



The Tallahassee-Leon County
21st Century Council
Quality of Life / Sustainability
COMMUNITY INDICATOR

Quality of Life / Sustainability Segment:
ECONOMIC PROGRESS PROFITS PROSPERITY
SOCIAL PEOPLE
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANET PLACE
governance ethics justice spirituality peace
Title: Economic Costs of Underage Drinking

Economic Costs of Underage Drinking

Indicator:

The total economic cost of underage drinking in Leon County from alcohol-related consequences in 2007, e.g. criminal activity, traffic crashes, academic difficulties, health problems, injuries, risky sexual behavior, etc.

Commentary:

The total direct and indirect intangible cost of underage drinking in 2007 in the state of Florida was estimated at \$3.073 billion, \$38.689M of that in Leon County alone. Studies indicate that government typically bears about 39% of those costs, representing over \$15M in Leon County or an average cost of \$142 per Leon County resident. Statewide, alcohol-attributable violent crime was responsible for the greatest costs to society at nearly half (49%) of all costs. However, a large share of those costs is indirect / intangible. Traffic crashes comprise the next largest component of total underage drinking costs statewide, and cost over \$10M and over a fourth of costs in Leon County. Also, motor vehicle crashes were responsible for the greatest share of direct tangible cost to the citizens of Leon County at about 30%, closely followed by property crime (29%) and violent crime (23.5%). Other consequences and costs are attributed to risky sexual behavior and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS); indirect costs such as loss of work, and intangible costs, e.g. pain, suffering and lost quality of life.

Source(s): *Economic Costs of Underage Drinking in Florida*, Popovici, et al., June 2009. See weblink, below:
http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth/publications/CostOfUnderageDrinkingInFlorida_060809_FINAL.pdf

Chart 1: Costs by Share of Entity Bearing Cost

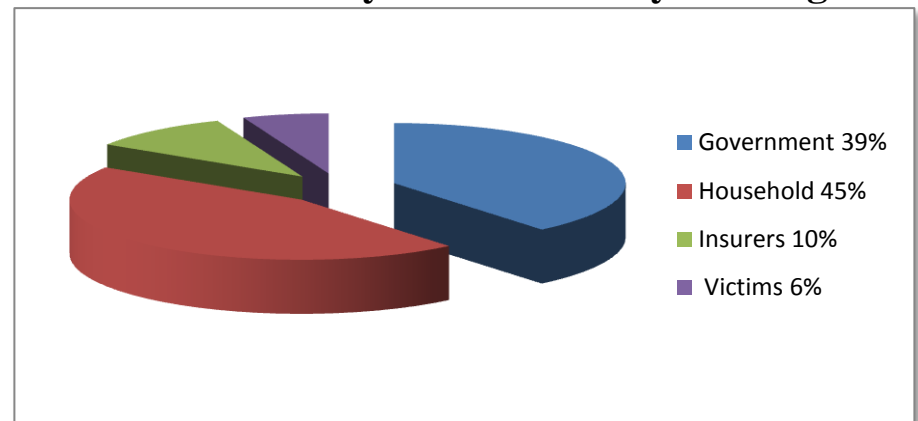


Chart 2: Total Costs by Type of Consequence

