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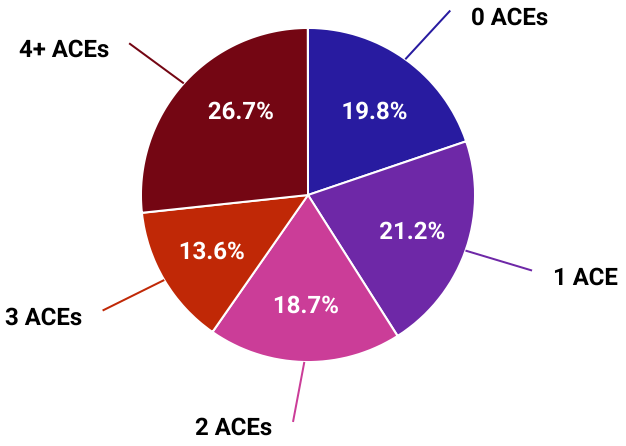
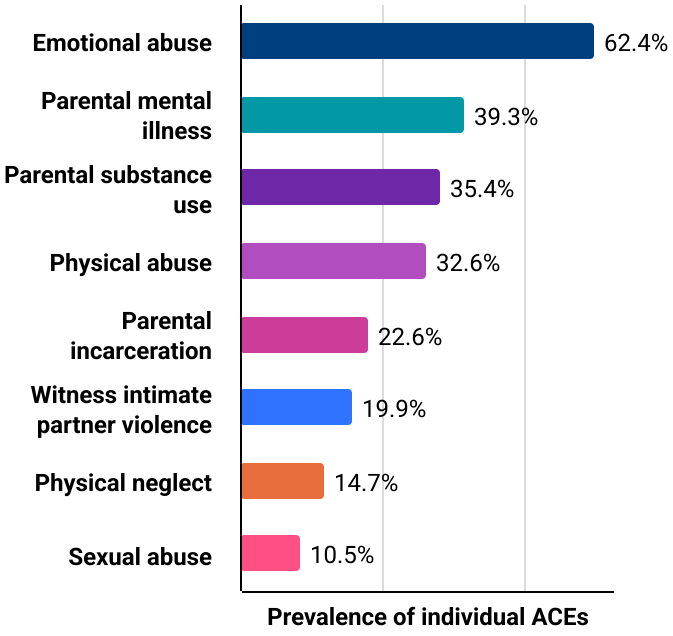
The influence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and positive childhood experiences (PCEs) on Southern Behavioral Health Region substance use

Findings from the 2023 Nevada High School YRBS (n = 315)*

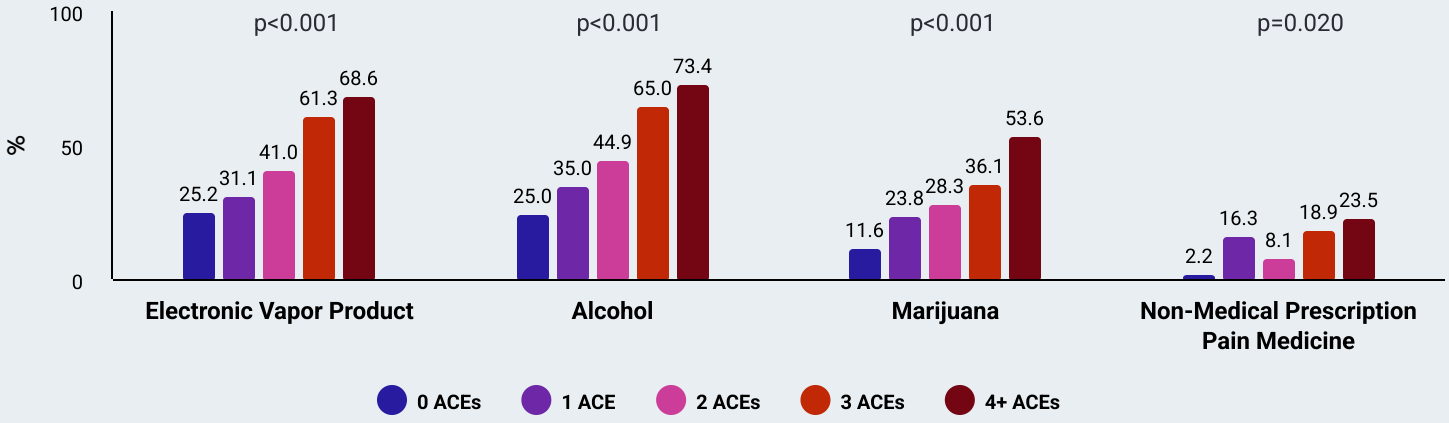
ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur before the age of 18 years. ACEs include abuse, neglect, and household challenges. Middle school youth who have more ACEs often have more negative health outcomes, including substance use. The Southern Behavioral Health Region covers Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, and Nye county.

Prevalence of ACEs among Southern Behavioral Health Region high school students





Prevalence of Lifetime Substance Use Outcomes by ACE Score



*Findings only among youth who reported their age as less than 18 years old

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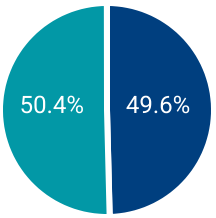
PCEs

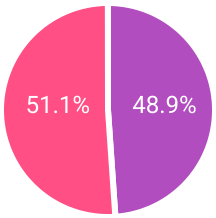
PCEs are positive experiences during childhood, including having safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. In the 2023 YRBS, youth were asked six questions covering family communication and school connectedness. An average family communication and school connectedness score was calculated and youth with scores higher than the average score were categorized as having high PCE exposure.

Prevalence of Family Communication and School Connectedness Among Washoe County High School Students*



Family Communication

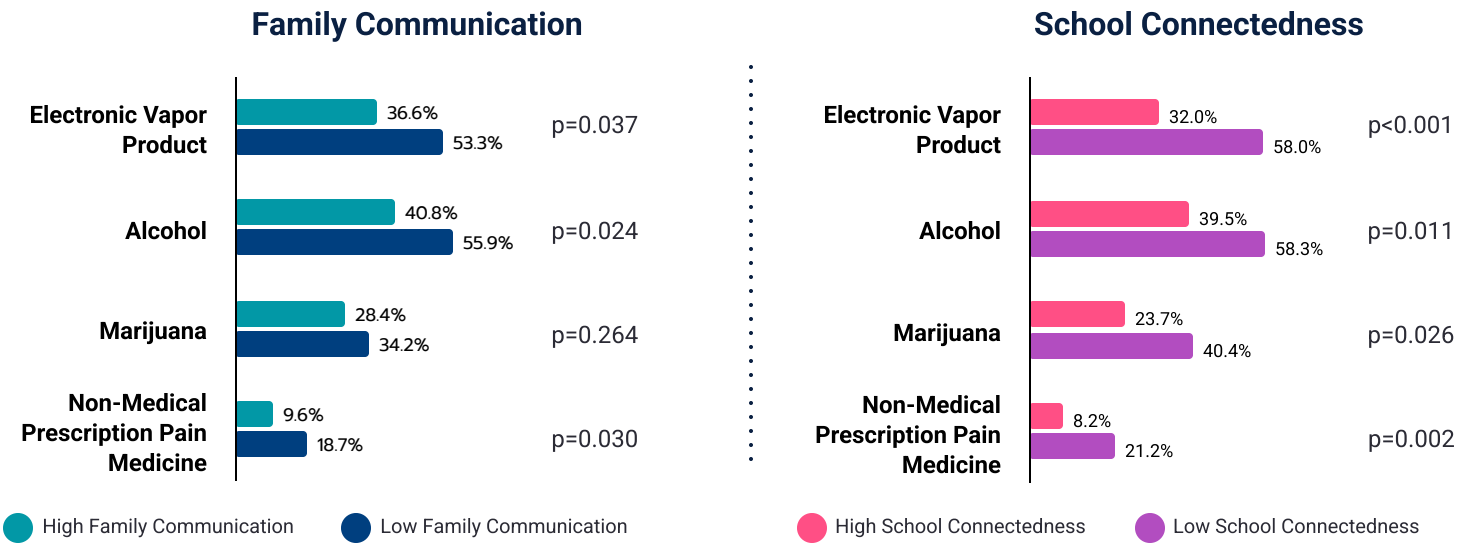
- High Family Communication
- Low Family Communication



School Connectedness

- High School Connectedness
- Low School Connectedness

Prevalence of Lifetime Substance Use Outcomes by PCEs Among Washoe County High School Students*



*Findings only among youth who reported their age as less than 18 years old

Crisis Support Services of Nevada/988 Hotline

Nevada 211

First 5 Nevada

NSCP Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership

Prevent Child Abuse Nevada

YRBS Youth Risk Behavior Survey — Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

School of Public Health Making Health Happen

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Nevada Institute For Children's Research & Policy NICRP University of Nevada - Las Vegas

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