

MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT COALITION FACT #9 Footnotes

¹Missouri Institute of Mental Health. (2002). *2002 Missouri Student Survey-Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*. Retrieved October 3, 2004, from <http://www.mimh.edu/survey>.

²Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2004.

³Grant & Dawson. Age at Onset of Alcohol Use and its Association with DSM-IV Alcohol Abuse and Dependence, *Journal of Substance Abuse*, Volume 9, pages 103-110, 1997.

⁴American Academy of Pediatrics, information related to planning and promoting, October 1998 Child Health Month, May 1998.

⁵Healthy Kentuckians 2010, Cabinet for Health Services, Department of Public Health, Kentucky.

⁶Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Status Report, 2004, Page 22, retrieved from <http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/ada/rpts/status04/status04.htm>, December 15, 2004.

⁷Grant & Harford. Prevalence of DSM-IV alcohol abuse and dependence: United States, 1992. *Alcohol Health Res World*. 18(3):243-248, 1994.

⁸S.A. Brown and S. F. Tapert, "Health Consequences of Adolescent Alcohol Use," in *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*, Background Papers (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2004).

⁹S.F. Tapert et al., "fMRI Measurement of Brain Dysfunction in Alcohol-Dependent Young Women," *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* 25, no. 2 (2001): 236-245.

¹⁰P.R. Giancola and A.C. Mezzich, "Neuropsychological Deficits in Female Adolescents with a Substance Use Disorder: Better Accounted for Conduct Disorder," *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 61, no. 6 (2000): 809-817; S.A. Brown et al., "Neurocognitive Functioning of Adolescents: Effects of Protracted Alcohol Use," *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* 24, no. 2 (2000): 164-71; S.F. Tapert and S.A. Brown, "Neuropsychological Correlates of Adolescent Substance Abuse: Four-year Outcomes," *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society* 5 (1999): 481-493.



Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

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

Question:

Is there really an underage drinking problem in Missouri?

Answer:

The average age a child takes his or her first drink in Missouri (beyond a few sips) is 12.7 years of age or the 6th grade¹. The national average age of first use is 15.9². Any responsible Missourian, including those who work in the alcohol industry, agrees that this is unacceptable.

MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #9

- Youth who use alcohol before age 15 are four times more likely to be alcohol dependent than adults whose first drink occurs after reaching the legal age of 21³.
- Alcohol plays a key role in the leading causes of death among youth (accidents, homicides and suicides)⁴ and is responsible for six times more youthful deaths than all so-called illicit drugs combined⁵.
- 53% of Missourians age 12 or older currently drink⁶, including 20% in the age 12-17 age group and 65% in the 18-25 age group, and more than 78,000 children already have serious alcohol problems⁷.
- It makes good sense to have the legal drinking age at 21. New research on adolescent brain development suggests that early heavy alcohol use may also have negative effects on the physical development of brain structure⁸. Youth with alcohol use disorders also performed worse on memory tests than nondrinkers, further suggesting that the structural difference in hippocampus size was affecting brain functioning⁹. Alcohol use during adolescence may have a direct effect on brain functioning: negative effects included decreased ability in planning and executive functioning, memory, spatial operations, and attention¹⁰.

See reverse for footnotes.➔

The Coalition believes that alcohol is impacting our children in a negative way. It is hurting their health, their academic progress, their lives and the lives of those around them. Underage drinking needs community and statewide attention.

The health of our children and their futures are at stake.

It is our responsibility to protect them from harm.

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