## 2022 July 4th *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

## FACT SHEET

This Fourth of July, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is working with law enforcement nationwide to reduce impaired driving with the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign. NHTSA and **[Local Law Enforcement]** are sharing this reminder for all drivers: If you plan to drink alcohol, plan ahead for a sober driver. Even one or two alcoholic drinks can cause impairment. The goal is to save lives during what is usually one of the deadliest holidays on our roads.

* In 2020, 493 people died in motor vehicle crashes over the July 4th holiday period (6 p.m. July 2 – 5:59 a.m. July 6, 2020). Forty-one percent (201) of those fatalities occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes.
* From 2016 to 2020, there were 1,390 drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes over the 4th of July holiday period. Thirty-nine percent (542) of the drivers killed were alcohol-impaired (with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher), and more than half (51%) were between the ages of 21-34.
* Nighttime hours are especially dangerous: Over the 2020 July 4th holiday period, of the 201 people who died in alcohol-impaired motor vehicle traffic crashes, 85% of them occurred in nighttime crashes (6 p.m.–5:59 a.m.).
* 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 BAC.
* It’s illegal to drive when impaired by alcohol, yet in 2020, one person was killed every 45 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 2020, 22% of males were drunk, compared to 16% of females.
* Nighttime is a particularly dangerous time to be on the 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.
* **[Local July Fourth statistic if available.]**

**The Cost is Too High**

* 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 keep you from getting to work, resulting in lost wages and, potentially, job loss.

**Always Plan Ahead**

Always remember to make a plan before you start drinking. If you plan to drink, plan ahead for a sober driver to take you home. Before you start celebrating Independence Day, 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 the right decision, you might not. Before you have one drink, designate a sober driver who won’t be drinking.
* If it’s your turn to be the designated driver, take your job seriously and don’t drink.
* It’s already the law, so make it a personal rule: only drive 100% sober. That means no alcoholic beverages — not even one if you’re driving.
* You have options for getting home safely: designate a sober driver, or use public transportation or a ride service. Some communities even have a sober ride program **[insert local sober ride details 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 let a sober driver get your friend home safely.

This Fourth of July, commit to only driving when you’re 100-percent sober. As you head out to celebrate, remember: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. For more information on impaired driving, visit [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over/4th-july](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over/4th-july).