

Data Brief

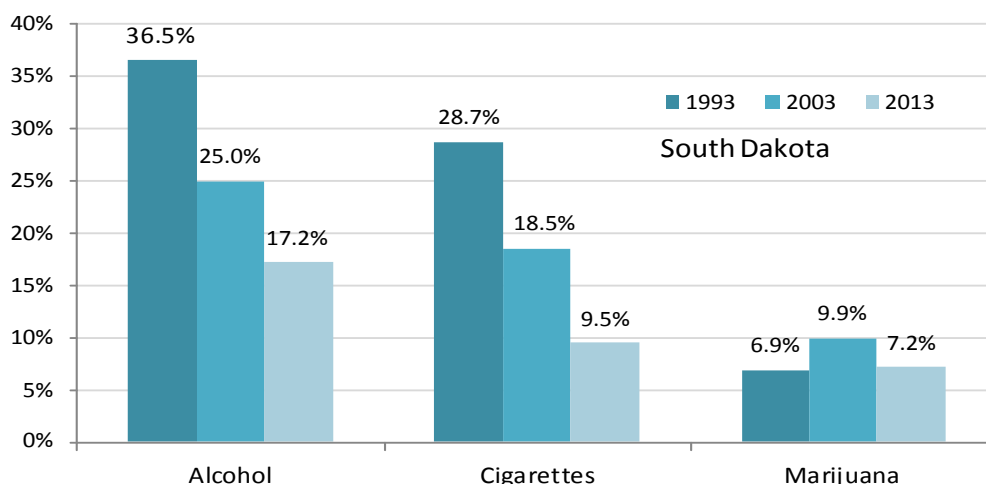
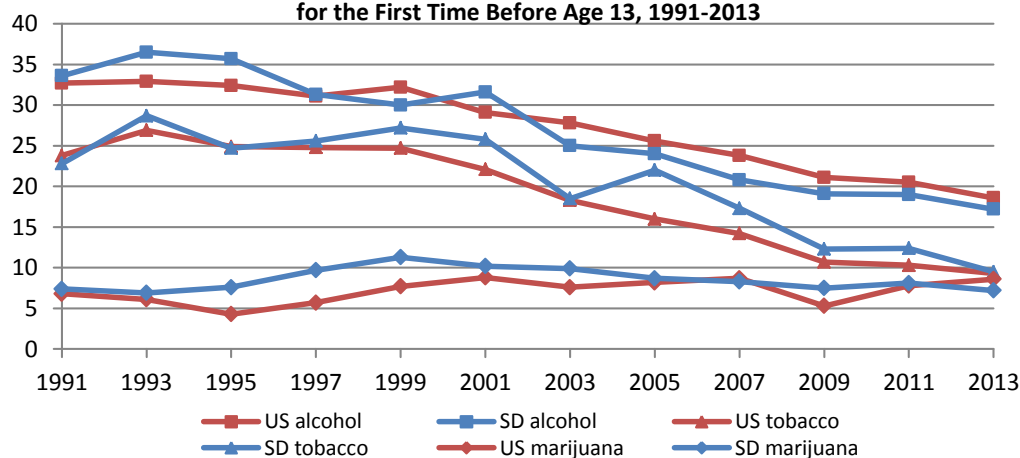
Early use of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana

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Initial use of Alcohol and Cigarettes, before age 13, declined over last 20 years, while initial use of marijuana had no significant change for SD and US students

South Dakota and the United States show similar trends of high school students who first tried alcohol or cigarettes before the age of 13 declining considerably since 1991, with the greatest decline occurring from 2001—2013, according to data recently released from the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). In 1991, 34%(SD) and 33%(US) of high school students reported drinking more than a few sips of alcohol before age 13, compared to 19%(SD) and 21%(US) in 2009 and 17%(SD) and 19% (US) in 2013. The percentage of smoking a whole cigarette for the first time before age 13 also declined, from 23%(SD) and 24%(US) in 1991 to 9.5% (SD) and 9.3% (US) in 2013. The percentage of first time use of marijuana was greater in the US at 9%, compared to 7% (SD) (see chart below). Decreases in early alcohol and cigarette use are encouraging, however, nationwide, one in five students still try alcohol and one in ten try cigarettes before age 13.

Percent of High School Students Who Tried Alcohol, Cigarettes, or Marijuana for the First Time Before Age 13, 1991-2013



Source: "South Dakota 2013 Results." CDC-Youth Online-High School YRBS. N.p., n.d. Web. 7 July 2014.
<http://nccd.cdc.gov/YouthOnline/App/Results.aspx?LID=SD>.

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