



Just the Facts: Impaired Driving



King County

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury death in King County (1997—2001, WA State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Aug. 2002).

From 1993—2002, alcohol-related crashes killed 457 people in King County (WA Traffic Safety Commission, Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 2003).

King County state routes (SR) with highest proportion of injury and death crashes, *excluding interstates*: SR 99, SR 900, SR 522, SR18, SR509, SR 167 (1999—2001 data, WA Dept. of Transportation, WA DOT).

Since October 1998, the King County Traffic Safety Coalition (KCTSC) has targeted enforcement efforts along SR 99. Since the project began, death & injury crashes on SR 99 have declined 13% and alcohol-related crashes have decreased over 28% (1999—2001 data, WA Dept. of Transportation, WA DOT).

Washington State

Between 1992 and 2002, an average of 285 Washington residents died each year in crashes related to impaired driving (WA Traffic Safety Commission, Aug. 2003).

In 2002, the Washington State Patrol arrested 35% more DUIs than in the previous year (WA Traffic Safety Commission, Aug. 2003).

Research conducted by the WA State Patrol found a significant increase in the number of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for drugs or alcohol. Drug impaired driver deaths increased from 25% to 35%. Drug and alcohol impaired driver deaths increased from 10% to 17%.

(WA State Patrol, Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau, 1992– 93 compared to 2001-02 data, December 2003).

United States

In 2002, 17,419 Americans died in alcohol-related crashes. (National Center for Statistics and Analysis)

Approximately 1.4 million US drivers were arrested in 2001 for impaired driving. An arrest rate of one out of every 137 licensed drivers! (National Center for Statistics and Analysis).

In the US in 2000, alcohol-related crashes cost American taxpayers an estimated \$114.3 billion (National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration).

Reducing alcohol-related crashes by *just 10%* would save \$1.8 billion in claims payments & loss adjustment expenses. (National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration).

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DUI Costs & Consequences

- 1– 365 Days Jail Time
- \$350—\$5000 in Court Costs
- \$2000—\$6000 in Attorney Fees
- \$1200/year Increase in Insurance
- \$150 License Re-issue Fees
- And much, much more

WA Laws

Driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs is illegal in Washington!

All Drivers
Blood Alcohol Limit (BAC)
.08
BAC

Drivers Under 21
.02
BAC

Commercial Drivers
.04
BAC