

SB

65

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/19/05

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Judiciary Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 65

SB 65 OFFENSES BY MINORS/AGAINST TEACHERS

"An Act relating to certain weapons offenses involving minors; to aggravating factors in sentencing for certain offenses committed against a school employee; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)

adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)

attached amendment(s)

adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee

further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- Same Title
- New Title

House Bill:

- Same Title
- Technical Title Change
- New Title w/ SCR # _____

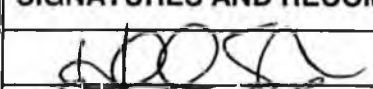


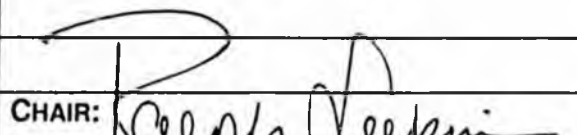
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	X			
			X	
	X			
CHAIR: 	X			



FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

520 Fifth Avenue Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4756 (907) 452-2000



February 7, 2005

The Honorable Senators Ralph Seekins and Gene Thernault
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senators:

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District praises the efforts of the legislature to strengthen the laws relating to school violence. In particular, the CS for SB65 calls for an aggravating circumstance when assaults occur in places where students are located.

In the new section of AS 12.55.155(c) (31), we would suggest an amendment that would modify

"or in the administrative offices of a school district;" to

"or in the administrative offices of a school district in which students are also educated."

We understand the original intent to cover school district offices; however, the question arises as to why a school district office (comprised solely of adults) should have any different standing than any other office building (public or private). The intent of this new section seems to clearly apply to locations in which students are educated.

Many school districts in Alaska combine administrative space with spaces for students, i.e. administrative offices are located in schools as opposed to a separate building. In Fairbanks, we have a separate administrative center; however, we also have students educated in our administrative center in two programs - one for suspended/expelled students, and the other is our district's Guided Independent Study (correspondence) program. We believe the additional phrase "in which students are also educated" covers the situation where administrative centers also house educational programs for students.

We are pleased to be able to clarify this distinction and hope this amendment is looked upon favorably. If the phrase "in the administrative offices of a school district" is deleted then our students located at our administrative center would not be covered with this additional deterrent.

Sincerely yours

Ann Shortt, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

24-GS1096F
Luckhaupt
2/1/05

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 65(JUD)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to certain weapons offenses involving minors; relating to aggravating**
2 **factors in sentencing for certain offenses committed on school grounds, on a school bus,**
3 **at a school-sponsored event, or in the administrative offices of a school district; and**
4 **providing for an effective date."**

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 *** Section 1.** AS 12.55.155(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

7 (31) the offense is a violation of AS 11.41 and the offense occurred on
8 school grounds, on a school bus, at a school-sponsored event, or in the administrative
9 offices of a school district; in this paragraph,

10 (A) "school bus" has the meaning given in AS 11.71.900;

11 (B) "school district" has the meaning given in AS 47.07.063;

12 (C) "school grounds" has the meaning given in AS 11.71.900.

13 *** Sec. 2.** AS 47.12.030(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) When a minor who was at least 16 years of age at the time of the offense is

1 charged by complaint, information, or indictment with an offense specified in this
2 subsection, this chapter and the Alaska Delinquency Rules do not apply to the offense
3 for which the minor is charged or to any additional offenses joinable to it under the
4 applicable rules of court governing criminal procedure. The minor shall be charged,
5 held, released on bail, prosecuted, sentenced, and incarcerated in the same manner as
6 an adult. If the minor is convicted of an offense other than an offense specified in this
7 subsection, the minor may attempt to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
8 the minor is amenable to treatment under this chapter. If the court finds that the minor
9 is amenable to treatment under this chapter, the minor shall be treated as though the
10 charges had been heard under this chapter, and the court shall order disposition of the
11 charges of which the minor is convicted under AS 47.12.120(b). The provisions of this
12 subsection apply when the minor is charged by complaint, information, or indictment
13 with an offense

14 (1) that is an unclassified felony or a class A felony and the felony is a
15 crime against a person;

16 (2) of arson in the first degree; [OR]

17 (3) that is a class B felony and the felony is a crime against a person in
18 which the minor is alleged to have used a deadly weapon in the commission of the
19 offense and the minor was previously adjudicated as a delinquent or convicted as an
20 adult, in this or another jurisdiction, as a result of an offense that involved use of a
21 deadly weapon in the commission of a crime against a person or an offense in another
22 jurisdiction having elements substantially identical to those of a crime against a
23 person, and the previous offense was punishable as a felony; in this paragraph, "deadly
24 weapon" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900(b); or

25 **(4) that is misconduct involving weapons in the first or second**
26 **degree in violation of AS 11.61.190 or 11.61.195.**

27 * Sec. 3. The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
28 read:

29 APPLICABILITY. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act apply to acts committed on or after
30 the effective date of this Act.

31 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 2005.

Brian Hove

From: Vanessa Tondini
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2005 10:10 PM
To: Brian Hove
Subject: SB 65

Hey Brian,

You guys did a GREAT job today. Thanks for everything and please tell your boss the same. Let me know what your thoughts are from here.

I wanted to discuss SB 65 with you, which you've got up tomorrow morn. We're hearing the House companion HB 88 tomorrow as well. Its the same general topic as HB 41 sponsored by Reps Lynn and McGuire. The admin. agreed with us that we could roll HB 88 into HB 41 and have that move forward. Rep. Lynn had carried that bill for the past two years (HB 54) and we want him (and Lesil) to get the credit for addressing the topic, not the Gov. Due to Blakely, I'm not sure if we're going to go with the mand. min. concept of HB 41 or instead go with the concept of an aggravator in HB 88. We haven't "joined" the bills yet, but I just wanted to give you the heads up on what was happening over here with it just so we can coordinate.

Let me know what happens in your hearing. Thanks Brian and I can't wait to hear your stories from the Inauguration!
Vanessa

Run this by RS again.

HOUSE BILL NO. 41

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES LYNN AND MCGUIRE, Anderson, Wilson, Ramras

Introduced: 1/10/05

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to minimum periods of imprisonment for the crime of assault in the
2 fourth degree committed against an employee of an elementary, junior high, or
3 secondary school who was engaged in the performance of school duties at the time of the
4 assault."

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 * **Section 1.** AS 12.55.135(d) is amended to read:

7 (d) A defendant convicted of assault in the fourth degree who knowingly
8 directed the conduct constituting the offense at

9 (1) a uniformed or otherwise clearly identified peace officer, fire
10 fighter, correctional employee, emergency medical technician, paramedic, ambulance
11 attendant, or other emergency responder who was engaged in the performance of
12 official duties at the time of the assault shall be sentenced to a minimum term of
13 imprisonment of

14 (A) [(1)] 60 days if the defendant violated AS 11.41.230(a)(1)

1
2
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5
6

or (2);

(B) [(2)] 30 days if the defendant violated AS 11.41.230(a)(3);

(2) an employee of an elementary, junior high, or secondary school who was engaged in the performance of school duties at the time of the assault shall be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 60 days if the defendant violated AS 11.41.230(a)(1) or (2).

HOUSE BILL NO. 88

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/19/05
Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to certain weapons offenses involving minors; to aggravating factors in**
2 **sentencing for certain offenses committed against a school employee; and providing for**
3 **an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 **SHORT TITLE.** This Act may be known as the School Violence Prevention Act of
8 2005.

9 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 **FINDINGS AND INTENT.** (a) The legislature finds that

12 (1) violent crime among the state's youth is of concern to Alaskans;

13 (2) the Department of Health and Social Services conducted a youth risk
14 behavior survey and found the following:

1 (A) 29.8 percent of male students in this state responding to the survey
2 reported carrying a weapon; this figure is higher than the national average;

3 (B) 11.8 percent of male students in this state responding to the survey
4 reported carrying a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property within
5 the 30 days before taking the survey; this figure is higher than the national average;

6 (C) nearly 11 percent of high school students in this state responding
7 to the survey reported having been threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun,
8 knife, or club, on school grounds within the 12 months before taking the survey; and

9 (3) in 2003, 13 percent of students responding to a survey by the Anchorage
10 School District reported feeling unsafe at school; this figure is more than double the average
11 percentage of students nationwide who felt unsafe at school.

12 (b) It is the intent of the legislature to further the important state interest of deterring
13 misconduct involving weapons by certain minors, and in discouraging crime in the schools of
14 this state.

15 * Sec. 3. AS 12.55.155(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

16 (31) the offense is a violation of AS 11.41 and the defendant
17 knowingly directed the conduct constituting the offense against a school employee
18 while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event.

19 * Sec. 4. AS 47.12.030(a) is amended to read:

20 (a) When a minor who was at least 16 years of age at the time of the offense is
21 charged by complaint, information, or indictment with an offense specified in this
22 subsection, this chapter and the Alaska Delinquency Rules do not apply to the offense
23 for which the minor is charged or to any additional offenses joinable to it under the
24 applicable rules of court governing criminal procedure. The minor shall be charged,
25 held, released on bail, prosecuted, sentenced, and incarcerated in the same manner as
26 an adult. If the minor is convicted of an offense other than an offense specified in this
27 subsection, the minor may attempt to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
28 the minor is amenable to treatment under this chapter. If the court finds that the minor
29 is amenable to treatment under this chapter, the minor shall be treated as though the
30 charges had been heard under this chapter, and the court shall order disposition of the
31 charges of which the minor is convicted under AS 47.12.120(b). The provisions of

1 this subsection apply when the minor is charged by complaint, information, or
2 indictment with an offense

3 (1) that is an unclassified felony or a class A felony and the felony is a
4 crime against a person;

5 (2) of arson in the first degree; [OR]

6 (3) that is a class B felony and the felony is a crime against a person in
7 which the minor is alleged to have used a deadly weapon in the commission of the
8 offense and the minor was previously adjudicated as a delinquent or convicted as an
9 adult, in this or another jurisdiction, as a result of an offense that involved use of a
10 deadly weapon in the commission of a crime against a person or an offense in another
11 jurisdiction having elements substantially identical to those of a crime against a
12 person, and the previous offense was punishable as a felony; in this paragraph, "deadly
13 weapon" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900(b); or

14 (4) that is misconduct involving weapons in the first or second
15 degree in violation of AS 11.61.190 or 11.61.195.

16 * Sec. 5. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
17 read:

18 APPLICABILITY. Sections 3 and 4 of this Act apply to acts committed on or after
19 the effective date of this Act.

20 * Sec. 6. This Act takes effect July 1, 2005.



FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US

SB65
P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 18, 2005

The Honorable Ben Stevens
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill, the School Violence Prevention Act of 2005, that addresses certain weapons violations by children and assault and other crimes by adults in schools. Violence by students and adults in schools is simply unacceptable.

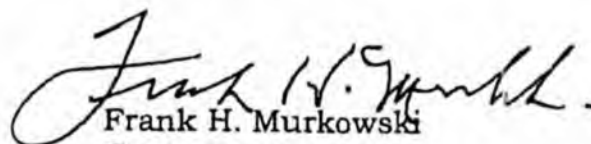
This bill would provide that minors who are 16 or 17 years old and commit certain felony misconduct involving weapons are automatically waived to adult court. This will deter such potentially lethal activity with a weapon by holding these minors accountable to the same legal consequences adults face for this conduct. When minors engage in a dispute and weapons are brought into the situation, the negative effects are magnified for all involved.

This bill also addresses violence by adults at school. It would adopt an aggravating factor in sentencing for those convicted of a crime against a person, such as assault, on a school employee on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event.

The enactment of this legislation will send the message that Alaskans will not tolerate violence in our schools, either by minors or adults. All children and teachers in this state should have a safe environment in which to work and learn.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely yours,


Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

Enclosure

COMMITTEE COPY

SENATE BILL 65

Sectional Analysis

Section 1 adopts the title "School Violence Prevention Act of 2005".

Section 2 proposes findings, including one of legislative and public concern for violent crime among Alaska youth; information from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Youth Risk Behavior Study of 2003; and the Anchorage School District survey in 2003 indicating that 13% of Anchorage students who responded to the survey did not feel safe at school. **Section 2** also adopts legislative intent to deter violence involving weapons by minors, and discouraging school violence in Alaska.

Section 3 adopts an aggravating factor for sentencing persons convicted of crimes against a person in violation of AS 11.41. AS 11.41 includes homicide, assault, kidnapping, sexual offenses, and robbery, and related offenses.

The new aggravating factor applies to a sentence for a person convicted of an offense under AS 11.41, if the person directed the crime against a school employee while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event.

Aggravating factors apply to sentences for felonies. However, at misdemeanor sentencing proceedings, the prosecution may and often does argue that the court should consider aggravating factors in sentencing defendants convicted of a misdemeanor.

Section 4. Generally minors who commit crimes come under the juvenile justice system. For certain serious crimes, however, the law requires that minors 16 and 17 years of age be prosecuted as adults. These crimes include murder, manslaughter, assault in the first degree, first degree sexual assault and first degree sexual abuse, and arson. **Section 4** adds misconduct in the first and second degrees to these crimes. Misconduct involving weapons in the first degree is a class A felony. Misconduct involving weapons in the second degree is a class B felony. Both address criminal conduct with firearms. For example, the first degree offense prohibits discharging a firearm from a moving propelled vehicle under circumstances manifesting substantial risk of harm to a person or property. The second degree offense prohibits, for example, possession of a firearm during the commission of a drug crime.

Table 38
 Anchorage School District
 Student Report Card Survey
 Number = 19,186

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Our school is clean and well maintained.	20%	44%	18%	12%	6%
I am treated fairly by adults here at school.	25%	38%	20%	11%	6%
I am treated fairly by other students.	16%	40%	24%	12%	8%
I find my school work interesting.	18%	32%	27%	13%	10%
I understand the school work I am given.	22%	44%	23%	7%	4%
Our school rules are fair.	23%	30%	22%	14%	11%
My teachers treat me with respect.	36%	37%	16%	6%	5%
Students here treat me with respect.	15%	39%	26%	12%	8%
Our school rules are fairly enforced.	22%	32%	26%	11%	9%
I like school.	24%	27%	24%	11%	15%
I am safe at school.	34%	34%	20%	7%	7%
If I have a problem at school, I know where I can go for help.	32%	38%	18%	7%	6%
Have chances to participate in school activities.	34%	42%	15%	5%	4%
I use computers at school.	37%	39%	12%	7%	7%
The library/media center has the materials I need to do my school work.	25%	37%	25%	8%	6%
I feel welcome at school.	29%	35%	22%	7%	7%
I feel safe on the bus and at the bus stop.	17%	24%	20%	7%	32%

Handwritten circled area around the 'Neutral' and 'Disagree' columns for the last three rows of the table. A handwritten '13%' is written to the right of the circle.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 65
 (S) Publish Date: 1/19/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: LAW
 Title "An Act relating to penalties for certain weapons offenses involving minors; to delinquent minors..." RDU CRIMINAL
 Sponsor _____ Component CDCO
 Requester Governor Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (The Usands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill seeks to address the issue of school violence by adopting an aggravating factor in sentencing a person convicted of felony assault directed at a school employee. The bill would deter minors 16 years and older from committing felony offenses involving misconduct with weapons in the first and second degrees by holding them accountable to the same legal consequences as adults. Passage of this legislation will not have a foreseeable fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

Prepared by: Kathryn Daughhete, Director Phone 465-5427
 Division: Administrative Services Date/Time 1/18/05 3:14 PM
 Approved by: Kathryn Daughhete for Gregg D. Renkes, Attorney General Date 1/18/2005
 Agency: Department of Law

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: SB 65
 (S) Publish Date: 1/18/05
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Title WEAPONS OFFENSES INVOLVING MINORS
AND OFFENSES AGAINST SCHOOL
EMPLOYEES

RDU Juvenile Justice

Component Probation Services

Sponsor (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE
GOVERNOR

Requester GOVERNOR

Component No. 2134

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This proposed legislation will not have a significant impact on workloads of the Division of Juvenile Justice staff. Therefore, this zero fiscal note is entered to reflect negligible fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Patty Ware
 Division: Juvenile Justice
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-2112
 Date/Time _____
 Date 01/06/2005



Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2003



2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)



**A Joint Project Between
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services,
Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology
P.O. Box 240249
Anchorage, AK 99524-0249
(907) 269-8000**

and

**Alaska Department of Education & Early Development,
Division of Teaching and Learning Support
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2887**

**Authors
Tammy Green, MPH, CHES
John Middaugh, MD
Scott Saxon, BS
Charles J. Utermohle, Ph. D**

Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

Joel Gilbertson, Commissioner

Division of Public Health
Doug Bruce, Director

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Roger Sampson, Commissioner
Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development

Richard I. Mauer, Chair
Esther J. Cox, First Vice-chair
Sylvia J. Reynolds, Second Vice-chair
Patsy Dewitt
Shirley J. Holloway
Rex A. Rock
Tim R. Scott
Col. David Jones, Military Advisor
Jeremy Waite, Student Advisor
Bryant Hopkins, Student Advisor

Acknowledgments

The 2003 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey would not have been possible without the support of many individuals working cooperatively at all phases of the project. We would like to thank:

- School district superintendents and administrators, school boards, secondary school principals, teachers, parents and guardians who cooperated with and supported the survey
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health, and Westat, Inc. for their technical assistance; and most importantly;
- The Alaska students who participated in the survey

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Introduction

As the State of Alaska moves into the 21st century, it is more important than ever to provide quality instruction to children across our state. Research tells us that many of our students struggle with issues and problems not addressed within the typical school day. In order to better understand and provide assistance with those issues, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services conducted this survey to assess students' self-reported health risk behaviors.

With a better understanding of the risk behaviors that may lead to early morbidity and mortality; schools, agencies and communities will be better equipped to provide effective interventions, resources and quality prevention services. By addressing risk behaviors early and providing support and guidance, schools will provide students with a much greater opportunity to succeed in school and beyond.

This report describes the methods used to conduct and the results of the 2003 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The 2003 results are compared to the 1995 YRBS results for an overview of how risk behaviors have changed over the last several years among youth in Alaska. Where data are available, Alaska results are compared to U.S. 2001 YRBS results. The survey is intended to provide a better understanding of the health risk behaviors for students in public school settings. The YRBS asks students to self-report on their behaviors in six major areas of health that directly lead to morbidity and mortality in adult populations within our country.

How To Use This Report

The results of the YRBS can help detect changes in risk behaviors over time and provide an important piece of program evaluation. The information from the YRBS will identify and highlight the differences and similarities in risk behaviors among high school students in Alaska and the US. This information will help schools, communities and parents focus primary prevention efforts and better utilize limited resources.

Think of this report as a tool for starting discussions, for encouraging parent involvement, for educating the community, for planning and evaluating programs, for comparing Alaska students with other students nationwide and strengthening existing programs and policies.

- **Starting the Conversation.** Use this report to begin a conversation with young people about the personal choices they make or about the health of their community. Ask them if the results accurately reflect what they see happening around them. How do they explain the results? What ideas do they have about ways to promote healthy behaviors? From their perspective, what seems to be working and what isn't working?
- **Increasing Awareness.** This report provides an opportunity to make community members aware of the risks that their young people face. It can dispel myths and correct misinformation about the "average teenager." In addition, you can use the YRBS to **accentuate the positive**, and to celebrate the fact that many students are abstaining from behaviors that endanger their health and their ability to succeed.

- **Planning and Evaluating Programs.** The results of this report can serve as the basis for a school and/or community needs assessment. It can help identify strengths and weaknesses in current programs and can suggest strategies to address gaps in services to students. Identifying areas that need strengthening can expand professional development efforts within schools and in the larger community.
- **Alaska and National Comparisons.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducts a biennial YRBS of a national sample of high school students. These results permit us to draw comparisons between Alaska and the nation.
- **Alaska Comparisons 1995 to 2003.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides a Trend Analysis Report to states who have conducted and received weighted data from the YRBS in multiple years. The report indicates where statistically significant trends exist for each standard YRBS question and helps states to determine if behaviors have increased, decreased, or stayed the same over time. We have noted the statistically significant changes throughout this document wherever applicable. They are noted with an * by the 2003 percentage value in the charts and graphs and stated as significant in the text.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Background

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of an epidemiological surveillance system that was established in 1988 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help monitor the prevalence of behaviors that not only influence adolescent health, but also put youth at risk for the most significant health and social problems that can occur during adolescence and adulthood.

The YRBS specifically investigates behaviors related to the leading causes of mortality, morbidity and social problems among youth in the United States. Among deaths occurring to youths aged 10-24 years, 70% are due to intentional and unintentional injuries (motor-vehicle crashes, homicide, suicide and other unintentional injuries).¹ Results from the 2003 YRBS demonstrate that numerous high school students are engaging in these behaviors increasing their likelihood of dying from these four causes. Additionally, many behaviors that contribute to preventable adult deaths are initiated during adolescence. Among adults in the U.S. over 25 years of age, 64.6% of deaths are caused by cardiovascular disease (41.0%) and cancer (23.6%).¹ Behaviors related to these causes of death include: use of tobacco; excessive consumption of fats, calories and sodium; insufficient consumption of milk, fiber, fruits and vegetables; and insufficient physical activity.

Voluntary behaviors directly contribute to the deaths, diseases and social problems described above. Examples of risk behaviors include: carrying a weapon, physical fighting, suicide attempts, drinking or using drugs, lack of seatbelt or helmet use and unprotected sexual intercourse.

The YRBS survey examines six categories of adolescent behavior:

- behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries;
- tobacco use;
- alcohol and other drug use;
- sexual behaviors that can result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) and unintended pregnancies;
- dietary behaviors; and
- physical activity.

The YRBS high school survey was first implemented at the national level in 1990. Since that time CDC has sponsored national and state surveys in 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001 and, most recently, in 2003. Alaska first participated in the YRBS in 1995 at both the high school and middle school levels and obtained weighted (representative) statewide data. Due to external factors, the YRBS was not administered in 1997. It was administered in 1999, however the 1999 sample did not include the Anchorage School District, the state's largest school district. Without Anchorage, the data were not representative of the state as a whole. The survey was administered in 2001 with the participation of Anchorage, but not enough student responses statewide were collected, and so no data were analyzed. A major obstacle in 2001 was the active parental consent law that had just gone into effect at the end of the 1999 survey administration. In 2003 the survey was administered statewide with active parental consent and weighted (representative) data were obtained. Comparisons with 1995 data, the only other representative statewide data, are highlighted throughout this report.

Methodology

The 2003 YRBS was a replica of the 1995 YRBS with the exception that active parental consent was used in 2003 and additional questions were added. As a result, the 2003 survey results are comparable to 1995.

A two-stage sample design was used to select the students eligible for participation. The first stage consisted of selecting schools. Schools were selected with probability proportional to the size of their enrollment. Alaska has a large number of small schools, which means more schools were needed to obtain the number of students required for the desired precision. Once a school was selected, classes were selected as the second stage. Eligible classes were those where a student would be enrolled in one and only one class at a time. For example second period or required English. This gave each student an equal opportunity of being selected. At any time a school district, an individual school, a student's parents, or a specific student had the opportunity to decline to participate.

The samples were scientifically selected with each eligible student in the school population having an equal probability of being selected. This sampling process is most often referred to as probability sampling. The size of a sample is related directly to the size of the eligible population, the estimated student response rate, and the desired precision of the results. The eligible student population was determined from the official 2002 October enrollment counts reported by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. The enrollment count was edited to include only students in grades 9 through 12. The school list was edited to remove boarding, correspondence, home study, alternative, and correctional schools. A sufficient number of students were selected to give a plus or minus five percent margin of error for each question.

The numbers sampled in each stage were adjusted upward in anticipation that some schools and students would fail to participate. To ensure that sample results can be generalized to the total population, the overall participation rate (school participation rate multiplied by the student participation rate) must be equal to or greater than 60 percent. The overall 2003 high school YRBS participation rate exceeded 60 percent and the results are weighted to represent risk behaviors of all students enrolled in Alaska public high schools in grades 9-12.

At the classroom level, teachers were given a script to read to students that established guidelines for student privacy and anonymity and the importance of the survey. Each student was given an unmarked envelope in which to seal his or her survey before turning it in. These survey envelopes remained sealed until received at a central state collection site. No individual identifiers were recorded on the surveys or sealed envelopes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Westat, Inc, a CDC contractor, analyzed the state survey data. Analysis included performance of extensive edit checks to identify survey inconsistencies. When inconsistencies were found, responses were excluded from the analysis. For example, if a student reported in one question having never been in a physical fight, but then reported in another question being hurt in a physical fight, the data on that student were excluded for the two questions related to physical fighting. These inconsistencies occurred with a frequency of less than 2% on average. There were only 14 questions which had logic inconsistencies higher than 5% and all were less than 11%.

At the same time that Alaska implemented the YRBS, a national YRBS was conducted at the high school level. Because the results of the national YRBS 2003 survey were not available at the time this report was written, when applicable, 2001 national YRBS results were used for comparison.

Survey Limitations

The 2003 YRBS provides descriptive data on the who, what, where and when of the self-reported behaviors in a number of major risk categories. The YRBS survey does not attempt to answer the questions of why and how. The descriptive data apply only to students attending public high schools (grades 9-12) in Alaska.

Participation in the Statewide Survey

The high school sample was drawn with a desired precision of ± 5 percent. The high school sample included 42 schools from 19 districts and sought 2,175 completed questionnaires. The overall response rate was 62 percent with 90 percent of the schools and 68 percent of the students participating. The high school survey results can be generalized to the eligible students in grades 9 - 12. Table 1 provides a comparison of the sampled student characteristics to those characteristics in the statewide enrollment as well as the characteristics in the eligible population. As can be seen the adjusted weighted percentages closely mirror the percentages of students by sex and grade, but not race/ethnicity. This is because the gender/grade characteristics reported by each participating class were used to calculate the final weighted value.

Table 1: High School Student Demographic Characteristics

		% Total Statewide Enrollment	% Eligible for Sample Selection	% In Sample	Adjusted Weighted %
Sex	Female	48.1	47.8	47.9	48.1
	Male	51.9	52.2	51.4	51.9
	Refused Response	n/a	n/a	0.7	**
Grade	9th	29.7	30.2	34.4	30.0
	10th	25.6	25.8	21.1	25.7
	11th	22.7	22.8	24.4	22.7
	12th	22.0	21.2	18.4	21.1
	Other/Missing	n/a	n/a	1.6	0.5
Race/Ethnicity	Alaskan/American Native	23.0	22.9	19.9	23.0
	Asian/Pacific Islander	6.3	6.8	7.2	8.1
	African American/Black	4.3	4.4	2.9	1.8
	Hispanic	3.1	3.2	4.3	3.0
	White	61.4	61.5	60.7	61.4
	Multiple Races	2.0	1.2	4.2	2.7
	Refused Response	n/a	n/a	0.9	**

n/a indicates not available.

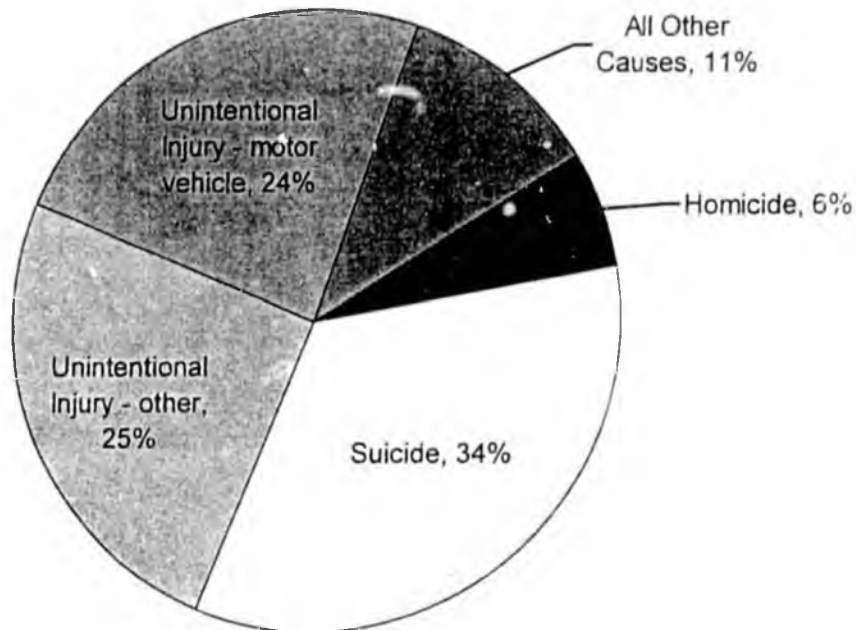
** indicates responses excluded from weighted calculations.

Section I: Injury

Background

Injuries are the leading causes of death among children, adolescents and young adults.¹ As shown in the accompanying graph, 89% of the deaths among young people in Alaska (ages 14- 19 years) are attributable to injuries, including motor vehicle crashes, homicide, suicide and other unintentional injuries.

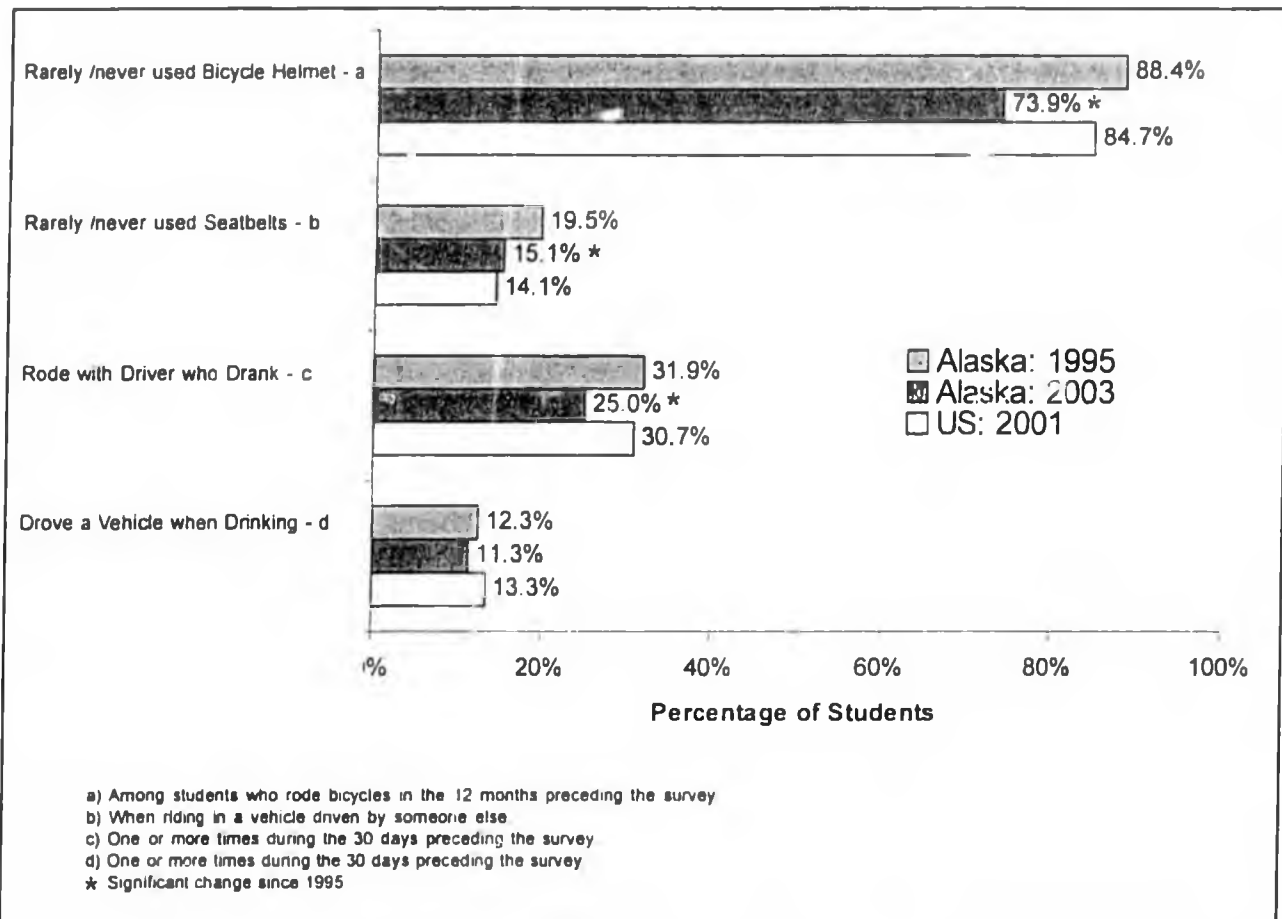
Percentage of Deaths by Cause Among Alaskans Aged 14-19 Years
1999-2001 (N=177)



Source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Vital Statistics System

Safety Behaviors Regarding Vehicles and Bicycles

Among high school students, only 15.1% report rarely or never using seatbelts. This is a decrease of about 4% from 1995. Among those who ride bicycles, 73.9% report not wearing helmets. Within the 30 days prior to the survey, 25.0% of students rode with an automobile driver who had been drinking alcohol, and 11.3% drove a vehicle when drinking alcohol, a significant decline for both from 1995.

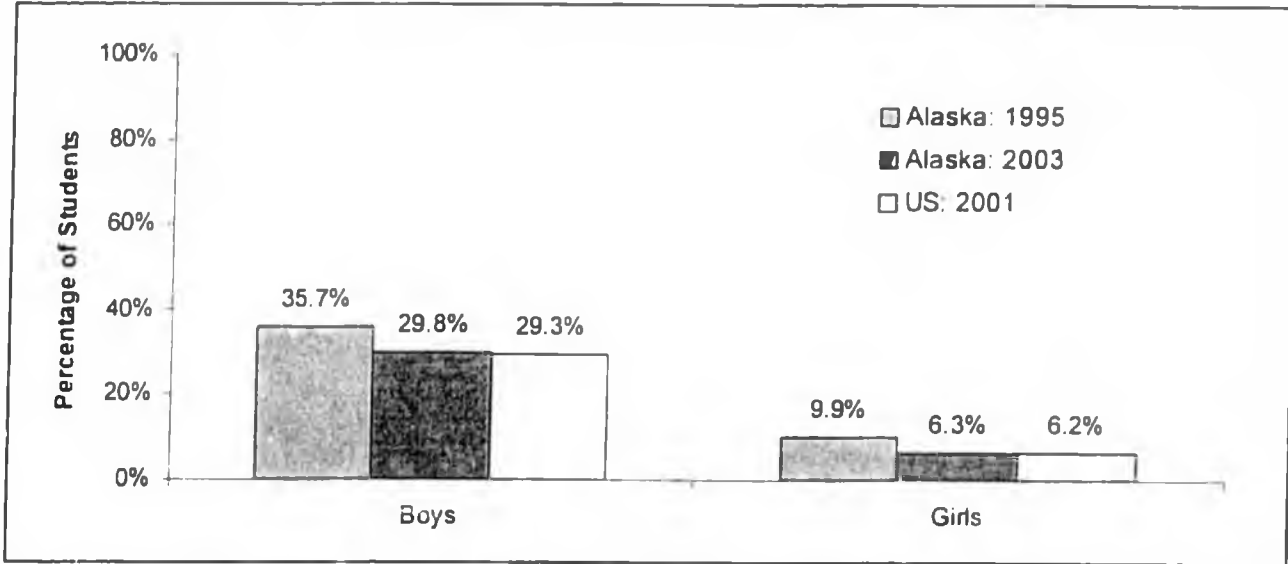


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Reduce to 20% the proportion of adolescents who ride in vehicle with a driver who has been drinking alcohol (percentage of high school students grades 9-12 who report riding at least once with a driver who had been drinking alcohol within the past 30 days)

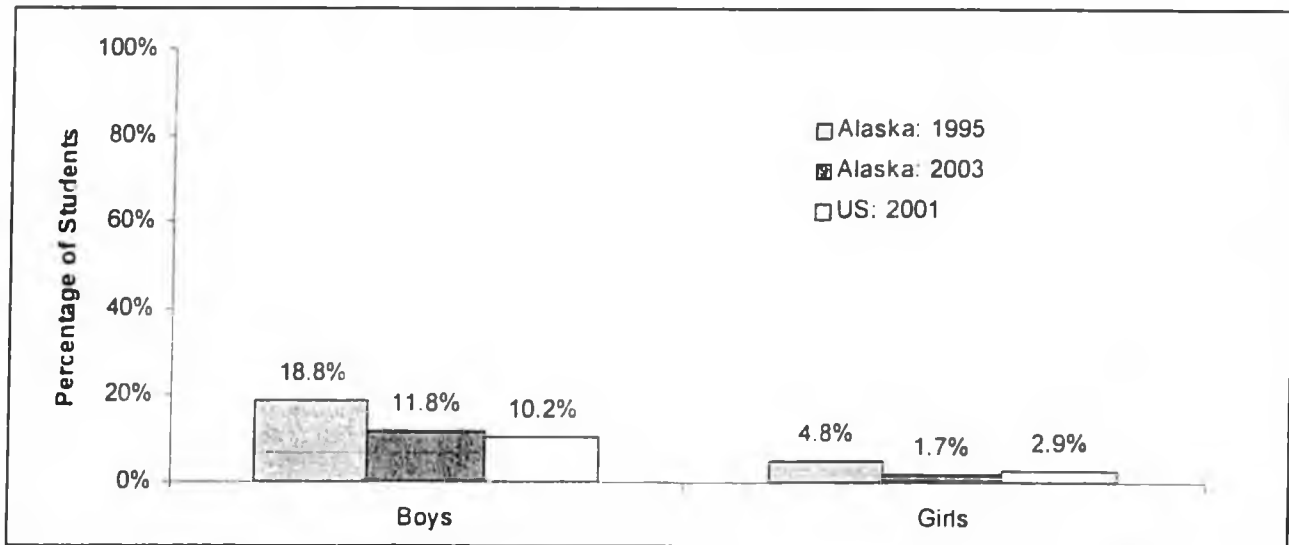
Carried a Weapon

About 6.3% of girls report carrying a weapon compared to 29.8% of boys. Both Alaska boys and girls report similar weapon carrying behavior as U.S. boys and girls. Significant decreases have occurred in weapon carrying behavior for combined sexes since 1995.



Carried a Weapon on School Property

Among Alaska high school students, 11.8% of boys and 1.7% of girls report having carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife or club, on school property in the previous 30 days. Both boys and girls show a significant decrease in weapon carrying on school property from 1995. In 2003 Alaska boys were somewhat (11.8%) more likely to report carrying a weapon on school property than were 2001 U.S. boys (10.2%).

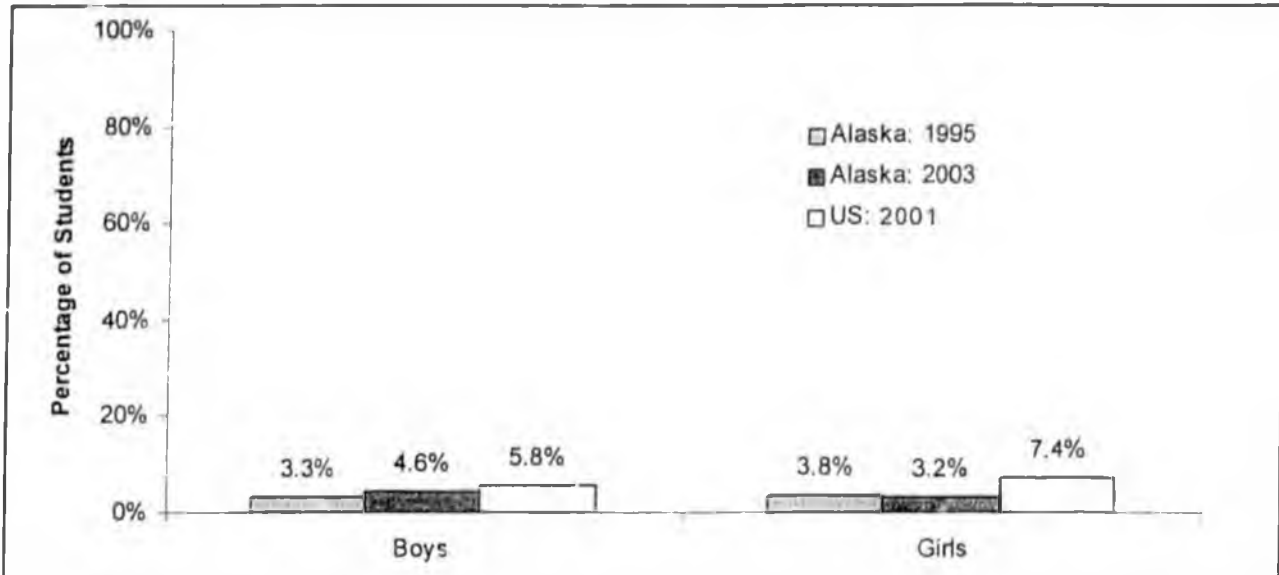


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Reduce to 3% weapon carrying by high school students on school property (percentage of students who carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days)

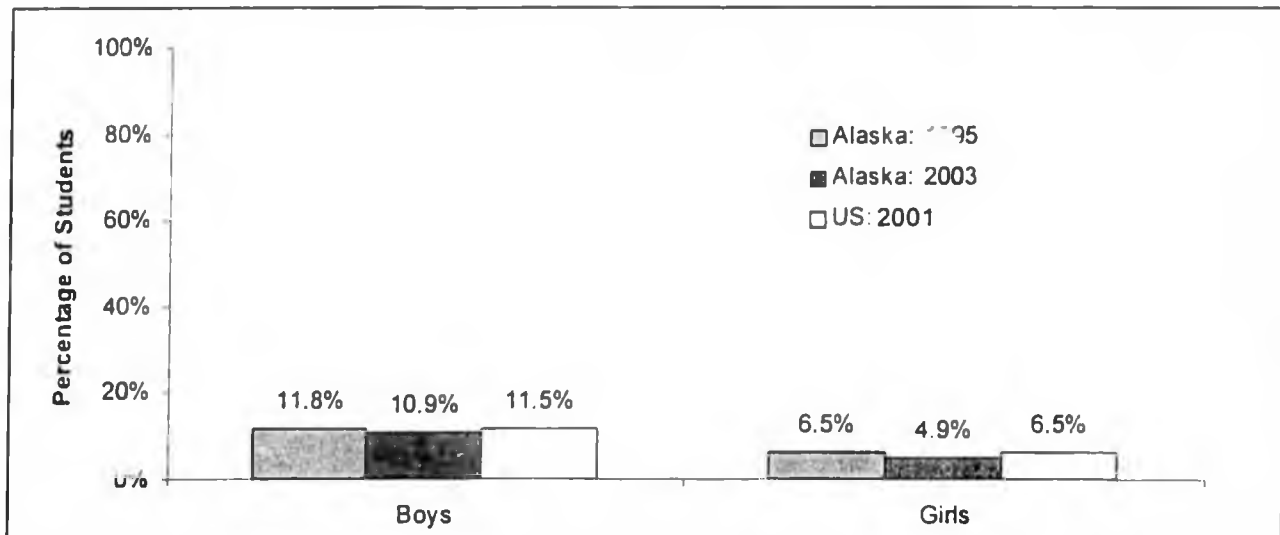
Did Not Go to School on One or More Days in Past 30 Days Because They Felt Unsafe

Among Alaska high school students fewer than 5% of either boys or girls did not go to school because they felt unsafe. Boys show a slight increase (1.3%) from 1995, as where among girls there appears to be no difference.



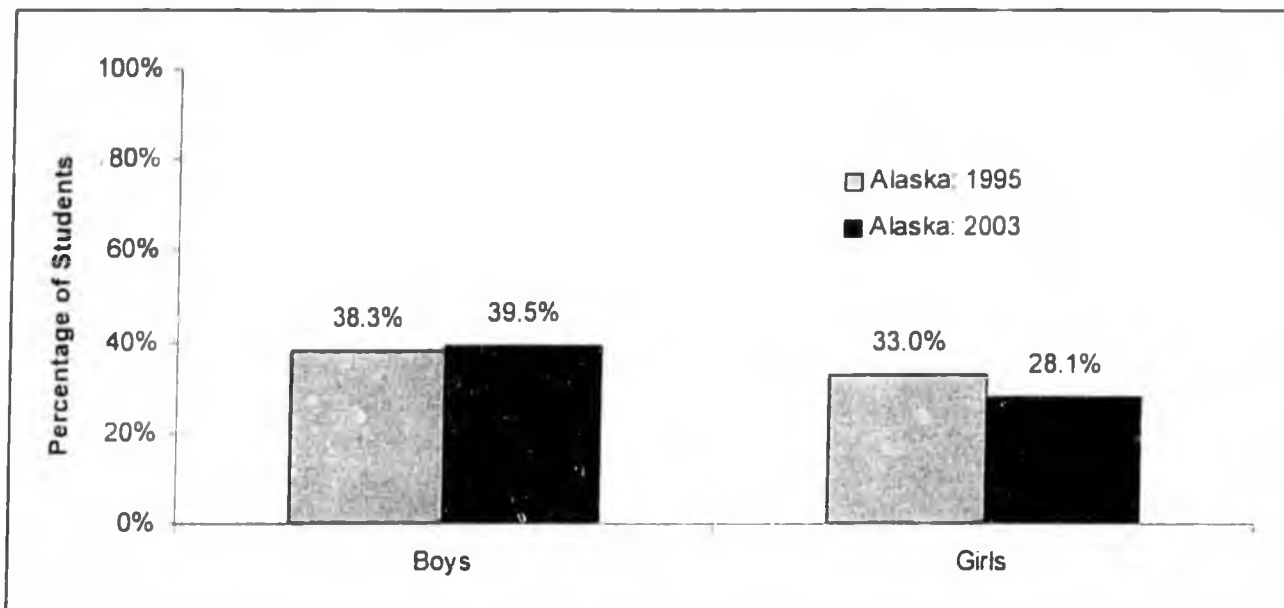
Threatened or Injured by a Weapon on School Property

Among Alaska high school students, 10.9% of boys and 4.9% of girls report having been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on school property within the past 12 months. There has been little or no change in this behavior since 1995. A smaller percentage of both Alaska boys and girls report having been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property than U.S. boys and girls report.



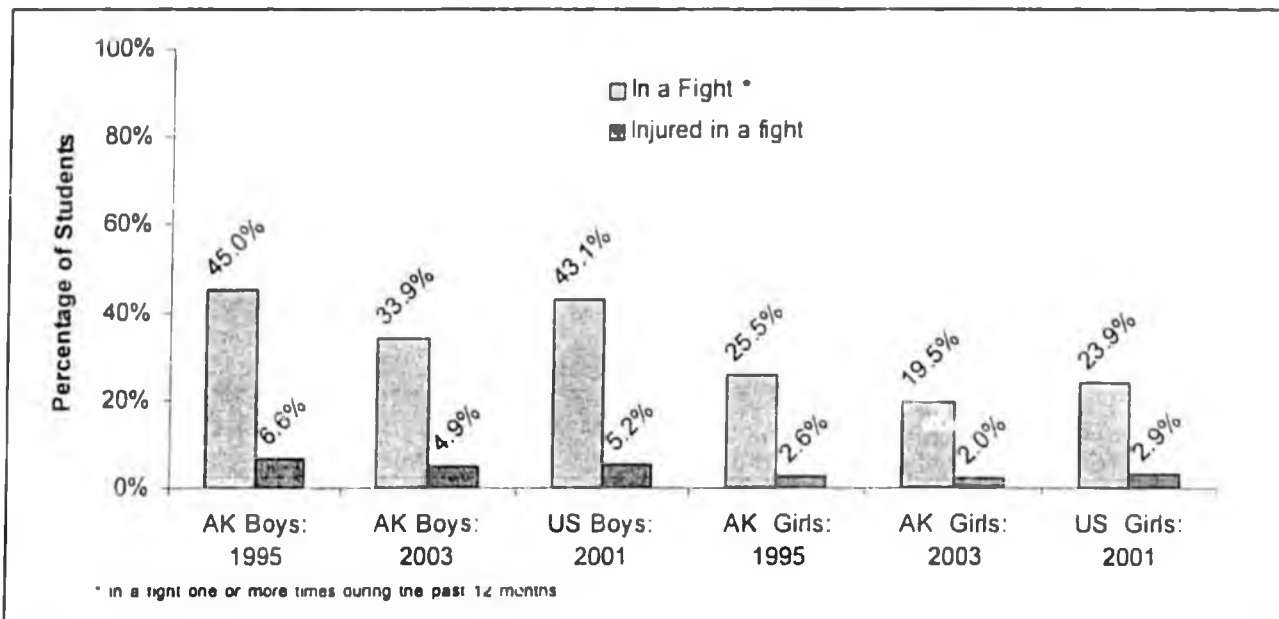
Had Property Stolen at School During Past 12 Months

Among Alaska high school boys, 39.5% report having had property stolen at school compared to 28.1% of girls. Although girls report a drop from 1995, boys show no real change.



Physical Fighting in Past Twelve Months

Among Alaska high school boys, 33.9% report having been in a physical fight within the past 12 months, and 4.9% report having been injured (requiring treatment by a doctor or nurse) in a physical fight. Girls are less likely to report physical fighting. Alaska high school students show a significant decrease in physical fighting since 1995. Alaska boys (33.9%) are significantly less likely to have reported being in a physical fight in the past 12 months than U.S. boys (43.1%).

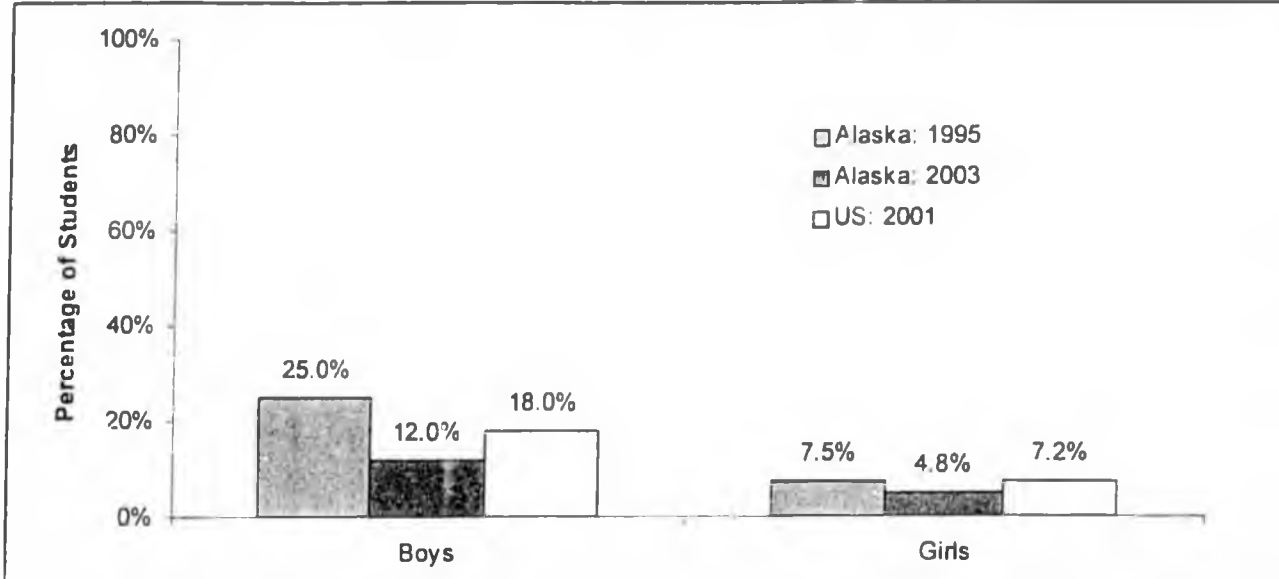


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Reduce to 20% physical fighting among high school students (percentage of students who have been in a fight in the past 12 months)

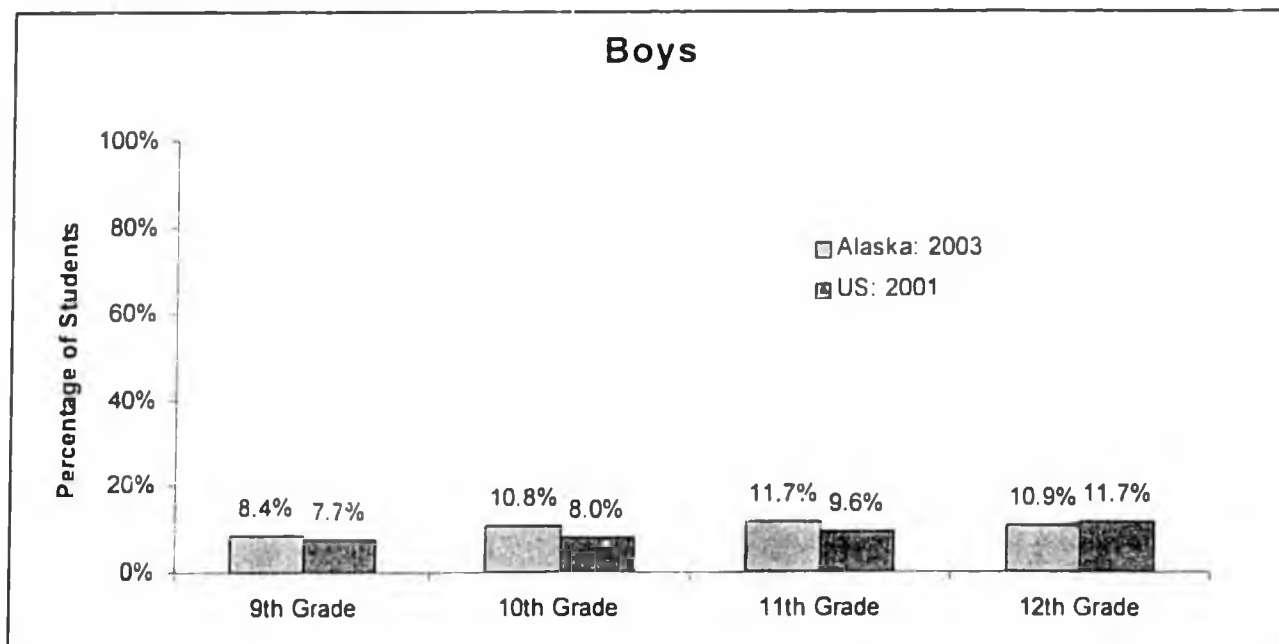
Physical Fighting on School Property in Past 12 Months

Physical fighting among high school boys on school property has decreased by over 50% since 1995, from 25.0% to 12.0%, well below 18.0% for U.S. boys. Among Alaska high school girls the drop is less significant, dropping from 7.5% in 1995 to 4.8% in 2003. When compared to 1995 data, significant changes have occurred for both sexes.



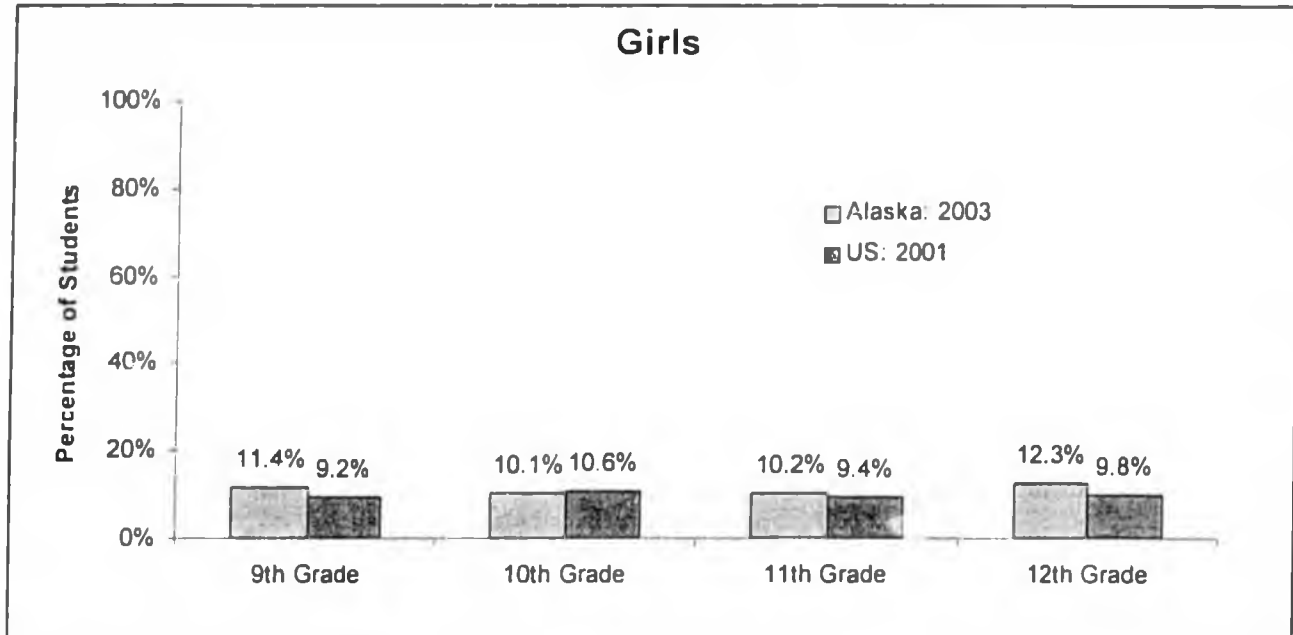
Ever Been Hit, Slapped or Physically Hurt on Purpose During the Past 12 Months

In 2003, among Alaskan high school students (both genders), 10.8% report ever having been slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend. This is slightly higher than U.S. 2001 students report at 9.5%. Alaska tenth and eleventh grade boys also report a higher rate than U.S. tenth and eleventh grade boys.



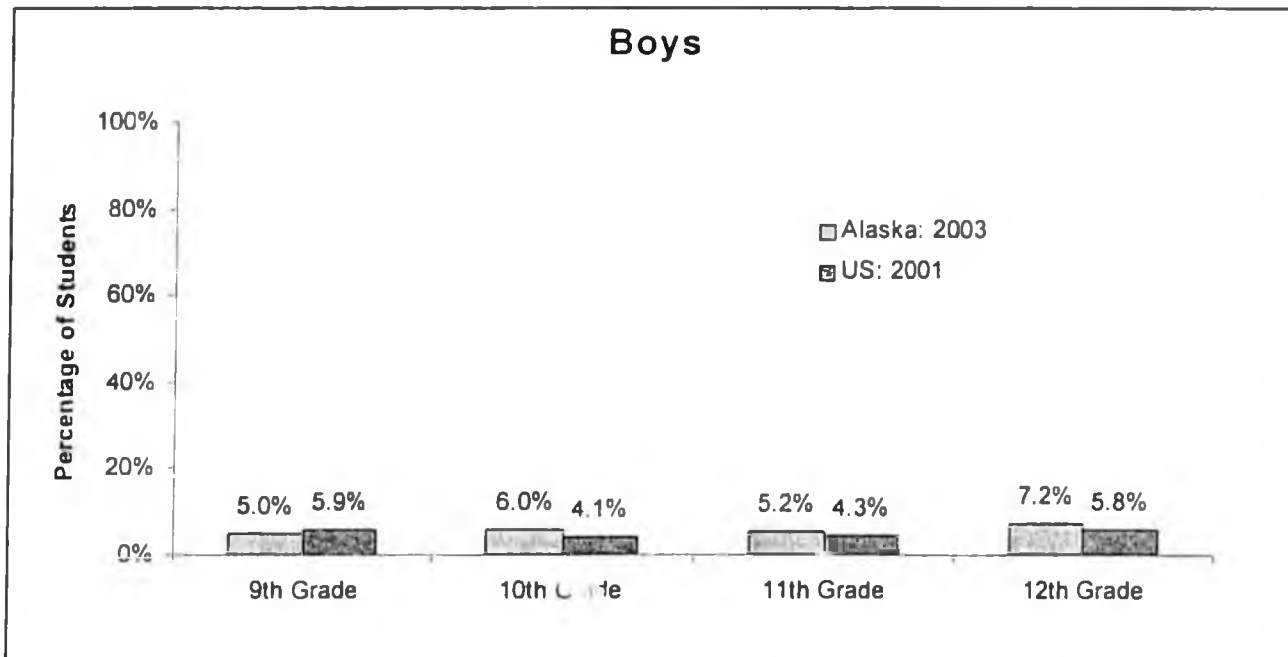
Ever Been Hit, Slapped or Physically Hurt on Purpose During the Past 12 Months

Twelfth grade Alaska girls (12.3%) report being slapped or hit at a slightly higher rate than U.S. girls (9.8%).



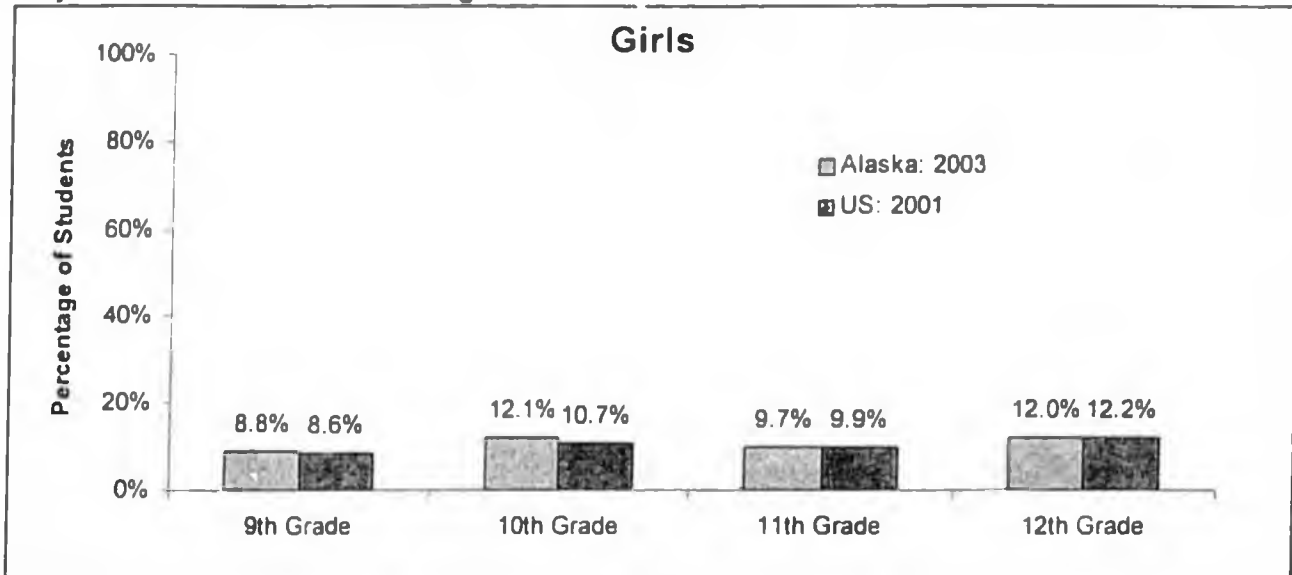
Physically Forced to Have Sex When They Did Not Want to

With the exception of tenth grade boys, Alaska boys are similar to U.S. boys in reporting that they were forced to have sex when they did not want to.



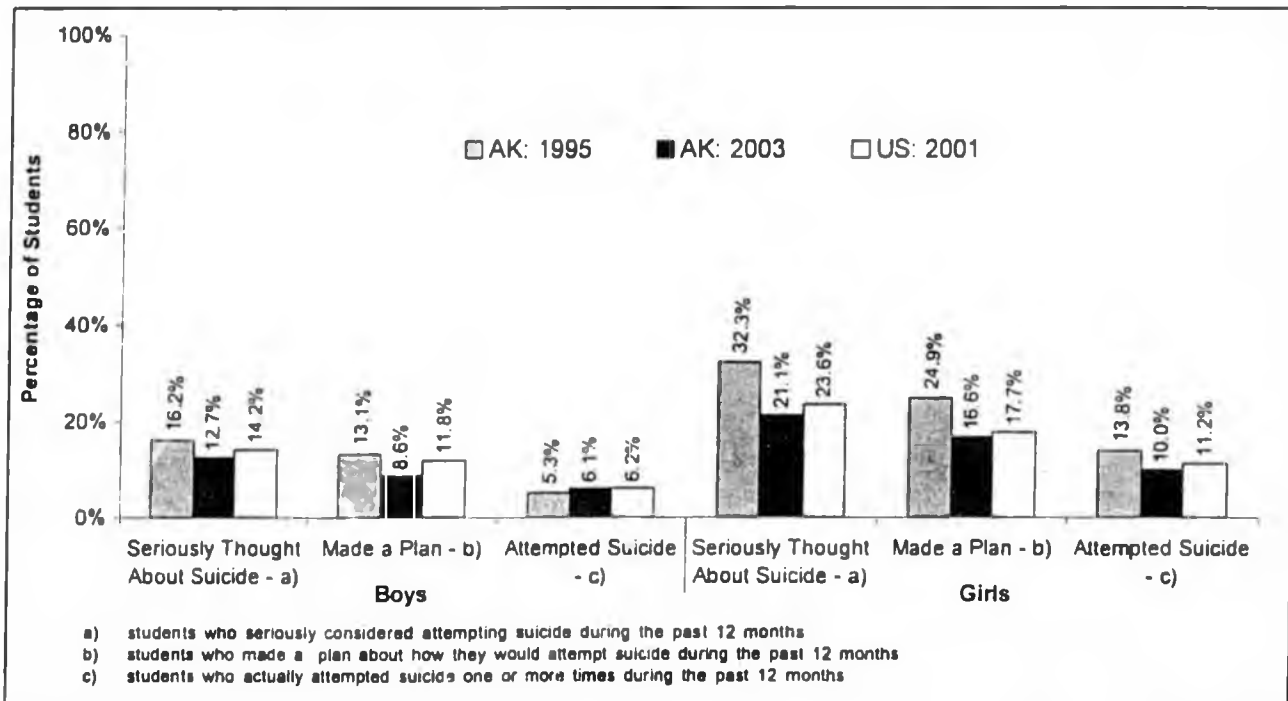
Physically Forced to Have Sex When They Did Not Want to

Ninth and tenth grade Alaska girls are more likely to report having been forced to have sex when they did not want to than are U.S. girls.



Suicide

Girls are more likely to report suicide thoughts, plans and attempts within the past 12 months than are boys. Among Alaska girls, 21.1% have seriously thought about suicide, 16.6% have made a plan and 10.0% report suicide attempts. Among Alaska boys, 12.7% have seriously thought about suicide, 8.6% have made a plan and 6.1% report suicide attempts. Significantly fewer Alaska students report having made a plan to commit suicide in 2003 than in 1995.



Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Reduce to 1% the rate of suicide attempts among adolescents (percentage of high school students grades 9-12 who attempted suicide requiring medical attention in the past 12 months)

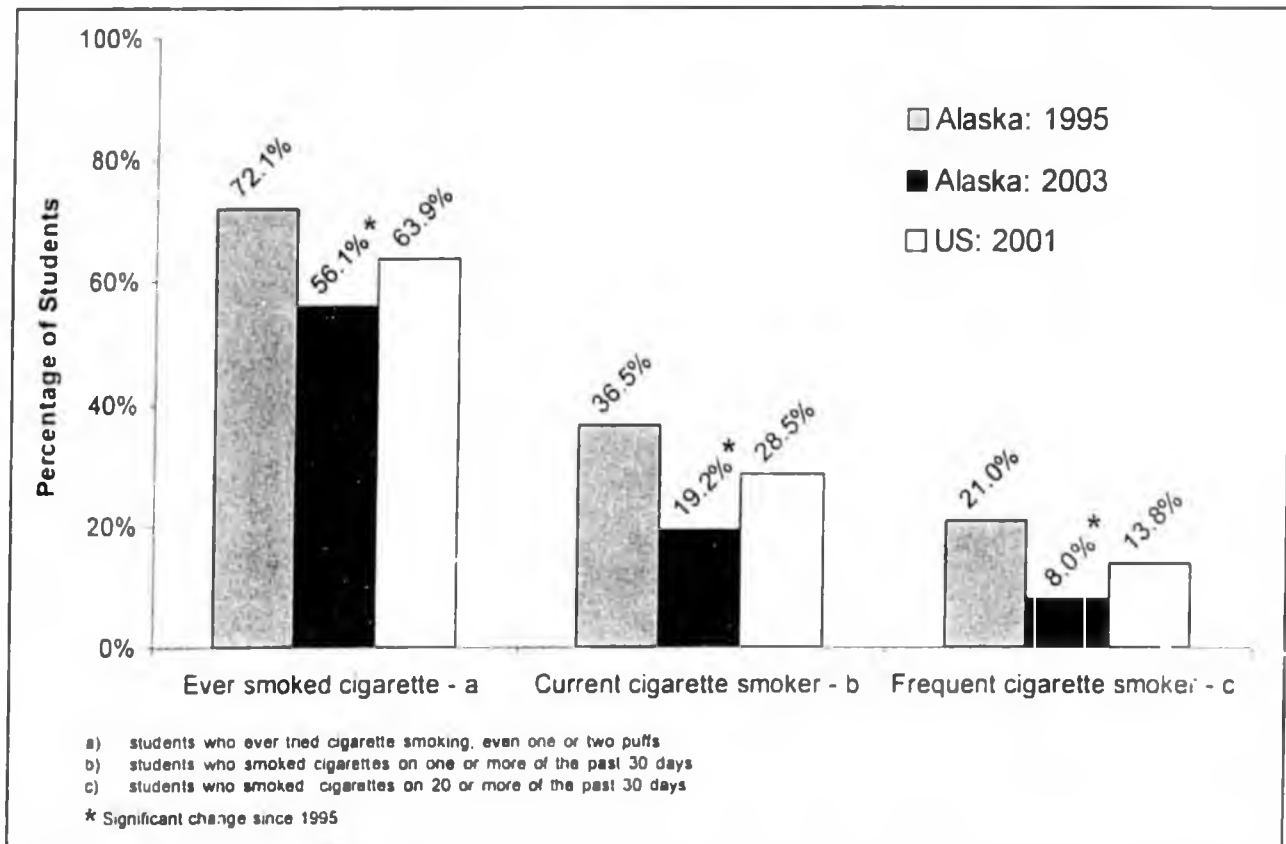
Section II: Tobacco Use

Background

Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of premature mortality in the United States. The majority of Alaska smokers (80%) began smoking between the ages of 10 and 20 years.² Alaskans have been working to decrease youth tobacco use through increasing the tax on tobacco products, education of young people, enforcement of laws restricting sales to minors, and a statewide ban on self-service tobacco displays. The 2003 YRBS data show a marked decrease in youth tobacco use.

Cigarette Smoking

Since the 1995 YRBS, significant reductions in the percentage of students who have ever smoked, currently smoke or are frequent smokers have occurred for both boys and girls. Among Alaska students, 19.2% report current smoking, compared to 36.5% in 1995, and frequent smokers fell from 21.0% in 1995 to 8.0% in 2003. The percentage of Alaska students reporting any cigarette use is significantly below that of U.S. students.

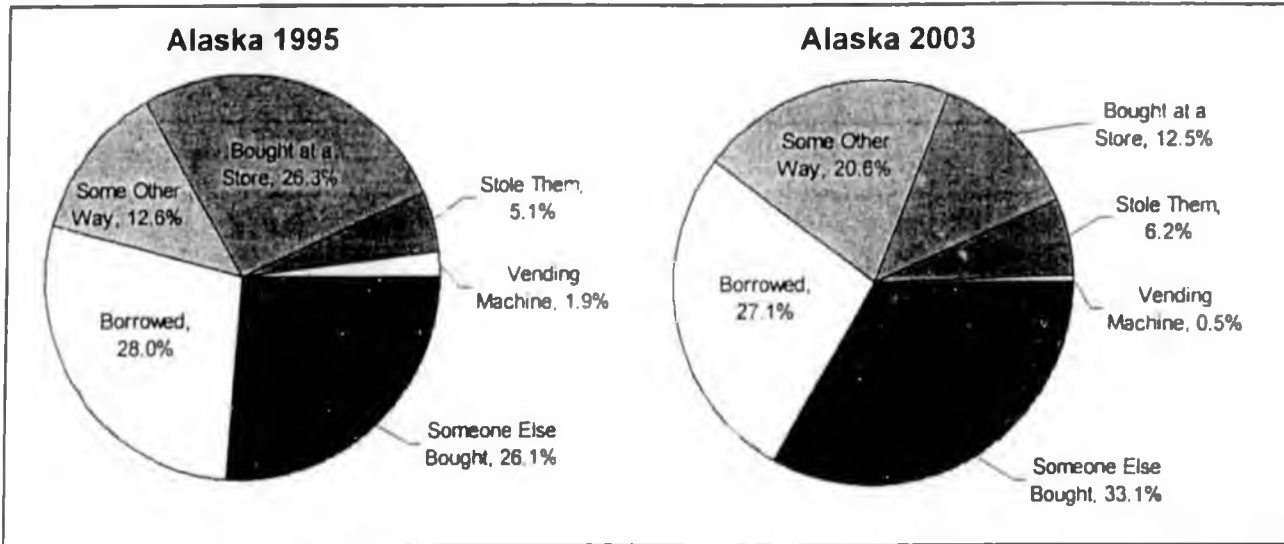


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Reduce to 17% cigarette smoking by adolescents (percentage of high school students grades 9-12 who have smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days)

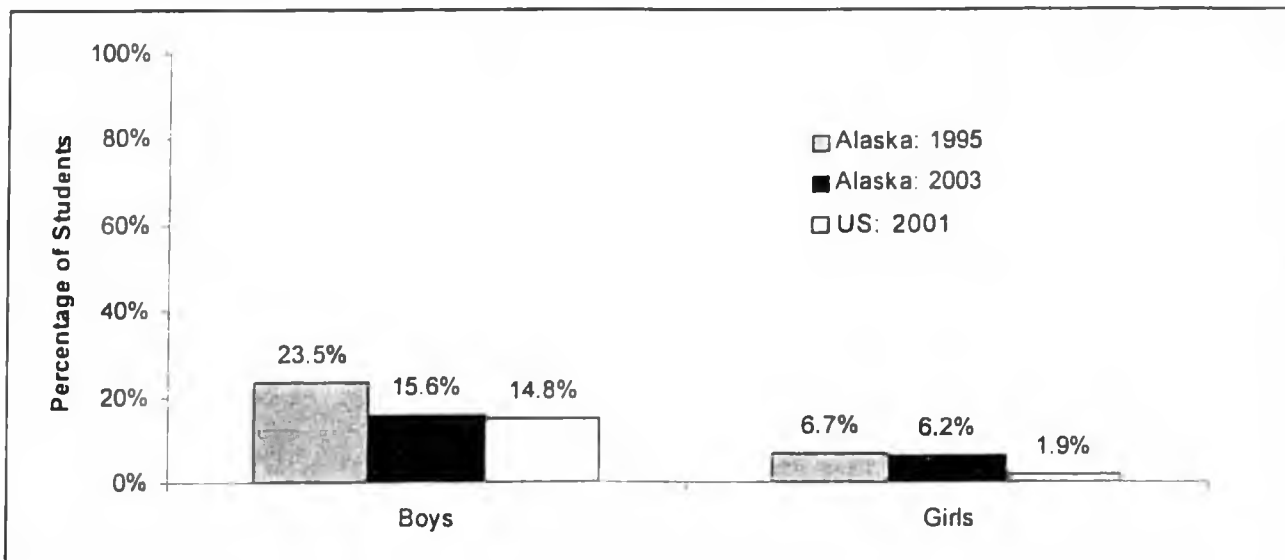
Where are Students Getting Cigarettes?

Among Alaska students, 12.5% report purchasing cigarettes at a store, a reduction of over 50% from 26.3% in 1995. This compares to 13.1% of U.S. students who report purchasing cigarettes at a store. The majority of students report getting their cigarettes by borrowing them from someone else (27.1%) or having someone else buy them (33.1%).



Chewing Tobacco and Snuff

Among Alaska boys, 15.6% report having used chewing tobacco or snuff in the 30 days prior to the survey. This is a decline of about 8.0% from 1995. There is relatively no change for girls between 1995 (6.7%) and 2003 (6.2%). However, Alaska girls (6.2%) are far more likely to report use of chewing tobacco or snuff the 30 days prior to the survey than are U.S. girls (1.9%). Overall, significantly fewer Alaska students report using chewing tobacco and snuff in 2003 than in 1995.

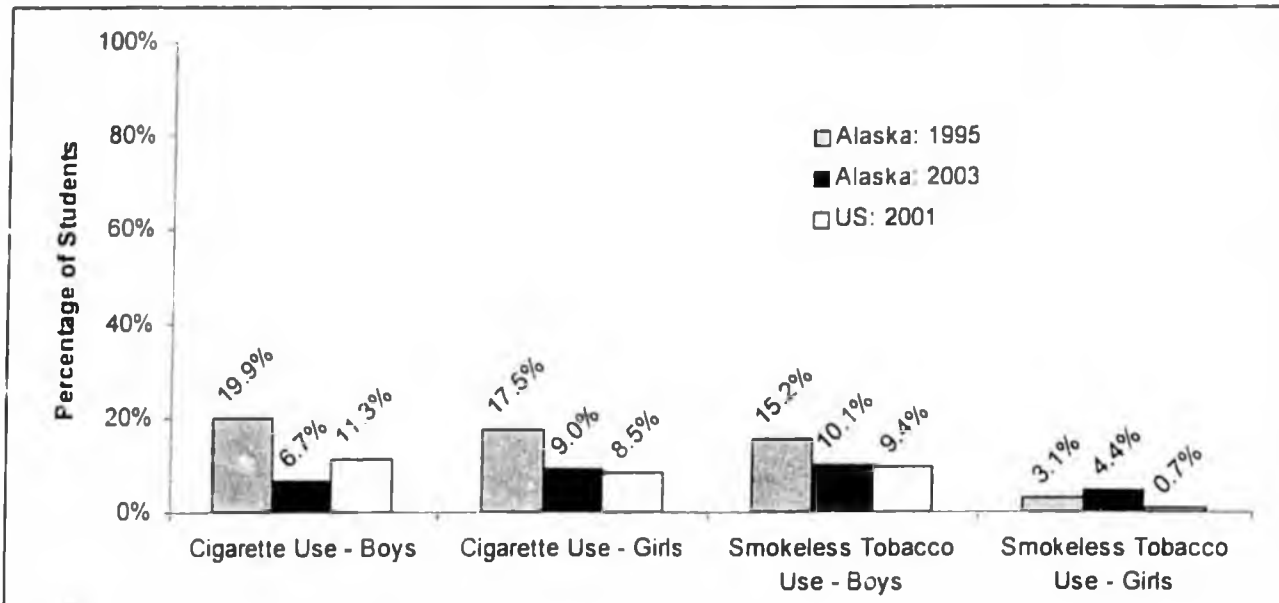


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Decrease to 8% the proportion of high school students who have used smokeless tobacco on one or more of the past 30 days.

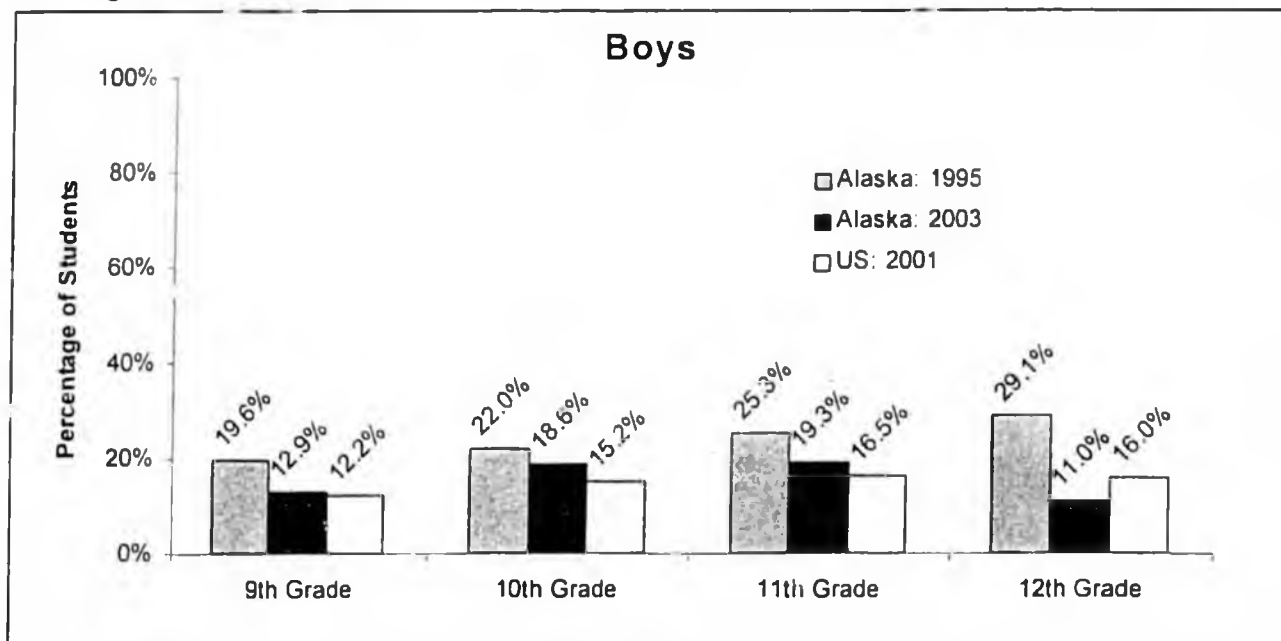
Cigarette and Chewing Tobacco Use on School Property

The percentage of Alaska high school boys who report the use of cigarettes on school property fell from 19.9% in 1995 to 6.7% in 2003. For smokeless tobacco, use for boys fell from 15.2% in 1995 to 10.1% in 2003. Similar decreases can be seen among Alaska girls as well. While the percentage of Alaska boys (6.7%) who report smoking cigarettes on school property has fallen below that for U.S. boys (11.3%), the percentage of Alaska girls (4.4%) who report the use of smokeless tobacco on school property is still more than six times that of U.S. girls (0.7%). Since 1995, cigarette use on school property has significantly decreased.



Chewing Tobacco and Snuff

The percentage of boys in 2003 who report using chewing tobacco or snuff in the 30 days prior to the survey has declined at all grade levels from 1995, with the largest decline occurring in the twelfth grade.



Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ *Reduce to 17% cigarette smoking by adolescents (percentage of students grades 9-12 who have smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days).*
- ▶ *Decrease to 20% the proportion of high school students who have used any tobacco products in the past 30 days (percentage of students grades 9-12 who have smoked cigarettes or cigars or used chewing tobacco or snuff on one or more of the past 30 days).*
- ▶ *Increase to 60% smoking cessation attempts among adolescents (percentage of students grades 9-12 who smoked twenty or more of the past 30 days who have ever tried to quit).*

Section III - Drug and Alcohol Use

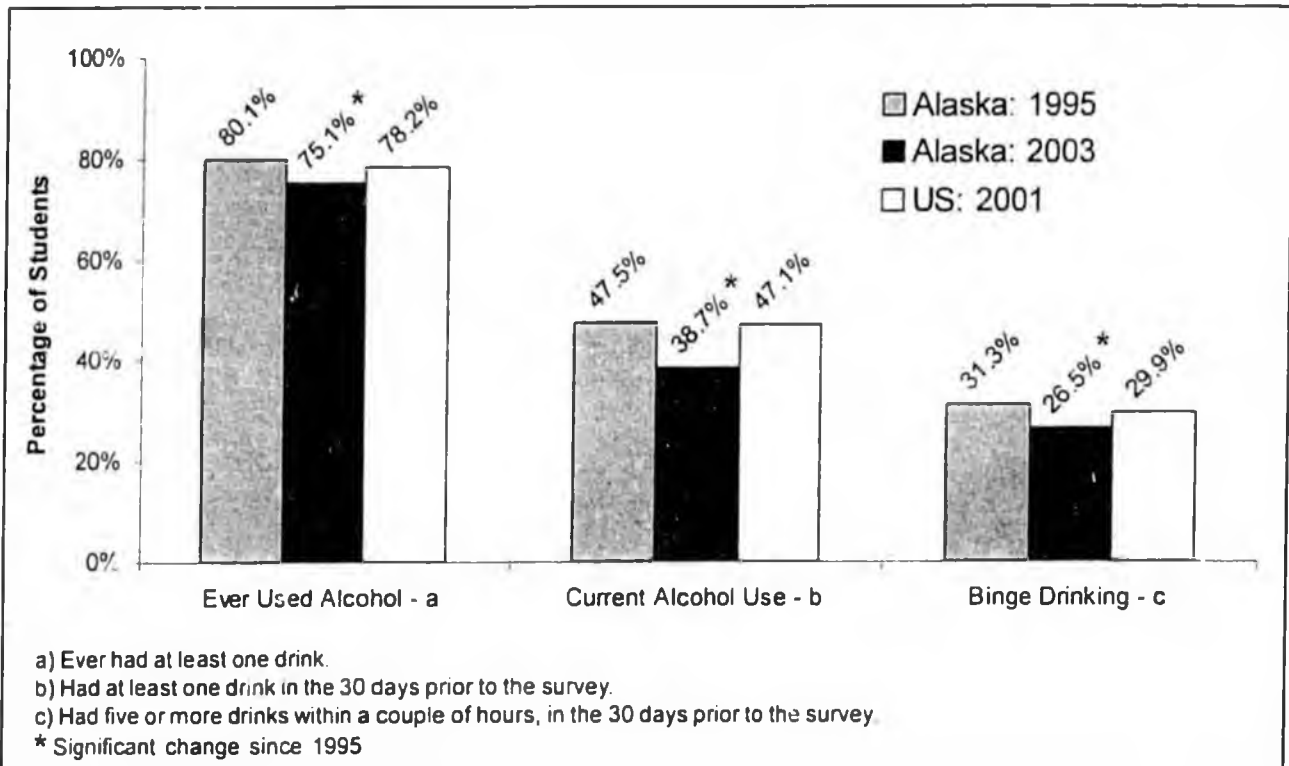
Background

Alcohol and drug abuse are major contributing factors in homicides, suicides and motor vehicle crashes, which are the leading causes of death and disability among young people in the U.S. and in Alaska. Heavy drinking and drug abuse among youth are linked to physical fights, destroyed property, job problems, school failure, delinquency, unwanted pregnancies and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.³

An estimated 29.9% of Alaska adults report binge drinking (having five or more drinks on an occasion, one or more time in the past month). Alaska's rate of binge drinking is among the highest in the U.S.⁴

Use of Alcohol by High School Students

Among Alaska high school students, 38.7% report having had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days, a decrease from 47.5% in 1995. The percentage of students reporting binge drinking and having ever consumed alcohol also showed significant declines. Rates for binge drinking and ever used alcohol are similar to the U.S., while rates for current alcohol use are significantly lower than the U.S.

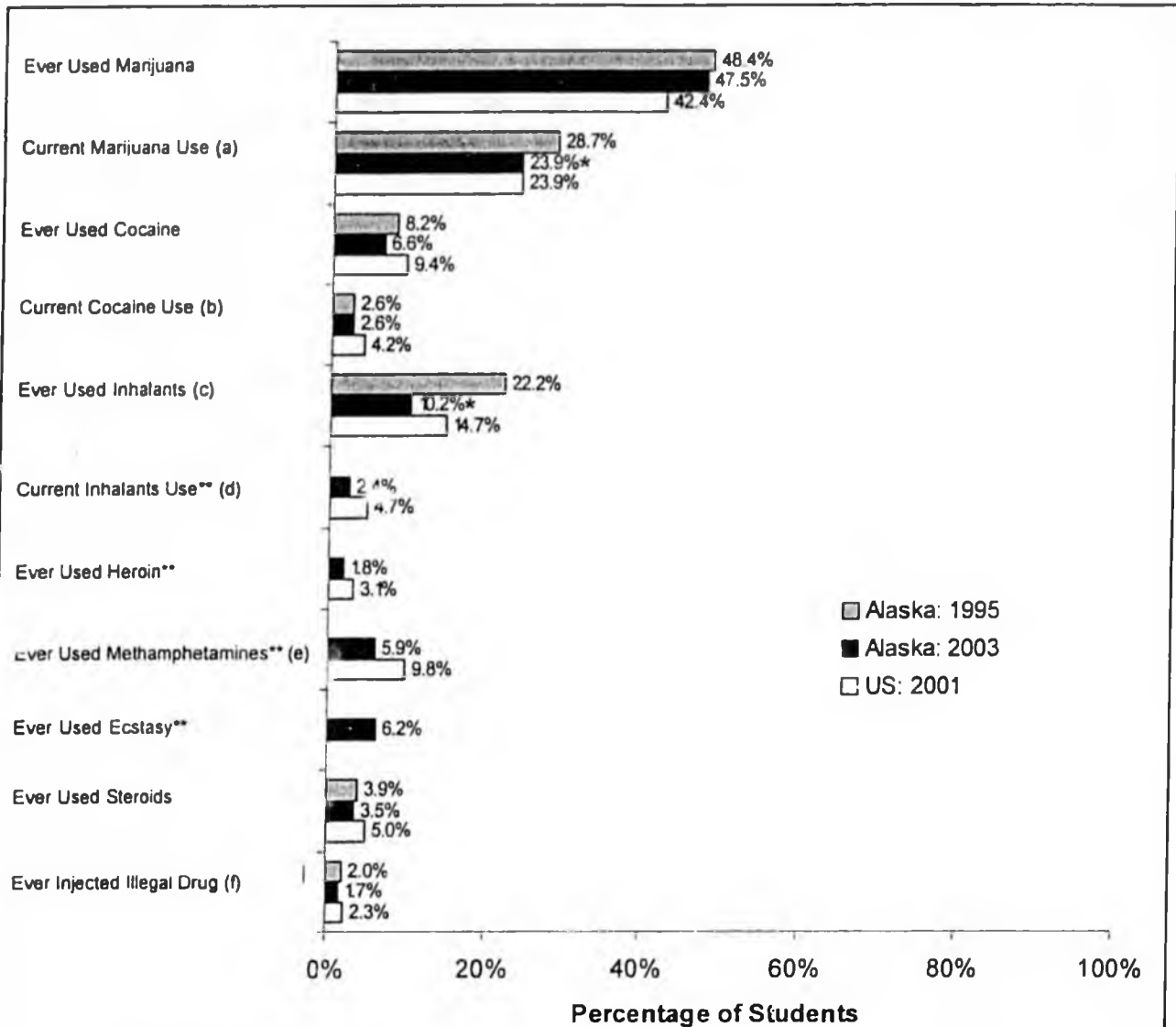


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Reduce to 30% binge drinking among adolescents (percentage of students grades 9-12 who consume 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a row within a couple of hours, at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey).
- ▶ Increase the average age of first use of alcohol among adolescents grades 9-12 to 16.1 years of age (mean age in years, based on students reporting having at least one drink of alcohol in life).

Use of Drugs by High School Students

The most common drug (excluding alcohol) used by Alaska high school students remains marijuana. However, fewer students in 2003 report having ever used or being current users of marijuana than in 1995. Alaska students who report ever using inhalants has fallen from 22.2% in 1995 to 10.2% in 2003, and this is below the 14.7% of U.S. students who report ever using inhalants.



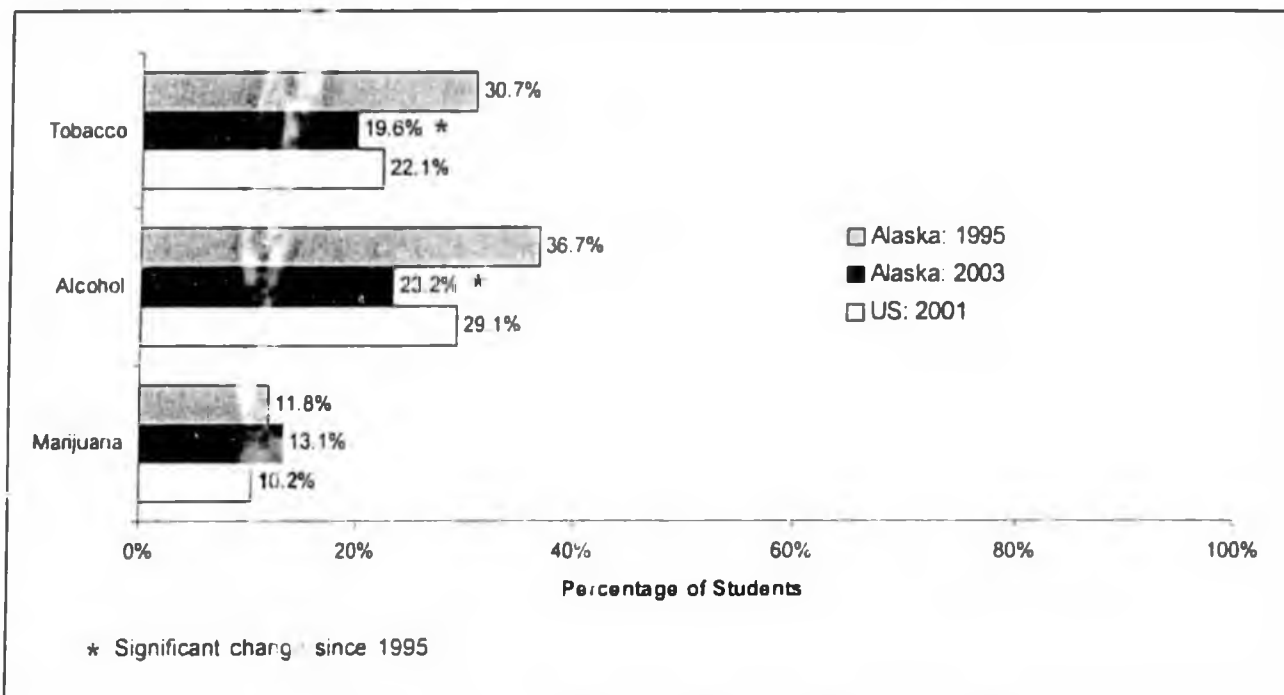
- a) Used marijuana one or more times in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- b) Used cocaine on one or more days in the 30 days prior to the survey.
- c) Ever sniffed glue, breathed contents of spray cans or inhaled paints or sprays to get high.
- d) Used inhalants on one or more days in the 30 days prior to the survey.
- e) Ever used methamphetamines (speed, crystal, crank, or ice).
- f) Ever used a needle to inject an illegal drug.

** Asked in 2003 only

* Significant change since 1995

Use of Tobacco, Alcohol or Marijuana Before the Age of 13

Among Alaska high school students, 23.2% report having had a first drink of alcohol before age 13, a decrease from 36.7% in 1995. Alaska students reporting use of marijuana before age 13 has risen from 11.8% in 1995 to 13.1% in 2003. Alaska boys are more likely than Alaska girls to report use alcohol, tobacco or marijuana before age 13.

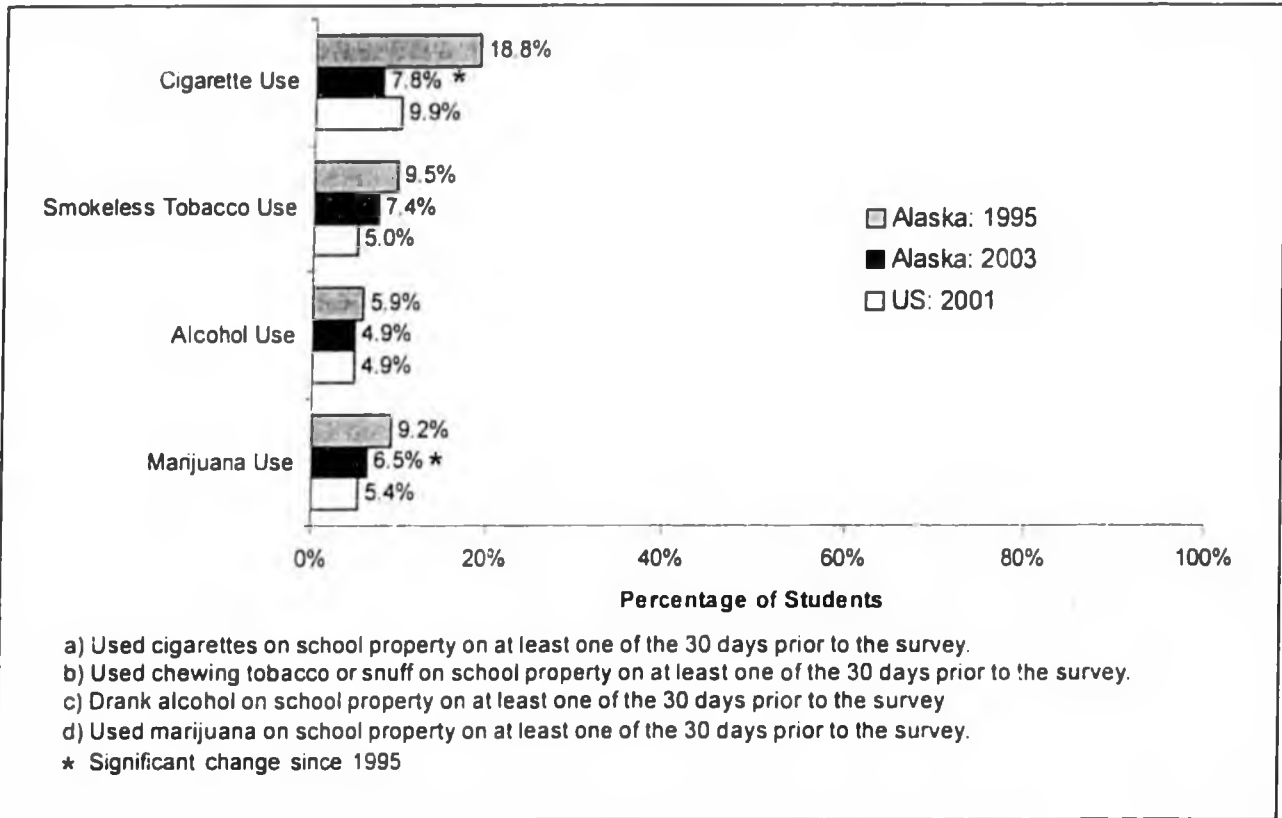


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Increase the average age of first use of marijuana among adolescents grades 9-12 to 17.4 years of age (mean age in years, based on students using marijuana at least once in lifetime).
- ▶ Reduce to 4% the proportion of adolescents who have used illegal steroids (percentage of students grades 9-12 who have ever used steroids pills or shots).
- ▶ Reduce to 2% inhalant use among high school students (percentage of students grades 9-12 who sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high 1 or more times in past month).
- ▶ Increase to 60% the proportion of adolescents not using alcohol or illicit drugs during the past 30 days (percentage of students grades 9-12 who have not used alcohol, marijuana or cocaine in the past 30 days).
- ▶ Increase the average age of first use of alcohol among adolescents grades 9-12 to 16.1 years (mean age in years, based on students reporting having at least one drink of alcohol in life)

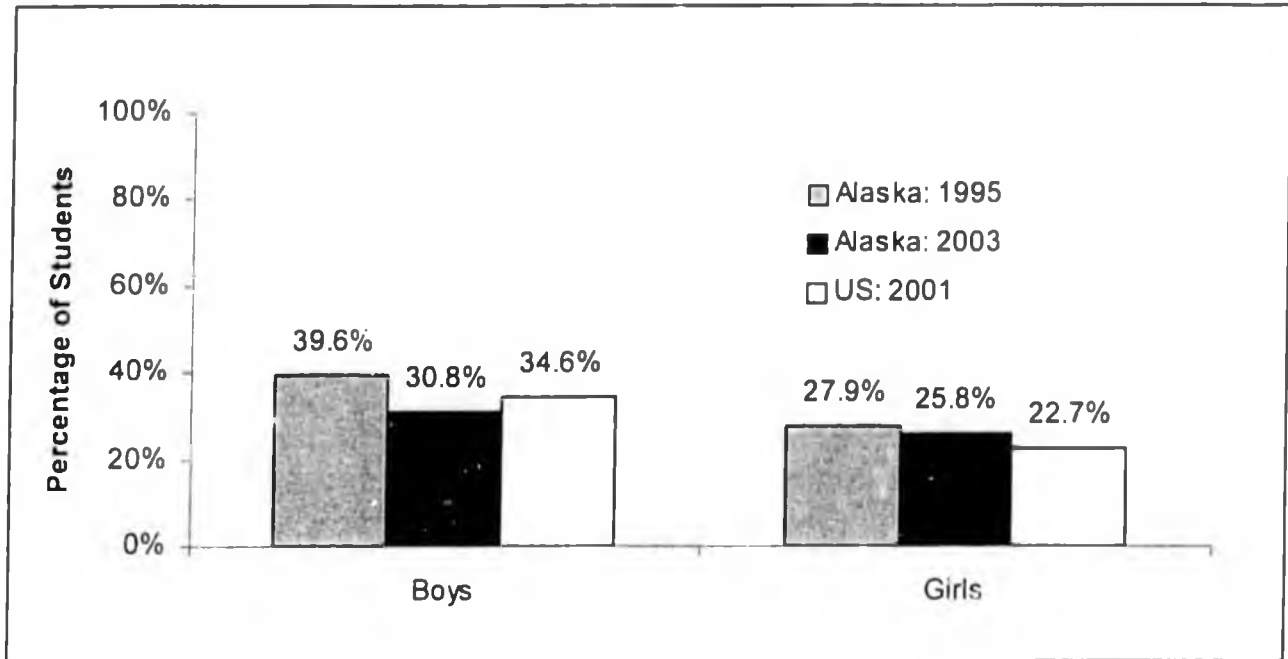
Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Use on School Property

While the use of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana still takes place on school property, the percentages of Alaska students reporting having used tobacco (cigarette and smokeless), alcohol or marijuana on school property on at least one of the 30 days prior to the survey have declined for all three categories since 1995. The most significant decline is among those students who report cigarette use on school property (18.8% in 1995 to 7.8% in 2003). Alaska students are less likely to use cigarettes on school property than are U.S. students. Alaska students are more likely to use smokeless tobacco and marijuana than are U.S. students on school property. Rates for alcohol use on school property for Alaska students (4.9%) are equal to those for U.S. students (4.9%).



Students Who Were Offered, Sold, or Given Drugs on School Property

Among Alaska high school boys, 30.8% report having been offered, sold or given illegal drugs on school property during the past 12 months prior to the survey, down from 39.6% in 1995 and still under the U.S. rate for boys of 34.6%. Alaska girls have seen similar decreases (27.9% in 1995 to 25.8% in 2003), but are slightly higher than reported rates for U.S. girls (22.7%). Since 1995, significantly fewer Alaska students have been offered, sold or given drugs on school property.



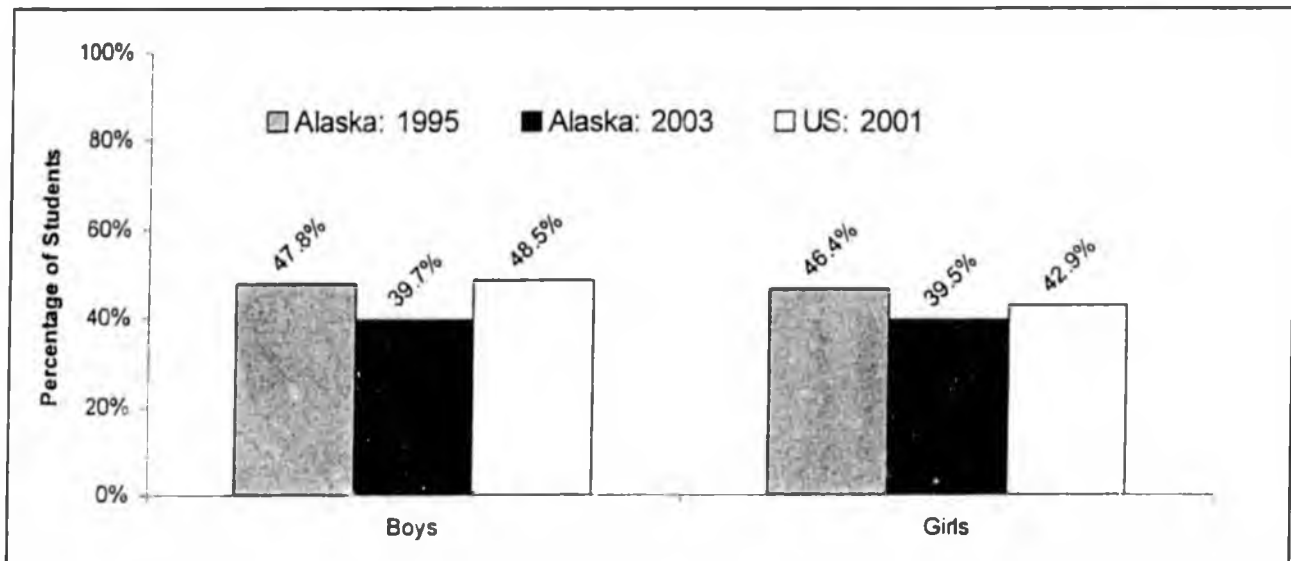
Section IV - Sexual Behaviors

Background

Early sexual activity can be associated with unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection. Sexually transmitted diseases can lead to infertility, pelvic inflammatory disease, and other complications. HIV infection, which can lead to AIDS, is not curable and preventive efforts are the only means of decreasing the spread of the disease. In 2001 and 2002, Alaska reported the highest Chlamydia case rates in the U.S. Since 1996, individuals aged 15-24 accounted for 70% to 74% of the total Chlamydia cases in Alaska. Gonorrhea case rates in Alaska continue to rise as well. Of the total Gonorrhea cases in Alaska since 1996, individuals aged 15-24 have accounted for 44% to 53% of the total cases.⁵

Ever Had Sexual Intercourse

About forty percent of Alaska high school students report ever having had intercourse. The rates for Alaska high school students have fallen significantly since 1995. Alaska rates for both boys (39.7%) and girls (39.5%) are lower than U.S. rates for boys (48.5%) and girls (42.9%).

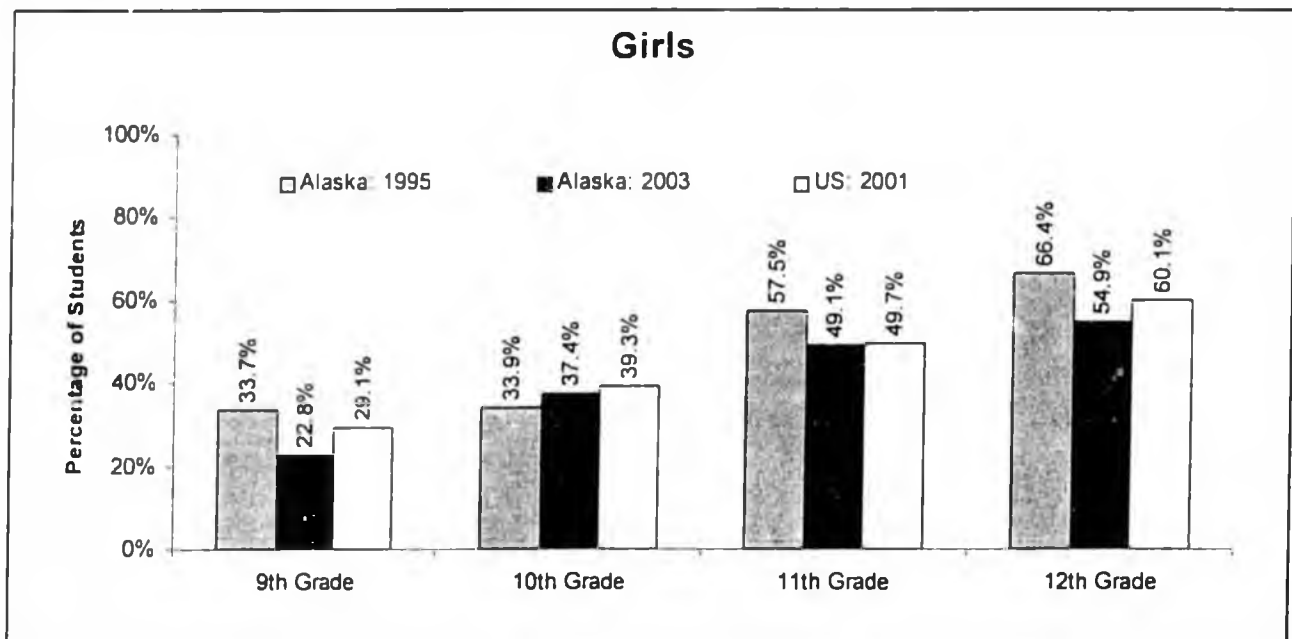
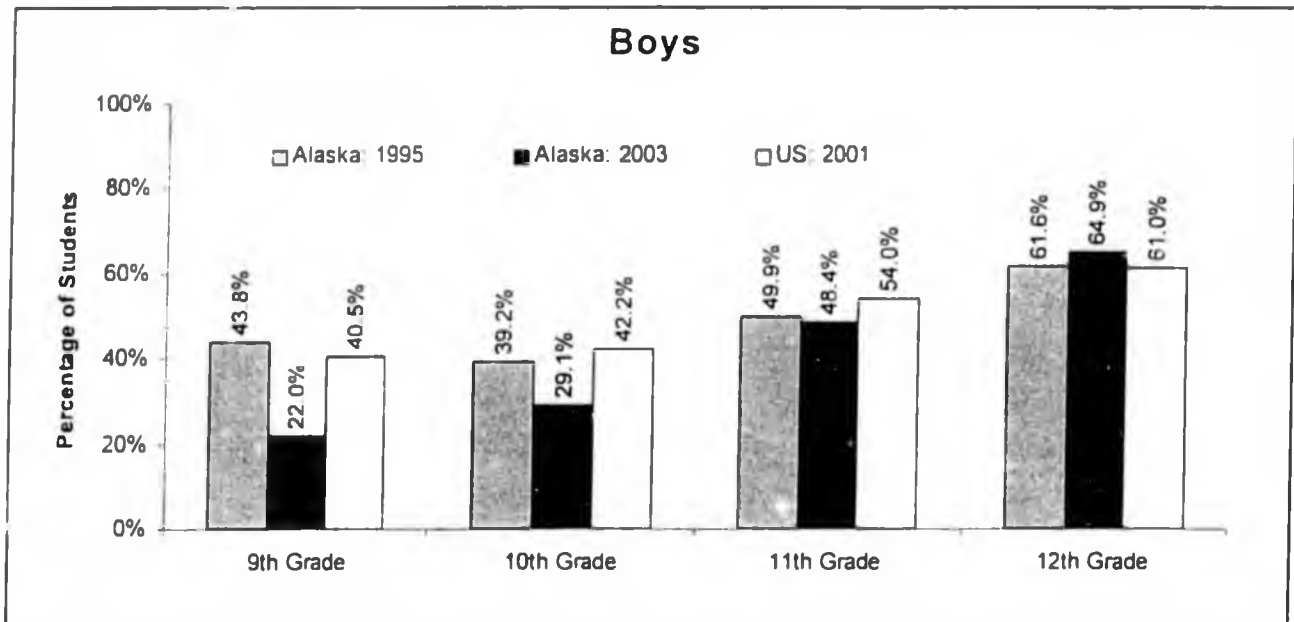


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Increase to 65% the proportion of adolescents who abstain from sexual intercourse (percentage of high school students grades 9-12 who have never had intercourse)

Ever Had Sexual Intercourse - Grade and Gender

The percentage of Alaska students reporting having ever had sexual intercourse increases from 22.4% in the ninth grade to 60.0% in the twelfth grade. Significantly fewer ninth graders in 2003 reported having ever had sexual intercourse than did in 1995, suggesting a delayed initiation of sexual intercourse amongst Alaska high school students. With the exception of twelfth grade boys, both Alaska boys and girls for all grades have lower rates than U.S. boys and girls for reporting ever had sexual intercourse.

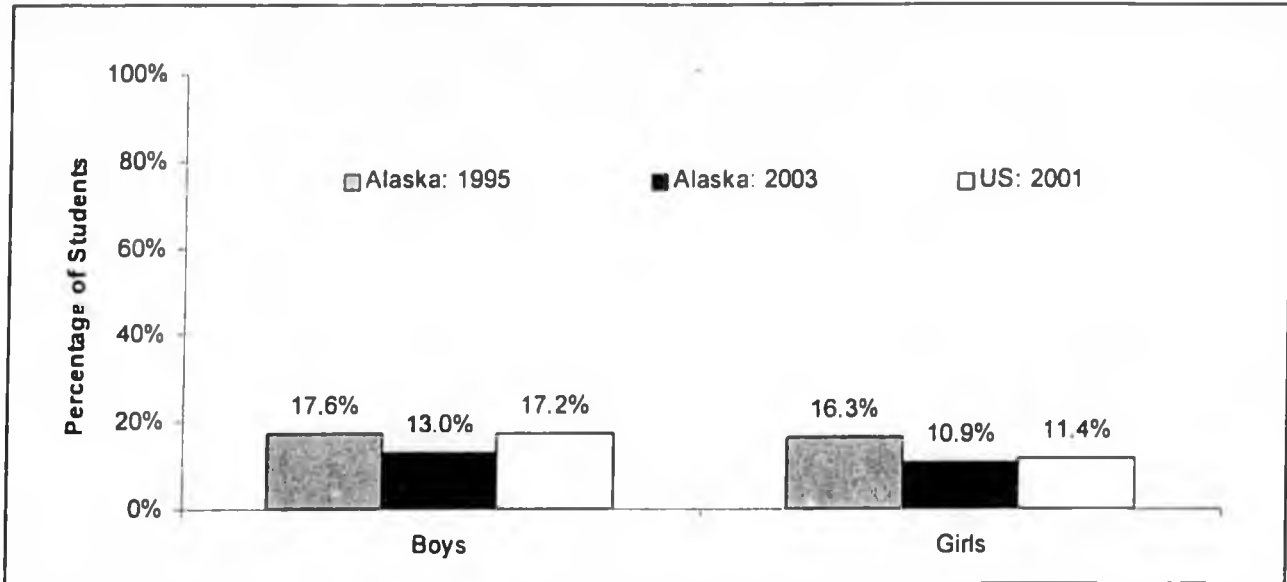


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Increase to 85% the proportion of high school students who respond they have never had sexual intercourse before age 15 years

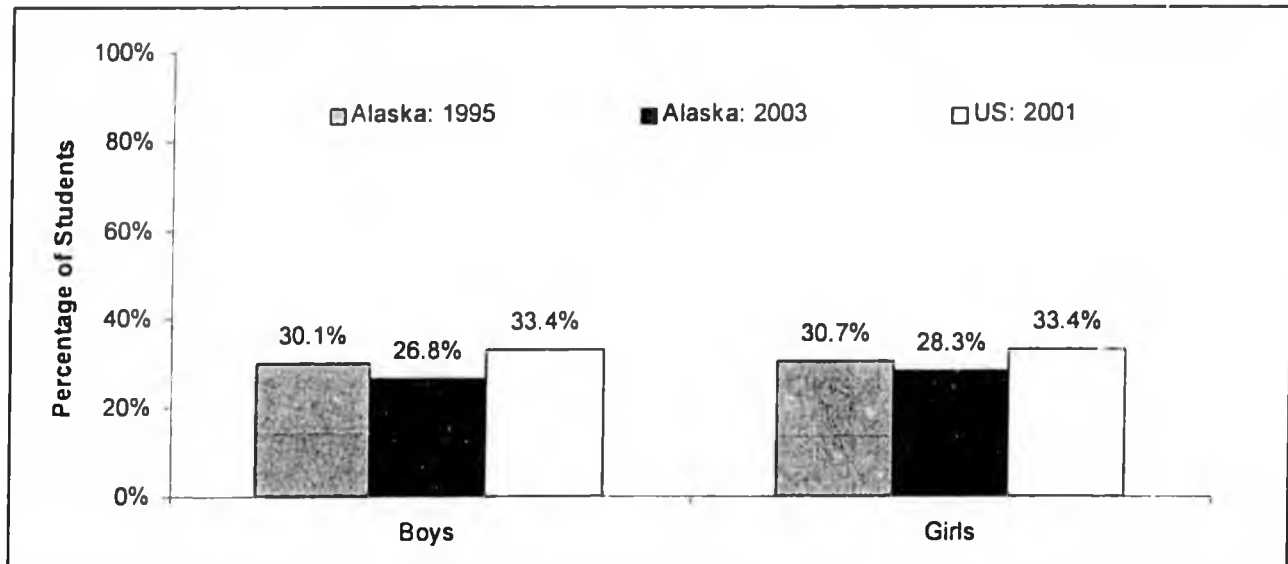
Had Sexual Intercourse With Four or More Partners

In 2003 significantly fewer Alaska high school students report having had sexual intercourse with four or more partners during their life than in 1995. Alaska rates for both boys (13.0%) and girls (10.9%) are lower than that for U.S. boys (17.2%) and girls (11.4%).



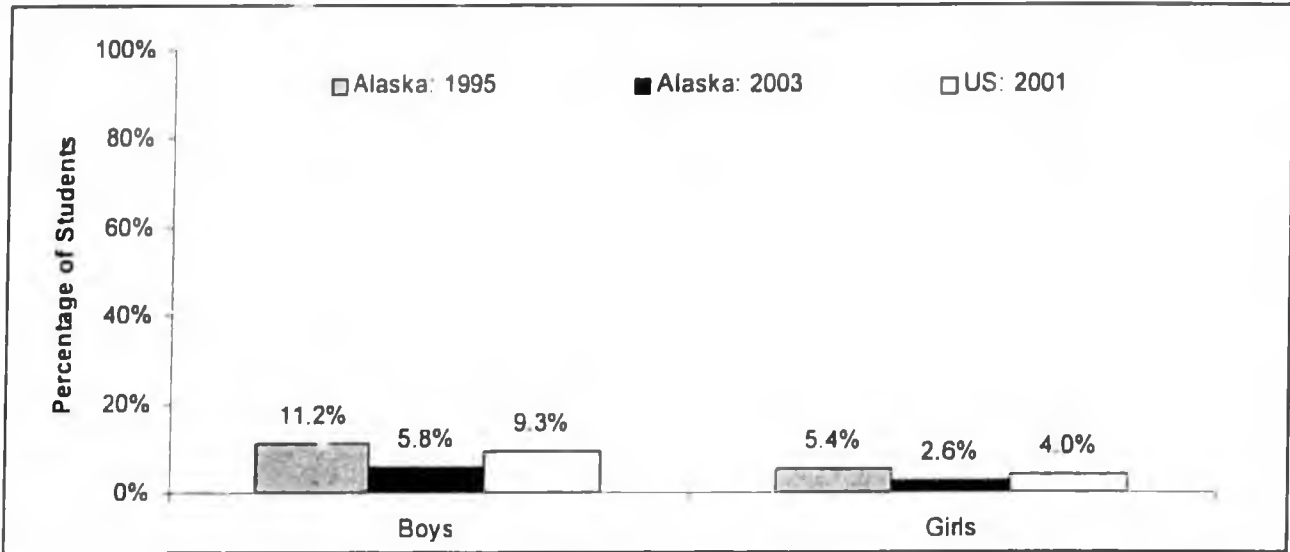
Current Sexual Activity

Among Alaska high school boys, 26.8% report having had sexual intercourse with one or more people during the past three months. Among Alaska high school girls, 28.3% report having had sexual intercourse with one or more people during the past three months. Rates for Alaska students have fallen since 1995 and are below that of U.S. students.



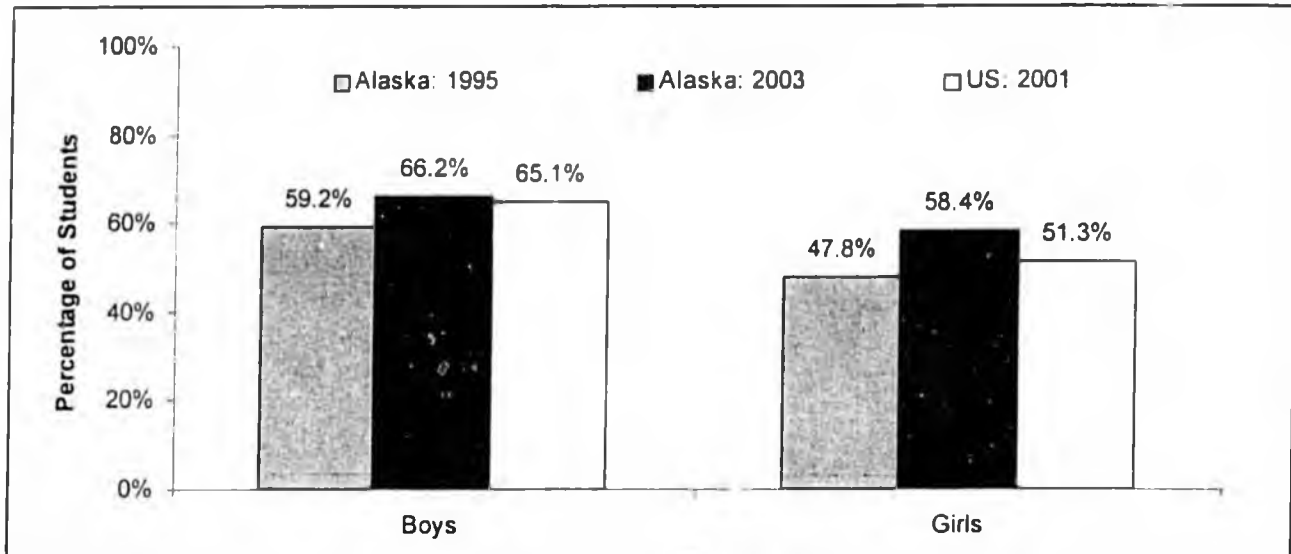
First Sexual Intercourse before Age 13

Among Alaska high school students, 5.8% of boys and 2.6% of girls report first sexual intercourse before age 13. When compared to 1995, significantly fewer students are reporting first sexual intercourse before age 13. Alaska rates for both boys and girls are below that of U.S. boys (9.3%) and girls (4.0%).



Used Condoms During Last Sexual Intercourse

Over 62% of Alaska high school students report having used a condom during the last sexual intercourse. When compared to 1995, the percentages of Alaska high school students who report having used a condom during the last sexual intercourse have increased significantly for both sexes (7.0% increase for boys and 10.6% increase for girls) and are above U.S. rates.

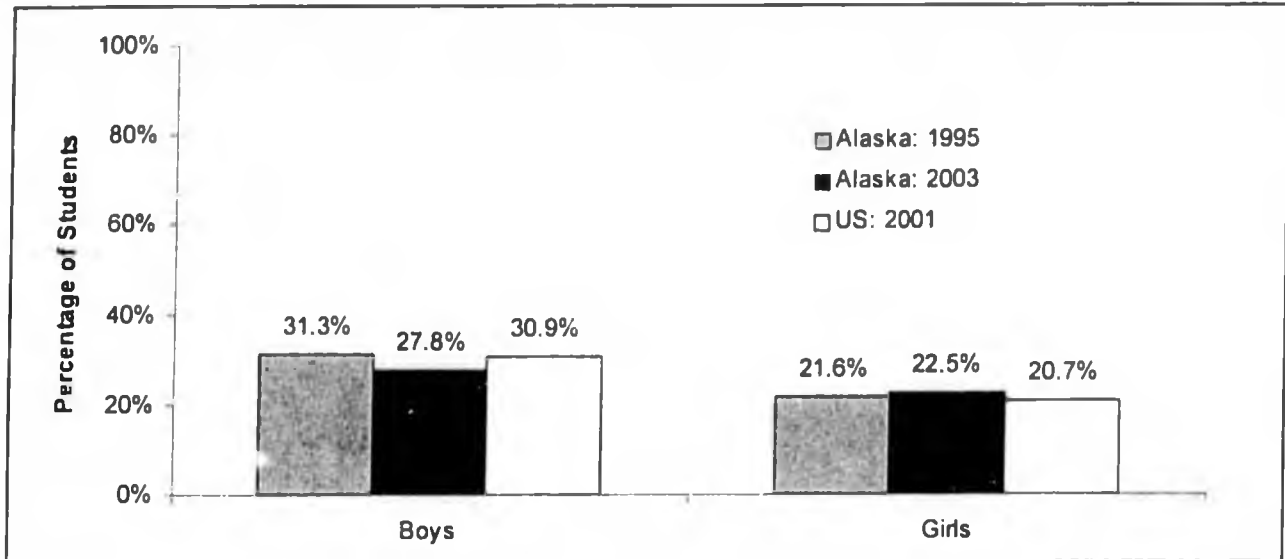


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Increase to 85% the proportion of currently sexually active high school students using condom or hormonal method at last intercourse
- ▶ Increase to 75% the proportion of sexually active adolescents who use condoms (percentage of high school students grades 9-12 who had intercourse in past 30 days)

Used Alcohol or Drugs before Sexual Intercourse

Slightly over 25% of Alaska high school students reported having used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse. Alaska high school boys were more likely than girls to have used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse (27.8% for boys compared to 22.5% for girls), however, when compared to 1995, fewer boys report using alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse



Section V - Weight and Dietary Behaviors

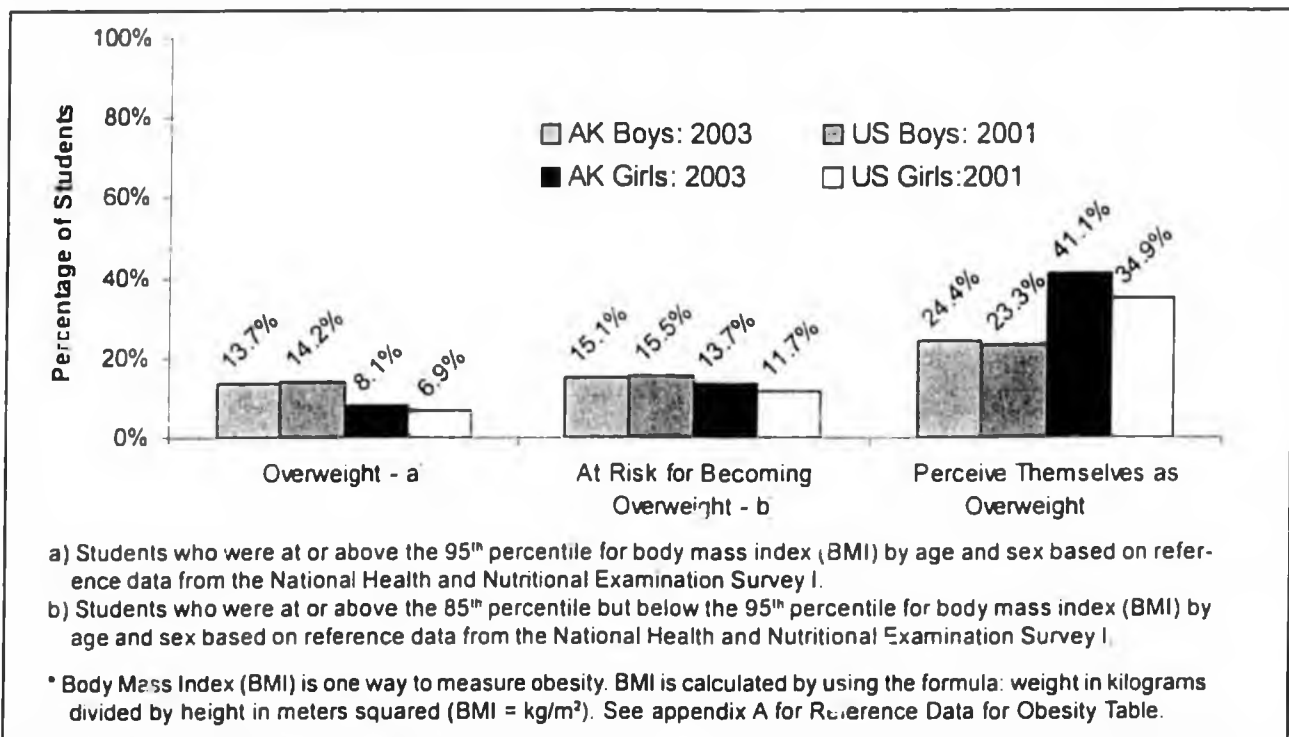
Background

National data show that obesity is increasing among children and adolescents. Obesity acquired during childhood often persists into adulthood, increasing the later risk for diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. In addition, obesity can cause social and psychological stress to children and adolescents.⁶

An overemphasis on thinness may also be unhealthy. To avoid problems of obesity and eating disorders, healthy eating habits should be encouraged among adolescents. Current dietary guidelines include increasing consumption of whole grains, eating at least five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables per day and maintaining a healthy weight.⁷

Students Who Are Overweight and Students at Risk for Becoming Overweight (As Determined by Body Mass Index BMI*) and Students Who Describe Themselves as Overweight

Among Alaska high school students, 11.0% are overweight and 14.4% are at risk for becoming overweight. Alaska high school boys were both more often overweight (13.7% for boys compared to 8.1% for girls) and at greater risk for becoming overweight than were girls (15.1% for boys and 13.7% for girls). Although, Alaska high school boys were overweight and at greater risk for becoming overweight than were girls, Alaska high school girls were more likely to describe themselves as overweight than were boys (24.4% for boys compared to 41.1% for girls). These differences in perception are similar to U.S. boys and girls.

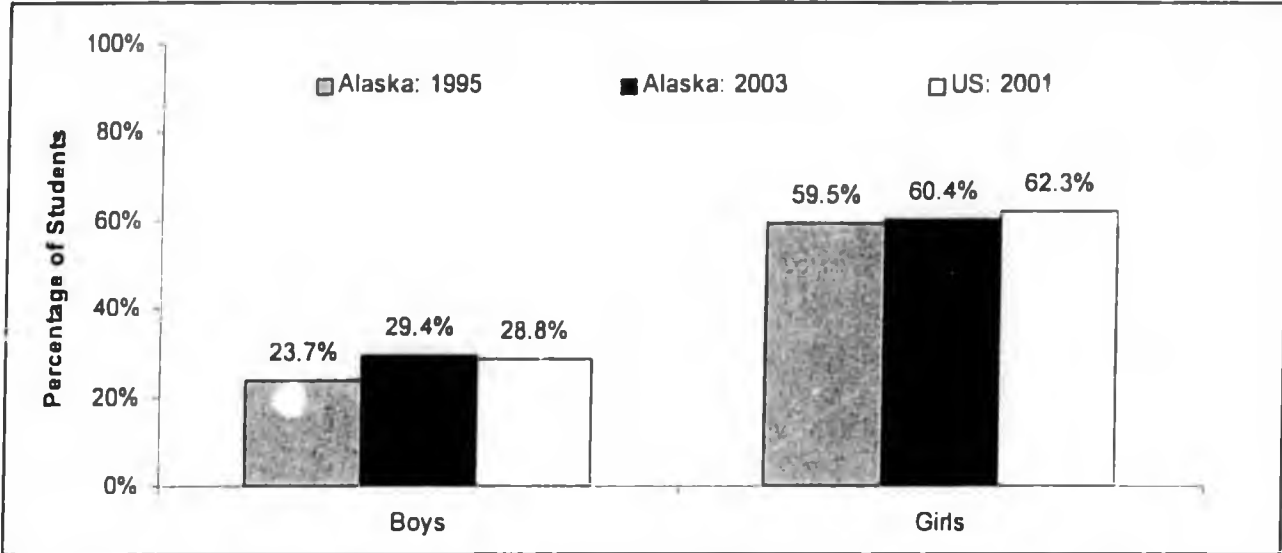


Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Reduce to 5% the proportion of adolescents who are overweight (percentage of students grades 9-12 with body mass index greater than or equal to the 95th percentile, based on age-sex specific NHANES 1).

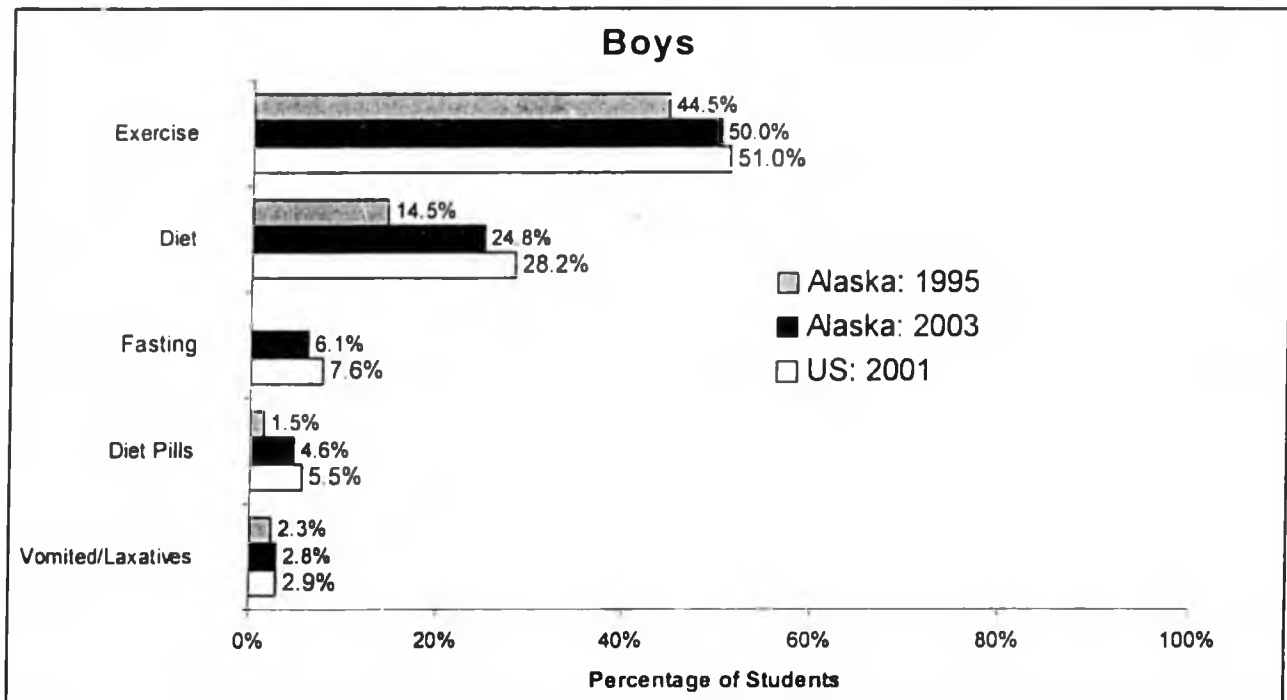
Trying to Lose Weight

Among Alaska high school students, 44.3% describe themselves as trying to lose weight. Alaska high school girls were more likely to describe themselves as trying to lose weight than were boys. The percentage of girls who describe themselves as trying to lose weight (60.4%) is disproportional to the percentage that describe themselves as being overweight (41.1%), while the percentage of boys who describe themselves as trying to lose weight (29.9%) more closely matches the percentage who describe themselves as being overweight (24.4%).

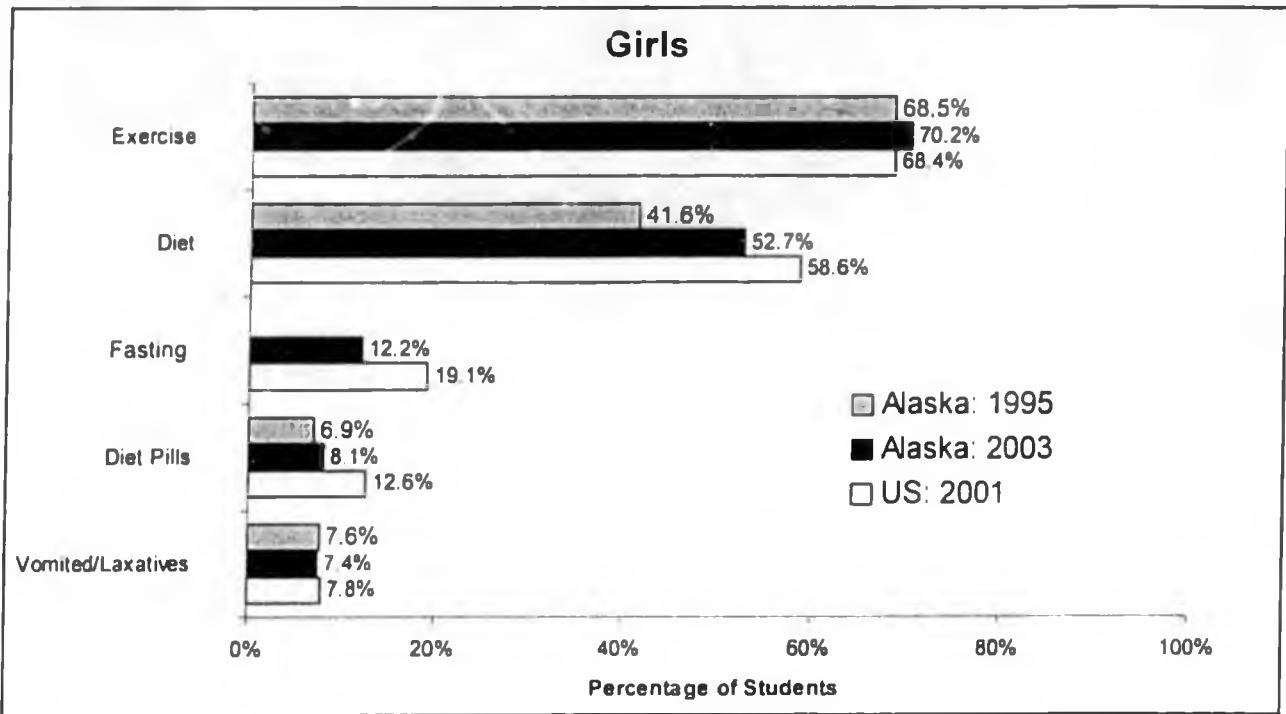


Methods Used to Lose or Keep from Gaining Weight in Past 30 Days

Exercise and diet are the most common methods used by Alaska high school students to lose or keep from gaining weight. Among students who report using exercise to keep from gaining weight, girls (70.2%) were more likely to report using exercise than were boys (50.0%).

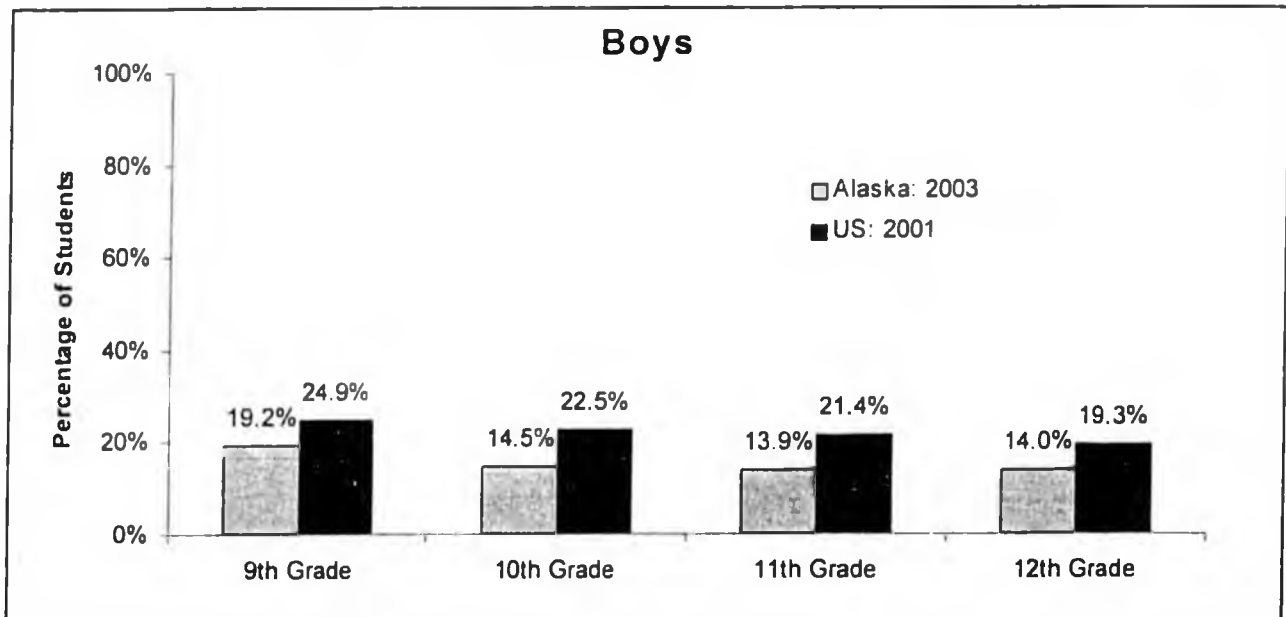


Methods Used to Lose or Keep from Gaining Weight in Past 30 Days

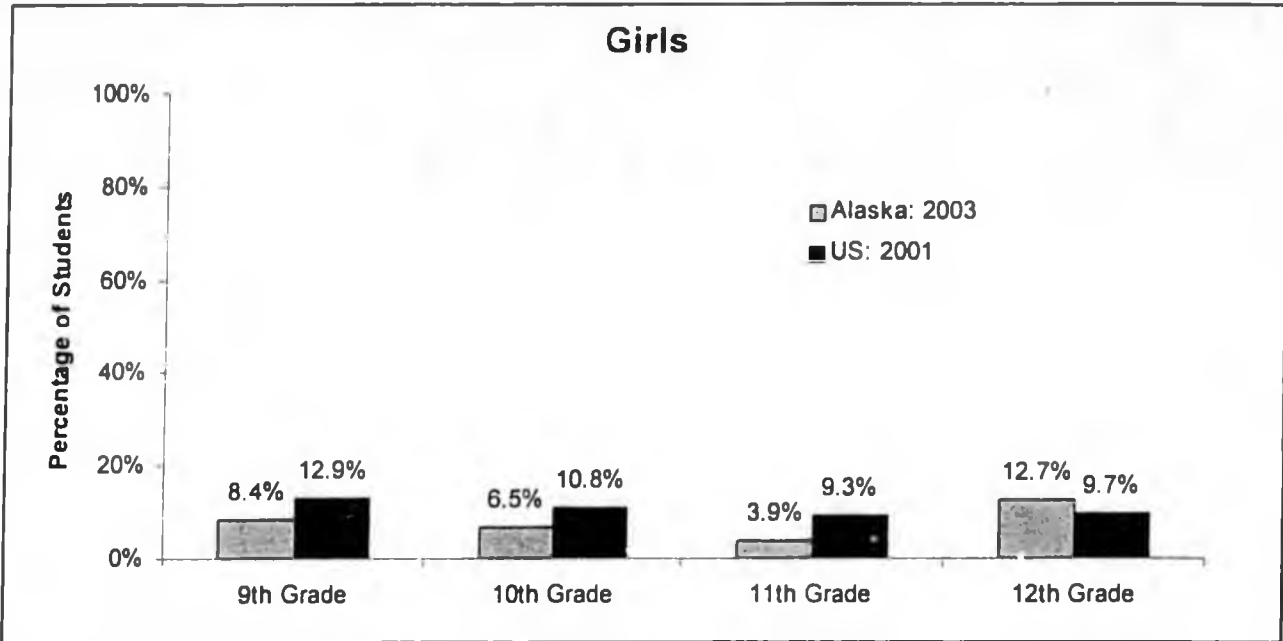


Nutrition Behaviors: Drank Three or More Glasses of Milk per Day During the Last 7 Days

Alaska high school boys (15.7%) are more likely to report having drunk three or more glasses of milk during the last 7 days than are girls (7.7%). With the exception of 12th grade girls, Alaska rates for milk consumption are below U.S. rates.

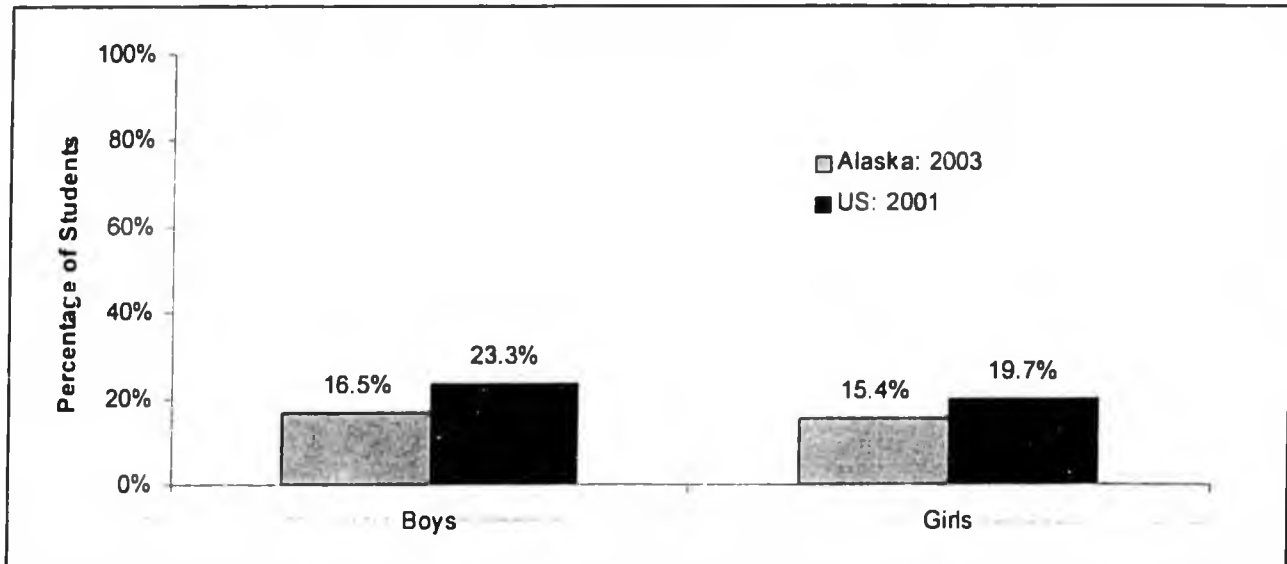


Drank Three or More Glasses of Milk per Day During Last 7 Days



Nutrition Behaviors: Percentage of Students Who Ate 5 or More Servings of Fruits and Vegetables per Day During the Past 7 Days

Both Alaska high school boys and girls are less likely to report eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day for the past seven days than are U.S. students.



Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Increase to 30% the number of adolescents who consume at least 5 daily servings of fruit and vegetables (percentage of high school students grades 9-12)

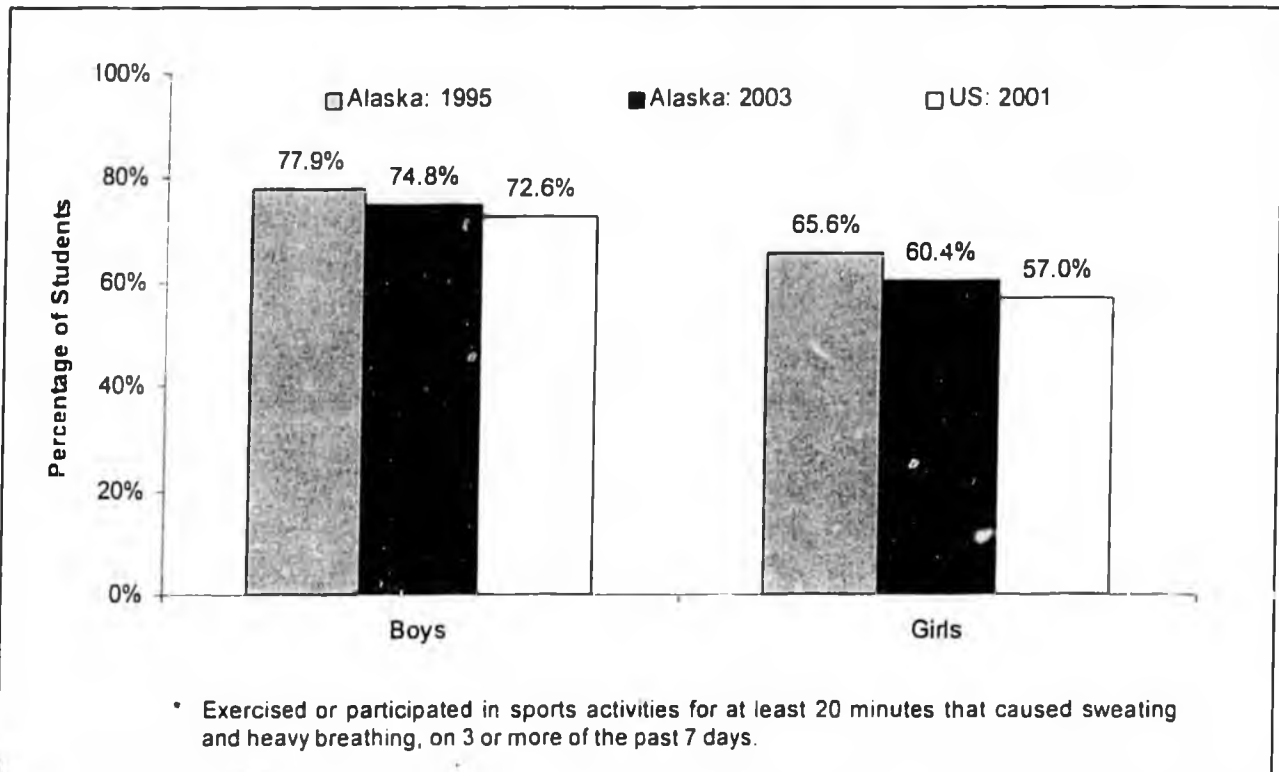
Section VI - Physical Activity

Background

Regular physical activity can increase life expectancy and plays a major role in maintaining a healthy weight. Physical activity can also enhance mental health and self-esteem, of particular benefit to adolescents. As with nutrition, development of good exercise habits in childhood and adolescence, which are maintained into adulthood, can prevent or delay many chronic diseases.^a

Participated in Vigorous Physical Activity*

Among Alaska high school students, 74.8% of boys and 60.4% of girls report having participated in vigorous physical activity on 3 or more of the past seven days. Although the data show greater rates for Alaska students participating in vigorous physical activity than U.S. students, declines in vigorous physical activity rates have occurred for both boys and girls since 1995.



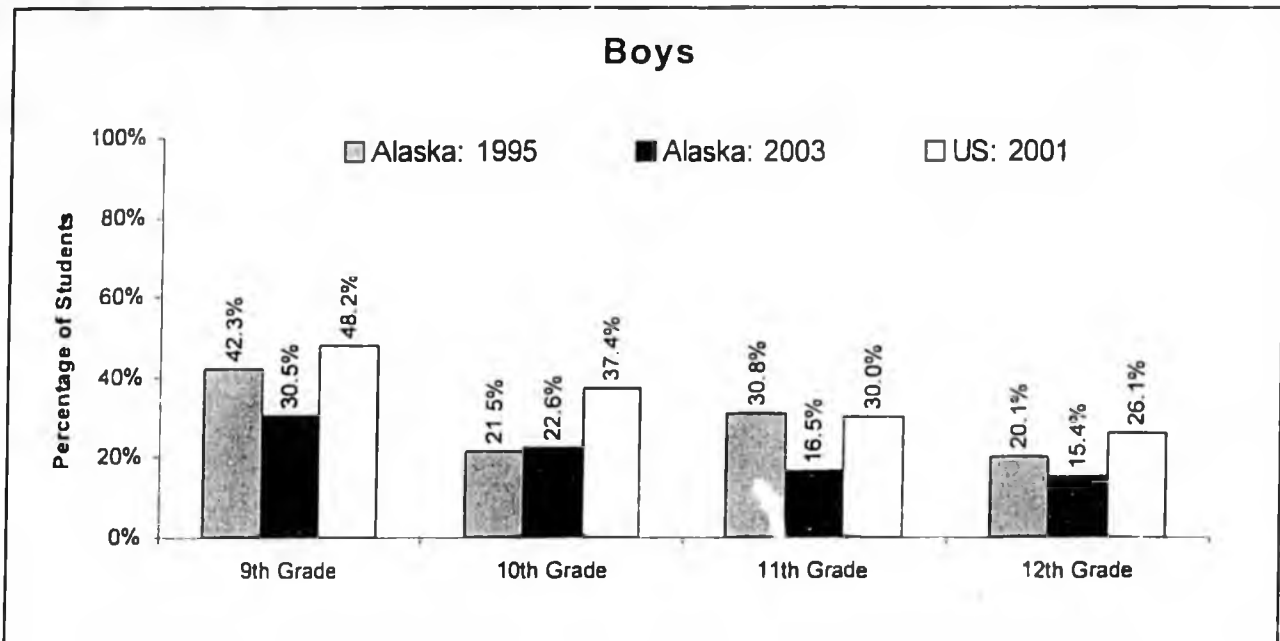
Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Increase to 85% the proportion of adolescents who engage in vigorous physical activity (percentage of students grades 9-12 who exercise or participate in sports activities for at least 20 minutes that caused sweating and heavy breathing, on 3 or more of the past 7 days).

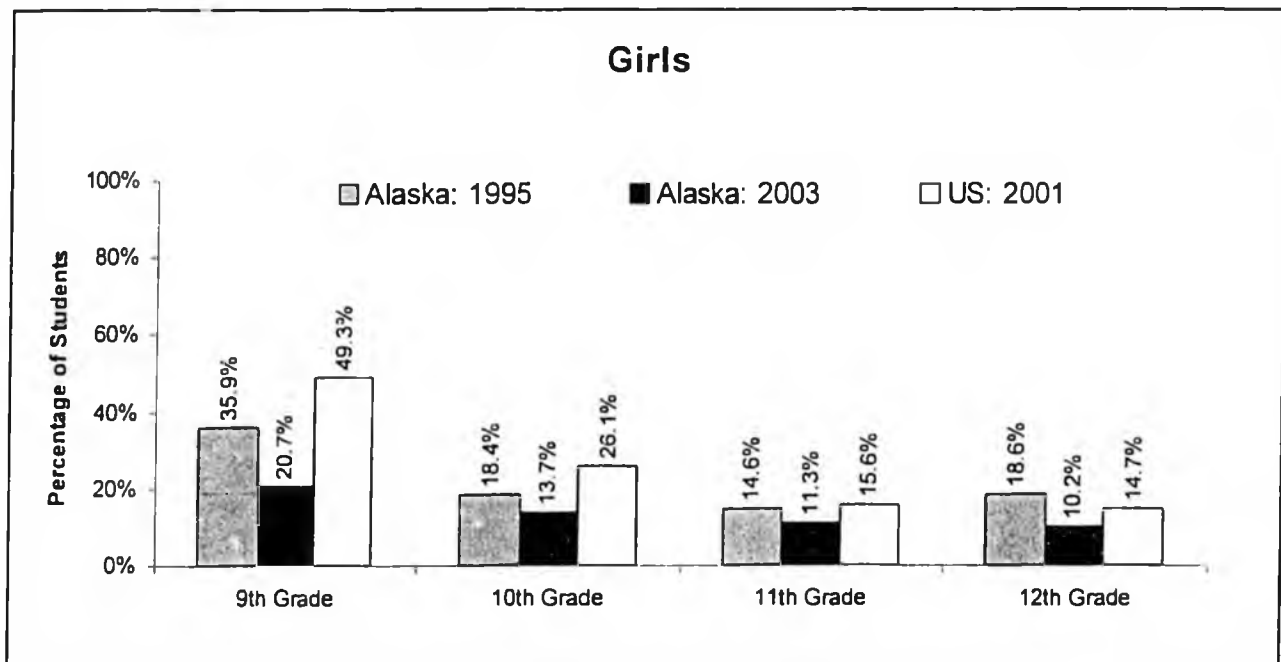
Attend Daily Physical Education Class

Among Alaska high school students who report attending daily physical education class, boys (21.8%) were more likely to report attending daily physical education class than were girls (14.3%). Since 1995, with the exception of tenth grade boys, the percentage of Alaska high school students reporting attendance in daily physical education class has significantly declined. Alaska rates are below the rates for U.S. students.

[Corrected April 2004]

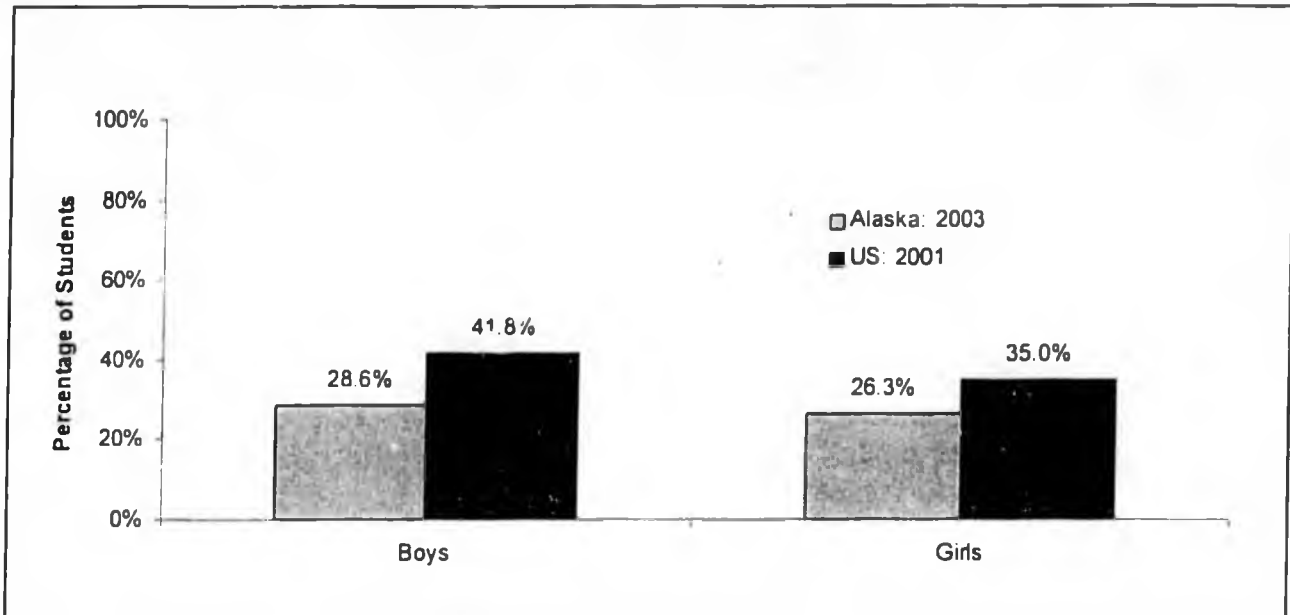


Attend Daily Physical Education Class



Television Viewing Behaviors

Among Alaska high school students, boys (28.6%) were more likely to report having watched 3 or more hours of TV during an average school day than were girls (26.3%). Alaska rates for both boys and girls are below the rates for U.S. boys (41.8%) and girls (35.0%).



Healthy Alaskans 2010 Objective:

- ▶ Increase to 45% the proportion of adolescents who participate in daily school physical education (percentage of students grades 9-12 who attend PE class daily).
- ▶ Increase to 97% the proportion of adolescents who are physically active during physical education class (percentage of students grades 9-12 attending PE class who exercise more than 20 minutes per class).

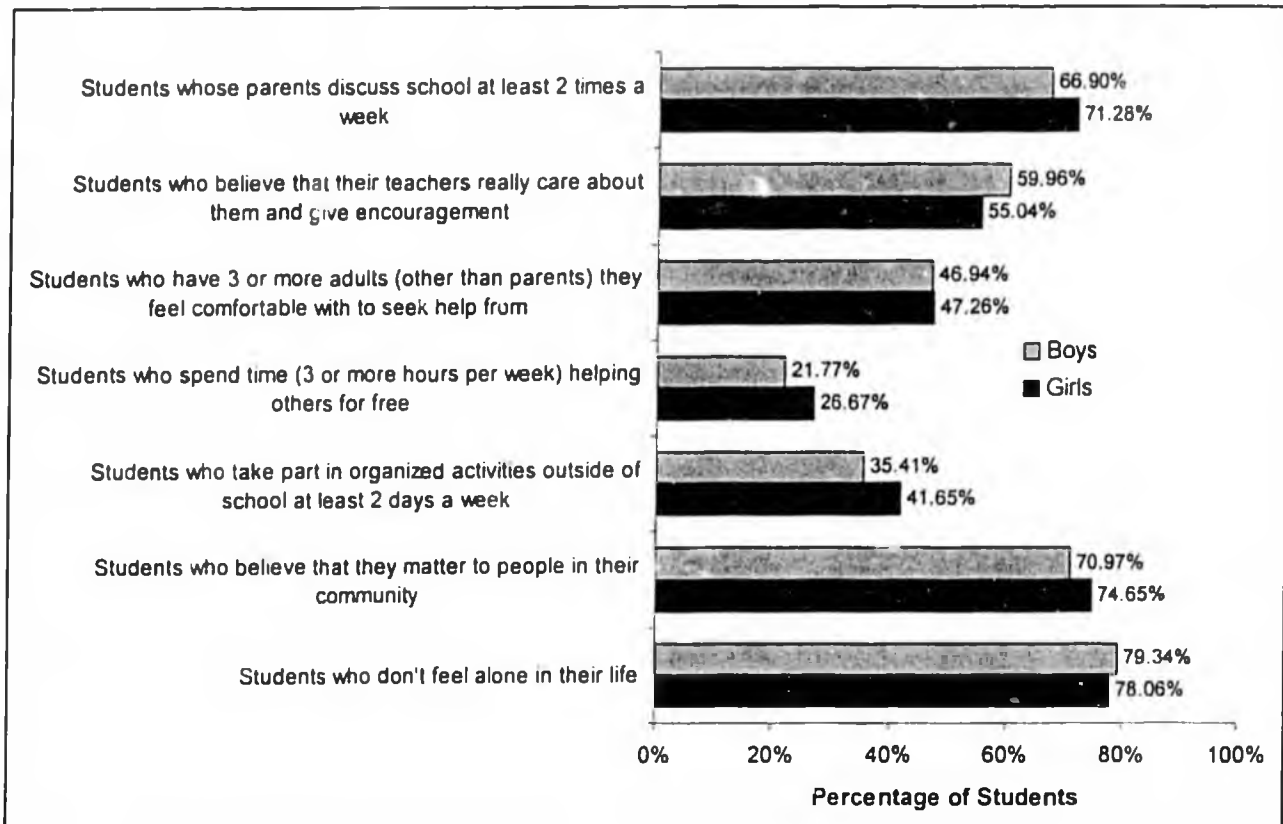
Section VII - Connectedness

Background

"Connectedness" is a key protective factor correlated with a decrease in youth risk behaviors (use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, suicide ideation, violence and early sexual activity).⁹ The term *connectedness*, in this context, refers to the feeling of support and connection youth feel from their school and their community. Youth involved in helping, community service-type of activities are less likely to be involved in anti-social behaviors, in-school suspensions or teen pregnancy.¹⁰ These activities also provide an opportunity for youth to form close relationships with other caring adults. While family support and closeness remain paramount throughout adolescence, the 2003 YRBS did not ask questions related to family matters.¹¹

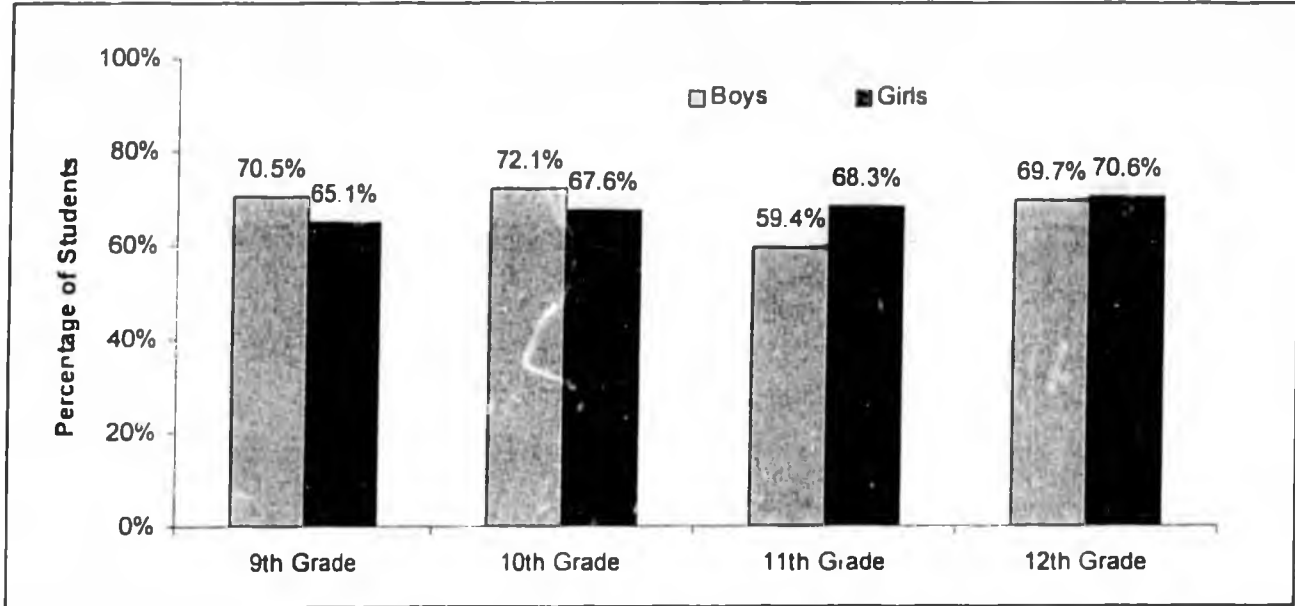
Connectedness

Among Alaska high school students, 79.3% of boys and 78.1% of girls report they don't feel alone in their life. Most Alaska high school students, 71.0% of boys and 74.6% of girls, believe they matter to people in their community. The majority of boys (60.0%) and girls (55.0%) report they have teachers who care about them and give encouragement.



Clear Rules for School Behavior

Among Alaska high school students, the majority (67.7%) of students feel their school has clear rules and consequences for behavior. Boys (68.1%) were only slightly more likely to report their school has clear rules and consequences for behavior than were girls (67.5%)



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Appendices

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B.2	<i>2003 Questionnaire</i>	41