

Alcohol Impaired Driving: Its Consequences and Potential for Reduction in South Africa

Emmanuel Tolulope Busayo¹ and Akeem Adewale Oyelana^{2*}

**¹Department of Geography and environmental Science, University of Fort Hare, P.B. X1314,
Eastern Cape, Alice, 5700, South Africa**

**²Department of Public Administration, University of Fort Hare, P.B. X1314, Eastern Cape,
Alice, 5700, South Africa**

E-mail: ¹<201614743@ufh.ac.za>, ²<201100592@ufh.ac.za>

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ABSTRACT Motor vehicle crashes related to drunk driving constitute a major problem for public and environmental health in South Africa. Alcohol-impaired driving became problematic apparently soon after the introduction of motor vehicles. This paper banked on various trends and measures of the problem, which were tracked through review of the relevant literature conducted. From the year 2014 to 2015, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) opined that more than 4,500 people died on South African roads as a result of alcohol impaired driving. However, road fatality is the cause of deaths of about eighty percent on the country's roads, which comprise of adults and males between the ages of 19 and 34 year. The main contributing factor to these road crashes remains drunk driving with strong evidence from the department of transport. This paper forms the basis of the recommendations as a guide for decision-makers and public health practitioners to ascertain and implement proactive intervention strategically in preventing alcohol impaired driving in South Africa.