Cost of Violent Crime and Impaired Driving in Texas, 1996
(in thousands of 1997 dollars)

Cost Category	Rape	Assault	Robbery
Medical Spending	$ 70,100	$ 289,600	$ 26,200
Mental Health	$ 312,000	$ 60,000	$ 4,700
Future Earnings	$ 285,200	$ 579,700	$ 60,100
Public Programs	$ 7,900	$ 51,600	$ 9,900
Property Damage	$ 12,900	$ 18,100	$ 47,600
Total Monetary	$ 688,100	$ 999,000	$ 148,500
Quality of Life	$ 10,720,600	$ 5,787,800	$ 385,100
Total Comprehensive	$ 11,408,700	$ 6,786,800	$ 533,600
Cost Per Capita	$ 600	$ 400	$ 30
Police Reported Cases	8,600	80,400	33,700
Total Cases	128,900	724,400	65,600

	Murder	Child Abuse and Neglect	TOTAL VIOLENCE
Medical Spending	$ 30,700	$ 31,600	$ 448,200
Mental Health	$ 8,800	$ 265,900	$ 651,400
Future Earnings/School	$ 1,701,000	$ 242,200	$ 2,868,300
Public Programs	$ 2,200	$ 145,600	$ 217,200
Property Damage	$ 1,800	$ 700	$ 81,200
Total Monetary	$ 1,744,500	$ 686,000	$ 4,266,300
Quality of Life	$ 3,257,900	$ 3,875,700	$ 24,027,100
Total Comprehensive	$ 5,002,400	$ 4,561,700	$ 28,293,400
Cost Per Capita	$ 300	$ 200	$ 1,500
Police Reported Cases	1,693	49,800	174,100
Total Cases	1,693	116,600	1,037,200

	IMPAIRED DRIVING
Medical Spending	$ 266,900
Mental Health	$ 17,700
Future Earnings/School	$ 1,772,400
Public Programs	$ 27,500
Property Damage	$ 946,776
Total Monetary	$ 3,031,276
Quality of Life	$ 4,571,000
Total Comprehensive	$ 7,602,276
Cost Per Capita	$ 400
Police Reported Cases	28,400
Total Cases	96,900

Source: National Public Services Research Institute (NPSRI), 1998.

Impaired Driving in Texas

Incidence of Impaired Driving

For one of every 150 miles driven in Texas in 1996, a drunk sat behind the wheel. Texas police report 28,400 crashes involving a driver or pedestrian with a positive blood alcohol content (BAC). In nearly half of alcohol-involved crashes alcohol involvement is unreported. Other crashes are not even reported to the police. An estimated total of 96,900 crashes involved alcohol. These crashes killed 1,200 and injured an estimated 65,700 people.

Impaired Driving by Blood Alcohol Content (BAC)

In 1996, Texas drivers with:

- BACs of .10 and above caused an estimated 92,200 crashes, 1,000 deaths, and 57,500 injuries.
- BACs between .08-.099 caused an estimated 1,600 crashes, 80 deaths, and 2,600 injuries.
- Positive BACs below .08 caused an estimated 3,100 crashes, 200 deaths, and 5,610 injuries.

Costs

Alcohol is a factor in 35% of Texas crash costs. Alcohol-involved crashes in Texas cost the public more than $8.9 billion in 1996, including more than $4.1 billion in monetary costs and almost $4.8 billion in quality of life losses. (For definitions of the cost categories, see the definitions fact sheet.) Alcohol-involved crashes are deadlier and more serious than other crashes. People other than the drinking driver pay $1.3 billion of the alcohol-involved crash bill.

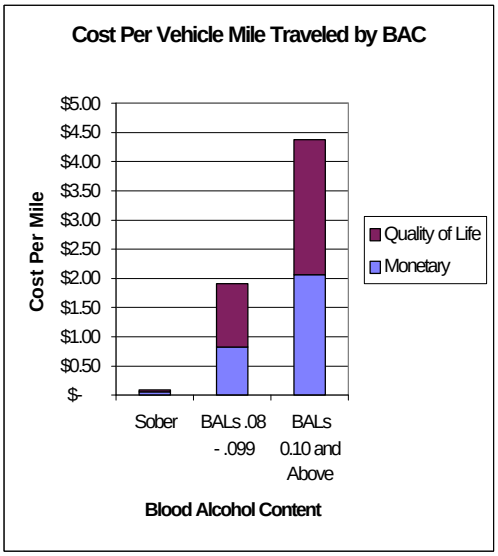
Costs Per Alcohol-involved Crash

Every alcohol-involved fatal crash in Texas costs $2.9 million:

- $1.1 million in monetary costs
- $1.9 million in quality of life losses

The estimated cost per injured survivor of an alcohol-involved crash is over $74,000

- $29,000 in monetary costs
- $45,000 in quality of life losses



Costs Per Mile Driven

Crash costs in Texas average:

- $4.61 per mile driven at BACs exceeding .10
- $2.01 per mile driven at BACs between .08-.099
- $0.09 per mile driven sober

Costs per Drink

The societal costs of alcohol-involved crashes in Texas average $0.74 per drink consumed, $1.48 per ounce. People other than the drinking driver pay $0.30 per ounce.

Impact on Auto Insurance Rates
Alcohol-involved crashes account for an estimated 34% of Texas auto insurance payments. Reducing alcohol-involved crashes by 10% would save $200 million in claims payments and loss adjustment expenses.

Prevention Savings
Texas already has many important impaired driving laws. However, a number of additional strategies can be used to mitigate the harm from impaired driving.

- **Enforcing Serving Intoxicated Patrons Law**: Using testers to enforce Texas's law against serving intoxicated persons would cost $0.28 per licensed driver, yielding a $30 net savings per driver.

- **.08 BAC Law**: Lowering Texas's BAC limit to .08 would reduce alcohol-involved crashes by 5%-8%. The lowered limit will yield net savings of $2 for every Texas licensed driver. A majority of the cost is not out of pocket. It is the intangible cost that potential drunk drivers incur by either not driving or drinking

- **Graduated licensing** imposes a midnight curfew for drivers under 19 or forbids drivers to transport passengers until they have 6 consecutive months without a crash or moving violation. Youth fatalities would be reduced by 5%-8% and alcohol-involved fatalities by 2%. The primary cost is the value of mobility lost by youth. Net of the costs, it saves over $700 per youthful driver.

- **Zero Tolerance Law**: A law making it illegal for persons under 21 to drink and drive would reduce impaired-driving fatalities by 4%. It would incur costs of $28 and yield net savings of $600 per licensed youth driver. Medical care cost savings alone exceed the intervention cost. The primary cost is the value of mobility lost by youth who are forced to reduce their drinking and driving.

- **Ignition Interlock**: Attachment of a breath alcohol ignition interlock designed to prevent starting a car if the driver's breath alcohol concentration is above a predetermined level reduces alcohol-involved deaths by 11%. Each ignition interlock costs $3,100 (including equipment, case management, and the value of lost time) and would result in a net savings of $1,100 per automobile.