

# Part IV – Alcohol & Drugs

Alcohol and/or drug related traffic collisions are responsible for a large portion of reported traffic collisions each year. The percentage of collisions that involve alcohol or drugs increases as the severity of injuries increases. On the following pages collision statistics are presented which are based on the probable collision cause as determined by the officers who investigate the crashes. Collisions listed by county or driver involvement are not comparable to any statistics published prior to 1988. In previous years, alcohol and drug involvement was based on a question contained in the Uniform Traffic Collision Report for each driver, "Had been drinking or using drugs." Beginning in 1988, alcohol and drug crashes are based on the probable cause filed which lists 74 causes from which the officer must choose the single probable cause in the crash. Eight of the choices concern alcohol or drug usage.

The data presented here is a summary of these eight alcohol or drug related probable causes. This data will not include any crash where the probable cause was something other than alcohol or drugs, even if one or more of the drivers was intoxicated. For example, if a drunk driver was going through an intersection and was broadsided by another driver who ran a stop sign, the probable cause would most likely be recorded as "disregarded sign or signal."

In South Carolina, it is inferred that you are under the influence when your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) reaches a level of 0.10. At this level, you are seven times more likely to have a traffic collision than if your BAC were zero. If your BAC reaches 0.15 percent, your chances of having a traffic collision are 25 times greater. Some of the common effects of alcohol at various BAC levels are as follows:

<u>BAC Level</u>	<u>Common Effects</u>
0.03	Mild alteration of feelings. Level of impairment is not generally too serious.
0.05	Feeling of relaxation, sedation and/or euphoria. Increased difficulty in performing motor skills. Driving ability and judgement impaired.
0.10	Physical and mental impairment affecting perception and performance. Deterioration in motor coordination. Hearing and speech impaired. Uncoordinated behavior. Legally inferred to be under the influence in South Carolina.
0.15	Serious impairment of physical and mental functioning. Irresponsible behavior. Distorted perception and judgement. Difficulty standing, walking and talking.
0.40	Coma results. The person can not be awakened.
0.60	Death from alcohol overdose or accidental choking. Absorption of alcohol continues at same rate while oxidation slows because the high BAC causes anesthetization of the heart and lungs. Death occurs when the respiratory and circulatory systems cease to function.

1999 F.A.R.S. (Fatality Analysis Reporting System)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, through it's FARS program determines the highest blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level among all drivers or pedestrians involved in each fatal traffic collision in the United States. For crashes with no test results available estimates are computed. For 1999, 732 victims were involved in crashes where the highest BAC was zero; 50 between 0.01 and 0.09; and for 283 at least one driver /pedestrian had a BAC of 0.10 or greater.

**TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH A PROBABLE CAUSE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS\*\***

COUNTY	COLLISION TYPE				PERSONS	
	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Total	Killed	Injured
Abbeville	1	14	9	24	1	27
Aiken	2	78	72	152	2	118
Allendale	0	6	1	7	0	9
Anderson	13	110	73	196	15	178
Bamberg	1	8	6	15	2	21
Barnwell	2	7	11	20	2	10
Beaufort	3	40	71	114	3	60
Berkeley	7	85	69	161	7	146
Calhoun	0	11	3	14	0	18
Charleston	13	184	171	368	14	298
Cherokee	5	39	38	82	5	73
Chester	3	25	25	53	3	38
Chesterfield	3	49	26	78	6	64
Clarendon	1	21	20	42	1	38
Colleton	1	27	17	45	1	37
Darlington	5	66	39	110	5	103
Dillon	2	28	34	64	3	50
Dorchester	2	34	44	80	2	49
Edgefield	1	11	11	23	1	17
Fairfield	0	19	9	28	0	30
Florence	5	89	84	178	5	144
Georgetown	4	44	37	85	5	65
Greenville	9	174	232	415	9	269
Greenwood	3	47	42	92	3	75
Hampton	0	5	15	20	0	10
Horry	11	190	181	382	13	290
Jasper	1	8	30	39	2	12
Kershaw	2	26	35	63	2	39
Lancaster	3	50	44	97	3	70
Laurens	3	57	28	88	3	86
Lee	2	25	12	39	2	45
Lexington	10	118	119	247	10	188
McCormick	0	4	6	10	0	6
Marion	1	30	16	47	1	50
Marlboro	0	33	21	54	0	53
Newberry	1	25	23	49	1	38
Oconee	1	30	29	60	1	43
Orangeburg	5	56	52	113	5	89
Pickens	7	46	48	101	7	74
Richland	5	153	156	314	5	247
Saluda	2	16	5	23	5	31
Spartanburg	5	174	150	329	5	275
Sumter	2	68	54	124	2	101
Union	1	30	18	49	1	39
Williamsburg	2	49	22	73	2	73
York	5	97	110	212	5	148
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>2,506</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>4,979</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>3,944</b>

\*Property Damage Only

\*\*This chart is not comparable to any published statistics from 1987 and prior years.

**AGE AND SEX OF DRIVERS FOR TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WHERE  
THE PROBABLE CAUSE WAS ALCOHOL OR DRUGS\*\*\***

TOTAL COLLISIONS			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<=14	1	2	3
15	9	5	14
16	34	21	55
17	102	36	138
18	128	53	181
19	151	50	201
20	173	53	226
21	204	67	271
22	177	55	232
23	181	64	245
24	149	36	185
25 to 29	682	211	893
30 to 34	660	249	909
35 to 39	721	258	979
40 to 44	576	240	816
45 to 49	401	151	552
50 to 54	324	104	428
55 to 59	177	71	248
60 to 64	108	41	149
65 to 69	85	29	114
70 & Older	87	40	127
UNKNOWN AGE*	27	3	30
UNKNOWN SEX*	-	-	456
<b>TOTALS**</b>	<b>5,157</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>7,452</b>

FATAL COLLISIONS			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<=14	0	0	0
15	0	0	0
16	3	0	3
17	3	0	3
18	6	0	6
19	4	0	4
20	6	0	6
21	3	0	3
22	11	1	12
23	6	0	6
24	6	3	9
25 to 29	31	10	41
30 to 34	19	5	24
35 to 39	16	3	19
40 to 44	16	6	22
45 to 49	11	3	14
50 to 54	11	1	12
55 to 59	5	5	10
60 to 64	2	1	3
65 to 69	0	0	0
70 & Older	3	1	4
UNKNOWN AGE*	1	0	1
UNKNOWN SEX*	-	-	8
<b>TOTALS**</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>210</b>

INJURY COLLISIONS			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<=14	0	1	1
15	3	3	6
16	14	5	19
17	55	19	74
18	73	34	107
19	82	22	104
20	85	33	118
21	103	36	139
22	88	38	126
23	100	40	140
24	69	14	83
25 to 29	360	98	458
30 to 34	333	138	471
35 to 39	354	132	486
40 to 44	291	131	422
45 to 49	200	82	282
50 to 54	150	51	201
55 to 59	80	28	108
60 to 64	47	16	63
65 to 69	34	14	48
70 & Older	43	18	61
UNKNOWN AGE*	6	1	7
UNKNOWN SEX*	-	-	146
<b>TOTALS**</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>3,670</b>

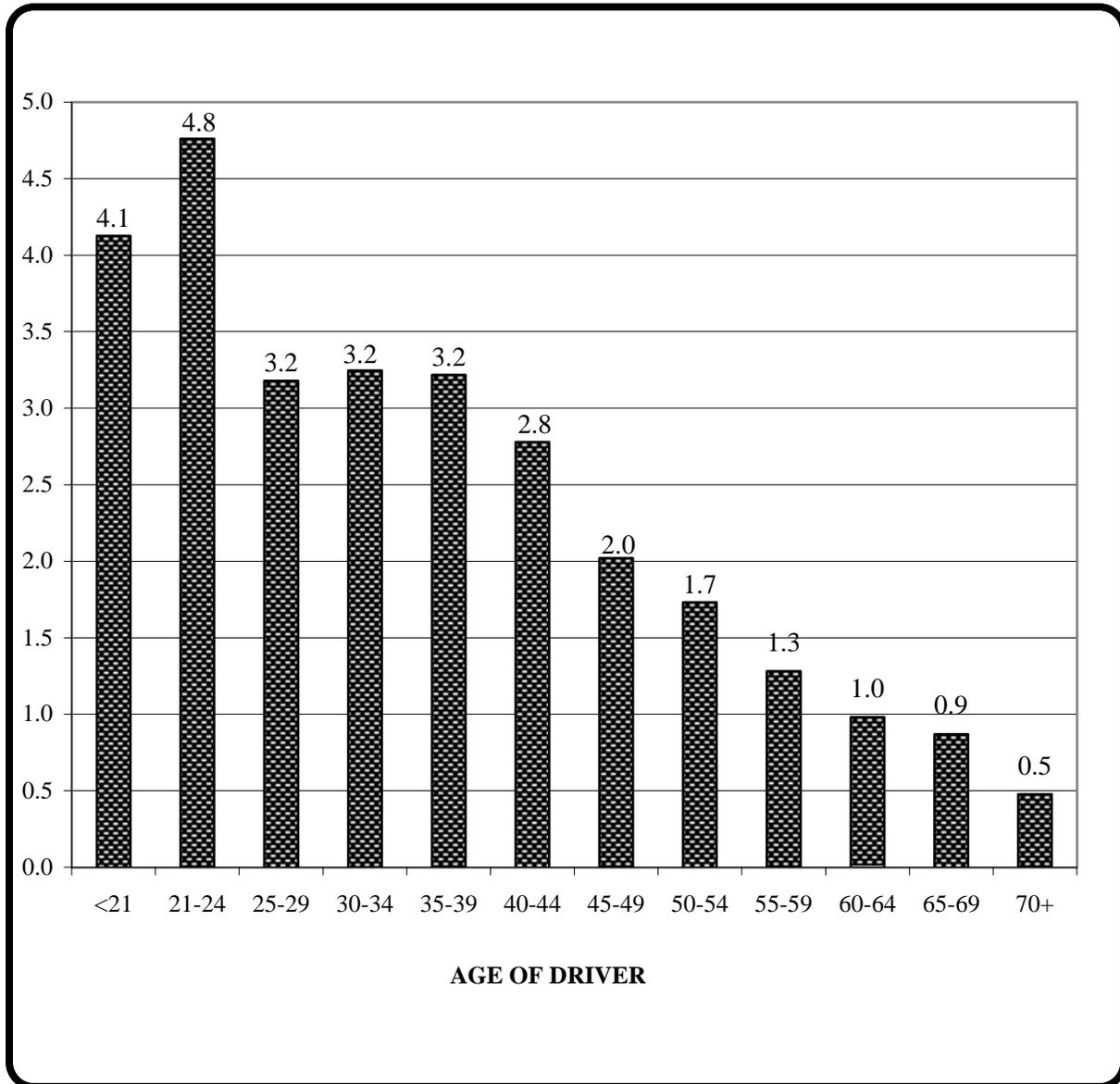
PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY COLLISIONS			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<=14	1	1	2
15	6	2	8
16	17	16	33
17	44	17	61
18	49	19	68
19	65	28	93
20	82	20	102
21	98	31	129
22	78	16	94
23	75	24	99
24	74	19	93
25 to 29	291	103	394
30 to 34	308	106	414
35 to 39	351	123	474
40 to 44	269	103	372
45 to 49	190	66	256
50 to 54	163	52	215
55 to 59	92	38	130
60 to 64	59	24	83
65 to 69	51	15	66
70 & Older	41	21	62
UNKNOWN AGE*	20	2	22
UNKNOWN SEX*	-	-	302
<b>TOTALS**</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>3,572</b>

\*Includes drivers whose age and sex were not recorded on the report, hit and run collisions for which driver information was not available and also includes parked cars with no driver.

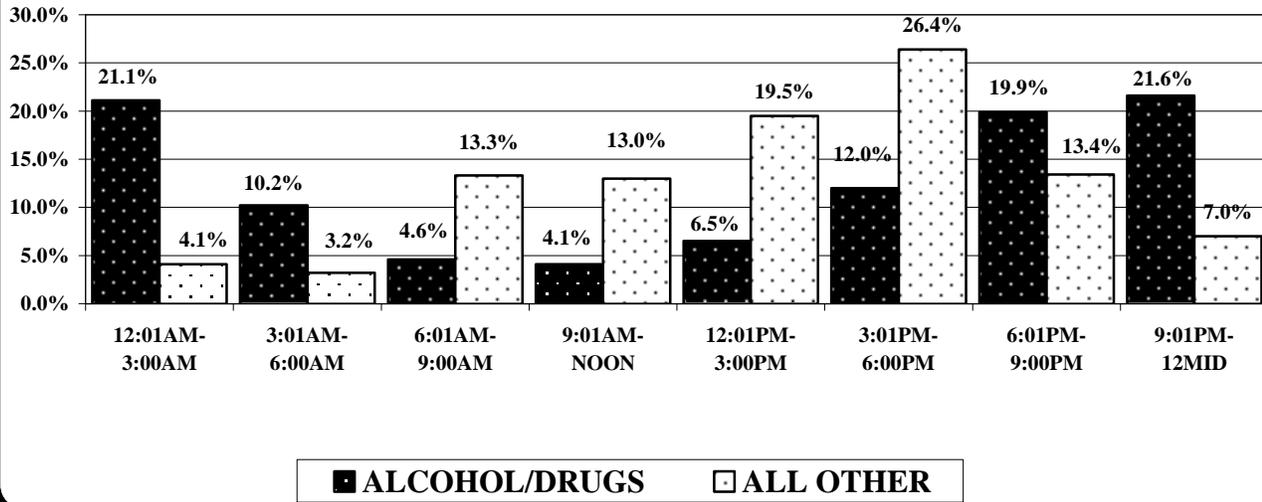
\*\*Adding male, female and unknown sex totals will equal the total for all drivers.

\*\*\* These figures only represent drivers of units defined as a motor vehicle.

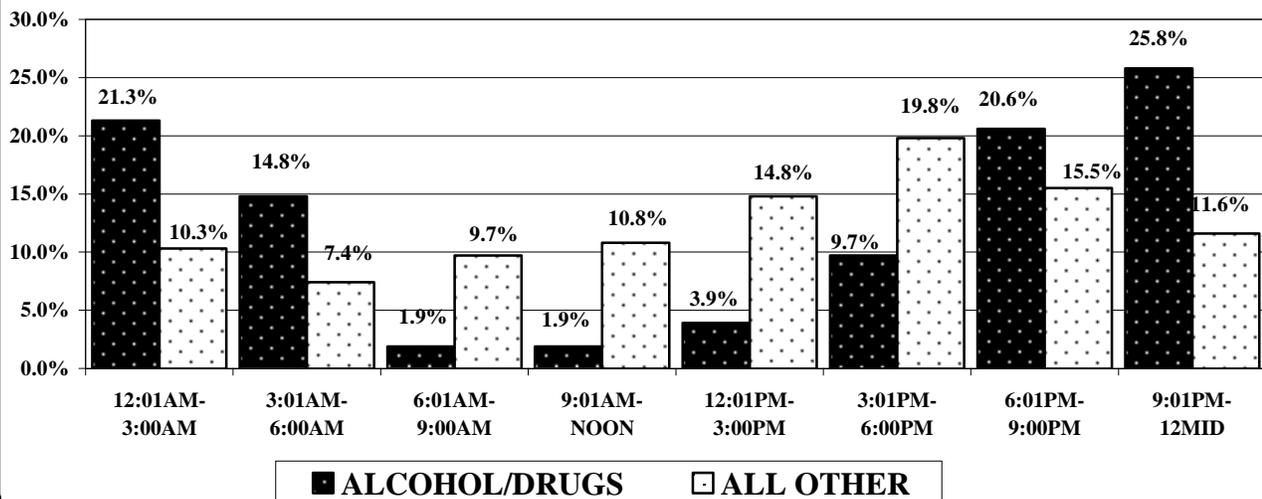
### DRIVERS INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WHERE THE PROBABLE CAUSE WAS ALCOHOL OR DRUGS PER 1,000 LICENSED DRIVERS



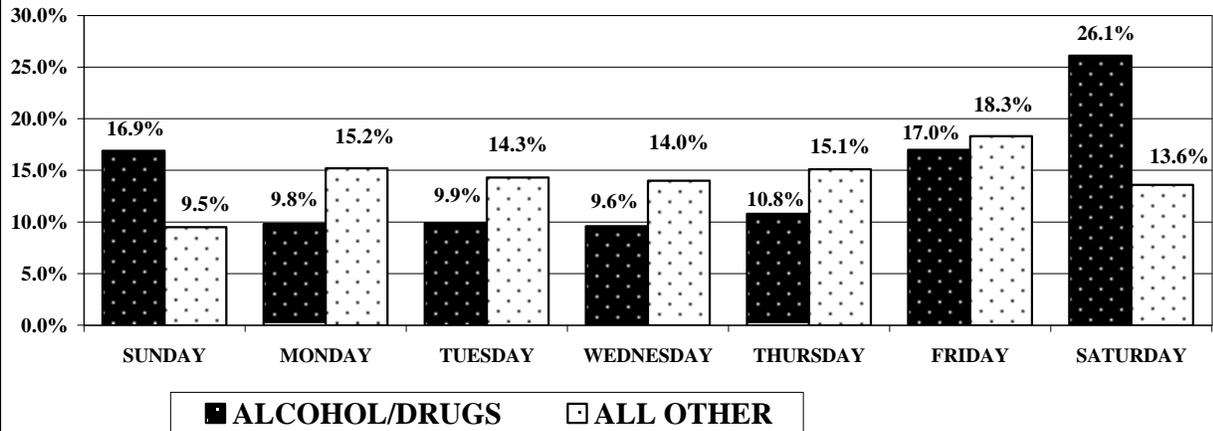
**NON-FATAL COLLISIONS WITH ALCOHOL/DRUGS AS THE PROBABLE CAUSE vs. ALL OTHER CAUSES BY TIME OF DAY**



**FATAL COLLISIONS WITH ALCOHOL/DRUGS AS THE PROBABLE CAUSE vs. ALL OTHER CAUSES BY TIME OF DAY**



**NON-FATAL COLLISIONS WITH ALCOHOL/DRUGS AS THE PROBABLE CAUSE vs. ALL OTHER CAUSES BY DAY OF WEEK**



**FATAL COLLISIONS WITH ALCOHOL/DRUGS AS THE PROBABLE CAUSE vs. ALL OTHER CAUSES BY DAY OF WEEK**

