



Alcohol Fact Sheet



April, 2004

- **Traffic fatalities are the leading cause of death among persons 1 to 34 years of age, and alcohol is the leading cause of fatal traffic crashes by an overwhelming margin.**
- **Nationally, 17,419 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes during 2002. Forty-one percent of all traffic deaths in the United States are alcohol-related.**
- **During 2003, 124 alcohol-related traffic deaths were reported in Iowa, up 3 or 2% from the 2002 total of 121. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of Iowa's traffic fatalities are alcohol related.**
- **The number of Iowa alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 1999 through 2003 represent the lowest five years on record. For the year 2002, Iowa's alcohol related fatality rate of .42 per 100 million vehicle miles travelled is the sixth lowest in the nation, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.**
- **Tragically, nearly 30% of all victims who died in alcohol-related crashes in Iowa from 1994-2003 were 25 years old or younger.**
- **Iowa alcohol-related traffic injuries totaled 2,443 in 2000, down 38% since 1990.**
- **During 2000, about 30% of all persons injured in alcohol-related crashes in Iowa were between the ages of 14 and 25.**
- **OWI arrests in Iowa increased significantly between 1974 and 1993, increasing from about 4,000 to an estimated 20,000 in 1993. Since that time, OWI arrests have leveled and currently stand at 17,000 (year 2003 estimate).**
- **Drivers 16-25 years of age represent only 16% of all registered drivers in Iowa, but they comprise over 30% of all drinking drivers who were involved in fatal crashes during 1994-2003.**
- **If present trends continue, during the next 10 years approximately 40,000 persons age 25**

and under will die in alcohol-related crashes in the United States with over 400 of those deaths occurring in Iowa.

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