Driving Under the Influence

(DUI) includes impairment due to alcohol, drugs, or both. However, most research concerns driving under the influence of alcohol. For alcohol-related DUIs, the level of alcohol is measured using the Blood Alcohol Concentration, or BAC. In 2013, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had a law that defined impaired driving as a BAC of 0.08 grams/deciliter or higher. The number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities has declined over the past decade.

NOTE: *Percentage breakdowns are for incidents where data is known. Data for 2013 unless otherwise indicated. Hover for data hyperlinks to source material.

31% of all traffic fatalities involve alcohol-impaired drivers, a rate of 0.34/100 million vehicle miles traveled.*

9,461 drivers involved in fatal crashes have a BAC ≥ 0.08*.

DUI Fatalities:

- Drivers with a BAC ≥ 0.08 (65%)
- Passengers of impaired drivers (16%)
- Occupants of other vehicles (11%)
- Non-occupants (8%)

10,076 traffic fatalities with alcohol-impaired drivers

DUI Fatalities:

> 2.5% from 10,336 deaths in 2012
> 23% from 13,099 deaths in 2004

17% of the 1,149 child traffic fatalities (age 0-14) involve drivers with a BAC ≥ 0.08*.

- Of these, 61% of children killed are passengers of impaired drivers
- And 15% are pedestrians or cyclists

Percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes have a BAC ≥ 0.08*.

Day 22.5% vs Night 77.5%

WEEKDAY:

- Drivers with a BAC ≥ 0.08 (13.3%)
- Drivers with a BAC < 0.08 (30.8%)

WEEKEND:

- Drivers with a BAC ≥ 0.08 (9.3%)
- Drivers with a BAC < 0.08 (46.7%)

SINGLE VEHICLE:

- Drivers with a BAC ≥ 0.08 (13.1%)
- Drivers with a BAC < 0.08 (53.1%)

MULTIPLE VEHICLE:

- Drivers with a BAC ≥ 0.08 (9.4%)
- Drivers with a BAC < 0.08 (24.4%)

Percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes, by driver sex and BAC, where known.

- Men
- Women

BAC ≥ 0.08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAC ≥ 0.08</th>
<th>BAC &lt; 0.08</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drivers</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<td>55.8</td>
<td>21.8</td>
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Percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes by BAC and age.

- Drivers with a BAC ≥ 0.08
- Drivers with a BAC < 0.08

16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

- 25.5% 29.5% 24.1% 20.4% 14.0% 6.9%

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The National Center for Victims of Crime

Justice for Victims, Justice for All

OVCT
> Self-reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs declined 4.7% from 2002–2013

> 3.8%, or 9.9 million people, report driving under the influence of illicit drugs during the past year

> 10.9%, or 28.7 million people, report driving under the influence of alcohol during the past year

> Sobriety checkpoints may reduce alcohol-related crashes by 9% *

> Ignition interlocks decrease arrests for impaired driving by an estimated 70% **

> Only 1% of the 121 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving in 2012 resulted in arrest

> 18% of motor-vehicle driver deaths involved drivers under the influence of drugs other than alcohol

**Notes**

*Sobriety checkpoints* are traffic stops where law enforcement officers assess the level of alcohol impairment of drivers.

**Often court-ordered for drivers previously convicted of a DUI, ignition interlocks are devices that prevent a car’s ignition from starting if the driver registers a BAC greater than 0.02 or 0.04 (by breathing into the device).

**Sources**


