## 2023 July 4th Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

## FACT SHEET

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is working alongside **[Local Law Enforcement]** this 4th of July in support of the national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* high-visibility enforcement drunk-driving prevention campaign. Law enforcement will be expanding their efforts with zero tolerance for impaired driving. The goal is to save lives during what is usually one of the deadliest holidays on our roads. As you celebrate this year’s Independence Day, keep these statistics in mind:

* In 2021, 538 people died in motor vehicle crashes over the July 4th holiday period (6 p.m. July 2 – 5:59 a.m. July 6, 2021). Thirty-nine percent (212) of those fatalities occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes.
* From 2017 to 2021, there were 1,460 drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes over the 4th of July holiday period. Thirty-eight percent (552) of the drivers killed during those years were alcohol-impaired (with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher), and nearly half (44%) of the drivers killed aged 21-34 were drunk.
* Nighttime hours are especially dangerous: Over the 2021 July 4th holiday period, of the 212 people who died in alcohol-impaired motor vehicle traffic crashes, 82% of those fatalities 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 g/dL). In 2021, there were 13,384 people killed in drunk-driving crashes.
* Nationally, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher, except in Utah, where the limit is .05 g/dL.
* Although it’s illegal to drive when impaired by alcohol, in 2021 one person was killed every 39 minutes in a drunk-driving crash on our nation’s roads.
* The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2021 was 2.8 times higher at night than during the day.
* Males are more likely than females to be driving drunk when involved in fatal crashes. In 2021, 22% of males were drunk, compared to 17% of females.
* **[Local July Fourth 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 2019 numbers (the most recent year for which cost data is available), impaired-driving crashes cost the United States $58 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 Ahead for a Safe Celebration**

* Always drive 100% sober. Even one alcoholic beverage could be one too many.
* Plan ahead: Before you have even one drink, designate a sober driver to get you home safely. If you wait until you’ve been drinking to make this decision, you might not make the best one.
* You have options to get home safely: designate a sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare. 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].**
* If 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 4th of July, commit to only driving when you’re 100% 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](https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over/4th-july).