

**2017 Nevada Middle School Youth  
Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS):  
Adverse Childhood Experiences  
(ACEs) Special Report**



### **Acknowledgements**

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### **Additional Resources**

[UNR YRBS Statewide and Special Reports](#)

[YRBS Adolescent and School Health](#)

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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. YRBS data are routinely collected on middle school students, but only a few states collect data in middle schools. The Nevada Middle School YRBS is biennial, anonymous and voluntary survey of students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in regular public, charter, and alternative schools. Students self-report their behaviors in five major areas of health that directly lead to morbidity and mortality, these include:

- 1) Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence;
- 2) Tobacco use;
- 3) Alcohol and other drug use;
- 4) Unhealthy dietary behaviors; and
- 5) Physical inactivity.

The Nevada Middle School YRBS provides prevalence estimates for priority risk behaviors and can be used to monitor trends over time.

## Methods

The 2017 Nevada YRBS sampling plan was designed to ensure that every eligible student in regular public, charter, and alternative middle schools had an equal chance of selection. For the 2017 Middle School YRBS, a random sample of 5,464 youth from 113 schools completed the survey. Please see the 2017 Nevada Middle School Youth Risk Behavior report for detailed information on the random cluster sampling design used.

The 2017 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 2017 Nevada Middle School YRBS, six state-added questions assessed lifetime prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs): 1) forced sex; 2) physical abuse by an adult; 3) verbal abuse by an adult; 4) household domestic violence; 5) household mental illness; and 6) household substance abuse (please see 2017 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 with complete ACE question data (n=5,000). 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 weighted Cochran-Armitage test for trend was used to assess the relationship between ACEs and risk behaviors.

## Participant Characteristics

**Table 1: Demographic characteristics — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**

		Student Participants <sup>a</sup>	Unweighted %	Weighted %
<b>Total</b>		5000	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Female</b>	2584	51.8%	49.0%
	<b>Male</b>	2403	48.2%	51.0%
<b>Age Groups</b>	<b>11 years old or younger</b>	682	12.7%	16.7%
	<b>12 years old</b>	1471	29.4%	29.8%
	<b>13 years old</b>	1837	36.8%	34.5%
	<b>14 years old or older</b>	1057	21.2%	18.9%
<b>Grade</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	1326	26.7%	31.9%
	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	1803	36.3%	33.3%
	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	1840	37.0%	34.8%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>American Indian/Alaska Native<sup>b</sup></b>	162	3.3%	0.9%
	<b>Asian<sup>b</sup></b>	184	3.8%	5.9%
	<b>Black<sup>b</sup></b>	249	5.1%	10.2%
	<b>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander<sup>b</sup></b>	101	2.1%	1.5%
	<b>White<sup>b</sup></b>	1858	38.2%	32.3%
	<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	1981	40.7%	43.3%
	<b>Other/Multiple<sup>b</sup></b>	329	6.8%	5.8%
<b>Region</b>	<b>Urban</b>	3355	67.1%	90.6%
	<b>Rural/Frontier</b>	1645	32.9%	9.4%

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

<sup>b</sup> Non-Hispanic

## 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, 2017\***

		N	% <sup>a</sup>
<b>Ever physically forced to have sex</b>			
	Yes	170	3.4%
	No	4830	96.6%
<b>Ever been hit, beaten, kicked, or physically hurt in any way by an adult</b>			
	Yes	613	12.7%
	No	4387	87.3%
<b>Sometimes, mostly, or always have been sworn at, insulted by, or put down by an adult</b>			
	Yes	1348	27.1%
	No	3652	72.9%
<b>Ever seen adults in their home slap, hit, kick, punch, or beat each other up</b>			
	Yes	729	15.1%
	No	4271	84.9%
<b>Ever lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal</b>			
	Yes	989	17.9%
	No	4011	80.5%
<b>Ever lived with someone who was a problem drinker, alcoholic, or abused street or prescription drugs</b>			
	Yes	1054	20.8%
	No	3946	79.2%
<b>ACE Score</b>			
	0	2551	49.9%
	1	1154	24.1%
	2	630	12.9%
	3+	665	13.0%

<sup>a</sup> Weighted row percent

\*Note: Youth with any missing ACE data were excluded. Prevalence estimates differ slightly from statewide report

**Table 3: Participant characteristics by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**

		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>	2551	49.9%	1154	24.1%	630	12.9%	665	13.0%	
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Female</b>	1206	45.9%	573	22.6%	355	14.4%	448	17.1%	<0.001
	<b>Male</b>	1339	53.8%	576	25.6%	273	11.5%	215	9.2%	
<b>Age</b>	<b>11 years old or younger</b>	375	58.3%	146	25.6%	62	9.5%	49	6.6%	<0.001
	<b>12 years old</b>	812	52.4%	323	23.8%	166	11.7%	170	12.1%	
	<b>13 years old</b>	883	47.5%	429	22.9%	257	15.1%	267	14.6%	
	<b>14 years old or older</b>	479	43.2%	253	25.4%	145	13.9%	179	17.5%	
<b>Grade</b>	<b>6th grade</b>	765	56.7%	310	25.4%	135	10.4%	116	7.4%	<0.001
	<b>7th grade</b>	909	47.9%	389	22.4%	241	13.8%	263	15.9%	
	<b>8th grade</b>	864	46.0%	446	24.4%	249	14.2%	280	15.4%	
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b>	76	47.7%	26	15.1%	33	21.7%	27	15.5%	0.009
	<b>Asian</b>	102	55.8%	41	21.5%	24	14.6%	17	8.1%	
	<b>Black or African American</b>	121	45.2%	59	26.7%	35	15.2%	34	12.9%	
	<b>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</b>	49	42.5%	22	27.1%	17	18.3%	11	12.0%	
	<b>White</b>	956	50.0%	439	24.8%	211	11.3%	252	13.9%	
	<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	1025	52.0%	455	22.9%	237	12.0%	264	13.1%	
	<b>Other/Multiple</b>	133	38.6%	84	27.9%	60	20.3%	52	13.2%	
<b>Region</b>	<b>Urban</b>	1708	49.9%	789	24.2%	426	12.9%	432	12.9%	0.686
	<b>Rural/Frontier</b>	843	50.3%	365	22.7%	204	13.0%	233	14.1%	
<b>Qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch</b>	<b>Yes</b>	854	46.9%	436	24.3%	241	13.3%	303	15.5%	0.009
	<b>No</b>	1672	52.1%	708	23.9%	386	12.7%	358	11.3%	
<b>Military Family</b>	<b>Yes</b>	133	39.5%	84	26.8%	54	16.9%	62	16.8%	0.016
	<b>No</b>	2284	51.2%	1002	23.7%	535	12.6%	550	12.5%	
<b>Mostly A's or B's in School</b>	<b>Yes</b>	1829	53.8%	758	23.2%	385	12.2%	367	10.8%	<0.001
	<b>No</b>	622	40.9%	362	26.0%	233	15.3%	276	17.8%	

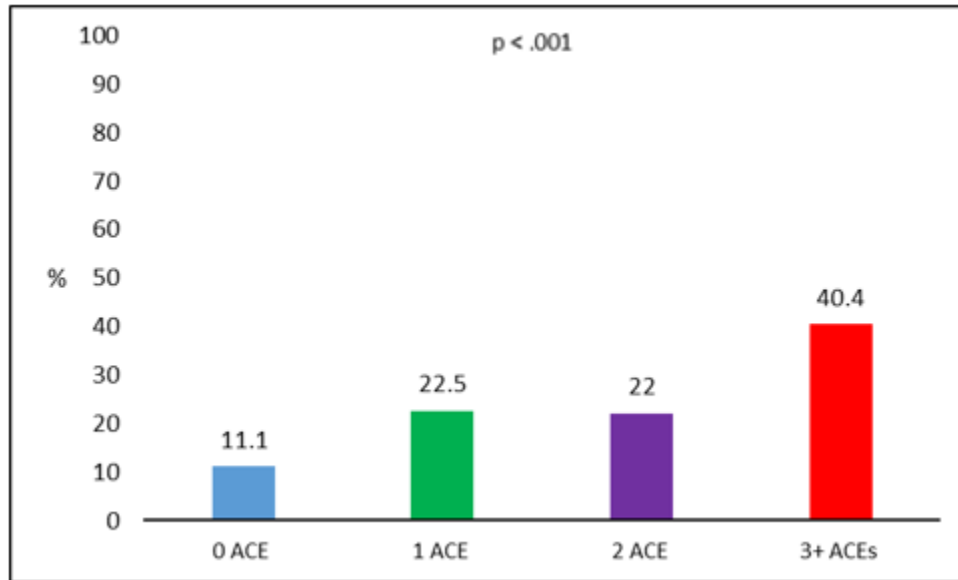
<sup>a</sup> The sample size in the total and subgroups may differ due to missing data

<sup>b</sup> Weighted row percent

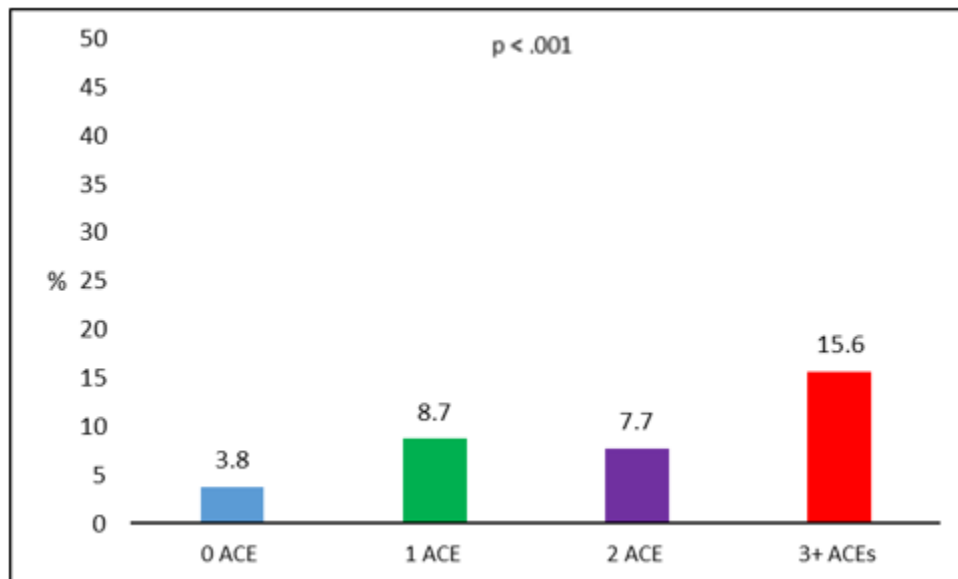


## Select Behavioral Health Outcomes by ACE Score: Violence

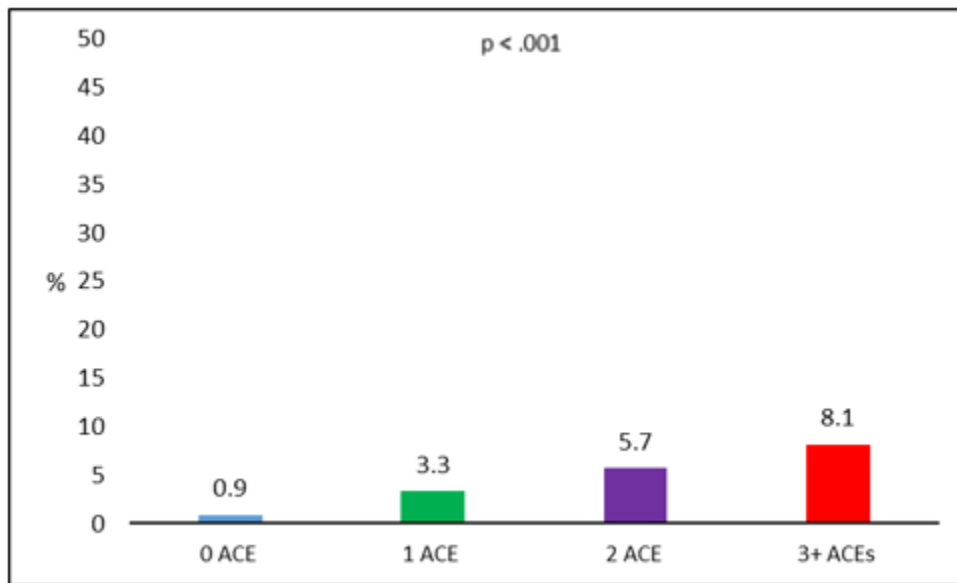
**Figure 1: Percentage of middle school students who were in a physical fight during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



**Figure 2: Percentage of middle 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, 2017**



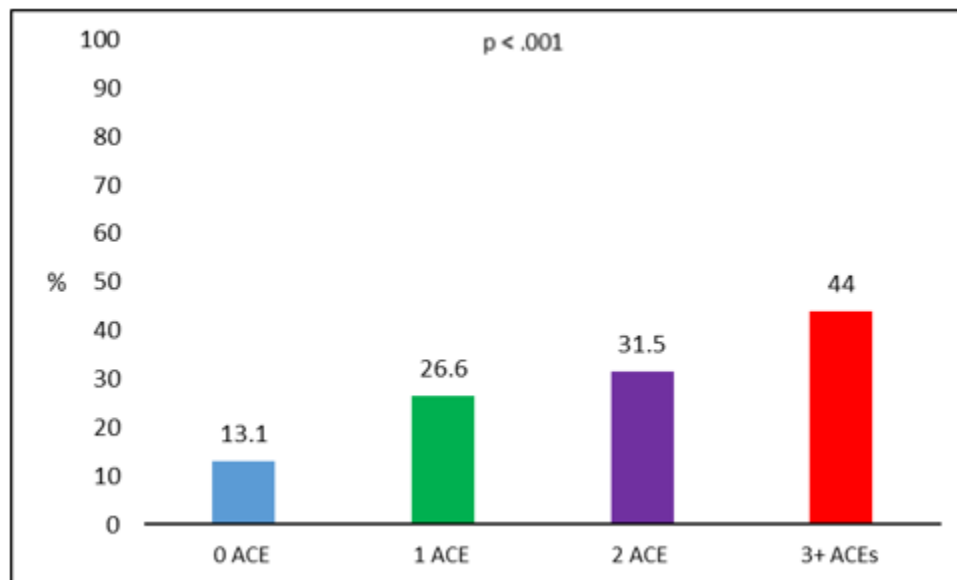
**Figure 3: Percentage of middle school students who carried a weapon on school property during the 12 months before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



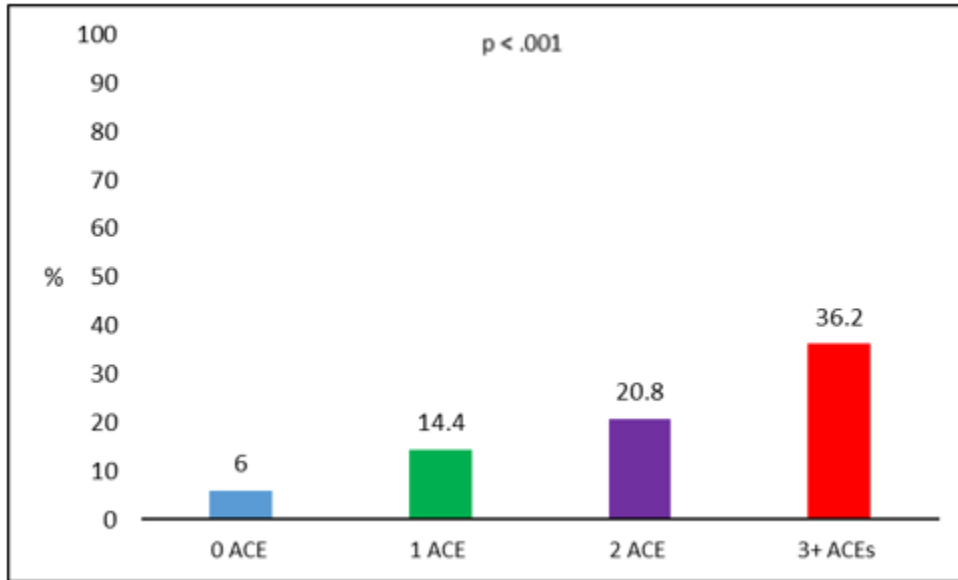
\* For example, a gun, knife, or club

### Select Behavioral Health Outcomes by ACE Score: Victimization

**Figure 4: Percentage of middle school students who were bullied on school property during the 12 months before the survey, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**

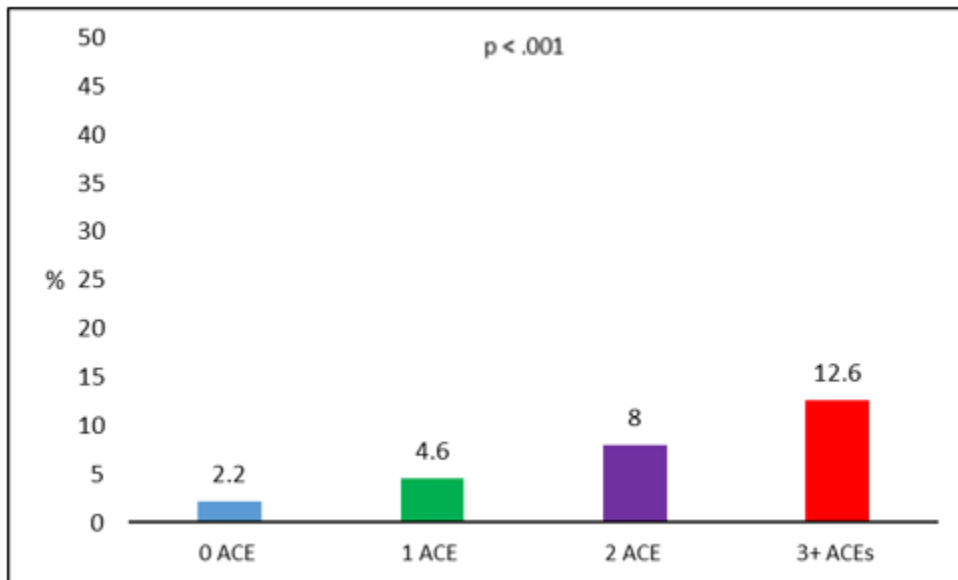


**Figure 5: Percentage of middle school students who were electronically bullied during the 12 months before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



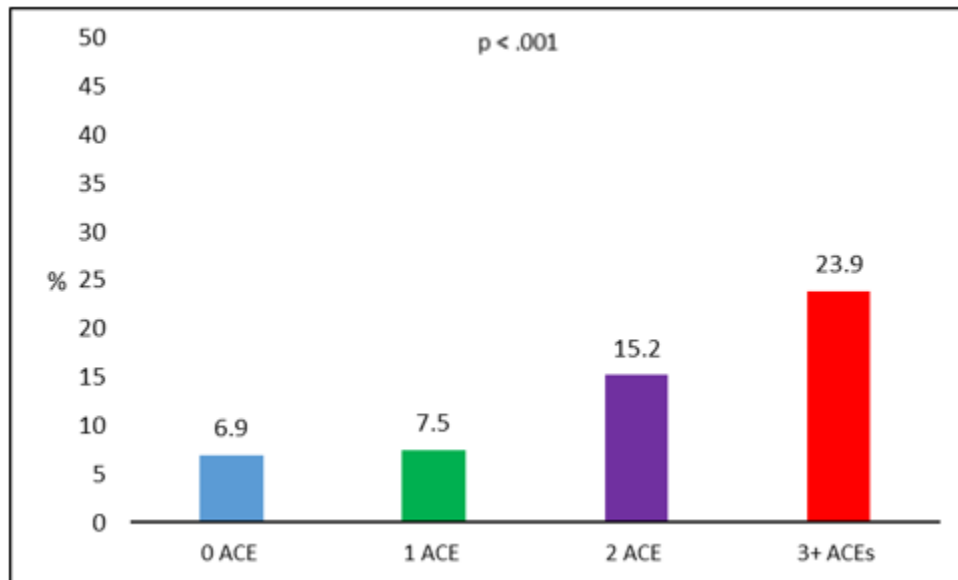
\* Including being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media

**Figure 6: Percentage of middle 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, 2017**

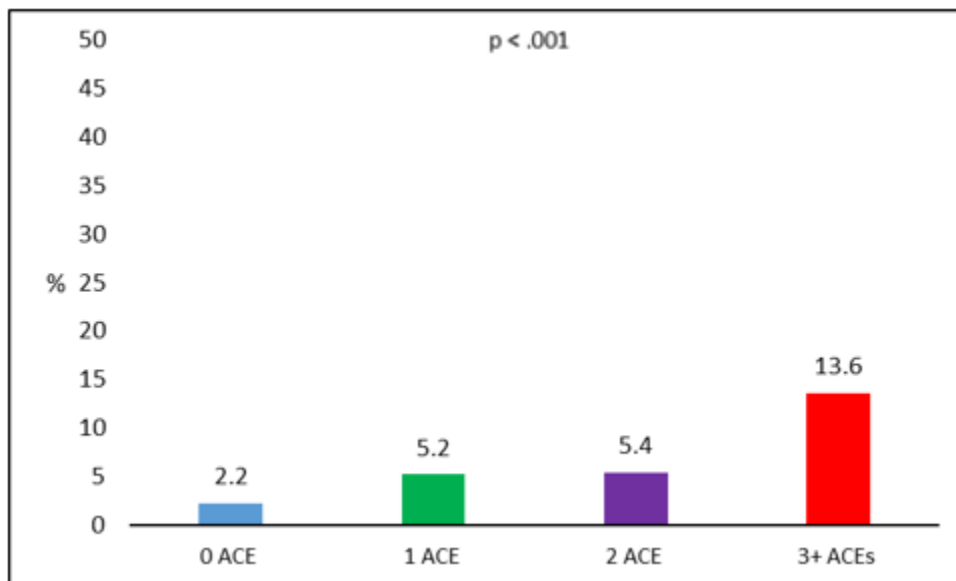


\* On at least one day during the 30 days before the survey

**Figure 7: Percentage of middle school students who never/rarely felt safe and secure at school\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



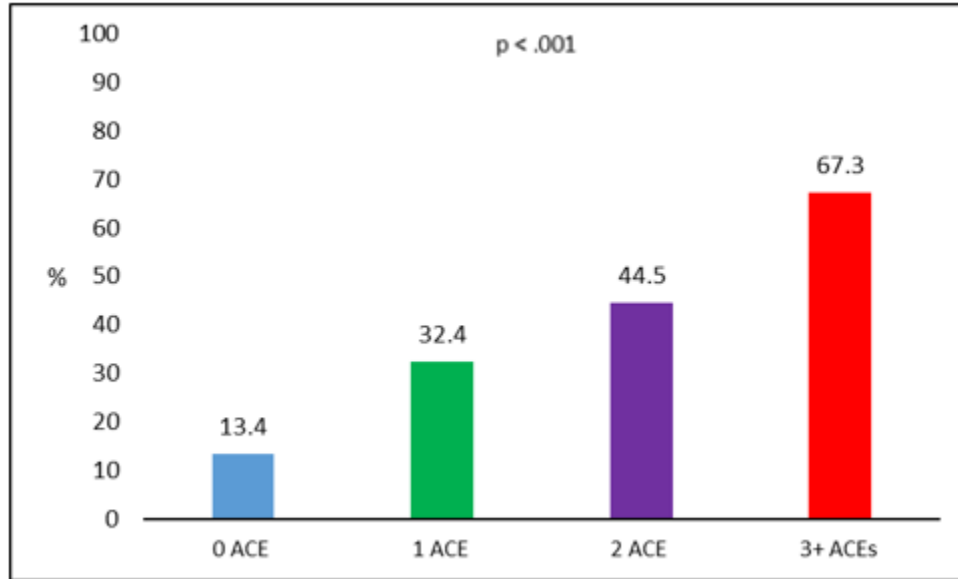
**Figure 8: Percentage of middle school students who were threatened or injured by someone with a weapon on school property during the 12 months before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



\* For example, a gun, knife, or club

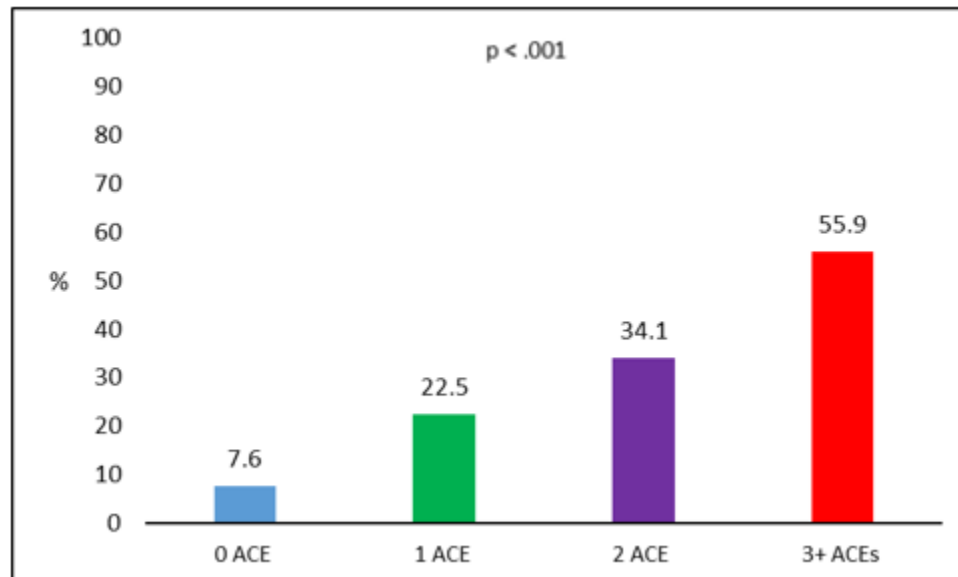
## Select Behavioral Health Outcomes by ACE Score: Emotional Health

**Figure 9: Percentage of middle school students who felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**

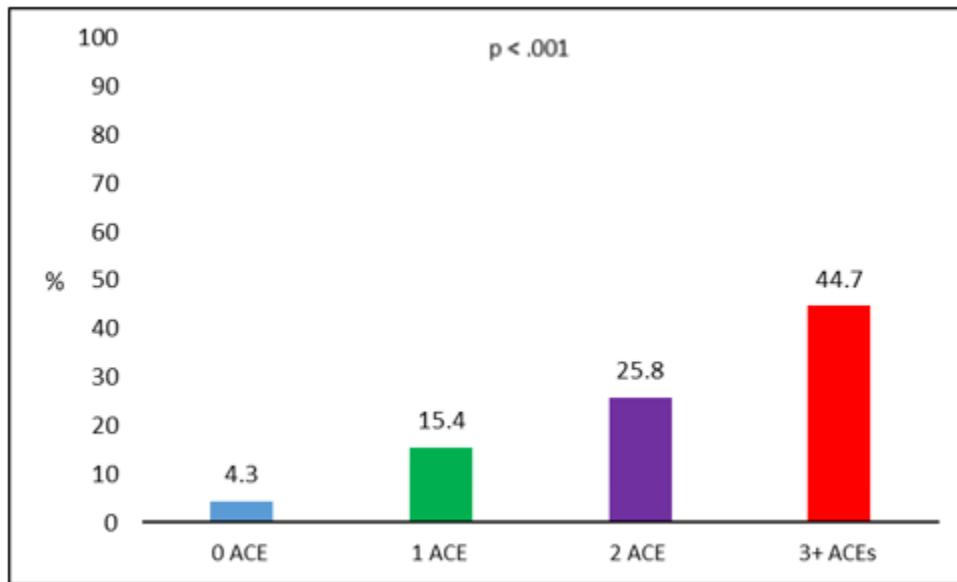


\* So that they stopped doing some usual activities

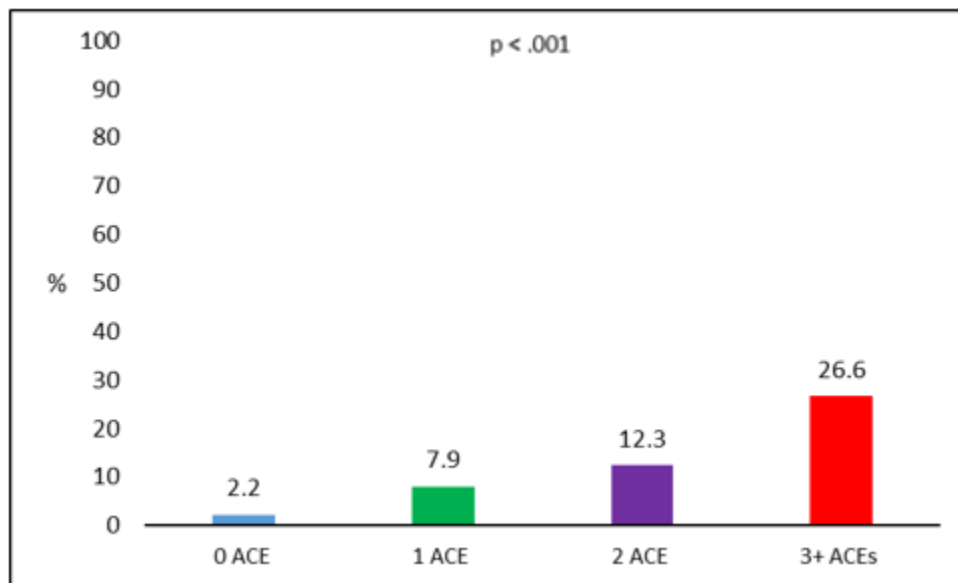
**Figure 10: Percentage of middle school students who ever seriously considered killing themselves, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



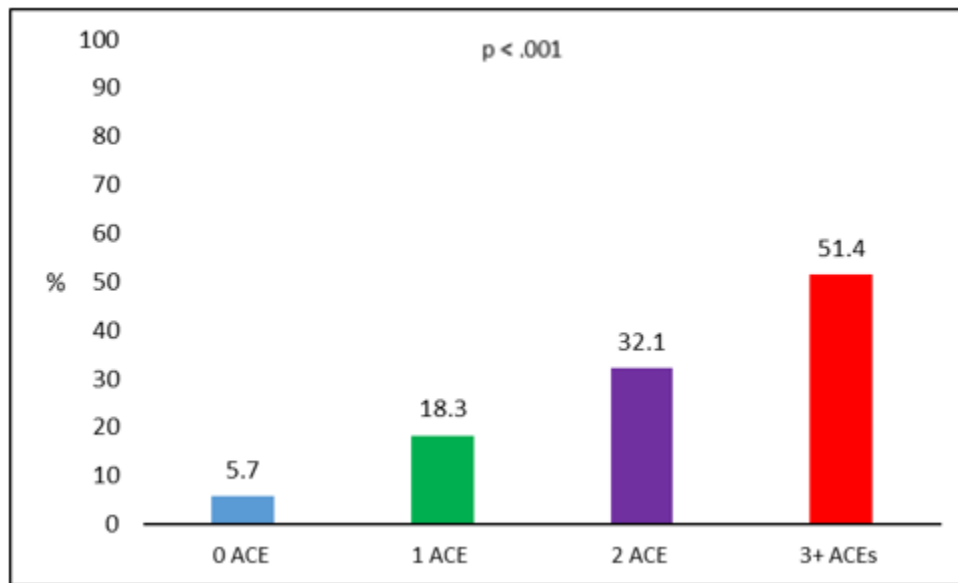
**Figure 11: Percentage of middle school students who ever made a plan about how they would kill themselves, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



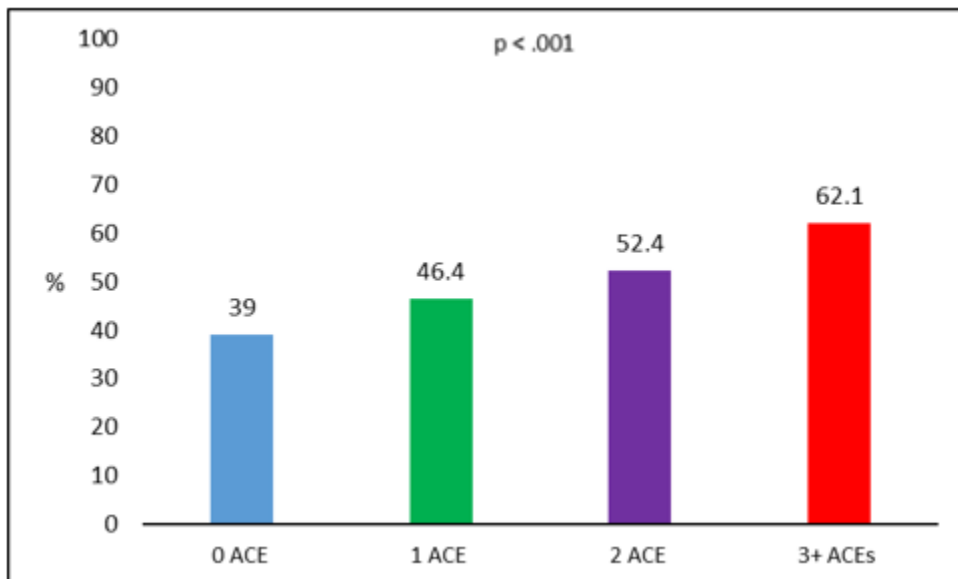
**Figure 12: Percentage of middle school students who ever tried killing themselves, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



**Figure 13: Percentage of middle school students who have ever done something to purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves on purpose, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



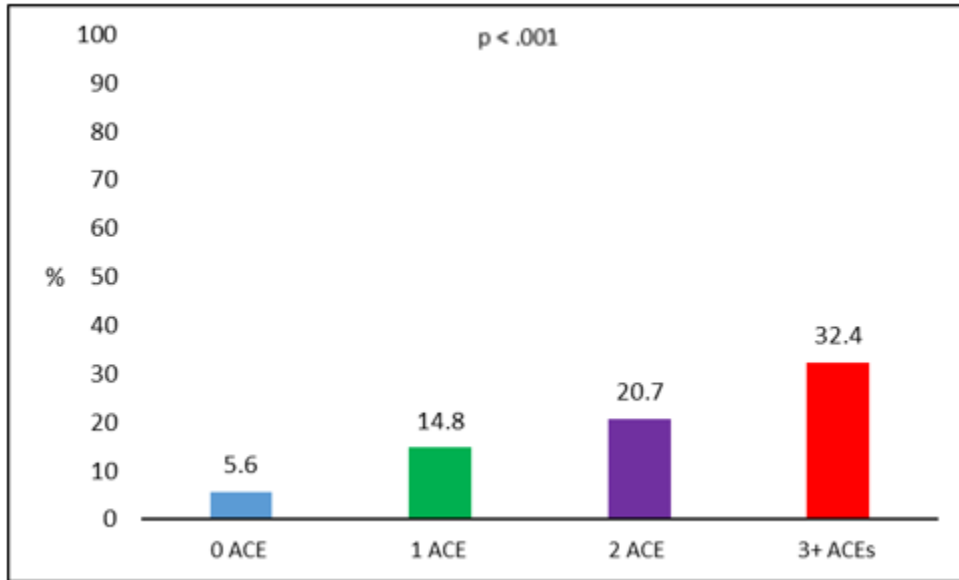
**Figure 14: Percentage of high school students who never or rarely got the kind of help they need when they felt sad, empty, hopeless, angry, or anxious\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



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

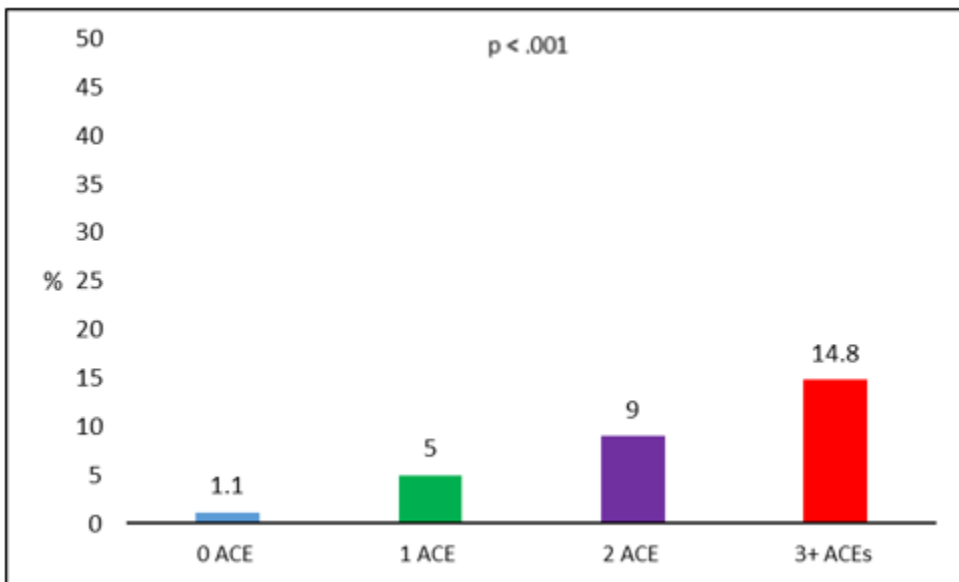
## Select Behavioral Health Outcomes by ACE Score: Substance Use

**Figure 15: Percentage of middle school students who ever smoked cigarettes\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



\*Even one or two puffs

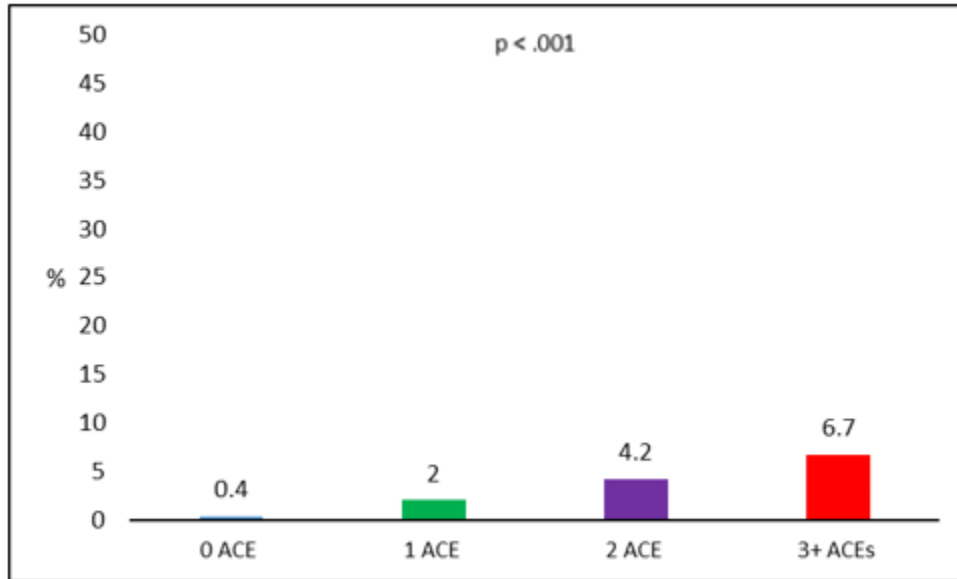
**Figure 16: Percentage of middle school students who smoked a cigarette for the first time before age 11 years\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



\* Even one or two puffs

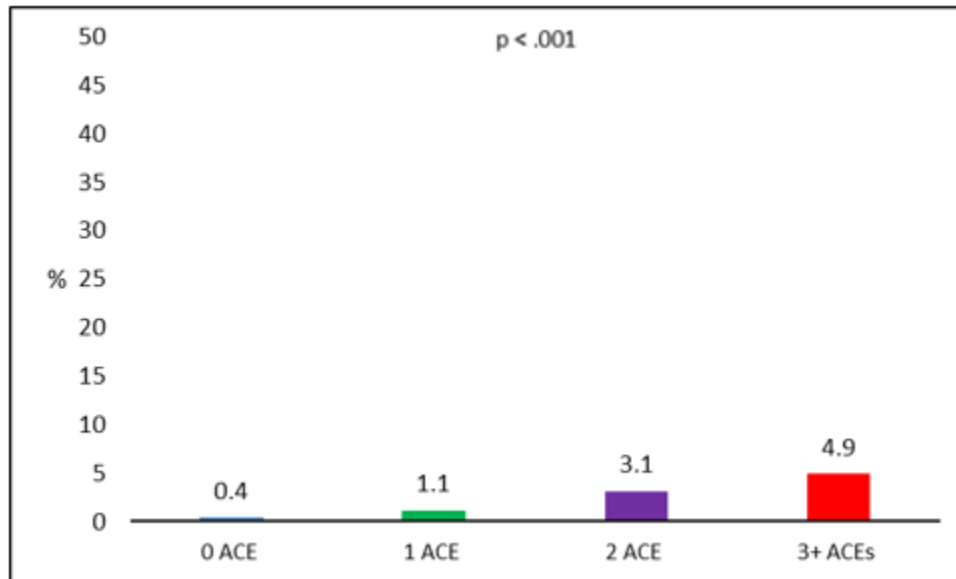


**Figure 17: Percentage of middle school students who smoked cigarettes during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



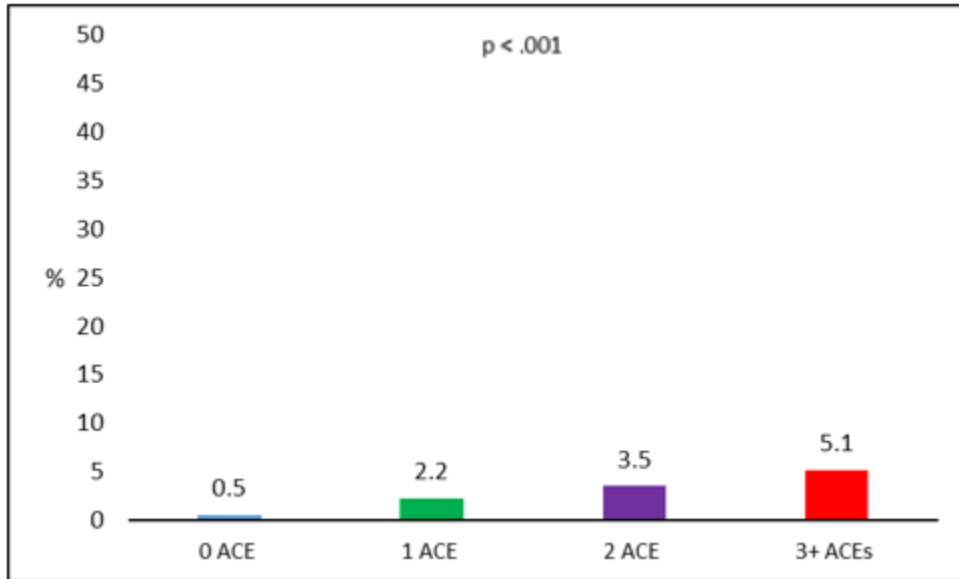
\* On at least one day during the 30 days before the survey

**Figure 18: Percentage of middle school students who used smokeless tobacco during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



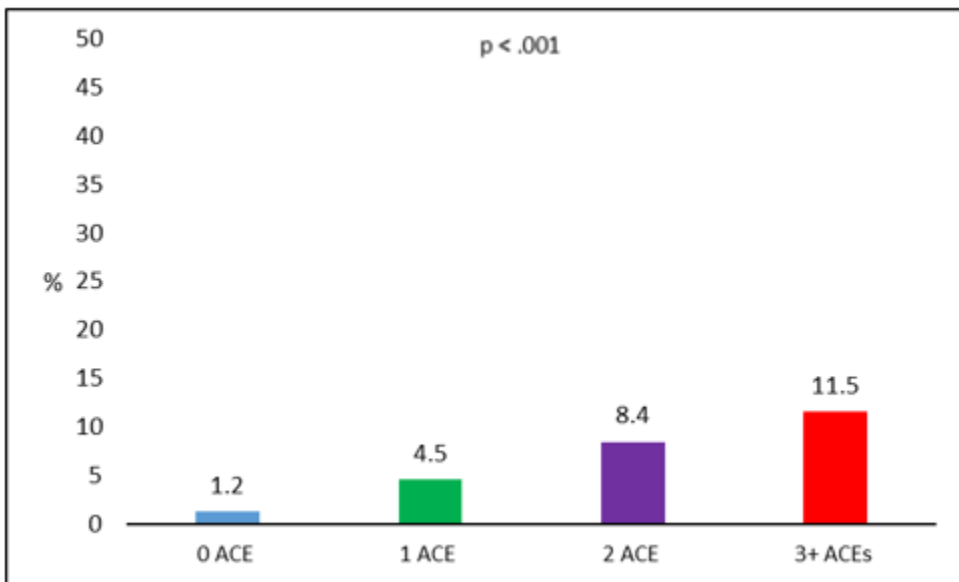
\*Chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey

**Figure 19: Percentage of middle school students who smoked cigars during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



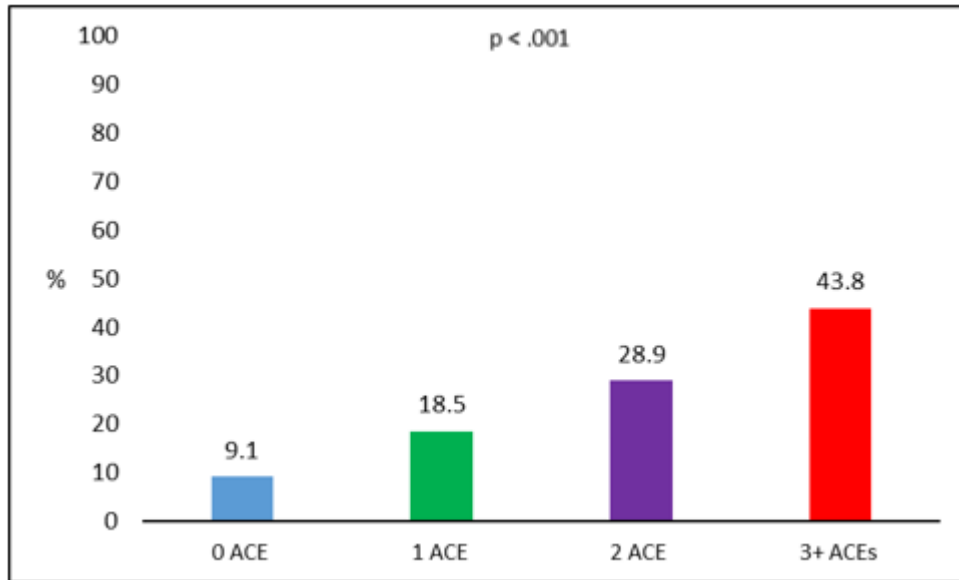
\*Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey

**Figure 20: Percentage of middle school students who used tobacco during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



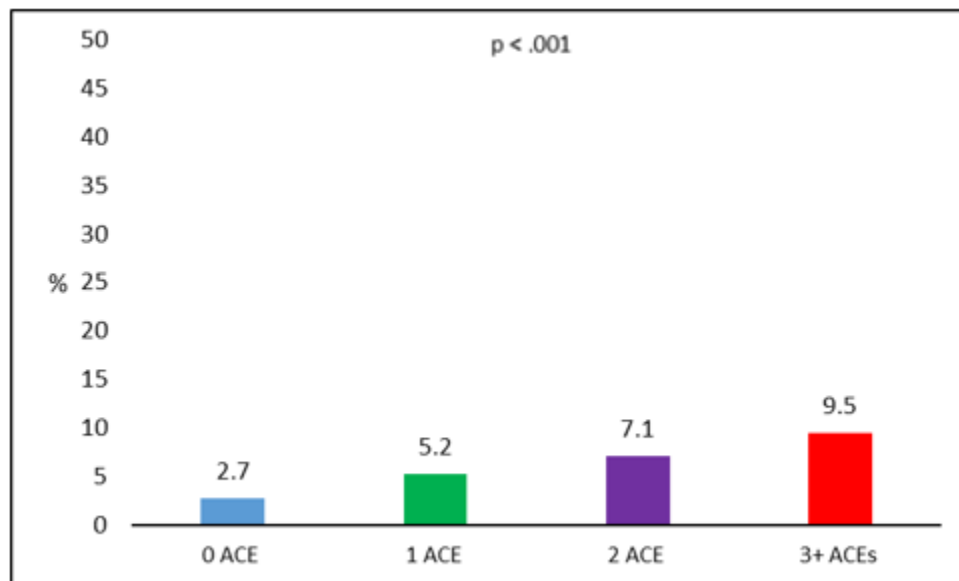
\* Cigarette use, current smokeless tobacco use, or current cigar use

**Figure 21: Percentage of students who ever used electronic vapor products\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



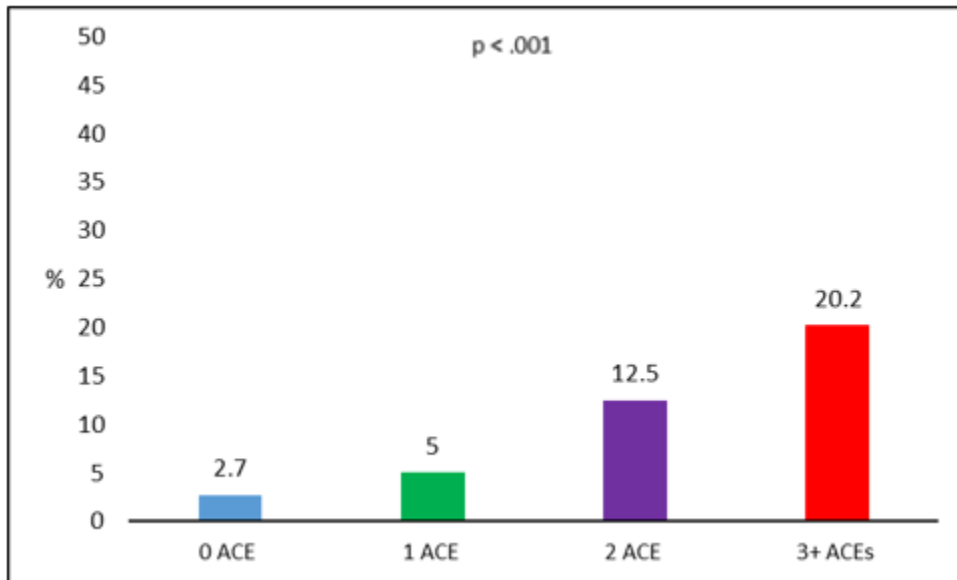
\* Including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens such as blu, NJOY, Vuse, MarkTen, Logic, Vapin Plus, eGo, and Halo

**Figure 22: Percentage of middle school students who tried their first electronic vapor product before age 11 years\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



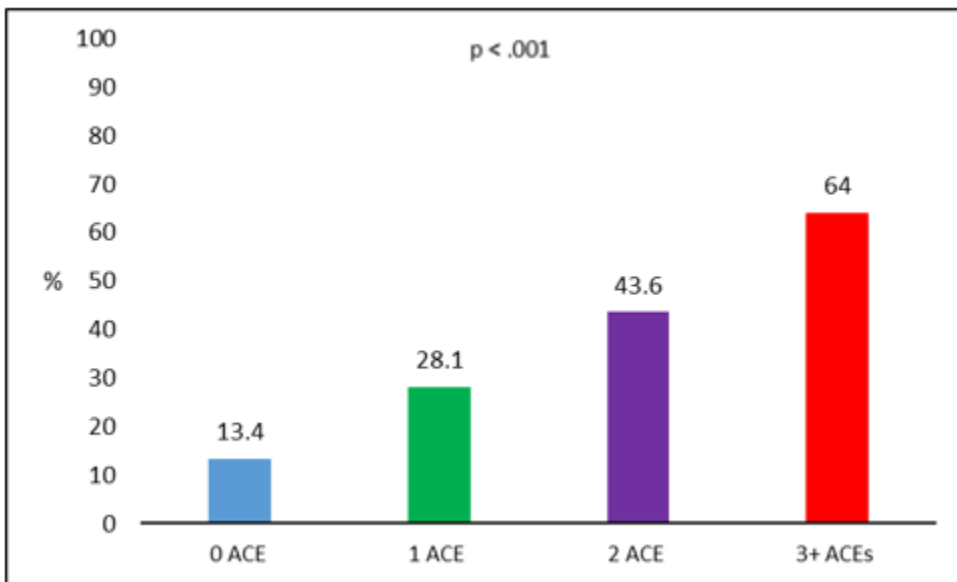
\* Including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens such as blu, NJOY, Vuse, MarkTen, Logic, Vapin Plus, eGo, and Halo

**Figure 23: Percentage of middle school students who used electronic vapor products during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



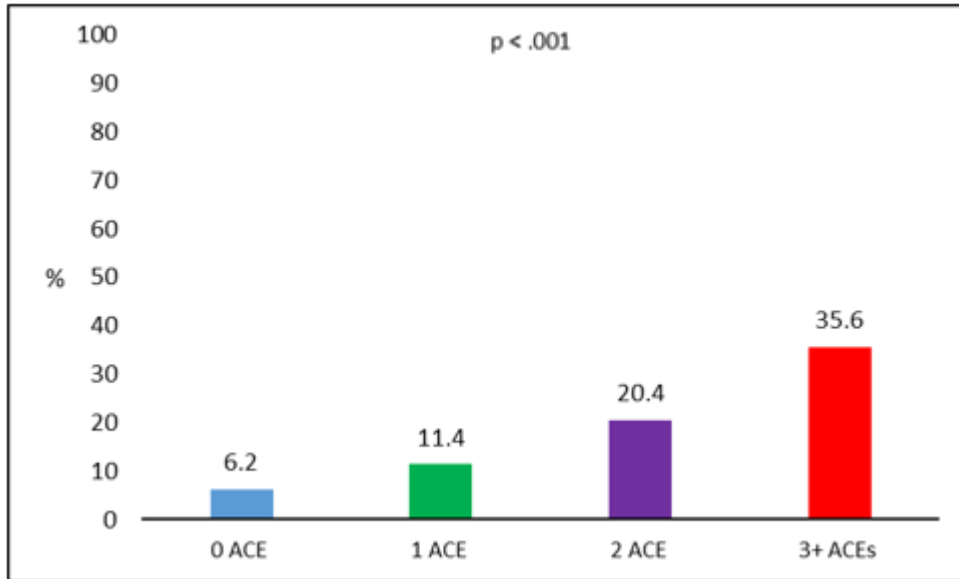
\* Including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens such as blu, NJOY, Vuse, MarkTen, Logic, Vapin Plus, eGo, and Halo. On at least one day during the 30 days before the survey

**Figure 24: Percentage of middle school students who ever drank alcohol\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



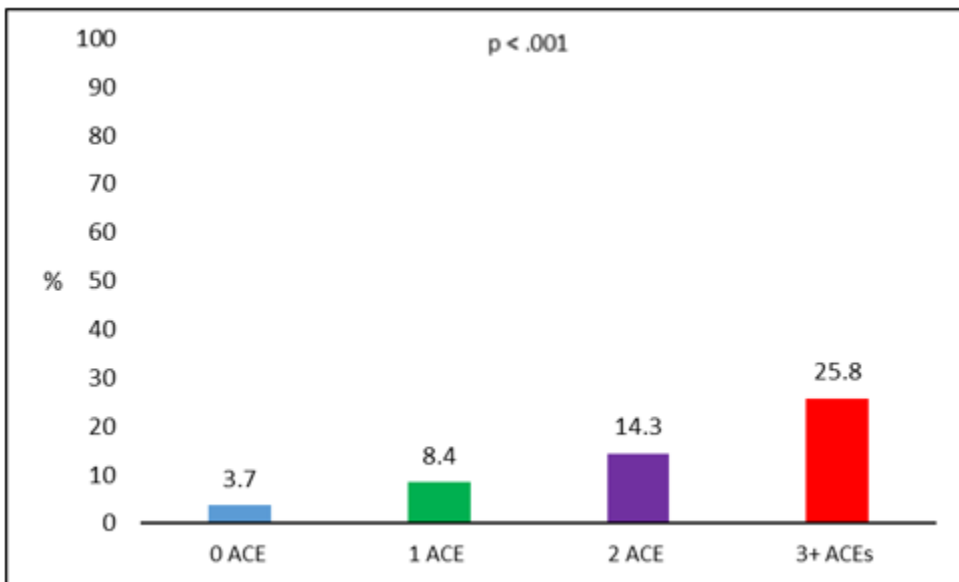
\* Other than a few sips

**Figure 25: Percentage of middle school students who drank alcohol for the first time before age 11 years \*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



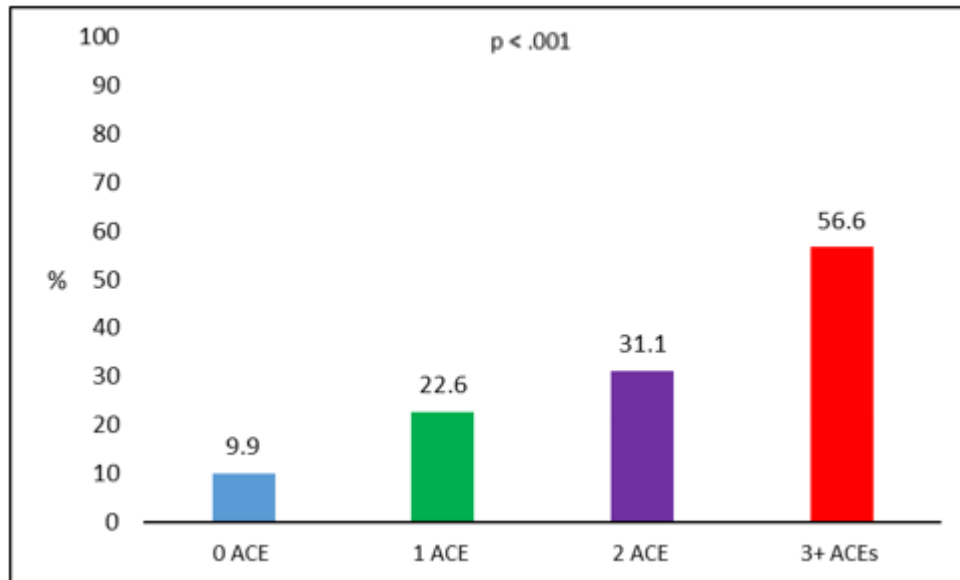
\*Other than a few sips

**Figure 26: Percentage of middle school students who drank alcohol during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**

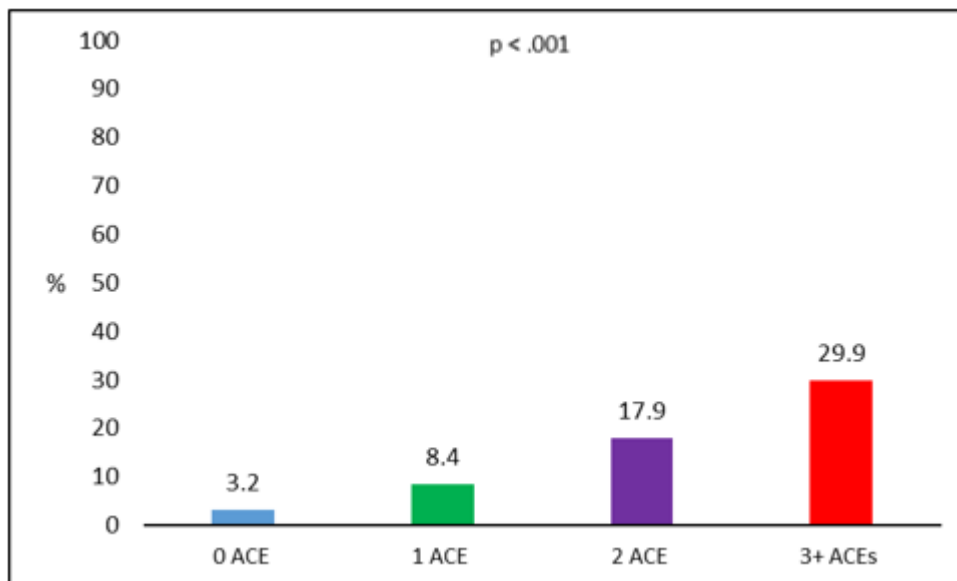


\* On at least one day during the 30 days before the survey

**Figure 27: Percentage of middle school students who ever rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**

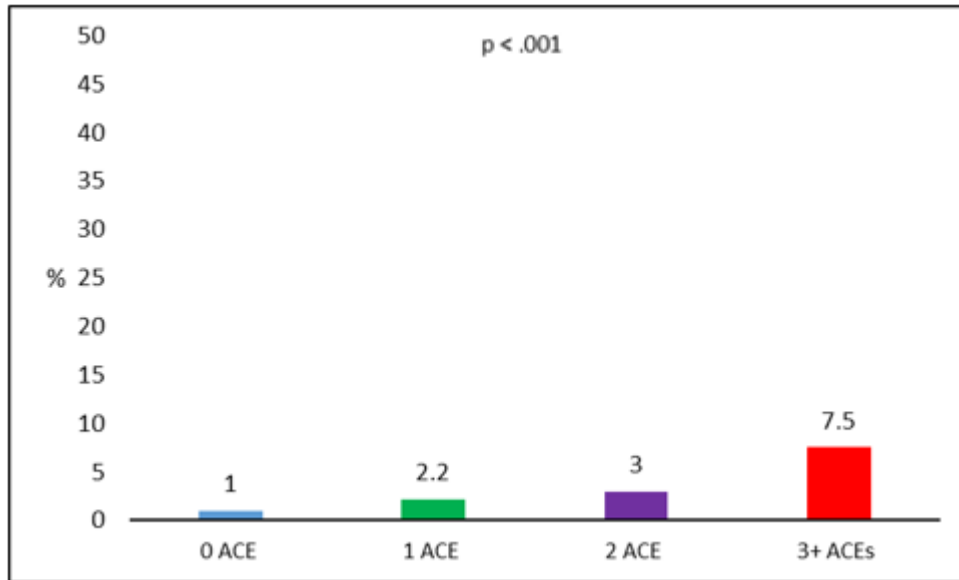


**Figure 28: Percentage of students who ever used marijuana\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



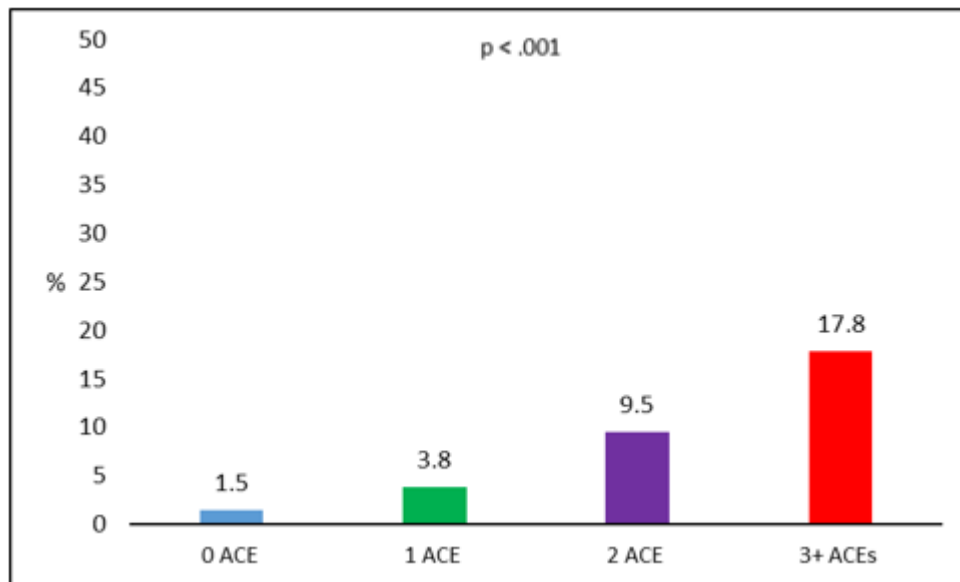
\* Used marijuana (also called “grass”, “pot”, or “weed”)

**Figure 29: Percentage of middle school students who tried marijuana for the first time before age 11 years\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



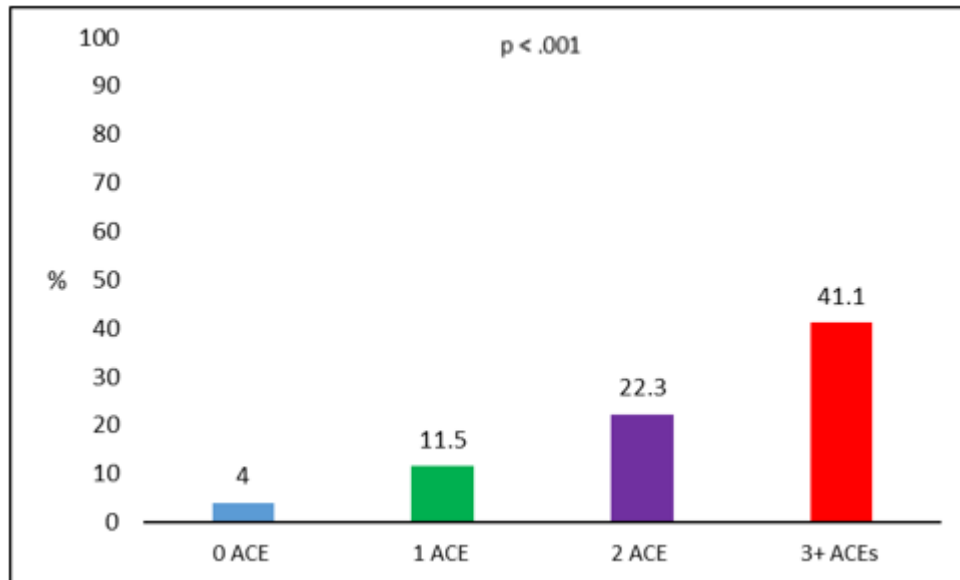
\* Used marijuana (also called “grass”, “pot”, or “weed”)

**Figure 30: Percentage of middle school students who used marijuana during the 30 days before the survey\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



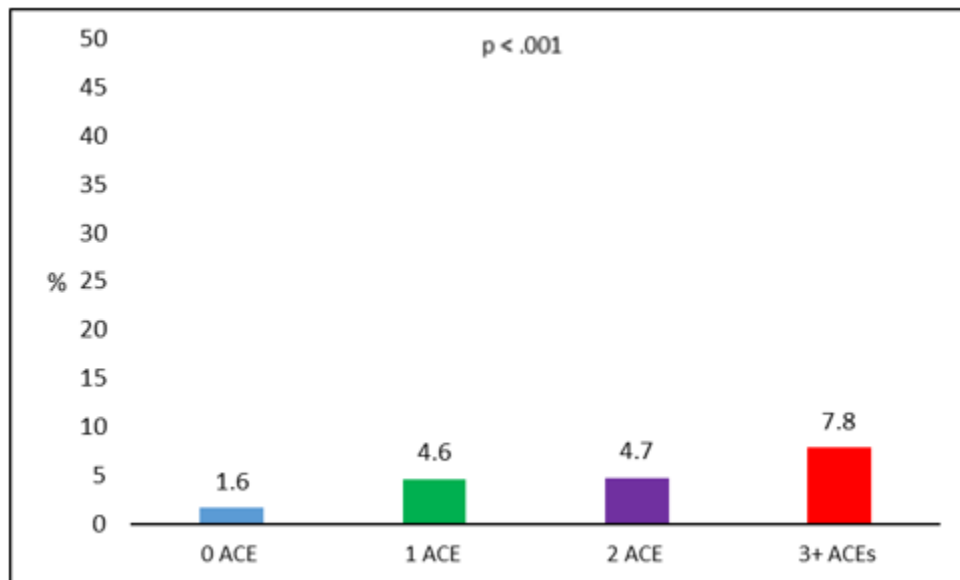
\* Used marijuana (also called “grass”, “pot”, or “weed”) One at least one day during the 30 days before the survey

**Figure 31: Percentage of middle school students who ever rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone using marijuana\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



\* Using marijuana (also called “grass”, “pot”, or “weed”)

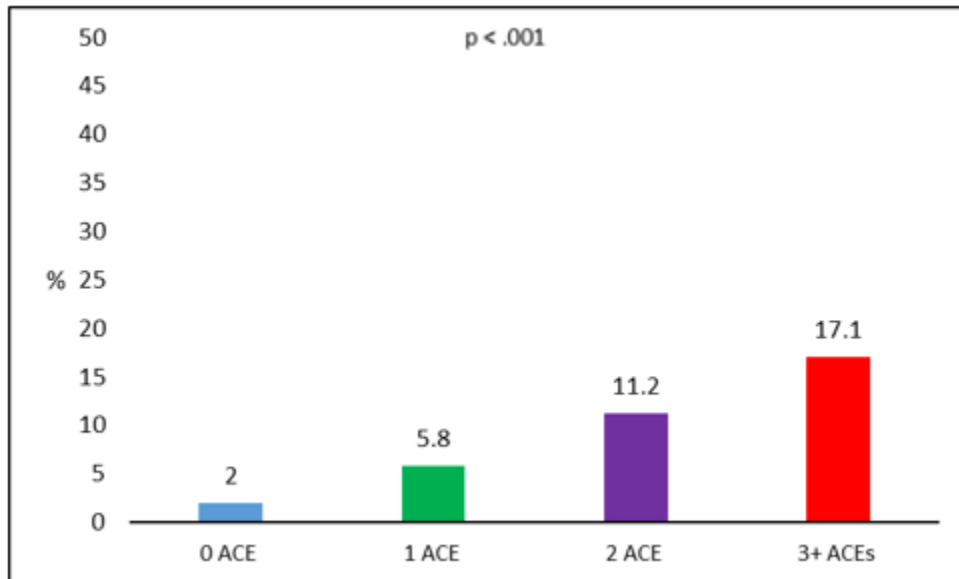
**Figure 32: Percentage of middle school students who ever used cocaine\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



\* Used any form of cocaine including powder, crack, or freebase

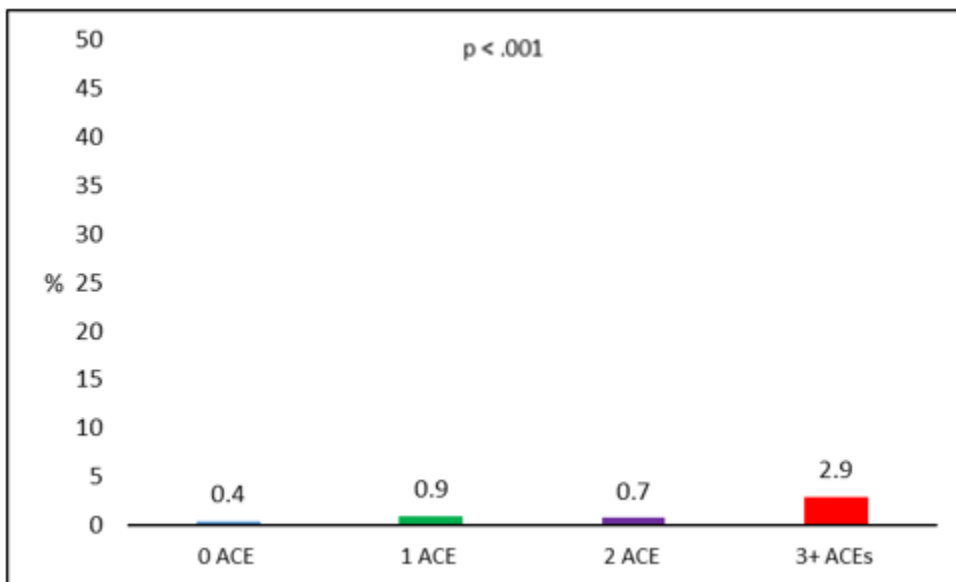


**Figure 33: Percentage of middle school students who ever used inhalants\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



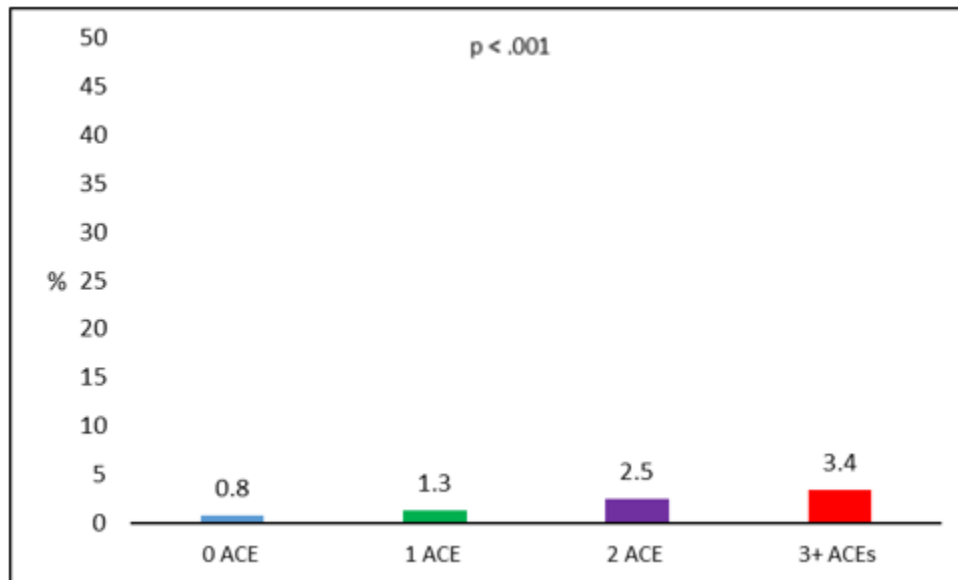
\*Sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high

**Figure 34: Percentage of middle school students who ever used heroin\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



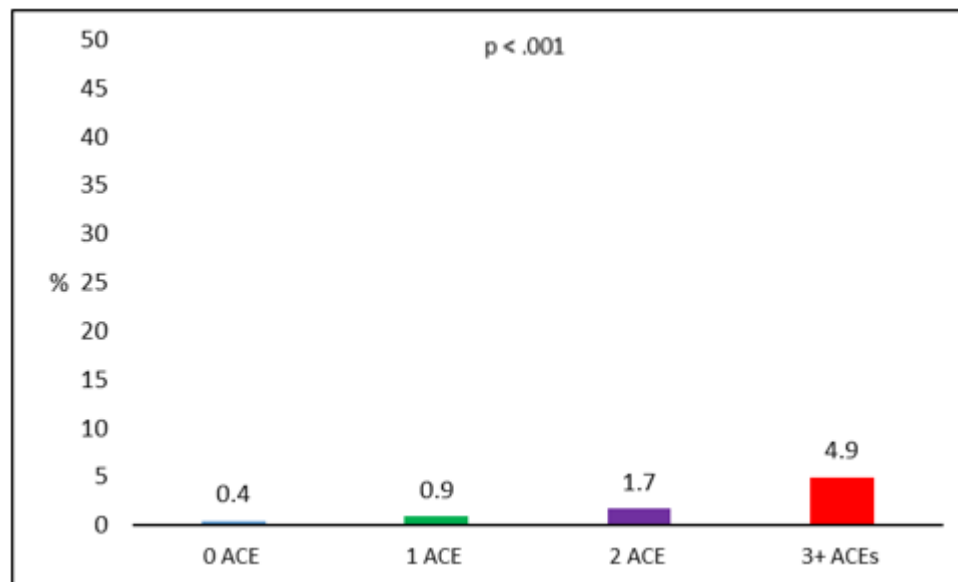
\* Used heroin (also called “smack”, “junk”, or “China White”)

**Figure 35: Percentage of middle school students who ever used methamphetamines\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



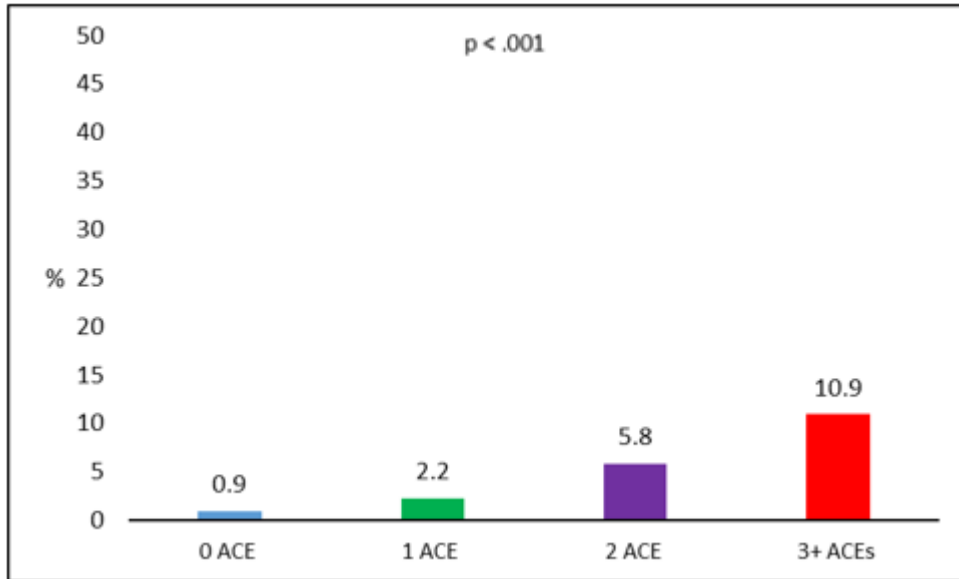
\*Used methamphetamines (also called “speed,” “crystal,” “crank,” or “ice”)

**Figure 36: Percentage of middle school students who used ecstasy\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



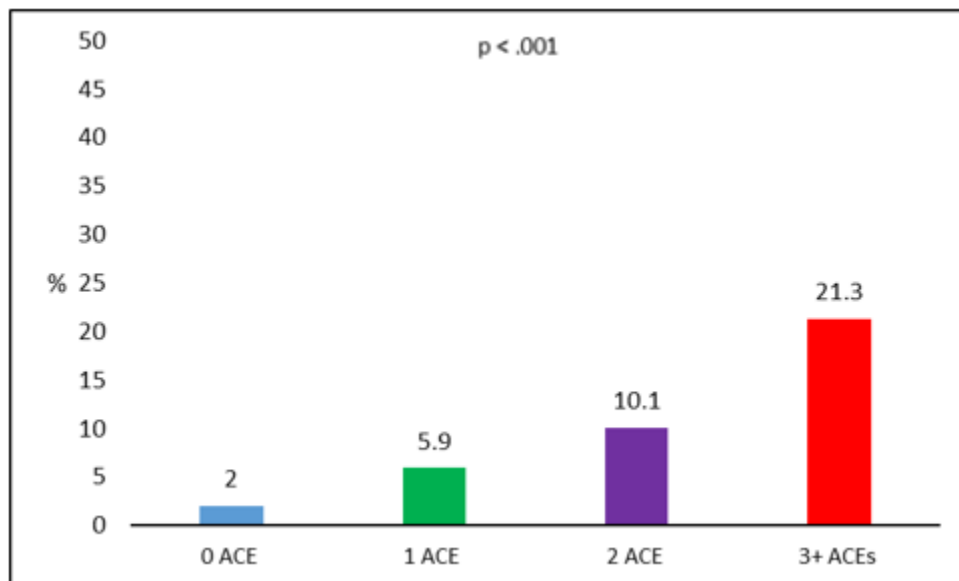
\*Used ecstasy (also called “MDMA”)

**Figure 37: Percentage of middle school students who ever used synthetic marijuana\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



\* Used synthetic marijuana (also called “K2”, “Spice”, “King Kong”, “Yucatan Fire”, “Skunk”, or “Moon Rocks”)

**Figure 38: Percentage of middle school students who ever took prescription pain medication without a doctor’s prescription or differently than prescribed\*, by ACE score — Nevada, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017**



\* Took prescription drugs (e.g., Codeine, Vicodin, Oxycontin, Hydrocodone, or Percocet)

**For additional information regarding this report, contact:**

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