



**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:**

*Is there a relationship between alcohol use and risk of death due to fatal injuries?*

**Answer:**

Yes. A history of alcohol use is associated with significantly increased risk of all types of fatal injuries. A study published this month found that 54% to 64% of injury deaths occur in people who are current drinkers. (a)

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**MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #32**

- Drinking behavior has been correlated with such common injuries as motor vehicle injuries, unintentional fall, fire deaths, drowning, poisoning, suicide by poisoning, firearm injuries, hanging, strangulation, firearms related homicide and other homicide.
- Researchers examined records on 5,549 injury deaths from the 1993 National Mortality Followback Survey and 42,698 responses to the 1993 National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiological Survey. They found that the risk of drowning among alcohol users is especially high: 3.6 times that of non-drinkers. (a)
- An earlier study of drownings from boating accidents in four states showed that 45% of the victims had positive BAC's (at least 0.01 percent) and 22% were legally intoxicated (BAC of at least 0.10 percent). (b)
- Field tests have shown that alcohol affects an individual's ability to operate vessels and boating equipment. Tests conducted by the Coast Guard revealed that boat operators suffering from environmentally induced fatigue (from sun, wind, glare and wave motion) were 10 times more likely to miss course correction signals if they were also legally intoxicated. (c)

(a) Chen, L; Baker, SP; and Li, G. "Drinking history and risk of fatal injury: comparison among specific injury causes," *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, Vol. 37, Issue 2, March, 2005, pages 245-251.  
(b) Hoxie, P; Cardosi, K; Stearns, M; and Mengert, P. "Alcohol in Fatal Recreational Boating Accidents. Pub No. DOT CGD 0488. Washington DC: UD Dept. of Transportation, U.S. Coast Guard, 1988.  
(c) Wright, SJ. "SOS: Alcohol, drugs and boating." *Alcohol Health and Research World* 9(4):28-33, 1985.

**For more information call one of the  
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