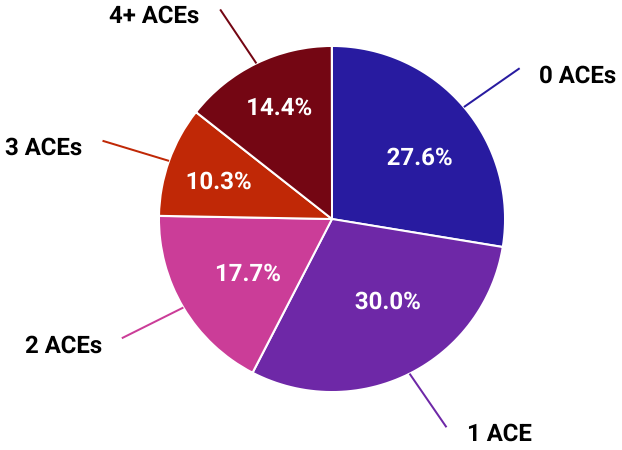
essentials for childhood

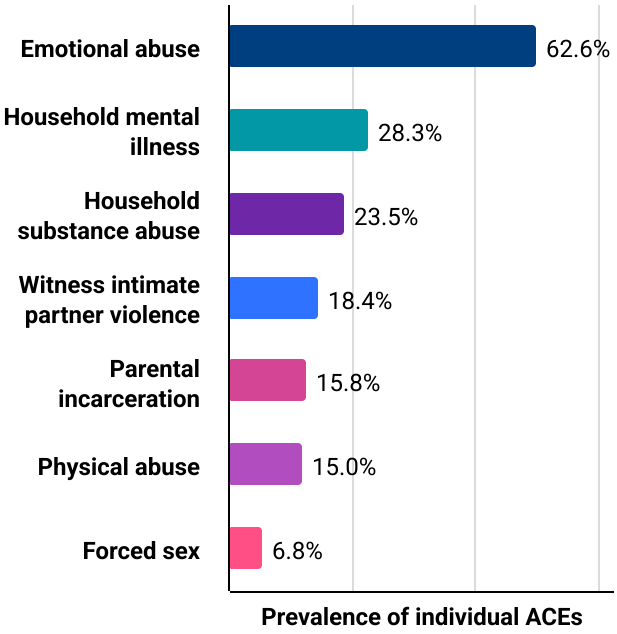
The influence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and positive childhood experiences (PCEs) on substance use among Latinx youth

Findings from the 2023 Nevada Middle School YRBS (n = 2,961)

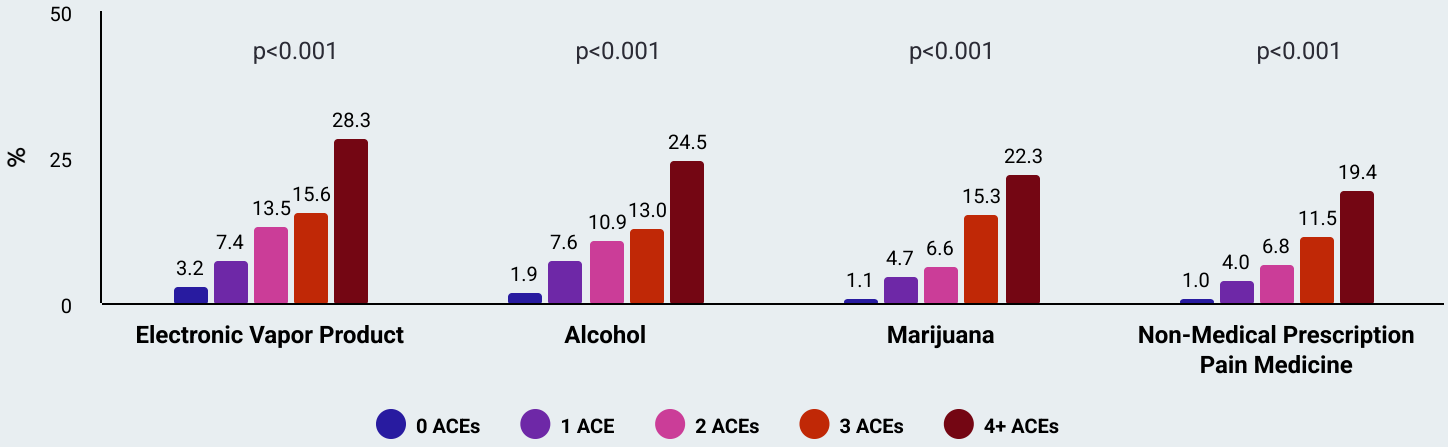
ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur before the age of 18 years. ACEs include abuse, neglect, and household challenges. Middle school youth who have more ACEs often have more negative health outcomes, including substance use.

Prevalence of ACEs among Latinx middle school students





Prevalence of Past 30-day Substance Use Outcomes by ACE Score



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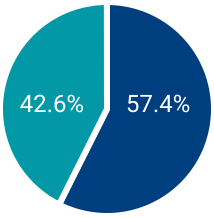
PCEs

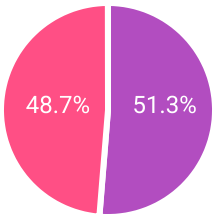
PCEs are positive experiences during childhood, including having safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. In the 2023 YRBS, youth were asked six questions covering family communication and school connectedness. An average family communication and school connectedness score was calculated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

Prevalence of Family Communication and School Connectedness Among Latinx Middle School Students



Family Communication

- High Family Communication
- Low Family Communication

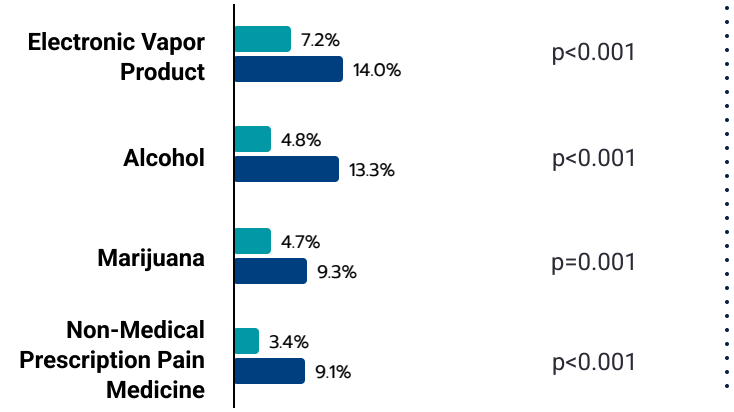


School Connectedness

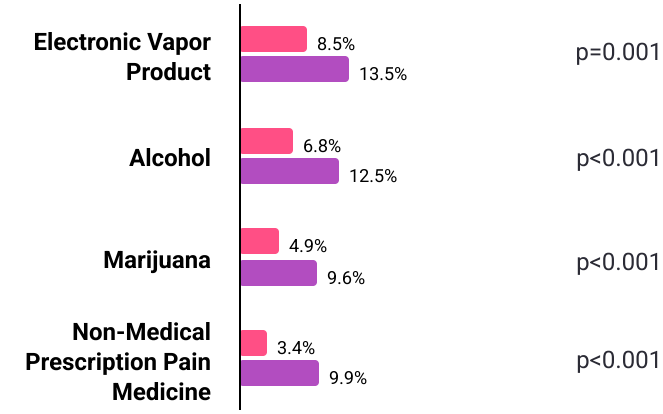
- High School Connectedness
- Low School Connectedness

Prevalence of Past 30-day Substance Use Outcomes by PCEs Among Latinx Middle School Students

Family Communication



School Connectedness



Crisis Support Services of Nevada/988 Hotline

Nevada 211

First 5 Nevada

Latino Research Center

Prevent Child Abuse Nevada

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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