



Alcohol Abuse and DWI Quick Facts

DUI/DWI

- 17,419 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic accidents in 2002. That's one person every 30 minutes and represents 41% of all traffic fatalities.
- While alcohol-related traffic fatality rates decreased consistently between 1982 and 1999, rates have increased each year since 1999.
- One person every two minutes—or 258,000 people—were injured in alcohol-related crashes in 2002.
- 8.4% of all alcohol-related traffic fatalities are the result of an intoxicated driver who had at least one previous DWI conviction.
- There are 1.5 million DWI arrests each year.
- Alcohol-related crashes are associated with more than \$51 billion in total costs annually.
- Impaired driving will affect one in three Americans during their lifetime.
- It is estimated that up to 80% of DWI offenders continue to drive while their license is revoked.
- Impaired driving is the most frequently committed violent crime in the U.S.
- On average, DUI offenders drive drunk an estimated 300 times before they get caught.

Alcohol and Crime

- More than 4 in 10 offenders, or nearly 5.3 million offenders, regardless of whether they are on probation, in local jails, or in State prison, were using alcohol at the time of the offense.
- About 3 million violent crimes occur each year in which victims perceive the offender to have been drinking at the time of the offense.
- Nearly 7 out of every 10 alcohol-involved incidents of violence occurred in a residence; 2 in 10 involved the use of a weapon.
- Over 50% of state parole and probation violators were under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or both when they violated the conditions of their current sentence.

The Economic Costs of Alcohol

- The estimated annual cost of alcohol abuse and alcoholism is estimated to be \$184.6 billion. Those costs include (but are not limited to) medical expenditures resulting from injury, lost earnings, lost productivity, crime costs, and social welfare administration.
- There are 105,000 alcohol-related deaths in the U.S. each year. Traffic crashes are the most common cause, representing 19% of those deaths.
- 13.4 million people are dependent on or abuse alcohol. Of those, nearly 2.2 million people receive treatment each year for alcohol abuse—at a cost of \$13 million.

Sources

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Commission Against Drunk Driving
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services