

## Drug Use among Youth in New York City Public High Schools, by Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 2015

This data brief highlights self-reported drug use among youth in New York City (NYC) public high schools. Previous studies suggest that sexual and gender minority youth — those who do not identify as heterosexual or who identify as transgender — have higher rates of substance use compared with their heterosexual, non-transgender counterparts.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

### Characteristics of youth who misuse prescription drugs or use illicit drugs

- In 2015, 14% of NYC public high school students misused prescription drugs within the past year or had lifetime use of illicit drugs.
  - Any prescription drug misuse during the past year was reported by 9% of youth in 2015.
  - There was no change in reported misuse of an opioid analgesic during the past year from 2013 to 2015.
  - There were no changes in lifetime heroin, cocaine, or ecstasy use from 2013 to 2015.
- In 2015, 16% of youth reported using marijuana in the past month.
- Asian youth were less likely to have used marijuana in the past month (5%) compared with White (19%), Black (17%), and Latino (18%) youth.
- Seven percent of NYC youth during 2015 misused prescription opioid analgesics, 5% benzodiazepines, and 4% stimulants.
- Four percent of youth had ever used cocaine, 3% heroin, 5% ecstasy, and 5% synthetic cannabinoids.
- The prevalence of any drug use (prescription drug misuse in the last year or any illicit drug use) was higher among males (15%) compared with females (12%).

#### Definitions:

**Youth** includes NYC public high school students in grades 9 through 12.

**Prescription drug misuse** is taking prescription drugs (e.g., opioid analgesics, benzodiazepines, or stimulants) without a doctor's prescription one or more times during the past 12 months.

**Opioid analgesics** are prescription pain medications, such as Oxycontin®, Percocet®, Vicodin®, Hydrocodone, or Oxycodone.

Opioid analgesic (prescription pain medication) misuse was measured in 2011, 2013, and 2015 with one question. Misuse of benzodiazepines and stimulants was measured in 2011 and 2013 with one question, and in 2015, measured with two separate questions about stimulants and benzodiazepines.

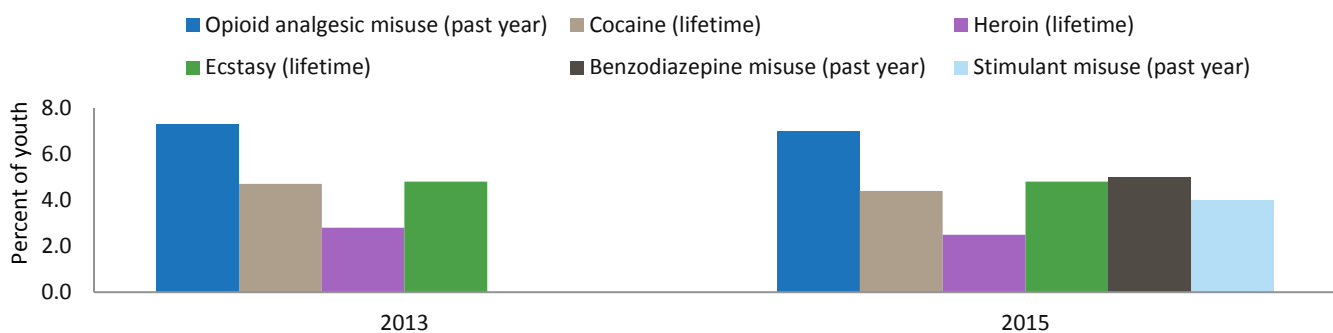
**Benzodiazepines** include Xanax®, Valium®, Klonopin®, or Ativan®.

**Stimulants** include Adderall®, Ritalin®, Concerta®, or Vyvanse®.

**Illicit drug use** is any lifetime use of cocaine (any form), heroin, ecstasy, or synthetic cannabinoids (K2).

Synthetic cannabinoids are referred to by different names, including K2, Spice, synthetic marijuana, or "legal" marijuana.

### Prescription drug, cocaine, heroin, and ecstasy use among youth, New York City, 2013 and 2015

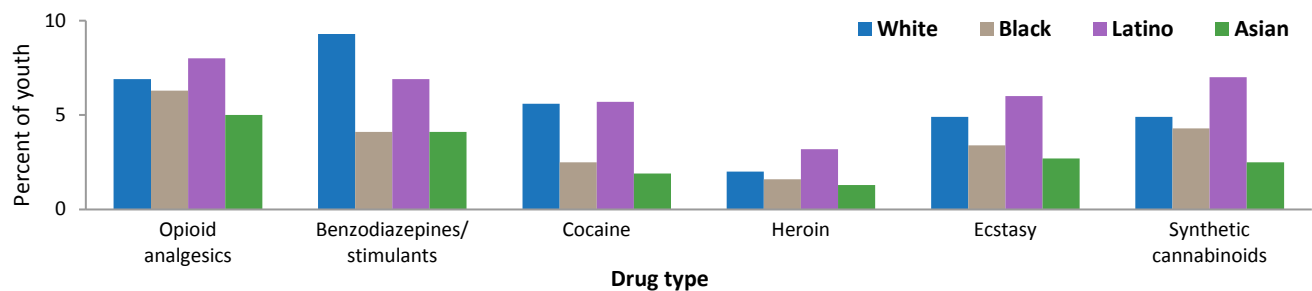


Source: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013 and 2015

## Drug use among youth by race/ethnicity

- White (9%) and Latino (7%) youth were more likely to misuse benzodiazepines or stimulants during the past year compared with Black (4%) and Asian (4%) youth.
- Latino (12%) and White (11%) youth had a higher prevalence of illicit drug use than Black (7%) and Asian (4%) youth.
- Latino youth (7%) had a higher prevalence of synthetic cannabinoid use than White (5%), Black (4%), and Asian (3%) youth.
- Heroin use was higher among youth who reside in Staten Island (6%) than among those who lived in the Bronx (3%), Brooklyn (2%), Manhattan (2%), and Queens (2%).
- Heroin use among Staten Island youth did not change from 2013 (6%) to 2015 (6%).

### Drug use among youth by drug type and race/ethnicity, New York City, 2015



\*Estimate should be interpreted with caution. Estimate's Relative Standard Error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, the 95% Confidence Interval half-width is greater than 10, or the sample size is less than 50, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

White, Black, Asian race categories exclude Latino ethnicity. Latino includes Hispanic or Latino of any race.

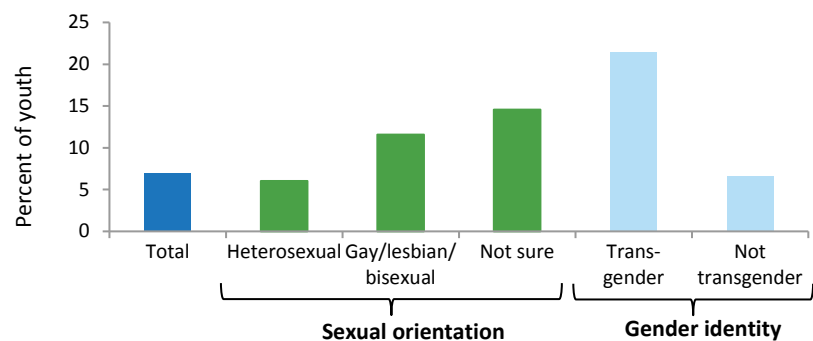
Opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines/stimulants: misuse during the past 12 months; cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and synthetic cannabinoids: any lifetime use.

Source: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015

## Prescription drug misuse among gay, lesbian, bisexual (GLB), not sure, and transgender youth during the past 12 months

- In 2015, the prevalence of prescription drug misuse in the past 12 months was higher among GLB youth (16%) and not sure youth (19%) compared with heterosexual youth (8%).
- GLB youth (12%) and not sure youth (15%) were more than twice as likely to misuse opioid analgesics compared with heterosexual youth (6%).
- Transgender youth (21%) were three times as likely to misuse opioid analgesics compared with non-transgender youth in 2015 (7%).
- GLB youth (10%) were twice as likely to misuse benzodiazepines or stimulants compared with heterosexual youth (5%), and not sure youth (15%) were three times as likely to misuse benzodiazepines or stimulants.

### Opioid analgesic misuse among youth by sexual orientation and gender identity, New York City, 2015



Opioid analgesics: misuse during the past 12 months

Source: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015

**Sexual orientation** refers to youth who identify as heterosexual (straight), gay or lesbian, or bisexual.

**Not sure youth** are youth who answered "Not Sure" when asked about their sexual orientation.

**Transgender** refers to youth whose biological sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about themselves.

## Prevalence of illicit drug use among gay, lesbian, bisexual (GLB), and not sure youth

- The prevalence of any illicit drug use was twice as high among GLB youth (16%) and not sure youth (17%) compared with their heterosexual counterparts (8%).
- GLB youth and not sure youth were:
  - Twice as likely to have any lifetime use of cocaine compared with heterosexual youth (GLB: 8%; not sure: 10%; heterosexual: 4%).
  - Twice as likely and four times as likely, respectively, as heterosexual youth to have any lifetime use of heroin (GLB: 4%; not sure: 8%; heterosexual: 2%).
  - Nearly three times as likely to have any lifetime use of ecstasy compared with heterosexual youth (GLB: 11%; not sure: 11%; heterosexual: 4%).
  - Twice as likely to have any lifetime use of synthetic cannabinoids compared with heterosexual youth (GLB: 9%; not sure: 10%; heterosexual: 5%).

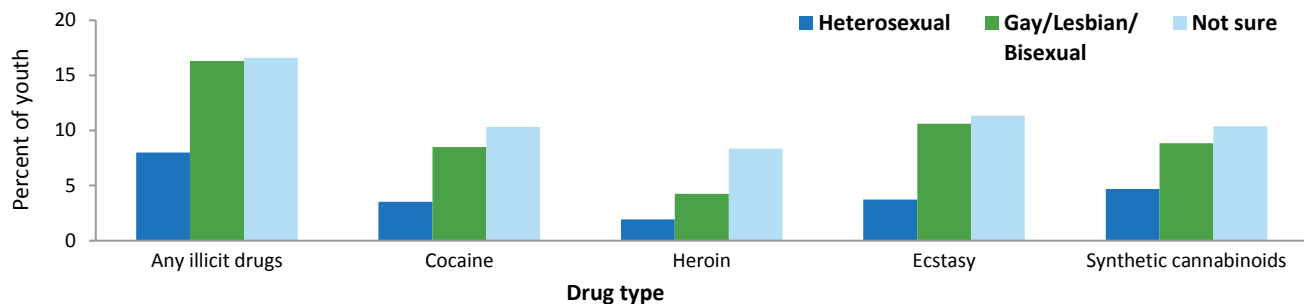
### Data Source:

**The NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2013 and 2015:** The NYC YRBS is a biennial self-administered, anonymous survey conducted in NYC public high schools by the Health Department and the NYC Department of Education. For more survey details, visit [nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/nyc-youth-risk-behavior-survey.page](http://nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/nyc-youth-risk-behavior-survey.page).

In this survey, 85% of youth identified as heterosexual, 10% as gay, lesbian, or bisexual (GLB), and 5% as not sure. Three percent of youth identified as transgender. Due to small numbers, not all comparisons are presented.

For the purpose of this publication Latino includes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin of any race as identified by the survey question "Are you Hispanic or Latino?" Black, White, and Asian race categories do not include Latino.

## Illicit drug use among youth by sexual orientation and drug type, New York City, 2015



Illicit drug use is lifetime use of cocaine (any form), heroin, ecstasy, or synthetic cannabinoids.

Source: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015

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**Acknowledgements:** Kinjia Hinterland, Sophia Greer, Lauren Murray, and Hillary Kunins

### References:

1. Kann L, Olsen EO, McManus T, et al. Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12 - United States and Selected Sites, 2015. *MMWR Surveill Summ.* 2016; 65(9): 1-202. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.ss6509a1.
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3. Hottton AL, Garofalo R, Kuhns LM, Johnson AK. Substance use as a mediator of the relationship between life stress and sexual risk among young transgender women. *AIDS Educ Prev.* 2013; 25(1):62-71. doi: 10.1521/aeap.2013.25.1.62.

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New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene





# Epi Data Tables

June 2017, No. 92

## Drug Use among Youth in New York City Public High Schools, by Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 2015

### Data Tables

- Table 1.** Any self-reported prescription drug misuse or illicit drug use among youth by sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, grade, race/ethnicity, and borough, New York City, 2015
- Table 2.** Any self-reported prescription drug misuse among youth by drug type, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, grade, race/ethnicity, borough, and frequency of misuse, New York City, 2015
- Table 3.** Any self-reported illicit drug use among youth by drug type, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, grade, race/ethnicity, borough, and frequency of use, New York City, 2015
- Table 4.** Illicit drug use and prescription drug misuse among youth in the United States, New York State, and New York City, 1999-2015

### Data Sources

**The NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 1999-2015**, conducted in collaboration by the Health Department and the NYC Department of Education, is an anonymous, biennial, self-administered survey of NYC public high school students in grades 9 to 12. Data are weighted to the NYC public high school student population.

**The National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) 1999-2015** is a biennial health survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data are representative of 9th through 12th grade students in public and private high schools in the United States. For more survey details, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>



**Table 1. Any self-reported prescription drug misuse or illicit drug use among youth by sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, grade, race/ethnicity, and borough, New York City, 2015**

Source: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015

Data are weighted to the NYC public high school student population.

Data are not age adjusted.

	Overall Total			Any Prescription or Illicit Drug <sup>1</sup>				
	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value
<b>Total</b>	100.0	~	~	13.8	12.2	15.6	~	~
<b>Sex</b>								
Female	49.1	45.4	52.9	12.5 D	11.0	14.2	Referent	~
Male	50.9	47.1	54.6	14.6	12.5	16.8	<b>0.043</b>	~
<b>Sexual orientation<sup>2</sup></b>								
Heterosexual (straight)	85.1	83.4	86.7	12.4	10.6	14.4	Referent	~
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual	9.9	8.6	11.4	22.3	18.0	27.1	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~
Not sure	5.0	4.2	5.8	23.0	18.2	28.6	<b>0.001</b>	~
<b>Gender identity<sup>3</sup></b>								
Transgender	2.8	2.2	3.5	39.7 *	24.8	56.8	<b>0.002</b>	~
Not transgender	97.2	96.5	97.8	13.1	11.5	14.8	Referent	~
<b>Grade</b>								
9th	29.9	24.3	36.2	11.9	9.4	15.1	Referent	~
10th	26.6	23.3	30.1	11.9	10.1	13.9	0.972	~
11th	21.8	17.3	27.0	14.2	11.0	18.2	0.060	~
12th	21.4	17.0	26.5	16.3	13.5	19.6	<b>0.049</b>	~
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>								
White, non-Latino	13.4	9.9	18.0	14.8	10.4	20.6	Referent	0.523
Black, non-Latino	29.9	24.5	36.0	11.6	9.3	14.4	0.142	<b>0.001</b>
Latino	37.8	32.5	43.4	16.5 U	14.3	19.1	0.523	Referent
Asian, non-Latino	16.8	14.1	19.8	8.6	6.4	11.4	<b>0.020</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Other <sup>4</sup>	2.1	1.7	2.5	17.3	13.4	22.1	0.340	0.745
<b>Borough of residence</b>								
Bronx	22.7	18.9	27.0	13.7	10.9	17.0	0.380	0.941
Brooklyn	31.3	26.8	36.1	13.0	10.4	16.1	0.317	0.703
Manhattan	11.1	7.7	15.8	13.5 U	11.7	15.6	0.370	Referent
Queens	28.1	23.8	32.8	13.3	11.3	15.5	0.283	0.886
Staten Island	6.8	6.0	7.7	16.4	11.3	23.1	Referent	0.370
<b>Borough of school</b>								
Bronx	18.1	15.2	21.3	11.3	10.1	12.6	<b>0.036</b>	0.065
Brooklyn	28.8	24.0	34.0	13.3	10.1	17.4	0.520	0.311
Manhattan	19.9	17.8	22.2	16.8	11.8	23.2	0.559	Referent
Queens	26.8	22.8	31.2	13.5 U	11.5	15.9	0.484	0.292
Staten Island	6.5 D	5.7	7.3	14.9	12.0	18.2	Referent	0.559

<sup>1</sup> Use of any prescription drugs (i.e., opioid analgesics, benzodiazepines, or stimulants) without a doctor's prescription during the past 12 months or use of any illicit drugs (i.e., cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, or synthetic cannabinoids, excluding marijuana) during lifetime.

<sup>2</sup> Sexual orientation refers to how youth best describe themselves in terms of their sexual or romantic attraction.

<sup>3</sup> Transgender refers to a person whose biological sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about themselves.

<sup>4</sup> Other category includes non-Latino students who selected American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, or multiple race categories.

\* Estimate should be interpreted with caution. Estimate's Relative Standard Error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, the 95% Confidence Interval half-width is greater than 10, or the sample size is less than 50, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

D Data rounded down to nearest whole number for purposes of reporting in the text.

U Data rounded up to nearest whole number for purposes of reporting in the text.

95% confidence intervals (CIs) are a measure of estimate precision; the wider the CI, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A **bold** p-value less than .05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group.

**Table 2. Any self-reported prescription drug misuse among youth by drug type, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, grade, race/ethnicity, borough, and frequency of misuse, New York City, 2015**

Source: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015

Data are weighted to the NYC public high school student population.

Data are not age adjusted.

	Any Prescription Drug <sup>1</sup> (past 12 month use)					Opioid Analgesics (past 12 month use)					Benzodiazepines (past 12 month use)					Stimulants (past 12 month use)				
	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value
<b>Total</b>	9.5 D	8.2	10.9	~	~	7.0	5.8	8.3	~	~	5.3	4.4	6.3	~	~	3.9	3.1	4.9	~	~
<b>Sex</b>																				
Female	8.2	7.1	9.5	Referent	~	6.0	5.1	7.1	Referent	~	3.5 U	2.8	4.4	Referent	~	2.8	2.0	4.1	Referent	~
Male	10.3	8.6	12.2	<b>0.022</b>	~	7.7	6.1	9.6	<b>0.021</b>	~	6.6	5.1	8.5	<b>0.002</b>	~	4.7	3.6	6.1	<b>0.022</b>	~
<b>Sexual orientation<sup>2</sup></b>																				
Heterosexual (straight)	8.2	7.0	9.4	Referent	~	6.0	5.0	7.2	Referent	~	4.5 D	3.7	5.5	Referent	~	3.1	2.4	4.0	Referent	~
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual	16.0	11.4	22.0	<b>0.003</b>	~	11.6	7.7	17.1	<b>0.015</b>	~	8.5 D	5.8	12.2	<b>0.012</b>	~	6.3	4.0	9.9	<b>0.008</b>	~
Not sure	19.1	14.8	24.2	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	14.6	10.2	20.4	<b>0.001</b>	~	12.2	8.1	18.0	<b>0.003</b>	~	10.7	7.9	14.3	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~
<b>Gender identity<sup>3</sup></b>																				
Transgender	30.5 D*	17.7	47.2	<b>0.005</b>	~	21.5 D	14.0	31.4	<b>0.001</b>	~	24.3 *	15.1	36.8	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	25.0 *	14.1	40.3	<b>0.001</b>	~
Not transgender	8.9	7.7	10.2	Referent	~	6.6	5.5	7.9	Referent	~	4.7	4.0	5.6	Referent	~	3.2	2.6	4.0	Referent	~
<b>Grade</b>																				
9th	7.7	6.0	9.7	Referent	~	5.6	4.4	7.2	Referent	~	3.9	2.8	5.4	Referent	~	2.9	2.1	4.0	Referent	~
10th	7.8	6.5	9.4	0.876	~	6.0	4.9	7.2	0.709	~	4.6	3.3	6.4	0.543	~	3.5 D	2.2	5.4	0.523	~
11th	9.8	7.4	12.8	0.152	~	7.8	5.5	11.0	0.104	~	5.5 U	3.7	8.3	0.119	~	3.0	1.9	4.7	0.900	~
12th	11.6	9.5	14.1	<b>0.006</b>	~	7.9	6.2	10.0	<b>0.023</b>	~	6.5 U	4.9	8.6	<b>0.026</b>	~	4.9	3.8	6.2	<b>0.013</b>	~
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>																				
White, non-Latino	10.6	7.0	15.9	Referent	0.991	6.9	3.8	12.2	Referent	0.584	7.4	4.4	12.1	Referent	0.533	7.4	5.1	10.7	Referent	<b>0.009</b>
Black, non-Latino	7.2	5.0	10.3	0.188	<b>0.032</b>	6.3	4.2	9.2	0.816	0.267	3.5 D	2.4	5.1	0.059	<b>0.017</b>	2.1	1.4	3.1	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.007</b>
Latino	10.7	9.2	12.4	0.991	Referent	8.0	6.4	10.0	0.584	Referent	6.1	4.6	8.0	0.533	Referent	3.6	2.8	4.5	<b>0.009</b>	Referent
Asian, non-Latino	7.0	4.7	10.2	0.089	<b>0.025</b>	5.0	2.9	8.7	0.231	0.068	3.2	1.8	5.5	0.050	<b>0.023</b>	2.8 *	1.5	5.0	<b>0.005</b>	0.342
Other <sup>4</sup>	12.3	9.1	16.4	0.404	0.429	7.6	4.8	11.9	0.639	0.844	6.8	4.4	10.4	0.815	0.696	6.0	3.9	8.9	0.393	0.089
<b>Borough of residence</b>																				
Bronx	10.0	8.2	12.1	0.305	0.733	7.5 U	6.0	9.4	0.522	0.769	5.7	3.8	8.3	0.386	0.306	3.5 U	2.6	4.7	0.096	0.525
Brooklyn	8.0	6.2	10.1	0.098	0.058	5.8	4.1	8.2	0.273	0.163	3.8	3.0	4.9	0.103	0.483	3.3	2.1	5.0	<b>0.045</b>	0.388
Manhattan	10.5 D	8.7	12.6	0.405	Referent	8.0	5.7	11.0	0.642	Referent	4.4	3.1	6.1	0.185	Referent	4.4 *	2.3	8.5	0.198	Referent
Queens	8.5 D	6.6	10.9	0.119	0.161	6.2	4.4	8.8	0.259	0.244	5.2	4.1	6.5	0.276	0.465	2.6	1.8	3.7	<b>0.042</b>	0.331
Staten Island	13.0	8.2	20.0	Referent	0.405	9.4	5.1	16.6	Referent	0.642	8.3 *	4.2	15.8	Referent	0.185	8.7 *	4.4	16.7	Referent	0.198
<b>Borough of school</b>																				
Bronx	8.5 U	7.3	9.9	0.063	0.055	6.5 D	5.6	7.5	0.119	0.180	4.5 D	3.7	5.3	<b>0.030</b>	0.181	4.1	3.4	4.9	<b>0.032</b>	0.639
Brooklyn	8.7	6.1	12.1	0.184	0.122	6.3	4.2	9.4	0.225	0.221	4.9	3.1	7.7	0.160	0.379	4.1 *	2.2	7.6	0.120	0.765
Manhattan	12.5 D	9.1	16.9	0.647	Referent	9.3	6.0	14.2	0.712	Referent	6.5 U	4.1	10.2	0.731	Referent	4.6	2.8	7.4	0.172	Referent
Queens	8.3	6.5	10.7	0.082	0.063	6.0	4.2	8.4	0.121	0.154	4.9	4.2	5.8	0.067	0.291	2.3	1.8	2.8	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.043</b>
Staten Island	11.4	8.9	14.4	Referent	0.647	8.4	6.4	11.0	Referent	0.712	7.2	5.2	9.9	Referent	0.731	6.9	4.8	9.9	Referent	0.172
<b>Frequency of misuse</b>																				
Only one time	31.2	26.4	36.3	~	~	34.4	28.4	40.9	~	~	33.2	27.8	39.1	~	~	39.5 U	30.2	49.7	~	~
Two to nine times	52.3	46.6	58.0	~	~	49.3	43.7	55.0	~	~	52.6	46.3	58.8	~	~	45.6	36.3	55.2	~	~
Ten times or more	16.5 D	12.0	22.2	~	~	16.3	11.6	22.3	~	~	14.2	10.5	19.0	~	~	14.9	9.0	23.6	~	~

<sup>1</sup> Prescription drug misuse is taking prescription drugs (e.g., opioid analgesics, benzodiazepines, or stimulants) without a doctor's prescription one or more times during the past 12 months.<sup>2</sup> Sexual orientation refers to youth who identify as heterosexual (straight), gay or lesbian, or bisexual. Not sure youth are youth who answered "Not Sure" when asked about their sexual orientation.<sup>3</sup> Transgender refers to a person whose biological sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about themselves.<sup>4</sup> Other category includes non-Latino students who selected American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, or multiple race categories.

\* Estimate should be interpreted with caution. Estimate's Relative Standard Error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, the 95% Confidence Interval half-width is greater than 10, or the sample size is less than 50, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

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95% confidence intervals (CIs) are a measure of estimate precision; the wider the CI, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A bold p-value less than .05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group.

**Table 3. Any self-reported illicit drug use among youth by drug type, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, grade, race/ethnicity, borough, and frequency of use, New York City, 2015**

Source: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015

Data are weighted to the NYC public high school student population.

Data are not age adjusted.

	Any Illicit Drug <sup>1</sup> (lifetime use)				Cocaine (lifetime use)				Heroin (lifetime use)				Ecstasy (lifetime use)				Synthetic Cannabinoids (lifetime use)				Marijuana (past 30 day use)									
	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value	Percent	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval	P value	P value					
<b>Total</b>	9.2	8.0	10.5	~	~	4.4	3.6	5.3	~	~	2.5 U	1.9	3.3	~	~	4.8	4.0	5.7	~	~	5.4	4.6	6.3	~	~	15.9	13.9	18.0	~	~
<b>Sex</b>																														
Female	7.3	6.1	8.8	Referent	~	2.7	2.0	3.7	Referent	~	1.1	0.8	1.6	Referent	~	3.4	2.8	4.3	Referent	~	3.9	3.1	4.8	Referent	~	15.8	13.3	18.7	Referent	~
Male	10.5 D	8.8	12.5	<b>0.003</b>	~	5.7	4.6	6.9	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	3.6	2.7	4.8	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	5.6	4.4	7.2	<b>0.015</b>	~	6.5 U	5.2	8.3	<b>0.006</b>	~	15.7	13.7	18.0	0.959	~
<b>Sexual orientation<sup>2</sup></b>																														
Heterosexual (straight)	8.0	6.7	9.5	Referent	~	3.5 U	2.7	4.6	Referent	~	1.9	1.5	2.6	Referent	~	3.7	3.0	4.5	Referent	~	4.7	3.9	5.6	Referent	~	14.7	13.0	16.6	Referent	~
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual	16.3	13.0	20.2	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	8.5 D	5.5	12.8	<b>0.012</b>	~	4.3	2.4	7.4	<b>0.040</b>	~	10.6	7.5	14.8	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	8.9	6.6	11.7	<b>0.001</b>	~	29.0	23.7	35.1	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~
Not sure	16.6	12.7	21.3	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	10.3	6.6	15.8	<b>0.006</b>	~	8.3	5.1	13.4	<b>0.002</b>	~	11.4	8.1	15.7	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	10.4	7.0	15.1	<b>0.006</b>	~	13.6	10.7	17.0	0.491	~
<b>Gender identity<sup>3</sup></b>																														
Transgender	37.0 *	22.7	54.1	<b>0.001</b>	~	25.4 *	13.6	42.4	<b>0.003</b>	~	22.6 *	12.4	37.6	<b>0.001</b>	~	27.5 D*	16.5	42.1	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~	29.2 *	17.5	44.6	<b>0.001</b>	~	29.4 *	19.1	42.3	<b>0.026</b>	~
Not transgender	8.4	7.3	9.6	Referent	~	3.7	3.1	4.4	Referent	~	1.9	1.5	2.5	Referent	~	4.2	3.6	4.9	Referent	~	4.7	4.0	5.5	Referent	~	15.7	13.7	18.0	Referent	~
<b>Grade</b>																														
9th	8.6	6.2	11.9	Referent	~	4.1	3.0	5.7	Referent	~	2.2	1.4	3.4	Referent	~	4.3	3.3	5.5	Referent	~	5.0	3.7	6.8	Referent	~	9.1	7.0	11.8	Referent	~
10th	8.0	6.1	10.4	0.754	~	3.5 D	2.4	4.9	0.484	~	2.5 U	1.7	3.7	0.608	~	4.0	2.9	5.5	0.800	~	4.8	3.3	7.0	0.900	~	13.7	11.0	17.0	<b>0.035</b>	~
11th	8.9	6.4	12.1	0.807	~	4.5 U	2.7	7.6	0.714	~	2.1	1.2	3.6	0.888	~	4.3	2.8	6.5	0.987	~	5.3	3.9	7.1	0.775	~	19.3	15.7	23.6	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~
12th	10.3	8.2	12.9	0.423	~	4.3	3.1	6.0	0.891	~	2.3	1.4	3.6	0.901	~	5.6	4.3	7.3	0.192	~	5.3	3.7	7.5	0.833	~	23.4	19.7	27.5	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	~
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>																														
White, non-Latino	10.7	7.8	14.5	Referent	0.660	5.6	3.7	8.6	Referent	0.993	2.0	1.3	3.3	Referent	0.102	4.9	3.3	7.4	Referent	0.361	4.9	3.5	6.8	Referent	<b>0.049</b>	18.9	14.7	24.0	Referent	0.846
Black, non-Latino	7.4	5.5	10.0	<b>0.036</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	2.5 U	1.5	4.3	<b>0.040</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.438	<b>0.009</b>	3.4	2.7	4.4	0.131	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	4.3	3.1	6.0	0.503	<b>0.022</b>	17.4	13.7	21.9	0.616	0.699
Latino	11.6	9.6	13.9	0.660	Referent	5.7	4.4	7.2	0.993	Referent	3.2	2.2	4.5	0.102	Referent	6.0	5.1	7.0	0.361	Referent	7.0	5.4	9.0	<b>0.049</b>	Referent	18.3	15.2	22.0	0.846	Referent
Asian, non-Latino	4.2	2.8	6.3	<b>0.002</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	1.9 *	1.0	3.5	<b>0.006</b>	<b>0.001</b>	1.3 *	0.6	2.8	0.298	<b>0.016</b>	2.7 *	1.4	5.0	0.051	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	2.5 U	1.5	4.3	<b>0.041</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	5.4	4.2	6.8	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Other <sup>4</sup>	12.3	8.6	17.2	0.546	0.778	5.5 U	3.5	8.7	0.942	0.937	4.7	2.7	8.0	0.064	0.304	7.8	4.7	12.6	0.164	0.340	7.6	5.1	11.3	0.131	0.753	14.8	11.6	18.5	0.197	0.170
<b>Borough of residence</b>																														
Bronx	9.2	7.0	12.0	0.328	0.376	4.7	3.2	6.9	0.143	0.228	2.7	1.8	4.1	<b>0.019</b>	0.205	4.7	3.2	6.8	0.224	0.393	5.5 D	4.1	7.4	0.229	0.503	16.9	12.9	21.9	0.665	0.677
Brooklyn	8.5 D	6.9	10.4	0.215	0.495	3.3	2.4	4.6	<b>0.001</b>	0.915	2.1	1.3	3.5	<b>0.001</b>	0.754	4.1	3.2	5.3	0.123	0.469	5.1	4.1	6.4	0.174	0.556	15.1	12.4	18.3	0.209	0.105
Manhattan	7.2	4.2	12.1	0.161	Referent	3.4	2.0	5.7	<b>0.035</b>	Referent	1.9	1.2	3.0	<b>0.002</b>	Referent	3.5 U	2.4	5.2	0.116	Referent	4.4	2.5	7.5	0.144	Referent	17.6	14.7	21.1	0.838	Referent
Queens	8.9	7.6	10.5	0.254	0.472	4.0	3.3	4.8	<b>0.020</b>	0.600	1.9	1.2	3.2	<b>0.001</b>	0.927	4.7	3.7	5.9	0.220	0.218	4.9	3.7	6.4	0.161	0.730	14.6	12.5	17.0	0.131	0.099
Staten Island	12.2	7.6	19.1	Referent	0.161	7.0	4.9	10.1	Referent	<b>0.035</b>	5.8	3.9	8.5	Referent	<b>0.002</b>	8.2 *	4.1	15.9	Referent	0.116	9.1 *	4.7	16.7	Referent	0.144	18.2	14.6	22.4	Referent	0.838
<b>Borough of school</b>																														
Bronx	7.7	6.5	9.1	<b>0.024</b>	0.372	4.1	2.8	5.8	<b>0.015</b>	0.809	3.1	2.2	4.3	<b>0.015</b>	0.422	4.0	3.4	4.7	<b>0.037</b>	0.527	4.3	3.6	5.3	<b>0.009</b>	0.331	13.6	10.6	17.3	0.137	0.083
Brooklyn	8.9	6.6	12.1	0.213	0.745	3.7	2.1	6.4	<b>0.015</b>	0.656	2.0 *	0.9	4.5	<b>0.004</b>	0.795	4.8	3.1	7.2	0.250	0.967	5.4	3.8	7.7	0.116	0.885	14.1	12.0	16.5	0.148	0.094
Manhattan	9.8	6.2	15.3	0.526	Referent	4.4	2.5	7.8	0.064	Referent	2.3 *	1.1	4.8	<b>0.008</b>	Referent	4.8	2.8	8.1	0.325	Referent	5.7	3.6	8.8	0.207	Referent	21.6	14.3	31.2	0.393	Referent
Queens	9.4	8.2	10.7	0.191	0.845	4.4	4.0	4.8	<b>0.011</b>	0.960	2.1	1.3	3.2	<b>0.001</b>	0.835	4.9	4.1	5.9	0.204	0.928	5.1	4.0	6.5	<b>0.048</b>	0.690	14.7	12.7	16.9	0.217	0.119
Staten Island	11.6	8.8	15.0	Referent	0.526	7.9	5.6	11.1	Referent	0.064	6.0	4.2	8.6	Referent	<b>0.008</b>	6.5 U	4.6	9.2	Referent	0.325	8.0	5.8	11.1	Referent	0.207	17.5 U	13.9	22.0	Referent	0.393
<b>Frequency of use</b>																														
One or two times	45.5 U	39.4	51.7	~	~	49.1	43.0	55.1	~	~	39.7	32.3	47.5	~	~	52.5 D	42.7	62.0	~	~	50.0	41.4	58.6	~	~	39.1	34.0	44.5	~	~
Three to 19 times	33.8	30.4	37.3	~	~	27.0	21.5	33.3	~	~	33.0	26.2	40.7	~	~	31.2	23.8	39.6	~	~	33.0	26.0	40.7	~	~	38.7	35.2	42.4	~	~
20 times or more	20.7	15.5	27.0	~	~	23.9	18.6	30.2	~	~	27.3	20.6	35.3	~	~	16.4	12.5	21.1	~	~	17.0	10.5	26.5	~	~	22.2	17.5	27.7	~	~

<sup>1</sup> Lifetime use of any illicit drugs (i.e., cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, or synthetic cannabinoids), excluding marijuana.

<sup>2</sup> Sexual orientation refers to youth who identify as heterosexual (straight), gay or lesbian, or bisexual. Not sure youth are youth who answered "Not Sure" when asked about their sexual orientation.

<sup>3</sup> Transgender refers to a person whose biological sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about themselves.

<sup>4</sup> Other category includes non-Latino students who selected American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, or multiple race categories.

\* Estimate should be interpreted with caution. Estimate's Relative Standard Error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, the 95% Confidence Interval half-width is greater than 10, or the sample size is less than 50, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

D Data rounded down to nearest whole number for purposes of reporting in the text.

U Data rounded up to nearest whole number for purposes of reporting in the text.

95% confidence intervals (CIs) are a measure of estimate precision; the wider the CI, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A bold p-value less than .05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group.

**Table 4. Illicit drug use and prescription drug misuse<sup>1</sup> among youth in the United States, New York State, and New York City, 1999-2015**

Sources: National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 1999-2015; New York State Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 1999-2015; NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1999-2015

Data from the NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey are weighted to the NYC public high school student population.

Data are not age adjusted.

**Any Prescription drug misuse among youth in New York City<sup>†</sup>, 2011-2015**

Year	Any Prescription Drug Misuse (past 12 months) <sup>2</sup>			Opioid Analgesic Misuse (past 12 months) <sup>2</sup>		Other Prescription Drug Misuse (past 12 months) <sup>2</sup>	
	%	95% CI		%	95% CI	%	95% CI
2011	9.0	(8.3-9.8)		7.3	(6.5-8.2)	4.8	(4.3-5.3)
2013	9.8	(8.4-11.3)		7.3	(6.2-8.5)	6.4	(5.3-7.8)
2015	9.5	(8.2-10.9)	D	7.0	(5.8-8.3)	6.4	(5.3-7.6)

<sup>1</sup> Prescription drug misuse is taking prescription drugs (e.g., opioid analgesics, benzodiazepines, or stimulants) without a doctor's prescription one or more times during the past 12 months.

<sup>2</sup> Opioid analgesic (prescription pain medication) misuse was measured in 2011, 2013, and 2015 with one question. Misuse of benzodiazepines and stimulants (other prescription drug misuse) was measured in 2011 and 2013 with one question, and in 2015, measured with two separate questions about stimulants and benzodiazepines. Any prescription drug misuse combines the answers to these questions.

**Marijuana use (past 30 days) among youth in the United States, New York State, and New York City, 1999-2015**

Year	New York City <sup>†</sup>				P value	New York State <sup>††</sup>			United States <sup>†††</sup>		
	%	95% CI	% Change vs. 2015			%	95% CI	% Change vs. 2015	%	95% CI	% Change vs. 2015
1999	17.3	(14.0-21.2)	-8.1%	0.459	23.4	(21.0-26.0)	-17.5%	26.7	(24.2-29.4)	-18.7%	
2001	17.8	(14.4-22.0)	-10.7%	0.334	~	~	~	23.9	(22.3-25.5)	-9.2%	
2003	15.3	(13.9-16.9)	3.9%	0.659	20.7	(18.7-22.8)	-6.8%	22.4	(20.2-24.6)	-3.1%	
2005	12.3	(10.9-13.8)	29.3%	<b>0.005</b>	18.3	(16.2-20.7)	5.5%	20.2	(18.6-22.0)	7.4%	
2007	12.4	(11.0-13.9)	28.2%	<b>0.007</b>	18.6	(17.1-20.2)	3.8%	19.7	(17.8-21.8)	10.2%	
2009	15.0	(13.4-16.8)	6.0%	0.524	20.9	(18.4-23.6)	-7.7%	20.8	(19.4-22.3)	4.3%	
2011	17.7	(16.6-19.0)	-10.2%	0.123	20.5	(18.5-22.7)	-5.9%	23.1	(21.5-24.7)	-6.1%	
2013	16.2	(14.5-18.0)	-1.9%	0.822	21.4	(19.4-23.5)	-9.8%	23.4	(21.3-25.7)	-7.3%	
2015	15.9	(13.9-18.0)	~	Referent	19.3	(16.9-21.8)	~	21.7	(19.3-24.2)	~	

**Cocaine use (lifetime) among youth in the United States, New York State, and New York City, 1999-2015**

Year	New York City <sup>†</sup>				P value	New York State <sup>††</sup>			United States <sup>†††</sup>		
	%	95% CI	% Change vs. 2015			%	95% CI	% Change vs. 2015	%	95% CI	% Change vs. 2015
1999	3.3	(2.0-5.4)	33.3%	0.228	6.8	(5.7-8.0)	11.8%	9.5	(8.2-11.1)	-45.3%	
2001	2.6	(1.7-3.9)	69.2%	<b>0.008</b>	~	~	~	9.4	(8.2-10.7)	-44.7%	
2003	3.5	(2.9-4.2)	25.7%	0.105	6.1	(5.4-6.9)	24.6%	8.7	(7.6-9.9)	-40.2%	
2005	3.6	(3.0-4.3)	22.2%	0.152	5.1	(4.2-6.2)	49.0%	7.6	(6.7-8.7)	-31.6%	
2007	3.2	(2.5-4.1)	37.5%	<b>0.049</b>	7.0	(5.8-8.5)	8.6%	7.2	(6.2-8.2)	-27.8%	
2009	4.2	(3.7-4.9)	4.8%	0.810	7.2	(5.4-9.5)	5.6%	6.4	(5.7-7.1)	-18.8%	
2011	4.1	(3.5-4.8)	7.3%	0.599	6.2	(5.4-7.2)	22.6%	6.8	(6.2-7.5)	-23.5%	
2013	4.7	(3.8-5.6)	-6.4%	0.624	5.3	(4.2-6.7)	43.4%	5.5	(4.7-6.6)	-5.5%	
2015	4.4	(3.6-5.3)	~	Referent	7.6	(6.0-9.6)	~	5.2	(4.3-6.2)	~	



**Table 4. Illicit drug use and prescription drug misuse<sup>1</sup> among youth in the United States, New York State, and New York City, 1999-2015**

Sources: National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 1999-2015; New York State Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 1999-2015; NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1999-2015

Data from the NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey are weighted to the NYC public high school student population.

Data are not age adjusted.

**Heroin use (lifetime) among youth in the United States, New York State, and New York City, 1999-2015**

Year	New York City <sup>†</sup>				P value	New York State <sup>**</sup>			United States <sup>***</sup>		
	%	95% C.I.	% Change vs. 2015			%	95% C.I.	% Change vs. 2015	%	95% C.I.	% Change vs. 2015
1999	1.0	(0.6-1.8)	150.0%	<0.001	2.6	(2.0-3.4)	84.6%	2.4	(1.9-3.0)	-12.5%	
2001	0.9	(0.5-1.7)	177.8%	<0.001	~	~	~	3.1	(2.7-3.6)	-32.3%	
2003	1.6	(1.3-2.0)	56.3%	0.015	1.8	(1.4-2.3)	166.7%	3.3	(2.6-4.1)	-36.4%	
2005	1.8	(1.3-2.4)	38.9%	0.078	1.8	(1.3-2.4)	166.7%	2.4	(2.0-2.8)	-12.5%	
2007	1.3	(0.9-1.9)	92.3%	0.004	3.4	(2.6-4.6)	41.2%	2.3	(1.8-2.8)	-8.7%	
2009	2.6	(2.1-3.2)	-3.8%	0.916	3.9	(2.8-5.4)	23.1%	2.5 D	(2.2-2.9)	-16.0%	
2011	2.7	(2.3-3.2)	-7.4%	0.720	4.0	(3.2-5.1)	20.0%	2.9	(2.5-3.3)	-27.6%	
2013	2.8	(2.1-3.6)	-10.7%	0.640	3.7	(2.7-4.8)	29.7%	2.2	(1.7-2.8)	-4.5%	
2015	2.5 U	(1.9-3.3)	~	Referent	4.8	(3.8-6.1)	~	2.1	(1.5-2.8)	~	

**Ecstasy use (lifetime) among youth in the United States, New York State, and New York City, 1999-2015**

Year	New York City <sup>†</sup>				P value	New York State <sup>**</sup>			United States <sup>***</sup>		
	%	95% C.I.	% Change vs. 2015			%	95% C.I.	% Change vs. 2013	%	95% C.I.	% Change vs. 2015
2003	5.0	(4.3-5.8)	-4.0%	0.719	6.1	(5.3-7.1)	14.8%	11.1	(7.8-15.5)	-55.0%	
2005	3.7	(3.0-4.5)	29.7%	0.050	4.1	(3.3-5.1)	70.7%	6.3	(5.4-7.3)	-20.6%	
2007	2.5 U	(2.0-3.3)	92.0%	<0.001	6.1	(5.1-7.4)	14.8%	5.8	(5.0-6.6)	-13.8%	
2009	4.4	(3.7-5.1)	9.1%	0.437	5.8	(4.4-7.7)	20.7%	6.7	(5.8-7.6)	-25.4%	
2011	4.7	(4.1-5.4)	2.1%	0.908	7.0	(6.0-8.2)	0.0%	8.2	(7.2-9.4)	-39.0%	
2013	4.8	(4.1-5.5)	0.0%	0.958	7.0	(5.7-8.7)	0.0%	6.6	(5.6-7.7)	-24.2%	
2015	4.8	(4.0-5.7)	~	Referent	~	~	~	5.0	(4.3-5.8)	~	

<sup>†</sup> NYC YRBS is administered to public schools only.

<sup>\*\*</sup> NYS YRBS is administered to public schools only. (MMWR report: [http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2015/ss6506\\_updated.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2015/ss6506_updated.pdf))

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> US YRBS is administered to both public and private schools.

D Data rounded down to the nearest whole number for the purposes of reporting in the text.

U Data rounded up to the nearest whole number for the purposes of reporting in the text.

95% confidence intervals (CIs) are a measure of estimate precision; the wider the CI, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A **bold** p-value less than .05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group.

NYC YRBS results 1997-2015: NYC Health Epi Query: <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/epiquery/YRBS/yrbsIndex.html>

NYS YRBS results 1991-2015: <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/Results.aspx?LID=NY>

US YRBS results 1991-2015: <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/app/Results.aspx?LID=XX>