



## Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

About 2¢ a drink yields \$44 million annually to reduce the impact of alcohol problems in Missouri.

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### **Question:**

*We read frequently in our daily newspapers about alcohol intoxication in connection with domestic violence. What does the research literature tell us about this relationship?*

### **Answer:**

A review of 129 studies published between 1950 and 1994 found repeated evidence of an overall relationship between greater alcohol use and violence, with particularly strong evidence in studies of domestic violence. Eleven (11) of 13 studies reported statistically significant levels of association that remained after analysis controlled for other variables. (1)

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## MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #28

- The National Crime Victimization Survey has found consistently that alcohol is more likely than other drugs to be involved in substance-abuse related violence. For every incident in which drugs other than alcohol were involved there were four (4) incidents in which only alcohol was consumed. Alcohol was used by 67% of persons who victimized an intimate, compared with 38% of those who victimized an acquaintance and 31% who victimized a stranger. (2)
- Convicted murderers in state prisons report that alcohol was a factor in half the murders committed, with alcohol involvement higher in murders of intimates (54%) than murders of acquaintances (50%) or strangers (47%). (2)
- Studies have generally found that the more serious the crime or injuries, the more likely alcohol was involved. (3)
- Persons in emergency rooms with violence-related injuries were two to five times as likely as persons injured from all other causes to have some alcohol in their bloodstream. Persons consuming large quantities of alcohol were found to be at greater risk for injuries than those consuming smaller amounts. (4)

- (1) Lipsey, MW; Wilson, DB; Cohen, MA; and Derzon, JH. "Is there a causal relationship between alcohol use and violence?" In Galanter, M. ed. Recent Developments in Alcoholism. Vol. 13. Alcohol and Violence: Epidemiology, Neurobiology, Psychology, and Family Issues. NY: Plenum, 1997.
- (2) Greenfeld, L. A. "Alcohol and Crime: An Analysis of National Data on the Prevalence of Alcohol Involvement in Crime." Report prepared for Assistant Attorney General's National Symposium on Alcohol Abuse and Crime. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1998.
- (3) US Department of Health and Human Services, Tenth Special Report to the U.S. Congress on Alcohol and Health, 2000, pages 54-65.
- (4) Cherpitel, C.J. "Alcohol and injuries resulting from violence – A review of emergency room studies." Addiction 89(2), 157-165, 1994.

**For more information call one of the Missouri's Alcohol Impact Coalition members below:**

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