



Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

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PRESS RELEASE
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Fourth of July Safety

Americans love to celebrate the Fourth of July with family, friends, food and fireworks. But all too often the festivities turn tragic on the nation's roads. This Independence Day, don't lose your freedom; *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*.

Over the 2016 Fourth of July holiday, 188 people were killed in crashes involving at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher – a 28 percent increase from 2015. Nearly half of those who died were in crashes involving at least one driver with a BAC of .15 or higher – almost twice the legal limit.

In every state, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher. The consequences could be everlasting; you could kill yourself or someone else. If you kill someone else, you could be charged with manslaughter. Not only could you put your life and the lives of others at risk, but a DUI arrest means a loss of freedom and money. You could go to jail, lose your license and pay steep financial expenses; the average DUI is about \$10,000.

As friends and family travel to picnics and barbeques across the country, law enforcement will be out in full force. As you prepare to drive home from the festivities, keep in mind that even one drink can be one too many. Grill some food, watch the fireworks, and designate a sober driver.

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you've had one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation to get home safely.
- Know a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take their keys and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact local law enforcement.

This Fourth of July, don't risk losing your life or your independence by drinking and driving. Help make everyone's holiday in Seneca County safer by driving sober.

For more information about the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign, visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov.

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