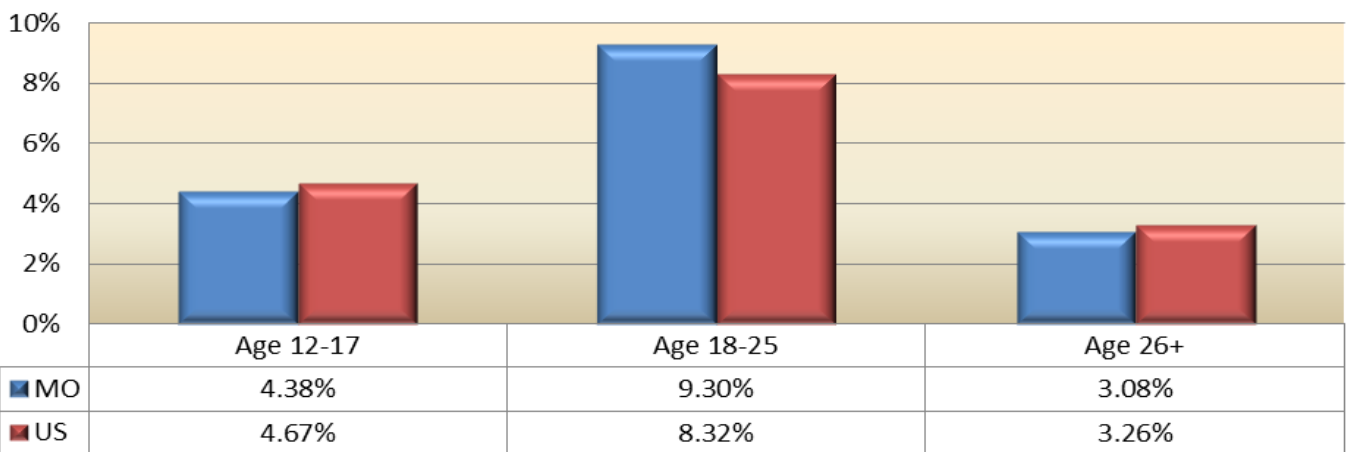


Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers

Nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers is defined as the use of medications without having a valid prescription or use for the purpose of getting 'high' or feeling euphoria. Pain relievers are one type of prescription drugs that can become addictive and are more likely to be misused than tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives (SAMHSA, 2013). An estimated 235,000 Missourians misuse prescription pain relievers in the past year. This represents about 4 percent of the population age 12 or older. Data indicates that misuse of pain relievers has decline in Missouri since 2010 but remains elevated. Misuse of pain relievers is greatest among those young adults age 18 to 25. In Missouri, this represents about 72,000 or 9.3 percent of young adults. In comparison, about 8.3 percent of U.S. young adults age 18 to 25 report having misused pain medication in the past year.

Estimated Percent of Individuals Misusing Pain Relievers, 2014



Data Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health

Estimated Percent of Individuals Misusing Pain Relievers, Age 12+

