

Every day, 36 people die, and approximately 700 are injured, in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver.^{1,2} The annual cost of alcohol-related crashes totals more than \$51 billion.³ But, there are effective measures to prevent injuries and deaths from alcohol-impaired driving.

How Big is the Problem?

- In 2006, 13,470 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third (32%) of all traffic-related deaths in the United States.¹
- In 2007, over 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Less than 1% of 159 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving in U.S. each year⁴
- Drugs other than alcohol (e.g., marijuana and cocaine) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths. These other drugs are generally used in combination with alcohol.⁶
- Half of the child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-related crashes in 2006 were riding with drivers who had a BAC level of .08 or higher.¹

Who is At Risk?

- **Males:** Male drivers in fatal crashes are twice as likely as females to have a BAC- blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or greater.¹ It is illegal to drive with a BAC of 0.08% or higher.
- **Young People:**
 - The risk of being involved in a crash is greater for young people than for older people.⁷ In 2006, 19% of drivers ages 16-20 who died in car crashes had been drinking alcohol.¹
 - Young men ages 18 to 20 (under the legal drinking age) reported driving while alcohol-impaired, more than any other age group.^{4,8}
 - Of the 1,746 traffic fatalities among children under age 14 in 2006, about one out of every six (17%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver.¹
- **Motorcyclists:**
 - Nearly 50% of alcohol-impaired motorcyclists killed are age 40 or over, and motorcyclists ages 40-44 have the highest percentage of fatalities with BACs of 0.08% or greater.⁹
 - Among drivers killed in fatal crashes, 30% have BACs of 0.08% or greater.⁹
- **Drivers With Prior Driving While Impaired (DWI) Convictions:** Among drivers involved in fatal crashes, those with BAC levels of 0.08% or higher were eight times more likely to have a prior conviction for DWI than were drivers who had not consumed alcohol.¹

How Can Deaths and Injuries From Impaired Driving Be Prevented?

Effective measures include:

- Aggressively enforcing existing 0.08% BAC laws, minimum legal drinking age laws, and zero tolerance laws for drivers younger than 21 years old in all states.^{4,8}
- Promptly revoking the driver's licenses of people who drive while intoxicated.¹⁰
- Utilizing sobriety checkpoints.¹¹
- Implementing health promotion efforts that use an ecological framework to influence economic, organizational, policy, and school/community action.^{12,13}
- Using multi-faceted community-based approaches to alcohol control and DUI prevention.^{10,14}
- Mandatory alcohol/drug assessment and treatment for driving-under-the-influence offenders.¹⁵

Other suggested measures include:

- Reducing the legal limit for blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.05%.^{16,17}
- Raising state and federal alcohol excise taxes.¹⁷
- Implementing compulsory blood alcohol testing when traffic crashes result in injury.¹⁷

PROGRESS: Due to increased awareness, prevention, enforcement and treatment/recovery, alcohol-impaired driving deaths have **decreased 48.5%** from 1982 (26,172 deaths) to 2006 (13,470 deaths).

WARNING: Drinking and Driving is Not the Only Risk:

Annually, more than 100,000 deaths are alcohol-related, and **only 13.5% are drinking and driving.**

Over 86.5% of all alcohol-related deaths are pedestrian accidents, falls, fires, homicides, alcohol-overdose, suicides and health-related deaths, e.g., cirrhosis, etc.

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Source: Adapted from- http://www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Impaired_Driving/impaired-driv_factsheet.html

About NCADD: Founded in 1944, by Marty Mann, the first woman to recover from alcoholism in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) and its National Network of Affiliates is dedicated to increasing awareness and reducing the stigma often associated with the disease of alcoholism and drug dependence and advocates for the elimination of discrimination in terms of access to appropriate treatment within the health care system. NCADD Affiliates provide community education, prevention, information/referral, intervention, training, recovery support and advocacy services.

Last year, **713,000 people** called NCADD seeking help for themselves or a family member.

**National Council on Alcoholism and Drug
Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)**

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