In Brief: Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use in Alberta and Canada, Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey

The Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CSTADS; formerly the Youth Smoking Survey (YSS)) is a biennial school-based survey of Canadian students in grades 6-12. The Propel Centre for Population Health Impact has led the implementation of CSTADS since 2004.

Tobacco Use in Alberta and Canada, 2008/2009 - 2014/2015 CSTADS

The following table displays tobacco use rates in Alberta and Canada using a variety of standard measures. In Alberta, rates of being a current smoker, use of cigarettes in the past 30 days, the use of menthol cigarettes in the past 30 days, and the use of any tobacco products in the past 30 days are significantly lower than the national rates. Additionally, the 2014/2015 results show a statistically significant decrease since 2012/2013 in current smoking rate, rate of ever tried cigarettes, cigarette use in the past 30 days, use of little cigars or cigarillos in the past 30 days, and use of any tobacco product in the past 30 days. ‡

Table 1: Tobacco Use (percentage) in Alberta and Canada, Grade 6-12 Students, 2008/2009 - 2014/2015 Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current smoking (cigarettes)</td>
<td>2.2‡</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.0‡</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.1‡</td>
<td>7.7</td>
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<td>Ever tried cigarettes</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>33.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cigarette use (past 30 days)</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>12.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-cigarette use (past 30 days)</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Menthol cigarette use (past 30 days)</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.9‡</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little cigars or cigarillos use (past 30 days) *</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any tobacco product use (past 30 days) †</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>18.0</td>
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</table>

†Includes cigarettes, pipe, little cigars or cigarillos, cigars, roll-your-own, bidis, smokeless, water-pipe, and blunt wraps. Bidis, blunt wraps and water-pipe were not included on the 2008/2009 questionnaire and pipe was not included in the 2014/2015 questionnaire.
‡Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution.

Note: The 2014/2015 results reported for being a smoker, using cigarettes in past 30 days, using menthol cigarettes in past 30 days, and use of any tobacco product in the past 30 days in AB are statistically significantly lower than the 2014/2015 Canada results.
Figure 1: Current Smoking in Alberta and Canada, Grade 6-12 students, 2008-2014 CSTADS

Graph showing current smoking rates for Alberta and Canada from 2008/2009 to 2014/2015. Current smoking rates for Alberta are shown in blue and for Canada in red. The rates are as follows:

- 2008/2009: Alberta 7.7%, Canada 6.0%
- 2010/2011: Alberta 5.1%, Canada 5.6%
- 2012/2013: Alberta 3.9%, Canada 3.4%
- 2014/2015: Alberta 2.2%

Moderate sampling variability noted, interpret with caution.

Figure 2: Ever Tried Smoking in Alberta and Canada, Grade 6-12 students, 2008-2014/15 CSTADS

Graph showing ever tried smoking rates (cigarettes) for Alberta and Canada from 2008/2009 to 2014/2015. Ever tried smoking rates for Alberta are shown in blue and for Canada in red. The rates are as follows:

- 2008/2009: Alberta 33.3%, Canada 31.7%
- 2010/2011: Alberta 28.7%, Canada 26.2%
- 2012/2013: Alberta 23.8%, Canada 21.6%
- 2014/2015: Alberta 17.6%, Canada 15.5%

Figure 3: Cigarette Use in the past 30 days in Alberta and Canada, Grade 6-12 students, 2008-2014/15 CSTADS

Graph showing cigarette use in the past 30 days for Alberta and Canada from 2008/2009 to 2014/2015. Cigarette use rates for Alberta are shown in blue and for Canada in red. The rates are as follows:

- 2008/2009: Alberta 12.9%, Canada 10.7%
- 2010/2011: Alberta 11.5%, Canada 9.7%
- 2012/2013: Alberta 7.9%, Canada 6.8%
- 2014/2015: Alberta 6.2%, Canada 4.5%
Figure 4: Menthol Cigarette Use in the past 30 days in Alberta and Canada, Grades 6-12 students, 2010-2014/15 CSTADS

Figure 5: Little Cigar or Cigarillos Use in the past 30 days in Alberta and Canada, Grades 6-12 students, 2008-2014/15 CSTADS

Figure 6: Use of Any Tobacco Product in the past 30 days in Alberta and Canada, Grades 6-12 students, 2008-2014/15 CSTADS

‡Moderate sampling variability, interpret with caution.

The following table displays alcohol and drug use rates in Alberta and Canada. Alcohol use, binge drinking, and cannabis use rates in Alberta are statistically significantly lower than the national rates. Additionally, the 2014/2015 CSTADS results show a statistically significant decrease in the rates of alcohol use, binge drinking, and cannabis use since 2012/2013.

Table 2: Alcohol and Drug Use (percentage) in Alberta and Canada, Grade 7-12 Students, 2008/2009 – 2014/2015 Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey

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<td>Alcohol Use (past 12 months)</td>
<td>31.1 39.5</td>
<td>38.9 40.9</td>
<td>47.3 45.4</td>
<td>50.0 53.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Binge drinking (past 12 months) ‡</td>
<td>17.0 23.7</td>
<td>29.1 29.2</td>
<td>36.4 33.3</td>
<td>37.6 39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis use (past 12 months)</td>
<td>11.5 16.5</td>
<td>16.5 19.3</td>
<td>21.8 21.2</td>
<td>19.3 27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceutical use (past 12 months) €</td>
<td>3.5 3.7 3.9 4.0 6.2 5.3 4.3 6.7</td>
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‡ Binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion.
€ Includes sedatives or tranquilizers, stimulants, medicine to treat ADHD, and pain relievers. 2014/2015 also includes oxycodone and fentanyl.

Note: The 2014/2015 results for Alberta (AB) for alcohol use, binge drinking, and cannabis use are statistically significantly lower than the 2014/2015 Canada results.
Figure 9: Cannabis Use in the past 12 months in Alberta and Canada, Grades 7-12 students, 2008-2014/15 CSTADS

Acknowledgements

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