



## Alcohol-related Accidents

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Each year, alcohol is responsible for 2.3 million deaths worldwide. That breaks down to approximately 6,300 deaths per day from traffic accidents, alcohol-related illnesses, burns, alcohol poisoning, falls, and drownings, as well as violence against oneself while intoxicated. Not only do these deaths include the people who consumed alcohol, but also the deaths of those who were victims of their behavior.

In the United States, it is estimated 88,000 people (approximately 62,000 men and 26,000 women) die from alcohol-related causes annually (drinking and driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related homicides and suicides). This makes alcohol use the fourth leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Because of the astonishing 88,000 deaths that are related to alcohol abuse every year, alcohol abuse is the third highest cause of death in the United States. Every day, approximately 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. Unfortunately, this amounts to one death every 51 minutes. In 2014:

- 9,967 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third (31%) of all traffic-related deaths in the United States
- Of the 1,070 traffic deaths among children, ages 0 to 14 years in 2014, 209 (19%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver
- Of the 209 child passengers, ages 14 and younger, who died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in 2014, over half (116) were riding in the vehicle with the alcohol-impaired driver

Being under the legal age has not stopped the alcohol-related deaths from rising. With so many youth having access to alcohol either at home or from friends, alcohol abuse has had a significant impact on the deaths of those under the age of 21. Eighty-six percent of people ages 18 to 21 reported that they have drunk alcohol at some point in their lifetime. From 2006–2010, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that, on average, alcohol is a factor in the deaths of 4,358 young people under age 21 each year— that's more than all illegal drugs combined. This includes:

- 1,580 deaths from motor vehicle crashes
- 1,269 from homicides
- 245 from alcohol poisoning, falls, burns, and drowning
- 492 from suicides

Unfortunately, a motor vehicle is not the only form of transportation that has impacted the death toll due to alcohol use.

- Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 17% of deaths
- Nineteen percent of bicyclists killed had blood alcohol concentrations at or above the legal limit
- In 35 percent of the crashes, either the driver or the bicyclist had blood alcohol concentrations of 0.08 g/dL or higher

Knowledge is power. Many people do not realize how many lives are lost to alcohol abuse. However, once it is known, it is every single person's responsibility to reduce the number of deaths because of alcohol abuse. It may not be easy, but by taking small steps every day, the impact will be substantial.

[http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/msbalcinuries.pdf](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/msbalcinuries.pdf)

[https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/impaired\\_driving/impaired-driv\\_factsheet.html](https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/impaired_driving/impaired-driv_factsheet.html)

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohol-health/overview-alcohol-consumption/alcohol-facts-and-statistics>

[https://americanboating.org/boating\\_fatalities.asp](https://americanboating.org/boating_fatalities.asp)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelly-fitzgerald/15-shocking-alcohol-statistics\\_b\\_7010680.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelly-fitzgerald/15-shocking-alcohol-statistics_b_7010680.html)

[http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/data/factsheet\\_crash.cfm](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/data/factsheet_crash.cfm)

<https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/UnderageDrinking/UnderageFact.htm>



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