

Fake I.D. Use: Related Alcohol Use Data, Consequences, and Moving Forward

Partners in Prevention (PIP) is Missouri's higher education substance misuse consortium dedicated to building and sustaining healthy and safe college campuses. The coalition is comprised of 26 public and private colleges and universities in the state working to prevent high-risk behaviors by implementing evidence-based strategies, including education, social norming campaigns, policy review and enforcement, and more. This brief includes data for the 23 4-year institutions in the coalition; 2-year campuses participate in a separate version of the survey, and their data is not included in this statewide aggregate. To measure progress and obtain data needed for the implementation of programs, PIP created the Missouri Assessment of College Health Behaviors (MACHB) Survey. The MACHB is an annual, online survey that has been implemented each spring since 2007. The survey assesses the roles that alcohol, drugs (illegal and prescription), tobacco/nicotine, interpersonal violence, and mental health have on student health and wellness. This brief will focus on fake identification use among Missouri college students, including consequences from use, related alcohol usage data, and how to move forward with Partners in Prevention.

How Students are Obtaining Alcohol

The MACHB survey asks students who are under 21 (U21) to answer a multiple-choice question about how they obtain the alcohol they are drinking, results from this question are shown in Table 1. From the data collected from 2019 to 2024, it appears that fewer students are using fake identification to obtain alcohol, Chart 1 shows these rates over the last five years.

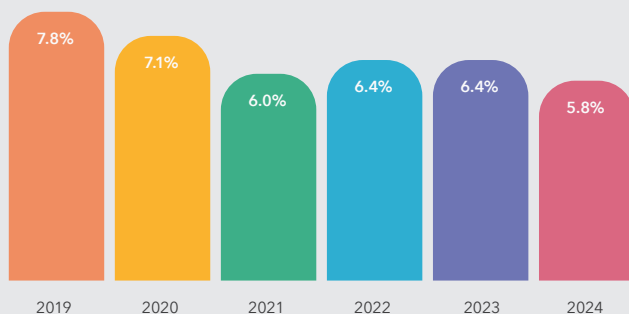
From the 2019 to 2024 time span, students report most that a friend who is over 21 gets their alcohol for them. Significant rates of students report that their parents provide alcohol for them, or that alcohol is readily available at home. While those are the most common ways students are obtaining alcohol, every option had some level of response, meaning students are obtaining alcohol in a variety of ways.

Table 1: Method in Which Alcohol is Obtained

	Age 20	Age 19	Age 18
I prefer not to respond	10%	9.2%	7.8%
Other (please specify)	1.7%	2.1%	1.7%
From a fraternity or sorority	4.2%	3.5%	5.3%
I use home delivery service without ID being checked	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
I know people who work in convenience/grocery stores who will sell to me	1.3%	1.0%	0.6%

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Chart 1: Average Amount of Students Obtaining Alcohol with a Fake ID



	Age 20	Age 19	Age 18
I go to a place where IDs aren't checked	8.5%	5.4%	4.8%
I know people who work in bars/restaurants who will serve me	3.4%	1.6%	0.8%
Alcohol is readily available at home	10%	6.9%	5.1%
My family buys alcohol for me	17%	12%	10%
I borrow or regularly use someone else's real ID	1.1%	0.4%	0.6%
I use a fake or manufactured ID	8.5%	4.6%	4.4%
I have a friend who is under 21 gets it for me	6.1%	6.2%	7.0%
I have a friend who is over 21 buy for me	32%	22%	19%

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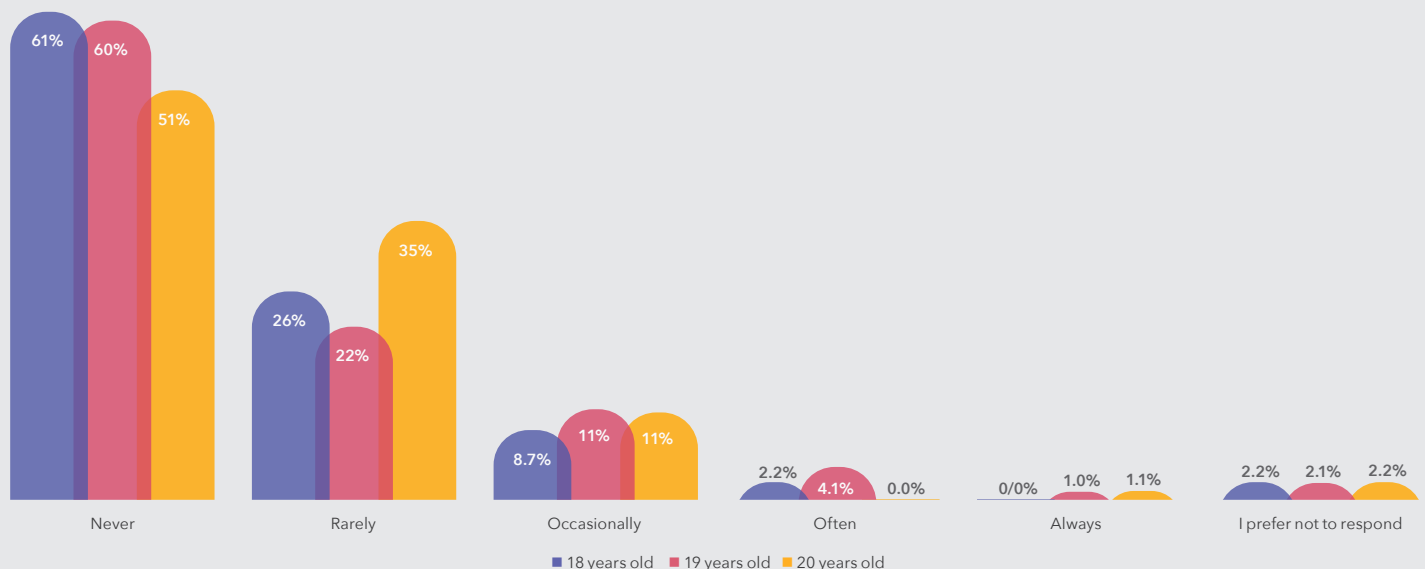
The MACHB survey also asks students how often in the past twelve months they have been denied access to alcohol while using a fake or borrowed ID. The response options are 'never, rarely, occasionally, often, always, and I prefer to not respond'. It is important to note that this question was not asked on the 2024 MACHB but was included on the 2022 MACHB.

Regardless, this question garnered some alarming data, with an average of 57% of students reporting that they 'never' get denied access to alcohol while using a fake or borrowed identification, and .7% of students 'always' getting denied (MACHB, 2022). This leads to the question 'what establishments in your area aren't being diligent in their ID checks'? Chart 2 below shows these alarming denial rates through different age groups in 2022 (this is the last year we collected this data, but we plan to add this question back into the MACHB in 2025).

Consequences of Using a Fake ID

A fake ID is any form of identification that is forged, altered, or otherwise purports to establish the false identity of a person. Getting charged with having a fake ID in the state of Missouri can have serious implications for a young person's future. Possessing false identification—whether it's someone else's ID or any type of forged document—is considered a class A misdemeanor. This type of misdemeanor can result in hefty fines or even significant jailtime. The misdemeanor can also remain on their record permanently. Charges of this kind can have a serious impact on a young adult's future. Having a permanent misdemeanor on their record can make it difficult

Chart 2: How often in the past 12 months have you been denied access while using a fake or borrowed ID?



to find employment, receive financial assistance for college, receive government assistance, and even obtain a commercial driver's license if they need that type of license for future employment opportunities. With the passing of Amendment 3 in Missouri, it's important to touch on cannabis laws as well. While purchasing and possessing up to 3oz of recreational cannabis is legal now, it is only legal for adults aged 21 and up. This means the use of a fake ID in a cannabis dispensary holds the same consequences and punishments, as it would in any other setting. This also means buying cannabis for underage friends can also have consequences. Charges can range from misdemeanors to more serious charges. This can affect school enrollment, future jobs, and future financial success.

Expanding MACHB Related Fake ID Questions

While Partners in Prevention (PIP) knows the data presented in this brief is extremely valuable, PIP also knows that expanding these types of questions to ask about tobacco and cannabis will be important for our team to consider as we look to make edits to the survey for 2025. Understanding how young people are looking to purchase products can help us understand appropriate intervention and effective strategies to educate young people on the risks associated with the use of fake IDs.

Campaign Resources

Based on the data and what PIP has learned from a variety of community members, staff have developed a series of messages to help educate young people about the risks of using a fake ID. Below, readers will find an example of what has been created that can be posted by colleges and other youth serving organizations. To access the entire playbook for this campaign, please visit [Having a Fake ID: Not Worth the Risk](#).

Retailer Trainings

It is not only important to empower young people with this information, but it is also important to train retailers in the retail environment so that they have a shared understanding of their responsibilities as it relates to underage sale of these products with the use of a fake ID. Partners in Prevention has created a series of free online retailer training for tobacco and nicotine retailers, as well as servers and sellers of alcoholic beverages. Retailers are often the front-line defense of underage sales, so ensuring that a standardized training is available that addresses federal, state, and local laws helps to reduce illegal sales. Included below readers will find a link to each online training. Columbia and Blue Springs Missouri currently hold a county ordinance that all servers and sellers in the county must be SMART trained, this is an opportunity for all universities to push for this mandate in their counties.

Show Me

Tobacco and Nicotine Retailer Training

- [showmetobacco.education](#)

SMART

Servers & Sellers of Alcoholic Beverages Training

- [smartmo.education](#)

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