

Youth & Drug Abuse

For the past decade, the data reveal no clear trend among Buffalo County youth when it comes to misusing prescription pain medication. While the numbers of those who have ever misused prescription pain medicine increase and decrease over time, they occupy a fairly narrow range. This is also true of those who report having taken prescription pain medication for non-prescribed purposes in the previous 30 days. Fewer than one in ten respondents said they have used prescription pain medicine for unintended purposes ever; about one in twenty report having done so in prior month in 2021. Nevertheless, given the dangers associated with opioid abuse, even these small numbers should be troubling. After a slight increase in 2021 in the trend of use of inhalants, the most recent survey has shown a decreased number of Buffalo County teens report using inhalants to get high.

		2012	2014	2016	2018	2021	2023
<i>Percent responding one or more.</i>							
Have ever taken prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than prescribed	Buffalo County Respondents	10.9%	8.6%	7.7%	10.1%	9.4%	8.3%*
	Nebraska Respondents	10.4%	13.5%	14.3%	14.7%	7.1%	9.8%
In the past 30 days, taken prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than prescribed	Buffalo County Respondents	-	4.4%	4.8%	4.2%	5.2%	-
	Nebraska Respondents	-	-	6.3%	6.4%	3.2%	-
Sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high	Buffalo County Respondents	8.0%	5.0%	4.7%	4.7%	6.5%	3.5%*
	Nebraska Respondents	7.0%	8.1%	6.0%	6.0%	7.3%	3.4%
Used a needle to inject any illegal drug into body	Buffalo County Respondents	1.1%	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%	1.2%	1.2%*
	Nebraska Respondents	1.9%	1.9%	4.0%	1.6%	2.2	0.4%

*data set was weighted for representativeness

Youth Drug Abuse

		2012	2014	2016	2018	2021	2023
<i>Percent responding one or more.</i>							
During your life, how many times have you used any form of cocaine , including powder, crack, or freebase?	Buffalo County Respondents	3.8%	2.8%	3.0%	2.9%	-	2.2%*
	Nebraska Respondents	3.2%	5.3%	4.1%	3.5%	-	0.7%
During your life, how many times have you used heroin (also called smack, junk, or China White)?	Buffalo County Respondents	2.1%	1.6%	1.2%	0.9%	-	1.2%*
	Nebraska Respondents	1.2%	2.5%	2.1%	1.9%	-	0.6%
During your life, how many times have you used methamphetamines (also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice)?	Buffalo County Respondents	3.3%	2.6%	1.6%	1.1%	-	1.8%*
	Nebraska Respondents	2.0%	4.2%	3.0%	2.1%	-	1.0%
During your life, how many times have you used ecstasy (also called MDMA or Molly)?	Buffalo County Respondents	4.7%	3.4%	2.1%	2.6%	-	2.2%*
	Nebraska Respondents	3.2%	5.1%	3.9%	3.4%	-	1.0%

**data set was weighted for representativeness*

Research Methods

Every two to three years, Buffalo County Community Partners collaborates with the Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to administer and analyze the Youth Behavioral and Risk Factor Survey. Data from Buffalo County were collected from a representative sample of Buffalo County youth between October and December 2023. In all, 1023 Buffalo County youth, in grades 9-12, completed the 2023. Copies of current and past reports, along with a full description of the Buffalo County research methods, are available at www.bcchp.org/assessments. For research methods respecting the Nebraska data, see <https://bosr.unl.edu/sharp/>.

