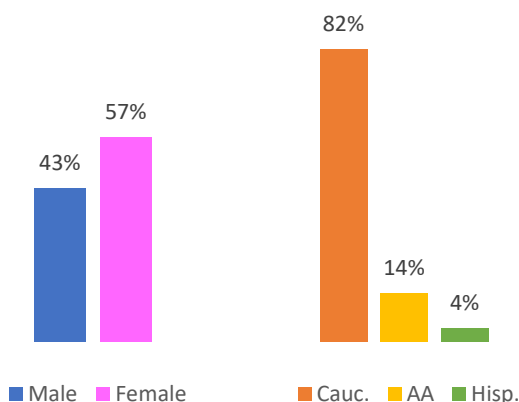


Alcohol Use Among Missouri Youth

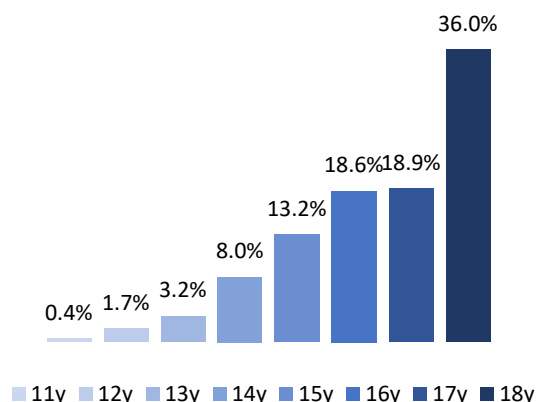
2022 MSS data shows that alcohol is first among the top three substances reported to be used by the students in the past month. The average age of first use of alcohol is 13 years. 14.9% of students reported using alcohol in the past month.

Past-month alcohol use was more common among females than males. It was also seen to be more common among Caucasians than African Americans. The percentage of those who reported using alcohol in the past month increased with an increase in age.

Demographics of those who used alcohol in past month



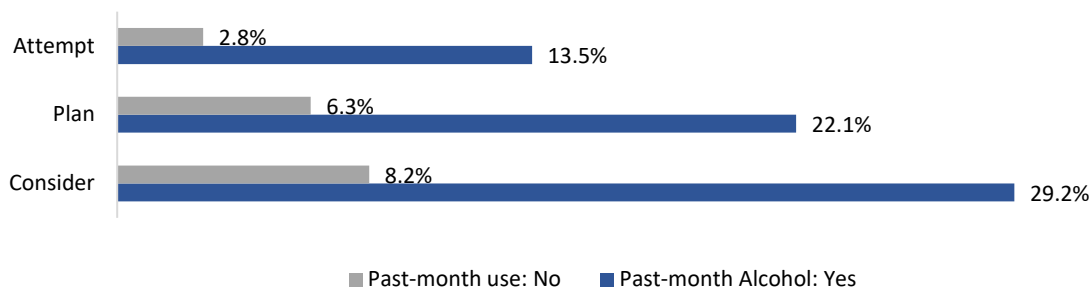
Age distribution of participants who reported past-month alcohol use



20% of the participants think that their peers believe it is “pretty cool” or “very cool” if someone their age drank alcohol. Further, if a kid drank some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin) in the neighborhood, or the area around where the students live, 27.6% believe that they would be caught by the police. Friends and family are reported to be the main sources of access to alcohol for those who have ever, even once, drank alcohol; 40.9% said a “friend gives or sells it to me” and 38.9% said a “family member gives or sells it to me”.

As compared to those who did not use alcohol in the past month, a higher percentage of students who used alcohol in the past month reported having planned, considered, and attempted suicide.

Suicidal thoughts among those who used alcohol in past month



For more information please contact the BHEW at 314-516-8412 or susan.depue@mimh.edu