

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics



Alcohol and Crime: Data from 2002 to 2008

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This webpage includes analyses from four data sources: the [National Incident-Based Reporting System \(NIBRS\)](#), the [National Crime Victimization Survey \(NCVS\)](#), the Survey of Inmates in [State and Federal](#) Correctional Facilities (SISFCF), and the [Survey of Inmates in Local Jails \(SILJ\)](#). Each data source examines the involvement of alcohol and violent crime from different perspectives and different sets of criminal behaviors. In NIBRS law enforcement officers are asked to record whether alcohol use by victims, offenders, or both was involved in the incident. In NCVS victims are asked to report whether they believe the offenders had consumed alcohol prior to or during the crime. Finally, in the inmate surveys prison and jail inmates are asked if they were using alcohol at the time of the crime for which they were incarcerated.

The NCVS captures the broadest range of crime and includes nonfatal crime reported and not reported to law enforcement. Because the NCVS measures the number of victimizations, it does not restrict identifying an incident as alcohol-involved based on the quantity of alcohol consumed by the offender or the degree of impairment resulting from the alcohol consumption. NIBRS captures fatal and nonfatal crimes reported to law enforcement, which are likely more serious than those captured by NCVS. Victimization captured by NCVS and offenses known to police reflected in NIBRS may underestimate domestic violence; however, it is not clear which data source provides better information on the characteristics of these crimes.

In NIBRS, officers are asked to indicate whether the crime involved alcohol, drugs, or computers. Because officers use primarily observation and professional judgment to form their assessment and the assessment is unlikely to be based on a chemical or behavioral test for alcohol, the incident is likely to be coded as alcohol-involved only when a victim or an offender shows obvious signs of alcohol impairment. As a result, some alcohol-involved incidents may not be coded as such (e.g., incidents in which the amount of alcohol consumed was relatively small and none of the people involved showed outward signs of alcohol use). In some jurisdictions, officers may also indicate "not applicable" if alcohol, drugs, or computers were not involved in the crime. For the alcohol and crime analysis presented here, BJS treated the absence of an indication that alcohol was involved or a non-applicable response as a non-alcohol-related incident.

In the inmate surveys (SISFCF and SILJ), inmates are asked whether they had been using alcohol prior to or during the commission of the crime leading to their incarceration. The differences in the distribution of violent crimes leading to incarceration, and those reported to the NCVS or NIBRS, may arise from the fact that the prison and jail inmates have been convicted, whereas NIBRS and NCVS include all crimes—those that result in a conviction and those that do not. Also, inmates are more likely to know whether they had been using alcohol prior to or during the crime than either the victims or law enforcement. The SISFCF and the SILJ also provide information on alcohol involvement for non-violent crimes.

These variations in the four data collections are likely to result in different statistics related to alcohol use in violent crimes. While in some ways these differences may lead to confusion about how to interpret the findings of alcohol involvement in crime, when carefully considered they can

paint a more complete picture than any single data collection.

For detailed information on alcohol-related incidents, data tables, and figures, click on the topical links below.

National Incident Based Reporting System

1. [Sex of offenders](#)
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National Crime Victimization Survey

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Prison and Jail Inmate Surveys

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Appendix Tables

- Appendix table 1. [Crimes by type and percentage involving perceived alcohol use](#)
Appendix table 2. [Number and percent of violent incidents by state in the 2007 NIBRS sample](#)

[Conclusion](#)

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Related Publications

[Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Local Jails](#) Describes the drug involvement of jail inmates and the level of drug use, testing, and treatment in jails.
[Press Release](#) | [PDF](#) (114K) | [ASCII file](#) (40K) | [Spreadsheet](#) (Zip format 60K) | [Codebooks and Datasets](#) | [To order paper version](#)

[DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision](#) Provides data on offenders in jail, in prison, or on probation for driving while intoxicated.
[Press Release](#) | [PDF](#) (171K) | [ASCII file](#) (83K) | [Spreadsheet](#) (Zip format 36K) | [Codebooks and Datasets](#) | [To order paper version](#)

[Substance Abuse and Treatment of State and Federal Prisoners, 1997](#) Presents data from the 1997 Survey of Inmates in Adult State and Federal Correctional Facilities concerning prisoners' use of alcohol and illegal drugs and the substance abuse treatment they received.
[Press Release](#) (6K) | [PDF](#) (137K) | [ASCII file](#) (85K) | [ZIP Format](#) (Spreadsheet 43K) | [Codebooks and Datasets](#) | [To order paper version](#)

[Alcohol and Crime](#) (1998) Provides an overview of national information on the role of alcohol in violent victimization and its use among those convicted of crimes, including victim perceptions of alcohol use by offenders at the time of the crime.
[Press Release](#) (5K) | [PDF](#) (145K) | [ASCII file](#) (106K) | [Codebooks and Datasets](#) | [To order paper version](#)

[Drunk Driving](#) Paper copy only.

[Print version](#) (PDF 250K)
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Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement were more likely to have male offenders than were violent incidents in which alcohol was not involved (82% vs. 76%)

Table 1. Sex of offenders in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Offender sex	All	Alcohol- involved	Other violent
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %
Male	76.7	81.7	76.0
Female	23.3	18.3	24.0

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement were less likely to have juvenile offenders than other violent incidents in which alcohol was not involved (2% vs. 17%)

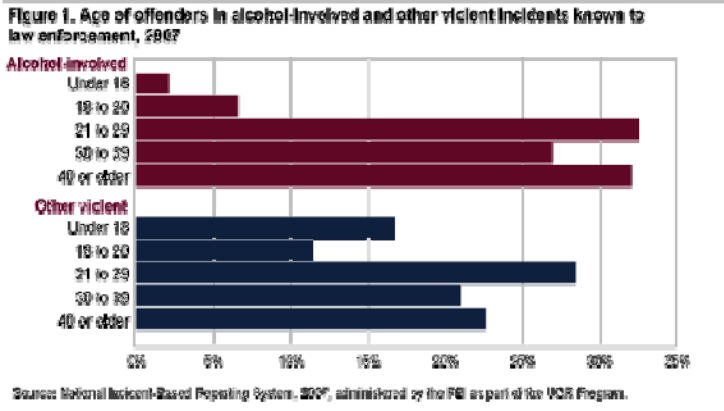


Table 2. Age of offenders in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Offender age	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Under 18	14.9	2.0	16.6
18 to 20	10.8	6.6	11.4
21 to 29	28.9	32.5	28.4
30 to 39	21.6	26.9	20.9
40 or older	23.7	32.0	22.6

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Both alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement had similar proportions of female victims (59% vs. 58%)

Table 3. Sex of victims in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Victim sex	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Male	41.7	40.6	41.8
Female	58.3	59.4	58.2

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement were less likely to have juvenile victims than were violent incidents in which alcohol was not involved (6% vs. 19%)

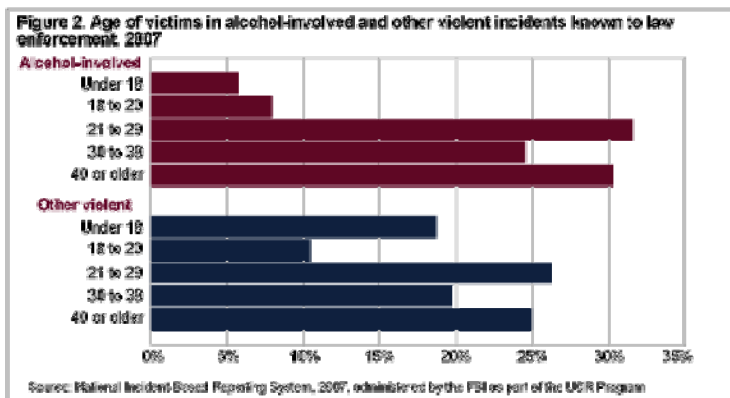


Table 4. Age of victims in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Victim age	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Under 18	17.3	5.7	18.7
18 to 20	10.2	8.0	10.5
21 to 29	26.8	31.6	26.2
30 to 39	20.2	24.5	19.7
40 or older	25.5	30.3	25.0

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

98% of alcohol-related violent incidents known to law enforcement involved an adult offender age 18 or older (i.e., a person age 18 or older)

8.6% of alcohol-related violent incidents known to law enforcement involved offenders who were under the legal drinking age of 21, compared with 28.0% of other violent incidents.

The majority (89.3%) of juvenile victims (i.e., under age 18) in alcohol-related violent incidents known to law enforcement were victimized by adult offenders. In contrast, other violent incidents juvenile victims were more likely to be victimized by other

victims aged 40 or older in alcohol-related violent incidents known to law enforcement were more likely to be victimized by offenders in their own age group than victims in other violent incidents (61.1% vs. 46.4%).

Table 5. Age of victims in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, by age of offender, 2007

Victim age	Age of offender					
	Total	Under 18	18-20	21-29	30-39	40 or older
Alcohol-involved violent						
Total	100 %	2.0	6.6	32.7	26.8	31.8
Under 18	100 %	10.7	14.1	22.5	24.7	28.0
18 to 20	100 %	3.5	25.8	46.5	11.5	12.6
21 to 29	100 %	1.0	6.5	57.3	23.0	12.2
30 to 39	100 %	1.4	2.9	22.9	44.6	28.1
40 or older	100 %	1.6	3.2	13.1	20.9	61.1
Other violent						
Total	100 %	16.6	11.4	28.3	20.8	22.8
Under 18	100 %	50.6	12.4	12.6	11.9	12.6
18 to 20	100 %	10.5	33.0	37.3	9.3	9.9
21 to 29	100 %	4.3	10.3	52.7	20.9	11.7
30 to 39	100 %	10.3	5.7	21.8	38.1	24.1
40 or older	100 %	11.7	7.3	15.9	18.7	46.4

Note: Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-related incidents of violence were more likely than other violent incidents known to law enforcement to involve victims and offenders who were in a domestic relationship (47% vs. 31%)

Three in 5 (59.8%) victims in alcohol-related incidents of violence were either family members or in a domestic relationship with the offender, compared to 48.1 percent for

Alcohol-related incidents of violence were less likely to involve victims and offenders that were acquainted (but not family members or in a domestic relations) than other violent

Alcohol-related incidents of violence and other violent incidents known to law enforcement were equally likely to involve victims and offenders who were strangers (11.3% vs. 11.8%).

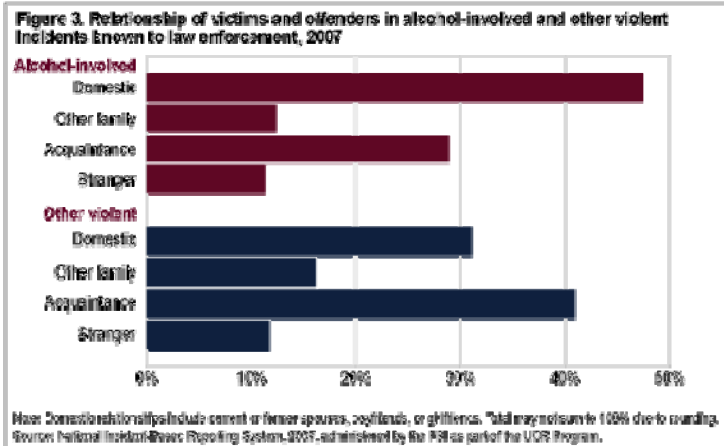


Table 6. Relationship of victims and offenders in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Relationship	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Domestic	33.0	47.4	31.0
Other family	15.7	12.4	16.1
Acquaintance	39.6	28.9	41.0
Stranger	11.7	11.3	11.8

Note: Domestic relationships include current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends. Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement were more likely to have multiple victims than other violent incidents (20% vs. 15%)

Table 7. Number of victims involved in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Number of victims	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
1	84.1	80.4	84.5
2 or more	15.8	19.6	15.3
2	12.9	15.8	12.5
3	2.1	2.8	2
4-5	0.7	0.9	0.7
6 or more	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement were as likely as other violent incidents to have multiple offenders (13% vs. 14%)

Table 8. Number of offenders in alcohol-related and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Number of offenders	All	Alcohol- involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
1	85.8	86.7	85.7
2	10.6	10.5	10.6
3	2.2	1.7	2.3
4-5	1.1	0.8	1.1
6 or more	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Compared with other violent incidents known to law enforcement, alcohol-involved violent incidents were more likely to be aggravated and simple assault and less likely to be robbery and intimidation

Table 9. Most serious offense in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Offense type	All	Alcohol- involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter	0.3	0.2	0.3
Rape/sexual assault	5.1	4.1	5.2
Kidnapping/abduction	1.0	1.0	1.0
Robbery	6.6	1.3	7.2
Aggravated assault	13.9	17.6	13.5
Simple assault	54.9	68.5	53.2
Intimidation*	18.3	7.3	19.6

Note: Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack. This offense includes stalking.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

More than half (56%) of alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement resulted in the arrest of an offender compared to about a third (33%) of other violent

Table 10. Arrests made in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Arrest made	All	Alcohol- involved	Other violent
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %
Yes	35.6	55.7	33.2
No	64.4	44.3	66.8

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

In 7% of alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement, other types of drugs were also suspected to be involved

Suspected involvement of other types of drug was far more common in alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement than in other violent incidents where alcohol was not

Table 11. Percent of alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement suspected of involving other drugs, 2007

Suspected other drug	All	Alcohol- involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Yes	1.9	7.0	1.3
No	98.1	93.0	98.7

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

About 1 in 5 (19%) alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement involved a firearm, knife, blunt object, or other non-personal weapon

The presence of any type of weapon (i.e., other than personal weapon) was less common in alcohol-involved violent incidents than in other violent incidents known to law enforcement (18.7% vs. 23.6%).

Firearms were far less common in alcohol-involved violent incidents than in other violent incidents known to law enforcement (2.8% vs. 8.6%).

Table 12. Presence of weapons in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law

Presence of weapon	All	Alcohol- involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Firearm	7.9	2.8	8.6
Knife/cutting instrument	4.5	5.3	4.4
Blunt object	3.1	3.8	3.1
Other nonpersonal weapon	7.4	6.8	7.5
Personal weapon (hands, feet, teeth, etc.)	77.0	81.3	76.4

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the

Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement were more likely to result in an injury to the victim than other violent incidents (61% vs. 50%)

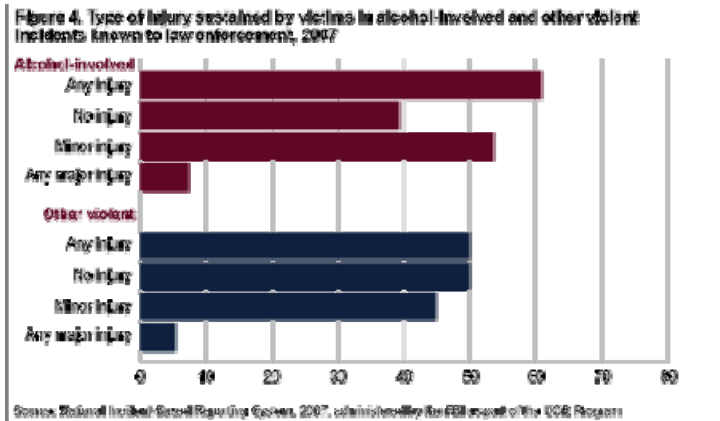


Table 13. Type of injury sustained by victims in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Injury type	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Any injury	51.3	60.8	50.0
Minor injury	45.8	53.5	44.7
Any major injury	5.6	7.3	5.3
Apparent broken bones	0.6	0.9	0.6
Possible internal injury	0.8	0.9	0.7
Loss of teeth	0.2	0.2	0.1
Severe laceration	2.3	3.5	2.1
Unconsciousness	0.4	0.7	0.4
Other major injury	1.3	1.1	1.4
No injury	48.7	39.2	50.0

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement were more likely to result in an injury to the victim than were other violent incidents regardless of whether the offender was a

Table 14. Type of injury sustained by victims in alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, by offender age group, 2007

Injury type	Alcohol-involved			Other violent		
	All	Juvenile	Adult	All	Juvenile	Adult
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Any injury	61.1	59.7	63.1	50.6	49.0	52.8
Minor injury	53.7	55.2	51.5	45.2	46.0	44.2
Any major injury	7.4	4.4	11.6	5.4	3.0	8.6
Apparent broken bones	0.9	0.6	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.9
Possible internal injury	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.6	1.0
Loss of teeth	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
Severe laceration	3.5	1.6	6.3	2.2	1.0	3.7
Unconsciousness	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.6
Other major injury	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.4	0.8	2.2
No injury	38.9	40.3	36.9	49.4	51.0	47.2

Note: Overall injury percentages may not be consistent with the injury percentages within age groups due to missing data on offender age.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement were slightly higher during the summer months

Table 15a. Month alcohol-involved and other violence occurred in incident known to law enforcement, 2007

Month	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
January	7.6	7.4	7.7
February	6.8	6.5	6.8
March	8.6	8.2	8.7
April	8.5	7.9	8.6
May	9.6	9.3	9.7
June	9.0	9.4	8.9
July	9.1	9.9	9.0
August	8.8	9.4	8.8
September	8.7	9.1	8.7
October	8.5	7.8	8.6
November	7.4	7.3	7.5
December	7.2	7.8	7.2

Note: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Of all violent incidents known to law enforcement, those occurring in summer months and in December were most likely to involve alcohol

Table 15b. Proportion of violent incidents known to law enforcement that were alcohol-involved by months, 2007

Month	Total	Alcohol-involved	Other violence
January	100.0 %	10.3 %	89.7 %
February	100.0 %	10.1	89.9
March	100.0 %	10.1	89.9
April	100.0 %	9.8	90.2
May	100.0 %	10.2	89.8
June	100.0 %	11.1	88.9
July	100.0 %	11.5	88.5
August	100.0 %	11.2	88.8
September	100.0 %	11.0	89.0
October	100.0 %	9.7	90.3
November	100.0 %	10.4	89.6
December	100.0 %	11.5	88.5

Note: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-involved violent incidents were twice as likely to occur on Saturdays and Sundays than on any other day of the week

Nearly half (43.4%) of all alcohol-involved incidents of violence known to law enforcement occurred on Saturdays and Sundays compared to 29.9% of other violent incidents.

Table 16. Day of the week alcohol-involved and other violence occurred in incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Day of the week	All	Alcohol- involved	Other violent
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %
Sunday	15.4	20.5	14.8
Monday	13.9	10.9	14.2
Tuesday	13.4	10.1	13.8
Wednesday	13.4	10.4	13.8
Thursday	13.4	11.2	13.7
Friday	14.5	13.9	14.5
Saturday	15.9	22.9	15.1

Note: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Most serious offense of alcohol-involved or other violent incidents known to law enforcement were similar on weekdays and weekends

Table 17. Most serious offense in alcohol-involved or other violent incidents known to law enforcement occurring on weekdays and weekends, 2007

Offense type	All		Alcohol-involved		Other violent	
	Monday-Friday	Saturday-Sunday	Monday-Friday	Saturday-Sunday	Monday-Friday	Saturday-Sunday
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Murder/nonnegligent manslaughte	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Rape/sexual assault	4.9	4.3	3.9	4.0	5.0	4.3
Kidnapping/abduction	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Robbery	7.0	6.6	1.5	1.2	7.5	7.5
Aggravated assault	13.7	15.8	17.8	18.5	13.3	15.4
Simple assault	54.0	57.3	68.2	69.0	52.7	55.3
Intimidation	19.1	14.8	7.5	6.1	20.2	16.3

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement peaked around 1 am, while other violent incidents known to law enforcement peaked around 9 pm

Over half (55.6%) of all alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement occurred during the six hours between 9 pm and 3 am. Over half (55.2%) of other violent incidents where alcohol was not involved occurred between 12 noon and 9 pm.

Figure 5. Time-of-day of alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

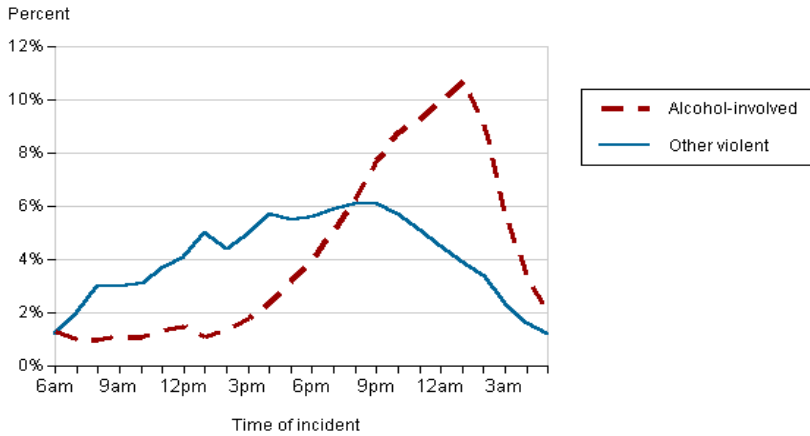


Table 18. Time-of-day of alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Time of incident	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Morning			
6am	1.3 %	1.3 %	1.2 %
7am	1.9	1.0	2.0
8am	2.8	1.0	3.0
9am	2.9	1.1	3.1
10am	3.4	1.1	3.7
11am	3.8	1.3	4.1
Afternoon			
12pm	4.6	1.5	5.0
1pm	4.0	1.1	4.4
2pm	4.6	1.4	5.0
3pm	5.2	1.8	5.7
4pm	5.2	2.4	5.5
5pm	5.4	3.2	5.6
Evening			
6pm	5.7	4.0	5.9
7pm	5.8	5.1	5.9
8pm	6.1	6.3	6.1
9pm	6.3	7.7	6.1
10pm	6.1	8.8	5.7
11pm	5.5	9.3	5.1
Midnight			
12am	5.1	10.0	4.5
1am	4.7	10.7	3.9
2am	4.0	9.1	3.4
3am	2.7	5.6	2.3
4am	1.7	3.3	1.6
5am	1.2	1.9	1.2

Note: Time of incident includes incidents that occurred within the hour specified (e.g., 6 am covers the period from 6:00 am to 6:59 am).

Total does not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Alcohol-related violence known to law enforcement involving juvenile offenders and those involving adult offenders shared similar time-of-day patterns.

For both juvenile and adult offenders, the time of day patterns differ for alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement.

57.9% of alcohol-related violence with a juvenile offender occurred between 9 pm and 3 am.

55.1% of alcohol-related violence with an adult offender occurred between 9 pm and 3 am.

Alcohol-related violence involving either juvenile or adult offenders peaked in the

Other violent incidents for juveniles peaked at 3 pm, the time frame commonly associated with school closure, while the peak in these incidents for adults was around 7 pm.

Figure 6. Time-of-day of violent incidents with juvenile offenders, 2007

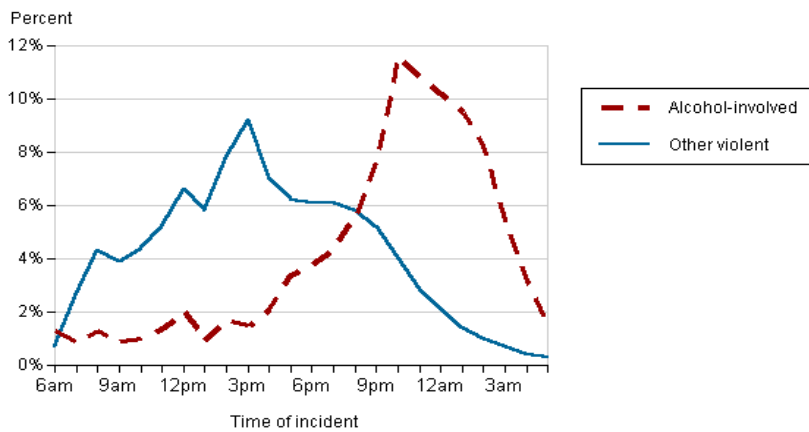


Figure 7. Time-of-day of violent incidents with adult offender, 2007

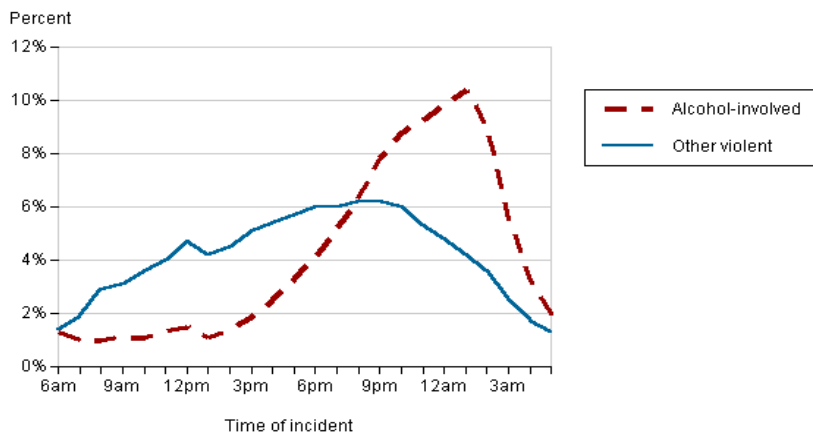


Table 19. Time-of-day alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, by offender age group, 2007

Time of incident	Time of day of incidents with juvenile offenders		Time of day of incidents with adult offenders	
	Alcohol- involved	Other violent	Alcohol- involved	Other violent
Morning				
6am	1.3 %	0.7 %	1.3 %	1.4 %
7am	0.9	2.7	1.0	1.9
8am	1.3	4.3	1.0	2.9
9am	0.9	3.9	1.1	3.1
10am	1.0	4.4	1.1	3.6
11am	1.4	5.2	1.3	4.0
Afternoon				
12pm	2.0	6.6	1.5	4.7
1pm	0.9	5.8	1.1	4.2
2pm	1.7	7.8	1.4	4.5
3pm	1.5	9.2	1.9	5.1
4pm	2.1	7.0	2.5	5.4
5pm	3.4	6.2	3.3	5.7
Evening				
6pm	3.8	6.1	4.1	6.0
7pm	4.4	6.1	5.2	6.0
8pm	5.6	5.8	6.4	6.2
9pm	7.6	5.2	7.8	6.2
10pm	11.6	4.0	8.8	6.0
11pm	10.8	2.8	9.3	5.3
Midnight				
12am	10.2	2.1	9.9	4.8
1am	9.5	1.4	10.4	4.2
2am	8.2	1.0	8.9	3.6
3am	5.3	0.7	5.5	2.5
4am	3.1	0.4	3.2	1.7
5am	1.5	0.3	1.9	1.3

Note: Time of Incident includes incidents that occurred within the hour specified (e.g., 6 am covers the period from 6:00 am to 6:59 am). Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Two-thirds (67%) of alcohol-involved violence known to law enforcement occurred in a residence or home

A larger proportion of alcohol-involved (66.6%) than other violent incidents (57.4%) known to law enforcement occurred in a residence or home.

Violent incidents involving alcohol (8.3%) were more than twice as likely as other violent (2.9%) incidents to occur in a bar, nightclub, or restaurant.

Table 20. Location of alcohol-involved incidents known to law enforcement, 2007

Incident location	All	Alcohol-involved	Other violent
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Residence/home	58.3	66.6	57.4
Highway/road/alley	13.8	10.8	14.2
Bar/nightclub/restaurant	3.5	8.3	2.9
Parking lot/garage	4.8	4.4	4.8
Hotel/motel	1.1	2.2	1.0
School/college	4.3	0.4	4.7
Other	14.2	7.3	15.0

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

A residence or home was the most common location of alcohol-involved violent incidents known to law enforcement regardless of the day of the week

While a residence or home was the most common location for both alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement, the proportion is larger in alcohol-involved incidents overall and each day of the week.

The percentage of incidents occurring in a bar, nightclub, or restaurant was much higher on the weekends for alcohol-involved incidents than other violent incidents.

Table 21. Location of alcohol-involved and other violent incidents known to law enforcement occurred, by day-of-week, 2007

Day of week and type of incident	Incident location							
	Total	Residence/home	Highway/road/alley	Bar/nightclub/restaurant	Parking lot/garage	Hotel/motel	School/college	Other
Alcohol-involved violent								
Total	100.0 %	66.6 %	10.8 %	8.3 %	4.4 %	2.2 %	0.4 %	7.3 %
Sunday	100.0 %	64.4	11.2	10.6	4.7	2.2	0.3	6.6
Monday	100.0 %	70.5	9.6	5.9	3.8	2.2	0.3	7.8
Tuesday	100.0 %	71.1	10.1	5.2	3.7	2.2	0.3	7.3
Wednesday	100.0 %	70.2	10.1	5.9	3.9	2.1	0.3	7.6
Thursday	100.0 %	68.5	10.0	7.3	4.3	2.1	0.4	7.4
Friday	100.0 %	64.5	11.6	8.7	4.9	2.2	0.5	7.8
Saturday	100.0 %	63.1	11.8	10.3	4.8	2.2	0.4	7.3
Other violent								
Total	100.0 %	57.4 %	14.2 %	2.9 %	4.8 %	1.0 %	4.7 %	15.0 %
Sunday	100.0 %	62.6	14.0	4.1	5.1	1.2	0.6	12.4
Monday	100.0 %	58.0	13.8	2.3	4.4	0.9	5.3	15.3
Tuesday	100.0 %	56.5	14.0	1.9	4.4	0.8	6.6	15.7
Wednesday	100.0 %	55.5	14.2	2.1	4.4	0.9	7.0	15.9
Thursday	100.0 %	55.2	14.0	2.3	4.5	0.9	7.2	16.0
Friday	100.0 %	53.9	14.6	3.0	5.1	0.9	6.2	16.2
Saturday	100.0 %	59.5	14.8	4.3	5.6	1.2	0.8	13.9

Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

Most victims of violence reported that the offender was similar to their own age in both alcohol-involved and other violent incidents:

Based on reports of victims in the National Crime Victimization Surveys from 2004 to 2008, 47% of alcohol-related violent offenses committed by offenders under age 18 involved victims under age 18.

Nearly three-quarters of non-alcohol-related violence committed by offenders under age 18 involved victims under age 18.

56% of offenders age 21-29 perceived to be under the influence of alcohol were of similar age as their victims (21-29), compared to 47% of offenders not perceived to be under the influence of alcohol.

Table 22. Age of victims involved in alcohol-related violent incidents, by age of offenders, 2004-2008

Victim age	Age of offenders											
	Under 18			18-20			21-29			30 or older		
	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't Know	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't Know	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't Know	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't Know
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Under 18	46.5 *	74.7	66.7	15.2	15.3	16.9	4.2	4.1	3.9	2.1 *	4.9	4.7
18 - 20	24.0 *	3.0	3.7	39.8	30.8	33.4	14.3	11.7	12.6	5.5	4.4	4.8
21 - 29	5.6	4.9	6.9	22.4	25.9	19.0	56.4 *	47.1	38.0	22.7 **	17.1	19.5
30 or older	24.0	17.4	22.8	22.7	28.0	30.7	25.1 *	37.0	45.5	69.7	73.6	71.0

*Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at the 95% confidence level.

**Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at the 90% confidence level.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008

Table 22se. Standard errors for age of victims involved in alcohol-related violent incidents, by age of offenders, 2004-2008

Victim age	Age of offenders											
	Under 18			18-20			21-29			30 or older		
	Alcohol-related	Other violent	Don't Know	Alcohol-related	Other violent	Don't Know	Alcohol-related	Other violent	Don't Know	Alcohol-related	Other violent	Don't Know
Total	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Under 18	10.00	2.36	2.98	3.95	3.86	3.11	1.19	1.34	1.06	0.75	1.05	1.05
18 - 20	8.52	0.86	1.12	5.46	5.00	3.95	2.12	2.20	1.87	1.23	0.99	1.06
21 - 29	4.54	1.09	1.52	4.61	4.73	3.25	3.11	3.51	2.80	2.32	1.88	2.03
30 or older	8.52	1.97	2.58	4.64	4.86	3.86	2.66	3.38	2.89	2.62	2.29	2.41

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008

The likelihood that a male offender committed a violent crime against a female did not differ for offenders who perceived or not perceived to be using alcohol (42 vs 40%)

Females perceived to be using alcohol committed proportionately fewer violent crimes against females (60%) than did female offenders not perceived to be using alcohol (76%).

Table 23. Sex of victims involved in alcohol-related violent incidents, by sex of offenders, 2004-2008

Sex of victims	Sex of offenders ^a								
	Male			Female			Both ^a		
	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't know	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't know	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't know
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Male	58.5	60.3	64.2	39.6 *	24.3	18.2	41.4	33.1	46.8
Female	41.5	39.7	35.8	60.4 *	75.7	81.6	58.6	66.9	53.2

^aA respondent may report violence by both male and female offenders if victimized by two offenders of opposite sex.

*Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at 95% confidence level.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

Table 23se. Standard errors for sex of victims involved in alcohol-related violent incidents, by sex

Sex of victims	Sex of offenders ^a								
	Male			Female			Both ^a		
	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't know	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't know	Alcohol related	Other violent	Don't know
Total	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Male	2.06	1.85	1.57	4.98	2.51	2.51	9.96	7.30	6.56
Female	2.03	1.82	1.53	5.01	2.58	2.58	9.99	7.36	6.57

^aA respondent may report violence by both male and female offenders if victimized by two offenders of opposite sex.

--Not applicable.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

Victims of alcohol-related violence were more likely to be injured (36%) than victims experiencing violence that did not involve alcohol (28%)

Victims injured during alcohol-related crimes were more likely to suffer minor injuries (28%) than serious injuries (6%).

Victims of alcohol-related violence were more likely to be seriously injured (6%) than victims experiencing violence that did not involve alcohol (3%).

Table 24. Injuries sustained by victims who perceived the offender had used alcohol, 2004-2008

	Alcohol-related		Other violent		Don't know	
	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Total	100 %	--	100 %	--	100 %	--
Any injury	35.7 *	1.83	27.7	1.41	22.9	1.13
Serious injury	5.7 *	0.84	3.4	0.53	3.8	0.48
Minor injury	28.3 *	1.71	23.6	1.33	18.1	1.03
Rape without other injury	1.7 **	0.45	0.7	0.23	1.0	0.24
No injury	64.3 *	1.87	72.3	1.47	77.1	1.20

--Not applicable.

*Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at 95% confidence level.

**Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at 90% confidence level.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

In 2008, 36% of victims of violent crime perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol; a decline from 44% in 1997.

The percentage of victims of aggravated assault who perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol declined from 1997 to 2008. For robbery and simple assault, the percentages were not statistically different.

Table 25. Number of victimizations for which victims perceived offenders had used alcohol, by type of crime, 1997-2008

Year	Violent crime ^a		Robbery		Assault		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
2008	2,560,620	36.0 %	205,260	33.3 %	2,239,630	36.2 %	438,500	40.5 %	1,801,130	35.2 %
2007	2,896,090	39.6	183,440	34.9	2,570,970	38.5	488,970	43.2	2,082,000	37.4
2005	2,627,020	40.5	229,550	35.8	2,284,220	41.5	560,010	45.0	1,724,210	40.3
2003	3,102,670	40.4	240,610	37.8	2,708,070	39.3	589,990	50.0	2,118,080	36.3
2001	3,216,760	41.5	230,380	37.7	2,795,220	41.3	608,950	47.0	2,186,270	39.7
1999	4,239,020	40.3	338,140	48.0	3,657,120	39.4	787,860	52.2	2,869,260	35.9
1997	4,969,530	43.6	334,470	41.4	4,427,030	43.3	1,112,660	52.8	3,314,370	40.1

^aIncludes rape/sexual assault not shown on table.

Note: Excludes cases in which victims did not know if the offender had used alcohol. In 2008, 47% of victims of violent crime did not know if the offender had used alcohol.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

Table 25se. Standard errors for number of victimizations when victims said they knew offenders had used alcohol, by type of crime, 1997-2008

Year	Violent crime ^a		Robbery		Assault		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Total	Standard error	Total	Standard error	Total	Standard error	Total	Standard error	Total	Standard error
2008	2,560,620	2.19	205,260	6.81	2,239,630	2.32	438,500	4.98	1,801,130	2.54
2007	2,896,090	2.00	183,440	6.57	2,570,970	2.09	488,970	4.37	2,082,000	2.26
2005	2,627,020	2.27	229,550	6.65	2,284,220	2.42	560,010	4.57	1,724,210	2.71
2003	3,102,670	1.86	240,610	4.89	2,708,070	1.95	589,990	3.94	2,118,080	2.13
2001	3,216,760	1.84	230,380	5.44	2,795,220	1.94	608,950	3.68	2,186,270	2.11
1999	4,239,020	1.60	338,140	4.58	3,657,120	1.68	787,860	3.2	2,869,260	1.79
1997	4,969,530	1.46	334,470	4.8	4,427,030	1.53	1,112,660	2.82	3,314,370	1.7

^aIncludes rape/sexual assault not shown on table.

Note: Excludes cases in which victims did not know if the offender had used alcohol. In 2008, 47% of victims of violent crime did not know if the offender had used alcohol.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

Between 2004 and 2008, alcohol-related violence was more likely to happen at night (77%) than during the day (21%)

Alcohol-related violence was more likely to happen in the victim's home than at any other location.
 A fifth of violence not involving alcohol happened at a school or on school property.

Table 26. Victims involved in alcohol-related violent incidents, by location and time-of-day, 2004-2008

	Alcohol-related		Other violent		Don't Know	
	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Location	100.0 %	--	100.0 %	--	100.0 %	--
At or in victim's home	24.4	1.67	22.6	1.34	10.6	0.82
Near victim's home	14.6	1.35	13.4	1.07	18.7	1.06
At, in or near a friend's relative's or neighbor's home	15.8 *	1.40	7.3	0.80	8.0	0.71
Inside a restaurant, bar, nightclub or other commercial building	16.6 *	1.43	10.2	0.94	11.1	0.84
Parking lot or garage	7.0 **	0.96	4.9	0.66	9.3	0.77
Inside school building/on school property	1.1 *	0.38	20.6	1.30	12.9	0.90
Public area, on street, public transportation	15.1 **	1.37	12.0	1.02	23.5	1.17
Other location	5.3 *	0.83	9.0	0.89	5.8	0.61
Time	100.0 %	--	100.0 %	--	100.0 %	--
Daytime (6 am - 6 pm)	21.4 *	1.59	67.5	1.58	56.5	1.43
Nighttime (6 pm - 6 am)	77.4 *	1.70	30.0	1.49	41.7	1.40
Time not known	1.3 *	0.40	2.6	0.47	1.8	0.33

--Not applicable.

*Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at 95% confidence level.

**Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at 90% confidence level.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey 2004-2008.

Violent crimes involving alcohol use were most likely committed by strangers (45%), followed by acquaintances (30%), intimate partners (19%), and other relatives (6%)

Violent crimes where no alcohol was involved were most likely committed by acquaintances (46%).

19% of alcohol-related violence was perpetrated by intimates compared to 15% of violence in which alcohol was not involved.

Table 27. Victim-offender relationship in violent victimizations where victims perceived alcohol use by offenders, 2004-2008

Victim-offender relationship	Alcohol-related		Other violent		Don't know	
	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Total	100 %	--	100 %	--	100 %	--
Intimates	18.5 *	1.46	14.7	1.10	7.9	0.77
Other relatives	5.9 *	0.85	10.5	0.94	4.4	0.57
Well known/casual acquaintance	30.4 *	1.76	45.5	1.62	28.8	1.36
Strangers	45.1 *	1.93	29.3	1.45	58.9	1.52

--Not applicable.

*Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at 95% confidence level.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

Alcohol-related violence (23%) and violence in which no alcohol was involved (20%) were equally likely to involve a weapon

A knife was the most frequently used type of weapon in violence involving alcohol.

Table 28. Presence of weapons in violent victimizations where victims perceived alcohol use by offenders, 2004-2008

	Alcohol-related		Other violent		Don't know	
	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Total	100 %	--	100 %	--	100 %	--
No weapon	69.8 %*	1.86	77 %	1.43	62.5 %	1.40
Weapon	23.1 %	1.64	20 %	1.27	26.3 %	1.22
Firearm	4.2	0.74	4.9	0.65	12.2	0.87
Knife^a	8.2	1.03	6.6	0.76	5.5	0.59
Blunt object	5.4	0.84	3.8	0.58	4.2	0.52
Other	4.2	0.74	3.4	0.55	2.7	0.41
Type of weapon unknown	1.2	0.38	1.2	0.31	1.6	0.32
Presence of weapon unknown	7.1 %*	0.96	3.4 %	0.54	11.2 %	0.84

--Not applicable.

^aIncludes knives and sharp objects.

* Difference between percent perceiving alcohol use and percent not perceiving alcohol use is significant at 95% confidence

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

An estimated 37% of state prisoners serving time for a violent offense in 2004 said they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense

In 2004, state prisoners (33%) were more likely than federal prisoners (19%) to report alcohol use at the time of the offense. 21% of federal prisoners serving time for a violent offense reported alcohol use at the time of the offense.

Table 29. State and federal prisoners who reported alcohol use at the time of offense, by type of offense, 2004

Type of offense	State prisoners				Federal prisoners			
	Number		Percent		Number		Percent	
	Alcohol use at offense	No alcohol use	Alcohol use at offense	Standard error	Alcohol use at offense	No alcohol	Alcohol use at offense	Standard error
Total	382,368	791,026	32.6 %	0.7 %	22,894	100,724	18.5 %	1.12 %
Violent	207,511	355,850	36.8 %	1.04 %	3,721	14,150	20.8	3.07
Property	64,117	156,47	29.1	1.56	1,027	6,976	12.8	3.77
Drug	53,981	197,714	21.4	1.32	12,711	55,831	18.5	1.5
Public order	55,977	79,867	41.2	2.16	4,586	20,501	18.3	2.47
Other/unspecified	782	1,123	41	18.18	849	3,266	20.6	6.37

Source: Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004.

In 2002, jail inmates reported alcohol use at the time of the offense in 33% of all offenses

Jail inmates were more likely to report alcohol use at the time of an offense for a violent offense than Reported alcohol use at the time of the offense was the lowest among drug-related offenses (22.4%), and highest

Table 30 . Convicted local jail inmates who reported alcohol use at the time of offense, by type of offense, 2002

Type of offense	Estimated number			Estimated percent			Standard error
	Total	Alcohol use at offense	No alcohol use	Total	Alcohol use at offense	No alcohol use	
Total^a	440,600	146,700	293,900	100 %	33.3	66.7	0.82 %
Violent	96,400	36,200	60,200	100 %	37.6	62.4	1.86 %
Property	112,900	32,200	80,700	100 %	28.5	71.5	1.49 %
Drug	112,400	25,200	87,200	100 %	22.4	77.6	1.34 %
Public order^b	83,200	21,800	61,400	100 %	26.2	73.8	1.7 %

^aIncludes offenses not shown.

^bExcludes an estimated 35,500 convicted DWI/DUI offenders. If these inmates are included, the proportion of public order offenders reporting alcohol use at the time of offense increases to approximately 48%.

Source: Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 2002.

In 2008, 19% of victims of violent crime perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol; a decline from 25% in 1997

The percentage of victims of aggravated and simple assault who perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol declined from 1997 to 2008. For robbery, the percentage was unchanged.

In 2008, a larger percentage of victims of aggravated and simple assault perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol than victims of robbery.

Appendix table 1. Victims who perceived offenders had been using alcohol, by type of crime, 1997-2008

Year	Violent crime*		Robbery		Assault		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
2008	4,856,510	19.0 %	551,830	12.4 %	4,100,850	19.8 %	839,940	21.1 %	3,260,920	19.4 %
2007	5,177,130	22.1	597,320	10.7	4,331,530	22.8	858,940	24.6	3,472,600	22.4
2005	5,162,360	20.6	630,130	13.0	4,341,640	21.8	1,046,460	24.1	3,295,180	21.1
2003	5,401,710	23.2	596,130	15.2	4,606,730	23.1	1,101,110	26.8	3,505,630	21.9
2001	5,743,820	23.2	630,690	13.8	4,864,890	23.7	1,222,160	23.4	3,642,720	23.8
1999	7,357,060	23.2	810,220	20.0	6,163,670	23.4	1,503,280	27.3	4,660,400	22.1
1997	8,614,070	25.1	943,940	14.7	7,359,030	26.0	1,883,110	31.2	5,475,910	24.3

*Includes rape/sexual assault not shown in table.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

Appendix table 1se . Standard errors for the number of victims who perceived offenders had been using alcohol, by type of crime, 1997-2008

Year	Violent crime*		Robbery		Assault		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Total	Standard error	Total	Standard error	Total	Standard error	Total	Standard error	Total	Standard error
2008	4,856,510	1.32	551,830	2.93	4,100,850	1.44	839,940	3.01	3,260,920	1.58
2007	5,177,130	1.29	597,320	2.39	4,331,530	1.41	858,940	2.9	3,472,600	1.53
2005	5,162,360	1.36	630,130	2.84	4,341,640	1.49	1,046,460	2.9	3,295,180	1.66
2003	5,401,710	1.23	596,130	2.73	4,606,730	1.31	1,101,110	2.59	3,505,630	1.44
2001	5,743,820	1.21	630,690	2.38	4,864,890	1.3	1,222,160	2.25	3,642,720	1.45
1999	7,357,060	1.07	810,220	2.42	6,163,670	1.15	1,503,280	2.11	4,660,400	1.24
1997	8,614,070	0.99	943,940	2.08	7,359,030	1.07	1,883,110	2.04	5,475,910	1.18

*Includes rape/sexual assault not shown in table.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004-2008.

Of all violent incidents reported to NIBRS, about 11% involved alcohol

The large variation between states in the proportion of violent incidents that law enforcement classified as being alcohol-involved in the NIBRS data raises questions about the consistency of the criteria used to make this judgement.

Appendix table 2. Number and percent of violent incidents known to law enforcement involving alcohol by state in the 2007 NIBRS sample

	Number of violent incidents known to law enforcement	Alcohol-involved	Other violent	Percent alcohol-involved
2007 NIBRS Sample	1,203,166	1,073,998	129,168	10.7 %
Alabama	956	877	79	8.3
Arizona	1,266	1,148	118	9.3
Arkansas	35,732	32,984	2,748	7.7
Colorado	33,441	27,701	5,740	17.2
Connecticut	20,901	19,085	1,816	8.7
Delaware	21,583	19,600	1,983	9.2
District of Columbia	964	937	27	2.8
Georgia	209	194	15	7.2
Idaho	17,519	14,667	2,852	16.3
Illinois	7,116	5,559	1,557	21.9
Indiana	32,052	29,051	3,001	9.4
Kansas	40,340	32,551	7,789	19.3
Kentucky	2,561	2,057	504	19.7
Louisiana	10,101	9,233	868	8.6
Maine	3,565	2,917	648	18.2
Michigan	60,205	55,734	4,471	7.4
Missouri	176,028	160,910	15,118	8.6
Minnesota	335	200	135	40.3
Montana	10,869	7,103	3,766	34.6
Nebraska	5,722	4,843	879	15.4
New Hampshire	13,747	11,745	2,002	14.6
North Dakota	5,588	3,413	2,175	38.9
Ohio	140,740	131,207	9,533	6.8
Oregon	12,841	11,200	1,641	12.8
Rhode Island	11,413	10,124	1,289	11.3
South Carolina	114,697	100,595	14,102	12.3
South Dakota	6,226	3,742	2,484	39.9
Tennessee	158,924	142,227	16,697	10.5
Texas	58,465	52,654	5,811	9.9
Utah	28,538	26,766	1,772	6.2
Vermont	3,724	3,161	563	15.1
Virginia	109,356	97,840	11,516	10.5
Washington	14,181	13,493	688	4.9
West Virginia	25,053	22,509	2,544	10.2
Wisconsin	18,208	15,971	2,237	12.3

Source: National Incident Based Reporting System, 2007, administered by the FBI as part of the UCR Program.

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Alcohol and Crime: Data from 2002 to 2008

Alcohol was a factor in between 19% and 37% of violent crimes from 1997 to 2008. The proportion of violence involving alcohol as well as the rate of alcohol-related violence has declined over the past decade. Alcohol-involved violent incidents differed from other violent incidents in the age group of offenders and victims, injuries sustained, and times and places of the incidents. Alcohol-related crime was less likely to include juveniles as victims and offenders. It was more likely to result in injury and to take place in evening hours and on weekends. A large proportion of alcohol-related violence—more so than non-alcohol-related violence—occurred in and around residences. Violence involving alcohol was also more likely to happen in bars than other types of violence, although a relatively small proportion of alcohol-related violence occurred in bars.

In general, alcohol-related violence was more likely to involve intimates than other types of violence. Based on the victimization survey (NCVS), alcohol-related incidents involved strangers more often than intimates, while intimates were the most prevalent type of victim in the police data (NIBRS). The two data sources also showed inconsistencies regarding the use of weapons in alcohol and non-alcohol-related violence. The police data indicated that the alcohol-related violence was less likely to involve weapons and the victimization survey indicated no difference in weapons use for alcohol-related and non-alcohol-related violence.

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Alcohol and Crime: Data from 2002 to 2008

Methodology

Comparison of the Different Data Sources

The Alcohol and Crime data are from four different data sources, including the Bureau of Justice Statistics's (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1997 through 2008; the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) 2007 National Incident Based Reporting Program (NIBRS); and BJS's 2004 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (SISFCF) and the 2002 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (SILJ). These sources differ in terms of the nature of the crimes collected, the populations covered, and the methods used to obtain information. In particular, these sources vary as to whether they include violent crimes—both known and unknown to law enforcement authorities—the coverage of crimes involving juvenile victims, the characteristics of the geographical areas covered by the data source, the ways in which multiple events of the same type are captured by the systems, and the manner in which alcohol involvement is ascertained. As a result, users of this information should consider these differences when comparing similar findings from the different data sources as the findings may not be directly comparable.

NIBRS includes only those violent crimes reported to law enforcement agencies which in many ways reflect the severity of the crime and other existing avenues for handling the matter (e.g., violence committed by juveniles at school could be handled by school authorities). Moreover, the NIBRS system includes law enforcement agencies that serve 24% of the population of the United States and very few large jurisdictions are represented. Also, when multiple crimes are committed during the year, NIBRS reports them as separate events and includes all reported violent crimes including those in which the victim was under age 12.

While NIBRS is a police administrative data collection, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a representative sample of the residential population of the United States. It includes all non-fatal violent crimes (e.g., homicides are excluded) described by respondents age 12 and older whether the crimes are reported or not reported to the police. The survey interviews persons twice a year and at each interview asks the respondents to report the victimizations that have occurred in the last 6 months. The data from each of the two 6-month periods are aggregated to produce the yearly statistics. Consistent with estimates published in the BJS Criminal Victimization bulletins, the NCVS estimates presented here exclude "series" victimizations—crimes that are similar in nature that people experienced 6 or more times within the previous 6 months. These crimes represented about 4% of all violent crimes in 2008. If these offenses were reported to the police they would be counted in the NIBRS data, but not fully in the NCVS.

The prison (SISFCF) and jail (SILJ) inmate surveys collect data from inmates on their alcohol use at the time they committed their crimes. The jail inmates included in this analysis were limited to those who had been convicted of a crime, while the prison inmates included those sentenced to incarceration and held in an adult correctional facility. The prison and jail inmates represent a selected subset of offenders from those covered in the victim survey or police administrative data.

Determining alcohol involvement also differs across these data collections. Alcohol use in the NIBRS data is based primarily on the law enforcement officer's assessment of the situation. In contrast, in the NCVS alcohol involvement is based on the victim's judgment. The prison and jail

data are self-reported by inmates.

The NIBRS data may reflect a conservative estimate of the rate of alcohol involvement as the officers may limit the designation of alcohol involvement to cases in which alcohol use is more readily apparent. While NIBRS and NCVS are not directly comparable, the rate of alcohol involvement in crimes from NIBRS for 2007 was 10.7% compared to the 22.1% from the 2007 NCVS (including all responses – see Table 26). This supports the assumption that NIBRS may undercount alcohol-involved crimes and focuses on crimes in which alcohol use was substantial. In the correctional data, the recollection of the inmate is used to determine alcohol involvement. The inmate is in a much better position to report whether he or she had been drinking at the time of the crime than the police or the victim, but they may have an incentive not to admit to alcohol use or to overstate the role of alcohol in the crime.

The full impact of the differences in the coverage of violent crimes and the determination of alcohol involvement among the four data collections is unknown. The limitations of the data sources should be kept in mind when reviewing these statistics. To the extent that findings are consistent across the collections, the observed relationship between alcohol and crime may not be a product of the differences between the data collections. However, some observed differences across data sets may be due to the different methodologies used. For example, when the NIBRS data indicate that a higher proportion of alcohol-involved events take place in a residence than do the NCVS data, this could plausibly be due to over representation of more rural places in the NIBRS data, the inclusion of crimes against young children, the exclusion of repeat victimizations, and differences in the types of crimes reported to authorities.

Questions on Alcohol and Drug Use by the Offender

The NCVS incident reporting form is available at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncvs204.pdf>.

Two questions are used to identify whether the victim perceived the offender was under the influence of alcohol.

64b. Was the offender drinking or on drugs, or don't you know?

Yes (drinking or on drugs) – Ask 65

No (not drinking/not on drugs) – Skip to 66

Don't know (if drinking or on drugs) – Skip to 66

65. Which was it? (Drinking or on drugs?)

Drinking

On drugs

Both (drinking and on drugs)

Drinking or on drugs – could not tell which

Additional information on the NCVS methodology is available at http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncvs_methodology.pdf

The Surveys of Inmates in Correctional Facilities and Jails

Following are links to information on the two data collections:

[Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 2002](#)

[Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 2004](#)

[Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004](#)

Questions on Alcohol and Drug Use By the Offender

Both surveys utilize a similar question strategy:

Had you been drinking any alcohol at the time of the (Insert stored offense)?

(1) Yes

(2) No

Respondents may enter a don't know or refused response

The location of the question differs according to the survey:

[Jail Survey, 2002](#): S8Q4c, p.136

[Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004](#), S8Q3a., p. 137