# 2019 Halloween *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

### FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

This Halloween, let’s make happy memories, not tragic nightmares. The only thing scarier than zombies and witches loose on the streets is a drunk driver. This year, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is teaming up with local officials to help spread the message that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. Even one alcoholic beverage could be one too many for some drivers, so if you plan to drive, plan to refrain from alcohol. If you do plan to enjoy some witch’s brew, be sure to arrange a sober ride home in advance. Stay safe on Halloween night, and every night. Read these scary stats and commit to sober driving.

* According to NHTSA, there were 37,133 people killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2017, and 29 percent (10,874) of those fatalities occurred in a crash in which a driver had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over the legal limit of .08.
* During the Halloween night (6 p.m. October 31 to 5:59 a.m. November 1) during the years 2013-2017, there were 158 people killed in drunk-driving crashes.
* During Halloween night from 2013-2017, 42 percent of those killed were in traffic crashes that involved at least one drunk driver.
* During the 2017 Halloween night (6 p.m. October 31 to 5:59 a.m. November 1), there were 11 vehicle occupants and three pedestrians killed in drunk-driving crashes.
* Those under the age of 21 had the highest percentage (45%) of fatalities in drunk-driving crashes on Halloween night in 2017.
* Drug-impaired driving is an increasing problem on our nation’s roads. It is illegal to drive while drug-impaired, period. It’s essential for drivers to understand: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.*

**The Cost of Drunk Driving**

* On average, a DUI can set you back $10,000 in attorney’s fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs, and more.
* The financial impact from impaired driving crashes can be devastating: Based on 2010 numbers (the most recent year for which cost data is available), impaired-driving crashes cost the United States $44 billion annually.

**Plan Before You Party**

Don’t let plans get away from you — it’s imperative to your safety and the safety of others to plan a responsible ride home from the party. If you leave your house unprepared to get home safely, you may not make the best choices by the end of the night. Here are a few tips to help you prepare for a safe night out.

* Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you’ve had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride sharing service to get home safely.
* Use your community’s sober ride program **[Insert your local sober ride program specifics here]**.
* If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact **[Local Law Enforcement]**.
* Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

Always remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. For more information, visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov.