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Drunk Driving Fatality Statistics

Since 1982, **drunk driving fatalities on our nation's roadways have decreased 50%**, while total traffic fatalities have declined nearly 17%. Among persons under 21, drunk driving fatalities have decreased 81%. Despite this progress, we still have more work to do, and our commitment to eliminate drunk driving is stronger than ever. Hardcore drunk drivers continue to wreak havoc on our nation's road accounting for 70% of drunk driving fatalities, where there is a known alcohol-test result for the driver - a trend that has remained relatively unchanged for more than a decade.

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Our [state map](#) allows you to search and review individual state drunk driving and under 21 drinking statistics and see how they compare to the national trends. Also available to download and share is our [State of Drunk Driving Fatalities in America](#) summary (PDF) which includes tables and graphs summarizing the latest information available on drunk driving fatality statistics.

Drunk Driving Fatalities – National Statistics

In 2018, the rate of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population was 3.2, representing a 65% decrease since 1982, when record-keeping began, and a 49% decrease since the inception of The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility in 1991.



Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 29% of the total vehicle traffic fatalities in 2018. Between 1991 and 2018, the rate of drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population has decreased 49% nationally,

and 71% among those under 21. These statistics and others are positive indicators of the gains being made to fight drunk driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 36,560 people died in traffic crashes in 2018 in the United States (latest figures available), including an estimated 10,511 people who were killed in drunk driving crashes involving a driver with an illegal BAC (.08 or greater). Among the people killed in these drunk driving crashes, 67% (7,051) were in crashes in which at least one driver in the crash had a BAC of .15 or higher.

View Individual National Drunk Driving Fatalities Charts below:

- [Factors Involved in Fatal Crashes](#)
- [Rate of Drunk Driving Fatalities Trend \(1982 - 2018\)](#)
- [Lives Saved over 25 Years](#)
- [Underage Drunk Driving Fatalities Trend \(1982 - 2018\)](#)
- [Motor Vehicle Fatalities \(1982 - 2018\)](#)
- [Rate of Underage Drunk Driving Fatalities \(1982 - 2018\)](#)
- [Drunk Driving Fatalities by BAC Test Result](#)
- [Repeat Offenders](#)
- [Drunk Driving Fatalities Trend \(1982 - 2018\)](#)
- [Traffic Fatalities by Holiday](#)

Underage Drunk Driving Fatalities – National Statistics

Since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) began recording alcohol-related statistics in 1982, the number of persons under 21, killed in drunk driving crashes decreased 81% from the record high of 5,215 in 1982 to 980 in 2018. These fatalities account for about 9% of the drunk driving fatalities in the U.S.

For every 100,000 Americans under the age of 21, 1.1 people were killed in drunk driving fatalities in 2018. The rate of under 21 drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population has declined 31% over the past decade.

Drunk Driving Fatalities – State Statistics

Since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates national and state alcohol-impaired statistics, drunk driving statistics can vary by state for many reasons. The rate of alcohol-impaired fatalities per 100,000 population represents the number of drunk driving fatalities for every 100,000 persons in the population being measured (e.g., U.S. total vs. specific state) which allows for more like comparisons in the data.

In 2018, the drunk driving fatality rate was 3.2 per 100,000 population nationally. In 24 states and D.C., the drunk driving fatality rate per 100,000 population was at or below the national level.

View Individual State Drunk Driving Fatalities Charts below:

- [Drunk Driving Fatalities](#)
- [Underage Drunk Driving Fatalities](#)
- [Change in Drunk Driving Fatalities](#)
- [Change in Underage Drunk Driving Fatalities](#)
- [Rate of Drunk Driving Fatalities per 100,000](#)
- [Underage Drunk Driving Fatalities per 100,000](#)
- [10-Year Change in Rate of Drunk Driving Fatalities](#)
- [10-Year Change in Underage Drunk Driving Fatalities](#)
- [Drunk Driving Fatal Crashes by BAC](#)

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IGNITION INTERLOCK

As a popular PSA once noted
"It's a long, long ...

RESPONSIBILITY
starts with *me.*

Celebrating April's Alcohol
Responsibility Month & our 25
years of ...

For
w
see

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IN THE NEWS

[Safety Advocates Gain Support for Alcohol Detection Tech to Combat Drunken Driving](#): The COVID-19 pandemic has consumers stressed and businesses trying to innovate — a possible recipe for danger when alcohol is involved. As bars and restaurants pivot to a carryout model for cocktails and other libations, the likelihood of drinking and driving goes up — and, with alcohol cited as a contributor to nearly a third of driving deaths for the past decade, the risk factor is already alarming enough. According to a study by the crash-prevention advocates at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, alcohol-detection systems that stop people from drinking and driving could save more than 9,000 lives a year.



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