



Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

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

Question:

What do we know about trends in alcohol problems on college campuses and what factors could make a difference?

Answer:

A just-published study in Annual Review of Public Health (April 2004) compares data for 2001 with data for 1998. The study finds increased rates of death and injury, and recommends five strategies for reducing problems. *

MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #43

Integrating data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, national coroner studies, census and college enrollment data for 18-24-year-olds, the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, and the Harvard College Alcohol Survey, the researchers calculated alcohol-related unintentional injury deaths and other health problems among college students in 1998 and 2001. They found:

- Alcohol-related unintentional injury deaths increased from nearly 1600 to more than 1700, an increase of 6% per college population.
- The proportion of 18-24-year-old college students who reported driving under the influence of alcohol increased from 26.5% to 31.4%, an increase from 2.3 million to 2.8 million students.
- During both years more than 500,000 students were unintentionally injured because of drinking and more than 600,000 were hit/assaulted by another drinking student.
- College drinking and associated harm can be reduced by:
 - ✓ Better enforcement of legal drinking age of 21 and zero tolerance laws.
 - ✓ Increases in alcohol taxes.
 - ✓ Wider implementation of screening and counseling programs.
 - ✓ Comprehensive community interventions.

**Hingson, R; Heeren, T; Winter, M; and Wechsler, H, "Magnitude of Alcohol-Related Mortality and Morbidity Among U.S. College Students Ages 18-24: Changes from 1998 to 2001." Annual Review of Public Health, Vol. 26:259-279, April, 2005.*

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