

## Peer Substance Use in Missouri...



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Behavioral Health



Epidemiology Workgroup

- ✦ Teens are more likely to use a substance if their friends are also using.<sup>1</sup>
- ✦ The majority of students (58%) report having at least one friend who drinks alcohol. Almost half (47%) report having at least one friend who smokes cigarettes and over a third (38%) knows somebody in their peer group that smokes marijuana.<sup>2</sup>
- ✦ When asked if they would smoke a cigarette if a friend offered it, 15% of students said either “probably yes” or “definitely yes”. Students were even more likely to succumb to peer pressure for the other drugs asked about. A third (33%) said they would drink alcohol if offered and 25% said they would smoke marijuana.<sup>2</sup>
- ✦ Females were more likely to say that they would drink alcohol if offered by one of their friends (35% vs. 30%); this was the only difference between the genders.<sup>2</sup>
- ✦ Caucasian students were more likely than African American students to say they would smoke a cigarette if one of their friends offered (15% vs. 11%) while African American students were more likely to say they would use marijuana (23% vs. 13%).<sup>2</sup>
- ✦ African American students reported a much higher rate of having friends who smoked marijuana (50% vs. 37%).<sup>2</sup>
- ✦ As grade level increases, there is a dramatic difference in both the number of students reporting that their peers engage in substance use and the number of students who report they would use a substance that was offered to them by one of their peers.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?\\_nfpb=true&\\_ERICExtSearch\\_SearchValue\\_0=EJ670998&ERICExtSearch\\_SearchType\\_0=no&accno=EJ670998](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=EJ670998&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=EJ670998)

<sup>2</sup> Missouri Student Survey, 2010 data