

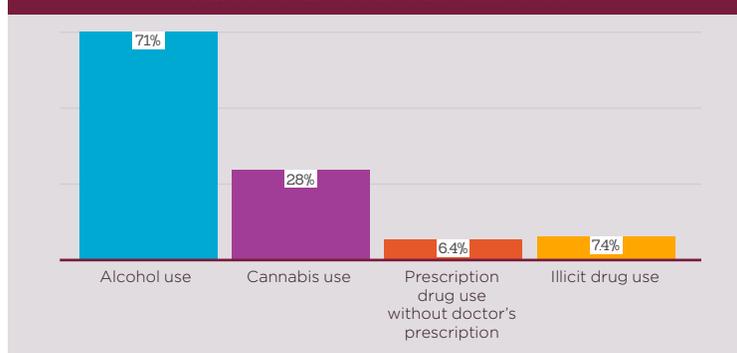
Illicit Drug Use

Partners in Prevention (PIP) is Missouri's higher education substance misuse consortium dedicated to creating healthy and safe college campuses. The coalition is comprised of 24 public and private colleges and universities in the state working to prevent high-risk behaviors by implementing evidence-based strategies. To measure progress and obtain data needed for the implementation of programs, PIP created the Missouri Assessment of College Health Behaviors (MACHB) Survey. The MACHB is an annual, online survey that has been implemented each spring since 2007. The survey assesses the roles that alcohol, drugs (illicit and prescription), tobacco/nicotine, interpersonal violence, and mental health have on student health and wellness. This brief will focus on illicit drug use (not including cannabis) among Missouri college students.

Prevalence

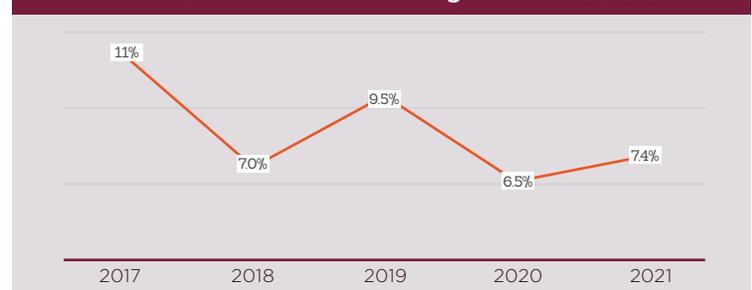
According to the 2021 MACHB, 7.4% of Missouri college students have used at least one illicit drug (other than cannabis) in the past year*. While illicit drug use is of concern among Missouri college students, alcohol and cannabis are the most frequently used drugs by Missouri college students.

Chart 1 - Past Year Substance Use



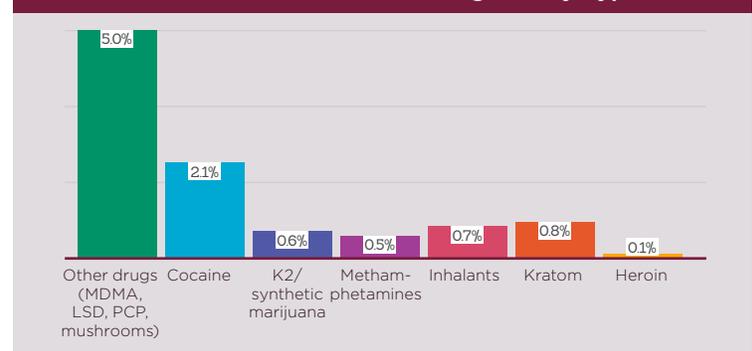
According to the MACHB survey, rates of illicit drug use among Missouri college students have decreased over the past few years (shown in chart 2). It is important to note that questions asking about a wider range of drug categories are cycled into the survey every other year on odd years, which may account for the higher percentages reported in certain years. These rates are lower than the national average of 16% for any past year illicit drug use other than cannabis among college students, according to the 2020 Monitoring the Future survey.¹

Chart 2- Past Year Illicit Drug Use Trend Data



Past year use rates of various drugs listed on the survey are included in chart 3. While kratom and inhalants are not illegal to purchase, they are still categorized in the survey under this section as these substances are typically used recreationally to induce a 'high' or intoxication.

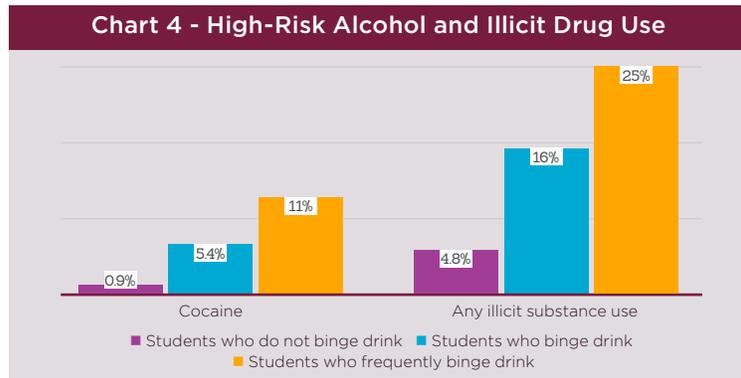
Chart 3 -Past Year Illicit Drug Use by Type



High-Risk Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use

MACHB data shows that students who consume alcohol in high-risk ways, including binge drinking (consuming 5

or more drinks for males or 4 or more drinks for females in a 2-hour period in the past 2 weeks) and frequent binge drinking (binge drinking 3 or more times in the past 2 weeks) were more likely to have used illicit substances in the past year. There appears to be a correlation between high-risk alcohol use and illicit substance use.



Summary

It is important to continue to monitor illicit drug use behaviors, especially among certain subpopulations and as it relates to alcohol and other substance use. While cannabis use was not explored in this brief, you can view additional publications on cannabis at mopip.org/research.html

Contact Partners in Prevention at (573) 884-7551.

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1. Schulenberg, J. E., Patrick, M. E., Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Miech, R. A. (2021). Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975-2020: Volume II, College students and adults ages 19-60. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan. Available at <http://monitoringthefuture.org/pubs.html#monographs>

*question is select all that apply