



# Clearwater County Substance Use and Consequences, 2011

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

## KEY FINDINGS

- Clearwater’s average annual cost per capita of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, fatalities, and injuries is 3.5 times that of the State.
- More Clearwater County students reported access to tobacco by buying it from someone or somewhere as opposed to social access (getting it from someone or somewhere).
- Past month use of marijuana increased among Clearwater youth from 6% in 2007 to 9% in 2010.

## Alcohol Consumption

The rate of reported 30-day alcohol consumption by youth in Clearwater County dropped by 26% from 1998 to 2010 (from 38% to 28%). Comparatively, the Northwest region rate dropped by 39% (from 36% to 22%) and the state rate dropped by 35% (from 31% to 20%).

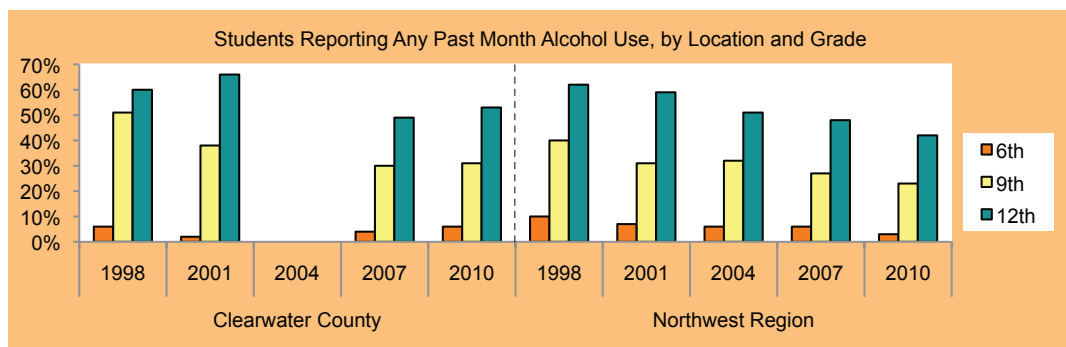
Within Clearwater County, reported use varied by grade level (*see graph below*). Binge

drinking among Clearwater youth, like that of Northwest youth, has been higher than the state average. From 1998 to 2010, the Clearwater binge drinking rate dropped by 37% (from 38% to 24%), the Northwest rate dropped by 42% (31% to 18%), and the state rate dropped by 38% (26% to 16%).

In 2010, the percent of students reporting binge

drinking in the past 2 weeks was: 14% for 9th graders and 38% for 12th graders, 28% for male students and 19% for females (MSS).

Statistics on adult alcohol consumption are not available at the county level. 2004 Minnesota Student Survey data are not available for Clearwater County.



## INSIDE

- Tobacco Consumption ..... 2
- Tobacco Consequences..... 2
- Risk & Protective Factors ..... 2
- Other Drug Consumption ..... 3
- Other Drug Consequences... 3
- MN SEOW ..... 4
- Data Sources..... 4

## Alcohol Consequences

From 2005 to 2009, the average cost per capita of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries was \$189 in Clearwater County, compared to \$104 in the Northwest and \$54 in the state (OTS).

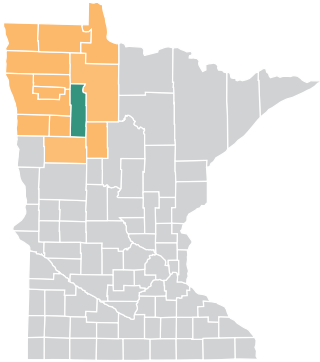
Over that same period, the driving while intoxi-

cated (DWI) arrest rate with Clearwater as the county of residence averaged 94.0 per 10,000 population. With Clearwater as the county of arrest, the average rate was 81.2 (OTS).

The percent of all motor vehicle crashes that were alcohol-related averaged 8% in

Clearwater County—less than the Northwest Region, 10%, but more than Minnesota: 5% (OTS).

The cirrhosis death rate per 100,000 population in Clearwater County averaged 10 from 2004 to 2008, as compared to 8 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

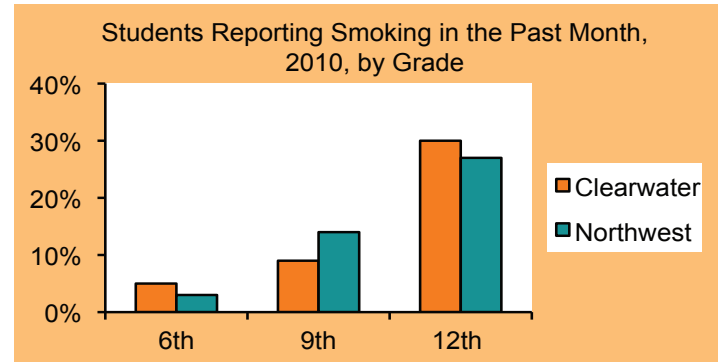
In 2010, the percent of students reporting smoking any cigarettes in the past 30 days was lower in Clearwater County, 13%, than in the Northwest Region, 14%, but higher than the state, 10%. Clearwater rates dropped from 20% in 1998.

In 2010, Clearwater County rates varied by grade level (see graph).

Reported past 30-day chewing tobacco use increased

among 12th grade Clearwater County males: 26% in 2007 to 32% in 2010 (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 Clearwater County was 55 from 2004 to 2008. Comparatively, the Northwest averaged 58 and the state 45

(MCHS).

The number of Clearwater lung and bronchus cancer deaths averaged 4 among males and 1 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. Clearwater County students most often reported social access to alcohol (88%) and buying tobacco from someone or somewhere (62%). Clearwater students were slightly less likely (25%) than Northwest (27%) or all Minnesota students (26%) to report taking alcohol from someone or somewhere.

They were less likely than all Minnesota students to report taking tobacco: 10% vs. 17%.

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 74% of Clearwater County students,

perception of tobacco harm was reported by 82% of Clearwater County students, and perception of marijuana harm was reported by 72% of Clearwater 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 84% for alcohol, 94% for tobacco and 97% for marijuana (MSS).

## Other Drug Consumption

Marijuana use was reported by more Clearwater County students than any other illicit drug (see graph below). From 1998 to 2010, state rates of past 30-day marijuana use dropped from 12% to 9%, Northwest rates held steady around 10%, and Clearwater rates dipped from 9% to 6% then back up to 9%.

Since 2001, Clearwater female students reported an increase in past-year use of MDMA/Ecstasy from 0% to 4%, while rates for males fell from 2% to 1%. Rates of reported Methamphetamine use fell from 2% to 1% for all

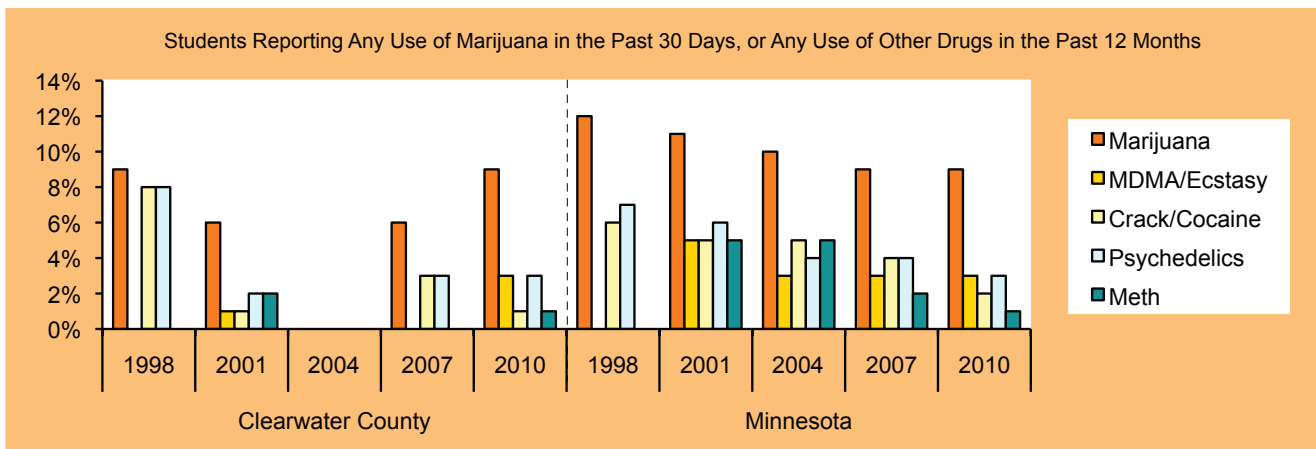
Clearwater students. Reported use of inhaants fell from 1998 to 2010 among 9th graders, 7% to 1%, but increased for 6th graders, 2% to 8%. From 1998 to 2010, reported use of crack/cocaine dropped from 11% to 1% among Clearwater male students, and 4% to 1% among females. Similarly, use of psychedelics showed a decrease from 11% to 3% and 4% to 3% for males and females, respectively.

In 2010, 2% of 6th graders reported past year abuse of prescription drugs as compared to 1% of 6th graders in the

Northwest and in Minnesota. Clearwater 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 5% of 9th graders and 7% of 12th graders), ADD/ADHD drugs (4% and 7%), tranquilizers/sedatives (1% and 5%), and stimulants/diet pills (1% and 5%).

Statistics on adult drug use are not available at the county level. 2004 Minnesota Student Survey data are not available for Clearwater County.

The US Census Bureau estimate for the 2008 Clearwater County population is 8,249. Clearwater County is approximately 89% White, 9% American Indian/Alaska Native, and 1% Hispanic/Latino. In 2000, the percent of individuals living below the poverty level was 15% in Clearwater County as compared to 8% in Minnesota.



## Other Drug Consequences

There were seven Clearwater County narcotics arrests in 2009, 3 of which involved marijuana. Similarly, the average number of annual arrests in Clearwater from 2005 to 2009 was 7 (BCA). For probation and prison data related to drug offenses, see table below (DOC).

DRUG OFFENSES	CLEARWATER COUNTY			NORTHWEST REGION			MINNESOTA		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Rates per 1,000 Population									
Adults on Probation	2.5	5.2	5.6	3.3	2.0	4.5	3.4	3.6	3.5
Juveniles on Probation	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Adults in Prison	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3

## MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

### Questions or comments? Contact:

Melissa Boeke, MS  
Epidemiologist

Minnesota Institute of Public Health  
2720 Highway 10 NE  
Mounds View, MN 55112

Phone: 763.712.7615  
Fax: 763.427.7841  
E-mail: [sumn@miph.org](mailto:sumn@miph.org)

## 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.