

## ***Missouri Student Survey***

The Missouri Student Survey (MSS) is a web-based survey conducted in even-numbered years throughout Missouri for students in grades 6 through 12, with a primary focus on grade 9. Prevalence rates from the 2006 MSS survey are shown in the table on page 48. The 2004 and 2006 MSS results are presented below. Statistical significance has not been determined for any of the apparent rates changes between years or the comparisons to the Monitoring The Future (MTF) national survey results.

**Alcohol:** All grade levels reported lower levels of current (past 30-day) use of alcohol in 2006 than in 2004. Students in grade 11 had the largest percentage point decrease, dropping from 51.14 percent in 2004 to 43.23 percent in 2006. The rate for Missouri students in grade 8 decreased from 27.06 percent in 2004 to 23.90 percent in 2006 but was still higher than the national rate. In 2006, only 17.2 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students nationwide reported past 30-day use of alcohol. Among Missouri 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, alcohol use rates dropped from 45.73 percent in 2004 to 39.50 percent in 2006. Nationwide, 33.8 percent of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were current alcohol users in 2006. Missouri's rate for grade 12 decreased slightly—from 50.97 percent in 2004 to 49.61 percent in 2006. High school seniors throughout the U.S. had a past 30-day alcohol use rate of 45.3 percent in 2006—the lowest rate for 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the 32-year history of the Monitoring The Future survey.

**Binge Drinking:** Binge alcohol use, consisting of at least five drinks on a single occasion at least once in the preceding two weeks, decreased among Missouri students in grades 7 through 12. The decline was greatest for students in grades 10 and 11. The binge drinking rate for Missouri 8<sup>th</sup> graders was 10.24 percent in 2004 and 9.32 percent in 2006—somewhat lower than the national rate of 10.9 percent for students in grade 8. Among 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, binge alcohol use in Missouri declined from 24.57 percent in 2004 to 19.45 percent in 2006. Nationally, binge drinking by students in grade 10 increased from 21.0 percent to 21.9 percent during the same time period. Missouri students in grade 12 had a binge drinking rate of 29.88 percent in 2006—a decrease from the 2004 rate of 33.74 percent, but higher than the 2006 national rate of 25.4 percent for high school seniors.

**Tobacco:** According to the MSS, cigarette smoking rates for Missouri students were lower in 2006 than in 2004. Students in grade 11 had the largest decrease in past 30-day cigarette use, dropping from 30.80 percent in 2004 to 21.63 percent in 2006. Students in grade 12 had virtually no decrease, with a rate of 28.04 percent in 2006 compared to 28.30 percent in 2004. Nationally, 21.6 percent of high school seniors reported current cigarette use on the 2006 MTF survey. Missouri students in grade 10 had a past 30-day smoking rate of 22.72 percent in 2004; this figure declined to 19.87 percent in 2006. By comparison, 14.5 percent of U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> graders were past 30-day cigarette smokers in 2006—a drop from 16.0 percent in 2004. Among Missouri's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, smoking decreased from 15.22 percent in 2004 to 11.82 percent in 2006 while the national rate for grade 8 fell to 8.7 percent.

**Marijuana:** Between 2004 and 2006, current use of marijuana dropped in Missouri for all grade levels. The rate for high school seniors decreased almost three percentage points—from 17.50 percent to 14.60 percent. During this time period, the U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> grade rate for past 30-day marijuana use declined from 19.9 percent in 2004 to 18.3 percent in 2006. The rate for Missouri 10<sup>th</sup> graders was 13.57 percent in 2006, a little lower than the national rate of 14.2 percent. Marijuana use rates among Missouri students in grade 8 dropped from 7.23 percent in 2004 to 5.05 percent in 2006, while U.S. rates for 8<sup>th</sup> graders remained virtually unchanged at 6.5 percent.

**Inhalants:** Rates for past 30-day use of inhalants were generally higher in Missouri in 2006 compared to 2004. Students in grade 8 had the highest percentage of current use with a 2006 rate of 6.44 percent, an increase from 5.13 percent in 2004. According to the 2006 MTF Survey, only 4.1 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students nationwide were current inhalant users. Among Missouri 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, inhalant use increased from 5.62 percent in 2004 to 6.25 percent in 2006. Students in

grade 6 had the third-highest level of inhalant use at 4.94 percent in 2006 compared to 4.16 percent in 2004. Missouri high school seniors posted the lowest level of past 30-day inhalant use with a rate of 1.92 percent in 2006—a slight increase from the 2004 rate of 1.80 percent and higher than the U.S. rate of 1.5 percent reported by the 2006 MTF survey.

Cocaine: The percentage of Missouri students reporting past 30-day use of cocaine increased for all grade levels in 2006. Use rates were progressively higher from grade 6 to grade 12. Among 12th grade students, 2.93 percent were current cocaine users in 2006 compared to 1.56 percent in 2004. According to the MTF surveys, cocaine use among U.S. high school seniors increased from 2.3 percent in 2004 to 2.5 percent in 2006. Missouri students in grade 10 had lower rates of cocaine use than their counterparts nationwide, although their past 30-day use increased from 1.03 percent in 2004 to 1.78 percent in 2006. The U.S. rate for 10th grade students increased to 2.3 percent in 2006. Among Missouri students in grade 8, current cocaine reached 1.90 percent in 2006 compared to only 1.01 percent in 2004. Nationwide, cocaine use among 8th grade students remained at 1.0 percent.

Methamphetamine: Past 30-day rates for methamphetamine use were higher for each ascending grade level in Missouri. In 2006, 2.17 percent of students in grade 12 were current users—a slight increase over the 2004 rate of 2.04 percent. Among 12<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout the United States, the rate was somewhat lower at 0.9 percent. Missouri's students in grade 10 had a cocaine use rate of 1.80 percent in 2006, reflecting little change from the 2004 rate of 1.88 percent. Methamphetamine rates for 10th graders nationwide have been declining in recent years, dipping to 0.7 percent in 2006 compared to 1.3 percent in 2004. Current use among Missouri 8<sup>th</sup> grade students decreased from 1.18 percent in 2004 to 0.82 percent in 2006 but remained slightly higher than the national rate of 0.6 percent.

Non-prescription Steroid Use: Missouri rates for lifetime use of steroids without a prescription were generally lower in 2006 than in 2004. Rates increased with grade level, with students in grade 12 posting a lifetime use rate of 2.92 percent in 2006—an increase from the 2004 rate of 2.04 percent. Nationwide in 2006, 2.7 percent of high school seniors acknowledged that they had ever used non-prescription steroids. Use rates for all other grades were lower in Missouri in 2006 than in 2004. Missouri 10<sup>th</sup> grade students had a lifetime rate of 2.60 percent compared to the national rate of 1.8 percent. Among students in grade 8, Missouri's lifetime steroid use rate of 2.52 percent was considerably higher than the U.S. rate of 1.6 percent.

### ***Missouri College Health Behavior Survey***

Missouri Partners in Prevention annually administers behavioral surveys on 12 Missouri college campuses. The program used the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey for years 2004 through 2006 and the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS) in 2007. An item of particular interest is binge drinking, defined as consuming five or more drinks in one sitting at least once during the two weeks preceding the survey. In 2004, binge drinking was reported by 49.9 percent of Missouri's college students compared to 48.8 percent of college students nationwide. In 2005, however, Missouri's college binge drinking rate dipped slightly to 48.4 percent while the national rate fell to 30.0 percent. Missouri's rate remained virtually unchanged at 48.8 percent in 2006. As recorded by the MCHBS, binge drinking declined to 31.9 percent on the 12 Missouri college campuses in 2007.