

Saturation Patrols by Law Enforcement

Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County is working in partnership with the Healthy 2020 Fond du Lac County Steering Committee to address the county priority of alcohol use and abuse in youth and adults.



A research based strategy identified by the coalition is to implement Saturation Patrols to reduce roadway violations, including drunk or impaired drivers and increase safety for all citizens and vehicles on roadways.

- Saturation patrols are concentrated enforcement efforts that target impaired drivers by observing moving violations such as; reckless driving, speeding, seatbelt violations, texting and driving, drunk driving, inattentive driving, etc.
- Saturation patrols provide law enforcement officials with an effective and proven tool for removing impaired drivers from roads and highways.
- Saturation patrols are a strong deterrent to people who may otherwise choose to drive after drinking or using drugs by increasing the perceived risk of arrest.
- Saturation patrols become increasingly most effective when they are reported and emphasized in advance by media and social networking.
- Binge drinking is not only a social problem; it is a health and safety issue in our state. Wisconsin has the highest binge drinking rate in the nation.

Steps to Prevent Drunk and Impaired Driving:

Follow these easy steps so your life and the lives of others who may be on the road are not jeopardized.

- Designate a sober driver, before drinking begins. If you aren't that driver, leave your car keys home.
- If you have been consuming alcohol, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or ask the bartender to call the safe ride program so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you see driving that concerns you on the road, contact your local law enforcement agency.
- If you know someone who is about to drive or ride with someone who is impaired, encourage them not to, even if it means taking their keys away. Help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Statistics:

- Every day, almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 48 minutes.¹
- 1 in 6 Fond du Lac County youth have reported being a passenger in a car when the driver had been drinking in the past 30 days.²
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), an impaired driver can be on the road 772 times before getting caught or being arrested.
- Excessive drinking led to 5,751 motor vehicle crashes in Wisconsin in 2011.³
- 22% of adults in Fond du Lac County report binge drinking compared with 16% of adults reporting binge drinking nation-wide.³
- 40% of people in Fond du Lac County see drinking and driving as a major health problem.⁴

Coalition members include: local law enforcement agencies, healthcare agencies, schools, local and county government, churches, civic organizations, businesses, AODA counselors, youth serving organizations, parents and youth

1. Dept of Transportation (US), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Traffic Safety Facts 2010: Alcohol-Impaired Driving. Washington (DC): NHTSA; 2012 [cited 2012 Sep 28].

2. 2013 Fond du Lac School District -Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug and Health Experience and Attitudes Survey

3. The Burden of Excessive Alcohol Use in Wisconsin - March 2013

4. Fond du Lac County Health Priorities Survey Report - 2011