

Making **KIDS COUNT** in the 2019 Legislative Session

House District 1 Rep. Steve Gunderson



POPULATION	District	State
Total population	8,380	1,029,862
Children ages 0-4	462	61,218
Children ages 5-17	847	164,940
Median age	55	40



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	District	State
Median household income (2017\$)	\$33,136	\$50,801
Children in poverty (<100% FPL) [§]	19%	18%
Children ages 0-18 who have public health insurance	59%	38%
Tax return filers who would qualify for a state EITC ^{1§§}	712	76,267



SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION	District	State
Preschool-aged children NOT enrolled in school	61%	60%
Children enrolled in grades K-12	944	162,262
Graduation rate, all students ²	N/A	86%
Graduation rate, disabled students ²	N/A	77%



SAFETY	State
High school students texting/emailing while driving ³	54%
High school students talking on a cell phone while driving ³	57%
High school students driving after drinking alcohol ³	8%
Traffic crash fatalities and incapacitating injuries ⁴	917

The best way to ensure that children get ahead is to make sure that they never fall behind.

Sources: Data source is the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Earned Income Tax Credit; Brookings Institution.

² 2018, Montana Office of Public Instruction.

³ 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, OPI; High school students who have engaged in behavior on at least one occasion during the past 30 days.

⁴ 2017, Montana Department of Transportation.

[§] Below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level;

\$20,420 for a family of 3 in 2017.

^{§§} Tax return filers who currently qualify for the federal EITC.

** Rate withheld due to low count.



www.montanakidscount.org



VAPING

Youth Substance Use

47% of Montana high school students have tried **vaping** and **almost half** of those students have **used vaping products** at least **once** during the past 30 days.



Montana high school students who have used a **vaping product** and **borrowed it** from someone else.

47%

Montana high school students who have used a **vaping product** and **purchased it** themselves.

15%

WHAT WORKS

- Regulate the sale and use of vaping products in the same way as tobacco products, including enforcing age restrictions and implementing product taxes.

OPI, 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.



SEAT BELT USE

Youth Risk Behavior

In 2017, **186 people** died in **motor vehicle crashes** and **731 people** were severely injured. **19%** of **accidental deaths** in Montana result from **motor vehicle crashes**.



40%

Accidental deaths among Montana **children** resulting from **motor vehicle crashes**.

22%

Montanans of all ages who **do not wear seat belts**.

35 states have existing **primary seat belt laws**.

WHAT WORKS

- Pass legislation making seat belt non-use a **primary violation**.
- Support **high-profile enforcement campaigns**.

Montana DPHHS; Montana Dept. of Transportation; National Highway Safety Administration.



SUICIDE

Youth Risk Behavior

Between 2010 and 2017, a total of **137 Montana youth** ages 1-19 **died by suicide**. That's **20%** of **all deaths** for this age group during that period.



31%

Montana high school students who feel **depressed** at least **half the time**.

21%

Montana high school students who have **seriously considered suicide**.

WHAT WORKS

- Improved data sharing across agencies, including schools, hospitals, police departments and medical institutions, to better capture information on suicide attempts.
- Training of school staff to recognize students at risk of suicide.
- Ensure that students have access to mental health and counseling services.

Montana DPHHS, Office of Epidemiology and Scientific Support; OPI, 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.



ALCOHOL

Youth Substance Use

Alcohol is the most **frequently abused substance** in **Montana**. Initiating use of alcohol **before age 15** makes it **more likely that substance use will escalate** with age and increases the likelihood of **depression, sexual abuse, bullying** and **addiction**.



68%

Montana high school students who have had an **alcoholic drink** at least **once** during their lifetime.

40%

Montana high school students who were **given alcohol** by **someone else**.

WHAT WORKS

- Improved enforcement of existing state legislation that prohibits adults from giving alcohol to youth under age 21.
- Statewide social host liability law that holds party hosts liable for alcohol-related injuries occurring from providing alcohol to minors.

Schulenberg, J., Patrick, M. E., Maslowsky, J., & Maggs, J. L. (2014); OPI, 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.