

Prescription Drug Misuse by Missouri Students



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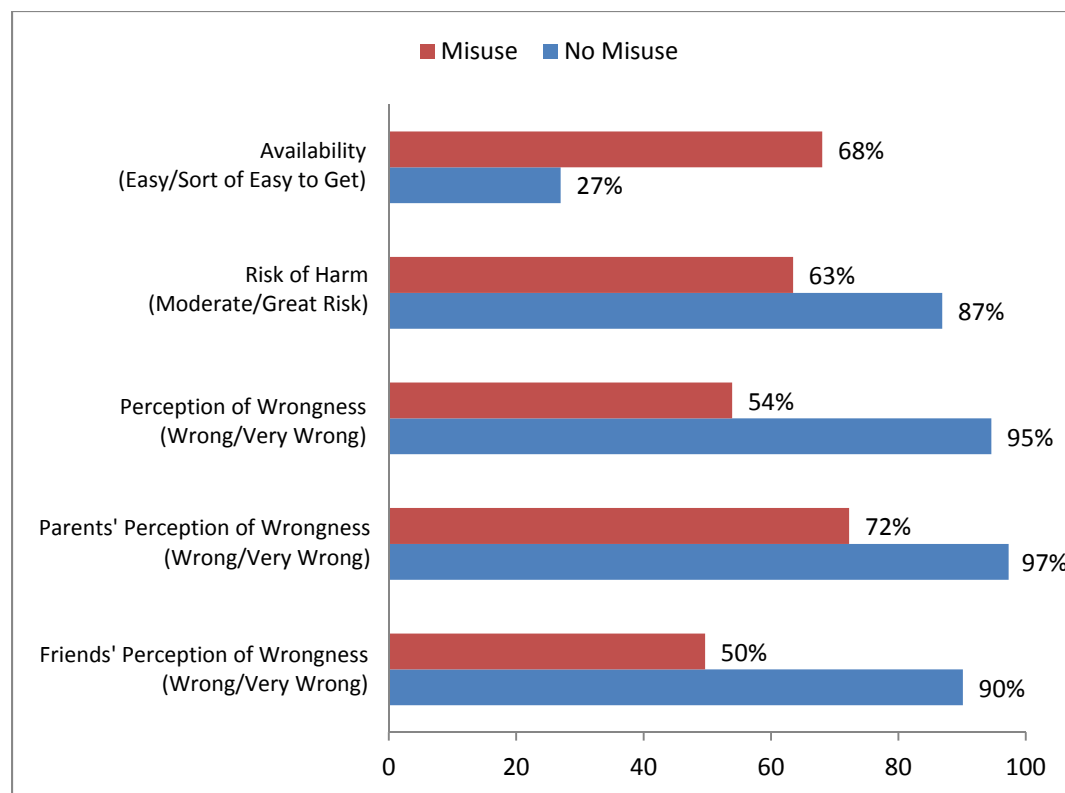
Behavioral Health



Epidemiology Workgroup

Prescription drug misuse and abuse is the use of medication without a prescription, in a way other than prescribed, or for the experience or feeling it causes¹. According to the 2014 Missouri Student Survey, almost 4% of middle and high school students report using a prescription medication that was not prescribed for them by a doctor at least once in the past 30 days. Both availability and perceptions about substances are strong influential factors in the decision to use.

Perceptions of Students Reporting Misuse of Prescription Drugs in the Past 30 days²



Students who report misusing prescription drugs report greater availability, less perception of harm and less perception of wrongness than students who do not misuse prescription drugs.

It is unclear from these data whether greater availability suggests that students who misuse prescription drugs do so because they think they are readily available, or if students who misuse report greater availability simply because they were able to access the medications they misused. Overall, these data suggest that the largest differences between students who misuse and those who do not is in perception of wrongness and friend's perception. Parent perceptions and perceived risk of harm also differed between these groups, but to a lesser extent.

¹ <http://www.samhsa.gov/prescription-drug-misuse-abuse>

² Missouri Student Survey, 2014 Special run