



## **2022 Pre-Holiday Season *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving* FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS**

The weeks leading up to the holiday season is a busy period on America's roads. To help keep drivers safe, local community law enforcement will be working with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) during the national *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving* drunk-driving-awareness campaign. If you plan to go out and include alcohol in your celebration, make sure you refrain from driving. Review these facts and spread the word about the dangers of drunk driving.

### **Drunk Driving: The Sobering Statistics**

- During the 2016-2020 December months, there were more than 4,400 people killed in drunk-driving-related crashes.
- Drunk male drivers were involved in fatal crashes at a much higher rate (660) in December 2020 compared to female drivers (191).
- Male drivers were three times more likely (3,229) to be involved in an alcohol-related fatal motor vehicle traffic crash than females (1,106) in December 2020.
- Young drivers ages 21-34 accounted for the highest percentage (26%) of alcohol-impaired fatalities in December 2020.
- Nighttime driving in December 2020 was significantly more dangerous than daytime driving, with 30% of drunk-driving-related crashes occurring between the hours of 6 p.m. and 5:50 a.m. Almost half (44%) occur between the hours of midnight and 2:59 a.m., likely when bars are closing and people are driving home.
- Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with BACs at or above .08). In 2020, there were 11,654 people killed in drunk-driving crashes.
- Nationally, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, except in Utah, where the limit is .05 g/dL.
- Although it's illegal to drive when impaired by alcohol, in 2020 one person was killed every 45 minutes in a drunk-driving crash on our nation's roads.
- The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2020 was 3.1 times higher at night than during the day.

### **The Cost of Drunk Driving**



- 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.
- Drinking and driving is a risk no one should take. Doing so can cause injury or death to the driver, passengers, and others on the road. The consequences of drunk driving could be life-altering.

### **Plan for a Safe Celebration**

Always remember to plan ahead when you will be celebrating with alcohol. If you plan to drink, make arrangements for a sober driver to take you home. Before you start celebrating this holiday season, look over these safety tips to keep you, your loved ones, and everyone else safe on the road.

- Plan ahead: If you wait until you've been drinking to make a smart decision, you might not. Before you have one drink, designate a sober driver who won't be drinking.
- You have options: designate a sober driver, call a taxi, or use a rideshare service. Getting home safely is always worth it. Some communities even have a sober ride program.
- If it's your turn to be the designated driver, take your job seriously and don't drink.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact your local law enforcement.
- Do you have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and let a sober driver get your friend home safely.

For more information about the *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving* campaign, visit [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/pre-holiday-season](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/pre-holiday-season).