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# IMPAIRED DRIVING IN THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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**Recognizing there is vast cultural diversity in our country, every American shares a similar threat: we are all at-risk when it comes to drunk driving and underage drinking.**

- In 2004, 16,694 people were killed in crashes involving alcohol, representing 39 percent of the 42,636 people killed in all traffic crashes. (NHTSA, 2005)
- Ninety-four percent of licensed drivers cite drivers under the influence of alcohol as a major highway safety problem. (The Gallup Organization, 2005)
- About three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. (NHTSA, 2001)
- Approximately 1.5 million drivers were arrested in 2002 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 130 licensed drivers in the United States. (NHTSA, NCSA 2004)
- Alcohol-related crashes in the United States cost the public an estimated \$114.3 billion in 2000. (NHTSA, 1999)

## **Alcohol poses a serious threat to Native Americans:**

- Native Americans have the highest percentage of alcohol-involved driver, passenger, and pedestrian fatalities of any ethnic group. (Voas et al, 2000)
- Three out of four Native American drivers and eight out of ten pedestrian fatalities occur in alcohol-related crashes. (Voas et al, 2000)
- An alarming 18.2 percent of Native Americans reported driving under the influence of alcohol in the past year. (Caetano and McGrath, 2005)
- Fatally injured Native American drivers and passengers have the lowest safety belt usage rates of any ethnic group. (Voas et al, 2000)
- Traffic deaths account for a larger portion of total injury deaths (assaults, falls, suicides, other) than for any other ethnic group. (Voas et al, 1999)
- Nineteen percent of Native American youth ages 12 to 20 reported binge drinking. (SAMHSA, 2005)
- Native American males ages 25 to 34 are seven times more likely to suffer from alcohol-related problems. (SAMHSA, 2000)
- Nearly a quarter (24.3%) of Native American youth aged 12-20 reported drinking in the past month. (SAMHSA, 2005)