DRUG USE
Among Ontario Students

1977–2023

Findings from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey

with French summary within | avec resumé en français à l'intérieur

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OSDUHS
Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey

THE 2023 OSDUHS DRUG USE REPORT SUMMARY

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's *Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey* (OSDUHS) has been conducted every two years since 1977, making it the longest ongoing school survey of adolescents in Canada, and one of the longest in the world. This report describes the 2023 results for use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping devices, cannabis, illicit drugs, prescription drugs, as well as changes over time. Also examined are harms related to drug use, and perceptions of risk and availability.

A total of 10,145 students in grades 7 to 12 in 848 classes in 235 schools in 46 school boards across Ontario participated in the 2023 cycle of the OSDUHS. All data are based on self-reports derived from anonymous questionnaires. The survey was administered in classrooms between November 2022 and June 2023.

Past Year Drug Use (%) for the Total Sample, by Sex,[†] and by Grade, 2023 OSDUHS (N=10,145)

	Total	Males	Females		G7	G8	G9	G10	G11	G12	
Grades 7–12											
Alcohol	**35.6**	32.7	38.6	*	6.9	14.6	25.1	43.0	48.1	60.7	*
Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers (NM)	**21.8**	18.0	25.8	*	22.5	22.2	22.5	20.2	21.4	21.9	
Cannabis	**17.6**	14.8	20.7	*	s	5.4	8.9	21.8	25.7	34.0	*
Vapes/Electronic Cigarettes	**13.4**	9.4	17.7	*	s	5.0	9.1	16.7	19.1	21.8	*
Cough/Cold Medication (NM)	**9.6**	10.4	8.7		13.4	13.6	8.6	9.2	7.9	6.8	*
Tobacco Cigarettes	**3.2**	3.0	3.5		s	s	1.4	2.8	6.1	6.5	*
Waterpipes (Hookahs)	**2.1**	2.3	1.9		s	s	s	2.9	3.4	3.0	*
ADHD Drugs (NM)	**1.9**	2.1	1.6		s	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.0	
Smokeless (Chewing) Tobacco	**1.7**	2.3	0.9	*	s	s	s	s	s	2.9	*
Grades 9–12[††]											
Mushrooms (Psilocybin) or Mescaline	**3.4**	3.8	3.0		--	--	1.3	3.4	3.6	5.1	*
Tranquillizers/Sedatives (NM)	**1.7**	1.2	2.1		--	--	1.6	1.5	s	1.8	
Cocaine	**1.0**	1.1	0.8		--	--	s	s	s	0.8	
LSD	**0.9**	1.1	0.7		--	--	s	s	s	1.0	
Ecstasy (MDMA)	**0.6**	0.5	0.7		--	--	s	s	s	0.7	
Any NM Use of a Prescription Drug	**22.9**	18.7	27.2	*	--	--	23.4	21.7	23.2	23.2	
Any Drug Use	**29.3**	27.3	31.4	*	--	--	28.9	29.4	28.9	29.9	

Notes: [†] refers to sex at birth; [††] not asked of 7th and 8th graders; * statistically significant sex or grade difference (p<.05), *not* controlling for other factors; N=total sample size; s=estimate suppressed due to unreliability; estimate for alcohol excludes "a sip"; estimates for tobacco cigarettes and vapes/electronic cigarettes exclude smoking a few puffs; NM=nonmedical use, without a doctor's prescription; "Any NM Use of a Prescription Drug" is a composite measure defined as past year nonmedical use of opioids, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) drugs, or tranquillizers/ sedatives; "Any Drug Use" is a composite measure defined as past year use of any one of 11 drugs (excludes alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, and cannabis); methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl are not shown due to suppressed estimates.

2023 Subgroup Differences in Drug Use

Differences in past year drug use according to sex,* grade, and four regions of the province are presented in the report.

- Among the individual drugs asked about in the 2023 survey, females are significantly more likely than males to use four drugs, as shown in the table below. Males are more likely to use smokeless (chewing) tobacco.

Males are more likely to use	Females are more likely to use
• Smokeless Tobacco	• Alcohol
	• Prescription Opioids (NM)
	• Cannabis
	• Vapes/E-cigarettes

NM=nonmedical use

- Past year use of several drugs significantly differs by grade, as shown in the table below. In general, the percentage reporting use in the past year increases with grade, peaking in grade 11 or 12. The one exception is the nonmedical use of cough/cold medication, which decreases with grade.

Use increases with grade	Use decreases with grade
• Alcohol	• Cough/Cold Medication (NM)
• Cannabis	
• Vapes/Electronic Cigarettes	
• Tobacco Cigarettes	
• Waterpipes (Hookahs)	
• Smokeless Tobacco	
• Mushrooms/Mescaline	

NM=nonmedical use

- The survey design divided the province into four regions: Greater Toronto Area; Northern Ontario (Parry Sound District, Nipissing District and farther north); Western Ontario (Dufferin County and farther west); and Eastern Ontario (Simcoe County and farther east). The significant regional differences in past year drug use are shown in the table below.

Use in region *below* provincial average	Use in region *above* provincial average
Greater Toronto Area	
• Alcohol	
• Vapes/E-cigarettes	
• Mushrooms/Mescaline	
North	
	• Alcohol
	• Vapes/E-cigarettes
	• Cough/Cold Medication (NM)
	• Mushrooms/Mescaline
West	
• Cough/Cold Medication (NM)	
East	
does not differ from the average	

NM=nonmedical use

* refers to sex at birth

Trends in Past Year Drug Use

2023 vs. 2021

Among the total sample of students, two drugs showed an increase in past year use between the previous survey in 2021 and the 2023 survey.

- The nonmedical use of prescription opioid pain relievers (such as Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol #3, Demerol, Dilaudid, OxyNeo, codeine) significantly increased from 12.7% to 21.8%. The current level is also significantly higher than in 2019 (11.0%).

- The nonmedical use of over-the-counter cough or cold medication (used to "get high") increased from 3.6% to 9.6%, returning to a similar level seen in 2019 (7.8%).

No other drug showed a significant change among the total sample between these two survey cycles.

	2021 past year use		2023 past year use
Prescription Opioids (NM)	12.7%	↑	21.8%
Cough/Cold Medication (NM)	3.6%	↑	9.6%

NM=nonmedical use

1999–2023

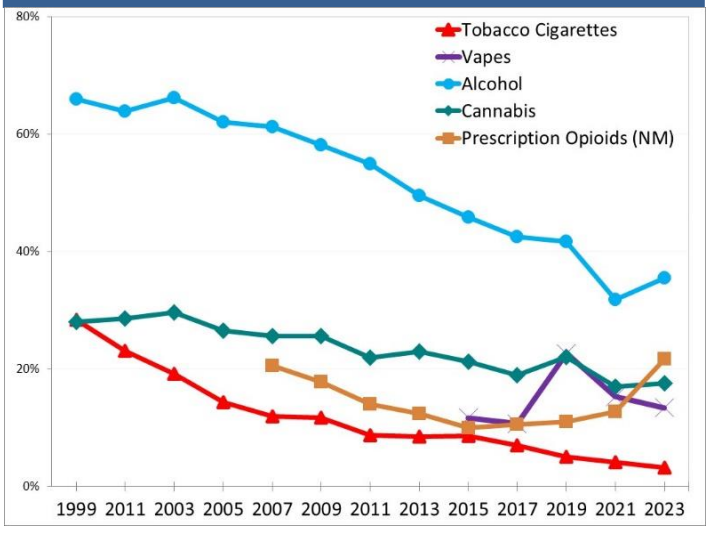
The study was redesigned in 1999 to include all grades between 7 and 12, making 1999 a key marker in the study's history. In this section, we highlight significant changes between 1999 and 2023.

In general, most past year drug use measures show a significant downward trend during the period between 1999 and 2023:

- alcohol: from 66.0% to 35.6%
- cannabis: from 28.0% to 17.6%
- tobacco cigarettes: from 28.4% to 3.2%
- waterpipes: from 9.7% (2013) to 2.1%
- smokeless tobacco: from 4.6 (2011) to 1.7%
- mushrooms:† from 17.1% to 3.4%
- cocaine:† from 5.7% (2003) to 1.0%
- ecstasy (MDMA):† from 7.9% (2001) to 0.6%
- LSD:† from 8.8% to 0.9%
- methamphetamine: from 6.3% to < 0.5%
- heroin:† from 2.1% to < 0.5%.

- Abstaining from any drug use (including alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, and cannabis) significantly increased between 1999 and 2023, from 27.2% to 42.2%, among students in grades 7–12.

Percentage of students reporting past year drug use (selected drugs), 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



† among grades 9-12 only (not asked of grade 7 and 8 students)

Other drugs show differing patterns of past year use over time:

- The nonmedical use of prescription opioids shows a decrease between the late 2000s and 2021, followed by an increase in 2023, returning to a level seen when monitoring of these drugs first began in 2007.
- The nonmedical use of cough/cold medication shows a decrease between the late 2000s and 2021, followed by an increase in 2023, returning to a level seen about a decade ago.
- The use of vapes/electronic cigarettes significantly increased between 2015 (the first year of monitoring) and 2019, followed by a decrease since then.
- Drugs that remained low and relatively stable and show no dominant trend since their use was first monitored include ADHD drugs (e.g., Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta) and tranquillizers/sedatives (both nonmedical use).

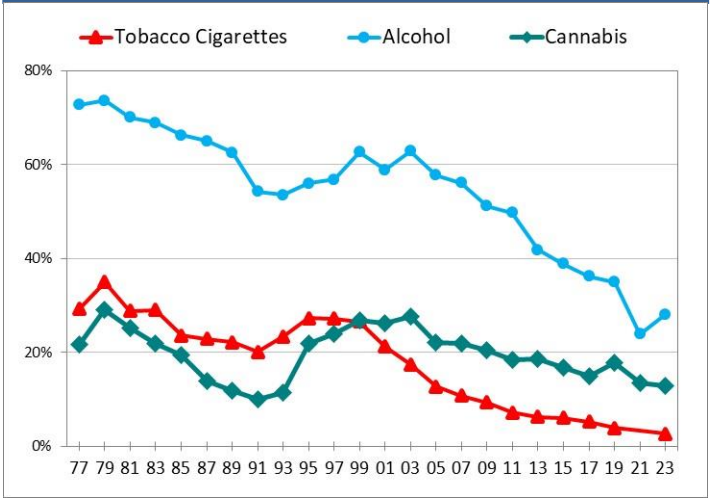
A note about the 2021 OSDUHS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario schools were closed to in-person learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, the 2021 OSDUHS pivoted to online data collection. Students could complete the questionnaire outside of school hours rather than the typical method of completions in classrooms during school hours. This change in mode and setting led to a dramatically decreased student response rate for that cycle. Although the survey weights were adjusted to minimize any potential bias from non-response, the high level of non-response in the 2021 cycle likely had an impact on estimates. Readers should be cautious in interpreting the 2021 estimates as provincially representative.

Long-Term Trends in Drug Use, 1977–2023 (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

The OSDUHS has been monitoring student drug use for over 45 years. Many past year prevalence estimates for the 11 drugs monitored since 1977 show a common pattern of use: a peak in the late 1970s, a decline in the late 1980s or early 1990s, a second peak in the late 1990s or early 2000s, followed by another decline. Use of alcohol and tobacco cigarettes reached all-time lows in recent years.

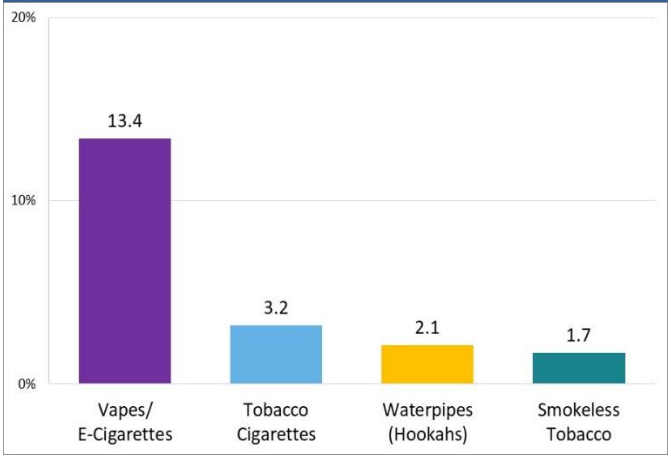
Percentage of students reporting past year drug use (selected drugs), 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, 11 only)



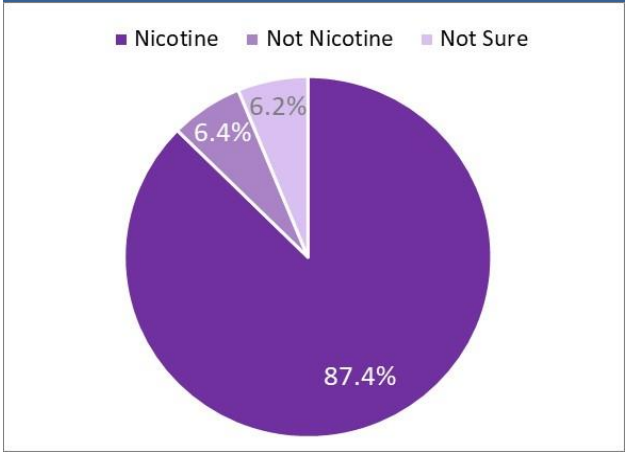
Tobacco Smoking and Vaping

- In 2023, about 3% of students in grades 7–12 report smoking tobacco cigarettes (more than just a few puffs) during the past year. Less than 1% smoke cigarettes daily. The past year prevalence of cigarette smoking shows a significant downward trend over the decades.
- Males (3%) and females (4%) are equally likely to smoke tobacco cigarettes. The prevalence of cigarette smoking significantly increases with grade, reaching 7% among 12th graders.
- About one-in-eight (13%) students in grades 7–12 report vaping (using an electronic cigarette) in the past year (more than just a few puffs). The past year prevalence of vaping increased between 2015 (first year of monitoring) and 2019, but has decreased since then.
- Among those who vaped in the past year in 2023, the majority (87%) report vaping nicotine.
- Females (18%) are twice as likely as males (9%) to report vaping in the past year. The prevalence of vaping significantly increases with grade, from 5% of 8th graders up to 22% of 12th graders.
- About one-in-nine (11%) students report vaping in the past month. More specifically, 4% report vaping once or twice, 3% report vaping one to six times a week, and 4% report vaping on a daily basis.
- About 2% of students in grades 7–12 report smoking more than just a few puffs from a waterpipe (hookah) in the past year. The 2023 estimate is the lowest since monitoring began in 2013.
- Smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, snuff) is used by about 2% of students in grades 7–12. The 2023 estimate is the lowest since monitoring began in 2011.
- Among those who smoke tobacco cigarettes, as well as among those who vape, friends are reported to be the most common source of these products.

Percentage of students reporting past year use of vapes/electronic cigarettes and tobacco-related products, 2023 OSDUHS



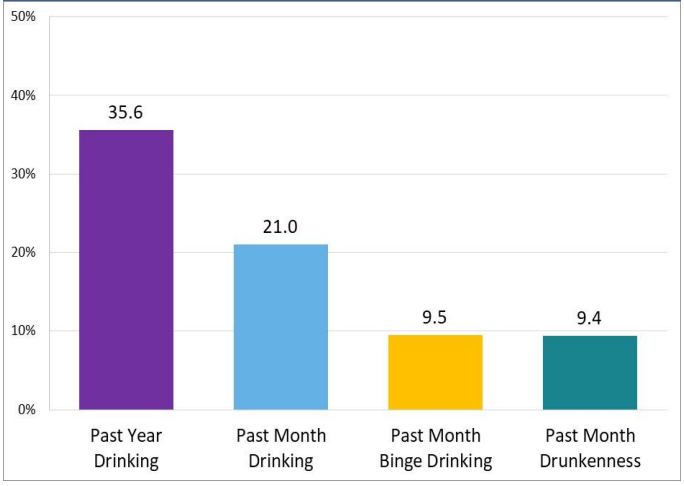
Percentage of students who vaped in the past year reporting vaping nicotine, 2023 OSDUHS



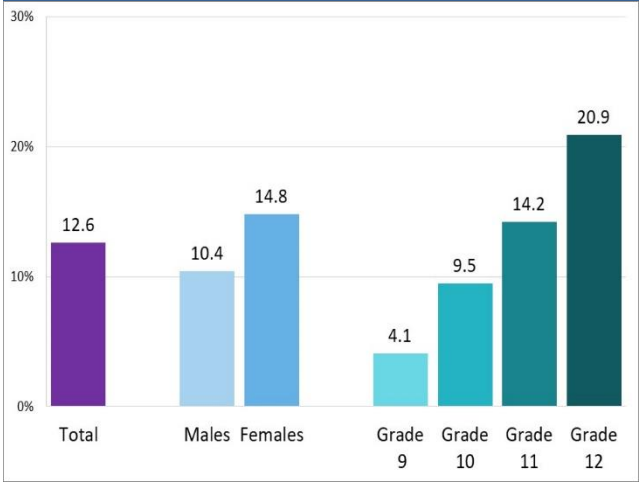
Alcohol

- In 2023, over one-third (36%) of students in grades 7–12 report drinking more than just a few sips of alcohol during the past year. The prevalence of drinking alcohol has decreased over the decades.
- Females (39%) are significantly more likely than males (33%) to drink alcohol. Past year drinking significantly varies by grade, increasing from 7% of 7th graders to 61% of 12th graders.
- About one-in-five (21%) students in grades 7–12 report drinking alcohol in the past month. About 5% drink on a weekly basis.
- One-in-ten (10%) students in grades 7–12 report binge drinking (defined as five or more drinks on one occasion) at least once in the past month. A similar percentage report becoming drunk at least once in the past month. Males and females are equally likely to report binge drinking and becoming drunk in the past month. About one-in-five 12th graders report these behaviours.
- Reports of binge drinking and becoming drunk have decreased over the decades.
- About one-in-eight (13%) secondary school students report drinking hazardously or harmfully, as measured by the *AUDIT* screener. Females (15%) are more likely than males (10%) to report hazardous or harmful drinking. There is grade variation, increasing from 4% of 9th graders up to 21% of 12th graders.
- One-in-seven (14%) secondary school students could not remember what had happened when they were drinking on at least one occasion during the past year.
- Among students who report drinking in the past year, the most common source of alcohol is a family member.

Percentage of students reporting alcohol use, 2023 OSDUHS



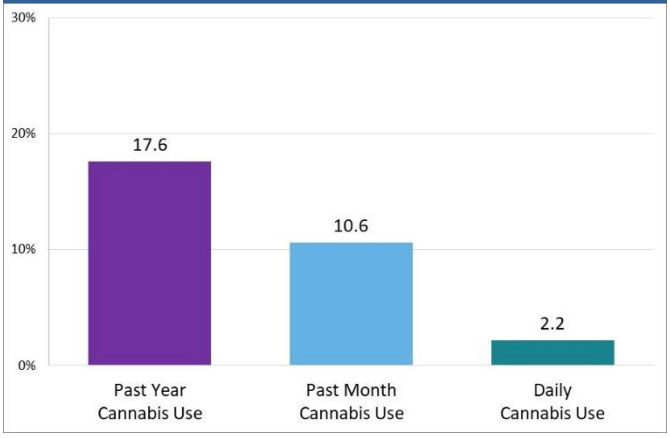
Percentage of secondary school students reporting hazardous or harmful drinking, 2023 OSDUHS



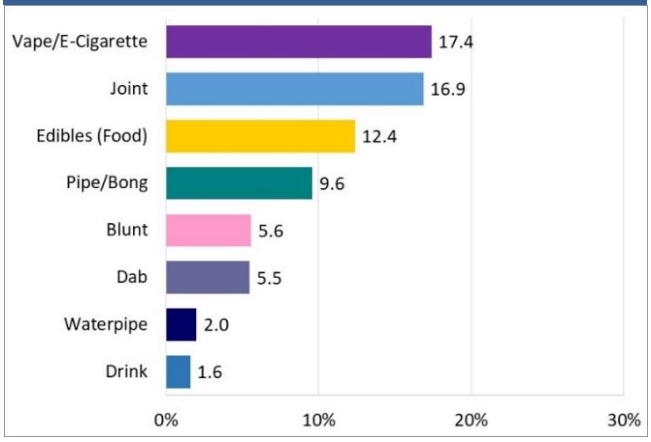
Cannabis

- In 2023, about one-in-six (18%) students in grades 7–12 report using cannabis in any way during the past year. While past year cannabis use did not significantly change since the previous survey in 2021 (17%), the current prevalence is lower than in 2019 as well as estimates seen two decades ago.
- Females (21%) are significantly more likely than males (15%) to report past year cannabis use. Prevalence increases with grade, from 5% of 8th graders up to 34% of 12th graders.
- About 11% of students report using cannabis in the past month. About 2% use cannabis daily. This estimate increases to 5% of 12th graders.
- About 11% of students used alcohol and cannabis on the same occasion at least once in the past year. This estimate increases to 24% of 12th graders.
- Among secondary school students (grades 9–12), the most common ways of using cannabis are vaping it (17%), smoking it in a joint (17%), and eating it in food products such as brownies or candy (12%).
- None of the modes of cannabis use measured among secondary school students significantly changed since the previous cycle in 2021. Vaping cannabis significantly increased since 2017, from 7% to 17%. Consuming cannabis edibles shows relative stability since 2017, when monitoring first began.
- About 4% of secondary school students report symptoms of cannabis dependence, as measured by the *Severity of Dependence Scale*. This estimate has been relatively stable since 2007, when monitoring first began.
- About one-in-nine (11%) secondary school students report using cannabis to cope with a mental health problem at least once during the past year. Females (15%) are significantly more likely than males (7%) to report doing so.
- Among students who used cannabis in the past year, the most common source of cannabis is friends.

Percentage of students reporting cannabis use, 2023 OSDUHS



Percentage of secondary school students reporting cannabis use by specific modes (in the past year), 2023 OSDUHS



Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs and Over-the-Counter Drugs

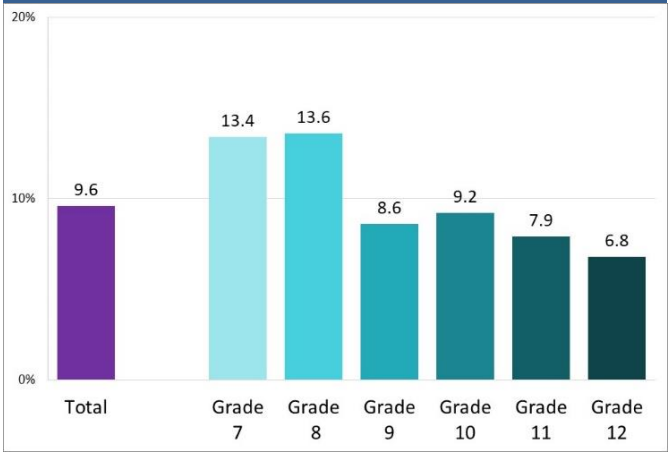
- About one-in-five (22%) students in grades 7–12 report using a prescription opioid pain reliever (e.g., Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol #3, Demerol, Dilaudid, OxyNEO, codeine) without a prescription in the past year. Females (26%) are significantly more likely than males (18%) to report using these drugs nonmedically. Past year nonmedical opioid use significantly increased between 2021 (13%) and 2023 (22%), returning to an elevated level seen when monitoring first began in 2007.

- About 2% of students in grades 7–12 report using a drug typically used to treat Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children (e.g., Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta, Dexedrine) without a prescription in the past year. Males and females are equally likely to use these drugs nonmedically. The nonmedical use of ADHD drugs has fluctuated since 2007, when monitoring first began, showing no dominant trend.

- About 2% of high school students (grades 9–12) report using a sedative/tranquillizer without a prescription in the past year. Males and females are equally likely to use these drugs nonmedically. Nonmedical use of these drugs has remained low and relatively stable for decades.

- One-in-ten (10%) students in grades 7–12 report using cough or cold medication to "get high" in the past year. Males and females are equally likely to use cough/cold medication to get high. Nonmedical use of these drugs significantly decreases with grade. Nonmedical use of these drugs significantly increased between 2021 (4%) and 2023 (10%), and is currently higher than in 2009, when monitoring first began.

Percentage of students reporting nonmedical use of cough/cold medication (to "get high") in the past year, 2023 OSDUHS



Potential Harms Related to Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Vehicles

- One-in-six (17%) students in grades 7–12 report riding in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, and one-in-eleven (9%) report riding in a vehicle driven by someone who had been using drugs at least once in the past year. The percentage of students reporting these behaviours has significantly decreased over the past two decades.

- About 6% of students in grades 10–12 with a G-Class driver's licence report driving a vehicle within an hour of consuming two or more drinks of alcohol at least once during the past year. Drinking and driving among adolescent drivers has been stable since 2013 at about 4%-7%. However, the current estimate is significantly lower than estimates seen in 1999 and the 2000s (12%-14%), and is substantially lower than estimates from the late 1970s and early 1980s (when almost half of 11th graders reported drinking and driving).

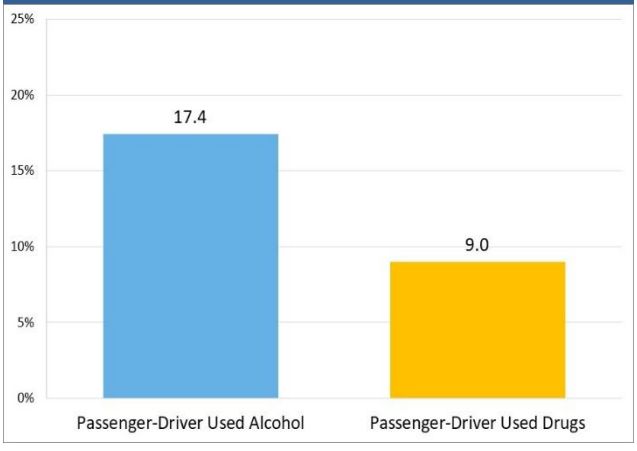
- A similar percentage (6%) of drivers in grades 10–12 report driving a vehicle within one hour of using cannabis at least once during the past year. Driving after cannabis use has significantly declined since 2001 (the first year of monitoring), when the estimate was about 20%, and has remained relatively stable since 2017.

Drug Use Problem

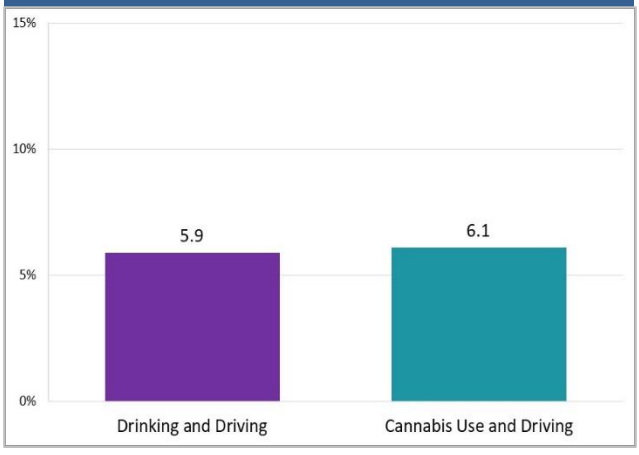
- One-in-seven (14%) secondary school students report symptoms of a drug use problem (as measured by the *CRAFFT* screener), which may need further assessment. This percentage has been stable in recent years, but is currently lower than estimates seen two decades ago (about 22%).

- A very small proportion (1%) of secondary school students report that they had been in a treatment program during the past year because of their alcohol and/or drug use.

Percentage of students reporting being a passenger with a driver who used alcohol or drugs (past year), 2023 OSDUHS



Percentage of drivers in grades 10–12 reporting risky driving behaviours (past year), 2023 OSDUHS



Other Highlights

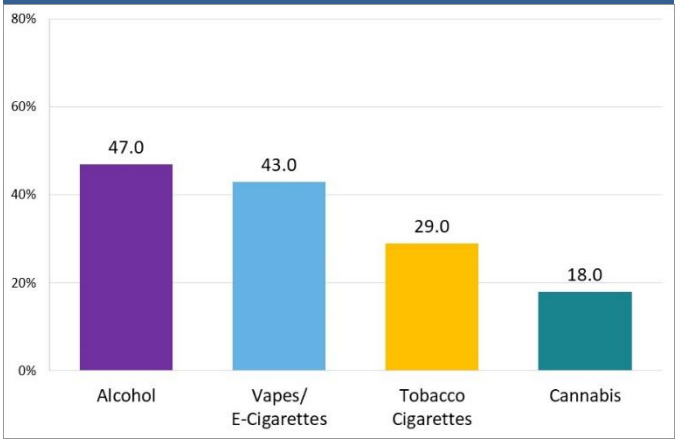
Abstinence

- About 42% of students in grades 7–12 report using no drug at all during the past year (this includes alcohol, cigarettes and other smoking devices). Males are more likely than females to abstain from drug use. Past year abstinence significantly decreases with grade, from under two-thirds of 7th graders down to one-quarter of 12th graders. There has been a significant increase in abstinence over the decades.

Early Initiation of Use

- About 43% of secondary school students who vaped in the past year report that they first started to vape before grade 9.
- Over one-quarter (29%) of secondary school students who smoked tobacco cigarettes in the past year report that they first started to smoke before grade 9.
- Almost half (47%) of secondary school students who drank alcohol in the past year report that they first started to drink before grade 9.
- About 18% of secondary school students who used cannabis in the past year report that they first started to use cannabis before grade 9.
- In 2023, the average age at which 12th-grade students who vaped in the past year report vaping for the first time was 14.3. The average age at which 12th-grade students who smoked tobacco cigarettes in the past year report smoking their first cigarette was 15.4. The average age at which 12th-grade students who drank alcohol in the past year report drinking for the first time was 14.5. The average age at which 12th-grade students who used cannabis in the past year report using cannabis for the first time was 15.7.
- Students today are initiating substance use at older ages than in the past, as the average age at first tobacco cigarette, first alcoholic drink, and first cannabis use has increased over the decades.

Percentage of secondary school students who used the drug in the past year reporting first use *before* Grade 9, 2023 OSDUHS



Perceived Risk of Drug Use

- Students were asked about the perceived risk of physical harm associated with smoking tobacco cigarettes regularly, vaping regularly, and smoking cannabis regularly. Of these, the greatest perceived risk is associated with smoking regularly (75%), followed by vaping regularly (63%), and smoking cannabis regularly (49%).

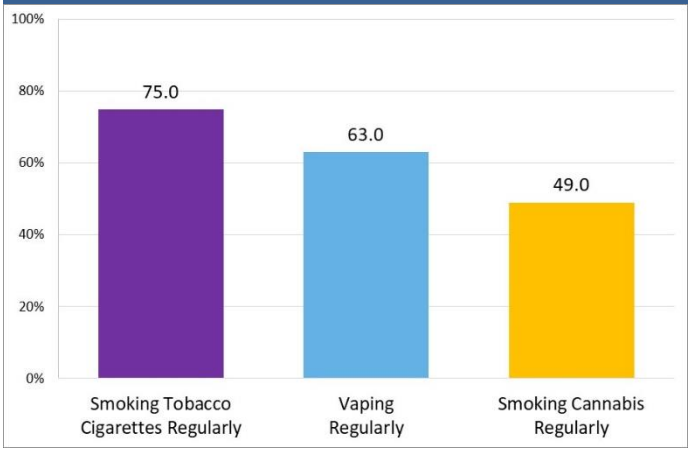
- The percentage of students who perceive a great risk of harm associated with smoking cannabis regularly was stable between 1999 and 2011, showed a decrease up until 2019, and has increased since then to a similar level seen two decades ago. The perceived risk of harm associated with vaping regularly has significantly increased since 2015, the first year of monitoring.

Perceived Availability of Drugs

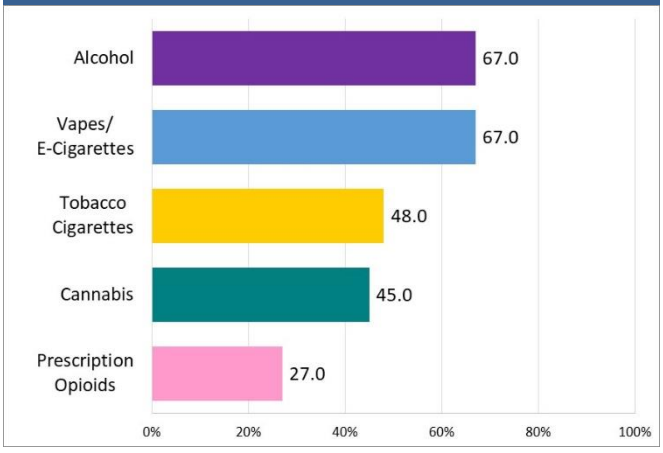
- Of the drugs asked about, alcohol and vapes/e-cigarettes are perceived to be the most readily available to students (67% report that it would be "fairly easy" or "very easy" to obtain these), followed by tobacco cigarettes (48%), cannabis (45%), and prescription opioids, without one's own prescription (27%).

- The perceived availability of vapes and prescription opioids significantly increased since the previous survey in 2021. The perceived availability of alcohol has increased in recent years, but is currently similar to the estimates seen two decades ago. The perceived availability of cannabis has been stable in recent years, but is currently lower than the estimates seen two decades ago. The perceived availability of tobacco cigarettes has decreased over the past two decades.

Percentage of students who perceive "great risk" of harm associated with drug use, 2023 OSDUHS



Percentage of students reporting that it is "easy" or "very easy" to get the drug, 2023 OSDUHS



Methodology

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's *Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey* (OSDUHS) is an Ontario-wide health survey of elementary/middle school students in grades 7 and 8 and secondary school students in grades 9 through 12. This cross-sectional survey has been conducted every two years since 1977.

The 2023 survey cycle, which used a stratified (region by school level) two-stage (school, class) cluster design, was based on 10,145 students in grades 7 to 12 in 848 classes in 235 schools in 46 English and French public and Catholic school boards. Excluded from selection were schools in First Nation communities, on military bases, in hospitals and other institutions, and private schools. Special Education stand-alone classes and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes were excluded from selection.

Active parental consent procedures were used. Anonymous electronic or paper-and-pencil questionnaires were group administered in classrooms during regular school hours by staff from the Institute for Social Research, York University between November 2022 and June 2023. Data from the sample of 10,145 students were weighted to represent just under one million students in grades 7 to 12 enrolled in Ontario's publicly funded schools.

Please visit the OSDUHS webpage for reports, infographics, and FAQs:

www.camh.ca/osduhs

RÉSUMÉ DU RAPPORT SUR LA CONSOMMATION DE DROGUES : SCDSEO 2023

Réalisé tous les deux ans depuis 1977 par le Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale, le Sondage sur la consommation de drogues et la santé des élèves de l'Ontario (SCDSEO) est le plus ancien sondage mené auprès d'adolescents en milieu scolaire au Canada et l'un des plus anciens au monde. Le présent résumé décrit la consommation d'alcool, de tabac, de cannabis, de drogues illégales et de médicaments sur ordonnance et l'utilisation de vapoteuses en 2023, et les tendances en la matière. On examine également les méfaits liés à l'usage de drogues, la perception des risques et la disponibilité.

Au total, 10 145 élèves de la 7e à la 12e année répartis dans 848 classes, 235 écoles et 46 conseils scolaires de l'Ontario ont participé au cycle de 2023 du SCDSEO. Toutes les données reposent sur les réponses des élèves à des questionnaires anonymes distribués en classe. Le sondage a été administré en classe entre novembre 2022 et juin 2023.

Consommation de drogues (en pourcentage) au cours de l'année écoulée parmi l'échantillon total, selon le sexe† et l'année d'études, SCDSEO 2023 (N = 10 145)

	Total	Garçons	Filles	7e	8e	9e	10e	11e	12e
7e – 12e année									
Alcool	**35,6**	32,7	38,6 *	6,9	14,6	25,1	43,0	48,1	60,7 *
Analgésiques opioïdes sur ordonnance (NM)	**21,8**	18,0	25,8 *	22,5	22,2	22,5	20,2	21,4	21,9
Cannabis	**17,6**	14,8	20,7 *	s	5,4	8,9	21,8	25,7	34,0 *
Cigarettes électroniques (vapoteuses)	**13,4**	9,4	17,7 *	s	5,0	9,1	16,7	19,1	21,8 *
Antitussifs et antirhumes (NM)	**9,6**	10,4	8,7	13,4	13,6	8,6	9,2	7,9	6,8 *
Cigarettes de tabac	**3,2**	3,0	3,5	s	s	1,4	2,8	6,1	6,5 *
Pipes à eau (narguilés)	**2,1**	2,3	1,9	s	s	s	2,9	3,4	3,0 *
Médicaments pour le TDAH (NM)	**1,9**	2,1	1,6	s	1,9	1,8	2,1	2,1	2,0
Tabac sans fumée (tabac à chiquer)	**1,7**	2,3	0,9 *	s	s	s	s	s	2,9 *
9e – 12e année††									
Champignons (psilocybine) ou mescaline	**3,4**	3,8	3,0	--	--	1,3	3,4	3,6	5,1 *
Tranquillisants ou sédatifs (NM)	**1,7**	1,2	2,1	--	--	1,6	1,5	s	1,8
Cocaïne	**1,0**	1,1	0,8	--	--	s	s	s	0,8
LSD	**0,9**	1,1	0,7	--	--	s	s	s	1,0
Ecstasy (MDMA)	**0,6**	0,5	0,7	--	--	s	s	s	0,7
Tout médicament sur ordonnance (NM)	**22,9**	18,7	27,2 *	--	--	23,4	21,7	23,2	23,2
Toute drogue	**29,3**	27,3	31,4 *	--	--	28,9	29,4	28,9	29,9

Nota : † sexe à la naissance; †† questions non posées aux élèves de 7e et 8e année; * différence statistiquement significative entre les sexes ou années d'études ($p < 0,05$), sans tenir compte d'autres facteurs; N = taille de l'échantillon; s = estimation supprimée pour raison de fiabilité; les estimations pour l'alcool excluent « une gorgée »; les estimations pour les cigarettes de tabac et les cigarettes électroniques (vapoteuses) excluent « quelques bouffées »; NM = usage non médical, sans ordonnance d'un médecin; « Tout médicament sur ordonnance (NM) » renvoie à l'usage non médical d'opioïdes, de médicaments pour le trouble déficitaire de l'attention avec ou sans hyperactivité (TDAH) et de tranquillisants ou sédatifs au cours de l'année écoulée; « Toute drogue » renvoie à l'usage de l'une quelconque des 11 drogues (sauf l'alcool, le tabac ou la nicotine et le cannabis) au cours de l'année écoulée; les estimations pour la méthamphétamine, l'héroïne et le fentanyl ont été supprimées pour raison de fiabilité.

Différences entre les sous-groupes pour 2023

Les différences dans la consommation de drogues au cours de l'année écoulée selon le sexe*, l'année d'études et les quatre régions de la province sont présentées dans le rapport.

- En ce qui concerne les drogues étudiées lors du sondage de 2023, les filles étaient nettement plus susceptibles que les garçons de prendre quatre drogues, tel qu'indiqué dans le tableau ci-dessous. Les garçons sont plus susceptibles que les filles de faire usage de tabac sans fumée (tabac à chiquer).

Les garçons sont plus susceptibles de faire usage de :	Les filles sont plus susceptibles de faire usage de :
• Tabac sans fumée	• Alcool
	• Opioïdes sur ordonnance (NM)
	• Cannabis
	• Cigarettes électroniques (vapoteuses)

NM = usage non médical

- L'usage de plusieurs drogues au cours de l'année écoulée varie considérablement selon l'année d'études, tel qu'indiqué dans le tableau ci-dessous. L'usage de la plupart des drogues augmente selon l'année d'études pour atteindre un sommet en 11e ou 12e année. La seule exception est l'usage non médical d'antitussifs et d'antirhumes, qui diminue selon l'année d'études.

Hausse de l'usage selon l'année d'études	Baisse de l'usage selon l'année d'études
• Alcool	• Antitussifs et antirhumes (NM)
• Cannabis	
• Cigarettes électroniques (vapoteuses)	
• Cigarettes de tabac	
• Pipes à eau (narguilés)	
• Tabac sans fumée	
• Champignons/mescaline	

NM = usage non médical

- Aux fins du sondage, la province a été divisée en quatre régions : la région du grand Toronto; le Nord de l'Ontario (districts de Parry Sound et de Nipissing et régions plus au nord); l'Ouest de l'Ontario (comté de Dufferin et régions plus à l'ouest); et l'Est de l'Ontario (comté de Simcoe et régions plus à l'est). Les différences régionales dans la consommation de drogues au cours de l'année écoulée sont présentées dans le tableau ci-dessous.

Consommation dans la région *inférieure* à la moyenne provinciale	Consommation dans la région *supérieure* à la moyenne provinciale
Région du grand Toronto	
• Alcool	
• Cigarettes électroniques (vapoteuses)	
• Champignons/mescaline	
Nord	
	• Alcool
	• Cigarettes électroniques (vapoteuses)
	• Antitussifs et antirhumes (NM)
	• Champignons/mescaline
Ouest	
• Antitussifs et antirhumes (NM)	
Est	
aucune différence par rapport à la moyenne	

NM = usage non médical

* sexe à la naissance

Tendances de la consommation de drogues au cours de l'année écoulée

Comparaison des résultats de 2023 et de 2021

Parmi l'échantillon total des élèves, on a relevé une augmentation de la consommation de deux drogues en 2023 depuis le sondage de 2021.

- L'usage non médical d'analgésiques opioïdes sur ordonnance (comme Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol 3, Demerol, Dilaudid, OxyNeo, codéine) a augmenté considérablement, passant de 12,7 % à 21,8 %. Le niveau actuel est aussi nettement plus élevé que celui de 2019 (11 %).

- L'usage non médical d'antitussifs et d'antirhumes en vente libre (utilisés pour « planer ») est passé de 3,6 % à 9,6 %, un niveau semblable à celui affiché en 2019 (7,8 %).

On n'a relevé aucun changement majeur pour les autres drogues parmi l'échantillon total entre ces deux cycles du sondage.

	Usage au cours de l'année écoulée en 2021		Usage au cours de l'année écoulée en 2023
Opioïdes sur ordonnance (NM)	12,7 %	↑	21,8 %
Antitussifs et antirhumes (NM)	3,6 %	↑	9,6 %

NM = usage non médical

1999–2023

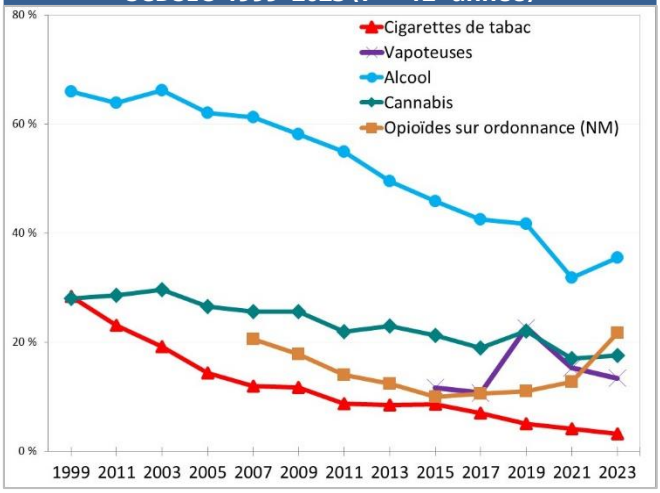
L'année 1999 marque un tournant décisif pour le sondage, car c'est à ce moment qu'il a été modifié pour inclure toutes les années d'études de la 7e à la 12e année. Dans cette section, nous présentons les changements importants survenus entre 1999 et 2023.

Pour la plupart des drogues consommées au cours de l'année écoulée, on constate une baisse marquée entre 1999 et 2023 :

- alcool : de 66 % à 35,6 %
- cannabis : de 28 % à 17,6 %
- cigarettes de tabac : de 28,4 % à 3,2 %
- pipes à eau : de 9,7 % (2013) à 2,1 %
- tabac sans fumée : de 4,6 % (2011) à 1,7 %
- champignons† : de 17,1 % à 3,4 %
- cocaïne† : de 5,7 % (2003) à 1 %
- ecstasy (MDMA)† : de 7,9 % (2001) à 0,6 %
- LSD† : de 8,8 % à 0,9 %
- méthamphétamine : de 6,3 % à < 0,5 %
- héroïne† : de 2,1 % à < 0,5 %

- Le nombre d'élèves de la 7e à la 12e année qui se sont abstenus de consommer de la drogue (y compris l'alcool, le tabac (nicotine) et le cannabis) a augmenté considérablement de 1999 à 2023, passant de 27,2 % à 42,2 %.

Pourcentage d'élèves ayant dit avoir pris certaines drogues au cours de l'année écoulée, SCDSEO 1999–2023 (7e – 12e année)



† chez les élèves de la 9e à la 12e année seulement (la question n'a pas été posée aux élèves de la 7e et 8e année)

Tendances de consommation d'autres drogues au cours de l'année écoulée :

- L'usage non médical d'opioïdes sur ordonnance a diminué entre la fin des années 2000 et 2021, puis a augmenté en 2023 pour s'établir au niveau où il était lorsqu'on a commencé à le surveiller en 2007.
- L'usage non médical d'antitussifs et d'antirhumes a diminué entre la fin des années 2000 et 2021, puis a augmenté en 2023 pour s'établir au niveau enregistré il y a une dizaine d'années.
- L'usage de cigarettes électroniques (vapoteuses) a augmenté considérablement entre 2015, lorsqu'on a commencé à le surveiller, et 2019 et a diminué depuis.
- Parmi les drogues dont l'usage est demeuré faible et relativement stable et pour lesquelles aucune tendance dominante n'a été relevée depuis qu'on a commencé à les surveiller, citons les médicaments utilisés pour le TDAH (p. ex. Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta) et les tranquillisants ou sédatifs (usage non médical dans les deux cas).

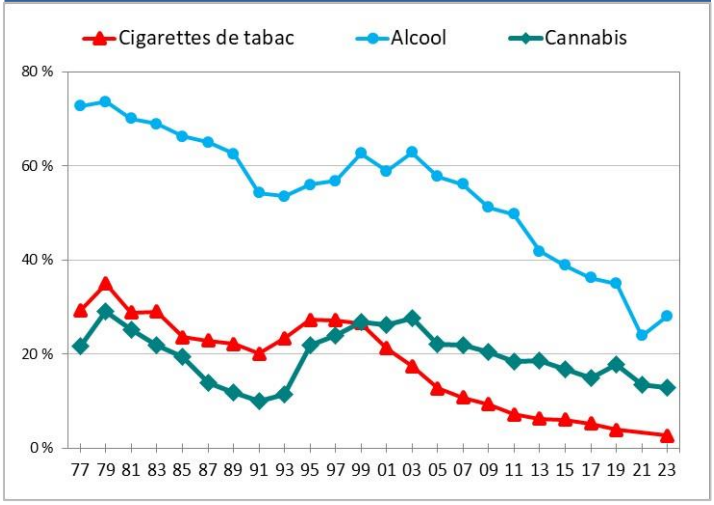
À propos du SCDSEO de 2021

En raison de la pandémie de COVID-19, l'apprentissage en personne a cessé dans les écoles de l'Ontario au cours de l'année scolaire 2020-2021. Pour cette raison, les données du SCDSEO de 2021 ont été recueillies en ligne. Les élèves pouvaient remplir le questionnaire en dehors des heures de cours plutôt que pendant les heures de cours comme à l'habitude. En raison de ce changement, le taux de réponse des élèves a été nettement inférieur pour ce cycle. Bien que la pondération du sondage ait été redressée afin de minimiser tout biais attribuable à l'absence de réponse, le taux élevé de non-réponse du cycle de 2021 a probablement eu une incidence sur les estimations. Il faut donc faire preuve de prudence, car les estimations de 2021 ne sont pas nécessairement représentatives de la situation à l'échelle provinciale.

Tendances à long terme : 1977–2023 (7e, 9e et 11e années seulement)

Dans le cadre du SCDSEO, on surveille la consommation de drogues chez les élèves depuis plus de 45 ans. Plusieurs estimations de la consommation, au cours de l'année écoulée, des 11 drogues surveillées depuis 1977 révèlent une même tendance : un sommet à la fin des années 1970, suivi d'une diminution graduelle à la fin des années 1980 ou au début des années 1990 et d'un deuxième sommet à la fin des années 1990 ou au début des années 2000, suivi d'un autre déclin. La consommation d'alcool et l'usage de cigarettes de tabac ont atteint une baisse historique au cours des dernières années.

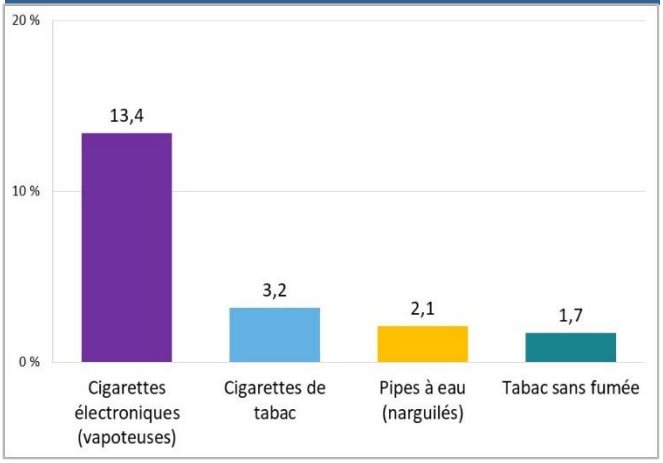
Pourcentage d'élèves ayant dit avoir pris certaines drogues au cours de l'année écoulée, SCDSEO 1977–2023 (7e, 9e et 11e années seulement)



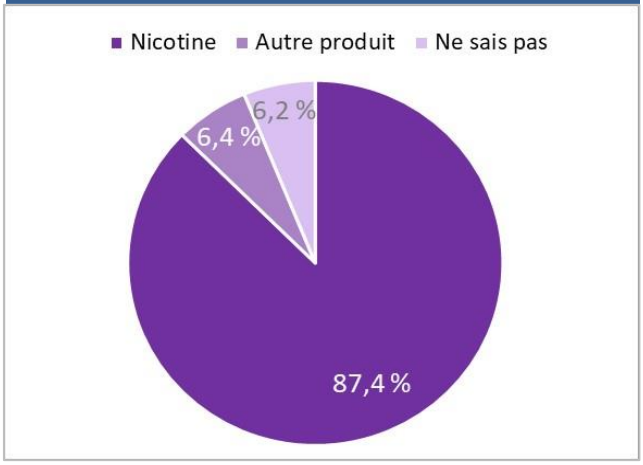
Usage du tabac et vapotage

- En 2023, environ 3 % des élèves de la 7e à la 12e année ont dit avoir fumé des cigarettes de tabac (plus que quelques bouffées) au cours de l'année écoulée. Moins de 1 % des élèves fument tous les jours. La prévalence de l'usage de la cigarette au cours de l'année écoulée a diminué considérablement au fil des décennies.
- Les garçons (3 %) sont tout aussi susceptibles que les filles (4 %) de fumer des cigarettes de tabac. On observe une augmentation importante de la prévalence de l'usage de la cigarette d'une année d'études à l'autre, qui atteint 7 % chez les élèves de 12e année.
- Environ un élève sur huit (13 %) de la 7e à la 12e année a indiqué qu'il avait utilisé une cigarette électronique (vapoteuse) au cours de l'année écoulée (plus que quelques bouffées). Le taux de prévalence au cours de l'année écoulée a augmenté entre 2015 (première année de surveillance) et 2019, mais a diminué par la suite.
- Parmi les élèves ayant vapoté en 2023, la plupart (87 %) ont déclaré avoir utilisé un produit contenant de la nicotine.
- Les filles (18 %) sont deux fois plus susceptibles que les garçons (9 %) d'avoir vapoté au cours de l'année écoulée. La prévalence du vapotage s'accroît considérablement selon l'année d'études, passant de 5 % des élèves de 8e année à 22 % des élèves de 12e année.
- Environ un élève sur neuf (11 %) a dit avoir vapoté au cours du mois écoulé. Plus précisément, 4 % des élèves ont dit avoir vapoté une ou deux fois, 3 % ont dit l'avoir fait entre une et six fois par semaine et 4 % ont dit avoir vapoté tous les jours.
- Environ 2 % des élèves de la 7e à la 12e année ont dit avoir fumé plus que quelques bouffées à l'aide d'une pipe à eau (narguilé) au cours de l'année écoulée. L'estimation de 2023 est la plus faible depuis que l'on a commencé à surveiller ce facteur en 2013.
- Environ 2 % des élèves de la 7e à la 12e année ont consommé du tabac sans fumée (tabac à chiquer ou à priser). L'estimation de 2023 est la plus faible depuis que l'on a commencé à surveiller ce facteur en 2011.
- La plupart des fumeurs de cigarettes de tabac et des vapoteurs se procurent ces produits auprès d'amis.

Pourcentage d'élèves ayant dit avoir utilisé une cigarette électronique (vapoteuse) et des produits du tabac au cours de l'année écoulée, SCDSEO 2023



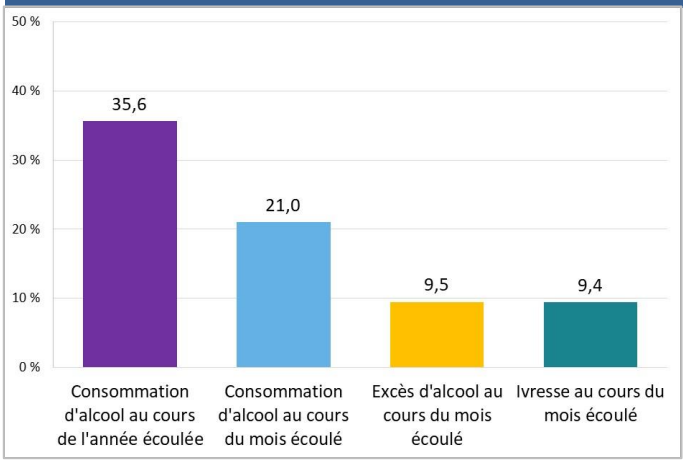
Pourcentage d'élèves qui ont vapoté au cours de l'année écoulée ayant dit avoir utilisé un produit contenant de la nicotine, SCDSEO 2023



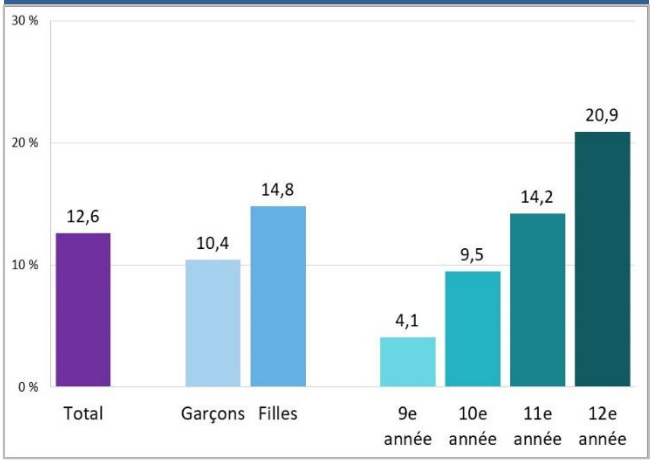
Alcool

- En 2023, plus du tiers (36 %) des élèves de la 7e à la 12e année ont dit avoir bu plus de quelques gorgées d'alcool au cours de l'année écoulée. La prévalence de la consommation d'alcool a diminué au fil des décennies.
- Les filles (39 %) sont beaucoup plus susceptibles que les garçons (33 %) de boire. La consommation au cours de l'année écoulée variait considérablement selon l'année d'études, allant de 7 % des élèves de 7e année à 61 % des élèves de 12e année.
- Environ un élève sur cinq (21 %) de la 7e à la 12e année a déclaré qu'il avait consommé de l'alcool au cours du mois écoulé. Environ 5 % des élèves boivent toutes les semaines.
- Un élève sur dix (10 %) de la 7e à la 12e année a déclaré avoir fait un excès d'alcool (cinq verres ou plus en une occasion) au moins une fois durant le mois écoulé. Environ la même proportion d'élèves a déclaré s'être enivrés au moins une fois au cours de cette période. On n'a pas relevé de différence entre les sexes concernant les excès d'alcool et l'enivrement. Environ un élève de 12e année sur cinq a dit s'être comporté ainsi.
- Le nombre de signalements d'excès d'alcool et d'enivrement a diminué au fil des décennies.
- Environ un élève du secondaire sur huit (13 %) consomme de l'alcool de façon dangereuse ou nocive selon les critères du questionnaire de dépistage *AUDIT*. Les filles (15 %) sont plus susceptibles que les garçons (10 %) de signaler de telles pratiques, qui varient selon l'année d'études. Leur prévalence passe de 4 % des élèves de 9e année à 21 % des élèves de 12e année.
- Un élève du secondaire sur sept (14 %) n'était pas en mesure de se souvenir de ce qui s'était passé à au moins une occasion pendant laquelle il avait bu au cours de l'année écoulée.
- La plupart des élèves ayant bu au cours de l'année écoulée se sont procuré de l'alcool auprès d'un membre de leur famille.

Pourcentage d'élèves ayant dit avoir pris de l'alcool, SCDSEO 2023



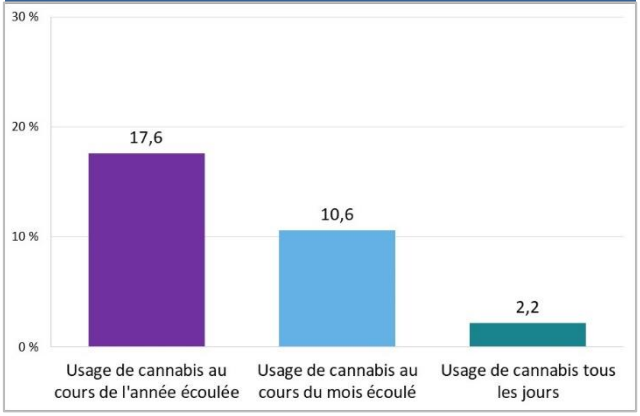
Pourcentage d'élèves du secondaire ayant signalé une consommation d'alcool dangereuse ou nocive, SCDSEO 2023



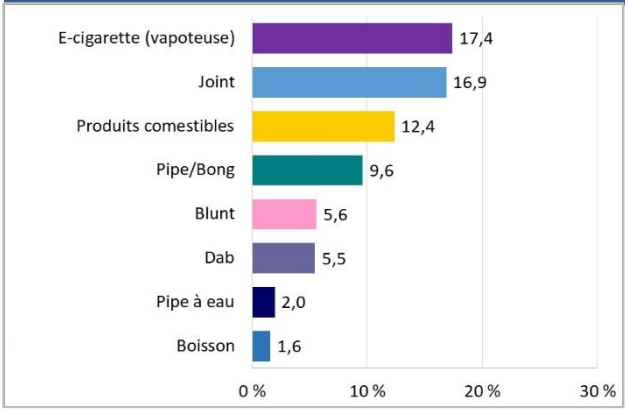
Cannabis

- En 2023, environ un élève sur six de la 7e à la 12e année (18 %) a déclaré avoir consommé du cannabis au cours de l'année écoulée. Cette consommation n'a pas beaucoup changé depuis le sondage précédent en 2021 (17 %). Cela dit, la prévalence actuelle est inférieure à celle enregistrée en 2019 et aux estimations d'il y a 20 ans.
- Les filles (21 %) sont nettement plus susceptibles que les garçons (15 %) de signaler l'usage de cannabis au cours de l'année écoulée. La prévalence augmente selon l'année d'études, passant de 5 % des élèves de 8e année à 34 % de ceux de 12e année.
- Environ 11 % des élèves disent avoir pris du cannabis au cours du mois écoulé et environ 2 % en prenaient tous les jours. Cette estimation atteint 5 % des élèves de 12e année.
- Environ 11 % des élèves ont consommé de l'alcool et du cannabis pendant la même occasion au moins une fois au cours de l'année écoulée. Cette estimation atteint 24 % chez les élèves de 12e année.
- Parmi les élèves de la 9e à la 12e année, les façons les plus courantes de consommer du cannabis sont de le vapoter (17 %), de le fumer dans un joint (17 %) et de manger des produits alimentaires qui en contiennent comme des brownies ou des friandises (12 %).
- Il n'y a pas eu de changement majeur quant aux modes de consommation du cannabis évalués chez les élèves du secondaire depuis le cycle de 2021. Le vapotage de cannabis a augmenté considérablement depuis 2017, passant de 7 % à 17 %. La consommation de produits alimentaires contenant du cannabis est relativement stable depuis 2017, année où on a commencé à la surveiller.
- Environ 4 % des élèves du secondaire signalent des symptômes de dépendance au cannabis selon les critères de l'échelle SDS (*Severity of Dependence Scale*, soit « échelle de la gravité de la dépendance »). Cette estimation est relativement stable depuis 2017, année où on a commencé à surveiller ce facteur.
- Environ un élève du secondaire sur neuf (11 %) dit avoir pris du cannabis pour composer avec un problème de santé mentale au moins une fois au cours de l'année écoulée. Les filles (15 %) sont nettement plus susceptibles que les garçons (7 %) d'avoir signalé ce comportement.
- La plupart des élèves ayant consommé du cannabis au cours de l'année écoulée se le sont procuré auprès d'amis.

Pourcentage d'élèves ayant dit avoir pris du cannabis, SCDSEO 2023



Modes de consommation du cannabis au cours de l'année écoulée chez les élèves du secondaire (en pourcentage), SCDSEO 2023



Usage de médicaments sur ordonnance et en vente libre à des fins non médicales

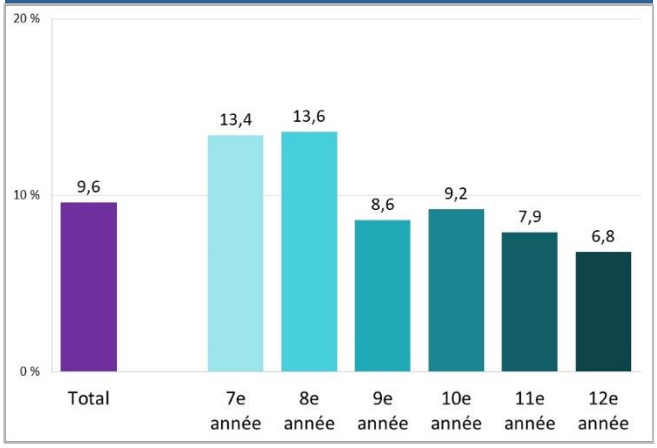
- Environ un élève sur cinq (22 %) de la 7e à la 12e année a déclaré avoir pris un analgésique opioïde qui ne lui avait pas été prescrit (p. ex. Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol 3, Demerol, Dilaudid, OxyNeo, codéine) au cours de l'année écoulée. Les filles (26 %) sont nettement plus susceptibles que les garçons (18 %) de prendre ces médicaments à des fins non médicales. La prise d'un opioïde à des fins non médicales au cours de l'année écoulée a augmenté considérablement entre 2021 (13 %) et 2023 (22 %) et est retournée au niveau élevé enregistré lorsqu'on a commencé à la surveiller en 2007.

- Environ 2 % des élèves de la 7e à la 12e année ont déclaré avoir pris sans ordonnance un médicament prescrit pour traiter le trouble déficitaire de l'attention avec ou sans hyperactivité (TDAH) chez les enfants (p. ex. Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta ou Dexedrine) au cours de l'année écoulée. Les garçons sont tout aussi susceptibles que les filles de prendre ces médicaments à des fins non médicales. La prise d'un médicament pour le TDAH à des fins non médicales fluctue depuis 2007, année où on a commencé à la surveiller, et aucune tendance dominante ne se dessine à cet égard.

- Environ 2 % des élèves de la 9e à la 12e année ont déclaré avoir pris un sédatif ou un tranquillisant sans ordonnance au cours de l'année écoulée. Les garçons sont tout aussi susceptibles que les filles de prendre ces médicaments à des fins non médicales. L'usage non médical de ces médicaments demeure faible et est relativement stable depuis des dizaines d'années.

- Un élève sur dix (10 %) de la 7e à la 12e année a déclaré avoir pris un antitussif ou un antirhume pour « planer » au cours de l'année écoulée. Les garçons sont aussi susceptibles que les filles d'agir ainsi. L'usage non médical de ces médicaments diminue considérablement selon l'année d'études. Il a nettement augmenté entre 2021 (4 %) et 2023 (10 %) et est actuellement plus élevé qu'en 2009, année où on a commencé à le surveiller.

Pourcentage d'élèves ayant dit prendre des antitussifs ou des antirhumes à des fins non médicales (pour « planer ») au cours de l'année écoulée, SCDSEO 2023



Répercussions de la consommation d'alcool et d'autres drogues

Conduite de véhicules

- Un élève sur six (17 %) de la 7e à la 12e année a déclaré avoir été dans un véhicule conduit par une personne qui avait bu de l'alcool et un élève sur onze (9 %) a déclaré avoir été dans un véhicule conduit par une personne qui avait consommé de la drogue au moins une fois au cours de l'année écoulée. Le pourcentage d'élèves ayant signalé ces comportements a diminué considérablement au cours des 20 dernières années.

- Environ 6 % des élèves de la 10e à la 12e année qui sont titulaires d'un permis de conduire de catégorie G ont déclaré avoir, au moins une fois au cours de l'année écoulée, pris le volant une heure ou moins après avoir bu deux verres d'alcool ou plus. Le taux de conduite chez les adolescents qui ont bu est stable depuis 2013 et se situe entre 4 % et 7 %. Toutefois, l'estimation actuelle est nettement inférieure aux estimations faites en 1999 et dans les années 2000 (qui se situaient entre 12 % et 14 %), et aux estimations de la fin des années 1970 et du début des années 1980 (pendant cette période, près de la moitié des élèves de 11e année ont déclaré avoir conduit après avoir bu).

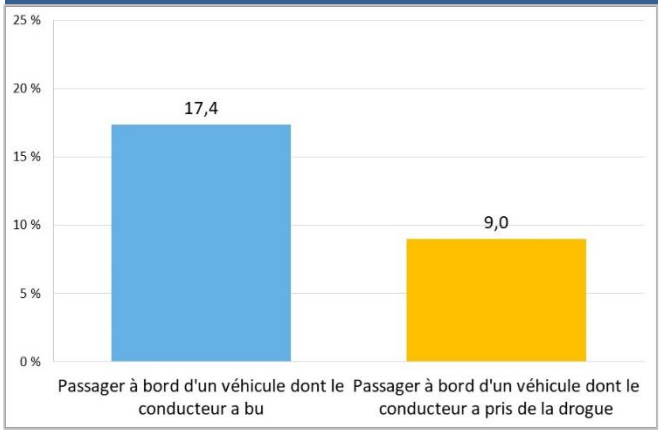
- Un pourcentage semblable (6 %) d'élèves de la 10e à la 12e année a déclaré avoir pris le volant une heure ou moins après avoir consommé du cannabis au moins une fois au cours de l'année écoulée. Le pourcentage d'élèves ayant agi ainsi a diminué considérablement depuis 2001, année où on a commencé à le surveiller, lorsqu'il était d'environ 20 %, et est demeuré relativement stable depuis 2017.

Problème lié à la consommation de drogue

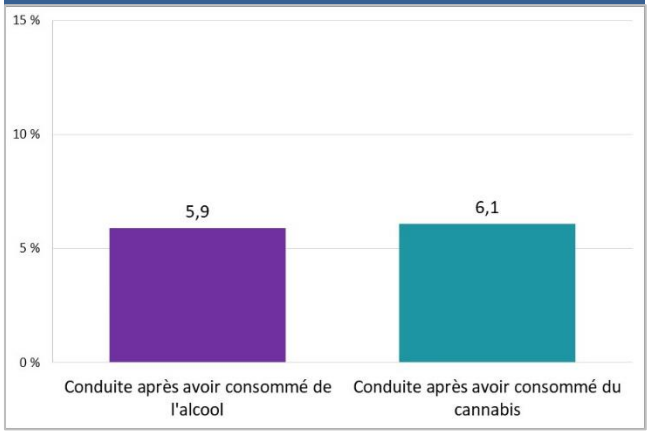
- Un élève du secondaire sur sept (14 %) a déclaré avoir éprouvé des symptômes d'un problème lié à l'usage de drogues, selon les critères du questionnaire de dépistage *CRAFFT*. Ce résultat pourrait nécessiter une évaluation plus approfondie. Ce pourcentage est stable depuis quelques années et inférieur aux estimations faites il y a 20 ans, qui étaient d'environ 22 %.

- Un très faible pourcentage des élèves du secondaire (1 %) a déclaré avoir suivi un programme de traitement de la dépendance à l'alcool ou aux drogues au cours de l'année écoulée.

Pourcentage d'élèves qui ont dit avoir été dans un véhicule conduit par une personne ayant pris de l'alcool ou des drogues (année écoulée), SCDSEO 2023



Pourcentage de conducteurs de la 10e à la 12e année ayant signalé des comportements risqués au volant au cours de l'année écoulée, SCDSEO 2023



Autres faits saillants

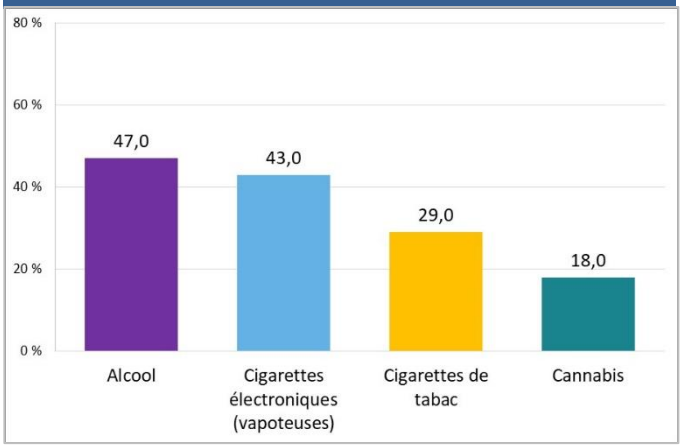
Abstinence

- Environ 42 % des élèves de la 7e à la 12e année ont déclaré n'avoir pris aucune drogue au cours de l'année écoulée (l'alcool, la cigarette et les autres dispositifs utilisés pour fumer étaient inclus). Les garçons sont plus susceptibles que les filles de s'être abstenus de prendre des drogues. Les taux d'abstinence au cours de l'année écoulée diminuaient de façon importante avec l'année d'études, passant de moins des deux tiers des élèves de 7e année au quart des élèves de 12e année. On a relevé une hausse marquée de l'abstinence au fil des décennies.

Initiation précoce

- Environ 43 % des élèves du secondaire ayant vapoté au cours de l'année écoulée ont déclaré l'avoir fait pour la première fois avant la 9e année.
- Plus du quart (29 %) des élèves du secondaire ayant fumé des cigarettes de tabac au cours de l'année écoulée ont déclaré l'avoir fait pour la première fois avant la 9e année.
- Près de la moitié (47 %) des élèves du secondaire ayant consommé de l'alcool au cours de l'année écoulée ont déclaré avoir commencé à en prendre avant la 9e année.
- Environ 18 % des élèves du secondaire ayant fait usage de cannabis au cours de l'année écoulée ont déclaré en avoir pris pour la première fois avant la 9e année.
- En 2023, l'âge moyen auquel les élèves de 12e année qui ont vapoté au cours de l'année écoulée ont déclaré s'être livrés à cette activité pour la première fois était de 14,3 ans. L'âge moyen auquel les élèves de 12e année qui ont fumé des cigarettes de tabac au cours de l'année écoulée ont déclaré avoir commencé à fumer était de 15,4 ans. L'âge moyen auquel les élèves de 12e année qui ont consommé de l'alcool au cours de l'année écoulée ont déclaré avoir bu pour la première fois était de 14,5 ans. Enfin, l'âge moyen auquel les élèves de 12e année qui ont pris du cannabis au cours de l'année écoulée ont déclaré avoir commencé à en faire usage était de 15,7 ans.
- L'âge où les élèves consomment une substance intoxicante pour la première fois est plus élevé de nos jours. En effet, l'âge moyen où les élèves ont fumé leur première cigarette de tabac, ont bu leur première boisson alcoolique et ont pris du cannabis pour la première fois a augmenté au fil des décennies.

Pourcentage d'élèves du secondaire ayant pris de la drogue au cours de l'année écoulée qui ont déclaré l'avoir fait pour la première fois *avant* la 9e année, SCDSEO 2023



Perception du risque associé à l'usage de drogues

- On a demandé aux élèves de 7e et 8e année quel était selon eux le risque pour la santé de vapoter régulièrement et de fumer régulièrement des cigarettes de tabac et du cannabis. Les élèves ont déclaré que le risque le plus élevé était de fumer régulièrement (75 %), de vapoter régulièrement (63 %) et de fumer du cannabis régulièrement (49 %).

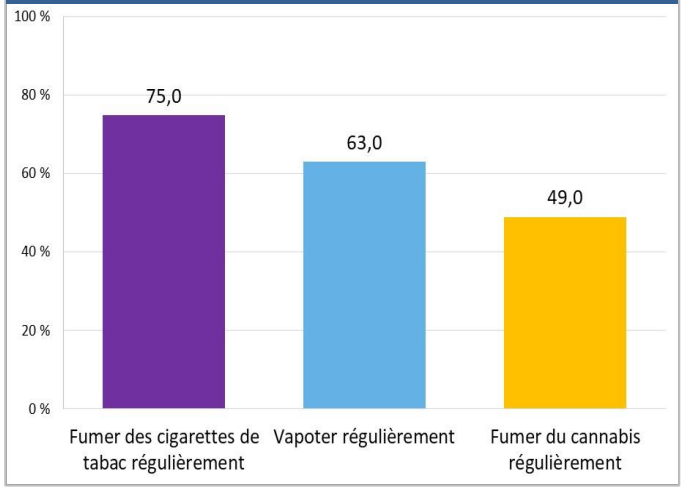
- Le pourcentage d'élèves qui estiment que l'usage régulier du cannabis est dangereux pour la santé était stable entre 1999 et 2011, a diminué jusqu'en 2019 puis a augmenté pour atteindre un niveau semblable à celui enregistré il y a 20 ans. La perception du risque pour la santé du vapotage régulier a nettement diminué depuis 2015, année où on a commencé à surveiller ce facteur.

Perception de la facilité d'accès aux drogues

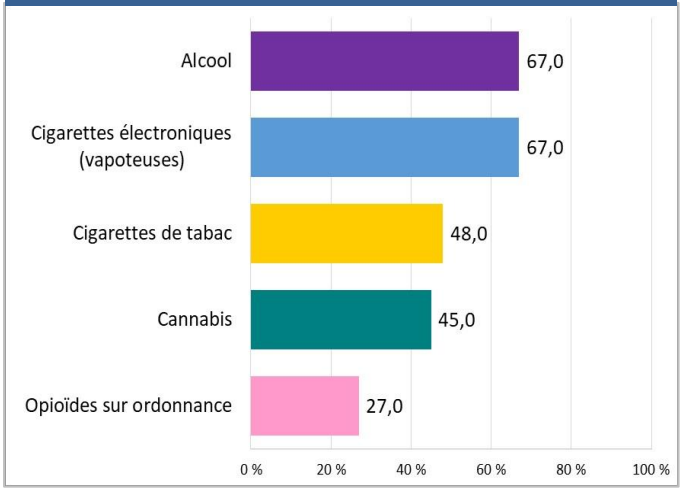
- Parmi les drogues étudiées, les élèves estiment que l'alcool et les produits de vapotage sont celles qui sont les plus faciles d'accès (67 % des élèves ont déclaré qu'il serait « assez facile » ou « très facile » de s'en procurer), suivies des cigarettes de tabac (48 %), du cannabis (45 %) et des opioïdes qui ne leur ont pas été prescrits (27 %).

- La perception de la facilité d'accès aux vapoteuses et aux opioïdes sur ordonnance a augmenté considérablement depuis le sondage de 2021. Bien que la perception de la facilité d'accès à l'alcool ait augmenté ces dernières années, actuellement elle est semblable à ce qu'elle était il y a 20 ans. La perception de la facilité d'accès au cannabis est stable depuis quelques années, mais est actuellement inférieure aux estimations d'il y a 20 ans. Enfin, la perception de la facilité d'accès aux cigarettes de tabac a diminué au cours des deux dernières décennies.

Pourcentage d'élèves qui estiment que l'usage de drogues comporte un « risque élevé » de méfaits, SCDSEO 2023



Pourcentage d'élèves ayant dit qu'il serait « facile » ou « très facile » de se procurer la drogue, SCDSEO 2023



Méthodologie

Réalisé par le Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale, le Sondage sur la consommation de drogues et la santé des élèves de l'Ontario (SCDSEO) est un sondage sur la santé réalisé à la grandeur de l'Ontario auprès d'élèves de 7e et de 8e année, ainsi qu'auprès d'élèves de la 9e à la 12e année. Ce sondage transversal est réalisé tous les deux ans depuis sa création en 1977.

Le sondage du cycle de 2023, qui a fait appel à un plan d'échantillonnage en grappes stratifié (région par école) à deux degrés (école et classe), a été rempli par 10 145 élèves de la 7e à la 12e année répartis dans 848 classes, dans 235 écoles faisant partie de 46 conseils scolaires publics et catholiques anglophones et francophones. Étaient exclues de l'échantillonnage les écoles se trouvant dans les réserves des Premières Nations, les bases militaires, les hôpitaux et les autres établissements, ainsi que les écoles privées. Ont également été exclues les classes pour l'enfance en difficulté et les classes d'anglais langue seconde.

Des procédures actives ont été mises en œuvre pour obtenir le consentement des parents. Des membres du personnel de l'Institut de recherche sociale de l'Université York ont remis les questionnaires aux groupes d'élèves, qui les ont remplis à l'aide d'un crayon ou de façon électronique. Cette façon de faire favorise l'anonymat. Les questionnaires ont été remplis en classe entre novembre 2022 et juin 2023 pendant les heures normales de cours. Les données de l'échantillon de 10 145 élèves ont été pondérées et sont représentatives d'un peu moins d'un million d'élèves de la 7e à la 12e année inscrits dans les écoles publiques de l'Ontario.

Les rapports, les infographies et la FAQ du SCDSEO figurent sur la page

www.camh.ca/osduhs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A study of this magnitude requires the ongoing cooperation and support of many individuals and groups alike. Over the years, many people have provided valuable input into this study. We would like to thank Tony Ivanoff, Régine Bohar, and Michel Bérubé for their assistance during this OSDUHS cycle, and the OSDUHS Advisory Group for their guidance. We would also like to extend our deepest thanks to Public Health Ontario, Eating Disorders Ontario at the University Health Network, Jo Henderson, and the Ontario public health units/departments who collaborated with us during the 2023 OSDUHS.

The sampling design, fieldwork, and data file preparation was conducted by the Institute for Social Research (ISR), York University, and we especially thank Stella Park, Richard Myles, and Hugh McCague for their input throughout the project, as well as the ISR field staff for their dedication and work with the schools.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the former study directors: Reginald Smart, Edward Adlaf, Jürgen Rehm, Robert Mann, and Tara Elton-Marshall. We would not be in the enviable position of having such rich historical data without their hard work and foresight. We thank each for leading the way and allowing us to continue in their footsteps.

Most importantly, the high level of cooperation by Ontario school boards, school board research review committees, school principals, parents, and students has played a major role in ensuring the success of this project over the decades. We gratefully acknowledge the support of all.

The views expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of CAMH.

Angela Boak
Hayley A. Hamilton

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, electronic cigarettes/vapes, cannabis and other drug use and related harms among Ontario students in grades 7 to 12 in 2023, and changes since 1977. The findings are based on the 24th cycle of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's biennial *Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey* (OSDUHS).[1] The OSDUHS is the longest ongoing surveillance program of drug use and other health related behaviours among adolescent students in Canada, and one of the longest in the world.

Repeated cross-sectional surveys such as the OSDUHS contribute to an understanding of the past, present, and potential future patterns of alcohol and other drug use, related harms, and the associated contextual, social, and demographic risk and protective factors in the adolescent population. Such monitoring is not only fundamental to health professionals, educators, and governments, but also to the development of evidence-based knowledge. For over 45 years, the OSDUHS has contributed to a better understanding of drug use among adolescents and its consequences, and has influenced health education, programs and policies in Ontario.

Some drug-related surveillance objectives of the OSDUHS are to provide trustworthy and timely data regarding the following:

- current use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping devices, cannabis, and other drugs among students, and trends in use since 1977, where available;
- use of newly emerging drugs and new ways of consuming drugs;
- early initiation of use and trends over time;
- trends in potential harms associated with drug use, such as impaired driving; and
- attitudes and perceptions about drug use.

This report presents descriptive findings related to drug use.[2] Described are the prevalence, frequency, and harms from use, changes over time, and the associations between drug use and key demographic characteristics, namely sex at birth, grade, and region.

The scope of the OSDUHS has evolved to include an array of mental and physical health indicators and other adolescent risk behaviours. The 2023 OSDUHS mental health and well-being findings will be released in a companion report in the summer of 2024.

[1] In 2007, the word "Health" was added to the project title to better reflect its expanding content. Prior cycles used the OSDUS acronym without "Health."

[2] Our use of the term "drug use" in this report includes alcohol, tobacco, and vaping devices. Note that the words "drugs" and "substances" are used interchangeably.

History of the OSDUHS

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's OSDUHS is the longest ongoing survey of elementary and secondary school students in Canada. In 1967, several Toronto school boards approached the former Addiction Research Foundation (now CAMH) for assistance in determining the extent of drug use among their students. Four biennial surveys were conducted from 1968 through 1974 that monitored alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among Toronto students in grades 7, 9, 11 and 13.

In 1977, the scope of the study was expanded to include students across Ontario, and in 1999 it was expanded again to include students in grades 7 through 13/OAC. In 2003, 13th graders were excluded from the sampling plan (because this grade was eliminated by the Province of Ontario), and the number of classes surveyed in secondary schools was increased.

For over 45 years, the OSDUHS has surveyed thousands of students every two years, and to date over 100,000 students in Ontario have participated. The study's history is underscored by considering that most of the 12th graders studied in 1977 are now over 60 years-old. Since its inception, the OSDUHS has not only been the source of data for numerous scientific and policy publications on an array of adolescent health issues, but has evolved into a well-recognized school survey globally.

Impact of the OSDUHS

Findings from the OSDUHS have informed public health monitoring, education and prevention, and health-related programs and policies in Ontario and beyond for over 40 years.

Public Health Monitoring

- Since 1977, the survey has monitored changes in alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other drug use among students and raised awareness about several drug "epidemics" over the years, such as cigarette smoking in the late 1990s, and prescription opioid misuse in the early 2000s.
- Since 1991, the survey has monitored changes in mental health, physical health, and risk behaviours among students and raised awareness about problems or areas of concern, such as the elevated levels of poor mental health and bullying.
- Over the decades, the survey has provided the first Canadian adolescent population estimates for the use of several emerging drugs (e.g., crack, ecstasy [MDMA], OxyContin), and risk behaviours (e.g., texting and driving, vaping cannabis).

Education and Prevention

- The findings have been used in various publications including brochures and other products designed for youth and parents, and Canadian psychology and sociology textbooks.
- The findings have been used to inform the development of mental health and gambling curriculum guides for Ontario educators.
- Public health units have used the findings to inform their program and service planning.
- Educators and other professionals have used the findings to facilitate outreach to parents and the wider community.
- The findings have sparked several media campaigns raising awareness about the risks of cannabis and driving, and the misuse of prescription medication.

Public Policy

- The findings have informed health-related policy initiatives in Ontario regarding smoking, vaping, drinking, prescription opioid misuse, impaired and distracted driving, physical activity, and gambling.
- The findings have informed school health policies in Ontario regarding cigarette smoking on school property, bullying, and safe schools.

2. METHODS

SAMPLING DESIGN

The survey's target or in-scope population – the population we are attempting to draw conclusions about – comprised all 7th to 12th graders enrolled in Ontario's four publicly funded school sectors (i.e., English language public, English language Catholic, French language public, and French language Catholic). Students excluded from the survey's target population (out-of-scope) were those enrolled in private schools, those who were home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, those schooled in First Nation communities, on military bases, or in the remote northern region of Ontario.

The 2023 cycle was based on a stratified (region by school level), two-stage (school, class) cluster design, which included the oversampling of students in Northern Ontario and several public health unit regions. Within each of the region-by-school level strata, schools were randomly selected with probability proportionate to school enrollment size. If a school declined to participate, a replacement school from the same strata was randomly selected.

In elementary/middle schools, two classes were randomly selected – one 7th-grade class and one 8th-grade class. In secondary schools, four classes were randomly selected, one in each grade from 9 through 12. For all public health region oversamples with elementary/middle school students, two 7th-grade and two 8th-grade classes were sampled to participate (or all students in these grades if there were fewer than two classes in each grade). For certain public health units with a smaller secondary school population, the number of classes selected in the secondary schools was doubled (i.e., two classes in each grade between 9 and 12). All students in the selected classes with a returned signed consent form, and who could complete the questionnaire independently, were eligible to participate.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The 2023 OSDUHS protocol was approved by the Research Ethics Boards (REBs) at CAMH and York University, as well as 33 school board research review committees. Student participation required the consent/permission of several entities, including school boards, school principals, classroom teachers, parents, and students themselves. Schools had the option of using paper parental consent-student assent forms, or an online/electronic consent-assent process.

The survey was administered across the province by trained field staff from the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at York University on CAMH's behalf. The survey was administered in the classrooms of the selected classes during regular school hours between November 2022 and June 2023. The administrators introduced the survey and explained that participation was voluntary and anonymous. Students were instructed to skip any question they did not understand or felt uncomfortable answering and told that they could withdraw from the survey at anytime. The survey was available in electronic/online format or in paper format. The majority of students (97%) opted to complete the survey electronically, using either a school device or personal device with internet connection.

QUESTIONNAIRE

In addition to alcohol and other drug use, the OSDUHS questionnaire covers an array of topics related to mental and physical well-being. The general outline of the questionnaire topics is as follows: demographics, family and school life, use of tobacco, vaping devices, alcohol, cannabis and other drugs, beliefs and attitudes about drug use, vehicle-related questions, mental health indicators (e.g., suicidality, symptoms of anxiety and depression), physical health indicators (e.g., physical activity, injuries), bullying, social media use, video game playing, and gambling. New questions in the 2023 questionnaire included disability/health condition, perceived discrimination, engaging in competitive sports, knowledge of mental health support services through/at school, reasons for not seeking mental health support if needed, and problematic social media use.

To include as many topics as possible in a fixed class period, while minimizing the burden on students, we employed four versions of the questionnaire, which were randomly distributed depending on school level (Form A-Elementary, Form B-Elementary, Form A-Secondary, Form B-Secondary). To better tailor the instrument, many questions (e.g., driving-related questions) were not asked of elementary school students (i.e., the 7th and 8th graders). Because not all questions were in all forms, the number of cases upon which an estimate is based may be less than the total sample size. Item branching (i.e., designated question skips) was used in the online and printed version of the questionnaire to reduce time and response fatigue. French questionnaires were available for students in French language schools. The average questionnaire completion time was 25 minutes (27 minutes for elementary school students, 24 minutes for secondary school students).

2023 SAMPLE

After data editing rules were applied, 10,145 students in 848 classes in 235 schools in 46 boards were included the final data set. The student completion rate was 49.5%.

This report presents the results according to sex at birth,[3] grade, and region. The four regions presented are delineated as follows: (1) Greater Toronto Area (GTA); (2) Northern Ontario (Parry Sound District, Nipissing District, and areas farther north); (3) Western Ontario (Dufferin County and areas farther west); and (4) Eastern Ontario (Simcoe County and areas farther east).

Sample Characteristics, 2023 OSDUHS

	Sample Size	Weighted %
Total	10,145	
Males	4,419	51.6
Females	5,713	48.4
Grade 7	1,443	13.7
Grade 8	1,513	13.8
Grade 9	1,849	17.4
Grade 10	1,791	17.1
Grade 11	1,680	17.0
Grade 12	1,869	21.0
GTA	4,261	47.7
North	1,343	4.9
West	2,908	27.3
East	1,633	20.1

Notes: males/females is based on the question asking about sex at birth; GTA is the Greater Toronto Area.

[3] Sex at birth is the (binary) variable presented in this report. Gender identity was also asked in the survey among secondary school students using a separate question. Those results are not presented here.

DATA WEIGHTING & ANALYSIS

Our deliberate oversampling of students in certain regions and our equal allocation of students within grade results in the oversampling and undersampling of students relative to their population share. Given that the objective of our analyses is to provide descriptive population estimates, our design-based analysis requires selection or case weights attached to each student to approximate representation of the Ontario student population.

For each student, the final case weight is based on the product of five components: (1) the probability of a school being selected; (2) the probability of a class being selected within a selected school; (3) a student unit nonresponse adjustment factor; (4) a regional poststratification adjustment to restore regional representation; and (5) a final poststratification adjustment to restore the sex-by-grade distribution, using the most currently available provincial enrolment numbers. Data from our sample of 10,145 students are weighted to represent about 929,600 Ontario students in grades 7 to 12 enrolled in publicly funded schools.

All percentages, confidence intervals, and population count estimates in this report were design-based and statistical tests were design-adjusted, (i.e., accommodated for characteristics of the complex sampling, namely, stratification, clustering, and weighting) using Taylor series linearization (TSL) available in Stata 14.2. The statistical significance of subgroup (i.e., sex, grade, region) differences in 2023 was tested using bivariate second-order design-adjusted Rao-Scott Pearson chi-square tests at the $p<.05$ level of significance. Missing responses to questions were not statistically imputed, and, furthermore, any inconsistent responses provided by respondents were not corrected.

In this report, we describe changes in drug use over time. We first examine changes between 2021 and 2023 (and since 2019 for more context); next we examine trends from 1999 to 2023; and finally we describe long-term trends from 1977 to 2023. Logistic regression analyses were used to assess temporal trends at the more conservative $p<.01$ level of significance.

Estimates were suppressed due to unreliability (unstable) if they met any one of the following conditions:

(1) an estimate less than 0.5%;

(2) a base sample size (i.e., the denominator) of fewer than 50 students; or

(3) a relative standard error, measured by the coefficient of variation (CV), exceeding a value of 33.3.

The sample selection, school contact, web survey development, printing of the material, in-school administration, and data file preparation were conducted by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at York University on CAMH's behalf. More information about the 2023 methodology can be found in the data user guide.[4]

[4] Boak, A., & Hamilton, H. A. (2024). *2023 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) study protocol and data user guide*. Toronto, ON: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

A Note About the 2021 OSDUHS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario schools were closed to in-person learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, the 2021 OSDUHS pivoted to online data collection. Students could complete the questionnaire outside of school hours rather than the typical method of completions in classrooms during school hours. This change in mode and setting led to a dramatically decreased student response rate for that cycle. Although the survey weights were adjusted to minimize any potential bias from non-response, the high level of non-response in the 2021 cycle likely had an impact on estimates. Readers should be cautious in interpreting the 2021 estimates as provincially representative.

Comparisons between the 2021 and 2023 OSDUHS results are based on logistic regression marginal standardization methods. These analyses adjusted for key demographic differences between the samples in these two years (i.e., sex, grade, region, born in Canada, ethno-racial identity, and school marks). While the statistical tests for temporal changes between these two survey cycles are based on the adjusted estimates, only unadjusted prevalence estimates are presented in this report. Because of the 2021 OSDUHS limitations, we also compare the 2023 findings with those from 2019 for further context. The statistically significant p-value used for all trend tests was $p<.01$.

Definition of Terms Used in the Report

95% Confidence Interval (CI): the "true" population value would be expected within this range in 95 of 100 samples. Design-based CIs (presented here) also account for the characteristics of the complex sampling design.

Any Drug Use: use of one or more of the following 11 drugs asked about in the 2023 survey at least once during the past 12 months: LSD, cocaine, mushrooms/mescaline, methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, ecstasy (MDMA), nonmedical use of tranquillizers/sedatives, prescription opioids, ADHD drugs, and cough/cold medication.

Any Drug Use for Trends: use of one or more of the following seven drugs: LSD, mushrooms/ mescaline, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy (MDMA), and nonmedical use of tranquillizers/sedatives. Cannabis is excluded.

Binge Drinking: drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion at least once during the past four weeks.

Cannabis Dependence: Scoring at least four of 15 (Likert scoring) on the cannabis subscale of the *Severity of Dependence Scale* (SDS). The SDS is a validated 5-item instrument used to screen for potential cannabis dependence in adolescent and general populations (past 3 month period).

Drug Use Problem: reporting two or more of the six items on the CRAFFT screener, which measures a drug use problem that may require further assessment or treatment (past 12 month period).

Hazardous/Harmful Drinking: scoring eight or higher out of 40 (Likert scoring) on the World Health Organization's 10-item *Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test* (AUDIT) screener. Hazardous drinking is a pattern of drinking that increases the likelihood of future physical, social, or mental health problems, including dependence. Harmful drinking is a pattern that is already causing harms (e.g., injuries).

Nonmedical (NM) Prescription Drug Use: reporting the use of a prescription drug (i.e., opioids, ADHD drugs, sedatives) without a prescription, or without a doctor's supervision.

Past Year Drug Use: reporting the use of the drug at least once during the past 12 months. Cases that responded "don't know what [the drug] is" were classified as nonusers and assigned to the denominator. For vaping devices, cigarettes, and waterpipes, those who smoked only "a few puffs" were classified as nonusers and assigned to the denominator. For alcohol, use included drinking on special occasions, but excluded sips.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Overview of Drug Use in 2023

Drug Use in the Past Year
(Figures 3.1.1, 3.1.2; Table 3.1.1)

The most commonly used drug is alcohol, with 35.6% of students in grades 7 through 12 reporting use (excluding just a sip to try it) during the 12 months before the survey. Just over one-in-five (21.8%) students report the nonmedical (NM) use of prescription opioid pain relievers, such as codeine, Percocet, Percodan, Demerol, Dilaudid, or Tylenol #3 in the past year. About one-in-six (17.6%) students report using cannabis in the past year. The prevalence of electronic cigarette use/vaping is substantially higher than tobacco cigarette smoking (13.4% vs. 3.2%, respectively). One-in-ten (9.6%) students report the use of cough/cold medication to "get high" in the past year.

Questions about the use of certain illicit drugs were asked of secondary school students only (grades 9–12). Among this subset of illicit drugs, psilocybin ("mushrooms") ranks highest with about 3.4% of secondary students reporting use in the past year, followed by the nonmedical use of tranquillizers/sedatives at about 2%. Methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl use are extremely rare, as these past year prevalence estimates fall below 0.5% (suppressed).

Over one-quarter (29.3%) of secondary school students report using any drug (other than alcohol, cannabis, tobacco/nicotine), during the past year. Over one-in-five (22.9%) secondary school students report using at least one prescription drug nonmedically (without a doctor's prescription) during the past year.

Figure 3.1.2 shows the past year drug use prevalence estimates for elementary school students (grades 7 and 8) and secondary school students separately. Not only do younger students show lower prevalence estimates than older students, the drug ranking slightly differs as well.

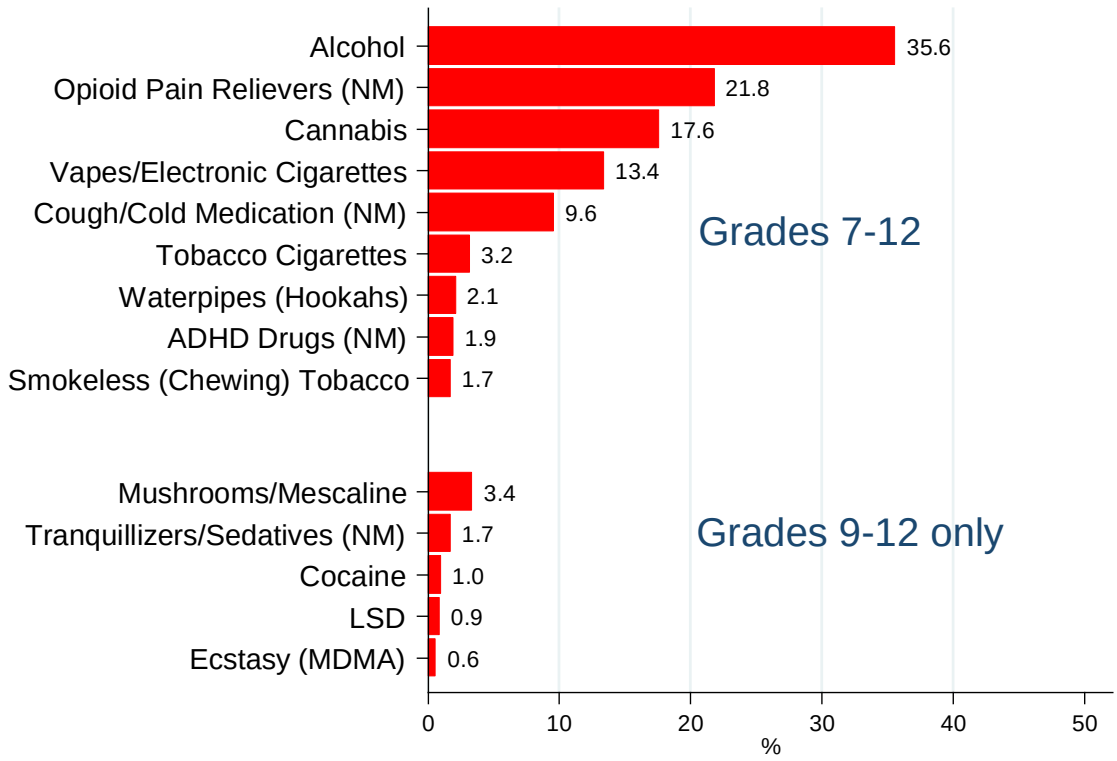
Lifetime Drug Use
(Table 3.1.1)

Estimates for lifetime use show that alcohol, prescription opioid pain relievers, vapes, and cannabis are the most likely substances to be tried by students. Notably, more students have tried vaping (25.0%) than smoking tobacco cigarettes (9.3%) in their lifetime.

Frequency of Drug Use
(Figures 3.1.3, 3.1.4)

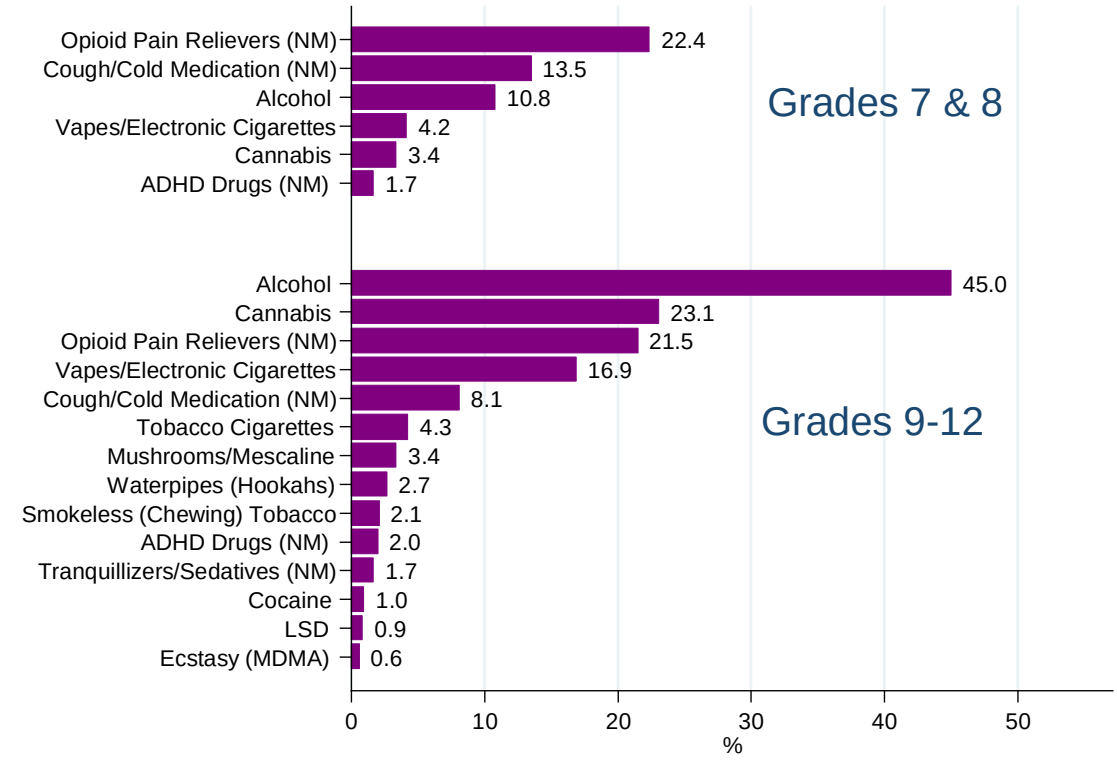
Frequent drug use, defined as using six or more times during the past year, is shown in Figure 3.1.3. About one-in-eleven (9.1%) students report frequent cannabis use in the past year. Frequent use of prescription opioid pain relievers is reported by a similar proportion (8.9%). All other drugs included in the survey are not frequently used. Figure 3.1.4 shows the number of times students have used in the past year. Again, we can readily see that, of the drugs shown, cannabis is the most frequently used.

Figure 3.1.1
Percentage Reporting Past Year Drug Use, 2023 OSDUHS



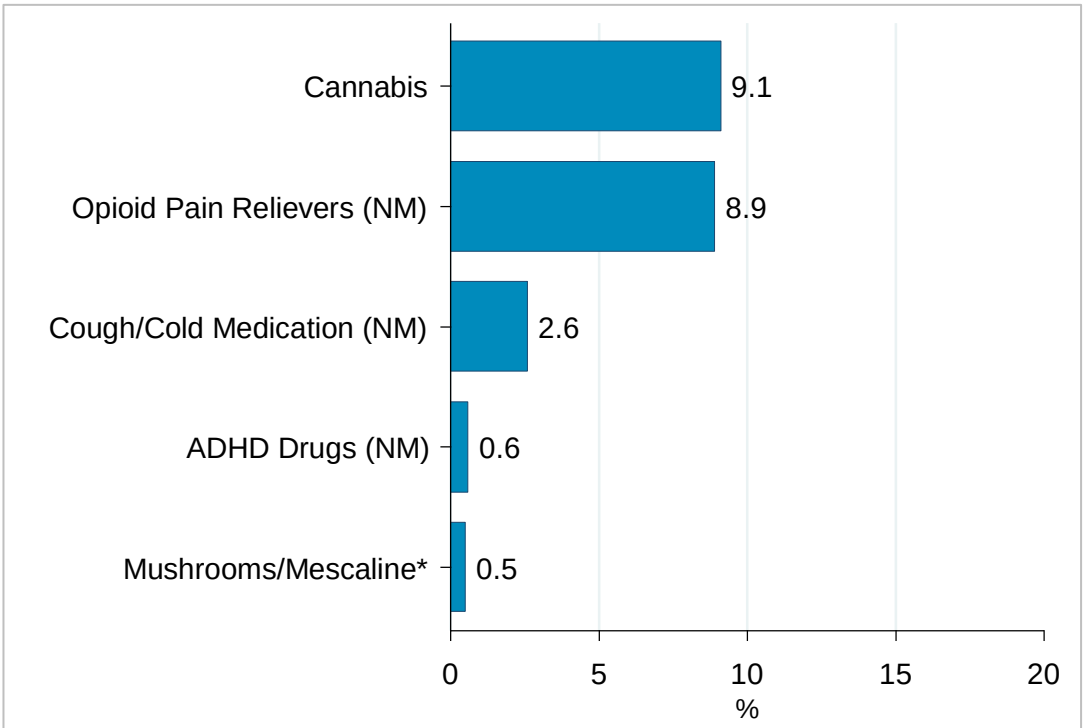
Notes: (1) NM=nonmedical use, or without a doctor's prescription; (2) ADHD=Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; (3) drugs shown for 'Grades 9-12 only' were not asked of Grade 7 & 8 students; (4) estimates for methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl among Grades 9-12 were suppressed due to unreliability

Figure 3.1.2
Percentage Reporting Past Year Drug Use by Grade Level, 2023 OSDUHS



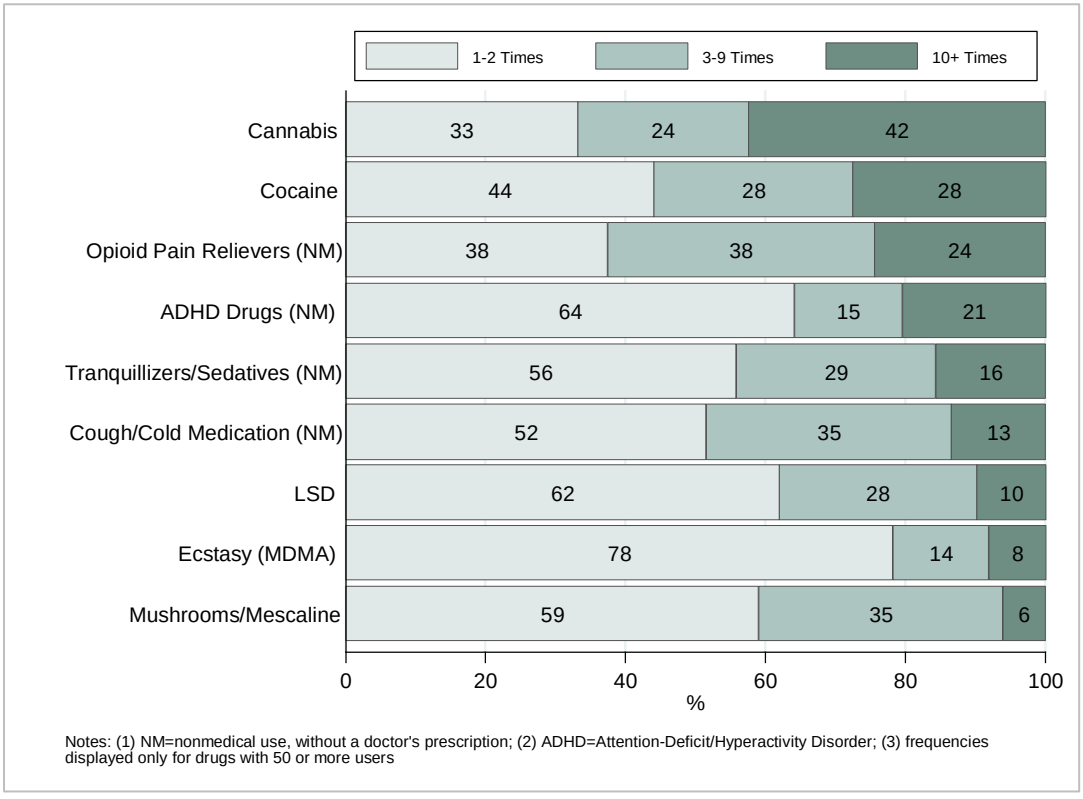
Notes: (1) NM=nonmedical use, or without a doctor's prescription; (2) ADHD=Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; (3) estimates for tobacco cigarettes, waterpipes, and smokeless tobacco among Grades 7 & 8 were suppressed due to unreliability; (4) estimates for methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl among Grades 9-12 were suppressed due to unreliability

Figure 3.1.3
Percentage Reporting Frequent Drug Use (Six Times or More Often) in the Past Year, 2023 OSDUHS (Total Sample)



Notes: (1) * among Grades 9-12 only; (2) NM=nonmedical use, or without a doctor's prescription; (3) ADHD=Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; (4) estimates for LSD, cocaine, ecstasy, methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, and tranquillizers were suppressed due to unreliability

Figure 3.1.4
Frequency of Drug Use in the Past Year, *Among Students Who Have Used in the Past Year*, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12 only)



Notes: (1) NM=nonmedical use, without a doctor's prescription; (2) ADHD=Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; (3) frequencies displayed only for drugs with 50 or more users

Table 3.1.1: Percentage Reporting Drug Use in Lifetime and in the Past Year, 2023 OSDUHS

	LIFETIME USE	PAST YEAR USE
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
AMONG GRADES 7–12		
Alcohol	**52.5** (50.2-54.8)	**35.6** (33.2-38.0)
Opioid Pain Relievers (NM)	**26.4** (25.1-27.8)	**21.8** (20.6-23.0)
Cannabis	**20.7** (18.8-22.6)	**17.6** (15.9-19.5)
Vapes/Electronic Cigarettes	**25.0** (23.2-26.9)	**13.4** (12.1-14.8)
Cough/Cold Medication (NM)	**10.3** (9.5-11.2)	**9.6** (8.8-10.5)
Tobacco Cigarettes	**9.3** (8.0-10.8)	**3.2** (2.5-4.2)
Waterpipes (Hookahs)	**4.4** (3.6-5.3)	**2.1** (1.6-2.8)
ADHD Drugs (NM)	**4.5** (3.9-5.1)	**1.9** (1.5-2.3)
Smokeless (Chewing) Tobacco	**2.4** (1.6-3.7)	**1.7** (1.0-2.7)
AMONG GRADES 9–12 ONLY		
Mushrooms or Mescaline	**4.1** (3.3-5.1)	**3.4** (2.7-4.4)
Tranquillizers/Sedatives (NM)	**2.3** (1.8-2.9)	**1.7** (1.3-2.2)
Cocaine	**1.2** (0.9-1.6)	**1.0** (0.7-1.3)
LSD	**1.3** (0.9-1.8)	**0.9** (0.6-1.3)
Ecstasy (MDMA)	**0.8** (0.6-1.1)	**0.6** (0.4-0.9)
Methamphetamine	**0.5** (0.3-0.8)	†
Heroin	†	†
Fentanyl	**0.6** (0.4-1.0)	†
Any NM Use of a Prescription Drug		**22.9** (21.4-24.4)
Any Drug Use		**29.3** (27.6-31.1)

Notes: (1) CI=confidence interval; (2) "Lifetime Use" refers to ever using the drug, including "had a sip" for alcohol and "a few puffs" for cigarettes; (3) "Past Year Use" refers to use at least once during the past 12 months, excluding "had a sip" for alcohol and "a few puffs" for cigarettes; (4) NM=nonmedical use, without a doctor's prescription; (5) "Any NM Use of a Prescription Drug" refers to nonmedical use of prescription opioid pain relievers, ADHD drugs, or tranquillizers/sedatives; (6) "Any Drug Use" refers to the past year use of any one of 11 drugs asked about in 2023 (excludes alcohol, cannabis, tobacco/nicotine, vapes/electronic cigarettes, and waterpipes); (7) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability (< 0.5%).

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

3.2 Overview of Drug Use Trends

Drug Use in 2023 vs. 2021

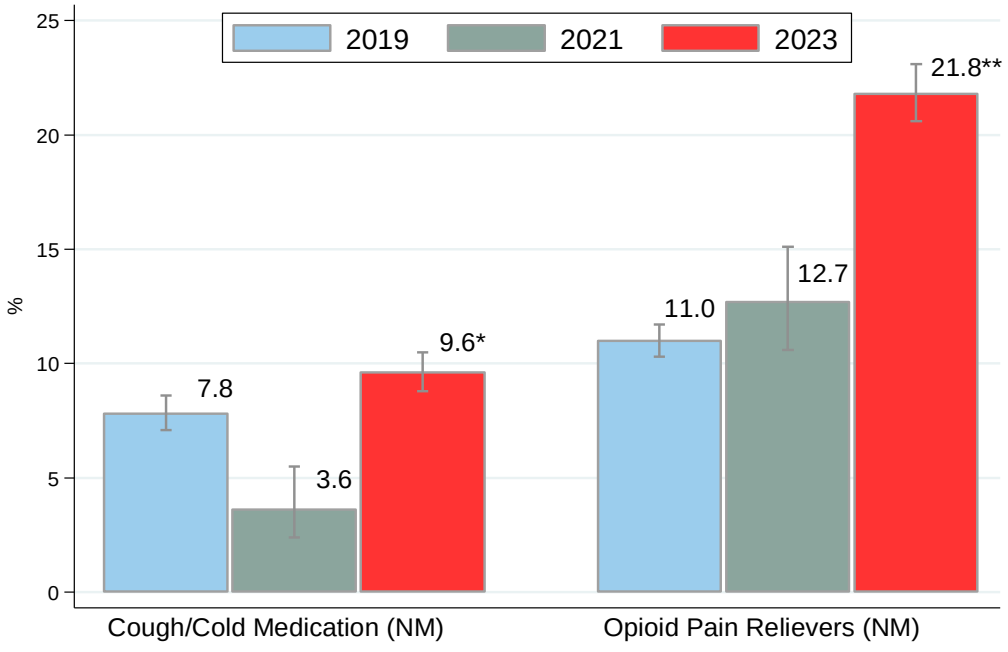
(Figure 3.2.1; Table 3.2.1)

Of the 16 drugs measured in both the 2021 and 2023 survey cycles, two measures of past year drug use show a significant increase between these two survey cycles:

- the nonmedical use of cough/cold medication (to "get high") significantly increased between 2021 (3.6%) and 2023 (9.6%), returning to a level seen in 2019 (7.8%); and
- the nonmedical use of prescription opioid pain relievers increased between 2021 (12.7%) and 2023 (21.8%), and the current level is also significantly higher than in 2019 (11.0%).

No other individual drug shows a statistically significant change in past year use between 2021 and 2023.

Figure 3.2.1
Significant Changes in Past Year Drug Use 2023 vs. 2021 and 2019 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) error bars represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) NM=nonmedical use, or without a doctor's prescription; (3) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (4) * significant difference 2023 vs. 2021, p<.01; (5) ** significant difference 2023 vs. 2021 and vs. 2019, p<.01

1999–2023 Trends

(Figures 3.2.2a, 3.2.2b; Table 3.2.1)

Past year use of most of the drugs monitored in the OSDUHS have shown decreases or stability during the past two decades or so.

Drugs that show decreases in past year use over time among grades 7–12:

- tobacco cigarette smoking significantly decreased from 28.4% in 1999 to 3.2% in 2023
- waterpipes/hookahs (from 9.7% in 2013 to 2.1% in 2023)
- smokeless (chewing) tobacco (from 4.6% in 2011 to 1.7% in 2023)
- alcohol (from 66.0% in 1999 to 35.6%), and
- cannabis (from 28.0% in 1999 to 17.6%).

Drugs that show decreases in past year use over time among grades 9–12 only:

- mushrooms/mescaline (from 17.1% in 1999 to 3.4%)
- LSD (from 8.8% to 0.9% in 2023)
- methamphetamine (from 6.3% to <0.5%)
- cocaine (from 4.0% to 1.0%)
- ecstasy (MDMA) (from 5.3% to 0.6%)
- heroin (from 2.1% to <0.5%), and
- an index measuring any drug use of seven drugs monitored since 1999 significantly decreased from 22.8% to 5.6%.

Some drugs showed no significant difference in past year use in 2023 when compared with the respective estimates from the first year of monitoring, despite some movement during the years in-between. These drugs include:

- vapes/e-cigarettes (from 11.7% in 2015, up to 22.7% in 2019, and down to 13.4% in 2023)
- prescription opioid pain relievers used nonmedically (from 20.6% in 2007, down to 10%-11% in 2015-2019, and up to 21.8% in 2023), and
- cough/cold medication used nonmedically (from 7.2% in 2009, down to 3.6% in 2021, and up to 9.6% in 2023).

Some drugs show relative stability in past year use over the decades:

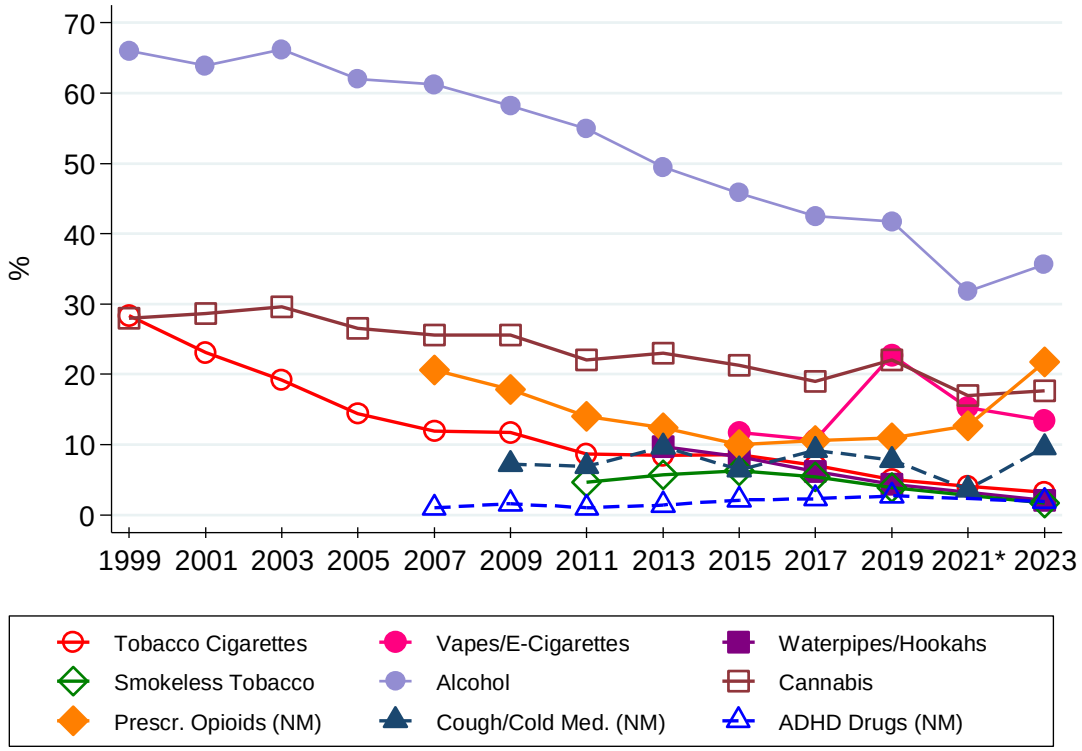
- ADHD drugs used nonmedically, and
- tranquillizers/sedatives used nonmedically.

Frequent Drug Use Trends

(Table 3.2.2)

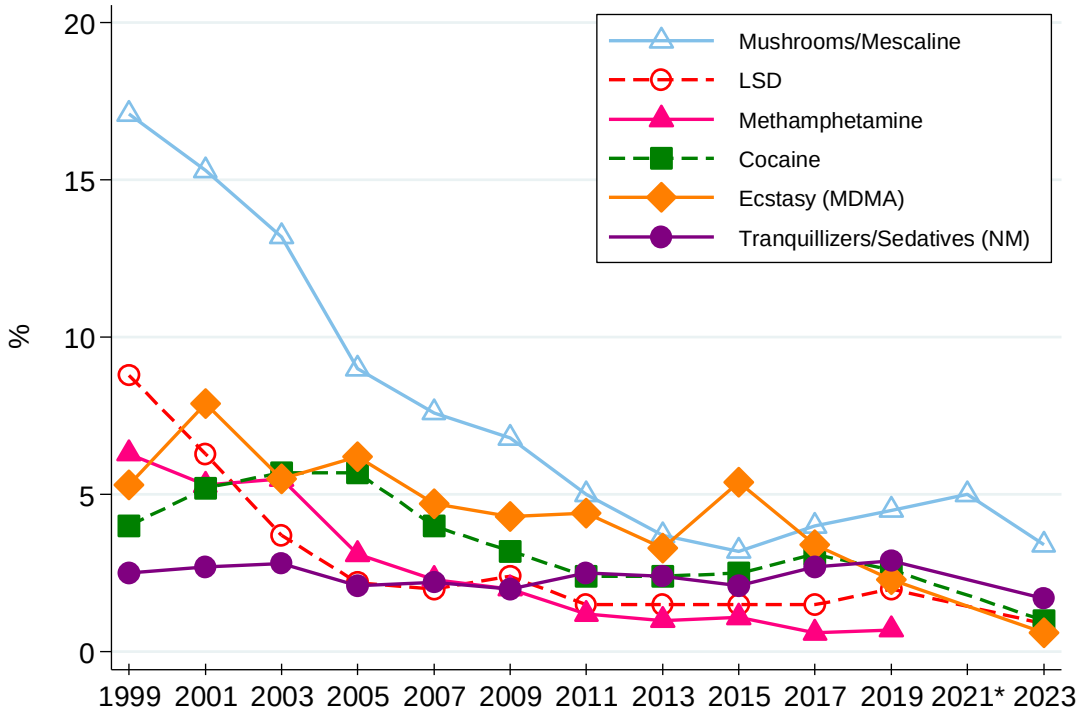
Frequent drug use is defined here as using six times or more often during the past year. Changes in frequent drug use among students between 1999 and 2023 are shown in Table 3.2.2. Frequent use of cannabis did not significantly change between 2021 (11.5%) and 2023 (9.1%), but the current estimate remains lower than 1999 and the 2000s. Frequent use of prescription opioid pain relievers significantly increased between 2021 (5.6%) and 2023 (8.9%), returning to a level seen when monitoring first began in 2007 (8.0%). Frequent use of most other illicit drugs has declined since 1999.

Figure 3.2.2a
Overview of Past Year Drug Use Trends, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: * design change and small sample size in 2021; NM=nonmedical use, or without a doctor's prescription; some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability

Figure 3.2.2b
Overview of Past Year Drug Use Trends, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12 only)



Notes: * design change and small sample size in 2021; NM=nonmedical use, or without a doctor's prescription; some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; heroin and fentanyl not shown due to very low estimates

Table 3.2.1: Percentage Using the Drug At Least Once in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

		1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
AMONG GRADES 7–12	(n=)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Tobacco Cigarettes		**28.4** (26.1-30.7)	**23.1** (20.3-26.1)	**19.2** (17.7-20.8)	**14.4** (13.0-15.9)	**11.9** (10.7-13.2)	**11.7** (10.6-13.0)	**8.7** (7.5-10.2)	**8.5** (7.2-9.9)	**8.6** (7.5-9.9)	**7.0** (5.8-8.4)	**5.0** (4.5-5.7)	**4.1** (2.4-6.9)	**3.2** [bc] (2.5-4.2)
Electronic Cigarettes (Vapes)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**11.7** (10.2-13.4)	**10.7** (8.6-13.2)	**22.7** (20.7-24.8)	**15.3** (11.5-20.1)	**13.4** [b] (12.1-14.8)
Waterpipes (Hookahs)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**9.7** (8.2-11.5)	**8.3** (7.1-9.6)	**6.2** (5.1-7.3)	**4.4** (3.8-5.2)	—	**2.1** [bc] (1.6-2.8)
Smokeless (Chewing) Tobacco		—	—	—	—	—	—	**4.6** (3.9-5.5)	**5.7** (4.6-7.0)	**6.3** (4.9-8.1)	**5.4** (3.6-7.9)	**3.9** (3.0-4.9)	†	**1.7** [bc] (1.0-2.7)
Alcohol		**66.0** (63.6-68.3)	**63.9** (60.8-67.0)	**66.2** (64.1-68.4)	**62.0** (59.3-64.7)	**61.2** (58.9-63.5)	**58.2** (55.7-60.6)	**54.9** (52.1-57.6)	**49.5** (46.4-52.5)	**45.8** (42.9-48.7)	**42.5** (39.5-45.5)	**41.7** (39.5-43.8)	**31.8** (28.1-35.8)	**35.6** [bc] (33.2-38.0)
Cannabis		**28.0** (26.0-30.1)	**28.6** (25.8-31.7)	**29.6** (27.6-31.6)	**26.5** (24.5-28.7)	**25.6** (23.7-27.7)	**25.6** (24.0-27.3)	**22.0** (20.5-23.7)	**23.0** (20.7-25.6)	**21.3** (19.2-23.6)	**19.0** (17.1-21.0)	**22.0** (20.5-23.6)	**17.0** (13.2-21.7)	**17.6** [bc] (15.9-19.5)
Cough/Cold Medication (NM)		—	—	—	—	—	**7.2** (6.1-8.5)	**6.9** (5.5-8.7)	**9.7** (8.2-11.4)	**6.4** (5.3-7.6)	**9.2** (8.0-10.6)	**7.8** (7.1-8.6)	**3.6** (2.4-5.5)	**9.6** [a] (8.8-10.5)
Opioid Pain Relievers (NM)		—	—	—	—	**20.6** (18.9-23.5)	**17.8** (16.6-18.9)	**14.0** (12.8-15.3)	**12.4** (11.2-13.6)	**10.0** (9.0-11.0)	**10.6** (9.5-12.0)	**11.0** (10.3-11.7)	**12.7** (10.6-15.1)	**21.8** [ab] (20.6-23.1)
ADHD Drugs (NM)		—	—	—	—	**1.0** (0.7-1.5)	**1.6** (1.3-2.1)	**1.0** (0.7-1.3)	**1.4** (1.0-2.0)	**2.1** (1.6-2.7)	**2.3** (1.7-3.1)	**2.7** (2.2-3.1)	†	**1.9** [c] (1.5-2.3)
AMONG GRADES 9–12 ONLY		(2883)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)
LSD		**8.8** (7.2-10.7)	**6.3** (5.0-7.8)	**3.7** (3.0-4.5)	**2.2** (1.6-3.0)	**2.0** (1.4-2.8)	**2.4** (1.9-3.1)	**1.5** (1.0-2.2)	**1.5** (1.0-2.1)	**1.5** (1.1-2.0)	**1.5** (1.1-2.0)	**2.0** (1.7-2.5)	†	**0.9** [bc] (0.6-1.3)
Mushrooms/Mescaline		**17.1** (15.0-19.3)	**15.3** (13.0-17.8)	**13.2** (11.5-15.1)	**9.0** (7.5-10.8)	**7.6** (6.3-9.0)	**6.8** (5.7-8.1)	**5.0** (3.9-6.2)	**3.7** (2.7-5.1)	**3.2** (2.4-4.3)	**4.0** (3.3-4.8)	**4.5** (3.9-5.2)	**5.0** (3.0-8.1)	**3.4** [c] (2.7-4.4)
Methamphetamine		**6.3** (4.6-8.7)	**5.3** (3.5-7.8)	**5.5** (4.5-6.7)	**3.1** (2.4-4.0)	**2.3** (1.7-2.9)	**2.0** (1.4-2.7)	**1.2** (0.7-2.0)	**1.0** (0.6-1.5)	**1.1** (0.7-1.8)	**0.6** (0.3-1.1)	**0.7** (0.5-0.9)	†	† [c]
Cocaine		**4.0** (3.2-5.0)	**5.2** (4.1-6.6)	**5.7** (4.9-6.7)	**5.7** (4.8-6.8)	**4.0** (3.4-4.8)	**3.2** (2.5-4.0)	**2.4** (1.9-3.0)	**2.4** (1.7-3.4)	**2.5** (2.0-3.2)	**3.1** (2.2-4.2)	**2.6** (2.2-3.1)	†	**1.0** [bc] (0.7-1.3)
Ecstasy (MDMA)		**5.3** (4.0-7.1)	**7.9** (6.5-9.6)	**5.5** (4.7-6.4)	**6.2** (5.2-7.4)	**4.7** (3.9-5.7)	**4.3** (3.5-5.2)	**4.4** (3.5-5.6)	**3.3** (2.4-4.5)	**5.4** (4.5-6.4)	**3.4** (2.6-4.4)	**2.3** (1.9-2.7)	†	**0.6** [bc] (0.4-0.9)
Heroin		**2.1** (1.5-2.7)	**1.2** (0.8-1.7)	**1.5** (1.1-1.9)	**0.9** (0.7-1.2)	**1.0** (0.7-1.5)	**0.8** (0.6-1.2)	†	†	**0.5** (0.3-0.7)	†	†	†	† [c]
Fentanyl		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**0.9** (0.5-1.6)	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	†	†
Tranquillizers/Sedatives (NM)		**2.5** (1.9-3.3)	**2.7** (1.8-3.9)	**2.8** (1.2-3.4)	**2.1** (1.7-2.7)	**2.2** (1.7-2.8)	**2.0** (1.5-2.6)	**2.5** (1.9-3.3)	**2.4** (1.8-3.2)	**2.1** (1.7-2.7)	**2.7** (2.1-3.4)	**2.9** (2.4-3.4)	†	**1.7** [b] (1.3-2.2)
Any Prescription Drug (NM)		—	—	—	—	**23.5** (21.5-25.6)	**21.4** (20.0-22.9)	**17.0** (15.3-18.9)	**15.2** (13.8-16.7)	**12.1** (11.0-13.4)	**13.7** (12.4-15.2)	**13.4** (12.5-14.3)	**12.7** (10.2-15.5)	**22.9** [ab] (21.4-24.4)
Any Drug (excluding cannabis)		**22.7** (20.0-25.7)	**20.1** (17.9-22.6)	**16.9** (15.1-18.9)	**14.0** (12.3-15.9)	**11.8** (10.3-13.4)	**10.5** (9.3-11.8)	**9.4** (8.2-10.8)	**7.8** (6.3-9.7)	**9.1** (7.8-10.5)	**7.7** (6.7-9.0)	**7.7** (7.0-8.5)	**7.0** (4.6-10.4)	**5.6** [bc] (4.8-6.7)

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (3) NM = nonmedical use, without a doctor's prescription; (4) ADHD = Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; (5) "Any Prescription Drug (NM)" refers to nonmedical use of prescription opioids, ADHD drugs, or tranquillizers/sedatives; (6) "Any Drug" refers to use of any one of the following seven drugs measured in all surveys: LSD, mushrooms, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy (MDMA), or tranquillizers/sedatives (NM use); (7) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (8) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01 (vs. first year of monitoring for other drugs).
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.2.2: Frequent Drug Use: Percentage Using the Drug Six Times or More Often in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

		1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
AMONG GRADES 7–12	(n=)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Cannabis		**15.5** (14.0-17.1)	**16.4** (14.4-18.6)	**16.5** (14.8-18.4)	**14.9** (13.4-16.6)	**14.2** (12.6-15.9)	**14.5** (13.1-16.0)	**12.9** (11.4-14.6)	**13.0** (11.1-15.2)	**12.4** (10.9-14.0)	**9.8** (8.4-11.4)	**11.5** (10.5-12.7)	**9.5** (6.2-14.4)	**9.1** [bc] (7.9-10.5)
Cough/Cold Medication (NM)		—	—	—	—	—	**2.5** (1.8-3.4)	**2.5** (1.7-3.6)	**2.4** (1.8-3.2)	**1.8** (1.4-2.3)	**2.0** (1.4-2.7)	**1.7** (1.4-2.0)	†	**2.6** [b] (2.2-3.2)
Opioid Pain Relievers (NM)		—	—	—	—	**8.0** (6.8-9.3)	**6.9** (6.2-7.6)	**5.4** (4.6-6.4)	**4.2** (3.7-4.8)	**3.7** (3.1-4.5)	**3.4** (2.9-4.1)	**3.8** (3.3-4.4)	**5.6** (4.0-7.9)	**8.9** [ab] (8.1-9.7)
ADHD Drugs (NM)		—	—	—	—	†	†	†	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.3)	**0.8** (0.6-1.1)	**1.0** (0.8-1.3)	†	**0.6** (0.4-0.9)
AMONG GRADES 9–12	(n=)	(2883)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)
LSD		**2.5** (1.7-3.7)	**1.3** (0.7-2.3)	**0.9** (0.6-1.3)	†	†	**0.5** (0.3-0.8)	†	†	†	**0.6** (0.3-1.1)	†	†	†
Mushrooms/Mescaline		**5.6** (4.4-7.1)	**4.3** (3.4-5.5)	**3.6** (2.9-4.4)	**1.8** (1.3-2.6)	**1.4** (1.0-1.9)	**1.4** (0.9-2.1)	**0.7** (0.4-1.1)	**0.7** (0.4-1.3)	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	**1.0** (0.7-1.4)	†	**0.5** (0.3-0.8)
Methamphetamine		**1.7** (1.0-2.7)	†	**1.5** (1.0-2.2)	**0.7** (0.5-1.2)	**0.5** (0.4-0.8)	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	†	†	**0.6** (0.4-0.9)	†	†	†	†
Cocaine		**1.4** (1.0-2.2)	**1.2** (0.7-1.9)	**2.0** (1.5-2.6)	**2.1** (1.6-2.8)	**1.7** (1.2-2.4)	**1.1** (0.8-1.6)	**0.7** (0.5-1.0)	**1.0** (0.7-1.5)	**1.0** (0.7-1.6)	**1.0** (0.6-1.8)	**0.9** (0.7-1.2)	†	†
Ecstasy (MDMA)		**1.5** (0.9-2.4)	**2.2** (1.4-3.2)	**1.6** (1.2-2.1)	**2.2** (1.6-3.0)	**1.6** (1.2-2.1)	**1.4** (1.1-2.0)	**1.2** (0.8-1.6)	**0.6** (0.4-1.0)	**1.9** (1.4-2.7)	**0.7** (0.4-1.1)	**0.6** (0.4-0.9)	†	†
Tranquillizers/Sedatives (NM)		**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	†	**0.7** (0.5-1.1)	**0.5** (0.3-0.7)	**0.6** (0.4-0.9)	**0.6** (0.4-1.0)	**0.8** (0.4-1.5)	†	**0.6** (0.3-1.0)	†	**0.9** (0.6-1.2)	†	†

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability (< 0.5%); (3) NM = nonmedical use, without a doctor's prescription; (4) estimates for heroin, fentanyl, ADHD drugs (NM) are not presented, all years 0.5% or less; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01.

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Long-Term Trends, 1977–2023 (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

(Figures 3.2.3–3.2.5; Table A1)

Many past year prevalence estimates for drugs monitored since 1977 show a common pattern of use: a peak in the late 1970s, a decline in use during the late 1980s or early 1990s, a second peak in the late 1990s or early 2000s, followed by another decline. Use of some drugs has reached all-time lows in recent years, while other drugs show low and stable estimates in recent years.

The long-term changes can be further categorized into the following four patterns:

Pattern 1: After peaking in the late 1970s/early 1980s and again in the late 1990s, past year prevalence has reached an all-time low in recent years. As shown in Figure 3.2.3, this pattern applies to the following drugs:

- tobacco cigarettes
- alcohol (and binge drinking)
- LSD
- cocaine
- methamphetamine (includes crystal methamphetamine).

Pattern 2: Pattern 2 is similar to pattern 1, with one important difference – current use has not reached an all-time low in recent years as the current level is similar to the lows seen in the late 1980s/early 1990s. As shown in Figure 3.2.4, this pattern applies to the following drugs:

- cannabis.

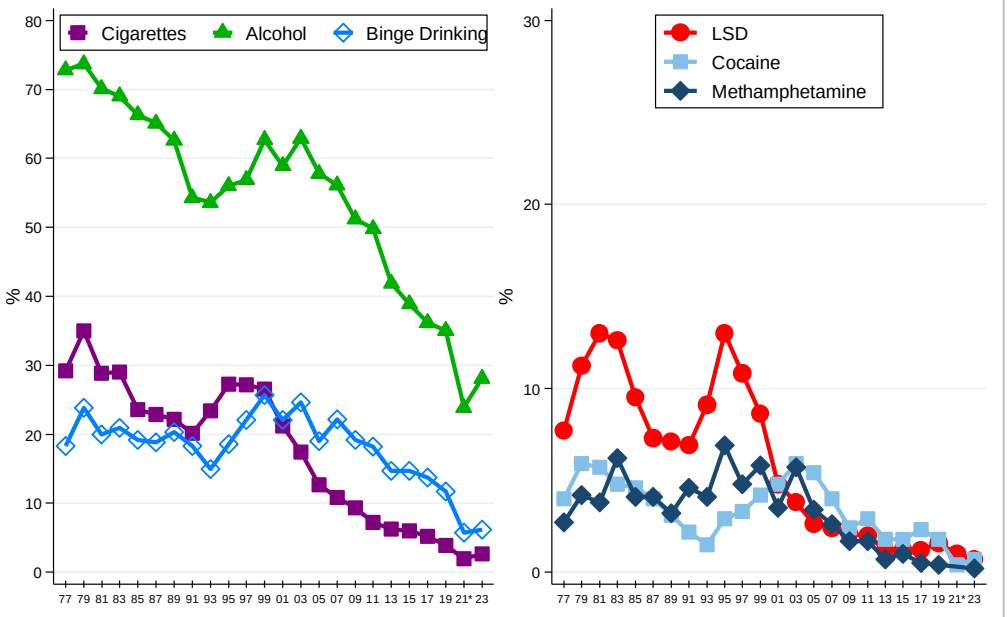
Pattern 3: Prevalence shows only one peak in the late 1990s or early 2000s (or the late 1970s for tranquillizers), followed by a decline, reaching all-time lows in recent years. As shown in Figure 3.2.5, this pattern applies to the following drugs:

- mushrooms/mescaline
- ecstasy (MDMA)
- tranquillizers/sedatives (NM).

Pattern 4: Prevalence was very low and stable for decades, reaching an all-time low in recent years. This pattern applies to the following drugs:

- heroin.

Figure 3.2.3
Pattern 1: Long-Term Drug Use Trends, 1977–2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) binge drinking refers to drinking 5 or more drinks on one occasion at least once in the past month; (2) estimates for LSD, cocaine and methamphetamine exclude Grade 7 students; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Figure 3.2.4
Pattern 2: Long-Term Drug Use Trends, 1977–2023 OSDUHS

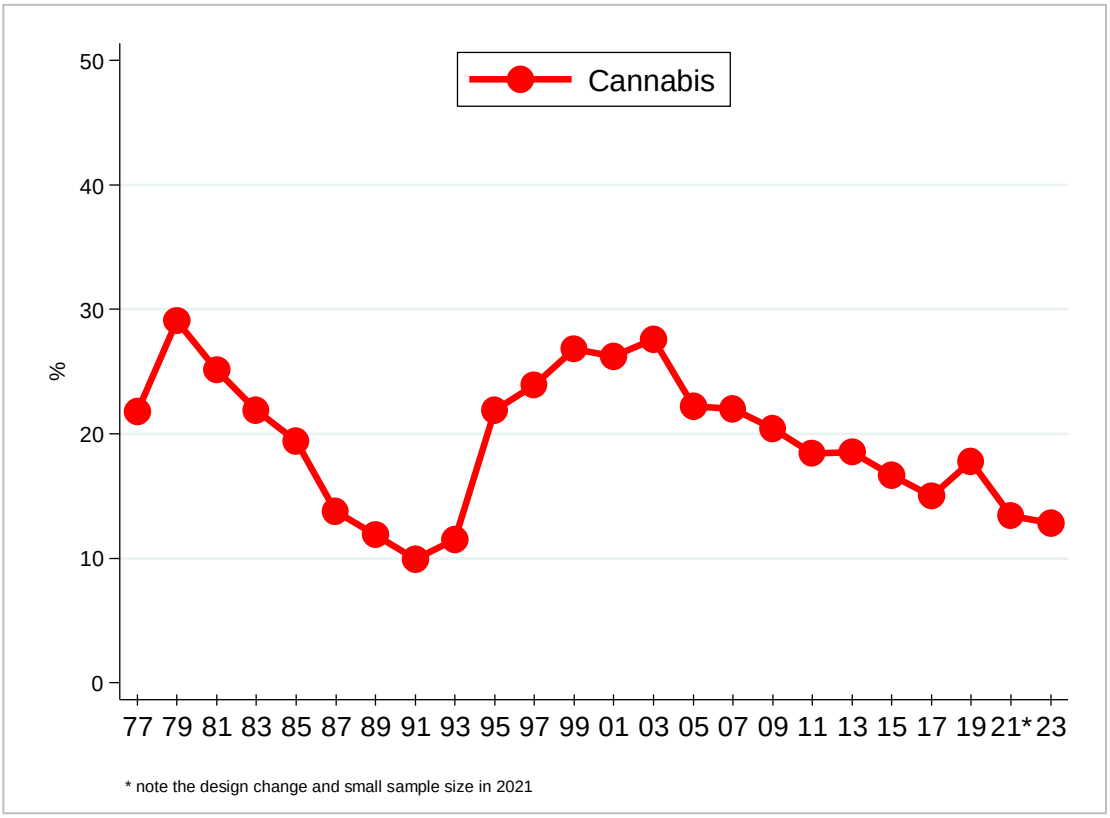
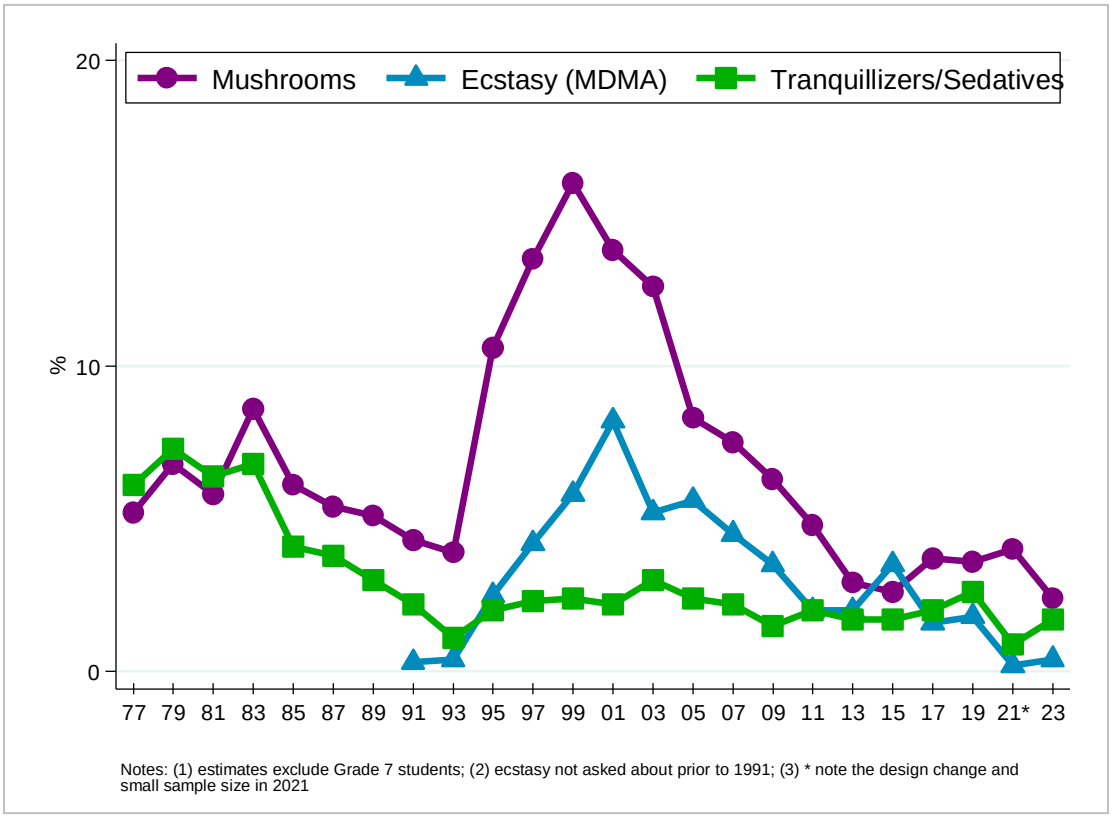


Figure 3.2.5
Pattern 3: Long-Term Drug Use Trends, 1977–2023 OSDUHS



3.3 Use of Tobacco and Alternative Smoking Devices

Past Year Tobacco Cigarette Smoking: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.3.1; Table 3.3.1)

Total

- Overall, 3.2% of students report smoking tobacco cigarettes during the 12 months before the survey. This estimate includes daily and occasional smoking, but excludes those who only tried a few puffs of a cigarette.
- Less than 1% (0.8%) of students smoke tobacco cigarettes daily.

Sex

- Males (3.0%) and females (3.5%) are equally likely to smoke tobacco cigarettes.

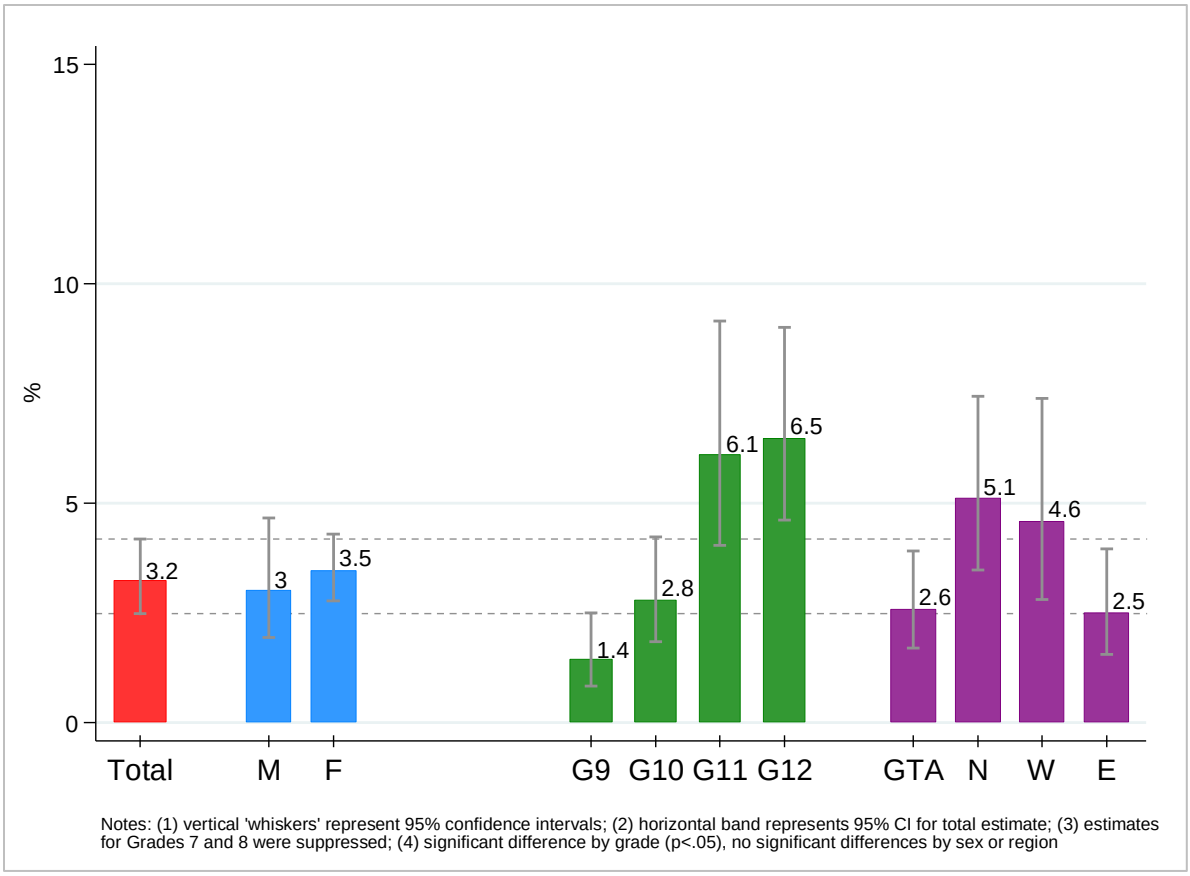
Grade

- The prevalence of smoking is very low (less than 1%) among students in grades 7 and 8. About 1.4% of 9th graders smoke cigarettes and the prevalence significantly increases with grade, reaching 6.5% among 12th graders.

Region

- Despite some variation, there are no significant differences among the four regions with respect to past year smoking prevalence.

Figure 3.3.1
Past Year Tobacco Cigarette Smoking by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimates for Grades 7 and 8 were suppressed; (4) significant difference by grade (p<.05), no significant differences by sex or region

Past Year Tobacco Cigarette Smoking: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.3.2; Tables 3.3.1, 3.3.2)

Total

- Past year tobacco cigarette smoking among students in grades 7–12 did not significantly change between 2021 (4.1%) and 2023 (3.2%). However, the current estimate is lower than in 2019 (5.0%). There has been a dramatic decline in smoking since 1999, when the estimate was at 28.4%.
- Daily cigarette smoking has been low and stable in recent years (less than 1%), but has shown a dramatic decline since 1999 when the estimate was 22%.

Sex

- Neither males nor females show a significant change in cigarette smoking since 2021. However, smoking has significantly decreased for both since 1999.

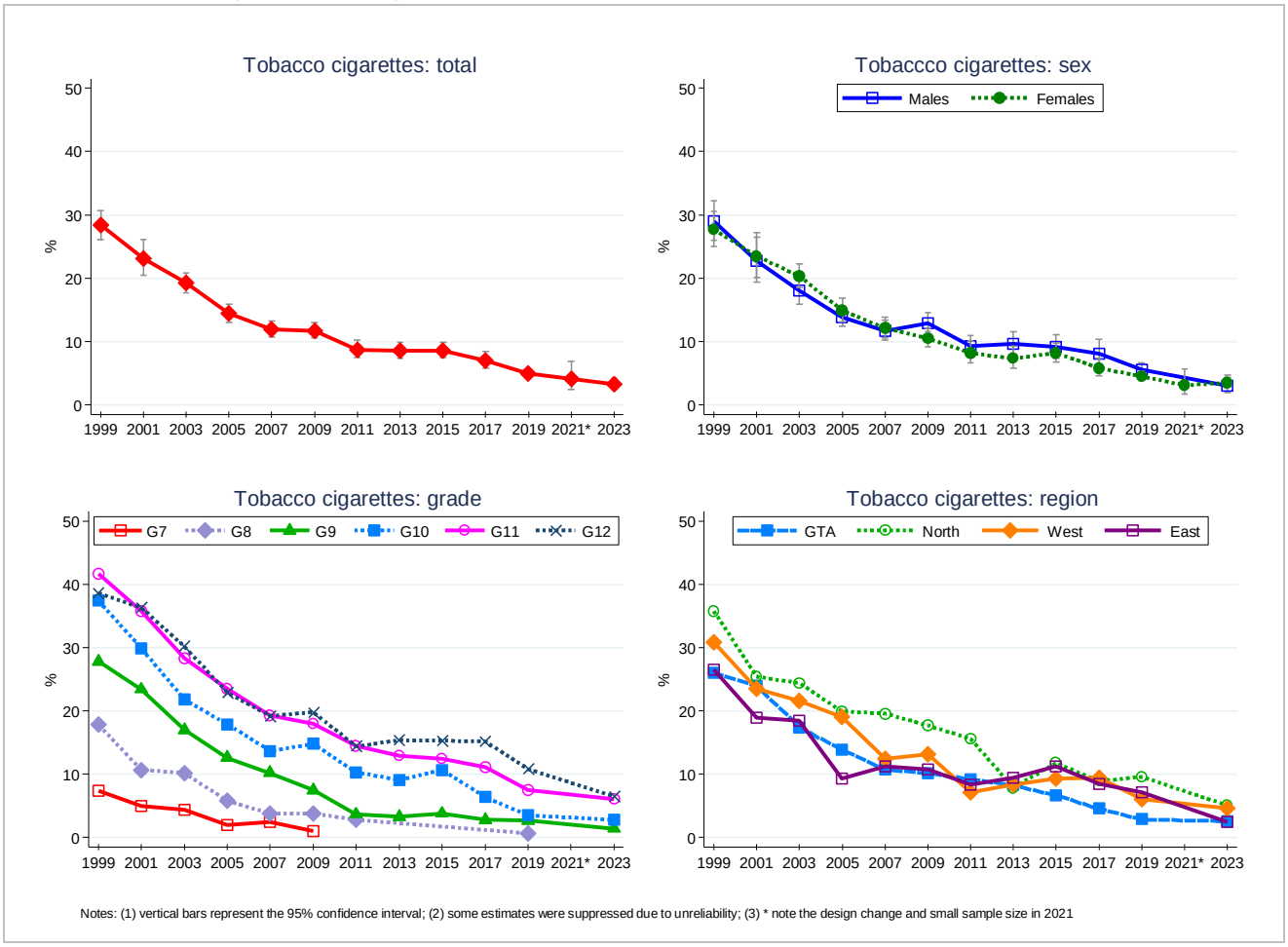
Grade

- No grade shows a significant change since 2021. However, smoking has significantly decreased among all grades since 1999.

Region

- No region shows a significant change since 2021. However, smoking has significantly decreased in all regions since 1999.

Figure 3.3.2
Past Year Tobacco Cigarette Smoking, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



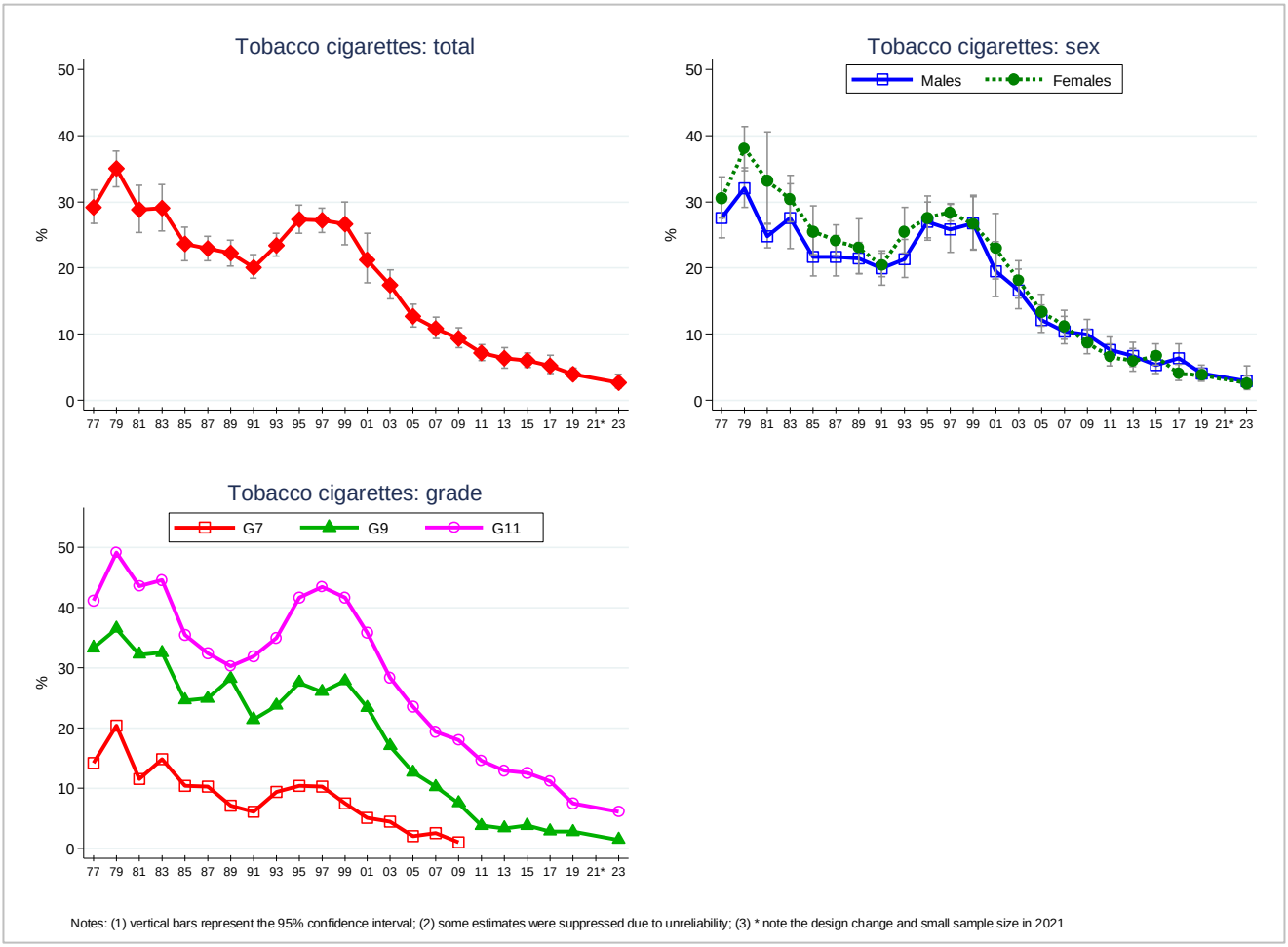
Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Past Year Tobacco Cigarette Smoking: 1977–2023 Trends (Grades 7, 9, 11 only)

(Figure 3.3.3; Table A1)

- Looking back over the past four decades (among grades 7, 9, and 11 only), the highest smoking prevalence rate was seen in 1979, at 35%. Smoking decreased in the 1980s, but increased again in the late 1990s. Smoking began another downward trend after 1999, reaching very low levels in recent years.

Figure 3.3.3
Past Year Tobacco Cigarette Smoking, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.3.1: Percentage Reporting Tobacco Cigarette Smoking in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Total	**28.4**	**23.1**	**19.2**	**14.4**	**11.9**	**11.7**	**8.7**	**8.5**	**8.6**	**7.0**	**5.0**	**4.1**	**3.2** [bcde]
(95% CI)	(26.1-30.7)	(20.4-26.1)	(17.7-20.8)	(13.0-15.9)	(10.7-13.2)	(10.6-13.0)	(7.5-10.2)	(7.2-9.9)	(7.5-9.9)	(5.8-8.4)	(4.5-5.7)	(2.4-6.9)	(2.5-4.2)
Sex													
Males	**29.0**	**22.7**	**18.0**	**13.9**	**11.7**	**12.9**	**9.3**	**9.6**	**9.1**	**8.1**	**5.6**	†	**3.0** [bc]
	(26.0-32.2)	(19.4-26.4)	(15.9-20.4)	(12.4-15.5)	(10.2-13.4)	(11.5-14.5)	(7.8-10.9)	(7.9-11.5)	(7.4-11.0)	(6.3-10.4)	(4.8-6.6)		(1.9-4.7)
Females	**27.7**	**23.5**	**20.3**	**14.9**	**12.1**	**10.5**	**8.2**	**7.3**	**8.2**	**5.8**	**4.4**	**3.1**	**3.5** [c]
	(25.0-30.6)	(20.1-27.2)	(18.5-22.3)	(13.1-16.8)	(10.6-13.8)	(9.1-12.0)	(6.6-10.1)	(5.8-9.3)	(6.8-9.8)	(4.6-7.3)	(3.8-5.3)	(1.7-5.7)	(2.8-4.3)
Grade													
7	**7.4**	**5.0**	**4.4**	**2.0**	**2.5**	**1.0**	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
	(5.2-10.3)	(3.2-7.6)	(2.8-6.8)	(1.2-3.4)	(1.2-5.3)	(0.6-1.8)							
8	**17.8**	**10.7**	**10.2**	**5.8**	**3.8**	**3.8**	**2.8**	†	†	†	**0.7**	†	† [c]
	(14.3-21.9)	(8.3-13.8)	(7.2-14.4)	(4.3-7.7)	(2.4-6.1)	(2.5-5.8)	(1.5-5.1)				(0.4-1.1)		
9	**27.8**	**23.4**	**17.0**	**12.6**	**10.2**	**7.5**	**3.7**	**3.3**	**3.8**	**2.8**	**2.7**	†	**1.4** [c]
	(23.6-32.5)	(17.5-30.6)	(13.9-20.6)	(10.4-15.1)	(8.1-12.9)	(5.5-10.2)	(2.5-5.5)	(2.3-4.7)	(2.8-5.2)	(1.7-4.5)	(2.0-3.8)		(0.8-2.5)
10	**37.4**	**29.9**	**21.8**	**17.9**	**13.7**	**14.8**	**10.3**	**9.1**	**10.7**	**6.4**	**3.5**	†	**2.8** [c]
	(32.0-43.1)	(25.6-34.6)	(18.4-25.6)	(15.2-20.8)	(11.4-16.5)	(12.1-17.9)	(7.2-14.5)	(6.8-12.0)	(8.2-13.8)	(4.9-8.2)	(2.7-4.5)		(1.8-4.2)
11	**41.7**	**35.8**	**28.3**	**23.5**	**19.3**	**17.9**	**14.5**	**12.9**	**12.5**	**11.1**	**7.5**	†	**6.1** [c]
	(35.4-48.4)	(29.8-42.2)	(24.3-32.6)	(20.0-27.2)	(16.3-22.7)	(14.9-21.5)	(12.1-17.3)	(9.7-16.9)	(10.1-15.3)	(8.1-15.1)	(5.9-9.6)		(4.0-9.2)
12	**38.6**	**36.3**	**30.2**	**22.9**	**19.2**	**19.8**	**14.4**	**15.4**	**15.3**	**15.2**	**10.8**	†	**6.5** [bc]
	(33.3-44.2)	(27.6-46.1)	(25.7-35.2)	(19.2-27.1)	(16.8-21.8)	(16.9-23.0)	(10.6-19.2)	(12.0-19.4)	(11.9-19.6)	(11.7-19.5)	(9.1-12.8)		(4.6-9.0)
Region													
GTA	**26.0**	**24.0**	**17.4**	**13.9**	**10.8**	**10.2**	**9.2**	**8.3**	**6.7**	**4.6**	**2.9**	†	**2.6** [c]
	(22.4-30.1)	(18.8-30.2)	(15.0-20.0)	(11.7-16.3)	(8.7-13.3)	(8.5-12.9)	(7.4-11.4)	(6.2-10.9)	(5.4-8.4)	(3.5-6.1)	(2.3-3.7)		(1.7-3.9)
North	**35.8**	**25.4**	**24.4**	**19.9**	**19.6**	**17.7**	**15.6**	**7.9**	**11.8**	**8.9**	**9.6**	†	**5.1** [bc]
	(30.3-41.6)	(20.3-31.2)	(19.7-29.7)	(16.4-24.0)	(16.4-23.2)	(15.5-20.2)	(13.5-18.1)	(5.9-10.5)	(9.1-15.3)	(6.9-11.4)	(7.3-12.6)		(3.5-7.4)
West	**30.9**	**23.5**	**21.6**	**19.1**	**12.4**	**13.2**	**7.1**	**8.4**	**9.3**	**9.4**	**6.1**	†	**4.6** [c]
	(26.1-36.1)	(18.6-29.2)	(18.4-25.2)	(15.7-23.1)	(9.8-15.6)	(10.5-16.5)	(4.8-10.3)	(6.2-11.3)	(6.6-13.0)	(6.9-12.8)	(5.0-7.4)		(2.8-7.4)
East	**26.5**	**18.9**	**18.4**	**9.3**	**11.3**	**10.8**	**8.3**	**9.4**	**11.2**	**8.5**	**7.2**	†	**2.5** [bc]
	(19.6-34.9)	(14.2-24.7)	(15.1-22.2)	(7.0-12.2)	(9.1-14.0)	(8.4-13.6)	(6.4-10.6)	(7.5-11.7)	(8.7-14.4)	(5.1-13.8)	(5.7-9.0)		(1.6-4.0)

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you smoke tobacco cigarettes? (The definition of cigarette smoking includes occasional smoking, but excludes a few puffs or smoking less than one whole cigarette in the past 12 months.)

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.3.2: Percentage Reporting Daily Tobacco Cigarette Smoking in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Total	**22.0**	**17.9**	**13.6**	**8.6**	**5.2**	**5.1**	**3.9**	**3.4**	**3.1**	**2.3**	**1.6**	†	**0.8** [bcde]
(95% CI)	(19.8-24.4)	(14.7-21.7)	(12.3-15.1)	(7.4-9.9)	(4.5-6.1)	(4.4-6.1)	(3.1-4.8)	(2.6-4.6)	(2.5-3.8)	(1.7-3.2)	(1.3-1.9)		(0.5-1.2)
Sex													
Males	**22.3**	**17.8**	**13.0**	**8.5**	**5.3**	**5.3**	**4.7**	**4.1**	**3.4**	**3.4**	**2.0**	†	**0.9** [c]
	(19.3-25.7)	(14.8-21.4)	(11.1-15.1)	(7.2-10.0)	(4.4-6.5)	(4.3-6.5)	(3.8-5.9)	(2.8-5.8)	(2.6-4.5)	(2.4-4.8)	(1.5-2.6)		(0.5-1.7)
Females	**21.7**	**17.9**	**14.3**	**8.6**	**5.1**	**5.0**	**3.0**	**2.7**	**2.7**	**1.2**	**1.2**	†	**0.6** [c]
	(19.1-24.6)	(14.7-21.7)	(12.8-15.9)	(7.2-10.2)	(4.1-6.3)	(4.1-6.1)	(2.0-4.3)	(1.8-4.1)	(1.9-3.7)	(0.8-1.9)	(0.9-1.5)		(0.4-0.9)
Grade													
7	**4.2**	**3.2**	**3.2**	**0.9**	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
	(2.8-6.2)	(1.6-6.0)	(1.8-5.6)	(0.5-1.7)									
8	**13.3**	**7.3**	**6.1**	**2.6**	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
	(10.1-17.2)	(5.2-10.2)	(4.0-9.4)	(1.7-3.7)									
9	**20.8**	**18.6**	**12.8**	**6.7**	**4.0**	**3.5**	†	**1.0**	**1.3**	†	**0.6**	†	† [c]
	(16.8-25.5)	(13.0-25.8)	(10.0-16.3)	(5.2-8.7)	(2.8-5.6)	(2.1-6.0)		(0.6-1.7)	(0.7-2.5)		(0.3-1.0)		
10	**28.7**	**22.2**	**16.3**	**10.2**	**5.4**	**6.4**	**5.9**	**4.4**	**3.5**	**1.9**	**1.1**	†	† [c]
	(23.6-34.4)	(17.9-27.2)	(13.3-20.0)	(8.0-12.9)	(4.0-7.3)	(4.8-8.5)	(3.6-9.6)	(2.8-7.0)	(2.4-5.2)	(1.0-3.5)	(0.7-1.9)		
11	**34.7**	**29.4**	**18.4**	**14.7**	**9.9**	**8.6**	**6.2**	**4.9**	**3.9**	**3.4**	**2.5**	†	† [c]
	(28.5-41.5)	(24.1-35.4)	(15.0-22.3)	(11.6-18.4)	(8.0-12.3)	(6.2-11.7)	(4.6-8.1)	(3.2-7.4)	(2.9-5.4)	(2.2-5.3)	(1.8-3.4)		
12	**30.9**	**29.3**	**22.3**	**15.1**	**8.6**	**8.3**	**5.9**	**6.3**	**6.0**	**5.5**	**3.6**	†	**1.2** [bc]
	(25.9-36.4)	(20.3-40.2)	(18.0-27.4)	(12.1-18.6)	(6.8-10.9)	(6.3-10.7)	(4.1-8.5)	(3.9-10.2)	(4.1-8.5)	(3.8-7.9)	(2.5-5.0)		(0.6-2.3)
Region													
GTA	**19.7**	**19.5**	**12.7**	**8.2**	**4.3**	**3.7**	**4.1**	**2.9**	**2.1**	**1.8**	**1.0**	†	**0.5** [c]
	(16.6-23.4)	(14.5-25.5)	(10.8-14.8)	(6.7-10.1)	(3.4-5.4)	(2.7-5.0)	(3.1-5.3)	(1.8-4.6)	(1.4-3.0)	(1.2-2.9)	(0.6-1.5)		(0.3-0.9)
North	**28.4**	**18.9**	**18.6**	**12.1**	**11.6**	**9.3**	**8.0**	†	**5.3**	**3.2**	**4.3**	†	**2.0** [c]
	(22.9-34.6)	(14.1-24.9)	(13.4-25.2)	(9.0-16.1)	(8.9-15.0)	(7.4-11.6)	(5.1-12.2)		(3.7-7.5)	(1.8-5.5)	(2.5-7.1)		(1.2-3.2)
West	**25.1**	**18.6**	**14.9**	**12.5**	**6.2**	**6.8**	**3.5**	**4.0**	**3.3**	**2.5**	**2.0**	†	† [c]
	(20.0-31.1)	(13.9-24.4)	(12.0-18.5)	(9.2-16.7)	(4.3-8.8)	(4.9-9.4)	(1.8-6.5)	(2.3-7.0)	(2.2-4.9)	(1.7-3.7)	(1.5-2.6)		
East	**19.5**	**12.3**	**12.3**	**4.5**	**4.1**	**4.3**	**3.0**	**3.8**	**4.4**	†	**1.7**	†	† [c]
	(13.8-26.9)	(8.9-16.9)	(9.5-15.7)	(3.1-6.6)	(2.8-6.0)	(3.2-5.6)	(1.9-4.5)	(2.2-6.4)	(2.9-6.8)		(1.1-2.7)		

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you smoke tobacco cigarettes? (Daily smoking is defined as typically smoking one or more cigarettes per day during the past year.)

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Lifetime Tobacco Cigarette Smoking
(Figure 3.3.4)

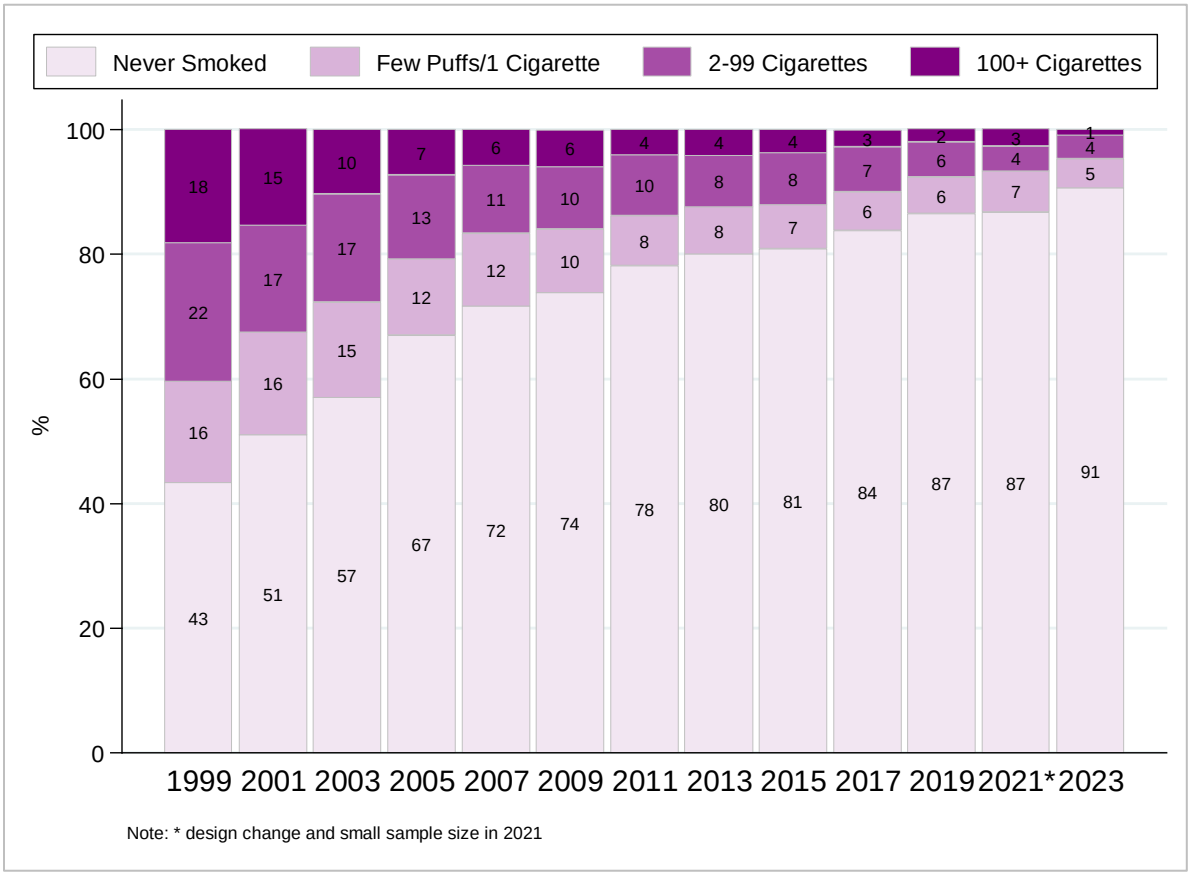
2023 (Grades 7–12):

- Although about 3% of all students in grades 7 to 12 are considered to be current smokers, about one-in-eleven (9%) have tried a tobacco cigarette at some point in their life. Specifically, about 5% of students have smoked a few puffs or one whole cigarette, while another 4% have consumed less than 100 cigarettes, and 1% have consumed 100 or more cigarettes in their lifetime.

1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12):

- Figure 3.3.4 displays the trends in lifetime smoking status since 1999. There has been a substantial increase in the percentage of students who have never smoked cigarettes in their lifetime, from less than half of students in 1999 to a vast majority of students in 2023.

Figure 3.3.4
Lifetime Tobacco Cigarette Smoking, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



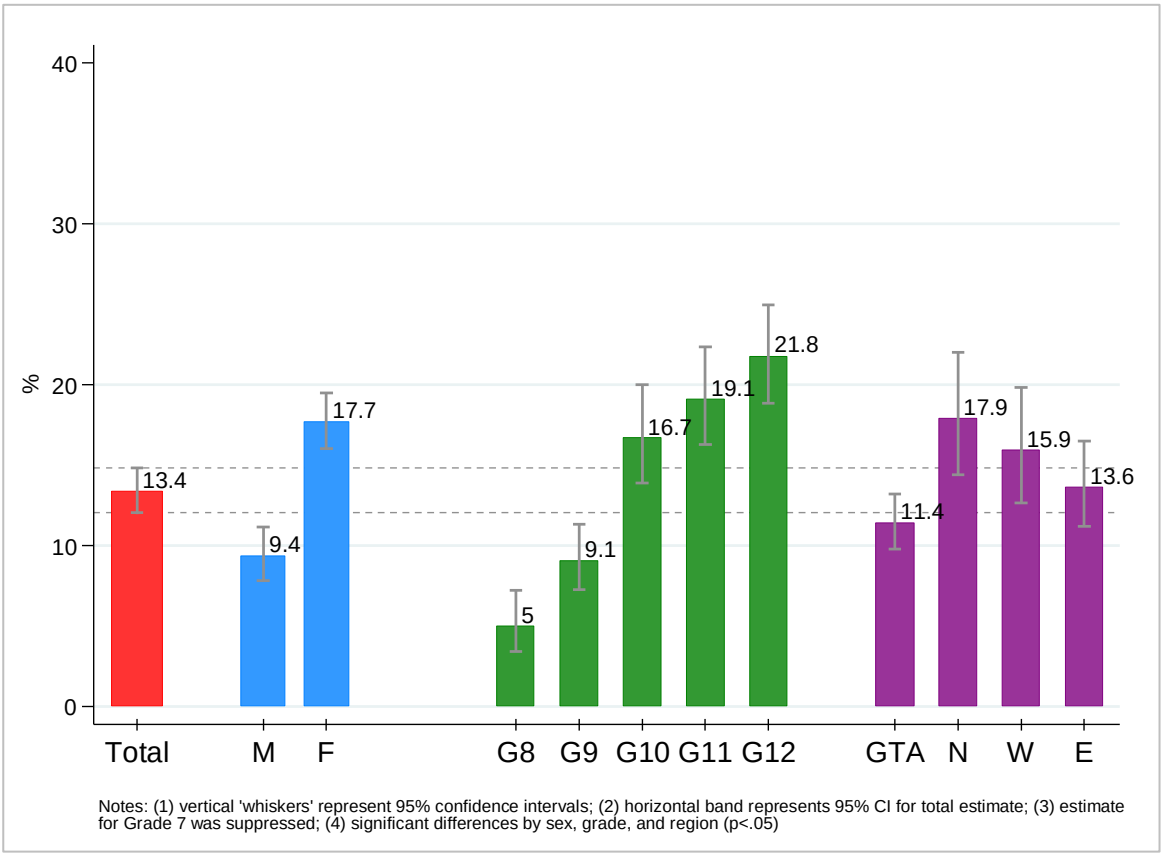
Note: * design change and small sample size in 2021

Past Year Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figures 3.3.5, 3.3.6; Table 3.3.3)

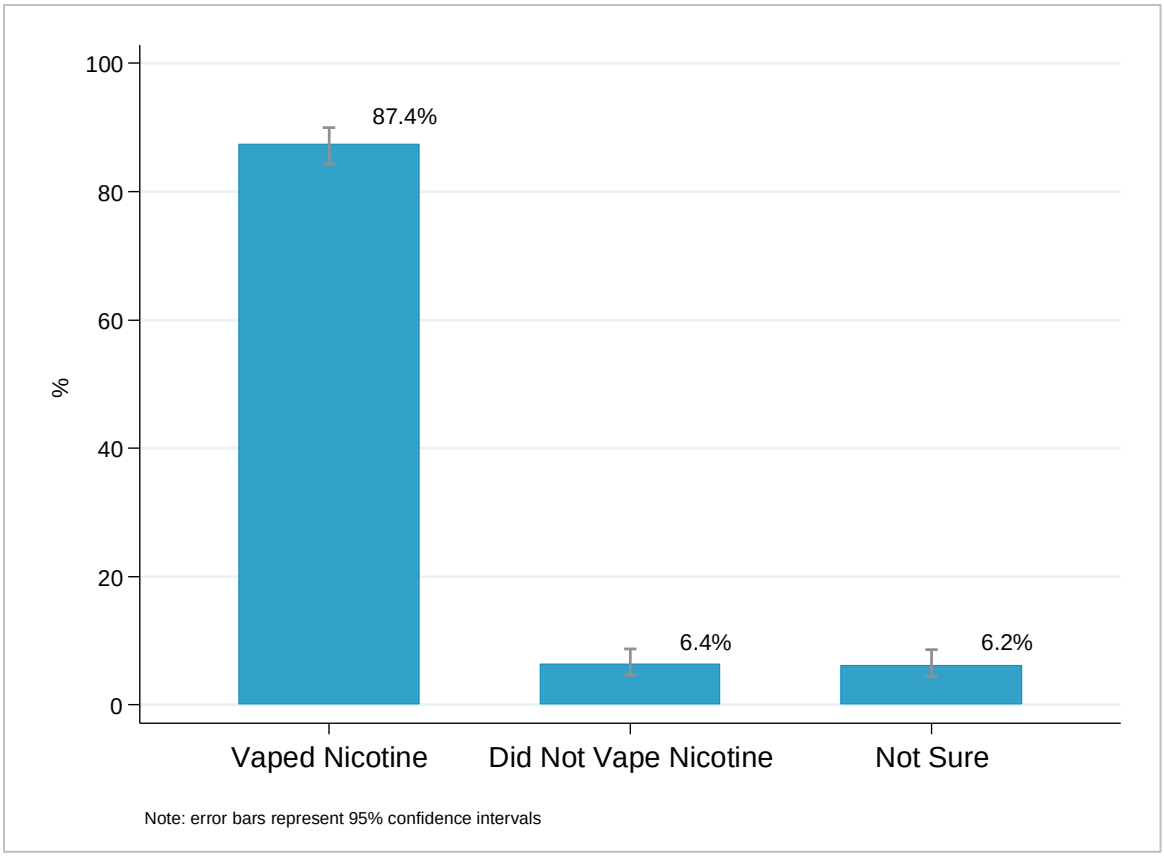
Total	• About one-in-eight (13.4%) students report vaping (more than just a few puffs) in the past year. • Among those who reported vaping more than a few puffs in the past year, a vast majority (87%) report vaping nicotine.
Sex	• Females are significantly more likely than males to report vaping in the past year (17.7% vs. 9.4%, respectively).
Grade	• The percentage of students reporting vaping in the past year significantly increases with grade, from 5.0% of 8th graders up to 21.8% of 12th graders.
Region	• Students in the Greater Toronto Area (11.4%) are least likely to vape, while students in the North region (17.9%) are most likely to vape. Those in the West region and East region fall in-between.

Figure 3.3.5
Past Year Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use (Any Type) by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimate for Grade 7 was suppressed; (4) significant differences by sex, grade, and region (p<.05)

Figure 3.3.6
Vaped Nicotine in the Past Year (Among Past Year Users in Grades 7–12), 2023 OSDUHS



Note: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Past Year Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use: 2015–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.3.7; Table 3.3.4)

Total

- The percentage of students reporting any vaping in the past year (more than only a few puffs) in 2023 (13.4%) is similar to the 2021 estimate (15.3%). Vaping increased between 2015 (11.7%) and 2019 (22.7%), but has subsequently decreased.[5]

Sex

- Neither males nor females show a significant change in past year vaping since 2021. Males show a significant decrease compared to 2015, and especially compared to 2019. While females show a decrease since 2019, the current estimate is substantially higher than in 2015, the first year of monitoring.

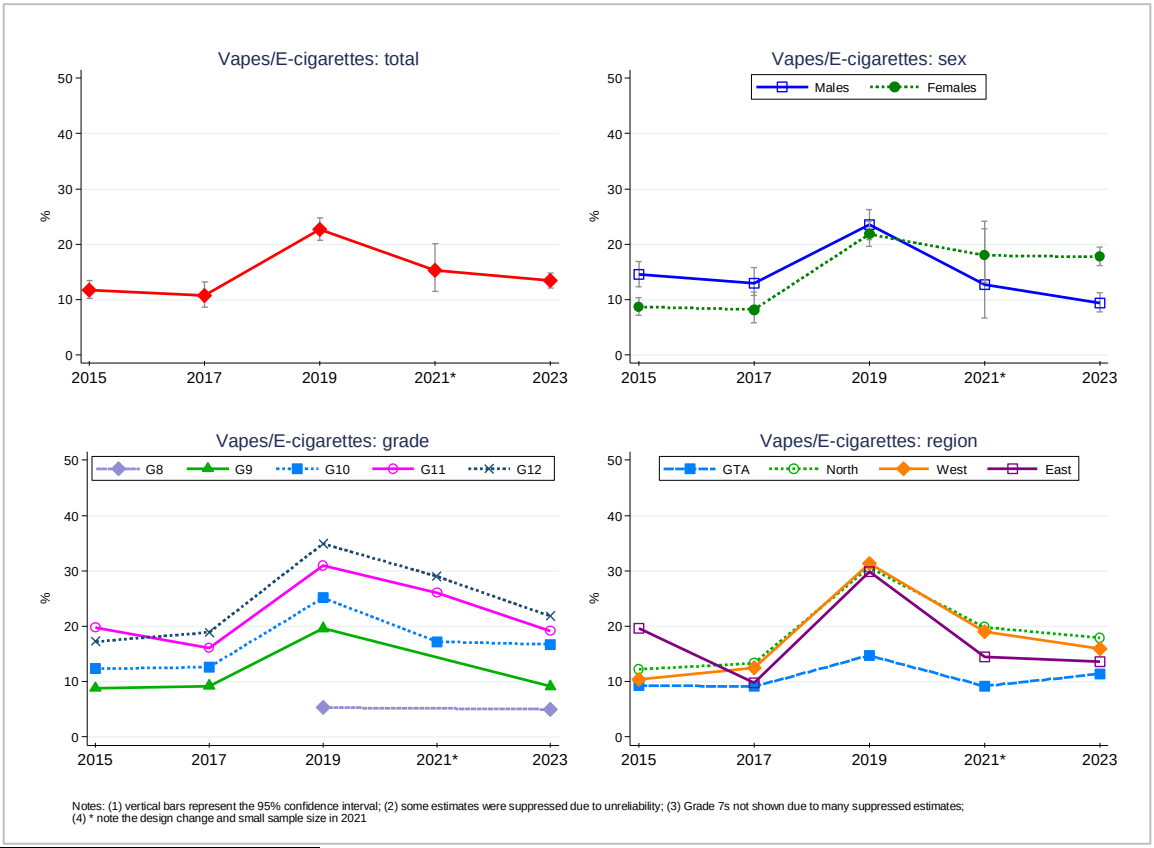
Grade

- Students in grades 9 to 12 show a similar trend in past year vaping, which is an increase between 2015 and 2019, followed by significant decrease in 2023. Students in grades 7 and 8 show low and stable rates of vaping.

Region

- Students in the North, West, and East regions show an increase between 2015 and 2019, followed by a significant decrease since then. Vaping among students in the Greater Toronto Area shows no discernable changes since 2015.

Figure 3.3.7
Past Year Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use (Any Type), 2015–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



[5] In the 2013 cycle, only secondary students were asked whether they had used e-cigarettes in their *lifetime*. The 2013 data showed that 15% of secondary school students reported using an electronic cigarette in their lifetime (including a few puffs). Applying a similar definition to the 2023 data, we found that 31% of secondary students reported using even just a few puffs of an electronic cigarette in their lifetime.

Table 3.3.3: Percentage Reporting Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use in the Past Year, 2015–2023 OSDUHS

		2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
	(n=)	(5023)	(5071)	(6525)	(2225)	(10145)
Total (95% CI)		**11.7** (10.2-13.4)	**10.7** (8.6-13.2)	**22.7** (20.7-24.8)	**15.3** (11.5-20.1)	**13.4** [bde] (12.1-14.8)
Sex						
	Males	**14.5** (12.3-16.9)	**13.0** (10.7-15.8)	**23.5** (20.8-26.3)	**12.7** (6.7-22.8)	**9.4** [bc] (7.8-11.2)
	Females	**8.7** (7.2-10.4)	**8.2** (5.8-11.4)	**21.8** (19.6-24.2)	**18.0** (13.1-24.2)	**17.7** [bc] (16.0-19.5)
Grade						
	7	†	†	**1.9** (1.0-3.4)	†	†
	8	†	†	**5.3** (3.8-7.5)	†	**5.0** (3.4-7.2)
	9	**8.8** (6.6-11.8)	**9.2** (6.4-13.1)	**19.6** (16.5-23.2)	†	**9.1** [b] (7.2-11.3)
	10	**12.3** (9.7-15.4)	**12.6** (9.4-16.7)	**25.1** (21.5-29.0)	**17.2** (11.1-25.8)	**16.7** [b] (13.9-20.0)
	11	**19.7** (16.6-23.2)	**16.1** (12.1-20.9)	**30.9** (26.3-36.1)	**26.0** (16.8-38.0)	**19.1** [b] (16.3-22.3)
	12	**17.2** (12.8-22.6)	**18.9** (15.0-23.6)	**34.9** (31.0-38.9)	**29.0** (14.2-50.3)	**21.8** [b] (18.8-25.0)
Region						
	Greater Toronto Area	**9.3** (7.7-11.3)	**9.1** (6.1-13.4)	**14.7** (12.4-17.4)	**9.2** (5.5-14.9)	**11.4** (9.8-13.2)
	North	**12.2** (8.6-17.0)	**13.3** (10.0-17.5)	**30.6** (24.0-38.2)	**19.8** (13.5-28.2)	**17.9** [b] (14.4-22.0)
	West	**10.4** (7.2-14.7)	**12.5** (9.2-16.8)	**31.3** (26.6-36.6)	**19.0** (11.5-29.7)	**15.9** [b] (12.7-19.8)
	East	**19.6** (14.8-25.4)	**9.8** (5.7-16.6)	**29.9** (26.0-34.1)	**14.4** (9.3-21.6)	**13.6** [b] (11.2-16.5)

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 7-12 from 2015 to 2019; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (5) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2015 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: To "vape" is to use a vaping device such as an electronic cigarette, vape pen, mod, tank, e-hookah, or vaporizer to inhale a mist into the lungs. In the last 12 months, how often did you vape? (Use excludes "Vaped only once in the last 12 months [only a few puffs])".

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Month Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figures 3.3.8-3.3.10; Table 3.3.4)

Total

- About one-in-nine (11.1%) students in grades 7-12 report vaping in the past month.
- More specifically, 3.6% report vaping once or twice in the past month, 2.9% report vaping weekly (between once a week and six times a week), and 4.5% report vaping on a daily basis in the past month.

Sex

- Females are significantly more likely than males to report vaping in the past month (14.6% vs. 7.8%, respectively). Females are also more likely than males to report vaping on a weekly or daily basis (9.7% vs. 5.3%, respectively).

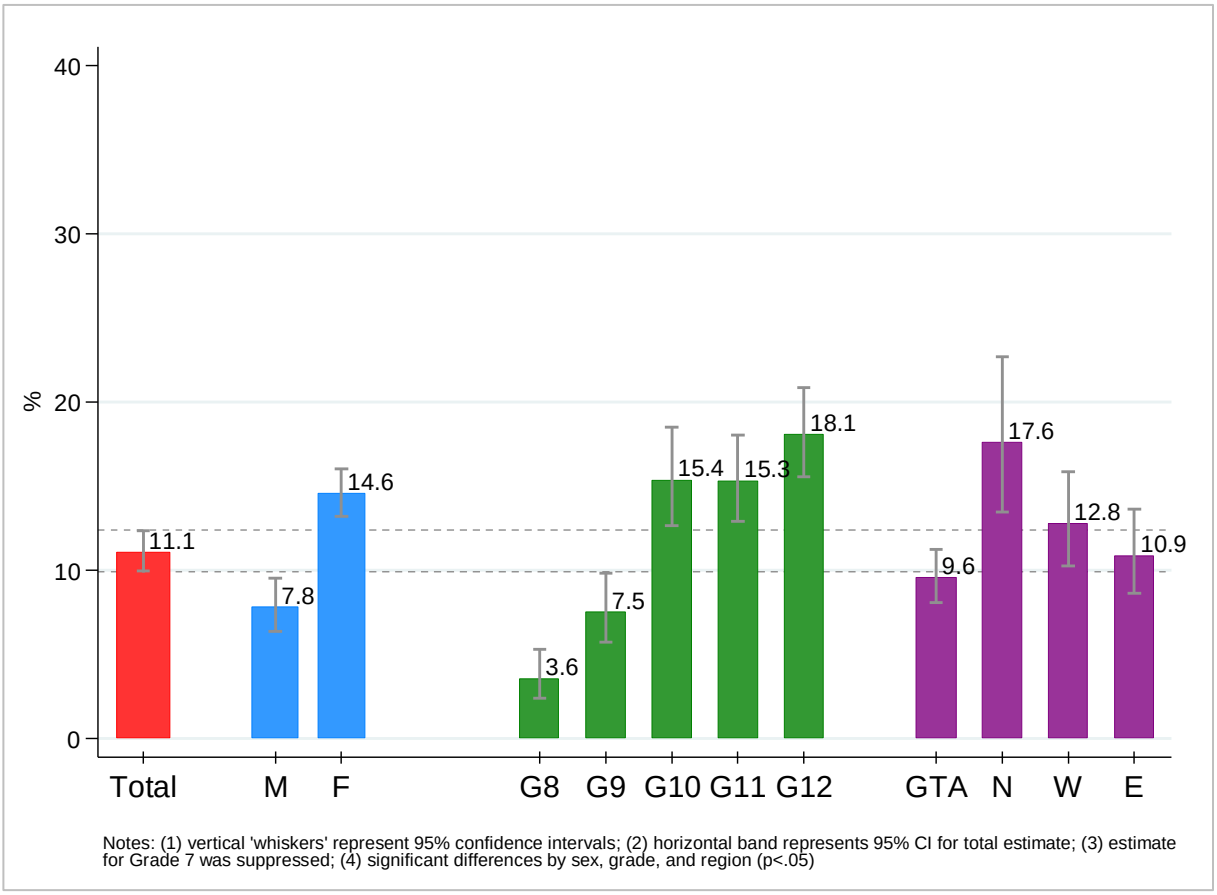
Grade

- The percentage reporting vaping in the past month significantly increases with grade, from 3.6% of 8th graders up to 18.1% of 12th graders.

Region

- Students in the Greater Toronto Area (9.6%) are least likely to report vaping in the past month, while students in the North (17.6%) are most likely.

Figure 3.3.8
Past Month Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use (Any Type) by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimate for Grade 7 was suppressed; (4) significant differences by sex, grade, and region (p<.05)

Figure 3.3.9
Frequency of Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use in the Past Month, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

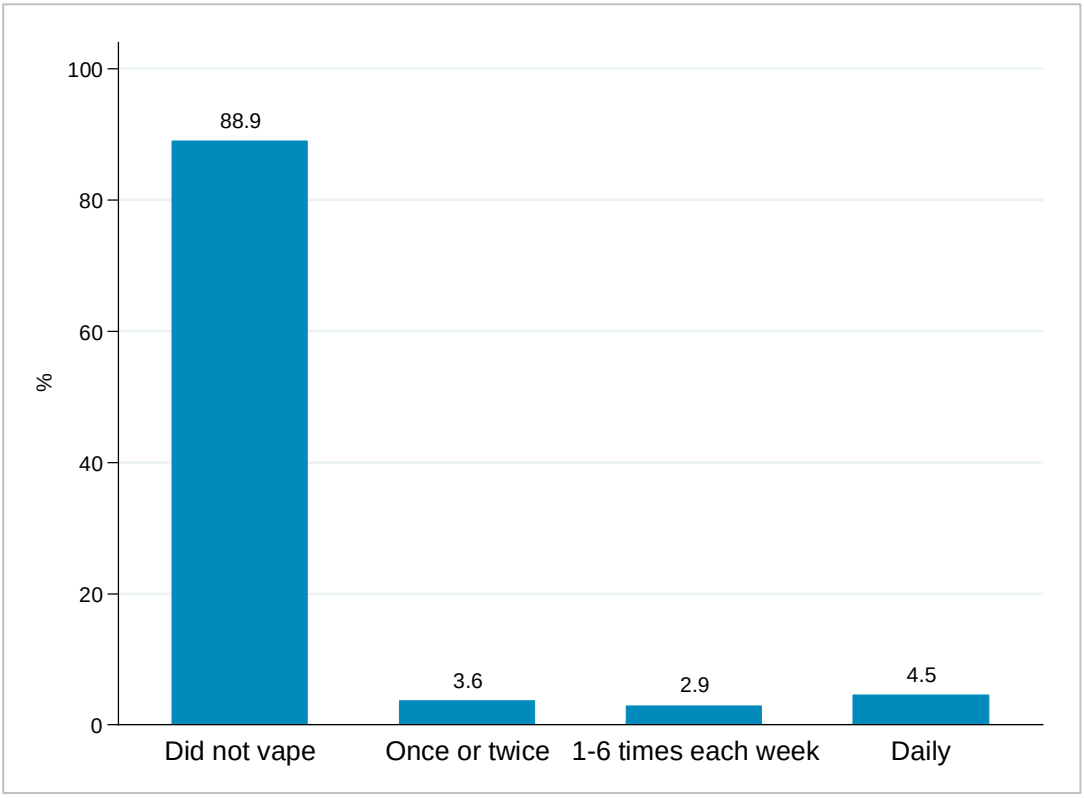
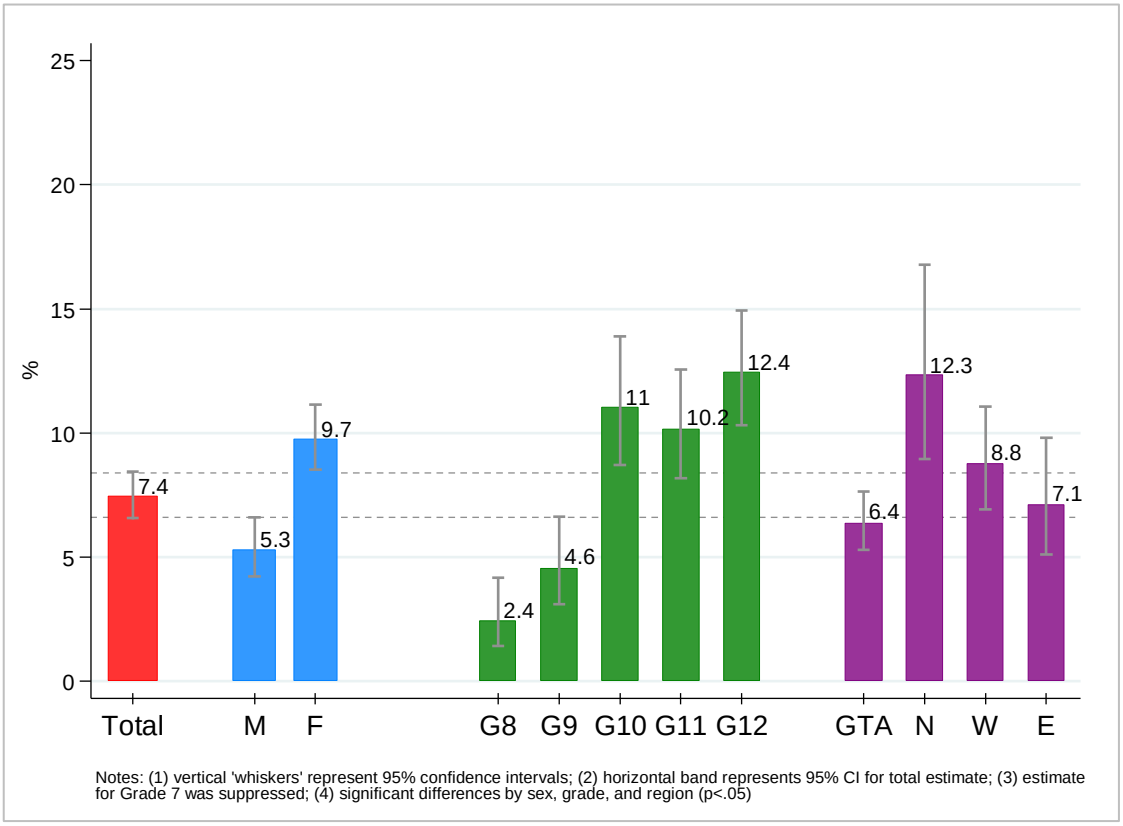


Figure 3.3.10
Weekly or Daily Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use in the Past Month by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimate for Grade 7 was suppressed; (4) significant differences by sex, grade, and region (p<.05)

Past Month Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use: 2023 vs. 2021 (Grades 7–12)

(Table 3.3.4)

Total	• The percentage of students reporting vaping in the past month remained stable between 2021 (11.5%) and 2023 (11.1%). • The percentage of students reporting vaping weekly or daily in the past month remained stable between 2021 (10.0%) and 2023 (7.4%).
Sex	• Neither males nor females show a significant change in vaping in the past month between 2021 and 2023.
Grade	• No grade shows a significant change.
Region	• No region shows a significant change.

Table 3.3.4: Percentage Reporting Vaping/Electronic Cigarette Use in the Past Month, 2021–2023 OSDUHS

		2021	2023
	(n=)	(2225)	(10145)
Total (95% CI)		**11.5** (7.8-16.6)	**11.1** (9.9-12.4)
Sex			
	Males	†	**7.8** (6.4-9.5)
	Females	**12.7** (8.4-18.6)	**14.6** (13.2-16.0)
Grade			
	7	†	†
	8	†	**3.6** (2.4-5.3)
	9	†	**7.5** (5.7-9.8)
	10	**10.6** (5.9-18.3)	**15.4** (12.7-18.5)
	11	**17.8** (10.4-28.9)	**15.3** (12.9-18.0)
	12	†	**18.1** (15.6-20.9)
Region			
	Greater Toronto Area	**5.4** (2.8-10.3)	**9.6** (8.1-11.3)
	North	**16.3** (12.1-21.6)	**17.6** (13.5-22.7)
	West	**14.9** (7.7-26.7)	**12.8** (10.2-15.9)
	East	**11.0** (6.5-18.2)	**10.9** (8.6-13.6)

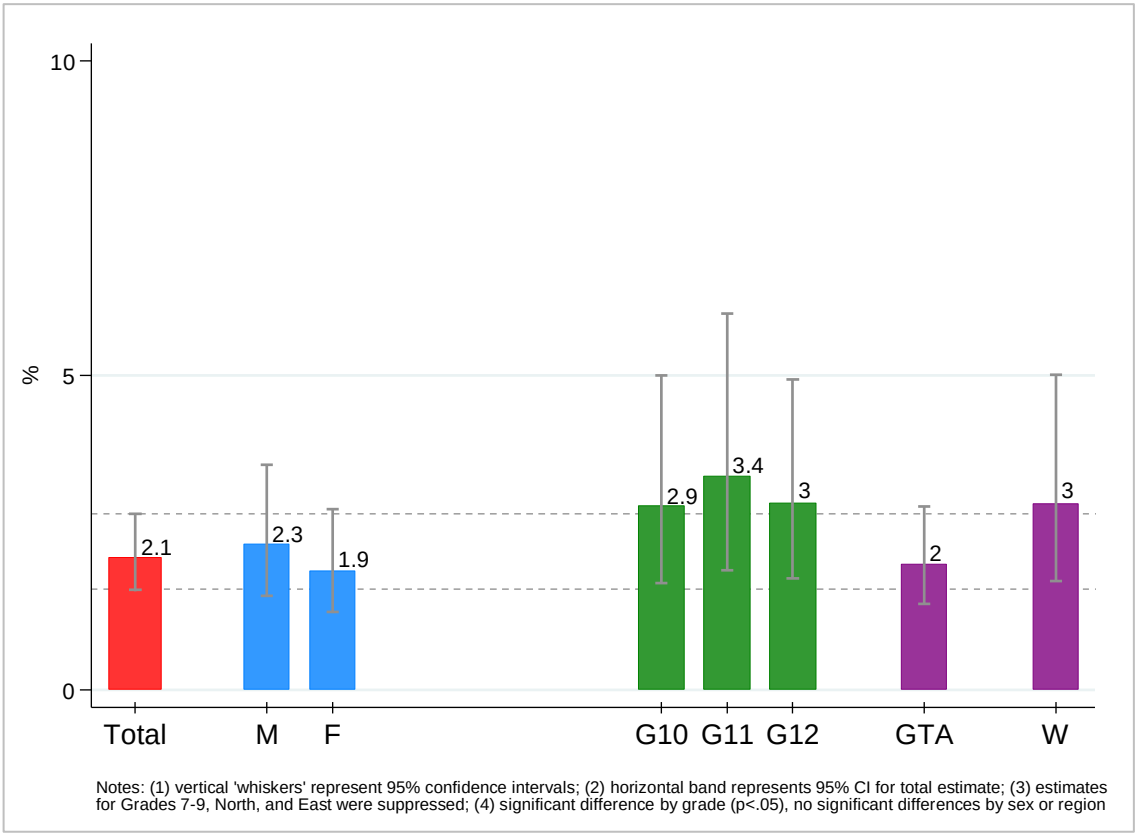
Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (3) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (4) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021.
Q: To “vape” is to use a vaping device such as an electronic cigarette, vape pen, mod, tank, e-hookah, or vaporizer to inhale a mist into the lungs. In the last 4 weeks, how often did you vape?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Waterpipe (Hookah) Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.3.11; Table 3.3.5)

Total	• About 2.1% of students report using a waterpipe (also known as a hookah, shisha, narghile) at least once in the past year (this excludes smoking "only a few puffs").
Sex	• Males (2.3%) and females (1.9%) are equally likely to use a waterpipe.
Grade	• The percentage reporting use of a waterpipe significantly increases with grade, ranging from a very small percentage of 7th and 8th graders (estimates suppressed) to about 3% of older students.
Region	• There are no significant differences among the four regions.

Figure 3.3.11
Past Year Waterpipe (Hookah) Use by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



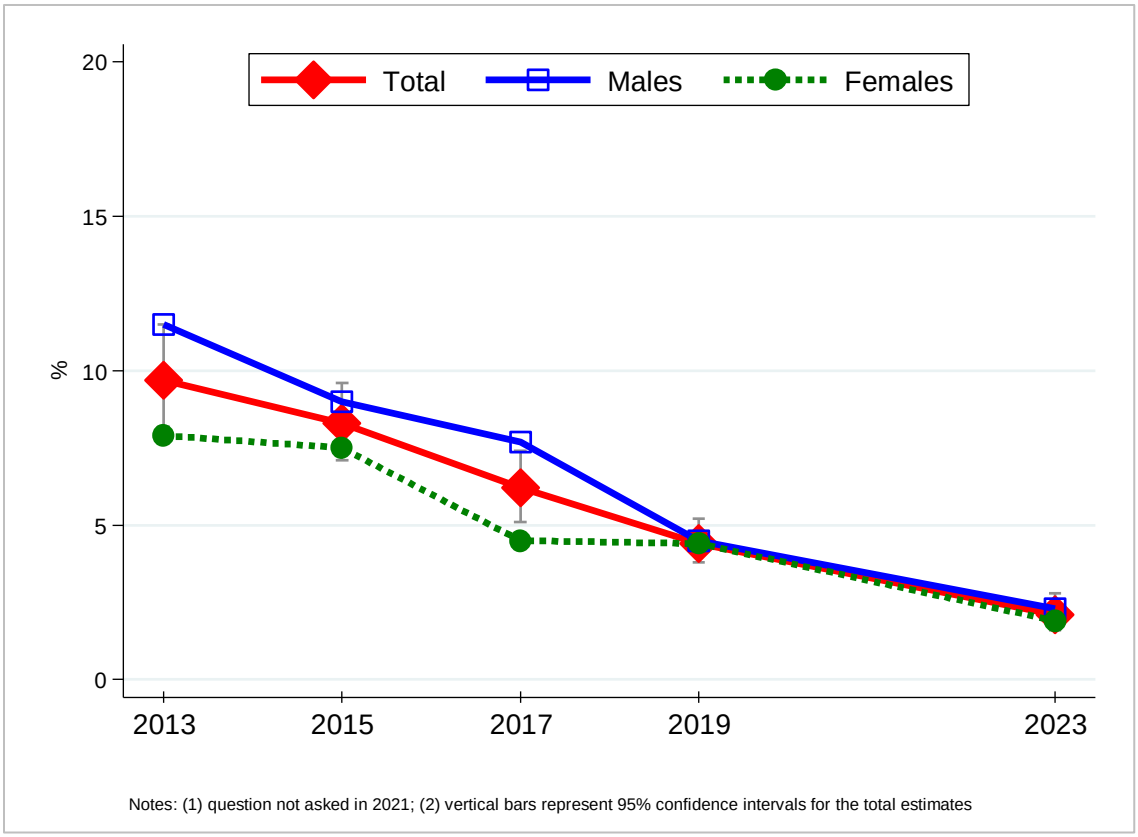
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimates for Grades 7-9, North, and East were suppressed; (4) significant difference by grade (p<.05), no significant differences by sex or region

Past Year Waterpipe (Hookah) Use: 2013–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.3.12; Table 3.3.5)

Total	• The percentage of students who report using a waterpipe in the past year (more than a few puffs) significantly decreased between 2019 (the previous cycle in which the question was asked) and 2023 (from 4.4% down to 2.1%). The 2023 estimate is the lowest on record since the first year of monitoring in 2013, when the estimate was at 9.7%.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant decrease in waterpipe use since 2019; males decreased from 4.5% to 2.3%, and females decreased from 4.4% to 1.9%. Both show significant decreases since 2013, the first year of monitoring.
Grade	• Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 show a significant decrease in waterpipe use since 2013.
Region	• All four regions show a significant decrease in waterpipe use since 2013.

Figure 3.3.12
Past Year Waterpipe (Hookah) Use by Sex, 2013–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) question not asked in 2021; (2) vertical bars represent 95% confidence intervals for the total estimates

Table 3.3.5: Percentage Reporting Waterpipe (Hookah) Use in the Past Year, 2013–2023 OSDUHS

		2013	2015	2017	2019	2023
	(n=)	(4794)	(5023)	(5071)	(6525)	(5054)
Total (95% CI)		**9.7** (8.2-11.5)	**8.3** (7.1-9.6)	**6.2** (5.1-7.3)	**4.4** (3.8-5.2)	**2.1** [bcd] (1.6-2.8)
Sex						
	Males	**11.5** (9.1-14.4)	**9.0** (7.3-10.9)	**7.7** (6.2-9.6)	**4.5** (3.6-5.6)	**2.3** [bc] (1.5-3.6)
	Females	**7.9** (6.4-9.6)	**7.5** (6.0-9.3)	**4.5** (3.5-5.7)	**4.4** (3.5-5.5)	**1.9** [bc] (1.2-2.9)
Grade						
	7	†	†	†	†	†
	8	†	†	†	†	†
	9	**4.3** (2.9-6.3)	**5.3** (3.7-7.4)	**3.3** (1.8-6.1)	**2.4** (1.5-3.7)	†
	10	**8.5** (5.8-12.3)	**8.4** (5.7-12.3)	**7.2** (5.1-10.1)	**3.7** (2.5-5.5)	**2.9** [c] (1.7-5.0)
	11	**15.1** (11.4-19.7)	**12.6** (9.9-16.0)	**10.8** (8.0-14.6)	**5.3** (4.0-7.1)	**3.4** [c] (1.9-6.0)
	12	**18.8** (14.6-23.9)	**14.4** (11.3-18.1)	**12.1** (9.4-15.6)	**9.4** (7.2-12.3)	**3.0** [bc] (1.8-4.9)
Region						
	Greater Toronto Area	**10.6** (8.6-13.5)	**8.6** (7.0-10.6)	**6.9** (5.4-8.7)	**4.1** (3.3-5.0)	**2.0** [bc] (1.4-2.9)
	North	**9.3** (5.3-15.8)	**7.3** (4.1-12.8)	**5.5** (3.9-7.8)	**3.7** (2.0-6.7)	† [c]
	West	**7.6** (5.1-11.3)	**7.2** (4.9-10.4)	**6.3** (4.7-8.3)	**5.9** (4.2-8.1)	**3.0** [c] (1.7-5.0)
	East	**11.2** (8.2-15.0)	**9.1** (6.3-13.1)	**5.0** (3.0-8.1)	**3.6** (2.5-5.3)	† [c]

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 7-12 in each year; (2) question not asked in 2021; (3) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2013 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you smoke a waterpipe (also known as a hookah, shisha, gouza, narghile)? (Use excludes "smoked only a few puffs once in the last 12 months.")

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Smokeless (Chewing) Tobacco Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Table 3.3.6)

Total	• About 1.7% of students in grades 7–12 report using smokeless tobacco (also known as chewing tobacco, snuff, snus) in the past year.
Sex	• Males (2.3%) are significantly more likely than females (0.9%) to use smokeless tobacco.
Grade	• There is significant grade variation, showing that students in grade 12 (2.9%) are most likely to use smokeless tobacco.
Region	• There is no significant regional variation.

Past Year Smokeless (Chewing) Tobacco Use: 2011–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Table 3.3.7)

Total	• Past year use of smokeless tobacco has declined over time, reaching an all-time low since monitoring began in 2011.
Sex	• Males show a decline in smokeless tobacco use over the past decade, while estimates among females have remained low and stable.
Grade	• Among the grades, students in grade 12 show a significant decline over the past decade.
Region	• Among the four regions, Greater Toronto Area students show a significant decline over the past decade.

Table 3.3.6: Percentage Reporting Smokeless (Chewing) Tobacco Use in the Past Year, 2011–2023 OSDUHS

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n=)	(9288)	(4794)	(5023)	(5071)	(6525)	(1107)	(5054)
Total	**4.6**	**5.7**	**6.3**	**5.4**	**3.9**	†	**1.7** [bcde]
(95% CI)	(3.9-5.5)	(4.6-7.0)	(4.9-8.1)	(3.6-7.9)	(3.0-4.9)		(1.0-2.7)
Sex							
Males	**7.5** (6.2-9.0)	**9.0** (7.0-11.5)	**9.7** (7.5-12.5)	**8.1** (5.1-12.6)	**6.1** (4.7-8.0)	†	**2.3** [bc] (1.2-4.4)
Females	**1.6** (1.2-2.0)	**2.2** (1.3-3.6)	**2.7** (1.7-4.2)	**2.6** (1.5-4.3)	**1.4** (1.0-2.1)	†	**0.9** (0.6-1.5)
Grade							
7	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
8	**1.3** (0.8-2.3)	†	†	†	†	†	†
9	**1.4** (0.9-2.1)	**4.0** (2.3-7.1)	**2.9** (1.7-4.9)	**6.3** (3.6-10.9)	**2.7** (1.8-4.0)	†	†
10	**7.8** (5.8-10.5)	**6.3** (3.7-10.4)	**7.1** (4.7-10.7)	**4.8** (3.3-7.0)	**2.9** (1.7-4.8)	†	† [c]
11	**7.2** (5.4-9.4)	**9.2** (6.3-13.4)	**10.9** (8.2-14.3)	**9.7** (5.3-17.2)	**5.5** (4.0-7.6)	†	† [c]
12	**6.9** (4.9-9.7)	**8.7** (6.1-12.4)	**10.6** (6.6-16.6)	**8.5** (4.9-14.2)	**7.2** (5.2-10.0)	†	**2.9** [bc] (1.5-5.2)
Region							
Greater Toronto Area	**4.3** (3.1-5.9)	**4.8** (3.4-6.8)	**3.8** (2.8-5.1)	**3.5** (2.2-5.3)	**1.9** (1.3-2.8)	†	**1.5** [c] (0.9-2.5)
North	**6.2** (4.8-8.1)	†	**7.7** (5.1-11.6)	**7.3** (5.3-10.1)	**7.7** (4.5-12.9)	†	**3.3** (1.9-5.6)
West	**3.8** (2.6-5.5)	**6.7** (4.6-9.8)	**7.0** (4.6-10.5)	**5.9** (3.3-10.30	**5.3** (3.2-8.6)	†	†
East	**6.0** (4.7-7.6)	**7.0** (4.1-11.6)	**11.6** (6.4-20.1)	†	**6.3** (4.4-9.1)	†	†

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 7-12 in each year except 2011; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (5) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2011 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use smokeless tobacco (also known as chewing tobacco, snuff, plug, dip, snus)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

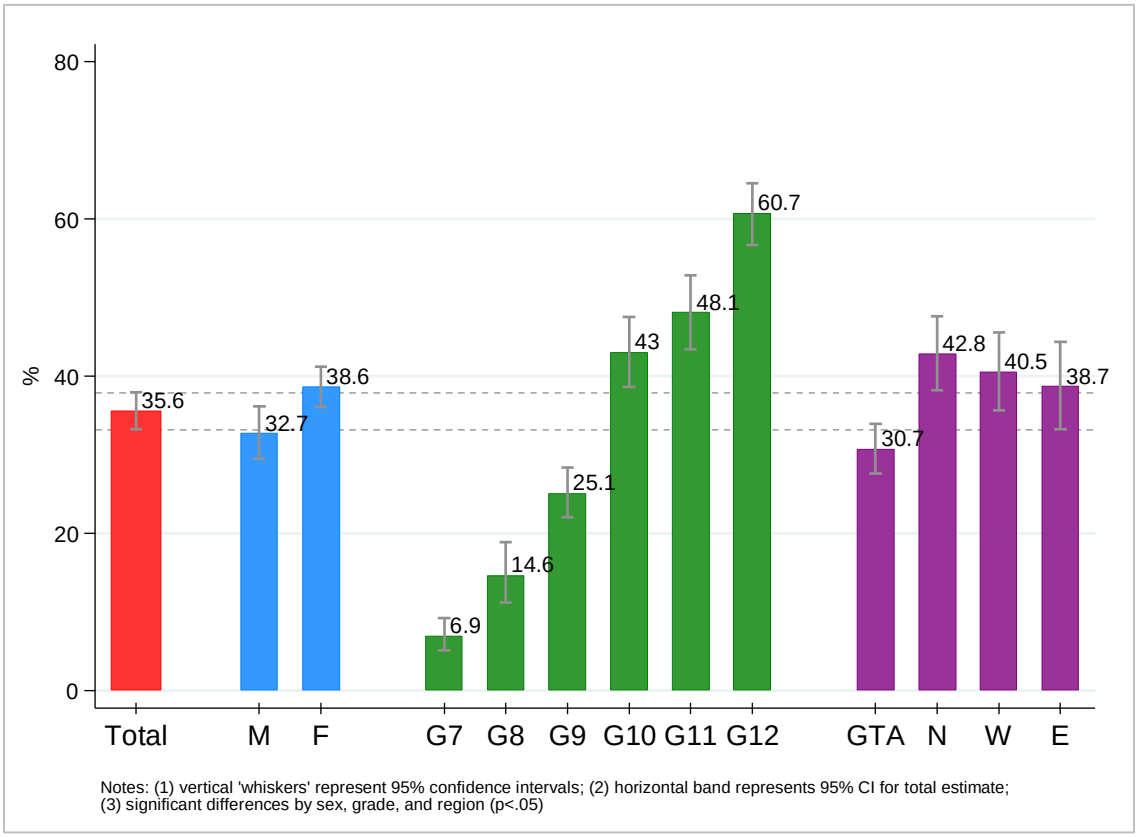
3.4 Alcohol Use

Past Year Alcohol Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figures 3.4.1, 3.4.2; Tables 3.4.1, 3.4.2)

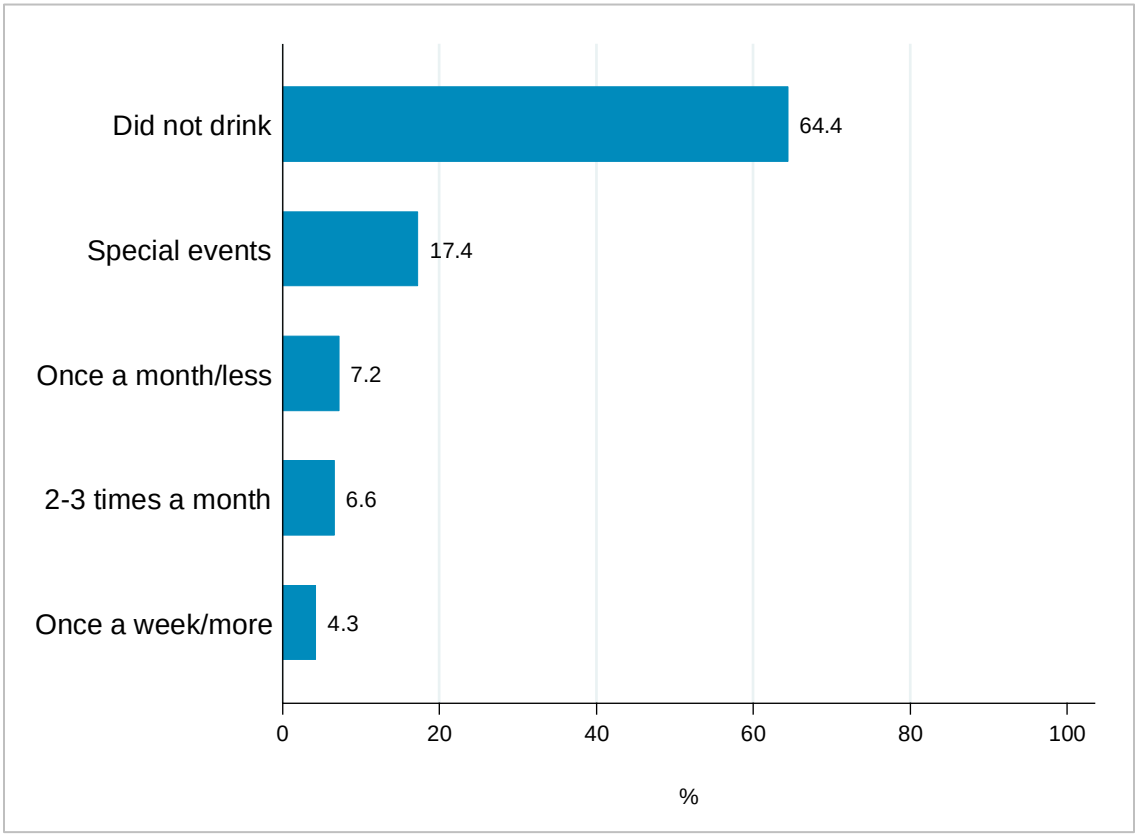
Total	• Over one-third (35.6%) of students report drinking alcohol during the 12 months before the survey. This estimate excludes those who only had a sip of alcohol, but does include those who drank only at a special event. • About one-in-six (17.4%) students restrict their drinking to special occasions, 7.2% drink once a month or less often, 6.6% drink two or three times a month, and about 4.3% drink at least once a week. Very few students drink on a daily basis (estimate suppressed).
Sex	• Females (38.6%) are significantly more likely than males (32.7%) to report drinking in the past year.
Grade	• The percentage of students reporting drinking in the past year significantly increases with grade level, from a low of 6.9% among 7th graders to a high of 60.7% among 12th graders.
Region	• There is significant regional variation showing that students in the Greater Toronto Area (30.7%) are least likely to drink, while students in the North region (42.8%) are most likely. Those in the West and East regions fall in-between.

Figure 3.4.1
Past Year Alcohol Use by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant differences by sex, grade, and region (p<.05)

Figure 3.4.2
Frequency of Drinking Alcohol in the Past Year, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7-12)



Past Year Alcohol Use: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.4.3; Tables 3.4.1, 3.4.2)

Total

- Despite a numerical increase, the percentage of students drinking alcohol in the past year did not significantly change between 2021 (31.8%) and 2023 (35.6%). The current estimate remains significantly lower than in 2019 (41.7%). Drinking has been on a significant downward trend since 1999.
- The percentage reporting drinking frequently in the past year (i.e., monthly, weekly) has also decreased over time.

Sex

- Past year drinking among males and females remained stable between 2021 and 2023. Both show a significant downward trend since 1999.

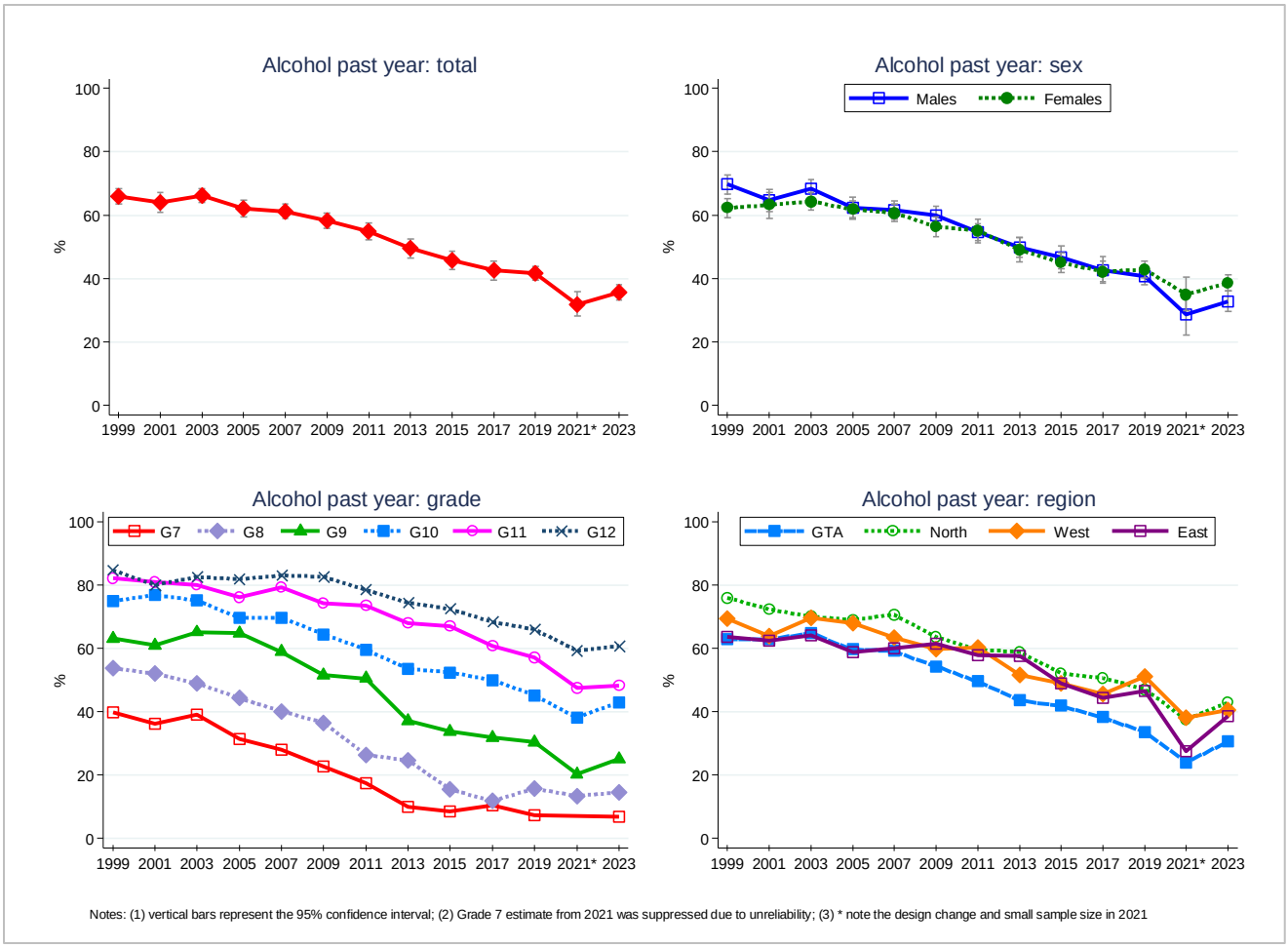
Grade

- No grade shows a significant change in past year drinking between 2021 and 2023. However, all grades show a significant downward trend since 1999.

Region

- No region shows a significant change in past year drinking between 2021 and 2023. However, all regions show a significant downward trend since 1999.

Figure 3.4.3
Past Year Alcohol Use, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



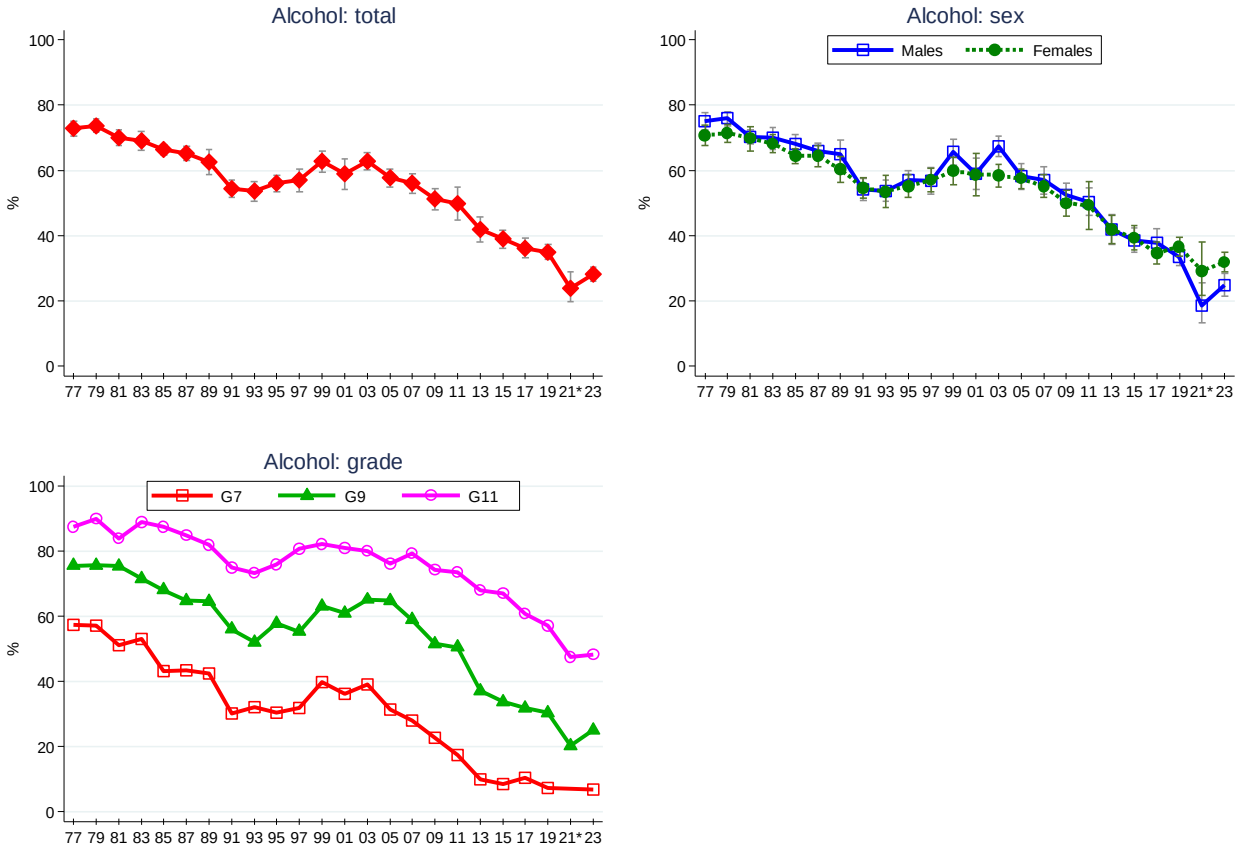
Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) Grade 7 estimate from 2021 was suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Past Year Alcohol Use: 1977–2023 Trends (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

(Figure 3.4.4; Table A3)

- Looking back over the past four decades (among grades 7, 9, and 11 only), drinking gradually decreased between 1977 and 1993. Between 1993 and the late 1990s/early 2000s drinking gradually increased, but has since decreased again, reaching historical lows in recent years.

Figure 3.4.4
Past Year Alcohol Use, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9 and 11 only)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) Grade 7 estimate from 2021 was suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.4.1: Percentage Reporting Drinking Alcohol in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)	
Total	**66.0**	**63.9**	**66.2**	**62.0**	**61.2**	**58.2**	**54.9**	**49.5**	**45.8**	**42.5**	**41.7**	**31.8**	**35.6**	[bcde]
(95% CI)	(63.6-68.3)	(60.8-67.0)	(64.1-68.4)	(59.4-64.6)	(58.9-63.5)	(55.7-60.6)	(52.1-57.6)	(46.4-52.5)	(42.9-48.7)	(39.5-45.5)	(39.5-43.8)	(28.1-35.8)	(33.3-38.0)	
Sex														
Males	**69.7**	**64.6**	**68.3**	**62.3**	**61.7**	**60.0**	**54.6**	**49.8**	**46.6**	**42.7**	**40.6**	**28.7**	**32.7**	[bc]
	(66.6-72.6)	(61.1-68.0)	(65.4-71.1)	(58.7-65.7)	(58.8-64.5)	(57.2-62.8)	(52.0-57.2)	(46.7-53.0)	(43.1-50.2)	(38.6-46.9)	(38.1-43.1)	(22.2-36.2)	(29.5-36.2)	
Females	**62.2**	**63.2**	**64.3**	**61.8**	**60.7**	**56.3**	**55.1**	**49.1**	**44.9**	**42.2**	**42.8**	**35.0**	**38.6**	[c]
	(59.2-65.2)	(59.0-67.2)	(61.6-67.0)	(59.2-64.4)	(58.0-63.5)	(53.2-59.4)	(51.3-58.8)	(45.3-52.9)	(41.8-48.2)	(39.0-45.5)	(40.2-45.5)	(29.8-40.5)	(36.1-41.2)	
Grade														
7	**39.7**	**36.1**	**39.1**	**31.4**	**28.1**	**22.7**	**17.4**	**9.9**	**8.6**	**10.5**	**7.3**	†	**6.9**	[c]
	(33.8-45.9)	(29.6-43.1)	(35.0-43.4)	(28.1-35.0)	(23.7-33.1)	(18.6-27.4)	(13.5-22.1)	(7.5-13.0)	(5.6-13.0)	(8.5-12.9)	(5.8-9.1)		(5.1-9.2)	
8	**53.7**	**52.0**	**48.9**	**44.3**	**40.1**	**36.5**	**26.4**	**24.6**	**15.5**	**11.8**	**15.8**	**13.4**	**14.6**	[c]
	(49.2-58.3)	(45.5-58.4)	(44.5-53.4)	(39.4-49.4)	(34.8-45.7)	(31.5-41.7)	(22.6-30.5)	(18.2-32.3)	(12.5-19.0)	(8.9-15.4)	(13.3-18.7)	(8.4-20.9)	(11.2-18.9)	
9	**63.1**	**60.9**	**65.1**	**64.8**	**58.9**	**51.6**	**50.5**	**37.1**	**33.8**	**31.8**	**30.3**	**20.3**	**25.1**	[c]
	(58.0-67.9)	(54.3-67.1)	(60.5-69.3)	(60.4-68.9)	(53.8-63.8)	(46.3-56.8)	(43.8-57.2)	(32.9-41.5)	(30.6-37.2)	(28.2-35.6)	(26.9-34.0)	(13.2-29.8)	(22.0-28.4)	
10	**74.9**	**76.8**	**75.1**	**69.6**	**69.6**	**64.5**	**59.6**	**53.5**	**52.4**	**49.9**	**45.2**	**38.2**	**43.0**	[c]
	(69.2-79.8)	(73.0-80.2)	(71.1-78.7)	(65.7-73.3)	(65.2-73.6)	(59.8-68.9)	(54.9-64.2)	(49.0-57.9)	(47.5-57.3)	(44.2-55.5)	(41.3-49.2)	(28.5-48.9)	(38.6-47.5)	
11	**82.0**	**81.0**	**79.9**	**76.1**	**79.2**	**74.3**	**73.5**	**67.9**	**67.0**	**60.6**	**57.0**	**47.4**	**48.1**	[bc]
	(77.7-85.6)	(75.1-85.8)	(76.3-83.1)	(72.3-79.5)	(75.5-82.4)	(70.0-78.2)	(66.8-79.3)	(62.6-72.7)	(62.1-71.6)	(56.4-64.6)	(53.0-60.9)	(38.1-56.8)	(43.4-52.8)	
12	**84.6**	**80.0**	**82.5**	**81.8**	**83.0**	**82.6**	**78.4**	**74.4**	**72.4**	**68.3**	**66.0**	**59.2**	**60.7**	[c]
	(80.8-87.8)	(72.5-85.9)	(77.7-86.4)	(77.7-85.4)	(79.5-86.0)	(79.0-85.8)	(74.6-81.8)	(69.9-78.4)	(66.5-77.6)	(62.8-73.4)	(62.6-69.2)	(44.0-72.8)	(56.7-64.6)	
Region														
GTA	**62.9**	**62.9**	**64.8**	**59.7**	**59.2**	**54.3**	**49.6**	**43.6**	**41.9**	**38.3**	**33.6**	**24.0**	**30.7**	[c]
	(58.2-67.4)	(56.4-69.0)	(60.5-69.0)	(54.9-64.3)	(53.6-64.6)	(49.1-59.4)	(44.6-54.6)	(38.3-49.0)	(37.7-46.2)	(34.7-42.0)	(30.8-36.5)	(18.8-30.1)	(27.6-34.0)	
North	**75.9**	**72.3**	**70.0**	**69.0**	**70.6**	**63.6**	**59.5**	**58.9**	**52.1**	**50.6**	**47.1**	**37.5**	**42.8**	[c]
	(69.3-81.5)	(68.2-76.0)	(65.7-73.9)	(64.8-73.0)	(65.1-75.6)	(58.1-68.8)	(54.0-64.7)	(52.9-64.7)	(47.9-56.3)	(46.6-54.6)	(42.3-51.9)	(28.8-47.0)	(38.2-47.6)	
West	**69.4**	**63.8**	**69.5**	**67.9**	**63.3**	**59.7**	**60.3**	**51.7**	**49.0**	**46.4**	**51.2**	**38.0**	**40.5**	[bc]
	(64.3-74.0)	(58.4-68.9)	(64.2-74.3)	(62.6-72.8)	(57.9-68.4)	(54.8-64.4)	(52.7-67.4)	(45.4-58.0)	(41.2-56.9)	(42.3-50.7)	(45.9-56.4)	(30.6-46.1)	(35.6-45.6)	
East	**63.5**	**62.4**	**64.1**	**58.9**	**60.1**	**61.5**	**57.8**	**57.5**	**49.0**	**44.4**	**46.6**	**27.6**	**38.7**	[c]
	(55.4-70.9)	(54.6-69.6)	(59.5-68.4)	(51.5-66.0)	(54.5-65.4)	(56.9-65.9)	(53.0-62.3)	(52.5-62.4)	(42.1-56.0)	(33.3-56.0)	(42.3-51.0)	(23.3-32.2)	(33.3-44.4)	

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you drink alcohol – liquor (rum, whiskey, etc.), wine, beer, or coolers? (Past year alcohol use includes drinking at a special event, but excludes a sip just to try.)

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.4.2: Frequency of Drinking Alcohol in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
No Drinking in the Past Year	34.0	36.1	33.8	38.0	38.8	41.8	45.1	54.2	57.5	50.5	58.3	68.2	64.4
Special Occasions Only	23.7	24.6	25.1	24.3	23.0	21.5	23.3	19.8	18.8	21.7	20.3	14.5	17.4
Once a Month or Less Often	16.1	14.7	16.0	13.9	15.1	14.0	12.5	10.2	9.4	10.6	8.9	7.9	7.2
2–3 Times a Month	13.0	14.2	13.0	13.5	12.9	13.0	11.6	9.2	8.4	10.7	7.5	7.0	6.6
At Least Once a Week	12.3	10.0	11.7	10.1	9.8	9.5	7.2	6.1	5.7	6.4	4.6	2.3	4.1
Almost Daily	0.9	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†

Notes: (1) entries are percentages; (2) the "No Drinking" category includes those who reported they had a sip just to try; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) note the design change and small sample size in 2021.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you drink alcohol – liquor (rum, whiskey, etc.), wine, beer, or coolers?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Month Alcohol Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figures 3.4.5, 3.4.6; Table 3.4.3)

Total

- About one-in-five (21.0%) students report drinking during the past month.
- More specifically, 15.8% report drinking once or twice in the past month, 5% report drinking weekly (between once a week and six times a week), and less than 0.5% report drinking on a daily basis in the past month.

Sex

- Females (24.0%) are significantly more likely than males (18.2%) to report drinking during the past month.

Grade

- The percentage of students reporting past month drinking significantly increases with grade, from a low of 5.7% of 7th graders up to 39.0% of 12th graders.

Region

- Students in the Greater Toronto Area are least likely to report past month drinking compared with students in the other three regions (17.0% vs. 24%-26%, respectively).

Figure 3.4.5
Past Month Alcohol Use by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS

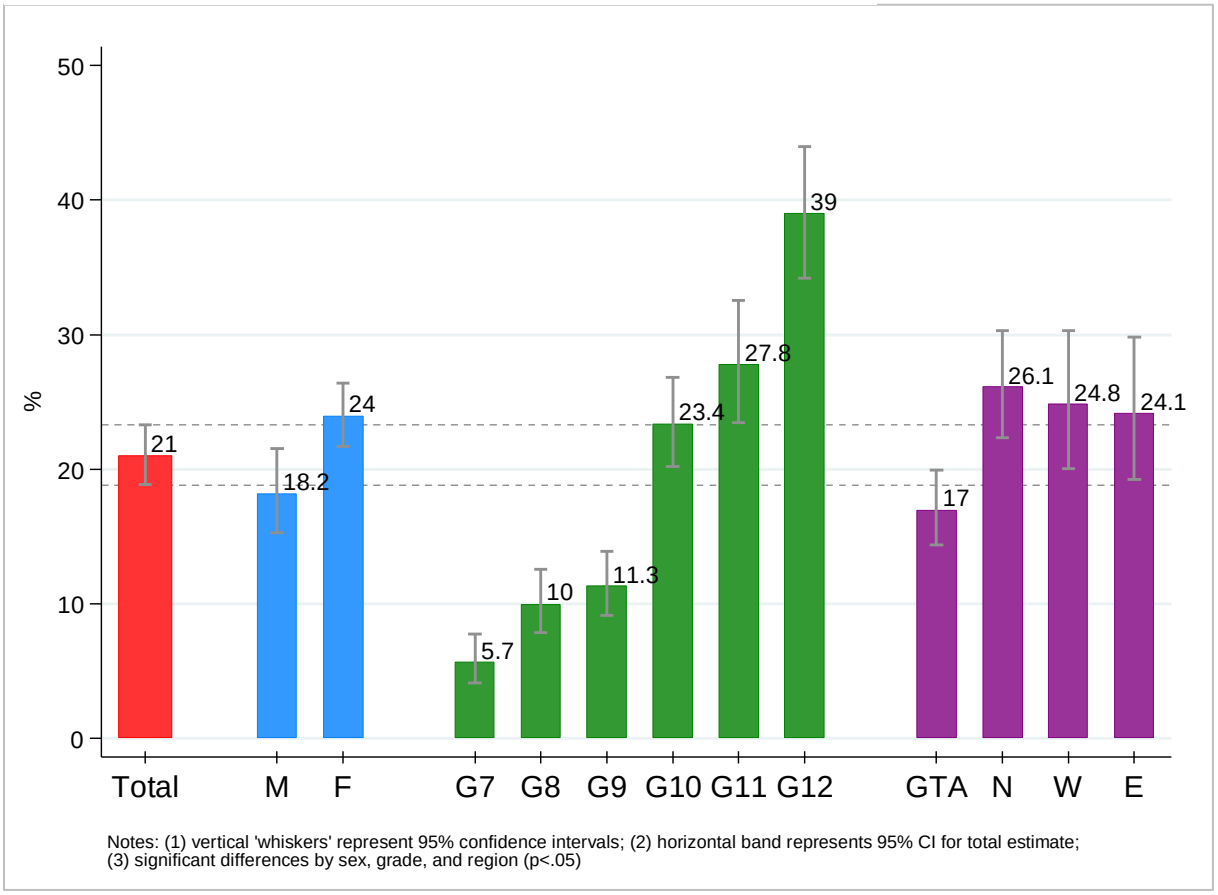


Figure 3.4.6
Frequency of Drinking Alcohol in the Past Month, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

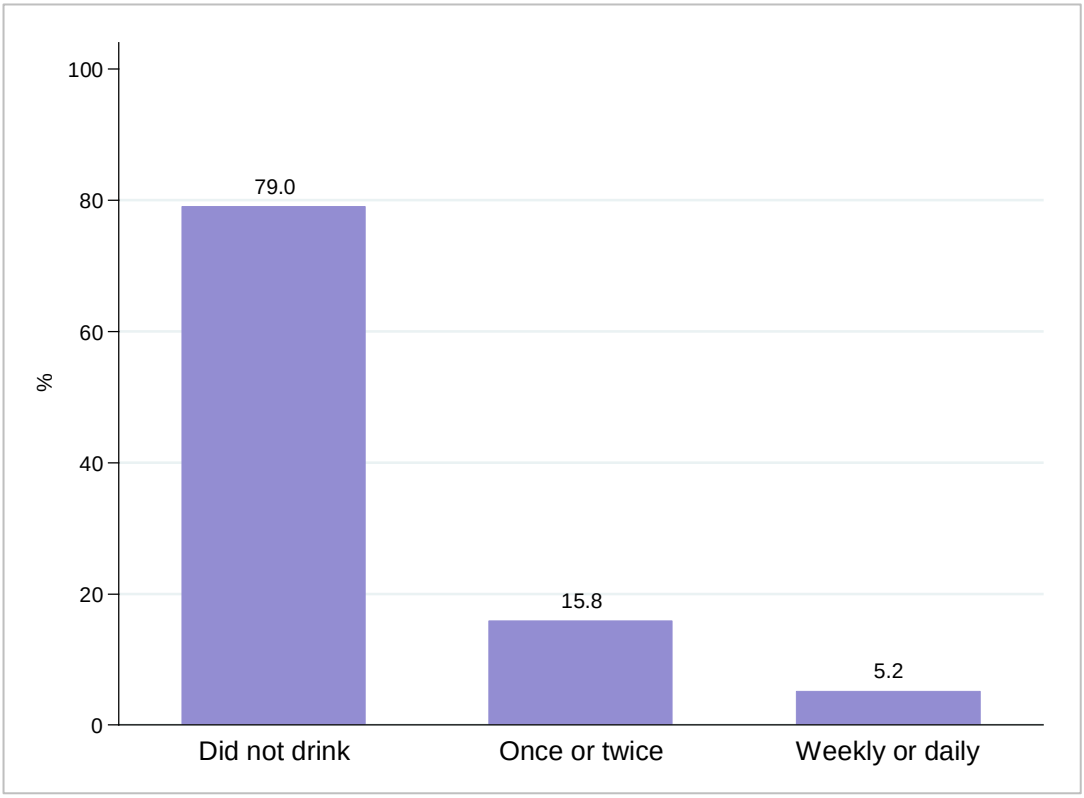
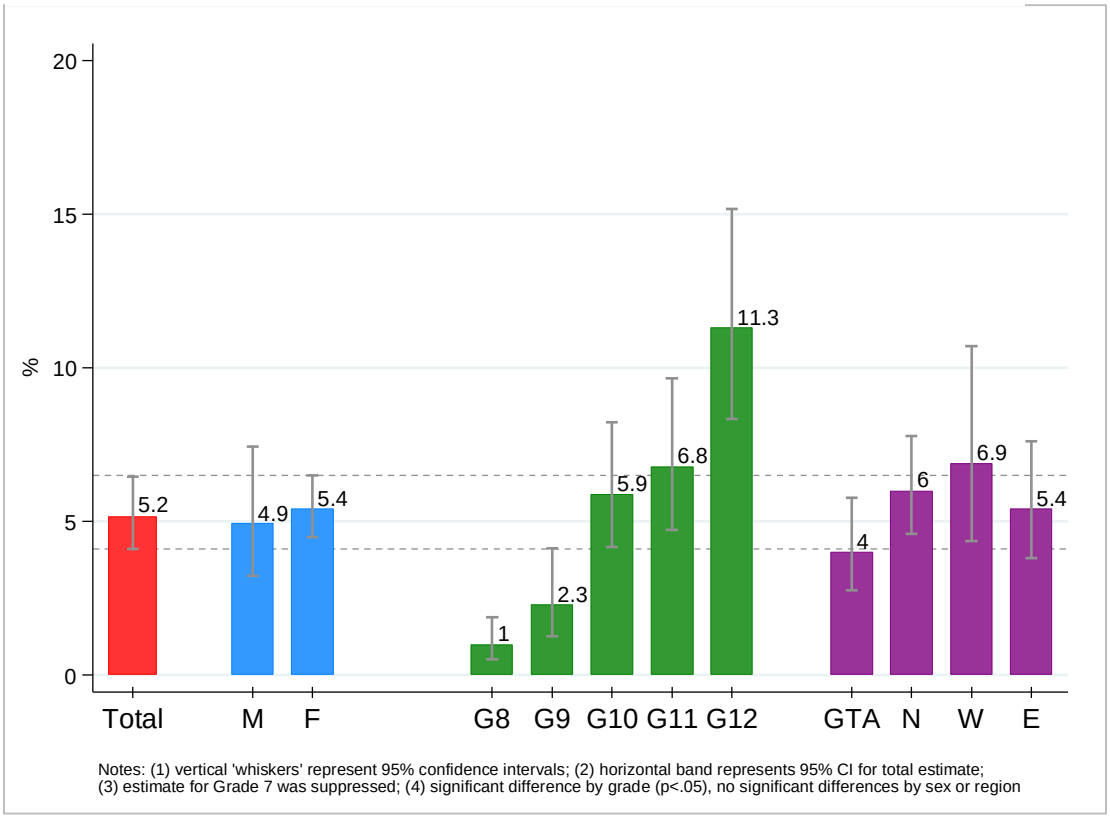


Figure 3.4.7
Drinking Alcohol Weekly or Daily in the Past Month by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS

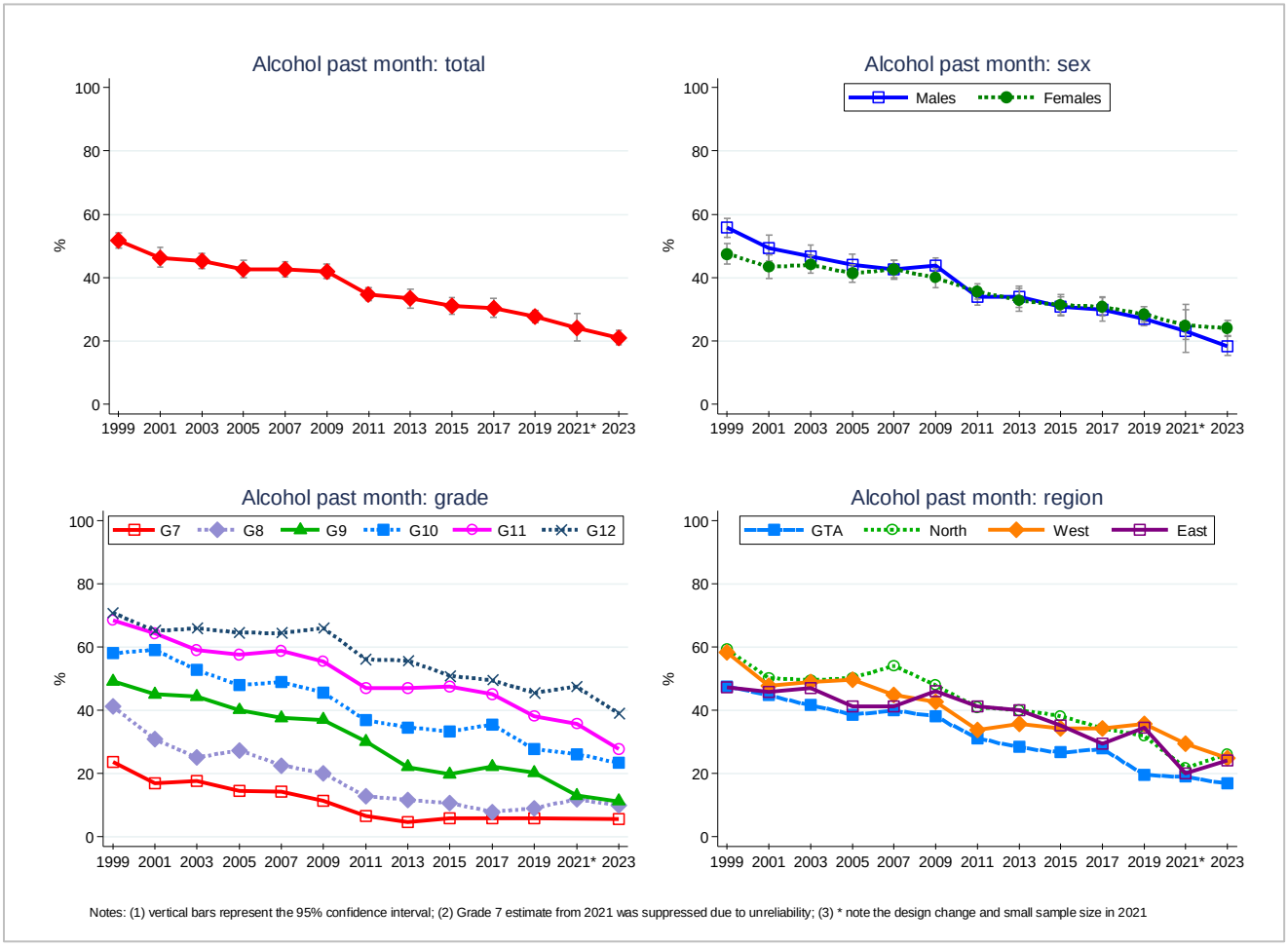


Past Month Alcohol Use: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.4.8; Tables 3.4.3, 3.4.4)

Total	• The percentage of students reporting drinking in the past month remained stable between 2021 (24.0%) and 2023 (21.0%). However, the percentage has significantly decreased since 1999, when it was 51.7%. • Similarly, the percentage reporting drinking weekly/daily in the past month has significantly decreased since 1999, from 18.2% down to 5.2% in 2023.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant decrease in past month drinking since 1999.
Grade	• All grades show a significant decrease since 1999.
Region	• All regions show a significant decrease since 1999.

Figure 3.4.8
Past Month Alcohol Use, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) Grade 7 estimate from 2021 was suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.4.3: Percentage Reporting Drinking Alcohol in the Past Month, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)	
Total	**51.7**	**46.3**	**45.3**	**42.7**	**42.5**	**41.9**	**34.7**	**33.4**	**31.1**	**30.4**	**27.6**	**24.0**	**21.0**	[bcd]
(95% CI)	(49.2-54.1)	(43.2-49.5)	(42.9-47.7)	(40.0-45.4)	(40.1-45.0)	(39.6-44.2)	(32.8-36.7)	(30.4-36.4)	(28.5-33.8)	(27.5-33.4)	(25.8-29.6)	(20.0-28.6)	(18.8-23.3)	
Sex														
Males	**55.7**	**49.3**	**46.6**	**44.0**	**42.5**	**43.8**	**33.9**	**33.9**	**30.9**	**29.9**	**27.0**	**23.1**	**18.2**	[bc]
	(52.7-58.7)	(45.2-53.4)	(43.2-50.2)	(40.7-47.4)	(39.5-45.4)	(41.3-46.3)	(31.4-36.5)	(30.6-37.3)	(27.9-34.0)	(26.3-33.8)	(24.8-29.3)	(16.4-31.6)	(15.3-21.5)	
Females	**47.5**	**43.4**	**44.0**	**41.3**	**42.6**	**39.9**	**35.6**	**32.8**	**31.3**	**30.8**	**28.4**	**24.9**	**24.0**	[bc]
	(44.3-50.8)	(39.8-47.1)	(41.3-46.8)	(38.6-44.0)	(39.9-45.4)	(36.9-42.9)	(33.2-38.0)	(29.3-36.5)	(28.2-34.6)	(27.9-33.9)	(26.0-30.8)	(20.5-29.8)	(21.7-26.4)	
Grade														
7	**23.6**	**17.0**	**17.6**	**14.6**	**14.4**	**11.4**	**6.5**	**4.7**	**5.8**	**5.9**	**6.0**	†	**5.7**	[c]
	(18.9-29.0)	(13.6-21.1)	(15.0-20.6)	(11.5-18.4)	(11.2-18.3)	(9.1-14.3)	(4.7-9.0)	(3.0-7.2)	(4.0-8.5)	(4.0-8.6)	(4.8-7.6)		(4.1-7.8)	
8	**41.2**	**30.8**	**25.1**	**27.4**	**22.6**	**20.1**	**12.9**	**11.7**	**10.7**	**7.9**	**9.1**	**11.9**	**10.0**	[c]
	(36.3-46.3)	(25.8-36.3)	(21.8-28.7)	(22.7-32.7)	(18.7-27.2)	(17.0-23.6)	(10.8-15.3)	(9.2-14.8)	(7.3-15.4)	(5.7-10.7)	(7.5-11.0)	(6.9-19.8)	(7.9-12.5)	
9	**49.2**	**45.1**	**44.3**	**40.1**	**37.6**	**37.0**	**30.1**	**22.1**	**19.8**	**22.2**	**20.2**	**13.1**	**11.3**	[bc]
	(44.2-54.3)	(38.9-51.4)	(40.3-48.4)	(35.6-44.7)	(33.4-42.1)	(32.1-42.2)	(25.2-35.4)	(18.4-26.2)	(17.1-22.8)	(18.2-26.9)	(17.4-23.3)	(7.1-22.9)	(9.1-13.9)	
10	**58.0**	**59.1**	**52.7**	**47.9**	**49.0**	**45.6**	**36.8**	**34.6**	**33.3**	**35.5**	**27.7**	**26.2**	**23.4**	[c]
	(51.4-64.2)	(55.4-62.8)	(48.0-57.3)	(43.8-51.9)	(44.6-53.5)	(40.0-51.4)	(29.4-44.9)	(30.6-38.7)	(29.1-37.8)	(31.4-39.7)	(24.8-30.8)	(17.1-37.9)	(20.2-26.8)	
11	**68.4**	**64.4**	**59.0**	**57.7**	**58.8**	**55.5**	**47.0**	**47.0**	**47.5**	**45.2**	**38.0**	**35.6**	**27.8**	[bc]
	(63.1-73.3)	(57.6-70.5)	(54.8-63.1)	(53.9-61.4)	(54.0-63.6)	(51.0-59.9)	(42.2-51.8)	(41.5-52.6)	(43.2-51.9)	(39.0-51.6)	(34.4-41.8)	(25.2-47.6)	(23.5-32.5)	
12	**70.8**	**65.1**	**65.9**	**64.5**	**64.4**	**66.0**	**56.1**	**55.7**	**50.9**	**49.5**	**45.5**	**47.5**	**39.0**	[c]
	(66.3-75.0)	(55.6-73.5)	(60.5-71.0)	(60.3-68.4)	(60.3-68.2)	(61.8-69.9)	(52.0-60.2)	(50.9-60.3)	(44.9-56.9)	(44.2-54.7)	(41.7-49.4)	(32.4-63.2)	(34.2-44.0)	
Region														
GTA	**47.6**	**44.8**	**41.7**	**38.7**	**40.0**	**38.1**	**31.2**	**28.4**	**26.7**	**27.9**	**19.7**	**19.0**	**17.0**	[c]
	(43.0-52.3)	(38.2-51.6)	(37.2-46.3)	(34.8-42.8)	(35.0-45.3)	(33.3-43.2)	(27.1-35.6)	(24.1-33.1)	(23.8-29.8)	(24.3-31.7)	(17.4-22.2)	(14.0-25.3)	(14.4-19.9)	
North	**59.2**	**50.2**	**49.5**	**50.2**	**54.1**	**47.9**	**41.0**	**40.1**	**38.2**	**34.3**	**31.9**	**21.8**	**26.1**	[c]
	(54.1-64.1)	(44.8-55.7)	(44.8-54.1)	(45.8-54.5)	(47.8-60.2)	(42.6-53.3)	(36.2-45.9)	(34.1-46.4)	(34.5-42.0)	(30.3-38.5)	(28.0-36.1)	(13.1-34.1)	(22.3-30.3)	
West	**58.2**	**47.7**	**49.0**	**49.6**	**44.9**	**42.6**	**33.8**	**35.6**	**34.3**	**34.3**	**35.6**	**29.5**	**24.8**	[bc]
	(52.8-63.3)	(41.8-53.6)	(42.5-55.4)	(44.7-54.4)	(39.9-50.0)	(37.6-47.7)	(29.7-38.2)	(29.0-42.7)	(27.9-41.3)	(30.5-38.3)	(30.5-41.0)	(21.9-38.6)	(20.1-30.3)	
East	**47.2**	**45.8**	**47.1**	**41.3**	**41.3**	**46.0**	**41.3**	**40.1**	**35.2**	**29.4**	**34.4**	**20.1**	**24.1**	[bc]
	(40.7-53.8)	(39.0-52.7)	(42.4-51.8)	(33.4-49.7)	(35.9-47.0)	(42.6-49.4)	(36.6-46.2)	(35.4-44.9)	(27.9-43.3)	(19.7-41.5)	(30.7-38.4)	(13.9-28.1)	(19.2-29.8)	

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 4 weeks, how often did you drink alcohol (liquor, wine, beer, or coolers)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.4.4: Percentage Reporting Weekly or Daily Alcohol Use in the Past Month, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Total	**18.2**	**16.3**	**16.6**	**14.0**	**13.9**	**13.4**	**11.4**	**9.2**	**9.0**	**8.7**	**7.9**	**3.5**	**5.2** [bcde]
(95% CI)	(16.2-20.2)	(14.3-18.6)	(15.0-18.3)	(12.7-15.5)	(12.5-15.5)	(12.2-14.7)	(10.2-12.7)	(8.1-10.6)	(7.6-10.7)	(7.2-10.3)	(7.0-8.9)	(2.4-5.1)	(4.1-6.5)
Sex													
Males	**21.8**	**20.7**	**19.0**	**16.6**	**15.2**	**15.5**	**11.7**	**10.2**	**10.2**	**9.5**	**8.4**	†	**4.9** [c]
	(19.5-24.3)	(17.8-23.8)	(16.7-21.7)	(14.7-18.8)	(13.4-17.2)	(13.9-17.3)	(10.0-13.5)	(8.4-12.3)	(8.4-12.4)	(7.6-11.9)	(7.1-10.0)		(3.2-7.4)
Females	**14.4**	**12.0**	**14.3**	**11.2**	**12.5**	**11.2**	**11.1**	**8.2**	**7.7**	**7.8**	**7.3**	**4.4**	**5.4** [c]
	(12.1-17.2)	(10.1-14.3)	(12.7-16.0)	(9.8-12.8)	(10.9-14.4)	(9.8-12.7)	(9.8-12.4)	(7.0-9.8)	(6.2-9.5)	(6.2-9.7)	(6.3-8.5)	(2.6-7.3)	(4.5-6.5)
Grade													
7	**3.5**	**2.9**	**4.6**	**1.5**	**2.0**	**1.6**	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
	(1.9-6.33)	(1.7-4.8)	(3.3-6.4)	(0.9-2.6)	(1.1-3.6)	(0.9-2.8)							
8	**9.5**	**6.3**	**5.0**	**4.8**	**4.3**	**3.1**	**1.8**	†	†	†	**1.3**	†	**1.0** [c]
	(7.3-12.2)	(4.3-9.2)	(3.4-7.3)	(3.2-7.1)	(2.9-6.3)	(2.1-4.6)	(1.2-2.9)				(0.8-2.2)		(0.5-1.9)
9	**15.8**	**12.2**	**14.1**	**12.1**	**10.9**	**8.1**	**6.7**	**3.5**	**3.4**	**4.6**	**4.4**	†	**2.3** [c]
	(11.9-20.6)	(9.6-15.4)	(11.7-16.8)	(10.0-14.5)	(8.4-14.0)	(5.7-11.4)	(4.9-9.2)	(2.4-5.1)	(2.4-4.6)	(2.9-7.3)	(3.3-5.8)		(1.3-4.1)
10	**23.1**	**25.9**	**18.2**	**14.2**	**15.7**	**13.3**	**10.7**	**8.4**	**8.1**	**8.6**	**6.7**	†	**5.9** [c]
	(18.4-28.5)	(21.5-30.9)	(15.2-21.6)	(12.1-16.7)	(13.0-18.9)	(11.1-16.0)	(7.7-14.7)	(6.3-11.2)	(6.1-10.6)	(6.6-11.0)	(5.3-8.4)		(4.2-8.2)
11	**27.9**	**26.8**	**26.5**	**23.5**	**21.7**	**20.4**	**18.6**	**14.7**	**15.8**	**11.3**	**11.2**	†	**6.8** [bc]
	(23.4-32.9)	(22.6-31.3)	(22.2-31.2)	(20.4-26.9)	(18.8-25.0)	(17.8-23.2)	(14.0-24.3)	(11.9-18.0)	(13.1-19.1)	(8.7-14.7)	(9.5-13.2)		(4.7-9.7)
12	**30.6**	**25.3**	**27.6**	**26.0**	**25.0**	**26.5**	**21.6**	**18.2**	**18.3**	**19.1**	**16.0**	**10.0**	**11.3** [c]
	(25.8-35.9)	(19.7-32.0)	(23.7-32.0)	(22.7-29.6)	(21.5-28.8)	(23.4-29.8)	(17.9-25.8)	(15.6-21.2)	(14.4-23.0)	(14.2-25.1)	(13.5-18.9)	(5.2-18.4)	(8.3-15.2)
Region													
GTA	**15.9**	**14.2**	**15.3**	**12.2**	**12.6**	**12.2**	**9.6**	**7.2**	**6.8**	**8.1**	**5.1**	**5.5**	**4.0** [c]
	(13.1-19.2)	(11.0-18.3)	(12.9-18.1)	(10.3-14.4)	(10.1-15.6)	(10.0-14.6)	(8.0-11.5)	(5.4-9.6)	(5.4-8.6)	(6.0-10.9)	(4.1-6.2)	(3.0-9.7)	(2.7-5.8)
North	**21.8**	**17.5**	**16.5**	**16.8**	**17.5**	**15.3**	**15.3**	**10.8**	**9.5**	**10.3**	**8.4**	**4.6**	**6.0** [c]
	(17.3-27.1)	(14.3-21.3)	(13.7-19.9)	(14.3-19.7)	(14.2-21.4)	(11.6-19.9)	(12.8-18.0)	(8.0-14.4)	(7.0-12.7)	(8.1-13.0)	(6.8-10.4)	(3.2-6.6)	(4.6-7.8)
West	**21.8**	**18.4**	**18.0**	**18.6**	**15.1**	**14.3**	**12.3**	**10.4**	**10.5**	**10.1**	**10.8**	†	**6.9** [c]
	(17.2-27.2)	(15.2-22.2)	(13.8-23.3)	(15.6-21.9)	(12.4-18.2)	(12.1-16.9)	(9.3-16.3)	(8.0-13.5)	(7.5-14.4)	(7.7-13.1)	(8.4-13.8)		(4.3-10.7)
East	**16.0**	**17.6**	**17.5**	**12.3**	**14.0**	**14.0**	**12.9**	**11.8**	**12.1**	**7.4**	**10.4**	**2.9**	**5.4** [bc]
	(12.0-21.0)	(11.5-25.8)	(14.2-21.5)	(9.0-16.7)	(10.9-17.9)	(11.6-16.8)	(10.5-15.7)	(10.2-13.7)	(7.9-18.0)	(4.6-11.8)	(8.6-12.4)	(1.9-4.3)	(3.8-7.6)

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 4 weeks, how often did you drink alcohol (liquor, wine, beer, or coolers)? "Weekly or Daily" is based on any one of the following responses: "Once or twice each week", "3 or 4 times each week", "5 or 6 times each week", "Once each day", or "More than once each day."

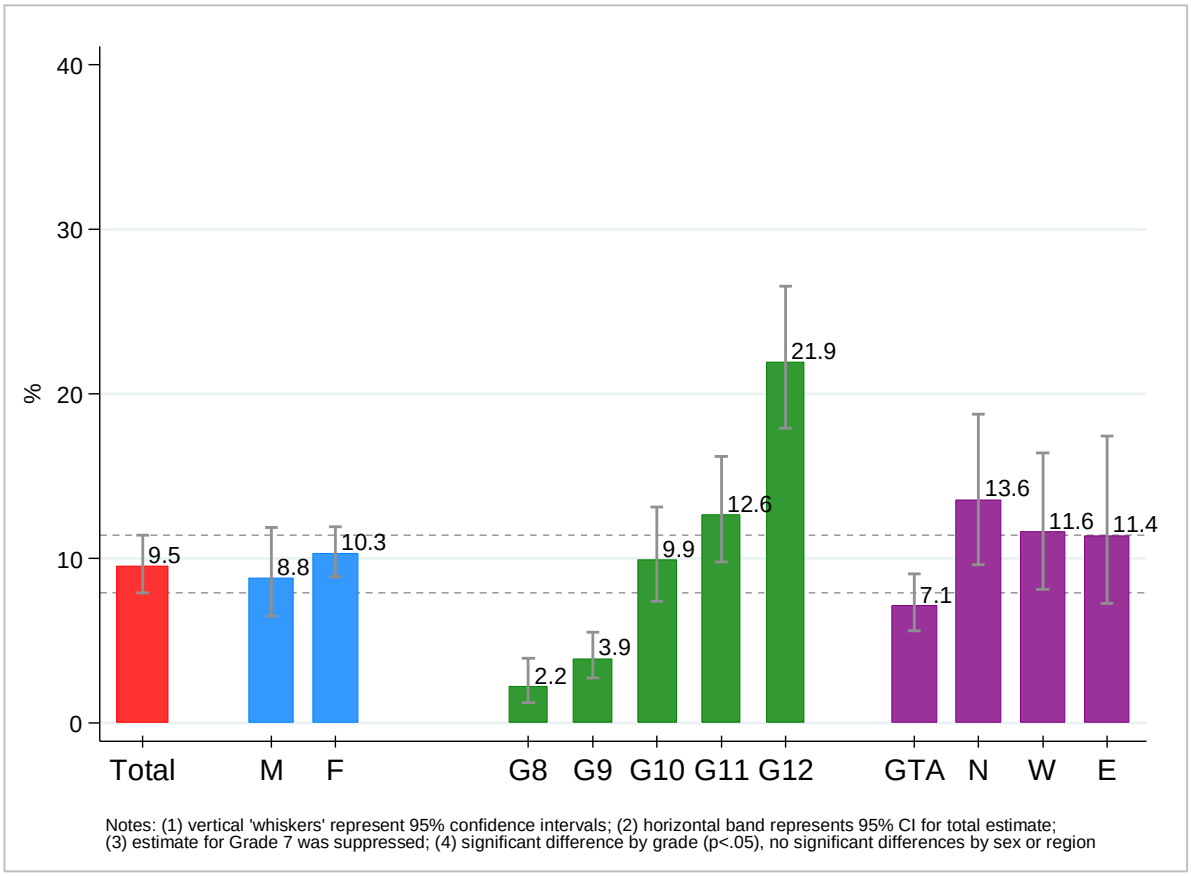
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Binge Drinking in the Past Month: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.4.9; Tables 3.4.5, A5)

Total	• One-in-ten (9.5%) students report binge drinking at least once during the four weeks before the survey (defined as consuming five or more drinks on one occasion). • About 5.1% of students report binge drinking once in the past month, 3.0% report binge drinking two to three times, and 1.4% report binge drinking four or more times.
Sex	• Binge drinking does not significantly differ between males (8.8%) and females (10.3%).
Grade	• The percentage reporting binge drinking significantly increases with grade, from 2.2% of 8th graders to 21.9% of 12th graders.
Region	• There is no significant variation by region.

Figure 3.4.9
Binge Drinking in the Past Month by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



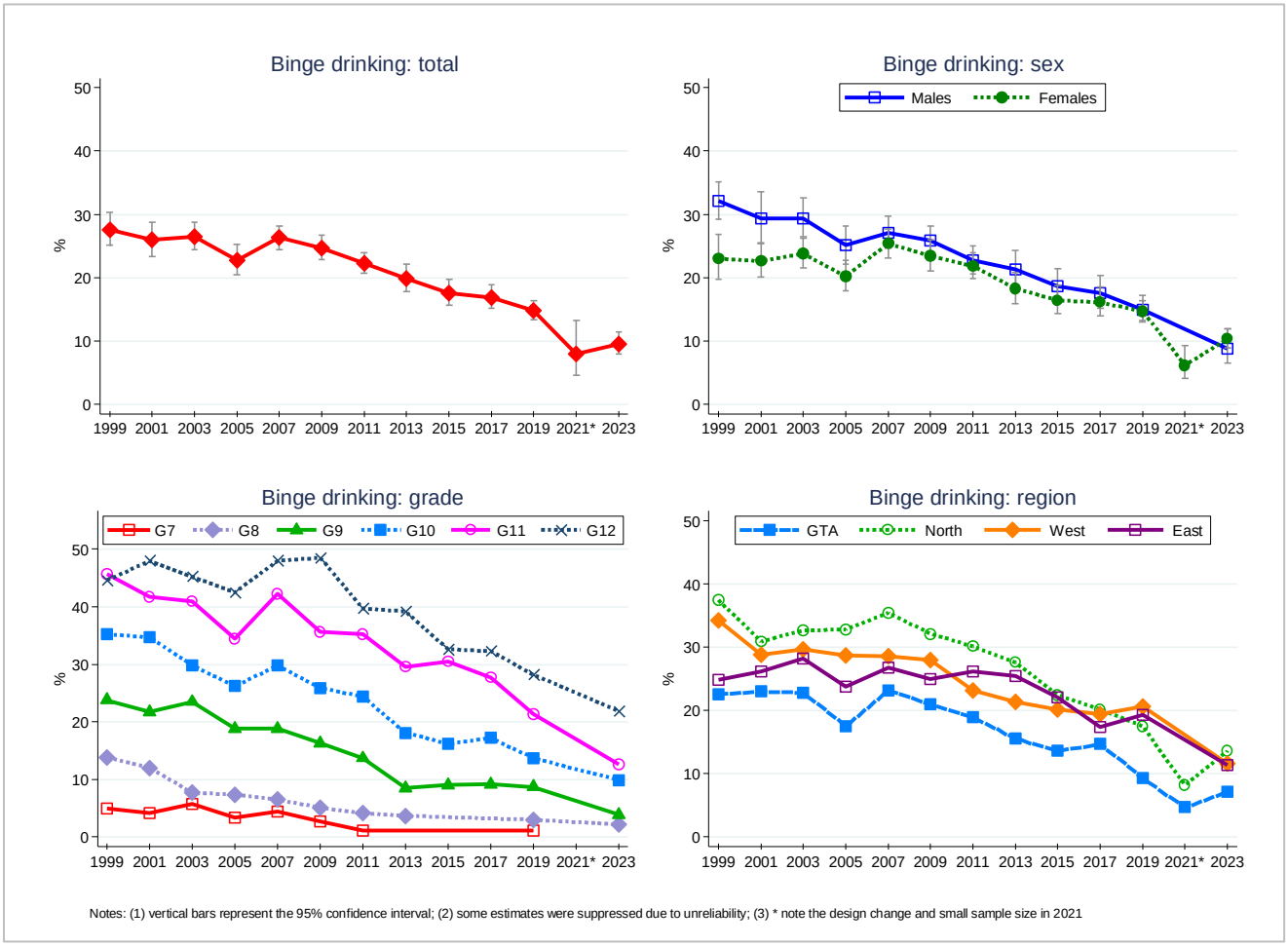
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate;
(3) estimate for Grade 7 was suppressed; (4) significant difference by grade (p<.05), no significant differences by sex or region

Binge Drinking in the Past Month: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.4.10; Table 3.4.5)

Total	• Despite a numerical increase, the percentage of students who report binge drinking at least once in the past month in 2023 (9.5%) is not significantly different from 2021 (7.9%). However, the current estimate is significantly lower than in 2019 (14.8%). Binge drinking has significantly decreased since 1999, when the estimate was over one-quarter.
Sex	• Neither males nor females show a significant change in binge drinking between 2021 and 2023. Both show a significant downward trend in binge drinking since 1999.
Grade	• No grade shows a significant change in binge drinking between 2021 and 2023. All grades show a significant downward trend since 1999.
Region	• No region shows a significant change in binge drinking between 2021 and 2023. All show a significant downward trend since 1999.

Figure 3.4.10
Binge Drinking in the Past Month, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

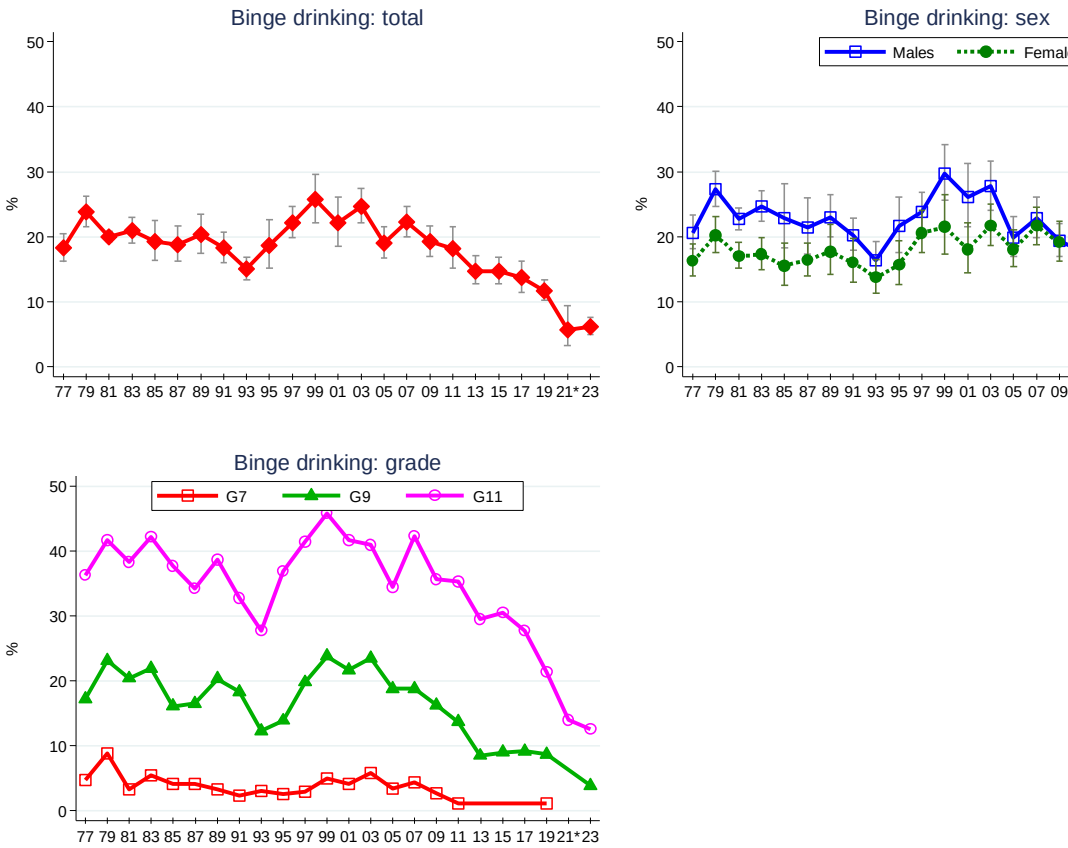


Binge Drinking in the Past Month: 1977–2023 Trends (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

(Figure 3.4.11; Table A5)

- Looking back over the past four decades or so, binge drinking among grades 7, 9, and 11 was elevated in the late 1970s, decreased in the late 1980s/early 1990s, increased again in the late 1990s/early 2000s, and has since decreased. Estimates seen in the past few cycles are the lowest on record.

Figure 3.4.11
Binge Drinking in the Past Month, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.4.5: Percentage Reporting Binge Drinking in the Past Month, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)	
Total	**27.6**	**26.0**	**26.5**	**22.7**	**26.3**	**24.7**	**22.3**	**19.8**	**17.6**	**16.9**	**14.8**	**7.9**	**9.5**	bcde
(95% CI)	(25.1-30.3)	(23.3-28.8)	(24.4-28.7)	(20.4-25.2)	(24.4-28.2)	(22.8-26.7)	(20.7-23.9)	(17.8-22.1)	(15.6-19.7)	(15.1-18.8)	(13.4-16.4)	(4.6-13.2)	(7.9-11.4)	
Sex														
Males	**32.1**	**29.4**	**29.4**	**25.1**	**27.1**	**25.9**	**22.7**	**21.3**	**18.7**	**17.6**	**14.9**	†	**8.8**	bc
	(29.2-35.1)	(25.5-33.6)	(26.4-32.6)	(22.1-28.2)	(24.7-29.7)	(23.9-28.1)	(20.6-25.0)	(18.5-24.3)	(16.2-21.4)	(15.2-20.3)	(13.0-17.2)		(6.5-11.9)	
Females	**23.0**	**22.6**	**23.8**	**20.2**	**25.4**	**23.4**	**21.8**	**18.3**	**16.4**	**16.1**	**14.7**	**6.2**	**10.3**	bc
	(19.7-26.8)	(20.1-25.4)	(21.5-26.2)	(17.9-22.7)	(23.1-27.7)	(21.0-26.0)	(19.8-23.9)	(15.9-20.8)	(14.2-18.8)	(14.0-18.5)	(13.2-16.4)	(4.1-9.3)	(8.9-11.9)	
Grade														
7	**5.0**	**4.2**	**5.8**	**3.4**	**4.4**	**2.7**	**1.1**	†	†	†	**1.1**	†	†	c
	(3.5-7.1)	(2.7-6.7)	(4.0-8.4)	(2.1-5.5)	(2.9-6.6)	(1.6-4.5)	(0.6-2.1)				(0.7-1.7)			
8	**13.8**	**12.0**	**7.7**	**7.4**	**6.5**	**5.0**	**4.1**	**3.7**	†	†	**3.0**	†	**2.2**	c
	(11.1-16.9)	(8.5-16.8)	(5.6-10.5)	(5.8-9.5)	(4.5-9.4)	(3.5-7.2)	(2.8-5.9)	(2.3-5.9)			(2.1-4.1)		(1.2-3.9)	
9	**23.8**	**21.7**	**23.5**	**18.8**	**18.8**	**16.3**	**13.7**	**8.5**	**9.0**	**9.2**	**8.7**	†	**3.9**	bc
	(18.7-29.7)	(17.0-27.2)	(20.3-27.0)	(15.4-22.7)	(15.6-22.4)	(12.9-20.4)	(10.7-17.4)	(6.5-11.0)	(7.0-11.6)	(6.8-12.4)	(7.0-10.8)		(2.7-5.5)	
10	**35.2**	**34.7**	**29.8**	**26.2**	**29.8**	**25.9**	**24.4**	**18.1**	**16.2**	**17.2**	**13.7**	†	**9.9**	c
	(29.7-41.0)	(30.6-39.0)	(25.7-34.3)	(22.8-30.0)	(26.2-33.6)	(22.0-30.3)	(19.0-30.8)	(14.9-21.6)	(12.9-20.1)	(14.1-20.8)	(11.6-16.1)		(7.4-13.1)	
11	**45.7**	**41.7**	**40.9**	**34.5**	**42.2**	**35.6**	**35.3**	**29.5**	**30.5**	**27.7**	**21.3**	†	**12.6**	bc
	(39.1-52.5)	(36.1-47.5)	(36.0-46.0)	(30.4-38.8)	(37.7-47.0)	(31.3-40.0)	(30.9-40.0)	(25.1-34.3)	(26.2-35.3)	(23.4-32.5)	(18.4-24.6)		(9.8-16.2)	
12	**44.6**	**48.0**	**45.2**	**42.5**	**48.0**	**48.5**	**39.7**	**39.2**	**32.6**	**32.3**	**28.2**	†	**21.9**	c
	(38.6-50.7)	(37.1-59.0)	(39.9-50.6)	(37.8-47.4)	(44.1-51.9)	(44.1-52.9)	(35.3-44.3)	(34.8-43.8)	(27.7-37.9)	(27.9-37.1)	(24.8-32.0)		(17.9-26.5)	
Region														
GTA	**22.6**	**23.0**	**22.8**	**17.5**	**23.2**	**21.0**	**18.9**	**15.6**	**13.6**	**14.7**	**9.3**	**4.7**	**7.1**	c
	(18.8-27.1)	(17.7-29.4)	(19.5-26.3)	(14.9-20.6)	(19.7-27.3)	(17.7-24.8)	(15.5-22.8)	(12.4-19.5)	(11.2-16.4)	(12.7-16.9)	(7.8-11.0)	(2.5-8.6)	(5.6-9.0)	
North	**37.4**	**30.9**	**32.6**	**32.8**	**35.4**	**32.1**	**30.1**	**27.6**	**22.4**	**20.2**	**17.5**	**8.2**	**13.6**	c
	(31.1-44.2)	(26.0-36.3)	(28.2-37.3)	(28.5-37.4)	(31.3-39.6)	(28.1-36.5)	(25.3-35.4)	(23.5-32.3)	(18.9-26.4)	(17.2-23.6)	(14.6-20.9)	(4.5-14.4)	(9.6-18.8)	
West	**34.2**	**28.8**	**29.6**	**28.7**	**28.5**	**27.9**	**23.1**	**21.4**	**20.2**	**19.4**	**20.6**	†	**11.6**	bc
	(28.2-40.8)	(24.4-33.6)	(23.8-36.0)	(23.8-34.0)	(24.0-33.4)	(23.7-32.4)	(19.9-26.6)	(16.7-26.9)	(16.0-25.3)	(15.9-23.4)	(16.6-25.2)		(8.1-16.4)	
East	**24.8**	**26.2**	**28.2**	**23.8**	**26.7**	**24.9**	**26.1**	**25.4**	**22.1**	**17.4**	**19.3**	†	**11.4**	c
	(18.9-31.8)	(20.4-33.1)	(23.1-33.9)	(17.6-31.2)	(22.8-31.0)	(21.4-28.8)	(22.0-30.7)	(22.7-28.4)	(17.0-28.1)	(11.9-24.8)	(16.5-22.5)		(7.3-17.4)	

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 4 weeks, how often have you had 5 or more drinks of alcohol on the same occasion?

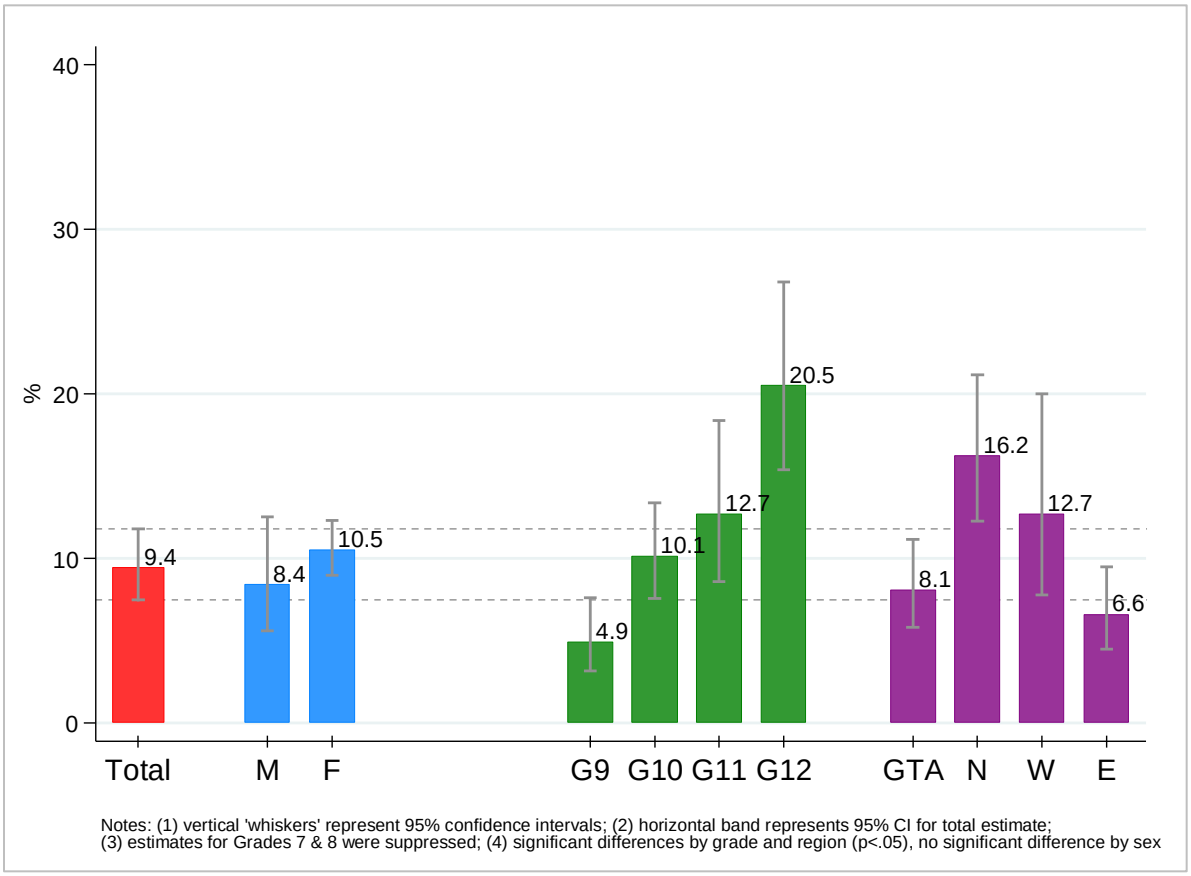
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Drunkenness in the Past Month: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.4.12; Table 3.4.6)

Total	• About 9.4% of students report becoming drunk (i.e., drinking until becoming ill or could not function properly) at least once during the four weeks before the survey.
Sex	• There is no significant difference in reported drunkenness between males (8.4%) and females (10.5%).
Grade	• Reported drunkenness in the past month significantly increases with grade, from 4.9% of 9th graders to 20.5% of 12th graders (estimates for Grades 7 and 8 were suppressed).
Region	• There is a significant difference by region, with students in the Greater Toronto Area (8.1%) and East region (6.6%) least likely to report getting drunk in the past month, compared with students in the North (16.2%) and West (12.7%).

Figure 3.4.12
Drunkenness in the Past Month by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



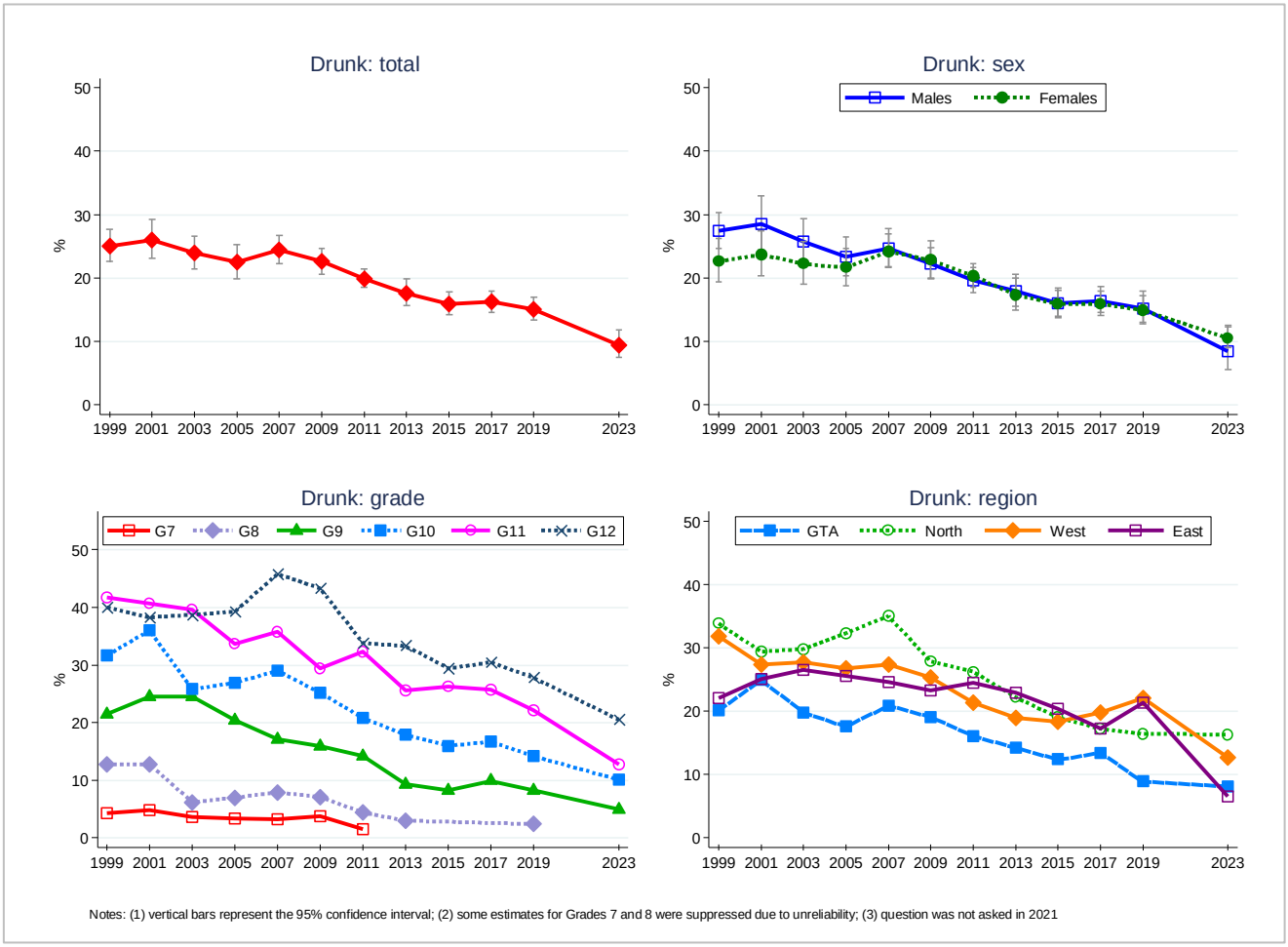
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate;
(3) estimates for Grades 7 & 8 were suppressed; (4) significant differences by grade and region (p<.05), no significant difference by sex

Drunkenness in the Past Month: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.4.13; Table 3.4.6)

Total	• The percentage of students who report getting drunk in the past month in 2023 (9.4%) is significantly lower than in 2019 (15.1%) (question not asked in 2021). There has been a significant downward trend since 1999/early 2000s, when estimates were over one-quarter, reaching an all-time low in 2023.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant decline in 2023 compared with their respective estimates from 2019. Both sexes show a significant decline in drunkenness since 1999.
Grade	• All grades show a significant decrease in drunkenness since 1999.
Region	• Students in all regions show a significant decrease since 1999.

Figure 3.4.13
Drunkenness in the Past Month, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates for Grades 7 and 8 were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) question was not asked in 2021

Table 3.4.6: Percentage Reporting Drunkenness in the Past Month, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2023	
(n)	(2148)	(1837)	(3152)	(3648)	(2935)	(4851)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(6525)	(5054)	
Total	**25.0**	**26.0**	**23.9**	**22.5**	**24.4**	**22.6**	**19.9**	**17.6**	**15.9**	**16.2**	**15.1**	**9.4**	bcde
(95% CI)	(22.6-27.7)	(23.1-29.2)	(21.4-26.6)	(19.9-25.3)	(22.3-26.7)	(20.6-24.6)	(18.5-21.4)	(15.6-19.9)	(14.2-17.8)	(14.6-17.9)	(13.3-17.0)	(7.5-11.8)	
Sex													
Males	**27.4**	**28.5**	**25.8**	**23.3**	**24.7**	**22.3**	**19.6**	**17.9**	**16.0**	**16.4**	**15.2**	**8.4**	bc
	(24.6-30.3)	(24.4-32.9)	(22.6-29.3)	(20.3-26.5)	(21.8-27.8)	(19.9-24.8)	(17.7-21.7)	(15.5-20.6)	(14.0-18.1)	(14.5-18.6)	(12.8-17.9)	(5.6-12.5)	
Females	**22.6**	**23.7**	**22.2**	**21.6**	**24.2**	**22.8**	**20.3**	**17.3**	**15.9**	**15.9**	**14.9**	**10.5**	bc
	(19.4-26.2)	(20.3-27.4)	(19.0-25.7)	(18.8-24.7)	(21.6-26.9)	(20.0-25.8)	(18.5-22.2)	(14.9-20.0)	(13.6-18.4)	(14.1-17.9)	(13.0-17.2)	(9.0-12.3)	
Grade													
7	**4.3**	**4.8**	**3.6**	**3.4**	**3.2**	**3.8**	**1.5**	†	†	†	†	†	
	(2.8-6.6)	(2.8-8.1)	(2.0-6.5)	(2.1-5.3)	(1.6-6.6)	(2.4-5.9)	(0.9-2.4)						
8	**12.8**	**12.8**	**6.2**	**7.0**	**7.9**	**7.1**	**4.4**	**3.0**	†	†	**2.4**	†	c
	(9.7-16.6)	(6.5-23.5)	(4.3-9.0)	(5.0-9.7)	(4.9-12.5)	(4.7-10.5)	(2.9-6.6)	(1.9-4.7)			(1.5-3.7)		
9	**21.5**	**24.5**	**24.5**	**20.4**	**17.1**	**15.9**	**14.2**	**9.3**	**8.2**	**9.9**	**8.2**	**4.9**	c
	(16.7-27.1)	(19.2-30.8)	(20.6-28.8)	(16.4-25.0)	(13.2-22.0)	(12.5-20.1)	(11.7-17.1)	(7.1-12.0)	(6.1-11.0)	(7.6-12.8)	(6.1-11.0)	(3.1-7.6)	
10	**31.7**	**36.0**	**25.8**	**26.9**	**29.0**	**25.2**	**20.8**	**17.9**	**16.0**	**16.7**	**14.2**	**10.1**	c
	(26.4-37.4)	(31.2-41.2)	(21.0-31.2)	(22.8-31.4)	(24.4-33.9)	(21.1-29.8)	(16.6-25.8)	(14.7-21.5)	(13.2-19.2)	(14.1-19.7)	(11.6-17.3)	(7.6-13.4)	
11	**41.7**	**40.7**	**39.6**	**33.6**	**35.8**	**29.4**	**32.4**	**25.6**	**26.2**	**25.7**	**22.1**	**12.7**	bc
	(35.3-48.4)	(32.5-49.4)	(33.4-46.1)	(28.7-39.0)	(30.8-41.1)	(25.3-34.0)	(28.1-36.9)	(21.3-30.4)	(22.5-30.3)	(20.8-31.2)	(18.5-26.1)	(8.6-18.4)	
12	**40.0**	**38.3**	**38.7**	**39.3**	**45.8**	**43.3**	**33.8**	**33.3**	**29.4**	**30.5**	**27.7**	**20.5**	c
	(33.5-46.8)	(25.4-53.1)	(32.7-45.1)	(33.9-44.9)	(40.8-50.9)	(38.5-48.2)	(29.3-38.5)	(29.4-37.4)	(25.0-34.1)	(25.9-35.5)	(23.7-32.2)	(15.4-26.8)	
Region													
GTA	**20.2**	**24.9**	**19.8**	**17.6**	**20.9**	**19.1**	**16.1**	**14.2**	**12.4**	**13.4**	**8.9**	**8.1**	c
	(16.6-24.2)	(19.1-31.8)	(15.6-24.8)	(14.0-21.8)	(17.2-25.2)	(15.6-23.2)	(13.5-19.1)	(10.8-18.3)	(10.2-14.9)	(12.0-14.9)	(7.3-11.0)	(5.8-11.2)	
North	**33.8**	**29.4**	**29.8**	**32.3**	**35.0**	**27.8**	**26.2**	**22.2**	**19.0**	**17.2**	**16.4**	**16.2**	c
	(28.6-39.3)	(25.2-33.9)	(24.2-36.0)	(27.0-38.0)	(30.0-40.4)	(22.6-33.6)	(22.3-30.4)	(19.6-25.1)	(15.8-22.7)	(14.4-20.4)	(11.6-22.7)	(12.3-21.2)	
West	**31.8**	**27.4**	**27.7**	**26.7**	**27.3**	**25.3**	**21.3**	**18.9**	**18.3**	**19.8**	**22.1**	**12.7**	c
	(25.6-38.7)	(22.8-32.6)	(22.2-34.0)	(22.0-32.1)	(23.0-32.1)	(21.6-29.4)	(18.4-24.6)	(14.5-24.3)	(14.3-23.0)	(16.7-23.3)	(17.2-27.8)	(7.8-20.0)	
East	**22.1**	**25.1**	**26.5**	**25.5**	**24.6**	**23.3**	**24.5**	**22.9**	**20.4**	**17.3**	**21.3**	**6.6**	bc
	(16.6-28.7)	(19.0-32.4)	(21.3-32.4)	(19.3-32.9)	(19.8-30.1)	(19.7-27.5)	(20.7-28.8)	(20.7-25.2)	(16.1-25.4)	(12.3-23.6)	(18.1-25.0)	(4.5-9.5)	

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) question asked of a random half sample between 2001 and 2009, and in 2019 and 2023; (3) question not asked in 2021; (4) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (5) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (6) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (7) [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 4 weeks, how often has drinking alcohol made you drunk (that is, you had so much that you could not do what you wanted to do, or you threw up)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Hazardous or Harmful Drinking (AUDIT Screener): 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Figures 3.4.14, 3.4.15; Tables 3.4.7, 3.4.8)

Total

- About one-in-seven (14%) secondary school students could not remember what had happened when they were drinking alcohol on at least one occasion during the past 12 months. Also worrisome is that 5% of students report that they were injured, or someone else was injured, because of their drinking during the past 12 months.
- About one-in-eight (12.6%) secondary school students report hazardous/harmful drinking (that is, scoring eight or higher out of 40 on the AUDIT screener). Among those who drank in the past year, over one-quarter (28.8%) report hazardous/harmful drinking.

Sex

- Females (14.8%) are significantly more likely than males (10.4%) to drink at a hazardous/harmful level.

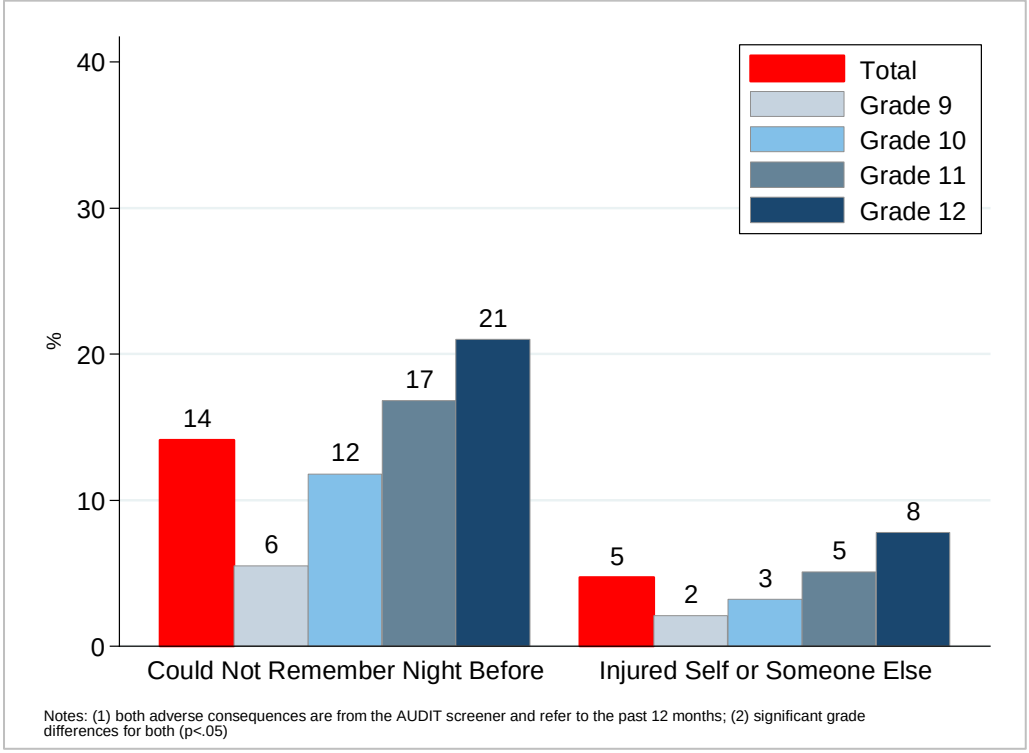
Grade

- The likelihood of hazardous/harmful drinking significantly increases with grade, from 4.1% of 9th graders to 20.9% of 12th graders.

Region

- There is significant variation among the regions, showing that students in the Greater Toronto Area (9.7%) are significantly less likely to drink hazardously/harmfully compared with students in the West and East regions (about 16%). Students in the North fall in-between (12.4%).

Figure 3.4.14
Percentage Reporting They Could Not Remember the Night Before Due to Their Drinking, and Reporting They (or Someone Else) Were Injured Due to Their Drinking by Grade, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



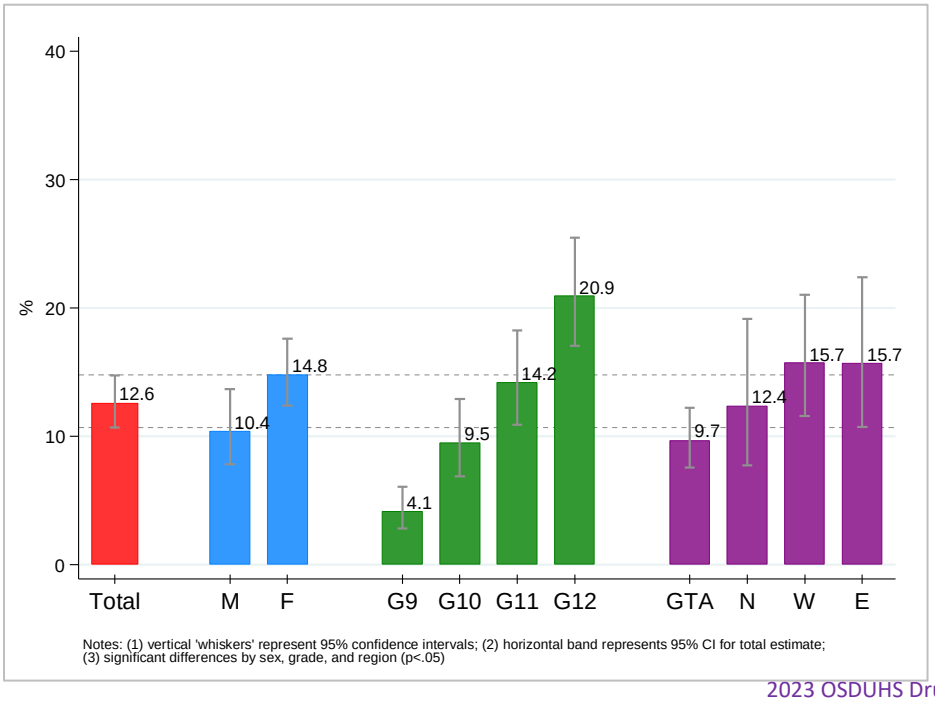
Notes: (1) both adverse consequences are from the AUDIT screener and refer to the past 12 months; (2) significant grade differences for both (p<.05)

Table 3.4.7: Percentage of the Total Sample, and of Those Who Drank Alcohol in the Past Year, Reporting AUDIT Screener Indicators, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

AUDIT Item	% "yes"	
	Total (n=3603)	Past Year Drinkers (n=1575)
Alcohol Intake		
1. Consumed alcohol during the past 12 months	44.3	--
2. Number of drinks usually have on typical day when drink (% reporting 2+ drinks)	29.8	67.2
3. Consumed five or more drinks on at least one occasion during the past 12 months	22.8	51.1
Dependence Indicators (past 12 months)		
4. Were not able to stop drinking once you had started	6.4	14.6
5. Failed to do what was normally expected from you because of your drinking	9.2	21.0
6. Needed a first alcoholic drink in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy drinking session	2.0	4.7
Adverse Consequences		
7. Had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking, during the past 12 months	11.5	26.2
8. Been unable to remember what happened the night before because you had been drinking, during the past 12 months	14.1	32.0
9. You or someone else been injured as a result of your drinking:		
Yes, but not in the past 12 months	2.6	5.9
Yes, in the past 12 months	4.7	10.4
10. A relative/friend or a doctor/health worker has been concerned about your drinking or suggested that you cut down: Yes, but not in the past 12 months	0.6	1.1
Yes, in the past 12 months	1.5	3.4
AUDIT 8+ Score (95% CI)	**12.6%** (10.7-14.8)	**28.8%** (25.4-32.4)

Notes: (1) The AUDIT screener measures hazardous or harmful drinking as indicated by a score of 8 or more out of 40; (2) "Past Year Drinkers" are those who drank alcohol, excluding just a sip, at least once during the past 12 months; (3) based on a random half sample of secondary school students.
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Figure 3.4.15
Percentage Reporting Hazardous/Harmful Drinking (AUDIT Screener 8+) by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS

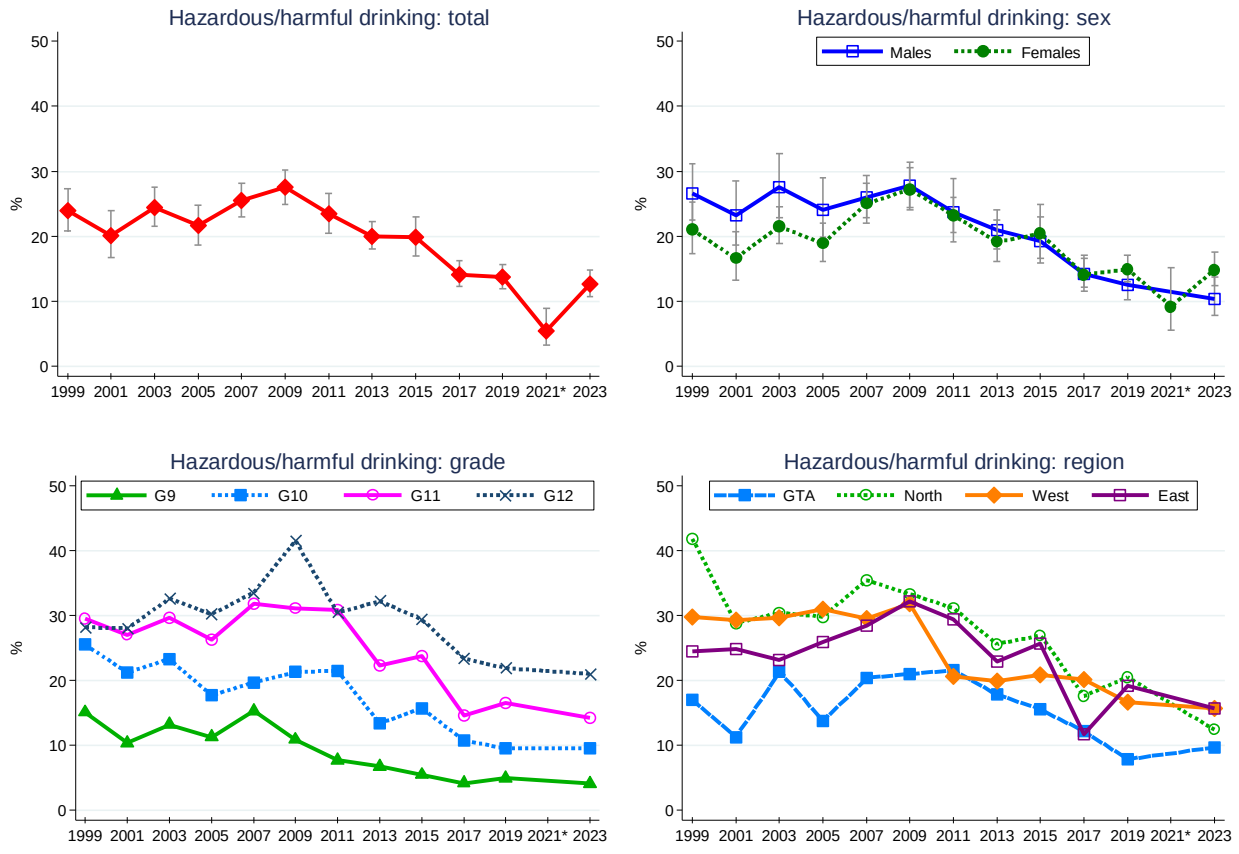


Hazardous or Harmful Drinking (AUDIT Screener): 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 9–12)

(Figure 3.4.16; Table 3.4.8)

Total	• Hazardous/harmful drinking significantly increased between 2021 (5.4%) and 2023 (12.6%), returning to a level seen in 2019 (13.7%). Hazardous/harmful drinking has significantly declined since monitoring first began in 1999, when the estimate was at one-quarter.
Sex	• Neither males nor females show significant changes in recent years. Both show significant decreases since 1999.
Grade	• No grade shows a significant change in recent years. Grades 9 to 11 show a significant decrease since 1999, whereas Grade 12 students show a decrease compared to elevated levels seen over a decade ago.
Region	• No region shows a significant change in recent years. All regions show a significant decrease since 1999 or the 2000s.

Figure 3.4.16
Hazardous/Harmful Drinking (AUDIT Screener 8+), 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.4.8: Percentage Reporting Hazardous/Harmful Drinking (AUDIT Screener 8+), 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(1495)	(1278)	(2455)	(3069)	(2587)	(3055)	(3358)	(3264)	(3426)	(4298)	(5273)	(739)	(3603)
Total (95% CI)	**23.9** (20.8-27.3)	**20.1** (16.7-23.9)	**24.4** (21.5-27.6)	**21.6** (18.6-24.8)	**25.5** (23.0-28.2)	**27.5** (24.9-30.2)	**23.4** (20.5-26.6)	**20.0** (18.0-22.2)	**19.8** (17.0-23.0)	**14.1** (12.2-16.3)	**13.7** (11.9-15.7)	**5.4** (3.3-8.9)	**12.6** [acde] (10.7-14.8)
Sex													
Males	**26.6** (22.5-31.1)	**23.2** (18.7-28.5)	**27.6** (22.9-32.7)	**24.1** (19.9-29.0)	**26.0** (22.8-29.4)	**27.8** (24.4-31.4)	**23.7** (19.1-28.9)	**20.9** (18.0-24.1)	**19.2** (15.9-23.0)	**14.2** (12.1-16.6)	**12.5** (10.2-15.2)	†	**10.4** [c] (7.8-13.7)
Females	**21.0** (17.3-25.3)	**16.6** (13.2-20.7)	**21.5** (18.9-24.5)	**18.9** (16.1-22.0)	**25.0** (22.0-28.2)	**27.2** (24.0-30.6)	**23.2** (20.6-26.0)	**19.1** (16.1-22.5)	**20.4** (16.6-24.9)	**14.1** (11.5-17.1)	**14.9** (13.0-17.0)	**9.2** (5.5-15.1)	**14.8** [c] (12.4-17.6)
Grade													
9	**15.1** (10.6-21.0)	**10.4** (7.2-14.8)	**13.2** (10.8-16.2)	**11.3** (8.0-15.5)	**15.3** (11.6-20.0)	**10.9** (8.0-14.8)	**7.7** (5.4-10.8)	**6.8** (5.0-9.2)	**5.5** (3.7-8.1)	**4.2** (2.4-7.5)	**5.0** (3.4-7.3)	†	**4.1** [c] (2.8-6.1)
10	**25.5** (19.5-32.6)	**21.2** (16.0-27.4)	**23.3** (18.8-28.5)	**17.7** (14.4-21.6)	**19.7** (16.6-23.2)	**21.3** (17.4-25.7)	**21.5** (15.7-28.6)	**13.4** (9.7-18.3)	**15.7** (12.7-19.3)	**10.8** (8.8-13.2)	**9.5** (7.0-12.8)	†	**9.5** [c] (6.9-12.9)
11	**29.5** (23.8-36.0)	**27.0** (20.5-34.5)	**29.6** (24.5-35.2)	**26.3** (22.3-30.8)	**31.8** (27.0-37.0)	**31.1** (25.2-37.6)	**30.8** (24.9-37.3)	**22.3** (17.8-27.5)	**23.8** (19.6-28.5)	**14.6** (8.7-23.6)	**16.5** (13.6-19.8)	†	**14.2** [c] (10.9-18.2)
12	**28.2** (21.1-36.6)	**27.9** (21.9-34.9)	**32.6** (27.0-38.7)	**30.2** (25.2-35.6)	**33.5** (28.9-38.4)	**41.5** (37.2-46.1)	**30.4** (23.5-38.2)	**32.2** (28.2-36.5)	**29.4** (22.9-36.8)	**23.4** (18.7-28.9)	**21.8** (18.1-26.2)	†	**20.9** (17.0-25.5)
Region													
GTA	**17.0** (13.3-21.5)	**11.3** (7.7-16.2)	**21.4** (17.6-25.8)	**13.8** (11.7-16.3)	**20.4** (16.6-24.8)	**21.0** (17.5-24.9)	**21.6** (17.5-26.4)	**17.9** (14.8-21.4)	**15.6** (12.6-19.3)	**12.2** (9.8-15.0)	**7.9** (6.1-10.2)	†	**9.7** [c] (7.6-12.2)
North	**41.8** (32.6-51.6)	**28.8** (22.5-36.1)	**30.4** (25.2-36.2)	**29.8** (25.6-34.4)	**35.4** (28.1-43.5)	**33.3** (25.7-41.9)	**31.1** (26.3-36.2)	**25.6** (21.2-30.6)	**26.9** (22.5-31.8)	**17.6** (13.7-22.3)	**20.5** (16.9-24.8)	†	**12.4** [c] (7.7-19.1)
West	**29.8** (23.3-37.2)	**29.3** (22.5-37.2)	**29.6** (24.3-35.6)	**31.0** (26.1-36.2)	**29.5** (25.3-34.0)	**31.8** (27.0-37.2)	**20.6** (15.6-26.6)	**19.9** (16.2-24.2)	**20.9** (16.3-26.4)	**20.1** (15.9-25.1)	**16.7** (12.4-22.3)	†	**15.7** [c] (11.6-21.0)
East	**24.5** (17.6-33.0)	**24.8** (18.4-32.5)	**23.1** (16.3-31.6)	**25.9** (17.9-36.0)	**28.4** (24.6-32.6)	**32.2** (27.1-37.8)	**29.4** (24.1-35.0)	**22.9** (18.0-28.7)	**25.7** (16.7-37.4)	**11.7** (8.5-15.7)	**19.2** (15.8-23.1)	†	**15.7** (10.7-22.4)

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 9-12 in each year; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

3.5 Cannabis Use

Past Year Cannabis Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.5.1; Table 3.5.1)

Total

- About one-in-six (17.6%) students report using cannabis at least once during the 12 months before the survey.
- About one-in-eleven (9.1%) students report using cannabis six or more times during the 12 months before the survey.

Sex

- Females (20.7%) are significantly more likely than males (14.8%) to report past year cannabis use.

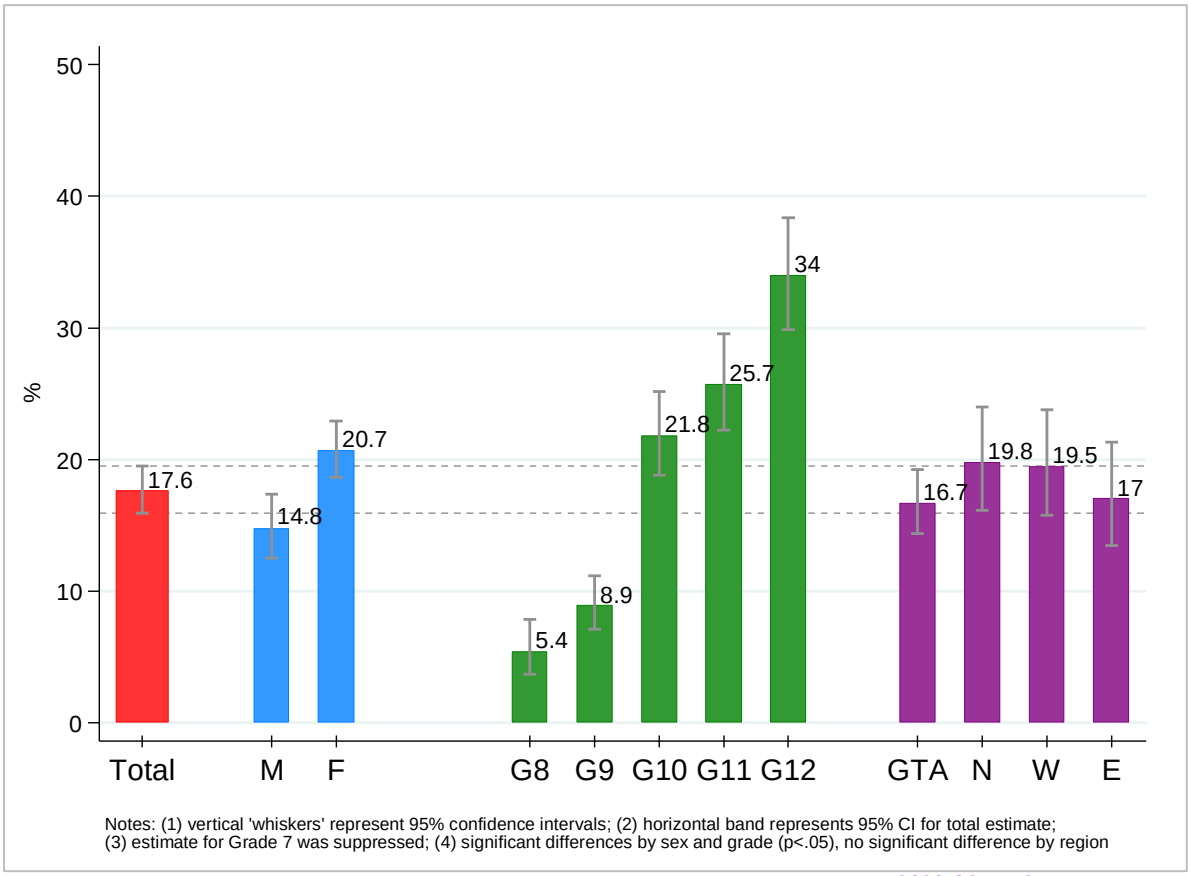
Grade

- The percentage reporting past year cannabis use significantly increases with grade, from about 5% of 8th graders up to one-third (34%) of 12th graders.

Region

- There is no significant regional variation in past year cannabis use.

Figure 3.5.1
Past Year Cannabis Use by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimate for Grade 7 was suppressed; (4) significant differences by sex and grade (p<.05), no significant difference by region

Past Year Cannabis Use: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.5.2; Table 3.5.1)

Total

- Past year cannabis use did not significantly change between 2021 (17.0%) and 2023 (17.6%), however the current estimate is significantly lower than in 2019 (22.0%). Despite a numerical increase between 2017 and 2019, cannabis use has generally been on a downward trend since 1999 and the early 2000s, when the estimate was about 30%.
- Cannabis use six or more times in the past year remained stable between 2021 (9.5%) and 2023 (9.1%). The current estimate is significantly lower than the estimates seen in 1999 and in the 2000s (about 15%-17%).

Sex

- Neither males nor females show a significant change in past year cannabis use between 2021 and 2023. Males show a decline from 1999/early 2000s, whereas females show more stability over time.

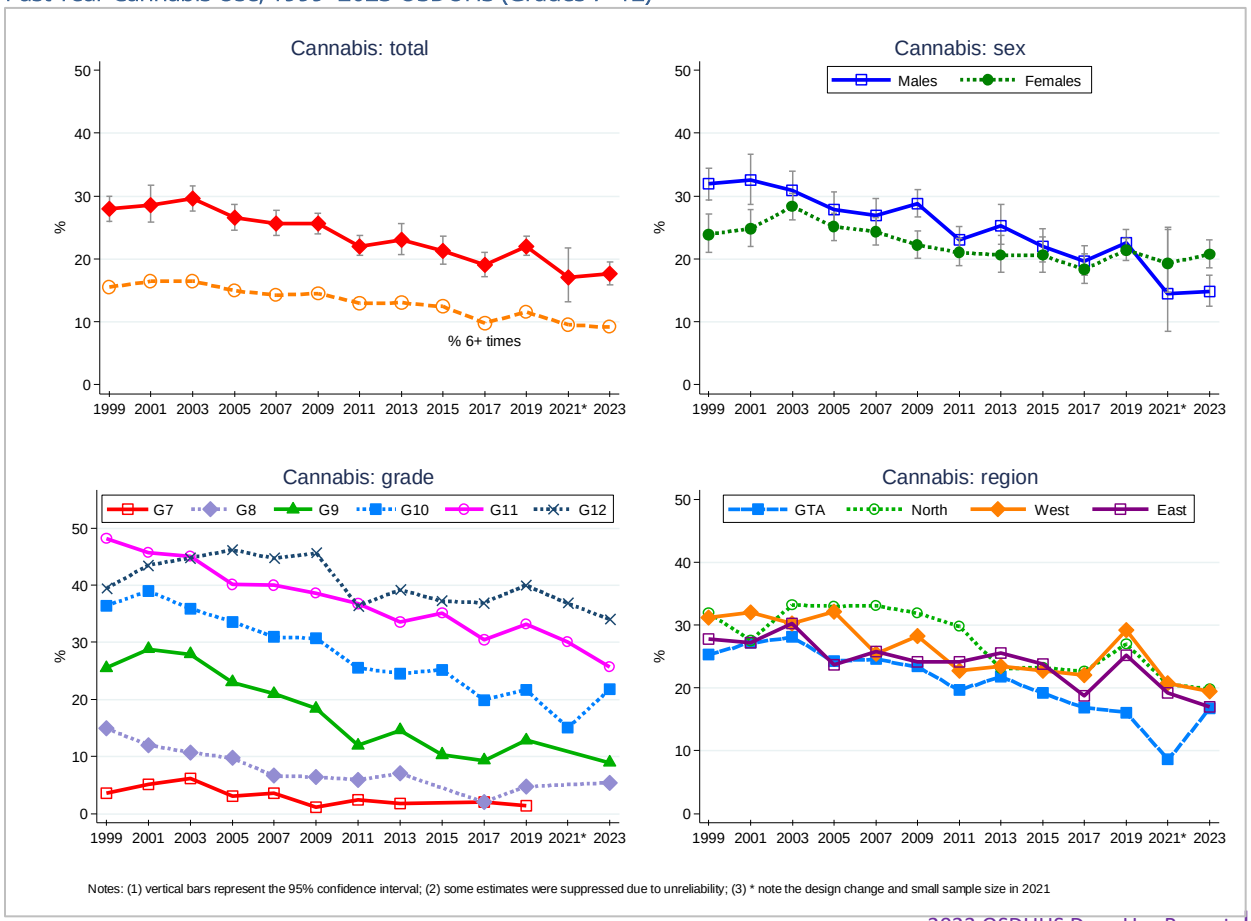
Grade

- No grade shows a significant change between 2021 and 2023. Students in grades 8–11 show a significant downward trend in use since 1999/2001. Students in grade 12 show an increase in use between 1999 and 2009, a decline in 2011, and stability since then.

Region

- Only students in the GTA show a significant change between 2021 and 2023, returning to a level seen in 2019. All regions show a significant decline in use since 1999/early 2000s.

Figure 3.5.2
Past Year Cannabis Use, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

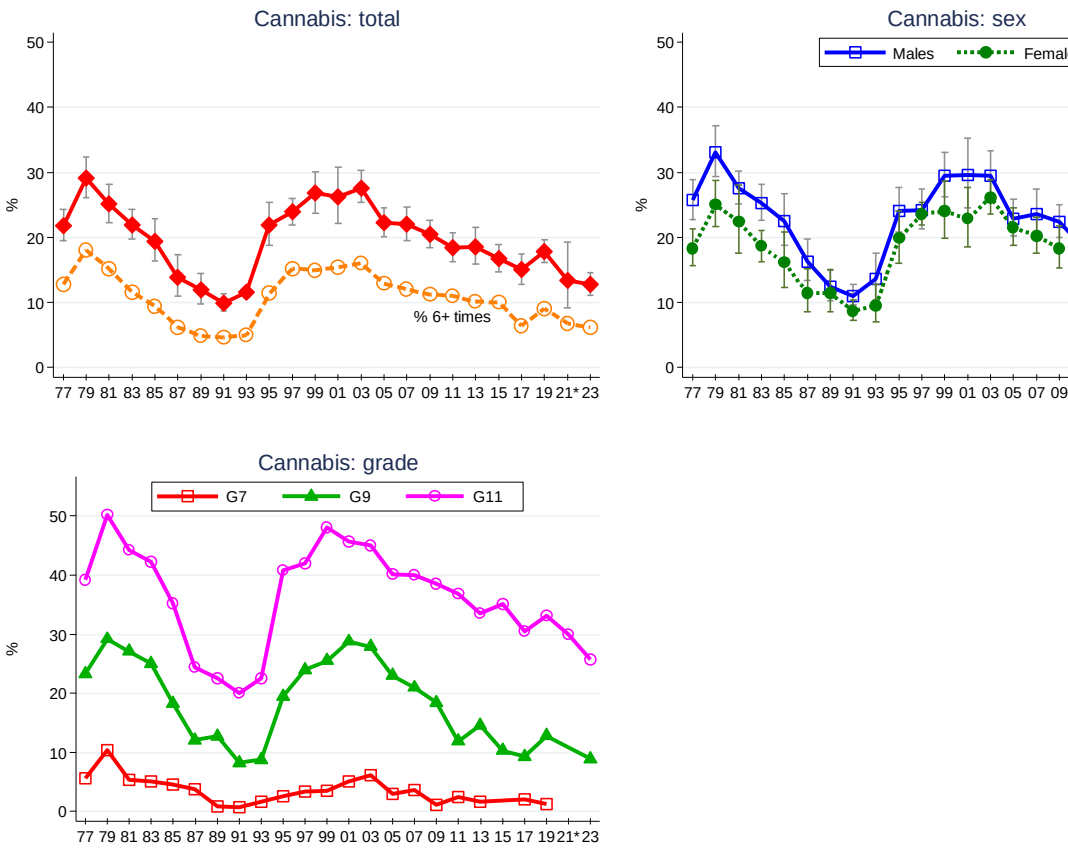
Past Year Cannabis Use: 1977–2023 Trends (Grades 7, 9 and 11 only)

(Figure 3.5.3; Table A6)

- Looking back over the past 45 years or so (grades 7, 9, and 11 only), past year cannabis use is currently significantly lower than the historical peak years of use seen in the late 1970s and again in the late 1990s/early 2000s, and is similar to the lows seen in the late 1980s/early 1990s.

Figure 3.5.3

Past Year Cannabis Use, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.5.1: Percentage Reporting Cannabis Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(4447)	(3898)	(6616)	(7726)	(6323)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)	
Total	**28.0**	**28.6**	**29.6**	**26.5**	**25.6**	**25.6**	**22.0**	**23.0**	**21.3**	**19.0**	**22.0**	**17.0**	**17.6**	bcd
(95% CI)	(26.0-30.0)	(25.8-31.7)	(27.6-31.6)	(24.5-28.7)	(23.7-27.7)	(24.0-27.3)	(20.5-23.7)	(20.7-25.6)	(19.2-23.6)	(17.1-21.0)	(20.5-23.6)	(13.2-21.7)	(15.9-19.5)	
Sex														
Males	**31.9**	**32.5**	**30.9**	**27.9**	**26.9**	**28.8**	**23.0**	**25.3**	**22.0**	**19.6**	**22.6**	**14.5**	**14.8**	bc
	(29.4-34.4)	(28.6-36.6)	(28.1-34.0)	(25.4-30.6)	(24.3-29.6)	(26.7-31.0)	(21.0-25.1)	(22.2-28.6)	(19.5-24.8)	(17.4-22.1)	(20.7-24.7)	(8.4-24.7)	(12.5-17.4)	
Females	**23.9**	**24.8**	**28.3**	**25.1**	**24.3**	**22.2**	**21.0**	**20.6**	**20.5**	**18.3**	**21.4**	**19.3**	**20.7**	
	(21.0-27.1)	(22.0-27.8)	(26.2-30.4)	(22.9-27.3)	(22.2-26.6)	(20.1-24.4)	(18.9-23.2)	(17.9-23.7)	(17.8-23.5)	(16.1-20.8)	(19.7-23.2)	(14.7-25.0)	(18.6-23.0)	
Grade														
7	**3.5**	**5.1**	**6.2**	**3.0**	**3.6**	**1.1**	**2.4**	**1.7**	†	**2.0**	**1.3**	†	†	
	(2.2-5.6)	(3.4-7.6)	(4.3-8.7)	(1.9-4.9)	(2.2-5.8)	(0.6-1.8)	(1.3-4.4)	(1.0-3.1)		(1.1-3.6)	(0.7-2.4)			
8	**14.9**	**12.0**	**10.7**	**9.7**	**6.6**	**6.4**	**5.9**	**7.0**	†	**2.0**	**4.7**	†	**5.4**	c
	(11.6-18.9)	(9.4-15.1)	(6.8-16.4)	(7.3-12.8)	(4.7-9.4)	(4.4-9.2)	(4.1-8.4)	(4.2-11.5)		(1.1-3.7)	(3.5-6.4)		(3.7-7.8)	
9	**25.5**	**28.8**	**27.9**	**23.0**	**21.0**	**18.4**	**11.9**	**14.6**	**10.3**	**9.3**	**12.8**	†	**8.9**	c
	(21.7-29.7)	(23.8-34.2)	(24.5-31.5)	(20.2-26.1)	(17.2-25.4)	(15.0-22.3)	(10.0-14.1)	(11.6-18.2)	(8.2-12.8)	(7.4-11.7)	(10.8-15.1)		(7.1-11.2)	
10	**36.4**	**39.0**	**35.9**	**33.6**	**30.9**	**30.7**	**25.5**	**24.5**	**25.2**	**19.9**	**21.7**	**15.0**	**21.8**	c
	(30.7-42.6)	(35.0-43.1)	(31.4-40.8)	(30.2-37.1)	(27.4-34.6)	(26.6-35.0)	(20.4-31.4)	(20.9-28.4)	(21.6-29.1)	(17.1-23.1)	(19.1-24.5)	(9.1-23.9)	(18.8-25.2)	
11	**48.1**	**45.7**	**45.0**	**40.1**	**40.0**	**38.6**	**36.8**	**33.5**	**35.1**	**30.4**	**33.1**	**30.0**	**25.7**	bc
	(42.8-53.4)	(37.7-53.9)	(40.6-49.5)	(36.2-44.1)	(35.9-44.2)	(34.4-42.9)	(33.2-40.7)	(29.1-38.3)	(30.9-39.6)	(25.2-36.2)	(29.8-36.5)	(19.8-42.7)	(22.2-29.6)	
12	**39.4**	**43.5**	**44.8**	**46.2**	**44.7**	**45.6**	**36.4**	**39.2**	**37.2**	**36.9**	**40.0**	**36.8**	**34.0**	
	(33.2-45.9)	(33.1-54.5)	(39.4-50.4)	(42.0-50.5)	(40.8-48.7)	(41.9-49.3)	(31.6-41.5)	(34.2-44.4)	(32.2-42.5)	(31.5-42.7)	(37.0-43.0)	(21.2-55.7)	(29.8-38.4)	
Region														
GTA	**25.3**	**27.2**	**28.1**	**24.3**	**24.6**	**23.4**	**19.7**	**21.8**	**19.2**	**16.9**	**16.0**	**8.6**	**16.7**	ac
	(21.9-29.1)	(21.2-34.3)	(24.7-31.8)	(20.7-28.3)	(20.6-29.0)	(20.1-27.0)	(16.6-23.2)	(17.7-26.5)	(16.4-22.5)	(14.6-19.4)	(14.4-17.8)	(4.9-14.7)	(14.4-19.2)	
North	**31.9**	**27.6**	**33.2**	**33.0**	**33.1**	**31.9**	**29.8**	**23.1**	**23.2**	**22.6**	**27.0**	**20.6**	**19.8**	c
	(26.2-38.2)	(22.4-33.6)	(27.9-39.0)	(29.6-36.6)	(28.9-37.7)	(27.8-36.2)	(26.4-33.4)	(17.8-29.3)	(19.8-27.0)	(19.0-26.6)	(22.6-31.8)	(15.3-27.2)	(16.2-24.0)	
West	**31.2**	**32.0**	**30.3**	**32.1**	**25.4**	**28.3**	**22.7**	**23.4**	**22.7**	**22.0**	**29.2**	**20.7**	**19.5**	bc
	(26.2-36.7)	(27.6-36.7)	(24.9-36.4)	(27.3-37.4)	(21.3-30.0)	(25.0-32.0)	(18.9-27.0)	(19.3-28.2)	(18.0-28.2)	(18.8-25.6)	(25.4-33.4)	(13.-30.3)	(15.8-23.8)	
East	**27.8**	**27.2**	**30.3**	**23.7**	**25.8**	**24.1**	**24.1**	**25.6**	**23.8**	**18.7**	**25.2**	**19.2**	**17.0**	bc
	(20.7-36.2)	(20.5-35.0)	(26.4-34.6)	(19.0-29.1)	(21.4-30.7)	(21.4-27.1)	(21.3-27.0)	(21.2-30.6)	(18.2-30.4)	(13.4-25.3)	(21.9-28.8)	(12.3-28.8)	(13.4-21.3)	

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use cannabis in any way (also known as marijuana, "weed", "pot", "grass", hashish, "hash", hash oil, etc.)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Month Cannabis Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figures 3.5.4-3.5.6; Table 3.5.2)

Total

- About one-in-nine (10.6%) students report using cannabis at least once during the month (4 weeks) before the survey.
- About 2.2% of students used on a daily basis during the past month.

Sex

- Females (12.1%) are significantly more likely than males (9.2%) to report using cannabis in the past month.
- Daily cannabis use does not significantly differ between males (1.9%) and females (2.4%).

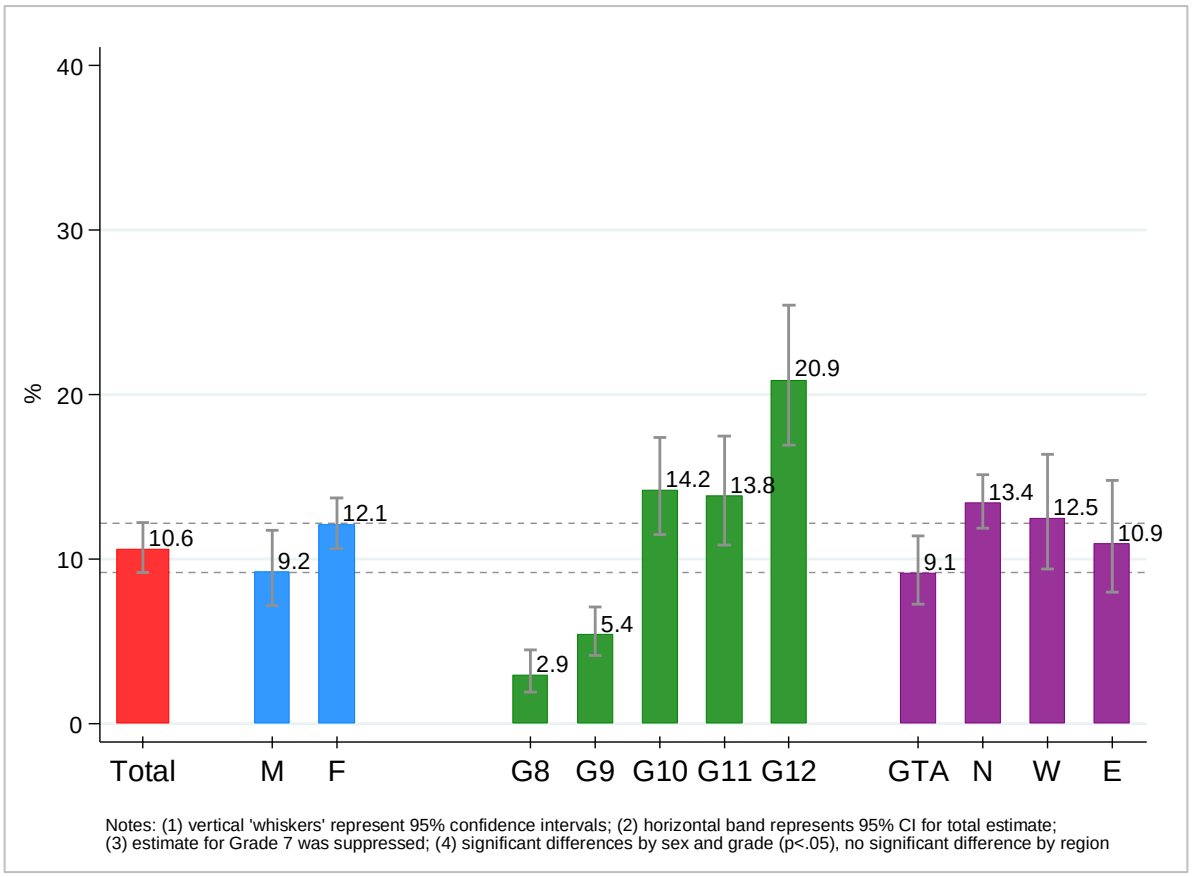
Grade

- The percentage reporting past month cannabis use significantly increases with grade, from 2.9% of 8th graders up to 20.9% of 12th graders.
- Daily cannabis use significantly increases with grade, reaching 5.3% among 12th graders.

Region

- Any use in the past month use does not significantly differ by region.
- However, students in the Greater Toronto Area (1.0%) are least likely to use cannabis daily compared with students in the other three regions (about 2%-4%).

Figure 3.5.4
Past Month Cannabis Use by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimate for Grade 7 was suppressed; (4) significant differences by sex and grade (p<.05), no significant difference by region

Figure 3.5.5
Frequency of Cannabis Use in the Past Month, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

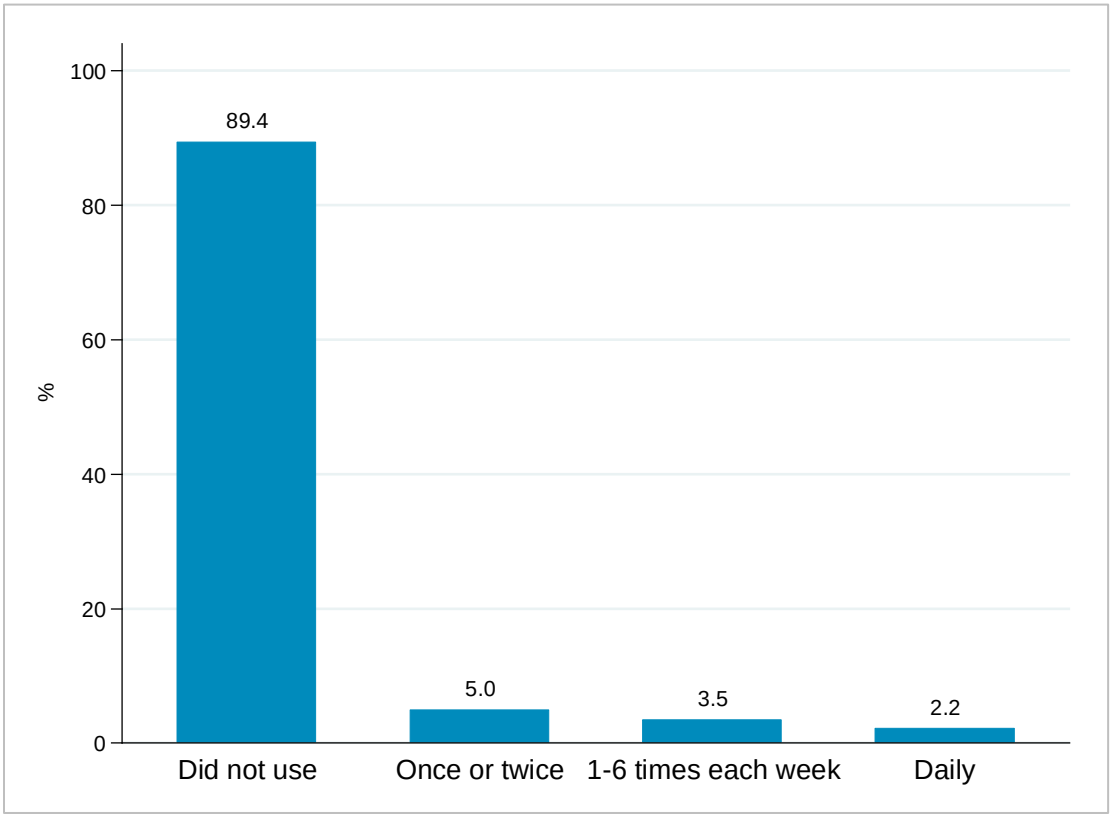
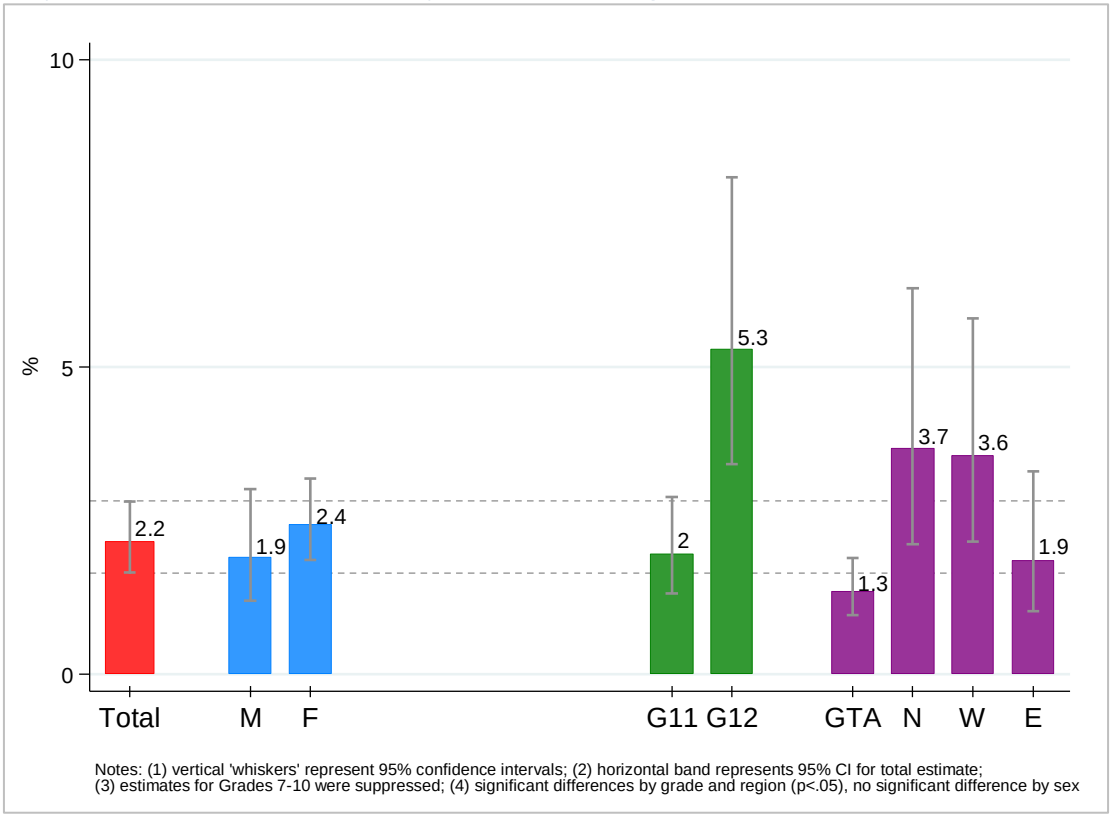


Figure 3.5.6
Daily Cannabis Use in the Past Month by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



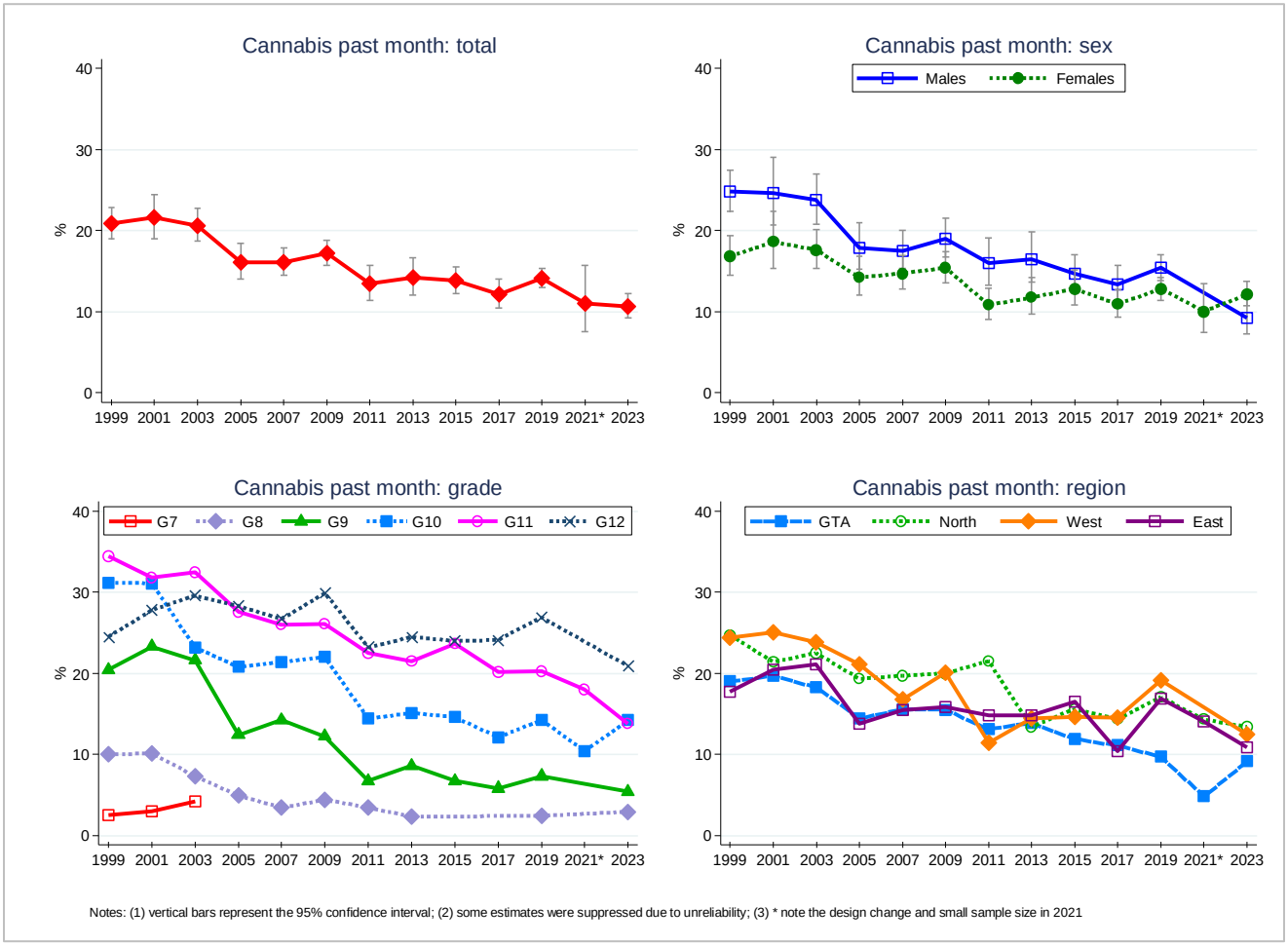
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate;
(3) estimates for Grades 7-10 were suppressed; (4) significant differences by grade and region (p<.05), no significant difference by sex

Past Month Cannabis Use: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.5.7; Tables 3.5.2, 3.5.3)

Total	• The percentage reporting any cannabis use in the past month in 2023 (10.6%) is similar to the percentage from 2021 (11.0%), but significantly lower than 2019 (14.1%). The current estimate is significantly lower than estimates seen in 1999/early 2000s (about 21%-22%). • Daily cannabis use shows relative stability over the past two decades.
Sex	• Males and females show a significant decline in past month cannabis use since 1999/early 2000s.
Grade	• Students in grades 9 to 11 show a significant decline since 1999/early 2000s.
Region	• All four regions show a significant decline since 1999/early 2000s.

Figure 3.5.7
Past Month Cannabis Use, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.5.2: Percentage Reporting Cannabis Use in the Past Month, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(4447)	(1837)	(3152)	(4078)	(3388)	(4851)	(4816)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Total	**20.9**	**21.6**	**20.6**	**16.1**	**16.1**	**17.2**	**13.4**	**14.2**	**13.8**	**12.1**	**14.1**	**11.0**	**10.6** [bcd]
(95% CI)	(19.0-22.8)	(19.0-24.4)	(18.7-22.7)	(14.0-18.4)	(14.5-17.9)	(15.7-18.8)	(11.4-15.7)	(12.0-16.6)	(12.2-15.5)	(10.4-14.0)	(13.0-15.3)	(7.5-15.7)	(9.2-12.2)
Sex													
Males	**24.8**	**24.6**	**23.8**	**17.9**	**17.5**	**19.0**	**16.0**	**16.4**	**14.7**	**13.3**	**15.4**	†	**9.2** [bc]
	(22.4-27.4)	(20.7-29.0)	(20.8-27.0)	(15.2-21.0)	(15.3-20.0)	(16.7-21.5)	(13.2-19.1)	(13.6-19.8)	(12.6-17.0)	(11.2-15.7)	(13.8-17.0)		(7.2-11.8)
Females	**16.8**	**18.6**	**17.6**	**14.2**	**14.7**	**15.4**	**10.8**	**11.7**	**12.8**	**10.9**	**12.8**	**10.0**	**12.1** [c]
	(14.5-19.4)	(15.3-22.4)	(15.3-20.1)	(12.0-16.8)	(12.8-16.9)	(13.5-17.4)	(9.0-12.9)	(9.7-14.2)	(10.8-15.1)	(9.3-12.7)	(11.4-14.2)	(7.4-13.4)	(10.6-13.7)
Grade													
7	**2.5**	**3.0**	**4.2**	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
	(1.5-4.4)	(1.5-5.7)	(2.4-7.4)										
8	**10.0**	**10.1**	**7.3**	**4.9**	**3.4**	**4.4**	**3.4**	**2.3**	†	†	**2.4**	†	**2.9** [c]
	(6.9-14.3)	(5.1-19.1))	(4.9-10.6)	(3.1-7.7)	(2.0-5.9)	(2.8-6.8)	(1.8-6.3)	(1.3-3.9)			(1.6-3.6)		(1.9-4.5)
9	**20.4**	**23.3**	**21.6**	**12.4**	**14.2**	**12.2**	**6.7**	**8.6**	**6.7**	**5.8**	**7.3**	†	**5.4** [c]
	(16.6-24.8)	(17.5-30.4)	(17.3-26.6)	(9.9-15.6)	(11.0-18.3)	(9.4-15.7)	(4.9-9.0)	(6.0-12.1)	(5.1-8.8)	(4.1-8.2)	(6.0-9.0)		(4.2-7.1)
10	**31.2**	**31.1**	**23.2**	**20.8**	**21.4**	**22.0**	**14.4**	**15.1**	**14.6**	**12.1**	**14.2**	**10.4**	**14.2** [c]
	(25.3-37.9)	(25.5-37.3)	(19.3-27.6)	(16.9-25.3)	(17.2-26.2)	(18.2-26.3)	(9.9-20.6)	(12.1-18.6)	(12.4-17.2)	(9.8-14.8)	(12.4-16.2)	(5.5-18.7)	(11.5-17.4)
11	**34.5**	**31.8**	**32.5**	**27.6**	**26.0**	**26.1**	**22.5**	**21.5**	**23.6**	**20.2**	**20.3**	**18.0**	**13.8** [c]
	(29.9-39.4)	(24.8-39.8)	(27.4-38.1)	(23.6-32.0)	(22.2-30.3)	(21.4-31.4)	(18.4-27.2)	(17.4-26.3)	(20.2-27.5)	(15.1-26.4)	(17.6-23.3)	(11.1-27.9)	(10.8-17.5)
12	**24.5**	**27.8**	**29.6**	**28.3**	**26.7**	**29.9**	**23.2**	**24.5**	**24.0**	**24.1**	**26.9**	†	**20.9**
	(19.6-30.2)	(19.8-37.5)	(24.5-35.1)	(23.9-33.2)	(22.5-31.4)	(26.2-33.9)	(16.6-31.5)	(19.4-30.3)	(20.3-28.2)	(19.8-29.1)	(24.1-29.9)		(16.9-25.4)
Region													
GTA	**19.0**	**19.7**	**18.3**	**14.4**	**15.6**	**15.5**	**13.1**	**13.9**	**11.9**	**11.1**	**9.7**	**4.8**	**9.1** [c]
	(15.8-22.6)	(15.0-25.4)	(15.2-22.0)	(11.6-17.8)	(12.6-19.1)	(12.8-18.6)	(10.2-16.5)	(10.7-17.9)	(9.8-14.4)	(8.7-14.1)	(8.6-11.0)	(2.5-8.9)	(7.3-11.4)
North	**24.7**	**21.4**	**22.5**	**19.3**	**19.7**	**20.0**	**21.5**	**13.4**	**15.6**	**14.3**	**17.1**	**14.3**	**13.4** [c]
	(20.2-29.8)	(16.1-27.8)	(17.7-28.2)	(16.2-22.9)	(15.4-24.8)	(16.4-24.0)	(18.4-25.0)	(10.1-17.6)	(12.8-18.8)	(11.8-17.2)	(14.0-20.7)	(9.3-21.2)	(11.9-15.1)
West	**24.4**	**25.1**	**23.8**	**21.1**	**16.8**	**20.1**	**11.4**	**14.4**	**14.6**	**14.5**	**19.1**	†	**12.5** [bc]
	(20.1-29.2)	(20.5-30.4)	(19.3-29.0)	(15.8-27.7)	(13.5-20.8)	(17.3-23.2)	(7.4-17.1)	(10.0-20.2)	(11.4-18.4)	(11.9-17.6)	(16.0-22.6)		(9.4-16.6)
East	**17.7**	**20.4**	**21.1**	**13.8**	**15.5**	**15.8**	**14.8**	**14.8**	**16.5**	**10.4**	**16.9**	**14.1**	**10.9** [b]
	(13.1-23.5)	(14.3-28.2)	(16.6-26.4)	(9.8-19.2)	(12.2-19.5)	(12.9-19.2)	(11.8-18.4)	(11.6-18.6)	(12.1-22.0)	(6.6-15.9)	(14.4-19.8)	(9.0-21.4)	(8.0-14.8)

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) question asked of a random half sample between 2001 and 2011;(3) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (6) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (7) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs.1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 4 weeks, how often did you use cannabis (also known as marijuana, “weed”, “pot”, “grass”, hashish, “hash”, hash oil, etc.)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.5.3: Frequency of Cannabis Use in the Past Month, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(4447)	(1837)	(3152)	(4078)	(3388)	(4851)	(4816)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Not Used	79.1	78.4	79.4	83.9	83.9	86.6	82.8	85.8	86.2	87.9	85.9	89.0	89.4
Once or Twice	10.2	10.1	8.8	7.8	8.8	7.4	8.9	7.0	6.9	6.4	7.3	4.1	5.0
1–2 Times each Week	4.3	3.9	3.7	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.9	2.4	2.7	2.2	2.2	†	1.8
3–6 Times each Week	3.8	4.5	4.0	2.8	1.9	1.7	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.3	†	1.7
Daily Use	2.5	3.1	4.2	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.7	2.1	1.4	2.3	2.3	2.2

Notes: (1) question asked of a random half sample between 2001 and 2011; (2) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (3) note the design change and small sample size in 2021.
Q: In the last 4 weeks, how often did you use cannabis (also known as marijuana, “weed”, “pot”, “grass”, hashish, “hash”, hash oil)?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Cannabis and Alcohol Use on the Same Occasion

(Figure 3.5.8)

A random half sample of students were asked if they had used cannabis and alcohol on the same occasion during the past year. The question was "*In the last 12 months, how often did you use cannabis and alcohol on the same occasion – that is, so that their effects overlapped*?" Here we present the percentage reporting that they had used both drugs on the same occasion at least once in the past year.

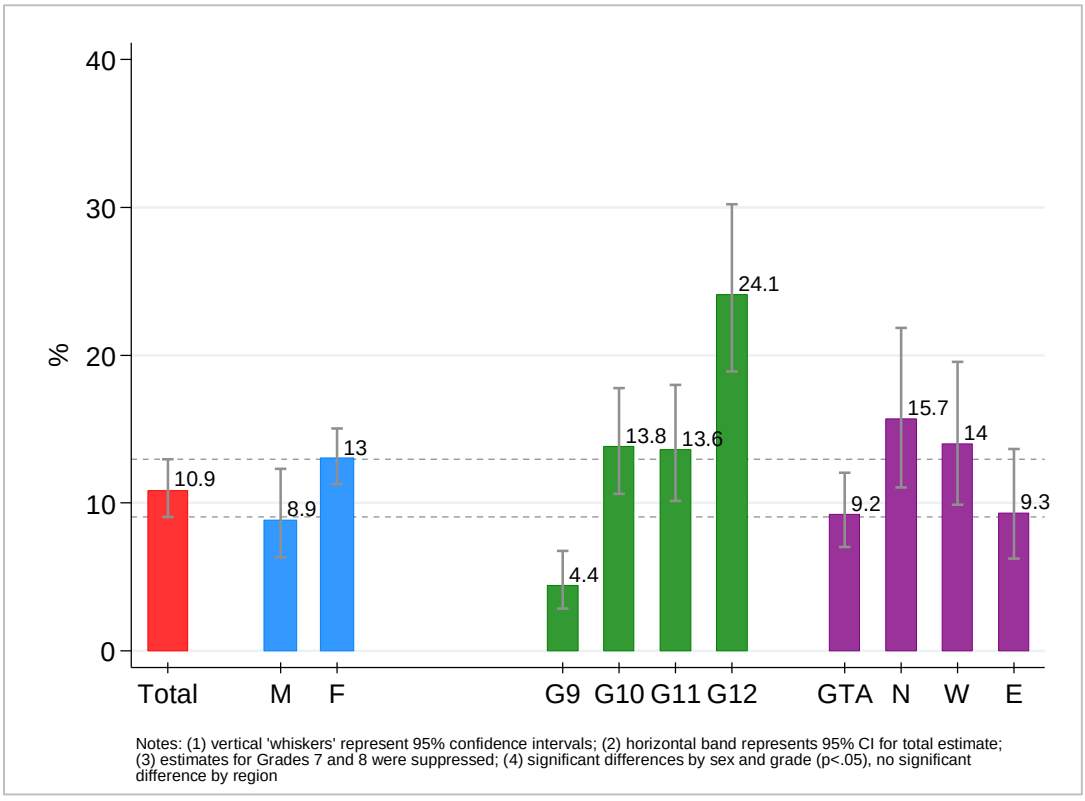
2023 (Grades 7–12):

- About one-in-nine (10.9%) students report using cannabis and alcohol on the same occasion at least once in the past year.
- Females (13.0%) are significantly more likely than males (8.9%) to use cannabis and alcohol on the same occasion.
- The percentage reporting using both drugs on the same occasion significantly increases with grade, up to 24.1% of 12th graders.
- There is no significant regional variation.

2013–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12):

- The percentage using cannabis and alcohol on the same occasion in 2023 (10.9%) is similar to the estimate from 2021 (11.9%), but significantly lower than the estimate from 2013 (16.0%), when monitoring first began (data not presented in table form).

Figure 3.5.8
Percentage Reporting Using Cannabis and Alcohol on the Same Occasion at Least Once in the Past Year by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimates for Grades 7 and 8 were suppressed; (4) significant differences by sex and grade (p<.05), no significant difference by region

Cannabis and Tobacco Use on the Same Occasion

(Figure 3.5.9)

A random half sample of students were asked if they had used cannabis and tobacco on the same occasion during the past year. The question was "*In the last 12 months, did you smoke cannabis mixed with tobacco at the same time*?" Here we present the percentage responding "yes" to the question.

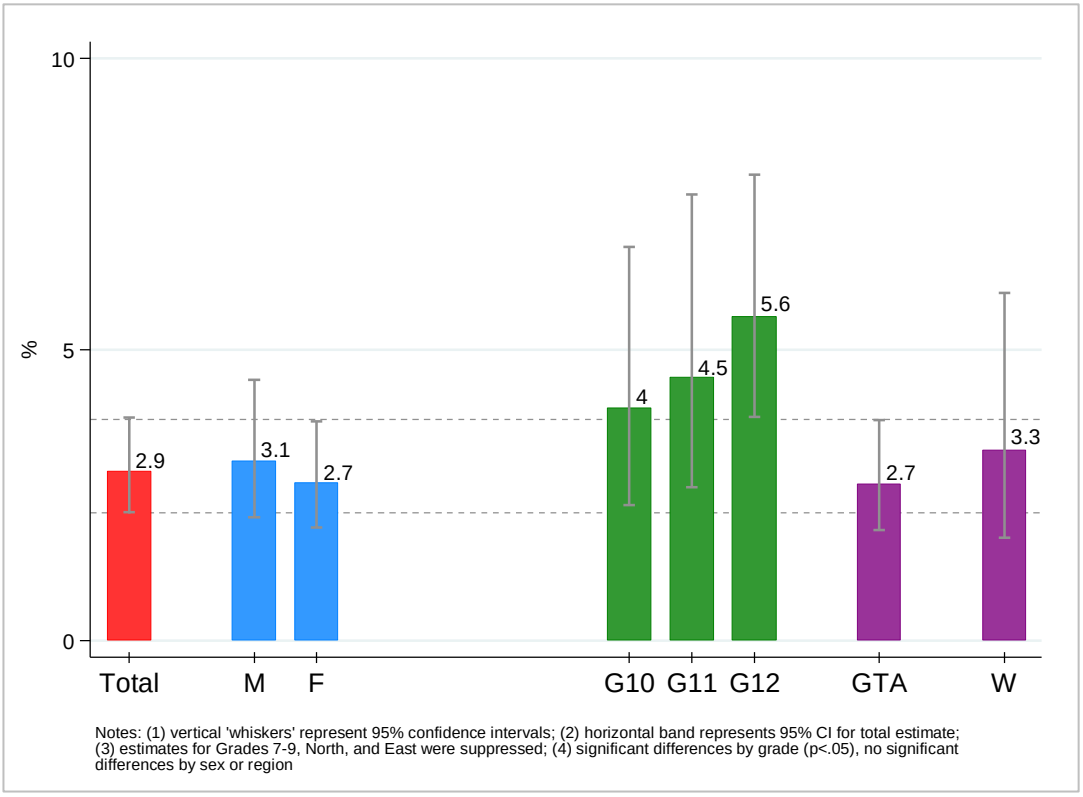
2023 (Grades 7–12):

- About 2.9% of students report smoking cannabis mixed with tobacco at least once during the past year.
- Males (3.1%) and females (2.7%) are equally likely to smoke cannabis mixed with tobacco.
- The percentage reporting smoking cannabis with tobacco significantly increases with grade, up to 5.6% of 12th graders.
- There is no significant regional variation.

2019–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12):

- The percentage of students reporting smoking cannabis mixed with tobacco has significantly decreased since monitoring first began in 2019 (from 5.2% down to 2.9%) (data not presented in table form).

Figure 3.5.9
Percentage Reporting Smoking Cannabis Mixed with Tobacco in the Past Year by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimates for Grades 7-9, North, and East were suppressed; (4) significant differences by grade (p<.05), no significant differences by sex or region

Modes of Cannabis Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Figure 3.5.10)

Total

- Among secondary school students, the most common mode of using cannabis is through a vaping device (17.4%), followed by smoking it in a joint (16.9%). About 12.4% of secondary school students use cannabis edibles. The least common mode is to drink cannabis, such as in a tea (1.6%).

Sex

- There are some significant differences in modes of use by sex. Females are significantly more likely than males to use cannabis in a vaping device, joint, and in a drink.

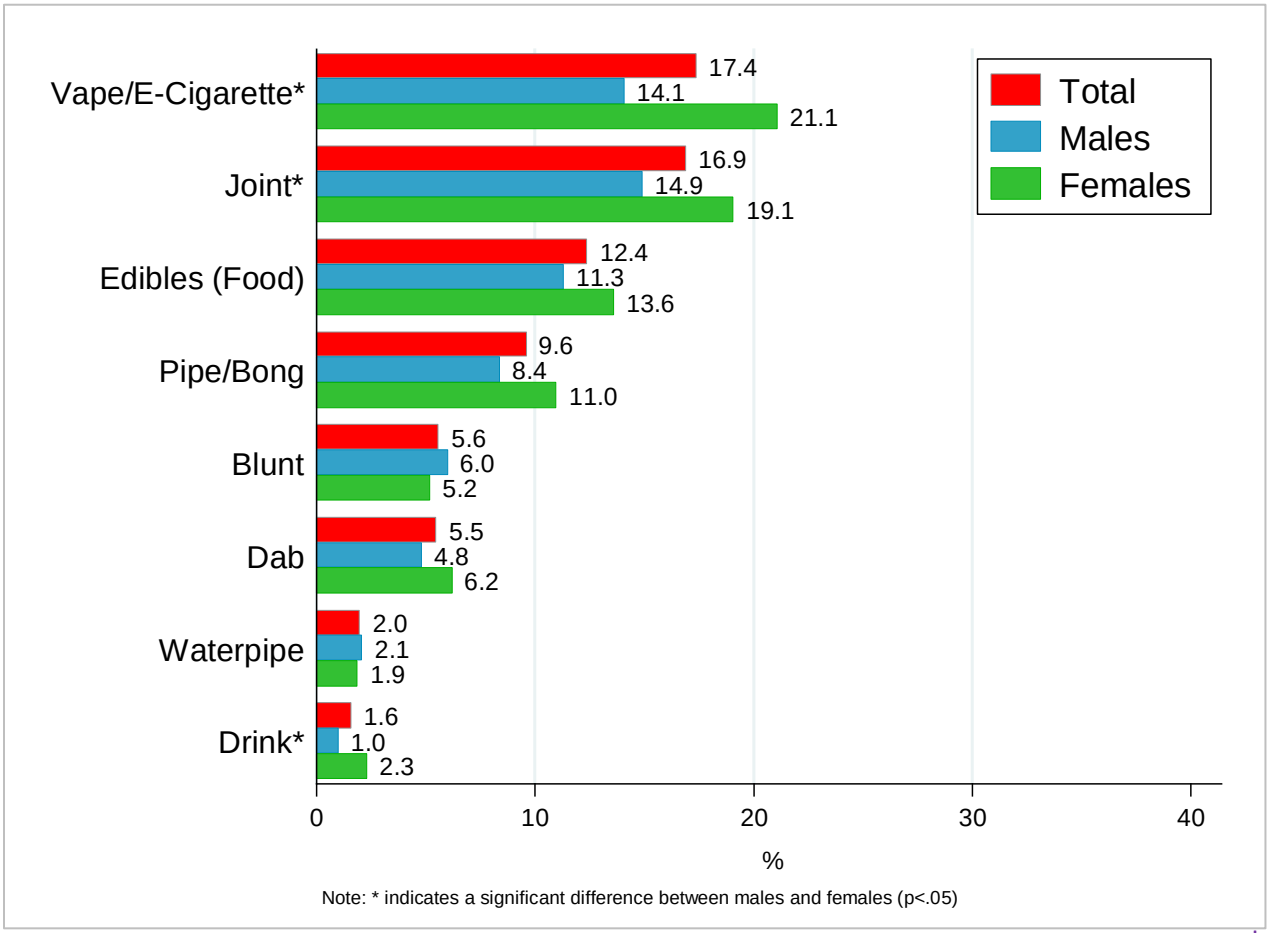
Grade

- There are significant grade differences for all modes of use, except for consuming a drink with cannabis, showing that older students are more likely than younger students to use each mode (data not presented).

Region

- Students in the North and West regions are more likely to use a pipe/bong and edibles compared with students in the Greater Toronto Area and East regions (data not presented).

Figure 3.5.10
Percentage Reporting Modes of Cannabis Use in the Past Year, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



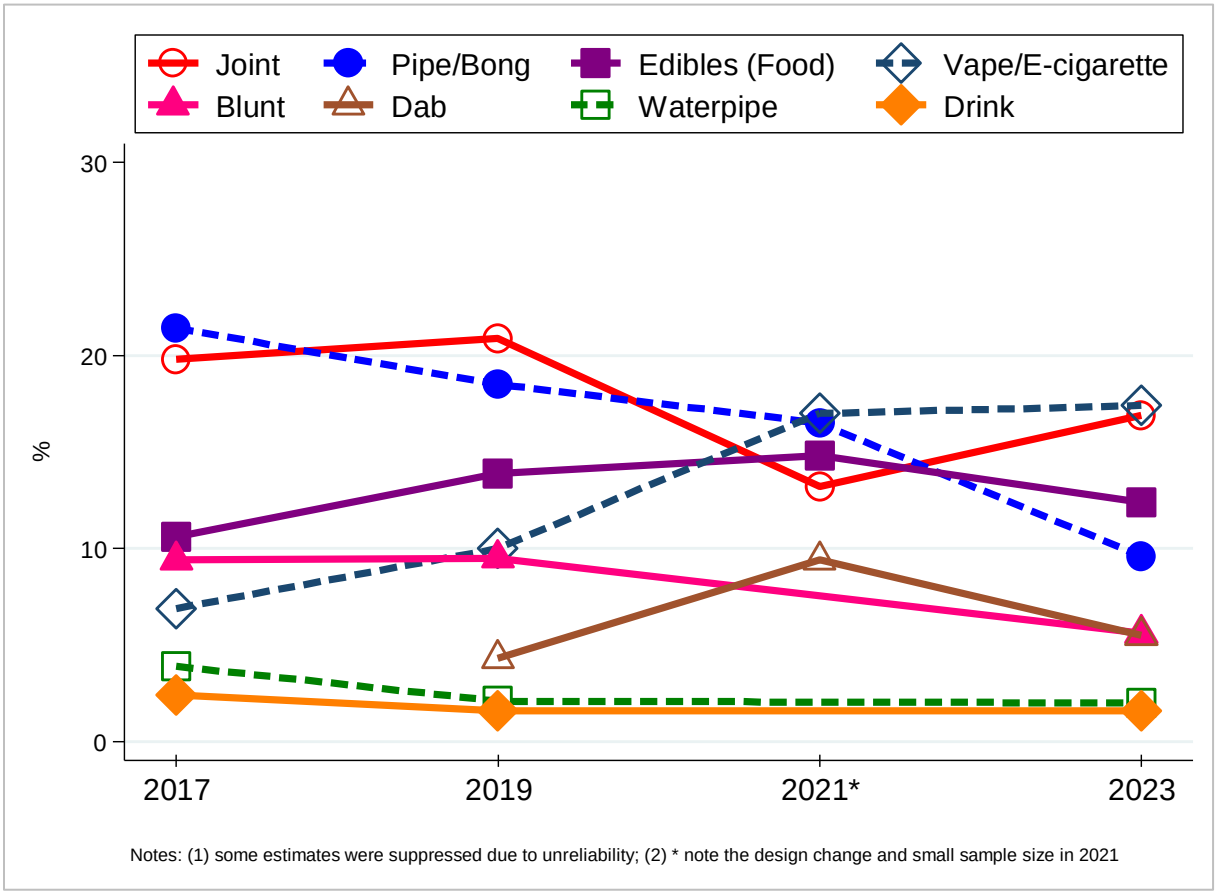
Note: * indicates a significant difference between males and females (p<.05)

Modes of Cannabis Use: 2017–2023 Trends (Grades 9–12)

(Figure 3.5.11; Table 3.5.4)

- The percentage of secondary school students reporting vaping cannabis significantly increased between 2017 (6.9%) and 2023 (17.4%).[6]
- The percentage of secondary school students reporting using cannabis in a pipe/bong significantly decreased between 2017 (21.4%) and 2023 (9.6%).
- The percentage of secondary school students reporting using cannabis in a blunt (hallowed out cigar) significantly decreased between 2017 (9.4%) and 2023 (5.6%).
- Using cannabis by smoking a joint, edibles, waterpipe/hookah, dabbing,[7] or in a drink all show relative stability since 2017, when monitoring first began.

Figure 3.5.11
Percentage Reporting Modes of Cannabis Use in the Past Year, 2017–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



Notes: (1) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (2) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

[6] Vaping cannabis was asked about in the 2015 cycle using slightly different wording. The wording of the question in 2015 was: "*If you smoked e-cigarettes (also known as 'vape pipes,' 'hookah pens,' and 'e-hookahs') in the last 12 months, did you try smoking marijuana or hash oil, liquid, or wax in it?*" The results from that cycle showed that 5.1% of secondary students vaped cannabis in the past year.

[7] "Dabbing" involves vapourizing concentrated cannabis by placing it on a hot object or surface and inhaling the vapours.

Table 3.5.4: Modes of Cannabis Use in the Past Year, 2017–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n=)	(3289)	(4651)	(721)	(3586)
Vape/E-Cigarette	**6.9** (5.2-9.2)	**10.0** (8.6-11.6)	**17.0** (8.7-30.5)	**17.4** (15.2-19.9) [bc]
Edible (Food)	**10.6** (8.9-12.6)	**13.9** (12.2-15.9)	**14.8** (9.8-21.6)	**12.4** (11.0-14.0)
Joint	**19.8** (17.6-22.2)	**20.9** (18.9-23.2)	**13.2** (8.4-20.0)	**16.9** (14.4-19.6)
Blunt	**9.4** (7.9-11.2)	**9.5** (8.2-11.0)	†	**5.6** (4.3-7.3) [bc]
Pipe/Bong	**21.4** (18.7-24.4)	**18.5** (16.5-20.7)	**16.5** (8.7-29.2)	**9.6** (7.8-11.8) [bc]
Waterpipe/Hookah	**3.9** (2.9-5.2)	**2.1** (1.6-2.8)	†	**2.0** (1.2-3.3)
Drink	**2.4** (1.5-3.8)	**1.6** (1.1-2.2)	†	**1.6** (1.1-2.2)
Dab	--	**4.3** (3.4-5.3)	**9.4** (5.2-16.4)	**5.5** (4.2-7.1)

Notes: (1) questions asked of a random half sample of secondary school students in each year; (2) entries are percentages among the total sample asked; (3) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2017 significant difference, p<.01.

Qs: In the last 12 months, how often did you use cannabis in a vaping device (vaporizer, e-cigarette, vape pen, mod)?; In the last 12 months, how often did you eat food that contained cannabis, such as a brownie, cookie, candy?; In the last 12 months, what other ways did you use cannabis? Please select all the ways you've used any type of cannabis: smoked cannabis in a joint; smoked cannabis in a blunt (hollowed-out cigar); smoked cannabis in a pipe or a bong; used cannabis in a waterpipe (hookah); had a drink that contained cannabis (such as a tea); used cannabis by "dabbing" (hash oil, wax, shatter).

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Symptoms of Cannabis Dependence: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Tables 3.5.5, 3.5.6)

Total

- An estimated 3.8% of secondary school students report symptoms of cannabis dependence, as measured by the 5-item *Severity of Dependence Scale* (SDS) for cannabis use.
- About one-in-six (16.9%) secondary school students who used cannabis in the past year report symptoms of cannabis dependence.

Sex

- Females (5.4%) are significantly more likely than males (2.3%) to report dependence symptoms.

Grade

- There is grade variation, ranging from 1.6% of 9th graders up to 5.2% of 12th graders.

Region

- Secondary school students in the North (9.8%) are most likely to report symptoms of cannabis dependence compared with students in the other three regions (3%-5%).

Symptoms of Cannabis Dependence: 2007–2023 Trends (Grades 9–12)

(Table 3.5.6)

- Among the total sample of secondary school students, the percentage reporting symptoms of cannabis dependence has not significantly changed since monitoring first began in 2007, fluctuating between about 2% and 4%.

Table 3.5.5: Percentage of the Total Sample, and of Those Who Used in the Past Year, Reporting Cannabis Dependence Symptoms Experienced in the Past Three Months, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

Severity of Dependence Scale (SDS) Symptoms	Total Sample (n=3586)	Past Year Users (n=853)
1. Your cannabis use was out of control *	4.5	20.2
2. Idea of missing a smoke of cannabis made you very anxious or worried *	6.0	26.7
3. Worried about your use of cannabis †	6.4	28.2
4. Wished you could stop using cannabis *	5.2	23.1
5. Would be difficult for you to stop or go without using cannabis ‡	3.7	16.3
% SDS Score 4+ (95% CI)	**3.8%** (3.0-4.8)	**16.9%** (13.7-20.6)

Notes: based on a random half sample of secondary school students; CI=confidence interval; * percentage reporting *sometimes, often,* or *always/nearly always*; † percentage reporting *a little, quite a lot,* or *a great deal*; ‡ percentage reporting *quite difficult, very difficult*, or *impossible*.

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.5.6: Percentage of Total Sample Reporting Symptoms of Cannabis Dependence as Measured by the *Severity of Dependence Scale* (SDS), 2007–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n=)	(2587)	(3055)	(3358)	(3264)	(3171)	(3289)	(4651)	(721)	(3586)
Total (95% CI)	**3.5** (2.8-4.4)	**3.6** (2.7-4.7)	**2.7** (1.8-4.3)	**2.7** (1.9-3.8)	**2.2** (1.5-3.2)	**1.9** (1.3-2.8)	**3.4** (2.6-4.3)	†	**3.8** (3.0-4.8)
Sex									
Males	**4.4** (3.2-6.0)	**4.4** (3.0-6.6)	**3.6** (2.1-6.4)	**2.8** (1.8-4.2)	**1.7** (1.0-2.7)	**2.2** (1.3-3.5)	**4.0** (2.8-5.6)	†	**2.3** (1.4-3.8)
Females	**2.6** (1.8-3.8)	**2.7** (1.7-4.2)	**1.8** (1.1-2.9)	**2.5** (1.5-4.1)	**2.8** (1.6-4.6)	**1.6** (0.9-3.0)	**2.7** (1.9-3.7)	†	**5.4** (4.3-6.8)
Grade									
9	**2.3** (1.3-4.1)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	**1.6** (0.9-2.7)
10	**3.4** (2.1-5.4)	†	†	**3.1** (1.8-5.6)	**1.2** (0.7-2.2)	†	**2.7** (1.6-4.3)	†	**4.4** (2.8-6.7)
11	**4.5** (2.9-7.1)	†	†	**3.6** (2.0-6.2)	**2.8** (1.7-4.6)	**2.7** (1.4-5.1)	**3.3** (2.0-5.2)	†	**3.7** (2.2-6.3)
12	**3.8** (2.4-5.9)	**4.5** (2.9-6.9)	**4.0** (2.4-6.7)	†	**3.3** (1.8-6.2)	**2.7** (1.5-4.6)	**5.0** (3.3-7.6)	†	**5.2** (3.6-7.4)
Region									
GTA	**3.0** (1.9-4.7)	**2.6** (1.7-3.8)	**3.4** (1.8-6.2)	**2.6** (1.7-4.0)	**2.0** (1.2-3.4)	**1.8** (1.0-3.1)	**2.6** (1.8-3.8)	†	**3.4** (2.5-4.6)
North	**7.0** (4.0-12.0)	†	**4.1** (2.4-6.7)	**3.1** (1.8-5.1)	**3.6** (2.3-5.5)	†	**5.6** (3.3-9.5)	†	**9.8** (7.6-12.5)
West	**3.6** (2.4-5.4)	†	†	**2.9** (1.3-6.4)	**2.5** (1.5-4.2)	†	**4.2** (2.5-6.9)	†	**3.1** (2.0-4.9)
East	**3.5** (2.4-5.1)	**6.6** (4.0-10.8)	**3.6** (2.0-6.1)	†	†	†	**3.5** (2.0-6.0)	†	**4.5** (2.4-8.5)

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 9-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) symptoms of cannabis dependence indicated by a score of four or higher (of 15) on the SDS; (6) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (7) no significant changes over time for the total sample.

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Cannabis Use for Mental Health: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

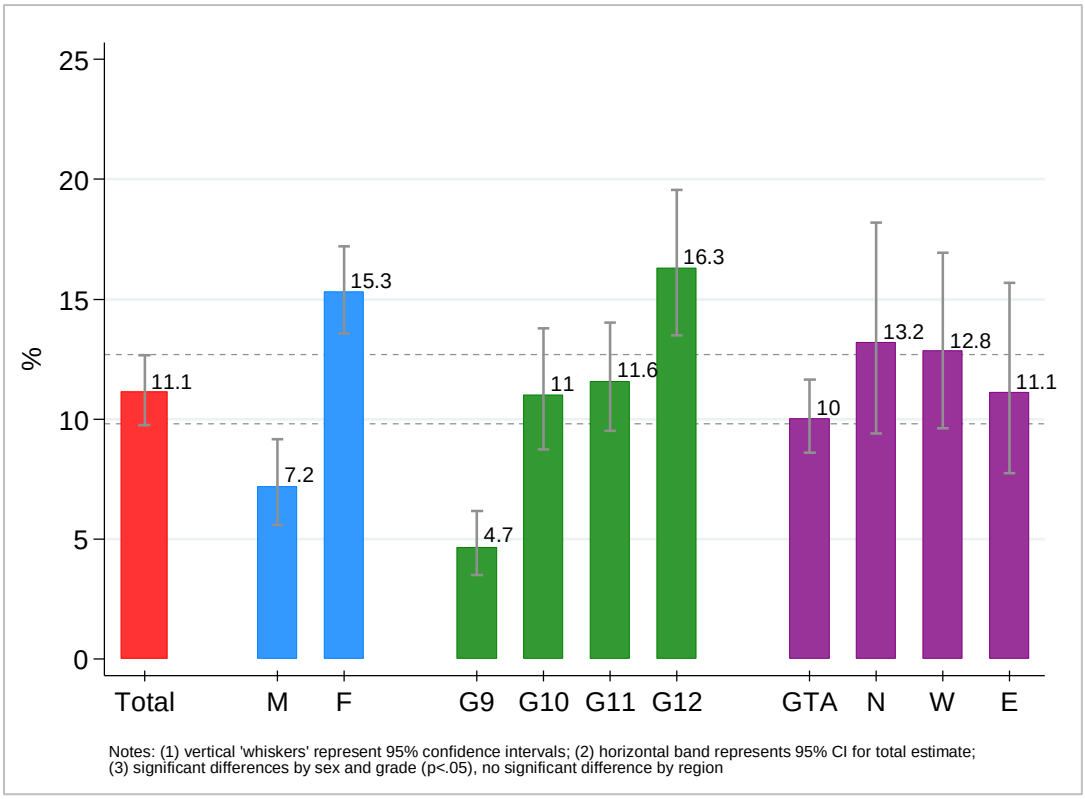
(Figure 3.5.12)

Total	• About one-in-nine (11.1%) secondary school students report using cannabis to cope with a mental health concern (such as to relieve anxiety or depression) in the past year.
Sex	• Females (15.3%) are significantly more likely than males (7.2%) to report using cannabis to cope with a mental health concern in the past year.
Grade	• There is significant variation by grade, increasing to 16.3% of 12th graders.
Region	• There is no significant regional variation.

Cannabis Use for Mental Health: 2023 vs. 2021 (Grades 9–12)

- The percentage of secondary school students who report using cannabis to cope with a mental health concern in the past year in 2023 (11.1%) is similar to the estimate from 2021 (13.9%), which was the first year of monitoring.

Figure 3.5.12
Percentage of Students Reporting Using Cannabis to Cope with a Mental Health Concern in the Past Year by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



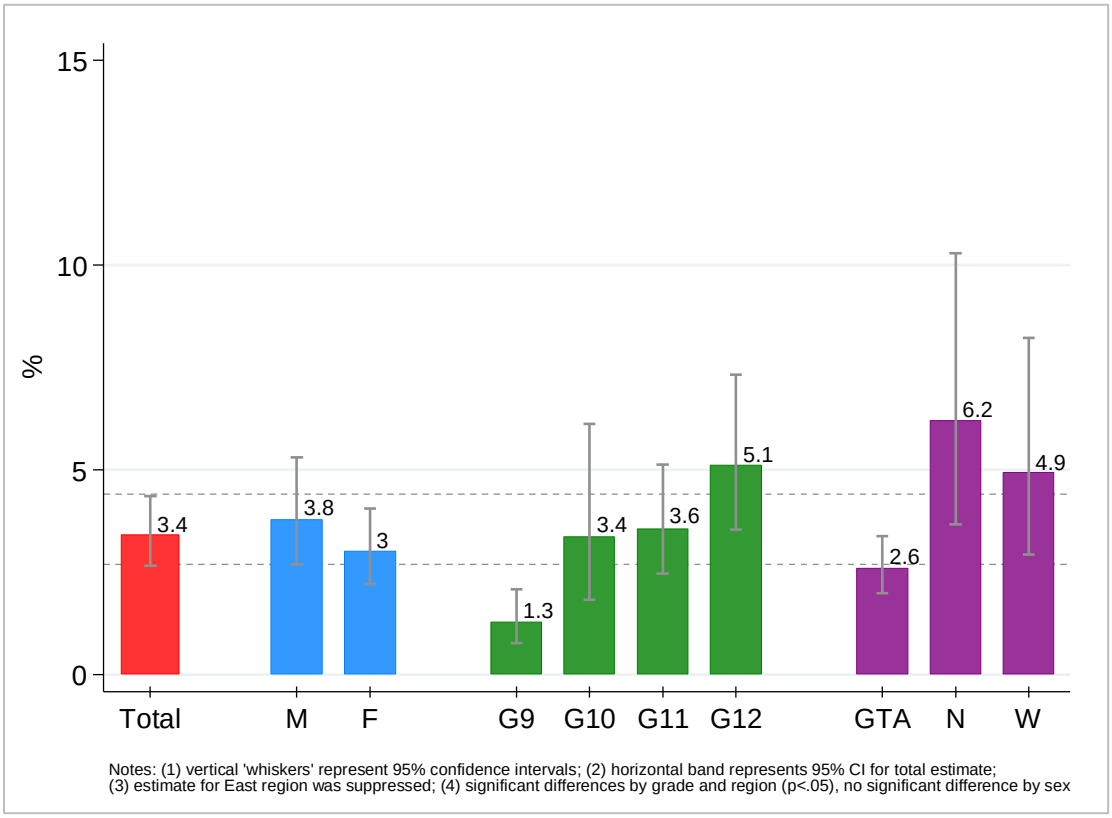
3.6 Other Drug Use

Past Year Mushroom (Psilocybin) or Mescaline Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Figure 3.6.1; Table 3.6.1)

Total	• Psilocybin ("mushrooms") or mescaline use at least once in the past year is reported by 3.4% of secondary school students.
Sex	• Males (3.8%) and females (3.0%) are equally likely to use mushrooms/mescaline.
Grade	• The percentage reporting past year use significantly increases with grade, from 1.3% of 9th graders to 5.1% of 12th graders.
Region	• Past year use significantly varies by region, with students in the North (6.2%) most likely to use, while students in the Greater Toronto Area (2.6%) are least likely.

Figure 3.6.1
Past Year Mushroom/Mescaline Use by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



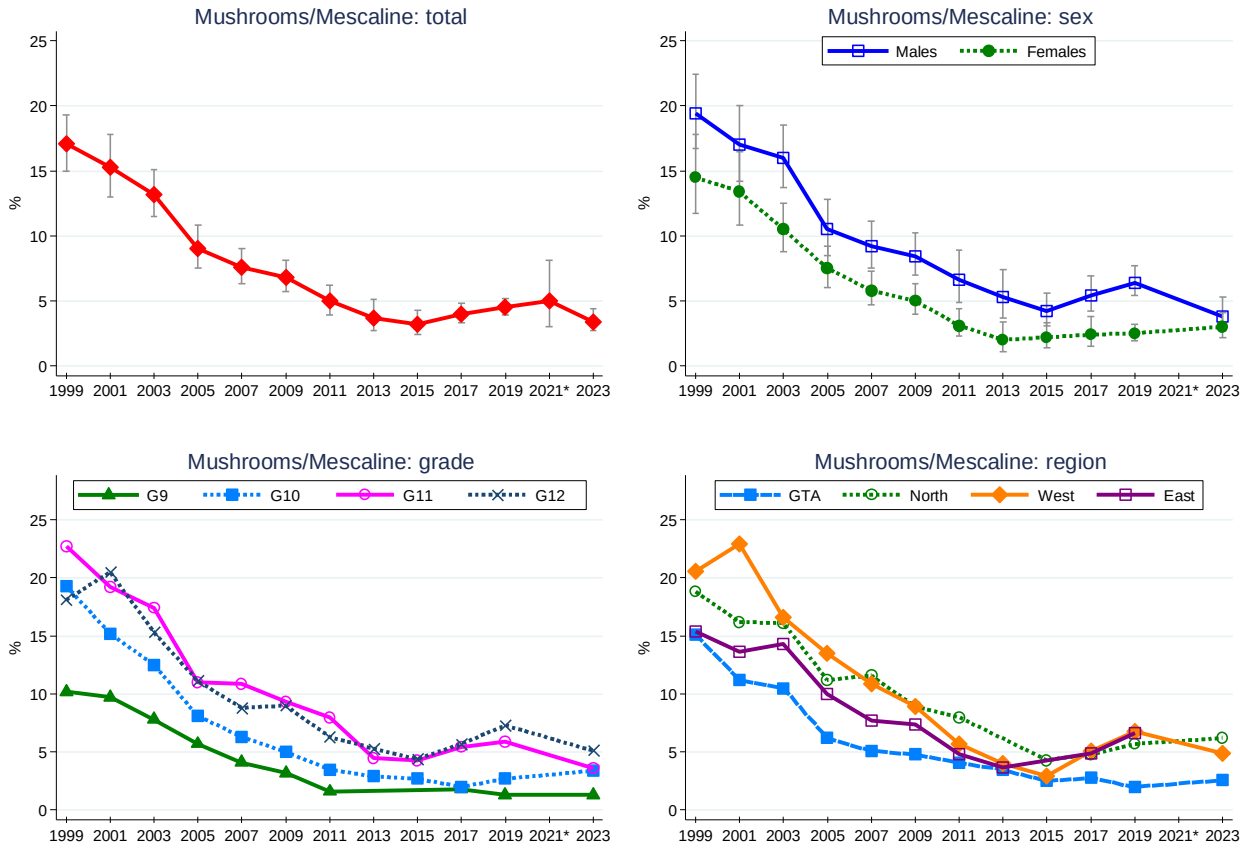
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate;
(3) estimate for East region was suppressed; (4) significant differences by grade and region (p<.05), no significant difference by sex

Past Year Mushroom (Psilocybin) or Mescaline Use: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 9–12)

(Figure 3.6.2; Table 3.6.1)

Total	• The percentage reporting mushroom/mescaline use did not significantly change between 2021 (5.0%) and 2023 (3.4%). The percentage has been relatively stable during the past decade (since 2013), but is substantially lower today than in 1999 (17.1%).
Sex	• Neither males nor females show a significant change in use between 2021 and 2023. However, males show a decline in 2023 compared with 2019. Use has dramatically declined since 1999 among both males and females.
Grade	• No grade shows a significant change in use between 2021 and 2023. All four grades showed a significant decline since 1999.
Region	• No region shows a significant change in use between 2021 and 2023. All four regions show a significant decline since 1999.

Figure 3.6.2
Past Year Mushroom/Mescaline Use, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



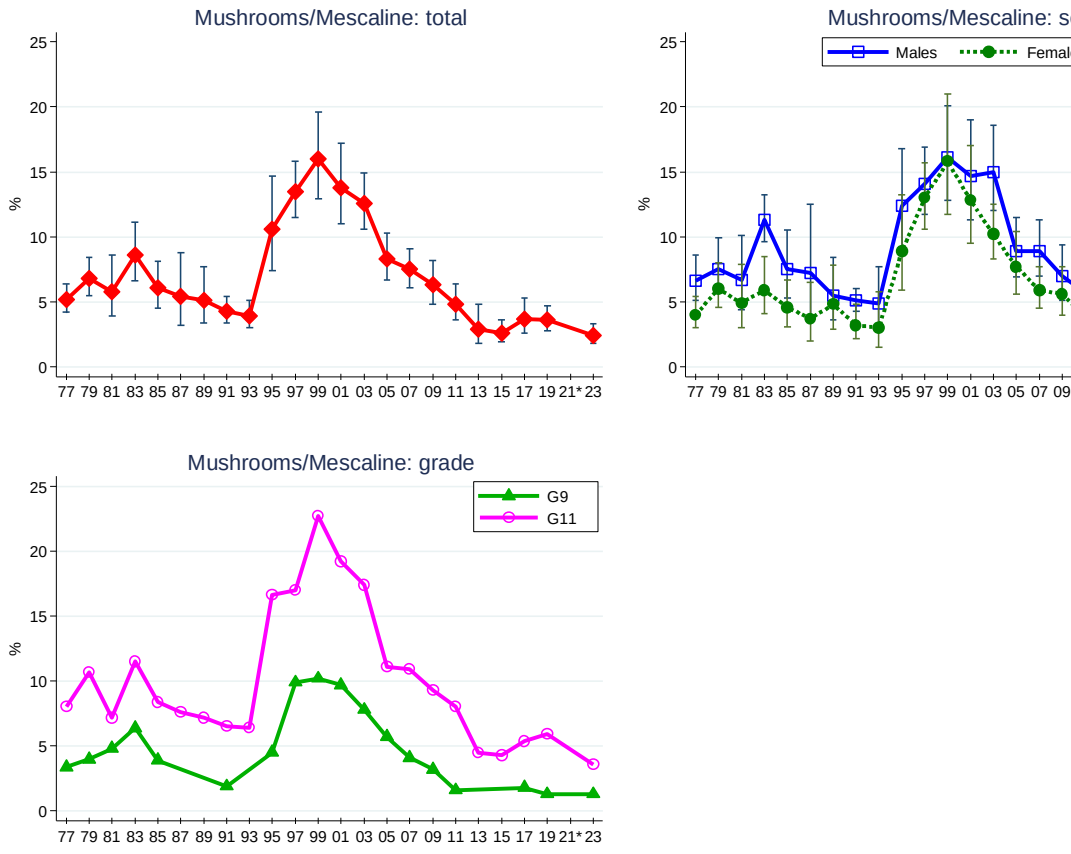
Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Past Year Mushroom (Psilocybin) or Mescaline Use: 1977–2023 Trends (Grades 9 and 11 only)

(Figure 3.6.3; Table A7)

- Looking back over the past 45 years or so (among grades 9 and 11 only), use was elevated in the early 1980s, decreased gradually during the late 1980s and early 1990s, increased during the late 1990s reaching an all-time peak in 1999. Use declined over the 2000s, and remained stable during the past decade. The current level remains below the two peaks, and is similar to the lows seen in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Figure 3.6.3
Past Year Mushroom/Mescaline Use, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.6.1: Percentage Reporting Mushroom or Mescaline Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2883)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)
Total (95% CI)	**17.1** (15.0-19.3)	**15.3** (13.0-17.8)	**13.2** (11.5-15.1)	**9.0** (7.5-10.8)	**7.6** (6.3-9.0)	**6.8** (5.7-8.1)	**5.0** (3.9-6.2)	**3.7** (2.7-5.1)	**3.2** (2.4-4.3)	**4.0** (3.3-4.8)	**4.5** (3.9-5.2)	**5.0** (3.0-8.1)	**3.4** [cde] (2.7-4.4)
Sex													
Males	**19.4** (16.7-22.4)	**17.0** (14.2-20.2)	**16.0** (13.7-18.5)	**10.5** (8.5-12.8)	**9.2** (7.5-11.1)	**8.4** (7.0-10.2)	**6.6** (4.9-8.9)	**5.3** (3.7-7.4)	**4.2** (3.1-5.6)	**5.4** (4.2-6.9)	**6.4** (5.4-7.7)	†	**3.8** [bc] (2.7-5.3)
Females	**14.5** (11.7-17.8)	**13.4** (10.8-16.5)	**10.5** (8.8-12.5)	**7.5** (6.0-9.2)	**5.8** (4.7-7.3)	**5.0** (4.0-6.3)	**3.1** (2.3-4.4)	**2.0** (1.1-3.4)	**2.2** (1.4-3.3)	**2.4** (1.5-3.8)	**2.5** (1.9-3.2)	†	**3.0** [c] (2.2-4.1)
Grade													
9	**10.2** (7.6-13.5)	**9.7** (7.0-13.4)	**7.8** (6.1-10.0)	**5.7** (4.4-7.5)	**4.1** (2.9-5.7)	**3.2** (2.0-5.0)	**1.6** (0.9-2.6)	†	†	**1.8** (1.0-3.3)	**1.3** (0.9-2.0)	†	**1.3** [c] (0.8-2.1)
10	**19.3** (15.0-24.4)	**15.2** (11.9-19.2)	**12.5** (9.9-15.7)	**8.1** (6.0-10.7)	**6.3** (4.7-8.4)	**5.0** (3.7-6.7)	**3.5** (2.2-5.3)	**2.9** (1.8-4.6)	**2.7** (1.9-3.9)	**2.0** (1.4-2.9)	**2.7** (1.8-3.8)	†	**3.4** [c] (1.8-6.1)
11	**22.7** (17.9-28.3)	**19.2** (14.9-24.5)	**17.4** (14.3-21.1)	**11.1** (8.8-13.9)	**10.9** (8.8-13.5)	**9.3** (6.6-12.9)	**8.0** (5.8-10.9)	**4.5** (2.8-7.3)	**4.3** (3.1-6.0)	**5.4** (3.4-8.6)	**5.9** (4.3-7.9)	†	**3.6** [c] (2.5-5.1)
12	**18.1** (14.1-22.9)	**20.5** (13.9-29.3)	**15.3** (12.3-18.9)	**11.1** (8.7-14.0)	**8.8** (6.7-11.5)	**9.0** (6.7-12.0)	**6.3** (3.8-10.2)	**5.3** (3.1-8.8)	**4.4** (2.6-7.5)	**5.7** (4.0-8.2)	**7.3** (5.8-9.2)	†	**5.1** [c] (3.5-7.3)
Region													
GTA	**15.1** (12.5-18.0)	**11.2** (8.0-15.6)	**10.5** (8.4-12.9)	**6.2** (4.7-8.1)	**5.1** (3.8-6.7)	**4.8** (3.6-6.3)	**4.1** (2.6-6.5)	**3.5** (2.1-5.9)	**2.5** (1.8-3.2)	**2.8** (1.9-4.1)	**2.0** (1.4-3.0)	†	**2.6** [c] (2.0-3.4)
North	**18.8** (14.4-24.1)	**16.2** (12.1-21.3)	**16.1** (12.6-20.4)	**11.2** (8.5-14.5)	**11.6** (8.8-15.3)	**8.9** (5.7-13.8)	**8.0** (5.7-11.2)	†	**4.3** (2.9-6.4)	**4.8** (3.3-7.0)	**5.7** (3.9-8.1)	†	**6.2** [c] (3.7-10.3)
West	**20.6** (15.8-26.5)	**22.9** (18.9-27.4)	**16.6** (13.2-20.7)	**13.5** (10.0-18.0)	**10.9** (7.9-14.7)	**8.9** (6.4-12.2)	**5.7** (3.6-8.9)	**4.0** (2.1-7.3)	**2.9** (2.0-4.2)	**5.1** (3.9-6.6)	**6.8** (5.5-8.4)	†	**4.9** [c] (2.9-8.2)
East	**15.4** (11.3-20.7)	**13.6** (10.3-17.8)	**14.3** (10.1-19.9)	**10.0** (6.9-14.5)	**7.7** (5.7-10.3)	**7.4** (5.5-9.8)	**4.8** (3.5-6.5)	**3.7** (2.0-6.8)	†	**4.9** (3.2-7.5)	**6.6** (5.0-8.6)	†	†

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (5) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use psilocybin or mescaline (also known as “magic mushrooms”, “shrooms”, “mesc”, etc.)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year LSD Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Table 3.6.2)

Total	• LSD use at least once in the past year is reported by 0.9% of Ontario secondary school students.
Sex	• Males (1.1%) and females (0.7%) are equally likely to use LSD.
Grade	• There is no significant variation by grade.
Region	• There is no signification variation by region.

Past Year LSD Use: Trends

(Tables 3.6.2, A8)

Total	• The percentage reporting LSD use has declined since 1999 (among grades 9-12), from 8.8% down to 0.9%. • Looking back over the past 45 years or so (among grades 9 and 11 only), LSD use decreased in the 1980s and early 1990s, made a brief comeback between 1991 and 1995, decreased again reaching the lowest levels on record, followed by stability in recent years.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant decline in use since 1999.
Grade	• All four grades show a significant decline since 1999.
Region	• All four regions show a significant decline since 1999.

Table 3.6.2: Percentage Reporting LSD Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2883)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)
Total	**8.8**	**6.3**	**3.7**	**2.2**	**2.0**	**2.4**	**1.5**	**1.5**	**1.5**	**1.5**	**2.0**	†	**0.9** [bcd]
(95% CI)	(7.2-10.7)	(5.0-7.8)	(3.0-4.5)	(1.6-3.0)	(1.4-2.8)	(1.9-3.1)	(1.0-2.2)	(1.0-2.1)	(1.1-2.0)	(1.1-2.0)	(1.7-2.5)		(0.6-1.3)
Sex													
Males	**9.8**	**8.3**	**4.6**	**2.7**	**2.7**	**2.9**	**2.3**	**1.9**	**1.5**	**2.0**	**2.8**	†	**1.1** [bc]
	(8.0-12.0)	(6.5-10.5)	(3.6-5.8)	(1.9-3.8)	(1.8-3.9)	(2.0-4.1)	(1.5-3.5)	(1.3-2.8)	(1.0-2.3)	(1.4-2.8)	(2.2-3.6)		(0.6-1.9)
Females	**7.7**	**4.1**	**2.8**	**1.7**	**1.3**	**1.9**	**0.6**	**0.9**	**1.4**	**1.0**	**1.2**	†	**0.7** [c]
	(5.6-10.4)	(2.7-6.1)	(2.0-3.8)	(1.1-2.8)	(0.8-2.0)	(1.4-2.6)	(0.4-1.1)	(0.4-2.0)	(0.9-2.1)	(0.6-1.5)	(0.8-1.7)		(0.4-1.1)
Grade													
9	**6.8**	**4.6**	**3.7**	**2.4**	**1.9**	**1.7**	†	†	**0.6**	†	**1.0**	†	† [c]
	(4.8-9.4)	(3.3-6.4)	(2.6-5.2)	(1.6-3.6)	(1.2-3.0)	(0.9-3.1)			(0.3-1.2)		(0.6-1.7)		
10	**10.4**	**8.0**	**4.2**	**1.6**	†	**1.8**	**1.1**	†	**1.1**	**1.6**	**1.3**	†	† [c]
	(7.4-14.3)	(5.7-11.2)	(2.8-6.3)	(1.0-2.6)		(1.1-2.9)	(0.6-2.1)		(0.7-1.9)	(0.9-2.8)	(0.8-2.2)		
11	**10.7**	**5.1**	**4.0**	**2.8**	**3.0**	**2.5**	**2.8**	**1.4**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**2.2**	†	† [c]
	(7.2-15.6)	(2.9-8.6)	(2.8-5.5)	(1.8-4.3)	(1.8-4.9)	(1.5-4.1)	(1.6-4.8)	(0.8-2.4)	(1.0-2.8)	(1.1-2.7)	(1.4-3.3)		
12	**7.8**	**7.8**	**2.7**	**2.2**	**2.1**	**3.3**	**1.1**	**1.9**	**2.2**	**1.9**	**3.3**	†	**1.0** [bc]
	(5.9-10.2)	(4.1-14.4)	(1.7-4.2)	(1.2-3.9)	(1.2-3.7)	(2.1-5.4)	(0.7-1.8)	(1.0-3.7)	(1.4-3.4)	(1.1-3.2)	(2.5-4.3)		(0.5-1.8)
Region													
GTA	**6.8**	**4.8**	**3.7**	**1.5**	**1.2**	**1.7**	**2.1**	**1.7**	**1.1**	**1.4**	**1.0**	†	**0.9** [c]
	(5.2-8.8)	(3.3-6.8)	(2.7-5.1)	(1.0-2.3)	(0.7-1.9)	(1.1-2.6)	(1.3-3.2)	(1.1-2.8)	(0.8-1.6)	(0.8-2.4)	(0.6-1.4)		(0.5-1.4)
North	**14.0**	**4.7**	**5.3**	**2.1**	†	†	†	†	**1.9**	**1.9**	**2.6**	†	† [c]
	(8.2-22.9)	(3.0-7.2)	(3.7-7.4)	(1.3-3.5)					(1.0-3.7)	(1.2-2.9)	(1.6-4.1)		
West	**11.3**	**9.3**	**3.9**	†	**3.3**	**3.5**	†	†	**1.8**	**1.7**	**3.1**	†	† [c]
	(7.6-16.5)	(6.6-12.9)	(2.7-5.6)		(1.9-5.8)	(2.4-5.1)			(1.2-2.8)	(1.1-2.6)	(2.2-4.4)		
East	**7.4**	**6.4**	**2.6**	**2.8**	†	**2.1**	**1.1**	†	†	**1.4**	**2.9**	†	† [c]
	(5.4-9.9)	(3.6-11.1)	(1.4-4.8)	(1.7-4.5)		(1.2-3.9)	(0.7-1.9)			(0.8-2.5)	(2.1-3.9)		

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (5) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs.1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use LSD or "acid"?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Methamphetamine or Crystal Methamphetamine Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Table 3.6.3)

Total	• The 2023 OSDUHS estimate for past year methamphetamine use among the total sample of secondary school students is suppressed (less than 0.5%).
Sex	• Estimates by sex are suppressed.
Grade	• Estimates by grade are suppressed.
Region	• Estimates by region are suppressed.

Past Year Methamphetamine or Crystal Methamphetamine Use: Trends

(Tables 3.6.3, A9)

Total	• The percentage of students reporting methamphetamine use decreased between 1999 and 2023, from about 6% down to less than 0.5%. • Looking back over the past 45 years or so (among students in grades 9 and 11 only), methamphetamine use was elevated in the late 1970s/early 1980s, decreased during the late 1980s, peaked again in the late 1990s, and subsequently declined to historical lows in recent years.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant decline since 1999.
Grade	• All grades show a significant decline since 1999.
Region	• All regions show a significant decline since 1999.

Table 3.6.3: Percentage Reporting Methamphetamine Use (includes Crystal Methamphetamine) in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(1496)	(1278)	(2238)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)
Total (95% CI)	**6.3** (4.6-8.7)	**5.3** (3.5-7.8)	**5.5** (4.5-6.7)	**3.1** (2.4-4.0)	**2.3** (1.7-2.9)	**2.0** (1.4-2.7)	**1.2** (0.7-2.0)	**1.0** (0.6-1.5)	**1.1** (0.7-1.8)	**0.6** (0.3-1.1)	**0.7** (0.5-0.9)	†	† [cd]
Sex													
Males	**7.2** (5.0-10.4)	**6.7** (4.6-9.6)	**6.6** (5.1-8.6)	**3.8** (2.7-5.4)	**2.3** (1.8-3.1)	**2.4** (1.6-3.6)	**1.5** (0.8-2.7)	**1.4** (0.8-2.5)	**1.1** (0.7-1.8)	†	**0.9** (0.6-1.4)	†	† [c]
Females	**5.4** (3.3-8.8)	†	**4.4** (3.2-6.1)	**2.3** (1.6-3.3)	**2.2** (1.5-3.1)	**1.5** (1.0-2.2)	**0.9** (0.5-1.7)	†	**1.1** (0.6-1.9)	†		†	† [c]
Grade													
9	**3.9** (2.3-6.5)	**2.8** (1.7-4.7)	**4.5** (2.8-7.1)	**3.8** (2.5-5.8)	**1.8** (1.0-3.3)	**1.4** (0.8-2.4)	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
10	**6.3** (4.1-9.6)	**8.9** (5.0-15.4)	**4.8** (3.2-7.1)	**1.7** (1.0-2.9)	**1.8** (1.1-2.8)	**0.9** (0.5-1.6)	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
11	**8.1** (4.3-14.9)	†	**6.8** (4.7-9.7)	**3.0** (1.7-5.2)	**3.3** (2.3-4.7)	**2.0** (1.1-3.6)	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
12	**7.9** (4.5-13.7)	†	**6.0** (3.6-9.6)	**3.7** (2.4-5.6)	**2.2** (1.4-3.4)	**3.1** (1.9-5.0)	†	**1.7** (0.9-3.2)	†	†	†	†	† [c]
Region													
GTA	**5.3** (3.4-8.3)	†	**4.2** (3.0-5.8)	**2.6** (1.7-3.8)	**1.6** (1.0-2.4)	**1.6** (1.0-2.5)	**0.9** (0.5-1.4)	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	**0.8** (0.5-1.2)	†	†	†	† [c]
North	**5.2** (3.0-8.7)	**4.6** (2.6-8.2)	**8.9** (5.9-13.3)	**3.4** (1.9-6.1)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
West	**8.9** (4.9-15.6)	**8.4** (4.8-14.2)	**7.0** (4.7-10.2)	**3.3** (2.2-5.1)	**2.2** (1.3-3.6)	†	†	†	**0.8** (0.4-1.5)	†	†	†	† [c]
East	†	†	**5.6** (4.1-7.8)	**3.8** (2.1-7.1)	**3.1** (2.0-4.7)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) question asked of a random half sample between 1991 and 2005; (5) estimates between 1999 and 2009 are based on two separate questions (methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine) in the questionnaire; (6) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (7) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [c] significant decrease since 1999, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use methamphetamine or crystal methamphetamine (also known as "speed", "crystal meth", "crank", "Ice", etc.)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Cocaine Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Table 3.6.4)

Total	• About 1.0% of secondary school students report using cocaine at least once during the 12 months before the survey.
Sex	• Males (1.1%) and females (0.8%) are equally likely to report past year cocaine use.
Grade	• There is no significant grade variation in cocaine use.
Region	• There is no significant regional variation.

Past Year Cocaine Use: Trends

(Tables 3.6.4, A10)

Total	• Cocaine use peaked in 2003/2005 (at about 6%), but has significantly declined since then, down to about 1%. • Looking back over the past 45 years or so (among grades 9 and 11 only), cocaine use was elevated in 1979, and then gradually decreased during the 1980s and early 1990s. Use began a significant upswing in 1993, peaking again in 2003/2005, and subsequently declined, reaching historical lows in recent years.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant decline in use since the peak years of 2003/2005.
Grade	• Cocaine use has declined among all grades.
Region	• Cocaine use has declined among all four regions.

Table 3.6.4: Percentage Reporting Cocaine Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(2883)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)	
Total (95% CI)	**4.0** (3.2-5.0)	**5.2** (3.9-6.8)	**5.7** (4.9-6.7)	**5.7** (4.8-6.8)	**4.0** (3.4-4.8)	**3.2** (2.5-4.0)	**2.4** (1.9-3.0)	**2.4** (1.7-3.4)	**2.5** (2.0-3.2)	**3.1** (2.2-4.2)	**2.6** (2.2-3.1)	†	**1.0** (0.7-1.3)	bcde
Sex														
Males	**4.6** (3.5-6.0)	**5.2** (3.9-6.8)	**6.8** (5.5-8.3)	**6.1** (4.9-7.5)	**4.4** (3.5-5.5)	**3.6** (2.6-4.9)	**3.0** (2.2-4.1)	**2.9** (1.8-4.6)	**2.5** (1.9-3.4)	**4.0** (2.8-5.8)	**3.3** (2.7-4.2)	†	**1.1** (0.7-1.7)	bc
Females	**3.3** (2.5-4.5)	**5.2** (3.6-7.4)	**4.7** (3.7-6.0)	**5.3** (4.1-6.8)	**3.6** (2.8-4.6)	**2.9** (2.2-3.5)	**1.8** (1.2-2.7)	**2.0** (1.3-2.9)	**2.5** (1.8-3.4)	**2.0** (1.1-3.7)	**1.8** (1.3-2.5)	†	**0.8** (0.5-1.3)	bc
Grade														
9	**3.2** (2.1-4.7)	**3.2** (2.0-5.2)	**4.9** (3.5-6.8)	**3.8** (2.8-5.1)	**2.3** (1.6-3.5)	**1.1** (0.6-1.9)	†	†	†	†	**0.9** (0.6-1.6)	†	†	c
10	**3.8** (2.4-5.9)	**6.5** (4.4-9.6)	**4.6** (3.3-6.2)	**4.6** (3.4-6.2)	**3.4** (2.4-4.8)	**2.3** (1.5-3.6)	†	**2.0** (1.2-3.3)	**1.1** (0.6-1.8)	**1.2** (0.7-2.2)	**0.7** (0.4-1.3)	†	†	c
11	**5.4** (3.4-8.4)	**7.0** (4.4-10.9)	**6.9** (5.1-9.2)	**7.2** (5.6-9.2)	**5.7** (4.3-7.6)	**3.7** (2.6-5.2)	**4.9** (3.3-7.2)	**1.9** (1.2-3.1)	**3.1** (2.2-4.4)	†	**2.7** (2.0-3.7)	†	†	c
12	**3.6** (2.3-5.7)	**3.5** (1.9-6.2)	**6.7** (5.1-8.8)	**7.1** (5.1-9.7)	**4.5** (3.3-6.1)	**5.1** (3.5-7.4)	**2.5** (1.4-4.4)	**3.7** (2.1-6.4)	**4.5** (3.1-6.6)	**5.5** (3.3-9.1)	**5.2** (4.0-6.7)	†	**0.8** (0.5-1.4)	bc
Region														
GTA	**4.1** (2.9-5.6)	**4.3** (3.3-5.7)	**5.6** (4.4-7.1)	**5.0** (4.0-6.2)	**3.1** (2.4-4.1)	**2.4** (1.7-3.4)	**1.9** (1.4-2.7)	**2.3** (1.6-3.2)	**2.0** (1.4-2.7)	**2.6** (1.6-4.2)	**1.4** (1.0-2.0)	†	**1.0** (0.6-1.6)	c
North	**4.2** (2.4-7.2)	**4.2** (2.4-7.2)	**7.8** (6.0-10.0)	**5.5** (3.8-7.9)	**8.0** (5.1-12.3)	**5.9** (3.6-9.5)	**5.3** (3.2-8.7)	†	**4.8** (2.8-7.9)	**3.4** (2.3-5.0)	**5.1** (3.8-6.7)	†	†	c
West	**4.0** (2.4-6.5)	**7.1** (4.4-11.3)	**6.8** (5.0-9.3)	**9.0** (6.5-12.4)	**4.9** (3.3-7.1)	**3.8** (2.5-5.8)	**3.1** (2.0-4.9)	†	**2.9** (2.1-4.0)	**3.6** (2.2-6.0)	**3.5** (2.6-4.9)	†	**1.2** (0.7-1.9)	bc
East	**3.6** (2.4-5.4)	**4.9** (2.3-10.0)	**4.0** (2.9-5.5)	**4.0** (2.4-6.6	**3.7** (2.8-4.9)	**3.1** (1.8-5.4)	**1.7** (0.9-3.0)	**2.1** (1.2-3.6)	†	†	**3.3** (2.3-4.7)	†	†	c

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (5) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. **2003 or 2005 (peak years)** significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use cocaine (also known as "coke", "blow", "snow", "powder", "snort", etc.)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Ecstasy (MDMA) Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Table 3.6.5)

Total	• In 2023, 0.6% of secondary school students report using ecstasy (MDMA) at least once during the 12 months before the survey.
Sex	• Males (0.5%) and females (0.7%) are equally likely to report past year use.
Grade	• There are no significant grade differences in past year use.
Region	• There is no significant regional variation.

Past Year Ecstasy (MDMA) Use: Trends

(Tables 3.6.5; A11)

Total	• Ecstasy use has significantly decreased since the peak of 7.9% in 2001, reaching an all-time low in 2023 (among grades 9-12). • Since monitoring began in 1991 (among grades 9 and 11 only), ecstasy use steadily increased from below 0.5% to a peak in 2001. Use has been on a downward trend since that peak, reaching historical lows in recent years.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant decrease since the peak year of use in 2001.
Grade	• All grades show a significant decrease since the peak year of use in 2001.
Region	• All regions show a significant decrease since the peak year of use in 2001.

Table 3.6.5: Percentage Reporting Ecstasy (MDMA) Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(1496)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)	
Total (95% CI)	**5.3** (4.0-7.0)	**7.9** (6.5-9.6)	**5.5** (4.7-6.4)	**6.2** (5.2-7.4)	**4.7** (3.9-5.7)	**4.3** (3.5-5.2)	**4.4** (3.5-5.6)	**3.3** (2.4-4.5)	**5.4** (4.5-6.4)	**3.4** (2.6-4.4)	**2.3** (1.9-2.7)	†	**0.6** (0.4-0.9)	bcde
Sex														
Males	**5.7** (3.9-8.3)	**8.7** (6.8-11.2)	**5.7** (4.6-7.2)	**6.4** (5.2-8.0)	**4.8** (3.6-6.2)	**4.2** (3.1-5.7)	**4.6** (3.2-6.6)	**3.9** (2.5-6.0)	**5.6** (4.5-7.0)	**4.2** (3.3-5.3)	**2.9** (2.4-3.6)	†	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	bc
Females	**5.0** (3.3-7.4)	**7.0** (5.4-8.9)	**5.2** (4.2-6.5)	**6.0** (4.7-7.5)	**4.6** (3.8-5.6)	**4.3** (3.5-5.3)	**4.2** (3.2-5.4)	**2.6** (1.8-3.8)	**5.1** (4.1-6.3)	**2.5** (1.4-4.5)	**1.6** (1.2-2.1)	†	**0.7** (0.5-1.0)	bc
Grade														
9	†	**7.2** (5.0-10.1)	**3.7** (2.7-5.1)	**3.6** (2.6-4.9)	**2.8** (1.9-4.1)	**2.0** (1.1-3.5)	†	†	**1.1** (0.6-1.9)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.2)	†	†	c
10	**4.5** (2.5-7.8)	**6.8** (4.6-10.0)	**4.6** (3.2-6.4)	**5.3** (3.9-7.0)	**4.7** (3.5-6.4)	**4.2** (3.1-5.7)	**2.7** (1.5-4.8)	**2.7** (1.5-4.8)	**3.0** (2.1-4.3)	**2.3** (1.5-3.7)	**1.4** (0.8-2.3)	†	†	c
11	**9.8** (6.4-14.8)	**9.5** (6.9-13.0)	**6.6** (4.9-9.0)	**7.7** (5.7-40.5)	**6.2** (4.6-8.2)	**5.0** (3.7-6.9)	**7.9** (5.9-10.6)	**3.1** (2.0-4.8)	**5.8** (4.4-7.6)	**2.5** (1.7-3.6)	**2.8** (2.0-3.8)	†	†	c
12	**4.8** (2.6-8.8)	**9.2** (6.0-14.1)	**7.2** (5.5-9.4)	**8.1** (6.3-10.5)	**5.0** (3.8-6.7)	**5.4** (3.8-7.6)	**4.6** (3.0-7.0)	**5.6** (3.6-8.5)	**9.6** (7.3-12.6)	**6.7** (4.5-9.8)	**3.7** (2.8-5.0)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.1)	c
Region														
GTA	**6.8** (4.8-9.7)	**7.0** (5.2-9.4)	**4.9** (3.8-6.3)	**5.0** (3.9-6.3)	**3.2** (2.2-4.8)	**3.3** (2.5-4.4)	**3.6** (2.2-5.8)	**2.9** (1.8-4.6)	**6.1** (4.8-7.7)	**3.1** (2.1-4.7)	**1.2** (0.9-1.7)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.0)	c
North	†	**4.8** (3.2-7.0)	**5.9** (4.7-7.3)	**5.3** (4.0-6.8)	**9.0** (5.7-13.8)	**6.4** (3.9-10.5)	**5.6** (3.9-8.0)	†	**5.9** (4.2-8.4)	**2.9** (1.8-4.5)	**3.8** (2.7-5.3)	†	†	c
West	**5.4** (3.2-8.9)	**12.7** (9.8-16.4)	**7.4** (5.6-9.8)	**9.9** (7.5-12.9)	**5.1** (3.7-7.0)	**5.5** (3.9-7.7)	**5.0** (3.5-7.1)	†	**4.2** (3.2-5.5)	**4.9** (3.3-7.2)	**3.5** (2.6-4.8)	†	†	c
East	†	**4.4** (2.3-8.3)	**4.4** (3.1-6.2)	**5.5** (3.5-8.5)	**6.0** (4.6-7.8)	**3.9** (2.3-6.3)	**4.9** (3.2-7.5)	**3.6** (2.0-6.3)	**5.3** (3.3-8.2)	†	**2.4** (1.8-3.4)	†	†	c

Notes: (1) question asked of a random half sample in 1999; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA= Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. **2001 (peak)** significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use MDMA or "ecstasy" (also known as "Molly", "E", "X")?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Heroin Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Table 3.6.6)

Total	• The 2023 OSDUHS estimate for past year heroin use among secondary school students is suppressed (less than 0.5%).
Sex	• Estimates by sex are suppressed.
Grade	• Estimates by grade are suppressed.
Region	• Estimates by region are suppressed.

Past Year Heroin Use: Trends

(Tables 3.6.6, A12)

Total	• Heroin use has remained very low and stable during the past decade, and the level of use seen in recent years is among the lowest since 1999, when the estimate was 2.1%. • Looking back over the past 45 years or so (among grades 9 and 11 only), the use of heroin was low and stable for decades.
Sex	• Heroin use among both males and females has been low and stable for the past decade, and remains significantly lower than their respective estimates from 1999.
Grade	• Use among the grades has been low and stable for the past decade, but significantly lower than estimates from 1999.
Region	• Use among the regions has been low and stable for the past decade, but significantly lower than estimates from 1999.

Table 3.6.6: Percentage Reporting Heroin Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2883)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)
Total (95% CI)	**2.1** (1.6-2.7)	**1.2** (0.8-1.7)	**1.5** (1.1-1.9)	**0.9** (0.7-1.2)	**1.0** (0.7-1.5)	**0.8** (0.6-1.2)	†	†	**0.5** (0.3-0.7)	†	†	†	† [cd]
Sex													
Males	**2.8** (2.0-3.9)	**1.8** (1.1-2.7)	**2.2** (1.6-3.0)	**1.1** (0.8-1.6)	**1.4** (1.0-2.2)	**1.2** (0.8-1.9)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.2)	†	†	†	†	† [c]
Females	**1.3** (0.7-2.4)	†	**0.8** (0.4-1.3)	**0.8** (0.5-1.2)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Grade													
9	**2.5** (1.7-3.8)	**2.2** (1.3-3.6)	**1.5** (0.9-2.4)	**1.4** (0.8-2.3)	**1.0** (0.6-1.8)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
10	†	**1.2** (0.6-2.2)	**2.0** (1.2-3.5)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.3)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
11	†	†	**1.3** (0.7-2.2)	**0.8** (0.4-1.5)	**1.7** (1.0-2.9)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
12	**2.2** (1.2-4.0)	†	**1.1** (0.6-2.0)	**1.0** (0.6-1.7)	†	**1.0** (0.5-2.0)	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]
Region													
GTA	**2.3** (1.5-3.3)	†	**1.6** (1.1-2.4)	**1.0** (0.7-1.4)	**0.9** (0.5-1.5)	**0.8** (0.5-1.5)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
North	**1.4** (0.8-2.6)	†	†	**1.0** (0.6-1.7)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
West	**1.9** (1.0-3.6)	**2.0** (1.1-3.6)	**1.2** (0.7-2.0)	**1.3** (0.9-2.1)	†	**0.9** (0.5-1.7)	†	†	**0.8** (0.4-1.5)	†	†	†	†
East	**2.1** (1.3-3.6)	†	**1.6** (1.0-2.5)	†	**1.3** (0.8-2.3)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [c]

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (5) [c] significant decline since 1999, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use heroin (also known as "H", "junk", or "smack")?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Fentanyl Use

2023 (Grades 9–12):

- The percentage of secondary school students reporting past year use of fentanyl in 2023 is suppressed (less than 0.5%).

- No further breakdown by sex, grade, or region could be presented due to suppressed estimates.

2017–2023 (Grades 9–12):

- Fentanyl use was first monitored in the 2017 cycle, showing 0.9% of secondary school students used in the past year. The percentage reporting use has remained low and stable since then.

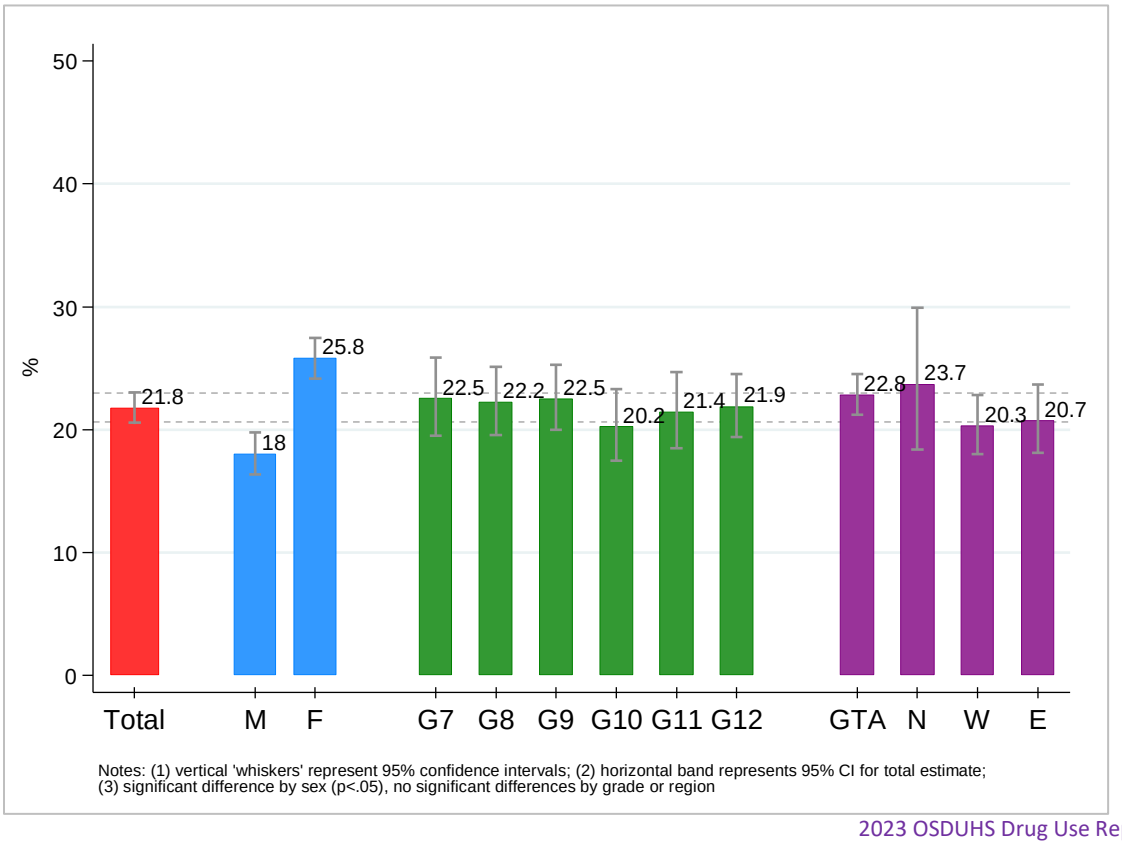
3.7 Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs and Over-the-Counter Drugs

Past Year Nonmedical Use of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.7.1; Table 3.7.1)

Total	• About one-in-five (21.8%) students report using a prescription opioid pain reliever (such as Percocet, Dilaudid, Tylenol #3) nonmedically (without one's own prescription or a doctor's supervision) at least once during the 12 months before the survey.
Sex	• Females (25.8%) are significantly more likely than males (18.0%) to report nonmedical use of prescription opioids in the past year.
Grade	• There are no significant differences by grade.
Region	• There are no significant differences by region.

Figure 3.7.1
Past Year Nonmedical Use of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



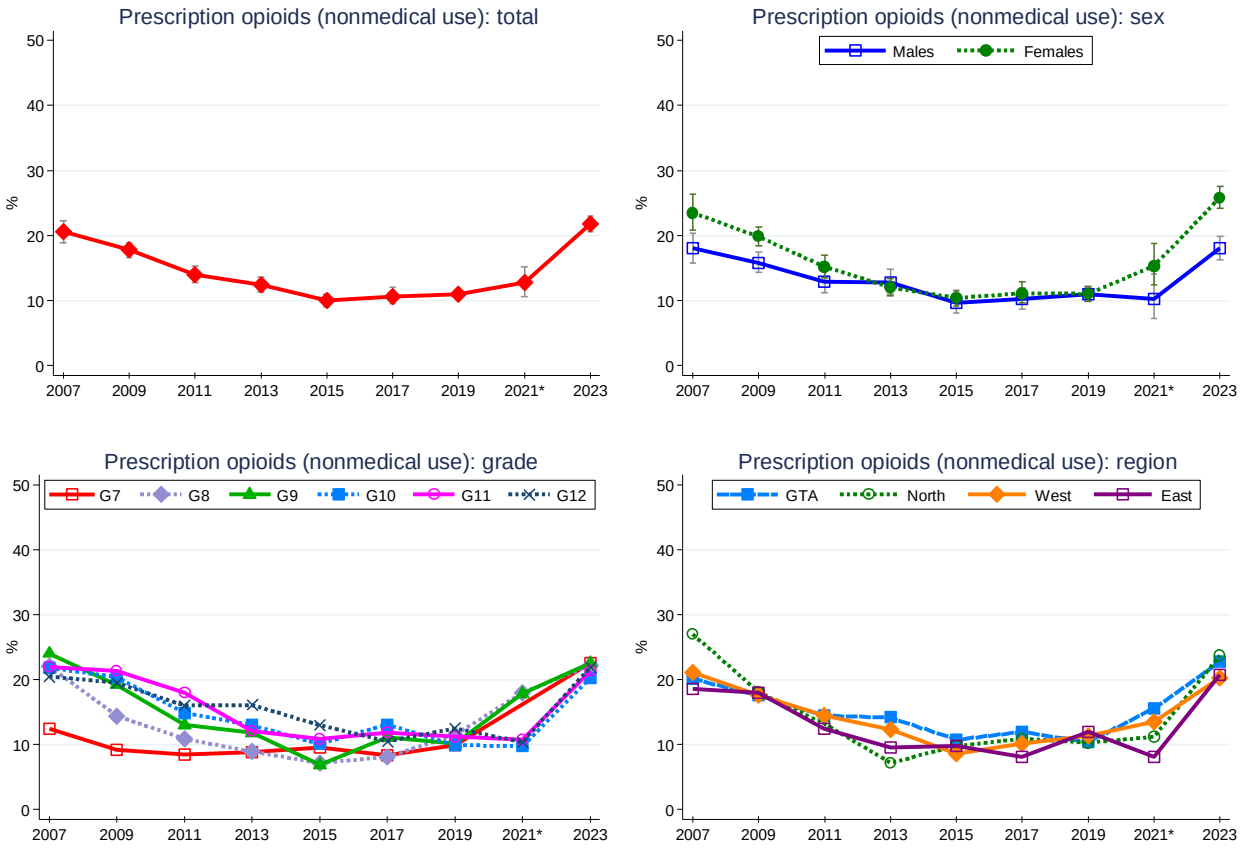
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant difference by sex (p<.05), no significant differences by grade or region

Past Year Nonmedical Use of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers: 2007–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.7.2; Table 3.7.1)

Total	• Nonmedical use of prescription opioid pain relievers significantly increased between 2021 (12.7%) and 2023 (21.8%). Use decreased between 2007 (when monitoring began) and 2015, remained steady until 2019, and has increased since then, returning to an elevated level similar to that seen in 2007.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant increase in past year nonmedical prescription opioid use between 2021 and 2023, returning to an elevated level seen in 2007.
Grade	• No grade shows a significant change in use between 2021 and 2023, despite numeric increases. However, all grades do show significant increases compared with their respective 2019 estimate.
Region	• The East region shows a significant increase between 2021 and 2023. All regions show increases compared with their respective 2019 estimate.

Figure 3.7.2
Past Year Nonmedical Use of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers, 2007–2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) Grade 7 estimate from 2021 was suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.7.1: Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Use of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers in the Past Year, 2007–2023 OSDUHS

	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2935)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(10435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Total	**20.6**	**17.8**	**14.0**	**12.4**	**10.0**	**10.6**	**11.0**	**12.7**	**21.8** [abde]
(95% CI)	(18.9-22.3)	(16.6-18.9)	(12.8-15.3)	(11.2-13.6)	(9.0-11.0)	(9.5-12.0)	(10.3-11.7)	(10.6-15.1)	(20.6-23.0)
Sex									
Males	**18.0**	**15.8**	**12.9**	**12.8**	**9.6**	**10.2**	**10.9**	**10.2**	**18.0** [ab]
	(15.8-20.3)	(14.3-17.4)	(11.2-14.9)	(11.0-14.8)	(8.1-11.3)	(8.7-11.9)	(9.9-12.0)	(7.2-14.1)	(16.3-19.8)
Females	**23.5**	**19.8**	**15.2**	**12.0**	**10.4**	**11.1**	**11.0**	**15.3**	**25.8** [ab]
	(20.8-26.3)	(18.4-21.3)	(13.5-17.0)	(10.7-13.3)	(9.2-11.6)	(9.6-12.8)	(10.0-12.2)	(12.4-18.8)	(24.2-27.5)
Grade									
7	**12.5**	**9.2**	**8.5**	**8.8**	**9.5**	**8.4**	**9.9**	†	**22.5** [b]
	(8.4-18.2)	(6.9-12.2)	(6.7-10.7)	(6.8-11.3)	(6.6-13.6)	(6.1-11.4)	(7.9-12.4)		(19.5-25.9)
8	**22.1**	**14.4**	**10.9**	**8.9**	**7.2**	**8.1**	**11.5**	**18.0**	**22.2** [b]
	(17.7-27.2)	(11.9-17.4)	(8.5-13.8)	(6.6-11.7)	(4.8-10.6)	(5.7-11.2)	(9.5-13.8)	(11.7-26.6)	(19.6-25.1)
9	**24.0**	**19.2**	**13.0**	**11.8**	**6.9**	**11.1**	**10.1**	**17.8**	**22.5** [b]
	(19.5-29.1)	(16.4-22.3)	(10.7-15.6)	(9.2-14.9)	(5.4-8.8)	(8.8-14.0)	(8.6-11.8)	(11.8-25.9)	(19.8-25.3)
10	**21.8**	**20.4**	**14.9**	**13.0**	**10.1**	**13.1**	**9.9**	**9.8**	**20.2** [b]
	(18.1-25.9)	(17.1-24.2)	(12.9-17.2)	(10.4-16.0)	(8.3-12.3)	(10.4-16.2)	(8.5-11.4)	(4.9-18.8)	(17.5-23.3)
11	**22.0**	**21.3**	**18.0**	**12.1**	**10.9**	**11.9**	**11.3**	**10.8**	**21.4** [b]
	(18.4-26.2)	(18.6-24.3)	(14.6-22.0)	(9.9-14.7)	(8.8-13.6)	(9.9-14.1)	(9.8-13.0)	(6.9-16.3)	(18.5-24.7)
12	**20.5**	**19.5**	**16.0**	**16.1**	**13.0**	**10.5**	**12.5**	**10.4**	**21.9** [b]
	(16.6-25.1)	(16.8-22.5)	(13.2-19.2)	(13.2-19.6)	(10.4-16.2)	(8.3-13.2)	(10.7-14.5)	(5.9-17.7)	(19.4-24.6)
Region									
GTA	**20.2**	**17.6**	**14.5**	**14.2**	**10.8**	**12.0**	**10.4**	**15.6**	**22.8** [b]
	(17.4-23.3)	(16.0-19.4)	(12.5-16.8)	(12.4-16.2)	(9.6-12.4)	(10.2-14.0)	(9.5-11.4)	(11.5-20.8)	(21.2-24.6)
North	**27.0**	**18.1**	**13.2**	**7.2**	**9.8**	**10.9**	**10.2**	**11.2**	**23.7** [b]
	(21.6-33.1)	(15.9-20.6)	(9.7-17.8)	(5.5-9.4)	(7.5-12.8)	(8.9-13.4)	(8.0-13.0)	(6.5-18.5)	(18.4-29.9)
West	**21.1**	**17.6**	**14.5**	**12.3**	**8.6**	**10.2**	**11.4**	**13.5**	**20.3** [b]
	(18.0-24.5)	(15.2-20.4)	(12.0-17.4)	(10.4-14.4)	(6.8-10.9)	(8.7-11.8)	(10.0-12.9)	(10.2-17.8)	(18.0-22.8)
East	**18.6**	**18.0**	**12.5**	**9.6**	**9.8**	**8.1**	**12.0**	**8.1**	**20.7** [ab]
	(16.1-21.4)	(16.0-20.2)	(10.8-14.4)	(7.3-12.6)	(7.6-12.4)	(5.6-11.8)	(10.2-14.0)	(5.5-11.7)	(18.1-23.7)

Notes: (1) question asked of a random half sample in 2007; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2007 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: The next questions are about pain relief pills that people usually get by prescription, such as Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol #3, Demerol, Dilaudid, OxyNeo, codeine. (We do not mean regular Tylenol, Advil, or Aspirin that anyone can buy in a drugstore.) In the last 12 months, how often did you use these types of pain relief pills without a prescription or without a doctor telling you to take them?

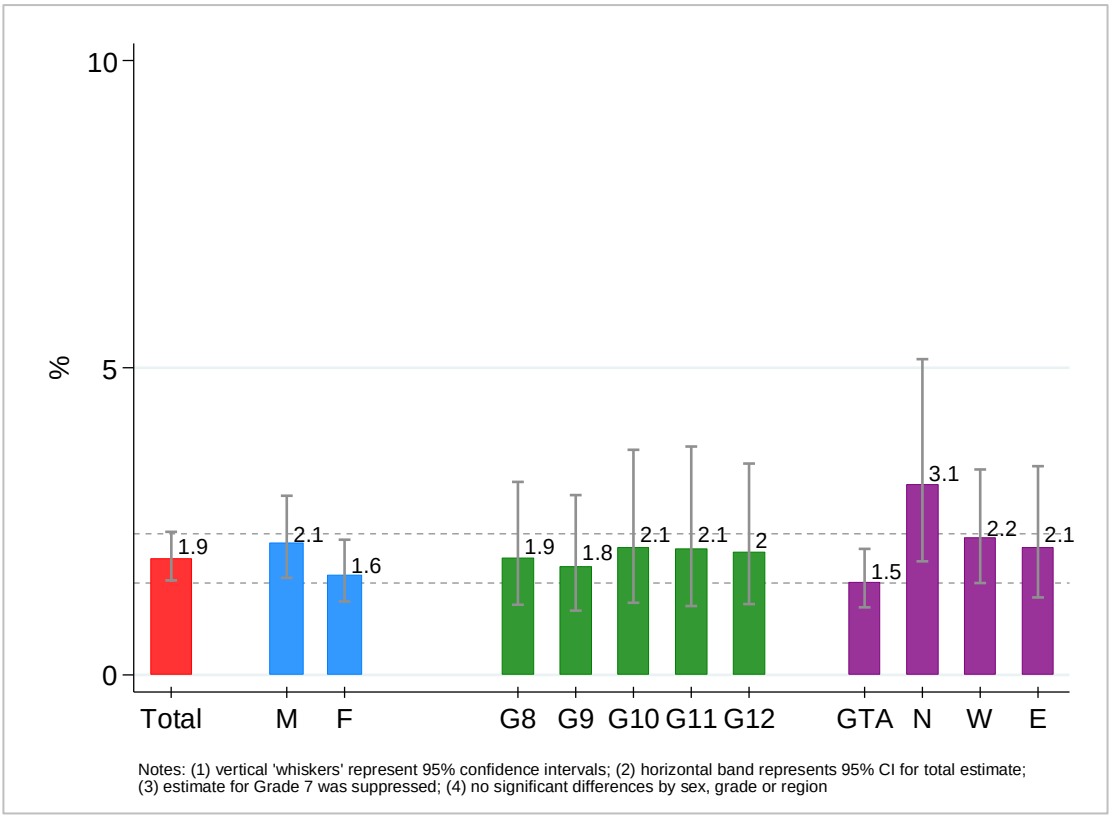
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Nonmedical Use of ADHD Drugs: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.7.3; Table 3.7.2)

Total	• Among all students, 1.9% report using an ADHD drug (such as Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta) for nonmedical purposes at least once in the past 12 months.
Sex	• Males (2.1%) and females (1.6%) are equally likely to use an ADHD drug nonmedically.
Grade	• There is no significant grade variation.
Region	• There is no significant regional variation.

Figure 3.7.3
Past Year Nonmedical Use of ADHD Drugs by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Past Year Nonmedical Use of ADHD Drugs: 2007–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Table 3.7.2)

Total	• The nonmedical use of an ADHD drug increased between 2007, the first year of monitoring, and 2019 (from 1.0% to 2.7%), but has since decreased to 1.9% in 2023.
Sex	• Males show an increase between 2007 and 2019, and remain relatively stable in 2023. Females have remained low and stable since 2007.
Grade	• Only students in grade 12 show a significant increase in use between 2007 and 2019, followed by a significant decrease in 2023.
Region	• Only the West region shows a significant increase between 2007 and 2019, followed by a significant decrease in 2023.

Table 3.7.2: Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Use of ADHD Drugs in the Past Year, 2007–2023 OSDUHS

	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n=)	(2935)	(9112)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)
Total (95% CI)	**1.0** (0.7-1.5)	**1.6** (1.3-2.1)	**1.0** (0.7-1.3)	**1.4** (1.0-2.0)	**2.1** (1.6-2.7)	**2.3** (1.7-3.1)	**2.7** (2.2-3.1)	†	**1.9** [bde] (1.5-2.3)
Sex									
Males	**1.1** (0.7-1.8)	**1.7** (1.2-2.4)	**1.2** (0.7-2.2)	**1.9** (1.2-2.9)	**2.1** (1.5-3.0)	**2.6** (2.0-3.5)	**3.2** (2.6-3.8)	†	**2.1** (1.6-2.9)
Females	**1.0** (0.5-1.9)	**1.6** (1.2-2.1)	**0.7** (0.4-1.3)	**0.9** (0.6-1.3)	**2.0** (1.4-2.9)	**1.9** (1.2-3.1)	**2.1** (1.6-2.8)	†	**1.6** (1.2-2.2)
Grade									
7	†	**0.8** (0.4-1.5)	†	†	†	**1.5** (0.8-2.7)	**0.7** (0.4-1.4)	†	†
8	†	**1.2** (0.7-2.3)	†	†	†	**0.9** (0.5-1.8)	**1.3** (0.7-2.1)	†	**1.9** (1.1-3.1)
9	†	**1.8** (1.0-3.0)	†	†	**0.8** (0.4-1.4)	**0.8** (0.4-1.4)	**1.9** (1.3-2.8)	†	**1.8** (1.0-2.9)
10	†	**1.6** (1.0-2.6)	†	**1.6** (0.8-3.0)	**1.5** (0.9-2.5)	†	**2.1** (1.5-3.0)	†	**2.1** (1.2-3.7)
11	**2.2** (1.3-3.7)	**2.5** (1.5-4.1)	†	**1.4** (0.8-2.5)	**3.4** (2.3-5.0)	**3.3** (2.3-4.7)	**3.1** (2.2-4.3)	†	**2.1** (1.1-3.7)
12	†	**1.7** (1.1-2.7)	†	**2.4** (1.2-4.7)	**3.8** (2.3-6.1)	**4.5** (2.7-7.3)	**5.0** (3.9-6.4)	†	**2.0** [b] (1.2-3.4)
Region									
GTA	**1.2** (0.6-2.3)	**1.2** (0.9-1.8)	**0.6** (0.4-1.0)	**1.2** (0.7-1.9)	**1.6** (1.1-2.3)	**2.0** (1.0-3.7)	**1.5** (1.2-2.0)	†	**1.5** (1.1-2.0)
North	†	**2.5** (1.4-4.4)	**1.3** (0.8-2.3)	†	**1.7** (0.9-3.1)	**2.9** (2.0-4.1)	**2.1** (1.4-3.3)	†	**3.1** (1.8-5.1)
West	**1.2** (0.7-2.2)	**1.6** (1.0-2.7)	†	†	**2.1** (1.4-3.2)	**2.7** (2.0-3.7)	**4.3** (3.1-5.9)	†	**2.2** [b] (1.5-3.3)
East	†	**2.1** (1.2-3.4)	**1.8** (1.2-2.7)	**1.4** (0.7-2.6)	**3.2** (1.7-5.8)	**2.3** (1.2-4.2)	**3.3** (2.6-4.3)	†	**2.1** (1.2-3.4)

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) question asked of a random half sample in 2007; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (5) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (6) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (7) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: Sometimes doctors give medicine to students who are hyperactive or have problems concentrating in school. This is called Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In the last 12 months, how often did you use medicine that is usually used to treat ADHD (such as Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta, Dexedrine, also known as "Addys", "Dexies") without a prescription or without a doctor telling you to take it?

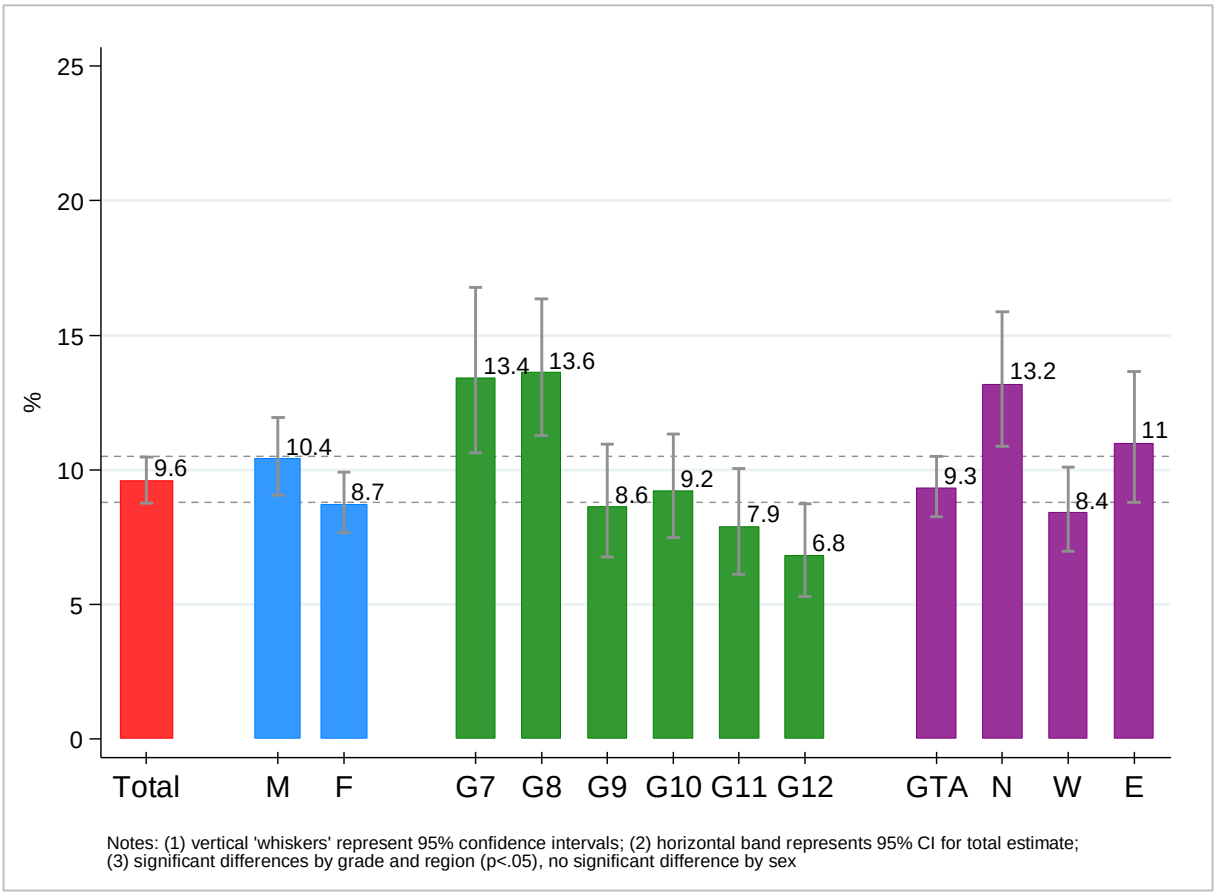
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Nonmedical Use of Cough or Cold Medication: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.7.4; Table 3.7.3)

Total	• About one-in-ten (9.6%) students report using cough/cold medication to "get high" at least once in the past year.
Sex	• Males (10.4%) and females (8.7%) are equally likely to report using cough/cold medication to "get high."
Grade	• Use is more likely among younger students and significantly declines with grade (from 13%-14% of 7th and 8th graders down to 6.8% of 12th graders).
Region	• There are significant regional differences showing that students in the West region (8.4%) are least likely to use, while students in the North (13.2%) are most likely. The other two regions fall in-between.

Figure 3.7.4
Past Year Nonmedical Use of Cough or Cold Medication by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant differences by grade and region (p<.05), no significant difference by sex

Past Year Nonmedical Use of Cough or Cold Medication: 2009–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.7.5; Table 3.7.3)

Total

- The percentage of students reporting the use of cough/cold medication to "get high" in 2023 (9.6%) is significantly higher than in 2021 (3.6%) and 2019 (7.8%), returning to a level previously seen in 2017. The current estimate is significantly higher than in 2009 (7.2%), when monitoring first began.

Sex

- Males show a significant increase in use between 2021 and 2023, returning to a level seen in 2019. The level among males remains higher than that seen in 2009, the first year of monitoring. Use among females in 2023 is higher than in 2021 and 2019, but is similar to the estimate from 2009.

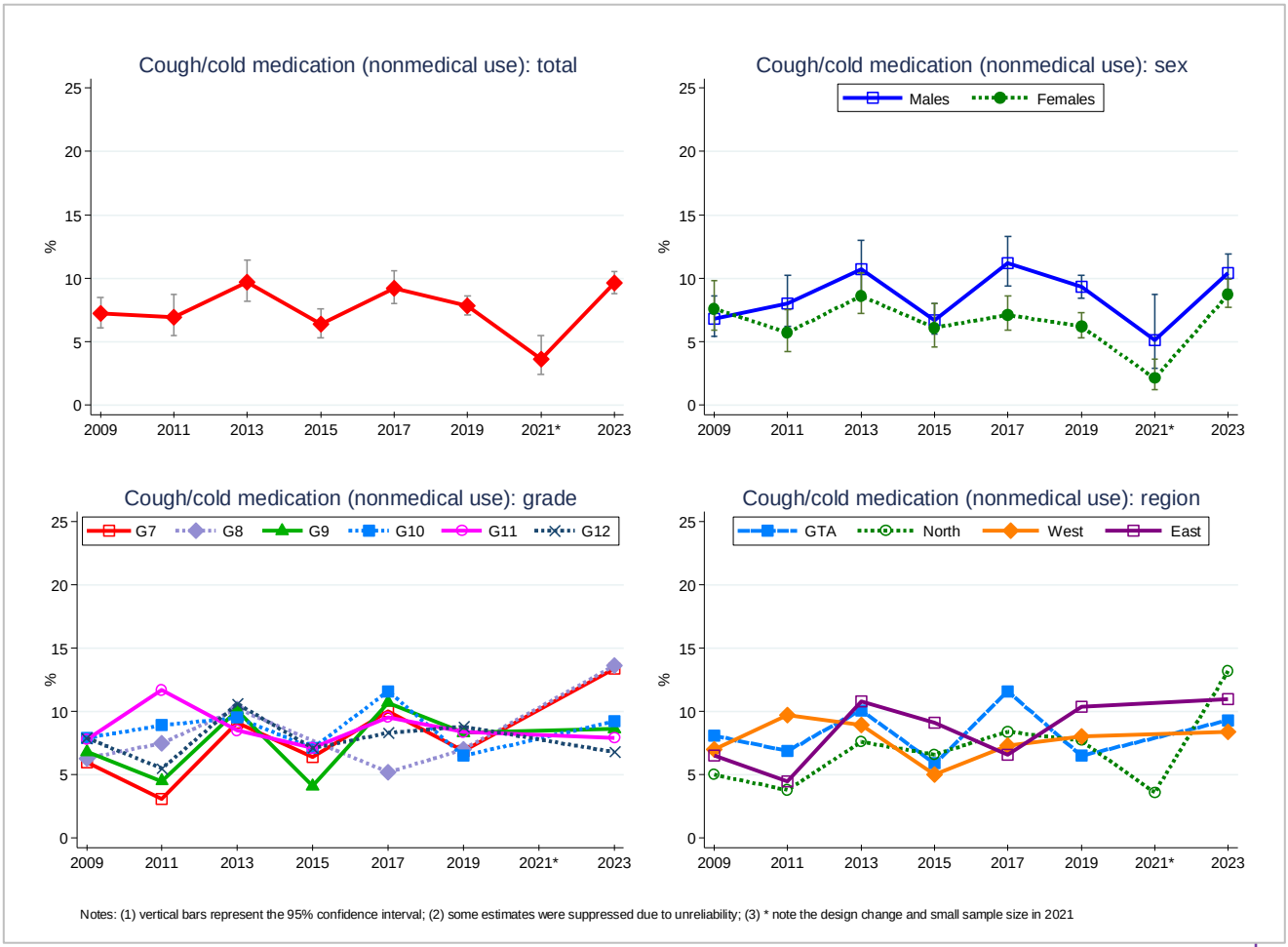
Grade

- Use among 7th and 8th graders has significantly increased since 2019, and the levels are among the highest since 2009. Use among the older grades has remained relatively stable.

Region

- Students in the North and East regions show higher levels of use 2023 compared with 2009, the first year of monitoring.

Figure 3.7.5
Past Year Nonmedical Use of Cough or Cold Medication, 2009–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.7.3: Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Use of Cough or Cold Medication in the Past Year, 2009–2023 OSDUHS

	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n=)	(4220)	(4472)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(2225)	(10145)	
Total	**7.2**	**6.9**	**9.7**	**6.4**	**9.2**	**7.8**	**3.6**	**9.6**	abce
(95% CI)	(6.1-8.5)	(5.5-8.7)	(8.2-11.4)	(5.3-7.6)	(8.0-10.6)	(7.1-8.6)	(2.4-5.5)	(8.8-10.5)	
Sex									
Males	**6.8**	**8.0**	**10.7**	**6.7**	**11.2**	**9.3**	**5.1**	**10.4**	ac
	(5.4-8.6)	(6.2-10.2)	(8.8-13.0)	(5.6-8.0)	(9.4-13.3)	(8.4-10.2)	(2.9-8.7)	(9.1-11.9)	
Females	**7.6**	**5.7**	**8.6**	**6.1**	**7.1**	**6.2**	**2.1**	**8.7**	ab
	(5.9-9.8)	(4.2-7.5)	(7.2-10.4)	(4.6-8.0)	(5.9-8.6)	(5.3-7.3)	(1.2-3.6)	(7.6-9.9)	
Grade									
7	**6.0**	**3.1**	**9.1**	**6.4**	**10.0**	**6.9**	†	**13.4**	bc
	(3.8-9.4)	(1.8-5.3)	(6.7-12.1)	(3.9-10.3)	(7.1-13.7)	(5.1-9.3)		(10.6-16.8)	
8	**6.3**	**7.5**	**10.2**	†	**5.2**	**7.0**	†	**13.6**	bc
	(4.1-9.6)	(5.2-10.8)	(7.0-14.4)		(3.3-8.1)	(5.3-9.1)		(11.3-16.3)	
9	**6.8**	**4.5**	**10.1**	**4.1**	**10.7**	**8.3**	†	**8.6**	
	(4.0-11.2)	(3.1-6.5)	(7.2-13.9)	(3.0-5.5)	(7.9-14.4)	(6.9-10.0)		(6.7-10.9)	
10	**7.9**	**8.9**	**9.5**	**7.1**	**11.6**	**6.5**	†	**9.2**	
	(5.3-11.4)	(6.6-11.9)	(7.3-12.2)	(5.6-8.9)	(8.8-15.3)	(5.0-8.5)		(7.5-11.3)	
11	**7.8**	**11.7**	**8.5**	**7.1**	**9.5**	**8.4**	†	**7.9**	
	(5.6-10.9)	(6.1-21.5)	(6.2-11.4)	(5.7-8.7)	(6.4-14.0)	(6.9-10.3)		(6.1-10.0)	
12	**7.9**	**5.5**	**10.6**	**7.1**	**8.3**	**8.8**	†	**6.8**	
	(5.3-11.5)	(3.6-8.3)	(7.8-14.2)	(5.5-9.2)	(6.5-10.5)	(7.2-10.7)		(5.3-8.7)	
Region									
GTA	**8.1**	**6.9**	**10.1**	**5.9**	**11.6**	**6.5**	†	**9.3**	b
	(6.4-10.2)	(5.7-8.3)	(8.8-11.6)	(5.0-7.1)	(9.9-13.6)	(5.6-7.6)		(8.2-10.5)	
North	**5.0**	**3.8**	**7.6**	**6.6**	**8.4**	**7.7**	**3.6**	**13.2**	abc
	(2.9-8.7)	(2.4-5.9)	(4.6-12.1)	(4.9-8.9)	(6.4-10.8)	(5.2-11.2)	(2.0-6.6)	(10.9-15.9)	
West	**7.0**	**9.7**	**8.9**	**5.0**	**7.3**	**8.0**	†	**8.4**	
	(4.9-9.9)	(6.3-14.5)	(6.0-13.1)	(3.9-6.5)	(5.8-9.2)	(6.8-9.3)		(7.0-10.1)	
East	**6.5**	**4.5**	**10.8**	**9.1**	**6.6**	**10.4**	†	**11.0**	c
	(5.2-8.0)	(3.1-6.4)	(6.4-17.6)	(5.4-14.8)	(4.3-10.1)	(8.5-12.7)		(8.8-13.7)	

Notes: (1) based on grades 7-12; (2) question asked of a random half sample in 2009 and 2011; (3) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (4) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (5) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (6) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (7) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2009 significant difference, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use a cough or cold medicine such as Robitussin DM, Benylin DM (also known as "robos", "sizzurp", "syrup", "purple drank", "lean, "dex", "DXM") in order to get high?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Past Year Nonmedical Use of Tranquillizers/Sedatives: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Table 3.7.4)

Total	• The nonmedical use of tranquillizers/sedatives (such as Xanax, Valium, Ativan) is reported by 1.7% of secondary school students.
Sex	• Males (1.2%) and females (2.1%) are equally likely to use tranquillizers nonmedically.
Grade	• Nonmedical tranquillizer use does not significantly differ by grade, ranging from 1.5% to 1.8%.
Region	• There is no significant regional variation.

Past Year Nonmedical Use of Tranquillizers/Sedatives: Trends

(Tables 3.7.4, A13)

Total	• Among the total sample of secondary school students, there has been no change in tranquillizer/sedative use between 1999 and 2023, as estimates have remained stable at about 2%-3%. • Looking back over the past 45 years or so (among grades 9 and 11 only), use peaked in the late 1970s/early 1980s, and then decreased substantially over the late 1980s/early 1990s. Use has remained low and stable for over two decades.
Sex	• Neither males nor females show a significant change in tranquillizer use since 1999.
Grade	• No grade shows a significant change in tranquillizer use since 1999.
Region	• No region shows a significant change in tranquillizer use since 1999.

Table 3.7.4: Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Tranquillizer/Sedative Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2883)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)
Total (95% CI)	**2.5** (1.9-3.3)	**2.7** (1.8-3.9)	**2.8** (2.2-3.4)	**2.1** (1.7-2.7)	**2.2** (1.7-2.8)	**2.0** (1.5-2.6)	**2.5** (1.9-3.3)	**2.4** (1.8-3.2)	**2.1** (1.7-2.7)	**2.7** (2.1-3.4)	**2.9** (2.4-3.4)	†	**1.7** (1.3-2.2)
Sex													
Males	**2.2** (1.5-3.2)	**3.0** (1.9-4.7)	**3.4** (2.6-4.4)	**1.9** (1.4-2.6)	**2.0** (1.4-2.8)	**1.7** (1.2-2.5)	**2.4** (1.5-3.6)	**2.6** (1.6-4.1)	**1.3** (0.9-2.0)	**2.7** (1.8-4.1)	**3.1** (2.4-4.0)	†	**1.2** (0.8-2.0)
Females	**2.8** (1.8-4.1)	**2.3** (1.4-3.9)	**2.1** (1.5-3.0)	**2.4** (1.8-3.3)	**2.4** (1.8-3.2)	**2.2** (1.7-3.0)	**2.7** (2.2-3.4)	**2.2** (1.5-3.1)	**3.0** (2.2-4.0)	**2.6** (1.7-3.9)	**2.6** (2.0-3.3)	†	**2.1** (1.5-2.9)
Grade													
9	**1.7** (1.0-2.9)	†	**1.8** (1.1-2.9)	**2.5** (1.5-3.9)	†	**1.0** (0.6-1.8)	**0.7** (0.4-1.1)	**1.3** (0.8-2.1)	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	†	**1.3** (0.8-2.0)	†	**1.6** (1.0-2.6)
10	**1.3** (0.7-2.3)	**2.7** (1.6-4.6)	**2.4** (1.7-3.5)	**1.2** (0.7-2.2)	**2.3** (1.4-3.6)	**2.1** (1.4-3.3)	†	**2.4** (1.5-3.6)	**2.0** (1.3-3.1)	**2.0** (1.3-3.1)	**1.9** (1.2-3.0)	†	**1.5** (0.9-2.6)
11	**3.1** (1.8-5.2)	**3.3** (1.7-6.5)	**4.1** (2.9-5.9)	**2.3** (1.5-3.3)	**3.2** (2.2-4.6)	**2.0** (1.3-3.1)	**3.2** (1.6-6.3)	**2.0** (1.3-3.2)	**2.8** (1.9-4.2)	**3.0** (1.8-4.8)	**3.9** (2.9-5.2)	†	†
12	**4.1** (2.7-6.2)	**4.2** (2.0-8.4)	**2.7** (1.8-4.2)	**2.5** (1.7-3.8)	**2.1** (1.2-3.5)	**2.5** (1.5-4.1)	**2.3** (1.5-3.5)	**3.4** (1.8-6.2)	**2.8** (1.7-4.5)	**4.1** (2.6-6.4)	**4.0** (2.9-5.6)	†	**1.8** (1.1-2.8)
Region													
GTA	**2.7** (1.8-4.0)	†	**2.6** (1.8-3.7)	**1.6** (1.2-2.2)	**1.8** (1.1-3.0)	**1.4** (1.0-2.0)	**2.4** (1.8-3.3)	**2.0** (1.3-3.0)	**2.0** (1.5-2.6)	**2.9** (2.0-4.2)	**2.1** (1.6-2.8)	†	**1.5** (1.0-2.1)
North	**3.3** (1.9-5.8)	**3.6** (2.1-6.0)	**3.4** (2.2-5.0)	**4.4** (2.3-8.3)	**2.8** (1.7-4.6)	†	**1.8** (1.2-2.8)	†	†	**2.0** (1.4-2.8)	**3.4** (2.1-5.4)	†	†
West	**2.1** (1.2-3.6)	**4.6** (2.6-7.9)	**3.0** (2.1-4.3)	**3.1** (2.1-4.6)	**2.0** (1.2-3.3)	**2.2** (1.3-3.9)	**3.2** (1.8-5.4)	**3.7** (2.2-6.1)	**1.7** (1.1-2.8)	**2.5** (1.7-3.7)	**3.8** (2.8-5.2)	†	**2.0** (1.1-3.5)
East	†	**3.4** (1.9-5.8)	**2.6** (1.4-4.8)	**1.6** (1.0-2.7)	**3.0** (2.0-4.6)	**2.5** (1.5-4.1)	**2.1** (1.2-3.7)	**1.7** (1.2-2.3)	**2.9** (1.6-5.4)	**2.5** (1.6-3.9)	**2.9** (2.0-4.3)	†	†

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (5) no significant changes over time.

Q: Sedatives or tranquillizers are sometimes prescribed by doctors to help people sleep, calm them down, or to relax their muscles. Some examples are Xanax, Valium, Ativan. In the last 12 months, how often did you use sedatives or tranquillizers (also known as "tranqs", "benzos", "xans", "bars", "downers") without a prescription or without a doctor telling you to take them? (Note that "sedatives" was added to the question in 2007.)

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

3.8 Any Drug Use and No Drug Use

This chapter presents an overview of drug use by examining the following indices: (1) the percentage who used any drug during the past year excluding alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, and cannabis (among grades 9–12 only); (2) the percentage who used any prescription drug (opioid pain relievers, ADHD drugs, or tranquillizers/sedatives) nonmedically during the past year (among grades 9–12 only); and (3) the percentage who used no drug (abstinence) during the past year (among grades 7–12).

Any Drug Use in 2023 (Excluding Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis)

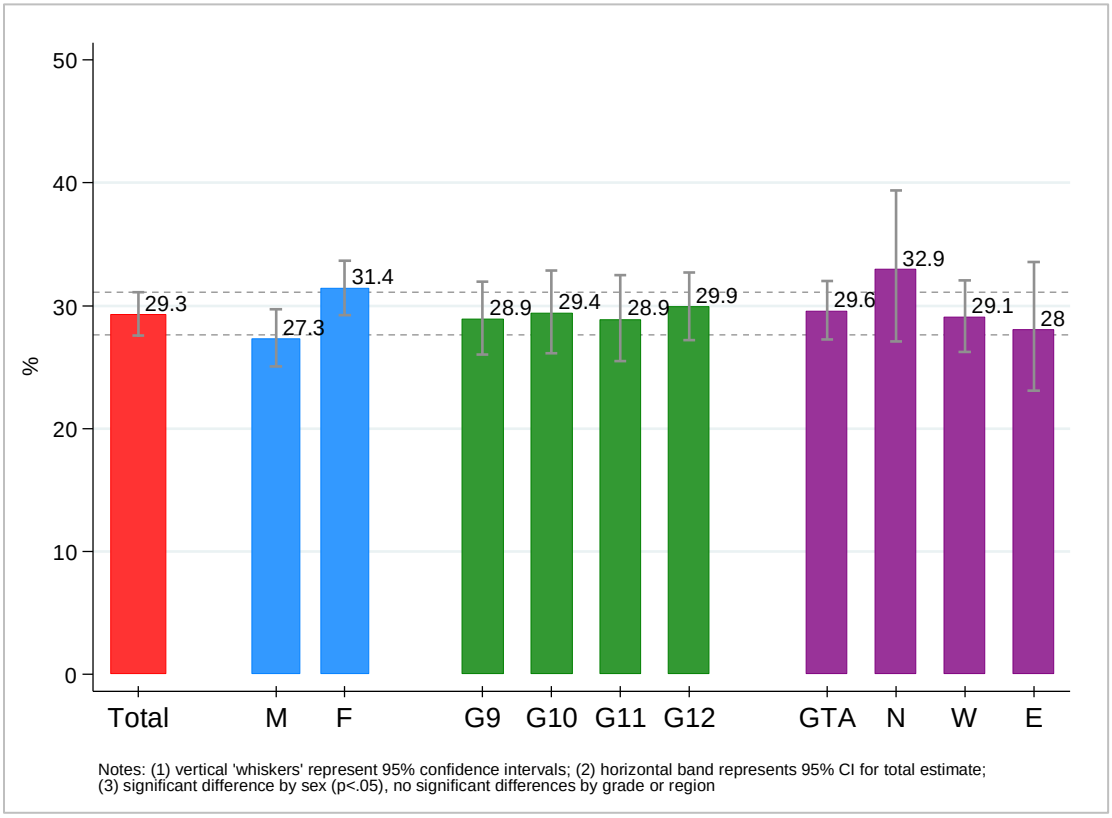
(Figure 3.8.1)

This composite measure captures the use of at least one of the following 11 drugs asked about in the 2023 survey: LSD, mushrooms/ mescaline, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, ecstasy, tranquillizers/sedatives (NM), other prescription opioid pain relievers (NM), ADHD drugs (NM), and cough/cold medication (NM). Excluded from this index are alcohol, tobacco/ nicotine, and cannabis. These results are among grades 9 to 12 only.

2023 (Grades 9–12):

- Over one-quarter (29.3%) of secondary school students report using at least one drug in the past year (excluding alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, cannabis).
- Females (31.4%) are significantly more likely than males (27.3%) to report the use of at least one drug in the past year.
- There are no significant differences by grade.
- There are no significant regional differences.

Figure 3.8.1
Past Year Use of Any Drug (Excluding Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis) by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant difference by sex (p<.05), no significant differences by grade or region

Trends in Any Drug Use

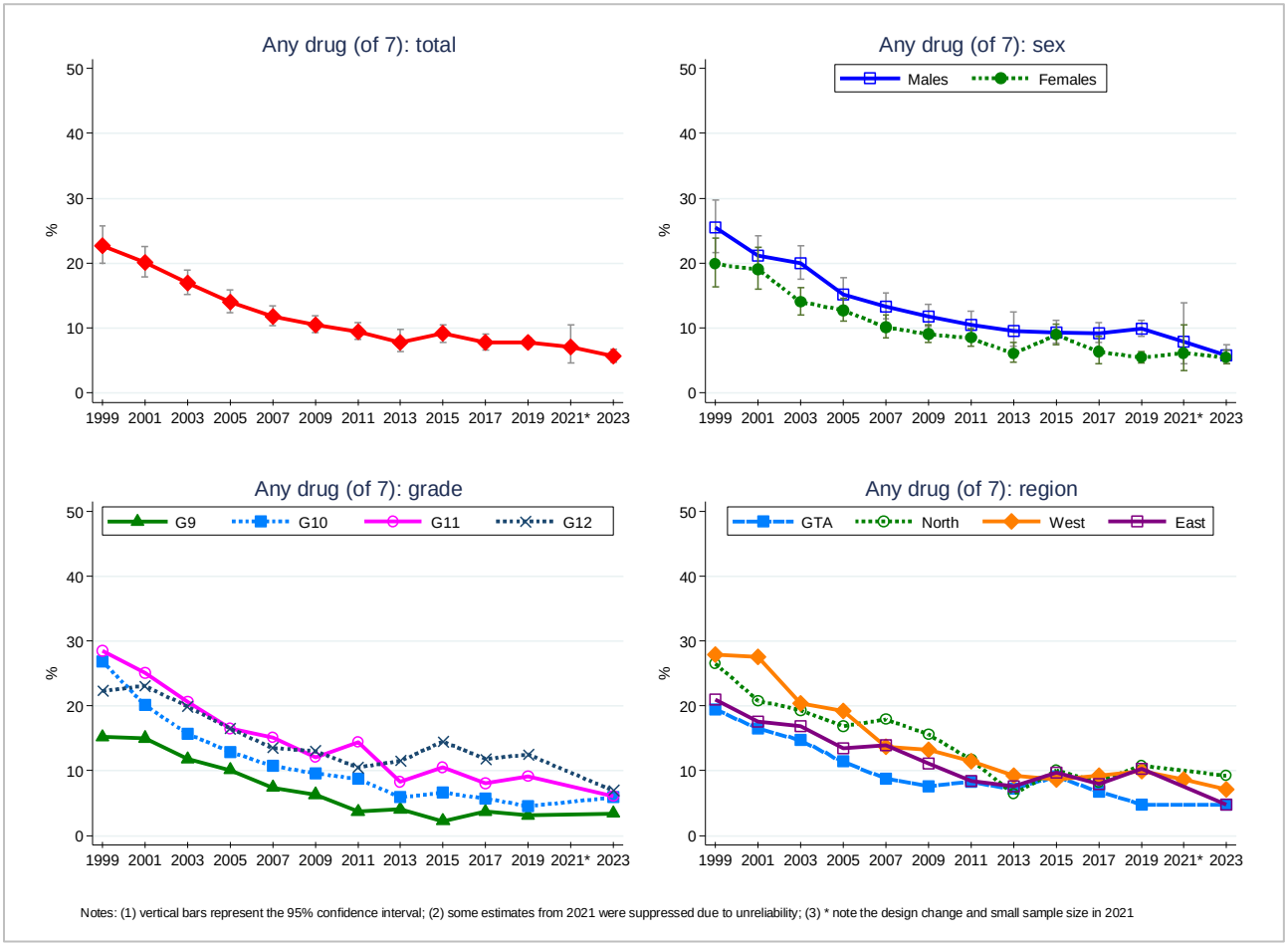
(Figures 3.8.2, 3.8.3; Tables 3.8.1)

In this section, we report on changes over time in any drug use. This estimate measures use of any of *seven* illicit drugs that are common to most OSDUHS cycles since 1977: LSD, mushrooms/ mescaline, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy (MDMA), and tranquillizers/sedatives (NM). Because ecstasy use was not asked about before 1991, this drug is excluded from the computation for those earlier years. Excluded from this measure across all years are alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, and cannabis.

1999–2023 (Grades 9–12):

- The estimate for any drug use remained stable between 2021 and 2023 among the total sample of secondary school students. However, there has been a significant downward trend since 1999.
- Neither males nor females show a significant change in drug use between 2021 and 2023. However, both show a significant decline since 1999.
- No grade shows a significant change in use between 2021 and 2023. All grades show a significant decline since 1999.
- No region shows a significant change in use between 2021 and 2023. All regions show a significant decline since 1999.

Figure 3.8.2
Past Year Drug Use (Excluding Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis), 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates from 2021 were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.8.1: Percentage Reporting Any Drug Use (Excluding Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis) in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(1496)	(2457)	(4693)	(5794)	(4834)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)
Total	**22.7**	**20.1**	**16.9**	**14.0**	**11.8**	**10.5**	**9.4**	**7.8**	**9.1**	**7.7**	**7.7**	**7.0**	**5.6** [bcde]
(95% CI)	(20.0-25.7)	(17.9-22.6)	(15.1-18.9)	(12.3-15.9)	(10.3-13.4)	(9.3-11.8)	(8.2-10.8)	(6.3-9.7)	(7.8-10.5)	(6.6-9.0)	(7.0-8.5)	(4.6-10.4)	(4.8-6.7)
Sex													
Males	**25.5**	**21.1**	**20.0**	**15.2**	**13.3**	**11.8**	**10.4**	**9.5**	**9.3**	**9.1**	**9.9**	**7.9**	**5.8** [bc]
	(21.6-29.7)	(18.4-24.2)	(17.5-22.7)	(13.0-17.7)	(11.4-15.4)	(10.2-13.6)	(8.5-12.6)	(7.1-12.5)	(7.6-11.2)	(7.7-10.8)	(8.7-11.2)	(4.4-13.8)	(4.5-7.4)
Females	**19.8**	**19.0**	**14.0**	**12.7**	**10.1**	**9.0**	**8.4**	**6.0**	**8.9**	**6.3**	**5.4**	**6.1**	**5.4** [c]
	(16.3-23.9)	(16.0-22.4)	(12.0-16.2)	(11.0-14.6)	(8.5-12.0)	(7.7-10.5)	(7.2-9.9)	(4.7-7.7)	(7.4-10.6)	(4.5-8.7)	(4.6-6.3)	(3.4-10.5)	(4.5-6.6)
Grade													
9	**15.2**	**15.0**	**11.8**	**10.1**	**7.4**	**6.3**	**3.7**	**4.0**	**2.2**	**3.7**	**3.1**	†	**3.4** [c]
	(10.9-20.8)	(12.0-18.5)	(9.5-14.5)	(8.3-12.3)	(5.6-9.6)	(4.6-8.7)	(2.5-5.4)	(2.5-6.3)	(1.5-3.3)	(2.4-5.5)	(2.3-4.3)		(2.4-4.7)
10	**26.9**	**20.1**	**15.7**	**12.9**	**10.7**	**9.6**	**8.7**	**5.9**	**6.6**	**5.7**	**4.5**	†	**5.9** [c]
	(21.5-33.2)	(16.9-23.7)	(12.7-19.2)	(10.7-15.4)	(8.5-13.4)	(7.5-12.3)	(6.5-11.6)	(4.1-8.4)	(5.0-8.6)	(4.3-7.5)	(3.5-5.8)		(3.9-8.9)
11	**28.5**	**25.1**	**20.6**	**16.5**	**15.1**	**12.1**	**14.4**	**8.3**	**10.5**	**8.0**	**9.1**	†	**6.1** [c]
	(22.5-35.2)	(20.3-30.6)	(17.2-24.5)	(13.8-19.6)	(12.5-18.2)	(9.3-15.7)	(11.2-18.3)	(6.2-11.0)	(8.5-13.0)	(5.1-12.5)	(7.3-11.4)		(4.5-8.1)
12	**22.3**	**23.1**	**19.9**	**16.5**	**13.5**	**13.0**	**10.5**	**11.5**	**14.5**	**11.8**	**12.5**	†	**6.9** [bc]
	(17.9-27.4)	(16.4-31.5)	(16.6-23.8)	(13.8-19.6)	(10.9-16.6)	(10.4-16.1)	(7.4-14.8)	(8.1-16.3)	(11.4-18.3)	(8.8-15.7)	(10.8-14.4)		(5.1-9.2)
Region													
GTA	**19.5**	**16.5**	**14.7**	**11.4**	**8.8**	**7.6**	**8.3**	**7.2**	**9.1**	**6.8**	**4.8**	†	**4.8** [c]
	(15.6-24.1)	(13.3-20.3)	(12.4-17.3)	(9.8-13.3)	(7.0-10.9)	(6.3-9.1)	(6.3-10.8)	(5.4-9.5)	(7.3-11.1)	(5.1-8.8)	(3.9-6.0)		(4.0-5.8)
North	**26.5**	**20.8**	**19.3**	**16.9**	**17.9**	**15.6**	**11.7**	**6.4**	**10.0**	**8.3**	**10.8**	†	**9.2** [c]
	(19.2-35.4)	(15.7-27.1)	(15.6-23.7)	(14.0-20.2)	(13.5-23.3)	(11.4-21.1)	(8.4-16.1)	(4.1-10.0)	(7.5-13.3)	(6.3-10.7)	(9.0-13.0)		(4.6-17.4)
West	**27.9**	**27.6**	**20.4**	**19.2**	**13.7**	**13.2**	**11.5**	**9.2**	**8.6**	**9.2**	**9.9**	**8.6**	**7.1** [c]
	(22.6-33.8)	(23.4-32.3)	(16.6-24.7)	(15.0-24.2)	(10.4-17.7)	(10.1-17.0)	(9.6-13.7)	(5.6-14.8)	(6.9-10.6)	(7.2-11.7)	(8.5-11.4)	(4.6-15.5)	(4.8-10.4)
East	**21.0**	**17.6**	**16.9**	**13.5**	**13.9**	**11.1**	**8.4**	**7.6**	**9.7**	**7.9**	**10.3**	†	**4.8** [bc]
	(15.1-28.4)	(13.5-22.7)	(12.8-22.0)	(9.7-18.4)	(11.5-16.7)	(9.7-12.7)	(6.3-11.0)	(6.1-9.5)	(6.2-14.9)	(6.0-10.4)	(8.3-12.6)		(3.3-6.9)

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) the **seven drugs** included in the index are LSD, mushrooms/mescaline, methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy (except for years prior to 1991), heroin, and tranquillizers/sedatives (NM); excluded from the index are alcohol, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, waterpipes, chewing tobacco, cannabis, fentanyl, prescription ADHD drugs, prescription opioid pain relievers, and cough/cold medication; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

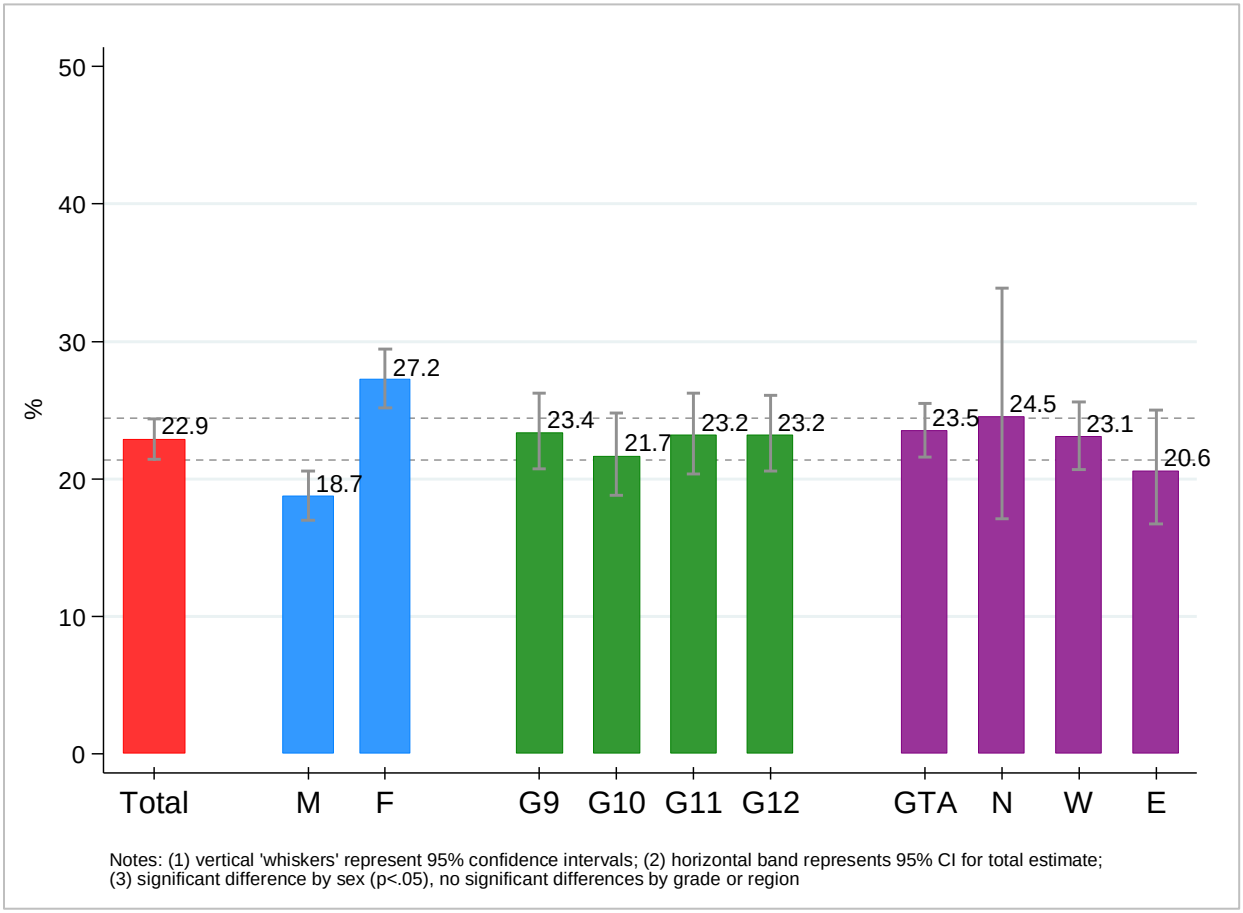
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Any Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use: 2023 Findings (Grades 9–12)

(Figures 3.8.3, Table 3.8.2)

Total	• Over one-in-five (22.9%) secondary school students report using a prescription drug nonmedically in the past year (defined as use of either a prescription opioid pain reliever, an ADHD drug, or tranquillizer/sedative without one's own prescription).
Sex	• Females (27.2%) are significantly more likely than males (18.7%) to report using a prescription drug nonmedically in the past year.
Grade	• There is no significant variation by grade.
Region	• There is no significant variation by region.

Figure 3.8.3
Past Year Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use (of 3 Drugs) by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



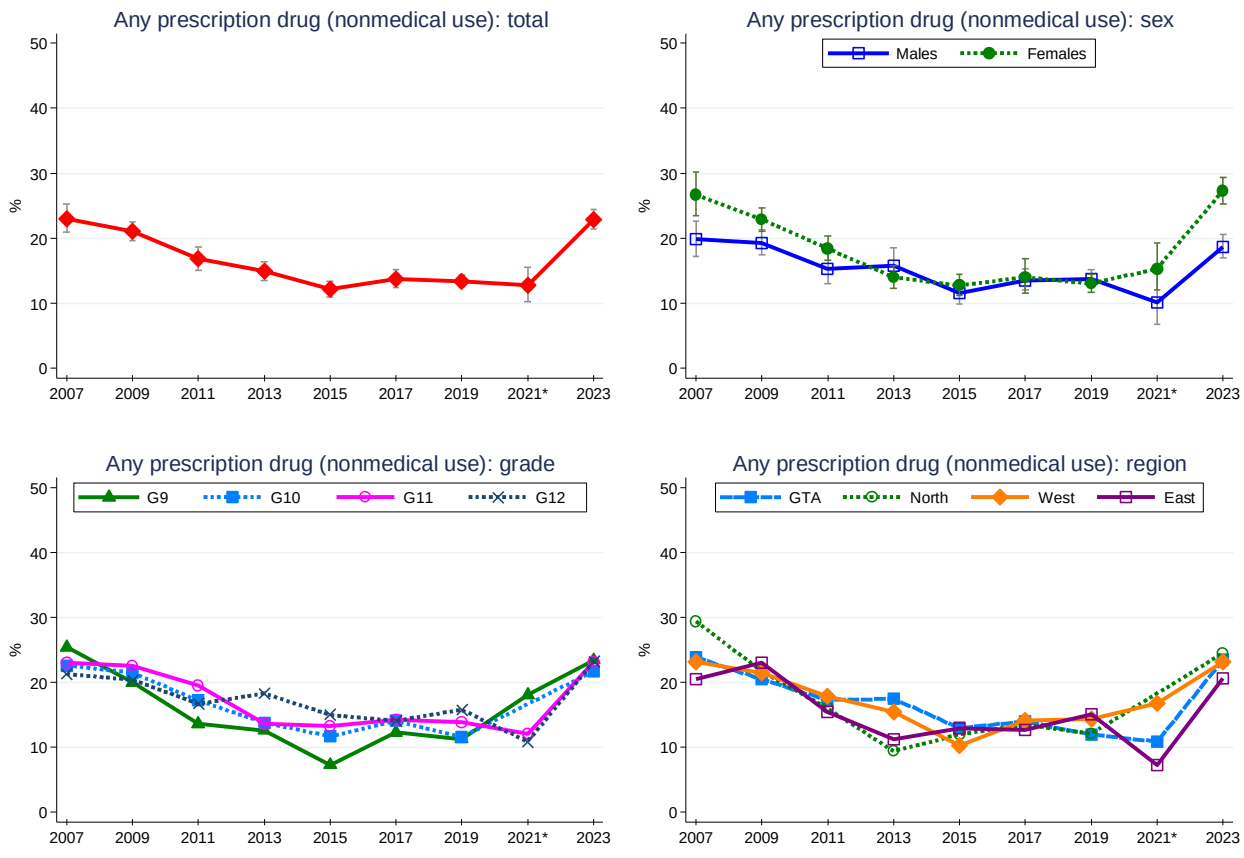
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant difference by sex (p<.05), no significant differences by grade or region

Any Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use: 2007–2023 Trends (Grades 9–12)

(Figure 3.8.4; Table 3.8.2)

Total	• The nonmedical use of a prescription drug significantly increased between 2021 (12.7%) and 2023 (22.9%). The current estimate is similar to that seen in 2007 (23%), the first year of monitoring. The increase in this index is largely driven by the corresponding increase in nonmedical use of prescription opioid pain relievers.
Sex	• Both males and females show a significant increase between 2021 and 2023, reverting back up to levels first seen in 2007.
Grade	• All grades show an increase in 2023, reverting back up to levels seen in 2007.
Region	• Students in the Greater Toronto Area and the East region show significant increases between 2021 and 2023. All regions are currently similar to their respective estimates from 2007.

Figure 3.8.4
Past Year Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use, 2007–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval; (2) some estimates from 2021 were suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.8.2: Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use in the Past Year, 2007–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n=)	(2247)	(5783)	(6383)	(6159)	(6597)	(7587)	(9924)	(1460)	(7189)	
Total	**23.0**	**21.0**	**16.8**	**14.9**	**12.1**	**13.7**	**13.4**	**12.7**	**22.9**	abde
(95% CI)	(20.9-25.2)	(19.6-22.5)	(15.0-18.7)	(13.5-16.4)	(11.0-13.4)	(12.4-15.2)	(12.5-14.3)	(10.2-15.5)	(21.4-24.4)	
Sex										
Males	**19.8**	**19.3**	**15.3**	**15.8**	**11.6**	**13.5**	**13.7**	**10.1**	**18.7**	ab
	(17.2-22.6)	(17.5-21.3)	(13.0-17.9)	(13.5-18.5)	(9.9-13.6)	(12.0-15.3)	(12.4-15.1)	(6.7-14.8)	(17.0-20.6)	
Females	**26.7**	**22.9**	**18.4**	**14.0**	**12.7**	**14.0**	**13.0**	**15.3**	**27.2**	ab
	(23.5-30.2)	(21.1-24.7)	(16.6-20.3)	(12.3-15.8)	(11.2-14.4)	(11.6-16.8)	(11.7-14.4)	(12.0-19.2)	(25.2-29.4)	
Grade										
9	**25.4**	**20.0**	**13.6**	**12.6**	**7.3**	**12.2**	**11.3**	**18.1**	**23.4**	b
	(21.0-30.4)	(17.5-23.1)	(11.2-16.5)	(9.9-16.0)	(5.8-9.1)	(9.5-15.7)	(9.7-13.2)	(12.1-26.2)	(20.7-26.2)	
10	**22.6**	**21.5**	**17.2**	**13.8**	**11.7**	**14.0**	**11.6**	†	**21.7**	b
	(18.7-27.1)	(18.0-25.4)	(14.9-19.9)	(11.1-16.9)	(9.7-14.0)	(11.4-17.2)	(10.1-13.2)		(18.8-24.8)	
11	**23.0**	**22.5**	**19.5**	**13.6**	**13.3**	**14.3**	**13.9**	**12.1**	**23.2**	b
	(19.2-27.4)	(19.6 -25.6)	(15.7-24.0)	(11.4-16.0)	(10.9-16.1)	(12.4-16.4)	(12.1-16.0)	(7.9-18.2)	(20.3-26.2)	
12	**21.3**	**20.4**	**16.7**	**18.3**	**15.0**	**14.1**	**15.8**	**10.9**	**23.2**	b
	(17.3-25.9)	(17.7 -23.4)	(13.9-20.0)	(15.1-22.0)	(12.1-18.4)	(11.3-17.6)	(13.9-18.0)	(6.2-18.4)	(20.6-26.0)	
Region										
Greater Toronto Area	**23.9**	**20.5**	**17.3**	**17.5**	**13.0**	**14.0**	**12.0**	**10.9**	**23.5**	ab
	(21.0-27.1)	(18.7-22.5)	(14.8-20.0)	(15.3-19.9)	(11.4-14.7)	(11.5-17.0)	(11.0-13.1)	(7.2-16.3)	(21.6-25.5)	
North	**29.4**	**21.7**	**16.0**	**9.4**	**12.0**	**13.5**	**12.1**	†	**24.5**	b
	(22.6-37.3)	(19.3-24.4)	(11.4-21.8)	(7.6-11.6)	(9.0-15.8)	(10.6-17.0)	(10.2-14.4)		(17.1-33.9)	
West	**23.2**	**21.5**	**17.9**	**15.4**	**10.3**	**14.1**	**14.4**	**16.8**	**23.1**	b
	(19.5-27.4)	(17.9-25.5)	(14.1-22.5)	(13.0-18.2)	(7.9-13.3)	(12.1-16.3)	(12.5-16.5)	(12.2-22.8)	(20.7-25.6)	
East	**20.5**	**23.0**	**15.5**	**11.2**	**12.9**	**12.7**	**15.1**	**7.3**	**20.6**	a
	(17.0-24.5)	(20.4-25.8)	(13.4-17.8)	(8.7-14.4)	(10.5-15.7)	(11.3-14.1)	(12.7-17.9)	(4.8-10.8)	(16.7-25.0)	

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample in 2007; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) the nonmedical use of a prescription drug is defined as the use of a prescription opioid, an ADHD drug, or a tranquillizer/sedative without one's own prescription, at least once in the past year; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

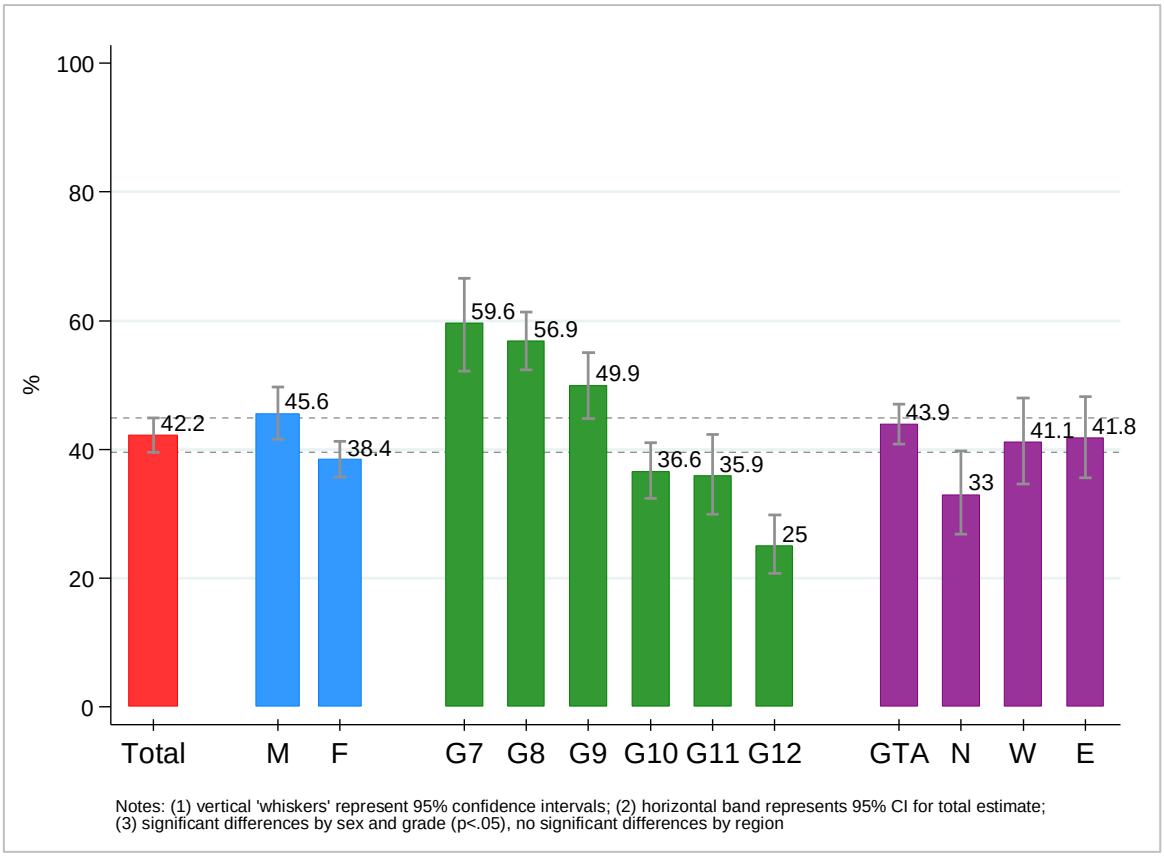
Past Year Abstinence: 2023 Findings (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.8.5; Table 3.8.3)

In this section, we report trends in abstinence – no substance use at all, including tobacco/nicotine, cannabis, and alcohol, during the past year. Readers should note that the number of substances asked about varies from survey to survey, as new drugs emerge and other drugs wane. In general, over the course of the study the number of drugs assessed has *increased* over time, as each cycle attempts to include most of the drugs available to students at the time. These results are among grades 7 to 12.

Total	• Four-in-ten (42.2%) students in grades 7 to 12 report using no drug at all during the past year – this includes alcohol, cannabis, and cigarettes/other smoking devices.
Sex	• Males (45.6%) are significantly more likely than females (38.4%) to report no drug use in the past year.
Grade	• Past year abstinence significantly decreases with grade, from about two-thirds of 7th graders down to one-quarter of 12th graders.
Region	• Despite some variation, there are no significant regional differences.

Figure 3.8.5
Percentage Reporting No Drug Use in the Past Year, by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



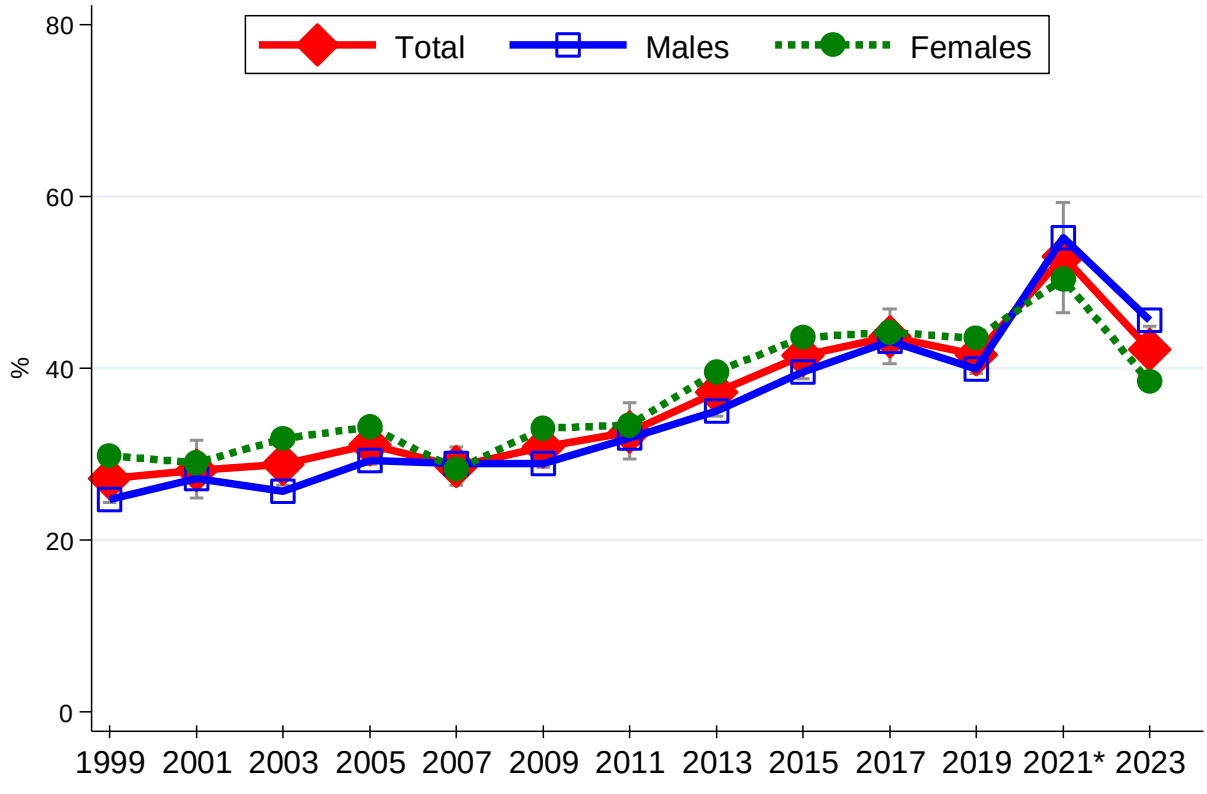
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant differences by sex and grade (p<.05), no significant differences by region

Past Year Abstinence: 1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12)

(Figure 3.8.6; Table 3.8.3)

Total	• There was a significant decrease between 2021 (53%) and 2023 (42.2%) in the percentage of students reporting no drug use, returning to a level seen in 2019 (41.6%). However, there has been a significant upward trend in abstinence since 1999.
Sex	• Females show a significant decrease in abstinence in 2023 compared with estimates from the past few cycles, while males have remained relatively stable in recent years. Both males and females show a significant increase in abstinence since 1999.
Grade	• All grades, except for 7th grade, show a significant increase in abstinence since 1999.
Region	• Students in the Greater Toronto Area, North, and West regions show a significant increase in abstinence since 1999.

Figure 3.8.6
Percentage Reporting No Drug Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) the number of drugs asked about increased over time; (2) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence interval;
(3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.8.3: Percentage Reporting No Drug Use in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n=)	(2229)	(1837)	(3152)	(3648)	(2395)	(4261)	(4472)	(4794)	(5023)	(5071)	(6525)	(1107)	(5054)	
Total	**27.2**	**28.1**	**28.8**	**31.1**	**28.6**	**30.8**	**32.6**	**37.2**	**41.5**	**43.7**	**41.6**	**53.0**	**42.2**	acde
(95% CI)	(24.4-30.2)	(24.9-31.6)	(26.4-31.4)	(28.8-33.6)	(26.4-30.8)	(28.5-33.2)	(29.4-36.0)	(34.4-40.1)	(38.8-44.2)	(40.5-46.9)	(39.4-43.8)	(46.5-59.3)	(39.5-44.9)	
Sex														
Males	**24.7**	**27.2**	**25.7**	**29.3**	**28.9**	**28.9**	**31.9**	**35.0**	**39.6**	**43.2**	**39.9**	**55.2**	**45.6**	c
	(21.5-28.2)	(23.7-30.9)	(22.3-29.4)	(26.5-32.2)	(26.2-31.8)	(25.9-32.0)	(28.5-35.5)	(31.4-38.8)	(36.2-43.0)	(38.7-47.8)	(37.0-42.8)	(43.6-66.3)	(41.6-49.7)	
Females	**29.8**	**29.0**	**31.8**	**33.2**	**28.2**	**33.0**	**33.4**	**39.6**	**43.6**	**44.2**	**43.5**	**50.4**	**38.4**	abc
	(25.7-34.3)	(24.7-33.7)	(28.7-35.0)	(30.1-36.4)	(25.4-31.2)	(30.2-35.8)	(28.7-38.5)	(36.2-42.9)	(39.5-47.8)	(40.4-48.0)	(40.7-46.2)	(42.8-58.1)	(35.7-41.2)	
Grade														
7	**47.3**	**49.4**	**47.5**	**54.5**	**54.1**	**55.5**	**56.6**	**69.5**	**68.5**	**65.0**	**65.7**	**71.2**	**59.6**	
	(39.0-55.7)	(42.0-56.9)	(42.1-53.0)	(48.0-60.8)	(46.9-61.1)	(49.0-61.8)	(50.8-62.3)	(65.5-73.2)	(61.5-74.8)	(60.2-69.5)	(61.5-69.6)	(53.4-84.2)	(52.2-66.6)	
8	**36.0**	**37.5**	**44.2**	**48.3**	**40.2**	**42.4**	**55.0**	**55.7**	**68.7**	**71.0**	**58.3**	**69.0**	**56.9**	c
	(31.5-40.7)	(30.1-45.5)	(39.0-49.4)	(43.8-52.8)	(34.0-46.8)	(36.9-48.0)	(49.6-60.3)	(47.2-63.9)	(62.8-74.1)	(66.0-75.5)	(53.2-63.2)	(54.0-80.8)	(52.3-61.3)	
9	**29.7**	**29.7**	**30.3**	**30.5**	**31.5**	**35.6**	**33.0**	**51.5**	**52.5**	**50.2**	**48.0**	**69.2**	**49.9**	ac
	(24.5-35.4)	(22.2-38.5)	(25.4-35.8)	(26.0-35.4)	(25.6-38.0)	(29.7-42.0)	(25.7-41.3)	(45.7-57.4)	(47.8-57.1)	(45.7-54.7)	(43.3-52.7)	(56.0-79.9)	(44.8-55.0)	
10	**20.8**	**17.1**	**21.5**	**25.0**	**24.0**	**27.8**	**30.9**	**31.7**	**37.6**	**34.4**	**39.1**	**55.6**	**36.6**	ac
	(14.7-28.6)	(12.8-22.4)	(16.9-26.9)	(21.0-29.3)	(19.4-29.3)	(23.1-32.9)	(25.2-37.3)	(25.3-38.8)	(33.1-42.2)	(29.3-39.9)	(34.7-43.6)	(41.6-68.8)	(32.4-41.0)	
11	**15.9**	**19.2**	**18.3**	**18.0**	**16.2**	**19.8**	**18.7**	**22.0**	**22.7**	**25.3**	**34.0**	**37.7**	**35.9**	c
	(12.0-20.8)	(12.9-27.6)	(14.5-22.9)	(14.5-22.2)	(13.2-19.8)	(15.8-24.5)	(13.9-24.6)	(17.6-27.2)	(17.8-28.5)	(20.5-30.8)	(29.1-39.2)	(24.2-53.4)	(29.9-42.3)	
12	**11.9**	**14.0**	**15.5**	**15.0**	**11.7**	**15.4**	**16.0**	**16.5**	**21.7**	**24.4**	**25.3**	**20.8**	**25.0**	c
	(8.1-17.1)	(8.1-22.9)	(11.2-21.1)	(11.3-19.7)	(9.1-14.9)	(11.4-20.6)	(12.1-20.8)	(13.0-20.7)	(16.5-27.6)	(19.7-29.8)	(21.7-29.4)	(10.6-36.7)	(20.7-29.8)	
Region														
GTA	**30.4**	**27.7**	**28.9**	**32.6**	**28.8**	**32.4**	**34.9**	**41.8**	**45.0**	**47.8**	**46.4**	**56.6**	**43.9**	ac
	(25.9-35.4)	(22.0-34.3)	(24.8-33.3)	(28.6-36.9)	(24.8-33.3)	(28.3-36.8)	(30.7-39.3)	(37.4-46.3)	(41.3-48.7)	(43.3-52.4)	(43.5-49.4)	(47.7-65.1)	(40.8-47.0)	
North	**19.8**	**22.8**	**24.7**	**23.3**	**18.4**	**26.4**	**32.7**	**33.8**	**40.5**	**40.6**	**33.8**	**52.5**	**33.0**	c
	(13.4-28.2)	(17.1-29.6)	(19.3-31.0)	(18.6-28.7)	(14.7-22.8)	(21.0-32.5)	(27.9-37.8)	(26.0-42.5)	(35.5-45.7)	(34.8-46.6)	(29.4-38.5)	(40.2-64.5)	(26.8-39.7)	
West	**23.1**	**30.4**	**25.7**	**27.6**	**29.0**	**29.0**	**26.3**	**32.7**	**38.4**	**41.3**	**36.1**	**46.8**	**41.1**	c
	(17.8-29.3)	(24.7-36.7)	(20.1-32.4)	(23.1-32.8)	(24.3-34.3)	(25.2-33.0)	(18.2-36.3)	(28.3-37.5)	(32.4-44.8)	(36.4-46.4)	(30.8-41.8)	(34.6-59.4)	(34.7-47.9)	
East	**29.4**	**27.6**	**34.4**	**33.8**	**30.5**	**31.8**	**35.1**	**32.8**	**37.3**	**41.3**	**38.2**	**60.9**	**41.8**	a
	(22.0-38.0)	(21.6-34.7)	(30.5-38.4)	(27.9-40.2)	(25.8-35.7)	(26.7-37.5)	(30.2-40.3)	(25.2-41.3)	(30.1-45.1)	(31.9-51.4)	(34.1-42.5)	(55.4-66.2)	(35.6-48.2)	

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 7-12 in each year; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) the number of drugs asked about increased over time; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

3.9 Early Initiation

Average Initiation Age (Among 11th and 12th Graders)

(Figures 3.9.1, 3.9.2)

We asked students in which grade did they first smoke a whole cigarette, use a vaping device/e-cigarette, drink an alcoholic drink, and try cannabis. In this section, we present the average age of initiation for cigarette, vape, alcohol, and cannabis use *among grade 12 students who reported using such substances* (ages 17/18). We select 12th graders because this is the oldest grade in the study and thus this group is nearing the end of adolescence. We restrict our analysis to those who used in the past year because our focus is on ongoing use rather than experimental behaviour.

Trends in age of initiation for 12th graders are presented for the years since 1999 for cigarettes, alcohol, and cannabis. In addition, we present long-term findings since 1981 among *grade 11 students who reported using such substances* (ages 16/17) because it is the oldest grade for which we have data spanning back the furthest.

2023 OSDUHS: Mean Ages

- In 2023, the average age at first cigarette smoking (smoking one whole tobacco cigarette) among grade 12 smokers was age 15.4. The average age at first use of a vaping device among grade 12 users was 14.3 (this question was new in the 2023 cycle). The average age at first alcoholic drink among grade 12 drinkers was 14.5. The average age at first cannabis use among grade 12 users was 15.7.

1999–2023 Trends

- The average initiation age for cigarette smoking has remained relatively stable over the past decade or so, but it is currently significantly older compared to 1999 and the early 2000s, when the average age was about 13 years.

- The average initiation age for drinking alcohol has remained relatively stable since the mid-2000s, but it is currently older than in 1999/early 2000s.

- The average initiation age for cannabis use has gradually increased since 1999/early 2000s, and remained stable in the last few years.

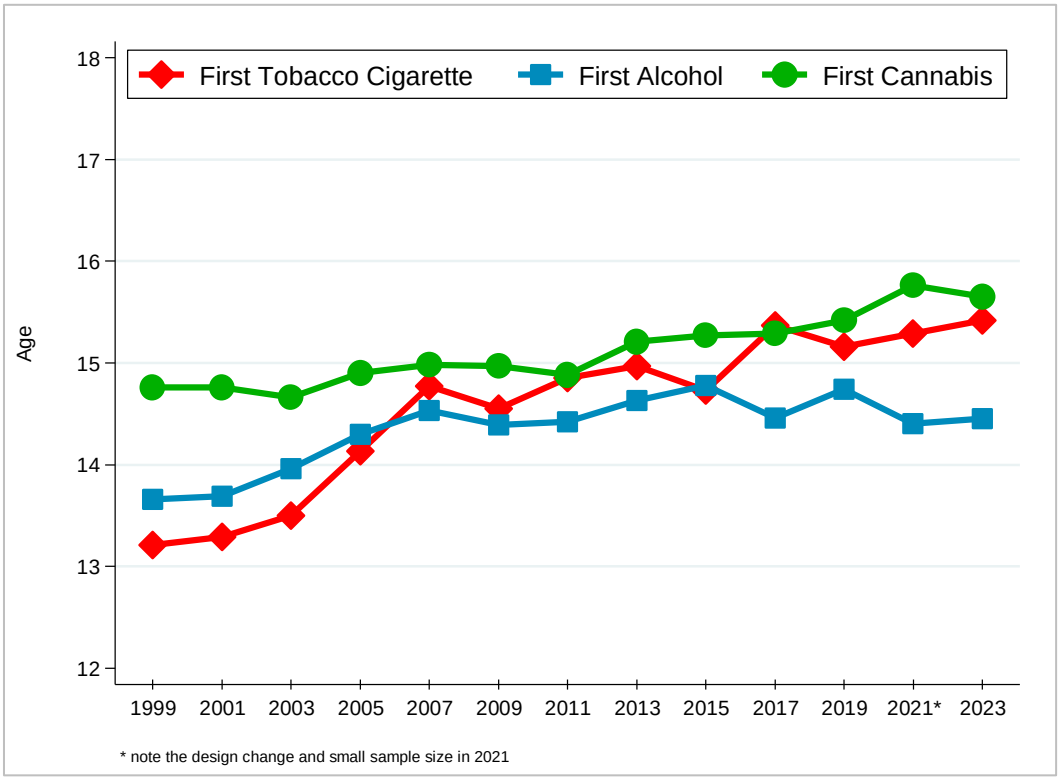
1981–2023 Trends

- Looking back over the past four decades, the average initiation age for cigarette smoking increased between 1981 and 1993, decreased slightly in the late 1990s, and has increased considerably since 1999/2001.

- The average initiation age for drinking was stable during the 1990s, followed by an increase since 1999/2001, and relative stability in recent years.

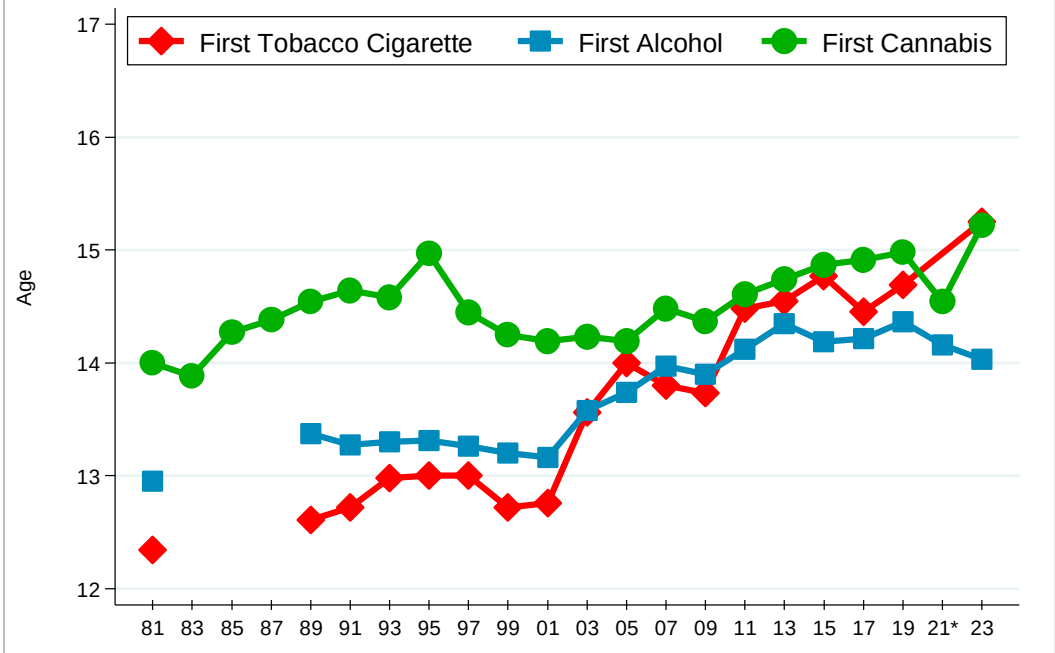
- The average initiation age for cannabis use increased between 1981 and 1995, decreased during the late 1990s/early 2000s, and increased since then.

Figure 3.9.1
Average Age at First Tobacco Cigarette Among 12th-Grade Smokers, First Alcoholic Drink Among 12th-Grade Drinkers, and First Cannabis Use Among 12th-Grade Users, 1999–2023 OSDUHS



	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Cigarette	13.21	13.29	13.50	14.13	14.77	14.55	14.85	14.97	14.73	15.37	15.16	15.29	15.42
Alcohol	13.66	13.69	13.96	14.30	14.53	14.39	14.42	14.63	14.78	14.46	14.74	14.40	14.45
Cannabis	14.76	14.76	14.66	14.90	14.98	14.97	14.88	15.21	15.27	15.29	15.42	15.76	15.65

Figure 3.9.2
Average Age at First Tobacco Cigarette Among 11th-Grade Smokers, First Alcoholic Drink Among 11th-Grade Drinkers, and First Cannabis Use Among 11th-Grade Users, 1981–2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) age (grade) at first cigarette and first alcoholic drink not asked between 1983 and 1987; (3) the 2021 tobacco cigarette estimate was suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Early Initiation

(Figures 3.9.3, 3.9.4; Tables 3.9.1-3.9.3)

In this section, we present the percentage of secondary school students who report using tobacco cigarettes, vaping devices, alcohol, and cannabis *before* the 9th grade (defined as early initiation). We restrict our analysis to those who used in the past year because our focus is on ongoing use rather than experimental behaviour.

2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12):

- Over one-quarter (28.8%) of past year smokers first started smoking cigarettes before grade 9. There is no significant difference between males (29.5%) and females (28.3%) with respect to early use.

- About 42.9% of those who vaped in the past year first started vaping/using e-cigarettes before grade 9. There is no significant difference between males (45.2%) and females (41.6%) with respect to early use.

- Almost half (47.2%) of past year drinkers first started to drink alcohol before grade 9. There is no significant difference between males (49.5%) and females (45.2%) with respect to early use.

- Among those who report using cannabis in the past year, about 17.9% first started to use cannabis before grade 9. There is no significant difference between males (20.6%) and females (15.9%) with respect to early use.

1999–2023 Trends (Grades 9–12):

- The percentage of past year smokers who report starting to smoke cigarettes before grade 9 has remained stable over the past decade or so (since 2011). However, the current estimate is significantly lower than in 1999 and the early 2000s.

- The percentage of past year drinkers who report starting to drink alcohol before grade 9 has significantly increased over the past decade. However, the current estimate remains well below the estimates from 1999 and the early 2000s.

- Among those who report using cannabis in the past year, the percentage who report starting to use cannabis before grade 9 has remained relatively stable in the last five years (since 2017). However, there has been a gradual downward trend and the current estimate is significantly lower than those seen in 1999 and the early 2000s.

Figure 3.9.3
Percentage of Students Reporting Using Tobacco Cigarettes, Vaping Devices, Alcohol, and Cannabis *Before* Grade 9, 2023 OSDUHS (Among Past Year Users in Grades 9–12)

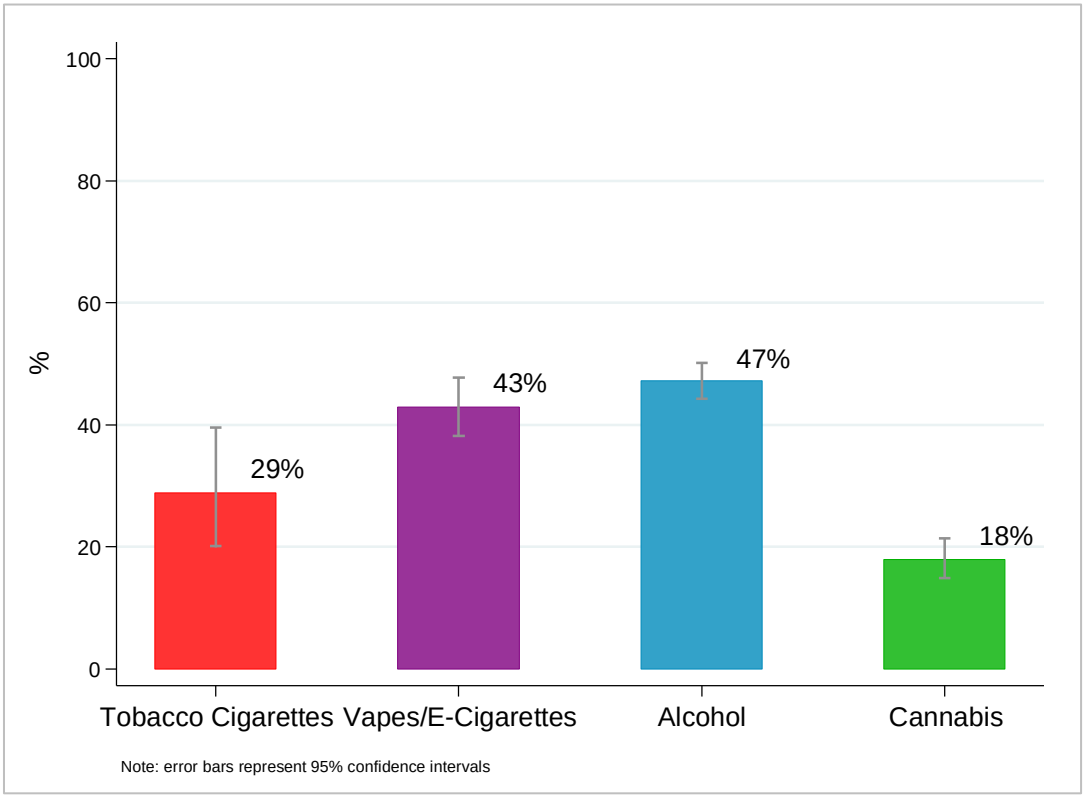


Figure 3.9.4
Percentage of Students Reporting Using Tobacco Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Cannabis *Before* Grade 9, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Among Past Year Users in Grades 9–12)

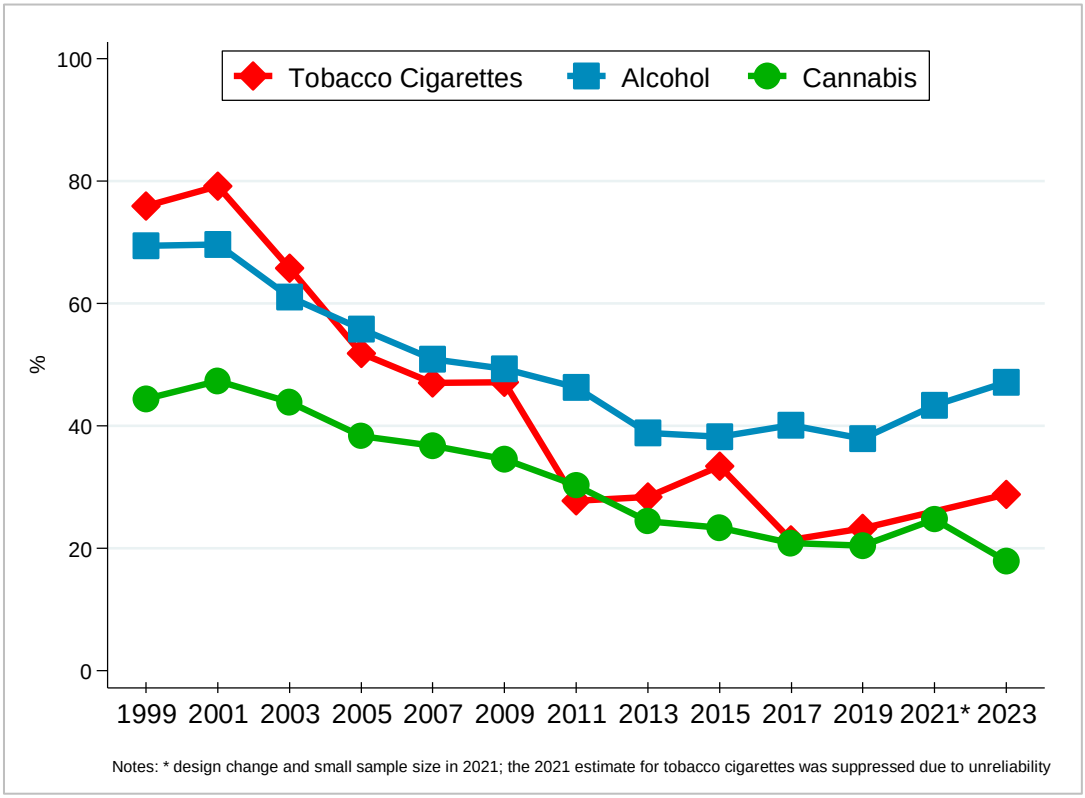


Table 3.9.1: Percentage Reporting Tobacco Cigarette Smoking Initiation *Before* Grade 9, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Past Year Smokers in Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(468)	(361)	(538)	(548)	(338)	(390)	(337)	(271)	(308)	(262)	(271)	(25)	(138)
Total	**76.0**	**79.2**	**65.8**	**51.9**	**47.1**	**47.2**	**27.8**	**28.4**	**33.4**	**21.4**	**23.3**	†	**28.8** [cde]
(95% CI)	(70.2-81.0)	(73.7-83.9)	(62.0-69.4)	(46.4-57.3)	(40.3-53.9)	(40.9-53.6)	(20.2-37.0)	(21.1-37.1)	(27.4-40.1)	(14.3-30.8)	(17.8-30.0)		(20.1-39.5)
Sex													
Males	**69.8**	**76.6**	**66.9**	**52.8**	**50.0**	**42.6**	**31.3**	**25.4**	**30.5**	**28.0**	**25.6**	†	**29.5** [c]
	(61.4-77.0)	(67.5-83.7)	(61.0-72.3)	(45.2-60.2)	(42.0-58.1)	(34.4-51.2)	(20.0-45.4)	(18.5-33.9)	(22.4-40.0)	(16.6-43.2)	(18.2-34.7)		(15.2-49.3)
Females	**83.3**	**81.9**	**64.6**	**51.0**	**44.0**	**53.7**	**23.1**	**32.3**	**37.2**	**14.8**	**20.0**	†	**28.3** [c]
	(77.7-87.7)	(73.7-87.9)	(58.0-70.7)	(43.3-58.6)	(35.4-53.0)	(45.0-62.3)	(15.2-33.6)	(20.3-47.1)	(26.1-49.90	(9.0-23.3)	(13.1-29.5)		(17.9-41.7)
Grade													
9	**90.3**	**88.7**	**87.0**	**77.5**	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	**65.4**
	(81.6-95.2)	(78.0-94.6)	(75.8-93.5)	(65.4-86.2)									(30.0-89.3)
10	**85.2**	**82.6**	**64.8**	**55.6**	**51.8**	**57.4**	**40.2**	†	**43.6**	**40.6**	†	†	**53.4** [c]
	(78.5-90.1)	(72.6-89.4)	(55.3-73.2)	(45.3-65.5)	(38.9-64.4)	(44.2-69.7)	(24.6-58.0)		(31.3-56.8)	(24.4-59.2)			(29.6-75.7)
11	**68.9**	**74.9**	**57.9**	**42.0**	**42.7**	**49.7**	**20.2**	**29.4**	**19.6**	†	**24.2**	†	**20.7** [c]
	(56.7-78.9)	(65.3-82.6)	(49.9-65.6)	(34.1-50.3)	(32.2-53.9)	(38.7-60.8)	(11.6-32.9)	(19.4-41.8)	(11.4-31.6)		(15.2-36.3)		(8.0-43.7)
12	**64.2**	**66.7**	**62.6**	**45.7**	**34.5**	**32.6**	†	**26.4**	**30.8**	†	**17.8**	†	**17.9** [c]
	(49.3-76.7)	(52.3-78.6)	(53.4-70.9)	(36.6-55.1)	(25.9-44.3)	(22.2-45.0)		(16.2-40.0)	(20.8-42.9)		(10.8-28.1)		(7.5-37.0)
Region													
GTA	**77.7**	**81.4**	**61.2**	**49.2**	**47.4**	**39.7**	**29.7**	**26.2**	**31.5**	**31.5**	**21.4**	†	†
	(68.9-84.5)	(72.4-88.0)	(56.0-66.2)	(40.2-58.2)	(36.5-58.5)	(31.6-48.3)	(19.1-42.9)	(16.6-38.8)	22.1-42.8()	(20.1-45.6)	(12.5-34.3)		
North	**74.3**	**72.7**	**74.7**	**54.4**	**43.1**	**41.9**	**43.0**	†	**63.9**	**25.5**	**39.7**	†	**62.2**
	(68.2-79.6)	(60.2-82.4)	(65.1-82.4)	(43.3-65.2)	(29.8-57.4)	(28.2-56.9)	(27.4-60.1)		(51.1-75.0)	(14.7-40.4)	(25.7-55.5)		(38.4-81.3)
West	**72.7**	**75.0**	**71.2**	**55.4**	**47.6**	**51.3**	†	†	**30.9**	**12.8**	**16.3**	†	**31.1** [c]
	(57.7-83.9)	(64.2-83.4)	(63.7-77.7)	(47.0-51.6)	(34.8-60.8)	(39.5-63.0)			(21.9-41.7)	(6.3-24.2)	(8.4-29.3)		(18.9-46.7)
East	**80.1**	**85.8**	**62.6**	**51.2**	**47.7**	**58.6**	**33.5**	†	**33.2**	†	**27.5**	†	†
	(70.8-87.0)	(73.3-93.0)	(52.3-71.8)	(36.4-65.8)	(33.5-62.1)	(45.8-70.3)	(19.0-52.1)		(20.8-48.5)		(18.1-39.4)		

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 9-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [c] 2023 vs.1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: When (if ever) did you first smoke a whole tobacco cigarette? (Analysis is among those who reported smoking more than just a few puffs of a cigarette in the past year.)

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.9.2: Percentage Reporting Alcohol Use Initiation *Before* Grade 9, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Past Year Drinkers in Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2155)	(1812)	(3445)	(4202)	(3474)	(3768)	(3901)	(3357)	(3600)	(3784)	(4806)	(491)	(3198)
Total	**69.5**	**69.7**	**61.1**	**55.9**	**50.9**	**49.4**	**46.3**	**38.9**	**38.3**	**40.1**	**37.9**	**43.4**	**47.2** [bcde]
(95% CI)	(65.8-73.1)	(65.5-73.7)	(58.4-63.7)	(54.0-57.8)	(48.3-53.4)	(47.0-51.9)	(43.1-49.6)	(36.3-41.6)	(35.6-41.1)	(36.0-44.2)	(35.6-40.2)	(32.0-55.6)	(44.3-50.2)
Sex													
Males	**73.6**	**72.4**	**63.1**	**59.2**	**54.7**	**54.7**	**50.8**	**40.1**	**42.0**	**43.1**	**39.7**	**43.2**	**49.5** [bc]
	(69.2-77.6)	(67.1-77.0)	(59.8-66.4)	(55.8-62.4)	(51.2-58.0)	(51.5-57.9)	(47.0-54.5)	(36.6-43.7)	(38.3-45.9)	(37.8-48.5)	(36.2-43.3)	(24.7-63.9)	(43.8-55.2)
Females	**65.0**	**66.9**	**59.0**	**52.4**	**46.8**	**43.5**	**41.7**	**37.6**	**34.2**	**36.9**	**36.1**	**43.6**	**45.2** [bc]
	(60.3-69.4)	(61.3-72.0)	(55.5-62.5)	(49.7-55.1)	(43.9-49.7)	(39.8-47.2)	(37.7-45.8)	(34.1-41.2)	(31.2-37.3)	(31.4-42.7)	(33.4-38.9)	(33.8-53.8)	(42.0-48.4)
Grade													
9	**88.4**	**87.2**	**86.0**	**83.3**	**84.9**	**81.5**	**80.0**	**69.6**	**69.1**	**73.4**	**70.5**	**83.6**	**77.0** [c]
	(83.6-91.9)	(81.2-91.5)	(83.4-88.3)	(79.9-86.1)	(80.7-88.3)	(77.3-85.1)	(71.2-86.7)	(62.7-75.8)	(62.8-74.7)	(63.4-81.4)	(65.5-75.0)	(53.9-95.7)	(69.8-82.9)
10	**77.6**	**73.4**	**64.3**	**58.6**	**57.7**	**57.2**	**52.9**	**46.0**	**42.0**	**41.3**	**43.7**	**42.5**	**56.5** [bc]
	(72.6-81.8)	(67.5-78.6)	(59.7-68.6)	(55.1-62.0)	(52.3-62.9)	(53.2-61.0)	(46.6-59.2)	(38.8-53.4)	(36.2-48.1)	(35.1-47.8)	(39.1-48.4)	(24.4-62.8)	(51.5-61.3)
11	**63.3**	**60.0**	**53.4**	**49.7**	**43.6**	**44.8**	**36.7**	**32.9**	**37.9**	**32.1**	**32.4**	**38.6**	**40.2** [c]
	(58.3-68.0)	(50.8-68.6)	(48.4-58.3)	(45.8-53.6)	(39.4-47.8)	(40.6-49.1)	(33.3-40.2)	(29.1-36.9)	(33.8-42.1)	(26.2-38.6)	(28.7-36.2)	(24.7-54.5)	(35.2-45.6)
12	**49.2**	**50.7**	**45.1**	**39.9**	**32.9**	**35.0**	**35.4**	**29.9**	**27.7**	**34.6**	**28.2**	**36.3**	**36.2** [bc]
	(42.7-55.7)	(43.7-57.6)	(41.5-48.9)	(35.9-43.9)	(29.4-36.6)	(30.8-39.4)	(29.2-42.5)	(25.1-35.1)	(22.6-33.4)	(29.9-39.5)	(25.3-31.3)	(24.7-54.4)	(31.3-41.4)
Region													
GTA	**71.7**	**74.4**	**61.9**	**56.7**	**51.1**	**46.7**	**49.2**	**39.1**	**36.6**	**41.8**	**35.8**	**47.7**	**45.0** [bc]
	(66.4-76.4)	(67.3-80.5)	(58.6-65.1)	(53.9-59.4)	(46.7-55.5)	(43.3-50.1)	(44.3-54.0)	(36.1-42.2)	(32.3-41.2)	(35.9-47.9)	(32.5-39.3)	(36.0-59.6)	(41.4-48.6)
North	**65.6**	**68.2**	**58.8**	**56.9**	**52.6**	**51.6**	**52.0**	**38.3**	**43.8**	**40.0**	**40.4**	**50.1**	**54.0** [b]
	(58.2-72.2)	(63.6-72.5)	(53.8-63.7)	(50.9-62.7)	(46.5-58.7)	(42.6-60.5)	(47.5-56.5)	(33.8-43.0)	(37.8-50.1)	(34.1-46.3)	(36.2-44.7)	(37.3-62.8)	(45.7-62.2)
West	**69.1**	**66.8**	**63.0**	**54.8**	**51.2**	**50.0**	**45.5**	**40.5**	**36.6**	**38.7**	**36.7**	**40.6**	**49.8** [bc]
	(61.2-76.0)	(59.1-73.7)	(56.4-69.0)	(50.0-59.4)	(46.7-55.7)	(44.4-55.6)	(37.6-53.6)	(34.0-47.5)	(33.0-40.5)	(34.2-43.3)	(31.8-42.0)	(21.8-62.7)	(43.2-56.4)
East	**66.1**	**63.2**	**58.0**	**55.2**	**49.4**	**52.3**	**41.3**	**36.1**	**42.0**	**38.8**	**41.7**	**43.4**	**46.2** [c]
	(54.4-76.1)	(52.8-72.4)	(50.9-64.8)	(52.0-58.4)	(44.1-54.7)	(48.6-55.9)	(38.0-44.7)	(32.4-40.0)	(34.5-50.0)	(26.3-53.1)	(37.9-45.6)	(31.7-55.9)	(39.6-53.0)

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 9-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021;(6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs.2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs.1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: When (if ever) did you first drink more than just a few sips of alcohol? (Analysis is among those who reported drinking more than just a sip of alcohol in the past year.)

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.9.3: Percentage Reporting Cannabis Use Initiation *Before* Grade 9, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Past Year Users in Grades 9–12)

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(1017)	(444)	(830)	(1084)	(1670)	(1895)	(1807)	(1593)	(1775)	(1797)	(2661)	(243)	(1683)
Total	**44.4**	**47.4**	**43.9**	**38.4**	**36.8**	**34.6**	**30.3**	**24.4**	**23.4**	**20.9**	**20.4**	**24.7**	**17.9** [cd]
(95% CI)	(38.3-50.7)	(41.5-53.4)	(39.2-48.7)	(34.5-42.4)	(33.2-40.6)	(31.3-38.0)	(26.0-34.9)	(20.7-28.5)	(20.8-26.3)	(18.1-24.0)	(17.8-23.2)	(14.6-38.8)	(14.9-21.4)
Sex													
Males	**44.5**	**50.1**	**49.9**	**43.3**	**41.2**	**37.0**	**36.1**	**27.2**	**24.8**	**22.3**	**23.0**	†	**20.6** [c]
	(38.3-50.8)	(42.6-57.6)	(44.0-55.7)	(37.5-49.4)	(36.3-46.2)	(32.4-41.7)	(29.7-42.9)	(22.5-32.6)	(21.2-28.7)	(18.0-27.3)	(19.0-27.5)		(15.3-27.0)
Females	**44.3**	**43.8**	**37.4**	**32.6**	**31.8**	**31.2**	**23.6**	**20.8**	**21.8**	**19.2**	**17.5**	**28.8**	**15.9** [c]
	(35.9-53.0)	(34.7-53.4)	(31.3-43.8)	(27.0-38.8)	(28.1-35.6)	(26.8-35.9)	(19.7-27.9)	(16.0-26.5)	(18.6-25.5)	(15.4-23.8)	(14.9-20.4)	(17.9-42.9)	(13.1-19.1)
Grade													
9	**62.0**	**72.8**	**67.5**	**65.1**	**69.6**	**61.3**	**58.2**	**51.7**	**46.1**	**45.8**	**53.3**	†	**39.6** [c]
	(52.6-70.6)	(59.1-83.2)	(58.4-75.5)	(54.4-74.4)	(61.5-76.7)	(52.2-69.6)	(48.7-67.1)	(39.9-63.3)	(36.4-56.1)	(33.0-59.1)	(45.0-61.4)		(29.4-50.7)
10	**51.6**	**46.0**	**45.3**	**36.5**	**41.8**	**36.8**	**33.8**	**35.9**	**30.9**	**23.2**	**21.2**	†	**22.9** [c]
	(42.4-60.8)	(33.9-58.7)	(38.0-52.8)	(30.2-43.2)	(35.6-48.4)	(30.3-43.8)	(26.8-41.5)	(27.7-45.1)	(25.1-37.5)	(19.0-28.0)	(16.8-26.3)		(17.4-29.4)
11	**38.4**	**37.2**	**39.2**	**38.0**	**31.0**	**35.6**	**25.9**	**20.5**	**18.9**	**21.7**	**17.3**	†	**14.6** [c]
	(28.9-48.7)	(27.5-48.0)	(31.0-48.1)	(32.2-47.9)	(26.4-36.0)	(28.9-43.0)	(19.9-33.0)	(16.2-25.4)	(14.8-23.8)	(14.4-31.3)	(13.2-22.3)		(10.4-20.1)
12	**30.1**	**30.4**	**31.6**	**26.6**	**25.6**	**24.8**	**25.2**	**15.2**	**18.8**	**15.3**	**14.2**	†	**12.6** [c]
	(21.8-39.9)	(21.4-41.2)	(24.4-39.9)	(21.7-32.2)	(21.4-30.2)	(19.7-30.6)	(18.5-33.3)	(105-21.4)	(14.4-24.3)	(12.1-19.1)	(10.9-18.3)		(7.9-19.6)
Region													
GTA	**41.4**	**48.0**	**40.8**	**37.4**	**39.1**	**29.6**	**26.6**	**24.4**	**19.2**	**20.0**	**16.8**	†	**15.3** [c]
	(33.1-50.3)	(39.4-56.6)	(33.9-48.0)	(31.8-43.3)	(33.6-44.8)	(25.8-33.7)	(22.4-31.2)	(19.2-30.4)	(15.7-23.3)	(16.5-23.9)	13.2-21.0()		(12.1-19.1)
North	**50.2**	**43.6**	**48.8**	**45.9**	**40.1**	**40.0**	**42.7**	**29.8**	**39.2**	**26.5**	**27.4**	†	**38.4**
	(39.6-60.7)	(35.1-52.5)	(37.8-59.8)	(31.9-60.9)	(29.6-51.5)	(30.7-50.0)	(33.7-52.2)	(21.4-39.9)	(31.9-47.0)	(21.2-32.5)	(22.3-33.1)		(29.0-48.8)
West	**51.0**	**50.2**	**47.0**	**38.6**	**37.4**	**34.5**	**34.5**	**22.4**	**24.0**	**18.4**	**23.4**	†	**21.5** [c]
	(38.4-63.6)	(38.2-62.1)	(37.5-56.7)	(32.0-45.7)	(31.0-44.3)	(28.3-41.3)	(24.2-46.4)	(14.7-32.6)	(19.5-29.1)	(13.9-24.0)	(18.3-29.6)		(15.1-29.6)
East	**33.9**	**42.5**	**43.9**	**36.4**	**31.4**	**41.5**	**28.1**	**26.1**	**26.9**	**25.2**	**19.0**	†	**13.1** [c]
	(24.3-45.1)	(30.2-55.7)	(34.2-54.1)	(28.5-45.2)	(24.0-39.8)	(33.2-50.4)	(21.5-35.8)	(20.4-32.9)	(19.4-35.8)	(16.8-35.9)	(14.1-25.1)		(7.2-22.8)

Notes: (1) based on grades 9-12; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [c] 2023 vs.1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: When (if ever) did you first try cannabis? (Analysis is among those who reported using cannabis at least once in the past year.)

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

3.10 Potential Harms

Been a Passenger with a Driver Who Had Been Using Alcohol or Drugs

(Figures 3.10.1-3.10.4; Tables 3.10.1, 3.10.2)

Students in grades 7 to 12 were asked how often they rode in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, and how often they rode with a driver who had been using drugs. Both questions refer to the past 12 months before the survey.

2023 (Grades 7– 12):

- About one-in-six (17.4%) students rode in a vehicle at least once in the past year with a driver who had been drinking. One-in-eleven (9.0%) students rode with a driver who had been using drugs at least once in the past year.

- Females (22.7%) are significantly more likely than males (12.3%) to ride with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. Females (11.5%) are also significantly more likely than males (6.5%) to ride with a driver who had been using drugs.

- The likelihood of riding in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking or using drugs significantly increases with grade level, reaching about 20% of 12th graders.

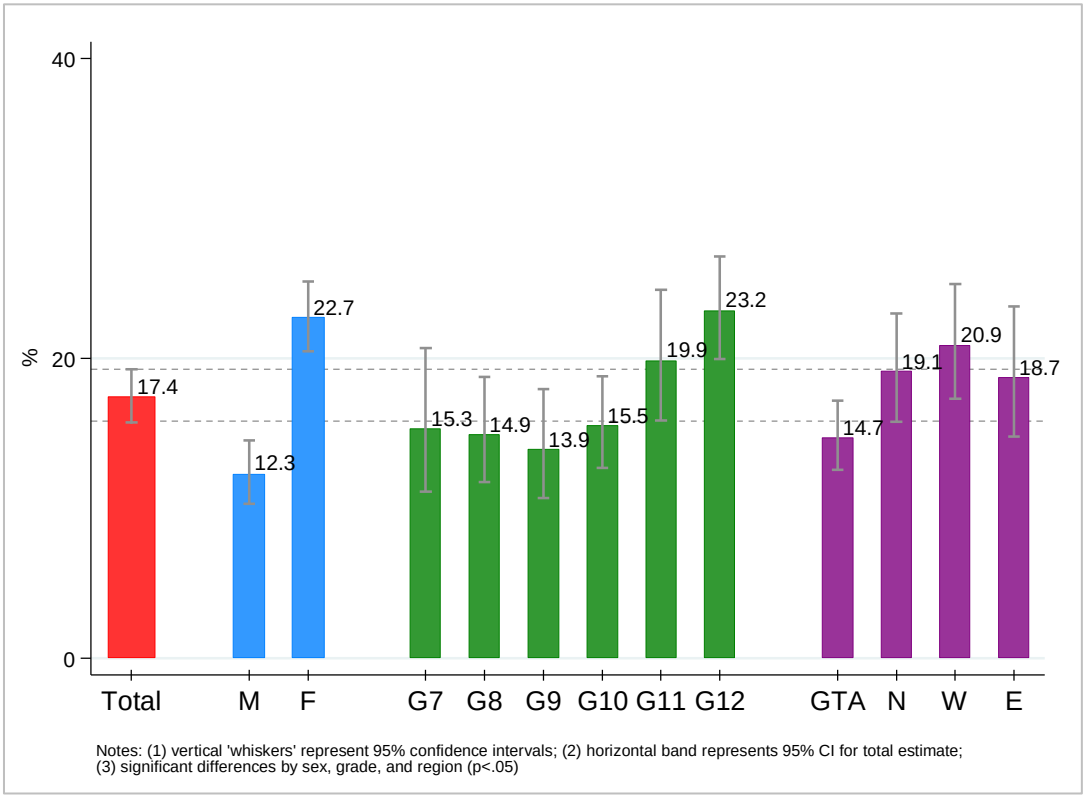
- Students in the Greater Toronto Area (14.7%) are least likely to ride with a driver who had been drinking alcohol compared with students in the other three regions (about 20%). There are no significant regional differences regarding the likelihood of riding with a driver who had been using drugs.

2001–2023 Trends (Grades 7– 12):

- The percentage of students who report riding with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in did not significantly change between 2021 and 2023, but the current estimate is significantly higher than in 2019. The percentage has decreased over the past two decades, as the current estimate is substantially lower than the elevated levels seen in the early 2000s (about 30%).

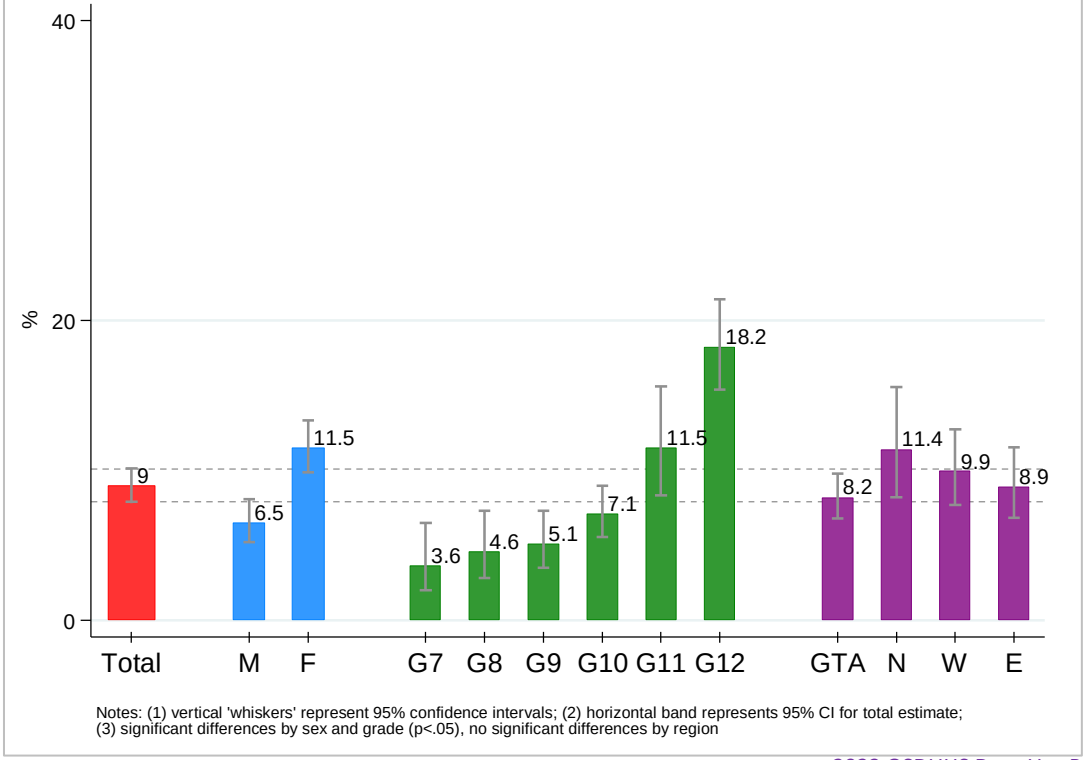
- The percentage of students who report riding in a vehicle with a driver who had been using drugs has remained relatively stable in recent years. However, the percentage has decreased over the past two decades, as the current estimate is substantially lower than the elevated levels seen in the early 2000s (over 20%).

Figure 3.10.1
Percentage Reporting Riding in a Vehicle with a Driver Who Had Been Drinking Alcohol (at Least Once in the Past Year) by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



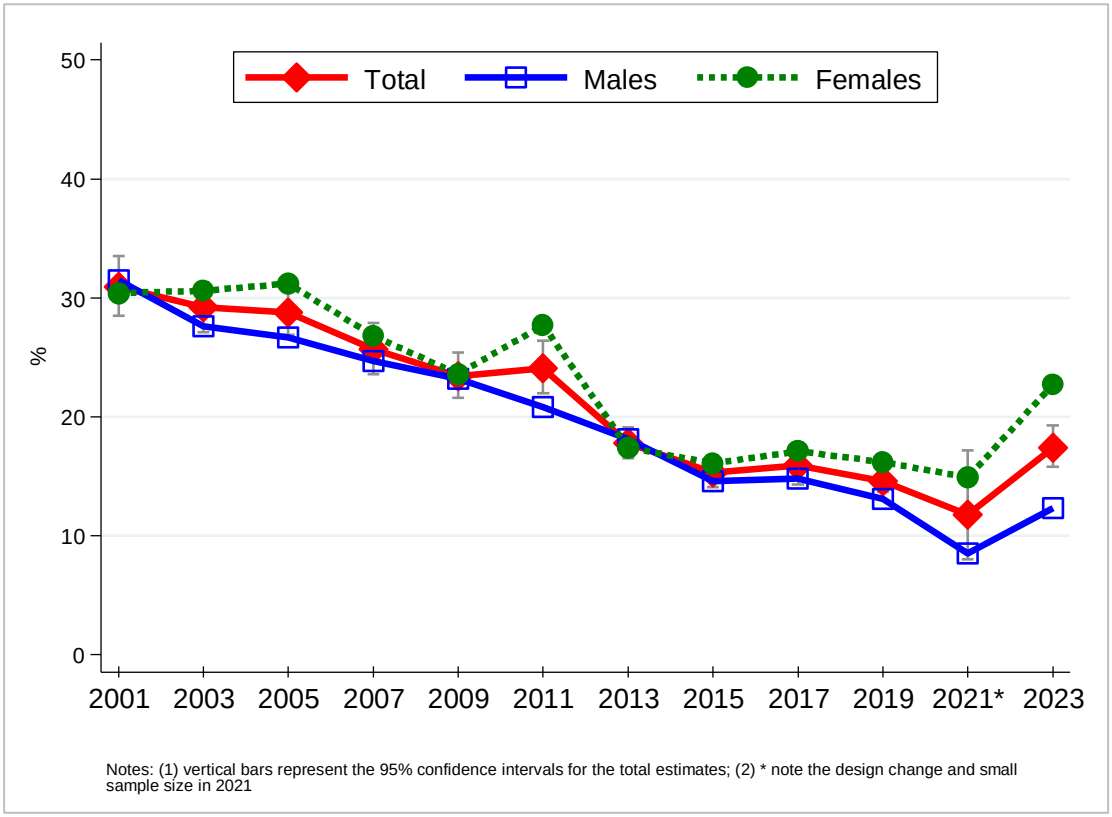
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant differences by sex, grade, and region (p<.05)

Figure 3.10.2
Percentage Reporting Riding in a Vehicle with a Driver Who Had Been Using Drugs (at Least Once in the Past Year) by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



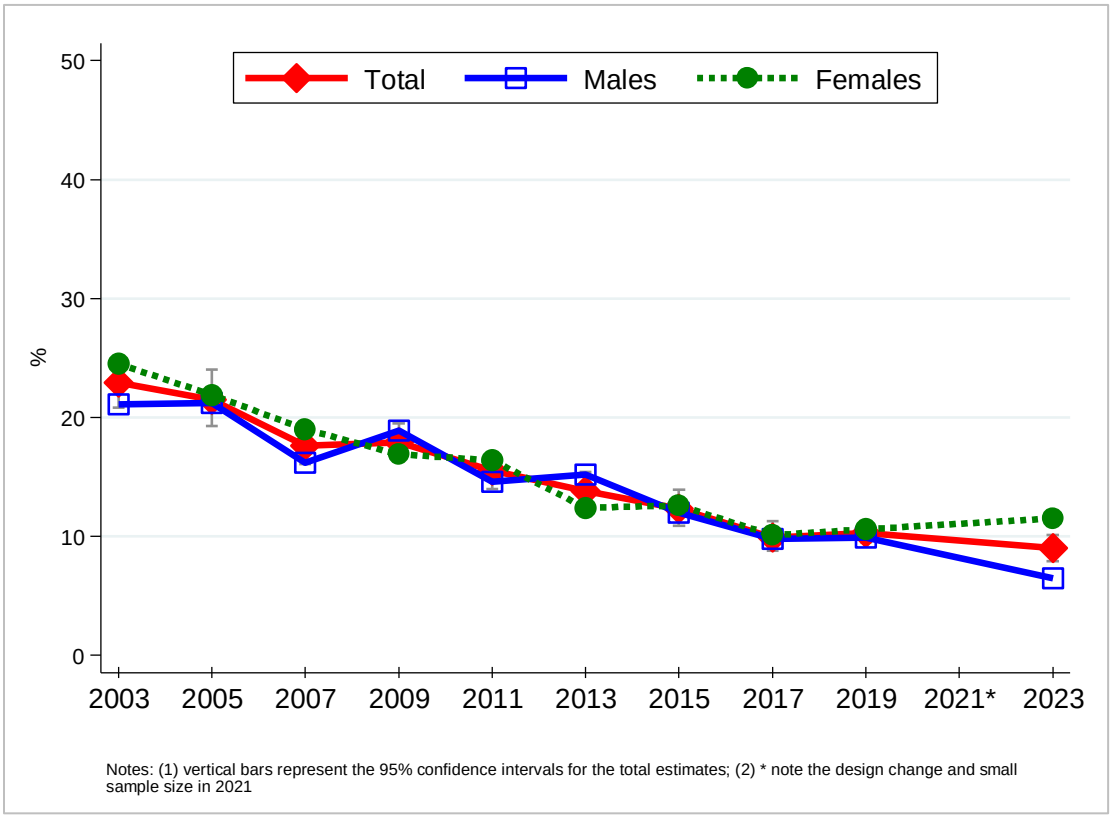
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant differences by sex and grade (p<.05), no significant differences by region

Figure 3.10.3
Percentage Reporting Riding in a Vehicle with a Driver Who Had Been Drinking Alcohol by Sex, 2001–2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence intervals for the total estimates; (2) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Figure 3.10.4
Percentage Reporting Riding in a Vehicle with a Driver Who Had Been Using Drugs by Sex, 2003–2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence intervals for the total estimates; (2) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.10.1: Percentage Reporting Riding in a Vehicle in the Past Year with a Driver Who Had Been Drinking Alcohol, 2001–2023 OSDUHS

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(1837)	(3152)	(3648)	(2935)	(4261)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(1118)	(5091)
Total (95% CI)	**30.9** (28.5-33.5)	**29.2** (27.1-31.3)	**28.8** (26.9-30.8)	**25.7** (23.6-27.9)	**23.4** (21.6-25.4)	**24.1** (22.0-26.4)	**17.8** (16.5-19.1)	**15.3** (14.1-16.7)	**15.9** (14.3-17.7)	**14.6** (13.7-15.5)	**11.8** (8.0-17.2)	**17.4** [bcde] (15.8-19.3)
Sex												
Males	**31.5** (28.2-34.9)	**27.6** (25.0-30.5)	**26.7** (24.3-29.2)	**24.7** (22.2-27.5)	**23.2** (20.5-26.2)	**20.8** (18.7-23.2)	**18.1** (16.3-20.0)	**14.6** (13.1-16.3)	**14.8** (12.8-17.0)	**13.1** (11.8-14.4)	**8.5** (4.6-14.9)	**12.3** [c] (10.3-14.6)
Females	**30.4** (26.7-34.3)	**30.6** (27.7-33.6)	**31.2** (28.5-33.9)	**26.8** (23.9-29.9)	**23.6** (21.1-26.3)	**27.7** (23.6-32.2)	**17.4** (15.8-19.2)	**16.1** (14.3-18.0)	**17.1** (15.1-19.3)	**16.2** (15.0-17.5)	**14.9** (8.9-23.8)	**22.7** [bc] (20.5-25.1)
Grade												
7	**17.5** (12.9-23.4)	**21.2** (16.6-26.8)	**17.7** (14.1-22.0)	**14.0** (10.8-18.0)	**10.0** (6.6-14.8)	**10.7** (8.7-13.2)	**10.4** (8.3-12.8)	**10.2** (7.4-13.9)	**10.9** (9.2-13.0)	**11.7** (10.0-13.6)	†	**15.3** (11.1-20.7)
8	**23.2** (16.5-31.5)	**25.2** (21.1-29.8)	**19.9** (16.7-23.5)	**17.3** (13.9-21.4)	**14.8** (11.4-19.2)	**18.6** (14.5-23.4)	**10.7** (8.4-13.6)	**10.2** (8.2-12.6)	**11.5** (9.9-13.2)	**11.6** (9.9-13.6)	†	**14.9** (11.8-18.8)
9	**31.5** (25.1-38.6)	**24.0** (20.1-28.4)	**27.3** (23.2-31.9)	**22.0** (18.4-26.0)	**23.3** (18.9-28.3)	**23.8** (20.3-27.8)	**16.3** (13.5-19.5)	**14.2** (11.7-17.1)	**14.3** (10.9-18.4)	**13.1** (11.4-15.0)	†	**13.9** [c] (10.7-17.9)
10	**36.0** (30.8-41.7)	**30.2** (25.5-35.4)	**28.9** (24.5-33.7)	**24.9** (21.2-29.0)	**23.0** (19.4-27.0)	**24.7** (21.8-27.9)	**19.9** (17.0-23.2)	**15.7** (13.5-18.3)	**15.5** (13.0-18.4)	**13.6** (12.1-15.2)	†	**15.5** [c] (12.7-18.8)
11	**40.0** (33.4-46.9)	**38.3** (33.9-42.8)	**36.5** (31.9-41.2)	**33.1** (29.0-37.4)	**26.5** (22.0-31.6)	**26.8** (21.6-32.6)	**20.6** (18.1-23.4)	**17.8** (15.3-20.6)	**18.8** (16.0-22.0)	**14.6** (12.7-16.7)	†	**19.9** [c] (15.8-24.6)
12	**36.2** (28.9-44.1)	**34.1** (30.1-38.2)	**39.4** (34.8-44.3)	**37.4** (31.8-43.4)	**34.1** (28.0-40.8)	**32.7** (29.4-36.3)	**22.6** (19.9-25.5)	**19.9** (16.8-23.4)	**20.8** (16.3-26.2)	**19.6** (17.3-22.0)	†	**23.2** [c] (20.0-26.8)
Region												
GTA	**28.4** (23.9-33.3)	**27.7** (24.4-31.1)	**24.6** (22.6-26.7)	**23.5** (19.8-27.7)	**22.0** (19.0-25.3)	**21.2** (19.6-22.8)	**18.1** (16.2-20.2)	**15.3** (13.4-17.3)	**14.7** (12.3-17.5)	**14.1** (12.9-15.4)	†	**14.7** [c] (12.6-17.2)
North	**34.7** (30.9-38.8)	**29.8** (26.0-33.8)	**31.7** (26.7-37.2)	**27.2** (22.8-32.1)	**27.3** (21.7-33.6)	**24.6** (22.8-26.5)	**15.9** (13.1-19.2)	**14.8** (11.2-19.3)	**12.8** (10.7-15.2)	**15.7** (12.3-19.9)	†	**19.1** [c] (15.8-23.0)
West	**33.7** (29.3-38.4)	**34.9** (31.5-38.5)	**33.1** (28.6-38.0)	**30.0** (26.6-33.7)	**24.8** (21.2-28.8)	**28.1** (23.0-33.9)	**18.2** (15.6-21.1)	**16.0** (13.2-18.6)	**16.2** (13.7-19.0)	**15.2** (13.4-17.2)	**16.6** (9.2-28.3)	**20.9** [bc] (17.3-25.0)
East	**30.8** (26.5-35.4)	**24.7** (20.3-29.7)	**32.1** (27.7-36.9)	**24.2** (20.6-28.1)	**23.0** (20.4-25.7)	**25.1** (21.7-28.9)	**16.6** (14.9-18.6)	**14.8** (11.9-18.2)	**19.1** (14.3-25.1)	**14.7** (12.7-16.9)	†	**18.7** [c] (14.8-23.5)

Notes: (1) question asked of a random half sample between 2001 and 2009, and since 2021; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2001 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how many times did you ride in vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table 3.10.2: Percentage Reporting Riding in a Vehicle in the Past Year with a Driver Who Had Been Using Drugs, 2003–2023 OSDUHS

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(3464)	(4078)	(3388)	(4851)	(9288)	(10272)	(10426)	(11435)	(14142)	(1118)	(5091)
Total (95% CI)	**22.9** (20.8-25.0)	**21.5** (19.3-24.0)	**17.6** (16.1-19.2)	**17.9** (16.4-19.5)	**15.5** (14.0-17.0)	**13.8** (12.4-15.4)	**12.3** (10.9-13.9)	**9.9** (8.8-11.2)	**10.3** (9.5-11.0)	**8.8** (5.1-14.7)	**9.0** [cd] (7.9-10.1)
Sex											
Males	**21.1** (18.3-24.1)	**21.2** (18.3-24.5)	**16.2** (14.2-18.2)	**18.9** (16.4-21.6)	**14.6** (12.9-16.5)	**15.2** (13.0-17.7)	**12.0** (10.5-13.8)	**9.8** (8.3-11.5)	**9.9** (8.8-11.1)	†	**6.5** [bc] (5.2-8.1)
Females	**24.5** (21.8-27.3)	**21.9** (19.3-24.7)	**19.0** (16.8-21.4)	**16.9** (14.9-19.1)	**16.4** (14.1-19.0)	**12.4** (11.0-14.0)	**12.6** (10.4-15.2)	**10.1** (8.8-11.6)	**10.6** (9.7-11.6)	**8.5** (5.1-13.8)	**11.5** [c] (9.9-13.3)
Grade											
7	**9.4** (6.1-14.1)	**6.1** (3.6-10.0)	**2.8** (1.6-4.9)	**1.5** (0.9-2.5)	**2.2** (1.2-3.7)	**1.7** (1.0-2.8)	**3.8** (2.0-6.9)	**2.7** (1.9-4.0)	**3.5** (2.5-5.1)	†	**3.6** [c] (2.0-6.5)
8	**11.1** (8.0-15.3)	**9.2** (6.3-13.2)	**5.6** (3.5-9.1)	**5.1** (3.5-7.5)	**4.4** (3.2-6.1)	**5.5** (3.7-8.1)	**3.6** (2.4-5.6)	**2.6** (1.7-4.1)	**3.6** (2.6-5.0)	†	**4.6** [c] (2.8-7.3)
9	**17.4** (14.0-21.3)	**15.2** (11.8-19.2)	**13.9** (10.6-18.1)	**10.0** (7.9-12.7)	**9.0** (6.3-12.6)	**7.0** (5.2-9.4)	**5.6** (4.3-7.2)	**4.4** (3.1-6.1)	**5.2** (4.1-6.6)	†	**5.1** [c] (3.5-7.3)
10	**23.3** (19.0-28.3)	**23.6** (20.0-27.7)	**17.9** (14.8-21.6)	**16.7** (13.6-20.4)	**14.8** (11.7-18.5)	**13.2** (11.0-15.8)	**10.9** (8.8-13.4)	**7.9** (6.1-10.1)	**8.0** (6.8-9.5)	†	**7.1** [c] (5.6-9.0)
11	**33.8** (28.7-39.3)	**34.7** (31.2-38.3)	**25.0** (21.6-28.7)	**25.9** (20.2-32.6)	**21.4** (18.8-24.2)	**18.2** (15.5-21.2)	**18.3** (15.3-21.8)	**12.1** (9.3-15.6)	**13.4** (11.9-15.1)	†	**11.5** [c] (8.3-15.6)
12	**37.0** (31.4-43.0)	**38.0** (33.7-42.5)	**34.0** (29.3-39.1)	**37.1** (23.8-41.6)	**30.4** (26.4-34.7)	**26.3** (22.9-29.9)	**23.3** (18.7-28.5)	**22.4** (18.6-26.6)	**20.1** (17.6-22.8)	†	**18.2** [c] (15.4-21.4)
Region											
GTA	**21.8** (19.4-24.4)	**19.3** (16.5-22.6)	**16.6** (14.0-19.5)	**15.5** (13.4-17.9)	**13.6** (10.8-17.0)	**11.8** (10.1-13.8)	**11.2** (9.4-13.1)	**9.5** (7.9-11.2)	**8.3** (7.3-9.3)	†	**8.2** [c] (6.8-9.8)
North	**27.0** (21.7-33.2)	**27.2** (23.6-31.3)	**22.3** (18.1-27.2)	**22.2** (16.8-28.8)	**20.6** (17.8-23.8)	**15.6** (12.9-18.7)	**14.7** (10.9-19.4)	**9.9** (8.0-12.2)	**14.1** (11.3-17.6)	†	**11.4** [c] (8.2-15.5)
West	**22.9** (18.6-27.9)	**26.8** (22.5-31.6)	**20.0** (16.7-23.6)	**19.8** (16.8-23.4)	**17.6** (14.3-21.4)	**14.3** (11.1-18.2)	**12.7** (9.6-16.5)	**11.7** (9.5-14.3)	**12.1** (10.6-13.7)	†	**9.9** [c] (7.7-12.8)
East	**23.4** (18.1-29.8)	**19.2** (13.8-26.1)	**16.0** (12.8-19.8)	**18.3** (14.9-22.2)	**15.5** (12.8-18.7)	**17.6** (15.2-20.4)	**14.0** (10.1-19.0)	**8.5** (5.8-12.2)	**11.4** (9.9-13.1)	†	**8.9** [c] (6.8-11.5)

Notes: (1) question asked of a random half sample in each year between 2003 and 2009, and since 2021; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2003 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how many times did you ride in a vehicle driven by someone who had been using drugs (other than alcohol)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Driving a Motor Vehicle After Drinking Alcohol

(Figures 3.10.5-3.10.7; Table 3.10.3)

2023 (Drivers in Grades 10–12):

- About 5.9% of drivers (with a G-Class licence) in grades 10 through 12 report driving a vehicle within an hour of consuming *two or more* alcoholic drinks at least once during the past 12 months.

- Males (6.7%) and females (5.2%) are equally likely to drink and drive.

- Drivers in 12th grade are most likely to drink and drive (8.3%).

- There is significant regional variation showing that drivers in the Greater Toronto Area (3.4%) are least likely to drink and drive, while drivers in the West region (9.7%) are most likely.

1999–2023 Trends (Drivers in Grades 10–12):

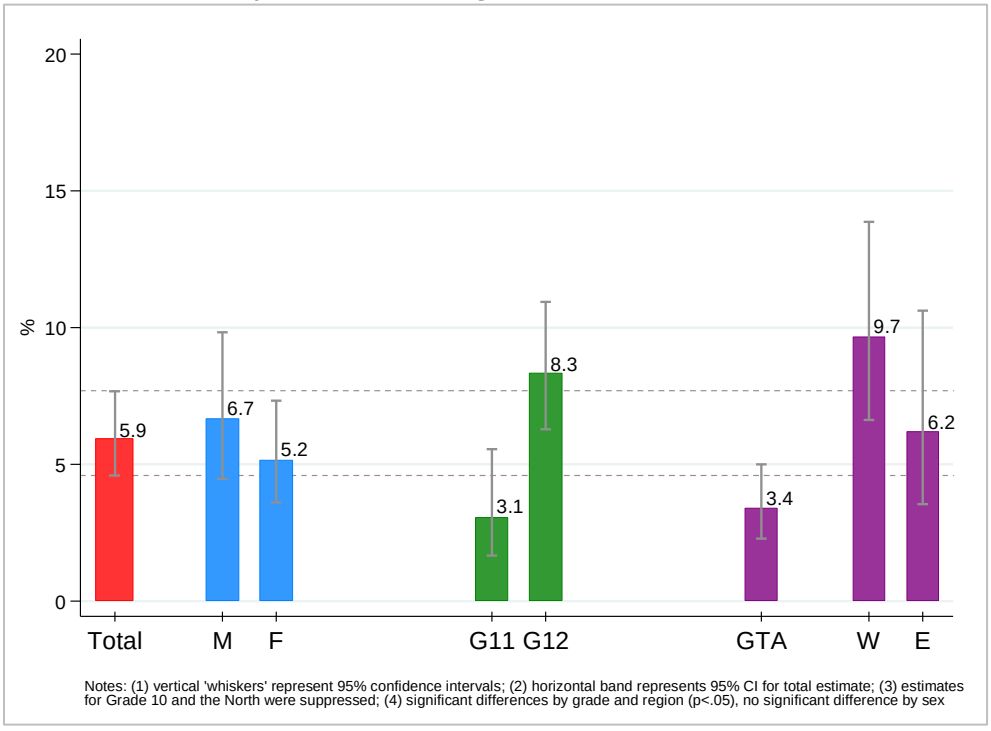
- Drinking and driving among adolescent drivers has been stable since 2011, at about 4%-7%. However, the current estimate is significantly lower than estimates seen in 1999 and the early 2000s, when the prevalence was about 12%-14%.

- Estimates among the subgroups have been stable over the past decade or so. Some subgroups do show a significant decrease since 1999.

1977–2023 Trends (Drivers in Grade 11):

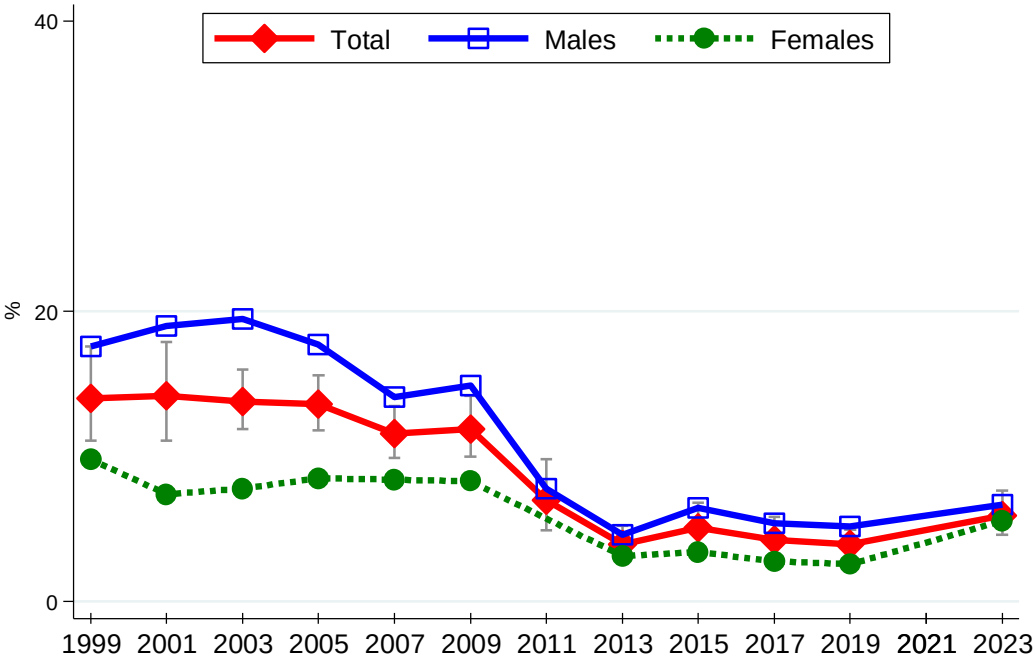
- Figure 3.10.7 shows trends in drinking and driving among grade 11 licensed drivers. Drinking and driving has significantly declined over the long-term among 11th graders, especially since the late 1970s, when monitoring first began.

Figure 3.10.5
Percentage of Drivers in Grades 10–12 Reporting Driving After Drinking Alcohol at Least Once in the Past Year by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



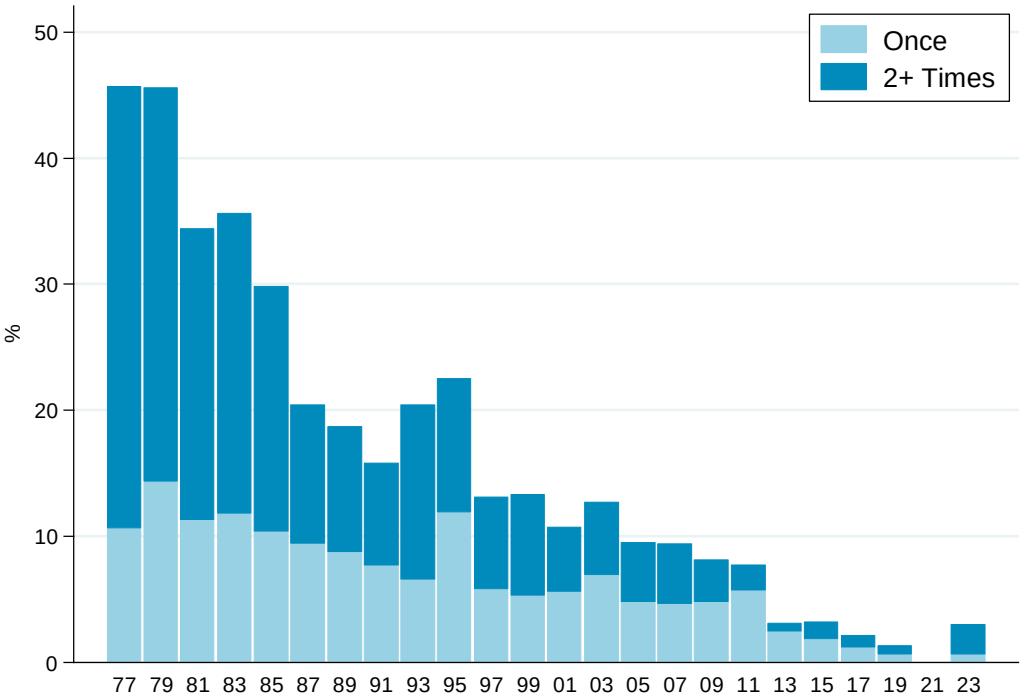
Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimates for Grade 10 and the North were suppressed; (4) significant differences by grade and region (p<.05), no significant difference by sex

Figure 3.10.6
Percentage of Drivers in Grades 10–12 Reporting Driving After Drinking Alcohol at Least Once in the Past Year by Sex, 1999–2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence intervals for the total estimates; (2) the 2021 estimates were suppressed due to unreliability

Figure 3.10.7
Percentage of 11th-Grade Drivers Reporting Driving After Drinking Alcohol in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS



Note: the 2021 estimates were suppressed due to unreliability

Table 3.10.3: Percentage of Drivers in Grades 10–12 Reporting Driving After Drinking Alcohol at Least Once in the Past Year, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(1009)	(847)	(1973)	(2280)	(1897)	(2219)	(2486)	(2433)	(2443)	(2698)	(3693)	(463)	(2776)
Total (95% CI)	**14.0** (11.1-17.6)	**14.2** (11.1-17.9)	**13.8** (11.9-16.0)	**13.6** (11.8-15.6)	**11.6** (9.9-13.5)	**11.9** (10.0-14.2)	**7.0** (4.9-9.8)	**4.0** (3.0-5.2)	**5.1** (3.7-6.8)	**4.2** (3.0-5.8)	**4.0** (3.1-5.0)	†	**5.9** (4.6-7.7) [cde]
Sex													
Males	**17.6** (14.0-21.8)	**19.0** (14.2-25.1)	**19.5** (16.5-22.9)	**17.7** (15.0-20.7)	**14.1** (11.5-17.2)	**14.9** (12.3-18.0)	**7.8** (5.8-10.6)	**4.6** (3.2-6.7)	**6.4** (4.6-8.9)	**5.4** (3.4-8.4)	**5.2** (3.8-7.0)	†	**6.7** [c] (4.5-9.8)
Females	**9.8** (6.4-14.7)	**7.4** (4.6-11.8)	**7.8** (6.0-10.0)	**8.5** (6.7-10.7)	**8.4** (6.5-10.9)	**8.3** (6.3-10.7)	†	**3.1** (2.1-4.6)	**3.4** (2.2-5.2)	**2.8** (1.6-4.6)	**2.6** (1.7-3.9)	†	**5.2** (3.6-7.3)
Grade													
10	**8.1** (4.0-15.5)	**9.8** (4.4-20.6)	**9.8** (6.1-15.4)	**7.6** (4.2-13.3)	**9.0** (5.0-15.8)	**3.8** (1.7-8.2)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
11	**13.4** (9.1-19.4)	**10.7** (8.0-14.2)	**12.7** (10.3-15.6)	**9.5** (7.3-12.4)	**9.3** (6.9-12.6)	**8.1** (5.4-12.0)	**7.8** (2.9-19.4)	**3.1** (1.7-5.6)	**3.2** (2.1-5.0)	**2.1** (1.4-3.3)	**1.3** (0.8-2.2)	†	**3.1** [c] (1.7-5.6)
12	**16.3** (11.4-22.8)	**20.9** (15.4-27.7)	**16.2** (13.1-19.8)	**17.4** (14.7-20.6)	**13.4** (11.2-15.9)	**15.1** (12.3-18.5)	**7.0** (5.0-9.8)	**4.9** (3.4-7.1)	**6.2** (4.0-9.6)	**5.6** (3.5-9.0)	**6.0** (4.7-7.7)	†	**8.3** [c] (6.3-11.0)
Region													
GTA	**13.5** (9.5-18.9)	**11.7** (8.2-16.5)	**12.5** (10.2-15.2)	**10.8** (8.8-13.3)	**9.5** (6.7-13.3)	**9.3** (6.5-13.2)	**4.4** (3.3-5.9)	**2.7** (1.7-4.1)	**4.8** (3.5-6.6)	**4.7** (2.8-7.7)	**2.7** (1.8-3.9)	†	**3.4** [c] (2.3-5.0)
North	**26.0** (17.3-37.1)	**12.5** (9.0-17.0)	**16.8** (12.0-23.0)	**16.8** (12.9-21.5)	**12.7** (8.4-18.8)	**12.5** (8.9-17.2)	**9.8** (5.8-16.1)	†	†	†	†	†	†
West	**12.8** (8.1-19.6)	**20.5** (13.6-29.8)	**14.4** (9.7-20.9)	**18.6** (14.9-22.9)	**13.6** (10.8-16.9)	**10.4** (6.8-15.8)	†	**5.3** (3.2-8.6)	**6.3** (4.4-9.0)	**4.2** (2.6-6.8)	**4.8** (3.0-7.5)	†	**9.7** (6.6-13.9)
East	**9.2** (4.2-18.8)	**9.3** (5.2-16.2)	**14.8** (11.5-18.8)	**12.4** (8.6-17.6)	**12.4** (9.8-15.4)	**17.6** (14.0-21.8)	**9.0** (5.6-14.1)	**4.3** (2.7-6.8)	†	†	**5.4** (3.9-7.3)	†	**6.2** (3.6-10.6)

Notes: (1) based on grades 10-12 with a driver's licence; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how many times have you driven a vehicle within an hour of drinking 2 or more drinks of alcohol?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Driving a Motor Vehicle After Using Cannabis

(Figures 3.10.8, 3.10.9; Table 3.10.4)

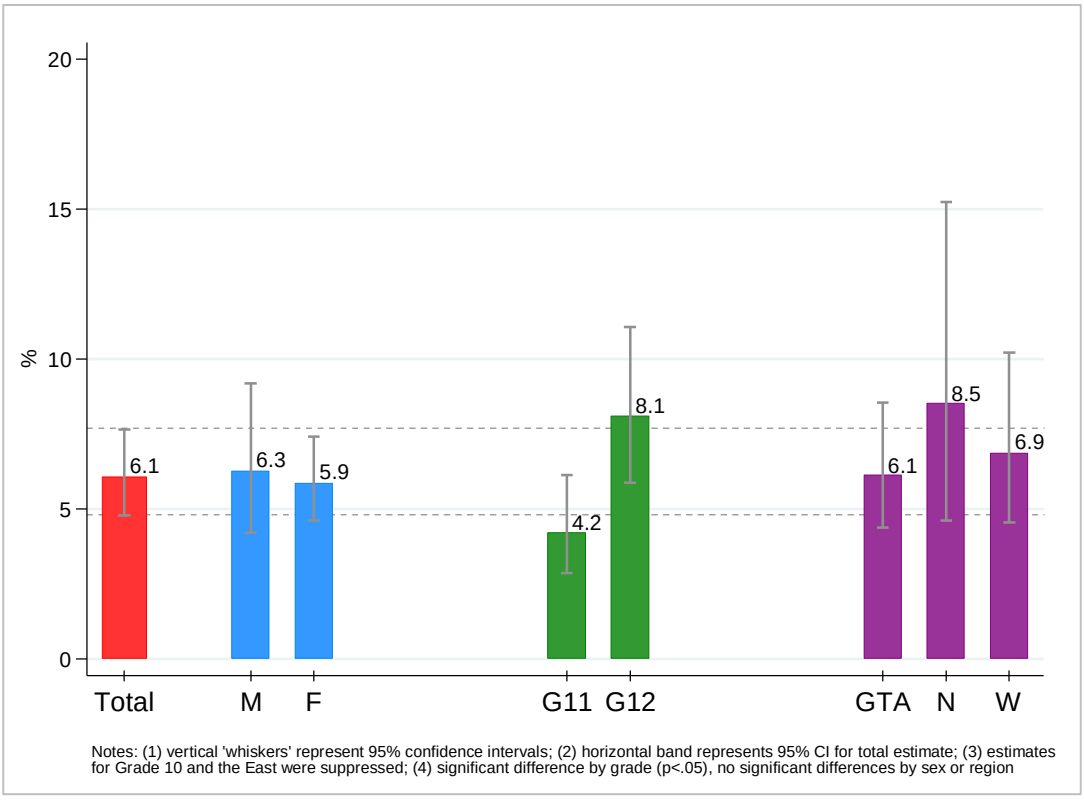
2023 (Drivers in Grades 10–12):

- About 6.1% of drivers (with a G-Class licence) in grades 10 through 12 report driving a vehicle within an hour of consuming cannabis (in any form) at least once during the past 12 months.
- Males (6.3%) and females (5.9%) are equally likely to drive after using cannabis.
- Twelfth graders (8.1%) are most likely to drive after using cannabis.
- There is no significant regional variation.

2001–2023 Trends (Drivers in Grades 10–12):

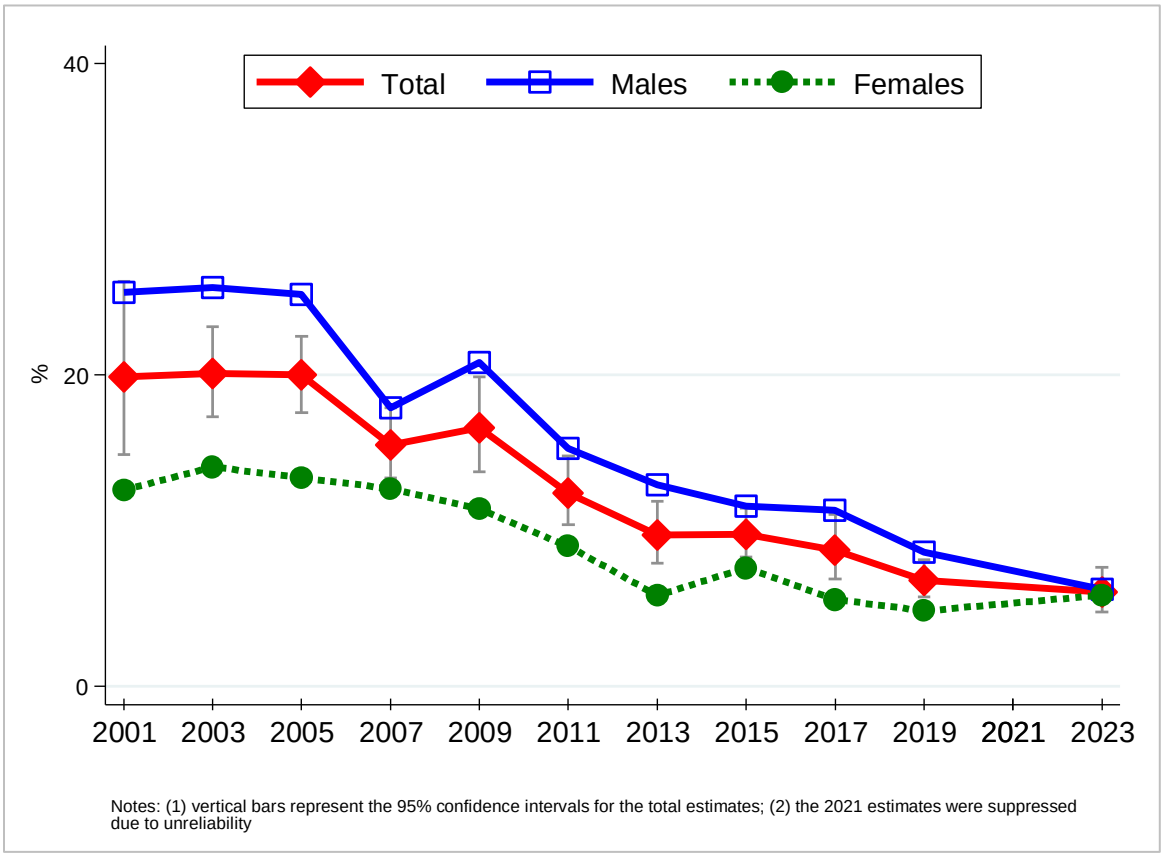
- Self-reported driving after using cannabis has remained stable since 2017, at about 6%-9%. However, there has been a significant decrease since 2001/early 2000s, when the estimates were about 20%.
- All subgroups show stable estimates in recent years. However, all show a significant decrease over the past two decades.

Figure 3.10.8
Percentage of Drivers in Grades 10–12 Reporting Driving After Using Cannabis at Least Once in the Past Year by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) estimates for Grade 10 and the East were suppressed; (4) significant difference by grade (p<.05), no significant differences by sex or region

Figure 3.10.9
Percentage of Drivers in Grades 10–12 Reporting Driving After Using Cannabis at Least Once in the Past Year by Sex, 2001–2023 OSDUHS



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence intervals for the total estimates; (2) the 2021 estimates were suppressed due to unreliability

Table 3.10.4: Percentage of Drivers in Grades 10–12 Reporting Driving After Using Cannabis at Least Once in the Past Year, 2001–2023 OSDUHS

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(400)	(1973)	(2280)	(1897)	(2219)	(2468)	(2433)	(2443)	(2698)	(3693)	(463)	(2776)
Total (95% CI)	**19.9** (14.9-26.0)	**20.1** (17.3-23.1)	**20.0** (17.6-22.5)	**15.5** (13.4-17.9)	**16.6** (13.8-19.9)	**12.4** (10.4-14.8)	**9.7** (7.9-11.9)	**9.8** (8.3-11.4)	**8.8** (6.9-11.1)	**6.8** (5.7-8.1)	†	**6.1** [cd] (4.8-7.7)
Sex												
Males	**25.3** (17.3-35.5)	**25.6** (21.4-30.2)	**25.2** (22.1-28.7)	**17.9** (15.0-21.2)	**20.8** (16.9-25.4)	**15.3** (12.2-19.0)	**13.0** (10.2-16.3)	**11.6** (9.4-14.1)	**11.3** (8.8-14.4)	**8.6** (6.9-10.6)	†	**6.3** [c] (4.2-9.2)
Females	**12.6** (8.5-18.4)	**14.1** (11.3-17.6)	**13.4** (10.8-16.4)	**12.7** (9.8-16.4)	**11.4** (8.9-14.6)	**9.0** (6.9-11.7)	**5.8** (4.3-7.8)	**7.6** (5.5-10.5)	**5.6** (3.9-8.0)	**4.9** (3.7-6.4)	†	**5.9** [c] (4.6-7.4)
Grade												
10	**18.9** (9.6-33.8)	**15.9** (11.3-21.9)	**15.1** (9.7-22.6)	†	**7.8** (4.1-14.4)	†	†	**6.0** (3.4-10.2)	†	†	†	†
11	**18.9** (12.7-27.3)	**18.0** (14.4-22.3)	**15.4** (12.3-19.1)	**12.8** (10.0-16.3)	**10.8** (8.1-14.3)	**12.3** (8.9-16.7)	**8.0** (5.7-11.3)	**8.6** (6.8-11.0)	**6.5** (3.6-11.6)	**3.7** (2.6-5.3)	†	**4.2** [c] (2.9-6.1)
12	**21.6** (14.1-31.6)	**23.3** (18.9-28.3)	**23.9** (20.5-27.6)	**18.9** (16.2-21.8)	**21.1** (17.0-25.7)	**13.0** (9.9-16.8)	**11.6** (8.5-15.7)	**10.9** (8.7-13.7)	**10.6** (8.1-13.8)	**9.6** (7.7-12.0)	†	**8.1** [c] (5.9-11.1)
Region												
GTA	**20.8** (14.9-28.4)	**17.5** (14.4-21.0)	**17.5** (10.8-23.1)	**13.5** (10.3-17.6)	**13.8** (10.8-17.5)	**10.8** (7.9-14.8)	**8.0** (6.2-10.1)	**8.7** (6.4-11.6)	**8.7** (5.6-13.3)	**3.9** (2.9-5.2)	†	**6.1** [c] (4.4-8.5)
North	**17.5** (10.9-27.1)	**24.7** (16.3-35.6)	**21.6** (17.0-27.0)	**19.0** (12.5-27.7)	**21.1** (13.9-30.6)	**20.2** (15.5-25.9)	**7.2** (3.9-12.8)	**15.8** (10.8-22.7)	**8.2** (4.6-14.5)	**9.3** (9.3-14.6)	†	**8.5** (4.6-15.2)
West	**21.0** (12.2-33.7)	**22.7** (17.1-29.5)	**26.7** (22.2-31.8)	**15.9** (12.3-20.4)	**20.0** (14.2-27.4)	**14.2** (10.1-19.7)	**10.8** (6.7-16.8)	**10.6** (8.2-13.6)	**9.2** (6.9-12.2)	**9.1** (6.7-12.3)	†	**6.9** [c] (4.5-10.2)
East	†	**20.4** (14.0-28.8)	**16.8** (12.4-22.3)	**17.6** (13.9-22.0)	**15.3** (9.2-24.4)	**10.6** (8.4-13.5)	**11.9** (9.8-14.4)	**8.9** (6.1-12.7)	**8.4** (4.7-14.6)	**8.2** (6.0-11.0)	†	†

Notes: (1) based on grades 10-12 with a driver's licence; (2) question asked of a random half sample in 2001; (3) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (6) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (7) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [c] 2023 vs. 2001 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how many times have you driven a vehicle within an hour of using cannabis (marijuana or hashish) in any form?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Drug Use Problem (*CRAFFT* Screener) Among Grades 9–12

(Figures 3.10.10, 3.10.11; Tables 3.10.5, 3.10.6)

2023 (Grades 9–12):

- About one-in-seven (14.3%) secondary school students report at least two of the six symptoms measured by the *CRAFFT* screener, and, therefore, meet the criterion for a possible drug use problem (that is, may be in need of further assessment or treatment).

- Females (16.8%) are significantly more likely than males (11.8%) to meet the criterion for a drug use problem.

- There is a significant increase in the likelihood of indicating a drug use problem as grade level increases, from a low of 6.1% of 9th graders to 20.1% of 12th graders.

- There is no significant regional variation.

2003–2023 Trends (Grades 9–12):

- The percentage of secondary school students who meet the *CRAFFT* criterion for a drug use problem has been stable since 2011 (about 14%-17%). However, there has been a decrease since monitoring first began, as the current estimate is significantly lower than those seen between 2003 and 2009 (about 20%-22%).

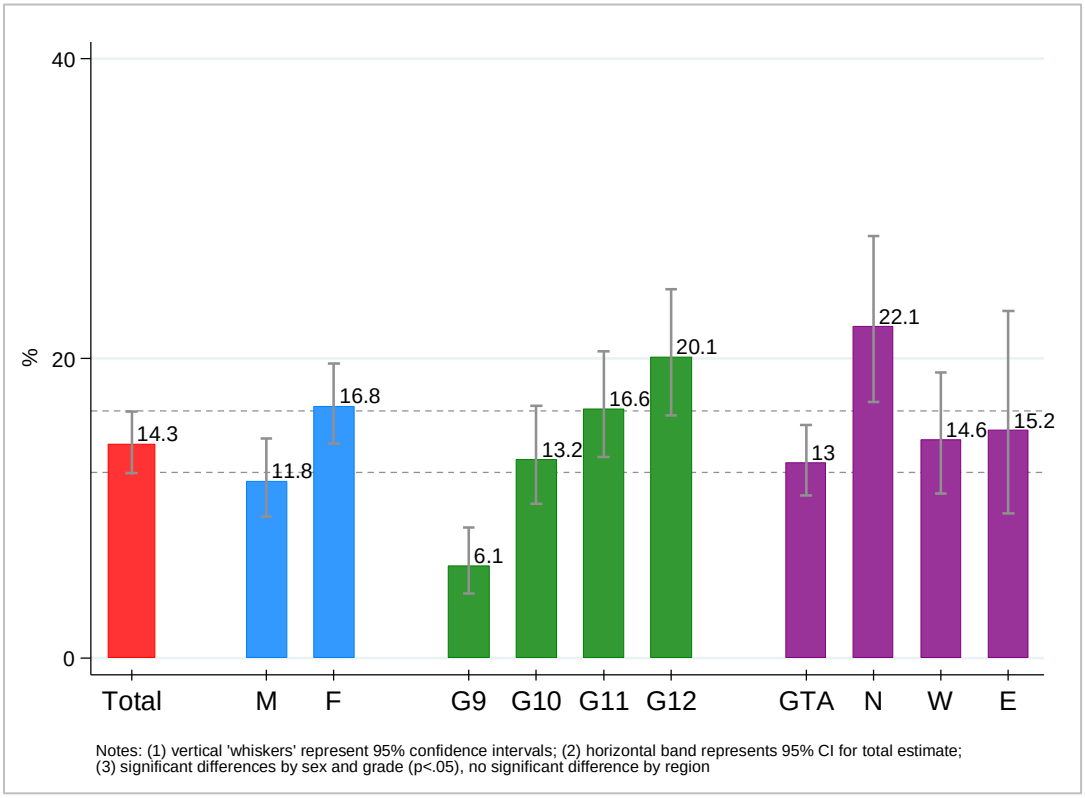
- Males show a significant decrease over the past two decades. Females, however, show a significant increase since 2017. Students in grades 9, 10, and 11, and students in the GTA show a significant decrease over the past two decades.

Table 3.10.5: Percentage Reporting Drug Use Problems Experienced in the Past Year as Measured by the *CRAFFT* Screener, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)

CRAFFT Item	% "yes" among the total sample
"In the last 12 months…."	
1. did you ride in a **c**ar or other vehicle driven by someone [or you] who had been using drugs?	10.0
2. did you use drugs to **r**elax, feel better about yourself, or fit in?	14.0
3. did you use drugs while you were by yourself, or **a**lone?	13.0
4. did you **f**orget things you did while using drugs?	8.4
5. did your **f**amily or friends tell you that you should cut down on your use of drugs?	4.3
6. did you get into **t**rouble while you were using drugs?	3.3
% CRAFFT 2+ Score (95% CI)	**14.3%** (12.4-16.5)

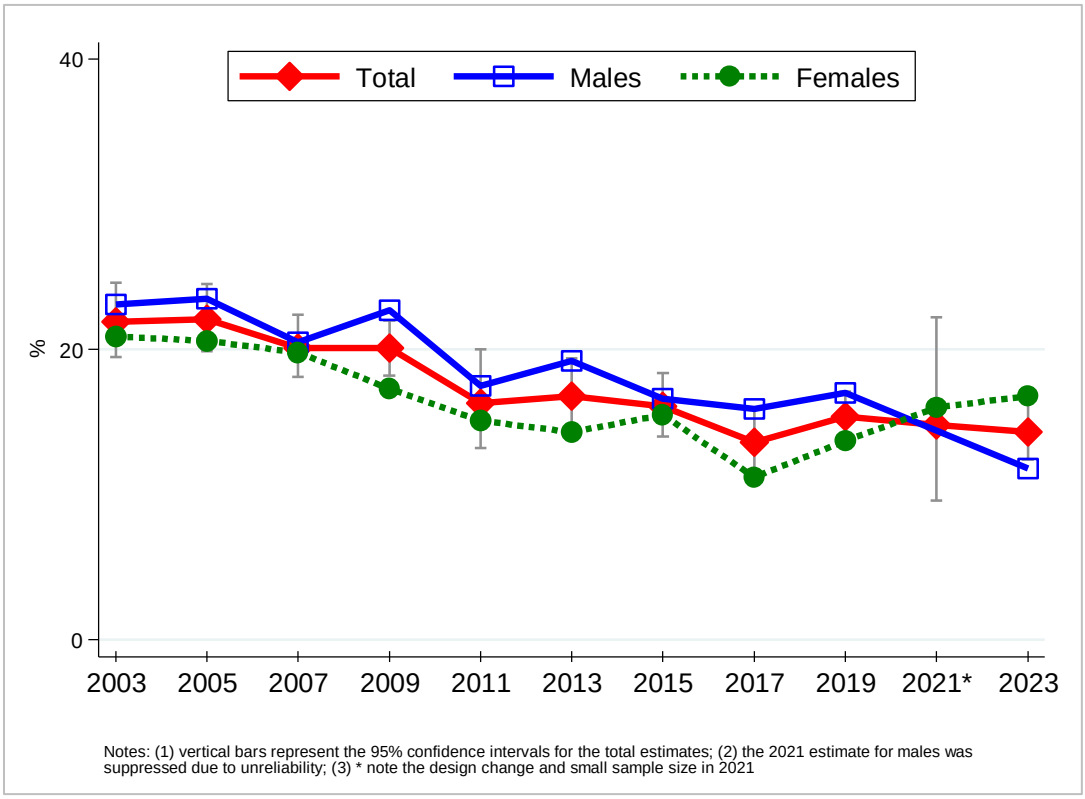
Notes: (1) those responding "yes" to two or more problems on the CRAFFT screener may have a drug use problem that requires further assessment or treatment; (2) based on a random half sample of secondary school students (n=3,603).
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Figure 3.10.10
Percentage Indicating a Drug Use Problem (*CRAFFT* 2+) by Sex, Grade, and Region, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



Notes: (1) vertical 'whiskers' represent 95% confidence intervals; (2) horizontal band represents 95% CI for total estimate; (3) significant differences by sex and grade (p<.05), no significant difference by region

Figure 3.10.11
Percentage Indicating a Drug Use Problem (*CRAFFT* 2+) by Sex, 2003–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9–12)



Notes: (1) vertical bars represent the 95% confidence intervals for the total estimates; (2) the 2021 estimate for males was suppressed due to unreliability; (3) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.10.6: Percentage Indicating a Drug Use Problem (*CRAFFT* Screener), 2003–2023 OSDUHS

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2455)	(3069)	(2587)	(3055)	(3358)	(3264)	(3426)	(4298)	(5273)	(739)	(3603)
Total (95% CI)	**21.9** (19.5-24.6)	**22.1** (19.9-24.5)	**20.1** (18.1-22.4)	**20.1** (18.2-22.0)	**16.3** (13.2-20.0)	**16.8** (14.5-19.4)	**16.1** (14.0-18.4)	**13.6** (11.6-16.0)	**15.4** (13.8-17.1)	**14.8** (9.6-22.2)	**14.3** [cd] (12.4-16.5)
Sex											
Males	**23.1** (19.5-27.2)	**23.5** (20.6-26.8)	**20.5** (17.7-23.6)	**22.7** (19.9-25.8)	**17.5** (14.0-21.6)	**19.2** (15.8-23.1)	**16.6** (14.0-19.6)	**15.9** (13.3-18.9)	**17.0** (14.6-19.7)	†	**11.8** [bc] (9.4-14.6)
Females	**20.9** (18.2-23.8)	**20.6** (18.0-23.4)	**19.8** (17.4-22.4)	**17.3** (15.2-19.7)	**15.1** (12.0-18.8)	**14.3** (11.7-17.3)	**15.5** (12.9-18.4)	**11.2** (9.0-13.9)	**13.7** (12.2-15.4)	**16.0** (10.5-23.6)	**16.8** (14.3-19.6)
Grade											
9	**14.1** (11.4-17.2)	**13.4** (10.4-17.1)	**14.0** (10.3-18.8)	**11.7** (8.8-15.5)	**7.5** (4.8-11.5)	**7.5** (5.0-11.2)	**6.4** (4.6-9.0)	**4.8** (3.1-7.4)	**6.3** (4.5-8.8)	†	**6.1** [c] (4.3-8.7)
10	**20.5** (16.1-25.8)	**21.0** (17.6-24.8)	**18.0** (14.8-21.7)	**18.4** (14.8-22.8)	**15.8** (12.2-20.3)	**13.9** (10.2-18.7)	**13.7** (10.5-17.6)	**10.9** (8.4-14.0)	**13.0** (10.8-15.5)	†	**13.2** [c] (10.3-16.8)
11	**27.0** (22.2-32.4)	**25.4** (21.5-29.6)	**23.0** (19.2-27.2)	**19.4** (15.1-24.7)	**18.4** (15.4-21.8)	**18.8** (16.1-22.0)	**17.6** (13.5-22.6)	**14.1** (9.1-21.3)	**19.0** (16.0-22.4)	†	**16.6** [c] (13.4-20.5)
12	**26.7** (21.8-32.2)	**28.3** (24.3-32.7)	**24.7** (20.8-29.0)	**28.2** (24.5-32.2)	**21.7** (15.1-30.1)	**24.0** (18.9-30.0)	**23.2** (18.5-28.6)	**21.6** (18.0-25.6)	**21.9** (18.5-25.7)	†	**20.1** (16.2-24.6)
Region											
GTA	**20.9** (17.7-24.6)	**19.2** (16.4-22.3)	**18.3** (14.9-22.3)	**18.8** (16.4-21.4)	**17.1** (12.2-23.4)	**15.6** (12.0-20.1)	**15.6** (12.8-19.1)	**12.5** (9.5-16.2)	**11.0** (9.5-12.6)	†	**13.0** [c] (10.8-15.6)
North	**26.3** (20.4-33.1)	**26.1** (21.4-31.5)	**26.0** (20.0-33.0)	**28.0** (22.2-34.6)	**23.0** (17.7-29.3)	**17.1** (13.5-21.4)	**20.0** (15.9-24.9)	**17.0** (12.0-23.4)	**22.2** (18.6-26.2)	**23.6** (16.7-32.3)	**22.1** (17.1-28.2)
West	**21.3** (17.2-26.1)	**27.4** (22.0-33.6)	**20.5** (16.7-24.8)	**21.9** (18.1-26.2)	**13.6** (8.9-20.2)	**19.9** (15.4-25.4)	**14.7** (11.6-18.5)	**14.5** (11.3-18.3)	**17.8** (13.9-22.4)	†	**14.6** (11.0-19.1)
East	**23.0** (16.8-30.6)	**21.6** (18.0-25.7)	**21.7** (18.2-25.6)	**18.3** (14.6-22.7)	**17.3** (13.3-21.1)	**14.8** (11.0-19.4)	**17.7** (12.2-25.0)	**14.9** (12.1-18.2)	**19.2** (15.9-23.0)	†	**15.2** (9.7-23.2)

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample of grades 9-12 in each year; (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (6) no significant differences 2023 vs. 2021; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 2003 significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (Grades 9–12)

In addition to asking about alcohol and drug use problems, we asked secondary students about their treatment experience. Specifically, the question was "*Were you in a treatment program at any time in the last 12 months because of your alcohol or drug use?*"

- In 2023, 1.0% (95% CI: 0.7%-1.4%) of secondary school students report that they had received treatment for their alcohol and/or drug use (data not presented).

1999–2023 Trends (Grades 9–12):

- The percentage of secondary school students who report receiving treatment has been relatively stable since 1999, fluctuating between 0.6% and 1.8%.

3.11 Attitudes and Perceptions

Perceived Risk

(Figures 3.11.1–3.11.3; Tables 3.11.1, A15)

In this section, we present the percentage of students who believe there is a "great risk" that people will harm themselves physically or in other ways if they use smoke cannabis regularly, vape/use e-cigarettes regularly, and smoke tobacco cigarettes regularly (first asked about in 2023).

2023 (Grades 7–12):

- Almost half (48.5%) of students in grades 7 to 12 think that smoking cannabis regularly poses a great risk of harm. Almost two-thirds (62.8%) of students believe that vaping/using e-cigarettes regularly poses a great risk of harm. Three-quarters (74.7%) of students believe that smoking tobacco cigarettes regularly poses a great risk of harm.

- Perceptions of risk of harm associated with regular cannabis smoking significantly decrease with grade. No grade variation is evident for perceived risk of regular vaping or regular cigarette smoking.

Trends (Grades 7–12):

- The percentage of students who perceive a great risk of harm associated with smoking cannabis regularly remained stable between 2021 and 2023. While the current estimate is significantly higher than those from 2017 and 2019 (about 38%-40%), the percentage has returned to a level seen in 1999 and the early 2000s.

- Looking back to 1989 and the early 1990s, the perceived risk of smoking cannabis regularly has decreased over the past three decades.

- The percentage of students who perceive a great risk of harm associated with vaping regularly shows a substantial increase since monitoring began in 2015, when the estimate was at about 10%.

Figure 3.11.1
Percentage Who Perceive "Great Risk" of Harm Associated with Drug Use, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7-12)

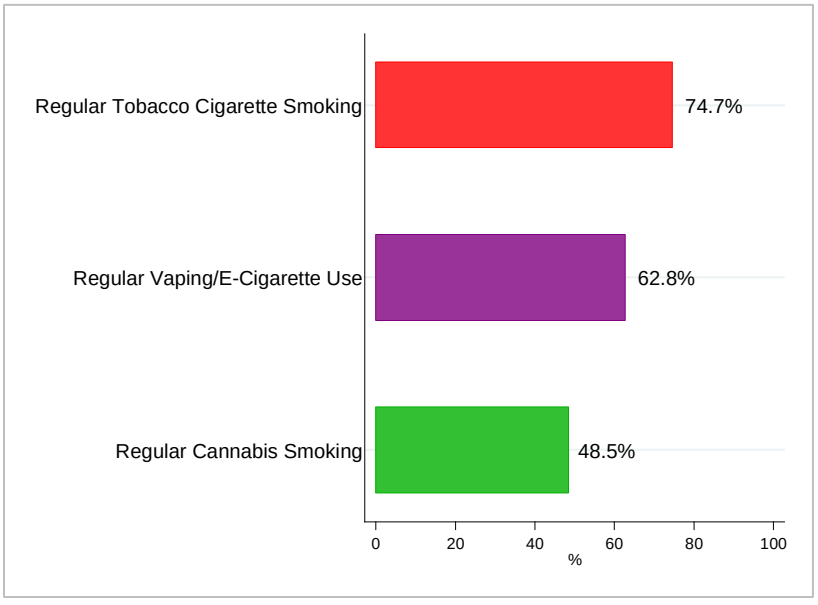


Figure 3.11.2
Percentage Who Perceive "Great Risk" of Harm Associated with Regular Cannabis Smoking and Regular Vaping/E-Cigarette Use, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

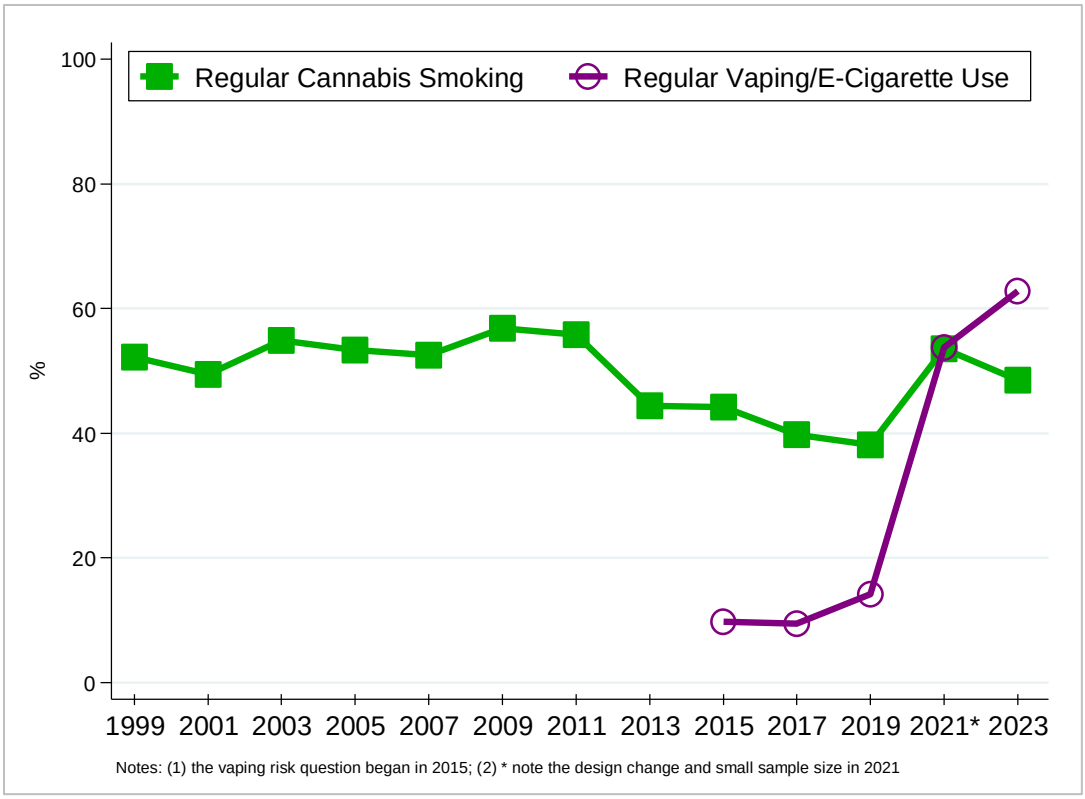


Figure 3.11.3
Percentage Who Perceive "Great Risk" of Harm Associated with Regular Cannabis Smoking, 1989–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

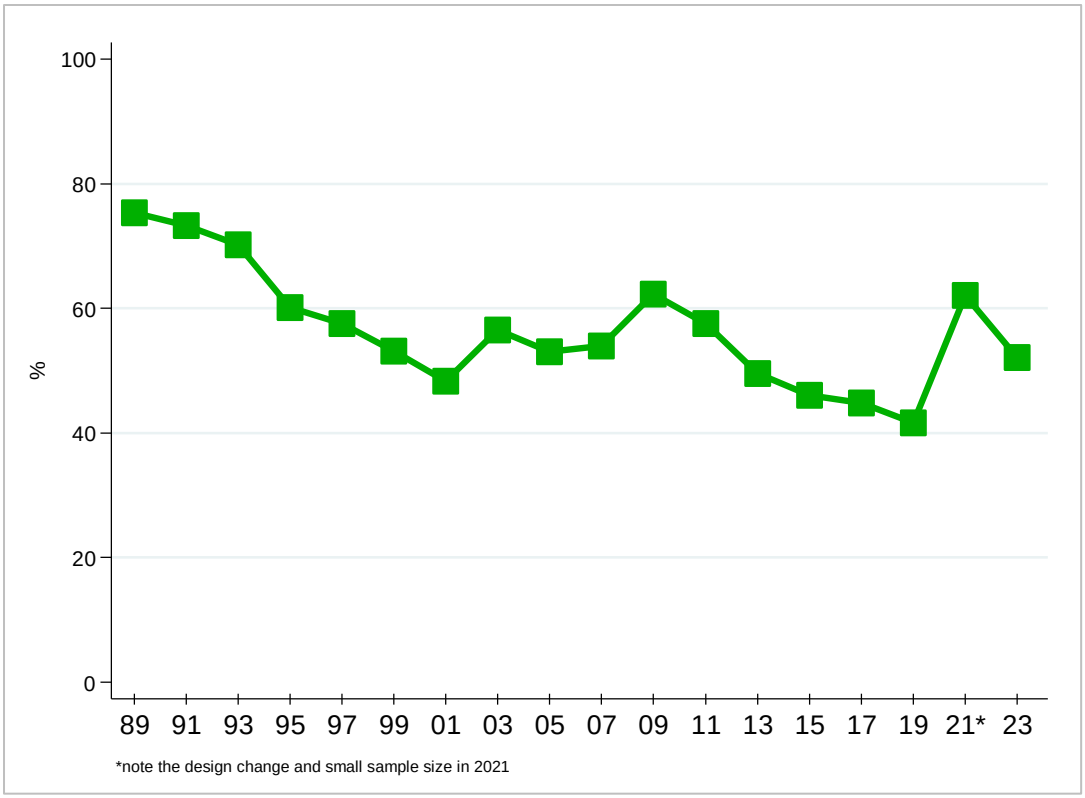


Table 3.11.1: Percentage Who Perceive "Great Risk" of Harm Associated with Drug Use by Grade, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(4447)	(1837)	(3152)	(3648)	(2935)	(4262)	(4472)	(4974)	(5023)	(5071)	(6525)	(1107)	(5054)	
Smoke Cannabis Regularly														
Total	**52.2**	**49.4**	**54.9**	**53.4**	**52.5**	**56.9**	**55.8**	**44.4**	**44.2**	**39.8**	**38.1**	**53.6**	**48.5**	bde
Grade 7	63.6	61.1	69.4	59.2	61.9	74.0	67.0	68.0	61.2	66.3	54.3	85.2	57.6	
Grade 8	60.2	58.7	66.8	59.5	59.8	67.0	63.8	54.5	62.0	61.8	49.1	75.4	59.0	
Grade 9	53.1	47.8	55.4	53.6	55.7	64.5	61.0	51.1	50.3	42.6	41.6	56.7	57.6	
Grade 10	45.5	48.2	48.4	54.9	50.6	52.4	52.3	39.0	44.3	28.4	37.1	40.0	45.5	
Grade 11	44.9	36.8	47.4	46.8	45.3	51.5	46.8	35.8	31.8	28.2	34.1	44.2	42.6	
Grade 12	45.2	44.4	46.8	47.8	45.2	42.3	50.1	32.8	31.3	22.4	27.0	27.7	35.6	
Vape (Use Electronic Cigarettes) Regularly														
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**9.8**	**9.5**	**14.2**	**53.8**	**62.8**	abcd
Grade 7									10.4	16.1	15.4	64.5	63.9	
Grade 8									10.6	11.0	12.9	61.5	64.1	
Grade 9									11.1	11.4	12.7	42.4	59.7	
Grade 10									8.3	5.6	16.4	44.2	61.0	
Grade 11									7.2	7.9	12.3	57.4	64.2	
Grade 12									11.0	6.6	15.5	55.0	64.2	
Smoke Tobacco Cigarettes Regularly														
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**74.7**	
Grade 7													74.1	
Grade 8													75.3	
Grade 9													76.8	
Grade 10													71.2	
Grade 11													75.2	
Grade 12													75.4	

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample since 2001; (2) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (3) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. 1999 significant difference, p<.01 (vs. 2015 for vapes); [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01 (trend analysis not conducted by grade).
Q: How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they…[behaviour]?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Perceived Drug Availability

(Figures 3.11.4-3.11.6; Tables 3.11.2, A16)

In this section we present the percentage reporting that it is "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get alcohol, tobacco cigarettes, vapes/e-cigarettes, cannabis, and prescription opioid pain relievers without visiting a doctor.

2023 (Grades 7–12):

- Among the substances asked about, alcohol and vapes/e-cigarettes are the most readily available, followed by tobacco cigarettes, cannabis, and prescription opioids.

- The perceived availability of substances significantly varies by grade, as drugs become easier to obtain with increasing grade/age.

1999–2023 Trends (Grades 7–12):

- The perceived availability of alcohol has increased since 2019, returning to an elevated level seen in 1999 and the early 2000s.

- The perceived availability of cannabis has remained relatively stable in recent years (since 2015), but is currently lower than estimates from 1999 and the early 2000s.

- The perceived availability of tobacco cigarettes remained relatively stable in recent years, but is currently lower than in 2005 (first year of monitoring).

- The perceived availability of prescription opioids significantly increased between 2021 and 2023, and is currently higher than previous estimates seen since 2011 (first year of monitoring).

- The perceived availability of vapes significantly increased between 2021 (first year of monitoring) and 2023.

1981–2023 Trends (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only):

- The perceived availability of alcohol has fluctuated over the past four decades. The current level is similar to the elevated levels seen in the mid-1990s.

- The perceived availability of cannabis has fluctuated over the past four decades. The currently level is higher than the lows seen in the late-1980s, but lower than the levels seen in the late 1990s.

Figure 3.11.4
Percentage Reporting it is "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to Obtain the Drug, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)

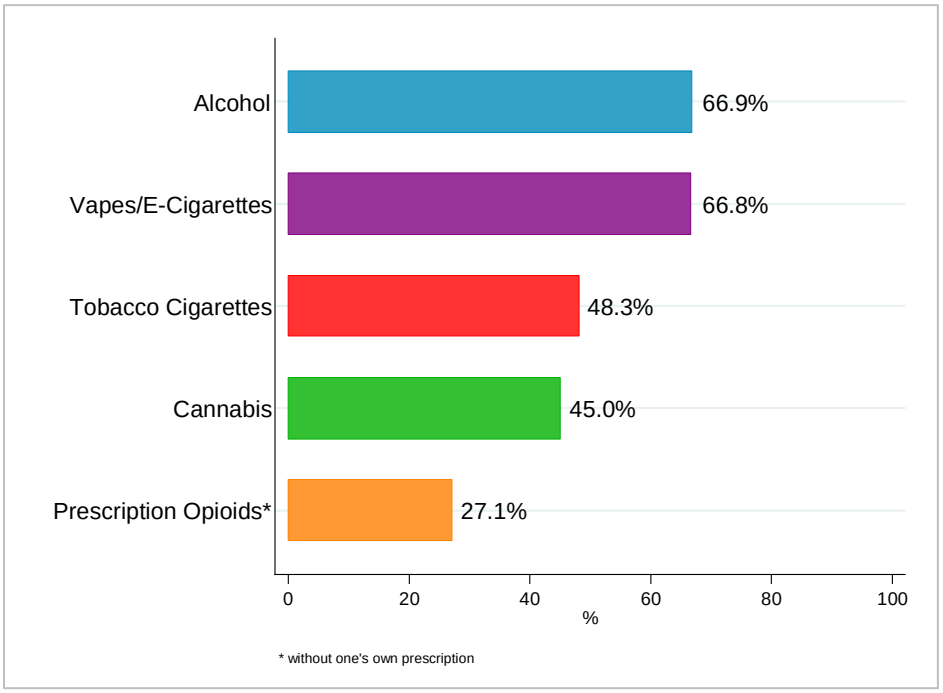
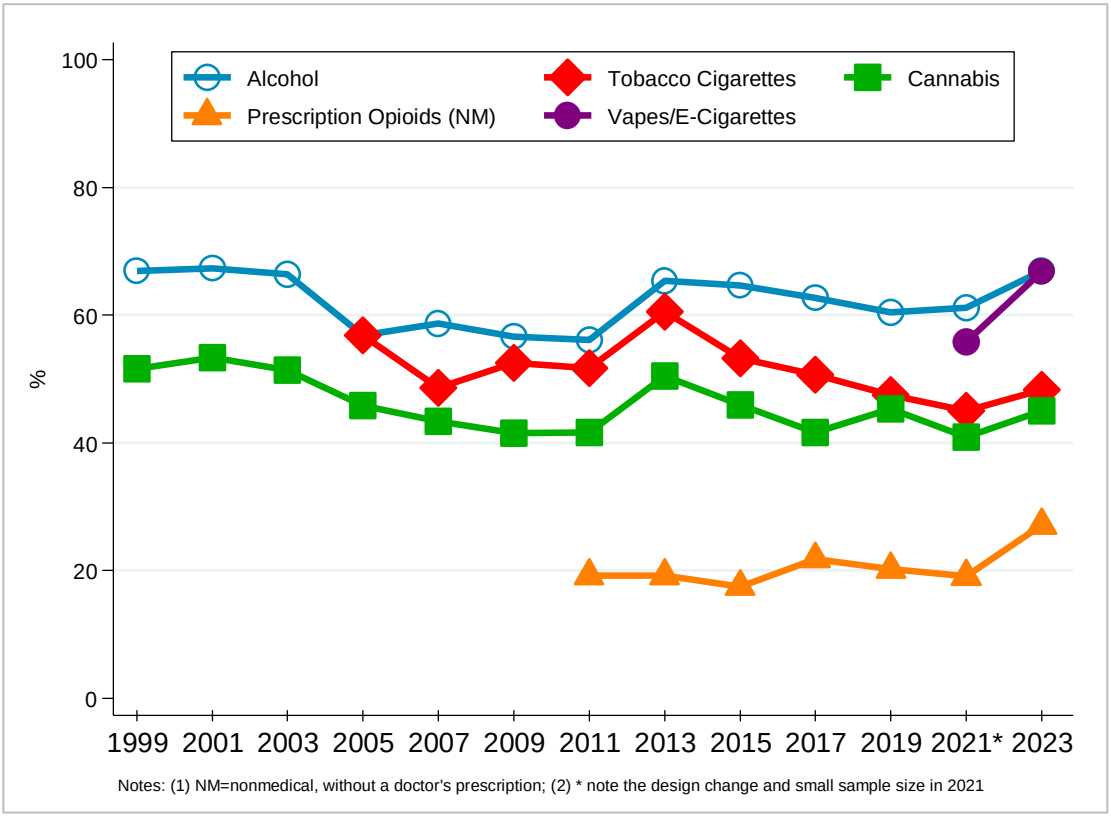
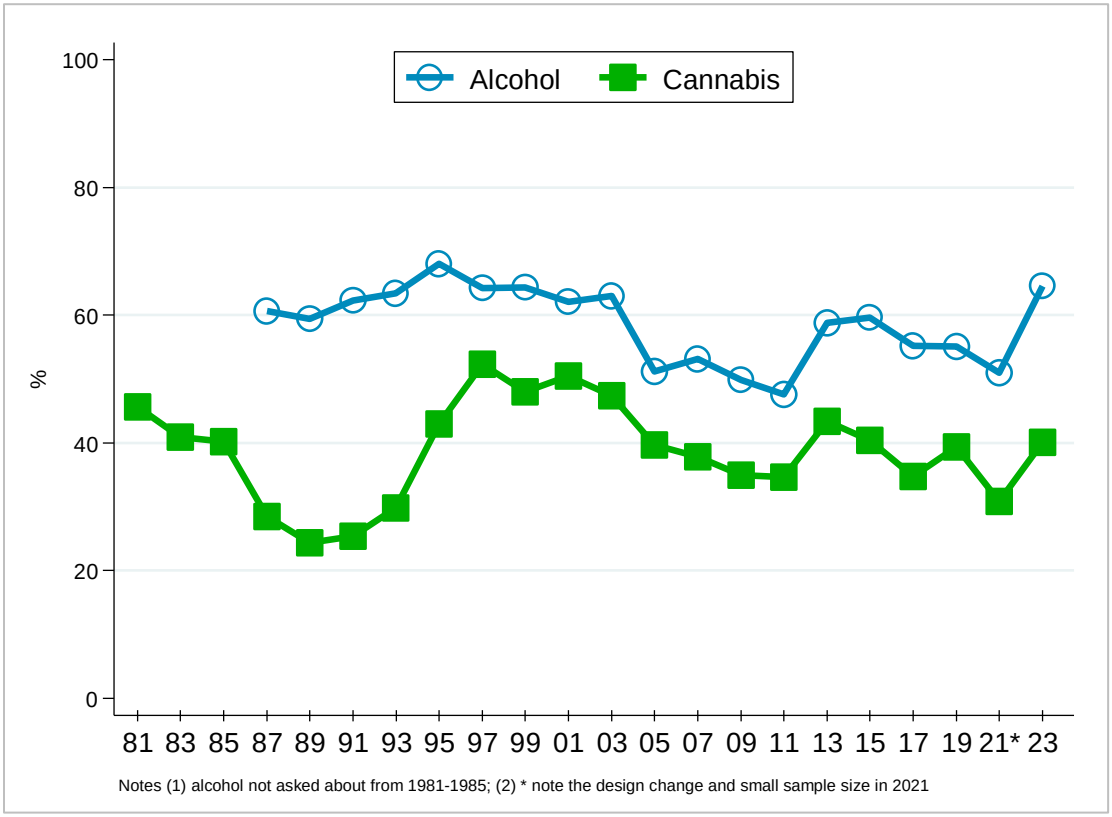


Figure 3.11.5
Percentage Reporting it is "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to Obtain the Drug, 1999–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Notes: (1) NM=nonmedical, without a doctor's prescription; (2) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Figure 3.11.6
Percentage Reporting it is "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to Obtain Cannabis and Alcohol, 1981–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)



Notes (1) alcohol not asked about from 1981-1985; (2) * note the design change and small sample size in 2021

Table 3.11.2: Percentage Reporting it is "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to Obtain the Drug by Grade, 1999–2023 OSDUHS

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(4447)	(1837)	(3152)	(3648)	(2935)	(4261)	(4472)	(4974)	(5023)	(5071)	(6525)	(1107)	(5054)	
Alcohol														
Total	**66.9**	**67.3**	**66.4**	**56.9**	**58.7**	**56.6**	**56.1**	**65.4**	**64.6**	**62.7**	**60.4**	**61.2**	**66.9**	be
Grade 7	33.8	31.9	33.8	24.6	29.4	19.7	21.0	23.0	29.1	32.0	33.5	24.1	48.5	
Grade 8	47.9	52.3	43.9	32.8	35.5	32.8	34.8	45.0	40.5	44.8	41.2	44.5	52.5	
Grade 9	66.6	68.8	66.2	53.0	54.2	50.0	48.1	63.5	59.2	53.4	52.8	53.9	67.6	
Grade 10	79.2	80.0	75.1	66.0	63.8	62.1	56.3	68.3	70.2	68.1	64.7	70.7	71.3	
Grade 11	87.2	85.1	82.6	74.5	74.6	73.0	68.6	78.4	80.7	77.1	70.1	76.4	74.3	
Grade 12	87.6	89.6	86.7	83.8	84.5	82.0	85.8	86.8	83.3	86.5	76.6	90.4	78.0	
Cannabis														
Total	**51.6**	**53.4**	**51.4**	**45.8**	**43.4**	**41.5**	**41.6**	**50.5**	**46.0**	**41.6**	**45.3**	**40.9**	**45.0**	cde
Grade 7	12.2	14.9	14.5	8.9	10.6	4.2	5.7	5.4	7.8	8.2	9.6	10.4	22.2	
Grade 8	30.9	27.6	28.4	21.4	15.7	13.5	15.6	22.0	13.2	11.9	18.8	12.8	23.5	
Grade 9	50.3	59.5	51.6	43.8	39.0	35.3	32.4	43.4	35.6	31.2	36.9	26.0	37.3	
Grade 10	66.7	68.6	63.5	58.1	54.0	54.0	43.7	56.5	52.8	53.1	51.0	51.2	51.5	
Grade 11	75.2	76.6	70.6	64.2	62.3	58.5	60.2	68.8	67.0	61.5	59.5	58.8	56.6	
Grade 12	76.2	73.6	70.9	71.3	68.1	63.8	69.6	74.4	69.6	68.3	65.6	78.4	65.4	
Tobacco Cigarettes														
Total	—	—	—	**56.9**	**48.6**	**52.5**	**51.7**	**60.6**	**53.3**	**50.7**	**47.5**	**45.0**	**48.3**	cde
Grade 7				18.5	17.7	12.2	14.0	19.0	16.1	21.8	20.2	11.6	30.0	
Grade 8				29.4	24.3	26.2	28.9	34.6	26.4	25.1	27.8	15.5	31.7	
Grade 9				58.1	46.1	48.2	45.3	53.5	43.6	44.7	40.6	42.9	45.6	
Grade 10				67.8	52.8	61.6	52.5	64.4	61.8	58.6	50.3	54.7	49.2	
Grade 11				76.1	67.0	72.0	69.7	76.1	70.2	67.1	56.6	57.5	57.0	
Grade 12				83.6	73.3	74.8	78.0	85.1	74.4	73.3	65.4	78.8	65.4	
Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers*														
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	**19.2**	**19.2**	**17.5**	**21.8**	**20.2**	**19.1**	**27.1**	abcde
Grade 7							6.6	13.4	13.6	15.5	11.8	22.3	26.4	
Grade 8							13.7	11.0	13.5	23.1	17.1	13.3	30.2	
Grade 9							22.1	14.4	14.9	16.8	17.7	15.8	28.1	
Grade 10							19.5	17.3	18.3	22.6	21.7	23.6	30.3	
Grade 11							24.4	25.6	19.6	24.5	24.6	22.1	22.2	
Grade 12							23.7	26.0	21.4	25.9	22.8	18.3	26.3	
Vapes/E-cigarettes														
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**55.8**	**66.8**	a
Grade 7												16.9	45.1	
Grade 8												29.8	50.3	
Grade 9												49.9	69.1	
Grade 10												68.0	73.4	
Grade 11												80.5	74.2	
Grade 12												84.0	78.2	

Notes: (1) based on a random half sample in each year; (2) * such as Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol #3, Demerol, Dilaudid, OxyNeo, codeine, without visiting a doctor; (3) note the design change and small sample size in 2021; (4) [a] 2023 vs. 2021 significant difference, p<.01; [b] 2023 vs. 2019 significant difference, p<.01; [c] 2023 vs. the first year of monitoring significant difference, p<.01; [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01 (trend analysis not conducted by grade).

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Source of Tobacco Cigarettes

(Figure 3.11.7)

The OSDUHS included a question about where students obtained tobacco cigarettes, if they smoked at least one whole cigarette in the past 12 months: "*Thinking about the last time you smoked a whole tobacco cigarette in the last 12 months, where did you get it from?*" The response options were: *a corner store, small grocery store, supermarket, gas station, or bar; over the Internet; a friend; a family member; someone else; a First Nations community; another source not listed;* or *don't remember*. We restricted our analysis to students younger than age 19 who smoked cigarettes in the past year.

2023 (Grades 7–12):

- Among underage students who reported smoking at least one whole cigarette in the past 12 months, the most common source reported was a friend. The least common sources were the Internet or a First Nations community (estimates suppressed).

Source of Vapes/Electronic Cigarettes

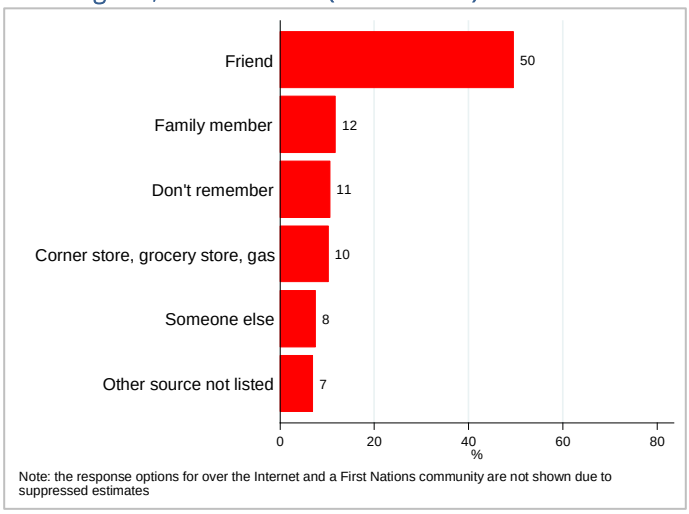
(Figure 3.11.8)

The OSDUHS included a question about where students obtained vaping devices/electronic cigarettes: "*Thinking about the last time you vaped in the last 12 months, where did you get the vaping device from?*" The response options were: *bought it at a convenience store, small grocery store, supermarket; bought it at a gas station; bought it at a pharmacy; bought it at a vape shop/lounge; bought it online/over the Internet; bought it off a friend or someone else; gave money to someone else to buy it for me; tried a friend's/borrowed one; got it as a gift or free sample; took it from a family member; got it from another source not listed;* or *don't remember.* We restricted our analysis to students younger than age 19 who vaped in the past year.

2023 (Grades 7–12):

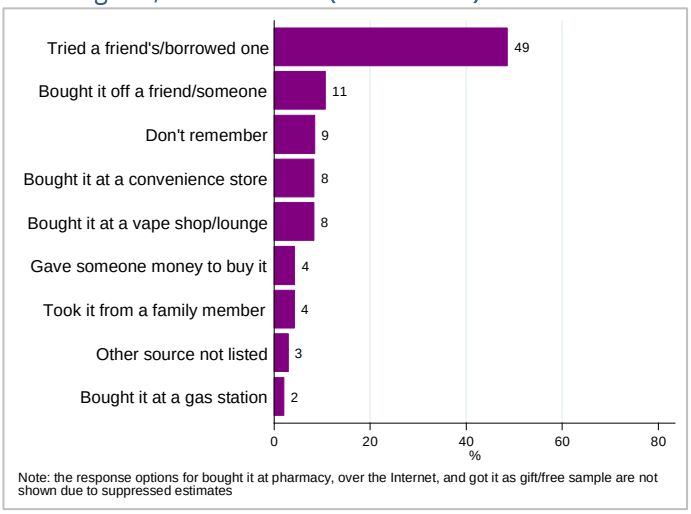
- Among underage students who reported using vapes/e-cigarettes in the past 12 months, the most common source reported was a friend. The least common sources were purchasing at a pharmacy, over the Internet, or receiving it as a gift or free sample (all estimates suppressed).

Figure 3.11.7
Source of Previous Whole Tobacco Cigarette Among Smokers Under Age 19, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Note: the response options for over the Internet and a First Nations community are not shown due to suppressed estimates

Figure 3.11.8
Source of Previous Vape/Electronic Cigarette Among Users Under Age 19, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Note: the response options for bought it at pharmacy, over the Internet, and got it as gift/free sample are not shown due to suppressed estimates

Source of Alcohol

(Figure 3.11.9)

Students were asked how they usually obtain alcohol with the question: "*In the last 12 months, how did you usually get the alcohol you drank?*" The response options were: *given to me by a friend; Given to me by a family member; took it from home without my parents' permission; took it from somewhere else; bought it at a LCBO store; bought it at a beer store; bought it at a grocery store; bought it at a restaurant, bar, or club; bought it at a public event such as a concert or sporting event; I gave someone else money to buy it for me; I got it some other way;* or *don't remember*. We restricted our analysis to students younger than age 19 who drank in the past year.

2023 (Grades 7–12):

- Among underage students who reported drinking in the past year, the most common method of obtaining alcohol was receiving it from a family member. The least common methods of obtaining alcohol were purchasing it at a beer store, grocery store, or at a public event (estimates suppressed).

Source of Cannabis

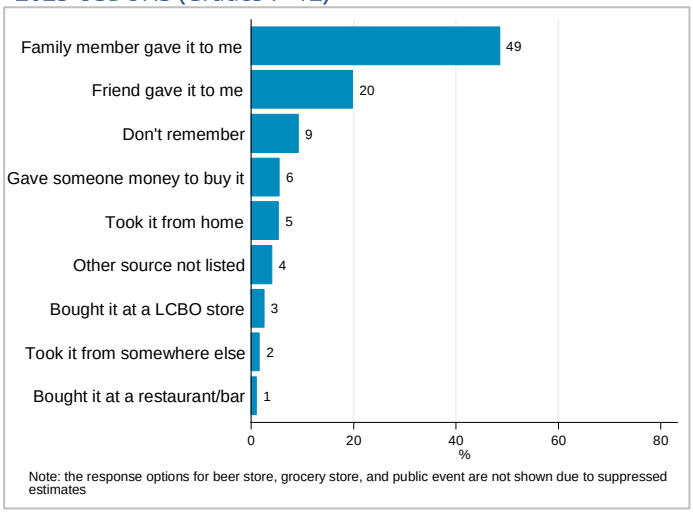
(Figure 3.11.10)

Students were asked how they usually obtain cannabis with the question: "*In the last 12 months, how did you usually get the cannabis you used?*" The response options were: *given to me by a brother or sister*; *given to me by a friend; it was shared around a group of friends; bought it from a friend; bought it from someone I have heard about, but did not know personally; bought it online from the Ontario Cannabis Store website; bought it online from another website; bought it at a cannabis store; bought it at a medical dispensary; given to me by one of my parents; took it from home without my parents' permission; I grow my own; I got it some other way;* or *don't remember*. We restricted our analysis to students younger than age 19 who used in the past year.

2023 (Grades 7–12):

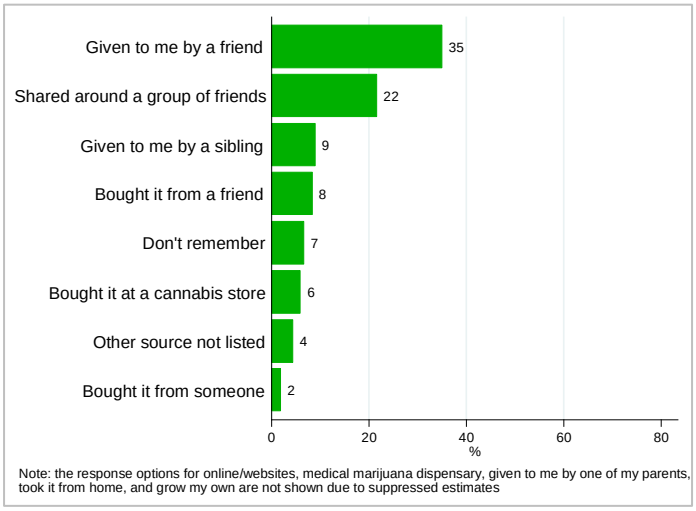
- Among those who reported using cannabis in the past year, the most common source was friends. The least common methods of obtaining cannabis were from an online source, a medical dispensary, receiving it from parents, taking it from home, or growing one's own (estimates suppressed).

Figure 3.11.9
Usual Source of Alcohol Among Drinkers Under Age 19, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Note: the response options for beer store, grocery store, and public event are not shown due to suppressed estimates

Figure 3.11.10
Usual Source of Cannabis Among Users Under Age 19, 2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7–12)



Note: the response options for online/websites, medical marijuana dispensary, given to me by one of my parents, took it from home, and grow my own are not shown due to suppressed estimates

4. DISCUSSION

THE PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO DRUG USE

Tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use are among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality, both during adolescence and in adulthood. A public health approach to drug use ultimately seeks to improve the health, safety, and well-being of the entire population. The OSDUHS performs several public health functions including: identifying the extent of drug use in the mainstream student population, identifying its timing and pattern during adolescence, identifying the consequences of drug use and misuse, identifying risk and protective factors, tracking changes in drug use and new forms of use over time, and identifying priority areas for further research. Since 1977, the OSDUHS has been providing a knowledge base for designing and targeting preventive and health promotion programs, informing public health policy, evaluating the efficacy of a policy or program on a population level, and disseminating trustworthy information to health and education professionals and the general public.

ENCOURAGING FINDINGS

This report presented findings about the past year use of alcohol, tobacco cigarettes, vaping devices, cannabis and other drugs, and the nonmedical (NM) use of prescription drugs. It also examined changes in drug use and other related measures since 1977. There are many encouraging findings from the 2023 OSDUHS, as described below.

- The vast majority of students in Ontario do not smoke **tobacco cigarettes**. The past year prevalence of cigarette smoking began to decline dramatically during the 2000s, decreasing to historical lows in recent years. The percentage of students reporting past year use of a **waterpipe** (hookah) and **smokeless tobacco** reached historical lows in 2023. Past year **vaping/electronic cigarette** use shows a significant decline since the peak seen in 2019. Simultaneously, the perception of risk of harm associated with vaping regularly has increased since 2019.

- Currently just over one-third of students in grades 7 to 12 drink **alcohol.** Alcohol use has been on a steady decline, reaching all-time lows in recent years. The magnitude of the decline has been even greater over the longer term, since the late 1970s, when roughly three-quarters of students drank. More importantly, **binge drinking** (five or more drinks on one occasion) is significantly lower today compared with elevated levels evident during the two peak periods seen in the late 1970s and the late 1990s. Further, the percentage of secondary school students reporting **hazardous or harmful drinking** significantly declined over the past two decades.

- The past year prevalence for **cannabis** use has not significantly increased among Ontario students since it was legalized for adults in October 2018. The findings indicate that cannabis use has significantly declined since 2019, continuing on a steady downward trend over the past two decades.

- Past year prevalence estimates for all **illicit drugs** monitored (e.g., mushrooms, LSD, cocaine, ecstasy [MDMA]) have declined over the decades, some reaching historical lows in recent years.

- About four-in-ten (42%) of students **used no drug** in the past year, including alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco cigarettes/vapes. The proportion abstaining is significantly higher than the estimates from even a decade ago, and substantially higher than the estimates from 1999/early 2000s, when only about one-quarter of students reported no drug use.

- One function of the OSDUHS is to track the **emergence of new drugs** or new forms of administration. **Fentanyl** use was first asked about in 2017 and since then the survey shows that less than 1% of secondary school students use this drug. This suggests that this drug has not measurably diffused into the mainstream student population.

- **Driving after drinking alcohol** among licensed students is lower in 2023 than decades ago, and markedly lower than the late 1970s and early 1980s. Similarly, **driving after cannabis use** among licensed students has declined over the past two decades

- The percentage of all students reporting **riding in a vehicle with a driver who was drinking alcohol,** and the percentage **riding in a vehicle with a driver who was using drugs** has significantly declined over the past two decades.

- The **age of initiation** for drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco cigarettes, and using cannabis has increased. Our data show that students today initiate smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, and using cannabis later in adolescence than students did decades ago. Beginning use at a later age predicts fewer substance-related problems later on in life.

Study Limitations

Although an in-school probability sampling survey is the most feasible and valid method to monitor drug use in the student population, those interpreting the OSDUHS results should consider the following limitations.

These survey data are based on self-reports, which cannot be readily verified, nor are they based on clinical assessment. Respondents may unintentionally misreport their responses due to various errors in the response process. Further, self-reports of sensitive and/or illegal experiences, such as drug use, likely underestimate the true rate by some unknown magnitude, but the extent of underreporting is not likely to greatly vary over time. Thus, estimates of change should remain valid and unaffected by such constant bias.

The bias caused by nonrespondents can affect our estimates. We do not know whether, or by how much, nonrespondents differ from respondents. It is possible that absent students, suspended students, and those who were not allowed or refused to participate are more likely to use drugs than those who did participate.

Our findings cannot be generalized to adolescents who are not attending school (e.g., dropouts, street youth). Drug use in such groups can differ appreciably from what is found in the mainstream student population. However, the bias caused by such noncoverage depends not only on the difference in drug use between those surveyed and those not, but also on the size of the group missed. Thus, although drug use may be more likely among those adolescents excluded because they are out-of-scope, if the size of the excluded group is small relative to the total population, the bias will not likely be substantial. In our case, the non-school group excluded from our target constitutes only about 5% of the total adolescent population between the ages of 12 and 18 in Ontario.

The data reflect a snapshot in time and because we do not re-survey the same students over time, we cannot identify causes of individual change or the temporal order of risk factors (i.e., whether X causes Y, or Y causes X).

Finally, the findings in such a large study are numerous and complex. Random variation causes us to be cautious in interpreting change between two points in time. Therefore, we place greater emphasis on change occurring over multiple survey time points.

SOME PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Several findings should be viewed as public health concerns.

- The past year **nonmedical use of prescription opioids** (e.g., Percocet, Percodan, Tylenol #3, Demerol, Dilaudid, OxyNEO) has increased since 2021 to just over 20% among students, returning to an elevated level seen when monitoring began in 2007. Similarly, the past year **nonmedical use of over-the-counter cough/cold medication** increased since 2021 to about 10% among students, returning to an elevated level seen about a decade ago.

- The OSDUHS has been monitoring the use of **vaping devices/electronic cigarettes** since 2015. Although the 2023 results show a decrease since a peak in 2019, the past year prevalence (vaping more than just a few puffs) remains elevated at 13% among students. The prevalence increases to over one-in-five 12th graders. About 5% of students vape daily. The majority of those who report vaping in the past year vape nicotine. The perceived availability of vaping devices has increased since the previous survey in 2021; therefore, these devices have become easier to obtain.

- Despite a downward trend in use, **alcohol** remains the most commonly used drug among Ontario students. Just over one-third (36%) of all students drink alcohol, and this increases to almost two-thirds of 12th graders. **Binge drinking** remains at an elevated level, as about one-in-ten students report drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion at least once in the past month. Among 12th graders, over one-in-five binge drink at least once a month.

- Despite the downward trend over time, about one-in-eight (13%) secondary school students **drink hazardously/harmfully**, meaning that their drinking increases their risk of current or future physical and social problems. One-in-seven (14%) secondary school students **could not remember what happened when they were drinking** on at least one occasion in the past year, and 5% were **injured or injured someone** in the past year due to their drinking.

- **Vehicles**: Despite long-term declines in drinking and driving, there are still about 6% of licensed students in grades 10 through 12 who report drinking and driving at least once in the past year. A similar proportion (6%) of licensed students report driving after using cannabis. Reports of these behaviours have remained stable for a few years, despite continued efforts to reduce impaired driving. About 17% of all students report being a passenger with a driver who had been drinking, and 9% rode with a driver who had been using drugs. Especially worrisome is that the likelihood of being a passenger with an intoxicated driver (from either alcohol or cannabis) increases significantly with grade (e.g., about one-in-five 12th graders report these behaviours). All these behaviours increase the risk of unintentional injuries – the leading cause of death among young people. An important message from these data is that crash risk is not restricted to drivers.

- About one-in-six (17%) secondary school students report **consuming cannabis by vaping** and this percentage has significantly increased since monitoring first began in 2017 (7%).

- About one-in-nine (11%) secondary school students report **using cannabis for a mental health concern** (such as to relieve symptoms of depression or anxiety) in the past year.

- Although a majority of drugs examined in the 2023 OSDUHS have past year prevalence estimates below 5%, we should not dismiss these rates as unimportant. Whether a given drug poses significant problems in the population depends not only on the percentage using, but also on the likelihood of becoming dependent and of other hazards as well. Thus, it would be irresponsible to ignore the harm caused by drugs used by a small proportion. Even low prevalence rates represent large numbers of students. If we extrapolate our estimates to the total population of students in grades 7 through 12 in Ontario's publicly funded schools, we estimate that about 19,500 (2%) use cannabis daily, and about 29,300 (3%) smoke tobacco cigarettes.

DEMOGRAPHIC CORRELATES

The strongest correlate of drug use found in this report was **grade or age** (see Table 4.2 for an overview). Generally, drug use is more likely to occur as grade level increases, typically peaking in grade 11 (ages 16/17) or grade 12 (ages 17/18). The exception to this is nonmedical use of cough/cold medication, which is most prevalent among 7th and 8th graders and declines by 9th grade. Potential harmful indicators such as hazardous/harmful drinking, symptoms of cannabis dependence, intoxicated driving, and riding in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking or using drugs significantly increase with grade.

Sex (at birth) is also associated with use of certain drugs. As summarized in Table 4.2, males are significantly more likely than females to use smokeless tobacco. Females are more likely than males to use vaping devices, alcohol, cannabis, and prescription opioid pain relievers (nonmedical use). Females are also more likely to report hazardous/harmful drinking, symptoms of cannabis dependence, and using cannabis to cope with a mental health concern. Females are also more likely to report riding in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking or using drugs.

Several differences according to **region** of the province are evident in 2023 (Table 4.2). Compared with the provincial average, students in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) are less likely to vape, drink alcohol, and use mushrooms. Compared with the provincial average, students in the North region are more likely to vape, drink alcohol, use mushrooms, and use cough/cold medication nonmedically. Students in the West region are less likely to use cough/cold medication nonmedically.

POSSIBILITIES FOR PREVENTION

Although abstinence is the ideal goal for prevention programs targeted to adolescents, research has shown that preventing adolescents from using drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, is difficult, and, at best, effects are usually short-lived. However, delaying the initiation of use, especially heavy use, and preventing or minimizing harmful consequences from drug use may be more feasible goals. Our survey findings suggest that the prime period for prevention programs is between grades 7 and 10 (ages 12–15), as this is the most likely time for the initiation of substance use. However, the prevalence of several drugs (such as alcohol and cannabis) continues to increase in grades 11 and 12, suggesting that prevention or harm reduction efforts should extend into the older grades.

Findings also show that problematic use of alcohol and drugs is not rare among youth. We found that related risk behaviours and harms, such as driving while intoxicated, being a passenger with a driver who was using alcohol or drugs, and being injured while intoxicated are not uncommon occurrences. Thus, there is a need for programs to focus on reducing these behaviours and reducing the potential for harm.

A relatively smaller percentage of Ontario students use so-called “street” or “hard” drugs such as cocaine, hallucinogenic drugs (e.g., mushrooms or LSD), or methamphetamine when compared with the percentage that use prescription drugs (e.g., opioid pain relievers) or cough/cold medications nonmedically. One likely explanation for this shift is that young people perceive these medications to be less harmful than “street” drugs given that they are legal and have therapeutic purposes. Any prevention program should address the use of medication to “get high” by educating youth and parents about the risks of harm associated with the nonmedical use of these drugs.

Prevention efforts should include a component that targets young people’s beliefs and attitudes about drugs, specifically the risks of physical harms that can occur from use. Our findings show that beliefs

about risk of harm are drug-specific. This, combined with the divergence in historical trajectories of past year use of the various drugs studied over time, suggests that any prevention effort should provide drug-specific information. Furthermore, considering the decrease over the past three decades in the perceived risk of using cannabis, there is a need for education about the short-term and long-term effects of cannabis use and the effects of the various modes of use.

While prevention efforts cannot control access to drugs through peer groups, the availability and accessibility of legal products such as tobacco cigarettes, vapes/electronic cigarettes, cannabis, and alcohol can be controlled through enhanced government policies. There is strong research evidence showing that reducing access through regulations such as increased taxes, enforcing minimum age laws, reducing the number of sales outlets, and restricting marketing can reduce substance use among youth.

FUTURE OSDUHS MONITORING

Youth drinking, smoking, vaping, and other drug use are constantly changing, requiring ongoing monitoring and evaluation. As new drugs and new methods of use come on the scene, it is important to assess their use, related harms, and perceptions. Monitoring these health risk behaviours provides valuable information about determinants, co-occurrences, and changes over time. These data enable us to evaluate the effects of policies (e.g., smoking and vaping bans on school property, zero-tolerance policies), education programs, and whether health objectives are achieved. Scientific surveys, such as the OSDUHS, can also be useful for identifying which population groups are at risk and help identify potential future trends that have implications for future service and programming needs.

Measuring change in student drug use, age at initiation, and perceptions over the past 45 years has been one of the most important contributions of the OSDUHS to drug research, policy, and prevention in Canada. We showed that important strides were made during the 1980s in reducing drug use among students, only to be followed by substantial increases in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Since then there has been a second decline in prevalence rates for most drugs measured in the survey.

Despite this progress, we should not be complacent. History has shown that the values and lifestyles of adolescents can change quickly, and so too can the character of drug use. Not only do new drugs and new methods of use emerge regularly, but also old drugs are rediscovered by a new generation of young people who may not be aware of their adverse effects. The social and legislative environments surrounding legal and illegal drugs are also in constant flux. The public health response to any policy changes requires accurate information. Although we cannot be certain what the near future holds for student drug use, we can closely monitor trends in use to ensure that programmatic responses are based not on sensationalized fears, but rather on sound scientific information.

Table 4.1: Significant Changes in Past Year Drug Use by Subgroup, 2023 vs. 2021, 2023 vs. 2019, and 2023 vs. 1999

	Tobacco Cigarettes	Vapes/E- Cigarettes	Waterpipes	Smokeless Tobacco	Alcohol	Binge Drinking	Cannabis	Mushrooms	LSD	Methamphetamine	Cocaine	Ecstasy (MDMA)	Opioid Pain Relievers (NM)	Cough/Cold Medication (NM)	Any Drug Use
Total	▼▽	▼	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▽	▼▽	▽	▼▽	▼▽	↑▲	↑▲△	▼▽
Males	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▽	▼▽	▼▽	↑▲	↑△	▼▽
Females	▽	▼△	▼▽		▽	▼▽		▽	▽	▽	▼▽	▼▽	↑▲	↑▲	▽
Grade 7	▽				▽	▽		--	--	--	--	--	▲	▲△	--
Grade 8	▽				▽	▽	▽	--	--	--	--	--	▲	▲△	--
Grade 9	▽	▼			▽	▼▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▲		▽
Grade 10	▽	▼	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▲		▽
Grade 11	▽	▼	▽	▽	▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▲		▽
Grade 12	▼▽	▼	▼▽	▼▽	▽	▽		▽	▼▽	▽	▼▽	▽	▲		▼▽
GTA	▽		▼▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▲	▲	▽
North	▼▽	▼	▽		▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽		▽	▲	↑▲△	▽
West	▽	▼	▽		▼▽	▼▽	▼▽	▽	▽	▽	▼▽	▽	▲		▽
East	▼▽	▼	▽		▽	▽	▼▽	▽	▽	▽		▽	↑▲	△	▼▽

Notes: (1) ↑↓ significant increase or decrease in 2023 vs. 2021, p<.01; (2) ▲▼ significant increase or decrease in 2023 vs. 2019; (3) △ ▽ significant increase or decrease in 2023 vs. 1999 for most drugs, p<.01 (vs. 2001 for ecstasy, vs. 2003 for cocaine, vs. 2007 for opioid pain relievers, and Any NM Prescription Drug Use, vs. 2009 for cough/cold medication, vs. 2011 for smokeless tobacco, vs. 2013 for waterpipes, vs. 2015 for vapes/electronic cigarettes); (3) -- indicates question not asked of that grade; (4) NM=nonmedical use, without one's own doctor's prescription; (5) GTA=Greater Toronto Area; (6) "Binge Drinking" refers to drinking five or more drinks on one occasion at least once in the past month; (7) "Any Drug Use" index is based on seven drugs asked about over time (excludes alcohol, tobacco, cannabis); (8) heroin, tranquillizers/sedatives, and ADHD drugs are not presented as use of these drugs show relative stability over time.

Table 4.2: Significant Subgroup Differences in Past Year Drug Use, 2023 OSDUHS

	Tobacco Cigarettes	Vapes/ E-Cigarettes	Waterpipes	Smokeless Tobacco	Alcohol	Binge Drinking	Cannabis	Mushrooms	Opioid Pain Relievers (NM)	Cough/Cold Medication (NM)	Any NM Prescription Drug	Any Drug Use
Sex Effect	ns	***	ns	***	***	ns	***	ns	***	ns	***	***
		F ↑		M ↑	F ↑		F ↑		F ↑		F ↑	F ↑
Grade Effect	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	ns	***	ns	ns
(compared with previous grade)					8 ↑ 7		8 ↑ 7	--				
		9 ↑ 8			9 ↑ 8	9 ↑ 8	9 ↑ 8			9 ↓ 8		
		10 ↑ 9			10 ↑ 9	10 ↑ 9	10 ↑ 9	10 ↑ 9				
	11 ↑ 10				11 ↑ 10		11 ↑ 10					
					12 ↑ 11	12 ↑ 11	12 ↑ 11					
Region Effect	ns	***	ns	ns	***	ns	ns	***	ns	**	ns	ns
(region compared with Ontario)		GTA ↓			GTA ↓			GTA ↓				
		N ↑			N ↑			N ↑		N ↑		
										W ↓		

Notes: (1) overall tests of effect are based on a univariate chi-square statistic, *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001; (2) subgroup comparisons are based on *adjusted logistic regressions*; (3) -- indicates question not asked of grades 7 and 8 students; (4) ns=non-significant; (5) "Binge Drinking" refers to drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion at least once in the past month; (6) NM=nonmedical use, without one's own doctor's prescription; (7) GTA=Greater Toronto Area, N=North, W=West, E=East; (8) past year use of LSD, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, ADHD drugs (NM), and tranquillizers/sedatives (NM) show no significant differences according to sex, grade, or region and, therefore, are not presented.

5. APPENDICES

1. Long-Term Drug Use Tables, 1977–2023

2. Drugs No Longer Monitored in the OSDUHS

Appendix 1: Long-Term Drug Use Tables, 1977–2023

Table A1: Percentage Using the Drug At Least Once in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
GRADES 7, 9, and 11																								
(n)	(3927)	(3920)	(2991)	(3614)	(3146)	(3376)	(3040)	(2961)	(2617)	(2907)	(3072)	(2424)	(2013)	(3389)	(3969)	(3215)	(4424)	(4669)	(5211)	(5225)	(5686)	(7059)	(1177)	(4972)
Cigarettes	**29.2** (26.7-31.8)	**35.0** (32.3-37.7)	**28.8** (25.4-32.5)	**29.0** (25.6-32.6)	**23.6** (21.1-26.2)	**22.9** (21.1-24.8)	**22.2** (20.3-24.2)	**20.1** (18.4-22.0)	**23.4** (21.8-25.2)	**27.3** (25.2-29.5)	**27.2** (25.4-29.0)	**26.6** (23.5-30.0)	**21.2** (17.7-25.2)	**17.4** (15.3-19.7)	**12.7** (11.1-14.5)	**10.8** (9.3-12.6)	**9.3** (8.0-10.9)	**7.2** (6.0-8.4)	**6.3** (4.9-8.0)	**6.0** (5.0-7.2)	**5.2** (3.9-6.8)	**3.9** (3.2-4.8)	†	**2.7** (1.9-3.9)
Alcohol	**72.8** (70.4-75.1)	**73.7** (71.6-75.8)	**70.1** (67.7-72.3)	**69.0** (66.1-71.9)	**66.3** (64.7-67.9)	**65.1** (63.0-67.3)	**62.6** (58.8-66.3)	**54.3** (51.6-57.0)	**53.6** (50.4-56.6)	**56.0** (53.4-58.4)	**56.9** (53.3-60.4)	**62.7** (59.4-66.0)	**58.9** (54.1-63.5)	**62.9** (60.2-64.4)	**57.8** (54.9-60.5)	**56.1** (53.0-59.0)	**51.2** (47.9-54.4)	**49.8** (44.7-54.9)	**41.8** (38.1-45.7)	**38.9** (36.0-41.7)	**36.2** (33.3-39.2)	**35.0** (32.7-37.3)	**23.9** (19.7-28.8)	**28.1** (25.9-30.4)
Cannabis	**21.8** (19.5-24.3)	**29.1** (26.1-32.4)	**25.1** (22.2-28.2)	**21.9** (19.7-24.3)	**19.4** (16.4-22.9)	**13.8** (10.9-17.3)	**11.9** (9.7-14.4)	**9.9** (8.7-11.3)	**11.5** (10.7-12.4)	**21.9** (18.8-25.4)	**23.9** (21.9-26.0)	**26.8** (23.7-30.1)	**26.2** (22.1-30.8)	**27.8** (25.4-30.3)	**22.2** (20.1-24.5)	**22.0** (19.5-24.7)	**20.4** (18.4-22.6)	**18.4** (16.3-20.7)	**18.5** (15.9-21.5)	**16.7** (14.7-18.9)	**15.0** (12.8-17.5)	**17.8** (16.1-19.6)	**13.4** (9.1-19.3)	**12.8** (11.1-14.6)
GRADES 9 and 11																								
(n)	(2640)	(2653)	(1894)	(2075)	(2092)	(2137)	(1919)	(2020)	(1723)	(1980)	(2221)	(1655)	(1263)	(2442)	(3008)	(2494)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)
LSD	**7.7** (6.4-9.3)	**11.2** (9.4-13.3)	**13.0** (10.4-16.0)	**12.6** (10.7-14.8)	**9.5** (7.3-12.2)	**7.3** (4.8-10.8)	**7.1** (4.8-10.4)	**6.9** (5.6-8.3)	**9.1** (7.6-10.8)	**13.0** (9.5-7.4)	**10.8** (9.7-12.0)	**8.6** (6.4-11.5)	**4.8** (3.6-6.4)	**3.8** (3.0-4.8)	**2.6** (1.8-3.6)	**2.4** (1.7-3.5)	**2.1** (1.4-3.0)	**2.0** (1.1-3.4)	**1.2** (0.7-1.9)	**1.2** (0.8-1.7)	**1.2** (0.8-1.7)	**1.6** (1.2-2.2)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.3)
Mushrooms	**5.2** (4.2-6.4)	**6.8** (5.5-8.4)	**5.8** (3.9-8.6)	**8.6** (6.6-11.1)	**6.1** (4.5-8.1)	**5.4** (3.2-8.8)	**5.1** (3.4-7.7)	**4.3** (3.4-5.4)	**3.9** (3.0-5.1)	**10.6** (7.5-14.7)	**13.5** (11.5-15.8)	**16.0** (12.9-19.6)	**13.8** (11.0-17.2)	**12.6** (10.6-14.9)	**8.3** (6.7-10.3)	**7.5** (6.1-9.1)	**6.3** (4.8-8.2)	**4.8** (3.6-6.4)	**2.9** (1.8-4.8)	**2.6** (1.9-3.6)	**3.7** (2.6-5.3)	**3.6** (2.8-4.7)	†	**2.4** (1.8-3.3)
Methamphet.	**2.7** (2.1-3.5)	**4.2** (3.5-5.1)	**3.8** (2.5-5.5)	**6.2** (3.3-11.2)	**4.1** (3.2-5.1)	**4.1** (3.0-5.6)	**3.2** (2.5-4.2)	**4.6** (2.9-7.4)	**4.1** (2.7-6.3)	**6.9** (4.6-10.3)	**4.8** (3.6-6.4)	**5.8** (3.5-9.6)	**3.4** (2.2-5.3)	**5.7** (4.4-7.3)	**3.4** (2.5-4.7)	**2.6** (1.8-3.5)	**1.7** (1.2-2.6)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.4)	**0.9** (0.5-1.9)	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	†	†	†
Cocaine	**4.0** (3.2-5.0)	**5.9** (4.8-7.2)	**5.7** (4.6-7.0)	**4.8** (3.4-6.8)	**4.6** (3.5-6.1)	**4.0** (2.6-6.0)	**3.1** (2.1-4.6)	**2.2** (1.5-3.1)	**1.5** (0.8-2.8)	**2.9** (2.3-3.7)	**3.3** (2.9-3.8)	**4.2** (3.0-5.7)	**4.8** (3.5-6.6)	**5.9** (4.8-7.2)	**5.4** (4.4-6.8)	**4.0** (3.2-5.1)	**2.4** (1.8-3.2)	**2.9** (2.0-4.1)	**1.8** (1.2-2.6)	**1.8** (1.3-2.5)	**2.3** (1.3-3.9)	**1.8** (1.4-2.4)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.2)
Heroin	**2.2** (1.6-2.9)	**2.7** (2.0-3.6)	**1.9** (1.3-2.9)	**2.1** (1.4-3.1)	**1.7** (1.2-2.4)	**1.4** (0.8-2.7)	**1.4** (0.8-2.3)	**1.3** (0.8-2.0)	**1.2** (0.7-1.9)	**2.4** (1.6-3.5)	**1.9** (1.5-2.4)	**2.2** (1.5-3.2)	**1.5** (0.9-2.4)	**1.4** (1.0-2.0)	**1.1** (0.7-1.6)	**1.4** (0.9-2.1)	**0.9** (0.6-1.5)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Ecstasy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	†	†	**2.5** (1.4-4.4)	**4.2** (2.3-7.5)	**5.8** (4.0-8.4)	**8.2** (6.5-10.2)	**5.2** (4.2-6.3)	**5.6** (4.4-7.2)	**4.5** (3.4-5.8)	**3.5** (2.7-4.7)	**5.1** (3.8-6.9)	**2.0** (1.2-3.2)	**3.5** (2.7-4.5)	**1.6** (1.1-2.4)	**1.8** (1.4-2.3)	†	†
Tranquillizers	**6.1** (5.0-7.4)	**7.3** (6.2-8.7)	**6.4** (5.3-7.7)	**6.8** (5.1-9.1)	**4.1** (3.1-5.3)	**3.8** (2.6-5.6)	**3.0** (2.5-3.6)	**2.2** (1.6-3.0)	**1.1** (0.6-2.3)	**2.0** (1.2-3.2)	**2.3** (1.8-3.0)	**2.4** (1.6-3.5)	**2.2** (1.3-3.7)	**3.0** (2.3-3.9)	**2.4** (1.7-3.2)	**2.2** (1.6-3.0)	**1.5** (1.1-2.0)	**2.0** (1.1-3.5)	**1.7** (1.2-2.4)	**1.7** (1.2-2.4)	**2.0** (1.3-3.1)	**2.6** (2.1-3.3)	†	**1.7** (1.1-2.6)
Any Drug	**14.4** (12.6-16.4)	**19.8** (17.4-22.3)	**18.0** (15.9-20.4)	**19.8** (16.9-23.1)	**15.2** (12.4-18.5)	**12.6** (9.5-16.4)	**12.1** (9.8-14.8)	**12.3** (9.6-15.7)	**13.2** (10.2-16.9)	**20.8** (15.8-26.9)	**20.3** (17.7-23.1)	**21.5** (17.4-26.2)	**19.8** (17.0-23.1)	**16.4** (14.2-18.8)	**13.4** (11.5-15.5)	**11.4** (9.6-13.5)	**9.4** (7.8-11.4)	**9.1** (7.3-11.2)	**6.3** (4.8-8.2)	**6.5** (5.3-7.9)	**5.9** (4.3-8.2)	**6.2** (5.3-7.4)	**5.1** (2.6-9.8)	**4.7** (3.8-5.9)

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) NM = nonmedical use, without a doctor's prescription; (3) † estimate suppressed (< 0.5%); (4) the "Any Drug" index used for trend purposes is restricted to use of any one of the following seven drugs: LSD, mushrooms/mescaline, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy (except for years prior to 1991), tranquillizers/sedatives (NM).

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A2: Percentage Reporting Tobacco Cigarette Smoking in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(3927)	(3920)	(2991)	(3614)	(3146)	(3376)	(3040)	(2961)	(2617)	(2907)	(3072)	(2421)	(2013)	(3389)	(3969)	(3215)	(4424)	(4669)	(5211)	(5225)	(5686)	(7059)	(1177)	(4972)
Total	**29.2**	**35.0**	**28.8**	**29.0**	**23.6**	**22.9**	**22.2**	**20.1**	**23.4**	**27.3**	**27.2**	**26.6**	**21.2**	**17.4**	**12.7**	**10.8**	**9.3**	**7.2**	**6.3**	**6.0**	**5.2**	**3.9**	†	**2.7** [de]
(95% CI)	(26.7-31.8)	(32.3-37.7)	(25.4-32.5)	(25.6-32.6)	(21.1-26.2)	(21.1-24.8)	(20.3-24.2)	(18.4-22.0)	(21.8-25.2)	(25.2-29.5)	(25.4-29.0)	(23.5-30.0)	(17.7-25.2)	(15.3-19.7)	(11.1-14.5)	(9.3-12.6)	(8.0-10.9)	(6.0-8.4)	(4.9-8.0)	(5.0-7.2)	(4.0-6.8)	(3.2-4.8)		(1.9-3.9)
Males	**27.6**	**32.0**	**24.8**	**27.5**	**21.7**	**21.7**	**21.4**	**19.9**	**21.3**	**27.0**	**25.8**	**26.7**	**19.5**	**16.6**	**12.1**	**10.4**	**9.9**	**7.6**	**6.7**	**5.3**	**6.3**	**4.1**	†	**2.9**
	(24.6-30.9)	(29.1-35.1)	(23.0-26.7)	(22.9-32.7)	(18.8-24.9)	(18.8-24.9)	(19.1-23.9)	(17.4-22.6)	(18.6-24.3)	(24.2-30.0)	(22.4-29.6)	(22.7-31.0)	(15.7-24.0)	(13.8-19.8)	(10.3-14.1)	(8.5-12.7)	(8.0-12.2)	(6.1-9.6)	(5.0-8.8)	(4.0-7.0)	(4.6-8.5)	(3.1-5.3)		(1.6-5.2)
Females	**30.5**	**38.0**	**33.2**	**30.4**	**25.5**	**24.1**	**23.0**	**20.4**	**25.5**	**27.6**	**28.4**	**26.6**	**22.9**	**18.1**	**13.4**	**11.2**	**8.7**	**6.6**	**5.9**	**6.7**	**4.0**	**3.8**	†	**2.6**
	(27.5-33.8)	(34.7-41.4)	(26.6-40.6)	(27.0-34.0)	(22.0-29.4)	(21.8-26.5)	(19.1-27.4)	(18.7-22.2)	(22.2-29.2)	(24.6-30.9)	(27.1-29.7)	(22.8-30.8)	(18.3-28.2)	(15.5-21.1)	(11.2-16.0)	(9.2-13.6)	(7.0-10.7)	(5.2-8.5)	(4.4-7.8)	(5.3-8.5)	(3.0-5.4)	(2.9-4.8)		(1.8-3.7)
Grade																								
7	**14.0**	**20.4**	**11.4**	**14.8**	**10.3**	**10.2**	**7.1**	**6.1**	**9.4**	**10.3**	**10.2**	**7.4**	**5.0**	**4.4**	**2.0**	**2.5**	**1.0**	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
	(11.1-17.7)	(17.2-23.9)	(10.7-12.3)	(8.9-23.7)	(7.3-14.4)	(7.4-13.9)	(4.6-11.0)	(4.4-8.4)	(7.7-11.3)	(7.2-14.4)	(8.1-12.7)	(5.2-10.3)	(3.2-7.6)	(2.8-6.8)	(1.2-3.4)	(1.2-5.3)	(0.6-1.8)							
9	**33.3**	**36.5**	**32.2**	**32.5**	**24.6**	**24.9**	**28.2**	**21.4**	**23.7**	**27.5**	**26.0**	**27.8**	**23.4**	**17.0**	**12.6**	**10.2**	**7.5**	**3.7**	**3.3**	**3.8**	**2.8**	**2.7**	†	**1.4**
	(28.9-38.1)	(32.2-41.0)	(27.0-37.9)	(30.8-34.3)	(19.8-30.1)	(21.3-28.9)	(26.2-30.4)	(18.5-24.5)	(22.8-24.8)	(25.8-29.1)	(23.5-28.6)	(23.6-32.5)	(17.5-30.6)	(13.9-20.6)	(10.4-15.1)	(8.1-12.9)	(5.5-10.2)	(2.5-5.5)	(2.3-4.7)	(2.8-5.2)	(1.7-4.5)	(2.0-3.8)		(0.8-2.5)
11	**41.1**	**49.1**	**43.4**	**44.6**	**35.4**	**32.4**	**30.3**	**31.9**	**34.9**	**41.7**	**43.4**	**41.7**	**35.8**	**28.3**	**23.5**	**19.3**	**17.9**	**14.5**	**12.9**	**12.5**	**11.1**	**7.5**	†	**6.1**
	(36.6-45.7)	(44.4-53.9)	(37.6-49.4)	(38.4-51.0)	(31.1-40.0)	(28.1-37.0)	(26.4-34.5)	(28.7-35.3)	(30.6-39.5)	(36.7-46.8)	(39.3-47.6)	(35.4-48.4)	(29.8-42.2)	(24.3-32.6)	(20.0-27.2)	(16.3-22.7)	(14.9-21.5)	(12.1-17.3)	(9.7-16.9)	(10.1-15.3)	(8.1-15.1)	(5.9-9.6)		(4.0-9.2)

Notes: (1) based on grades 7, 9, and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you smoke tobacco cigarettes? (The definition of smoking includes occasional smoking, but excludes a few puffs or smoking less than one whole cigarette in the past 12 months.)
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A3: Percentage Reporting Daily Tobacco Cigarette Smoking in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(3927)	(3920)	(2991)	(3614)	(3146)	(3376)	(3040)	(2961)	(2617)	(2907)	(3072)	(2421)	(2013)	(3389)	(3969)	(3215)	(4424)	(4669)	(5211)	(5225)	(5686)	(7059)	(1177)	(4972)
Total	**22.0**	**24.1**	**20.7**	**20.3**	**15.9**	**14.8**	**14.4**	**14.4**	**16.9**	**19.0**	**19.4**	**20.7**	**16.9**	**12.0**	**7.5**	**5.0**	**4.5**	**3.1**	**2.3**	**1.9**	**1.6**	**1.2**	†	† [de]
(95% CI)	(19.8-24.4)	(21.8-26.6)	(17.8-23.9)	(17.8-23.0)	(13.5-18.7)	(12.9-17.0)	(12.3-16.6)	(13.0-16.1)	(15.8-18.1)	(17.3-20.8)	(17.7-21.3)	(17.7-24.1)	(13.7-20.6)	(10.3-14.0)	(6.2-9.0)	(4.1-6.1)	(3.4-5.8)	(2.4-3.9)	(1.6-3.3)	(1.4-2.6)	(1.1-2.3)	(0.8-1.6)		
Males	**20.8**	**22.3**	**17.2**	**19.6**	**14.2**	**14.5**	**13.4**	**14.6**	**15.9**	**19.5**	**18.8**	**20.9**	**15.9**	**11.4**	**7.3**	**5.3**	**4.6**	**4.1**	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.3**	**1.4**	†	†
	(18.1-23.9)	(19.6-25.1)	(15.6-18.9)	(16.2-23.5)	(11.7-17.0)	(12.3-16.9)	(11.2-15.9)	(11.8-18.0)	(14.3-17.6)	(17.1-22.2)	(15.6-22.5)	(16.9-25.5)	(12.4-20.0)	(9.1-14.1)	(5.8-9.0)	(4.0-7.0)	(3.2-6.6)	(3.1-5.4)	(1.5-3.6)	(1.4-3.4)	(1.5-3.5)	(1.0-2.0)		
Females	**23.0**	**26.0**	**24.5**	**21.0**	**17.8**	**15.2**	**15.3**	**14.2**	**17.9**	**18.5**	**19.9**	**20.5**	**17.9**	**12.7**	**7.7**	**4.6**	**4.3**	**2.0**	**2.3**	**1.7**	**0.9**	**0.9**	†	†
	(20.4-25.9)	(23.1-29.1)	(19.9-29.7)	(18.2-24.2)	(14.4-21.7)	(12.7-18.0)	(11.9-19.5)	(12.8-15.8)	(15.5-20.6)	(16.6-20.5)	(18.8-21.2)	(16.9-24.6)	(13.6-23.1)	(10.6-15.1)	(6.0-9.9)	(3.6-5.8)	(3.2-5.7)	(1.3-3.3)	(1.4-3.7)	(1.1-2.5)	(0.5-1.5)	(0.6-1.4)		
Grade																								
7	**9.4**	**12.6**	**6.9**	**8.6**	**6.3**	**7.1**	**4.2**	**3.8**	**5.8**	**6.0**	**6.5**	**4.2**	**3.2**	**3.2**	**0.9**	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
	(7.1-12.4)	(10.3-15.4)	(5.5-8.8)	(4.9-14.9)	(3.9-10.0)	(4.9-10.2)	(2.7-6.3)	(1.9-7.6)	(4.4-7.7)	(3.2-11.0)	(4.5-9.3)	(2.8-6.2)	(1.6-6.0)	(1.8-5.6)	(0.5-1.7)									
9	**24.8**	**24.4**	**22.7**	**23.4**	**16.7**	**14.0**	**17.5**	**16.0**	**16.5**	**19.2**	**18.1**	**20.8**	**18.6**	**12.8**	**6.7**	**4.0**	**3.5**	†	**1.0**	**1.3**	†	**0.6**	†	†
	(20.9-29.2)	(20.7-28.5)	(18.7-27.3)	(20.3-26.9)	(12.0-22.8)	(11.3-17.3)	(14.3-21.3)	(14.9-17.1)	(14.9-18.1)	(16.6-22.0)	(16.0-20.4)	(16.8-25.5)	(13.0-25.8)	(10.0-16.3)	(5.2-8.7)	(2.8-5.6)	(2.1-6.0)		(0.6-1.7)	(0.7-2.5)		(0.3-1.0)		
11	**32.8**	**36.6**	**33.1**	**32.9**	**24.6**	**22.5**	**21.0**	**22.7**	**26.7**	**29.8**	**32.2**	**34.7**	**29.4**	**18.4**	**14.7**	**9.9**	**8.6**	**6.2**	**4.9**	**3.9**	**3.4**	**2.5**	†	†
	(28.6-37.3)	(31.6-41.8)	(27.5-39.2)	(28.4-37.7)	(20.1-29.8)	(18.1-27.7)	(16.8-26.0)	(19.4-26.5)	(23.6-30.1)	(27.4-32.4)	(28.1-36.6)	(28.5-41.5)	(24.1-35.4)	(15.0-22.3)	(11.6-18.4)	(8.0-12.3)	(6.2-11.7)	(4.6-8.1)	(3.2-7.4)	(2.9-5.4)	(2.2-5.3)	(1.8-3.4)		

Notes: (1) based on grades 7, 9, and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you smoke tobacco cigarettes? (Daily smoking is defined as typically smoking one or more cigarettes per day during the past year.)
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A4: Percentage Reporting Drinking Alcohol in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(3927)	(3920)	(2991)	(3614)	(3146)	(3376)	(3040)	(2961)	(2617)	(2907)	(3072)	(2421)	(2013)	(3389)	(3969)	(3215)	(4424)	(4669)	(5211)	(5225)	(5686)	(7059)	(1177)	(4972)
Total	**72.8**	**73.7**	**70.1**	**69.0**	**66.3**	**65.1**	**62.6**	**54.3**	**53.6**	**56.0**	**56.9**	**62.7**	**58.9**	**62.9**	**57.8**	**56.1**	**51.2**	**49.8**	**41.9**	**38.9**	**36.2**	**35.0**	**23.9**	**28.1** [de]
(95% CI)	(70.4-75.1)	(71.6-75.8)	(67.7-72.3)	(66.1-71.9)	(64.7-67.9)	(63.0-67.3)	(58.8-66.3)	(51.6-57.0)	(50.4-56.6)	(53.4-58.4)	(53.3-60.4)	(59.4-66.0)	(54.1-63.5)	(60.3-65.4)	(54.9-60.5)	(53.0-59.0)	(47.9-54.4)	(44.7-54.9)	(38.1-45.7)	(36.0-41.7)	(33.3-39.2)	(32.7-37.3)	(19.7-28.8)	(25.9-30.4)
Males	**75.1**	**75.9**	**70.3**	**69.9**	**68.1**	**65.9**	**65.0**	**54.1**	**53.6**	**56.9**	**56.8**	**65.6**	**59.0**	**67.4**	**58.1**	**56.9**	**52.4**	**50.4**	**41.8**	**38.5**	**37.7**	**33.4**	**18.5**	**24.8**
	(72.5-77.6)	(73.6-78.0)	(68.0-72.5)	(66.4-73.2)	(65.1-71.0)	(63.6-68.2)	(60.5-69.3)	(50.8-57.4)	(50.4-56.9)	(53.8-59.9)	(52.6-60.9)	(61.5-69.6)	(54.2-63.7)	(64.2-70.5)	(54.0-62.1)	(52.7-61.0)	(48.6-56.1)	(46.1-54.6)	(37.3-46.5)	(34.9-42.3)	(33.4-42.2)	(30.7-36.2)	(13.2-25.4)	(21.5-28.4)
Females	**70.7**	**71.5**	**69.8**	**68.2**	**64.4**	**64.4**	**60.3**	**54.6**	**53.5**	**55.1**	**57.0**	**59.8**	**58.8**	**58.5**	**57.4**	**55.2**	**49.9**	**49.2**	**41.9**	**39.2**	**34.6**	**36.6**	**29.2**	**31.8**
	(67.5-73.8)	(68.6-74.2)	(66.0-73.4)	(65.4-70.9)	(62.1-66.6)	(61.2-67.5)	(56.3-64.2)	(51.4-57.7)	(48.5-58.4)	(51.6-58.6)	(53.3-60.6)	(55.5-63.9)	(52.2-65.1)	(54.9-61.9)	(54.3-60.4)	(51.6-58.7)	(46.0-53.8)	(41.8-56.5)	(37.6-46.3)	(35.5-43.0)	(31.3-38.1)	(33.8-39.4)	(21.7-38.1)	(28.9-34.8)
Grade																								
7	**57.3**	**57.0**	**51.2**	**53.0**	**43.1**	**43.6**	**42.5**	**30.1**	**32.0**	**30.5**	**31.9**	**39.7**	**36.1**	**39.1**	**31.4**	**28.1**	**22.7**	**17.4**	**9.9**	**8.6**	**10.5**	**7.3**	†	**6.9**
	(53.5-61.0)	(53.6-60.4)	(48.6-53.8)	(46.3-60.0)	(39.6-46.6)	(39.5-47.8)	(38.5-46.6)	(26.8-33.6)	(25.6-39.1)	(27.8-33.3)	(26.1-38.3)	(33.8-45.9)	(29.6-43.1)	(35.0-43.4)	(28.1-35.0)	(23.7-33.1)	(18.6-27.4)	(13.5-22.1)	(7.5-13.0)	(5.6-13.0)	(8.5-12.9)	(5.8-9.1)		(5.1-9/2)
9	**75.5**	**75.6**	**75.4**	**71.5**	**68.0**	**64.8**	**64.5**	**56.0**	**52.0**	**57.8**	**55.3**	**63.1**	**60.9**	**65.1**	**64.8**	**58.9**	**51.6**	**50.5**	**37.1**	**33.8**	**31.8**	**30.3**	**20.3**	**25.1**
	(72.7-78.1)	(72.9-78.1)	(71.4-78.9)	(68.6-74.3)	(65.8-70.1)	(59.0-70.2)	(58.1-70.5)	(52.1-59.8)	(49.2-54.7)	(54.5-61.0)	(47.4-63.0)	(58.0-67.9)	(54.3-67.1)	(60.5-69.3)	(60.4-68.9)	(53.8-63.8)	(46.3-56.8)	(43.8-57.2)	(32.9-41.5)	(30.6-37.2)	(28.2-35.6)	(26.9-34.0)	(13.2-29.8)	(22.0-28.4)
11	**87.4**	**89.9**	**83.9**	**88.9**	**87.4**	**84.8**	**81.8**	**75.0**	**73.2**	**75.8**	**80.6**	**82.0**	**81.0**	**79.9**	**76.1**	**79.2**	**74.3**	**73.5**	**67.9**	**67.0**	**60.6**	**57.0**	**47.4**	**48.1**
	(85.1-89.3)	(87.0-92.2)	(80.3-87.0)	(86.3-91.1)	(84.7-89.7)	(81.1-87.9)	(73.1-88.2)	(69.7-79.6)	(68.7-77.3)	(69.3-81.3)	(76.3-84.3)	(77.7-85.6)	(75.1-85.8)	(76.3-83.1)	(72.3-79.5)	(75.5-82.4)	(70.0-78.2)	(66.8-79.3)	(62.6-72.7)	(62.1-71.6)	(56.4-64.6)	(53.0-60.9)	(38.1-56.8)	(43.4-52.8)

Notes: (1) based on grades 7, 9, and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you drink alcohol – liquor (rum, whiskey, etc.), wine, beer, or coolers? (Past year alcohol use includes drinking at a special event, but excludes a sip just to try.)
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A5: Percentage Reporting Binge Drinking in the Past Month, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(3927)	(3920)	(2991)	(3614)	(3146)	(3376)	(3040)	(2961)	(2617)	(2907)	(3072)	(2421)	(2013)	(3389)	(3969)	(3215)	(4424)	(4669)	(5211)	(5225)	(5686)	(7059)	(1177)	(4972)
Total	**18.3**	**23.8**	**20.0**	**20.9**	**19.2**	**18.8**	**20.3**	**18.3**	**15.0**	**18.6**	**22.1**	**25.7**	**22.1**	**24.6**	**19.0**	**22.2**	**19.2**	**18.2**	**14.7**	**14.7**	**13.7**	**11.7**	**5.7**	**6.2** [de]
(95% CI)	(16.3-20.4)	(21.5-26.2)	(19.2-20.8)	(19.0-23.0)	(16.4-22.5)	(16.2-21.7)	(17.5-23.5)	(16.0-20.7)	(13.4-16.8)	(15.1-22.6)	(19.8-24.6)	(22.1-29.6)	(18.5-26.1)	(22.1-27.4)	(16.7-21.5)	(20.0-24.6)	(17.0-21.6)	(15.2-21.5)	(12.7-17.1)	(12.7-16.9)	(11.4-16.3)	(10.2-13.3)	(3.3-9.4)	(5.0-7.6)
Males	**20.6**	**27.3**	**22.7**	**24.7**	**22.9**	**21.4**	**23.0**	**20.2**	**16.4**	**21.6**	**23.8**	**29.7**	**26.1**	**27.7**	**19.9**	**22.9**	**19.4**	**17.7**	**15.0**	**13.7**	**14.4**	**11.4**	†	**5.7**
	(18.2-23.3)	(24.6-30.1)	(21.1-24.4)	(22.4-27.1)	(18.3-28.1)	(17.3-26.0)	(20.0-26.4)	(17.9-22.8)	(13.9-19.2)	(17.6-26.1)	(21.1-26.8)	(25.6-34.2)	(21.5-31.3)	(24.1-31.6)	(17.0-23.1)	(19.9-26.1)	(17.0-22.0)	(15.1-20.6)	(12.5-18.0)	(11.2-16.7)	(11.3-18.1)	(9.4-13.7)		(3.8-8.6)
Females	**16.2**	**20.2**	**17.0**	**17.3**	**15.5**	**16.4**	**17.7**	**16.0**	**13.7**	**15.7**	**20.6**	**21.5**	**18.0**	**21.7**	**18.0**	**21.6**	**19.1**	**18.6**	**14.5**	**15.7**	**12.9**	**12.0**	**5.3**	**6.7**
	(13.9-18.9)	(17.6-23.1)	(15.1-19.1)	(14.9-19.9)	(12.5-19.0)	(14.0-19.0)	(14.2-21.9)	(13.0-19.7)	(11.3-16.5)	(12.6-19.4)	(17.6-24.1)	(17.3-26.4)	(14.4-22.1)	(18.7-25.0)	(15.4-21.0)	(18.8-24.5)	(16.2-22.4)	(13.0-26.0)	(12.2-17.1)	(13.0-18.8)	(10.3-16.1)	(10.3-13.9)	(3.2-8.8)	(5.4-8.3)
Grade																								
7	**4.7**	**8.8**	**3.3**	**5.5**	**4.1**	**4.2**	**3.3**	**2.4**	**3.1**	**2.6**	**3.0**	**5.0**	**4.2**	**5.8**	**3.4**	**4.4**	**2.7**	**1.1**	†	†	†	**1.1**	†	†
	(3.4-6.5)	(6.8-11.2)	(2.4-4.6)	(2.9-10.3)	(1.9-8.4)	(2.5-6.9)	(2.4-4.5)	(1.5-4.0)	(2.1-4.6)	(2.2-3.1)	(2.3-3.9)	(3.5-7.1)	(2.7-6.7)	(4.0-8.4)	(2.1-5.5)	(2.9-6.6)	(1.6-4.5)	(0.6-2.1)				(0.7-1.7)		
9	**17.2**	**23.1**	**20.2**	**21.9**	**16.1**	**16.5**	**20.3**	**18.3**	**12.3**	**13.9**	**19.8**	**23.8**	**21.7**	**23.5**	**18.8**	**18.8**	**16.3**	**13.7**	**8.5**	**9.0**	**9.2**	**8.7**	†	**3.9**
	(14.3-20.6)	(20.0-26.5)	(18.9-21.6)	(19.6-24.3)	(10.6-23.7)	(12.6-21.3)	(17.7-23.2)	(13.8-23.8)	(9.7-15.4)	(9.1-20.6)	(15.6-24.9)	(18.7-29.7)	(17.0-27.2)	(20.3-27.0)	(15.4-22.7)	(15.6-22.4)	(12.9-20.4)	(10.7-17.4)	(6.5-11.0)	(7.0-11.6)	(6.8-12.4)	(7.0-10.8)		(2.7-5.5)
11	**36.2**	**41.6**	**38.3**	**42.1**	**37.7**	**34.2**	**38.6**	**32.8**	**27.7**	**36.9**	**41.4**	**45.7**	**41.7**	**40.9**	**34.5**	**42.2**	**35.6**	**35.3**	**29.5**	**30.5**	**27.7**	**21.3**	**14.0**	**12.6**
	(32.2-40.5)	(36.8-46.5)	(32.1-44.9)	(38.8-45.4)	(32.5-43.2)	(26.2-43.2)	(30.8-47.1)	(28.5-37.4)	(24.5-31.2)	(28.5-45.2)	(36.3-46.6)	(39.1-52.5)	(36.1-47.5)	(36.0-46.0)	(30.4-38.8)	(37.7-47.0)	(31.3-40.0)	(30.9-40.0)	(25.1-34.3)	(26.2-35.3)	(23.4-32.5)	(18.4-24.6)	(7.6-24.3)	(9.8-16.2)

Notes: (1) based on grades 7, 9, and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 4 weeks, how often have you had 5 or more drinks of alcohol on the same occasion?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A6: Percentage Reporting Cannabis Use in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(3927)	(3920)	(2991)	(3614)	(3146)	(3376)	(3040)	(2961)	(2617)	(2907)	(3072)	(2421)	(2013)	(3389)	(3969)	(3215)	(4424)	(4669)	(5211)	(5225)	(5686)	(7059)	(1177)	(4972)
Total	**21.8**	**29.1**	**25.1**	**21.9**	**19.4**	**13.8**	**11.9**	**9.9**	**11.5**	**21.9**	**23.9**	**26.8**	**26.2**	**27.8**	**22.2**	**22.0**	**20.4**	**18.4**	**18.5**	**16.7**	**15.0**	**17.8**	**13.4**	**12.8** [de]
(95% CI)	(19.5-24.3)	(26.1-32.4)	(22.2-28.2)	(19.7-24.3)	(16.4-22.9)	(10.9-17.3)	(9.7-14.4)	(8.7-11.3)	(10.7-12.4)	(18.8-25.4)	(21.9-26.0)	(23.7-30.1)	(22.1-30.8)	(25.4-30.3)	(20.1-24.5)	(19.5-24.7)	(18.4-22.6)	(16.3-20.7)	(15.9-21.5)	(14.7-18.9)	(12.8-17.5)	(16.1-19.6)	(9.1-19.3)	(11.1-14.6)
Males	**25.7**	**33.1**	**27.6**	**25.3**	**22.5**	**16.3**	**12.4**	**11.0**	**13.6**	**24.1**	**24.2**	**29.5**	**29.6**	**29.5**	**22.9**	**23.6**	**22.4**	**18.6**	**20.6**	**15.5**	**17.3**	**17.4**	**9.2**	**9.7**
	(22.7-28.9)	(29.3-37.2)	(25.1-30.2)	(22.6-28.1)	(18.8-26.7)	(13.4-19.7)	(10.2-14.9)	(9.6-12.7)	(10.3-17.6)	(20.8-27.7)	(21.3-27.4)	(26.2-33.1)	(24.5-35.2)	(25.9-33.3)	(20.2-25.8)	(20.3-27.4)	(20.0-25.0)	(16.0-21.5)	(17.1-24.5)	(13.1-18.3)	(14.5-20.5)	(15.2-19.8)	(5.5-15.1)	(7.6-12.4)
Females	**18.3**	**25.0**	**22.4**	**18.6**	**16.1**	**11.4**	**11.4**	**8.7**	**9.5**	**19.8**	**23.6**	**24.0**	**22.8**	**26.1**	**21.5**	**20.2**	**18.3**	**18.2**	**16.4**	**18.0**	**12.6**	**18.2**	**17.5**	**16.0**
	(15.7-21.3)	(21.6-28.7)	(17.6-28.0)	(16.3-21.1)	(12.3-20.8)	(8.5-15.2)	(8.5-15.0)	(7.2-10.4)	(7.0-12.8)	(16.0-24.1)	(21.9-25.4)	(19.9-28.6)	(18.5-27.7)	(23.6-28.9)	(18.8-24.5)	(17.6-23.1)	(15.3-21.8)	(14.7-22.2)	(13.8-19.4)	(15.2-21.2)	(10.0-15.8)	(16.2-20.4)	(10.6-27.6)	(13.8-18.5)
Grade																								
7	**5.6**	**10.4**	**5.4**	**5.1**	**4.6**	**3.8**	**0.9**	**0.7**	**1.7**	**2.6**	**3.4**	**3.5**	**5.1**	**6.2**	**3.0**	**3.6**	**1.1**	**2.4**	**1.7**	†	**2.0**	**1.3**	†	†
	(4.1-7.5)	(8.2-13.0)	(4.2-6.8)	(2.8-9.1)	(3.1-6.8)	(2.4-6.0)	(0.5-1.5)	(0.2-2.1)	(0.9-3.0)	(1.2-5.6)	(1.4-8.1)	(2.2-5.6)	(3.4-7.6)	(4.3-8.7)	(1.9-4.9)	(2.2-5.8)	(0.6-1.8)	(1.3-4.4)	(1.0-3.1)		(1.1-3.6)	(0.7-2.4)		
9	**23.3**	**29.2**	**27.1**	**25.0**	**18.3**	**12.1**	**12.7**	**8.2**	**8.8**	**19.5**	**24.0**	**25.5**	**28.8**	**27.9**	**23.0**	**21.0**	**18.4**	**11.9**	**14.6**	**10.3**	**9.3**	**12.8**	†	**8.9**
	(19.3-27.8)	(24.1-34.8)	(24.1-30.3)	(22.1-28.3)	(13.1-25.0)	(6.0-23.0)	(8.8-18.0)	(6.6-10.0)	(7.5-10.2)	(14.1-26.2)	(21.6-26.5)	(21.7-29.7)	(23.8-34.2)	(24.5-31.5)	(20.2-26.1)	(17.2-25.4)	(15.0-22.3)	(10.0-14.1)	(11.6-18.2)	(8.2-12.8)	(7.4-11.7)	(10.8-15.1)		(7.1-11.2)
11	**39.2**	**50.2**	**44.3**	**42.2**	**35.2**	**24.4**	**22.5**	**20.1**	**22.6**	**40.8**	**42.0**	**48.1**	**45.7**	**45.0**	**40.1**	**40.0**	**38.6**	**36.8**	**33.5**	**35.1**	**30.4**	**33.1**	**30.0**	**25.7**
	(34.4-44.1)	(44.3-56.1)	(36.6-52.2)	(36.8-47.7)	(28.6-42.4)	(19.9-29.4)	(18.5-27.0)	(17.3-23.2)	(20.5-24.8)	(34.1-47.9)	(37.5-46.7)	(42.8-53.4)	(37.7-53.9)	(40.6-49.5)	(36.2-44.1)	(35.9-44.2)	(34.4-42.9)	(33.2-40.7)	(29.1-38.3)	(30.9-39.6)	(25.2-36.2)	(29.8-36.5)	(19.8-42.7)	(22.2-29.6)

Notes: (1) based on grades 7, 9, and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use cannabis (also known as marijuana, "weed", "pot", "grass", hashish, "hash", hash oil, etc.)?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A7: Percentage Reporting Mushroom or Mescaline Use in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2640)	(2653)	(1894)	(2075)	(2092)	(2137)	(1919)	(2020)	(1723)	(1980)	(2221)	(1655)	(1263)	(2442)	(3008)	(2494)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)
Total	**5.2**	**6.8**	**5.8**	**8.6**	**6.1**	**5.4**	**5.1**	**4.3**	**3.9**	**10.6**	**13.5**	**16.0**	**13.8**	**12.6**	**8.3**	**7.5**	**6.3**	**4.8**	**2.9**	**2.6**	**3.7**	**3.6**	†	**2.4** [de]
(95% CI)	(4.2-6.4)	(5.5-8.4)	(3.9-8.6)	(6.6-11.1)	(4.5-8.1)	(3.2-8.8)	(3.4-7.7)	(3.4-5.4)	(3.0-5.1)	(7.4-14.7)	(11.5-15.8)	(12.9-19.6)	(11.0-17.2)	(10.6-14.9)	(6.7-10.3)	(6.1-9.1)	(4.8-8.2)	(3.6-6.4)	(1.8-4.8)	(1.9-3.6)	(2.6-5.3)	(2.8-4.7)		(1.8-3.3)
Males	**6.6**	**7.5**	**6.7**	**11.3**	**7.5**	**7.2**	**5.5**	**5.1**	**4.9**	**12.4**	**14.1**	**16.1**	**14.7**	**15.0**	**8.9**	**8.9**	**7.0**	**5.7**	**4.2**	**3.1**	**5.4**	**5.0**	†	**2.8**
	(5.1-8.6)	(5.7-9.9)	(4.4-10.1)	(9.6-13.2)	(5.3-10.5)	(4.0-12.5)	(3.6-8.4)	(4.3-6.0)	(3.1-7.7)	(9.0-16.8)	(11.7-16.9)	(12.8-20.1)	(11.3-19.0)	(12.0-18.6)	(6.9-11.5)	(7.0-11.3)	(5.1-9.4)	(4.1-7.9)	(2.6-6.8)	(2.1-4.5)	(3.2-9.0)	(3.7-6.8)		(1.8-4.3)
Females	**4.0**	**6.0**	**4.9**	**5.9**	**4.6**	**3.7**	**4.8**	**3.2**	**3.0**	**8.9**	**13.0**	**15.8**	**12.8**	**10.2**	**7.7**	**5.9**	**5.6**	**3.8**	†	**2.1**	**1.9**	**2.2**	†	**2.0**
	(3.0-5.4)	(4.6-8.0)	(3.0-7.9)	(4.1-8.5)	(3.1-6.7)	(2.0-6.5)	(2.9-7.8)	(2.2-4.8)	(1.5-5.8)	(5.9-13.2)	(10.6-15.7)	(11.7-21.0)	(9.5-17.0)	(8.3-12.5)	(5.6-10.4)	(4.5-7.7)	(4.0-7.7)	(2.4-6.2)		(1.3-3.4)	(1.3-2.9)	(1.5-3.2)		(1.3-3.1)
Grade																								
9	**3.4**	**4.0**	**4.8**	**6.4**	**3.9**	†	†	**1.9**	†	**4.5**	**9.9**	**10.2**	**9.7**	**7.8**	**5.7**	**4.1**	**3.2**	**1.6**	†	†	**1.8**	**1.3**	†	**1.3**
	(2.4-4.6)	(3.0-5.3)	(2.4-9.5)	(4.5-9.0)	(2.5-6.2)			(1.5-2.5)		(3.1-6.6)	(6.8-14.4)	(7.6-13.5)	(7.0-13.4)	(6.1-10.0)	(4.4-7.5)	(2.9-5.7)	(2.0-5.0)	(0.9-2.6)			(1.0-3.3)	(0.9-2.0)		(0.8-2.1)
11	**8.0**	**10.7**	**7.2**	**11.5**	**8.4**	**7.6**	**7.2**	**6.5**	**6.4**	**16.6**	**17.0**	**22.7**	**19.2**	**17.4**	**11.1**	**10.9**	**9.3**	**8.0**	**4.5**	**4.3**	**5.4**	**5.9**	†	**3.6**
	(6.2-10.3)	(8.2-14.0)	(4.8-10.8)	(7.9-16.3)	(5.9-11.8)	(4.1-13.5)	(5.3-9.8)	(5.0-8.5)	(5.0-8.0)	(10.8-24.6)	(14.8-19.4)	(17.9-28.3)	(14.9-24.5)	(14.3-21.1)	(8.8-13.9)	(8.8-13.5)	(6.6-12.9)	(5.8-10.9)	(2.8-7.3)	(3.1-6.0)	(3.4-8.6)	(4.4-7.9)		(2.5-5.1)

Notes: (1) based on grades 9 and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use psilocybin or mescaline (also known as “magic mushrooms”, “shrooms”, “mesc”, etc.)?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A8: Percentage Reporting LSD Use in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2640)	(2653)	(1894)	(2075)	(2092)	(2137)	(1919)	(2020)	(1723)	(1980)	(2221)	(1655)	(1263)	(2442)	(3008)	(2404)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)
Total	**7.7**	**11.2**	**13.0**	**12.6**	**9.5**	**7.3**	**7.1**	**6.9**	**9.1**	**13.0**	**10.8**	**8.6**	**4.8**	**3.8**	**2.6**	**2.4**	**2.1**	**2.0**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.6**	†	**0.7** [de]
(95% CI)	(6.4-9.3)	(9.4-13.3)	(10.4-16.0)	(10.7-14.8)	(7.3-12.2)	(4.8-10.8)	(4.8-10.4)	(5.6-8.3)	(7.6-10.8)	(9.5-17.4)	(9.7-12.0)	(6.4-11.5)	(3.6-6.4)	(3.0-4.8)	(1.8-3.6)	(1.7-3.5)	(1.4-3.0)	(1.1-3.4)	(0.7-1.9)	(0.8-1.7)	(0.8-1.7)	(1.2-2.2)		(0.4-1.3)
Males	**8.7**	**13.0**	**14.0**	**15.3**	**11.4**	**9.7**	**7.9**	**7.0**	**10.5**	**14.4**	**11.8**	**9.2**	**6.1**	**4.5**	**2.9**	**3.3**	**2.3**	**3.0**	**1.7**	**0.8**	**1.4**	**2.4**	†	†
	(6.8-11.1)	(10.6-15.8)	(12.4-15.6)	(12.7-18.3)	(8.6-14.9)	(6.3-14.8)	(5.0-12.3)	(6.0-8.3)	(8.0-13.7)	(11.3-18.2)	(10.0-13.8)	(6.6-12.6)	(4.4-8.4)	(3.4-5.9)	(1.9-4.4)	(2.1-5.3)	(1.4-3.6)	(1.5-5.7)	(1.0-2.9)	(0.4-1.6)	(0.8-2.3)	(1.7-3.5)		
Females	**6.9**	**9.4**	**11.9**	**10.0**	**7.5**	**5.0**	**6.3**	**6.7**	**7.7**	**11.6**	**9.9**	**8.0**	**3.3**	**3.2**	**2.2**	**1.5**	**1.9**	†	†	**1.5**	**1.0**	**0.8**	†	†
	(5.4-8.8)	(7.5-11.8)	(8.0-17.3)	(7.5-13.1)	(5.3-10.5)	(3.2-7.5)	(4.1-9.6)	(5.0-8.8)	(5.9-10.0)	(7.5-17.6)	(7.9-12.4)	(5.4-11.7)	(2.0-5.4)	(2.1-4.7)	(1.3-3.7)	(0.9-2.6)	(1.2-3.2)			(0.9-2.6)	(0.5-1.7)	(0.5-1.2)		
Grade																								
9	**5.8**	**8.7**	**10.7**	**9.6**	**5.8**	**4.6**	**6.1**	**3.6**	**6.3**	**7.4**	**7.8**	**6.8**	**4.6**	**3.7**	**2.4**	**1.9**	**1.7**	†	†	**0.6**	†	**1.0**	†	†
	(4.4-7.6)	(6.9-11.1)	(8.4-13.6)	(8.2-11.2)	(3.9-8.4)	(2.2-9.2)	(3.3-11.2)	(2.8-4.7)	(5.0-8.1)	(4.3-12.5)	(6.2-9.9)	(4.8-9.4)	(3.3-6.4)	(2.6-5.2)	(1.6-3.6)	(1.2-3.0)	(0.9-3.1)			(0.3-1.2)		(0.6-1.7)		
11	**10.6**	**14.7**	**16.0**	**16.5**	**13.6**	**9.8**	**8.4**	**10.0**	**11.8**	**18.5**	**13.7**	**10.7**	**5.1**	**4.0**	**2.8**	**3.0**	**2.5**	**2.8**	**1.4**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**2.2**	†	†
	(8.5-13.3)	(11.6-18.5)	(11.5-21.9)	(12.7-21.0)	(9.9-18.2)	(5.8-15.9)	(5.4-12.8)	(8.1-12.2)	(9.1-15.2)	(12.6-26.1)	(12.2-15.3)	(7.2-15.6)	(2.9-8.6)	(2.8-5.5)	(1.8-4.3)	(1.8-4.9)	(1.5-4.1)	(1.6-4.8)	(0.8-2.4)	(1.0-2.8)	(1.1-2.7)	(1.4-3.3)		

Notes: (1) based on grades 9 and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use LSD or "acid"?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A9: Percentage Reporting Methamphetamine Use (includes Crystal Methamphetamine) in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2640)	(2653)	(1894)	(2075)	(2092)	(2137)	(1919)	(888)	(870)	(991)	(1125)	(856)	(656)	(1168)	(3008)	(2494)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)
Total (95% CI)	**2.7** (2.1-3.5)	**4.2** (3.5-5.1)	**3.8** (2.5-5.5)	**6.2** (3.3-11.2)	**4.1** (3.2-5.1)	**4.1** (3.0-5.6)	**3.2** (2.5-4.2)	**4.6** (2.9-7.4)	**4.1** (2.7-6.3)	**6.9** (4.6-10.3)	**4.8** (3.6-6.4)	**5.8** (3.5-9.6)	**3.5** (2.2-5.3)	**5.7** (4.4-7.3)	**3.4** (2.5-4.7)	**2.6** (1.8-3.5)	**1.7** (1.2-2.6)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.4)	**0.9** (0.5-1.9)	**0.5** (0.3-0.9)	†	†	† [de]
Males	**3.2** (2.2-4.6)	**5.0** (3.9-6.3)	**3.5** (2.1-5.7)	**8.1** (4.7-13.5)	**4.3** (3.3-5.5)	**5.3** (3.6-7.9)	**3.8** (2.3-6.1)	**4.8** (2.8-8.2)	**5.8** (3.7-8.9)	**8.2** (5.2-12.7)	**4.6** (3.5-5.9)	**6.3** (3.3-11.8)	**4.8** (2.9-7.8)	**6.5** (4.5-9.2)	**3.8** (2.5-5.8)	**2.7** (1.8-3.9)	**1.6** (1.0-2.7)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Females	**2.3** (1.6-3.2)	**3.4** (2.5-4.7)	**4.1** (2.6-6.3)	**4.3** (2.0-9.0)	**3.9** (2.7-5.5)	**3.0** (1.9-4.6)	**2.7** (1.7-4.2)	†	**2.5** (1.2-5.4)	**5.7** (3.3-10.0)	**5.0** (3.1-7.9)	**5.4** (2.9-9.6)	†	**4.8** (3.3-7.1)	**3.0** (1.8-5.0)	**2.4** (1.6-3.8)	**1.8** (1.1-2.9)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Grade																								
9	**2.8** (2.1-3.8)	**4.0** (3.0-5.3)	**3.8** (2.0-7.0)	†	**3.2** (2.5-4.1)	**3.0** (1.9-4.7)	**2.9** (1.9-4.4)	**4.3** (2.6-7.3)	**3.1** (1.9-4.9)	**6.0** (2.9-12.2)	**3.2** (1.8-5.5)	**3.9** (2.3-6.5)	**2.8** (1.7-4.7)	**4.5** (2.8-7.1)	**3.8** (2.5-5.8)	**1.8** (1.0-3.3)	**1.4** (0.8-2.4)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
11	**2.5** (1.6-4.0)	**4.5** (3.4-5.9)	**3.7** (2.6-5.3)	**5.3** (3.7-7.4)	**5.0** (3.5-7.1)	**5.2** (3.4-7.9)	**3.6** (2.6-4.9)	**4.9** (2.3-10.0	**5.3** (2.8-9.9)	**7.8** (5.0-12.1)	**6.4** (4.5-9.0)	**8.1** (4.3-14.9)	†	**6.8** (4.7-9.7)	**3.0** (1.7-5.2)	**3.3** (2.3-4.7)	**2.0** (1.1-3.6)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†

Notes: (1) based on grades 9 and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) question asked of a random half sample between 1991 and 2005; (5) all estimates between 1991 and 2009 are based on two separate questions (methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine) in the questionnaire; (6) all estimates between 1977 and 1989 are based on methamphetamine use only and excludes crystal methamphetamine because it was not measured in those years; (7) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.

Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use methamphetamine or crystal methamphetamine (also known as “speed”, “crystal meth”, “crank”, “Ice”, etc.)?

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A10: Percentage Reporting Cocaine Use in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	
(n)	(2640)	(2653)	(1894)	(2075)	(2092)	(2137)	(1919)	(2020)	(1723)	(1980)	(2221)	(1655)	(1263)	(2442)	(3008)	(2494)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)	
Total (95% CI)	**4.0** (3.2-5.0)	**5.9** (4.8-7.2)	**5.7** (4.6-7.0)	**4.8** (3.4-6.8)	**4.6** (3.5-6.1)	**4.0** (2.6-6.0)	**3.1** (2.1-4.6)	**2.2** (1.5-3.1)	**1.5** (0.8-2.8)	**2.9** (2.3-3.7)	**3.3** (2.9-3.8)	**4.2** (3.0-5.7)	**4.8** (3.5-6.6)	**5.9** (4.8-7.2)	**5.4** (4.4-6.8)	**4.0** (3.2-5.1)	**2.4** (1.8-3.2)	**2.9** (2.0-4.1)	**1.8** (1.2-2.6)	**1.8** (1.3-2.5)	**2.3** (1.3-3.9)	**1.8** (1.4-2.4)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.2)	de
Males	**4.9** (3.8-6.3)	**7.0** (5.5-9.0)	**6.4** (4.9-8.3)	**6.6** (4.7-9.1)	**5.8** (3.5-9.5)	**5.8** (3.4-9.8)	**4.0** (2.6-6.0)	**2.4** (1.5-4.0)	†	**3.7** (2.4-5.4)	**3.7** (2.7-5.1)	**4.6** (3.1-6.8)	**5.0** (3.3-7.5)	**6.4** (4.9-8.4)	**5.6** (4.2-7.4)	**4.3** (3.2-5.8)	**2.2** (1.5-3.3)	**3.7** (2.3-6.0)	**2.2** (1.3-3.6)	**1.6** (1.0-2.5)	†	**2.4** (1.7-3.6)	†	†	
Females	**3.3** (2.3-4.6)	**4.7** (3.5-6.2)	**4.9** (3.3-7.2)	**3.1** (1.9-5.0)	**3.4** (2.1-5.3)	**2.2** (1.1-4.6)	**2.2** (1.1-4.6)	**1.8** (1.1-3.1)	†	**2.2** (1.6-3.0)	**3.0** (2.1-4.2)	**3.7** (2.5-5.5)	**4.6** (2.7-7.8)	**5.3** (3.9-7.3)	**5.3** (4.0-7.0)	**3.7** (2.7-5.1)	**2.6** (1.7-4.0)	**2.0** (1.2-3.4)	**1.3** (0.8-2.2)	**2.1** (1.3-3.4)	**1.4** (0.8-2.4)	**1.2** (0.8-1.8)	†	†	
Grade																									
9	**4.1** (3.1-5.3)	**5.8** (4.3-7.6)	**5.8** (4.6-7.4)	**4.6** (2.9-7.3)	**4.1** (2.5-6.6)	†	**2.0** (1.0-3.8)	**1.6** (1.0-2.5)	**0.6** (0.3-1.1)	**2.3** (1.5-3.6)	**2.3** (2.0-2.8)	**3.2** (2.1-4.7)	**3.2** (2.0-5.2)	**4.9** (3.5-6.8)	**3.8** (2.8-5.1)	**2.3** (1.6-3.5)	**1.1** (0.6-1.9)	†	†	†	†	**0.9** (0.6-1.6)	†	†	
11	**4.0** (2.8-5.6)	**6.0** (4.6-7.9)	**5.5** (3.6-8.1)	**5.0** (3.0-8.3)	**5.2** (3.8-7.0)	**4.6** (2.8-7.5)	**4.5** (2.8-7.1)	**2.8** (1.7-4.6)	**2.5** (1.2-5.0)	**3.5** (2.6-4.6)	**4.3** (3.5-5.2)	**5.4** (3.4-8.4)	**7.0** (4.4-10.9)	**6.9** (5.1-9.2)	**7.2** (5.6-9.2)	**5.7** (4.3-7.6)	**3.7** (2.6-5.2)	**4.9** (3.3-7.2)	**1.9** (1.2-3.1)	**3.1** (2.2-4.4)	†	**2.7** (2.0-3.7)	†	†	

Notes: (1) based on grades 9 and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use cocaine (also known as “coke”, “blow”, “snow”, “powder”, “snort”, etc.)?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A11: Percentage Reporting Ecstasy (MDMA) Use in the Past Year, 1991–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(888)	(870)	(991)	(1125)	(856)	(1263)	(2442)	(3008)	(2494)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)
Total (95% CI)	†	†	**2.5** (1.4-4.4)	**4.2** (2.3-7.5)	**5.8** (4.0-8.4)	**8.2** (6.5-10.2)	**5.2** (4.2-6.3)	**5.6** (4.4-7.2)	**4.5** (3.4-5.8)	**3.5** (2.6-4.7)	**5.1** (3.8-6.9)	**2.0** (1.2-3.2)	**3.5** (2.7-4.5)	**1.6** (1.1-2.4)	**1.7** (1.4-2.3)	†	† [e]
Males	†	†	**3.4** (1.9-6.1)	†	**5.1** (3.0-8.7)	**7.9** (5.8-10.6)	**4.6** (3.4-6.3)	**5.8** (4.2-8.0)	**4.4** (3.1-6.2)	**3.3** (2.3-4.6)	**5.6** (3.6-8.5)	**2.1** (1.2-3.6)	**3.0** (2.1-4.1)	**1.8** (1.1-2.9)	**2.1** (1.5-3.1)	†	†
Females	†	†	†	**4.4** (2.8-7.1)	**6.6** (4.1-10.4)	**8.5** (6.2-11.5)	**5.7** (4.3-7.6)	**5.4** (3.8-7.4)	**4.5** (3.2-6.2)	**3.8** (2.7-5.4)	**4.6** (2.5-8.3)	**1.9** (1.0-3.3)	**4.0** (2.9-5.6)	**1.5** (0.9-2.5)	**1.4** (1.0-2.0)	†	†
Grade																	
9	†	†	†	**3.0** (2.1-4.3)	†	**7.2** (5.0-10.1)	**3.7** (2.7-5.1)	**3.6** (2.6-4.9)	**2.8** (1.9-4.1)	**2.0** (1.1-3.5)	†	†	**1.1** (0.6-1.9)	†	**0.7** (0.4-1.2)	†	†
11	†	†	**3.1** (1.6-5.8)	†	**9.8** (6.4-14.8)	**9.5** (6.9-13.0)	**6.6** (4.9-9.0)	**7.7** (5.7-40.5)	**6.2** (4.6-8.2)	**5.0** (3.7-6.9)	**7.9** (5.9-10.6)	**3.1** (2.0-4.8)	**5.8** (4.4-7.6)	**2.5** (1.7-3.6)	**2.8** (2.0-3.8)	†	†

Notes: (1) based on grades 9 and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) question asked of a random half sample between 1991 and 1999; (4) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (5) [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: In the last 12 months, how often did you use MDMA or "ecstasy" (also known as "Molly", "E", "X")?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A12: Percentage Reporting Heroin Use in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)

	1977	1979	981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2640)	(2653)	(1894)	(2075)	(2092)	(2137)	(1919)	(2020)	(1723)	(1980)	(2221)	(1655)	(1263)	(2442)	(3008)	(2494)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)
Total (95% CI)	**2.2** (1.6-2.9)	**2.7** (2.0-3.6)	**1.9** (1.3-2.9)	**2.1** (1.4-3.1)	**1.7** (1.2-2.4)	**1.4** (0.8-2.7)	**1.4** (0.8-2.3)	**1.3** (0.8-2.0)	**1.2** (0.7-1.9)	**2.4** (1.6-3.5)	**1.9** (1.6-2.4)	**2.2** (1.5-3.2)	**1.5** (0.9-2.4)	**1.4** (1.0-2.0)	**1.1** (0.7-1.6)	**1.4** (0.9-2.1)	**0.9** (0.6-1.5)	†	†	†	†	†	†	† [d]
Males	**1.7** (1.1-2.7)	**3.4** (2.4-4.8)	**2.7** (1.6-4.3)	**2.6** (1.7-3.9)	**2.3** (1.7-3.2)	**2.2** (1.1-4.2)	**1.9** (1.0-3.5)	**1.4** (0.8-2.5)	†	**3.6** (2.4-5.2)	**2.5** (1.8-3.4)	**2.6** (1.5-4.3)	**2.1** (1.1-3.9)	**1.8** (1.2-2.9)	**1.2** (0.7-2.0)	**2.3** (1.4-3.6)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Females	**2.6** (1.8-3.7)	**2.0** (1.3-3.1)	**1.1** (0.6-2.1)	**1.5** (0.8-3.1)	**1.0** (0.5-2.1)	†	†	**1.1** (0.7-1.8)	†	**1.2** (0.6-2.4)	**1.4** (1.1-2.0)	†	†	**0.9** (0.5-1.7)	**1.0** (0.5-1.8)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Grade																								
9	**2.7** (1.8-3.8)	**3.2** (2.3-4.6)	**2.2** (1.3-3.9)	**2.4** (1.5-3.9)	**2.0** (1.2-3.3)	†	†	†	**1.2** (0.6-2.3)	**2.3** (1.6-3.2)	**2.1** (1.6-2.7)	**2.5** (1.7-3.8)	**2.2** (1.3-3.6)	**1.5** (0.9-2.4)	**1.4** (0.8-2.3)	**1.0** (0.6-1.8)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
11	**1.4** (0.8-2.5)	**2.0** (1.3-3.1)	**1.5** (1.0-2.3)	**1.6** (0.8-3.2)	**1.3** (0.9-2.1)	**1.6** (0.8-3.3)	**1.7** (0.8-3.4)	**1.4** (0.8-2.3)	**1.2** (0.6-2.5)	**2.4** (1.2-4.8)	**1.8** (1.2-2.5)	†	†	**1.3** (0.7-2.2)	**0.8** (0.4-1.5)	**1.7** (1.0-2.9)	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†

Notes: (1) based on grades 9 and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01.
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A13: Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Tranquillizer/Sedative Use in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2640)	(2653)	(1894)	(2075)	(2092)	(2137)	(1919)	(2020)	(1723)	(1980)	(2221)	(1655)	(1263)	(2442)	(3008)	(2494)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)
Total	**6.1**	**7.3**	**6.4**	**6.8**	**4.1**	**3.8**	**3.0**	**2.2**	**1.1**	**2.0**	**2.3**	**2.4**	**2.2**	**3.0**	**2.4**	**2.2**	**1.5**	**2.0**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**2.0**	**2.6**	†	**1.7** [de]
(95% CI)	(5.0-7.4)	(6.2-8.7)	(5.3-7.7)	(5.1-9.1)	(3.1-5.3)	(2.6-5.6)	(2.5-3.6)	(1.6-3.0)	(0.6-2.3)	(1.2-3.2)	(1.8-3.0)	(1.6-3.5)	(1.3-3.7)	(2.3-3.9)	(1.7-3.2)	(1.6-3.0)	(1.1-2.0)	(1.1-3.5)	(1.2-2.4)	(1.2-2.4)	(1.3-3.1)	(2.1-3.3)		(1.1-2.6)
Males	**6.1**	**7.3**	**7.0**	**7.1**	**3.4**	**4.4**	**2.3**	**1.9**	†	**2.0**	**2.5**	**2.0**	†	**3.4**	**2.3**	**1.8**	**0.5**	†	**1.5**	**1.0**	**1.5**	**2.5**	†	†
	(4.7-8.0)	(5.7-9.3)	(5.9-8.3)	(5.0-10.1)	(2.3-4.9)	(2.5-7.6)	(1.3-4.0)	(1.1-3.1)		(1.1-3.5)	(1.9-3.3)	(1.1-3.4)		(2.4-4.8)	(1.7-3.2)	(1.2-3.0)	(0.3-1.0)		(0.8-2.6)	(0.6-2.0)	(0.9-2.4)	(1.8-3.7)		
Females	**6.0**	**7.4**	**5.7**	**6.6**	**4.8**	**3.3**	**3.7**	**2.6**	†	**2.0**	**2.2**	**2.8**	**1.3**	**2.5**	**2.4**	**2.6**	**2.5**	**1.5**	**1.9**	**2.4**	**2.6**	**2.7**	†	**1.8**
	(4.6-7.9)	(5.9-9.1)	(4.1-8.0)	(4.8-9.0)	(3.4-6.6)	(2.2-4.8)	(2.6-5.2)	(1.6-4.2)		(1.1-3.5)	(1.6-3.0)	(1.6-4.7)	(0.7-2.5)	(1.6-3.8)	(1.5-3.8)	(1.7-3.8)	(1.8-3.6)	(0.9-2.5)	(1.2-2.9)	(1.5-3.8)	(1.5-4.5)	(2.0-3.6)		(1.2-2.7)
Grade																								
9	**5.5**	**6.3**	**6.4**	**6.9**	**3.7**	**3.2**	**2.4**	**2.1**	†	**1.6**	**2.0**	**1.7**	†	**1.8**	**2.5**	†	**1.0**	**0.7**	**1.3**	**0.5**	†	**1.3**	†	†
	(4.3-7.1)	(5.0-8.0)	(4.9-8.2)	(5.2-9.2)	(2.7-5.0)	(1.7-6.2)	(1.8-3.1)	(1.4-3.1)		(1.0-2.6)	(1.3-3.1)	(1.0-2.9)		(1.1-2.9)	(1.5-3.9)		(0.6-1.8)	(0.4-1.1)	(0.8-2.1)	(0.3-0.9)		(0.8-2.0)		
11	**6.9**	**8.8**	**6.5**	**6.8**	**4.5**	**4.3**	**3.8**	**2.3**	†	**2.4**	**2.6**	**3.1**	**3.3**	**4.1**	**2.3**	**3.2**	**2.0**	**3.2**	**2.0**	**2.8**	**3.0**	**3.9**	†	†
	(5.1-9.3)	(6.9-11.1)	(4.9-8.6)	(3.8-11.7)	(2.9-6.8)	(2.7-7.0)	(3.1-4.7)	(1.4-3.7)		(1.2-4.9)	(2.0-3.4)	(1.8-5.2)	(1.7-6.5)	(2.9-5.9)	(1.5-3.3)	(2.2-4.6)	(1.3-3.1)	(1.6-6.3)	(1.3-3.2)	(1.9-4.2)	(1.8-4.8)	(2.9-5.2)		

Notes: (1) based on grades 9 and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: Sedatives or tranquillizers are sometimes prescribed by doctors to help people sleep, calm them down, or to relax their muscles. Some examples are Xanax, Valium, Ativan. In the last 12 months, how often did you use sedatives or tranquillizers (also known as "tranqs", "benzos", "xans", "bars", "downers") without a prescription or without a doctor telling you to take them? (Note that "sedatives" was added to the question in 2007.)
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A14: Percentage Reporting Any Drug Use (Excluding Cannabis) in the Past Year, 1977–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 9 and 11 only)

	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2640)	(2653)	(1894)	(2075)	(2092)	(2137)	(1919)	(2020)	(870)	(991)	(1125)	(856)	(1263)	(2442)	(3008)	(2494)	(2792)	(3223)	(3111)	(3351)	(3886)	(5015)	(812)	(3529)
Total	**14.4**	**19.8**	**18.0**	**19.8**	**15.2**	**12.6**	**12.1**	**12.3**	**13.2**	**20.8**	**20.3**	**21.5**	**19.8**	**16.4**	**13.4**	**11.4**	**9.4**	**9.1**	**6.3**	**6.5**	**5.9**	**6.2**	**5.1**	**4.7** [de]
(95% CI)	(12.6-16.4)	(17.4-22.3)	(15.9-20.4)	(16.9-23.1)	(12.4-18.5)	(9.5-16.4)	(9.8-14.8)	(9.6-15.7)	(10.2-16.9)	(15.8-26.9)	(17.7-23.1	(17.4-26.2)	(17.0-23.1)	(14.2-18.8)	(11.5-15.5)	(9.6-13.5)	(7.8-11.4)	(7.3-11.2)	(4.8-8.2)	(5.3-7.9)	(4.3-8.2)	(5.3-7.4)	(2.6-9.8)	(3.8-5.9)
Males	**15.2**	**21.4**	**19.3**	**22.6**	**16.9**	**14.7**	**11.9**	**12.0**	**15.0**	**23.1**	**20.0**	**23.8**	**20.2**	**18.9**	**13.8**	**12.1**	**10.2**	**9.9**	**7.1**	**5.9**	**6.6**	**7.7**	†	**5.3**
	(12.8-18.0)	(18.4-24.7)	(17.7-20.9)	(20.0-25.3)	(13.4-21.1)	(10.3-20.6)	(8.8-15.9)	(8.4-16.7)	(9.9-22.0)	(16.4-31.5)	(17.0-23.3)	(18.5-30.0)	(16.9-23.8)	(15.6-22.8)	(11.6-16.4)	(9.9-14.8)	(7.9-12.9)	(7.6-12.8)	(5.1-9.7)	(4.4-7.8)	(4.2-10.4)	(6.2-9.6)		(3.9-7.2)
Females	**13.6**	**18.1**	**16.7**	**17.1**	**13.4**	**10.6**	**12.2**	**12.8**	**11.5**	**18.7**	**20.5**	**19.1**	**19.4**	**13.8**	**12.9**	**10.7**	**8.6**	**8.2**	**5.5**	**7.1**	**5.2**	**4.7**	†	**4.1**
	(11.3-16.3)	(15.4-21.1)	(13.0-21.2)	(13.2-21.8)	(10.5-17.1)	(8.4-13.3)	(9.3-16.0)	(7.9-20.0)	(7.4-17.3)	(13.8-24.9)	(16.6-25.0)	(14.4-25.0)	(15.0-24.8)	(11.4-16.6)	(10.4-15.9)	(8.6-13.3)	(7.0-10.7)	(5.8-11.5)	(4.1-7.4)	(5.4-9.2)	(3.9-6.8)	(3.7-5.9)		(3.1-5.5)
Grade 9	**12.0**	**16.0**	**16.2**	**17.3**	**10.9**	**9.1**	**9.3**	**10.6**	**10.8**	**13.1**	**14.5**	**15.4**	**15.7**	**12.0**	**10.4**	**7.4**	**6.4**	**3.7**	**4.0**	**2.2**	**3.7**	**3.1**	†	**3.4**
	(9.9-14.6)	(13.4-19.1)	(13.6-19.2)	(13.4-22.1)	(7.6-15.4)	(5.4-14.8)	(6.6-13.0)	(9.0-12.4)	(7.8-14.7)	(10.5-16.1)	(10.1-20.3)	(11.1-21.0)	(12.9-19.0)	(9.8-14.8)	(8.5-12.5)	(5.6-9.6)	(4.6-8.7)	(2.5-5.4)	(2.5-6.3)	(1.5-3.3)	(2.4-5.5)	(2.3-4.3)		(2.4-4.7)
11	**17.8**	**24.9**	**20.5**	**23.0**	**19.9**	**15.9**	**15.6**	**13.8**	**15.8**	**28.4**	**26.0**	**28.5**	**25.3**	**20.7**	**16.6**	**15.6**	**12.4**	**14.4**	**8.5**	**10.5**	**8.0**	**9.2**	†	**6.1**
	(14.9-21.2)	(21.1-29.2)	(17.1-24.4)	(18.9-27.7)	(16.0-24.4)	(11.4-21.7)	(12.6-19.1)	(9.1-20.3)	(10.8-22.7)	(19.2-39.9)	(23.5-28.6)	(22.5-35.2)	(20.5-30.8)	(17.2-24.6)	(13.9-19.8)	(13.0-18.6)	(9.5-15.9)	(11.2-18.3)	(6.4-11.2)	(8.5-13.0)	(5.1-12.5)	(7.4-11.4)		(4.5-8.1)

Notes: (1) based on grades 9 and 11 only (long-term sample); (2) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (3) † estimate suppressed due to unreliability; (4) question asked of a random half sample from 1991 to 1999; (5) the **seven drugs** included in the index are LSD, mushrooms/mescaline, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy (except for years prior to 1991), and tranquillizers/sedatives (NM); (6) [d] significant linear trend; [e] significant nonlinear trend.

Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A15: Percentage Who Perceive "Great Risk" of Harm Associated with Smoking Cannabis Regularly, 1989–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(3040)	(2961)	(2617)	(2907)	(3072)	(2421)	(953)	(1618)	(1862)	(1488)	(2069)	(2254)	(2433)	(2566)	(2514)	(3242)	(591)	(2503)
	75.4	73.3	70.2	60.1	57.6	53.2	48.3	56.5	53.0	54.0	62.3	57.6	49.6	46.0	44.8	41.6	62.1	52.1 [de]

Notes: (1) based on grades 7, 9, 11 only (long-term sample); (2) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they smoke cannabis regularly?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Table A16: Percentage Reporting it is "Fairly Easy" or "Very Easy" to Obtain the Drug, 1981–2023 OSDUHS (Grades 7, 9, and 11 only)

	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
(n)	(2991)	(3614)	(3146)	(3376)	(3040)	(2961)	(2617)	(2907)	(3072)	(2421)	(953)	(1618)	(1862)	(1488)	(2069)	(2254)	(2433)	(2566)	(2514)	(3242)	(591)	(2503)
Alcohol	—	—	—	60.7	59.4	62.3	63.4	68.1	64.3	64.4	62.1	63.0	51.2	53.2	49.9	47.6	58.8	59.6	55.2	55.1	51.0	64.6 [de]
Cannabis	45.6	40.9	40.2	28.5	24.4	25.4	29.8	43.0	52.3	48.0	50.5	47.4	39.7	37.8	35.0	34.6	43.4	40.4	34.7	39.4	30.8	40.1 [e]

Notes: (1) based on grades 7, 9, 11 only (long-term sample); (2) [d] significant linear trend, p<.01; [e] significant nonlinear trend, p<.01.
Q: How easy or difficult would it be for you to get [drug] if you wanted some?
Source: OSDUHS, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

Appendix 2

Table A17: Drugs No Longer Monitored in the OSDUHS

	First Year Monitored	Last Year Monitored
Barbiturates (prescription)	1977	2005
Benzylpiperazine (BZP pills)	2011	2013
Crack	1987	2019
Doda	2011	2011
GHB	2001	2009
Gravol (OTC)	1995	2011
Inhalants (Glue/Solvents)	1977	2019
Injection drug use (non-specific)	1989	2015
Jimson weed	2007	2017
Ketamine	2001	2013
Mephedrone (“bath salts”)	2011	2017
Methoxetamine	2013	2013
Modafinil	2013	2015
OxyContin (prescription)	2005	2013
PCP	1981	2009
Rohypnol	2001	2009
Salvia Divinorum	2009	2017
Sleeping medication (OTC)	2007	2009
Steroids	1989	2015
Stimulants (prescription)	1977	2011
Synthetic Cannabis (“Spice,” “K2”)	2013	2019

OTC= over-the-counter

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