



Impaired Driving: Key messages and Facts

Deaths and Injuries from Impaired Driving is Increasing

- In 2020 there were fewer drivers on the road in Washington compared to 2019, but deaths and serious injuries from impaired driver-involved crashes increased.
- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in 2020 was down 15% compared with 2019, and at times as low as 60% less.
- At the same time, fatalities in impaired driver involved crashes increased 12.4% and serious injuries increased 32.4%
- Traffic fatalities and serious injuries continue to increase at alarming rates in 2021 as more Washingtonians return to the roads.
- Although fatality statistics are still being compiled, serious injuries incurred in crashes involving impaired drivers rose 8.6% through the June of this year compared with the same time period in 2020.

Impaired Driving Emphasis Patrols Dedicated to Lynnwood Police Officer Mark Brinkman

- Law enforcement agencies across Washington will put extra patrols on the road for impaired drivers from August 20-September 6. This year the patrols are dedicated to the memory of nationally recognized Lynnwood Police Officer Mark Brinkman, a DRE instructor and leader in DUI enforcement. Officer Brinkman passed away in April.
- A graduate of the Seattle Police Academy in 1988, Officer Brinkman served for 35 years in law enforcement, including 25 years with the Lynnwood Police Department.
- In 2016 he was recognized as “Law Enforcement Liaison of the Year” by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.
- His dedication and success in removing impaired drivers from the road earned him national recognition and he was featured in several national news media profiles.

Key Messages

- We can reverse the alarming trend in deaths and injuries from impaired driving if we all work together.
- Most Washingtonians – 78% – never drink before driving. That’s a choice that’s easy to live with.
- We can help protect our friends and families too, by preventing someone from driving while impaired. Most Washingtonians – 81% – say they will step in to prevent someone from impaired driving.



- Law enforcement is doing their part to get impaired drivers off the road.
- If you encounter a situation where someone might drive impaired, you can:
 - Arrange for or provide a ride
 - Arrange for the person to stay where they are
 - Offer your couch for the night
 - Engage someone else to help, including calling 911
- This year's DUI patrols are dedicated to the memory of police officer Mark Brinkman, whose leadership in DUI enforcement set an example for removing impaired drivers from the roadways. Each of us can echo Officer Brinkman's commitment to saving lives.

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