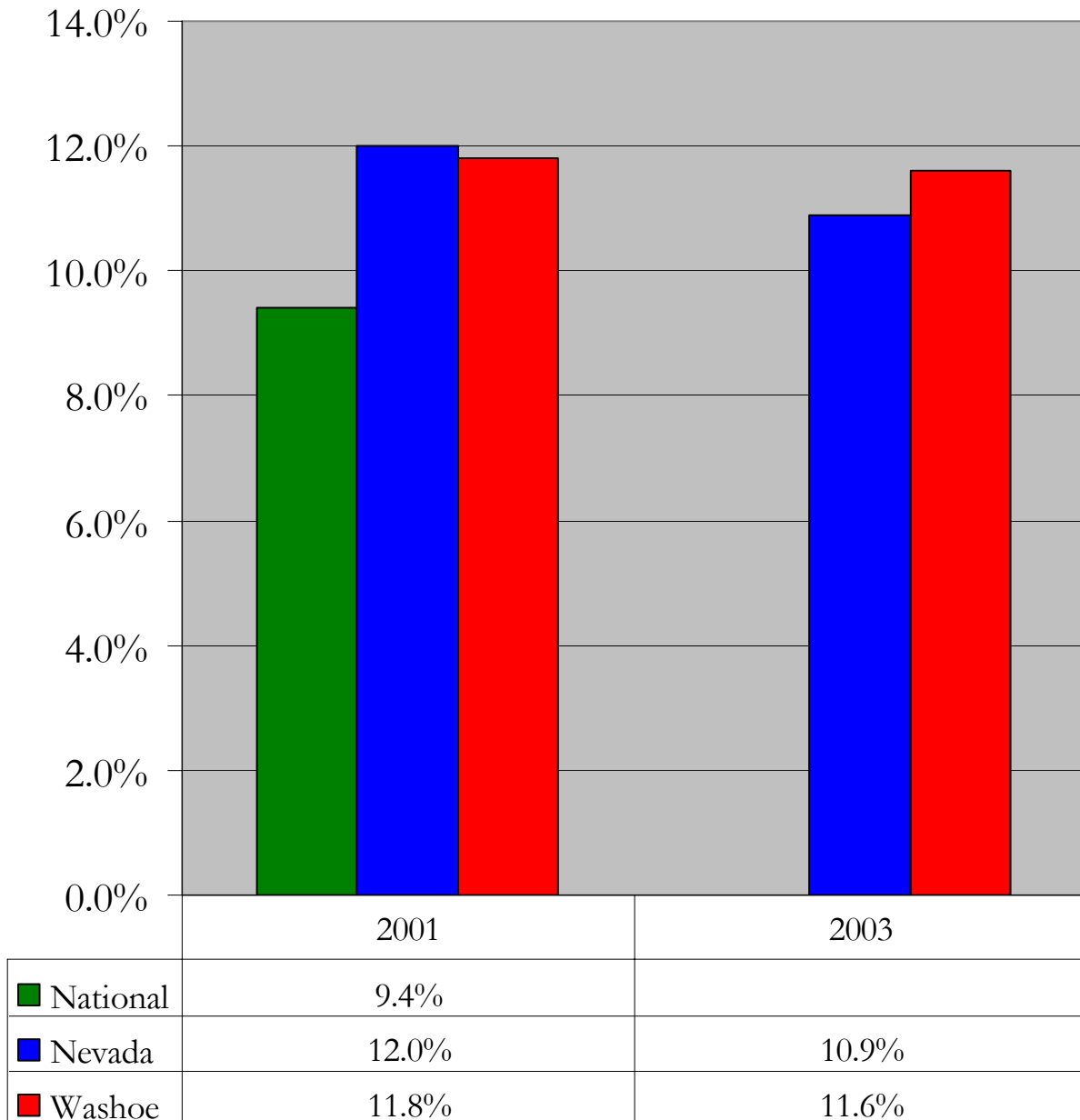
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Current Marijuana Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they used marijuana in the past 30 days



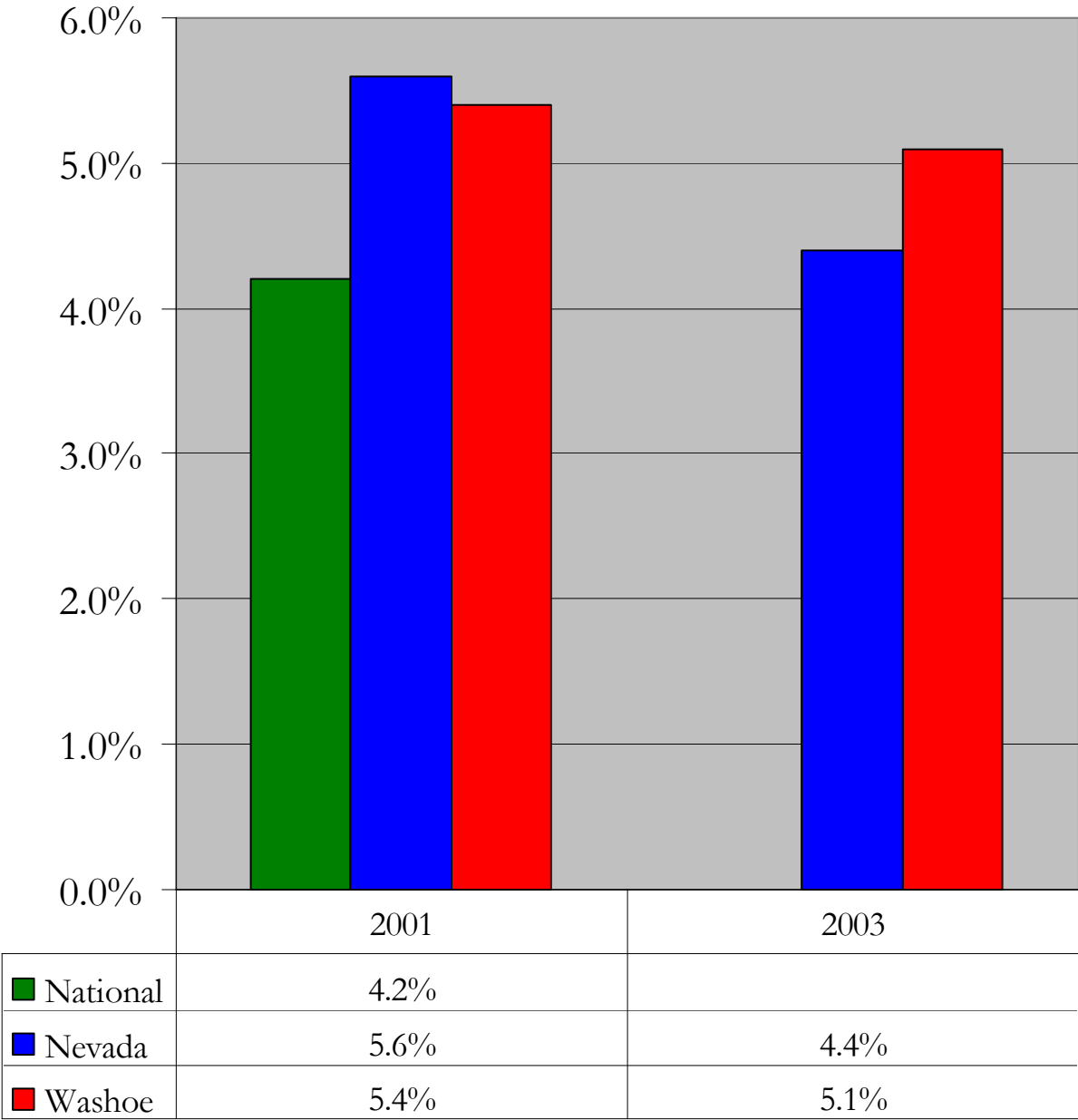
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Cocaine Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever used" cocaine



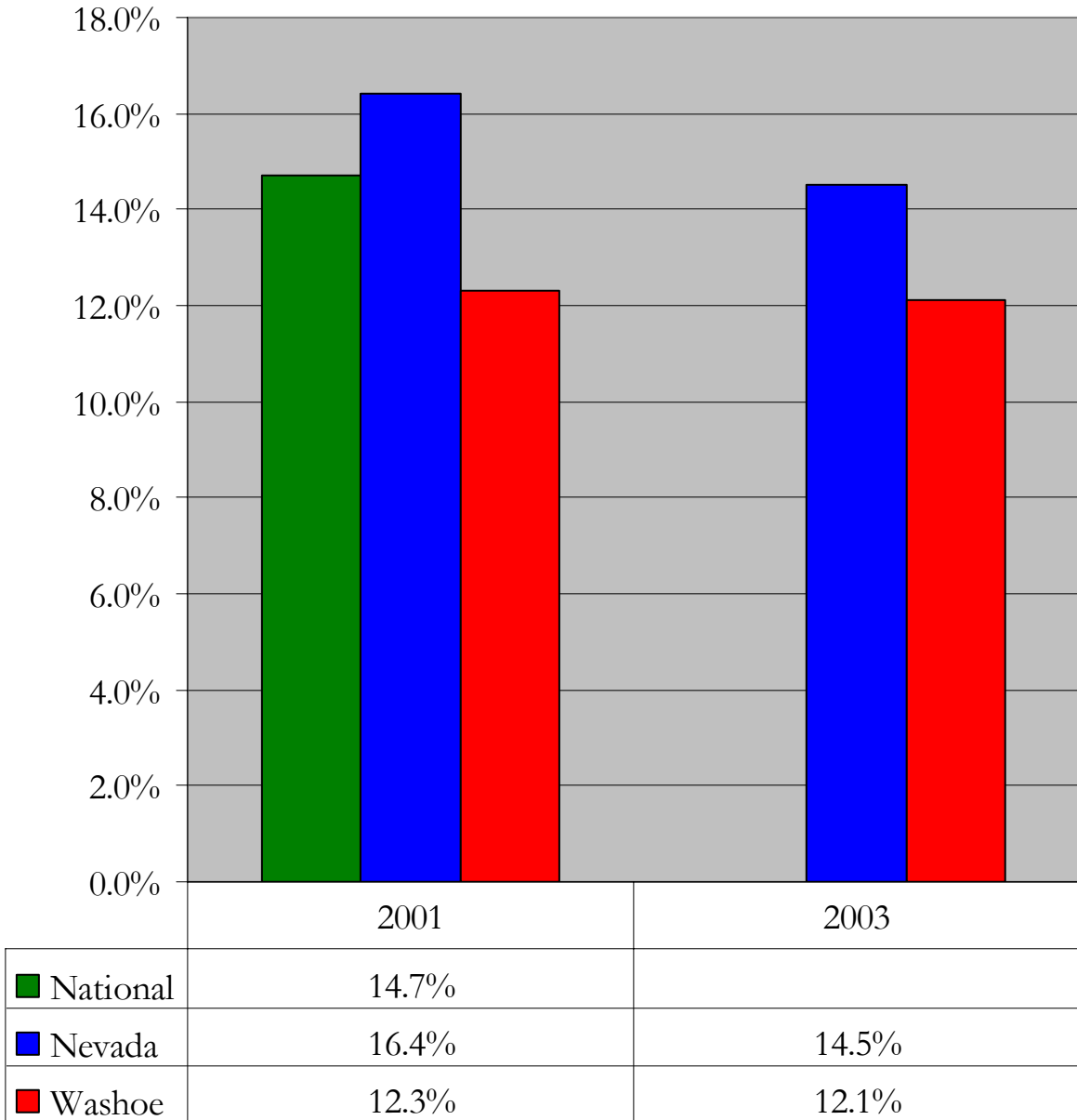
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Current Cocaine Use
 DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they used cocaine in the past 30 days



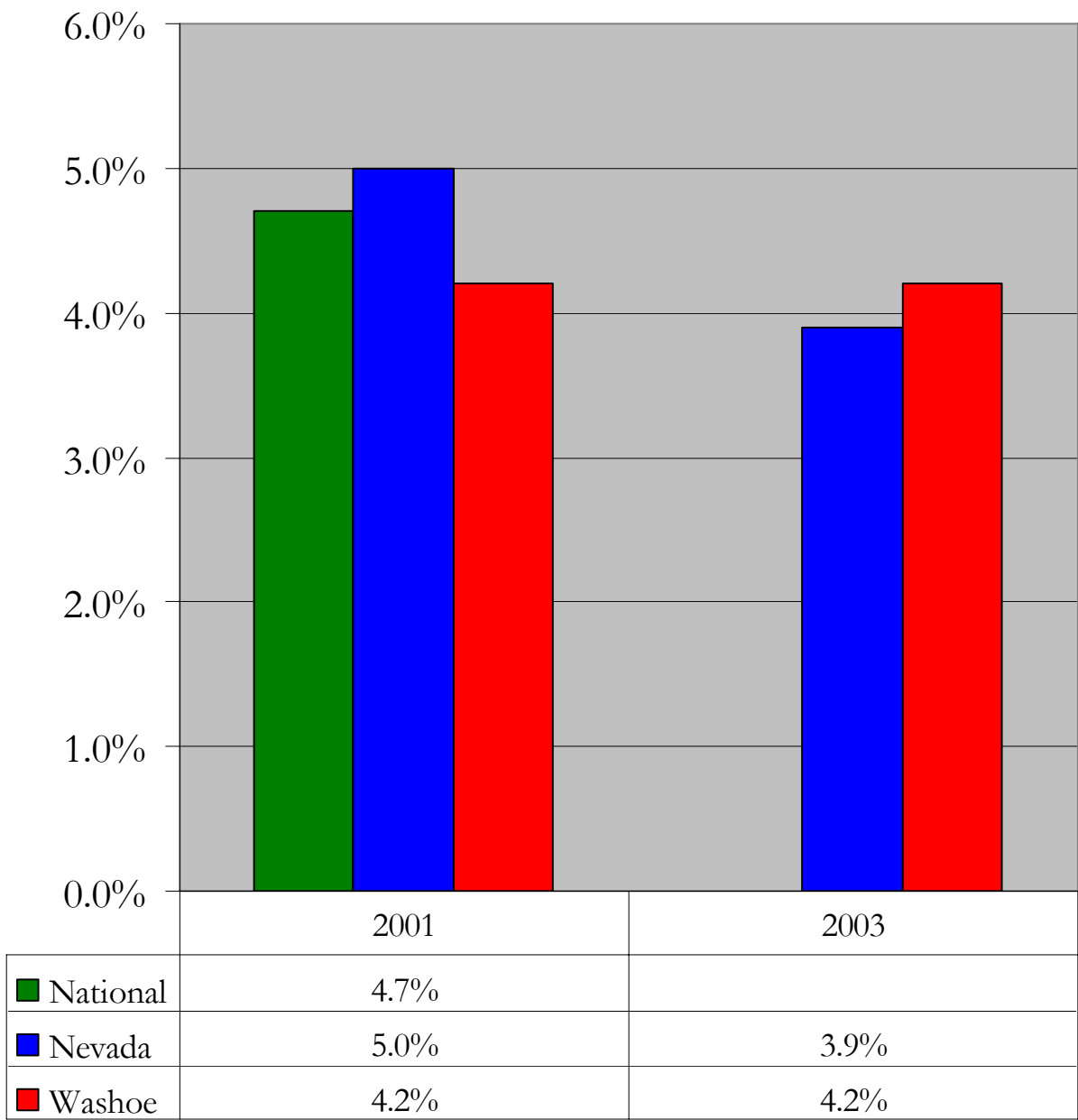
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Sniffing to get High
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever" sniffed paint, glue, etc. to get high



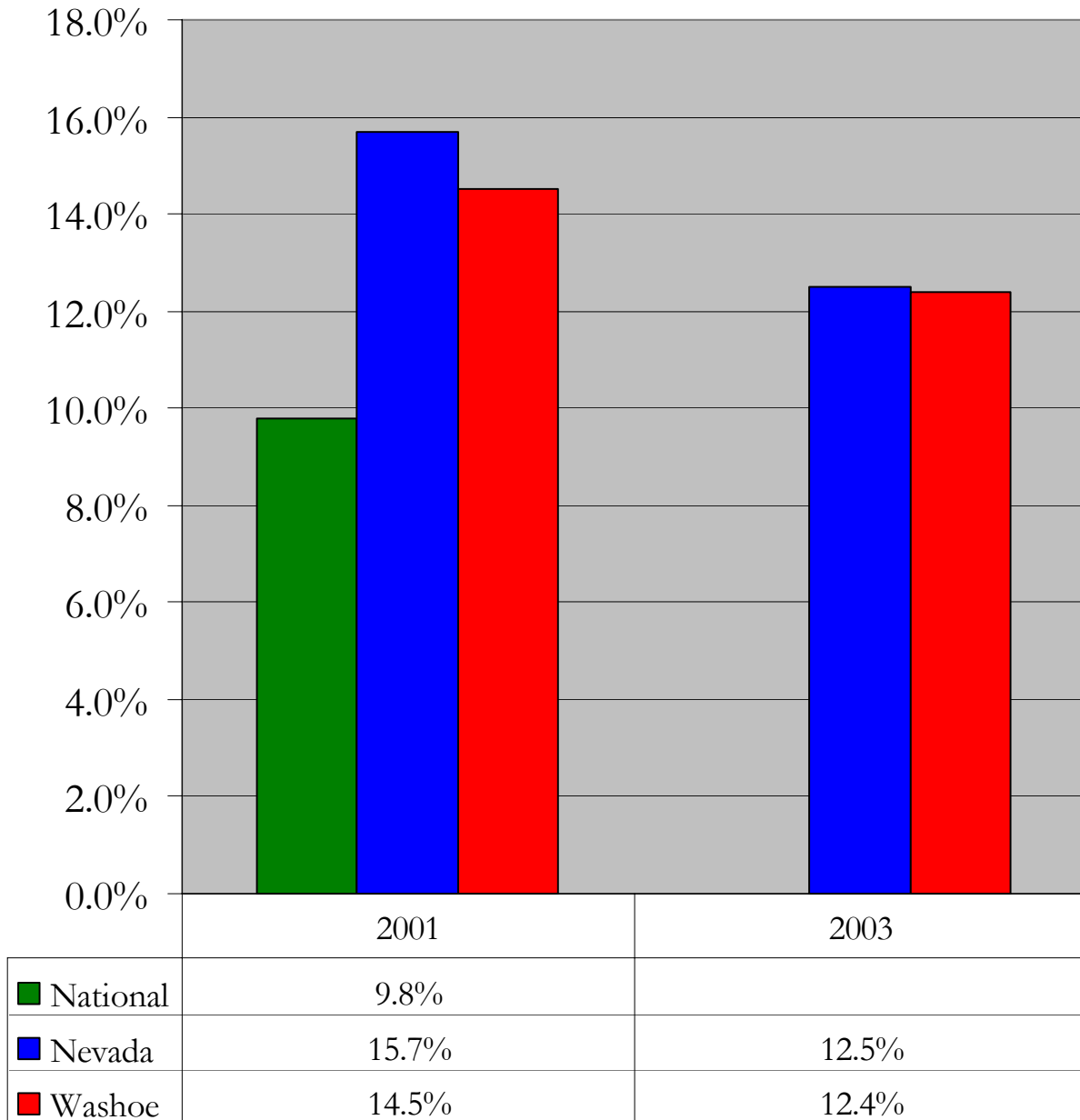
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Current Sniffing Glue, Paint Etc.
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they sniffed glue, paint, etc. to get high in the past 30 days



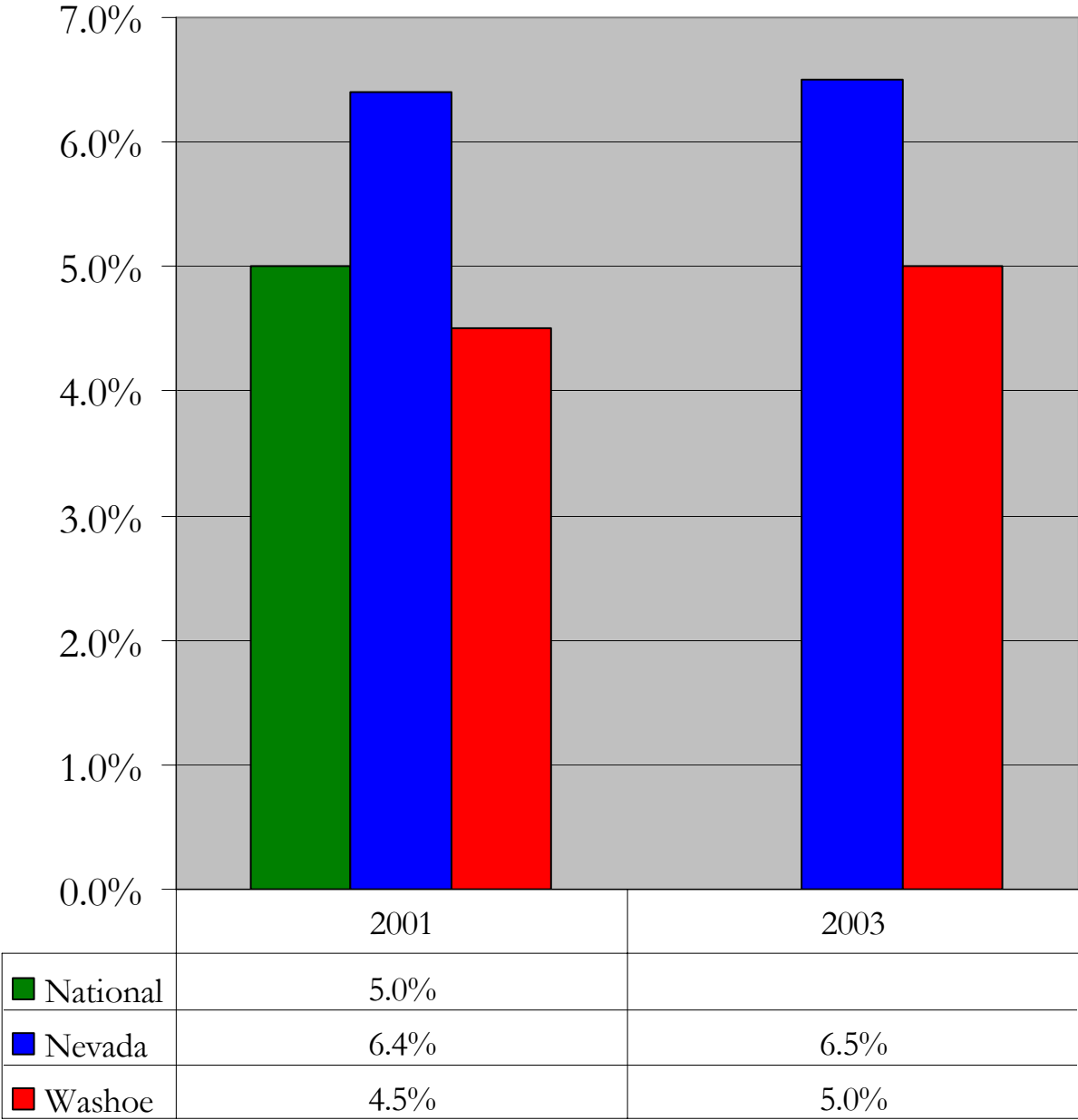
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
 INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Methamphetamine Use
 DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever used" methamphetamines



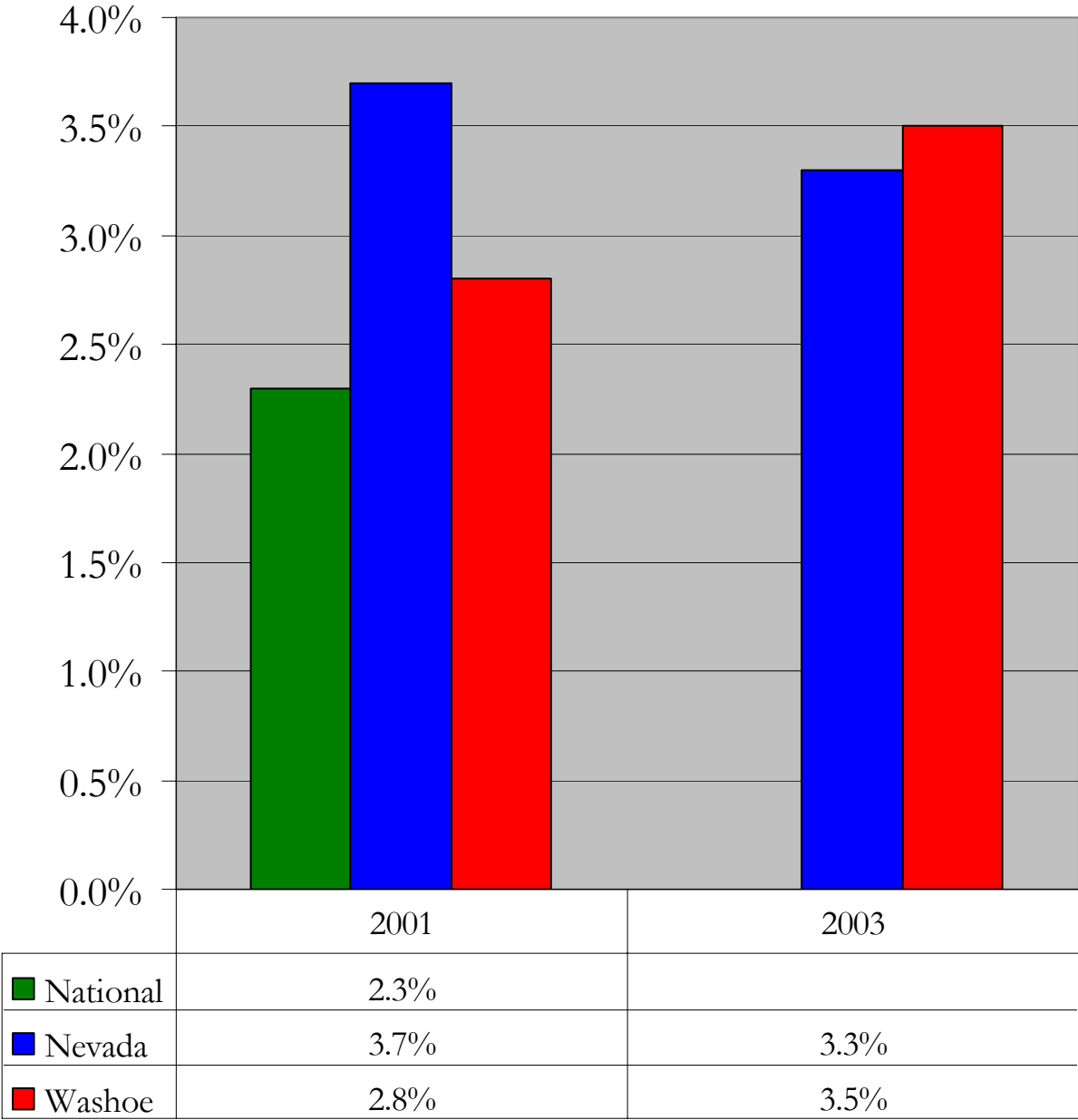
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Steroid Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever used" steroids



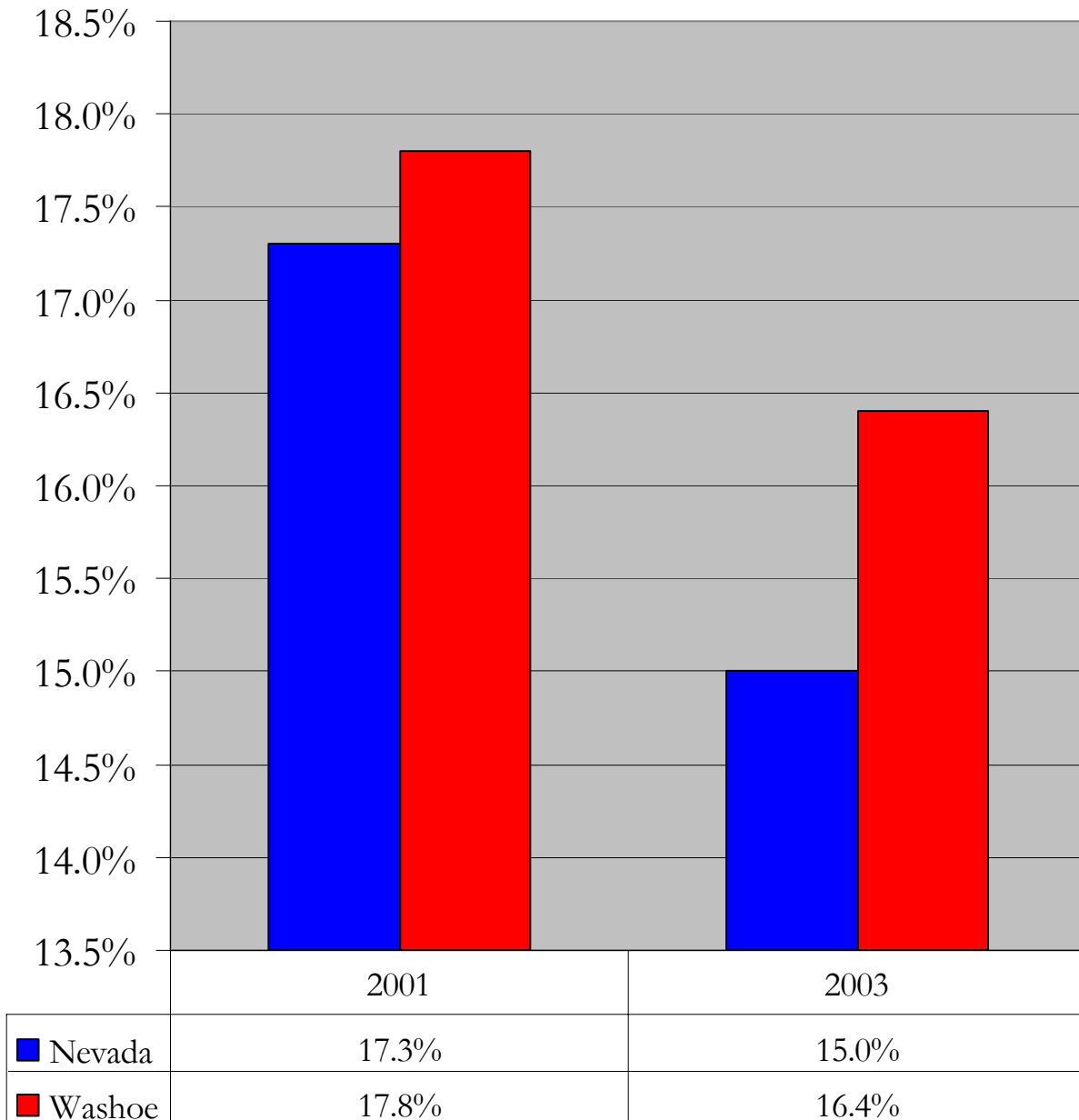
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Injection Drug Use
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever used" injection drugs



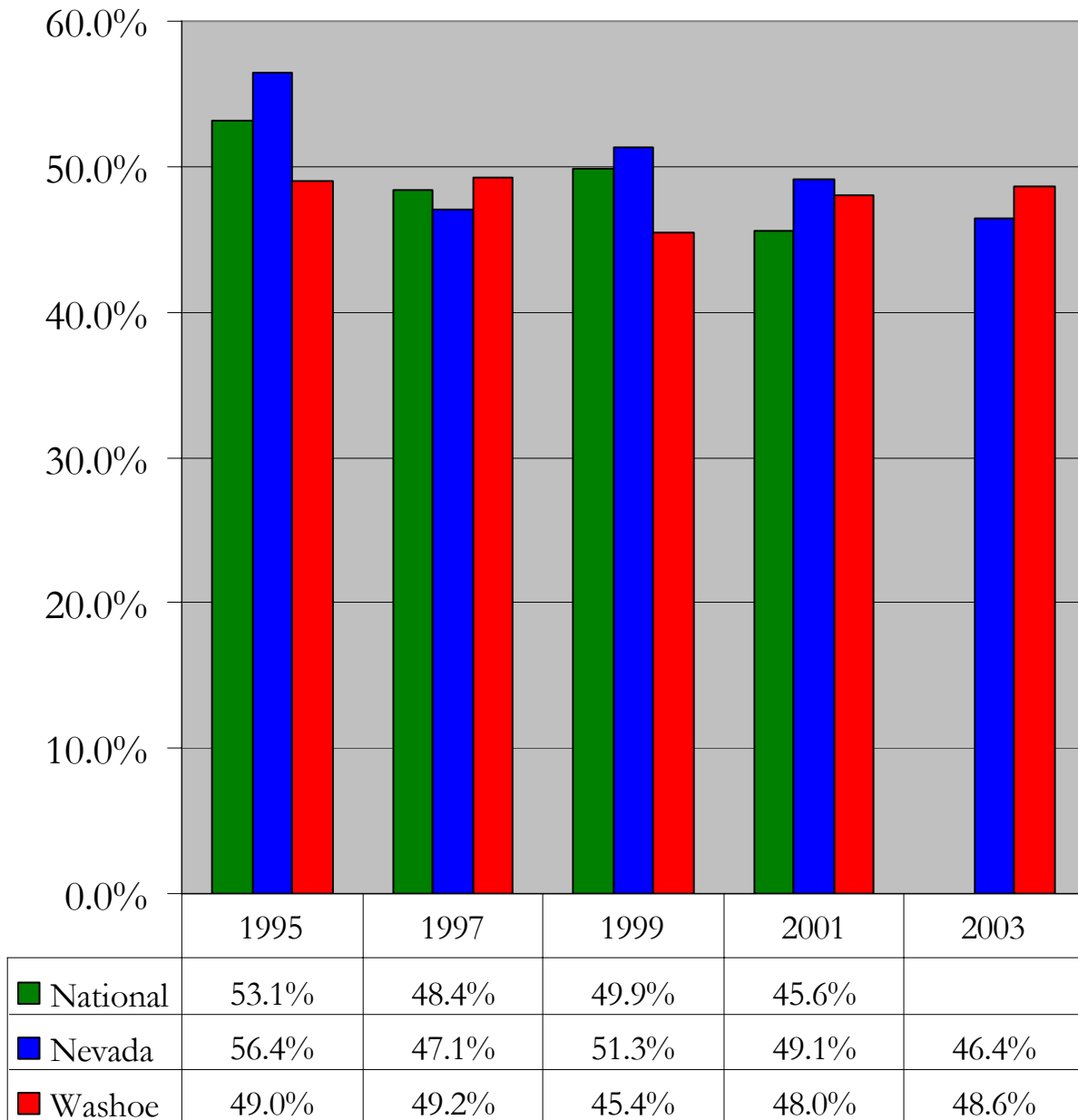
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Lifetime Prevalence of Other Illegal Drugs
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have "ever used" other illegal drugs



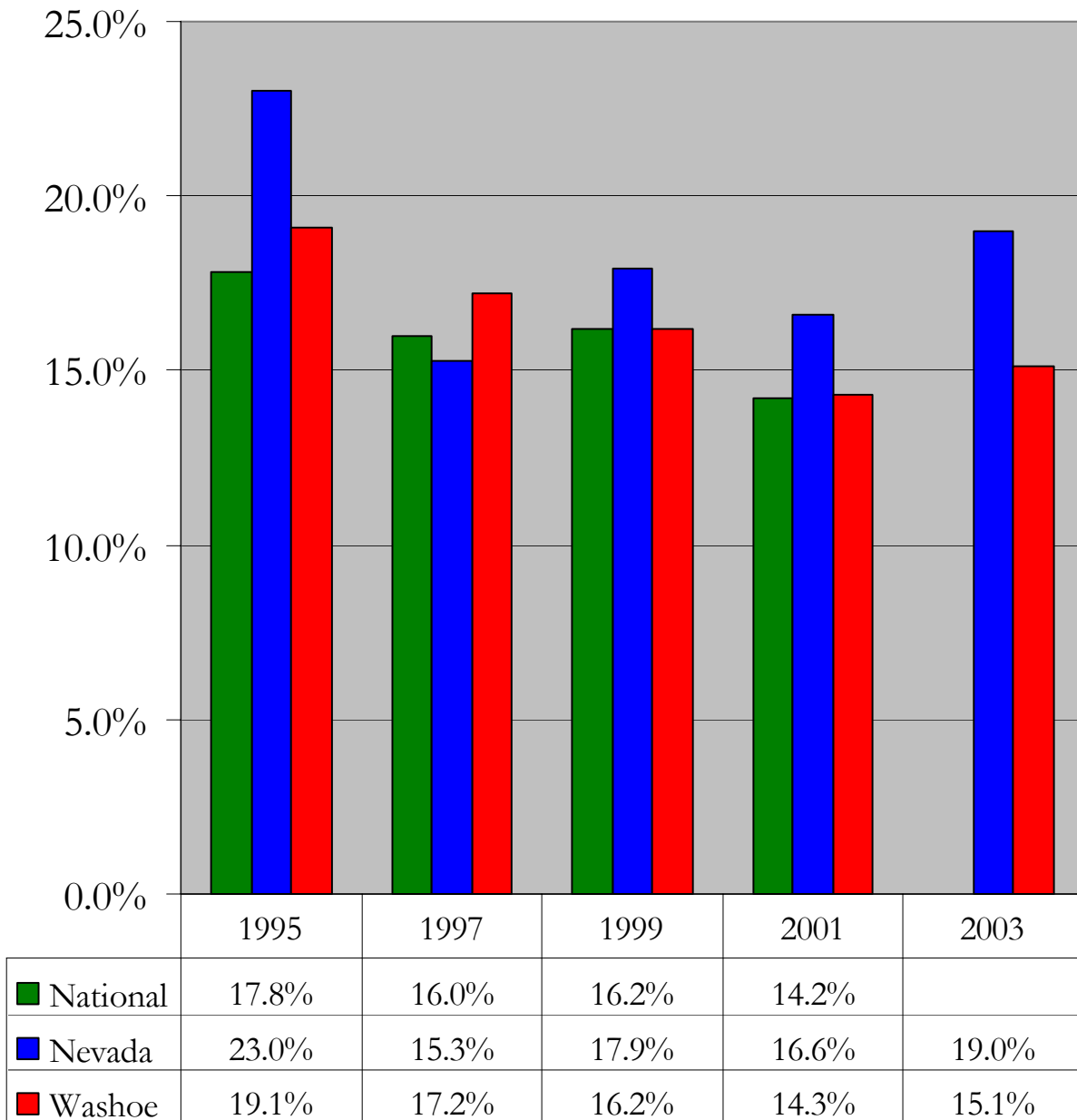
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Sexual Intercourse
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have ever had sexual intercourse



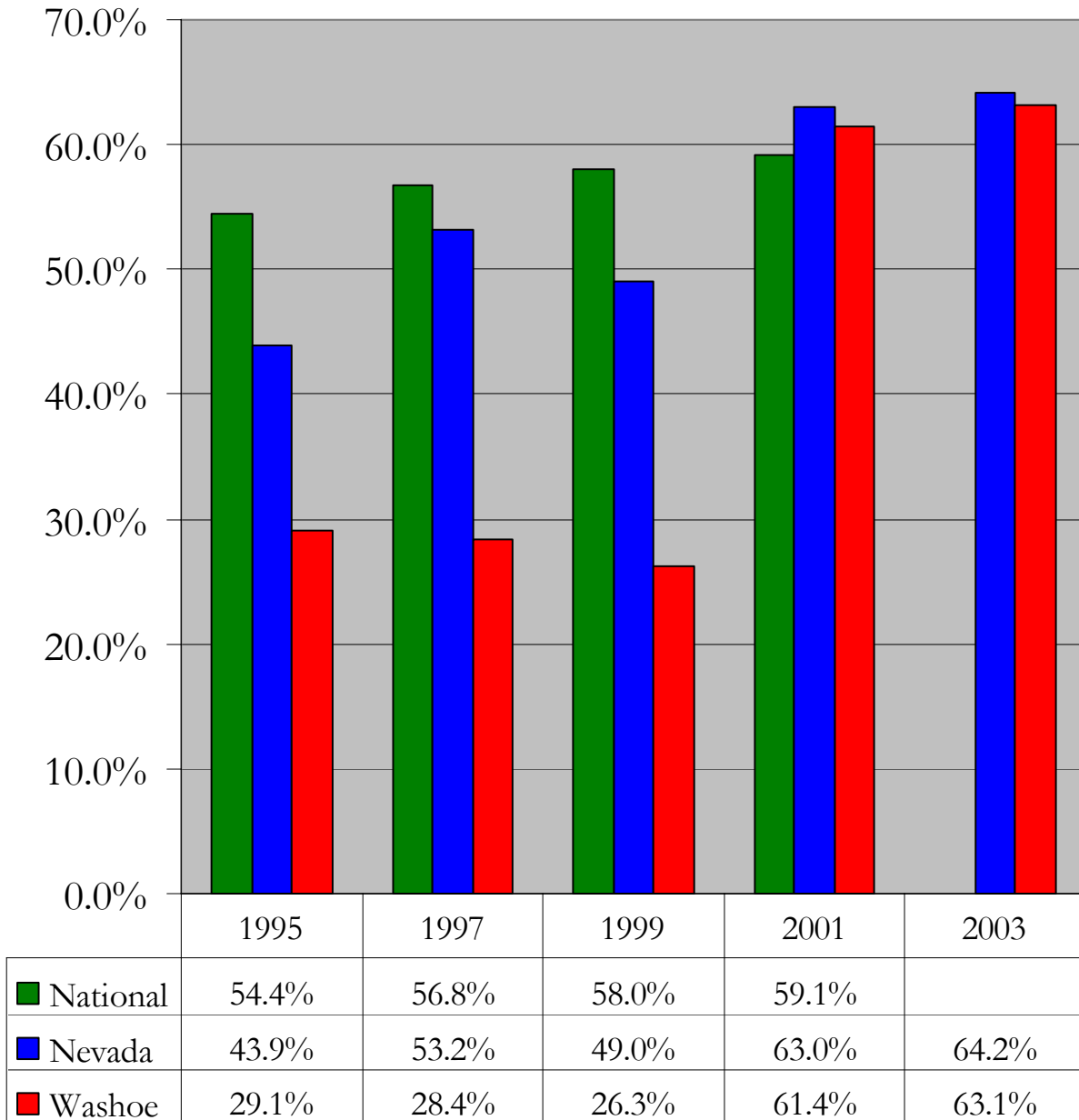
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Sexual Intercourse with 4 or more Partners
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they have had sexual intercourse with 4 or more partners



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

RISK FACTOR: Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
INDICATOR: Used a Condom at Last Sexual Intercourse
DEFINITION: Percent of high school students who report that they used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey