

Chapter 11

Youth Issues

Health Issues

Table 11.1 depicts the death rate for people under the age of 18 in Missouri and in Taney County. The motor vehicle mortality rates for Taney County are much higher than the state rates.

Table 11.1

Death Rate Per 100,000 For Those Under 20 Years of Age- Taney County and Missouri, 2000-2006				
	Total Deaths		Motor Vehicle Deaths	
	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri
Under 15	66.8	72.2	@.@	4.6
15 - 17	63.7	66.8	@.@	32.1
18 - 19	100.0	109.5	@.@	51.6

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Table 11.2 shows the rate of emergency room visits that detect mental health issues in patients. Some diagnoses are related to substance or alcohol abuse, some to anxiety and personality disorders, and others due to affective disorders.

Table 11.2

Rate of Mental Health Issues Diagnosed By Emergency Room Visit-Taney County and Missouri, 1997-2005						
	Alcohol and Substance- Related Mental Disorders-ER Diagnosis, 1997-2002		Anxiety-Somatoform- Dissociative and Personality Disorders		Affective Disorder	
	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri
Under15	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	@.@	0.2
15 - 17	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	0.6	1.3
18 - 19	3.8	3.1	5.4	3.4	1.0	1.2

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Teen Pregnancy

Pregnancy related visits to the emergency room for Taney county and Missouri. Reasons included childbirth and reproduction issues, spontaneous abortions and pregnancy complications.

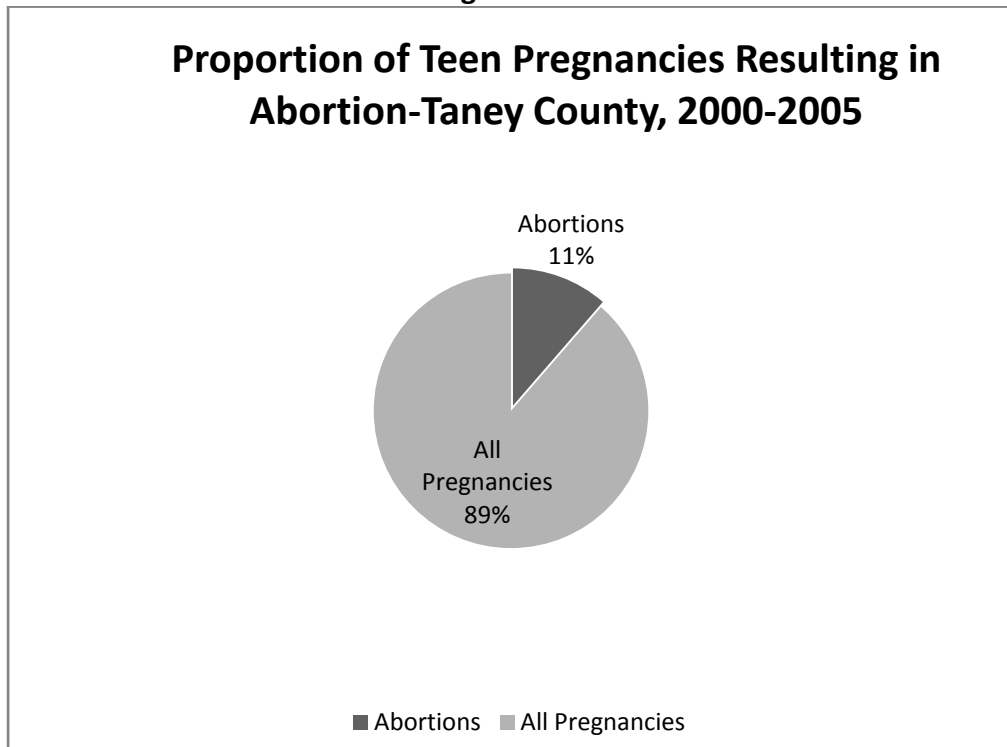
Table 11.3

Emergency Room Visits Due To Pregnancy- Taney County and Missouri, 2000-2005						
	Total Pregnancy- Childbirth- Reproduction Issues		Spontaneous Abortion		Complications Resulting From Pregnancy	
	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri
Under 15	0.1	0.1	@.@	0.0	@.@	0.1
15 – 17	9.1	9.4	@.@	0.6	7.4	7.2
18 – 19	24.1	30.2	2.2	1.8	19.5	24

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA
 @.@ indicates number too small for rate calculation

The graph shown in Figure 11.1 displays the percentage of teen pregnancies in Taney County that resulted in abortions, compared to the total number of pregnancies for the county from 200 to 2005.

Figure 11.1



Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Injuries

Injury data for those under 20 years of age is presented in Tables 11.4 through 11.8. Data from Taney County is compared to Missouri from the year 2000 to 2005. Taney County had several rates that were higher than the state average including categories in overall injuries rates, overdose/poisoning, self inflicted injuries and motor vehicle related injuries.

Table 11.4

Injuries By Age Group, Rate Per 100,000 - Taney County and Missouri, 2000-2005						
	10 -14		15 - 17		18 - 19	
	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri
Male	18,056.4	16,564.0	21,147.2	19,742.8	22,190.3	18,773.4
Female	14,489.7	11,620.4	17,914.5	13,822.9	14,918.3	13,596.7
All	16,363.2	14,149.8	19,613.7	16,862.3	18,396.8	16,245.1

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Table 11.5

Rate of Assault Injuries By Age Group, Rate Per 100,000 – Taney County and Missouri, 2000-2005						
	10 -14		15 - 17		18 - 19	
	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri
Male	265.7	450.9	877.7	1,194.30	1,638.40	1,574.10
Female	168	274.8	497.6	636.8	738	792.4
All	219.3	364.9	697.4	923.0	1,168.70	1,192.40

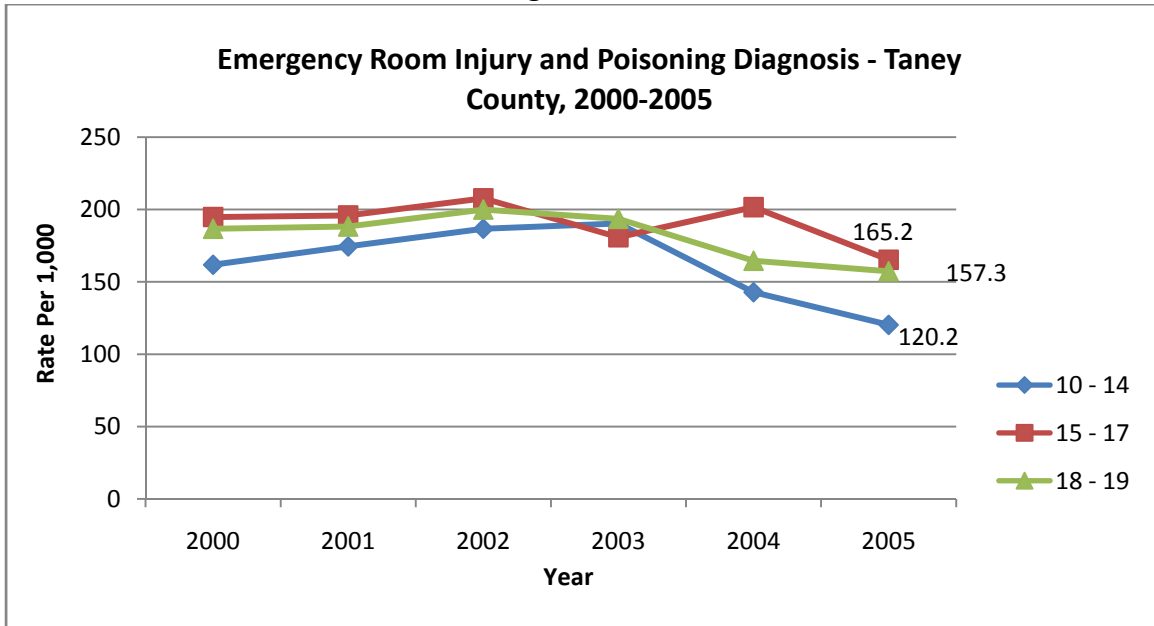
Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Table 11.6

Drug and Alcohol Overdose/Poisoning - Injuries, By Age Group, Rate Per 100,000 - Taney County and Missouri, 2000-2005						
	10 -14		15 - 17		18 - 19	
	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri
Male	139.2	62.0	469.5	234.1	316.2	260.6
Female	140.0	167.0	859.5	497.1	342.6	369.6
All	139.6	113.3	654.5	362.1	330.0	313.8

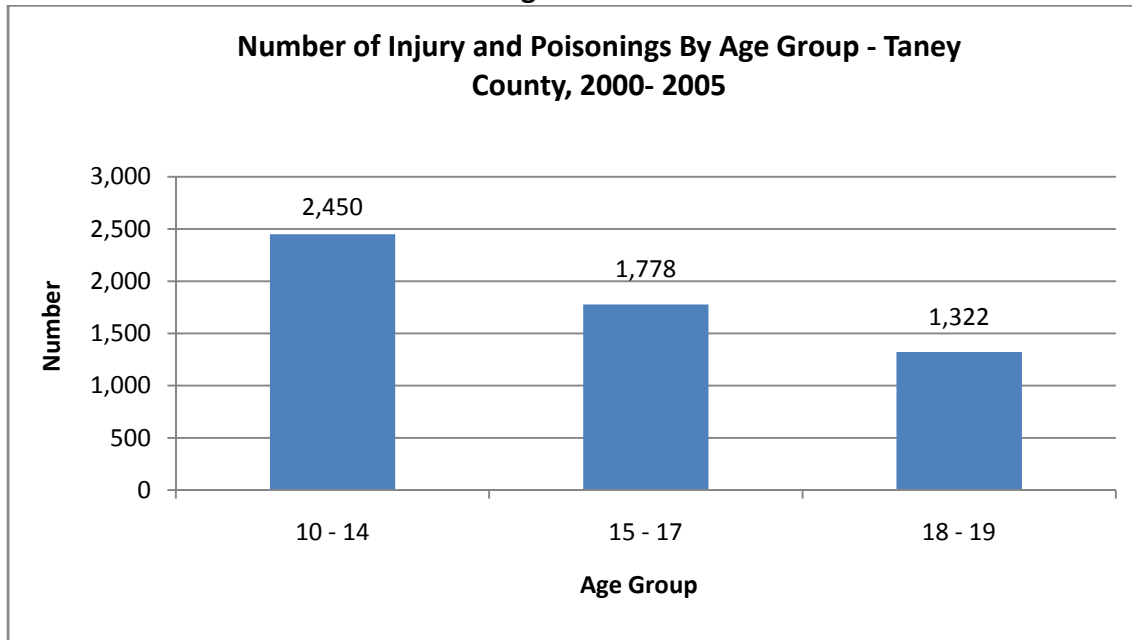
Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Figure 11.2



Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Figure 11.3



Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Table 11.7

Self Inflicted Injuries By Age Group, Rate Per 100,000 – Taney County and Missouri, 2000-2005,						
	10 - 14		15 - 17		18 - 19	
	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri
Male	@. @	42.2	347	185.5	201.2	218.9
Female	98	134.8	701.2	411.7	263.6	308.5
All	59.8	87.4	515.0	295.6	233.7	262.6

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Table 11.8

Motor Vehicle Occupant Injuries, By Age Group, Rate Per 100,000 – Taney County and Missouri, 2000-2005						
	10 -14		15 - 17		18 - 19	
	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri	Taney County	Missouri
Male	809.8	504.6	3,102.70	2,186.60	3,736.70	2,791.00
Female	1,106.00	722.8	4,795.30	3,194.40	3,584.60	3,445.90
All	950.4	611.2	3,905.60	2,677.00	3,657.40	3,110.90

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Behavioral Risk Factors

Tables 11.9 to 11.11 provide data from a local health department survey conducted between 2006 to 2007. This survey was conducted as part of a school program that required parental consent to complete. The following survey results are limited by a lack of randomization as only students who were granted permission from their parents participated. While these results cannot reliably be applied to the entire population of students, they do provide valuable data on some of the behaviors of students in the county.

Table 11.9

Percent of Junior High Students Answering "Yes" to Survey Questions- Taney County, 2006-2007			
Question	In your lifetime	In the last year	In the last 30 days
Have you ever used alcohol other than for religious purposes?	30.7%	18.3%	6.3%
Have you ever used marijuana?	10.3%	7.1%	2.8%
Have you ever "sniffed" glue, gas, sprays or anything like that to get high?	9.3%	4.6%	1.6%
Have you ever smoked cigarettes?	18.7%	11.9%	4.8%
Have you ever used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, etc)	6.3%	2.9%	0.9%
Have you ever used illegal drugs (crack, cocaine, meth, etc) or prescription drugs illegally?	4%	2.2%	0.9%

Source: Taney County Health Department

Table 11.10 shows the percent of junior high students that had been engaged in certain behaviors based on a survey that was conducted from 2006 to 2007.

Table 11.10

Percent of Junior High Students Answering Questions-Taney County, 2006-2007		
Questions	Yes	No
Have you and a boy/girl kissed, held hands, hugged, spent time alone, put his/her hands under your clothing or laid down next to each other in the last 30 days?	34.5%	65.2%
Have you ever had sexual intercourse?	12.8%	85.8%

Source: Taney County Health Department

Table 11.11 demonstrates the percent of junior high students who agreed or disagreed to certain aspects about their attitudes, beliefs and opinions about specific issues.

Table 11.11

Percent of Junior High Students By Answer-Taney County, 2006-2007				
Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I have decided that I will smoke cigarettes.	2.8%	4.4%	16%	76.7%
I will be a better partner if I wait until marriage before I have sex.	50.3%	26.4%	14.3%	6.2%
Having Sex at my age does not fit with the way I want to live my life.	56.2%	21.9%	11.7%	6.8%
Smoking cigarettes fits the kind of life I would like to live.	2.7%	3.7%	14.6%	66.8%
If I had the chance to have sex at my age, I would definitely take it.	13.9%	15.6%	23.4%	46.4%
I have decided to limit how far I will go sexually.	39.1%	29.2%	12.3%	18.2%

Source: Taney County Health Department

The Safe and Drug Free School survey conducted during the 2006-2007 school year was completed by an area school district in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. These results from intermediate, junior high, and high school students are summarized in the following tables.

Table 11.12

High School Safe and Drug Free School Survey-Taney County, 2006-2007							
Think of your four best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past year (12 months), how many of your best friends have:							
	None	1	2	3	4	Skip	TOTALS
Smoked cigarettes	67.5%	12.5%	7.5%	00.00%	12.5%	0.00%	100%
Tried beer, wine or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin) when their parents did not know about it	45.0%	10.0%	15.0%	5.0%	25.0%	0.00%	100%
Used marijuana	72.5%	15.0%	2.5%	00.00%	10.0%	0.00%	100%
Used LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs	87.5%	7.5%	00.00%	00.00%	05.0%	0.00%	100%
Sold illegal drugs	85.0%	10.0%	2.5%	00.00%	2.5%	0.00%	100%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007

Table 11.13

High School Safe and Drug Free School Survey-Taney County, 2006- 2007									
Age Group									
How old were you when you first:	Never have	8 or Younger	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Smoked Marijuana?	87.5%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.50%	2.5%	2.50%
Smoked a Cigarette-even a puff?	65.0%	5.0%	2.5%	2.5%	5.0%	0.00%	2.5%	10.5%	7.5%
Had more than a sip or two of beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, or gin)?	45.0%	12.5%	2.5%	0.00%	0.00%	5.0%	15.0%	12.5%	7.5%
Began drinking Alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?	75.0%	0.00%	0.00%	2.5%	0.00%	0.00%	5.0%	10.0%	7.5%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007

Table 11.14

High School Safe and Drug Free School Survey-Taney County, 2006-2007							
What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you:	Very good chance	Pretty good chance	Some chance	Little chance	None or very little chance	Skips	Totals
Smoked cigarettes?	2.5%	7.5%	20.0%	17.5%	52.5%	0.00%	100%
Began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?	10.0%	17.5%	20.0%	10.0%	42.5%	0.00%	100%
Smoked marijuana?	2.5%	12.5%	20.0%	17.5%	47.5%	0.00%	100%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007

Table 11.15

Junior High School Safe and Drug Free School Survey- Taney County, 2006-2007							
Think of your four best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past year (12 months), how many of your best friends have:							
	None	1	2	3	4	Skip	TOTALS
Smoked cigarettes	85.45%	7.27%	3.64%	00.00%	3.64%	0.00%	100%
Tried beer, wine or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin) when their parents did not know about it	72.73%	10.91%	05.45%	5.45%	5.45%	0.00%	100%
Used marijuana	85.45%	9.09%	1.82%	00.00%	3.64%	0.00%	100%
Used LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs	92.73%	5.45%	1.82%	00.00%	00.00%	0.00%	100%
Sold illegal drugs	87.27%	7.27%	1.82%	1.82%	1.82%	0.00%	100%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007

Table 11.16

Junior High School Safe and Drug Free School Survey- Taney County, 2006-2007									
Age Group									
How old were you when you first:	Never have	8 or Younger	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Smoked Marijuana?	92.73%	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%	3.64%	1.82%	00.00%	1.82%	00.00%
Smoked a Cigarette-even a puff?	85.45%	1.82%	00.00%	1.82%	5.45%	5.45%	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%
Had more than a sip or two of beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, or gin)?	69.09%	5.45%	3.64%	1.82%	3.64%	1.82%	3.64%	7.27%	3.64%
Began drinking Alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?	96.36%	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%	1.82%	1.82%	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007

Table 11.17

Junior High School Safe and Drug Free School Survey- Taney County, 2006-2007							
What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you:	Very good chance	Pretty good chance	Some chance	Little chance	None or very little chance	Skips	Totals
Smoked cigarettes?	5.45%	1.82%	3.64%	20.0%	69.09%	0.00%	100%
Began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?	5.45%	00.00%	7.27%	21.82%	65.45%	0.00%	100%
Smoked marijuana?	5.45%	1.82%	3.64%	16.36%	72.73%	0.00%	100%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007

Table 11.18

Intermediate School Safe and Drug Free School Survey- Taney County, 2006-2007							
Think of your four best friends (the friends you feel closest to). In the past year (12 months), how many of your best friends have:							
	None	1	2	3	4	Skip	TOTALS
Smoked cigarettes	94.44%	2.78%	1.39%	0.46%	0.46%	0.46%	100%
Tried beer, wine or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin) when their parents did not know about it	89.35%	8.33%	0.93%	0.46%	0.46%	0.46%	100%
Used marijuana	95.83%	1.39%	0.93%	0.93%	0.46%	0.46%	100%
Used LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs	96.76%	2.31%	0.46%	00.00%	00.00%	0.46%	100%
Sold illegal drugs	97.69%	0.93%	0.46%	00.00%	00.00%	0.93%	100%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007

Table 11.19

Intermediate School Safe and Drug Free School Survey- Taney County, 2006-2007							
Age Group							
How old were you when you first:	Never have	8 or Younger	9	10	11	12	13
Smoked Marijuana?	99.07%	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%	0.46%	0.46%	00.00%
Smoked a Cigarette-even a puff?	90.74%	1.85%	1.39%	2.31%	1.85%	1.39%	00.00%
Had more than a sip or two of beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, or gin)?	87.50%	4.17%	0.93%	0.93%	3.70%	2.31%	00.00%
Began drinking Alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?	98.61%	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%	0.46%	0.46%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007

Table 11.20

Junior High School Safe and Drug Free School Survey-Taney County, 2006-2007							
What are the chances you would be seen as cool if you:	Very good chance	Pretty good chance	Some chance	Little chance	None or very little chance	Skips	Totals
Smoked cigarettes?	0.93%	0.93%	4.63%	9.26%	84.26%	0.00%	100%
Began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?	0.46%	1.85%	3.24%	7.41%	86.57%	0.46%	100%
Smoked marijuana?	2.31%	0.46%	2.78%	4.63%	89.35%	0.46%	100%

Source: Safe and Drug Free School Survey, 2007