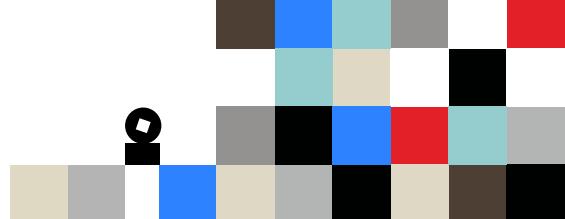


ImageTrend Short Report

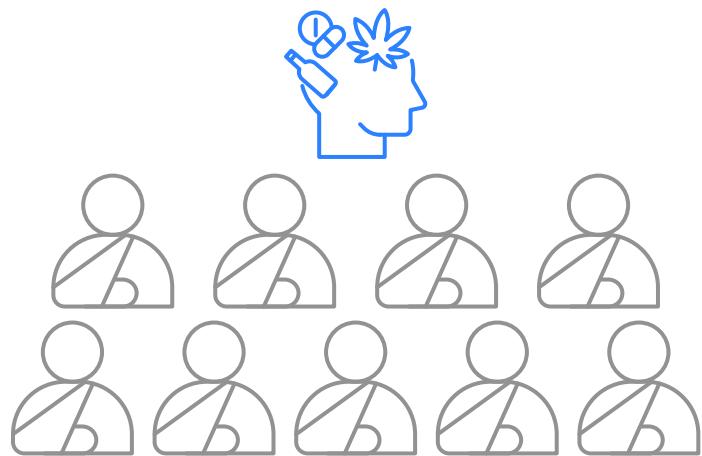


December 2025 Short Report: Impaired Driving

By Macall Leslie Salewon, MPH, Epidemiologist

Scope of the Issue in Prehospital Care

Impaired driving is a substantial cause of motor vehicle accidents and fatalities. In 2023 in the United States, one person was killed in a crash due to impaired driving from alcohol every 42 minutes.¹ Additionally, over 50% of drivers seriously injured in crashes tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs in a study of over 7,000 patients from 7 Level 1 trauma centers across the U.S.² Despite these serious risks for drivers and those around them, approximately 1 million arrests are made each year for impaired driving and self-reported surveys indicate close to 127 million US adults drove while alcohol-impaired in 2020.³

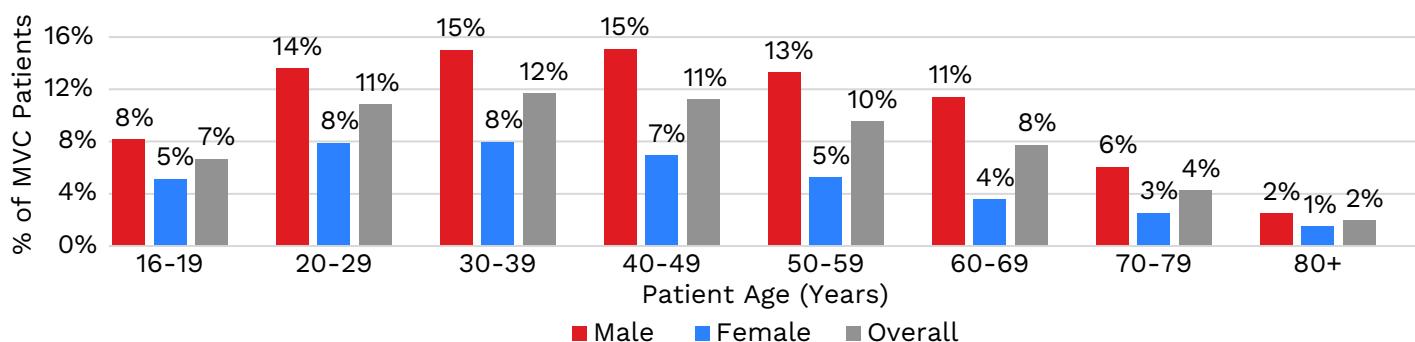


Approximately **1 in 10** patients in 911-responses to motor vehicle crashes (MVCs) had indications of alcohol and/or drug use (n=32,817)

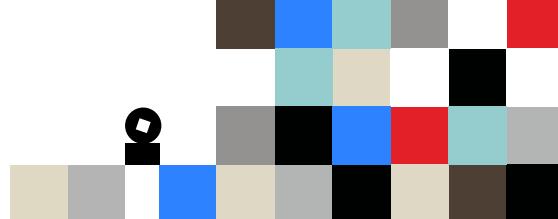
Who

- Twice as many male MVC patients had indications of alcohol and/or drug use compared to female MVC patients (**13%** vs. **6%** of MVCs)
- Indications of alcohol and/or drug use were most frequent in MVC patients aged 20-49 years old

Proportion of MVC Patients with Indicators of Alcohol and/or Drug Use by Age and Gender



ImageTrend Short Report



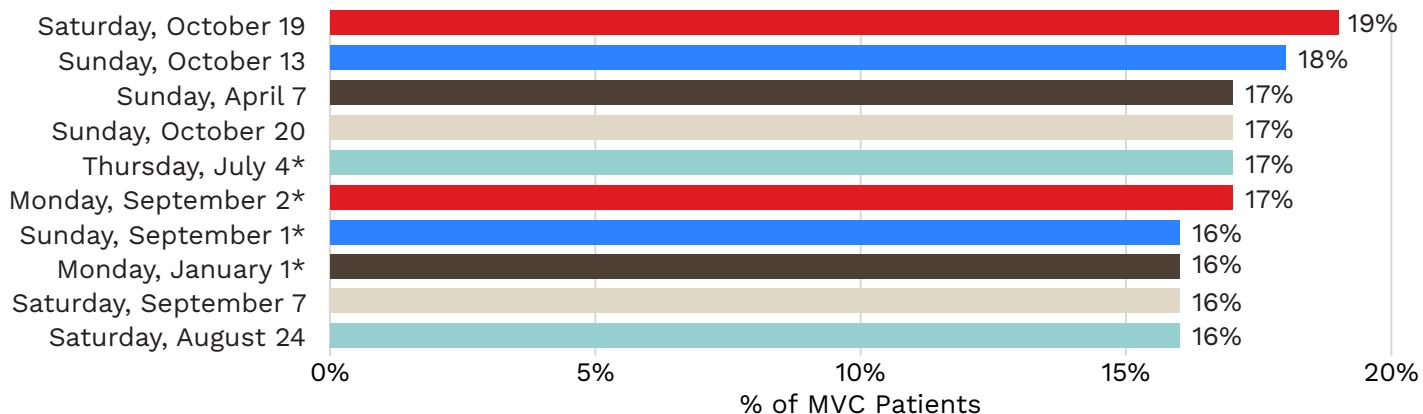
When

- Approximately **1 in 3** patients from MVCs that occurred during the early morning hours had indications of alcohol and/or drug use
- Of MVCs with patients who had indications of alcohol and/or drug use, **40%** occurred between 6 pm on Friday evenings and 6 am on Sunday mornings

Day of Week

Time of Day		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		16%	9%	8%	8%	9%	10%	15%
0:00-2:59	38%	45%	33%	28%	31%	35%	37%	41%
3:00-5:59	20%	36%	15%	12%	12%	13%	15%	32%
6:00-8:59	5%	12%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	8%
9:00-11:59	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%
12:00-14:59	6%	7%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	7%
15:00-17:59	7%	10%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	10%
18:00-20:59	13%	15%	12%	12%	12%	12%	13%	17%
21:00-23:59	22%	21%	19%	20%	21%	22%	24%	26%

% of MVC Patients with Indications of Alcohol and/or Drug Use, Top 10 Days in 2024

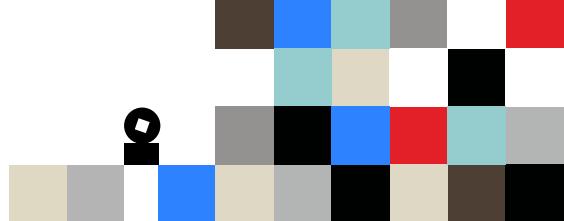


*Federal holiday or holiday weekend

Transport Decisions

- 90%** of MVC patients with indications of alcohol and/or drug use were transported by EMS compared to **78%** of those without
- 6%** of MVC patients with indications of alcohol and/or drug use refused transport against medical advice compared to **13%** of those without

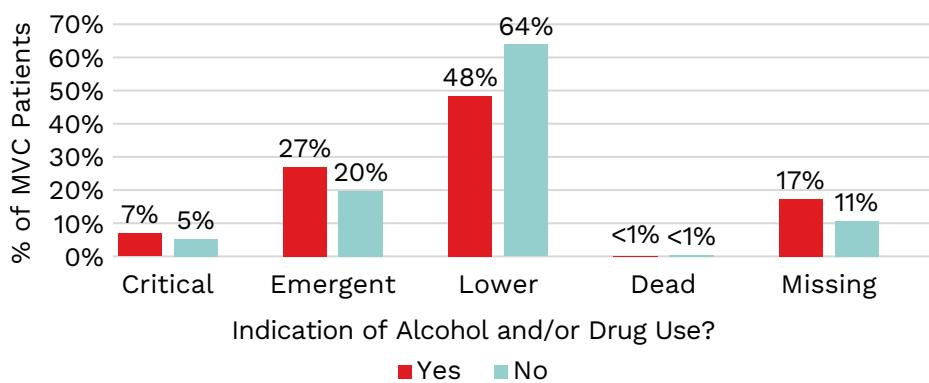
ImageTrend Short Report



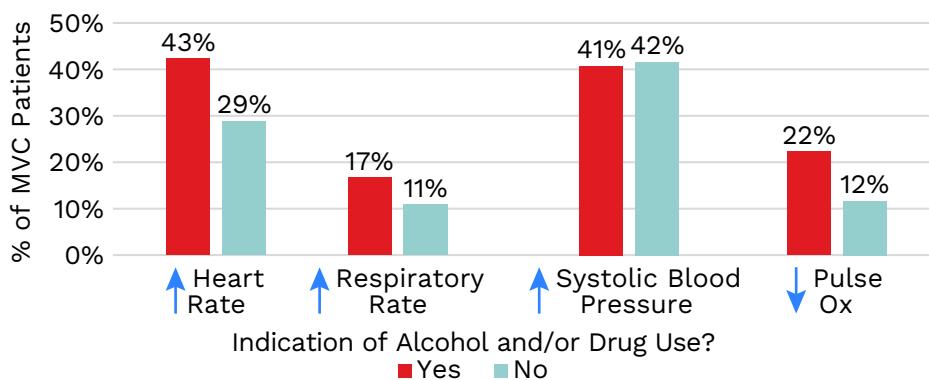
Clinical Factors

- MVC patients with indicators of alcohol and/or drug use were more frequently critical or emergent in acuity than those without
- Higher proportion of abnormal GCS scores (**21% vs 8%**)
- Slightly higher proportion of Severe Trauma Triage Criteria (**6% vs 4%**)

Initial Acuity by Indication of Alcohol and/or Drug Use



Abnormal Vitals by Indication of Alcohol and/or Drug Use



About the data: This analysis was conducted using the ImageTrend Collaborate™ dataset, a representative national EMS research resource⁴ consisting of de-identified data from agencies that opt into data-sharing. MVC cases were identified using criteria developed for the Transportation Incident Visualization (TIV) dashboard⁴ and indicators of alcohol and/or drug use were identified using eHistory17 and relevant ICD-10 codes in eSituation09-12. Note: This data cannot identify whether patients who did not have documented indicators of alcohol and/or drug use were in a collision caused by an impaired driver.

Citations:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHSTA). Risky Driving: Drunk Driving. <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving>. Accessed December 9, 2025.
- Thomas, FD, et. al. 2022. Drug prevalence among seriously or fatally injured road users (Report No. DOT HS 813 399). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Impaired Driving Facts. <https://tinyurl.com/7ywymd8t>. Updated May 16, 2024. Accessed December 9, 2025.
- ImageTrend. Transportation Incident Visualization Companion Guide. <https://tinyurl.com/3und25k5>

Call to Action

1. Time trends: awareness of local events/holidays that may influence alcohol consumption in your community for EMS resource management
2. Advocate for safe driving practices in your community: emphasize the impact and risk of impaired driving in collaboration with other local organizations
3. Increase clinician awareness of how alcohol or drug intoxication may impact the physiology and cognition of acutely injured patients
4. Recognize when an intoxicated patient's behavior may affect clinician safety and have plans for de-escalation and response support (i.e., local law enforcement)

Work With Us:

ImageTrend's Clinical & Research Services team partners with EMS and healthcare organizations to uncover actionable insights and drive data-informed public health initiatives.

Contact: ClinicalResearch@ImageTrend.com
Address: ImageTrend, Inc. | 1305 Corporate Center Dr, Eagan, MN 55121

[Learn more about participating in or conducting research with the ImageTrend Collaborate Dataset here:](#)

