# **Impaired Driving Programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

Jeffrey W. Runge, MD

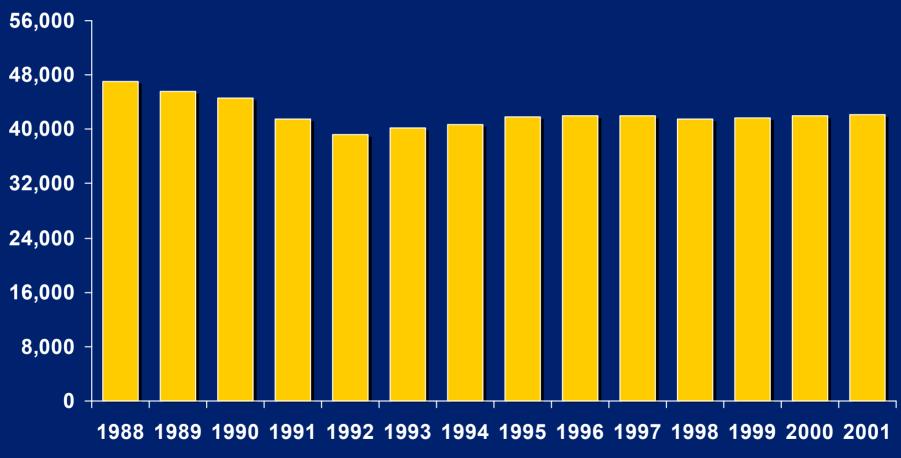
Administrator

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** 

#### **Persons Killed and Injured in Crashes**

	Yea	%		
	2000	2001	Change	
Persons Killed	41,945	42,116	+0.4%	
Persons Injured	3,189,000	3,033,000	<b>-4.9</b> %	

#### **Persons Killed in Traffic Crashes by Year**



Source: FARS

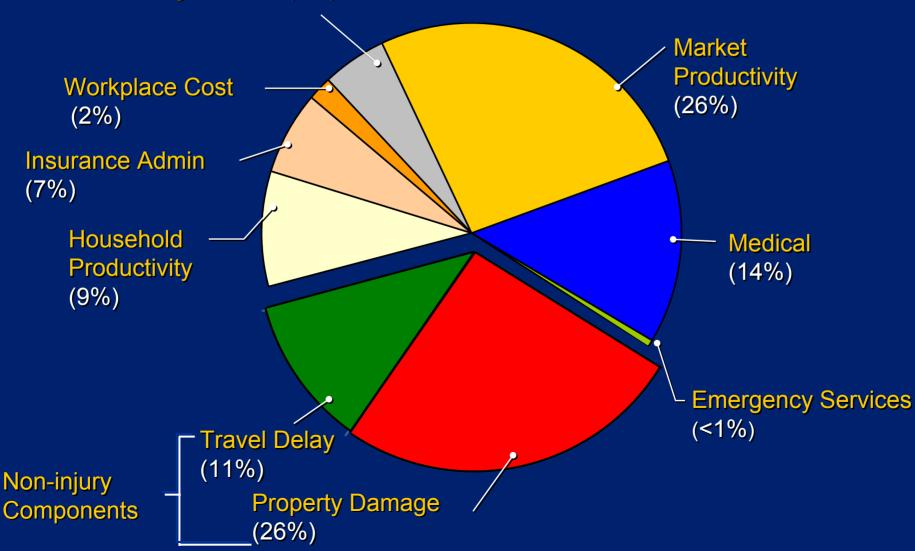
## **Leading Cause of Death**

Unintentional injury is the number one killer of people <35 years of age</p>

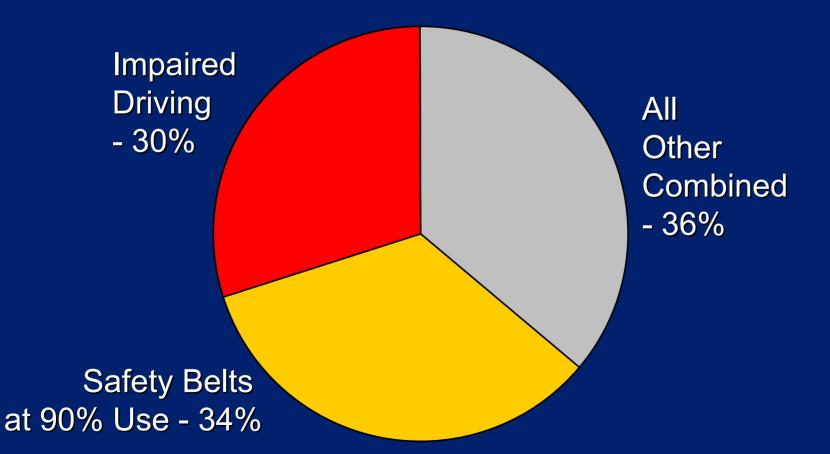
At every age motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury death

#### Cost of Motor Vehicle Crashes \$230.6 billion (in 2000 \$)

Legal Costs (5%)



#### Predicted Lives Saved by Countermeasure



#### **Alcohol Related Fatalities United States**

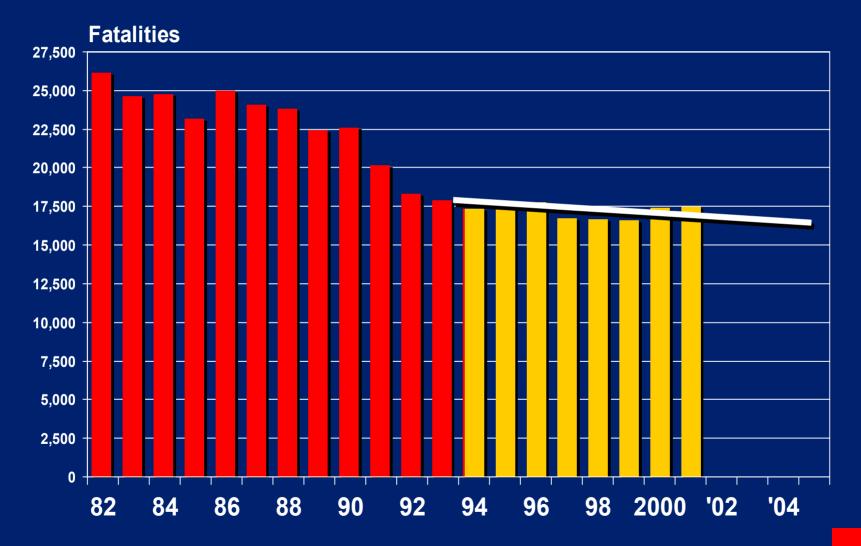
	Year		%
	2000	2001	Change
Total Alcohol Related	17,380	17,448	+0.4%
Alcohol Fat/100M VMT	0.63	0.63	
0.01 <u>&lt;</u> BAC <u>&lt;</u> 0.07	2,511	2,515	+0.2%
0.08 <u>&lt;</u> BAC	14,870	14,933	+0.4%

Source: FARS

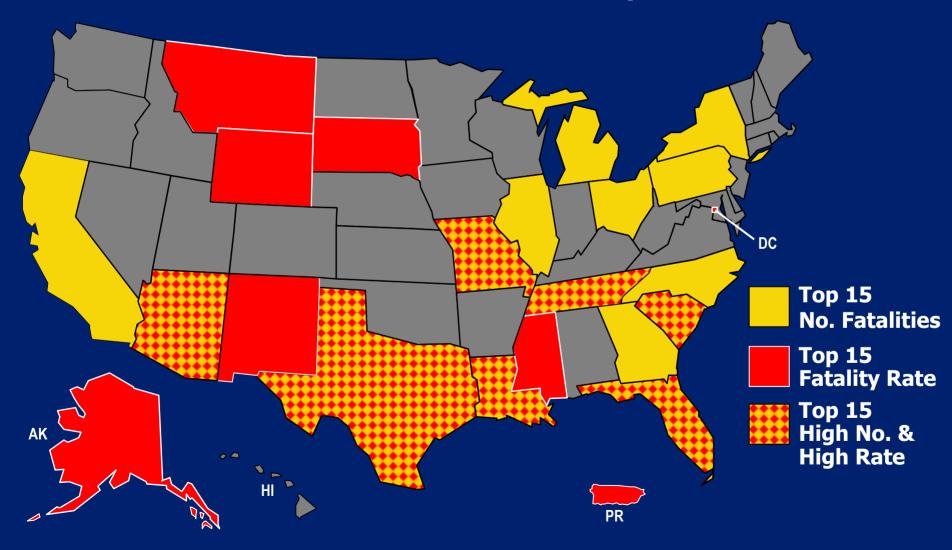


Not more than .53 Alcohol-Related Fatalities per 100M VMT by end of 2004

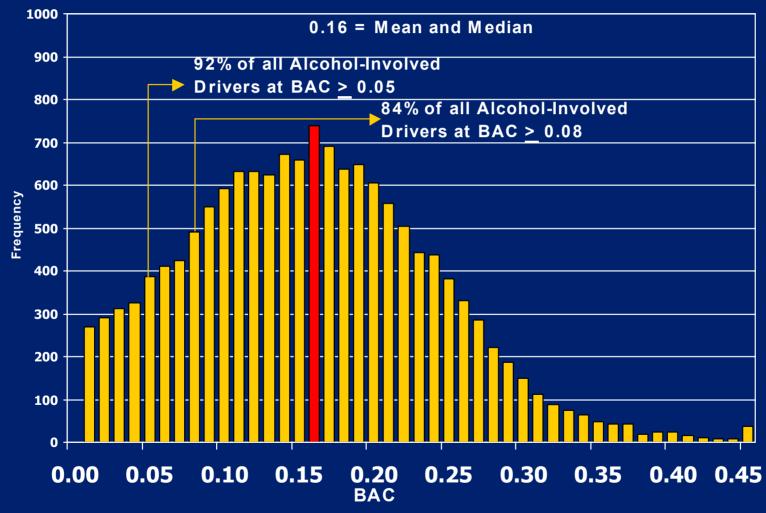
## **Alcohol-Related Fatalities Trend**



## Top 15 States: Alcohol-Related Fatalities and Rates, 2001



#### **Distribution of BAC Levels for Drivers in Fatal Crashes with BAC 0.01 or Higher**



Source: 2001 Annual Report File

## BAC Values for Alcohol Involved Drivers

## Median and Mode

**0.16 BAC g/dl** 

# **Prior DWI Convictions**

In 2001, 1,461 fatalities occurred in crashes involving alcohol-impaired or intoxicated driver(s) who had at least one previous DWI conviction

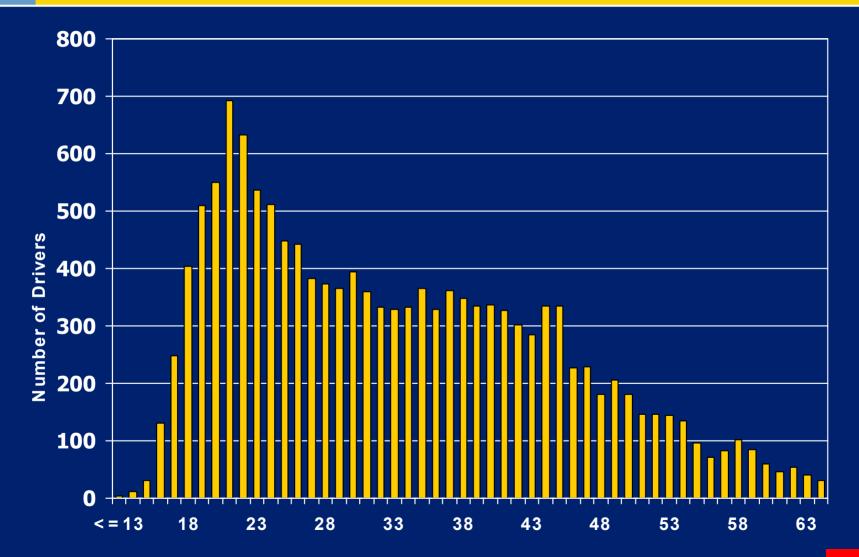
---- Accounting for about 8.4 % of all alcohol-related fatalities.

# **Impaired Drivers in Fatal Crashes**

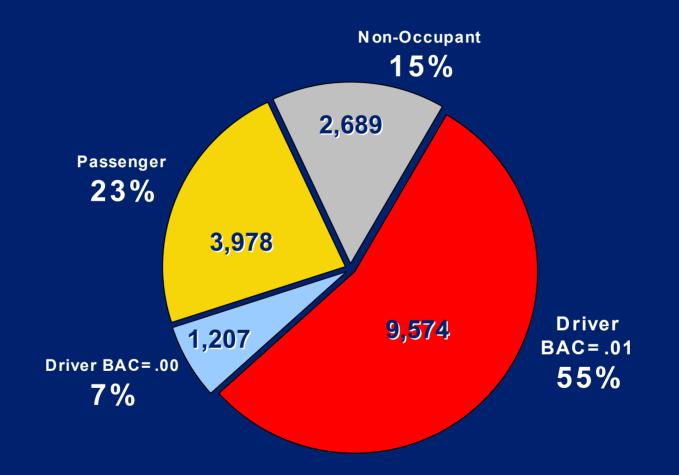


Majority <35 years</li>
82% are male
65% not belted
80% of impaired drivers drink beer

## **Impaired Drivers in Fatal Crashes by Age**



## Fatalities in Alcohol Related Crashes by Person Type

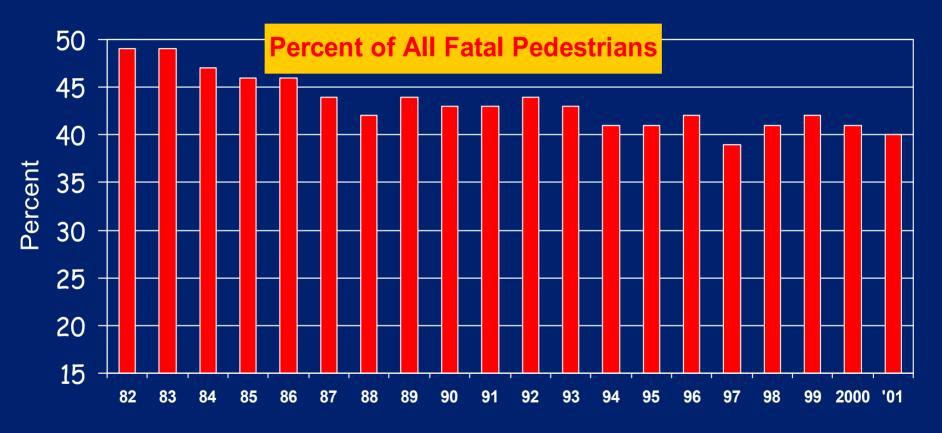


#### **Occupant Fatality Rate by Vehicle Type in Alcohol-Related Crashes**

Rates shown are per 100 Million VMT for each vehicle-type.

Rate/Vehicle Type	Year				
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Passenger Car	0.56	0.51	0.49	0.53	0.51
Light Truck	0.53	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.52
Large Truck	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03
Motorcycle	9.72	10.40	10.60	12.60	14.00

#### Alcohol-Involvement (BAC > 0) Among Fatally Injured Adult Pedestrians (14+ years)

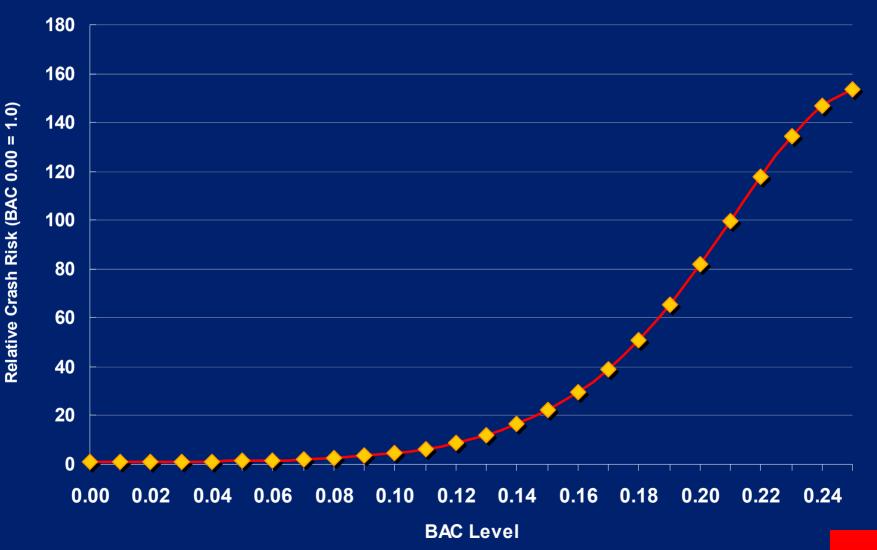


Source: 1982-2001 Final FARS

# **Driving Sober Matters**

Years of data show: crashes involving an alcohol impaired or intoxicated driver or non-occupant are about 50% more likely to result in an injury or fatality than crashes in which alcohol was not involved.

### **Relative Crash Risk**



#### **Short-term Needs**

Strengthen Data

Improve blood, breath data collection

Uniform state data

#### **Short-term Needs**

- Strengthen Laws:
- **ALR** 
  - 10 States remain
- **.08 BAC** 
  - 15 States remain

#### **Longer-term Needs**

- Training for prosecutors and judges
- Programs from NHTSA and NIAAA
  - Guide for DUI Sentencing (for adults)
  - Sentencing and Disposition of Youth DUI and Other Alcohol Offenses: A Guide for Judges and Prosecutors (for youth <21)</li>

#### **Longer-term Needs**

Available treatment for alcohol and drug problems

Improved screening for convicted offenders

Improved treatment programs

# More to Do

#### Medical professionals training

- Recognition
- Screening
- Brief interventions

Medical professionals & law enforcement

- Detection
- Legal intervention
- Evidence handling

# **2003 Impaired Driving Objectives**

- Increase highly publicized and visible enforcement
- Create an expectation of consequences
  - Detection
  - Arrest and prosecution

Elevate public concern over alcohol-related injury and death

# **Impaired Driving Core Messages**



#### Criminal justice

#### Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

#### Designated driver/ BAC education





# **Areas of Cooperation with NIAAA**

#### Past Cooperation

- Research on crash risk
- Sentencing Guides for Prosecutors and Judges
- On-going and Planned Activities
  - Updated Sentencing Guidelines
  - Co-sponsoring meeting in March on treatment of DUI Offenders
  - Randomized sanctions to reduce recidivism
  - Governors' Wives Program

# **Areas of Cooperation with NIAAA**

#### Future Cooperation

- Evaluation of our impaired driving programs
- Research in
  - Screening and intervention
  - Improve treatment for DUI offenders

## What NIAAA Can Do

Make impaired driving a priority area for funding
Devote research resources
Develop joint impaired driving research program

# **People Saving People** www.nhtsa.dot.gov

1-888-327-4236