

Statistics on Drug Abuse in Nebraska Youth and ECDHD Youth

Alcohol and tobacco and marijuana remain the drugs of choice of Nebraska's high school students. Since 2003 the percentage of Nebraska's students using alcohol and tobacco have declined, but the percentage of students using marijuana has not significantly altered, it has remained steady.

Tobacco Use Statistics

In the area of Tobacco Statistics we are fairly consistent with the USA tobacco statistics when comparing our State to the rest of the Nation using the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS-2005). Tobacco usage among youth in the USA and Nebraska has declined over the past eight years according to this survey. This is good news; the bad news is that tobacco is still the number one reason for deaths in the United States. ***Our district youth (youth in Platte, Colfax, Boone and Nance) continue to smoke at rates higher than the Nebraska state rate in every grade level measured.***

- 17% of Nebraska youth in grades 9-12 smoked their first whole cigarette before age 13 (YRBS-2005)
- 13% of our NE High School youth smoked in the past 30 days (2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results). This is down from 40% who smoked in 1997 YRBS). We need to compare that 13% of Nebraska students who smoked in the past 30 days to the 18% of our district youth who smoked in the past 30 days. (Data was taken from the 2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results specific for our district – NRPFS/ECDHD-2005).
- 32% of NE high school males smoked in the last 30 days, 24% of NE high school females (YRBS 2005)
- 2% of the 6th graders in our district have used tobacco in the past 30 days, this is identical to the state data, 8.3% of our 8th graders, compared to 6.9% of the state, 16.6% of 10th graders compared to 15.3% statewide, 32% of 12th graders (NRPFS/ECDHD-2005).
- 56% of those who smoked tried to quit smoking in the past 12 months, it is interesting to note that 55% of 9th grade smokers are already trying to quit (YRBS-2005).
- Most of our kids who smoke get someone else to buy their cigarettes (35-39% YRBS-2005)
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Alcohol Use Statistics

Alcohol use, like tobacco use among teens in the USA and Nebraska is decreasing over time, that is good news. The bad news is Alcohol is still the drug that kills our youth the most often. The other bad news is that while tobacco use in Nebraska is fairly similar to

youths in other states Nebraska ranks poorly in teen alcohol use when compared to the Nation and *our district ranks poorly in comparison to Nebraska.*

Age Starting Alcohol Use

- Twenty-four (24) percent of Nebraska teens report having their first drink prior to age 13 (2005 YRBS)
- In a 2005 survey of our districts youth 25.6% or one in four of our district 6th graders (12years) have had alcohol in their lifetime. Again our district is higher than the state average of 21.5% which is closer to one in five students. By eighth grade our district percentage is 49%, or nearly one in two students who have used alcohol compared to 43% for the state.(14 years). (2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results and NRPFS/ECDHD-2005).
- According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism “People who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin at age 21”. This places our district more at risk for future problems with adult alcoholism than the state in general.
- In 2005 (25%) percent of NE students or one in four, reported currently using alcohol (within the past 30 days) (NE YRBS 2005=43%) ***In our 2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for the district 29.5% or nearly one in three are currently using alcohol in the sixth to 12th grade.***
- Thirty-eight (38) percent of teens drank with an adult present (YRBS-2005).
- More than one out of five students surveyed or Twenty-one (21) percent drank at home with a parent’s permission. (2005 YRBS)
- Seventy (70) percent who drink have obtained alcohol in the past from an adult (compared to 30 percent nationally). (2005 YRBS)

Binge Drinking / Drinking and Driving

- Nebraska ranks ninth in the nation for teenage binge drinking (2005 YRBFBS). 30% of Nebraska high school youth have had binge drinking in the past 30 days compared to 26% in USA. . In Nebraska as a whole 32% of males and 27% of females binged. ***In our district 32% of our sixth to 12th grade students reported engaging in binge drinking which is defined as having five or more drinks in a row***
- The state ranks third nationally for teens driving after drinking (2005 YRBFBS).
- Nebraska ranks third in the number of teenagers reporting riding with a drinking driver. (2005 YRBFBS). 36% of youths in Nebraska had done this in the past 30 days. ***The last time our district youth were asked this question on the YRBS (2001) 41% of high school students reported riding in a car with someone drinking alcohol in the past thirty days before taking the survey..***
- In 2003 in one of our local school districts 40% of 8th grade students had been a passenger in a car with a driver who was drinking. NRPFS/ECDHD-2003
- In 2003 survey of this same school by the 12th grade nearly 80% of their students had been a passenger in a vehicle with a driver who was drinking. NRPFS/ECDHD-2003.

- In 2005 18% of all alcohol-related crashes in Nebraska involved drivers 15-20 years of age
- Alcohol is a factor in approximately 41% of all deaths from motor vehicle crashes.

Marijuana use

While our students use more tobacco and alcohol *they appear to use less marijuana.*

- Overall 16.37% of Nebraska's students used marijuana (2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results), compared to 15% of our students NRPFS/ECDHD-2005.
- In 2005 15%-20% of Nebraska's 10th graders used marijuana (YRBS-2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results). 17.1% of our district's youth used marijuana (2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results).
- 5.45% of our 10th graders has used marijuana in the past 30 days (NRPFS/ECDHD-2005) compared to 9.35% statewide.
- 11% of our 12th graders had used marijuana in the past 30 days (NRPFS/ECDHD-2005) , 13.61%

Methamphetamine Statistics

We appear to have more 10th graders using Meth in our district than the state or National averages.

Meth Use

- According to the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 12.3 million Americans age 12 and older had tried methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime.
- According to the National 2005 "Monitoring the Future" Study 3.1% of US eighth graders, **4.1% of 10th graders** and 4.5% of 12th graders reported lifetime use of methamphetamine.
- Meth is available in almost every community in Nebraska, our community is no different. **4.36% of our 10th graders** (NRPFS/ECDHD-2005) compared to **2.3% in the state** , and 3.5% of our 12th graders reported lifetime use of methamphetamine compared to 3.6%. (2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results).
- It is estimated that more than 20,000 Nebraskan's use Meth, from all walks of life, that includes farmers and teens
- **40% of Methamphetamine users are female**
- According to DEA spokesman Rusty Payne, "Methamphetamine is the number one drug threat to rural America.....Des Moines and Omaha have more Meth problems than Detroit or New York City"

- *According to a study of 178 Nebraska Meth users, Ne rural Meth users began to use Meth earlier than urban users, use IV Meth sooner than urban users.*
- In Omaha 21.4% of all the adult males arrested who were tested for methamphetamine were positive for methamphetamine
- Many believe that *girls are more likely to start Meth before using gateway drugs* (such as tobacco and marijuana) than boys. According to one administrator from Southeastern Nebraska “They get boys going on beer and marijuana first, and then give them methamphetamine. Girls – they just give them methamphetamine”.
- The Health Department has been seeing individuals with Meth problems since 2001, at first we saw mostly young adults, then individuals who were youth and now individuals of all ages.
- In 2007 to date of the 143 individuals who came into your Health Department for voluntary HIV testing 68% were drug users, **30% were IV drug users**, 23% came in because they had had sex with an IV drug user and 16% of those tested reported that in the past year they had exchanged sex for drugs or money. ***Over half of all of these individuals live in Platte County.***

Meth Addiction

- With the exception of crack cocaine or heroine, people become addicted to methamphetamine more easily than any other drug. The addiction is directly related to euphoria (high) caused by the drug.
- Ne has a drug endangered children’s task force. Parents who do drugs usually love their children, however, the drug has such a tight hold on them, that the drugs come first, children in Nebraska have even been traded for drugs
- Withdrawal symptoms from meth can last from 30-90 days, traditional substance abuse treatment is only 28 days, this means individuals are still actively withdrawing when they leave treatment which makes their chance of success lower.

Meth Labs / Meth related Crime

- In 2004 Nebraska reported 205 incidents involving methamphetamine labs, this was less than Iowa, Missouri or Kansas
- Out of all fifty states for Meth seizures Nebraska ranked number 11 in 2004 according to the National Drug Agency
- In 2005 Ne Legislature past a law to limit the sale of pseudo ephedrine, this decreased meth lab seizers to 36 in 2006
- One report blames 70% of crime on Meth

The Local Data for the four county area was summarized from.

(NRPFS/ECDHD-2005). The 2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey from our local health district catchment area, 1,541 students who responded from 14 schools in the four county district.

The State Data for this was taken from two distinct surveys. The surveys are done at differing times and do not have the same student populations and are tabulated at different times in 2005

(2005-YRBS), the first was the 2005 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey which is easy to compare to National Data from the CDC as this survey is done in every state and we can benchmark against other states. The YRBS survey size is 3,755 for the state.

(2005-NRPFS) The 2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey had 27,625 youth responders.