
U. S. ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES

The risk of a fatal crash for drivers with positive blood alcohol contents (BACs) compared with other drivers (i.e., the relative risk) increases with increasing BAC, and the risks increase more steeply for drivers younger than age 21 than for older drivers. Between 0.08 and 0.10% BACs, the relative risk of a fatal single-vehicle crash varies between 11% (for drivers age 35 and older) and 52% (for male drivers ages 16-20).¹

It is generally impossible to determine the persons who have had one or a few drinks; yet, these individuals may be as much of a hazard as the obvious drunk. Because of the time lapse from the moment of occurrence until an officer arrives at the scene to make the investigation, a person's condition concerning drinking can change a great deal. In cases where the individual may have been removed to a hospital, doctor's office or funeral home, his condition may never be determined.²

NATIONAL INFORMATION:

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates alcohol involvement in the following 3 categories: 0.00 g/dl (grams per deciliter), no alcohol; 0.01 to 0.07 g/dl, impaired; and 0.08+, intoxicated.³
- Fatally injured drivers with BAC levels of 0.08 g/dl or greater were 5 times as likely to have a prior conviction for driving while intoxicated compared to fatally injured sober drivers (10% and 2%, respectively).
- The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than 3 times as high at night as during the day (63% vs. 19%). For all crashes, the alcohol involvement rate is 5 times as high at night (15% vs. 3%).³

MISSOURI 2006 DRINKING-INVOLVED TRAFFIC CRASH STATISTICS:

COUNTY	DWI ARRESTS	INJURIES	FATALIES	TOTAL
Franklin County	589	128	11	728
Jefferson County	888	227	10	1,125
Lincoln County	406	39	0	445
St. Charles County	2,386	235	11	2,632
St. Louis City	681	163	12	856
St. Louis County	5,171	542	20	5,733
Warren	173	21	2	196
All Other Counties	29,397	3,802	203	33,402
Missouri Total	39,691	5,157	269	45,117

¹Alcohol Alert (4/01) National Institute of Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism

²Missouri Traffic Crashes (8/05)

³National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (Traffic Safety Facts 2003, on Alcohol)