



2019 St. Patrick's Day Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving

FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

Each year, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated with city parades, funny leprechaun hats, and plenty o' green beer. Unfortunately, it often ends with risky drunk drivers taking to the streets when the parties end. Drunk driving accounts for nearly one-third of vehicle-related fatalities in the United States. This St. Patrick's Day weekend, remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. If you plan to go out and enjoy the evening with alcohol, make sure you refrain from driving. Review these facts and share the word about the dangers of drunk driving so you can continue merry-making for all the St. Paddy's Days to come.

- St. Patrick's Day is one of the deadliest holidays on our nation's roads. During the 2013-2017 St. Patrick's Day holiday period (6 p.m. March 16 to 5:59 a.m. March 18), 234 lives were lost due to drunk-driving crashes. In 2017, drunk driving killed more than 10,000 people in our country, and every single one of those deaths was preventable. Do your part this St. Patrick's Day: Arrange for a sober driver to ensure you get home safely.
- In 2017 alone, 59 people (37% of all crash fatalities) were killed in drunk-driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday period.
- Between midnight and 5:59 a.m. March 18, 2017, three-fourths (75%) of crash fatalities involved a drunk driver.
- Walking home from the bar after a night out partying? That can also be dangerous. In 2017, 32 percent of the pedestrians killed in crashes had blood alcohol concentrations of .08 or higher. Arrange for a sober ride or for a sober friend to walk you home.
- Drug-impaired driving is an increasing problem on our nation's roads. It is illegal to drive while drug-impaired, period. It's essential for drivers to understand: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*.

Financial Impacts

- On average, a DUI can set you back \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs, and more.
- The financial impact from impaired driving crashes is devastating. Based on 2010 numbers (the most recent year for which cost data is available), impaired-driving crashes cost the United States \$44 billion annually.

Celebrate with a Plan

Always remember to plan ahead if you will be celebrating. If you plan to drink, plan for a sober driver to take you home. Is it your turn to be the designated driver? Take that role seriously—your friends could be relying on you.



- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you've had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver, use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.
- Download NHTSA's SaferRide mobile app, available on Google Play for Android devices: (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nhtsa.SaferRide&hl=en>), and Apple's iTunes Store for iOS devices: (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/saferide/id950774008?mt=8>). SaferRide allows users to call a taxi or a predetermined friend, and identifies the user's location so he or she can be picked up.
- Use your community's sober ride program [**Insert your local sober ride program specifics here**].
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact [**Local Law Enforcement**].
- Have a friend who has been drinking and is about to drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

For more information, visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov.