# 2023 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 helping to keep the local community safe by spreading the message that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. If you 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.

* During Halloween night (6 p.m. October 31 to 5:59 a.m. November 1) during the years 2017-2021, there were 159 people killed in drunk-driving crashes.
* In 2021, 38 people were killed on Halloween night in drunk-driving crashes, a decrease from the 58 people killed on Halloween night in 2020.
* Adults between the ages of 21 and 34 had the highest percentage (55%) of fatalities in drunk-driving crashes on Halloween night in 2021.
* 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 Halloween statistic if available.]**

**The Cost of Drunk Driving**

* 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.
* Drinking and driving is a risk no one should take. Doing so can cause injury or death to the driver, passengers, and others on the road. The consequences of drunk driving could be life-altering.

**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.

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).