



Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices
to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.

OMAHA COALITION MEETING
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
9 a.m.

Please use to sign-in:



A G E N D A

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review of the August 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes
(please contact PEM staff with corrections)
- III. Using Data to Inform Alcohol Prevention Efforts
Jobert Tiendrebeogo, DHHS Department of Behavioral Health
Mindy Anderson-Knott, PIE Evaluation
- IV. Focus Area Updates
 - a. Local
 - i. Elizabeth O'Connor
 - b. Policy
 - i. ACS Cancels Alcohol Fundraiser
 - c. Enforcement
 - i. End of Summer Compliance Checks
 - ii. Public Presentation at LCC
 - d. Youth
 - i. Matthew L.
 - ii. Youth Leadership Network – September 21st at 7:00 p.m.
 - e. Awareness
 - i. September Research Summary available at www.projectextramile.org
- V. Additional Discussion/Announcements
- VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: **October 7 @ 9 a.m. – Michelle Cowan**
UNO's Community Engagement Center, Room 209

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Alcohol Policy Conference (Arlington, VA) – September 28 – October 1, 2026
Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Hearings – October 6, 2026

6001 Dodge Street, CEC 228
Omaha, Nebraska 68182-0600
402.963.9047
www.projectextramile.org

PROJECT EXTRA MILE

OMAHA METRO AREA COALITION MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2026

- I. Call to Order: Coalition Chair Tom Safranek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- II. Welcome and Introductions: Coalition members and speakers in attendance in: Maggie Ballard, Derek Schwartz, Alvin McCruel, Levelle Wells, Palistene Gray-Moore, Julie Lubisi, Thuli Lubisi, Jeremy Leifeld, Cody McGee, Sakura Yodogawa-Campbell, Genevieve Leonard, Cody Bittner, and Nicholas Sauma. Coalition members in attendance via Zoom: Lanette Richards, Tom Safranek, Brian Ortner, Jona Beck, Elizabeth Woods, Jeanne Bietz, Caleb Vaughan, Don Preister, Saral Sapkota, Orin Orchard, David Wissing, and Journey Noyes. Staff members: Chris Wagner and Liene Topko.
- III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the May 13th meeting were included in the coalition meeting packet. No additions or corrections were made.
- IV. Engaging with PHAN for Community Health and Safety: Julie Lubisi, executive director of the Public Health Association (PHAN), explained that PHAN's mission is to unite and amplify the voice of public health to promote healthier and safer communities in Nebraska. Strategic priorities include advocacy, strategic partnerships, organizational capacity, diversified revenue, and membership growth. The association has grown from 100 to 800 members in the past 18 months and engages The organization hosts virtual PHAN Cafes (webinars) on diverse topics for their members. The first Policy Institute was hosted in February to engage members in the policymaking process and educate them about what they are able to do as organizations and individuals. Julie also shared that public health is so broad that some issues like alcohol and tobacco misuse are forgotten because use is normalized despite being tied to so many other issues. She invited coalition members to become part of PHAN, present at PHAN Cafes, or send suggestions regarding future presentations. Following the presentation, there was some discussion around the Nebraska Healthcare Cash Fund and other public health funding streams that have been impacted by local or federal funding cuts.
- V. Focus Area Updates
 - a. Local
 - i. Liene Topko shared that two impaired driving fatality crashes during July claimed the lives of three people in Omaha, including two children ages 5 and 10. Chris Wagner discussed the need for stronger policies to prevent excessive consumption which caused these crashes. It was also noted that this was not the first DUI for one of the individuals and that there needs to be more done regarding repeat offenders.
 - ii. Topko also shared that PEM presented at the first Impaired Driving Summit was held in York, NE on July 30th with approximately 100 attendees including law enforcement, prosecutors, and public health and safety representatives. The day focused on drug and alcohol impaired driving and how to prevent crashes across the state.

- b. Policy
 - i. Wagner discussed that the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) has gone through major changes since the new executive director took over. There are also two new commissioners and a lot of new staff members. As a result of all this, the LCC is working toward transparency and put out a survey for industry members and others to fill out to share their thoughts on legislation, rules & regulations, the new online system, and more. PEM submitted comments asking for expanded compliance checks for delivery and overservice, making the public complaint and license protest process more accessible, strengthening public health and safety efforts, and resisting industry influence in legislation and beyond.
 - ii. The LCC Commissioners continue to reduce the penalty for sales to a minor. PEM, Monument Prevention Coalition (Scottsbluff), and other coalitions will plan to speak to the Commissioners during the October 6th meeting's Public Presentation.
- c. Enforcement
 - i. Douglas and Sarpy County alcohol retail compliance checks are scheduled for the coming weeks thanks to law enforcement in the Omaha Metro area.
 - ii. After decades of nonparticipation, the Fremont Police Dept. plans to conduct compliance checks in the coming months with PEM's support. This is a result of their participation in PEM's 2026 Law Enforcement Training and ongoing conversations between the agency and PEM.
- d. Youth
 - i. The Youth Leadership Retreat took place on June 1-3 and had 21 participants. A youth attendee shared how fun, engaging, and educational the experience is. The students get to know each other, learn different perspectives, and work on how to improve their communities at the same time.
 - ii. The next Youth Leadership Network meeting is on August 17th at 7:00 p.m.

VI. Awareness:

- a. Dr. Tom Safrank praised PEM's op-ed in the Lincoln Journal Star. The op-ed was included in the coalition packet.
- b. The June – August Research Summaries are available at www.projectextramile.org/ResearchSummary

VII. Additional Discussion/Announcements:

- a. Maggie Ballard with Heartland Family Service and Prevention Means Progress shared two events:
 - i. Hands Across the Bridge for Recovery on September 19th at 10 a.m. on the Council Bluffs side of the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge
 - ii. Drug Endangered Children's Coalition meeting at noon today
- b. Genevieve Leonard with Northpoint Recovery shared they will have an open house on September 9th at 1:30-3:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting will be on September 9th.

ALCOHOL

Prevalence , Consequences, and Perceptions and Social Norms

Introduction

The Nebraska State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) facilitated the 2025 Nebraska Epidemiological Profile through SAMHSA discretionary funds awarded through the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grant. The profile provides an overview of substance use and misuse and associated consequences, as well as an overview of mental health conditions in Nebraska.

The 2025 profile is a four-part document consisting of summarized findings on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and illicit drugs, and mental health conditions. Each part of the profile can be used independently or together as a whole. Data is presented on the prevalence of substance use and misuse behaviors and mental health conditions, consequences of substance misuse, and perceptions of substance use and misuse.

The data presented in the profile were sourced from either publicly available datasets or Nebraska DHHS-wide data systems. This includes data from state, regional, and national surveys. Given the nature of the data, limitations to be considered include different timeframes for data due to varying data collection periods and data may not always be representative of the actual population of the state or nation depending on reporting requirements. Each page of the profile includes the data sources and years used to obtain the presented data. More information on data sources can be found in the sources page at the end of each profile.

Several conventions were used to present and analyze the data across multiple sources. Pending data availability, indicators are presented for three age groups: adolescents (12-17 years or grades 9-12, depending on the data source), young adults (18-25 years or 19-25 years, depending on the data source), and adults (18 years and above or 26 years and above, depending on the data source).

Data for Nebraska, the Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin), and the U.S., as well as between demographic groups within Nebraska were compared for statistically significant differences using group margins of error where possible. Statistically significant differences indicate that the difference between groups is likely real and not due to random chance, while margins of error show how much that difference could vary among individuals in the compared groups. If the margins of error for compared groups have little overlap, the groups can be considered truly different.



Magenta alert symbols (like the one shown on the left) identify indicators where there was a worsening trend over time, or where Nebraska residents performed worse than their peers in the U.S.

As with previous epidemiological profiles, the primary goal of this profile is to serve as a resource for local communities, coalitions, stakeholders, and behavioral and public health professionals that are involved in substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion. The profile was designed to be practical and useful to Nebraska residents in instances such as grant writing, strategic planning, and evaluation activities.

This profile is intended to encourage discussion and inspire future actions to improve the health and wellness of Nebraskans.

The SEOW partnered with Partners for Insightful Evaluation and the Methodology and Evaluation Research Core Facility at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to develop the 2025 profile. For additional information on the profile, please contact Jobert Tiendrebeogo, DBH Epidemiologist at Jobert.Tiendrebeogo@nebraska.gov

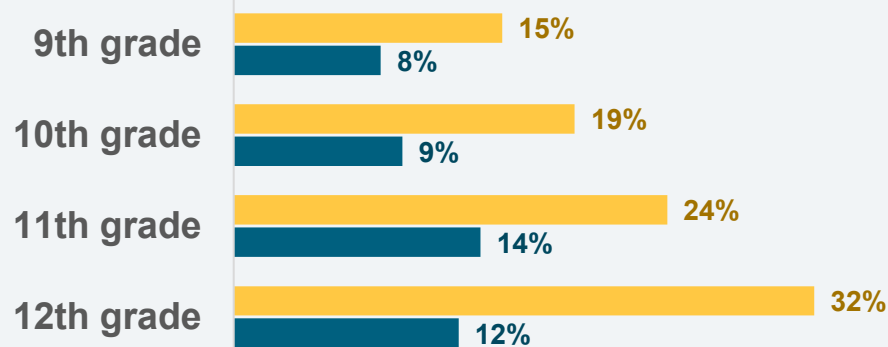
Prevalence

High School Students

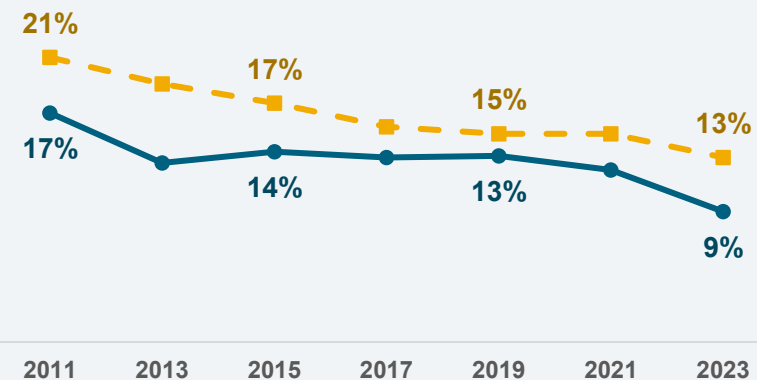
Half as many high school students in Nebraska reported having at least **one alcoholic drink in the past month** as high school students across the U.S. in 2023.

11%
in Nebraska
22%
in the U.S.

In 2023, **students across the U.S.** were significantly more likely to **drink alcohol** with each grade level. This difference was not present for **Nebraska students**.



Significantly fewer high school students **in Nebraska** reported **trying alcohol before turning 13** compared to peers **in the United States** in 2023.



About half of Nebraska teens obtained their alcohol by **someone giving it to them** in 2023.

51%
in Nebraska
42%
in the U.S.

Female students were more likely to report they obtained their alcohol by someone giving it to them than **male students** in 2023.

62% Female **40% Male**

The CDC defines binge drinking as having five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks for women on one occasion.



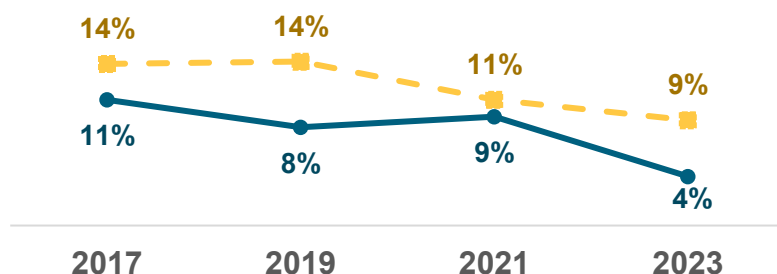
For Men
5+ Drinks



For Women
4+ Drinks

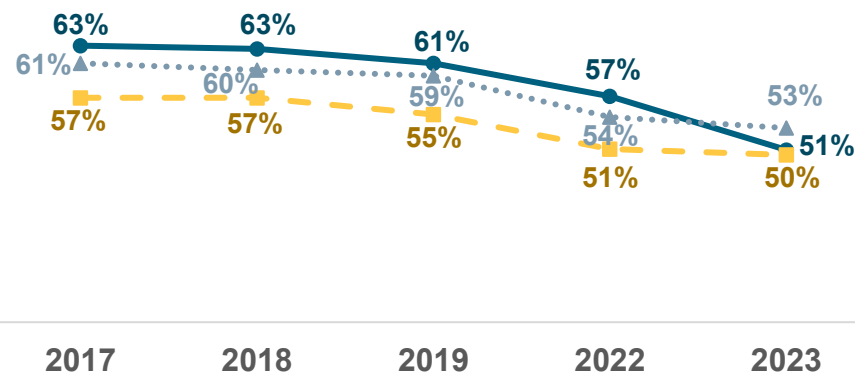
Binge drinking rates have significantly declined from 2017 to 2023 in **Nebraska** and across the **U.S.**

In 2023, half as many high school students in Nebraska reported current **binge drinking** than their peers across the U.S., which was significantly lower.

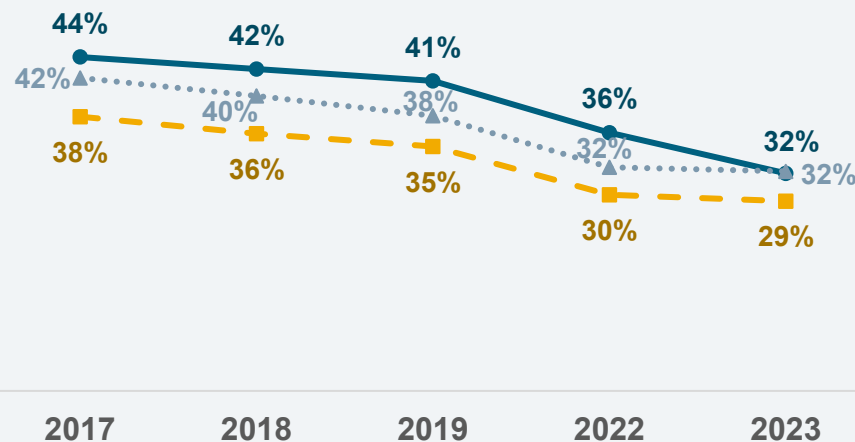


Young Adults

Current alcohol use among young adults significantly decreased in **Nebraska**, the **Midwest**, and **the U.S.** from 2017 to 2023.



The number of young adults who **binge drink** in **Nebraska**, the **Midwest** and **across the U.S.** significantly decreased from 2017 to 2023.

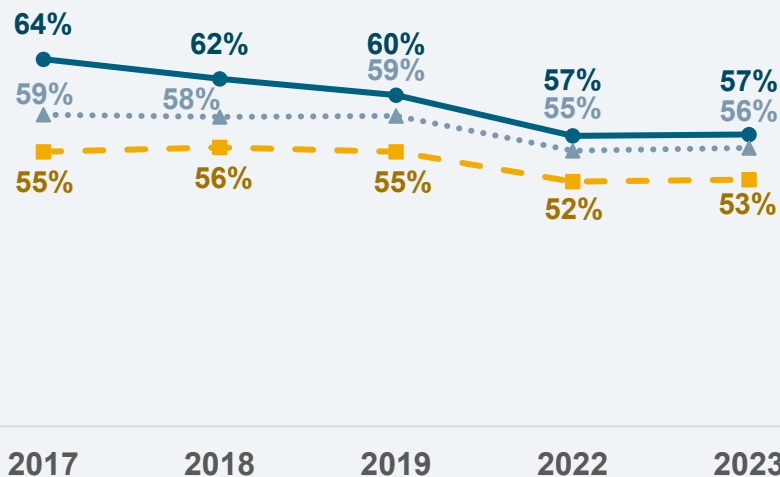


NOTE: Current alcohol use is defined as having at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days.

SOURCES: CDC 2024, NSDUH 2017-2023, YRBS 2017-2023

Adults

Current alcohol use among adults significantly decreased in **Nebraska**, the **Midwest**, and **the U.S.** from 2017 to 2023.



Significantly **more adults in Nebraska** drank alcohol in 2023 as compared to adults in the United States. 

In 2023, one in four adults in Nebraska reported **binge drinking**, which was the 8th highest estimate among U.S. states. 

NE	MW	U.S.
25%	25%	23%

6% of adults in Nebraska reported **heavy drinking** in 2023 (the same as their peers across the U.S.).

NOTES: Current alcohol use is defined as having at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days. The CDC defines heavy drinking as having 15 or more drinks in a week for men and having 8 or more drinks in a week for women.

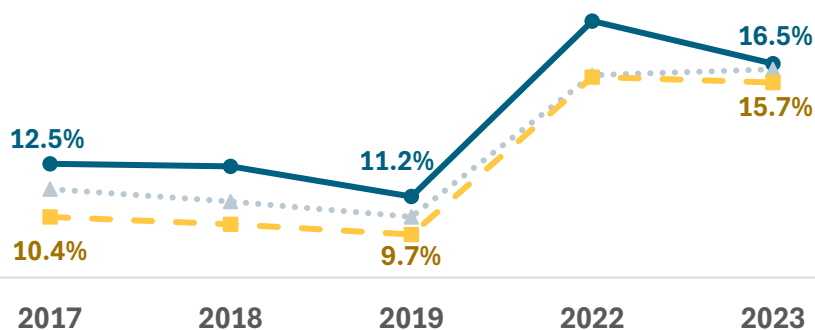
SOURCES: BRFSS 2023, NSDUH 2017-2023

Consequences

Alcohol Use Disorder

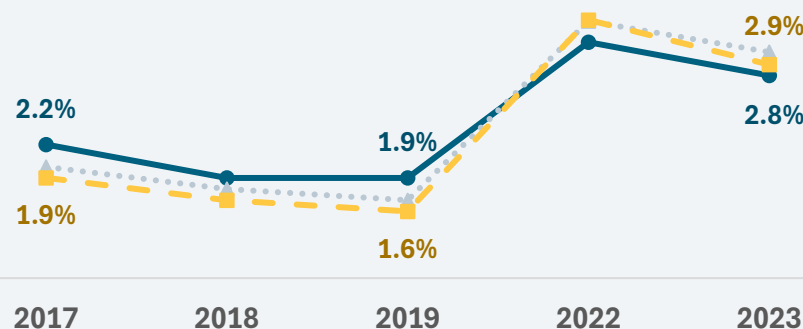
is a chronic relapsing brain disorder characterized by an impaired ability to stop or control alcohol use despite adverse social, occupational, or health consequences.

While the number of **adolescents** who reported having an alcohol use disorder increased from 2017 to 2023 in **Nebraska**, the **Midwest**, and the **U.S.**, these increases were statistically significant only for adolescents in the Midwest and the U.S.

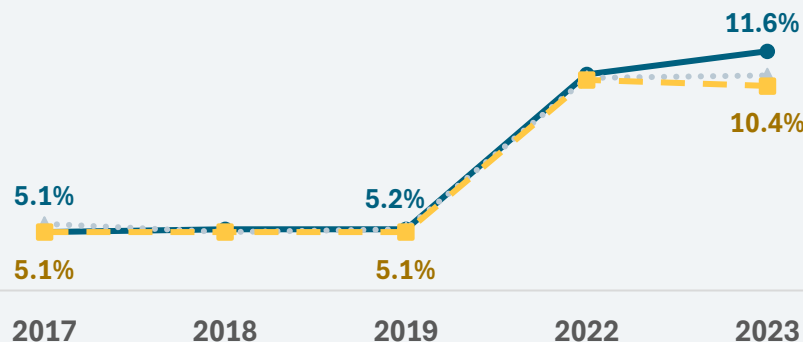


Significantly more adults in Nebraska, the Midwest, and the U.S. reported having an alcohol use disorder in 2023 compared to 2017.

Across all age groups, **Nebraska residents** reported alcohol use disorders at similar levels to their peers in the **Midwest** and the **United States** in 2023.



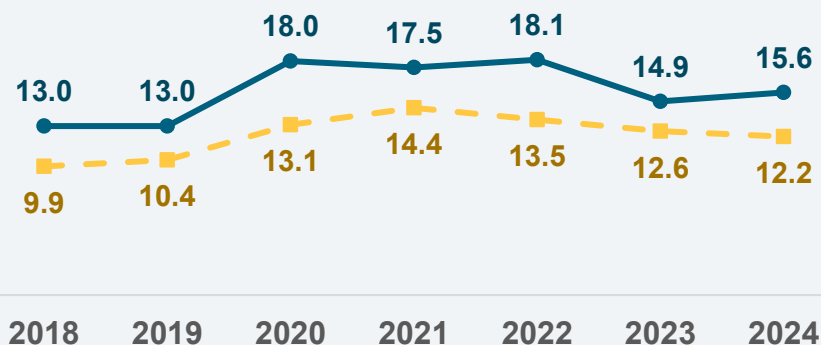
The number of **young adults** who reported having an alcohol use disorder in **Nebraska**, the **Midwest**, and the **U.S.** increased overall from 2017 to 2023. However, these increases were statistically significant only for those in the Midwest and the U.S.



Alcohol-Attributable Deaths

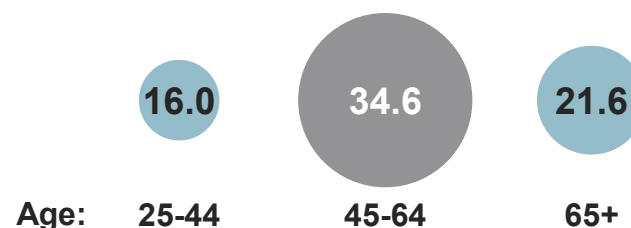
Alcohol-attributable deaths refer to deaths caused by alcohol use.

The age-adjusted rate of **alcohol-attributable deaths** in **Nebraska** continues to be significantly higher than **national** rates. 

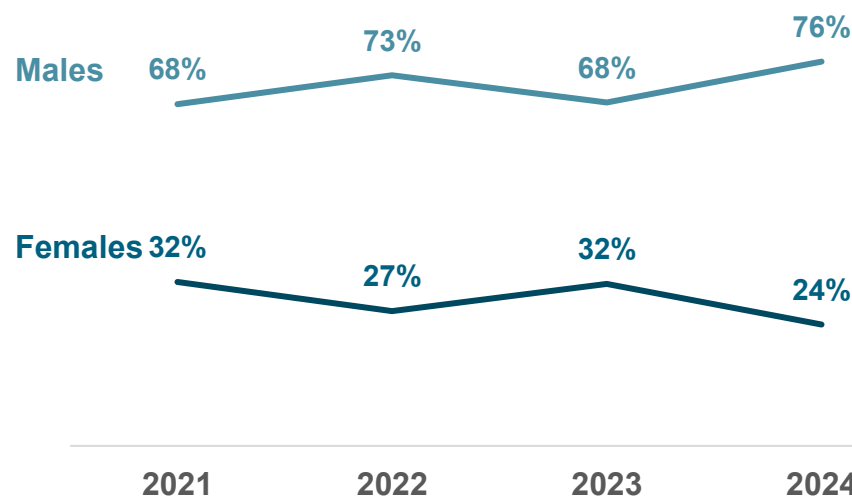


In 2020, **Nebraska** and **national** rates significantly increased, but have remained relatively stable since then.

From 2023 to 2024, the highest prevalence of alcohol-attributable deaths (per 100,000 people) in Nebraska was among those aged **45 to 64 years**.



The proportion of alcohol-related deaths for **males** has increased since 2021.

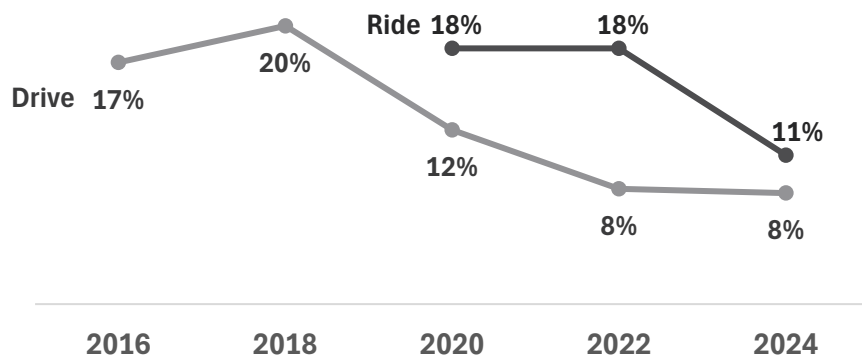


NOTE: Age-adjusted rates were calculated per 100,000 population.

SOURCE: CDC WONDER 2018-2024

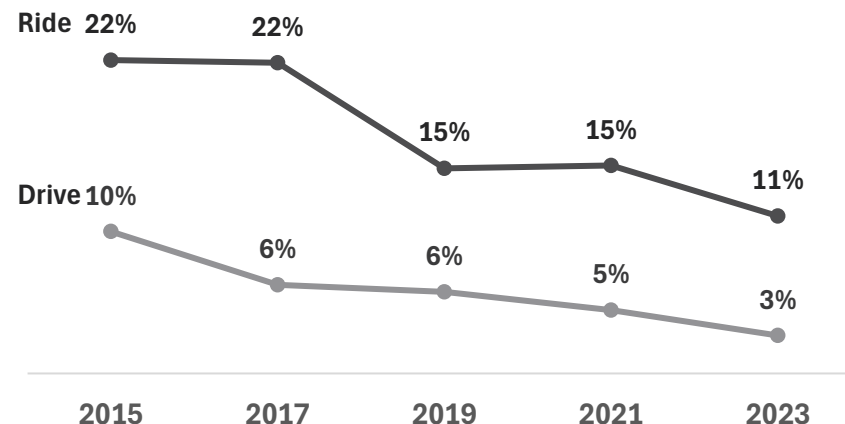
Alcohol-Impaired Driving

The number of **young adults** in Nebraska who reported **alcohol-impaired driving in the past year** has significantly decreased since 2018.



In 2024, **11% of Nebraska young adults** reported riding in a vehicle driven by someone who was under the influence of alcohol.

The number of **high school students** in Nebraska who reported **alcohol-impaired driving and riding in a vehicle driven by someone who was under the influence of alcohol** has significantly declined since 2015.



NOTE: Riding in a vehicle driven by someone who was under the influence of alcohol was asked starting with the 2020 NYAAOS/NYARBS administration.

SOURCES: NYAAOS/NYARBS 2016-2024, YRBS 2015-2023

Alcohol-Related Fatal Vehicular Crashes

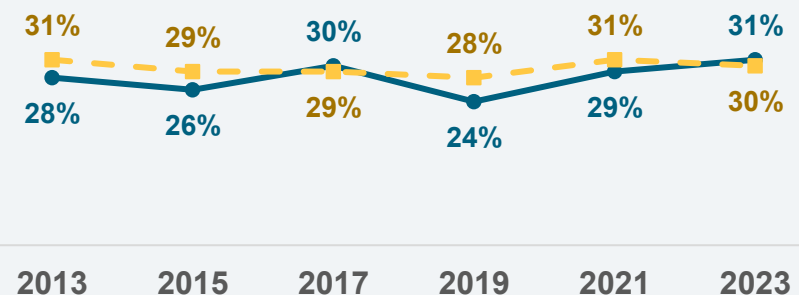
Of the 227 fatal vehicular crashes that occurred in **Nebraska** in 2023, 31% **involved an alcohol-impaired driver**. This was similar to the **national** rate of 30%.

Among the persons in **fatal crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver** in 2023 in **Nebraska**, the two age groups that were most likely to be involved were those aged **16-20** and **25-34 years**.



Among the persons involved in fatal crashes in **Nebraska** during 2023, most were **male (86%)**.

In both **Nebraska** and **the U.S.**, the number of people killed in vehicular crashes due to alcohol-impaired driving has increased gradually after a decline in 2019. The percentage of fatalities in **Nebraska** has generally been below those of **the U.S.** with the exceptions of 2017 and 2023. 



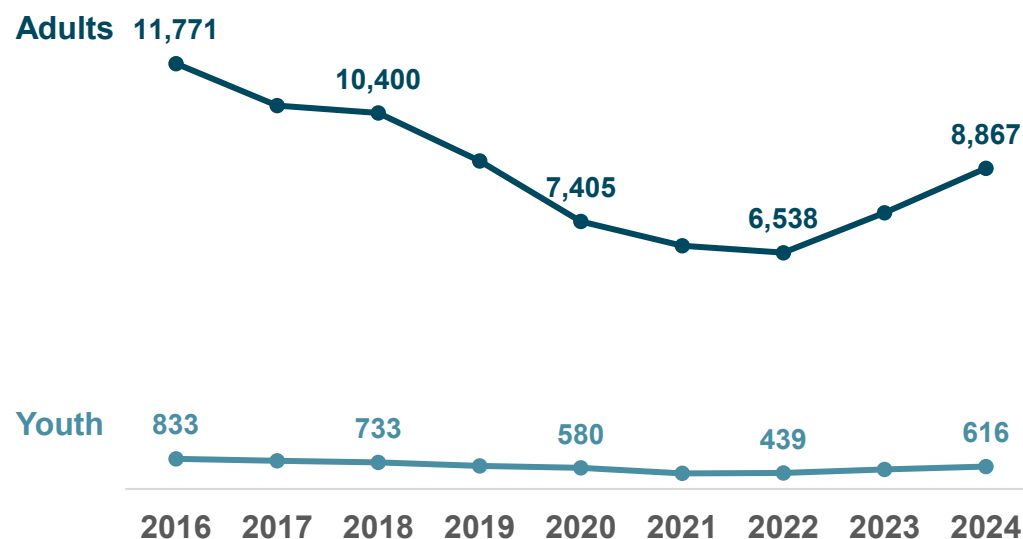
NOTE: A driver is considered to be alcohol impaired when their blood alcohol content (BAC) is 0.08% or higher.

SOURCE: FARS 2013-2023

Arrests for Alcohol-Related Crimes

The number of arrests for alcohol-related crimes **decreased from 2016 to 2022** and **increased from 2022 to 2024**.

This was most apparent in the arrests of **adults** (people who were 18 and older), but the same was true for arrests involving **youth** (people who were younger than 18).



27% of people arrested for alcohol-related crimes were **female** in 2024.



73% of people arrested for alcohol-related crimes were **male** in 2024.

NOTE: Alcohol-related crimes comprised DUIs, drunkenness, and liquor law violations.

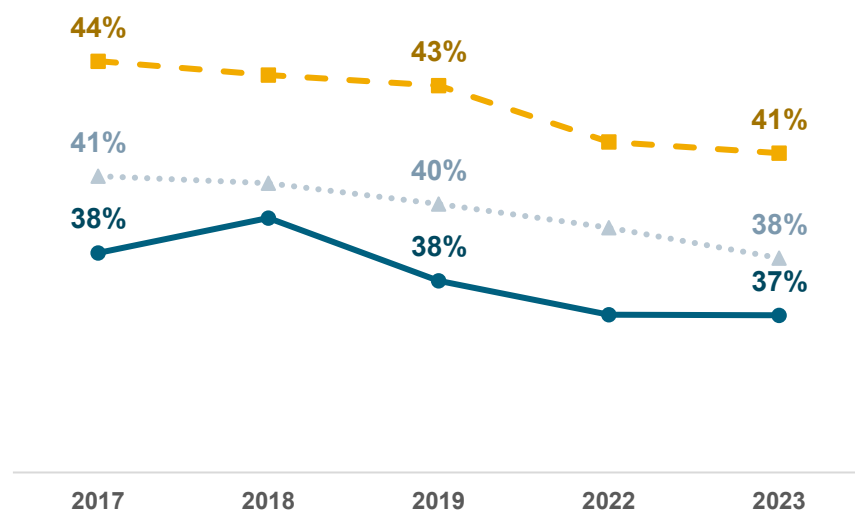
SOURCE: Nebraska Crime Commission 2016-2024

Perceptions & Social Norms

Adolescents



In 2023, **37%** of **adolescents** in **Nebraska** perceived great risk of harm from **binge drinking** once or twice a week, which was similar to adolescents in the **Midwest** but significantly lower than **adolescents across the U.S.**

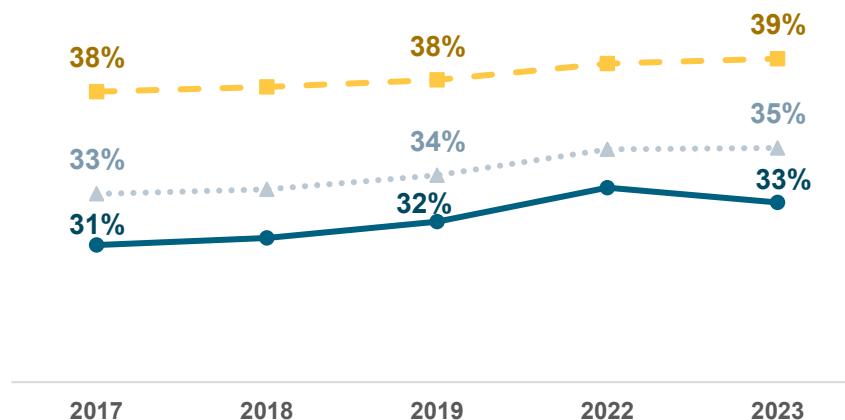


Overall, adolescents' **perception of great risk of harm** from binge drinking has not changed significantly over time.

Young Adults

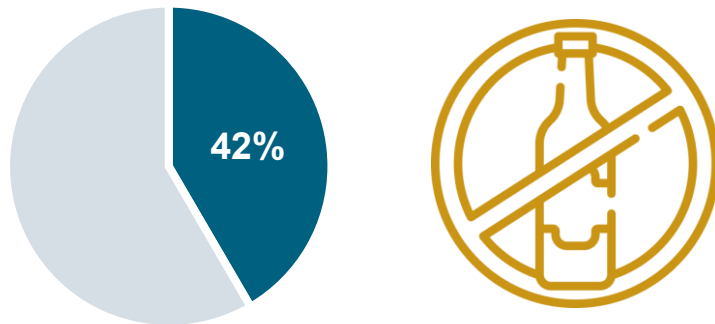


In 2023, **33%** of **young adults** in **Nebraska** perceived great risk of harm from **binge drinking** once or twice a week, which was similar to peers in the **Midwest** but significantly lower than **peers across the U.S.**

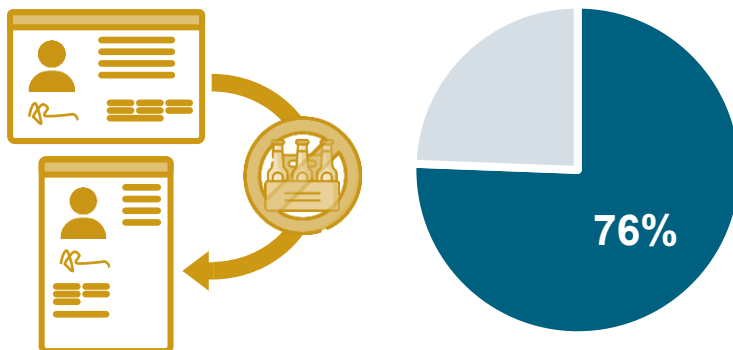


Overall, young adults' **perception of great risk of harm** from binge drinking has remained consistent over time.

In 2024, **42%** of young adults in Nebraska reported it was wrong or very wrong for **individuals 18-20 years of age to have one or two drinks of alcohol.**



In 2024, **76%** of young adults in Nebraska reported it was wrong or very wrong for **individuals 21 years and older to provide alcohol for people under 21 years.**



Adults

In 2023, **89%** of adults in Nebraska reported they thought it was wrong or very wrong for **individuals 21 years and older to provide alcohol for people under 21 years.** This is a slight decrease since 2021 which was **92%.**



In 2023, more adults in Nebraska thought it was wrong or very wrong for **individuals under the age of 18 to have one or two drinks compared to individuals aged 18-20.**

74%
Under age 18
50%
18-20 years

Adults in Nebraska and the Midwest were significantly less likely to perceive great risk of harm from **binge drinking** once or twice a week compared to adults across the United States in 2023.



NE

40%



MW

41%



U.S.

46%



In 2023, **54%** of adults in Nebraska reported they thought it was wrong or very wrong for **individuals aged 21 and older to binge drink**.

In 2023, **74%** of parents in Nebraska reported they had **talked about alcohol with their children who were under the age of 21**.



In 2023, **10%** of parents in Nebraska indicated they had **provided alcohol to their children who were under the age of 21**.



Sources

Data Set	Data Source	Years	Age Range
Arrests by Arrest Offense and Arrestee Age	Nebraska Crime Commission (NCC)	2014-2024	All ages
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	2015-2023	18 years and above
CDC WONDER: Multiple Cause of Death	National Center for Health Statistics	2014-2024	All ages
Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	2013-2023	All ages
National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	2017-2019, 2022-2023	12 years and above
Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS)	University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research	2014-2023	19 years and above
Nebraska Young Adult Alcohol Opinion Survey (NYAAOS)/Nebraska Young Adult Risk Behavior Survey (NYARBS)	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health	2016-2024	19-25 years
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	2011-2023	9 th -12 th grade

Most icons made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

NOTE: NSDUH estimates were not available for 2020-2021 due to the impact of the Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on survey methodology.

MEDIA RELEASE



For more information, contact:

Chris Wagner, Executive Director
Project Extra Mile
(402) 963-9047

Sgt. Jeremy Leifeld
Ralston Police Department
402-331-1786

For Immediate Release

Mon., August 31, 2026

18 Omaha Area Businesses Sold Alcohol to Minors

29% of businesses checked in Cass Co. sold to the minor

OMAHA, Neb -- With school back in session and homecomings on the horizon, law enforcement conducted compliance checks in Cass, Douglas and Sarpy counties to ensure that retailers are refusing the sale of alcohol to minors as students prepare for their first celebrations of the school year.

18 (10%) out of 176 businesses checked were cited for selling alcohol to minors, with 10 of those businesses not even asking for the minor's ID. Over 95 percent of businesses that checked the ID refused the sale, and 100 percent of the businesses that passed the checks asked for IDs. Cass County had the highest non-compliant rate with 29% of businesses selling alcohol to the minor. A summary sheet of the enforcement results and a full list of businesses checked are [available here](#).

"These operations are an important reminder for businesses to have a strong policy for checking IDs and training staff to know what to look for," said Ralston Police Department Sgt. Jeremy Leifeld. "Most businesses don't intend to sell alcohol to minors, but more could be done on the front end to ensuring that it doesn't happen. We all want our kids back safe at the end of the night."

Two of the businesses cited are facing enhanced penalties due to a prior sale to minor within the last four years -- the "lookback" time frame used by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) to assess penalties.

- **Spin Neapolitan Pizza, 248 Olson Dr, Papillion (12/2024);**
- **Superior Mart, 906 Webster Blvd, Plattsmouth (4/2024).**

Spin Neapolitan Pizza had a sale to minor within the last two years. If found guilty by the LCC, the business is facing two days of mandatory closure (no alcohol sales allowed) as well as a suspension of 40 days (could be paid off as a fine at \$100 per day). Because Superior Mart's last sale was over two years ago, its expected penalty would be two days of mandatory closure and 30 days of suspension if found guilty.

The other 16 businesses are facing their first sale to minor violation in the last four years even though three of them have sales to minors that fall outside of the lookback period. If found guilty, those businesses would be facing 20 days of suspension at \$50 per day.

32 officers from the La Vista, Omaha, Papillion, Plattsmouth, and Ralston Police Departments; the Cass, and Douglas County Sheriff's Offices; and the Nebraska State Patrol participated in the enhanced underage drinking enforcement effort.

To report underage drinking or adults providing alcohol to minors, call the statewide tip line at 1-866-Must-B-21 (687-8221). It's anonymous, and it's the right call. Individuals are urged to call 911 to report an underage drinking party in progress.

This project is funded (100%, \$7,303.50) from the Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success grant (H79SP083671) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, contracted through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare. NDOT-HSO also funds the tip line. Project Extra Mile helped to coordinate the enforcement efforts.

-30-

Mission: Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.

Project Extra Mile, 6001 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68182-0600



Project Extra Mile | 6001 Dodge Street CEC 228B | Omaha, NE 68182-0600 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!

Summary

Alcohol Compliance Checks for sales to minors

Conducted on June 22 and August 21, 22, 28, & 29, 2026

Location: Cass, Douglas & Sarpy Counties in Nebraska

Participating Agencies:

Cass County Sheriff's Office
Douglas County Sheriff's Office
La Vista Police Department
Nebraska State Patrol
Omaha Police Department
Papillion Police Department
Plattsmouth Police Department
Ralston Police Department

Results:

	<u># of checks</u>	<u>Not in</u> <u>Compliance (n/c)</u>	<u>n/c: Did not</u> <u>Check ID</u>	<u>n/c: Checked ID</u>
Cass Co.	21	6 (29%)	3 (50%)	3 (50%)
Douglas Co.	118	9 (8%)	1 (11%)	8 (89%)
Sarpy Co.	37	3 (8%)	3 (100%)	0
TOTAL	176	18 (10%)	7 (39%)	11 (61%)

*Compliance checks coordinated by Project Extra Mile.
For additional information, call our office at 402-963-9047.*

Project Extra Mile – Alcohol Compliance Checks

Conducted on June 22, 2026 in Cass County and August 21, 22, 28, & 29, 2026 in Douglas & Sarpy Counties

176 Businesses Checked, 18 Cited for Selling Alcohol to a Minor (10%)

The following businesses were **non-compliant** (cited for selling alcohol to a minor):

Class	License #	Business	Location	City	Zip	Non-Comp	Check ID
C	004185	American Legion Post 353	117 Main St	Louisville	68037	X	X
C	151233	Beaver Lake Beer, Wine & Spirits	9661 Renee Ave	Plattsmouth	68048	X	
C	083045	Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano	13655 California St	Omaha	68154	X	X
D	122401	Caseys 1182	901 Chicago Ave	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
D	122182	Caseys 2441	609 Magnolia Ave	Papillion	68046	X	
C	106681	DJ's Dugout	17666 Welch Plz	Omaha	68135	X	X
C	126335	El Milagro	529 N 155th Plz	Omaha	68154	X	X
C	116265	Hiro 88	17664 Welch Plz	Omaha	68135	X	X
D	097285	Husker Food Store	4201 S 24th St	Omaha	68107	X	
D	034998	La Guera Mexican Groceries	4233 S 24th St	Omaha	68107	X	X
C	111561	Nates Stumble Inn	15409 S 2nd St	Bennington	68007	X	X
C	125481	Pine & Black Bistro	248 Olson Dr	Papillion	68046	X	
D	125776	Ralston Standard Mart	7701 Main St	Ralston	68127	X	X
I	107573	Spin Neapolitan Pizza	248 Olson Dr	Papillion	68046	X	
D	124646	Superior Mart	906 Webster Blvd	Plattsmouth	68048	X	
D	073139	Target Store T2383	12500 K Plz	Omaha	68137	X	X
C	001659	VFW 2543	510 1st Ave	Plattsmouth	68048	X	
D	072455	Vineyard Liquor & Video	211 Chicago Ave	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X

Project Extra Mile – Alcohol Compliance Checks

Conducted on June 22, 2026 in Cass County and

August 21, 22, 28, & 29, 2026 in Douglas & Sarpy Counties

176 Businesses Checked, 18 Cited for Selling Alcohol to a Minor (10%)

The following businesses were **compliant** (did not sell alcohol to a minor):

Business	Address	City	Zip	Compliant	Checked ID
30hop Omaha	114 N 145th St	Omaha	68154	X	X
75 Mart	114 Rock Bluff Rd	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Acadian Grille	725 N 114th St	Omaha	68154	X	X
Agave Azteca Mexican Bar & Grill	5170 S 72nd St	Ralston	68127	X	X
Aldi 41	4525 Dahlman Ave	Omaha	68107	X	X
Alibi Room	9001 Arbor St	Omaha	68124	X	X
Anderson Convenience Market	123 N 114th St	Omaha	68154	X	X
Bearded Brewer Artisan Ales	18039 R Plz	Omaha	68135	X	X
Big Fred's Pizza	1101 S 119th St	Omaha	68144	X	X
Bogies Bar Grill West	14334 U St	Omaha	68137	X	X
Bomb Taco	120 Olson Dr	Papillion	68046	X	X
Brickway Brewing & Distilling	11941 Centennial Rd	La Vista	68128	X	X
Brother Sebastian's Steakhouse	1350 S 119th St	Omaha	68144	X	X
Brownies Bar & Grill	125 E 2nd St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Buffalo Wild Wings 27	4287 S 144th St	Omaha	68137	X	X
Caseys 2987	15275 Weir St	Omaha	68137	X	X
Caseys 3334	5920 F St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Caseys 3529	16610 Bestmann Dr	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Caseys 3605	7141 N 156TH ST	Omaha	68007	X	X
Caseys 3820	7828 S 123rd Plz	La Vista	68128	X	X
Caseys 3999	109 Rock Bluff Rd	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Caseys 6140	107 S 40th St	Omaha	68131	X	X
Caseys 6184	3052 S 84th St	Omaha	68124	X	X
Cheeseburger's	4007 Farnam St	Omaha	68131	X	X
China Buffet	731 N 114th St	Omaha	68154	X	X
Choo Choo Bar & Grill	14240 U St	Omaha	68137	X	X
Corner Kick	681 N 132nd St	Omaha	68154	X	X
Corner Kitchen	4218 S 50th St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Cost Plus World Market	12200 K Plz	Omaha	68137	X	X
Courtyard Marriott	12560 Westport Pkwy	La Vista	68128	X	X
Cubby's Bennington	15625 CW Hadan Dr	Bennington	68007	X	X
Cuming Food Mart	4002 Cuming St	Omaha	68131	X	X
Cunningham's Pub & Grill	3814 Farnam St	Omaha	68131	X	X
CVS/Pharmacy 2741	6901 S 84th St	La Vista	68128	X	X
CVS/Pharmacy 2931	14303 U St	Omaha	68137	X	X
Danny's Corner Store	3301 California St	Omaha	68131	X	X
Dave & Buster's	2502 S 133rd Plz	Omaha	68144	X	X
DC'S Waterhole	441 Main St	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
DJ's Dugout	777 N 114th St	Omaha	68154	X	X
DJ's Dugout	2405 Oak Hill Rd	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Don & Millie's	10727 W Center Rd	Omaha	68124	X	X
Dragon Cafe Restaurant	8076 S 84th St	La Vista	68128	X	X
Dual Stop Food & Fuel	8307 Park View Blvd	La Vista	68128	X	X
El Muchacho Alegre	8810 S 71st Plz	Papillion	68133	X	X

El Viejon Restaurante	5132 L St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Family Dollar 28409	8260 Grover St	Omaha	68124	X	X
Family Fare 784	14444 W Center Rd	Omaha	68144	X	X
Fareway Stores 049	1325 Jersey St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Fareway Stores 165	8900 W Center Rd	Omaha	68124	X	X
Fernando's Cafe & Cantina	378 N 114th St	Omaha	68154	X	X
Food Mart	8204 Harrison St	Ralston	68128	X	X
Frank Stoyisch Meats	5170 Q St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Godfather's Pizza	132 S 6th St	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Golden China	828 Chicago Ave	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Grace Pizza & Shakes Papillion	136 N Jefferson St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Guitars and Cadillacs	7401 Main St	Ralston	68127	X	X
Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh	2401 Oak Hill Rd	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Hy-Vee Fast Fresh 2	14405 Stony Brook Blvd	Omaha	68137	X	X
Hy-Vee Fast Fresh 3	8829 W Center Rd	Omaha	68124	X	X
Hy-Vee Food Store	11650 S 73rd St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Hy-Vee Food Store	16418 Westside Dr	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Hy-Vee Food Store 1469	8809 W Center Rd	Omaha	68124	X	X
Hy-Vee Food Store 1472	17810 Welch Plz	Omaha	68135	X	X
Hy-Vee Gas	17901 Welch Plz	Omaha	68135	X	X
Ika Ramen	7902 Towne Center Pkwy	Papillion	68046	X	X
Isla Del Mar Restaurante	2502 S 133rd Plz	Omaha	68144	X	X
Javi's Tacos	17676 Welch Plz	Omaha	68135	X	X
JD's Liquor Locker	8052 S 84th St	La Vista	68128	X	X
Jerzes Bar & Grill	501 Olson Dr	Papillion	68046	X	X
KB's Food Shop	304 S Washington St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Korea Garden	5352 S 72nd St	Ralston	68127	X	X
Kwik Shop 664	6910 S 108th St	La Vista	68128	X	X
Kwik Shop 667	4855 L St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Kwik Shop 672	5208 S 72nd St	Ralston	68127	X	X
La Casa Pizzeria West	8216 Grover St	Omaha	68124	X	X
La Catrina Mexican Grill & Bar	542 Main St	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
La Esmeralda Package	3215 Q St	Omaha	68107	X	X
La Fiesta Bar & Grill	1003 Chicago Ave	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
La Vista Mart	9849 Giles Rd	La Vista	68128	X	X
Latino Legacy Restaurant	7755 L St	Ralston	68127	X	X
Louisville Liquors	119 Main St	Louisville	68037	X	X
Lovely Brew Co	7628 Main St	Ralston	68127	X	X
Lux American Grille	9839 S 96th St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Macadoodles	3409 S 72nd St	Omaha	68124	X	X
Margaritas Grill & Cantina	16304 Westside Dr	Plattsmouth	68048	X	X
Maverik 5112	18908 Q St	Omaha	68135	X	X
Mega Saver	4429 California St	Omaha	68131	X	X
Mega Saver	8409 W Center Rd	Omaha	68124	X	X
Mega Saver	4725 S 77th Ave	Ralston	68127	X	X
Mega Saver	7210 Harrison St	Ralston	68128	X	X
Mega Saver	5101 S 24th St	Omaha	68107	X	X
Milt's Golf Center	6402 Q St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Moes Mart	720 N 108th Ave	Omaha	68154	X	X
Moran's Grill	230 W Lincoln St	Papillion	68046	X	X
NP Mart 12	3536 Q St	Omaha	68107	X	X

Nuestra Familia Supermercado 793	3548 Q St	Omaha	68107	X	X
Office West Lounge	1266 S 119th Ct	Omaha	68144	X	X
Old Mill Lounge	10944 W Dodge Rd	Omaha	68154	X	X
Omaha Tap House	579 N 155th Plz	Omaha	68154	X	X
Pacific Eating House	1130 Sterling Ridge Dr	Omaha	68144	X	X
Pizza West	12040 McDermott Plz	La Vista	68128	X	X
Pla Too Thai Cuisine	5092 S 136th St	Omaha	68137	X	X
Public House	11008 Prairie Brook Rd	Omaha	68144	X	X
Quiktrip 577	11626 Virginia Plz	La Vista	68128	X	X
Quiktrip 578	14405 W Center Rd	Omaha	68144	X	X
Quiktrip 579	1704 S 72nd St	Omaha	68124	X	X
Quiktrip 580	6045 L St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Quiktrip 596	5005 S 108th St	Omaha	68137	X	X
Ralston Keno	5130 S 72nd St	Ralston	68127	X	X
Ray's Wings and Pizza	200 S 31st Ave	Omaha	68131	X	X
Red Robin America's Gourmet Burgers and Spirits	11675 S 73rd St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Redeye Tavern & Grill	8437 W Center Rd	Omaha	68124	X	X
Regis Food Mart	6828 S 143rd Plz	Omaha	68137	X	X
Saigon Restaurant	12100 W Center Rd	Omaha	68144	X	X
Sam Mart	4854 Q St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Sam's Club 6181	9851 S 71st Plz	Papillion	68133	X	X
Scorz Sports Center	7602 Main St	Ralston	68127	X	X
Sinnott's Sand Bar	204 E Lincoln St	Papillion	68046	X	X
South Omaha's Finest Tequila Garage	4971 Q St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Speedee Mart 2745	2920 S 120th St	Omaha	68144	X	X
Speedee Mart 2882	5120 S 118th St	Omaha	68137	X	X
Speedee Mart 2885	11400 S 72nd St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Spezia	3125 S 72nd St	Omaha	68124	X	X
Stop 'N Shop #1	300 W Eldora Ave	Weeping Water	68463	X	X
Superior Liquors	5936 Q St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Supermercado Nuestra Familia	2323 L St	Omaha	68107	X	X
Tara Hills Golf Course	1410 Western Hills Dr	Papillion	68046	X	X
Tavern on Q	18010 R Plz Ste 101	Omaha	68135	X	X
Taxi's Grille & Bar	1822 N 120th St	Omaha	68154	X	X
Texas Roadhouse	520 N 155th Plz	Omaha	68154	X	X
Thai Orchids Restaurant	8058 S 84th St	La Vista	68128	X	X
The Salty Dog Bar & Grill	3401 S 72nd St	Omaha	68124	X	X
The VIP Lounge	8505 Frederick St	Omaha	68124	X	X
The Warehouse	15835 C W Hadan Dr	Bennington	68007	X	X
Tracks	18111 Q St	Omaha	68135	X	X
Twisted Vine	123 N Washington St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Valentino's	7202 Giles Rd	La Vista	68128	X	X
Village Bar	5700 S 77th St	Ralston	68127	X	X
Vive Le Rock	12411 W Center Rd	Omaha	68144	X	X
V-Mart	9641 Giles Rd	La Vista	68128	X	X
Walgreens 11356	11343 S 96th St	Papillion	68046	X	X
Walgreens 2472	18040 R Plz	Omaha	68135	X	X
Walgreens 4443	9001 W Center Rd	Omaha	68124	X	X
Walgreens 4754	8380 Harrison St	Ralston	68128	X	X
Walgreens 5360	5062 S 155th St	Omaha	68137	X	X

Walgreens 7693	225 N Saddle Creek Rd	Omaha	68131	X	X
Wall to Wall Wine & Spirits	7651 Towne Center Pkwy	Papillion	68046	X	X
Walmart 3172	5051 L St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Walmart 5141	16960 W Maple Rd	Omaha	68116	X	X
Walmart 5361	12850 L St	Omaha	68137	X	X
WarHorse Casino Omaha	6303 Q St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Weeping Water Express Lane	103 S East St	Weeping Water	68463	X	X
Wild Chicken Grill	8220 Giles Rd	La Vista	68128	X	X
Winchester	7002 Q St	Omaha	68117	X	X
Wine Beer & Spirits	3435 Oakview Dr	Omaha	68144	X	X
Wong's Hunan Garden	5050 S 108th St	Omaha	68137	X	X
WORLD LIQUOR	15601 WHITING CIR	Omaha	68007	X	X
Zio's Pizzeria	12997 W Center Rd	Omaha	68144	X	X

Nebraska Liquor Control Commission's Engagement Survey

Submission by Chris Wagner

4. Legislation:

We would like to see the LCC supporting evidence-based proposals that are proven to reduce excessive alcohol consumption and its related harms. Those include increasing the price of alcohol (through taxes or minimum unit pricing), reducing alcohol outlet density so that communities aren't saturated with cheap and convenient alcohol (cap number of licenses that can be issued, increase license fees to weed out straw man applications and financially insecure ownership that will lead to illegal alcohol sales, increase proactive liquor law enforcement in each troop area.

5. Rules & Regs

Work with NSP to adapt current guidelines for compliance checks to ensure that delivery services are checked for compliance with underage drinking laws and overservice regulations. Work with NSP and local law enforcement to promote operations focused on overservice at licensed locations to address our consistently bad binge drinking rates (Nebraska is 3rd worst in the country currently).

6. POSSE

The LCC website is not user friendly for the general public that may want to protest a license application or submit a complaint. Please make these options clearly visible on the LCC homepage. These items are either buried or have broken links.

7. Other

On behalf of Project Extra Mile's coalition of 400-plus statewide community partners, including local and state law enforcement, the faith community, treatment and prevention professionals, neighborhoods, and youth, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback to the commission. It's vital to have not only a transparent Liquor Control Commission (LCC) but also an independent regulatory body that is committed to balancing potentially conflicting statutory responsibilities. Of paramount importance is that the commission maintain its commitment to protecting public health and safety.

As this LCC attempts to distance itself from the alleged corruption of the previous administration, it is worth noting that any actions by Mr. Rupe were made possible by decades of close relations between the LCC and members of the industry it is charged with regulating. We do not expect that situation to automatically change with the departure of Mr. Rupe and former LCC commissioners, but it does present an opportunity for the LCC to correct course.

Unfortunately, the LCC has developed a reputation as a captured regulatory agency, a condition more likely in licensure states where alcohol outlets proliferate; new alcohol policies favor a well-funded industry; and state resources for regulating and enforcing state liquor laws stagnate. We have seen the consequences of this in Nebraska, for example, when 1) a Kearney business sold alcohol to a minor who died in a crash later that evening, but the business was allowed to sell the business to a family member prior to any penalty being imposed by the LCC; 2) the LCC frequently deviates down from its penalty guidelines but doesn't deviate up to cancel or revoke businesses that sell alcohol illegally resulting in severe injury or death of Nebraskans – oftentimes underage youth; and 3) the LCC frequently promotes industry-driven legislation but testifies in a neutral capacity on evidence-based proposals that would reduce excessive alcohol consumption and the associated harms.

There are several strategies for which the LCC could advocate to improve public health and safety. First, the level of alcohol enforcement in our state is woefully inadequate for the number of liquor licenses that have been issued. Businesses are well aware of this fact, often leading to illegal activities. The original proposal for adding liquor enforcement to our statutes over a decade ago called for 15 officers and was eventually negotiated down to six part-time officers. Frankly, we need more. Funding for the LCC and these additional officers could come from increasing alcohol taxes and earmarking some of that revenue for increased enforcement. Alcohol taxes have not been raised across the board since 1985, and the last time at least one of these taxes was raised was in 2003. However, taxes for ready-to-drink cocktails were reduced in 2021 (\$3.75 to \$0.95 -- a 75% decrease) and taxes on hard cider were reduced in 2015 (\$0.95 to \$0.31 -- a 67% decrease). Alcohol taxes in Nebraska have experienced a 30% drop in inflation-adjusted value since 2003.

Cheap and easily accessible alcohol has led to Nebraska being the third-worst binge drinking state in 2024 and Omaha (13th worst) and Lincoln (9th worst) being among the worst binge drinking cities in the country, leading to over 1,000 preventable deaths, 9,000 alcohol-related hospitalizations, and over \$1 billion in economic costs. Nebraska could cap the number of liquor licenses it issues like other states do, or at a minimum, it could increase the cost of the licenses significantly to weed out straw man applications and desperate applicants in order to prevent illegal sales while reducing alcohol-related harms. These are just a few strategies that have proven effective in other states to protect public health and safety. We look forward to working closely with the LCC to make our communities better and safer places to live.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. ADVOCACY. AWARENESS. ACTION

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



Youth in grades 8-12 in the Omaha Metro Area are invited to join Project Extra Mile's Youth Leadership Network. Members will learn about the harms of excessive alcohol use in our community, develop the leadership skills needed to make real change, and put those skills into action!

FOCUSING ON EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO LEAD



Project Extra Mile has been creating community change for over 25 years and we are passionate about reducing alcohol-related harms in our community. In the Youth Leadership Network, we focus on teaching and practicing the skills needed to create change. Youth will receive expert guidance on projects that will utilize media literacy, public speaking, advocacy, problem-solving, and community organizing skills that they'll develop from this initiative.

A YOUTH-LED APPROACH



We're serious about youth leadership, which is why all projects are planned and developed by the youth themselves. Youth projects over the last couple years have included hosting a town hall, meeting with state senators, creating media campaigns to raise awareness, and more!



MEET AND LEARN FROM LOCAL AND STATE POLICYMAKERS

CREATE YOUR OWN MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

LEARN HOW TO USE YOUR INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP STYLE

MEET NEW FRIENDS AND DEVELOP SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR SPRING 2027!





GROW YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND MAKE FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST A LIFETIME

YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

AUGUST 17, 2026
7-8 P.M.
UNO CEC

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
7-8 P.M.
UNO CEC

OCTOBER 19, 2026
7-8 P.M.
UNO CEC

NOVEMBER 16, 2026
7-8 P.M.
UNO CEC

DECEMBER 7, 2026
7-8 P.M.
UNO CEC

**EXTRA MEETINGS
AS NEEDED**

**YOUTH ADVOCACY DAY
AT THE STATE CAPITOL
SPRING 2027**

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP
RETREAT
SUMMER 2027**

HOW TO JOIN

The Youth Leadership Network is open to all Omaha-area youth in grades 8 through 12 who want to grow as leaders and are interested in preventing alcohol-related harms in our community with the skills they develop. To indicate your interest in joining us for our next meeting, please fill out the form using the QR code below. YLN is completely free to join!



Register here!

WHERE WE MEET

The Youth Leadership Network meetings are held once a month at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC) on the University of Nebraska-Omaha campus at 6400 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE. Parking is free and food and drinks are provided at each meeting (must register for food).

LEARN MORE!

To learn more about the Youth Leadership Network, please visit www.projectextramile.org/youth or contact us at youth@projectextramile.org or (402) 963-9047

Find us on:





RESEARCH SUMMARY
Date Compiled: September 2026

Key takeaways from included research:

- A study determined that nearly half (43.8%) of pedestrian fatalities in New York State from 2018–2020 involved alcohol, drugs, or both. The findings suggest that impaired walking is an important, but often overlooked, traffic safety issue, highlighting the need for prevention efforts that encourage safe travel options for people who are impaired, not just drivers.
- A mouse study found that repeated alcohol intoxication or stress during adolescence led to lasting changes in decision-making, making the animals less likely to carefully assess risk before entering potentially dangerous situations. These findings suggest that adolescent alcohol exposure may have long-term effects on brain processes involved in risk assessment and increase a tendency toward risk-taking in adulthood.
- A national study following nearly 12,000 U.S. youth found that substance use increased steadily during adolescence, with 38% reporting lifetime use by age 16; alcohol, cannabis, and nicotine were the most commonly used substances. Boys were more likely to report substance use before age 12, while girls reported higher rates from age 13. This highlights important age and sex differences in substance and polysubstance use.
- A new study found that increased binge drinking among youth ages 16-19 was linked to greater sensitivity to uncertain threats over a six-month period. Youth who increased their binge drinking showed heightened startle responses to uncertain threats, while those whose drinking decreased or stayed the same did not. These findings suggest that heightened threat reactivity may be an early warning sign of increasing binge drinking and could help identify youth who may benefit from early intervention.

Nebraska State Patrol makes 16 DUI arrests over three events this summer

Written by Noelle Adams

LINCOLN, Neb. (KLKN) — The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) has wrapped up a summer of special enforcement campaigns regarding various county fairs and community events.

One of the most recent events included Lancaster County Fair, along with Scotts Bluff County Fair and Czech Festival in Wilber.

During the three events, troopers with the NSP made 16 arrests for driving under the influence. They also issued 99 citations for speeding, four for an open alcohol container, 16 for driving under suspension, one for a minor in possession of alcohol, two for wearing no seat belt, one for improper child restraint and one for failure to move over.

“This summer has been full of excellent celebrations and wonderful memories made in communities across our great state,” said Colonel Bryan Waugh, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. “As the last few weeks of summer travel continue, we urge all travelers to stay alert on the road and drive safely. County fair season is winding down, but we look forward to seeing everyone at the Nebraska State Fair in a couple weeks.”

Driver Arrested After 104 MPH Crash on 'O' Street

Written by Jeremy Shipe

A Lincoln man is behind bars after police say he clocked over one hundred miles per hour on 'O' Street before crashing his car. Police say around 1:30 a.m. Sergeant Sara Genoways, LPD's Traffic Unit Supervisor, spotted a Chevy Impala flying westbound near 48th and O.'

Police say radar showed the car traveling at 104 miles per hour in a 40 mile per hour zone. Investigators say before the officer could turn around, the driver lost control near 42nd Street. The vehicle hit the median, crossed into oncoming traffic, and slammed into a retaining wall.

Police say other cars were nearby, but miraculously, no one else was hit. The driver of the Impala, 35-year-old Mohammed Ramadan, was not hurt. Investigators say Ramadan was hostile and uncooperative with first responders.

He was eventually arrested and booked for DUI with a blood alcohol content over .15, willful reckless driving, speeding, and possession of marijuana.

Ex-NU Regent Elizabeth O'Connor given 1-year sentence for felony DUI

Written by Zach Wendling

OMAHA — A former University of Nebraska regent will spend at least the next six months in jail for driving under the influence and causing serious bodily injury during a May 2025 crash.

Douglas County District Judge Jeffrey Lux on Monday sentenced Elizabeth O'Connor of Omaha to one year behind bars. Under Nebraska's "good time" law, Lux said, O'Connor could be released for good behavior after serving half her sentence. Lux also sentenced O'Connor to 18 months of post-release supervision, which is similar to probation. She was credited with one day of time served from the night she was arrested in July 2025.

O'Connor and her attorney had asked for probation and no jail time.

She will lose her driver's license for five years and likely face disciplinary action related to her law license.

Prosecutors charged O'Connor with a Class IIIA felony in late July 2025. After first pleading not guilty, she changed her plea to guilty in mid-May. She could have faced up to three years in prison.

"It's five people that went through this crash," Lux said, referring to the five passengers in the car O'Connor hit. "I won't call it an accident, because it wasn't. It was a crash. You caused it."

Three of the passengers were young children who were returning home from Bible study with their grandparents. The grandmother, Latonda Johnson, sustained a broken back and pelvis.

After the crash, the children's father, Johnson's son-in-law, publicly urged O'Connor to resign.

Court records

The crash occurred about 8:30 p.m. May 21, 2025, in the Benson area of Omaha in O'Connor's former NU Regents District 4 in eastern Douglas County. Prosecutors said tests showed she had a blood alcohol content of 0.321% after the crash. That's four times the legal limit.

In court records, an investigator said police had found a half-empty bottle of Fireball Whisky in O'Connor's vehicle, and she was showing symptoms of intoxication after the crash. A field sobriety test confirmed her condition, as did the blood analysis.

Lux said he works with veterans and assists with veterans treatment courts. Of those he's seen at a blood alcohol level that high, Lux said, it's "such a scary level" that could be potentially life-threatening, such as the person becoming unconscious or having alcohol poisoning.

"I don't think this was a one-time kind of drinking experience," Lux said.

Since the incident, Omaha City Prosecutor Kevin Slimp said, Johnson has made limited progress in physical therapy and needs help with daily activities. He said the crash cut short Johnson's 25-year career with Omaha Public Schools, where she helped at-risk youth.

'I was not coping'

For the first time publicly Monday, O'Connor detailed how she had been struggling in ways she had "not fully recognized or addressed" around the time of the crash. Her father, whom she described as her best friend, died in summer 2024 from pancreatic cancer. Shortly after his death, O'Connor gave birth to her daughter, who is now 2 years old.

Her attorney, Marcus Sladek, said O'Connor faced a diagnosis of severe postpartum depression and significant depressive episodes.

"I was not healthy, and I was not coping with these challenges in a healthy way," O'Connor told Lux.

Voters reelected her to a second six-year term in November 2024. She resigned as a deputy county attorney in the Douglas County Attorney's Office civil division days after prosecutors brought charges last summer. Because she had worked in that office, the case was handed off to Slimp's office.

O'Connor said that once she saw how her actions hurt others, she knew she needed to begin "rebuilding" her life and that "things had gotten out of control."

"Throughout my life, I have tried to be the kind of person who makes others feel welcome, comfortable and safe," O'Connor told Lux. "And knowing that I did the exact opposite that day, and that I took away from someone else's sense of safety, is something that I'm going to carry with me for the rest of my life."

If she hadn't resigned in early January as a regent, O'Connor could have faced impeachment this spring, the first such action in two decades.

The Nebraska Constitution bars felons from holding public office unless the Nebraska Board of Pardons restores the person's civil rights. O'Connor would have been forced to leave office had she still been on the board. She also can't vote until the completion of her full sentence.

There is a special election for the final four years of O'Connor's elected term on Nov. 3.

'Uncharacteristic outlier'

O'Connor and Sladek said she is about 15 months sober, attends weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and meets with her sponsor. This is her first criminal offense, and she has continued to seek mental health and substance use counseling, according to Sladek and O'Connor.

Sladek said O'Connor's risk of reoffending is low and probation would be well suited to help with rehabilitation and treatment. He described the incident as an "uncharacteristic outlier."

"If there is a perfect or appropriate way to respond to such an offense in such a situation, I think Elizabeth has done that," Sladek said.

Sladek also pointed to about 19 letters in support of O'Connor's "true character." He responded to a victim impact statement from Johnson, who attended the sentencing.

The attorney said that insurance will cover Johnson's pain and that O'Connor — no matter the sentence — would not get a "slap on the hand." Sladek said that was the phrase Johnson used in describing her frustrations to the court and weighing in on what she did not want to see occur.

Sladek also said O'Connor's husband and daughter would experience "excessive hardship" if O'Connor faced jail time. Because O'Connor has been unemployed, Sladek said, her husband has been the primary breadwinner.

"I'm in no way suggesting that Elizabeth is a victim here. She's not, and all of these consequences that I just cited are, frankly, foreseeable consequences that she understands she brought on herself," Sladek said. "But she has waded through the treacherous waters that have followed this with silence and with grace, with remorse and with a single-minded focus on self-improvement."

Sladek similarly sought to appeal to Lux that lawyers, including O'Connor, are in the business of helping others and solving their problems. However, Sladek said, it's "far too easy" for attorneys to neglect their own problems and "far too difficult to ask for help for ourselves." Sladek said O'Connor has learned that it's OK to ask for help and speak up about what's wrong.

"I know that it's devastating to her that it took this to realize that, and more devastating to her that somebody else was [hurt] in the wake of that," Sladek said.

'I'm truly sorry'

Lux, a former prosecutor for Douglas County and the state, said he would have made a similar argument regarding O'Connor's daughter. But he said three of the 19 letters for O'Connor referenced another victim and that he had to recognize O'Connor hurt another mother.

"A grandmother here, who can't interact with her grandkids the same way that she could before you came into her life, by force," Lux said.

Slimp said he was not opposed to probation but suggested it be for multiple years if so. He did suggest that if jail time was imposed, it be served up front. Because of the nature of the DUI, O'Connor served one night in jail when she was arrested in late July 2025, rather than longer while waiting for DUI test results, Slimp said.

Lux said he believed incarceration plus post-release supervision would be the "fairest way to achieve justice in this case." He told O'Connor the sentence "takes into account the good things that you've done up to this point," including her public service and path to recovery.

At the end of the hearing, the Douglas County sheriff's deputies handcuffed O'Connor and took her into custody.

"I'm truly sorry for the harm and the pain that I caused through my actions," O'Connor said earlier in the hearing. "What I can do now is continue taking responsibility, continue the work of recovery, of facing what I did, and continue proving through my actions that I'm never going to let this happen again."

American Cancer Society cancels alcohol industry fundraiser

Written by Isabella Cueto

The American Cancer Society quietly canceled its upcoming Wine and Spirits Industry's Gala, a spokesperson confirmed to STAT. The event, which has for decades raised money from members of the alcohol industry at a boozy Manhattan gathering, was set to take place in October at the iconic Rainbow Room.

The society "decided to sunset the Wine & Spirits Industry Gala, and the October event will not take place," spokesperson Michele Money-Carson said in an email. "The decision is part of ACS's ongoing evaluation of how its events and fundraising activities align with its mission and prevention guidance."

STAT, as part of its "Deadliest Drug" series about the toll of alcohol misuse, reported this summer that ACS had for years raked in at least \$22 million from wine and liquor executives, creating an optics issue for a charity focused on fighting cancer. Some, including a former executive at the cancer society, said the gala created an unsettling conflict of interest, and was inappropriate considering alcohol's known links to cancer.

ACS had already shifted some of its messaging on alcohol. It reevaluated its nutrition advice in recent years to say avoiding alcohol is best for cancer prevention. At science-related functions, the organization started placing a cancer warning statement at the bar, and attendees had to pay for their own drinks.

Now the marquee alcohol industry fundraiser is over. As of mid-August, a webpage that had previously been devoted to the New York gala instead rerouted to ACS' general events website, where the wine and liquor gala is not listed. A Google photo album with images from past galas, during which attendees dined on braised beef shank and drank pineapple margaritas as they bid on a live auction, was also taken down.

"The pages were removed to reflect that the event will no longer take place," Money-Carson said.

In an interview earlier this year, the society's new CEO, Shane Jacobson, told STAT he was reevaluating alcohol policies across events.

"We are taking a fresh look at all of this," he said.

Michael Siegel, a Tufts University professor who studies the influence of alcohol and tobacco companies, applauded the society's action when told of it by STAT. "This is a wise decision because it would have been inappropriate for the American Cancer Society to hold a gala sponsored by the manufacturers of a product that causes 20,000 cancer deaths each year. Can you imagine the American Cancer Society hosting a tobacco industry gala? This is basically the same thing."

Motorcyclists believed to be under the influence in fatal Lincoln crash

Written by Alyssa Johnson

Two motorcyclists were believed to be under the influence during a fatal crash last Friday that left a 33-year-old Pleasant Dale man dead, according to a crash report.

At 7 p.m., first responders were sent to Northwest First Street and West Grand Drive on a report of a crash involving two motorcycles.

According to the crash report, 33-year-old Dillon Williams of Pleasant Dale and 29-year-old Joshua Leymaster of Lincoln were driving south on First Street near the intersection of Chadderton Circle.

Police believe Williams then attempted to pass Leymaster in the left lane, but clipped Leymaster's front tire, causing both motorcycles to lose control and slide against the roadway.

Investigators believe Williams was driving at a higher rate of speed. Both drivers were suspected to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crash.

Williams was taken to a local hospital, where he later died from his injuries.

Leymaster had minor injuries to his arms. He also submitted a preliminary breath test, which showed a blood-alcohol content level of .133, according to the report.

Police initially cited Leymaster for driving under the influence of alcohol. Police spokesperson Erika Thomas later said the citation was pulled.