Abstract

Objective. The effects of alcohol on mortality due to motor vehicle accidents was studied. Material and Methods. During the first semester of 2003, a sample of 243 fatality victims of traffic-related accidents and their blood alcohol levels were analyzed in the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico. The ageadjusted mortality rate for traffic accidents was 8.9/100 000 pop. (13.2 for males and 3.21 for females, per 100 000). Fatal accidents were more common in the Metropolitan Area (MA). Results. Fatalities were four times greater in males and the mean age was 34.7±18.2 years. Blood alcohol was detected in almost half of the victims who were drivers of the vehicles; the other cases of fatalities may be associated with road/car condition, weather and other factors. Conclusions. Alcohol intoxication levels were primarily associated with male drivers ages 16 to 45 (p=0.029); levels increased with age. In females, alcohol played a lesser role, affecting mostly ages 31 to 45 y (p=0.055)

Keywords
alcohol drinking; accidents traffic; mortality; Mexico