



Is Your City Sloshed?

Your statistical sobriety checkpoint

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In theory, identifying a dangerously drunk city would require the MetLife blimp and a humongous Breathalyzer. In practice, it calls for a statistical sobriety checkpoint.

First, we tapped municipal police departments and scanned the FBI's Uniform Crime Report to determine the DWI arrest rates for the 101 largest cities in the nation.

Then, because many drunk drivers avoid arrest only to eat the windshield (or feed one to someone else), we went to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for data on alcohol-related traffic deaths. Finally, we checked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WONDER database for the mortality rates for six categories of alcohol-related liver disease.

When all was said and drunk, the place one would have expected to earn the title of "Most Fatally Inebriated"--New Orleans--staggered in sixth from last. Instead, the city with the most toxic levels of intoxication is Denver. Who knows? Maybe the thin air makes everyone thickheaded about designating drivers and limiting libations.

1. Montgomery, AL A+

2. Yonkers, NY A+

3. Hialeah, FL A+

4. Birmingham, AL A

5. Miami, FL A-

6. Newark, NJ A-

7. New York, NY A-

8. Buffalo, NY A-

9. Plano, TX B+

10. (tie) Boston, MA B+

Pittsburgh, PA B+

12. Memphis, TN B+

13. Minneapolis, MN B

14. Raleigh, NC B

15. Rochester, NY B

16. (tie) Cleveland, OH B

San Francisco, CA B

18. Atlanta, GA B
19. (tie) Columbus, OH B
Wichita, KS B
21. Jersey City, NJ B-
22. St. Petersburg, FL B-
23. (tie) Norfolk, VA B-
Oakland, CA B-
Philadelphia, PA B-
26. Des Moines, IA B-
27. San Jose, CA B-
28. Fremont, CA B-
29. Baltimore, MD B-
30. (tie) Garland, TX C+
Grand Rapids, MI C+
32. (tie) Akron, OH C+
Cincinnati, OH C+
34. Stockton, CA C+
35. (tie) Charlotte, NC C+
Louisville, KY C+
37. Toledo, OH C+
38. Chesapeake, VA C+
39. Honolulu, HI C+
40. (tie) St. Paul, MN C+
Virginia Beach, VA C+
42. Chicago, IL C+
43. Greensboro, NC C+
44. Detroit, MI C+
45. Anaheim, CA C
46. Milwaukee, WI C
47. Richmond, VA C
48. Riverside, CA C

49. Sacramento, CA C
50. (tie) Baton Rouge, LA C
Omaha, NE C
52. Santa Ana, CA C
53. Portland, OR C
54. Los Angeles, CA C
55. (tie) Glendale, CA C-
Indianapolis, IN C-
57. Glendale, AZ C-
58. (tie) Bakersfield, CA C-
Dallas, TX C-
60. Irving, TX C-
61. Lexington, KY C-
62. (tie) Colorado Springs, CO C-
Modesto, CA C-
64. Aurora, CO D+
65. Henderson, NV D+
66. Long Beach, CA D+
67. St. Louis, MO D+
68. Lincoln, NE D+
69. (tie) Fort Wayne, IN D+
Tacoma, WA D+
71. Lubbock, TX D+
72. Arlington, TX D+
73. Fort Worth, TX D+
74. Tucson, AZ D+
75. Corpus Christi, TX D
76. (tie) Shreveport, LA D
Tulsa, OK D
78. San Diego, CA D

79. Chandler, AZ D
80. (tie) Jacksonville, FL D
Nashville, TN D
82. (tie) Oklahoma City, OK D
Seattle, WA D
84. Houston, TX D
85. Tampa, FL D-
86. Scottsdale, AZ D-
87. Phoenix, AZ D-
88. Las Vegas, NV D-
89. (tie) Madison, WI D-
Mesa, AZ D-
91. Fresno, CA D-
92. Austin, TX D-
93. (tie) San Antonio, TX D-
Washington, DC D-
95. (tie) New Orleans, LA F
Spokane, WA F
97. Kansas City, MO F
98. Albuquerque, NM F
99. Anchorage, AK F
100. El Paso, TX F
101. Denver, CO F