

# Problems with drinking and driving

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Consuming alcohol and driving is one of the most dangerous actions drivers can perform on the road. It causes hundreds of unnecessary accidents and deaths every year, resulting in an unsafe environment. It is very important for drivers to not break the law and must not attempt to drive their motor vehicle while impaired, especially under the influence of alcohol. There are many reasons why people believe they can drink and drive, however, the alcohol itself is one of the biggest factors into leading people into driving while under the influence.

**Most people don't realize how dangerous it is to be driving under the influence of alcohol to themselves and others in their surrounding environment. A 2005 study shows that 17,000 impaired driving incidents were reported by police in Ontario alone, and in the same year 174 people were killed and 3852 people were injured in a motor vehicle collision. Just in the past decade more than 2000 people were killed and over 50,000 people have had major and minor injuries.**

**In Ontario, you are allowed to have a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.08% if you're are a fully licensed G driver. Most of the time people will have a few drinks and do not realized that their BAC level is higher than the law permits, and they'll believe that they are legally allowed to operate a motor vehicle. Many people don't know that your BAC level is affected by how fast you drink, your gender, body weight and how much food you have in your stomach. With a BAC level of 0.05, an individual's vision may already be affected in terms of sensitivity to brightness, the ability to determine colors, and depth and motion perception. The brains ability to perform simple motor functions is diminished, which results in a slower and less accurate driver's reaction and response time. This means degraded driving performance and a significant increase in collision risk.**

**Over 500 issued Driving under the Influence (DUI) charges and over 500 warnings have been issued per year for the last few years.** Every year, Peel Police in Ontario charge hundreds of drivers with DUI's resulting in most of them having their licenses suspended and removed, and depending on how server the case is, some may even be taken to prison. Getting a DUI charge can put you in heavy finical depth and pause, or put a stop to, your current goals you are currently engaged in. If those who were charge with a DUI would like to continue driving after their suspension, they would need to pay for BAC level tester system to be installed in their vehicle that they would operate. They would also have to pay for the uninstallation when the time comes to take it out, the total cost for the installations alone are over \$1000.

**Ontario has come a long way but impaired driving still remains a serious problem. Every year, around 17,000 drivers are convicted of criminal code of Canada offences. These include impaired driving, driving with a blood alcohol level concentration of more then 0.08, criminal negligence causing bodily harm or death, manslaughter and dangerous**

**driving and failure to remain at the scene of collision. It is estimated that approximately three quarters (75%) of those convictions are related to drinking and driving. Impaired drivers are involved in thousands of traffic collisions every year. If drivers were to only operate their vehicle's while there are never under the influence of alcohol, this would bring the convictions significantly making our community a much safer place.**

**In Conclusion, Operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol can be just as dangerous as an escaped convict waving around a loaded gun in your environment.**

**Motor vehicles are very dangerous objects and should not be taken for granted.**

**Everyone should be educated about the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol to help ensure that the environment is a safe place for drivers and pedestrians.**

Consuming alcohol and driving is one of the most dangerous things drivers do on the road. It causes hundreds of unnecessary deaths every year, resulting in an unsafe driving environment. There are many reasons why people choose to drink and drive, however, the alcohol itself is the biggest factor into leading people into driving while under the influence.

The effects of alcohol on a person vary depending on the amount of alcohol consumed, or how much alcohol is in the blood stream. BAC, or Blood Alcohol Concentration, is the term used to measure blood alcohol levels. For drivers, the Blood Alcohol Concentration Level cannot be higher than 0.08%.

Most people do not realize how dangerous it is to themselves, and to others to be under the influence while driving. A lot of times, a driver is only mildly intoxicated, and doesn't know that their Blood Alcohol Concentration level is slightly higher than the law permits. In this case, they would be pulled over, and given a breathalyser test, to determine the level of intoxication.

Every year, Peel Police charge hundreds of drivers with DUI (Driving under the Influence), resulting in most of them having their licenses suspended and removed, and depending on the severity of the case, some may even be taken to prison. Drinking and driving is a very serious offence, one that most police bureaus in the country pose heavy fines, and serious jail time.

There are many ways to prevent drinking and driving. Most police departments usually just use the fines and jail sentence to scare and prevent drivers from driving while under the influence. However I personally feel that is not enough. The most effective way to prevent drinking and driving in my opinion, is to educate drivers, to show to dangers of driving while intoxicated first hand.

Another common case when drinking and driving is peer pressure. Sometimes, an individual may not “want” to drive while intoxicated, however, his or her friends may greatly influence whether or not the driver ends up actually getting behind the wheel or not. It is important for a driver to understand, when it is his or her limit, and to cut it off from there, and not to let anyone else influence the decision of whether or not to drive.

A lot of times, the cases of drinking and driving are closely related to cases of alcoholism. Police are pulling drivers over, to find that not only are they under the influence, but some of them have had other drunken driving issues as well as other alcohol related crimes. Alcoholics have a much higher tendency to operate a motor vehicle than the average person, so I feel that setting up programs to help prevent alcoholism is a good idea.

Motor vehicles are very dangerous objects, and should be taken much more seriously than they currently are. Drivers should be educated about the dangers of driving while intoxicated, and other steps should be taken, like preventing alcoholism, to help ensure that the road is a safe place for all drivers.

## **Bibliography**

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