

Alcohol Use

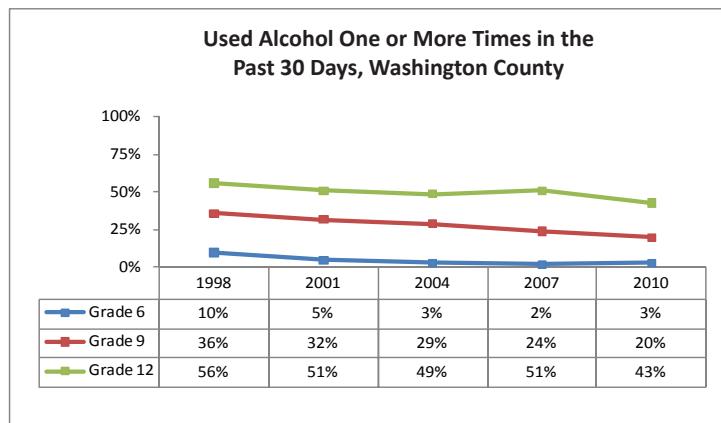
Underage and excessive alcohol use can cause social and economic problems that affect many lives and many families. Alcohol use can lead to injuries, unplanned pregnancies, poor birth outcomes, sexually transmitted infections, poor child and adolescent development, mental health problems, violence, infectious disease and death. In addition, chemical abuse affects all races, genders, socioeconomic groups, ages, geographic areas, religions, and employment opportunities.

The Minnesota Department of Health estimates that the economic costs associated with alcohol use in Minnesota amount to over \$975 annually per person. These costs include health care expenditures, productivity effects, motor vehicle crashes, criminal justice costs, fire destruction and social welfare program administration.¹

Key Trends

- The percent of students reporting using alcohol in the past 30 days decreased between 1998 and 2010.
- From 1998 to 2010, binge drinking among 9th and 12th graders steadily declined.
- Adult chronic and acute drinking rates have not significantly changed in recent years.
- Alcohol use within some families continues to cause family, health, employment and legal problems.

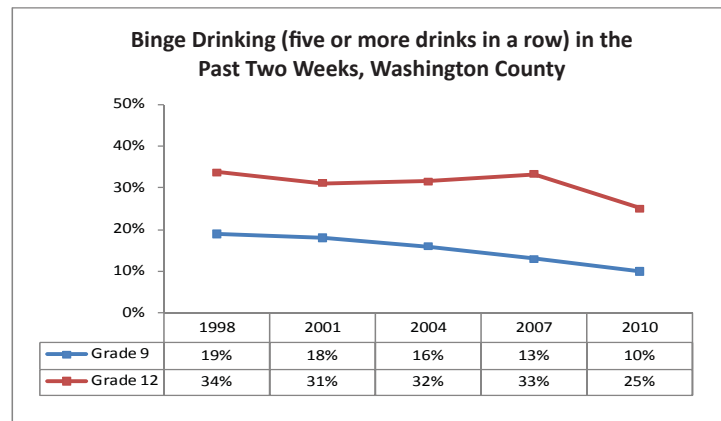
Youth Alcohol Use



Source: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team

Students Using Alcohol in the Past 30 Days

- In 2010, fewer 6th, 9th and 12th graders reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days compared to 1998.
- However, 43% of 12th graders reported using alcohol in the past month. Slightly more 12th grade males (46%) reported using alcohol than females (41%).
- For 9th grade students, 22% of females and 17% of males reported drinking in the past month.

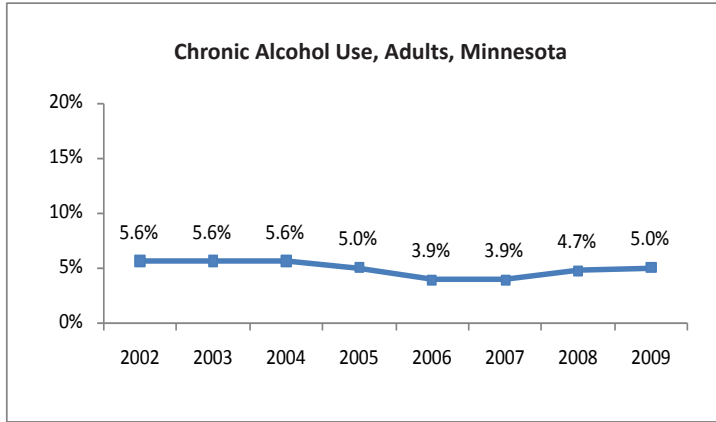


Source: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team

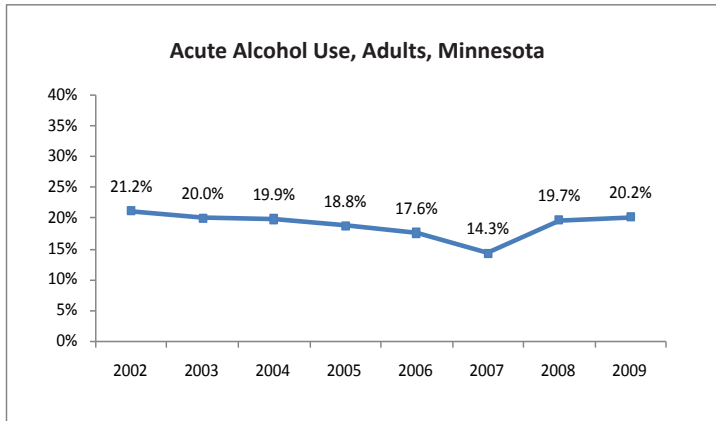
Youth Binge Drinking

- Among 9th graders, binge drinking decreased from 19% in 1998 to 10% in 2010, a 47% decline. The most notable decline was among 9th grade males, from 22% in 1998 to 9% in 2010.
- While binge drinking among 12th graders decreased by 26% between 1998 and 2010, one out of every four (25%) reported consuming five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks. The percent of males reporting binge drinking was slightly higher at 29%, compared to females at 20%.

Adult Alcohol Use



Source: Minnesota Dept. of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Source: Minnesota Dept. of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Adult Chronic Alcohol Use

- Adult chronic (or heavy) drinking is defined as the percent of male respondents 18 and older who report an average of more than two drinks per day and female respondents 18 and older who report an average of more than one drink per day. The percent of adults in the state who reported drinking heavily has remained relatively steady in recent years. In 2009, 5.0% of adults in Minnesota reported chronic drinking.
- The 2009 chronic drinking **estimate for Washington County** adults was 5.2%, approximately the same as the state rate.

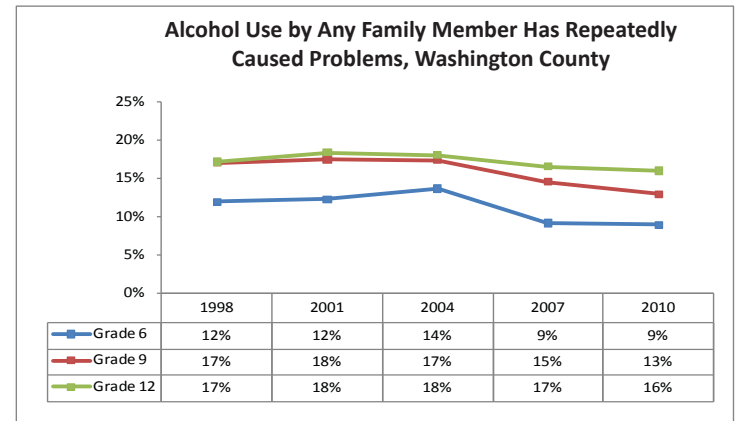
Adult Acute Alcohol Use

- Acute drinking is defined as the percent of respondents who report they have consumed five or more drinks on an occasion, one or more times in the month prior to the survey. In Minnesota, approximately one in five adults report acute alcohol use.
- The 2009 acute drinking **estimate for Washington County** adults was 20.7%, approximately the same as the state rate.

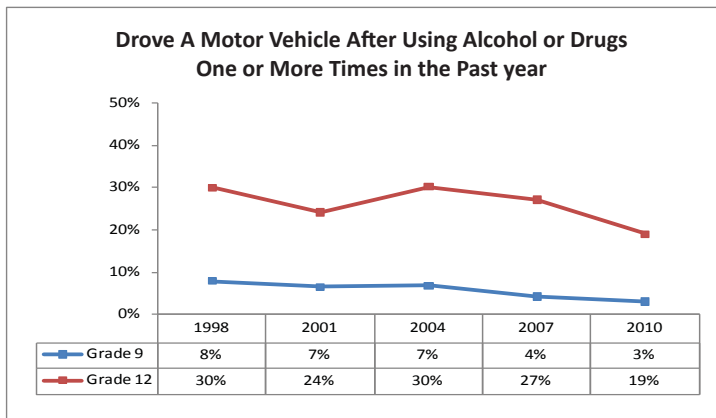
Consequences of Alcohol Use

Students were asked if alcohol use by any family member repeatedly caused family, health, job or legal problems.

- There has been a slight decrease since 1998 for students in grades six and nine who indicated that alcohol has caused problems.
- About 16% of students in grade twelve indicated there were problems due to alcohol.



Source: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team



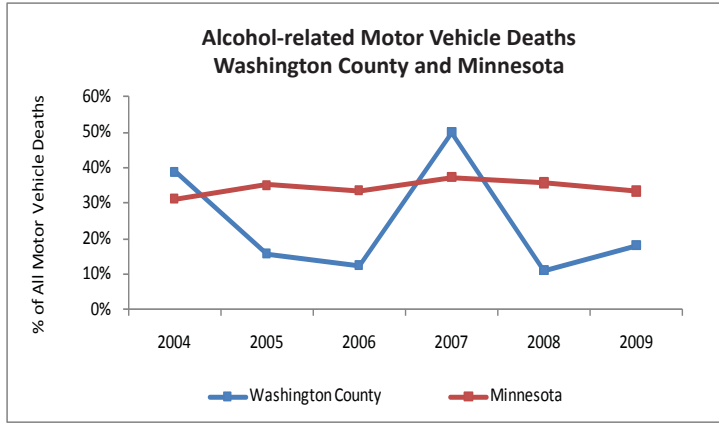
Source: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team

Students Driving After Using Alcohol or Drugs

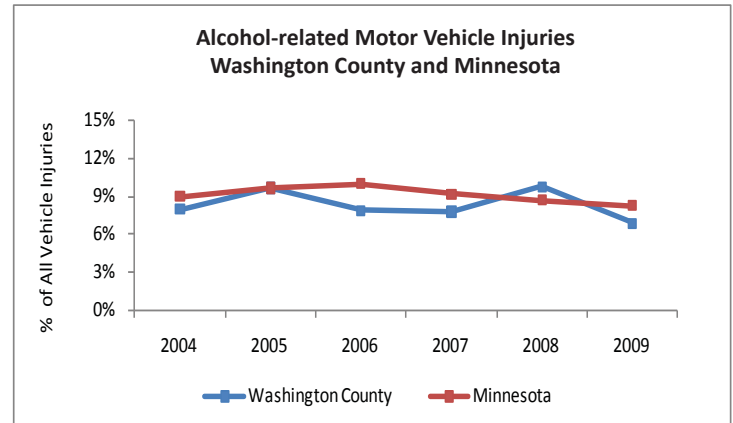
- Since 1998, the percent of students in grades nine and twelve driving a motor vehicle after using alcohol or drugs declined.
- Yet, nearly one out of every five 12th graders report that they have driven a motor vehicle after using alcohol or drugs one or more times in the past year.

Alcohol and Motor Vehicle Use

- Alcohol use also contributes to motor vehicle deaths, injuries and property damage. In 2009, 18% of all motor vehicle deaths in Washington County were related to alcohol, compared with 33% for Minnesota.
- Nearly 7% of all vehicle injuries were related to alcohol in Washington County in 2009, compared with 8% for the state. These rates have remained steady since 2004.



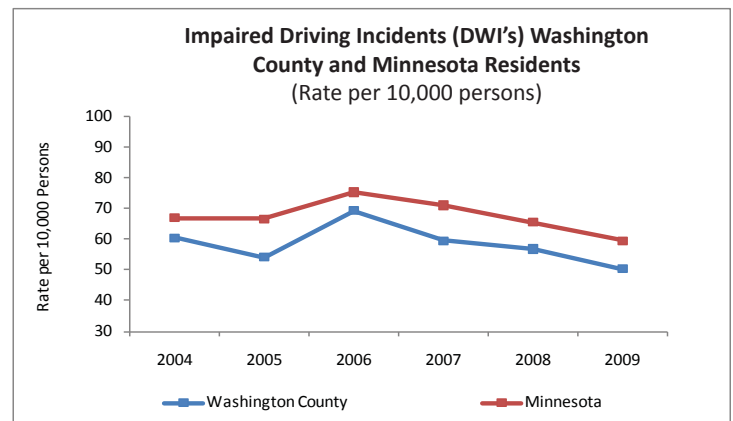
Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety



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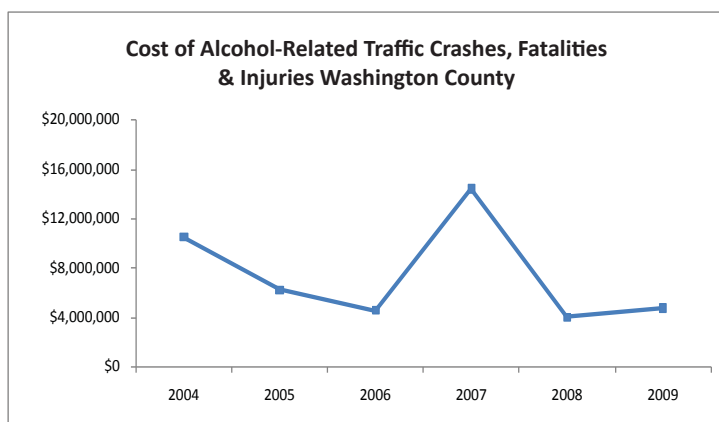
Impaired Driving Incidents (DWI's)

- Impaired driving incidents (DWI's) by Washington County residents were at a 5-year low in 2009, with 50.3 incidents per 10,000 residents.
- DWI rates for Washington County residents consistently fall below state rates.
- Compared with other metro counties, 2009 DWI rates for Washington County residents were below others with the exception of Carver (43.4) and Scott counties (49.0).



Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Annual Cost of Alcohol-related Traffic Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries



Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Alcohol-related traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries result in direct costs for medical expenses, property damage, and lost productivity.

- In 2009, costs resulting from alcohol-related traffic incidents in Washington County totaled \$4,789,500.
- The average annual cost for alcohol-related traffic incidents between 2002 and 2009 in Washington County was \$7,437,150.

Contact Information:

Questions about this and other Washington County Health Data Profiles can be directed to:
Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment
14949 62nd Street North, Stillwater, MN 55082 Tel: 651-430-6655
Website: www.co.washington.mn.us

Endnotes

¹Minnesota Department of Health, Commissioner's Office, The Human and Economic Cost of Alcohol Use in Minnesota, March 2011.



Last Updated: September 2011