

IMPAIRED DRIVERS ARE DANGEROUS DRIVERS

Drunk driving, DUI or DWI...

Whether it's referred to as drunk driving, driving while intoxicated, or driving under the influence, impaired driving simply means a person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle is **compromised by alcohol** or other drugs that change the function of the brain and body.

Judgment, depth perception, coordination and **reaction time**—all needed to safely drive a car, truck, boat, motorcycle or other moving vehicle—are affected by alcohol, illegal drugs, and prescription or over-the-counter medications.

In Texas, drivers are legally intoxicated and can be arrested and charged with a DWI with a .08 blood alcohol concentration. However, driving ability can be impaired below the legal alcohol limit, and law enforcement can arrest any driver suspected of impaired driving, regardless of the driver's BAC.

In 2014, **1,446 people** were killed in Texas crashes where a driver was under the influence of alcohol (BAC of .08+) or other drugs. That's 43% of the total number of people killed in Texas crashes.



Nearly three Texans are killed every day in alcohol-impaired crashes.



Texas has a zero-tolerance law for anyone younger than 21, which makes it illegal for minors to drive under the influence **at any level**.



Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

txdrivingconcern.org



The Sad End of **HAPPY** hour...

Penalties for a first-time DWI conviction

in Texas can include up to a \$2,000 fine, loss of a driver's license for up to two years with an annual surcharge up to \$2,000 for three years to keep your license, DWI intervention or education program, possible order for an ignition interlock device, and jail time—between three days and six months in jail.



In the U.S., 21–34 year-olds had the highest percentage of drivers with BACs of .08+ who were involved in fatal crashes in 2014.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR EMPLOYEES AND YOUR BUSINESS

American businesses bear the majority of the costs in higher premiums paid for employer-based health insurance tied to alcohol problems. And over time, heavy drinking contributes to expensive medical conditions such as liver disease, stroke and cancer, which ultimately impact employer health care expenses.

As an employer, you can help save lives by promoting safe driving. Reducing the incidence of impaired driving can be a profitable investment.

Acknowledge the connection between impaired driving and the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, and adopt strategies that encourage employees and dependents who have problems with alcohol and other drugs to seek help through employee assistance programs and drug-free workplace programs.

That same year, 23% of total drivers involved in fatal crashes were men with BACs of .08+, and 15% women.



The number of prescription medication abusers in 2014 was 6.5 million. The most abused prescription drugs fall under three categories:

- **Painkillers** – 4.3 million
- **Tranquilizers** – 1.9 million
- **Stimulants** – 1.6 million

DATA SOURCES

Texas Dept. of Transportation, National Safety Council, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Institute on Drug Abuse

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The National Safety Council® recommends you designate a driver who won't drink or arrange for alternative transportation. Never drive impaired. Visit us at txdrivingconcern.org for more FREE resources and information on what you can do to encourage your employees to drive safely.