

**Article:** Comparison of breath- and blood-alcohol concentrations in a controlled drinking study

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**Key Points:**

- Alcohol concentrations in blood versus breath are very similar.
- Most often, blood alcohol concentrations are a little higher than breath.
- Legal reporting requirements can understate alcohol concentrations.

**Glossary:**

Impaired driver = operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Understate = describe something as less than it actually is.

**Why this article matters:** Alcohol is the most detected substance in impaired drivers, measured in either breath or blood samples. Therefore, it is important to know how results from these tests compare.

**Description of the Study:** Participants were given alcohol to drink within one hour then waited 30 minutes before providing breath and blood samples. The alcohol concentration in these paired breath and blood samples were compared.

**Research Questions:** Are alcohol concentration results different in paired breath and blood samples?

**Important Results:** Concentrations of alcohol in breath and blood are very similar. Most of the time, breath alcohol measurements are slightly lower than blood alcohol measurements.

**How the results will be used:** Results from this work are important when comparing breath and blood alcohol measurements in impaired driving court cases.