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## **NORTH DAKOTA Demographics Overview**

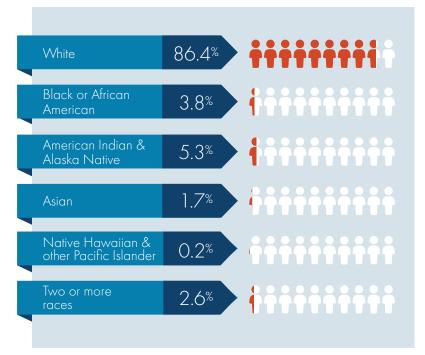








#### RACE/ETHNICITY<sup>2</sup>











4.9% of North Dakotans identify as Hispanic or Latino.<sup>2</sup>

7.2% of North Dakota's populations are veterans, compared to 6.1% in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

11.3 people per square mile in 2020, compared to 9.7 people per square mile in 2010.19

#### One in ten (9.8%)

North Dakotans are currently living in poverty.<sup>2</sup>

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

23.6% of North Dakotans are under age 18 and 17% are over age  $65.^2$ 

North Dakota has a 2.3% unemployment

## **Behavioral Health**

Behavioral health is broad and inclusive of overall wellness.

#### **GAMBLING**



24.4% of ND high school students report gambling on sports, the lottery, or the internet in the last year.3

Support for problem gambling is available. Visit GamblerND.com for information, resources and links to treatment.



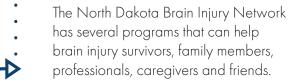
Call (877) 702-7848 to schedule a counseling appointment.

#### **BRAIN INJURY**



16.6% of ND high school students report having a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active at least once in the last vear.4

An increase from 14.3% in 2021.





Visit www.ndbin.org

#### BULLYING

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS



42.1% of ND middle **school** students report ever being bullied on school property.4





20.7% of ND **high school** students report being bullied on school property within the past year.4



An increase from 15.8% in 2021.



31.2% of ND middle **school** students report ever being electronically bullied.4



15.4% of ND **high school** students report being **electronically bullied** within the past year.<sup>4</sup>



An increase from 13.6% in 2021.

## Suicide

#### **YOUTH**

#### NORTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS 4



 Seriously considered attempting suicide

#### (within last 12 months)

Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide

Attempted suicide

#### **COLLEGE STUDENTS**

#### **ADULTS**



2.5% of ND college students indicated they had attempted suicide within the last 12 months.<sup>5</sup>



5.68% of ND adults (age 18 and older) had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year.6

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline CALL, TEXT OR CHAT

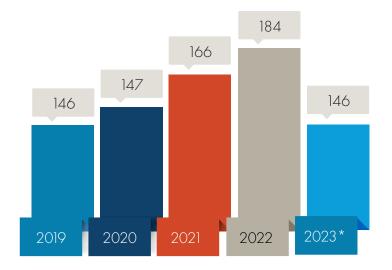
If you or someone you know needs support, call or text 988 or chat 988Lifeline.org.

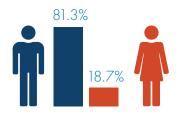
988 connects you with a trained crisis counselor who can help.

Suicide is preventable. If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, call or text the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline or chat at 988lifeline.org. Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



In 2023\*, 146 North Dakotans died by suicide. In comparison, 184 North Dakotans died by suicide in 2022.

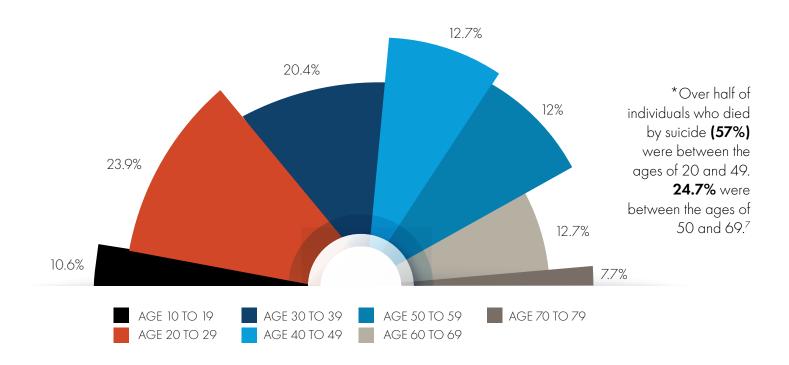




\*81.3% of individuals who died by suicide in 2023 were male, 18.7% female.<sup>7</sup>



**17.8%** of individuals who died by suicide were current or former military (2023).<sup>7</sup>



\*2023 data is preliminary

## **Mental Health**

#### YOUTH



**30.9%** of ND **middle school** students report feeling sad or hopeless (almost every day for 2 weeks or more in a row so they stopped doing some usual activities in the past year).<sup>4</sup>

**24.3%** of ND **middle school** students report their mental health was most of the time or always not good in the last 30 days.<sup>4</sup>



30.6% of ND high school students report their mental health was most of the time or always not good in the last 30 days.4



**35%** of ND **high school** students report feeling sad or hopeless (almost every day for 2 weeks or more in a row so they stopped doing some usual activities in the past year).<sup>4</sup>



Among those who report feeling sad, empty, hopeless, angry or anxious, **20.1%** of ND **high school** students report they most of the time or always get the kind of help they need.<sup>4</sup>

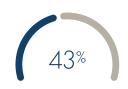


**17.8%** of ND **youth** (ages 12-17) had major depressive episode in the past year.<sup>6</sup>

#### **COLLEGE STUDENTS**



**57.3%** of ND college students report having counseling for a mental health condition in the last 12 months.<sup>5</sup>



**43%** of ND college students report high levels of loneliness, based on a standardized loneliness scale.<sup>5</sup>

Among ND college students (in their lifetime)<sup>5</sup>:

36.2% diagnosed with anxiety

27.8% diagnosed with depression



#### ADULTS (ages 18+)



18% reported their mental health was not good 8 or more days in the last month.6



10.34% reported having a **major** depressive episode in the past year.<sup>6</sup>



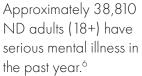
25.95% had **any** mental illness in the past year.6



6.48% reported a serious mental illness in the past year.6



Approximately 155,420 ND adults (18+) had any mental illness in the past year.6





25.32% of ND adults (18+) received mental health services in the past year.6



The average life span for people with serious mental illness is 25-30 years less than the general public. People with depression have a 40% higher risk of developing heart diseases than the general population.

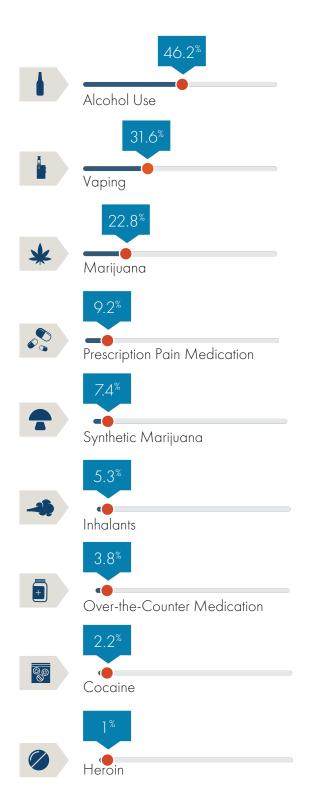


Find mental health services for you or your loved ones through the North Dakota Mental Health Program Directory.

The directory provides a single place for North Dakota citizens to search for mental health services that meet their needs. hhs.nd.gov/behavioral-health/directory

## **Substance Use**

## YOUTH (HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)<sup>4</sup> LIFETIME Substance Use



#### ADULTS (AGES 18+)<sup>6</sup> PAST 30-DAY Substance Use



NOTE: Binge alcohol use is defined as drinking five or more drinks (for males) or four or more drinks (for females) on the same occasion (i.e., at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other) on at least one day in the past 30 days.

## **Addiction and Recovery**



An estimated 20.8% of ND adults (18+)

met the criteria for a Substance Use Disorder within the last year.6

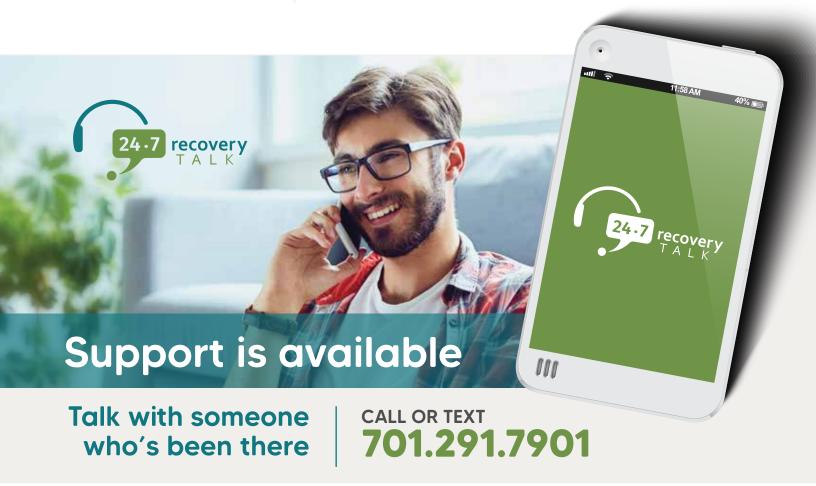
77.62%

An estimated 77.62% of ND adults (18+) who needed treatment for substance use did not receive treatment in the past year.

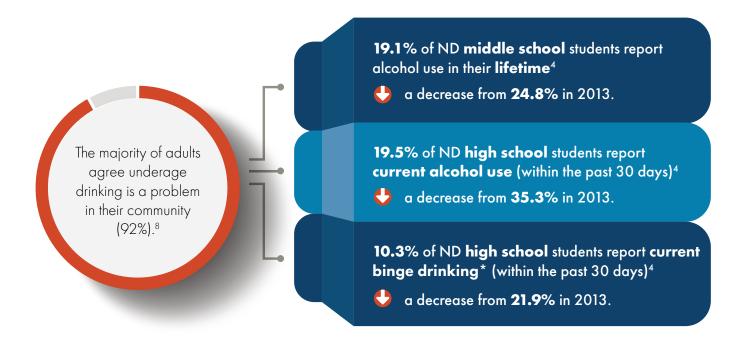
2.5% of ND college students report being in recovery from alcohol or drug use.<sup>5</sup>

105

In North Dakota, there are 105 licensed Substance Use Disorder Treatment programs (as of 10/10/2024).



## **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.



4.5% of ND high school students report driving after drinking alcohol within the past 30 days.4

**c** a **decrease** from 10.7% in 2013



**14.3%** of ND high school students report riding with a driver who had been drinking alcohol within the past 30 days.4

**decrease** from 21.9% in 2013



3.71% of ND youth (ages 12-17) met the criteria for alcohol use disorder in the past year.6



Research shows brain development is not complete until around age 25.

Among the last parts of the brain to be developed are those responsible for impulse control and extended reasoning. Alcohol use among youth and young adults can result in irreversible changes impacting problem-solving skills, performance at school, and potentially their body, mood and mental health.

## Alcohol: Young Adult & College Students



64.9% of ND college students report using alcohol in the last three months.<sup>20</sup>



54.4% of ND college students report binge drinking\* one or more times in the last two weeks.<sup>5</sup>

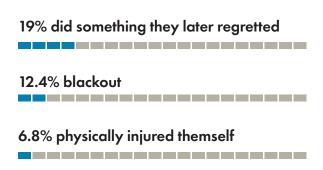


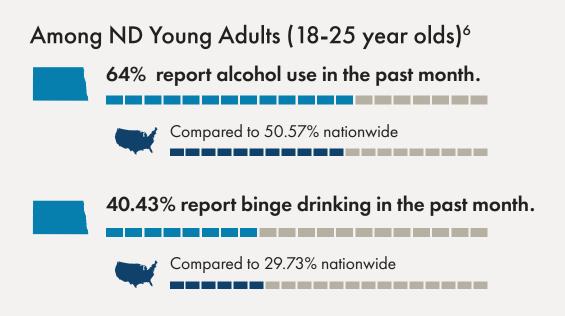
of ND college students report driving after having any alcohol in the last 30 days

(of those students who reported drinking alcohol in the last 30 days and those who reported driving in the last 30 days).5

\*binge drinking: five or more drinks (males) or four or more drinks (females) containing any kind of alcohol at a sitting.

ND college students who drank alcohol reported experiencing the following in the last 12 months when drinking alcohol<sup>5</sup>:





## **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.





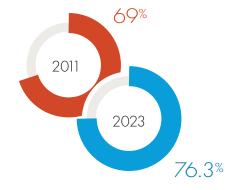


Research shows that individuals who start drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely than individuals who start drinking at the age of 21 to meet criteria for alcohol use disorder at some point in their lives.<sup>20</sup>

11.4% of ND high school students report their first use of alcohol before the age of 13.4

#### Generally, individuals do NOT believe binge drinking is risky.

The percentage of ND high school students who believe binge drinking one or two times a week does NOT pose a great risk has increased from **69%** in 2011 to **76.3%** in 2023.<sup>4</sup>



31.5%

**31.5%** of ND **high school** students report living with someone who had a problem with alcohol or drug use at some point in their life.<sup>4</sup>

## **Alcohol: Risk Factors**



The easier it is to obtain alcohol, the higher the likelihood for use and abuse.



North Dakota ranks highest in the nation for the number of bars per capita, with 49.73 bars per 100,000 people. Compare this to New Hampshire, with 1.54 bars per 100,000 people.9



There is one alcohol beverage license (restaurant serving alcohol, bar or liquor store) in ND for every 445.5 people. 10



Early intervention is an important piece of the behavioral health continuum of care and helps to reduce the risk of harmful behaviors such as drug and alcohol use.



In North Dakota, there are 18 certified Minor in Possession education providers (as of 10/10/2024).



68.3% of ND adults support requiring evidence-based interventions for youth with Minor in Possessions. 8



11.7% of ND adults believe it is not at all difficult for youth to **buy alcohol at a store** themselves.8



41.5% of ND adults believe it is not at all difficult for youth to **get an older person to buy alcohol** for them.<sup>8</sup>



57% of ND adults believe it is not at all difficult for youth to **sneak alcohol from their home** or a friend's home.<sup>8</sup>

## Alcohol: Adult

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

91.4% fifth of ND adults agree that fifth adult alcohol use is a problem in their community.8

Among North Dakota adults age 26 and older:



59.87% used alcohol in the past month.6



ND ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for **binge alcohol use** (past month) (26.81%).



The economic costs of excessive alcohol consumption in ND are estimated at \$487 million, which is \$725 per person or \$1.40 a drink.11



One in six (16.7%) adult arrests in ND are for driving under the influence. 12



**36%** of fatal crashes in ND are alcohol-related. 13



13.39% of ND adults age 26 or older met the criteria for Alcohol Use Disorder in the past year.<sup>6</sup>



23% of new domestic violence cases in ND involve alcohol.<sup>14</sup>

Not all drinks are created equal. Some can be the equivalent of three and even four drinks, which is why we say speak in volumes and you'll speak volumes about how much you're drinking.





12-ounce beer (5% ABV) = 1 drink



5-ounce glass of wine (12% ABV) = 1 drink



16-ounce craft beer (7.5% ABV) = 2 drinks



Martini = 1.5-2 drinks



Long Island Iced Tea = 3-5 drinks



Margarita = 2-3 drinks

## 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.

#### **ADULTS**



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



believe prevention programs are a good investment.8

#### **CHANGE COMES FROM**

Increased awareness of the risks associated with underage drinking and adult binge drinking.

Enforcement of laws and policies related to alcohol.

Protective parental behaviors such as ongoing conversations, healthy role-modeling, monitoring, support and engagement.

Strengthened policies to reduce access to alcohol.

65.5% of ND adults believe that alcohol servers and bartenders should be specifically trained.8

75.7% of ND adults support the legal drinking age of 21.8

64.3% of ND adults support DUI checkpoints.8

83.4% of ND adults support compliance checks.8

Shifting community norms to be supportive of healthy decisions, and not supportive of excessive alcohol consumption.

72.3% of ND adults support penalties for adults who provide alcohol to minors.8

### Tobacco

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

#### **YOUTH**



92.2%

of ND adults believe TOBACCO USE AMONG YOUTH is a problem in their community.8



**8.9%** of ND middle school students report cigarette use in their lifetime.<sup>4</sup>



19.6% of ND high school students report current (past 30-day) use of tobacco 4



**5.4%** of ND **high school** students report current (past 30-day) use of cigarettes.

decrease from 8.3% in 2019.<sup>4</sup>



14.5%

of ND middle school students report using electronic vapor products at one point in their life.<sup>4</sup>



of ND **high school** students report current use of electronic vapor products.<sup>4</sup>

decrease from **33.1%** in 2019.

#### **COLLEGE STUDENTS & ADULTS**

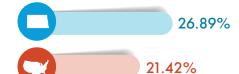


**25.8%** of ND **college** students report using tobacco or nicotine delivery products in the last three months.<sup>5</sup>



**89.5**%

of ND adults believe TOBACCO USE AMONG ADULTS is a problem in their community.<sup>8</sup> **Among adults age 26 and older**, **26.89%** of ND adults report tobacco product use in the past month; compared to **21.42%** of US adults.<sup>6</sup>





Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and has a tremendous impact on lives in North Dakota. By preventing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, we reduce disease, alleviate suffering, save lives, and cut health care costs and productivity losses.



In the 2022-2023 school year, there were 1,234 suspensions/expulsions related to tobacco. This corresponds to 3,373.25 days removed from school.<sup>15</sup>

The majority

cigarettes per day

poses great risk.<sup>6</sup>

of North Dakotans (age 12 or older) believe smoking one or more packs of



Exposure to secondhand smoke causes more than 41,000 deaths each year among adults in the United States. 16

The life expectancy for smokers is at least 10 years shorter than for nonsmokers. 16



39.4%

of ND high school students report it would be very easy to get tobacco products if they wanted some. 18



of ND **high school** students usually obtain their own cigarettes by buying them in a store or gas station. 18

of ND **high school** students usually obtain their own electronic vapor products by buying them in a store. 18



Tobacco affects everyone, even non-users. In North Dakota, smoking-related costs include:<sup>23</sup>

Annual health care costs directly caused by smoking: \$379 million

Medicaid costs caused by smoking: **\$61.1** million

Residents' state and federal tax burden from smoking-caused government

expenditures: \$970 per

household

Smoking-caused productivity losses: \$715

million

## Marijuana

#### YOUTH





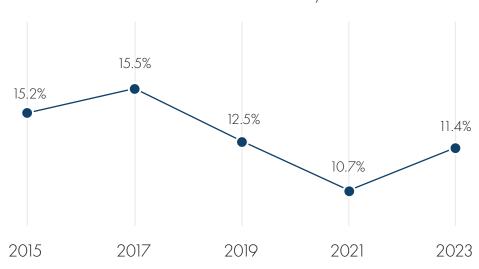
**7.8%** of ND **middle school** students have used marijuana one or more times in their **lifetime**.<sup>4</sup>



**3.7%** of ND **middle school** students have used marijuana one or more times in the **last 30 days.**<sup>4</sup>



**11.4%** of ND **high school** students have used marijuana one or more times in the last 30 days.<sup>4</sup>





**3.8%** of ND **high school** students tried marijuana for the first time before the age of 13.4



**7.4%** of ND **high school** students report using synthetic marijuana sometime in their life.<sup>4</sup>



11.8% of ND high school students report riding in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been using marijuana in the last 30 days.<sup>4</sup>



The majority of ND **adults believe YOUTH** marijuana use is a problem in their community (84.8%).8

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

#### **COLLEGE STUDENTS**



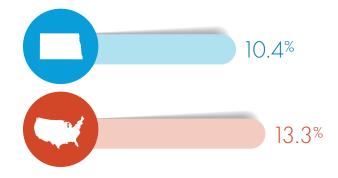
**17.7%** of ND **college** students reporting using nonmedical use of cannabis in the last three months.<sup>5</sup>



**37%** of ND **college** students reporting driving within six hours of using cannabis/marijuana in the last 30 days (of those reporting using cannabis in the last 30 days and those reporting driving in the last 30 days).<sup>5</sup>

#### **ADULTS**

**10.4%** of ND adults (age 26+) report using marijuana in the past month, compared to **13.3%** nationwide.<sup>6</sup>





**82.2%** of North Dakotans (age 12+) do NOT perceive great risk from smoking marijuana once a month.<sup>6</sup>



Marijuana/hashish was found in **47.6%** of cases where drugs were seized in 2023. 12



Three out of four ND adults believe it is a problem for ADULTS (73%).8

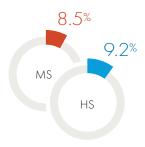
## **Opioids**

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



More than three quarters of ND adults believe prescription drug use among both youth (81.3%) and adults (87.6%) is a problem in their community.8

#### **YOUTH**



8.5% of ND middle school students and 9.2% of ND high school students report using prescription pain medication without a doctor's prescription one or more times during their lifetime.<sup>4</sup>

1%

1% of ND **high school** students report using heroin one or more times during their lifetime.<sup>4</sup>

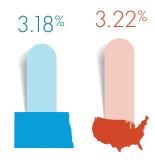
#### **COLLEGE STUDENTS**



**0.7%** of ND college students report nonmedical use of prescription opioids in the last three months.<sup>5</sup>

**0.3%** of ND college students report heroin use in the last three months.<sup>5</sup>

#### **ADULTS**



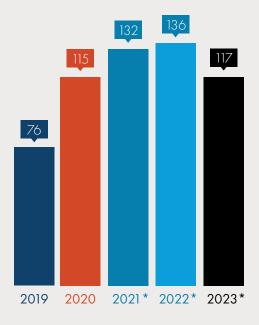
**3.18%** of ND **adults** (26+) report past year misuse of prescription pain relievers, compared to 3.22% in the U.S.<sup>6</sup>

**0.46%** of ND adults (26+) report past year heroin use.<sup>5</sup>



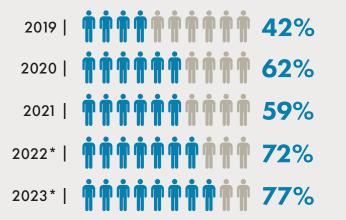
2.24% of ND adults (age 26 and older) meet the criteria for opioid use disorder within the past year.<sup>6</sup>

#### Drug Overdose Deaths in North Dakota<sup>7</sup>



<sup>\*</sup>preliminary data

#### Percentage of Drug Overdose Deaths Where Fentanyl Was Present in Toxicology<sup>7</sup>





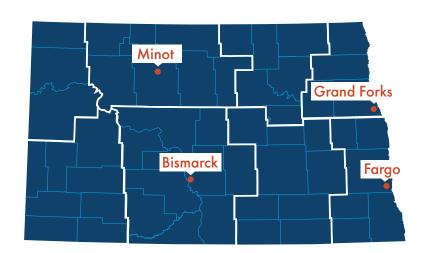
Nearly **84%** of drug overdose deaths in 2023 involved an opioid.<sup>7</sup>

**24.5%** of ND **adults** believe it is NOT at all difficult for youth or adults to access prescription drugs in their community.<sup>8</sup>

## There are four opioid treatment programs in North Dakota.

As of July 1, 2022, 819 individuals were being served.

This is an increase from 761 individuals in July of 2020.



#### Save a loved one.



Know how to respond to an opioid overdose

- Call 911 and administer naloxone.
- Do rescue breathing or chest compressions. Follow 911 dispatcher directions.
- Remain onsite until assistance arrives and cooperate with first responders.

## Other Illicit Drugs

#### **YOUTH**

#### **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>4</sup> LIFETIME Substance Use**



Inhalants 5.3%



Cocaine 2.2%



Ecstasy 2.4%

#### **COLLEGE STUDENT**

#### ND COLLEGE STUDENTS<sup>5</sup> (Use in last three months)



Inhalants 0.7%



Cocaine 1.2%



Hallucinogens 2.0%



Methamphetamine 0.4%

## Drug/ narcotic violations offenses

2.54

increased by

from a total of 5,866 in 2022 to 6,015 in 2023. <sup>12</sup>

#### **ADULT**



3.46% of ND adults (age 18 and older) report using illicit drugs (other than marijuana) in the past month.6

1,505

### individuals

received services at an authorized syringe service program in the state in 2023.

Syringe Service Programs are an important component to both disease prevention and connecting people to services. In 2023, 378 individuals were referred to substance use treatment as a result of syringe service programs.

694 individuals indicated that they had used Narcan for a total of 1,403 lives saved.

# North Dakota Behavioral Health Principles



## Foundation of Well-being



## WE WANT TO SEE:

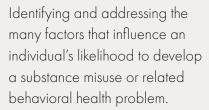
Individuals and strong, stable families thriving with their behavioral health while supported by communities and businesses that prioritize well-being.

Individuals struggling with behavioral health conditions achieve independence and live a self-directed life in recovery.





## WE ACHIEVE THIS BY:

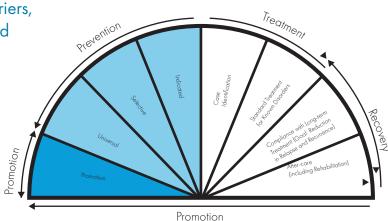


These can be described as:

- Social determinants of health
- Risk and protective factors
- Building resiliency
- Adverse Childhood Experiences

Behavioral health is an essential part of overall health in which promotion removes barriers, prevention works, treatment is useful and people recover.

Services throughout this continuum of care should reflect current knowledge, technology and evidence-based practice. Throughout all levels of the continuum, there should be continuous promotion of healthy behaviors and lifestyles, a primary driver of health outcomes.



## SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION:

# What it is, Why it Matters & What Works

#### What is Prevention?

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



- Prevention is cost-effective; saving \$64 for every \$1 invested (on average).<sup>26</sup>
- Prevention improves the health of individuals, families and communities.
- Prevention decreases consequences and saves lives.



- Prevention focuses on reducing risk factors, strengthening protective factors and building resiliency of individuals, families and communities.
- Prevention follows the Public Health Model, focusing on population-level change.
- Prevention requires a multi-faceted approach, implementing a variety of evidence-based strategies working toward a common goal.
- It can take time to see the results of prevention.



**24.3%** of ND **adults** report their community is taking strong action to prevent the misuse of alcohol and other drugs.<sup>8</sup>



Half of ND **adults (49.4%)** are concerned about whether their community has sufficient alcohol and other drug abuse prevention programs.<sup>8</sup>



# Rehavioral Health Resource that the second s

#### ecovery Talk

you don't know where to begin getting help with addiction for ourself or someone you know—start here. Call or text 01.291.7901 to speak to a trained peer support specialist 'ith lived experience in addiction to chat and receive support.

#### <sup>1</sup>88 Crisis Lifeline

you or someone you know needs support, call or text 988 r chat 988Lifeline.org. 988 connects you with a trained crisis ounselor who can help.



## References

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## hhs.nd.gov/behavioral-health



