



Fact Sheet:



Driving Under-the-Influence (DUI) Statistics

2006 CALIFORNIA STATE STATISTICS

- 4,195 people in California were killed in traffic crashes. 1,779 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol.
- There were 31,099 alcohol-involved injuries in 2006 in California.
- There were a total of 197,248 DUI arrests.
- Males comprised 81.9 percent of all DUI arrests.
- During Fiscal Year 2007-2008, approximately 151,000 people enrolled in a California licensed DUI program.

California Trends

- From 1990 to 2004, the reoffense rate has decreased 39 percent for second offenders and by 40 percent for first offenders.
- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities have dropped by 57.3 percent since 1988.
- Among 2005 convicted DUI offenders, 72.9 percent were first offenders, 20.1 percent were second offenders, 5.3 percent were third offenders, and 1.7 percent were fourth or subsequent offenders.

2006 NATIONAL STATISTICS

- 42,642 people were killed in traffic crashes. 17,602 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol. (41% of all traffic deaths.)
- Approximately 254,000 people suffered injuries in alcohol-related collisions.

- In 2006, a total of 419 of the fatalities were among children age 14 and younger, occurred in crashes involving alcohol. Of those 419 fatalities, 202 were passengers in vehicles with drivers who had been drinking.
- Over 1.46 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

Drivers

- The highest percentage of drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher was for drivers aged 25 to 34 (48%).
- Safety belts were used by only 34 percent of fatally injured drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher.
- Nearly three-quarters of drivers convicted of driving while impaired are either frequent heavy drinkers or alcoholics.
- In 2006, drivers 15 to 24 years of age were involved in over 30.5 percent of all traffic fatalities even though drivers in this age group only represent 14.2 percent of the population.

Crashes

- The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes was four times higher at night than during the day (36% versus 9%).
- In 2006, 15 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes during the week were alcohol impaired, compared to 31 percent on weekends.

- 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 25-34.

Youth

- Alcohol impaired driving fatalities among people under 16 years old decreased by 17 percent from 2006 to 2007.
- In 2007, the U.S. Surgeon General estimated that approximately 5,000 persons under the age of 21 die from alcohol-related injuries involving underage drinking each year.
- Alcohol is the number 1 drug problem amount our youth.
- In 2007, 20 percent of the children age 14 and younger killed in crashes were killed in alcohol-related crashes.

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

- The median BAC level of a convicted DUI offender, as reported by law enforcement on APS forms, was 0.15% in 2005 (California).
- The illegal BAC limit for commercial drivers is .04 percent.
- In 2005, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have a .08 BAC per se law.
- Even at blood alcohol concentration levels as low as .02 percent, alcohol affects driving ability and crash likelihood. The probability of crash begins to increase significantly at .05 percent BAC and climbs rapidly after about .08 percent BAC.
- The number of persons injured in alcohol-involved crashes increased slightly by 0.9 percent in 2006, following a decrease in 2005.

- High BAC drivers (.15 or above) accounted for more than half of all the alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

Demographics of California

- The proportion of DUI arrests under age 21 increased from 7.7 percent in 1996 to 9.4 percent in 2006.
- The average age of an arrested DUI offender in 2006 was 30 years old. Less than 1% of arrested DUI offenders are juveniles (under age 18).
- In 2006, Hispanics (45.8 percent) represented the largest ethnic group among DUI arrestees as they have each year since 1992 (with the exception of 1999, when Whites were the largest group at 42.8 percent).

Administrative Drivers License Revocation

- In 1990, California implemented a mandatory driver's license suspension law for drunk drivers, also know as "admin per se."
- In 2006, 185,481 licenses were suspended as a result of "admin per se".
- Of the 185,481 actions 76 percent were first offender actions and 24 percent were repeat offender actions.