



Pennington County Substance Use and Consequences, 2011

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

KEY FINDINGS

- The average cost per capita of Pennington County alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries was about equal to that of the Northwest Region and almost double the State average.
- The average annual rate per 100,000 population of lung, bronchus and trachea cancer deaths in Pennington County averaged close to both the Northwest and State averages between 2004-2008.
- There were 26 Pennington County narcotics arrests in 2009—roughly half involved marijuana.

Alcohol Consumption

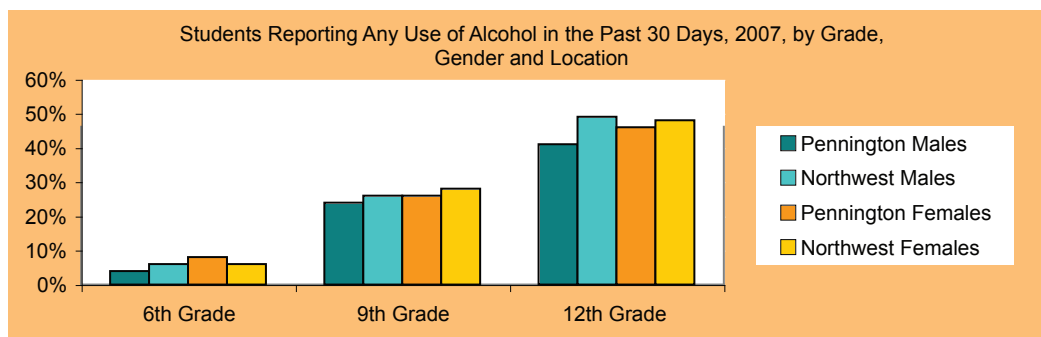
In 2007, the percent of students reporting any past-month alcohol consumption was 25% in Pennington County, 26% in the Northwest Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Region, and 23% in Minnesota. Though 2001 and 2004 Minnesota Student Survey data are not available for Pennington County, rates of past-month alcohol use among youth have been

declining statewide in the past six years. Within Pennington County, reported use was higher among females students regardless of grade level (*see graph below*).

2007 youth binge drinking rates were 21% for Pennington County, 23% for the Northwest, and 20% for the state. Binge drinking—having five or more drinks in a row on one occasion, in the past two

weeks—was reported by more female students than male students in Pennington county: 14% vs. 13% among 9th graders and 31% vs. 29% among 12th graders (MSS).

Minnesota Student Survey data on use of alcohol by Pennington County students are not available for 2001, 2004 and 2010. Statistics on adult alcohol consumption are not available at the county level.



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Alcohol Consequences

From 2005 to 2009, the average cost per capita of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries was \$101 in Pennington County, \$104 in the Northwest and \$54 in Minnesota (OTS).

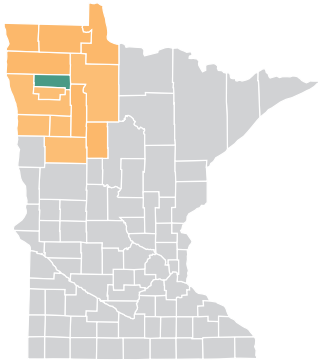
Over that same period, the driving while intoxicated (DWI) arrest rate with Pen-

nington as the county of residence averaged 87.5 per 10,000 population. With Pennington as the county of arrest, the average rate was 72.7 (OTS).

The percent of all motor vehicle crashes that were alcohol-related averaged 9% in Pennington County—less

than the Northwest, 10%, but more than Minnesota: 5% (OTS).

The cirrhosis death rate per 100,000 population in Pennington County averaged nine from 2004 to 2008, as compared to ten in the Northwest and six 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 2007, the percent of Pennington County students reporting smoking any cigarettes in the past 30 days was equal to the state rate, 12%, and lower than the Northwest rate: 16%. Statewide, smoking rates have been on the decline.

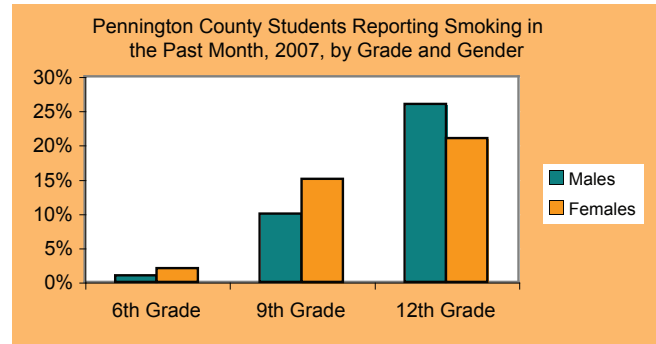
In 2007, Pennington County rates were higher among female in 6th and 9th grade, but higher among males in 12th grade (*see graph*).

Reported past-month chewing tobacco use among

12th grade males in 2007 was 21% in Pennington County as compared to 26% in the Northwest and 19% in Minnesota (MSS).

Minnesota Student Survey

data on use of alcohol by Pennington County students are not available for 2001, 2004 and 2010. 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 Pennington County was 50 from 2004 to 2008. Comparatively, the Northwest averaged 58 and the state 45

(MCHS).

The number of Pennington lung and bronchus cancer deaths averaged 4 among males and 3 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 2007, students reporting past 30 day use of alcohol and tobacco were asked how they obtained those substances. Pennington County students most often reported social access to alcohol (91%) and tobacco (79%). Pennington students were less likely (17%) than Northwest (24%) or all Minnesota students (27%) to report taking alcohol from someone or somewhere. They were more likely to report buy-

ing (Pennington: 67%, NW: 60%, MN: 59%), but less likely to report taking (20%, 25%, 22%) 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

Pennington County students, perception of tobacco harm was reported by 90% of Pennington County students, and perception of marijuana harm was reported by 86% of Pennington County students. Similarly, students were asked if they thought their close friends would disapprove or greatly disapprove of such levels of substance use. Perception of disapproval was 79% for alcohol, 89% for tobacco and 88% for marijuana (MSS).

Other Drug Consumption

In 2007, reported use of illicit drugs was lower in Pennington County than in the Northwest region or the state (*see graph below*).

Use of marijuana in the past 30 days was reported by more Pennington County males than females among both 6th graders (3% vs. 0%) and 12th graders (14% vs. 9%). However, 9th grade females were slightly more likely than males to report use: 10% vs. 9%.

Statewide, reported youth methamphetamine use dropped

from 5% in 2001 to 2% in 2007. One percent of Pennington students reported meth use in 2007.

Use of inhalants was reported by 2% of Pennington 6th and 12th graders, and 1% of 9th graders in 2007.

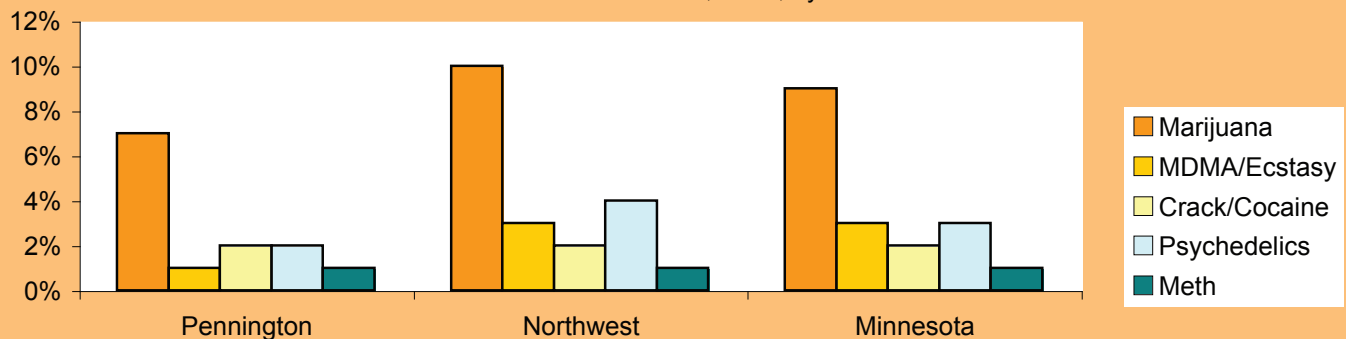
For the first time in 2007, Pennington 9th and 12th graders were asked about abuse of specific types of prescription drugs—those not prescribed to them by their doctor. Abuse of painkillers was reported by 3% of 9th graders and 2%

of 12th graders. One percent of students reported abuse of ADD/ADHD drugs, tranquilizers/sedatives, and stimulants/diet pills. Sixth graders were asked about abuse of prescription drugs in general—this was reported by 1% of students in Pennington County, 2% in the Northwest and 1% in Minnesota (MSS).

2001, 2004 and 2010 Minnesota Student Survey data are not available for Pennington County. Statistics on adult drug use are not available at the county level.

The US Census Bureau estimate for the 2008 Pennington County population is 13,747. Pennington County is approximately 96% White, 2% Hispanic, 1% American Indian, 1% African-American and 1% Asian/Pacific Islander. In 2000, the percent of individuals living below the poverty level was 11% in Pennington County as compared to 8% in Minnesota.

Students Reporting Any Use of Marijuana in the Past 30 Days, or Any Use of Other Drugs in the Past 12 Months, 2007, by Location



Other Drug Consequences

There were 26 Pennington County narcotics arrests in 2009—69% involved marijuana. Comparatively, the average number of annual arrests in Pennington from 2005 to 2009 was 46 (BCA). For probation and prison data related to drug offenses, see table below (DOC).

DRUG OFFENSES	PENNINGTON COUNTY			NORTHWEST REGION			MINNESOTA		
Rates per 1,000 Population	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Adults on Probation	3.4	4.7	4.0	3.3	2.0	4.5	3.4	3.6	3.5
Juveniles on Probation	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Adults in Prison	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3

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

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.