



# AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE

SUMN.org FACT SHEET

2015

## Substance Abuse Prevention

This fact sheet provides data on substance use and related factors to help guide decisions about prevention efforts. These data can be used to justify need for prevention funding, monitor substance-related trends, and plan programs and initiatives by establishing community level prevention priorities.

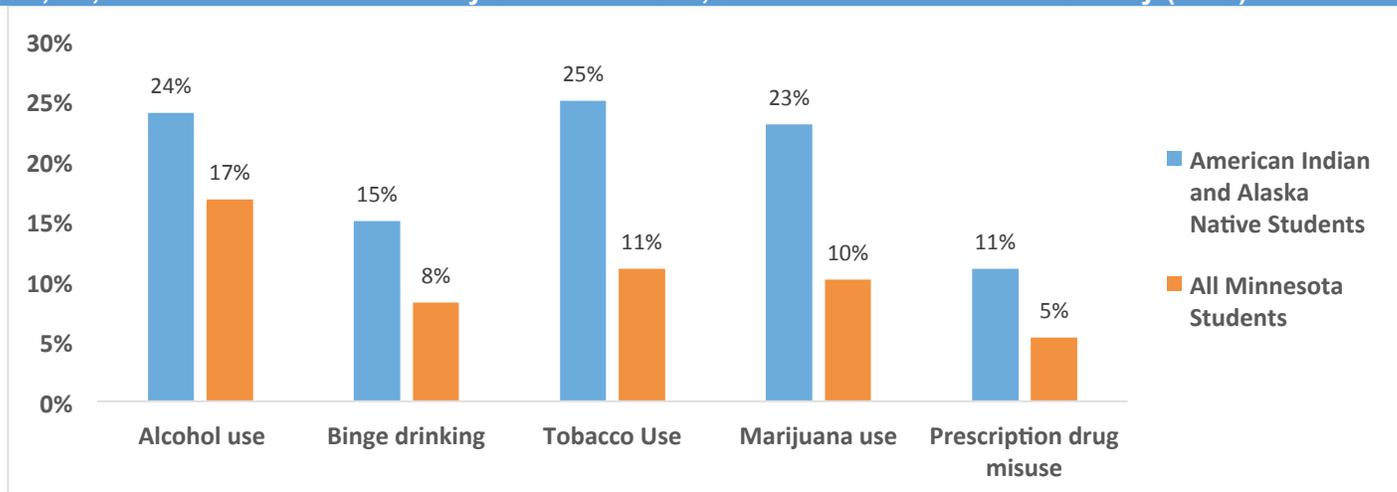
According to the United States Census Bureau, of the 1,275,987 children in Minnesota in 2013, 1.4% were American Indian or Alaskan Native. About 1.3% of the total population of Minnesota identifies as American Indian or Alaska Native.

### Key Findings

- American Indian and Alaska Native students are more likely than the state average to report past 30-day alcohol use, binge drinking, tobacco use, marijuana use, and misuse of prescription drugs
- Native American Minnesota adults are slightly more likely than the state average to report past-month binge drinking, but considerably more likely to report past-month smoking
- The percentage of Native Americans admitted to Minnesota treatment facilities for crack/cocaine as their primary substance of abuse has been decreasing over time, while the percentage admitted for opioids has increased considerably over time
- American Indian and Alaska Native students perceive the most risk of harm from smoking cigarettes or misusing prescription drugs—they perceive the least risk of harm from smoking marijuana

*For more information on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, consequences, contributing factors, and treatment, as well as mental health data, visit [SUMN.org](http://SUMN.org)*

### 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Past 30-Day Substance Use, 2013 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS)



## Adult Substance Use

According to the 2010 Minnesota Survey on Adult Substance Use (MNSASU):

- Past-month binge drinking was reported by 20% of Native American adults as compared to 18% of all Minnesota adults
- Past-month cigarette smoking was reported by 54% of Native American adults as compared to 19% of all Minnesota adults
- Past-year marijuana use was reported by 20.5% of American Indian adults, compared to 8.1% of adults statewide

## Youth Substance Use

Data on youth substance use are from the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS); 2,443 American Indian and Alaska Native students make up 1.5% of the overall statewide sample.

2013 Minnesota Student Survey American Indian and Native Alaska Respondents				
	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Females	455	254	225	120
Males	579	269	280	161
Total	1034	623	505	281

### Alcohol

Past 30-day alcohol use was reported by 17% of American Indian and Alaska Native 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 26% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 38% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2013. Males were less likely than females to report use: 20% vs. 29%. Past 30-day binge drinking (defined as having five or more drinks in a row on one occasion) was reported by 9% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 16% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 26% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2013.

### Tobacco

Of the American Indian and Alaska Native 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, 25.3% reported any past 30-day tobacco use; 21% reported smoking cigarettes, 10.2% reported smoking cigars or cigarillos, and 8.9% reported chewing tobacco use. Cigarette smoking among 9<sup>th</sup> graders dropped from 32% in 2001 to 24% in 2013.

### Marijuana

Past 30-day marijuana use was reported by 17% of American Indian and Alaska Native 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 24% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 35% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2013. Males were considerably less likely than females to report use: 19% vs. 28%.

### Prescription Drug Misuse

Past 30-day prescription drug misuse was reported by 8% of American Indian and Alaska Native 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 12% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 13% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2013. Females were more likely than males to report use: 15% vs. 8%.

American Indian and Alaska Native 11<sup>th</sup> Graders Reporting How Much They Typically Drink at One Time



Mental health disorders can increase risk of substance use, and substance use can in turn increase the risk for poor mental health. In addition, numerous risk and protective factors are shared between substance use and mental health outcomes.

To learn more, read the SUMN fact sheet on this topic:

[http://sumn.org/~media/188/Mental\\_Health\\_2015\\_SUMN\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://sumn.org/~media/188/Mental_Health_2015_SUMN_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

## Contributing Factors

Social and retail access to substances, low perception of harm, low perception of parental disapproval, and a misperception of peer use all contribute to alcohol, tobacco, and drug use in a community.

### Perceived Harm

American Indian and Alaska Native 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders were least likely to believe that people put themselves at great or moderate risk of harm, physically and in other ways, by smoking marijuana once or twice per week: 48%. Perceived great or moderate risk of harm for other substances was as follows—five or more alcoholic drinks once or twice per week 54%, smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day 60%, using prescription drug not prescribed for you 61%.

### Alcohol Access

Among American Indian and Alaska Native 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders reporting any past 30 day alcohol use in 2013, 25% said they bought the alcohol from someone or somewhere, 72% said they got the alcohol from someone or somewhere, and 34% said they took the alcohol from someone or somewhere.

### Perceived Parental Disapproval

Of American Indian and Alaska Native 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, 86% said their parents would think it's very wrong or wrong for them to smoke cigarettes. Similarly, students felt their parents would feel it's very wrong or wrong for them to have one or two drinks of alcohol nearly every day (86%), to smoke marijuana (84%) or to use prescription drugs not prescribed for them (89%).

## Perceived vs. Actual Use, American Indian and Native Alaska Students, 2013 Minnesota Student Survey

	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Students reporting they think MOST students in their school drink alcohol once per month or more often	35%	60%	73%
Students reporting they drink alcohol themselves once per month or more often	10%	17%	31%
Students reporting they think MOST students in their school use marijuana once per month or more often	40%	59%	71%
Students reporting they use marijuana themselves once per month or more often	14%	19%	28%

## Consequences

### Alcohol

- While the overall number of liquor law arrests and apprehensions declined steadily in Minnesota from 2007 to 2012, the number of arrests for Native Americans remained flat (*Uniform Crime Reports, FBI*)

### Tobacco

- The lung, bronchus and trachea cancer death rate for American Indians in Minnesota in 2013 was 39.5 per 100,000 population, while the average for all Minnesota residents was 44.1 per 100,000 (Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, MDH)

### Drugs

- The overall number of narcotics arrests remained flat in Minnesota from 2007 to 2012, as did the number of narcotics arrests for Native Americans (*Uniform Crime Reports, FBI*)

## Treatment

### Drugs & Alcohol

Data from the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Normative Evaluation System show:

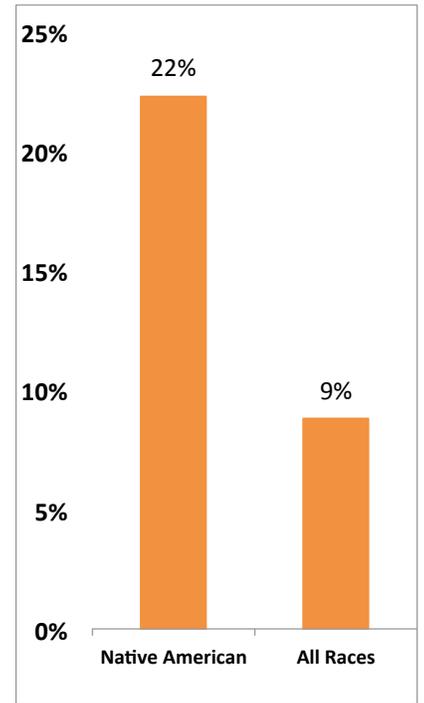
- The percentage of Native Americans admitted to Minnesota treatment facilities for alcohol as their primary substance of abuse has decreased over time, with less than half being admitted for alcohol in 2011 and 2012
- The percentage of Native Americans admitted to Minnesota treatment facilities for crack/cocaine decreased from 6% in 2007 to 2% in 2012 while the percentage admitted for opioids increased during that same period from 12% to 28%, following a similar pattern as all Minnesotans admitted to treatment.

## State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

Minnesota's SEOW has been monitoring substance abuse trends since 2007. The Workgroup helps guide prevention planning at the state level, and provides training and technical assistance to communities. In, 2008 the SEOW launched the Substance Use in Minnesota (SUMN) website to ensure quick and easy access to data for prevention professionals.

### SUMN.org

SUMN is a one-stop-shop for data, tools, and prevention resources. Visitors can search county, regional, and state level data by topic, by location, and by demographic producing tables, charts, graphs, and maps. View and download data products, such as this fact sheet, and find tips on finding, analyzing, translating, using, and disseminating data.



Percent of Minnesota Adults Meeting the Criteria for Substance Abuse or Dependence, 2010 (MNSASU)

## Contact Us

For questions or more information regarding the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup or SUMN.org, please email: [info@sumn.org](mailto:info@sumn.org)

To contact the Regional Prevention Coordinator for your region, please visit: [www.rpcmn.org](http://www.rpcmn.org)