



**Did You Know Facts    December 2011**

**December is National Drunk Driving Awareness**

**Drinking and Driving: A Threat to Everyone**

US adults drank too much and got behind the wheel about 112 million times in 2010. Though episodes of driving after drinking too much ("drinking and driving") have gone down by 30% during the past 5 years, it remains a serious problem in the US. Alcohol-impaired drivers\* are involved in about 1 in 3 crash deaths, resulting in nearly 11,000 deaths in 2009.

Driving drunk is never OK. Choose not to drink and drive and help others do the same.

\*These drivers had blood alcohol concentrations of at least 0.08%. This is the illegal blood alcohol concentration level for adult drivers in the United States.

**There are proven ways to prevent people from drinking and driving.**

- At sobriety checkpoints, police stop drivers to judge if they are driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Minimum legal drinking age laws prohibit selling alcohol to people under age 21 in all 50 states . Keeping and enforcing 21 as the minimum legal drinking age.

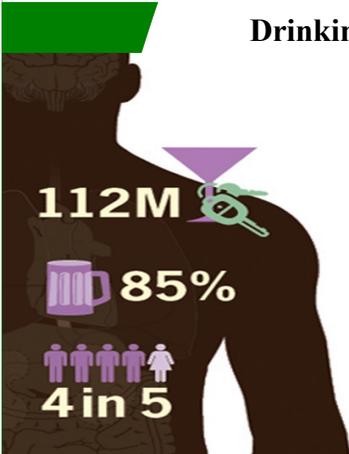
Ignition interlocks prevent drivers who were convicted of alcohol-impaired driving from operating their vehicles if they have been drinking. Interlocks are effective in reducing re-arrest rates from drinking and driving by about two-thirds while the device is on the vehicle.

**Oklahoma Ignition Interlock Device Law**

In OK DUI cases, interlock device is required in 2 situations:

First, if the driver's license to drive was suspended because they committed 2 DUI within 5 years, the driver must use the device for 6 months.

Second, if the driver is classified as an "excessive User" of alcohol by the licensing department, the driver must use the device for 1 year.



Latest Findings: People who drink and drive put everyone on the road in danger. Certain groups are more likely to drink and drive than others.

- Men were responsible for 4 in 5 episodes (81%) of drinking and driving in 2010.
  - Young men ages 21-34 made up only 11% of the U.S. adult population in 2010, yet were responsible for 32% of all instances of drinking and driving.
- 85% of drinking and driving episodes were reported by people who also reported binge drinking. Binge drinking means 5 or more drinks for men or 4 or more drinks for women during a short period of time..

**Some likely effects on driving**

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Levels	.15% About 7 beers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious difficulty controlling the car and focusing on driving</li> </ul>
	.10% About 5 beers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Markedly slowed reaction time</li> <li>• Difficulty staying in lane and braking when needed</li> </ul>
	.08% About 4 beers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trouble controlling speed</li> <li>• Difficulty processing information and reasoning</li> </ul>
	.05% About 3 beers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced coordination and ability to track moving objects</li> <li>• Difficulty steering</li> </ul>
	.02% About 2 beers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of judgment</li> <li>• Trouble doing two tasks at the same time</li> </ul>