



# Substance Use and Consequences in the Northwest ATOD Prevention Region, 2011

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

## KEY FINDINGS

- From 1996 to 2009, 8%-10% of motor vehicle crashes in the Northwest were alcohol related.
- Reported 30-day cigarette smoking among Northwest students, though on the decline, has been higher than the state average over the past 9 years.
- The percent of Northwest students reporting 30-day marijuana use held steady at about 10% from 1998 to 2010.

## 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 Consumption

Reported youth 30-day alcohol use from 1998 to 2010 was higher in the Northwest ATOD Prevention Region than in the state as a whole. The rate dropped from 31% to 20% in Minnesota, and from 36% to 22% in the Northwest region. In 2010, 42% of all Northwest 12th graders reported past month alcohol use (MSS).

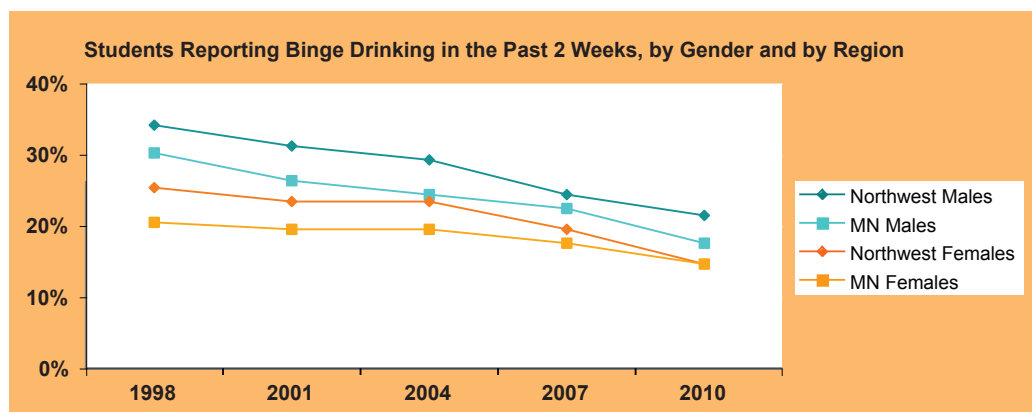
Among adults, reported 30-day alcohol use was lower

than the state average for Northwest men (62% vs. 67%) and women (48% vs. 53%) in 2004/2005. Reported use by Northwest men was highest for 21-24 year olds, 83%, and by women was highest for 25-44 year olds, 57% (MNSASU).

Up until 2010, reported binge drinking was higher than average among Northwest students (see graph below). In 2010, 14% of North-

west 9th grade males and 10% of females reported binge drinking. Among Northwest 12th graders, 32% of males reported binge drinking vs. 21% of females (MSS).

Adult males and females in the Northwest were more likely than the state average to report binge drinking in 2004/2005—29% vs. 24% for men; 16% vs. 13% for women (MNSASU).



## Alcohol Consequences

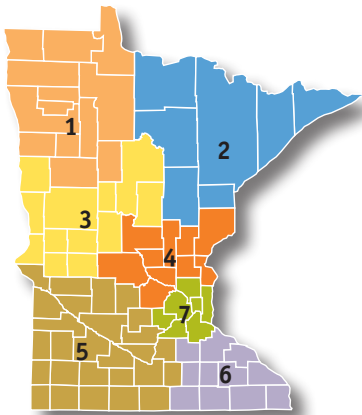
While the cost per capita of alcohol-related traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries has fluctuated, Northwest costs were consistently higher than the state average from 2000 to 2009. Northwest area costs ranged from \$71-\$170 per capita; the range was \$49-\$69

for Minnesota (OTS).

In 2009, the rate of arrests or incidents on record of driving while intoxicated (DWI) was 76.0 per 10,000 population for Northwest as region of residence, and 85.1 for Northwest as region of arrest (both higher than the state rate of

59.5 per 10,000 population.)

From 2000-2009, 8%-10% of motor vehicle crashes in the Northwest were alcohol related. The alcohol-related motor vehicle fatality rate has been 0.5-1.3 per 10,000 population in the Northwest.



Minnesota is divided into seven Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Regions. The Northwest Region contains the counties of: Becker, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.

Minnesota's Prevention Region Coordinators support communities in their efforts to prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) abuse. They help communities by building regional relationships to enhance prevention efforts, identifying and providing training opportunities, and providing technical assistance. For more information on the Northwest ATOD Prevention Region go to: [www.rpcm.org](http://www.rpcm.org)

## Tobacco Consumption

Reported 30-day cigarette smoking among Northwest students, though on the decline, has been higher than the state average over the past 9 years. Northwest rates dropped for: 9th grade males, 24% to 12%; 9th grade females, 25% to 16%; 12th grade males, 37% to 29%; and 12th grade females, 38% to 25% (MSS).

2004/2005 reported past-month smoking rates were higher than the state average

for adults in the Northwest, except for 21-24 year-old men and men aged 65 and older. 18-20 year-olds had the highest rates—54% for men and 49% for women (MNSASU).

The percent of male students reporting past-month chewing tobacco use in 2010 was higher in the Northwest region than the state average for 9th graders, 8% vs. 5%; and 12th graders, 17% vs. 12% (MSS).

Northwest students were more likely than the state average to report first having smoked all or part of a cigarette by age 13 or younger: 18% vs. 13% for males and 18% vs. 11% for females.

Similarly, Northwest male students were more likely to report first having smoked a cigar or used chewing tobacco by the age of 13 or younger: 12% vs. 8% (MSS).

## Tobacco Consequences

From 1999 to 2008, the Northwest region's lung, bronchus and trachea cancer death rate fluctuated, but remained consistently higher than the state average. The Northwest rate ranged from 5.2 to 6.8 per 10,000 population; the

state rate ranged from 4.4 to 4.6 (MCHS).

Over that period, the number of Northwest males who died from lung or bronchus cancer decreased by 8% while the number of female deaths increased by 8% (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. Percent of smoking-attributable deaths may vary from one location to another.

## Risk and Protective Factors

In 2010, students who reported past 30 day use of alcohol and tobacco were asked how they obtained those substances. Similar to all students in the state, Northwest students most often reported social access to alcohol (85%) and tobacco (63%). In addition, 11% reported buying alcohol and 27% reported taking it; 55% reported buying tobacco and 20% reported taking

it (MSS).

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 78% of Northwest students, perception of tobacco harm was

reported by 88% of Northwest students, and perception of marijuana harm was reported by 66% of Northwest 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 88% for alcohol, 83% for tobacco and 95% for marijuana.

## Other Drug Consumption

The percent of Northwest students reporting 30-day marijuana use held steady at about 10% from 1998 to 2010.

Northwest rates were slightly higher than the state average in 2010 for 6th and 9th graders, but were lower for 12th grade males, 23% vs. 25%, and 12th grade females, 15% vs. 16% (MSS).

In 2004/2005, Minnesota adults were asked if they'd smoked marijuana in the past month—9% of Northwest men and 2% of Northwest women said they had, as com-

pared to 6% of men and 3% of women in the state (MNSASU).

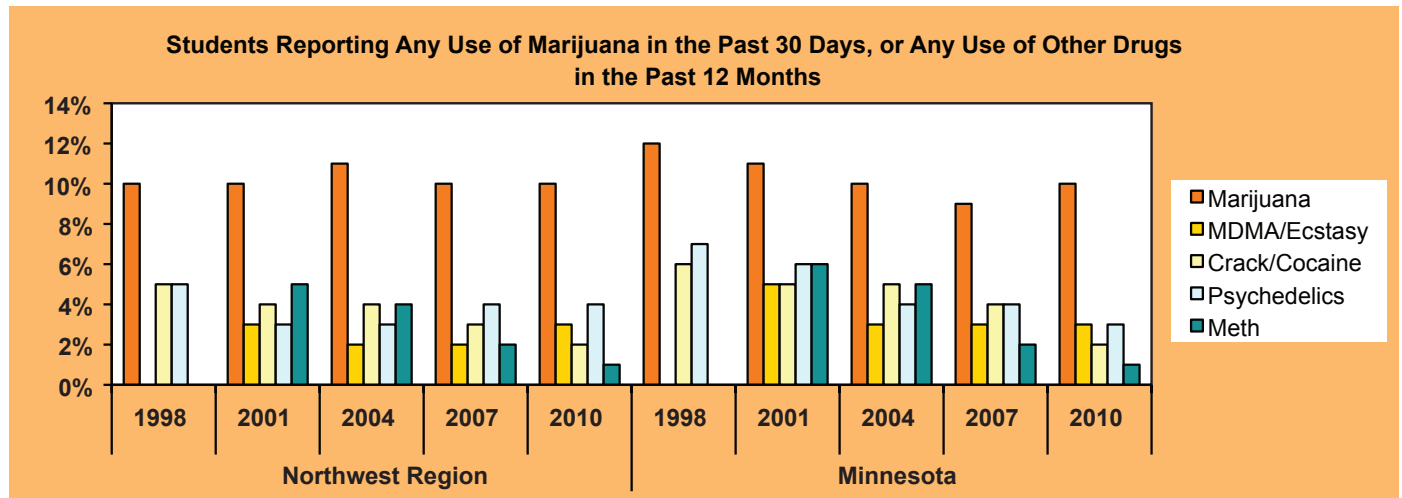
Reported 12 month use of a number of illicit drugs by students dropped from 1998 to 2010 (see bar graph below).

Not pictured: As compared to the state average, 2010 rates of reported use in the Northwest were: higher for 12th grade inhalant use; higher for 9th grade female and lower for 12th grade painkiller abuse; higher for 9th grade female abuse of stimulants/diet pills; and lower for 12th grade male

abuse of ADD/ADHD drugs and tranquilizers/sedatives (MSS).

In 2004/2005, Northwest men were more likely than the state average to report abuse of painkillers (4% vs. 3%), and women more likely to report abuse of tranquilizers/sedatives (5% vs. 4%). One percent or less of Northwest adults reported past-year use of methamphetamines, MDMA/Ecstasy, and/or psychedelics (MNSASU).

The US Census Bureau estimate for the 2008 Northwest region's population is 196,151. This is approximately 3.7% of the state's entire population. The population is about 89% White, 8% American Indian/Alaska Native, 2% Hispanic/Latino, and 1% Asian/Pacific Islander.



## Other Drug Consequences

From 2005 to 2009, the rate of adult prison inmates from the Northwest region sentenced for drug offenses has been higher than that of the state—4 to 8 per 10,000 population vs. 3 to 5. Among Northwest adults in prison for drug offenses in 2007,

approximately 68.4% were White, 3.7% were African-American or Black, 17.9% were Hispanic/Latino and 11.6% were American Indian/Alaska Native (DOC). The rate per 1,000 population of Northwest adults on probation for drug offenses

as governing sentence has fluctuated during 2005 to 2009, ranging from 2 to 4.5. Juvenile rates have also fluctuated, from 0.1 to 0.7. Rates may be influenced by pretrial diversion programs (DOC).

## 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: [mboeke@miph.org](mailto:mboeke@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 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). 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.

Tobacco consequence 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' Inmate Profile and Probation Survey.

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.