



Impaired Driving

Incidence of Impaired Driving

For one of every 110 miles driven in New Jersey in 2000, a person with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) $>.10$ sat behind the wheel. Police in New Jersey reported 6,826 crashes involving a driver or pedestrian with a BAC of $.01$ or more. Formulas developed by NHTSA were used to estimate the number of alcohol-related crashes where alcohol involvement was not reported by the police. An estimated total of 32,940 crashes in New Jersey involved alcohol which killed 319 and injured an estimated 11,200 people.

Impaired Driving by Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

In 2000, New Jersey drivers with:

- BACs of $.10$ and above were involved in an estimated 31,300 crashes that killed 231 and injured 9,800
- BACs between $.08$ - $.09$ were involved in an estimated 540 crashes that killed 26 and injured 400
- Positive BACs below $.08$ were involved in an estimated 1,100 crashes that killed 62 and injured 1,000

Costs

Alcohol is a factor in 14% of New Jersey's crash costs. Alcohol-related crashes in New Jersey cost the public an estimated \$2.5 billion in 2000, including \$1.1 billion in monetary costs and almost \$1.4 billion in quality of life losses. (For definitions of the cost categories, see the definitions fact sheet.) Alcohol-related crashes are deadlier and more serious than other crashes. People other than the drinking driver paid \$1.5 billion of the alcohol-related crash bill.

Costs per Alcohol-Related Injury

The average alcohol-related fatality in New Jersey costs \$4.6 million:

- \$1.5 million in monetary costs
- \$3.1 million in quality of life losses

The estimated cost per injured survivor of an alcohol-related crash averaged \$128,000:

- \$62,000 in monetary costs
- \$66,000 in quality of life losses

Costs per Mile Driven

Crash costs in New Jersey averaged:

- \$6.80 per mile driven at BACs of .10 and above
- \$2.90 per mile driven at BACs between .08-.09
- \$0.10 per mile driven at BACs of .00

Costs per Drink

The societal costs of alcohol-related crashes in New Jersey averaged \$0.70 per drink consumed. People other than the drinking driver paid \$0.40 per drink.

Impact on Auto Insurance Rates

Alcohol-related crashes accounted for an estimated 16% of New Jersey auto insurance payments. Reducing alcohol-related crashes by 10% would save \$57 billion in claims payments and loss adjustment expenses.

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Looking for a Driving Course?

Defensive Driving Courses

These courses typically are for students who got a traffic ticket or were court ordered.

Insurance Reduction Courses

In many states you can decrease your insurance rates by taking a driving course.

Suspended License Courses

Suspended or revoked license? These courses can help you meet your requirement to get your license back.

First Time Driver

These courses can help you get your learner's permit and is statistically proven to reduce the risk of crashes among first time drivers.

Driver's Education

This complete education course can help you learn everything you need to know before you get your driver's license.

Other Driving Resources

[Find Your State's Driver's Handbook](#)

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