

# Adult Alcohol Use Data Summary

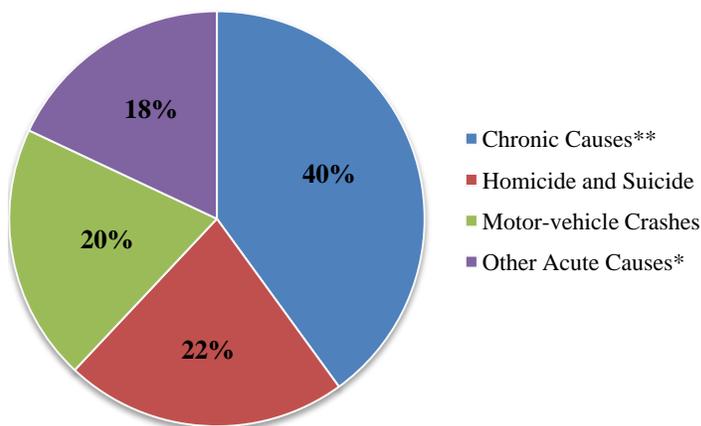
Excessive alcohol use is the third leading preventable cause of death in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

## DEATHS

Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are approximately 2,400 deaths attributable to excessive alcohol use each year in Georgia.<sup>2</sup>

- More Georgia males (1,700) than females (700) die from alcohol-related illnesses or injuries every year.<sup>2</sup>
- Of the alcohol-attributable deaths, approximately 950 (40%) deaths were due to chronic causes, 520 (22%) deaths were due to homicide and suicide, 490 (20%) deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes, and 440 (18%) deaths were due to other acute causes (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup>

Figure 1: Average Percent of Annual Deaths Attributed to Alcohol Use, Georgia, 2001-2005



\*Other acute causes: fall injuries, road vehicle crashes, alcohol poisoning, etc.  
\*\*Chronic causes: alcoholic liver disease, alcohol abuse, stroke, etc.

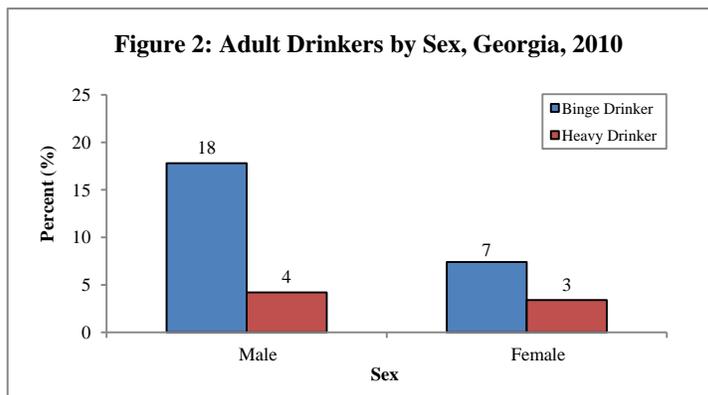
## ADULT ALCOHOL USE

About 3,400,000 adult Georgia residents (48%) used alcohol in the last 30 days. Males (55%) were significantly more likely than females (40%) to use alcohol.

### Binge Drinking

- Binge drinking (four or more drinks per occasion for women and five or more drinks per occasion for men) is associated with motor-vehicle crashes, alcohol poisoning, unsafe sexual activity, and unintended pregnancy.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2010, more than 900,000 (12%) adult Georgia residents engaged in binge drinking, about 4 times a month, and the largest number of drinks per binge was on average 7.
- Adult males (17.8%) were significantly more likely than females (7.4%) to engage in binge drinking (Figure 2).
- The frequency of binge drinking was highest among adult Georgians aged 25-34 yrs. (22%) (Figure 3).

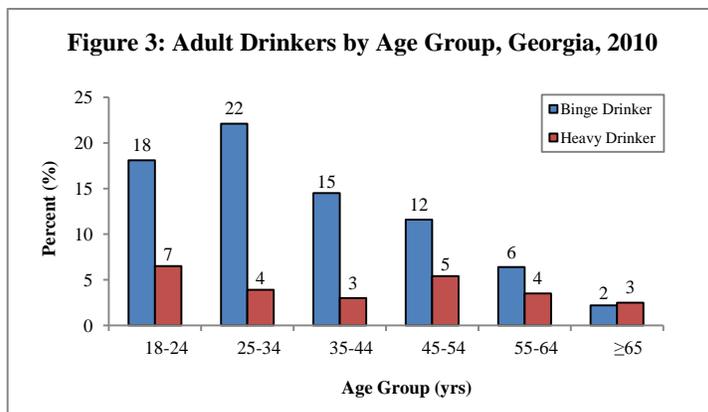
Figure 2: Adult Drinkers by Sex, Georgia, 2010



### Heavy Drinking

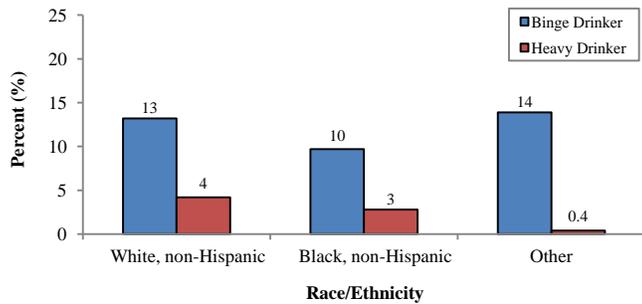
- Heavy alcohol use (more than one drink per day for women and more than two drinks per day for men) increases one's risk for chronic diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, and injury.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2010, approximately 270,000 (4%) of adult Georgia residents participated in heavy alcohol use.
- Non-Hispanic whites (4%) were more likely to engage in heavy drinking than non-Hispanic blacks (3%) and other ethnic/racial groups (0.4%) (Figure 4).
- Heavy drinking was highest among adult Georgians with a household income of \$35,000-\$49,000 (7%) (Figure 5).

Figure 3: Adult Drinkers by Age Group, Georgia, 2010

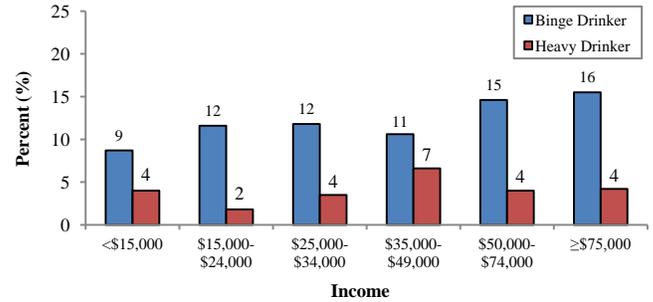


# Adult Alcohol Use Data Summary

**Figure 4: Adult Drinkers by Race/Ethnicity, Georgia, 2010**



**Figure 5: Adult Drinkers by Income, Georgia, 2010**

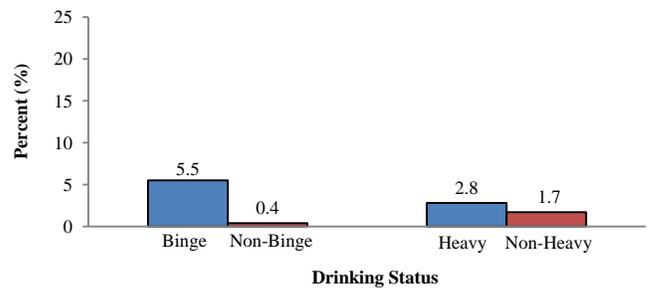


## DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

In 2009, 26% (309 out of 1,172) of Georgia drivers who were in fatal motor vehicle crashes had a positive blood alcohol concentration of 0.08.<sup>4</sup>

- Adults who drink heavily (2.8%) or binge drink (5.5%) were more likely to drive under the influence when compared with adults who did not drink heavily (1.7%) or binge drink (0.4%) (Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Adult Drivers Under the Influence by Type of Drinker, Georgia, 2010**



## Data Source:

2010 Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS): Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the BFRSS is a random telephone survey of a sample of Georgia adults (18 years and older, non-institutionalized civilian population). BFRSS is conducted every year in Georgia with a sample range between 4,800 and 10,000 individuals (based on funding availability).

## References:

- Alcohol-Attributable Deaths and Years of Potential Life Lost --- United States, 2001, CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5337a2.htm>)
- 2001-2005 Alcohol-Related Disease Impact (ARDI) Software, CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/Alcohol/ardi.htm>)
- 2010 Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- 2009 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) (<http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/Main/index.aspx>)

More data on alcohol use in Georgia can be found at <http://www.health.state.ga.us/epi/cdiee/alcohol.asp>