



# FACT SHEET

## DRIVING-UNDER-THE-INFLUENCE (DUI) STATISTICS

### 2008 CALIFORNIA STATE STATISTICS

- 3,434 people in California were killed in traffic crashes. 1,355 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol or other drugs.
- There were 28,463 alcohol-involved injuries in 2008 in California.
- There were a total of 214,811 DUI arrests.
- Males comprised 80.2% of all DUI arrests.

### California Trends

- From 1990 to 2007, the reoffense rate has decreased 40.8% for first offenders and by 44% for second offenders.
- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities have dropped by 41% since 1988.
- Among convicted DUI offenders in 2007, 73.6% were first offenders, 19.8% were second offenders, 4.9% were third offenders, and 1.7% were fourth or subsequent offenders.
- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities decreased by 9.0% in 2008, the second consecutive year of decreases after 8 years of a rising trend.

### Demographics of California

- The proportion of DUI arrests under age 21 has increased 12.6% from 1998 to 2008.
- The average age of a convicted DUI offender in 2008 was 30 years old. Less than 1% of arrested DUI offenders were juveniles (under age 18).
- Females comprised 20% of DUI arrests in 2008. The proportion of females among convicted DUI offenders has risen consistently every year since 1989.
- In 2008, Hispanics (45.5%) represented the largest ethnic group among DUI arrests, as they have each year since 1992 (with the exception of 1999, when Whites were the largest group at 42.8%).

### Administrative Drivers License Revocation

- In 1990, California implemented a mandatory driver's license suspension law for drunk drivers, also known as "admin per se" (APS).
- In 2008, 204,332 licenses were suspended as a result of "admin per se."
- Of the 204,332 actions 76% were first offender actions and 24% were repeat offender actions.

## 2009 NATIONAL STATISTICS

- 33,808 people were killed in traffic crashes. 10,839 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol (32% of all traffic deaths).
- Approximately 254,000 people suffered injuries in alcohol-related collisions.
- 181 children, age 14 and younger, died in crashes involving alcohol.
- More than 1.44 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.
- An average of one alcohol-impaired driving fatality occurred every 48 minutes.

### Drivers

- The highest percentage of drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher was for drivers aged 21 to 24 (35%).
- Safety belts were used by only 34% of fatally injured drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher.
- Nearly three-fourths of drivers convicted of driving while impaired are either frequent heavy drinkers or alcoholics.
- In 2009, 16% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes during the week were alcohol impaired, compared to 31% on weekends.

### Crashes

- The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes was four times higher at night than during the day (37% versus 9%).

- Drivers with a BAC level of .08 or higher involved in fatal crashes were eight times more likely to have a prior conviction for driving while impaired than were drivers with no alcohol.
- Crashes involving men are more likely to be alcohol related than those involving women. Alcohol involvement is highest for men aged 21-24.

### Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

- The average BAC level of a convicted DUI offender, as reported by law enforcement on APS forms, was 0.16% in 2007 (California).
- The illegal BAC limit for commercial drivers is .04%.
- In 2008, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico had a .08 BAC per se law.
- Even at BAC levels as low as .02%, alcohol affects driving ability and crash likelihood. The probability of a crash begins to increase significantly at .05% BAC and climbs rapidly after about .08% BAC.
- In 2008, 11.8% of the traffic crash injuries were alcohol-involved. This number is relatively unchanged from 11.5% in 2007 (California).
- High BAC drivers (.15 or above) accounted for more than half of all the alcohol-related traffic fatalities.