# 2023 Thanksgiving *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

### FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

During the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, 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 diligently to remind drivers that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. Read the statistics below and help spread this lifesaving message.

**Thanksgiving Statistics**

* In 2021, 190 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes during the Thanksgiving holiday period (6 p.m. Wednesday, November 24 through 5:59 a.m. Monday, November 29). From 2017-2021, 832 people died in alcohol-impaired driving 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 2021 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.
* In 2021 there were 13,384 fatalities in alcohol-impaired motor vehicle traffic crashes, accounting for 31% of all traffic fatalities in the United States that year.
* Fatalities in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes increased by 14% (11,718 to 13,384 fatalities) from 2020 to 2021 and increased by 31% (10,196 to 13,384 fatalities) from 2019 to 2021.
* 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 holiday season statistic if available.]**

**The Cost of Drunk Driving**

* The financial impact from impaired-driving crashes is devastating: Crashes in which alcohol was the cause resulted in $57 billion in economic costs.
* 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.
* Make a plan: 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.

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](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/impaired-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/thanksgiving-impaired-driving-buzzed).