

# 2019 Nevada High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

## Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Special Report\*



**School of Public Health**

*Making Health Happen™*

\*Revised July 2022

### **Acknowledgements**

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### **Additional Resources**

Nevada YRBS Statewide and Special Reports

<https://www.unr.edu/public-health/research-activities/nevada-youth-risk-behavior-survey>

YRBS Adolescent and School Health

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

<http://dpbh.nv.gov/>

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## Introduction

Priority health risk behaviors (i.e. preventable behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality) are often established during childhood and adolescence and extend into adulthood. Ongoing surveillance of youth risk behaviors is critical for the design, implementation, and evaluation of public health interventions to improve adolescent health. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a national surveillance system that was established in 1991 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the prevalence of health risk behaviors among youth. The Nevada High School YRBS is a biennial, anonymous, and voluntary survey of students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in regular public, charter, and alternative schools. This special report compares the 2019 Nevada YRBS prevalence estimates of behavioral health outcomes for students with different levels of exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

## Methods

The 2019 Nevada YRBS sampling plan was designed to ensure that every eligible student in regular public, charter, and alternative high schools had an equal chance of selection. For the 2019 High School YRBS, a random sample of 4,980 youth from 99 schools completed the survey. Please see the 2019 Nevada High School Youth Risk Behavior report for detailed information on the random cluster sampling design used.

The 2019 Nevada YRBS data were weighted at the state and regional level based on the sex, race/ethnicity, and grade level of students in each region. The weighting process ensured that the estimates accurately represent the entire student population in each region and the state as a whole. Non-response or poor sampling procedures can result in a sample that is not a representative subset of the population; therefore, un-weighted results from these samples may not accurately reflect student behaviors and could be misleading. This report only displays weighted results.

In the 2019 Nevada High School YRBS, one CDC core measure and five state-added questions assessed lifetime prevalence of ACEs: 1) physical abuse by an adult; 2) verbal abuse by an adult; 3) forced sex; 4) household domestic violence; 5) household mental illness; and 6) household substance abuse (please see the 2019 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior reports for more information). The ACE questions were summed to create a total ACE score (range 0-6). ACE scores were only calculated for youth who answered all six ACE questions (n=4505; 90.5% of the original sample). The weighted chi-square test was used to assess differences in risk behaviors by ACE score (0 ACE, 1 ACE, 2 ACE, or 3+ ACE). The Cochran-Armitage test for trend was used to assess the relationship between ACEs and risk behaviors.

This report focuses on the relationship between ACE exposure and important violence and victimization, emotional health, substance use, and sexual health outcomes. Weighted prevalence estimates are displayed in bar charts for each outcome. Indicators for which any prevalence estimates exceed 25% are displayed on charts with a vertical axis ranging from 0 to 100%; indicators for which no prevalence estimates exceed 25% are displayed on charts with a vertical axis ranging from 0 to 50%. Lines on the bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Corresponding p-values are also included for every comparison.

## Participant Characteristics

**Table 1: Demographic characteristics of students\* — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

		Students <sup>a</sup>	Unweighted %	Weighted %
<b>Total</b>		4505	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Sex</b>	Female	2389	53.2%	49.4%
	Male	2103	46.8%	50.6%
<b>Age Groups</b>	14 years old or younger	586	13.0%	13.0%
	15 years old	1135	25.2%	24.4%
	16 years old	1209	26.9%	26.4%
	17 years old	1056	23.5%	23.9%
	18 years old or older	514	11.4%	12.3%
<b>Grade</b>	9th grade	1160	25.9%	25.2%
	10th grade	1226	27.4%	26.2%
	11th grade	1158	25.9%	25.3%
	12th grade	933	20.8%	23.3%
	Ungraded or other grade	18	0.2%	0.4%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>d</sup>	80	1.8%	0.8%
	Asian <sup>d</sup>	240	5.4%	6.9%
	Black <sup>d</sup>	203	4.6%	9.7%
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <sup>d</sup>	78	1.8%	1.4%
	White <sup>d</sup>	1787	40.4%	32.9%
	Hispanic/Latino	1766	40.0%	42.4%
	Other/Multiple <sup>d</sup>	266	6.0%	5.9%
<b>Region</b>	Rural/Frontier	1545	34.3%	9.4%
	Urban	2960	65.7%	90.6%

<sup>a</sup> The sample size in the total and subgroups may differ due to missing data

<sup>b</sup> Non-Hispanic

**\*Note: Only youth who answered all six ACE questions are included. Prevalence estimates differ slightly from statewide report.**

## Prevalence of Individual Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and ACE Score

**Table 2: Prevalence of individual ACE questions and ACE score\* — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

		N	% <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total</b>		4505	100%
<b>Ever physically forced to have sex</b>			
	Yes	312	5.6%
	No	4193	94.4%
<b>Ever been hit, beaten, kicked, or physically hurt in any way by an adult</b>			
	Yes	831	17.9%
	No	3674	82.1%
<b>Sometimes, mostly, or always have been sworn at, insulted by, or put down by an adult</b>			
	Yes	1529	34.5%
	No	2976	65.5%
<b>Ever seen adults in their home slap, hit, kick, punch, or beat each other up</b>			
	Yes	804	18.0%
	No	3701	82.0%
<b>Ever lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal</b>			
	Yes	1562	33.1%
	No	2943	66.9%
<b>Ever lived with someone who was a problem drinker, alcoholic, or abused street or prescription drugs</b>			
	Yes	1415	30.0%
	No	3090	70.0%
<b>ACE Score</b>			
	0	1611	35.8%
	1	1122	25.9%
	2	764	16.8%
	3+	1008	21.4%

<sup>a</sup> Weighted row percent

\*Note: Only youth who answered all six ACE questions are included. Prevalence estimates differ slightly from statewide report.



**Table 3: Participant characteristics\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

		0 ACE		1 ACE		2 ACE		3+ ACE		P-Value
		N <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	N <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	N <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	N <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	1611	35.8%	1122	25.9%	764	16.8%	1008	21.4%	
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Female</b>	742	31.6 %	595	24.9%	434	18.5%	618	25.1%	<0.0001
	<b>Male</b>	865	40.0%	524	26.9%	327	15.2%	387	17.9%	
<b>Age</b>	<b>14 years old or younger</b>	223	40.0%	154	26.1%	93	15.7%	116	18.2%	0.0711
	<b>15 years old</b>	413	36.2%	284	26.2%	200	17.7%	238	20.0%	
	<b>16 years old</b>	438	36.2%	313	25.3%	189	15.4%	269	23.1%	
	<b>17 years old</b>	366	34.7%	235	22.8%	196	19.2%	259	23.3%	
	<b>18 years old or older</b>	170	32.8%	135	32.4%	85	14.6%	124	20.3%	
<b>Grade</b>	<b>9th grade</b>	431	38.2%	294	26.2%	180	15.1%	255	20.5%	0.0369
	<b>10th grade</b>	454	38.0%	316	26.2%	220	17.6%	236	18.2%	
	<b>11th grade</b>	416	34.8%	265	23.1%	206	18.4%	271	23.7%	
	<b>12th grade</b>	298	32.2%	240	28.1%	152	16.1%	243	23.6%	
	<b>Ungraded</b>	7	17.7%	6	21.6%	3	5.7%	2	3.2%	
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>American Indian/Alaska Native<sup>d</sup></b>	27	48.5%	12	7.7%	24	25.5%	17	18.4%	0.0094
	<b>Asian<sup>d</sup></b>	101	41.1%	58	25.6%	45	18.9%	36	14.4%	
	<b>Black<sup>d</sup></b>	76	36.6%	55	29.0%	33	15.9%	39	18.5%	
	<b>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander<sup>d</sup></b>	24	31.8%	17	21.7%	12	17.0%	25	29.4%	
	<b>White<sup>d</sup></b>	653	37.7%	412	23.3%	287	16.0%	435	23.0%	
	<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	632	34.8%	479	27.5%	297	17.1%	358	20.6%	
	<b>Other/Multiple<sup>d</sup></b>	66	24.6%	66	27.6%	50	17.7%	84	30.1%	
<b>Region</b>	<b>Urban</b>	1054	35.7%	757	26.2%	514	17.0%	635	21.1%	0.0938
	<b>Rural/Frontier</b>	557	37.0%	365	23.2%	250	15.5%	373	24.2%	
<b>Qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch</b>	<b>Yes</b>	492	31.0%	422	27.5%	299	17.7%	446	23.7%	<0.0001
	<b>No</b>	1109	39.3%	699	24.9%	462	16.2%	556	19.6%	
<b>Military Family</b>	<b>Yes</b>	60	30.5%	45	22.9%	29	14.5%	67	32.0%	0.0591
	<b>No</b>	1547	36.2%	1073	26.1%	731	16.9%	937	20.9%	
<b>Mostly A's or B's in School</b>	<b>Yes</b>	1189	36.9%	813	27.0%	536	16.9%	632	19.2%	<0.0001
	<b>No</b>	378	32.9%	282	23.2%	212	16.5%	354	7.4%	

<sup>a</sup> The sample size in the total and subgroups may differ due to missing data

<sup>b</sup> Weighted row percent

\*Note: Only youth who answered all six ACE questions are included. Prevalence estimates differ slightly from statewide report.

**Table 4: Sexual identity and gender identity\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

		0 ACE		1 ACE		2 ACE		3+ ACE		P-Value
		N <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	N <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	N <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	N <sup>a</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	1594	35.9%	1116	26.0%	756	16.8%	1003	21.4%	
<b>Sexual Identity</b>	<b>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual</b>	106	19.5%	134	24.7%	116	16.0%	249	39.8%	<.0001
	<b>Not Sure</b>	53	27.9%	54	27.8%	31	17.2%	59	27.1%	
	<b>Heterosexual</b>	1435	39.0%	928	26.1%	609	16.9%	695	18.1%	
<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Transgender</b>	14	26.3%	19	26.0%	13	8.5%	31	39.2%	0.0006
	<b>Not Sure</b>	7	14.8%	14	23.9%	11	19.1%	27	42.2%	
	<b>Cisgender</b>	1548	6.1%	1066	26.0%	718	16.8%	938	21.1%	

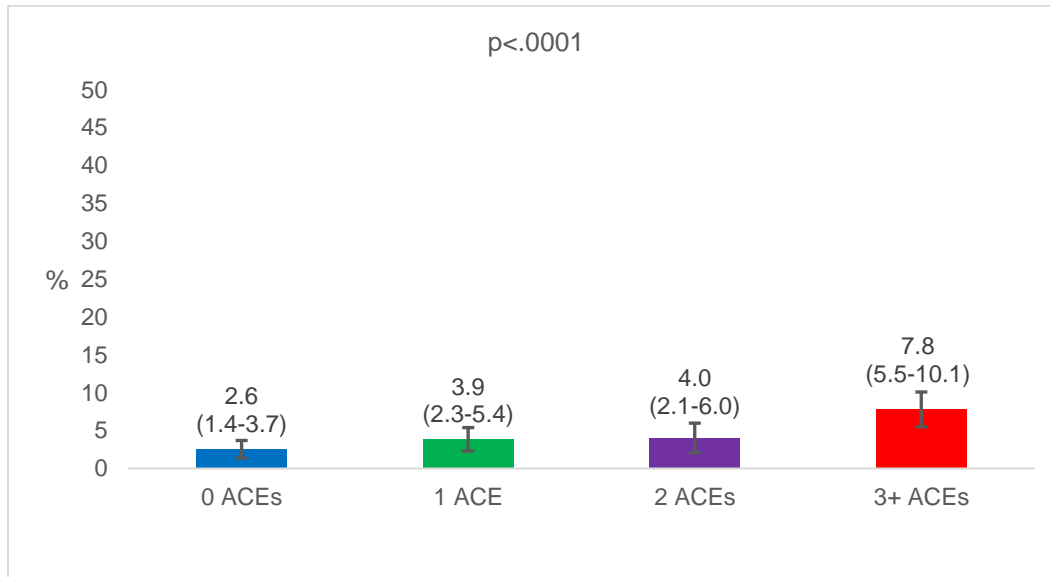
<sup>a</sup> The sample size in the total and subgroups may differ due to missing data

<sup>b</sup> Weighted row percent

**\*Note: Only youth who answered all six ACE questions are included. Prevalence estimates differ slightly from statewide report.**

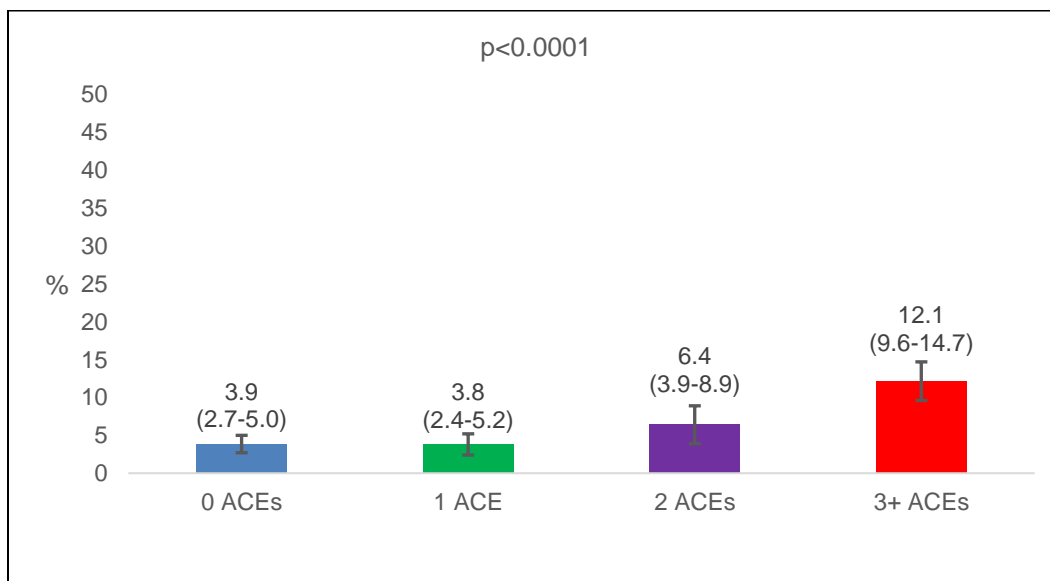
## Select Behavioral Health Outcomes by ACE Score Violence and Victimization

**Figure 1: Percentage of high school students who carried a gun during the 12 months before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



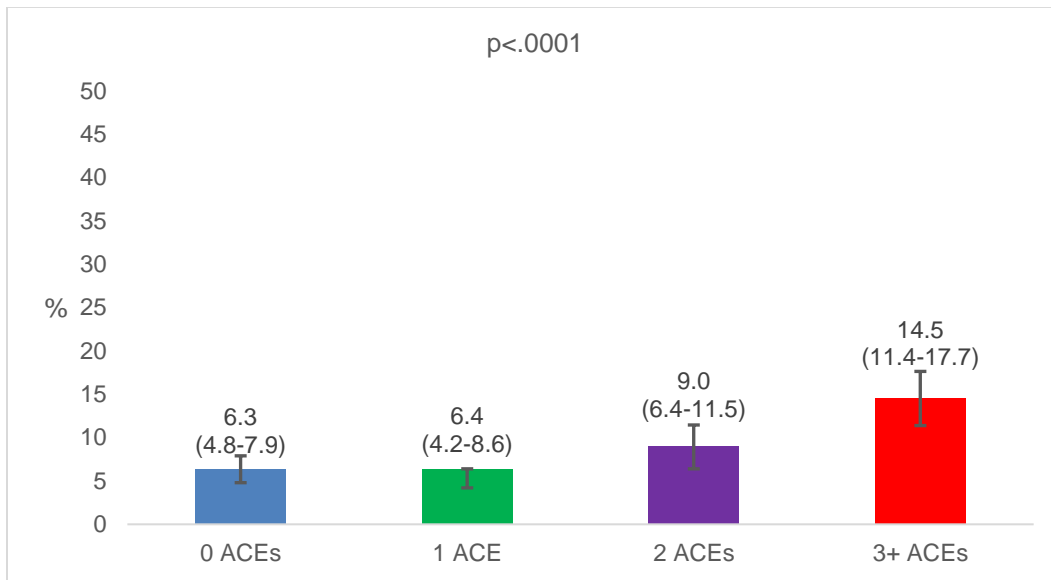
\*Does not include hunting or carrying a gun for sport, such as target shooting

**Figure 2: Percentage of high school students who were threatened or injured by someone with a weapon on school property during the 12 months before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

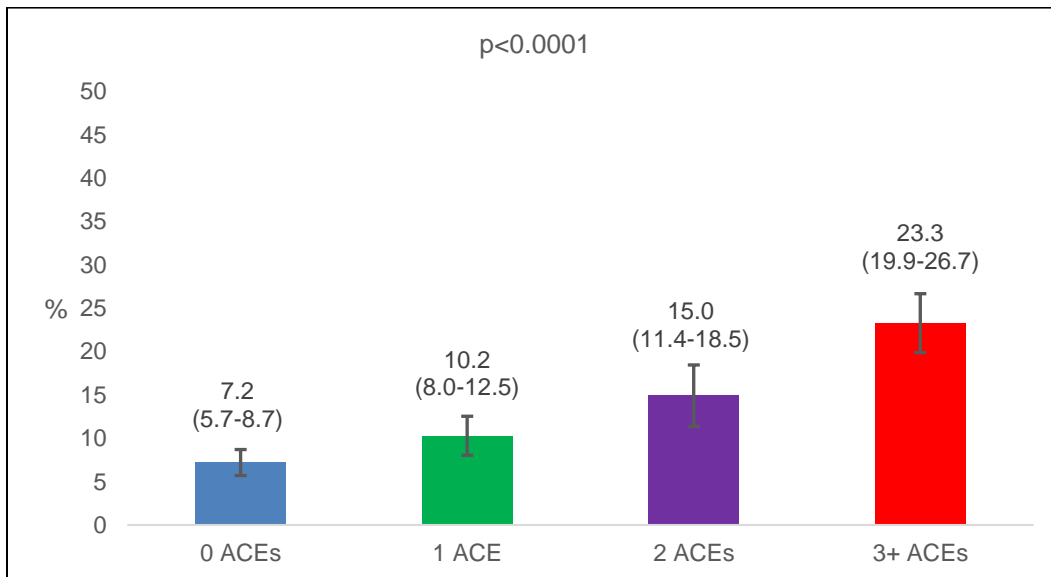


\*Such as a gun, knife, or club

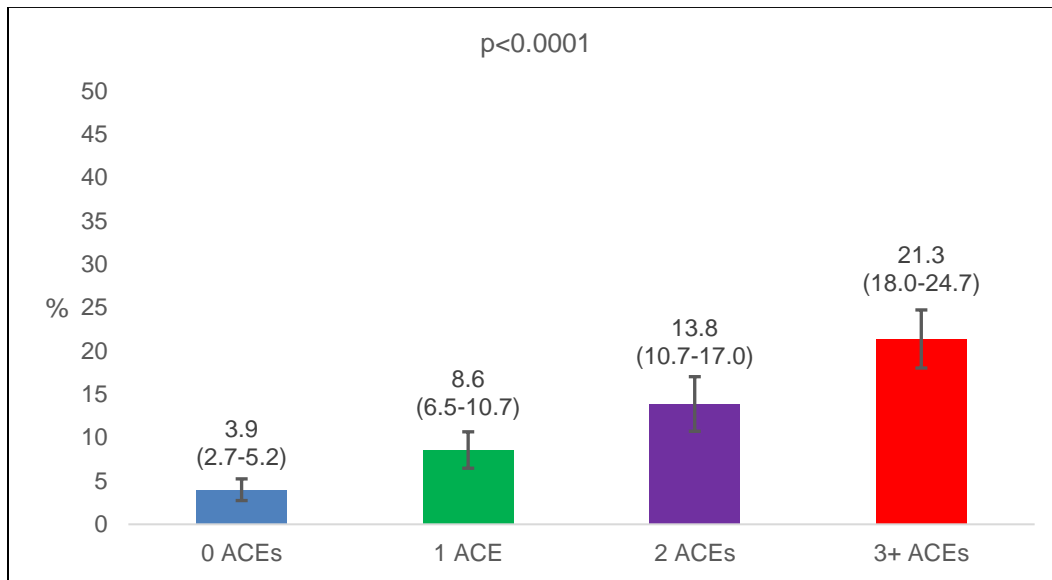
**Figure 3: Percentage of high school students who were in a physical fight on school property during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



**Figure 4: Percentage of high school students who were bullied on school property during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

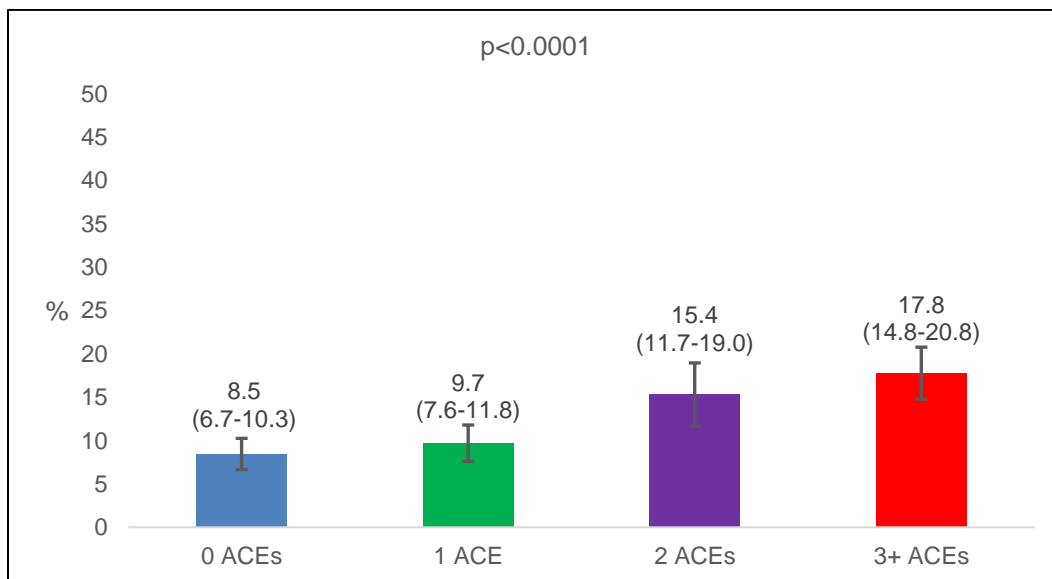


**Figure 5: Percentage of high school students who were electronically bullied during the 12 months before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

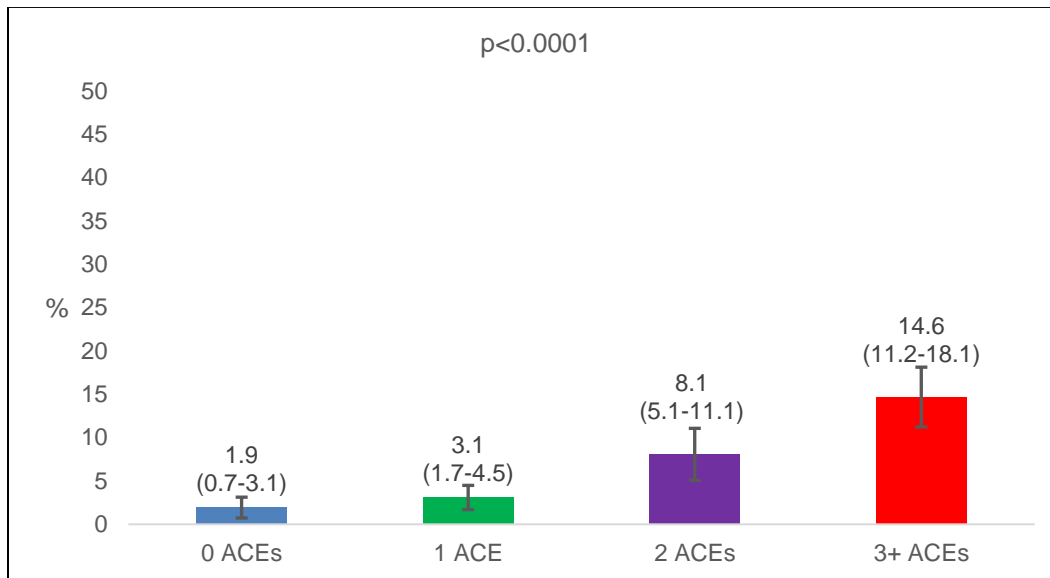


\*Including being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media

**Figure 6: Percentage of high school students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school during the 30 days before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

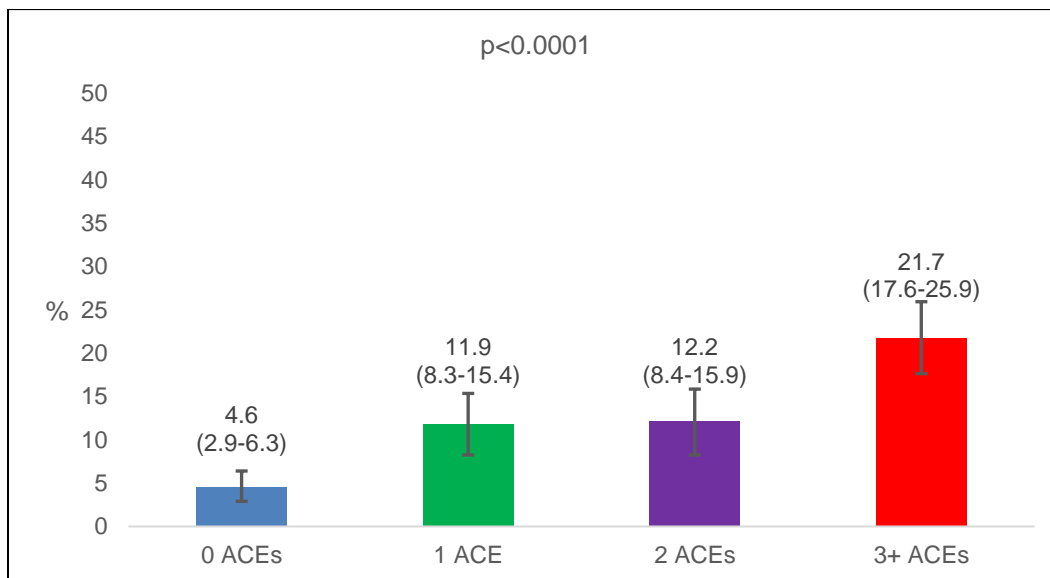


**Figure 7: Percentage of high school students who experienced physical dating violence during the 12 months before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with; among students who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey

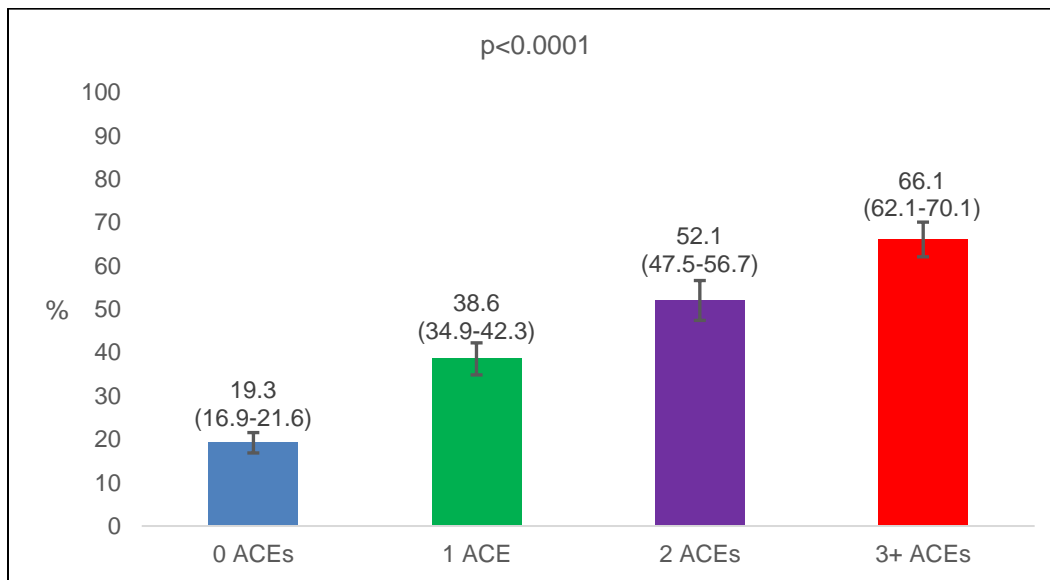
**Figure 8: Percentage of high school students who experienced sexual dating violence during the 12 months before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



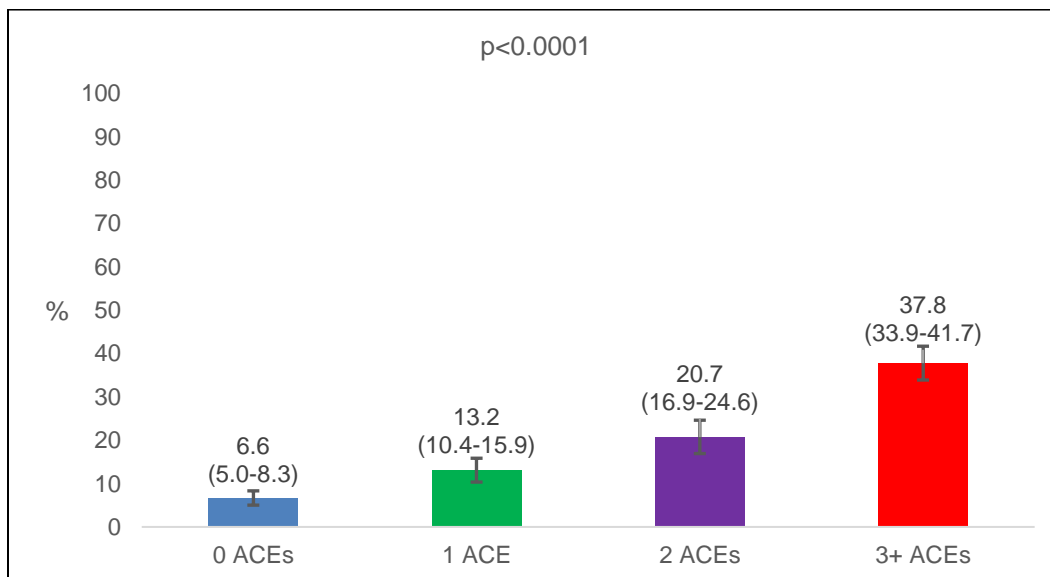
\*Including kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to by someone they were dating or going out with; among students who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey

## Emotional Health

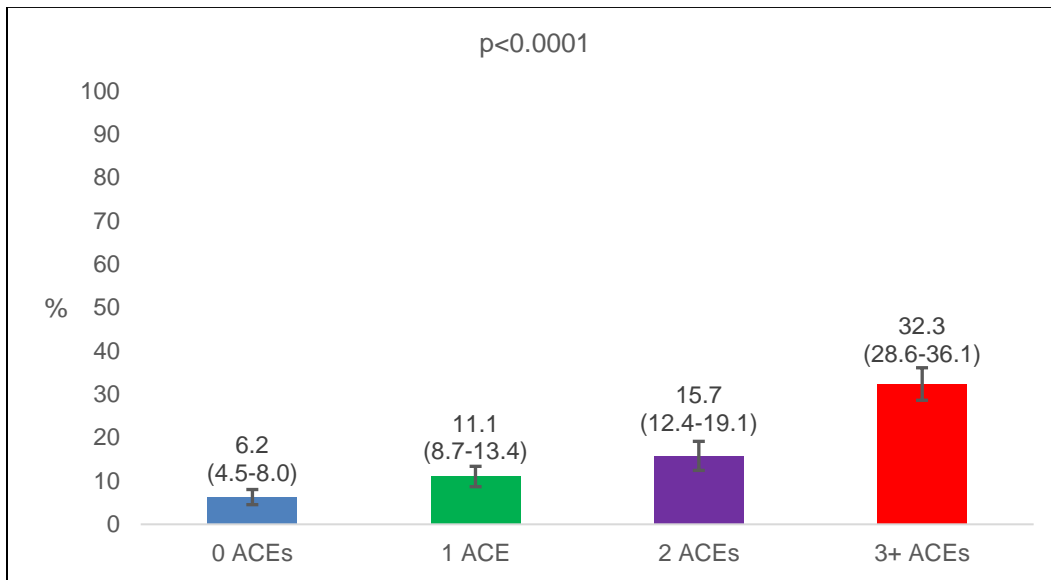
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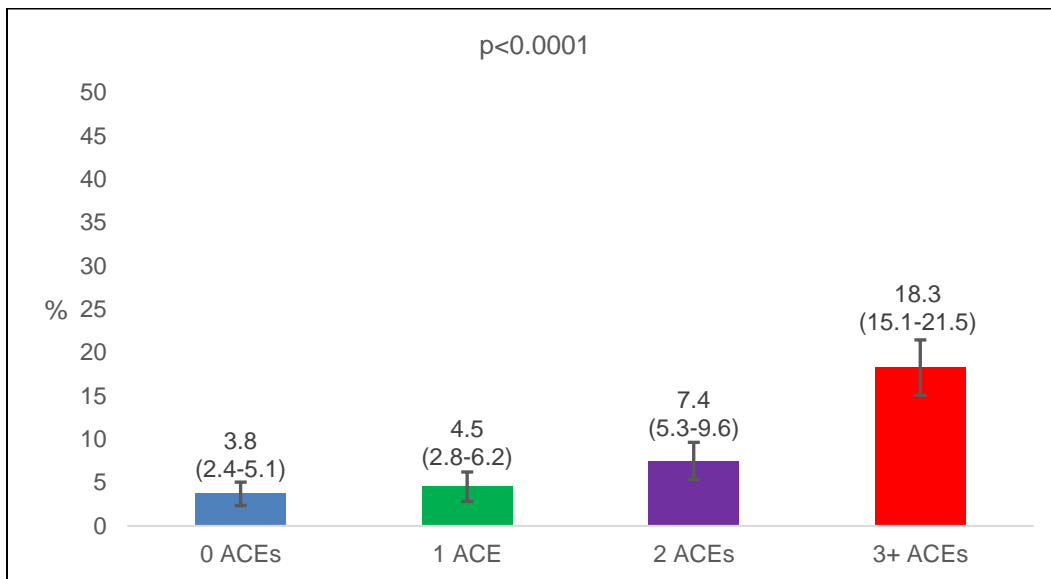
**Figure 10: Percentage of high school students who seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



**Figure 11: Percentage of high school students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

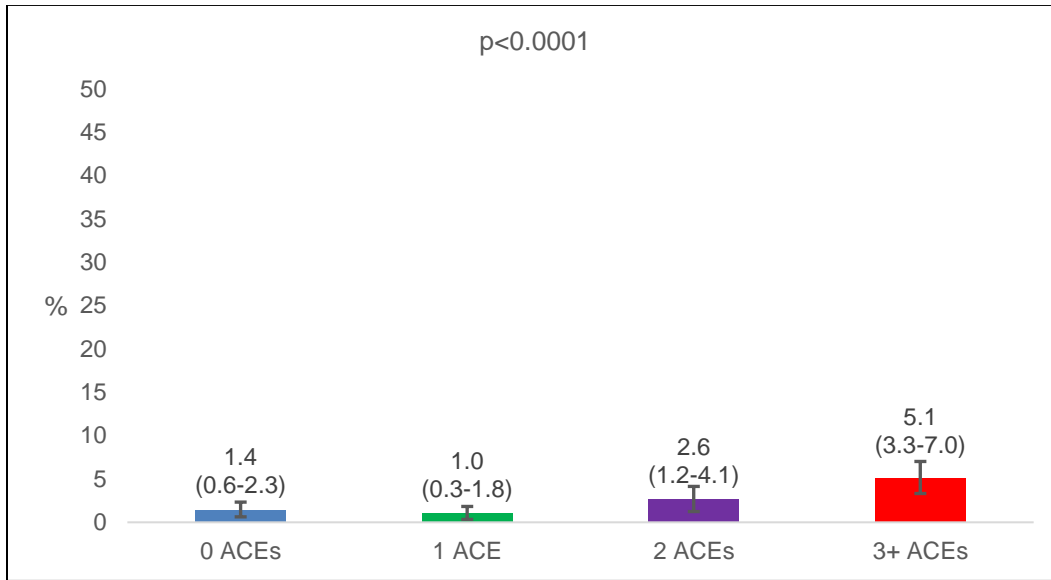


**Figure 12: Percentage of high school students who attempted suicide during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

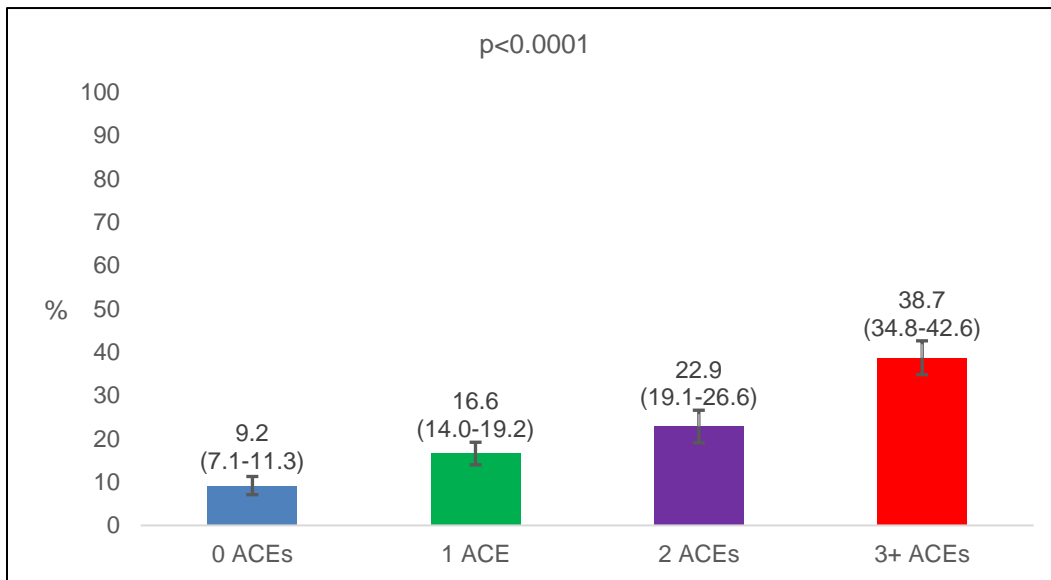




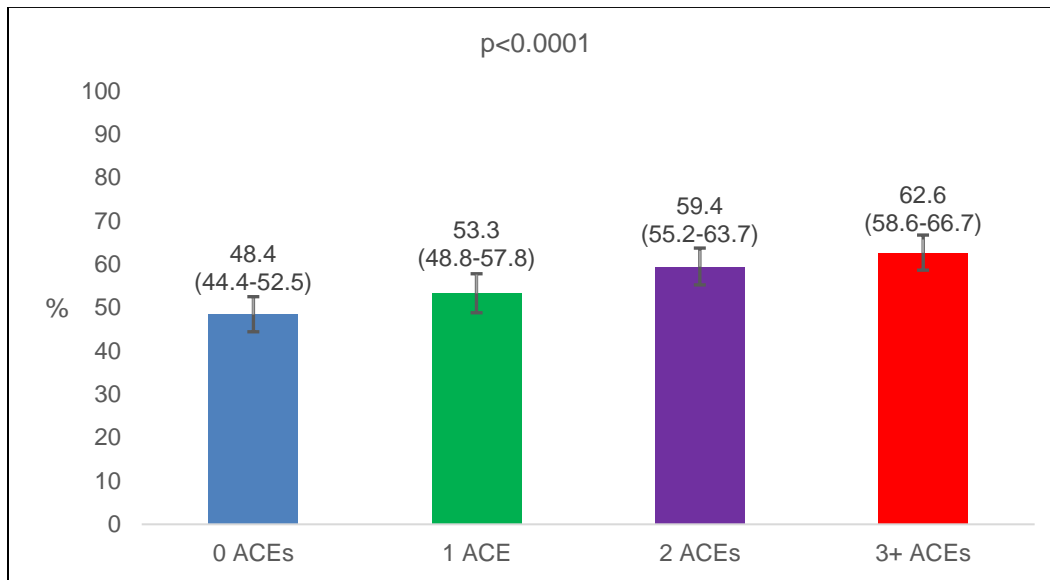
**Figure 13: Percentage of high school students whose suicide attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



**Figure 14: Percentage of high school students who did something to purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves on purpose during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



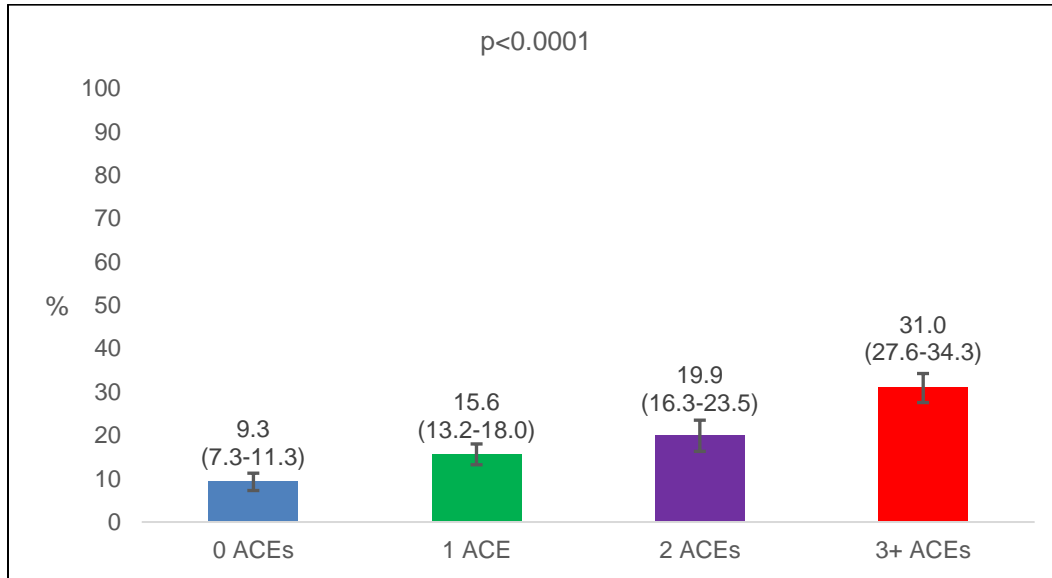
**Figure 15: Percentage of high school students who never/rarely got the kind of help they need when they felt sad, empty, hopeless, angry, or anxious\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



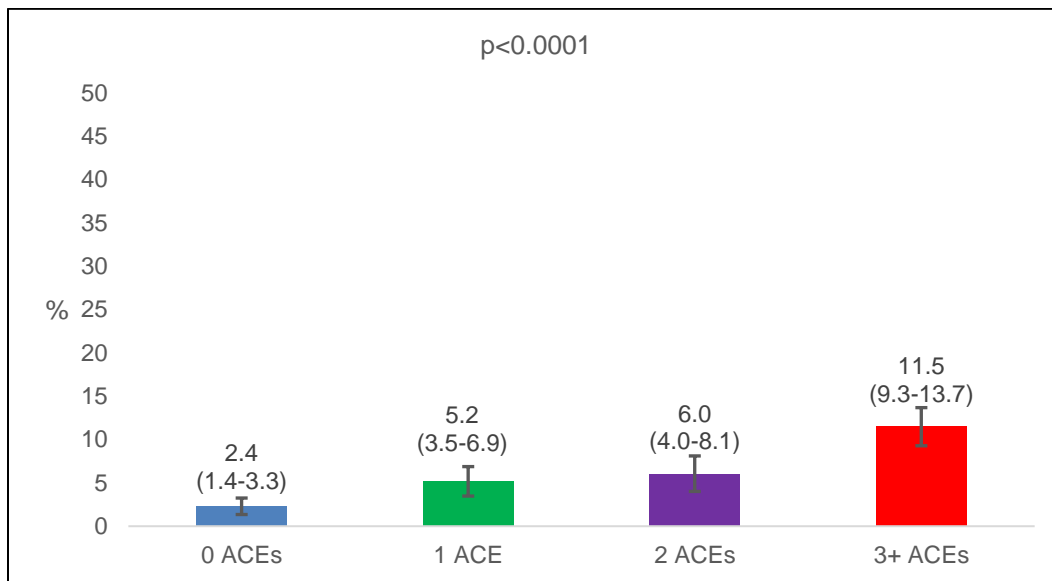
\*Among those who feel sad, empty, hopeless, angry, or anxious

## Tobacco Use

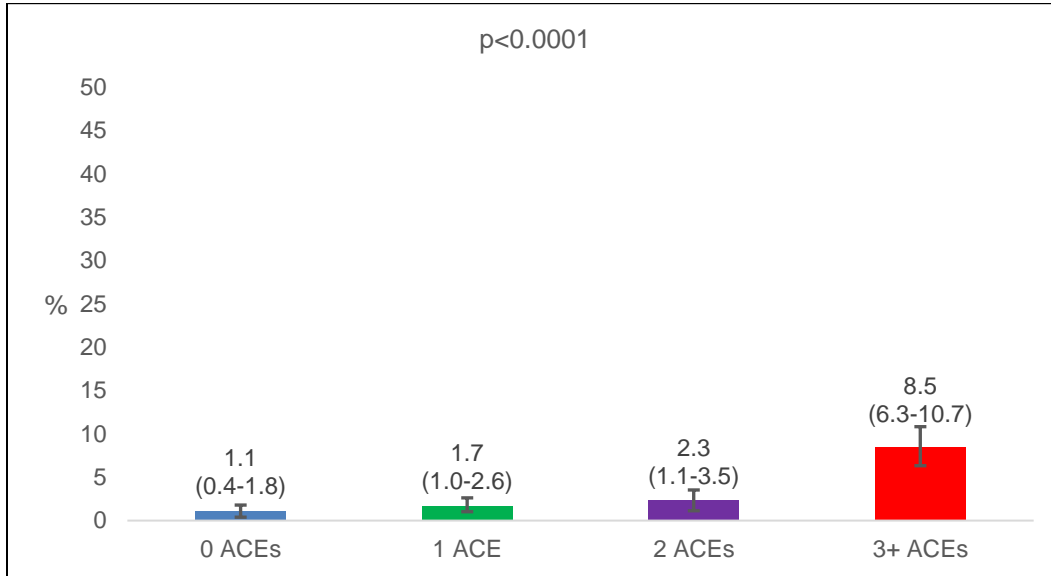
**Figure 16: Percentage of high school students who ever smoked cigarettes\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



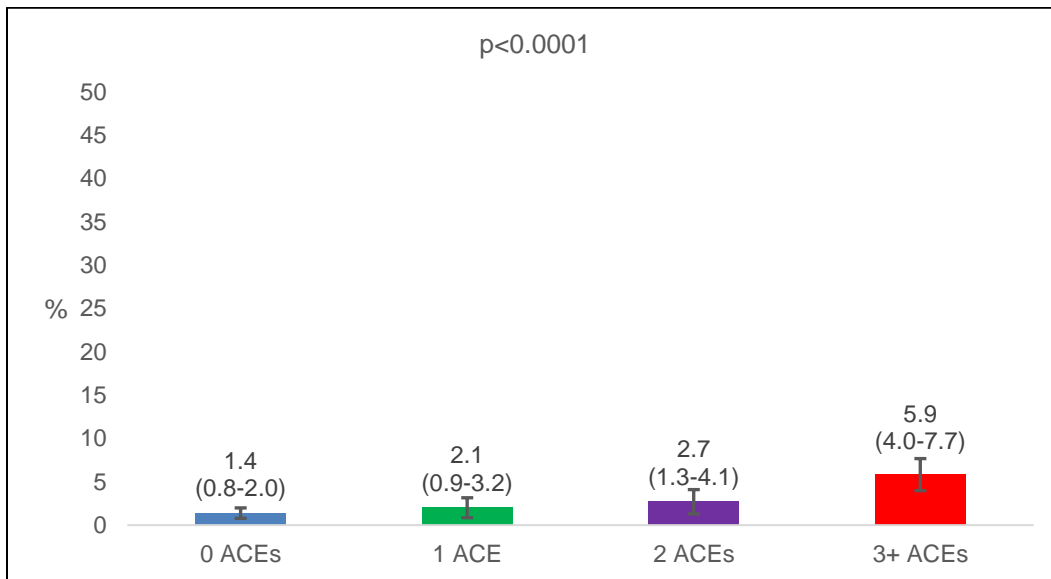
**Figure 17: Percentage of high school students who smoked cigarettes for the first time before age 13 years\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



**Figure 18: Percentage of high school students who smoked cigarettes during the 30 days before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



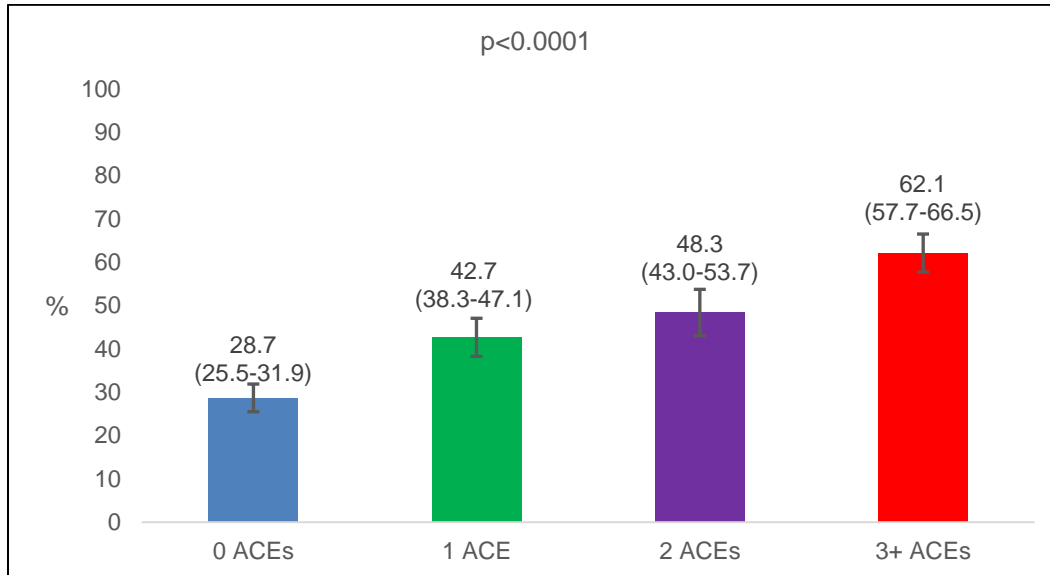
**Figure 19: Percentage of high school students who used smokeless tobacco during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products such as Copenhagen, Grizzly, Skoal, or Camel Snus

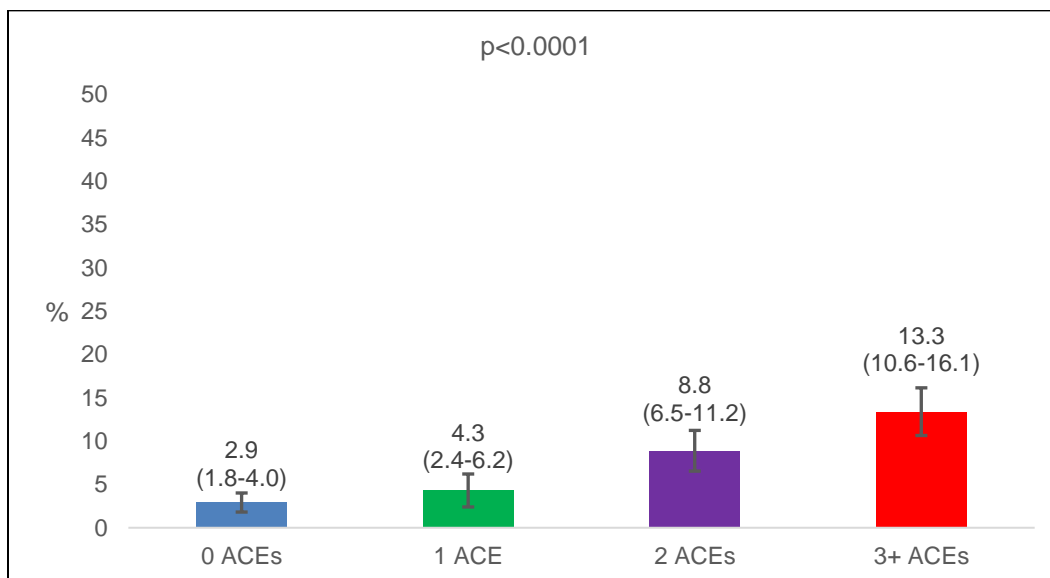
## Electronic Vapor Product Use

**Figure 20: Percentage of high school students who ever used electronic vapor products\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



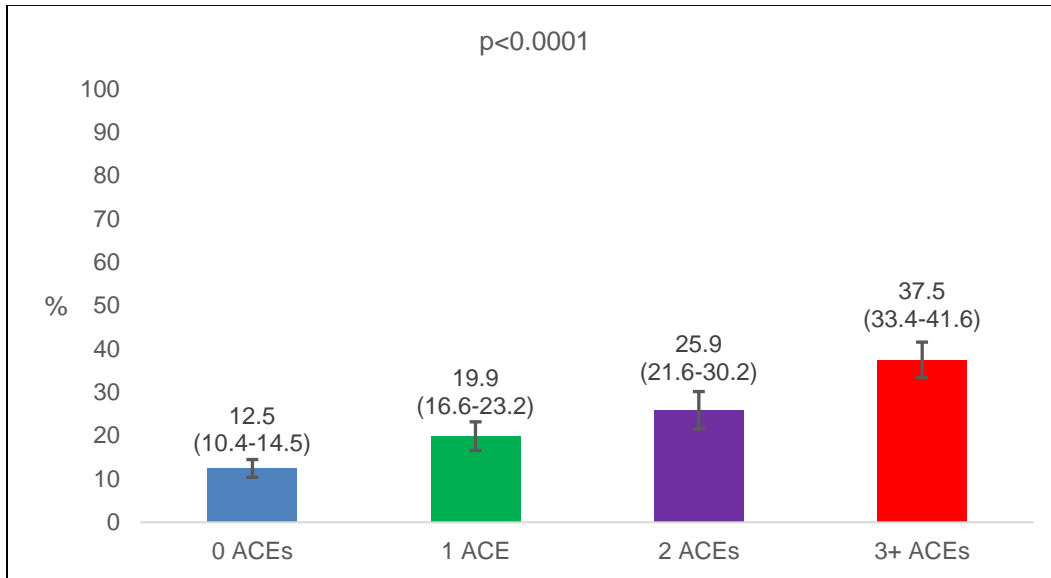
\*Including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens, and mods such as JUUL, Vuse, MarkTen, and blu

**Figure 21: Percentage of high school students who tried electronic vapor products for the first time before age 13 years\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens, and mods such as JUUL, Vuse, MarkTen, and blu

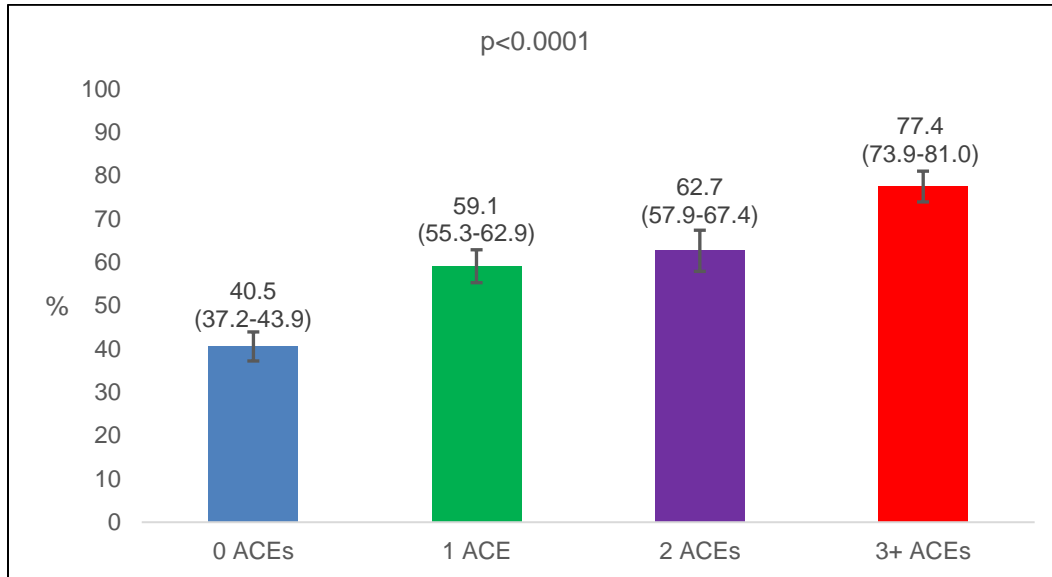
**Figure 22: Percentage of high school students who used electronic vapor products during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens, and mods such as JUUL, Vuse, MarkTen, and blu

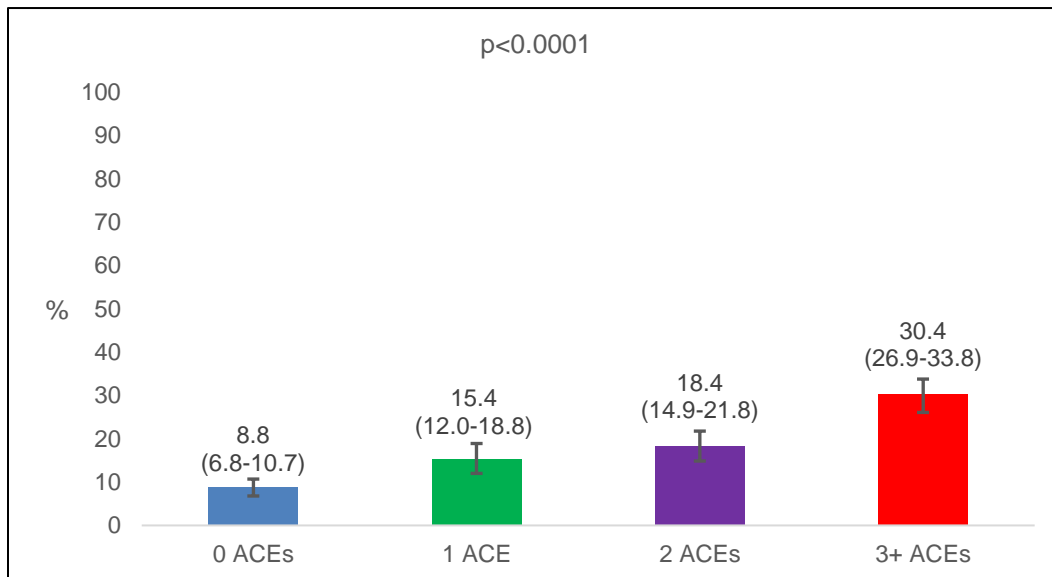
## Alcohol Use

**Figure 23: Percentage of high school students who ever drank alcohol\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



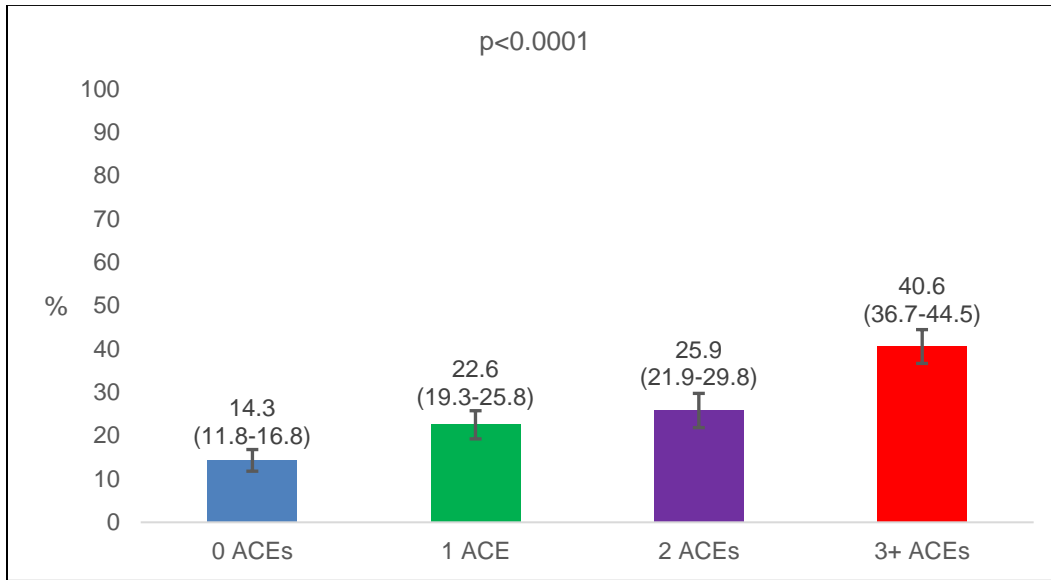
\* Not including for religious purposes

**Figure 24: Percentage of high school students who drank alcohol for the first time before age 13 years\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

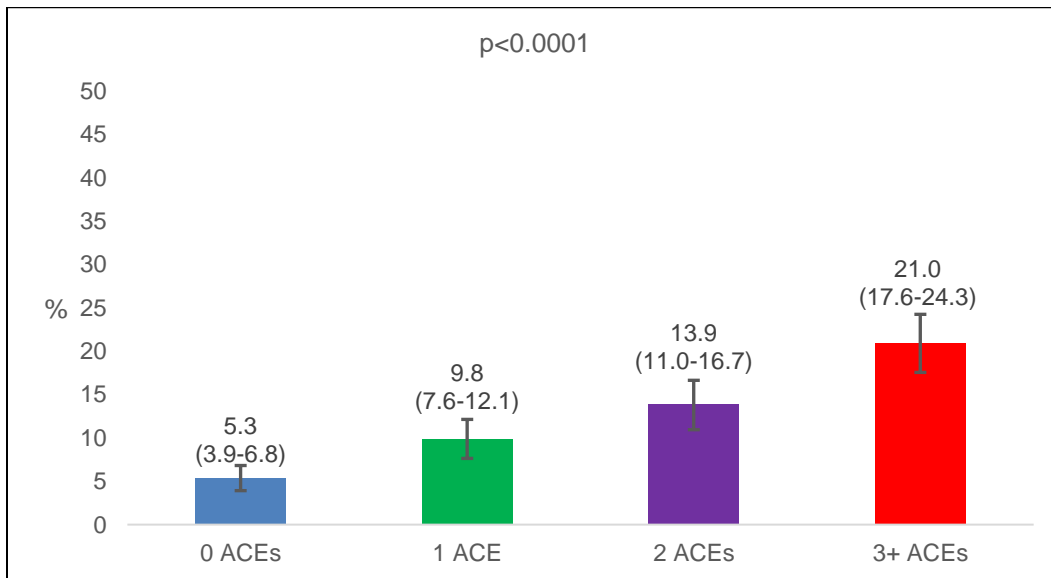


\*Other than a few sips

**Figure 25: Percentage of high school students who had at least one drink of alcohol during the 30 days before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



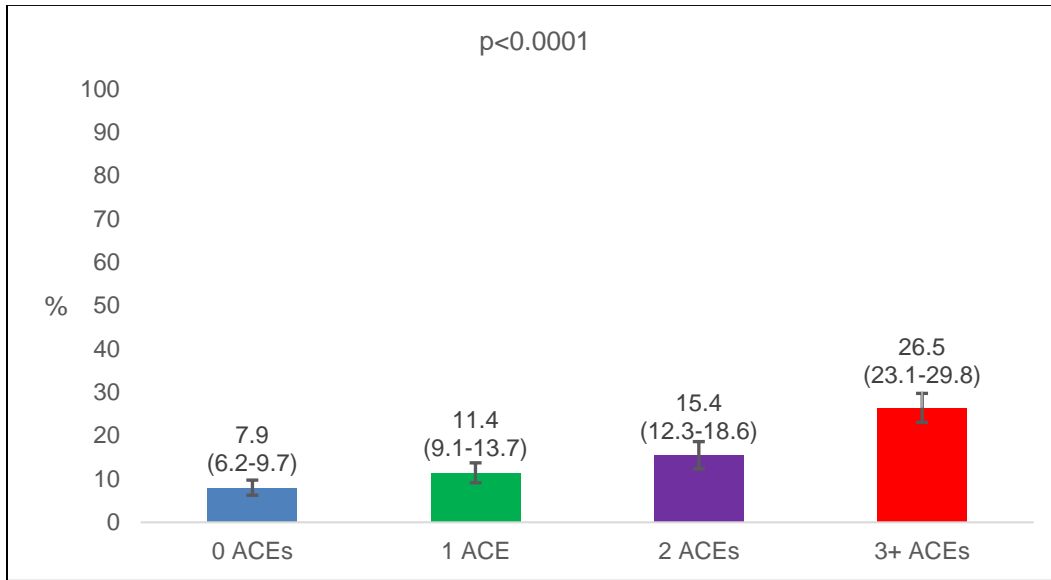
**Figure 26: Percentage of high school students who participated in binge drinking during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



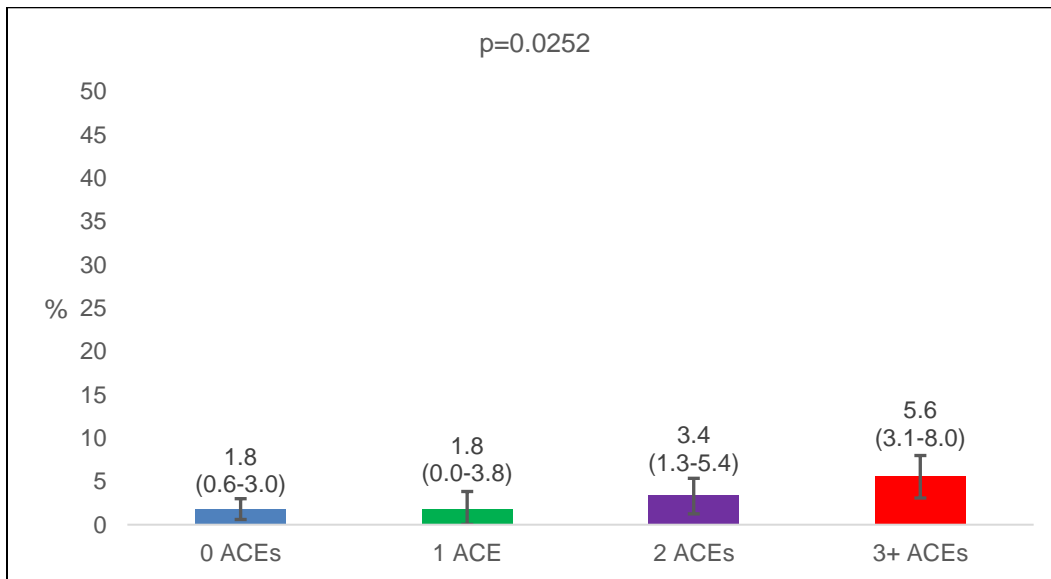
\*Had five or more drinks in a row for males or four or more drinks for females within a couple of hours



**Figure 27: Percentage of high school students who rode in a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



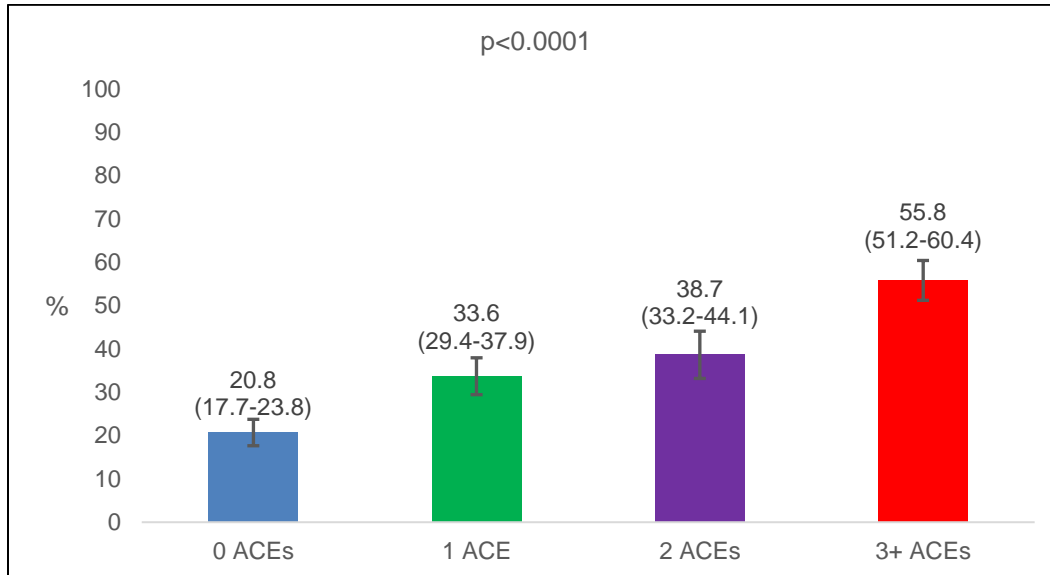
**Figure 28: Percentage of high school students who drove in a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey when they had been drinking alcohol, by ACE score\* — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



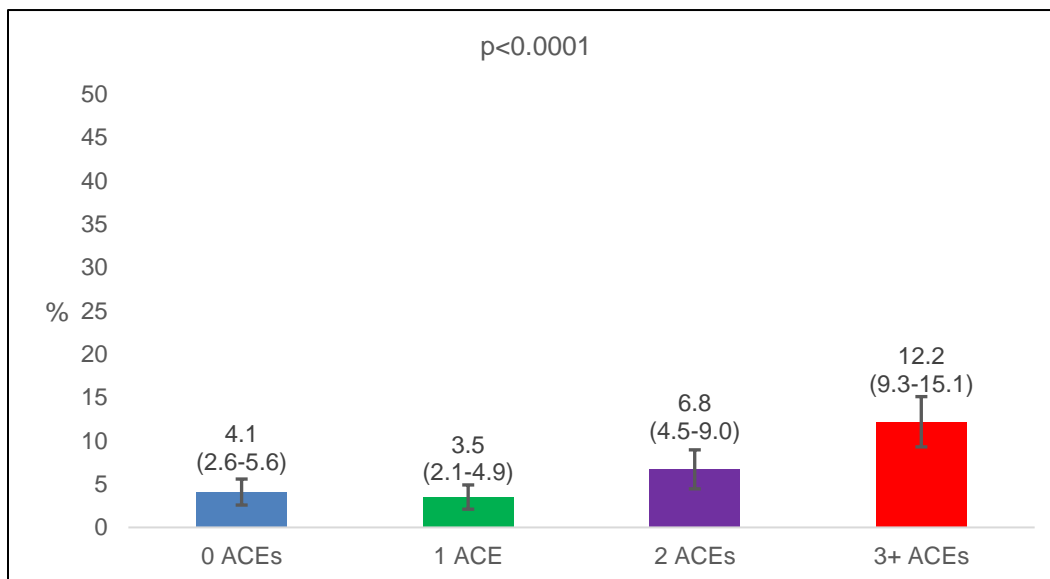
\*Among students who drove a car or other vehicle

## Marijuana Use

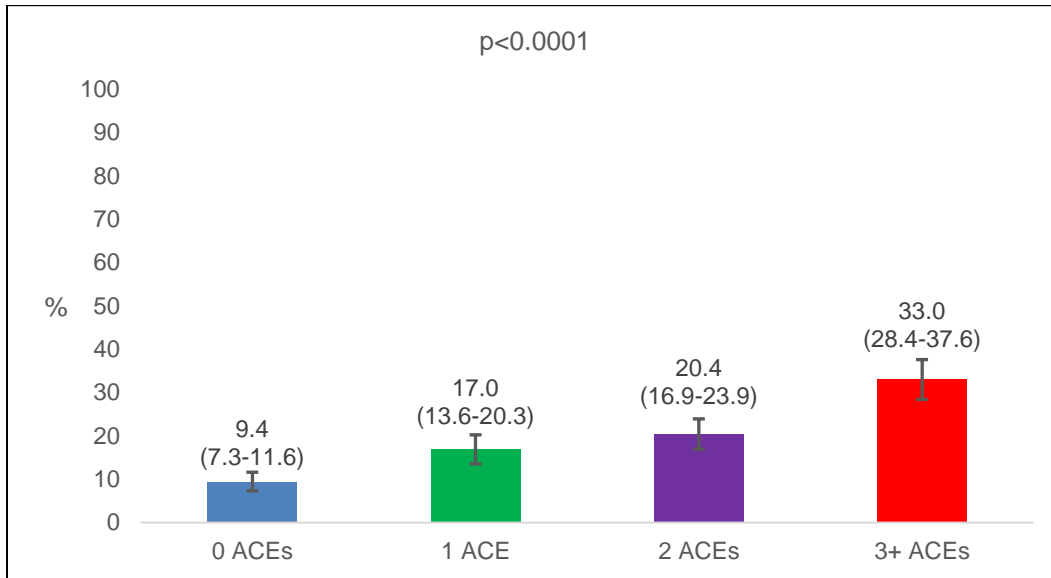
**Figure 29: Percentage of high school students who ever used marijuana\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



**Figure 30: Percentage of high school students who tried marijuana for the first time before age 13 years\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

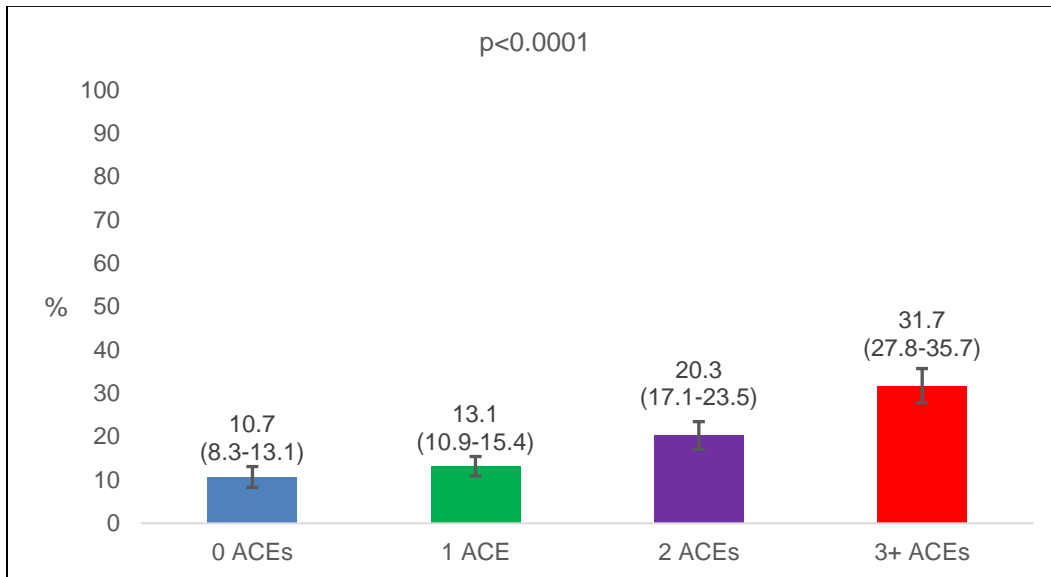


**Figure 31: Percentage of high school students who used marijuana during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



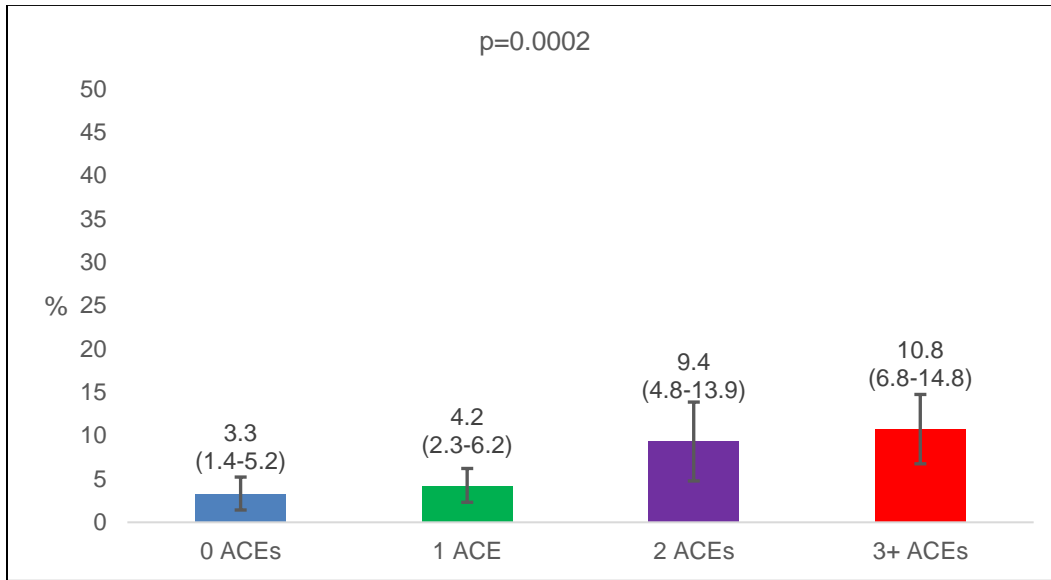
\*Also called “pot”, “weed”, or “cannabis”

**Figure 32: Percentage of high school students who rode in a car or other vehicle during 30 days before the survey driven by someone who had been using marijuana\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Also called “pot”, “weed”, or “cannabis”

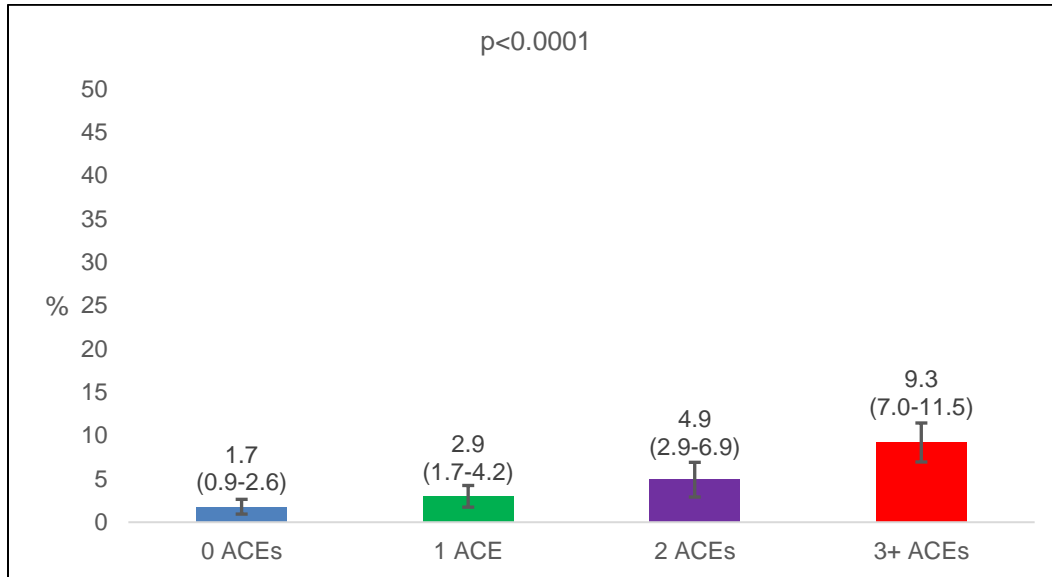
**Figure 33: Percentage of high school students who drove a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey when they had been using marijuana\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Among students who drove a car or other vehicle; also called “pot”, “weed”, or “cannabis”

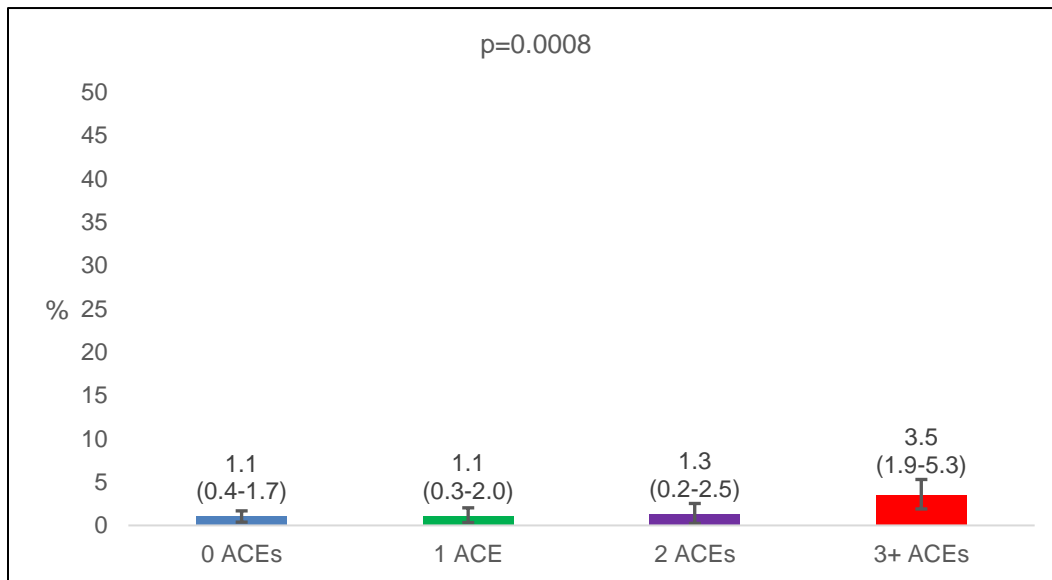
## Other Substance Use

**Figure 34: Percentage of high school students who ever used cocaine\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



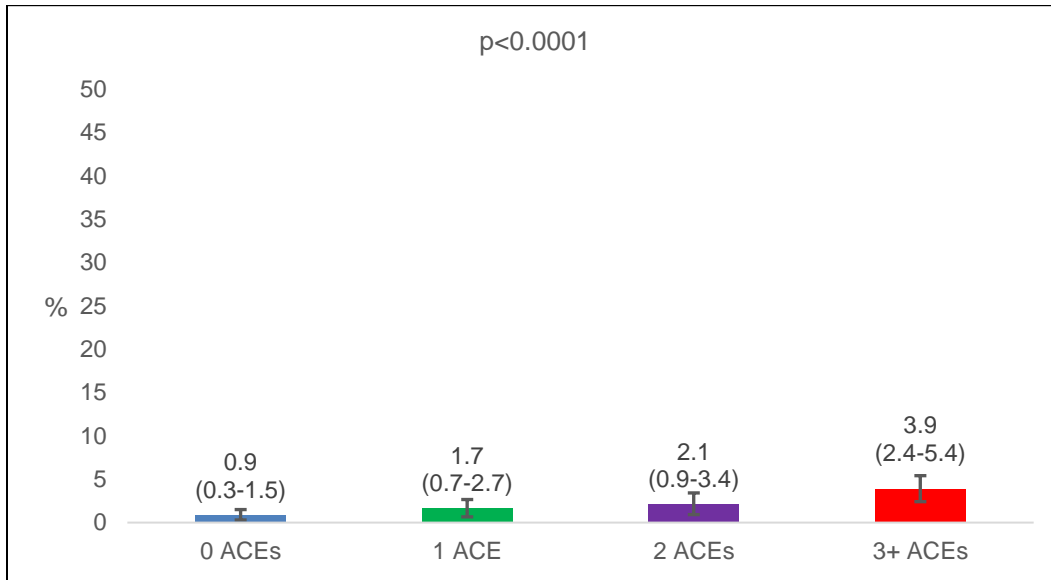
\*Used any form of cocaine (e.g., powder, crack, or freebase)

**Figure 35: Percentage of high school students who ever used heroin\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



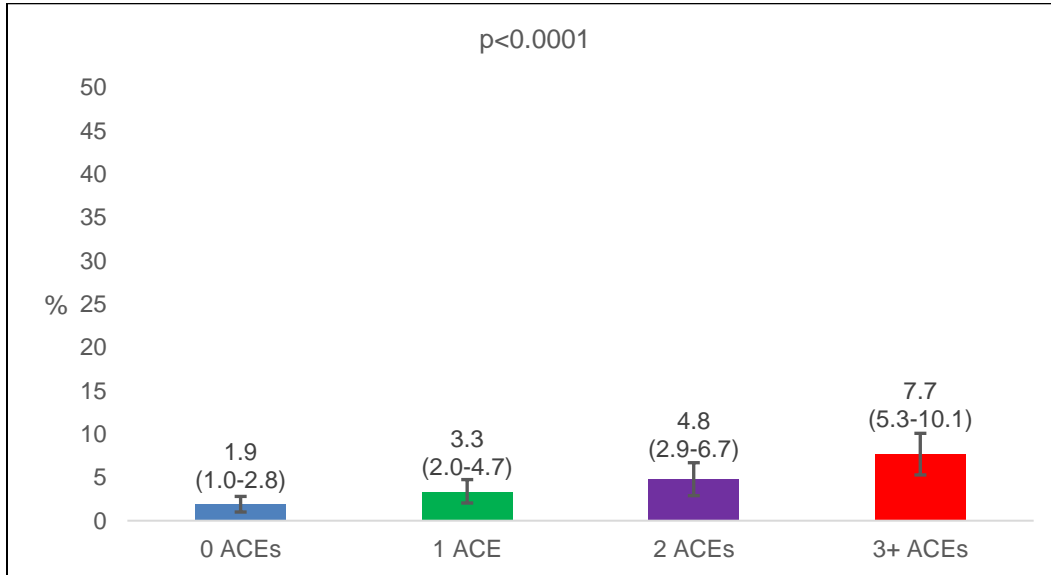
\*Used heroin (also called "smack," "junk," or "China white")

**Figure 36: Percentage of high school students who ever used methamphetamines\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



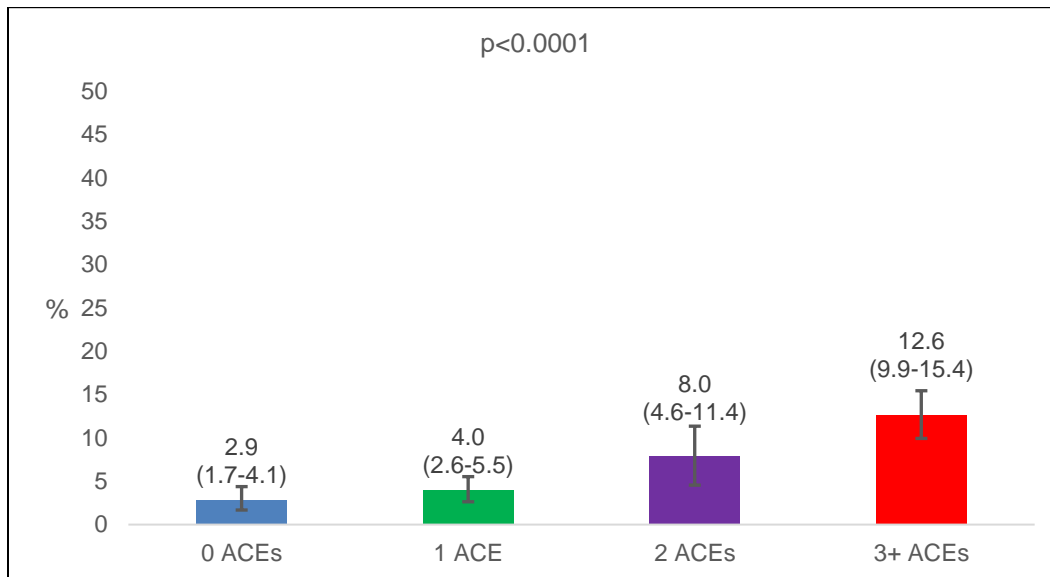
\*Used methamphetamines (also called “speed”, “crystal meth”, “crank”, “ice”, or “meth”)

**Figure 37: Percentage of high school students who used ecstasy\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



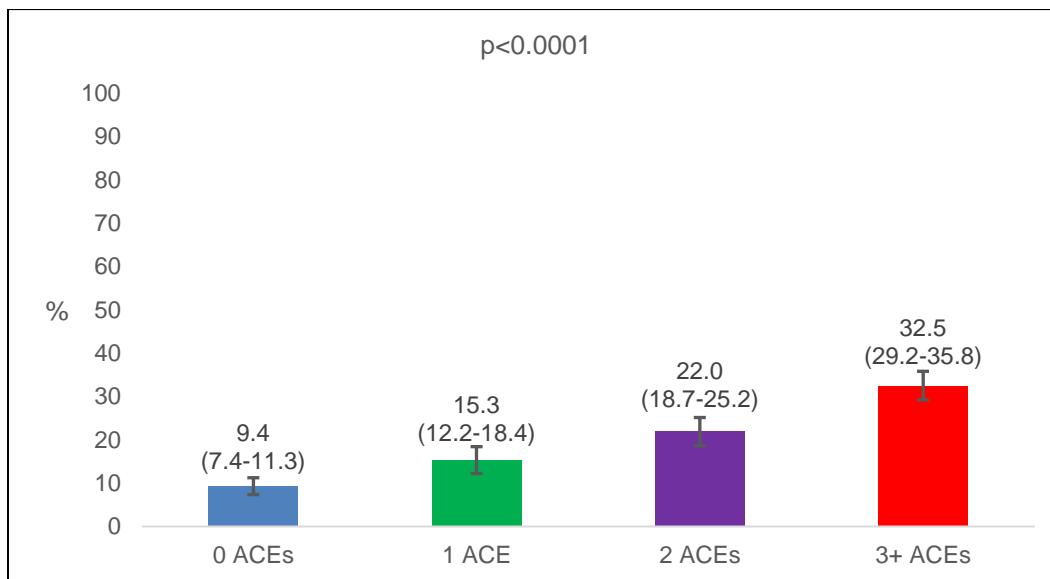
\*Used ecstasy (also called “MDMA”)

**Figure 38: Percentage of high school students who ever used synthetic marijuana\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



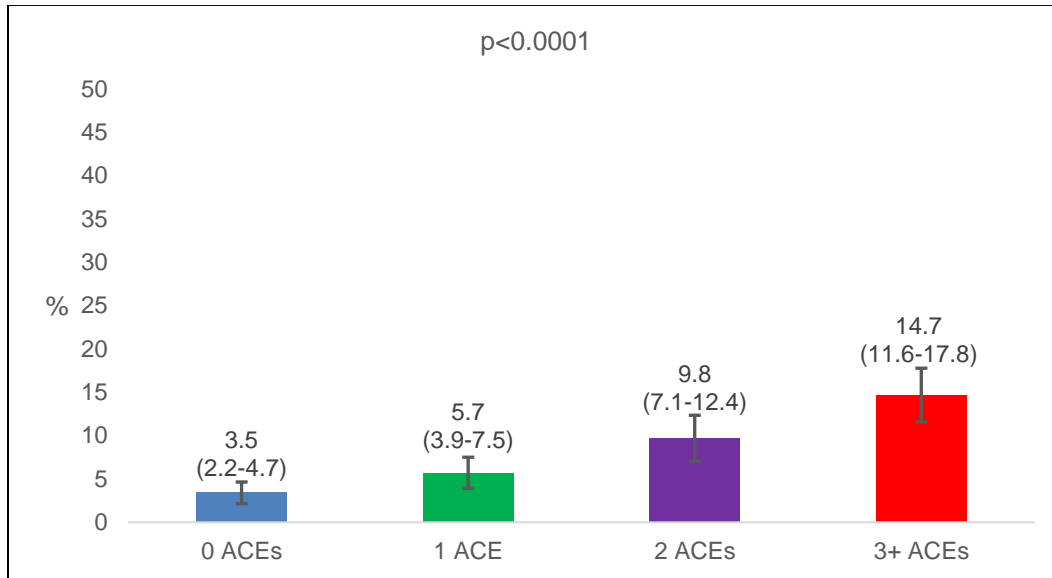
\*Used synthetic marijuana (also called “Spice”, “fake weed”, “K2”, “King Kong”, “Yukatan Fire”, or “Skunk”)

**Figure 39: Percentage of high school students who ever took prescription pain medicine without a doctor’s prescription or differently than prescribed\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



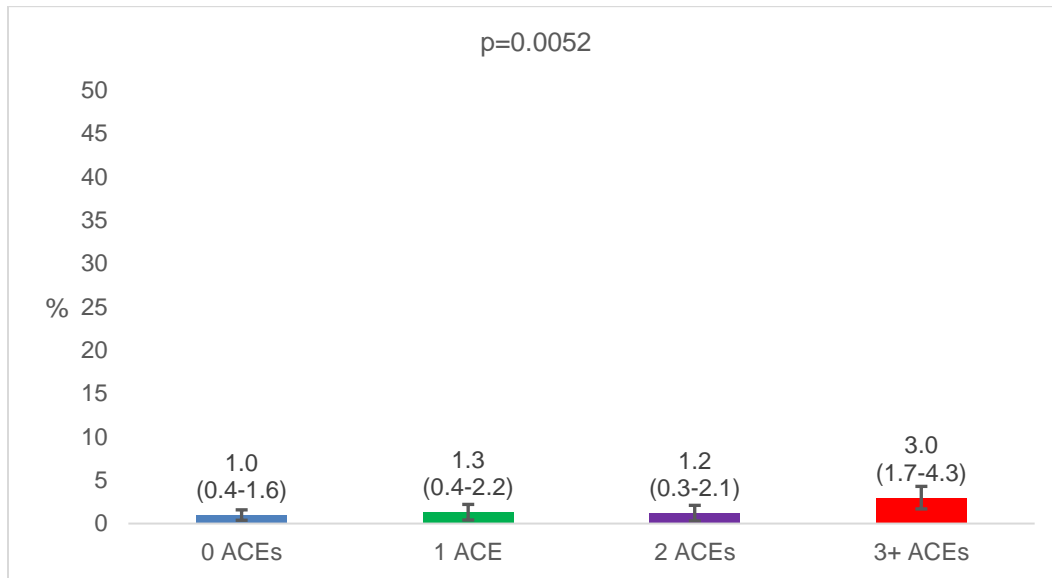
\*Took prescription pain medicine (e.g., codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet)

**Figure 40: Percentage of high school students who took prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than prescribed during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Took prescription pain medicine (e.g., codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet)

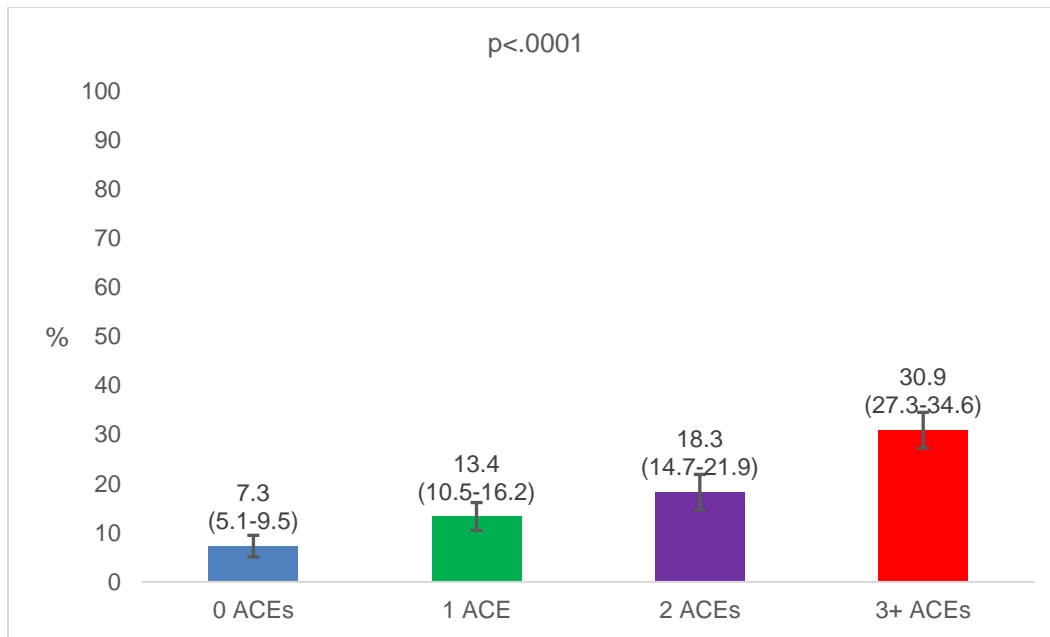
**Figure 41: Percentage of high school students who ever injected any illegal drug\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Used a needle to inject any illegal drug into their body

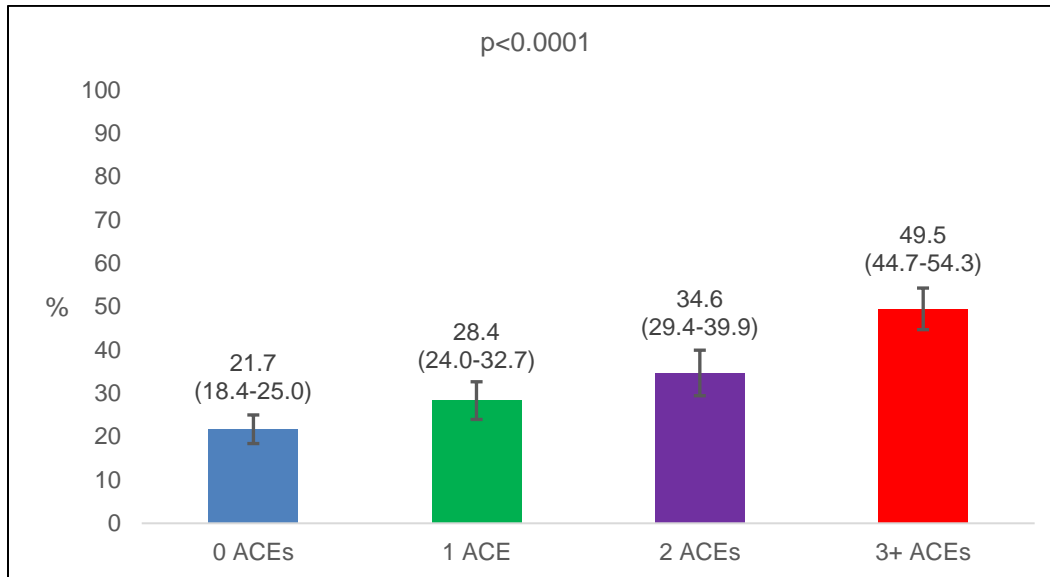


**Figure 42: Percentage of high school students who attended school under the influence of alcohol or other illegal drugs during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

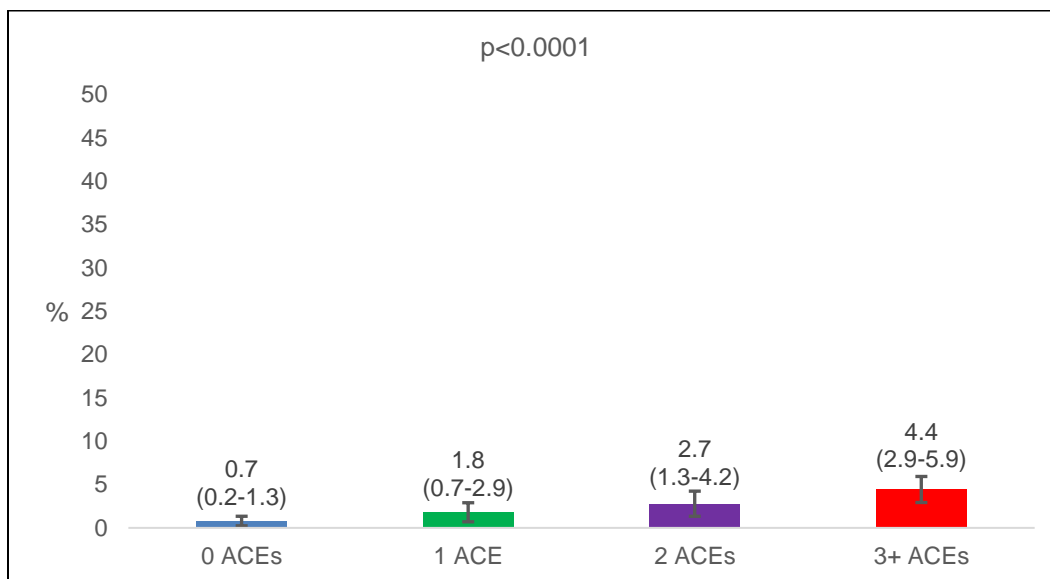


## Sexual Behaviors

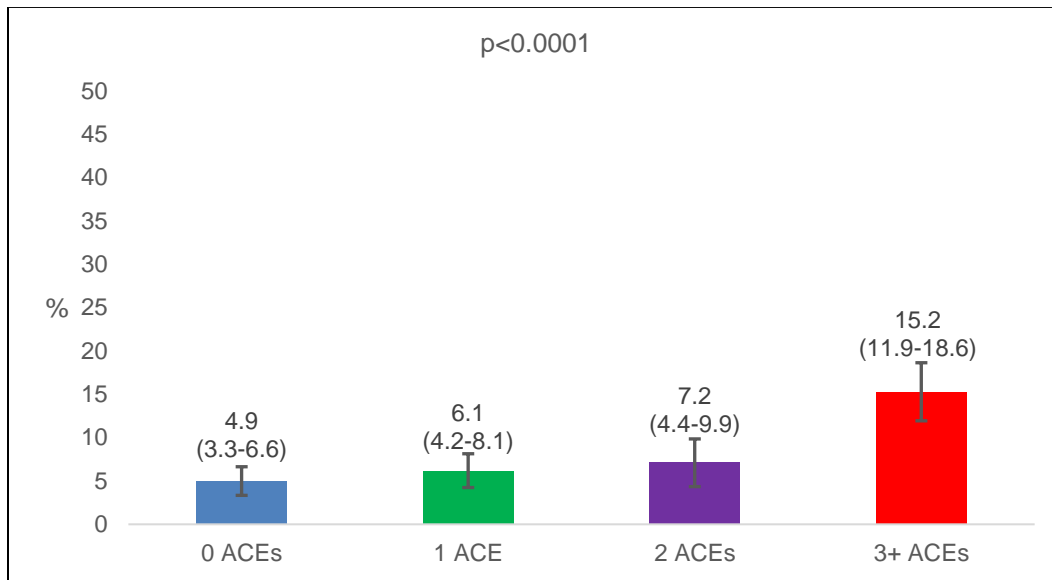
**Figure 43: Percentage of high school students who ever had sexual intercourse, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



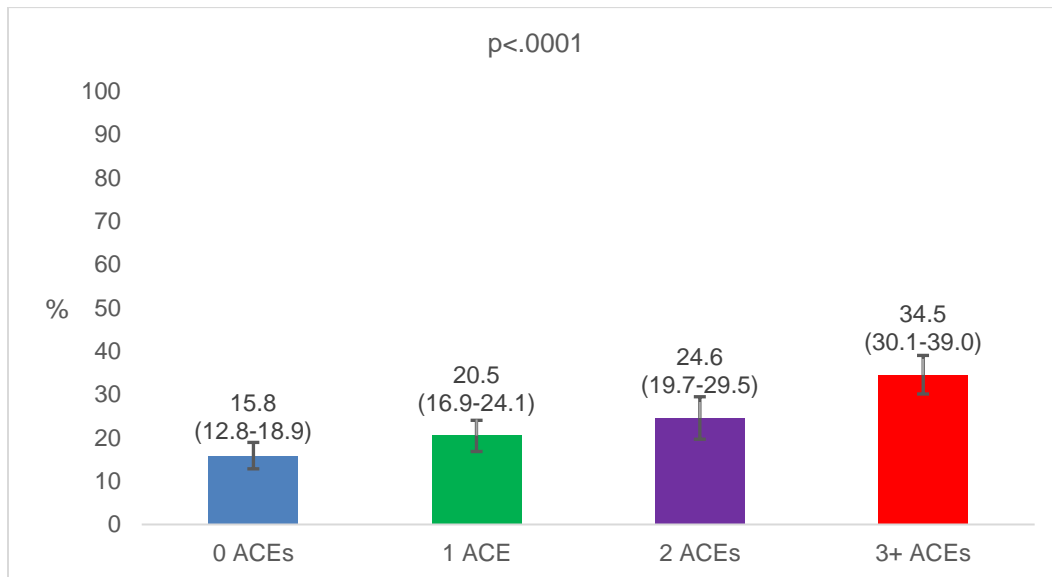
**Figure 44: Percentage of high school students who had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



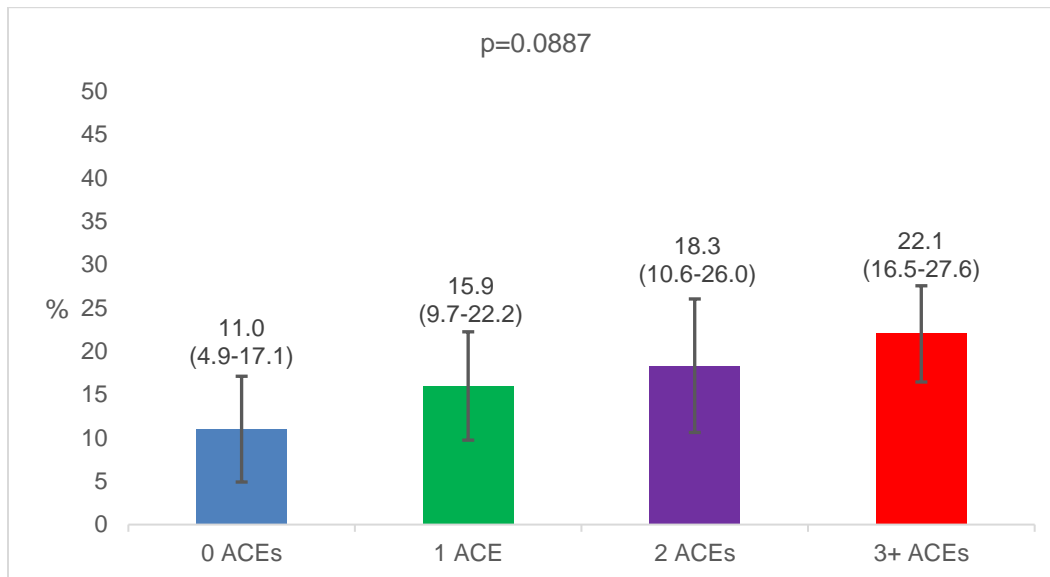
**Figure 45: Percentage of high school students who had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



**Figure 46: Percentage of high school students who had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

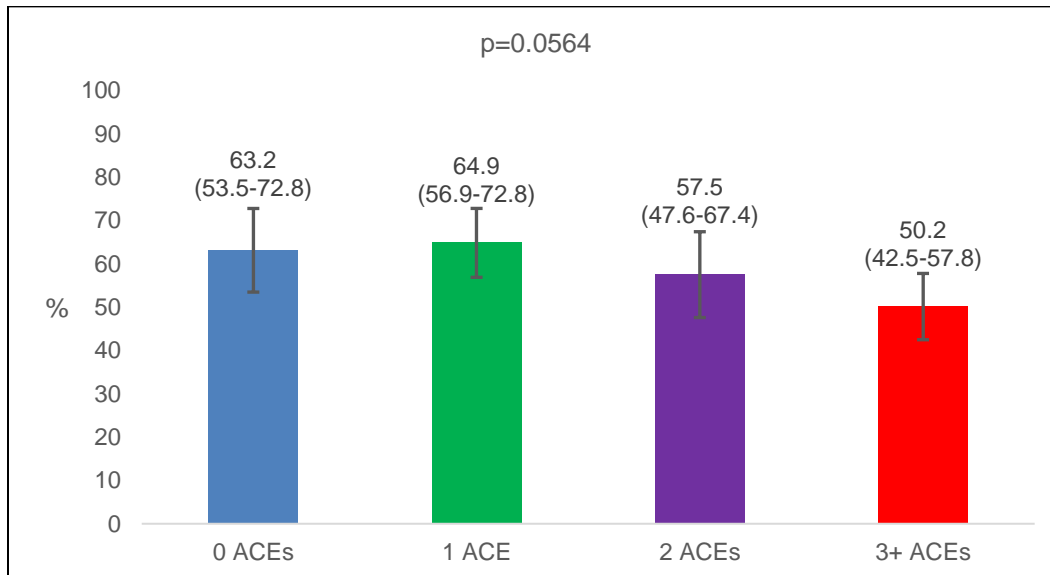


**Figure 47: Percentage of high school students who drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



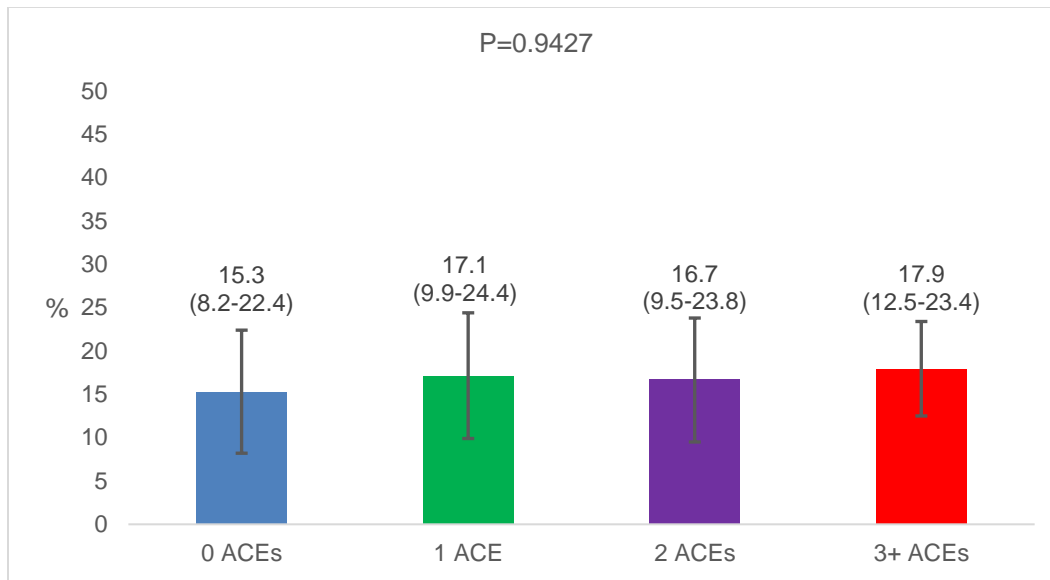
\*Among students who were sexually active in the past 3 months

**Figure 48: Percentage of high school students who used a condom during last sexual intercourse\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Among students who were sexually active in the past 3 months

**Figure 49: Percentage of high school students who did not use any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**



\*Among students who were sexually active in the past 3 months

**Figure 50: Percentage of high school students who have ever been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019**

