

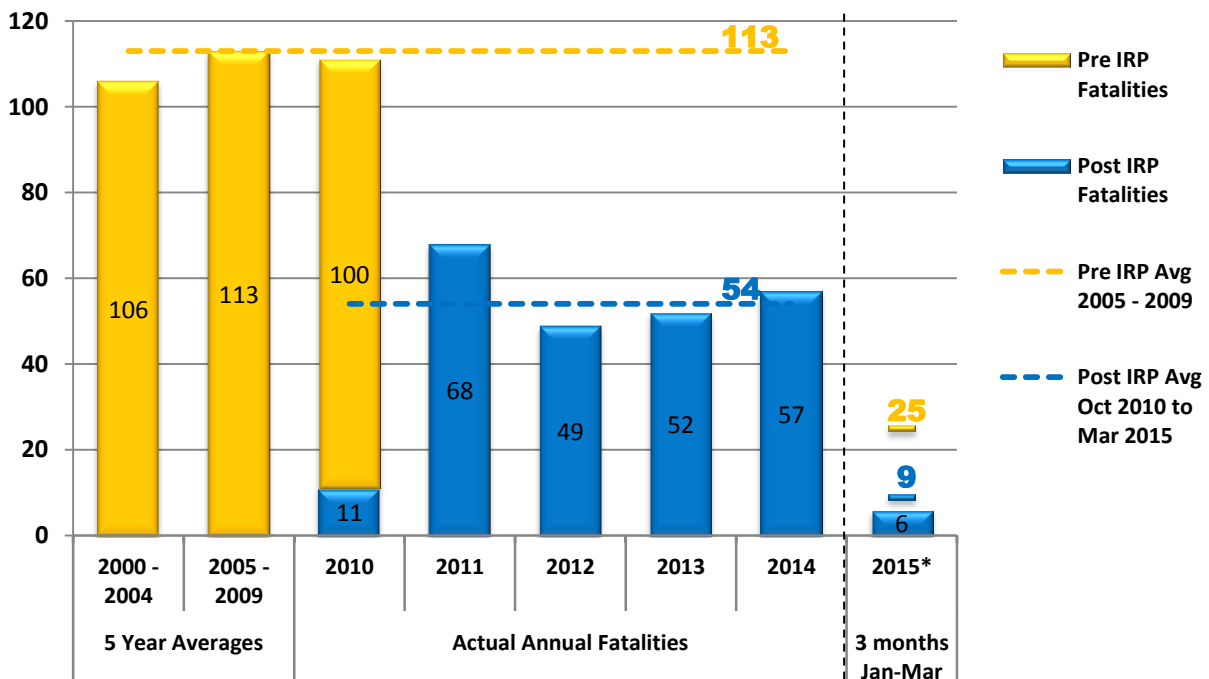
Preliminary Report on Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle (MV) Fatalities

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 5 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 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 continued from 2012 through 2014. There were 49 alcohol related fatalities in 2012, 52 in 2013, and 57 in 2014. Preliminary reports indicate that there were 6 alcohol related MV fatalities⁵ from January to March 2015, compared to the pre-IRP average in January to March of 25⁴ fatalities.

This police data indicates that the province has far surpassed the initial 35% target. The annualized reduction, from October 2010 to the end of March 2015 (113 to 54), is **52%**. This 52% reduction represents an estimated **260 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 – 2015 March



Source: Data for 2000 – 2014 obtained from the Traffic Accident System (TAS), data reported by police – Q2 2015 Fatal Victim Report provided by ICBC.

*Preliminary fatality data for Jan-Mar 2015 was provided by RCMP Traffic Services Division⁶, August 20, 2015.

Table 1: Fatality Reduction Calculation from October 1, 2010 to March 31, 2015

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 – Dec)	113	57	56	50%
2015 (Jan – Mar)*	25	6	19	76%
Total (54 Months)	503	243	260	
Annualized Average		54 ⁸		52%

Source: Data for 2005 – 2014 obtained from ICBC’s Traffic Accident System (TAS) – Q2 2015 Fatal Victim Report.
*Preliminary data for Jan-Mar 2015 provided by RCMP Traffic Services Division⁶ on August 20, 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 (pre-IRP) was calculated as having an average of 26 fatalities. This methodology was also applied to the January to March 2005-2009 period, finding an average of 25 fatalities.

⁵ The number of MV fatalities for Jan-Mar 2015 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 / 54 Months) * 12 Months.