

Drunk Driving Enforcement Fact Sheet

Drunk Driving in the United States

- In 2010, drunk driving killed 10,228 people and injured another 345,000.ⁱ
- Law enforcement made 1.4 million arrests for driving under the influence in 2010.ⁱⁱ
- An average drunk driver has driven drunk at least 80 times before their first arrest.ⁱⁱⁱ
- About one-third of the drunk driving problem is repeat offenders. That means that two-thirds of the problem is people who have not been previously convicted of drunk driving. Law enforcement is critical to preventing these offenses.

Sobriety Checkpoints

- Forty states and DC allow sobriety checkpoints to be performed.
- Research has shown that highly publicized, highly visible, and frequent sobriety checkpoints reduce drunk driving crashes and deaths by an average of 20 percent.^{iv}
- The primary goal of a checkpoint is not to arrest people. Because they are highly publicized, it's the perceived risk of being caught that keeps many drunk drivers off the roadways.
- Eighty-seven percent of Americans support the use of sobriety checkpoints.^v
- For every dollar invested in a checkpoint, communities save between \$6 and \$23 in costs from alcohol-related crashes. If done correctly, checkpoints can be done with as few as 3-5 officers.^{viii}

ⁱ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration FARS data, 2011.

ⁱⁱ Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Crime in the United States, 2010*. <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/tables/10tbl29.xls>

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control. "Vital Signs: Alcohol-Impaired Driving Among Adults --- United States, 2010." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. October 7, 2011 / 60(39);1351-1356. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6039a4.htm?s_cid=mm6039a4_w

^{iv} Shults, Ruth, et al. "Reviews of Evidence Regarding Interventions to Reduce Alcohol-Impaired Driving." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 21(4S) (2001): 66-88.

^v Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. "Transportation Research Circular- 2005." P. 35 <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/circulars/ec072.pdf>

^{vi} Miller, Ted, M.S. Galbraith and B.A. Lawrence, "Costs and Benefits of a Community Sobriety Checkpoint Program." *J Stud Alcohol* 59 (1998): 462-468.

^{vii} Stuster, Jack and Paul Blowers. "Experimental Evaluation of Sobriety Checkpoint Programs." DOTHS 808 287. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Safety Traffic Administration, 1995.