

# **Executive Summary**

2016

## **ALCOHOL and CRIME in WYOMING**



**Wyoming Association of Sheriffs  
and Chiefs of Police**

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# Alcohol and Crime in Wyoming - 2016

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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 facilities in Wyoming since 2005.

*To date, information has been collected from a total of 186,102 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

This Executive Summary highlights a few of the significant findings contained in the main report. It focuses on issues that are of obvious concern or which may be of greater interest to the general public.

However, a careful review of other relevant findings and statistics contained in the main body of this report is essential in order to gain a more complete perspective of the impact of alcohol on crime in Wyoming.



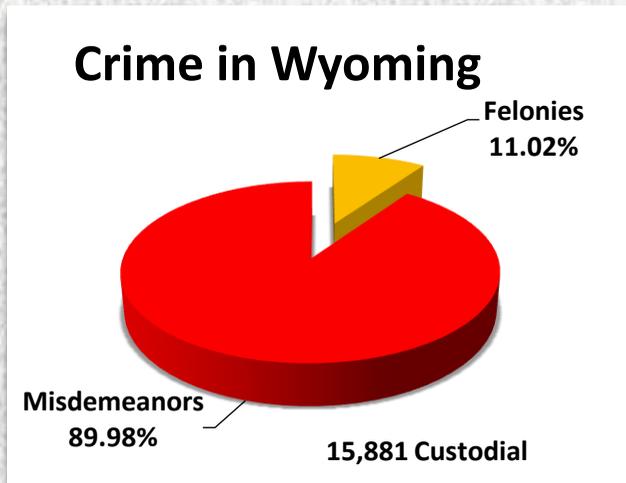
## Alcohol and Crime in Wyoming - 2016

The profile of the average person taken to jail in Wyoming continues to be relatively consistent with previous years. About eight out of ten times it was a male (although females have increased incrementally in recent years, 23% this year), average age 36. 13.5% of the time it was an out-of-state visitor and 6.7% 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 (77 out of 15,881).



A review of the data collected from persons arrested and subsequently taken to jail 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). ***Felony arrests accounted for 11.02% of the total arrests statewide.***

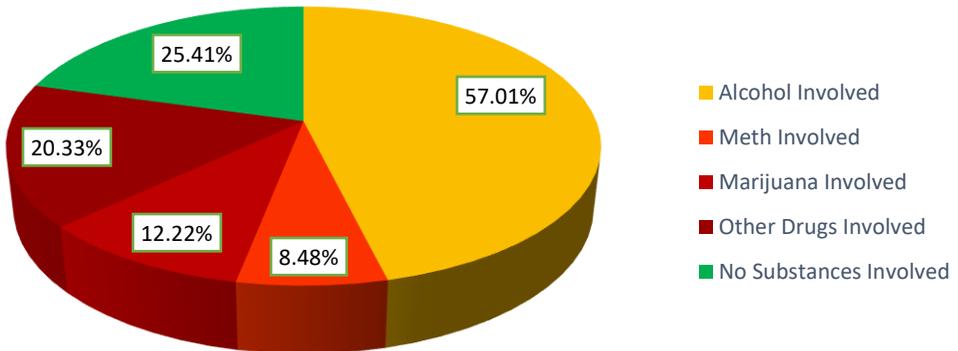
***Although Wyoming is relatively “safe” from what is generally considered to be serious crime (felonies), the high percentage of alcohol-involved arrests, the inordinate number of arrests for public intoxication and driving under the influence, and the high levels of blood alcohol content for drivers arrested for being impaired represent real and significant threats to public safety.***



*The information collected from a total of 15,881 persons who were arrested and subsequently detained in a county detention facility in Wyoming during 2016 confirms what law enforcement officers who patrol the streets and highways and who respond to calls for service in Wyoming already know from experience – alcohol is the contributing factor most often present in situations that result in someone going to jail.*

## Alcohol and Crime in Wyoming - 2016

### Meth. Alcohol and Other Drugs Involved Arrests



#### SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCE-INVOLVED ARREST STATISTICS FOR 2016:

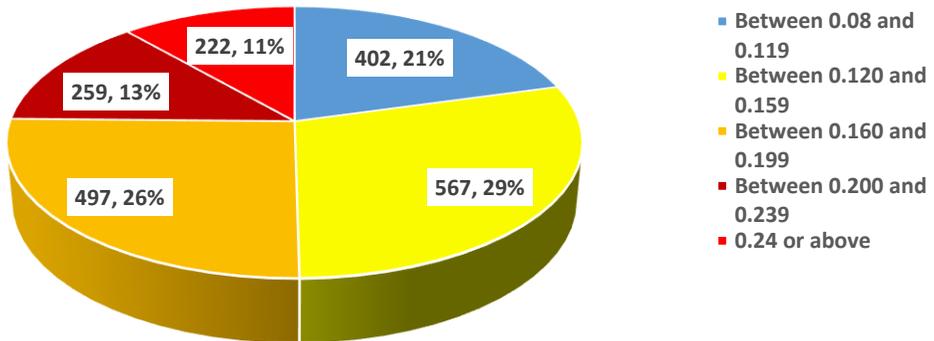
- Alcohol was involved in 57.01% of all custodial arrests.
- Methamphetamine was involved in 8.48% of the 15,881 reported arrests.
- Marijuana was involved in 12.22% of all custodial arrests.
- Drugs were involved in 20.33% of the reported arrests.
- Arrests for public intoxication accounted for 12.86% of all arrests.
- The average blood alcohol content for persons arrested for public intoxication was 0.2317.
- Driving under the influence arrests accounted for 23.46% of all arrests.

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- The average reported blood alcohol content for DUI arrests statewide was 0.1591.<sup>1</sup>
- 50% of persons arrested for DUI had a reported BAC level above 0.16 and 11% had a BAC of 0.24 or greater.
- The average reported BAC for 562 persons who were arrested for DUI after being involved in a traffic crash was 0.1975.
- The age group with the highest percentage of DUI arrests was age 21-25, followed by age 26-30 and 31-35.



### DUI Arrests with Reported BAC in Each Range



<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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*To grasp the significance of the blood alcohol content statistics, it should be noted that a physically fit male who weighs 180 pounds would have to consume at least seven drinks in one hour in order to achieve a BAC of 0.15 – a female weighing 120 pounds would have to consume five drinks in one hour.*

Please refer to the Alcohol Impairment Educational Guides for males and females in the Attachments Section of the main report for information about the level of impairment for other body weights and drinks consumed.



### EMERGING TRENDS



#### **EMERGING TRENDS IN THE TYPE OF SUBSTANCE INVOLVED IN CRIME:**

Alcohol and/or other drugs were involved in 77% of the 15,881 custodial arrests in 2016.

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 seven years in which data is available for a calendar year period (2010-2016), the number and percentage of *alcohol-*

*involved arrests have decreased* - while the number and percentage of *other drug-involved arrests have increased*.

The number of alcohol-involved arrests have decreased each year since 2010. Alcohol-involved arrests in 2016 were 4,545 fewer in number (a 33% decrease) than in 2010.

The number of other drug-involved arrests has increased each year since 2010 (except for one year). Drug-involved arrests were 1,437 more in number (an 80% increase) than in 2010. The number of

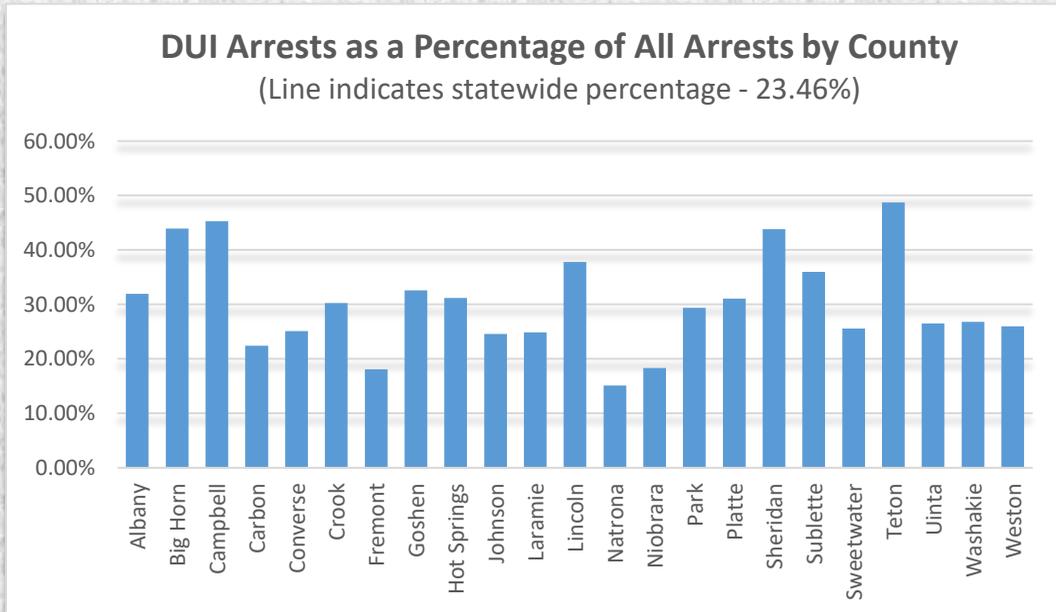
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meth-involved arrests has increased each year since 2010 and has more than doubled during the last three years. There were 1,346 meth-involved arrests in 2016 (311 more than in 2015).

The Association began collecting marijuana-involved arrest data in March of 2014 to assess the impact on public safety in Wyoming from Colorado's legalization of marijuana. Data collected thus far indicates an increase in the number and percentage of marijuana-involved arrests in 2016 – 12.22% for 2016 compared to 9.5% in 2015.

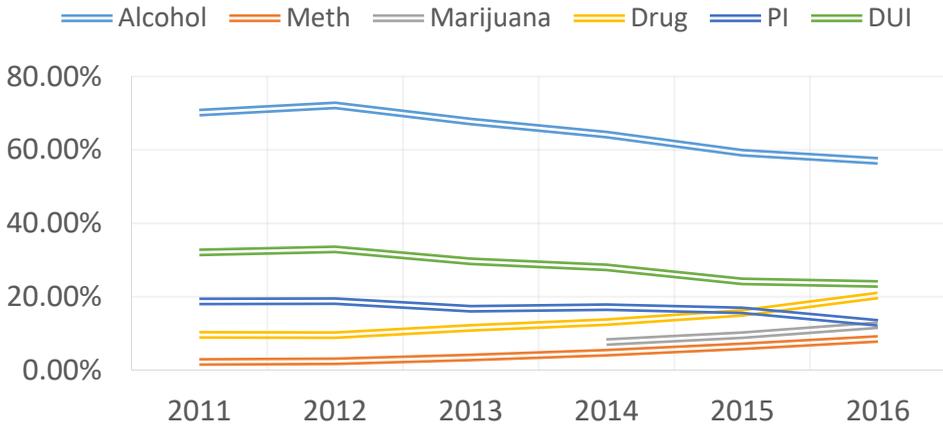
**TRENDS IN ARRESTS FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING:** The statistics for persons arrested for driving while impaired mirrors the recent trends for all substance-involved arrests. The percentage and number of persons arrested for driving impaired has decreased during each of the last seven years while the percentage for other drug-involvement for impaired driving arrests has increased.

And, the average blood alcohol content for persons arrested for impaired driving during the last seven years remains at double the presumptive level for impairment – while the average blood alcohol content for persons arrested for public intoxication remains at almost three times the presumptive level.



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## SUBSTANCE-INVOLVED ARRESTS – PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ARRESTS



## Substance-Involved Arrests: Number of Total Arrests

Alcohol Involved	Meth Involved	Drug Involved	Public Intoxication	DUI
2012 13,213	2012 444	2012 1,745	2012 4,601	2012 4,761
2013 12,638	2013 643	2013 2,146	2013 4,241	2013 4,353
2014 11,143	2014 823	2014 2,261	2014 3,501	2014 4,216
2015 9,470	2015 1,035	2015 2,498	2015 2,965	2015 3,757
2016 9,054	2016 1,346	2016 3,229	2016 2,677	2016 3,729

Alcohol and Crime in Wyoming: 2012-2016

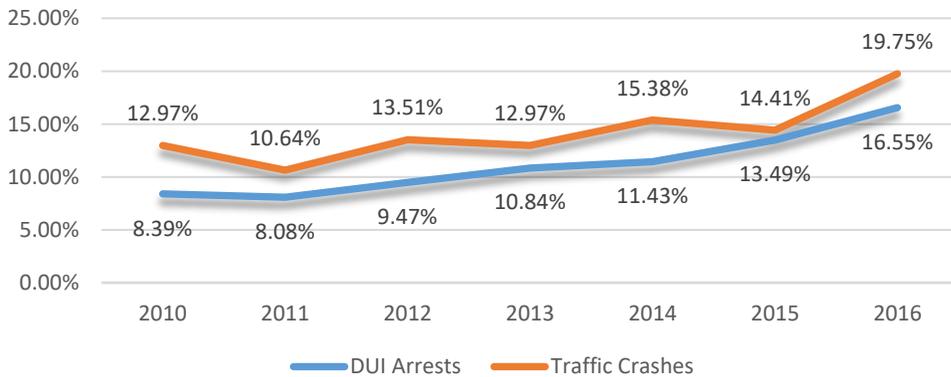
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## Driving Under the Influence Arrests: 2012 - 2016

Number of Arrests	% of Total Arrests	Average BAC	Drugs Involved
2012 4,761	2012 32.89%	2012 .156	2012 9.47%
2013 4,353	2013 29.60%	2013 .1556	2013 10.84%
2014 4,216	2014 28%	2014 .1556	2014 11.43%
2015 3,757	2015 26.27%	2015 .1574	2015 13.49%
2016 3,729	2016 23.46%	2016 .1591	2016 16.55%

Alcohol and Crime in Wyoming: 2012-2016

## Drug Involvement



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## PUBLIC CONCERNS



*The statistics contained in this report identify significant public safety issues which merit further discussion, analysis and action by local law enforcement, citizens and state/community leaders*

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 57% of the custodial arrests in Wyoming.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Teton – 89.03%
    - Sheridan – 73.46%
    - Fremont – 67.23%

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

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- **Methamphetamine was involved in 8.48% of the arrests statewide.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Lincoln – 17.27%
    - Weston – 15.58%
    - Uinta – 14.05%
  
- **“Other” drugs were involved in 20.33% of the reported arrests statewide.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Platte – 40.34%
    - Carbon – 39.04%
    - Lincoln – 34.89%
  
- **Marijuana was involved in 12.22% of the arrests statewide.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Platte – 33.61%
    - Carbon – 26.58%
    - Converse – 22.09%
  
- **Arrests for Public Intoxication accounted for 12.86% of all arrests statewide.** *(The statewide average does not include 729 persons who were admitted into the VOA Detox Center for public intoxication)*
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Fremont – 27.54%
    - Teton – 25.35%
    - Laramie – 21.74%
  
- **The average blood alcohol content for all persons arrested for public intoxication was 0.2317.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Goshen – 0.3090
    - Carbon – 0.2891
    - Sheridan – .2483
  
- **Driving under the influence (DUI) arrests accounted for 23.46% of all arrests statewide.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Teton – 48.73%
    - Campbell – 45.30%
    - Big Horn – 43.93%    Sheridan – 43.85%
  
- **16.55% of the arrests for DUI involved drugs.**
  - Counties with significantly higher statistics:
    - Carbon – 33.33%
    - Big Horn – 21.91%
    - Lincoln – 24.10%
  
- **49% of persons arrested for DUI had an average blood alcohol content above 0.16.**

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**April 2017**

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