



**Anchorage Youth  
Development Coalition**  
Housed at Center for Safe Alaskans

# Assessment of Youth Risk and Protective Factors and Behaviors for Anchorage Youth: An Update to “Growing Up Anchorage”

Addendum of 2019 YRBS Data for Traditional Anchorage School District by  
Gender, Race and Ethnicity

December, 2021

This report was produced by Goldstream Group who is solely responsible for the analysis, interpretation, and conclusions. The opinions expressed herein do not reflect those of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Section of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Summary of Findings .....	3
Methodology .....	4
Sample Population.....	5
Student Connectedness and Resilience .....	6
Depression and Suicide .....	10
Violence and Bullying.....	12
Alcohol Use.....	13
Tobacco and Marijuana Use .....	17
Other Drug Use.....	18
Other Health Indicators .....	22

## Introduction

This addendum is a further update to the Assessment of Youth Risk and Protective Factors and Behaviors for Anchorage Youth: An Update to “Growing Up Anchorage” report that was completed in 2020 before 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data was available for Anchorage School District (ASD) high school students.

This update summarizes 2019 YRBS data for Anchorage School District (ASD) traditional high school students by gender, race, and ethnicity for indicators included in the 2020 assessment report to provide Center for Safe Alaskans and the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition with the most recent data available to inform their work. The YRBS is conducted by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Section of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, which makes this data available by request or through their website

(<https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/yrbs/TraditionalResults.aspx>).

Data presented here include indicators for ASD traditional high school students separated by gender and, when available, for American Indian/Alaska Native, White, and Hispanic or Latino students.

## Summary of Findings

When examining the 2019 YRBS data for ASD traditional high school students by gender, race, and ethnicity a few patterns emerge. These are:

- Overall, males were more likely than females to report that they experience protective factors.
- Males were more likely than females to report that they have ever tried and that they currently use marijuana. (For methamphetamines, heroin, and cocaine data is suppressed due to small numbers in subgroups.<sup>1</sup>)

Specifically, the following indicators have large apparent differences in their distributions (though they have not been tested for statistical significance):

- Females were more likely than males to report they felt sad, considered suicide, or planned suicide. However, reported attempted suicides were equally distributed between genders.
- American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) students, as well as Hispanic or Latino students, reported feeling like they mattered, that they had adults to talk to, and

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<sup>1</sup> The Alaska YRBS program does not report results that are based on small numbers of student responses (numerator or number of “yes” responses <5, or denominator or total number of responses in a subgroup <100)

[https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/rachaelushkowicz/viz/AlaskaYRBS\\_district\\_Anchorage\\_Traditional/Story1](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/rachaelushkowicz/viz/AlaskaYRBS_district_Anchorage_Traditional/Story1)

that they spoke with a parent about school at rates similar to the whole ASD Traditional High School Student population.

- American Indian or AK Native students were more likely to report first using alcohol or marijuana before age 13 than any other population sub-group.

## Methodology

The ASD Traditional High School YRBS data is weighted according to a complex sampling plan. The following charts were created with sub-population frequency estimates calculated with SPSS and the complex sampling plan as supplied by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. More information is available at the state website: <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/yrbs/TraditionalResults.aspx>.

The CDC and the Alaska YRBS Program have used the responses to race and ethnicity survey questions to define several variables. This report uses the XRACE\_5 variable. This puts each response into one of the five following categories: 1) American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), 2) White, 3) Hispanic or Latino, 4) Other and multiple races and 5) Refused / Missing / Unknown. This variable counts AIAN students even if they also indicate another race. It counts Hispanic or Latino students if they indicated they were Hispanic or Latino with or without another race except AIAN. In the charts below, the reason for including several races under the term "other" is to increase response numbers and have less data unreportable due to small numbers of respondents in sub-groups. Those that reported themselves to be "Asian," "Black or African American," "Hawaiian or Pacific Islander," or "Other or multi-racial" are all defined as "Other" in this variable. Figure 1 shows the race and ethnicity distribution of the ASD traditional student population as defined by this variable. The census data (all ages) is included for comparison.

Figure 1. Population Demographics

	Anchorage 2019 Census Population Distribution ( <a href="https://www.census.gov">https://www.census.gov</a> )	Anchorage 2018 School District Distribution ( <a href="https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1204/Ethnicity%202018-2019.pdf">https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1204/Ethnicity%202018-2019.pdf</a> )	YRBS Anchorage Traditional High School Student Population Distribution (X_RACE_5)
White	62.6%	41.9%	39.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	7.9%	7.4%	14.4%
Hispanic or Latino	9.2%	11.4%	13.6%
Other	20.3%	na	32.8%

## Sample Population

This report only includes students in traditional high schools. YRBS designates "alternative" and "traditional" high schools at a national level. "Alternative" high schools in YRBS data are those that have high risk populations, like schools for students that are no longer permitted to attend regular high school, not just high schools that are not "traditional." Alternative schools in Alaska are listed at the DEED website. (<https://education.alaska.gov/alt>). The two data sets have different sampling schemes, then are weighted as appropriate to their samples and thus, can not be combined in a meaningful way. The data sets are not combined either at the state, or the national level.

## Student Connectedness and Resilience

Figure 2. Youth Mattering

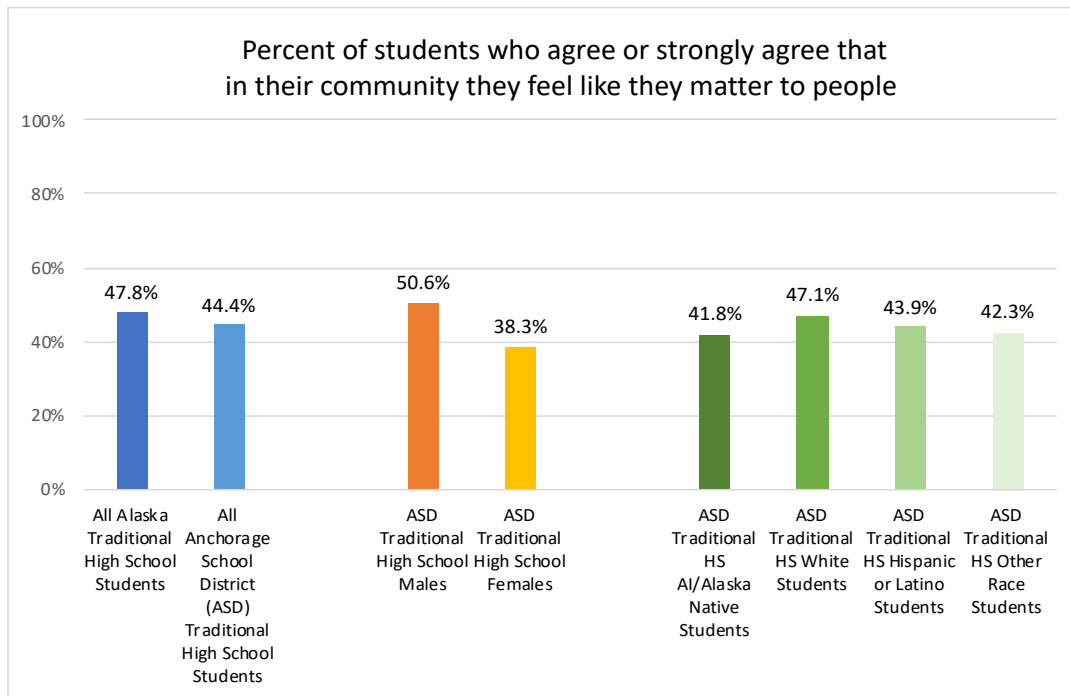


Figure 3. Comfortable Seeking Help from Three or More Adults

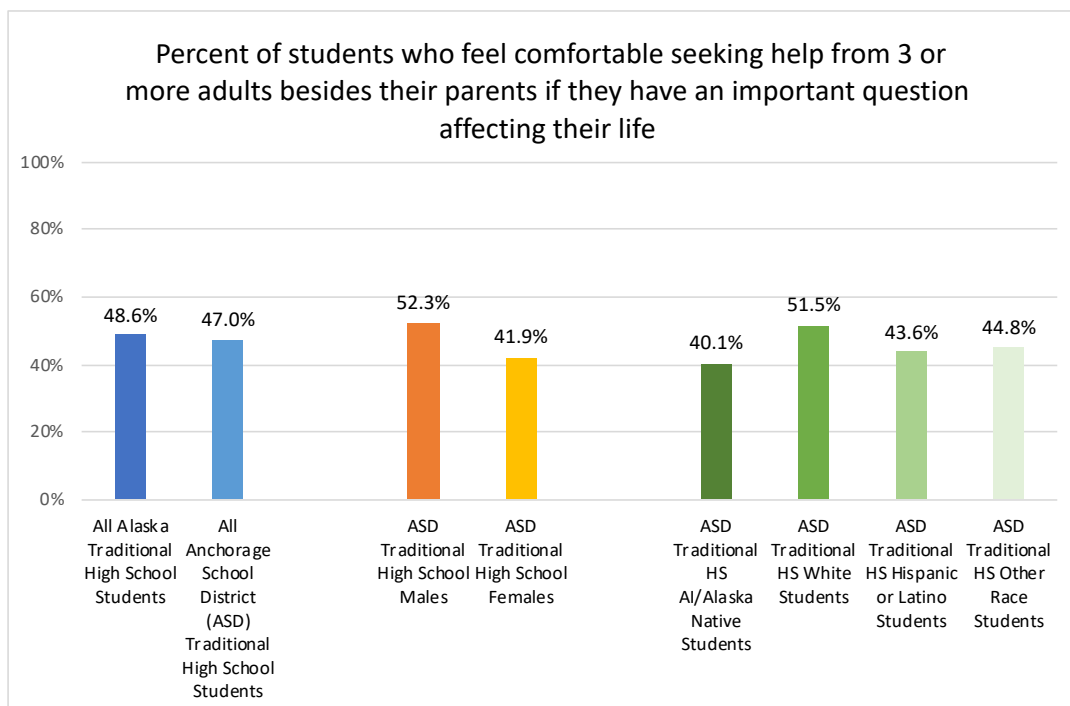


Figure 4. Youth Who Do Not Feel Alone

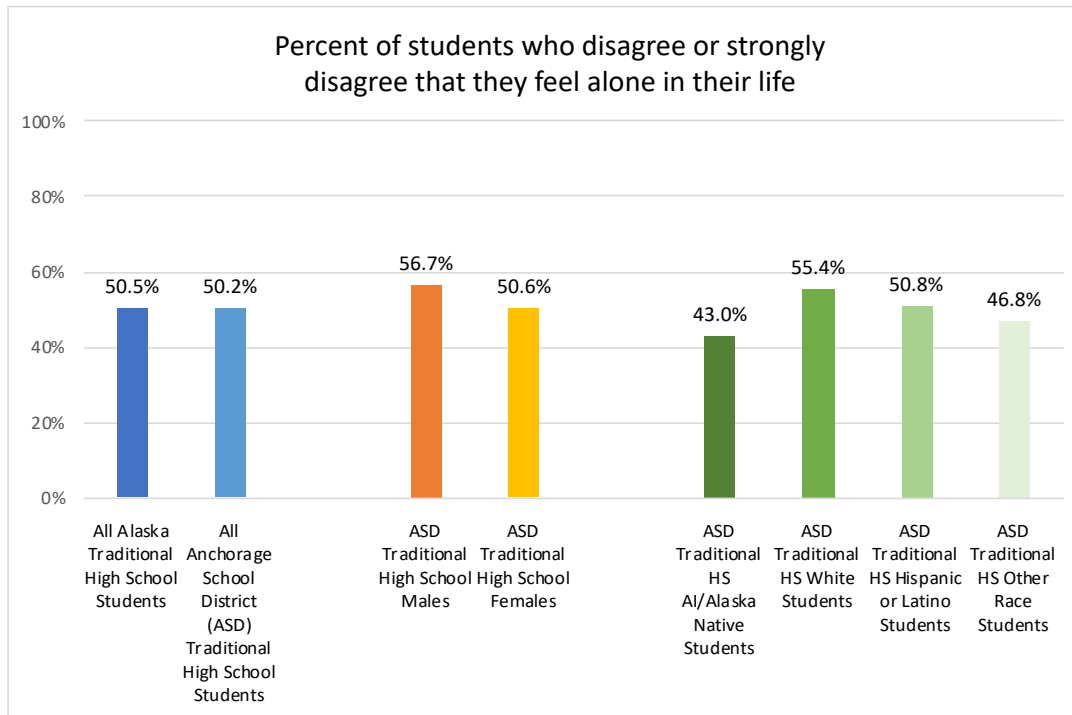


Figure 5. Parents Talk About School Nearly Every Day

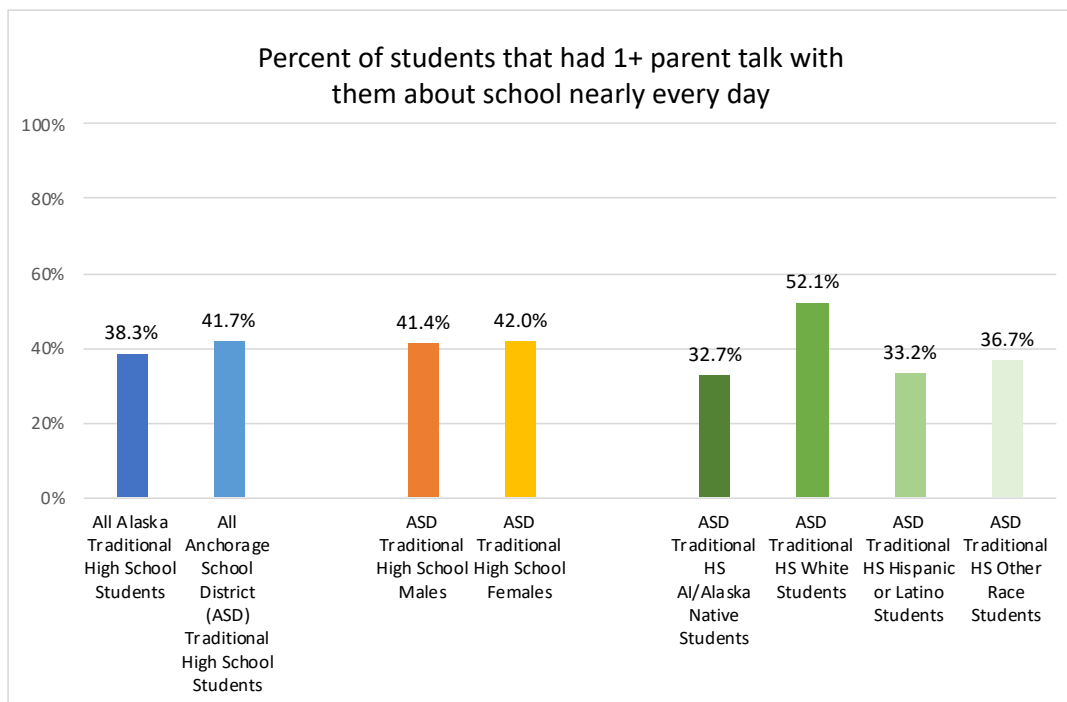


Figure 6. Teachers Give Care and Encouragement

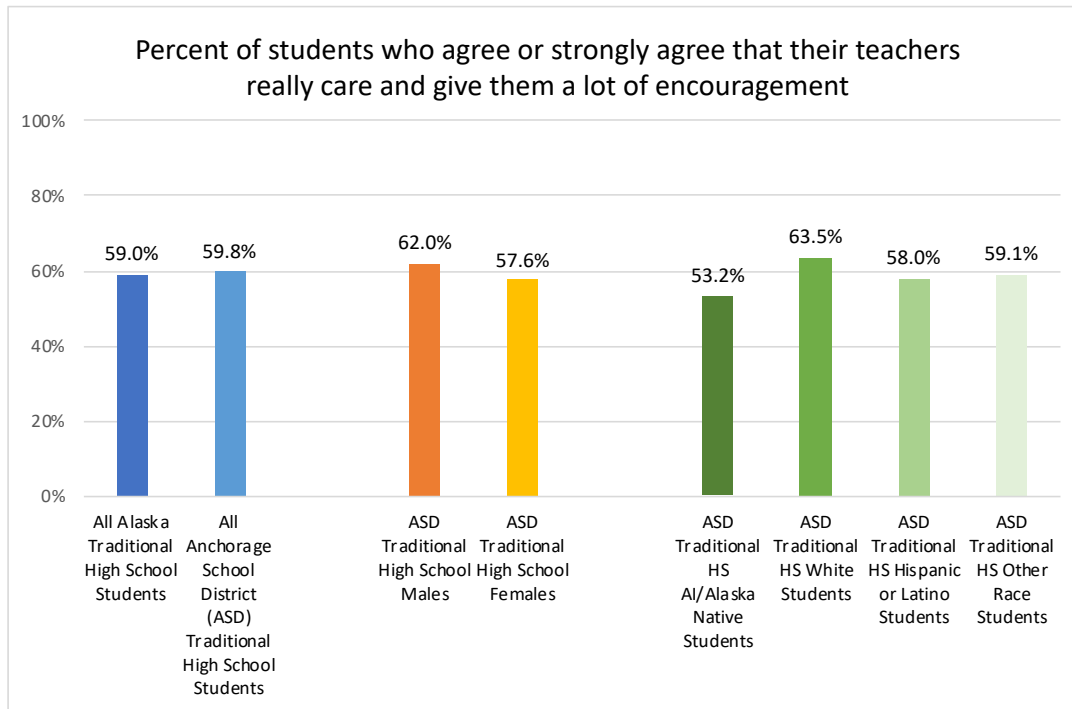


Figure 7. Participation in Organized Activities

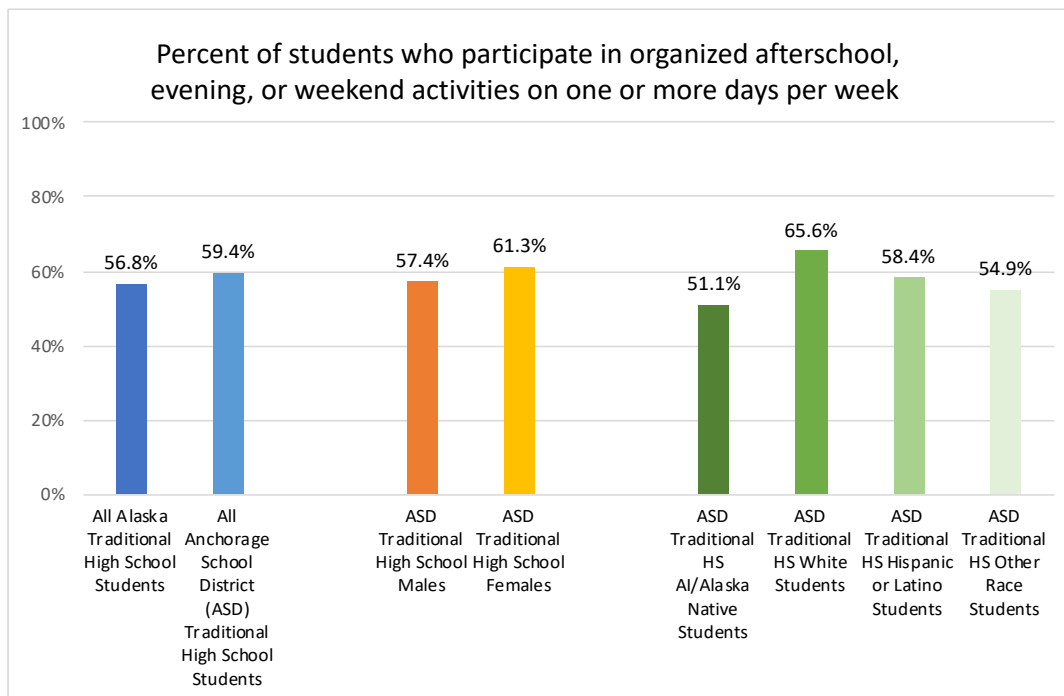




Figure 8. Able to Control Emotions

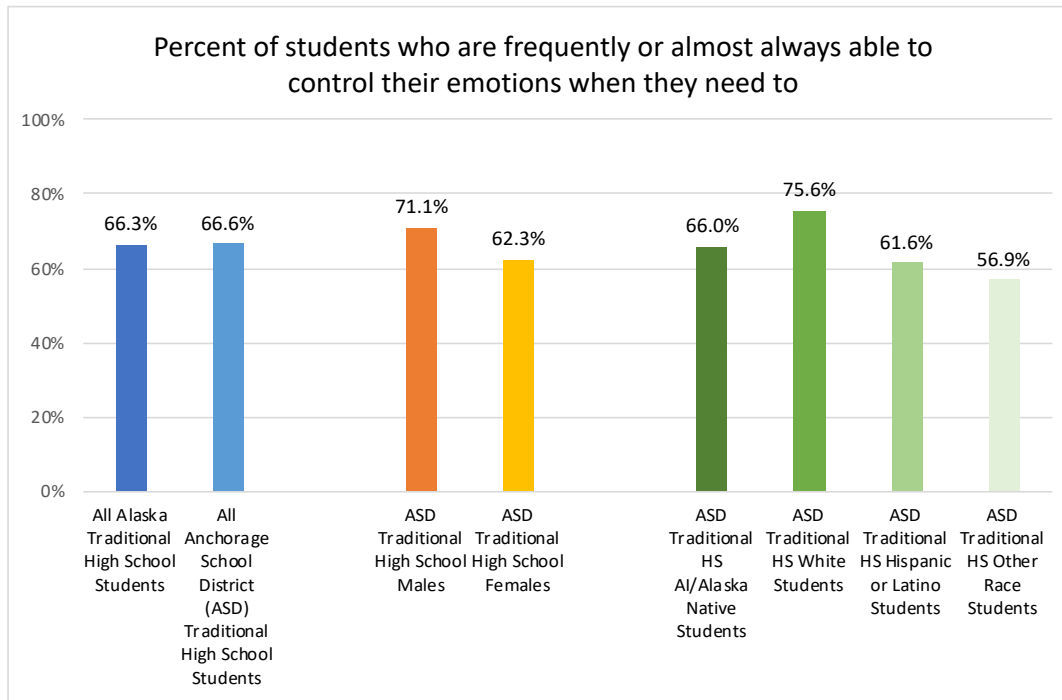
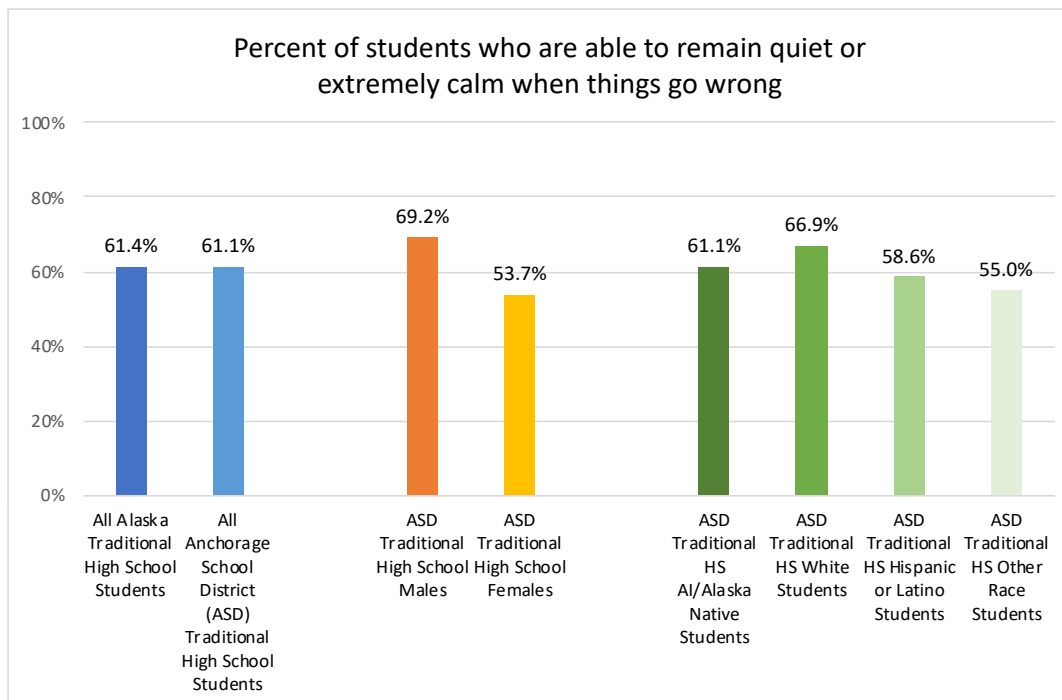


Figure 9 Able to Remain Calm



# Depression and Suicide

Figure 10. *Felt Sad or Hopeless*

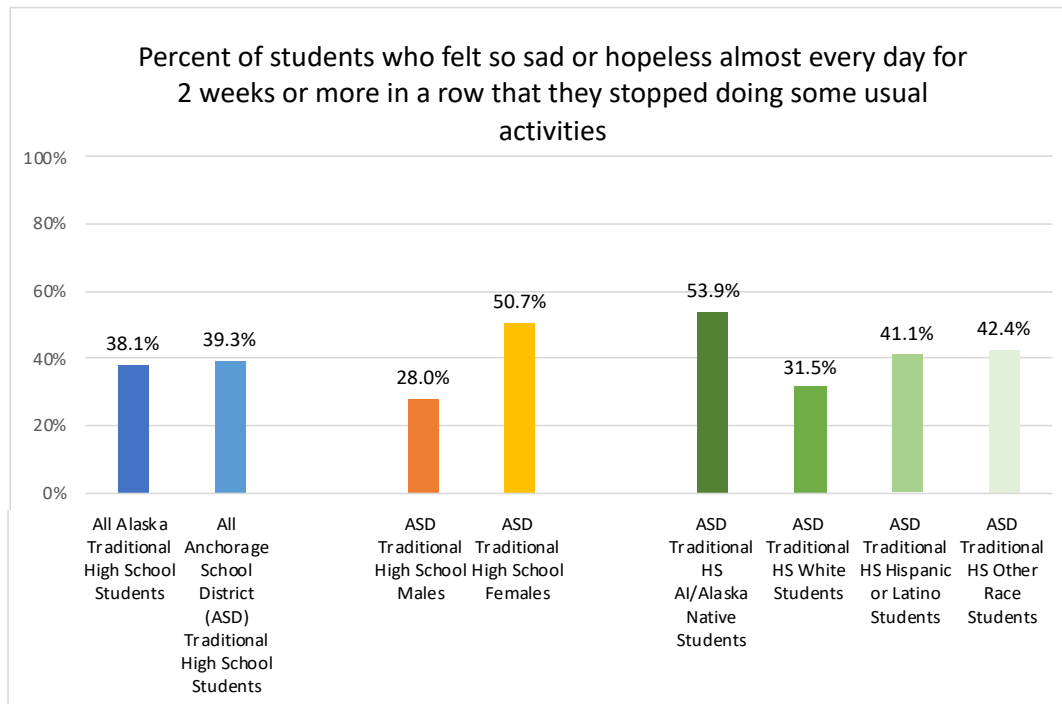


Figure 11. *Seriously Considered Suicide*

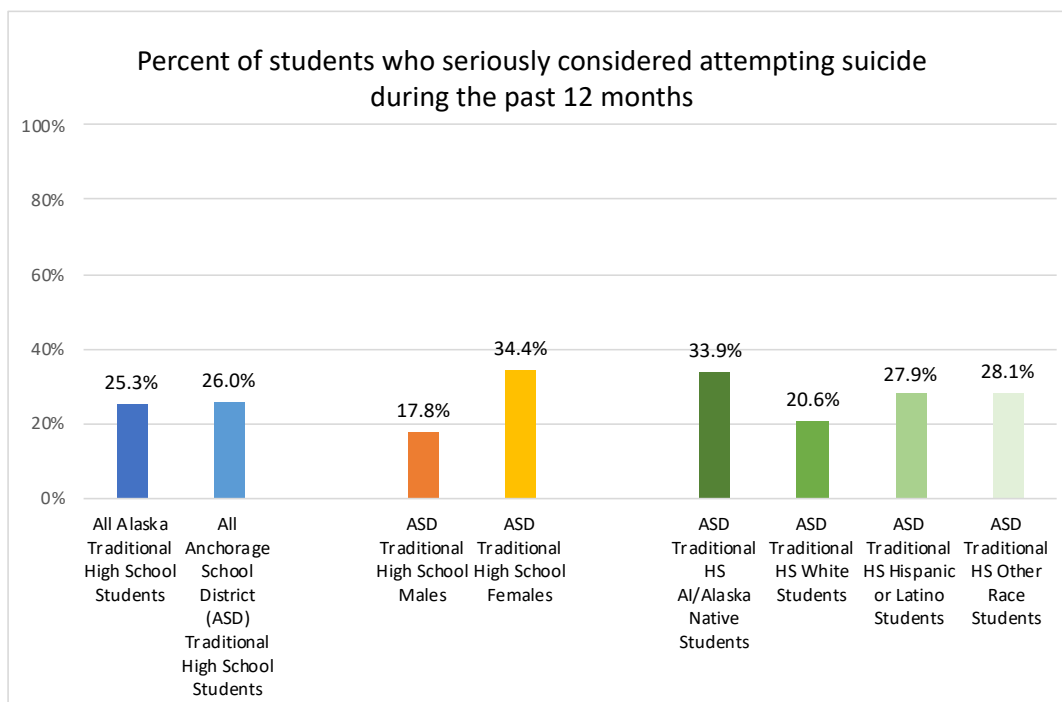


Figure 12. Planned a Suicide Attempt

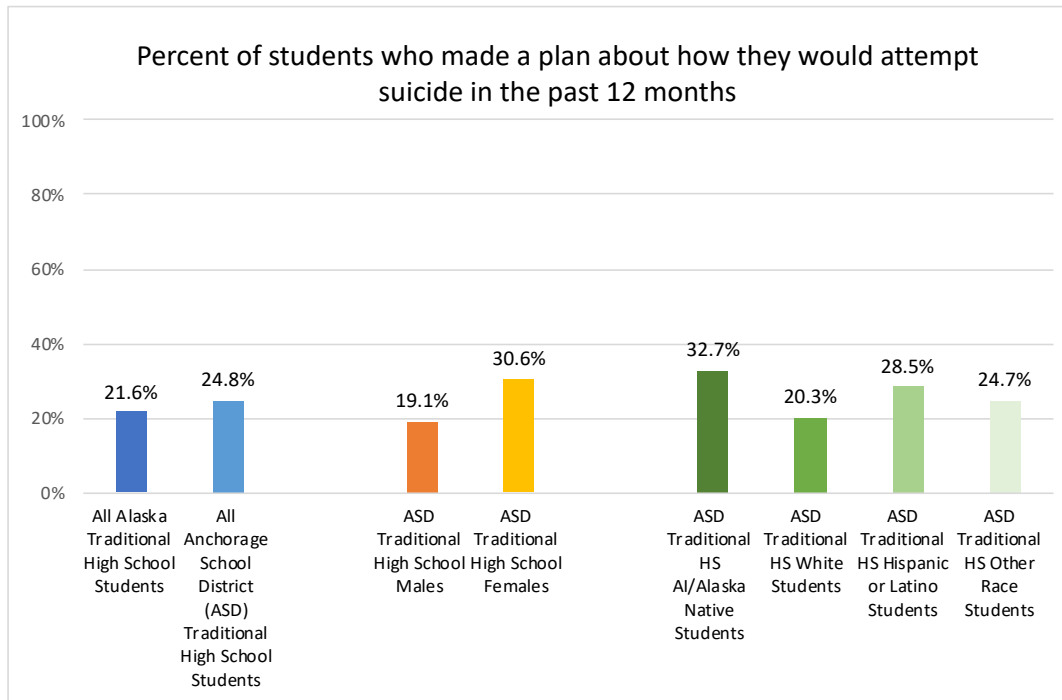
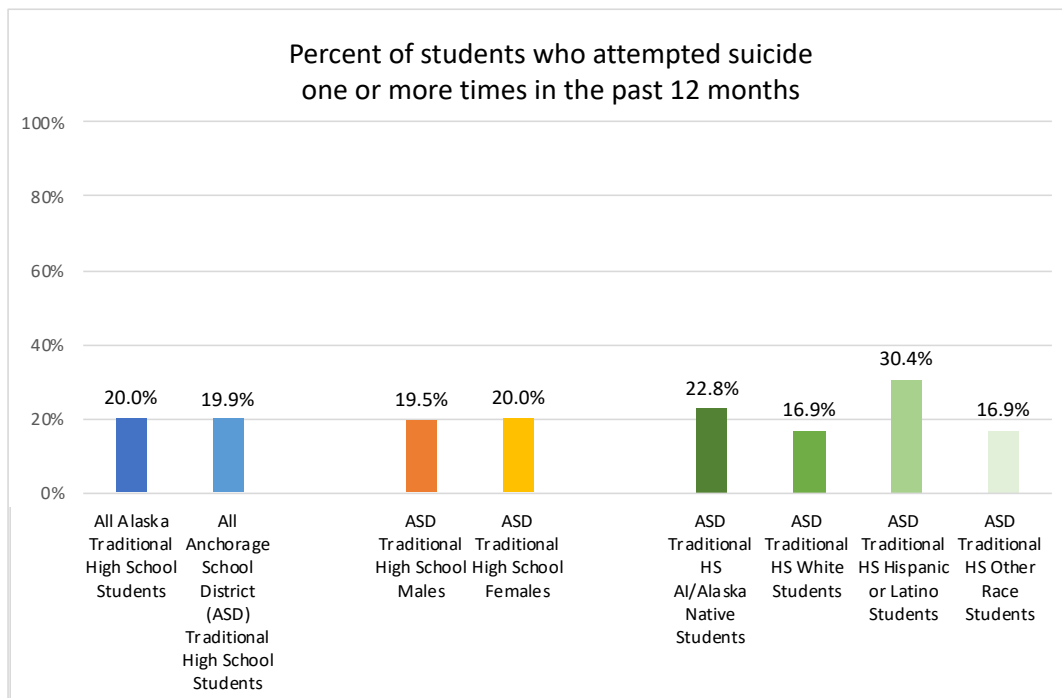


Figure 13. Attempted Suicide



## Violence and Bullying

Figure 14. Bullied on School Property

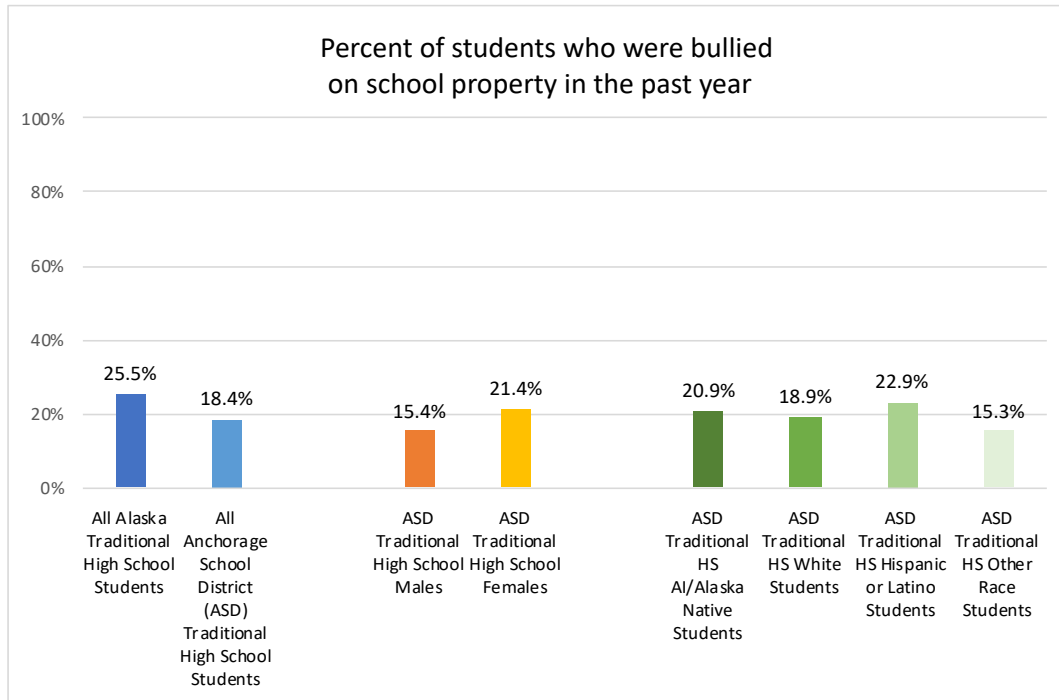


Figure 15. Carried a Weapon on School Property

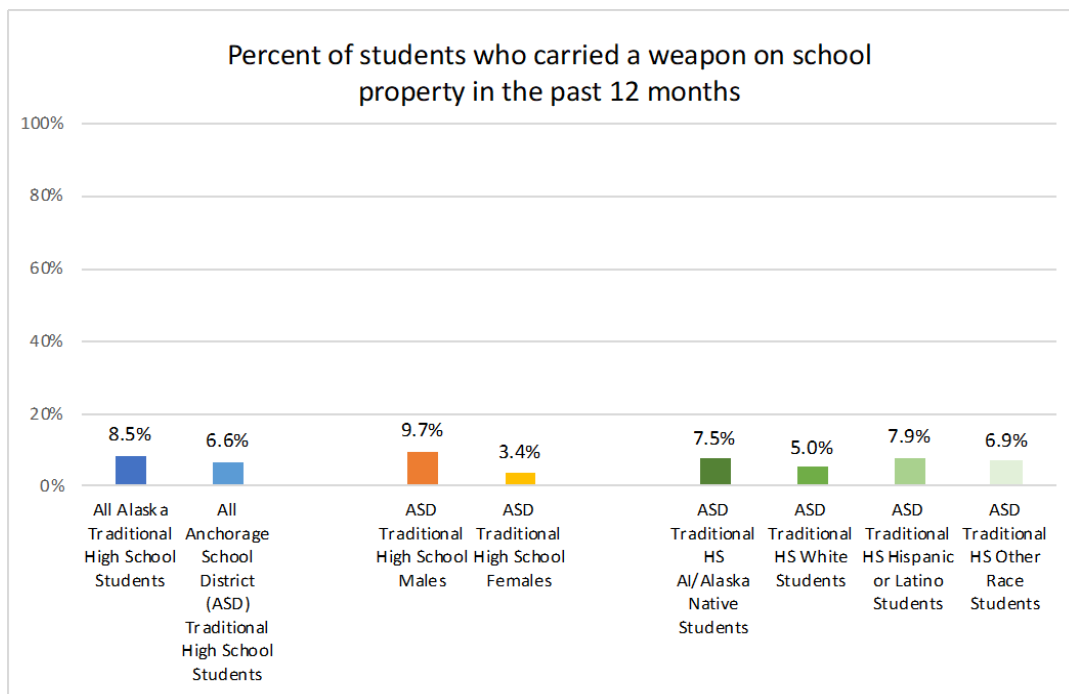
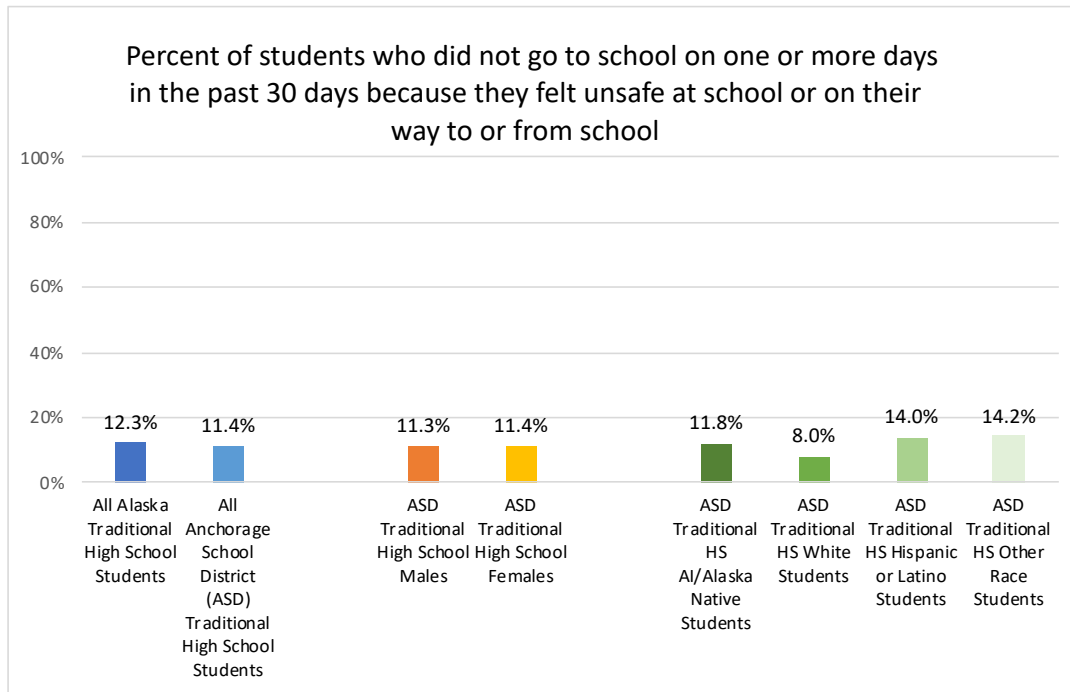


Figure 16. Did not Go to School Because they Felt Unsafe



## Alcohol Use

Figure 17. Current Drinking

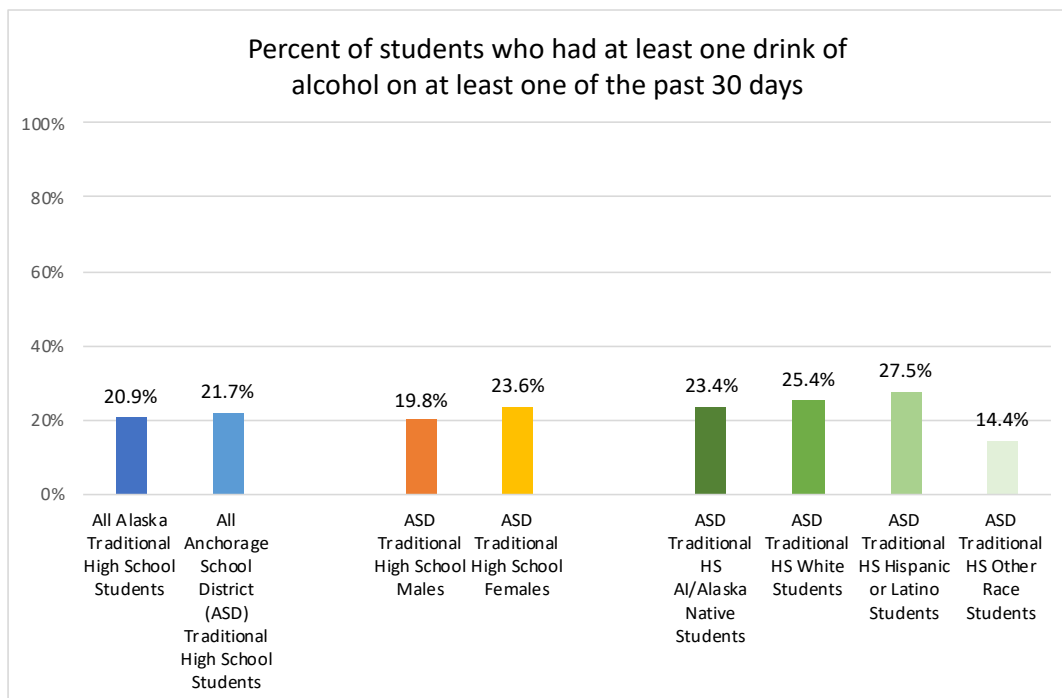
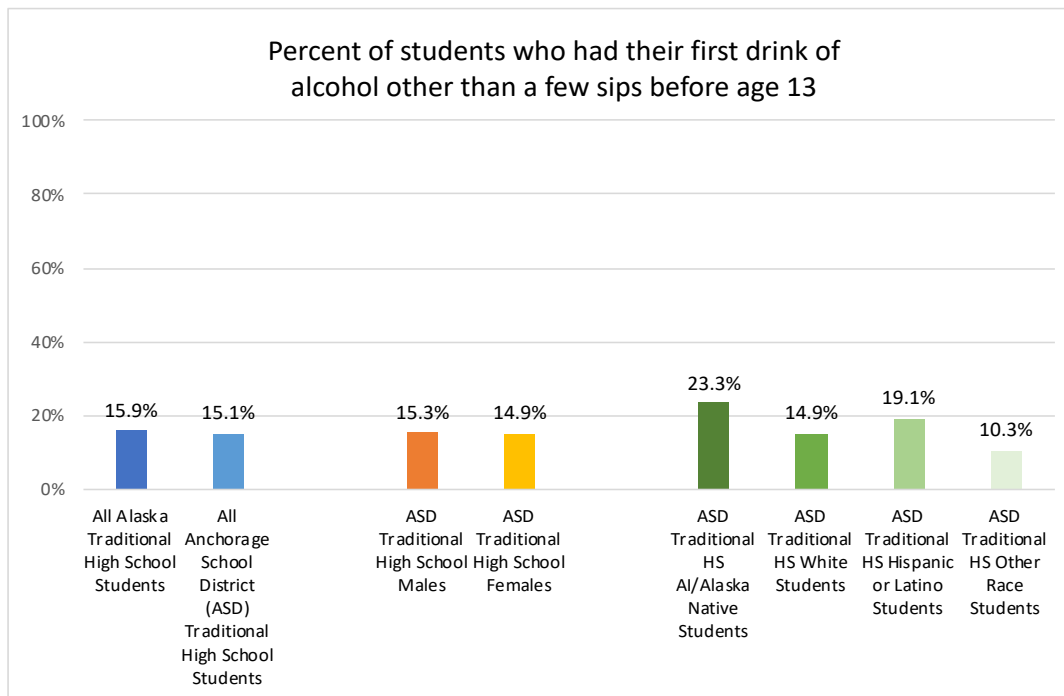


Figure 18. First Drink Before Age 13



In previous reports the 2019 YRBS results for the question, “During the past 30 days, how did you usually get the alcohol you drank?” was not available. The following table and charts show the population estimates for all ASD Traditional Students as well as the demographic distributions for each of the sources listed. Respondents also had the option to choose “bought in store”, “bought in restaurant”, or “bought at a public event,” but data is suppressed because the response was not large enough to report.

Figure 19. Sources of Alcohol

During the past 30 days, how did you usually get the alcohol you drank?	All ASD Trad High School	Male ASD Trad	Female ASD Trad	AIAN ASD Trad	White ASD Trad	Hispanic or Latino ASD Trad	Other Race ASD Trad
Did not drink during the past 30 days	77.6%	79.4%	75.7%	75.7%	74.3%	71.5%	84.7%
I gave someone money to buy	5.2%	4.2%	6.2%	4.3%	5.7%	7.0%	3.9%
Someone gave it to me	7.9%	6.1%	9.7%	8.9%	10.5%	9.2%	4.0%
Took from store/family	3.1%	2.7%	3.6%	3.7%	3.9%	2.9%	2.1%

During the past 30 days, how did you usually get the alcohol you drank?	All ASD Trad High School	Male ASD Trad	Female ASD Trad	AIAN ASD Trad	White ASD Trad	Hispanic or Latino ASD Trad	Other Race ASD Trad
Got it some other way	5.3%	6.0%	4.5%	7.3%	4.7%	6.9%	4.5%

Figure 20. Students that Did Not Report a Source of Alcohol

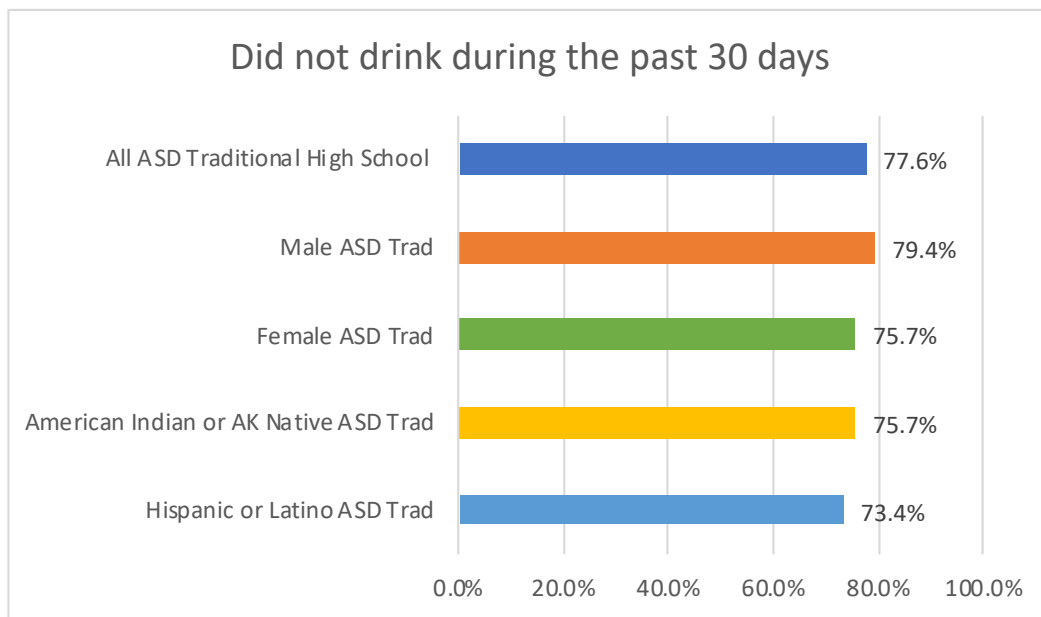
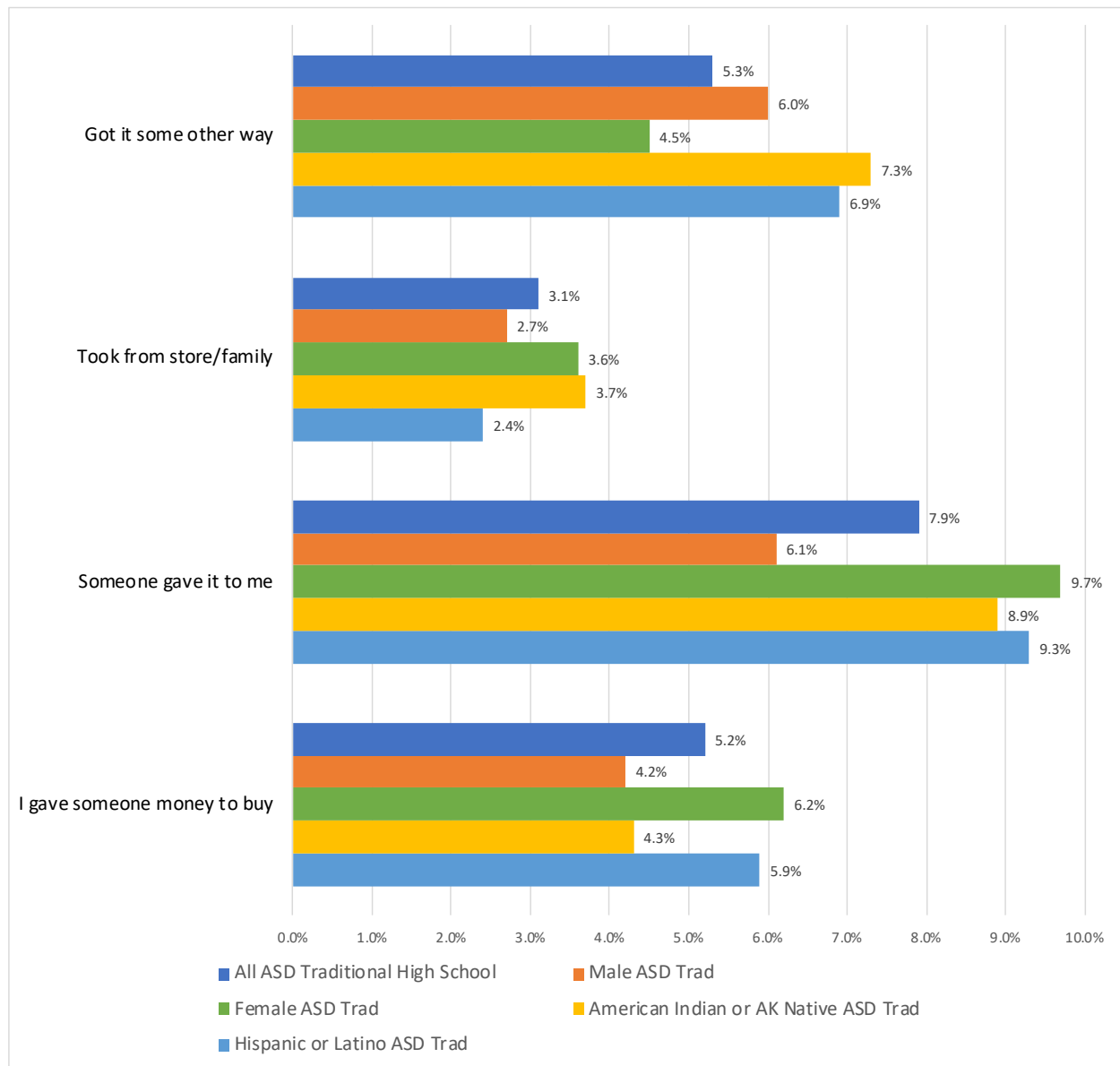


Figure 21. How Student got Alcohol- Top 4 Sources





# Tobacco and Marijuana Use

Figure 22. Current Vaping

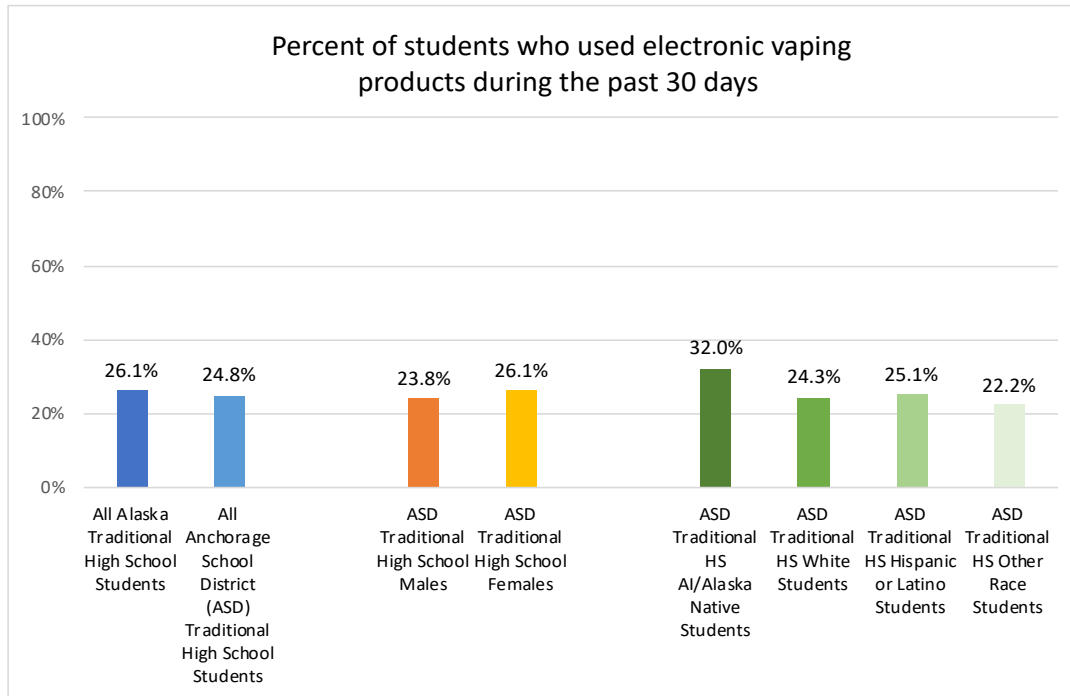


Figure 23. Current Marijuana Use

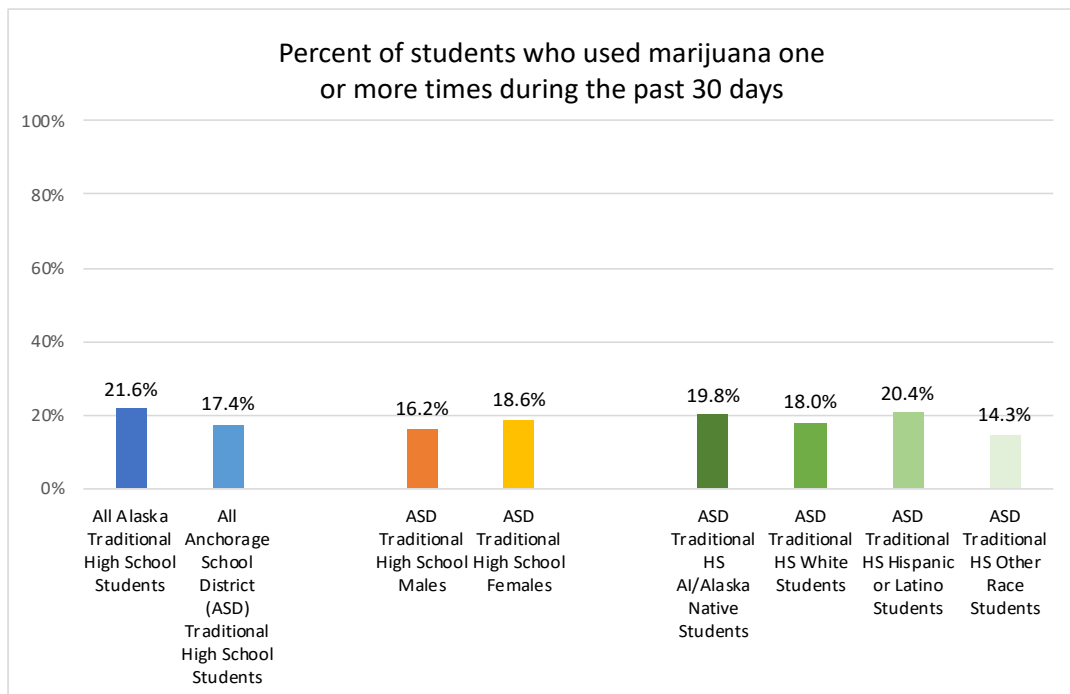
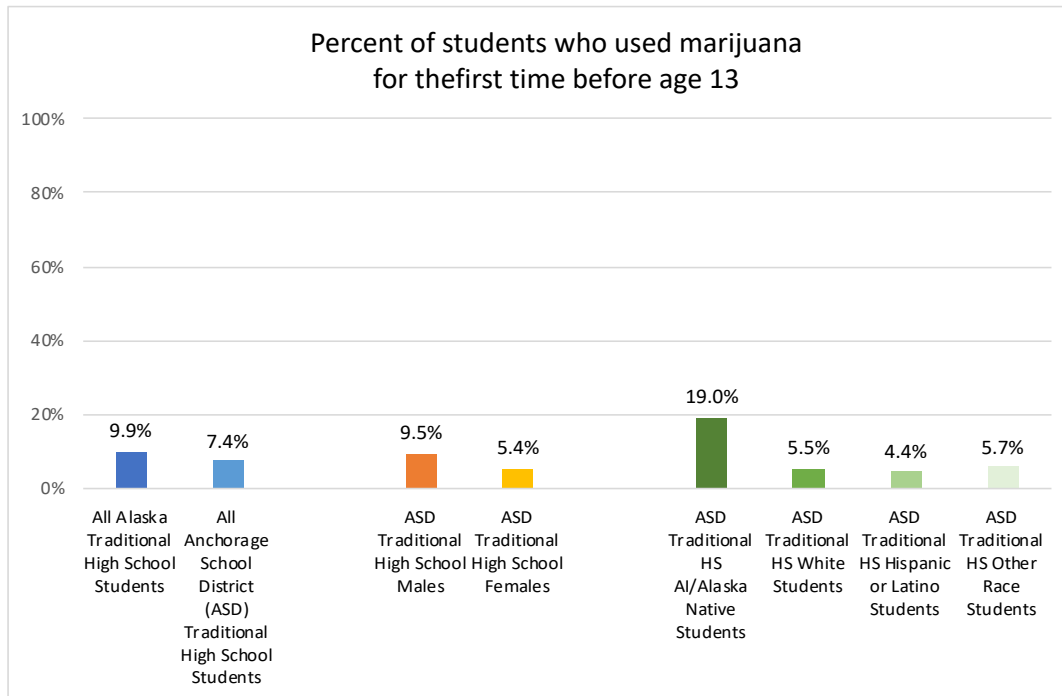


Figure 24. Used Marijuana Before Age 13



## Other Drug Use

Figure 25. Lifetime Inhalant Use

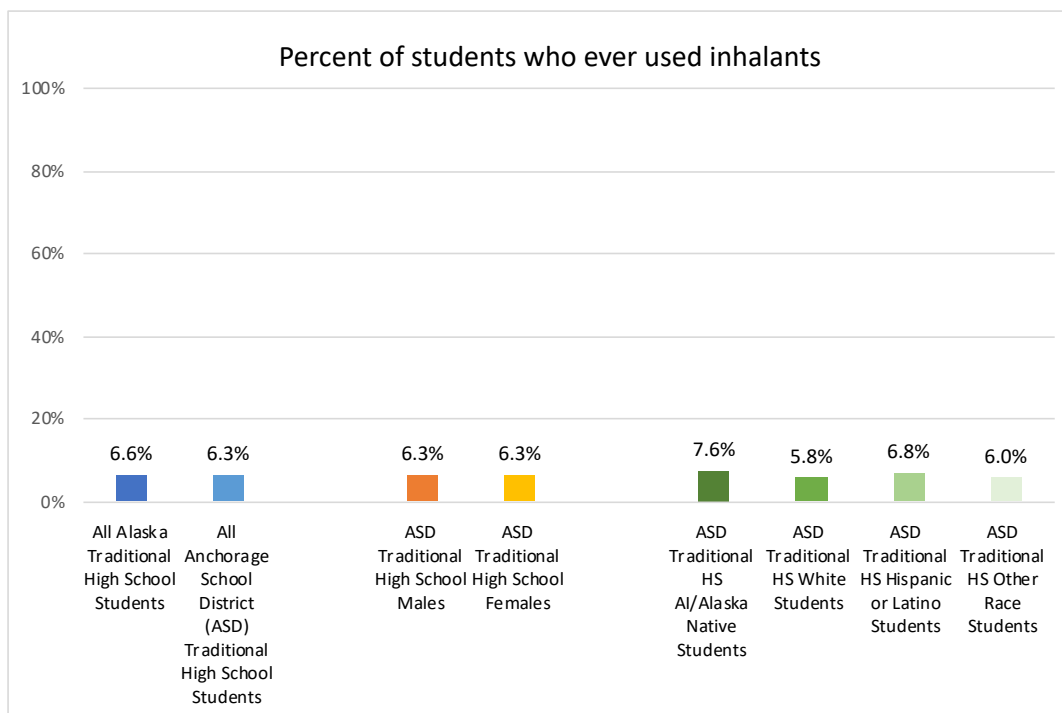


Figure 26. Current Pain Medication Misuse

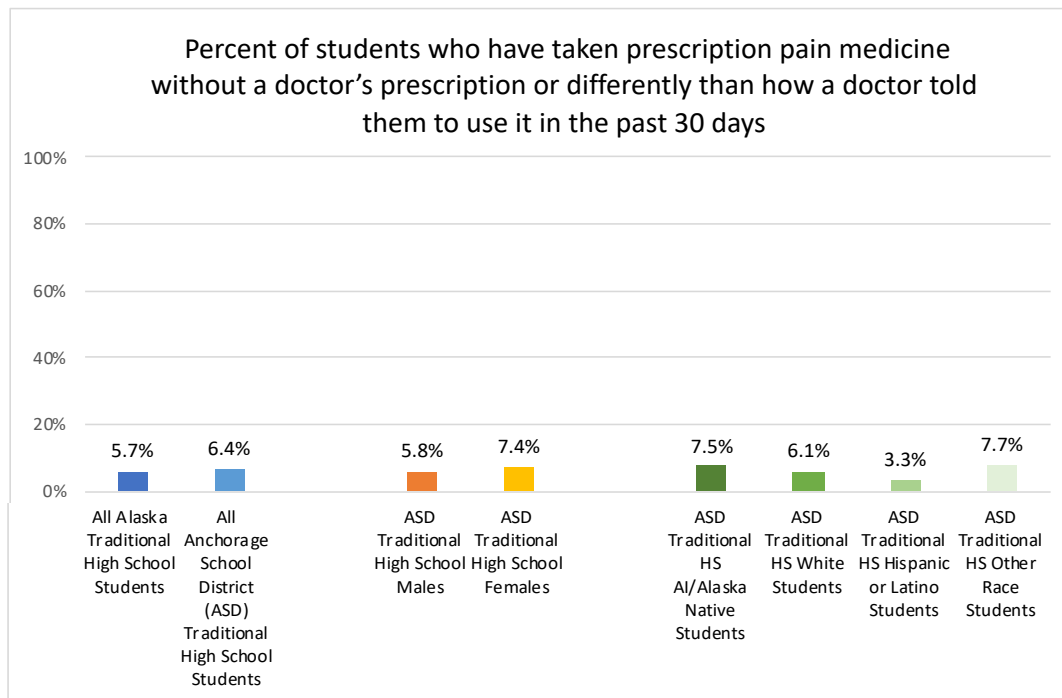


Figure 27. Lifetime Methamphetamine Use (Some data suppressed due to small numerators)

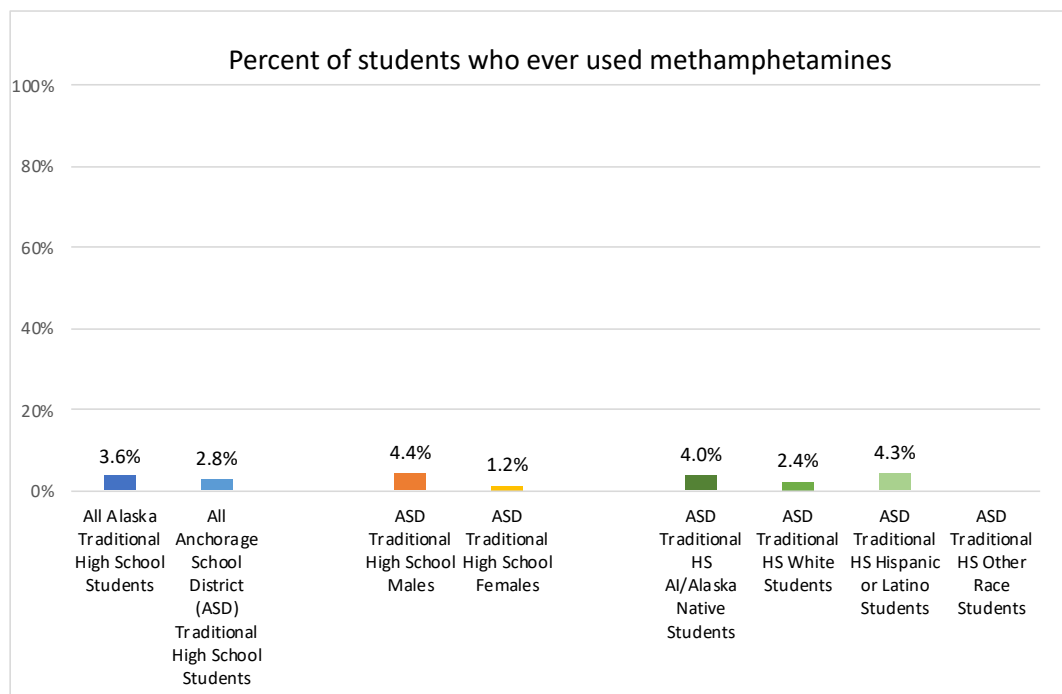


Figure 28. Lifetime Pain Medication Misuse

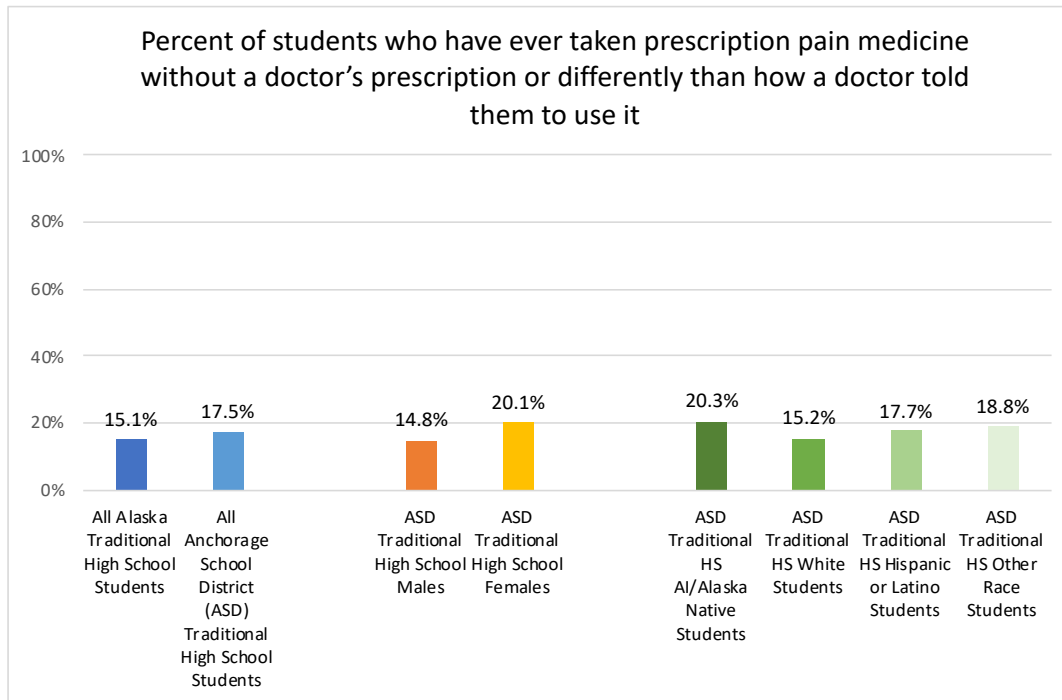


Figure 29. Lifetime Cocaine

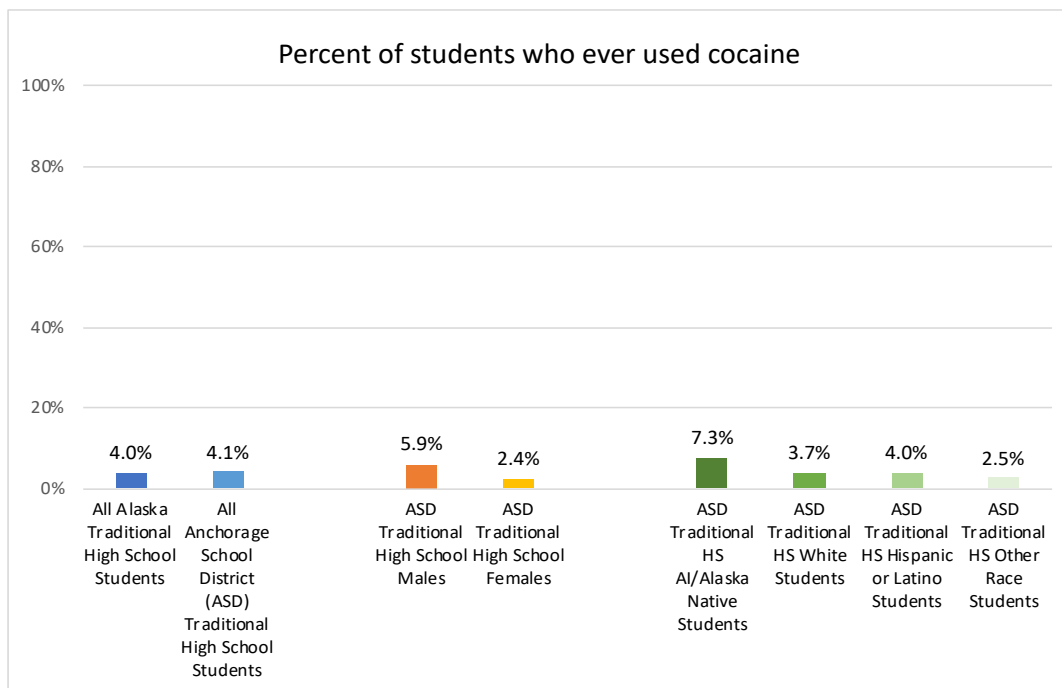


Figure 30. Lifetime Ecstasy Use

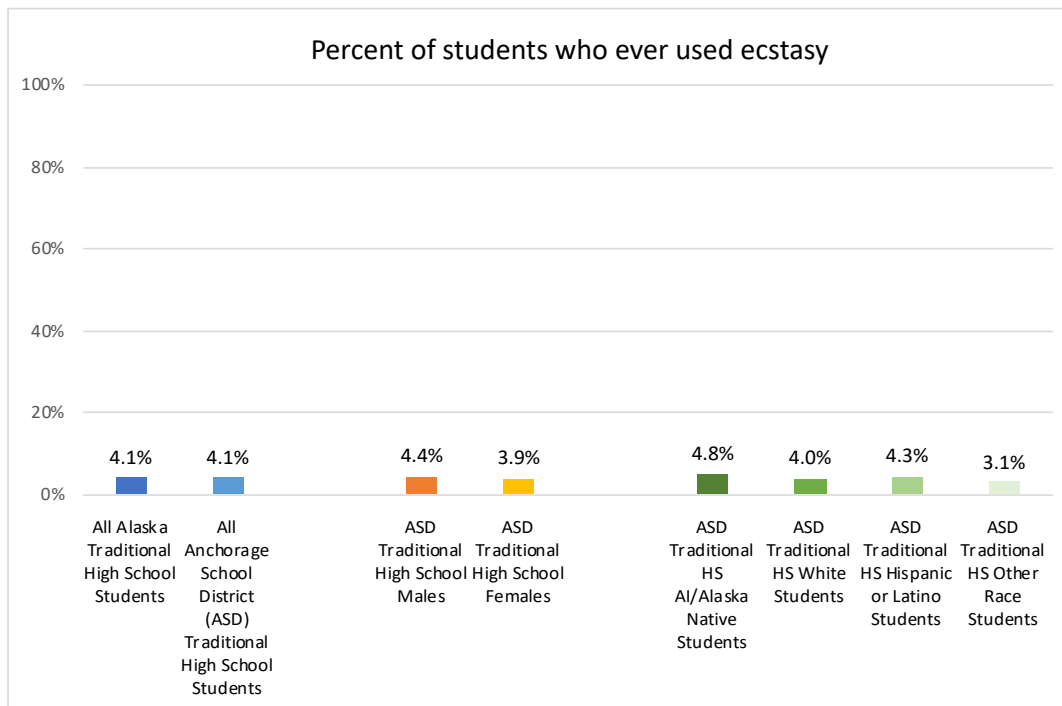
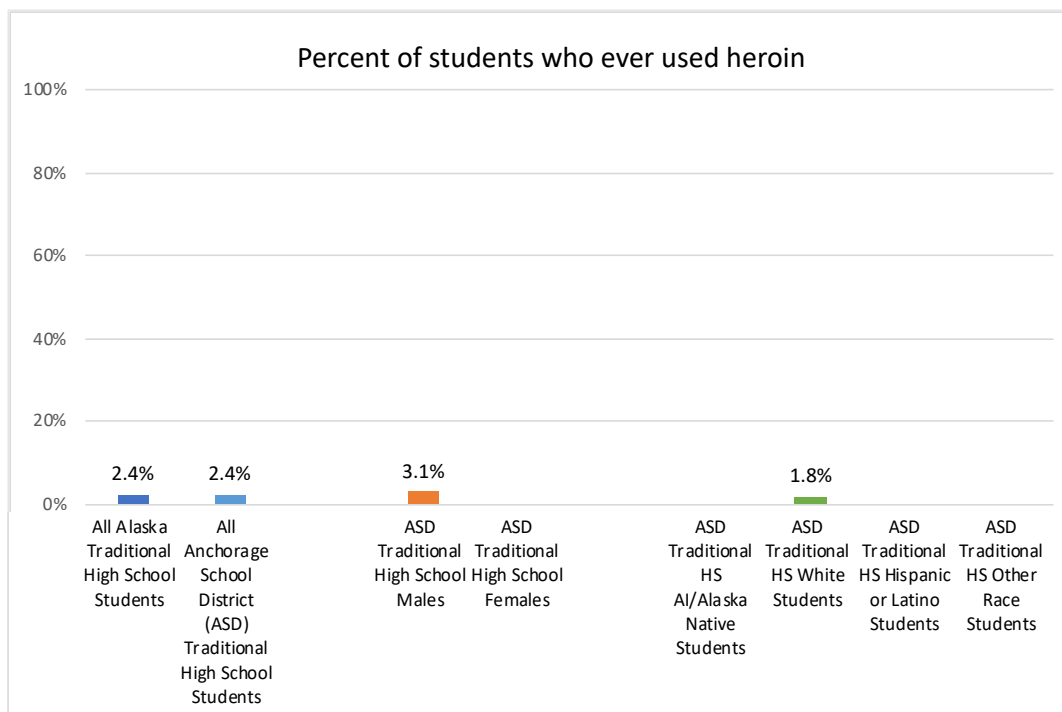


Figure 31. Lifetime Heroin (Some data suppressed due to small numerators)



## Other Health Indicators

Figure 32. *Slept Away from Home*

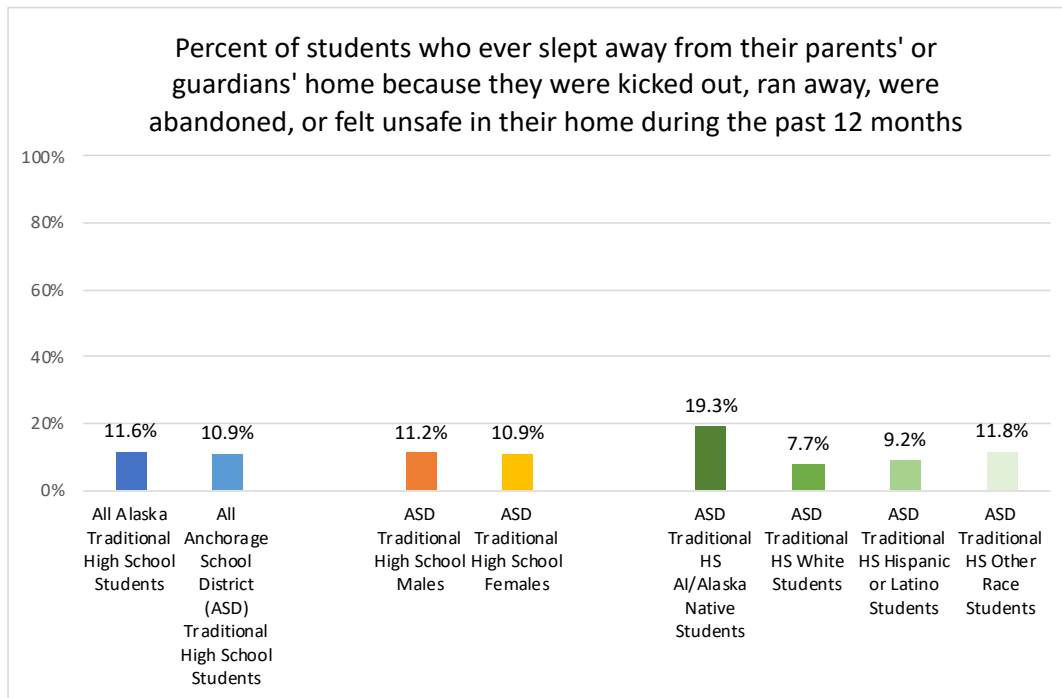


Figure 33. *Physical Activity*

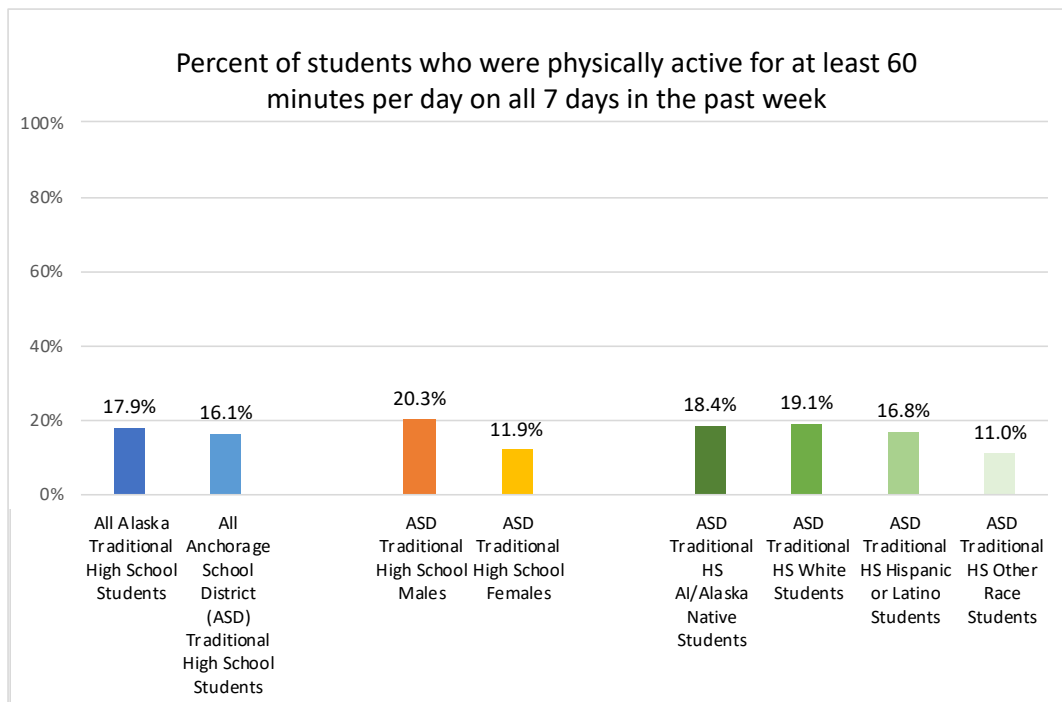


Figure 34. Seat Belt Use

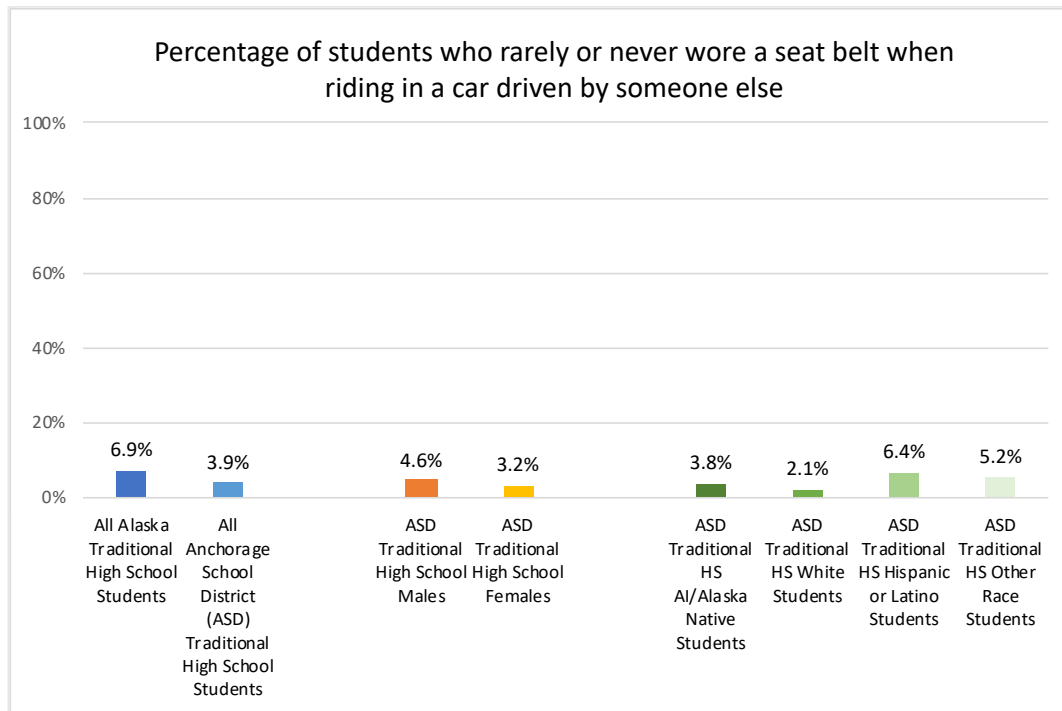


Figure 35. Perception of Risk from Binge Drinking

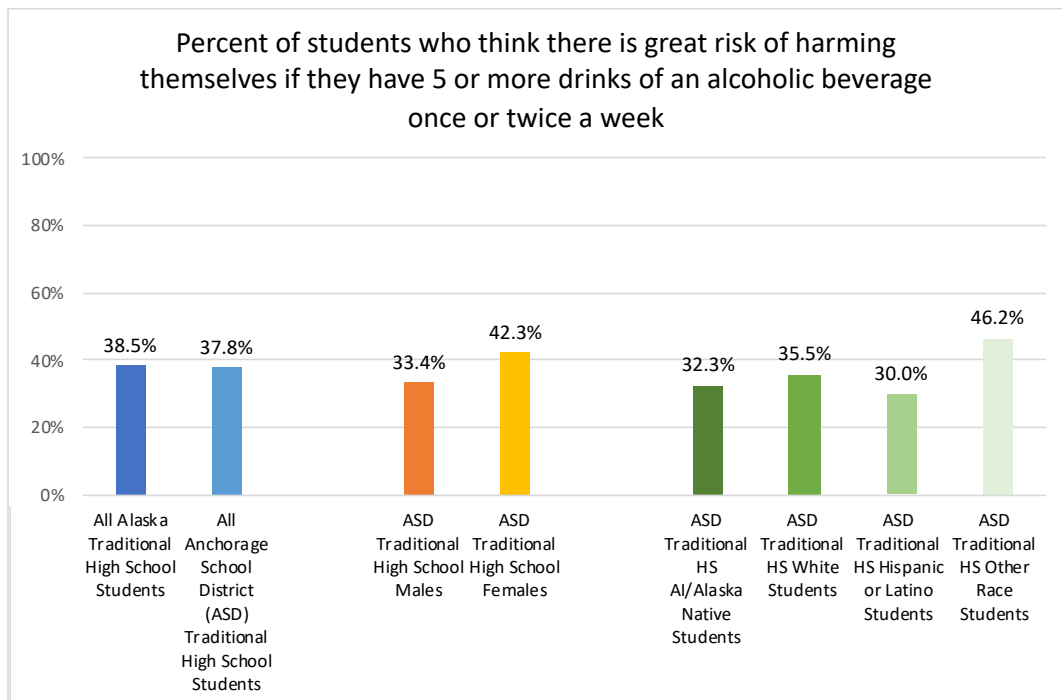


Figure 36. Perception of Risk from Marijuana

