

Drunk and drugged driving statistics

- 317 people were killed in alcohol related crashes in Illinois in 2013, accounting for 32% of the total crash fatalities.
- There were 10,322 alcohol related crash fatalities in the United States in 2012, accounting for 31% of the total crash fatalities.
- With a blood alcohol content of 0.08, a driver becomes 3 times more likely to be in a car crash than a sober driver, and 11 times more likely to be killed in a single vehicle crash.
- Nationally, nearly 30 people are killed by a drunk driver every day.
- According to the National Highway and Safety Administration's survey, more than 16% of weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs, and 26.1% of young adults (age 21-25) drove under the influence of an illicit drug.
- Drugs other than alcohol (e.g., marijuana and cocaine) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths.

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A Message From

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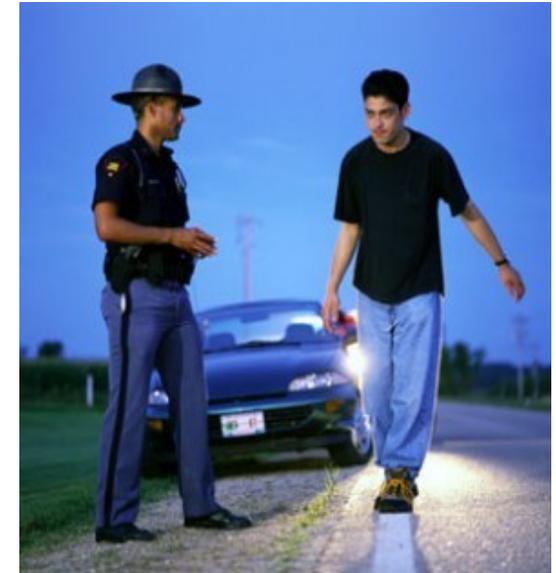
Operating a motor vehicle is a privilege, not a right. Just as driving under the influence of alcohol is against the law, so is driving under the influence of drugs. Both alcohol and drugs impair a driver's motor skills, judgment and reaction time. The drunk or drugged driver not only jeopardizes his or her life, but also that of passengers in their vehicle as well as other motorists.

Nationally, a motorist is considered legally drunk if their blood alcohol content is .08% or more. Illinois is one of a handful of states in which it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle if there is any detectable amount of a prohibited drug in the driver's blood stream.

Drunk and drugged driving are serious offenses with serious consequences. Fines, loss of driving privileges or time behind bars are all possible consequences of such behavior - so is causing serious injury or death to another person or yourself. Lets work together to keep our streets safe.

The DuPage County State's
Attorney's Office

Drunk and Drugged Driving



**DuPage County
State's Attorney
Robert B. Berlin**

“Alcohol, drugs and driving is a combination that will end horribly for all involved.”

DuPage County State’s Attorney Robert B. Berlin

Legal consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol

Everyone knows driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) is illegal, yet year after year, thousands of motorists take their chances at the wheel after they have been drinking and are convicted of DUI. Those convicted of DUI face suspension of their driver’s license, fines, attorney’s fees, community service and possible jail sentences. And they are the lucky ones. The unlucky ones end up in the cemetery.

In Illinois, a driver of a motor vehicle is considered legally drunk if he or she operates a vehicle with a breath or blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or greater. If a motorist is pulled over and arrested for DUI, they will be taken into custody on the spot and transported to the police station. Their vehicle may also be towed at the owner’s expense.

Absent any additional aggravating factors, a motorist’s first conviction of DUI carries possible penalties of:

- loss of driving privileges for at least two years.
- a possible jail sentence of up to one year.
- a maximum fine of up to \$2,500.

Upon a second conviction for DUI, a motorist faces:

- revocation of driving privileges.
- Five days in jail or 240 hours of community service for a second conviction within five years.

- a possible jail sentence of up to one year.
- a maximum fine of up to \$2,500.

A third DUI conviction carries possible penalties of:

- A felony conviction.
- driver’s license revocation for at least six years.
- A penitentiary sentence of 3 to 7 years.
- fines of up to \$25,000.

Additionally, Illinois also has other DUI related laws aimed at making our streets safer.

- Transporting a person under the age of 16 while intoxicated.
- “Zero tolerance” laws designed to deter individuals under the age of 21 from drinking and driving.
- Transporting open alcohol in a vehicle aimed at both the operator of the vehicle and any passengers.
- Permitting an individual under the influence of alcohol to operate a motor vehicle.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes is 4.5 times higher at night than during the day.

Driving under the influence of drugs

Driving under the influence is not limited to the consumption of alcohol before operating a vehicle. The usage of illicit drugs before driving is also a serious offense. While driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) is not as prevalent as driving under the influence of alcohol, it is just as dangerous and potentially life-threatening. Drivers take a risk every time they operate a motor vehicle impaired, and drugged driving can cause the destruction not only of one’s driving record, but of their life.

In Illinois, there is a zero-tolerance policy regarding driving under the influence of drugs. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle in Illinois with any trace of a controlled drug, substance, cannabis or other intoxicating compounds in your blood.

Unlike driving under the influence of alcohol, there is no benchmark for impairment with driving under the influence of drugs. The mere presence of drugs in a drivers system is cause for arrest.

A motorist’s first conviction of DUID carries the possible penalty of up to 12 months in jail and a maximum \$2,500 fine. A second conviction carries the same penalty, but with five days of mandatory imprisonment or 240 hours of community service. A third conviction has a penalty of 3-7 years in prison (with 48 hours mandatory) and a maximum \$25,000 fine.