

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN NORTH DAKOTA

DATA BOOK 2021

This booklet tells the story of behavioral health in North Dakota (ND) and is based off the 2020 North Dakota Epidemiological Profile.

Research shows the importance of using data to guide effective and targeted behavioral health efforts. The data presented in this booklet paints a picture to help guide these efforts across the state.

This is a product of the North Dakota State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW). For more information and to view the most recent North Dakota Epidemiological Profile, go to **behavioralhealth.nd.gov/data.**



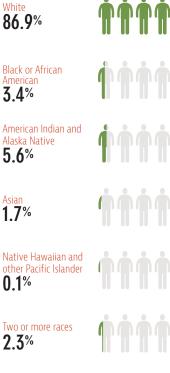


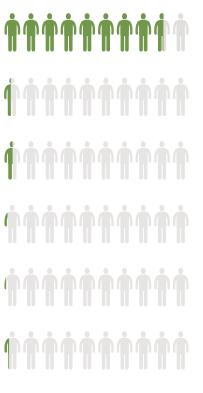
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NORTH DAKOTA DEMOGRAPHICS OVERVIEW



RACE/ ETHNICITY²







4.1% of North Dakotans identify as Hispanic or Latino.²

There are **46,524** veterans in North Dakota, which is 6.1% of the state's adult population.²

49.5% of North Dakota residents live in rural areas, compared to **14.1%** nationwide.⁴

One in ten (10.6%) North Dakotans are currently living in poverty.⁴

There are **five** federally recognized Tribes and one Indian community located at least partially within the state.³

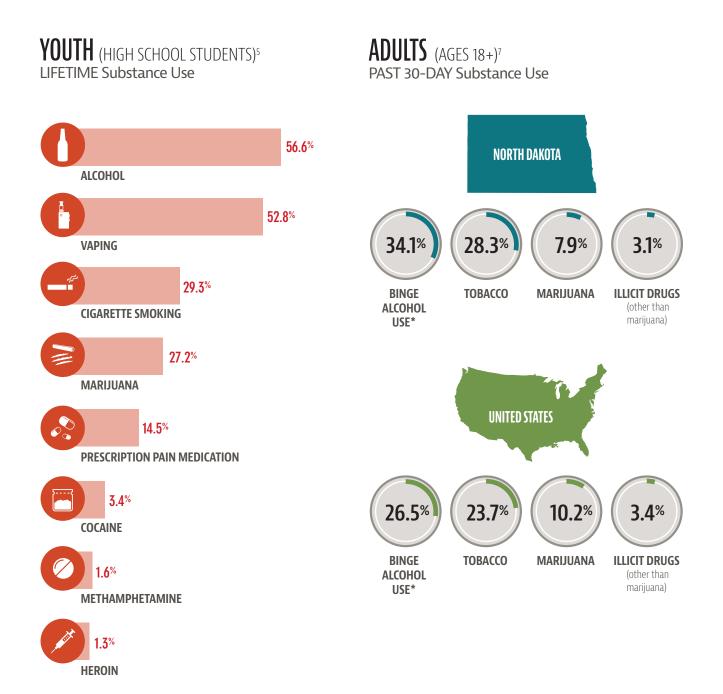
23.6% of North Dakotans are under age 18 and **15.7%** are over age 65.²



North Dakota has a **2.4%** unemployment rate.⁴

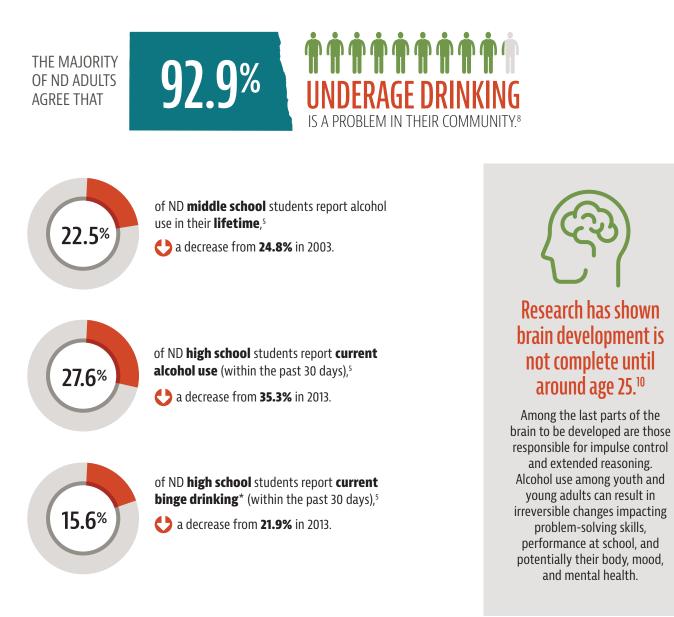
OVERVIEW OF SUBSTANCE USE IN NORTH DAKOTA

Alcohol is the most used substance among both youth and adults in North Dakota.



ALCOHOL: UNDERAGE DRINKING

Great strides have been made in the prevention of underage drinking over the past decade, but there is still more work to do.



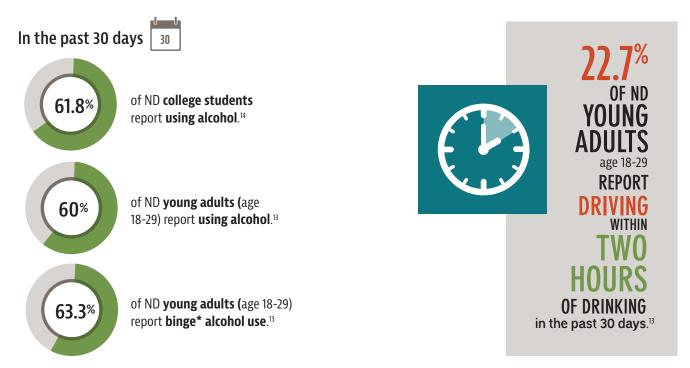
ALCOHOL: UNDERAGE DRINKING

Not only is underage drinking against the law, but there are also many consequences to underage drinking impacting the health and safety of North Dakota youth.

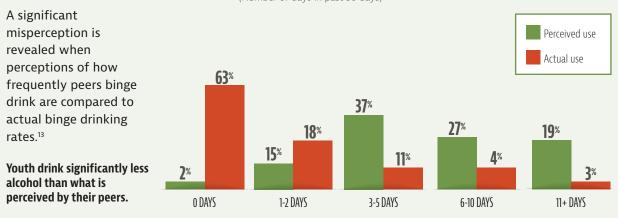


ALCOHOL: YOUNG ADULT & COLLEGE STUDENTS

Two out of five North Dakota young adults binge drink and a quarter report driving after drinking. This age group often overestimates how frequently their peers are binge drinking, which can influence personal decisions surrounding alcohol use.



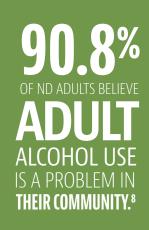
PERCEIVED VERSUS ACTUAL BINGE* DRINKING BEHAVIOR AMONG ND YOUNG ADULTS



(Number of days in past 30 days)

ALCOHOL: ADULT

Adult binge drinking in North Dakota is a serious public health issue, resulting in many consequences impacting individuals, families and communities.





The economic costs of excessive alcohol consumption in the ND are estimated at **\$487 million**, which is \$725 per person or \$1.40 a drink.²⁰



Of surveyed individuals, nearly **5%** (4.7%) of adults report drinking to excess and driving in the past 30 days.¹⁵



More than one in six (17%) adult arrests in ND are for driving under the influence."



In the past month, 60.1% of adults age 26 and older used alcohol.⁷



35% of fatal crashes in ND are alcohol-related.¹⁶



30% of new domestic violence cases in ND involve alcohol.¹⁷



Approximately **5.7%** of ND adults age 26 or older met the criteria for alcohol use disorder in the past year.⁷



ND ranks **2nd** in the nation for binge* alcohol use (past month) among adults age 26 and older (31.2%).⁷



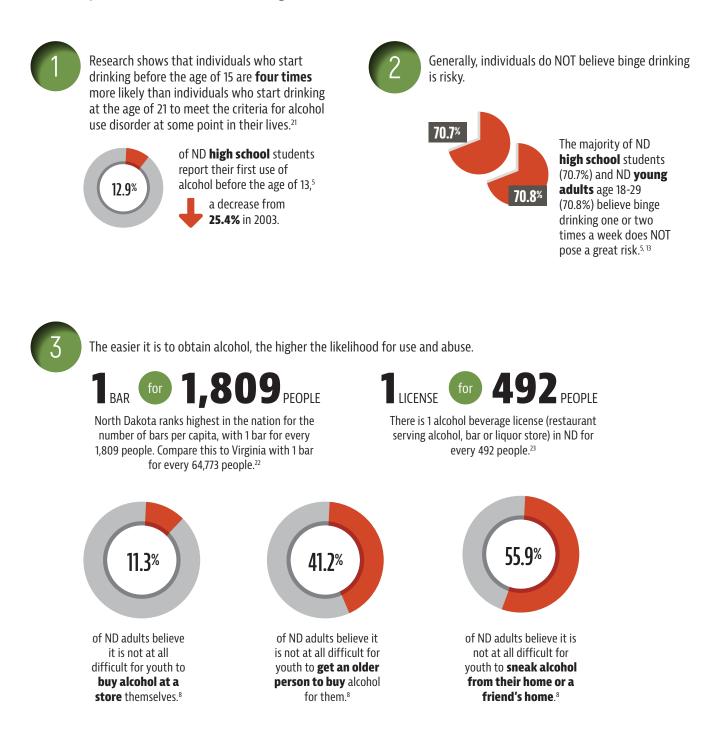
94.6% of women and 84.7% of men entering North Dakota correctional facilities have an active substance use disorder diagnosis¹⁸



Nationally, excessive alcohol use led to approximately **95,158 deaths** and 2.76 million years of potential lives lost each year from 2011-2015, shortening the lives of those who died by an average of 40 years.¹⁹

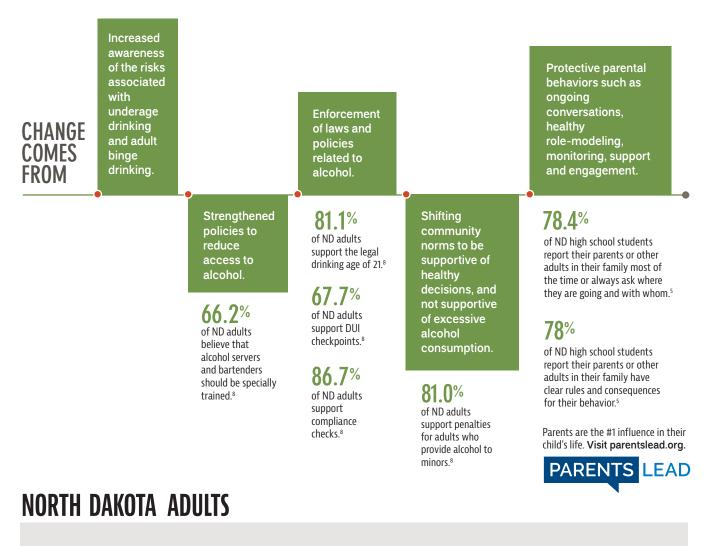
ALCOHOL: RISK FACTORS

There are many risk factors that influence a person's likelihood of engaging in illegal or risky substance use. Effective prevention focuses on reducing these risk factors.



ALCOHOL: PREVENTION WORKS

Prevention is a proactive approach; creating an environment that promotes the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities, which prevents problems before they occur.





believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and other drug problems through prevention.⁸

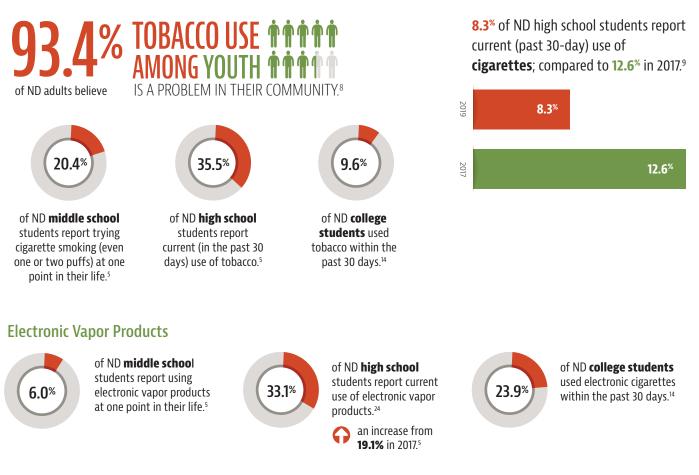


believe that prevention programs are a good investment.⁸

TOBACCO

Generally, cigarette use is declining among youth in the state. However, use of other tobacco products has remained steady or increased.

YOUTH



ADULTS



27.3[%] of ND adults (age 26 and older) report tobacco product use in the past month; compared to 23.1[%] of US adults (age 26 and older).⁷



TOBACCO

Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and takes a tremendous toll on lives in North Dakota. When we prevent tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, we prevent disease, suffering and death, and save money on healthcare expenditures and productivity losses.

The majority 63.7% of North Dakotans (age 12

or older) believe smoking one or more packs of

cigarettes per day

poses great risk.7





In the **2020** school year, **558** North Dakota students were expelled or suspended because of tobacco-related incidents, resulting in **1,337** days removed from school.²⁵



Exposure to secondhand smoke causes **more than 41,000 deaths** each year among adults in the United States.²⁶



*During the 30 days before the survey, among students who were less than 18 years old and who currently smoke or use electronic vapor products.

Tobacco costs us all, even those who do not use tobacco. North Dakota smoking-caused monetary costs include:²⁷

Annual health care costs directly caused by smoking: **\$326 million**

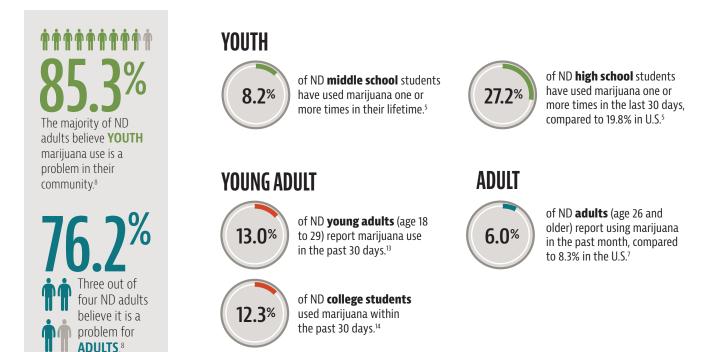
Medicaid costs caused by smoking: **\$56.9 million**

Residents' state and federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures: **\$724 per household** Smoking-caused productivity losses: **\$232.6 million**



MARIJUANA

When compared to national rates, marijuana use is generally lower. Young adults often overestimate how frequently their peers are using marijuana which can influence personal decisions surrounding marijuana use.

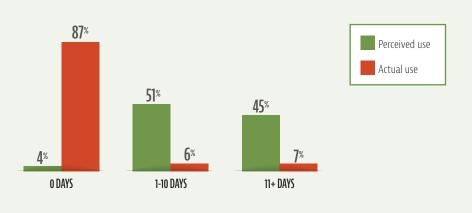


PERCEIVED VERSUS ACTUAL MARIJUANA USE AMONG ND YOUNG ADULTS

(Number of days in the past 30 days)

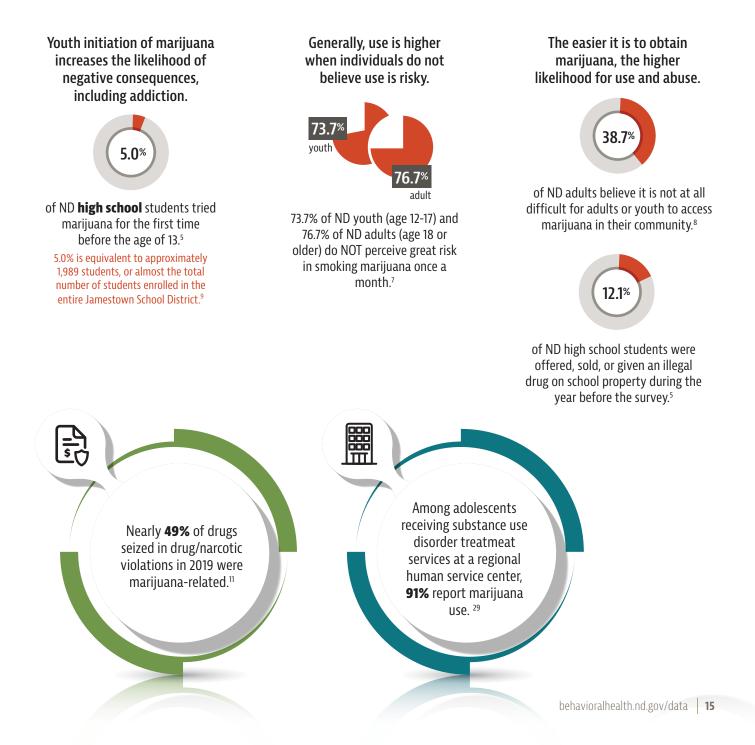
A significant misperception is revealed when perceptions of how frequently peers use marijuana are compared to actual marijuana use rates.¹³

Marijuana use by young adults is significantly less than what is perceived by their peers.



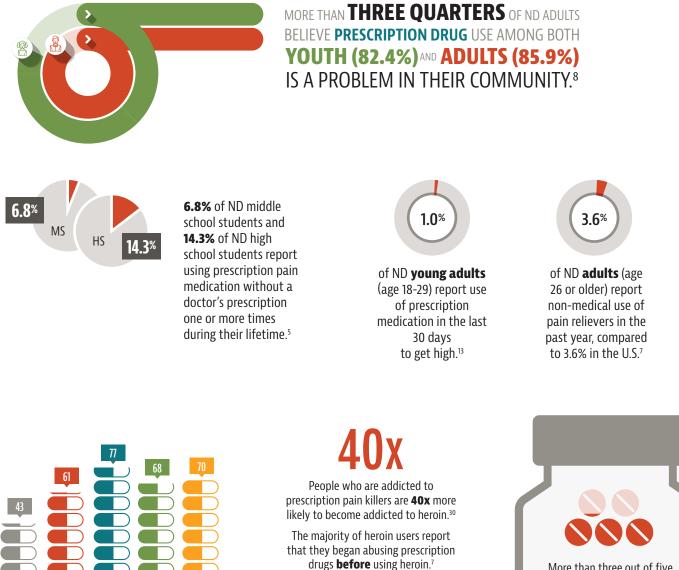
MARIJUANA

As efforts to legalize marijuana continue, there is an increasing perception that marijuana is not harmful or addictive. The reality is that marijuana can cause major health, safety, social, and learning problems - especially in adolescents.



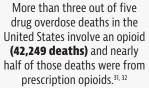
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Prescription opioid misuse and overdose is a growing concern across the nation and in North Dakota communities.



COMMON TYPES OF PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICATION (OPIOIDS):

Morphine; Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet); Methadone; Hydrocodone (Vicodin); Codeine; Fentanyl



2016

In North Dakota, overdose deaths

increased from 43 in 2014 to 77 in 2016

and has decreased to 70 in 2018.32

2017

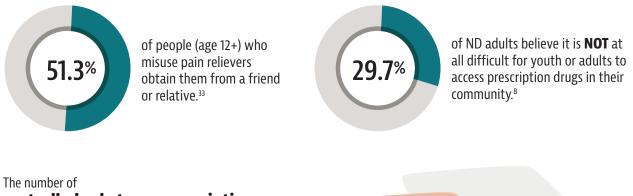
2014

2015

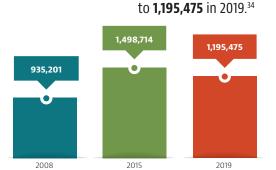
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Access to prescription medications is a key risk factor relating to the misuse of and addiction to prescription opioid medication.

The more prescription opioid medication is available, the higher likelihood of misuse.



controlled substance prescriptions INCREASED from 935,201 in 2008 to 1,498,714 in 2015 and has DECREASED



Among individuals receiving substance use disorder treatment services at a regional human service center, nearly 10% report heroin or prescription opioid use.²⁹

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OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS

Illicit drug use is relatively low in North Dakota.

YOUTH (ND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)



27.2% report using **synthetic marijuana** one or more times in their life.⁵



3.4% report using **cocaine** one or more times in their life.⁵



1.6% report using **methamphetamine** one or more times in their life, compared to 2.5% in the U.S ⁵



1.3% report using **heroin** one or more times in their life, compared to 1.7% in the U.S.⁵

YOUNG ADULT



of ND college students report use of **other illegal drugs** in the past year (heroin, inhalants, synthetic drugs, etc.).¹⁴

ADULT



of ND adults (age 18 and older) report **using illicit drugs** (other than marijuana) in the past month.⁷



North Dakota has taken steps to decrease access of methamphetamine such as restrictions on sales of products used to manufacture the drug and increased enforcement. The majority of ND community members

68.9% believe it is difficult to access methamphetamine. An increase from 62% in 2015.

When asked, **18.7%** of ND community members disagree with the statement,

I know who to go to if I need help for myself or family member(s) who are abusing alcohol or other drugs.

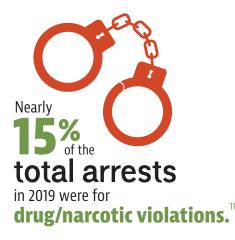


If you would like to know where to find help, visit:

behavioralhealth.nd.gov/addiction/service-locator

OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS

The consequences of illicit drug use impact our families and communities.



The most common drug types seized in drug/narcotic violations are¹¹



Up to 3 drug types may be selected for each incident



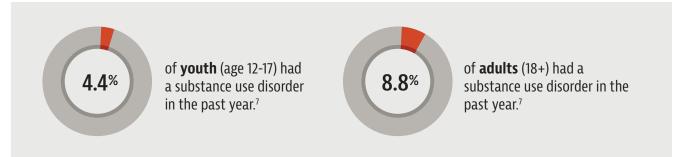
667 individuals received services at one of the three

authorized Syringe Service Programs

in the state from January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020.

This is a 60% increase in participants compared to the same time frame in 2019.³⁷

Syringe service programs are an important component to both disease prevention and connecting people to services. In North Dakota during the same six months, there were **192 referrals** to substance use treatment centers as a result of Syringe Service Programs.



Substance Use Disorder (SUD): Individuals with alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse are defined as having SUD. The questions used to measure dependence and abuse are based on criteria in the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV).

SUICIDE

Suicide rates in North Dakota have increased more than any other state.



North Dakota's suicide rate **increased** more than any other state, rising 58% from 1999 to 2020 (CDC, 2018).



ND's rate is consistently **higher** than the national average, taking 154 lives in 2017. This is **1 person** every **57 hours** (AFSP, 2019).

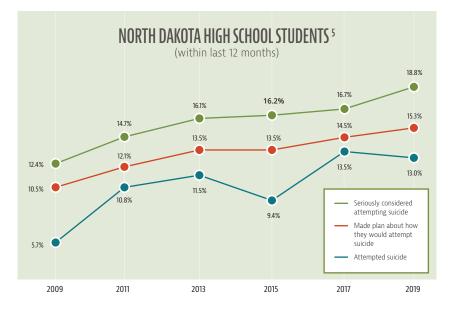
It remains the **second** leading cause of death for ND ages 15-34 (NDDoH, 2020).

If someone you know is struggling emotionally or having a hard time, you can be the difference in getting them the help they need. It's important to take care of yourself when you are supporting someone through a difficult time, as this may stir up difficult emotions. If it does, please reach out for support yourself.

There is hope. Most people who struggle with thoughts of suicide get better. Help and hope begins with talking about it.

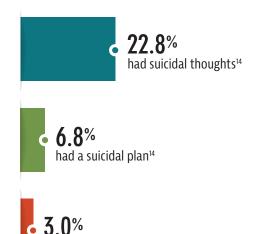
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress and prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved one. **Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**.

YOUTH



YOUNG ADULT ND College Students

attempted suicide14



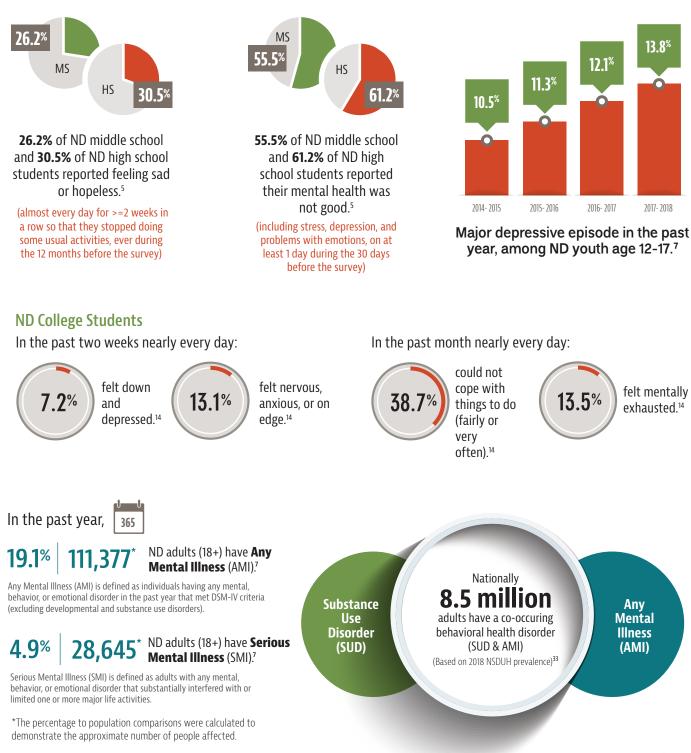
ADULT ND Adults (Age 18 and Older)



had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year.⁵

MENTAL ILLNESS

Mental illness is a growing concern for North Dakota youth and adults.



PREVENTION IS PROACTIVE

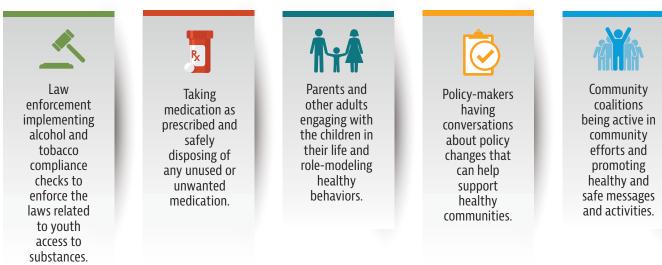
Prevention creates an environment that promotes health and well-being of individuals and communities, to prevent problems before they occur.



of North Dakota adults believe that **prevention** is a good investment.⁸ Evidence-based prevention strategies decrease the likelihood of disease, suffering and death – saving lives and money.

Every dollar invested in evidence-based prevention strategies yields \$64 in savings.¹

EFFECTIVE PREVENTION LOOKS LIKE...



PREVENTION WORKS!

Years of implementing evidence-based prevention strategies has shown successful outcomes.



GET INVOLVED!

Your community can work together to become a healthier, more vibrant place to live by investing time, energy and money in prevention. In fact, it is one of the best investments we can make in our state's future - creating safe and healthy individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Follow these steps to build a healthier community:



The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division has a team of prevention experts ready and willing to help communities get started with implementing effective prevention.



Request assistance from our training and technical assistance team.



Order or download free prevention materials.

Learn more at behavioralhealth.nd.gov/get-involved

PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS

Comprehensive communication is an important component of prevention. The Behavioral Health Division has developed three statewide programs/campaigns to address the statweide data-driven prevention priorities:



assist your community with local implementation. Materials and resources are free to order or download at **prevention.nd.gov/materials**

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