

Substance Use Among Missouri Youth, Key Findings from MSS 2022

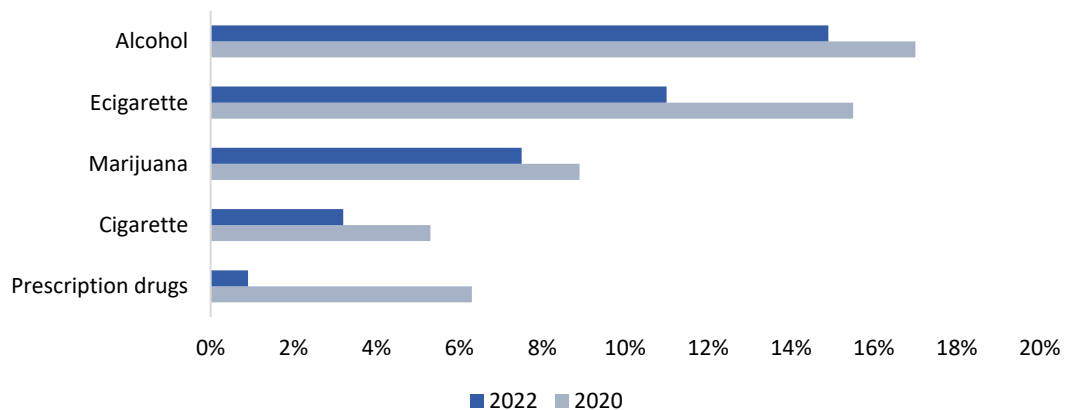


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Missouri Student Survey was administered to 6-12 graders in Missouri this year to examine the substance use and mental health of the youth. The survey includes questions on alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and other behaviors that endanger health and safety (to view the questionnaire, [click here](#)).

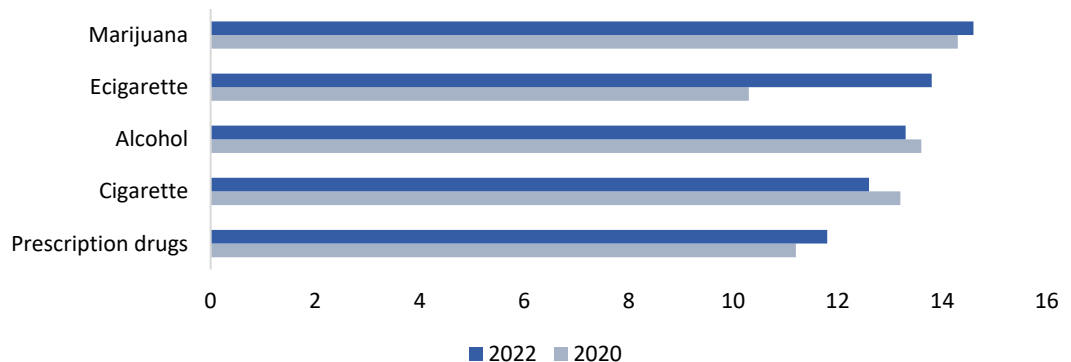
According to the 2022 MSS data, alcohol, e-cigarettes, and marijuana were the top three substances reported being used by the students in the past month. This pattern is similar to that reported by MSS 2020 data. It can, however, be noticed that past-month use in 2022 has declined among youth as compared to 2020.

Past month substance use among youth, MSS 2020-22



We further explored the age of first use, in years, of substances by Missouri youth.

Average age (in years) of first use of substances among youth in Missouri, MSS 2020-22



Average age of first use was lowest for prescription drugs according to 2022 MSS data. Whereas, according to 2020 MSS data, this number was lowest for E-cigarette use.

We then studied the perception of availability of different substances for 6-12 graders in Missouri. It was noted that a lower percentage of students in 2022 survey reported “easy” or “very easy” to obtain alcohol, e-cigarette, cigarette, marijuana, or prescription drugs as compared to 2020.

Ease of availability of substances according to youth in Missouri, MSS 2020-22

