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|  | **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over** **FACT SHEET AND TALKING POINTS**From the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of State Patrol Bureau of Transportation Safety |  |

**December 11, 2024, through January 1, 2025**

* During the national holiday Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign, law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin will boost patrols to watch out for impaired drivers.
* The goal of the stepped-up law enforcement effort is not just to arrest impaired drivers. The mission is to enhance public safety and prevent needless tragedies by discouraging people from making the dangerous decision to get behind the wheel while intoxicated.

**Sobering statistics**

* Someone is injured or killed in an impaired driving crash about every two hours in Wisconsin.
* During the last holiday season (Dec 15, 2023 – Jan 1, 2024), there were 393 crashes involving impaired drivers in Wisconsin. These crashes killed 12 people and injured 197 others.
* Drunken driving remains a significant concern. Last year (2023) in Wisconsin:
	+ There were 5,976 alcohol-related crashes that killed 159 people.
	+ Alcohol was involved in more than one-quarter of all traffic fatalities (159 of 563).
* Wisconsin and many states also see continued problems with drugged drivers. A person’s ability to drive safely is compromised by illegal drugs and sometimes prescription or over-the-counter medications.
	+ In 2022, 1,725 crashes in Wisconsin involved drugs, including 70 fatalities.

**Year-round efforts**

* There are 30 multi-jurisdictional high-visibility OWI task forces operating around the state and throughout the year.
* Efforts continue to train more officers in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE). This helps law enforcement detect impaired drivers and get them off the road.
	+ Over 7,500 Wisconsin law enforcement officers are ARIDE-trained.
* Wisconsin has nearly 400 Drug Recognition Experts (DREs), among the most in the nation. DREs help secure convictions to get impaired drivers off the roads.
* OWI convictions can cost around $10,000, including fines, court costs, attorney fees, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs, and more.
	+ There were 18,645 OWI convictions in Wisconsin 2023.

**It’s the law**

* Impaired driving is illegal and deadly.
* Drivers can be arrested for OWI -- even if their blood-alcohol content is below 0.08 -- if it’s determined their level of impairment makes them unable to safely operate a motor vehicle.
* Under Wisconsin’s “not a drop” law, drivers under age 21 are prohibited from having any detectable amount of alcohol in their system.
* All drivers are prohibited from having any detectable amount of illegal drugs in their system.
* Drivers who refuse a blood/breath alcohol test will lose their license for at least one year and may have their vehicle impounded.

**Making responsible choices**

* Always drive sober.
* If you plan to celebrate this holiday season, identify a sober, designated driver. If you’re feeling impaired, you likely are over the 0.08 BAC limit and should not drive.

* Rather than risk an arrest: take mass transit, call a taxi, use a rideshare service, or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
* If you have a friend who is about to drink and drive, step in. Take the keys away and help them get home safely.
* Some bars and restaurants also have programs to provide customers with a [safe ride home](https://tlw.org/saferide/).
* If you suspect a driver is impaired, safely gather as much info as you can about the vehicle, driver, and location. Then call 911.

**Online resources**

* [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Law Enforcement Action Kit](https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/enforcement/agencies/grants.aspx)
1. [TV and radio ads related to impaired driving](http://witrafficsafety.org/drivesober/)
* [National Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over logos and artwork](https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over/holiday-season)