

TREND DATA AMONG STUDENTS ATTENDING PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN MISSOURI, 2007-2012

The results below show changes in behavior due to alcohol use among students enrolled in 13 publicly funded universities in Missouri from 2007 to 2012. All results are taken from the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS). The MCHBS is an online, anonymous survey of college student health behaviors currently implemented at 21 Missouri colleges and universities.

CHANGES IN RISKY ALCOHOL BEHAVIORS among underage Missouri College Students, 2007-2012	2007 (n=2763)	2012 (n=2970)	% REDUCTION*
STUDENTS YOUNGER THAN 21			
Consumed alcohol in the past year	74%	72%	3%
Engaged in binge drinking (5+ drinks in 2-hour period)	35%	28%	23%
Engaged in binge drinking (5+ drinks in one sitting)	31%	27%	13%
Experienced a blackout or memory loss due to alcohol	28%	29%	4%
Hurt or injured due to alcohol use	14%	13%	14%
Drove after drinking	26%	17%	38%
Drank at bars	15%	9%	40%

*Percent reduction found using the percent difference formula: (2007 Percentage - 2012 Percentage) / 2007 Percentage

DISCUSSION

While it is highly encouraging to see significant and meaningful reductions in alcohol consequences among underage Missouri students, the interesting question is ‘why do these reductions in consequences coincide with relatively mild reductions in overall use?’ One possible explanation could be the reduction in underage students who drank at bars from 2007 to 2012. This 40% decrease is substantial and matches the reduction in students who drove after drinking. Whether or not this reduction in underage students who drank at bars is related to these other consequence reductions will require further analysis. Additionally, future analysis will assess possible causes for the reduction in underage drinking at bars. A possible explanation could be the availability of more programs such as the State of Missouri Alcohol Responsibility Training (SMART) program. SMART is targeted at educating bar staff on how and why they should avoid serving underage individuals. In addition, 2007-2012 was a time when these schools would have been more able to access funding for law enforcement

operations through a specialized law enforcement grant program. All of these possible explanations will require further analysis. For now, **we are encouraged that high-risk underage drinking has decreased on these campuses, and risky consequences among underage students have decreased drastically in a relatively short period of time.**

SUMMARY

Among students at all Partners in Prevention’s public university campuses, underage drinking and underage binge drinking have decreased since 2007. While this is encouraging, the decreases in consequences among underage students at these universities are even more promising. Reductions in underage students who were injured due to alcohol use or drove after drinking have both decreased by double digits since the implementation of the MCHBS.

Contact Partners in Prevention at (573) 884-7551
Report prepared by Partners in Prevention Research & Evaluation Staff