

STUDENT WELLNESS AND EDUCATION SURVEY

Grades 6-12: Substance Use



Community
Oromocto,
Gagetown,
Fredericton
Junction Area



Zone 3
Fredericton and
River Valley Area



Province
New Brunswick

Smoking and vaping

Cigarette

Has tried cigarette smoking % 2023-2024	17.2	16.6	16.0
Onset age Number 2023-2024	14.1	14.0	14.1
Susceptible to smoking % 2023-2024	39.8	33.4	31.0
Daily or occasional smoker % 2023-2024	7.0	7.1	6.6
Daily smoker % 2023-2024	2.4	2.2	2.2
Has a close friend who smokes % 2023-2024	26.1	21.6	20.0

Vaping

Has tried vaping % 2023-2024	26.4	25.3	24.7
Onset age Number 2023-2024	14.0	14.0	14.1
Daily or occasional vaper % 2023-2024	16.1	14.5	14.0
Daily vaper % 2023-2024	8.1	6.9	7.1
Has a close friend who vapes % 2023-2024	44.4	40.6	38.0
Exposed to vaping smoke at home % 2023-2024	22.2	17.4	17.3

Second-hand smoke

	Community Oromocto, Gagetown, Fredericton Junction Area	Zone 3 Fredericton and River Valley Area	Province New Brunswick
Exposed to cigarette smoke in a vehicle, last 7 days % 2023-2024	21.7	20.6	19.6
Exposed to cigarette smoke at home % 2023-2024	16.3	14.7	12.9
Alternative tobacco and nicotine products			
Has tried alternative tobacco and nicotine products % 2023-2024	11.9	12.0	12.3
Little cigars or cigarillos % 2023-2024	9.2	8.7	9.3
Cigars % 2023-2024	5.9	5.9	7.0
Roll-your-own cigarettes % 2023-2024	6.0	5.8	5.8
Heated tobacco products % 2023-2024	6.6	5.8	5.8
Smokeless tobacco % 2023-2024	3.2	4.0	4.0
Water pipe to smoke shisha % 2023-2024	5.8	4.8	4.7
Blunt wraps % 2023-2024	5.9	4.8	4.5

Alcohol and drugs

Alcohol

Has tried alcohol % 2023-2024	41.8	42.1	43.3
Onset age Number 2023-2024	13.8	14.0	14.1
Regular drinking % 2023-2024	15.4	16.6	17.8
Heavy drinking % 2023-2024	10.2	11.2	12.0
Has a close friend who drinks alcohol % 2023-2024	41.2	40.9	41.0
Onset age - getting drunk Number 2023-2024	14.5	14.7	14.7

Cannabis

Has tried cannabis % 2023-2024	23.7	19.9	17.9
Onset age Number 2023-2024	14.4	14.5	14.5

	Community Oromocto, Gagetown, Fredericton Junction Area	Zone 3 Fredericton and River Valley Area	Province New Brunswick
Has used cannabis, last 12 months % 2023-2024	17.8	16.3	14.3
Daily cannabis user, last 12 months % 2023-2024	4.3	4.3	3.8
Has a close friend who uses cannabis % 2023-2024	35.5	30.0	26.2
Exposed to cannabis smoke at home % 2023-2024	18.6	14.2	11.8

Drugs

Has used drugs, last 12 months (excluding tobacco, alcohol and cannabis) to get high % 2022-2023	29.5	29.1	29.4
LSD and other hallucinogens % 2022-2023	6.1	5.0	4.6
Pain relievers % 2022-2023	8.6	7.3	5.8
Amphetamines % 2022-2023	3.3	2.4	2.4
Ecstasy, MDMA % 2022-2023	3.2	2.4	2.3
Cocaine % 2022-2023	4.1	3.1	2.9
Cough and cold medicines % 2022-2023	24.1	23.8	24.5
Stimulants % 2022-2023	4.7	3.8	3.7
Sedatives / tranquillizers % 2022-2023	3.4	2.8	2.7
Methamphetamines / Crystal methamphetamine % 2022-2023	3.1	2.4	2.1
Glue or solvents % 2022-2023	3.6	2.7	2.2
Heroin % 2022-2023	2.7	2.1	1.8
Other % 2022-2023	6.9	6.2	5.6

Safety

Driver of an off-road vehicle - under the influence of alcohol or drugs, last 12 months % 2022-2023	11.9	12.3	11.5
Passenger in an on-road vehicle - driven by someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs, last 12 months % 2022-2023	19.3	18.3	17.3

Community	Zone 3	Province
Oromocto, Gagetown, Fredericton Junction Area	Fredericton and River Valley Area	New Brunswick

About this Table

Content and description

This table presents data collected from students in grades 6 to 12 through the New Brunswick Student Wellness and Education Survey (SWES). It contains self-reported information regarding the use of substances among New Brunswick students in grades 6 to 12. Substances include cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs. The questionnaire comprises modules, which means that certain questions are asked every other cycle.

Why it is important

Only when we understand who our students are and what their needs are can we better plan for services and allocate resources to meet their health and educational needs.

Availability of the data

The information in this data table is available by school district, school sector and overall New Brunswick, by the seven (7) New Brunswick health zones and 33 communities created by the NBHC, as well as by demographic groups. More information is available on our [New Brunswick Student Wellness and Education Survey](#) page.

Note about demographic groups:

In 2023, the NBHC undertook a review of the demographic questions in its surveys to more accurately report on the experience of citizens who identify with particular groups. As such, starting in 2024, all demographic groups (characteristics) have been adjusted to reflect this change. Data tables and indicator pages were adjusted to allow for trending where applicable.

Caption

n/a = Not applicable / not available

S = Data suppressed due to confidentiality requirements and/or small sample size

 Above-average performance

 Below-average performance