# 2022 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 so if you plan to drive, refrain from alcohol. If you do plan to enjoy some witch’s brew, be sure to plan for a sober ride home. Read these scary stats and commit to sober driving today.

* 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.
* 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.
* During Halloween night (6 p.m. October 31 to 5:59 a.m. November 1) during the years 2016-2020, there were 129 people killed in drunk-driving crashes.
* In 2020, 56 people were killed on Halloween night in drunk-driving crashes.
* Adults between the ages of 21 and 34 had the highest percentage (68%) of fatalities in drunk-driving crashes on Halloween night in 2020.
* Nationally, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, except in Utah, where the limit is .05 g/dL.
* The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2020 was 3.1 times higher at night than during the day.
* 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.
* **[Local Halloween statistic if available.]**

**The Cost of Drunk Driving**

* The average DUI costs $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. That arrest will follow you for many years to come.
* Drinking and driving can cause you to lose your driver’s license and your vehicle. This could prevent you from getting to work, resulting in lost wages and, potentially, job loss.

 **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 Halloween, 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 **[insert local sober ride details here]**.
* 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 **[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.

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