



Behavioral Health Profile

Vernon County

2019



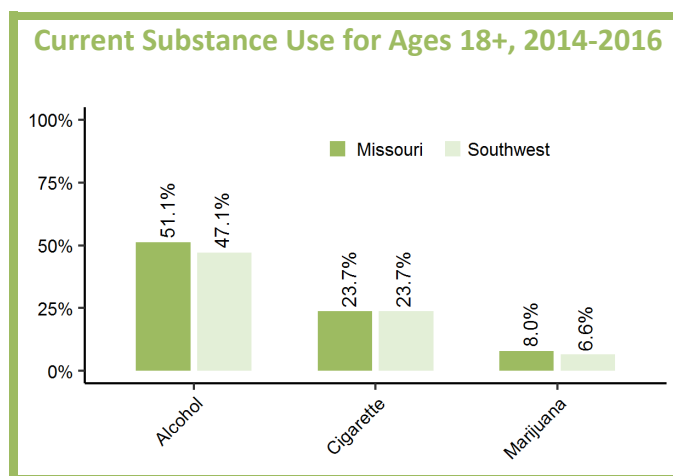
Vernon County is located in Southwest Missouri and had a population of 20,528 in 2018. Vernon County ranks 53 in population size among Missouri's 114 counties plus the city of St. Louis. The 2018 unemployment rate in the county was 4.8%. This was lower than the statewide unemployment rate of 5.0%. In 2017, the poverty rate was 15.2% which was higher than the statewide poverty rate of 14.6%. The median income of the county was \$41,284.

Substance Use in Vernon County

Alcohol is the most commonly used substance among Missouri adults. In the Southwest region, approximately 47.1% of adults currently drink alcohol.

Marijuana use in Missouri continues to be of interest, particularly with the recent passage of medical marijuana legislation. Around 8.0% of adults report current marijuana use.

In the Southwest region, 23.7% of adults currently use cigarettes compared to 24% statewide.



Substance Use Consequences in the County

Health: In 2016, Vernon County residents had a total of 21 alcohol-related and 16 drug-related hospitalizations. In addition there were 31 alcohol-related and 41 drug-related ER visits that did not include a hospital stay.

Treatment: In 2018, 262 individuals were admitted into Substance Abuse Treatment Programs. A total of 57 were primarily due to alcohol, 40 were primarily due to marijuana, and 18 were primarily due to prescription drugs.

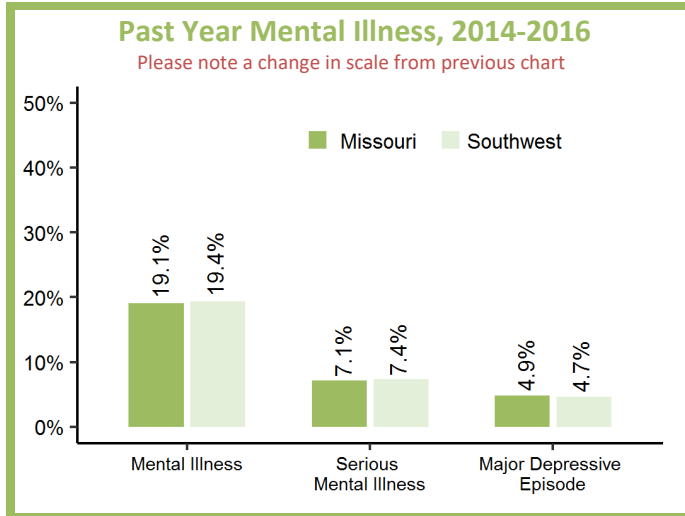
Law Enforcement: In 2018, Vernon County had 105 DWI arrests, 16 liquor law violations and 171 drug-related arrests. There were 0 methamphetamine laboratory seizures in Vernon County in 2018.

Traffic Crashes: Alcohol-related traffic crashes increased in the last year (from 13 in 2016 to 15 in 2017). Alcohol-related crashes are more likely to produce fatalities and injuries compared to non-alcohol-related crashes.

2017 Number of Alcohol-Related Crashes by Severity				2017 Number of People Injured / Killed in Alcohol and Drug-Related Crashes			
Total Crashes	Fatal Crash	Crash w/ Injury	Crash w/ Property Damage	Alcohol Fatalities	Alcohol Injuries	Drug Fatalities	Drug Injuries
15	0	9	6	0	12	0	1

Mental Health Data for Vernon County

Individuals struggling with serious mental illness are at higher risk for homicide, suicide, and accidents, as well as chronic conditions including cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and substance use disorders. In state fiscal year 2017, 244 Vernon County residents received treatment for serious mental illness at publicly-funded facilities.



In Southwest Missouri, 19.4% of those 18 and older had a mental illness in the past year, and 4.7% had a serious mental illness. Serious mental illness is defined as any of the mental disorders asked about and 'these disorders resulted in substantial impairment in carrying out major life activities.

Approximately 7.4% of Southwest Missouri residents ages 18+ had at least one major depressive episode in the past year. A major depressive episode is characterized by an extended period of depressed mood, loss of interest or pleasure, and impaired functioning. Typically, females are more likely to report having had a major depressive episode.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-34 in Missouri. In 2018, 1 Vernon County residents died by suicide. Typically, white males are most at risk of suicide. Approximately 15.0% of youth had considered suicide in the last year, 11.9% made a plan, and 2.1% actually attempted, resulting in an injury.

This report is a supplemental document to the full Behavioral Health Profile, published on even numbered years. Previous Behavioral Health Profiles are available at:

<https://dmh.mo.gov/alcohol-drug/missouri-behavioral-health-epidemiology-workgroup>.