



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

**Question:**

*We hear a great deal about the impact of alcohol on highway crashes, but how do the numbers compare with the impact of alcohol on other hospital emergency room trauma cases?*

**Answer:**

Alcohol has a significant impact on the risk for almost all accidental injury or death. The effects are visible in the high percentages of trauma patients in the ER who have positive BAC's or who are legally intoxicated at time of admission. Missouri hospitals reported 48,647 alcohol-related hospital visits in 2002. This is a substantial increase (31%) from the 37,062 alcohol-related visits reported in 1995. (a)

**MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #31**

- In one major study, researchers found that of 2,657 patients admitted to an ER for treatment of blunt or penetrating trauma, 47% had a positive BAC (0.01 percent or greater) and about 36% who were legally intoxicated (had a BAC of 0.10 percent or greater). The injury mechanisms are reported below. (b)

Injury Mechanism	Number	Non-Intoxicated (%)	Intoxicated (%)
Motor vehicle occupant	839	69.2	30.8
Motorcycle	220	68.2	31.8
Pedestrian	185	68.1	31.9
Fall	398	61.8	38.2
Stab	246	43.1	56.9
Gunshot	224	67.9	32.1
Blunt, not specified	385	57.1	42.9
Penetrating, cutting, not specified	82	76.8	23.2
Other	78	78.2	21.8
All blunt	2,105	65.8	34.2
All penetrating	552	58.0	42.0

(a) *MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Information Management and Evaluation. See also MO Dept. of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Status Report for 2004.*

(b) *Rivara et al, "The magnitude of acute and chronic alcohol abuse in trauma patients," Archives of Surgery 128(8):907-913, 1993.*

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

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