

Substance Use

Definition

Substance Use refers to the use of selected substances including alcohol, drugs, inhalants, and other substances that can be consumed, inhaled, injected, or otherwise absorbed into the body with possible detrimental effects.¹

Nevada

High school students' responses to the 2003 and 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reveal that their attitudes toward cigarette use became less tolerant over the two-year period. This was not the case, however, for marijuana use. Almost 34 percent of high school students think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they smoke marijuana occasionally. The figure is up from 5.2 percent in 2003.

Nevada Youths' Attitudes Toward Substance Use: 2003 and 2005

<i>Attitude</i>	<i>State 2003 YRBS*</i>		<i>State 2005 YRBS*</i>	
	<i>Middle School Percent</i>	<i>High School Percent</i>	<i>Middle School Percent</i>	<i>High School Percent</i>
Think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day	12.6	19.4	15.6	9.7
Think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they have 5 or more drinks in a row within a couple of hours	20.0	33.9	20.1	23.2
Think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they smoke marijuana occasionally	18.9	5.2	19.6	33.6
Think that people are at slight or no risk of harming themselves if they use illegal drugs (cocaine, heroin, crystal, methamphetamines, hallucinogens, etc.)	8.3	6.8	10.6	7.7

*Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Source: Nevada State Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health, Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2003, 2005.

Substance Use Continued

**Substance Use among Nevada Students:
2001, 2003, and 2005**

<i>Behavior</i>	<i>2001</i>		<i>2003</i>		<i>2005</i>	
	<i>Middle School Percent</i>	<i>High School Percent</i>	<i>Middle School Percent</i>	<i>High School Percent</i>	<i>Middle School Percent</i>	<i>High School Percent</i>
Ever tried smoking a cigarette	36.5	66.5	34.5	57.3	29.0	52.0
Smoked first cigarette before age 13	19.5	23.3	16.4	18.8	14.4	16.1
In past 30 days, smoked cigarettes on 1 or more days	13.0	25.3	10.4	19.6	9.7	18.3
In past 30 days, of those who reported current cigarette use, smoked more than 10 cigarettes per day on the days they smoked	NA	12.0	NA	8.0	NA	11.8
In past 30 days, used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on 1 or more days	3.9	7.0	3.4	3.6	3.4	5.9
During their life, had at least 1 drink of alcohol on 1 or more days	49.5	80.2	49.7	75.6	48.3	74.1
Had first drink of alcohol before age 13	36.0	32.9	36.0	31.9	34.0	31.1
In past 30 days, drank alcohol on 1 or more days	NA	47.7	NA	43.4	NA	41.4
In past 30 days, had 5 or more drinks in a row on 1 or more days	14.4	32.6	13.5	27.8	13.9	24.8
Of those who drink alcohol, usually get their alcoholic beverages from home with or without parental knowledge	66.0	32.0	65.3	33.9	64.0	36.1
Ever used marijuana	NA	50.8	NA	46.6	NA	39.3
Used marijuana for first time before age 13	11.3	17.7	11.7	12.4	10.0	12.3
In past 30 days, used marijuana on 1 or more days	9.9	26.6	9.5	22.3	8.3	17.3
Ever used any form of cocaine (powder, crack, freebase, etc.)	6.3	12.0	5.6	10.9	6.0	11.1
In past 30 days, used any form of cocaine	NA	5.6	NA	4.4	NA	5.4
Ever used methamphetamines (speed, crystal, crack, ice)	5.6	15.7	5.5	12.5	5.5	11.7
Ever used other illegal drugs (heroin, hallucinogens, depressants, tranquilizers, etc.)	5.7	17.3	5.2	15.0	5.2	12.5
Ever used steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription	NA	6.4	NA	6.5	NA	5.5

Note: NA = Not Applicable.

Source: Nevada State Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health, Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2001, 2003, 2005.