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# Alcohol Use

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## DRANK IN PAST 30 DAYS

**Definition:** South Dakotans who report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.

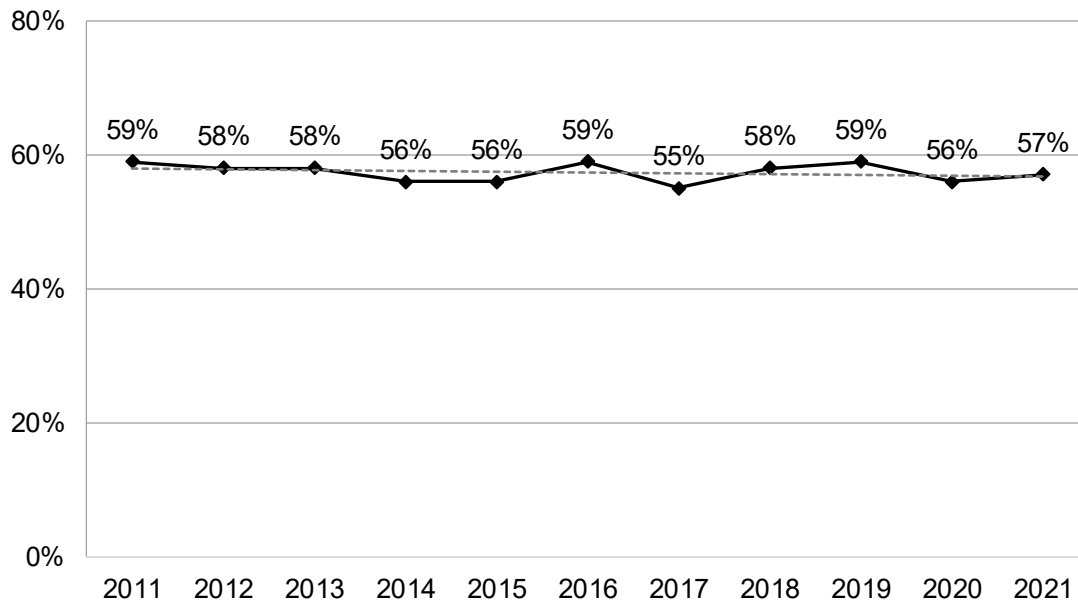
### Prevalence of Drinking in Past 30 Days

- South Dakota 57%
- Nationwide median 53%

### Trend Analysis

Overall, the percent of South Dakotans who report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days has remained steady since 2011. South Dakota is higher than the nationwide median of 53 percent who have drank alcohol in the past 30 days.

**Figure 38**  
**Percentage of South Dakotans Who Drank Alcohol**  
**in the Past 30 Days, 2011-2021**



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2011-2021

**Table 35**  
**South Dakotans Who Drank Alcohol in Past 30 Days, 2017-2021**

		2017-2021	95% Confidence Interval	
			Low	High
<b>Gender</b>	Male	64%	62.1%	65.3%
	Female	50%	48.8%	51.9%
<b>Age</b>	18-29	59%	56.0%	61.9%
	30-39	62%	58.9%	65.3%
	40-49	64%	60.5%	66.5%
	50-59	58%	55.7%	60.6%
	60-69	57%	54.3%	58.7%
	70-79	47%	44.2%	49.4%
	80+	33%	29.6%	36.7%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White, Non-Hispanic	59%	58.2%	60.5%
	American Indian, Non-Hispanic	35%	30.7%	38.8%
	American Indian/White, Non-Hispanic	49%	37.8%	59.8%
	Hispanic	54%	45.7%	61.3%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$35,000	45%	42.8%	47.4%
	\$35,000-\$74,999	60%	57.7%	61.7%
	\$75,000+	72%	69.8%	73.6%
<b>Education</b>	Less than High School, G.E.D.	40%	35.1%	45.3%
	High School, G.E.D.	50%	47.7%	51.8%
	Some Post-High School	61%	58.6%	62.3%
	College Graduate	67%	65.4%	68.8%
<b>Employment Status</b>	Employed for Wages	64%	61.9%	65.1%
	Self-employed	65%	61.4%	67.7%
	Unemployed	51%	45.1%	57.7%
	Homemaker	35%	29.6%	41.4%
	Student	56%	50.1%	62.2%
	Retired	47%	45.4%	49.3%
	Unable to Work	32%	27.6%	37.1%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married/Unmarried Couple	61%	59.9%	62.7%
	Divorced/Separated	52%	48.4%	54.8%
	Widowed	37%	33.3%	39.8%
	Never Married	56%	53.0%	58.4%
<b>Home Ownership Status</b>	Own Home	60%	58.4%	60.9%
	Rent Home	53%	50.3%	55.5%
<b>Children Status</b>	Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	58%	55.4%	60.7%
	No Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	65%	62.1%	67.8%
<b>Phone Status</b>	Landline	49%	47.1%	50.4%
	Cell Phone	60%	58.6%	61.3%
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	10%	4.0%	23.0%
	Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	56%	53.1%	58.9%
<b>County</b>	Minnehaha	59%	55.9%	61.2%
	Pennington	55%	52.7%	57.9%
	Lincoln	62%	56.4%	66.5%
	Brown	55%	51.9%	57.7%
	Brookings	62%	57.9%	65.0%
	Codington	57%	54.5%	60.3%
	Meade	54%	49.0%	58.0%

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2017-2021

## **Demographics**

<b>Gender</b>	Males exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of drinking alcohol than females.
<b>Age</b>	Alcohol use peaks with those in their 40s. This is followed by significant decreases as the 70s and 80s are reached.
<b>Race/ Ethnicity</b>	Whites and Hispanics demonstrate a very high prevalence of drinking alcohol, while American Indians show a very low prevalence.
<b>Household Income</b>	Alcohol use increases as household income increases. This includes significant increases as the \$35,000-\$74,999 and \$75,000+ income groups are reached.
<b>Education</b>	Alcohol use increases as education levels increase. This includes significant increases at every level of education.
<b>Employment</b>	Those who are employed for wages, self-employed, or a student demonstrate a very high prevalence of alcohol use, while those who are a homemaker or unable to work show a very low prevalence.
<b>Marital Status</b>	Those who are married exhibit a very high prevalence of alcohol use, while those who are widowed show a very low prevalence.
<b>Home Ownership</b>	Those who own their home show a significantly higher prevalence of alcohol use than those who rent their home.
<b>Children Status</b>	Those with no children in the household exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of alcohol use than those with children in the household.
<b>Phone Status</b>	Those who use primarily use a cell phone demonstrate a significantly higher prevalence of alcohol use than those who primarily use a landline phone.
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	Females who are not pregnant exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of alcohol use than those who are pregnant.
<b>County</b>	Brookings county demonstrates a very high prevalence of alcohol use, while Brown county shows a very low prevalence.

## **BINGE DRINKING**

***Definition: South Dakota males who report having five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion or South Dakota females who have four or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion, one or more times in the past month.***

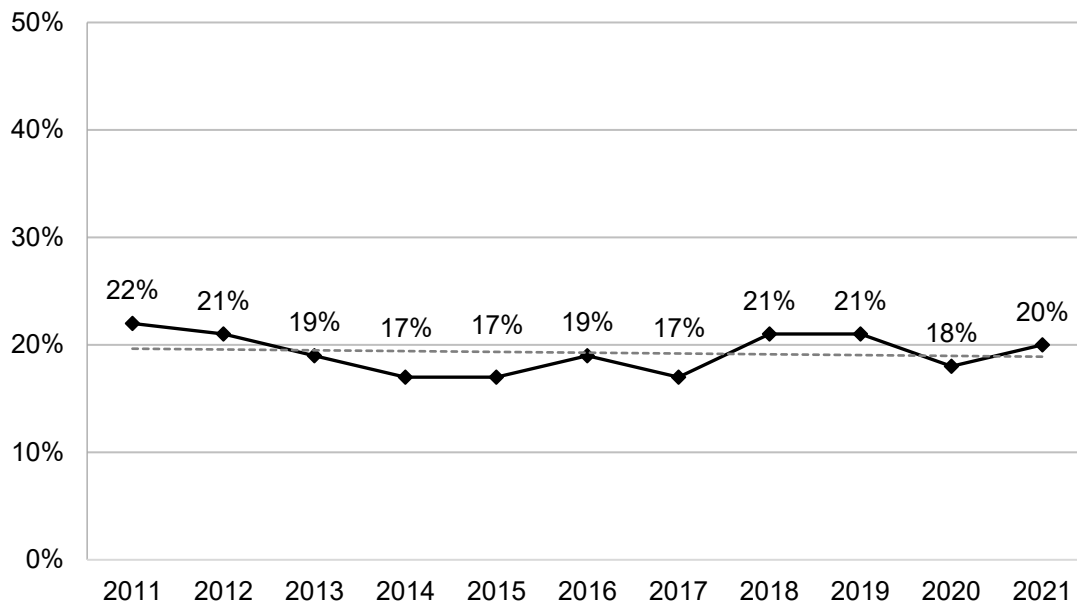
### **Prevalence of Binge Drinking**

- South Dakota 20%
- Nationwide median 15%

### **Trend Analysis**

Overall, the percent of South Dakotans who report binge drinking alcohol in the past 30 days has remained fairly steady since 2011, however, this percent rose from 18 percent in 2020 to 20 percent in 2021. South Dakota is higher than the nationwide median of 15 percent that binge drink.

**Figure 39**  
**Percentage of South Dakotans Who Engage in Binge Drinking, 2011-2021**



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2011-2021

**Table 36  
South Dakotans Who Engage in Binge Drinking, 2017-2021**

		2017-2021	95% Confidence Interval	
			Low	High
<b>Gender</b>	Male	25%	23.8%	26.8%
	Female	14%	12.7%	15.0%
<b>Age</b>	18-29	31%	28.1%	33.7%
	30-39	25%	22.4%	27.9%
	40-49	25%	22.3%	28.0%
	50-59	19%	16.8%	20.9%
	60-69	11%	9.5%	12.6%
	70-79	4%	3.2%	5.5%
	80+	2%	1.3%	3.6%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White, Non-Hispanic	20%	18.5%	20.6%
	American Indian, Non-Hispanic	18%	15.2%	21.5%
	American Indian/White, Non-Hispanic	27%	17.8%	38.3%
	Hispanic	21%	15.0%	28.7%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$35,000	18%	16.5%	20.3%
	\$35,000-\$74,999	20%	18.0%	21.8%
	\$75,000+	24%	22.0%	25.7%
<b>Education</b>	Less than High School, G.E.D.	18%	14.6%	23.0%
	High School, G.E.D.	19%	17.1%	20.7%
	Some Post-High School	21%	19.3%	22.7%
	College Graduate	19%	17.3%	20.4%
<b>Employment Status</b>	Employed for Wages	25%	23.5%	26.5%
	Self-employed	20%	17.7%	23.6%
	Unemployed	21%	16.6%	26.4%
	Homemaker	5%	3.5%	7.4%
	Student	29%	24.0%	35.2%
	Retired	6%	4.9%	7.1%
	Unable to Work	14%	10.5%	18.3%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married/Unmarried Couple	18%	16.4%	18.8%
	Divorced/Separated	20%	17.3%	22.8%
	Widowed	6%	4.2%	8.2%
	Never Married	28%	25.8%	30.8%
<b>Home Ownership Status</b>	Own Home	18%	16.7%	18.8%
	Rent Home	25%	22.8%	27.3%
<b>Children Status</b>	Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	22%	20.1%	24.4%
	No Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	34%	31.6%	37.4%
<b>Phone Status</b>	Landline	11%	10.3%	12.6%
	Cell Phone	22%	21.1%	23.6%
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	6%	1.6%	21.2%
	Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	21%	18.9%	23.5%
<b>County</b>	Minnehaha	20%	17.8%	22.2%
	Pennington	16%	14.0%	18.0%
	Lincoln	19%	15.1%	23.8%
	Brown	19%	16.6%	21.2%
	Brookings	24%	20.5%	28.0%
	Codington	21%	18.6%	23.7%
	Meade	16%	12.8%	19.9%

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2017-2021

## **Demographics**

<b>Gender</b>	Males exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of binge drinking than females.
<b>Age</b>	Binge drinking decreases as age increases, with significant decreases as the 30s, 50s, 60s, and 70s are reached.
<b>Race/ Ethnicity</b>	The prevalence of binge drinking does not seem to differ by race/ethnicity.
<b>Household Income</b>	Binge drinking increases as household income increases. This includes a significant increase as the \$75,000+ income group is reached.
<b>Education</b>	The prevalence of binge drinking does not seem to change as education levels change.
<b>Employment</b>	Those who are employed for wages, unemployed, or a student demonstrate a very high prevalence of binge drinking, while those who are a homemaker or retired show a very low prevalence.
<b>Marital Status</b>	Those who have never been married exhibit a very high prevalence of binge drinking, while those who are widowed show a very low prevalence.
<b>Home Ownership</b>	Those who rent their home show a significantly higher prevalence of binge drinking than those who own their home.
<b>Children Status</b>	Those who have no children in the household demonstrate a significantly higher prevalence of binge drinking than those who have children.
<b>Phone Status</b>	Those who primarily use a cell phone demonstrate a significantly higher prevalence of binge drinking than those who primarily use a landline phone.
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	The prevalence of binge drinking does not seem to differ based on pregnancy status.
<b>County</b>	Brookings and Codington counties exhibit a very high prevalence of binge drinking, while Pennington and Meade counties show a very low prevalence.

## **HEAVY DRINKING**

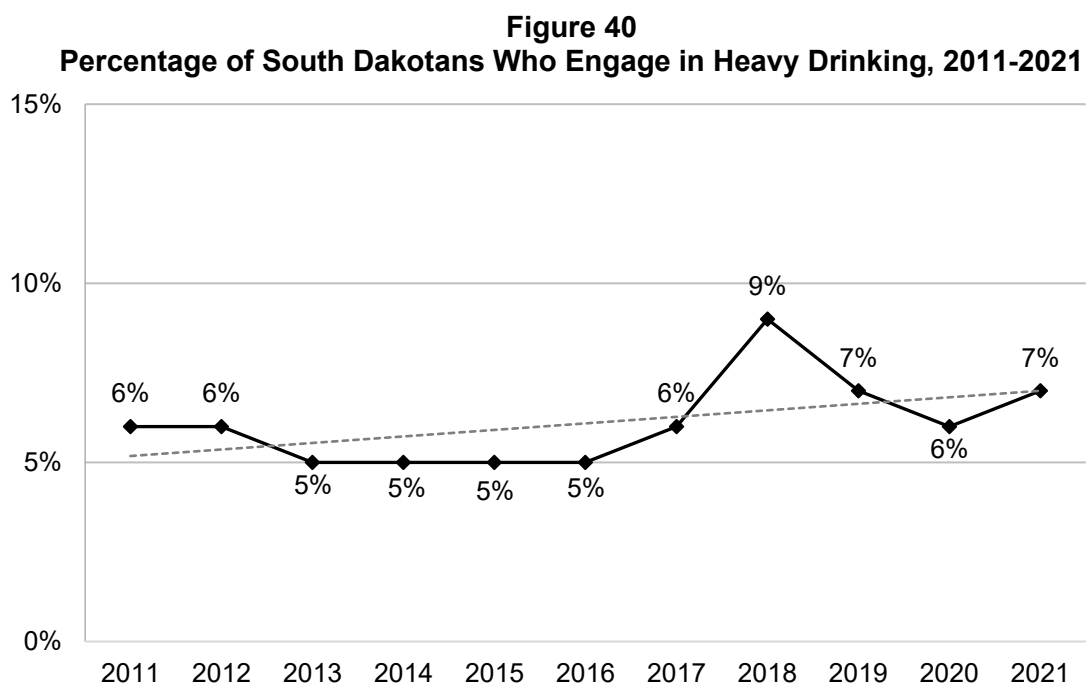
**Definition:** South Dakota males who report having more than 2 drinks per day, or South Dakota females who report having more than 1 drink per day.

### **Prevalence of Heavy Drinking**

- South Dakota 7%
- Nationwide median 6%

### **Trend Analysis**

Overall, the percent of South Dakotans who report heavy drinking has been slightly increasing since 2011. This percent rose from six percent in 2020 to seven percent in 2021. South Dakota is higher than the nationwide median of six percent heavy drinking.



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2011-2021

**Table 37**  
**South Dakotans Who Engage in Heavy Drinking, 2017-2021**

		2017-2021	95% Confidence Interval	
			Low	High
<b>Gender</b>	Male	8%	7.3%	9.3%
	Female	6%	4.9%	6.4%
<b>Age</b>	18-29	9%	7.1%	10.7%
	30-39	7%	5.8%	9.2%
	40-49	9%	6.8%	10.9%
	50-59	7%	5.8%	8.7%
	60-69	6%	5.3%	7.8%
	70-79	3%	2.4%	4.0%
	80+	2%	1.2%	4.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White, Non-Hispanic	7%	6.3%	7.6%
	American Indian, Non-Hispanic	6%	3.6%	8.8%
	American Indian/White, Non-Hispanic	9%	4.4%	16.5%
	Hispanic	6%	3.2%	10.7%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$35,000	7%	5.5%	7.9%
	\$35,000-\$74,999	7%	5.7%	8.0%
	\$75,000+	8%	6.9%	9.5%
<b>Education</b>	Less than High School, G.E.D.	9%	6.7%	12.4%
	High School, G.E.D.	8%	6.9%	9.6%
	Some Post-High School	7%	5.9%	8.1%
	College Graduate	5%	4.1%	5.5%
<b>Employment Status</b>	Employed for Wages	8%	6.8%	8.7%
	Self-employed	8%	6.2%	10.5%
	Unemployed	8%	5.6%	12.3%
	Homemaker	3%	1.8%	5.7%
	Student	7%	4.2%	11.3%
	Retired	5%	3.8%	5.6%
	Unable to Work	7%	4.5%	9.6%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married/Unmarried Couple	6%	5.3%	6.9%
	Divorced/Separated	9%	7.6%	11.8%
	Widowed	5%	3.1%	6.8%
	Never Married	8%	6.9%	10.0%
<b>Home Ownership Status</b>	Own Home	7%	6.0%	7.4%
	Rent Home	8%	6.7%	9.6%
<b>Children Status</b>	Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	7%	5.5%	8.2%
	No Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	10%	8.4%	12.3%
<b>Phone Status</b>	Landline	5%	4.5%	6.3%
	Cell Phone	7%	6.7%	8.3%
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	1%	0.2%	1.5%
	Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	7%	5.3%	8.2%
<b>County</b>	Minnehaha	7%	5.8%	9.0%
	Pennington	6%	4.8%	7.4%
	Lincoln	5%	3.4%	8.3%
	Brown	7%	5.2%	8.3%
	Brookings	7%	5.3%	8.5%
	Codington	8%	6.7%	10.4%
	Meade	9%	6.2%	11.9%

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2017-2021



## **Demographics**

<b>Gender</b>	Males exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of heavy drinking than females.
<b>Age</b>	Heavy drinking generally decreases as age increases. This includes a significant decrease as the 70s are reached.
<b>Race/ Ethnicity</b>	The prevalence of heavy drinking does not seem to differ based on race/ethnicity.
<b>Household Income</b>	The prevalence of heavy drinking does not seem to consistently change as household income increases.
<b>Education</b>	The prevalence of heavy drinking decreases as education levels increase. This includes a significant decrease as the college graduate level is reached.
<b>Employment</b>	Those who are employed for wages or self-employed demonstrate a very high prevalence of heavy drinking, while those who are a homemaker or retired show a very low prevalence.
<b>Marital Status</b>	Those who are divorced or have never been married exhibit a very high prevalence of heavy drinking, while those who are married or widowed show a very low prevalence.
<b>Home Ownership</b>	The prevalence of heavy drinking does not seem to differ based on home ownership status.
<b>Children Status</b>	Those who have no children in the household demonstrate a significantly higher prevalence of heavy drinking than those who have children.
<b>Phone Status</b>	Those who primarily use a cell phone demonstrate a significantly higher prevalence of heavy drinking than those who use primarily use a landline phone.
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	Those who are not pregnant exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of heavy drinking than those who are pregnant.
<b>County</b>	The prevalence of heavy drinking does not seem to differ among the available counties.