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PREFACE

I am pleased to present this 19th edition of the *Status Report on Missouri's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problems*. The report provides annual updates to sets of behavioral health data that quantify the magnitude of alcohol and drug misuse and mental illness; the problems related to these disorders; and treatment supported by the Department of Mental Health's Division of Behavioral Health—formerly the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services. The *Status Report* is intended to inform the general public, policy-makers, planners, and program administrators. Hopefully it will meet many of your data needs.

The *Status Report* includes survey data that compares Missouri rates of substance abuse and mental disorders with national rates. The report also collects information from Missouri's state agencies on undesirable events occurring each year as a result of these disorders and organizes the data into county profiles. The profiles include numbers of residents accessing mental health and substance abuse treatment services managed by the Division of Behavioral Health. Notable enhancements to this year's report include a trend format for the Missouri Student Survey county-level profiles and the addition of survey profiles corresponding to substance abuse service areas to facilitate prevention planning. Prior editions of the *Status Report* are accessible at this website: <http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/ada/rpts/status.htm>.

A *Status Report* data archive developed through the support of the Missouri Behavioral Health Epidemiology Workgroup is also available online. Query tools enable users to customize analysis by combining data, selecting multiple variables, and displaying data relationships in charts and tables. The archive and query tool is located at this website: <http://dmh.mo.gov/seow/default.aspx>.

Inquiries and comments regarding the *Status Report* should be directed to the Division of Behavioral Health, Research and Statistics office at: dbhmail@dmh.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Stringer".

Mark Stringer