



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

Question:

What does underage drinking cost the citizens of Missouri, and how does that cost compare with those of other states?

Answer:

Underage drinking cost Missourians \$1.4 billion in 2001. These costs include medical care, work loss and pain and suffering resulting from the use of alcohol by youth. This translates to a cost of \$2,497 per year for each youth in the state. Missouri ranks 11th highest among the 50 states on this measure.

MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #30

- Youth violence and traffic crashes attributable to alcohol use by underage youth in Missouri represent the largest costs for the State. However, a host of other problems contribute substantially to the overall cost.

Problem	Total Costs (millions)
Youth Violence	\$681.6
Youth Traffic Crashes	\$456.5
High-Risk Sex, Ages 14-20	\$110.2
Youth Property Crime	\$72.4
Youth Injury	\$33.4
Poisonings and Psychoses	\$19.1
FAS Among Mothers Age 15-20	\$21.5
Youth Alcohol Treatment	\$29.3
Total	\$1,424.1

- Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence and are two and one-half times more likely to become abusers of alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21. In 2001, 1007 youth 12-20 years old were admitted for treatment in Missouri, accounting for 6.0% of all treatment admissions for alcohol abuse in the State.
- Underage drinkers consumed 18.6% of all alcohol sold in Missouri, totaling \$374 million in sales.

Source: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), March 2004. Data and methodology accessible at <http://www.udetc.org/UndergeDrinkingCosts.asp>.

For more information call one of the Missouri's Alcohol Impact Coalition members below:

Alicia Ozenberger
 Missouri's Youth Adult Alliance
 573/635-6669
aozenberger@actmissouri.org

Gerrit DenHartog
 Community Activist/Alcohol Policy Consultant
 573/893-5448
gdenhartog@sprintmail.com

Angela Hirsch
 MADD-Jefferson City
 573/636-2460
madd-ed@earthlink.net