STUDENT WELLNESS AND EDUCATION SURVEY
Grades 6-12: Substance Use

Community
Edmundston,
Rivière-Verte,
Lac Baker Area

Zone 4
Madawaska and
North-West Area

Province
New Brunswick

Smoking and vaping

Cigarette

	Community	Zone 4	Province
Has tried cigarette smoking % | 2023-2024	14.0	16.8	16.0
Onset age Number | 2023-2024	14.7	14.6	14.1
Susceptible to smoking % | 2023-2024	26.7	28.2	31.0
Daily or occasional smoker % | 2023-2024	5.6	6.8	6.6
Daily smoker % | 2023-2024	2.0	2.7	2.2
Has a close friend who smokes % | 2023-2024	15.2	17.8	20.0

Vaping

	Community	Zone 4	Province
Has tried vaping % | 2023-2024	26.2	27.0	24.7
Onset age Number | 2023-2024	14.5	14.4	14.1
Daily or occasional vaper % | 2023-2024	14.0	16.1	14.0
Daily vaper % | 2023-2024	7.8	8.6	7.1
Has a close friend who vapes % | 2023-2024	36.4	38.3	38.0
Exposed to vaping smoke at home % | 2023-2024	16.4	17.6	17.3

Second-hand smoke

	Community	Zone 4	Province
Exposed to cigarette smoke in a vehicle, last 7 days % | 2023-2024	17.8	21.3	19.6

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	Community Edmundston, Rivière-Verte, Lac Baker Area	Zone 4 Madawaska and North-West Area	Province New Brunswick
Exposed to cigarette smoke at home % | 2023-2024	9.9	11.2	12.9

Alternative tobacco and nicotine products

Has tried alternative tobacco and nicotine products % | 2023-2024	13.1	14.3	12.3
Little cigars or cigarillos % | 2023-2024	11.5	12.1	9.3
Cigars % | 2023-2024	8.1	9.2	7.0
Roll-your-own cigarettes % | 2023-2024	5.4	6.0	5.8
Heated tobacco products % | 2023-2024	4.9	5.2	5.8
Smokeless tobacco % | 2023-2024	2.9	3.3	4.0
Water pipe to smoke shisha % | 2023-2024	3.3	4.1	4.7
Blunt wraps % | 2023-2024	2.0	3.0	4.5

Alcohol and drugs

Alcohol

Has tried alcohol % | 2023-2024	54.2	54.3	43.3
Onset age Number | 2023-2024	14.1	14.0	14.1
Regular drinking % | 2023-2024	23.4	23.6	17.8
Heavy drinking % | 2023-2024	14.3	14.3	12.0
Has a close friend who drinks alcohol % | 2023-2024	46.2	46.4	41.0
Onset age - getting drunk Number | 2023-2024	15.2	15.0	14.7

Cannabis

Has tried cannabis % | 2023-2024	12.7	14.0	17.9
Onset age Number | 2023-2024	15.1	14.9	14.5
Has used cannabis, last 12 months % | 2023-2024	9.1	10.3	14.3

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	Community Edmundston, Rivière-Verte, Lac Baker Area	Zone 4 Madawaska and North-West Area	Province New Brunswick
Daily cannabis user, last 12 months %	2023-2024	2.2	2.7	3.8
Has a close friend who uses cannabis %	2023-2024	16.2	18.5	26.2
Exposed to cannabis smoke at home %	2023-2024	6.8	8.2	11.8

Drugs

Has used drugs, last 12 months (excluding tobacco, alcohol and cannabis) to get high %	2022-2023	35.8	33.7	29.4
LSD and other hallucinogens %	2022-2023	3.7	4.4	4.6
Pain relievers %	2022-2023	3.1	3.7	5.8
Amphetamines %	2022-2023	1.9	2.6	2.4
Ecstasy, MDMA %	2022-2023	1.8	2.1	2.3
Cocaine %	2022-2023	1.9	2.5	2.9
Cough and cold medicines %	2022-2023	33.9	30.8	24.5
Stimulants %	2022-2023	3.3	4.0	3.7
Sedatives / tranquillizers %	2022-2023	2.6	2.9	2.7
Methamphetamines / Crystal methamphetamine %	2022-2023	1.5	2.0	2.1
Glue or solvents %	2022-2023	1.4	1.9	2.2
Heroin %	2022-2023	1.0	1.7	1.8
Other %	2022-2023	3.5	4.6	5.6

Safety

Driver of an off-road vehicle - under the influence of alcohol or drugs, last 12 months %	2022-2023	13.9	15.6	11.5
Passenger in an on-road vehicle - driven by someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs, last 12 months %	2022-2023	22.5	22.8	17.3

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