



## **2019 *DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER***

### **Products For Enforcement Action Kit: Fact Sheet**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is joining forces with law enforcement nationwide during the 2019 Labor Day *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* high-visibility enforcement campaign, which runs from August 14 through September 2, 2019. The enforcement campaign coincides with the 2019 Labor Day holiday weekend, which is one of the deadliest times of the year in terms of drunk-driving fatalities. With NHTSA's support, state and local law enforcement agencies across the nation are stepping-up enforcement to put an end to drunk driving, showing zero tolerance to save lives.

#### **Sobering Statistics**

- Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations [BACs] of .08 or higher). In 2017, there were 10,874 people killed in drunk-driving crashes. To put it in perspective, that's equal to about 20 jumbo jets crashing, with no survivors.
- It is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher in all 50 states and the District of Columbia—no exceptions.
- Of the traffic fatalities in 2017 among children 14 and younger, 19 percent occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes.
- Despite the fact that it's illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, in 2017 one person was killed every 48 minutes by a drunk driver on our nation's roads.
- Men are more likely than women to be driving drunk in fatal crashes. In 2017, 21 percent of males were drunk in these crashes, compared to 14 percent of females.
- In 2017, motorcycle riders involved (killed and survived) in fatal crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment than any other type of motor vehicle driver (27% for motorcycle riders, 21% for passenger cars, 20% for light-truck drivers, and 3% for drivers of large trucks).
- Drug-impaired driving is an increasing problem on our nation's roads. It is illegal to drive while impaired by drugs, period. It's essential for drivers to understand: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different. Drive High, Get a DUI.* Driving while impaired by any substance is deadly and illegal.

#### **Labor Day Statistics**

- During the 2017 Labor Day holiday period (6 p.m. September 1 - 5:59 a.m. September 5), 36 percent of fatalities in traffic crashes involved a drunk driver.



- During the 2017 Labor Day holiday period (6 p.m. September 1 - 5:59 a.m. September 5), there were 376 crash fatalities nationwide. Forty-four percent of those fatalities involved drivers who had been drinking (.01+ BAC). More than one-third (36%) of the fatalities involved drivers who were drunk (.08+ BAC), and more than one-fourth (26%) involved drivers who were driving with a BAC almost twice the legal limit (.15+ BAC).
- In fatal crashes during the month of August over the five-year period of 2013-2017, almost 10% of the drunk drivers involved, with a BAC of .08 or higher, had one or more previous convictions for drunk driving.
- Among drivers between the ages of 18 and 34 who were killed in crashes over the Labor Day holiday period in 2017 (6 p.m. September 1 - 5:59 a.m. September 5), 42 percent of those drivers were drunk, with BACs of .08 or higher.

### 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.
- If you're caught drinking and driving, you could face jail time. Imagine trying to explain that to your friends and family or your place of employment.
- Drinking and driving could cause you to lose your driver's license and your vehicle. This could inhibit you from getting to work, resulting in lost wages and, potentially, job loss.

### 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 and do not consume alcohol, not even one drink.

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you've had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to 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/saferride/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.



- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact the police.
- Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

For more information about the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign, visit [www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov](http://www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov).