

Primary Drug Prevention

A Smart Strategy for a Strong Missouri

SMART INVESTMENT

By intervening early, building protections, and reducing risks, **the prevention network in Missouri is working to eradicate the disease of addiction.**

Our strategies are rooted in evidence-based science, overseen by certified staff, and implemented across the entire state.

POWERFUL NETWORK

10 prevention resource centers provide support to 160+ prevention coalitions of diverse community stakeholders working to prevent early substance use.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In communities with active coalitions, sustainable prevention funding, and comprehensive plans, substance use among youth is significantly lower.



1 in 5

Missouri high school students drink alcohol.¹



Tobacco use among Missouri youth is CONSIDERABLY higher than youth rates in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa.²



90% of adults struggling with substance use disorders started smoking, drinking, or using other drugs before age 18.³

By protecting young brains from early exposure to alcohol, nicotine, and marijuana, we can eliminate 90% of substance use disorders in the future.



CONTACT US

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¹ Missouri Behavioral Health Epidemiology Workgroup. [Website] Retrieved from: <https://seow.dmh.mo.gov> on 1/22/2024

² State Toll of Tobacco." Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/sources. Accessed 12 Jan. 2024.

³ Dennis ML, et al. Changing the focus: The case for recognizing and treating cannabis use disorders. *Addiction*. 2002;97(Suppl 1):4-15.



Preventing addiction requires **a proactive approach** that **prevents substance use in childhood.**

JOIN OUR PRIMARY PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR MISSOURI:

- **Secure sustainable funding for primary substance use prevention through creative and direct investment.**
- **Advocate for policies, laws, and norms that are proven to reduce youth substance use.**
- **Educate and inform community leaders, other policymakers, and parents about the importance of delaying youth exposure to alcohol, nicotine, and marijuana.**
- **Support structures that train and equip a professional prevention workforce to mobilize prevention science into community action.**
- **Ensure quality data collection through the Missouri Student Survey, which is vital for funding, planning, and evaluation of prevention efforts.**
- **Work with federal and state partners to prioritize primary prevention and coordinate resources so all Missouri youth benefit.**
- **Work toward the implementation of evidence-based, substance use prevention curriculum in all schools across the state.**

Missouri Behavioral Health Epidemiology Workgroup. Missouri Department of Mental Health. Retrieved from: <https://seow.dmh.mo.gov> on 10/20/2023



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\$0 OF MISSOURI GENERAL REVENUE SUPPORTS PRIMARY PREVENTION.

EVERY \$1 SPENT ON PRIMARY PREVENTION SAVES \$18 IN FUTURE COSTS.

NEARLY ALL PRIMARY PREVENTION FUNDING IN MISSOURI IS SUSTAINED THROUGH FEDERAL GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.

FEDERAL AND LOCAL FUNDS FOR PREVENTION

- Prevention only receives 20% of the Federal Block grant.
 - 20% is the federally mandated minimum and must be preserved for primary prevention.
- Of the 160 community prevention coalitions in Missouri, only 17 receive sustainable funding through federal Drug-Free Community Grants.
- 10/114 Counties have limited county Tax Base Revenue that can support prevention efforts.
- While local grant opportunities are helpful, the varied and always changing landscape of prevention funding causes obstacles.



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