

# Trends of Youth Accessing Alcohol and Drug Services In Saskatchewan

*The following data has been collected from admission records of youth clients who accessed provincially funded addiction services during the 2008-2009 year.*

Amongst youth who access alcohol and drug services in Saskatchewan, alcohol, marijuana and nicotine are reported to be the substances most likely to cause problems.

Youth represent a significant minority of the alcohol and treatment population. The vast majority of youth who access services are over the age of 15 years.

## Demographics

- Youth represented 19% of clients accessing alcohol and drug services in Saskatchewan during 2008-2009.
- 60% of youth clients were male; 40% were female.
- Approximately 81% of these youth were age 15-19 years; 19% were under age 15.
- Aboriginal youth are overrepresented in provincial alcohol and drug services; 54% of youth identified as either First Nation or Métis.
- Nearly 15% of youth reported being neither employed nor a student.

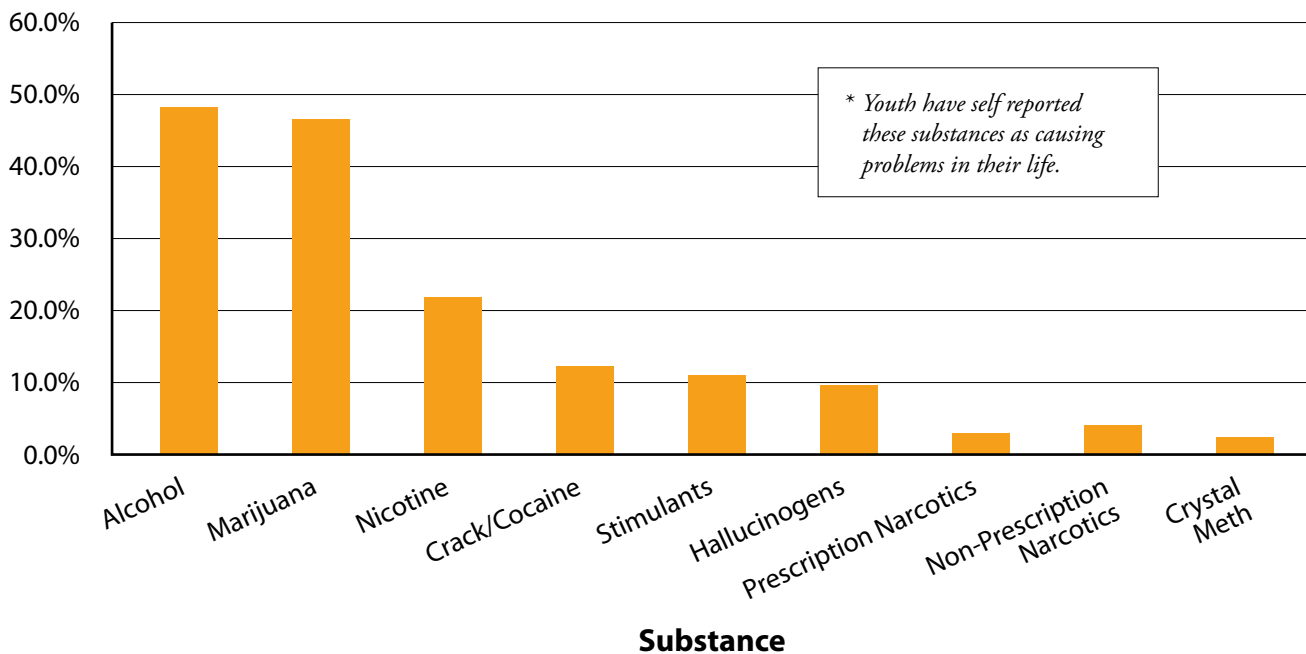
## Provincial Data

- The majority of youth clients were referred to alcohol and drug services by legal authorities, followed by self or family referrals, and referrals made by school authorities.

Referral Source	% of Youth
Legal	28%
Self/Family	26%
School	20%

- 22% of youth who accessed alcohol and drug services in 2008-2009 reported having problems with alcohol and alone. 19% reported having problems with drugs alone. 51% of youth who accessed alcohol and drug services in 2008-2009 reported having problems with both alcohol and drugs.
- The substances reported as causing most problems for youth are alcohol, marijuana and nicotine.
- Almost 95% of youth reported harms associated with their own alcohol and/or drug use. Approximately 5% of youth reported experiencing harms associated with somebody else's alcohol and/or drug use.

**Percentage of Youth Accessing Alcohol and Drug Service by Problematic Substance\***



**Secure Youth Detoxification Services**

- Since the *The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act* was proclaimed in Saskatchewan on April 1, 2006, 474 youth have been admitted to the Secure Youth Detox Centre, located in Regina.
- Of the youth admitted to the Secure Youth Detox Centre, roughly 25% have been re-admitted to the Centre on more than one occasion, with 352 youth being admitted one time.
- 65% of youth admitted to the Secure Youth Detox Centre are female and approximately 49% self-identify as being of Aboriginal ancestry.
- The average age of Secure Youth Detox Centre clients is 15 years.
- Approximately 54% of youth enter the Secure Youth Detox Centre under a warrant initiated by a family member; 23% enter by warrants initiated by a youth worker.

- A large percentage of youth admitted to the Centre self-report using two substances; 33% self-report using three substances, while a much smaller number self-report using either one or four substances.
- Substances most reported as being used (self-reports) include: marijuana/hash/oil, crack/cocaine, and alcohol.

**Sources:**

- Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Client Information System 2008-2009, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health.
- Community Program Profile 2007-2008, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health.
- Secure Youth Detoxification Centre Data (2006/07, 2007/08 & 2008/09), Saskatchewan Ministry of Health.