

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING: STATISTICAL TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 1. Alcohol-Impaired Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes by Age Group (2022 & 2023)

Age Group	2022			2023		
	Total Drivers	Alcohol-Impaired Drivers Number	Percentage of Total	Total Drivers	Alcohol-Impaired Drivers Number	Percentage of Total
15–20	4,876	937	19%	5,133	1,030	20%
21–24	5,308	1,542	29%	5,101	1,413	28%
25–34	12,661	3,500	28%	11,916	3,134	26%
35–44	10,398	2,482	24%	9,876	2,257	23%
45–54	8,652	1,731	20%	8,116	1,562	19%
55–64	7,932	1,347	17%	7,560	1,215	16%
65–74	5,076	624	12%	4,954	596	12%
75+	3,460	264	8%	3,458	260	8%

Source: FARS 2022 Final File, 2023 ARF

KEY FINDINGS

DRIVERS AGED 21–24 HAVE THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ALCOHOL IMPAIRMENT. THIS AGE GROUP REPRESENTS COLLEGE STUDENTS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NEWLY LEGALLY ALLOWED TO DRINK.

THERE IS A CONSISTENT DECLINE IN ALCOHOL IMPAIRMENT RATES AS AGE INCREASES, SUGGESTING THAT OLDER DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL CRASHES ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED.

Table 2. Alcohol-Impaired Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes by Sex (2022 & 2023)

Sex	2022			2023		
	Total Drivers	Alcohol-Impaired Drivers Number	Percentage of Total	Total Drivers	Alcohol-Impaired Drivers Number	Percentage of Total
Male	43,770	9,887	23%	42,101	9,155	22%
Female	14,783	2,571	17%	14,186	2,339	16%

Source: FARS 2022 Final File, 2023 ARF

KEY FINDINGS

THE NUMBER OF ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED MALE DRIVERS IS NEARLY 4 TIMES HIGHER THAN THAT OF FEMALE DRIVERS, REFLECTING BOTH HIGHER MALE REPRESENTATION IN FATAL CRASHES AND GREATER ALCOHOL IMPAIRMENT RATES AMONG MALE DRIVERS.

THERE IS A 6% GENDER GAP ACROSS BOTH YEARS, DEMONSTRATING A CONSISTENT DISPARITY BETWEEN GENDERS INVOLVED IN ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING

21 TO 24 YEARS OLDS ARE AT HIGH RISK OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN FATAL TRAFFIC CRASHES DUE TO ALCOHOL IMPAIEMENT