



Representative Ivy Spohnholz

House Health & Social Services Committee Chair

House District 16: College Gate, Russian Jack, Nunaka Valley, Reflection Lake & Wonder Park
Committee Member: Education, Energy, Military & Veterans Affairs, Legislative Budget & Audit

Alcohol & Substance Abuse in Alaska

Economic Costs of Alcohol Abuse in Alaska 2016 by McDowell Group

- In 2015, the estimated economic cost of alcohol abuse to the Alaska economy was \$1.84 billion (breakdown to right)
- According to a 2013 – 14 study, 1.6 M gallons of ethanol are consumed by Alaskans ages 14+ per capita
- Nationally, Alaska ranks 31st for binge drinking and 21st for alcohol abuse alone
- In 2013 – 2014, 22% of Alaskan youths ages 12 – 20 were underage drinkers and 13% of Alaskan youths ages 12 – 20 reported underage binge drinking

Cost Category	Alcohol-related Costs	% of Total
Productivity loss	\$775 million	42%
Traffic collisions	\$594 million	32
Criminal justice and protective services	\$270 million	15
Health care	\$182 million	10
Public assistance and social services	\$15 million	1
Total	\$1,836 million	100%

Note: Due to rounding, some columns may not sum to the total.
Source: McDowell Group calculations. Criminal justice and protective services estimate does not include intangible costs related to victimization, an estimated \$605 million in additional costs.

Economic Costs of Drug Abuse in Alaska 2016 by McDowell Group

- In 2015, the estimated total economic cost of drug abuse to the Alaska economy was \$1.22 billion (breakdown to right)
- According to a 2013 – 2014 study, 13,000 Alaskans are dependent on illicit drugs
- One in five Alaskans ages 12+ consumed marijuana in the previous year, and Alaska's marijuana consumption in a 2013 – 2014 study was 20% compared to 13% nationwide in the past year

Cost Category	Drug-related Costs	% of Total
Productivity Loss	\$542 million	45%
Traffic Collisions	\$396 million	33
Criminal Justice and Protective Services	\$136 million	11
Health Care	\$134 million	11
Public Assistance and Social Services	\$7 million	1
Total	\$1,215 million	100%

Note: Due to rounding, some columns may not sum to the total.
Source: McDowell Group calculations.

Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Study 2017 by the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

- Nearly 14% of students report current binge drinking (4 or more drinks for females and 5 or more drinks for males in a row during the past 30 days)
- 7% of students have used prescription pain medicine without or differently from a doctor's prescription in the past 30 days

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