

April 2012 Alcohol Awareness Month Talking Points

- Impaired driving is often a symptom of a larger problem: alcohol misuse and abuse.
- Alcohol-impaired motor vehicle crashes cost more than an estimated \$37 billion annually.
- In 2010, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes—one every 51 minutes.
- Problem drinkers have twice as many injury events per year and four times as many hospitalizations for injuries.
- In recent years, an estimated 1.9 million emergency department visits were associated with substance misuse or abuse, with alcohol continuing to be the primary substance that is misused or abused.
- Many drinkers are not aware that they are misusing or abusing alcohol. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, drinking more than 4 drinks on any day or more than 14 drinks per week for men, or more than 3 drinks on any day or more than 7 drinks per week for women is considered "at-risk" or "heavy" drinking.
- In April 2010, 870 people died in crashes in which the drivers had blood alcohol concentrations of .08 grams per deciliter or higher, which is illegal per se in every State in the United States.







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