



essentials
for **childhood**

2023

Nevada Middle School
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

**Positive Childhood
Experiences (PCEs)
Special Report**



Acknowledgements

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Additional Resources

Nevada YRBS Statewide and Special Reports

<https://www.unr.edu/public-health/research-activities/nevada-youth-risk-behavior-survey>

YRBS Adolescent and School Health

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

<http://dpbh.nv.gov/>

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Introduction

Positive Childhood Experiences, or PCEs, describe a set of interpersonal relationships between family, friends, in school, and in community that fosters a child's capacity to thrive. PCEs stem from safe, stable, nurturing relationships and can protect children for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). In 2023, we monitored the prevalence of two PCEs through the Nevada Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): family communication and school connectedness. For more information on the 2023 middle school YRBS please see the [state report](#).

Methods

The 2023 Nevada YRBS sampling plan was designed to ensure that every eligible student in regular public, charter, and alternative middle schools had an equal chance of selection. For the 2023 Middle School YRBS, a random sample of 6,915 youth from 121 schools completed the survey. Please see the 2023 Nevada Middle School Youth Risk Behavior report for detailed information on the random cluster sampling design used.

The 2023 Nevada YRBS data were weighted at the state and regional level based on the sex, race/ethnicity, and grade level of students in each region. The weighting process ensured that the estimates accurately represent the entire student population in each region and the state as a whole. Non-response or poor sampling procedures can result in a sample that is not a representative subset of the population; therefore, un-weighted results from these samples may not accurately reflect student behaviors and could be misleading. This report only displays weighted results.

In the 2023 Nevada Middle School YRBS, three measures assessed family communication: 1) discuss their problems with their parents/other adults in the home; 2) talk about what is right and wrong with their parents; and, 3) comfort talking to their parents about personal matters. Additionally, three measures assessed school connectedness: 1) closeness to people at school; 2) happiness to be at school; and, 3) teachers care about them and give them encouragement. An average family communication and school connectedness score was calculated; youth higher than the average scores were categorized as having high family communication and school connectedness. The weighted chi-square test was used to assess differences in risk behaviors by family communication and school connectedness.

This report focuses on the relationship between family communication and school connectedness exposure and behavioral and other health outcomes. Weighted prevalence estimates are displayed in bar charts for each outcome. Indicators for which any prevalence estimates exceed 25% are displayed on charts with a vertical axis ranging from 0 to 100%; indicators for which no prevalence estimates exceed 25% are displayed on charts with a vertical axis ranging from 0 to 50%. Lines on the bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Corresponding p-values are also included for every comparison if the p-value is statistically significant, otherwise 'NS' is reported for nonsignificant results.

Participant Characteristics

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of students — Nevada YRBS 2023

		Students ^a	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Total		6915	100.0%	100.0%
Sex	Female	3297	49.0%	48.5%
	Male	3437	51.0%	51.5%
Age Groups	11 years old or younger	943	13.9%	14.2%
	12 years old	2231	32.9%	32.8%
	13 years old	2160	31.8%	32.4%
	14 years old or older	1450	21.4%	20.6%
Grade	6th grade	2184	32.6%	31.2%
	7th grade	2212	33.0%	33.6%
	8th grade	2305	34.4%	35.2%
Race/Ethnicity	American Indian/Alaska Native^b	189	2.9%	0.8%
	Asian^b	228	3.5%	5.1%
	Black^b	427	6.6%	12.2%
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander^b	89	1.4%	1.4%
	White^b	2227	34.5%	27.8%
	Hispanic/Latino	2961	45.8%	45.7%
	Other/Multiple^b	343	5.3%	7.0%
Region	Urban	4896	70.8%	90.7%
	Rural	683	9.9%	3.2%
	Frontier	1336	19.3%	6.0%

^a The sample size in the total and subgroups may differ due to missing data

^b Non-Hispanic

Family Communication and School Connectedness

Table 2: Prevalence of individual family communication and school connectedness questions – Nevada YRBS 2023

		N	% ^a
Total		6915	100.0%
<u>Most of the time/always</u> spoke to their parents or other adults in their home about their problems			
	Yes	1957	31.0%
	No	4287	69.0%
<u>Most of the time/always</u> talked to their parents about what is right and wrong			
	Yes	1966	31.5%
	No	4258	68.5%
<u>Most of the time/always</u> felt comfortable talking to their parents about personal matters			
	Yes	2311	37.2%
	No	3921	62.8%
<u>Most of the time/always</u> felt close to people at their school			
	Yes	2820	44.9%
	No	3375	55.1%
<u>Most of the time/always</u> who were happy to be at their school			
	Yes	2448	39.7%
	No	3370	60.3%
<u>Most of the time/always</u> felt that the teachers at their school really care about you and give you a lot of encouragement			
	Yes	2410	37.6%
	No	3808	62.4%

^a Weighted percent

Table 3: Prevalence of family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

		N	% ^a
Family Communication	Low Family Communication	3311	52.1%
	High Family Communication	3038	47.9%
School Connectedness	Low School Connectedness	3111	49.0%
	High School Connectedness	3203	51.0%

^a Weighted percent

Table 4: Participant characteristics, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

		Low Family Communication		High Family Communication		Low School Connectedness		High School Connectedness	
		N ^a	% ^b	N ^a	% ^b	N ^a	% ^b	N ^a	% ^b
Overall Total		3311	52.1%	3038	47.9%	3111	49.0%	3203	51.0%
Sex	Female	1707	54.8%	1426	45.2%	1622	52.4%	1504	47.6%
	Male	1558	49.3%	1586	50.7%	1441	45.3%	1675	54.7%
Age	11 years old or younger	411	47.6%	437	52.4%	381	44.7%	464	55.3%
	12 years old	1041	50.2%	1026	49.8%	948	45.3%	1105	54.7%
	13 years old	1115	54.6%	943	45.4%	1059	52.2%	988	47.8%
	14 years old or older	732	54.2%	618	45.8%	711	52.6%	631	47.4%
Grade	6th grade	969	47.7%	1016	52.0%	873	44.5%	1096	55.5%
	7th grade	1105	52.1%	999	47.9%	1062	49.5%	1037	50.5%
	8th grade	1183	55.6%	977	44.4%	1123	52.3%	1022	47.7%
Race/Ethnicity	American Indian/Alaska Native ^c	93	54.7%	79	45.3%	97	58.4%	75	41.6%
	Asian ^c	127	55.7%	92	44.3%	104	46.6%	115	53.4%
	Black ^c	217	52.7%	173	47.3%	205	51.2%	180	48.8%
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ^c	43	46.6%	35	53.4%	35	39.1%	43	60.9%
	White ^c	921	41.5%	1171	58.5%	935	44.5%	1148	55.5%
	Hispanic/Latino	1560	57.4%	1183	42.6%	1403	51.3%	1322	48.7%
	Other/Multiple ^c	181	57.4%	145	42.6%	168	51.2%	158	48.8%
Rurality	Urban	2356	52.3%	2119	47.7%	2205	49.0%	2241	51.0%
	Rural	333	53.0%	280	47.0%	307	50.6%	307	49.4%
	Frontier	622	49.1%	639	50.9%	599	48.9%	655	51.1%
School is Eligible for Title I Funding	Yes	2623	55.0%	5186	45.0%	2487	52.2%	2290	47.8%
	No	688	42.6%	852	57.4%	624	38.9%	913	61.1%
Military Family	Yes	281	61.6%	198	38.4%	254	52.9%	223	47.1%
	No	2941	51.4%	2758	48.6%	2758	48.5%	2909	51.5%
Sexual Identity	Gay or Lesbian	152	71.1%	64	28.9%	124	56.5%	91	43.5%
	Bisexual	401	65.5%	187	34.5%	350	58.5%	235	41.5%
	Some other identity	143	69.2%	55	30.8%	121	58.2%	76	41.8%
	Questioning identity	220	63.4%	134	36.6%	200	56.2%	154	43.8%
	Heterosexual	2149	48.0%	2325	52.0%	2072	46.2%	2374	53.8%
Gender Identity	Transgender	123	71.0%	42	29.0%	113	61.3%	52	38.7%
	Not sure	152	70.9%	57	29.1%	121	54.7%	87	45.3%
	Cisgender	2831	50.6%	2755	49.4%	2691	48.3%	2869	51.7%

^a The sample size in the total and subgroups may differ due to missing data

^b Weighted row percent

^c Non-Hispanic

Select Behavioral Health Outcomes by family communication and school connectedness

Violence and Victimization

Figure 1: Percentage of middle school students who were bullied on school property during the 12 months before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness — Nevada YRBS 2023

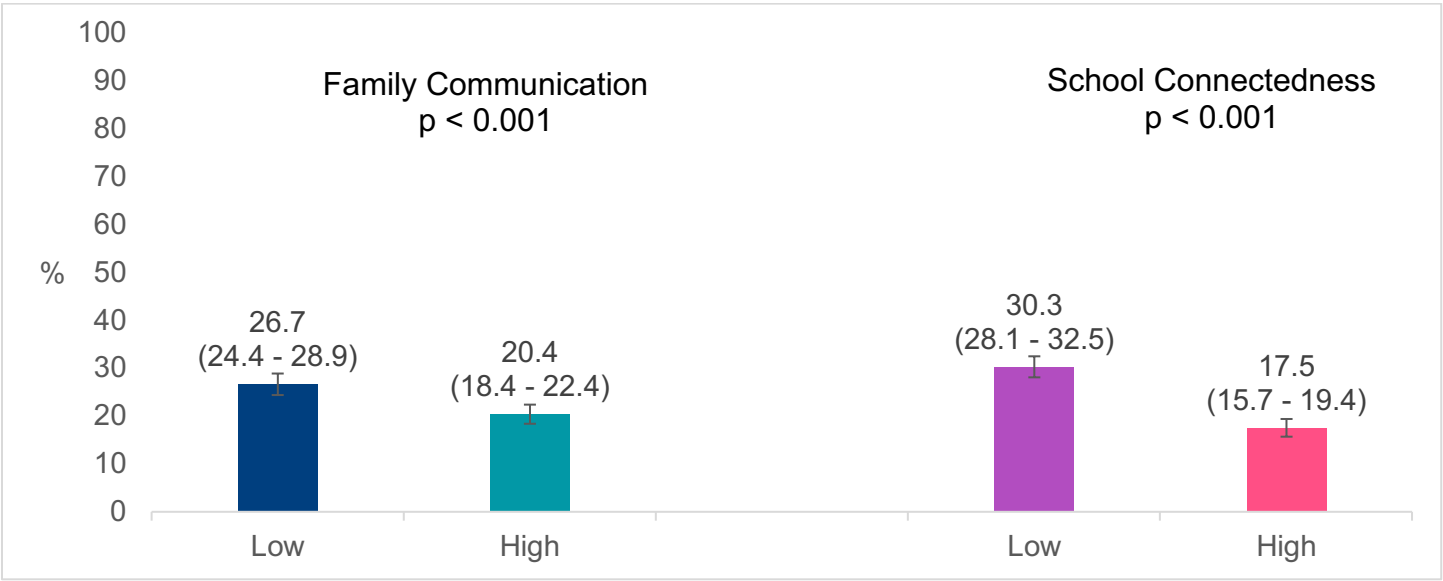
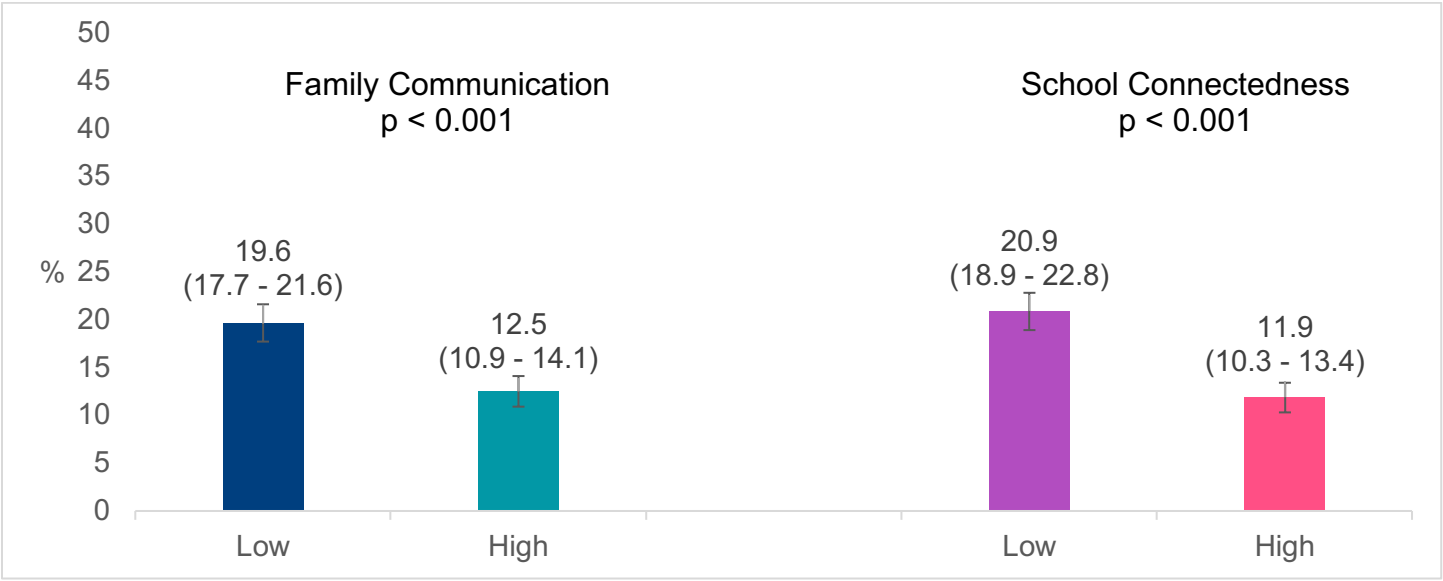
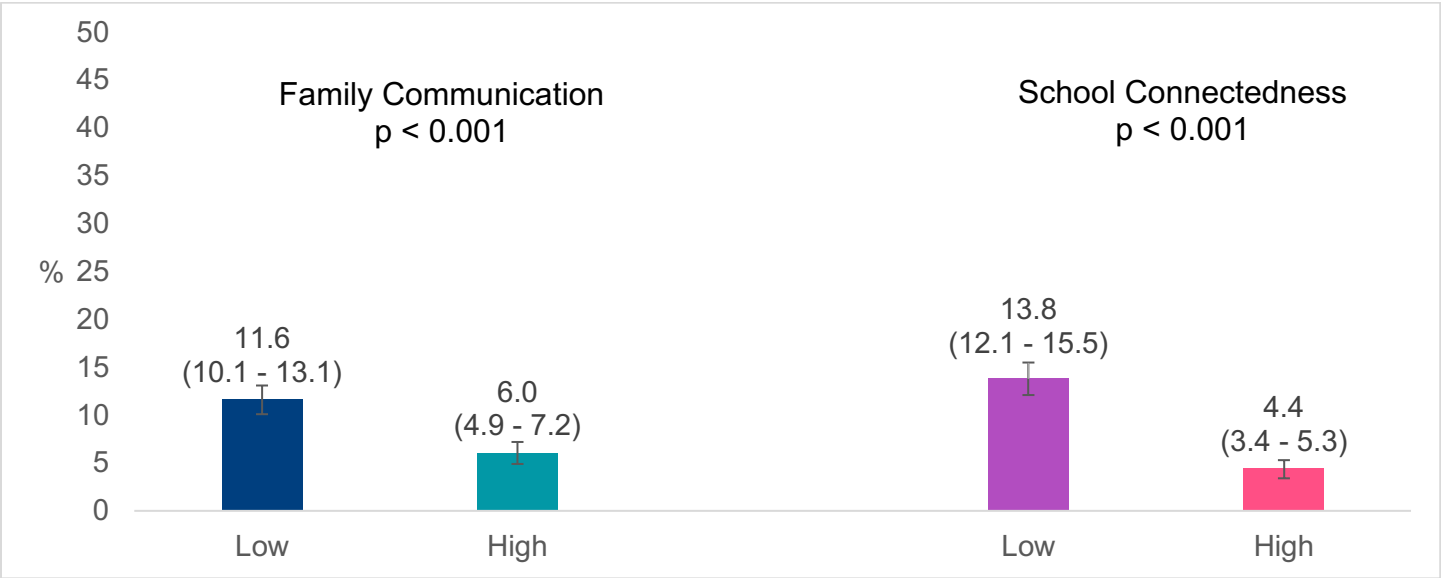


Figure 2: Percentage of middle school students who were electronically bullied during the 12 months before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a — Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Including being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media

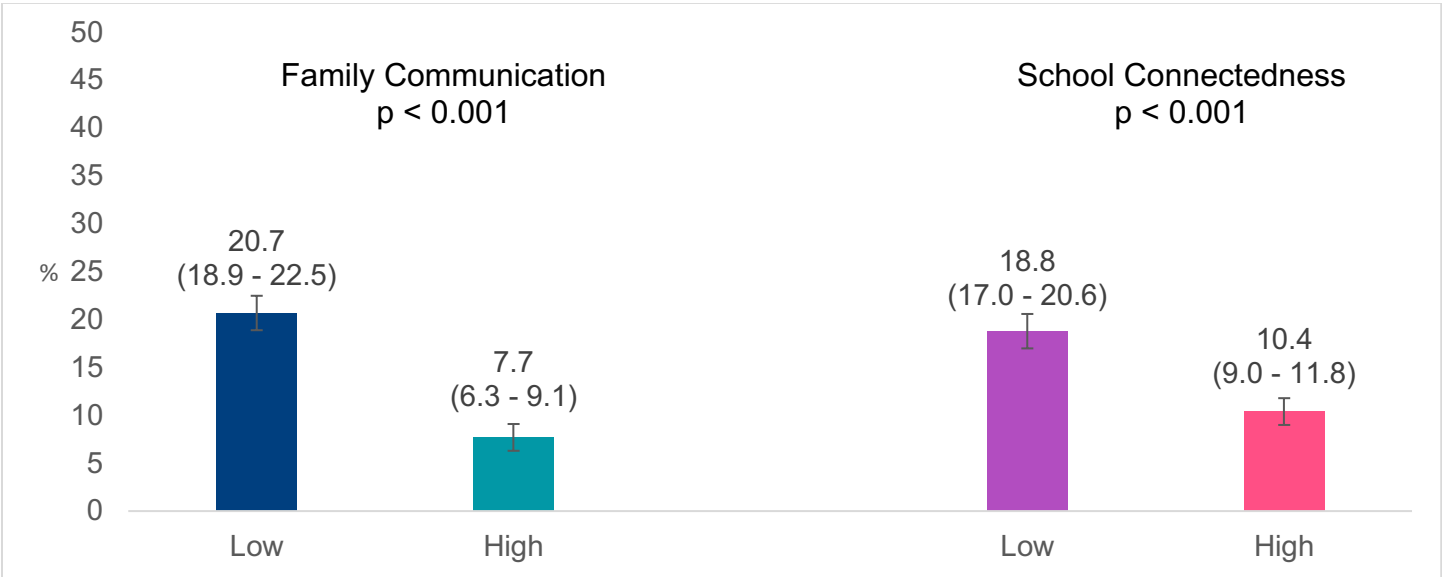
Figure 3: Percentage of middle school students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a One or more days during the 30 days before the survey

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Figure 4: Percentage of middle school students who have ever been hit, beaten, kicked, or physically hurt in any way by an adult, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Not including spanking for bad behavior

Figure 5: Percentage of middle school students who have ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023



Figure 6: Percentage of middle school students who have ever been sworn at, insulted by, or put down by an adult in their home, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

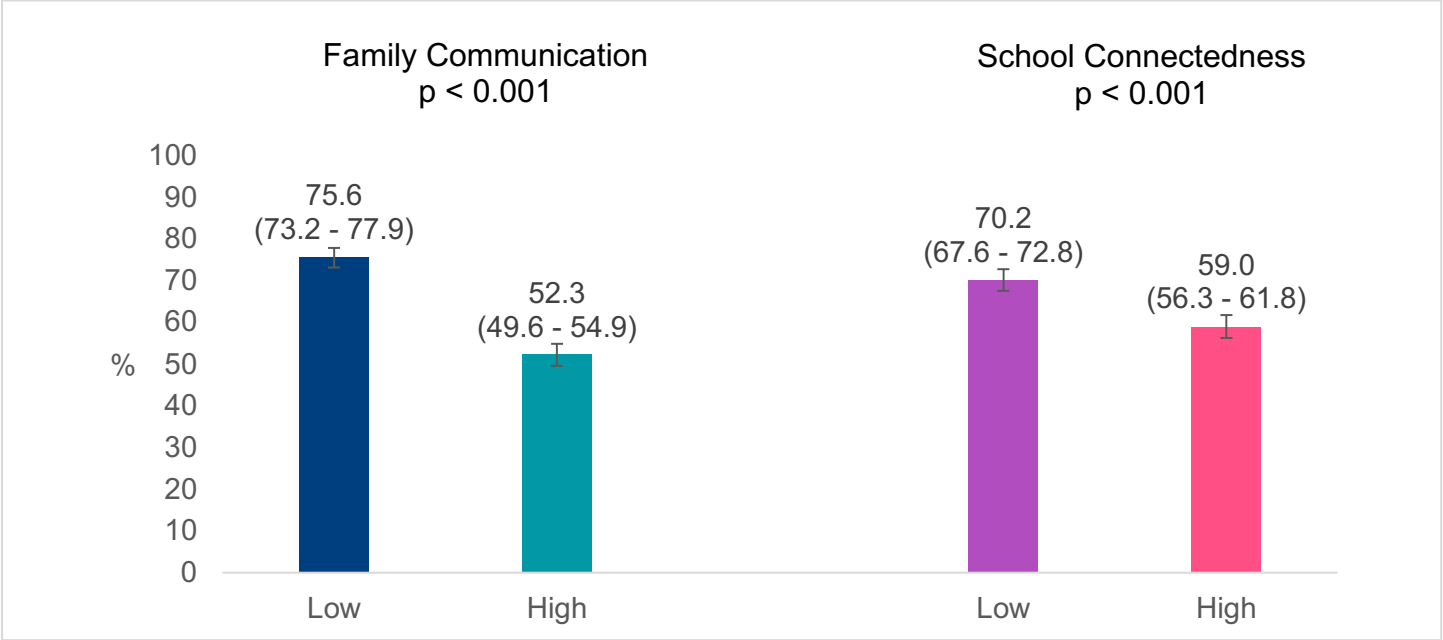


Figure 7: Percentage of middle school students who have ever seen or heard adults in their home slap, hit, kick, punch, or beat each other up, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

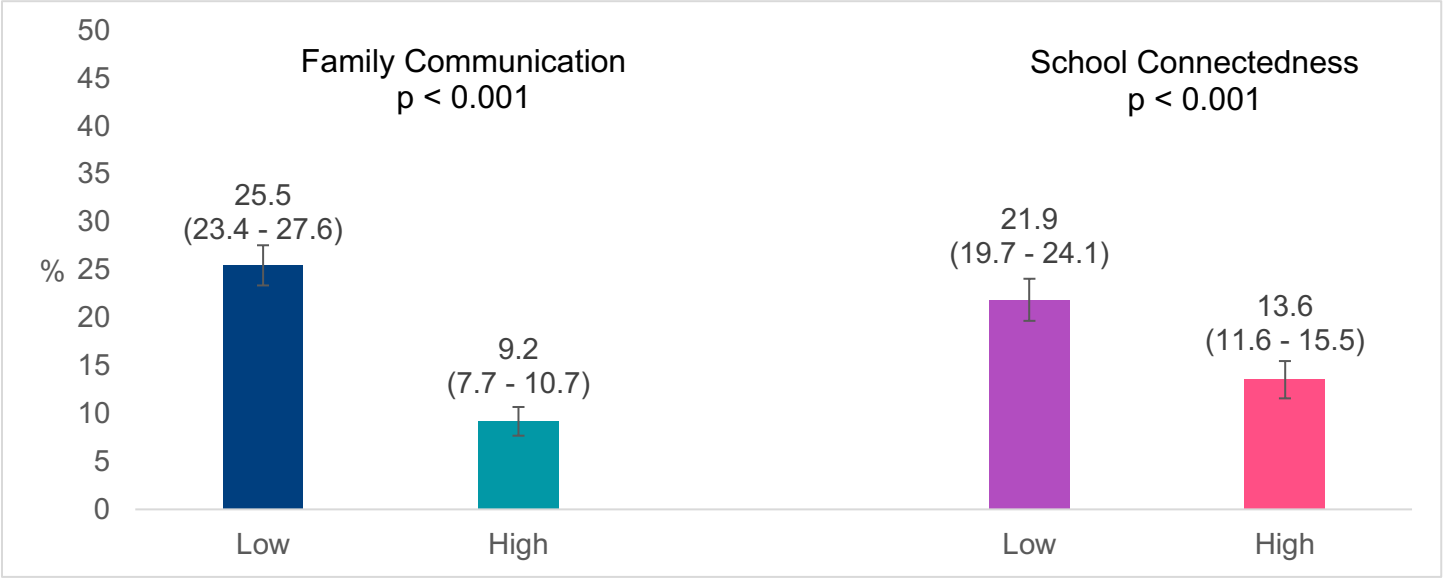


Figure 8: Percentage of middle school students who ever lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

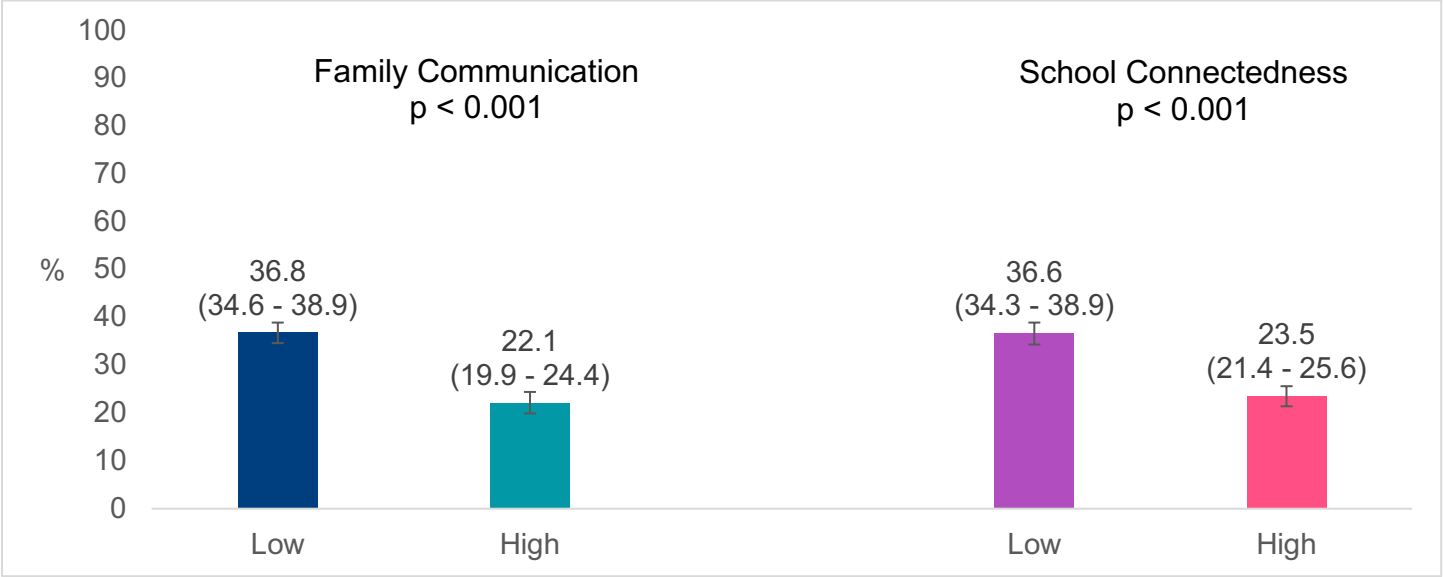


Figure 9: Percentage of middle school students who ever lived with someone who was a problem drinker, alcoholic, or abused street or prescription drugs, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

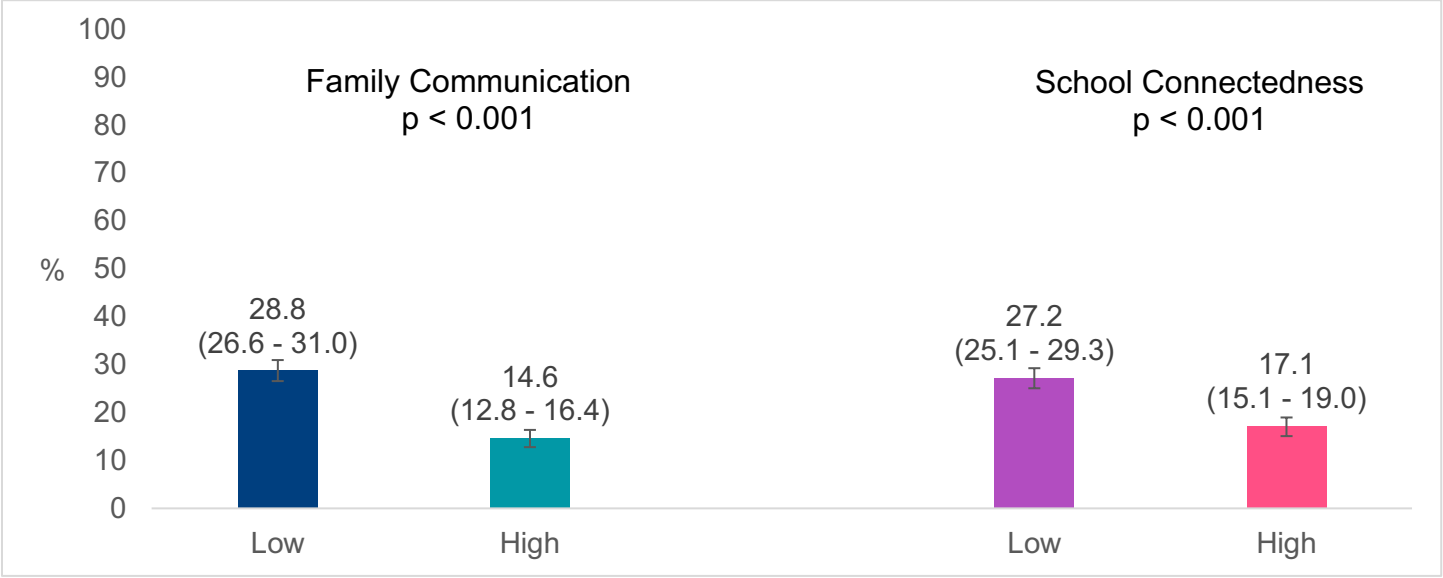
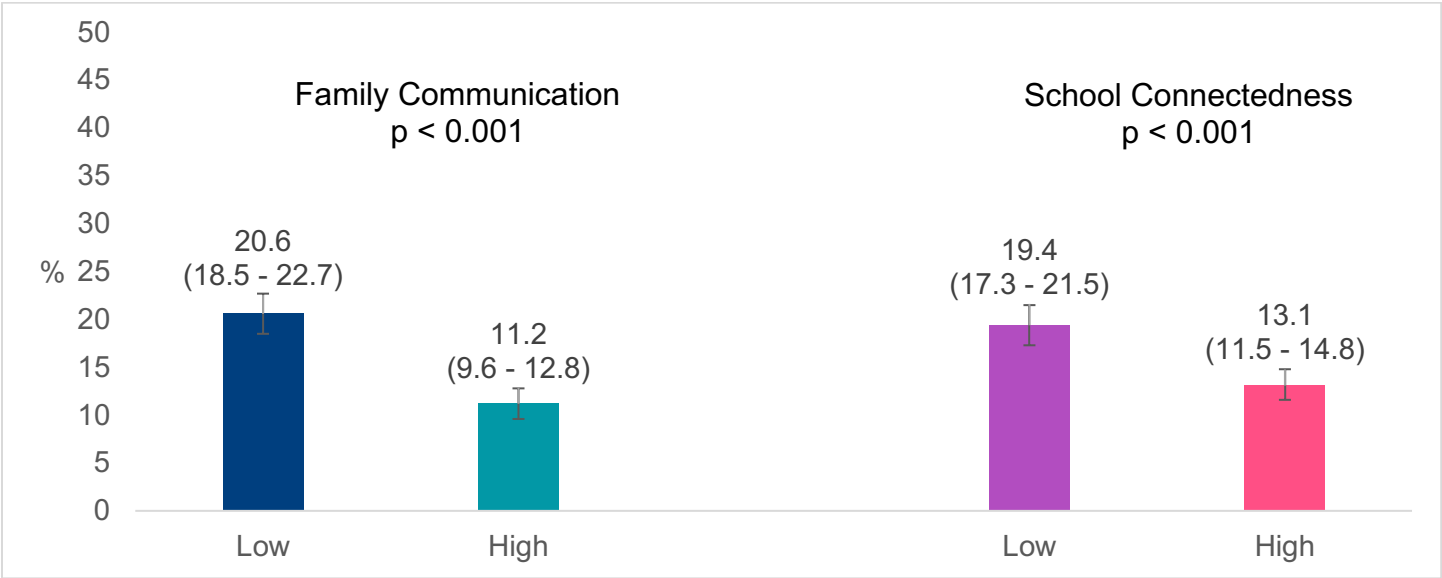
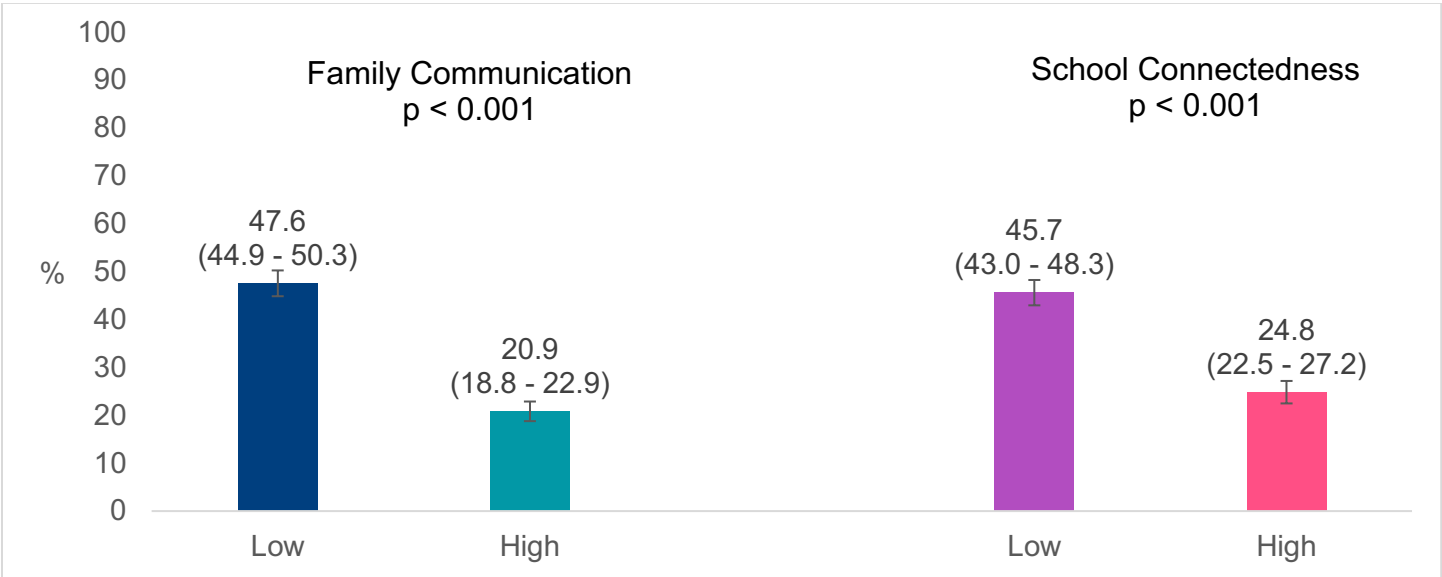


Figure 10: Percentage of middle school students who ever lived with someone who ever been separated from a parent or guardian because they went to jail, prison, or a detention center, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023



Emotional Health

Figure 11: Percentage of middle school students who felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row during the 12 months before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a So that they stopped doing some usual activities

Figure 12: Percentage of middle school students who seriously considered killing themselves during the 12 months before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

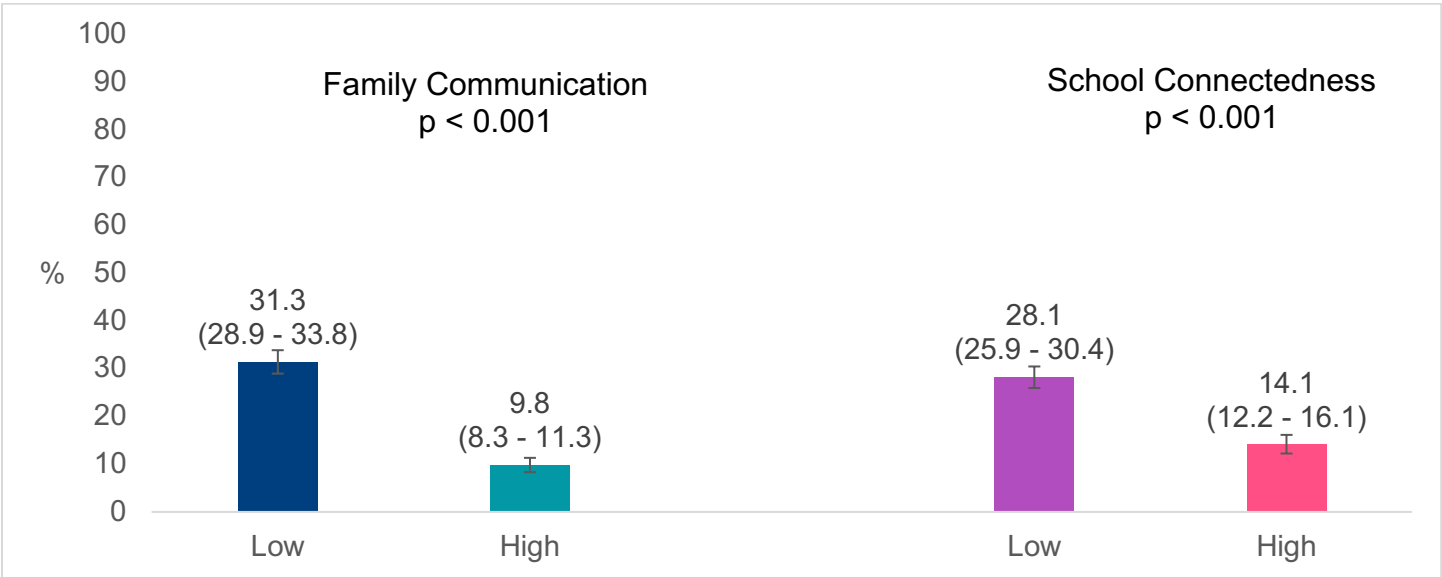


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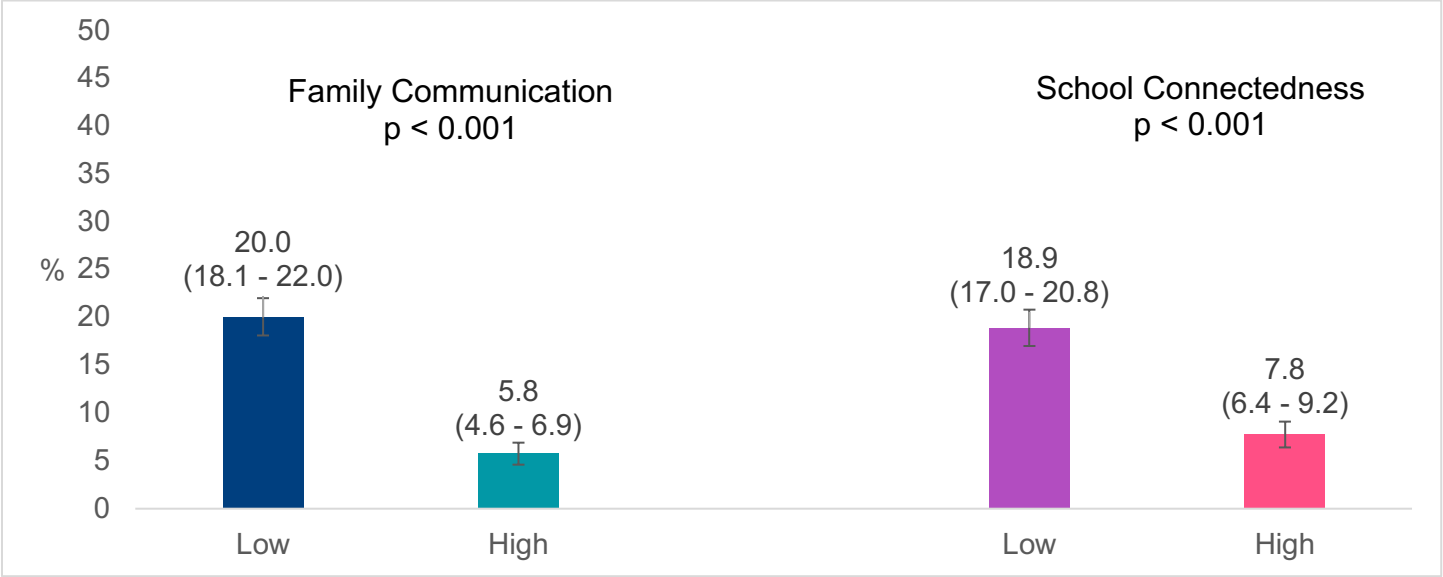


Figure 14: Percentage of middle school students who tried to kill themselves during the 12 months before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

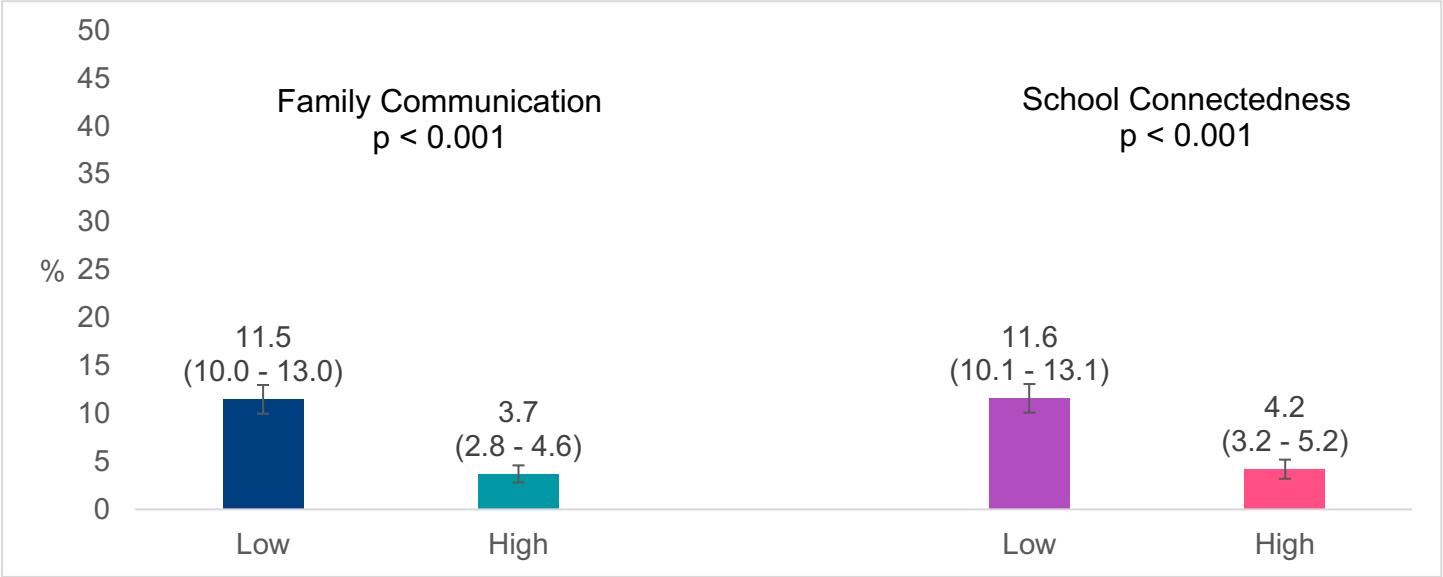
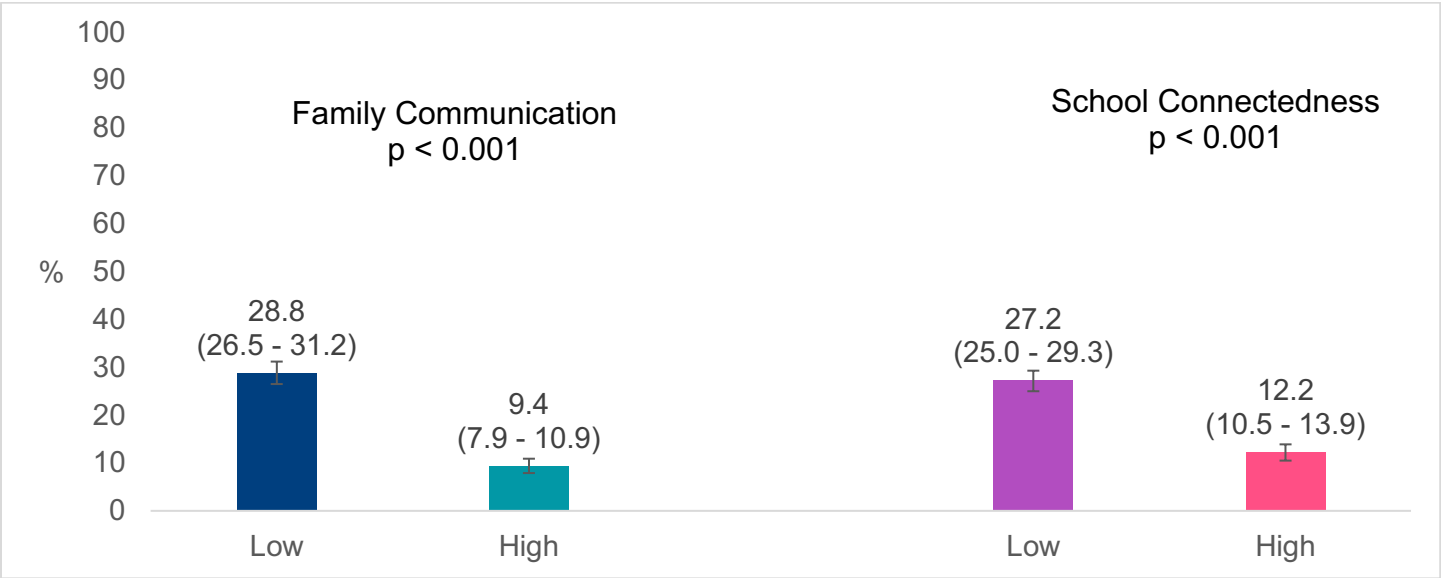
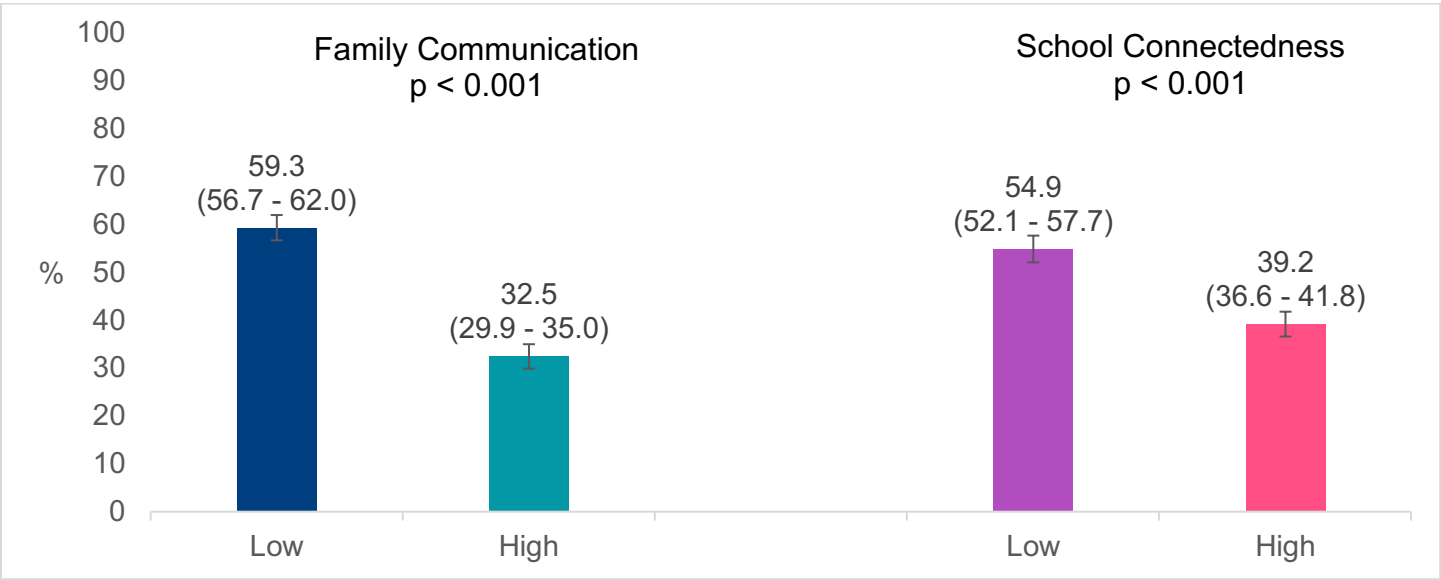


Figure 15: Percentage of middle school students who did something to purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves on purpose during the 12 months before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



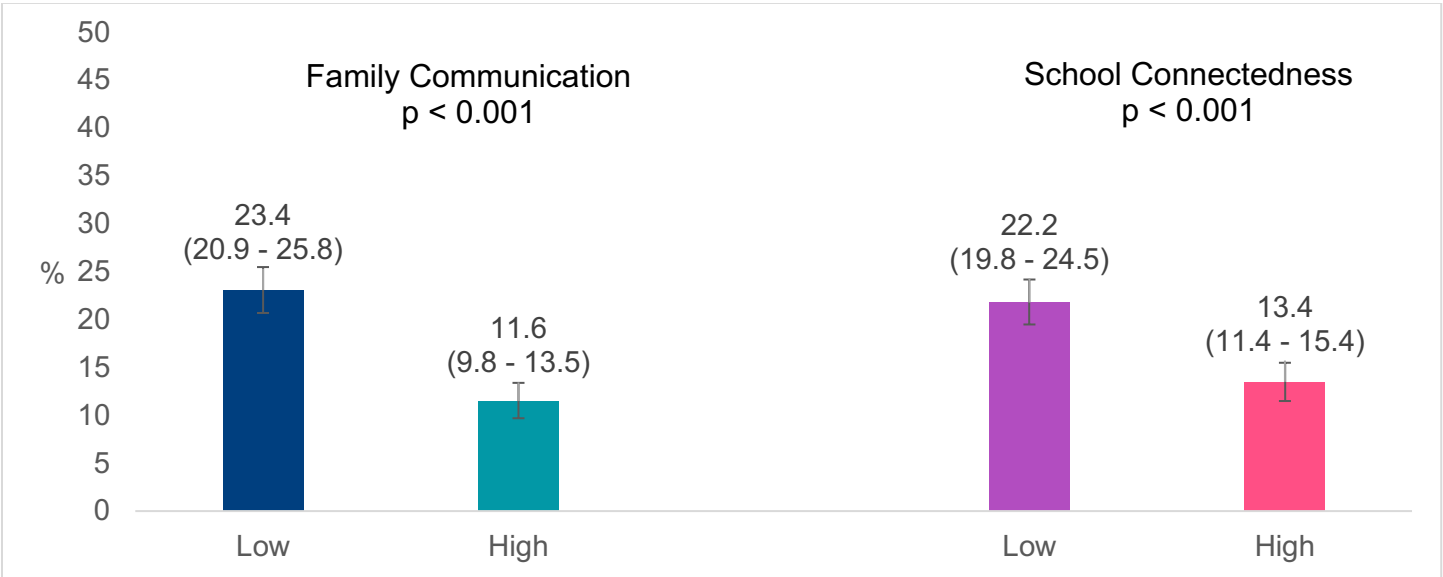
^a One or more times during the 12 months before the survey

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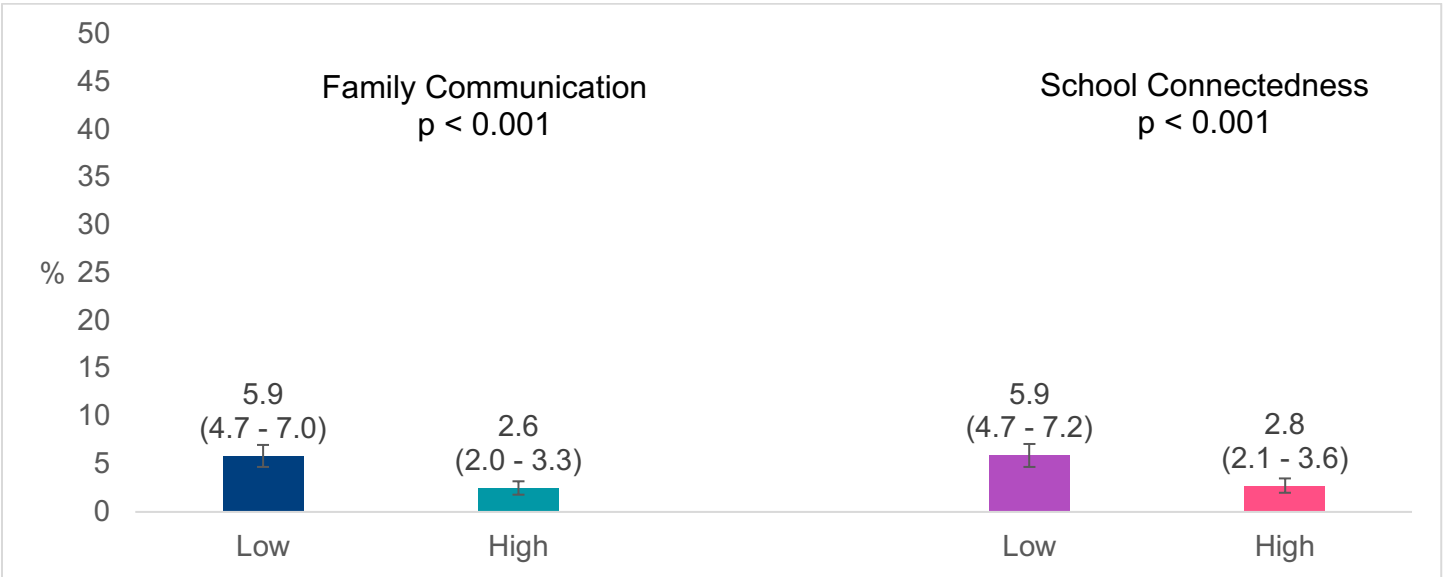
Electronic Vapor Product Use

Figure 17: Percentage of middle school students who ever used electronic vapor products, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



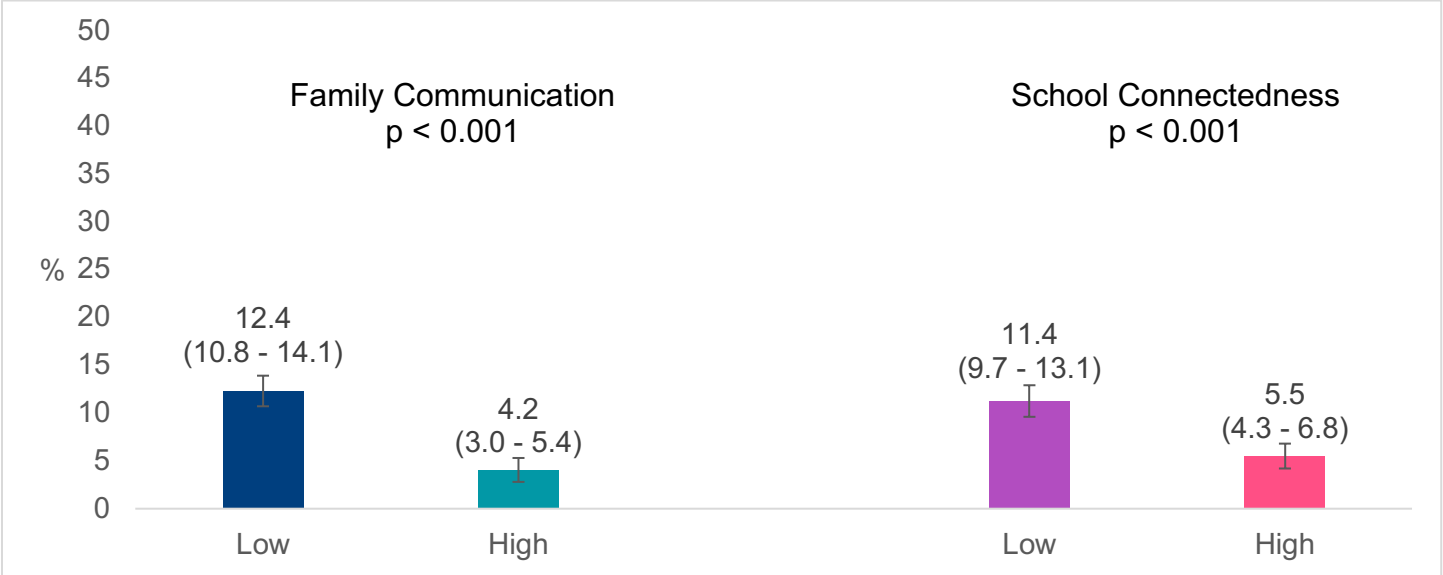
^a Including e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, and vape pens such as “JUUL”, “Vuse”, “NJOY”, “Puff Bar”, “blu”, and “Bidi Stick”

Figure 18: Percentage of middle school students who tried electronic vapor products for the first time before age 11 years, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



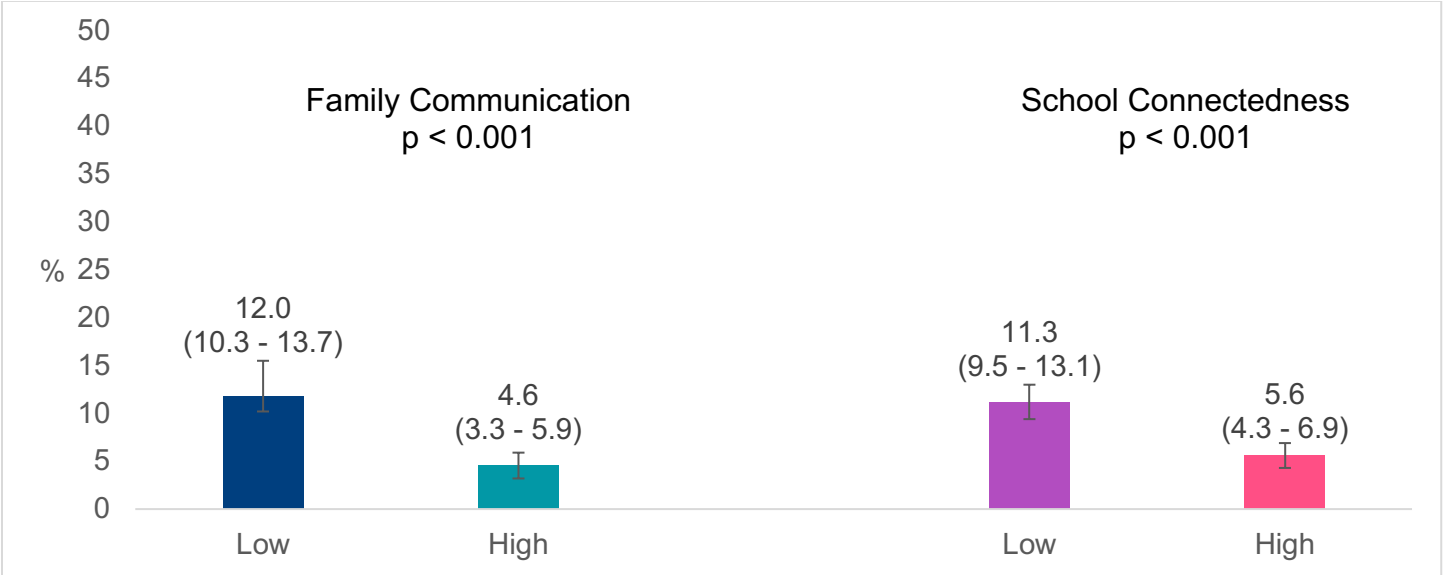
^a Including e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, and vape pens such as “JUUL”, “Vuse”, “NJOY”, “Puff Bar”, “blu”, and “Bidi Stick”

Figure 19: Percentage of middle school students who used electronic vapor products during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^{a,b} – Nevada YRBS 2023



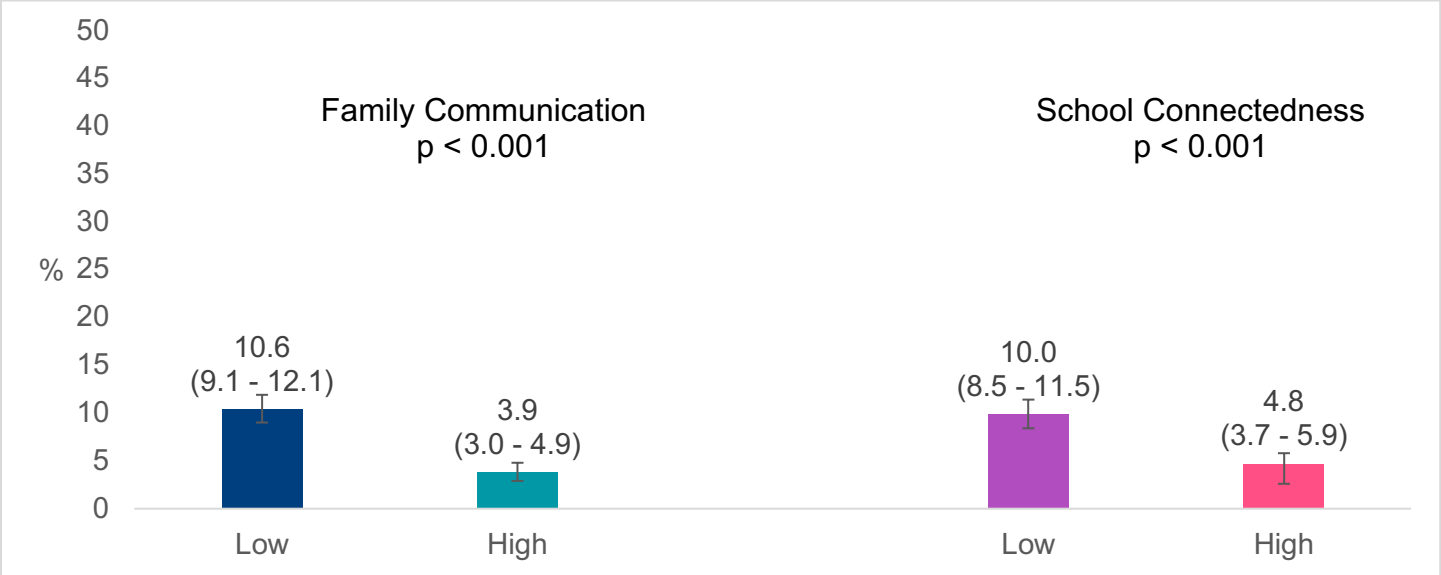
^a Including e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, and vape pens such as “JUUL”, “Vuse”, “NJOY”, “Puff Bar”, “blu”, and “Bidi Stick”
^b One or more days during the 30 days before the survey

Figure 20: Percentage of middle school students who used an electronic vapor product to vape marijuana during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^{a,b,c} – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Including e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, and vape pens such as “JUUL”, “Vuse”, “NJOY”, “Puff Bar”, “blu”, and “Bidi Stick”
^b Used marijuana (also called “pot” or “weed”), including THC, THC concentrates, hash oils, or waxes
^c One or more days during the 30 days before the survey

Figure 21: Percentage of middle school students who used an electronic vapor product to vape nicotine during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^{a,b} – Nevada YRBS 2023

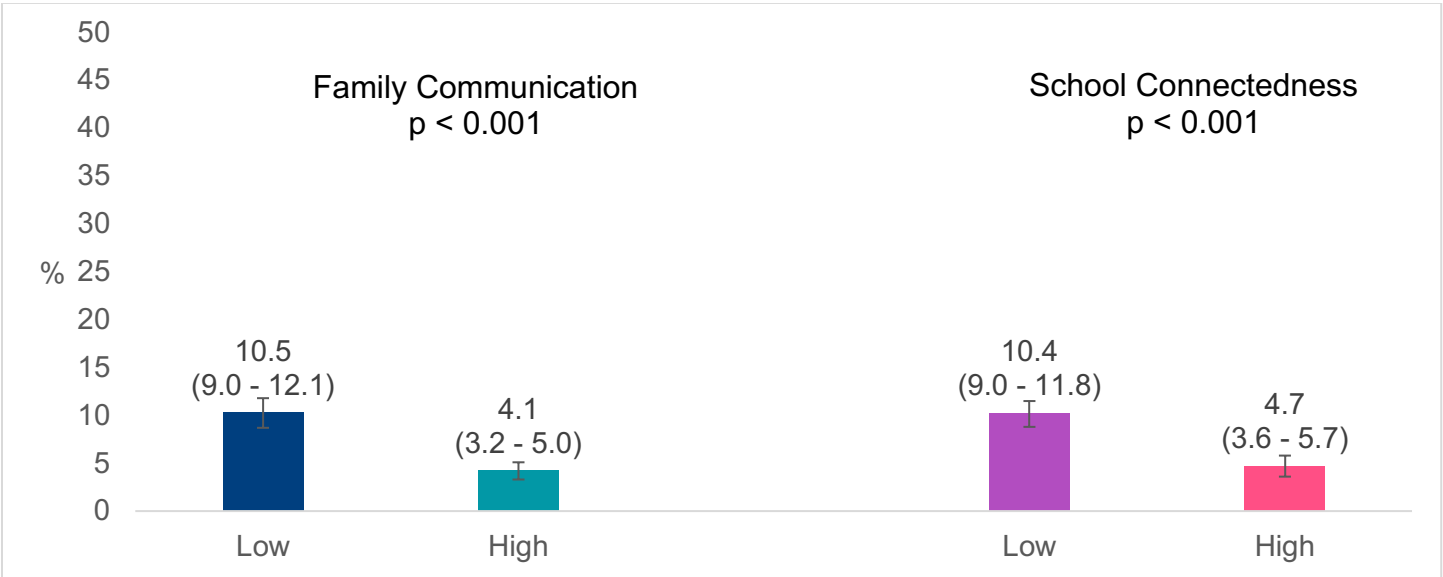


^a Including e-cigarettes, vapes, mods, e-cigs, e-hookahs, and vape pens such as “JUUL”, “Vuse”, “NJOY”, “Puff Bar”, “blu”, and “Bidi Stick”

^b One or more days during the 30 days before the survey

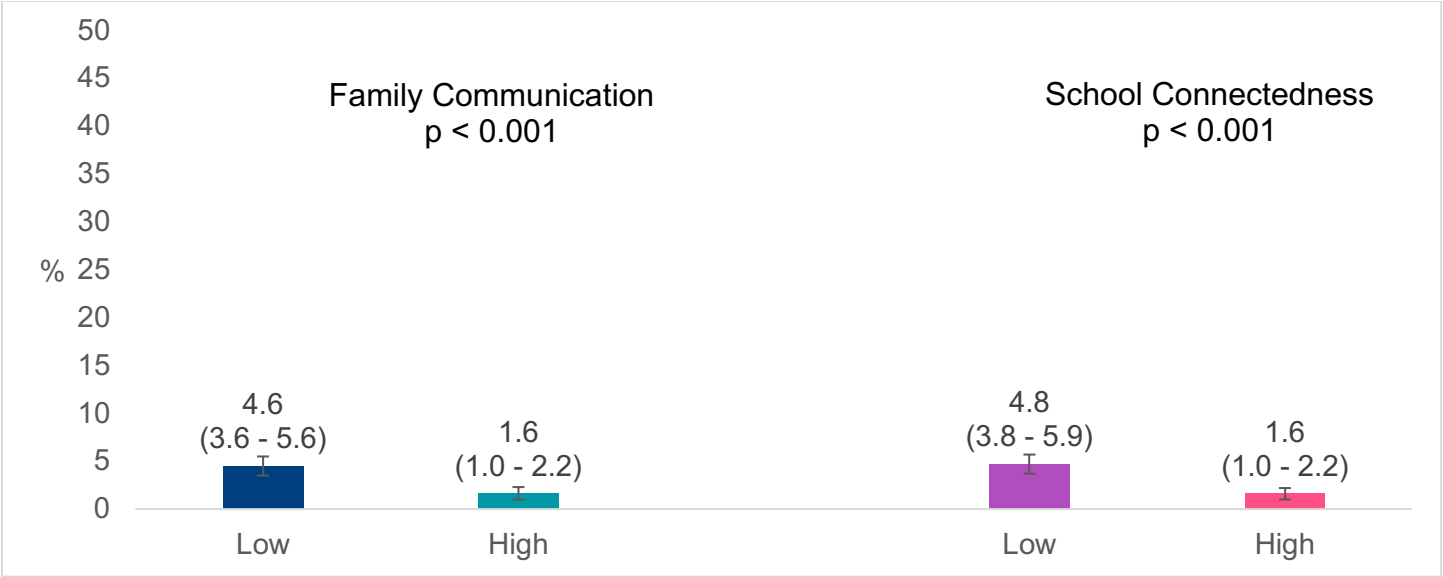
Tobacco Use

Figure 22: Percentage of middle school students who ever smoked cigarettes, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



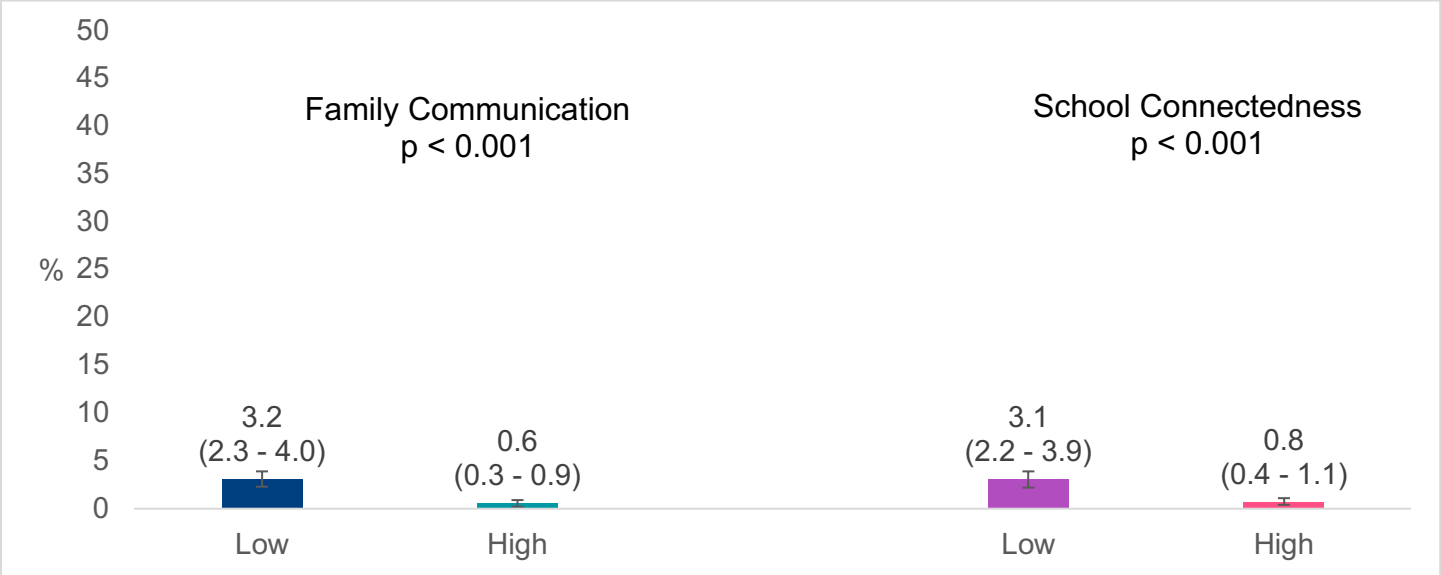
^a Even one or two puffs

Figure 23: Percentage of middle school students who smoked cigarettes for the first time before age 11 years, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



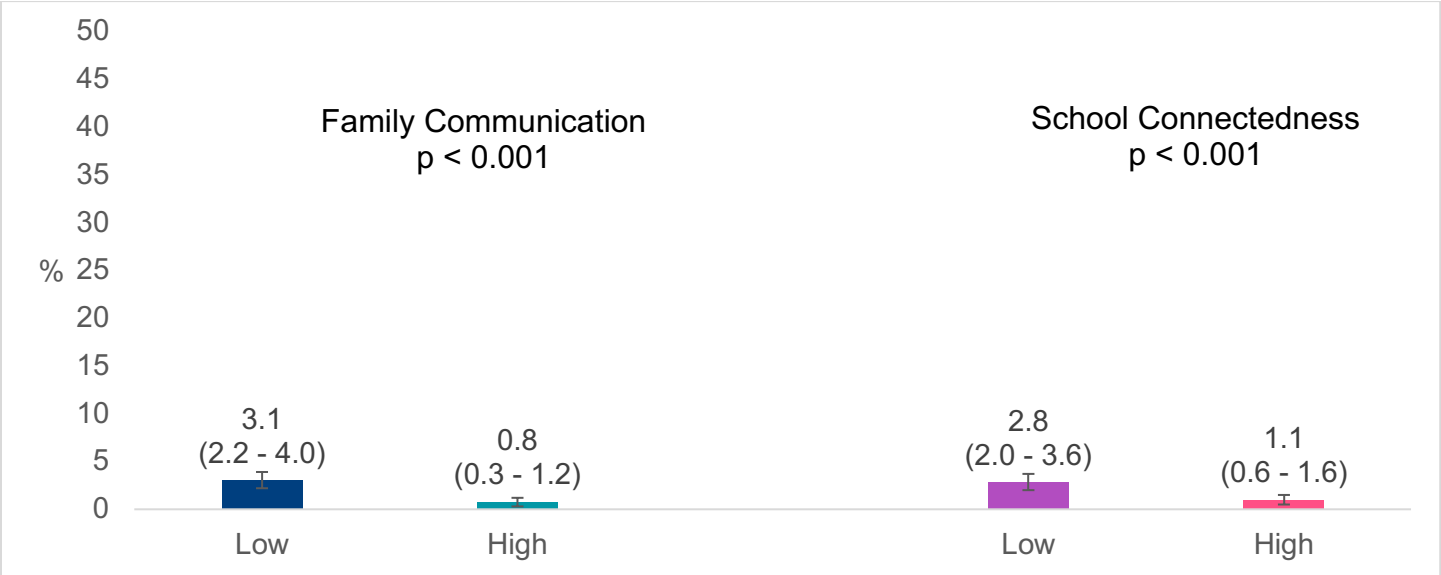
^a Even one or two puffs

Figure 24: Percentage of middle school students who smoked cigarettes during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a One or more days during the 30 days before the survey

Figure 25: Percentage of middle school students who used smokeless tobacco during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^{a,b} – Nevada YRBS 2023

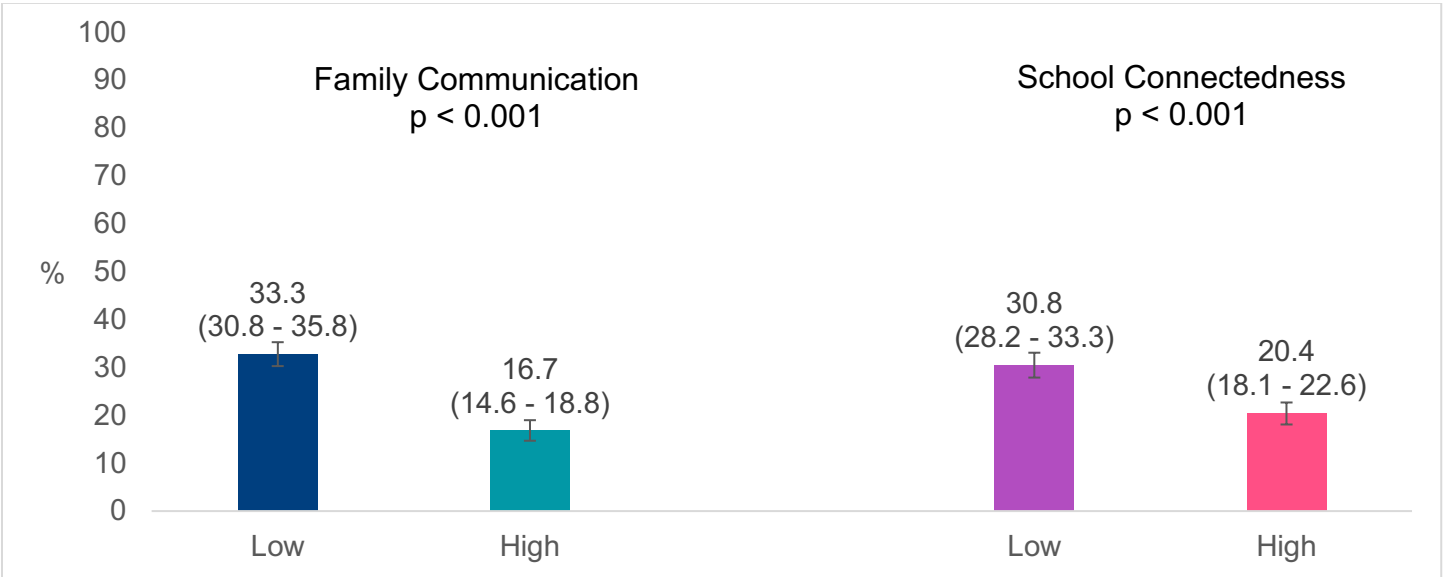


^a Chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products such as: “Copenhagen”, “Grizzly”, “Skoal”, “Camel Snus”, or “Velo Nicotine Lozenges”

^b One or more days during the 30 days before the survey

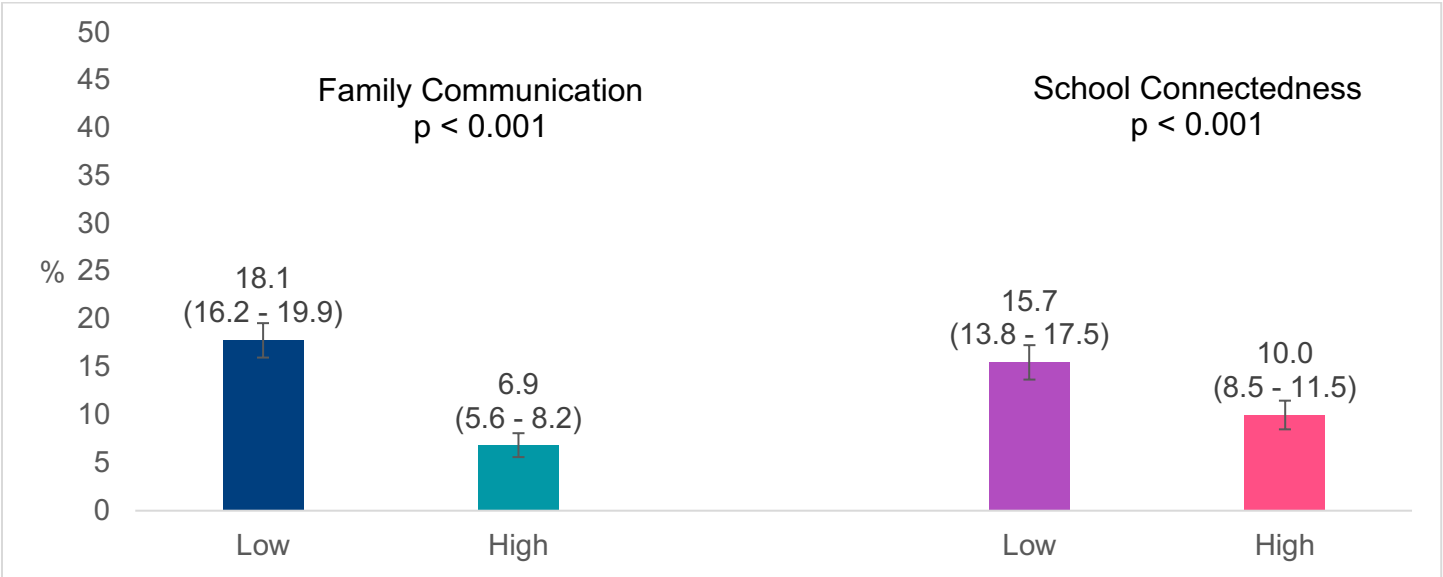
Alcohol Use

Figure 26: Percentage of middle school students who ever drank alcohol, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



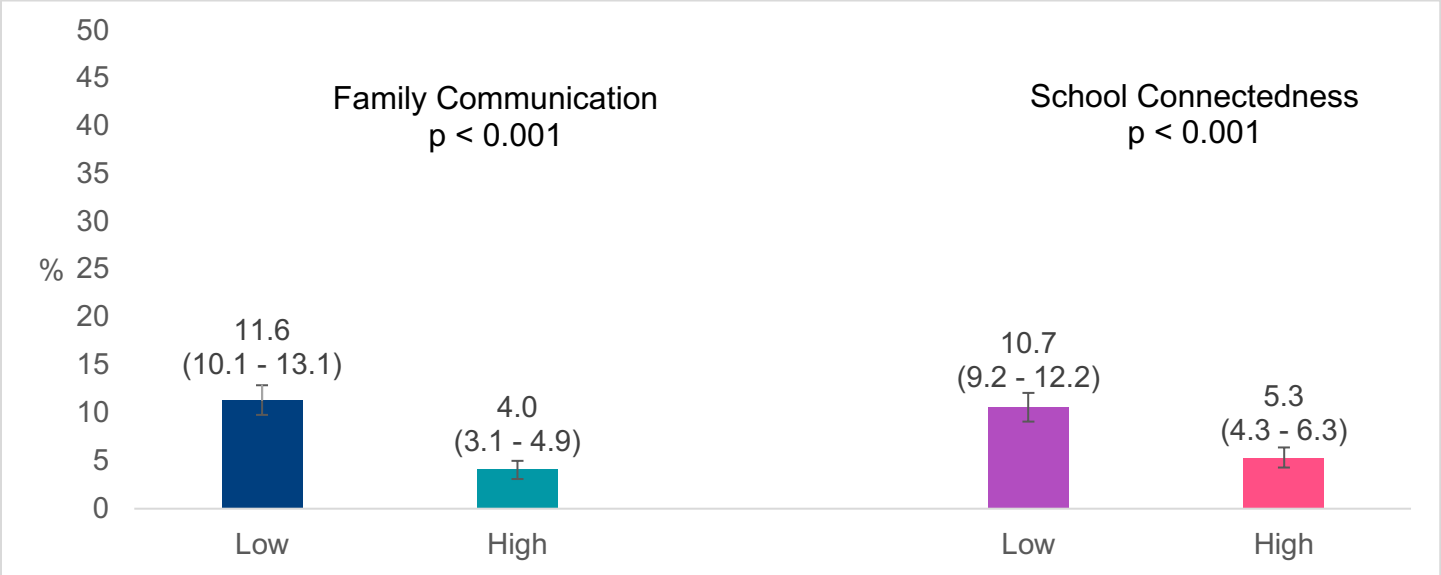
^a Other than a few sips

Figure 27: Percentage of middle school students who drank alcohol for the first time before age 11 years, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



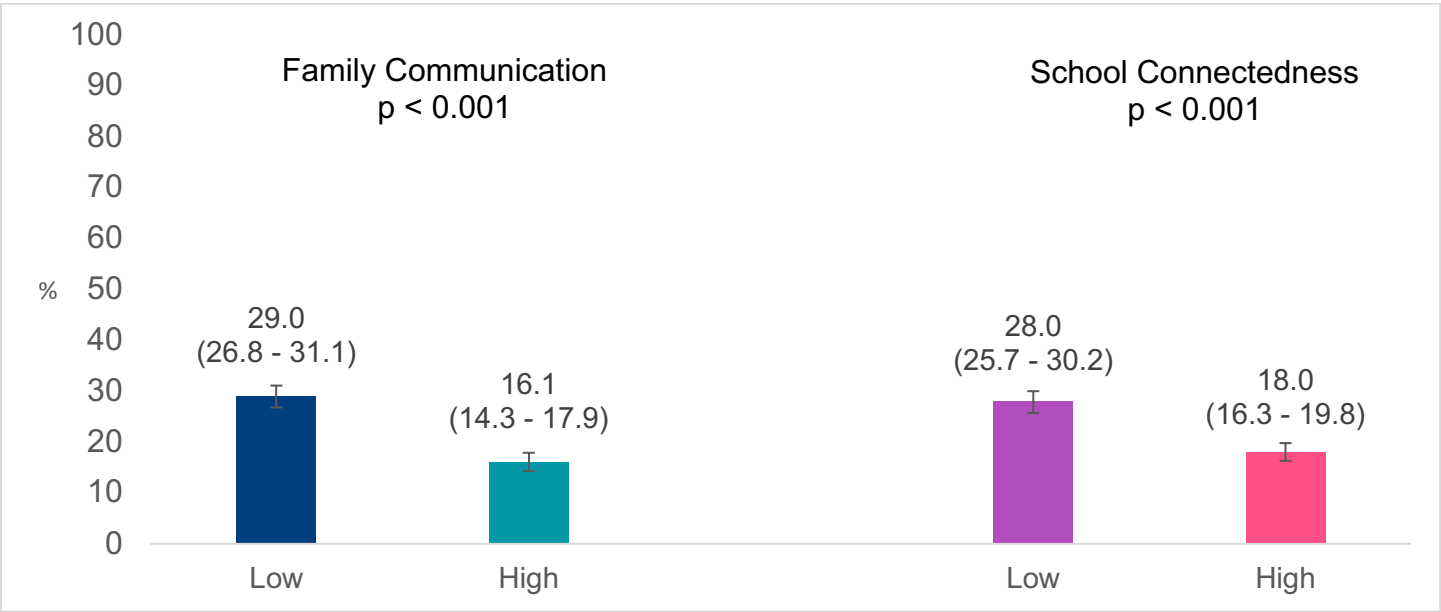
^a Other than a few sips

Figure 28: Percentage of middle school students who had at least one drink of alcohol during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



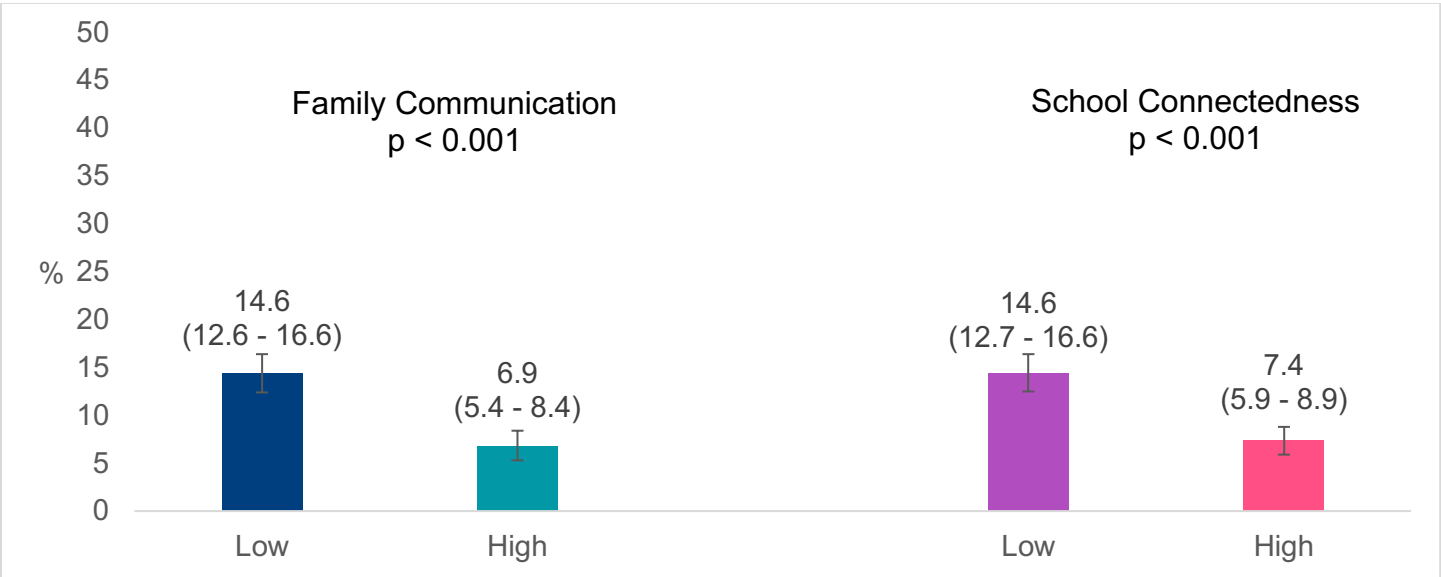
^aOne or more days during the 30 days before the survey

Figure 29: Percentage of middle school students who rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023



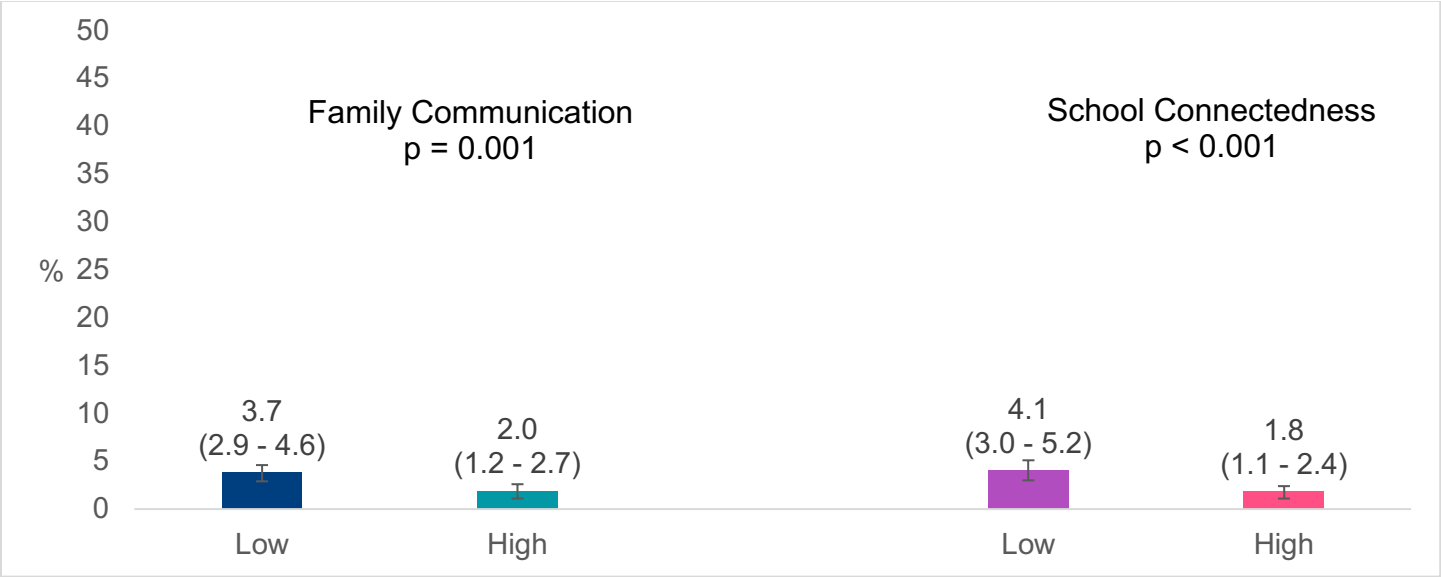
Marijuana Use

Figure 30: Percentage of middle school students who ever used marijuana, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



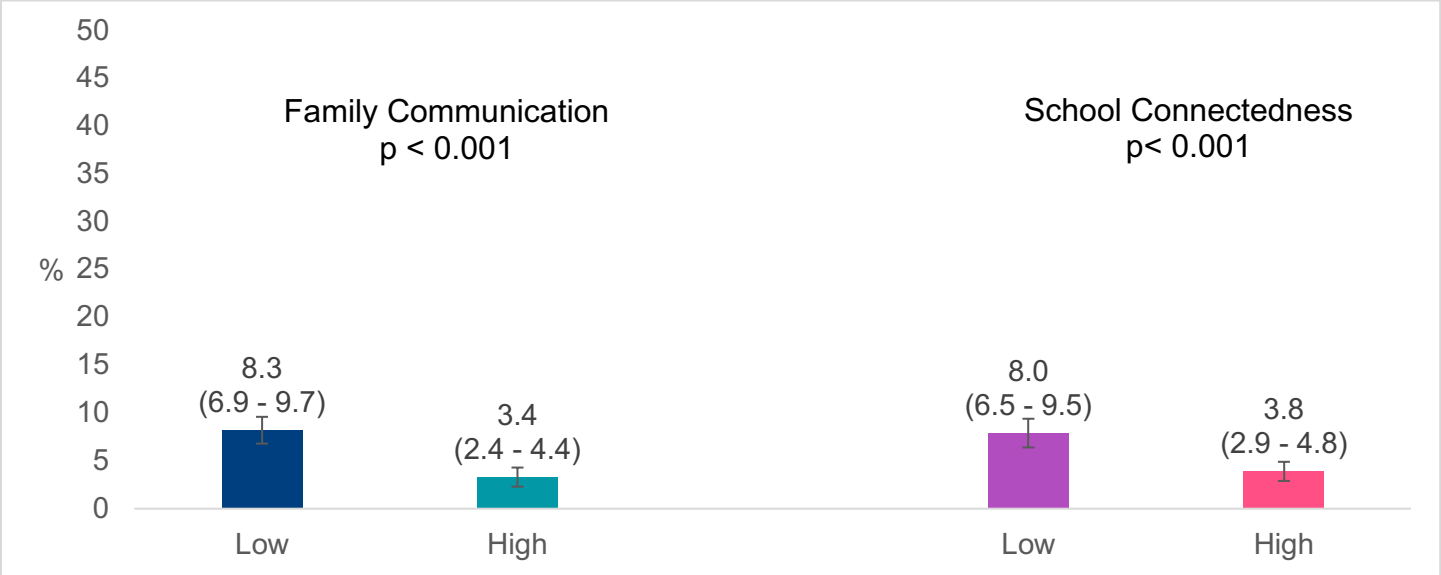
^a Used marijuana (also called “pot” or “weed”), not including CBD-only or hemp products

Figure 31: Percentage of middle school students who tried marijuana for the first time before age 11 years, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



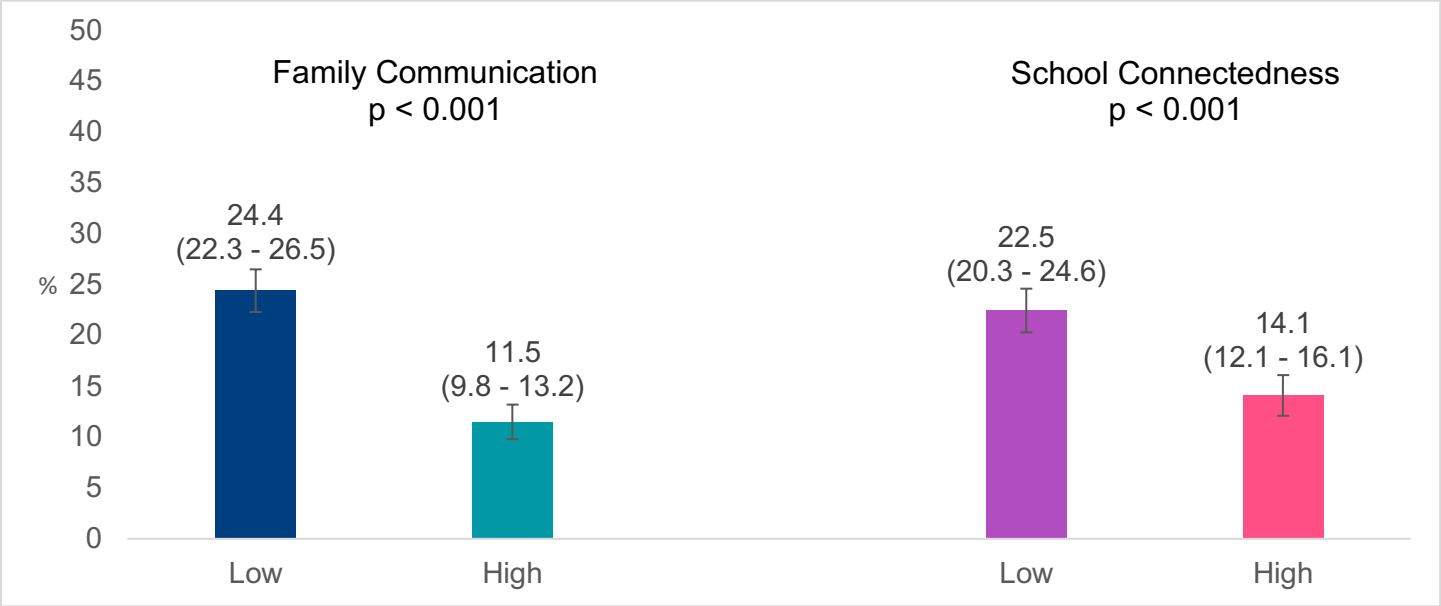
^a Used marijuana (also called “pot” or “weed”), not including CBD-only or hemp products

Figure 32: Percentage of middle school students who used marijuana during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^{a,b} – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Used marijuana (also called “pot” or “weed”), not including CBD-only or hemp products
^b One or more times during the 30 days before the survey

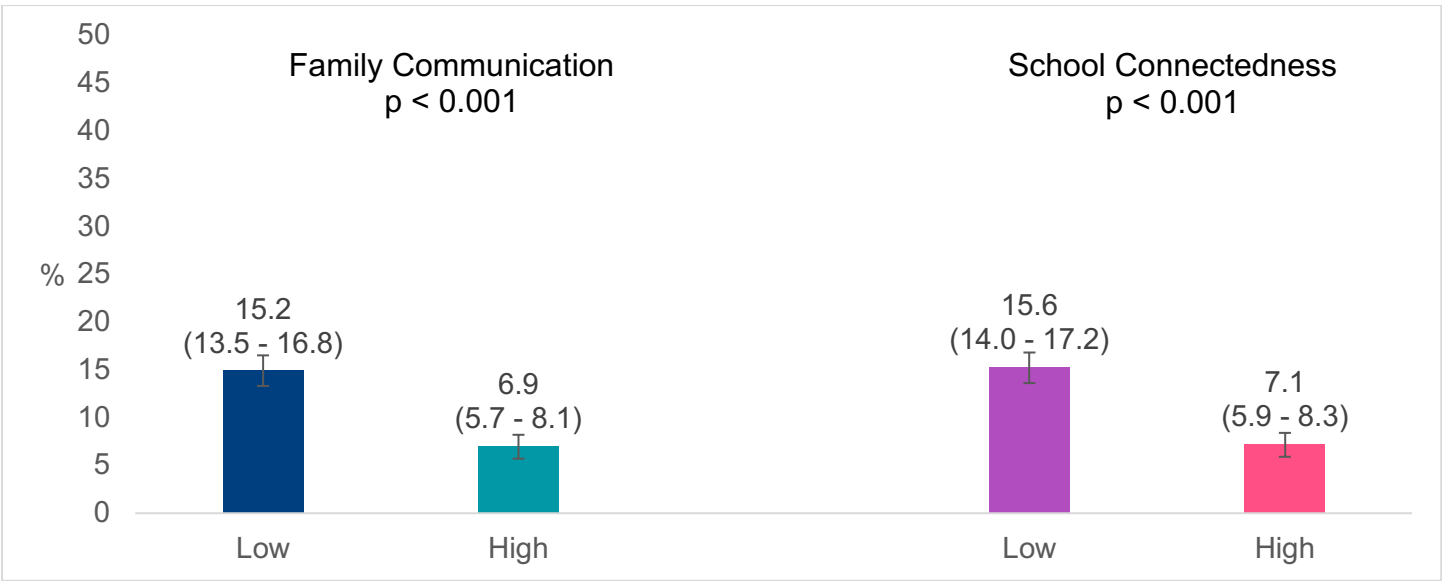
Figure 33: Percentage of students who rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been using marijuana during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Used marijuana (also called “pot” or “weed”), not including CBD-only or hemp products

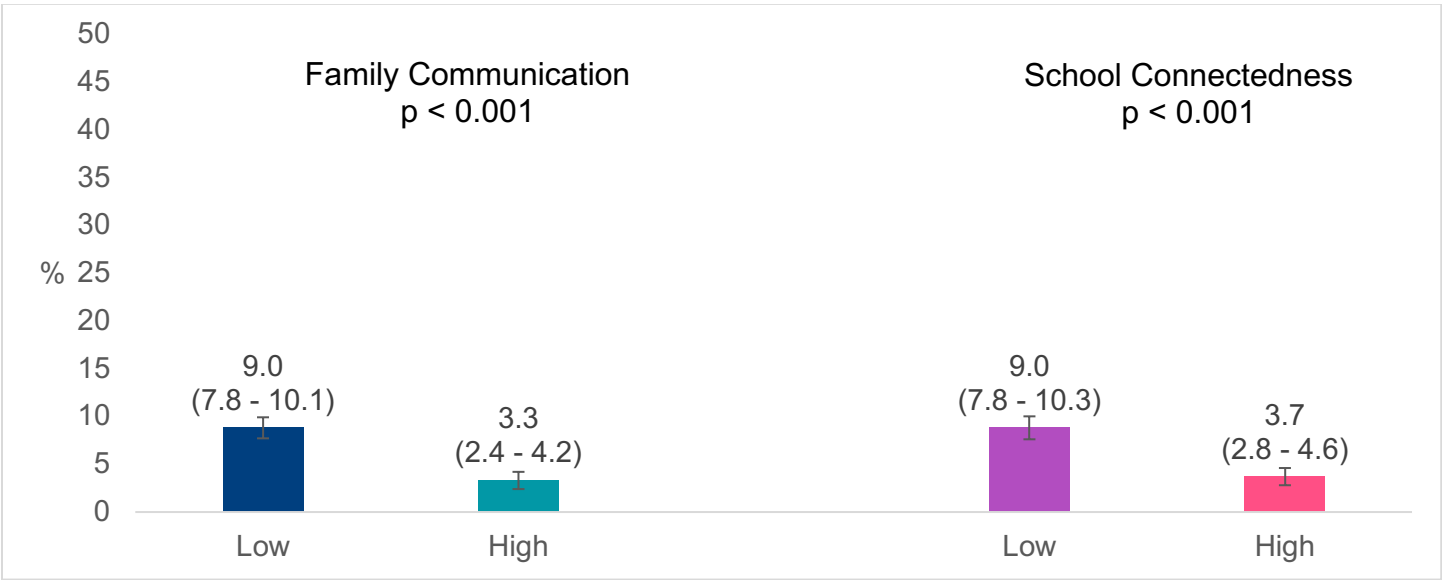
Non-Medical Prescription Pain Medicine Use

Figure 34: Percentage of middle school students who ever took prescription pain medicine without a doctor’s prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Took prescription pain medicine (e.g., codeine, ‘Vicodin’, ‘OxyContin’, ‘Hydrocodone’, and ‘Percocet’)

Figure 35: Percentage of middle school students who took prescription pain medicine without a doctor’s prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^{a,b} – Nevada YRBS 2023

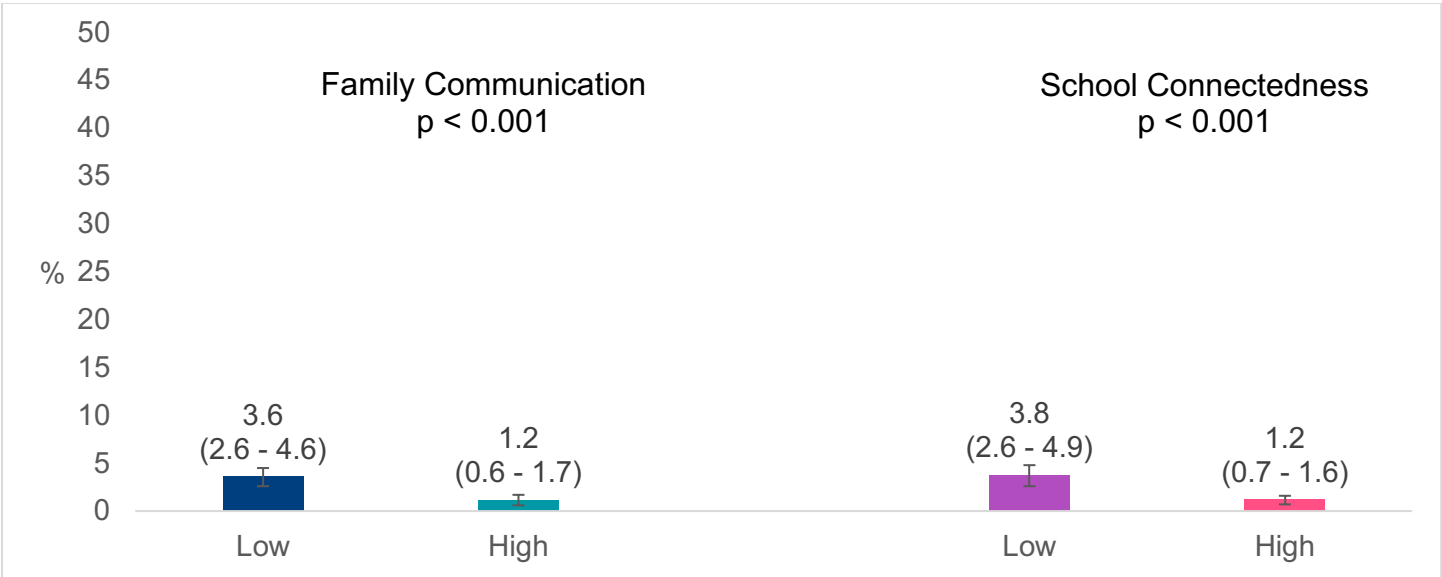


^a Took prescription pain medicine (e.g., codeine, ‘Vicodin’, ‘OxyContin’, ‘Hydrocodone’, and ‘Percocet’)

^b One or more times during the 30 days before the survey

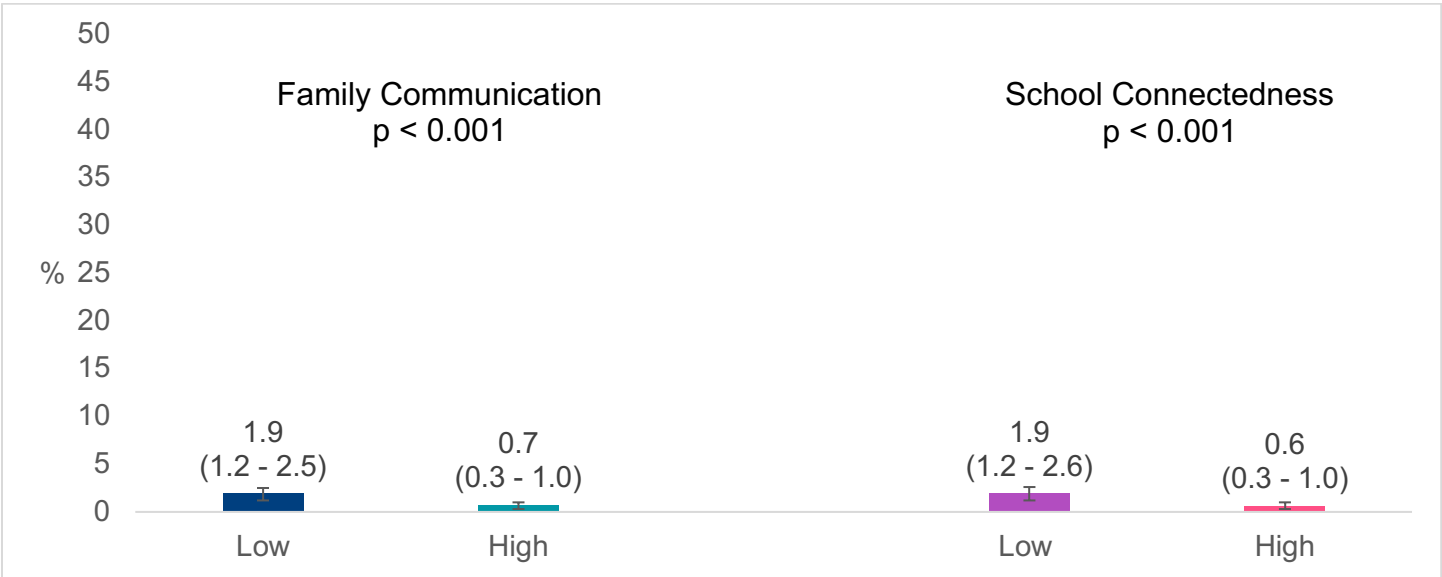
Other Drug Use

Figure 36: Percentage of middle school students who ever used cocaine, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



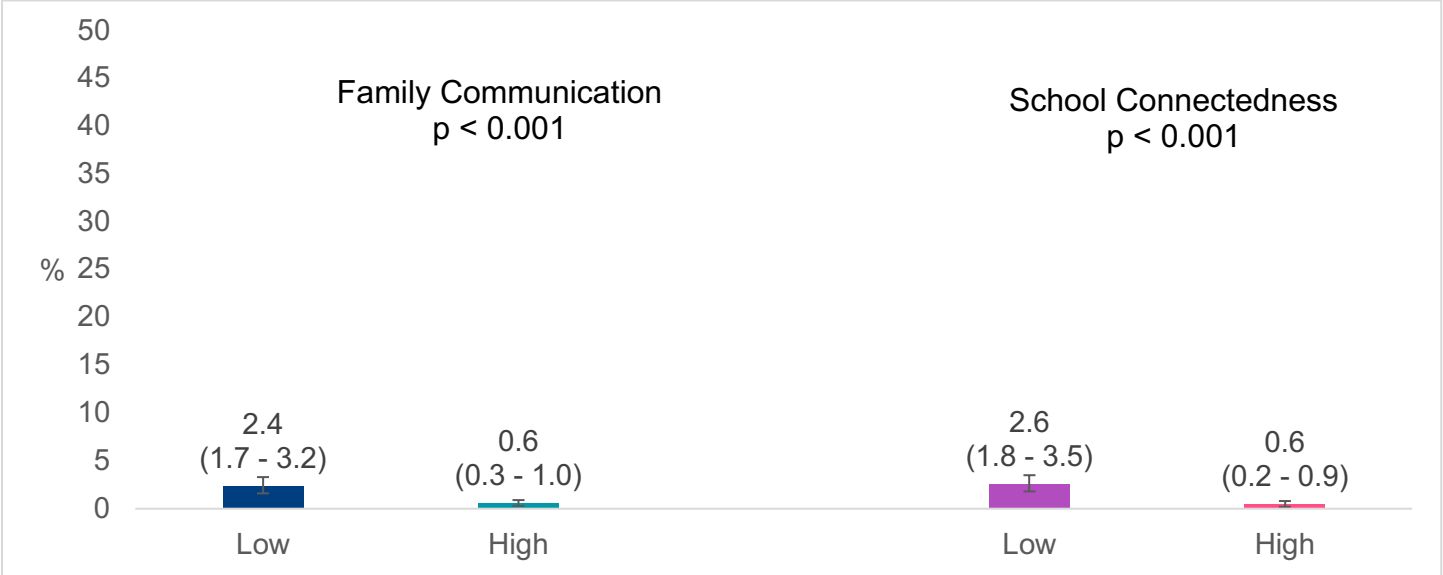
^a Used any form of cocaine including powder, crack, or freebase

Figure 37: Percentage of middle school students who ever used heroin, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



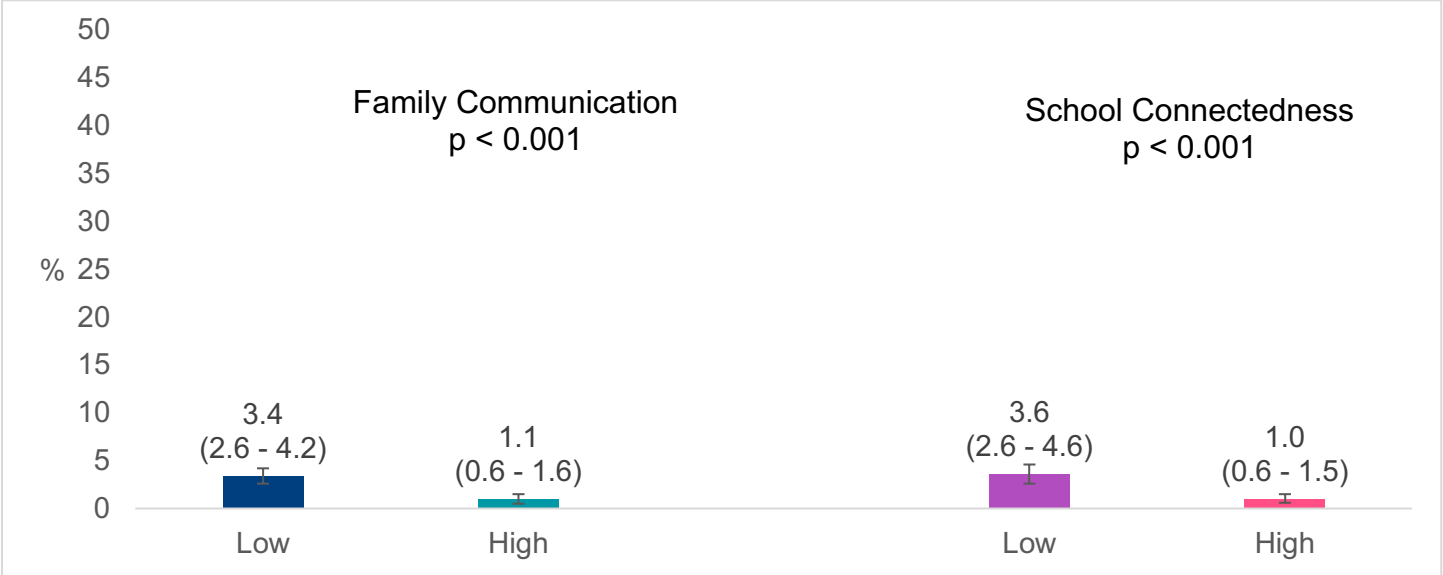
^a Used heroin (also called “smack”, “junk”, or “China White”)

Figure 38: Percentage of middle school students who ever used methamphetamines, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



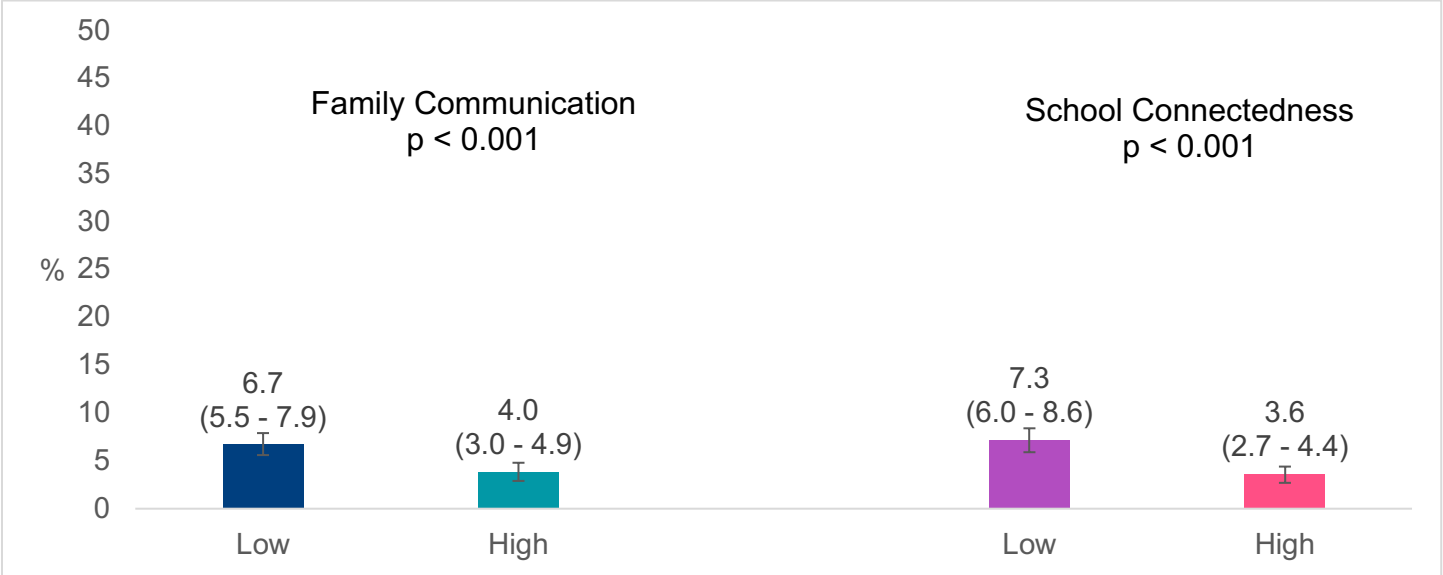
^a Used methamphetamines (also called “speed”, “crystal meth”, “crank”, “ice”, or “meth”)

Figure 39: Percentage of middle school students who ever used ecstasy, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Used ecstasy (also called “MDMA” or “Molly”)

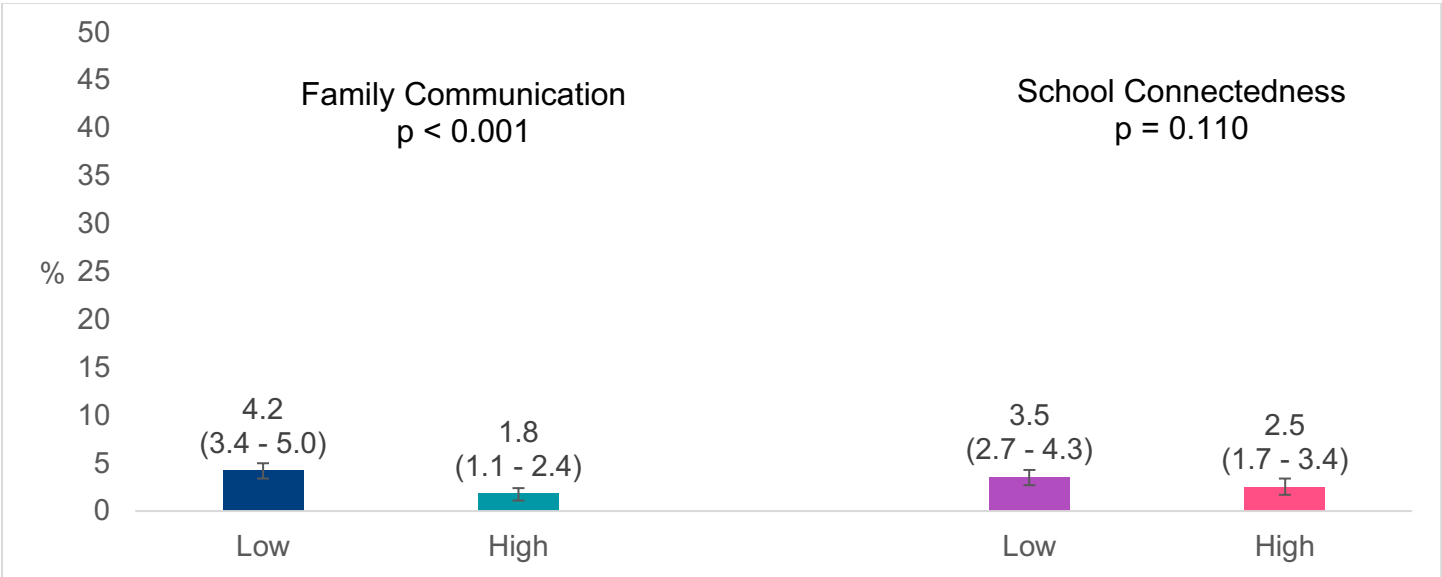
Figure 40: Percentage of middle school students who ever used synthetic marijuana, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Used synthetic marijuana (also called "Spice", "fake weed", "K2", or "Black Mamba")

Other Health Indicators

Figure 41: Percentage of middle school students who experienced housing insecurity during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a In the home of other people, a shelter or emergency housing, a motel or hotel, a public place, or no place

Figure 42: Percentage of middle school students who went hungry most of the time/always because there was not enough food in their home during the 30 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

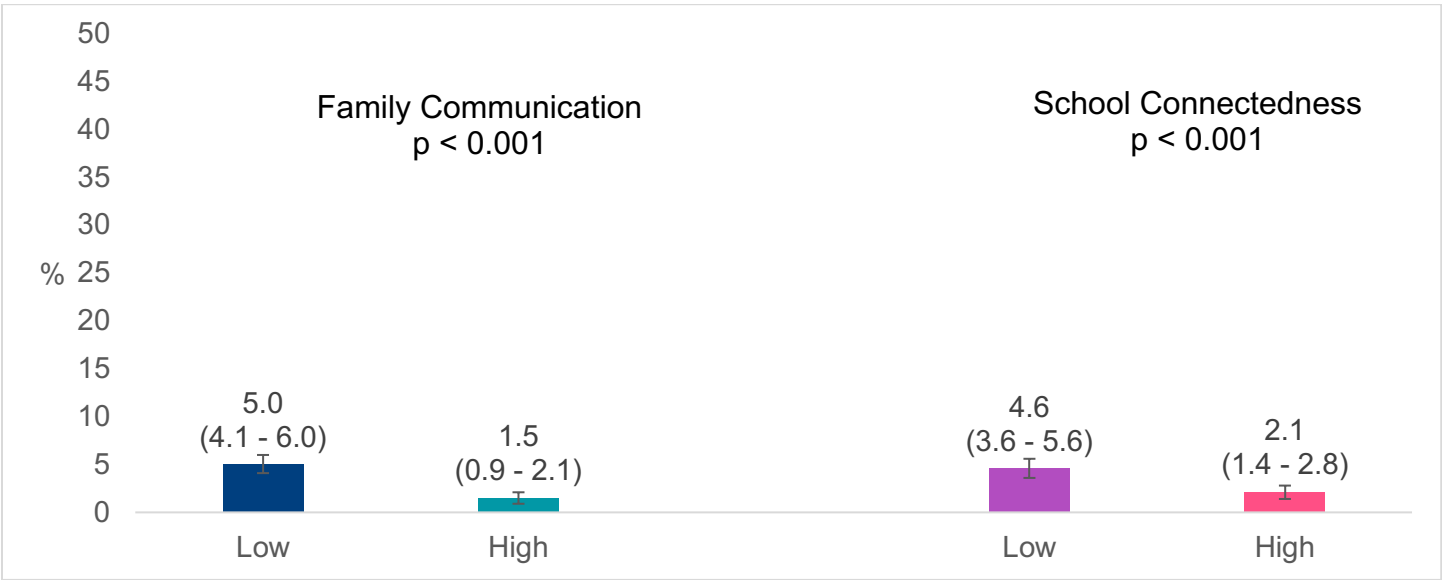
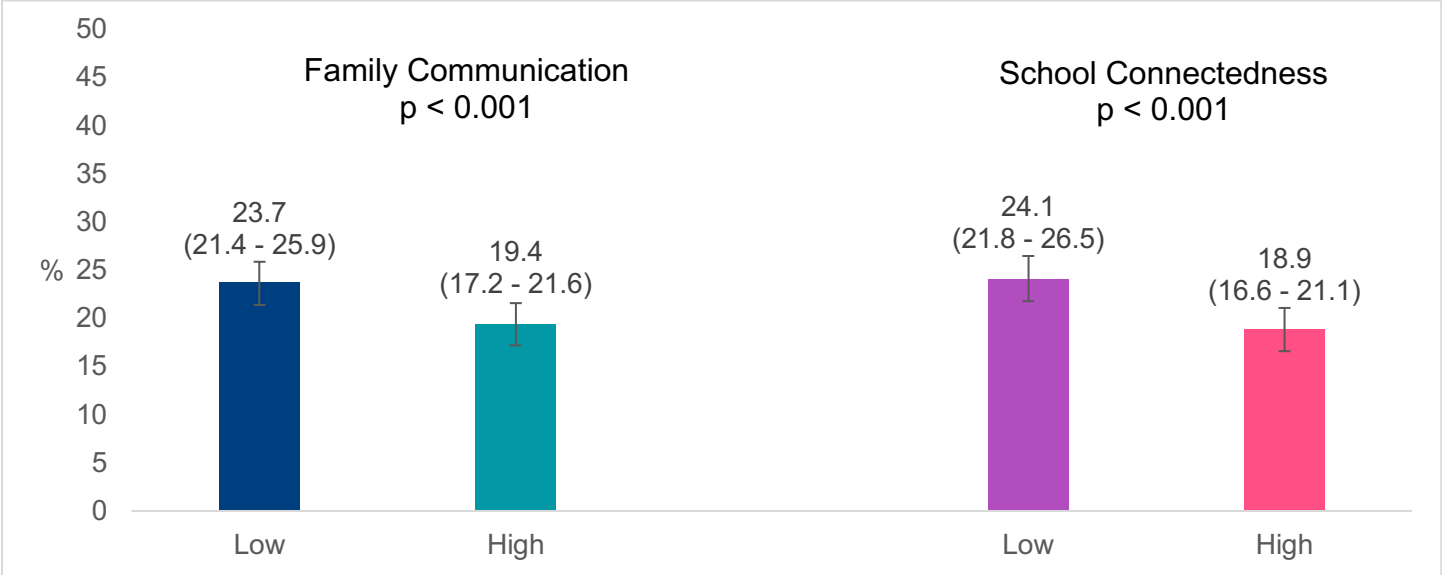


Figure 43: Percentage of middle school students who did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on any day during the 7 days before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Did not do any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time

Figure 44: Percentage of middle school students who got less than 9 hours of sleep on an average school night, by family communication and school connectedness – Nevada YRBS 2023

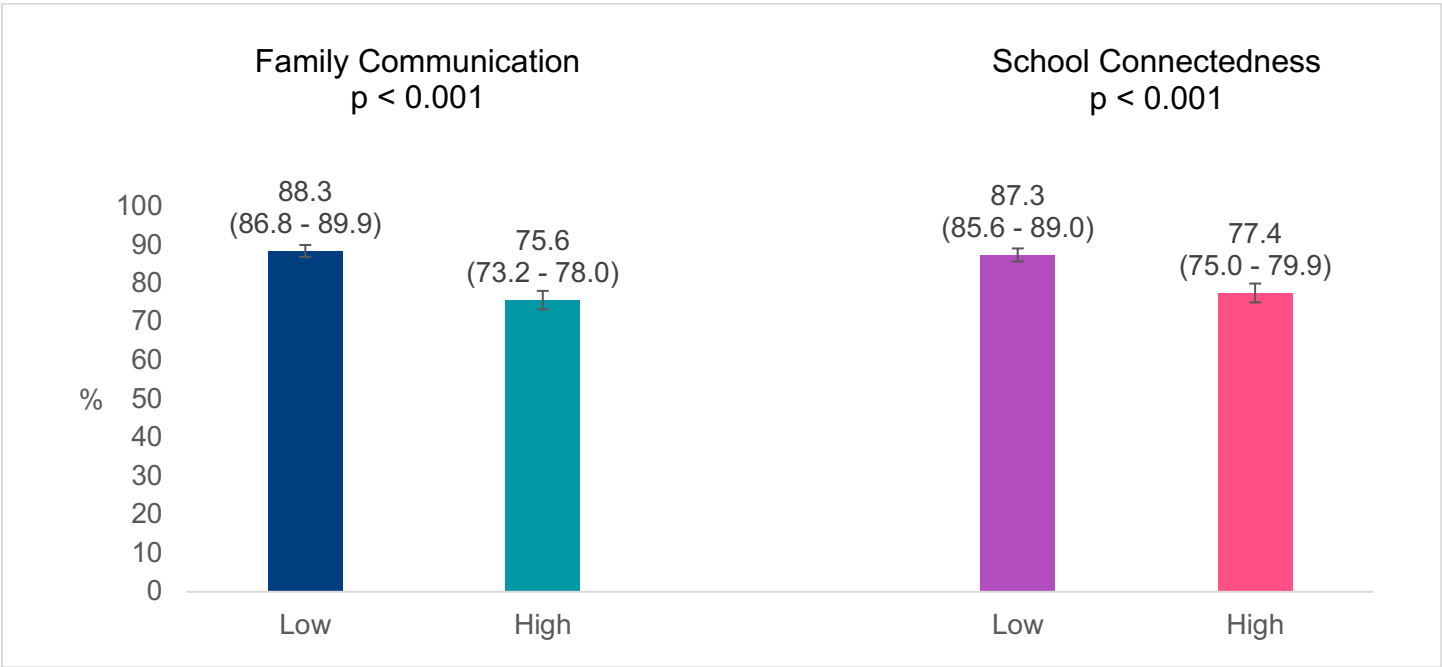
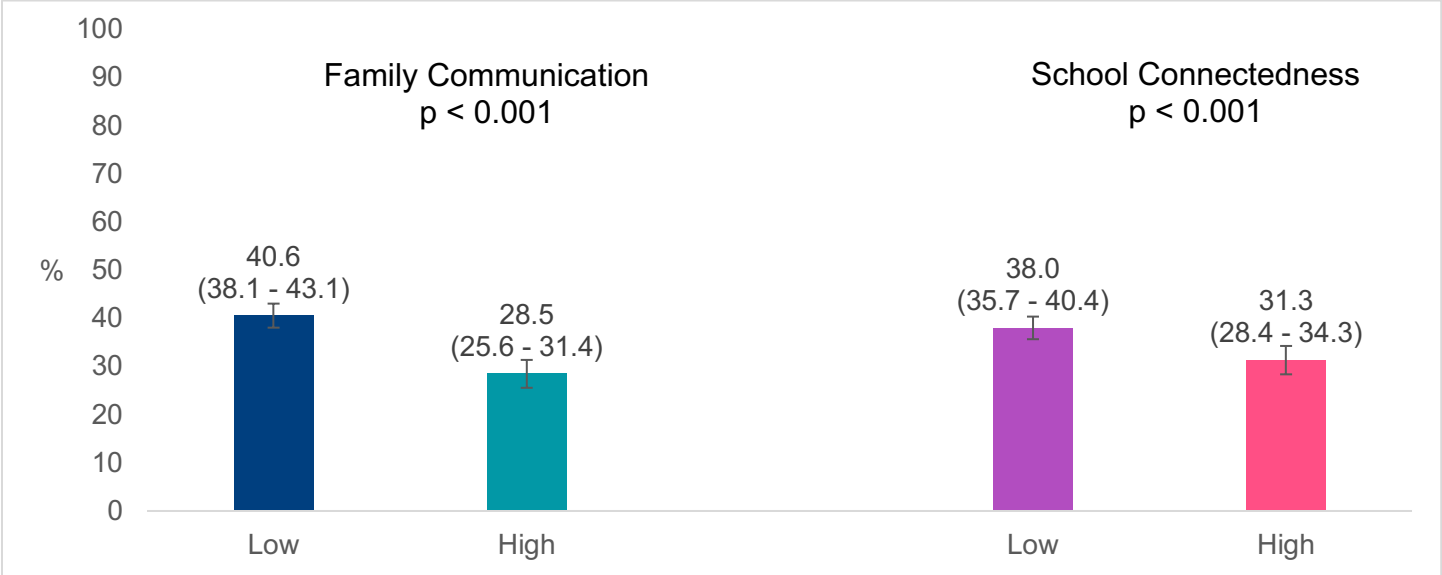


Figure 45: Percentage of middle school students who did not visit a dentist during the 12 months before the survey, by family communication and school connectedness^a – Nevada YRBS 2023



^a Saw a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work