

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

Cost Category	Rape	Assault	Robbery
Medical Spending	\$ 14,500	\$ 45,900	\$ 6,700
Mental Health	\$ 64,700	\$ 9,500	\$ 1,200
Future Earnings	\$ 68,500	\$ 106,300	\$ 17,800
Public Programs	\$ 1,700	\$ 8,500	\$ 2,600
Property Damage	\$ 2,800	\$ 3,000	\$ 12,700
Total Monetary	\$ 152,200	\$ 173,200	\$ 41,000
Quality of Life	\$ 2,575,100	\$ 1,061,600	\$ 114,000
Total Comprehensive	\$ 2,727,300	\$ 1,234,800	\$ 155,000
Cost Per Capita	\$ 400	\$ 200	\$ 20
Police Reported Cases	1,800	12,900	8,700
Total Cases	27,100	116,300	17,000
		Child Abuse and Neglect	TOTAL VIOLENCE
Medical Spending	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 82,600
Mental Health	\$ 2,600	\$ 70,600	\$ 148,600
Future Earnings/School	\$ 577,400	\$ 82,600	\$ 852,600
Public Programs	\$ 700	\$ 43,000	\$ 56,600
Property Damage	\$ 500	\$ 200	\$ 19,200
Total Monetary	\$ 590,200	\$ 202,900	\$1,159,600
Quality of Life	\$ 1,105,900	\$ 1,102,400	\$5,959,000
Total Comprehensive	\$ 1,696,100	\$ 1,305,300	\$7,118,600
Cost Per Capita	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ 1,100
Police Reported Cases	503	13,100	37,000
Total Cases	503	32,800	193,700
	IMPAIRED DRIVING		
Medical Spending	\$ 103,700		
Mental Health	\$ 4,700		
Future Earnings/School	\$ 666,600		
Public Programs	\$ 5,500		
Property Damage	\$ 317,441		
Total Monetary	\$ 1,097,941		
Quality of Life	\$ 1,433,500		
Total Comprehensive	\$ 2,531,441		
Cost Per Capita	\$ 400		
Police Reported Cases	11,200		
Total Cases	32,500		

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

Impaired Driving in Virginia

Incidence of Impaired Driving

For one of every 170 miles driven in Virginia in 1996, a drunk sat behind the wheel. Virginia police report 11,200 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 32,500 crashes involved alcohol. These crashes killed 300 and injured an estimated 18,760 people.

Impaired Driving by Blood Alcohol Content (BAC)

In 1996, Virginia drivers with:

- BACs of .10 and above caused an estimated 30,900 crashes, 300 deaths, and 16,400 injuries.
- BACs between .08-.099 caused an estimated 500 crashes, 20 deaths, and 700 injuries.
- Positive BACs below .08 caused an estimated 1,000 crashes, 100 deaths, and 1,600 injuries.

Costs

Alcohol is a factor in 40% of Virginia crash costs. Alcohol-involved crashes in Virginia cost the public more than \$2.6 billion in 1996, including more than \$1.1 billion in monetary costs and almost \$1.5 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 \$0.5 billion of the alcohol-involved crash bill.

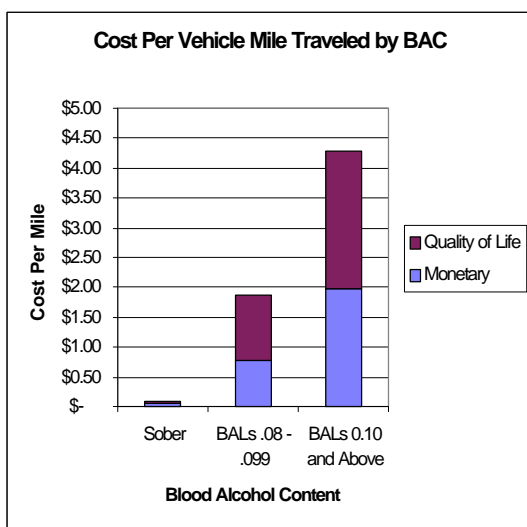
Costs Per Alcohol-involved Crash

Every alcohol-involved fatal crash in Virginia costs \$3.1 million:

- \$1.2 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 \$78,000

- \$33,000 in monetary costs
- \$45,000 in quality of life losses



Costs Per Mile Driven

Crash costs in Virginia average:

- \$4.45 per mile driven at BACs exceeding .10
- \$1.93 per mile driven at BACs between .08-.099
- \$0.08 per mile driven sober

Costs per Drink

The societal costs of alcohol-involved crashes in Virginia average \$0.74 per drink consumed, \$1.48 per ounce.

People other than the drinking driver pay \$0.33 per ounce.

Impact on Auto Insurance Rates

Alcohol-involved crashes account for an estimated 39% of Virginia auto insurance payments. Reducing alcohol-involved crashes by 10% would save \$100 million in claims payments and loss adjustment expenses.

Prevention Savings

Virginia 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 Virginia's law against serving intoxicated persons would cost \$0.30 per licensed driver, yielding a \$20 net savings per driver.
- **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 \$600 per youthful driver.
- **Primary Belt Law:** Primary belt laws allow law enforcement to stop and ticket a driver for non-use of a safety belt without requiring the driver to be cited for or have committed another offense. Unbelted drivers account for 75% of impaired-driving fatalities. With 45% belt effectiveness, a primary belt law can reduce alcohol-involved deaths by 11%. The law incurs costs of \$3.96 per licensed driver and results in net savings of \$ 200 per licensed driver.
- **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 \$2,769 (including equipment, case management, and the value of lost time) and would result in a net savings of \$1,000 per automobile.