

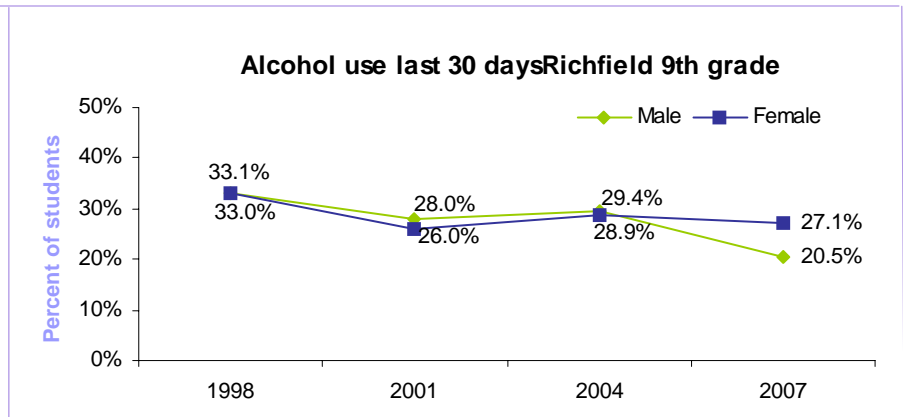
The Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) is administered every three years to 6th, 9th, and 12th graders across the state. Student participation is voluntary. Ninth-grade data is used to monitor trends because these students historically have a high response rate. Survey results provide information about youth assets and risk behaviors. Data can be used as a tool for initiating & continuing conversations about youth health.

ALCOHOL USE

Since 1998, alcohol consumption has decreased among Richfield 9th graders.*

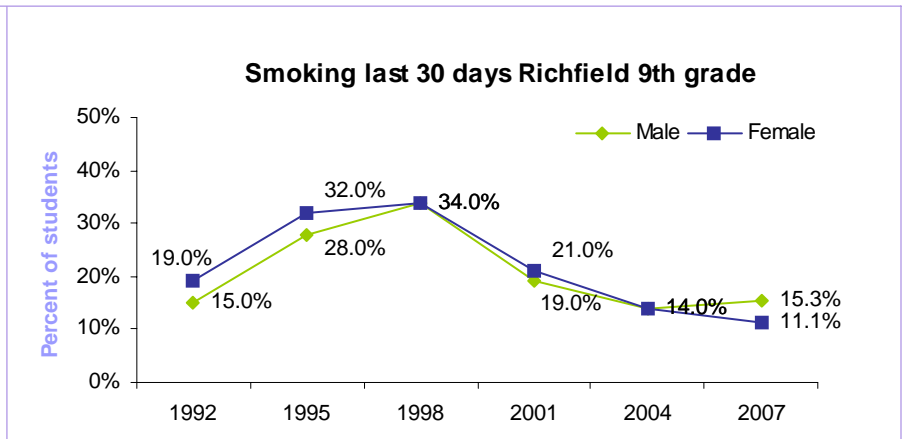
Between 2004 and 2007, the percentage of males who reported alcohol use decreased substantially. In 2007, females' use rates surpassed males.

*The question format changed slightly from 2004 to 2007. There is no data for 1992.



TOBACCO USE

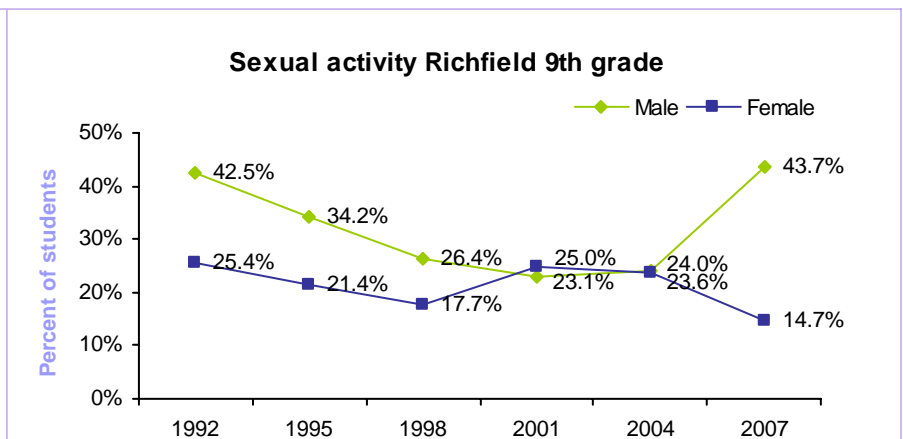
Tobacco use among Richfield 9th graders peaked in 1998 and has decreased significantly in the following years.



SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Compared with 2004, the percentage of Richfield 9th graders who reported ever having sex increased dramatically among males and decreased among females in 2007.

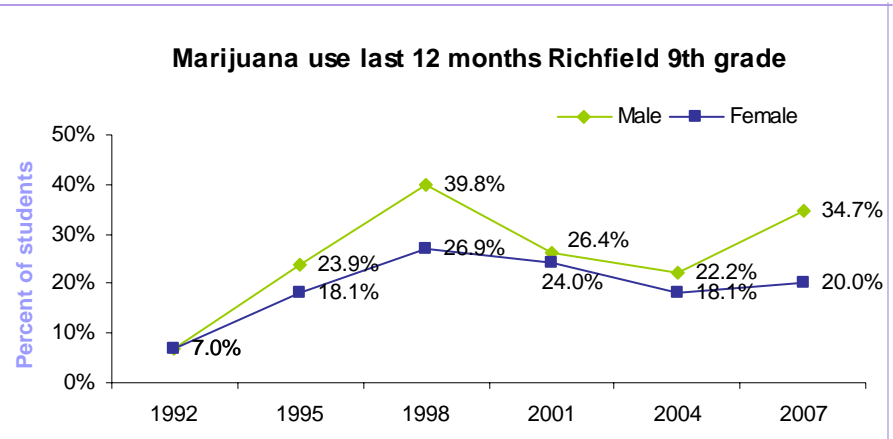
In 2007, the percentage of sexually active 9th grade males was nearly three times that of females. The percentage of females reporting sexual activity was at the lowest point in 2007.



MARIJUANA USE

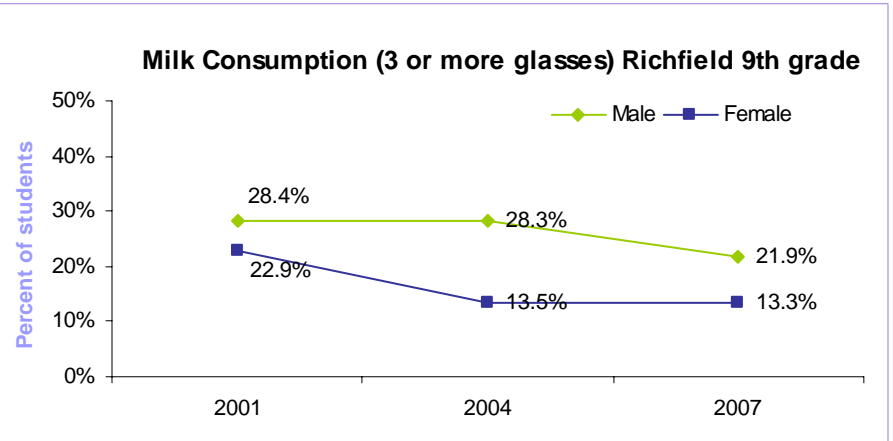
Marijuana use among Richfield 9th grade males significantly increased in 2007, after a steady decrease from 1998 to 2004, .

Since 1995, marijuana use has been higher among males than females.



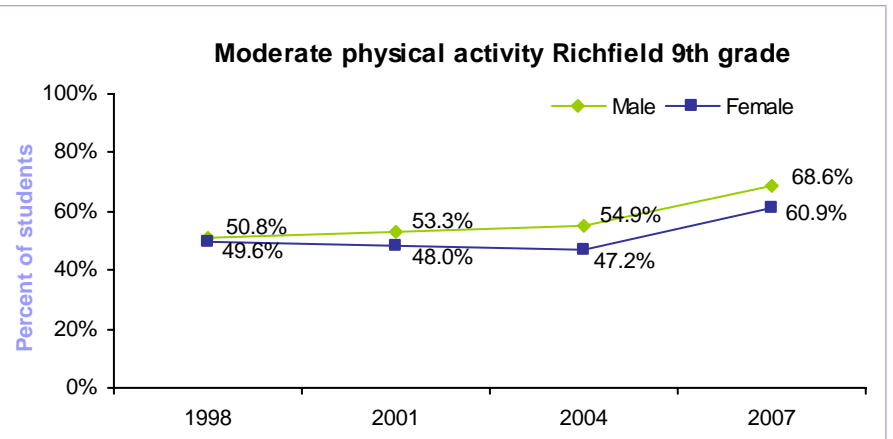
NUTRITION & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Significantly fewer Richfield 9th grade females than males report adequate milk consumption (three or more glasses of milk consumed in the day prior to taking the survey).



In 2007, nearly two out of three Richfield 9th graders met recommendations for moderate physical activity (30 minutes a day, five or more days a week).

However, 9th grade females continue to lag behind 9th grade males in physical activity.



HEALTHY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

More Richfield 9th grade males report being able to talk with both parents about problems than females.

In 2007 there was a substantial increase in parental connectedness for both genders.

