

Conclusion

The social, economic and health costs of substance abuse in Wisconsin are high. Wisconsin has one-and-a-half times the national rate of arrests for OWI (operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated) and more than three times the national rate of arrests for liquor law violations. The rate of deaths due to alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes is higher than the national average as well.

These high rates of alcohol-related consequences are not surprising given Wisconsin's high rate of alcohol consumption. The rate of per capita alcohol consumption in Wisconsin is among the highest in the nation. Data for 2006 show that Wisconsin has a higher prevalence of alcohol use and binge drinking among adults, especially young adults ages 18-25, compared to other states. Rates of underage drinking (by youth ages 12-20) and underage binge drinking are also higher compared to rates for the United States. Wisconsin has the highest rate of drinking and driving in the nation.

The rate of drug-related deaths increased steadily in Wisconsin from 1999 to 2006. The rate of drug law arrests also increased. However, rates of drug-related deaths and arrests remain lower than national averages.

An important aspect of prevention services is the ability to track the needs of communities through epidemiological factors. Resources can then be allocated to address the problem using evidence-based programming. As part of Wisconsin's data-driven approach to prevention funding, an earlier version of this Profile helped to identify key consequences of alcohol and other drug abuse in the state. These defined priorities, underlined and sharpened by the 2008 Profile, are being used to assist local organizations/governments to address those specific consequences.

The Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (funded by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) is providing additional funding for local communities to do in-depth need assessments on the risks and protective factors associated with the documented consequences of alcohol and drug abuse. The *2008 Wisconsin Epidemiological Profile on Alcohol and Other Drug Use* focuses on key problem areas at both the statewide and local level to guide Wisconsin's funding decisions for the greatest potential impact.