



# Substance Use and Consequences in the Northwest ATOD Prevention Region, 2008

MN STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP

## KEY FINDINGS

- From 1996 to 2007, 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.
- Northwest 12th graders were less likely to report past-month marijuana use than the state average.

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## Alcohol Consumption

From 1998 to 2007, reported 30-day alcohol use was higher in the Northwest ATOD Prevention Region than in the state as a whole. The rate dropped from 31% to 23% in Minnesota, and from 36% to 26% in the Northwest. In 2007, 48% of all Northwest 12th graders and 27% of 9th graders reported past month alcohol use (MSS).

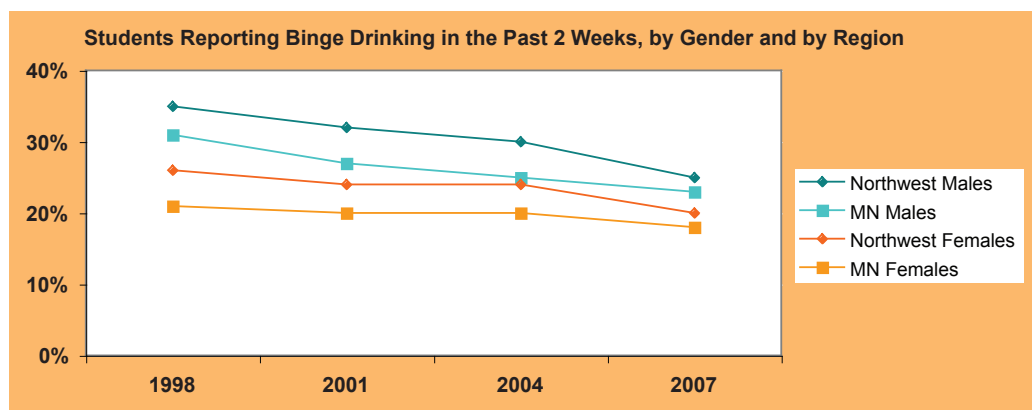
Among adults, reported 30-day alcohol use was lower

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).

Reported binge drinking has been higher than average among students in the Northwest (*see graph below*). In 2007, 17% of Northwest

9th grade males and 15% of females reported binge drinking. Among Northwest 12th graders, 35% of males reported binge drinking vs. 27% 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

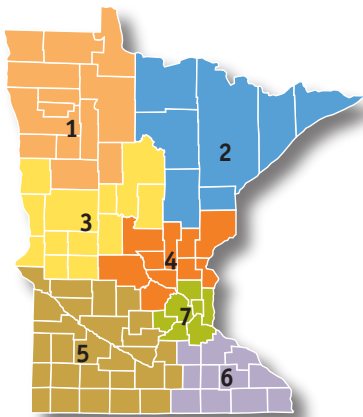
While the cost per capita of alcohol-related traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries has fluctuated, Northwest costs were consistently higher than the state average from 1995 to 2007. Northwest area costs ranged from \$78–\$170 per capita; the range was \$49–\$75

for Minnesota (OTS).

In 2007, the rate of arrests or incidents on record of driving while intoxicated (DWI) was 93.4 per 10,000 population for Northwest as region of residence, and 100.1 per 10,000 population for Northwest as region of arrest (both

higher than the state rate of 71.2 per 10,000 population.)

From 1996 to 2007, 8%–10% of motor vehicle crashes in the Northwest were alcohol related. The alcohol-related motor vehicle fatality rate has been 0.5–1.4 per 10,000 population in the Northwest.



Minnesota is divided into seven Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Regions. Northwest Region 1 contains the counties of: Becker, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau. Also included are the Red Lake and White Earth Indian Reservations.

Minnesota's Prevention Region Coordinators support communities in their efforts to prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) abuse. For more information on the Northwest ATOD Prevention Region go to: [www.rpcmn.org](http://www.rpcmn.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 18%; 9th grade females, 25% to 19%; 12th grade males, 37% to 30%; and 12th grade females, 38% to 29% (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 2007 was higher in the Northwest region than the state average for 6th graders, 2% vs. 1%; 9th graders, 16% vs. 8%; and 12th graders, 26% vs. 19% (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: 19% vs. 16% for males and 18% vs. 14% 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: 16% vs. 9% (MSS).

## Tobacco Consequences

The lung and bronchus cancer death rate in the Northwest Region changed from 6.2 per 10,000 (60 deaths) in 2000 to 7.2 per 10,000 (71 deaths) in 2006 among males, and from 4.5 per 10,000 (44 deaths) to

4.8 per 10,000 (48 deaths) among females. Comparatively, the state rate held steady for males at 5.0 per 10,000 and increased from 3.9 per 10,000 to 4.1 for females (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 2007, 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 (90%) and tobacco (73%). In addition, 13% reported buying alcohol and 24% reported taking it; 60% reported buying tobacco and 25% 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 81% of Northwest 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 74% for alcohol, 83% for tobacco and 83% for marijuana.

## Other Drug Consumption

The percent of Northwest students reporting 30-day marijuana use held steady at about 10% from 1998 to 2007.

Northwest rates were slightly higher than the state average in 2007 for 6th and 9th graders, but were lower for 12th grade males, 19% vs. 23%, 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

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

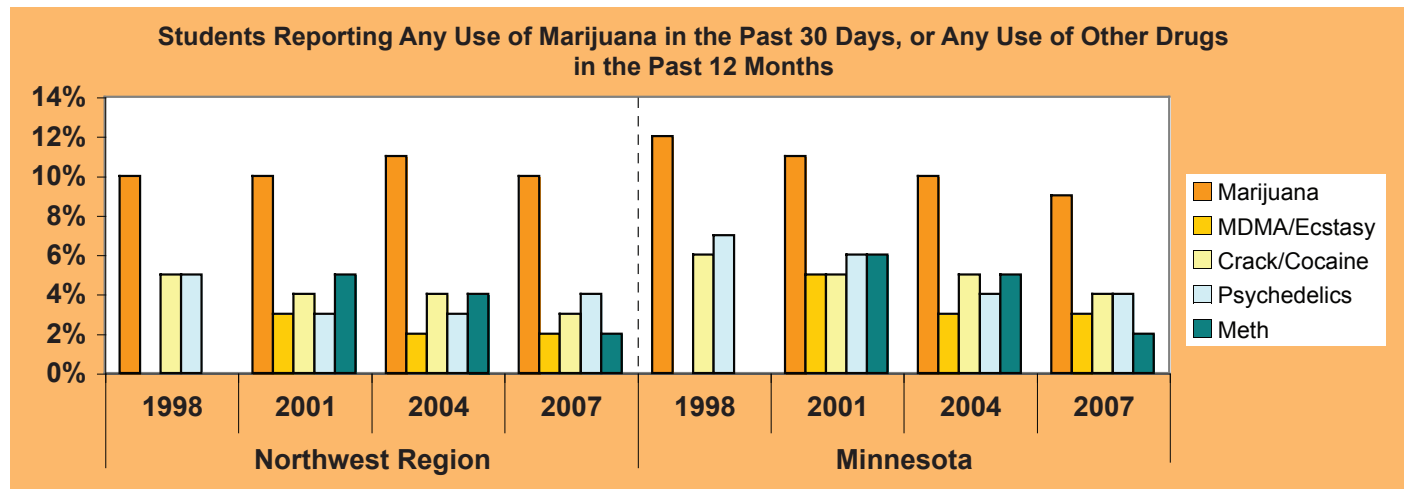
Reported 12 month use of a number of illicit drugs by students dropped from 1998 to 2007 (*see bar graph below*).

As compared to the state average, 2007 rates of reported use in the Northwest were: higher for 9th grade and lower 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 2007 Northwest region's population is 197,159. This is approximately 3.8% of the state's entire population. The population is about 88% White, 7% American Indian/Alaska Native, 2% Hispanic/Latino, and 1% Asian/Pacific Islander.



## Consequences

The rate of adult prison inmates from the Northwest region sentenced for drug offenses has been higher than that of the state for the past four years—4 to 8 per 10,000 population vs. 4 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 over the past 10 years, ranging from 1.9 to 4.1. Juvenile rates have also fluctuated, from 0.3 to 1.0. Rates may be influenced by pretrial diversion programs (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 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.

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.