

IMPAIRED DRIVERS ARE DANGEROUS DRIVERS

Impaired driving

Impaired driving 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 Oklahoma, drivers are legally intoxicated with a .08 blood alcohol concentration. However, driving ability can be impaired below the legal alcohol limit.

In 2015 in Oklahoma:

- There were 3,502 alcohol-related crashes.
- 27.3% of fatal crashes were alcohol-related.
- 161 people died in alcohol-related crashes.



In 2015 1,454 persons were injured in alcohol-related crashes in Oklahoma.



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



Our Driving Concern

Oklahoma Employer
Traffic Safety Program

okdrivingconcern.org



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

Impaired driving affects many more than only those involved in drunk driving crashes. The misuse or abuse of alcohol or other substances greatly increases the chance of injuries in the workplace and beyond.



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.

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

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.

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DATA SOURCES

Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, National Safety Council, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Institute on Drug Abuse

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