



# Substance Use and Consequences Among Minnesota Youth, 2011

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

## KEY FINDINGS

- Reported impaired driving dropped from 40% to 23% among 12th grade males, and 30% to 15% among 12th grade females from 1998 to 2010.
- Youth most often report social access to alcohol, 87%, and to tobacco, 63%.
- Reported past-year use of methamphetamines dropped from 5% in 2001 to 1% in 2010.

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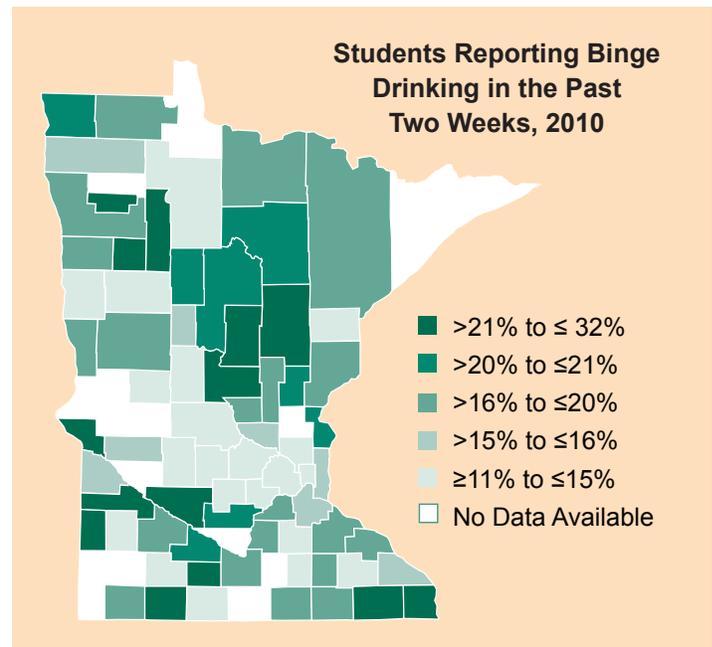
## Alcohol Consumption

The percent of Minnesota students who reported drinking any alcohol in the past 30 days has declined for both males and females across all grade levels. Rates dropped from 31% in 1998 to 20% in 2010.

Rates have been highest in the Northwest region of the state, and lowest in the Southeast and Metro regions of the state.

Reported past 30-day alcohol use has been highest among White, American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latino youth. However, from 1998 to 2010 rates decreased the most for White youth (down 38%) and for Hispanic/Latino youth (down 37%).

The percent of students reporting binge drinking in the



past 2 weeks, defined as 5 or more drinks in a row on one occasion, has also declined. While binge drinking rates dropped from 43% in 1998 to

29% in 2010 for 12th grade males, they fell only from 26% to 21% for 12th grade females (MSS).

## Alcohol Consequences

The percent of students reporting that they drove in the past 12 months after using alcohol or other drugs dropped from 40% to 23% among 12th grade males, and 30% to 15% among 12th grade females from 1998 to 2010. During this same time period, the

percent of 9th graders who reported ever riding with an impaired driver dropped from 30% to 17%, and the percent of 12th graders having done so dropped from 47% to 33% (MSS).

In 2009, approximately 5,745 Minnesota juveniles

were arrested for liquor laws. Of these, 84.4% were White, 8.3% were African-American or Black, 4.7% were American Indian/Alaska Native, and 2.5% were Asian/Pacific Islander (DPS).



Nearly half of all teen suicides each year and more than half of adolescent deaths in Minnesota involve alcohol. One-third of all traffic fatalities among 15-19 year olds are caused by drinking and driving. Two-thirds of sexual assaults and date rapes among teens and college students are alcohol related.

Source: *What's the Big Deal? Underage Drinking in Minnesota*. Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

## Tobacco Consumption

The percent of Minnesota students who reported smoking cigarettes on one or more days in the past 30 days declined from 1998 to 2010 for 6th graders (4% to 2%), 9th graders (23% to 10%) and 12th graders (35% to 22%).

Rates have been highest in the Northwest, Northeast, and Southwest regions of the state, and lowest in the Southeast

and Metro regions of the state. Reported past 30-day cigarette smoking has been highest among American Indian/Alaska Native youth and Hispanic/Latino youth, and lowest among Asian/Pacific Islander youth and African-American, African and Black youth. From 1998 to 2010, rates decreased the most for Hispanic/Latino youth (down 48%) and for White

youth (down 47%).

The percent of students reporting past month chewing tobacco use: fell among 9th grade males from 11% in 1998 to 6% in 2004, then increased to 8% in 2010, and fell among 12th grade males from 19% in 1998 to 13% in 2004, then increased to 22% in 2010 (MSS).

## Access

In 2010, students reporting past month alcohol use were asked how they acquired it. Youth were most likely to report social access—getting alcohol from others (87%). Twenty-six percent reported taking alcohol; 9% reporting buying it.

Students reporting past month cigarette smoking were also asked how they acquired them. Again, youth were most likely to report social access—63%. Fifty-three percent reported buying cigarettes; 17% reporting taking them (MSS).

Retailer violation rates—selling tobacco products to persons under 18—fell in Minnesota from 16% in 2003 to 4% in 2010. This compares to a national decline of 14% down to 11% (SYNAR).

## Perception of Harm, Disapproval

In 2010, students were asked if they thought their parents or guardians would disapprove or greatly disapprove if they had 5 or more drinks in a row on one occasion, once or twice per week. Belief of disapproval decreased with grade for males (95% of 6th graders; 91% of 9th graders; 76% of 12th graders) and females (96%; 92%; 81%).

In 2010, students were also asked if they believed people

put themselves at great or moderate risk of harm by having 5 or more drinks in a row on one occasion, once or twice per week. While the perception of harm decreased among males by grade, perception of harm among females was actually highest for 9th graders.

Similarly, in 2010 students were asked about disapproval and risk of harm in relation to smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day. Belief of

parent or guardian disapproval decreased with grade for males (97% of 6th graders; 96% of 9th graders; 89% of 12th graders) and females (98%; 97%; 92%). The percent perceiving harm from tobacco (unlike alcohol or marijuana) increased by grade among females. While perception of harm from tobacco decreased by grade among males, it decreased less than for other substances (MSS).

## Other Drug Consumption

Overall, the percent of Minnesota students who reported smoking marijuana in the past 30 days declined from 12% in 1998 to 10% in 2010. Past month use was reported by 1% of 6th graders, 11% of 9th grade males, 9% of 9th grade females, 25% of 12th grade males, and 16% of 12th grade females. Rates have been highest in the Northeast region of the state, and lowest in the Southwest region over the past 12 years.

In 2010, 1% of Minnesota 6th graders reported past year abuse of prescription drugs. Ninth and 12th graders were asked about abuse of specific types of prescription drugs: pain relievers (reported by 4%

of 9th graders and 6% of 12 graders), ADD/ADHD drugs (3% of 9th graders, 5% of 12th graders), tranquilizers/sedatives (2% of 9th graders, 3% of 12th graders), and stimulants/diet pills (3% of 9th and 12th graders).

Reported past-year use of methamphetamines dropped from 2001 to 2010 for 9th grade males: 5% to 1%, 9th grade females: 4% to 1%, 12th grade males: 8% to 2% and 12th grade females: 5% to 1%.

Over the past 12 years, reported inhalant use has been highest among 9th graders and lowest among 12th graders, though 9th grade rates did drop from 7% to 3%.

MDMA/Ecstasy use was

reported most often by metro-area male students from 2001 to 2010.

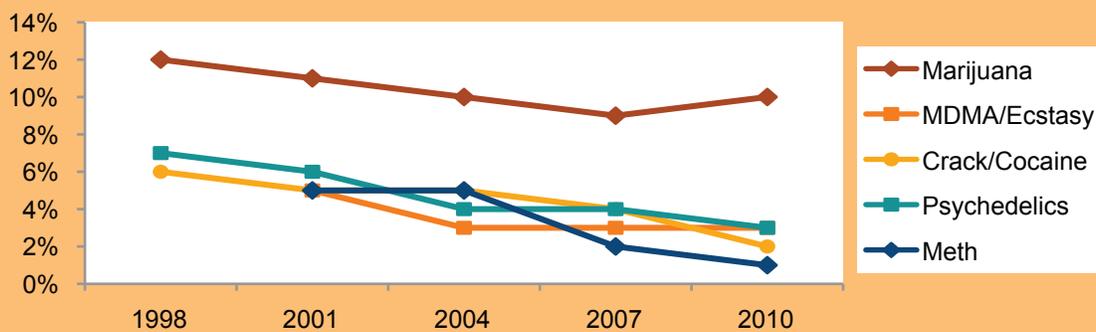
Crack/cocaine use was reported most often by metro-area male students from 2001 to 2010, but decreased for this group from 6% to 3%. Three percent of all Minnesota male students reported past-year use, and 2% of all female students.

Reported use of LSD, PCP and other psychedelics has also been highest among metro-area male students. Rates dropped from 10% in 1998 to 5% in 2010 for metro males; 5% to 2% for metro females; 8% to 4% for non-metro males; and 5% to 2% for non-metro females (MSS).

Of all school disciplinary incidents in the 2007/2008 school year in Minnesota, 1% involved alcohol 3% involved tobacco, and 4% involved other drugs.

*Safe and Healthy Minnesota Schools (SAHMS) portal, Minnesota Department of Education.*

Minnesota Students Reporting Any Use of Marijuana in the Past 30 Days or Any Other Drugs in the Past 12 Months



## Other Drug Consequences

The rate of juveniles on probation in Minnesota for drug offense as governing sentences fluctuated from 1998 to 2009,

ranging from 0.4 to 1.2 per 1,000 population. Rates may be influenced by pretrial diversion programs, drug courts

and variations in enforcement from year to year (DOC).

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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 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

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.

Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks in a row on one occasion in the MSS.

Alcohol consequence data are from the MSS and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Minnesota Crime Information report.

Access data are from the MSS, and SYNAR tobacco retailer non-compliance data are from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

Data on youth perception of harm and disapproval are from the MSS.

Drug consequence data are from the Minnesota Department

of Corrections' (DOC) 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.