**Name**: Alcohol Related Mortality

**Short Description**: Number of alcohol related deaths per 100,000 people.

**Data Source(s)**:

* Name: CDC Wonder
* Link to Source: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html>

**Year(s):** 2010-2019

**Source Geographic Level**: County

**Stratification**: Black population

**Selection Rationale:** Alcohol use disorder (AUD) is an important measure of substance use prevalence contributing to overall mental wellness. Because few people with AUDs perceive a need for care/treatment, it is likely that many people with AUD are not being treated for alcohol dependency.[[1]](#footnote-2) Therefore, a high alcohol related mortality rate may indicate a significant number of people with untreated AUD.

**Strengths and Limitations**

* **Strengths**:
  + [*Importance*] Deaths from alcohol poisoning vary substantially by state[[2]](#footnote-3) and discharged patients with AUDs face a high risk of subsequent death.[[3]](#footnote-4) This measure shows the geographic variation of alcohol-related mortality.
  + [*Equity*] Some minority groups (such as Black Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders) suffer greater adverse effects from alcohol than other populations.[[4]](#footnote-5) This emphasizes the importance of including this measure.
  + [*Relevance and Usability*] This measure is easy to understand and can provide information to state and federal level policy officials on which geographic areas are experiencing the highest rates mortality due to alcohol poisoning.
  + *[Feasibility]* Mortality data is collected from all death certificates for U.S. residents, and it is reported yearly through CDC Wonder.[[5]](#footnote-6)
* **Limitations**:
  + [*Equity*] Deaths of nonresidents (nonresident aliens, nationals living abroad, Puerto Rico residents, and other territories of the U.S.) are not reported in this measure.5
  + [*Feasibility*] Data are captured for a 10-year period from 2010-2019. This may make it difficult to discern mortality trends over shorter timespans. A 10-year period was selected because when this measure is stratified by race for the Black population alone, using a shorter time period would result in significant suppression of data.
  + [*Scientific Soundness*] The smallest geographic level at which this data is available is the county level, so each Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) in a given county will have the same value. As a result, ZCTA-level values may be less accurate because it is not possible to differentiate which ZCTAs have higher or lower rates within a county.

**Default Weight**:2.5% (*see Weighting Documentation for details on how default weights were assigned*)

**Calculation**:

*Overall Population Calculation*:

*Black Population Calculation*:

1. Edlund et al., Perceived Need for Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorders: Results From Two National Surveys. Psyciatric Services. 2009. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1176/ps.2009.60.12.1618> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Kanny, D., Brewer, R. D., Mesnick, J. B., Paulozzi, L. J., Naimi, T. S., & Lu, H. (2015). Vital signs: alcohol poisoning deaths - United States, 2010-2012. MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report, 63(53), 1238–1242. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Park, S., Hong, J.P., Choi, S.H. and Ahn, M.H. (2013), Clinical and Laboratory Predictors of All Causes Deaths and Alcohol-Attributable Deaths Among Discharged Alcohol-Dependent Patients. Alcohol Clin Exp Res, 37: 270-275. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1530-0277.2012.01943.x [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. *NIAAA’s Strategic* *Plan to Address Health Disparities*. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. <https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/HealthDisparities/Strategic.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021, March 11). *Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2019*. CDC Wonder. [https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/ucd.html#](https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/ucd.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)