

Alcohol Use in Montana

	United States	Montana
Alcohol-induced death rate* among adults aged 25 and over (per 100,000 people)	17.3 2019 ¹	30.9 2019 ²
Death rate from car crashes involving alcohol (per 100,000 people) ³	2.3 2018	6.8 2018
Percent of high school students who report past month binge drinking. ^{§,4}	14% 2019	18% 2019

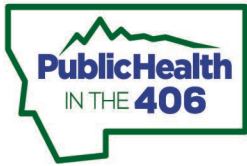
Key Points:

- One in three high school students reported alcohol use in the last month; over 50% of students who reported alcohol use also engaged in binge drinking behavior.⁴
- In 2017-2018, 14% of Montana adults reported driving under the influence of alcohol in the past year; the national average for the same time period was 9%.⁵
- In 2018, 37% of all traffic fatalities in Montana were alcohol-related.³
- Over \$189 million dollars were charged by Montana hospitals for 18,157 alcohol-related hospitalizations[†] and emergency department visits in 2019.⁶
- In 2019, 79% of all substance use related EMS activations[‡] involved alcohol.⁷

*Alcohol-induced deaths are deaths which are directly due to alcohol consumption and could be avoided if alcohol were not involved. §Binge drinking is the consumption of five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion for males, and four or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion for females.

†Alcohol-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits are cases where a patient either presented to an emergency department or was hospitalized with an acute or chronic condition which would be considered 100% attributable to alcohol consumption.

‡EMS activations are any activation of the Emergency Medical Services system, including a 911 call from a bystander, a request for interfacility transport, a request for public assistance or fire standby, etc.



Data Sources:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2020. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2019, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program.
2. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Vital Statistics Analysis Unit, Montana Death Certificates, 2012-2016.
3. Montana Department of Transportation, 2018 Roadway Crash Data, Fatality Analysis Reporting System.
4. Montana Office of Public Instruction, Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019.
5. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2019). 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Methodological summary and definitions. Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
6. Montana Hospital Discharge Data System, 2019; Data courtesy of participating Montana Hospital Association members.
7. Montana Emergency Medical Services Data, [2019]. EMS & Trauma Systems Section, Public Health and Safety Division. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.