Dying to Drink: Impaired Driving in Texas

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Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

Definition

• DUI crashes involve at least one driver under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, including prescribed medications.

• DUI, in this context, is used as a general term to include both driving while intoxicated (DWI) and driving under the influence (DUI) offenses.
DUI Crashes
2013

• 8,002 involved fatal or serious injuries
  – 15% were fatal
• 1,322 fatalities \((K\text{\ crashes})\)
• 6,680 serious injuries \((A\ or\ B\ crashes)\)

Crash data extracted April 2014
Where Do DUI Crashes Occur?

• *Urban* is defined as within a city limit
  – 4,526 crashes or 57%

• *Rural* is defined as an area with a population of less than 5,000 people
  – 3,477 crashes or 43%
Urban vs. Rural DUI Crashes
Where at least one driver is impaired

![Bar chart showing the number of urban and rural DUI crashes from 2010 to 2013. The chart indicates a decrease in both urban and rural crashes over these years.](chart)
When Do DUI Crashes Occur?

- 39% weekdays
- 61% weekends
- 18% daytime (6am-6pm)
- 40% evening (6pm-midnight)
- 42% late night (midnight-6am)
When Do DUI Crashes Occur?
All Year
DUI Crashes by Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Day</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 AM - 6:59 AM</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 AM - 7:59 AM</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 AM - 8:59 AM</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 AM - 9:59 AM</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM - 10:59 AM</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 AM - 12:59 PM</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 PM - 2:59 PM</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 PM - 4:59 PM</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 PM - 6:59 PM</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 PM - 8:59 PM</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekdays:**
- **MONDAY:** 9%
- **TUESDAY:** 9%
- **WEDNESDAY:** 9%
- **THURSDAY:** 11%
- **FRIDAY:** 16%
- **SATURDAY:** 24%
- **SUNDAY:** 22%
Types of DUI Crashes?

- Single Vehicle: 4455
- Multi-Vehicle: 3547
DUI Crashes
Single Vehicle Only

• 85% result in a fatality
• 53% of fatal crashes occur in rural areas
  – No witnesses to event
  – Roadway environment
  – Longer EMS response
  – Access to trauma services
• 45% of severe injury crashes occur in rural areas
Who Dies in DUI Crashes?

Drivers: 909 (69%)
Passengers: 280 (21%)
Cyclists: 11 (1%)
Pedestrians: 122 (9%)
### Who Else Are Affected?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person Type</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
<th>Serious Injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Drivers</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>6,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passengers</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>2,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclists</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrians</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fatalities: 69%  Serious Injuries: 69%
The Drivers

1,322 total fatalities

909 were drivers (69%)

539 (59%) had a BAC > 0.08
In 2013 alone:

- 90% BAC >= 0.08
- 61% BAC >= 0.15
- Average BAC reported for drivers, 0.152
8,002 Impaired Driver Crashes (all KAB crashes)

- 6,728 Drivers with Alcohol Contributing Factors
  - 66% (4,414) No Data on Alcohol Test Result
  - 10% (253) with a Positive BAC < 0.08
  - 90% (2,302) with a BAC >= 0.08
  - 60% (1,562) with a BAC >= 0.15

- 2,555 Drivers with a BAC > 0
  - 10% (253) with a Positive BAC < 0.08
  - 90% (2,302) with a BAC >= 0.08
  - 60% (1,562) with a BAC >= 0.15

- 514 Drivers with Positive Substance Test Result
  - (37%) 191 Positive Alcohol Test Result
BAC Testing for Fatal Crashes

• NHTSA wants states to have BAC data on all fatal crashes

• Local judicial discretion
  – Awareness of the data criticality
  – One vehicle/one fatality crashes
  – Financial impact to the local jurisdiction

• Connection between local law enforcement and TxDOT Crash Records Information System (CRIS)
BAC Testing Challenges

– BAC testing was ordered, but had not been recorded on the crash report
– alcohol and/or drugs are indicated a contributing factor, but no testing was ordered/performed
– no indication of alcohol and/or drugs was recorded on the crash report as a contributing factor
Progress: BAC Testing in Fatal Crashes

• We understand that the process has limitations

• Engaging stakeholders through education and technical assistance
  – Justices of the peace
  – Medical examiners
  – Law enforcement

• Working in partnership with TxDOT to retrieve missing BAC toxicology test results