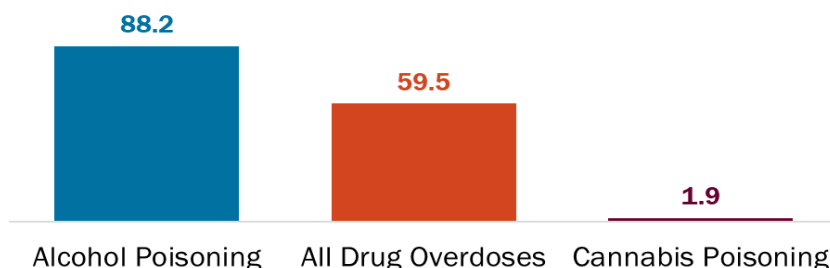


# Nonfatal Alcohol Poisonings

## In Vermont Emergency Department Data, 2022-2024

Emergency department (ED) visits for nonfatal alcohol poisonings are more common than ED visits for all drug overdoses. They are also more common than cannabis poisonings, which are a subcategory of drug overdoses. This brief explores the demographics and timing of alcohol poisonings to highlight who is most at risk and the burden on hospital facilities. Rates are per 10,000 all-cause ED visits.

**There were higher rates of alcohol poisonings compared to all drug overdoses in 2024.**



Alcohol poisonings are indicated by adverse effects from consuming alcohol, such as vomiting or loss of consciousness. Intoxication alone is not considered an adverse effect when assessing alcohol poisonings. Additionally, injuries such as car accidents or falls in the setting of alcohol use were excluded from this analysis because alcohol poisoning itself was not the reason for the ED visit. This brief covers nonfatal alcohol poisoning rates over three years, 2022 through 2024. The data source for this brief is [Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics \(ESSENCE\)](#).

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact [AHS.VDHOVerdoseDataVT@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHOVerdoseDataVT@vermont.gov).

### Key Points

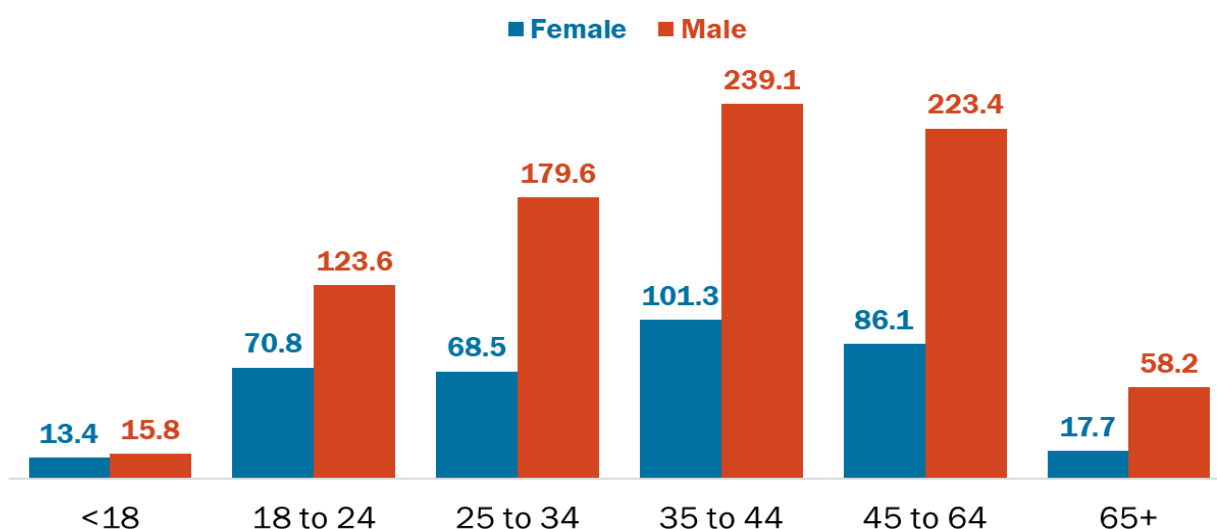
- **Nonfatal alcohol poisonings are more common than nonfatal drug overdoses.**
- **Middle aged men are most likely to experience alcohol poisonings.**
- **The weekends and days near holidays like Saint Patrick's Day are when alcohol poisoning rates are most elevated.**

### The rate of nonfatal alcohol poisonings varies by sex and age.

- Rates of ED visits for alcohol poisoning are higher among males (134.4) than females (53.1) per 10,000 all-cause ED visits.
- Patients in their 40s and early 60s have the highest average rates compared to all other age categories. When looking at sex and age groups combined, middle aged and older adult males experience alcohol poisonings at disproportionately higher rates.



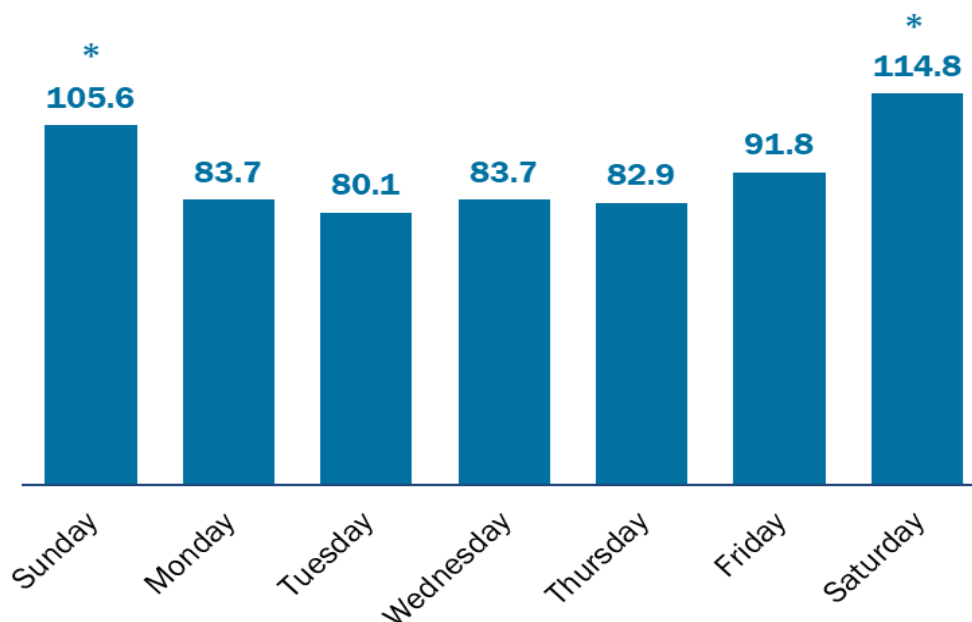
**Males** have higher rates of alcohol poisoning visits than **females** across all adult age groups.



### The rate of nonfatal alcohol poisonings varies by day of the week.

Nonfatal alcohol poisonings are more likely to occur on Saturdays and Sundays. Days are measured in 24 hour time periods.

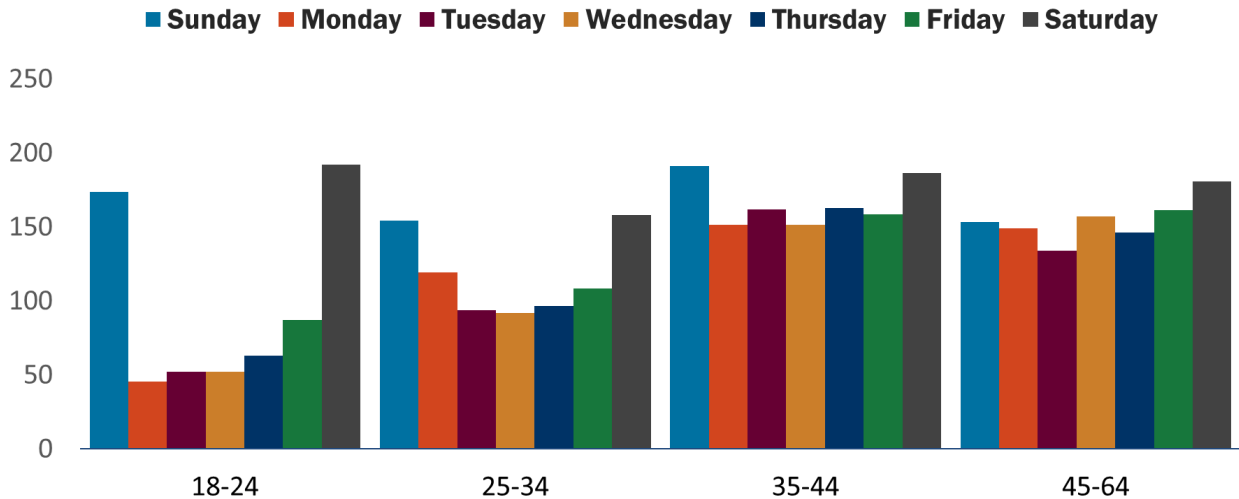
**More nonfatal alcohol poisonings happen on the weekend than on weekdays.**



\*Statistical difference when compared to adjacent weekdays and the overall average.

Older age groups (35-64) have similar rates of nonfatal alcohol poisonings throughout the week, and younger age groups (18-34) have more elevated rates on the weekends.

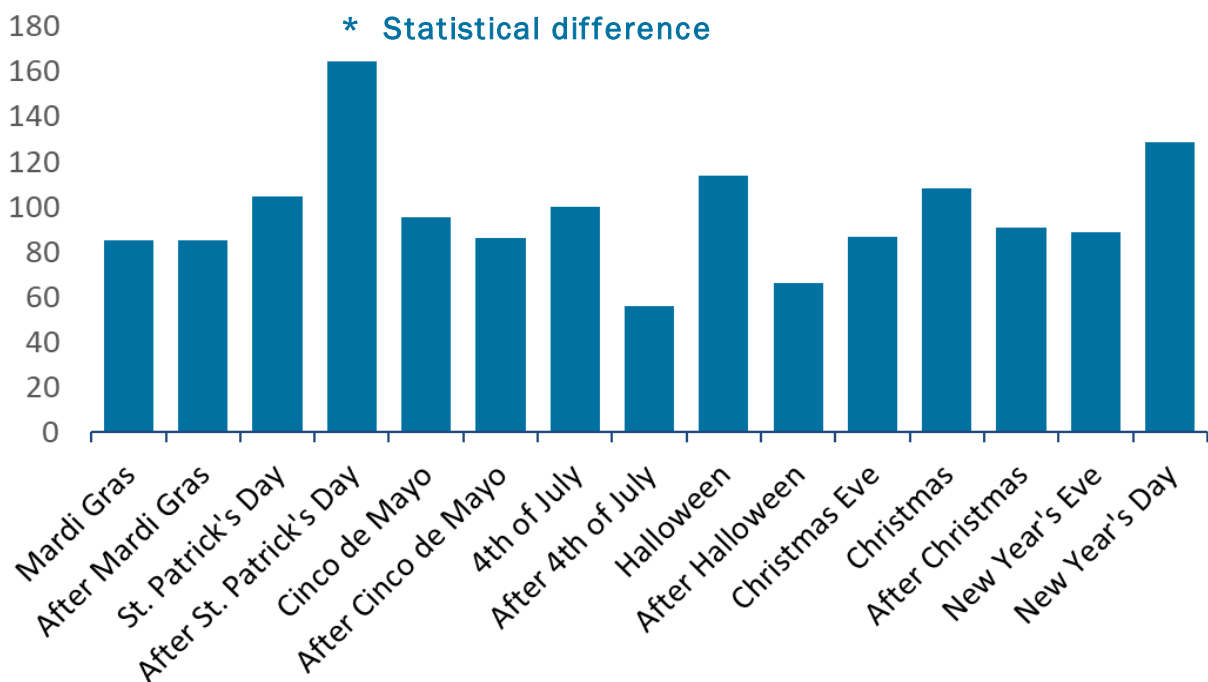
**Nonfatal alcohol poisoning ED visits by day of the week are distributed differently across the age groups.**



The graph depicts only the age categories with the highest rates of alcohol poisoning.

The average alcohol poisoning rate on the day after St. Patrick's Day is statistically higher than on other holidays and days following holidays, as well as the overall rate of alcohol poisonings. No other holidays were statistically higher than the average.

**The rate of nonfatal alcohol poisonings varied around certain holidays (and the days following those holidays) in 2022 through 2024.**



## Get Help



**VT Helplink**

Alcohol & drug support center

- **Substance Use support:** Whether someone is seeking help for themselves or someone they care about, VT Helplink can connect them to the services they need. VT Helplink is a free resource for Vermonters, providing confidential, non-judgmental support and referrals to treatment, recovery, and other services. VT Helplink Specialists can help navigate Vermont's treatment and recovery system, whether or not someone has insurance. Visit [VTHelplink.org](https://VTHelplink.org).

- **A Mental Health Crisis:** [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#): If someone is experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis, the person, or someone who is concerned about them, can call, text, or chat 988 for free and confidential support 24-hours a day, seven days a week.