

Arkansas Alcohol Abuse Statistics

How Arkansas compares with the United States, South, and the states it borders on alcohol consumption, drinking and binge drinking by age, alcohol use disorder, liver-disease deaths, and drunk driving.

KEY STATISTICS

1.82 Per-capita consumption (US 2.42)	18.2% Binge drinking (US 20.9%)	9.7% Alcohol use disorder (US 9.9%)
16.0 Liver disease death rate (US 12.7)	26% Alcohol-impaired share of road deaths (US 30%)	6.1% Teen drinking (US 6.8%)

QUOTABLE STATISTICS

- Arkansas residents purchased the third-lowest level of alcohol in the South, at 1.82 gallons of pure alcohol per person aged 14 and older in the most recent year of federal sales data.**

Source: NIAAA Surveillance Report #124, apparent per capita alcohol consumption by state, 2024.
- Arkansas has the third-lowest share of traffic deaths involving an alcohol-impaired driver among mid-sized states, at 26% in the most recent year.**

Source: NHTSA State Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Estimates: 2024 Data (DOT HS 813 813).
- Arkansas recorded the second-largest increase in per-person alcohol purchases among mid-sized states, up 0.6% over the past five years.**

Source: NIAAA Surveillance Report #124, apparent per capita alcohol consumption by state, 2024.
- Arkansas has 26% higher liver disease death rate than the nation as a whole, at 16.0 vs 12.7.**

Source: NCHS Vital Statistics Rapid Release, quarterly provisional estimates (chronic liver disease and cirrhosis).
- Arkansas has 16% lower past-month drinking than the nation as a whole, at 39.6% vs 47.1%.**

Source: SAMHSA NSDUH state prevalence estimates, 2023-2024.

DRINKING BY AGE

Age group	Drank, past month	Binge, past month	Alcohol use disorder
Ages 12-17	6.1% (US 6.8%)	4.1% (US 3.7%)	3.0% (US 3.0%)
Ages 18-25	42.4% (US 48.5%)	24.9% (US 27.7%)	13.3% (US 14.7%)
Ages 26+	43.3% (US 51.5%)	18.9% (US 21.8%)	10.0% (US 10.0%)
Underage 12-20	12.3% (US 14.0%)	7.9% (US 8.1%)	5.1% (US 5.4%)
All ages 12+	39.6% (US 47.1%)	18.2% (US 20.9%)	9.7% (US 9.9%)

DRUNK DRIVING

	A decade earlier	Most recent year
All traffic deaths	550	603
Deaths with an alcohol-impaired driver (BAC .08+)	159	154
Share of traffic deaths	29%	26%

COMPARED WITH BORDERING STATES

State	Alcohol / person (gal)	Binge (12+)	AUD	Liver disease deaths /100k	Drunk-driving share
Arkansas	1.82	18.2%	9.7%	16.0	26%
Louisiana	2.64	23.4%	10.2%	11.6	25%
Missouri	2.77	23.0%	10.8%	13.9	27%
Mississippi	2.07	19.9%	9.3%	15.1	23%
Oklahoma	1.7	18.7%	8.9%	17.1	35%
Tennessee	2.27	19.1%	9.3%	16.0	28%
Texas	2.25	19.8%	9.2%	15.0	40%

DATA YEARS

CDC BRFSS prevalence data: 2024; Census Bureau population estimates by state: 2024; FBI Crime Data Explorer arrests by state (DUI: 12 months to 09-2026; NHTSA State Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Estimates: 2024 Data (DOT HS 813 813): 2024; NIAAA Surveillance Report #124: 2024; SAMHSA NSDUH state prevalence estimates: 2023-2024; NCHS Vital Statistics Rapid Release: 2025 Q3.

SOURCES

- CDC BRFSS prevalence data, binge drinking (_RFBING6), 2024 (<https://data.cdc.gov/Behavioral-Risk-Factors/Behavioral-Risk-Factor-Surveillance-System-BRFSS-P/dttw-5yxu>)
- Census Bureau population estimates by state, age, and sex (Vintage 2024) (<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-detail.html>)
- FBI Crime Data Explorer arrests by state (DUI, drunkenness, liquor laws) (<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/docApi>)
- NHTSA State Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Estimates: 2024 Data (DOT HS 813 813) (<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813813>)
- NIAAA Surveillance Report #124, apparent per capita alcohol consumption by state, 2024 (<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/surveillance-reports/surveillance124>)
- SAMHSA NSDUH state prevalence estimates, 2023-2024 (<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health/state-releases/2023-2024>)
- NCHS Vital Statistics Rapid Release, quarterly provisional estimates (chronic liver disease and cirrhosis) (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/mortality-dashboard.htm>)

All statistics are drawn from federal government publications and peer-reviewed research and may be quoted with attribution to the National Center for Alcohol Statistics and a link to alcoholabusestatistics.org/arkansas/.