
ALCOHOL FACT SHEET

February 2010

- Traffic fatalities are the leading cause of death among persons 5 to 34 years of age, and alcohol is the leading cause of fatal traffic crashes by an overwhelming margin.
- Nationally, over 11,700 people were killed in alcohol/impaired driving-related traffic crashes in 2008. Thirty-one percent of all traffic deaths in the United States involved at least one legally-drunk or otherwise impaired driver.
- During 2009, preliminary figures indicate 86 alcohol-related traffic deaths in Iowa, up 6% from the 2008 total of 81. Twenty-three percent of Iowa's traffic fatalities are alcohol-related.
- The number of Iowa alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 2005 through 2009 represents the lowest five years on record.
- A total of 1,529 people were injured in Iowa alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2008, which is a decline of nearly 60% since 1990.
- During 2008, over 30% of all persons injured in alcohol-related crashes in Iowa were between the ages of 14 and 25. Tragically, nearly 30% of all victims who died in alcohol-related crashes in Iowa from 2000-2009 were 25 years old or younger.
- OWI arrests in Iowa increased significantly between 1974 and 1993, from about 4,000 to an estimated 20,000 in 1993. Since that time, OWI arrests have leveled and currently stand at 20,700 for 2008.
- Drivers 16-25 years of age represent only 16% of all registered drivers in Iowa, but they comprise over 30% of all drinking drivers who were involved in fatal crashes during 1998-2008.
- If present trends continue, during the next 10 years, approximately 35,000 persons age 25 and under will die in alcohol-related crashes in the United States with over 350 of those deaths occurring in Iowa.

Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau



Iowa Department of Public Safety

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