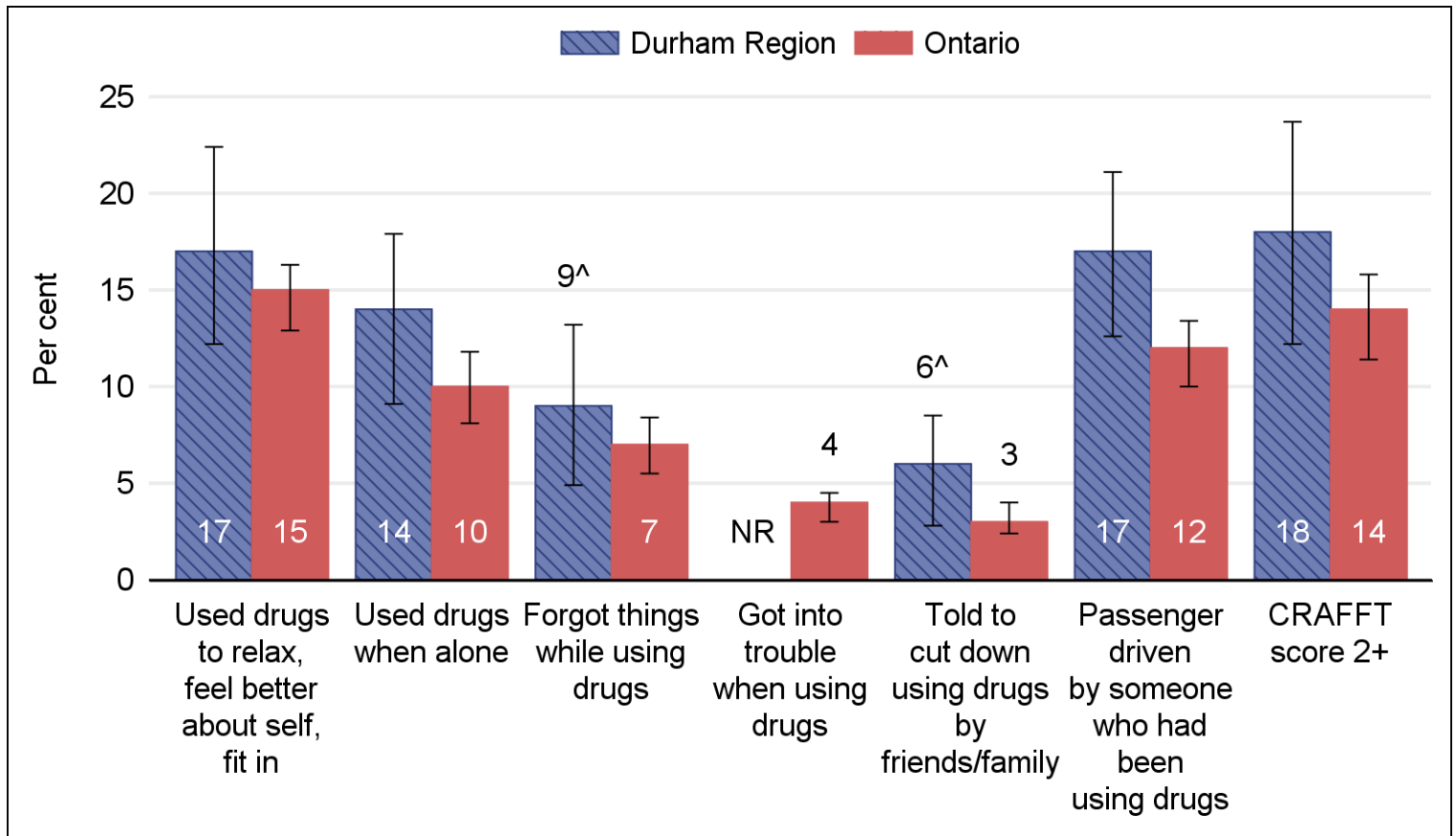


Quick facts:

Percentage of secondary school students reporting problem drug use, 2016-2017



Release date: May 2018



Notes

Results were weighted and sex-by-grade adjusted to the Ontario 2014-2015 student enrollment.

Error bars represent the 95 per cent confidence intervals around the percentage. The true or actual percentage falls within the range of values, 95 out of 100 times. A total CRAFFT score of two or more identifies problem drug use other than alcohol that may lead to adverse consequences, abuse or dependency, and may require assessment and treatment.

[^] Interpret with caution as the coefficient of variation (CV) is between 16.6 and 33.3 per cent, inclusive.

NR - Unreliable and not releasable as the CV is greater than 33.3 per cent.

Source: Public Health Monitoring of Risk Factors in Ontario – Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Study (OSDUHS), 2016-17.

Summary

Almost one in five (18%) Durham Region secondary school students reported two or more problems on the CRAFFT screener indicating a problem drug use that may require further assessment and treatment. The three most frequently reported problems were being a passenger in a vehicle with a driver who was using drugs (17%), using drugs to relax and feel better about oneself, or to fit in (17%), and using drugs alone (14%). The frequency and ranking of these behaviours were similar to Ontario's rates.

Questions

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

- once; 2 times; 3 times; 4 times; 5 times; 6 times; 7 times; 8 or more times
- never; not sure

In the last 12 months, did you use drugs to relax, feel better about yourself, or to fit in?

In the last 12 months, did you use drugs while you were by yourself?

In the last 12 months, did you forget things you did while using drugs?

In the last 12 months, did you get into trouble while you were using drugs?

In the last 12 months, did your family or friends tell you that you should cut down on your drug use?

- yes
- no; did not use drugs in the last 12 months; did not use drugs in lifetime

Survey methods

The Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) targets students, Grades 7 to 12, enrolled in the public and catholic regular school system. The OSDUHS uses a two-stage (school, class) stratified (region and school type) cluster sample design, and oversampling in PMO-participating public health units. The survey is self-administered in the classroom, taking, on average, 35 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary and anonymous. Students, 17 years old and younger, absent or without signed consent forms on the day of the survey do not participate.

This survey excluded groups, such as street youth and dropouts, in which health behaviours such as healthy eating, physical activity, drug use, etc. may be underestimated. In addition, self-reporting may result in under-reporting whether from social desirability or recall bias.

For a detailed description of the OSDUHS, visit the [CAMH website](#).

Data analysis

Data were analyzed using SAS 9.4. For 2016-2017, the analysis was based on a design of 17 strata (7 geographical strata for elementary schools and 10 for secondary schools), 214 schools, 764 classes and 11,435 students. Variables accounting for the probability of selection, stratification and clustering were used when analyzing the data. The final sampling weight was based on each regional stratum's sex-by-grade structure according to the provincial population structure.

Differences in two percentages may be clinically important. However, when error bars overlap, the difference cannot necessarily be interpreted as real or statistically significant.

Acknowledgement

The data used in this publication came from the OSDUHS conducted at the 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 CAMH.

For more information, contact Durham Region Health Department at 1-800-841-2729, by fax at 905-666-6241 or by visiting the [Durham Region website](#).