

ALCOHOL USE IN MONTANA

Key Points:

- The number of Montanans dying from alcohol-related diseases and poisonings has almost doubled over the past decade. From 2009 to 2013 there were 1,563 alcohol-related deaths in Montana; from 2019-2023 there were 2,941 alcohol-related deaths.¹
- Alcohol-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits have been on the rise over the past five years. In 2023 alone, over \$222 million was charged by Montana hospitals for 16,914 alcohol-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits. ^{1,2}
- Among Montanans receiving treatment for substance use disorders in 2024,
 66.7% reported alcohol as their primary substance of misuse, and an additional
 8.4% reported it as their secondary substance of misuse.³
- In 2023, 13.6% of all arrests made by law enforcement agencies in Montana were alcohol-related DUIs, with 3,997 DUI arrests.⁴
- More than one-fifth of college students in Montana reported driving under the influence of alcohol within the past three months.⁵ Almost 6% of high school students reported driving under the influence of alcohol and 16.8% reported riding in a vehicle with someone else driving under the influence of alcohol within the past 30 days.⁶

	United States	Montana
Percent of high school students who report drinking alcohol within the past 30 days ⁷	22.1%	26.2%
Percent of high school students who report binge drinking alcohol within the past 30 days ⁷	8.8%	13.4%
Percent of adults aged 18+ who report drinking alcohol in the past month ⁸	52.8%	59.1%
Percent of adults (ages 18+) who report binge drinking in the past month ⁸	15.2%	19.5%
Percent of fatal crashes that involve an alcoholimpaired driver (BAC 0.08+).9	31.8%	33.3%



Key Terms:

Binge drinking is consuming four or more drinks at a time for a female, or five or more drinks at a time for a male.

Alcohol-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits include alcohol abuse, alcoholic liver disease, alcohol-induced pancreatitis, alcohol poisoning, and injuries incurred after consumption of alcohol.

References:

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