

MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

The negative consequences of alcohol and other drug abuse are substantial in degree and range. Traffic safety problems, including motor vehicle crashes, are but one part of a complex societal issue.

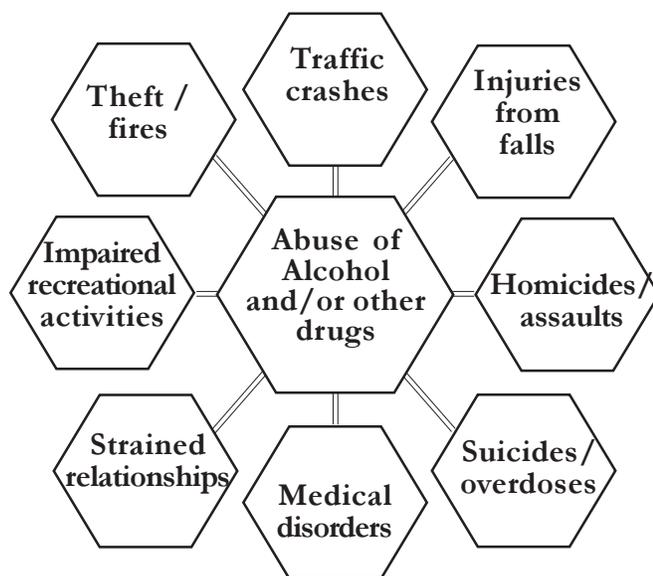
Persons who are alcoholics or who seek assistance related to their use are widely thought to be “the problem”. But a study accepted for publication at the close of 2003 concluded that the brains of socially functioning heavy drinkers show the same physiological changes as those who have been hospitalized for long-term chronic abuse of alcohol.

The use and abuse of alcoholic beverages increase the likelihood of virtually all types of injury among Wisconsinites of all ages. About one-third of fatally injured drivers and substantial proportions of adult passengers and pedestrians killed in motor vehicle crashes—as well as in falls, drownings, fires, assaults, and suicides—have alcohol concentrations of 0.10

percent or higher. In both highway and non-highway events, the more severe the event, the higher the degree to which alcohol contributes. In Wisconsin, alcohol contributed to 42% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2003.

Various government agencies collect data on deaths attributable to alcohol and drug abuse. In Wisconsin, information about motor vehicle deaths is collected by the Department of Transportation. Numbers of boating and snowmobile deaths are maintained by the Department of Natural Resources. Alcohol disease deaths, drug-related deaths, as well as all other death information derived from Wisconsin death certificates, are maintained by the Department of Health and Family Services. These reporting and research efforts are yet another societal cost of human use of alcohol and other drugs.

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE



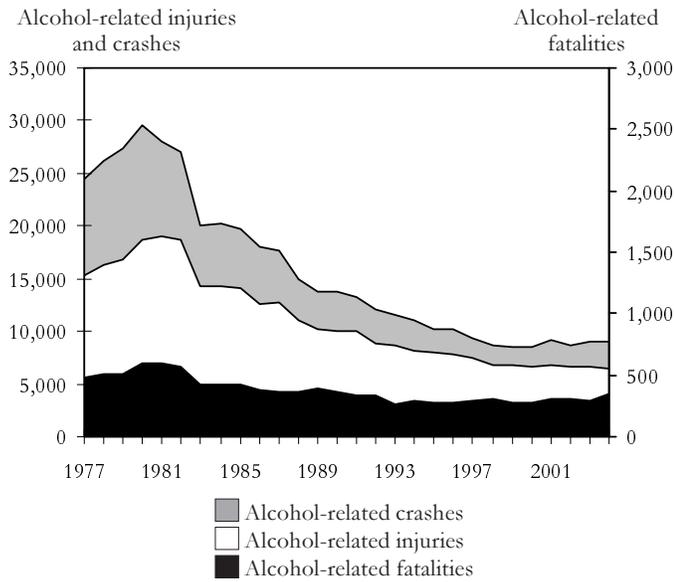
ALCOHOL-RELATED DEATHS IN WISCONSIN: FIFTEEN YEAR SUMMARY

Year	Alcohol Diseases	Other Drugs
1988	298	106
1989	337	92
1990	303	83
1991	264	100
1992	283	98
1993	306	102
1994	672*	209*
1995	687	216
1996	667	197
1997	659	225
1998	735	290
1999	763	293
2000	839	363
2001	830	375
2002	850	464
2003	not avail	not avail

NOTE: The *Alcohol Diseases* category and the *Other Drugs* category include diseases, accidental overdose and suicide. 1994 reporting changes allowed for more contributing causes for deaths.

SOURCE: DOT-DMV Accident Database; Department of Health and Family Services Center for Health Statistics; Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Law Enforcement; *Alcohol Clinical Exp Res*, Vol 28, No 4, 2004: pp650-661.

ALCOHOL-RELATED INJURIES AND DEATHS FROM MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES: HISTORICAL SUMMARY



An alcohol-related crash is one in which the investigating officer perceived that a driver, pedestrian or bicyclist involved in the crash had been drinking alcohol prior to the crash. Citations are not always written for crashes that are alcohol-related.

Year	ALCOHOL-RELATED		
	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
1976	24,548	485	15,319
1977	26,200	505	16,258
1978	27,354	510	16,760
1979	29,647	593	18,681
1980	28,025	592	19,112
1981	26,978	573	18,648
1982	20,089	426	14,283
1983	20,216	417	14,282
1984	19,748	428	14,054
1985	18,077	373	12,616
1986	17,673	371	12,766
1987	14,994	368	11,120
1988	13,847	391	10,170
1989	13,803	366	10,048
1990	13,309	335	10,035
1991	12,034	333	8,899
1992	11,516	268	8,686
1993	11,052	297	8,093
1994	10,279	278	8,039
1995	10,170	282	7,890
1996	9,338	295	7,496
1997	8,627	309	6,797
1998	8,475	282	6,850
1999	8,446	270	6,563
2000	9,096	301	6,836
2001	8,695	304	6,586
2002	8,922	292	6,570
2003	9,007	348	6,445

ECONOMIC LOSS FROM ALCOHOL-RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

According to Department of Transportation estimates, alcohol-related crashes cost Wisconsin more than \$500 million in 2003. This represents nearly 25% of the estimated total economic loss in Wisconsin due to motor vehicle crashes. Economic loss is determined using national cost estimates obtained from the National Safety Council. Per-incident figures used to calculate the 2003 economic loss are the 2002 National Safety Council estimates plus 2%, the consumer price index.

- Fatality: \$1,112,000
- Incapacitating injury: \$53,100
- Nonincapacitating injury: \$17,500
- Possible injury: \$9,900
- Property damage: \$6,300

Other Crashes
\$2.1 billion



In 2002, alcohol was cited as a contributing factor in 6% of motor vehicle crashes that resulted in hospitalization in Wisconsin. During that year, alcohol-related crashes accounted for 5,803 nights of inpatient hospital stays and resulted in nearly \$29 million in hospital charges. That figure is 25% of all motor vehicle-related hospital charges and does not include the physician charges for hospital care or any post-discharge medical care. As far as visits to Wisconsin emergency rooms are concerned, a data subset consisting of crash reports linked to emergency room utilization data suggests that persons involved in alcohol-related crashes are 75% more likely than persons involved in other crashes to visit an emergency room and 400% more likely to be hospitalized.

NOTE: The method used for calculating economic loss differs from that used in some prior *Wisconsin Alcohol Traffic Facts* books where a single cost figure was used for all nonfatal injuries, regardless of severity.

SOURCE: DOT-Bureau of Transportation Safety; DOT-DMV Accident Database; UW-Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis

ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS INVOLVING RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

BOATS

Year	Alcohol-Related Fatalities	Total Fatalities	%Alcohol-Related	Registered Vehicles
1996	9	19	47%	540,835
1997	10	29	34%	543,034
1998	5	18	39%	564,312
1999	7	18	39%	564,312
2000	10	25	40%	573,919
2001	8	21	38%	575,920
2002	6	19	32%	619,125
2003	6	19	32%	610,000

SNOWMOBILES

Year	Alcohol-Related Fatalities	Total Fatalities	%Alcohol-Related	Registered Vehicles
1993	13	21	62%	180,208
1994	17	30	57%	182,124
1995	12	22	54%	193,184
1996	24	34	70%	202,216
1997	13	21	61%	208,200
1998	12	20	60%	214,611
1999	22	38	58%	215,000
2000	12	26	58%	214,331
2001	10	22	45%	232,320
2002	6	14	42%	226,886

ALCOHOL-RELATED CITATIONS ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Year	Boating	Snowmobile	ATV	TOTAL
1996	321	173	40	534
1997	323	70	35	428
1998	254	73	32	359
1999	287	72	28	383
2000	245	67	28	340
2001	199	175	39	340
2002	197	137	22	356
2003	291	54	70	415

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

Year	Alcohol-Related Fatalities	Total Fatalities	%Alcohol-Related	Registered Vehicles
1996	2	5	40%	79,245
1997	1	4	25%	89,580
1998	1	6	17%	97,420
1999	1	4	25%	98,100
2000	3	8	38%	126,000
2001	3	11	27%	160,511
2002	5	11	42%	169,461
2003	10	19	56%	200,515

TYPES OF ALCOHOL-RELATED CITATIONS ISSUED BY WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: HISTORICAL SUMMARY

BOATING 1986-2003	Totals
Operate a motorboat while under the influence of an intoxicant,	
operate a motorboat with AC of 0.10% or greater	4,107
Refuse test, intoxicated motorboat operation	226
Cause injury by intoxicated operation of a motorboat	67
Intoxicated water-skiing	8
Total	4,117

SNOWMOBILES 1986-2003	Totals
Operate a snowmobile while intoxicated	1,054
Operate a snowmobile with alcohol concentration above 0.10%	811
Refuse to take intoxicated snowmobile test	91
Absolute sobriety for persons under age 19	25
Cause injury by intoxicated operation of snowmobile	12
Total	1,993

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV) 1986-2003	Totals
Operate an ATV while intoxicated	297
Operate an ATV with alcohol concentration above 0.10%	196
Absolute sobriety for persons under age 19	12
Refuse to take intoxicated ATV test	33
Total	538

NOTE: The registration figures displayed above represent the number of recreational vehicles in possession of valid registration. They do not represent the number of applications for registrations. Snowmobile and ATV registrations last two years. Boat registrations switched from a two year cycle to a three year cycle in 2002.

SOURCE: Department of Natural Resources - Bureau of Law Enforcement

BOATING OWI AND RELATED PENALTIES

Conviction	Fine or Forfeiture	Jail	Assessment	Mandatory Boater Education
OWI 30.681(1)	1st: \$150-\$491 2nd: \$300-\$1,000 3rd: \$600-\$2,000 4th: \$600-\$2,000 5th: \$600-\$2,000 [30.80(6)(a)1-5]	2nd: 5 days to 6 mo 3rd: 30 days to 1 yr 4th: 60 days to 1 yr 5th: 6 months to 1 yr	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes [30.80(6)(d)]	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes [30.80(6)(e)]
Causing Injury While OWI 30.681(2)	\$300-\$2,000 [30.80(6)(b)]	30 days to 1 yr	Yes	Yes
Chemical Test Refusal 30.684(5)	1st: \$150-\$491 2nd: \$300-\$1,000 3rd: \$600-\$2,000 [30.80(6)(a)1-5]	2nd: 5 days to 3 mo 3rd: 30 days to 1 yr	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes
Absolute Sobriety (If under age 21) 30.681(1)(bn)	\$0-\$147.50 [30.80(6)(a)6]	No	No	No

SNOWMOBILE OWI AND RELATED PENALTIES

Conviction	Fine or Forfeiture	Jail	Assessment	Mandatory Snow mobile Education
OWI 350.101(1)	1st: \$400-\$762.50 2nd: \$300-\$1,000 3rd: \$600-\$2,000 [350.11(3)(a)1-3]	2nd: 5 days to 6 mo 3rd: 30 days to 1 yr	Yes Yes Yes [350.11(3)4(d)]	No No No
Causing Injury While OWI 350.101(2)	\$300-\$2,000 [350.11(3)(b)]	30 days to 1 yr	Yes	No
Chemical Test Refusal 350.104(5)	1st: \$400-\$762.50 2nd: \$300-\$1,000 3rd: \$600-\$2,000 [350.11(3)(a)1-3]	2nd: 5 days to 3 mo 3rd: 30 days to 1 yr	Yes Yes Yes	No No No
Absolute Sobriety (If under age 19) 350.101(1)(c)	\$0-\$147.50 [350.11(3)4]	No	No	No

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE OWI AND RELATED PENALTIES

Conviction	Fine or Forfeiture	Jail	Assessment	Mandatory All-terrain Education
OWI 23.33(4c)(a)	1st: \$150-\$455 2nd: \$300-\$1,000 3rd: \$600-\$2,000 [23.33(13)(b)1-3]	2nd: 5 days to 6 mo 3rd: 30 days to 1 yr	Yes Yes Yes [23.33(13)4(e)]	No No No
Causing Injury While OWI 23.33(4c)(b)1	\$300-\$2,000 [23.33(13)(c)]	30 days to 1 yr	Yes	No
Chemical Test Refusal 23.33(4p)(e)	1st: \$150-\$455 2nd: \$300-\$1,000 3rd: \$600-\$2,000 [23.33(13)(b)1-3]	2nd: 5 days to 3 mo 3rd: 30 days to 1 yr	Yes Yes Yes	No No No
Absolute Sobriety (If under age 19) 23.33(4c)(a)3	\$0-\$147.50 [23.33(13)(b)4]	No	No	No

BOATING, SNOWMOBILE AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE PENALTIES

Conviction	Fine or Forfeiture	Jail	Assessment	Mandatory Education
Causing Great Bodily Harm by OWI 940.25	Up to \$10,000 [939.50(3)(d)]	Up to 10 years imprisonment	Yes	Boat: Yes Snow: No ATV: No
Homicide While OWI 940.09		Up to 60 years imprisonment	Yes	Boat: Yes Snow: No ATV: No

OWI=Operating while intoxicated (also may be called "OUI")
SOURCE: Department of Natural Resources - Bureau of Law Enforcement