



# Watowan County Substance Use and Consequences, 2011

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

## KEY FINDINGS

- Watowan County's average cost per capita of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries is less than half that of the regional average.
- Past-month smoking among Watowan youth has fallen 54% since 2001.
- Reported past-year use of crack/cocaine fell from 8% in 2004 to 3% in 2010 among Watowan students.

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## Alcohol Consumption

The rate of reported past-month alcohol use by youth in Watowan County dropped from 41% in 1998 to 23% in 2010. Comparatively, the rate for Minnesota's Southwest Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Region fell from 33% to 21%, and the state's from 31% to 21%.

Reported use varied by grade (*see graph below*). In 2010, Watowan County fe-

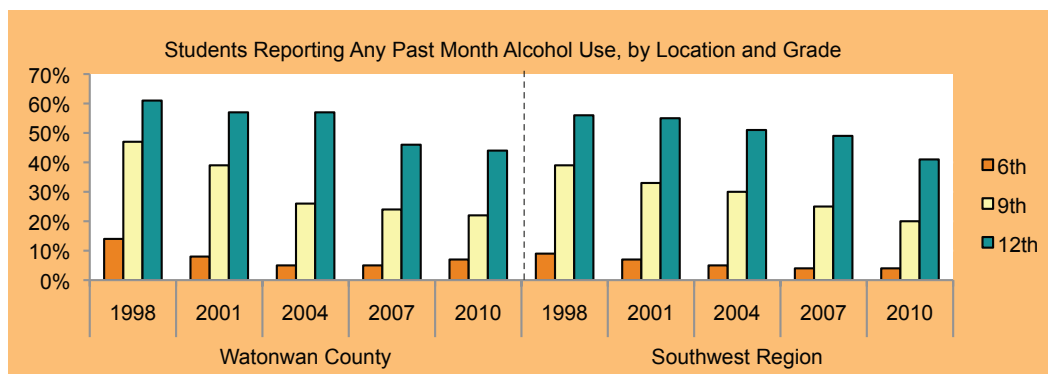
male students were more likely than male students to report past month use: 24% vs. 22%.

The percent of Watowan County students reporting binge drinking in the past two weeks—having five or more drinks in a row on one occasion—fell from 32% in 1998 to 21% in 2007 but increased slightly to 22% in 2010. In comparison, the Southwest rate fell from 28% to 17% and

the state rate fell from 26% to 16%.

In 2010, 16% of Watowan County 9th graders reported binge drinking, as did 29% of 12th graders. Binge drinking was reported by more female students than male students: 24% vs. 19% (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 \$33 in Watowan County, \$70 in the Southwest Region and \$54 in Minnesota (OTS).

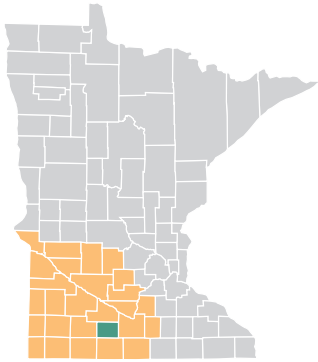
Over that same period, the driving while intoxicated

(DWI) arrest rate with Watowan as the county of residence averaged 74.5 per 10,000 population. With Watowan as the county of arrest, the average rate was 72.4 (OTS).

The percent of all motor vehicle crashes that were alcohol-related averaged 6% in

both Watowan County in the Southwest Region, and 5% in Minnesota (OTS).

The annual cirrhosis death rate per 100,000 population averaged 5 in Watowan County, 6 in the state, and 7 in the Southwest Region 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

In Watonwan, smoking among youth increased from 20% in 1998 to 24% in 2001, then fell to 11% in 2010. The Southwest Region's rate fell steadily from 20% to 12% and the state's rate from 19% to 10%.

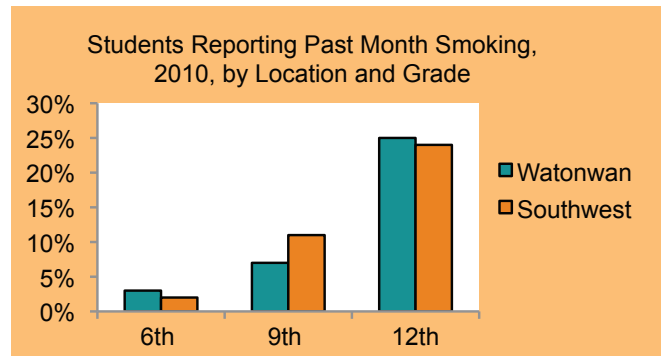
In 2010, Watonwan rates varied by grade (see graph). Past month smoking was reported by 11% of both male and female students.

From 2004 to 2010, reported past-month chewing tobacco use increased among

Watonwan County 12th grade males: 10% to 26%. Watonwan youth were more likely than average to report first smoking by age 13 or younger:

17% 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 Watonwan County was 45 from 2004 to 2008. Comparatively, the Southwest rate averaged 51 and the state

rate averaged 45 (MCHS).

The number of Watonwan County lung and bronchus cancer deaths averaged three among males and two 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. Watonwan County students most often reported social access to alcohol (91%), and buying tobacco from someone or somewhere (59%). Watonwan County students were about as likely (24%) as Southwest (23%) and Minnesota students (26%) to report taking alcohol from someone or somewhere,

and were a bit more likely to report taking tobacco (19%, 14%, 17%) from someone or somewhere.

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

Watonwan students, perception of tobacco harm was reported by 84% of Watonwan students, and perception of marijuana harm was reported by 77% of Watonwan 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, 91% for tobacco and 94% for marijuana (MSS).

## Other Drug Consumption

Watowan youth are more likely to report use of marijuana than any other illicit drug in 2010 (*see graph below*). In 2010, marijuana use was reported by 1% of Watowan County 6th graders, 7% of 9th graders and 16% of 12th graders. Male students were as likely as female students to report use: 7%.

From 2004 to 2010, reported past-year use of methamphetamines dropped from 4% to 1% among Watowan 9th graders, and 6% to 0% among 12th graders. From 2007 to

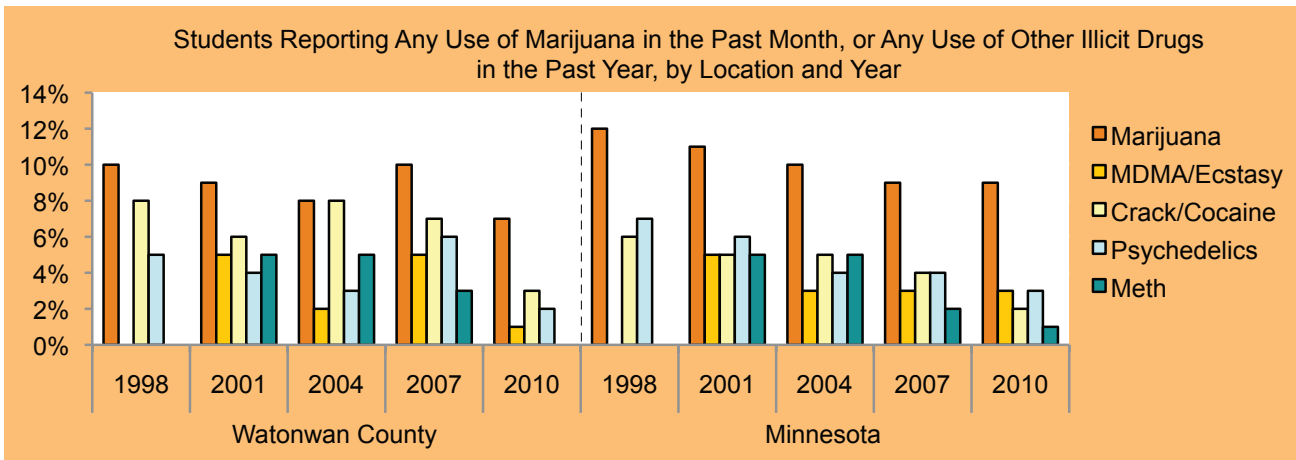
2010, reported past-year use of psychedelics decreased from 7% to 1% for male students and from 4% to 3% of female students in Watowan.

From 1998 to 2010, reported past-year use of inhalants fell among Watowan 6th graders, 7% to 5%, 9th graders, 7% to 2%, and 12th graders, 5% to 1%. Reported use of crack/cocaine dipped from 9% to 8% for males and 7% to 5% for females.

In 2010, 2% of Watowan 6th graders reported past-year abuse of prescription drugs

compared to one percent in the Southwest Region and in the state. Watowan County 9th and 12th graders were asked about abuse of specific types of prescription drugs in 2010: painkillers (reported by 2% of both 9th and 12th graders), ADD/ADHD drugs (reported by 2% of both 9th and 12th graders), tranquilizers/sedatives (2% of 9th graders; 0% of 12th graders), and stimulants/diet pills: 2% of 9th graders; 0% of 12th graders (MSS). Statistics on adult drug use are not available at the county level.

The US Census Bureau estimate for the 2008 Watowan County population is 10,860. Watowan County is approximately 97% White, 19% Hispanic/Latino and 1% Asian/Pacific Islander and African-American or Black. In 2000, the percent of individuals living below the poverty level was 10% in Watowan County compared to 9% in the Southwest Region and 8% in the state.



## Other Drug Consequences

There were 13 Watowan County narcotics arrests in 2009—roughly two-thirds involving marijuana. In comparison, the average annual number of narcotics arrests for Watowan County from 2005 to 2009 was 21 (BCA). For probation and prison data related to drug offenses, see table below (DOC).

DRUG OFFENSES	WATOWAN COUNTY			SOUTHWEST REGION			MINNESOTA		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Rates per 1,000 Population									
Adults on Probation	3.4	3.7	3.2	2.6	4.2	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.5
Juveniles on Probation	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Adults in Prison	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3

**Questions or comments? Contact:**

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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.