



# Becker County Substance Use and Consequences, 2011

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

## KEY FINDINGS

- On average, 10% of all Becker County motor vehicle crashes were alcohol related-twice the state average.
- Becker County past-month youth smoking rates dropped by 52% from 1998 to 2010.
- The percent of students reporting marijuana use in Becker County has been similar to the Northwest Region and the state.

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## Alcohol Consumption

The rate of reported 30-day alcohol consumption by youth in Becker County has been lower than Minnesota’s Northwest Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Region since 2001, and was lower than the state average in 2007 and 2010. Becker County’s rate decreased by 53% from 1998 to 2007 (36% down to 17%).

Within Becker County, reported use varied by grade and

by gender (*see graph below*).

The percent of Becker youth reporting binge drinking (having 5 or more drinks in a row on at least one occasion) was lower than the state and regional average in 2007 and 2010. From 1998 to 2010, the percent of students reporting binge drinking in the past two weeks decreased from 23% to 10% in Becker County among 9th graders

and 38% to 18% among 12th graders. Reported binge drinking rates for Becker County male students fell from 33% in 1998 to 15% in 2010, and for females from 25% to 12%.

Statistics on adult alcohol consumption are not available at the county level.



## Alcohol Consequences

From 2005 to 2009, the average cost per capita of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries was \$138 in Becker County, compared to \$104 in the Northwest and \$54 in the state (OTS).

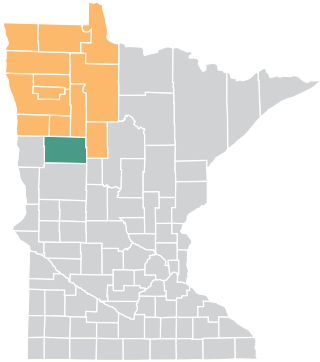
Over that same period, the driving while intoxicated

(DWI) arrest rate with Becker as the county of residence averaged 88.6 per 10,000 population. With Becker as the county of arrest, the average rate was 121.2 (OTS).

The percent of all motor vehicle crashes that were alcohol-related averaged 10% in Becker

County and in the Northwest Region, compared to 5% in Minnesota (OTS).

The cirrhosis death rate per 100,000 population in Becker County averaged 8 from 2004 to 2008, as compared to 10 in the Northwest and 6 in the state (MCHS).



Statistics on adult substance use are available by region for 2004/2005:

- 30-day alcohol consumption was higher among 18–24 year-olds in the Northwest Region than in the state, but lower among other age groups.
- Adults in Northwest Minnesota reported 30-day smoking rates higher than the state average: 27% vs. 24% for males and 24% vs. 21% for females.
- Reported 30-day use of marijuana was slightly higher than the state average in the Northwest: 5% vs. 4%, as was reported abuse of pain relievers: 3% vs. 2%. Twelve month use of MDMA/Ecstasy, crack/cocaine, and meth was the same in the Northwest as in Minnesota: 1%.

Minnesota Survey of Adult Substance Use

## Tobacco Consumption

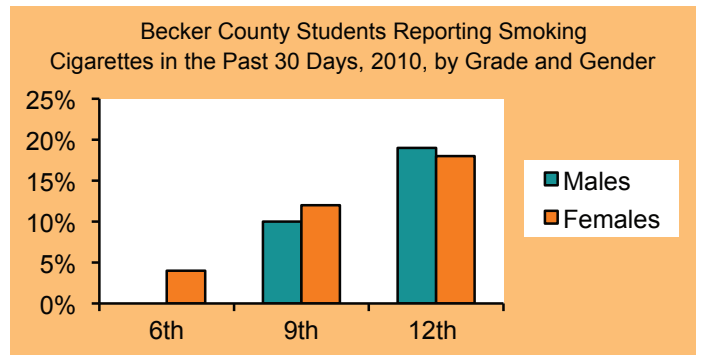
The percent of students reporting smoking any cigarettes in the past 30 days declined statewide from 1998 to 2010: down 52% in Becker County (from 21% to 10%), 39% in the Northwest (from 23% to 14%), and down 47% in the state (from 19% to 10%).

In 2010, Becker County rates varied by grade and by gender (*see graph*).

Reported past 30-day chewing tobacco use decreased

among 12th grade Becker County males: 13% in 2010 from 23% in 2007 (MSS).

Statistics on adult smoking are not available at the county level.



## Tobacco Consequences

The average annual rate per 100,000 population of lung, bronchus and trachea cancer deaths in Becker County was 63 from 2004 to 2008. Comparatively, the Northwest averaged 58 and the state

45 (MCHS).

The number of Becker lung and bronchus cancer deaths averaged 10 among males and 10 among females from 2004 to 2008 (MCSS).

It is estimated that 90%

of lung cancer deaths among males and 79% of lung cancer deaths among females in the United States are smoking-related.

## Risk and Protective Factors

In 2010, students who reported past 30 day use of alcohol and tobacco were asked how they obtained those substances. Becker County students most often reported social access to alcohol (79%) and tobacco (52%). Becker students about as less likely (26%) as Northwest (27%) and Minnesota students (26%) to report taking alcohol from someone or somewhere. However, they were less likely to report buy-

ing (Becker: 51%, NW: 55%, MN: 53%) or taking (10%, 20%, 17%) cigarettes.

Students were also asked how much they thought people risked harming themselves by frequently binge drinking, smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day, or smoking marijuana once or twice per week. Perception of great or moderate risk of alcohol harm was reported by 79% of Becker County students, perception of

tobacco harm was reported by 89% of Becker County students, and perception of marijuana harm was reported by 78% of Becker County students. Similarly, students were asked if they thought their parents or guardians would disapprove or greatly disapprove of such levels of substance use. Perception of disapproval was 89% for alcohol, 94% for tobacco and 95% for marijuana (MSS).

## Other Drug Consumption

Reported past 30 day marijuana use among youth has been similar in Becker County to the state and regional averages from 1998-2010, Becker rates averaged 9% and Northwest and state rates averaged 10%.

From 2004 to 2010, reported use of methamphetamines dropped from 6% to 0% among Becker 9th graders, and from 6% to 1% among Becker 12th graders. During that same period, rates of crack/cocaine use dropped from 8% to 1% among male students, and dropped from 3% to 2%

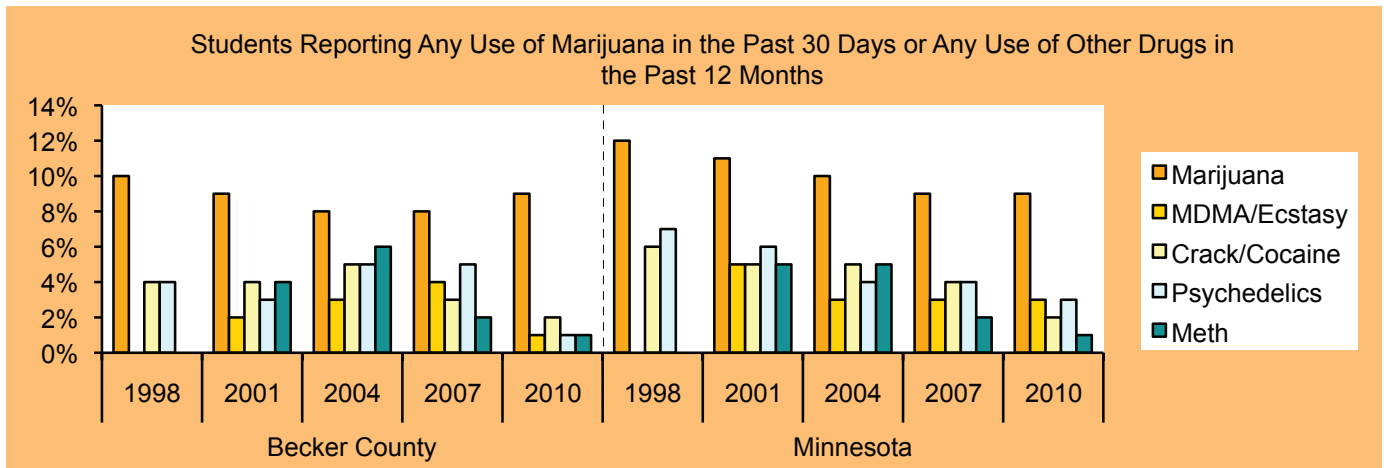
among female students. Reported past-year use of psychedelics decreased among 12th grade Becker males from 8% in 2004 to 1% in 2010. Also on the decline during that period was reported use of MDMA/Ecstasy: 5% to 1% among males and 2% to 1% among females.

In 2010, Becker County 9th and 12th graders were asked about abuse of specific prescription drugs—those not prescribed to them by their doctor, taken only to get high: painkillers (reported by 3% of 9th graders and 2% of 12th

graders), ADD/ADHD drugs (3% of 9th graders and 4% of 12th graders), tranquilizers/sedatives (2% of 9th graders and 1% of 12th graders), and stimulants/diet pills: 2% of 9th graders and 1% of 12th graders (MSS).

Statistics on adult drug use are not available at the county level.

The US Census Bureau estimate for the 2008 Becker County population is 32,000. Becker County is approximately 89% White, 8% American Indian/Alaska Native and 1% Hispanic. In 2000, the percent of individuals living below the poverty level was 12% in Becker County as compared to 8% in Minnesota.



## Other Drug Consequences

There were 82 Becker County narcotics arrests in 2009 of which 59% involved marijuana. Comparatively, the average number of annual arrests in Becker from 2005 to 2009 was 74(BCA). For probation and prison data related to drug offenses, see table below (DOC).

DRUG OFFENSES	BECKER COUNTY			NORTHWEST REGION			MINNESOTA		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Rates per 1,000 Population									
Adults on Probation	2.8	3.0	3.8	3.3	2.0	4.5	3.4	3.6	3.5
Juveniles on Probation	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Adults in Prison	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3

**Questions or comments? Contact:**

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## What's Happening in Your County?



**Substance Use in Minnesota, located at [www.sumn.org](http://www.sumn.org), puts data on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and consequences at your fingertips. The Web site was designed to help communities make decisions about substance abuse prevention efforts based on 55 indicators.**

**This site was developed by the Minnesota State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) with funding from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD). SEOW membership includes: Minnesota's departments of Human Services, Health, Education, Public Safety and Corrections and the Minnesota Institute of Public Health, which maintains the Web site.**

## Data Sources

Population statistics are from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Youth alcohol, tobacco and other drug consumption data are from the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS). The MSS is a confidential and anonymous self-administered survey given every three years to 6th, 9th and 12th grade students attending Minnesota public, charter and tribal schools. The Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team is made up of four state agencies: the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Adult consumption data are

from the MN Survey of Adult Substance Use (MNSASU) from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Performance Measurement and Quality Improvement. Binge drinking is defined as 5 or more drinks in a row on one occasion in the MSS, and 5 or more drinks for males or 4 or more drinks for females in the MNSASU.

Alcohol consequence data are from the Office of Traffic Safety's (OTS) *Impaired Driving Facts and Crash Facts*, and from the National Safety Council.

Alcohol and tobacco mortality data are from the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics (MCHS) and the Minnesota Cancer Surveillance

System (MCSS).

Drug consequence data are from the Minnesota Department of Corrections' (DOC) *Inmate Profile and Probation Survey*, and from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) *Minnesota Crime Information* reports.

Detailed data source information can be found at [www.sumn.org](http://www.sumn.org). Data source fact sheets can be found under Tools. Links to each data source, when available, can be found under each table when using Data by Location or Data by Topic.

Aggregated data at the state and county level do not reveal disparities that may exist within a given geographic area.