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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR MUSGROVE  
**FROM:** BOYD & RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** ALCOHOL-RELATED DEATHS IN MISSISSIPPI, 1973-PRESENT  
**DATE:** 3/6/00  
**CC:** FILE

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The percentage of alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Mississippi has decreased since 1990, although Department of Public Safety personnel attribute this to an increase in total traffic fatalities. The DPS's Division of Public Safety Planning could only provide definitive data for alcohol-related traffic fatalities since 1990. DPS personnel estimated Mississippi's alcohol-related traffic fatalities for the time period 1982-1989 using national percentages of alcohol-related fatalities. Alcohol-related traffic fatality data is not available prior to 1982.

The Mississippi Department of Health does not classify deaths as being caused by alcohol. However, the department does maintain statistics for liver-related diseases, including chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. As shown on the attached spreadsheet, 6,978 Mississippians died from liver-related deaths during the period 1973-1998. These deaths have increased from 205 in 1973 to 305 in 1998, a 67% increase. 1997 had the greatest number of liver-related deaths with 331.