

Washoe County Community Needs Assessment - 2008

Join Together Northern Nevada

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to define and collect data related to substance use, perceptions, and behaviors in Washoe County. This report is divided into the following sections: Washoe County Demographics, Safety/Security/Violence/Suicide, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs. Within these substances, usage patterns, age of onset, sources of access, resultant behaviors, and perceptions are analyzed.

JTNN wishes to thank its many community partners for assisting us with gathering this data. Specifically, this report would not have been possible without data provided by the Washoe County School District, the Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, the University of Nevada, Reno, the Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services, the Washoe County Sherriff's Office, the Reno Police Department, the Nevada Department of Transportation, and many coalition partners who assisted in administering the Nevada Convenience Survey to community members.

Washoe County Demographics

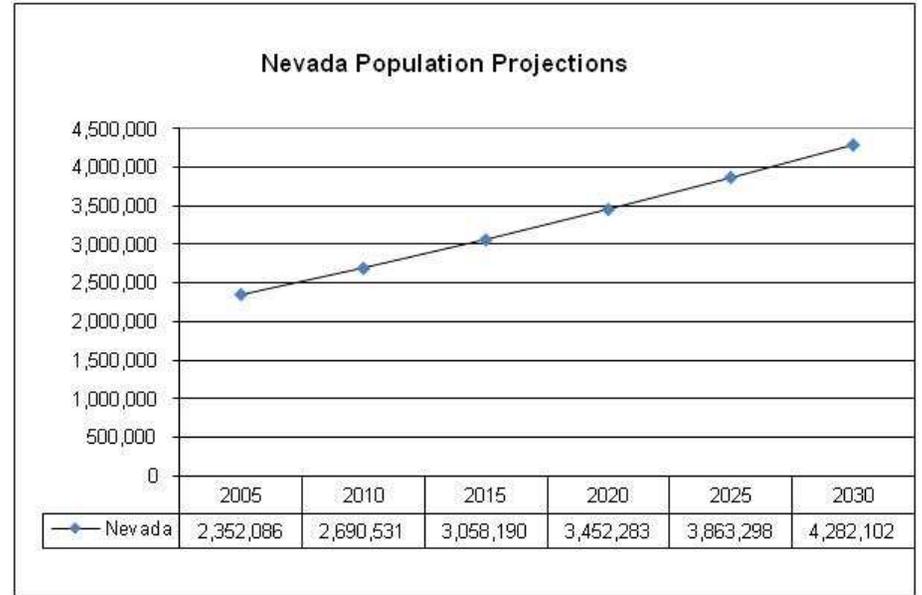
Source: US Census Bureau

	Washoe County	Nevada
Population (2006 Estimate)	396,428	2,495,529

Ethnicity	Washoe County	Nevada
White – not Hispanic	68.9%	58.9%
Hispanic/Latino	20.3%	24.4%
Black/African American	2.4%	7.9%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1.9%	1.4%
Asian	4.9%	6.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.5%

Age Distribution	Washoe County	Clark County
0-9	13.4%	14.7%
10-19	13.6%	13.3%
20-34	20.6%	22.3%
35-54	29.3%	28.7%
55-64	11.7%	10.6%
65+	11.4%	10.4%

Source: US Census Bureau

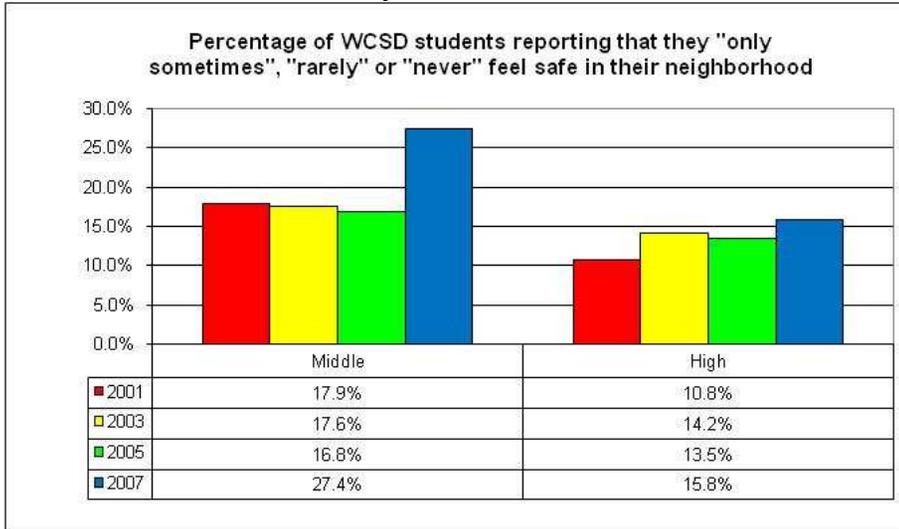


Safety/Security/Violence/Suicide – Significant Findings

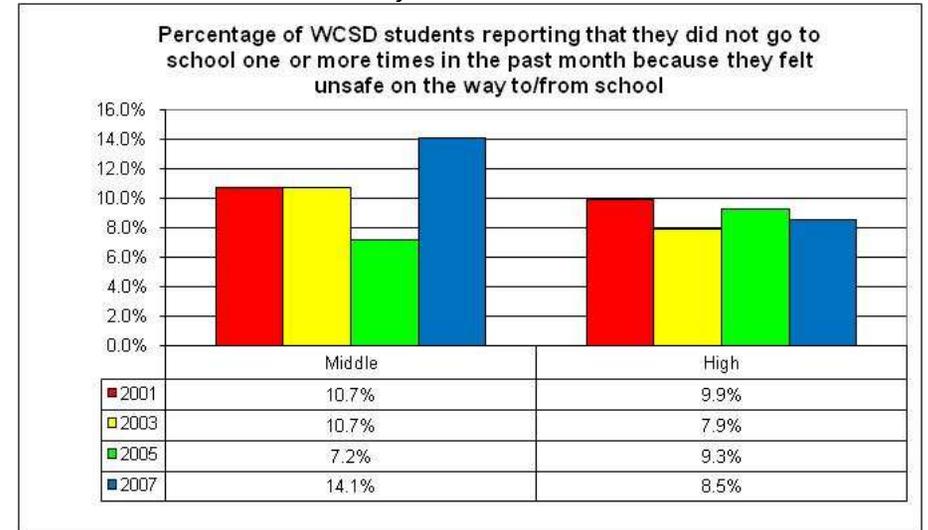
- On the whole, students are feeling less safe and secure in their school and neighborhood environments, especially at the middle school level. These feelings of insecurity are contributing to absenteeism. While weapons are less prevalent in Washoe County schools than elsewhere in the state, gang activity is more prevalent locally. Of grave concern is the increase in the percentage of high school students who have attempted suicide.
- The % of high school students who “never”, “rarely”, or “only sometimes” feel safe and secure in their neighborhood increased from 10.8% in 2001 to 15.8% in 2007. Washoe County high school students were more likely to respond affirmatively to this question than their counterparts. The % of high school students who “never”, “rarely”, or “only sometimes” feel safe and secure at school decreased from 25.1% in 2001 to 20.4% in 2007, though this number increased slightly from 2005 to 2007. Washoe youth were less likely to report not feeling safe at school than their statewide counterparts. At the middle school level, students are feeling less and less safe and secure at school; the % of middle school students who “never”, “rarely”, or “only sometimes” feel safe and secure at school increased from 20.3% in 2001 to 29.8% in 2007.
- The % of high school students who “never”, “rarely”, or “only sometimes” feel safe and secure at school decreased from 25.1% in 2001 to 20.4% in 2007, though this number increased slightly from 2005 to 2007. Washoe youth were less likely to report not feeling safe at school than their statewide counterparts. At the middle school level, students are feeling less and less safe and secure at school; the % of middle school students who “never”, “rarely”, or “only sometimes” feel safe and secure at school increased from 20.3% in 2001 to 29.8% in 2007.
- The percentage of Washoe County middle school students who report that they did not go to school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe almost doubled from 7.2% in 2005 to 14.1% in 2007. This number is much higher in Washoe County than statewide (14.1% compared to 10.7%).
- The percentage of Washoe Middle school students who report “only sometimes”, “rarely”, or “never” feeling accepted at school increased considerably from 22.8% in 2005 to 32.0% in 2007.

Safety/Security/Violence/Suicide

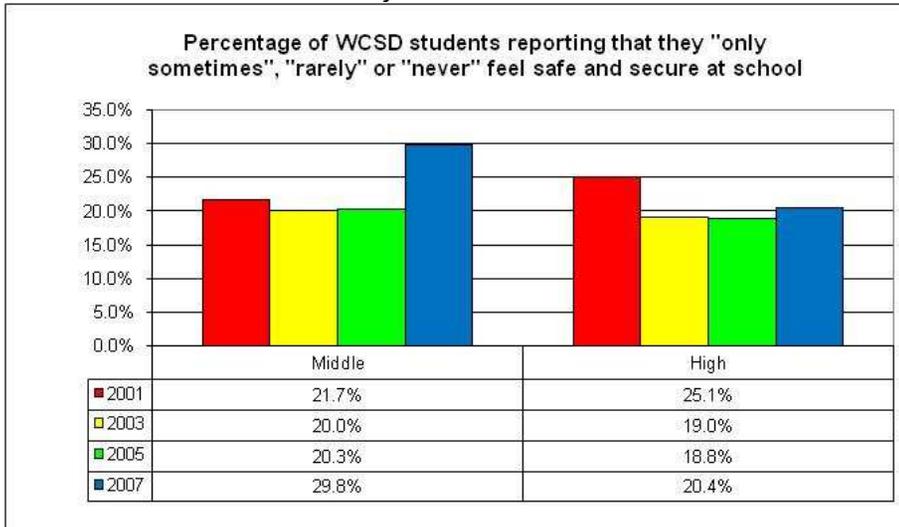
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



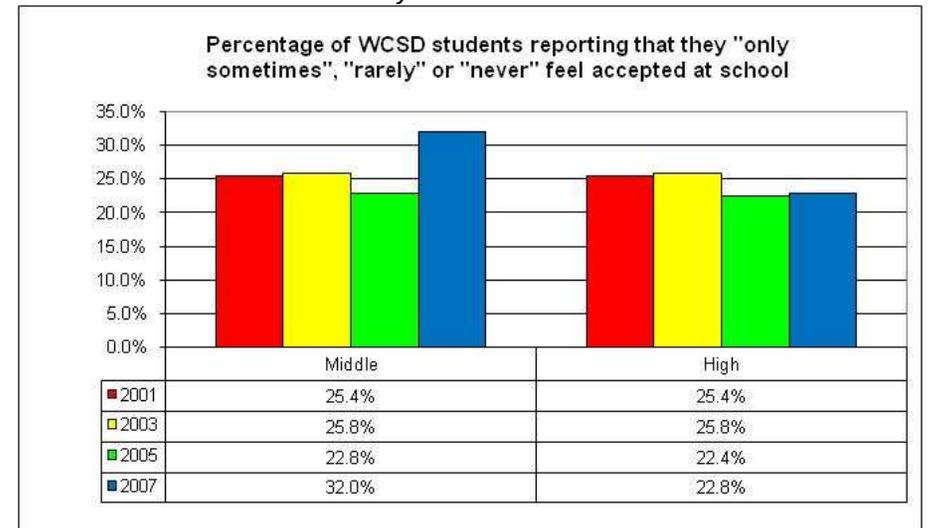
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

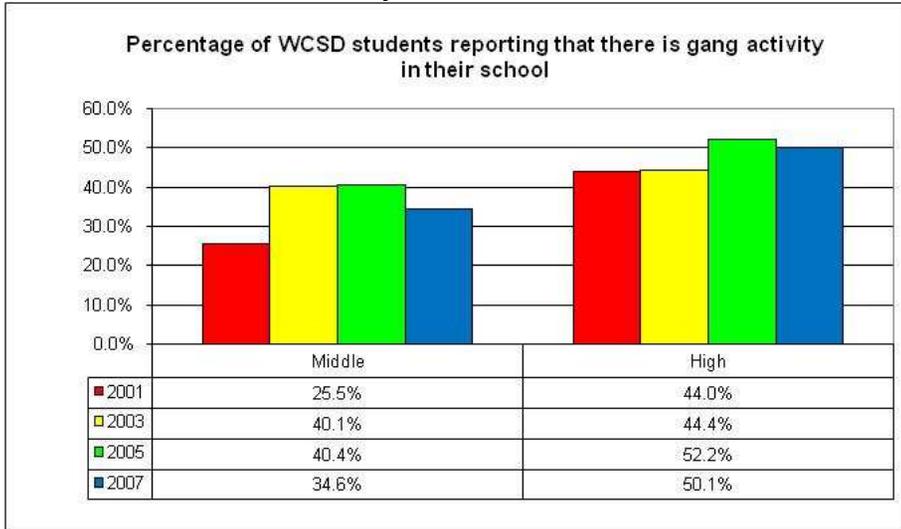


Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

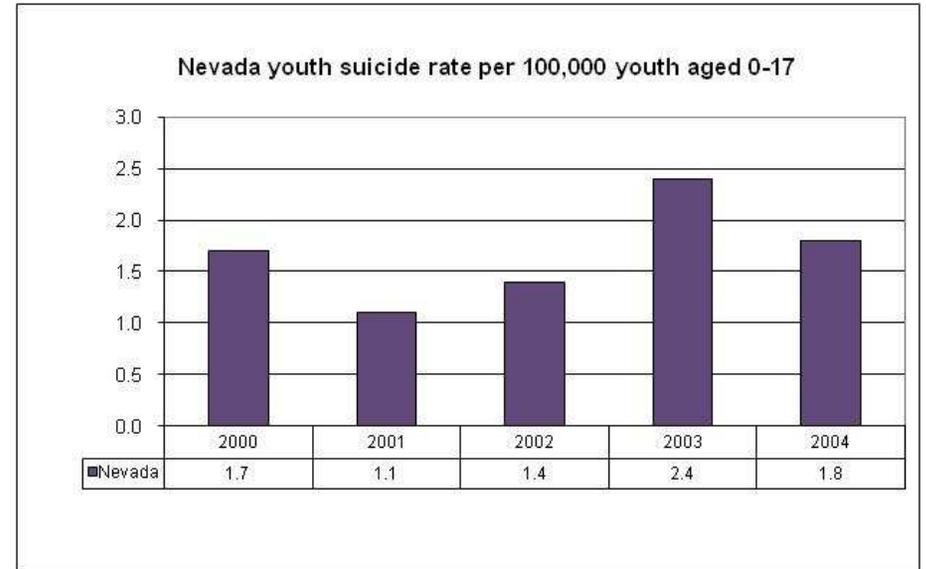


Safety/Security/Violence/Suicide

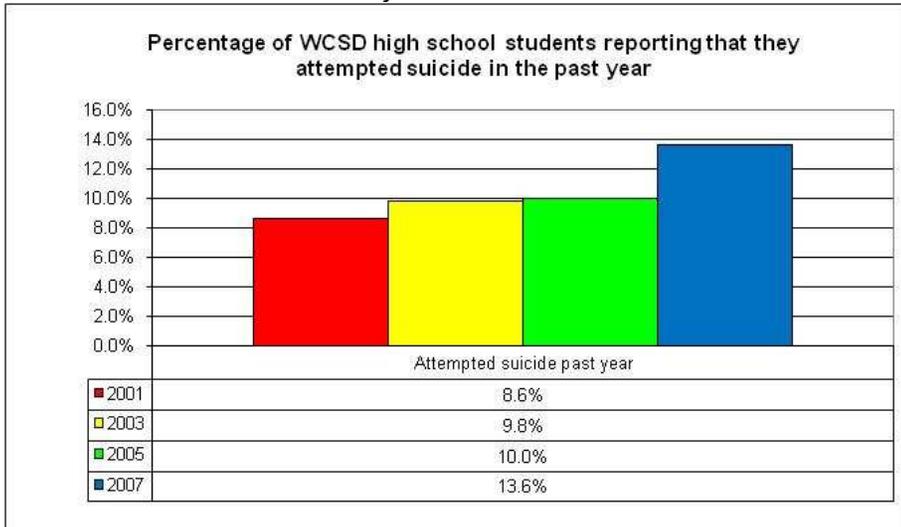
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



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Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

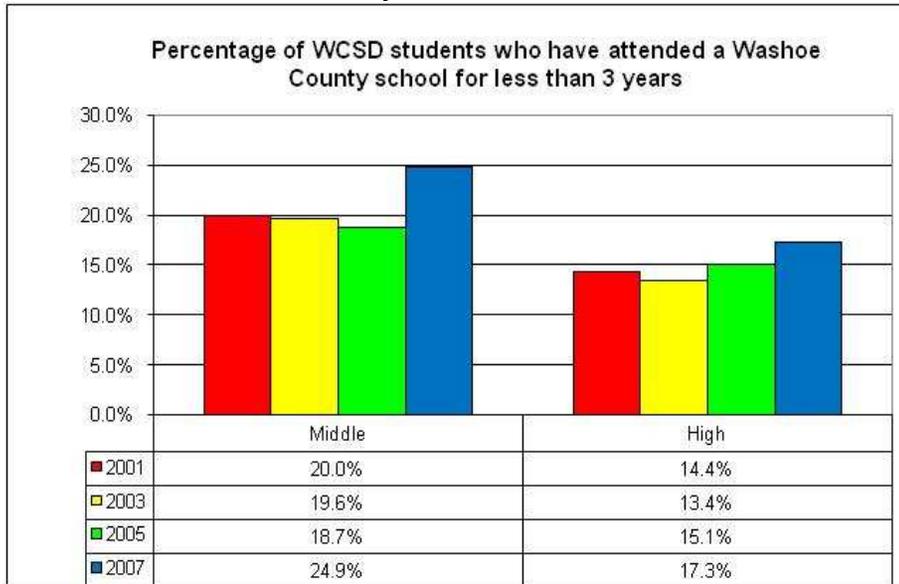


School/Academic – Significant Findings

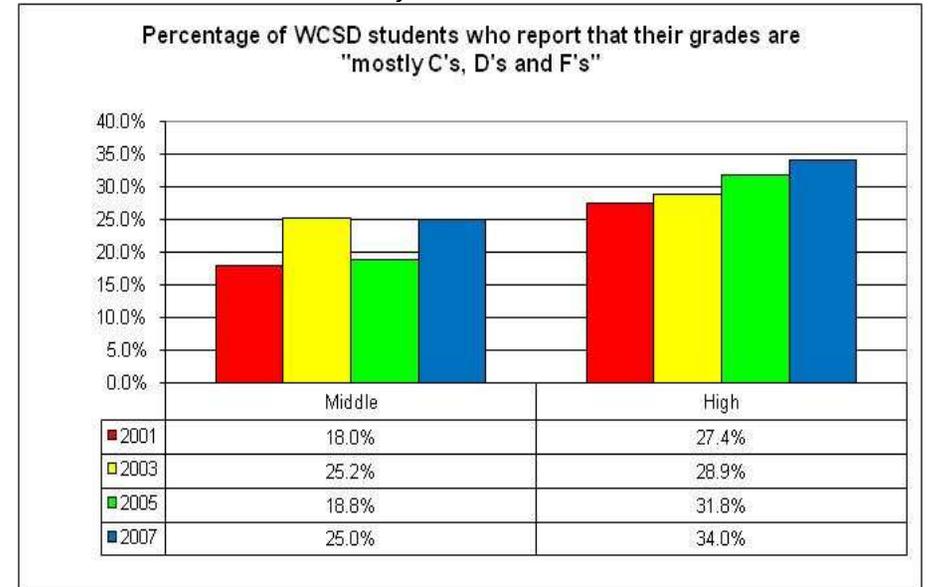
- Unfortunately, Washoe County students are increasingly more likely to self report poor grades, unexcused school absences, and lack of intention to pursue post high school programs.
- The percentage of high school students identifying that their grades are mostly C's, D's, or F's rose steadily from 2001 to 2007 (27.4% in 2001 to 34.0% in 2007). Further, this number is much higher in Washoe County than it is in the balance of the state, where only 28.0% responded that their grades are mostly C's, D's or F's.
- Washoe County's high school students are missing school more regularly than their counterparts elsewhere in Nevada (15.1% have missed three or more days in the past month in Washoe compared to 13.1% statewide). This trend exists at the middle school level also, where 13.8% have missed school on 3 or more days in the past month without permission (compared to 9.4% statewide).
- The number of high school students not intending on pursuing a post high school program has risen from 8.0% in 2003 to 11.0% in 2007.

School/Academic

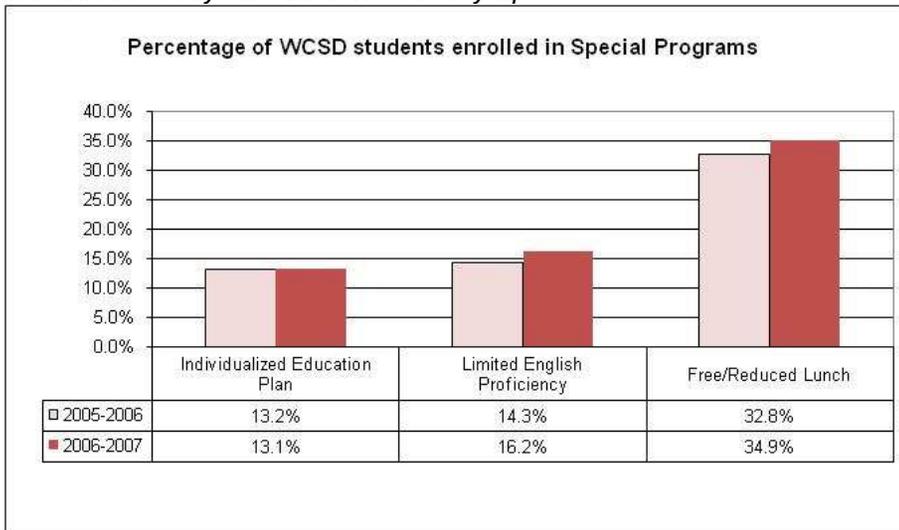
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



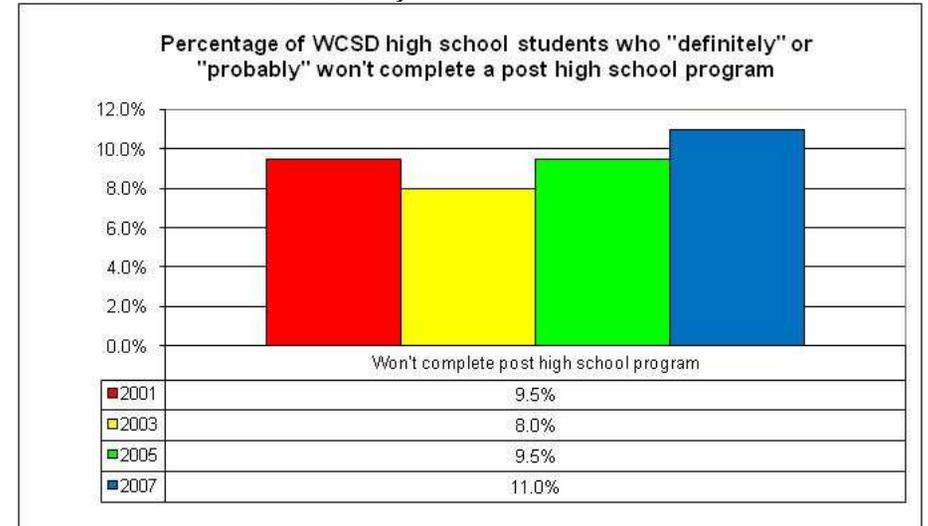
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Washoe County School District Accountability Report



Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

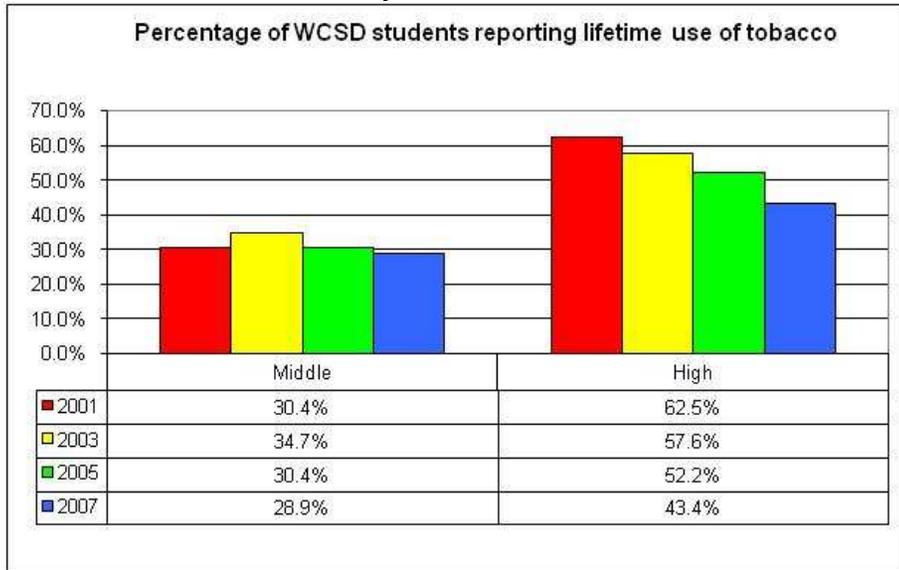


Tobacco – Significant Findings

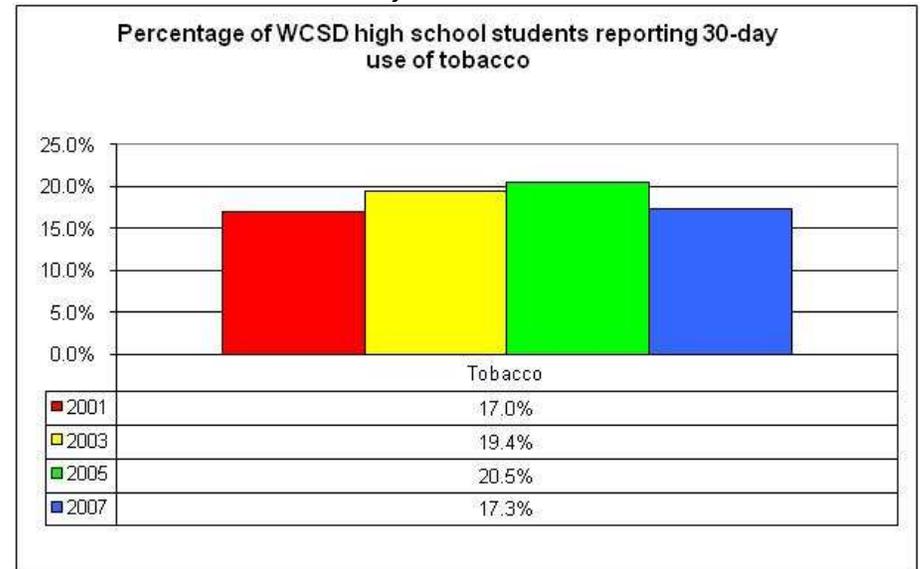
- The percentage of Washoe County high school students reporting lifetime use of tobacco declined steadily from 2001 to 2007. *These results are very encouraging.*
- Washoe County high school students are far less likely to have used tobacco than their statewide counterparts (43.4% to 53.3%).
- At the middle school level, use of tobacco has also declined.
- The percentage of Washoe County high school students reporting that they first tried tobacco before the age of 13 declined from 2001 to 2007, indicating that youth are waiting longer to begin experimenting with tobacco. *These results are very encouraging.*
- Contrarily, the percentage of Washoe County middle school students experimenting tobacco before the age of 13 increased between 2005 and 2007, though these numbers are close to those seen on the 2003 survey.
- The percentage of UNR students who smoked cigarettes in their life or in the past 30 days increased slightly between 2004 and 2006, but the percentage is still lower than it was in 2000.
- The percentage of Nevada adults who are current smokers continues to decline steadily.
- According to the Nevada Convenience Survey, 34.3% of Washoe County adults smoke cigarettes regularly, though the NSDUH findings state that only 22.2% of Nevada adults smoke.

Use of Tobacco

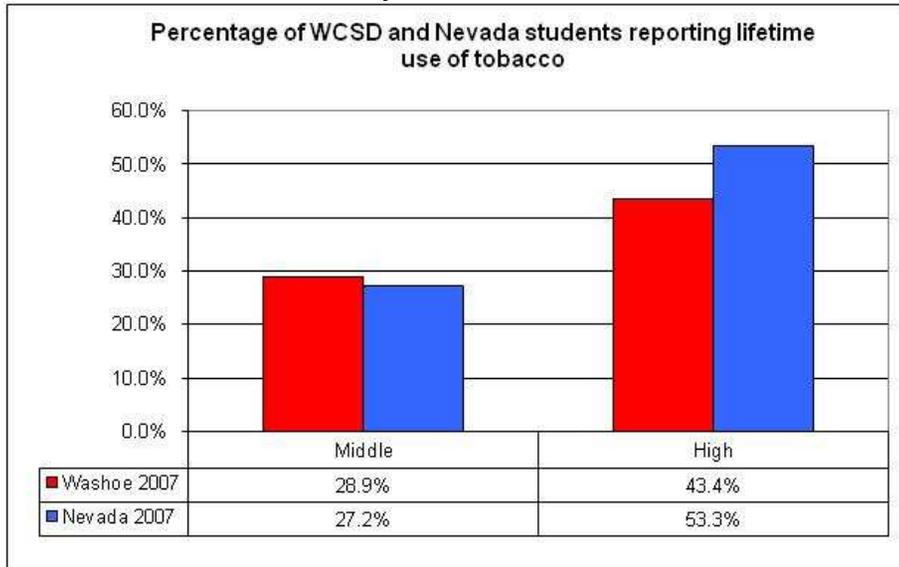
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



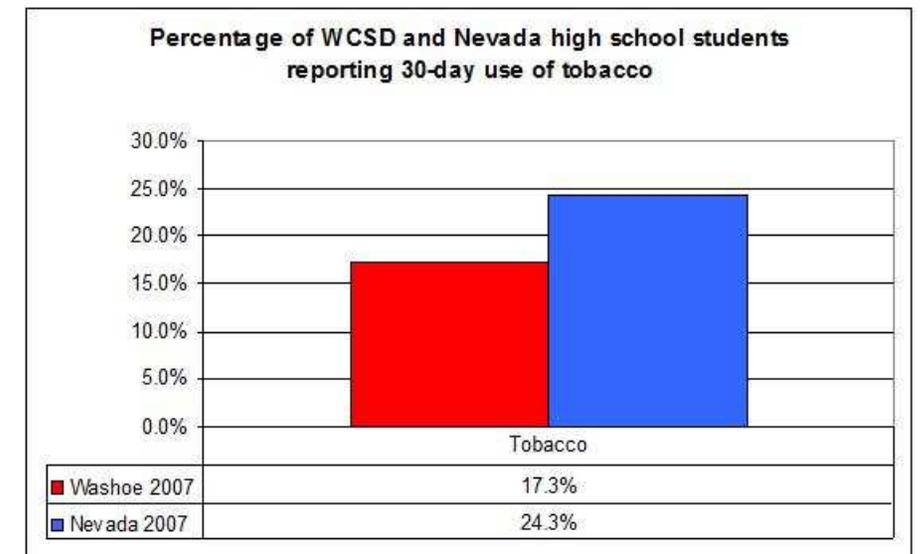
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

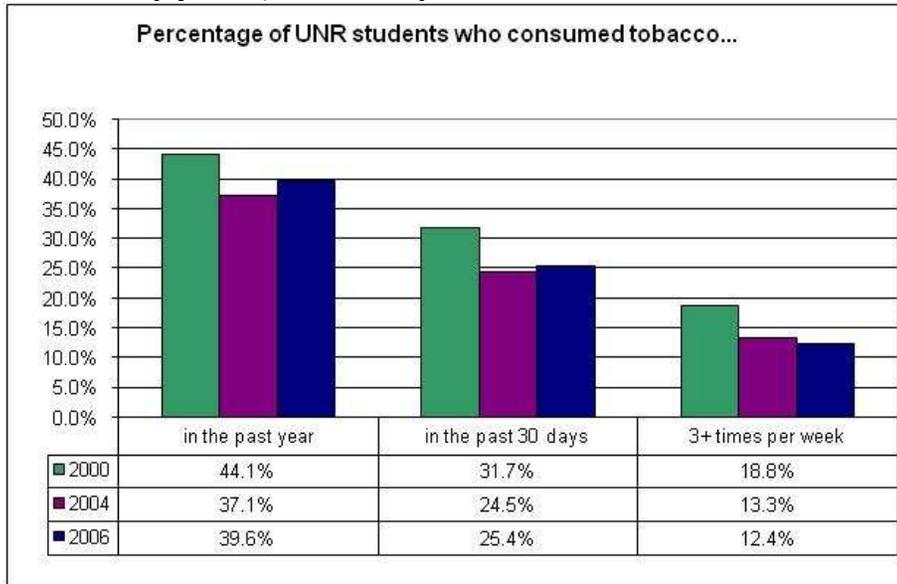


Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

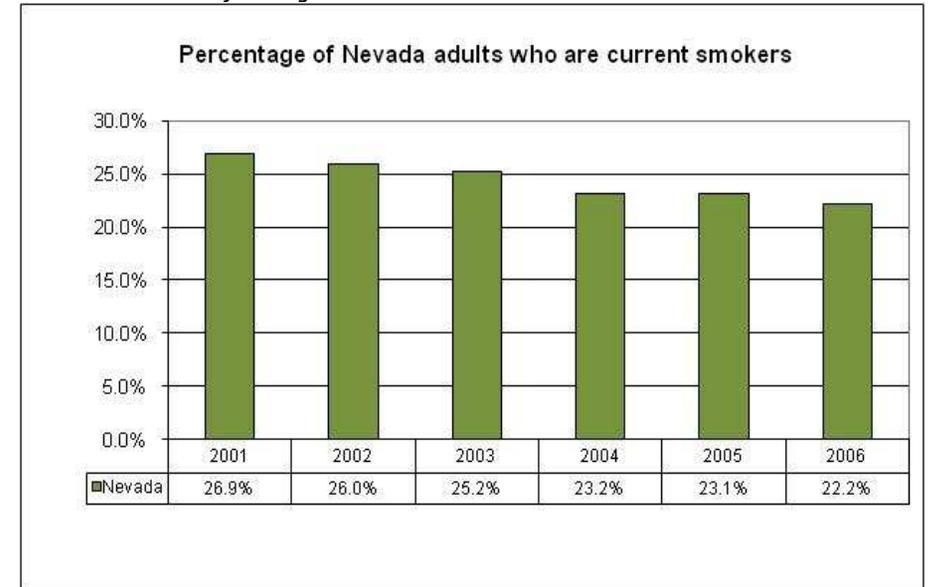


Use of Tobacco - cont'd.

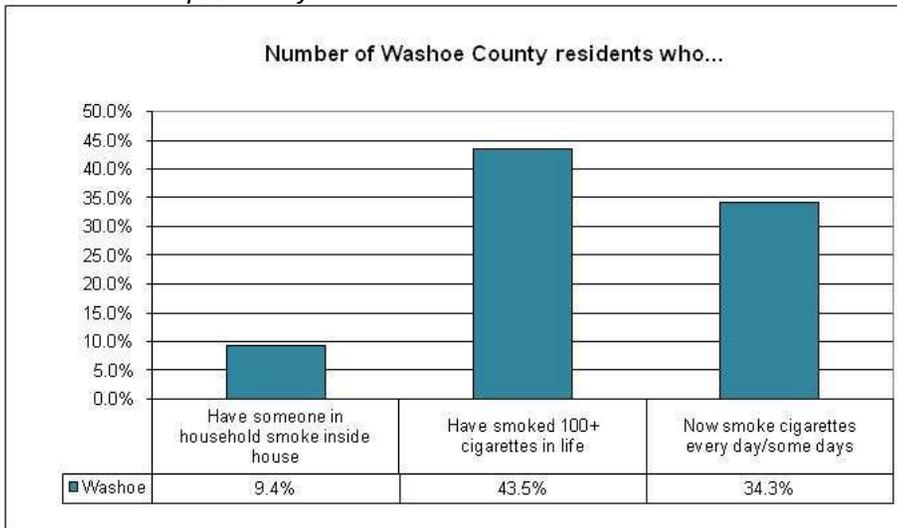
Source: University of Nevada, Reno Core Survey



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

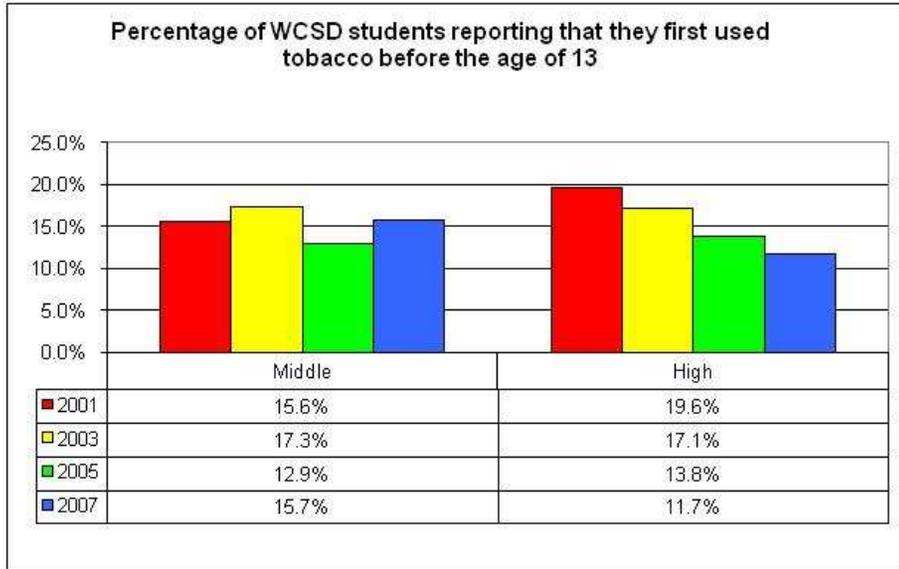


Source: Nevada Telephone Survey



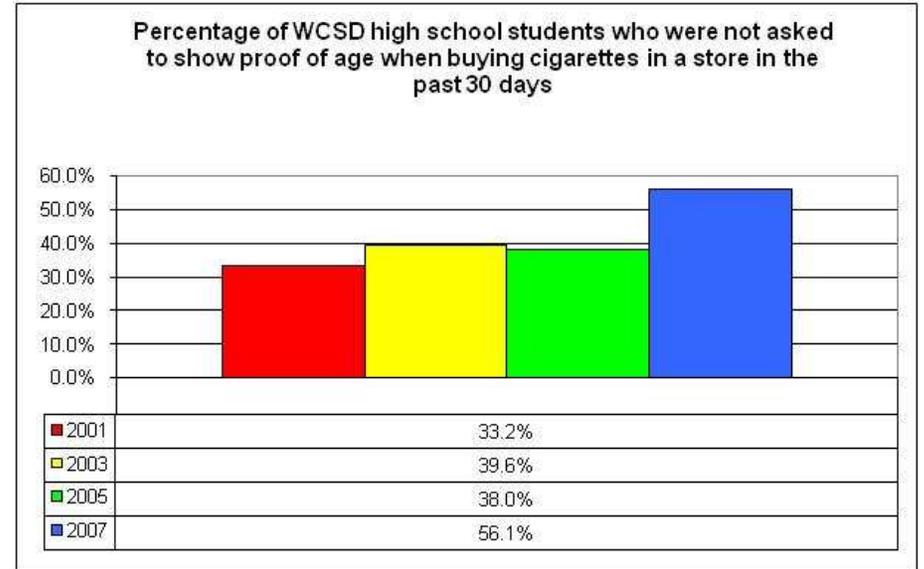
Age of First Use of Tobacco

Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

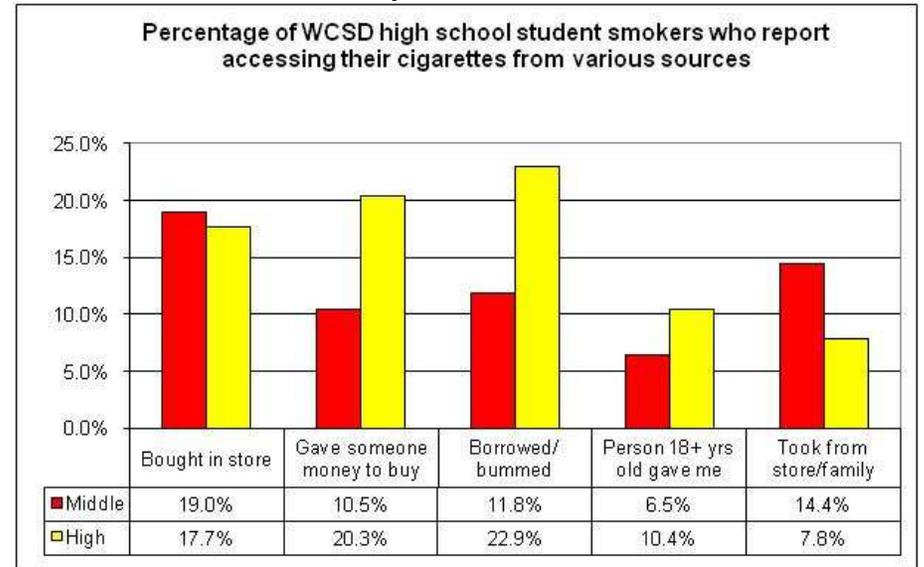


Sources of Tobacco for Underage Minors

Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

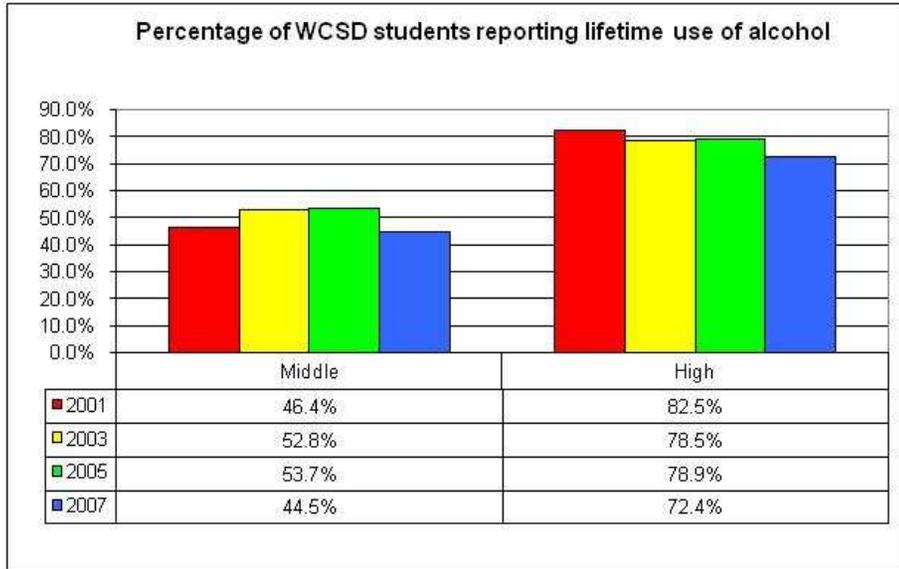


Alcohol – Significant Findings

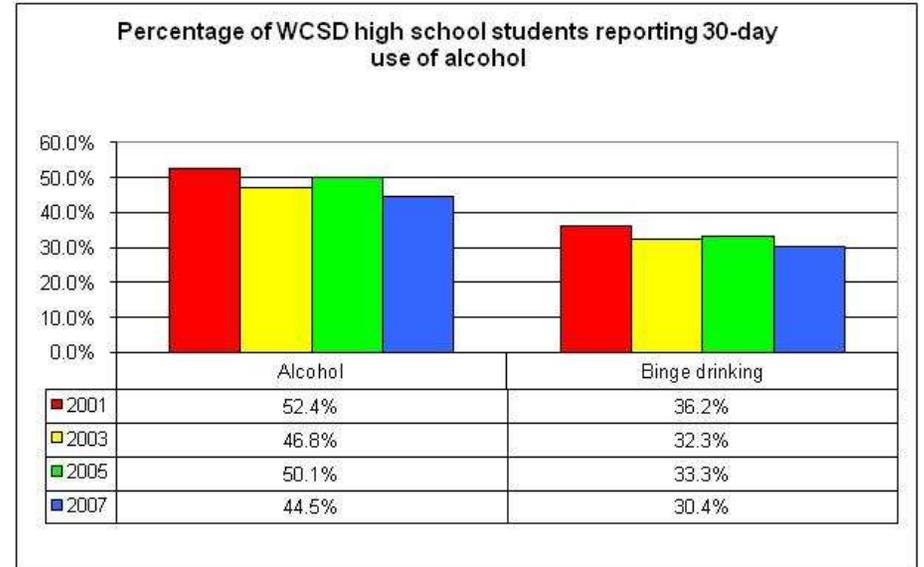
- Overall, a positive declining trend exists in the percentage of Washoe County students who have used alcohol. High school students are reporting later onset of experimentation with substances, though these results are mixed at the middle school level. While Washoe County high school students are less likely to have driven a car while drinking than students in prior years, they are more likely to have ridden in a car with someone who had been drinking.
- The percentage of Washoe County high school students reporting lifetime use of alcohol declined steadily from 2001 to 2007.
- At the middle school level, use of alcohol has declined.
- The percentage of UNR students who have consumed alcohol in the past year and in the past 30 days has remained relatively constant from 2000 to 2006. The percentage of UNR students who have binge drank in the past 30 days has increased slightly.
- On a positive note, the average number of drinks consumed per week by UNR students is declining.
- The percentage of Nevada adults who have had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days, who are heavy drinkers, and who are binge drinkers declined substantially in 2006 (the most recent year of data).
- The percentage of adolescents admitted to SAPTA funded treatment programs with alcohol as their primary drug of choice has been declining over the last several years.
- The number of Reno PD DUI arrests of youth aged 16-24 has increased substantially (especially in the 21-24 age group) over the last several years. It is not known if this is due to increased drinking and driving behavior, or increased enforcement.
- The number of DUI arrests and accidents reported by the Nevada Department of Transportation and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office remain relatively consistent over the last several years.
- The number of Washoe County youth referrals for Possession of Alcohol rose dramatically from 2005 to 2007. It is not known if this is due to increased Possession of Alcohol by youth, or increased enforcement.
- Loss of license, jail time, and arrests are the biggest deterrents to drinking and driving for Washoe County adults.
- While most Washoe County adults agree that underage drinking is a rite of passage, they also agree almost unanimously that underage drinking is wrong.
- Most underage drinkers acquire their alcohol from their friends, though many also acquire it from home with or without their parents' knowledge. Youth report that it is easy to acquire alcohol from either one of these sources.
- Lack of ID procedures in retail outlets continues to be a problem. Over half of underage minors who tried to buy alcohol in a store were not asked for ID.

Use of Alcohol

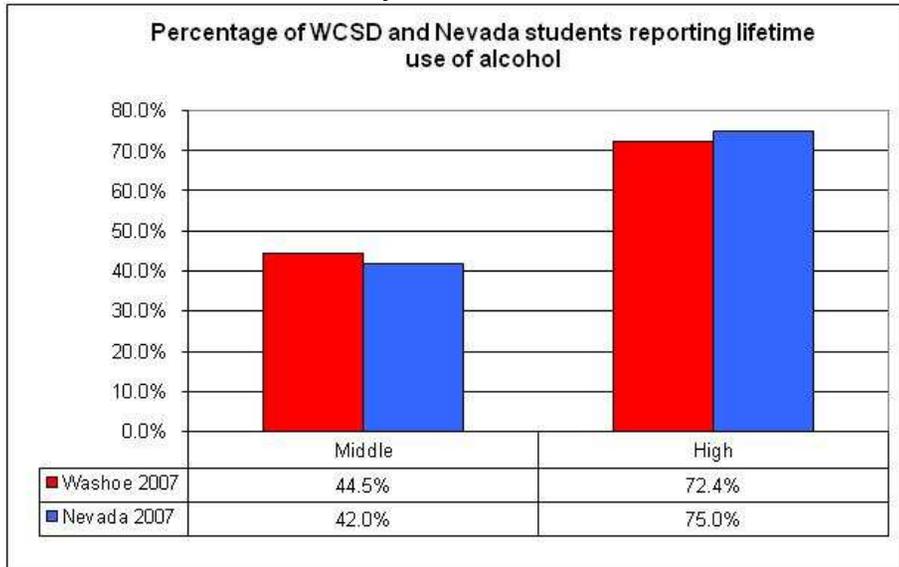
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



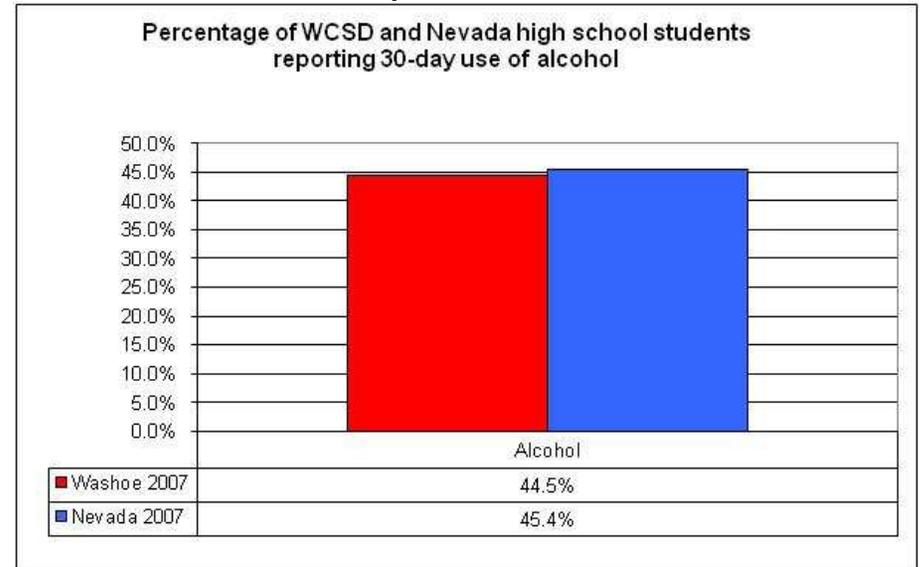
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

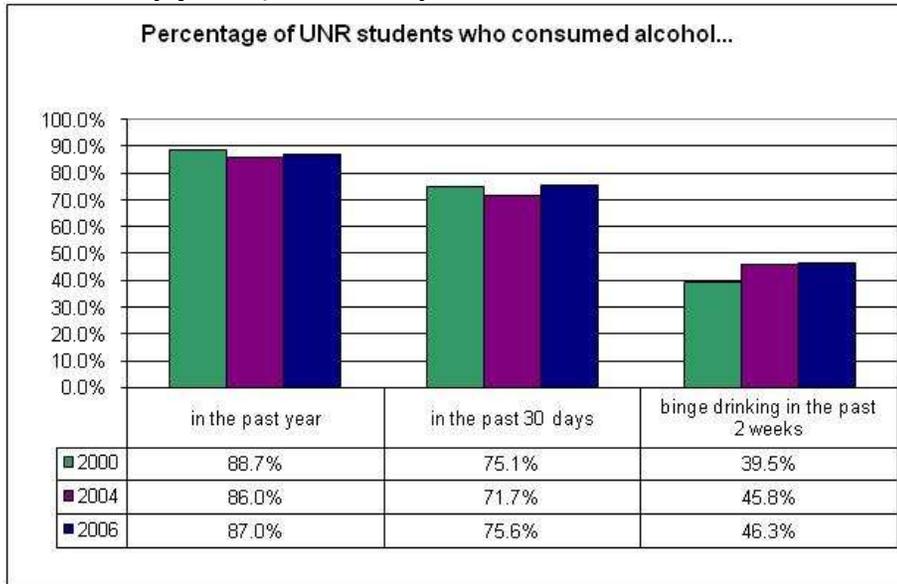


Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

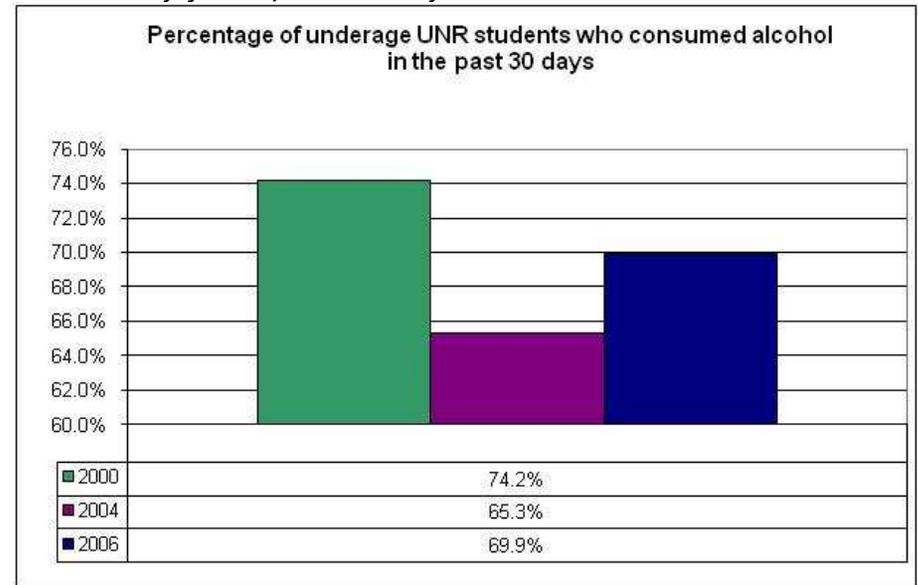


Use of Alcohol -cont'd.

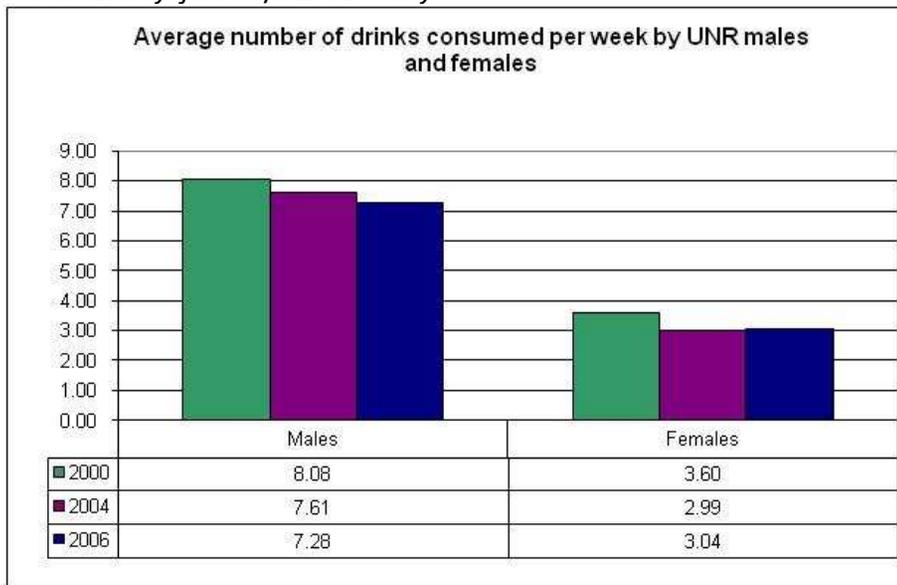
Source: University of Nevada, Reno Core Survey



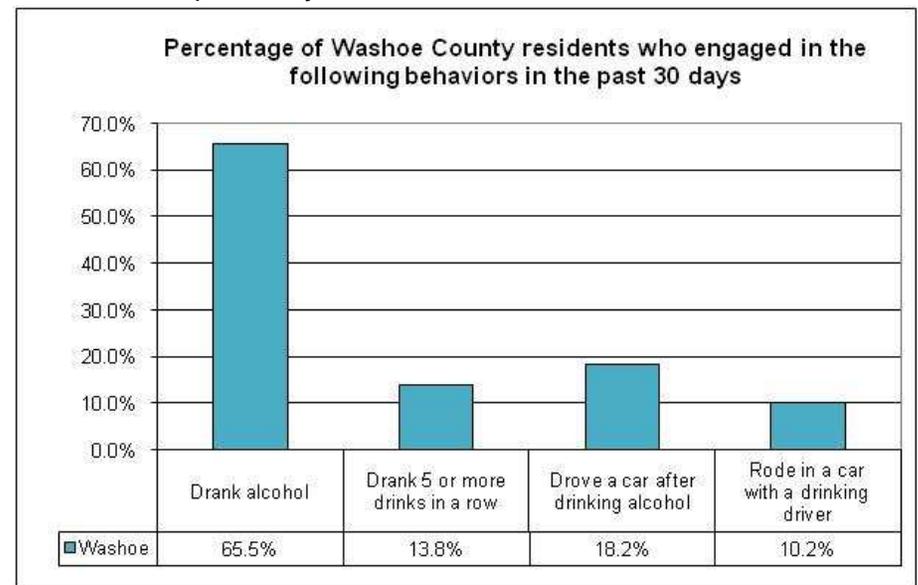
Source: University of Nevada, Reno Core Survey



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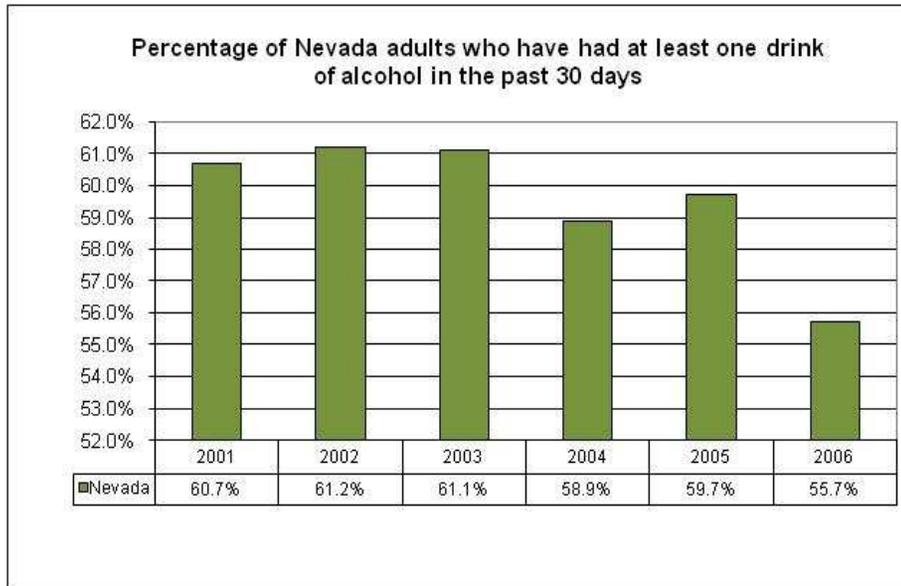


Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

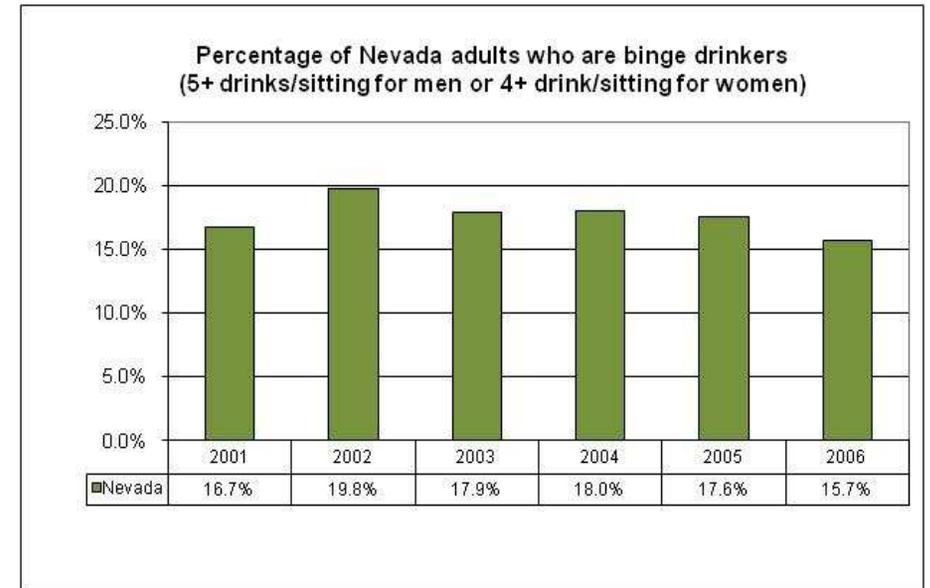


Use of Alcohol -cont'd.

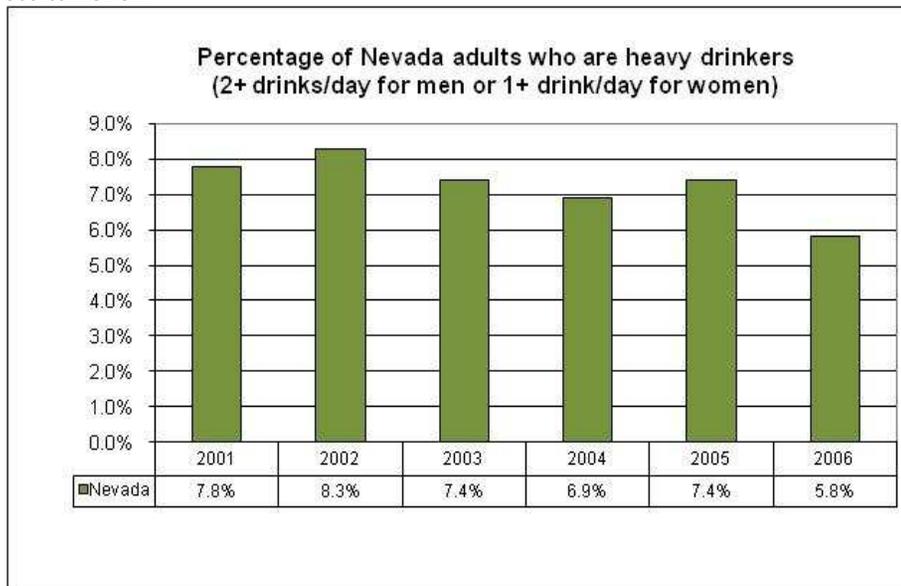
Source: NSDUH



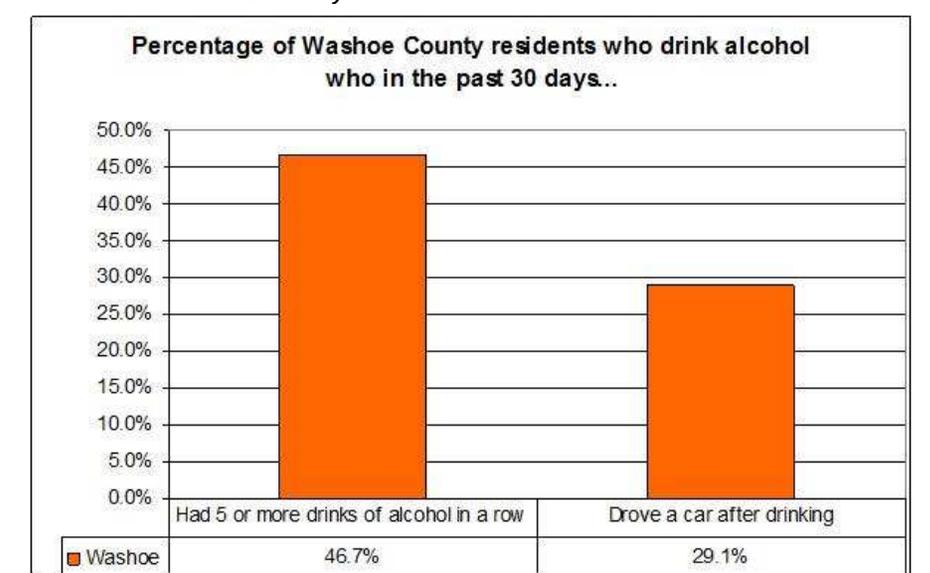
Source: NSDUH



Source: NSDUH

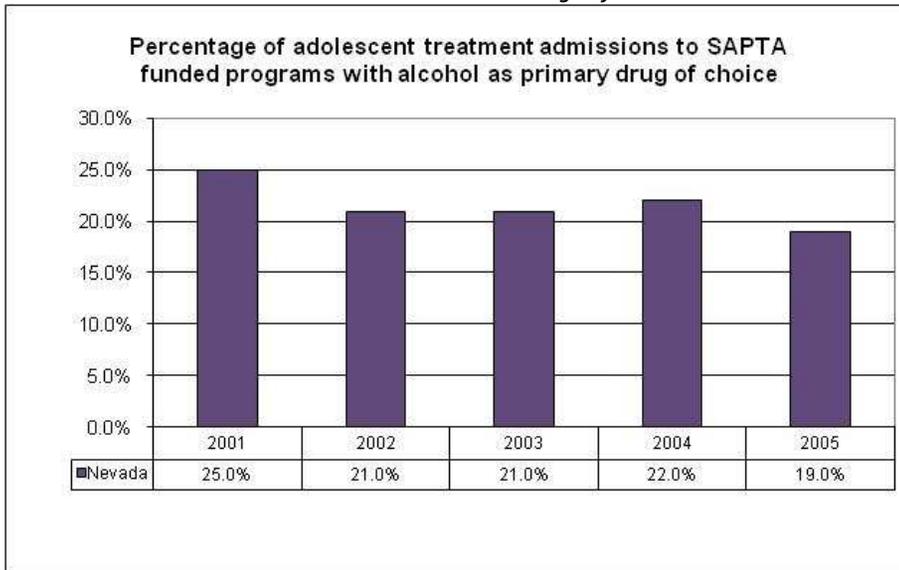


Source: Nevada Convenience Survey

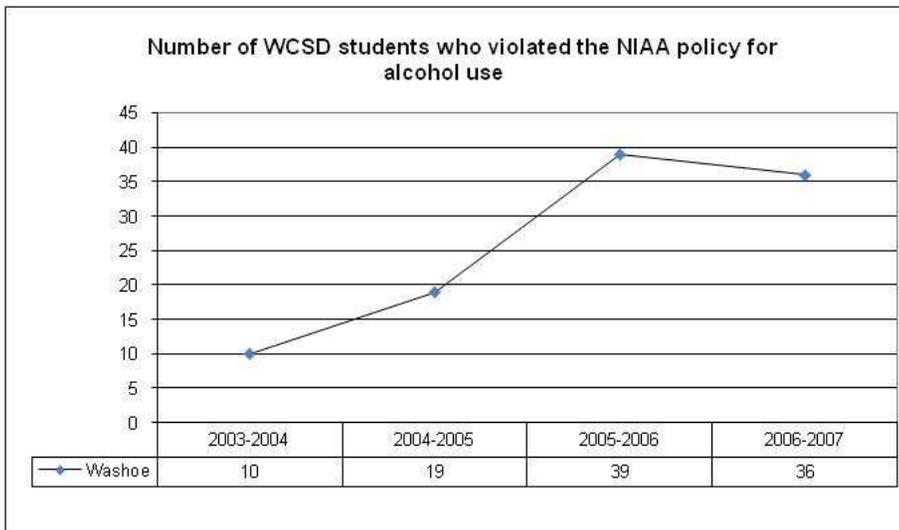


Use of Alcohol -cont'd.

Source: Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency

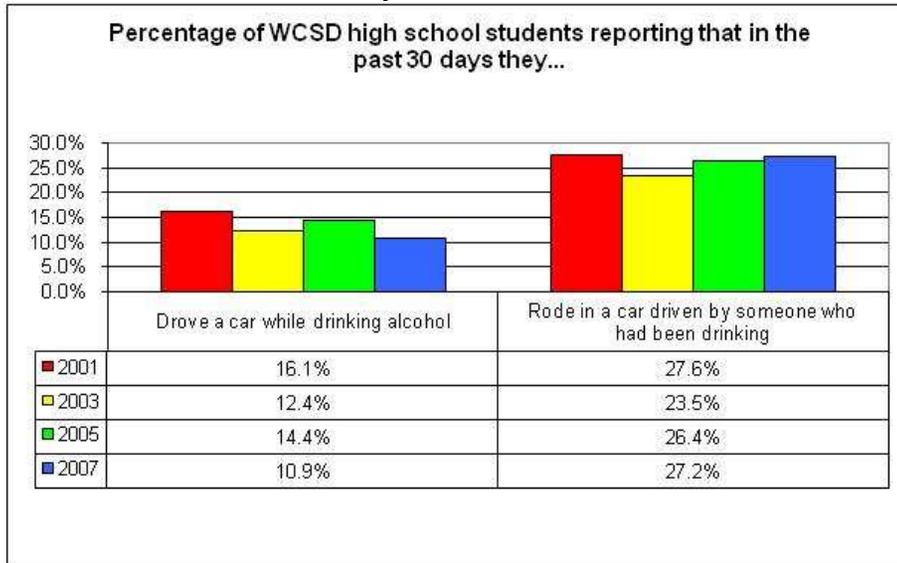


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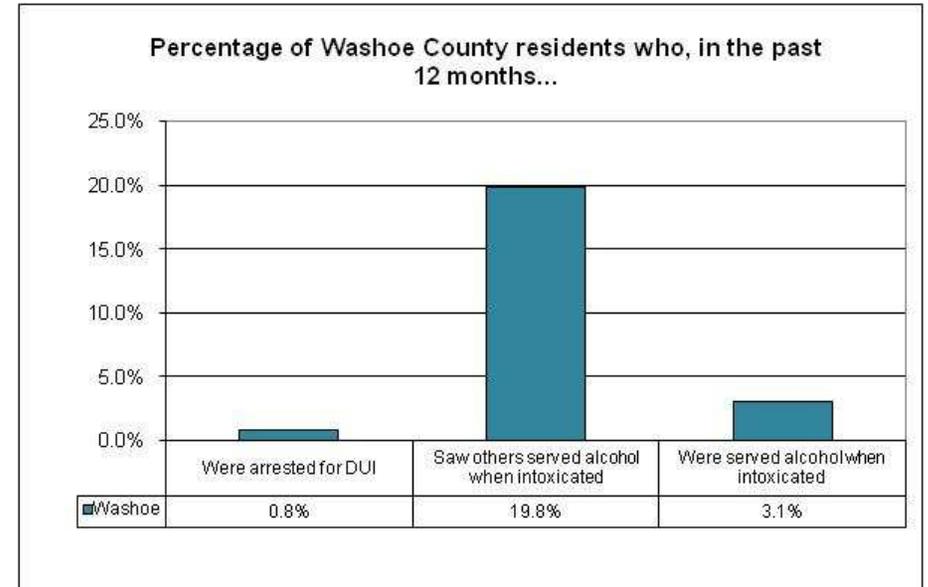


Drinking and Driving

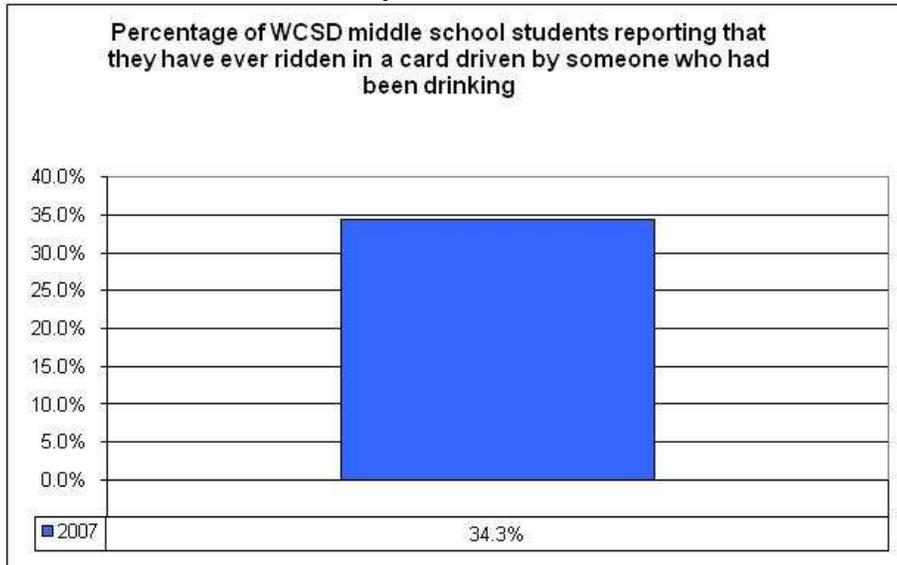
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

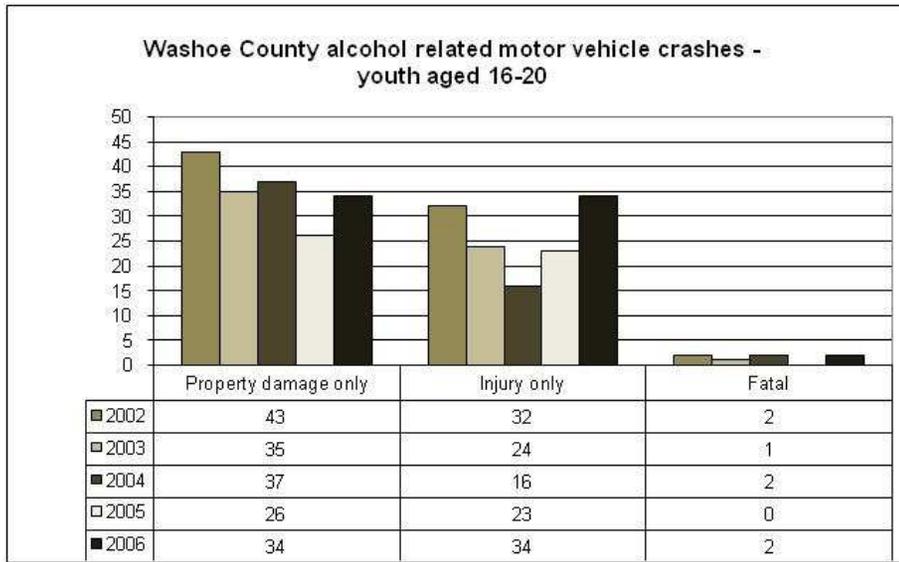


Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

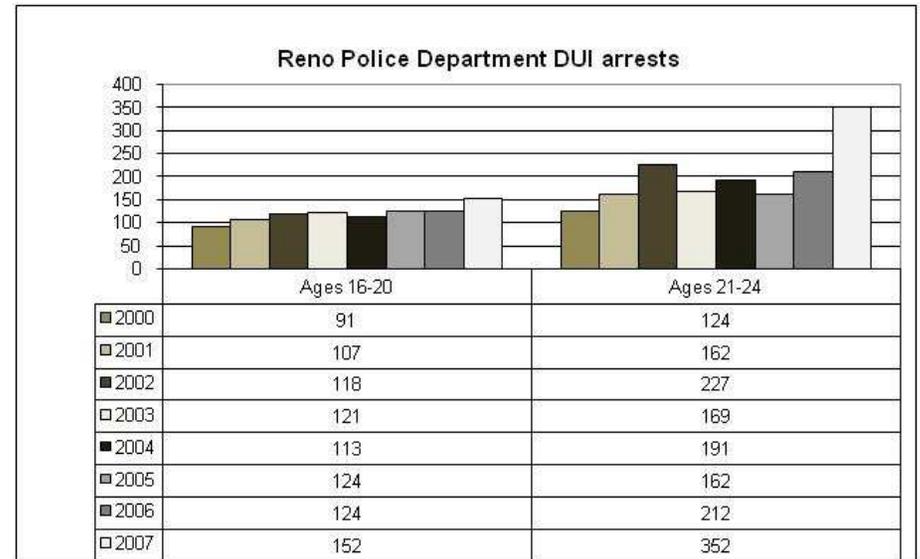


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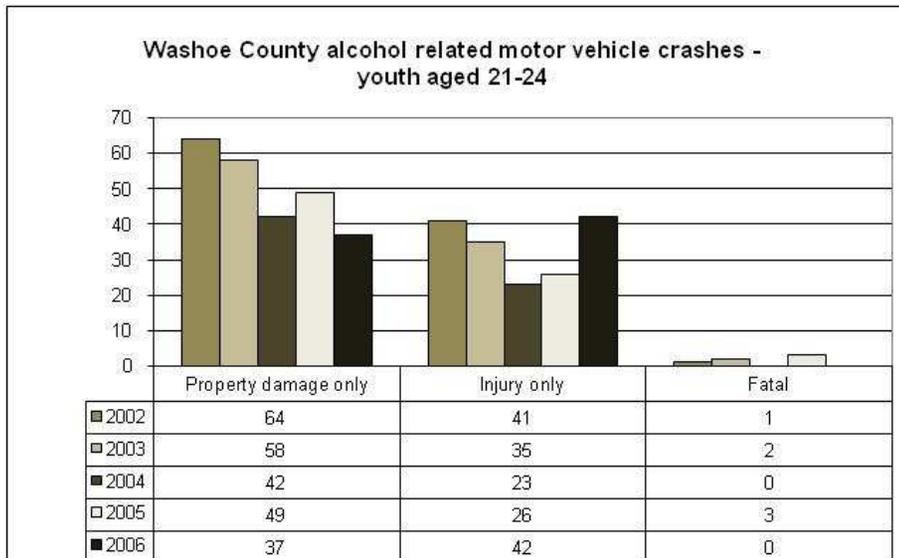
Source: Nevada Department of Transportation



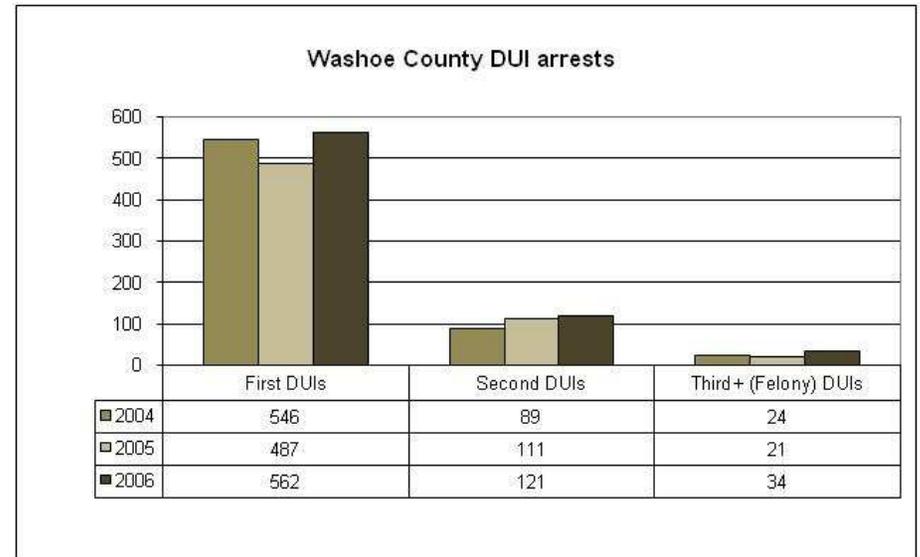
Source: Reno Police Department



Source: Nevada Department of Transportation

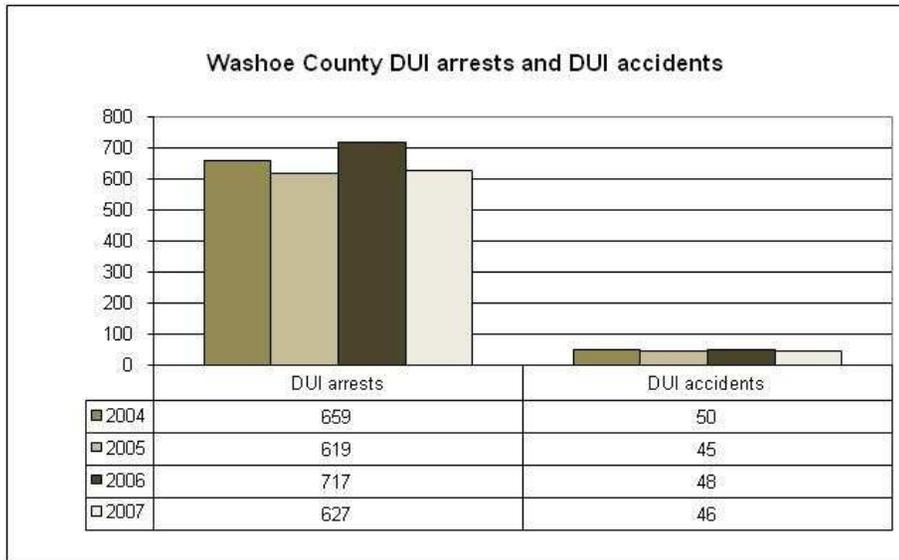


Source: Washoe County Sherriff's Office

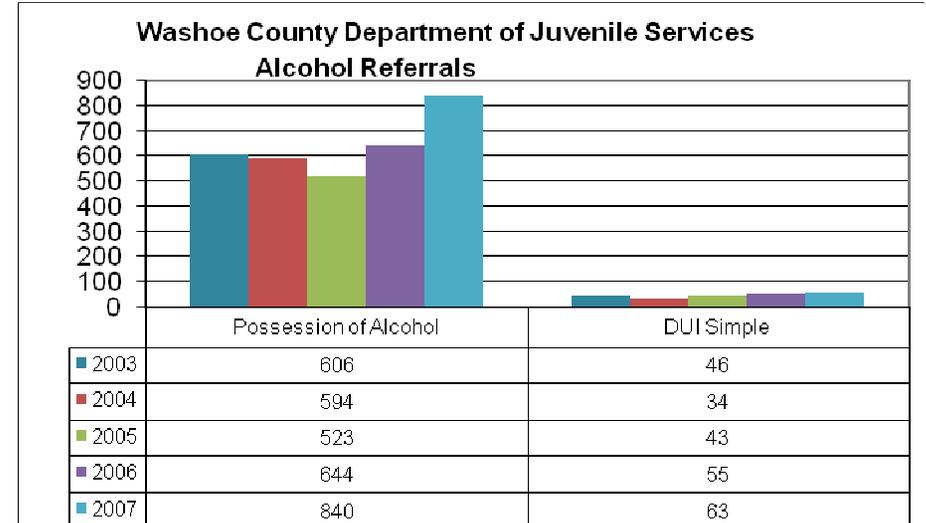


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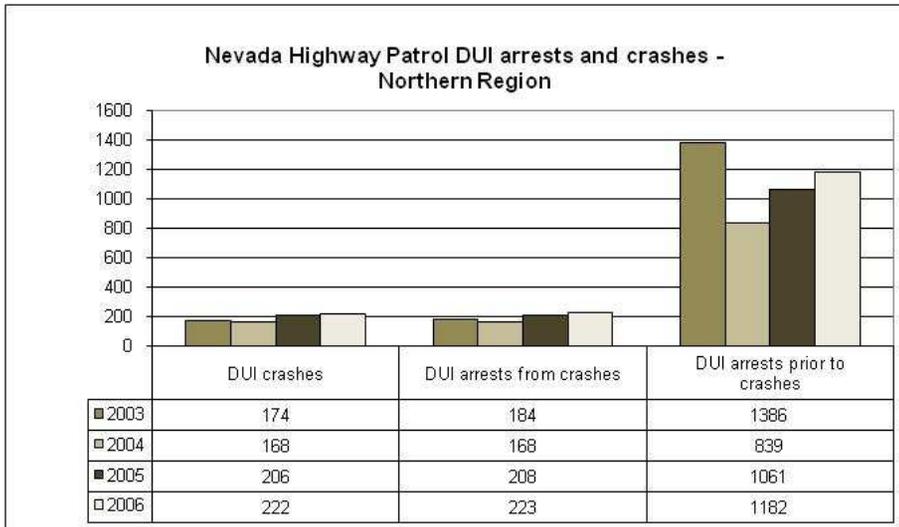
Source: Washoe County Sheriff's Office



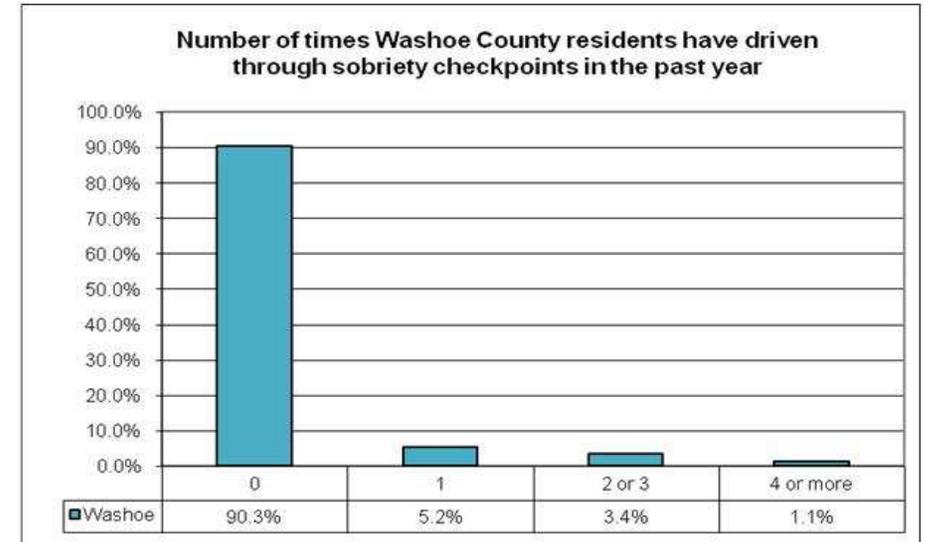
Source: Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services



Source: Nevada Highway Patrol

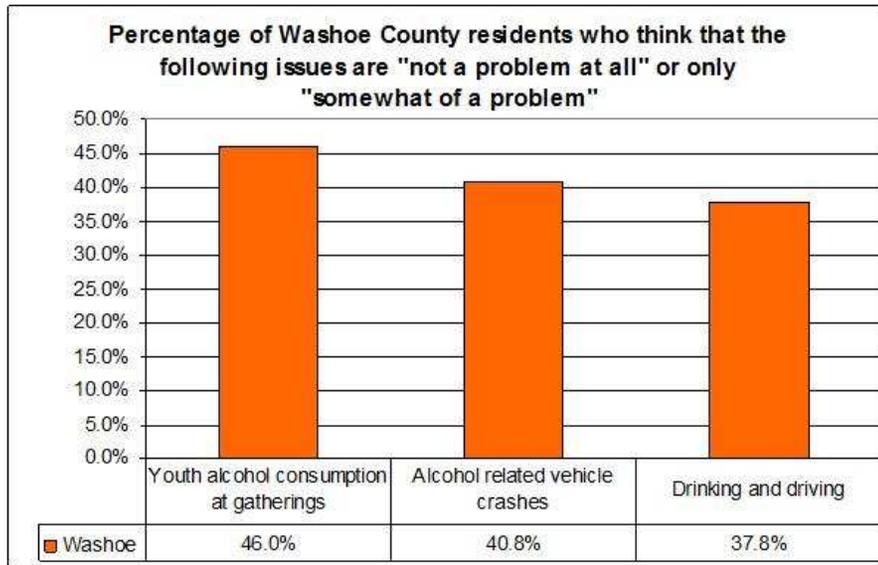


Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

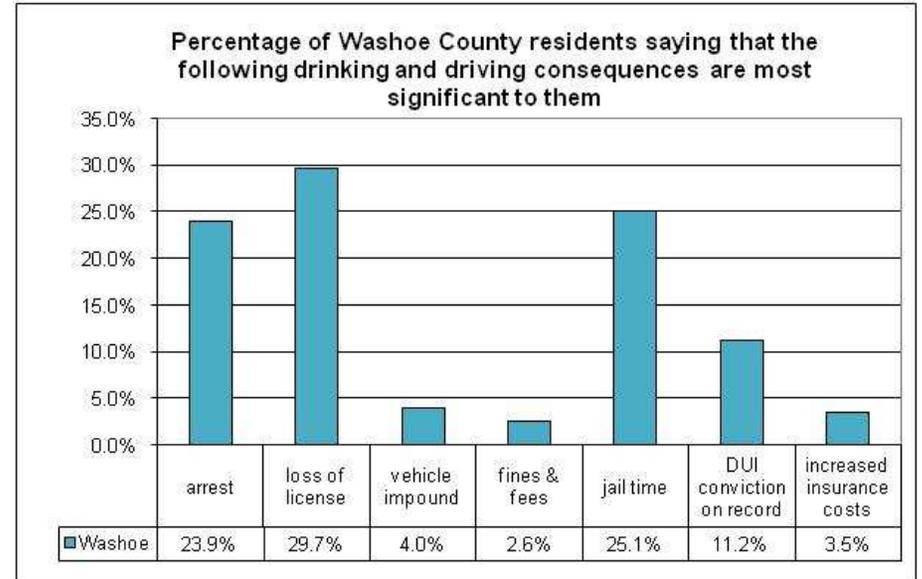


Perceptions - Alcohol/Drinking and Driving

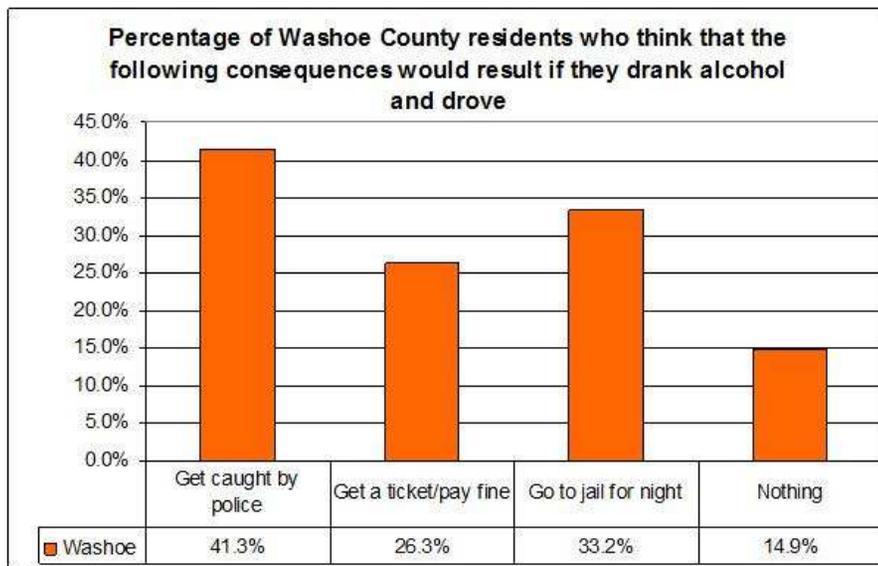
Source: Nevada Convenience Survey



Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

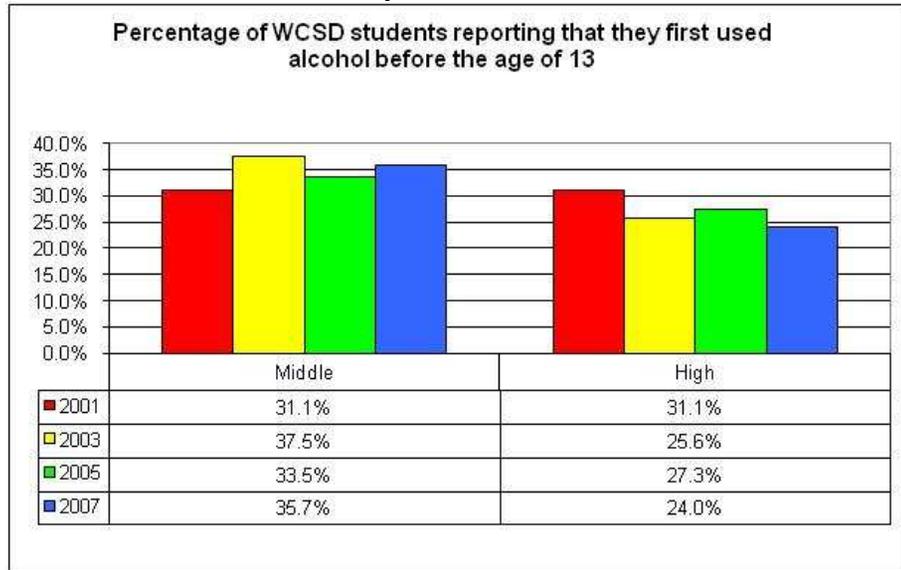


Source: Nevada Convenience Survey

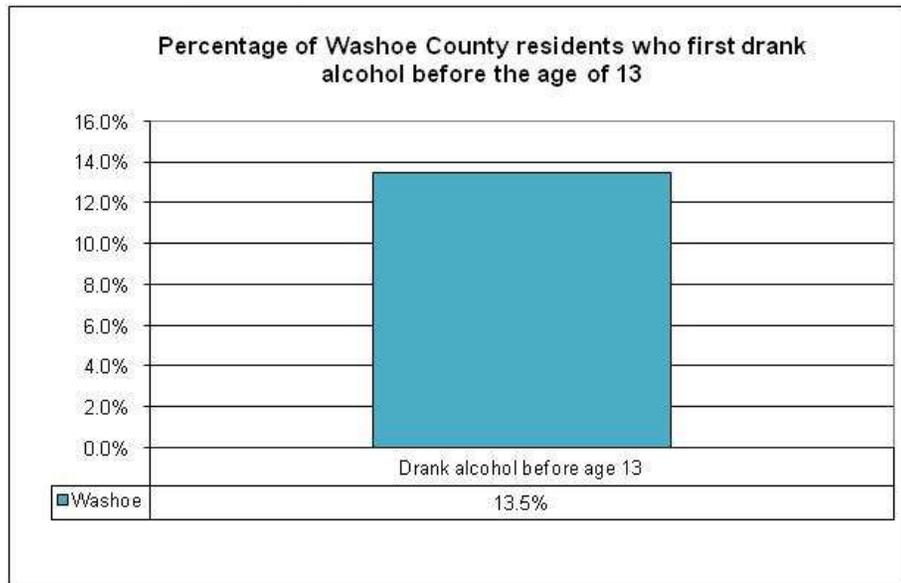


Age of First Use of Alcohol

Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

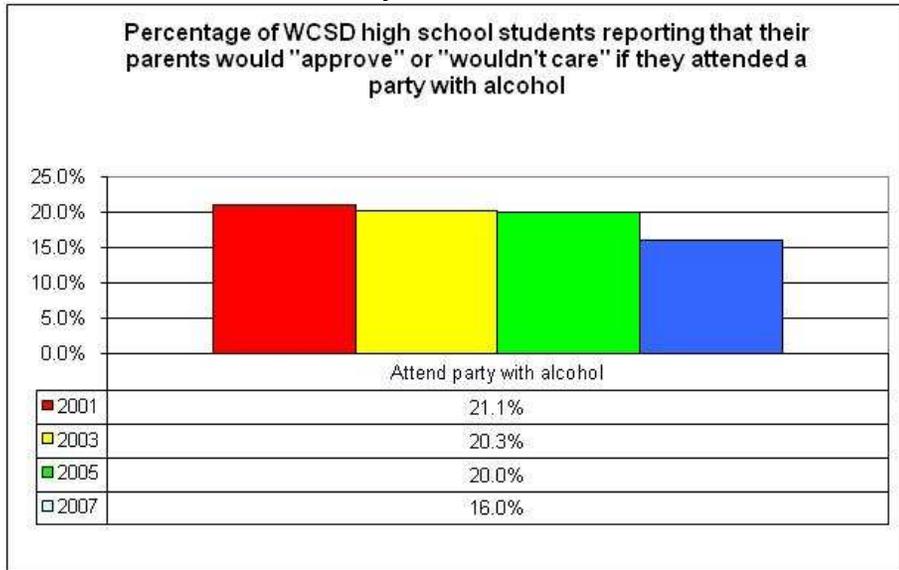


Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

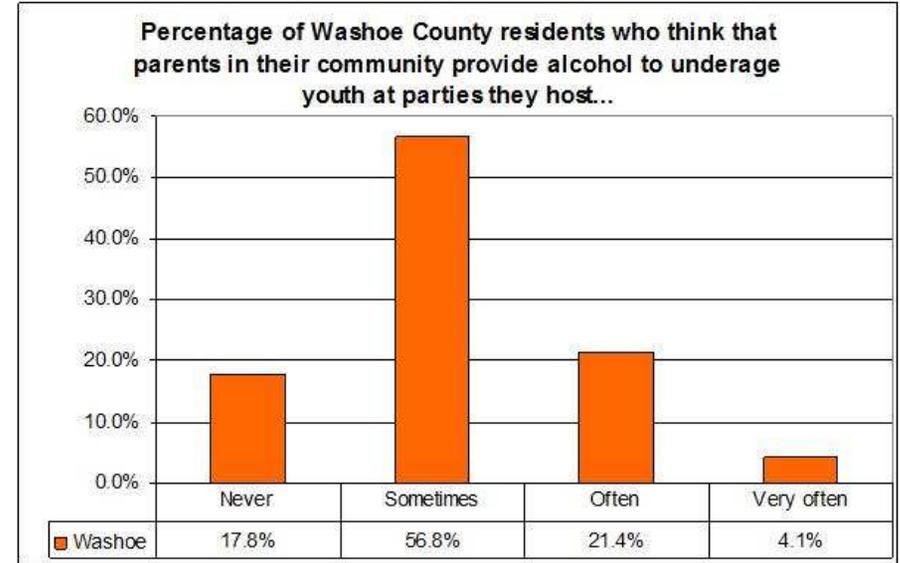


Perceptions - Alcohol/Underage Drinking

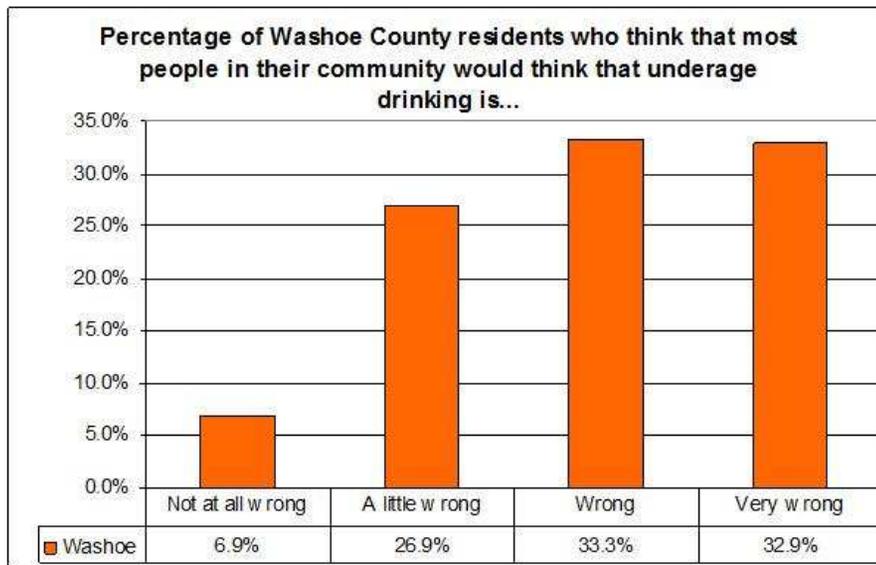
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



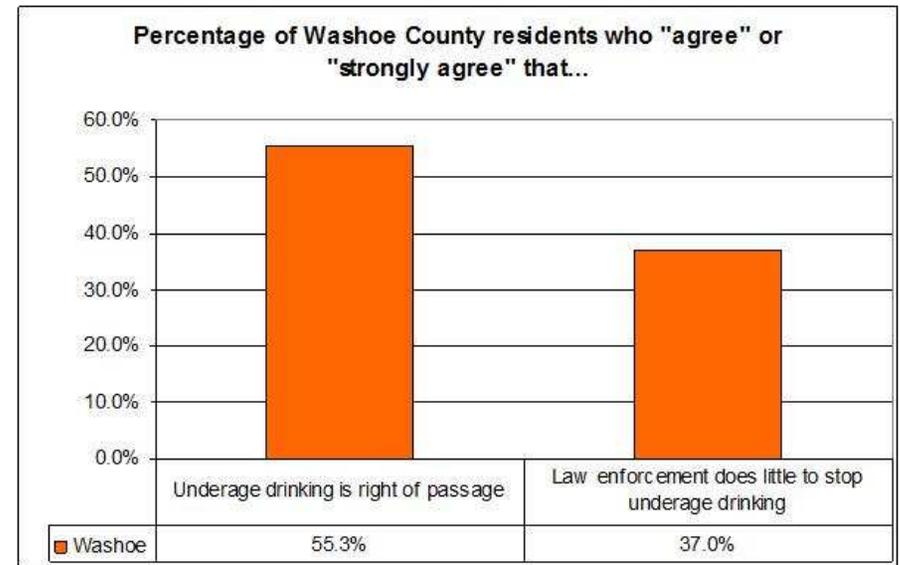
Source: Nevada Convenience Survey



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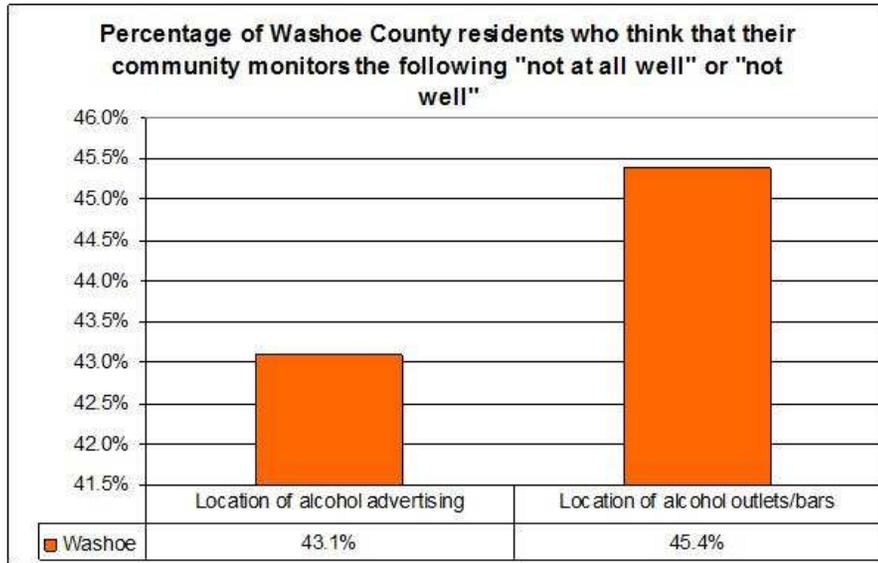


Source: Nevada Convenience Survey

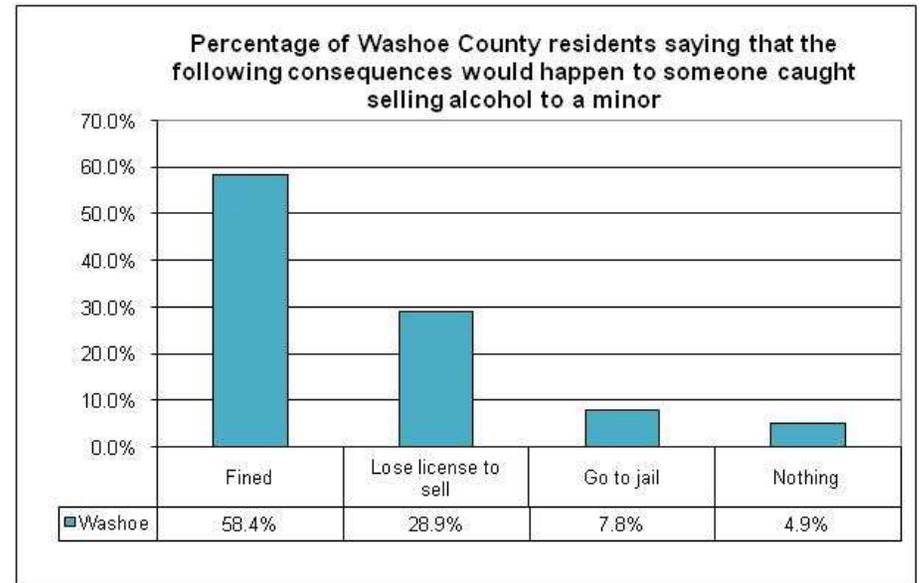


Perceptions - Alcohol/Underage Drinking

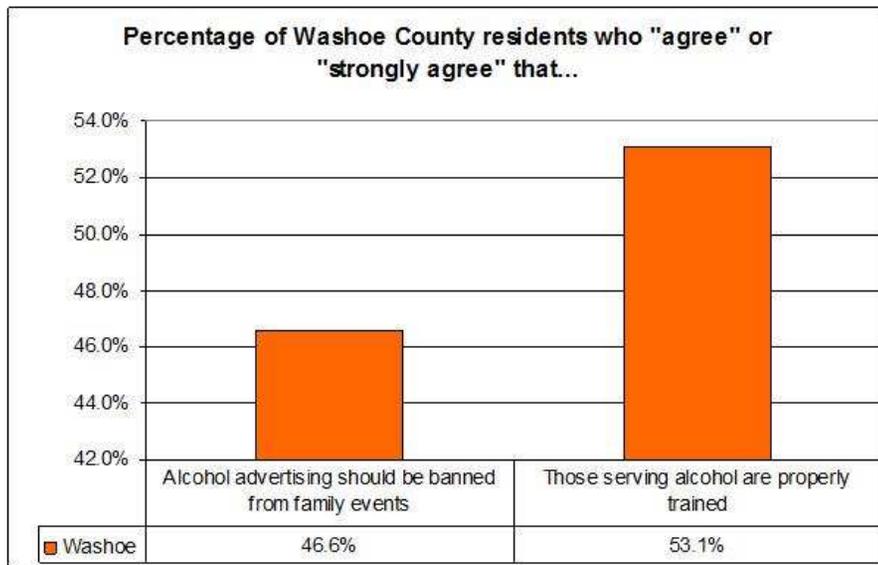
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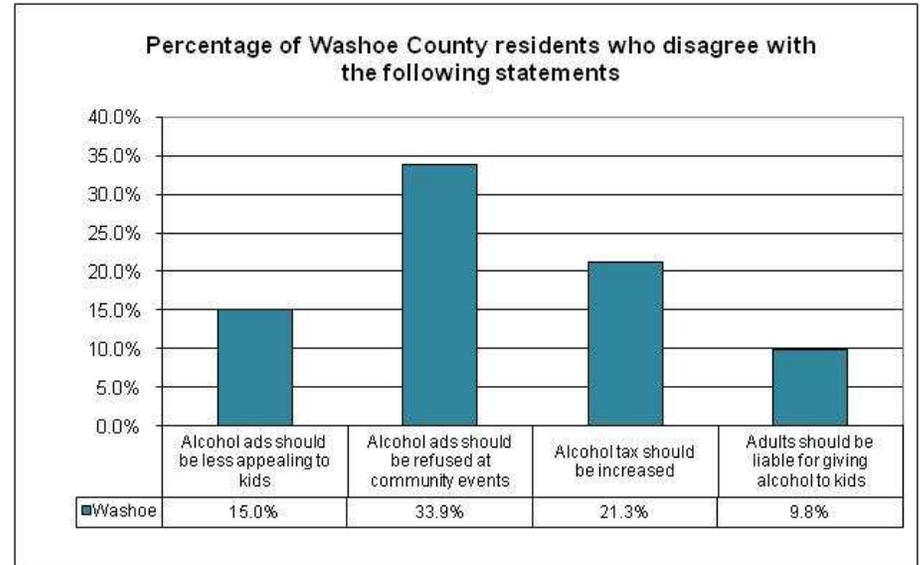
Source: Nevada Telephone Survey



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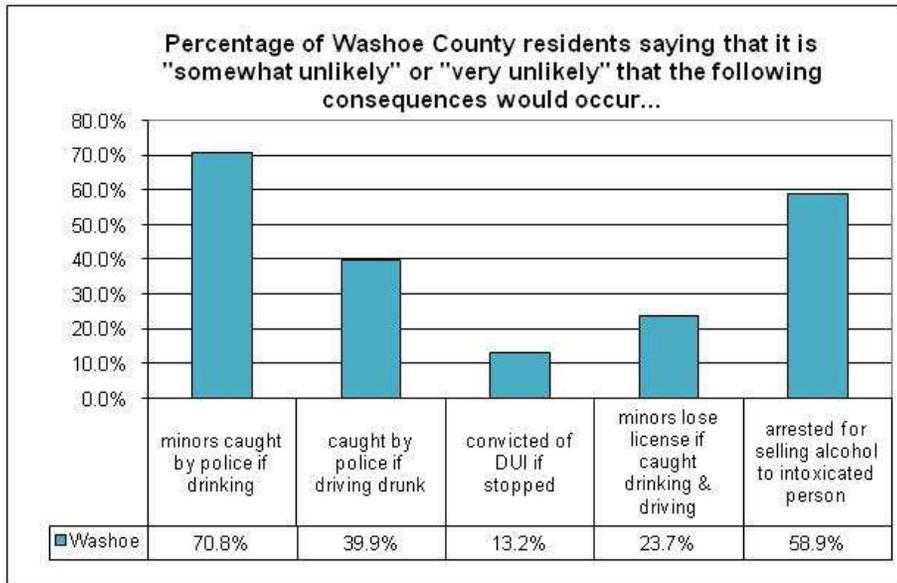


Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

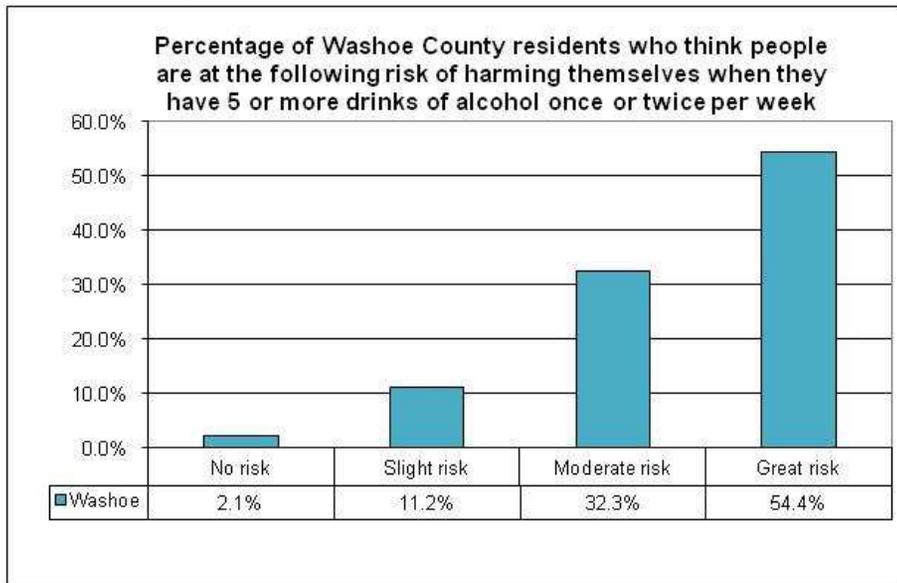


Perceptions - Alcohol/Underage Drinking

Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

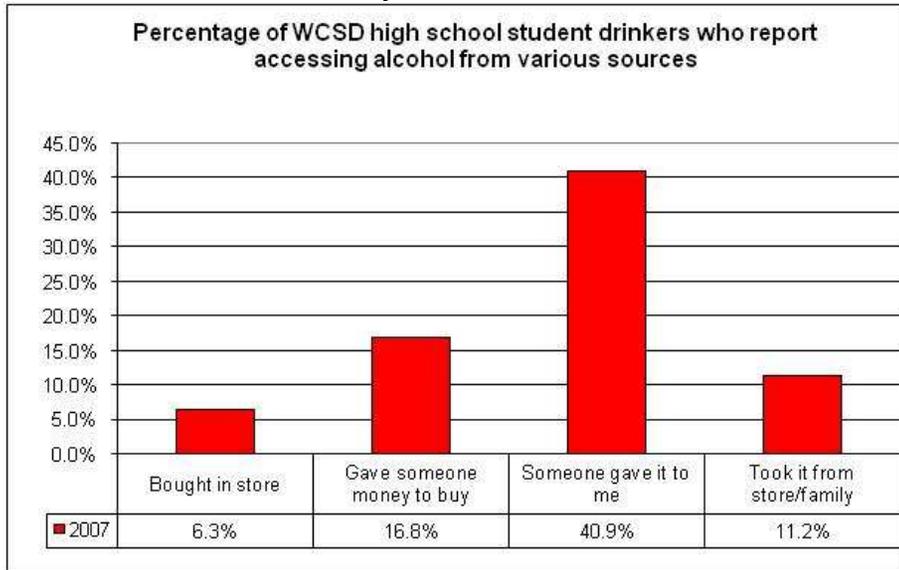


Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

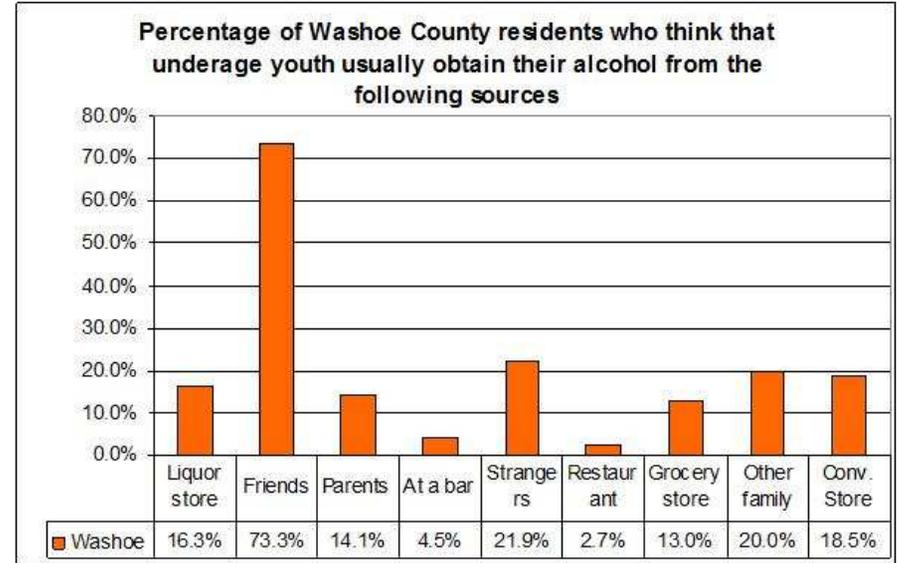


Access/Sources of Alcohol

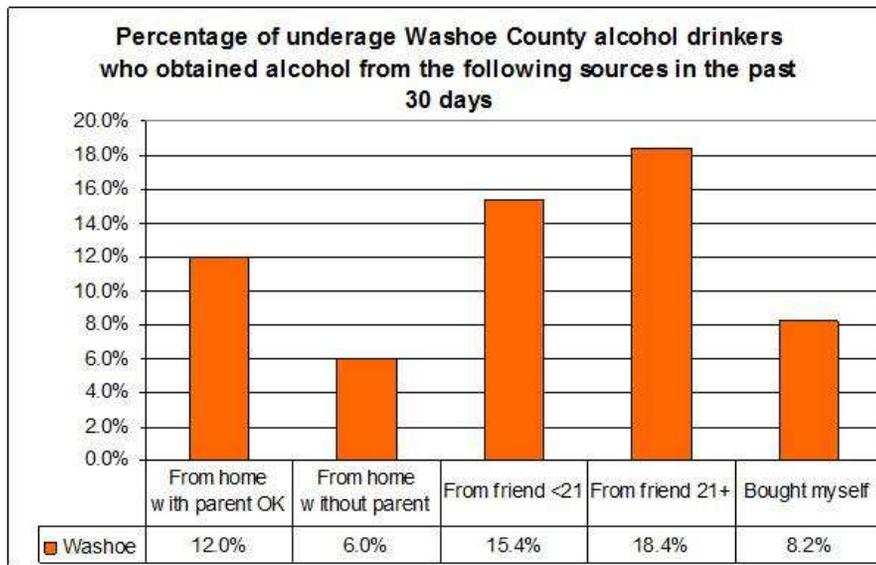
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



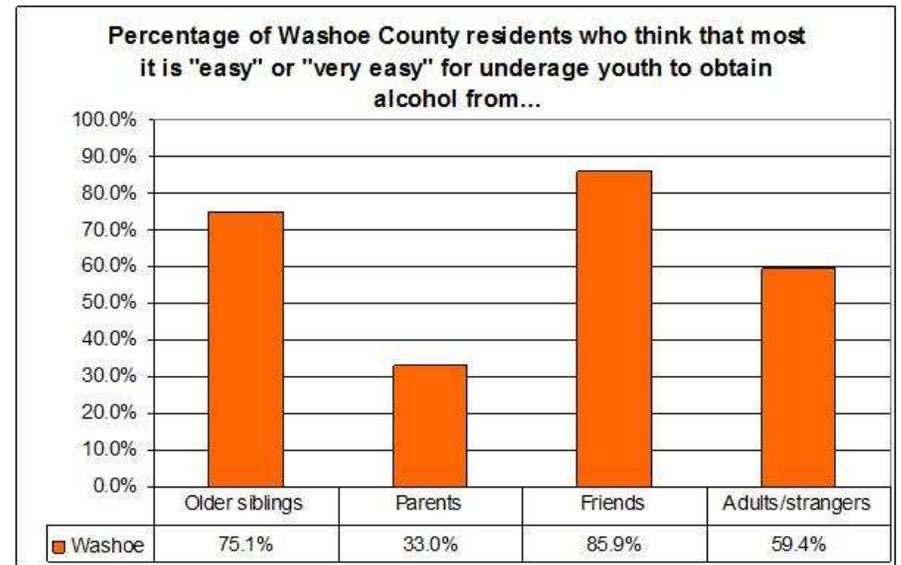
Source: Nevada Convenience Survey



Source: Nevada Convenience Survey

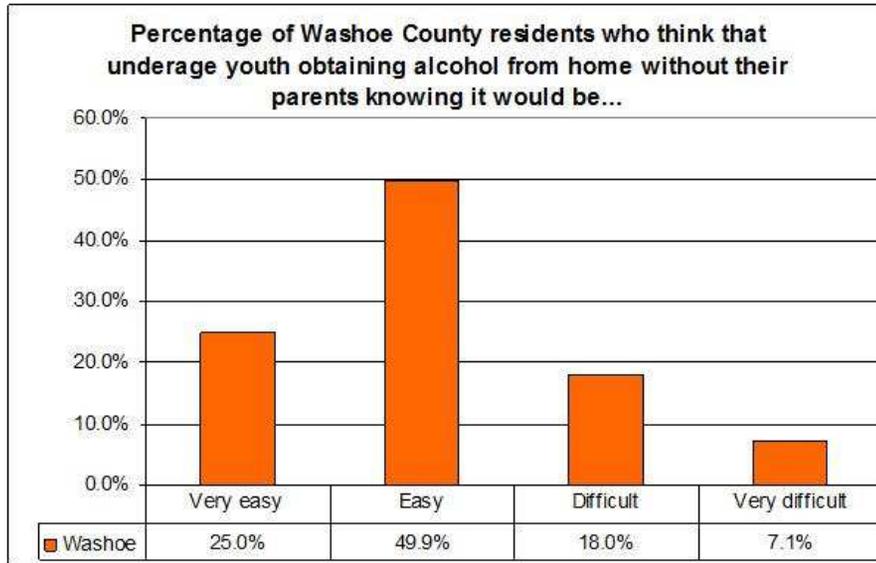


Source: Nevada Convenience Survey

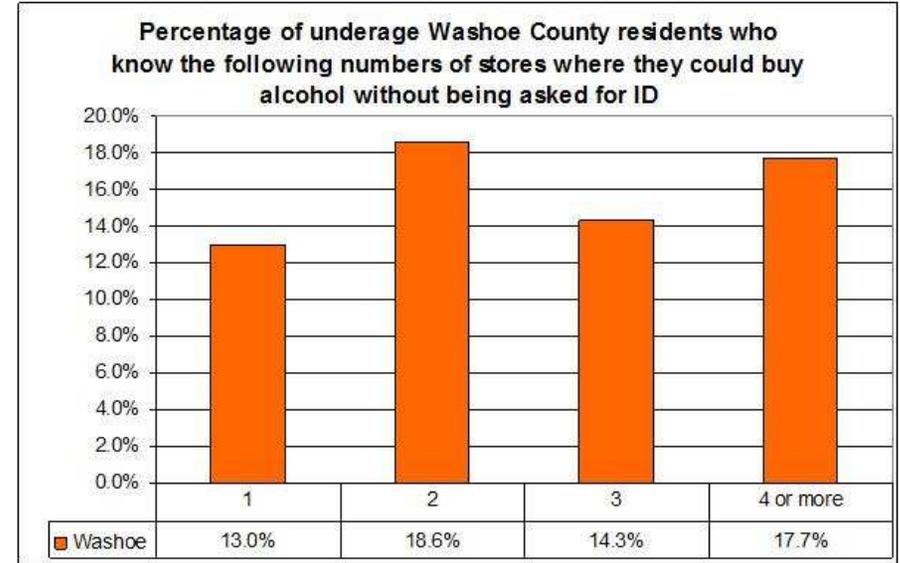


Access/Sources of Alcohol - cont'd.

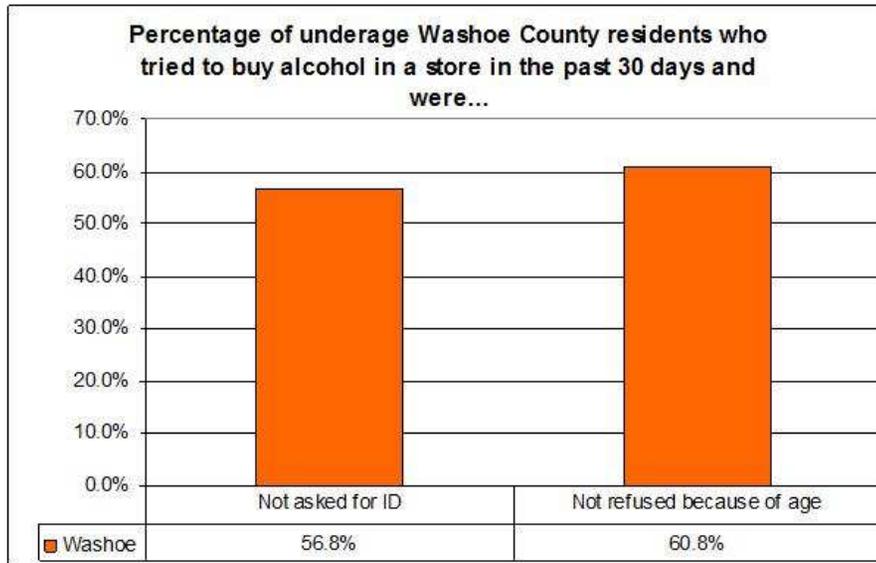
Source: Nevada Convenience Survey



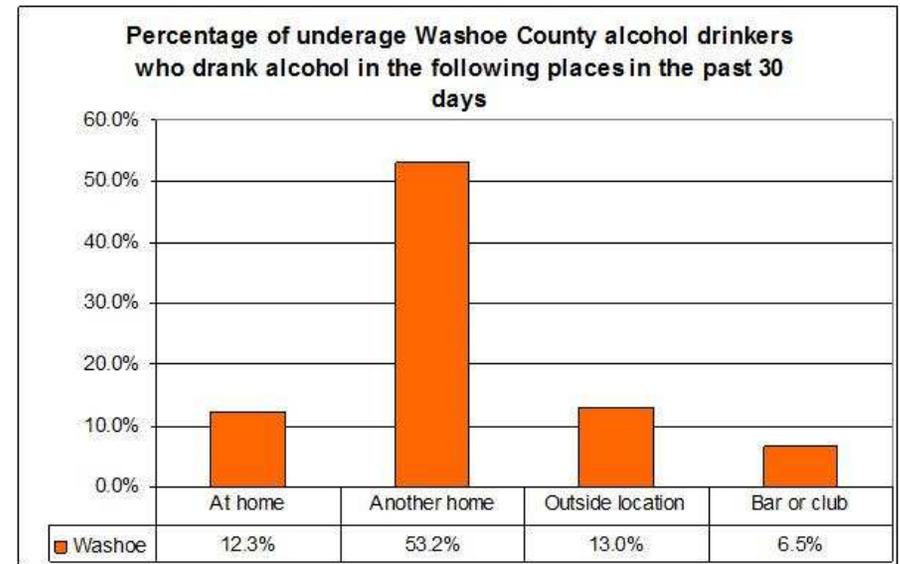
Source: Nevada Convenience Survey



Source: Nevada Convenience Survey



Source: Nevada Convenience Survey

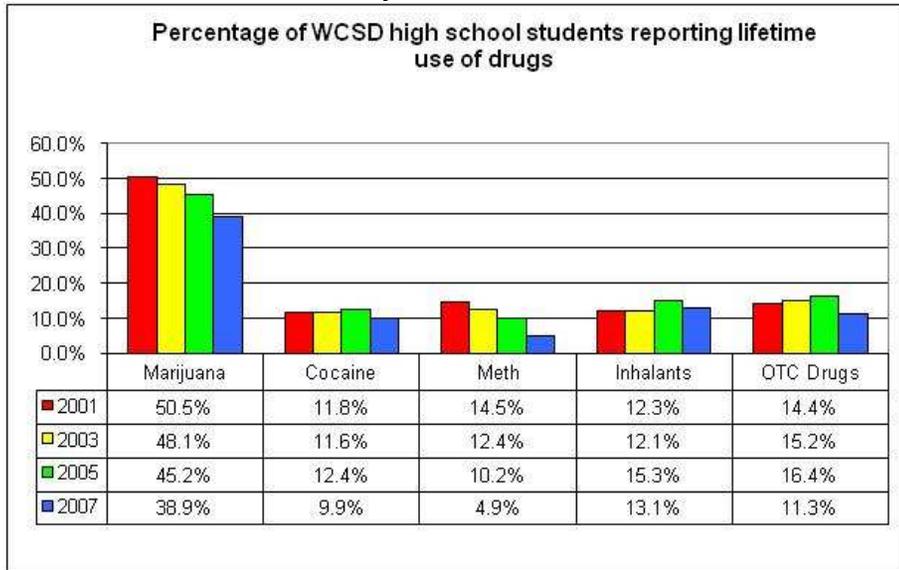


Drugs – Significant Findings

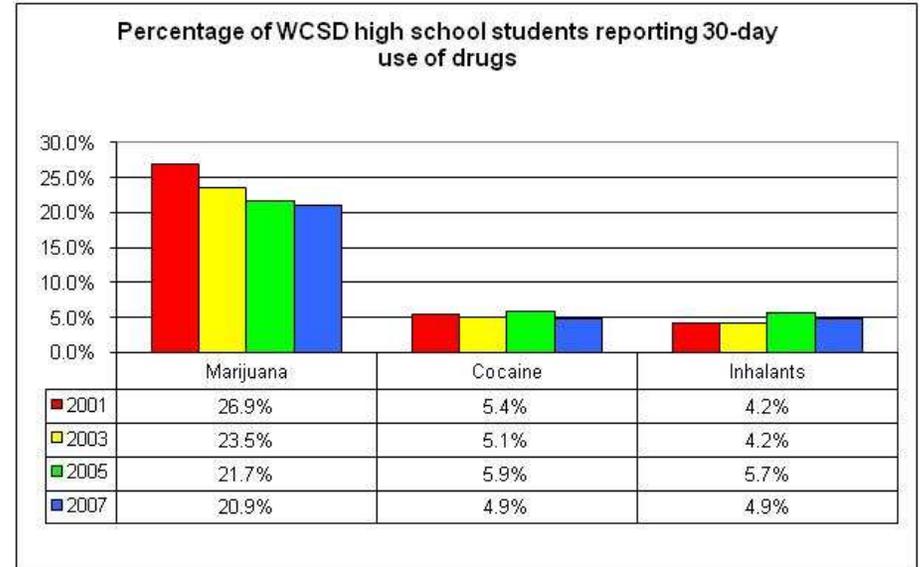
- *Overall, a positive declining trend exists in the percentage of Washoe County students who have used drugs. One notable exception to this trend is the high percentage of Washoe County middle school students who have used marijuana. High school students are reporting later onset of experimentation with substances, though these results are mixed at the middle school level.*
- The percentage of Washoe County high school students reporting lifetime use of marijuana, cocaine, meth, and OTC (over-the-counter) drugs declined steadily from 2001 to 2007. *These results are very encouraging.* Of particular note is the decline in the number of Washoe County high school students who have tried meth; this percentage declined from 14.5% in 2001 to 4.9% in 2007. Washoe County high school students' use of substances is comparable to their statewide counterparts.
- At the middle school level, the results are mixed. Use of meth has declined, use of cocaine and OTC drugs remain constant, and the use of marijuana has increased. Of particular concern is the prevalence of marijuana use amongst Washoe County middle school students; 17.0% have tried this drug compared to only 12.1% statewide.
- The percentage of Washoe County middle school students experimenting with marijuana before the age of 13 increased between 2005 and 2007, though these numbers are close to those seen on the 2003 survey. Again, Washoe County middle school students are much more likely to experiment with marijuana before the age of 13 than their counterparts elsewhere in the state (13.3% compared to 9.8% statewide).
- Though the number of referrals for most drug related behaviors involving Washoe County youth remains relatively constant, the number of youth referrals for Possession of Marijuana (less than one ounce) has increased steadily over the last several years. It is not known if this is due to increased possession or increased enforcement.
- The percentage of UNR students reporting use of amphetamines and ecstasy has declined over the last several years. The percentage reporting use of marijuana and cocaine, however, has increased significantly for both past year and 30-day use.
- The most common drug of choice amongst adolescents admitted to SAPTA funded treatment programs continues to be marijuana, followed by Meth and alcohol.

Use of Drugs

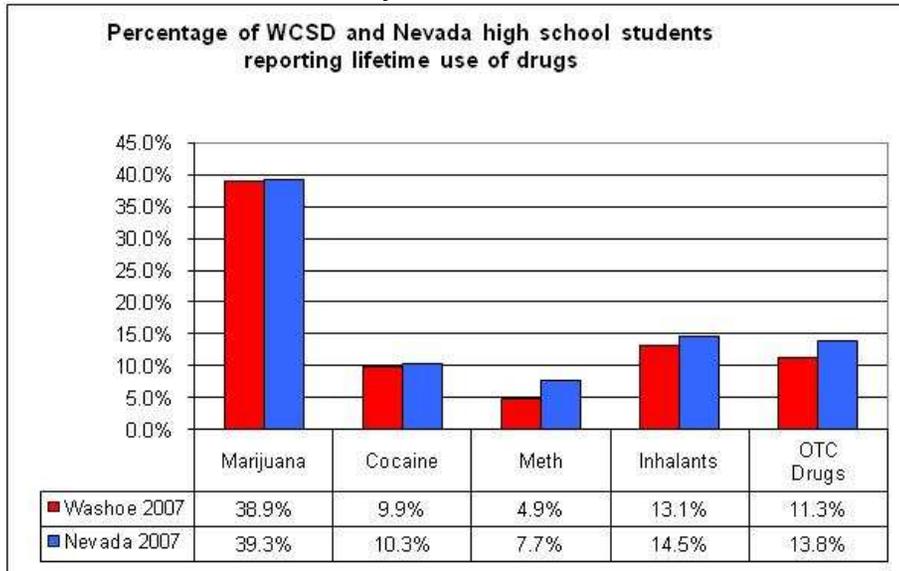
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



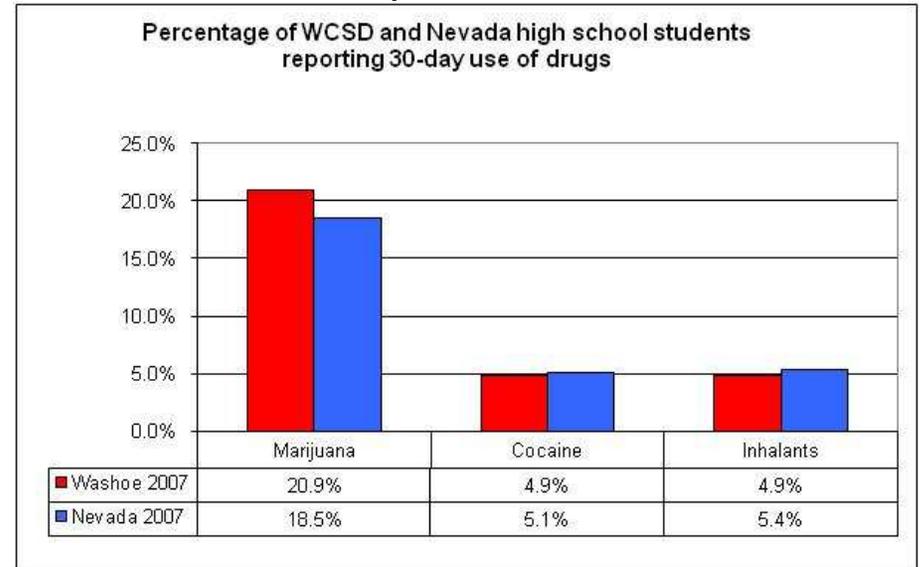
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

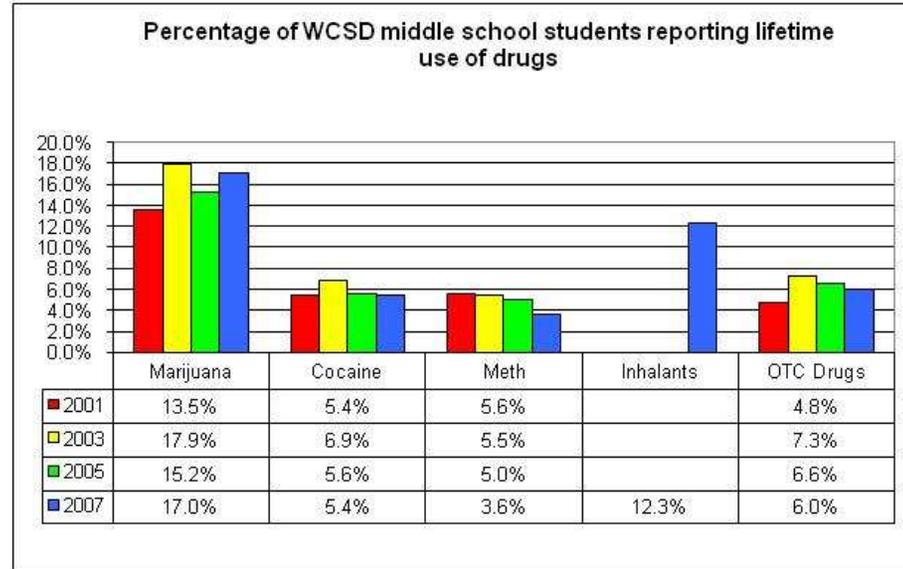


Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

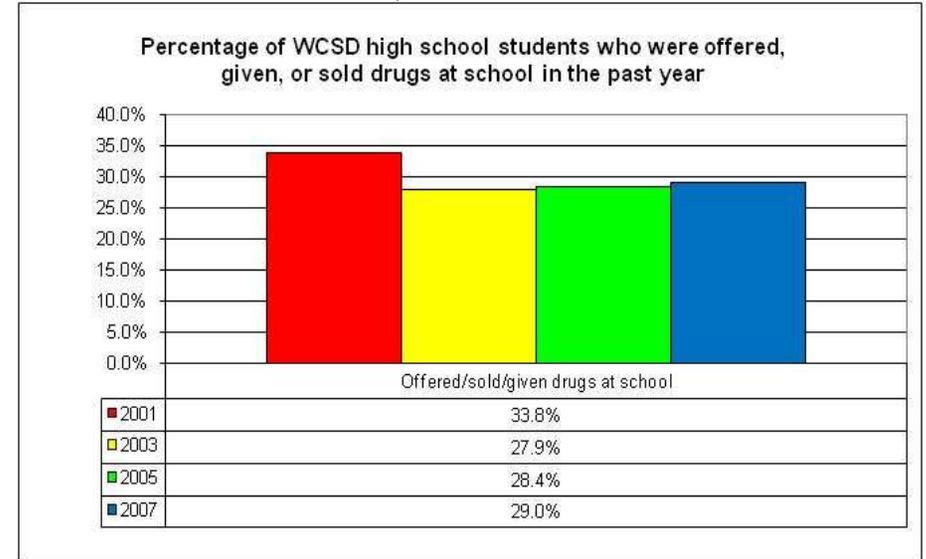


Use of Drugs - cont'd.

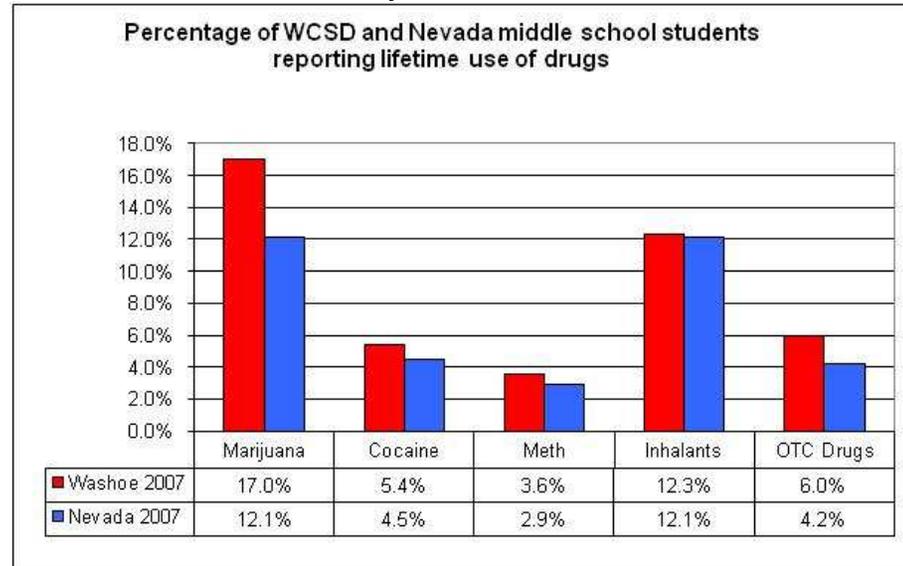
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



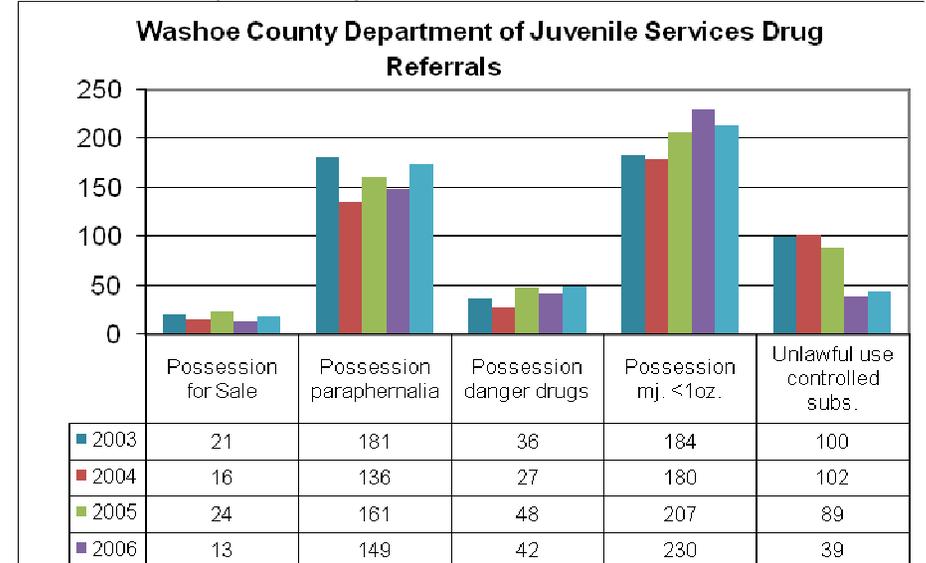
Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

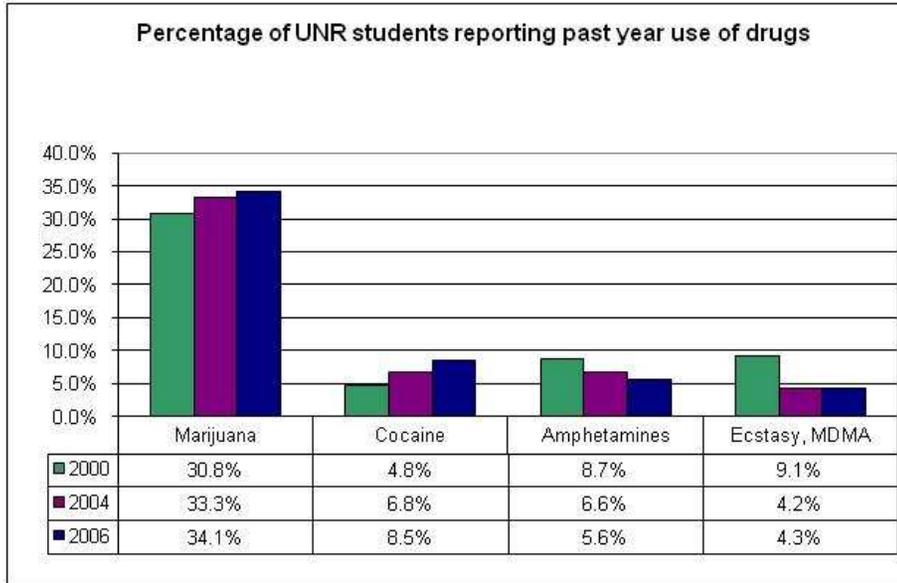


Source: Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services

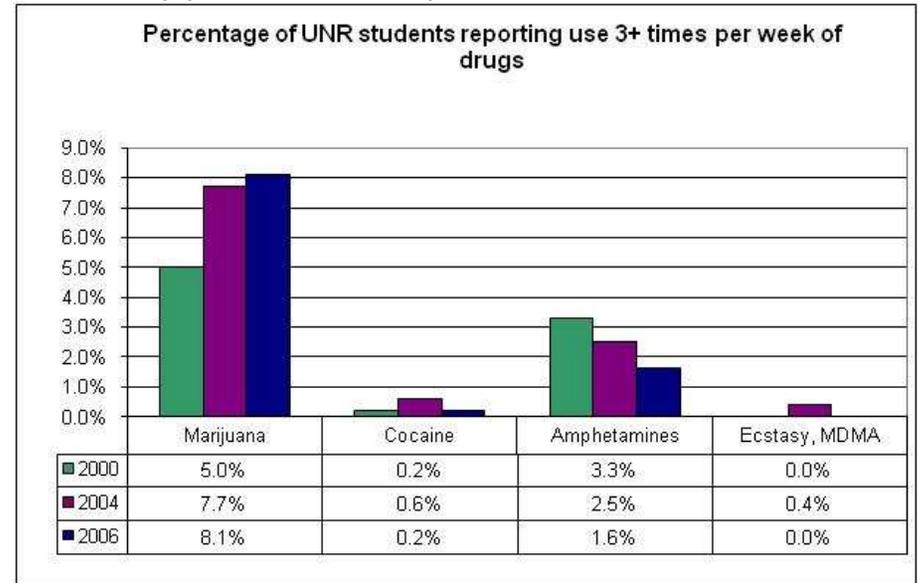


Use of Drugs - cont'd.

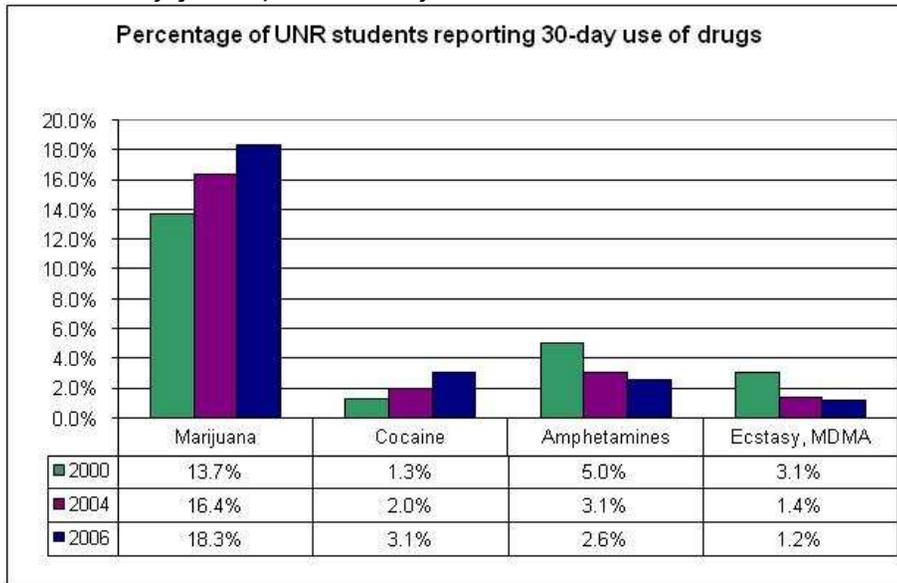
Source: University of Nevada, Reno Core Survey



Source: University of Nevada, Reno Core Survey

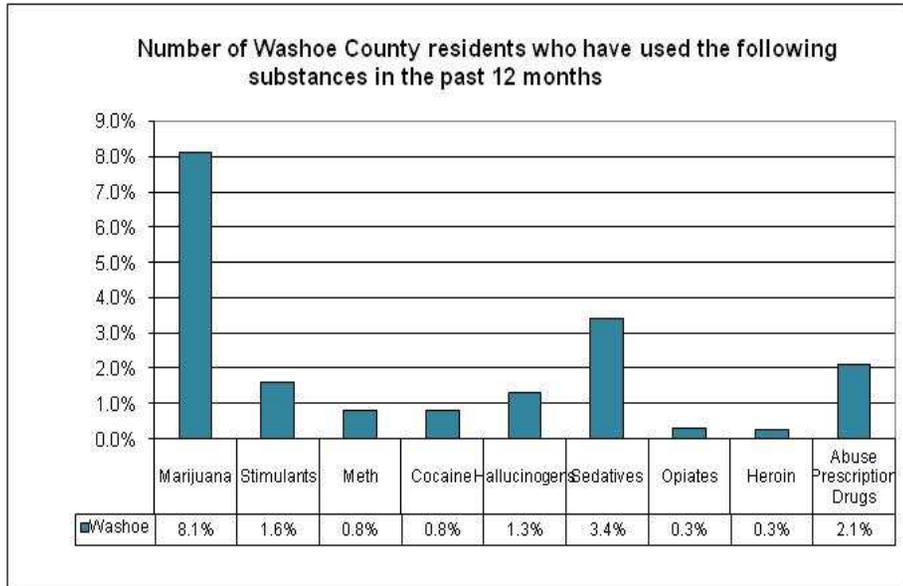


Source: University of Nevada, Reno Core Survey

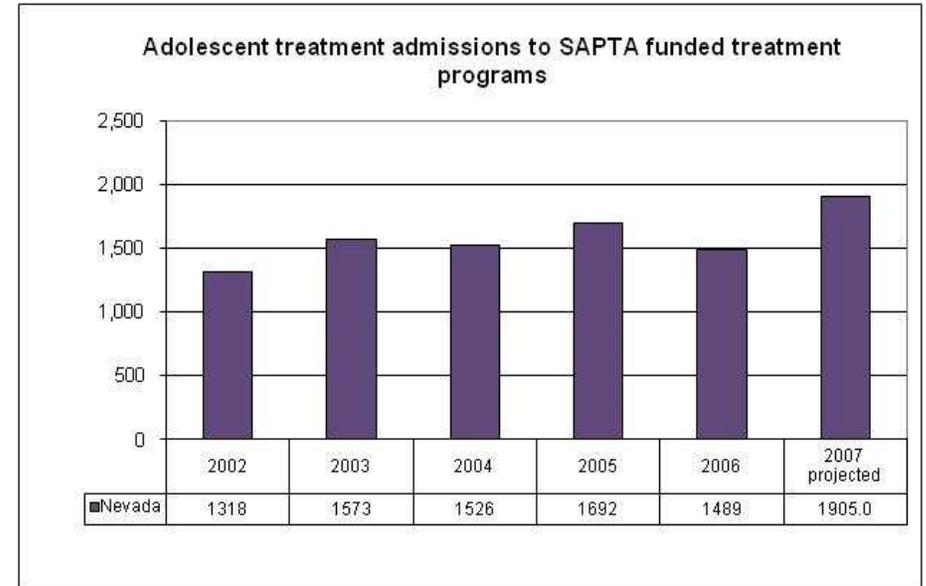


Use of Drugs - cont'd.

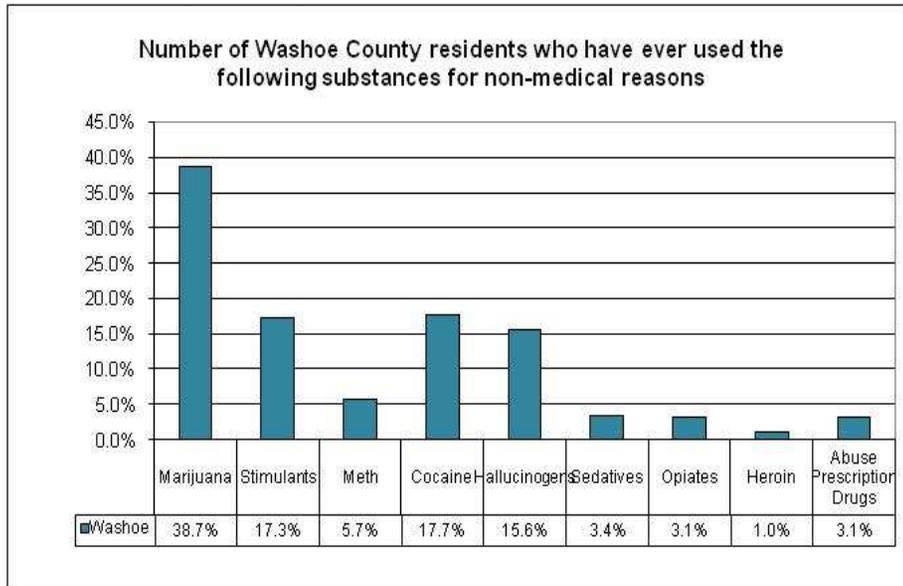
Source: Nevada Telephone Survey



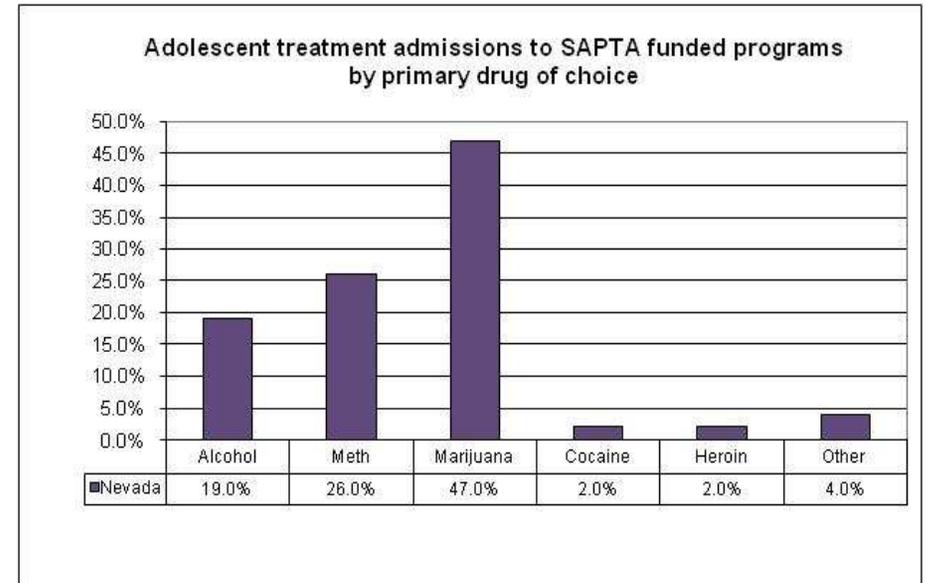
Source: Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency



Source: Nevada Telephone Survey

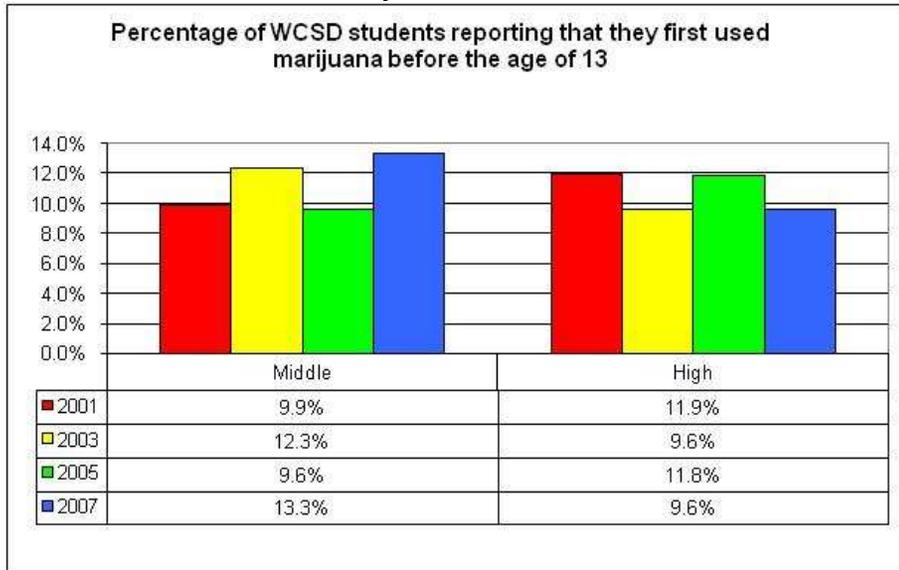


Source: Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency



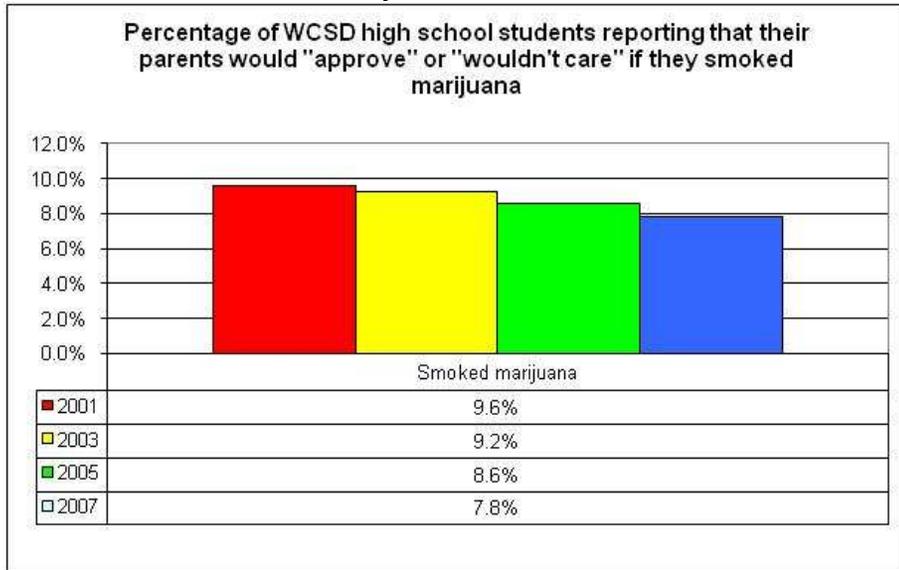
Age of First Use of Drugs

Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

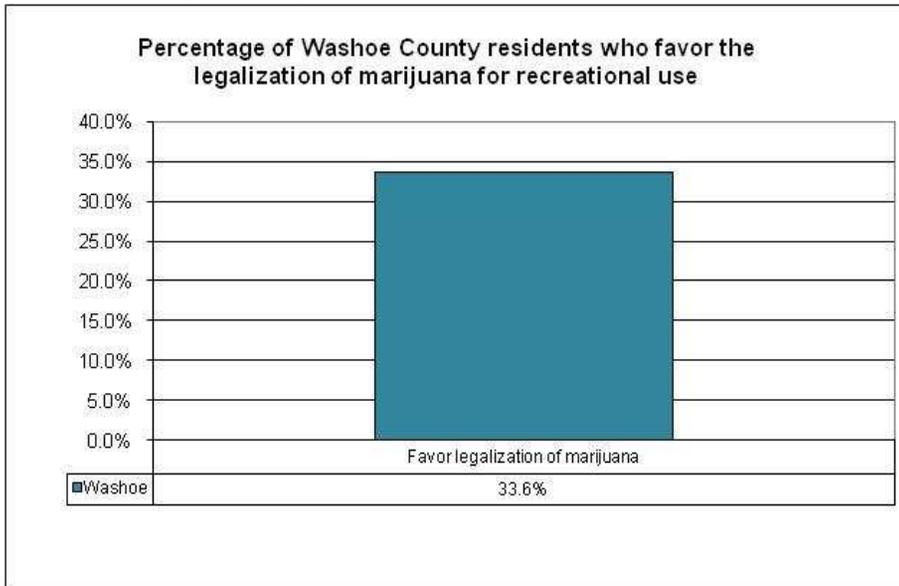


Perceptions - Drugs

Source: Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Source: Nevada Telephone Survey



References

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey: administered every two years (odd numbered years) in Nevada.
 - In 2007, n= 1,355 middle school students and 1,289 high school students (Washoe County)
 - In 2007, WCSD changed from “active permission” (parents needing to send back permission slip for their youth to participate) to “passive permission” (parents only needed to return a slip if they did not want their youth to participate).
- Nevada Convenience Survey: Administered for the first time in 2007, a face to face administration.
 - N=846 Washoe County respondents.
- Nevada Telephone Survey: Administered for the first time in 2007.
 - N=384 Washoe County respondents.
- Core Survey: administered every two years (even numbered years) to college students.
 - In 2006, n= 1292 UNR respondents.