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.[vi,vii]

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[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.