

Nebraska Traffic Safety Facts

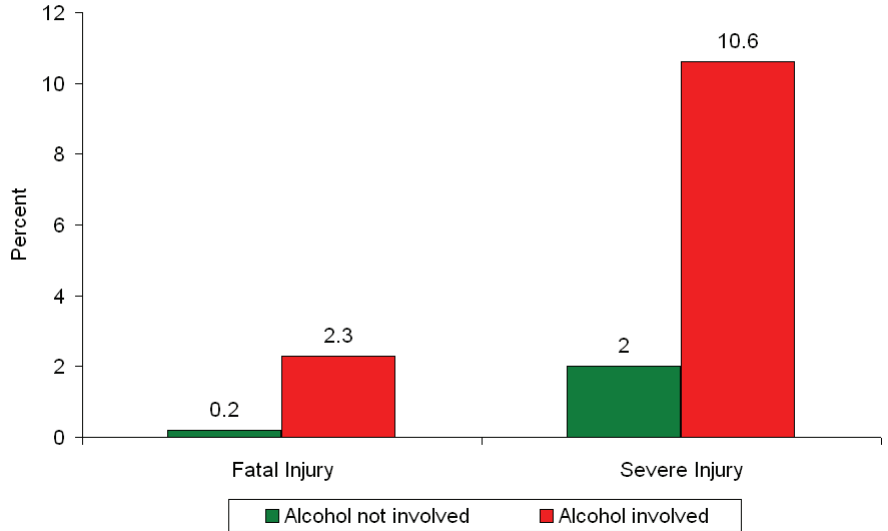
Underage Drinking and Driving in Nebraska

Motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of teens in the United States.

Alcohol impaired drivers under age 21 were over 10 times as likely as those who were not alcohol impaired to die from the crash. Alcohol also increased young drivers' likelihood of receiving severe injuries from crashes by more than 5 times (Figure 1).

About 20% of the alcohol impaired drivers killed in crashes were under 21 years old. Among young drivers under 21 who died from crashes, 26% were alcohol impaired.

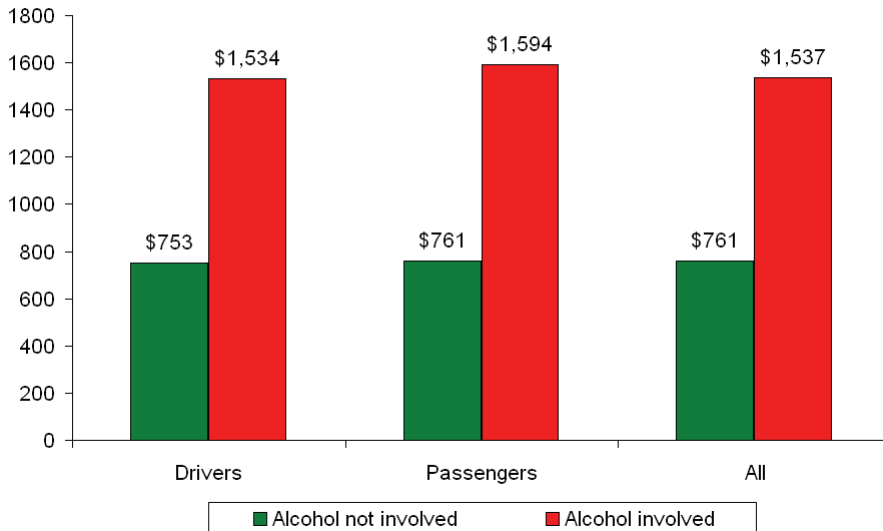
Figure 1 Injury Severity of Young Drivers Under 21 by Alcohol Involvement
Nebraska, 2004-2008



The average hospital charges for patients involved in crashes that were associated with underage drinking and driving were twice as much as that associated with non-alcohol-impaired young drivers (Figure 2).

The National Minimum Legal Drinking Age is 21.

Figure 2 Average Hospital Charges of Crashes Involving Young Drivers Under 21, Nebraska, 2004-2008



If you are under 21:

- ◆ It is illegal to buy alcohol in all states.
- ◆ Alcohol possession can result in legal problems, such as losing driver's license.
- ◆ "Zero tolerance" means you could face penalties for having ANY alcohol in your system—even if it is below legal adult limits.



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