



**Coalition to  
End Needless Death  
on Our Roadways**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Safety Coalition Names Deadliest Drunk-Driving States** Announcement Comes As Americans Plan New Year's Festivities

December 30, 2011 – Washington, DC – In a new report on deadly automobile crashes, the national Coalition to End Needless Death on Our Roadways (END) today announced its annual “Fatal Fifteen” ranking of states with the highest numbers of drunk-driving fatalities. The announcement comes as travelers take to the road for holiday travel and make their plans to celebrate the New Year.

The Fatal Fifteen are states in which 35 percent or more of all traffic fatalities involved a driver with a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher:

North Dakota*	44.762%
South Carolina*	44.074%
District of Columbia	42.857%
Texas*	41.995%
Kansas*	38.979%
Montana*	38.624%
Connecticut*	37.931%
Rhode Island*	37.879%
Hawaii*	37.168%
Washington*	37.118%
Mississippi	36.817%
Massachusetts	36.624%
Wisconsin*	35.839%
Delaware*	35.644%
Wyoming*	34.839%

The ranking is based on 2010 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Those 12 states marked by an asterisk are repeat offenders, having also appeared in last year's Fatal Fifteen.

Driving can be dangerous during the holidays given the high number of impaired drivers on the roads. By the end of December 2010, 11,948 people in the U.S. were killed in crashes that involved a driver with a BAC of .08 or higher, according to NHTSA.

END has urged state policy makers to enact laws mandating the use of ignition locks for individuals convicted of drunk-driving offenses. Ignition locks test for alcohol on a driver's breath before permitting the car to start.

The 10 states with the lowest number of traffic fatalities involving alcohol-impaired drivers are the following, starting with Utah as the state with the fewest drunk-driving deaths:

Utah	18.644%
Oregon	22.397%
Kentucky	22.500%
Iowa	23.077%
Maine	23.602%
Georgia	23.955%
Michigan	24.416%
Vermont	25.352%
Arizona	25.459%
Indiana	25.862%

Driving under the influence of alcohol is only one part of a larger threat to public health and safety. Approximately one in twelve high school seniors responding to the 2010 Monitoring the Future Study (MTF) reported driving while under the influence of drugs within two weeks prior to the survey interview.

Families should take the following steps to celebrate the New Year safely:

- Make a plan for getting home before you go out.
- If you are impaired, do not drive. Instead, call a taxi, sober friend or family member; use public transportation; or ask the party host if you may stay the night.
- If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, help him or her make arrangements that do not involve driving.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, pull over and call 911.

### **About the Coalition to End Needless Death on Our Roadways**

The Coalition to End Needless Death on Our Roadways (END) is a national not-for-profit coalition dedicated to developing and implementing innovative strategies to address alcohol- or drug-impaired driving, distracted driving, drowsy driving, and other dangerous driving behaviors.

### **Sources**

END's Fatal Fifteen: <http://endneedlessdeath.org/fatal-15>

NHTSA data: <http://www.fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/States/StatesAlcohol.aspx>

### **Additional materials**

NHTSA Holiday Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired>

Monitoring The Future 2010 Study: <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2010.pdf>