

# Alcohol and Crime in Wyoming - 2019

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## INTRODUCTION



The Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police has been collecting substance-related data from all persons booked into every county detention facility in Wyoming since 2005.

*To date, information has been collected from a total of 225,792 persons who were arrested and subsequently detained in a detention facility in Wyoming.*

The Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police publish the results and analysis of the data-collection efforts each year in three separate reports. The main report provides statewide statistics and averages, along with comparisons of county statistics in specific categories. An accompanying supplemental report provides county, community and local law enforcement agency specific statistics. This Executive Summary provides selected statistics, information and highlights from the main report.

These reports can be accessed online on the following websites: <http://wascop.com> and <http://jandaconsulting.com>

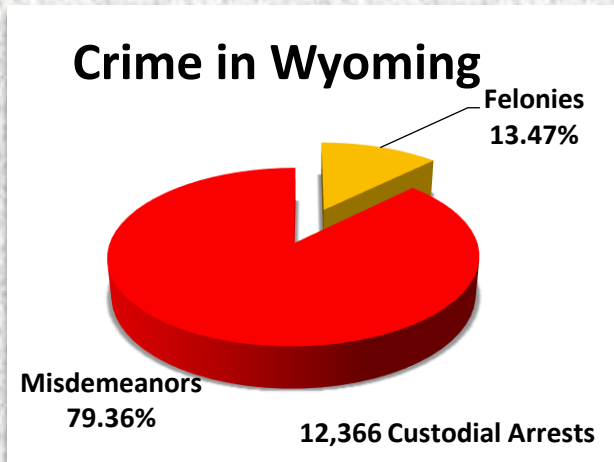
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The profile of the average person taken to jail in Wyoming continues to be relatively consistent with previous years. Three out of four times it was a male (females have increased incrementally in recent years), average age 36. 17% of the time it was an out-of-state visitor and 7% of the time it was an in-state visitor.

Juvenile arrests resulting in detention in a detention facility accounted for less than 1% of the total custodial arrests (52 out of 11,788).



## Alcohol and Crime in Wyoming - 2019



A review of the data collected from 11,788 persons arrested and subsequently taken to jail in 2019 indicates that Wyoming continues to be relatively safe from what is generally considered to be “serious” crime. The number of persons who are arrested for felonies are relatively low when compared to the number of persons arrested for minor crimes (misdemeanors). *However, felony arrests have increased incrementally in recent years and now account for 14.34% of the total arrests statewide.*

Although the number of alcohol-involved arrests has decreased significantly in recent years, alcohol is still the drug with the greatest impact on crime in Wyoming. Incidents of assaults, disturbances, child abuse and domestic violence all are heavily influenced by alcohol.

The statistics in Wyoming collected during the last ten years clearly indicate that the two crimes that account for the greatest number of custodial arrests are Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Public Intoxication. Together these two crimes alone have accounted for an average of 45% of all custodial arrests for each of the last ten years.

*Driving Under the Influence is, unquestionably, the crime that has the greatest impact and consequence in Wyoming. It accounts for the greatest number of custodial arrests and is the cause of more deaths and serious injuries than any other crime.*

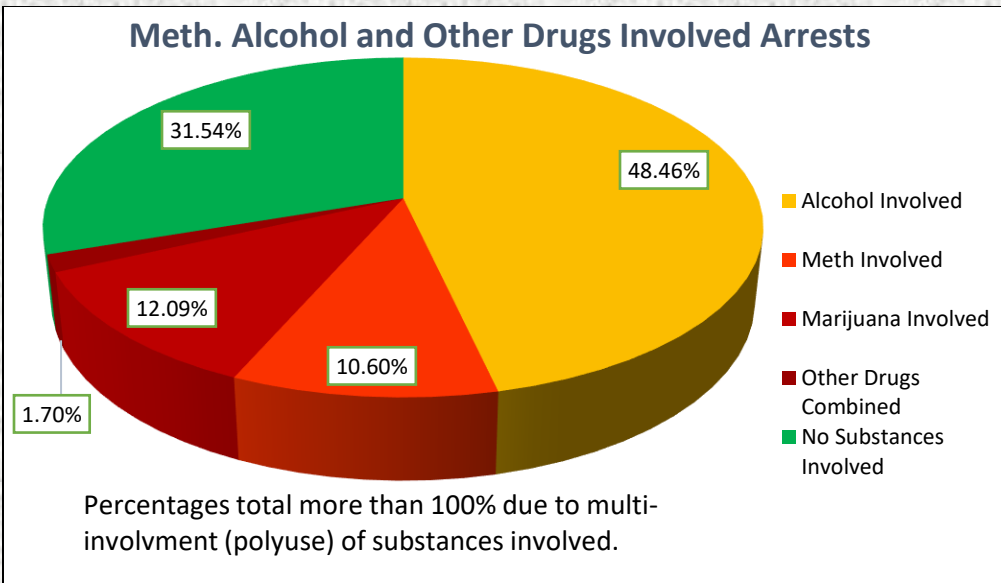


Public Intoxication is viewed by some as just a public nuisance crime; however, incidents of public intoxication present real and significant threats to public safety. The average BAC for public intoxication arrests in Wyoming in 2019 was almost three times the presumptive level for impairment. Alcohol intoxication at this level often “fuels” behavior that results in more serious crimes than just disturbances and nuisances.

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**EMERGING TRENDS IN THE TYPE OF SUBSTANCE INVOLVED IN CRIME:** Although alcohol-involved arrests continue to be the drug most often present in situations that result in someone going to jail, changing trends in the types of substance involvement in crime in Wyoming have recently emerged. During the last ten years in which data is available for a calendar year period (2010-2019), the number and percentage of alcohol-involved arrests have continued to decrease - while the number and percentage of other drug-involved arrests have increased.

- ✦ Alcohol involved arrests in 2019 were 7,933 fewer in number than in 2010 (a 58% decrease).
- ✦ There were 584 more drug-involved arrests in 2019 than in 2010 (a 24% increase).
- ✦ The number of meth-involved arrests has increased each year since 2011 and has more than tripled since then. There were 1,250 meth-involved arrests in 2019 (there were 420 in 2011).
- ✦ The four counties with the highest number of arrests involving meth in 2019 were: 1) Laramie – 281; 2) Natrona – 240; 3) Campbell – 216; and 4) Carbon – 67.
- ✦ No clear trend for marijuana-involved arrests has been established since the Association began collecting this data in March of 2014. Marijuana involvement increased the first three years and has shown a slight decrease for the previous two years.
- ✦ The four counties with the highest number of arrests involving marijuana in 2019 were: 1) Campbell – 232; 2) Laramie – 217; 3) Natrona – 161; and 4) Uinta – 126.



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### SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCE-INVOLVED ARREST STATISTICS FOR 2019:

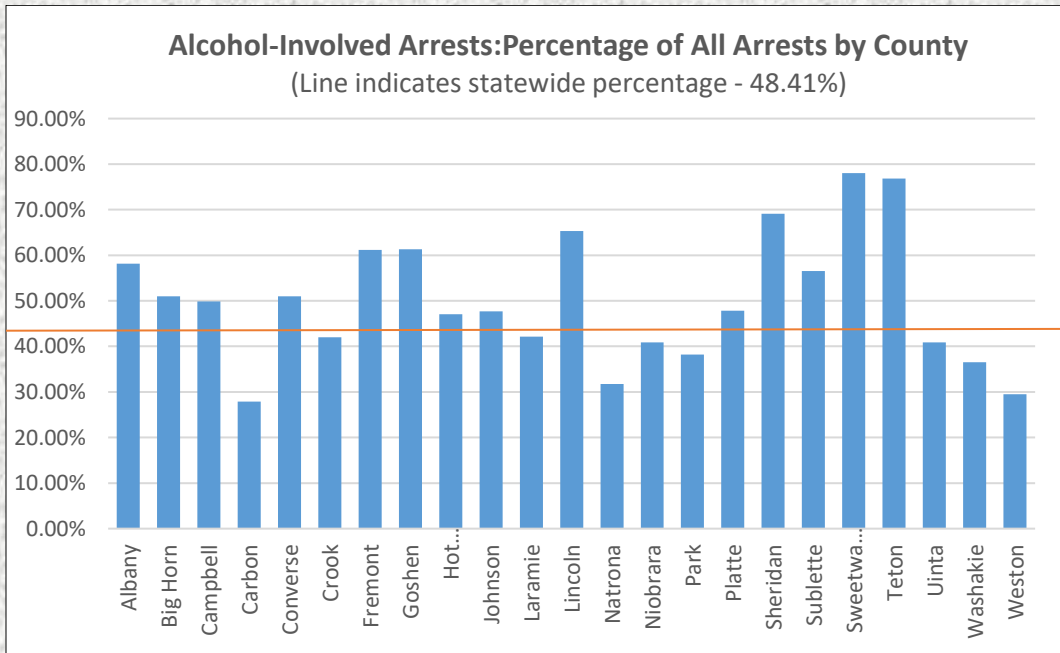
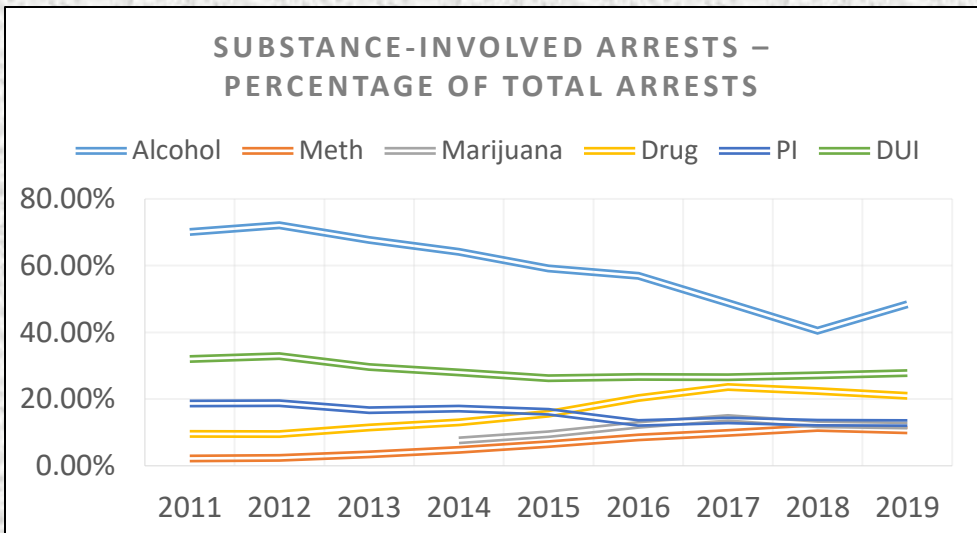
- Alcohol and/or other drugs were involved in 69% of the 11,788 custodial arrests.
- Alcohol was involved in 48.46% of all custodial arrests.
- Methamphetamine was involved in 10.60% of the 11,788 reported arrests.
- Marijuana was involved in 12.09% of all custodial arrests.
- Drugs were involved in 21.00% of the reported arrests.
- Arrests for public intoxication accounted for 12.87% of all arrests.
- The average blood alcohol content for persons arrested for public intoxication was 0.2075.
- Driving under the influence arrests accounted for 27.78% of all arrests.
- The average reported blood alcohol content for DUI arrests statewide was 0.1564<sup>1</sup>
- 48% of persons arrested for DUI had a reported BAC level above 0.16 and 13% had a BAC of 0.24 or greater.
- The average reported BAC for 232 persons who were arrested for DUI after being involved in a traffic crash was 0.1607.
- 12% of person arrested for DUI involved drugs.
- The age group with the highest percentage of DUI arrests were ages 26-30, followed by ages 21-25 and 31-35.



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<sup>1</sup> In Wyoming, a person driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 is legally presumed to be impaired.

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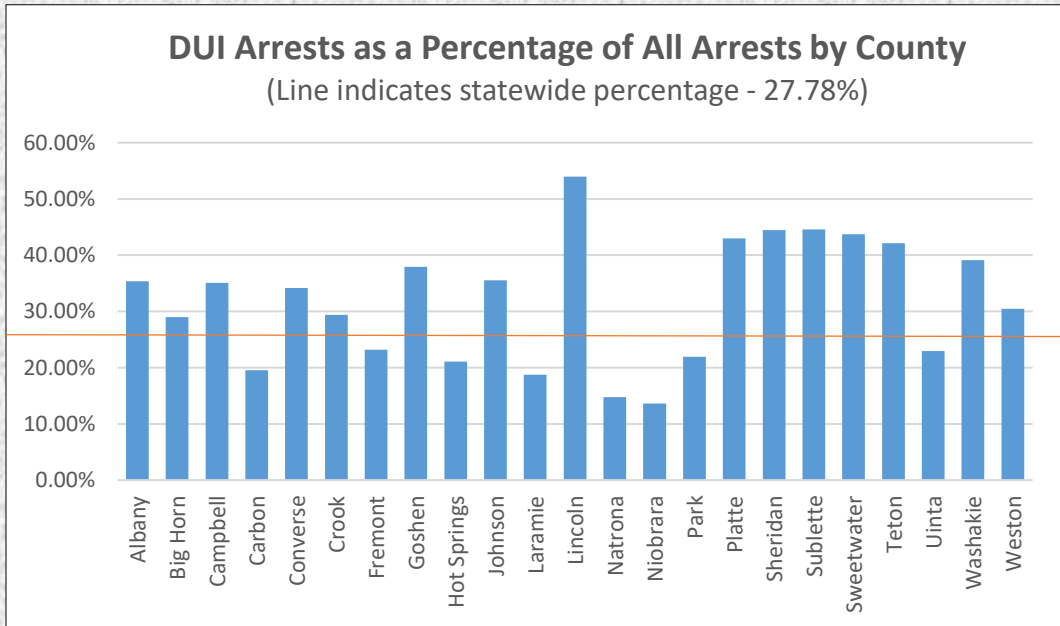


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**TRENDS IN ARRESTS FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING:** DUI arrests account for an approximate average of 27% of all custodial arrests in Wyoming each year and a third of all traffic fatalities are the result of impaired driving.

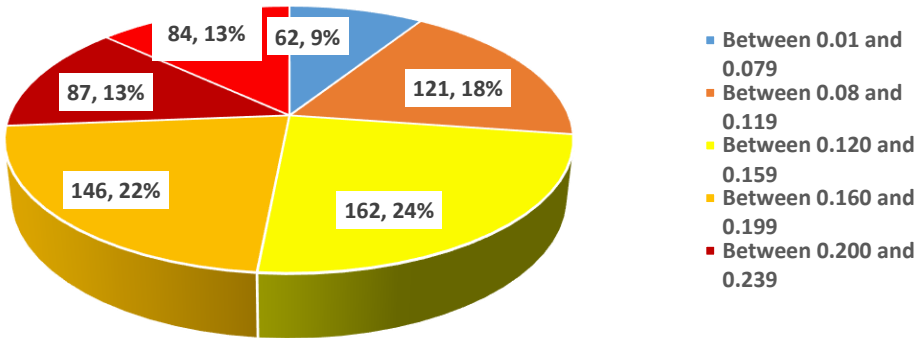


- + The statistics for persons arrested for driving while impaired mirrors the recent trends for all substance-involved arrests.
- + The percentage and number of persons arrested for driving impaired has decreased during the last ten years while the percentage for other drug-involvement for impaired driving arrests has increased.
- + The average blood alcohol content for persons arrested for impaired driving during the last ten years remains at double the presumptive level for impairment.



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### DUI Arrests with Reported BAC in Each Range



### Driving Under the Influence Arrests: 2014 - 2019

| Number of Arrests    | % of Total Arrests    | Average BAC          | Drugs Involved        |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>2015</b><br>3,757 | <b>2015</b><br>26.27% | <b>2015</b><br>.1574 | <b>2015</b><br>13.49% |
| <b>2016</b><br>3,729 | <b>2016</b><br>26.70% | <b>2016</b><br>.1591 | <b>2016</b><br>16.55% |
| <b>2017</b><br>3,628 | <b>2017</b><br>26.60% | <b>2017</b><br>.1670 | <b>2017</b><br>14.47% |
| <b>2018</b><br>3,355 | <b>2018</b><br>27.13% | <b>2018</b><br>.1578 | <b>2018</b><br>14.13% |
| <b>2019</b><br>3,275 | <b>2019</b><br>27.78% | <b>2019</b><br>.1564 | <b>2019</b><br>12.09% |

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## PUBLIC CONCERNS

The high percentage of alcohol involved arrests, the inordinate number of arrests for public intoxication and DUI and the high levels of BAC recorded for these individuals for public intoxication appear to validate the concerns about alcohol abuse expressed by Wyoming residents in the most recent statewide public opinion survey<sup>2</sup>.

Some excerpts from the survey that involved 4,798 Wyoming residents:

- 79.7% view alcohol abuse by Wyoming adults as a serious or somewhat serious problem.
- When Wyoming residents were asked whether they would support a state law that would prohibit selling or serving alcohol to someone who is obviously intoxicated:
  - 64.3% strongly supported such a law
  - 17.9% somewhat supported such a law
- 84.5% of Wyoming residents believe that drinking and driving in their community is a serious or somewhat serious problem.



## SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS AND FINDINGS

Listed below are a few of the noteworthy statewide averages and county specific alcohol-related statistics and findings from the Data/Statistics section of this report.

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- **Alcohol was a factor in 48% of the custodial arrests in Wyoming.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Teton – 76.84%
    - Sweetwater – 76.75%
    - Sheridan – 68.76%

<sup>2</sup> Wyoming Alcohol Use Issues Survey, Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, November 2012



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➤ **Methamphetamine was involved in 10.60% of the arrests statewide.**

- Counties with significantly higher statistics:
  - Laramie – 281 (13.5%)
  - Natrona – 240 (11.33%)
  - Campbell – 216 (15.93%)

➤ **Drugs (other than alcohol) were involved in 21% of the reported arrests statewide.**

- Counties with significantly higher statistics:
  - Park – 31.71%
  - Hot Springs – 30.8%
  - Campbell – 30.24%

➤ **Marijuana was involved in 12.09% of the arrests statewide.**

- Counties with significantly higher statistics:
  - Campbell – 232 (17.11%)
  - Laramie – 217 (10.42%)
  - Natrona – 161 (7.6%)

➤ **Arrests for Public Intoxication accounted for 12.87% of all arrests statewide. (The statewide average does not include persons who were admitted into the VOA Detox Center for public intoxication)**

- Counties with significantly higher statistics:
  - Sweetwater – 26.67%
  - Teton – 22.95%
  - Goshen – 21.77%

➤ **The average blood alcohol content for all persons arrested for public intoxication was 0.2075.**

- Counties with significantly higher statistics:
  - Sublette – 0.2900
  - Park – 0.2440
  - Teton – .2334



## Alcohol and Crime in Wyoming - 2019

- **Driving under the influence (DUI) arrests accounted for 27.76% of all arrests statewide.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Lincoln – 53.98%
    - Sublette – 44.57%
    - Sweetwater – 43.74%
  
- **12.09% of the arrests for DUI involved drugs.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Hot Springs – 17.95%
    - Converse – 16.94%
    - Natrona – 16.61%
  
- **The average blood alcohol content (BAC) reported for 3,275 persons arrested for DUI was .01564.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Teton - 0.1776
    - Converse – 0.1769
    - Johnson – 0.1735



### Substance-Involved Arrests: Number of Total

| Alcohol Involved     | Meth Involved        | Marijuana Involved   | Drug Involved        | Public Intoxication  |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>2015</b><br>9,470 | <b>2015</b><br>1,035 | <b>2015</b><br>1,521 | <b>2015</b><br>2,498 | <b>2015</b><br>2,965 |
| <b>2016</b><br>9,054 | <b>2016</b><br>1,346 | <b>2016</b><br>1,940 | <b>2016</b><br>3,229 | <b>2016</b><br>2,677 |
| <b>2017</b><br>6,660 | <b>2017</b><br>1,351 | <b>2017</b><br>1,957 | <b>2017</b><br>3,223 | <b>2017</b><br>1,858 |
| <b>2018</b><br>5,011 | <b>2018</b><br>1,404 | <b>2018</b><br>1,542 | <b>2018</b><br>2,776 | <b>2018</b><br>1,597 |
| <b>2019</b><br>5,707 | <b>2019</b><br>1,250 | <b>2019</b><br>1,425 | <b>2019</b><br>2,475 | <b>2019</b><br>1,517 |