



CURRENT DRUG TRENDS



Alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana remain the leading drugs of misuse for youth and adults in the nation and in Missouri, however, other drugs periodically cycle in and out of popularity. According to National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Emerging Trends, the following are in today's headlines:

ADHD MEDICATION

Stimulant medications including amphetamines, Adderall, and methylphenidate, Ritalin and Concerta, are often prescribed to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Because they suppress appetite, increase wakefulness, and increase focus and attention, they are frequently misused for purposes of weight loss or performance enhancement and to help study or boost grades in school. Because they may produce euphoria, these drugs are also frequently misused for recreational purposes.

BATH SALTS

The term refers to an emerging family of drugs containing one or more synthetic chemicals related to cathinone, an amphetamine-like stimulant found naturally in the Khat plant. Reports of severe intoxication and dangerous health effects associated with use of bath salts have made these drugs a serious and growing public health and safety issue. The synthetic cathinones in bath salts can produce euphoria and increased sociability and sex drive, but some users experience paranoia, agitation, and hallucinatory delirium; some even display psychotic and violent behavior, and deaths have been reported in several instances.

E CIGARETTES

E-cigarettes are increasingly popular battery-operated devices marketed as a safer alternative to smoking conventional cigarettes. They produce flavored nicotine aerosol that looks and feels like tobacco smoke but without the tar or other chemicals produced by burning tobacco leaves. However, while e-cigarettes do not produce tobacco smoke, it is still unclear how safe they are.

HEROIN

Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of the Asian opium poppy plant. Heroin usually appears as a white or brown powder or as a black sticky substance, known as "black tar heroin." Many people that develop opioid use disorders turn to heroin because of its cheaper price and availability.

MOLLY

Slang for "molecular", Molly refers to the pure crystalline powder form of the club drug MDMA which in pill form is known as ecstasy. Molly, which is usually purchased in capsules, has seen a surge in interest in the past few years, being celebrated frequently by popular music artists. MDMA in any form produces energy and euphoria in users but also may dangerously affect body temperature and cause confusion, depression, and sleep problems.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Some medications have psychoactive, mind-altering properties and, because of that, are sometimes misused; that is taken for reasons or in ways or amounts not intended by a doctor, or taken by someone other than the person for whom they are prescribed. In fact, prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs are, after marijuana and alcohol, the most commonly misused substances by Americans 14 and older.

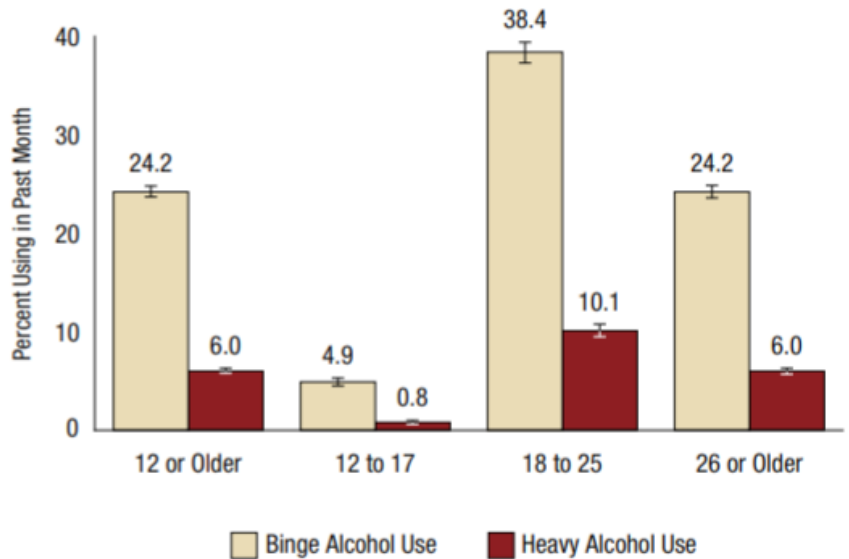
SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA/SPICE

"Spice" refers to a wide variety of herbal mixtures that produce experiences similar to marijuana (cannabis) and that are marketed as "safe," legal alternatives to that drug. Sold under many names and labeled "not for human consumption", these products contain dried, shredded plant material and chemical additives that are responsible for their psychoactive, mind-altering effects.

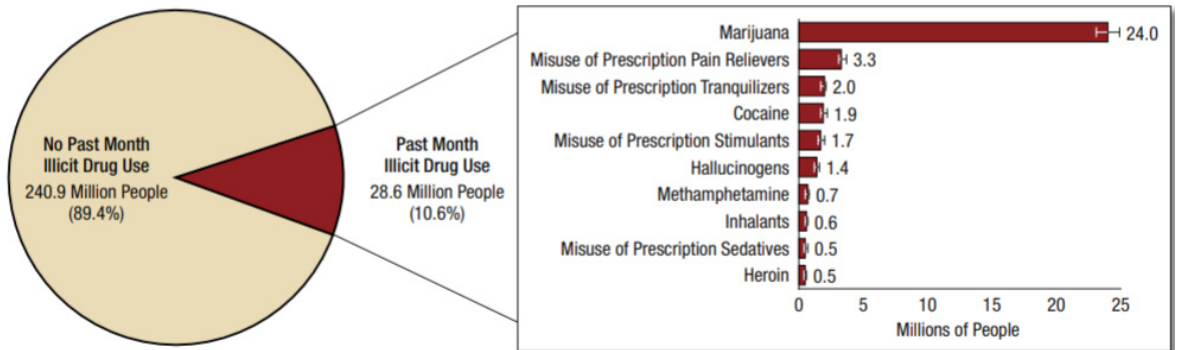
For more information on current drug trends or to request a presentation in your area,
Email: info@actmissouri.org or visit: www.drugabuse.gov.

Percentage of Past Month Binge and Heavy Alcohol Users Among People Aged 12 or Older, by Age Group-2016

Source: 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health



Number of Past Month Illicit Drug Users Among People Aged 12 or Older-2016



Source: 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Percentage of Substance Users (6-12th grade) in Missouri and in the United States (12-18 years)

	Missouri		United States	
	Lifetime	30-day	Lifetime	30-day
Alcohol	35.4%	14.3%	30.8%	11.6%
Electronic Cigarettes	22.4%	10.6%	n/a	n/a
Cigarettes	17.6%	6.2%	15.7%	5.6%
Marijuana	15.3%	7.0%	16.4%	7.1%
Prescription Drugs	14.5%	10.1%	n/a	n/a
Hookah	9.7%	3.4%	n/a	n/a
Chewing Tobacco	9.4%	3.7%	6.0%	2.0%
Over-the-Counter Meds	4.7%	2.2%	n/a	n/a
Inhalants	2.9%	1.1%	5.3%	0.5%
Synthetic Drugs	1.8%	0.3%	n/a	n/a
Hallucinogens	1.1%	n/a	2.8%	0.6%
Cocaine	0.9%	n/a	0.9%	0.2%
Club Drugs	0.8%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Methamphetamine	0.3%	n/a	0.5%	0.1%
Heroin	0.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: 2016 Missouri Student Survey