The Burden of Binge Drinking in Wisconsin

Report Summary

Binge Drinking Rates (2018):\(^1\)

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<th>Wisconsin</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
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<td><strong>Binge Drinking Rates by County</strong></td>
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4.1 estimated number of binge drinking episodes per month among adults who binge drink in Wisconsin.\(^1\)

Binge drinking is 5+ drinks per occasion for men and 4+ drinks per occasion for women.\(^2\)

In Wisconsin, the estimated annual economic cost of binge drinking is $3.9 billion.

Lost Productivity $2.6 billion
Healthcare $380 million
Criminal Justice $560 million
Total: $3.9 billion
Other** $354 million

The alcohol tax revenue collected in Wisconsin was $60.9 million in 2018.\(^3\)

Cost per resident: $666
Cost to the government: $1.6 billion

Binge drinking is responsible for 76% of the excessive alcohol consumption economic cost.\(^4\)

In the most recent year, excessive alcohol consumption in Wisconsin contributed to:

- 2,485 alcohol-related deaths\(^5\)
- 6,151 alcohol-related crashes\(^8\)
- 79,285 alcohol-related hospitalizations\(^6\)
- 1,817 juvenile liquor law violations\(^9\)
- 7,210 persons in an alcohol-related treatment service\(^7\)
- 24,651 driving under the influence arrests\(^9\)

*Data are pooled across six years (2013-2018) to produce reliable estimates due to sample size limitations.

**Other includes costs associated with motor vehicle crashes and other consequences.
Excessive alcohol consumption includes:

- Binge drinking
- Heavy drinking (15+ drinks/week for men; 8+ drinks/week for women)
- Any alcohol consumption by youth under 21 or pregnant women

To view the full The Burden of Binge Drinking in Wisconsin report and to find additional information, visit go.wisc.edu/burdenofbingedrinking.

References and Notes

   Note: BRFSS is carried out by individual state health departments with coordination by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and annual data files are weighted to each state’s adult population. Data are pooled across six years (2013-2018) to produce reliable county estimates due to sample size. U.S. Figures are medians of state and territory percentages.

   Note: One occasion is defined as 2-3 hours.


5. Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Office of Health Informatics. 2018.
   Note: Data from the Office of Health Informatics Vital Records. These are estimated fractions of death due to 100% attributable causes, direct-, and indirect- partially attributable causes of alcohol deaths. Death data were provided using US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Alcohol-Related Disease Impact (ARDI) fraction methodology. Additional detail about codes included can be found at the CDC: https://nccd.cdc.gov/DPH_ARDIFrac/Info/ICDCodes.aspx

   Note: Numbers of alcohol-related hospitalizations were determined based on ICD 9 and ICD 10 codes for acute and chronic conditions.

