

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

YOUR RISK | Territorians are at great risk from other drivers who are under the influence of alcohol – at least 48% of fatal crashes in the NT are alcohol-related.

The NT Report established that half of the fatal crashes in the Northern Territory are alcohol-related. From December 2005 to January 2006 statistics from Northern Territory, Queensland and Victoria, on the number of drivers caught with alcohol readings above the legal limit, revealed the following:

Place	Drivers who tested over the legal alcohol limit
Northern Territory	1 driver in every 42 over the limit
Queensland	1 driver in every 192 over the limit
Victoria	1 driver in every 314 over the limit

(NT Report, page 16)

This means that every safe NT driver is eight times more likely than a driver in Victoria to share the road with another driver who is over the legal alcohol limit. This is related to the level of alcohol consumption – the NT has the highest annual per capita consumption of any state or territory (13.8 litres of alcohol per adult, compared with Victoria at 7.8 litres per adult).

The consequences are in the carnage on Territory roads. At least 48% of fatal crashes and 17% of serious injuries in the NT are alcohol-related. This compares with 28% of fatalities in Victoria and Queensland.

DRINK-DRIVER REPEAT OFFENDERS

YOUR RISK | Territorians are at great risk from repeat drink-driving offenders – 28% of all drink-drivers are repeat offenders.

In the Northern Territory, a driver can be apprehended for driving with up to 0.08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) an unlimited number of times and not lose his or her licence. In addition, the fines for drink-driving are very low.

The NT Report states that the drink-driving statistics for the NT are under-reported. The NT's remoteness and limitations on access to testing drivers means there is no BAC information available for a large proportion of fatal crashes *(NT Report, pages 8 and 16)*.