

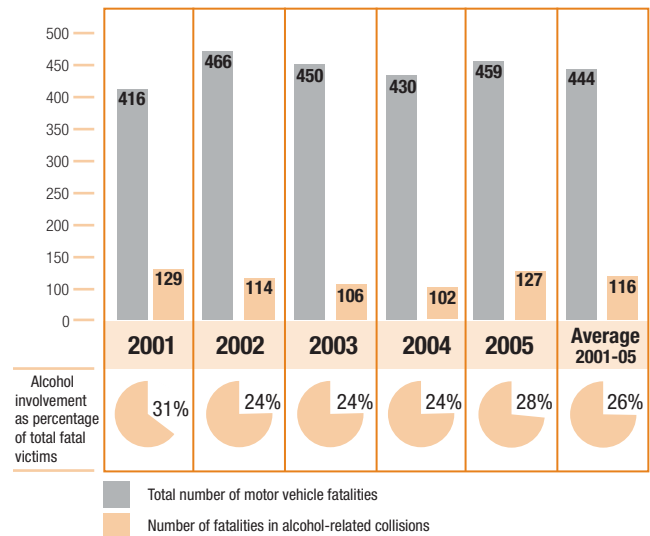
Drinking and Driving

FACT
sheet

Trends

2005 alcohol-involved collisions in BC*

- Alcohol was a contributing factor in over 28 per cent of all police-reported motor vehicle fatal collisions.
- 127 people were killed in alcohol-related collisions, up from 102 in 2004.
- Approximately 3,400 people were injured, up from 3,200 in 2004.
- 62 per cent of all fatalities and injuries in alcohol-related incidents occurred on a weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).
- The peak hours for alcohol-related fatal collisions occurred between 6 pm and 3 am.



*Police (TAS) Traffic Accident System Data.

2005 fatality count is not fixed. Fatality data continues to settle over time.

Facts about drugs and medications:

Be very cautious when driving while using medications or drugs. Many prescription medicines and over-the-counter drugs affect the skills necessary for driving, and may render you impaired under the Criminal Code. Drugs for cold, flu, allergies and nausea can cause your attention to wander, slow your reaction time and make you drowsy. When combined with alcohol, these drugs can be dangerous. Be sure

you read labels carefully and check with your doctor or pharmacist about whether it is safe to drive while taking specific drugs.

There are some instances where it is essential for people to take prescribed medications; for example, if they have certain medical conditions such as diabetes or epilepsy.

Drinking Driving CounterAttack

Celebrating 30 years of CounterAttack 1977 – 2007. In the past 30 years fatalities from impaired driving have decreased from over 300 in 1976; the year prior to CounterAttack starting, to 126 fatalities in 2005. Despite the progress in making drinking and driving unacceptable, it still remains a serious problem. CounterAttack police roadchecks help protect people from the harmful consequences of impaired driving through the enforcement of all relevant laws and regulations. Police enforcement occurs year-round, with increased roadchecks during July/August and again during the December holiday season.

Is it worth it to drink and drive?

- You or your passengers could be injured or killed in a crash.
- You may spend time in jail.
- You could lose your licence.

- You may have to pay stiff fines.
- Your insurance may not pay for any injuries or damage you cause.
- You may get a criminal record.
- You may be required to participate in a remedial program.
- You may have your vehicle impounded.

Protect yourself from drinking drivers:

- Learn about the effects of alcohol. Accurate information allows you to make informed decisions.
- Refuse to ride with drivers who may be impaired. Ask to be let out of the car if necessary.
- Take a stand and don't let people drive who are drinking alcohol.
- Choose a designated driver before going out, keep money aside for a bus or taxi, or call a friend.
- **Plan ahead to get home safely.**

Alcohol Myths	Alcohol Fact
<p>Alcohol won't affect me as much if I drink coffee, have something to eat, or take a cold shower.</p>	<p>Only time can sober you up or lower your Blood Alcohol Content (BAC). Contrary to popular belief food, coffee, cold showers or exercise will not speed up the elimination of alcohol from your system. You are safest if you completely separate driving from drinking.</p>
<p>Beer doesn't affect driving as much as other alcoholic drinks do.</p>	<p>A glass of beer contains the same amount of alcohol as a glass of wine or an average cocktail. In some cases, even small amounts of alcohol can cause a driver to be impaired.</p>



This publication reflects the laws in British Columbia as of December 2007. You should be aware that laws might change from time to time, so for a current statement of the law, you should refer to the applicable legislation. In the case of any conflict between this publication and the legislation, you should always follow the legislation.

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