

Chapter 15 Impaired Driving

Drinking and driving

What percent of drivers admit to drinking and driving?

At least 50%



Two things are not open to debate:

1. Drinking alcohol is illegal in all 50 states for under 21 years of age.
2. Anyone who has been drinking should not drive.



What is alcohol?

Alcohol contained in adult beverages is ethanol, a clear, odorless, depressant that slows down and impairs the central nervous system.

Alcohol and the brain

What is the first part of the body affected by alcohol?

The brain, particularly the part of the brain that allows you to think clearly and make good decisions.

Alcohol-related deaths

What percent of motor vehicle related deaths involve alcohol?

50%

Alcohol-related deaths

How many people die each year in alcohol related motor vehicle crashes?

Approximately 17,000 people die, and more than 1 million are injured

- About half of those killed were not the ones who had been drinking.

BAC (Blood Alcohol Content)

The greater the blood alcohol concentration (BAC), the greater the risk of being involved in a fatal crash.

What are the chances that you will be involved in an alcohol related crash at some point?

30% chance



What are the chances of a young drivers who has had one to two drinks being killed in a crash?

At least seven times more likely than a sober driver of any age

The odds

Compared to a sober driver, what are the odds of a 150-pound male being involved in a crash after one or two drinks?

Double that of a sober driver

Young drivers are 40 times more likely to be killed than a sober driver if they have had 3-4 drinks. At that point what would their BAC be?

BAC of .085 – just over the legal limit

What factors affect your BAC?

Gender

Body weight

Strength of the drink

Size of the drink

Food

Time spent drinking

How does the body eliminate alcohol?

- **Breath**
- **Sweat**
- **Oxidation**

What can you do to sober someone up?

Nothing - Time is the only thing that will sober you up and the body takes in alcohol quickly, but gets rid of it slowly.



Drugs and their effects

How will a drug affect you?

When using any drug, consider the risks and the effects it might have on your ability to perform routine and complex tasks.

Most drugs act on the central nervous system, which includes the brain and spinal cord.

- Stimulants - speed up the system.
- Depressants - slow it down.
- Hallucinogens - affect the way you see things

Distracted Driving

How can distractions affect your driving?

- Slowed perception
- Delayed decision-making
- Improper action

What are the most common distractions?

Radio

Friends

Climate control

Loose items

Phone

Eating/Drinking

GPS

Do your chances of having a collision while using a hands-free device go up, down, or stay the same when compared to using a cell phone?

Stay the same

Cell Phones

How many accidents and/or fatalities are related to the driver using a Cell phone?

Approximately 320,600 each year

What percent does your risk of being involved in a collision increase if you are using a cell phone?

400%