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Additional 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Facts and Figures

The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey asked a random sample of high school students in schools across Alaska to report on certain risky behaviors. The survey is voluntary and anonymous. The following findings reflect responses from high school students attending traditional high schools.

The 2013 survey reports a statistically significant decrease in alcohol and drug use among Alaska youth during the past 10 years. Statistically significant means a change is unlikely to be due to chance. In 2013:

- 22.5 percent of high school students had consumed alcohol within the past 30 days;
 - Compared to 28.6* percent in 2011; 39.7* percent in 2007 and 38.7* percent in 2003.
- 19.7 percent of high school students reported using marijuana in the past 30 days;
 - Compared to 21.2 percent in 2011; 20.5 percent in 2007 and 23.9* percent in 2003.

Some indicators of violence have decreased during the past 10 years, but suicide remains a serious concern. In 2013:

- 22.7 percent of high school students had been in a physical fight during the past year;
 - Compared to 23.7 percent in 2011; 29.2* percent in 2007 and 27.1* percent in 2003.
- 9.1 percent of those who had dated or gone out with someone during the previous year had been physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating in the past year;
 - The wording for this question changed between the 2011 and 2013 surveys, which prevents a comparison across years.
- 20.7 percent reported having been bullied on school property in the past 12 months.
 - Compared to 23.0 percent in 2011. This question was first asked in 2009.
- 8.4 percent reported attempting suicide in the past 12 months;
 - Compared to 8.7 percent in 2011; 10.7 percent in 2007 and 8.1 percent in 2003.

The survey also reported on other behaviors that increase the risk of health problems. Obesity remains a public health concern among Alaska youth. In 2013:

- 26.2 percent were overweight or obese;
 - Compared to 25.9 percent in 2011; 27.3 percent in 2007 and 25.5 percent in 2003.
- 38.6 percent of high school students have ever had sexual intercourse;
 - Compared to 38.3 percent in 2011; 45.1* percent in 2007 and 39.6 percent in 2003.

* Notes a statistically significant difference that is unlikely to be due to chance.