

## 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.<sup>1,2</sup>
- 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.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2023, **13.6%** of all arrests made by law enforcement agencies in Montana were alcohol-related DUIs, with **3,997** DUI arrests.<sup>4</sup>
- More than **one-fifth** of college students in Montana reported driving under the influence of alcohol within the past three months.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

	United States	Montana
Percent of high school students who report drinking alcohol within the past 30 days <sup>7</sup>	22.1%	26.2%
Percent of high school students who report binge drinking alcohol within the past 30 days <sup>7</sup>	8.8%	13.4%
Percent of adults aged 18+ who report drinking alcohol in the past month <sup>8</sup>	52.8%	59.1%
Percent of adults (ages 18+) who report binge drinking in the past month <sup>8</sup>	15.2%	19.5%
Percent of fatal crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver (BAC 0.08+). <sup>9</sup>	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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5. American College Health Association. (2023). National College Health Assessment: Montana Consortium Reference Group.
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8. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/index.html>
9. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2024). Fatality Analysis Reporting System. Traffic Safety Facts, Montana: 2018-2022.