

The Costs of Underage Drinking in Florida

Excerpted from Department of Children & Families commissioned study

Underage drinking is a persistent public health problem that generates significant costs to society from alcohol-related consequences such as criminal activity/delinquency, antisocial behavior, academic difficulties, risky sexual behavior, health problems, unintentional injuries, and traffic crashes. Florida faces a particularly tough challenge in this regard as Florida youth have higher rates of alcohol use than the national average.

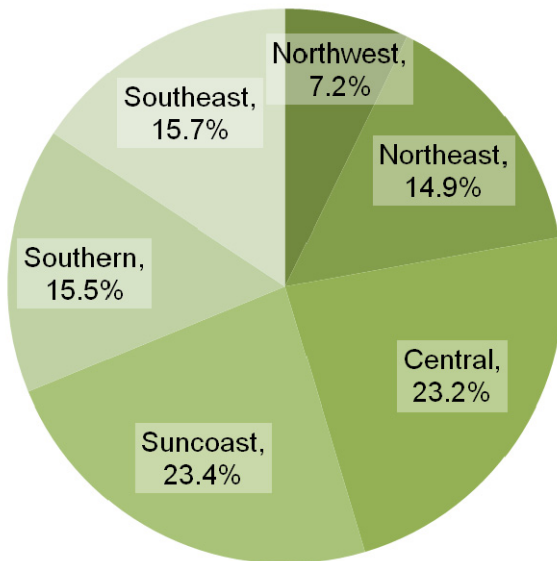
The total estimated cost of underage drinking in the state of Florida in 2007 was \$3.073 billion. This state-wide total translates into a cost of:

- \$165 per Florida resident
- \$627 per youth under the age of 21
- \$1,818 per youth 14-20 years of age

These costs were the result of approximately 180 youth deaths and 71,602 injuries and other events directly attributable to underage alcohol use.

Economic Costs of Underage Drinking

Drinking in Florida per Florida Resident, by Region



1,494 million

Violent Crime

642.7 million

Motor Vehicle Crashes

316.3 million

Property Crime

291.1 million

Risky Sexual Behavior

202.5 million

Other Injuries & Events

75.4 million

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

48.3 million

Suicides & Suicide attempts

2.8 million

Alcohol Abuse Treatment

\$3.1 Billion

**Total Cost of Underage
 Drinking in Florida**

The geographical distribution of the costs of underage drinking provides information on the areas in the state in which the consequences are most highly concentrated. Six counties accounted for more than half of the total estimated cost in the state: Miami-Dade, Broward, Orange, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, and Duval.

Counties located in the Suncoast and Central regions of the state generated the largest share of the total statewide cost. Costs per youth under the age of 21 and per youth between the ages of 14 and 20 are highest in the Suncoast region, averaging \$679 and \$2,021 per youth, respectively. The counties located in the Suncoast region are Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Glades, Hendry, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota.

Economic Costs of Underage Drinking in Florida, by County*

County	Total (in millions)	% of Total	County	Total (in millions)	% of Total	County	Total (in millions)	% of Total
Alachua	38.3	1.2	Hamilton	1.4	0.1	Okaloosa	23.7	0.77
Baker	5.3	0.2	Hardee	4.7	0	Okeechobee	7.5	0.24
Bay	31.4	1	Hendry	8.9	0.2	Orange	230.9	7.51
Bradford	4.3	0.1	Hernando	19.8	0.3	Osceola	40.4	1.32
Brevard	88.3	2.9	Highlands	14.3	0.6	Palm Beach	223	7.26
Broward	258.7	8.4	Hillsborough	205.1	0.5	Pasco	65.6	2.13
Calhoun	1.8	0.1	Holmes	2.5	6.7	Pinellas	161	5.24
Charlotte	20.8	0.7	Indian River	16.8	0.1	Polk	86.6	2.82
Citrus	14.9	0.5	Jackson	9.1	0.5	Putnam	20.2	0.66
Clay	22.3	0.7	Jefferson	2.9	0.3	Saint Johns	20.4	0.66
Collier	40.2	1.3	Lafayette	0.3	0.1	Saint Lucie	37.4	1.22
Columbia	12.1	0.4	Lake	33.7	0.01	Santa Rosa	19.2	0.63
Dade	460.6	15	Lee	93.9	1.1	Sarasota	54.4	1.77
Desoto	6.6	0.2	Leon	38.6	3.05	Seminole	48.2	1.57
Dixie	3.1	0.1	Levy	5.3	1.26	Sumter	7.6	0.25
Duval	207	6.7	Liberty	0.8	0.17	Suwannee	9.3	0.3
Escambia	65.8	2.1	Madison	3.2	0.03	Taylor	4.4	0.14
Flagler	10.4	0.3	Manatee	61.6	0.1	Union	1.3	0.04
Franklin	3	0.1	Marion	45	2.01	Volusia	72.7	2.37
Gadsden	7.1	0.2	Martin	17.3	1.46	Wakulla	3	0.1
Gilchrist	1.5	0	Monroe	15.4	0.56	Walton	6.8	0.22
Glades	1.3	0	Nassau	15.3	0.5	Washington	2.5	0.08
Gulf	3.3	.1						

* Total estimates at the county level exclude alcohol dependence and abuse treatment costs.

All information excerpted from the 2009 "Economic Costs of Underage Drinking in Florida", Ioana Popovici, María E. Dávalos, Kathryn E. McCollister, Michael T. French.

For more information visit: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth/sa/prevention.shtml>

About Florida's State Epidemiology Workgroup (SEW)

Florida's SEW was established in June 2005 under funding from a federal Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG). The SEW, which meets face-to-face on a semi-annual basis, is composed of members with expertise in epidemiologic data and/or drug policy drawn from a wide variety of state agencies, universities, and community-based organizations.

