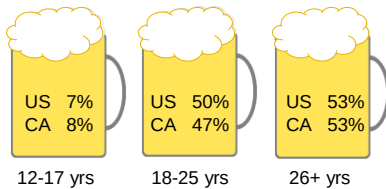


Excessive Drinking and Consequences

November 2025

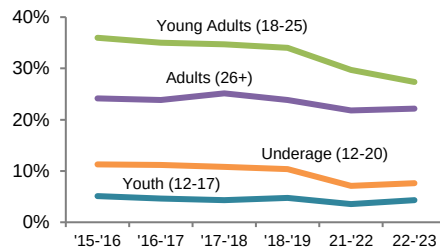
Prevalence

Alcohol use in the Past 30 Days by Age, in CA and US, 2022-2023¹



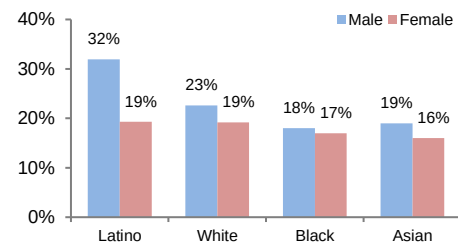
1 in 7 underage drinkers began before they were 13 years old²

Binge Drinking in the Past 30 Days by Age, in CA, 2015-2023³



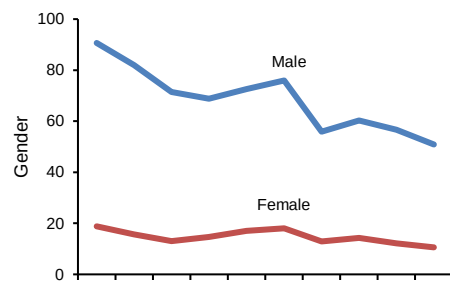
Binge drinking: 4+ drinks for women and 5+ drinks for men on one occasion at least one time in the past month. No 2020 data available.

Binge Drinking Among Adults (18+) by Gender and Race/Ethnicity in LAC, 2023⁴

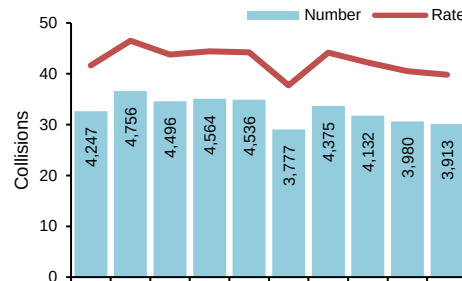


Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

DUI Arrest Rate by Gender and Age in LAC, 2014-2023⁵



Alcohol-involved Motor Vehicle Collisions and Fatalities or Serious Injuries in LAC, 2015-2024⁶



Economic Costs

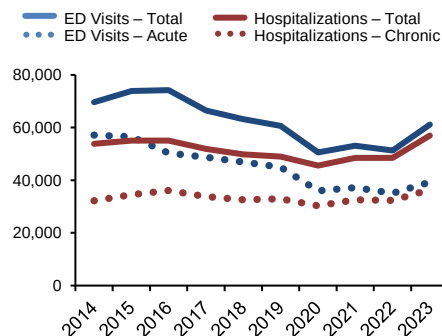
Alcohol-related Tangible Costs in LAC, CA, and US, 2024⁷

Cost Category	Annual Cost
United States	\$394.6 billion
Healthcare	\$45.0 billion
Lost Productivity	\$283.8 billion
Other	\$65.9 billion
California	\$53.3 billion
Healthcare	\$6.1 billion
Lost Productivity	\$38.3 billion
Other	\$8.9 billion
Los Angeles County	\$13.3 billion
Healthcare	\$1.5 billion
Lost Productivity	\$9.6 billion
Other	\$2.2 billion

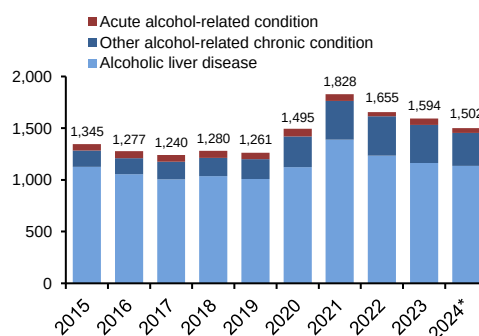
Lost productivity includes reduced productivity at work, work absenteeism, and lost productivity due to death. "Other" includes criminal justice system costs, motor vehicle crashes, and property damage. Based on 2010 cost estimates adjusted for population change and inflation to 2024 USD.

Healthcare Utilization

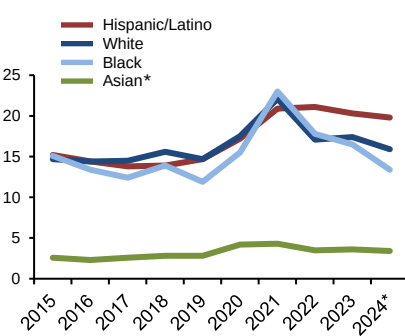
Number of Alcohol-related Hospitalizations and ED Visits by Condition Type, LAC, 2014-2023⁸



Number of Alcohol-related Deaths by Condition Type, LAC, 2015-2024⁹



Alcohol-related Death Rate by Race/Ethnicity in LAC, 2015-2024⁹



Note: All rates in this brief are per 100,000 population. Death data for 2024 is provisional and subject to change. * Asian includes Pacific Islanders for 2014-2017 due to data availability.

For substance use disorder treatment in LAC, call the Substance Abuse Service Helpline (SASH) at 844-804-7500, or use the web-based [Service & Bed Availability Tool \(SBAT\)](#)

For more information on substance use disorders in LAC, visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc>.

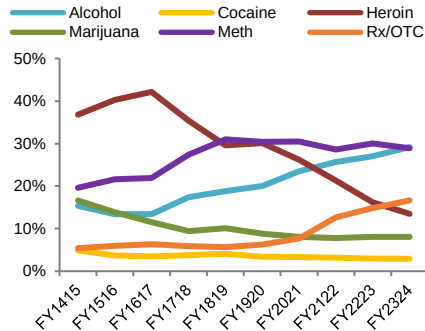
For more information regarding this data brief, please contact Tina Kim, PhD at tkim@ph.lacounty.gov

SAPC Data Brief

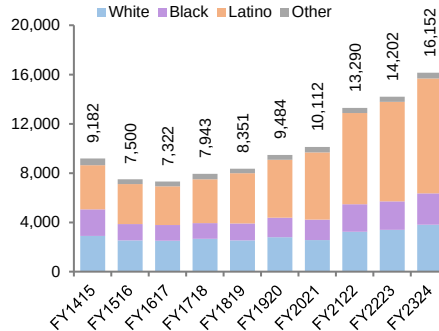
Excessive Drinking and Consequences

Treatment Admissions

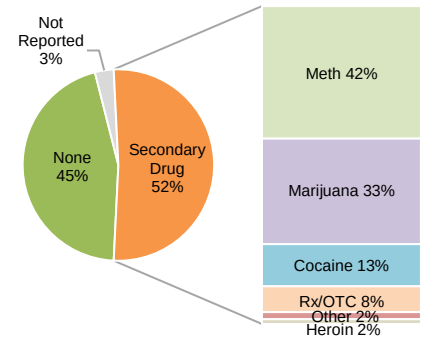
Primary drug problem at treatment admission, LAC, FY1415-FY2324¹⁰



Primary Alcohol Admissions by Race/Ethnicity in LAC, FY1415-FY2324¹⁰



Secondary Drug Problem Among Primary Alcohol Admissions in LAC, FY2324¹⁰



1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. National Surveys on Drug Use and Health 2022-2023 [State estimates](#).

- In 2022-2023, over half of all adults aged 26 or older reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days (current drinking) in the United States (US) and California (CA).
- CA had a higher level of current drinking among youth aged 12-17 compared to the US (8% vs 7%), but a lower level among young adults aged 18-25 (47% vs 50%) in 2022-2023.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2023 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. [YRBS Explorer](#).

- Early onset, or underage alcohol use, predicts heavier alcohol and drug use during adolescence and alcohol dependence in adulthood.
- In 2023, 14.5% of high school students in LAC reported having their first drink of alcohol (more than a few sips) before age 13, which was higher than the national average (13.3%).
- About 17.0% of high school students reported current drinking (at least one drink in the past month) of alcohol in 2023. Current use of alcohol was highest among 11th graders (23.3%), followed by 22.4% among 12th graders, 15.1% among 10th graders, and 8.6% among 9th graders.
- The rates of current drinking by underage girls (20.4%) exceeded that of boys (14.0%) in LAC in 2023.
- About one in three (33.7%) youth in LAC reported obtaining alcohol from someone else who gave it to them.

3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. National Surveys on Drug Use and Health 2015-2023 [State data tables and reports](#).

- Young adults consistently had the highest rates of binge drinking, followed by adults, and youth.
- Over one quarter (27.4%) of young adults binge drank (4 or more alcoholic beverages for women, and 5 or more alcoholic beverages for men, on the same occasion on at least 1 day in the past month) in CA in 2022-2023, a decrease from 36.0% in 2015-2016.
- Binge drinking among underaged individuals aged 12-20 steadily declined from 11.3% in 2015-2016 to 7.7% in 2022-2023.

4. [Los Angeles County Health Survey 2023](#). Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

- In 2023, 56.7% of LAC adults aged 18 or older drank alcohol at least once, 22.1% binge drank, and 5.4% drank heavily (more than 2 drinks per day for men, and more than 1 drink per day for women on average) in the past month.
- Men (25.8%) had a higher prevalence of binge drinking than women (18.6%).
- Hispanic/Latinos had the highest prevalence (25.4%) of binge drinking, followed by Whites (21.0%), Blacks (17.6%), and Asians (17.2%) in LAC in 2023.
- The gender disparity was observed across all race/ethnic groups in LAC. Hispanic/Latino males (31.9%) binge drank at rates that were nearly double that of Asian females (15.9%).

5. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. [Crime and Arrest Statistics Summary](#).

- DUI arrests by the LAC Sheriff's Department decreased 45% from 5,463 in 2014 to 2,979 in 2023.
- Males accounted for over 80% of DUI arrests for all years in the past decade in LAC. In 2023, males accounted for 82.1%, while females accounted for 17.8% of DUI arrests.
- During 2014-2023 in LAC, DUI arrests were highest among adults aged 25-34 (38.5%), followed by adults aged 35-49 (28.1%), young adults aged 18-24 (18.7%), older adults aged 50+ (14.5%), and minors under age 18 (0.2%).
- From 2014-2023, the proportion of DUI arrests that were young adults aged 18-24 decreased from 24.3% to 12.6%, while the proportion among adults aged 35-49 increased from 25.6% to 32.3%.

6. Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), Safe Transportation Research and Education Center, University of California, Berkeley. 2025

- During 2015-2024 in LAC, there were a total of 42,776 motor vehicle collisions that involved alcohol, resulting in 1,563 fatalities and 5,842 serious injuries.
- Of all motor vehicle collisions in LAC from 2015-2024, 8.9% involved either alcohol or drugs, 8.3% involved alcohol, and 0.6% involved drug(s).
- Of all motor vehicle fatalities in LAC from 2015-2024, 27.0% involved either alcohol or drugs, 20.2% involved alcohol, and 12.2% involved drug(s).
- Of all serious injuries from motor vehicle collisions in LAC from 2015-2024, 17.0% involved either alcohol or drugs, 15.5% involved alcohol, and 2.2% involved drug(s).
- Some collisions involved both alcohol and drugs. Alcohol involvement was defined as a driver who had been drinking or under the influence of alcohol. Totals for 2024 are preliminary and subject to change.

7. Sacks JJ, et al. 2010 National and State Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption. [Am J Prev Med. 2015; 49\(5\):e73-e79](#). Per capital data extrapolated for California and Los Angeles County. All estimates were adjusted for inflation to 2024 US dollars.

- The total tangible direct and indirect costs of excess alcohol consumption in LAC in 2024 was estimated to be \$13.3 billion.
- Healthcare costs for treatment of alcohol-attributable conditions were \$1.5 billion for LAC in 2024.
- Alcohol-related costs due to premature mortality; impaired productivity at work, home, and while institutionalized; work-related absenteeism, lost workdays among crime victims and from incarceration; and reduced productivity related to fetal alcohol syndrome were \$9.6 billion for LAC in 2024.
- Alcohol-related costs due to criminal justice system, property damage, motor vehicle crashes, fire damage, and fetal alcohol syndrome related special education were \$2.2 billion in LAC in 2024.

8. Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). Emergency Department and Inpatient Discharge Data Set. California Dept of Public Health.

- In LAC, the number of emergency department (ED) visits with any alcohol-related diagnosis or external cause of injury decreased by 32% from 74,212 ED visits in 2016 to 50,572 ED visits in 2020. However, from 2020 to 2023, alcohol-related ED visits increased by 21% to 61,163 ED visits in 2023.
- The number of hospitalizations with any alcohol-related diagnosis or external cause of injury decreased by 17% from 55,077 hospitalizations in 2016 to 45,563 in 2020, then increased by 25% to 56,972 in 2023, the highest in the past decade.
- Acute conditions such as intoxication accounted for the majority of alcohol-related ED visits, though the percent decreased from 82.0% in 2014 to 64.2% in 2023.
- Chronic conditions such as alcoholic liver cirrhosis accounted for about two-thirds of alcohol-related hospitalizations over the past decade.

9. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death. [CDC WONDER Online Database](#). Accessed 10/29/2025.

- In LAC, the number of deaths listing an alcohol-induced condition as the underlying cause of death increased from 1,345 (rate=13.2 per 100,000) in 2015 to 1,828 (rate=18.6) in 2021, then decreased to 1,502 (rate=15.5) in 2024.
- Most alcohol-induced deaths were due to chronic conditions. Alcoholic liver disease was the most common chronic condition for alcohol-induced deaths, accounting for 75.7% of all alcohol-induced deaths in 2024, a drop from 83.8% in 2015.
- In 2024, Hispanic/Latinos (rate=19.8) had the highest rate per 100,000 of alcohol-induced death, followed by Whites (rate=15.9), Blacks (rate=13.4), and Asians (rate=3.4) in LAC.
- Rates of alcohol-induced death among Blacks surpassed that of Whites and Hispanic/Latinos in 2021, then fell back below those groups in 2023.

- Data for 2024 are provisional and subject to change.

10. Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System and Sage data. Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health.

- The number of admissions to publicly funded treatment programs in LAC that listed alcohol as their primary drug problem increased 121% from FY1617 to FY2324. In FY2324, alcohol became the most frequently reported primary drug problem at admission, accounting for 29% of treatment admissions in LAC.
- In FY2324, Hispanic/Latinos accounted for the largest portion (58%) of primary alcohol admissions in LAC, followed by Whites (24%), Blacks (16%), and clients of other race/ethnicities (3%).
- In FY2324, over half (52%) of primary alcohol admissions in LAC also reported having a secondary drug problem. Methamphetamine was the most common secondary drug problem, followed by marijuana, cocaine, prescription or over-the-counter drugs, other drugs, and heroin.