

IMPAIRED DRIVING

2002

Laws

In Virginia, the BAC limit is .08 and for a first offense and the administrative license suspension period is 7 days. (*IIHS*) There is a mandatory minimum fee of \$250.00, and a driver's license revocation for one year.

All but two states (MA and SC) and DC have per se laws defining it as a crime to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at or above a proscribed level, usually 0.10 percent (VA is .08 percent). (*IIHS*)

Forty-one states and DC have administrative license suspension laws. Administrative license suspension is when licenses are taken before conviction when a driver fails or refuses to take a chemical test. (*IIHS*)

2002 Virginia Statistics

There were 147,737 traffic crashes reported. (*DMV*)

There were 913 total fatalities. (*DMV*)

There were 78,896 total injuries. (*DMV*)

There were 375 alcohol-related fatalities. (*DMV*)

There were 8,465 alcohol-related injuries. (*DMV*)

27,338 persons tested with a BAC .08 or greater. (*DMV*)

The average BAC of tested drinking drivers was 0.1382 percent. (*DMV*)

27,322 persons were convicted for DUI. Of those convicted for DUI, 84% were male and almost 16% were female. (*DMV*)

In Virginia in 2002, 41.1% of the total traffic fatalities were alcohol-related. (*DMV*)

Forty-five teenagers, aged 15-19, were killed in alcohol-related crashes in 2002.

In 2002, 1,095 teenagers, aged 15-19, were injured in alcohol-related crashes.

In 2002, there were 5,621 alcohol-related property damage crashes. (*VA MADD*)

Number of fatalities on major holidays in Virginia in 2002: (*DMV*)

- Memorial Day	12
- 4th of July	2
- Labor Day	17
- Thanksgiving	9
- Christmas	12
- New Years	10)

National Statistics

General:

In 2002, 17,419 people were killed in crashes involving alcohol in the United States; that is a .1% decrease from 2001. (*NHTSA*)

An alcohol-related fatality occurs approximately every 30 minutes. (*NHTSA*)

More than 258,000 people were injured in crashes when police reported that alcohol was present. (*NHTSA*)

On average, a person is injured in an alcohol-related crash every 2 minutes. (*NHTSA*)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that alcohol was involved in 41% of fatal crashes and 6% of all crashes in 1998. (*NHTSA*)

About 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. (*NHTSA*)

Economic costs of alcohol-related crashes are estimated to be \$40 billion yearly. An additional \$70 billion is lost in quality of life due to these crashes. (*MADD*)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the 21-year-old minimum drinking age laws have reduced traffic fatalities involving 18- to 20-year-olds by 13%. (*NHTSA*)

In 2002, an estimated 917 lives were saved by minimum age drinking laws; approximately 21,887 lives have been saved since 1975. (*NHTSA*)

The highest intoxication rates in fatal crashes in 2002 were recorded for drivers 21-24 years old (33%), followed by ages 25-34 (24%), and 35-44 (26%). (*NHTSA*)

On average, 1 out of every 137 licensed drivers is arrested for driving under the

influence of alcohol or narcotics. (*NHTSA*)

The driver, pedestrian, or both were intoxicated in 41% of all fatal pedestrian crashes in 2002. (*NHTSA*)

Thirty-five percent of intoxicated drivers involved in fatal crashes are also speeding. (*NHTSA*)

Intoxication rates for drivers in fatal crashes in 1998 were highest for motorcycle operators (31%) and lowest for drivers of large trucks (1%). The intoxication rate for drivers of light trucks was higher than that for passenger car drivers (20% and 18%, respectively). (*NHTSA*)

Safety belts were only used by 23% of the fatally injured intoxicated drivers (BAC of 0.10 percent or greater), compared to 36% of fatally injured impaired drivers (BAC between 0.01 and 0.09 percent). (*NHTSA*)

Teenagers:

Among drivers who aren't legally permitted to buy alcohol (16-20 years old), 22% of fatally injured drivers in 1998 had BACs at or above .10 percent. (*IIHS*)

Among teenage drivers (16-19 years old), 31% of fatally injured male drivers and 12% of fatally injured female drivers had BACs at or above .10 percent. (*IIHS*)

Male teenage drivers with BACs in the .05-.10 percent range are 18 times more likely than sober teenagers to be killed in single-vehicle crashes. The corresponding comparison for females is 54 times more likely. (*IIHS*)

Fifty-three percent of teenage motor vehicle deaths in 2002 occurred on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. (*IIHS*)

Forty-one percent of teenage motor vehicle deaths in 2002 occurred between 9pm and 6am. (*IIHS*)

There has been a 33% reduction of intoxicated young drivers involved in fatal crashes since 1988. (*NHTSA*)

Blood Alcohol Concentration:

A BAC as low as .02 percent has been shown to affect driving ability. The probability of a crash rises significantly after .05 percent BAC and even more rapidly after about .08 percent. (*IIHS*)

On weekend nights, drivers with a BAC of 0.15 percent are 380 times more likely to die in a single-vehicle crash than are non-drinking drivers. (*NHTSA*)

The average BAC of a person arrested for DUI in this country is between .16 and .17 percent (the legal limit is .08 or .10, depending on the state). (*NHTSA*)

Among fatally injured motor vehicle drivers in 1998, 35% had BACs at or above .10 percent. (*USDOT*)

The proportion of driver deaths involving BACs at or above 0.08 percent in 2002 was 33% for passenger vehicles and 31% for motorcycles. (*USDOT*)

Fatally injured drivers with BAC levels of 0.08 percent or greater were 5 times as likely to have a prior conviction for driving while intoxicated compared to fatally injured sober drivers. (*NHTSA*)

Time of Day:

The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is about 4 times as high at night as during the day (60 percent vs. 17 percent). (*NHTSA*)

In 2002, 31% of all fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 52% on weekends. (*NHTSA*)