

## Report on Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle (MV) Fatalities

When BC's Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) program was implemented on Sept. 20, 2010<sup>1</sup>, there was an immediate and sustained reduction in alcohol-related MV fatalities. As of the end of 2019, BC's IRP program has helped **save 522 lives and reduced alcohol-related fatalities by 50%** (Figure 1, Table 1).

The main data source for this report is police reported MV6020 forms completed by police soon after a motor vehicle crash and manually entered into the Traffic Accident System (TAS). Fatality data may differ between TAS and the Coroners Service due to definitions and the fact that Coroners Service data also includes fatalities that occur more than 30 days after an injury was sustained as a result of a motor vehicle crash.

While police-reported data provides a timely snapshot of motor vehicle related injuries and fatalities, the contributing factors related to fatalities (Table 4) should be interpreted with caution as this does not take into consideration a Coroner's investigative findings supported by autopsy, toxicology, and other examinations.

### 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 deaths<sup>2</sup> 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 year<sup>3</sup> 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 26<sup>4</sup> 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 continued from 2012 through 2019 with there being 50% fewer alcohol-related fatalities since the introduction of the IRP.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Figure 1: Alcohol Related MV Fatalities by Year, 2000 – 2019

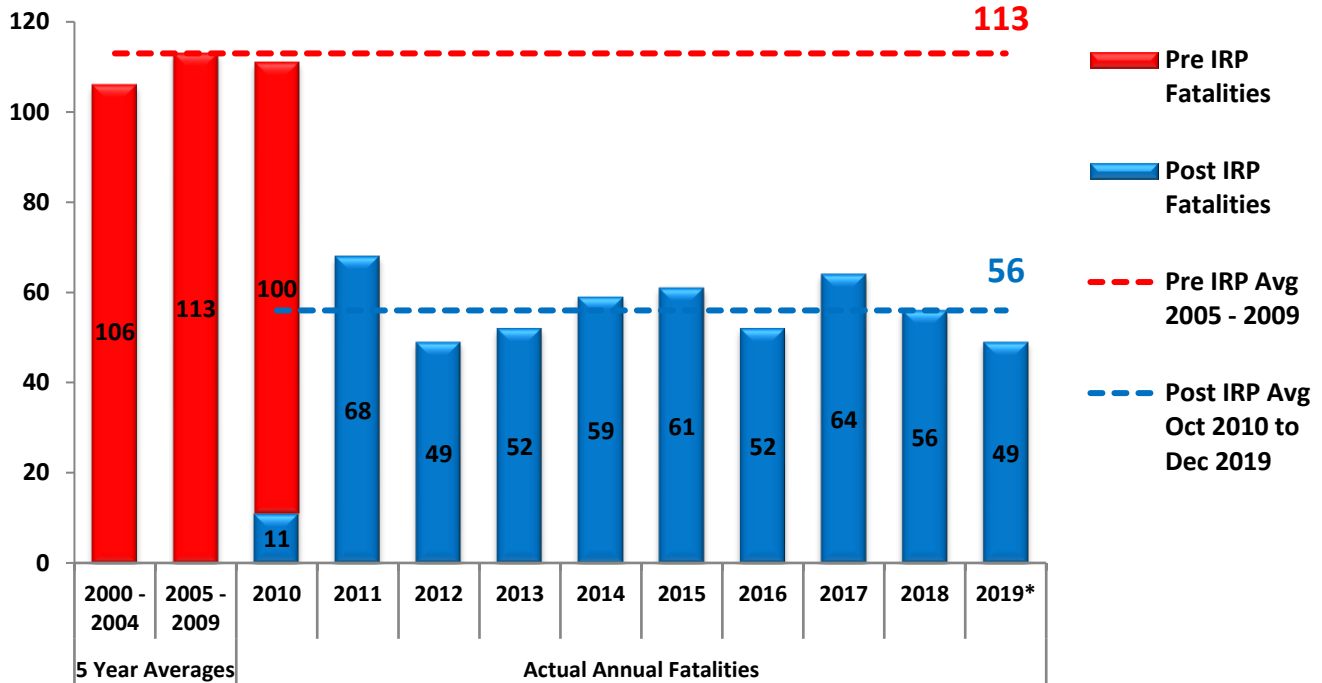


Table 1: Fatality Reduction Calculation from October 1, 2010 to December 31, 2019

Fatalities	5 Year Baseline Average 2005-2009	Actual Fatalities	Estimated Lives Saved (Reduction) <sup>5</sup>	% 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	52	61	54%
2017 (Jan – Dec)	113	64	49	43%
2018 (Jan – Dec)	113	56	57	50%
2019 (Jan – Dec)*	113	49	64	57%
<b>Total (111 Months)</b>	<b>1043</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>522</b>	
<b>Annualized Average<sup>6</sup></b>		<b>56</b>		<b>50%</b>

Source: Data is from police attended crashes reported in the Traffic Accident System (TAS), filename "TAS data by ICBC Regions 2020 Q2".

\*Note that 2019 fatal victim counts are preliminary and subject to change.

<sup>5</sup> The estimated lives saved were calculated as the difference between the five-year average and the actual fatalities.

<sup>6</sup> Calculated as the annualized average for all months of available data:

(Total Actual Fatalities / Total Months) \* 12 Months

( 521 / 111 ) \* 12 = 56

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

	Pre IRP													
Year	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, 2005-2009										<b>113</b>			