

Youth Alcohol Use

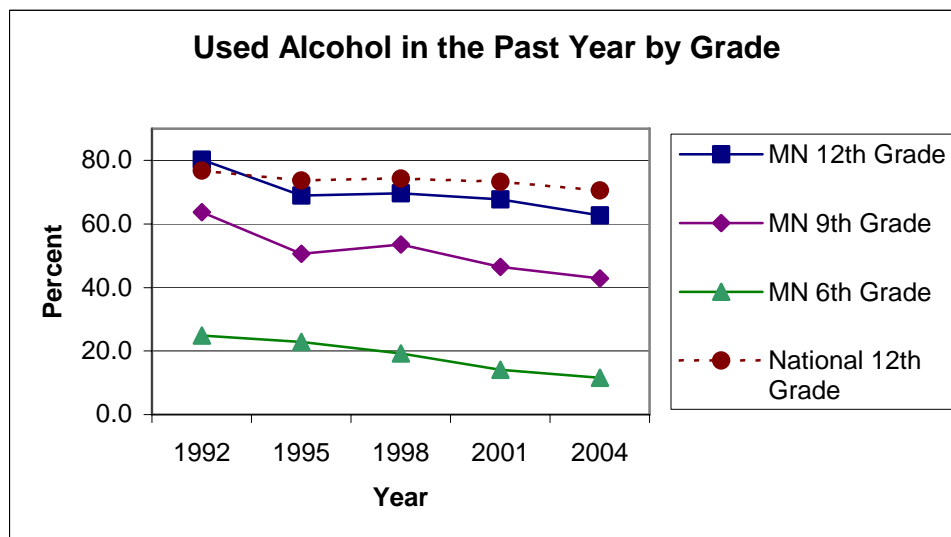
Alcohol was the most frequently used drug in the past year as reported by students (see “Overview”). To measure alcohol use, youth were asked, “On how many occasions (if any) have you had alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, wine coolers, or liquor) to drink... during the last 12 months”.

In general, reported alcohol use was highest in 1992, with a slight increase in use for 9th and 12th grade students in 1998. Alcohol use has been dropping for all grades since 1998, with steeper drops among 6th and 9th grade students. Twelfth graders show a more gradual drop in alcohol use since 1998. Even so, more than one in ten 6th graders, four in ten 9th graders and six in ten 12th graders reporting drinking alcohol at least once in the past year (2004).

Among 9th and 12th graders, females are slightly more likely to report alcohol use in the past year than males. This is particularly true for 9th grade females in 2004. This is in contrast with binge drinking (drinking five or more drinks in a row during the past two-week period) where males report more binge drinking than females.

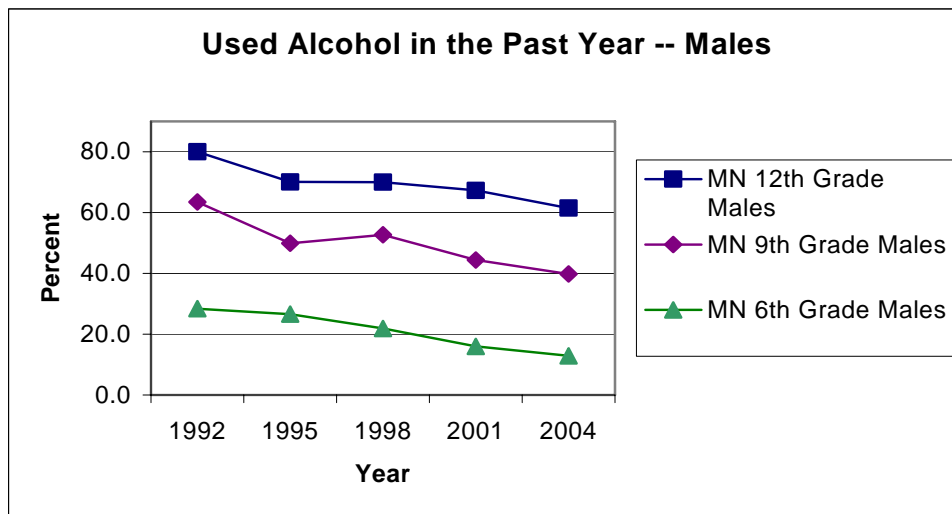
Over the years, Minnesota 12th grade students were slightly less likely to report drinking alcohol in the past year than 12th grade students nationally.

For county level data on youth alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, go to <http://www.mnschoolhealth.com> and click on the “Data” tab.



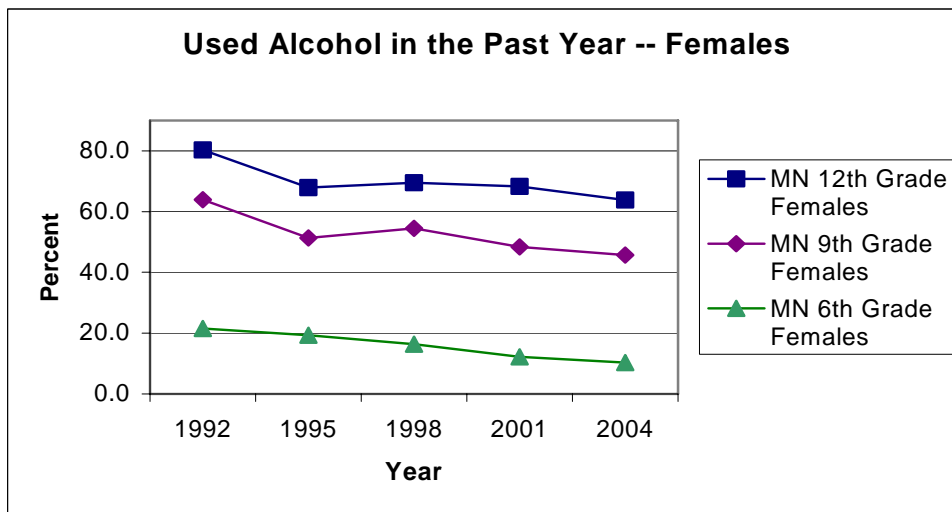
Used Alcohol in the Past Year by Grade (Percent)

	Minnesota			National
	6th Grade	9th Grade	12th Grade	12th Grade
1992	24.9	63.7	80.2	76.8
1995	22.9	50.6	69.0	73.7
1998	19.2	53.6	69.7	74.3
2001	14.1	46.5	67.8	73.3
2004	11.6	42.9	62.7	70.6



Used Alcohol in the Past Year – MN Males (Percent)

	6 th Grade	9 th Grade	12 th Grade
1992	28.4	63.5	80.0
1995	26.6	49.9	70.1
1998	21.9	52.7	70.0
2001	16.0	44.4	67.3
2004	12.9	39.8	61.5



Used Alcohol in the Past Year – MN Females (Percent)

	6 th Grade	9 th Grade	12 th Grade
1992	21.5	63.9	80.3
1995	19.3	51.3	67.9
1998	16.4	54.5	69.5
2001	12.2	48.4	68.3
2004	10.3	45.7	63.8

Data Sources:

1992-2004 Minnesota Student Survey trend data set, 2004 National Monitoring the Future Survey. For more information about the data sources and their limitations, see “Data Sources and Limitations.”