

ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE AND GAMBLING USE

May, 2003

In the fall of 2002, AADAC commissioned *The Alberta Youth Experience Survey 2002* (TAYES), a comprehensive study of alcohol, tobacco, other drug and gambling behaviour. The study included measures of use and abuse as well as factors that protect from or increase the risk of use and abuse. The percentage of Alberta youth who have used substances or participate in gambling activities is presented here.

Percent of Alberta youth who have used substances or participated in gambling activities in the last 12 months

	OVERALL	GRADES 7 – 9	GRADES 10 - 12
USED ALCOHOL			
Alcohol	56.3	35.8	75.4
USED TOBACCO			
Smoked cigarettes	16.2	7.2	24.6
Chewing tobacco or snuff	7.8	4.3	11.0
USED CANNABIS			
Cannabis (marijuana or hash)	27.6	11.8	41.9
USED OTHER DRUGS			
Magic mushrooms or mescaline	10.4	5.0	15.3
Inhalants	5.6	6.8	4.6
Club drugs (ecstasy or crystal meth)	5.3	2.7	7.6
Uppers without a prescription	4.0	2.1	5.6
Hallucinogens	3.9	1.6	6.1
Cocaine	2.9	0.5	5.1
Crack	2.8	0.8	4.7
Downers without a prescription	2.3	1.7	2.9
Heroin or opium	1.4	1.1	1.7
Steroids	1.2	0.7	1.6
PARTICIPATED IN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES			
Scratch tabs	30.8	25.9	35.4
Cards for money	23.0	18.5	27.1
Bet on sporting events with a friend	21.1	18.2	23.7
Bingo	9.5	11.8	7.3
Any other lottery	6.7	5.7	7.6
Sports Select lottery	3.7	1.9	5.4
Video lottery terminals (VLTs)	3.3	1.4	5.1
Bet on sporting events on-line	3.2	3.2	3.3

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Substance Use and Gambling in Alberta

While over half of adolescents drank at least once in the past 12 months (56% drank, 44% did not), most adolescents did not smoke, use cannabis, use other drugs, nor gamble in the year before taking the survey. A minority of adolescents used cannabis (27%), smoked cigarettes (16%), used magic mushrooms or mescaline (10%), played Scratch Tabs (31%), played cards for money with friends (23%), bet on sports with friends (21%) or played bingo (9.5%). In all cases except for the use of inhalants, adolescents in grades 10 to 12 were more likely to use substances or gamble than were adolescents in grades 7 to 9. Inhalant use was more common among adolescents in grades 7 to 9 (8%) than among adolescents in grades 10 to 12 (4%).