

Substance Use in Minnesota: A State Epidemiological Profile



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the Minnesota Department of Human Services,
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Executive Summary

Overview

The 2007 Minnesota State Epidemiological Profile of Substance Use (Profile) was created to help the state and communities determine prevention needs based upon available data on substance use and related outcomes. Accordingly, the Profile can be used by a variety of audiences for related, but different, purposes. State-level administrators may use the profile to prepare applications for federal funding or they may use it to monitor prevention-related trends in local communities to which they administer grants. Community-level prevention planners may use the profile to assess the relative importance of substance related problems in their communities or to apply for grant funding themselves. Overall, the Profile is intended to help all audiences in Minnesota make decisions based on existing evidence and demonstration of need.

The Profile provides a comprehensive source of data related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) Minnesota. Two types of data are presented in the Profile:

- **Consumption data** - Information on ATOD use
- **Consequence data**- Information on negative outcomes associated with ATOD use

Methods

The Profile is intended as a “one-stop shop” for audiences interested in substance abuse data. Data from eleven state and national sources are presented ranging from years 1998 to 2005. Much of the data contained in the document will be familiar to potential users of the Profile. However, the utility of the Profile lies in the fact that the various sources are presented in one comprehensive document.

The data are presented in a variety of ways:

- State data are presented in conjunction with national data
- Data are organized by a variety of demographic variables (gender, age, race/ethnicity, metro/non-metro)
- Trend data presents data over time

Key Findings

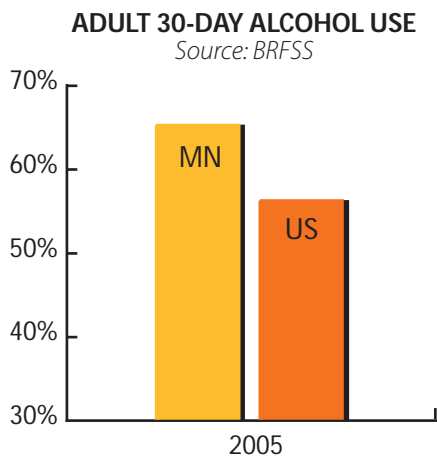
Overall, ATOD consumption rates and associated negative consequences have decreased or remained stable in Minnesota since the late 1990s. However, findings vary according to various demographic characteristics. For example, even though the rate of DUI arrests in Minnesota has remained stable in recent years, the DUI arrest rate in Minnesota is over three times as prevalent among men compared to women.

Following are a selection of key findings from the 2007 Profile. It is important to note that differences are not assessed in scientific terms using statistical significance. Instead, we encourage the user of the profile to attribute meaning to percent change in conjunction with other information regarding local context and community-level ATOD trends.

Alcohol

Adults

Compared to national rates, a higher proportion of adults in Minnesota consumed alcoholic beverages in the past 30 days (30-day use). In 2005, 65% of Minnesotans reported 30-day use, compared to the national average of 56%.



Alcohol use in Minnesota has remained stable from year to year.

- However, some notable decreases in use have been observed; 30-day use among young adults aged 18-24 has declined in recent years from 70% in 2002 to 62% in 2005.

The rate of fatal alcohol-related crashes in Minnesota has remained lower than national rates in recent years (averaging 3% below national rates from 2003-2005).

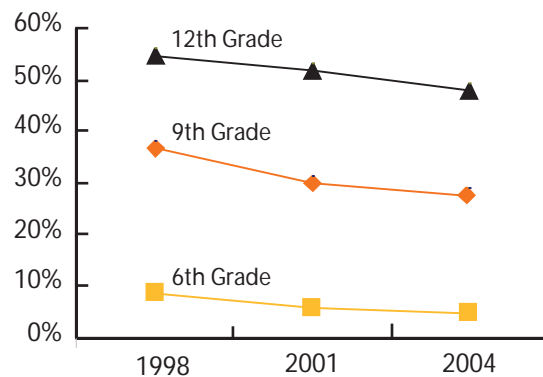
- There exists a wide gender gap regarding impaired driving in Minnesota; men are over three times as likely as women to be involved in an impaired driving incident (76% vs. 23% in 2005).

Youth

Reported 30-day alcohol use among youth has declined from 1998 to 2004 (down 8%).

YOUTH 30-DAY ALCOHOL USE

Source: MSS



Thirty-day use varies according to both race/ethnicity and grade.

- African-American (15%) and Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) (17%) youth reported lower rates of alcohol use compared to White (26%), Native American (24%), and Hispanic/Latino (24%) youth.
- Native American youth reported disproportionate amounts of binge drinking (35%) compared to youth of other races/ethnicities (13-23%).

Twelfth graders reported rates of alcohol use nearly twice that of 9th graders.

- 48% vs. 28% for 30-day alcohol use
- 31% vs. 15% for binge drinking

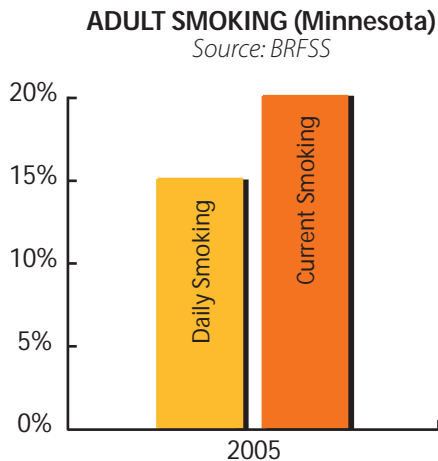
Far more youth reported riding with an impaired driver (31%) compared to those who reported driving impaired themselves (17%).

- Consistent with findings regarding youth alcohol consumption, AAPI (10%) and African-American (10%) students reported the lowest rates of impaired driving compared to Native American (26%), White (17%) and Hispanic/Latino (15%) youth.

Tobacco

Adults

Rates of adult tobacco use in Minnesota are consistent with national trends; 20% of adults reported current smoking in 2005 and 15% reported daily smoking.



Minor decreases have been observed since 2002. From 2002 to 2005, current smoking decreased by a percent difference of 2% and daily smoking decreased by a percent difference of 1%.

Among all age groups, tobacco use is most prevalent among young adults ages 18-24. 29% reported current smoking; 20% reported daily smoking.

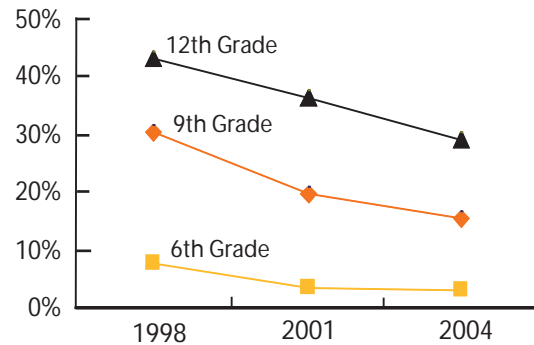
No major gender differences were observed for current and daily smoking.

Smoking attributable mortality in Minnesota was below national averages in 2001 (224 vs. 272 per 100,000 population).

Youth

Cigarette smoking among youth in Minnesota has decreased in recent years. Fourteen percent of youth reported cigarette smoking in the past 30 days in 2004 (30-day use). This represents a percent difference of nearly 12% since 1998.

YOUTH 30-DAY CIGARETTE USE
Source: MSS



Cigarette smoking is far more prevalent among older youth.

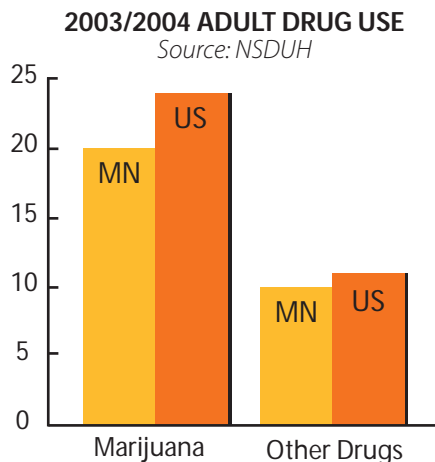
- In 2004, 29% of 12th graders reported 30-day use compared to 15% of 9th graders and 3% of 6th graders.
- Similar to alcohol consumption patterns, smoking is less common among African-American (9%) and AAPI (11%) youth compared to Native American (24%), Hispanic/Latino (16%) and White (15%) youth.
- No gender differences were observed for 30-day use.

Other Drugs

Adults

Overall, drug use among adults over 18 in Minnesota is consistent with national averages. About 10% of adults in Minnesota and 11% of adults nationally reported the use of drugs other than marijuana in 2003/2004.

In 2003/2004, 20% of adults in Minnesota and 24% of adults nationally reported smoking marijuana in the past 30 days. There were no decreases in marijuana use between the period of 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 both in Minnesota and nationally.



In 2004, nearly 11% of adults on probation in Minnesota were sentenced for drug offenses. This figure has remained relatively stable since 2000.

In 2006, nearly a quarter (24%) of adult prison inmates in Minnesota were sentenced for drug offenses, compared to 15% in 2000.

Youth

Overall, 11% of Minnesota youth reported using one or more illicit drug other than marijuana in 2004¹. Compared to other grades, drug use was most frequently reported among 12th graders; 17% of 12th graders reported use of one or more drug other than marijuana in the past 12 months. No gender differences were observed.

Youth Reporting Use of One or More Drugs Other than Marijuana, Past 12 Months
Source: MSS



The proportion of youth reporting use of one or more drugs other than marijuana has remained the same from 2001 to 2004 within a difference of 2%.

Marijuana is the most frequently reported drug used by youth in Minnesota, with 19% of 12th graders reporting using marijuana in the past 30 days in 2004.

- Across races/ethnicities, rates of marijuana use were highest (18%) among Native American youth and lowest (6%) among AAPI youth.

¹These include: inhalants, LSD/psychedelics, MDMA (ecstasy), crack/cocaine, barbiturates, methamphetamine, amphetamines, heroin/opiates, others' prescription drugs.

Next to marijuana, the use of others' prescription drugs is most frequently reported, with 6% of youth reporting use in 2004.

Among all age groups, the largest proportion of property crimes are committed by youth under 18 years of age (35% in 2005).

- In 2005, 35% of property crimes in Minnesota were committed by youth. This represents a 8% drop from 43% in 2001.

The number of juveniles on probation for drug offenses also declined in recent years with a 5% difference between 2000 and 2004.

Using the Profile

The goal of the Minnesota State Epidemiological Profile is to depict ATOD consumption and consequence patterns statewide. The authors have presented a comprehensive array of ATOD-related data which will be updated annually. We acknowledge that the universe of available data is vast and expansive and encourage the use of additional data not presented in the Profile. Should you wish to use alternative data sources for prevention planning, or require assistance interpreting data presented in the profile, we suggest consulting with your local evaluator or epidemiologist.