



Blue Earth County Substance Use and Consequences, 2011

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

KEY FINDINGS

- Blue Earth County's average cost per capita of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries is higher than both regional and state averages.
- Blue Earth youth were less likely than the state average to report first smoking by age 13 or younger: 11% vs. 12%.
- Reported past-month marijuana use fell from 14% in 2001 to 10% in 2010 among Blue Earth students.

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Alcohol Consumption

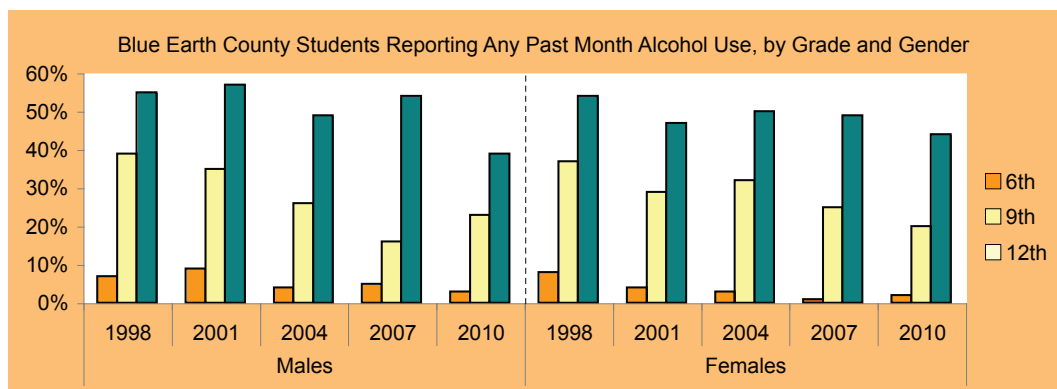
The rate of reported past-month alcohol use by youth in Blue Earth County dropped from 32% in 1998 to 20% in 2010. Comparatively, the rate for Minnesota's Southwest Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Region fell steadily from 33% to 21%, and the states from 31% to 20%. Within Blue Earth, reported use varied by grade and by gender (*see graph below*).

The percent of Blue Earth County students reporting binge drinking in the past two weeks—having five or more drinks in a row on one occasion—dipped from 26% in 1998 to 17% in 2010. In comparison, the Southwest rate fell from 28% to 17% and the state rate from 26% to 16%. In 2010, binge drinking was reported by 12% of 9th grade males, 8% of 9th grade

females, 30% of 12th grade males, and 21% of 12th grade females in Blue Earth County.

Blue Earth County youth were less likely than the state average to report first drinking by age 13 or younger: 18% vs. 20% (MSS).

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 \$76 in Blue Earth County, \$70 in the Southwest Region and \$54 in Minnesota (OTS).

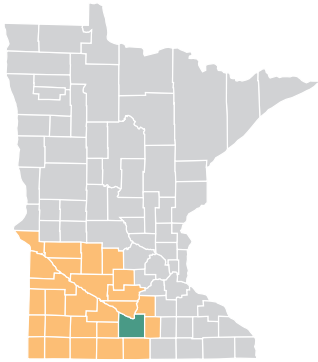
Over that same period, the driving while intoxicated

(DWI) arrest rate with Blue Earth as the county of residence averaged 84 per 10,000 population. With Blue Earth as the county of arrest, the average rate was 106 (OTS).

The percent of all motor vehicle crashes that were alcohol-related averaged 5%

in Blue Earth County and in Minnesota, compared to 6% in the Southwest Region (OTS).

The annual cirrhosis death rate per 100,000 population averaged 6 in Blue Earth County, 7 in the Southwest Region, and 6 in the state from 2004 to 2008 (MCHS).



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

- Past-month alcohol use was lower than the state average for Southwest women, 50% vs. 53%, but equal for men: 67%.

- In the Southwest, past month smoking was reported by 41% of 18-20 year-olds, 41% of 21-24 year-olds, 26% of 25-44 year-olds, 19% of 45-64 year-olds, and 8% of persons aged 65+.

- Southwest adults were less likely than the state average to report past month use of marijuana, 2% vs. 4%. They were as likely as the state average to report past year use of crack/cocaine, 1%, but less likely to report past-year use abuse of prescription pain relievers: 1% vs. 2%. Less than one percent of Southwest adults reported past-year methamphetamine use.

Minnesota Survey of Adult Substance Use

Tobacco Consumption

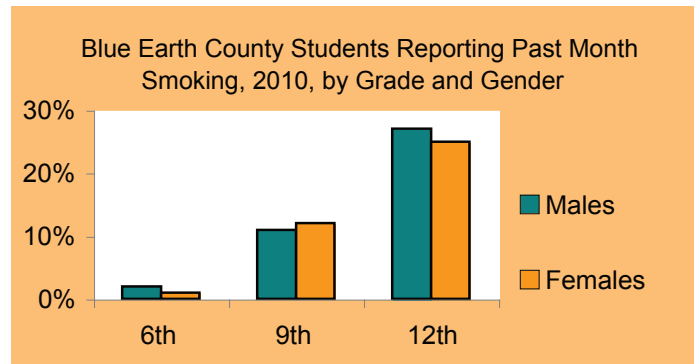
Smoking among youth declined statewide from 1998 to 2010: down from 18% to 12% in Blue Earth County, 20% to 12% in the Southwest Region, and 19% to 10% in Minnesota. In 2010, Blue Earth County rates varied by grade and by gender (*see graph*).

From 2004 to 2010, reported past-month chewing tobacco use in Blue Earth County increased among 9th grade males, 2% to 8%, among 12th grade males, 10% to 17%.

Blue Earth County youth were slightly less likely than the state average to report first smoking by age 13 or younger:

11% vs. 12% (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 Blue Earth County was 43 from 2004 to 2008. Comparatively, the Southwest rate averaged 51 and the state

rate averaged 45 (MCHS).

The number of Blue Earth County lung and bronchus cancer deaths averaged 12 among males and 13 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 reporting past 30 day use of alcohol and tobacco were asked how they obtained those substances. Blue Earth County students most often reported social access to alcohol (93%) and tobacco (66%). Blue Earth students were about as likely (26%) as Southwest (23%) and all Minnesota students (26%) to report taking alcohol from someone or somewhere. They were less likely to report buying

(Blue Earth: 51%, SW: 56%, MN: 53%) and taking (11%, 14%, 17%) tobacco.

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 80% of Blue Earth County students,

perception of tobacco harm was reported by 89% of Blue Earth students, and perception of marijuana harm was reported by 78% of Blue Earth 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, 96% for tobacco and 97% for marijuana (MSS).

Other Drug Con-

sumption

Blue Earth youth are more likely to report use of marijuana than any other illicit drug (*see graph below*). In 2010, 12% of Blue Earth County 9th graders, 19% of 12th graders, and 1% of 6th graders reported marijuana use. Male students were more likely than female students to report use: 10% vs. 9%.

From 2004 to 2010, reported past-year use of methamphetamines fell from 4% to 1% among Blue Earth 9th graders, and 6% to 1% among 12th graders. From 1998 to 2010, reported past-year use of inhal-

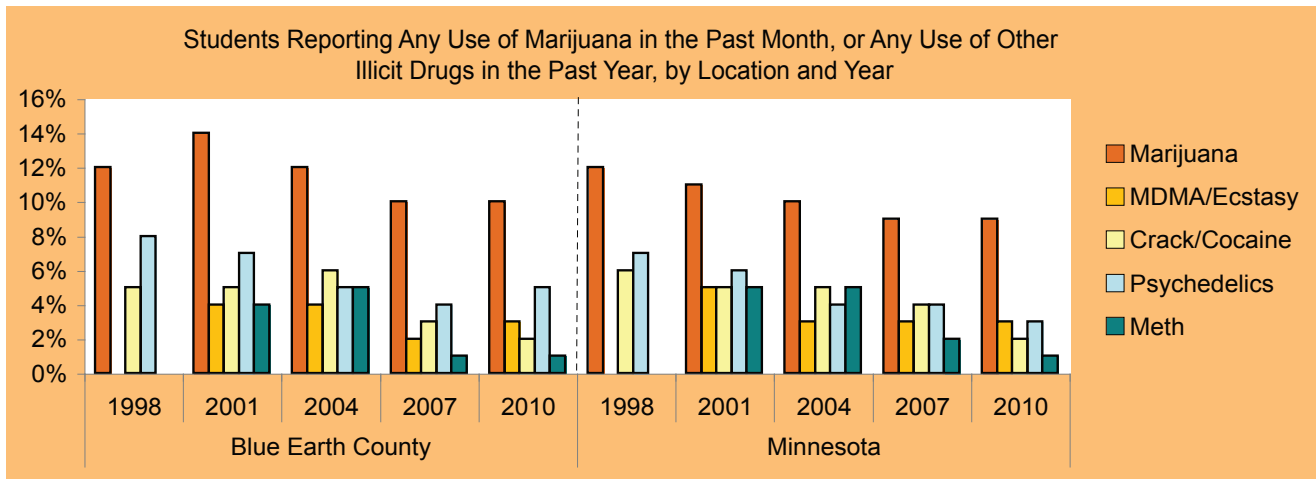
ants fell among Blue Earth 6th graders, 5% to 3%, 9th graders, 6% to 3%, and 12th graders: 4% to 3%. During that period, reported use of psychedelics fell among male students, 9% to 5%, and females: 6% to 3%. Reported use of crack/cocaine increased from 6% to 8% for males, and then fell to 2% in 2007 where it remained in 2010. The rate for females has decreased from an average of 3-4% to 1% in 2010.

In 2010, one percent of 6th graders in Blue Earth County, the Southwest Region and the

state reported past-year abuse of prescription drugs. Blue Earth County 9th and 12th graders were asked about abuse of specific types of prescription drugs in 2010: painkillers (reported by 3% of 9th graders and 5% of 12th graders), ADD/ADHD drugs (4% of 9th graders; 6% of 12th graders), tranquilizers/sedatives (2% of both 9th and 12th graders), and stimulants/diet pills: 2% of 9th and 3% of 12th graders (MSS).

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

The US Census Bureau estimate for the 2008 Blue Earth County population is 60,401. Blue Earth County is approximately 94% White, 2% Hispanic, 2% African-American and 2% Asian/Pacific Islander. In 2000, the percent of individuals living below the poverty level was 13% in Blue Earth County compared to 9% in the Southwest Region and 8% in Minnesota.



Other Drug Consequences

There were 264 Blue Earth County narcotics arrests in 2009—70% of which involved marijuana. Comparatively, the average annual number of narcotics arrests for Blue Earth County from 2005 to 2009 was 246 (BCA). For probation and prison data related to drug offenses, see table below (DOC).

DRUG OFFENSES	BLUE EARTH COUNTY			SOUTHWEST REGION			MINNESOTA		
Rates per 1,000 Population	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Adults on Probation	3.4	4.1	4.3	2.6	4.2	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.5
Juveniles on Probation	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Adults in Prison	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

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What's Happening in Your County?



Substance Use in Minnesota, located at 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. 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.