

## Alcohol Use in Missouri



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Behavioral Health



Epidemiology  
Workgroup

April is Alcohol Awareness Month (<https://www.ncadd.org/aam>). Excessive alcohol use, including underage drinking and binge drinking, can lead to increased risk of serious health problems, risky behavior, and costs to society.

### Alcohol use in Missouri

Alcohol is the most commonly used substance in Missouri by both adults and youth.

- Just over half of adults (55.5%) report using alcohol in the past 30 days<sup>1</sup>
- 26.4% of adults report drinking 5+ drinks in one sitting in the past 30 days<sup>1</sup>
- An estimated 14.2% of youth in grades 6-12 report use in the past 30 days<sup>2</sup>
- 5.6% of Missouri youth report drinking 5+ drinks in one sitting in the past 2 weeks<sup>2</sup>

### Availability to Youth

Alcohol is perceived as accessible to youth by both parents and students, and parents of 6-12 grade children identified alcohol as the substance they are most concerned about for youth in their communities.<sup>3</sup>

- 99% of Missouri parents report that they think it is easy or very easy for a 6-12 grade child in their community to get alcohol<sup>3</sup>
- Approximately 2 out of 5 (39%) parents are aware of adults in their communities who allow underage drinking in their home<sup>3</sup>
- Just over half (50.7%) of students report that it is easy or very easy to get alcohol<sup>2</sup>

### Consequences of Alcohol Misuse

In 2015, there were 11,989 treatment admissions for alcohol.<sup>4</sup> The estimated cost of Alcohol Use Disorder in Missouri is \$4.5 Billion Annually<sup>4</sup>. Alcohol misuse leads to numerous hospital admissions, arrests, and traffic crashes each year.

- 2,790 alcohol-related hospital admissions and 15,339 alcohol-related ER visits without a hospital stay in 2014<sup>4</sup>
- 22,815 DUI arrests and 6,320 arrests for liquor law violations in 2015<sup>4</sup>
- 152 people were killed in traffic crashes involving intoxicated drivers and 2,753 were injured in 2015<sup>4</sup>

Links to additional alcohol related data and information for the state, as well as resources for those seeking help or treatment can be found here: <https://dmh.mo.gov/ada/>

<sup>1</sup> National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2012-2014

<sup>2</sup> Missouri Student Survey, 2016

<sup>3</sup> Parent Survey, 2016

<sup>4</sup> Status Report, 2016 <https://dmh.mo.gov/ada/rpts/2016statusreport.html>