

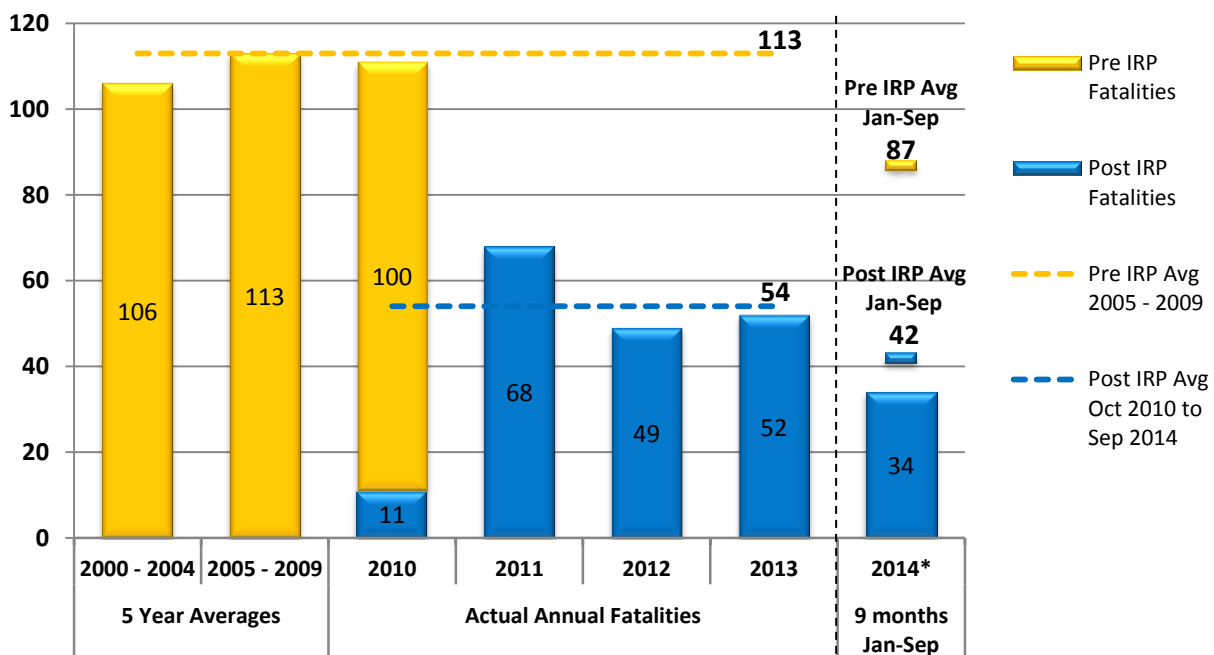
Preliminary Report on Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle (MV) Fatalities

In the 10-year period from 2000 to 2009, progress on tackling drinking and driving had stalled and the number of alcohol related MV deaths¹ remained relatively flat at a 10-year average of 110 per year. The trend was also getting worse with the last five year average (2005 to 2009) showing the number rising to an average of 113 per year. In 2010 the province announced a provincial goal – **to reduce alcohol related driving fatalities by 35% by the end of 2013**, in memory of Alexa Middelaer the four year old girl killed by a drunk driver in Delta, B.C. This 35% goal translated to a targeted reduction of the average number of alcohol related driving deaths from 113 per year² to 73 per year by the end of 2013.

Changes to the *Motor Vehicle Act* introduced tough new Immediate Roadside Prohibitions (IRP's) for drivers affected by alcohol. The IRP program³ was announced in April 2010, implemented on September 20, 2010, and had an immediate impact on MV fatalities across the province. In the final 3 months of 2010 the expected MV fatalities for the province were reduced by 58% from an average 26 to 11⁴. In the first full calendar year of the program, alcohol related MV fatalities dropped from 113 to 68, a 40% reduction. This reduction continued through 2012 and was sustained in 2013. There were 49 alcohol related fatalities in 2012 and 52 in 2013. Preliminary reports indicate that there were 34 MV fatalities⁵ from January to September 2014.

This police data indicates that the province has far surpassed the initial 35% target. The average reduction, from October 2010 to the end of September 2014 (113 to 54), is **52%**. This 52% reduction represents an estimated **238 lives saved** during this time period for alcohol related driving fatalities, compared to the pre-IRP annual average.

Figure 1: Alcohol Related MV Fatalities by Year, 2000 – 2014 September



Source: Data for 2000 – 2013 obtained from ICBC's Traffic Accident System (TAS) – Q4 2014 Fatal Victim Report. *Preliminary fatality data for Jan-Sep 2014 was provided by RCMP Traffic Services Division⁶, January 21, 2015.

Table 1: Fatality Reduction Calculation from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2014

Fatalities	5 Year Baseline Average 2005-2009	Actual Fatalities	Estimated Lives Saved (Reduction) ⁷	% Reduction
2010 (Oct – Dec)	26	11	15	58%
2011 (Jan – Dec)	113	68	45	40%
2012 (Jan – Dec)	113	49	64	57%
2013 (Jan – Dec)	113	52	61	54%
2014 (Jan – Sep)*	87	34	53	61%
Total (48 Months)	452	214	238	
Annualized Average	113	54⁸	59	52%

Source: Data for 2005 – 2013 obtained from ICBC’s Traffic Accident System (TAS) – Q4 2014 Fatal Victim Report.
*Preliminary data for Jan-Sep 2014 provided by RCMP Traffic Services Division on January 21, 2015.

Notes

¹ A fatality is a road user (driver, passenger, pedestrian, and cyclist) who is injured in a collision involving a motor vehicle on a 'highway' as defined in the Motor Vehicle Act and the victim is deceased within 30 days of the collision as a result of their injuries.

² Based on the five year average of alcohol related fatalities from 2005 – 2009 (113 per year).

³ The IRP program was implemented on September 20, 2010. To learn more about the program visit: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv/prohibitions/impaired-driving.htm

⁴ The first 3 months of the IRP program occurred at the end of 2010. To obtain the estimated reduction in fatalities for this period, a baseline of the same 3 months from the previous five years was averaged. The period of October to December from 2005 - 2009 was calculated as having an average of 26 fatalities.

⁵ The number of MV fatalities for Jan-Sep 2014 is preliminary and is subject to change as police reports are finalized and the information is reconciled with all sources.

⁶ The RCMP Traffic Services Division collects police reports on all road user fatalities in the province, including those that occurred in both RCMP and independent jurisdictions.

⁷ The estimated lives saved were calculated as the difference between the five year average and the actual fatalities.

⁸ Calculated as the annualized average for all months of available data, = (Total / 48 Months) * 12 Months.