

Risk Behaviors Among Alaskan Youth Decrease

Data are from the Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 1995 & 2003

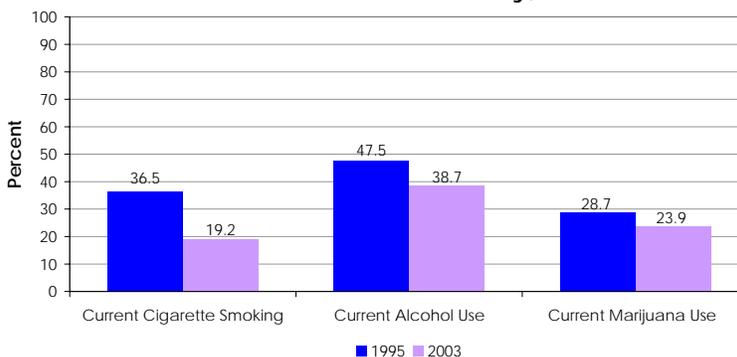
Data from the 2003 Alaska YRBS indicate there have been significant decreases in some problem or risk behaviors among Alaskan youths. Compared to 1995, data from the statewide 2003 YRBS show that behaviors such as smoking, drinking, suicidal thoughts, and fighting among Alaskan youth are significantly lower.

The reported prevalence of substance use among Alaskan high school students was significantly lower in 2003 compared to 1995 for:

- current cigarette smoking (49% decline)
- current alcohol use (19% decline).

The prevalence of ever using inhalants decreased by over half (55%) from

**Current[†] Substance Use Among High School Students
Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1995 & 2003**



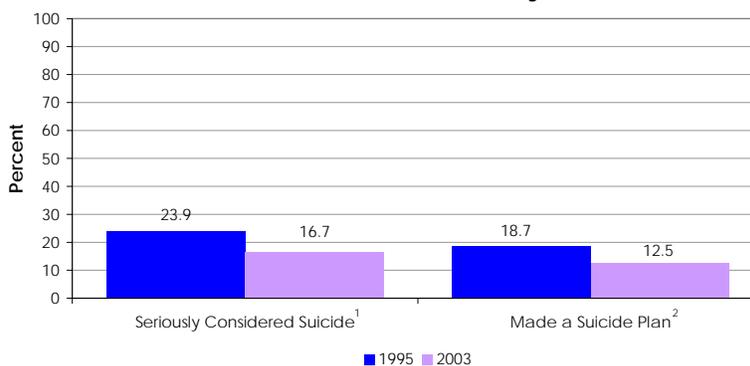
[†]Current is defined as having participated in the behavior on one or more of the last 30 days.

The 2003 YRBS indicates significantly fewer high school students reported that they had:

- made a suicide plan (33% decrease)
- seriously considered attempting suicide (30% decrease).

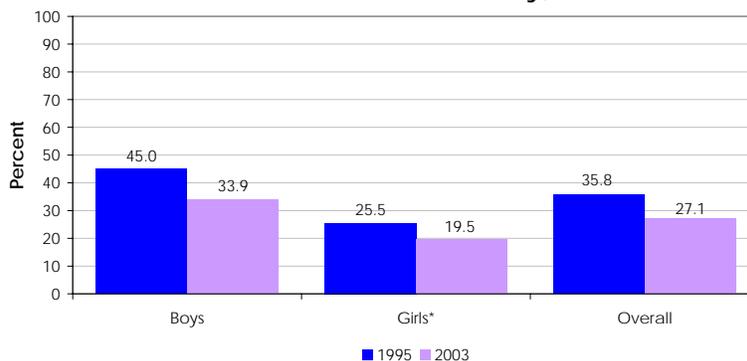
Compared to boys, high school girls were nearly twice as likely to report having made a suicide plan and 1.7 times more likely to report having seriously considered attempting suicide in 2003.

**Suicide Behaviors Among High School Students
Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1995 & 2003**



¹ Students who reported they had seriously considered suicide during the past 12 months.
² Students who reported they had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months.

**Physical Fighting[‡] Among High School Students
Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1995 & 2003**



[‡]Students that reported they had been in a physical fight over the last 12 months.
*Physical fighting among high school girls in 2003 was not significantly different from 1995.

- Physical fighting among high school students was significantly lower (24.3% decrease) in 2003 compared to 1995.
- High school boys were 1.8 times more likely to report being in a physical fight than girls.
- Significantly fewer high school boys reported having been in a physical fight in 2003 than 1995.

