

ALCOHOL ISSUE BRIEF

GEORGIA ALCOHOL POLICY ALLIANCE

Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms in Georgia

December 2021

We're All Experiencing the Cost of Excessive Drinking:

- Kills more than 95,000 people in the U.S. each year and is responsible for about 1 in 10 total deaths among working-age adults.¹
- Kills more than 2,600 Georgians annually.² This is similar to the number of Georgians who died from drug overdoses last year.³
- Shortens the lives of those who died by an average of 29 years.⁴
- Cost Georgia \$6.9 billion, or \$2.12 a drink, in 2010.⁵

GEORGIA COST: \$6.9B⁵

National Breakdown of Costs:



72%
Lost Workplace
Productivity



11%
Healthcare
Expenses

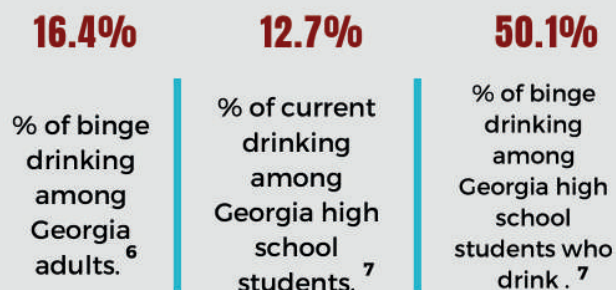


10%
Criminal
Justice Costs



5%
Motor Vehicle
Crash Costs

EXCESSIVE DRINKING IS COMMON IN GEORGIA



AT LEAST 38 MILLION ADULTS IN THE U.S. DRINK TOO MUCH⁸

DRINKING TOO MUCH INCLUDES

BINGE DRINKING



For men, binge drinking is **5 or more drinks** consumed on one occasion*



For women, binge drinking is **4 or more drinks** consumed on one occasion*

*One occasion = within 2 to 3 hours

DRINKS PER WEEK



For men – **15 or more drinks** on average per week



For women – **8 or more drinks** on average per week

One Drink = 5-ounces of wine, 12-ounces of beer, or 1 1/2-ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits or liquor

PREGNANT WOMEN & THOSE UNDER 21



Any alcohol use by pregnant women



Any alcohol use by those under age 21

9 OF 10 EXCESSIVE DRINKERS ARE NOT ALCOHOL DEPENDENT¹

89.8% of
Excessive
Drinkers
Are Not
Dependent

10.2% of
Excessive
Drinkers
Are
Dependent

THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL USE ⁹

- Injuries**
Motor vehicle crashes, falls, drowning
- Violence**
Homicide, suicide, intimate partner violence, sexual assault
- Chronic diseases**
High blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease
- Cancer**
Of the breast, liver, mouth and throat
- Reproductive health**
Unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV
- Alcohol dependence/alcoholism**
- Learning and memory problems**
- If pregnant**
 - Miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth, and low birth weight
 - Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) which include physical, behavioral, and learning disabilities
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

3rd

ALCOHOL IS THE THIRD-LEADING PREVENTABLE CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE U.S. ¹⁰

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXCESSIVE DRINKING ¹¹

The independent, non-federal Community Preventative Services Task Force (CPSTF) recommends several community-based approaches for preventing excessive alcohol consumption and related harms.

- ✓ Increasing alcohol taxes
- ✓ Regulation of alcohol outlet density
- ✓ Dram shop liability
- ✓ Maintaining limits on days and hours of sale
- ✓ Electronic screening and brief interventions (e-SBI)
- ✓ Avoiding privatization of retail alcohol sales
- ✓ Enhanced enforcement of laws prohibiting sales to minors

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