

Alcohol at a Glance, South Carolina

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of **alcohol use**. This information can help local public health and community workers identify gaps and implement relevant strategies to address problems related to alcohol use.

Drunk Driving Laws

- Drivers with blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08% or higher (drunk drivers) are considered alcohol-impaired by law.
- For individuals under the age of 21, BAC of 0.02% or higher is considered DUI.
- Ignition interlock laws and license suspension vary by state and more up-to-date information can be found at South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) at: <https://www.dppps.sc.gov/Ignition-Interlock>

Source: SC Department of Public Safety (SC DPS)

Quick Stats

- About **1 in 2** traffic deaths in South Carolina involves a drunk driver. In 2018, out of 1037 traffic fatalities, **490 (47%)** involved a drunk driver.
- In 2018, out of 522 alcohol-involved fatal crashes, **490 (94%)** resulted in death.

Source: 2017, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

Youth

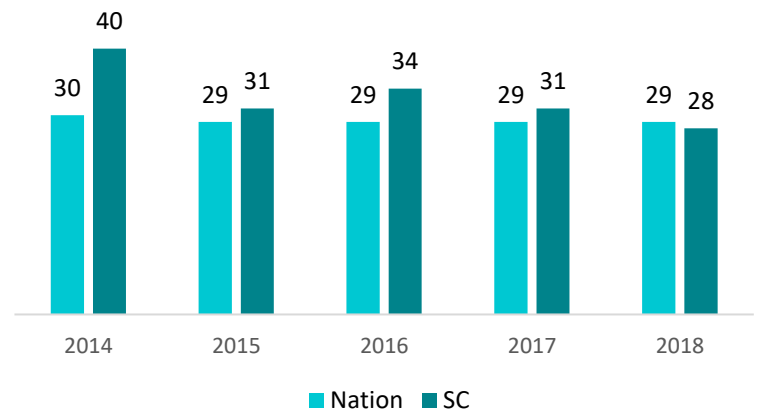
- In 2017, **10.4%** of high-school students reported **binge drinking**.
- In 2017, **22.9%** had at least one drink of alcohol **in past 30 days**.

Adult

- In 2018, **15.1%** of adults reported **binge drinking** (5 more drinks for males & 4 or more drinks for females on one occasion).
- In 2018, **48.5%** of adults have had at least one drink **in past 30 days**.

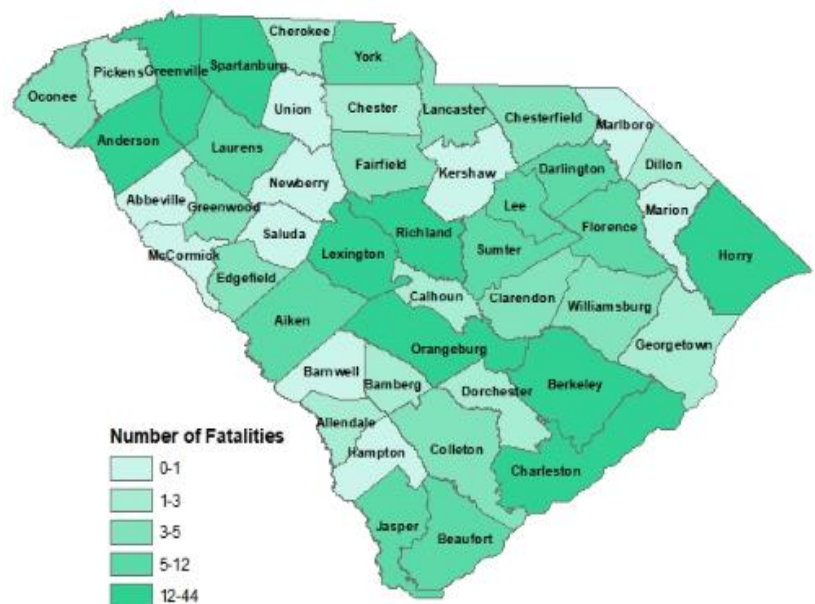
Source: Youth Risk Behaviors Survey (YRBS)
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Percent of Traffic Fatalities Involving a Driver with a BAC of ≥ 0.08



Source: FARS, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Fatal Crashes Involving Alcohol (BAC of ≥ 0.08) by County, 2018



Source: FARS, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Strategies to Prevent Drunk Driving

- "Zero tolerance laws" for people under 21
- Public Safety Checkpoints
- Ignition Interlocks
- Mass media campaigns
- School-based instructional programs
- Screening and Interventions