



2021 Halloween *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

This Halloween, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is teaming up with local officials to help spread the message that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. Even one alcoholic beverage could be one too many for some drivers, so if you plan to drive, refrain from alcohol. If you do plan to enjoy some witch's brew, be sure to arrange a sober ride home in advance. Read these scary stats and commit to sober driving today.

- During Halloween night (6 p.m. October 31 to 5:59 a.m. November 1) during the years 2015-2019, there were 126 people killed in drunk-driving crashes.
- During Halloween night from 2015-2019, 41% of those killed were in traffic crashes that involved at least one drunk driver.
- During Halloween night 2019, there were 21 vehicle occupants and four pedestrians killed in drunk-driving crashes.
- Adults between the ages of 21 and 34 had the highest percentage (62%) of fatalities in drunk-driving crashes on Halloween night in 2019.
- Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations [BACs] at or above .08 grams per deciliter [g/dL]). In 2019, there were 10,142 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 2019, one person was killed every 52 minutes in a drunk driving crash on our nation's roads.
- Men are more likely than women to be driving drunk when involved in fatal crashes. In 2019, 21% of male drivers were drunk, compared to 14% of female drivers.
- Of the traffic fatalities in 2019 among children 14 and younger, 19% (204) occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes.
- Among the 10,142 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in 2019, 68% (6,872) were in crashes in which at least one driver had a BAC of .15 or higher.
- Nighttime is a particularly dangerous time to be on the roads: The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2019 was 3.3 times higher at night than during the day.
- [Local Halloween statistic if available.]



The Cost of Drunk Driving

- On average, a DUI can set you back \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, 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 can face jail time. Imagine trying to explain that to your friends and family or your place of employment.
- Drinking and driving can 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 ahead 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.
- If available, 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]**.
- Do you have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

Always remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. For more information, visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/halloween.