



***JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS
SUBSTANCE ABUSE INDICATOR
REPORT
OCTOBER 2006***



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

In its role of identifying human service needs in our community, and marshaling resources to meet those needs, United Community Services periodically compiles indicator data on substance use and abuse in Johnson County. This Indicator Report is a means of informing elected officials, social service providers, the general public, as well as the work of the Drug & Alcoholism Council of Johnson County (DAC). We hope it will be used by stakeholders for a variety of purposes, such as program planning and development, resource allocation, and outreach. For the DAC it is also the first step in development of a priority plan for investment of the Alcohol Tax Fund during the ensuing years.

Indicator data is grouped by category: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Community Impact. It is presented graphically within each category, accompanied by a brief analysis or summary comments. Source references, definitions, explanations and caveats, as appropriate, are also provided. The data is intended to help identify:

Where our community is realizing success in effectively addressing the issues surrounding education, prevention and treatment for substance abuse.

What emerging needs the continuum of available services should begin to address.

Whether opportunities exist for collective community action, such as community awareness, public policy changes, or education that would further support the continuum of services.

How future resources can be invested to strengthen the continuum of substance abuse services.

Key Findings and Conclusions

Much positive data is reflected in the Report, but the overarching theme is that consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substances continues to be high in Johnson County. The data also underscores areas in which stakeholder action may be able to lower use of these substances, thus complementing on-going community action. Johnson County is the most populous in the state, and steady growth continues. Sheer numbers may account for a portion of increased consumption of these substances, usage depends upon access and availability.

Some key findings include:

Alcohol Use

The common thread of indicator data for Johnson County is that alcohol consumption levels frequently exceed statewide rates. A broad indicator of alcohol consumption trends are the taxes collected on liquor sales. Although not all liquor sold in Johnson County is consumed here or by Johnson County residents, tax collections can be a starting point for assessing access and availability of alcohol. Collections of the excise tax on liquor-by-the-drink and the state liquor enforcement tax have increased at a much faster rate than the population. Youth are reporting lower alcohol consumption rates than in previous years, but find alcohol is “very easy” to obtain. Further, the incidence of binge drinking among youth is higher than the state average, exacerbating unique and serious risks for this population. Finally, one in seven adults reported engaging in binge drinking—a rate comparable to statewide levels—but nonetheless affecting a significant portion of the population.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONT'D.)

Tobacco Use

Tobacco consumption is the leading cause of preventable disease and death nationwide, with negative health consequences that link to almost one in every five deaths annually. Higher cigarette taxes can have an immediate impact in lower cigarette consumption levels. Kansas cigarette consumption declined dramatically since the tax per pack more than tripled in 2003. Although youth cigarette consumption has continued a slow decline, it remains higher than the state average. Nonetheless, underage tobacco sales continue to be unacceptably high, leading to targeted efforts to improve retailer compliance.

Community Impact

Community impact of the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs is wide-ranging, including investment of law enforcement, the judicial system, health care, schools, employers, children and families. Adult drug case filings continue to increase, with most of that increase attributable to statutory changes affecting DUI prosecutions and sentencing. Among adults seeking state-funded substance abuse treatment, most report alcohol as their primary problem, with marijuana next most frequently identified as the primary problem. Juvenile crime associated with drugs and alcohol has declined slowly since 2001. Marijuana continues to be the illegal drug of choice for most Johnson County youth accessing state-funded substance abuse treatment. This data parallels current marijuana use among youth that consistently exceeds the statewide average.

This Indicator Report represents on-going work by UCS and the DAC. UCS and the DAC sought insights into indicator trends from various stakeholders during its preparation. The input and analysis in this Report holds implications for priority planning by the DAC that will be shared at a future date.

ABOUT UCS

Established in 1967, United Community Services (UCS) is a nonprofit research and planning organization that addresses human service needs in Johnson County, Kansas. Through ongoing research and planning, UCS identifies the critical human needs that most impact the community and uses those findings to inform decision-makers, guide resource allocation, and advance community action. UCS is United Way of Johnson County's planning partner.

For more information about the Johnson County Children and Youth Trends Report contact Debbie Doud, UCS Director for Community Initiatives, debbied@ucsjoco.org. For information about UCS or other data UCS has available, visit the organization's web site at www.ucsjoco.org.

INDICATOR: LIQUOR TAX COLLECTION

Tax collections on liquor sales have grown faster than County population



Why is this important?

Growth in collection of liquor taxes is an indicator of alcohol availability and consumption levels. Retail liquor store licensees pay an 8% Liquor Enforcement Tax on the gross receipts on liquor sales. Drinking establishments—such as restaurants, bars and private clubs—collect the Liquor Excise Tax, a 10% tax on liquor-by-the-drink. A portion of the dollars collected from the latter tax must be used for substance abuse education, detoxification, intervention, prevention and treatment. Growth in collection of these taxes, when compared to overall population growth, is one tool to measure alcohol availability and consumption in the community.

How are we doing?

From 2001-2005, Johnson County population grew by over 9%. In comparison, from FY2001 through FY2005, Liquor Enforcement Tax collections in Johnson County increased from \$7.41M to \$9.2M, or 24%. Liquor Excise Tax collections increased at nearly half that rate, or 18%, from \$5.22M to \$6.15M. In Johnson County, nine jurisdictions allocate a portion of these dollars through the Alcohol Tax Fund to ensure that a strong continuum of substance abuse services is available for Johnson County residents. Since 2001, this fund has grown 29%.

	2001	2005	Change
Johnson County Population	465,058	506,652	9%
State Population	2,694,641	2,744,687	1.8%
Johnson County Liquor Enforcement Tax Collected	\$ 7,417,082	\$ 9,205,321	24%
State Liquor Enforcement Tax Collected	\$35,337,889	\$41,903,994	19%
Liquor Excise Tax allocated through Alcohol Tax Fund	\$ 835,871	\$ 1,075,280	29%
Johnson County Liquor Excise Tax Collected	\$ 5,220,965	\$ 6,151,716	18%
State Liquor Excise Tax Collected	\$24,951,789	\$29,770,339	19%

About the Data

Source: Kansas Dept. of Revenue; 2000 Census and 2005 Population Estimates Program.

Explanations and Caveats: The Alcohol Tax Fund is Liquor Excise Tax dollars managed by the Drug & Alcoholism Council (DAC) of Johnson County, a UCS program. County Government and eight cities pool a portion of Liquor Excise Tax dollars attributable to their jurisdiction; the DAC recommends allocation of those dollars to programs that primarily address substance abuse education, prevention, treatment, intervention and detoxification, and serve Johnson County residents.



INDICATOR: ADULT BINGE DRINKING

One in seven adults report binge drinking in the past 30 days



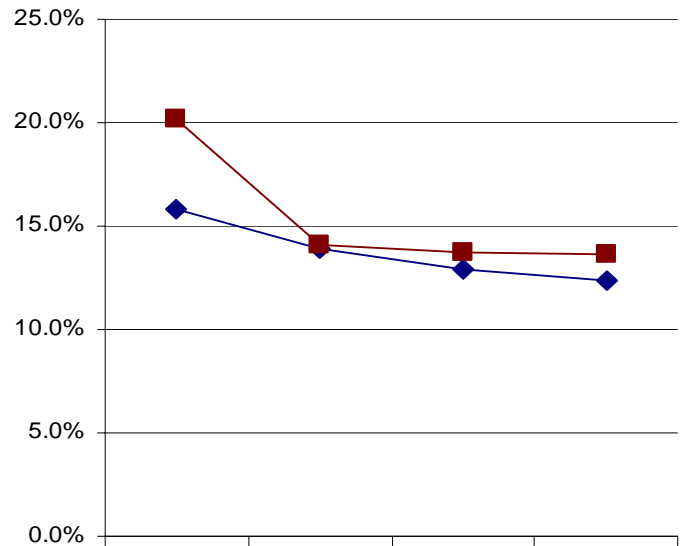
Why is this important?

Binge drinking is the consumption of five or more drinks (males) or four or more drinks (females) in about two hours, that elevates a person's blood alcohol concentration to .08 percent or higher. Binge drinking creates a danger for the drinker and society. Individuals with risk factors for developing alcoholism are at increased risk with any level of alcohol consumption, as are pregnant women. Alcohol consumption is also a leading cause of death due to accidents, risky behaviors, or vulnerability to violent crime. Binge drinking and heavy drinking increases a person's risk of alcohol poisoning, cardiovascular and liver disease, neurological damage and poor diabetes controls.

How are we doing?

One in seven Johnson County adults reports binge drinking in the past 30 days. Binge drinking levels among Johnson County adults has declined in recent years and are at comparable levels to state-wide rates.

Johnson County Adults Reporting Binge Drinking in Last 30 Days



	2002	2003	2004	2005
◆ Percent of Kansas Adults	15.8%	13.9%	12.9%	12.4%
■ Percent of JoCo Adults	20.2%	14.1%	13.7%	13.6%

About the Data

Source: U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion.

Definition: Drinks are defined as one-half ounce of alcohol (12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 shots of spirits).

Explanations and caveats: Survey questions addressing binge drinking have varied slightly, and have been collected for only a few years. Future review of a longer trend line that includes reporting on the Confidence Interval will provide additional insight.



INDICATOR: YOUTH ALCOHOL USAGE

Underage drinking among 12th graders has not declined significantly



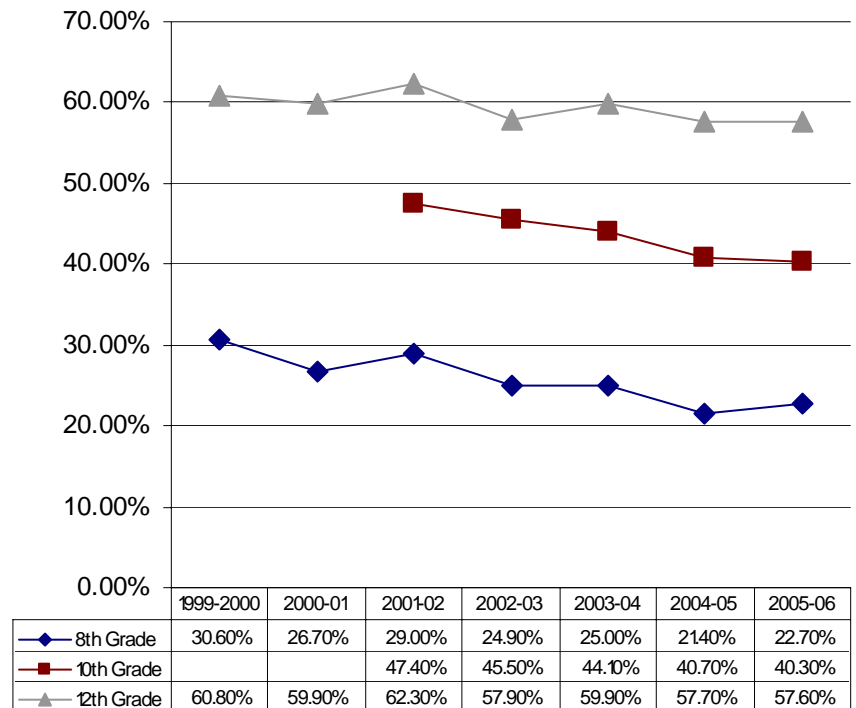
Why is this important?

Alcohol is a leading cause of death among youth, contributing to automobile accidents, other accidents, suicide, and similar risks. Young drinkers are at an elevated risk of sexual assault, rape, other violent crimes, and engaging in unprotected sex. Because the brain is not fully developed, alcohol seriously affects impulsivity, impairs judgment and emotional control, and reduces the ability to anticipate and understand consequences. Alcohol consumption also contributes to poor school performance and family dysfunction. Those who begin drinking as young teens are four times more likely to become alcohol-dependent than those who begin drinking as adults.

How are we doing?

While 30-day use among Johnson County youth overall has declined, use among 12th graders has decreased only slightly and remains higher than the current state average of 55.5%. Half of 12th graders reported that it was "very easy" to obtain alcohol, and more than one-third—nearly two of every five—revealed that during the previous two weeks they consumed five or more alcoholic drinks in a row (binge drinking).

**Current Alcohol Use:
Self-Reporting by Johnson County Youth**



About the Data

Source: *Communities that Care, Student Surveys 2000-2006.*

Definition: *Adolescents who report alcohol use within the past 30 days are considered "current users".*

Explanations and Caveats: *Data collected from Johnson County public school districts. No data available for 10th graders during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years.*



INDICATOR: YOUTH BINGE DRINKING

Binge drinking levels very high among Johnson County youth



Why is this important?

Underage and adult binge drinkers face the same health problems, but youth are particularly vulnerable to permanent neurological damage. New research strongly suggests that heavy drinking by youth impairs the neurology that protects a person from becoming alcoholic. This may explain why 47% of adults who started drinking before age 14 developed alcohol dependency, compared with 9% of those who did not drink until age 21. Binge drinking among youth reflects on the availability and access to alcohol by underage drinkers, and lack of supervision by adults.

How are we doing?

Binge drinking among Johnson County youth has been higher than other Kansas youth during four of the last six years. More than one in six Johnson County youth reported engaging in binge drinking over the past five years. Binge drinking is highest among 12th graders where 37.8% reported binge drinking, roughly three times more than adults (see data on Adult Binge Drinking). National survey data on binge drinking reveals that 90% of alcohol consumption by youth under age 21 occurs in the form of binge drinking. Among all drinkers who reported binge drinking, more than half were in the 18-20 year-old age group.

**Binge Drinking Among Youth:
Johnson County and Statewide**



About the Data

Source: *Kansas Communities That Care: Student Surveys, 2000-2006*; *New York Times*, July 4, 2006.



INDICATOR: TOBACCO SALES

Significant increases in taxes imposed on cigarette sales can lower cigarette consumption

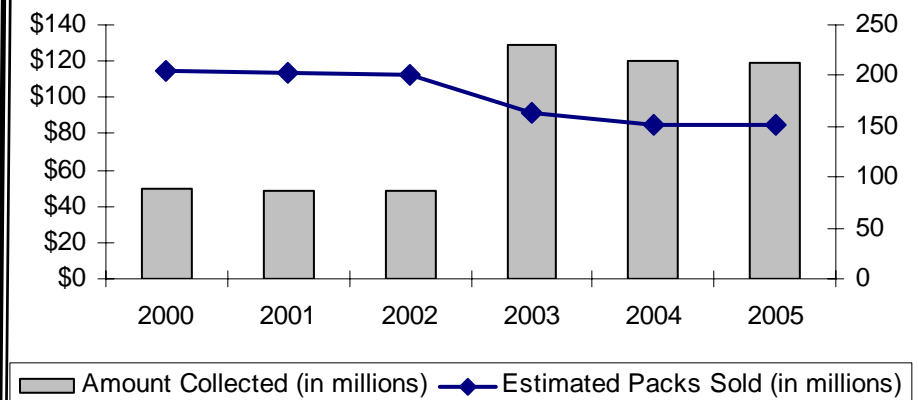
Why is this important?

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States. Nearly one in five deaths each year is related to smoking, and only about half are due to cancers. Cigarette smoking causes various other chronic and life-limiting conditions, including heart disease, emphysema, and stroke. Negative health consequences are not limited to the smoker; exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is causally linked to lung cancer, heart disease, lower respiratory tract infections and low birth weight in children. Prevention efforts that lower cigarette use among youth, and foster smoking cessation among this population can have positive, long-term health consequences throughout the community.

How are we doing?

In 2003, the state tax imposed on a pack of cigarettes increased from \$.24 to \$.79. The dual, positive impact of this tax increase was an immediate 18% drop in estimated sales of packs of cigarettes, and more than a two-and-a-half fold increase in tax collections. Tax revenues and sales have both declined at a slow rate since 2003, with the number of cigarette retailers declining over the same period by more than 10%. Nonetheless, underage tobacco sales in Johnson County are among the highest in the state, and historically, Kansas' compliance record regarding tobacco sales to minors is among the worst nationwide.

Tax Revenue Generated and the Number of Packs Sold



About the Data

Source: Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment; Kansas Dept. of Revenue.



INDICATOR: TOBACCO SALES COMPLIANCE

Johnson County retailers contribute to underage smoker access to cigarettes



Why is this important?

Denying youth access to tobacco should also lower consumption levels and the accompanying negative health consequences of smoking. (See data on Tobacco Sales). Poor retail compliance with laws prohibiting tobacco sales to minors jeopardizes federal Substance Abuse and Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funds statewide. Federal law requires that states maintain at least an 80% compliance rate—meaning that during random controlled buys, no more than 20% of retailers sell tobacco to minors—to remain eligible for these block grant funds.

How are we doing?

The number of over-the-counter tobacco retailers in Johnson County has slowly declined since 1998, including a significant drop following the increased tax per pack imposed in 2003. (See data on Tobacco Sales) The number of licensed outlets in Johnson County is now approximately 300, compared with nearly 350 in 2002. During “controlled buys” of tobacco during the past three federal fiscal years (FFY), Johnson County tobacco retailers and vendors have sold tobacco to minors less frequently, improving our local compliance record.

FFY 2004	FFY 2005	FFY 2006
40 Controlled Buys	72 Controlled Buys	58 Controlled Buys
25 Illegal Sales to Minors	41 Illegal Sales to Minors	13 Illegal Sales to Minors

Poor retailer compliance statewide during FFY2005 jeopardized over \$5 million in federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant dollars. In order to avoid this statutory penalty, the Kansas Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Services obligated nearly \$2.3 million over two years to target underage youth tobacco access prevention programming. Further, Alcohol Beverage Control, within the Dept. of Revenue, increased the fine imposed for illegal sales to \$1,000.

About the Data

Source: Kansas Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Services; Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment.



INDICATOR: ADULT TOBACCO USAGE

Johnson County adult tobacco use falling at more than twice the statewide rate



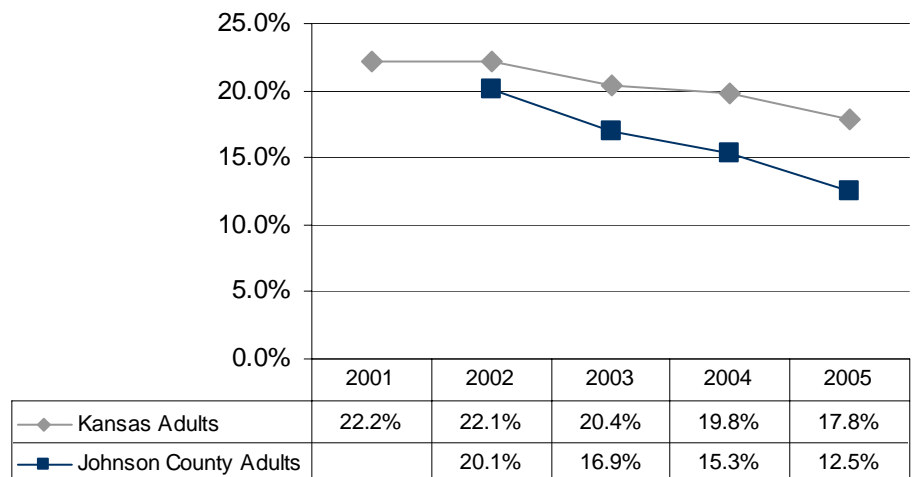
Why is this important?

Annual health care expenditures in Kansas caused by tobacco use are estimated to exceed \$854 million annually. Approximately 3,800 Kansas adults die each year as a consequence of their own tobacco use and an estimated 161,000 children are exposed to cigarette smoke in their homes. Parental tobacco use is strongly connected to tobacco use by children, perhaps attributable in part to easy access to tobacco products.

How are we doing?

The percent of Johnson County adults who self-identify as smokers has steadily declined over the past four years, and at a faster pace than for all adults statewide. During the past 18 months, five Johnson County cities—Fairway, Mission Woods, Olathe, Prairie Village and Roeland Park—have passed ordinances expanding workplace smoking bans. Five other Johnson County cities are actively considering similar ordinances. This action is part of a metropolitan-wide grassroots effort to lower health risks associated with smoking, and exposure to secondhand smoke in public places.

Comparative Tobacco Use: Self-Reporting by Johnson County and Kansas Adults



About the Data

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Centers for Disease Control.



INDICATOR: YOUTH TOBACCO USAGE

Tobacco use among 12th graders continues to exceed state average



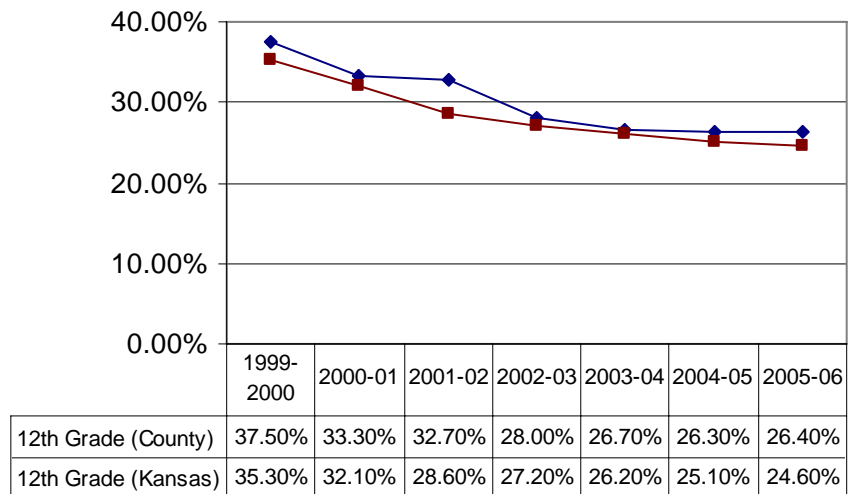
Why is this important?

The perceived availability of tobacco (and alcohol or illegal drugs) is a risk factor that contributes to usage. Underage tobacco sales are access points that the community can address. Each day, 6,000 youth under age 18 smoke their first cigarette, and nearly 2,000 become regular smokers. Further, tobacco use is a “gateway drug” in that youth reporting current tobacco use are three times more likely to use alcohol, and eight times more likely to smoke marijuana than non-smokers.

How are we doing?

Johnson County 8th, 10th, and 12th graders continue to report declining rates of current tobacco use. Nonetheless, tobacco use among 12th graders is consistently higher than the state average. While the overwhelming majority of all youth—over 95%—reported that adults in their neighborhoods think it is wrong for youth to smoke cigarettes, more than one in three also reported that it was “very easy” to obtain cigarettes. The perception of availability increases a young person’s risk of using tobacco.

Comparative Tobacco Use: Self-Reporting by Johnson County and Kansas 12th Graders



About the Data

Source: *Communities that Care, Student Surveys 2000-2006.*

Definition: *Adolescents who report tobacco use within the past 30 days are considered “current users”.*



INDICATOR: ADULT DRUG CASES BY OFFENSE

Drug case increase attributable primarily to DUI cases tripling



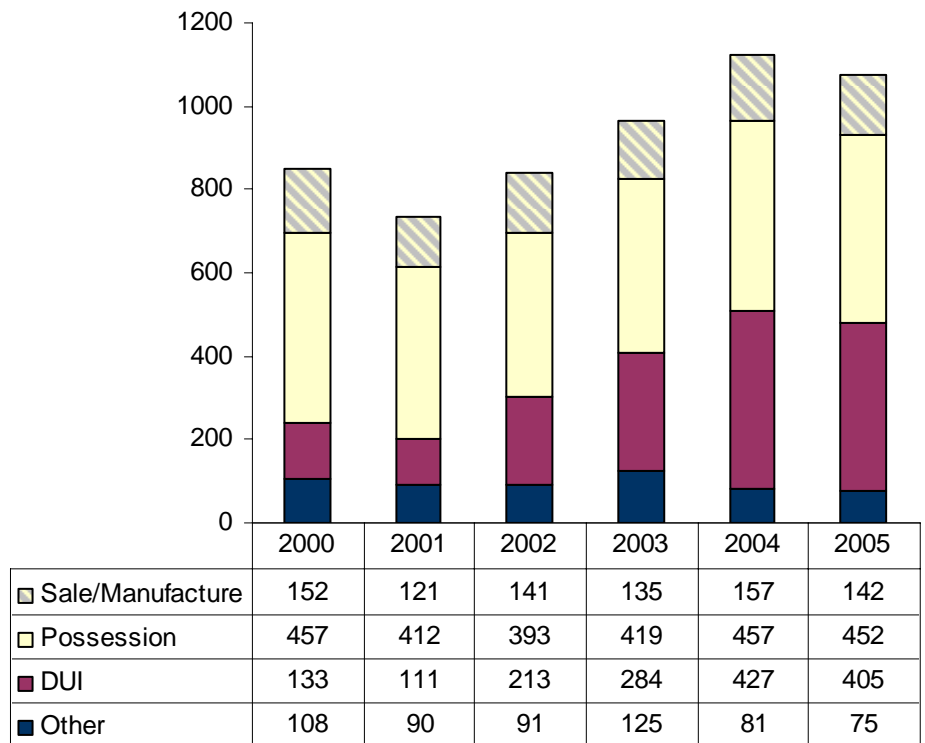
Why is this important?

The number of drug case filings reflects on the volume of offenses committed. As such, the cases also indicate where a community has invested its resources for law enforcement, the court system, and related services. With regard to DUI offenses, the continued growth in case filings may point to the need for more targeted interventions to address this safety issue.

How are we doing?

The total number of adult drug prosecutions has increased nearly 50% since 2001. The number of cases involving sale/manufacture and possession of illicit drugs, however, remained static. Stated another way, adult drug prosecutions *other than* DUIs increased only 7% since 2001, a slower rate than overall County population growth. Many factors can cause fluctuations in case filing volume. One influence may be effective law enforcement efforts; another may be legislative action or changes in community norms.

Johnson County Drug Cases by Type of Offense



About the Data

Source: Johnson County Kansas District Attorney's Office.

Explanations and Caveats: Data reflects district court case filings only, not DUI filings in municipal courts.



INDICATOR: ADULT DRUG CASES BY TYPE

Marijuana is involved in the highest proportion of adult drug cases



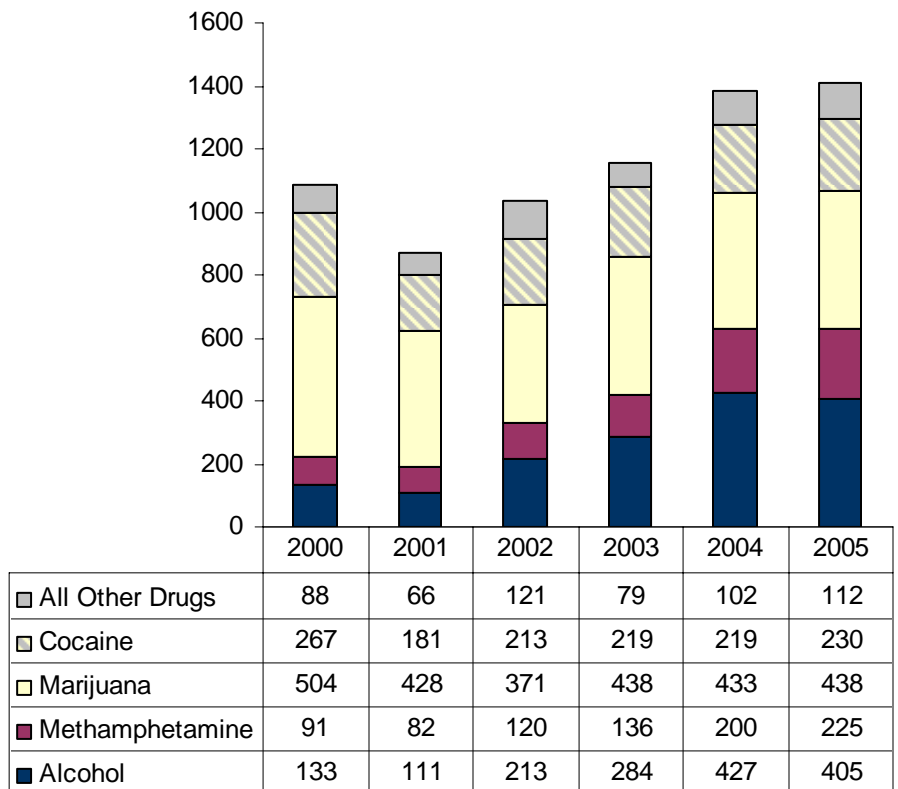
Why is this important?

Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the country. The short-term impact of marijuana use includes impaired memory and learning, poor perception and problem-solving. The long-term impact is similar to that of other illicit drugs, but also includes elevated susceptibility to respiratory ailments and increased risk of respiratory cancers. Prolonged use can negatively impact social behavior, and lead to addiction. Marijuana use during pregnancy has been linked to problem-solving, memory and attention difficulties in young children (see data on Youth Marijuana Use for impact on adolescents).

How are we doing?

More adult district court case filings involve marijuana than any other illegal substance, although declining from one out of every two case filings to one in three. Demonstrating new cause for concern, methamphetamine case filings have more than doubled during the past six years, although such cases continue to involve fewer people than alcohol or marijuana. The number of alcohol-related cases has tripled, but this data should be viewed in conjunction with recent legislative changes that have served to elevate the number of drinking under the influence arrests (see data on DUI Cases).

Johnson County Drug Cases by Drug Type



About the Data

Source: Johnson County Kansas District Attorney's Office; National Institute on Drug Abuse; InfoFacts: Marijuana.



INDICATOR: DUI CASES

Driving under the influence cases are steadily increasing



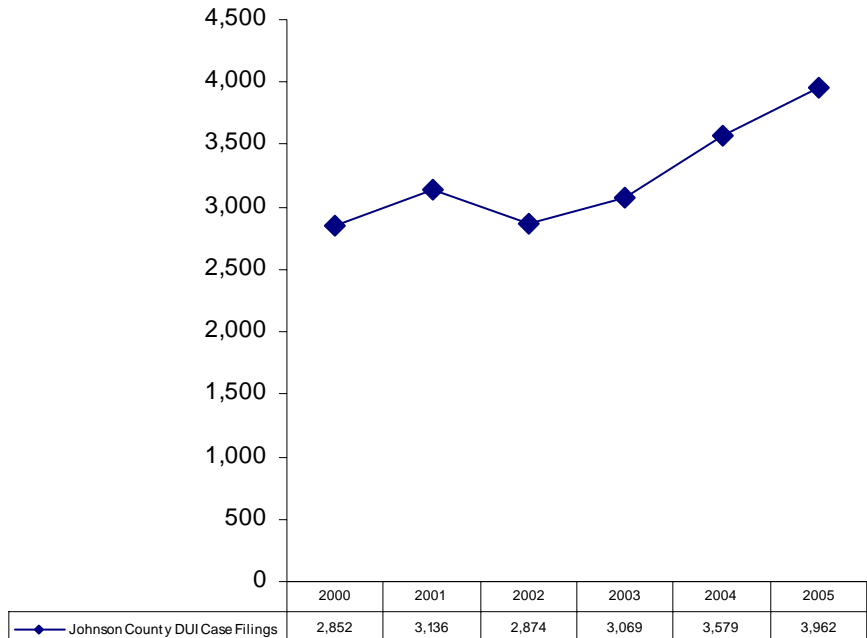
Why is this important?

The number of driving under the influence (DUI) cases can be an indicator of public safety, both in terms of investment by local law enforcement and growing public awareness and response to this health and safety issue. Discouraging driving under the influence is important because traffic accidents that are alcohol-related are roughly twice as likely to result in injuries compared with all other accidents. Since FY2000, the number of alcohol-related traffic accidents in Johnson County ranged from a low of 421 to a high of 499; every year, more than one-third of these accidents involved personal injuries.

How are we doing?

Since FY2000, DUI case filings have increased from 2,852 to 3,962. DUI case filings reflect many variables, including changes in community norms, and criminal and sentencing statutes. Part of this increase can be attributed to legislative changes passed in 2001 that impose increasingly more serious penalties for DUI convictions, including applicable sentencing guidelines. In 1993, Kansas lowered to .08 the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at which it is a crime to drive a motor vehicle. These changes reflect community norms that are less tolerant of DUI offenses.

Total County and Municipal Court DUI Cases



About the Data

Source: Johnson County, Kansas District Attorney's Office; Annual Reports of the Kansas Municipal Courts, 2000-2005; Kansas Dept. of Transportation.

Explanations and Caveats: In 2001, the Kansas Legislature removed the five-year "decay rule". As a result, beginning July 1, 2001, all DUI convictions during a person's lifetime are counted for purposes of sentencing, rather than only those convictions occurring within the past five years. Graduated penalties also can now include lifetime loss of a person's driver's license.



INDICATOR: JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juvenile offender drug case filings have declined



Why is this important?

Juvenile case filings indicate how well society is doing in preparing young people to make positive choices in their lives. This data may reinforce the need for community resources in the continuum of services for youth in the juvenile justice system, as well as youth at risk of becoming court-involved.

How are we doing?

Total juvenile case filings per 1,000 youth has slowly declined after peaking in 1997. Drug and alcohol cases have gradually declined over the past five years, but remain higher than ten years ago. As population continues to increase, total case filings per 1,000 should be monitored in assessing community progress.

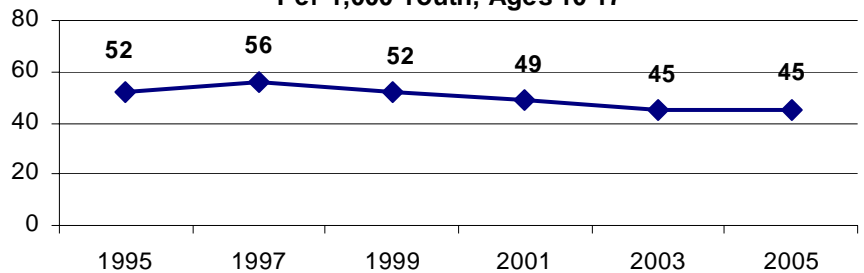
About the Data

Source: Johnson County Kansas District Attorney's Office.

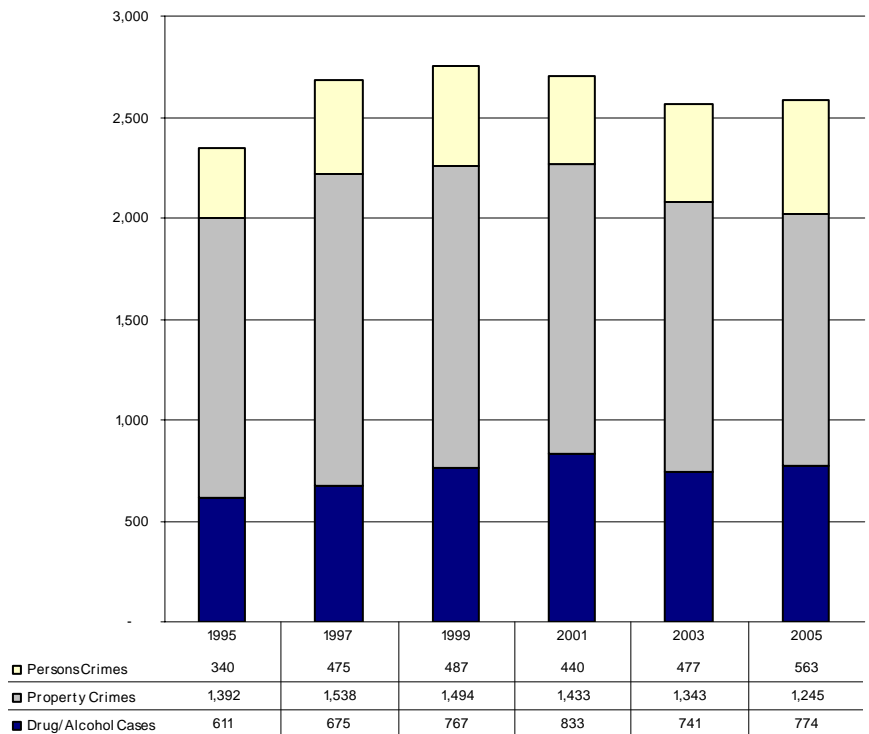
Explanations and Caveats: These statistics are a compilation of Court Services' reporting data, and are tracked to monitor general filing trends, such as CINC vs. Juvenile Offender filings. Case filings are often used as a proxy measure of crime.

Cases are classified according to the highest rated charge. For example, a case with a battery charge and a minor in possession of alcohol charge would be counted as a battery case.

**Juvenile Offender Case Filings in Johnson County
Per 1,000 Youth, Ages 10-17**



Juvenile Offender Case Filings by Type



INDICATOR: MARIJUANA USE AMONG YOUTH

Marijuana use is higher than the state average among some age groups

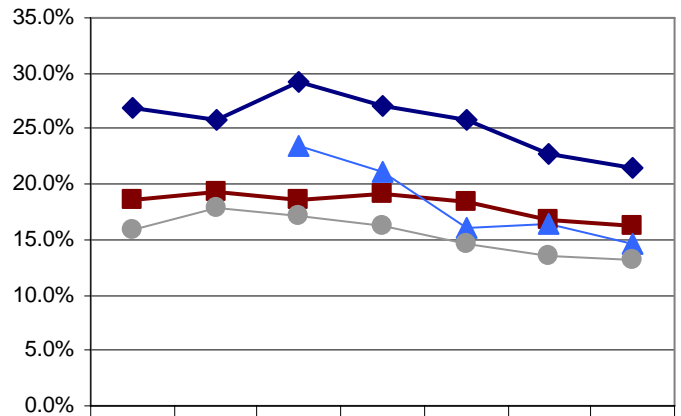
Why is this important?

Marijuana is the illegal drug of choice among Johnson County youth, surpassing alcohol as the primary problem for youth seeking state-supported substance abuse treatment. Marijuana use impairs short-term memory and the ability to perform complex tasks, such as driving and problem-solving. It causes loss of coordination and increased heart rate, and increases vulnerability to a range of respiratory illnesses. Youth who smoke marijuana are at an increased risk of accidental injury, more likely to engage in risky behaviors, and encounter difficulty learning. Marijuana's addictive nature leads to long-term use that ultimately correlates to lower high school academic performance and graduation rates.

How are we doing?

Current marijuana use among 8th, 10th and 12th graders in Johnson County has been declining for five years. Nonetheless, current use among 10th and 12th graders is consistently higher than that of their counterparts statewide. Half of Johnson County 12th graders and more than one-third of 10th graders also reported it was "very easy" to obtain marijuana. The perceived availability of illegal substances is one key factor that contributes to an adolescent's risk of alcohol, tobacco, or other drug abuse.

Current Marijuana Use: Self-Reporting by Johnson County and Kansas 12th Graders



	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
◆ Johnson County, 12th Graders	26.9%	25.8%	29.2%	27.1%	25.8%	22.8%	21.4%
■ Statewide, 12th Graders	18.5%	19.3%	18.6%	19.2%	18.4%	16.8%	16.2%
▲ Johnson County, 10th Graders			23.4%	21.1%	16.0%	16.5%	14.7%
● Statewide, 10th Graders	15.9%	17.8%	17.2%	16.2%	14.6%	13.6%	13.2%

About the Data

Source: Communities that Care Student Surveys 2000-2006.

Definition: Youth who report marijuana use within the past 30 days are considered current users.

Explanations and Caveats: No data available for 10th graders during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years.



INDICATOR: SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Alcohol and marijuana use leads to most state-funded admissions



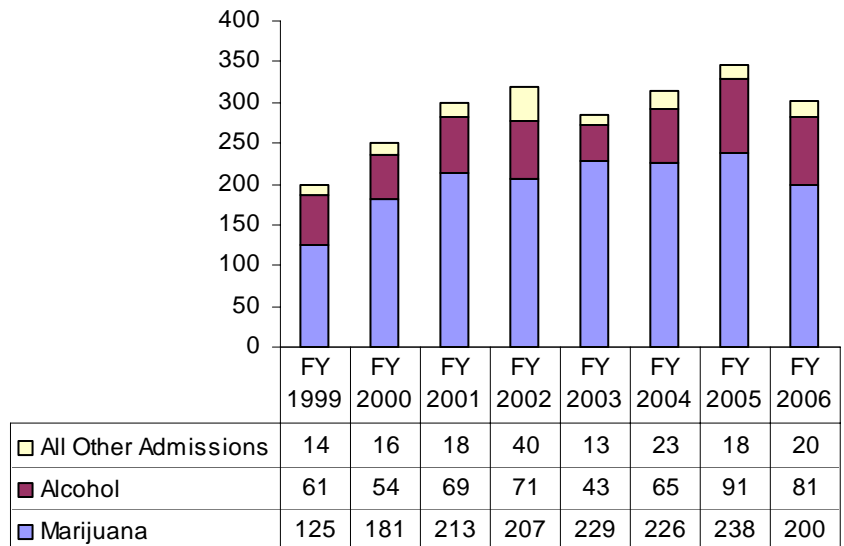
Why is this important?

Treatment admission trends for state-funded services is an indicator of how widespread substance abuse is in the community. This data also reflects trends as to the drug of choice. The demand for state-funded treatment is also closely related to the state's allocation of substance abuse treatment resources. For related information, see data on Drug Case Filings, showing that marijuana continues to be the illicit drug most often involved in drug prosecutions in Johnson County.

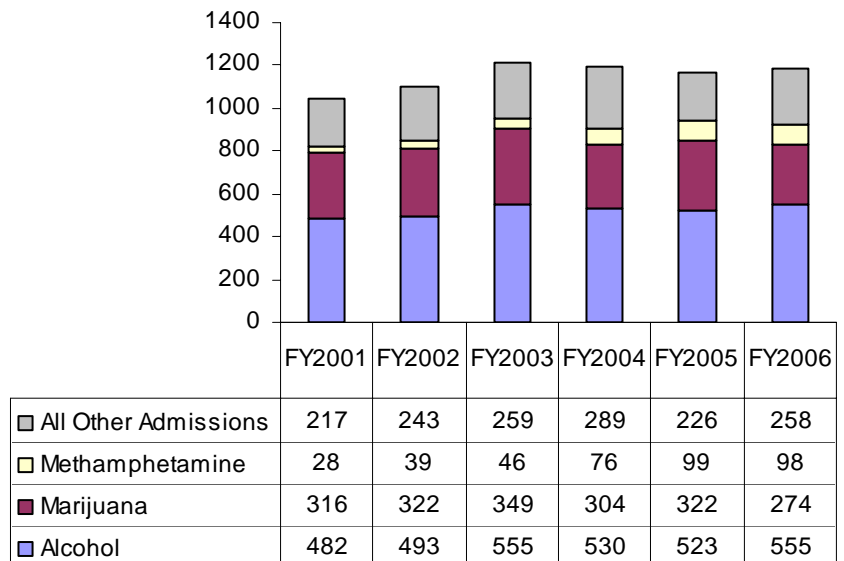
How are we doing?

State-funded treatment admissions for Johnson County youth has increased by one-third since FY1999, with marijuana increasing most dramatically. Since 1999, at least three of every five Johnson County youth age 18 and younger receiving state-funded substance abuse treatment cited marijuana as their primary problem. State-funded treatment admissions for Johnson County adults has also increased, though less dramatically. Nearly half of adults entering treatment cite alcohol as the primary problem.

Johnson County Youth Receiving State-Funded Substance Abuse Treatment



Johnson County Adults Receiving State-Funded Substance Abuse Treatment



About the Data

Source: Kansas Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Services, Division of Health Care Policy.

