

Indiana Alcohol Fact Sheet

Alcohol influences public health and financial costs

So, what is the big deal with alcohol?

- Alcohol is the most frequently used drug in Indiana and the United States.¹
- More than one-half on the economic impact of drug problems is borne by or transferred to the non-abusing population. Out of the 97.7 billion in drug abuse costs, the non-abusing population bears an estimated \$54.8 billion, or 56.5 percent, of the costs.²
- Over-concentration of alcohol outlets is part of neighborhood economic and social disintegration. The area's economic base loses its diversity and becomes less attractive to both residents and potential retail customers.³
- In 2007 there were 11,376 alcohol licenses in the state of Indiana.
- A study done in New Mexico documented that since lifting its ban on the Sunday sale of carryout/off premise purchases of alcohol, a 42% increase in alcohol related crash fatalities and an overall 29% increase in alcohol-related crashes.⁴
- Beer is the drink most commonly consumed by people stopped for alcohol-impaired driving or involved in alcohol-related crashes.⁵

What impact does alcohol have specifically?

Law enforcement

- The number of alcohol outlets is related to violent assaults. A study done in L.A. showed that each additional alcohol outlet was associated with 3.4 additional assaults per year.³
- Alcohol use is a major factor in homicides (47%).¹
- In 2006, a total of 11,718 alcohol-related collisions occurred in Indiana and 267 of these were fatal⁶
- Based on collision data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) from 1994 to 2006 Indiana typically had the lowest proportions of traffic fatalities that were alcohol-related within the nation.⁷
- In 2005, Indiana had 36,800 arrests for driving under the influence, 20,700 arrests for public intoxication, and 17,100 arrests for liquor law violations.¹
- In the month of May 2009 the Indiana State Excise Police patrolled the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, during the Indianapolis 500 they issued a total of 264 charges and approximately 181 of these charges were alcohol related.⁸

Treatment Services

- A person who begins drinking as a teen is four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than someone who waits until adulthood to use alcohol.⁹
- The estimated prevalence for alcohol abuse and/or alcohol dependence in Indiana for 2004 was 7.5% (or 382,000 residents).¹⁰
- Most admissions to substance abuse treatment are due to alcohol, and the percentage of admissions due to alcohol is significantly higher in Indiana (47%) than for the entire United States (39%)¹
- Indiana individuals entering treatment in 2005, 47.9% of adults named alcohol as their primary drug as compared to 24% of persons under the age of 18. This trend has been continuous for the past six years.¹¹

Insurance Agencies

- When a life insurance company sees an alcohol related event such as AA or alcohol treatment rehab, and sees that the person has an occasional drink now, it is very difficult to obtain coverage for you...Even if years have passed since treatment. Life insurance companies have a difficult time offering you coverage if you have been through treatment and still have an occasional drink.¹²
- Alcohol-related crashes accounted for an estimated 17% of Indiana's auto insurance payments. Reducing alcohol-related crashes by 10% would save \$50 million in claims payments and loss adjustment expenses.¹³



2506 Willowbrook Parkway
Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46205
(317)254-2815
www.drugfreemarioncounty.org

FAQS

1. Why and how is alcohol a regulated product in Indiana?

- The sale and distribution of alcohol is regulated because this product has been deemed potentially hazardous and dangerous.
- To continue to regulate this product, businesses must apply to sell alcohol so that it can be distributed and consumed as responsibly as possible. In Indiana businesses wishing to sell alcohol must apply to the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission.
- Alcohol specifically is regulated in Indiana by two different agencies: the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission and the Indiana State Excise Police.

2. What can you do?

- Contact your legislators to express your concern
- Contact the Interim Study Committee on Alcoholic Beverages—especially to express your opinions on the 9 topics they will be studying this summer (not sure what these are? Visit our website: www.drugfreemc.org under the “public policy” tab of the “preventing harmful drinking” page.
- Express concern to your Governor and Mayor
- Contact elected officials: such as the city commissioners, state representatives
- Write a letter to the editor
- Express concern to radio and news stations
- Submit an article to your business newsletter
- Speak against alcohol licenses that are new or problematic in your neighborhood at the local alcohol beverage board public hearings.

Hospital and Medical

- Although extensive evaluation of alcohol abuse, especially in busier emergency rooms, may not always be feasible, at a minimum, screening of blood alcohol levels must be done routinely.¹⁴
- A study done at the University of Toronto in Canada revealed that for every 1,000 liters or more of alcohol sold per store per day, the relative risk of being hospitalized for assault was 1.13. This risk was even higher for males, those ages 13-20 years old, and those in urban areas.¹⁵
- A Scottish study of 6,000 men ages 35 to 64 found that the more alcohol the men drank, the more time they spent in the hospital.¹⁶
- Alcohol is a common factor in drowning accidents (34%) and suicides (23%).¹
- There were 1,507 alcohol-related attributable deaths in Indiana on average per year from 2001-2005.¹⁷
- Prenatal exposure to alcohol is the leading preventable cause of mental retardation in the United States.¹⁸
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome always involves brain damage, impairs growth, and involves head and face abnormalities.
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is more common than Downs Syndrome and Autism.¹⁸ In fact it affects an estimated 40,000 infants each year.¹⁹
- In Indiana 10% of pregnant women use alcohol, and this is a growing rate.¹⁸

Schools

- According to MADD, each beverage consumed increases the chance that students will skip the next morning's classes by 8 percent and that they will fall behind in classes by 5 percent.²⁰
- One study indicated that relative to nondrinkers, students who started drinking before age 13 had an odds ratio of 1.46 to obtain at least one letter grade lower, while those starting at 13 and later had an odds ratio of 1.05.²¹
- Adolescents who binge drink remember 10% less of what they have learned than those who don't drink.²²

Underage Drinking

- Underage drinking cost the citizens of Indiana \$1.3 billion in 2005.²³
- Indiana only receives \$342,390,000 in state and local taxes for alcohol sales.²⁴
- Young adults ages 18-25 have the highest rates of alcohol use in Indiana: 61% report current alcohol use and 42% report binge drinking. Additionally, 18 to 24 year old Hoosiers reported a significantly higher rate of heavy drinking than their US counterparts (Indiana 12% and US 7%).¹
- In 2005, underage drinkers consumed 17.2% of all alcohol sold in Indiana, totaling \$384 million in sales.²¹

Sources:

1. Just the Facts: Substance Abuse in Indiana" published in December of 2007 and prepared by the Center for Health Policy at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. <https://www.policyarchive.org/bitstream/handle/10207/5567/2007%2520Just%2520the%2520Factsrev.pdf?sequence=1>
2. <http://www.nida.nih.gov/EconomicCosts/Chapter7.html>
3. http://www.alcoholpolicymd.com/press_room/brochures/alcohol_outlet_facts.htm
4. Geographic variability in alcohol-related crashes in response to legalized Sunday packaged alcohol sales in New Mexico" published July of 2006
5. Q&A: Alcohol: General Fact Sheet" Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
6. Ibid
7. Indiana Traffic Safety Facts" published in June of 2008 and prepared by the Center for Health Policy at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.
8. http://www.in.gov/atc/isep/files/Press_Release_Indy_500_2009.pdf
9. <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/PSA/factsheet.pdf>
10. https://www.policyarchive.org/bitstream/handle/10207/120/208_State_Epidemiological_Profile.pdf?sequence=1
11. <https://www.policyarchive.org/bitstream/handle/10207/4564/2007%2520State%2520Epidemiological%2520Profile.pdf?sequence=1>
12. <http://www.lifeinsuranceadvisors.com/life-insurance-for-alcohol-treatment-history>
13. http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/impaired_driving_pg2/IN.htm
14. A Commentary by NIAAA Director Enoch Gordis, M.D. Found at: <http://alcoholism.about.com/cs/alerts/l/blnaa03.htm>
15. Alcohol Sales and Risk of Serious Assault" Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada published on May 13, 2008
16. <http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2009/higher-alcohol-intake.html>
17. CDC, ARDI report for Indiana
18. <http://www.indianaperinatal.org/downloads/SubUseZollinger.pdf>
19. <http://www.nofas.org/MediaFiles/PDFs/factsheets/everyone.pdf>
20. <http://media.www.thecurrentsauce.com/media/storage/paper178/news/2006/11/16/Life/Alcohol.Affects.School.Performance-2465640.shtml>
21. http://apha.confex.com/apha/135am/techprogram/paper_153748.htm
22. <http://www.cadca.org/CoalitionResources/PP-documents/ForgottenLinkUpdated.pdf>
23. Underage Drinking in Indiana: The Facts" published in October of 2006 and produced by the Pacific Institute of Research and Evaluation (PIRE)
24. <http://www.stophospitalitytaxes.com/images/home/map.jpg>