



Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

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

Question:

Why should Missourians care about high-risk and underage drinking on the state's campuses and about efforts to deal with the problem?

Answer:

We consider our students to be tomorrow's leaders. Unfortunately, a significant number of them are not achieving their potential due to alcohol use. Binge drinking and other high-risk drinking are serious problems and are costly to the student, their community, and the state. Missouri's public colleges and universities have developed plans to address these issues and appeal to legislators and communities for support.

MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #66

- ❖ U.S. students spend \$5.5 billion each year on alcohol, which is approximately one-third of college students' discretionary income.
- ❖ Almost half of Missouri college students surveyed have engaged in binge drinking (five or more drinks in one sitting) over the last two weeks.
- ❖ Recent research indicates that one-third of college students drink for the sole purpose of getting drunk.
- ❖ Thirty-eight percent (38%) of Missouri college students have driven under the influence of alcohol or other drugs in the past year.
- ❖ It is estimated that 40% of academic problems in college, 29% of drop-outs from college studies, 80% of vandalism on campus, 90% of Greek hazing deaths, and 90% of sexual assaults on campus are alcohol-related.

Twelve of Missouri's public colleges and universities consider college drinking and the associated negative consequences to be a serious issue. Each has campus/community coalitions which have developed strategic plans to address:

- The normative belief that college drinking is a rite of passage.
- Cheap and easy access to alcohol in college communities.
- Lack of policy enforcement.
- Parental responsibility and student responsibility.
- Helping the most at-risk students.

Sources: Missouri Partners in Prevention and Partners in Environmental Change – Annual CORE Alcohol and Drug Survey of 3,737 students at 12 publicly funded college campuses, Spring 2004. Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, and the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

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