



# Stearns County Substance Use and Consequences, 2011

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

## KEY FINDINGS

- Youth binge drinking in Stearns County fell by 48% from 1998 to 2010.
- The average annual lung, bronchus and trachea cancer death rate for Stearns County is lower than both the regional and state averages.
- Reported past-year methamphetamine use dropped among Stearns County students from 5% in 2001 to 1% in 2010.

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## Alcohol Consumption

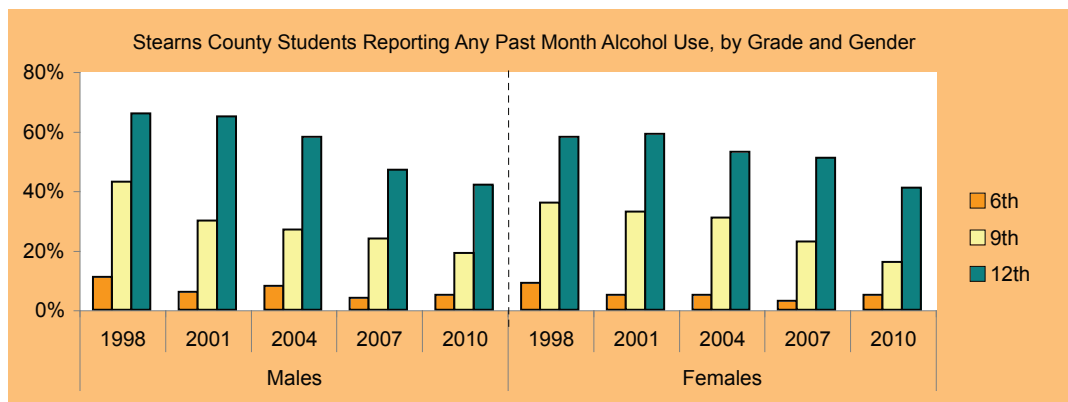
The rate of reported past-month alcohol consumption by youth in Stearns County dropped from 36% in 1998 to 20% in 2010. Comparatively, the rate for Minnesota's East Central Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Region dipped from 34% to 21%, and the state's from 31% to 20%.

Within Stearns County, reported use varied by grade and by gender (*see graph below*).

The percent of Stearns County students reporting binge drinking in the past two weeks—having five or more alcoholic drinks in a row on one occasion—fell from 29% in 1998 to 15% in 2010 (declining by 64% among 9th graders and by 40% among 12th graders). Comparatively, East Central rates fell from 28% to 17% and state rates from 26% to 16%.

In 2010, 8% of Stearns County 9th graders reported binge drinking, as did 24% of 12th graders. Binge drinking was reported by more male students in Stearns County than female students: 18% vs. 12% (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 \$50 in Stearns County, \$77 in the East Central Region and \$54 in Minnesota (OTS).

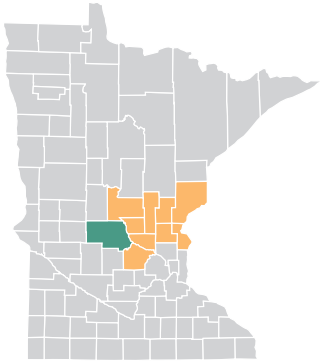
Over that same period, the driving while intoxicated

(DWI) arrest rate with Stearns as the county of residence averaged 70.2 per 10,000 population. With Stearns as the county of arrest, the average rate was 80.5 (OTS).

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

in Stearns County, 6% in the East Central Region, and 5% in Minnesota (OTS).

The cirrhosis death rate per 100,000 population averaged 5 in both Stearns County and the East Central Region from 2004 to 2008, and 6 in the state (MCHS).



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

- Past-month alcohol use was higher among East Central males than the state average: 69% vs. 67%, while female rates equaled the state average: 53%.

- Adults in East Central Minnesota reported 30-day smoking rates higher than the state average: 25% vs. 24% for males, and 24% vs. 21% for females.

- Reported 30-day use of marijuana among East Central adults was slightly lower than the state average: 3% vs. 4%. East Central rates of past-year pain reliever abuse, 2%, and crack/cocaine use, 1%, equaled the state average. Less than 1% of East Central adults reported past-year use of MDMA/Ecstasy or methamphetamines.

Minnesota Survey of Adult Substance Use

## Tobacco Consumption

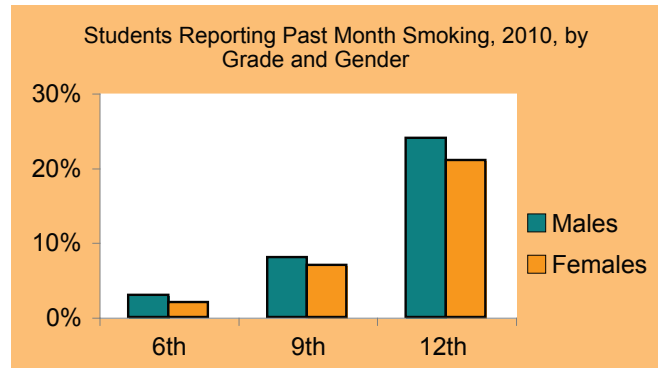
Smoking among youth declined statewide from 1998 to 2010: down from 20% to 10% in Stearns County, 20% to 12% in the East Central Region, and 19% to 10% in Minnesota. In 2010, Stearns County rates varied by grade and by gender (see graph).

From 2004 to 2010, reported past-month chewing tobacco use increased among Stearns County males: 9th graders from 4% to 7% and 12th graders from 11% to

20%; rates held steady from 2007 to 2010. Stearns County youth were as likely than the state average to report first smoking by age 13 or younger:

both at 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 Stearns County was 37 from 2004 to 2008. Comparatively, the East Central Region averaged 43 and the state

45 (MCHS).

The number of Stearns County lung and bronchus cancer deaths averaged 32 among males and 22 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. Stearns County students most often reported social access to alcohol (84%) and tobacco (60%). Stearns County students were more likely (31%) than East Central (26%) and all Minnesota students (26%) to report taking alcohol from someone or somewhere. They also reported slightly higher rates of buying

(Stearns: 56%, EC: 53%, MN: 53%) and slightly lower rates of taking (Stearns: 14%, EC: 17%, MN: 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 Stearns

County students, perception of tobacco harm was reported by 89% of Stearns County students, and perception of marijuana harm was reported by 80% of Stearns 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 86% for alcohol, 96% for tobacco and 97% for marijuana (MSS).

## Other Drug Consumption

Stearns County students had similar rates to the state average to report illicit drug use (see graph below). In 2010, marijuana use was reported by 1% of Stearns 6th graders, 7% of 9th graders and 17% of 12th graders. Stearns County male students were a bit more likely than females to report use in 2010: 9% vs. 6%.

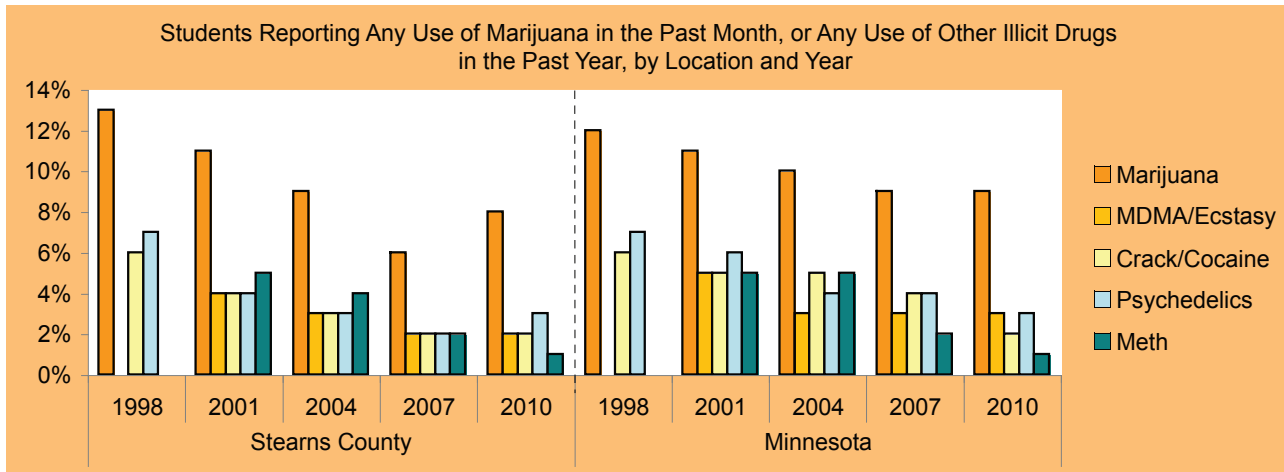
From 2001 to 2010, reported use of methamphetamines dropped from 4% to 1% among Stearns 9th graders, and 6% to 1% among 12th graders. From 1998 to

2010, reported use of inhalants decreased among Stearns male students, 6% to 4%, but held steady among female students at 3%. During that same period, reported use of psychedelics fell among Stearns County male students, 9% to 3%, and female students, 4% to 2%, while reported use of crack cocaine fell from 8% to 3% among males and 4% to 2% among females.

In 2010, 1% of Stearns County 6th graders reported past-year abuse of prescription drugs as well as in both

the East Central Region and Minnesota. Stearns 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 (2% of 9th graders; 3% of 12th graders), tranquilizers/sedatives (2% of 9th graders; 3% of 12th graders), and stimulants/diet pills: (2% of 9th graders; 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 Stearns County population is 147,076. Stearns County is approximately 95% White, 2% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2% Hispanic/Latino and 2% African-American. In 2000, the percent of individuals living below the poverty level was 9% in both Stearns County and the East Central Region, compared to 8% in MN.



## Other Drug Consequences

There were 724 Stearns County narcotics arrests in 2009—69% of which involved marijuana. Comparatively, the average number of annual arrests in Stearns County from 2005 to 2009 was 789 (BCA). For probation and prison data related to drug offenses, see table below (DOC).

| DRUG OFFENSES              | STEARNS COUNTY |      |      | EAST CENTRAL REGION |      |      | MINNESOTA |      |      |
|----------------------------|----------------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|-----------|------|------|
| Rates per 1,000 Population | 2007           | 2008 | 2009 | 2007                | 2008 | 2009 | 2007      | 2008 | 2009 |
| Adults on Probation        | 2.1            | 2.9  | 2.7  | 3.3                 | 3.2  | 3.5  | 3.4       | 3.6  | 3.5  |
| Juveniles on Probation     | 0.5            | 0.4  | 0.7  | 0.4                 | 0.1  | 0.6  | 0.4       | 0.5  | 0.5  |
| Adults in Prison           | 0.5            | 0.8  | 0.7  | 0.4                 | 0.7  | 0.4  | 0.4       | 0.5  | 0.3  |

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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.