The Burden of Excessive Alcohol Use in Wisconsin

Annual economic cost of excessive alcohol use in Wisconsin $6.8 BILLION

What We Pay For\textsuperscript{1,2}

- $2.9 billion Lost Productivity
- $2.0 billion Premature Death
- $749 million Healthcare
- $649 million Criminal Justice
- $418 million Motor Vehicle
- $90 million Other

We All Pay\textsuperscript{1,2}

- $2.9 billion Taxpayers
- $2.8 billion Excessive Drinkers and their Families
- $1.1 billion Others in Society (including health insurers, employers)

Consequences of Excessive Alcohol Use

In 2011, excessive alcohol consumption contributed to at least:

- 1,529 deaths\textsuperscript{4}
- 48,578 hospitalizations\textsuperscript{5}
- 46,583 treatment admissions\textsuperscript{6}
- 60,221 arrests\textsuperscript{7}
- 5,751 motor vehicle crashes\textsuperscript{8}

How We Got Here

High Consumption

Wisconsin’s annual alcohol consumption is 28% higher than the national average.\textsuperscript{9}

#1 in Binge Drinking

Wisconsin ranks highest among all states in binge drinking, an important risk factor for alcohol related injuries and deaths.\textsuperscript{9}

Binge drinking = 5+ drinks on an occasion for men; 4+ drinks for women.

Excessive alcohol use in Wisconsin costs $1,200 per person
Suggested Citation


References and Notes


3 Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Taxable liters by month for received dates from 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2011.


6 Wisconsin Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Human Services Reporting System staff data query. 2013.


8 Wisconsin Department of Transportation. 2010 Wisconsin Traffic Crash Facts, Section V: Alcohol. 2011.

9 Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Binge drinking rates from 2006-2008 were used for county analysis due to small sample sizes and available weights (county-specific weights were not available for 2008-2010 data). Binge drinking rates from 2006-2008 were used for state analysis to be consistent with county analyses.

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