



Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

**From the Wisconsin DOT
Division of State Patrol
Bureau of Transportation Safety**

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over – August 16 through September 2, 2019

- During the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign between August 16 through Labor Day (September 2, 2019), law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin will patrol in greater numbers for longer hours watching for impaired drivers.
- The purpose of these stepped-up law enforcement efforts is **not** to simply stop and arrest impaired drivers. The primary goal is to enhance public safety and prevent needless tragedies by discouraging people from making the dangerous and irresponsible decision to get behind the wheel impaired.

Sobering statistics

- Every 2.5 hours in Wisconsin, someone is injured or killed in an alcohol-related crash. Last year (2018) in Wisconsin:
 - there were 6,255 alcohol-related crashes that injured 3,293 people and resulted in 159 deaths;
 - nearly 28% of traffic fatalities were alcohol-related;
 - there were 24,624 OWI convictions.
- While drunk driving remains a concern, Wisconsin and many states see a growing problem with drugged drivers - people whose ability to safely operate a motor vehicle is compromised by legal medications (prescription or over-the-counter) and/or illegal drugs (heroin, marijuana, etc.).
- Wisconsin is taking several steps aimed at deterring drunk and drugged driving:
 - Nearly 5,000 (4,950) Wisconsin law enforcement officers are now trained in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) - enhancing the ability to detect impaired drivers.
 - Wisconsin has 301 highly-trained Drug Recognition Experts (DREs), among the most in the nation.
 - Currently, there are [23 multi-jurisdictional high-visibility enforcement task forces](#) operating around the state.

- On average, a DUI can cost \$10,000 in fines, court costs, attorney fees, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs, and more.

Making responsible choices:

- If you plan to celebrate, identify a sober designated driver. If you're feeling impaired, you likely are over the 0.08 BAC limit and should not drive.
- Drivers can be arrested for OWI even if their blood-alcohol content is below 0.08 if it's determined their level of impairment makes them unable to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- Under Wisconsin's "not a drop" law, drivers under age 21 are prohibited from having any detectable amount of alcohol in their system. Drivers are also prohibited from having any detectable amount of illegal drugs in their system.
- Drivers who refuse a blood/breath alcohol test will lose their license for at least one year and may have their vehicle impounded.
- Rather than risk an arrest, take mass transit, a taxicab, or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
- WisDOT has developed a free "Drive Sober" mobile app that can be downloaded from the WisDOT [website](#). Since its launch on Labor Day of 2013, some 73,863 people have accessed the app.
- Some taverns and restaurants have programs to provide patrons with a [safe ride home](#).
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement by calling 911. Be prepared to provide specific information about the location, vehicle and driver.