

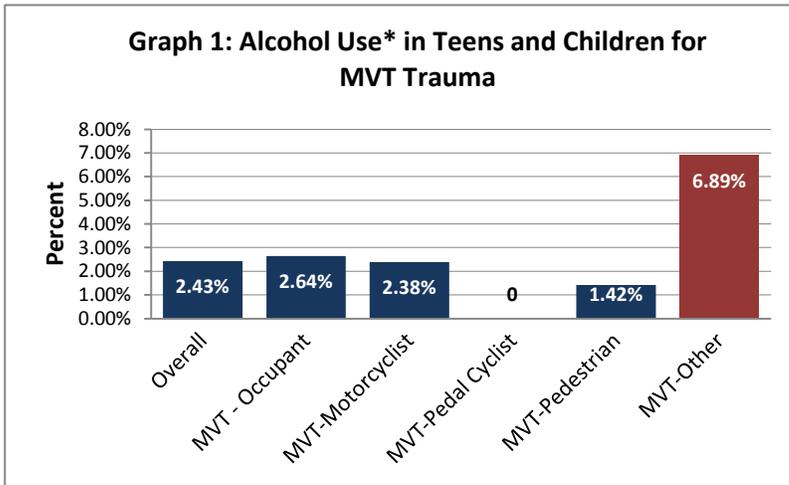


Special Issue  
December 2012

# TRAUMA & HIGHWAY focus

## ALCOHOL USE AMONGST TEENS AND CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLE TRAUMA

This Factsheet summarizes motor vehicle (MVT) trauma among teens and children occupants (<18 years of age). Alcohol use is defined as being suspected or confirmed by the health care provider\*. The Arizona State Trauma Registry received the presented data in the factsheet from designated trauma hospitals in 2011. This analysis likely underestimates the extent of alcohol use as data are derived from only trauma centers.



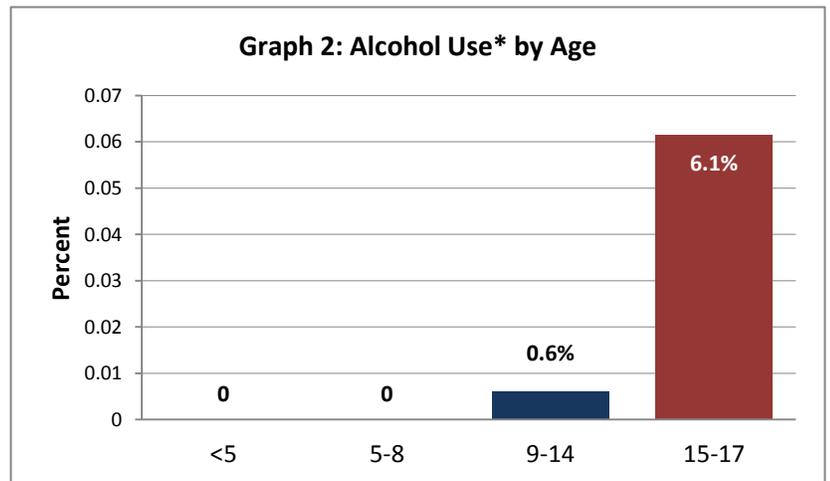
Graph 1 shows the rate of trauma in teens and children used alcohol.\* The group with the highest percentage of alcohol use\* is MVT-Other (6.89%), followed by MVT-Occupant (2.64%).

*MVT-Other consists of injuries on all other vehicles that are not listed in the categories (e.g. ATV, off-road bikes).*

*MVT-occupant are the result of being injured as an occupant when someone else operated a vehicle after having used alcohol.\**

Graph 2 separates MVT trauma by age for children and teen MVT trauma patients who used alcohol.\* The highest rate was among the 15-17 year olds.

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety – [Teen & Young Adults Safety Program](#) has several helpful resources on underage drinking.



**GOHS** is determined to provide the leadership and funding to help reduce the threat of DUI drivers on Arizona's roadway. In 2011, there were 265 alcohol-related fatalities in Arizona (32.12% of all traffic fatalities). The Penalties for impaired driving in Arizona are severe and include: mandatory jail time, thousands of dollars in fines and court fees, driver license suspension, vehicle impoundment, and other costs. [Check out AZ DUI Laws.](#)

**AZ NOW HAS THE TOUGHEST DUI LAWS IN THE COUNTRY. THE NEW PENALTIES ARE:**

<b>DUI*</b> ◦ \$1,250 in fines ◦ 10 days in jail ◦ 90 days suspended license ◦ The Interlock for 1 year	<b>EXTREME DUI (BAC .15-.19)</b> ◦ \$2,500 in fines ◦ 30 days in jail ◦ 90 days suspended license ◦ The Interlock for 1 year	<b>SUPER EXTREME DUI (BAC .20+)</b> ◦ \$2,750 in fines ◦ 45 days in jail ◦ 90 days suspended license ◦ The Interlock for 18 months
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**NOW EVERY CONVICTION COMES WITH THE INTERLOCK.**

If you're 21 it's .08\*  
If you're under 21 it's .00

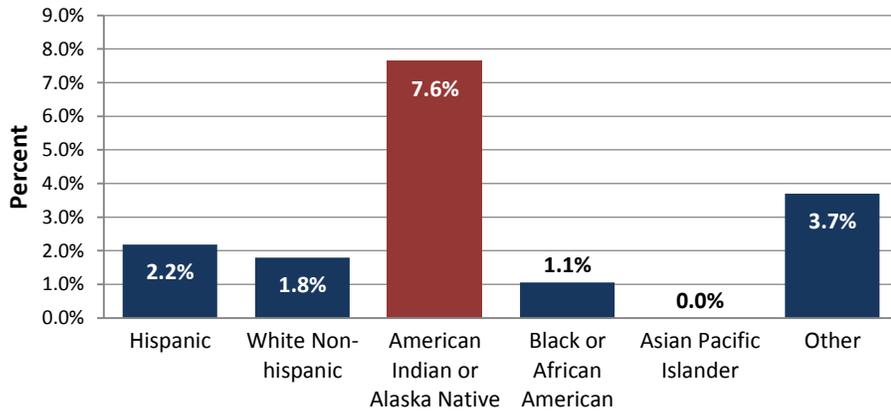
These are the minimum penalties. The other potential costs are attorney's fees, increased auto insurance premiums, refusal for admission to colleges, loss of employment, inability to obtain employment.

\*You can be arrested for DUI if you're impaired to the slightest degree.

[www.theinterlock.com](http://www.theinterlock.com)  
[www.azgohs.gov](http://www.azgohs.gov)

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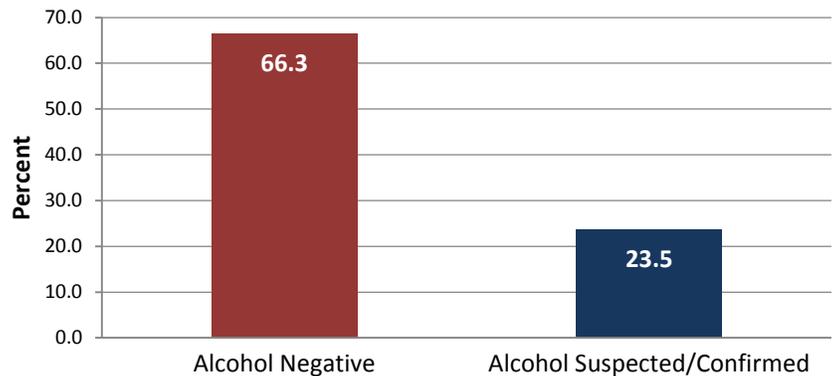
**Graph 3: Alcohol Use\* by Ethnicity for Children and Teens**



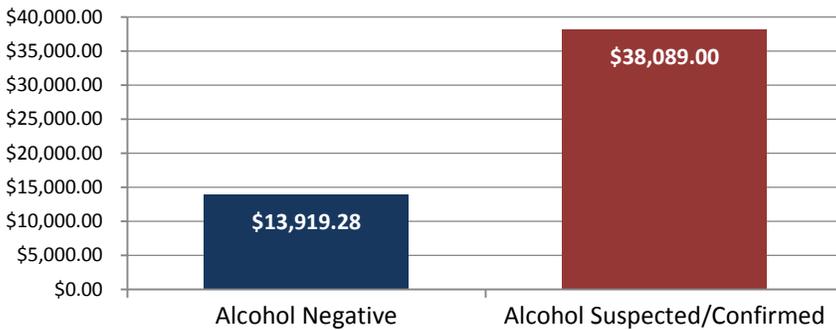
Graph 3 shows the ethnicity of MVT trauma patients who used alcohol\*. Of all the American Indian or Alaskan Natives who received treatment at a trauma center had a higher rate of suspected or confirmed alcohol use.\*

Graph 4 shows that car restraint use (seat belt) is less likely to be used by those who operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol.\*

**Graph 4: Car Restraint Use by Alcohol**



**Graph 5: Median Hospital Charges**



Graph 5 shows that cost of care more than doubles for teens who use alcohol\* when treated at a trauma center.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

- Governor's Office of Highway Safety: <http://www.azgohs.gov/>
- Arizona Motor Vehicle Crash Facts: <http://www.azdot.gov/mvd/statistics/crash/index.asp>
- Arizona Department of Health Services: <http://www.azdhs.gov/>
- Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System: <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/index.htm>



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