

UNDERAGE DRINKING

Partners in Prevention (PIP) has been Missouri's higher education substance abuse consortium since 2000. The coalition, made up of 21 universities in Missouri, works to promote healthy behaviors on college campuses. In order to gain an understanding of the current health behaviors of college students, PIP has implemented the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS) each year since 2007. To assist our campus in strategic planning, Partners in Prevention assesses the behaviors of potentially at-risk populations. In this brief, we review underage drinking.

DISCUSSION

Drinking Differences by Legal Status

According to the 2014 MCHBS, when comparing student drinking by legal status interesting differences emerge. While a greater percentage of students over the age of 21 (85% versus 67%) report drinking in the past year, more underage students report consuming five or more drinks in a two-hour period (38% versus 31%). Underage students also typically choose different locations for their drinking. While 52% of students above the legal age report drinking in bars, only 10% of our underage Missouri college students report doing so.

	Over 21	Under 21
Past year alcohol use	85%	67%
2 hour binge drink	31%	38%
Drink in bars	52%	10%
Social gatherings off campus	47%	39%
Fraternities or Sororities	6%	13%
Residence Hall	2%	7%
Where I live	47%	19%

Obtaining Alcohol

The most likely means of accessing alcohol for students under the age of 21 is from friends who are over the age of 21 (reported by 58% of underage students). Other means reported by underage students include: from family members (9%), fraternities and sororities (6%) use of a fake ID (4%) and going to places where IDs are not checked (3%).

Trends in Underage Drinking

When reviewing underage drinking since 2007, interesting trends emerge. MCHBS data indicate that since 2007 there have been noticeable reductions in underage students drinking in bars, drinking at private parties, using fake IDs, obtaining alcohol from family members,

and going to locations where IDs are not checked. Conversely, there has been no change or marginal increases in students reporting drinking at fraternities and sororities, drinking in residence halls, or obtaining alcohol by a friend who is over the age 21.

	2007	2010	2012	2014	Change	Direction
Drank at bars or restaurants	15%	11%	9%	10%	33%	Decrease
Drank at private party	59%	46%	42%	39%	34%	Decrease
Drank at social Greek house	12%	14%	15%	13%	-8%	Increase
Drank at residence Hall	7%	4%	6%	7%	0%	No Change
Given alcohol by someone 21+	57%	45%	44%	58%	-2%	Increase
Used fake ID	7%	6%	6%	4%	43%	Decrease
Given alcohol by family member	14%	9%	8%	9%	36%	Decrease
Went where IDs are not checked	15%	9%	8%	3%	80%	Decrease

SUMMARY

This data provides an encouraging snapshot of underage drinking issues with Missouri college students. Since 2007, fewer underage students report drinking in bars and at private parties. Additionally, fewer underage students report obtaining alcohol by the use of fake IDs, from family members, and stores which do not check for IDs. Conversely, there has been little change in the percentage of students reporting drinking at Greek houses, within the residence halls, and obtaining alcohol from friends over 21.

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