

Alcohol-impaired motor vehicle deaths during holiday periods

Average traffic deaths per day in the United States during each holiday period, 2007-2011. Holiday periods typically are 3 to 4 days, as defined by NHTSA.

#4

New Year's

TRAFFIC DEATHS PER DAY:
46 alcohol-impaired
108 total

More

Holiday period with the highest average percentage of alcohol-impaired traffic deaths: **New Year's** at 42%

Holiday period with the overall greatest number of motor vehicle-related fatalities: **Thanksgiving**, with an average of 444 deaths for the entire holiday period. (The Thanksgiving holiday period always spans four days.)

#1
4th of July

TRAFFIC DEATHS PER DAY:
61 alcohol-impaired
146 total

#2
Memorial Day

TRAFFIC DEATHS PER DAY:
57 alcohol-impaired
142 total

#3
Labor Day

TRAFFIC DEATHS PER DAY:
54 alcohol-impaired
140 total

#5
Thanksgiving

TRAFFIC DEATHS PER DAY:
40 alcohol-impaired
111 total

#6
Christmas

TRAFFIC DEATHS PER DAY:
33 alcohol-impaired
93 total

Tips

- Even if you're "just a little buzzed," don't drive.
- Designate a driver or take a cab.
- Don't feel embarrassed to refuse a ride from an impaired driver – even if it's a friend or spouse.

If you're the designated driver:

- Buckle up.
- Drive defensively.
- Minimize distractions – put away the cell phone.

Source: National Safety Council, "Injury Facts," 2013 edition

- Deaths: Tabulations of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Fatality Analysis Reporting System data
- Percent alcohol-impaired: NHTSA, "Traffic Safety Facts," 2010 edition

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