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Division of Public and Behavioral Health NEWS RELEASE

Youth Tobacco and Drug Use Down in Nevada

Study quantifies risky youth behaviors in Nevada; data help guide interventions

Carson City – The recently released 2015 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) shows a reduction in tobacco use and several forms of illicit drug use among Nevada high school youth between 2013 and 2015.

“This is great news for prevention efforts at state and local levels” said Amberlee Baxa, the YRBS program coordinator. “However, the investigators note that prevalence of the most commonly used substances (alcohol, marijuana, and non-medical prescription drugs) has not changed and over half the high school students surveyed had used electronic vapor products.”

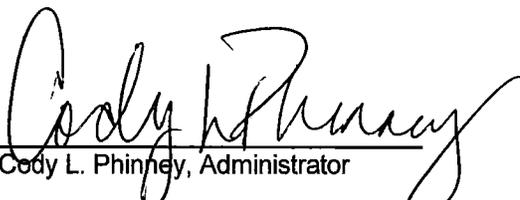
The YRBS is a biennial, anonymous and voluntary survey of Nevada high school students conducted by the state Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the University of Nevada Reno, School of Community Health Sciences. The survey was designed to assess risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. Overall, a total of 97 public high schools (5,108 students) participated in Nevada’s high school YRBS. For the first time in six years, a middle school YRBS was also conducted with 113 public middle schools (4,535 students).

Other highlights of the most recent YRBS include:

- 30.6% of high school students and 10.3% of middle school students drank alcohol during the past 30 days.
- 39.4% of high school students and 10.2% of middle school students reported that they ever used marijuana.
- 34.5% of high school students reported depressive symptoms in the past 12 months and 31.4% of middle school students reported ever having depressive symptoms.
- 17.7% of high school students seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months and 22.9% of middle school students ever seriously considered killing themselves.
- 18.5% of high school students were bullied on school property during the past 12 months and 44.7% of middle school students reported ever being bullied on school property.

YRBS data provide invaluable information to education, health professionals, policy makers, community members, and researchers. More information on the Nevada YRBS and the statewide reports can be found at <http://dhs.unr.edu/chs/research/yrbs> or contact Amberlee Baxa, MPH at (702) 486-3567 or abaxa@health.nv.gov.




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