

Other Substance Use Among Students in Grades 7 to 12 in the NBPSDHU Region

Methodology, Data Source and Limitations

The data presented in this report is from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) conducted by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and administered by the Institute for Social Research, York University. Its contents and interpretation are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official view of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

The data presented in this report was collected during the 2014/2015 school year, and when noted, for a combined sample of the 2010/2011 & 2014/2015 school years. It provides an update of substance use in Ontario youth, updating data that were previously reported in [Substance Use Among Youth in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Region](#) (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012). The survey was administered to students from grades seven through twelve enrolled in public and Catholic school systems (French and English). The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU) region sample includes 580 students from 19 regional schools within three school boards.

Excluded from this report are youth enrolled in private schools or home-schooled, those institutionalized for correctional or health reasons, and those schooled on native reserves, military bases, or in the remote northern region of Ontario.

Data in this report has been presented for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU), other northern regions in Ontario (excluding the NBPSDHU region) and Ontario.

The term “significant” is used within this report to describe differences between health regions or groups that are statistically meaningful. Without statistical significance you cannot say with certainty that the differences are real, or simply due to chance. Sampling variability associated with each estimate is described using 95% confidence intervals (95% CI), which indicate the precision of the estimate. Confidence intervals were used to determine significant differences between estimates.

Estimates with a coefficient of variation (ratio of standard error to its estimate) equal to or higher than 33.3, or based on less than 50 responses were suppressed due to high sampling variability. Estimates were calculated using complex survey analysis in Stata 13.1 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX).

Definitions and Comparison Groups

Aboriginal

Only students who identified themselves as Aboriginal on the survey are included in this group. It is possible that some students did not self-identify, and are thus excluded from this group.

Perceived Socio-Economic Status (SES)

Students were asked to identify where they thought their family would be on the SES ladder, on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being “worst off”, and 10 being “best off”. Students who selected a rating of 1-6 were considered to be of low SES, while students who selected 7-10 were considered to be of high SES.

Connectedness

Students were asked their agreement to three statements to determine how connected they felt to their school community: “I feel safe in my school”. “I feel close to people at this school” and “I feel like I am part of this school”. Students who responded that they somewhat or strongly agreed to all three statements were considered “connected”, otherwise they were considered “disconnected”

Lifetime Use

Any Illegal Substance

Any lifetime illegal substance includes synthetic cannabis, over the counter cough/cold medication, inhalants, salvia divinorum, hallucinogens, LSD/acid, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, methamphetamine/crystal meth, heroin, jimson weed, mephedrone, steroids, drugs used non-medically such as opioids, Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) medications, tranquilizer/sedative, modafinil, and over the counter (OTC) cough/cold medications.

The proportion of students in the NBPSDHU region who reported illegal substance use in their lifetime in 2014/15 (26.5%; 95% CI: 22.8-30.7) is comparable to other northern regions (23.7%; 95% CI: 20.3-27.4) and Ontario (22.8%; 95% CI: 21.2-24.4).

Males and females reported using illegal substances in comparable proportions, however, a significantly higher proportion of female students in the NBPSDHU region reported using illegal substances compared to all female students in Ontario (Table 1).

Significantly more students in grades 11 to 12 in the NBPSDHU region reported illegal substance use compared to students in grades 7 to 8 (Table 2).

The percentage of self-identified Aboriginal students who reported illegal substance use did not differ from non-Aboriginal students in the NBPSDHU region or Ontario (Table 3). Significantly more Aboriginal students in other northern regions reported illegal substance use compared to non-Aboriginals in other northern regions.

The percentage of students who reported illegal substance use did not differ by perceived socioeconomic status in any of the three regions (Table 4).

In other northern regions and Ontario, significantly more students who felt disconnected to their school community reported illegal substance use, as compared to students who felt connected to their school community (Table 5). The percentage of students who reported illegal drug use in the NBPSDHU region did not differ by connectedness.

Table 1. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using Any Illegal Drug (Including Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in their Lifetime, by Gender and Region, 2014/15

Gender	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Males	25.0 ^E (16.9-35.3)	26.3 (23.2-30.8)	23.6 (21.6-25.7)
Females	28.2* (24.3-32.5)	20.9 (16.6-25.8)	21.9 (19.7-24.2)

* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Table 2. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using Any Illegal Drug (Including Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in their Lifetime, by Grade Level and Region, 2014/15

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Grades 7 - 8	13.1 (10.1-16.7)	20.2 ^E (12.1-32.6)	18.0 (14.1-22.8)
Grades 9 - 10	25.7 (16.3-38.0)	21.1 (16.5-26.6)	19.1 (17.5-20.8)
Grades 11 - 12	37.0 ‡ (29.7-45.0)	28.3 (23.0-34.3)	28.8 ‡ (26.4-31.4)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from students in grades 7 & 8 in the same region

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Table 3. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using Any Illegal Drug (Including Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in their Lifetime, by Aboriginal Identity & Region, 2014/15

Aboriginal identity	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Aboriginal	23.5 ^E (14.8-35.2)	41.8 (32.2-52.1)	26.7 (19.6-35.1)
Non-Aboriginal	27.0 (22.0-32.6)	21.6 ‡ (18.0-25.6)	22.6 (21.1-24.3)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from students who identify as Aboriginal in the same region

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Table 4. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using Any Illegal Drug (Including Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in their Lifetime, by Perceived Socioeconomic Status and Region, 2014/15

Perceived Socioeconomic Status (SES)	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Low SES	30.1 (26.5-33.9)	27.0 (22.8-31.7)	24.6 (22.2-27.1)
High SES	24.3 ^E (16.5-34.2)	22.4 (18.1-27.5)	21.9 (19.9-24.0)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Table 5. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using Any Illegal Drug (Including Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in their Lifetime, by Level of Connectedness to Their School and Region, 2014/15

Level of School Connectedness	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Connected	25.8 (20.4-32.0)	20.3 (16.7-24.5)	21.3 (19.5-23.1)
Disconnected	29.4 (20.3-40.3)	38.8 ‡ (28.4-50.4)	28.1 ‡ (25.6-30.8)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from students who felt connected to school, in the same region

By Illegal Drug

All analyses for individual drug use within the NBPSDHU region and other northern regions are for the 2010/11 & 2014/15 regions combined. Approximately one in ten NBPSDHU regional students reported using hallucinogens in their lifetime, significantly higher than the estimate for Ontario students (see Table 6). The percentage of students in the NBPSDHU region who used LSD/acid, *Salvia divinorum*, and opioids for a non-medical purpose in their lifetime was significantly higher compared to Ontario students.

Table 6. Percentage (95% CI) of Students by Illegal Drug Used in their Lifetime and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (NBPSDHU Region & Other Northern Regions) and 2014/15 (Ontario)

Substance	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Hallucinogens/psilocybin	11.4* (9.4-13.6)	6.3 ^E (4.5-8.8)	4.0 (3.1-5.1)
LSD/acid	3.7* ^E (2.6-5.6)	2.7 ^E (1.7-4.4)	1.9 (1.5-2.4)
Cocaine	5.5 ^E (3.2-9.2)	5.4 ^E (3.8-7.5)	3.2 (2.6-4.0)
Crack	1.0 ^E (0.5-1.9)	1.7* ^E (1.0-3.1)	0.6 ^E (0.4-0.9)
Ecstasy	8.0 ^E (5.3-12.0)	5.6 (4.3-7.2)	6.3 (5.4-7.3)
Methamphetamines/Crystal Meth	F	1.3 ^E (0.8-2.1)	1.5 ^E (1.0-2.3)
Heroin	F	1.0 ^E (0.7-1.7)	0.6 ^E (0.4-1.0)
Jimson weed	2.8 ^E (1.3-4.0)	3.1 ^E (1.8-5.2)	1.9 ^E (1.4-2.7)
Mephedrone	F	F	0.7 ^E (0.5-1.2)
Inhalants	6.2 ^E (3.8-9.9)	3.2 ^E (2.0-5.2)	4.3 (3.6-5.2)

Substance	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
OTC Cough/cold medicine	11.5 ^E (7.7-16.6)	8.3 (6.5-10.5)	8.8 (7.4-10.4)
Salvia divinorum	8.7* ^E (5.3-13.9)	4.0 ^E (2.3-6.7)	2.0 (1.5-2.6)
Non-medical use of tranquilizers/sedatives	2.3 ^E (1.5-3.7)	2.3 ^E (1.4-3.6)	2.1 (1.7-2.7)
Non-medical use of ADHD	F	2.4 ^E (1.6-3.4)	2.1 (1.6-2.7)
Non-medical use of opioids	15.7* (13.2-18.5)	13.9* (11.1-17.2)	10.0 (9.0-11.0)

* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

F Estimate suppressed; too unreliable to be released

Previous Year Use

Illegal Substance

The proportion of students in the NBPSDHU region who reported substance use in the year previous to the 2014/15 school year (22.1%; 95% CI: 17.7-27.2) is comparable to other northern regions (17.9%; 95% CI: 14.8-21.5) and Ontario (18.2%; 95% CI: 16.8-19.8). However, when comparing the combined 2010/11 & 2014/15 combined sample, the percentage of NBPSDHU regional students who used an illegal drug (26.8%; 95% CI: 23.9-29.8) in the previous year is significantly higher than the 2014/15 Ontario percentage (18.2%; 95% CI: 16.8-19.8) but similar to other northern regions (22.7%; 95% CI: 18.2-27.9) for 2014/15.

All analyses for combined illegal drug use among select demographic groups in the previous year for the NBPSDHU region and other northern regions are for the 2010/11 & 2014/15 regions combined. Illegal substances included in this estimate were hallucinogens, LSD/acid, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, methamphetamine/crystal meth, heroin, and drugs used non-medically such as opioids, ADHD medications, and tranquilizer/sedative.

A significantly higher percentage of male students in the NBPSDHU region reported using drugs within the previous 12 months compared to Ontario male students (Table 7). Males and females reported using substances in comparable proportions over the previous year.

Data for students in grades 7 and 8 were not combined for 2010/11 & 2014/15, therefore are not displayed in Table 2. The percentage of illegal drug use among students in grades 7 and 8 in 2014/15 was similar across all regions (NBPSDHU region: 9.2%; 95% CI: 6.6-12.5; other northern regions: 14.6%; 95% CI: 7.4-26.5 and use estimate with caution; Ontario: 13.5%; 95% CI: 10.5-17.2).

Significantly more students in grades 11 to 12 in the NBPSDHU region and Ontario reported substance use in the previous year compared to students in grades 9 to 10 (Table 8). Compared to Ontario students, a significantly higher percentage of NBPSDHU regional students in grades 9 to 10 and 11 to 12 used drugs in the previous year.

The percentage of self-identified Aboriginal students who reported illegal substance use did not differ from non-Aboriginal students in the NBPSDHU region or Ontario (Table 9). Significantly more Aboriginal students in other northern regions reported illegal substance use compared to non-Aboriginals in other northern regions. Aboriginals in other northern regions also reported substance use significantly more than Ontario Aboriginals.

Past year use of an illegal drug did not vary according to the language spoken at home in any of the three regions (Table 10).

A significantly higher percentage of NBPSDHU regional students in low perceived SES reported illegal drug use in the previous year compared to low perceived SES Ontario students (Table 11).

In other northern regions and Ontario, significantly more students who felt disconnected to their school community reported substance use in the past year, as compared to students who felt connected to their school community (Table 12). The percentage of students who reported substance use in the past year in NBPSDHU region did not differ by connectedness.

Table 7. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using an Illegal Drug (Including LSD, Hallucinogens/Psilocybin, Cocaine, Crack, Methamphetamines, Heroin, Ecstasy, Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in the Past 12 Months, by Gender and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (NBPSDHU Region & Other Northern Regions) and 2014/15 (Ontario)

Gender	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Males	26.9* (21.0-33.6)	19.7 (14.0-27.1)	18.3 (16.4-20.3)
Females	20.8 (15.6-27.3)	16.3 (12.2-21.3)	18.2 (16.3-20.3)

Table 8. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using an Illegal Drug (Including LSD, Hallucinogens/Psilocybin, Cocaine, Crack, Methamphetamines, Heroin, Ecstasy, Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in the Past 12 Months, by Grade Level and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (NBPSDHU Region & Other Northern Regions) and 2014/15 (Ontario)

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Grades 9 - 10	19.2* (16.0-22.8)	12.7 (9.2-17.3)	14.5 (13.1-15.9)
Grades 11 - 12	27.9*‡ (23.2-33.1)	22.5 (16.2-30.3)	20.0‡ (18.4-21.7)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from students in grades 7 & 8 in the same region

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Table 9. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using an Illegal Drug (Including LSD, Hallucinogens/Psilocybin, Cocaine, Crack, Methamphetamines, Heroin, Ecstasy, Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in the Past 12 Months, by Aboriginal Identity & Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (NBPSDHU Region & Other Northern Regions) and 2014/15 (Ontario)

Aboriginal identity	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Aboriginal	23.3 ^E (15.3-33.9)	39.9* [‡] (30.4-50.2)	22.3 (16.6-29.3)
Non-Aboriginal	23.9* (20.1-28.1)	15.6 (11.7-20.6)	18.1 (16.6-19.7)

* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

‡ Estimate is significantly different from Aboriginal students in the same region

Table 10. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using an Illegal Drug (Including LSD, Hallucinogens/Psilocybin, Cocaine, Crack, Methamphetamines, Heroin, Ecstasy, Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in the Past 12 Months, by Language(s) Spoken at Home & Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (NBPSDHU Region & Other Northern Regions) and 2014/15 (Ontario)

Language(s) spoken at home	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
French	37.2 ^E (25.2-51.0)	14.4 ^E (8.3-23.9)	F
English	23.3 (19.8-27.2)	17.1 (13.8-21.1)	19.2 (17.5-21.1)
French & English	24.1 (18.0-31.6)	F	23.4 (16.8-31.5)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

F Estimate suppressed; too unreliable to be released

Table 11. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using an Illegal Drug (Including LSD, Hallucinogens/Psilocybin, Cocaine, Crack, Methamphetamines, Heroin, Ecstasy, Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in the Past 12 Months, by Perceived Socioeconomic Status and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (NBPSDHU Region & Other Northern Regions) and 2014/15 (Ontario)

Perceived Socioeconomic Status (SES)	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Low SES	29.2* (24.1-35.0)	21.0 ^E (14.5-29.2)	19.5 (17.2-21.9)
High SES	20.4 (15.6-26.3)	16.9 (12.9-21.7)	17.6 (16.0-19.4)

* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Table 12. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Using an Illegal Drug (Including LSD, Hallucinogens/Psilocybin, Cocaine, Crack, Methamphetamines, Heroin, Ecstasy, Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs, Excluding Cannabis) in the Past 12 Months, by Level of Connectedness to Their School and Region, 2010/11 & 2014/15 Combined (NBPSDHU Region & Other Northern Regions) and 2014/15 (Ontario)

Level of School Connectedness	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Connected	23.4 (18.5-29.2)	15.4 (11.2-20.7)	17.0 (15.4-18.8)
Disconnected	26.0 (19.5-33.7)	28.7 ‡ (21.3-37.5)	22.7 ‡ (20.5-25.1)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from students who felt connected to their school, in the same region

Hallucinogens

In the past year for students in the 2014/15 school year, 8.9% (95% CI: 4.7-16.1) of NBPSDHU students reported that they had used hallucinogens. This is significantly more than Ontario, where 3.2% (95% CI: 2.4-4.3) of students reported ever using hallucinogens.

Opioids

Non-medical use of prescription opioids in the past year was reported by 11.5% (95% CI: 7.3-17.6) of NBPSDHU students, which is comparable to students in other northern regions (9.5%; 95% CI: 6.8-13.1) and Ontario (10.0%; 95% CI: 9.0-11.0).

OTC Cough/Cold Medications

Approximately 1 in 12 (8.7%; 95% CI: 4.2-16.9) NBPSDHU students reported using OTC cough/cold medications to get high in the past year, with is comparable to students in other northern regions (6.3%; 95% CI: 4.4-8.9) and Ontario (6.4%; 95% CI: 5.3-7.6).

High Energy Caffeine Drinks

In the past year, 40.6% (95% CI: 34.6-48.9) of NBPSDHU students reported that they drank a high-energy caffeine drink at least once, which is comparable to students in other northern regions (40.5%; 95% CI: 36.5-44.6) and Ontario (34.8%; 95% CI: 32.8-36.9). A comparable percentage of students in NBPSDHU region reported high-energy caffeine drink consumption in 2014/15 as compared to 2010/11 (44.4%; 95% CI: 34.3-55.0; North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

A significantly higher proportion of secondary students in the NBPSDHU region and Ontario reported consuming high-energy caffeine drinks compared to elementary students (Table 13).

In the NBPSDHU region, 19.6% (95% CI: 14.0-26.7) of students reported they drank a high-energy caffeine drink in the week prior to completing the survey, which is significantly higher than the proportion of Ontario students (12.0%; 95% CI: 10.8-13.3).

Table 13. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported Consumption of High-Energy Caffeine Drinks in Past 12 Months, by Grade Level and Region, 2014/15

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Grade 7 - 8	26.2 (18.8-35.2)	29.8 ^E (19.5-42.8)	21.1 (17.1-25.8)
Grade 9 - 12	46.2 ‡ (36.7-56.0)	44.6 (40.8-48.4)	39.7 ‡ (37.5-41.9)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from students in grades 7 & 8 in the same region

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Drug Use Problem

The CRAFFT Screening Test consists of six questions used to measure drug-use problems in adolescents. A significantly higher percentage of NBPSDHU regional students reported that in the past 12 months they used drugs to relax, feel better, or fit in, used drugs alone, and rode in a vehicle with a driver who had used drugs as compared to Ontario students (Table 14). The proportion of NBPSDHU regional students who reported each CRAFFT item in 2014/15 is similar to 2010/11 (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

Almost one-third (31.4%; 95% CI: 27.1-63.0) of NBPSDHU regional students have a potential drug use problem (CRAFFT score of two and higher), which is significantly higher than the percentage of students with a potential drug use problem in other northern regions (17.5%; 95% CI: 12.5-24.0) and Ontario (16.1%; 95% CI: 14.0-18.4). In particular, a higher percentage of NBPSDHU regional males and NBPSDHU regional students in grades 11 and 12 were identified with a potential drug use problem, as compared to Ontario. The proportion of NBPSDHU regional students with a potential drug use problem in 2014/15 does not differ significantly from 2010/11 (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

Table 14. Percentage (95% CI) of Secondary Students Who Reported Doing Each CRAFFT Item in the Previous 12 Months, by Region, 2014/15

CRAFFT Item	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Used drugs to relax, feel better, fit in	23.7* (19.5-28.4)	16.0 (11.1-22.5)	16.7 (14.5-19.1)
Used drugs alone	27.6* (21.3-34.8)	13.3 ^E (9.0-19.2)	12.5 (10.6-14.5)
Forgot things while using drugs	4.9 ^E (2.6-9.3)	6.6 ^E (4.1-10.3)	7.7 (6.4-9.3)
Got in trouble while using drugs	11.4 ^E (4.9-24.3)	5.0 ^E (2.6-9.5)	5.3 (4.3-6.7)
Family/friends said to cut down on drugs	11.2 ^E (6.0-19.9)	F	5.2 (4.1-6.6)
Rode with driver who used drugs	28.8* (20.2-39.3)	21.3 (15.3-28.8)	15.0 (13.1-17.2)

* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

F Estimate suppressed; too unreliable to be released

Table 15. Percentage (95% CI) of Secondary Students Who Scored Two and Higher on the CRAFFT Screening Test, Indicating a Potential Drug Use Problem, by Gender and Region, 2014/15

Gender	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Males	38.9* ^E (23.1-57.5)	16.9 ^E (9.9-27.4)	16.7 (14.0-19.6)
Females	23.8 (16.4-33.1)	18.3 (13.2-24.8)	15.5 (12.9-18.4)

* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Table 16. Percentage (95% CI) of Secondary Students Who Scored Two and Higher on the CRAFFT Screening Test, Indicating a Potential Drug Use Problem, by Grade Level and Region, 2014/15

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Grades 9 - 10	24.3 ^E (11.4-44.6)	F	10.1 (8.3-12.1)
Grades 11 - 12	36.3* (29.1-44.1)	23.4 (17.3-30.9)	20.9 ‡ (17.7-24.4)

* Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate

‡ Estimate is significantly different from students in grades 9 & 10 in the same region

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

F Estimate suppressed; too unreliable to be released

Neighbourhood & School Factors

Education about Cannabis and Other Drugs

Over one-third (37.0%; 95% CI: 28.3-46.6) of NBPSDHU regional students reported that they have had at least one class about cannabis and other drugs in the past 12 months. This is significantly lower than the percentage of Ontario students who reported at least one class about cannabis and other drugs (51.5%; 95% CI: 48.2-54.7).

Intoxicated (Drunk or High) at School

In 2014/15, 14.4% (95% CI: 7.0-27.1) of NBPSDHU regional students reported being intoxicated at school at least once in the past year, which is comparable to students in other northern regions (11.1%; 95% CI: 6.3-19.0) and Ontario (12.1%; 95% CI: 10.3-14.1), as well as students in 2010/11 (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

Drug Use a Problem in School

Approximately one-third (36.7%; 95% CI: 17.6-61.2) of NBPSDHU regional students reported that they considered drug use a big problem in their school, which is similar to the percentage of students in other

northern regions (32.2%; 95% CI: 25.8-39.3) and Ontario (25.5%; 95% CI: 23.2-28.0) who considered drug use to be a big problem at their school. Half of secondary students in NBPSDHU region reported drug use as a big problem, which was significantly more than elementary students (Table 17). A similar percentage (36.4%; 95% CI: 21.4-54.5%) of NBPSDHU regional students reported that drug use was a big problem in their school in 2010/11 (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

Table 17. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported that Drug Use Was a Big Problem in their School, by Grade Level and Region, 2014/15

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Grades 7 - 8	8.1 ^E (4.1-15.3)	19.7 ^E (10.3-34.4)	11.5 (9.4-13.9)
Grades 9 – 12	50.6 ^{E‡} (21.5-79.4)	37.3 (29.0-46.4)	30.2 ‡ (27.3-33.3)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from students in grades 7 & 8 in the same region

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Drug Sales

In the NBPSDHU region, 18.8% (95% CI: 13.8-25.1) of students reported that someone had tried to sell them drugs, which is comparable to other northern regions (23.7%; 95% CI: 17.0-32.0) and Ontario (24.8%; 95% CI: 22.4-27.5). A comparable percentage of students in each region reported that someone had tried to sell them drugs in 2010/11 (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

Seeing a drug sale was reported by 17.2% (95% CI: 10.5-26.8) of NBPSDHU regional students, 20.1% (95% CI: 13.5-28.8) of students in other regions, and 21.9% (95% CI: 20.0-23.9) of Ontario students, which is comparable to 2010/11 (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

Friends who Use Drugs

Over half (54.4%; 95% CI: 43.2-65.1) of NBPSDHU regional students reported that at least some of their friends used illegal drugs, which is comparable to students in other northern regions (49.2%; 95% CI: 41.5-56.8) and Ontario (46.2%; 95% CI: 43.3-49.1). A significantly higher percentage of secondary students reported that friends use illegal drugs, as compared to elementary students in all regions (Table 18). Significantly more secondary students in the NBPSDHU region reported friends who use drugs as compared to Ontario secondary students.

Table 18. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Reported that at Least Some of Their Friends Use Illegal Drugs, by Grade Level and Region, 2014/15

Grade Level	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Grade 7 - 8	19.8 ^E (11.0-33.1)	24.1 ^E (13.9-38.6)	11.7 (9.4-14.5)
Grade 9 - 12	71.4* [‡] (62.9-78.6)	60.0 ‡ (50.4-68.9)	57.7 ‡ (54.4-61.0)

- * Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate
- ‡ Estimate is significantly different from students in grades 7 & 8 in the same region
- E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Access/Availability

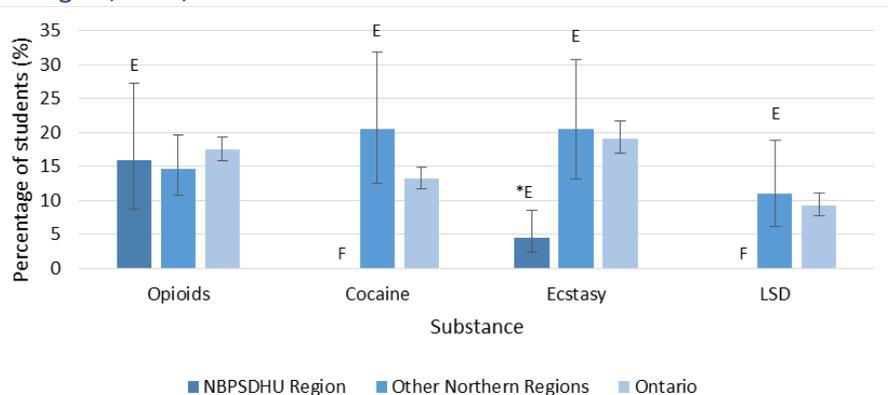
Approximately one in six (16.0%) NBPSDHU regional students reported that opioids were easy to obtain, which is similar to students in other northern regions and Ontario (Table 19 & Figure 1). The percentage of NBPSDHU regional students reporting ecstasy was easy to obtain is lower as compared to other northern regions and Ontario (Table 8 & Figure 1), as well as NBPSDHU regional students in 2010/11 (13.8%; 95% CI: 9.9-19.0; North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012). As compared to 2010/11, significantly more Ontario students in 2014/15 reported that cocaine and ecstasy were easy to obtain (North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, 2012).

Table 19. Percentage (95%CI) of Students Who Perceived Substances Were Easy to Obtain, by Substance and Region, 2014/15

Substance	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Opioids	16.0 ^E (8.8-27.3)	14.7 (10.8-19.7)	17.5 (15.8-19.3)
Cocaine	F	20.5 ^E (12.5-31.8)	13.2 (11.7-14.9)
Ecstasy	4.5 ^{*E} (2.3-8.6)	20.5 ^E (13.1-30.7)	19.2 (16.9-21.7)
LSD	F	11.0 ^E (6.2-18.8)	9.3 (7.8-11.0)

- * Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate
- E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability
- F Estimate suppressed; too unreliable to be released

Figure 1. Percentage (95%CI) of Students Who Perceived Substances Were Easy to Obtain, by Substance and Region, 2014/15



- * Estimate is significantly different from provincial estimate
- E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability
- F Estimate suppressed; too unreliable to be released

Perceived Harm

Approximately half of NBPSDHU regional students reported that they perceived great harm associated with using substances, which is comparable to students other northern regions and Ontario (Table 20). The percentage of students in the NBPSDHU region who perceived great harm associated with using substances did not differ significantly by substance, however significantly more Ontario students perceived great harm associated with using opioids non-medically, as compared to trying ecstasy once or twice (Table 9).

Table 20. Percentage (95%CI) of Students Who Perceived Great Risk of Harm Associated with Using Substances, by Substance and Region, 2014/15

Substance Use Behaviour	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Use opioids non-medically	49.5 (43.0-56.0)	50.2 (41.2-59.3)	42.5 (40.2-45.0)
Try cocaine once or twice	54.4 (39.4-68.5)	38.9 (33.1-45.0)	41.4 (39.2-43.7)
Try ecstasy once or twice	51.3 (32.4-69.8)	39.9 (33.2-47.0)	37.0 (34.8-39.2)

Disapproval of Adult Use

Over half of NBPSDHU regional students strongly disapprove of adults trying cocaine or ecstasy once or twice, which is comparable to students in other northern regions and Ontario (Table 21).

Table 21. Percentage (95% CI) of Students Who Strongly Disapprove of Adults (Aged 18 Years and Over) Using Illegal Substances, 2014/15

Substance Use Behaviour	NBPSDHU Region	Other Northern Regions	Ontario
Try cocaine once or twice	51.7 (41.7-61.5)	51.7 (42.7-60.5)	52.6 (50.3-54.8)
Try ecstasy once or twice	52.0 (38.2-65.5)	53.9 (45.7-61.9)	50.9 (48.4-53.3)

References

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. Substance Use among Youth in the NBPSDHU Region. North Bay: NBPSDHU, August 2012.