# 2022 Thanksgiving *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

### FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

This Thanksgiving, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is teaming up with **[State/Local Organization]** to keep you safe on the roads. NHTSA is working hard to get the message out that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. Read the statistics below and help spread this lifesaving message.

**Thanksgiving Statistics**

* This Thanksgiving holiday, NHTSA is partnering with **[State/Local Organization]** to help deliver lifesaving messages about the dangers of drunk driving into the public conversation and encourage positive actions that can help reduce impaired driving on the roadways. We’re reminding drivers that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*, whether it’s during a holiday or any other day.
* In 2020, 185 people died in alcohol-impaired crashes during the Thanksgiving holiday period (6 p.m. Wednesday, November 25 through 5:59 a.m. Monday, November 30). From 2016-2020, 821 people died in alcohol-impaired crashes during the entire Thanksgiving holiday period (6 p.m. the Wednesday before Thanksgiving through 5:59 a.m. the Monday after Thanksgiving).
* During the 2020 Thanksgiving holiday period, more than four times as many drivers involved in fatal crashes were alcohol-impaired during nighttime hours than during the day. During this same period, male drivers were more likely than females to be alcohol-impaired and involved in a fatal crash, with males accounting for more than three-quarters of the alcohol-impaired drivers.

**Sobering Statistics**

* Alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2020 were 4 times more likely to have prior DWI convictions than were drivers with no alcohol (8% and 2%, respectively).
* 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.
* Males are more likely than females to be driving drunk when involved in fatal crashes. In 2020, 22% of males were drunk, compared to 16% of females.
* Of the traffic fatalities in 2020 among children 14 and younger, 21% (229) occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes.
* 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.

**The Impacts of Drunk Driving**

* Drunk driving can have a range of consequences, including the possibility of causing a traumatic crash. These crashes could cause you, someone you love, or a total stranger to suffer serious injuries or even death. The social and emotional ramifications of drunk driving are far-reaching as well; imagine having to live with the knowledge that you made a choice that caused someone else’s injury or death.
* The financial impact from impaired-driving crashes is devastating on our economy. Based on 2010 numbers (the most recent year for which cost data is available), impaired-driving crashes cost the United States $44 billion annually.

**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 a ride service, call a taxi or a sober friend 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/impaired-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/thanksgiving-impaired-driving-buzzed](https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/impaired-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/thanksgiving-impaired-driving-buzzed).