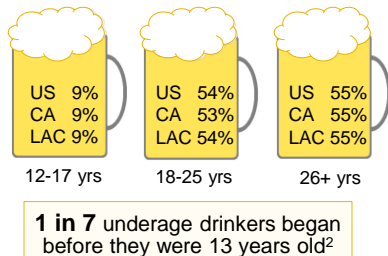


Excessive Drinking and Consequences

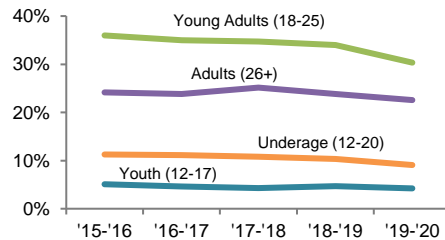
October 2022

Prevalence

Alcohol use in the Past 30 Days by Age in Los Angeles County (LAC), 2018-2020¹

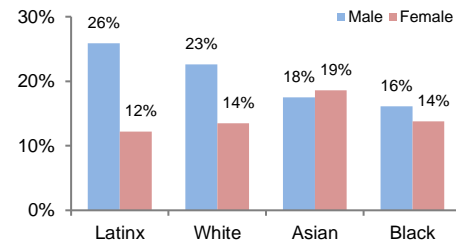


Binge Drinking in the Past 30 Days by Age, in CA, 2015-2020³



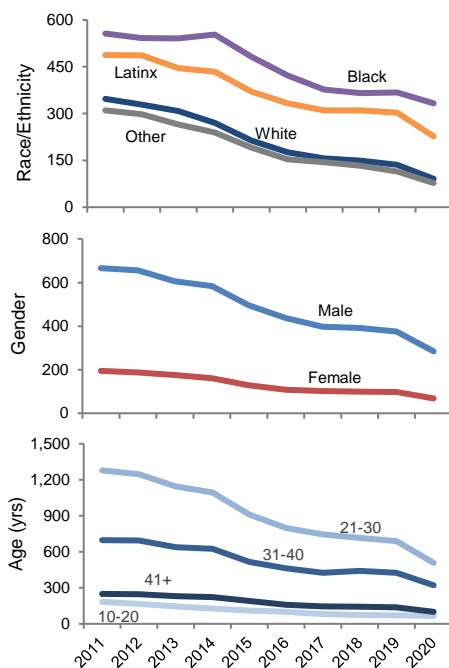
Binge drinking: 4+ drinks for women and 5+ drinks for men on one occasion at least one time in the past month.

Binge Drinking Among Adults (18+) by Gender and Race/Ethnicity in LAC, 2018⁴

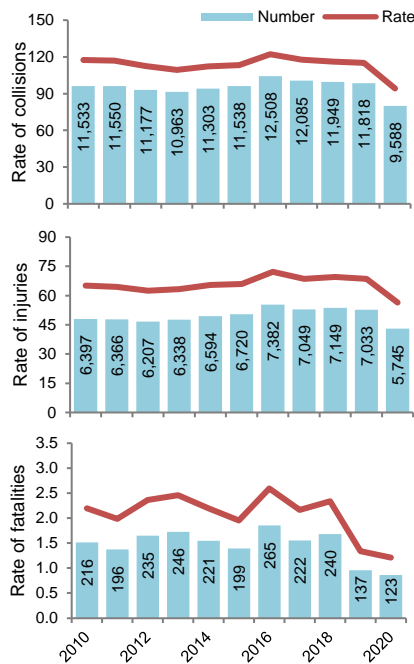


Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

DUI Arrest Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Age in LAC, 2011-2020⁵



Number and Rate of Alcohol-involved Motor Vehicle Collisions, Injuries, and Fatalities in LAC, 2010-2020⁶



Economic Costs

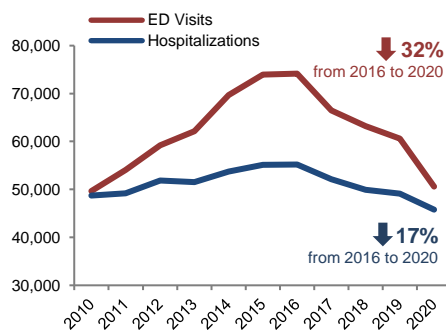
Alcohol-related Tangible Costs in LAC, CA, and US, 2020⁷

Cost Category	Annual Cost
United States	\$317.3 billion
Healthcare	\$36.2 billion
Lost Productivity	\$228.2 billion
Other	\$529.6 billion
California	\$44.1 billion
Healthcare	\$5.0 billion
Lost Productivity	\$31.7 billion
Other	\$7.4 billion
Los Angeles County	\$11.4 billion
Healthcare	\$1.3 billion
Lost Productivity	\$8.2 billion
Other	\$1.9 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 estimates adjusted for population increases to 2020 and inflation to 2020 USD.

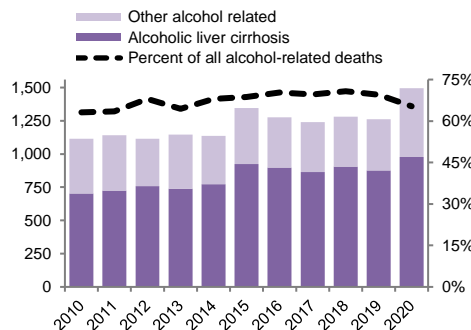
Healthcare Utilization

Number of Alcohol-related ED Visits and Hospitalizations in LAC, 2010-2020⁸

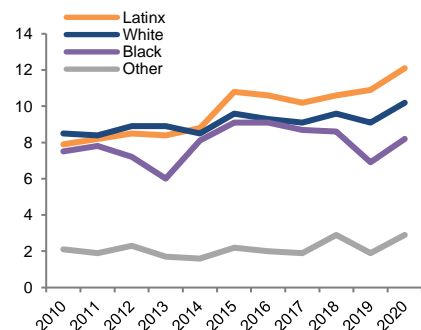


Note: All rates in this brief are per 100,000 population

Number of Alcoholic Liver Cirrhosis Deaths in LAC, 2010-2020⁹



Alcoholic Liver Cirrhosis Death Rate by Race/Ethnicity in LAC, 2010-2020⁹



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>.

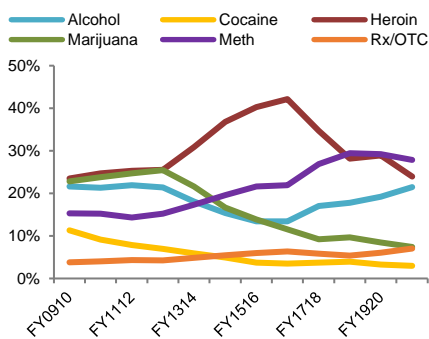
For more information regarding this data brief, please contact Tina Kim, PhD at tkim@ph.lacounty.gov

SAPC Data Brief

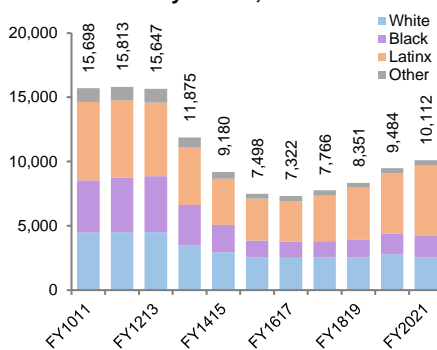
Excessive Drinking and Consequences

Treatment Admissions

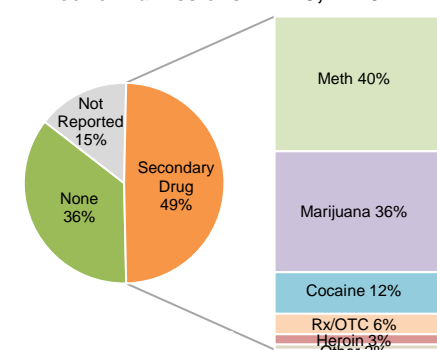
Primary drug problem at treatment admission, LAC, FY1011-FY2021¹⁰



Primary Alcohol Admissions by Race/Ethnicity in LAC, FY1011-FY2021¹⁰



Secondary Drug Problem Among Primary Alcohol Admissions in LAC, FY2021¹⁰



1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. National Surveys on Drug Use and Health 2018-2020 [Substate estimates](#).

- In 2018-2020, over half of all adults aged 18 or older reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days (current drinking) in the United States (US), California (CA) and in Los Angeles County (LAC).
- LAC had the same levels of current drinking among youth aged 12-17, young adults aged 18-25, and adults aged 26 or older (9%, 54%, 55% respectively) compared to CA (9%, 53%, 55%) and the US (9%, 54%, 55% respectively) in 2018-2020.

2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. [Facts on Underage Drinking](#). March 2021.

- Early onset, or underage alcohol use, predicts heavier alcohol and drug use during adolescence and alcohol dependence in adulthood.
- In 2019, 15% of underage drinkers in the US reported initiation of alcohol use before age 13. Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) students had used alcohol by the end of middle school, and nearly 3 in 5 (59%) students had used alcohol by the end of high school.
- The majority (84%) of 12th graders in the US report that it would be "very easy" or "fairly easy" for them to obtain alcohol.
- Youth in the US usually (72%) obtain alcohol for free, often from non-relatives older than 21 or persons under age 21.
- Rates of current drinking by underage girls exceeded that of boys in the US in 2019.

3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. National Surveys on Drug Use and Health 2015-2020 [State data tables and reports](#).

- Young adults consistently had the highest percent of binge drinking, followed by adults, and youth.
- About 1 in 3 young adults reported binge drinking (4 or more for 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 from 2015-2020.
- Binge drinking among underage individuals aged 12-20 steadily declined by 19% from 11.3% in 2015-2016 to 9.1% in 2019-2020.

4. [Los Angeles County Health Survey 2018](#). Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

- In 2018, 54% of LAC adults aged 18 or older reported drinking alcohol at least once, 18% reported binge drinking, and 5% reported heavy drinking (more than 2 drinks per day for men, and more than 1 drink per day for women on average) in the past month.
- Men had a higher prevalence of binge drinking than women across all race/ethnic groups in LAC, except Asians.
- Latinx had the highest prevalence (18%) of binge drinking compared to all other race/ethnic groups in 2018 (Latinx men 26%, Latinx women 12%), followed by Whites (White men 23%, White women 14%), Asians (Asian men 18%, Asian women 19%) and Blacks (Black men 16%, Black women 14%) in LAC.

5. California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, [Monthly Arrest & Citation Register](#).

- In 2020, there were 17,823 DUI arrests in LAC. Among the DUI arrests, the largest demographic groups were males (80%), Latinx (63%) and individuals aged 21 to 40 (69%).
- From 2011-2020 in LAC, rates per 100,000 population of DUI arrests among males decreased from 666 to 285, while the rates

among females decreased from 194 to 68.

- Blacks remained the race with highest rate per 100,000 population of DUI arrest over the past ten years, followed by Latinx, Whites, and other races in LAC.
- In 2020, young adults aged 21 to 30 had highest rates of DUI arrests in LAC, followed by individuals aged 31 to 40, individuals aged 41 or older, and individuals aged 10 to 20.

6. Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System. [Fatal and injury motor vehicle traffic collisions](#). California Highway Patrol.

- During 2010-2020 in LAC, there were total of 126,012 motor vehicle collisions that involved alcohol, resulting in 72,980 injuries and 2,300 fatalities.
- There were decreases from 2010-2020 in the rate (per 100,000 population) of alcohol-involved collisions (by 20% from 117 in 2010 to 94 in 2020), alcohol-involved injuries (by 13% from 65 in 2010 to 56 in 2020), and alcohol-involved fatalities (by 45% from 2 in 2010 to 1 in 2020).
- Of all motor vehicle collisions in LAC from 2010-2020, 9.1% involved either alcohol or drugs, 8.3% involved alcohol alone, 0.5% involved drug(s) alone, and 0.1% involved both alcohol and drugs.
- Of all motor vehicle injuries in LAC from 2010-2020, 9.1% involved either alcohol or drugs, 8.3% involved alcohol alone, 0.6% involved drug(s) alone, and 0.1% involved both alcohol and drugs.
- Of all motor vehicle fatalities in LAC from 2010-2020, 43.0% involved either alcohol or drugs, 20.3% involved alcohol alone, 11.7% involved drug(s) alone, and 10.8% involved both alcohol and drugs.
- The total number and percent of alcohol or drug involved motor vehicle collisions and injuries remained relatively stable from 2010-2019. From 2019 to 2020, the number and percent of alcohol or drug involved motor vehicle fatalities decreased sharply compared to that of previous years.
- Alcohol involvement was defined as a driver or bicyclist with a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or greater. Drug involvement was defined as driver or bicyclist who appeared to be under the influence of a drug other than alcohol.

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 2020 US dollars.

- According to Sacks et al, the total tangible direct and indirect costs of excess alcohol consumption in LAC in 2020 was \$11.4 billion.

Healthcare Costs:

- Healthcare costs for treatment of alcohol-attributable conditions were \$1.3 billion for LAC in 2020.

Lost Productivity Costs:

- 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 \$8.2 billion for LAC in 2020.

Other Costs:

- Alcohol-related costs due to criminal justice system, property damage, motor vehicle crashes, fire damage, and fetal alcohol syndrome related special education were \$1.9 billion in LAC in 2020.

8. Department of Health Care Access and Information (previously OSHPD). [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 significantly ($p_{trend}<0.001$) increased by 49% from 49,672 ED visits in 2010 to 74,168 ED visits in 2016, then decreased by 32% to 50,600 ED visits in 2020.
- The number of alcohol-related hospitalizations with any alcohol-related diagnosis or external cause of injury significantly ($p_{trend}<0.001$) increased by 13% from 48,732 hospitalizations in 2010 to 55,171 hospitalizations in 2016, then decreased by 17% to 45,762 hospitalizations in 2020.
- Alcohol-related ED visits increased and outnumbered hospitalizations each year from 2010 to 2020.

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

- The number of deaths with an alcohol-related condition reported as the underlying cause of death increased by 34% from 1,114 in 2010 to 1,495 in 2020 in LAC. The rate of alcohol-related deaths increased from 11 to 15 per 100,000 population from 2010 to 2020 in LAC.
- Alcoholic liver cirrhosis deaths accounted for about two-thirds of all alcohol-related deaths from 2010-2020 in LAC.
- The number of alcoholic liver cirrhosis deaths increased by 39% from 2010-2020 in LAC. The rate of alcoholic liver cirrhosis deaths increased from 7 to 10 per 100,000 population from 2010 to 2020 in LAC.
- In 2020, Latinx had the highest rate per 100,000 population of alcoholic liver cirrhosis deaths (rate = 12), followed by Whites (rate=10), Blacks (rate = 8) and those of other races (rate=3) in LAC.
- In 2020, the rate per 100,000 population of alcoholic liver cirrhosis death was highest among individuals aged 55-64 (rate = 24) and individuals aged 65-74 (rate = 22), followed by individuals aged 45-54 (rate=17), individuals aged 75-84 (rate = 15), individuals aged 35-44 (rate = 9), and individuals aged 25-34 (rate = 3).

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

- In FY2021, 22% of admissions were due to alcohol as the primary drug of problem, up from 13% in FY1617.
- The proportion of admissions to publicly funded treatment programs in LAC for a primary alcohol problem decreased from fiscal year FY1213 to FY1516, remained stable through FY1617, then began to increase after FY1718.
- In FY2021, Latinx accounted for the largest portion (54%) of admissions to publicly funded treatment centers/programs in LAC, followed by Whites (25%), Blacks (16%), and individuals of other race/ethnicities (4%).
- In FY2021, nearly half (49%) of admissions for alcohol as the primary problem in LAC also reported a secondary drug problem. Methamphetamine was the most common secondary drug problem, followed by marijuana, cocaine, prescription or over-the-counter drugs, heroin, and other drugs.