

## DATA HIGHLIGHTS

### New Missouri Household Data

- New state data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, formerly the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse was released in 2003. Missouri data is available for binge drinking and current use of alcohol, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, any illicit drug, and marijuana. The most recent analysis combines Missouri data from the 2000 and 2001 national surveys. The results can be compared to the previous analysis, which used Missouri data from the 1999 and 2000 surveys [66, 67]. Some of the findings are:
- **Alcohol:** Among the population ages 12 and older, Missouri's estimated percentage of current drinkers (those consuming alcohol within 30 days prior to the survey) increased from 44.8 percent to 46.7 percent, compared to 48.3 percent nationally. In this same age group, binge drinking—consuming at least five drinks on a single drinking occasion at least once in the preceding 30 days—decreased slightly in Missouri from 20.2 percent to 20.0 percent. The national rate in 2001 was 20.5 percent. Alcohol use among adolescents 12-17 years of age increased from 16.1 percent to 18.0 percent, surpassing the national rate of 17.3 percent in 2001. Binge drinking among Missouri adolescents also increased, jumping from 10.5 percent to 12.0 percent. Nationally, 10.6 percent of adolescents were binge drinkers in 2001. Current alcohol use among young adults in the 18-25 age group increased in Missouri from 58.9 percent to 59.7 percent. Nationally, current alcohol use in this age group was 58.8 percent in 2001. Binge drinking among young adults in Missouri declined from 39.1 percent to 38.8 percent, almost identical to the nationwide figure of 38.7 percent in 2001. Among Missouri's population over age 25, current alcohol use increased from 46.4 percent to 48.4 percent, but remained lower than the 2001 national average of 50.8 percent. Binge drinking in this age group declined in Missouri from 18.3 percent to 17.9 percent, compared to 18.8 percent nationwide in 2001. Alcohol use and binge drinking increased in all age groups in the United States from 2001 to 2002.
  - **Marijuana:** According to the analysis of the combined 2000 and 2001 Missouri data from the national surveys, Missouri continues to have a lower prevalence of marijuana use than the national average. Among adolescents and adults 12 years of age and older, 4.4 percent of Missouri residents were current marijuana users, compared to 5.4 percent of adolescents and adults nationwide in 2001. Marijuana use among Missouri adolescents 12-17 years of age increased from 6.6 percent to 7.3 percent, but 8.0 percent of this age group in the U.S. were current marijuana users in 2001. Among young adults 18-25 years of age, marijuana use decreased in Missouri from 13.6 percent to 13.0 percent. This figure was three percentage points lower than the U.S. rate of 16.0 percent in 2001. Among adults over age 25, 2.6 percent of Missouri residents and 3.2 percent of adults over age 25 nationally were currently using marijuana in 2001.
  - **Tobacco:** Among Missouri adolescents 12-17 years of age, current use of cigarettes or another tobacco product decreased from 19.4 percent in 2000 to 17.2 percent in 2001, compared to a nationwide rate of 15.1 percent. Cigarette smoking comprised most of the tobacco use and declined from 15.1 percent in 2000 to 14.2 percent of this age group in 2001 in Missouri. Among U.S. adolescents, 13.0 percent were smokers in both 2001 and 2002. Tobacco use by Missouri young adults 18-25 years of age declined from 52.0 percent in 2000 to 49.1 percent in 2001, and cigarette smoking decreased from 45.6 percent to 43.1

percent. During this same time period, the nationwide smoking rate for young adults remained lower than the Missouri rate, yet increased from 38.3 percent in 2000 to 39.1 percent in 2001. The U.S. rate increased again in 2002 to 40.8 percent. Missouri's cigarette smoking rate among adults over age 25 decreased from 28.3 percent to 26.9 percent in 2001, but remained higher than the national rate of 24.2 percent.

- Tobacco use is also measured on another national survey through the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System [58]. In 2002, 26.5 percent of Missouri adults over age 18 were current smokers, compared to 23.0 percent nationwide. Nine states had higher smoking rates than Missouri, while 40 states and the District of Columbia had lower rates. Approximately 594 million packs of cigarettes were sold in Missouri in state fiscal year 2003. [44].
- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education administered the biannual Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2003 to Missouri public school students in grades 9-12 [9]. Overall, current (past month) use of alcohol increased and binge drinking decreased from the 2001 survey. The drinking rates increased the most for high school seniors, climbing from 52.2 percent in 2001 to 57.3 percent in 2003. Likewise, past-month binge drinking rates among high school seniors decreased the least, dropping by only one percentage point to 38.9 percent. Thus, approximately two-thirds of the high school seniors who drank had engaged in binge drinking in the month prior to the survey. Based on the results of the Monitoring the Future national survey, drinking rates of Missouri high school seniors were considerably higher than national rates [2]. Compared to Missouri's 57.3 percent, only 47.5 percent of high school seniors overall in the United States were current drinkers in 2003. Nationally, 27.9 percent of high school seniors reported binge drinking in the two weeks prior to the survey, a figure that cannot be directly compared to Missouri's past-month binge drinking rate. Marijuana use among Missouri high school students overall decreased from 24.4 percent in 2001 to 21.8 percent in 2003, but use increased slightly among seniors to 25.4 percent. This figure was several percentage points higher than the 21.2 percent national rate of current marijuana use by high school seniors in 2003. Cigarette smoking decreased in Missouri among students in grades 9-12, falling from 30.3 percent in 2001 to 24.8 percent in 2003. The most dramatic decrease occurred among high school seniors, who had a cigarette smoking rate of 21.4 percent—lower than the rates for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Cigarette smoking by Missouri's high school seniors was also lower than the national rate of 24.4 percent. Cocaine use also declined among high school students, with current use of 2.7 percent for grades 9-12 combined. Seniors had the lowest rate of current use at 2.1 percent, identical to the national rate for high school seniors.
- Binge drinking among students at 12 Missouri public universities and colleges increased between 2002 and 2003. The CORE Institute Survey found that 48.2 percent of the students surveyed in 2003 were binge drinkers, defined as consuming at least five alcoholic drinks on a single drinking occasion at least once during the two weeks preceding the survey. The 2002 binge drinking rate was 46.3 percent [75].
- Alcohol consumption among the Missouri population age 14 and older remained virtually unchanged between 1999 and 2000 at 2.25 gallons of ethanol (absolute alcohol) per capita. Per capita consumption nationwide for the same age group was 2.18 gallons in 2000 [59].

- Reductions in substance abuse during pregnancy were reported in 2002 [21].
  - The reported number of mothers of newborns who drank during their pregnancies decreased from 553 in 2001 to 517 in 2002. Although studies have confirmed that alcohol use during pregnancy is considerably under-reported, the 517 documented cases are the fewest reported in many years.
  - The reported number of mothers of newborns who smoked during their pregnancies decreased from 13,761 in 2001 to 13,607 in 2002. This is also the lowest number of cases reported in recent years and represents a slight decrease from 182.8 reports per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 181.0 reports per 1,000 live births in 2002.
- The Department of Mental Health's CTRAC system collects information on the pregnancy status of clients entering substance abuse treatment programs. Consistent with federal requirements, the Division admits pregnant women into treatment programs on a priority basis. The unduplicated count of pregnant women admitted in recent years has increased steadily from 176 in fiscal year 1998 to 305 in fiscal year 2003 [26].
- The high school dropout rate for students in grades 9-12 continued a multi-year decline. The dropout rate decreased from 3.9 percent in the 2001-2002 school year to 3.6 percent in 2002-2003 [11].
- After increasing for several years, new reported cases of Hepatitis C reached a plateau in 2001 and declined to 1,386 in 2002 [23]. The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that 60 percent of Hepatitis C cases have resulted from injection drug use, with many of the exposures originating in earlier years [61].
- Deaths with an underlying medical cause of drug abuse increased from 378 in 2001 to 454 in 2002. Alcohol related deaths decreased from 348 in 2001 to 326 in 2002 [14].
- Alcohol related traffic crashes increased from 8,393 in 2001 to 8,478 in 2002. Fatal crashes attributed to alcohol intoxication reached 268 and caused 291 deaths, the largest number of alcohol related traffic deaths recorded in more than a decade [37, 40].
- In 2002, there were 868 drug related crashes, the most recorded since 1996. There were 26 deaths among 21 fatal drug related crashes [38, 41].
- Missouri had 39,932 arrests in 2002 for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, a substantial increase from the 36,129 DWI/DUI arrests reported in 2001. Drug arrests decreased from 42,823 in 2001 to 41,757 in 2002. These consisted of 7,875 arrests for the sale or manufacturing of drugs and 33,882 arrests for possession of illicit drugs [33, 34]. However, law enforcement agencies made 2,749 seizures of methamphetamine labs, chemicals, equipment, and dumpsites, compared to 2,130 in 2001 [35].
- Prison admissions for drug offenses increased from 5,212 in fiscal year 2002 to 5,861 in fiscal year 2003. Incarcerations for driving while intoxicated decreased slightly from 1,239 in fiscal year 2002 to 1,193 in fiscal year 2003 [4]. The Department of Corrections provided substance abuse treatment to 6,235 inmates in fiscal year 2003. Probation and parole openings for drug offenses increased from 10,421 in fiscal year 2002 to 11,996 in fiscal year 2003, and openings for DWI offenses increased from 2,490 to 2,703 [5].