



Behavioral Health Profile for Saint Louis County



July 1, 2011

About Saint Louis County:

Located in Eastern Missouri, Saint Louis County has a population of 998,954. Among Missouri's 114 counties plus the city of St. Louis, Saint Louis County ranks 1st in terms of population. Saint Louis County's unemployment rate in 2010 was 9.38%. This was lower than the statewide unemployment rate of 9.60%. In 2009, the poverty rate for Saint Louis County was 9.6%. This was lower than the statewide poverty rate of 14.6%. Saint Louis County is not considered a primary healthcare shortage area and is not considered a mental health professional shortage area by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Other shortages may exist for low income populations.

Substance Use and Abuse in Saint Louis 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.

In Saint Louis County, 53.69% of youth believe that it would be easy to get cigarettes and 41.97% have friends who smoke. The Healthy People 2020 has established objectives to reduce tobacco initiation and use by adolescents and adults. An estimated 60.91% youth in Saint Louis County believe that it would be easy to get alcohol and 55.31% have friends who drink alcohol. Youth who use alcohol are at greater risk of developing abuse problems later in life. In Saint Louis County, 43.37% of youth believe that it would be easy to get marijuana and 19.00% of youth believe that it would be easy to get other drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, and ecstasy. Missouri youth tend to perceive marijuana as being safer than other illegal drugs and safer than tobacco.

In Eastern Missouri, an estimated 8.74% of residents age 12 and over use illegal drugs and 8.49% are abusing alcohol. Public safety, health care, crime, and public assistance are among the areas impacted by substance abuse. In 2009, Saint Louis County had 803 alcohol-related traffic crashes. This is lower than that for 2008 (894). Of the 2009 alcohol-related crashes, 5 crashes resulted in the loss of life. Another 275 resulted in injuries. Alcohol-related crashes are more likely to produce fatalities and injuries compared to non-alcohol-related crashes.

In 2009, Saint Louis County had 6,091 DUI arrests, 1,347 liquor law violations, and 6,314 drug arrests. Saint Louis County had 30 methamphetamine laboratory seizures in 2009. The manufacture of methamphetamine has been particularly problematic for rural Missouri.

Current Substance Use for Grades 6 through 12*

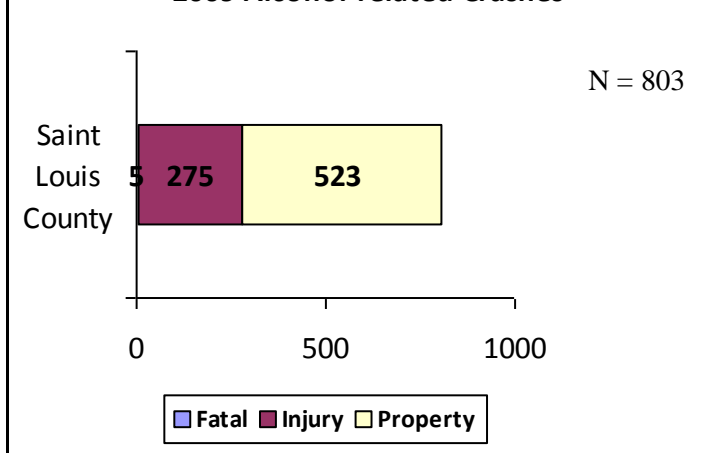
	Saint Louis County	Missouri
Cigarettes	11.18 %	13.70 %
Chewing tobacco	2.35 %	6.10 %
Alcohol	20.04 %	19.80 %
Binge drinking*	10.57 %	11.40 %
Marijuana	11.65 %	9.40 %
Inhalants	2.83 %	3.00 %
Prescription drugs not prescribed for student	5.95 %	6.70 %
Over-the-counter medications for non-medical use	4.32 %	4.80 %

*Used in the past 30 days

Red: Higher than Missouri rate

**Five or more drinks on one occasion

2009 Alcohol-related Crashes

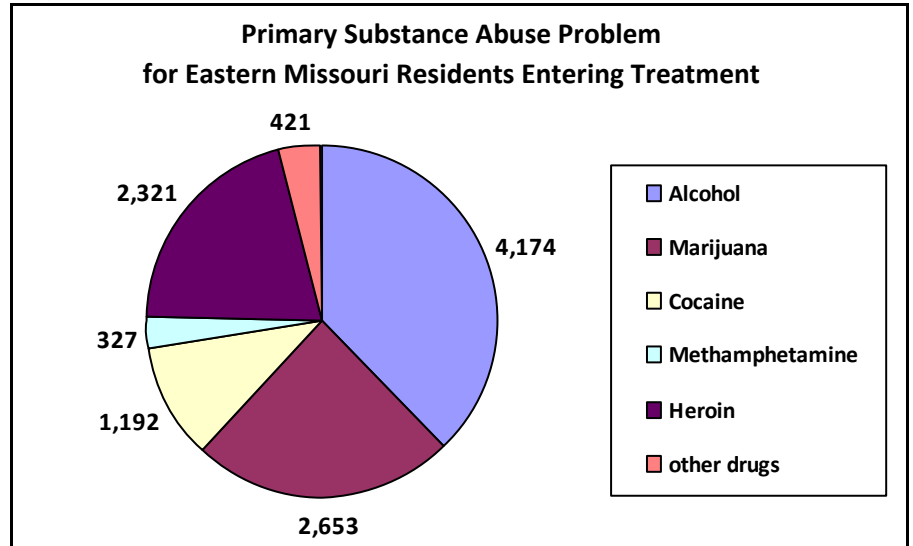


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Substance Use and Abuse in Saint Louis County: (cont.)

In 2008, Saint Louis County residents had a total of 8,767 alcohol-related and 6,916 drug-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits. Statewide, average expenses for an alcohol or drug-related visit to the emergency room was \$4,180.

In state fiscal year 2010, 3,339 Saint Louis County residents were admitted to substance abuse treatment at publicly-funded facilities. In Eastern Missouri and statewide, alcohol and marijuana were the most common substance abuse problems presenting for treatment. In Eastern Missouri, the next most common drug problem was heroin. Statewide, it was methamphetamine.



Mental Health in Saint Louis County:

In Eastern Missouri, an estimated 13.19% of residents age 12 and over have had serious psychological distress in the past year. Young adults and females tend to have higher rates of serious psychological distress. Nationwide, about 45 percent of those with serious psychological distress receive mental health services. Approximately 8.05% of Eastern Missouri residents have 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. Females are more likely to report having had a major depressive episode. Mental illness can result from a combination of genetic vulnerabilities and life stressors such as loss of employment or relationships and financial difficulties. Symptoms can include feeling sad, confused thinking, excessive fears, withdrawal from family and friends, problems sleeping, detachment from reality, substance abuse, significant changes in eating habits, excessive anger or violence, and suicidal thinking. Treatment for mental illness can include a combination of counseling and medication. In 2009, 130 Saint Louis County residents committed suicide. The suicide rate for Eastern Missouri was 13.6 per 100,000 persons, which is lower than the state rate (14.3 per 100,000 persons.) Males are about four times more likely to commit suicide than females. Older males have higher rates of suicide than younger males.

In state fiscal year 2010, 4,725 Saint Louis County residents received treatment for serious mental illness at publicly-funded facilities. In Eastern Missouri and statewide, mood disorders were the most common diagnosis category. Mood disorders include mania, major depression, and bipolar disorder. Anxiety and psychotic disorders were the next most common diagnosis categories. Anxiety disorders include panic, obsessive-compulsive, and post-traumatic stress disorders as well as phobias. Psychotic disorders include schizophrenia and delusional disorders. 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.

	Saint Louis County	Missouri
Were very sad	17.19 %	18.90 %
Were grouchy, irritable, or in a bad mood	23.86 %	24.80 %
Felt hopeless about the future	10.73 %	11.80 %
Felt like not eating or eating more than usual	16.59 %	18.10 %
Slept a lot more or a lot less than usual	25.33 %	25.60 %
Had difficulty concentrating on school work	24.87 %	24.60 %
Seriously considered attempting suicide	11.57 %	11.60 %
Have been bullied on school property	22.96 %	25.00 %

*In the past 30 days

Red: Higher than Missouri rate