



Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

About 2¢ a drink yields \$44 million annually to reduce the impact of alcohol problems in Missouri.

Question:

In its #1 Question Campaign, Citizens for Missouri's Children and the Partnership for Children ask the very important question: "Is It Good for the Children?" What can you tell us about the impact of alcohol on the lives of Missouri's children and youth?

Answer:

Alcohol affects the world of a child in many ways. Harmful effects can be seen in the family, the peer group, the school, the community, and society. Leadership to Keep Children Free has published a booklet with relevant research findings and the state of knowledge in this area of concern. They include the examples below.

MISSOURI IMPACT FACT #15

- Approximately one in four children is exposed to family alcoholism or addiction, or alcohol abuse, some time before reaching the age of 18. (1)
- Children of alcoholics are significantly more likely to initiate drinking during adolescence and to develop alcohol use disorders. (2)
- Any drinking during pregnancy, even "social drinking," can put offspring at risk for learning and behavioral problems during adolescence. (3)
- A study of fifth and sixth grade students found that those who demonstrated an awareness of beer ads also intended to drink more frequently when they grew up. (4)
- Twelve-to-sixteen-year-old girls who are current drinkers are four times more likely than their nondrinking peers to suffer from depression. (5)
- Adolescents who abuse alcohol may remember 10 percent less of what they have learned than those who don't drink. (6)
- Among eighth graders, higher truancy rates were associated with greater rates of alcohol use in the past month. (7)
- Among eighth graders, students with higher grade point averages reported less alcohol use in the past month. (8)

(For citations, see "How Does Alcohol Affect the World of a Child?" Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, National Institute of Health Publication No. 99-4670, Updated January 2003. #1-3 on p. 2; #4 on p. 4; #5 on p. 6; #6-#8 on p. 5)

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