



# The Nature and Extent of Alcohol Misuse Among Offenders

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# DUI

- Traffic crashes are the single greatest cause of death for every age group between three and 34 years of age in the U.S. (except for age 7)
- Almost 13,000 people are killed in crashes where at least one driver has a BAC of 0.08 or higher each year
- Alcohol related crashes cost society over 100 billion dollars each year

**Not everyone who gets hit  
by a drunk driver dies.**



Jacqueline Saburido was 20 years old when the car she was riding in was hit by a drunk driver. Today, at 23, she is still working to put her life back together.

*Learn more at [www.TexasDWI.org](http://www.TexasDWI.org)*

**DON'T DRINK & DRIVE**



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Of course, it's not all about  
drunk drivers



# Alcohol and Crimes Other Than DUI




# 1998 BJS Analysis of National Data on the Prevalence of Alcohol Involvement in Crime

Prepared by Lawrence Greenfeld for the Assistant  
Attorney General's National Symposium on Alcohol  
Abuse and Crime



# Sources

- Arrest data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program
- FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting Program
- NHTSA's Fatal Accident Reporting System
- BJS surveys of correctional populations
- BJS National Crime Victimization Survey




Many of these surveys have been repeated.....however, no formal, easy to understand reports have been generated since

## Crimes Committed Under the Influence

- More than 36% of the 5.3 million convicted adult offenders under the jurisdiction of probation authorities, jails, prisons or parole agencies in 1996 had been drinking at the time of the offenses for which they had been convicted
  - The average estimated BAC of probationers who drank during the 8 hours prior to their offense was 0.16
  - The average estimated BAC of state prison inmates who drank during the 8 hours prior to their offense was 0.27
  - About half of all probationers reported that they had driven a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol

## Crimes Committed Under the Influence

- BJS statistician Christopher Mumola reviewed the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Agencies and provided additional insights
  - The more violent the crime, the greater the likelihood that alcohol was involved (excepting crimes where alcohol or drug use was an element of the offense)
  - Over 40% of state prisoners who committed violent crimes did so while under the influence of alcohol
  - Over 44% of state prisoners incarcerated for murder committed their offenses while under the influence of alcohol



## Prevalence of Alcohol Abuse or Dependence


- Greenfeld reported:
  - Over a third of probationers reported consuming a fifth of a liquor in a day
  - Almost a third of all convicted inmates in local jails and almost 30% of state prisoners described themselves as daily drinkers

# Prevalence of Alcohol Abuse or Dependence

- Mumola reported that over 24.4% of State prisoners gave at least 3 positive responses on a CAGE questionnaire
  - In testing involving people admitted to a hospital, three or more positive CAGE responses carried a “.99 predictive value for alcohol abuse or dependence”
  - B. Bush, et al, “Screening for Alcohol Abuse Using the CAGE Questionnaire,” 82 Am. J. Med. 231 (February 1987)

# Treatment of Offenders -- DUI

- Most states continue to emphasize punitive sanctions rather than remedial measures
- Most states have laws governing assessment, evaluation, treatment and monitoring of offenders
- Most laws and programs are insufficient
- Consequently, recidivism remains high



# Treatment of Offenders -- Generally

Most states make little, if any, effort to identify offenders with alcohol misuse issues except in correctional settings

# Treatment of Offenders -- Generally

- Almost 40% of probationers who committed crimes under the influence of alcohol had not received treatment at the time they were surveyed
- While up to 50% of state prisoners have received treatment in the past, for most it was limited to self-help groups like AA



## Next Steps to Understanding the Nature and Extent of the Problem

- We need to encourage researchers to generate new reports based on the latest surveys
- We need to encourage additional research on the nature and extent of the problem



Conclusion