
ALCOHOL FACT SHEET

September 2007

- Traffic fatalities are the leading cause of death among persons 1 to 34 years of age, and alcohol is the leading cause of fatal traffic crashes by an overwhelming margin.
- Nationally, over 17,800 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2006. Forty-one percent of all traffic deaths in the United States are alcohol-related.
- During 2006, 106 alcohol-related traffic deaths were reported in Iowa, up 25% from the 2005 total of 85. Twenty-four percent of Iowa's traffic fatalities are alcohol related.
- The number of Iowa alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 2002 through 2006 represents the lowest five years on record.
- A total of 1,845 people were injured in Iowa alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2006, which is a decline of more than 50% since 1990.
- During 2006, about 35% 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 1997-2006 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 20,000 (year 2006 estimate).
- 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 1997-2006.
- If present trends continue, during the next 10 years approximately 40,000 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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