



- More than 1.44 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.
- An average of one alcohol-impaired driving fatality occurred every 48 minutes.

### **Drivers**

- The highest percentage of drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher was for drivers aged 21 to 24 (35%).
- Safety belts were used by only 34% of fatally injured drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher.
- Nearly three-fourths of drivers convicted of driving while impaired are either frequent heavy drinkers or alcoholics.
- In 2009, 16% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes during the week were alcohol impaired, compared to 31% on weekends.

### **Crashes**

- The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes was four times higher at night than during the day (37% versus 9%).
- Drivers with a BAC level of .08 or higher involved in fatal crashes were eight times more likely to have a prior conviction for driving while impaired than were drivers with no alcohol.
- Crashes involving men are more likely to be alcohol related than those involving women. Alcohol involvement is highest for men aged 21-24 years.

### **Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)**

- The average BAC level of a convicted DUI offender, as reported by law enforcement on APS forms, was 0.16% in 2007 (California).

- The illegal BAC limit for commercial drivers is .04%.
- In 2008, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico had a .08 BAC per se law.
- Even at BAC levels as low as .02%, alcohol affects driving ability and crash likelihood. The probability of a crash begins to increase significantly at .05% BAC and climbs rapidly after about .08% BAC.
- In 2008, 11.8% of the traffic crash injuries involved alcohol. This number is relatively unchanged from 11.5% in 2007 (California).
- High BAC drivers (.15 or above) accounted for more than half of all the alcohol-related traffic fatalities.