

## What are the facts about drunk driving?

- About 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. (Traffic Safety Facts 1999. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2000)
- In 2006, an estimated 17,602 people died in alcohol-related traffic crashes—an average of one every 30 minutes. These deaths constitute 41% of the 42,642 total traffic fatalities. (2006 Traffic Safety Annual Assessment—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- In 2003, Arizona had 470 alcohol-related traffic deaths, constituting 42% of total traffic deaths. 19% of fatalities involved a driver with a BAC about .15. (State of Arizona Department of Public Safety DUI Statistics)
- In 2007, Tucson Police Department made 3,377 arrests. There were 707 DUI accidents, resulting in 6 fatalities. (TPD Crime Statistics, UCR Descriptions)
- In 2007, Pima County Attorney's Office disposed of 562 felony and county misdemeanor DUI cases—534 were found guilty.
- The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes was 4 times higher at night than during the day (36% vs. 9%). In 2006, 15% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-impaired, compared to 31% on weekends. (Traffic Safety Facts 2006: Alcohol Impaired Driving—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- Traffic crashes are the #1 killer of teens (15-20 yrs. old) and 31% of teen traffic deaths are alcohol-related. (Traffic Safety Facts 2006: Young Drivers—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

## Important phone numbers

Emergency	911
Help On-Call	323-9373
S.A.M.H.C. (24hr mental health)	1-800-273-8255
Information & Referral	881-1794
Crime Victim Compensation	724-5525
MADD (Tucson Chapter)	322-5253
T.P.D. non-emergency	791-4444
T.P.D. records	791-4462
Victim Notification	741-7344
City Court Victim Services	791-5483
<b>Sheriff Department</b> records Info	351-4650
Pre Trial Services	724-3310
Superior Court Calendar	724-4240

Case # \_\_\_\_\_



**Pima County Attorney's Office  
Victim Services Division**

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# D.U.I.



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## What is D.U.I.?



D.U.I. stands for "Driving Under the Influence." Alcohol and other drugs impair driving ability. The term "drunk driving" is intended to incorporate all forms of impairment. Arizona requires a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 g/dl (grams per deciliter) before a driver is considered legally intoxicated, but driver reaction time slows with a BAC below 0.08. Vision and depth perception become distorted, and coordination and judgment are affected. Thus, any notable impairment may be considered a D.U.I. even if there is a BAC below .080, which is still well above the American Medical Association recommendation of 0.05 g/dl.

Drunk/drugged driving deaths and injuries are senseless acts. They are someone's fault (not "accidents"), so they always could have been prevented. Drunk or drugged driving is a crime. Victims of drunk driving crashes are not hurt accidentally. The crime is the result of two choices made by a driver: to use alcohol or other drugs and to get behind the wheel of a vehicle. These choices are as dangerous to the public as using a deadly weapon and can be just as deadly.

Drunk driving is not a new problem. Thanks to the work of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID), and other grassroots victim groups, public awareness of drinking and driving as preventable crime has grown, and the number of state and federal laws against impaired driving are increasing.

## If you are a Survivor...

Whether you or a loved one is a drunk or drugged driving crash victim, you may be affected physically, emotionally, and financially. For injured victims, and family members of those killed or injured, the first task is processing what has happened. Impaired driving crashes are sudden. They give you no time to prepare. It will take a lot of time just to grasp the shock and horror of the trauma. The physical and emotional suffering may seem to use up all the energy you have.

The knowledge that your body or that of a loved one was damaged or disfigured is very traumatic. If a loved one was killed, the sudden, violent death that took his or her life probably feels unlike any other loss you have experienced. You may feel vast swings in emotion. You may feel guilty for not being able to protect your loved one, even if you know it was not possible. Knowing the crash could have been prevented may be one of the most painful aspects of your grief. The injustice of the death and your involvement with the criminal justice system as a result of the crime may complicate your grief.

Whether you are an injured victim or a surviving family member or friend, you may experience a new sense of vulnerability. You may have nightmares or flashbacks about the crash. Your eating and sleeping habits may change. You may feel depressed or hopeless and lack interest in things you once enjoyed. Even though surviving a drunk driving crash is a terrible trauma, many survivors find that with time they can face life with new understanding and meaning.

## Where can you get help?

Groups like MADD and RID were formed to support victims of drunk driving, reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from impaired driving crashes, and advocate for tougher legislation. You may want to call The Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness Program, or Pima County's MADD chapter to seek out counselors who understand the grief that follows this kind of loss and trauma. The Pima County Attorney's Office has Victim Advocates who can provide you with information and a full range of victim support services, such as assistance through the criminal justice process. Victim Witness Advocates are trained professionals who can help you find out about crime victim rights in Arizona.

When a loved one has been injured or killed, the financial impact can be a second victimization. The costs of medical care, travel, phone bills, counseling, lost wages, and funerals can be overwhelming. Arizona has a Crime Victim Compensation program that may reimburse victims' families for certain out-of-pocket expenses, including funeral expenses, medical expenses, lost wages, and other financial needs considered reasonable. Arizona's victim compensation program also covers mental health counseling for survivors of someone killed. To be eligible for compensation, the crime must be reported to the police within 72 hours and the victim and victim's family must cooperate with the criminal justice system. The Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness Program can provide you with compensation applications and additional information.