

Ohio's Safety Plan

2009 Update

Emphasis Area 3 High-Risk Behaviors: Alcohol



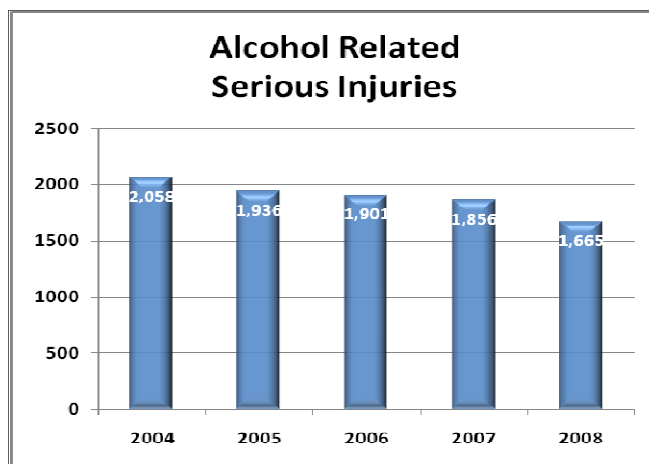
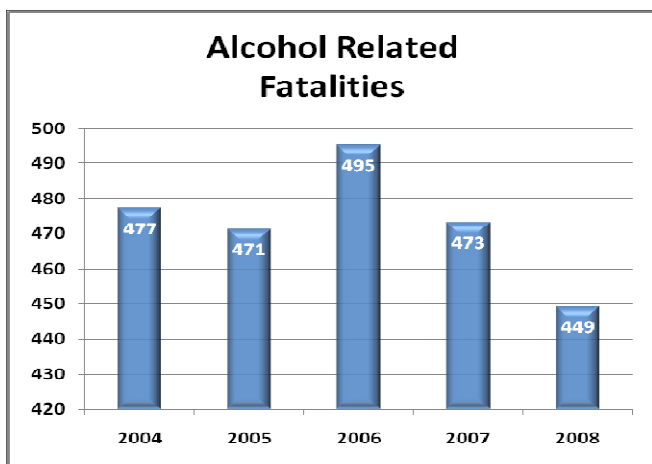
In 2008, 449 people died and 1,665 people were seriously injured in alcohol-related crashes. These crashes represented 38 percent of all fatalities and 16 percent of all serious injuries in that year.

A large number of these fatalities involved speed, unbelted passengers and drivers, and young drivers. Many fatalities also involved fixed object crashes, where the driver left the roadway and hit a tree, utility pole, ditch or embankment.

The three fundamental methods to reduce alcohol-related crashes are:

- High-visibility law enforcement and well-publicized OVI checkpoints
- Paid and earned media to publicize the increased enforcement efforts, and
- Education and public outreach on the dangers of impaired driving

The criminal justice system also plays a key role in ensuring that offenders are detected, charged, effectively prosecuted, suitably punished, and appropriately treated for alcohol abuse or dependency.



Driving Tips:

- **Assign a designated driver.** A designated driver is sober, not the person who is the least drunk.
- **Plan ahead.** Designate a sober driver and give that person your keys, or plan on using public transportation or taxis.
- **Be Alert.** Watch out for cars that zigzag across lanes or make wide turns.

To report an impaired driver call 1-800-GRAB-DUI or cellular *DUI.

- **Operating under the influence is costly.** A first time conviction can cost several thousand dollars (fines, fees, etc.). Second and subsequent convictions can result in severe consequences including jail time.

State and local governments are also using various strategies to discourage drinking and driving.

Strategies (where applicable):

Continue target law enforcement and educational grants to those counties with the worst fatal-alcohol crash problems. The Ohio Department of Public Safety provides grants to establish OVI (Operating Vehicle while Intoxicated) Task Forces in the top 10 Ohio counties that experience the highest number of alcohol-related fatalities. These task forces conduct high-visibility enforcement through saturation patrols and OVI checkpoints, public awareness and education campaigns that target impaired driving. The Ohio Department of Transportation also participates in these programs by assisting with OVI checkpoints.

Continue state and national campaigns that discourage impaired driving. ODPS will continue to support the national Drunk Driving “Over the Limit. Under Arrest.” crackdown, which combine highly visibility law enforcement with both local and national media exposure. The Ohio Department of Transportation also participates in these communication efforts by posting messages on electronic freeway signs and posting additional signage at rest stops and outposts. Money to fund overtime enforcement and media/educational campaigns comes from ODPS and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Reduce the sale of alcoholic beverages to intoxicated people, including minors, and provide training to businesses selling liquor. The Ohio Investigate Unit, a division of ODPS, developed a database that will help identify businesses that appear to produce relatively high numbers of intoxicated people.

This information will be shared with local agencies to better target education and enforcement efforts.

Streamline the impaired driving arrest process via the use of portable breath-testing instruments. ODPS continues to work closely with the Ohio Department of Health as they implement the breath testing instruments (I-8000) across the state. In 2009, ODPS completed delivery of all 700 breath testing instruments. The I-8000 is up and running in Clermont, Marion, Monroe and Union counties. Implementation statewide will continue throughout 2010.

Expand the OVI Court Model, which is a multidisciplinary effort to break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, crime and impaired driving. ODPS is currently supporting three OVI courts in Fairfield, Marion, Athens and Akron. The Clermont County DUI court is self-sustaining and will no longer require funding to continue the program.

The DUI court provides effective supervision and enhanced treatment services to DUI offenders in an effort to change their drinking and driving behaviors and to reduce the risk they pose to the safety of the community and themselves. The program requires all courts to develop a sustainability plan so the special court can continue once federal funding is discontinued after three years.