

Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center

# FACT SHEET



JUSTICE CENTER

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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## Alaska Trauma Registry: Trauma Admissions Involving Alcohol or Illegal Drugs, 2014

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The Alaska Trauma Registry (ATR) is an active surveillance system that collects data pertaining to hospitalizations of the most seriously injured patients in Alaska. Data collected include patient demographics, injury event, patient transport, treatment, and outcomes. Since 1991, the Alaska Trauma Registry has collected data from all 24 (22 civilian and 2 Department of Defense) acute care hospitals, with the purpose of evaluating the quality of trauma patient care, monitoring serious injury, injury prevention, and trauma system development. The ATR is a subsidiary of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health.

This fact sheet presents data from the ATR — specifically, numbers of trauma admissions, patient

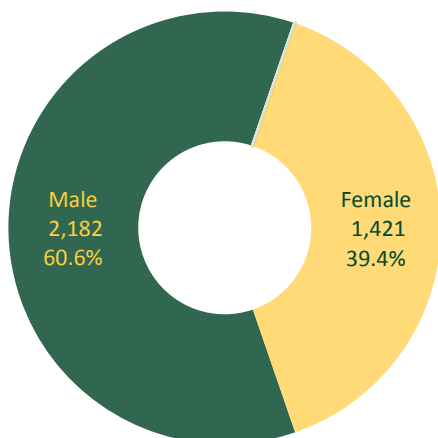
demographics, and the presence of alcohol or illegal drugs in trauma admissions for 2014. Data used in this Fact Sheet were provided to the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) by ATR.

**Trauma admissions.** Trauma admissions captured by the ATR include patients with injuries who are: admitted to, or held for observation in, an Alaskan hospital; declared dead in the emergency department; and/or transferred to another acute care hospital. Admissions data do not reflect records for unique individuals and may reflect multiple admissions per individual.

In 2014, Alaska hospitals recorded 3,603 trauma admissions (Figure 1). Of these trauma admissions, 2,182 (60.6%) were of male patients and 1,421 (39.4%) were of female patients.

**FIGURE 1.**

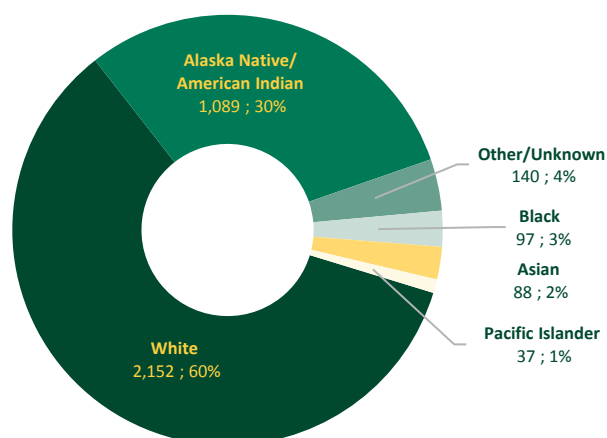
Trauma admissions in Alaska by patient gender, 2014



Source of data: Alaska Trauma Registry, 2015.

**FIGURE 2.**

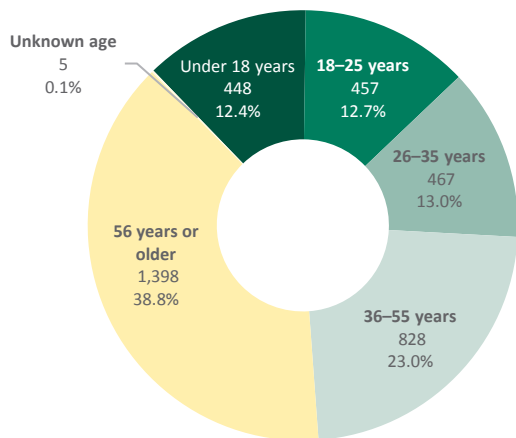
Trauma admissions in Alaska by patient race, 2014



Source of data: Alaska Trauma Registry, 2015.

**FIGURE 3.**

Trauma admissions in Alaska by patient age, 2014



Source of data: Alaska Trauma Registry, 2015.

In 2014, 59.7% of trauma admissions were of White patients, 30.2% were of Alaska Native/American Indian patients, 2.7% were of Black/African American patients, 2.4% were of Asian, and 1.0% were of Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander patients. Less than 4 percent of all trauma admissions were of patients of Other/Unknown race (Figure 2).

In 2014, 12.4% of all trauma admissions were of patients under 18 years of age, 12.7% were of patients 18–25 years old, 13.0% were of patients 26–35 years old, 23.0% were of patients 36–55 years old, and 38.8% were of patients over 56 years of age (Figure 3).

**Alcohol-related admissions.** Some trauma admissions result in screenings to determine if alcohol is present in the patient’s blood at levels beyond the legal limit for driving (.08). In 2014, there were 3,603 trauma admissions. Of those, 861 — or 23.9% of all trauma admissions - included screenings for alcohol in the patients being treated (Figure 4).

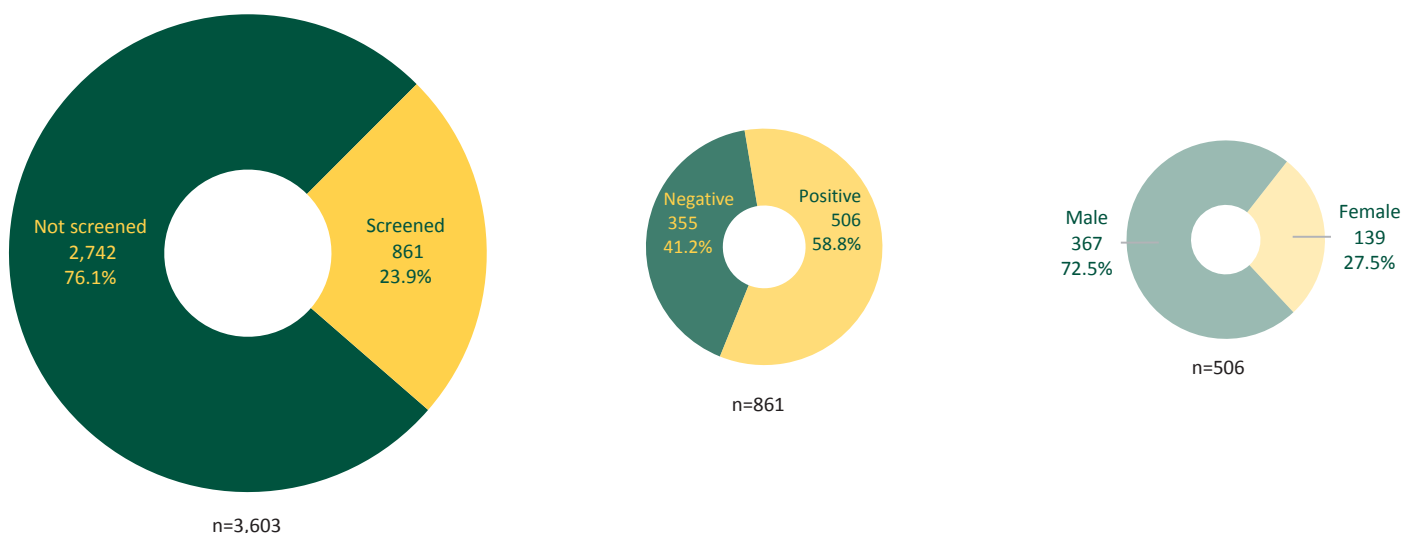
Of the 861 trauma admissions that included alcohol screenings in 2014, 506 (58.8%) revealed the presence of alcohol beyond the legal limit for driving (Figure 4). Of these, 367 — or 72.5% of all positive alcohol screenings — were for male patients and 139 — or 27.5% of all positive alcohol screenings — were for female patients.

**Illegal drug-related admissions.** Some trauma admissions result in screenings to determine if illegal drugs are present in the patient’s blood. Of the 3,603 trauma admissions in 2014, 607 trauma admissions — or 16.8% of all trauma admissions — resulted in screenings for illegal drugs in the patients being treated (Figure 5).

Of the 607 trauma admissions that included illegal-drug screenings in 2014, 171 (28.2%) returned positive results for illegal drug use (Figure 5). Of these, 136 — or 79.5% of all positive illegal-drug screenings — were for male patients and 35 — or 20.5% of all positive illegal-drug screenings — were for female patients.

**FIGURE 4.**

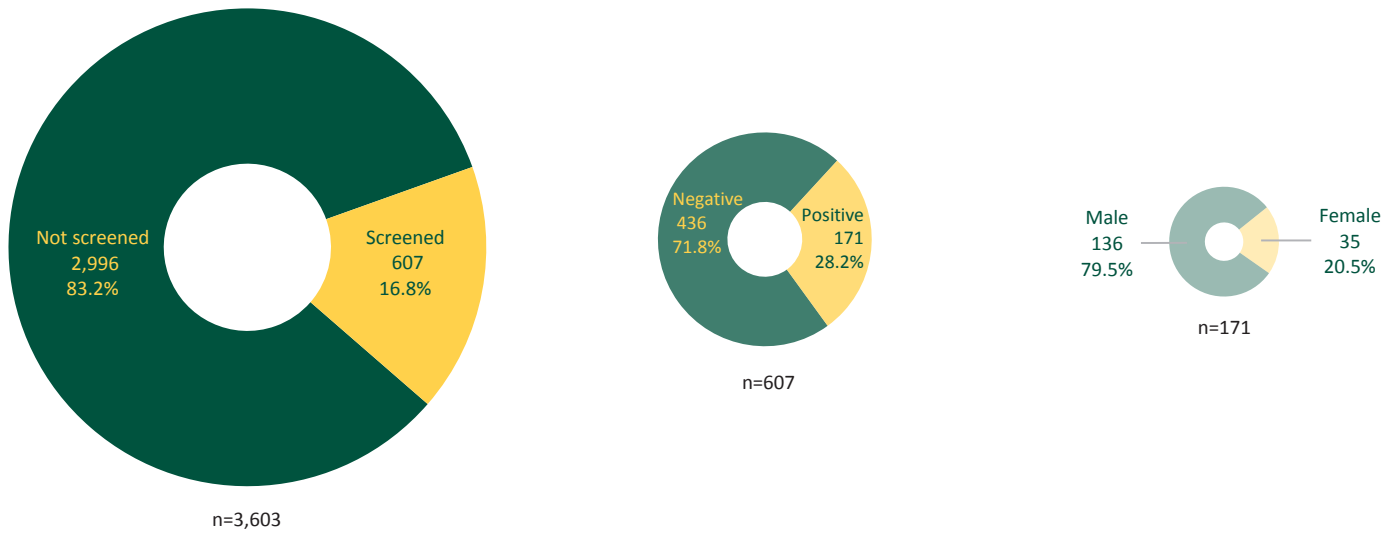
Alcohol screenings in Alaska trauma admission patients, 2014



Source of data: Alaska Trauma Registry, 2015.

**FIGURE 5.**

Illegal-drug screenings in Alaska trauma admission patients, 2014



Source of data: Alaska Trauma Registry, 2015.

## NOTES

### ALASKA TRAUMA REGISTRY

The Alaska Trauma Registry is an information system of the most seriously injured patients in Alaska, and the treatment that they have received. Since 1991, the trauma registry has collected data from all 24 of Alaska's acute care hospitals. The purpose of the registry is to evaluate the quality of trauma patient care and to plan and evaluate injury prevention programs. The criteria for inclusion in the trauma registry are patients with injuries who are admitted to an Alaska hospital, held for observation, transferred to another acute care hospital, or declared dead in the emergency department, and for whom contact occurred within 30 days of the injury. Injuries include trauma, poisoning, suffocation, and the effects of reduced temperature. The registry serves local and national agencies including; universities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), injury prevention associations, Alaska Trauma System Review Committee (ATSRC), research entities, and legislators.

More information is available at:

**Alaska Trauma Registry contact:** Ambrosia Romig at 907-334-4471 or [ambrosia.romig@alaska.gov](mailto:ambrosia.romig@alaska.gov).

### ILLEGAL DRUGS

Illegal drugs include benzodiazepine, cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines, barbituates, opiates, oxycodone, and PCP.

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# THE ALASKA JUSTICE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER



## ABOUT

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) was established by Administrative Order No. 89, signed by Governor William Sheffield on July 2, 1986. Since that time the AJSAC has been housed within the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center. The AJSAC assists Alaska criminal justice agencies, as well as state and local governments and officials, with the development, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice programs and policies through the collection, analysis, and reporting of crime and justice statistics.

Since 1972, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and its predecessor agency, the National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, has provided support to state and territorial governments to establish and operate Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice to federal, state, and local levels of government, and to share state-level information nationally. There are currently 53 SACs located in the United States and its Territories. The AJSAC is a member of the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), a national nonprofit organization comprised of SAC directors, researchers, and practitioners dedicated to policy-oriented research and analysis.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Location

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) is housed in the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center, which is located on the second floor of the UAA/APU Consortium Library, Suite 213.

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## ON THE WEB

To learn more about the AJSAC research, please visit our website at: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ajsac/>.

## PRODUCTION

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