

Report on Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle (MV) Fatalities

When BC’s Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) program was implemented on Sept. 20, 2010¹, there was an immediate and sustained reduction in alcohol-related MV fatalities. As of the end of 2016, BC’s IRP program has now **saved 351 lives and reduced alcohol-related fatalities by 50%** (Figure 1, Table 1).

HISTORY

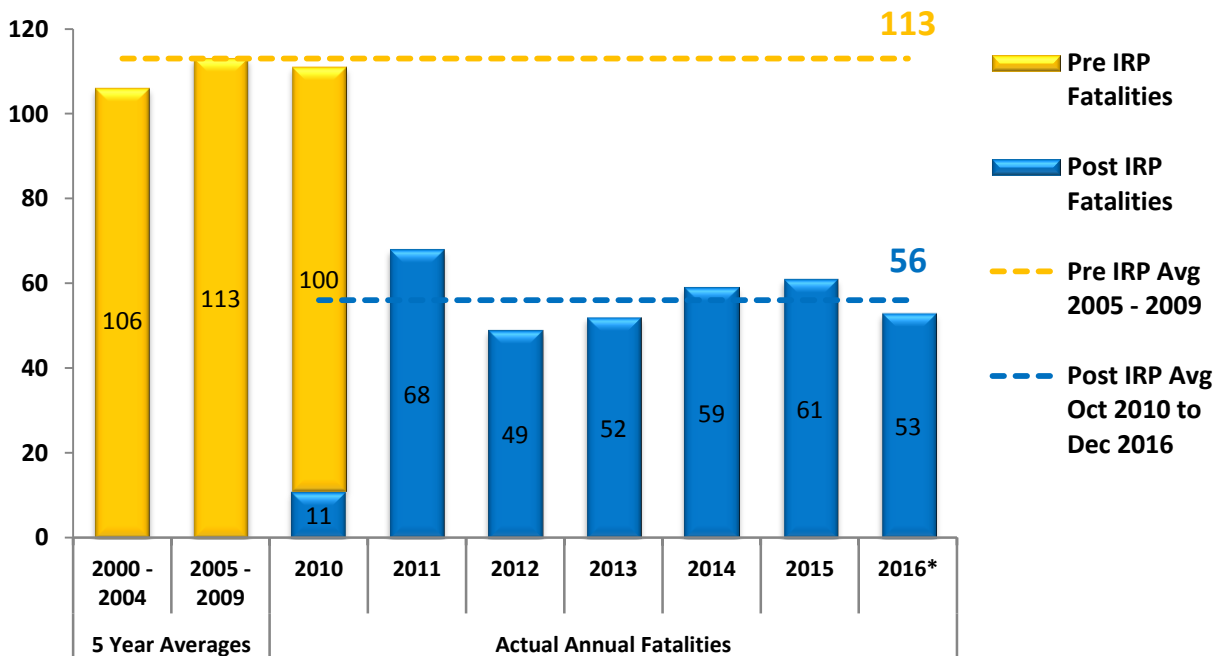
In the 10-year period from 2000 to 2009, progress on tackling drinking and driving had stalled and the number of alcohol related MV deaths² remained relatively flat at an average of 110 per year (Table 2). The trend was also getting worse with the last five-year average (2005 to 2009) showing the number rising to an average of 113 per year.

In 2010, with the introduction of the IRP program, government announced the goal of **reducing alcohol-related MV 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, BC. This 35% goal was the equivalent of a targeted reduction of the average number of alcohol-related MV deaths from 113 per year³ to 73 per year by the end of 2013.

IRP PROGRAM SUCCESS

In the final three months of 2010, the MV fatalities related to alcohol for the province were reduced by 58%, from an average of 26⁴ to 11. In the first full calendar year of the program, alcohol-related MV fatalities dropped from 113 to 68, a 40% reduction. This reduction has been maintained from 2012 through 2016.

Figure 1: Alcohol Related MV Fatalities by Year, 2000 – December 2016



Source: Data is police reported data obtained from the Traffic Accident System (TAS), Q2 2017 Fatal Victim Report provided by ICBC.

*Note that 2016 fatal victim counts are preliminary and subject to change.

Table 1: Fatality Reduction Calculation from October 1, 2010 to December 31, 2016

Fatalities	5 Year Baseline Average 2005-2009	Actual Fatalities	Estimated Lives Saved (Reduction) ⁵	% 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 – Dec)	113	59	54	48%
2015 (Jan – Dec)	113	61	52	46%
2016 (Jan – Dec)	113	53	60	53%
Total (75 Months)	704	353	351	
Annualized Average		56 ⁶		50%

Source: Data obtained from ICBC’s Traffic Accident System (TAS) – Q2 2017 Fatal Victim Report.

Table 2: Fatal Victims in Crashes where Alcohol was deemed a Contributing Factor, 1996-2009

Year	Pre IRP													
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fatal Victims	146	130	129	100	91	121	115	102	103	129	114	128	102	92
Average	114													
	Baseline average for lives saved calculation										113			

¹ The IRP program was implemented on September 20, 2010. To learn more about the program visit: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/road-safety-rules-and-consequences/drug-alcohol>

² 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.

³ Based on the five year average of alcohol related fatalities from 2005 – 2009 (113 per year).

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 (pre-IRP) was calculated as having an average of 26 fatalities.

⁵ The estimated lives saved were calculated as the difference between the five year average and the actual fatalities.

⁶ Calculated as the annualized average for all months of available data:
(Total Actual Fatalities / Total Months) * 12 Months
(353 / 75) * 12 = 56