



Alcohol Use in Montana

	United States	Montana
Percent of adults aged 18+ who report drinking alcohol in the past month ¹	55% 2019-2020	63% 2019-2020
Percent of fatal crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver (BAC 0.08+) ^{2*}	29% 2020	46% 2020

Key Points

- The number of Montanans dying from alcohol-related diseases and poisonings has increased over the past two decades. From 2000 to 2004, there were **488** alcohol-related deaths in Montana; from 2015-2019, there were **1,043** alcohol-related deaths.^{3°}
- **31%** of Montana high school students report having at least one drink of alcohol in the past month.⁴
- Alcohol-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits have been on the rise over the past five years. In 2020 alone, over **\$200 million** was charged by Montana hospitals for hospitalizations and emergency departments visits due to alcohol consumption.⁵
- Among Montanans receiving treatment for substance use disorders in 2020-2021, **56%** reported alcohol as their primary substance of misuse.⁶

*Percent calculated from model data

° Examples of alcohol-related deaths: Alcohol abuse, alcoholic liver disease, alcohol-induced pancreatitis, alcohol poisoning, and injuries incurred after consumption of alcohol



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1. National Survey on Drug Use and Health, State Estimates, 2019-2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/state-reports-NSDUH-2020>
2. National Highway Traffic Safety Division, Traffic Safety Facts 2016-2020 <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest>
3. Montana Vital Statistics, Alcohol-induced Deaths Among Montanans Aged 25 Years and Over, 2000-2019. Retrieved from <https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/Epidemiology/VSU/VSUETOHinducedDeaths2021.pdf>
4. Montana Office of Public Instruction, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021
5. Montana Hospital Discharge Data System, 2020 Office of Epidemiology and Scientific Support, Public Health and Safety Division. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Data provided courtesy of participating MHA members
6. National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services, 2020-2021