Behavioral Health Profile

Hickory County

May 2014

Behavioral Health Epidemiology Workgroup

Located in Southwest Missouri, Hickory County has a population of 9,305. Among Missouri's 114 counties plus the city of St. Louis, Hickory County ranks 92 in terms of population. Hickory County's unemployment rate in 2013 was 10.0%. This was higher than the statewide unemployment rate of 6.5%. In 2012, the poverty rate was 24.1% which was higher than the statewide poverty rate of 16.2%. The median income of the county was $30,163.

Substance Use and Abuse in Hickory County

The availability of county-level data on substance use and abuse is limited. The Missouri Student Survey can provide estimates for youth in most Missouri counties. This survey is administered in even-numbered years to 6th through 12th grade students in participating school districts.

Healthy People 2020, a set of federal goals, has established objectives to reduce tobacco initiation and use by adolescents and adults. In Hickory County, 51.6% of youth believe that it would be easy to get cigarettes and 39.1% have friends who smoke.

Youth who use alcohol are at greater risk of developing abuse problems later in life. An estimated 54.6% of youth in Hickory County believe that it would be easy to get alcohol and 45.0% have friends who drink alcohol.

Marijuana use is of increasing concern across the state. In 2012, 24.6% of Hickory County youth said that marijuana is easy to get, 24.6% report having at least one friend that uses it and 8.5% said that smoking marijuana is 'no risk at all'.

In Hickory County, 11.7% of youth believe that it would be easy to get other drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, and ecstasy.

Substance Use Consequences in the County

Health: In 2011, Hickory County residents had a total of 25 alcohol-related and 18 drug-related hospitalizations. In addition there were 27 alcohol-related and 39 drug-related ER visits that did not include a hospital stay.

Treatment: In 2012, 28.2% of mothers in Hickory County reported smoking during their pregnancy. This is a decrease from 2011 (34.7%).

Current Substance Use for Grades 6 - 12, 2012 data

	30 Day Use County	30 Day Use Missouri	Age of First Use County
Cigarettes	10.1%	10.6%	12.07
Alcohol	14.0%	16.9%	12.79
Binge*	7.4%	9.6%	N/A
Marijuana	1.6%	8.6%	13.66
Inhalants	3.1%	2.3%	11.93
RX Abuse	4.7%	4.7%	unknown
OTC Abuse	3.9%	3.5%	unknown
Synthetic	0.8%	2.9%	unknown

Current Substance Use for Ages 18+ in the Southwest Region, 2008-10 data

	30 Day Use Region	30 Day Use Missouri
Cigarettes	30.1%	28.5%
Alcohol	51.1%	54.2%
Binge**	23.4%	25.3%
Marijuana	5.7%	6.0%
Illicit Drug excluding MJ	2.8%	2.8%

*5+ drinks on a single occasion in last 2 weeks.
**5+ drinks on a single occasion in last 30 days.

Red underlined is higher than state average.

Substance Abuse Treatment in Hickory County

Total	24
Alcohol Primary	15
Marijuana Primary	less than 5

Law Enforcement: In 2012, Hickory County had 18 DWI arrests, 3 liquor law violations and 11 drug-related arrests. Hickory County had 0 methamphetamine laboratory seizures in 2012 and 1 in 2013. The manufacture of methamphetamine has been particularly problematic for rural Missouri. Specifically, labs tend to be clustered primarily in the counties surrounding St. Louis and secondarily in the southwest and southeast areas of the state.

Traffic Crashes in Hickory County

Alcohol-related traffic crashes decreased in the last year (from 10 in 2011 to 6 in 2012). Alcohol-related crashes are more likely to produce fatalities and injuries compared to non-alcohol-related crashes.

2012 Number of Alcohol-Related Crashes by Severity			
Total Crashes	Fatal Crash	Crash w/ Injury	Crash w/ Property Damage
6	0	4	2

2012 Number of People Injured / Killed in Alcohol and Drug-Related Crashes			
Alcohol Fatalities	Alcohol Injuries	Drug Fatalities	Drug Injuries
0	5	0	0

Mental Health in Hickory County

Individuals struggling with serious mental illness are at higher risk for homicide, suicide, and accidents as well as chronic conditions including cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and substance abuse disorders. In state fiscal year 2013, 29 Hickory County residents received treatment for serious mental illness at publicly-funded facilities. See table for details. While there is data on those who receive treatment, data on mental health in the general population is very limited. This is especially true at the local level.

In Southwest Missouri, 22.8% of those 18 and older had a mental illness in the past year with 6.3% having a serious mental illness. Serious mental illness is defined as any of the mental disorders asked about and 'these disorders resulted in substantial impairment in carrying out major life activities'.

Approximately 8.2% of Southwest Missouri residents ages 18+ had at least one major depressive episode in the past year. A major depressive episode is characterized by an extended period of depressed mood, loss of interest or pleasure, and impaired functioning. Typically females are more likely to report having had a major depressive episode.

Students (6th-12th grade) in the county were asked about their mental health. 10.2% had considered suicide in the last year, 8.7% made a plan, and 1.6% actually attempted, resulting in an injury. In 2012, 0 Hickory County residents committed suicide. Nationally, males are about four times more likely to commit suicide than females. Older males have higher rates of suicide than younger males.

Comprehensive Psychiatric Services Numbers Served in Hickory County

	FY2012	FY2013
Total	28	29
Adjustment Disorder	0	0
Anxiety Disorder	9	5
Developmental Disorder	0	0
Impulse Control Disorder	0	0
Mood Disorder	22	13
Psychotic Disorder	*	0

These numbers indicate the number of clients seen with each diagnosis per year. An individual client may have more than one admission within a year.
*Counts under 5 suppressed to protect identities

Developed with support from the Missouri Division of Behavioral Health and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
For more information: http://dmh.mo.gov/ada/mobhew