



# AFRICAN AMERICAN, AFRICAN, + BLACK

SUMN.org FACT SHEET

2017

## Substance Abuse Prevention

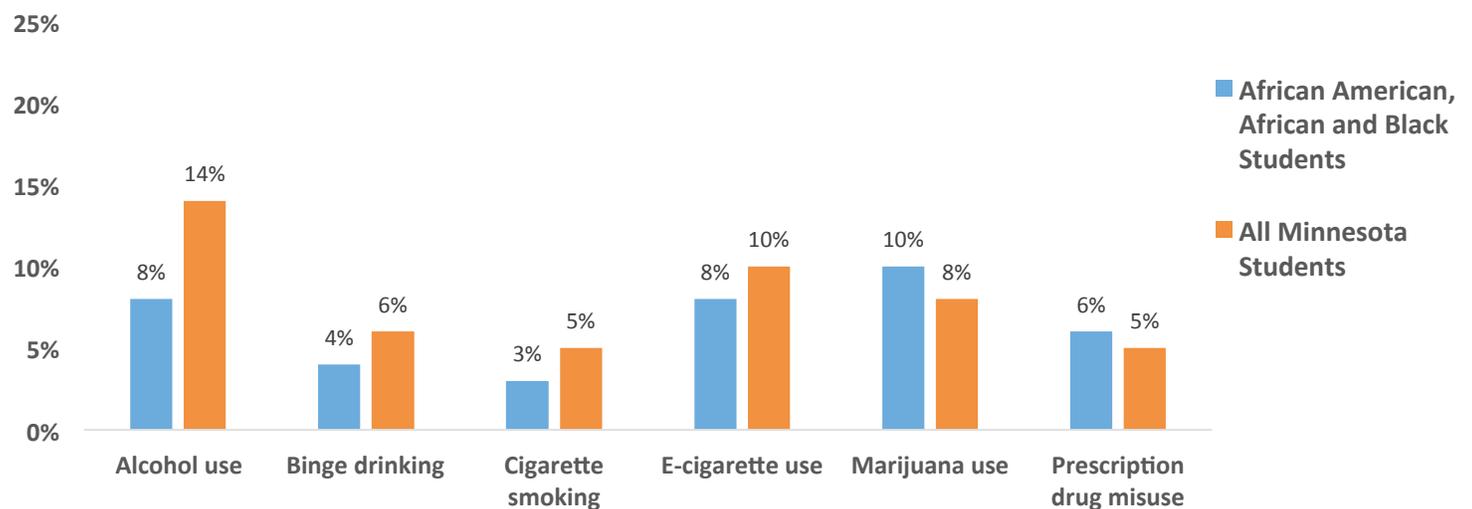
This fact sheet provides data on substance use and related factors to help guide decisions about prevention efforts. These data can be used to justify need for prevention funding, monitor substance-related trends, and plan programs and initiatives by establishing community level prevention priorities.

### Key Findings

- African American, African and Black students are less likely than the state average to report past 30-day alcohol and cigarette use, but more likely report past-month marijuana use or misuse of prescription drugs (see Figure 1)
- African American and Black Minnesota adults are less likely than the state average to report past-month alcohol use, but more likely to report smoking both tobacco and marijuana
- The percentage of African Americans and Blacks 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
- African American, African and Black students perceive the most risk of harm from misusing prescription drugs—they perceive the least risk of harm from smoking marijuana
- African American, African and Black students are slightly less likely than the state average to report any past-year suicidal ideation or self-harm

*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)*

Figure 1. 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Past 30-Day Substance Use, 2016 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS)



## Adult Substance Use

According to the 2015 Minnesota Survey on Adult Substance Use (MNSASU):

- Past-month binge drinking was reported by 7% of African American and Black adults as compared to 14% of all Minnesota adults.
- Past-month cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use were reported by 18% and 4% of African American and Black adults, respectively, as compared to 16% and 5% of all Minnesota adults.
- Past-year marijuana use was reported by 10% of African American and Black adults, compared to 9% of Minnesotan adults.

## Youth Substance Use

Data on youth substance use are from the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS). Responses here include students identifying as African American, African, or Black (AAAB).

### Alcohol

Past 30-day alcohol use was reported by 6% of AAAB 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 6% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 13% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2016. Male and female students were about equally as likely to report use. Past 30-day binge drinking was reported by 3% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 3% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 7% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2016.

### Tobacco

Past 30-day cigarette smoking was reported by 2% of AAAB 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 3% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 5% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders. E-cigarette use was reported by 5% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 7% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 12% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Male AAAB students were slightly more likely to use cigarettes than female (4% vs. 3%) and over 1.5 times as likely to use e-cigarettes (10% vs 6%).

### Marijuana

Past 30-day marijuana use was reported by 8% of AAAB 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 9% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 16% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2016. Male students were more likely than female to report use: 11% vs. 9%.

### Prescription Drug Misuse

Past 30-day prescription drug misuse was reported by 5% of AAAB 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 6% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 9% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2016. Male students were slightly more likely to report use: 7% vs. 6%).

**Figure 2. African American, African, and Black 11<sup>th</sup> Graders Reporting How Much They Typically Drink at One Time (2016 MSS)**



	Never	Tried once or twice	Once or twice a year	Once a month	Twice a month	Once a week	Daily
“How often do you think most students in your school use marijuana?”	39%	13%	4%	5%	5%	11%	23%
“How often do you use marijuana?”	85%	5%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%

For the most recent year available, the economic costs associated with alcohol use in Minnesota are an estimated \$5.06 billion.

This amounts to over \$975 for every person in the state.

These costs are 17 times greater than the \$296 million in tax revenues collected from alcohol sales.

*The Human and Economic Cost of Alcohol Use in Minnesota*, MDH (March 2011)

## Consequences

According to Uniform Crime Reports:

- The number of liquor law arrests and apprehensions has declined steadily in Minnesota 2012, both for African Americans and Blacks and for the population as a whole.
- The number of narcotics arrests for African Americans and Blacks has remained flat since 2010, as has the overall arrest rate in Minnesota.

## Treatment

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

- The percentage of African Americans and Blacks admitted to Minnesota treatment facilities for alcohol as their primary substance of abuse has stayed relatively flat over the past 10 years (at close to 40%), while decreasing in the general population.
- The percentage of African Americans and Blacks admitted to Minnesota treatment facilities for crack/cocaine decreased from 33% in 2007 to 14% in 2016 while the percentage admitted for opioids increased during that same period from 10% to 16% (following a similar pattern as all Minnesotans admitted to treatment).

## Contributing Factors

Low perception of harm, school factors, low perception of parental disapproval, and community norms favorable toward substance use all contribute to alcohol, tobacco, and drug use in a community.

### Perceived Harm

African American, African and Black 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: 51%. Perceived great or moderate risk of harm for other substances was as follows—five or more alcoholic drinks once or twice per week: 63%; smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day: 64%; using prescription drug not prescribed for you: 64%.

### School Factors

Among African American, African and Black 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, those with better teacher-student relationships (feeling that school rules were fair, and that teachers care about them, listen to them, and are interested in them) were nearly 2.5 times less likely to engage in past-month marijuana use. Those with greater educational engagement were nearly 3 times less likely.

### Perceived Parental Disapproval

Of African American, African and Black 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 (85%), to smoke marijuana (83%) or to use prescription drugs not prescribed for them (86%).

## Mental Health

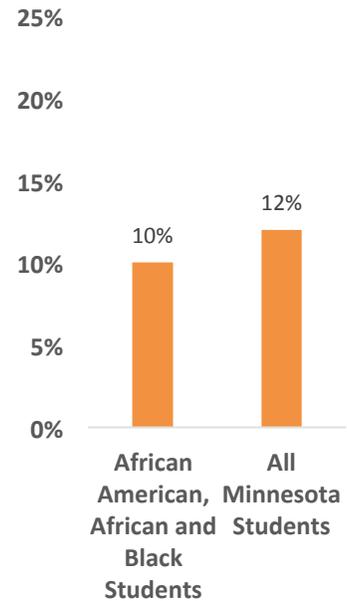
An estimated 23% of suicides are alcohol-related. Further, having a mental health disorder such as depression or anxiety is a risk factor for substance abuse and many individuals suffer from co-occurring substance use and mental disorders.

According to the 2015 MNSASU, African American and Black adults were more likely than the state average to report at least moderate depressive symptoms in the past two weeks: 11% vs. 7%.

In 2016, African American, African and Black students were slightly less likely than the state average to report any past year suicidal ideation—see Figure 3. They were also less likely than average to report any self-harm in the past year: 13% vs. 16%.

Additionally, nearly 12% of African American, African and Black 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders reported having a long-term mental health, behavioral, or emotional problem, and 8% reported having been treated for such an issue in the past year—compared to 18% and 11%, respectively, for Minnesota students overall (2016 MSS).

A number of risk and protective factors are associated with not only substance use but also mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. Examples of shared protective factors are youth being able to talk to their parents about problems they're having, and feeling safe (at home, at school, and in your neighborhood). Examples of shared risk factors are adverse childhood experiences, dating violence, and bullying. For data on shared risk and protective factors, visit [SUMN.org](http://SUMN.org).



**Figure 3. Past-Year Suicidal Thoughts Reported by 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Graders (2016 MSS)**

## 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](http://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.

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## Contact Us

For questions or more information regarding the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup or [SUMN.org](http://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)