



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

June 8, 2012

Contact: Jerry Zellars

(307) 777-6386

jerry.zellars@wyo.gov

edu.wyoming.gov

National 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results released

CHEYENNE -- The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today released the National results from the 2011 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Results can be found on the Wyoming Department of Education web site at

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/DataInformationAndReporting/YouthRiskBehaviorSurvey.aspx>.

The YRBS is the only surveillance system that monitors a wide range of priority health risk behavior among youth and is conducted biennially among representative samples of students in grades 9 through 12. More than 15,000 high school students participated in the 2011 National YRBS. Surveys were conducted in 43 states (including Wyoming) and 21 large urban school districts. Parental permission was obtained for students to participate in the survey and student participation was voluntary, and responses were anonymous.

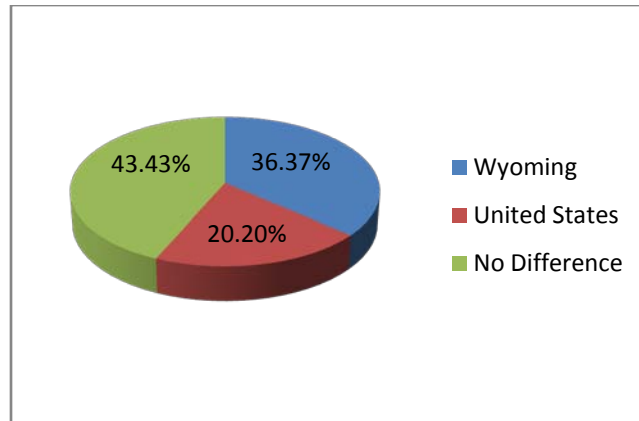
The YRBS data can be used to determine how health risk behaviors change over time among students nationwide. Behaviors included in the YRBS include: injury and violence-related behaviors (e.g. seat belt use, weapon carrying, physical fighting, and attempted suicide), tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors, physical activity behaviors, and asthma.

The YRBS data allows school administrators to view trends, determine the severity of behavior and identify areas of concern. In addition, this data provides administrators and community outreach programs vital information they can use when evaluating and improving programs that focus on these risk behaviors in students.

How Does Wyoming Compare Nationally?

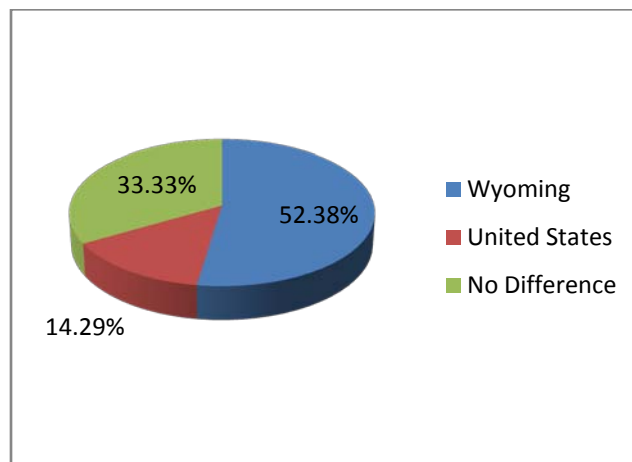
When comparing Wyoming student behavior to that of the United States average, Wyoming has more favorable results in the areas of Sexual Behavior, Dietary Behavior and Physical Activity. In the areas of Unintentional Injuries and Violence and Tobacco use, Wyoming students have less favorable results than students in the United States. In the area of Alcohol and Other Drug Use, Wyoming students align with the national average.

Overall



Out of 99 questions asked on the YRBS, there is no difference between the United States and Wyoming students on 43 of the questions, or 43.43%. On 20 or 20.20% of the questions the United States is higher or more likely than Wyoming students and on 36 or 36.37% of the questions; Wyoming is more likely than the United States students.

Unintentional Injuries and Violence

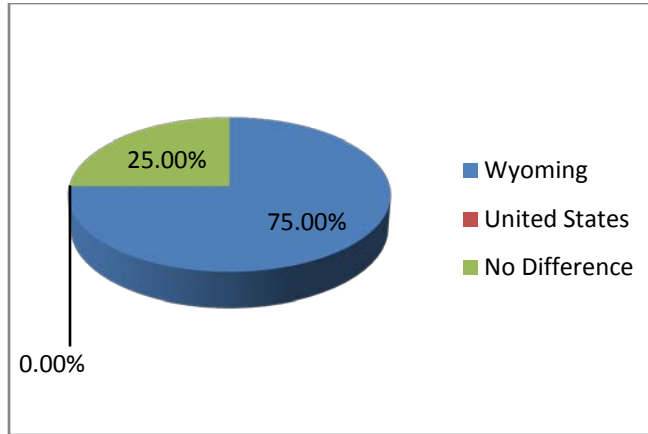


In the area of Unintentional Injuries and Violence, there were 21 questions asked in this category. Of those questions there is no difference between the United States and Wyoming students on 7 of the questions, or 33.33%. On 3 or 14.29% of the questions the United States is higher or more likely than Wyoming students and on 11 or 52.38% of the questions Wyoming is more likely than the United States students.

Samples of questions in the Unintentional Injuries and Violence category:

Question	Wyoming 2011	United States 2011	More Likely
Rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet (among students who had ridden a bicycle during the 12 months before the survey)	83.6	87.5	United States
In a physical fight one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey)	26.5	32.8	United States
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol one or more times (in a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey)	25.7	24.1	No Difference
Injured in a physical fight one or more times (injuries had to be treated by a doctor or nurse, during the 12 months before the survey)	4.1	3.9	No Difference
Rarely or never wore a seatbelt (when riding in a car driven by someone else)	15.8	7.7	Wyoming
Bullied on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)	25.0	20.1	Wyoming
Attempted suicide one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey)	11.3	7.8	Wyoming

Tobacco Use

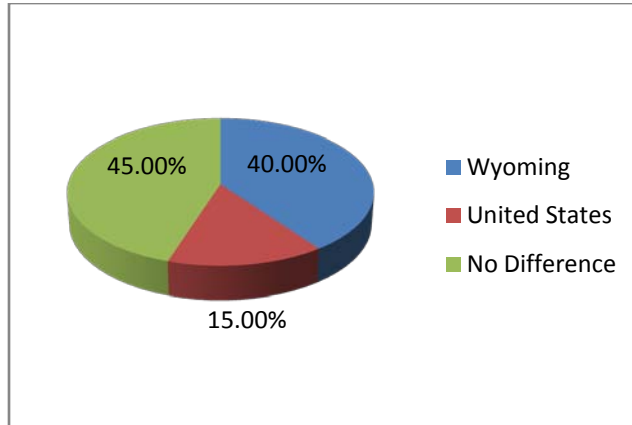


In the area of Tobacco Use, there were 12 questions asked in this category. Of those questions there is no difference between the United States and Wyoming students on 3 of the questions, or 23.08%. And on the other 9 questions or 75.00%, Wyoming was more likely than the United States.

Samples of questions in the Tobacco category:

Question	Wyoming 2011	United States 2011	More Likely
Ever tried cigarette smoking (even one or two puffs)	48.1	44.7	No Difference
Usually obtained their own cigarettes by buying them in a store or gas station (among students under age 18 and who currently smoked cigarettes, during the 30 days before the survey)	11.3	14.0	No difference
Ever smoked at least one cigarette every day for 30 days	16.0	10.2	Wyoming
Used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least one day (during the 30 days before the survey)	15.1	7.7	Wyoming

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

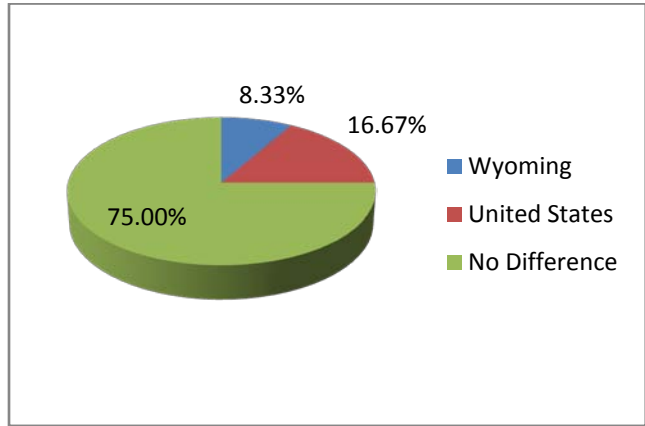


In the area of Alcohol and Other Drug Use, there were 20 questions asked in this category. Of those questions there is no difference between the United States and Wyoming students on 9 of the questions, or 45.00%. On 3 or 15.00% of the questions the United States is higher or more likely than Wyoming students and on 8 or 40.00% of the questions Wyoming is more likely than the United States students.

Samples of questions in the Alcohol and Other Drug Use category:

Question	Wyoming 2011	United States 2011	More Likely
Had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on at least one day (during the 30 days before the survey)	5.1	5.1	No Difference
Used marijuana on school property one or more times (during 30 days before the survey)	4.7	5.9	No Difference
Ever had at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day (during their life)	65.7	70.8	United States
Ever used marijuana one or more times (during their life)	35.9	39.9	United States
Ever used any form of cocaine one or more times (for example, powder, crack, or freebase, during their life)	8.6	6.8	Wyoming
Ever sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high one or more times (during their life)	14.4	11.4	Wyoming

Sexual Behaviors

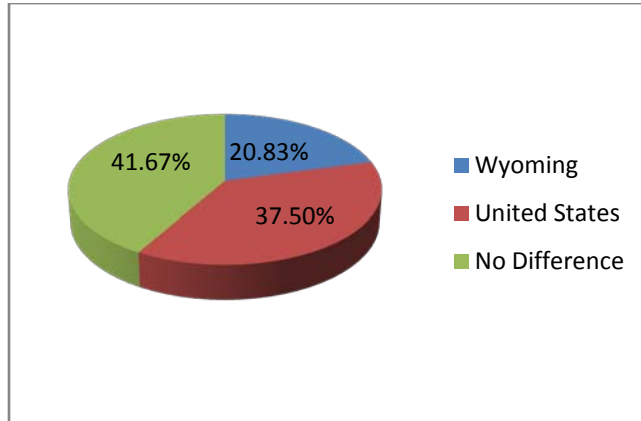


In the area of Sexual Behaviors, there were 20 questions asked in this category. Of those questions there is no difference between the United States and Wyoming students on 9 of the questions, or 45.00%. On 3 or 15.00% of the questions the United States is higher or more likely than Wyoming students and on 8 or 40.00% of the questions Wyoming is more likely than the United States students.

Samples of questions in the Sexual Behavior category:

Question	Wyoming 2011	United States 2011	More Likely
Ever had sexual intercourse	47.9	47.4	No Difference
Did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse (among students who were currently sexually active)	41.4	39.8	No difference
Did not use birth control pills before last sexual intercourse (to prevent pregnancy, among students who were currently sexually active)	78.5	82.0	No Difference
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (among students who were currently sexually active)	26.7	22.1	Wyoming

Dietary Behaviors

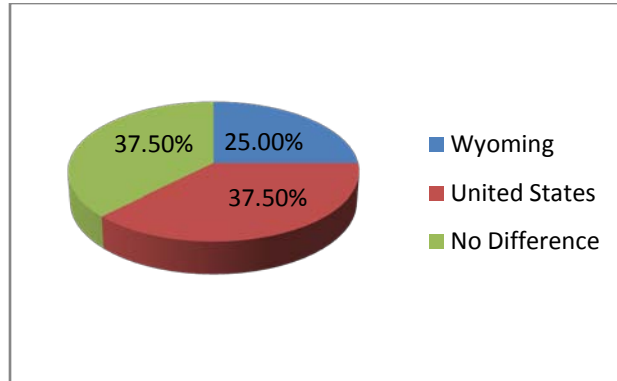


In the area of Dietary Behaviors, there were 24 questions asked in this category. Of those questions there is no difference between the United States and Wyoming students on 10 of the questions, or 41.67%. On 9 or 37.50% of the questions the United States is higher or more likely than Wyoming students and on 5 or 20.83% of the questions Wyoming is more likely than the United States students.

Samples of questions in the Dietary Behaviors category:

Question	Wyoming 2011	United States 2011	More Likely
Described themselves as slightly or very overweight	27.3	29.2	No Difference
Did not eat for 24 or more hours to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight (during the 30 days before the survey)	13.1	12.2	No difference
Took diet pills, powders or liquids to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight (without a doctor's advice, during the 30 days before the survey)	8.1	5.1	Wyoming
Vomited or took laxatives to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight (during the 30 days before the survey)	6.9	4.3	Wyoming

Physical Activity



In the area of Physical Activity, there were 8 questions asked in this category. Of those questions there is no difference between the United States and Wyoming students on 3 of the questions, or 37.50%. On 3 or 37.50% of the questions the United States is higher or more likely than Wyoming students and on 2 or 25.00% of the questions, Wyoming is more likely than the United States students.

Samples of questions in the Physical Activity category:

Question	Wyoming 2011	United States 2011	More Likely
Did not attend physical education class in an average week (when they were in school)	43.7	48.02	No Difference
Used computers 3 or more hours per day (played video or computer games or used a computer for something that was not school work on an average school day)	20.4	31.1	United States
Watched television 3 or more hours per day (on an average school day)	20.6	32.4	United States

For more information about the YRBS or the YRBS results for 2011 and prior years, please visit <http://edu.wyoming.gov/DataInformationAndReporting/YouthRiskBehaviorSurvey.aspx> or contact Shannon Cranmore at shannon.cranmore@wyo.gov or 307-777-6245.

Cindy Hill
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
(307) 777-7675 (307) 777-6234 FAX